

# You are invited

to pass into another time...  
and experience a part of our country's heritage.



“...the Daughters were driven thru the natural grove of evergreens, along a fine street passing on their left the houses of most of the officers of the garrison, handsome commodious dwellings, with beautifully kept grounds, all abloom with roses, and with jets of water playing on all the lawns.”

*Written in 1896 by Kate Stevens Bingham, writer, charter member of the Multnomah Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution and youngest daughter of Isaac I. Stevens, first governor of Washington Territory.*

Photo detail of Kate Bingham: Washington State Historical Society, Tacoma

## NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Visitors Center  
1501 E. Evergreen Blvd.  
Vancouver, WA.  
(360) 816-6230

Summer hours: 9am to 5pm  
Winter hours: 9am to 4pm  
<http://www.nps.gov/fova/>

# OFFICERS ROW

IN THE VANCOUVER NATIONAL HISTORIC RESERVE

*A Walk Into the History of  
the Pacific Northwest*



This material is based upon work assisted by a grant from the Department of the Interior, National Park Service. Any opinions, findings and conclusions or recommendations expressed in this material are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Department of the Interior.

Front Cover: "soldiers and cannon" Oregon Historical Society, # OrHi 24707

*P*atriotism. Elegance. Cameraderie.

These words describe Officers Row at Vancouver Barracks, but they only tell part of the story. As you walk in front of the proud, old homes, you walk into history. You walk into a place alive with diverse people, and the bustle and commotion that was their lives.

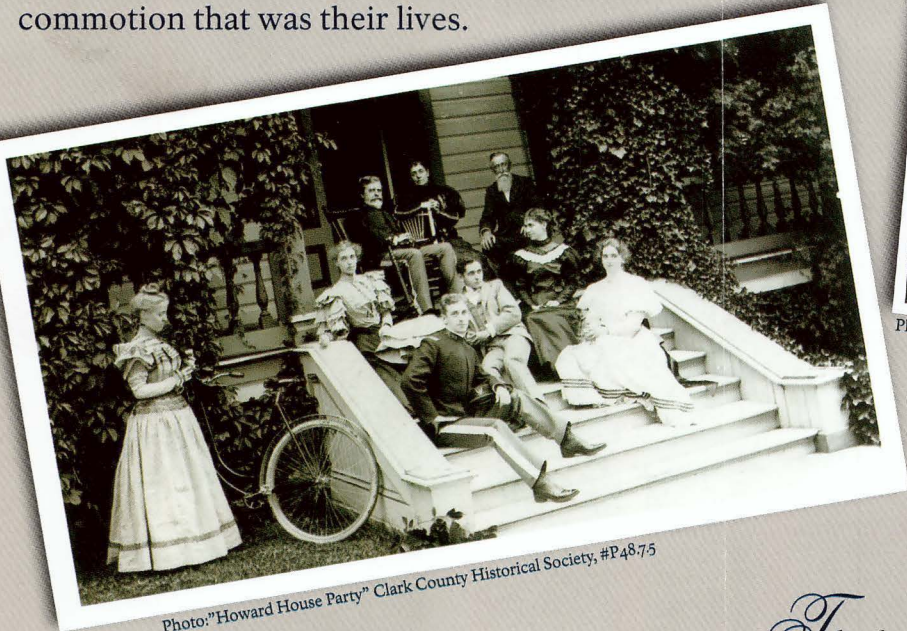


Photo: "Howard House Party" Clark County Historical Society, #P4875

*O*fficers Row has always been full of life...from the time when thousands of indigenous people lived and played here... from the day the first logs were laid to build the Commanding Officer's quarters...to today – when this place has been preserved as a national historic reserve so that we can experience the past in a way that can't be matched: by walking into the homes and offices of those that forever changed the Pacific Northwest.

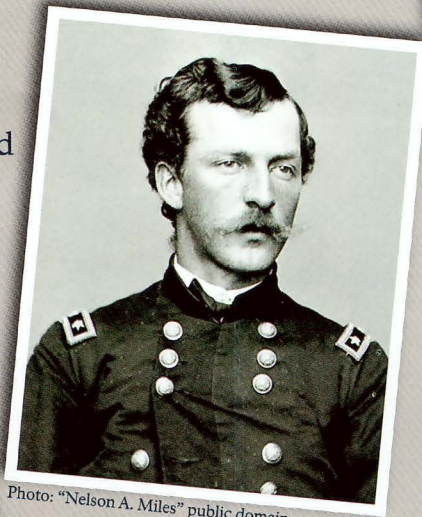


Photo: "Nelson A. Miles" public domain

*General Nelson A. Miles, Commander of the Department of the Columbia from 1881-1885, implemented many changes at the post including the construction of the majority of the buildings on Officers Row.*

*T*he larger quarters, with distinctive architectural features, were occupied by field officers – Majors, Lieutenant Colonels and Colonels. The smaller, rather plain quarters were occupied by company officers – Captains and Lieutenants. In 1887, all of the buildings to the west of the Grant House (other than the Howard House, which was the residence of Colonel Thomas Anderson), were occupied by company officers. All of the buildings to the east of the Grant House were occupied by field officers, or officers of the Department of the Columbia, which managed Army activities in Oregon, Washington, Alaska and portions of Idaho territories.



Photo: Sarah Winnemuccah Nevada Historical Society

*Sarah Winnemuccah, member of the Paiute tribe, spent her life acting as an advocate for the indigenous people of the West. During the Indian Wars she was an interpreter and scout for the Army, and spent a year at Vancouver Barracks teaching the children of captive Native Americans.*



## The Row Rehabilitated

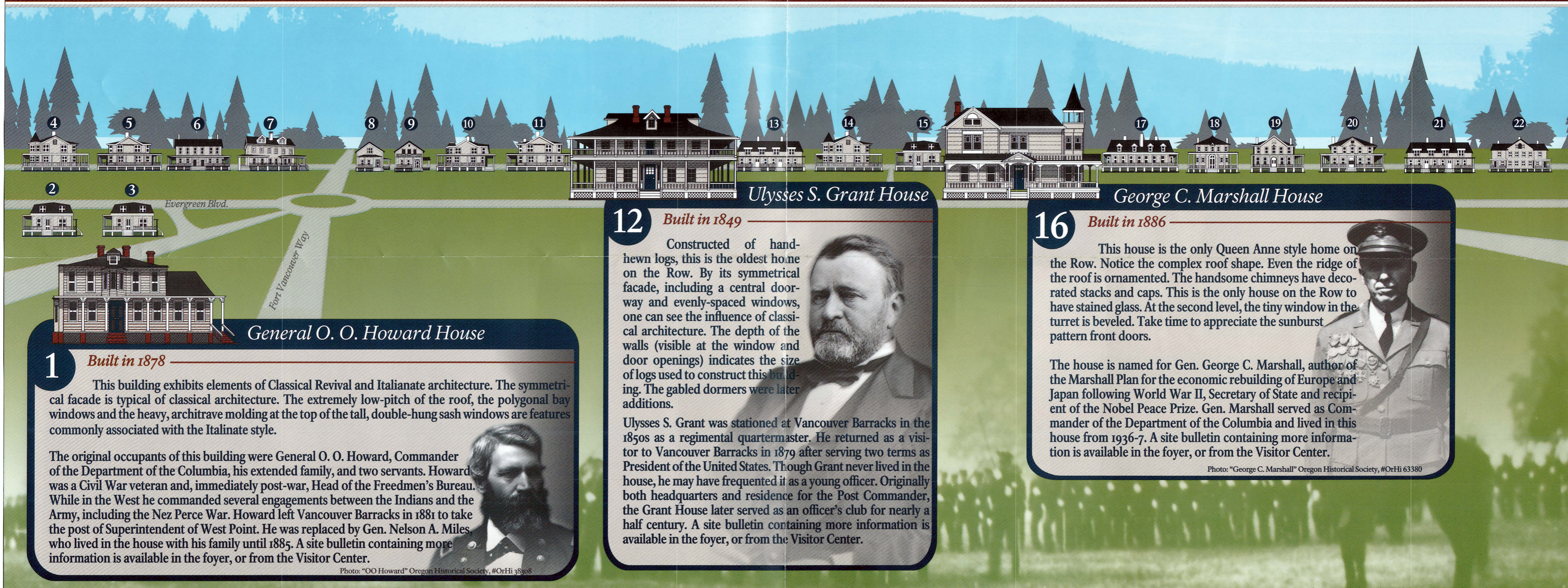
*B*y the 1970's the houses on the Row had fallen into varying states of disrepair. It appeared these grand homes would be lost forever.

In 1974 a group of citizens began a grass-roots effort to reclaim Officers Row. Through their tireless pursuits, the homes were placed on the National Historic Register. However, in 1981, the homes were surplus by the US Army and were in danger of being auctioned to the highest bidder. In 1984, the group's efforts were rewarded when the deed to Officers Row was transferred to the City of Vancouver for \$1.

Following public debate on possible uses and finances, the City of Vancouver initiated a \$10.9 million rehabilitation effort in 1987. Today, the stately, tree-line boulevard is proudly referred to as one of Vancouver's signature assets.

VANCOUVER'S HISTORIC  
**OFFICERS ROW**

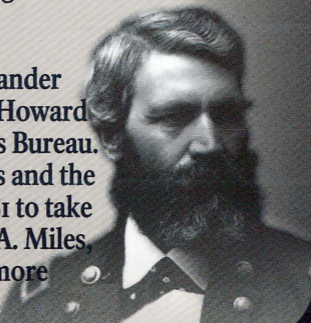
*A Walk Into the History of the Pacific Northwest*



**1** *Built in 1878*

This building exhibits elements of Classical Revival and Italianate architecture. The symmetrical facade is typical of classical architecture. The extremely low-pitch of the roof, the polygonal bay windows and the heavy, architrave molding at the top of the tall, double-hung sash windows are features commonly associated with the Italianate style.

The original occupants of this building were General O. O. Howard, Commander of the Department of the Columbia, his extended family, and two servants. Howard was a Civil War veteran and, immediately post-war, Head of the Freedmen's Bureau. While in the West he commanded several engagements between the Indians and the Army, including the Nez Perce War. Howard left Vancouver Barracks in 1881 to take the post of Superintendent of West Point. He was replaced by Gen. Nelson A. Miles, who lived in the house with his family until 1885. A site bulletin containing more information is available in the foyer, or from the Visitor Center.



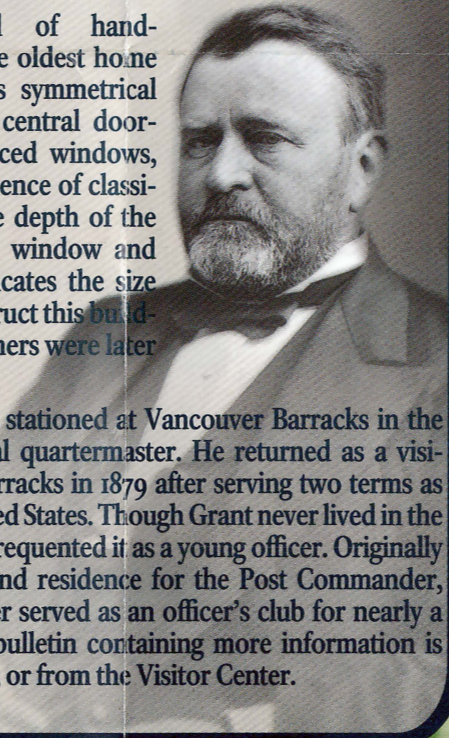
*Photo: "OO Howard" Oregon Historical Society, #OrHi 38308*

*General O. O. Howard House*

**12** *Built in 1849*

Constructed of hand-hewn logs, this is the oldest home on the Row. By its symmetrical facade, including a central doorway and evenly-spaced windows, one can see the influence of classical architecture. The depth of the walls (visible at the window and door openings) indicates the size of logs used to construct this building. The gabled dormers were later additions.

Ulysses S. Grant was stationed at Vancouver Barracks in the 1850s as a regimental quartermaster. He returned as a visitor to Vancouver Barracks in 1879 after serving two terms as President of the United States. Though Grant never lived in the house, he may have frequented it as a young officer. Originally both headquarters and residence for the Post Commander, the Grant House later served as an officer's club for nearly a half century. A site bulletin containing more information is available in the foyer, or from the Visitor Center.

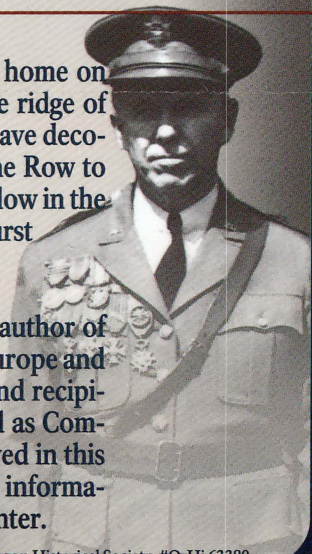


*Ulysses S. Grant House*

**16** *Built in 1886*

This house is the only Queen Anne style home on the Row. Notice the complex roof shape. Even the ridge of the roof is ornamented. The handsome chimneys have decorated stacks and caps. This is the only house on the Row to have stained glass. At the second level, the tiny window in the turret is beveled. Take time to appreciate the sunburst pattern front doors.

The house is named for Gen. George C. Marshall, author of the Marshall Plan for the economic rebuilding of Europe and Japan following World War II, Secretary of State and recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize. Gen. Marshall served as Commander of the Department of the Columbia and lived in this house from 1936-7. A site bulletin containing more information is available in the foyer, or from the Visitor Center.



*Photo: "George C. Marshall" Oregon Historical Society, #OrHi 63380*

*George C. Marshall House*

*Architectural Overview*

Visitors to Officers Row often comment that all the buildings look alike. Upon closer inspection you will see a diversity of styles and architectural details. Look for influences of these styles: Second Empire, Italianate, Classical Revival, Queen Anne and Colonial Revival.

**2 3 15** Built in 1885. These buildings exhibit the roof form known as a mansard, typical of Second Empire architecture. In Napoleonic Paris, property taxes were based on the number of floors, and this roof form allowed a full-sized floor without full taxation. (see below)



**4 14** Built in 1885. Following construction of the Marshall House (#16), many of the Officers Row buildings had a new feature: the corner turret capping a full-height rectangular bay window. The bellcast form of this turret is referred to as a witch's hat.

**6** Built in 1881. The molded doors have octagonal panels associated with the Italianate style. This feature is not found on any of the other buildings on the Row.

**7** Built in 1906-7. The last building built on the Row. An example of Colonial Revival architecture, with columns recalling ancient Greek temples. (see below)



Triangular shapes are one of the easiest clues to identifying classically-inspired styles. Note the triangles outlined by the trim boards on the side walls and dormers.

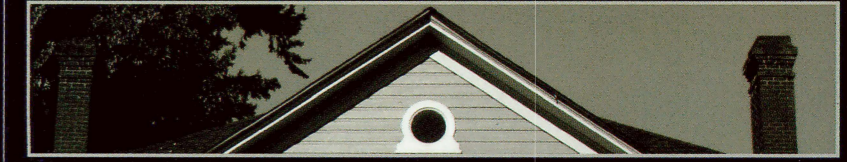
**8 9** Built in 1867. Both are simple buildings with attractive entrances illustrating a classical influence. The front door is surrounded by multi-light sidelights and transoms. Elaborate doorways were often imported from the east coast for early houses in the region. Note the interesting features above the entrances. The three-part window on #8 is unique on the Row.

**5 10** Built in 1886-7. Exhibiting influence from the Queen Anne style, these buildings have a full-height rectangular bay window capped by a truncated, bellcast, hip roof. These buildings illustrate the use of paired windows. Note the porch post construction. What appears to be a solid post is actually constructed as a box with molding adorning the edges of the post.

**13** Built in 1886-7. This simple-gable roofed building is punctuated by shed-roof wall dormers. A wall dormer differs from other dormers in that the dormer is a continuation, or extension, of the facade wall. Notice that the width of the front doors is greater than the others on the row.

**17** Built in 1885, this long, low house recalls a building tradition of the south with four, delicate multi-light doors that open out to the verandah

**11 18 19 20** Built in 1885, 1884, 1885, and 1884 respectively. Dubbed "Officers Row style" by locals for its distinctive form and characteristics. Note the slight differences in the front doors of these four homes. At attic level, #19 has a keyhole window and a louvered opening. (see below)



**22** Built in 1903. This building has many classically-inspired features including the formal facade and the Palladian-esque window at the attic level. The window has a central arched component flanked by two rectangular components, a definitive characteristic of the Palladian style.

*Photo: "Parade Grounds" Clark County Historical Society, #P83.3.3.2*