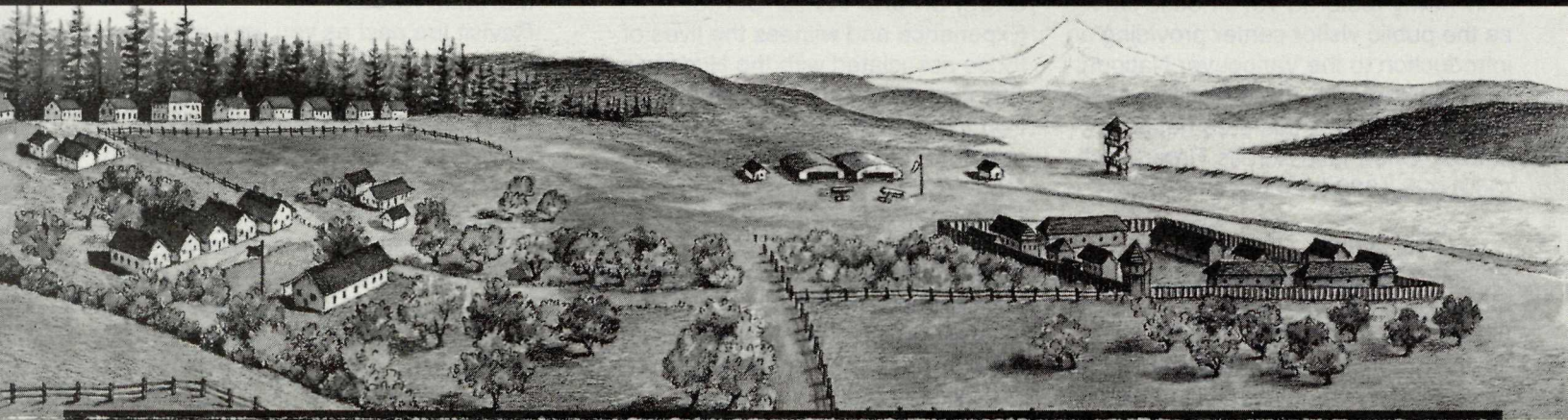


# Vancouver National Historic Reserve

City of Vancouver  
United States Army  
State of Washington  
National Park Service



## Celebrating Our Cultural Heritage

The shores of the Columbia River are home to an impressive collection of historical resources.

The lifestyles and cultures of Native American tribes were shaped by the Columbia River. Native Americans utilized the rich natural environment of the River by fishing, hunting, and gathering along its shores. They also used the river as a transportation route to trade with other tribes. Later contact with explorers and settlers from other cultures led to changes in their society.



In the late 18th Century, European and American activities brought explorers, traders, and settlers to the Pacific Northwest. Fort Vancouver, the fur trading post and headquarters of the British Hudson's Bay Company's Columbia Department, operated here from 1825-1860. The Fort was the first significant European development in the Pacific Northwest. It played a pivotal role as the terminus for the Oregon Trail and subsequent settlement of "the Oregon Country."

In 1846, the United States and England peacefully settled their boundary differences, establishing today's border with Canada at the 49th Parallel. As a result, nearly 25 years after the arrival of the Hudson's Bay Company, the United States Army established Vancouver Barracks. Vancouver Barracks was the principal administrative headquarters for U.S. Army operations in the Pacific Northwest from 1849 to World War I. The role of the United States Army at Vancouver Barracks changed over time. Originally posted here to protect settlers, the United States Army also assisted in the exploration and development of the Pacific Northwest, as well as in enforcing domestic

policies of the United States, such as treaties with Native Americans.

The area around Vancouver Barracks also served as the birthplace of Northwest aviation. The open field where the Hudson's Bay Company Fort once thrived hosted the area's first heavier-than-air flight in 1911 and served as a part-time base for pioneer aviators. From 1917-1919 the Army Signal Corps, which was stationed at Vancouver Barracks, milled tremendous quantities of spruce for airplane construction during World War I. The spruce mill was crucial in the expansion and modernization of America's aircraft production.

During World War II, Vancouver fulfilled two important wartime functions. Vancouver Barracks trained and staged military personnel for overseas duty. At the same time, workers at Kaiser Shipyard produced record numbers of "baby flattops" and Liberty Ships. The economic opportunities presented by this activity led to a phenomenal boom in Vancouver's population in the early 1940's. Kaiser Shipyard production also played a significant role in the rebuilding of the United States Navy during this period.



Vancouver National Historic Reserve provides many opportunities to experience this rich history. You are invited to explore and relive the significant regional, national, and international events that occurred among the historical resources preserved here.

## Visit the sites of the Historic Reserve

### O.O. Howard House Visitor Center

This newly restored 1879 house serves as the public visitor center providing an introduction to the Vancouver National Historic Reserve. Visitors will be able to see and hear why this area has been called "One Place Across Time." Call (360) 992-1820 for more information.

### Pearson Air Museum and Jack Murdock Aviation Center

Explore the rich aviation history of Pearson Field. Learn about the U. S. Army Air Corps and the Golden Age of flight. Call (360) 694-7026 for more information.

### Fort Vancouver National Historic Site: Fort and Visitor Center

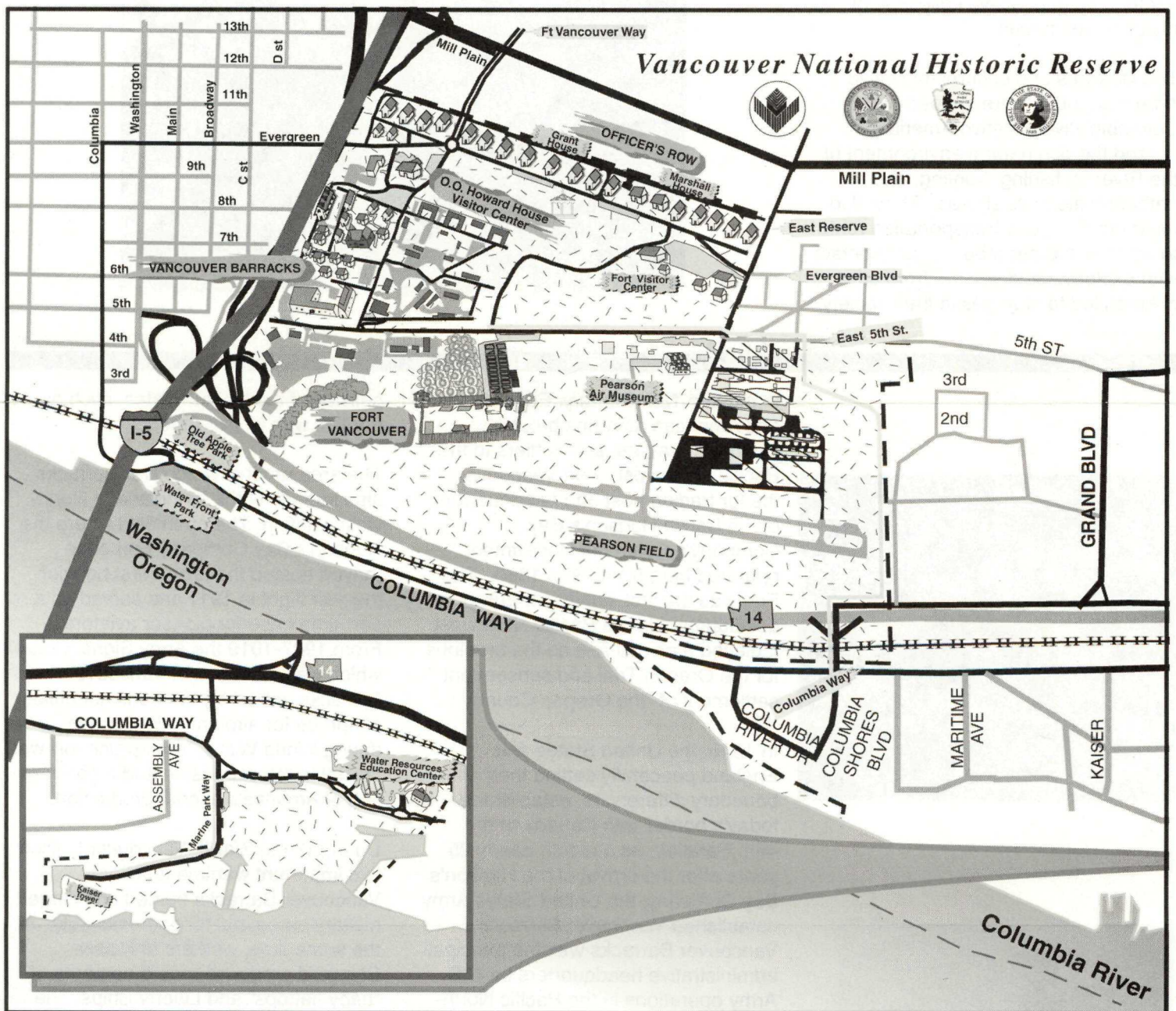
Experience and witness the lives of those associated with the Hudson's Bay Company at the reconstructed Fort Vancouver. The visitor center's museum and gift shop offer more of the Fort Vancouver story. Call (360) 696-7655 for more information.

### Water Resource Education Center, Marine Park, and the Waterfront Trail

Walk along the Columbia River and imagine the centuries of human history the river has hosted. Discover Vancouver's water resources through interactive exhibits and displays about stewardship and environmental education. Call (360) 696-8008 for more information.

### Officers Row: Grant House and Marshall House

Revisit the past as you walk along Officers Row. View these historic homes which at one time served as residences for U.S. Army soldiers, officers, and their families stationed at Vancouver Barracks. The Grant House offers the Folk Art Center, a restaurant, and a gift shop while the Marshall House has exhibits, tours, and is available for private functions. Call (360) 693-3103 for more information.



## The Future

On November 11, 1996, Congress established Vancouver National Historic Reserve. The Historic Reserve contains approximately 366 acres of publicly owned land encompassing a variety of historic, cultural, and natural resources. The purpose of the Reserve is to preserve, enhance, and interpret the significant aspects of the land, water structures, and history of the area.

Vancouver National Historic Reserve is administered through the cooperative management of four partners: the city of Vancouver, the United States Army, the state of Washington, and the National Park Service. The Historic Reserve designation directs the partners to maintain a close cooperative relationship, while continuing to manage their properties consistent

with existing authorities. The Reserve partners are currently developing a comprehensive management plan and invite the public to contribute. Please contact the information desk of the O.O. Howard House Visitor Center.