

# Fort Vancouver National Historic Site and the Vancouver National Historic Reserve





For thousands of years, this place has been a center of culture and creativity, industry and invention. American Indians harvested from this land and traded across it. In 1825, the British Hudson's Bay Company built Fort Vancouver to serve as the center of a vast fur trading network. The nearby village was home to individuals from across Europe and North America, the Hawaiian Islands, and over 35 American Indian different tribes. In 1849, it became the site of Vancouver Barracks, the Northwest's first U.S. Army post.

Here we also share the stories of Oregon Trail immigrants, a thriving air field, a massive lumber mill, a home front during times of war. A diverse array of people lived here - entrepreneurs, laborers, soldiers, families, innovators. And, despite their differences, they created a community.

Today, it is a national park and a national historic reserve, preserved for the enjoyment of this and every generation to come. The National Park Service and the City of Vancouver bring together a variety of historic venues for recreation, relaxation, and education.

### **Visitor Center**

360-816-6230 | www.nps.gov/fova

The Visitor Center, staffed with National Park Service and National Forest Rangers, is the place to start your visit. It offers an orientation film, maps with suggested tour routes, brochures, and other information to help you make the most of your visit. The Visitor Center includes a bookstore operated by the non-profit Friends of Fort Vancouver, a theater, and introductory exhibits on the history of this site. Open Tuesday through Saturday. Admission is free. The Kəmtəks Community Room and nearby Picnic Shelter are both available for meetings or community events.



### Fort Vancouver

(National Park Service) 360-816-6230 www.nps.gov/fova

) a The British Hudson's Bay Company established an extensive fur trading network throughout the Pacific Northwest of which Fort Vancouver was the administrative center and principal supply depot. Today the reconstructed 1840s era Fort and Village, operated by the National Park Service, offer a glimpse into the lives of Native Americans, settlers and fur trappers. The Fort is the site of many special events and interactive educational programs. The park also includes the historic Vancouver Barracks Parade Ground, the site of many military themed events. Open Tuesday through Saturday. Admission is \$5.00 per adult.



The Village
(National Park Service)

360-816-6230 www.nps.gov/fova The Fort Vancouver Village was home to the workers and their families who supported the vast operations of the fur trading post and its subsidiary farms, dairies, and mills. In its heyday, the Village housed over 500 people from diverse backgrounds including Native Hawaiians, French-Canadians, English, Scots, and members of more than 30 different Indian tribes whose homelands spanned the continent. The Village included a variety of small dwellings, with styles reflecting the diversity of their inhabitants, as well as a complex beside the Columbia River that included a hospital, shipyards, and shops for tradesmen. Today, the reconstructed Houses 1 and 2, along with fence lines and trails, gives visitors a sense of the vibrant and complex life of this multicultural community.



## Land Bridge

360-693-0123 www.confluenceproject.org Designed by noted landscape architect Johnpaul Jones in consultation with artist Maya Lin, the Land Bridge, a Confluence project, features native plants and artwork highlighting Native Americans' connection to the land and water. The trail winds past Fort Vancouver and the Village to the 40-foot wide bridge over Highway 14 which features sweeping views of the Fort and the Columbia River. The half-mile trail is open year-round from sunrise to sunset.



#### Vancouver Barracks

(East and South Vancouver Barracks,
National Park Service West Vancouver Barracks, City of Vancouver)
360-816-6230 | www.nps.gov/fova

The U.S. Army arrived in Vancouver in 1849 to ensure the orderly settlement of the Oregon Territory. The West Barracks includes 16 buildings built between 1887 and 1939 and was an active military post for 150 years, closing in 2000. The 23 buildings in the East and South Barracks were vacated by the Army Reserve and Washington National Guard in 2011 and ownership was turned over to the National Park Service who has launched a major rehabilitation. Both the 1919 Red Cross Convalescent Center and the 1904 Artillery Barracks are available for meetings, receptions and other special events.

For more information: East Vancouver Barracks: 360-816-6230 | www.nps.gov/fova Event rentals in West Vancouver Barracks: 360-737-7785 | www.fortvan.org



#### Officers Row

(City of Vancouver)

Ulysses S. Grant House

The 22 fully-restored stately homes lining the area north and west of the Parade Ground were built for the army officers who served at Vancouver Barracks. Today, these homes are in use as offices and residences with three buildings open to the public.

The first structure built on Officers Row, the Grant House was constructed of hand-hewn logs that were covered with siding in 1855 (some logs are still visible inside the house). The house served as the home of the post commanders until 1886. Grant never lived in this house although he did serve at Vancouver Barracks. The Grant House is open to the public as The Eatery at the Grant House.

George C. Marshall House 360-693-3103

Built as quarters for the post commander, the house was named for General George C. Marshall who served as Commander of Vancouver Barracks from 1936-1938. This elegant Queen Anne Victorian features an exhibit on General Marshall and is available for weddings, receptions and other special events; it is open to the public for tours when not in use for special events.

O.O. Howard House 360-992-1800 | www.fortvan.org The home of General Oliver Otis Howard, the Commander of the Department of the Columbia, the Howard House was converted to a noncommissioned officers (NCO) club during World War II. The home was restored to its former elegance in 1998 and now houses the offices of the Historic Trust.



# Pearson Air Museum

(National Park Service) 360-816-6232 www.nps.gov/fova Pearson Air Museum and the Jack Murdock Aviation Center celebrate the long aviation history of Pearson Field and the earlier Vancouver Barracks Aerodrome through aircraft and exhibits. The museum also offers a variety of educational programs, including a children's area with a wind tunnel and books about famous aviators, a Junior Aviator activity book, and STEM-based workshops and learning opportunities. Aviation had its beginnings at Vancouver Barracks in 1905 with the arrival of the dirigible "Gelatine" and the first fixed wing flights in 1911, when the Army authorized local aviators to establish an "Aviation Camp.. Since that time, the site has hosted a U.S. Army Spruce Production Division Mill during World War I, an Army Air Service Airfield with the 321st Observation Squadron from 1923-1941, the first transpolar flight in 1937, and a municipal field since 1925. These many aviation events make it one of the most fascinating operating airfields in the nation! Open Tuesday through Saturday. Admission is free. The Tex Rankin Theater and the Historic Hangar are available for meetings, receptions and other special events.



### Pearson Field

(City of Vancouver and National Park Service)
360-735-9441
www.aeromt.com

One of the oldest operating airfields in the United States, today Pearson Field operates as a busy municipal airport that also offers a Flight School with an advanced flight simulator, aircraft rentals, maintenance and restoration.



# Pearson Field Education Center

(Historic Trust) 360-992-1815 | www.fortvan.org The Pearson Field Education Center (PFEC) delivers experiential aviation-based science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) programs for youth (K-12), built on the rich history of Pearson Field and the surrounding historic site. Students, families and aviation enthusiasts can enjoy hands-on, fun experiences including a flight simulator lab, flying their own creation in a vertical wind tunnel, building gliders, model rockets or radio controlled aircraft. Young people are introduced to vocational and career opportunities they might not previously have thought possible. Open Saturdays. Admission is free.