

Reconnaissance-level Survey *of* Fort Nisqually Living History Museum

DAHP Project: 2019-09-06886

Project Location

Fort Nisqually Living History Museum
Point Defiance Park
5400 N. Pearl St., #11
Tacoma, Washington
Pierce County

October 4, 2019

Prepared for

Metro Parks Tacoma



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Figure 1. Construction crew working outside the palisade at Fort Nisqually. To the right is the southwest bastion, to the left and through the entrance is the store, and an artistically inserted Mount Rainier peeks over the palisade in the center. Photograph taken September 1, 1934. Source: Richards Studio 804-6, Tacoma Public Library Digital Collections. [Fort Nisqually Living History Museum has the original photo, sans mountain.]

PROJECT INFORMATION

BACKGROUND & ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Metro Parks Tacoma contracted with Sarah J. Martin Cultural Resource Services in June 2019 to document physical buildings and structures that comprise Fort Nisqually Living History Museum (FNLHM). Tasks included completing physical and architectural descriptions of the site and key historic buildings and producing new and/or revised reconnaissance-level survey forms in the Department of Archaeology & Historic Preservation's WISAARD database. The online forms include many photographs, architectural drawings, and documents associated with FNLHM.

The current FNLHM property is the result of layers of history and development. The oldest two buildings, the Granary (1850-51) and Factor's House (1854-55), were listed in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) in 1970 and are among Washington's 24 National Historic Landmarks.¹ The property includes several resources built during the New Deal era and later that are not well documented nor are they described in Fort Nisqually listings on local, state, or national historic registers. The Point Defiance Park site is on both the Washington Heritage Register (1971) and the Tacoma Register of Historic Places (1976), but the current listings lack detailed descriptions of the site.

The author wishes to thank Claire Keller-Scholz, Art, Culture, and Heritage Administrator, Metro Parks Tacoma; Jim Lauderdale, Museum Supervisor, Fort Nisqually Living History Museum; and Kim Gant, Certified Local Government & Survey Program Manager, Washington Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation, for their collaboration during this project.

METHODOLOGY

SJM Cultural Resource Services principal and architectural historian, Sarah J. Martin, conducted an in-person reconnaissance-level field survey to document the FNLHM property on June 17, 2019. The survey included photographic documentation and visual inspection of the grounds, buildings, and setting. The author completed in-person research on the development of the site at the Fort Nisqually Research Library. Additional research included review of online photograph collections of the Tacoma Public Library, the Washington State Archives, and the Washington State Historical Society.

¹ National Park Service, "List of NHLs by State," webpage. Accessed July 17, 2019, <https://www.nps.gov/subjects/nationalhistoriclandmarks/list-of-nhls-by-state.htm>.

BRIEF HISTORICAL OVERVIEW

Fort Nisqually Living History Museum is a reconstruction of the fur trading and agricultural outpost established in 1833 by the Hudson's Bay Company (HBC). The 1833 fort was the first globally connected settlement on Puget Sound and was located near the Nisqually River in present-day DuPont, Washington. Situated halfway between Fort Vancouver along the Columbia River and Fort Langley along the Fraser River, it served as a place to gather and ship furs and then as a place to grow food for the HBC and for distribution. Fort Nisqually existed at that site for 10 years until it was moved in 1843 about a mile inland and situated along the south bank of the Sequelitchew Creek. The fort operated at this second location until 1870, when Edward Huggins, a longtime HBC employee and fort resident, acquired the property to use as his residence and farm.²

Huggins recognized the significance of the property and wrote of his experiences and recollections to journalists and historians of the day, leaving a rich, first-person account of the fort. He sold the former fort property and its remaining buildings in 1906 to the E.I. DuPont de Nemours Company for their explosives manufacturing plant.³ The community that developed around the plant became known as DuPont.

Serious efforts to save the two remaining 19th century fort buildings began in 1931 when the Tacoma Chamber of Commerce and the Young Men's Business Club of Tacoma sought a place where the fort could be rebuilt as a "historic shrine."⁴ Advocates for a reconstructed Fort Nisqually successfully petitioned the Metropolitan Park Board in 1933 to use a site in Tacoma's Point Defiance Park, located approximately 20 miles north of DuPont. Site work began in December 1933. Work crews hired through the Civil Works Administration (CWA) and the Washington branch of the Federal Emergency Relief Administration (FERA & WERA), readied the site for the two extant fort buildings – the Granary and the Factor's House – and for new replica buildings.⁵

By the grand opening celebration on September 3, 1934, the new, albeit unfinished, Fort Nisqually site included the two relocated buildings and a reconstructed Trade Store/Sale Shop, the Southwest Bastion, and part of the Palisade. Subsequent projects completed by the Works Progress Administration (WPA) and Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) resulted in more buildings by the close of the decade, including a rebuilt shop housing a blacksmith's forge, Caretaker's House/Montgomery House, Nisqually House or Tyee House (demolished, 1984),

² Drew W. Crooks, "Beginnings: The Origins of Fort Nisqually and Euro-American Settlement on Puget Sound," in *Occurrences: The Journal of Northwest History During the Fur Trade* (Summer 2008): 1.

³ Bill Rhind, "How Fort Nisqually Got to Point Defiance Park," in *Occurrences: The Journal of Northwest History During the Fur Trade* (Fall 2011): 1-2; Metro Parks Tacoma, "Saving Fort Nisqually," [WPA exhibit text] Tacoma, WA: Fort Nisqually Living History Museum, January 18, 2017 - April 29, 2017.

⁴ Metro Parks Tacoma, "Saving Fort Nisqually," [WPA exhibit text] Tacoma, WA: Fort Nisqually Living History Museum, January 18, 2017 - April 29, 2017.

⁵ Ibid.

Cook House, Wash House, Northeast Bastion, and the remainder of the Palisade. A completion ceremony was held on June 9, 1940.⁶

The next addition to the site came in 1984 with the construction of the Laborer's Dwelling, located in the northeast quadrant of the site. Its construction coincided with the demolition of the Tye House, which was located east of the Factor's House. Today, the footprint of the Tye House and is marked on the ground with CMU bricks and a sign. Subsequent major additions to the site were made between 2006 and 2009 and include a new education center, interpreted by the museum as the Large Store, and a new visitor's center that is modeled after the exterior of the historic fort's Men's Dwelling House. Other recent additions include an outdoor Bake Oven, Root Cellar, Smoke House, and Poultry House. Today, the property includes buildings and structures from the 19th, 20th, and 21st centuries that portray Fort Nisqually as it existed in 1855.

SITE OVERVIEW

Fort Nisqually Living History Museum (hereinafter referred to as Fort Nisqually) occupies 10 acres within Tacoma's Point Defiance Park, a 760-acre wooded urban park situated on a peninsula in Puget Sound. Fort Nisqually is in the southwest part of the park high on a bluff overlooking the Tacoma Narrows waterway. The site is six miles northwest of downtown Tacoma and is accessed by Five Mile Drive, a paved perimeter roadway through the park that connects a network of secondary roads, trails, and other park attractions, including a park



Figure 2. Google Earth Image, 2019.

⁶ Rhind, 1-2. For context on 1930s federal work programs, park development, and historic reconstructions, see Albert H. Good, *Patterns from the Golden Age of Rustic Design: Park and Recreation Structures from the 1930s*, reprint edition, (Lanham, MD: Roberts Rinehart Publishing, 1990), 185-87.

visitors center, the Point Defiance Zoo and Aquarium, Owen Beach, gardens, and an off-leash dog park.

Fort Nisqually is a New Deal-era reconstruction of a 19th-century fort and includes the following 16 buildings and structures encircled by a palisade:

Map No.	Resource Name	Date of Construction
1	Granary	1850-51
2	Factor's House	1854-55
3	Palisade	1934-36
4	Southwest Bastion	1934
5	Northeast Bastion	1936
6	Trade Store / Sale Shop	1934
7	Sale Shop 2 / Blacksmith Shop	1935-36
8	Caretaker's House	1936
9	Cook House / Kitchen	1936
10	Wash House	1936
11	Laborers Dwelling	1984
12	Large Store	2007-09
13	Men's Dwelling House	2007-09
14	Root Cellar	2014
15	Poultry House	2017
16	Smoke House	2018

One historic resource has been demolished:

Map No.	Resource Name	Date of Construction	Date of Demolition
17	Tyee House	1936-37	1984

Outside and west of the palisade is a paved parking lot, and there are areas north of the palisade that the museum interprets and uses for its activities. Farther north is a second paved parking area and a WPA-built picnic shelter. These resources include:

Map No.	Resource Name	Date of Construction
18	WPA Picnic Shelter	1937
19	Meadow	1980s (cleared)
20	Orchard	2002 (planted)
21	Field Crops	2016 (planted)

See map below.

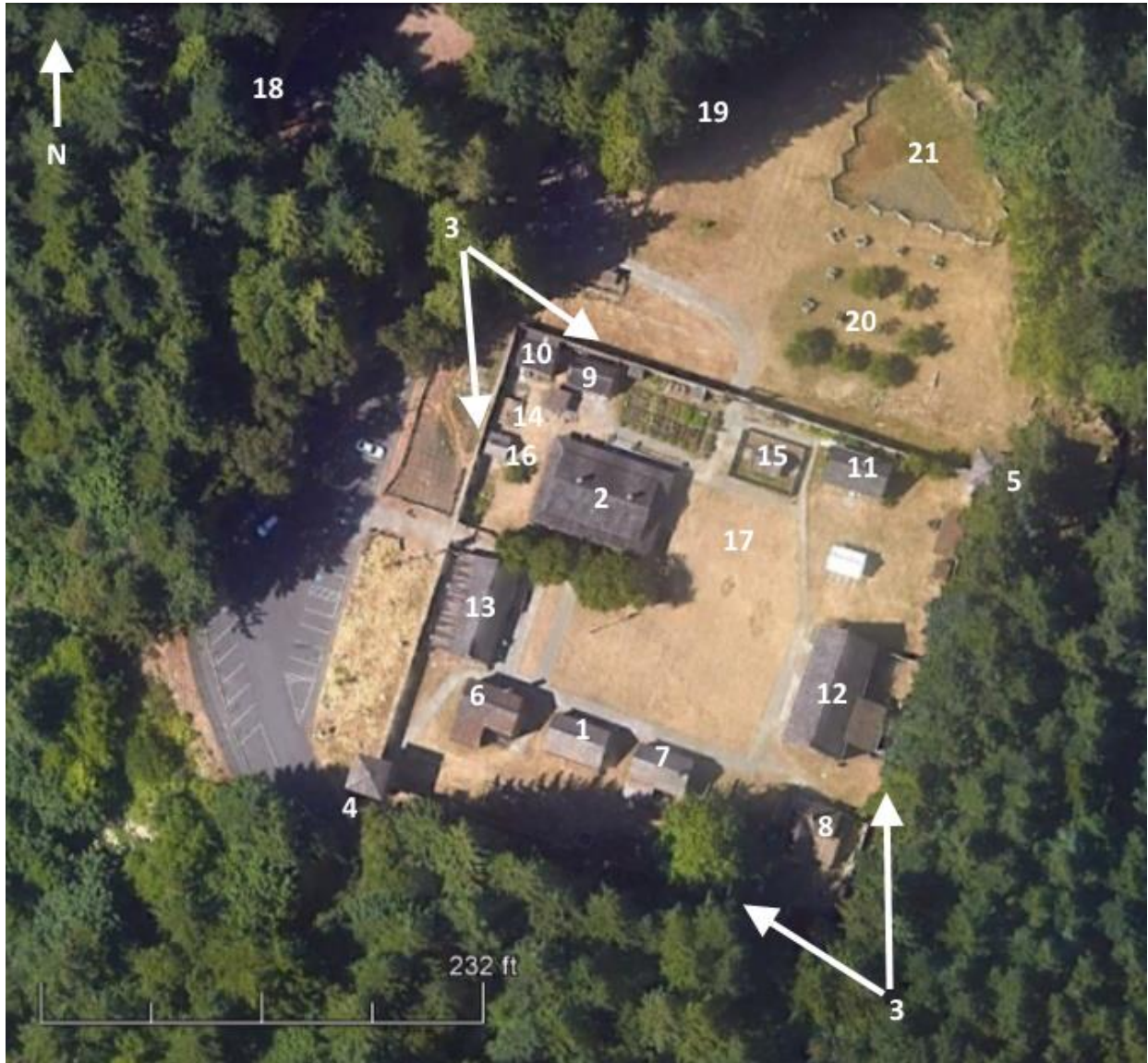


Figure 3. Map of Fort Nisqually. Google Earth Image, 2019.

Inventory of Historic Resources

The following is an inventory of Fort Nisqually's historic resources from the 19th century and the New Deal era.

Resource Name: Granary

Other Names: New Granary

Built: 1850-51

Constructed by: Jean Baptiste Chaulifoux, carpenter

Relocated (disassembled) to Point Defiance Park: January 1934

Reconstruction by: Civil Works Administration

Supervising Architect: Roland E. Borhek

Restored: 1962 (unknown), 1983-84 Grulich Architecture + Planning Services, 2013 BCRA

Register: National Register of Historic Places, 1970; National Historic Landmark, 1970;

Washington Heritage Register, 1971; City of Tacoma Register of Historic Places, 1976

Map No. 1

DAHP HPI No. 700048

Current physical description: The Granary is one of two 19th-century fort buildings at the museum site. It is situated in the southwest quadrant of the fort and is oriented facing north. It is a one-story building constructed of hand-hewn, squared timbers with a rectangular footprint that measures approximately 20' by 31'. It has a medium-pitched, side-gable roof covered with cedar shingles and gable ends with board-and-batten cladding. V-shaped wood gutters rest on brackets along the building's north and south eaves. The building's horizontal timbers are set into notched vertical timbers. The building is elevated several inches and rests on newer concrete post bases. The Granary's type of construction, typical of Hudson's Bay Company (HBC) structures of the period, is often termed "*poteaux sur sole*, or post on sill.

Access to the building is via a short wood staircase centered on the front (north) elevation, with a central entry bay flanked by two bays each with a single window. The primary entrance is a double wood-plank door with a segmental arch opening. The building has six small rectangular windows, each with a fixed multi-light wood sash and an exterior shutter.



Figure 4. Granary, June 2019. Photo by the author.

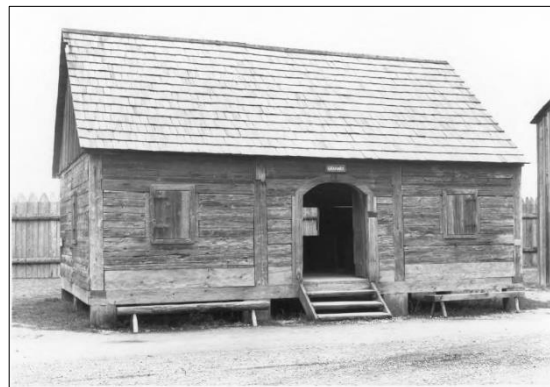


Figure 5. Granary, 1941. Tacoma Public Library, Chapin Bowen Collection, no. 6934.

The interior plan has likely changed over the years. Today, the interior is a single open and unfinished space, with hand-hewn timber walls, joists, collar beams and rafters, and wood

plank flooring. The exposed roof framing includes added support with older tie rods and more recent metal rafters.

Change over time: Constructed by carpenter Jean Baptiste Chaulifoux in 1850-51, the building was Fort Nisqually's second granary. The timing of its construction overlapped with the deconstruction of the earlier granary, suggesting that some material was salvaged from the old building and incorporated into the new building.⁷ The Granary was moved at least once before its relocation to Point Defiance Park. In the 1890s, homesteader and former HBC employee Edward Huggins moved the building to a spot adjacent to the main house rather than opposite it.⁸

When the Fort was rebuilt in Point Defiance Park, the Granary was sited in its original configuration within the palisade. Supervising architect Roland E. Borhek drafted a "marking and re-erection diagram" to direct the Granary's disassembly and relocation. The drawings are dated December 20, 1933, and laborers completed the building re-assembly shortly thereafter.⁹ In his report following the completion of the Granary restoration, Borek said, "except for the roof shingles, pair of shutter hinges, the sills and a few wall timbers, the entire building is of the original material."¹⁰

In the 1960s, as part of overall improvements to the Fort Nisqually site, the Granary also underwent a basic level of restoration and preservation work. Surviving records suggest the work was done in 1962, and physical evidence indicates new pier blocks were installed and some rotting timbers were replaced. There is no indication that the Granary was systematically taken apart and put back together again as it had been when it was moved in the years prior.

The next era of restoration work began in 1983 when architect Gene Grulich and his planning team thoroughly documented the Granary and its condition in order to plan and implement a preservation strategy for the historic structure. The existing building was measured, drawn, and photographed, then taken apart to be catalogued in detail. It was reassembled, each piece assessed for its likely date, and rotting elements were replaced where necessary. The project, finished in 1984, concluded that the building was approximately 60 percent original to when the Granary was relocated in 1933-34.¹¹ Shortly after this work, the v-shaped wood gutters were added to the front of the building.¹²

The most recent preservation project involving the Granary included structural stabilization after museum staff noticed the walls had moved out of alignment due to the gradual

⁷ Anderson, 89-90. Anderson is citing the fort's journal. Also, the National Register of Historic Places documentation says the granary was built in 1843, but that date likely refers to the construction of the fort's first granary.

⁸ Bill Rhind, "Curator's Journal...How the Granary Survived over 160 Years!" In *Occurrences: The Journal of Northwest History During the Fur Trade* (Spring 2013): 3.

⁹ Roland E. Borhek, Granary Marking & Erection Drawings, December 20, 1933. Metro Parks Tacoma, Fort Nisqually Living History Museum Library.

¹⁰ Roland E. Borhek, Building Descriptions, undated, transcribed from Nisqually Files, 1982. Metro Parks Tacoma, Fort Nisqually Living History Museum Library.

¹¹ Rhind, 4.

¹² Photograph, c. 1984, Fort Nisqually Living History Museum files.

downward pressure of the roof over time. As a temporary measure, additional upright posts were added to the center of the interior space (circa 2005). In 2013, the museum hired architectural firm BCRA to analyze the Granary and plan for its long-term preservation. Structural engineer Wilson Hu designed a metal substructure modeled after the wood roof trusses that secured the plate timbers and crossbeams while eliminating any outward pressure on the walls of the Granary from the roof. This solution made it possible to remove the temporary, non-historic upright supports from the interior. During this project, new cedar shingles were installed on the roof, and some skip sheathing and window shutters were replaced in-kind due to rot and damage.¹³

As one of Washington's oldest buildings, some loss of integrity is to be expected, particularly when it comes to original materials and craftsmanship. Despite this, the Granary retains a moderate to high degree of integrity. Importantly, the Granary has now existed longer in its current location (85 years) than it did as part of the historic fort (79 years), so its current setting is key when evaluating integrity and significance.

Resource Name: Factor's House

Map No. 2

Other Names:

DAHP HPI No. 719884

Built: 1854-55

Constructed by: Robert Daly, carpenter

Relocated to Point Defiance Park: 1934, Civil Works Administration

Relocated, restored to 1855 appearance: 2002-03, BOLA Architecture + Planning

Register: National Register of Historic Places, 1970; National Historic Landmark, 1970;

Washington Heritage Register, 1971; City of Tacoma Register of Historic Places, 1976

Current physical description: The Factor's House is one of two 19th-century fort buildings at the museum site. It is a one-and-a-half story, wood-frame building with a rectangular footprint that measures 30' by 50'. It is situated in the northwest quadrant of the fort and is oriented facing south. The building exhibits modest references to the Greek Revival style in its roof design and pitch, framed entry, and tall multi-light windows. It has a low-pitched, side-gable roof covered with cedar shingles, two internal brick chimneys that serve four fireplaces, and gable ends with grooved bargeboards and cornice returns. An eight-foot-wide veranda encircles the building and has a wood floor and a shed roof supported by square wood posts. The building is elevated and rests on a new perimeter concrete foundation and concrete post bases. Access to the building is via a short wood staircase centered on the front (south) elevation or via a concrete ramp or wood staircase at the rear (north). The primary



Figure 6. Factor's House, June 2019. View of southwest corner. Photo by the author.

¹³ Melissa McGinnis, "Restoration: Preserving the Past. 'The Granary is Here to Stay!'" In *Occurrences: The Journal of Northwest History During the Fur Trade* (Fall 2013): 6.

entrance is a single wood-panel door with a full transom and sidelights. All elevations of the building are clad in weatherboard siding and include tall, multi-light wood casement windows.

The interior plan has changed over the years. Today, the house features a massed plan with a center hall that bisects the building and includes a staircase to the attic. There are two rooms on each side of the center hall, for a total of four large rooms. This center-hall form was common throughout the United States, particularly in non-styled folk houses of the mid- and late-19th and early 20th centuries. There are fir wood floors and board-and-batten ceilings throughout.



Figure 7. Factor's House, June 2019. Primary entrance.
Photo by the author.

Change over time: Built in 1854-55, the Factor's House was home to Dr. William Frasier Tolmie and his family from 1855-59. Fort journals record the original structure as a 50' by 30' residence built with milled lumber and faced with weatherboard siding that was painted white. Fort carpenter Robert Daly constructed the house and veranda at the direction of Tolmie.¹⁴

Edward and Letitia Huggins occupied the residence from 1859-1906. Several modifications were made to the residence during Huggins' ownership including a small addition for a bathroom (ca. 1869); a bedroom addition (ca. 1870-71); and an addition for a kitchen, pantry, etc. (1891). The additions did away with parts of the veranda on each side of the house. Huggins sold the property to the E.I. DuPont de Nemours Company, and the house subsequently served as a community meeting place, dance hall, and residence for plant caretakers.



Figure 8. Factor's House, 1937. *Historic American Buildings Survey.*

Following the building's relocation to Point Defiance Park and the subsequent restoration in 1934, the supervising architect Roland Borek estimated that about 30 percent of the original structure survived. In his report he said, "The original first and second floor joists, roof rafters, girders and underpinning; plate, sills and roof boarding of the porch; 3 doors; 8 windows and

¹⁴ Anderson, 50-53.

frames; part of the trim; the ceiling of the hall; the treads and risers of the stairs; some of the brick in the fireplaces and about 1/5th of the beveled siding were used in the restoration.”¹⁵

A restoration in 2002-03 included removing the remaining post-1855 and Huggins-era additions; restoring the full veranda; moving the building several feet to the northeast; rebuilding the east chimney; select replacement-in-kind of interior and exterior materials; replacing the wood, stone, and concrete foundations with a new concrete perimeter foundation and concrete bases; and installing a new perimeter walkway and entrance steps at the front and rear.

If Roland Bohrek's estimate is accurate, that about 30 percent of the original building survived at the time it was moved to Point Defiance Park in 1934, then today's structure retains a low to moderate degree of integrity. However, as one of Washington's oldest buildings, some loss of integrity is to be expected, particularly when it comes to materials and craftsmanship. The most recent restoration returned it to a c. 1855 appearance and the building conveys its significance as an early residence.

Resource Name: Palisade

Other Names: Stockade

Built: 1934-36

Constructed by: Civil Works Administration; Works Progress Administration

Rebuilt: 1961, Sitts & Hill Professional Engineers; 1990, Grulich Architecture + Planning Services; 2007-09, BOLA Architecture + Planning

Register: Washington Heritage Register, 1971; City of Tacoma Register of Historic Places, 1976

Map No. 3

DAHP HPI No. 719816

Current physical description: A palisade is a wall or a fence made of tall posts or tree trunks aligned vertically to form a defensive enclosure. A palisade has encircled Fort Nisqually since the late 1930s. The current iteration is largely composed of a replacement wall built in 1961, although it has been modified in places since then. The wall has four sides, each measuring between 240 and 245 feet in length. There are two double-door entrances through the Palisade into the fort – the primary entry on the west side and a secondary entry on the north side. The Palisade is approximately 12 feet tall with an outward-facing side that has round, smooth-finished log posts. On the inward-facing side, the fence is held together by two-by-ten-inch lumber with a round, smooth-finished log facing. The palisade pickets are pointed, although some have flat tops, and they vary in width.¹⁶ A portion of the



Figure 9. Palisade, June 2019. Photo by the author.

¹⁵ Roland E. Borhek, Building Descriptions, undated, transcribed from Nisqually Files, 1982. Metro Parks Tacoma, Fort Nisqually Living History Museum Library.

¹⁶ Sitts & Hill Professional Engineers construction drawings, September 20, 1961. Metro Parks Tacoma, Fort Nisqually Living History Museum Library.

Palisade on either side of the Northeast Bastion is markedly different and dates to a 1990 reconstruction of the bastions. These much taller palisade posts are smooth-cut wood posts that lack any sort of hewn, pointed tops.

Change over time: The dimensions and characteristics of the original 1930s-era wall are not well documented in construction documents, but the 1937 HABS notes its 12-foot height and pointed tops, and early photographs illustrate its hand-made appearance. The Palisade was made of thick logs that were minimally hewn with tree bark remaining on the outward-facing sides and hewn flat on the inward-facing sides. The tops were pointed, with an appearance of a sharpened pencil. On the flat, inward-facing side, the wall was held together by two rough-hewn, rounded log rails with a five-inch depth and 10-inch height.



Figure 10. Construction crew in front of palisade, 1934. Tacoma Public Library, Richards Studio no. 804-4.

The original wall, except for a short 20-foot section on the west side, was replaced in 1961. In 1990, parts of the Palisade adjacent to the two bastions were rebuilt. The Palisade at the Southwest Bastion was replaced to match the existing wall, but the wall at the Northeast Bastion were replaced with taller palisade posts that remain in place today.¹⁷ During construction of the Men's Dwelling House in 2007-09, the original 1930s entrance to Fort Nisqually was relocated approximately 50 feet north, which required removal and replacement of portions of the west-facing Palisade.

The north side of the Palisade features a double-door entry, replaced in 2006 with a 14' 9" tall entrance, the doors measuring 10'6" tall by 12' wide. Prior to this, a double-door entry under a Palisade lintel functioned as the gateway to the meadow north of the site. A single gallery, to accommodate viewing by visitors, remains on the inside of the Palisade to the west of the gateway. In the 1980s there was a matching gallery on the east side of the gateway. This was removed c. 1995.¹⁸

The Palisade and primary entrance gate have been reconstructed and retain little integrity from the time of its New Deal-era construction. Nevertheless, the Palisade structure is an important interpretive element for the museum.

Resource Name: Southwest Bastion

Other Names: Front Bastion

Built: 1934

Constructed by: Civil Works Administration

Map No. 4

DAHP HPI No. 719817

¹⁷ Grulich Architecture + Planning Services construction drawings, August 1990. Metro Parks Tacoma, Fort Nisqually Living History Museum Library.

¹⁸ As documented in site photos from institutional files, Fort Nisqually Living History Museum.

Supervising Architect: Roland E. Borhek
Rebuilt: 1990, Grulich Architecture + Planning Services
Register: Washington Heritage Register, 1971; City of Tacoma Register of Historic Places, 1976

Current physical description: A bastion is a defense work that is round, rectangular, or polygonal in plan and projects from an outer wall of a fortification. Fort Nisqually has two bastions with square plans – at the southwest and northeast corners of the Palisade. The bastions reflect the same general appearance as one another but have different interior plans.

The Southwest Bastion is largely composed of a replacement structure built in 1990. It is three stories with a hipped pyramidal roof with wood shingles with exposed rafter tails, ridge boards, metal coping, and is topped by a finial. The roof structure was salvaged and re-used during the 1990 reconstruction. The bastion walls are made of smooth-finished “filler logs” that are approximately 6-1/2 inches thick and held together by dowels. The logs are set within a structure of horizontal beams and vertical posts.¹⁹ The 1990 reconstruction used some new and existing logs, but all structural members were built new. Saw marks were removed from new members and axe marks were added. The third story has an 18’ by 18’ plan and overhangs the first and second stories, which have a 14’ by 14’ plan. The overhanging third story is supported by angle brackets on all four sides. There are four square openings or portals, one centered on each elevation at the second story. Each opening has a wood shutter with staple and ring hardware. The structure rests on a concrete slab on grade foundation and pre-cast concrete sill beam.

Entry into the bastion is via a single-leaf, vertical log door on the north wall. There is a second-floor door directly above. The 1990 reconstruction plans suggest the door materials were re-used. The primary entry leads to a 3’-3” wide staircase with a metal pipe railing that wraps around the outer wall as it leads up to the third-floor outlook. There are narrow gun ports at each story.

Change over time: The Southwest Bastion was the first of the two bastions to be built. It was built by the CWA based on plans drafted by Roland E. Borhek dated February 26, 1934. The construction drawings and 1937 HABS documents record the bastion as constructed of hewn fir timbers and cracks caulked with moss.



Figure 11. Southwest bastion, June 2019. Photo by the author.



Figure 12. Historic Fort Nisqually, Dupont, 1884. Washington State Archives Photo Reference No. AR-07809001-ph001996.

¹⁹ Ibid.

Led by Grulich Architecture + Planning Services, both bastions were largely rebuilt in 1990 to replicate 1840s construction. The project used new materials that included the finial and roof coping, shingle roofing, ridge board, upright posts, collar beams, sill beams, angle brackets, doors, shutters, jambs, flooring and wood stairs and railings, foundation, and concrete sills. Reused materials included the roof structure, skip sheathing, some filler logs, and sound timbers.²⁰ While the newly built bastion maintained the same overall height and footprint and floorplan dimensions, two key changes were the staircase that replaced ladders and an enlarged third story. The exterior of the rebuilt third story measured 10 feet in height, which is bigger than the six-foot third story of the 1934 bastion. Not only did this enlarged third story accommodate the installation of a staircase, it more closely matches original fort's bastion shown in historic photographs.



Figure 13. Southwest bastion, ca. 1936. Tacoma Public Library, Richards Studio no. E16-1. Note the artistic addition of Mt. Rainier in the distance.

While the Southwest Bastion currently reflects a more accurate representation of the historic fort's bastions, it retains little integrity from its New Deal-era construction. However, register eligibility assessments should take into consideration its potential significance as a reconstruction and its ability to convey its historical function.

Resource Name: Northeast Bastion

Other Names: Rear Bastion

Built: 1936; restored/rebuilt 1990

Constructed by: Works Progress Administration

Supervising Architect: Charles W. Palmer

Rebuilt: 1990, Grulich Architecture + Planning Services

Register: Washington Heritage Register, 1971; City of Tacoma Register of Historic Places, 1976

Map No. 5

DAHP HPI No. 719818

Current physical description: The Northeast Bastion is largely composed of a replacement structure built in 1990. It is three stories with a hipped pyramidal roof with wood shingles, exposed rafter tails, ridge boards, metal coping, and is topped by a finial. The roof structure was salvaged and re-used during the 1990 reconstruction. The bastion walls are made of smooth-finished “filler logs” that are approximately 6-1/2 inches thick and held together by dowels. The logs are set within a structure of horizontal beams and vertical posts.²¹ The 1990 reconstruction used some new and existing logs, but all structural members were built new. Saw marks were removed from new members and axe marks were added. The third story has

²⁰ Ibid.

²¹ Ibid.

an 18' by 18' plan and overhangs the first and second stories, which have a 14' by 14' plan. The overhanging third story is supported by angle brackets on all four sides. There are four square openings or portals, one centered on each elevation at the second story. Each opening has a wood shutter with staple and ring hardware. The structure rests on a concrete slab on grade foundation and pre-cast concrete sill beam.



Figure 14. Northeast bastion, June 2019. Photo by the author.



Figure 15. One of the two reconstructed bastions, 1937. Historic American Buildings Survey.

Entry into the bastion is via a single-leaf, vertical log door in the west wall. There is a second-floor door directly above. The 1990 reconstruction plans suggest the door materials were reused. The primary entry leads to interior where a wood ladder extends up through a square opening in center of the first-floor ceiling. Access to the third floor is also by ladder, through a center hatch opening. There are narrow gun ports at each story.

Change over time: The Northeast Bastion was the second of the two bastions to be built. It was built by the WPA according to plans drafted by Charles W. Palmer and dated December 12, 1935. Palmer's drawings list its construction as part of WPA project no. 263. The construction drawings and 1937 HABS documents record the three-story bastion as constructed of hewn fir timbers and cracks caulked with moss.

Led by Grulich Architecture + Planning Services, both bastions were largely rebuilt in 1990 to replicate 1840s construction. The project used new materials, including the finial and roof coping, shingle roofing, ridge board, upright posts, collar beams, sill beams, angle brackets, doors, shutters and hatches, jambs, flooring, foundation, and concrete sills. Reused materials included the roof structure, skip sheathing, filler logs, and sound timbers.²² While the newly built bastion maintained the same overall height and footprint and floorplan dimensions, one

²² Ibid.

key change was an enlarged third story. The exterior of the rebuilt third story measured 10' in height, which is bigger than the six-foot third story of the 1934 bastion. This configuration more closely matches original fort's bastion shown in historic photographs.

While the Northeast Bastion currently reflects a more accurate representation of the historic fort's bastions, it retains little integrity from its New Deal-era construction. However, register eligibility assessments should take into consideration its potential significance as a reconstruction and its ability to convey its historical function.

Resource Name: Trade Store

Other Names: Sale Shop

Built: 1934

Constructed by: Civil Works Administration

Supervising Architect: Roland E. Borhek

Register: Washington Heritage Register, 1971; City of Tacoma Register of Historic Places, 1976

Map No. 6

DAHP HPI No. 719819

Current physical description: The Trade Store, today known as the Sale Shop, was built by the CWA based on plans drafted by architect Roland Borhek dated March 14, 1934. The construction drawings and early photographs suggest it has changed little since its construction. It is a one-and-a-half story, wood-frame building with an L-shaped footprint that measures 30' by 20' with a 15' by 10' rear ell. It is situated in the southwest quadrant of the fort and is oriented facing north.

The building has a side-gable roof, vertical board-and-batten cladding, an exterior brick chimney on the primary elevation, and an original rear ell. Borhek's drawings note the exterior siding as "whip-sawn boards" with "1x4 split cedar battens." The building has two six-over-six light, double-hung wood windows on the primary elevation, a twelve-light, fixed wood-sash window on the west side, and a single-light wood window in each gable end. The windows have unadorned flat and square trim. It has a wood shingle roof with a ridge board and a wood, v-shaped gutter along the north eave. The building is elevated and rests on wood post bases. The building has three single-leaf, wood-plank doors, including a primary entrance centered on the north side and two entrances into the rear ell on the east and west sides. A short wood staircase accesses the primary entrance.



Figure 16. Trade Store, June 2019. Photo taken by the author.

The interior plan has changed very little since its construction in 1934. The primary entrance opens into a large open room that occupies the entire first story. Built-in counters line the south and east perimeter of the space. A wood ladder extends through the ceiling in the northeast corner of the room. A wood stove sits adjacent to the entrance. A single-leaf door on the rear south wall leads to the one-room ell. The interior spaces have wood plank flooring, horizontal plank walls with shelving, and square-hewn beamed ceilings. The walls and ceiling have a whitewash finish.

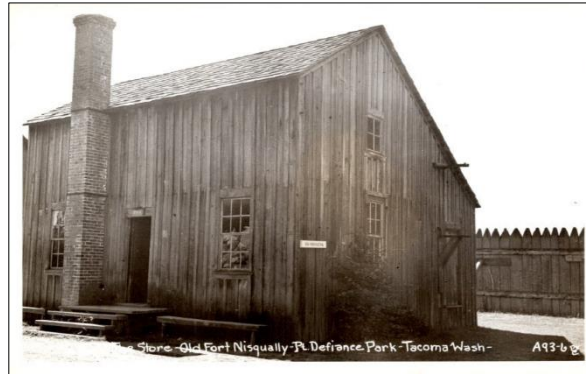


Figure 17. Store, c. 1940. Metro Parks Tacoma, Swanson Collection, PDpc-175

Change over time: The Trade Store has been minimally modified since its construction. The windows on the east and west sides are replacements and slightly differ in appearance from the originals. The windows on the primary elevation may be replacements, but they match the originals in design and appearance. The door on the east side of the rear ell does not appear on the original drawings. Interior modifications include adjustments to the perimeter counter.

Structural repairs took place in the early 1990s following the recommendations of a 1991 assessment. The round pier blocks on which the building had been resting were replaced with treated wood blocks that rest on concrete bases, and the foundation and sill beams were reinforced. Some of the windows were replaced with double-hung, six-light sashes to more accurately reflect the original, period appearance. Additionally, a chimney flue liner and seismic improvements were added to the building by 1996.

The Trade Store retains a high degree of integrity and is able to convey its original function and historical significance.

Resource Name: Blacksmith Shop

Other Names: Store House 2

Built: 1936

Constructed by: Works Progress Administration

Supervising Architect: Roland E. Borhek

Restored/Renovated: 1984, museum staff led by Steve Anderson and volunteers

Register: Washington Heritage Register, 1971; City of Tacoma Register of Historic Places, 1976

Map No. 7

DAHP HPI No. 719820

Current physical description: The Blacksmith Shop, or today's Store House 2, is a one-story building constructed of squared timbers with an L-shaped footprint that measures 32' by 20' with a 14' by 8' rear ell. It is situated in the south half of the fort, centered along the Palisade, and is oriented facing north. It has a medium-pitched, side-gable roof covered with wood shingles and gable ends with board-and-batten cladding. The shed-roof ell also has board-and-batten cladding. There is an interior brick chimney atop the roof ridge near the east end of the building. V-shaped wood gutters rest on brackets along the building's north and south eaves. The building's horizontal timbers are set into notched vertical timbers. The rear shed-roof ell

has board-and-batten cladding. The building has three windows, each with a double-hung, six-over-six-light wood sash. Unlike other fort buildings, the Shop is not elevated. Its timber beam sills rest on a concrete slab foundation installed in 1984. Access to the building is via a short wood-plank ramp on grade that is centered on the front (north) elevation. The entrance is a double wood-plank door with a segmental arch opening.

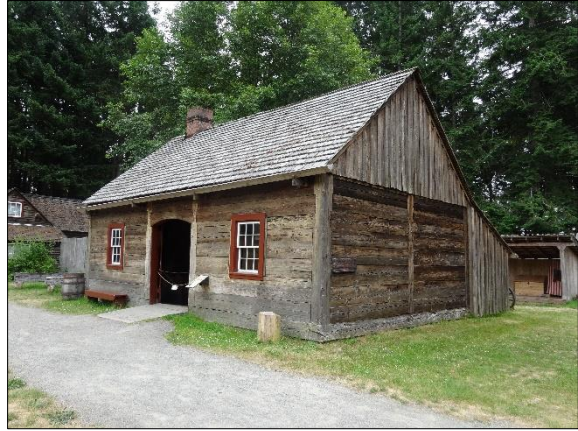


Figure 18. Blacksmith Shop, June 2019. Photo by the author.

The interior plan is a single open and unfinished space, with squared timber walls, joists, collar beams and rafters, and a dirt floor (on top of the concrete base). A brick forge, with a base measuring approximately 7' by 4'6", is situated next to the east wall. Built-in workbenches line parts of the north and south walls. A single-leaf door at the west end of the south wall leads to the ell.

Change over time: Preliminary WPA drawings are dated 1935 and suggest that the Shop was indeed built new. A 1984 report on the Shop gives insight into the building's use over time:

...the new structure was alternatively filled with various artifacts or used as a garage by the resident caretakers; later it was modified by the addition of a car-port and the random replacement of rotted or deteriorated beams. At some point in the mid-1970's a pseudo-forge and wooden floor were installed, followed soon after by the construction of a cage about the front door area to prevent the theft of objects on display...The blacksmith shop has undergone frequent and undirected alteration and maintenance during its 40-odd years of existence.²³

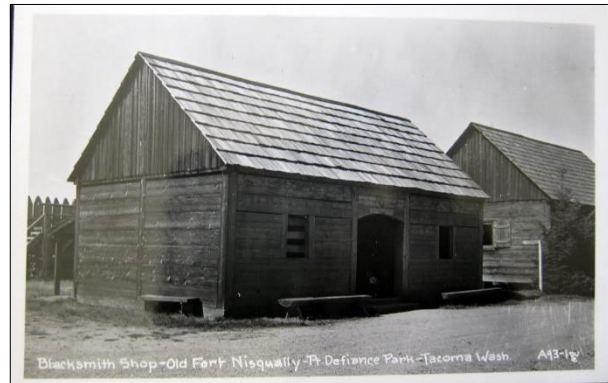


Figure 19. Blacksmith Shop, c. 1940.

The report went on to provide recommendations for a "carefully planned and orchestrated restoration of the structure," that would better serve the "Museum's goals and long-range plans towards developing active programs and *useful functional* buildings." This included the replacement of rotten structural timbers (mostly vertical posts), the construction of a concrete foundation, and the installation of a working forge. The placement of the forge was dictated by the building's existing window arrangement.

The Blacksmith shop has a moderate degree of integrity and is able to convey its historical significance as part of the reconstructed Fort Nisqually site in Point Defiance Park.

²³ "Research Paper: 'The Blacksmith Shop at Fort Nisqually,'" Metropolitan Park District of Tacoma, March 26, 1984. Fort Nisqually Living History Museum Library.

Resource Name: Caretaker's House

Other Names: Clerk's House, Montgomery House
Built: 1936

Constructed by: Works Progress Administration
Supervising Architect: Roland E. Borhek

Register: Washington Heritage Register, 1971; City of Tacoma Register of Historic Places, 1976

Map No. 8

DAHP HPI No. 719821

Current physical description: The Caretaker's House was built according to plans drafted by architect Roland Borhek. It is a small, wood-frame cottage with an irregular footprint that includes small additions to the east, west, and south elevations. It is situated in the southeast quadrant of the fort and is oriented facing north. The building does not outwardly exhibit a particular style but rather closely aligns with the form and plan of a hall-and-parlor folk house tradition, with its side-gable roof, horizontal weatherboard cladding, central chimney, and original rear ell. The building has double-hung and fixed wood windows, both featuring multi-light sashes. Like other fort buildings, the building has a wood shingle roof. It is elevated and rests on concrete post bases. Access to the building is via a short wood staircase centered on the primary north elevation. The primary entrance is a single vertical-plank door. There are three shed-roof additions – one to the east side, one to the west side, and one at the rear southeast corner.



Figure 20. Caretaker's House, June 2019. Photo by the author.

Although little is known of the original interior, the plan and finish materials have changed over the years. Today, the house features an open kitchen and dining area in the large room east of the entrance. A large stone fireplace divides the dining area from what had been the center all. Walls have been removed so that little remains of a center hall. A straight-run wood staircase situated perpendicular to the former center hall accesses the second floor. Finishes throughout have been modified, but the striking fireplace and some wood flooring, wall material, and doors are likely original.



Figure 21. The Caretaker's House is partially pictured at the far left, with the blacksmith shop (center) and granary (right), 1937. Historic American Buildings Survey.

Change over time: The Caretaker's House is noted on architect Roland Borhek's drawings as Montgomery House. His undated drawings are somewhat incomplete, but his association with other fort projects suggests he drafted these plans in 1934 or 1935. The completed caretaker's house appears in a 1937 HABS photograph.

The building functioned as a caretaker's residence and as a place for volunteers (and later staff) to meet, store museum-related items and costumes, and use as a base of operations. As its function evolved, three additions were made to the sides and rear of the house. The addition to the west side post-dates 1950 per photographic evidence, but specific information about the other modifications is unknown. By 1968, a covered porch area had been added, evident in museum archive photos. The porch was removed c. 1990.

The Caretaker's House features two wing additions and considerable interior alterations, which impact its integrity. It retains a low to moderate degree of integrity and is able to convey its significance. The interior has been significantly modified and retains little historic fabric - the main exception being the impressive stone fireplace.

Resource Name: Cook House

Other Names: Kitchen

Built: 1936

Constructed by: Works Progress Administration

Supervising Architect: Roland E. Borhek

Register: Washington Heritage Register, 1971; City of Tacoma Register of Historic Places, 1976

Map No. 9

DAHP HPI No. 719822

Current physical description: The Cook House was built by the WPA based largely on preliminary drawings dated February 25, 1936. These drawings differ slightly from what is reflected in early photographs, primarily in the size of the windows. Otherwise, the building has changed little since its construction. It is a one-story, wood-frame building with a rectangular footprint that measures 22' by 14'. It is situated in the northwest quadrant of the fort behind the Factor's House and is oriented facing south.



Figure 22. Cook House, June 2019. Photo by the author.

The building has a side-gable roof, horizontal weatherboard cladding with corner boards, and an exterior brick chimney centered on the west side elevation. The drawings note the exterior siding as 7" cedar siding. The building has four six-light wood windows, two each on the north and south sides, with unadorned flat and square trim. It has a wood shingle roof with a ridge board and a v-shaped wood gutter along the building's south eave. The building is elevated and rests on wood post bases with short concrete bases. The building has one single-leaf, wood-plank door on the south wall at the east corner. A short wood staircase accesses the primary entrance.

The primary entrance opens into an open room that occupies the entire interior space. A wood stove attached to a brick-lined flue sits centered along the west wall. The brick flue does not appear on the building drawings and appears to be a later addition. The interior space has newer wood plank flooring, vertical plank walls, and a plank ceiling. The walls and ceiling have a whitewash finish.

Change over time: The Cook House has been minimally modified since its construction. A historic photograph from the late 1930s or early 1940s shows the Cook House with 12-light wood windows, which differs from today's six-light windows. The windows on the east and west sides are replacements and slightly differ in appearance from the originals. The 1936 drawings suggest the interior of the Cook House was divided into two rooms, but it is unclear if it was built according to the plan.

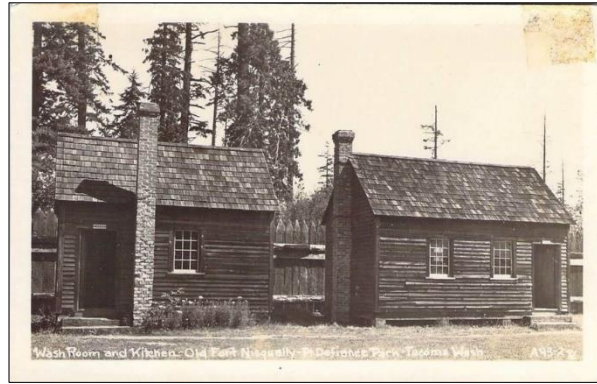


Figure 23. Cook house (right) and wash house (left).
Undated postcard.

A free-standing Bake Oven with a shed-roof covering was constructed in front of the Cook House in 2002.

The Cook House retains a moderate to high degree of integrity and is able to convey its significance.

Resource Name: Wash House

Map No. 10

Other Names:

DAHP HPI No. 719823

Built: 1936

Constructed by: Works Progress Administration

Supervising Architect: Roland E. Borhek

Register: Washington Heritage Register, 1971; City of Tacoma Register of Historic Places, 1976

Current physical description: The Wash House was built by the WPA based largely on preliminary drawings dated February 25, 1936. These drawings differ slightly from what is reflected in early photographs, primarily in the size of the windows. It is a one-story, wood-frame building with a rectangular footprint that measures 18' by 13'. It is situated in the northwest quadrant of the fort next to the Cook House and is oriented facing south. It is just a few feet from both the north and west Palisade walls.

The building has a side-gable roof, horizontal weatherboard cladding with corner boards. The 1936 drawings note the exterior siding as 7" cedar siding. The building has two six-light wood windows, one on the north and south sides, with unadorned flat and square trim. It has a wood shingle roof with a ridge board. There are no gutters. A shed roof extends from the rear (north) wall and attaches to the palisade for support. The building is elevated and rests on wood post bases with short concrete bases. The building has one single-leaf, wood-plank door on the south wall at the east corner. A short wood staircase accesses the primary entrance.

The primary entrance opens into an open room that occupies the entire interior space. A wood stove is attached to the rear wall, but there is no flue or chimney. (Construction drawings and historic photographs document an exterior brick chimney on the primary elevation next to the entrance, but it has been removed.) The interior has wood plank flooring, vertical plank walls, and exposed ceiling framing. The walls have a whitewash finish.



Figure 24. Wash House, June 2019. Photo by the author.

Change over time: The Wash House has been minimally modified since its construction. A historic photograph from the late 1930s or early 1940s shows the wash house with a 12-light wood window, which differs from today's six-light windows. The rear shed roof was added at an unknown date. The brick chimney, built in the 1930s as part of the restoration, was removed between 1964 and 1984.

The Wash House retains a moderate to high degree of integrity and is able to convey its significance.

Resource Name: WPA Picnic Shelter

Other Names: Outdoor Community Kitchen

Built: 1937 (datestone)

Constructed by: Works Progress Administration

Supervising Architect: Roland E. Borhek

Register: N/A

Map No. 18

DAHP HPI No. 719824

Background: According to a 1935 newspaper account, the Civilian Conservation Corps had completed one and planned to build two additional covered "community kitchens" in Point Defiance Park if they could find the funds.²⁴ In 1936, the Park Board ordered the WPA crew working on Fort Nisqually to build an outdoor kitchen nearby as part of their project. Today, the picnic shelter at Fort Nisqually and one at the Gig Harbor viewpoint still stand.²⁵

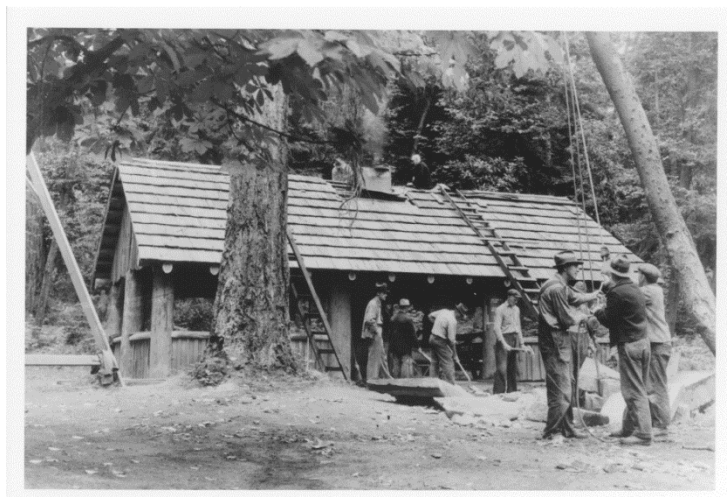


Figure 25. "Picnic Camp Kitchen, Pt. Defiance Park, Tacoma, Wash. O.P.1884." Washington State Historical Society, 1995.0.63.

²⁴ "CCC Displays Building Skills: Park Gets Fine Community Building at Small Cost; Others Planned," *Tacoma Daily Ledger*, April 15, 1935.

²⁵ Park Board Minutes, July 27, 1936, Metro Parks Tacoma files.

Current physical description: The 1937 WPA Picnic Shelter is outside and north of the Palisade. It is a one-story, open-air, log structure with a rectangular footprint approximately 21' by 36'. The structure is an excellent example of the Government Rustic style that is associated with New Deal park projects of the 1930s. The style typically exhibits exposed log beams and rough stonework and was popularized in the National Park Service's 1938 publication *Park and Recreation Structures and Park Structures and Facilities*.²⁶ The style is found in park buildings and structures throughout the U.S. and Washington.

This park structure features a heavy log structure that supports a side-gable roof with wood shingles and exposed log rafter tails. The vertical posts have knee braces, which are characteristic of the style. There is a central stone chimney that serves a cook stove, the structure's only built-in feature. The gable ends have wood-shingle cladding with an over-sized reveal or width. A short half-wall of vertical wood planks nearly encloses the building except for the open center bay, which serves as a breezeway or pass-through. The interior is open and has a concrete slab floor.



Figure 26. WPA Picnic Shelter, June 2019. Photo by the author.

Change over time: Repairs to the picnic shelter have included the installation of concrete bases to replace rotted post bases and the replacement of roofing where necessary. The structure retains a high degree of integrity and is able to convey its original function and historical significance.

²⁶ See Albert H. Good, *Patterns from the Golden Age of Rustic Design: Park and Recreation Structures from the 1930s*, reprint edition, (Lanham, MD: Roberts Rinehart Publishing, 1990), 45-72.

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