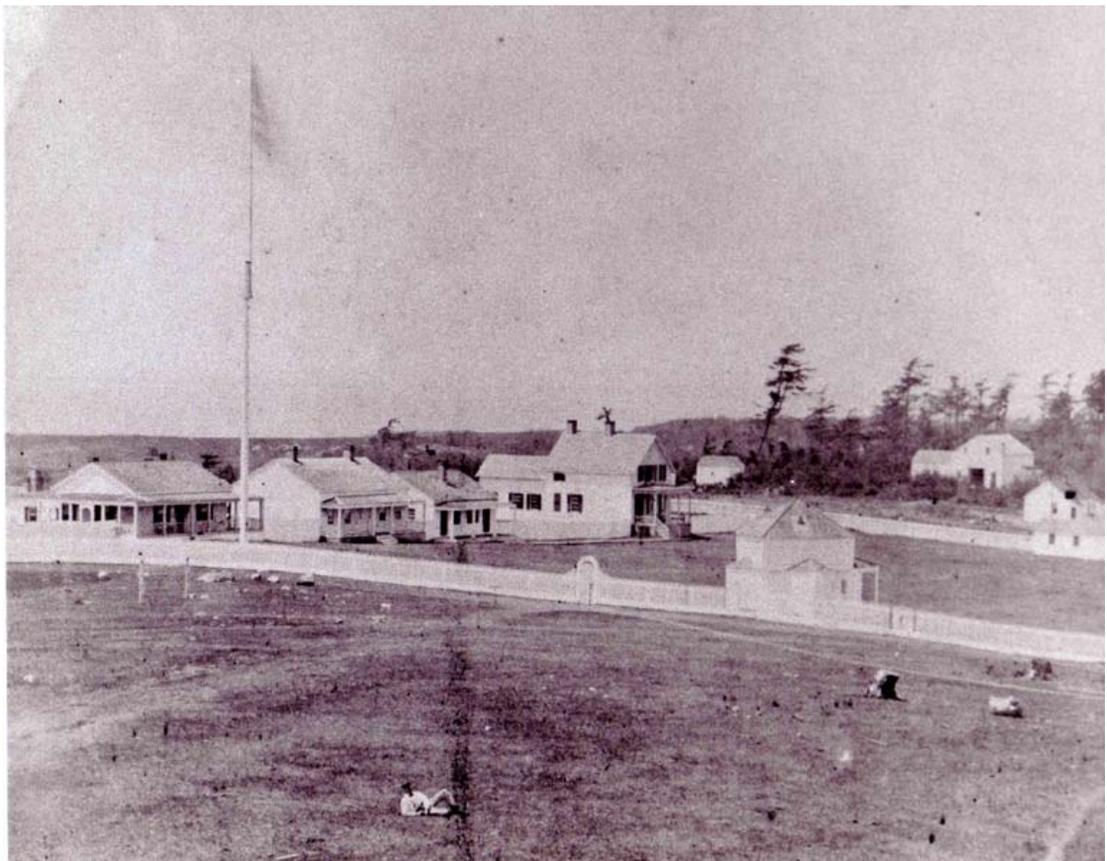


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National Park Service  
Cultural Landscapes Inventory  
2004



American Camp  
San Juan Island National Historical Park

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**National Park Service  
Cultural Landscape Inventory  
2004**

**American Camp  
San Juan Island National Historical Park**

San Juan Island National Historical Park concurs with the management category and condition assessment identified by this CLI report, as given below:

MANAGEMENT CATEGORY: **A: Must be preserved and maintained**

CONDITION ASSESSMENT: **Fair**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Superintendent, San Juan Island National Historical Park

*8/12/04*  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Please return to:

Erica Owens  
CLI Co-Coordinator  
National Park Service  
Pacific West Regional Office  
909 First Avenue  
Seattle, WA 98104-1060

**AMERICAN CAMP**  
**SAN JUAN ISLAND NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK**

---

**Washington SHPO Eligibility Determination**

Section 110 Actions Requested:

- 1) SHPO concurrence with the boundary description,
- 2) SHPO concurrence with the setting description, and
- 3) SHPO concurrence with the addition of structures to the List of Classified Structures (LCS). (See chart below)

**Boundary:**

I concur,  I do not concur with the boundary described for the cultural landscape to include those portions of the American Camp park unit that have historic integrity regarding Criteria A and C. (See "Boundary Description" and "Statement of Significance" in the report)

**Setting:**

I concur,  I do not concur that the setting as described in the Cultural Landscape Inventory (CLI) contributes to the American Camp Historic Site (The 1999 National Register nomination provides a limited description of the American Camp setting. This CLI expands the description to include more detail regarding natural systems and features, spatial organization, vegetation, and views and vistas. See the Analysis and Evaluation).

**Contributing Resources already listed on the National Register:**

The following resources are already listed on the National Register as contributing elements of the American Camp Historic Site:

<i>Structure Name</i>	<i>LCS number</i>	<i>Park Structure Number</i>
Officers' Quarters	007001	HS-11AC
Laundresses' Quarters	007000	HS-06AC
Earthen Redoubt	007006	HS-34AC

**Additional Contributing Resources Determined Eligible by the Washington SHPO in 1999:** The following resources, were included in the 1999 nominations for "American Camp."

<i>Structure Name</i>	<i>LCS number</i>	<i>Park Structure Number</i>
Compound Fence	No number	
Parade Ground (including the reconstructed fence)	No number	
Bellevue Farm site	No number	
San Juan Town site	No number	

**Other Landscape Features Determined Eligible by the Washington SHPO in 1999:**  
 “Other Landscape Features” listed in the 1999 nomination include: Spring Camp Site, Camp Cemetery, two groves of fir trees, road depressions, and piles of fieldstones.

**Contributing Resources not listed on the National Register:**

Based on the information provided in the CLI, the following previously unevaluated structures have been identified as contributing to the American Camp Historic Site (See “Circulation,” “Small scale features,” and “Archeological Sites” in the Analysis & Evaluation section of the report).

<i>Structure Name</i>	<i>LCS number</i>	<i>Park Structure Number</i>	<b>Concur</b>	<b>Do Not Concur</b>
Remnant of wharf on Griffin Bay at San Juan Town Site			✓	
Traces of road to San Juan Town			✓	
Well (at north end of camp)	007019	148-12AC	✓	
Henry Martin Robert Monument	030200	100-01AC	✓	
American Camp Monument	030201	100-02AC	✓	
Native seasonal fishing village site and site of HBC fish processing facility near Alaska Packer’s Rock			✓	

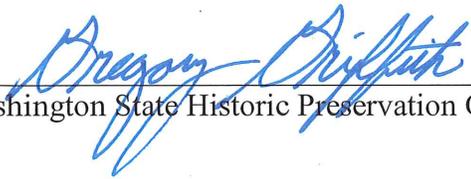
**Non-Contributing Resources:**

Based on the information provided in the CLI, the following previously unevaluated structures have been identified as contributing to the American Camp Historic Site:

<i>Structure Name</i>	<b>Concur</b>	<b>Do Not Concur</b>
*Flagstaff	✓	
Cattle Point Road	✓	
Park access road	✓	
Pickett’s Lane	✓	
Restrooms at Visitor Center	✓	
Visitor Center	✓	
Split rail fencing throughout the park	✓	
Visitor information kiosk at Forth of July Beach	✓	
Visitor information kiosk at Visitor Center	✓	

\* The flagstaff was found eligible by the SHPO in 1999, but subsequent review by the National Register of Historic Places has since determined the flagpole non-contributing.

Reasons/comments why any 'Do Not Concur' blocks were checked:

 DSHPO 8/27/04  
FOR Washington State Historic Preservation Officer Date

Please return forms to the attention of:  
Erica Owens  
CLI Co-coordinator  
National Park Service  
Pacific West Regional Office-Seattle  
909 1<sup>st</sup> Ave, Floor 5  
Seattle, WA 98104  
(206) 220-4128  
erica\_owens@nps.gov

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## Executive Summary

### General Introduction to the CLI

The Cultural Landscapes Inventory (CLI) is a comprehensive inventory of all historically significant landscapes within the National Park System. This evaluated inventory identifies and documents each landscape's location, physical development, significance, National Register of Historic Places eligibility, condition, as well as other valuable information for park management. Inventoried landscapes are listed on, or eligible for, the National Register of Historic Places, or otherwise treated as cultural resources. To automate the inventory, the Cultural Landscapes Automated Inventory Management System (CLAIMS) database was created in 1996. CLAIMS provides an analytical tool for querying information associated with the CLI.

The CLI, like the List of Classified Structures (LCS), assists the National Park Service (NPS) in its efforts to fulfill the identification and management requirements associated with Section 110(a) of the National Historic Preservation Act, NPS Management Policies (2001), and Director's Order #28: Cultural Resource Management (1998). Since launching the CLI nationwide, the NPS, in response to the Government Performance and Results Act (GPRA), is required to report on an annual performance plan that is tied to 6-year strategic plan. The NPS strategic plan has two goals related to cultural landscapes: condition (1a7) and progress on the CLI (1b2b). Because the CLI is the baseline of cultural landscapes in the National Park System, it serves as the vehicle for tracking these goals.

For these reasons, the Park Cultural Landscapes Program considers the completion of the CLI to be a servicewide priority. The information in the CLI is useful at all levels of the park service. At the national and regional levels it is used to inform planning efforts and budget decisions. At the park level, the CLI assists managers to plan, program, and prioritize funds. It is a record of cultural landscape treatment and management decisions and the physical narrative may be used to enhance interpretation programs.

Implementation of the CLI is coordinated on the Region/Support Office level. Each Region/Support Office creates a priority list for CLI work based on park planning needs, proposed development projects, lack of landscape documentation (which adversely affects the preservation or management of the resource), baseline information needs and Region/Support office priorities. This list is updated annually to respond to changing needs and priorities. Completed CLI records are uploaded at the end of the fiscal year to the National Center for Cultural Resources, Park Cultural Landscapes Program in Washington, DC. Only data officially entered into the National Center's CLI database is considered "certified data" for GPRA reporting.

The CLI is completed in a multi-level process with each level corresponding to a specific degree of effort and detail. From Level 0: Park Reconnaissance Survey through Level II: Landscape Analysis and Evaluation, additional information is collected, prior information is refined, and decisions are made regarding if and how to proceed. The relationship between Level 0, I, and II is direct and the CLI for a landscape or component landscape inventory unit is not considered finished until Level II is complete.

A number of steps are involved in completing a Level II inventory record. The process begins when the CLI team meets with park management and staff to clarify the purpose of the CLI and is followed by historical research, documentation, and fieldwork. Information is derived from two efforts: secondary sources that are usually available in the park's or regions' files, libraries, and archives and on-site landscape investigation(s). This information is entered into CLI database as text or graphics. A park report is generated from the database and becomes the vehicle for consultation with the park and the

## SHPO/TPO.

Level III: Feature Inventory and Assessment is a distinct inventory level in the CLI and is optional. This level provides an opportunity to inventory and evaluate important landscape features identified at Level II as contributing to the significance of a landscape or component landscape, not listed on the LCS. This level allows for an individual landscape feature to be assessed and the costs associated with treatment recorded.

The ultimate goal of the Park Cultural Landscapes Program is a complete inventory of landscapes, component landscapes, and where appropriate, associated landscape features in the National Park System. The end result, when combined with the LCS, will be an inventory of all physical aspects of any given property.

## Relationship between the CLI and a CLR

While there are some similarities, the CLI Level II is not the same as a Cultural Landscape Report (CLR). Using secondary sources, the CLI Level II provides information to establish historic significance by determining whether there are sufficient extant features to convey the property's historic appearance and function. The CLI includes the preliminary identification and analysis to define contributing features, but does not provide the more definitive detail contained within a CLR, which involves more in-depth research, using primary rather than secondary source material.

The CLR is a treatment document and presents recommendations on how to preserve, restore, or rehabilitate the significant landscape and its contributing features based on historical documentation, analysis of existing conditions, and the Secretary of the Interior's standards and guidelines as they apply to the treatment of historic landscapes. The CLI, on the other hand, records impacts to the landscape and condition (good, fair, poor) in consultation with park management. Stabilization costs associated with mitigating impacts may be recorded in the CLI and therefore the CLI may advise on simple and appropriate stabilization measures associated with these costs if that information is not provided elsewhere.

When the park decides to manage and treat an identified cultural landscape, a CLR may be necessary to work through the treatment options and set priorities. A historical landscape architect can assist the park in deciding the appropriate scope of work and an approach for accomplishing the CLR. When minor actions are necessary, a CLI Level II park report may provide sufficient documentation to support the Section 106 compliance process.

## Park Information

**Park Name:** San Juan Island National Historical Park  
**Administrative Unit:** San Juan Island National Historical Park  
**Park Organization Code:** 9530  
**Park Alpha Code:** SAJH

## Property Level And CLI Number

**Property Level:** Landscape  
**Name:** American Camp  
**CLI Identification Number:** 400105  
**Parent Landscape CLI ID Number:** 400105

## Inventory Summary

**Inventory Level:** Level II

### Completion Status:

#### Level 0

Date Data Collected - Level 0: 7/1/1986  
Level 0 Recorder: C. Gilbert  
Date Level 0 Entered: 7/1/1986  
Level 0 Data Entry Recorder: C. Gilbert  
Level 0 Site Visit: Yes

#### Level I

Date Level I Data Collected: 1/1/1987  
Level I Data Collection: C. Gilbert  
Date Level I Entered: 1/1/1987  
Level I Data Entry Recorder: C. Gilbert  
Level I Site Visit: Yes

#### Level II

Date Level II Data Collected: 1/1/2004  
Level II Data Collection: J. Hammond  
Date Level II Entered: 1/1/2004  
Level II Data Entry Recorder: J. Hammond, M. Hankinson, A. Hoke  
Level II Site Visit: Yes

Date of Concurrence: 8/12/2004

#### Explanatory Narrative:

Initial field research and analysis was completed by Cathy Gilbert in 1987 in conjunction with an Historic Landscape Report. Further archival and field research was conducted by John Hammond, Amy Hoke, and Michael Hankinson in the summer of 2003. The analysis and evaluation was completed that same summer by John Hammond and Amy Hoke, and the data was organized and entered into the CLI in the fall of 2003.

## Landscape Description

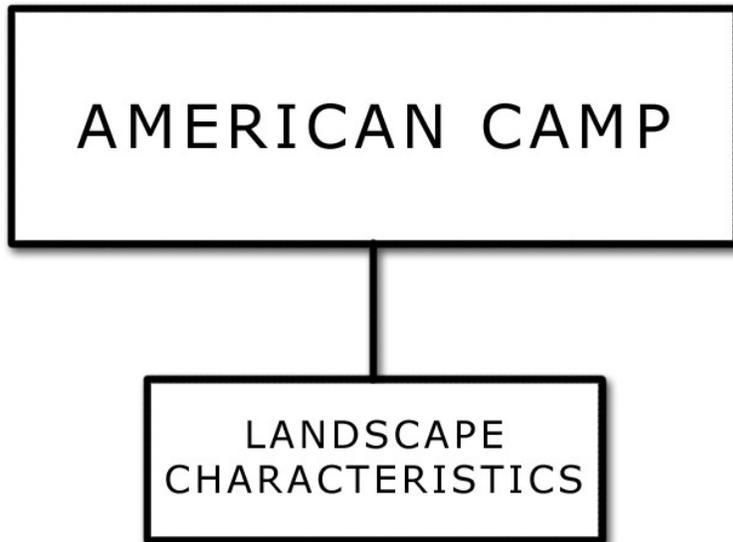
The American Camp cultural landscape is a site in the southeast corner of San Juan Island within the San Juan Island National Historical Park. The site is significant as the location of a United States Army camp during the joint occupation of the island by British and American Troops from 1859 to 1874. The cultural landscape also includes the sites of the Hudson's Bay Company agricultural outpost, Bellevue Farm, and San Juan Town. The site occupies a portion of the southeast peninsula of San Juan Island and is comprised of a broad ridge overlooking Griffin Bay to the north and Haro Strait to the south, surrounding scrub-prairie land, and Puget Sound shoreline. American Camp features significant historic resources, including an earthwork (or redoubt), two of the original military buildings, the reconstructed military fence and flagpole, and numerous archeological sites.

American Camp is a historic site eligible for listing on the National Register under criteria A, C, and D. In meeting criterion A, the site is significant at the national level for its association with the border dispute and military standoff between the United States and Great Britain commonly known as the Pig War. The subsequent joint military occupation of the island preserved peace between the two countries for twelve years while a negotiated settlement could be reached. In meeting criterion C, the site is significant at the national level as rare physical evidence of a mid-19th century American frontier military encampment. Although the bulk of its structural fabric has vanished, the framework of the camp's design is discernible through its array of extant and reconstructed features. The earthen redoubt in particular retains a great deal of integrity and conveys the design and workmanship of Civil War-era fortifications. The massive earthwork effectively embodies the scale, scope, and significance of the San Juan Crisis. Finally, American Camp meets National Register criterion D with significance at the national level. A wealth of information about the design and methods of construction of the military encampment and the day-to-day life of the American soldiers has been gleaned through archeological investigations of the site. Many more resources, however, remain unexcavated, and American Camp retains the potential to yield valuable information. The period of significance of American Camp corresponds to the occupation by the U.S. Army from 1859 to 1874.

Contributing landscape characteristics of American Camp are: natural systems and features, spatial organization, views and vistas, buildings and structures, archaeological sites, and vegetation. The landscape characteristics and their associated features convey the physical character of the military encampment as it was developed and used during the eighteen-year-long of the period of significance from 1859 -1874.

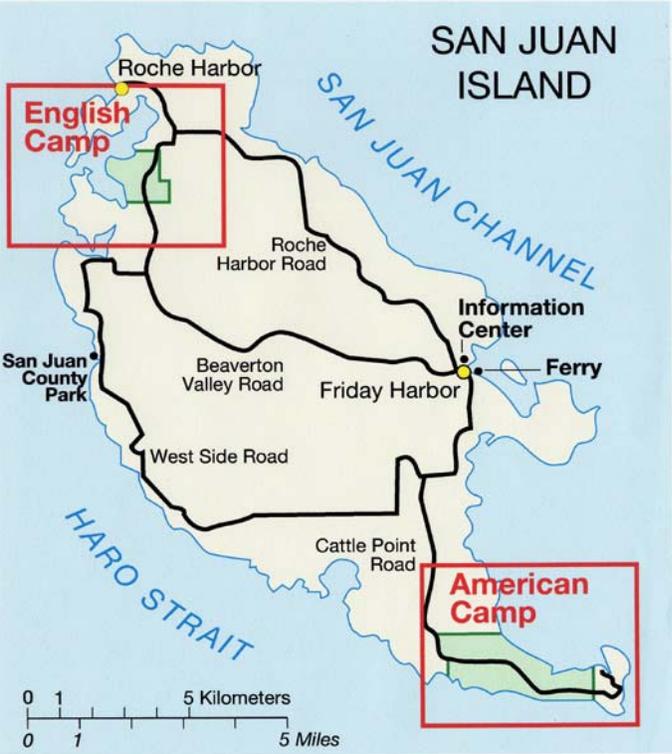
## Cultural Landscapes Inventory Hierarchy Description

American Camp is a cultural landscape within the San Juan Island National Historical Park. Seven landscape characteristics retain integrity and contribute to the integrity of the cultural landscape: natural systems and features, spatial organization, views and vistas, buildings and structures, archeological sites, vegetation, and small-scale features.



*CLI hierarchy diagram showing American Camp as a cultural landscape containing landscape characteristics and features. (CCSO, 2003)*

## Location Map



Map showing the location of American Camp in relation to San Juan Island, Friday Harbor, and English Camp.

## Boundary Description

From a point of beginning where the northern boundary of the park meets the shore of Griffin Bay (UTM 499,517mE; 5,323,140mN), the cultural landscape boundary follows the shoreline southeast for 3,100 feet to a point (UTM 500,219mE; 5,368,030mN) where it turns southwest for 1,030 feet to Cattle Point Road (UTM 500,019mE; 5,367,801mN). The boundary then runs west along Cattle Point Road, 30 feet north of the center line, for 500 feet to the intersection of Cattle Point Road and Pickett's Lane (UTM 499,870mE; 5,367,845mN). It then runs south along Pickett's Lane, 30 feet west of the center line, for 2,900 feet to the shore (UTM 499,874mE 5,366,965mN) and then west along the shore for 6,750 feet to the western border of the park (UTM 497,833mE; 5,367,452mN). It then travels north for 3,950 feet to the northern boundary of the park (UTM 497,883mE; 5,368,023mN) and then east along the park border to the point of beginning on the shore. This boundary was chosen to include all contributing features, including vegetation and clearings that contribute to the historic scene. Non-contributing features within the boundary include the visitor center, two information kiosks, and all modern roads and parking.

## Regional Context

### Cultural Context

San Juan Island has a long history of agriculture, dating back to the first settlement of the island by the Hudson's Bay Company. Today the island is still primarily agricultural, although an increasing area of the island is being occupied by non-agricultural residences and vacation homes. Tourism during the summer months brings thousands of visitors to the island.

Most of the southeast peninsula where American Camp is located is owned and managed by the National Park Service, who keeps it largely undeveloped. The land immediately surrounding the park is a combination of public land, farms, and housing developments. The town of Friday Harbor is six miles to the north.

### Political Context

American Camp is within the boundaries of San Juan Island National Historical Park.

## Physiographic Context

The San Juan Islands are located in the Gulf of Georgia between Victoria, British Columbia and Seattle, Washington. The archipelago includes 172 individual islands that vary in size and terrain from small barren rock outcrops to large forested land masses over fifty square miles in size. San Juan Island is the second largest island in the group, measuring fourteen miles in length and approximately six and one-half miles at its widest point.

The island terrain is gently rolling between three prominent land features: Mount Dallas, rising 1,036 feet; Young Hill at 650 feet on the north end of the island; and Mount Finlayson, a gravel moraine, rising 295 feet above the open prairies on the south end of the island. The shorelines are irregular and rugged with many protected bays and coves. Sandy, gravelly beaches are common. The northern two-thirds of San Juan Island is heavily forested with Douglas fir, cedar, alder and maple. The southern portion is generally open and windswept, primarily vegetated by annual and perennial grasses.

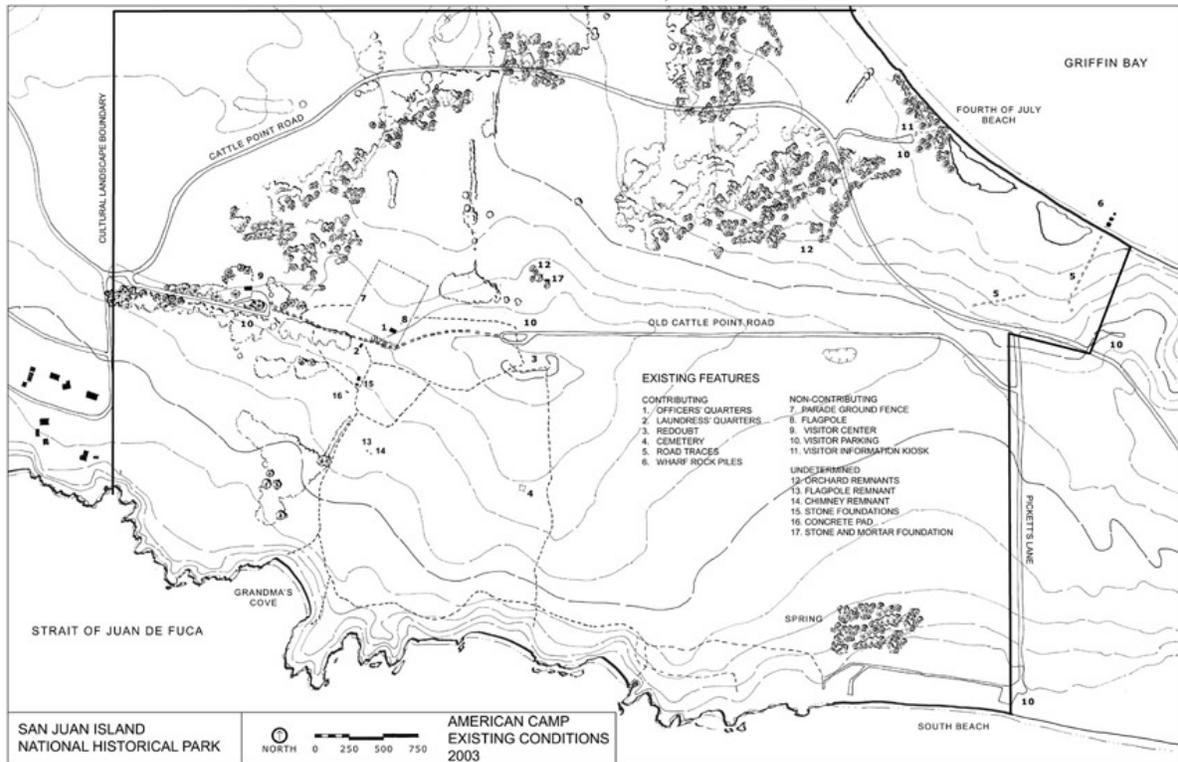
American Camp is located on a broad, east-west ridge on the southeast peninsula of the island. The peninsula is formed on the north by the somewhat protected Griffin Bay, and to the south by the Strait of Juan de Fuca. Several sandy beaches line both shores, separated by rocky outcrops. The windswept grasslands on the slopes of the ridge are punctuated by large glacial erratics.



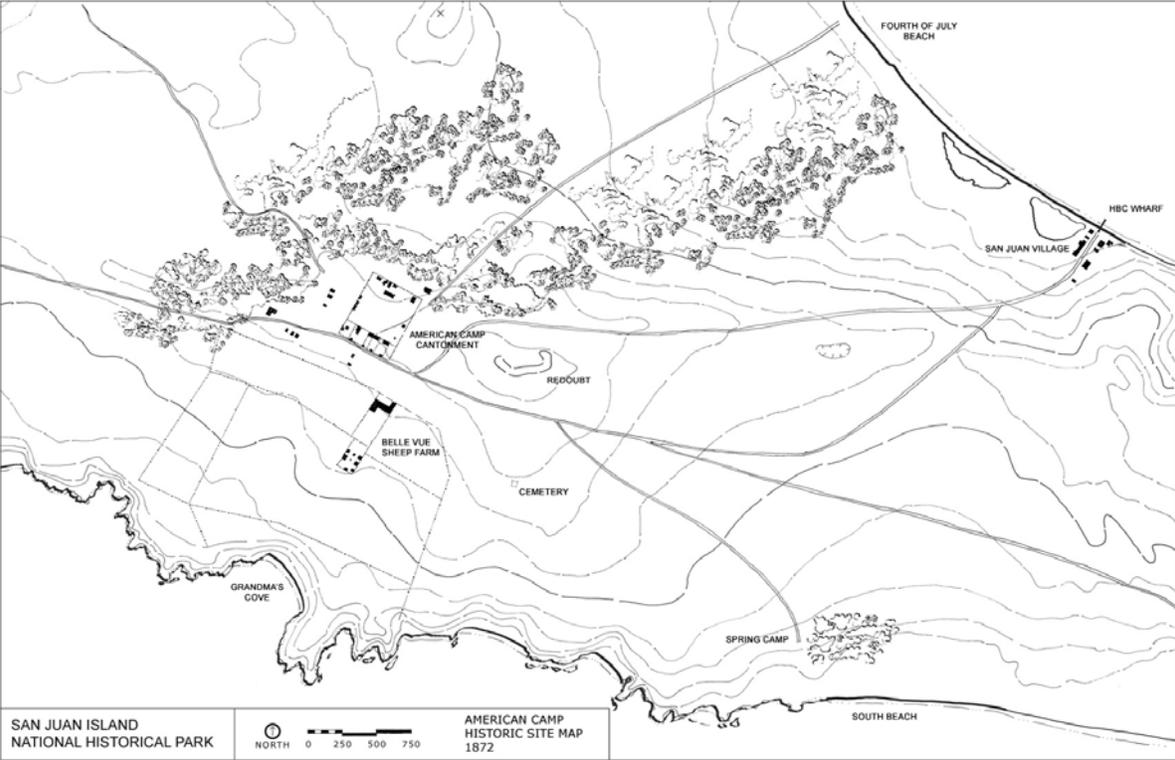
*Regional map showing the physiographic context of San Juan Island within the San Juan Islands archipelago.*

## Site Plan

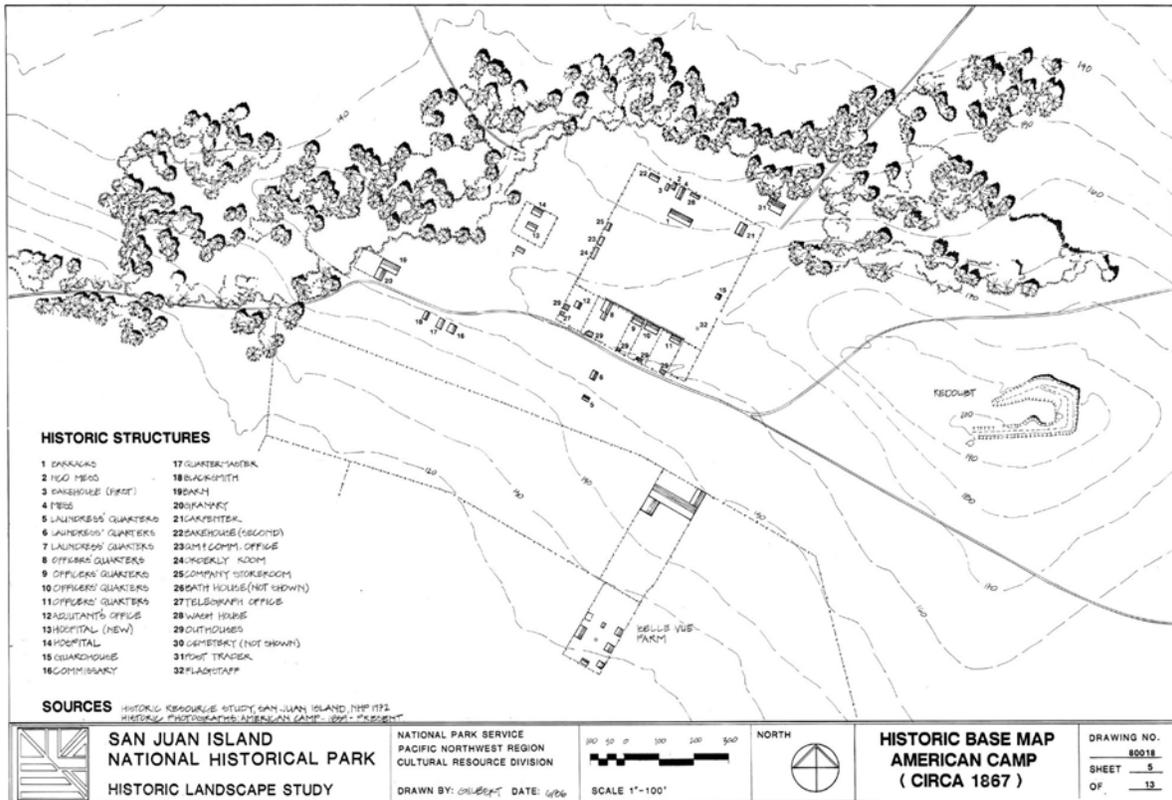
Site plan of American Camp showing existing conditions, 2003. See appendix for enlarged map. (CCSO, 2003)



Historical site map showing conditions in 1872. See appendix for enlarged map. (CCSO, 2003)



Historical site map showing a detail of the American Camp cantonment area, c. 1867. See appendix for enlarged map. (CCSO, 1986)



Site map showing the cultural landscape boundary (in red) and the park boundary (in pink). (CCSO, 2003)



## Chronology

<b>Year</b>	<b>Event</b>	<b>Description</b>
1851 AD	Established	Hudson's Bay Company (HBC) established seasonal fish salting stations on the south end of San Juan Island.
1853 AD	Established	HBC established Belle Vue Sheep Farm on the south end of San Juan Island.
1859 AD	Settled	American settlers began establishing homesteads on the south end of San Juan Island.
1859 AD	Established	George Pickett landed his company of 60 men on the shore of Griffin Bay and established a camp near the beach.
1859 AD	Moved	A week after landing his troops, George Pickett moved his camp across a ridge to the south shore of the island.
1859 AD	Moved	Colonel Silas Casey arrived on San Juan Island with three companies of infantry and eight 32-pounder guns. Upon taking command of the American force, Casey moved the camp to its final location at the top of the ridge.
1859 AD	Built	At the direction of Colonel Casey, American soldiers and engineers began construction of the earthen redoubt, intended to hold the big guns and offer protection to the American camp.
1859 AD	Built	A number of camp structures were constructed during the fall of 1859, including the barracks, two of the officers' quarters, two laundresses' quarters, the guardhouse, the fence, flagpole, and several support buildings.
1859 - 1872 AD	Built	In response to the American military presence on the island, San Juan Town grew on the shore of Griffin bay.

1859 AD	Removed	When the joint occupation agreement was signed, construction of the redoubt was halted and the guns removed.
1859 AD	Abandoned	American forces were reduced to one company of less than 100 men.
1867 AD	Altered	Several buildings in American Camp were repaired, altered, or added to.
1867 AD	Built	New buildings were constructed in American Camp, including two more officers' quarters, a new hospital, barn, and storehouse, as well as several administrative and service related buildings.
1872 AD	Abandoned	Boundary dispute between the United States and Great Britain was settled, granting sovereignty of the islands to the U.S. The bulk of the soldiers vacate American Camp, leaving a small caretaker force.
1874 AD	Abandoned	American troops left San Juan Island upon the settlement of the border dispute.
1875 AD	Purchased/Sold	American Camp was dismantled and the buildings were auctioned off. Many of the buildings were either destroyed or moved from the site. Several buildings remained, including two officers quarters, a barn, and a hospital building.
1875 AD	Settled	The U.S. Army relinquished ownership of the land on which American Camp sat, allowing it to be claimed and settled by civilians.
1875 AD	Established	U.S. Army reservation is established on the southeast end of the island, known as Cattle Point.
1875 AD	Settled	Hudson's Bay Company also relinquished ownership of their land in the mid 1870s, and the land was settled by American civilians.
1875 - 1951 AD	Farmed/Harvested	The sites of American Camp, Bellevue Farm, and San Juan Town were in private ownership and were farmed and grazed.

1890 AD	Destroyed	Already abandoned, San Juan Town burned to the ground.
1951 AD	Purchased/Sold	Washington State acquired just under five acres of land encompassing the American Camp cantonment.
1961 AD	Established	American Camp received National Historic Landmark status.
1966 AD	Established	American Camp was listed on the National Register of Historic Places.
1966 AD	Established	Congress established San Juan Island National Historical Park.
1981 AD	Restored	The Officer's Quarters was restored.
1983 AD	Restored	The Laundress' quarters was returned to the American Camp site and restored.

## Statement Of Significance

American Camp is a historic site eligible for listing on the National Register under criteria A, C, and D. In meeting criterion A, the site is significant at the national level for its association with the border dispute and military standoff between the United States and Great Britain commonly known as the Pig War. The subsequent joint military occupation of the island preserved peace between the two countries for twelve years while a negotiated settlement could be reached. In meeting criterion C, the site is significant at the national level as rare physical evidence of a mid-19th century American frontier military encampment. Although the bulk of its structural fabric has vanished, the framework of the camp's design is discernible through its array of extant and reconstructed features. The earthen redoubt in particular retains a great deal of integrity and conveys the design and workmanship of Civil War-era fortifications. The massive earthwork effectively embodies the scale, scope, and significance of the San Juan Crisis. Finally, American Camp meets National Register criterion D with significance at the national level. A wealth of information about the design and methods of construction of the military encampment and the day-to-day life of the American soldiers has been gleaned through archeological investigations of the site. Many more resources, however, remain unexcavated, and American Camp retains the potential to yield valuable information. The period of significance of American Camp corresponds to the occupation by the U.S. Army from 1859 to 1874.

### The San Juan Crisis

Following the War of 1812, territorial jurisdiction of western lands including the Pacific Northwest became the subject of negotiations between Great Britain and the United States. In 1818, the two countries agreed that territories west of the Rocky Mountains would remain "free and open," allowing joint access and use of the resources by both countries. Over several years, American settlers, traders and missionaries increased their presence in the region while the British continued to establish trading posts and agricultural stations throughout the northwest. The vast area known as the Oregon Territory generally fell under the domain of the British-owned Hudson's Bay Company (HBC).

Negotiations between Great Britain and the United States over sovereignty of the western territory continued until 1846, when the Treaty of Oregon established the 49th parallel as the northern boundary of the United States. The entirety of Vancouver Island would remain in British hands, with the boundary described as extending along the 49th parallel westward "to the middle of the channel which separates the continent from Vancouver's Island, and thence southerly through the middle of the said channel, and of Fuca's Straits, to the Pacific Ocean." The language of the treaty, however, made it unclear as to which of two major channels, Canal de Haro or Canal de Rosario, was "the" channel demarcating the boundary. Between these two straits were the San Juan Islands. By 1853, dispute over the islands began to grow when both the British colonial government, through the HBC, and the newly-established U.S. Territory of Washington laid claim to the islands. The British believed the boundary followed the channel through Rosario Strait, east of San Juan Island. The Americans believed the correct boundary was along Haro Strait on the west side of the island.

In 1853, the Hudson's Bay Company established an agricultural station and sheep farm at the south end of San Juan Island and appointed Charles Griffin as its chief agent. By 1859, they had 80 fenced acres under cultivation and 4,500 sheep grazing on the grasslands across the island. Also on the island were about 18 American settlers recently returned from gold hunting expeditions in British Columbia (Thompson 1972). The settlers began establishing homesteads on land they were assured was U.S. soil. The HBC and the colonial government in Victoria, however, viewed these settlers as squatters on British

land.

Tensions boiled over on the morning of June 15, 1859, when an American settler named Lyman Cutlar shot and killed a pig belonging to the HBC for rooting in his potato patch. Disagreement between Cutlar and the HBC over replacement costs and exaggerated accounts of the incident led (in part) to American settlers on the island to petitioning the U.S. government for protection. Brigadier General William Harney, commanding general of the U.S. Army's Department of Oregon and the recipient of the petition, ordered American troops to the island. On July 27th, Captain George Pickett and his company of roughly 50 soldiers landed on the southeast end of San Juan Island near the HBC's wharf. In response, the British dispatched three warships to Griffin Bay. Further charges and formal protests were exchanged, and a standoff ensued while both sides awaited instructions from its government.

At any given moment during the early days of the standoff, war could have erupted. Conflict was averted by the level heads of a few men and peace prevailed. In November 1859, Great Britain and the United States agreed to joint occupation of San Juan Island until the boundary dispute could be settled, thus concluding what has become known as the "Pig War."

Over the next 12 years, both the English Camp site and the American Camp site on San Juan Island developed into substantial structural complexes with officers' quarters and barracks, parade grounds, hospitals and service buildings, fortifications, gardens, extensive roads and communication systems linking both posts and the community at large. San Juan Village on Griffin Bay also flourished during this period, providing goods and services to the American soldiers and settlers. Arbitration over the boundary and joint occupation of the island lasted until 1872 when the San Juan Islands were awarded to the United States.

#### Mid-19th Century Military Camp

The setting of American Camp even today reveals much about the requirements of the United States' occupation of San Juan Island. Proximity to a sheltered harbor, now known as Griffin Bay, allowed easy access of troops and supplies from Fort Bellingham to the northeast and Forts Steilacoom and Vancouver to the south. The camp's location on a high ridge provided a commanding view of the southern end of the archipelago and of the water passages to the east, west, and south. Coniferous forests, remnants of which are still in evidence, offered shelter from the north and west winds, as well as timber for the camp's construction. Open vistas east toward the redoubt and south toward Belle Vue Farm gave the encampment an added strategic advantage. All of these landscape features, along with the historic spatial relationships between Belle Vue Farm, San Juan Town, the Spring Camp site, the cemetery, and the camp cantonment itself, remain evident at American Camp today.

The general layout of American Camp was in many ways a reflection of its functional operation and underlying military structure. A central fenced compound was the focus of camp, within which nearly all living areas, administrative functions, and primary service facilities were oriented around a central parade ground. Officers' quarters faced enlisted men's barracks across the open space. The camp guardhouse and flagstaff flanked the formal gated entrance to the compound. Arranged around the outer perimeter of this complex were secondary service areas, including the hospital, stables, storehouses, and laundresses' quarters. Today, two surviving historic buildings, along with the reconstructed cantonment fence, gate, and flagstaff, suggest the framework, scale, and scope of the original encampment.

The officers' quarters and the laundress' quarters remain as intact examples of mid-19th century military architecture. Both constructed before the end of 1860, these buildings represent the earliest phase of construction at the camp. The officers' quarters is typical of the rather substantial housing afforded to

officers even in a remote setting, with its box-frame construction, weatherboarding, encircling verandahs, and latticework detailing. The laundress' quarters, by contrast, illustrates a less permanent mode of construction for civilian employees at the camp. Built with recycled materials from Fort Bellingham, this building retains its board-and-batten siding and its modest proportions.

Perhaps the most outstanding physical reminder of the historic period at American Camp is the earthen redoubt. On the whole its integrity is remarkable, despite paths worn on top of the mound and some surface erosion. The configuration of the redoubt has changed very little since its recorded description by a noted late 19th century historian. A prominent feature of the camp's landscape design, the redoubt is significant in a much larger context for its type, period, and method of construction. It has been called one of the finest examples of a pre-Civil War earthworks remaining in the United States. The size of the fortification, the scale of its gun emplacements, and its construction by a special detachment of Army Engineers, all speak to the seriousness of the crisis on San Juan Island in 1859.

### Historic Archaeology at American Camp

A number of archaeological investigations, both pre-historic and historic, have taken place at American Camp over the past two decades. Between 1970 and 1977, University of Idaho field schools have focused on the historic archaeology of the site, and these have been particularly helpful in increasing knowledge of the military occupation. A rich array of everyday artifacts was collected in and around the camp structures, although archaeologists found that the identification of stratigraphy was nearly impossible because of extensive rabbit disturbance. Among the many artifacts located were: brass epaulettes, military buttons, toothbrushes, square cut nails, glass beads, hat buckles, keys, ammunition, escutcheon plates, sewing items, a metal horn, toy fragments, and many examples of earthenware, stoneware, and porcelain from a variety of manufacturers.

Further archaeological studies were conducted to ascertain the locations of buildings now removed. In combination with historic documentation in the form of photographs and maps made during the course of the occupation, a number of buildings were ground-verified. In some cases, portions of building foundations were located, particularly along Officers' Row and in the hospital complex. Remnants of posts and post holes, wooden timbers, masonry chimneys, and stone cellars helped to confirm the location of specific structures. The flagstaff foundation was entirely excavated, enabling the reconstruction to be accurately sited.

During the same period, archaeological investigations were conducted at the Hudson's Bay Company's Belle Vue Farm, south of American Camp proper. Working from six historic site plans, one artistic sketch and various written accounts of the farm, archaeologists were able to clarify some of the confusion about structure location at the site. A total of nine buildings were excavated, along with two wells and a flag pole foundation.

Investigations of a similar scale were undertaken at San Juan Town. Using written descriptions, three maps, and one painting, archaeologists sought to determine the spatial arrangement of structures, construction techniques, and building usage. Potholes left by antique hunters and rabbit burrows had disturbed the integrity of the site to some degree. Nonetheless, substantial structural remains were found.

American Camp has the potential to yield further information through historical archaeology. Specific areas recommended for further investigation include: the barracks, the blockhouse, the sutler's store, and areas outside the fenced cantonment. The camp dump has not yet been found. At Belle Vue Farm, obvious structures represented by rock piles should be investigated, as well as the farm's dump site, and that of San Juan Town. Such sites promise to reveal further detail on the material culture of American

Camp.

## Physical History

### 1845-1858

European settlement of San Juan Island began in 1845, the year before the Treaty of Oregon would set the wheels of conflict in motion, when, story has it, the Hudson's Bay Company (HBC) claimed the island by placing a wooden plaque on Mt. Finlayson on the southeast end of the island. Hudson's Bay Company had been a force in the Northwest Territories since 1821 and was eager to establish itself in the face of increasing American settlement in the area. In 1851, as if to underscore this gesture, James Douglas, Chief Factor for Fort Victoria and governor of the crown colony, established seasonal fish salting stations on the south end of San Juan and formally took possession of the island. Eager to create a permanent settlement on the island, Douglas followed this move two years later by establishing a branch of the HBC subsidiary Puget Sound Agricultural Company on the island's southern end. In December, 1853, Chief Agent Charles Griffin and a group of HBC herdsman landed on San Juan with seed for crops, farmyard animals, and 1,369 sheep to graze on the island's grasslands. He named his farm Belle Vue Sheep Farm.

Belle Vue Sheep Farm was situated on the south slope of the ridge that bisects the southeast peninsula of San Juan Island. The site offered access to a protected cove on the south shore and to prime grazing land for the sheep. About seven small structures of hewn logs were organized around a small open square and a flagpole. North of this cluster, to the top of the ridge, were several barns and outbuildings, and a latticework of fences and corrals lay across the land around the farm. Roads led south to the beach of the cove and north to the protected bay variously called San Juan Harbor, Ontario Roads, and later Griffin Bay. Roads, in fact, were relatively extensive, connecting the farm to outlying sheep stations around the island and to Cattle Point and Mt. Finlayson on the southeast end of the peninsula. North of the farm, on the shore of Griffin Bay, was a wharf about ten feet wide and 100 feet long and a corral for holding stock at shipping time.

### 1859-1865

As Belle Vue Sheep Farm continued to grow, increasing both its sheep herd and its area of land under cultivation, pressure from American settlement also increased, and disputes over sovereignty of the island were becoming more common. HBC and the colonial government in Victoria, however, managed to dissuade significant settlement on the island until 1859, when miners returning from the gold fields of British Columbia began to lay out claims and build homesteads on San Juan. In March 1859, two Americans lived on the island, along with 18 HBC employees. By June the number of Americans had climbed to 25, including one Lyman Cutlar. Cutlar's farm, the site of the famous pig incident, was most likely located about a mile northwest of Belle Vue Sheep Farm on the edge of the prairie. The homestead itself was rather unnoteworthy: a small dwelling and a potato patch covering a third of an acre. Its location on an HBC road and, in Griffin's words, "in the center of the most valuable sheep run" on the island, however, is what landed the farm and its inhabitant in the middle of history.

On July 18, 1859, Captain George Pickett, in command at Fort Bellingham in the newly established Washington Territory, received orders to assemble provisions and building materials and move his company to San Juan Island, where he was to establish a new post on the southeast end of the island. Less than two weeks after receiving his orders, on July 27, 1859, Pickett and his men landed on the shore of Griffin Bay and established a camp approximately 200 feet from the HBC wharf. By nightfall, several tents were pitched, two field guns were placed nearby, and an American flag was erected.

The arrival two days later of the HMS Tribune and her 31 guns in Griffin Bay caused Pickett to rethink his choice of camp sites. He decided the camp was too vulnerable where it was and began to move camp across the ridge to a larger prairie near the south shore of the island. Located near a natural spring and oriented with a view of the south harbor and the Strait of Juan de Fuca, the new site was, in Pickett's mind, a more suitable location for a permanent camp. The move, however, did not impress Captain Horby aboard the Tribune who thought the new camp, known today as Spring Camp, was just as exposed to the elements and to ships' guns as the first. Nonetheless, by August 1, the move was complete and the Americans began construction of two wooden structures – a barracks and a hospital – using salvaged material from Fort Bellingham.

On August 10, Colonel Silas Casey arrived with three companies of infantry – 171 soldiers in all – from Fort Steilacoom to assume command of the American forces on San Juan Island. Landing on the south side of the Island, not far from Pickett's camp, Casey also brought additional provisions, supplies, and equipment, including as much as 300,000 board-feet of lumber. The week after Colonel Casey arrived, a detachment of engineers and four additional companies of the Third Artillery landed and joined the camp. By the end of August the American garrison on San Juan had grown to 461, plus a number of civilian laborers. The dramatic influx of soldiers stationed at the small camp and the generally exposed location and relentless winds on the hill prompted Casey to request permission to move to yet another site before erecting a permanent camp.

The prairie behind the Spring Camp site stretched east and west several miles. The land sloped gently to the southern shoreline of the island and was broken by narrow embankments, forested areas, and large isolated boulders on the open prairie. Composed primarily of low grasses, portions of the prairie had been used for several years as pasture land for livestock owned by the Hudson's Bay Company at Belle Vue Sheep Farm. North of Belle Vue Sheep Farm, the vegetation cover changed to forest and, along an embankment on the northwest edge of the prairie, a thin belt of conifers created a protected pocket of land. After an inspection of the area, Colonel Casey decided this site, tucked along the edge of the trees near the top of the ridge, was the ideal location for a military camp. Sheltered from the wind and with a commanding view of both harbors, this site became the permanent location for the American military forces on San Juan Island. Captain James Prevost, boundary commissioner for Great Britain, reported that the new American camp site was "very strongly placed in the most commanding position in this end of the island, well sheltered in the rear and on one side by the forest and on the other by a commanding eminence". For the second time in less than one month, tents were taken down, supplies repacked, and equipment assembled by the American troops for a move that would relocate them less than two miles away.

Through the summer months and early fall of 1859, most of the soldiers at American Camp on San Juan Island lived in tents as construction of permanent buildings began in earnest. Soldiers were put to work clearing the surrounding forests and harvesting trees to provide supplementary timber for construction and to establish fields of fire for defense. Fortification of the camp was considered essential and, concurrent with construction of permanent buildings, the Americans undertook the rigorous task of building a large earthen redoubt. The engineers who had arrived on the island two weeks earlier with Colonel Casey, under the leadership of Lt. Henry Roberts, surveyed the area around the camp and selected a site less than a half-mile east of the new camp site. Building on a small natural mound, hundreds of soldiers and many civilian laborers worked for more than two months, trenching around the base of the mound, reshaping and fortifying its embankments.

The length of the entire earthen structure measured approximately 700 feet. The longest side along the south measured 300 feet; the east and northeast sides, 100 feet each; and the northwest side, 150 feet.

The west side of the redoubt, facing the camp site, was open and level, providing access. A massive structure, the fortified embankment was 25 feet wide at the base and 8 feet wide at the top. The interior slope measured approximately 15 feet and the exterior slope dropped 25 feet in places until it met the natural grade. The redoubt was designed to hold the eight 32-pounder guns from the U.S.S. Massachusetts. Before work on the redoubt was abandoned that fall, five earthen gun platforms were built, each measuring 12 feet by 18 feet. This impressive landscape structure, although not physically connected to the developing American Camp to the west, formed the easternmost edge of the overall camp site.

While the redoubt was under construction, and into the winter of 1859, several permanent buildings were erected at the main camp site. As the camp developed in the early 1860s, the structures were organized around a central parade ground where the soldiers would drill. The parade ground was a nearly square area of approximately 425 feet to a side aligned northeast to southwest. The entire area was enclosed with a whitewashed picket fence with an arched pedestrian gateway on the southeast side and service entrances on the northwest and northeast sides. Along the northeast side of the parade ground, within the fence, were the enlisted men's quarters and associated service structures, such as the mess hall and washhouse. The officers' quarters were opposite the enlisted men's quarters on the southwest side, facing onto the parade ground. Other service structures, such as the laundresses' quarters, the hospital, and the barn were located outside of the parade ground.

One of the first structures built at the camp was a barracks for the enlisted men. Like several early structures at American Camp, portions of the barracks were constructed of materials salvaged from Fort Bellingham. A large single-story building, the barracks faced south and had a narrow porch extending across the front façade. When initially constructed, this building also contained a kitchen and mess room for the enlisted men. Two smaller quarters were built to supplement housing in the main barracks. Located northwest and northeast of the main barracks building, both of the new quarters were single story structures, constructed of logs harvested from nearby forests.

Approximately 300 feet south of the barracks, two houses were built for officers at the camp. The smaller of the two was constructed of logs and measured 30 feet by 25 feet, with a porch on the front (north) side and a kitchen in the rear. The other house, approximately 100 feet east, was built by Captain Pickett and was one of the more "finished" of the early buildings at American Camp. A rather substantial building, the entire house was weatherboarded with a porch in front (north) wrapping around both sides of the structure. A kitchen and dining room were located in the back of the building. Two outbuildings were set back on the south side of each house forming an edge and back yard. While all structures and fences in the camp were whitewashed, the fronts of the officers' quarters were finished with white paint, somewhat of a luxury at the time.

Two quarters for the company laundresses were also built before the end of the year. Portions of these structures were constructed using lumber from Fort Bellingham and lumber purchased by the laundresses themselves. Most of the women who worked at the post as laundresses were the wives of noncommissioned officers stationed at the camp. Both of the quarters for the company laundresses were sturdy frame and weatherboard structures with two to four rooms, including a kitchen. One of the structures was sited southwest of the officers' quarters, while the other was some distance west and north. Near this second laundress' quarters the camp hospital was erected. Portions of this structure were also comprised of materials from Fort Bellingham. The hospital measured approximately 35 feet by 27 feet, contained four rooms and had a porch across the north façade. East of the hospital, a small two-room building served as the orderly room. Built by Pickett's company, the structure measured 25 feet by 14 feet.

The camp guardhouse was erected during this early phase of development, across the cantonment and west of the orderly room. At least portions of this structure came from Fort Bellingham, and evidence suggests the entire building may have been moved when Pickett was transferred. The two-story blockhouse made of logs was located next to the main pedestrian gate of the parade ground. The lower floor of the building measured approximately 17 feet square and the upper cap, which was turned 45 degrees to the base, measured 15 feet square.

American Camp began to take shape in this flurry of construction in September and October of 1859. During this time, the standoff between the American and the British troops continued. Hunt's company was still encamped in tents south of the structures being built by Pickett's company, and the H.M.S. Satellite was still anchored in the bay with her guns trained on the Americans. Meanwhile, U.S. Army General Winfield Scott was negotiating with Governor Douglas for a settlement to the affair. That settlement was reached in early November, with each government agreeing to joint occupation of the island by reduced forces. General Scott sailed into Griffin Bay on November 7, and while he himself did not disembark, his colonels delivered the orders to stand down. Work on the redoubt was halted immediately and the 32-pounder guns and other fortifications erected around the camp were removed. The American forces were reduced to Hunt's company, who moved to the more complete camp that Pickett's company had occupied. The British in turn ordered the Satellite out of Griffin Bay, ending the standoff. Scott sailed out of the bay to a salute from one of the guns on the redoubt.

While most new construction stopped when Hunt took command of American Camp, two other buildings were added to the camp in the early 1860s. A new, much needed kitchen and mess room replaced the existing kitchen facilities in the barracks building. Sited north of the barracks, this log structure was large enough to accommodate 64 soldiers. The other new building, a bakehouse, was sited close to the kitchen and measured 20 feet by 12 feet.

In addition to the fence around the parade ground, there were also fences around the backyards of each of the officers' quarters. A boundary demarcating the early military reservation was also laid out in the early 1860s and initially included most of the land on the southeast end of the island. Evidence also suggests that, as was typical of other military posts, American Camp had a rather large vegetable garden located "near the barracks", although the exact location of this garden has not been determined.

By the mid-1860s, these twelve buildings, the parade ground, the fences, outbuildings and the redoubt were the primary structures comprising American Camp. A flagstaff was erected near the guardhouse, towering high above the complex. With the outbreak of the Civil War, construction at American Camp came to a virtual stop.

When the American troops landed on the shores of Griffin Bay in the Summer of 1859, approximately 50 civilians came with them. In the next few weeks and months additional people, both American and British, collected on the southeast end of the island. The population of the island, military and civilian, grew from less than 40 to more than 600 in a matter of weeks. With this population explosion came business opportunities selling the soldiers and settlers supplies, food, and drink. By August 9, less than two weeks after the landing of Pickett and his troops, a small number of tent "grogeries", or liquor purveyors, had been erected near the HBC wharf on Griffin Bay. Three weeks later a town site had been laid out, houses built, and two wells dug. San Juan Village, as it was called, developed into a small collection of houses, shops, and hotels organized around a small street that terminated at the wharf.

By all accounts, the village's primary purpose was to provide liquor and prostitutes for the soldiers and settlers on the island. This quickly became a significant problem of discipline and morale in the military camp, as drunkenness and disruptive behavior was becoming commonplace. A series of American

commanders through the early 1860s fought a war against the whiskey sellers, trying to regain control of their division. In the spring of 1860, Captain Hunt forced those who had their stores within the military reserve to move off. He then tried to close the shops altogether by ordering all “groceries” and tavern keepers to leave the island. The citizens wrote in protest to General Harney, and not long thereafter, Captain Hunt was transferred to the mainland and Pickett returned as commander. Pickett, however, and his subsequent replacements continued to fight the whiskey sellers. By 1865, the post commanders began to get an upper hand on the more notorious law-breakers on the island. A regulation that appeared about that time reduced the number of stores on the island to two: one camp sutler on each end of the island.

The dramatic increase of soldiers and settlers on San Juan during the early 1860s and the reduction of grazing land due to homesteads and the military camp greatly interfered with the sheep farm operations of the Hudson’s Bay Company. The chief factor of the HBC at Victoria lamented in 1863 that from control over the whole island only four years earlier, all the sheep stations were now “squatted over and only the Homestead of Bellevue [sic.] with about sixty acres of enclosed land remains” (Thompson, 171). In fact, the farm was now a losing proposition. Nonetheless, the farm managers pursued the operation of the farm until the company finally abandoned it in 1864.

Because of early settlement and development at the southern end of San Juan Island, the road system in the vicinity of American Camp was relatively extensive. The primary road from the north end of the island passed Eagle Cove on the south shore and turned east toward the encampment. Near the American Camp barn and granary the road jogged north again and followed the southwest edge of the main cantonment, abutting the backyards of the officers’ quarters. Just past the cantonment, this same road branched in two directions: one route led north of the redoubt toward San Juan Village, and the other continued east to the very tip of the island. This second road also branched south, leading to the Spring Camp site near the shoreline. Although the camp did have some on-site water, historical evidence suggests that carts were used to bring water from the spring for camp use. Secondary roads led from the northern edge of the cantonment: one led travelers through the forest to Griffin Bay, while the other led north, connecting with the main road to English Camp. Other roads and trails around the camp evolved within this larger framework, dictated by need, use, and changing settlement patterns over the years.

Within the fenced cantonment, circulation paths were minimal. A diagonal footpath ran between the barracks area and the orderly room along the northwest edge of the fence. Along that edge of the fence, an opening permitted access to the hospital and other structures southwest of the cantonment. The formal entry to the cantonment was along the northeast edge of the fence, near the flag and guardhouse.



*Historic photo of the early American encampment, 1859. This was probably taken shortly after the company's move to final location of the cantonment. The open Douglas fir forest is visible in the background. (SAJH archives)*

## **1866-1872**

While arbitration of the boundary question dragged on and the War Department was still consumed with the Civil War, little attention was given to the small American military camp on San Juan Island. The Army had not planned on a long-term occupation of the site and the structures at American Camp reflected the reluctance to invest in any permanent structural complex. As a result, over the years, many of the buildings at the camp fell into a severe state of disrepair. Inspection reports from visiting officers indicated that many of the buildings were unsuitable for housing the troops or providing a healthy environment. In 1865, the commanding officer of American Camp requested new building materials and paint for general repair and improvement of the camp structures including a new gate for the post cemetery, a new flagstaff, and a new mess and kitchen. Finally in 1866, the War Department indicated it was prepared to make the necessary investment and approved the expenditure.

Repairs and new construction accelerated dramatically between 1866 and 1868. Seven of the original buildings were repaired and converted to new uses; two received major additions and the remaining buildings received various types of repairs. In addition, the Americans doubled the number of permanent structures at the camp by erecting over a dozen new buildings, both within and adjacent to the parade ground. More fencing was built, and roads and circulation systems were improved and expanded, linking the camp with the greater island community.

Although soldiers were sent to Fort Bellingham to salvage any remaining building materials, a large quantity of raw materials for the repair and construction of new structures came from the island itself. A number of civilians were hired to help the soldiers harvest the nearby forests, and some civilians were employed as carpenters, masons, and blacksmiths to supplement the labor force during the construction boom. Well over one half of the new structures built at the camp were erected during 1867.

Among the first new structures added to the camp were two quarters for officers. Both new buildings were weatherboarded, with a porch on the front and a kitchen in back of each residence. Sited adjacent to and between the two existing officers' quarters, these new structures completed the line of buildings termed "Officers' Row". Although all four officers' quarters were different in size, shape, and spacing, they were all materially very similar. The front façade of the four structures created an even row facing the parade ground. This, in addition to a boardwalk extending across the front porches, created not only a cohesiveness to Officers' Row, but a relative degree of formality. As with other officers' quarters, outbuildings were sited behind the new houses and whitewashed fences enclosed the backyards of each individual structure, providing a more private, residential character for the officers' families.

Directly west of Officers' Row and set back approximately 50 feet from the boardwalk, a small, two-room structure was built to provide an administrative center for the camp and offices for the camp commander and adjutant officer. Historical documents indicate this building had a porch on all four sides.

Outside of the fence surrounding the main encampment, a new hospital was built just thirty feet from the first hospital. A simple rectangular structure, it had six rooms and a front porch on the north side. The first hospital was repaired and adapted to provide office space, a dispensary, surgery room, and a kitchen area. These two medical buildings were linked with a plank walkway and, along with a small outbuilding, comprised a discrete complex enclosed by a low wooden fence.

Although the American military on San Juan Island did not have a cavalry, they did construct a sizable barn and stable some distance west of the main cantonment. The two-story barn was large enough to accommodate 15 animals on the ground level, while the upper area was used to store hay and commissary goods. Additional hay and feed was kept in the granary building, which was attached to the barn. On the west side of this structure, a small area was enclosed by a wooden fence creating a corral for livestock.

A cluster of three service-related structures was built near the barn on the south side of the road parallel to the Bellevue Farm property line. The westernmost building was a small, one-room structure used as a blacksmith shop. Directly east, another structure provided storage room for a year's supply of clothing and equipment for the garrison. The third building in this row was the commissary storehouse. Largest of the three buildings, it could hold six months of subsistence supplies for the entire camp.

A second store room was built in the main cantonment along the northwest edge of the parade ground. From this location, goods were supplied to the bakery and kitchen across the parade ground. The former orderly room next to this building was converted to offices for the quartermaster and commissary officers.

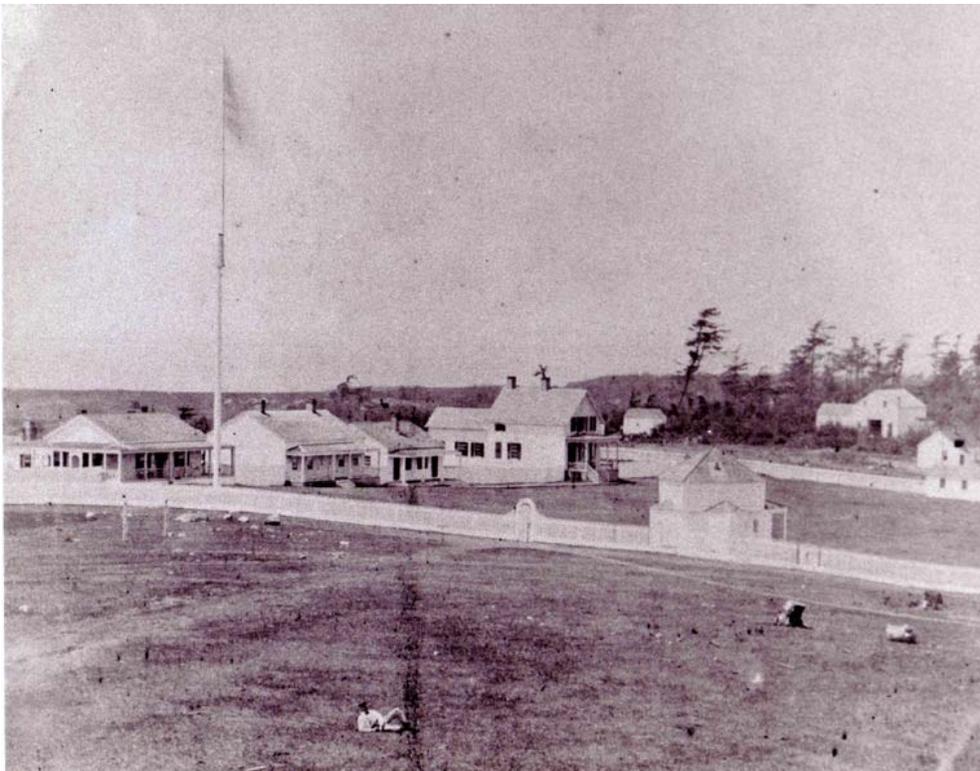
Also during 1867, a much needed mess for non-commissioned officers was built next to the existing mess and kitchen facility behind the barracks. The barracks building itself was enlarged and repairs made, upgrading and stabilizing this large structure.

Other structures built during this second period of development at American Camp included an orderly room, reading room, a third laundress' quarters, storerooms, washhouse, shoemaker shop, and sutler's building. A telegraph office was located west of Officers' Row, but it is unclear when this building was erected. In many cases, older buildings were converted and put to new uses. The old bakehouse became a barracks in 1871, one of the early quarters in the northeast corner of the complex became the carpenter shop, and another building in the northwest corner of the complex was fitted with an oven and became the camp bakehouse.

The American Camp cemetery was located approximately 500 yards southeast of the encampment below the redoubt. The small area (34 feet square) was enclosed by a picket fence with a wooden arch over the gate. In 1873, it was reported that the cemetery had fourteen graves, including some civilians.

Like other military posts, soldiers at American Camp kept a vegetable garden with crops supplementing their diet virtually year-round. The location of the garden remains unclear. One early report suggests the garden was near the barracks building and a later report indicates it was southwest of the cantonment near the Hudson's Bay Company fields. It appears quite possible that both locations, at one time, were garden sites. The earlier garden, by the barracks, would have been convenient in a relatively undeveloped camp. As construction accelerated in the mid-1860s, the garden site could have been moved outside of the main cantonment, closer to the service-related camp areas.

Production gardens were not the only gardens at the camp. Historical evidence suggests that at least one ornamental garden was planted by an officer's family. Mrs. Allen, wife of Major H. Allen, wrote her sister in 1870, "...our place is looking lovely just now. The flowers are all in bloom and the vegetables, about ripe...". Although no complete description of the garden exists, it is not surprising to find an ornamental garden on the military camp site. Especially associated with officers' quarters, yards were frequently embellished with roses, heliotrope, verbena and climbing vines, providing a home-like environment for the officers' families.



*Historic photo of American Camp from the late 1860s showing the row of officers' quarters, the blockhouse, the fence and parade ground, and the flagpole. Other camp structures are visible in the background. (BC Provincial Archives, #15273)*

## **1872-1951**

With settlement of the boundary dispute in 1872, the joint occupation of San Juan Island came to an end. The British Royal Marines vacated their camp at the north end of the island within a month of Kaiser Wilhelm's decision, but the American troops remained on the island for two more years. By 1873, the structures at American Camp were again in rough condition and required repairs. But with the border dispute resolved and the British troops off the island, there was little motivation to expend the resources needed to keep the camp inhabitable. On July 17, 1874, nearly 15 years to the day since Pickett landed on the shores of Griffin Bay, the American Army abandoned the camp on San Juan Island and moved the troops to Fort Townsend. In 1875, they formally relinquished ownership of the land on which American Camp sat in favor of 640 acres of land encompassing the southeast tip of the island, Cattle Point, and Mt. Finlayson.

By the end of the military occupation settlement had increased considerably on the island. After the Army left, the land was surveyed, and settlers, many of whom were already living in the vicinity, formally filed claims. Sections 1, 2, 11, and 12, T34N R3W, which surrounded American Camp, were eventually acquired by seven different people and improved as homesteads. The Bellevue Farm site remained in the hands of Hudson's Bay Company into the 1870s, but they too eventually gave up their land for American settlement.

After the military left, San Juan Town began to decline. Friday Harbor, a brand new town on the east shore of San Juan Island, was chosen as the county seat, sealing the doom of San Juan Town. In 1890, the already-abandoned collection of shacks and shanties burned to the ground. Today, the only visible traces of the town are a discernable roadbed and a few depressions in the land where buildings once stood.

Agriculture became the dominant land use for the entire southeast end of the island. The U.S. Army retained its reservation, but even they leased a portion of it to George Jakle, a former U.S. soldier who had been farming the land since before the Army took ownership of it. This pattern of agricultural land use persisted throughout the first half of the 20th century.

American Camp itself was dismantled when the Army abandoned it. In 1875, an auction was held to sell the buildings in both American Camp and English Camp. Little record was kept of what became of the specific structures, but it is known that some were sold and removed from the site, while others were dismantled for their materials. By the 1950s, little of the physical camp remained.

Efforts to preserve the history of American Camp and English Camp actually began around the turn of the 20th century, when the issue caught the attention of University of Washington history professor Edmund S. Meany. Meany and the early Washington State Historical Society were instrumental in the placement of two marble monuments, one at American Camp and one at English Camp, commemorating the events of the Pig War. The monument at American Camp originally stood next to the earthen redoubt, but has been recently moved to a new location in a locust grove near the visitor center.

## **1951-present**

American and English Camps and their role in island history and national history never faded from public memory. Island legend and oral history kept the camps alive through the middle of the century. Various attempts were made during this time at formal state and national recognition for the camps. No concrete action was taken, however, until 1951, when Washington State purchased just under five acres

of land encompassing the site of the American Camp cantonment, including the farm house owned by the McRae family, who had owned and farmed the land for a number of years. In 1966, both camps were placed on the National Register of Historic Places as historic districts. During this time, the state government advocated for the acquisition of the camps by the federal government as a national park. The National Park Service was indeed interested and prepared a feasibility study and a formal proposal for a national park site on the island. Finally, in 1966, Congress approved the creation of San Juan Island National Historical Park and appropriated funds for the acquisition of the lands. Beginning with the five acres owned by the state, the NPS continued to purchase lands from farmers until park lands at American Camp encompassed much of the southeast end of the island, including American Camp proper, Bellevue Farm site, San Juan Town site, the Spring Camp site, Mt. Finlayson, and much of the surrounding landscape.

Efforts to restore the camp began with a hunt for original buildings. While little of the physical camp remained, island legend did suggest the existence of original American Camp buildings still on the island. Investigations into these claims revealed that at least two structures could be confirmed as originally belonging to American Camp. One structure, locally known as the McRae house, was still located on or near its original site. This building was determined to be HS-11, the easternmost officers' quarters built during Pickett's command in 1859 or 1860. In 1981, the structure underwent restoration, which returned the exterior of the building to its original state. Post-historic period remodeling has altered the inside of the building, making interior restoration difficult.

The second building, located several miles from American Camp near Friday Harbor, was said to have been purchased and moved from the camp site by Edward Warbass, one of the first settlers at American Camp. The residents of San Juan Island long believed that this house was "Pickett's house", one of the original officers' quarters at the camp. Further research, however, determined that while the building was indeed an original American Camp structure, it was actually one of the laundresses' quarters, much altered and in poor condition. The building was reclaimed, moved back to its original location and the exterior restored in 1983.

Today American Camp draws hundreds of visitors a day from around the world for its historic importance and physical beauty. It is the site of interpretive programs and reenactments that illustrate the events of the Pig War and the life of an American soldier during a turbulent time in the nation's history. The redoubt, the restored buildings, and the reconstructed landscape features together convey the scale and significance of the events associated with the site.

## Analysis And Evaluation

### Summary

Today, the American Camp landscape continues to retain the following six landscape characteristics from the period of significance: natural systems and features, spatial organization, views and vistas, buildings and structures, archaeological sites, and vegetation.

The setting of American Camp reveals a direct response to the natural systems and features needed for a military operation. Tactical requirements included the need for both prospect and refuge, and proximity to a sheltered harbor. With Griffin Bay to the north and the straits of Juan de Fuca to the south, the peninsula of open prairie with gently rolling slopes on the edge of a dense forest satisfied these conditions. The primary function of the military operation – establishing a defensible space – was achieved by siting the camp to take advantage of the natural environment. The location high on a ridge and proximate to two bays allows for good visibility and physical access to the water. In addition, the historic spatial relationships between Bellevue Farm, San Juan Town, the Spring Camp site, and the camp compound itself, are evident at American Camp today. The pattern of vegetation at American Camp is characterized by the dramatic contrast of the forest-grassland ecotone, which influenced the siting, alignment and development. While the spatial dispersal of the forest cover and grassland has changed since the period of significance, the remaining vegetation patterns continue to contribute to the significance of the site.

Of the original thirty four structures, two (the laundress' quarters and officers' quarters) have undergone restoration and remain today. An earthen fortification, the redoubt, also survives as the most intact example of pre-Civil War construction of its type in the United States. Small scale features at American Camp include the reconstructed compound fence, gate, and flagstaff, as well as piles of rocks reflecting building foundations and field stones from the agricultural period. In aggregate, these contribute to the significance of the site. Both prehistoric as well as historic archaeological sites have been documented at American camp; all contribute to the significance of the site.

The landscape characteristics and their associated features convey the physical character of the military encampment as it was developed and used during the eighteen-year-long of the period of significance from 1859 -1874. The sum effect of these six remaining landscape characteristics is that of an historic landscape that is in fair condition and retains integrity.

### Landscape Characteristics And Features

#### Natural Systems And Features

The setting of American Camp reveals a direct response to the natural systems and features needed for a military operation. Tactical requirements included the need for both prospect and refuge, and proximity to a sheltered harbor. With Griffin Bay to the north and the straits of Juan de Fuca to the south, the peninsula of open prairie with gently rolling slopes on the edge of a dense forest satisfied these conditions. These natural systems and features continue to characterize the site and retain integrity.

The campsite was very purposefully located to take full advantage of an east-west running promontory ridge. The ridge bisects the southern peninsula of the island and rises some 190 feet from the beaches of Griffin Bay to the north and Haro Strait to the south. The elevated position provides a strategic vantage point of the southern end of the island and to water approaches from east, north and south. The forest-grassland ecotone at American Camp created a natural situation of prospect and refuge. Low growing

native prairie vegetation hugged the elevated landform and allowed for open vistas to both harbors, while forests offered shelter from the north and west winds, as well as timber for the camp's construction.

Also critical in the site selection was the proximity to the harbors, as shipping was the primary mode of transportation for both men and supplies. This site, the third location of three inhabited by the American troops, was close to two potential landing sites. Grandma's Cove to the south was the closest, but the exposed inlet and steep ascent from the beach made it the less desirable of the two. The easier passage was on the north side of the peninsula, now known as Griffin Bay. The protected harbor and gentle sloping shore allowed easy access for troops and supplies. On the south slope of the ridge near the shore, a natural spring provided fresh water for the men and animals, providing an important resource on a dry island.

Prior to settlement by the HBC, the xeric grassland type, well drained and subject to summer winds, was dominated by Idaho fescue (*Festuca idahoensis*), California oatgrass (*Danthonia californica*), and Junegrass (*Koeleria cristata*). Open conifer forests grew on the north slopes of ridges and hills, where they were protected from wind and drying summer sun. There is evidence that prior to the arrival of the HBC, native people managed the grassland with fire for growing camas, preserving an open prairie free of trees and shrubs. The wet area around the spring was likely vegetated with small trees and shrubs, but kept somewhat open by animal and human access to the water.

The HBC brought cultivation and sheep grazing to the island in the 1850s. The sheep would have kept the grasses low and discouraged the growth of woody shrubs. At the same time, their manure would have enriched the soil, providing an opportunity for non-natives to gain a foothold in the ecosystem. Historic photos of the parade ground and surrounding area from the late 1860s show very low vegetation around the cantonment. The height and character of the grasses may have varied some as the sheep population fluctuated over the course of the military occupation, but it would have likely been open and clear of trees and woody shrubs.

Following the vacation of the land by the U.S. Army and the HBC, homesteaders converted the land to agricultural uses, further altering the patterns on the landscape. The farmers logged the forests, plowed the earth, and planted hedgerows of hawthorn, buckthorn and elderberry. Nearly a century of logging and agricultural practices decimated the natural prairie and forest ecosystems, leaving the grassland to be dominated by non-native species, including annual grasses, such as Silver hairgrass (*Aira caryophyllea*), Early hairgrass (*Aira praecox*), and Cheatgrass (*Bromus tectorum*); perennial grasses, including Redtop (*Agrostis alba*), Velvet grass (*Holcus lanatus*), and Kentucky bluegrass (*Poa pratensis*); and introduced forbs, including Canada thistle (*Cirsium arvense*) and Tansy ragwort (*Senecio jacobacea*). Today, very little of the forest remains north of the cantonment. Hedgerows that still cut the land into discernable fields are being spread by birds, and hawthorn and elderberry now dot the grassland. Dense thickets of shrub roses are also spreading, altering the character of the open prairie.

European rabbits, introduced to the island in the mid 1880s, have also had an effect on the ecosystem at American Camp. The rabbits escaped from captivity and flourished on the meadows, exceeding 15-20 per acre by the 1970s. Grazing and burrowing by the rabbits have suppressed the regeneration of the forests, and killed large areas of grass. Today, rabbit damage continues to be a major problem in the landscape.

In 1986, James F. Milestone conducted an experiment to test the feasibility and to suggest some strategies for reestablishing the historic forest north of the cantonment. Six half-acre plots were planted with 100 Douglas fir seedlings each, and the plots were monitored for tree survival rate. The strategies ranged from chemical weed and grass suppression to physical protection from rabbits and voles.

Approximately two thirds of the trees planted in the plots survived, and now form dense, monocultural and monoage Douglas fir stands north of the parade ground. While this area was historically forested, the character of the historic forest was more likely an open forest of Douglas firs with undergrowth of Red alder and brush.

While all of these changes have significantly altered the composition and integrity of the natural ecosystems in and around American Camp, the overall character of the landscape remains much as it was during the historic period. The grasslands provide an expansive, open feel and allow views to the surrounding waters and land forms. The regenerating forests to the north of the parade ground suggest the forest-grassland ecotone that initially precipitated the location of the military camp.



*Contemporary photo showing the landscape at American Camp dominated by scrub and grasses, and dotted with glacial erratics. (CCSO, 2003)*



*Contemporary photo of Fourth of July Beach near American Camp. This sand and gravel beach strewn with drift logs is typical of the beaches near American Camp. (CCSO, 2003)*

## Spatial Organization

The setting of American camp has been altered since the historic period, yet the spatial organization associated with the development of the military encampment retains integrity and contributes to the significance of this site.

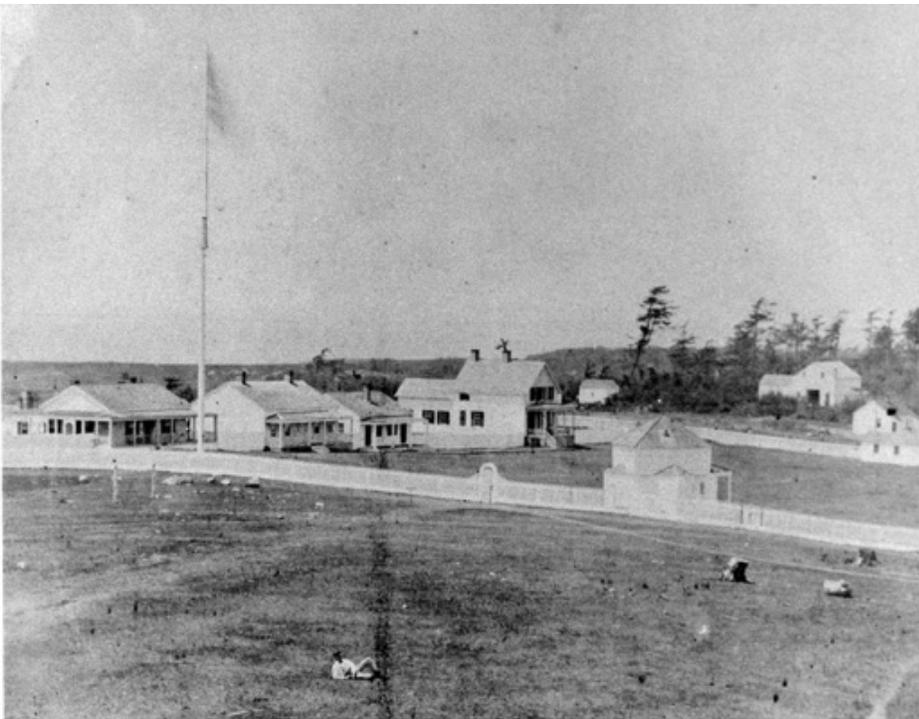
The primary function of the military operation – establishing a defensible space – was achieved by siting the camp to take advantage of the natural environment. The location high on a ridge and proximate to two bays allows for good visibility and physical access to the water. The camp position on the edge of a coniferous forest offers shelter from the northwest winds yet retains open views to the water across the adjacent grasslands.

The remaining and restored buildings and structures articulate the American military pattern on the landscape. A reconstructed wooden fence demarcates the open, gently sloping ground plane of the parade ground from the rest of the camp. This is the central cantonment area where officers' quarters and barracks for enlisted men were arranged around the perimeter facing each other across the internal open space. Administrative functions and primary service facilities were also oriented around the parade ground. The officers' residence and flagstaff, both located at elevated points within the parade ground, as well as the fence itself are the extant features associated with the parade ground. The laundress' quarters is located outside of the parade ground, a conventional situation for secondary support services. Approximately one half mile east of the parade ground is the redoubt. The three sided earthen fortification is open along its western edge, perhaps to allow movement between the cantonment area and the works, although work on the redoubt was suspended before its completion.

When the American troops landed on San Juan Island in 1859, Hudson's Bay Company had been there for more than a decade operating a salmon curing station and a sheep farm. Infrastructures created by British enterprises included a wharf as well as an informal circulation system. This layout was integrated into the spatial pattern of the campsite and created a network that crisscrossed the southern end of the island - traces of that road system are visible today. When Colonel Casey located the camp on the ridge above Belle Vue Sheep Farm he not only adopted their improvements to the land, he also established a physical presence that was emphasized by the prominence of the American flag lashed to a 90 foot flagstaff.

The spatial organization of the site extends beyond the camp proper. Northeast is the San Juan Village site. Erected at the base of the HBC wharf, this was the landing site for most troops and supplies and was closely associated with the development of the camp. A distinctive road axis perpendicular to the shoreline is still quite evident as are road traces between the camp and the town site. Southeast of the camp is the Spring Camp Site, the second location temporarily inhabited by American troops. The promise of fresh water from the spring and a dependable supply of salmon off of Alaska Packer's Rock made this a popular destination. To the west, southwest of the camp area, is Grandma's Cove, a beach used by Belle Vue Sheep Farm for landing provisions.

The historic spatial relationships between Belle Vue Sheep Farm, San Juan Village, the Spring Camp site, and the camp compound itself, are evident at American Camp today and the spatial organization retains integrity.



Historic photo of American Camp showing the organization of American Camp. In the photo are Officers' Row, the blockhouse, the fence, and the parade ground, along with other camp structures. (CCSO, 2003)

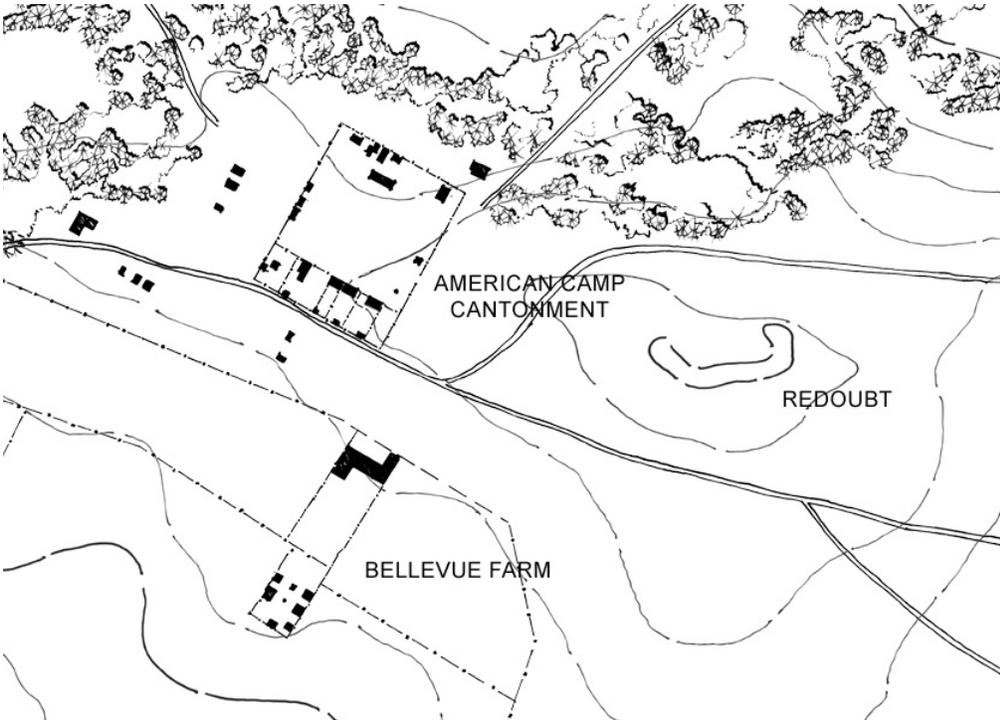


Diagram showing the spatial relationship of the American Camp cantonment, Bellevue Farm, and the Redoubt. (CCSO, 2003)



*Contemporary photo showing the relationship of the American Camp cemetery to the cantonment. The metal stakes in the foreground mark the boundary of the cemetery, while the extant buildings of the cantonment are visible in the background. (CCSO, 2003)*

## Views And Vistas

The sweeping views which characterize the landscape of American Camp retain integrity and contribute to the significance of the site. Glacial activity created an east-west running promontory ridge with a slightly raised knoll high above the beaches of the adjacent water bodies, a perfect location for the earthen fortification. This position commands the most expansive view throughout the site and provided clear visual access to any advancement by the British Royal Marines. The cantonment, located west of the redoubt at the natural forest-grassland ecotone, was also situated to fully appreciate the views out onto the two bays. Mount Finlayson, east of the redoubt, is the highest point on the southern end of the island at 295 feet. The view of this high point remains intact from positions throughout the camp. The 100-foot flagpole, located on the high point of the parade ground, is also quite visible across the site, as well as from passing ships.

The historic viewshed is impinged slightly by residential development southwest of the park boundaries. An interpretive wayside panel, aligned to emphasize the physical relationship between San Juan Island and Vancouver Island, instead draws attention to the intrusion of modern development. Nevertheless, the overall views from American Camp retain integrity.



*Contemporary photo showing the view of the Strait of Juan de Fuca from the parade ground. (CCSO, 2003)*



*Contemporary photo showing the view of Griffin Bay from the redoubt. (CCSO, 2003)*



*Contemporary photo showing the view of the Strait of Juan de Fuca from the redoubt. (CCSO, 2003)*



*Contemporary photo showing the view of Cattle Point and Mount Finlayson on the southeast end of San Juan Island from the redoubt. (CCSO, 2003)*

<b>Characteristic Feature</b>	<b>Type Of Contribution</b>	<b>LCS Structure Name</b>	<b>IDLCS Number</b>	<b>Structure Number</b>
Territorial views of Haro Strait, Griffin Bay, the southern peninsula of San Juan Island and surrounding islands from the redoubt.	Contributing			
Views of Haro Strait from the cantonment.	Contributing			
View of residential development from points south of the cantonment.	Non-Contributing			

## Buildings And Structures

Of the original thirty four structures, two (the laundress' quarters and officers' quarters) have undergone restoration and remain today. An earthen fortification, the redoubt, also survives as the most intact example of pre-Civil War construction of its type in the United States. As a collection, these three structures represent the range of military construction at American Camp and contributes to the character and significance of the site.

HS 11, the officers' quarters, is located on the southeast corner of the parade ground, proximate to the flagpole. The one story wood frame structure was designed as a duplex and measures thirty-two feet wide by twenty-one feet long. It has a cedar-shingled, shallow pitch, gable roof, and is sided with weatherboard. The lumber is all rough sawn — a method used by the Army for quick construction. Located midway along the north wall, the main entrance faces the parade ground. An open porch extends the full length of the west, north and east sides. Lattice infill support the railings which span the porch posts on the east and west. The porch design was described by historical architect Harold LaFleur as “extremely plain pattern with some Greek Revival elements commonly used by the Army during that period” (LaFleur 1977). The exterior of the building is painted white, and the interior is not open for park visitors. Given the temporary nature of the camp, this building demonstrates an attention to detail owing, no doubt, to the rank of its original residents. The building was modified since the historic period and used most recently as a farmhouse. It underwent exterior restorations to restore historic conditions in 1981.

Somewhat removed from the central parade ground lies HS-6, the laundress' quarters. This modest, one story dwelling measures twenty feet by fifteen feet. It is a wood frame structure with board and batten siding. The medium gable roof is covered with cedar shingles. The main entrance is located on the southeast, oriented toward the Belleview farm site. The exterior of the building is painted white and the interior is closed to the public. Moved off site shortly after the military occupation, the NPS acquired the structure in 1974 and relocated to its current site based on archeological findings. The exterior of the building was restored in 1983.

Approximately one-half mile east of the parade ground U.S. Army engineers constructed a massive earthen fortification known as the redoubt. The irregular form resembles a letter “J”; the longest (southern) side extends 300 feet. The east and northeast sides are approximately 100 feet each and the northwest side is 150 feet. The west side, closest to the camp, was not enclosed. Within the redoubt are five gun platforms, each approximately twelve feet wide by eighteen feet long and five feet tall. The parapet is nearly seven feet above the interior floor. A ditch outlines the exterior wall of the embankment, which rises more than twenty feet above the natural grade. Medium to large size rocks are visible in and around the fortification as well as in the ditch below. The redoubt is now beginning to show signs of erosion along the parapet from contemporary foot traffic and from the elements. The structure is recognized nationally as an outstanding expression of pre-Civil War landscape engineering techniques and remains the best physical reminder of the American military occupation on the island.

The three remaining structures identified above, are more fully documented and described in both the 1977 San Juan Historic Structures Report and the 1996 Comparative Analysis, American Camp Fortifications report.



*Contemporary view of the officers' quarters at American Camp. (CCSO, 2003)*



*Contemporary photo of the laundress' quarters at American Camp. (CCSO, 2003)*



*Contemporary view of the redoubt. Visible in the photo is the south side of the main fortifications with two of the gun platforms. (CCSO, 2003)*

<b>Characteristic Feature</b>	<b>Type Of Contribution</b>	<b>LCS Structure Name</b>	<b>IDLCS Number</b>	<b>Structure Number</b>
Laundress' Quarters	Contributing	Laundress Quarters	007000	HS-06AC
Officers' Quarters	Contributing	Officers Quarters	007001	HS-11AC
Redoubt	Contributing	Redoubt	007006	HS-34AC
Cattle Point Road	Non-Contributing			
Park access road (Old Cattle Point road)	Non-Contributing			
Pickett's Lane	Non-Contributing			
Restrooms at Visitor Center	Non-Contributing			
Visitor Center	Non-Contributing			

## Vegetation

The pattern of vegetation at American Camp is characterized by the dramatic contrast of the forest-grassland ecotone, which influenced the siting, alignment and development. While the spatial dispersal of the forest cover and grassland has changed since the period of significance, the vegetation does retain integrity and contributes to the significance of the site.

The end of the historic period revealed a landscape that was well forested adjacent to an open prairie. When the American troops arrived, the grasslands were already in a disturbed condition as a result of grazing and agricultural practices by the Hudson's Bay Company. Structurally, the historic and contemporary grassland vegetation may be quite similar (low stature with some sparse shrubbery), although the composition has changed and includes many more exotic species today.

The historic forest cover was much more extensive and diverse than the extant scene. Since the end of the period of significance, American Camp has been logged, burned, farmed and grazed. The cover reduction that exists today is a result of these previous land-use practices as well as the preponderance of European rabbits and Townsend's vole. Changes in composition are partly the result of drainage patterns created during the agricultural period following military departure. An effort to restore the historic tree cover was made in 1986 with the initiation of a pilot tree planting project. 600 Douglas firs were planted in the area north of the parade ground at a density of roughly 100 per half acre.

Two remnant orchards have been identified within the site, evidence of the agricultural settlement which followed the departure of the military. Until deemed otherwise, they should be treated as culturally significant resources. Although altered, vegetation patterns at American Camp support its historic integrity, and contribute to the historic significance of the site.



*Contemporary photo showing the young Douglas firs planted in the late 1980s. (CCSO, 2003)*



*Contemporary photo of scrub roses in the parade ground. This vegetation has grown up around a rubble pile, and is not contributing. (CCSO, 2003)*



*Contemporary photo of non-contributing poplar trees next to the parade ground. These date to the agricultural period of the site. (CCSO, 2003)*



*Contemporary photo of the orchard remnant near the redoubt. This was likely the site of an early homestead orchard. (CCSO, 2003)*



*Contemporary photo of some of the fruit trees in the orchard near the redoubt. (CSO, 2003)*



*Contemporary view of a remnant orchard near the San Juan Town site. The fruit trees are the small rounded trees in the front. (CCSO, 2003)*



*Contemporary photo of one of the fruit trees in the orchard near the San Juan Town site. (CCSO, 2003)*

<b>Characteristic Feature</b>	<b>Type Of Contribution</b>	<b>LCS Structure Name</b>	<b>IDLCS Number</b>	<b>Structure Number</b>
Mature forest remnants around visitor center	Contributing			
Douglas fir stands north of the parade ground	Non-Contributing			
Fruit trees from agricultural period north of parade ground and west of San Juan Town	Non-Contributing			
Remnant hedgerows from agricultural period	Non-Contributing			
Rose shrubs on parade ground	Non-Contributing			
Two Lombardy poplars on south edge of parade ground	Non-Contributing			

## Small Scale Features

Small scale features at American Camp include the reconstructed compound fence, flagstaff, a well, two monuments, as well as piles of rocks reflecting building foundations and field stones from the agricultural period.

The wooden picket fence was reconstructed in 1994 to enclose the parade ground. Based on historic photographs and archaeological research, the design is thought to accurately convey the original. An arched pedestrian gateway is located along the southeast edge with wagon entrances located along the northeast and northwest edges. Just inside the pedestrian gate is the reconstructed camp flagstaff. In the 1970s two rough hewn tree trunks painted white were joined together with overlapping ends to form a 100-foot high flagstaff. Materials and construction techniques reflect the historic conditions.

A well, located at the north end of American Camp, dates to the 1920s. It is a concrete pit that measures nine feet by twelve feet with a plank cover. The well was probably used for irrigation and domestic use.

Two monuments have been erected at American Camp. The Henry Martin Robert Monument marks the contribution of Lt. H. M. Robert in establishing the defensive works at American Camp and notes his authorship of "Robert's Rules of Order." It is a three-inch by twelve-inch plaque placed by Gov. Isaac Stevens chapter of D.A.R. honoring Lt. Robert, U.S. Engineer in 1942. The second monument is a marble obelisk on a granite base approximately five feet high. It was placed by the Washington State Historical Society in 1904 to commemorate the peaceful occupation of the island while the United States and Great Britain worked to resolve the boundary dispute at the entrance to Puget Sound. Sometime after this site came into NPS custody, this monument was relocated from a site adjacent to the redoubt to the grass island in the American Camp Visitors' Center parking lot

Rock pile building foundations and field stone piles are located throughout the site. While some of these are historic remnants, almost a century of agricultural activity on the military landscape produced artifacts associated with a later time period. Until these artifacts are deemed to prove otherwise, they should be treated as culturally significant resources.

As a landscape characteristic, small scale features retain integrity and contribute to the significance of the site.



*Contemporary photo of the reconstructed parade ground fence and arched gate. (CCSO, 2003)*



*Contemporary photo of one of the fence posts in the parade ground fence at American Camp. Many of the fence posts have been damaged by lawn care practices. (CCSO, 2003)*



*Contemporary photo of a concrete foundation in the Bellevue Farm site. Many remnants of stone, brick, and concrete foundations, some of which postdate the military period, lie obscured in the tall grass around American Camp. (CCSO, 2003)*



*Contemporary photo of the stump of a flag pole in the Bellevue Farm site. This was not the original flagpole, and it is uncertain if it is located where the original flagpole stood. (CCSO, 2003)*



*Contemporary photo of a mortared stone and brick foundation near an orchard remnant. This may have been from an early homestead structure, and probably postdates the military period. (CCSO, 2003)*

<b>Characteristic Feature</b>	<b>Type Of Contribution</b>	<b>LCS Structure Name</b>	<b>IDLCS Number</b>	<b>Structure Number</b>
Flagpole on parade ground	Contributing			
Monument at visitors center	Contributing	Monument At American Camp	030201	100-02AC
Monument to Lt. Henry Martin Robert at redoubt	Contributing	Monument At Redoubt To Lt. Henry Martyn Robert	030200	100-01AC
Parade ground fence	Contributing			
Remnants of wharf on Griffin Bay at San Juan Town site	Contributing			
Traces of road to San Juan Town	Contributing			
Split rail fencing throughout the park	Non-Contributing			
Visitor information kiosk at Fourth of July Beach	Non-Contributing			
Visitor information kiosk at visitors center	Non-Contributing			
Concrete pad at Bellevue Farm site	Undetermined			
Flagpole remnant at Bellevue Farm site	Undetermined			
Stone and mortar foundation north of redoubt	Undetermined			
Stone foundations at Bellevue Farm site	Undetermined			

## Archeological Sites

Both prehistoric as well as historic archaeological sites have been documented at American Camp; all contribute to the significance of the site. Beginning as early as 1890, research focused on the prehistoric resources affiliated with the native tribes known to have inhabited the area. An extensive shell midden established the presence of a seasonal fishing village in the vicinity of Alaska Packer's Rock. This general area was later used by the American troops for target practice and was the site of a salmon fishing operation (1890-1930).

More recently, surveys and digs have located archaeological features that relate to the historic period. No National Register documentation has yet been completed for the sites, but remnant features are known to exist at Belle Vue Sheep Farm and San Juan Village. At the height of its development, San Juan Village consisted of a central throughway that was lined with twenty buildings and terminated at the wharf. The road trace is the most prominent feature presently, as dense vegetation obscures the building sites associated with the settlement pattern.

The Belle Vue Sheep Farm, by comparison, has a greater density of above ground features, although some post-date the period of significance. HBC is thought to have constructed as many as nine buildings around a central courtyard along with two barns north of the settlement. A flagpole was also erected at the site. Stone building foundations are discernible today and foot trails provide a hint of the historic circulation pattern, including a connection to Grandma's Cove to the south.

Large piles of field stones and road traces are located throughout the park. While some of these are historic remnants, almost a century of agricultural activity on the military landscape produced artifacts associated with a later time period. Until these artifacts are deemed to prove otherwise, they should be treated as culturally significant resources.

<b>Characteristic Feature</b>	<b>Type Of Contribution</b>	<b>LCS Structure Name</b>	<b>IDLCS Number</b>	<b>Structure Number</b>
Bellevue Farm site	Contributing			
Native seasonal fishing village site and site of Hudson's Bay Company fish processing facility near Alaska Packer's Rock	Contributing			
San Juan Town Site	Contributing			
Spring Camp site	Contributing			

## Management Information

### Descriptive And Geographic Information

**Historic Name(s):** Camp Pickett  
American Camp  
Camp San Juan

**Current Name(s):** American Camp

**Management Unit:**

**Tract Numbers:**

**State and County:** San Juan County, WA

**Size (acres):** 764.00

### Boundary UTM

Boundary UTM(s):	Source	Type	Datum	Zone	Easting	Northing
	GPS-Differentially Corrected	Area	NAD 83	10	500019	5368030
	GPS-Differentially Corrected	Area	NAD 83	10	500019	5367801
	GPS-Differentially Corrected	Area	NAD 83	10	499874	5366965
	GPS-Differentially Corrected	Area	NAD 83	10	497883	5368642
	GPS-Differentially Corrected	Area	NAD 83	10	499870	5367845
	GPS-Differentially Corrected	Area	NAD 83	10	497883	5367452
	GPS-Differentially Corrected	Area	NAD 83	10	499519	5368647

**GIS File Name:** I:/GIS/PARKDATA/SAJH/Imagery/DOQ/NPS1997/doq\_NPS1997.dbs

**GIS File Description:** The Boundary UTM points were obtained from the digital orto-quad GIS file doq\_NPS1997.dbs, located at CCSO.

### National Register Information

**National Register Documentation:** Entered -- Inadequately Documented

**Explanatory Narrative:**

American Camp was listed on the National Register in 1966, as part of the nomination for San Juan National Historic Site. The nomination focuses primarily on the history of the site and the extant structures, and does not adequately document the landscape characteristics and features of

American Camp. This CLI defines a smaller cultural landscape boundary than was defined in the NHL nomination, as the NHL includes archeological resources, while the CLI includes only the property that retains integrity in its landscape characteristics and features.

**NRIS Information:**

NRIS Number: 66000369  
Primary Certification: Listed In The National Register  
Primary Certification Date: 10/15/1966  
Other Certifications: Designated National Landmark  
Other Certification Date: 11/5/1961  
Name In National Register: San Juan Island National Historic Site  
Other Names In  
National Register: English Camp and American Camp;English and American Camps,San Juan Island

NRIS Number: 66000369  
Primary Certification: Listed In The National Register  
Primary Certification Date: 10/15/1966  
Other Certifications: Additional Documentation  
Other Certification Date: 6/22/1976  
Name In National Register: San Juan Island National Historic Site  
Other Names In  
National Register: English Camp and American Camp;English and American Camps,San Juan Island

**National Register Eligibility:** Eligible -- Keeper

**Explanatory Narrative:**

**Date of Eligibility Determination:** 10/15/1966

**National Register Classification:** Site

**Significance Level:** National

**Contributing/Individual:** Contributing

**Significance Criteria:** C -- Inventory Unit embodies distinctive characteristics of type/period/method of construction; or represents work of master; or possesses high artistic values; or represents significant/distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction  
A -- Inventory Unit is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history  
D -- Inventory Unit has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important to prehistory or history

### **Period Of Significance**

Time Period: 1859 - 1874 AD

Historic Context Theme: Shaping the Political Landscape  
Historic Context Subtheme: Political and Military Affairs 1783-1860  
Historic Context Facet: Manifest Destiny, 1844-1859

### **Area Of Significance:**

Category: Military  
Priority: 1  
Category: Politics/Government  
Priority: 2

## **National Historic Landmark Information**

### **National Historic**

**Landmark Status:** Yes  
**Date Determined Landmark:** 11/5/1961  
**Landmark Theme:** Shaping the Political Landscape

## **World Heritage Site Information**

**World Heritage Site Status:** No

## **Cultural Landscape Type and Use**

**Cultural Landscape Type:** Historic Site

### **Current and Historic Use/Function:**

Use/Function Category: Defense  
Use/Function: Military Facility (Post)  
Detailed Use/Function: Military Facility (Post)  
Type Of Use/Function: Historic

Use/Function Category: Defense  
Use/Function: Fortification  
Detailed Use/Function: Battery (Defense)  
Type Of Use/Function: Historic

Use/Function Category:	Defense
Use/Function:	Fortification
Detailed Use/Function:	Parade Ground
Type Of Use/Function:	Historic
Use/Function Category:	Agriculture/Subsistence
Use/Function:	Livestock
Detailed Use/Function:	Livestock
Type Of Use/Function:	Historic
Use/Function Category:	Agriculture/Subsistence
Use/Function:	Agricultural Field
Detailed Use/Function:	Agricultural Field
Type Of Use/Function:	Historic
Use/Function Category:	Education
Use/Function:	Interpretive Landscape
Detailed Use/Function:	Interpretive Landscape
Type Of Use/Function:	Current

## Ethnographic Information

**Ethnographic Survey Conducted:** Yes-Unrestricted Information

### Associated Groups

Name of Peoples:	Lummi
Type of Association:	Both Current And Historic
Name of Peoples:	Swinomish
Type of Association:	Both Current And Historic
Name of Peoples:	Klallam
Type of Association:	Both Current And Historic
Name of Peoples:	Mitchell Bay Band
Type of Association:	Both Current And Historic
Name of Peoples:	San Juan Tribe
Type of Association:	Both Current And Historic
Name of Peoples:	Samish
Type of Association:	Both Current And Historic

Name of Peoples:	Songhees
Type of Association:	Both Current And Historic
Name of Peoples:	Saanich
Type of Association:	Both Current And Historic

**Significance Description:**

The federally recognized tribe with the strongest claim to San Juan Island is the Lummi, based on treaty rights and traditional use. Nevertheless, there are valid claims by other Indian Groups which should be considered. All of the groups are descendents of Straits Salish. Historic and ethnographic data on these groups identify village and fishing sites and record other uses of San Juan Island. Villages were specifically identified for the Lummi, Songhees, Samish, and Klallam. Fishing sites were recorded for the Songhees, Saanich, Swinomish, and Lummi, and non-site specific information indicates that the Samish and Klallam fished on San Juan Island as well.

**Adjacent Lands Information**

**Do Adjacent Lands Contribute?** No

**Adjacent Lands Description:**

## General Management Information

**Management Category:** Must Be Preserved And Maintained

**Management Category Date:** 11/5/1961

**Explanatory Narrative:**

As a National Historic Landmark, American Camp must be preserved and maintained.

## Condition Assessment And Impacts

The criteria for determining the condition of landscapes is consistent with the Resource Management Plan Guideline definitions (1994) and is decided with the concurrence of park management. Cultural landscape conditions are defined as follows:

*Good:* indicates the landscape shows no clear evidence of major negative disturbance and deterioration by natural and/or human forces. The landscape's cultural and natural values are as well preserved as can be expected under the given environmental conditions. No immediate corrective action is required to maintain its current condition.

*Fair:* indicates the landscape shows clear evidence of minor disturbances and deterioration by natural and/or human forces, and some degree of corrective action is needed within 3-5 years to prevent further harm to its cultural and/or natural values. If left to continue without the appropriate corrective action, the cumulative effect of the deterioration of many of the character-defining elements will cause the landscape to degrade to a poor condition.

*Poor:* indicates the landscape shows clear evidence of major disturbance and rapid deterioration by natural and/or human forces. Immediate corrective action is required to protect and preserve the remaining historical and natural values.

*Undetermined:* Not enough information available to make an evaluation.

**Condition Assessment:** Fair

**Assessment Date:** 07/01/2003

**Date Recorded:** 02/13/2004

**Park Management Concurrence:** Yes      **Concurrence Date:** 8/12/2004

**Level Of Impact Severity:**

**Condition Assessment:** Fair

**Assessment Date:** 09/30/1998

**Date Recorded:** 09/30/1998

**Park Management Concurrence:** No

## **Level Of Impact Severity:**

### **Stabilization Measures:**

The most significant threat to the integrity of the cultural resources at American Camp is encroachment of woody vegetation onto prairie land, which is altering the historic relationship between the camp and the natural landscape. Small trees and shrubs once confined to hedgerows are beginning to grow in the meadow areas, and large rose thickets are replacing prairie vegetation. In order to retain the open meadow landscape as it appeared during the 19th-century military encampment, it is important to retard colonization by woody vegetation and encourage herbaceous plants.

Because of the large area and the extensive, yet diffuse nature of the encroachment, a prescribed burn is recommended. The recommended area for the burn, indicated on the Prescribed Burn map in the appendix, encompasses approximately 350 acres. The majority of the area to be burned is area that was farmed in the 20th-century and has a mix of herbaceous plants and colonizing woody hedgerow species, such as elderberry, hawthorn and buckthorn.

The Prescribed Burn map in the appendix indicates the general area to be included in the burn. All necessary precautions should be taken to ensure the safety of susceptible resources within the zone, noting the following:

1. The parade ground, fence, flagpole, officer's quarters, and laundress' quarters, are to be protected with a sufficient firebreak to ensure their safety. The Lombardy poplars (*Populus nigra*) on the south edge of the parade ground should be excluded from the burn. The rose thicket surrounding the laundress' quarters should be included in the burn to the extent that the safety of the structure is ensured. Any of the rose thicket that is excluded from the burn should be removed manually.
2. The cluster of live and standing dead fruit trees north of the redoubt should be excluded from the burn. These trees have the potential to yield valuable information about the agricultural period of the site at a future date.
3. One mature Sycamore maple and two mature Shore pines near the San Juan Town site on the northeast of the parade ground should be excluded from the burn. These too have the potential to yield information about the agricultural period of the site.
4. Fragile wetland vegetation around the lagoons near the north shore and San Juan Town Site should be protected from fire. San Juan Town site itself should be included in the burn.
5. Trees on the southwest edge of the burn area should be retained to provide a screen for residential developments west of the Park.
6. The young Douglas fir forest north of the parade ground should be excluded from the burn. This forest should be managed separately.

The young Douglas fir stands north of the parade ground that were planted in 1986 as part of a feasibility study for restoring the historic forest at American Camp are in need of management



**Agreements, Legal Interest, and Access**

**Management Agreement:** None

**Explanatory Narrative:**

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**Public Access:** Unrestricted

## Treatment

**Approved Treatment:**  
**Approved Treatment Document:**  
**Document Date:**  
**Explanatory Narrative:**  
**Approved Treatment Completed:**

## Approved Treatment Cost

**LCS Structure Approved  
Treatment Cost:**  
**Landscape Approved  
Treatment Cost:**  
**Cost Date:**  
**Level of Estimate:**  
**Cost Estimator:**  
**Explanatory Description:**

## Stabilization Costs

**LCS Structure Stabilization Cost:**  
**Landscape Stabilization Costs:** \$365,080  
**Cost Date:** February 1, 2004  
**Level Of Estimate:** C - Similar Facilities  
**Cost Estimator:** Support Office  
**Explanatory Description:** Prescribed burn  
  
Lump sum = \$350,000  
  
Allow \$1,000 per acre lump sum for the prescribed  
burn.  
350 acres @ \$1,000 per acre = \$350,000  
  
Douglas fir stand thinning

Labor = \$5,720

Allow two weeks for a three person crew for tree thinning.

1 foreman @ \$35 per hour = \$2,800

2 crew @ \$15 per hour = \$2,400

10% overhead for equipment and transportation = \$520

Spring stand vegetation thinning

Labor = 2,860

Allow one week for a three person crew for vegetation thinning.

1 foreman @ \$35 per hour = \$1,400

2 crew @ \$15 per hour = \$1,200

10% overhead for equipment and transportation = \$260

Grandma's Cove trail stabilization

Labor and Materials = \$6,500

30 yards of topsoil @ \$50 per yard delivered = \$1,500

1,000 square feet of planting @ \$5 per square foot = \$5,000

## Documentation Assessment and Checklist

**Documentation Assessment:** Poor

**Documentation:**

Document: Cultural Landscape Report

Year Of Document: 1986

Amplifying Details: Gilbert, Cathy, 1987. Historic Landscape Report: American Camp and British Camp.

Adequate Documentation: No

Explanatory Narrative:

The report does not assess the landscape characteristics for American Camp.

Document: Historic Resource Study

Year Of Document: 1972

Amplifying Details: Thompson, Erwin N. Historic Resource Study, San Juan Island National Historical Park.

Adequate Documentation: No

Explanatory Narrative:

The Historic Resource Study does not assess the landscape characteristics of American Camp.

Document: Administrative History

Year Of Document: 1997

Amplifying Details: Cannon, Kelly June

Adequate Documentation: No

Explanatory Narrative:

The Administrative History does not assess the landscape characteristics of American Camp.

## Appendix

### Bibliography

#### Citations:

Citation Author: Gilbert, Cathy A.  
Citation Title: Historic Landscape Report: American Camp and British Camp, San Juan Island National Historical Park, Washington  
Year of Publication: 1987  
Source Name: CRBIB  
Citation Number: 014509

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Citation Author: Thompson, Erwin N.  
Citation Title: Historic Resource Study, San Juan Island National Historical Park, Washington  
Year of Publication: 1972  
Source Name: CRBIB  
Citation Number: 004297

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Citation Author: Agee, James K.  
Citation Title: Historic Landscapes of San Juan Island National Historical Park  
Year of Publication: 1984  
Source Name: CRBIB  
Citation Number: 015610

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Citation Author: Lafleur, Harold A., Jr.  
Citation Title: Historic Structure Report, Officers' Quarters HS-11, Laundress' Quarters HS-6, and English Camp Hospital HS-18, Architectural Data, San Juan Island National Historical Park, Washington  
Year of Publication: 1978  
Source Name: CRBIB  
Citation Number: 011415

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Citation Author: Sprague, Roderick  
Citation Title: Location of the Pig Incident, San Juan Island  
Year of Publication: 1972  
Source Name: CRBIB  
Citation Number: 004300

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Citation Author: Vouri, Michael  
Citation Title: The Pig War: Standoff at Griffin Bay  
Year of Publication: 1999  
Publisher: Griffin Bay Bookstore  
Source Name: SAJH library

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Citation Author: Browne, Charles B.//Doerr, John E.//Hussey, John A.//Kuehl, Alfred C.// Mortimore, Ronald N.  
Citation Title: San Juan National Historical Park, A Proposal, (Pig War National Monument), San Juan Island, Washington  
Year of Publication: 1964  
Source Name: CRBIB  
Citation Number: 004296

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Citation Author: Floyd, Dale E  
Citation Title: Comparative Analysis, American Camp Fortifications,  
San Juan Island National Historical Park  
Year of Publication: 1996  
Publisher: National Park Service  
Source Name: CCSO library SAJH 65 c.1 1996

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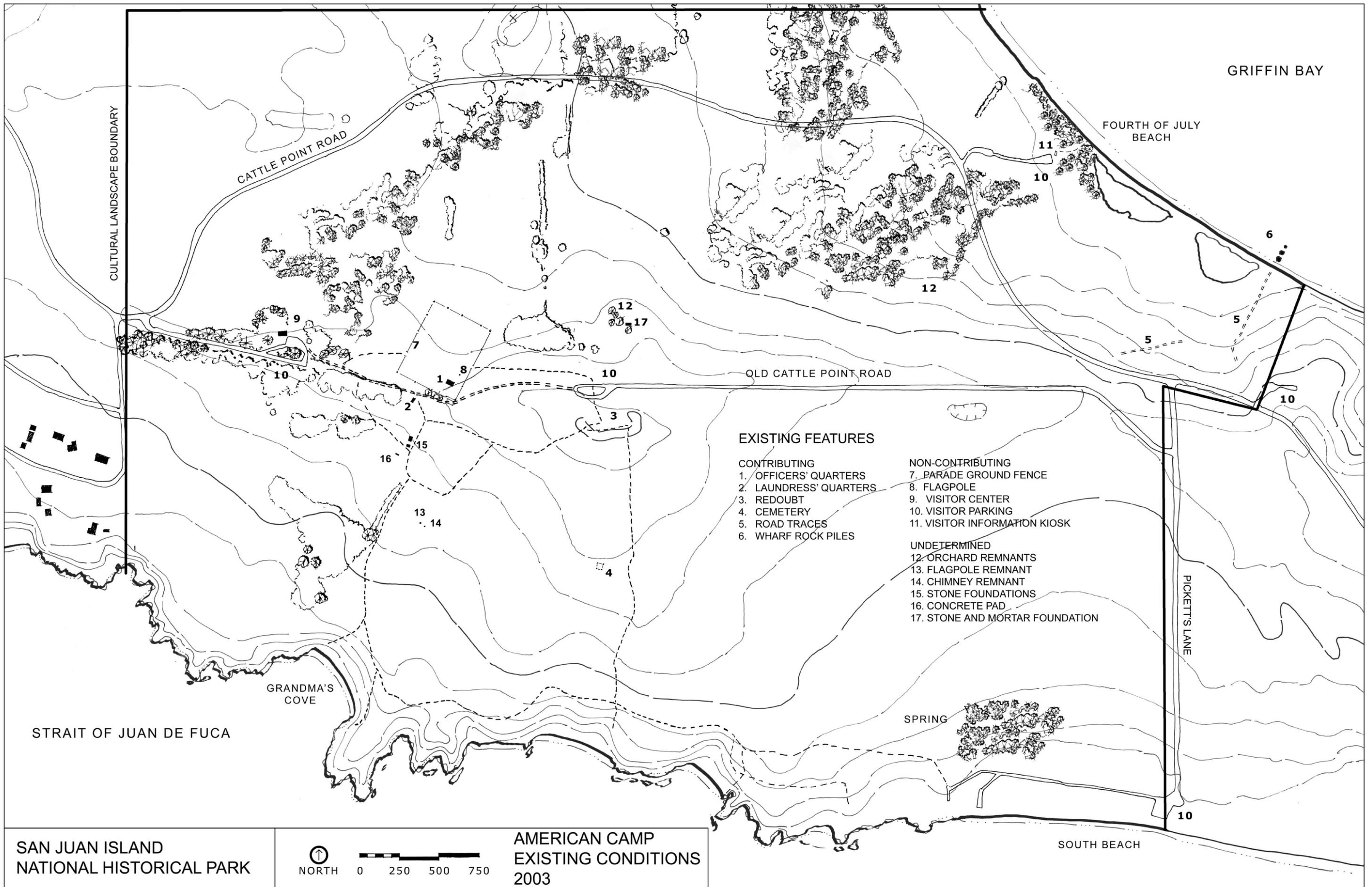
Citation Author: Cannon, Kelly June  
Citation Title: Administrative History, San Juan Island National  
Historical Park  
Year of Publication: 1997  
Publisher: National Park Service  
Source Name: CRBIB

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Citation Author: Boxberger, Daniel L.  
Citation Title: San Juan Island Cultural Affiliation Study  
Year of Publication: 1994  
Publisher: National Park Service  
Source Name: CRBIB

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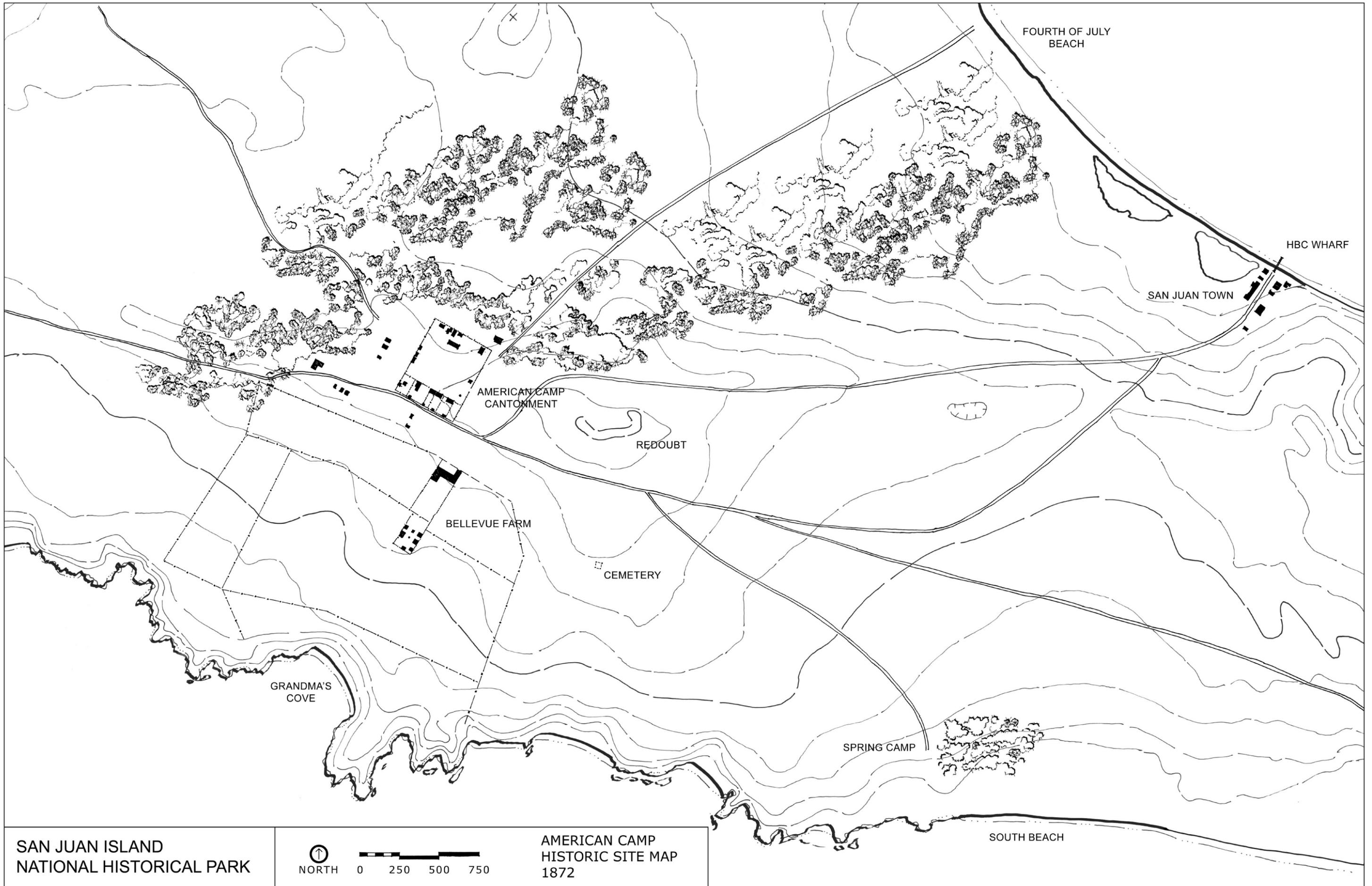
## Supplemental Information



SAN JUAN ISLAND  
NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK



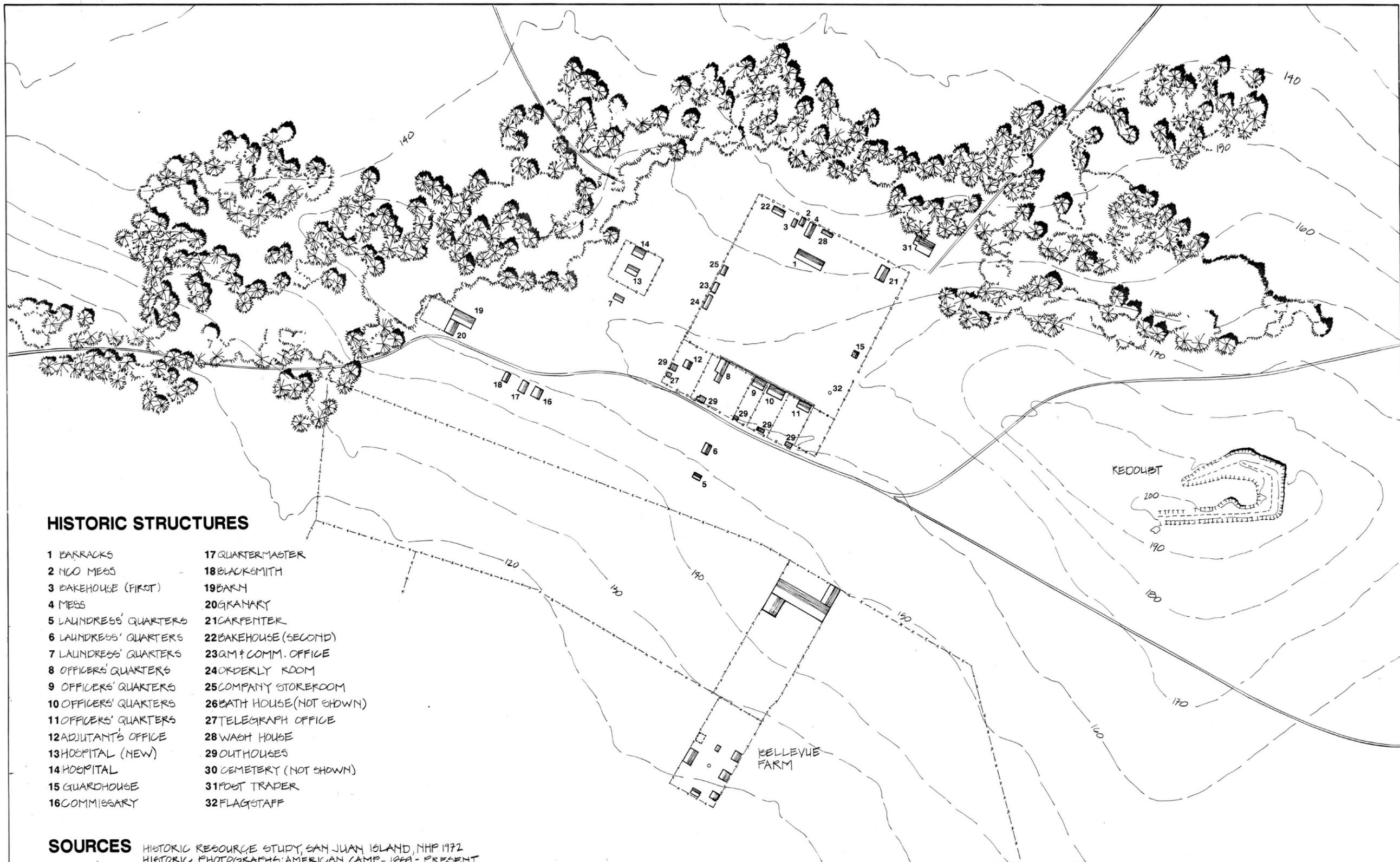
AMERICAN CAMP  
EXISTING CONDITIONS  
2003



SAN JUAN ISLAND  
NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK



AMERICAN CAMP  
HISTORIC SITE MAP  
1872



	<p><b>SAN JUAN ISLAND</b> <b>NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK</b> <b>HISTORIC LANDSCAPE STUDY</b></p>	<p>NATIONAL PARK SERVICE PACIFIC NORTHWEST REGION CULTURAL RESOURCE DIVISION</p>	<p>100 50 0 100 200 300  SCALE 1"=100'</p>	<p>NORTH </p>	<p><b>HISTORIC BASE MAP</b> <b>AMERICAN CAMP</b> <b>( CIRCA 1867 )</b></p>	<p>DRAWING NO. 80018 SHEET 5 OF 13</p>
<p>DRAWN BY: GILBERT DATE: 6/86</p>						

Figure A3. Historical site map showing a detail of the American Camp cantonment area, c. 1867. (CCSO, 1986)