



## The Fort Replica

### ARRIVAL

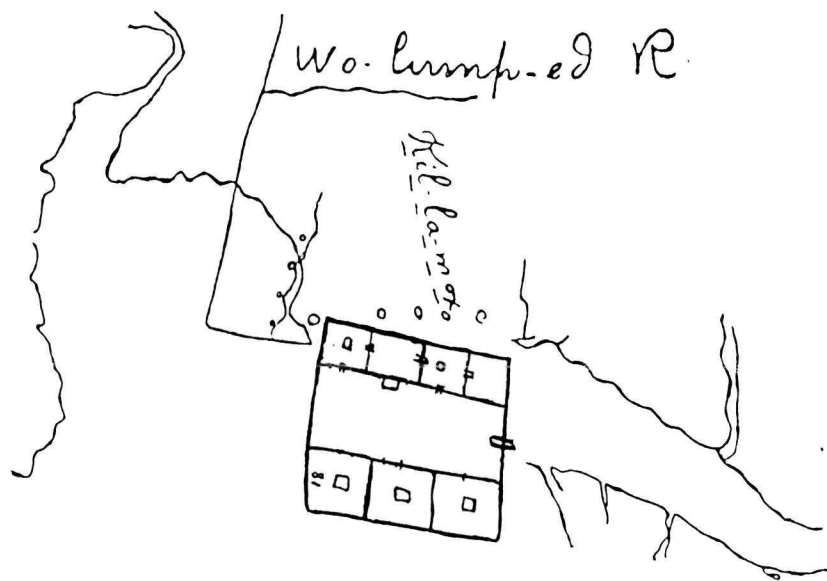
"Ocean in view! O! The joy!" Glimpsed in November 1805, the Pacific Ocean climaxed the long journey of the Corps of Discovery. Led by Captains Meriwether Lewis and William Clark, the expedition contributed greatly to American knowledge of vast, new territory.

But the joy was brief, for the explorers urgently needed shelter against the fierce Pacific winter. After making preliminary campsites on the Washington side of the Columbia River, the group moved south to locate a suitable winter quarters.

On December 8 timber was felled, and amid constant downpours, the men built a stockaded outpost. Completed December 31, it was named after the local Clatsop Indians.



### ESTABLISHMENT



Nestled in a lush spruce and hemlock forest, Fort Clatsop reflected the expedition's military origin. Its members were enlisted soldiers who volunteered to explore the unknown land acquired in the 1803 Louisiana Purchase. The party was assisted by non-military hunters and interpreters, including Sacagawea--the only woman and Native American member--and Clark's black servant York. Here for the next 106 days, of which only 12 were rain-free, the 33-member party awaited the return trip home.

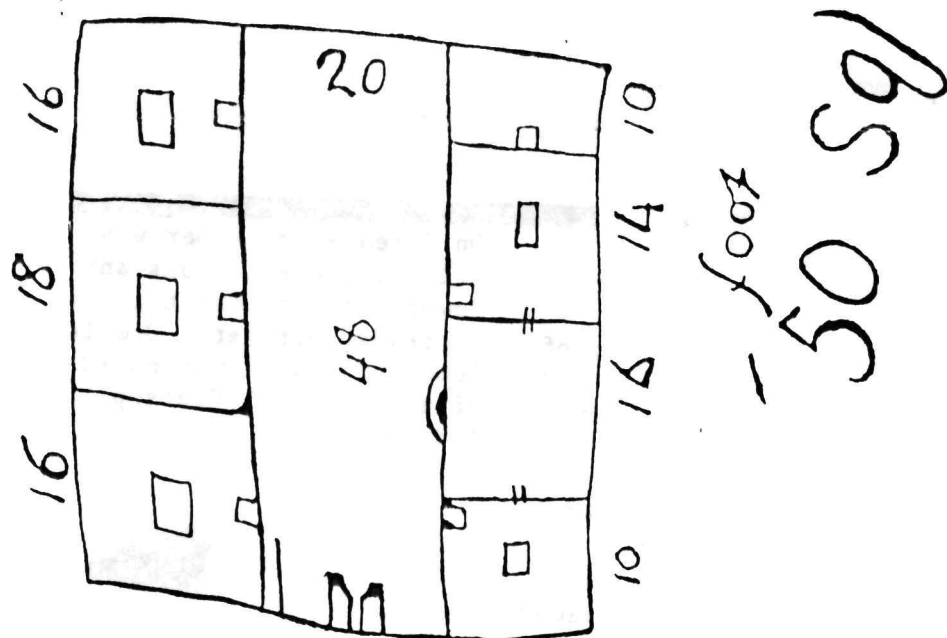
William Clark's sketch of Fort Clatsop and vicinity, December 6, 1805.

During its brief existence, Fort Clatsop was a hive of activity. Men served on wood and guard details, in hunting parties, and in a coastal salt-making camp in what is the present-day town of Seaside.

But the constant rain spoiled men's spirits as well as the monotonous elk meat on which they survived. Thus, without regret, they abandoned their outpost on March 23, 1806, for the eastward journey to the United States.

Fort Clatsop served its primary purpose of shelter. But as the first army post on the Pacific coast, it also established American claims to the Oregon country. Now empty, the fort decayed and disappeared.

RECONSTRUCTION



In 1955, on the 150th anniversary of Lewis and Clark's arrival, local citizens constructed a replica of Fort Clatsop. Based on Captain Clark's original floor plan, it nestled amid second-growth timber, the old forest having long since been logged.

In 1958 the National Park Service acquired the 125-acre site as a memorial to the Corps of Discovery. Although archeological digs proved inconclusive, the fort site is believed correct, based on the reminiscences of settlers and the writings and maps of Lewis and Clark.

THE FLOOR PLAN

Today the fort replica reminds us of the contribution of this hardy band of adventurers. Based on scant evidence, the fort's appearance is an educated guess. Nevertheless, as you explore its rooms, let your imagination roam to life here during the dismal winter of 1805-06.

**A**  
ENLISTED QUARTERS  
Three huts serving also as eating areas housed 8 to 9 enlisted men each.

- B**  
PALISADES  
The two rows of huts were sealed by gates.
- C**  
STOREROOM  
Meat, trade goods, and other valuable supplies were kept here for safekeeping.
- D**  
ORDERLY ROOM  
The headquarters of the guard detail. Sentries were constantly posted under the command of a sergeant.
- E**  
CAPTAINS QUARTERS  
The largest room served as the office and quarters of Captains Lewis and Clark.
- F**  
CHARBONNEAU ROOM  
To best knowledge, the quarters of Toussaint Charbonneau, his wife Sacagawea, and their infant son Jean Baptiste.
- G**  
SENYRY BOX  
Built as protection of the sentry in the constant rains of the winter of 1805-06.

