

DuPont Heritage Plan

Presented to the City of DuPont

By the

DuPont Historical Society

2014

“In a nutshell, planning is the process of figuring out where you want to go, evaluating where you are now, and identifying how you can reach your destination.....”

Susan L. Henry Renaud, Preservation Planning, National Park Service

Introduction

Historic places are important to every community. In an age of change, they help provide a sense of needed continuity. Indeed, they greatly contribute to a sense of place which can unite residents. Also historic places, when properly presented, can attract tourists to a town. This would naturally benefit the local economy.

The City of DuPont is blessed with many significant historic places. They include both buildings and sites. Together these places tell the amazing story of the DuPont area. This story began with the Nisqually Indian occupation of the land. It continued with the Euro-American explorers of the late 18th and early 19th Centuries.

Then the British owned Hudson's Bay Company in the 19th Century established a sequential series of trading posts called Fort Nisqually that changed life forever in the Southern Puget Sound region. Encounters with Native Americans, Missionaries, and American Settlers brought cooperation and conflict. The Medicine Creek Treaty and Puget Sound Indian War shifted the power to the Americans and their homesteads.

Change came again in the early 20th Century when the DuPont Company bought land and set up an explosives factory. The Company employees and their families were first housed in temporary tar paper shacks, but soon the historic village of DuPont took shape. For much of the century the explosives plant operated, providing products worldwide for both military and civilian purposes.

In 1976 the Weyerhaeuser Company purchased all the DuPont Company land in the area. With the construction of "Northwest Landing," the City of DuPont became a modern community. Still a number of important historic buildings and sites remain. The DuPont Historical Society is committed to the preservation and interpretation of these historic places.

This report, the DuPont Heritage Plan, was organized by the DuPont Historical Society. It is intended to outline significant historical resources of DuPont and propose ways to manage them. Possible sources of funding are listed. The Plan was put together by a committee.

Members of the committee include Chairman Jay Bollman (DuPont Historical Society & DuPont Tourism Board), Secretary Lee McDonald (DuPont Historical Society), Doris Stewart (DuPont Seniors), Larry Wilcox (DuPont City Council), Deborah Kerner (DuPont Business Association and DuPont Tourism Board), Linda Jordan (Planning

Agency & DuPont City Council), Ruth Egger (DuPont Historical Society), Carol Estep (DuPont Parks & Recreation), Linda Cumberbatch (DuPont Parks & Recreation), and Drew Crooks (Consultant).

1833 Hudson's Bay Company Fort Nisqually Site

Name, location and ownership of cultural, historical & archaeological resource.

The 1833 Hudson's Bay Company Fort Nisqually Site (45PI55), located south side of Sequelitchew Creek, is currently owned by the City of DuPont.

Written description of each asset, including historical significance and current condition/status.

The 1833 Hudson's Bay Company Fort Nisqually site has regional historical importance as an early center of Euro-American activity in the Pacific Northwest. It never served as a military outpost but was a commercial operation run by the HBC.

In the early 19th Century the Hudson's Bay Company expanded to the West Coast by building Fort Vancouver on the Columbia River (1824) and Fort Langley to the North (1827). After the attack and murder of Alexander Mackenzie and four men in his party, it was determined a fort located at a half way point was needed for safety and security reasons.

In 1832 Archibald McDonald, Hudson's Bay Company's chief trader, sailed into the mouth of Sequelitchew Creek and with the help of the Sequelitchew Nisqually Indians built a storehouse on the beach, fifteen by twenty feet, which was known as the Nisqually House. Archibald McDonald had been instructed to look for a site offering suitable soil for cultivation and raising of cattle as well as a convenience for shipping.

On June 27, 1833, Chief Trader Francis Heron took command of the post and was determined to move the location of the fort. His first choice was to move the fort to the mouth of the Deschutes River and his second choice was to move it atop the bluff above the original station, but soon decided to locate it a little further onto the prairie.

By July 15, 1833 work was begun on a structure measuring forty-eight by twenty feet. This structure served as living quarters or farm house for Heron, Dr. William Fraser Tolmie and supplies.

Using Indian labor, the two structures on the beach and the farm house on the Bluff were dismantled and brought to the new fort to be used in future construction. By August 6 preparations for a new dwelling house and a palisade of pickets around the fort was underway. In September a new store, thirty by twenty feet, was erected as well as a dwelling house for the men.

In October 1833 the men began work on Heron's house, which was fifty-five by twenty feet and twelve feet high, along with continuing to build the palisades around the fort and setting pickets, about 20 feet high, around the buildings to control Indian access to the buildings. Two twelve foot square bastions, gates and a fifteen foot square kitchen, winterizing the main structures and saw pits were added during the winter of 1834.

When Chief Trader Francis Heron left Fort Nisqually on March 2, 1834, he had succeeded in developing a fully functioning fort. The main permanent structures were built in typical Hudson's Bay Company fashion. Frames of squared logs were erected post-in-sill fashion, walls were mortised and tenoned-squared logs, which were slit into the frame horizontally, then chinked. Portions of the buildings had floorboards. Roofs were gabled and boarded over and chimneys were built using local clay.

The walls of the palisades formed a rough square. The corners of the fort pointed almost true, north, south, east and west. The square was 151-152 feet to a side with the exception of the northeast palisade which was approximately 155 feet long.

William Kittson took over as Chief Trader May 18, 1834 and within 10 days restructuring of the fort had commenced. By the time he was done, Chief Trader Kittson had either disassembled or dismantled and moved all of Heron's structures and rebuilt the entire fort with the exception of the palisade and bastions.

With the fort structures to his liking, Kittson turned his attention to his agricultural needs. A stable was built, cattle-park fenced off, plows and wagons were built, cultivation of the crops was stepped-up and cow sheds were constructed. Later in the year a potato cellar was added, plowed fields were fenced, a calf shed was constructed and the

palisades were reinforced. Late in November an Indian house was built outside the fort for those Native Americans coming from greater distances to trade.

Fort Nisqually became known for its fur trading with agricultural products becoming a close second. By 1835 a fifty by twenty-five foot barn, grain storehouse, a milk house and a pig sty had been added with the following plantings in the ground: 35 bushels of potatoes, 20 of peas, 10 of fall wheat, 10 of corn, 10 of oats, 6 of barley and 5 of red wheat with apple trees doing well. The fur trade thrived through 1835 growing into a farming enterprise in 1838 and a subsidiary called the Puget Sound Agricultural Company.

The original fort site soon proved to be too small for its operations and the fort was relocated in 1843, about a mile from the original fort, closer to Edmonds Marsh and Sequelitchew Creek. This new site was chosen because it was close to a water source and timber.

In 1846 the United States and England negotiated the boundary between Canada and U.S. at the 49th parallel, placing the holdings of the Hudson's Bay Company (HBC) on foreign lands. In 1870 a final monetary settlement occurred between the HBC and the Americans.

Also in 1846, the 1833 Fort Nisqually was reoccupied as a temporary barracks by British sailors for a few months. That episode closed the history of the 1833 Fort Nisqually.

The 1833 Hudson's Bay Company Fort Nisqually Site is currently surrounded by a black fence with a gate on the east side. It is overgrown with Scotch broom, trees and other vegetation. There are also some concrete barriers left over from the DuPont Company era. During the DuPont Company era a road went through the middle of the site. The site marker monument, set up in the 1920s, is still in place in the middle of the fenced in area near the old DuPont Company road. It is surrounded by overgrown brush and cannot be seen from the edge of the fence.

Sources which authenticate resource (pictures, maps, archaeological digs, historic documents, etc.).

Carpenter, Cecelia Svinth, Fort Nisqually: A Documented History of Indian and British Interaction (Tacoma, WA: Tahoma Research Center, 1986).

Crooks, Drew, "Beginnings: The Origins of Fort Nisqually and Euro-American Settlement on Puget Sound," Occurrences, Vol. XXVI, No. 3 (Summer 2008), pages 7-13.

Troxel, Kathryn, Fort Nisqually and the Puget's Sound Agricultural Company, Ph.D. dissertation, Indiana University, 1950.

Best ways to manage resource (interpretive signs, preservation, rehabilitation, stabilization, restoration, or replication).

Increase accessibility to site by completing trails from the Wilkes Observatory and DuPont Civic Center, and building loop road. Create a small parking area beside fort site off loop road. Clear Scotch broom and other small vegetation from the current monument and fort area. Create interpretive signage with information and images concerning the 1833 Fort Nisqually. Carry out professional archaeological excavations (perhaps led by a nearby university) to learn more about the site and its cultural resources.

Site accessibility to public and staffing requirements.

Until the loop road is completed and dedicated to the city of DuPont, access to the 1833 Fort site is limited. The site is surrounded by the Home Course, 18th hole on the South, 1st hole on the East and 2nd hole on the North. Non-golf course property is owned by First Industrial.

If the area is cleared and extra signage placed inside or outside the 1833 Fort Nisqually site fence so people can read it, staffing would not be necessary for people to visit it. Staff people would have to be on hand if part or the entire 1833 fort was rebuilt and opened to visitors. In this case an entry fee could be charged. If fees were charged to visit other historical sites in DuPont, there could be a general fee that covered all sites.

Possible funding sources.

Grants from DuPont Company: Community Outreach; Johanna FAVROT Fund for Historical Preservation; National Trust for Historic Preservation: Preservation Services Fund – Eldridge Campbell Stockton Memorial Preserves Fund; Nisqually Indian Tribe: Nisqually Indian Tribe Charitable Funds; Norcliffe Foundation; Pierce County Landmarks and Heritage Preservation Commission: Pierce County Historic Preservation Grant Program; Squaxin Island Tribe: One Percent Charity; Washington State Historical Society: Heritage Capital Projects Fund; and Washington Trust For Historic Preservation: Valerie Sivinski Washington Preserves Fund. Also funds could come from fundraisers, lodging tax, and in-kind/monetary donations from corporations and individuals.

Oversight agency, decision-makers, and support groups.

The City of DuPont, as owner of the site property, is the oversight agency. Decision-makers include the DuPont Historical Society, DuPont Tourism Board, and City of DuPont. One support group is the Descendants of Fort Nisqually Employees Association.

Short and long term goals for the resource.

Short term goals (after the loop road is established):

- Create a trail from the Wilkes Observatory site into 1833 Fort site.
- Build a trail from Civic Center to 1833 Fort site.
- Establish a small parking area beside Fort site off loop road.
- Clear Scotch broom and other small vegetation from the site (including the current monument area).
- Add more signage with Fort history/pictures included.
- When infrastructure for business development is constructed, run water and electricity to or near Fort site so programs/outings can take place there. (Hudson Bay Days etc.).
- Could be used as a park-like setting with benches.

Long term goals:

- Outline palisade of 1833 Fort Site with logs.
- Could replicate a side or two of palisade with picket fence and one of the four bastions.
- Build bastion(s) so public can go up in it/them to look out over the Sound and surrounding area.
- Rebuild the entire palisade with a picket fence and add the three other bastions.
- Uncover a portion of the original dig showing the stumps from the original palisade. Encase them with glass to preserve, but let people see what they looked like.
- Eventually replicate part of the buildings that were inside the Fort area.

Compiled by Carol Estep and Doris Stewart.



Photo of 1833 Fort Nisqually site archeological dig completed by Pacific Lutheran University in 1987.



Recent photo of the 1833 Fort Nisqually site and marker surrounded by overgrowth (2012).



Current view from outside the Fort Nisqually site fence (2012).

Methodist Episcopal Mission Site

Name, location and ownership of cultural, historical & archaeological resource.

The Methodist Episcopal Mission Site (45PI66) is located on private land known as Lot Y situated within the DuPont city limits west of Center Drive and north of Sequalitchew Creek.

Written description of each asset, including historical significance and current condition/status.

Just a few hundred yards west of Center Drive and just north of Sequalitchew Creek (within sight of the 1843 Fort Nisqually site) is the location of the former Nisqually Mission. In April of 1839 William Holden Willson and missionary David Leslie began construction of a small mission house with an attached schoolroom. The mission house was surrounded by a stockade. This was the first American building erected in the Puget Sound region. For many years a historical marker stood on the site of the original mission/schoolhouse. As the years went by the site was absorbed into the holdings of the DuPont Powder Company.

In June 1840 Oregon pioneer Jason Lee appointed William Willson as “carpenter/doctor” and Reverend John P. Richmond as “missionary”. With Richmond came his wife “America” and their four children. Miss Chloe A. Clarke was appointed teacher at the mission school. On July 10, 1840 the missionaries arrived at the Nisqually site. They were the first Americans (US citizens) to settle north of the Columbia and west of the Cascades. Their arrival predated other Americans arrival to the region by five years.

The Nisqually Mission survived for only three years. Due to failing health (and personal loss) William and Chloe Clark Willson were the first to leave. The Richmonds departed the Mission in the summer of 1842. Shortly thereafter, on September 11, 1842, the Mission burned to the ground, reportedly by a disgruntled Indian.

There are a number of other “firsts” associated with the Nisqually mission. The marriage of Chloe Clarke and W.H. Willson (August 16, 1840) was the first American (US) wedding in the region. Francis

Richmond (born February 28, 1841) was the first American child born in Western Washington. Francis was baptized by Jason Lee. The first Independence Day celebration in what is now the State of Washington was held on July 5, 1841 not far from this site. Richmond gave the address, Captain Wilkes brought 100 Marines from his vessel at anchor in the sound, and some (400) Indians and representatives from the Hudson's Bay Company were in attendance. The Declaration of Independence was read, patriot songs and hymns were sung and a cannon was fired. Richmond predicted in his address that the ground upon which they were standing would ultimately become part of the United States. (His prophecy proved to be correct).

On May 12, 1904 Edward Huggins, who was then living on the 1843 Fort Nisqually site, wrote in a letter to Eva Emory Dye that "The Richmond Mission site is quite close to this place, and about 16 miles from Tacoma. The foundation of the large stone and clay chimney can be seen (with the aid of a binocular glass) from the verandah of our house."

In another letter, this one written on September 23, 1904 to Clarence B. Bagley, Huggins stated the following: "No fear of the Richmond Mission being obliterated. The mound forming the remains of what was an enormous (no doubt double) stone and clay chimney is evidence enough, besides holes, perhaps where cellars were under house, or houses."

In 1989 Guy F. Moura believed that his archaeological fieldwork located the Methodist Episcopal Mission Site. There has been much discussion on the issue. Other archaeologists working in 2011 recorded no signs of the Mission site.

Sources which authenticate resource (pictures, maps, archaeological digs, historic documents, etc.).

Huntsman, Joseph, edited, Edward Huggins' Correspondence Outward, 1862-1907 (Tacoma, WA: Fort Nisqually Living History Museum, 2007).

Moura, Guy F., Missions, War Games and Railroad Dumps: 1989 Miscellaneous Explorations and Excavations, Northwest Landing, DuPont, Washington, September 1991.

Sikes, Nancy E., and Cindy J. Arrington, Archeological Survey, Testing and Monitoring at 45PI166, 45PI455 and 45PI773, DuPont Industrial Partners, LLC, Lot Y Project, City of DuPont, Pierce County, Washington. April 14, 2011.

Best ways to manage resource (interpretive signs, preservation, rehabilitation, stabilization, restoration, or replication).

Place an interpretive sign near the Methodist Episcopal Mission Site.

Site accessibility to public and staffing requirements.

The Methodist Episcopal Mission Site is on private land and not accessible to the public. However, an interpretive sign could be placed nearby on City of DuPont property. No staffing is necessary.

Possible funding sources.

Grants from Nisqually Indian Tribe: Nisqually Indian Tribe Charitable Funds; and Pierce County Landmarks and Heritage Preservation Commission: Pierce County Historic Preservation Grant Program. Also funds could come from fundraisers, lodging tax, and in-kind/monetary donations from corporations and individuals.

Oversight agency, decision-makers, and support groups.

The oversight agency is the City of DuPont. Decision-makers include the DuPont Tourism Board and DuPont Historical Society

Short and long term goals for each resource.

Short term goal:

- Set up an interpretive marker near the Methodist Episcopal Mission Site. Mission Site interpretive elements could be placed next to commemorations of the 1841 Independence Day Celebration and 1904 Buffalo Soldier Encampment.

Long term goal:

- Build a replica of the Mission.

Compiled by Drew Crooks.



Sketch of the Methodist Mission House by historian James Edgren.



Location of proposed interpretive signage.



Early 1920s signage marking site of Methodist Episcopal Mission and the “First Fourth of July Celebration in the Pacific North West was held at this place in 1841.”



Current marker by the DuPont Company.

Wilkes Observatory Site

Name, location and ownership of cultural, historical & archaeological resource.

The Wilkes Observatory Site (45PI67) is located at the south side of the mouth of Sequelitchew Creek Canyon, on a promontory overlooking Puget Sound. It is owned by the City of DuPont.

Written description of each asset, including historical significance and current condition/status.

The Wilkes Exploring Expedition was an American naval expedition charged with conducting the exploration of Pacific and Arctic Oceans and the South Seas. This was the first major scientific exploration overseas by the United States. Lt. Charles Wilkes, USN, led the expedition in surveying South America, Antarctica, Far East and North Pacific. In less than four years the men under Wilkes would confirm the existence of Antarctica and chart hundreds of islands and harbors in the South Pacific and map 800-miles of the Pacific NW Coast. The 10,000 botanical specimens they brought back were so numerous that the Smithsonian Institution was created to hold them.

On May 11, 1841 the Vicennes and Porpoise sailing ships sailed into Puget Sound and anchored off Ft. Nisqually near Sequelitchew Creek. Charles Wilkes used the Ft. Nisqually area for both his land and maritime explorations. He produced detailed charts of the waters of Southern Puget Sound, naming many places, including Gig Harbor, Anderson Island, Budd Inlet, Commencement Bay, McNeil Island, and Pt. Defiance.

In the Expedition's final report or Narrative, Wilkes wrote, "The establishment of an observatory also claimed my attention: a suitable site was found on top of the hills (the bluff to the south of Sequelitchew Creek) within hail of the ship. Here the instruments and clocks were landed and put up in a small clearing where the trees had been cut in order to supply the steamer with fuel."

Edward Huggins in a September 7, 1906 letter to Clarence B. Bagley stated the following:

“Gilstrap, the artist, and acting sec[retary] to the State Historical Society . . . was here the other day, and I took him to the site of Captain Wilkes’ observatory, bake house, and other little buildings which he built when surveying on the sound in the early forties. They once stood on the top of the bluff, at the mouth of Sequelitchew Creek, but the Union Pacific’s proposed railroad destroyed the remains of the buildings, but the heap of clay standing in a pile plainly shows where the improvements once stood, and besides, I know the spot well, and the road made to it is still open and plainly marked.”

In the early 20th Century the DuPont Company placed a historical marker on the spot of the Wilkes Observatory. This marker still stands on the site.

Sources which authenticate resource (pictures, maps, archaeological digs, historic documents, etc.).

Barkan, Frances B., edited, The Wilkes Expedition: Puget Sound and the Oregon Country (Olympia, WA: Washington State Capital Museum, 1987).

Huntsman, Joseph, edited, Edward Huggins’ Correspondence Outward, 1862-1907 (Tacoma, WA: Fort Nisqually Living History Museum, 2007).

Viola, Herman J. and Carolyn Margolis, edited, Magnificent Voyagers: The U.S. Exploring Expedition, 1838-1842 (Washington, D.C.: Smithsonian Institution Press, 1985).

Wilkes, Charles, Narrative of the United States Exploring Expedition. During the Years 1838, 1839, 1840, 1841, 1842, Vol. 4 (Philadelphia, PA: [s.n.], 1849).

Best ways to manage resource (interpretive signs, preservation, rehabilitation, stabilization, restoration, or replication).

An interpretive sign should be set up at the Wilkes Observatory site. Perhaps someday the observatory could be reconstructed.

Site accessibility to public and staffing requirements.

The Wilkes Observatory site is accessible to the public. No staffing is necessary unless the observatory is reconstructed. In that case, staffing would be necessary when the observatory is opened to the public on special occasions.

Possible funding sources.

Grants from Nisqually Indian Tribe: Nisqually Indian Tribe Charitable Funds; and Pierce County Landmarks and Heritage Preservation Commission: Pierce County Historic Preservation Grant Program. Also funds could come from fundraisers, lodging tax, and in-kind/monetary donations from corporations and individuals.

Oversight agency, decision-makers, and support groups.

The oversight agency is the City of DuPont. Decision-makers include DuPont Historical Society and DuPont Tourism Board.

Short and long term goals for each historic resource.

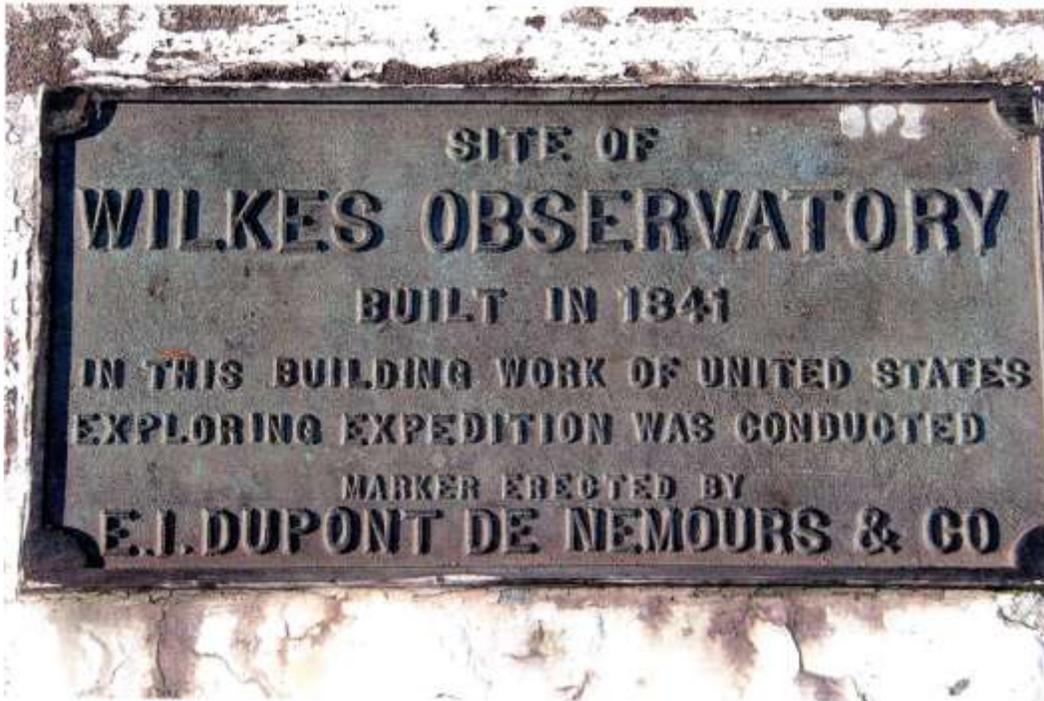
Short term goal:

- Set up an interpretive sign at the Wilkes Observatory site.
- Set up a bench at the site.

Long term goal:

- Reconstruct the Wilkes Observatory.

Compiled by Lee McDonald.



Marker commemorating Wilkes Exploring Expedition



Current condition of the site (2012). Split rail fence and bench were built by volunteers.

1841 Independence Day Celebration

Name, location and ownership of cultural, historical & archaeological resource.

The exact site of the 1841 Independence Day celebration is not known, but most likely is to the north of DuPont Civic Center and Sequalitchew Creek.

Written description of each asset, including historical significance and current condition/status.

The 1841 Independence Day celebration was an event of great significance that brought together American sailors of the Wilkes Expedition, Hudson's Bay Company employees, and Native Americans to honor the birthday of the United States. Though the celebration's exact site is not known today, much can be ascertained about the occurrence.

What is known:

The USS Porpoise of the Wilkes Expedition had 12 guns while her sister ship, the USS Dolphin, had 2 9-pounders and 8 24-pounders. There is no mention of a cart, so the 2 howitzers that were used for the celebration must have been carried by the sailors.

The Wilkes Expedition was making a survey and all its members were acquainted with distance assessments as they traveled on the oceans. Their estimates on land must have been fairly accurate.

The 1906 documentation by Slugamus Koquilton that placed the 1841 Independence site on JBLM property is incorrect. It depended on the Native American's 65-year old memory (which was probably encouraged by the persons involved in that endeavor of trying to locate 'the spot') and could be altered by the natural phenomena of nature producing more evergreen trees as they *encroached on the prairies*. This evidence is questionable, at best.

In the early 1920's a group of people wanted to mark the site. By this time, the DuPont Company had established its explosives plant in

the area. The Company had strict regulations about their property. The group could not place a marker in the danger zone of the black powder plant. In 1927 the DuPont Company placed a permanent brass and cement marker roughly no more than a half a mile north of the present City Hall for DuPont.

Let's look at the primary sources concerning the 1841 Independence event. Wilkes's writings state that "The place chosen for the purpose [celebrating July 4th] was a corner of the Mission Prairie, *before* spoken of." The former reference was: "This mission has but recently been established...."

Wilkes goes on to record "And all including the marines and musicians were landed shortly after to march to the scene of festivity about a mile distant.. . Two brass howitzers were also carried to fire the usual salute."

The eyewitness Colvocoresses wrote "We next marched to piece of open ground, distant about half a mile from the (1833) fort."

Wilkes expedition botanist William D. Brackenridge noted that "Fort Nisqually lays inland a good half mile from the Bay on the plains or margin of the extensive prairies which stretch back into the interior 15 or 20 miles."

Furthermore, Joseph C. Clark wrote the following in "Lights and Shadows of Sailor Life" (1848):

"July 4th coming on Sunday, we celebrated the 5th --- . On landing, the men proceeded up the hill to the observatory, where Capt. Wilkes was then residing. We proceeded thru a narrow strip of wood about half a mile, when we came to the company's fort; there we halted. --- The procession was again formed and marched as before, about one mile further, when we came to a deep valley – crossing which we came to a plain several miles in circumference, in which Doc. Richmond's house is situated."

"Here was the place intended for the exhibitions of the day; various kinds of amusements were proposed, in which Capt. Wilkes took an active part."

The location of the edge of this 'Mission Prairie' cannot have been more than 3.5-4 miles from Puget Sound. It would have been *3 more miles*, or more, to reach a spot designated on current JBLM property. How far would seamen carry cannons for a celebration salute?

The mission site was about a half mile from the 1833 fort site. These two locations are where the American missionaries were located. This was where the Wilkes Expedition wanted to celebrate – not some 2-3 miles further on away from any places of Euro-American habitation, further into 'Indian country.' They were making a statement, as it were, before their British counterparts.

The information above supports the position that the July 4th celebration in 1841 (actually held on July 5) took place no more than 2.5 miles from Puget Sound in the vicinity of the Methodist Mission adjacent to an open prairie that may have been over 5 miles in length, as the men had several horse races and the salute and food. (Journal of Purser, R.P. Robinson said: "...some riding like wild men to and fro over the plain which is 6 miles long...")

To date, unanswered questions are: a) How much did the various canons or howitzers weigh? b) How far were they usually carried by sailors? c) How far were any of the large guns carried on any other part of this expedition? These answers might shed further light on this subject.

Sources which authenticate resource (pictures, maps, archaeological digs, historic documents, etc.).

The major resources for this report are: *Cultural Resources Survey – DuPont Site*, by David H. Stratton & Glen W. Lindeman, Aug. 1, 1977. NATIONAL HERITAGE, INC.; and the writings of Capt. Wilkes and Expedition members George Colvocoresses, Joseph C. Clark and William D. Brackenridge.

Best ways to manage resource (interpretive signs, preservation, rehabilitation, stabilization, restoration, or replication).

A historical marker could be placed somewhere north of the Civic Center to enumerate the 1841 Independence Day celebration. Such marker would be within 1 mile of where it probably happened.

Site accessibility to public and staffing requirements.

The historical marker for the 1841 Independence Day Celebration would be accessible to the public. No staffing would be necessary.

Possible funding sources.

Grants from Nisqually Indian Tribe: Nisqually Indian Tribe Charitable and Pierce County Landmarks and Heritage Preservation Commission: Pierce County Historic Preservation Grant Program. Also funds could come from fundraisers, lodging tax, and in-kind/monetary donations from corporations and individuals.

Oversight agency, decision-makers, and support groups.

The oversight agency would be either the City of DuPont or the DuPont Historical Society. Certainly both groups would be decision-makers. The DuPont Tourism Board would also be a decision-maker.

Short and long term goals for the resource.

Short term goal:

- Place a historical marker somewhere north of the Civic Center to commemorate the 1841 Independence Day celebration.

Long term goal:

- Build a flag pole next to the Independence Day historical marker. Independence Day interpretative elements could be placed next to commemorations of the 1904 Buffalo Soldier Encampment and Methodist Episcopal Mission Site.

Compiled by Jay Bollman.



Photo of the re-enactment of the 1841 Independence Day celebration taken in front of the Factor's house circa 1880s.



United States Flag in 1841



Journals and first person accounts indicate the celebration was likely held in the current DuPont area rather than on Fort Lewis.

1843 Hudson's Bay Company Fort Nisqually Site

Name, location and ownership of cultural, historical & archaeological resource.

The 1843 Hudson's Bay Company Fort Nisqually Site (45PI56), located south of Sequelitchew Creek near Edmonds Marsh, is currently owned by the Archaeological Conservancy. The site is situated at the intersection of Center Drive and Civic Drive.

Written description of each asset, including historical significance and current condition/status.

The 1843 Hudson's Bay Company Fort Nisqually Site has regional historical importance because it was a major HBC economic center on Puget Sound (fur trading and agriculture), a diverse community of various peoples (including both Native Americans and Euro-Americans), and a cultural/political meeting place for Native Americans, American settlers, and HBC employees.

By 1840 the focus of the Hudson's Bay Company in the Puget Sound area was shifting from fur trading to agricultural operations, and HBC directors formed the Puget's Sound Agricultural Company. The original 1833 Fort Nisqually site soon proved to be too small for its operations and lacked an adequate fresh water supply. In the summer of 1843, the fort was relocated about a mile from the original fort, closer to Edmonds Marsh and Sequelitchew Creek.

There is some indication Chief Factor Dr. John McLoughlin, stationed at Fort Vancouver, had wanted to move the 1833 Fort as early as April 1841. Because of poor leadership at the 1833 Fort site, not enough man power and supplies, the move did not take place until Dr. William Fraser Tolmie arrived in July 1843. Dr. Tolmie had acquired experience as a "fort builder" during the construction of the first Fort Nisqually and the relocation of Fort Simpson.

Dr. Tolmie was the commander of the relocated Fort Nisqually from 1843 to 1859. By 1845 an officers' dwelling house, the men's dwelling house and two stores in the main pre-palisaded Fort were built. The

Puget's Sound Agriculture Company was thriving with enclosures for cattle, piggeries, store used for sheep shearing and meat curing, a line of sheds and barns, slaughterhouse and agricultural fields.

Palisades and 2 bastions (northwest and southeast) were erected in 1848 fortifying the central core of the Fort. The bastions were constructed on the ground first and then lifted into place. The HBC method for building the palisade was to dig a 2 to 4 foot deep trench, and king (larger) posts were placed at 13 foot intervals to anchor the walls. Pickets were assembled in 13 foot sections with butt ends alternating up and down to provide a greater uniformity in width. Tops of the pickets were attached to a hewn beam, (girth). A hole was drilled through the girth and picket and joined together by a wooden peg.

Each bastion had a one or two pound cannon, and five or six musketoons and blunderbusses which swiveled and were capable of discharging one or two pounds of shot or slugs. The bastions had a door in the floor reachable by a ladder, no windows, fireplace or chimneys and were sometimes very cold and uncomfortable.

During the years 1843 to 1859, the relationship between HBC and the Indians was, for the most part, very peaceful and they enjoyed good working relations. The HBC depended on the Indians to trap animals for fur and to provide a labor force for the operation of the agricultural company which flourished during this time period.

Relationships with Indians were challenged during 1847 to 1848 when the Cayuse Indians attacked and killed members of the Whitman Mission and in late 1855 when several tribes revolted against edicts laid down by Isaac Stevens, Territorial Governor. During these turbulent times, the fort's defenses were improved and new dwellings were provided for refugees seeking shelter at Fort Nisqually.

Pioneers who came to the Puget Sound area brought new building ideas with them including the "Yankee" style of building construction also known as balloon frame. Saw mills sprung up and this style of construction soon replaced the log cabin style.

In the later part of 1850s, Fort Nisqually's stature began to wane. With the majority of the HBC's concerns north of the 49th parallel, it

became apparent the company was withdrawing from the area. In June 1858 the northern and eastern palisades were torn down as they were leaning and were considered dangerous. Dr. Tolmie moved to Victoria in 1859 and Edward Huggins, a clerk, ran the farming operation for another 10 years.

Previously, in 1846, the United States and England negotiated the boundary between Canada and U.S. at 49th parallel, placing the holdings of the Hudson's Bay Company in the Pacific Northwest (including Fort Nisqually) on foreign lands. In 1870, a final monetary settlement occurred between the Hudson's Bay Company and the United States government and the HBC properties were relinquished to the control of the Americans.

So Fort Nisqually was finally closed. Mr. Huggins homesteaded and claimed the site as an American citizen. More change came early in the 20th Century when the land was sold to the DuPont Company, which was looking for a place to build an explosives plant. In 1976 the Weyerhaeuser Company purchased the area. Then in 1993 the 1843 Hudson's Bay Company Fort Nisqually Site was conveyed to the Archaeological Conservancy.

The 1843 Hudson's Bay Company Fort Nisqually Site, owned by the Archaeological Conservancy, is currently managed by the DuPont Historical Society. This fenced area is closed to the public, except when opened as part of the Hudson Bay Days celebration held each year. Logs mark the location of the original walls, but there are no buildings remaining. The only visible remnants of the original fort are a line of black locust trees planted in the 1850s. The Granary and Factors House, two buildings from the 1843 Fort Site, were moved to Point Defiance Park, Tacoma in 1936. The area in DuPont remains an important archaeological site.

Sources which authenticate resource (pictures, maps, archaeological digs, historic documents, etc.).

Anderson, Steven A., The Physical Structure of Fort Nisqually: A Preliminary Study on the Structural Development of a Hudson's Bay Company Site, 1843-1859 (Tacoma, WA: Fort Nisqually Historic Site, Metropolitan Park District of Tacoma, 1988).

Carpenter, Cecelia Svinth, Fort Nisqually: A Documented History of Indian and British Interaction (Tacoma, WA: Tahoma Research Center, 1986).

Crooks, Drew W., Past Reflections: Essays on the Hudson's Bay Company in the Southern Puget Sound Region (Tacoma, WA: Fort Nisqually Foundation, 2001).

Former DuPont Works Draft EIS Cultural Resources V.II (3 ring binder) housed in the DuPont Museum.

Best ways to manage resource (interpretive signs, preservation, rehabilitation, stabilization, restoration, or replication).

Archaeological excavations, perhaps led by experts from a nearby university, are necessary to better understand the site and its preservation requirements.

The area should be maintained with mowing and weeds/scotch broom removal. Litter would have to be picked up. Extra interpretive signage could be placed inside or outside the fence so people can read it. The rotting logs outlining the fort need to be replaced. Perimeter fencing should be repaired with a gate put on the east side to allow access to Heirloom Orchard.

This could be done in conjunction with the management of the Heirloom Orchard and Tar Paper Houses site to form a historical park.

Site accessibility to public and staffing requirements.

In order to protect the archaeological resources of the site, it would be best to keep the site off-limits to the public except for special events and guided tours. Staffing would not be needed except for these events and tours.

Possible funding sources.

Grants from DuPont Company: Community Outreach; National Trust for Historic Preservation: Preservation Services Fund – Eldridge Campbell Stockton Memorial Preserves Fund; Nisqually Indian Tribe: Nisqually

Indian Tribe Charitable Funds; Norcliffe Foundation; Pierce County Landmarks and Heritage Preservation Commission: Pierce County Historic Preservation Grant Program; Squaxin Island Tribe: One Percent Charity; Washington State Historical Society: Heritage Capital Projects Fund; and Washington Trust For Historic Preservation: Valerie Sivinski Washington Preserves Fund. Also funds could come from fundraisers, lodging tax, and in-kind/monetary donations from corporations and individuals.

Oversight agency, decision-makers, and support groups.

The Archaeological Conservancy, as owner of the site property, is the oversight agency. Decision-makers include the DuPont Historical Society, DuPont Tourism Board, and City of DuPont. One support group is the Descendants of Fort Nisqually Employees Association.

Short and long term goals for the resource.

Short term goals:

- The site needs to be secured from the Archaeological Conservancy and placed under the ownership of the city of DuPont, WA.
- Archaeological excavations should be done by professionals, perhaps from a nearby university, to better understand the site.
- Maintenance of site should be done on a regular basis.
- Logs now marking the outline of the Fort need to be replaced.
- Fencing should be repaired with a gate put in on the east side to allow access to Heirloom Orchard.
- Interpretive signage needs to be erected with Fort history and pictures.

Long term goals:

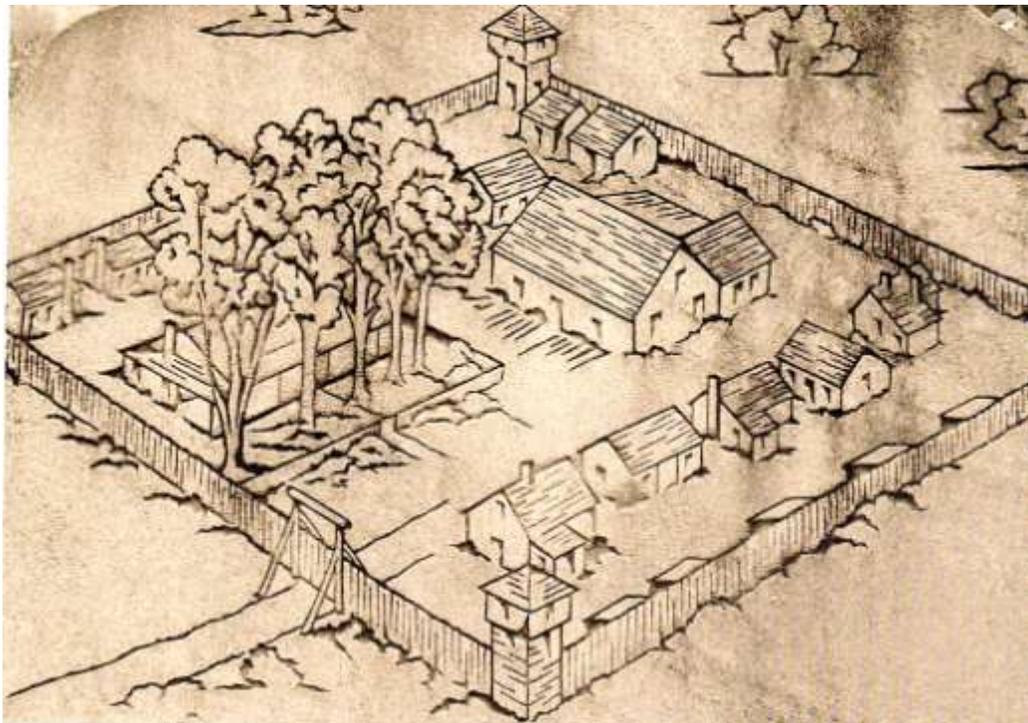
- Replicate a side or two of palisade with picket fence and one of the two bastions.
- Build bastion(s) so public can access them to look out over surrounding area.
- Rebuild all of the palisade with picket fence and add other bastion.

- Uncover a portion of the original dig showing the stumps from original palisade. Encase them with glass to preserve, but let people see what they look like.
- Eventually replicate part of the buildings that were inside the Fort area. If and when the Fort site is replicated, an entry fee could be charged. This fee could be a combined admission fee to several sites in the area.
- This could be done in conjunction with the management of the Heirloom Orchard and Tar Paper Houses site to form a historical park.

Compiled by Carol Estep and Doris Stewart.



Artist's rendering of the 1843 Fort Nisqually circa 1850.



Overview of Fort Nisqually from the interpretive marker in front of the DuPont Museum.



The 1843 Fort Nisqually site as it looks today (2012).

Heirloom Orchard – The Orchard Park

Name, location and ownership of cultural, historical & archaeological resource.

The Heirloom Orchard is located around Edmonds Marsh just east of the 1843 Hudson's Bay Company Fort Nisqually Site (45PI56). It is owned by the City of DuPont.

Written description of each asset, including historical significance and current condition/status.

Venture from the present day into the past (1843 to the early 1900's) to experience the magical atmosphere of the heirloom apple, pear, and plum trees located behind the 1843 Fort Nisqually site around Edmonds Marsh. Walking through the ancient orchard one can view the strength and character of each tree with a deep sense of appreciation of the fruit trees place in our history. Over 110 years old, some of these trees fell and fought to continue growing as nature provided new limbs out of the downed limbs creating a visual painting in formation and character.

In 1834 William Kittson wrote in the Fort Nisqually's Journal of Occurrences that "We got a few apple seeds put into a hot bed, made for that purpose." The seeds grew and some of the seedlings were planted near the Old Fort. Then in the early 1840's several of these trees were transplanted into the garden of the New Fort site. Some of them were vigorously growing and filled with fruit in 1898. For many years the orchard was part of the Huggins homestead.

In 1984 volunteers located 28 historic trees in the Heirloom Orchard, but as of 2012 15 trees have been unfortunately lost. It is very important to note that one of the fruit trees falls into the "rare" or "hard to find" species category. Shaun Shepherd of Portland Home Orchard Society ID Specialist has only located one rootstock of this rare fruit tree in England.

Of the 13 heirloom trees that have survived, two are near death, one is very healthy and the other ten are not in very good condition. Fruit is still being produced from some of these trees.

Sources which authenticate resource (pictures, maps, archaeological digs, historic documents, etc.).

Dickey, George, transcribed and edited, The Journal of Occurrences at Fort Nisqually Commencing May 30, 1833; Ending September 27, 1859 (Tacoma, WA: Fort Nisqually Historical Site, Metropolitan Park District of Tacoma, [1989]).

DuPont Museum reference files.

“Heirloom Orchard Near 1843 Site” report, circa 2011.

Best ways to manage resource (interpretive signs, preservation, rehabilitation, stabilization, restoration, or replication).

These majestic, ancient trees need to be protected. They are living heirlooms of Fort Nisqually and the Hudson’s Bay Company Days. Brush around trees needs to be cleared, temporary fences erected, and the orchard maintained in an environmentally sensitive manner. An interpretive sign should be set up along with pathways near the trees. In the future the orchard could be restored, an irrigation system set up, and a fence outline established. This could be done in conjunction with the management of the 1843 Hudson’s Bay Company Fort Nisqually and Tar Paper Houses sites to form a historical park.

Site accessibility to public and staffing requirements.

The Heirloom Orchard trees should be fenced and protected with accessibility provided to volunteer work parties when needed. In addition, the public (including school classes) could go on docent-led tours on special occasions. Otherwise no staffing will be necessary.

Possible funding sources.

Grants from Nisqually Indian Tribe: Nisqually Indian Tribe Charitable Funds; and Pierce County Landmarks and Heritage Preservation Commission: Pierce County Historic Preservation Grant Program. Also funds could come from fundraisers, lodging tax, and in-kind/monetary donations from corporations and individuals.

Oversight agency, decision-makers, and support groups.

The City of DuPont, as owner of the resource property, is the oversight agency. Decision-makers include the DuPont Historical Society and DuPont Tourism Board. One support group is the Descendants of Fort Nisqually Employees Association. Support might also come from school classes and environmental groups (including Sequelitchew Creek Watershed Council, DuPont Tree Board, and Pierce County Conservation District).

Short and long term goals for resource.

Short term goals:

- Clear brush around trees.
- Protect trees with temporary fences like some already have.
- Maintain trees in an environmentally sensitive manner.
- Set up an interpretive sign, but not next to trees.
- Create pathways near trees.

Long term goals:

- Restore orchard.
- Set up irrigation system.
- Create fence outline for orchard.
- This could be done in conjunction with the management of the 1843 Hudson's Bay Company Fort Nisqually and Tar Paper Houses sites to form a historical park.

Compiled by Deborah Kerner.



Photo of the Orchard taken circa 1910.



Current view of a section of the Old Orchard (2012).

1904 Buffalo Soldier Encampment

Name, location and ownership of cultural, historical & archaeological resource.

The Buffalo Soldier Encampment (45-PI-455) is located north of Sequalitchew Creek on privately owned land.

Written description of each asset, including historical significance and current condition/status.

The Buffalo Soldiers came to DuPont, Washington in 1904. Who were the Buffalo Soldiers, what were their accomplishments, and why did they come to DuPont?

The Cheyenne and Comanche Indians were the first people to call an all black cavalry regiment Buffalo Soldiers in the 1870s. The name came about as a result of the Indians comparing the dark black hair of the Buffalo Soldiers with the dark black mane of the American Bison. The Plains Indians were also impressed with the ferocious fighting ability of the Buffalo Soldiers and the thick coats made from buffalo hides that the soldiers wore during the winter. The American Bison has always been highly regarded by all Native Americans. The term Buffalo Soldiers was not given in contempt.

In 1866, Congress legally established the Ninth and Tenth Regiments of the Buffalo Soldiers as regular units of the United States military. They were formed and trained out of Fort Leavenworth, Kansas. Later, the Twenty-third and Twenty-fourth all black regiments were added. They were led by colonels Edward Hatch and Benjamin Grierson, first regimental commanders of the 9th and 10th Cavalry Regiments. The Buffalo Soldiers were assigned to the Western Frontier, where they were trained and equipped and begin a long and proud history.

The accomplishments and service to their country of the Buffalo Soldiers from the Civil War to 1951 were greatly praised. The Buffalo Soldiers fought in the Indian Wars and were awarded nineteen Medals of Honor. They also participated in the Johnson County War in Wyoming (1892); the Spanish-American War (1898); the Philippine-American War (1899-1903); General Pershing's expedition into Mexico to capture Pancho Villa (1914); the last Indian War in the United States in Arizona against the Yaqui Indians (1918); World War I; World War II; and the Korean War (1950-52). For their courageous and lengthy service the

Buffalo Soldiers received a multitude of Medals of Honor. During the early part of the 20th Century, the Buffalo soldiers were used as forest rangers in California until 1916, when the National Park Service was formed.

When the Buffalo Soldiers were not fighting and protecting their country, they were used to build forts and roads, string up telegraph lines, locate water holes, go on mail runs, protect the settlers from Indians, outlaws, and Mexican Revolutionaries.

In 1904 troops E, F, G, and H of the Ninth Cavalry Regiment of the Buffalo Soldiers embarked from Walla Walla, Washington to travel on a 275-mile journey in fourteen days. The contingent was lead by Colonel Nobles and Major Erwin. During their trek, the Buffalo Soldiers had to cross Stampede Pass which proved to be wearisome and treacherous to both men and horses. Their destination was Murray, Washington. After resting at Murray, the troops proceeded to Camp Nisqually, located on the banks of the Sequelitchew Creek near what today is known as Center Drive in DuPont, Washington. The first Methodist Mission site in the state of Washington, established in 1840, was in the middle of the military campground. The Buffalo Soldiers were ordered to bivouac at Camp Nisqually for three months and join in with five national guard units from Oregon, Washington, and Idaho for training maneuvers. The Buffalo Soldiers arrived in time for the Fourth of July parade in Tacoma, Washington.

The site was chosen by General Funston and appropriated by the United States Congress in 1903. It was an excellent choice because of the variety of terrain for military maneuvers, good drinking water, nearness to a railroad, good drainage, sanitary conditions, its nearness to the Puget Sound and the Pacific Ocean, and the cheap cost to the federal government for leasing the area to be used.

All six units included 272 officers and 3739 enlisted men. This was the largest military gathering on the West Coast up to that time. It was the only military exercise to include an all black regiment. The event was the genesis of a modern Joint Base Lewis McChord.

An excavation of Camp Nisqually occurred in the late 1980s. The artifacts and their locations have been helpful in understanding the economic, cultural, and social standard of the Buffalo Soldiers during this particular time period. Not all the artifacts discovered were attributed to the Buffalo Soldiers as both Native Americans and Fort Nisqually residents inhabited this area also. Based upon diggings and

hearsay, the Buffalo Soldiers suffered from racism. The Buffalo Soldiers in Washington were given very little coverage by newspapers.

Many streets in DuPont have been named after Buffalo Soldiers officers and enlisted men. This list includes the followings: Chaffe Avenue, Homan Avenue, Erin Avenue, Evans Court, Griggs Street, Hamilton Avenue, Mitchell Avenue, O'Brien Street, Rowan Court, Wallace Street and Wallace Court.

In 1941 an all black Cavalry Brigade was formed under the direction of General Benjamin O. Davis. They operated out of the state of Kansas and performed well in WWII. The end of the horse cavalry of the Buffalo Soldiers was finalized in 1944. Finally, in 1951, before the end of the Korean War, the U.S. military became integrated and that was the end of the glorious tradition and service of the Buffalo Soldiers.

A Buffalo Soldiers' organization still exists in the state of Washington today. There is also a current effort to establish a Buffalo Soldiers museum in the city of Tacoma, Washington.

Sources which authenticate resource (pictures, maps, archaeological digs, historic documents, etc.).

The information about the Buffalo Soldiers is authenticated through diligent research on the website, maps, photos, Wild West magazines, Tombstone, Arizona Epitaph newspaper, and past research from members of the DuPont Historical Society. Also, in the DuPont Museum files there are papers on the recorded conversations of military maneuvers preparations by the Generals of the Army and Congress. The files also describe in detail why this particular site was chosen for the specified military maneuvers. Important information is also contained in the report on the 1989 archaeological work at the site (Guy F. Moura, Missions, War Games and Railroad Dumps: 1989 Miscellaneous Explorations and Excavations, Northwest Landing, DuPont, Washington, September 1991).

Best ways to manage resource (interpretive signs, preservation, rehabilitation, stabilization, restoration, or replication).

Interpretive signs on city property would help the public understand the historical importance of the Buffalo Soldiers and their connection to DuPont. The only visual image needed for such signage is a picture of the Buffalo Soldiers. Possible photos can be found at the JBLM Museum or

other historical institutions. An educational brochure could also be created to accompany the signage. Perhaps in the future a statue of a Buffalo Soldier with talkative signage could be placed at the site.

Site accessibility to public and staffing requirements.

The finished project on city property could be enjoyed by the DuPont community residents and any or all visitors to DuPont during any time of the year. No staff personnel will be needed at this site.

Possible funding sources (i.e. grants, foundations, fundraisers, private and corporate, Lodging Tax, in-kind and individual donations).

Funding could be gained through the DuPont Historical Society, the DuPont Tourism Board, DuPont Parks & Recreation, state or federal grants, or investment tax credits.

Oversight agency, decision-makers, and support groups.

The decision to proceed and maintain this project lies with the DuPont Historical Society, DuPont Tourism Board, and DuPont Parks & Recreation.

Short and long term goals for each resource.

Short term goals:

- This site could be directly located and interpretive signage on city property installed.
- Educational brochure could be created.

Long term goals:

- Set up a Buffalo Soldier statue at site with talkative signage. Buffalo Soldier interpretive elements could be placed next to commemorations of the 1841 Independence Day Celebration and Methodist Episcopal Mission Site.



Artist's rendering of the Buffalo Soldiers Brigade.



Current view of area of Buffalo Soldier encampment area (2012).

Tar Paper Houses

Name, location and ownership of cultural, historical & archaeological resource.

The Tar Paper Houses were originally located at and near the 1843 Hudson's Bay Company Fort Nisqually Site (45PI56), south of Sequaletchew Creek near Edmond Marsh. The part of the Tar Paper Houses site at 45PI56 is currently owned by the Archaeological Conservancy, while the other portion of the Tar Paper Houses site is owned by the City of DuPont.

Written description of each asset, including historical significance and current condition/status.

The town of DuPont began as a settlement of tar paper covered structures know as "old town" to house the construction crew sent in 1906 to build the explosives plant and wharf. About 50 tar paper houses were built as well as a single long building which served as a cook shack and a two-room school. The 30ft by 60ft school, built in 1908, was a one room tar-paper shack divided by a curtain. Built to replace the old Nisqually School Building, the tar paper school was situated near the gate to the DuPont Plant. The tar paper shacks were used as temporary quarters well into the 1920s.

List sources which authenticate resource (pictures, maps, archaeological digs, historic documents, etc.).

Information and photographs concerning the Tar Paper Houses can be found at the DuPont Museum.

Best ways to manage resource (interpretive signs, preservation, rehabilitation, stabilization, restoration, or replication).

On the land owned by the City of DuPont create an interpretive sign for the tar paper houses. In the future replicate the tar paper school house which can be used for educational classes. This could be done in conjunction with the management of the 1843 Hudson's Bay Company Fort Nisqually Site and Heirloom Orchard to form a historical park.

Site accessibility to public and staffing requirements.

The Tar Paper Houses site can be divided into two parts. The part consisting of the the1843 Hudson’s Bay Company Fort Nisqually Site (45PI56) is on land currently owned by the Archaeological Conservancy. It is fenced and not accessible to the public except on special occasions. The other part of the Tar Paper Houses site is on property owned by the City of DuPont, and is accessible to the public. No staffing would be necessary for an interpretive sign, but staffing would be needed if a replica tar paper school is constructed and used for educational programs.

Possible funding sources.

Grants from Nisqually Indian Tribe: Nisqually Indian Tribe Charitable Funds; and Pierce County Landmarks and Heritage Preservation Commission: Pierce County Historic Preservation Grant Program. Also funds could come from fundraisers, lodging tax, and in-kind/monetary donations from corporations and individuals.

Oversight agency, decision-makers, and support groups.

The City of DuPont is the oversight agency. Decision-makers include the DuPont Historical Society and DuPont Tourism Board. One support group could be Steilacoom Historical School District No. 1 if a reconstructed tar paper school house is constructed as an educational center.

Short and long term goals for resource.

Short term goal:

- Create an interpretive sign for the tar paper houses.

Long term goal:

- Replicate the tar paper school house which can be used for educational classes. This could be done in conjunction with the management of the 1843 Hudson’s Bay Company Fort Nisqually Site and Heirloom Orchard to form a historical park.



View of Old Town circa 1907 – 1920s.



Tar Paper School House taken in 1909.



Current view of Old Town area (2012). Old Orchard can be seen in the distance.

Johnson Brothers Store (Old Bavarian Apartments and Community Center)

Name, location and ownership of cultural, historical & archaeological resource.

While the original site of the Johnson Brothers Store (211 Barksdale Avenue) in DuPont is now the location of the privately owned Bavarian Apartments, the second Johnson Brothers Store (303 Barksdale Avenue) became the city owned Old DuPont City Hall/Community Center.

Written description of each asset, including historical significance and current condition/status.

The Johnson Brothers Store was a community landmark in DuPont for much of the 20th century. The Bavarian Apartments (211 Barksdale Avenue) is the site of the original store. This building was one of the first structures erected in the DuPont Historic Village in 1909. Constructed by the DuPont Company, it was leased first to a Mr. Downing to be a store.

Later a brother and sister team, Carl and Eva Holmes, ran the business. The building was known as the Howard Mercantile Company and had the post office as well as all kinds of groceries and general merchandise. While, the store was on the first floor, Eva and Carl lived on the second floor.

O. B. Skewis bought the store in 1914-1915 and operated in the same manner as the Holmes except that he rented the upstairs apartments to others because he lived in Tacoma. After World War I was over in 1918, things settled down to normal and business in DuPont declined. As things quieted down, Mr. Skewis decided to sell his store.

Two brothers, Henning and Gunner Johnson, purchased the store on April 20, 1920. They had been raised in the village and served in the Army and Navy during World War I. The brothers operated a grocery and general mercantile store at the 211 Barksdale Avenue site. It became known as the Johnson Brothers Store. Henning and Gunner rented out the upstairs and lived in the village.

In 1924 the two Johnson brothers purchased the Fisher Store across Forcite Street (303 Barksdale Avenue). Henning and Gunner moved their operations to the new location with the continued name of

Johnson Brothers Store. The old store at 211 Barksdale Avenue was closed, and the building remodeled into an apartment house.

The Johnson Brothers Store at 303 Barksdale Avenue was managed by Henning and Gunner for decades, until 1957. Verne (Bud) Newhouse in his “Memories” described the business as it existed in the World War II era:

“About all I remember is that when one went into the store the grocery department was on the right side and the dry goods were on the left arranged on several tables on the floor and shelves along the wall. Behind the grocery was the office and storage area and a loading dock. Behind the dry goods department was the post office.”

The social importance of the Johnson Brothers Store during this time is revealed by other reminiscences:

“During the war there were a number of things that you couldn’t buy even if you had the money. Once in a long while there would be a shipment of some wonderful item. And the Johnson brothers always saw to it that the Du Ponters got whatever it was; a couple of bananas per family, a bottle of syrup, oranges. They would say, “Your order just came in,” and we would go to the back room and on the back shelf would be a paper sack for us to take home. What a treat it would be for the family. What kind store owners they were. I wish I could thank them now for those gifts. It meant a lot to have those special items during the war.”

In 1957 Henning and Gunner Johnson sold the store to George Hanson. By 1966 it was owned and operated by Mr and Mrs Gordon Kersey. In addition to groceries and hardware, there was then a lunchroom, under the management of “Red” Knowles. John “Fred” Iafrati, Post Master, directed the Post Office at the time.

The building at 303 Barksdale Avenue served as DuPont City Hall from 1990 to 2009. Above its doors is preserved the copula from the DuPont school building. The school, which was located in what is now Barksdale Station, was torn down in 1989. Currently the old City Hall is serving as DuPont’s Community Center. Certainly, the building and site have played an important role in the history of DuPont.

Sources which authenticate resource (pictures, maps, archaeological digs, historic documents, etc.).

Information on the Johnson Brothers Store is preserved in May G. Munyan, Du Pont – The Story of A Company Town (1972), and in the

reference files of the DuPont Museum. The Museum also has a historic photograph of the Store.

Best ways to manage resource (interpretive signs, preservation, rehabilitation, stabilization, restoration, or replication).

An interpretive sign on the history of the Johnson Brothers Store and Old DuPont City Hall/Community Center should be developed and installed. In addition the Old DuPont City Hall/Community Center should be maintained and preserved. The building is an important part of the DuPont Historic Village tour.

Site accessibility to public and staffing requirements.

Site is accessible to public. No staffing is needed.

Possible funding sources.

Grants from DuPont Company: Community Outreach; National Trust for Historic Preservation: Preservation Services Fund – Eldridge Campbell Stockton Memorial Preserves Fund; Nisqually Indian Tribe: Nisqually Indian Tribe Charitable Funds; Norcliffe Foundation; Pierce County Landmarks and Heritage Preservation Commission: Pierce County Historic Preservation Grant Program; Squaxin Island Tribe: One Percent Charity; Washington State Department of Commerce: Building Communities Fund (BCF) Program; Washington State Historical Society: Heritage Capital Projects Fund; and Washington Trust For Historic Preservation: Valerie Sivinski Washington Preserves Fund. Also funds could come from fundraisers, lodging tax, and in-kind/monetary donations from corporations and individuals.

Oversight agency, decision-makers, and support groups.

Oversight agency is the City of DuPont, which owns the DuPont Community Center. Decision-makers in interpreting the site should be the City of DuPont, DuPont Tourism Board, and DuPont Historical Society.

Short and long term goals for each historic resource.

Short term goal:

- Design, create, and install an interpretive sign at the Old DuPont City Hall/Community Center.
- Place building on historical register.

Long term goal:

- Maintain and preserve Old DuPont City Hall/Community Center building.

Compiled by Drew Crooks.



Archival photo of the second Johnson Brothers store at 303 Barksdale Avenue.

Current photo of the second Johnson Brother's store, formerly City Hall and now the Community Center (2012).



Current photo of the first Johnson Brother's store now the Bavarian Apartments (2012). The museum does not have a photo of the original store.

DuPont Museum Building

Name, location and ownership of cultural, historical & archaeological resource.

The DuPont Museum Building, located at 207 Barksdale Avenue, is owned by the City of DuPont and operated by the DuPont Historical Society.

Written description of each asset, including historical significance and current condition/status.

The DuPont Museum Building, built in 1917, was originally Carstens Meat Market. Thomas Carstens owned several meat packing companies and various meat retail stores in the region. At first the meat market in DuPont was operated by Murray Taylor. Later, for many years, Ob Gustafson served as meat cutter and Charlie Summers as office man. In the store's busy years, Charlie had to work as meat cutter as well, and eventually became the business's lone operator until the final closing.

In 1952 the building became City Hall after the Village of DuPont incorporated. With the closure of the DuPont School, City operations were moved to the vacated administrative building. This left the old city hall vacant, and the Mayor and Council approved the museum occupying the building. After much work, on June 26, 1977, the DuPont Museum officially opened with a Silver Tea. Since then the building has served as the museum. In 1982 a new addition to the structure was constructed for additional display area.

Sources which authenticate resource (pictures, maps, archaeological digs, historic documents, etc.).

Hunt, Herbert, Tacoma, Its History and Its Builders; A Half Century of Activity (Chicago, IL: S. J. Clarke Pub. Co., 1916).

Munyan, May G., Du Pont – The Story of a Company Town (Puyallup, WA: The Valley Press, Inc., 1972).

Reference files at DuPont Museum.

Best ways to manage resource (interpretive signs, preservation, rehabilitation, stabilization, restoration, or replication).

The DuPont Museum Building needs to be maintained. An interpretive sign concerning the building's history could be placed outside near the structure's front entrance. The Museum Building is an important part of the DuPont Historic Village tour.

Site accessibility to public and staffing requirements.

The DuPont Museum Building is accessible to the public. Staffing is necessary when the museum is open to visitors.

Possible funding sources.

Grants from Nisqually Indian Tribe: Nisqually Indian Tribe Charitable Funds; and Pierce County Landmarks and Heritage Preservation Commission: Pierce County Historic Preservation Grant Program. Also funds could come from fundraisers, lodging tax, and in-kind/monetary donations from corporations and individuals.

Oversight agency, decision-makers, and support groups.

The oversight agency for the DuPont Museum Building should be the DuPont Historical Society. The DuPont Tourism Board and City of DuPont would help with decisions.

Short and long term goals for each resource.

Short term goal:

- Continue to maintain the DuPont Museum Building.
- Place building on historical register.

Long term goal:

- Set up an interpretive sign about the history of the building. It should be placed outside near the Museum's entrance.

Compiled by Drew Crook



Photo of City Hall in 1951 formerly Carsten's Meat Market.



Current view of the DuPont Museum (2012).

DuPont Co. Train & Narrow Gauge Track

Name, location and ownership of cultural, historical & archaeological resource.

The DuPont Co. Train & Narrow Gauge Track is located in the Harry L. Robinson Park behind the DuPont Museum (207 Barksdale Avenue). They are owned by the City of DuPont and maintained by the DuPont Historical Society.

Written description of each asset, including historical significance and current condition/status.

The DuPont Company had a fleet of narrow-gauge locomotives and cars to deliver materials and explosives between the old DuPont Powderworks Plant and Puget Sound. The 36" gauge railway was selected by the DuPont Company to provide reliable transportation within its plant area and to the wharf on Puget Sound. Narrow gauge railways were a known reliable means of transportation and most importantly, would provide the quality of ride required for the transport of explosives. It was much safer to transport explosives by rail or ships versus trucks or wagons going over pot-holed trails or roads. Trains from the DuPont plant snaked their way down the north canyon wall of Sequelitchew Creek. The grade was steep, as the drop in elevation down to Puget Sound is approximately 300 feet.

The DuPont Plant and its fleet of trains supplied some of the largest construction projects in history including the Grand Coulee Dam, the Alaska Highway (Alcan Highway) and the Panama Canal. The plant helped meet the demands of World War I with a black powder facility and a nitrostarch factory. During World War II, the plant manufactured millions of pounds of explosives for forces in the Pacific. All of this product was transported by narrow-gauge trains down to ships at the DuPont wharf.

When the DuPont Company sold the plant and surrounding property in 1977 to Weyerhaeuser, the fleet of locomotives, flat bed and box cars were included with the sale. In the same year, the DuPont Historical Museum opened. Members began the task of retrieving artifacts and oral history to preserve DuPont's unique history. In the early 1980s, residents organized a grass roots effort to rescue a 1941 Plymouth 12-ton engine along with 5 other cars from Weyerhaeuser.

Restoration work advanced. A narrow gauge track spur was completed behind the DuPont Museum in May 2007. Then recently the Historic Train Canopy was built. Work continues on restoring the cars and engines, which historically operated on the narrow gauge track throughout the DuPont Powderworks.

Sources which authenticate resource (pictures, maps, archaeological digs, historic documents, etc.).

Extensive files at the DuPont Museum.

Best ways to manage resource (interpretive signs, preservation, rehabilitation, stabilization, restoration, or replication).

Continue restoration of cars and engines. Increase educational impact of historical resource: brochures for self-guided tours; on-site live engine start ups and demonstrations; interpretive signage; and transportation exhibits in the adjacent Museum.

Site accessibility to public and staffing requirements.

The DuPont Co. Train & Narrow Gauge Track is accessible to the public. No staffing is necessary.

Possible funding sources.

Grants from DuPont Company: Community Outreach; National Trust for Historic Preservation: Preservation Services Fund – Eldridge Campbell Stockton Memorial Preserves Fund; Nisqually Indian Tribe: Nisqually Indian Tribe Charitable Funds; Norcliffe Foundation; Pierce County Landmarks and Heritage Preservation Commission: Pierce County Historic Preservation Grant Program; Squaxin Island Tribe: One Percent Charity; Washington State Historical Society: Heritage Capital Projects Fund; and Washington Trust For Historic Preservation: Valerie Sivinski Washington Preserves Fund. Also funds could come from fundraisers, lodging tax, and in-kind/monetary donations from corporations and individuals.

Oversight agency, decision-makers, and support groups.

The DuPont Historical Society is the oversight agency for the DuPont Co. Train & Narrow Gauge Track. Decision-makers include the City of DuPont and DuPont Tourism Board. Fans of narrow gauge railroad history could form a support group.

Short and long term goals for each resource.

Short term goal:

- Continue restoration of cars and engines.

Long term goals:

- Create brochures for self-guided tours.
- Do on-site live engine start ups and demonstrations.
- Set up interpretive signage.
- Build transportation exhibits in the adjacent Museum.
- Expand track to 1843 Fort Nisqually site and proposed future historical park.

Compiled by Drew Crooks.



On special occasions the train and flatbed cars were used to transport employees and their families down to the “Bay” (Puget Sound).



Current photo of train and canopy (2012).

Possible Funding Sources

DuPont Company: Community Outreach.

Through financial contribution and the volunteer efforts of its employees. DuPont supports programs and organizations that address social progress, economic success and environmental excellence. Each year DuPont contributes to numerous efforts that meet the needs of various groups and global communities where the company operates. Areas of support include educational programs; culture & the arts; environmental initiatives; human & health organizations; and civic & community activities. The DuPont Contributions and Memberships Team is responsible for non education-related financial contributions. Most corporate grants involve programs in the DuPont headquarters community of Wilmington, Del., and other communities where the company has a major presence. The committee reviews requests in the spring and fall (usually May and September).

Contact: Corporate Contributions Office
DuPont
1007 Market Street
Wilmington, DE 19898

National Trust for Historic Preservation: Preservation Services Fund – Eldridge Campbell Stockton Memorial Preserves Fund.

The Preservation Services Fund provides nonprofit organizations and public agencies matching grants from \$500 to \$5,000 (typically from \$1,000 to \$1,500) for preservation planning and education efforts. Funds may be used to obtain professional expertise in areas such as architecture, archaeology, engineering, preservation planning, land-use planning, fund raising, organizational development and law, as well as preservation education activities to educate the public. The Eldridge Campbell Stockton Memorial Preservation Fund was established in 1993 specifically for projects in the State of Washington.

Contact: National Trust for Historic Preservation
Western Regional Office
5 Third Street, Suite 707
San Francisco, CA 94103
Telephone: (415) 947-0692
Email: wro@nthp.org

Nisqually Indian Tribe: Nisqually Indian Tribe Charitable Funds.

Every year the Nisqually Tribe awards money to local non-profits to help encourage and support the work these organizations are doing. If your organization would like to apply for these funds please go to our RELATED LINKS section (on Nisqually Indian Tribe website) and fill out and submit posted forms to the Tribe.

Contact: Nisqually Indian Tribe
4820 She-Nah-Num Dr. SE
Olympia, WA 98513
(360) 456-5221

Norcliffe Foundation.

The Norcliffe Foundation is a private nonprofit family foundation established in 1952 by Paul Pigott for the purpose of improving the quality of life of all people in the community by the application of financial and human resources. Grants are given to nonprofit organizations with tax exempt status under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Service. Areas of support include education, health, social services, civic improvement, religion, culture and the arts, the environment, historic preservation, and youth programs. No grants are given to individuals or to organizations to finance debts.

Contact: The Norcliffe Foundation
999 3rd Ave., Ste. 1006
Seattle, WA 98104-4001
Telephone: (206) 682-4820

Pierce County Landmarks and Historic Preservation Commission: Pierce County Historic Preservation Grant Program.

This program assists in funding preservation efforts in Pierce County. The program is funded by HDOC money, derived from the \$1 recording fee, as appropriated by the Pierce County Council. Grant requests for a maximum amount of \$5,000 can be made for historic preservation or history-related project proposals. Matching funds must be provided by the applicants. Nonprofit organizations, public agencies, and owners of property listed on local historic registers are eligible to apply.

Contact: Historic Preservation Program

Pierce County Planning and Land Services Department
Long Range Division
2401 South 35th Street, Room 228
Tacoma, WA 98409-7490
Telephone: (253) 798-3683
Email: cwillia@co.pierce.wa.us

Squaxin Island Tribe: One Percent Charity.

Applications are reviewed on a quarterly basis, after each deadline. A copy of IRS 501(c)(3) letter ruling or a completed Form W-9 need to be submitted as part of application packets. Amounts in excess of \$2500 are discouraged and will be subject to special review. Entries are eligible for funding only once per year.

Contact: Melissa Puhn, Executive Services
Squaxin Island Tribe
10 SE Squaxin Lane
Shelton, WA 98584
Telephone: (360) 426-9781

Washington State Department of Commerce: Building Communities Fund (BCF) Program.

The Building Communities Fund (BCF) Program was created by the Washington State Legislature to provide a means of identifying qualified community and social service capital projects, and providing capital support to nonprofit agencies and their partners to develop or improve these facilities. These investments will play a key role in improving the economic, social, and educational climate in distressed communities and other areas that serve low-income persons. This program awards state grants to nonprofit, community-based organizations to defray up to 25 percent or more of eligible capital costs to acquire, construct, or rehabilitate nonresidential community and social service centers. There is no minimum or maximum grant award amount.

Contact: Washington State Department of Commerce
1011 Plum Street SE
PO Box 42525
Olympia, WA 98504-2525
Telephone: (360) 725-4000

Washington State Historical Society: Heritage Capital Projects Fund.

The State of Washington has affirmed that Washington has a “rich heritage in historical sites and artifacts that have the potential to provide life-long learning opportunities for citizens of the state” and that “many of these historical treasures are not readily accessible to citizens, and that there is a need to create an ongoing program to support the capital needs of heritage organizations and facilities.” To meet this need, the Heritage Capital Projects Fund (HCPF) competitive grant program was authorized. The purpose of HCPF is to “support capital needs and facilities of heritage organizations, tribal governments, public development authorities, and local government agencies that interpret and preserve Washington’s history and heritage.” Projects need to have a minimum total budget of \$25,000; request a grant of not more than \$1,000,000; involve property that will be held a minimum of 13 years; and provide a \$2 match for each \$1 of HCPF grant funds.

Contact: Susan Rohrer
Director of Outreach Services & Heritage Capital Projects Fund
State Capital Museum
211 – 21st Avenue SW
Olympia, WA 98501
Telephone: (360) 586-0166

Washington Trust For Historic Preservation: Valerie Sivinski Washington Preserves Fund.

The Valerie Sivinski Washington Preserves Fund is an annual grant program that provides up to \$2,000 to organizations in Washington State. The goal of the fund is to provide small yet meaningful amounts of money to help promote historic preservation where it really happens – at the community level. General operating expenses and expenses incurred prior to the award date are not eligible for inclusion in a grant request. Grants to an individual organization will not be approved more often than once every two years. Funds will be awarded to applicants upon proof of work being accomplished via the “Grant Completion Report.” Awardees will receive a letter of award for their grant. Special conditions for early or one-half disbursement of grant funds will be considered upon request only. Grant applicants are required to become members of the Washington Trust for Historic Preservation, if they are not already members. In addition, grant recipients must remain members in good standing until the time of project completion.

Contact: Washington Trust for Historic Preservation
Stimson-Green Mansion
1204 Minor Avenue
Seattle, WA 98101
Telephone: (206)624-9449

Compiled by Drew Crooks.

DuPont Heritage Plan Template

Name, location and ownership of cultural, historical and archaeological resource.

Written description of each asset, including historical significance and current condition/status.

Sources which authenticate resource (pictures, maps, archaeological digs, historic documents, etc.).

Best ways to manage resource (interpretive signs, preservation, rehabilitation, stabilization, restoration, or replication).

Site accessibility to public and staffing requirements.

Possible funding sources.

Oversight agency, decision makers, and support groups.

Short and long term goals for the resource.