

Department of the Interior

National Park Service

Fort Vancouver National Historic Site

SCOPE OF COLLECTION STATEMENT

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I

INTRODUCTION

The mission of Fort Vancouver National Historic Site (FOVA) is to preserve for the inspiration, education and benefit of the public, the historic sites, structures and objects and the historic scene associated with Fort Vancouver and the Hudson's Bay Company (HBC), Vancouver Barracks and Pearson Field, and the McLoughlin House unit in Oregon City, Oregon. This Scope of Collection Statement serves to guide FOVA in the acquisition and preservation of museum objects that contribute directly to the understanding and interpretation of the park's interpretive themes and resources as well as those objects that the Service is legally mandated to preserve.

Fort Vancouver National Monument was authorized by an Act of Congress on June 19, 1948 (S2 Stat. 532), "to protect and maintain the site of the original Hudson's Bay stockade and sufficient surrounding land to preserve the historical features of the area for the benefit of the people." The Department of the Interior's report on the same legislation concurred, stating that the lands so dedicated should fulfill "two essential requirements - the preservation of the historic stockade . . . and the preservation of the historic parade ground of the later United States Army post." Thus, the purpose is to maintain the site of this primary center of early economic, cultural, and military development in the Pacific Northwest and to interpret the important part played in our nation's westward expansion by the fur trade and other activities carried on at the fort. To improve the conditions for achieving this goal, Congress passed the act of June 30, 1961 (75 Stat. 196), enlarging the boundaries of Fort Vancouver and redesignating the monument a national historic site.

In 1996, Congress authorized the Vancouver National Historic Reserve, a 366-acre are of adjacent historical properties. The management of the Reserve is a partnership between the National Park Service, the State of Washington, the City of Vancouver, and the U.S. Army. The National Park Service has been designated as the lead agency for intepretion and cultural resources management for all venues under the Reserve, including Fort Vancouver, Vancouver Barracks (including Officers' Row and the Parade Ground), Pearson Air Museum and Pearson Field, and the Columbia River waterfront.

In 2003, the McLoughlin House site was authorized as a part of Fort Vancouver National Historic Site. The unit includes two historic homes: the McLoughlin House, the retirement home of Dr. John McLoughlin and his family, and the Barclay House, the home of Dr. Forbes Barclay and his family. The museum collection associated with the McLoughlin House was donated to the park by the McLoughlin Memorial Association that same year.

FOVA is classified principally under "the Fur Trade", a sub-theme of the National Survey of Historic Sites and Buildings Theme XV, "Westward Expansion and the Extension of the National Boundaries to the Pacific, 1830-1898.

The Department of the Interior mandate to acquire and preserve museum property appears in the

following laws and regulations: Federal Property Management Regulations (41 CFR 101) (FPMR); Interior Property Management Regulations (410 Departmental Manual 114-60) (IPMR); DOI Interim Standards for Documentation, Preservation and Protection of Museum Property; Archaeological Resources Protection Act of 1979, (16 USC 470aa-mm) as amended; 43 CFR Part 7.13, "Custody of Archaeological Resources": an Act for the Preservation of American Antiquities, June 8, 1906 (16 USC 431-433); 36 CFR Part 79, "Curation of Federally-Owned and Administered Archeological Collections"; National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, (16 USC 470-470t, sec. 110) as amended; 36 CFR Part 1228, "Disposition of Federal Records"; Preservation, Arrangement Duplication, Exhibition of Records (44 USC 2109); Archaeological Salvage Act of 1960 (16 USC 469-469); Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act of 1990, (25 USC 3001-13); Disposal of Records (44 USC 3301 et seq). The museum collection exists to document and support the park's interpretive and resource management programs. The park collection supports the interpretive and resource management programs.

The Resource Management Plan of June 28, 1993 and the approved Statement for Management of Reorganization of 1992, list among the objectives of resource preservation: provide safe storage and proper curatorial care for the historic site's archaeological collection in order to preserve this critical resource, including providing similar storage and care for the original archaeological field notes, maps and typescript reports.

The park's approved Interpretive Prospectus of August, 1985, sets forth the significance of the site's resources. The primary resource which the Site possesses is the archaeological remains and the original ground on which the Hudson's Bay Company directed its western activities from 1829 until moving this function to Fort Victoria on the tip of Vancouver Island in 1849. Commercial activities at Fort Vancouver continued until the fort was abandoned by the Company on June 14, 1860. This original resource also includes some lands of the original U.S. Army Pacific Northwest Military Post established in 1849. Its national significance in illustrating an important segment of American history is recognized by reason of its inclusion in the National Park System.

As the headquarters of all Hudson's Bay Company activities west of the Rocky Mountains, as the "center of European civilization" in the Pacific Northwest, as the western terminus of the Oregon Trail, and finally as the location of the U.S. Army's Pacific Northwest headquarters, Fort Vancouver is the best site to illustrate and interpret such broad themes in American history as the fur trade, expansion of the national boundaries to the Pacific, the western military frontier, and agricultural and industrial developments in the northwest corner of the country. The site was for more than 20 years the home and headquarters of Chief Factor John McLoughlin, the "father of Oregon" who was nationally significant in the history of the United States. The site, still surrounded by an appreciable amount of open land as it was in historic times and still reasonably open to the Columbia River, possesses historical integrity.

The entire park is in essence, an archaeological site. Approximately 30% of the fort proper and 10% of the village have been archaeologically excavated. The unexcavated portions form an extremely significant resource since they have the potential to yield a tremendous amount of information concerning activities of the Company and the daily lives of the people who lived here. The artifacts recovered in the excavation, and the associated field records, form another important

resource.

The approved park Interpretive Prospectus sets forth the park's interpretive objective, which is:

To interpret, as the primary historical theme, the story of the fur trade and the important role played by the Hudson's Bay Company in the exploration, settlement, and development of the Pacific Northwest.

Among the park's goals and objectives that will be supported and implemented by the acquisition and maintenance of a museum collection:

- a. research and subsequent knowledge of the cultural activities of the HBC and U.S. military at FOVA and in the Pacific Northwest that will be derived from the objects in the park's archaeological study collection.
- b. the acquisition of appropriate furnishings for the reconstructed and historic buildings as recommended in the approved furnishings reports.
- c. use of objects in archaeological study collection (such as building hardware) as prototypes for reproducing hardware for reconstructed buildings.
- d. use of objects in archaeological study collection (such as axe heads, trap parts etc.) for the reproduction of objects to be used in interpretive programs, cultural demonstrations and special events.
- e. use of objects in archaeological study collection for comparative analysis to place historical objects (such as furnishings) in a contextual setting.

Future studies, surveys and plans when completed, will provide an improved information base from which this Scope of Collection statement can be revised. The reconstruction of future buildings will require furnishings studies and reports and the acquisition of the furnishings for these buildings.

Archaeological materials recovered within the park's boundaries are NPS property and must be accessioned/catalogued into the museum collection in accordance with 43 CFR Part 7 and the NPS Management Policies (Dec 88). In addition, objects recovered within the boundaries of the Vancouver National Historic Reserve will be owned and curated by the National Park Service, as laid out in the Memorandum of Understanding between the NPS and the other Historic Reserve partners.

II

TYPES OF COLLECTIONS

The interpretive themes and resource goals and objectives stated in the introduction section of this statement will serve as guidelines for acquiring objects for the park's museum collection.

The following guidelines are designed to prevent arbitrary, indiscriminate and excessive growth of the park's museum collection and to ensure that the collection remains relevant to the purposes of the park. The development of the museum collection should proceed in close coordination with the park's Superintendent, resource management and interpretive staff and with the Regional Curator, Regional Archaeologists, Regional Chief of Interpretation and other appropriate regional office resource management specialists.

Cultural Collection

The purpose of this collection of objects is to increase knowledge among present and future generations through exhibits, research and interpretive programs. The cultural collection at FOVA is divided into two disciplines: archaeology and history. The following list identifies, by discipline, object types appropriate to the park's museum collection and, as needed, notes the current representation in the collection.

Extent of the Current Museum Collections

The quality and scope of the park's catalogued museum collections relating to the HBC occupation 1825-1860 and the US Army occupation of Vancouver Barracks 1849-1945, varies from complete and near complete ceramic, glass, organic, and metal objects in the park's archaeological study collection to sherds and fragments in the less diagnostic, lot cataloged collection.

The approximately 5,000 objects which constitute the furnishings in the buildings consist of period objects such as furniture, ceramics, glass, metal and textiles, ca. 1800-1850 and accurate reproductions of HBC period objects.

The park's museum collection has approximately 25 historic objects which have direct HBC/Fort Vancouver association, several hundred with direct association to Vancouver Barracks, and approximately 50 with a direct tie to John McLoughlin and his home in Oregon City. These objects have been acquired through purchase or donation over the past 30 years. These objects are on exhibit and in storage. The park's museum collection also contains approximately 260 objects which have been acquired by donation. Most of these objects are not site specific or relevant and were acquired before the park had a Scope of Collections Statement. Most of these 260 objects are excess to the park's museum collection needs. The objects should be surveyed, deaccessioned and transferred to other institutions. This would be the most appropriate disposition since the historic material is of local or regional significance.

Two assemblages of historic objects were accessioned in 2005 but are not yet fully cataloged. These include the “Historic Reserve Trust” collection and the “Pollard Military” collection. Together they are estimated to include 1500 items relating to the Historic Reserve in varying degrees.

The park's estimated two million objects are stored in the collections storage facility in the Fur Store. The park's archaeological collection has been organized to make it more accessible to non-museum staff and researchers. A research guide assists researchers who will be using the collection. Additionally, the diagnostic collection is in the process of being digitized with the eventual goal of making catalog records and images accessible online.

Artifacts and Specimens

Archaeological resources at FOVA occur in two distinct categories: buried or in situ remains/features and recovered ex situ site-specific archaeological material. In situ remains/features include those areas at the fort site and elsewhere in the park which still retain their original provenience, and as such require primarily protection and preservation management. Recovered ex situ remains consist of approximately 188,000 catalogued archaeological artifacts in the park's diagnostic/study collection, plus non-diagnostic, lot catalogued artifacts stored in 452 boxes in the collections storage facility in the Fur Store. After a 1996 museum management conference it was decided that artifacts which do not require as stable an environment (e.g. brick, coal, etc.) could be stored in cans in the Chief Factor's House loft. There are currently approximately 150 cans of non-diagnostic, lot cataloged artifacts stored in the CFH loft.

Specifically, the archaeological collection consists of site-specific field collected archaeological material recovered by NPS and other archaeologists from several different archaeological investigations during the years 1947-2009.

The park has in its museum collection approximately 2,000,000 field collected objects recovered from the fort site and the Kanaka Village area during the archaeological excavations.

Associated Field Records

All records associated with park's archaeological collections must be retained as part of the museum collection. These records include field notes, daily journals; drawings and maps; photographs and negatives; slides and raw data sheets. [All documentation associated with museum property (e.g., accession and catalog records, and field notes) are an inherent part of museum property and shall be listed on the Federal Records Schedule as being retained by the bureau, and certified to the Archivist of the United States that they are needed for current business in accordance with 44 USC 3301.] In 1998-1999 all the archaeological records from accession 135, the Hoffman and Ross 1970-1974 excavations, were cataloged at WACC. In 2007-2009, the remainder of archaeological archival records were cataloged under National Park Service project funding.

Archives and Manuscripts

In 1994, the park received the personal papers of the late Dr. John A. Hussey relating to the history of Fort Vancouver and the HBC in the Pacific Northwest. Dr. Hussey was an NPS historian who did extensive historical research on Fort Vancouver (1825-1860) to support the reconstruction efforts in the 1970's. His papers on Fort Vancouver and the HBC include five distinct groups: 1) bound reports and manuscripts; 2) maps and construction drawings; 3) a group of file folders containing drafts of manuscripts and research material; 4) 6 index card boxes of original research notes; and 5) photos and negatives. During June and July 1995, this archives collection was assessed, organized, and catalogued by Kelly Cannon, consulting archivist/historian. The Hussey papers were microfiched at the Federal Records Centre in Seattle. The Hussey archives and manuscripts collection is an invaluable park resource which will be used by HBC historians and researchers. This collection should remain at FOVA NHS.

The archives and manuscripts collections also contain black and white and color photographs and slides and negatives documenting various park activities since the establishment of the park. Among the categories and photos are shots of interpretive activities, special and commemorative events, important visitors to the park, the park's physical environment including shots of buildings and grounds and shots of employees engaged in general park activities.

Surface/Field Collections

Park staff, VIPs and visitors should be discouraged from picking up surface archaeological material. Certain types of museum property must be retained in the unit's museum property collection as required by legislative mandate (i.e. archaeological collection systematically recovered from Federal lands) in accordance with the Archaeological Resources Protection Act of 1979 as amended, and 36 CFR part 79 "curation of Federally owned and administered archaeological collections."]

Historic Collections

The history collection at FOVA includes objects and archival materials that represent the interpretive period of the park (1825-1867), the Historic Reserve (1825-1945), and the interpretive themes outlined in the introduction section of this statement. Thus, within the limits established by the park's interpretive themes, FOVA shall acquire, preserve and manage the following categories of historic objects:

The Hudson's Bay Company

The park shall strive to acquire and maintain a well documented collection of cultural material

directly related to the Hudson's Bay Company's local and regional activities as follows:

A. Original historic objects such as books, letters and other documentary materials, clothing, furniture, silver and other metal objects, ceramics, glass, personal objects and accessories used at Fort Vancouver by employees from 1825-60. This category is represented by the several hundred historic objects presently in the park's museum collection. This category includes the identified original McLoughlin objects in the park's museum collection. Acquisition of additional objects in this category will be accomplished contingent upon the availability of funds and condition of the individual historic object. The park should not collect historic objects whose condition has deteriorated to the point that conservation/restoration is not feasible, or where extensive original fabric will be altered or destroyed, or where the cost of conservation/restoration is prohibitive.

B. Original or copies of documentary materials, illustrations, drawings, prints, paintings, photographs, slides and maps relating to cultural activities at Fort Vancouver from 1825-60. This category is represented by a few original 19th century prints and drawings, copies of original 1860 photographs of the interior and exterior of Fort Vancouver taken by the Royal Engineers, and copies of historic 19th century maps of Fort Vancouver and its environs (ca. 1840-60). This category may be expanded, for example, by the acquisition of copies of such archival materials as the indents for supplies for Fort Vancouver and the Columbia District, (1825-60) and copies of inventories of "articles in use" for buildings at Fort Vancouver (1829-60) from the HBC archives in Winnipeg, Manitoba.

C. Selected cultural material such as ceramics, furniture, glass, metal objects, personal objects and accessories that can be ascribed to the activities of the HBC in the Pacific Northwest for the period 1825-60. Some of these categories may be somewhat duplicative of categories in section A. The objects to be acquired should be documented as having HBC provenience. The park should not collect objects whose condition has deteriorated to the point that conservation/restoration is not feasible, or where extensive original fabric will be altered or destroyed. Most of the acquisitions in this category will undoubtedly come from private individuals and collections, since a number of museums (such as the Oregon Historical Society, the Washington State Historical Society, Fort Nisqually/Point Defiance Park) have documented HBC objects in their collections.

D. Contemporary documents, illustrations, paintings, maps and photographs relating to the activities of the HBC in the Pacific NW from 1824-60. This category may be expanded by the collection, for example, of copies of furnishings plans of buildings at Fort Langley NHP in British Columbia, an HBC related site, or copies of archaeological reports from excavations at the original site of Fort Nisqually, an HBC site on Puget Sound from 1833-69.

E. Period objects and reproductions of HBC period objects 1825-45, which are specifically required as furnishings for the reconstructed buildings in accordance with the approved furnishings reports.

F. Complete English and Chinese period cultural objects (such as glass and ceramics) which are documented archaeologically or historically to have been found or used at Fort Vancouver, 1825-

60. Such objects to be collected might include Chinese ceramics such as tea bowls and saucers, plates, jars, and platters. These objects may date from 1790-1825 as is documented by sherds found archaeologically. Such ceramics would have been owned by upper class employees at Fort Vancouver and would have been personally imported by the employees and not the HBC. These objects are to be used by the park for comparative analysis purposes in conjunction with the park's archaeological study collection and furnishings objects. If collected, these objects should be in "mint" to excellent condition.

The U.S. Army Period

The park shall strive to have a representative collection of original objects associated with the U.S. Army's early regional activities at Vancouver Barracks and Pearson Field as follows:

A. Original objects used by officers and enlisted men at Vancouver Barracks during the U.S. Army's occupation in the Pacific NW from 1849-1945.

B. Original documents, illustrations, photographs, paintings, maps and memorabilia relating to the period of the U.S. Army in the Pacific NW (1849-1945) and to the everyday military life at Vancouver Barracks.

The McLoughlin House Unit

A. The park shall strive to collect original objects associated with Dr. John McLoughlin, his wife Margeurite, and their children during the period 1846-1867; and objects associated with Dr. Forbes Barclay, his wife Maria, and their children during the period 1849-1873. Of a second priority are original objects not historically related to the inhabitants of the house, but that fill interpretive needs such as furnishing the house or supporting a formal and long-term exhibit. A deaccessioning strategy for inappropriate items currently in the collection will be formulated after the unit's Museum Management Plan and Historic Furnishings Plan are completed.

Natural History

Collecting and maintaining a natural history collection is not critical to the resource management and interpretive program of the park, except where limited specimens are to be used as furnishings for the reconstructed buildings in accordance with approved furnishings reports. At this time, the park does not intend to develop such a separate collection.

Collections from Other Sites

There are three archaeological collections that have been recovered from HBC sites in the Pacific

Northwest curated at FOVA, including material from Belle Vue Sheep Farm on San Juan Island, Fort Nez Perces at Whitman Mission, and Fort Colville from Lake Roosevelt. The addition of this material to the park's archaeological study collection expands the scope of the collection and provides additional archaeological material from other fur trade sites for comparative analysis purposes.

In addition, FOVA should add, if possible, an archaeological collection representing an American Indian village at the time of contact. This would enable the park to study and interpret the trading partners so essential to the success of the Euro-American fur trade, and more holistically represent the complexities of the Pacific Northwest fur trade.

Furnishings of Reconstructed Buildings

Each of the reconstructed, furnished buildings at FOVA should have an approved Historic Furnishings Plan (HFR) in accordance with NPS-28 to carry out the furnishing of such buildings. Such a document will specify the type of furnishings to be used in each building. A furnishings report, if followed, will prevent indiscriminate or capricious change of the furnishings in the buildings. The furnishings report will, in essence, provide historic continuity and provide for accurate and credible interpretation of the historic resources at Fort Vancouver. Presently, the Chief Factor's House, Kitchen, Indian Trade Shop, Dispensary, Blacksmith Shop, Baling Room, and Fur Store have approved furnishings reports. Furnishings studies for the Bakehouse and Bastion have been prepared. Ideally, formal furnishings reports should be prepared for these two buildings, as well as the Carpenter Shop and Counting House, to document what should be acquired and placed in them.

Since 1976, the park, under the direction of the Curator, has furnished the reconstructed Chief Factor's House, Kitchen, and Indian Trade Shop/Dispensary, with museum items. These three buildings have been furnished with period objects and reproductions as called for in the furnishings reports. The period objects include glassware, ceramics, furniture, textiles and metal (brass, iron and silver) books, medical and apothecary objects and blacksmithing tools. Approximately 4,000 period and reproduction objects are in the three buildings.

All original materials of a library nature that are not used as catalogued furnishings in a reconstructed historic building should be held in the library. All original materials of a library nature or "rare books" that are of museum quality, should be physically separated in the library (i.e. into a "rare book" section) and catalogued into the park's museum collection. Books and other published or unpublished materials used as furnishings in the reconstructed buildings should be accessioned and catalogued into the museum collection.

III

ACQUISITION

The park may acquire/collect objects for its museum collections by gift, purchase, exchange, transfer, field collection, and loan. Acquisition of museum objects must be governed by the park's ability to manage them according to the acquisition and preservation policies outlined in Chapter 5 of the NPS Management Policies (Dec 88), the standards for managing museum collections in Chapter 3 of NPS 28, -- A Managers Guide, and Special Directive 80-1. In accordance with NPS policy the park will discourage gifts with limiting conditions. Museum objects must be acquired, accessioned, and catalogued in accordance with the NPS Museum Handbook, Part II, Museum Records (Revised 1984).

The Superintendent, by delegation, represents the Secretary of the Interior in accepting title to and responsibility for museum objects. The Superintendent bears the ultimate responsibility for the acquisition and proper care and management of the museum collections. The Superintendent has delegated the acquisition of objects for the museum collection and the day-to-day care of the museum collection to the Curator.

All permanent acquisitions, upon the advice and recommendation of the Curator, must receive formal approval from the Superintendent before they can be accepted and accessioned into the museum collection. Upon receipt, all newly acquired objects with relevant documentation must be turned over to the Curator. The Curator prepares for the Superintendent's signature all instruments of conveyance, letters of thanks, acceptance, or rejection, and transmits these, as appropriate to the donor, lender, vendor or other source of acquisition.

IV

USES OF THE COLLECTION

The park's museum collections may be used for exhibits, interpretive programs, research and other interpretive media (e.g. publications based on museum objects). The governing consideration in the use of museum objects is the conservation and preservation of each object in question, and the collection as a whole. Researchers and other specialists may examine and study objects and archival materials under the conditions and procedures outlined in the Cultural Resources Management Guideline (NPS-28). Any interpretive or other use that may be defined as consumptive must be authorized in advance, as outline in the Interpretation and Visitor Services Guideline (NPS-6).

The conservation and preservation of the park's museum collection is the primary and critical consideration in determining all uses of the objects in the collection.

Access to the park's museum collection will be determined by the Curator upon consultation with the Superintendent. Generally, park staff and volunteers will not have unrestricted access to the museum collection, including the collection in storage and the areas behind the barriers in the reconstructed buildings, without a specific reason and without prior approval or clearance of the Curator. (see 1995 FOVA Museum Collections and Archives Access Policies and Procedures.)

COLLECTION RESTRICTIONS

1. Human skeletal remains will not be collected or displayed.
2. Access to the museum collection by researchers must be approved by the Curator. Any researcher with approved access to the museum collection must be at all times accompanied by a member of the park curatorial staff. (see 1995 FOVA Museum Collections and Archives Access Policies and Procedures.)
3. The cleaning and preservation/conservation of the park's museum objects, particularly the furnishings in the reconstructed buildings, is primarily the responsibility of the Curator who is the designated collections person at the park. No one else is permitted to handle the museum objects without the permission of the Curator.
4. The 910,000 artifacts in the park's study collection and in the lot cataloged collection are site specific, irreplaceable resources for the park. The knowledge and information gained from analysis of this material will benefit the interpretation of the park's themes, increase the collective understanding of history in the Pacific Northwest, and add to material culture studies of various types. For this reason, all of this archaeological material should remain at the park. It should not be transferred to any other repository.
5. The identified original McLoughlin objects in the park's museum collection should not be deaccessioned. They are of primary importance to the site.
6. The park will not collect natural history specimens for a separate natural history collection, with the exception of herbarium samples. The only exception to this policy will be the collecting of fauna specimens (birds that were indigenous to the Pacific Northwest in the 1840's) that were historically documented as being collected at Fort Vancouver. These specimens may be used as furnishings in reconstructed buildings in accordance with approved furnishings reports.
7. The park has done a summary in accordance with (NAGPRA) 25 USC 3001-13 and it does not have any associated funerary objects, sacred objects, or objects of cultural patrimony in its museum collection. Aquisition of such objects by the park is not anticipated.

VI

MANAGEMENT ACTIONS

The Scope of Collections Statement must be reviewed annually, and when necessary, revised to remain supportive of and consistent with any changes in the park's mission. Any revision of this document requires the approval of the Superintendent.

A Collections Management Plan was drafted and approved in 1990. Recommendations in this plan have been implemented.

Continued cataloging funds need to be programmed to process a backlog of archaeological artifacts stored at the park.

A Museum Management Plan for the park was drafted and approved in 1998. This document should be updated to reflect the park's new responsibilities with the Historic Reserve, the McLoughlin House unit, Pearson Air Museum, and most importantly the Northwest Cultural Resources Institute.

A Collections Condition Survey for the park's museum collections was done in 1998.

A Housekeeping Plan for the park's historic furnished spaces, collection storage, and exhibit areas has been written.

An Integrated Pest Management Plan addressing pest management concerns and issues related to historic furnished spaces, collection storage, and exhibit areas has been written.