

On July 5, 1841, Captain Charles Wilkes marched his crew from the shoreline to the mission to celebrate the Fourth of July (a day late because the holiday fell on the Sabbath that year) for the first time in the Pacific Northwest. In addition to about 160 marines, naval officers, missionaries, and men from the Hudson's Bay Company's trading post, approximately 400 representatives of the Nisqually and neighboring tribes attended the event. Soldiers barbecued a large ox, fired multiple cannon and musket



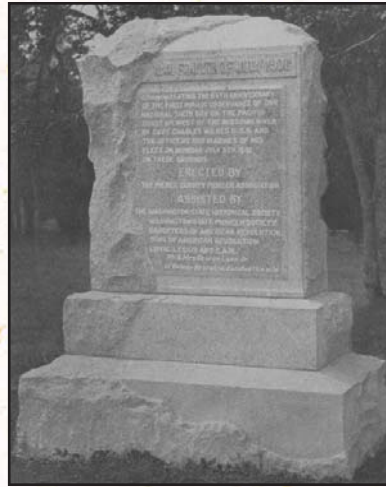
Captain Charles Wilkes.

salutes, ran horse races across the prairie, and sang patriotic songs before breaking into speeches about their great nation. The occasion marked the U.S. government's clear intention of securing Oregon country, at least as far north as the 49th parallel. Heading southwest from Steilacoom, between the lakes, to a network of roads farther south, the road was not of particular importance during the celebration; however, it appears on subsequent maps documenting the event.



Locating site for monument on grounds where Captain Wilkes held celebration July 5, 1841.

In 1906, the Pierce County Pioneer Association, assisted by the Washington State Historical Society and other organizations, celebrated the 65th anniversary of the event. With the aid of the only surviving witness, a Muckleshoot elder named Slugumus Koquilton, a stone monument was placed on the historic grounds of the 1841 celebration. Still standing today, the marker is listed on the Washington Heritage Register.



Stone monument commemorating 1841 celebration.

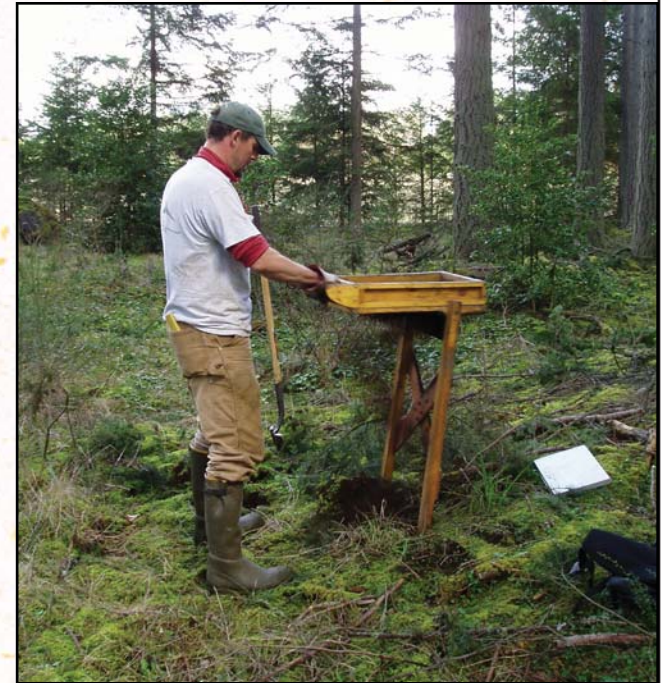


The Fort Lewis Cultural Resources Program identifies historic and archaeological resources and works with other programs and divisions to ensure their protection. In fulfillment of the requirements of Sections 106 and 110 of the National Historic Preservation Act, cultural resource investigations are conducted systematically throughout all Fort Lewis property, prior to new development projects. The information contained in this brochure is based on historic and archaeological investigations conducted in Fiscal Year 2007 in anticipation of increased military training and expanded developments on the base. Additional details related to other sites investigated in 2007 can be found within the brochure entitled: *Archaeological Site Verification on Prehistoric and Historic Sites Located on Fort Lewis, Washington*.

Reference:

Dampf, Steven, Gretchen Kaehler, Jennifer Gilpin, and Erin Thompson
2008 *Archaeological Inventory Survey at Fort Lewis, Washington*. Prepared for ENSR, Redmond, Washington. On file at Historical Research Associates, Inc., Seattle.

Protecting the Past as We Prepare For the Future: Crossroads of Time



Sifting soil for archaeological materials.

In November 2007, archaeologists conducted a cultural resources inventory at several parcels likely to be impacted by upcoming timber management and Military Construction Army projects on Fort Lewis. The Fort Lewis Cultural Resources Office selected the parcels based on the locations of planned ground-disturbing activities, as well as on the results of a model designed to predict where archaeological sites may be present. The goals of the study were to determine whether cultural resources are present, make recommendations about their eligibility for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP), and make management recommendations to protect the cultural resources from the upcoming Army projects.

Archaeological research begins with an understanding of the environment and history of the area. Research at Fort Lewis involved examining historic maps and documents—General Land Office (GLO) maps, historic city and county atlases, early military training and maneuver maps, published histories, previous historic and archaeological survey reports, and a variety of



1871 GLO map showing historic road.

unpublished manuscripts. Early accounts discussing the Native American history of the region provide valuable information on cultural history prior to the Euro-American period (1770-1917). GLO maps and Camp Lewis-era (1917) training and maneuver maps show the distribution of homesteads prior to military occupation, and various atlases and historic maps mark the history of transportation development. These maps, when reviewed within the broader context of regional histories, help archaeologists discern where historic archaeological sites may exist. An understanding of prehistoric land use, based on decades of regional archaeological investigations, indicates where Native American sites may be found.

In addition to background research, field investigations must be undertaken to confirm the location of archaeological sites. Field investigations typically

include surface and subsurface archaeological sampling. Surface studies involve systematic examination of the ground surface for evidence of cultural activities. Subsurface investigations typically rely on tests called “shovel probes,” in which soil is excavated and sifted for archaeological materials. Sampling techniques selected for each investigation depend on the probability and character of resources believed to be present. Areas with a high probability of containing archaeological sites are sampled more intensively than those in which sites are unlikely to be found. In some cases, use of shovel probes is not an effective subsurface technique. For example, geophysical augers and/or backhoe trenches may be much more effective in an area known to have several feet of modern fill or flood deposits, since these subsurface tests can be extended further below the surface.

Puget Sound to the Cascade Foothills: Travel Route through North Fort Lewis

The small piece of land separating Sequalitchew Lake and American Lake in North Fort Lewis has served as a travel route since well before Euro-American settlers arrived. Native Americans traveled along an extensive network of trails stretching from the Puget Sound shoreline to the Cascade foothills. While many GLO maps of the Puget Sound area do not show these trails, they do depict early wagon roads, which were often built over previously established Native American trails. The 1871 GLO map for the North Fort Lewis area shows a wagon road heading southwest from Steilacoom, between the lakes, to a network of roads farther south (likely to Roy and the Cascade foothills).

Recently, archaeologists made a notable discovery at one of the parcels (Zone 150) situated between Sequalitchew and American lakes. This discovery—one



Chert flake found at Fort Lewis.

chert flake associated with producing or resharpening a stone tool—indicates that Native Americans used this area. The flake was collected from a shovel probe at the top of a small slope in an undeveloped area. No additional materials were identified in subsequent probes, which may indicate that the item was the result of resharpening a stone tool while hunting, gathering, or fishing nearby.

First Fourth of July Celebration on Puget Sound

A second notable discovery was a road grade running along the edge of a small gulley in the eastern portion of the parcel. This feature roughly corresponds to a road depicted on the 1871 GLO map and mentioned in earlier documentation of the first recorded Fourth of July celebration west of the Mississippi, a notable historic event. In 1840, Dr. John P. Richmond established an American-led Methodist mission near Fort Nisqually.



Road grade identified during survey.