

## Award Winning Rehabilitation

Fort Lewis rehabilitated the Hostess House in 1996 to ensure that this distinctive landmark from the founding days of Camp Lewis will continue to serve Soldiers and their families for generations to come. The building now houses the Family Resource Center, providing essential social services to Soldiers and their families. The project was awarded the Washington State Historic Preservation Officer's 1997 Annual Award for Outstanding Achievement in Historic Rehabilitation.



*Convalescent Soldiers at the American Red Cross Hostess House during World War I.*

## FURTHER READING

Archambault, Alan H.

2002 *Images of America: Fort Lewis*. Arcadia Publishing, Chicago.



*The American Red Cross Hostess House on Camp Lewis was very popular with the troops. The building still stands on Fort Lewis and is now used as a Family Resource Center (Archambault 2002:28). The building is a contributing property within the Fort Lewis Garrison Historic District.*

### The Fort Lewis Cultural Resources Program

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## The Red Cross Hostess House

## SUSTAINABLE FORT LEWIS

## *Preserving the Past for a Sustainable Future*



*THEN... The American Red Cross constructed this Hostess House at Camp Lewis in 1918 to serve convalescent Soldiers returning from World War I.*



*AND NOW... Fort Lewis continues to use this historic building to serve Soldiers. The building now houses the Family Resource Center, providing essential social services to Soldiers and their families.*

## Army Strategy for the Environment:

Sustain the Mission – Secure the Future

The Army announced a new Strategy for the Environment in October 2004. “Sustainability” is the foundation of this Strategy and has been described as “the application of the Golden Rule from generation to generation.” Sustainability teaches us that the Army mission, the environment, and our local communities are interrelated; and that our activities and choices today will affect generations to come.



*The triple bottom line of Army sustainability: mission, environment, and community.*

## HISTORIC PRESERVATION AND SUSTAINABILITY

Historic preservation plays a key role in the Army's strategy for sustainability. The continued use and rehabilitation of historic buildings capitalizes on the tremendous investments of energy, labor, and high quality materials made by previous generations, and passes this precious legacy on to future generations. Further, historic buildings often incorporate features now recognized as desirable elements of sustainable design such as natural daylighting and passive ventilation.

## THE AMERICAN RED CROSS HOSTESS HOUSE

In 1918 the American Red Cross constructed a Hostess House at Camp Lewis for convalescent Soldiers returning from World War I.



**American Red Cross**

The Hostess House provided social activities and recreation services for those recuperating from the war. Patients could use a small lounge, library, and auditorium. Upstairs rooms were available for relatives of the wounded. Today it is one of the few WWI-era buildings from the Camp Lewis period.



*Convalescent Soldiers attend a church service at the American Red Cross Hostess House during World War I.*

The two-story, Greek Revival-style wood framed and lap sided building has a temple front and a gabled portico. The principal facade has a low pitch pedimented portico with six Doric columns and entablature with triglyphs. Rectangular in plan with a wing on either side, the building has a form of a cross with a cross gable roof. The wood shutters on the second floor have prominent

carved crosses. A red cross consisting of four square tiles is featured above the fireplace mantle on the exposed cobblestone chimney that extends through the east end of the west wing. The main entry has three sets of double-leaf glazed wood doors with seven-light transoms and fanlights.



*A group of staff members, volunteers, visitors, and soldiers pose in front of the Red Cross Hostess House in 1918 (Archambault 2002:29).*

NEW LIFE AS THE FORT LEWIS FAMILY RESOURCE CENTER  
After years of neglect, the Hostess House was nearly demolished in the early 1990s. In the end, the building was recognized as a valuable legacy from an earlier generation, and given a new life as a Family Resource Center. The restored building once again serves as a place of refuge, support and healing for the Fort Lewis community.

