

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

### 1. Name of Property

Historic name Fort Lawton  
Other names/site number Fort Lawton Historic District

### 2. Location

street & number Roughly bounded by California Ave on the east, Washington Ave on the south, Kansas and Georgia Aves on the west, and including Montana Circle on the north. (See attached map.) not for publication  
city or town Seattle vicinity  
State Washington code WA county King code 033 zip code 98199

### 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this  nomination  request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant  nationally  statewide  locally. (  See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria. (  See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

### 4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register.  
 See continuation sheet
- determined eligible for the National Register.  
 See continuation sheet
- determined not eligible for the National Register.
- removed from the National Register.
- other (explain:) \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**5. Classification**

**Ownership of Property**  
(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

**Category of Property**  
(Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

**Number of Resources within Property**  
(Do not incl. previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Non-Contributing	
28	1	buildings
1	1	sites
	1	structures
		objects
29	3	Total

**Name of related multiple property listing:**  
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

**Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register**

N/A

**6. Functions or Use**

**Historic Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

DEFENSE / military facility

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**Current Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC / multiple dwelling

LANDSCAPE / park

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**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

LATE 19TH AND EARLY 20TH CENTURY  
REVIVALS / Colonial Revival

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**Materials**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation sandstone, brick

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walls wood, brick

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roof synthetic

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other

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**Narrative Description**

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property.)

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET

**8. Statement of Significance**

**Applicable National Register Criteria**

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

**Criteria Considerations**

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** removed from its original location.
- C** a birthplace or grave.
- D** a cemetery.
- E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F** a commemorative property.
- G** less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years.

**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

MILITARY

**Period of Significance**

1899-1945

**Significant Dates**

1899

**Significant Person**

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

**Cultural Affiliation**

**Architect/Builder**

U.S. Army Quartermaster Corps

Nichols & Crothers, builder

**Narrative Statement of Significance**

(Explain the significance of the property.) SEE CONTINUATION SHEET

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

**Bibliography**

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.) SEE CONTINUATION SHEET

**Previous documentation on file (NPS):**

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- # \_\_\_\_\_ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record# \_\_\_\_\_

**Primary location of additional data:**

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

**Name of repository:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

## 10. Geographical Data

**Acreeage of Property**      59.3 acres

### UTM References

(Place additional UTM References on a continuation sheet.)

1	10	543925	5278721		10	544277	5278087
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
2	10	543998	5278721		10	544226	5277938
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
3	10	544239	5278497		10	543870	5278272
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing

### Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property.)      See continuation sheet.

### Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected.)      See continuation sheet.

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title      Susan Boyle & Sonja Sokol Fürész

organization      BOLA Architecture + Planning      date      August 13, 2007

street & number      320 Terry Avenue North      telephone      (206) 447-4749

city or town      Seattle      state      WA      zip code      98109

### Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

#### Continuation Sheets

#### Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

#### Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

#### Additional items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items.)

### Property Owner (Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name      \_\_\_\_\_

street & number      \_\_\_\_\_      telephone      \_\_\_\_\_

city or town      \_\_\_\_\_      state      \_\_\_\_\_      zip code      \_\_\_\_\_

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## Narrative Description

The Fort Lawton Historic District consists of approximately 59.3 acres, a portion of the original fort. It comprises historic buildings and open spaces, including the original parade ground. This kidney-bean-shaped open space of approximately 982,000 square feet (22.6 acres) is located in the center of the Historic District. The grade within the parade ground slopes an estimated 60' from the elevation of Washington Avenue and the plateau on which Officers' Row is located, down to Oregon Avenue on the west side of the Parade Ground. The District includes other areas defined by road systems: Montana Circle, the Chapel Grove area, and the service areas west and northwest of the parade ground.

Additional significant site features include the circulation system of historic streets, including portions of the road beds with brick gutters, paved perimeter walks, walkways and steps, linear rows and groves of mature trees, and other landscaping. The historic site is free of fences and contains numerous open vistas. Service utilities are largely unseen, with power poles limited to the roadway near the eastern edge, behind the Officers' Row area. A single historic light standard remains in front of Building 676 on Officers' Row, a remnant of others on the site.

Historically significant trees in the District include rows of American Sycamores and Lombardy Poplars, groves and specimen examples of Deodara Cedar, Ponderosa Pines, Giant Sequoia and other conifers, large Big Leaf Maples, Slippery Elm, Red Maples, and others. Photos from the 1930s show these trees, and they are also cited in a 1974 Tree Legend drawn onto a 1962 plot plan.

A table of resources within the District is included on the next page.

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## TABLE OF RESOURCES

<u>ID no.</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Date of construction</u>	<u>Contributing/Non-contributing</u>	
640	Double Officers' Quarters	1904	C	(building)
642	Double Officers' Quarters	1904	C	(building)
644	Double Officers' Quarters	1904	C	(building)
670	Single Officers' Quarters	1904	C	(building)
672	Double Officers' Quarters	1899	C	(building)
676	Double Officers' Quarters	1899	C	(building)
678	Double Officers' Quarters	1899	C	(building)
641	Officers' Garage	ca. 1935	C	(building)
645	Officers' Garage	ca. 1935	C	(building)
671	Officers' Garage	ca. 1935	C	(building)
673	Officers' Garage	ca. 1935	C	(building)
677	Officers' Garage	ca. 1935	C	(building)
901	Double NCO Quarters	ca. 1935	C	(building)
902	Double NCO Quarters	ca. 1935	C	(building)
903	Double NCO Quarters	1904	C	(building)
905	Double NCO Quarters	1899	C	(building)
906	Hospital Steward's Quarters	1902, moved	C	(building)
907	Double NCO Quarters	1899	C	(building)
909	Double NCO Quarters	1904	C	(building)
PG	Parade Ground	1899	C	(site)
417	Administration Building	1902	C	(building)
733	Post Exchange and Gymnasium	1905	C	(building)
734	Band Barracks	1904	C	(building)
755	Civilian Employee Housing	1908	C	(building)
759	Guard House	1902	C	(building)
761	Bus Shelter	ca. 1941	C	(building)
916	Quartermaster Stables	1908	C	(building)
917	Quartermaster Stables	1902	C	(building)
632	Post Chapel	1942	C	(building)
635	Freedom Grove	1951	NC	(site)
654	Radar Accessory Building	ca. 1960	NC	(building)
655	Radar Antenna	ca. 1960	NC	(structure)

**TOTAL:** 28 contributing buildings / 1 contributing site

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1 non-contributing building / 1 non-contributing site / 1 non-contributing structure

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### Officers' Row

Officers' Row is an arrangement of seven houses located along Washington Avenue, a curved street at the top of the bluff east of and overlooking the parade ground. The siting of officers' quarters above the parade ground was typical of military installations of the period, representative of the hierarchy and command structure of the institution. Located at the highest elevation of the original fort, the houses also have expansive views looking west toward the Olympic Mountains.

The buildings are situated on the east side of the street, each with the primary facade facing west. Oklahoma Avenue runs behind the houses, providing additional parking and access to garages. Constructed from standard quartermaster general plans, the houses on Officers' Row exhibit military interpretations of the architectural style of the period (turn of the 20th century), with Colonial Revival influence. Open vistas between the buildings allow views of Puget Sound and the Olympic Mountains. Concrete walks and steps lead up to the front entries. In front of the dwellings there are mature American Sycamore trees that line Washington Avenue, and a mature grove of conifers and a single remaining historic light standard are located southwest of Building No. 676. A mature American Sycamore tree is also located within the fenced area near the center of Officers' Row, the former Air Defense and Nike Structures of 1959 and 1960.

This area of the District incorporates some open spaces, particularly in the northern portion of Officers' Row and also to the east of Oklahoma Avenue, the semi-private access street. California Avenue is a north-south street that delineates the eastern edge of the open space. A remaining row of mature Lombardy Poplar trees along California Avenue and Iowa Way, which bounds the south end of Officers' Row, further defines the area. A few other mature trees are located in the open yard areas between and behind the buildings.



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### **Building 640 – Double Officers' Quarters**

(Completed May 31, 1904)

This two-and-a-half-story duplex is of frame construction on a sandstone and brick foundation. Walls are clad with lapped cedar siding. The cross-gabled roof, originally slate-shingled, is finished with composition shingles. A central chimney serves four interior fireplaces. The main mass of the house measures 56' by 30', with two 14' by 18' rear kitchen wings, one projecting from either end of the rear facade.

A full-width front porch features Tuscan columns and a delicate turned wood balustrade. Two sets of concrete steps with cast iron railings provide access to the porch, aligned with the two duplex entries. Back porches at the ends of the kitchen wings have been partially enclosed. Fenestration consists of six-over-two and two-over-two, double-hung wood sash windows, with Palladian and oval attic-story windows. Exterior trim includes wide window trim, corner boards, a frieze band, and cornice returns at gable ends.

According to a 2006 conditions report (Upchurch), the mirrored plan consists of an entrance hall, living room, dining room, pantry, kitchen, and half-bath on the first floor; and three bedrooms, two bathrooms, and a small study on the second floor. Interior finishes include maple flooring on the first floor, oak flooring on the second floor, built-in cabinetry in the dining room, pocket doors between living and dining rooms, and fireplaces with tile surrounds.

The building is identical in plan to Officers' Quarters 642, 676, and 678 and was designed to house two Lieutenants' families. It is located at the south end of Officers' Row.

### **Building 642 – Double Officers' Quarters**

(Completed March 31, 1904)

This two-and-a-half-story duplex is of frame construction on a sandstone and brick foundation. Walls are clad with lapped cedar siding. The cross-gabled roof, originally slate-shingled, is finished with composition shingles. A central chimney

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serves four interior fireplaces. The main mass of the house measures 56' by 30', with two 14' by 18' rear kitchen wings, one projecting from either end of the rear facade.

A full-width front porch features Tuscan columns and a delicate balustrade. Two sets of concrete steps with cast iron railings provide access to the porch, aligned with the two duplex entries. Back porches at the end of the kitchen wings have been partially enclosed. Fenestration consists of six-over-two and two-over-two, double-hung wood sash windows, with Palladian and oval attic-story windows. Exterior trim includes wide window trim, corner boards, a frieze band, and cornice returns at gable ends.

The building is identical in plan to Officers' Quarters 640, 676, and 678 and was designed to house two Lieutenants' families. It is located toward the south end of Officers' Row.

### **Building 644 – Double Officers' Quarters**

(Completed May 31, 1904)

This two-and-a-half-story duplex is of frame construction on a sandstone and brick foundation. Walls are clad with lapped cedar siding. The cross-gabled roof, originally slate-shingled, is finished with composition shingles. Two central chimneys serve four interior fireplaces. The main mass of the house measures 56' by 30', with two 14' by 18' rear kitchen wings, one projecting from either end of the rear facade.

A full-width front porch features Tuscan columns and a delicate balustrade. Two sets of concrete steps with cast iron railings provide access to the porch, aligned with the two duplex entries. Back porches at the end of the kitchen wings have been partially enclosed. Fenestration consists of six-over-two and two-over-two, double-hung wood sash windows, with Palladian and oval attic-story windows. Exterior trim includes wide window trim, corner boards, a frieze band, and cornice returns.

The plan is mirrored, with each unit consisting of an entrance hall, living room, dining room, library, back hall, kitchen, and pantry on the first floor; and five bedrooms and two bathrooms on the second floor. The 2006 conditions report indicates

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interior finishes including maple flooring, pocket doors, and built-in dining room cabinetry at the first floor. The second floor features oak flooring and doors with glazed transoms.

The building was designed to house two Captains' families, and was identical in plan to a residence that was removed in 1956 to allow for construction of the radar antennae. The duplex is located third from the south on Officers' Row, directly south of the fenced off FAA area.

## **Building 670 – Single Officer's Quarters**

(Completed May 31, 1904)

This building is the only single-family residence that remains on Officers' Row. It is located near the center of the row, immediately north of the fenced FAA area. It was identical in plan to a residence that was removed in 1956 to allow for construction of the radar antennae. It is two-and-a-half stories, of frame construction on a sandstone and brick foundation. Walls are clad with lapped cedar siding. The cross-gabled roof, originally slate-shingled, is finished with composition shingles. Three corbelled chimneys serve three fireplaces. The main mass of the house measures 34' by 32', with a rear wing of 24' by 22'.

The full-width front porch and a side porch are detailed with Tuscan columns, delicately turned balusters, and dentils above the frieze band. Concrete steps with cast iron railings lead to the front porch and the main entry, which consists of a pair of glazed wood doors. A back porch has been partially enclosed. Fenestration consists of two-over-two, double-hung wood sash windows, with Palladian and arched windows at the attic story. Exterior trim includes wide window trim, corner boards, a frieze band capped by a row of dentils, and cornice returns at the gable ends.

The house contains a living room, dining room, library, kitchen, and bathroom at the first floor. Front and back stairs access the second floor, which has four bedrooms and two bathrooms, and the attic story, which has three additional bedrooms and a bathroom. The 2006 conditions report notes maple flooring at the first floor and oak flooring upstairs. The living room, dining room, and library each have a fireplace. Doors from the second-floor hall have glazed transoms.

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## Building 672 – Double Officers' Quarters

(Completed December 30, 1899)

This two-and-a-half-story duplex is of frame construction on a sandstone and brick foundation. Walls are clad with lapped cedar siding. The cross-gabled roof, originally slate-shingled, is finished with composition shingles. Gabled dormers flank the central, front-facing gable. Two corbelled chimneys along the center roof ridge serve interior fireplaces. The main mass of the house measures 62' by 42', with two 10' by 24' rear kitchen wings, one projecting from either end of the rear facade.

The two front porches, one for each side of the duplex, flank the central ell and wrap the front corners. The L-shaped front porches feature Tuscan columns and a delicate balustrade. Two sets of concrete steps with cast iron railings provide access to the porches, aligned with the two duplex entries. Back porches at the end of the kitchen wings have been partially enclosed. Fenestration consists of six-over-two and two-over-two, double-hung wood sash windows, with Palladian and oval attic-story windows. Exterior trim includes wide window trim, corner boards, a frieze band, and cornice returns at gable ends.

The mirrored side hall plan consists of entrance hall, living room, dining room, kitchen, and half bath at the first floor. Four bedrooms and a bathroom are located on the second floor, with another three bedrooms and a bathroom at the finished attic story. According to the 2006 conditions report, interior finishes at the first floor include maple flooring, built-in dining room cabinetry, and original fireplace tile surrounds and mantels. Flooring at the second floor is oak. Attic bedrooms have longleaf pine floors.

The building, the largest of the Double Officers' Quarters, was the first Captains' quarters constructed on the post. It is located slightly north of the center of Officers' Row.

## Building 676 – Double Officers' Quarters

(Completed December 30, 1899)

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This two-and-a-half-story duplex is of frame construction on a sandstone and brick foundation. Walls are clad with lapped cedar siding. The cross-gabled roof, originally slate-shingled, is finished with composition shingles. A central chimney serves four interior fireplaces. The main mass of the house measures 56' by 30', with two 14' by 18' rear kitchen wings, one projecting from either end of the rear facade.

A full-width front porch features Tuscan columns and a delicate turned wood balustrade. Two sets of concrete steps with cast iron railings provide access to the porch, aligned with the two duplex entries. Back porches at the end of the kitchen wings have been enclosed. Fenestration consists of six-over-two and two-over-two, double-hung wood sash windows, with Palladian and oval attic-story windows. Exterior trim includes wide window trim, corner boards, a frieze band, and cornice returns at gable ends.

The mirrored plan consists of a side hall plan at the first floor, with entrance hall, living room, dining room, half bath, and kitchen. Three bedrooms, two bathrooms, and a small study are located on the second floor. The 2006 conditions report describes interior finishes to include maple flooring, built-in dining room cabinetry, pocket doors, and fireplaces with original surrounds and mantels at the first floor. Flooring at the second floor is oak.

The building was one of the first three officers' quarters completed. It is identical in plan to Officers' Quarters 640, 642, and 678 and was designed to house two Lieutenants' families. It is located second in from the north end of Officers' Row.

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## **Building 678 – Double Officers' Quarters**

(Completed December 30, 1899)

This two-and-a-half-story duplex is of frame construction on a sandstone and brick foundation. Walls are clad with lapped cedar siding. The cross-gabled roof, originally slate-shingled, is finished with asphalt shingles. A central chimney serves four interior fireplaces. The main mass of the house measures 56' by 30', with two 14' by 18' rear kitchen wings, one projecting from either end of the rear facade.

A full-width front porch features Tuscan columns and a delicate turned wood balustrade. Two sets of concrete steps with cast iron railings provide access to the porch, aligned with the two duplex entries. Back porches at the end of the kitchen wings have been enclosed. Fenestration consists of six-over-two and two-over-two, double-hung wood sash windows, with Palladian and oval attic-story windows. Exterior trim includes wide window trim, corner boards, a frieze band, and cornice returns.

The mirrored plan consists of a side hall plan at the first floor, with entrance hall, living room, dining room, half bath, and kitchen. Three bedrooms, two bathrooms, and a small study are located on the second floor. The 2006 conditions report notes interior finishes including maple flooring, built-in dining room cabinetry, pocket doors, and fireplaces with original tile surrounds and mantels at the first floor. Flooring at the second floor is oak.

The building was one of the first three officers' quarters completed. It is identical in plan to Officers' Quarters 640, 642, and 676 and was designed to house two Lieutenants' families. It is located at the north end of Officers' Row.

## **Officers' Row Garages**

Oklahoma Avenue runs parallel to Washington Avenue, behind (east of) the houses on Officers' Row. On the east side of the street, facing west, are five garages that were built in the 1930s and serve the residents of Officers' Row.

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## **Building 641 – Garage**

(Constructed ca. 1935)

This four-car garage, located behind (east of) Building 640, is of frame construction on a concrete slab. The side-gabled building is finished with shiplap siding, and the roof is asphalt-shingled. Four wood, single-panel overhead doors on the west side of the building provide vehicle access. On the east side of the building are four fixed, four-light wood windows. There are no openings on the north and south ends of the garage. Trim consists of flat wood cornerboards, bargeboards, and trim at window and door openings. Exposed rafter tails are visible on the east side; on the west they are obscured by a gutter.

## **Building 645 – Garage**

(Constructed ca. 1935)

This two-car garage, located behind (east of) Building 644, is of frame construction on a concrete slab. The front-gabled building is finished with wood clapboard, and the roof is asphalt-shingled. Two wood overhead doors on the west side of the building provide vehicle access. There are no door or window openings on the north, east, or south sides of the garage. Trim consists of flat wood cornerboards, bargeboards, and trim at door openings.

## **Building 671 – Garage**

(Constructed ca. 1935)

This two-car garage, located behind (east of) Building 670, is of frame construction on a concrete slab. The front-gabled building is finished with wood clapboard, and the roof is asphalt-shingled. Two wood overhead doors on the west side of the building provide vehicle access. The north and south sides of the building each have two fixed, four-light wood windows; on the east side is one. Trim consists of flat wood cornerboards, bargeboards, and trim at door and window openings.

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### **Building 673 – Garage**

(Constructed ca. 1935)

This four-car garage, located behind (east of) Building 672, is of frame construction on a concrete slab. The side-gabled building is finished with shiplap siding, and the roof is asphalt-shingled. Four wood, single-panel overhead doors on the west side of the building provide vehicle access. On the east side of the building are four fixed, four-light wood windows. There are no door or window openings on the north and south ends of the garage. Trim consists of flat wood cornerboards, bargeboards, and trim at window and door openings. Exposed rafter tails are visible on the east side; on the west they are obscured by a gutter.

### **Building 677 – Garage**

(Constructed ca. 1935)

This four-car garage, located behind (east of) Building 676, is of frame construction on a concrete slab. The side-gabled building is finished with shiplap siding, and the roof is asphalt-shingled. Four wood, single-panel overhead doors on the west side of the building provide vehicle access. On the east side of the building are four fixed, four-light wood windows. There are no openings on the north and south ends of the garage. Trim consists of flat wood cornerboards, bargeboards, and trim at window and door openings. Exposed rafter tails are visible on the east side; on the west they are obscured by a gutter.

### **Montana Circle – Non-Commissioned Officers' Housing**

Non-commissioned officers' (NCO) housing was constructed on Montana Circle, which is a one-way, U-shaped street located northwest of the parade ground and at the northwest portion of the Historic District. The area is bounded by Kansas Avenue on the west, Utah Street on the south, and the secondary or service portion of Montana Circle on the east. The topography slopes down severely around the northern edge of the Montana Circle area.



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Constructed from standard quartermaster general plans, the houses on Montana Circle exhibit military interpretations of the architectural style of the period (turn of the 20th century), with Colonial Revival influence. Buildings 901 and 902 were built later, in the 1930s, and are brick rather than wood-clad. Nonetheless they are in keeping with the Colonial Revival style of the earlier dwellings in this area.

This complex of residential buildings includes the encircling paved roadway, Montana Circle; concrete walks that lead up to the front entries of the dwellings; the mature Maple, Lombardy Poplars, and several flowering trees in front of and between the dwellings; and a portion of Idaho Avenue on the east with a grove of mature Giant Sequoia near its intersection with Utah Street.

### **Building 901 – Double NCO Quarters**

(Constructed ca. 1935)

This building is located at the south end of the street on the east side of Montana Circle, its primary facade facing west. This two-story duplex with basement is bearing brick construction on a sandstone foundation. Walls are finished in common bond. The main mass of the house measures 40' by 28', with an 11' by 16' sun porch projecting from either end of the building. The side-gabled roof is finished with flat, red clay tile. A brick endwall chimney is located at either end of the house. The sun porch and entry porch roofs are clad with standing seam copper roofing. Two one-car garages are provided at the basement level, accessed from the east via a paved driveway.

A single-story, enclosed entry porch projects from the central portion of the primary (west) facade. Two sets of concrete steps with metal railing provide access to the porch – one each on the north and south ends. Entry doors feature a fanlight, as do two pairs of glazed, double-leaf doors on the west side of the porch. Fenestration consists primarily of six-over-six, double-hung wood sash windows. First-story windows on the primary facade are tripartite, with the central portion six-over-six. Exterior trim includes stone window sills, brick flat arch headers, and a frieze band.

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According to the 2006 conditions report, each dwelling unit consists of a living room, sun room, dining room, and kitchen at the first floor, and three bedrooms and a bathroom at the second floor. Wall and ceiling finishes are plaster, and flooring is oak. The kitchen floor is vinyl and bathroom floor is 1" mosaic tile.

### **Building 902 – Double NCO Quarters**

(Constructed ca. 1935)

This building is located at the south end of the street on the west side of Montana Circle, its primary facade facing east. This two-story duplex with basement is bearing brick construction on a sandstone foundation. Walls are finished in common bond. The main mass of the house measures approximately 40' by 28', with an 11' by 16' sun porch projecting from either end of the building. The side-gabled main roof is finished with flat, red clay tile. A brick endwall chimney is located at either end of the house. The sun porch and entry porch roofs are clad with standing seam copper roofing. Two one-car garages are provided at the basement level, accessed from the west via a paved driveway.

A single-story, enclosed entry porch projects from the central portion of the primary (east) facade. Two sets of concrete steps with metal railing provide access to the porch – one each on the north and south ends. Entry doors feature a fanlight, as do two pairs of glazed, double-leaf doors on the east side of the porch. Fenestration consists primarily of six-over-six, double-hung wood sash windows. First-story windows on the primary facade are tripartite, with the central portion six-over-six. Exterior trim includes stone window sills, brick flat arch headers, and a frieze band.

According to the 2006 conditions report, each dwelling unit consists of a living room, sun room, dining room, and kitchen at the first floor, and three bedrooms and a bathroom at the second floor. Wall and ceiling finishes are plaster, and flooring is oak. The kitchen floor is vinyl and bathroom floor is 1" mosaic tile.

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### **Building 903 – Double NCO Quarters**

(Completed March 31, 1904)

This duplex is located on the east side of the street, facing west. The two-story building with basement is of frame construction on a sandstone and brick foundation. Walls are clad with lapped cedar siding. The cross-gabled roof, originally slate-shingled, is finished with composition shingles. The main mass of the house measures 38' by 27', with a 10' by 38' kitchen wing across the rear (east) side of the building. (The existing kitchen wing was converted from open back porches ca. 1937.)

A full-width front porch with Tuscan columns and pipe rails is accessed by two sets of concrete steps, aligned with the two duplex entries. Fenestration consists of eight-over-eight and six-over-six, double-hung wood sash windows. Exterior trim includes wide window trim, corner boards, a frieze band, and cornice returns.

Interior configuration and finishes are described in the 1981 HABS report and 2006 conditions report. The mirror image duplex has a side hall plan, with living room, dining room, and kitchen at the first floor and two bedrooms and a bathroom upstairs. Flooring is maple, now carpeted; kitchen flooring is vinyl.

This duplex is identical in plan to Building 909.

### **Building 905 – Double NCO Quarters**

(Completed December 30, 1899)

This duplex is located on the east side of the street, facing west. The two-story building with basement is of frame construction on a sandstone and brick foundation. Walls are clad with lapped cedar siding. The side-gabled roof was originally slate-shingled and is now composition-shingled. The main mass of the house measures 38' by 27', with a 10' by 38' kitchen wing across the rear (east) side of the building. (The open back porches were enclosed and converted to kitchens ca. 1937.)

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A full-width front porch with Tuscan columns and pipe rails is accessed by two sets of concrete steps, aligned with the two duplex entries. Fenestration consists of six-over-six, double-hung wood sash windows. Exterior trim includes wide window trim, corner boards, a frieze band, modillions along the boxed eaves, and cornice returns.

Interior configuration and finishes are described in the 1981 HABS report and 2006 conditions report. The mirror image duplex has a side hall plan, with living room, dining room, and kitchen at the first floor and two bedrooms and a bathroom at the second floor and a third bedroom in the attic. Original flooring is maple; some rooms are now carpeted. Kitchen flooring is vinyl.

This duplex is identical in plan to Building 907.

## **Building 906 – Hospital Steward's Quarters**

(Completed April 24, 1902 as Hospital Steward's Quarters; moved from original location.)

This single-family residence is located at the north end of Montana Circle on the west side of the street, its primary facade facing east. Originally constructed as Hospital Steward's Quarters and located west of the hospital, this building was moved to its present location for use as NCO housing sometime after 1938. It is the only relocated building within the Historic District.

The one-and-a-half-story frame structure with basement has a concrete foundation. The front-gabled roof was originally slate-shingled and is now finished with composition shingles. Walls are clad with lapped cedar siding. The building measures 20' by 28', and has a full-width front porch with square posts and a shed roof, and an enclosed back porch. Windows are generally six-over-six double-hung wood sash.

The 1981 HABS report and 2006 conditions report describe the interior as a side hall plan with living room, dining room, and kitchen downstairs and two bedrooms and a bathroom upstairs. Maple flooring is intact in the entry hall; other rooms have been carpeted or floored with vinyl.

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### **Building 907 – Double NCO Quarters**

(Completed December 30, 1899)

This duplex is located on the east side of the street, facing west, near the north end of Montana Circle. The two-story building with basement is of frame construction on a sandstone and brick foundation. Walls are clad with lapped cedar siding. The side-gabled roof was originally slate-shingled and is now composition-shingled. The main mass of the house measures 38' by 27', with a 10' by 38' kitchen wing across the rear (east) side of the building. (The open back porches were enclosed and converted to kitchens ca. 1937.)

A full-width front porch with Tuscan columns and pipe rails is accessed by two sets of concrete steps, aligned with the two duplex entries. Fenestration consists of six-over-six, double-hung wood sash windows. Exterior trim includes wide window trim, corner boards, a frieze band, modillions along the boxed eaves, and cornice returns.

Interior configuration and finishes are described in the 1981 HABS report and 2006 conditions report. The mirror image duplex has a side hall plan, with living room, dining room, and kitchen at the first floor and two bedrooms and a bathroom at the second floor and a third bedroom in the attic. Original flooring is maple; upstairs hallways and bedrooms have been carpeted. Kitchen flooring is vinyl.

This duplex is identical in plan to Building 905.

### **Building 909 – Double NCO Quarters**

(Completed March 31, 1904)

This duplex is located at the north end of Montana Circle on the east side of the street, facing west. The two-story building with basement is of frame construction on a sandstone and brick foundation. Walls are clad with lapped cedar siding. The cross-gabled roof, originally slate-shingled, is finished with composition shingles. The main mass of the house measures 38'

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by 27', with a 10' by 38' kitchen wing across the rear (east) side of the building. (The existing kitchen wing was converted from open back porches ca. 1937.)

A full-width front porch with Tuscan columns and pipe rails is accessed by two sets of concrete steps, aligned with the two duplex entries. Fenestration consists of eight-over-eight and six-over-six, double-hung wood sash windows. Exterior trim includes wide window trim, corner boards, a frieze band, and cornice returns.

Interior configuration and finishes are described in the 1981 HABS report and 2006 conditions report. The mirror image duplex has a side hall plan, with living room, dining room, and kitchen at the first floor and two bedrooms and a bathroom upstairs. Flooring is maple in the living and dining rooms; kitchen flooring is vinyl. Upstairs hallways and bedrooms have been carpeted.

This duplex is identical in plan to Building 903.

### **Parade Ground**

The Parade Ground is centrally located within the District, bordered primarily by Washington and Oregon Avenues on the east and west, respectively, and a portion of another encircling roadway, Iowa Way, on the south. (Idaho Avenue and a service road that runs east-west to the south of the Guard House and Civilian Employee Housing [Buildings 759 and 755] meet near the northwest edge of the Parade Ground.) The grassy open space slopes down from Officers' Row toward Oregon Avenue. A concrete reviewing stand (Structure 681) is located approximately in the center of the area, and a 1946-era flagpole (Object 679) was placed at the northeast portion of the Parade Ground. There are remnants of paved walks, along with a perimeter sidewalk paralleling Washington Avenue at the top of the Parade Ground.

Many of the original fort buildings faced onto the parade ground. The Officers' Row residences are sited along the eastern edge; the Administration Building is at the northwest; the Guard House, Band Barracks, and Post Exchange and Gymnasium are along the western edge. (A secondary service road, Kansas Avenue, runs behind these buildings.) Two double

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barracks, Buildings 730 and 731, were also located along Oregon Avenue at the western edge of the Parade Ground but are no longer extant.

## **Building 417 – Administration Building**

(Completed April 24, 1902)

This two-story, side-gabled building sits northwest of Officers' Row, on the bluff overlooking the parade ground. Its primary facade faces southwest. At this location, it was close to the original post hospital, which is no longer extant. The Administration Building, which measures 40' by 32', has a brick foundation and partial basement. Originally slate-shingled, the roof is now finished with composition shingles. One corbelled brick chimney is located at either end of the roof. The building is clad with lapped cedar siding, trimmed with corner boards, a simple band at the eave line, gable end returns, and trim around door and window openings. A full-width front porch has a nearly flat roof supported by thin, chamfered posts with pipe railings. Fenestration consists of eight-over-eight, double-hung wood sash windows, with a Palladian window at each gable end.

A north wing that was added in 1942 has since been removed, so original cladding is missing from the lower portion of the northwest facade and painted plywood has been applied.

This building is vacant and has been mothballed since the late 1980s/early 1990s. Plexiglass has been attached over the windows on the primary southwest facade, while window openings on other facades have been infilled with wood panels finished to resemble the original sash. Vents in infill panels and interior fans allow for adequate air exchange.

## **Building 733 – Post Exchange and Gymnasium**

(Completed May 2, 1905)

Situated on Oregon Avenue along the western edge of the parade ground, south of the Band Barracks (Building 734), this one-story building with a daylight basement is of frame and brick construction on a sandstone and painted brick foundation.

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The hip-roofed structure measures 55' by 113'-6" and the primary east facade features a gabled portico with paired Tuscan columns on pedestals and a wood-shingled gable end with oculus. Originally slate-shingled, the roof is now composition-shingled. Walls are clad with painted, lapped cedar siding. Exterior trim includes window trim, corner boards, a frieze band, and water table. The portico ceiling is finished with beadboard.

An arched, monumental entry, sheltered by the portico, was originally reached by two flights of steps, angled out from the building. Centrally-located stairs descended to a basement entrance. A below-grade basement door on the south side of the building is accessed by steps that descend along the side of the building. Windows are six-over-two and four-over-two, double-hung wood sash. A one-story addition was constructed along the south side of the building in 1942; it has since been removed. An enclosed mezzanine in the original gymnasium was also added in 1942.

This building is vacant and has been mothballed since the late 1980s/early 1990s. Plexiglass has been attached over the windows on the primary east facade, while window openings on other facades have been infilled with wood panels finished to resemble the original sash. Vents in infill panels and interior exhaust fans allow for adequate air exchange. The front steps have been removed and there is no access to the main door.

### **Building 734 – Band Barracks**

(Completed March 31, 1904)

This two-story, cross-gabled building is situated along the western edge of the parade ground near the northern end of Oregon Avenue, with its primary facade facing southeast. It is sited north of the Post Exchange & Gymnasium (Building 733). The frame building, on a sandstone and brick foundation, measures 68' by 27' and has a basement. Originally slate-shingled, the roof is now composition-shingled. Walls are clad with painted, lapped cedar siding. Exterior trim includes window trim, corner boards, a frieze band, and water table. The front porch, with Tuscan columns and pipe railings, wraps three sides of a shallow



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ell. A small back porch is located at the north corner of the building. Fenestration consists of two-over-two, double-hung wood sash windows, with a Palladian window at three of four gable ends.

The 1981 HABS report indicated that the building interior, with side hall, retained much of its original plan. Some pressed metal ceilings remained exposed, and a room on the second floor was soundproofed with acoustical tiles.

This building is vacant and has been mothballed since the late 1980s/early 1990s. Plexiglass has been attached over the windows on the primary southeast facade, while window openings on other facades have been infilled with wood panels finished to resemble the original sash. Vents in infill panels and interior exhaust fans allow for adequate air exchange.

## **Building 755 – Civilian Employee Housing**

(Completed February 26, 1908)

This two-story building sits across from the stables, Buildings 916 and 917, and is set back from Utah Street with its primary facade facing south. A frame structure with basement on a brick foundation, the building measures 46'-6" by 32'. It is clad with painted, lapped cedar siding and the hipped roof and hipped dormers, originally slate-shingled, are now finished with composition shingles. An interior brick chimney is located toward the east end of the north side of the building. Exterior trim includes flat window and door trim, corner boards, a frieze band, and water table. The front porch has a flat roof supported by Tuscan columns. A concrete platform with pipe railing is located at the east end of the north (rear) side of the building.

The 1981 HABS report indicated that the building interior consisted of a central hall plan, with most original spaces intact. The first floor ceiling was pressed metal. The second-floor bathroom had ceramic tile flooring and early fixtures.

This building is vacant and has been mothballed since the late 1980s/early 1990s. Plexiglass has been attached over the windows on the primary south facade, while window openings on other facades have been infilled with wood panels finished to resemble the original sash. Vents in infill panels and interior exhaust fans allow for adequate air exchange. The glazed, paneled door and sidelights have also been covered with plywood panels. Some siding is coming loose.

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### **Building 759 – Guard House**

(Completed April 24, 1902)

The guard house is the only non-residential building at Fort Lawton that was always used for its original purpose.

Located toward the north end of the parade ground, this building is situated at the intersection of Oregon and Idaho Avenues, its primary facade facing southeast. The one-story, hip-roofed structure is nearly square, measuring 49' by 47'. It sits on a sandstone and brick foundation and has a partial basement. The front "yard" consists of a brick-paved pad.

The building is clad with painted, lapped cedar siding. The roof, originally slate-shingled, is composition-shingled. A corbelled brick chimney rises from the center of the roof. A front gable with Palladian window and wood-shingled gable end lends some formality to the building. A full-width front porch has a nearly flat roof supported by thin, chamfered posts with pipe railings. The porch has three sets of steps – one set at each end and one set centered on the front. Trim includes corner boards, a frieze band, and trim around door and window openings. Fenestration consists of six-over-six-light, double-hung wood sash windows.

According to the 1981 HABS report, on the interior are two steel cages and three solitary cells in a confinement room. Interior finishes include embossed metal ceilings and walls (in confinement room). The basement has brick piers and walls.

This building is vacant and has been mothballed since the late 1980s/early 1990s. Plexiglass has been attached over the windows on all facades, except the gable-end Palladian window that has been infilled with a wood panel finished to resemble the original sash.

### **Building 761 – Bus Shelter**

(Constructed ca. 1941)

The bus shelter is located on Idaho Avenue, south of Montana Circle and northwest of the parade ground. It is a simple, linear wood structure of approximately 875 square feet. Its overhanging side-gabled roof is supported by wood posts with

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curved, inverted trusses. A long wood bench is built into the west wall of this structure; the other three sides are unenclosed.

The roof is composition-shingled, and the gable ends are finished with wood siding.

## **Building 916 – Quartermaster Stables**

(Completed July 1908)

The two remaining stable buildings are located in the northwestern portion of the Historic District, their narrow south facades facing onto Utah Street. Placed side by side, they are surrounded by an open, grassy area which has few apparent design features.

Located on the north side of Utah Street, north of Building 917, this one-and-a-half-story, 33' by 112' frame structure sits on a concrete foundation. Its long, gabled roof has two ventilators, and open eaves feature scrolled rafter tails. The roof was originally slate-shingled and is now asphalt-shingled. Lapped cedar siding is used as cladding, with trim consisting of corner boards, gable end trim, and trim around window and door openings. Two large loading doors are located on the east facade, added circa 1940 when the building was converted to warehouse use. It appears another large door at the north end of the east facade was sided over, as was the opening on the south facade.

The 1981 HABS report indicated that on the interior, walls at the main floor are clad with shiplap. Two metal-lined grain rooms are located in the loft, as are two hay loading doors with loading beams.

This building is vacant and has been mothballed since the late 1980s/early 1990s. Window openings have been covered with wood panels.

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## **Building 917 – Quartermaster Stables**

(Completed April 24, 1902)

Located on the north side of Utah Street, south of Building 916, this one-and-a-half-story, frame structure sits on an unpainted brick foundation. Its original dimensions were 60' by 33', and in 1907 a 51' by 33' addition was constructed on the north end. A long, gabled roof spans the structure, which has two ventilators. Now asphalt-shingled, the roof was originally slate-shingled, with contrasting color shingles to spell out "Fort Lawton." The open eaves feature scrolled rafter tails. This simple building is clad with lapped cedar siding and has corner boards, gable end trim, and simple trim around window and door openings. Two large loading doors are located on the west facade. These were added circa 1940, when a plank warehouse floor was installed 2' above the original stable floor. A large door on the south facade has been covered with siding.

According to the 1981 HABS report, the interior originally featured 22 stall spaces, framed haydrops, a metal-lined grain room in the loft, and a hand-operated lift.

This building is vacant and has been mothballed since the late 1980s/early 1990s. Window openings have been covered with wood panels.

## **Building 632 – Post Chapel**

(Completed 1942)

The Post Chapel is located southeast of the parade ground and south of Officers' Row, and remains the only building of the World War II era within the Historic District. Similar to other buildings, it was constructed from standardized U.S. Army Quartermaster Corps plans (series 700-1800 or 800-550) using a traditional style. Hundreds of similarly-designed chapels were built on Army posts through the country at this time, including four at Fort Lewis and one at Fort Worden. By 1944, there were two additional chapels located within the fort. The "Chapel on the Hill" as the remaining building was identified, was for

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Protestants, while a similar "Chapel in the Pines" was constructed for Catholics near the east entry gate on Washington Avenue, and the "Chapel by the Sea," for "Negro" troops was near the north gate on Lawton Road.

The area encompassing the Post Chapel, currently identified as the Chapel Grove, is an approximately three-acre, oval-shaped portion of the original fort site at the southeast edge of the District. It is enclosed by portions of Washington Avenue and Iowa Way. In addition to the chapel, the area includes Building 631 (ca. 1952 Educational Training Building/Sunday School) and Site 635 (a Korean War memorial). A grove of mature Ponderosa Pine and Birch trees are other features historic of this area. It also contains a recently constructed, curvilinear stone retaining wall.

A vernacular structure with a few Georgian Revival stylistic details, the Chapel is set within a landscaped yard, partially enclosed by a recently-constructed stone wall. The wood-framed building has a concrete foundation and sits over a crawlspace, with the main floor approximately 2' above grade. The Chapel is front-gabled with a simple axial plan, measuring approximately 81'-6" by 37'-3". A slightly projecting gabled entry bay on the primary northwest facade has double doors and is reached by concrete steps. A 19'-wide, shed-roofed mechanical room projects approximately 14' from the back (southeast) of the building. A simple, square steeple with a steep hipped roof is located at the northwest end of the roof ridgeline. Exterior walls are clad with painted clapboard and the roof is composition-shingled. Fenestration on the northeast and southwest sides (long sides) of the chapel consists of five large, sixteen-over-sixteen light sash with a smaller six-over-six light sash window at each end. Some glazing is clear and some is goldish, pebbled glass.

Use of the chapel continued until 1974, and it was acquired for \$67,750 by the City in 1978. The building and a nearby former Sunday school classroom facility (Building 631) were later used for a day camp. The Chapel was designated a City of Seattle landmark in 2005 because of its historical association with the fort during World War II.

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## Site 635 – Freedom Grove

(Dedicated 1951 – This site was installed after the period of significance of the Fort Lawton Historic District and is therefore a non-contributing feature.)

The Korean War Memorial Grove is located in the Chapel area, northeast of the Chapel. It consists of a large rock set on a rectangular concrete slab. A heavy gauge steel chain marks off the area, suspended from a metal post at each corner of the slab. A plaque on the northwest face of the rock carries the following inscription: "Freedom Grove – dedicated to those members of the Armed Forces who made the supreme sacrifice in the service of their country in support of the United Nations. In memoriam, Memorial Day, 1951 A.D." Two rhododendrons are located to the southeast of the concrete slab, behind the rock.

## Building 654– Radar Accessory Building

(Constructed ca. 1960 – This building was constructed after the period of significance of the Fort Lawton Historic District and is therefore a non-contributing building.)

This building is located near the center of Officers' Row, and was likely constructed to provide maintenance and support for the radar array installed in 1959. Building 654 is located directly south of the Structure 667 (Radar Antenna) and is enclosed within a tall chain link fence with the tower structure.

This simple, utilitarian structure has a flat roof and is clad with painted horizontal siding. The rectangular building has an estimated footprint of 28' by 108'. The building's foundation accommodates the slope of the site, with the main floor set at grade on the east and an estimated 5' on the west, with a resulting overall building height of 12' to 17'. The building has few openings, with exception of several doors on the south and west facades. A small, post-supported shed roof shelters the main entry doors near the east end of the south facade, while a secondary door to the west features a smaller shed rooflet and concrete stairs and landing. Metal ventilator caps are placed periodically along the facades to accommodate the ventilation system. To

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the southwest of the building there is another tower with pipe-like antenna supported from a steel platform and tower, with an estimated footprint of 6' by 6'.

## **Structure 667 – Radar Antenna**

(Constructed 1959 – This was installed after the period of significance of the Fort Lawton Historic District and is therefore a non-contributing structure.)

Located near the middle of Officer's Row, this "sky scanner" radar tower was constructed as part of the radar array for the 1959 Nike Air Defense System(Johnson Partnership, "Appendix A," p.7). It is a tall, imposing structure consisting of a steel-framed sphere, with an estimated 70'- diameter set on a 75'-tall supporting steel structure. The support system includes an eight-sided, truss-supported platform with rail system below the sphere, and four splayed legs with intermediate horizontal braces. The steel framework is detailed with riveted and welded connections.

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## Narrative Statement of Significance

### Introduction - The Fort Lawton Historic District

The Fort Lawton Historic District was nominated to and listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1978, and the City of Seattle designated it as a local historic district in 1988. This revised nomination provides information regarding the Fort's history during the Depression and World War II era, and provides justification for a period of significance from the early development of the post in 1899 to the end of World War II in 1945. The nomination identifies the District boundaries to include a total of 59.3 acres, to achieve consistency between the local and national historic districts. Historic Fort Lawton is closely associated with the development and the history of the City of Seattle. Its planned site layout and buildings serve as an intact example of a late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> century military posts based on standard building designs by the U.S. Army Quartermaster Corps and American interpretations of Colonial Revival styles. The property is significant in the categories of community history and architecture, and it meets listing criteria A and C of National Register of Historic Places.

Construction of Fort Lawton began in the summer of 1898 when a 97-acre parcel of old-growth timber on the top of Magnolia Bluff, just northwest of Seattle, Washington, was cleared. The fort had been envisioned by local residents and businessmen as a major regimental post, with the hope that it would enhance the local economy and the city's status in its ongoing competition with Tacoma to the south. Upon selection of the site, local landowners donated more than 700 acres for the fort. By 1900, construction of the first seven permanent, wood-frame buildings on the site was completed. Local aspirations for the fort were slow to be realized. Construction continued through 1910, at which time there was an assembly of 25 buildings set around an oval-shaped parade ground. Despite local plans, use of Fort Lawton was limited to only two to four infantry companies. The Army's inactivity and the relatively modest number of army personnel garrisoned on the site led Seattle citizens to consider other uses for Fort Lawton. As early as 1917, they sought to acquire the property as a public park. By that time the Army had developed other military forts in the Puget Sound region, including Fort Lewis south of Tacoma. In response to



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increased operation costs, the Army offered to give Fort Lawton to the City in the mid-1930s, but the City could not afford to maintain the property and declined the offer.

While Fort Lawton never became as large or influential as Seattle residents had anticipated, during World War II it served as the second-largest port of embarkation on the West Coast. An estimated 450 buildings and structures were constructed on the site during the war. After the 1940s, the use of the fort declined again and many of the temporary wartime buildings were removed. The Army stayed on until 1972, at which time it transferred ownership of a portion of the Fort to the City of Seattle. The balance of the Fort remained in military hands and was used for Navy housing and civil defense and communication. In 2007 the City acquired additional portions of Fort Lawton property while the communication facilities and structures, which date from the 1959 and ca. 1960, remain in federal ownership.

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## The Setting

Fort Lawton is located in the northwestern portion of a peninsula that extends westward into Puget Sound from the city of Seattle. The peninsula is made up by several elongated north-south valleys and ridges, which resulted from glacial activities over 50,000 years ago. This natural setting is within the Puget Lowland, part of a large geographical trough that extends south from southwestern British Columbia to the Willamette Valley in western Oregon, and east from Elliott Bay and Puget Sound to the Cascade Mountain Range. Prior to settlement this area was covered with extensive stands of coniferous and evergreen forests. Western hemlock, western red cedar, and Douglas fir were the dominant species, with dense old-growth forest understories. Big leaf maple and red alder grew in more moist areas.

Culturally the site is located in a traditional area of native settlement by several groups collectively known as the Duwamish. These people were Puget Salish or Lushootseed speakers who lived in villages on the shores of Elliott Bay, Shilshole Bay, Lake Washington, Lake Union, and Salmon Bay; and on the banks of the Duwamish, Black, and Cedar Rivers. They utilized river and coastal resources to harvest fish and seafood and also collected plants, waterfowl and sea mammals. Typical settlements were in villages along the shorelines where spawning fish runs were harvested and cured for storage and food consumption. Archaeological studies indicate that the West Point shoreline area, west of Fort Lawton, was the likely location of a seasonal fishing camp. The area of bluffs above the shoreline, where the Fort was built, was not a settlement area. (Larson, 1995)

The Seattle neighborhood surrounding Fort Lawton is known as Magnolia. It is situated on a peninsula northwest of the city's downtown and central waterfront. Two prominent north-south ridges rise to elevations of approximately 450' and help form the peninsula. A valley runs between the ridges along what is currently 34th Avenue West, an estimated half-mile east of the Fort Lawton Historic District. This relatively flat area, known originally as Pleasant Valley, was settled with farms and orchards around 1900. Magnolia is flanked on the southeast by Smith Cove and Elliott Bay. Fort Lawton sits on a bluff at the northwest edge of Magnolia within the city's Discovery Park. To the west of Discovery Park are privately owned tidelands and waterfront

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properties, the West Point Lighthouse, and the West Point Treatment Plant. Interbay, a low-lying area at the east side of Magnolia, has historically been the location of numerous railroad lines, yards, and a roundhouse. Once a tidal wetland area, it was infilled by the Great Northern Railroad (currently the Burlington Northern Railroad) beginning in the 1890s, and was later developed with terminals and piers by Navy and Port of Seattle. The northeast edge of Magnolia is bounded by Salmon Bay, Fisherman's Terminal, and the south shoreline of the Ship Canal, a navigable link between the freshwater lakes Washington and Union and the saltwater Elliott Bay. After the canal and the Chittenden Locks were opened in 1917, this area became the home to commercial marinas and ship repair yards. Surrounding communities developed with inner-city industrial facilities, small single-family residences, small stores and taverns, and boarding houses for railroad workers.

Older houses, churches, and commercial buildings dating from 1910 – 1930 are common in the Interbay, Salmon Bay, and Pleasant Valley areas of Magnolia, but much of neighborhood areas nearest to Fort Lawton developed after World War II as auto-oriented suburbs. Mid-century single-family dwellings are the dominant building type along with small-scale apartment and commercial buildings in the small business district of Magnolia Village. This commercial area is located approximately 16 blocks southeast of Fort Lawton and developed from the 1920s to support the needs of suburban residences.

## **Fort Lawton and the Early Development in Seattle**

The first transcontinental railroad reached the Pacific Northwest in 1883, initiating the so-called Railroad Era. Completion of the Northern Pacific Railroad to Portland and Tacoma brought almost unimaginable growth in population and the trade-based economies of cities, towns, and villages throughout the region. Speculation was rampant as residents envisioned their futures in the center of the boom. Over the subsequent decades, Seattle and Tacoma competed fiercely to gain control of regional transportation and commerce. Seattle, having lost its initial bid for the terminus of the Northern Pacific Railroad, turned initially to other development and sought a permanent military installation to strengthen its economic base. In 1893, as a national depression halted development, local efforts to establish a significant military fort intensified. A letter from King County

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Commissioners of Washington Territory to the U.S. Secretary of War William C. Endicott outlined their efforts to provide a land donation and secure a fort:

First. Said City of Seattle is the center of commerce, trade and travel of Western Washington. Second. On account of its contiguity to the coal mines, its central location and ease of access said city is more likely to be chosen as the theatre for lawless demonstrations and outbreaks by all the disorderly elements within its reach... For that reason troops should be at hand should such circumstances arise as to necessitate their use as a posse committatus. Third. There is now no post in the Department of Columbia [the Vancouver Barracks] from which troops could be moved either by rail or water, with greater ease or facility than Seattle. Fourth. Seattle is the most convenient point from which to reach any point on the British boundary line. Fifth. With rail connection with the whole country and a regular steamship line to San Francisco, Seattle is one the most convenient and cheapest places for supplies. (National Archives, Record Group 94, "Records of the Adjunct General's Office," King County Commissioners, March 16, 1886.)

The response from the Commanding General of the Department was discouraging. He opposed the "multiplication of small garrisons," noting that he "would not recommend anything further than an occasional encamping of troops in the vicinity of Seattle." (*Ibid*, Endicott, July 20, 1886.) However, in 1884, Brigadier General Elwell S. Otis, the Department of the Columbia commander, specifically recommended a site on Magnolia Bluff in Seattle in an annual report to the Secretary of War. Otis cited Seattle primarily for peacekeeping, rather than defensive use, in an apparent response to heightened labor strife:

In [this] northern section of this state ... now dwell 100,000 people, part of whom are restless, demonstrative, and oftentimes turbulent upon fancied provocation, and a population, too, which is destined to be greatly augmented within a brief period of time, one moderately large garrison should be established and permanently maintained. The vicinity of Seattle offers the most favorable conditions for location, as that is the center of a small territory in which the future use of troops will be demanded, and the place at which exhibitions of lawlessness beyond the power of the State to control have so frequently manifested themselves. A short distance beyond the city, extending into the waters of Sound, Magnolia bluff, one of the most important points selected by the Fortification Board for defensive works, would appear to be the proper site for the post of an infantry garrison. (Secretary of War, Annual Report, 1894, p. 151.)

Seattle citizens clearly supported Otis' recommendation, which countered ongoing promotion by Tacoma of a site on American Lake. Seattle's Chamber of Commerce quickly established an Army Post Committee of prominent citizens. The committee initiated negotiations for land donations and helped draft federal authorization for creation of a military post at Magnolia Bluff. In January 1895, Senator Watson Squire introduced the bill in the U.S. Congress. Meanwhile, Senator Doolittle of Tacoma proposed a competing bill authorizing the establishment of a post in the Point Defiance area near Tacoma. A

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compromise action was taken by Congress on March 2, 1895 that authorized the Secretary of War to establish a military fort on Puget Sound to serve the public interest, "provided that six hundred and forty acres of land suitable for the purpose shall be donated free of cost to the United States." (Secretary of War, Annual Report, 1897, Vol. 1, p. 380) Two subsequently appointed boards recommended the Magnolia Bluff as the site. On March 2, 1896, Secretary of War Daniel S. Lamont accepted the site with the condition that a total of 704 acres be donated to the federal government. Creation of Fort Lawton, which Seattle residents and business leaders saw as a critical component in the local economic recovery, was assured.

Military records indicate that the Army intended the future military post at Magnolia Bluff to serve as a regional infantry post, rather than as a primary coastal or harbor defense installation. The Army had determined that a military presence was required at each of the three major population and transportation centers in the Northwest – Portland and the Willamette area, Spokane, and the Puget Sound area – and responded by establishing the Vancouver Barracks in 1849, and Fort George Wright in 1900. Fort Townsend was created initially as an Indian Post in 1856, but it had been abandoned and burned by the time of General Otis' 1895 annual report. Thus Puget Sound was left without a garrison for troops, and Seattle's political and economic ambitions were met by the military's need for a regional post.

Seattle's Land Acquisition Committee of the Chamber of Commerce began searching for the required land donations, but it faced immediate difficulties in communicating with absentee owners and with opposition by small land holders and squatters. Furthermore, the Army increased the required property size by asking for tidelands and road rights-of-way. The committee faced strong opposition from a local landowner, Christian Scheuerman, who owned 150 acres with his family along the Salmon Bay waterfront, in the current Bay Terrace and Lawtonwood area. The Committee could not succeed in securing the waterfront through its negotiations with Scheuerman, with the result that Fort Lawton never had critical waterfront access to Salmon Bay. Despite these obstacles, the committee completed its tasks in late June of 1897. The *Seattle Post-Intelligencer* praised its work: "The happy consummation of the long and patient struggle to secure the location here of the Army post is a matter of deep congratulation to all citizens of Seattle and a debt of gratitude ... The difficulties in acquiring title to the property

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so as to convey to the government the precise area which was demanded was in itself a formidable matter. A relatively large sum of money [also] had to be raised." (*Seattle P-I*, June 21, 1897.)

Edward O. Graves, President of the Seattle Chamber of Commerce, reported on the committee's successful acquisition of approximately 100 acres of land in a letter to the Secretary of War in early October 1897. By then 641 acres of uplands had been acquired along with 337 acres of tidelands, and 12 acres for roadways. By February of 1898, these lands had been conveyed to the United States Government.

In the meanwhile, the committee had grown increasingly concerned over the Army's proposed plans for the new fort. Graves and other Chamber members sent several letters to the Secretary of War insisting that the post be of regimental size with a full regiment of artillery to be garrisoned on site. The Chamber noted its "great and bitter" concern that the threatened reduction of the post would result in only four companies. Secretary of War R.A. Alger responded with vague reassurance in a telegram noting, "I have no other thought on the subject but to make Magnolia Bluff post a regimental one, and that is my present intention." (National Archives, Record Group 92, "Records of the Quartermaster General's Office," Alger to Graves, October 16, 1897.)

The site of the new army post was above a strategically-situated bluff on the West Point Peninsula, six miles northwest of the city of Seattle, bounded by Elliott Bay on the southwest, Puget Sound on the northwest, and Salmon Bay on the northeast. With a slightly sloping plateau at its crest, the bluff was made up by 200 to 280 foot sand banks that rose from the waters of Puget Sound to the top of a 360-foot hill. To the east of the hill there was dense evergreen forest, which extended across portions of the peninsula to the village of Interbay, broken by a few rough trails. The 1881-era West Point Light Station was located at the base of the bluff. There was no wharf or dock built for boat access to the lighthouse and early visitors to the post reached it by horse or wagon or by walking two miles from the Interbay electric trolley station, which ran from the downtown across Pleasant Valley. Historic maps indicate that the earliest road to the post was from the east, along present-day Government Way.

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(Later access to the fort's southern edge was provided from Emerson Street and Commodore Way.) The original access route was described in a local newspaper in 1898:

The road from the city to the post follows the bridge along the bluff from North Seattle to Interbay and thence, crossing the tracks of the Great Northern and Seattle & International by an insecure trestle fifty feet height, proceeds over town lots like a cow path to the site of the post. This road has been used for many years by teamsters and farmers coming from Pleasant Valley to the city. It is known as the old country road, and it bears no relation whatever to the platted streets and alleys of the district... The culverts and bridges throughout this entire road are old and dilapidated, the bridge across the railroad tracks of Interbay has been condemned by the city, although...it is still being used... After leaving the bridge at Interbay, the road skirts across private property in a meandering way until, if one is lucky, and the culverts do not break through, the line of the military reservation is reached. (*Seattle Post Intelligencer*, "Magnolia Bluff, the Magnificent site of Seattle's Army post," November 15, 1898)

## Development of Fort Lawton

### 1898 – 1908

The Army officer responsible for the site's initial development was Assistant Quartermaster General W.W. Robinson. Arriving in Seattle in July 1896, he waited for more than two years for completion of the land transactions before beginning the site work. While he waited for authorization to proceed with site improvements, Robinson cleared some trails and roadways, prepared a contour map of the site, hired a local civil engineer, Ambrose Kiehl, and contemplated building types and site plans. During this time it appears that Robinson also came to understand the specifics of the site, as his reports noted its views, wind direction, and the locations of vistas and shade trees. Initially he sought approval for masonry rather than wood-frame construction, in response to the local climate, and noted in a letter to superiors that, "the people here generally will be dissatisfied with wood structures claiming that after the great trouble they have had in obtaining lands for the site, they should have as good a post as the government is building in San Francisco and Spokane." (Record Group 92, W. W. Robinson to Captain C. P. Miller, June 13, 1897.)

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The early period of Fort Lawton extended through completion of the initial building construction. Authorization for the clearance of the land began with grubbing and removal of trees. All but ornamental shade trees were removed by the contractor's crews, who camped in tents on the site. 97 acres of forest were cleared in the summer of 1898, two years after Robinson had arrived with the task of developing the site.

A consistent supply of water at Fort Lawton was a problem from its beginning. (Disagreements between the Army and the City over responsibility for its supply had delayed initial construction for nearly a year.) In 1898, the general contractor constructed a small spring and stream-fed dam on the north slope of the peninsula and installed a 3,000-foot-long pipeline to supply a rectangular wood tank at the highest point on the post. That same year, a connection was laid to the city main. However, problems with the early city supply continued.

Despite Robinson's recommendation of masonry as a building material, the earliest post buildings were of wood-frame construction and based on standard Quartermaster General's plans. Materials were brought to the site via a temporary dock on Salmon Bay for transport to the emerging army post. Foundations were primarily Chuckanut sandstone, taken from quarries south of Bellingham, Washington. Exterior cladding was lapped cedar siding; windows had double-hung wood sash; wide verandahs or porches were typical; and roofs were originally finished with Philadelphia slate. On the interior, buildings featured hardwood floors, lath and plaster walls and ceilings, and some pressed metal ceilings.

The general contractor for the first phase of construction at the fort was the firm of Nichols and Crothers. A local directory dating from 1899 provides the only citation for this company, suggesting that the firm may have come to Seattle solely to build the fort under a federal contract. William R. Nichols and Robert A. Crothers are cited as contractors, and their company is listed under "Contractor-Buildings" at 214 - 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue that year. Nichols' residence was cited also as "Magnolia Bluff," indicating he lived at the fort site, while there was no residence list for Crothers. (*Polk Directory to Seattle*, 1899, p. 726 and 1074) Nichols and Crothers, as a general contracting business or as individuals, are not cited in earlier or later local directories.



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The first buildings on the fort were completed in December 1899. They included a double barracks, three double officers' quarters, two double non-commissioned officers' quarters, and one quartermaster storehouse. Two months later, the hospital was completed. On February 9, 1900 the new post was named after Major General Henry Ware Lawton. Lawton was known for his service during the Indian Wars and had been killed in action in the Philippines two months earlier. Within the two following years the two-company post grew to include an administration building (headquarters), a bake house, a guard house, and quartermaster stables. In 1904 and 1905 a number of other buildings were completed. These included a two-company barracks, a post exchange, a gymnasium, band barracks, six double officers' quarters, two non-commissioned officers' quarters, and a fire station. Civilian employees' quarters and another quartermaster stables were built in 1908, which was to be the end of major construction at Fort Lawton for more than 30 years.

Civil Engineer Ambrose H. Kiehl is credited with having developed the details of the post and overseeing the construction of its early buildings. Kiehl was a local engineer in Seattle, and was listed in a local 1894 directory as residing in the city on Queen Anne Hill. (*Polk Directory to Seattle*, 1894, p. 479) Beginning with in the directory he is cited as "Kiehl, H. Ambrose, eng. QM Dept. USA," with a business address of 49 Hiller Building and residence at 105 Republican Street in 1898, and a residence at "Mag. Bluff" in 1900 (*Polk Directory to Seattle*, 1898 edition, p. 560; and 1899 edition, p. 563.) The local directories cite Ambrose Kiehl, as "civil eng and sup const [superintendent of construction], USA Quartermaster Dept." and noted his residence at the post in 1912, along and his wife, Louisa J., and a daughter, Laura A., a student. Ambrose Kiehl is listed simply as a "civil eng." in the 1914. The family moved from the fort by 1916 to reside at 421 West Galen, again on Queen Anne Hill. Louisa is listed for the final time in the 1917 directory and Ambrose Kiehl for the last time in 1922. The 1981 HABS report on Fort Lawton cites notes and letters by Kiehl in support of his prominent role in the realizing the design of the fort layout and its buildings, although the buildings follow the Quartermaster Corps standard plans. (Lentz, 1981)

When the initial phase of construction at Fort Lawton was completed, the physical plan of the post was established. This included the arrangement of buildings around the oval parade ground, graded open spaces, curvilinear drives, and the

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relationship of elements to one another and to the site itself. In 1898 a local newspaper had noted that the “large area between the ridge and the barracks will form an ideal drill ground where a regiment of men could go through the ordinary evolutions of a regimental drill in full view of upwards of 5,000 people...” (*Seattle Post Intelligencer*, “Magnolia Bluff, the Magnificent site of Seattle’s Army post,” November 15, 1898.) By 1908 this vision was realized by the erection of 36 buildings. The parade ground and the harmonious collection of buildings that surrounded it remained the visual focus of the post through the subsequent three decades, even during the rapid expansion of World War II.

## 1909 – 1940

After the initial period of establishment and expansion of Fort Lawton came to a close, the fort experienced a 30-year era of minimal development. It was a four-company post, garrisoned by two to four infantry companies at a time. During World War I, some troops were trained at Fort Lawton. In addition to the usual infantry troops, a detachment of Coastal Artillery was stationed there. Local units of the National Guard and Army Reserve also trained at the post, and during the Seattle General Strike of 1919 troops from Fort Lawton were mobilized within the city. The Army’s presence played an indirect role in controlling labor unrest, at least in the eyes of citizens opposed to the strike.

A 1909 report to the War Department described the post’s fire, electric communications, water, and sewer systems and evaluated its firing range. It cited a fire station, constructed in 1905, located behind (east of) Officers’ Row, with a system of fire hydrants located around the post. By 1909, the Seattle Electric Company had extended its lines to Fort Lawton, which led to the eventual installation of electrical light fixtures. The earliest post buildings, originally lit by mineral oil lamps, were electrified over the next several years. In 1909, Fort Lawton communicated by telegraph cable with Fort Worden and Fort Ward and by telephone with the city and beyond. Telephone service was provided by the Independent Telephone Company of Seattle.

Fort Lawton lacked an adequate wharf and had no direct access to nearby Salmon Bay. Instead, the Quartermaster’s Office in Seattle operated a steamer, “The Cartright,” between the city and Forts Ward, Casey, and Flagler and Port Townsend.

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Fort Lawton also suffered from an inadequate firing range. An original 300-yard range, located in the forested area to the north of the non-commissioned officers' houses, was extended in 1909, but the rolling topography and tree cover prevented its expansion to the desired 3,000 yards. The inadequacy of the water-supply and firing range and wharf, plus the distance of the post from railroad lines may have been factors in the Army's later decision not to expand Fort Lawton.

Access improved after the electric street railway was extended into the fort with construction of a small station building near the Administration Building. In 1909, the Seattle Electric Company issued a small guide to "Trolley Trips about Seattle: Where to Go and How to Get There," which cited the Fort Lawton route and noted its schedule as every 90 minutes throughout the day. Military ceremonies, dress parades, and guard mounts occurred several times each week and the post band played concerts on Tuesdays and Sundays. The trolley guide explained that the grounds were open to the public, with admission to officers' quarters by permission.

Streets were soon constructed and by 1910 Fort Lawton was accessible by carriages and motorized vehicles. The Magnolia Bluffs Parkway, which was part of the Olmsted Brothers' comprehensive 1903 plan for city parks and parkways, was authorized by 1910. In association with this component, the City Parks Commission directed landscape architect John Olmsted to report on the post. Olmsted's 1910 report described existing conditions of structures, roadways, and open spaces, and suggested increased public access and use of the site, specifically the bluffs, by Seattle residents. He also recommended infrastructure and utility improvements, acquisition of property along Salmon Bay, and construction of swimming pools on the West Point Sand Spit. Olmsted's report was sent through military channels to the Secretary of War, but no action was taken on his suggestions.

While the buildings at Fort Lawton were similar to those on other military posts of the same period, it was the only one of its era in Washington State to deviate from the traditional rectilinear layout of military posts. Some have associated its integral design of buildings and site with the work of the Olmsted Brothers firm and their principles of naturalistic landscape design. The early layout of Fort Lawton's site plan, which was completed by 1909, appears consistent with many of Olmsted's

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concepts about open space, sequential views, and naturalistic roadway layout and land forms. However, there is no direct evidence to suggest that the post was influenced directly by the firm's work or John Olmsted's 1910 report.

Seattle citizens continued to be frustrated by the lack of growth at Fort Lawton. As early as 1917, the local newspapers expressed the City's interest in acquiring and using the site as a public park:

With the establishment of a division Army post at American Lake (Fort Lewis), it must necessarily follow that Fort Lawton will lose its usefulness in the military equation and, in time, if not at once, be abandoned... Seattle's loss of a small post becomes inconsequential compared with the gain to be derived from the location of a division post to the Puget Sound country... Seattle gave to the government the ground forming the Fort Lawton reservation - a commanding and beautiful site on Magnolia Bluff. With the abolition of the post this reservation should revert to the municipality and be preserved for all time as a public park. It is now practically connected with the city's boulevard system, only a link in the highway to be completed... Fort Lawton, in military use has afforded vast recreation grounds and given pleasure to countless thousands. Its beauty should never be spoiled by subdivision for private uses. No doubt Uncle Sam, if properly approached, will prove as generous as the original donor and will readily assent to the conversion of the reservation into a park. (*Seattle P-I*, January 17, 1917 editorial.)

The 1920 annual report by the Commander of the Department of the Columbia noted that the entire Fort Lawton reservation was being enclosed by a wire fence, and that a target range of 300 hundred yards had been cleared. In spite of this enclosure, its remote location, and relatively small size, Fort Lawton remained open to Seattle residents.

Despite local concerns, development at Fort Lawton in the interim years leading up to World War II was minimal. About 25 new buildings were added during the period, many of which were temporary or constructed with salvage materials by troop labor. Between 1927 and 1940 Fort Lawton served as a regimental headquarters. However, Camp Lewis' designation in 1927 as the dominant regional Army post seemed to clearly establish that Fort Lawton would never have the importance hoped for by Seattle citizens. A 1928 article in the *Washington Historical Quarterly* described the dilemma of the post during this period: "It would seem Fort Lawton is destined to remain what it is now - a post where two or three companies of infantry are stationed in peacetime, for it is too rugged to become an airport, too small to become a training camp, and too close to a great city to become a coast defense fortress." (Ray T. Cowell, "Fort Lawton," *Washington Historical Quarterly*, 1928, p. 35.)

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The 1930s and the Great Depression resulted in limited budgets for the military as well as for other public institutions. A small number of buildings were constructed during this time, including two non-commissioned officers' duplexes at the south end of Montana Circle. These two-story houses, also based on standard Quartermaster General's plans, differed in size, material, and design from the earlier wood clad buildings. (The brick houses are identical to several at Fort Lewis.) In addition, five wood-framed, detached garages were constructed behind Officers' Row, acknowledging again the status of the officers. An old post wagon shed was replaced during this period by an equipment shed/maintenance shop located just west of the quartermaster stables. An addition to the earlier Shingle style officer's club, which was located to the east of Officers' Row, was built by troop labor in 1932 (later demolished). (Mann, Millegan, Morse and Ramsey, p. 4 - 5, and 80.)

During 1933 and 1934 site improvements were made at Fort Lawton through the labor relief efforts of the Washington Emergency Works Administration (WEWA). Documented in historic photos, this WEWA work included grading, tree pruning, path- and road-building activities, and clearing of areas east of Officers' Row. The State WEWA was established in the later 1920s to provide labor grants to public agencies, counties, and municipalities throughout the state. The state's labor problems had emerged when agricultural prices began slumping and former farm workers began looking for work in Washington cities. (Dorpat, p. 12.) By 1933, unemployment in Washington State reached more than 30%, reflective of the national Depression.

That same year President Roosevelt's New Deal and the National Recovery Act of June 1933 helped establish federal programs, such as the Civil Works Authority (CWA), Works Progress Administration (WPA), Public Works Administration (PWA), and Federal Emergency Relief Administration (FERA). The State WERA was replaced by these federal relief agencies, created to address the needs of the vast number of unemployed people across the country. In the fall of 1933, more than 3,500 people were employed by the CWA in King County, with the number rising to more than 17,000 by January 1934. In the late 1930s WPA crews continued site work and building at Fort Lawton, as well as other Seattle locations. (Short, p. 321 and 342.) Near the end of the Depression, in 1938, the City of Seattle had an opportunity to acquire Fort Lawton when the Army offered to

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surplus the property and transfer the site to the City for only one dollar. The City cited its inability to fund proper maintenance of the site and declined the offer.

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### The World War II Era

Rapid changes came to Fort Lawton during the run-up to World War II. On May 22, 1941, the post was placed under authority of the Commanding General, San Francisco Port of Embarkation. A massive expansion program was begun with an \$826,000 authorization by Congress. In the following half-decade, Fort Lawton finally became the vital post that the local citizens had envisioned in the late 19th century, though not the dominant military station in the region. More than \$16 million, by contrast, was authorized during this time to further develop Fort Lewis.

During World War II, Fort Lawton became the sixth-largest Point of Embarkation for troops in the United States, the second-largest on the West Coast, and the fourth-largest in terms of civilian employees and cargo tonnage. It served as an induction and training center for the embarkation and debarkation of troops to the Pacific, Asia, Near East, and Alaska. Beginning in 1940 and continuing through World War II, the military used Seattle School District property in the Interbay area east of Magnolia to provide access to nearby railroads for stockpiling materials.

An estimated 1,100,000 troops were processed at Fort Lawton during the war, and more than 20,000 troops were billeted on the site. In addition, there were more than 12,520 military and 10,760 civilian operating personnel at the post. Beginning in 1943, the fort also housed a detachment of approximately 200 women, members of the Army who staffed a medical platoon and ran the motor pool. It further housed approximately 6,000 German and Italian prisoners of war.

During the war, more than 450 buildings were constructed at the fort. In addition to the new structures, which were mostly temporary and quickly built, alterations were made to some of the original buildings. The war era buildings were designed for quick construction and minimal use of materials. While they met minimum standards for function and comfort, some lacked heat, plumbing, or even exterior siding. Photos from the era show that the siting of World War II structures was expeditious and informal, unlike the original buildings, which were integral to the site and consistent in design. Wartime construction also impacted Fort Lawton's original architecture, with aesthetically insensitive alterations and the use of substandard materials.

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Fort Lawton functioned as a training camp for Free Italian troops, and in this capacity it was the scene of a racial incident that was to have national ramifications. In mid-August 1944, African American soldiers assigned to the 650th and 651st Port Companies, angered over the better treatment of prisoners of war, attacked 200 Italian former POW troops in their barracks. Several Italians were severely beaten and one was killed. The event resulted in a Congressional inquiry and subsequent Army guidelines on racial disturbances.

Wartime activities in the region, including those at Fort Lawton, significantly impacted Seattle's economy. Employment in Puget Sound shipyards increased from an estimated 8,000 in 1940 to 92,000 by the end of 1943. Federal contracts for ships and aircraft and war-time housing construction had lasting effects on industries throughout the region. By 1944, government contracts supplying operations at the Sand Point Naval Air Station, Port of Embarkation and Bremerton Naval Yard in King, Pierce and Kitsap counties exceeded \$3,450,000,000. (Berner, 1999 p. 47.)

While activities at Fort Lawton contributed to the economic growth of the city during the war, community access to the post abruptly ended. The gates to the fort, wide open to the public in its early years, were closed to civilians with the advent of war. A local newspaper columnist noted, "[f]or the first time in many years, Seattle residents will not be able to include Fort Lawton as part of their scenic drives this weekend" (*Seattle Times*, July 25, 1941).

In 1941 the Interceptor Command headquarters of the 2nd Army Air Force was placed on the fort to manage civilian air spotters and monitor aircraft for civil defense in the Pacific Northwest. This action anticipated Fort Lawton's future role as a command post for air defense operations.

In 1942, a chapel was constructed on the post, on a site southeast of the parade ground and south of Officers' Row. The chapel presently remains the only building of the World War II era within the historic district. Similar to other buildings, it was constructed from standardized U.S. Army Quartermaster Corps plans (series 700-1800 or 800-550) using traditional Revival styles. Hundreds of similarly-designed chapels were built on Army posts throughout the country at this time, including four at Fort Lewis and one at Fort Worden. By 1944, there were two additional chapels located within the fort. The "Chapel on the



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Hill,” as the remaining building was identified, was for Protestants. A similar “Chapel in the Pines” was constructed near the east entry gate on Washington Avenue for Catholics, and the “Chapel by the Sea” was built near the bluffs for “Negro” troops. Neither of these chapels remains.

## The Post-War Period

Physical development at Fort Lawton in the post-war decades of the 1950s through the 1970s did not match the scale of activity that occurred during World War II, but it impacted the property considerably by construction additions and the gradual transformation of the Fort to local public use. During the cold war era the fort continued to serve as part of the Nike Hercules Air Defense System, the basic defense system of the continental United States. Of 47 Nike units in the U.S., five were in Washington and two at Fort Lawton. Operated by the 49th Air Defense Artillery group, the units, with their large antennae and spherical domed radar, were installed incongruously in the middle of Officers’ Row at the highest point on the post. Unfortunately, two double officers’ quarters were demolished to make way for the construction of the large antennae installation. The antennae provided information to the Seattle Air Defense into the 1970s, although the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) began leasing them in 1958 for tracking commercial air routes.

Throughout Fort Lawton, the Army continued to build concrete and light steel-frame buildings during the 1950s. The largest project was the so-called Capehart housing project, named for the 1955 legislation that funded it. This project resulted in Buckley Heights, consisting of 66 housing units built in 1957 in an enclave west and outside of the Historic District boundary. The simple, one-story, slab-on-grade single dwellings housed Army and later Navy families.

The presence of the Army Reserve at Fort Lawton increased in 1957 and 1958 with construction of a training center, which was designed to accommodate 800 peacetime reservists. Between 1958 and 1968, the 124th U.S. Army Reserve Command had its headquarters at the post. The 10th Army Corps remained the major occupant of Fort Lawton until it was also deactivated in 1968. Subsequently, Fort Lawton was designated a sub-installation of Fort Lewis. In the 1970s the major units in

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residence included the U.S. Garrison, Fort Lawton and the 124th ARCOM, 104th Division. The Army ended its occupation of the original post and completely vacated it in the mid-1970s.

Beginning in the 1960s, after earlier unsuccessful attempts, Seattle residents became actively engaged in planning the future of Fort Lawton. In 1964 Secretary of Defense Robert McNamara announced the Army would surplus most of the post. His announcement resulted in public anticipation, and resulting speculation from many interest groups. One organization that formed in 1968 was the Citizens for Fort Lawton Park, an alliance of local groups and individuals that favored development of a city park on the site. That same year, the Department of Defense noted its plans to establish an anti-ballistic sentinel missile base at Fort Lawton. These plans ended after the local community and congressional protested, and the proposed Sentinel missiles were located instead on Bainbridge Island.

In 1968 Senator Henry Jackson announced that Fort Lawton was a Christmas gift to Seattle. The actual process of acquisition was more complicated. When the large portion of the property was surplus and made available to Seattle, existing legislation required the City to obtain it by paying the federal government 50 percent of the property's market value. In October 1970 Jackson introduced and helped pass new legislation that enabled the transfer of surplus Federal property at no cost, to state and local agencies for park and recreational purposes. The legislation became known as the "Fort Lawton Bill," a legacy of Parks policy of the Nixon Administration. In September 1972 the federal government transferred 391 acres of the total 1,150 acres of Fort Lawton to the City. The estimated value of the property was \$5,225,000.

Beginning in 1969 and during the transfer period, Northwest Indian groups and the Bureau of Indian Affairs expressed interest in acquiring some of the surplus land, and in 1970 the Navy and Coast Guard announced their interest in portions of the property. The Indians of All Tribes initiated public protests at Fort Lawton, demanding the surplus federal property for Seattle's Native Americans, citing special treaty rights and moral issues. Eventually the group successfully leased a 17-acre parcel of land at the north end of the fort from the City of Seattle, which acquired most of the land. Construction of the Daybreak Star Arts and Cultural Center was completed on this parcel in 1976.

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## Creation of Discovery Park and the Historic District

In 1972 the areas of Officers' Row and Montana Circle were assigned to the U.S. Navy for continued use as military housing. (These properties presently are undergoing transfer to the City of Seattle, and their addition to the historic district has necessitated this revised landmark nomination.) Also in 1972 the Secretary of Defense announced that a second portion of Fort Lawton would be surplused. This portion consisted of 127 acres of the upland property, including the original post buildings and parade ground. The City acquired this property and an additional 12 acres in 1973, 1979, and 1981. The land transfers left the Department of Defense, Coast Guard, FAA, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Science Administration (NOAA) with approximately 200 acres including a portion of the post that was later listed in the National Register as the Fort Lawton Historic District. A Memorandum of Agreement (MOA), signed by the City of Seattle, the Washington State Historic Preservation Officer, and the federal government, was part of the initial property transfer. The MOA assured preservation of Fort Lawton in compliance with federal regulations along with its nomination to the National Register, and its documentation in a Historic American Building Survey format. In 2007 the City acquired several additional acres with the Officers' Row and Montana Circle buildings.

In accordance with Executive Order 11593, the Army nominated some 25 buildings of the original army post, including the officers' housing, to the National Register of Historic Places as part of the transfer process. (Officers Row and Montana Circle housing are part of the recent acquisition by the City of Seattle.) The Fort Lawton National Historic District was listed in the National Register in August 1978. In 1988, the historic core of Fort Lawton was designated as a Seattle City Landmark by the Seattle Landmarks Board. In 2006 the Seattle Landmarks Preservation designated the Chapel on the south portion of the hill above the parade ground as a local landmark.

The City of Seattle, Washington State Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation, and the federal government entered into a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) as part of the land conveyance to the City. However, preservation of the buildings within the historic district raised controversial issues in the 1980s. Initially the Seattle Department of Parks and

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Recreation called for the demolition of most structures, in keeping with its adopted concept of a new "urban wilderness park" designed by landscape architects Dan Kiley and Associates. Through considerable effort, a compromise was reached in 1988. Funding of \$600,000 was made available from the State for exterior preservation and mothballing of 12 of 25 historic structures and demolition of the others. By the late 1980s, the post's former hospital had been demolished. Other historic buildings that were removed tended to be larger structures or in poorer condition than those which were retained. The demolished buildings included the former Enlisted Men's barracks, the Bakehouse, Quartermaster Shops, two Quartermaster Storehouses, and a stable building. The MOA stipulated there would be no interior use of the remaining buildings, except for actions required for their protection, and thus there has been no adaptation or rehabilitation of buildings within the historic district. In addition, the MOA required preservation of the parade ground, and allowed the removal of the former reservoir and portions of road pavement and brush.

The Seattle Department of Parks and Recreation operates the 524 acres of the Fort Lawton site, which also includes the Historic District, as Discovery Park. Consistent with the 1972 plan by Dan Kiley, landscape changes have gradually been made in the park. Native plants -- such as grasses, shrubs, and trees -- have been planted and trail systems constructed. Parking lots have been installed to the east of the Historic District on the site of the former gunnery range at the northern portion of the park. Some of the historic deciduous trees that mark the parade ground and the streets along the east and west side of Officers' Row have been retained. While the open historic vista west of the parade ground has been largely maintained and its grass has been mowed, there is a present sense of natural enclosure in other perimeter areas due to the planting and growth of native trees, shrubs, and meadow grasses.

### **Military Forts in Washington State**

The history and development of Fort Lawton and transformation in the last three decades parallels that of other military forts in Washington State. In the early decades of pioneer settlement of the Northwest, military forts served as commercial and

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social centers. Numerous forts and blockhouses were established, primarily in the 1850s, for defense during a period of conflict with Native Americans. Toward the end of the 19th century, the focus shifted from defense against the Indians toward quelling civil disturbances and ensuring national safety. After Washington obtained statehood in 1889, the first session of the State Legislature enacted a tax to establish a Military Department of Washington. As early as 1846 President James K. Polk had appointed a commission of military officers to identify potential fortification sites along the west coast from San Diego to Puget Sound. Puget Sound, which was part of the Oregon Territory at that time, was deemed too distant to merit defensive construction. Nearly a decade later in 1855, the Puget Sound region received revived interest due to the Indian Wars, and the federal government established forts at Bellingham and Port Townsend that focused on security and protection of local settlements.

The first American military post in the Pacific Northwest was established by the U.S. Army in 1849 as Camp Vancouver, adjacent to the large Hudson's Bay Company site of Fort Vancouver. The name of the army post was changed to Columbia Barracks and finally to Vancouver Barracks. After the Hudson's Bay Company left their fort in 1860, the U.S. Army took possession of the entire site. Vancouver Barracks became a regional headquarters for the "Department of the Columbia," which then included present-day areas of Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Montana, and Alaska, and served it as a supply base. During both World War I and World War II, it was a mobilization center and training camp, and in the 1930s it served as a Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) training camp. The Army actively occupied Vancouver Barracks until 2000, after which date the U.S. Army Reserve continued to use the site as a training headquarters. The property is presently part of the Vancouver National Historic Reserve District.

In 1860 the War Department recommended a line of fortifications across the north end of Puget Sound. The recommendation was set aside for a period due to the Civil War. In 1866 President Andrew Johnson issued an executive order that reserved land on Puget Sound for military use, and in 1872 a team of Army engineers selected prospective sites. No further action was taken until after the Puget Sound Naval Station was established in Bremerton in 1891, as a key military facility that

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required protection. In 1896 fortifications were authorized at the entrance to Admiralty Inlet for the protection of Puget Sound. Work on the harbor defenses was slow until the Spanish-American War began in 1898, when the Spanish Fleet was perceived as a specific threat. The resulting "Triangle of Fire" consisted of Fort Worden near Port Townsend, Fort Casey on Whidbey Island, and Fort Flagler on Marrowstone Island. Additional fortifications were built at Fort Ward, Middle Point, and Fort Whitman. (In 1954, Fort Flagler was declared surplus, and in 1976 it was designated as a National Register Historic District. Fort Casey was deactivated 1953, and in 1980 Fort Ebey and Fort Casey State Parks were incorporated into 1973 National Register listing of Ebey's Landing National Historic Reserve. Fort Worden was disbanded after World War II, but remained an administrative unit until 1953 when Harbor Defense Command was deactivated. In 1974 it was listed as a National Register Historic District and a National Historic Landmark. All three of these former forts are part of the Washington State Park system.)

Other forts in Washington State that were built as part of the harbor defense system along the Columbia River included Fort Canby in Ilwaco (1862 – 1950), and Fort Columbia in Chinook (1896 – 1948). These forts were active through World War II, and subsequently were acquired by and developed as historic sites by Washington State Parks. A number of temporary coast and harbor defenses were developed during World War II: the Westport Military Reservation, Westport (which first served as a gun battery during World War I); Point Brown Military Reservation, Ocean Shores; Grayland Beach Military Reservation, Grayland; Fort Hayden, Cape Flattery near Neah Bay; and Camp Hayden, Crescent Beach. Another facility developed in connection with World War II was Camp Hanford, near Richland. This Army anti-aircraft installation was conceived to protect the government's Hanford plutonium production facility, on which construction began in 1943. After the end of the war, the Atomic Energy Commission took control of the Hanford plutonium facilities, and in 1961 the Camp Hanford air defense mission was eliminated, and Camp Hanford was shut down.

Fort George Wright, in Spokane, was begun in 1897 and opened in 1899, with most of the buildings constructed between 1897 and 1906. The fort consolidated the military activity in all of northeast Washington and remained in use for military purposes until 1957. During World War II, Fort Wright functioned as an Army Air Corps convalescent center. When

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the government declared the fort surplus, educational facilities had priority for purchase or use of the land. The Fort George Wright Historic District was listed in the National Register in 1976.

Fort Lawton is larger than some of the other historic forts in Washington State, with exception of Fort Lewis. Its domestic buildings are similar in design to others of the early era of development, dating from the late 1890s up to World War I. In contrast to the rectilinear layout of other historic forts, Fort Lawton was unique due to its curvilinear street system and oval-shaped parade ground, and its urban setting on a tall bluff site.

## Fort Lawton and Fort Lewis

Fort Lawton developed at the turn of the 19th century, at the same time as Fort Wright in Spokane. Despite the ambitions of Seattle citizens, that it be a major military installation, Fort Lawton was never part of the county's coastal defense system. Until World War II it functioned primarily as a four-company post from which troops could be dispatched to quell early 20<sup>th</sup> century civil unrest and labor strikes. The post's potential as a dominant military fort was permanently diminished with the rise of Fort Lewis during World War I. Fort Lawton became a key installation as a point of embarkation during World War II, and subsequently served as the headquarters of the Puget Sound Air Defense during the Cold War, but in 1968 it was declared a sub-post of Fort Lewis, serving after that date as a Reserve Command headquarters.

Camp Lewis (later Fort Lewis) was established near Tacoma in 1917, as was part of an enormous military construction program during the World War I era. In 1917 Pierce County citizens passed a \$2,000,000 bond to purchase 70,000 acres to donate to the Federal Government for use as a military base. With responding federal legislation, construction on Camp Lewis began on 5 July 1917. The site had previously been used for joint Army-National Guard maneuvers. Within three months, more than 1,750 buildings and 420 structures had been completed at Camp Lewis, and construction of a system of streets, roads, and railroad spurs were underway. The post was the home to the 91st Division, which trained on site until its departure to France in June 1918, followed by the 13th Infantry Division. After World War I, much of the activity at the Camp, like that at Fort

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Lawton, ceased. Tacoma civic and political leaders sought the property from the War Department. But in 1926, Congress passed a 10-year plan to revitalize Army posts, including Camp Lewis. The post was not only saved, but its stature rose: on September 30, 1927 Camp Lewis was designated a Fort, marking it the dominant regional Army post.

During the late 1930s Fort Lewis became much more active in anticipation of America's entry to World War II. Its population grew from 2,000 to 37,000 troops between May 1939 and March 1941. By August 1941, the 2000-acre North Fort Lewis housing complex was completed. On December 7, 1941, Japan attacked Pearl Harbor. While fear gripped the nation, the need for increased troops along the Pacific Coast became clear. Troops from Fort Lewis helped secure McChord Field, Camp Murray, and Fort Lewis itself, and by the end of World War II the post had trained the 3rd, 33rd, 40th, 41st, 44<sup>th</sup>, and 96th Infantry Divisions, plus many brigades and smaller units. A camp for prisoners of war was established in July 1943 and operated until 1946.

In 1943, the training space at Fort Lewis was increased by over 18,000 acres, with the addition of the Rainier Training Area south of the Nisqually River. At war's end, Fort Lewis became home to the 2nd Infantry Division, which was the first division involved in the Korean Conflict. By the fall of 1950, thousands of recalled reservists, draftees, and other units arrived at Fort Lewis, and construction began on two new regimental areas east of Gray Army Airfield in January 1952. At the end of the Korean conflict, Fort Lewis became home to the 4th Division. ("History of Fort Lewis," Fort Lewis Historic Museum.) Fort Lewis continues to be the primary west coast Army training center, and remains a driving social and economic force in the South Puget Sound region.

## **The Architects - the U.S. Army Quartermaster Corps**

The U.S. Army Quartermaster Corps designed the original buildings at Fort Lawton according to Standardized Plans. The Quartermasters Corps emerged from several military departments created during the Spanish-American War and was directly responsible for Army construction during the period of 1866 to 1942. During the period from 1890 to 1917, the Corps



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was located in Washington, D.C. Its early designs included plans for building types such as officer and non-commissioned officer housing, barracks, headquarters, gymnasias, storehouses, and post exchanges plus blacksmith, saddler, and carpenter shops. Building materials were varied, and included wood, brick, stone, concrete, and clay tile. For family housing during this period there were 82 different plans, with up to 15 variations. Characteristics of the standardized plans included careful analysis of materials and labor efficiency in construction. Many of the buildings stressed restraint and utility over decoration. Elements of prefabrication and assembly-line erection were utilized during construction. Under the Corps' plans, the War Department built 32 camps (cantonments) for training more than 1,280,000 men.

The layout of forts was also standardized by the Army as early as the 1860s. Officers' quarters, chaplains' quarters, and mess halls were typically linear and faced onto a parade ground. Landscape features were standardized to some degree, with overall organization (site planning, roads, parade ground, and building clusters), use (housing, hospital, supply areas, etc.), and vegetation (such as tree-lined roads) depicted in plans as early as 1860. By 1904 Army Regulations specified that posts should be "aesthetically pleasing." By this time, principles of the Beaux Arts movement in city planning began to impact the designs by the Army, often with the resulting formal symmetry of buildings arranged around axes.

During the late 1800s, the Quartermaster designers were drawn to the Colonial Revival style, which was popular at the time because of its association with patriotism and tradition. Other styles used by the Quartermaster Corps included Late Victorian and Georgian Revival in the 1880s – 1900s and Spanish Revival beginning in the 1920s. Chapels dating from the 1930s sometimes were in Gothic Revival styles, while NCO housing sometimes utilized bungalow designs.

Following World War I, the Army was severely reduced in size and funding. Earlier-constructed buildings had deteriorated, and in the 1920s soldiers often were housed in tents or unheated buildings. In 1926 Congress authorized the sale of 43 posts, directing that the profits be used for construction of new building on the remaining posts. Meanwhile, in the 1920s the Corps was distributed to nine separate locations throughout the country. Construction focused on housing and hospitals, and in

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1931 the Army housing construction program grew to over \$49 million. This activity increased during the early years of the Depression to over \$145,000,000 in 1933. Despite this increased activity, there was little additional construction at Fort Lawton.

By 1939, with the emergence of World War II in Europe, the Quartermaster Corps was reorganized from being commodity-based to supply-based, and its depots were expanded. The Design and Construction Divisions worked closely with the Depot Division, which was created to develop standardized practices and coordinate construction on a nation-wide basis. At the peak of the war, the Quartermasters Corps supplied nearly 8,000,000 Army personnel with food, clothing, equipment, and supplies in addition to shelter. It also provided supplies to the Marine Corps, Coast Guard, War-Shipping Administration, and some Lend-Lease programs. In 1941, just days before the attack on Pearl Harbor, the Quartermaster Corps was reorganized and its responsibilities were transferred to the Army Corps of Engineers.

By the beginning of World War II, the Quartermaster Corps was charged with construction of mobilization camps; Army Air Corps bases; assembly plants for munitions and tanks; and hospitals throughout the U.S. and in Alaska, Panama, and the Pacific Islands. During the war, the Army developed temporary building plans, many utilizing prefabricated components, and constructed an estimated 30,000. These temporary structures were referred to initially as the 700 series, which addressed more than 300 distinct building types, and used consistent construction details. (World War I building plans had been referred to as the 600 series. Later buildings, which tended to be more utilitarian, were based on the 800 series.) Regional variations were permitted, primarily to allow for the use of local materials for lower costs. During the World War II era, there was some variation in building styles and changes in plans in response to climate.

Posts built during World War II followed grid-like patterns, with buildings arranged in closely-spaced rows. The standardized site plan was a U-shape arrangement of buildings. Structural units such as barracks, officers' quarters, and other buildings were typically located at the ends of the U, with the open space in the middle serving as a parade ground. Road systems were placed to underscore the separation of rank and functions within the post. After the war, however, other city planning influences played out in the design of military posts, particularly in housing developments. The layouts began to

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emphasize natural topography in the design and layout of streets, with curvilinear arrangements of buildings. Nonetheless, consistent planning concepts of function, hierarchal arrangements of buildings and circulation systems, provision of community areas and open space, and use of standardized building plans and consistent building placement and setbacks resulted in the ordered appearance of military posts (U.S. Army of Engineers, Seattle District).

## Design Features of Fort Lawton

Fort Lawton's early buildings, which date from the period of 1898 to 1909, were based on standard plans issued by the Quartermaster General's Office, and are similar and sometimes identical to buildings erected at other army posts of the same period in the Northwest. The buildings are examples of turn-of-the-century military architecture with bold, classical details. (Some of the building design drawings, drafted by civil engineer Ambrose Kiehl, have been preserved in the National Archives. Kiehl also recorded life on the post through many photographs that date from first clearing of the site in 1898 until the end of his employment at the site the 1920s.)

The structures are wood-framed, and most buildings have foundations of Chuckanut sandstone from nearby Whatcom County. Exterior walls were clad with painted, lapped cedar siding and featured generously-sized, double-hung window sash and plain window, door, and corner trim. Some of the buildings had porches or verandahs supported by columns or chamfered posts.

Originally, all the roofs at the post were clad with Pennsylvania slate, provided by Philadelphia suppliers. Interior finishes included painted plaster on wood lath walls, hardwood floors, and pressed metal ceilings. Heating in the officers' quarters and other major buildings was provided by steam or hot water systems with individual coal-fired boilers in the basements. The earliest buildings were lit with mineral oil lamps and later buildings with electric light fixtures. The color scheme for the post building exteriors was originally a barn red with red-brown trim, which is shown on several hand-colored post card images. However, as photos dating from 1907 indicate, a consistent, two-tone lighter scheme soon replaced the earlier color palate.

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The fort's buildings represented the strict social and regulatory hierarchy of the military through the size, individuality, and arrangement of the officers' residences at the top of the site above the parade ground, the smaller and denser non-commissioned officers' dwellings arranged below along a more typical street to one side, and the simple collective barracks housing. As noted in a local newspaper article of 1898, the initial view from Officers' Row was most impressive:

Naturally the captains' quarters are the larger and more pretentious of the three buildings. This is a double frame dwelling, built in the most substantial manner on a foundation of Chuckanut stone twenty inches thick, lined with brick. Each dwelling contains twelve rooms, including three bathrooms, toilets, laundry, coal bins, etc. The residences are graced in front by a wide piazza (veranda), upon which it is not difficult to imagine a group of officers with their wives and friends enjoying a magnificent view that lies to the west and north of the buildings. The rooms are all large and well arranged.

First one enters a spacious reception hall, with winding stairway of oak. Through this the visitor passes into the parlor, with its wide comfortable fireplace. Next comes the large dining room, back of which is the kitchen and pantry...The captains' quarters will be heated by steam and lighted with gas and electricity. They will have all the comforts and conveniences for the finest city residences...the outside finish is tongue-and-groove matched material with cedar lap siding...the inside finish is to be of tamarack.

To the west and distant perhaps an eighth of a mile are to be built the barracks to be occupied by the enlisted men. Work has indeed begun on these structures. They will have foundations of Chuckanut stone lined with brick, will be heated by steam and lighted with gas or electricity. (*Seattle Post-Intelligencer*, November 15, 1898)

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## Verbal Boundary Description

See attached map.

## Boundary Justification

The revised boundary encompasses portions of the original Fort Lawton that contains buildings, structures, objects, and landscape that date from the origins of construction on the post through the Depression and World War II – 1899 through 1945. The District includes Officers' Row, Montana Circle non-commissioned officers' quarters, the Parade Ground and associated buildings, two stables, a bus shelter, the chapel area southeast of the Parade Ground; and the circulation system of historic streets and walks, open vistas and landscape, and mature trees. The revised boundary expands the 1978 Historic District at the eastern edge (behind Officers' Row) and at the southeast (chapel area) to include extant resources that correspond with the District's expanded period of significance. Additionally, a small area at the west-northwest edge of the former district has been excluded, because the building it encompassed (Building 735) is no longer extant.

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## List of Photographs

The attached photographs of the Fort Lawton Historic District in King County, Washington were taken by Sonja Sokol Fürész in March 2007.

1. Looking SW across northern portion of parade ground, toward Buildings 733, 734, and 759.
2. Looking N/NW, showing Buildings 759, 916, 917, and 619.
3. Looking NE from Oregon Avenue, across parade ground to Building 417.
4. Looking NW from parade ground with reviewing stand in foreground, showing Buildings 733 and 734.
5. Looking E toward Building 733.
6. Looking NW at Building 755, with Buildings 916 and 917 in the background.
7. Looking NE toward Washington Avenue from Iowa Street, showing the south end of Officers' Row.
8. Looking N up Washington Avenue along Officers' Row, including Building 654 and the radar antenna at the far left.
9. Looking N along Officers' Row, a view from the sidewalk in front of Building 670.
10. Looking E toward Building 676, showing Double Officers' Quarters and an original light standard.
11. Looking NW from Oklahoma Way (behind Officers' Row), showing the rear of Building 676.
12. Looking N/NW along California Avenue, at the east edge of the District.
13. Looking E toward Montana Circle, from behind the Stables (Buildings 916 and 917).
14. Looking N along Montana Circle, showing (from left to right) Buildings 907, 905, and a portion of 903.
15. Looking S from Iowa Street, showing Building 632.
16. Looking NW across parade ground from Chapel area; Building 733 is visible in the distance.
17. View of brick gutter along west edge of Washington Avenue.
18. Looking NE (through fence), showing radar antenna and Building 654.