

STATE:
Washington

COUNTY:
Spokane

FOR NPS USE ONLY

ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

1. NAME

COMMON:
~~Spokane House~~ Spokane House Site

AND/OR HISTORIC:
Fort Jacob, Fort Spokane

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
One mile North of Nine Mile Falls on State Highway 291

CITY OR TOWN:
Spokane

STATE: Washington CODE: 53 COUNTY: Spokane CODE: 063

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input type="checkbox"/>	Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both <input type="checkbox"/>	Public Acquisition: In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered <input type="checkbox"/>	Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes: Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> in progress No: <input type="checkbox"/>

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/>	Government <input type="checkbox"/>	Park <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Transportation <input type="checkbox"/>	Comments <input type="checkbox"/>
Commercial <input type="checkbox"/>	Industrial <input type="checkbox"/>	Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/>	Other (Specify) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Educational <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Military <input type="checkbox"/>	Religious <input type="checkbox"/>	Interpretive Center	
Entertainment <input type="checkbox"/>	Museum <input type="checkbox"/>	Scientific <input type="checkbox"/>		

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNERS NAME:
Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission

STREET AND NUMBER:
P. O. Box 1128

CITY OR TOWN: Olympia STATE: Washington CODE: 53

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:
Spokane County Court House

STREET AND NUMBER:
West 1116 Broadway

CITY OR TOWN: Spokane STATE: Washington CODE: 53

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 1/2 acre

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
Spokane Metropolitan Area Transportation Study (SMATS)

DATE OF SURVEY: Oct., 1970 Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
Spokane City Hall

STREET AND NUMBER:
N. 221 Wall Street

CITY OR TOWN: Spokane STATE: Washington CODE: 53

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SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9 miles

STK

Eng. List 5
Hon. Thomas S. Foley

The Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission has developed the site of Spokane House for the enjoyment and education of the visitor. ~~Prior to the opening of an Interpretive Center considerable research and technology was required.~~ This site has undergone various phases of study since it was first acquired. Two archaeological digs, 1950-53 and 1960-63, have been conducted to assist in unraveling the story.

With respect to the location of the original Spokane House (constructed in 1810) early writers were vague and their descriptions led to widely divergent interpretations of where the site actually lay. There is still little agreement among local historians as to the exact location of the original North West Company Spokane House.

Fort Jacob (later Spokane House) was constructed during 1812 and 1813 by the American Pacific Fur Company. For its time, Fort Jacob was an emporium with its fine stockade and interior buildings, especially when compared with the small trading post erected by the North West Company a short distance downstream. Initially two east-west trenches and one north-south trench were started in an attempt to intercept the stockade walls of the trading post. By following the

direction of these pickets it was determined that they were the remains of a stockade wall running roughly north-south. Subsequent excavations revealed sections of other walls with the result that two rectangular areas were found, one within the other. By 1821, when the Hudson's Bay Company took over the trading establishment, the buildings were probably in bad condition. Instead of repairing them it was decided to reuse part of the old wood and erect a new establishment on almost the same spot. By using the old stockade for protection the new post was erected in the typical Hudson's Bay Company style, partially within and partially without.

It is a matter of record that when Spokane House was abandoned it was virtually stripped of anything of value and sent to the new post at Fort Colville. For this reason not as large a collection of objects and artifacts was found as might otherwise be expected.

#8

At the turn of the nineteenth century, the North West Company, a Canadian firm, started exploration of the fur resources of these areas. David Thompson, explorer-geographer with the North West Company, made his way across the Rocky Mountains in 1807. As a result of these explorations, the trading posts of Kootenai House, Kullyspell House, and Saleesh House were established. In 1810, Thompson established at the confluence of the Little Spokane and Spokane Rivers a post which was called Spokane House. This was a small post built to meet the immediate needs of the time. It probably consisted of a store, warehouse, and quarters for the men. Although archaeological studies have been made of this site the precise location remains unknown.

By 1811 another competitor entered the field. John Jacob Astor, realizing the immense profits to be made in the fur trading business, organized the Pacific Fur Company. To meet the North West Company competition, trading posts were established by the American Pacific Fur Company near the mouth of the Okanogan River in 1811 and near Spokane House in 1812. It was ~~was~~ the custom in those days for rival companies to establish their trading posts adjacent to each other for mutual protection. The name

It → this latter site which we are nominating.

Fort Jacob was officially given to the post built on the Spokane River in 1810 in honor of John Jacob Astor, according to a map in Nouvelles Annales, Vol. 10, Paris, 1811. The name did not last long. News of the outbreak of the War of 1812 between the United States and Great Britain, as well as other disappointing events, led the Astorians to sell out to the North West Company; thus the North West Company came into the possession of Fort Spokane, which was occupied immediately and given their old name of Spokane House.

In 1821, by an act of Parliament, the Canadian North West Company was absorbed by the British Hudson Bay Company. Finally in 1826, it was realized that the Spokane area was not an ideal location for fur trading, and by April of 1826, a move to Fort Colville was completed, thus ending almost 16 years of continuous occupation of the Spokane area by the early fur traders.

Note: Hudson Bay
fort was spelled
w/ one L = Fort Colville,
etc