

# Staff Report of Findings

## Spokane City/County CLG Recommendation

### National Register Eligibility – Fort George Wright Historic District Addendum – Fort George Wright Cemetery

Applicant/Owner: Department of the Air Force by Argonne National Laboratory, Environmental Science Division  
Consultant/Nomination Author: Brian Shaw & Laura Steele, Cultural Resource Specialists  
Hearing Date: February 20, 2024  
Property Address: North Government Way & N Houston Rd  
Property Name: Fort George Wright Historic District Addendum to add the Fort George Wright Cemetery

#### **FINDINGS OF FACT**

1. Generally a building, structure, object, site, or district which is more than fifty years old may be designated an historic landmark or historic district if it has significant character, interest, or value as part of the development, heritage, or cultural characteristics of the city, county, state, or nation (36 CFR 60).

- Created in 1899; the Fort George Wright Cemetery meets the 50-year age criteria established for listing in the National Register.

2. The property must qualify under one or more criteria for National Register eligibility (36 CFR 60): The addendum adding the Fort George Wright Cemetery to the Fort George Wright Historic District (listed in 1976) is being nominated under Criteria A and Criteria Consideration D, a cemetery, at the local level.

- The Fort George Wright Cemetery, located within the Fort George Wright Historic District is historically significant under Criterion “A” for its direct connection to the early military operations in the Inland Northwest, and to the establishment and use of Fort George Wright during the late 19th and early 20th centuries. The cemetery is also significant under special criteria consideration “D” as a resource that falls within a district and derives its primary significance from historic events. The period of significance for Fort George Wright as a whole is listed as 1899–1958. The cemetery, still in use, was created in 1899 as part of the fort complex and is owned and cared for by nearby Fairchild Air Force Base.
- The cemetery site retains clear integrity of location, setting, design, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. Although more recent buildings have been constructed in the wooded space between the Fort George Wright Cemetery and the main fort campus, the intrusions do not diminish the physical connection and meaningful association between the fort and cemetery

3. The property must also possess integrity of location, design, materials, setting, workmanship, feeling and association (36 CFR 60). *Integrity is the ability of a property to convey its significance...it is not necessary for a property to retain all its historic physical features...the property must retain, however, the essential physical features that enable it to convey its historic identity* (National Register Bulletin 15).

- The Fort George Wright Cemetery retains good integrity in terms of its location, setting, design, workmanship, materials, feeling and association.

**STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

The Fort George Wright National Register Historic District should be amended to include the Fort George Wright Cemetery as a contributing resource as it is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criteria A and Special Criteria Consideration D.

Preservation Officer Review: Megan Duvall

Report: 2/1/2024

Nominations Committee: Site Visit: N/A

\*Committee members were to visit the site on their own

Site Visit:

Landmarks Commission Review: Pending

Hearing: 2/20/2024