



## **Nisqually Delta Association**

P.O. Box 4777, Olympia, Washington 98501

[www.nisquallydelta.org](http://www.nisquallydelta.org) 360.485.9470

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August 12, 2011

Kyle Murphy  
Aquatic Reserves Program  
Department of Natural Resources  
PO Box 47000  
1111 Washington Street SE  
Olympia, WA 98504-7000

Dear Mr. Murphy,

I am writing on behalf of the Nisqually Delta Association (NDA) to support the proposed Nisqually Reach Aquatic Reserve. As you can tell from our name, we are an organization with active interests in the exact region your proposal addresses. Those interests go back to the beginning of the 1970's -- 1970 in fact was the year Nisqually Delta Association was established. That was even before Governor Dan Evans came forward with his idea to create a Nisqually park that would run the full course of the river. Imagine a park from headwaters in the Nisqually Glacier high atop Mt. Tahoma, to the delta where the Nisqually River enters the southern end of the Salish Sea -- that place we call Nisqually Reach today.

The Nisqually Delta Association (NDA) is now entering it's fifth decade, and is still working to protect the delta region of the Nisqually River. At the inception of our organization, we advocated for recognition and protection of the Nisqually Reach in Washington's Shorelines Management Act, and promoted the establishment of the Nisqually National Wildlife Refuge. Subsequently we worked to support the expansion of the Nisqually National Wildlife Refuge, and undertook a number of successful legal efforts intended to protect key elements of this Shoreline of Statewide Significance. Today we are working in the Sequelitchew Creek basin to implement shore zone protections and support watershed restoration.

The proposed Nisqually Aquatic Reserve is a laudable extension of the Aquatic Reserve Program, and seems to us to mark a milestone where the watershed preservation efforts of more than forty years finally reaches sufficiently into the Salish Sea to wrap around the farthest edges of the watershed basin. In a sense, the establishment of a Nisqually Reach Aquatic Reserve marks the day our collective planning net is finally cast wide enough to fully include a whole watershed bio-system, from icy mountaintop to salty sea. While the vision of Governor Evans has yet to be fully realized, the policy framework for one day reaching that goal will now be a meaningful step closer to complete.

We are enthusiastic about the Aquatic Reserve program's potential to provide another layer of protection for the natural systems in this Reach. The Nisqually Delta Association likes the

concept of providing islands of ecological protection in the marine environment that can be instrumental in the preservation, restoration and sustainment of natural plant and animal communities. We therefore fundamentally support the extension of increased conservation measures that are available through this proposed Aquatic Reserve coming to bear in this valuable and vulnerable region.

We believe the Nisqually Reach could be improved in terms of it's recognition and treatment of the relationship between Aquatic Reserve boundary and an important neighbor -- the Nisqually National Wildlife Refuge (NNWR). The boundaries of the NNWR have recently expanded, and the now approved boundary includes the pocket estuary at the mouth of Sequelitchew Creek. The attached figure is from a New York Times article on the Nisqually River system protection efforts, July 21, 2011. (<http://www.nytimes.com/2011/07/21/science/earth/21river.html?pagewanted=all>.) It shows, as the area shaded to represent the NNWR, the Refuge reaching to north along the DuPont shoreline to where it includes Sequelitchew Creek's saltwater marsh.

We think it is important to show the Approved Boundary of NNWR on the Nisqually Reach Aquatic Reserve area maps. We would also like to see an expanded discussion of the collaborative efforts that DNR could make to work with the National Wildlife Refuge system -- work we believe could help the national, state and local interests in Nisqually Watershed protection all be more fully realized.

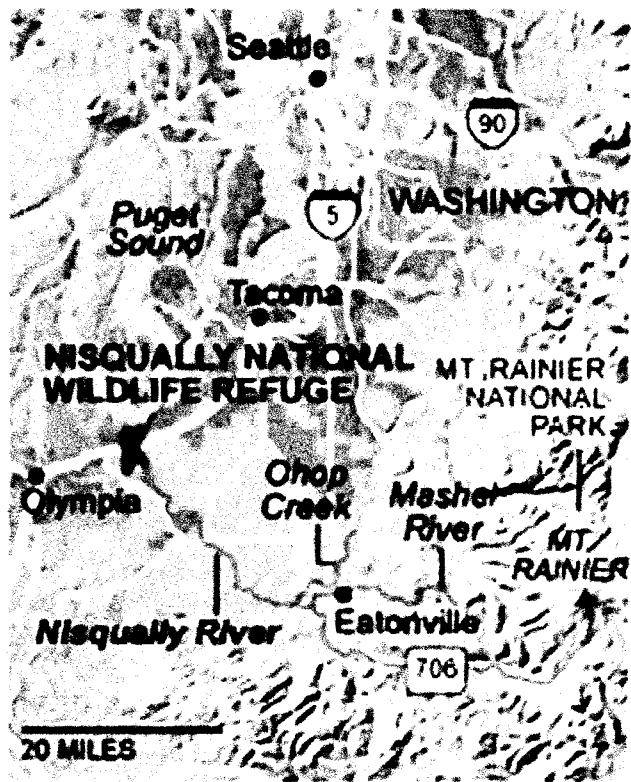
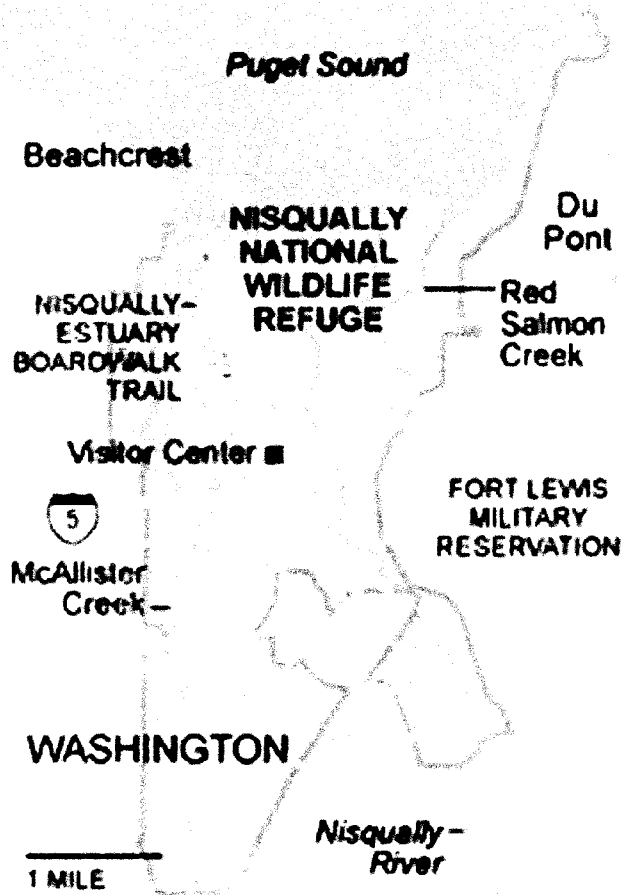
Another neighbor that we believe it is important for DNR to engage collaboratively is the City of DuPont. DuPont's shoreline includes the Nisqually National Wildlife Refuge Approved Boundary discussed above. The City of DuPont also has some of the most extensive shoreline regions of any single jurisdiction within the proposed Nisqually Reach Aquatic Reserve. At this time, DuPont is in the final stages of adopting its Shoreline Master Program update. We see great potential in the DNR planning effort to support and augment DuPont's city planning, and look forward to seeing many mutually beneficial outcomes resulting from coordinating these efforts.

We of the Nisqually Delta Association appreciate your efforts to engage the public in your planning efforts. We believe that a robust public process will result in the most satisfactory outcomes possible, and we encourage you and our Commissioner of Public Lands to seek to enhance and expand your already collaborative efforts. Thank you for your vital work to move this proposal towards reality. We look forward to celebrating the full adoption of the proposed Nisqually Reach Aquatic Reserve in the very near future.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Tom Skjervold".

Tom Skjervold  
President  
Nisqually Delta Association





STATE OF WASHINGTON SECRETARY OF STATE

Ralph Munro, Secretary of State

APPLICATION TO FORM A NONPROFIT CORPORATION

(Per Chapter 24.03 RCW)

FEE: \$30

- Please PRINT or TYPE in black ink. Sign, date and return original and one copy to...

EXPEDITED (24-HOUR) SERVICE AVAILABLE - \$20 PER ENTITY INCLUDE FEE AND WRITE "EXPEDITE" IN BOLD LETTERS ON OUTSIDE OF ENVELOPE

CORPORATIONS DIVISION 505 E. UNION • PO BOX 4023 OLYMPIA, WA 98504-0234

SEP 09 1999

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FILED: 09 109 1999 UBI: 601 979 374 CORPORATION NUMBER:

- Be sure to include filing fee. Checks should be made payable to "Secretary of State"

IMPORTANT! Person to contact about this filing: JAMES EDGREN Daytime Phone Number (with area code): 253-588-0840

ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION

NAME OF CORPORATION: NISQUALLY POINT DEFENSE FUND EFFECTIVE DATE OF INCORPORATION: 9/9/99 TERM OF EXISTENCE: Perpetual PURPOSE FOR WHICH THE NONPROFIT CORPORATION IS ORGANIZED: TO RAISE FUNDS FOR PRESERVATION OF HISTORIC AREA IN THE EVENT OF A VOLUNTARY DISSOLUTION, THE NET ASSETS WILL BE DISTRIBUTED AS FOLLOWS: DUPONT HISTORICAL MUSEUM

NAME AND ADDRESS OF WASHINGTON STATE REGISTERED AGENT: DR. JAMES EDGREN, 10601 REMBERT CT. S.W., LAKEWOOD, WA 98498

NAMES AND ADDRESSES OF EACH INITIAL BOARD DIRECTOR: PATRICK STEEL, 71 SILVER BEACH, STEELACOOM, WA 98388

NAMES AND ADDRESSES OF EACH INCORPORATOR: LORRAINE OVERMYER, 100 BRANDY WINE, DUPONT, WA 98327

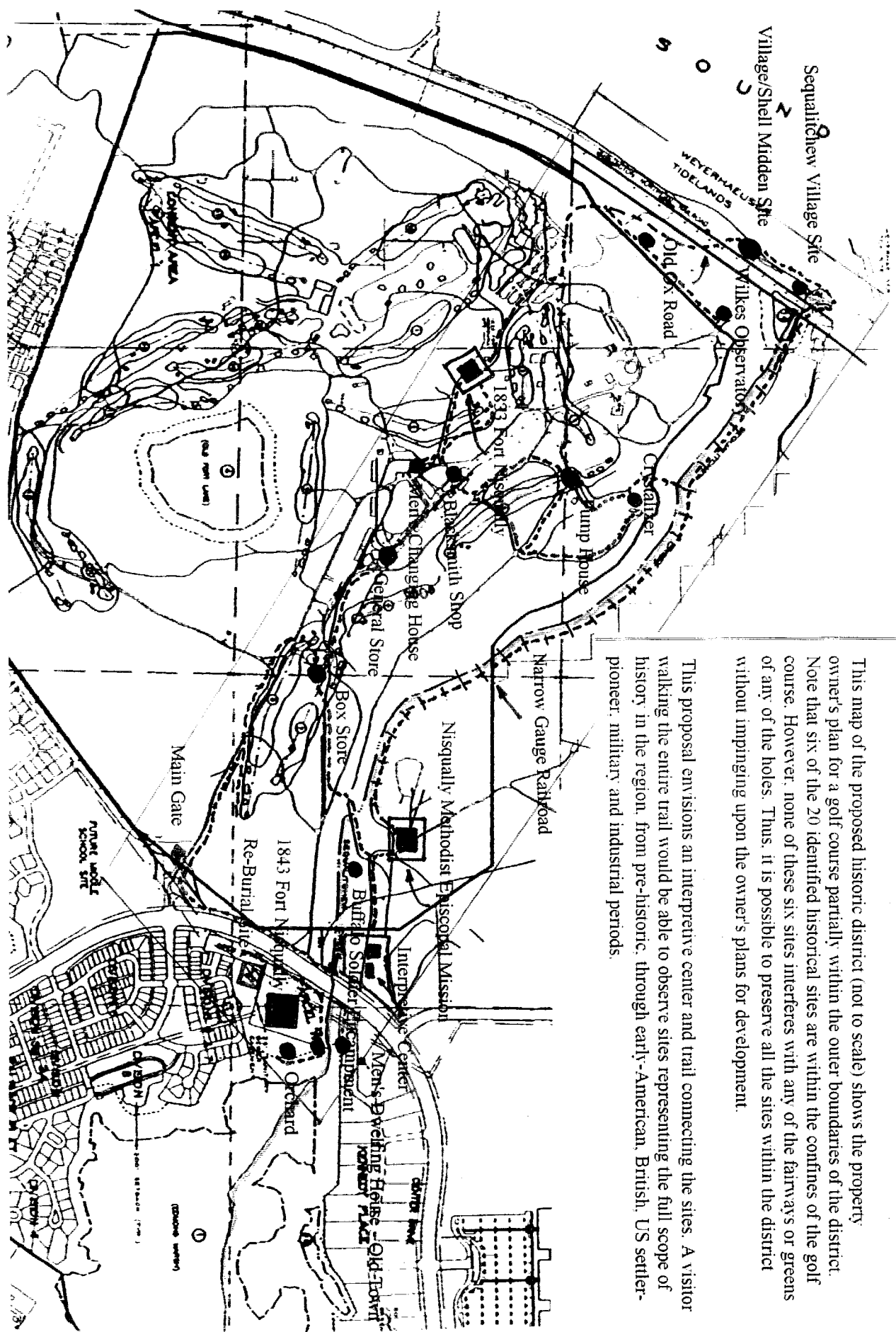
SIGNATURE OF INCORPORATOR: Lorraine Overmyer, 9-9-99

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**NISQUALITY-SEQUALITCHEW HISTORIC DISTRICT**  
*"Cradle of US History in the Puget Sound Region"*

This map of the proposed historic district (not to scale) shows the property owner's plan for a golf course partially within the outer boundaries of the district. Note that six of the 20 identified historical sites are within the confines of the golf course. However, none of these six sites interferes with any of the fairways or greens of any of the holes. Thus, it is possible to preserve all the sites within the district without impinging upon the owner's plans for development.

This proposal envisions an interpretive center and trail connecting the sites. A visitor walking the entire trail would be able to observe sites representing the full scope of history in the region, from pre-historic, through early-American, British, US settler-pioneer, military and industrial periods.



## NISQUALLY-SEQUALITCHEW HISTORIC DISTRICT

*"Cradle of US History in the Puget Sound Region"*

### SIGNIFICANT HISTORICAL SITES WITHIN THE DISTRICT - BY PERIOD

#### **Prehistoric Period:**

- \* Early-American Indian Shell Midden Site

#### **Native American Period (Pre-1800's):**

- \* Sequalitchew Village
- \* Nisqually Tribal Long Houses
- \* Indian Burial Grounds (specific location unknown)
- \* Ceremonial Grounds

#### **Hudson's Bay Period:**

- \* 1832 Nisqually House (45 PI 54)
- \* 1833 Fort Nisqually (45 PI 55)
- \* 1843 Fort Nisqually (45 PI 56)
- \* Sawmill (45 PI 71)
- \* Hudson Bay Company Workers Houses
- \* Ox Road

#### **First US Settlement Period:**

- \* 1839 Methodist Episcopal (Nisqually) Mission (45 PI 66)
- \* 1841 US Navy Wilkes Expedition Observatory (45 PI 67)
- \* 1841 Site of First Independence Day Celebration (45 PI 66)
- \* 1869 Early US Homesteader Sites (Huggins House)

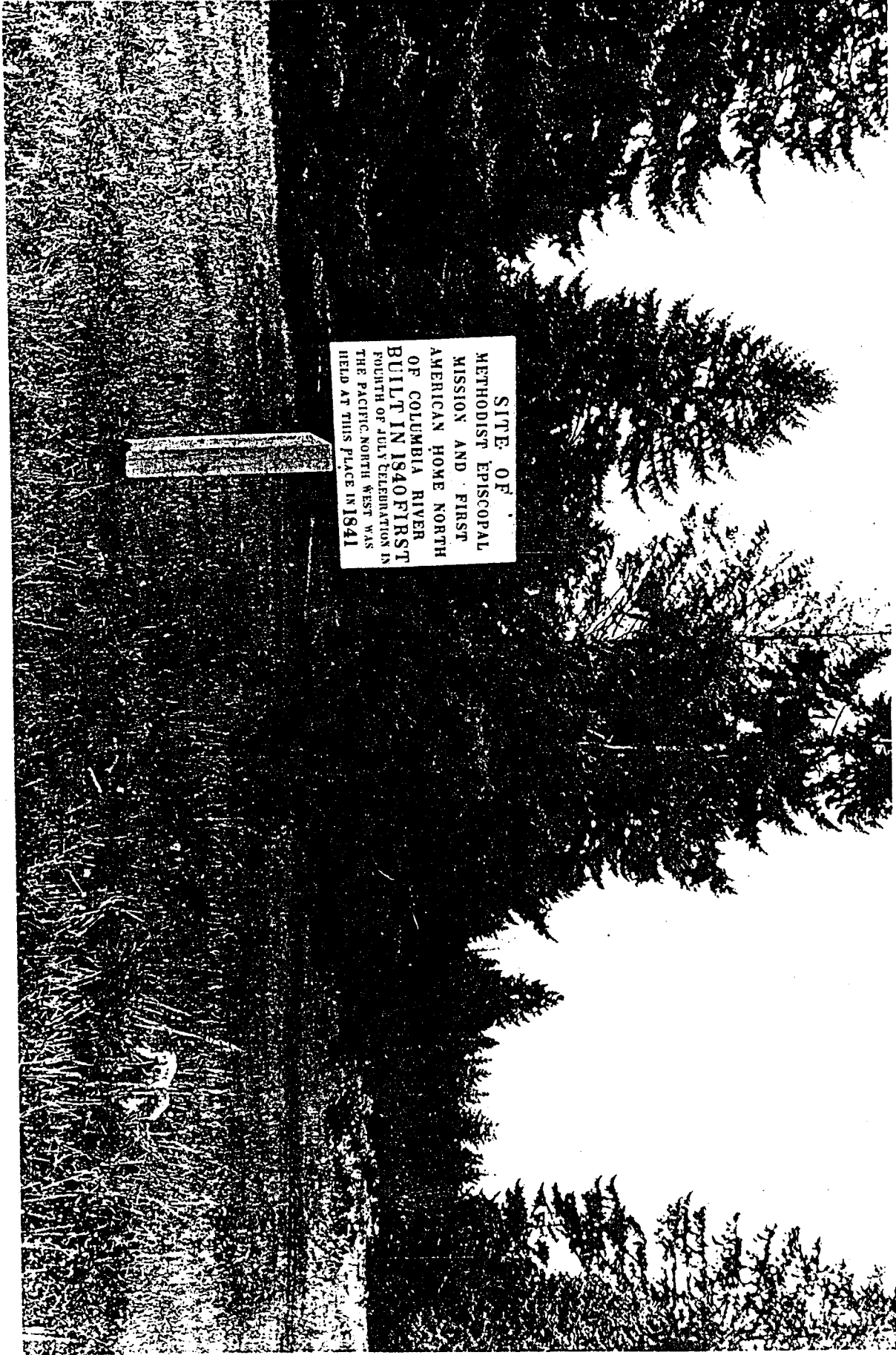
#### **Industrial Period:**

- \* 1906 DuPont Company Powder Works (Plant Area) (45 PI 70)
- \* Burning Ground Dump (45 PI 64)
- \* Men's Boarding House (45 PI 57)
- \* Narrow Gauge Railroad
- \* DuPont Company Main Gate
- \* Crystalizer
- \* Pump House
- \* Blacksmith Shop
- \* Men's Changing House
- \* General Store
- \* Box Store
- \* Old Town Housing

#### **Military Period:**

- \* 1900 Fort Lewis Training Area sites
- \* 1904 Buffalo Soldier Encampment (National Guard Maneuvers)

SITE OF  
METHODIST EPISCOPAL  
MISSION AND FIRST  
AMERICAN HOME NORTH  
OF COLUMBIA RIVER  
BUILT IN 1840 FIRST  
FOURTH OF JULY CELEBRATION IN  
THE PACIFIC NORTH WEST WAS  
HELD AT THIS PLACE IN 1841



## NISQUALLY-SEQUALITCHEW HISTORIC DISTRICT

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### PROPOSAL OVERVIEW

The Historic District boundaries proposed by the Committee for the Preservation of the Nisqually-Sequalitchew Historic District encompass some 20 identified historical sites which are representative of the various periods of cultural development in the region. Each of these sites is a crucial link in the chain of events that led to the present reality. While to preserve these sites requires a larger area to be designated, such requirement places no burden upon the primary property owner to give up any significant amount of land. Rather, preservation, especially of the industrial period sites, can be effected through retention of selected roadways and pathways so that visitors to the historic district can gain access without impinging upon the property owner's plans for development. The key point is *access!*

It is the Committee's contention that preservation efforts that do not allow for public access, are, in the final analysis, counterproductive. This proposal includes sites that are important to understanding the entire process of cultural development - not just selected segments. Thus, while it is important to locate and mark sites of prehistoric and Early-American cultural activity, to preserve sites of the Hudson's Bay Company period, the earliest US Citizen settlements (such as the Methodist Episcopal Mission) and location of the Wilkes Observatory, it is no less important to preserve such vestiges as remain of the industrial period, the DuPont Powder works. To ignore these sites because they are less conveniently located (in terms of planned development) is to skip over an extremely important segment of this region's history, and deny to future generations the right to view this piece of history. Likewise, preservation of a particular site, such as the 1833 Fort Nisqually site, without providing public access, is not true preservation.

### SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATIONS

This proposal envisions development of a series of connected walking trails that would allow for public access to each of the sites. These trails could utilize existing pathways and roadways, requiring only minimal acreage. A visitor to the historic sites could enter the area via a modest interpretive center (with parking lot). No vehicular traffic would move beyond the center. The center would provide interpretive information for each period of history with specific sites identified by a color-coded system, for example. The visitor would be able to visit a few or all of the sites in the district by following the directed trail system.

The Committee is convinced that this approach would allow the property owner to develop the property according to plan and still preserve these sites for the public benefit. The property owner has consistently demonstrated a keen interest in historic preservation. This proposal would allow that interest to be maintained at little or no cost to future development.

The Committee is aware that the property owner and another group of citizens is nominating a much smaller parcel of land, most of which is already designated for public use, as an Historic District. Unfortunately, that proposal does not include any sites from the industrial period, and most importantly, does not provide for public access to the strategically important 1833 Fort Nisqually site. Accordingly we recommend our suggested boundaries be adopted for the district.



# NISQUALLY-SEQUALITCHEW HISTORIC DISTRICT

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## HISTORIC SITES

*Located during Field Survey*

1. 1843 Fort Nisqually - (45 PI 56)
2. Old Town Dump - (45 PI 59)
3. Edmond Marsh Dump - (45 PI 60)
4. DuPont Company - (45 PI 70)
5. Town of DuPont - (45 PI 69)
6. Farm Locality - (45 PI 68)
7. Railroad Dump 1 - (45 PI 61)
8. Railroad Dump 2 - (45 PI 62)
9. Railroad Dump 3 - (45 PI 63)
10. Burning Ground Dump - (45 PI 64)
11. Town of DuPont Dump - (45 PI 65)
12. 1832 Nisqually House - (45 PI 54)
13. 1833 Fort Nisqually - (45 PI 55)
14. Men's Boarding House - (45 PI 57)
15. Brick Yard Dump - (45 PI 58)
16. Methodist Episcopal Mission - (45 PI 66)
17. Wilkes Observatory - (45 PI 67)
18. Sawmill - (45 PI 71)

9. Pump House
- h. Blacksmith Shop
- i. Men's Changing House
- j. General Store
- k. Box Store
- l. Men's Dwelling House
- m. Orchard
- n. Re-Burial Site
- o. Main Gate

- a. Village/Shell Midden Site
- b. Sequelitchew Village Site
- c. Old Ox Road
- d. Crystalizer
- e. Buffalo Soldier Encampment
- f. Narrow Gauge Railroad

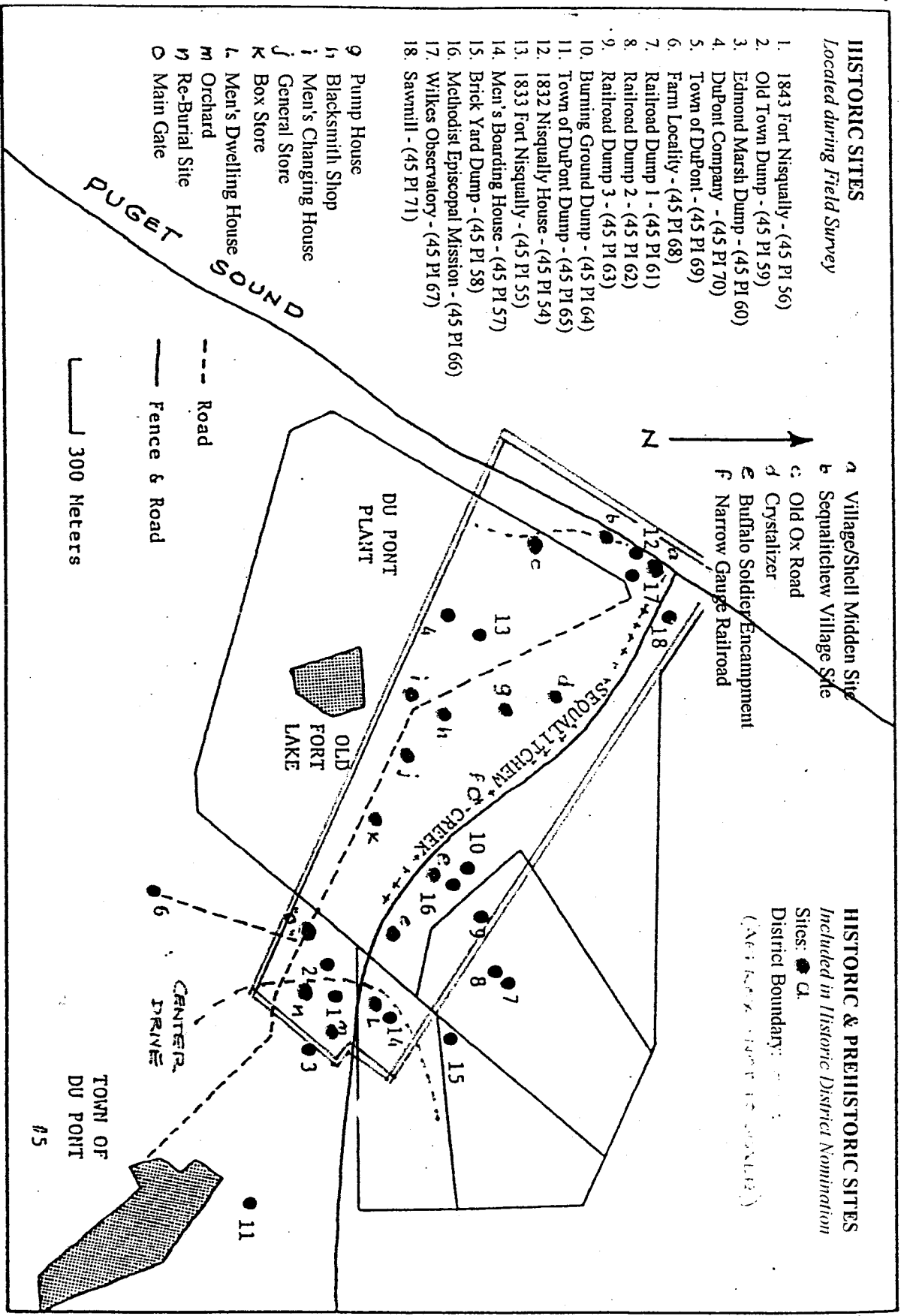
## HISTORIC & PREHISTORIC SITES

*Included in Historic District Nomination*

Sites: ● Cl

District Boundary: ———

(Not to Scale)



NISQUALLY-SEQUALITCHEW HISTORIC DISTRICT

