



**Historic Fort Steilacoom**  
<http://www.historicfortsteilacoom.org>

## **News Release**

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For immediate release

### **U.S. Army Barracks: Housing the Frontier Army**

*Lakewood, WA* – On October 20, Gideon Pete will describe how the federal government created permanent Army posts in the west, replacing temporary camps. The Historic Fort Steilacoom Association will precede the program with a brief membership Annual Meeting and election of officers in Quarters 2 at 2:00 p.m. Complimentary admission to lecture and interpretive center, as well as, refreshments available. Guided tours available for the standard fee, visit <http://historicfortsteilacoom.org/> for more details.

In a presentation on the history of providing for the men of the US Army, 1800 to 1880, there is much that might surprise those attending this speaking engagement. During the nineteenth century, the Army only haltingly moved from an age of handicrafts without policy to one of policy without handicrafts. As a result, the only thing uniform about that Army was its uniform. Except for clothing and hardware issued and distributed from its central depots, most of the Army's material inventory was assembled locally and without any guidance from above. Accordingly, no two Army Posts or barrack rooms were the same for the first full century of the Army's existence.

Fort Steilacoom occupies an important position in the history of early America and the Pacific Northwest. The fort played a significant role in the settling of Washington Territory. Beginning with its construction in 1849 and ending with its closure in 1868, Fort Steilacoom served as a beacon of American power and promise, promoting the migration of settlers to Washington & securing American interest in the region.

Historic Fort Steilacoom Association is a non-profit organization and all donations are tax deductible. The Historic Fort Steilacoom Association's mission is: Sharing and preserving the first U.S. Army Post in the Puget Sound Region with area guests.

For more information, visit <http://www.historicfortsteilacoom.org>.  
Historic Fort Steilacoom is located on the grounds of Western State Hospital at:  
9601 Steilacoom Blvd SW, Lakewood, WA 98498

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