



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Fort Clatsop
National Memorial

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Fort Clatsop National Memorial News Release

Summer Shuttle Operations Come To an End, Winter Programs Start Important Historic Preservation Work To Begin on Replica Fort

On Monday, September 6, the first season of the Lewis and Clark Explorer Shuttle service to Fort Clatsop will draw to a close.

Starting on Tuesday September 7th the Fort Clatsop National Memorial will begin winter hours of operation. The changes include:

- The shuttle system will not be in operation.
- Visitors can park in the parking lot at the visitor center (just follow the signs from Hwy 101 to Fort Clatsop)
- No timed ticket is needed
- Park hours will change to 9 AM to 5 PM
- Entrance fees will be \$3 per person OR free for those that have a National Park Pass
- The Netul Landing will still be open for those that would like to visit the site, view the Lewis and Clark river and use the kayak/canoe launch.

At the request of the park the U.S. Department of Transportation Volpe National Transportation Systems Center is working with the park and Sunset Empire Transportation District to evaluate the shuttle system and make recommendations for improvements to the system. This evaluation includes collecting quantitative information (e.g. ridership, traffic counts, visitation numbers, etc.) and qualitative information (e.g. visitor satisfaction surveys, debriefings with shuttle drivers, chamber of commerce visitor center staff, park staff, interviews with community leaders, etc.) The park and Sunset Empire Transportation District will be working through the fall to evaluate these recommendations and develop an operating plan for the 2005 operating season.

With the start of off-peak season operations the park will be doing a major restoration project on the replica fort. As part of the National Park Service efforts to prepare to the Lewis and Clark Bicentennial we are doing reconstruction work on the replica of Fort Clatsop. This reconstruction work will begin on Tuesday, September 7th. The work is timed to occur before the rainy season but after the peak summer visitation. The primary work is to replace pickets on the fort and reconstruct some of the chimneys in the quarters. "This historic preservation work will also provide a great opportunity for people to learn about the building techniques needed to preserve historic structures," said Chip Jenkins, Superintendent. "September is a terrific time to visit the coast and Fort Clatsop."

The park will be open and visitors can visit the area around the fort. Access to the interior of the fort will be limited to ensure visitor and employee safety while the historic preservation work is going on. The progress of the work will determine when people will be able to be inside the fort. Park rangers will be onsite to provide programs and information about the work and about the history related to the park.

1) When will the work start?

Work will begin on Tuesday September 7th some time around mid morning. Work should be completed by the end of September.

2) Will people be able to access the park and replica during this time?

Yes, people will be able visit the park and the replica during the reconstruction. The visitor center and grounds will be open for visitors. People will also be able to visit the area around the outside of the fort. Access to the inside of the fort, including into the quarters, will be limited due to the historic reconstruction work and the need to provide for visitor and worker safety. As work progresses access will be provided with the first priority to provide access on weekends. This historic preservation work should be completed by the end of September.

3) What work is being done?

Replacing the fort pickets. Reconstructing the fireplaces to allow for fires in most if not all of the fireplaces. Replacing the outside top of the Captains chimney. Replacing some of the floor boards inside of some of the rooms. Work will also be done on the shelter for the new Chinook Canoe Exhibit just outside the front doors of the Visitor Center.

4) Why is this work being done?

The pickets are being replaced because of some rot on the bottoms (where they come in contact with the ground) and to give them a more hand hewn appearance. The fireplaces are being done for two reasons one is to inspect the logs behind them for any fire damage, second is to make them more fire proof so fires can be burned in them. The Captains chimney has wood rot in the cedar parts and need to be repaired before they cause damage to the roof.

5) Is this the "original" replica or has this type of work been done before?

In 1964, the fort replica was reconstructed to remove elements that were not historically accurate, and to add features to bring the replica more in line with descriptions from the expedition's journals and other documents. The fireplace and chimney in the Captains' quarters were built. The fireplaces in the other rooms were built at the same time. The main gate (pickets) was reconstructed. The gun ports created in 1955 were removed. Some sections of the replica were daubed. The back "water gate" was constructed, drainage ground work was completed, and a sentry box was built. The replica was also re-roofed, doors were added, floors inside were constructed, windows were created, and shelves were built.

The main gate was rebuilt in 1977 after showing signs of deterioration. At the same time, the flashing around the interior chimneys was redone, the exterior chimney was redaubed, and the roof was re-nailed. Cracks in the replica walls were caulked.

In 1984, new shingles were installed on the roof, and a new floor was constructed. The materials for the floor and roof came from Olympic NP after a storm blew down some cedar trees at OLYM.

In 1986 the chimneys were redaubed again. The interior chimneys were remodeled using clay from FOCL.

In 1987, the stump in the squad room was replaced with a stump donated by Mount Rainier.

In December 2002 heat from a fireplace caused a fire to start in one of the fireplaces. In 2003, parts of the floor and a fireplace in the replica was reconstructed to repair this damage.

6) Who are the people doing the work?

The work is being done by National Park Service Staff, with specialized training in Historic Building Preservation North Cascades National Park, Mt. Rainier National Park, Whiskeytown National Recreation Area (Northern California near Redding/Mount Shasta) and Fort Clatsop National Memorial.