PIONEER BLOCKHOUSE

History

A blockhouse is a small fortification, usually consisting of one or more rooms with loopholes, a narrow window in a wall through which defenders fire against attackers. Usually it was a single building standing at a defensive strong point against any enemy that did not have cannons. This immediate area neither had people nor blockhouses in 1855. The 1862 Snohomish County Census counted a populace of 44 and all were men - no family units, no women, no children; only 12 were foreign immigrants. Quite a number had been constrained; see Sheriff Salem A Woods' note below.



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Ethnobotanical Gardens

Native plant "starts" from Bonhoeffer Gardens (to your SW, by the I-5) illustrate 99 foods and materials available to the American peoples who lived here 10,000 years without the need to develop agriculture. Planter boxes contain:

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Legends & Lessons

There is local history for those who have the ability to fly - blockhouses exist 15 miles to the west (60 miles if you drive). Whidbey Island had several families who built blockhouses, ours being modelled (and this prose somewhat taken) from the Crockett Blockhouse found west of Coupeville. Attacks by Indians in Seattle and Bellingham in 1855 had created consternation among the pioneer settlements on Puget Sound. The tradition of blockhouse defenses were well known to settlers, dating from the earliest English Colonies.

Seattle built 3 blockhouses as shown below. Weaponry of the time required all to be at close quarters and in 1856 Natives had little chance of surprise. The braves from different tribes did not



speak the same language. Reverting to Chinook Jargon that some of them knew, their shouts were easily countered by pioneers who also understood Chinook Jargon.