





FORT CONNAH

Construction of the last Hudson Bay Trading Post, within the present borders of the United States, was started here in 1846, and was completed in 1847 by Angus McDonald. Angus originally named the fort "Connen" after a river valley in his Scottish homeland, but later changed it to Connah for easier pronunciation by the Salish, Kootenai, Pend d' Orielle and other Indians in the area.

Fort Connah was built about 1/2 mile east of here and remained an important trading center for the Indians until the U.S. Government forced the British owned company to abandon the post in 1871. At its height, Fort Connah consisted of only three buildings. The store house is the only original structure that still survives.

The Mission Valley was thrown open for settlement in 1910. Prior to that time it was almost entirely virgin prairie, unplowed, unfenced and beautiful to see. You rode a saddle horse to get places. Some people wish it were still like that today.

Many descendants of Angus McDonald still live in the Mission Valley



















FORT CONNAH

The British Hudson's Bay Company established a trading post on this site in 1846. It was the powerful company's last post built within the boundaries of the United States and represents the British effort to stave off competition from American traders west of the Continental Divide. Fort Connah, just under construction, escaped scrutiny when the 1846 Oregon Treaty established U.S. ownership of land below the 49th parallel. Angus McDonald took charge of the post in 1847 naming it Fort Connen after a river valley in his native Scotland. The name evolved through Native American usage to Fort Connah. An important link between forts on either side of the Rocky Mountains, the main trading was in furs, but dried buffalo meat, pemmican, and buffalo skin saddle blankets as well as rawhide and hair cordage were key trade items the company could not obtain west of the Divide. The Hudson's Bay Company continued to defy the law and operated during the twilight of the fur trade era until encroaching settlement brought its closure in 1871. Angus McDonald's son Duncan, who was born at the fort, served as its last factor. Angus later acquired the property and died here in 1889. He, his wife, and their descendants were prominent in the development of this region and are buried in the nearby cemetery. The sole surviving fort structure, built of channeled log in 1846, is Montana's oldest standing building. The site is under the care of the Fort Connah Restoration Society.



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**CEMETERY
WALK**

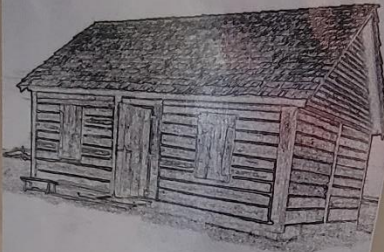
Please use **CAUTION**

Possible bears and
mounfain lions in area

**TRAILS UNEVEN; BOARDWALK
SUBJECT TO MOVEMENT**

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**WATCH
Your
STEP!!!**



Trading Post

This is the original trading post building, erected here at Fort Connah sometime in the year 1846. It is constructed using a special form called "post and lintel", or post and beam. Each vertical post is grooved out to accept the horizontal logs, and held in place by a "lintel", which locks the parts together.

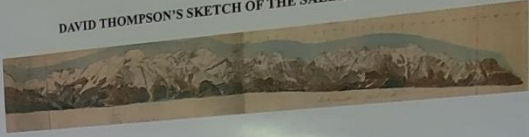
This style was engineered by **Hudson's Bay Company** to facilitate building trading posts in locations where either lumber was difficult to obtain, or the company was unsure if the native peoples would list to trade there.

The lumber was sized specifically to be built into a wagon, moved by horse/mule team, to a site then transformed into the building you see here.


Compare this form to the traditional log cabin construction exemplified by the "Residence" just a few feet south of the trading post.

A
 PHOTOGRAPHIC
 COMPARISONS OF DAVID
 THOMPSON'S SKETCHES
 OF THE SALEESH
 (MISSION)
 MOUNTAINS


DAVID THOMPSON'S SKETCH OF THE SALEESH MOUNTAINS



A PHOTOGRAPH OF THE SALEESH MOUNTAINS AS SKETCHED




THE SALEESH MOUNTAINS AS WE SEE THEM TODAY


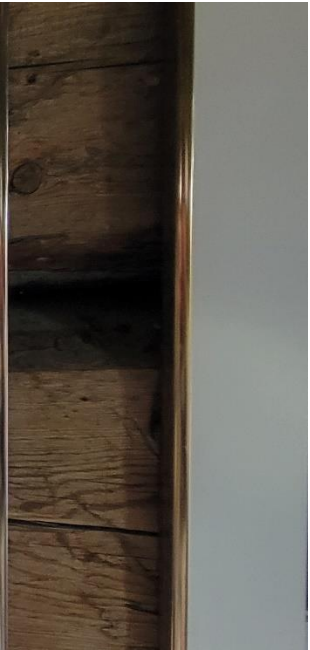


IDENTIFICATION OF A FEW PROMINENT FEATURES

CROW MTN	MOLLMAN PASS MT. HARDING or CALOWAHCAN	WEST MC DONALD	GARDEN WALL SONIELEM RIDGE
		KAKASHI	E. ST. MARYS



GREY WOLF AS SEEN FROM EVARO



Small white rectangular label with illegible text.























