

lery, has stationed a sentinel over my storehouse. This is only a temporary accommodation, however.

Respectfully, your obedient servant,

WM. T. WELCKER,
First Lieutenant of Ordnance.

Colonel H. K. CRAIG,
Chief of Ordnance, Washington, D. C.

P. S.—Since writing the above I have found, I think, that there can be found an abundance of water, within thirty feet of the surface, at General Harney's place.

WM. T. W.

VANCOUVER DEPOT,
Washington Territory, November 1, 1859.

COLONEL: By last mail I informed you that, with my detachment, I had taken possession, provisionally, of General Harney's place; but as soon as I received your disapproval of the idea of purchase, it was abandoned and turned over to the owner. My detachment are in the same situation as before, but as for myself, I have not yet been able to find any quarters anywhere.

I am now building upon the arsenal reserve a temporary cottage for quarters for the ordnance officer, and a plank house for the ordnance men. I have not rented General Harney's place, as there could be no advantage in so doing, as we are to retain the reserve; but, on the contrary, it would be highly disadvantageous, being a mile from the ordnance stores and office.

The cottage I shall build in the most economical manner, of planks and fir lumber, using whatever of the lumber on hand that is fit. I propose a small house, one and a half story, with a parlor, bed-room, dining-room, and kitchen on the first floor, and attic rooms above; to be finished inside with paper, or muslin tacked to the boards. The men's quarters to be 90 feet by 25, with a plain verandah in front. I will divide the house by partitions into five tenements, 12 feet wide for married men, which will leave a hall 30 by 25 feet for the bachelors. This house will be one and a half story, giving attics above, and the tenements for the married men to be divided into front room and kitchen. I am also putting up a cheap stable for two horses which I have purchased, saddle and harness rooms, &c., &c.

As soon as these buildings are finished I shall proceed, as the weather permits, to put up shops, a laboratory, and a fence around the part of the reserve upon which the buildings will be. The fence will be near a mile and a half in extent necessarily, and will be an item of some expense, though made in the cheapest manner.

I must beg you, colonel, to excuse a detailed plan and estimates for these purposes, as, in the press of business, I cannot prepare them before the mail goes, and time presses.