

Fact Sheet

Auburn Complex History



Auburn Complex
400 15th Street Southwest

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- In 1910, the Northern Pacific selected Auburn as its western freight terminal site: Employees, 33.
- During WWII, June 1943, the War Department constructed the \$11M, 500-acre Army Supply Depot used to hold and distribute wartime equipment and supplies.
- Twelve warehouses, originally developed at the Depot, were arranged in three north-south rows, each of them 960 feet long and 180 feet wide, with platforms to load and unload rail cars and platforms for truck freight.
- In 1944 Italian POWs resided in the complex, which became an internment camp for Italian POWs.
- Warehouse 1 in Section 1 (no longer exists) was converted to a mortuary in October 1947, processing 16 caskets and cases daily. From Auburn, they were escorted by military servicemen to cities and towns throughout Washington, Oregon, and Idaho.
- During the Korean Conflict, the Auburn Depot served as one of the most efficiently operated depots in the country. On-hand stock increased 47 percent, tonnage received and shipped increased, and the government built five new warehouses to accommodate the growth.
- In the early 1960s GSA negotiated the sale of a large portion of the complex to Boeing; the government retained 135 acres, to which GSA relocated its regional offices.
- GSA currently manages eight warehouses, six constructed in 1943, and two more in 1953. The average size is approximately 200K s.f.
- The GSA Administration building was built in 1954/1963, Child Care Center in 1997, Fleet Management Building in 2000, Social Security Administration Tele-Service Center in 2006.
- Between March 2002 and 2008, General Dynamics Land System Army Stryker Depot (GDLS) grew from occupying 100K s.f. to 831K s.f. in five buildings. All locations within the complex serve as the national storage facility for the Stryker combat vehicle parts distribution and maintenance program, overhaul hub for the Stryker vehicle, and the national inventory control point for all Stryker brigades.
- In 2004, warehouse facility WA000KF was a Tier 3 building. By 2011, it had reached a 2A designation when the VHA relocated into 78,324 s.f. into bay 1 in warehouse 5, and bay 4 in warehouse 7.
- In 2013, GSA determined the trusses in buildings 3,4,5,6, 7 and 8 were failing from 70 years of service. By 2014 tenants were moved to leased space, and warehouses 3, 4, 5, 6 & 8 (1,300,000 s.f.) were made vacant. A major rehabilitation project for warehouse 7 trusses took place to preserve the SSA Tele-Service Center and conference center.
- The Auburn Federal Complex is currently underutilized and has a high vacancy rate. The Auburn Federal Complex buildings and site require high levels of reinvestment in order for GSA to deem the property a long term hold. In 2017, a feasibility study was conducted and the results confirmed that it is in the best interest of the government and taxpayers that PBS Portfolio recommend the full disposal of the Auburn Federal Complex through the Federal Property and Administrative Services Act of 1949.