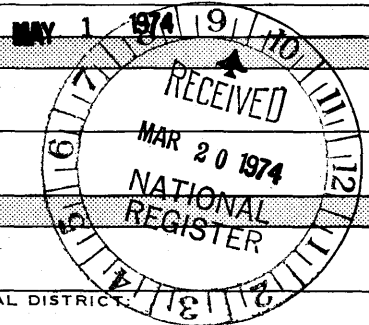


**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE:	Oregon
COUNTY:	Lincoln
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY DATE	



**1. NAME**

COMMON: Old Yaquina Bay Lighthouse

AND/OR HISTORIC:

**2. LOCATION**

STREET AND NUMBER: Yaquina Bay State Park

CITY OR TOWN: Newport CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: First - Wendell Wyatt

STATE: Oregon CODE: 41 COUNTY: Lincoln CODE: 041

**3. CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/> Government	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Religious		
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific		

**4. OWNER OF PROPERTY**

OWNER'S NAME: Oregon State Highway Division, by and through its Branch of Parks and Recreation

STREET AND NUMBER: State Highway Building (owner is proponent of nomination)

CITY OR TOWN: Salem STATE: Oregon CODE: 41

**5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Lincoln County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Newport STATE: Oregon CODE: 41

**6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE OF SURVEY: Statewide Inventory of Historic Sites and Buildings

DATE OF SURVEY:  Federal  State  County  Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: Parks and Recreation Branch, Oregon State Highway Division

STREET AND NUMBER: State Highway Building

CITY OR TOWN: Salem STATE: Oregon CODE: 41

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Oregon  
COUNTY: Lincoln  
ENTRY NUMBER: MAY 1 1974  
DATE: FOR NPS USE ONLY

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Old Yaquina Bay Lighthouse is situated on a bluff forming the north bank of the mouth of the Yaquina River. It is a two-story frame structure on a high brick basement lighted by small openings. Oriented to the west, it has a shingled gable roof with a medium pitch. A square light tower or platform for the lantern rises the height of one story at the central bay on the east elevation. The tower is contained within the plan of the house and does not project beyond the outside wall.

The main block measures approximately 34' by 24'6". A single-story ell, or workshop and storeroom extension originally measured 29' by 12'6". It was semi-enclosed, with a gallery or loggia running the length of the south side and set off by three posts with brackets. The storeroom was removed in the course of rehabilitation work dating from the 1960s.

Access to the building is gained through a door on the north side of the east elevation which is sheltered by the ell, and through a central door in the west face which is protected by a porch. The porch is reached by a flight of wooden steps. It has a gable roof which was originally supported by bracketed posts. Railings extended from posts to the outside wall, and the pediment of the roof was decorated with scroll work cut out by band saw.

Fenestration, consisting of double-hung sash windows with six lights over six, is formally arranged. On the west face there are two bays on either side of the entry on the first story level. At the second story level there is only one window on either side of that which lights the central hall. The east elevation is divided into three bays. There are three windows at the ground story level of the north end wall, and two at the second level. The south end wall is lighted by a single window in each story. Each of the window surrounds is finished with a flat lintel in the shape of a pediment and small brackets under the corners of lug sills. Windows on the west face were originally protected by double-leaf storm shutters.

The horizontal weatherboards of redwood are of the shiplap type, or rebated. Corner boards are plain. The cornice was originally molded. Downspouts reached to the ground from wooden gutters. Two brick chimneys with corbelled bases and caps straddle the ridge of the roof. They are set in from the gable ends. The platform for the iron lantern is bracketed. The lantern is octagonal, as was the original platform railing.

Interior spaces are formally arranged around a central stair hall. There are five rooms downstairs, in addition to the hall, and four rooms upstairs. Wood window and door frames are elaborately molded. Original baseboards are finished with ogee molding. Fireplaces in the two front rooms downstairs and the NW room upstairs are surrounded by wooden chimney pieces. The chimneypiece in the SW room upstairs was covered by a wall which was added to form closets on either side. This alteration was carried out at a reasonably early date, apparently, and at the same time vertical tongue-in-groove wall cover was laid over original plaster walls downstairs as well as in the SW room upstairs. The straight flight of stairs to the upstairs hall has a shaped handrail and turned spindles and newel post. Stairs leading to the light tower from the east end of the upstairs hall consist of winders without quarter spaces.

Plumbing, wiring, and alterations to the rear rooms of the first story date from 1934 to 1940 when the building was occupied by park personnel.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**8. SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian	<input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century
<input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century	

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1871 1933

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal	<input type="checkbox"/> Education	<input type="checkbox"/> Political	<input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning
<input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> Engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Historic	<input type="checkbox"/> Industry	<input type="checkbox"/> Science	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> Invention	<input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture	_____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Art	<input type="checkbox"/> Literature	<input type="checkbox"/> Theater	_____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Transportation	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Communications	<input type="checkbox"/> Music		
<input type="checkbox"/> Conservation			

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Old Yaquina Bay Lighthouse is, after the Cape Blanco Light constructed in 1870, the oldest extant lighthouse on the Oregon Coast. It ~~was the only lighthouse and domicile~~ combined in a single structure erected in the State, although the type was somewhat typical elsewhere on the nation's coastline in the decade of the 1860s. However, most of the single-structure facilities were of brick masonry construction, whereas the Yaquina Bay light is a frame building. The oldest building in the bustling resort town and seaport which dates its commercial development from 1866, the lighthouse symbolizes historic Newport in the estimation of local residents.

The original Yaquina Bay Lighthouse was constructed between May 1 and October, 1871, as a harbor entrance light. It was illuminated in November of the same year. The lighting apparatus consisted of a whale oil lamp, most likely, and a Fresnel lens of the 5th order.

Construction records in the National Archives show that there were two principal contracts. The first was for fitting together the lantern and iron work to Joseph Bien, Lampist, San Francisco, California, dated June 16, 1871. The second was for furnishing all labor and work necessary for completion to Ben Simpson, a local contractor, dated June 19, 1971.

The Lighthouse Reservation consisted of 36 acres, a part of the homestead of Lester P. and Sophronia S. Baldwin, who were among the first white settlers on Yaquina Bay. The warranty deed certified by Benton County Clerk W. B. Wilson, was dated April 28, 1871. The Baldwins sold the land to the U. S. Government for a consideration of "\$500 U.S. Gold Coin."

Within the short span of three years, the harbor light station was superseded. In August 1873 a lighthouse three miles to the north at Yaquina Head was completed. The old light was extinguished October 1, 1874. It was never reactivated, although the federal government maintained the lighthouse and reservation and performed minimal repairs through 1885.

The only lighthouse keeper appointed to duty on the reservation was Charles H. Pierce, a Scot and former Civil War Captain for the Union Army who cared for a wife and eight children in the house. Upon closure of the light, "Captain" Pierce was assigned to duty on Oregon's Cape Blanco Light Reservation.

It is reported that Royal A. Bensell and his wife succeeded to occupancy of the building for a time as caretakers. Bensell is notable in local history for having kept a journal of Army life at Fort Yamhill on the Coast Indian Reservation and for having been one of the earliest promoters of Yaquina Bay when the country was officially opened for settlement in 1866. Bensell made his mark as publicist for the entrance to the Yaquina

SEE INSTRUCTIONS 1, 2

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Howes, James M., "The Old Yaquina Bay Lighthouse," Lincoln County Historical Society Publication No. 9 (1968). Based upon annual reports of the U.S. Lighthouse Board in the National Archives.  
 Van de Velde, Paul, "A Glimpse of Newport 75 Years Ago, By Lucy F. Blue," Lincoln County Historical Society Publication No. 2 (Newport, 1949).  
 Fagan, David D., compiler, History of Benton County, Oregon (Portland, Oregon: David D. Fagan, 1885).  
 Barth, Gunter, ed., All Quiet on the Yamhill; The Civil War in Oregon, the Journal of Corporal Royal A. Bensell, Company D, Fourth California Infantry (Eugene: University of Oregon Books, 1959), 194-196. (Continued)

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

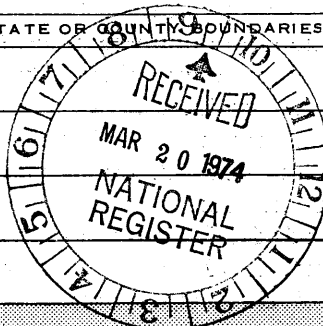
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CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
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NE	0 0 0	0 0 0				
SE	0 0 0	0 0 0				
SW	0 0 0	0 0 0				

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412290  
4941220  
HA

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 2.29

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: Elisabeth Walton, Park Historian

ORGANIZATION: Parks and Recreation Branch  
Oregon State Highway Division

DATE: March 1974

STREET AND NUMBER: State Highway Building

CITY OR TOWN: Salem

STATE: Oregon 97310

CODE: 41

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National  State  Local

Name: Quintin Tubbs

Title: State Parks Superintendent

Date: 3/15/74

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

A. R. Quartenstein  
 Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: 5/1/74

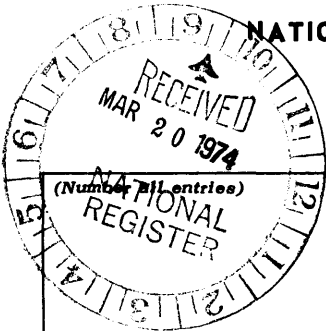
ATTEST:  
Wm. J. Smith, Jr.  
 Keeper of The National Register

Date: 5.1.74

STATE Oregon	
COUNTY Lincoln	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	MAY 1 1974

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)



OLD YAQUINA BAY LIGHTHOUSE

2. Location

The Old Yaquina Bay Lighthouse is located in the SW 1/4 SW 1/4 Sec. 8, T. 11 S., R. 11 W., of the Willamette Meridian, in Lincoln County, Oregon.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Langille, W. A., "Yaquina State Park." Six-page typescript for State Park files, ca. 1944.

St. Romain, Monica, "Old Yaquina Bay Lighthouse Celebrates 100 Years," Oregonian (October 28, 1971), Sec. 2, pg. 14.

Beckham, Steve, "Muriel's Ghost Pleased with State Plans for Lighthouse," Newport News-Times/Lincoln County Leader (November 8, 1973), Sec. 3, pg. 1.

8. SIGNIFICANCE Cont.

River as a "harbor of refuge" for coastal traffic plying between San Francisco and Puget Sound. As a Republican candidate identified with the cause of harbor improvement, Bensell won a seat in the State House of Representatives in 1876.

Beginning in 1888, the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers was granted permission to occupy the old lighthouse for the duration of harbor improvement projects carried on under the direction of James S. Polhemus. Polhemus was graduated from Lehigh University in Pennsylvania as a Civil Engineer in 1872. For ten years he worked for the U. S. Government in the East, South, and Midwest. In 1880 he was appointed chief local engineer in charge of construction of the Yaquina Bay jetties on the Oregon Coast.

In 1906 the Yaquina Bay Life Saving Service, which had been active on South Beach on the opposite bank of the bay since 1896, was allowed to use the building as crew quarters and a lookout. This use terminated in 1933 when the U.S. Coast Guard established quarters elsewhere in Newport.

It was in 1934 that the property was released by the federal government. It was acquired by the State for highway right of way and park purposes. For a time the lighthouse was used as a residence for park personnel, but the arrangement proved unsatisfactory. It was scheduled for demolition in 1946, but the move was opposed by local citizens. As a result, in part, of the landmark preservation crisis posed by the lighthouse, a Lincoln County Historical Society was formed by 1948. The County Historical Society has operated the lighthouse as a museum from 1965 to the present under terms of a lease agreement with the State Highway Division. The State is currently planning restoration work

and operation under its own auspices in the future.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE Oregon	
COUNTY Lincoln	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	MAY 1 1974

(Number all entries)

OLD YAQUINA BAY LIGHTHOUSE

8. Significance - (Correction)

The first paragraph of the statement of significance should read as follows. Corrected information is given in italics.

The Old Yaquina Bay Lighthouse is, after the Cape Blanco Light constructed in 1870, the oldest extant lighthouse on the Oregon Coast. *It is the only one of two examples of the type of lighthouse combined with domicile in a single structure erected in the state which survives today. The Point Adams Lighthouse, erected at the Mouth of the Columbia River in 1858, was a more elaborate example of the type. It burned in 1912. The single structure type was somewhat typical elsewhere along the nation's coastline in the decade of the 1860s. Many were of stuccoed brick masonry construction. The Point Adams Lighthouse was a frame construction, as is the Old Yaquina Bay Lighthouse. The oldest building in the bustling resort town and seaport which dates its commercial development from 1866, the Old Yaquina Bay Lighthouse symbolizes historic Newport in the estimation of local residents.*

