

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED SEP 30 1975
DATE ENTERED JAN 1 1976

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

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Siletz Agency Site

AND/OR COMMON

(Government Hill)

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Siletz - Logsdon Rd.

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Siletz

VICINITY OF

First - Rep. Wendall Wyatt

STATE

Oregon

CODE
41

COUNTY
Lincoln

CODE
041

3 CLASSIFICATION

| CATEGORY | OWNERSHIP | STATUS | PRESENT USE | |
|--|--|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC | <input type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED | <input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE | <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM |
| <input type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S) | <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PARK |
| <input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE | <input type="checkbox"/> BOTH | <input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS | <input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL | <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SITE | PUBLIC ACQUISITION | ACCESSIBLE | <input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT | <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS |
| <input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT | <input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS | <input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED | <input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT | <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED | <input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL | <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> NO | <input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY | <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER: |

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

City of Siletz

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Siletz

VICINITY OF

STATE

Oregon 97380

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Lincoln County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Newport

STATE

Oregon 97365

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Statewide Inventory of Historic Sites and Buildings

DATE

1970

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Parks and Recreation Section

CITY, TOWN

Salem

STATE

Oregon 97310

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

___EXCELLENT
___GOOD
___FAIR

___DETERIORATED
___RUINS
XUNEXPOSED

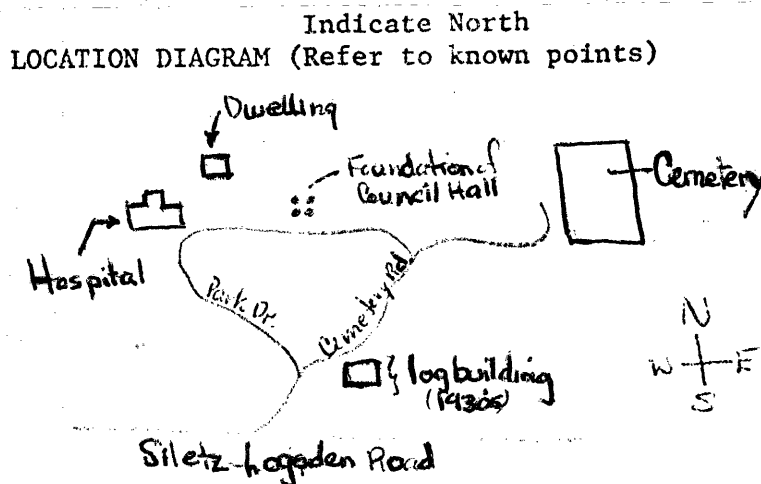
CHECK ONE

___UNALTERED
XALTERED

CHECK ONE

XORIGINAL SITE
___MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE



The site of the headquarters of the Siletz Agency, is about 30 miles west of Fort Hoskins, in Lincoln County. Now known as "Government Hill," the site is located on a prominence in the community of Siletz which can be approached directly from the Fort Hoskins site over a somewhat tortuous yet scenic route, half of which is not paved. This road follows essentially the course of the pack trail established to supply the Agency.

A blockhouse was erected in 1856 to protect employees of the Siletz Agency. Army Lieutenant Philip Sheridan commanded the work detail for the blockhouse and the construction of a supply road between Fort Hoskins and Siletz. The next year the Agency was permanently relocated at Government Hill. In 1857, the blockhouse was dismantled, floated six miles down the Siletz, and reassembled within 200 to 300 yards of the Agency. Royal A. Bensell Journal describes the blockhouse as being 40 feet square with four windows 22 inches square.

In 1885 a two story boarding house, a ten room schoolhouse, a barn and Commissary store, a two story office building for the agent commissary and medical officer, and several employee residences were reported standing on the Government Hill. The building remembered by local Indians as the hospital and by others as the old Tribal Meeting House is the last of the complex of impressive structures largely built by Indian labor. This rectangular one story Hospital constructed about 1895 is rapidly deteriorating. Both the main section of the Siletz Hospital and a small wing located at the back have hipped roofs with wooden shingles. Regular spaced double hung weighted windows can be found on each elevation. Most of the sash still retain two lights over two. The double front doors are five paneled, the middle panel being horizontal. Window and door casings are plain with circular detailed corner blocks and molded window and door stops. Although Siletz hospital is in a deteriorated state, it is structurally sound and generally intact.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

| PERIOD | AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW | | | |
|---|--|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC | <input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING | <input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE | <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499 | <input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC | <input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION | <input type="checkbox"/> LAW | <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599 | <input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE | <input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS | <input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE | <input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699 | <input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE | <input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MILITARY | <input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799 | <input type="checkbox"/> ART | <input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING | <input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC | <input type="checkbox"/> THEATER |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899 | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE | <input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT | <input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY | <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900- | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS | <input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY | <input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT | <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY) |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION | | |

SPECIFIC DATES

1856-1925

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Government Hill is the most important extant property for Indian affairs on the Oregon Coast. It was the site of the Siletz Blockhouse erected in 1856 and the headquarters of the Siletz Indian Agency officially established in 1857.

A few Acona Indians lived on the Government Hill site before the whiteman came. Beginning in 1855, United States soldiers brought defeated southwest Oregon tribes, including the Rogues (Tututnies), Shastas, Coos, Umpquas, Coquilles, and Siuslaws to this small isolated country.

Twenty-six hundred refugees were forced to march on to the Siletz Reservation, an area 20 miles wide and 90 miles long. By 1887 war, famine, and disease left only six hundred. The stragglers left scattered through the hills of Southern Oregon were hunted down, occasionally captured, but often murdered. In 1856 Lt. Sheridan and army soldiers came to the reservation to quiet the Indians. He found them starving and quieted them with food. During the reservation years, 1856-1925, many of the remaining Indians worked hard to adapt to the whiteman's way of life, but the shortage of timber and the constant threat of losing reservation land turned many Indians to a life of poverty and drink. In 1940 Congress authorized the court of claims to continue negotiating settlement with descendants for lands taken from them by force and without compensation. Estimated cost is about \$16,000,000. In 1925 the Siletz Indian Agency was closed, but for some years Siletz Confederated Tribes continued to hold annual meetings in the council hall which rested on the top of Government Hill until 1973 when it was burned by local firemen. At present Government Hill is owned and controlled by the City of Siletz and cared for by local Indian inhabitants.

The pleasant landscape, the small cemetery and the little buildings that remain on Government Hill are subtle but significant reminders of the rough and ugly dealings between the native Indians and the pioneering whiteman.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

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). Appendix III, "Four Forgotten Forts," pp. 207-213.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 36.55

UTM REFERENCES

| | | | |
|---|------|---------|----------|
| A | ZONE | EASTING | NORTHING |
| C | ZONE | EASTING | NORTHING |

| | | | |
|---|------|---------|----------|
| B | ZONE | EASTING | NORTHING |
| D | ZONE | EASTING | NORTHING |

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

(UTM UNAVAILABLE)

| CORNER | LATITUDE | | | LONGITUDE | | |
|--------|-----------------|---------|---------|------------------|---------|---------|
| | Degrees | Minutes | Seconds | Degrees | Minutes | Seconds |
| NW | 44 ⁰ | 43' | 40" | 123 ⁰ | 54' | 42" |
| NE | 44 ⁰ | 43' | 40" | 123 ⁰ | 54' | 21" |
| SE | 44 ⁰ | 43' | 09" | 123 ⁰ | 54' | 21" |
| SW | 44 ⁰ | 73' | 09" | 123 ⁰ | 54' | 42" |

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

| STATE | CODE | COUNTY | CODE |
|-------|------|--------|------|
| STATE | CODE | COUNTY | CODE |

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Paul B. Hartwig, Park Historian and Gregg Olson, Assistant

ORGANIZATION

Oregon State Highway Division

DATE

August 8, 1975

STREET & NUMBER

State Highway Building

TELEPHONE

(503) 378-6118

CITY OR TOWN

Salem

STATE

Oregon 97310

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation 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.

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE

David G. Talbot

TITLE Oregon State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

Sept. 19, 1975

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Acting

DATE

11/1/76

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

DATE

12/30/75

ATTEST:

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Ronald D. Brubaker

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER

PAGE 2

GOVERNMENT HILL

7. Description (continued)

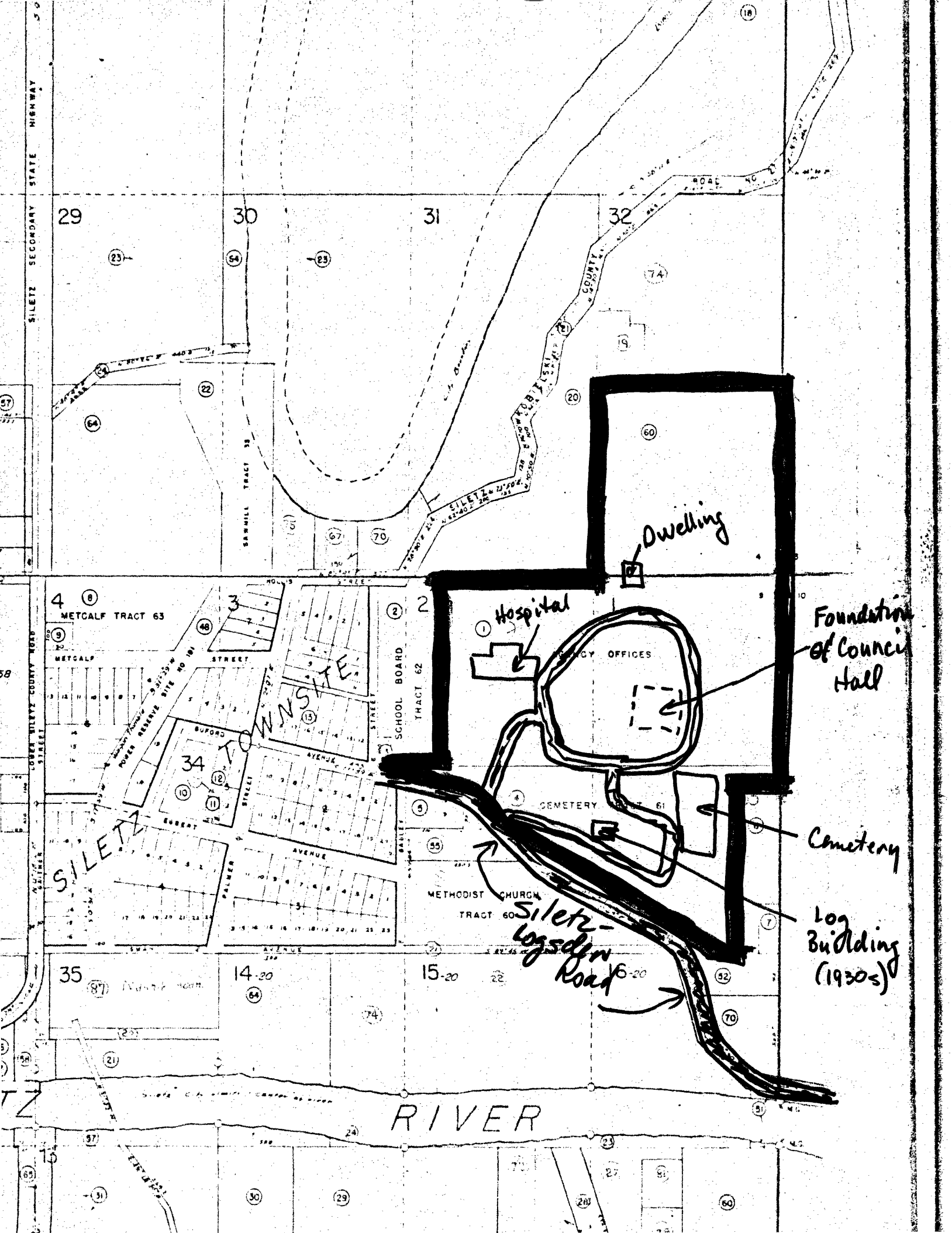
One residence remains. It is grown over with blackberries and is in a state of decay. It would appear to have been constructed in the 1920s and is a one story gabled structure with a small porch at the front. The base of the hill is the site for a log structure probably built by the C.C.C. in the 1930s. This structure served the Indians as an Arts and Crafts building. Made of six inch logs, this rectangular building is one and a half stories and has a center chimney made of small stone. The cemetery of about two acres contains many locally manufactured sandstone and carved wooden markers. These interesting markers distinguish the many graves of the Coos, Umpqua, Siuslaw, Shasta, Coquille, Rogue River, and Tutuine people. The site is owned by the city of Siletz as a park. Although many Indians live nearby, no one lives on Government Hill at the present time.

9. Major Bibliographical References (continued)

Corning, Howard McKinley, Dictionary of Oregon History. (Portland: Binford and Mort, 1956), p. 223.

Beckham, Stephen Dow, Requiem for a People, page 189.

Item 22 Oregon Historical Map (Lincoln County Historical Society Publication #8).



Dwelling

Hospital

Foundation of Council Hall

Cemetery

Log Building (1930s)

Siletz-Logskin Road

RIVER

METCALF TRACT 63

SCHOOL BOARD TRACT 62

CEMETERY

METHODIST CHURCH TRACT 60

CONNSITE

SILETZ

SILETZ SECONDARY STATE HIGHWAY

LOREN WILBY CURRY ROAD

SILETZ RIVER

The Siletz Agency Site is located in Twp. 10 S., Rge. 10W., W. M., Lincoln County, Oregon, containing a total of 36.55 acres, more or less, and particularly described as: S 1/2 of Lot 32, Section 4, containing 10 acres, more or less. N 1/2 of Lot 1, Section 9, containing 10 acres, more or less. N 1/2 of Lot 2 Section 9, excepting therefrom a tract of land containing 3.03 acres more or less, described as: Beginning at the 1/16 corner on the section line common to Section 4 and 9, this being also the Northwest corner of said Lot 2, thence N 89° 17' E 100 feet, thence S 0° 01' E 660.31 feet, thence S 89° 31' W 100 feet, thence N 0° 01' W 659.84 feet to the point of beginning, the parcel hereby conveyed containing 6.97 acres, more or less. That portion of the S 1/2 of Lots 1 and 2, Section 9 described as follows: Beginning at the section corner common to Sections 3, 4, 9, and 10, T. 10 S., R. 10 W., W. M., thence S 0° 34' E 664.74 feet to the true point of beginning: Thence S 89° 31' W 1335.60 feet, thence S 59° 44' E 1299.25 feet, thence N 89° 45' E 54.2 feet, thence N 0° 34' W 598.98 feet, thence N 89° 45' E 165 feet, thence N 0° 34' W 65.76 feet to the true point of beginning containing 9.58 acres, more or less, together with all the improvements thereon and the appurtenances thereunto belonging.

