

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

DATA SHEET

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED MAR 17 1976
DATE ENTERED APR 21 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 *plu*
 HISTORIC Skamokawa Historic District
 * * *
 AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION
 STREET & NUMBER *W A 4*
 CITY, TOWN Skamokawa VICINITY OF #3 - Don L. Bonker
 STATE Washington CODE Wahkiakum COUNTY CODE 069

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input 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 Multiple
 STREET & NUMBER
 CITY, TOWN VICINITY OF STATE
Expanded area - part of Skamokawa Skamokawa, street 98647

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION
 COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Wahkiakum County Courthouse
 STREET & NUMBER
 CITY, TOWN Cathlamet STATE Washington

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS
 TITLE Washington State Inventory of Historic Places
 DATE 1974 FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL
 DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS Washington State Parks & Recreation Commission
 CITY, TOWN Olympia STATE Washington

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Skamokawa is a rural community in southwestern Washington on the Columbia River estuary thirty miles from Cape Disappointment and the Pacific Ocean. Most of the townsite is platted in relationship to a system of meandering creeks and sloughs that join Skamokawa Creek at its confluence with the Columbia somewhat like the branches of a tree. Before 1917 there were no roads to neighboring settlements on the river and all transportation to and from Skamokawa was by water. Since many of the early residents were independent commercial fishermen with boats of their own, the town's homes and businesses were generally built facing the slough in much the same relationship as a house facing the street in a less water-oriented community. A private dock was often provided in front where the owner could conveniently berth a small boat. Most commercial buildings included wharf facilities for loading and unloading. These structures were built on piling wherever the site lacked an adequate bank.

The extent of Skamokawa's reliance on water transportation earned it the sobriquet "Little Venice". Located on an island, the town's first church was once only accessible by boat, although this was not considered an inconvenience.

The town's largest building was the two-story Silverman's Emporium, built in 1889. The lower floor contained the store and above it was a hall for dancing. Next to this was a large hotel built in 1884 by Mr. Henry Lowell. The piling of a commodious wharf and steamboat dock which served the town are still visible in front and the structure of the store is still standing - abandoned but essentially unaltered.

Fronting on the slough was the S. Schmidt Company sturgeon saltery. On the point now known as Eggman Point at the mouth of Steamboat Slough was a sawmill, the Columbia River Lumber and Manufacturing Company, earlier known as the Montgomery Mill. A ball field was built on the sawdust from the mill which filled in the swamp and there were several houses for workers along the creek. Behind the mill and facing Skamokawa Creek was the shipyard where the steamer "Michigan" was constructed. Although she was one of the strongest built boats of her kind then in existence, in January 1893 she was wrecked off Vancouver Island ruining the owners of the mill and ending the ship-building business.

Skamokawa of the 1890's had reached its period of greatest prosperity. The following article appeared in the Skamokawa Eagle December 1, 1892:

Within the past year a fine draw-bridge with a 135 foot draw has been built. The Columbia River Lumber and Manufacturing Company have their works here; output for 1892, 3,000,000 board feet. Connected with the mill is a ship-yard. The village contains three stores, two meat markets, two saloons, a newspaper, a blacksmith, shoe maker, cooper, carpenter and boat builder. It has a hotel and public hall, a daily mail and money order office, and is the outlet to three extensive valleys emptying into the Lower Columbia. The lumber interests of Skamokawa are extensive, and large quantities of cedar shingles are made.

The population at this time was approximately 500. Skamokawa is on the southern edge of a coastal mountain range known as the Willapa Hills at a place where three fertile valleys come together before branching to the northeast, the north and the northwest. Before completion of the Ocean Beach Highway in the 1930's the only access to the upper valleys was

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 checked="" 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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Skamokawa and its three valleys have had both a long history and prehistory, as the area was a well known Indian campsite long before the white man arrived on the West Coast. The resident tribe was the Wahkiakum tribe, after whom the county was named. At one time the Wahkiakums and Chinooks were one and the same, but on account of a dispute between the chief of the Chinooks and his brother, the latter separated himself, and his descendants, to honor his memory, called themselves after his name, i.e. Wahkiakum.

Lewis and Clark came to the area of Skamokawa on November 7, 1805 and, according to their diary, found a village of seven indifferent houses in the area where they purchased a dog, some fish, wappato, roots and two beaver skins for making a robe. In Curtis' The North American Indian the Indian name for the village is given as Chahulklihum, or Winter Town, and as Altoona was known as Chaquayalhum, or Summer Town it is reasonable to assume that the Wahkiakums camped in Skamokawa in the winter and moved to Altoona in the summer. The supposition that Altoona was inhabited in summer by the Wahkiakums is borne out by the Wilkes Narrative. In the early 1840's a chief named Skamokawa had his main lodge there when the Wilkes expedition visited.

On August 9, 1851, Chief Skamokawa sold the territory now known as Wahkiakum County to Indian Agent Anson Dart for 7,000 dollars. The treaty was not ratified and, according to local legend, Chief Skamokawa died in poverty and was buried behind the site of the present Redmen Lodge.

Another early visitor to Skamokawa, and the first white man, was Lieutenant Broughton in the year 1792. He believed that the mouth of the Columbia River proper began at Skamokawa and named Skamokawa Creek Orchard's River, after H. H. Orchard, clerk on Captain Vancouver's ship. Broughton and his group spent the night near Orchard's River and passed a "very uncomfortable night, owing to the dampness of the situation".

The origins of white settlement in Skamokawa are difficult to determine. According to one source there was a trading post here in 1844, built by Captain John H. Couch, later a prominent Portland resident. This same source also mentions that:

I have never been able to find out how your town got the name of Skamokawa. If it were named for the Chief, he pronounced it differently, calling himself Skamokueh. Either name is not very pretty, but the latter I think is an improvement on the former."

There are scattered references to settlement in the area during the 1850's and by the late 1860's and early 1870's a sizeable migration was in process, mainly from the Scandinavian countries. By 1870 Skamokawa had grown sufficiently to be organized as a Road District and the first store, Moe Store, opened in 1872. The Post Office was established on January 27, 1873 with Albert Moe as the Postmaster. It was located in a boathouse on the

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

- Baker, Rev. J. C. Baptist History of the North Pacific Coast . . . Philadelphia, American Baptist Publication Society, 1912.
- Barry, J. Neilson. "Broughton on the Columbia in 1792". In Oregon Historical Quarterly, December 1926, pp. 397-411.
- Coan, C. F. "The First Stage of the Federal Indian Policy in the Pacific Northwest, 1849-1852". In Oregon Historical Quarterly, March 1921, pp. 46-90.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY Approx. 800

UTM REFERENCES

	500	400		800	200
A	<u>1,0</u>	<u>4,6,0</u>	<u>0,5,0</u>	<u>5,1</u>	<u>2,7</u>
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING	ZONE	NORTHING
B	<u>1,0</u>	<u>4,6,5</u>	<u>0,8,0</u>	<u>5,1</u>	<u>2,3</u>
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING	ZONE	NORTHING
C	<u>1,0</u>	<u>4,6,4</u>	<u>0,5,5</u>	<u>5,1</u>	<u>2,3</u>
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING	ZONE	NORTHING
D	<u>1,0</u>	<u>4,6,5</u>	<u>0,7,5</u>	<u>5,1</u>	<u>2,7</u>
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING	ZONE	NORTHING

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The Skamokawa Historic District encompasses an area of approximately 800 acres in portions of Township 9 North, Range 6 West, Sections 4,5,8,9,16 and 17 and Township 10 North, Range 6 West, Sections 32 and 33 of the Willamette Meridian. This includes an area in the town of Skamokawa known as Swedetown, the southwest slope of Hogan's Hill to the banks of the adjacent sloughs, all of Sleepy Hollow and the southern portion of Middle Valley as far as 2000 feet north of the line dividing Townships 9 and 10 North.

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

Irene Martin and Ruth Hall

ORGANIZATION

DATE

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

795-4920

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

Skamokawa

Washington

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.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

Arthur M. Skolich

TITLE

State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

March 4, 1976

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER	
Acting	DATE 4/21/76
DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION	DATE 4-19-76
ATTEST	
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER	

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through Skamokawa; a geographic situation that forced a considerable economic and social interdependence, (see statement of significance, Page 3).

Mild temperatures and a high annual rainfall (over 100 inches) provide a good climate for farming and logging. Although logged off repeatedly the hillsides were once densely forested in places where stands of second and third growth timber are presently being cut as soon as they reach a marketable size.

The farming and logging industries have together occupied this area since the early years of settlement on the river itself. There are still several small family farms in scattered locations throughout the valleys, and in most cases these have changed very little in the past 50 years. The logging camps were of course temporary; there is little remaining evidence of the earlier extent of these operations although mechanized logging continues to be an important part of the local economy.

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PRIMARY HISTORIC STRUCTURES:

- A. Point Adams Net Rack: ca. 1930, one-story frame structure on piling, gable roof, board and batten siding, expansive deck with wooden horses for net drying and repair.

A specific, traditional type of warehouse designed for the storage of fishing nets.

- B. Store: 1908, two stories, rectangular plan with simple gable roof and cornice returns, shiplap siding, double hung windows. Store front unaltered except for possible addition of a canopy. One and one-half story extension at the rear on piling.

Originally a bowling alley with apartments above! Later a restaurant and confectionary. Built by John Lamont.

- C. Redmen Hall - Central School: 1894, two stories, rectangular plan with gable roof cornice returns, engaged "tower" entrance with louvered bellfry, pyramidal roof and flagpole, and pedimented portico. Unusual bands of short vertical boards with mouldings along the top and bottom edges like exterior wainscoting at the level of the first floor and the level of the second floor. Moved to one side to make way for the highway constructed in the 1930's.

Designed by Allen Riley, Portland Architect, for School District #22 in a vague rendition of the Queen Anne style, the contractor was Masten, Lowell, Madden & Sweet. Dedicated July 4, 1894 with a community picnic and a program of speakers. Children who lived across the slough rowed to school. Later used by the Redmen, a fraternal organization active in Skamokawa since 1902.

- D. Colwell House: ca. 1880, one and one-half stories, rectangular plan with gable roof, shiplap siding, double hung windows with two over two lights. Porch alterations, possible ground floor window alterations. Dock in front.

Thought to be the last remaining example of what were company-owned houses occupied by millworkers in the 1880's.

- E. Silverman's Emporium: 1904, two stories, flat roof, shiplap siding, built on piling over the slough. Cornice brackets and a wide frieze of variegated shingle work (six different patterns) on the storefront elevation. Formerly included an expansive wharf, now missing its deck and all structure other than piling. The building itself is little altered.

Once the center of town, Silvermen's Emporium was a general store, post office and steamboat dock. All goods and passengers using the wharf paid a fee to the owner.

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- F. Silverman Residence: 1912, one and one-half stories, medium transverse gable bellcast over veranda, shingle siding, shed-roof dormers, "window seat", broad overhangs and supporting brackets, exposed rafter tails. Minor alterations.

Early 20th Century Bungalow once the home of a prominent merchant.

- G. William Abrams House: ca. 1895, one and one-half stories, gable roof with gablet and double hung window combination over hipped roof, one-story veranda on bracketed porch posts. Bulkhead and dock in front. Several minor alterations, moved to one side to allow for highway construction in 1930's.

Very conventional architectural details typical of Skamokawa's modest houses where some attention was given to simple decorative carpentry.

- H. Frame House: 1899, one and one-half story T-plan farmhouse, gable roof with gablet/double-hung window combination (similar to G. above) and one-story hipped veranda on bracketed porch posts. Dock in front. Minor alterations.
- I. Charles Carlson House: 1892-93, two stories, gable roof, shiplap siding, hipped roof porch. Dock in front. Window alterations, recent second veranda and additions on the back.

Charles Carlson was a millwright and later an employee of the Algiers Log Company.

- J. Charles Wilson House: ca. 1885, saltbox, gable front porch, shiplap siding, four over four light double hung windows. Dock in front. Modifications ca. 1900.

- K. Andrew Peterson House: 1892-93, one and one-half story T-plan farmhouse with hipped porch. Dock in front. Few alterations other than asbestos shingle siding, porch posts replaced and corbeled chimney cap removed.

Peterson owned the Columbia River seining grounds on Sand Island and reportedly operated the first gasoline powered launch in the area.

- L. Mat Frederiksen House: 1889, one and one-half story T-plan farmhouse, shiplap siding, two over two light double hung windows, veranda extended across the front partially supported by long diagonal braces rather than vertical posts. Dock in front. Few recent alterations.

The Frederiksens were a socially prominent family engaged in fishing, logging and early mercantile stores.

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- M. William Abrams House: 1883, short one and one-half story frame house, gable roof, shiplap siding. Minor alterations, period additions.
- Said to be the second house built in Skamokawa, it is the oldest still standing.
- The six houses listed above are a significant grouping built in a row facing the slough. There are no intrusions among them, and they are in a conspicuous location immediately north of the bridge on the Ocean Beach Highway.
- N. Richard's Store: ca. 1900, low gable roof, almost square in plan. Numerous modifications including large sliding doors and corrugated metal roofing and siding.
- Later the Mat Frederiksen store, the upper floor was used as an auditorium for Grange meetings, dances and motion pictures.
- O. Grant Williams House: ca. 1920, one and one-half stories, L-plan, gable roof, cornice returns, shiplap siding.
- The Skamokawa Eagle was published in this building.
- P. County Fair Exhibition Hall: 1914, single story, gable roof, center gable over entrance, shiplap siding. Little altered except for possibly a shed roof porch.
- The first building constructed on the Wahkiakum County fairgrounds.
- Q. Frame House: 1892, one and one-half stories, gable roof, shed roof single-story extension at rear gable end, single-story hipped roof porch on front gable end, two over two light double hung windows above. Porch posts and one window replaced.
- Typical of Skamokawa's simplest permanent houses with the barest minimum of decoration, porch post brackets, of which two of the original four remain intact.
- R. Oasis Restaurant: 1930-31, one and one-half stories, hip roof, shed roof dormers, false front, shiplap siding. Essentially unaltered.
- Located on the old highway to take advantage of the traffic. Business dwindled when the road was later re-routed.
- S. Charles Masten House: ca. 1885, one and one-half story cross gable farmhouse, shiplap siding with variegated shingles above the first story, polygonal single story bay window, single story porches, sunburst gable embellishment. Little altered.
- Architecturally the most interesting house extant in Skamokawa, this was once the home of Timothy Richards, an early merchant.

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- T. Frame House: ca. 1900, one and one-half stories, hip roof with center gable and a short gable wing, cornice returns, shiplap siding, variegated shingle work above first story, veranda supported on turned posts, gable embellishments. Only minor alterations; additions at the rear.

Located in Sleepy Hollow on the edge of Skamokawa, this house has an etched glass transom over the front entrance - one of five patterns reported to have been available locally.

- U. Round Barn: 1912, shingled dome on shiplap drum, concrete foundation, domed cupola with polygonal louvered drum and flagpole, long gable wing on one side with projecting perpendicular gable, arched entrance, cornice returns. Unaltered except for corrugated metal roofing on the gable portions.

This is an exceptional barn (see photograph) part of the Wiester farm in Middle Valley. Little is known about the barn or its builders, although a very interesting photograph survives showing it under construction just after the framing of the dome was completed.

SECONDARY STRUCTURES:

1. Whitten House: 1914, frame, one and one-half stories, gable roof, shiplap siding. Additions.
2. Frame House: 1892, one and one-half stories, gable roof, shed extension in back, shiplap siding. Few alterations with the exception of two 4 feet x 6 feet multipane windows.
3. Frame House (Bungalowoid): 1923, one and one-half stories, gable roof, center gable wing and porch, shiplap siding. Unaltered.
4. Frame House (Bungalowoid): 1918, similar to building #4 above.
5. Frame House: ca. 1908, two stories, complex gable roofline on a basically rectangular plan, composition shingle siding. Stripped of decorative carpentry.
6. Frame House: ca. 1910, one and one-half stories, gable roof, rectangular plan with porch addition, 4" clapboard siding. Some window alterations.
7. Frame House, formerly a houseboat: 1910, one story, low bow roof, veranda on three sides, adjoining boat shop.
8. Frame House, formerly a houseboat: ca. 1920, one story, low gable roof. Addition at the rear.

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9. Boat House, converted to residence: ca. 1900, one story, corrugated metal gable roof, shiplap siding. Shed addition.
10. Frame House: ca. 1895 - moved 1950, one and one-half stories, gable roof shingle siding, porch alterations. Deteriorated.
11. Frame House: 1907, one and one-half stories, gable roof, gable dormer, cornice returns, shiplap siding. Minor alterations.
12. Frame House: 1890, one and one-half story, gable roof, asbestos shingle siding. Additions in back.
13. Creamery: 1895 and 1958, one story, mixed gable and shed roofs, false front, shiplap siding. Portions destroyed by fire and rebuilt.
14. New England Net Rack: ca. 1930, two story, corrugated metal hip roof, shiplap siding, built on piling, adjoining deck with wooden horses for drying nets (similar to letter A. above).
15. Frame House: ca 1895, one and one-half story, gable roof, shiplap siding, veranda in front, shed extension in back. Only minor alterations.
16. Frame House: 1907, two story, gable roof, cornice returns, shiplap siding. Few alterations.
17. Frame House: 1910, similar to building #16 above.
18. Frame House: 1910, one and one-half story L-plan farmhouse, gable roof, eaves brackets, shiplap siding. Addition in back.
19. Frame House, formerly a houseboat: 1920, single story, low gable roof, shiplap siding.
20. Frame House, formerly a houseboat: ca. 1920, single story, flat roof, clapboard siding. Aluminum windows and other alterations.
21. Frame House: 1909, one and one-half stories, gable roof, cornice returns, shiplap siding. Additions in back.
22. Frame House: 1910, one and one-half story, L-plan, gable roof, cornice returns, bay window. Additions. Dock in front.
23. Frame House, formerly houseboat: 1900, single story, L-plan, asbestos shingle siding. Additions.

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24. Frame House, formerly houseboat: 1920, single story low gable roof, shiplap siding.
25. Efin Warehouse: 1890, single story, gable roof, shiplap siding. Gasoline stand addition. Deteriorated condition.
26. Frame cabin: 1910, single story, gable roof, shiplap siding. Abandoned and deteriorating.
27. Boat Shop: 1928, one and one-half story, gambrel roof with gable and hip roof additions, shiplap siding. Fair condition.
28. Cabin: 1931, single story, hexagonal plan, one room cabin with shiplap siding.
29. Grange Hall: 1944, single story, gable roof with hip roof wing, clapboard siding. Adjacent to fairgrounds.
30. Frame House: 1903, one and one-half story, gable roof, T-plan with extension, shingle siding. Extensive alterations.
31. Frame House: 1895, one and one-half story, gable roof, composition siding. Additions.
32. Frame House: ca. 1895, single story, T-plan, assembled from parts of other buildings.
33. Frame House: 1890, one and one-half story, gable roof, shiplap siding, double-hung windows with two-over-two lights. Additions.
34. Frame House: 1910, one and one-half story, cross gable roof, cornice returns, shiplap siding on ground floor and variegated shingles above. Additions in back.
35. Frame House: ca. 1905, one and one-half story, T-plan, crossing hip roof and a dormer on each slope, shingle siding. Aluminum frame windows.
36. Frame House: ca. 1900, single story, T-plan, gable roof. Asbestos shingle siding, aluminum frame windows.
37. Frame House: 1904, two story, T-plan, gable roof, shiplap siding, some decorative carpentry. Additions and alterations, generally on two sides only.
38. Frame House: 1907, one and one-half story, gable roof with one-story extension, shingle siding.
39. Frame House: 1908, single story, gable roof, veranda, shingle siding.
40. Frame House: 1906, two story, gable roof, shiplap siding. Veranda alterations, additions in back.

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41. Frame House: 1905, two story gable roof, shiplap siding, veranda. Additions in back.
42. Frame House, Bungaloid: one and one-half story, transverse gable roof, shed roof dormer, gable extension for porch, shingle siding.
43. Farm -
*Residence: 1973, one story. Intrusion.
Barn: 1925, gambrel roof, board and batten siding. Additions.
*Outbuilding (one): milking parlor, block construction, intrusion.
44. Farm -
Residence: 1912, frame, one and one-half story, hip roof dormers.
Barn: 1912, gable roof, board and batten. Deteriorating.
Outbuilding (one) and silo.
45. Farm -
*Residence: 1963, one story rambler. Intrusion.
Barn/Loafing shed: board and batten. Corrugated metal roof.
Outbuildings (five).
46. Farm -
Residence: 1901
Barn: 1890
47. Farm -
Residence: 1899, frame, one and one-half story, gable roof. Composition shingle siding.
Outbuildings (one): attached.
48. Farm -
Residence: 1924, frame, two and one-half story, bay window. Asbestos shingles.
Outbuildings (three): 1905 - 1970.
49. Farm -
Residence, Bungaloid: 1915, frame, one and one-half story, transverse gable, dormer, shiplap siding.
Barn: 1915, gambrel roof, board and batten siding.
Outbuildings (one)
50. Farm -
Residence: 1928, frame, two and one-half stories, gable roof, eaves brackets.
Barn: 1921, gable roof, board and batten siding, steel silo.
Outbuildings (several)

*Intrusion within farm complex.

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51. Farm -
Residence: 1907, frame, one and one-half story, cornice returns. Alterations.
Outbuildings (one)
*Mobile Homes (two): Intrusions.
52. Farm -
Residence: 1906, frame, one and one-half story, gable roof, cornice returns,
shiplap siding, veranda, turned porch posts. Unaltered.
Barn: 1911, gambrel roof, board and batten siding.
Outbuildings: several including chicken house and smoke house.
53. Farm -
Residence: 1915, frame, gable roof, shingle siding. Altered.
Barn: 1915, corrugated metal roofing, shiplap siding.
Outbuildings: (one)
54. Farm (formerly a part of farm U. above) -
* Residence: Mobile home. Intrusion.
Barn: 1925, bow roof, metal ventilators.
Outbuildings (one)
55. Farm -
Residence, Bungalow: frame, one and one-half stories, hip roof and dormer.
Barn: steep bow roof with metal ventilator.
Barn: gable roof with surrounding hipped shed addition.
Outbuildings: several including a metal silo, loafing shed, and swine house.
Note: the above structures date from 1865 to 1910.
56. Farm -
Residence: 1914, frame, one and one-half stories, saltbox, hipped veranda. Minor
alterations.
Barn: 1914, gable roof, board and batten siding. Corrugated roofing.
Outbuildings: four, including a milking parlor.

INTRUSIONS:

- I. Frame House: 1950, one story, gable roof, shingle siding, garage.
- II. Duck Inn Restaurant and Lounge: 1953, one story with basement, flat roof.
- III. Oil Distribution Shed: 1953, corrugated metal roof and siding.
- IV. Gas Station: 1940, one story, flat roof, mixed plywood and clapboard siding,
post foundation.

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- V. Frame House: 1959, single story, gable roof with garage wing.
- VI. Gas Station: 1935, single story, flat roof, single bay garage. Gas dock in back for re-fueling boats.
- VII. Mobile Home.
- VIII. Frame House: 1959, single story, T-111 and shingle siding.
- IX. Fire Hall: 1960, one and one-half story, L-plan, block foundation.
- X. County Garage and Shop: 1960, single story, gable roof, corrugated metal siding, four bays.

COMPATIBLE RECENT CONSTRUCTION:

- a. Frame House: 1950, one and one-half stories, gable roof with center gable wing, 8" clapboard siding, garage.
- b. Frame House: 1938, one and one-half stories, hipped gable roof, center gable porch, 4" clapboard siding.
- c. Skamokawa State Bank: 1920 and 1950, one story, flat roof, stucco. Additions.
- d. Frame House: 1910. Extensively altered.
- e. Shack: ca. 1940, board and batten.
- f. Martin Net Rack: 1951, single story, low gable roof, clapboard siding, built on piling.
- g. Frame House: 1920, one story, gable roof. Altered extensively.

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The Chahulklihum Archaeological site, 45-WK-5, is located in Section 17, Township 9 North, Range 6 West W.M. in Wahkiakum County, Washington. The site lies some 300 feet north of the Columbia River on a terrace composed of silt loam soil formed on undifferentiated alluvial fans by the tidal fluctuations of the Columbia River. Ground cover consists of bunch grass, sedge and an impenetrable mass of blackberry bushes. The metal framework of an abandoned school swing stands on the site. An area of rolling, sandy hills, a disposal site for spoils dredged from the Columbia River by the Corps of Engineers, is immediately south of the archaeological site. The dredge spoils cover what was originally a low marshland adjacent to the river. The terrace site rises some ten feet above the dredge spoils area. A concrete foundation, the structural remains of a county school can be seen to the north of the site area and the road to the school yard forms the northern boundary of the site. Sand has been sold from the dredge spoil area and the access road-cut delineates the undisturbed portion of the site on the east.

Excavation of a test trench on the northeast edge of the site was monitored by Ms. Mary Ann Duncan, consulting archaeologist, Office of Public Archaeology, University of Washington. The test revealed a dark brown humus soil level shot with detritus indicating an occupational level below the 6-8 cm. sod cover. Ms. Duncan after examining the projectile points collected earlier from the surface of the site determined that the site appears to have an early component, circa 500 BC to 500 AD, in addition to the historic component that has been cited by previous investigators.

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lower end of Price's Island where small boats could dock. According to one traditional account, when the local people sent in their request for a Post Office to Washington D.C. they spelled the name as Skamookaway. Officials at the Capitol were unable to pronounce the word and changed the spelling to Skamokawa. Whether this is true or not, it illustrates the problem that non-natives seem to have when they first try to pronounce the name.

An early account of life in the valleys surrounding Skamokawa is given by the Reverend W. E. M. James who organized the Skomockaway (sic) Baptist Church in March, 1879 with six members. He describes his first visit in December, 1878 as follows:

I came by steamer to Skomockaway. Here I find a grand field for labor. Every valley is taken up by settlers from all parts of the world - quite a number of Swedes. I organized a Sabbath-School in the center valley. Am visiting from house to house in the other valleys; I hope to be able to organize a Sabbath-School in each of them. I find this will be the only way to reach most of the parents, who are infidels and unbelievers.

Skamokawa geographically had several distinct parts. The center of town in early days and until the road was constructed in the 1930's was the wharf on the river, There was also Sleepy Hollow and Swede Town, so called today, and after the Spanish American War the West Valley was known as "Spain" The upper end of East Valley was known as Missouri Flats and the high hill on the west side of town was known variously as Lutes' Mountain or Moe Hill.

There were and still are three main sources of income in and around Skamokawa. These are fishing, farming and logging.

Farming, which was mainly mixed farming and dairying in the earlier years, was ideally located in the three valleys. The rich bottomland, high rainfall and mild climate produced excellent pasture for cattle. In 1895 a creamery was opened by the Proebstal Brothers and in 1898 it was organized into the Skamokawa Farmer's Creamery, the first cooperative creamery in the State. In the following years the creamery established a reputation for its products, especially its butter which won first prize at the San Francisco World's Fair. In 1942 the creamery was absorbed by the Lower Columbia Dairy and closed its doors.

Fishing also still exists on the Columbia and Skamokawa is still the headquarters of a small gillnet fleet. At one time seining with horses and trapping salmon were also pursued on the islands opposite Skamokawa, but these two types of fishing were eventually banned. In 1873 a cannery was built by R. D. Hune at Bay View, a mile below Skamokawa on the Columbia, providing a local market for salmon. Skamokawa women worked in the cannery and there was a trail over the hills to Bay View. The S. Schmidt Company of Skamokawa was also a great receiving point for sturgeon, taking in as many as 40 tons in a single day.

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Logging in the area began early and was done first by ox team and later by railroad. Men logged commercially during the summers for the various logging companies and hired themselves out to clear farms in the valleys in the winter months. When the fishing season was closed during the winter, fishermen would also help clear land and the seine horses were often used for this purpose. Logging camps were established in each of the three valleys and Skamokawa was the supply center. Food and supplies were taken by pack horse over a trail to the various camps as far away as Grays River. The timber itself was old-growth fir, cedar and hemlock. It was floated down the streams to the sloughs, made into rafts and towed to Portland behind sternwheelers. Alger's Log Company, the largest of all, tied their log booms just off Pleasant Point. The pilings they tied the logs to are still in place.

These three industries, based on natural resources, were integrated in a fashion which has not changed much to this day. Farming, fishing and logging still form almost the entire income for the community's, and indeed the County's, residents.

Early social and educational opportunities were available to the local residents. The first school was established in West Valley about 1870 with Middle Valley next in 1873 and East Valley in 1880. Early school buildings still stand in all three valleys, though not the first buildings. In 1894 a village school was built in what is now the Redman Hall and this building too is still standing. An account of the early schools is given by Emma Martin, herself an early school teacher.

The first schools of Skamokawa were very crude and poorly constructed. The buildings were made of rough lumber with only a few windows for ventilation and light. There was never more than one door. The children sat on benches which were very uncomfortable. The benches and teacher's desk were handmade. The black boards were made of planed lumber and were painted black.

The health conditions were very unsatisfactory. One pail of water and one dipper served all with drinking water, which was dipped from a spring near the school. The buildings were heated with an old boxwood stove The number of pupils enrolled in these early schools ranged from 8 to 12. The teachers' salaries did not exceed \$25 per month.

Social life revolved around various community organizations, the schools and fraternal organizations, such as the Ladies of the Maccabees. Each year one or more of the schools held Christmas concerts and 4th of July picnics. The Cemetery Association sponsored a picnic and cemetery cleanup day each year, and in the early years of the 20th century the Skamokawa Regatta became an annual event. Dances were frequently held and each year Mr. J. T. Lutes, a somewhat eccentric gentleman who lived on top of Lutes' Mountain, held a strawberry picnic open to all who could manage the steep climb up to his home and strawberry patch.

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The churches, too, were an integral part of community life. The first service of the Methodist Church in Skamokawa was held in August, 1890 at the mill and the first church building was constructed in 1893-94 on land donated by the mill owners. This church was known as the Island Church, as it was situated across Brooks Slough and not connected with the mainland, though a bridge was built shortly thereafter. There was also a Methodist Church in East Valley and Middle Valley and a Lutheran Church, built in 1890, in East Valley. None of these structures exists today although the Skamokawa Methodist Church was rebuilt in a new location after being destroyed by fire in 1954.

The first two decades of the 20th century saw Skamokawa with a relatively stable population, major events which influenced village life were in the First World War, in which Skamokawa lost three men, and a severe influenza epidemic in 1918, in which many children died. 1917 was the year of completion of the first inter-community road in the County between Cathlamet and Skamokawa. In the 1920's the three valley schools were consolidated and in 1926 a new school was completed to house the children of the village and the three valleys. This building was standing until recently.

However, it was the Ocean Beach Highway which came through Cathlamet-Skamokawa in the 1930's which was to change the face of the village. The center of town shifted from the river to the highway and the riverboats became a thing of the past as the highway was a faster means of travel. There was no longer a need for the hotel on the wharf and it closed. Other businesses closed, including the Skamokawa State Bank, due partly to the Depression and partly to the highway. Buildings no longer in use began to decay and the population declined.

The road also changed the physical layout of the village. The Redmen Hall was moved to its present higher, less accessible location and the Lamont Mansion, an enormous white Victorian house, was razed as it stood directly in the path of the road. The stone wall and steps near the present store and Post Office are all that remain of this fine home. In the 30's the Oasis restaurant and tavern was built on the route of the new highway. This is a false-front building still in use as a tavern and is in excellent condition.

Many of the early buildings of Skamokawa are gone but some are still standing, in various stages of repair. Of particular note are the Redmen Hall, the Oasis and Hoby's store, all in the village itself, and the round barn in Middle Valley. The Silverman store is still in fair condition and is being restored. Many early houses still stand, particularly in Swedetown and Sleepy Hollow and are in good to excellent condition. The Fernhill Cemetery is a well-kept rural cemetery with graves of many early settlers. The Effin warehouse is in a badly deteriorated condition. At one time it was the Elkhorn saloon and later a local meeting place for various fraternal organizations.

Skamokawa retains the essential characteristics of a late 19th century river community, probably due to the fact that the supporting industries have not changed. The fishing, farming and logging which were the cause of its early growth are still its mainstay, and most of the inhabitants still carry on these traditional adaptations. Many residents

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are the 4th and 5th generation descendants of early settlers. Life in Skamokawa is a continuation of old customs and traditions. Early organizations such as the Menor Club (est. 1914) and the Grange (est. 1910) are still active. The Methodist Church (est. 1894) provides a focal point for community fellowship. The local store and Post Office are informal gathering places to exchange news and gossip. There is a sense of continuity with the past, not only in the physical appearance of the village but in its economic, social and religious life as well.

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The documented history of the Skamokawa campsite (of the Smith and Hudziak survey of 1948) is one of confusing and contradictory statements. Although geographical data are sketchy and exact sites are hard to pinpoint with any assurance of accuracy, the following sources indicate the presence of a campsite in the Skamokawa area.

1805 - Lewis and Clark, November 7, page 209. "This village is at the foot of the high hills on the Stard. side back of small islands it contains 7 indifferent houses... here we purchased a dog, some fish, wappato, roots and I purchased 2 beaver skins for the purpose of making me a roab, as the robe I have is rotten and good for nothing."

It is difficult to be certain that this is the Skamokawa site, although the geographical features mentioned do indicate this vicinity. Furthermore, Verne F. Ray, in his Handbook of the Cowlitz Indians, gives this village as being Skamokawa.

Early maps indicate the presence of islands in front of the present site and the following historic accounts document utilization of the area by the Indian population.

1812 - Franchere, May 3, page 70. "The left bank, which we were coasting, being concealed by little low islands, we encamped for the night on one of them, at the village of Wakaicum, to which our guide belonged."

1835 - La Framboise as quoted by Gairdner. The Wahkiakum tribe was located "on the right bank of the Columbia on a small stream called Cadet River, a good way below Oak Point, between it and Katlamak." (Katlamak was old Cathlamet, on the Oregon side of the river.)

1844 - W. L. Higgins, in Skamokawa Eagle, June 28, 1894. "Would say that the first house built in your town by a white man was built by Captain John H. Couch in 1844 on the lower end of the beach, close to the hill and facing the Columbia River, with a space of about ten feet between it and house occupied by the old Indian Chief (Skamokawa) and his people. The Indian's house was on the upper side towards the Creek, also close to the hill."

1845-50 - Curtis, 1911, page 182. "Chahulklihum, 'Winter Town' site of Skamokawa, Washington. Four large houses under Skamaqeaq."

These quotations, in all probability, concern the site at Skamokawa. However, the question of where the Wahkiakum tribe camped is quite complex. There are numerous quotations which refer to Chief Skamokawa at a village called Wahkiakum which indicate that there was more than one campsite inhabited by the Wahkiakum people. These are in three main areas, Altoona-Pillar Rock, Cathlamet-Elochoman, and Bay View. The Altoona-Pillar Rock sites have either been destroyed or are now inaccessible as they are on private

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property owned by descendants of early Indian tribes. The Cathlamet-Elochoman site has been destroyed completely. The Bay View site has been extensively pot-hunted, and has also been excavated by Keith Gehr. The artifacts found in the Bay View site do not exhibit the same form as those found on the Skamokawa site. The Skamokawa artifacts are similar, however, to those found in the Altoona-Pillar Rock area. As Altoona-Pillar Rock was known as "Summer Town" and Skamokawa as "Winter Town", and given the exposed nature of the Altoona-Pillar Rock area, it is likely that the Wahkiakums moved to Skamokawa each winter because of its protected position.

Numerous questions concerning the early history and prehistory of the area are raised by the presence of the campsite. Such questions include: Was the Skamokawa site inhabited by several different ethnic groups, or was it the home of Chief Skamokawa, Wahkiakum site? Was this a seasonal open camp site, a permanent winter village or a combination of both?

The Wahkiakums are little known archaeologically and this site one of the largest relatively undisturbed sites ethnographically connected with these people. The site is also important from the point of view of local history, since, if it was indeed the site of the 1844 trading post mentioned by Higgins it was the first in this area and in Wahkiakum County. The early trading period on the Columbia has been comparatively little studied, and the trading routes above Astoria and the prehistory of Indian People above the Astoria area has been almost entirely neglected until one reaches the Portland-Vancouver area. This site may well yield information to fill the gap in the history and prehistory of the lower Columbia region.

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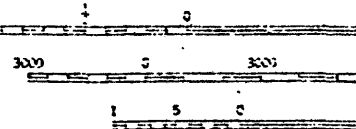
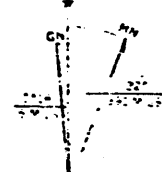
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 Topography from aerial photographs by multiplex methods
 Aerial photographs taken 1951. Field check 1953
 Hydrography from USC&GS Chart 6152
 Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
 10,000-foot grids based on Washington coordinate system,
 south zone, and Oregon coordinate system, north zone
 Dashed land lines indicate approximate locations
 Unchecked elevations are shown in brown
 1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,
 zone 10, shown in blue



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1 NAME

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Skamokawa Historic District

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2 LOCATION

CITY, TOWN

Skamokawa

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COUNTY

Wahkiakum

STATE

Washington

3 MAP REFERENCE

SOURCE

Sketch Map

SCALE

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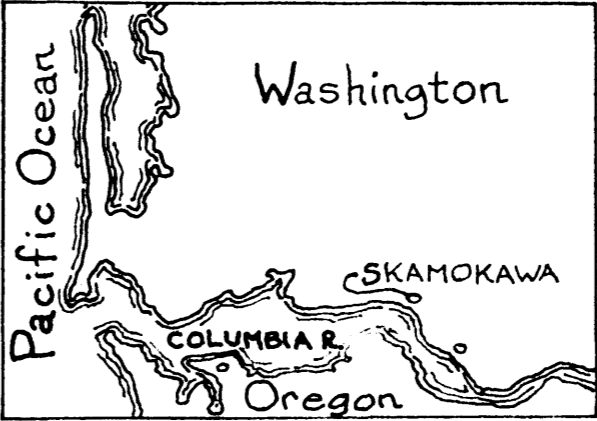
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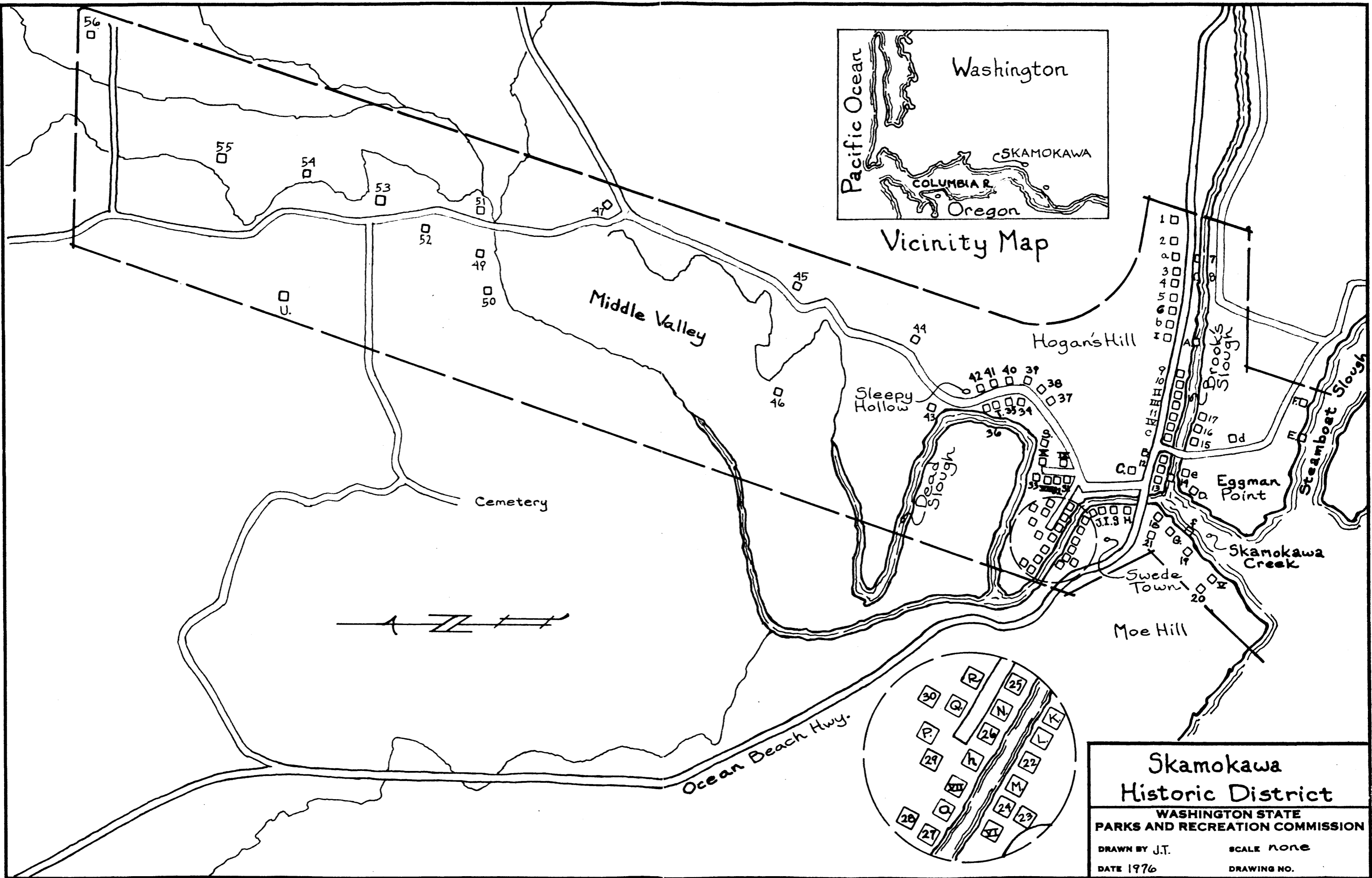
4 REQUIREMENTS

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1. PROPERTY BOUNDARIES
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Vicinity Map



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