

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	OCT 16 1979
DATE ENTERED	FEB 8 1980

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

1 NAME

HISTORIC Columbia River Quarantine Station

AND/OR COMMON Knappton Cove Camp

LOCATION SW of Knappton on WA 401
STREET & NUMBER Star Route Naselle

CITY, TOWN _____ —NOT FOR PUBLICATION
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT 3rd--Hon. Don L. Bonker
STATE Washington 98638 CODE VICINITY OF Knappton COUNTY Pacific CODE _____

CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input 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 type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Clarence V. and Katherine Bell

STREET & NUMBER Star Route Naselle

CITY, TOWN _____ STATE Washington 98638
 VICINITY OF Knappton

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Pacific County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER Memorial and Cowlitz Drive

CITY, TOWN South Bend STATE Washington 98586

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE Washington State Cultural Resource Survey: Pacific County

DATE 1978 —FEDERAL —STATE COUNTY —LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS Historic Planner, Pacific County Courthouse

CITY, TOWN South Bend STATE Washington 98586

7 DESCRIPTION

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

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The property selected for the quarantine station is situated directly across the Columbia River from Astoria, Oregon. It is located on the north shore of the river at Knappton Cove in Pacific County, Washington. The cove has always been sparsely settled and isolated from the populated areas of Pacific County. In the early 1960's construction of State Highway 401 ended the isolation.

The property originally consisted of 4 acres of land when the quarantine station was established in 1899. There was also half an acre of tideland over which stood a long wharf and several old station buildings. Storm damage and rotting timbers necessitated the dismantling of the wharf in 1975.

The shore property is on fairly level ground, although steep, forested hills rise abruptly toward the rear of the property. The river shoreline is bordered by the highway, and the river bank is rugged and precipitous. Driftwood perpetually covers the beach. Apple, cherry and pear trees dot the landscape. They are the only remnants of the orchard planted by Job Lamley on his Donation Land Claim in 1853.

There are five frame buildings on the property. Each was built at a different time but all were used by the quarantine station. None of the buildings survive from the period when the land was part of the Lamley Donation Land Claim; three were built when the Eureka and Epicure Packing Company, a salmon cannery, owned the land; and two buildings were built for the Columbia River Quarantine Station in 1912 and 1926.

The main dwelling, or caretaker's house, was built in the 1890's for the superintendent of the salmon cannery. In 1899 the dwelling was remodelled and used by the quarantine station caretaker. This structure was originally located closer to the shoreline. It was moved to the present site when the state highway purchased the right-of-way in 1956. The Bell family remodelled the deteriorated structure and now make it their family home. Shakes cover the original tongue and groove siding.

The boatshop and pump house were also built in the 1890's for use by the salmon cannery personnel. Both buildings have the original tongue and groove siding. The pump house was converted to use as a public restroom in the 1950's when the Bell family operated their fishing resort. The boatshop is now used for storage and has a three-door garage added to it.

The hospital building and the chow hall, or kitchen, were built in 1912 and 1926. Both buildings rest on cement pier foundations and have drop-siding exteriors. The original wood-shingled roofs were covered with composite roofing in the 1950's. Very few exterior alterations have been made, but interior remodelling occurred when the station was used as a fishing resort in the 1950's.

The fully equipped quarantine station at Knappton Cove no longer exists. The frame buildings on the grounds and the rotted pilings in the tidelands are all that remain. They stand as sentinels to the history of the former Columbia River Quarantine Station.

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

SPECIFIC DATES 1853, 1876, 1899

BUILDER/ARCHITECT U.S. Government/ Treasury Department
Supervising Architect

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Columbia River Quarantine Station at Knappton Cove is significant as the site of the Lower Columbia River's "Ellis Island" between 1900 and 1936. Thousands of European and Oriental immigrants passed through this public health station enroute to homes and jobs in southwest Washington and northwest Oregon. The effective control of communicable diseases in this region was the direct result. The site has further significance in terms of settlement and industry. Between 1853 and 1876 it was part of the Donation Land Claim of Job Lamley, prominent Pacific County pioneer, and from 1876 to 1899, as a salmon packing cannery it was one link in the development of a major Columbia River industry.

The Columbia River was discovered by Yankee fur trader Captain Robert Gray in May 1792. The first description of the Knappton Cove area was recorded by the CHATHAM, a ship in the expedition of British Captain George Vancouver, in October 1792. The Master's Mate described Knappton Cove in his journal. He said it was a safe anchorage in bad weather and observed that the land was very woody with a great deal of driftwood along the shore. He also noted that the migratory journeys of the Chinook Indians frequently brought them to the cove camping grounds and the ship purchased supplies of salmon from them. This was the first, but not the last, visit and documentation of the Knappton Cove area.

It remained for Job Lamley to become the first recorded white owner of land at the cove. Lamley was born in England in 1829 and came to America with his parents as a small boy. He came to the Oregon Territory when he enlisted in the military in the 1840's. In 1850 he tried to leave the Oregon Country for the gold fields of California but his ship was wrecked on the Columbia River bar. Lamley dragged himself ashore near the present town of Ilwaco, took a job, and forgot his gold fever. In the same year he signed a petition with other residents asking that new election precincts be created in the area. The result was the creation of Pacific County by the Oregon Territorial Legislature in February 1851. Pacific was the third county created north of the Columbia River. Lamley was elected the first county Sheriff and was appointed assessor by the Board of County Commissioners. On March 1, 1853, he took up a 301-acre Donation Land Claim at Knappton Cove. The family home was built in the midst of an orchard he planted near the shoreline. The house stood within several hundred yards of the future site of the quarantine station but burned several years after the station was founded in 1899.

In August 1869 Job Lamley took office as the county commissioner from his district. During the same year he sold major portions of his Donation Land Claim to J.B. Knapp. Knapp needed the land to make his plans for a sawmill downstream profitable. The sawmill town became known as Knappton and is now a State Register historic townsite.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

See Continuation Sheet

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

UTM NOT VERIFIED

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1.8 acres

UTM REFERENCES

A

1	0	4	3	6	2	2	0	5	1	2	4	2	6	0
ZONE			EASTING				NORTHING							

B

ZONE			EASTING				NORTHING						

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The property nominated is a trapezoidal piece of land in Section 17 of Township 9 North, Range 9 West, Western Meridian, Pacific County, Washington. It is bordered to the north and west by a heavily wooded hillside; to the east by a wood fence; and to the south by the north bank of the Columbia River and State Highway 401. The site of the former quarantine station is located between the State Register townsite of Knappton and the Columbia River bridge to Astoria.

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME/TITLE Larry Weathers, Historic Planner

ORGANIZATION Pacific County

DATE March 1979

STREET & NUMBER Box 66 Courthouse

TELEPHONE (206) 875-5591

CITY OR TOWN South Bend

STATE Washington 98586

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE WRC

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

Jeanne M. Welch 10-9-79

TITLE

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

Sally G. Oldham
DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

WRC DATE 2/8/80
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST: W. Ray Nuse
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE 2-7-80

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In 1876 Lamley sold the remaining acres of his Donation Land Claim to Joseph Hume for a cannery site. Joseph was the youngest of the Hume brothers who had started the first salmon canning operation on the west coast at Sacramento in 1864. The Humes were also responsible for building the first salmon cannery on the Columbia in 1867, at Eagle Cliff in eastern Wahkiakum County. The Humes built canneries on both sides of the river from Astoria to Longview and made their fortunes.

The proliferation of canneries along the banks of the Columbia was directly responsible for the eventual public demand for a quarantine station. The growth in the number of canneries (there were 39 in the peak year of 1883) stimulated growth in the number of immigrants and cargo ships entering the area. In the 1800's disease prevention was an uncertain medical art, and the chance of importing one of five communicable diseases (cholera, small pox, malaria, bubonic plague, yellow fever) on these ships increased. Residents of Portland and Astoria were especially concerned.

Cannery operators needed a dependable source of labor, skilled and unskilled, to assure high standards in the canneries. George Hume was the first to bring contract Chinese labor to his Eagle Cliff cannery in 1870. They were unskilled but dependable. Other canners followed suit. It did not take them long to realize that immigrants could be employed at less cost than native-born labor. Depending on the owners, a crew might be predominately Norwegian, Finnish, Yugoslavian, German, or Chinese. In most cases the Chinese did the bulk of the cannery work, cutting and hand-soldering cans during the off season, and butchering and stuffing cans during the season. Chinese were never allowed to do the actual fishing-the fishermen were Europeans and they said the only Chinese fishing would be a dead Chinese. Rudyard Kipling, after visiting one cannery, stated that "Only Chinamen were employed on the work, and they looked like blood-smearred yellow devils as they crossed the rifts of sunlight that lay upon the floor."

The clamor for a quarantine station and hospital on the Lower Columbia finally reached Congress in June 1894. Astoria already had an inspector, but ships found to have disease on board had to be sent to Port Townsend 275 miles north. The arrangement was not adequate as far as residents were concerned. Congressmen from Oregon and Washington recommended a hospital and disinfecting station at an estimated cost of \$40,000, but the request was ignored.

In 1897, Senator McBride of Oregon introduced another Senate bill to establish a quarantine hospital and disinfecting station near Astoria. The bill was approved. The cost was not to exceed \$30,000. In August 1898 a three-man committee was named to investigate sites near Astoria. As soon as Astorians heard about the committee they immediately balked. They wanted a station, but not on "their" side of the river. They felt a nice deserted strip of land on the north shore would be more appropriate. The government took the hint and explored several sites. The cannery at Knappton Cove was one of them.

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The eventual decision of the investigation committee was that the cannery site was the best location for a public health station. The channel at that point was deep enough for the moorage of ships at the cannery wharf, the wharf buildings could be converted to fumigation station use, and the surrounding area was sparsely populated. The committee decided it was ideal. By 1899 the cannery at Knappton Cove had seen better years. In 1897 it had been sold to a group of canners who collectively went under the name of Columbia River Packers Association. Otherwise known as the "Combine," this group was composed of cannery operators who were concerned with the rising cost of canning. Many of them were over-extended in the production of canned salmon. The "Combine" exerted a stabilizing influence on the salmon industry by closing, or consolidating, cannery operations. Knappton Cove was one operation that was closed.

In 1899 negotiations were completed and the site was purchased by the government for \$8,000. The Columbia River Quarantine Station at Knappton Cove was established in May 1899 but the opening entry in the station log was not made until January 1, 1906. The entry states, "This station was established by Assistant Surgeon Hill Hastings on May 9, 1899 under direction of bureau letter of April 28, 1899....Assistant Surgeon Baylis H. Earle reported for duty to Assistant Surgeon Hill Hastings on December 2, 1900 and assumed command of the station on December 12, 1900." The station log is now in the possession of Mrs. Ann Washer of Astoria, who maintained it from 1929 until the closing of the station.

For several decades the routine of ship quarantine on the Columbia remained essentially the same. Ships crossing the bar anchored at the Port of Astoria. An inspector went aboard and checked for infestation and communicable disease. When quarantinable problems occurred the ship was sent immediately to Knappton Cove for fumigation. At the cove the ship was moored to the old cannery wharf, passengers disembarked and fumigation commenced. Fumigation was accomplished by burning sulphur in pots throughout the ship. Immigrants bunked on the U.S.S. CONCORD, a decommissioned veteran of the Spanish-American War, while the fumigation proceeded. They showered in the remodelled wharf buildings. Their clothing and baggage were deloused in huge retorts nearby. Diseased persons were kept in isolation. When the hospital building on shore was finally completed in 1912, isolation cases were kept there for observation. Fumigation of a ship required 48 hours. It was a brief inconvenience.

The only inhabitants of the quarantine station grounds were the caretakers. They lived in the main dwelling on shore, or lived with their families in homes near the station. Wives and families were never allowed to live on the grounds. The few families living around the station compound carried government passes so that they could cross the property when necessary. Doctors from Astoria visited the station on a weekly basis, or more often if a ship was in quarantine. No nurses ever visited the station.

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Utilization of the quarantine station changed in the 1920's when methods of inspection, fumigation and inoculation changed. Fumigation of ships at anchor near the Port of Astoria was made possible by the use of new disinfecting agents. Isolation at Knappton Cove was only necessary in the most extreme cases. Another factor in the decline of the cove was the curtailment of foreign immigration. The numbers of immigrants to the west coast had been cut as early as 1882 when an Act of Congress excluded the Chinese, and in 1907 when the Japanese were kept out, but the biggest decrease came in 1924 when a quota system was instituted for European nationalities. Popular sentiment was in favor of this system after the experiences of World War I.

The quarantine station at Knappton Cove was finally phased out and closed in 1938. For a time the property was used by the Bureau of Lighthouses for a navigational aid site. The government finally declared it surplus property in 1949 and auctioned it in 1950. Many of the former quarantine station buildings were deteriorating slowly but were left standing by the government for the new owners.

Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Bell of Portland purchased the site from the government at auction in August 1950. They operated a summer fishing resort called Knappton Cove Camp and developed a very popular retreat. The Bells' retirement, and the construction of Highway 401 across the shoreline, eventually closed the resort in the early 1960's. In 1971 storm damage made any further use of the rotting wharf impossible and dangerous. Mr. Bell had it demolished in 1975 and used some of the salvaged materials elsewhere on the property.

Today, the former station site is a quiet, comfortable family home. The isolation of the cove was forever ended with the construction of State Highway 401, but much of the natural beauty of the area is still clearly evident, and passersby often stop to inquire about the buildings among the orchard trees planted by Job Lamley. The era of isolated quarantine stations is over but the memory of its vigilance is well remembered among residents of the Lower Columbia. As the SUNDAY OREGONIAN reported in October 1921, "Two decades of activity have made the Columbia River quarantine into a smooth working machine far superior to that in operation on Puget Sound, and to date even more efficient in that the record of the port is clear, showing no epidemics." That record was maintained and the memory of it lingers.

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Annual Report of the Supervising Surgeon-General of the Marine-Hospital Service of the United States. Washington: Government Printing Office, 1896-1915.

Appelo, Carleton E. Brookfield: The Joe Megler Story. Deep River, Washington 1966, p.24.

Appelo, Carleton E. Knappton: The First 50 Years. Deep River, Washington, 1975.

Bell, Clarence. Personal interview. September 27, 1978, and subsequent dates. Mr. Bell has owned the former site of the quarantine station since 1950. He operated a fishing resort on the property called Knappton Cove Camp.

"Fish Canneries on the Columbia." The Sou'wester. Edited by Ruth Dixon from Rudyard Kipling's American Notes. Raymond, Washington: Pacific County Historical Society. VI (Autumn 1971), 59.

Hagerup, Harold. Personal interview. January 25, 1979. Mr. Hagerup has been a resident of Knappton Cove since 1907. He lives in the family home built in 1912 overlooking the quarantine station.

Harry, Dewitt. "Quarantine Guards Port From Disease: Ships and Aliens Must Pass Muster as Fit Before Entering Columbia." Sunday Oregonian, October 2, 1921, p.6.

"Job Lamley, Sheriff, 1851." The Sou'wester. Edited by Ruth Dixon. Raymond, Washington: Pacific County Historical Society. I (Spring 1966), 6-7.

"Knappton Quarantine Station: Rats, Fleas, Diseases Fought by Station Personnel," The Columbia Press LII (July 11, 1974), 1.

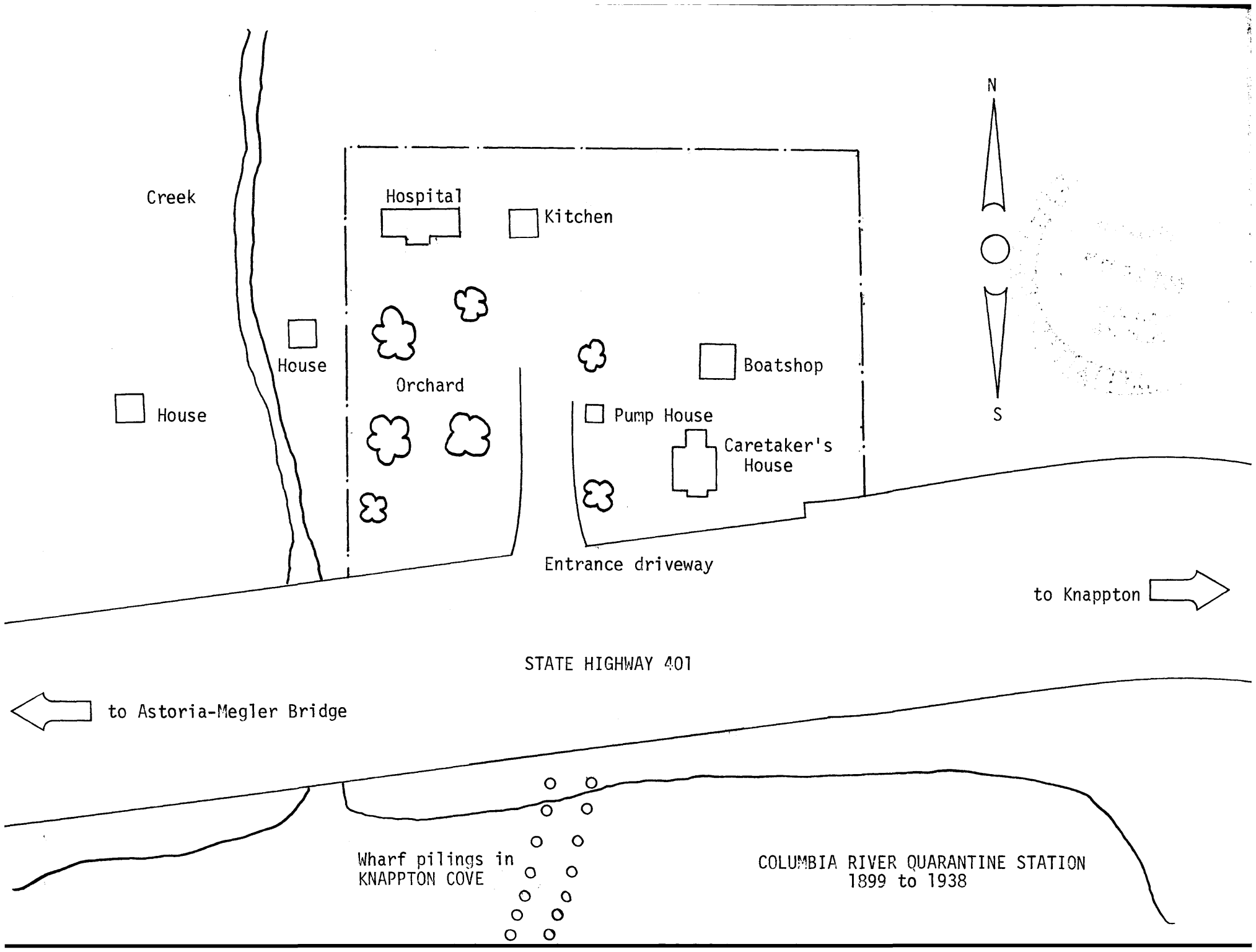
National Archives and Records Service. "Record Group 90." Correspondence concerning the location and establishment of the quarantine station. Washington, D.C.

"Quarantine Station," South Bend Journal, Souvenir Reprint of Supplement for 1900.

Washer, Anne. "Columbia River Quarantine Station." Transcription of speech to the Clatsop County Historical Society, July 1974.

Washer, Anne. Personal interview. November 14, 1978, and subsequent dates. Mrs. Washer has the original quarantine station log. She made the log entries from February 1929 to the closing of the station.

Williams, Ralph Chester, M.D. The United States Public Health Service 1798-1950. Richmond, Virginia: Whittet and Shepperson, 1951, pp. 63-112.



Creek

Hospital

Kitchen

House

Orchard

Boatshop

House

Pump House

Caretaker's House

Entrance driveway

to Knappton

STATE HIGHWAY 401

to Astoria-Megler Bridge

Wharf pilings in
KNAPPTON COVE

COLUMBIA RIVER QUARANTINE STATION
1899 to 1938