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NATIONAL REGISTER

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name FORT CLATSOP, SALT WORKS  
other names/site number Fort Clatsop National Memorial

2. Location

street & number Route 3, Box 604 FC  not for publication  
city, town Astoria  vicinity  
state Oregon code OR county Clatsop code 007 zip code 97103

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	fort <u>1</u>	<u>4</u> buildings visitor ctr.
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> site	memorial <u>2</u>	_____ sites residence and
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	and salt <u>works</u>	_____ structures maintenance
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	_____	_____ objects bldgs.
		_____	_____ Total

Name of related multiple property listing: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 3

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this  nomination  request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria.  See continuation sheet.

Edmund C. Burns Oct. 1, 1988  
Signature of certifying official Date  
Chief, Astoria National Park Service  
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria.  See continuation sheet.

[Signature] March 17, 1987  
Signature of commenting or other official Date  
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer, State of Oregon  
State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register.  See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register.  See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register.
- removed from the National Register.
- other, (explain:)

John J. Kneel 11/21/88  
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

**6. Function or Use**

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Fortification

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Other: reconstructed fort used for  
interpretive purposes

**7. Description**

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

Other (reconstructed log fort)

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation concrete

walls log

roof wood shakes

other

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

See attached sheets.

**8. Statement of Significance**

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally     statewide     locally

Applicable National Register Criteria     A     B     C     D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions)     A     B     C     D     E     F     G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Exploration/Settlement  
Military  
Science  
Other: Cultural Anthropology  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Period of Significance

1805-1806  
1805-1806  
1805-1806

Significant Dates

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Cultural Affiliation

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Significant Person

Capt. William Clark  
Capt. Meriwether Lewis

Architect/Builder

Capt. William Clark  
\_\_\_\_\_

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.  
See Attached Sheets.



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Fort Clatsop National Memorial, as established by Congress (72 stat. 153), consists of two distinct sites to commemorate the historic Lewis and Clark Corps of Discovery's winter encampment and activities related to their stay at Fort Clatsop. The main site is the alleged Fort site, while the second represents the site of the Lewis and Clark Salt Works. The Fort site is located in Clatsop County, Oregon, near the mouth of the Columbia River. It is situated on three low hills on the west bank of the Lewis and Clark River, 1.8 miles south of its mouth. The Pacific Ocean lies 3.5 miles to the west. The Fort site, as originally designated by Congress, consisted of approximately 125 acres. In 1978 Congress authorized acquisition of the Salt Works site, and increased and Memorial's potential acreage to 130 acres. The total acreage now owned by the Department of the Interior is 125.2 acres. Approximately 12% or 15 acres is developed land.

Both sites presently contain replicas of the original Fort and Salt Works patterned after descriptions found in the writings of expedition members and subsequent visitors to the site. Meriwether Lewis described the location of the winter encampment as located 2 or 3 miles from the mouth of the Netul River (now the Lewis and Clark River) "on a rise about 30 feet higher than the high tides and thickly covered with lofty pine" and "certainly the most eligible situation for winter purposes." [1] The expedition set about building a fort structure that would protect them from unfriendly visitors as well as from the elements.

Capt. William Clark appears to be the mastermind behind the design and construction of the Fort. In his journals he gives sketchy accounts of the work done on the Fort and provides two drawings of the proposed floor plan. One of those drawings appeared on his elkskin journal cover and is generally accepted by historians as the floor plan that was used (Diagram 1). The fort's dimensions appear to be 50 feet square, with two rows of cabins divided by a 20 by 48-foot parade ground.

There are additional details to be gathered from the drawings and journals. For example, a main gate is generally thought to have faced east. Three rooms on the south side are believed to have housed the enlisted men; from the sketches, each of these rooms appears to have a door facing the compound and a firepit in the middle of the room. The north side of the fort had four rooms. Only two of these rooms opened onto the compound and contained visible firepits in the middle of the room. Clark's drawing shows a semicircular projection that appears to

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be a fireplace with an outside chimney in the second room nearest the east gate. This room is generally considered to be the location of the Captain's quarters. The end room shown is farthest from the gate is not open to the compound and apparently did not contain a fireplace. [2]

In addition to Clark's descriptions, the men's journals provide some insight into the particulars of the fort structure. Sgt. Patrick Gass mentions that the wood used for the floorboards and roofing "makes the finest puncheons I have ever seen. They can split ten feet long and two broad, not more than an inch and a half thick." [3] His statement suggests that puncheons were made for use as floor boards. Clark also mentions procuring boards from an abandoned Indian lodge for the purpose of supplementing their supply of boards for the roof.

Information regarding the gates as well as pickets can be obtained from Clark's comment on December 29, "all hands employed about the pickets and gates of the fort." [5] After this enclosure of the fort, Clark directed that "sinks be dug and a sentinel box [built] which was accomplished." [6] The sinks are thought to have been the company's latrines and the sentinel box was to keep the sentry, one of which was always on duty, dry during the constant rains. These sinks and the sentinel box are not shown in Clark's drawing of the fort.

Also not shown by Clark is a water gate, possibly due to its addition after his diagram was finished. It probably faced west, opening onto a trail that led to a spring. The presence of this gate is accounted for in a statement issued by Captain Lewis on January 1 pertaining to security: "The water gate may be used freely by the garrison for the purpose of passing and repassing at all times." [7] On December 22, Clark stated that "We finished dobbing 4 huts which is all we have covered, the puncheons, floor and bunks are finished." [8] This collection of statements gives us a fairly complete account of how the fort as a whole was composed, as well as insight on the interior design.

The interior design is, however, the most difficult to determine. From the above statement by Clark, it is clear that there were bunks in the fort. We can only assume, based on speculation, that most rooms contained furniture of some sort. The party did carry tools such as froes and draw knives that could have aided in the manufacturing of furniture. As mentioned earlier, the presence of fireplaces is revealed by Clark's diagram. Sgt. John Ordway gives further information with his comment of December 27, "We built backs

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and inside chimneys in our huts which made them more comfortable than before." [9] The structure of these firepits is generally thought reflective of the Indian style of firepit, which consisted of a pit in the ground from which the smoke would then escape through a hole in the roof. However, as revealed in Clark's brief statement, the "...hut smokes verry bad." [10] Thus the backs that Ordway describes were built to solve this problem. They most likely consisted of screens of elkskin or boards that would channel smoke up the chimneys.

Although Clark's drawings indicate that firepits were present in most of the rooms, two of the rooms show no evidence of these firepits. One of these rooms is the Captains' quarters, which contains a semicircular projection that appears to be a fireplace composed of stone and mortar or clay; yet there are not any places near Fort Clatsop that would supply the rocks suitable for such a fireplace. There are, however, thick deposits of clay near the fort site. The answer to this apparent contradiction may be in the possibility that Clark's drawing was completed before the fort was, and that most likely, the fireplace was actually composed of a cribwork of wood and clay. The other room that does not show a fireplace in Clark's drawing is the last room on the side to the right of the Captain's quarters. This is probably the meat curing and storage room that Clark mentions on December 14, "All employed in finishing a house to put meat into."

The above description summarizes the information available on the structure of Fort Clatsop. On March 23, 1806, the Lewis and Clark expedition left Fort Clatsop to begin their return journey. The fort soon fell into disrepair, as a result of the damp coastal weather and the natives burning parts of it. The site has since been used for logging and a lumber mill, a homestead and a small farm, as a county and state historical area and, finally, as a unit of the National Park System.

The present fort was reconstructed following Clark's descriptions as closely as possible, aided by some speculation. The fort currently faces northeast and southwest. It is 50 square feet with seven rooms and a central parade ground. On the west side of the fort are three rooms: the two outside rooms are furnished with 4 pairs of bunks, tables and chairs; the middle room has four pairs of bunks and also contains a stump of a sitka spruce tree, smoothed off and used as a table. All the rooms contain open firepits that are lined with a cement and clay mixture and are placed at the back of the west wall. The smoke from these pits is funneled by chimneys made from cedar planking that come a quarter of the way down the wall.

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The east side of the fort is composed of four rooms. The room closest to the southwest gate is 10' by 15'. It contains a large double bed, a table, and a firepit similar to the pits on the west side of the fort. The next room is 15' by 16' and is accessible only through the two adjacent rooms and not from the parade ground. In it are two single beds, a table and chairs, and two writing desks that double as storage bins. The fireplace in this room is a large enclosed cribwork fireplace with cement lining the wooden frame. This is represented as the Captains' quarters and is the only room that can, with some certainty, have its historical occupants identified. The next room to the north is 14' by 15'. It contains two pairs of bunks, a table and benches, and a firepit similar to those on the west side of the fort.

The last room on the east side has no parade ground outlet. It is reached through a "dutch door" from the adjacent room. It is 10' by 15'. There is no flooring in this room, and there is no firepit. It has firewood, tools and, sometimes, "jerked" meat stored in it.

The roof and walls of the fort are covered with three layers of alternating cedar shakes. The roof itself slopes inward. There are gutters over the doors, and the parade ground and trails are covered with wood chips. Both of these items are strictly for visitor convenience and are nonhistoric in nature. The southwest and northeast side of the fort are enclosed in pickets. The southwest side has a large double gate, and the northeast side has a single gate. The logs of the fort are composed of peeled "wolmanized" logs. When first built in 1955, the logs appeared "slick"; however, due to the aging and weatherizing process the logs are losing their processed look.

Inside the fort the floorboards are split puncheon cedar and spruce boards. All the doorways have raised sills. Windows are present in all the rooms with the exception of the meat and wood storage room. The majority of the furniture present in the rooms was handcrafted using the type of tools used by the expedition. The rooms, themselves, are bare except for furnishings during the fall, winter and spring, with the exception of special school programs. During the summer, all rooms have some sort of display present, ranging from bunks covered with animal skins or blankets and tables set with food, to a full-fledged setup in the Captains' quarters, which includes examples of trade goods, dried plants, and bullet-making equipment. Many of the rooms with these displays are manned by rangers dressed in authentic garb, who provide interpretation and information on the fort and its former inhabitants.

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Other areas surrounding the fort are also used for interpretive purposes. There is a trail leading from the northeast gate 40 yards to a spring, believed to be the spring that was used by Lewis and Clark. Also on this trail, directly outside of the fort, is a cleared area with an outdoor firepit enclosed by a large cache of firewood. This area is used for rendering fat to manufacture candles.

On the east and southwest sides of the fort there are cleared areas that are used by rangers for interpretive programs. In between these two areas, on the south side of the fort, there is a woodworking area that contains some large rounds of sitka spruce.

From the Fort's southwest gate there is a trail of 200 yards leading to the Lewis and Clark River and a slough that is thought to be the landing area for the expedition's canoes. Presently at this canoe landing there are two handmade cedar canoes, fashioned by park rangers, two fir canoes in the process of being finished, and another fir log waiting to be worked on. Although there were no canoes made by Lewis and Clark at Fort Clatsop, the expedition members did make canoes many times, and did comment about repairing their canoes while at the fort. Thus, the canoe landing area is used to show the use of certain tools by the expedition and techniques for building canoes.

All of the previously described areas are enclosed by heavy forestation. The area is being replanted according to the types and proportion of vegetation present during Lewis and Clark days. There is an active attempt to keep all modern buildings and equipment screened or away from the interpretive areas. All safety and fire equipment is concealed to maintain the integrity of the area without compromising accessibility or safety.

The master plan for Fort Clatsop National Memorial established an administrative zone within the park's boundaries. (see Diagrams 2 & 5) Several contemporary structures are located within the zone including a visitor center, which is located 100 yards to the west of the fort reconstruction, public restrooms, and a parking area. The center contains a lobby and information center, a small museum and auditorium, and offices, a library, and storage rooms. These public facilities occupy approximately two acres of park land. North of the Visitor Center are park residential and maintenance areas. The park is intersected by an off-shoot road of old Highway 101 running north to south. Neither the road nor the above-described contemporary

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structures detract from the park's interpretive goals because of the effective vegetative screening around the historical areas. The reconstructed fort and surrounding historical areas effectively convey a sense of the historic scene at the time of the Lewis and Clark expedition.

In the legislation establishing and expanding Fort Clatsop National Memorial, there are some areas that are outside the previously described main site. The first such area is the Lewis and Clark Trail to the Pacific Ocean.

After choosing the Fort Clatsop area as the site of their winter encampment, Captain Clark decided that a trail to the ocean was necessary. He describes the trail as taking a southwest course of 60° and continuing for 7 miles to the ocean. Sergeant Gass gives a brief description of the trail: "They found the ocean to be about seven miles from our camp; for four miles the land high and closely timbered: The remaining prairie cut with some streams of water." [13] Clark also drew a map of his route to the ocean. Unfortunately, Clark and Gass' descriptions do not exactly match Clark's map. A truer course would have been to the northwest of the fort and about 3 to 4 miles distance to the ocean. What probably happened is that Clark started out going northwest and then changed course slightly to the southwest, although not as much as 60°. The overestimated distance is very understandable, considering the terrain covered. Many times the men of the expedition complained of the difficulty of the trail established by Clark, because of the numerous swamps and streams that intersected it, and it became apparent that the men would use different routes, if possible, to reach the ocean.

The terrain in the area of Clark's ocean trail is still swampy and contains many streams. However, the trail itself has since disappeared. There have been a series of county roads and logging roads that are believed to follow approximately the same route as the old trail. Presently, there is an old logging road that corresponds closely to descriptions of the initial stages of Clark's route. However, at the present time, the Lewis and Clark Trail is undeveloped by the National Park Service. Portions of existing roads and trails will probably be incorporated into the National Lewis and Clark trail in the future.

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One of the major reasons for establishing a trail to the ocean was to obtain salt by boiling seawater. Captain Lewis reports that the chosen site for a salt works was "...about 15 miles southwest from this, from the fort, near the lodge of some Killamuck [Tillamuck] families." [14] As to the actual description of the salt works, we have little information. We know that "...5 of the largest kettles..." [16] were transported to the site and that once established the works produced about three quarts of "...excellent, fine, strong and white..." [17] salt a day.

The present reconstructed site of the salt works is in the town of Seaside, Oregon, on Lot 18, Block 1, Cartwright Park Addition. The present reconstruction contains a "kiln" composed of rocks and cement, with 5 iron kettles. The area is surrounded by an iron fence, with a cement walkway, trees, shrubs, and a descriptive sign. The total area is 100 by 100 feet and surrounded on three sides by houses. As a result of the houses and overgrown shrubbery, the ocean is not visible from the site. Since the original site was on a brushy plain with a clear view and access to the ocean, there is a need to improve conditions both from an interpretive and historical view point. These improvements are currently in the planning stages by the National Park Service.

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ENDNOTES

1. Unless otherwise stated, quotations of Captain Meriwether Lewis, Captain William Clark, and Sergeant Patrick Gass are taken from Original Journals of the Lewis and Clark Expedition, 1804-1806. (New York: Reuben Gold Thwaites, Antiquarian Press Ltd. 1959).

2. To refer to Clark's diagram, see Thwaites, Volume 3, pp. 268 and 297-298.

3. Gass, December 13, Thwaites, Volume 3, p. 279.

4. Uhte, Robert F. "Yosemite Pioneer Cabins" Sierra Club Bulletin. May, 1951. pp. 49-71. This gives a comprehensive guide to notching types.

5. Clark, December 29, Thwaites, Volume 3, pp. 295-296.

6. Clark, December 31, Thwaites, Volume 3, pp. 299-300.

7. Lewis, January 1, Thwaites, Volume 3, pp. 302-304.

8. Clark, December 22, Thwaites, Volume 3, p. 287.

9. Unless otherwise stated, Sergeant Ordway is quoted from The Journals of Captain Meriwether Lewis and Sergeant John Ordway, 1803-1806. (State Historical Society of Wisconsin: Milo M. Quaiffe, 1916). December 26, p. 318.

10. Clark, December 26, 1805, Thwaites, Volume 3, p. 291.

11. Clark, December 14, 1805, Thwaites, Volume 3, p. 280.

12. Ordway, December 25, 1805, Quaiffe, p. 318.

13. Patrick Gass, Gass' Journal of the Lewis and Clark Expedition. (Chicago, 1904), p. 184.

14. Lewis, January 5, 1806, Thwaites, Volume 3, p. 313.

15. Lewis, December 28, 1805, Thwaites, Volume 3, p. 293.

16. Lewis, January 5, 1806, Thwaites, Volume 3, p. 314.

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List of Contributing Resources

The contributing resources identified in Section 3 are:

1. The fort replica
2. The Memorial: i.e., the site incorporated within the boundaries of Fort Clatsop NM. Because the location of the fort has not been definitively established, the entire area within the memorial is considered an archeological site under Criterion D because of its potential for yielding information about the fort and subsequent settlement.
3. The Salt Works (Salt Cairn) in Seaside, OR

Non-Contributing Resources

The non-contributing resources identified in Section 3 are:

1. The visitor center
2. Two residences
3. The maintenance facility.

These are indicated on the "EXISTING CONDITIONS" map enclosed with the nomination. All are support facilities purchased or constructed by the National Park Service and have no significance related to the park's historic context.

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The Lewis and Clark Expedition of 1804-1806 is one of the most significant events in the history of American expansionism and development. President Thomas Jefferson sent Meriwether Lewis and William Clark on a mission to explore the newly-acquired Louisiana Purchase and the land beyond to the Pacific Ocean. The Expedition successfully met Jefferson's charge, bringing back valuable information on the plants, animals, and native peoples of the new territory. Fort Clatsop National Memorial represents the expedition's success in reaching the Pacific Ocean and the importance of its efforts in scientific and cultural areas. Numerous new plants and animals were described during the expedition's sojourn at Fort Clatsop in the winter of 1805-1806; in addition, Lewis and Clark's detailed accounts of the Chinookan Tribes provide unique insight into the culture of these people at the time of their first contacts with Anglo-Americans. As historic areas of the National Park System, the present-day sites of both the reconstructed Fort and the expedition's Salt Works are listed in the National Register of Historic Places. This nomination form has been prepared by the Pacific Northwest Region, National Park Service, to document the national significance of the memorial under National Register criteria A (association with the expedition and the theme of exploration) and B (association with Lewis and Clark).

The Lewis and Clark Expedition was acclaimed for its exploration of the Louisiana Territory and beyond to the Pacific Ocean. The news they brought back of this heretofore unexplored territory was a major stepping stone to the opening of the west. Initially a corps of 45 men, they set out on a journey that lasted almost two and a half years and covered more than 8,000 miles. Some men were sent back, paring their numbers to 30, and the French Interpreter Charboneau and his wife and baby were added.[1] Incredibly, only one life was lost to what the Captains called a "bilioss chorlick."[2] Accomplishment of this feat was due to the bravery and courage of the members of the expedition, and to the careful planning of its leaders, Capt. Meriwether Lewis and Capt. William Clark, who did something that few other military commanders have done before or since--successfully share a joint command.

The hardships the men of the expedition endured were many: near

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Starvation, close encounters with hostile Native Americans, wild animals, constant sickness due to strange climates and diets, transportation accidents, and many more. Yet, throughout the journey, Lewis and Clark managed to compile among the most complete journals of any expedition of the time, collected numerous plant and animal specimens, mapped rivers and mountains, and made contact with and studied various Native American tribes.

While neither Lewis nor Clark were trained naturalists, they did a credible job in their descriptions of terrain, plants, animals and Native Americans. Clark, with a few topographical instruments, made maps of the area covered that compare favorably with present-day maps. Explorers and traders for many years following the expedition relied on Clark's maps.

In the areas of botany and zoology, Lewis and Clark's descriptions were superb. During the course of the expedition, some 178 new plants and 122 new species of animals were described in such detail that they serve today as comprehensive guides to the plant and animal life of North America. During his stay at Fort Clatsop, Lewis described at least 40 plants and almost 100 animals. What he lacked in his scientific descriptions, Lewis made up for by his colorful and detailed accounts of these plants and animals.

Among the most significant of their contributions were Lewis and Clark's accounts of the Native Americans they encountered. Through Lewis and Clark, the first official relations were opened with numerous tribes residing west of the Mississippi River. For the most part, with the exception of the Blackfoot and Sioux tribes, the results of these contacts were positive. They compiled detailed descriptions, including language characteristics, of the tribes they encountered. Among the most important of these studies were Lewis and Clark's extensive descriptions of the language, clothes, food and living habits of the Chinookan tribes, based on their observations during their winter at Fort Clatsop. By the 1830s, ravaged by disease, many of these tribes were virtually extinct. Thus, Lewis and Clark's journals contain the only comprehensive studies we have of the Chinookan culture.

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The significance of the expedition and Fort Clatsop is reflected in the subsequent history of the Fort site. For, while the fort fell into ruins soon after the Expedition's departure, the site quickly became an established "tourist" spot for visitors to the Pacific coast. Knowledge of the Fort's location was kept alive through oral tradition and written accounts of visits to the fort. The first recorded visit by Anglo-Americans to the Fort site, following the Expedition's departure in 1806, was made in 1811 by one of the men of Astor's Pacific Fur Company. Gabriel Franchere stated that he traveled up the "Lewis River" (now the Lewis and Clark) and saw "the ruins of the quarters erected by Captain Lewis and Clark." He said that all that remained "were but piles of rought unhewn logs, overgrown with parasite creepers." [3] Another visitor to the Fort site was Alexander Henry, a member of the Northwest Company. Henry recorded that "we walked up to see that, old American winter quarter of Captains Lewis and Clark in 1805-1806, which were in total ruins, the wood having been cut down and destroyed by Indians; but the remains are still visible. In the Fort are already grownup shoots of willows 25 feet high." [4] Thus it is apparent that only six years after the Expedition's departure, Fort Clatsop had fallen into disrepair.

Reports of visits made in the 1830s and 1840s confirmed the continued deterioration of Fort Clatsop. Most of these reports placed the site about 2 miles from the mouth of the Lewis and Clark River on the west bank, which corresponds with the present placement of the reconstructed fort. During the years 1853-1855, a small sawmill was constructed and operated near the Fort Clatsop site. It was also during this time that Carlos Shane recorded and built the first homestead near the site. Shane later signed his land over to his brother Franklin, who, in turn, abandoned the site in 1856. The property was subsequently takenover in 1872 by Wade Hampton Smith, who had married Franklin Shane's daughter, Mary Aiaminta, and a new house built. By this time much of the virgin timber had been cleared and a small orchard established. The Smith family stayed until 1880. After the Smiths' departure, the house saw sporadic tenancy, but by 1900 was abandoned and in a state of disrepair. Throughout these changes, and despite the fact that, by this time, there were no visible remains of the fort, the site was still firmly associated locally with Fort Clatsop.

In 1899, Olin D. Wheeler, a writer and publicity man from the Northern Pacific Railway, decided to retrace the steps of Lewis and Clark. Wheeler came to the alleged site of the fort accompanied by some local people who testified to the location of the Fort site. Wheeler, with the help of these people, established the approximate site, and took

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some pictures, but, unfortunately, did not record any detailed description of where the Fort stood. Perhaps prompted by the increased publicity about the site resulting from Wheeler's visit in 1900, the Oregon Historical Society decided to purchase the site and determine once and for all the location of the Fort.

Members of the Historical Society set out for the site with some of the same people who had accompanied Wheeler, and one important addition--Carlos Shane, who, as previously mentioned, had lived at the site during the early 1850s. Shane reported having seen and actually burned some of the remaining logs of Fort Clatsop. With his help, the Historical Society was able to identify the Fort site with a degree of certainty. The following is part of Shane's testimony:

I came to Oregon in 1846 and in 1850 I located a donation land claim on a tract of land which included the site of Fort Clatsop; I built a house on the land in 1851 and occupied it until 1853. A few feet away from where I built my house there were at that time the remains of two of the Lewis and Clark cabins. They lay east and west, parallel with each other; and ten or fifteen feet apart. Each cabin was sixteen by thirty feet; three rounds of the south cabin were then standing. In the south cabin stood the remains of a large stump. The location of the old stockade was indicated by second growth timber, while all around it was the original growth, or the stumps of trees which had to be cut. In clearing away for my house, I set fire to the remains of the old cabins and endeavored to burn them.[5]

Shane then recounted how he was able to identify the site some forty years later from the topography of the land and some familiar trees.

Despite the fact that Shane's testimony cannot be positively authenticated, some vital aspects of his account vouch for its reliability. Up until that time, the only information known about the Fort was that it was composed of seven huts with pickets and gates. Historians of the time believed that the Fort had consisted of a group of cabins surrounded by a stockade. It was not until 1903, three years after Shane's testimony, that Reuben Thwaites discovered Clark's drawings of the Fort's dimensions and made them public. These drawings showed the Fort as 50 feet long with two rows of parallel cabins of about 14 to 16 feet in width, with a parade ground separating them by 20 feet. Thus, Shane's description of the logs

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being parallel, 16 by 30 feet and 15 feet apart, is very clear evidence of the reliability of his testimony. Shane's testimony was further corroborated by Preston W. Gillette, who had also seen the rotting logs. With the help of Gillette and Shane, the Oregon Historical Society placed stakes at the supposed stockade corners and an iron pipe was driven into the ground at the center of the site.

Despite this seemingly permanent fixture of the Fort site, very little was done to keep track of the stakes and iron pipe. In 1912, the Historical Society placed a marker near the site that Shane identified. Although the marker was stolen frequently and the site was generally ignored, the site's association with the fort continued to be considered accurate.

In 1948, the first archeological dig at the site was carried out by Louis R. Caywood. Because of lack of time and funds, Caywood was unable to do a thorough investigation of the area. However, Caywood did discover some firepits and other evidence of an occupation of the area by white men. As a result of these finds, Caywood was convinced that the site was indeed that of Lewis and Clark's former winter encampment.

In 1955, relying on Caywood's conclusions and recognizing the impending Lewis and Clark Sesquicentennial, a group of citizens of Clatsop County decided that some improvements to the Fort Clatsop site were necessary. Among their plans was the construction of a Fort replica on the site. After obtaining some additional land through donations, the Clatsop County Historical Society began construction of the Fort replica in 1955. The reconstruction was based on the information available from Lewis and Clark's journals and sited according to the information provided by Caywood, Shane, Gillette, and local tradition. The Fort site was managed by the Oregon Historical Society until 1958, when Congress established it as a National Memorial. (72 Stat. 153) and the National Park Service took over its administration.

Continued debate concerning the site's validity led to further archeological investigations by Park Service Archeologist Paul J.F. Schumacher. Schumacher's investigations in 1957, 1958, and 1961, turned up more firepits, evidence of the Shane and Smith residences, and what was believed to be the iron post placed by the Oregon Historical Society in 1900. Schumacher also was able to interview Harlan C. Smith, son of William and Mary Smith, who had lived on the property with his parents from 1872-1880. Smith's testimony was

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similar to that of his great-uncle, Carlos Shane, and he stated his belief that the fort reconstruction was almost exactly on the site his mother identified as the location of logs from the original fort. While Smith's testimony was taken as conclusive by the NPS team, Schumacher's failure to locate any remnant of the fort has continued to give rise to questions about the site's validity.

These questions have focused on the belief that the extensive excavations by Caywood and Schumacher should have uncovered evidence of the pickets, packed ground indicating the location of the rooms, or even some Lewis and Clark artifacts. However, most archeologists familiar with the site believe that, given the subsequent level of farming and logging activity together with the rapid plant growth characteristic of the area, there is little chance of finding any wooden remains of the Fort. The expedition's journals indicate that the floors were covered with boards or puncheons; thus, it is unlikely that the dirt under the cabin floors became very packed during the expedition's short stay. It is also unlikely that any Lewis and Clark artifacts will ever be found. The expedition was low on provisions when they left the fort, and could not afford to leave anything of value. Articles of value would have included anything from tools to old buttons, which could be used for trade. If the party had left anything, it is likely that the natives would have picked it up. Thus, at present, our best source of information about the location of the site is that provided by the written and oral accounts, the descriptions of early 19th century visitors, the maps of Clark, and the testimony of people such as Carlos Shane, all of which support the contention that the memorial's boundaries incorporate the original Fort site.

Fort Clatsop National Memorial also includes the alleged site of the expedition's Salt Works. The expedition's journals stress the significance and importance of the Salt Works. Immediately upon the arrival of Lewis and Clark at the Pacific, two urgent tasks were identified: the construction of winter quarters and the gathering of salt. Salt was vital for the preservation and flavoring of meat. It was also used to cure hides for clothing.

The journals suggest the location of the Salt Works. However, the Salt Works, like the Fort, was left to fall into ruin. It too was visited by area residents for years following the expedition, but it was never as well documented. In 1899, Wheeler, after his visit to the Fort site, took some time to locate the Salt Works. He again used testimony of local people, including Silas Smith, Thomas McBride, and

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Tsin-is-tum, a Clatsop Indian woman. All reported seeing the ruins of the Salt Works and being told that they were the remains of the works used by Lewis and Clark. Tsin-is-tum was the most convincing witness, as she had visited the site not too many years after the expedition's departure. With the guidance of these people, Wheeler located a ruined pile of stones. He described the site as follows:

I see no reason to doubt that this cairn, visited by our party, was what it is claimed to be. It is certainly an ancient structure, now much overgrown by dwarf pines or similar trees. Its size is commensurate with the five kettles that were used in salt making. It measured 33 feet in circumference; 2 feet 3 inches in height; was 6 feet long and 9 feet 4 inches across, and the interior measured 2 feet 6 inches.

The structure is placed on a widely extended bed of boulders bearing the appearance of having been the work of a glacier and its resultant stream. It was built from these round stones, and they seem to have been cemented together with a native clay near at hand.... On carefully making some excavations we found pieces of burned and flaked stone, ashes, and the rocks were burned and discolored by fire.[6]

Soon after Wheeler's visit, the site was enclosed with a fence by the Oregon Historical Society. In 1910, the property on which the site was located was donated by Charlotte Moffett Cartwright to the Oregon Historical Society. In the 1920s the site was improved by adding a sidewalk and iron fence around the site. Up until this time, the ruined cairn was still in place. However, in the 1950s the information regarding the state of the site becomes confusing. Improvements were made to the site by the Seaside Lions Club, which included erecting a replica of the salt cairn, complete with five kettles. The fate of the ruined cairn is uncertain; however, there is no longer any clear evidence of it. The rocks from the original ruined cairn may have been used to complete the replica; however, this has not been documented to substantiate this belief. At present, the replica Salt Works remains intact at the site. The Salt Works site was transferred to the National Park Service in 1978 by Act of Congress (P.L. 95-625) as an amendment to 72 Stat. 153.

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Fort Clatsop National Memorial is administered to preserve and protect the historic sites and resources within its boundaries, in accordance with its congressional mandate and applicable laws and regulations. Interpretation of these sites focuses on promoting greater public awareness of the accomplishments of Lewis and Clark and their impact on American history.

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ENDNOTES

1. After the winter at Fort Mandan the expedition was pared to 30 men. Fourteen of the men were sent back, some with information for President Jefferson and some for disciplinary reasons. Also, one man, Sergeant Floyd had died. (see endnote 2) The party gained three members due to the hiring of the French Interpreter Charboneau who brought his young wife Sacagawea and infant son Jean Baptiste. Thus the people present at Fort Clatsop numbered 33.
2. Captain Clark quoted in: Original Journals of the Lewis and Clark expedition 1804-1806. Volume one, Reuben Thwaites, Ed. (New York: Antiquarian Press Ltd., 1959.) p. 114. On August 19, 1804, Captain Clark reported that "Sergeant Floyd is taken verry bad all at once with with a Biliose Chorlick." The next day on August 20th Clark reports that "Serj. Floyd died with a great deal of composure," The suddenness of Floyd's illness and subsequent death, and the Captain's descriptions of the illness, points to the possibility of appendicitus. If it was appendicitus, no doctor at that time could have cured Floyd. And even if it wasn't. the suddenness would have made the illness hard to cure even in civilized territory.
3. Gabriel Franchere is quoted by John A. Hussey in: "Suggested Historical Area Report, Fort Clatsop Site Oregon." (Region Four: U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, 1957) p. 6.
4. Alexander Henry is quoted by Elliot Coues in: New Light on the Early History of the Greater Northwest, the Manuscript Journals of Alexander Henry and of David Thompson. (New York: 1897) pp. 771-772.
5. Preston Gillette is quoted by John A. Hussey in: "Suggested Historical Area Report, Fort Clatsop Site, Oregon." (Region Four: U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, 1957) pp. 13-14.
6. Olin Wheeler, The Trail of Lewis and Clark. (New York: G.P. Putnam's Sons, 1904) pp. 206-207.

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National Park Service

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Section number   9   Page   1  

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SECTION 9  
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Continuation Sheet

Section number 10 Page 1

SECTION 10 UTM REFERENCES

		<u>Read From Map</u>	
	16	301480	4769040
	<u>Zone</u>	<u>Easting</u>	<u>Northing</u>
	<u>West bank of Lewis and Clark River</u>		
A	10	432440	5109480
B	10	432280	5109140
C	10	432440	5109200
D	10	432300	5108490
E	10	432230	5108490
F	10	431750	5109060
G	10	431750	5109380
H	10	432080	5109220
	<u>East bank of Lewis and Clark River</u>		
A	10	432580	5109130
B	10	432610	5109100
C	10	432590	5109100
D	10	432580	5108470
E	10	432480	5108470
		<u>Salt Works Site</u>	
A	10	427900	5092530

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SECTION 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

In regards to property contained within said parcel of land being the County of Clatsop, State of Oregon, within Sections 35 and 36, Township 8 North, Range 10 west, Willamette meridian described as follows:

Beginning at a point in the center line running East and West through Section 35, Township 8 North, Range 10 West, Willamette Meridian, which point is 1650 feet West of the quarter section corner between Sections 35 and 36;

Thence North at a distance of 775.10 feet.

Thence East at a distance of 111.7 feet.

Thence North 57° 10' East 1213 feet.

Thence East at a distance of 145.2 feet.

Thence Southerly at a distance of 1152.3 feet.

Thence South 41° 40' East at a distance of 500 feet more or less to the meander of the Lewis and Clark River.

Thence South 55° West at a distance of 500 feet along the said meander line.

Thence Southwesterly at a distance of 750 feet along the said meander line.

Thence Southerly at a distance of 1100 feet along the said meander line.

Thence East at a distance of 109.7 feet more or less from the said meander line.

Thence North 43° 56' East at a distance of 2449.1 feet.

Thence North at a distance of 379.6 feet to the point of beginning.

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Section number 10 Page 3

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In regards to property contained within said parcel of land being in the County of Clatsop, State of Oregon, within Section 36, Township 8 North, Range 10 West of Willamette Meridian, situated in the Tidelands along the Easterly bank of the Lewis and Clark River fronting on said river and including the Tidelands along the Easterly bank of the Lewis and Clark River fronting on said river and adjacent to the following described property.

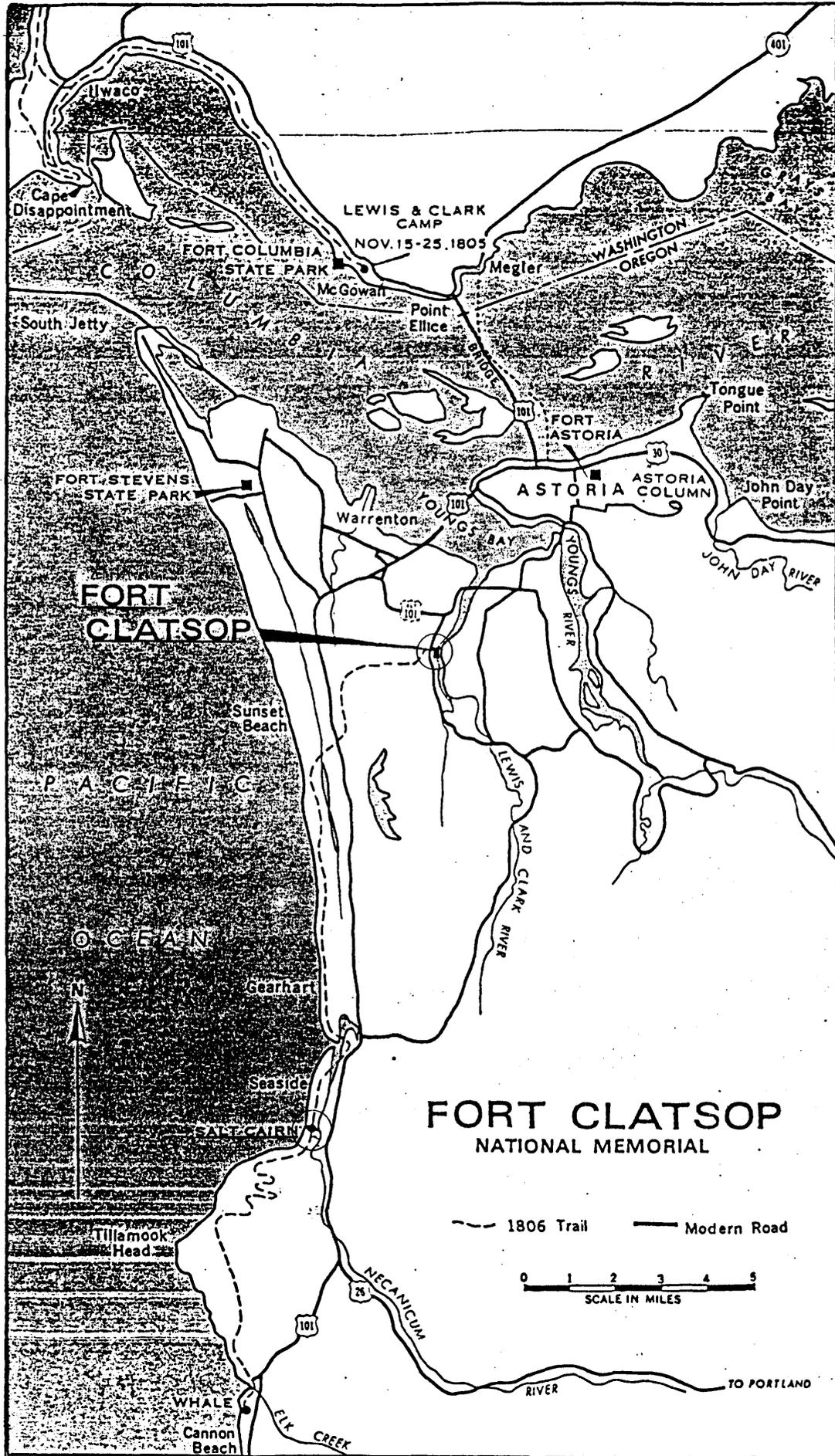
Beginning at the intersection of the center line of what is known as Green Slough and a line running East and West through a point which is 790.62 feet North of the quarter corner on the South line of Section 36, Township 8 North, Range 10 West of Willamette Meridian, Thence Northerly and Westerly down said slough to its intersection with the right bank of the Lewis and Clark River.

Thence Southerly along said right bank as follows:

- South 50° West 429 feet;
- South 450° West 214 feet;
- South 693 feet;
- South 12° East 594 feet;
- South 17° East 192.1 feet;

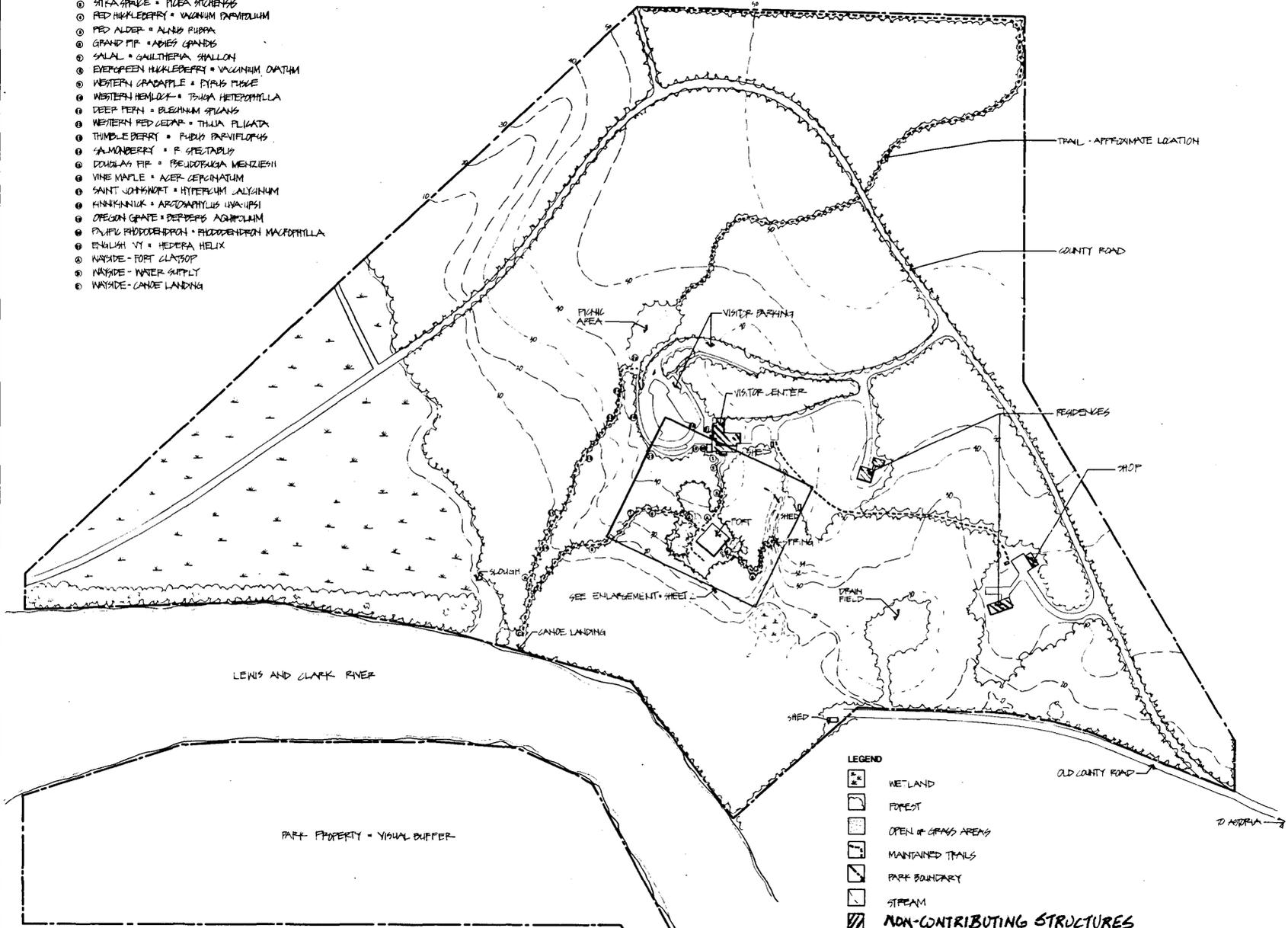
Thence North at a distance of 1801.7 feet intersecting the right bank at a point South 50° 54.9 feet from the point of beginning.

In regards to property contained within said parcel of land being in the County of Clatsop, State of Oregon, specifically, Lot Number 18, Block I Cartwright Park Addition of Seaside, Oregon.



**INTERPRETIVE SIGNS**

- ① WAPATO • SAGITTARIA LATIFOLIA
- ② PLANTS DISCOVERED BY LENS AND CLARK
- ③ SITKA SPRUCE • PICEA SICHENSIS
- ④ RED HUCKLEBERRY • VACCINIUM PARVIFLORUM
- ⑤ RED ALDER • ALNUS RUBRA
- ⑥ GRAND FIR • ABIES GRANDIS
- ⑦ SALAL • GAULTHERIA SHALLON
- ⑧ EVERGREEN HUCKLEBERRY • VACCINIUM OXATUM
- ⑨ WESTERN GRADAPPLE • PYRUS THURBERGII
- ⑩ WESTERN HEMLOCK • THUJA HETEROPHYLLA
- ⑪ DEER TERN • BLESSENUM SPICANS
- ⑫ WESTERN RED CEDAR • THUJA PLICATA
- ⑬ THIMBLE BERRY • RUBUS PARVIFLORUS
- ⑭ SALMONBERRY • R. SPECTABILIS
- ⑮ DOUGLAS FIR • PSEUDOTSUGA MENZIESII
- ⑯ VINE MAPLE • ACER CEPICINATUM
- ⑰ SAINT JOHNSWORT • HYPERICUM ALGIDUM
- ⑱ KINKY HENRIK • ARCTOSTAPHYLOS UVA-URSIFOLIA
- ⑲ OREGON GRATE • PEREPERIS AQUILINUM
- ⑳ PALE RHODODENDRON • RHODODENDRON MACROPHYLLA
- ㉑ ENGLISH IVY • HEDERA HELIX
- ㉒ NAYSIDE - FORT CLATSOP
- ㉓ NAYSIDE - WATER SUPPLY
- ㉔ NAYSIDE - CANOE LANDING

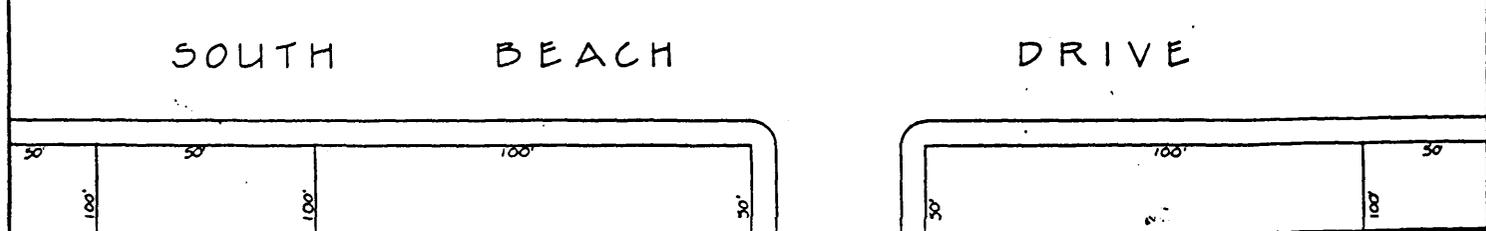
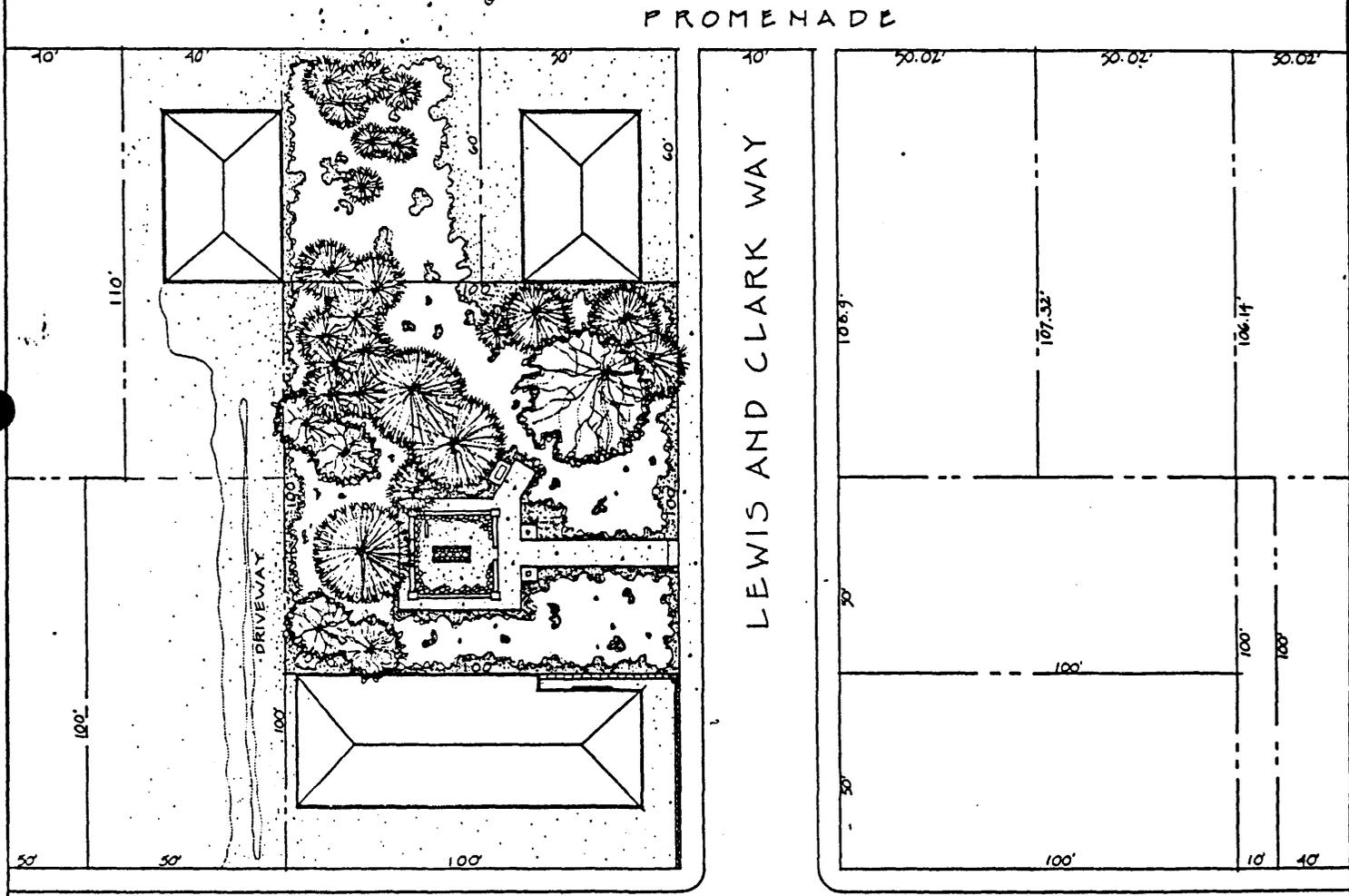
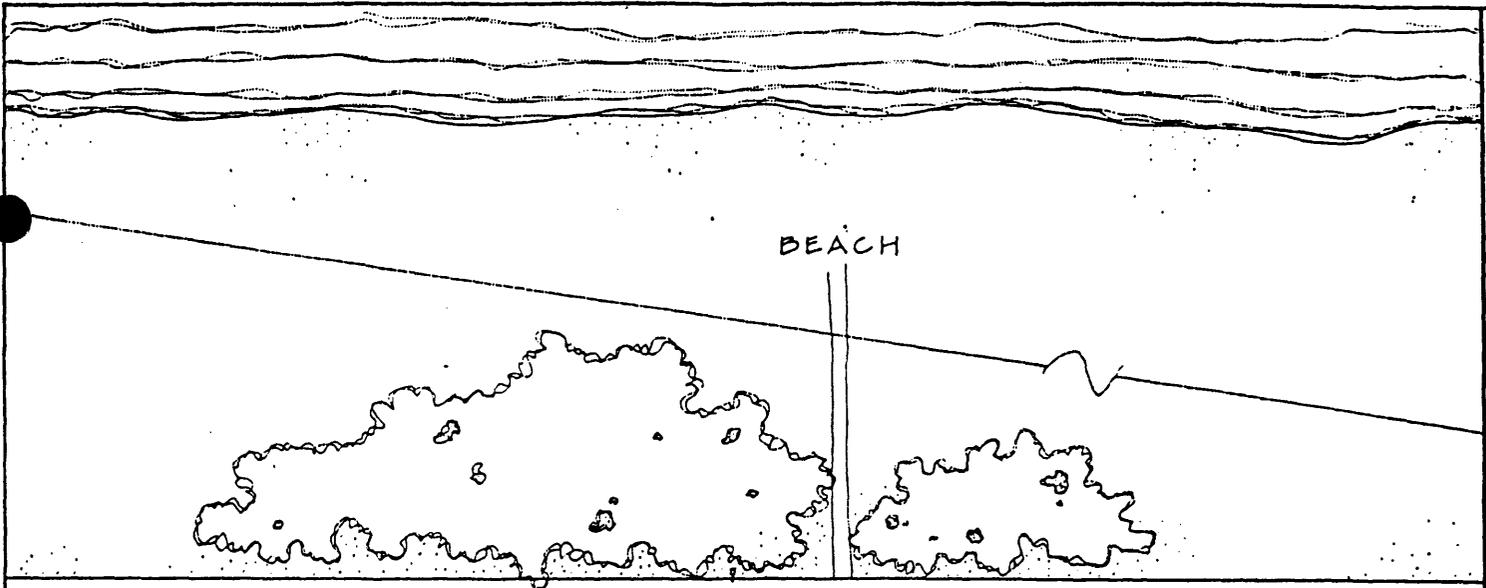


**LEGEND**

- WETLAND
- FOREST
- OPEN or GRASS AREAS
- MAINTAINED TRAILS
- PARK BOUNDARY
- STREAM
- NON-CONTRIBUTING STRUCTURES

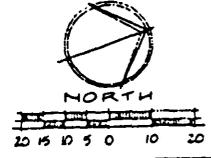
**FORT CLATSOP** EXISTING CONDITIONS  
 NATIONAL MEMORIAL NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
 BASE MAP

PREPARED BY: PACIFIC NORTHWEST REGIONAL OFFICE CULTURAL RESOURCES DIVISION DRAWN: FREER	SCALE 1" = 100' 	NORTH 	DRAWING NO. 1405-00004 SHEET 1 OF 6
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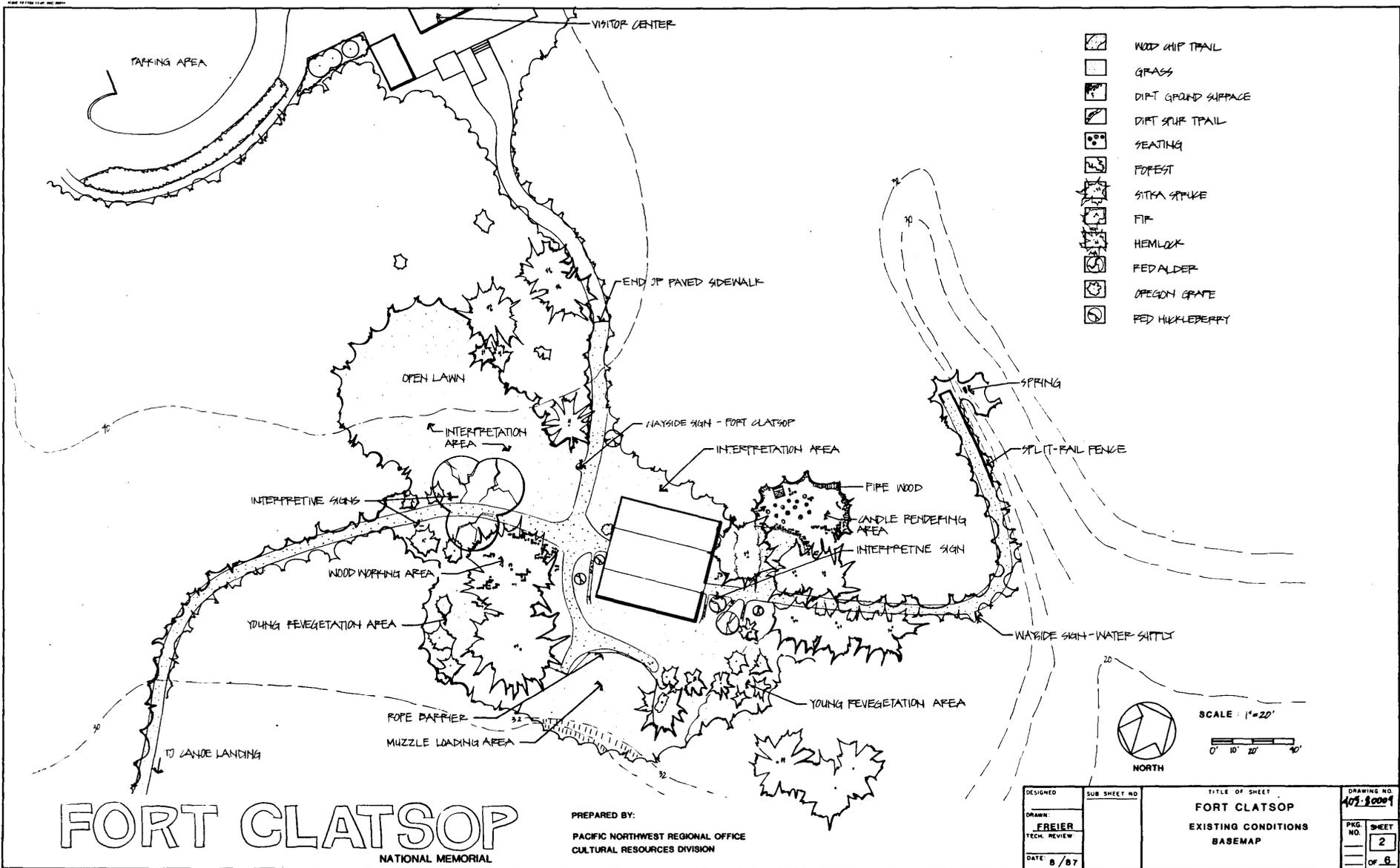


**THE SALT WORKS**  
 SEASIDE, OREGON  
 FORT CLATSOP NATIONAL MEMORIAL  
 NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
 PACIFIC NORTHWEST REGIONAL OFFICE  
 CULTURAL RESOURCE DIVISION

**EXISTING**  
**CONDITIONS**  
 DESIGNED: NIEDZWIECKA  
 DRAWN: NIEDZWIECKA  
 DATE: OCTOBER 1985



DRAWING NO. 405  
 80,004  
 SHEET  
 1  
 OF 4



- WOOD CHIP TRAIL
- GRASS
- DIRT GROUND SURFACE
- DIRT SPUR TRAIL
- SEATING
- FOREST
- SITKA SPRUCE
- FIR
- HEMLOCK
- RED ALDER
- OREGON GRAPE
- RED HUCKLEBERRY

# FORT CLATSOP

NATIONAL MEMORIAL

PREPARED BY:  
 PACIFIC NORTHWEST REGIONAL OFFICE  
 CULTURAL RESOURCES DIVISION

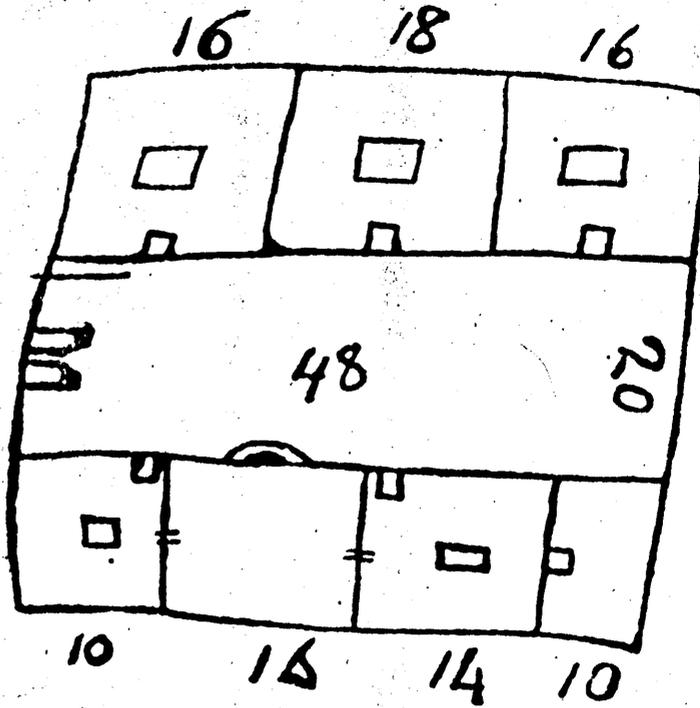
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TECH. REVIEW	
DATE: 8/87	

TITLE OF SHEET	
FORT CLATSOP	
EXISTING CONDITIONS	
BASEMAP	

DRAWING NO.	409-80009
PKG. NO.	
SHEET	2
OF	6

DIAGRAM 1

Orig to Waso  
1-10-62 for  
Fort Clatsop  
Fire Folder



- foot  
50 sq

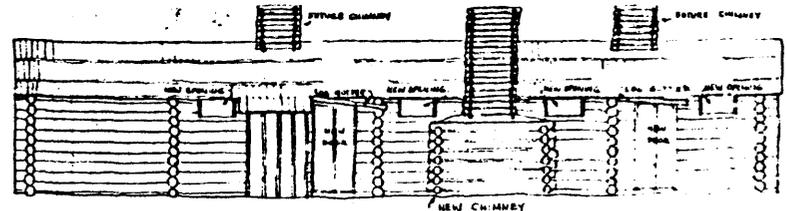
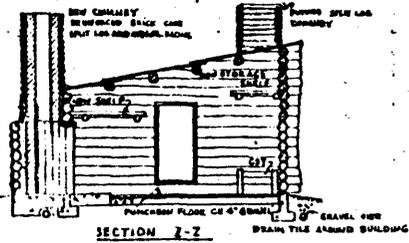
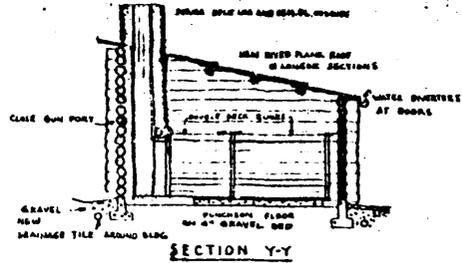
MAP 8

Clark's Ground Plan of Fort Clatsop  
(from Thwaites, Original Journals, III, 298)

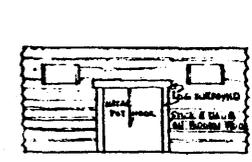
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(from Thwaites, Original Journals, III, 298  
copied in Suggested Historical Area Report:  
Fort Clatsop Site, Oregon.)



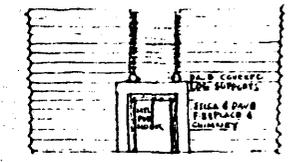




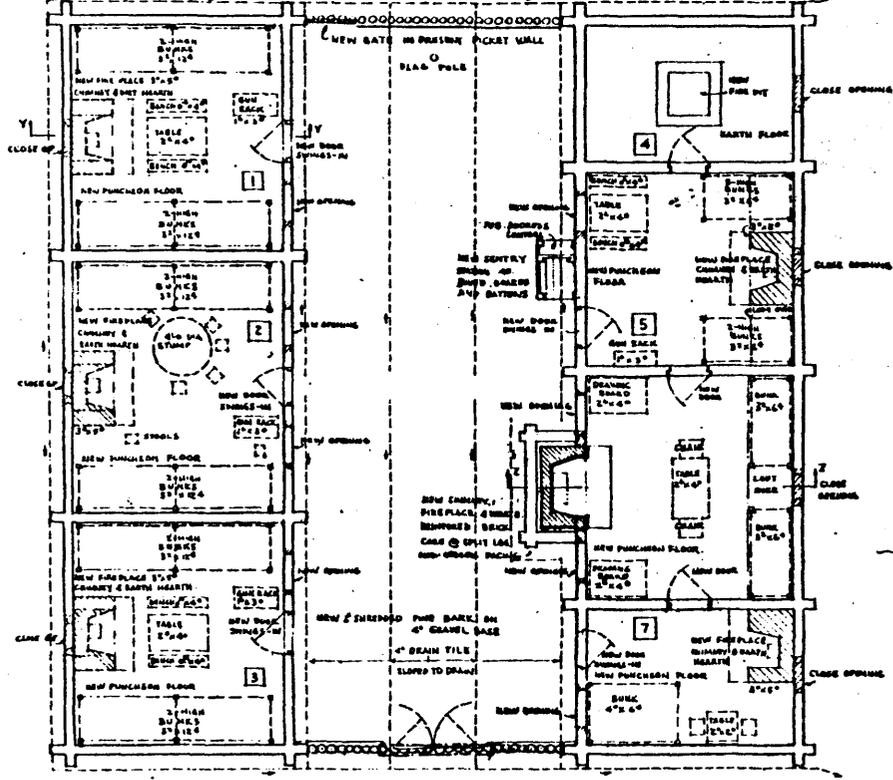
WEST ELEVATION - EAST BUILDING



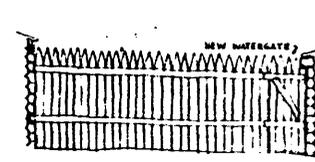
WEST WALL - RM 6



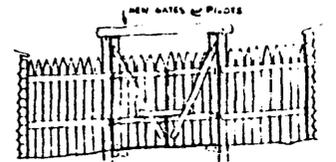
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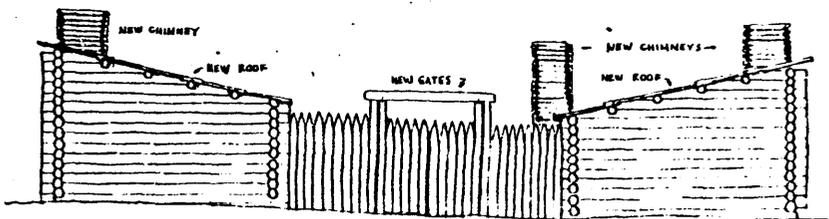
PLAN



SOUTH ELEVATION of NORTH WALL



NORTH ELEVATION of SOUTH WALL

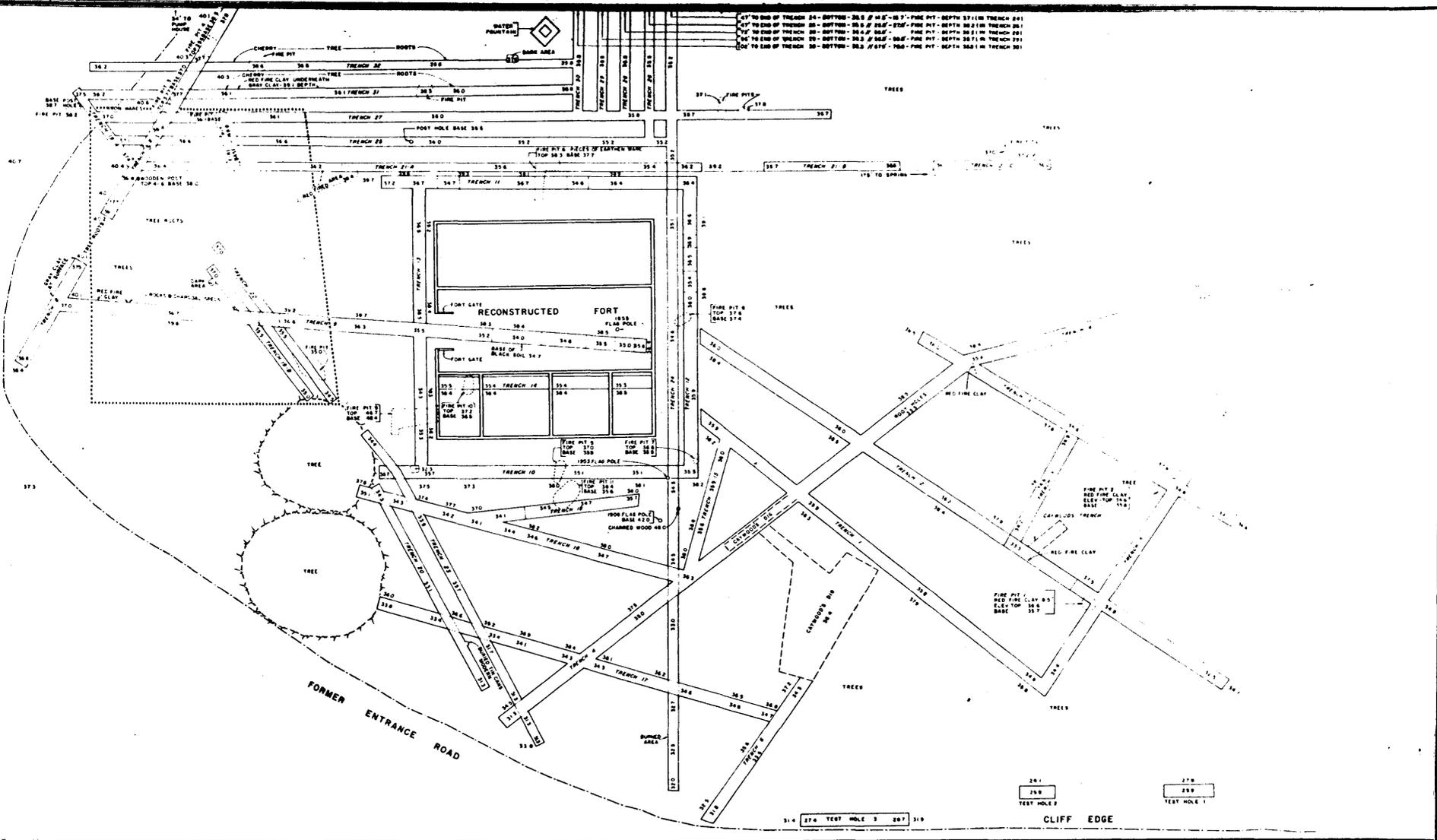


NEW SOUTH ELEVATION



HISTORIC STRUCTURES REPORT PART II EXHIBIT C  
FORT CLATSOP REPLICA - RECONSTRUCTION

REVISIONS	PREPARED BY	RECOMMENDED BY	DATE	UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE BRANCH OF ARCHITECTURE WESTERN OFFICE OF THE ARCHITECT PORTLAND, OREGON	REGION PCP NO. 24 SHEET OF DRAWING NO. DATE 7/2
	DRAWN BY	APPROVED			
	CHECKED BY				
	DATE				



37 TO END OF TRENCH 20 - BOTTOM - 26.5' - 26.7' - FINE PIT - DEPTH 37 IN TRENCH 20  
 37 TO END OF TRENCH 20 - BOTTOM - 26.5' - 26.7' - FINE PIT - DEPTH 38 IN TRENCH 20  
 37 TO END OF TRENCH 20 - BOTTOM - 26.5' - 26.7' - FINE PIT - DEPTH 39 IN TRENCH 20  
 37 TO END OF TRENCH 20 - BOTTOM - 26.5' - 26.7' - FINE PIT - DEPTH 40 IN TRENCH 20  
 37 TO END OF TRENCH 20 - BOTTOM - 26.5' - 26.7' - FINE PIT - DEPTH 41 IN TRENCH 20  
 37 TO END OF TRENCH 20 - BOTTOM - 26.5' - 26.7' - FINE PIT - DEPTH 42 IN TRENCH 20  
 37 TO END OF TRENCH 20 - BOTTOM - 26.5' - 26.7' - FINE PIT - DEPTH 43 IN TRENCH 20  
 37 TO END OF TRENCH 20 - BOTTOM - 26.5' - 26.7' - FINE PIT - DEPTH 44 IN TRENCH 20  
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 37 TO END OF TRENCH 20 - BOTTOM - 26.5' - 26.7' - FINE PIT - DEPTH 47 IN TRENCH 20  
 37 TO END OF TRENCH 20 - BOTTOM - 26.5' - 26.7' - FINE PIT - DEPTH 48 IN TRENCH 20  
 37 TO END OF TRENCH 20 - BOTTOM - 26.5' - 26.7' - FINE PIT - DEPTH 49 IN TRENCH 20  
 37 TO END OF TRENCH 20 - BOTTOM - 26.5' - 26.7' - FINE PIT - DEPTH 50 IN TRENCH 20

<p><b>BASIC DATA</b></p> <p>             ALL ELEVATIONS ABOVE SEA LEVEL              1/4" = 10' SCALE              TRENCHES 1-17 - EXCAVATED DEC. 1966 BY P.J.F. SCHMACHER              TRENCHES 18-20 - EXCAVATED APRIL 1967 BY P.J.F. SCHMACHER              TRENCHES 21-22 - EXCAVATED JUNE 1967 BY P.J.F. SCHMACHER           </p>	<p><b>LEGEND</b></p> <p>             AREA OF CONCENTRATION OF MID AND LATE 19TH CENTURY ARTIFACTS              FIRE PITS              EXCAVATED TRENCH LINES              L. CAYWOOD'S EXCAVATION LINES           </p>	<p><b>ORIENTATION</b></p> <p>1" = 10'</p> <p>SCALE IN FEET</p> <p>0 10 20 30</p>	<p><b>REVISED</b></p> <p>             PREPARED BY P.J.F. SCHMACHER              DRAWN BY D.B. METCAL              CHECKED BY P.J.F. SCHMACHER           </p>	<p>             UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR              NATIONAL PARK SERVICE              BRANCH OF LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE              WESTERN OFFICE DIVISION OF DESIGN &amp; CONSTRUCTION  <b>ARCHEOLOGICAL BASE MAP</b>              PART OF THE MASTER PLAN              FORT CLATSOP NATIONAL MEMORIAL           </p> <p>             REGION IV              NMEM-FC 3014              MARCH 1967           </p>
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F.Y.H. F