MAY 1977

A CULTURAL RESOURCES SURVEY
FOR THE
GASTON-FOREST GROVE
SEWER PROJECT

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and

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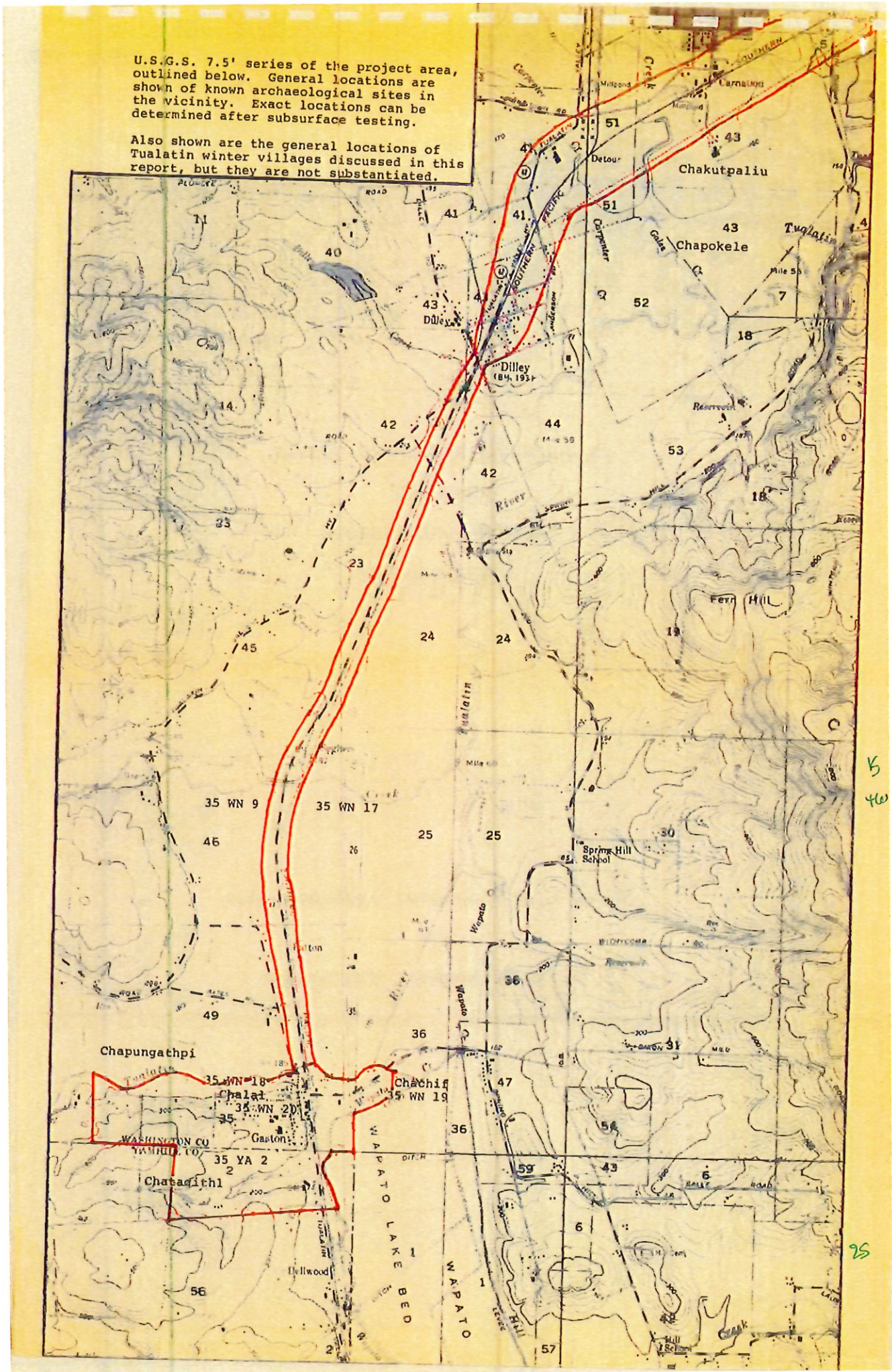
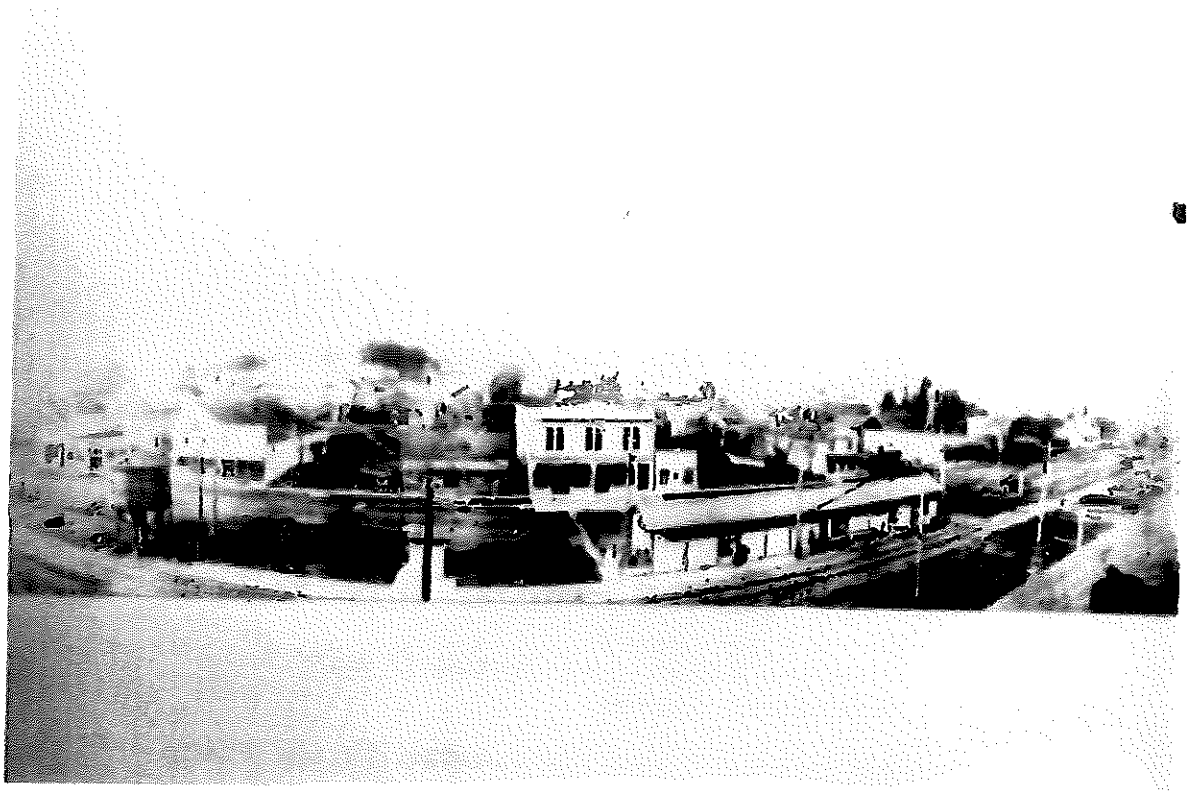
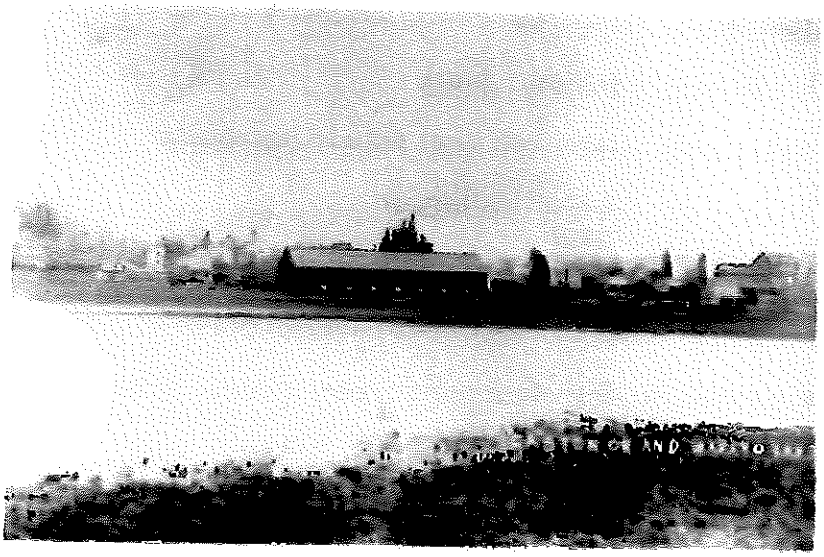

U.S.G.S. 7.5' series of the project area, outlined below. General locations are shown of known archaeological sites in the vicinity. Exact locations can be determined after subsurface testing.
Also shown are the general locations of Tualatin winter villages discussed in this report, but they are not substantiated.
Chakutpaliu
Chapokele
Dilley
Fern Hill
Spring Hill School
Chapungathpi
Chachif
Chalal
Chatsaithl
Gaston
35 WN 9
35 WN 17
35 WN 18
35 WN 19
35 WN 20
35 YA 2
WAPATO LAKE BED
WAPATO
Tualatin
Wapato
Rock Creek
Dellwood



Gaston in 1916



Photographs courtesy of the Thomas Roes

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I. INTRODUCTION

A. Purpose of the Survey

A preliminary cultural resources survey of Gaston, Oregon, and the Tualatin River Valley north along Highway 47 to the city of Forest Grove was conducted in April of 1977 for Stevens, Thompson and Runyan, Inc., Engineers and Planners, and the Unified Sewerage Agency of Washington County. The purpose of this survey was to identify archaeological and historical sites in the area which may be impacted by construction of proposed sewerage facilities, and to make recommendations for their salvage or protection should any be adversely affected by the project. This report describes the survey and the sites which were found. It is intended to partially fulfill the cultural resource preservation requirements for federally funded projects stated in 36 CFR Part 800, pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 and Section 106 of the Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (80 Stat. 915, 16 U.S.C. 470).

B. Project Location

Because the project is in preliminary planning stages, the exact locations of the sewerage facilities are not known. The project area is shown on page 1a. Generally, sewer lines will be placed in Gaston and in the surrounding countryside in the southern portion of Section 35 and in the southwest quarter of Section 36, Township 1 South, Range 4 West, Washington County; and in the northern portion of Section 2, Township 2 South, Range 4 West,

Yamhill County. One alternative includes a force main to carry waste to the sewage treatment plant at Forest Grove. This force main may be placed in the vicinity of Highway 47 and the Southern Pacific railroad tracks going north and northeast from Gaston into the southern Forest Grove area, terminating at the Forest Grove sewage treatment plant. The town of Dilley, which lies along the Southern Pacific tracks and a portion of Highway 47, is included in the project impact area, as well as the area south of Forest Grove near the sewage treatment plant.

C. Description of the Project Area

The project area lies in the Tualatin River Valley north and west of Wapato Lake, which has been drained and is now used for agricultural purposes. The Tualatin Valley in this area is approximately a mile wide; on the west are gently rolling extensions of the Coast Range, and on the east are the Chehalem Mountains. To the west is Patton Valley, through which the Tualatin River flows before it swings northeast above Wapato Lake Bed. Several streams flow into the Tualatin between Gaston and Forest Grove--Scoggin Creek, O'Neil Creek, Dilley Creek, Carpenter Creek, Gales Creek, Ayers Creek, and Hill Creek.

The town of Gaston lies on a hill south of Patton Valley and west of Wapato Lake Bed. This hill is approximately 400 feet above sea level at its highest elevation. Dilley and south Forest Grove are on the valley bottom.

fig. 1. Gaston vicinity. Wapato Lake Bed is visible at valley bottom and Gaston and Patton Valley are to the right on this photo.

The valleys and hills in this area are predominantly farmland--soils are rich and water is plentiful. Orchards are a common feature of the hills above the valley floor between Gaston and south Forest Grove.

Geologically, the area is comprised almost entirely of Willamette silt, consisting of fine sand, silt, and clay, ranging to depths as great as fifty feet. Ground water occurs close to the surface, particularly near stream beds. The water table exists at a depth of less than ten feet in much of the Willamette silt, and surface ponding is a common feature of wetter months

The hillsides above the valley contain fine-grained micaceous and tuffaceous fissile sandstone and siltstone (Geologic Map of Oregon West of the 121st Meridian, Department of the Interior, United States Geological Survey).

D. The Willamette Valley Prior to European Arrival

The character of the Willamette Valley before agriculture and farm settlements changed its appearance is described in accounts of early settlers and travelers, and in records of the first federal land survey of the area in the 1850's. At that time the Valley ahd a diversified landscape with heavily timbered hills and riverbanks, and extensive savannas with patches of oak and fir. The savannas resulted from periodic fires set by the Indians to clear the land (see Applegate 1930:178-179; Wilkes 1845 Vol. 4:358; Douglas 1904-1905, Part 3:78-79). The changes that have taken place in this habitat since the advent of white settlement are important to note, since disturbances such as home building, road and railroad construction, farming, and human collecting may have concealed, disturbed, or destroyed part of the archaeological reosurces known to be in this area. Presently, these resources are difficult to detect because of the changes in the natural landscape and the presence of dense vegetation which limits a surface inspection.

E. The Tualatin Indians

The culture of the Tualatin Indians has been described in two

recent reports (Mackey 1974; Zenk 1976), so only a brief description is provided here. When the first Europeans arrived in the Tualatin plains, which includes the Gaston-Forest Grove area, they found it inhabited by the Tualatins, a northern branch of the Kalapuya Indians, whose territory encompassed most of the Willamette Valley. These Indians lived in villages during the winter months, subsisting on stores of dried plants, fish, and elk and deer meat. Most of these villages were located in the Gaston area, around Wapato Lake. During the summer months smaller camps were established to exploit plant and animal resources of the various ecological zones. The locations of these camps are generally unknown.

In 1830-33, an epidemic swept the Willamette Valley, and only one-quarter to one-tenth of the native population is estimated to have survived (Cook 1955). Champoeg treaties of the early 1850's placed the remaining population in the Grande Ronde Reservation. By 1910, there were only 44 remaining speakers of the Tualatin language (Hodge 1910:987). Fortunately, the linguists and ethnographers Gatschet, Frachtenberg, and Jacobs were able to interview some Tualatin Indians on the reservation before the tribe became extinct, and record some details of their Indian heritage. Other than these records, archaeological research is the only avenue left to describe the extinct culture of these people. The The fact that there is information provided by Tualatin Indians in the Gaston area makes it unique in allowing research in linguistic, ethnographic, and archaeological areas. The combination of these three can potentially provide an unparalleled glimpse into the prehistory of this part of Oregon.

II. ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCES IN THE PROJECT AREA

A. Literature and Archaeological Site Survey File Search

Before field work commenced, an extensive literature search was done to identify the known archaeological resources of the Gaston area. In addition, the Archaeological Site Survey Files at the State Historic Preservation Office in Salem, Oregon, were examined by Edward T. Long of that office to determine if sites had previously been recorded in the proposed project area. Both the literature and the Site Survey Files contained references to substantial archaeological resources in the vicinity of Gaston. These sites are discussed below. Neither the literature nor the Site Survey Files can be assumed to include references to all the archaeological sites which may exist in this area.

1. Archaeological Site Survey Files

The Archaeological Site Survey Files at the State Historic Preservation Office contained thirteen archaeological sites in Washington County. However, these files are not complete (David L. Cole, Museum of Natural History, University of Oregon, Eugene, personal communication). Three other sites have been discovered recently (Brauner and Robbins 1976), but they are not in the project area. Of the thirteen listed sites, two are near the project area.

A. Site 35 WN 9 lies in a field approximately 100 meters west of Highway 47 and three-tenths of a mile south of Scoggin Creek. Its full horizontal and vertical parameters are not known. Artifacts observed in the plowed field included one pestle, one projectile

point, two scrapers, one drill fragment and one bifacial fragment (Davis 1970). 35 WN 9 may be impacted by the project, depending on a determination of its true extent and the location of the force main.

b. Site 35 WN 4 is located in the southeast quarter of the southwest quarter of Section 46, Township 1 South, Range 4 West of the Gaston Quadrangle, U.S.G.S. 7.5' series. Located near a spring, this site contained midden and a surface scatter of cultural material. Seventy-six artifacts of stone and bone and 688 flakes were recovered in excavated portions of the site. Davis (1970:16) suggests that occupation of 35 WN 4 was within the past 500 years. This site will not be impacted by the project.

2. Literature Search

In the late 1800's and early 1900's, several linguists and ethnographers interviewed some of the last surviving Tualatin Indians on the Grande Ronde Reservation of Oregon (Gatschet 1877a; Jacobs 1945; Frachtenberg ca. 1915; DeAngulo and Freeland 1929). These Indian informants gave general locations of some of their former winter villages in Washington County. Most of these villages were in the Wapato Lake vicinity. Anthropologist Henry Zenk of Portland, Oregon has recently correlated information from various sources in order to derive more specific locations for these villages (Zenk 1976). From his study, the villages near the project area are listed below. Unfortunately, there has been no systematic effort by professional archaeologists to locate their remains.

a. Chakutpaliu. Two sources give different locations for this village. Lyman (1900b:323) located it near the old Alvin T. Smith place at Forest Grove, and Smith's Donation Land Claim is within the project area (see section IV-A). However, Gatschet (1877a:95) gives the location as the present site of Hillsboro. Only subsurface testing by archaeologists can resolve this conflict. It is possible that there are two villages, one in each location.

fig. 2. The Alvin T. Smith home on a rise above Gales Creek. Its present owners report finding artifacts in their fields.

b. Chalal. This village is placed by Gatschet (1877a:92) near a prairie beyond the outlet of Wapato Lake, close by its beach. Zenk (1976:147-148) locates a prairie from the federal land survey records of the 1850's (available from the Bureau of

Land Management, Oregon State Office, Portland) and notes that the Donation Land Claims of three early settlers were on it. These settlers were said to have claimed land where Chalal was located. In fact, one of the settlers named "McCloud" had his house torn down by Indians reluctant to part with the land (Jacobs 1945:166, footnote 26). If Chalal was located on "McCloud's" (actually Donald McLeod, claim dated Jan. 1850) land, it was in Section 35, Township 1 South, Range 4 West. If it was in the southern portion of this section, which seems likely, its remains may be impacted by installation of sewer facilities in Gaston.

c. Chalawi. Zenk locates this village site somewhere near the northeast shore of Wapato Lake.

d. Chamampit. This village is located east of Wapato Lake on a tributary creek, which Zenk believes is Hill Creek.

e. Chapokele. The information about the location of this village is vague--it is given as three to four miles west of Wapato Lake (Gatschet 1877a:92). Lyman (1900b:323), however, places the village in an open spot near Gales Creek. Gales Creek runs in the project vicinity near the old Alvin T. Smith Donation Land Claim, but the "open spot" referred to cannot be located.

f. Chapungathpi. Zenk locates this village within a mile or two west of Gaston in lower Patton Valley.

g. Chatagithl. This village was approximately a mile southwest from Wapato Lake.

h. Chatagishish. This village was about a half a mile north of Chapungathpi (f above).

If remains from these villages exist, the project may impact those of Chakutpaliu, Chalal, Chapokele, Chapungathpi, and Chatagithl.

B. Archaeological Sites Discovered in the Field

1. Method

The field inspection of the areas to be impacted by the construction of the proposed facilities followed the guidelines set forth by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Program Guidance Memo #52, which stipulate a surface inspection of primary impact areas likely to contain archaeological resources and if necessary, subsurface testing. Because none of the previous surveys covered the specific areas to be impacted by the project, and because a number of sites are reported in the vicinity in the literature and from previous surveys, as complete a field inspection as was possible was conducted. Unfortunately, dense vegetation, newly planted crops, and the presence of buildings and roads made such an inspection difficult. Because of these factors, field inspections were limited to plowed fields, cut banks, vegetable gardens, and other areas where the surface of the ground was exposed. To assist in locating archaeological resources, a number of farmers and long-time residents in the surveyed area were interviewed. It should be noted that many of the informants stated that artifacts are found only when the ground has been disturbed by construction or agricultural activities, so that a surface inspection is not the best way to locate sites. This

situation has been noted by other archaeologists who surveyed this area (Decker and Davis 1976:8). Therefore, the information on the sites listed below came from interviews with informants, who in several cases showed us the artifacts recovered from the sites.

fig. 3. 35 WN 17 vicinity on south bank of Scoggin Creek.

1. 35 WN 17. Information on this site was obtained from Elmer Vandehey, who lives east of Seghers at Box 137 on Route 1. Vandehey recovered parts of stone bowls and grinding tools while plowing in his field south of Scoggin Creek and east of the railroad tracks. The site is located in the northeast quarter of the northeast quarter of Section 46, Township 1 South, Range 4 West, Gaston Quadrangle, 7.5' series. This site is located just east

of Site 35 WN 9, recorded in 1975 by Doyle Decker* in the northwest quarter of the northeast quarter of Section 46, Township 1 South, Range 4 West. This site may be impacted by force main installation.

2. 35 WN 18. This site is located on the north bank, and possibly the south bank, of the Tualatin River near the northwest tip of Section 35, Township 1 South, Range 4 West, U.S.G.S. 7.5' series, Gaston Quadrangle, where an unnamed creek flows into the Tualatin River in Section 49, Township 1 South, Range 4 West. Two projectile point blanks were recovered in this area, which were shown to the surveyors. Vegetation hampered a further search of this area. This may be in the area of the village Chapungathpi.

3. 35 WN 19. A number of informants reported that artifacts have been found in the onion fields just east of Gaston at the north end of Wapato Lake Bed in the southern half of Section 36, Township 1 South, Range 4 West. Disturbance in this area has been severe due to diking, building, and onion farming. However, there may be undisturbed subsurface deposits which might be impacted by construction of sewerage facilities. No surface material was noted during inspection of this area, which corresponds to the place called Chachif by the Tualatins. Chachif was the major site for harvesting Sagittaria (Wapato) roots of the Tualatins (Gatschet 1877a:70, 93; Zenk 1976:155).

4. 35 WN 20. This site is located in the yard of 312 Park Street in Gaston, in section 35, Township 1 South, Range 4 West.

*Decker's site forms cite the 15' series of the U.S.G.S. map in locating his archaeological sites. He apparently changed the numbers of the Donation Land Claim sections to fit a 36-section grid system as well. I have located his sites on the 7.5' series, using the D.L.C. numbers.

Projectile points and a charcoal deposit were discovered by the owner, Lee Ann McDonald Gifford, while digging for a garden. Several of the projectile points had been given to the Thomas Roe family. 35 WN 20 is only two lots west of the Gaston school, where Indian burials were reported to have been uncovered during excavation for the school. There may be one large site in this area (see page 15).

5. 35 YA 2. This site is located on the Roland Cutright ranch on Olson Road south of Gaston. The artifacts were located in the northeast quarter of Section 2, Township 2 South, Range 4 West, north of Olson Road in a plowed field. One artifact, a bowl, was recovered during disking of the field--other artifacts found were a 3/4 inch side-notched obsidian point made from a small cobble, a base-notched projectile point about 2 1/2 inches long made from red and black cryptocrystalline material, and a 2 1/2 inch long corner-notched chert point, a finely made 3 1/2 inch laurel-shaped chert point or knife, a large chert knife or scraper, a small chert scraper, two larger bifacially flaked chert scrapers or cutting tools, and an odd-shaped river cobble with finely smoothed edges (see figures 4 and 5).

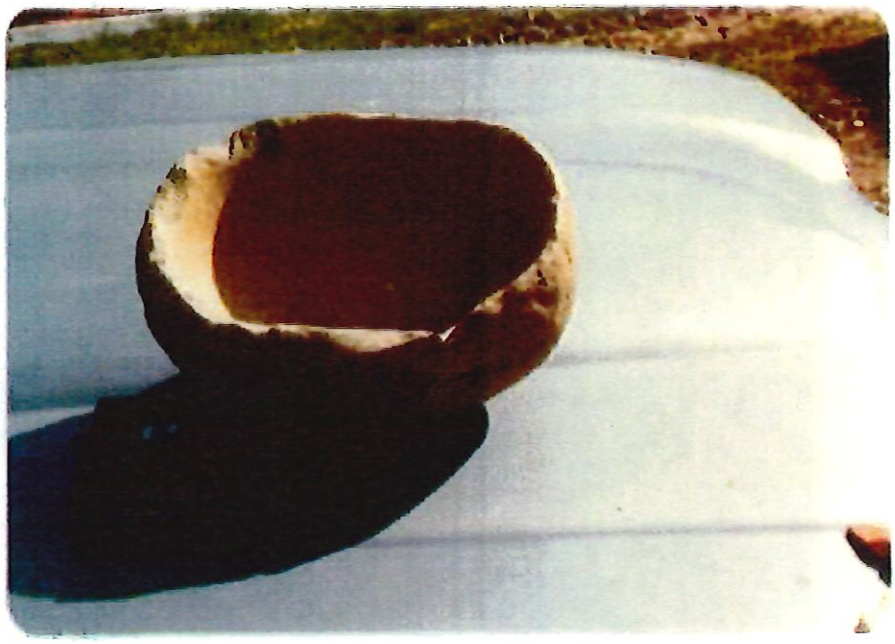

fig. 4. Stone bowl from 35 YA 2. The bowl is about 1 foot across at its widest point, and 8 inches high.

fig. 5. Artifacts from 35 YA 2.

fig. 6. General location of 35 YA 2, in plowed field south of the Wirta home, at top of hill. Exact location could not be recalled by the Cutrights.

One person, Alice O'Rear of Cornelius, who is a collector of Indian relics, reported that Indian burials were encountered during excavations for the Gaston School. This could not be substantiated during this survey.

III. RECOMMENDATIONS

A. National Register Merit of the Wapato Lake Area As An Archaeological District

The procedures for protection of cultural resources (i.e., archaeological and historical sites) have been codified in 36 CFR

Part 800, pursuant to the requirements of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966. These procedures must be complied with in federally funded projects. This report partially fulfills 800.4 (a) in that potential archaeological resources have been identified in the Gaston area. Because of the concentration of Tualatin villages here, and the ethnographic and linguistic information provided by earlier studies, the archaeological resources in the area are potentially eligible for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places because they are likely to yield information important in prehistory (800.10(4)). If any of these sites are located in areas to be impacted by construction of sewerage facilities, they will be adversely affected by the project due to destruction or alteration of their contents (800.9(a)). Therefore, the recommendations given below should be followed. If sites are located during testing, the sites will have to be excavated, or the facilities moved to avoid disturbing them.

B. Subsurface Testing

Because archaeological material in the Gaston-Forest Grove area is usually buried, there may be sites in the project area which were not located during this survey. Therefore, when precise locations of the sewerage facilities are known, a systematic program of subsurface testing is recommended. Subsurface testing will not be possible under streets. There is reason to believe that sites may be uncovered if sewer lines are placed under them; therefore, an archaeologist should be present during construction so that

proper procedures will be followed.

Below is a summary of archaeologically sensitive areas in the project area discovered during this preliminary survey. If facilities are located on or near them, subsurface testing to evaluate their potential will be necessary. When the tests are completed, further recommendations may be made to salvage or protect them, if necessary.

1. the Alvin T. Smith Donation Land Claim,* now the Len Zurker ranch. The remains of the village of Chakutpali may be found here, and possibly, Chapokele. Artifacts have been found on the banks of the Tualatin River here, but it is not known if they are restricted to this area. Sites may occur only in areas of higher elevation, due to seasonal flooding.
2. the Scoggin Creek vicinity--two sites, 35 WN 9 and 35 WN 17, may be impacted by the force main, depending on their parameters and where the main is placed.
3. the south bank of the Tualatin River in the vicinity of 35 WN 18, and the north bank if construction is planned along it.
4. Chachif, 35 WN 19, in east Gaston, where wapato was harvested and where artifacts are periodically found in the fields.

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*1964 Metsker Atlas of Washington County, p. 27.

5. 35 WN 20, at 312 Park Street in Gaston.

6. 35 YA 2, on the Roland Cutright ranch.

IV. HISTORY OF THE PROJECT AREA

A. Historical Research and Field Methods

Before field work commenced, the Statewide Inventory of Historic Sites was examined to locate historic resources in the Gaston, Dilley, and southern Forest Grove area. Three sites on the Inventory are within the project area: the Gerdes house in Dilley, the Union Church in Gaston, and the Evangelical Church (now an art gallery) also in Gaston. The National Register of Historic Places lists one property in the project area, the Alvin T. Smith house just south of Forest Grove (Federal Register, Vol. 42, No. 21, p. 6311). The most recent listing of the National Register properties in Federal Register 42, No. 65, pp. 18144-18152, contained no additional sites or pending nominations to the Register.

fig. 7. The Gerdes house (Peter Dethlefs house), built c. 1880.

fig. 8. The Alvin T. Smith house, a National Register site. It was built in 1856, according to an early Oregon news article.*

The Oregon Collection Division of the University of Oregon Library and the Oregon Historical Society Library in Portland contained sources relevant to the history of Washington County, Gaston, and Dilley. The Washington County Museum in Hillsboro and the Pacific University Library in Forest Grove offered other valuable resource material. Maps of early town plats were obtained from the Washington County Surveyor's Office and railroad right-of-way maps were provided by the Southern Pacific Railway Office in Portland. Early survey maps and Donation Land

*Cyrus H. Walker, "Memories of Old Oregon" The Rural Oregonian, Albany, Oregon, April 10, 1914 (see appendix).

Claim plats, as well as the surveyor's journals were secured from the Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management Office in Portland. Additionally, long-time residents of Gaston, Dilley, and Forest Grove were interviewed for historical information. Especially helpful during the research were the personal archives of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Roe of Gaston. Following is a brief history of Washington County and the Gaston-Forest Grove area, as they relate to the settling of Oregon.

B. History of Oregon Country

1. Introduction

Washington County was once a part of the old Oregon Country, a vast region whose boundaries were loosely defined by the Rocky Mountains to the east and the Pacific Ocean to the west. Captain Robert Gray's discovery of the Columbia River on May 11, 1792, opened up a highway for future exploration, settlement, and commerce. This breakthrough gave the United States a foothold in an area previously claimed by the governments of England, France, Spain, and Russia. "France was eliminated by the Louisiana Purchase, Spain relinquished her claims under the Nootka Treaty, and Russia conceded all territory south of 54 degrees, 40 minutes (Corning 1956:33)." In 1818 the United States and England agreed to a joint occupancy of the region, but rivalry between American and British interests continued for the next thirty years.

2. The Fur Trade

The Lewis and Clark Expedition of 1805-1806 provided valuable

information on natural resources to the eastern United States and encouraged the advance of American fur trade. John Jacob Astor's attempt to establish and maintain a fort at the mouth of the Columbia River was rather short-lived, but it did pave the way for American enterprise. Financial difficulties rising from the War of 1812 forced Astor to sell out to the British-Canadian concern, the Northwest Company. After merging with the Hudson's Bay Company, the Northwest Company's headquarters were moved 100 miles upriver to Fort Vancouver, and in 1824 Dr. John McLoughlin headed its Columbia District. Fort Vancouver was extremely important in the settlement and exploration of the area known as the Tualatin Plains, which includes present-day Washington County. It was a trading post for trappers, settlers, and missionaries, and provided a port from which products of the Oregon Country could be shipped.

3. Explorations, Early Governments, and the Formation of Washington County

In 1834, Jason Lee, Daniel Lee, and Phillip L. Edwards briefly explored the Willamette Valley to select a location for their mission.

> On horses borrowed from Dr. John McLoughlin at Fort Vancouver, and with a fur trapper guide they landed on the west coast of the Willamette River and crossed through the hills at what is known as the Cornelius Pass....The missionary party passed through the neighborhood of Dilley passing over the lands now occupied by the towns of Hillsboro, Cornelius, Forest Grove, and Dilley, then crossing the Tualatin River at the rocky ford long utilized by the old Parson's Mill. From there they followed Indian Trail up the north end of the

> Chehalem range of hills and passed along the comb of the ridge...and descended into the Chehalem Valley beyond the head of Wapato Lake.*

In that same year, Ewing Young led a group of men northward from California and became one of the first permanent American settlers in Oregon. His Donation Land Claim and home are located approximately ten miles southeast of Gaston in the Chehalem Valley. In 1838, he erected one of the first sawmills in Oregon, which provided lumber for the surrounding vicinity.

Ewing Young's death in 1841 prompted the formation of the first civil government in Oregon. The wealthiest settler in Oregon, Ewing had no known heirs, and it was necessary to elect a judge to probate the will. This election was the first official meeting held by the settlers in the Oregon Country. A second meeting was held on May 2, 1843, at Champoeg to determine whether the West was to be governed by Britain or the United States. A 52-50 vote favored the latter.

In 1843, the Oregon Country was split into four large land divisions or districts. Present-day Washington County was carved from a much larger area known as Twality District. It was bounded on the east by the Willamette River and extended north to the border of Russian America; south to the Yamhill River, and west to the Pacific Ocean.

In 1847, Twality District was named Washington County in honor of George Washington, with Columbus as the county seat. In

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*Gaston, Joseph: Speech in the First Congregational Church, Gaston, Oregon, 1912.

1850, Columbus became the town of Hillsboro. By 1854, Washington County's boundaries had diminished to their present size.

C. Settlers in the Gaston-Forest Grove Area

The northeastern portion of the Tualatin Plains was the first area in the Twality region to be settled. A group of mountain men and their Indian wives staked out claims on east Tualatin Plains in December of 1841. These men were followed by missionaries, several of whom settled on the west Tualatin Plains in the area known now as Forest Grove and Dilley.

Alvin T. Smith, one of the earliest settlers, staked out a claim in 1841, directly south of present-day Forest Grove. He was a Congregationalist lay minister, and was largely responsible for a church being formed in Forest Grove. His neighbor to the north was the Rev. Harvey Clarke, and it is Clarke's Donation Land Claim which eventually became the city of Forest Grove. Both men were actively involved in the founding of Tualatin Academy, now Pacific University.

In 1841, the school was established solely as a school for Indian and half-breed children and in 1848 it merged with Tabitha Brown's orphan school to become a boarding school. In 1849, the institution was incorporated by legislative act, and in 1851 the village which grew up around the school came to be known as Forest Grove.

Throughout the 1840's an increasing number of immigrants arrived and settled on the west Tualatin Plains. William B.

Chatfield and William O. Gibson took up neighboring Donation Land Claims south of Forest Grove. Portions of their claims now comprise the town of Dilley. Further to the south, Donald McLeod and Ben F. Copenhaver settled claims which today make up the town of Gaston.

The rich farmland of this area produced numerous and abundant crops, the most prominent being wheat. The main market for produce from the plains was Portland, but transportation was difficult. The only route was via the Tualatin Valley Plank Road, and although it was begun in 1849, it was 53 years before Portland and the Plains were satisfactorily linked.

D. History of Gaston, Seghers, Dilley, and Carnation Communities

The development of these small communities is synonomous with the coming of the railroad to the area. In 1865, Joseph Gaston accompanied Colonel A.C. Barry on a preliminary survey to locate a railroad through Wapato Pass. "At about that time the settlers were just about a mile apart along the county roads which were cut through the thick brush and timber, just wide enough to pass a team and wagon."* Two years later Joseph Gaston returned to convince the inhabitants of the area of the need for a west side railroad which would run from Portland to Corvallis. The Oregon Central Railroad Company completed this line to St. Joseph via Hillsboro, Cornelius, and Gaston on November 3, 1872. It terminated at St. Joseph due to lack of funds until January of

*Gaston, Joseph (Ibid.).

1880 when construction continued to Corvallis. Ownership of the railroad was transferred to the Oregon and California Railroad in 1880. In 1927, Southern Pacific Railroad took over the line. In the early 1900's the Oregon Electric Railroad offered commuter service two days per week on the line in the Gaston-Forest Grove area (Thomas Roe, personal communication).

1. Gaston

Joseph Gaston began the community named after him. With the advent of the railroad to the area, he felt that the town could become a center for social, educational, and commercial development. Gaston built a railway station, a warehouse, and tried unsuccessfully to drain Wapato Lake. He lived in the new town from 1880 to 1896, when he moved to Portland. Gaston's home burned and is now the site for the Parish House of the Congregational Church.

The townsite of Gaston is partially located on the Donation Land Claim of Donald McLeod--Main Street marks the south line of the claim. The property south of Main Street was owned by Alvarez Matteson, who built the home Gaston lived in.

In 1872, Will Webber plotted the part of Gaston west of the railroad and south of the Tualatin River to Oak Street. A variety of businesses developed in Gaston, including the Flour and Feed Mill, built in 1889, which operated on water power for thirty years, the blacksmith shop, the shoe shop, a slaughter house and butcher shop, and a creamery. There are a number of older residences in Gaston.

2. Seghers

Seghers is a small community two miles north of Gaston, "named for the Most Rev. Charles Seghers, Catholic Archbishop of Oregon in the early 80's who was murdered in Alaska in 1886."* Seghers had a store, a railroad station, and a post office, which was closed in 1924. Some of these buildings were recently torn down (Elmer Vandehey, personal communication), but the Vandehey's daughter is living in a house which may be Rev. Charles Segher's home--further research is needed to determine if this is the case.

3. Dilley

Dilley is named after a pioneer landowner, Milton E. Dilley. At one time there was a blacksmith shop, Brigg's General Store, a saloon, and a machine shop in the town. A schoolhouse dating from the 1860's served the children of the community. This schoolhouse and the machine shop, as well as early homes, were located during the survey (section V-B). John Forbes, a millionaire attorney, built his home, Montimore Farm, just west of Dilley.

4. Carnation

The original railroad line did not go into Forest Grove, but stopped south at the station at Carnation. Carnation had a post office established in 1905, in Clarence Bump's store. The Carnation Milk Company began in 1904 at this location, and later moved to Hillsboro.

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*Oregon Geographic Names, p. 655.

Carnation had a depot and a hotel. The depot was recently moved to the Zurker farm, near the Alvin T. Smith house. The milk company buildings were converted for use as a lumber mill, and they are now owned by Willamette Industries.

V. HISTORICAL RESOURCES IN THE PROJECT AREA

A. Introduction

In addition to the Alvin T. Smith house, the Gerdes house, and the Gaston churches which are already historically recognized, a field inspection of the project area has revealed numerous sites which are of historical significance. Included in this report is a sampling of buildings in the area which merit inclusion on the Statewide Inventory.

B. Historic Sites

fig. 9. The original school house in Dilley.

1. The Sam Smouse House (Knight House)

Located directly east from Dilley Grade School, this building was the original school house in the area, possibly dating from 1860. At a later date it was converted to a residence by the Knight family. It is a two story, frame structure with a brick foundation. It has a central chimney made of brick produced in Forest Grove. Many of the exterior details, such as bracketing on the porch and railings, are missing. A shed off the kitchen at the rear of the house was added after the house became a residence. The composition siding was also added to the exterior at a later date; the original consisted of vertical wood siding.

fig. 10.

2. The Harold Hansen House

This house, pictured above, was constructed in 1900 by

Harold Hansen who ran a successful machine shop in Dilley for many years. The house is a two story frame structure with shiplap siding covering the exterior. There are two central chimneys connected to wood stoves in the lower floor of the house. A porch runs along both sides of the L-shape at the front of the house. A larger porch at the back of the house was later converted to a storage shed.

The adjacent machine shop, pictured below with a portion of the house, retains many of the original tools still in working order. Mr. and Mrs. Terry O'Rear of Cornelius have recently bought the property and are in the process of restoring both the house and the machine shop to their original condition. They plan to move a windmill to the site similar to one which once existed on the property.

fig. 11. The Hansen Machine Shop and House

3. The Grondyke House

Adjacent to the Harold Hansen house, this small two story frame structure is thought by many of the residents of the area to be at least 100 years old. Many of the interior features, fireplace, beams, square nails, would reinforce this theory. The house was bought by Harold Hansen in an attempt to preserve the structure. A cable running across the foundation is now holding the house together. The original well with the surface structure intact is still on the back of the property.

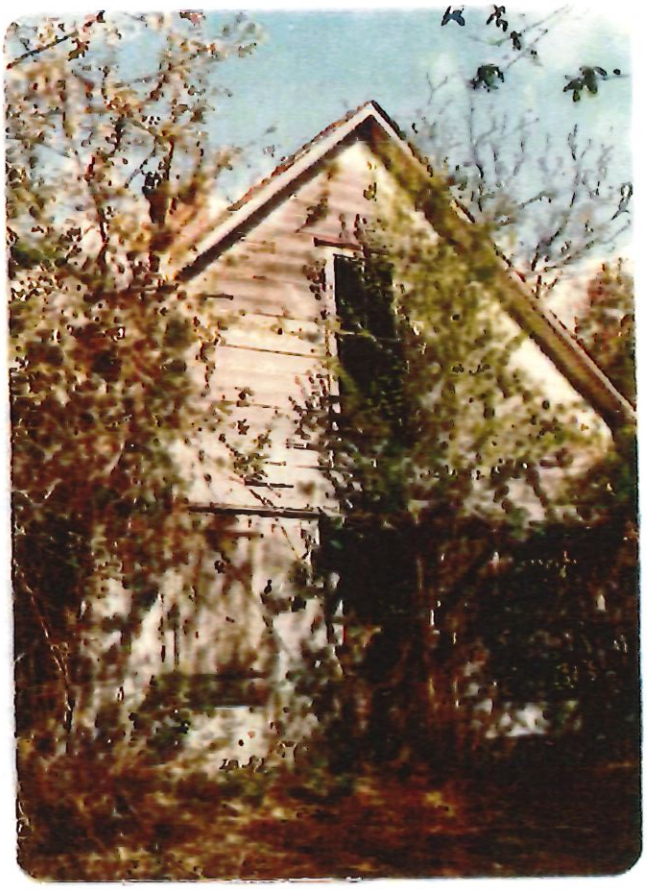

fig. 12. The Grondyke House

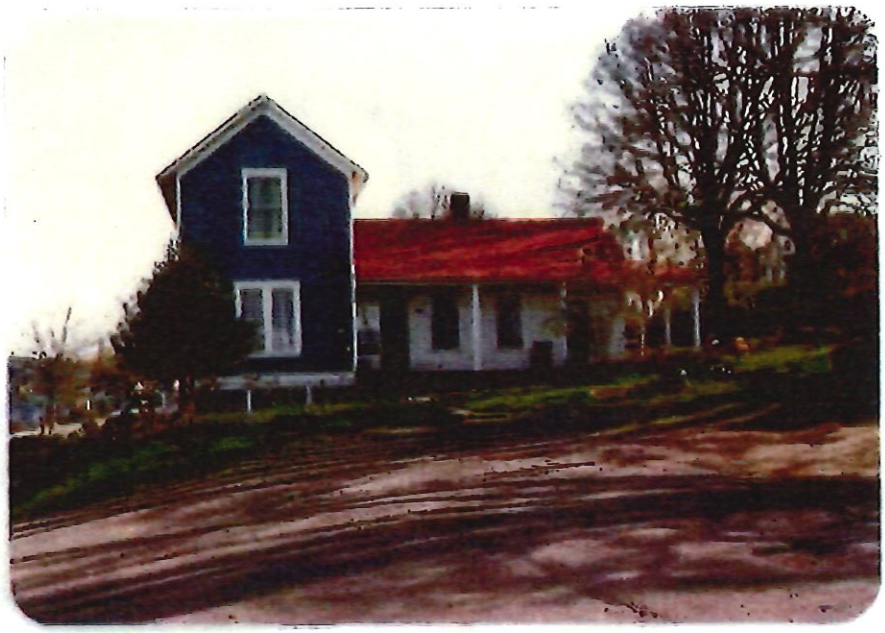

fig. 13. The Bates House

4. The Grace Bates House

One of the older homes in the town of Gaston, this house is located at 3rd and Oak Streets, formerly the site of the Donald McLeod orchard. It was thought to have been built by a prominent family around 1890. The main portion of the house is a two story frame structure with a single story addition forming an L. There is a wide, columned veranda running along two sides of this portion. A portion of the exterior has composition siding, while the remainder is white shiplap. The original well is located in front of the house at the northeast corner of the lot.

fig. 14. The Storey-Cline House

5. The Storey-Cline House

Located at 312 Park Street in Gaston, this is thought to be one of the oldest residences in Gaston, dating from approximately 1860-1870. It is a small two story frame structure with a porch running across the front portion of the house. Wide shiplap siding covers the exterior facade.

fig. 15.

6. 314 Park Street

Little information was available concerning this small one story residence adjacent to the Storey-Cline house. It has a steep hipped roof which slopes down to a porch running along the front of the house. The exterior is covered with uneven wooden shingles. Architectural features of this house indicate that it was constructed in the late 1800's.

VI. RECOMMENDATIONS:

The National Register Merit of Gaston to South Forest Grove as a Historic District

Approximately 30 to 40 older structures are located in the project area--these could not be adequately researched for this

preliminary report. As stated previously, those included here are only a sample of these historic resources. Outside the project area in the Gaston-Forest Grove vicinity there are many more historic structures related to settlement of the area and the establishment of Pacific University. These structures are examples of early farm buildings, farming communities, and a university district, all within a six-mile radius. This area is therefore potentially eligible for inclusion on the National Register as both an archaeological and historic district--it may be unique in Oregon for a combination of these two resources. Therefore, in order to comply with the provisions for federally assisted projects stated in 36 CFR 800, further historic research in the area will be necessary to:

1. identify the resources (800.4 (a));
2. determine their eligibility for inclusion on the National Register (800.4 (a) (2)) by the Criteria for Evaluation set forth in 36 CFR 800.10; and
3. determine the effect the proposed project will have, both immediately and in the future, on the historic sturctures (800.4 (b)). (Federal Register 40, Number 24, Part II).

APPENDIX

The Rural Oregonian, Albany, Oregon, April 10, 1974, "Memories of Old Oregon," Cyrus H. Walker.

"In 1856 Mr. Smith hired Elliott D. Whitlow and Mr. Harger to build him a 2 story fram house. All planing was still done by hand. The sills and posts were made of solid oak, the posts rabbited to make the corners of the walls more even for lath and plaster.* The chiseling out the corners was a tedious and expensive job at about five dollars a day per man. About the time a part of the house was finished so it could be occupied Mrs. Smith, a most estimable Woman, took sick and died in the old log cabin home."

*This article may be in error--there was no lime to make plaster in Oregon in 1856.

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