

FLATROCK QUARRIES (building stone)

Marion County

Owners: Three adjacent properties lie along the low bluff northeast of the town of Stayton, Oregon. They are owned by the following, listed west to east:

Al Amos, Stayton, lessee from L. Orthys (4 acres)
P. E. Sposito, Portland (Atwater 3722)
Elmer Shambro, Stayton

Location: The Orthys property is located in the NE $\frac{1}{4}$ of section 10; and the other two properties in the NW $\frac{1}{4}$ of section 11, T. 9 S., R. 1 W. E. M., the first being within and the others being just outside the city limits of the town of Stayton.

General Description: The town of Stayton lies upon a terrace mapped by Thayer (39) as quaternary alluvium. A very gently westward sloping and relatively flat-topped ridge lies about one half mile north of town. This ridge has a fairly steep southern flank, and the quarries lie from 300 to 400 feet apart just east of town, at the foot of the 75 foot slope. The rock composing the ridge has been mapped (Thayer, 39:7) as the "Stayton lavas", averaging less than 200 feet thick at this point; and are said to be "mainly medium-gray to dark gray basalts in some of which olivine is visible; andesite flows occur south and east of Stayton." The quarry rock is a dark-gray slightly porphyritic rock of an andesitic or basaltic nature, whose chief characteristic is the well-developed platy jointing, more or less parallel to the surface of the flow. In the main quarry this strikes N. 35° W., and dips 10° S.E. The plates are from one to three inches thick, averaging perhaps two inches, and in size are bounded only by a widely spaced set of nearly vertical joints, striking more or less at right angles, and lying at least three feet apart.

The quarries have faces from 6 to 15 feet high, and are from 20 to 40 feet wide and long. None have attained any depth. The platy lava is fairly extensive being thus exposed for nearly a thousand feet in an east-west direction.

Economic Factors: The rock has been and is being quarried by hand (no explosives can be used) with crowbars and sledges for use as ornamental garden sidewalks and dividers. It is sold by the cubic yard, at prices varying according to the size and thickness of the plates, from \$3.00 to \$6.00, delivered in Portland or other town similarly distant.

October, 1940
John Eliot Allen