Cultural Resources Overview and Preliminary Interpretive Themes for Fort Hoskins County Park Benton County, Oregon

by

David R. Brauner
and
Nahani A. Stricker

Report Submitted to Benton County Development Department in Partial Fulfillment of Oregon State Historic Preservation Office Contract # 9318

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Additional information on the historical resources at Fort Hoskins is available from the Benton County Parks Department, 360 SW Avery, Corvallis, Or. 97333 (phone 503 757-6819).
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1. INTRODUCTION

When most people think of the Civil War, their thoughts turn to distant battlefields and forts like Gettysburg, Bull Run, and Fort Sumpter. When you ask them if they have ever heard of Fort Hoskins or knew that troops were stationed here in our own "backyard" during the Civil War, your question will usually result in a blank stare with a slight side to side motion of the head. But the question, and the subject, has peaked their curiosity and generally they are eager to hear about a lost chapter in our regional history. As people are made aware of the little known, but certainly not insignificant, events that have shaped their world, they become curious about the place where these events transpired. Education and imagination blend in unforgettable ways when one can hear or read the ancient tales while standing on the ground that witnessed those events. The people of Benton County, Oregon, have just such a place, and oh the tales it can tell.

Although Professor John Horner of the Oregon Agricultural College, after judicious work in the archives, declared the site of the 1856 to 1865 military garrison named Fort Hoskins “rediscovered” on Memorial Day 1922, the site and fragments of its history have always been known to a few. Certainly, the long-time residents of Kings Valley have never “lost” the site and tales about the fort have been passed through the generations. Horner must be given credit however, for being one of the first to try to educate the public about the significant role Fort Hoskins played in our regional history both before and during the Civil War. Within months after the crowds had dispersed from the glorious Memorial Day gathering on the Frantz family farm, Horner’s orations began to fade and Fort Hoskins dropped back into obscurity.

Oscar Hoop tried to wrest Fort Hoskins out of obscurity in the late 1920s, but after writing a Masters Thesis about the site and getting an article published in the Oregon Historical Quarterly, (1929) his attentions shifted elsewhere.

The next three decades saw little more than an occasional newspaper reporter, looking for local color, publishing a brief article about the site. The primary focus of most newspaper articles was less on Fort Hoskins and more on Philip Sheridan who had served at the post as a 2nd Lieutenant in 1856.
The 1960's saw a flurry of interest in the old fort site. Preston Onstad, an English Professor at Oregon State University and an avid military historian, published an article in the *Oregon Historical Quarterly* (1964) which reintroduced Fort Hoskins to a new generation of Oregonians. Onstad's work was soon followed by Fort Hoskins being given prominent exposure in a book on western pioneer forts by Herbert M. Hart (1967). A resurgent interest in the old fort was one factor which lead the Oregon State Parks Department to consider acquiring the property in the late 1960's for a State Park. Strong local opposition to the concept of a major State Park in their backyard caused State officials to back away from the idea. Other than the fact that Fort Hoskins was placed on the National Register of Historic Places on May 1, 1974, the site of Fort Hoskins settled into obscurity again.

Preston Onstad introduced the principal author of this report to Fort Hoskins soon after his arrival at Oregon State University in 1976. The combination of Onstad’s enthusiasm, my passion for historic sites archaeology, and cooperative and cordial land owners, resulted in two field seasons exploring the archaeological potential of the Fort Hoskins site by the Department of Anthropology at Oregon State University. During the summers of 1976 and 1977 we only began to scratch the surface of the incredible archaeological potential of the site. We also began to discover a greater wealth of archival information than we previously thought existed. Media coverage of our project began to cause problems for the land owners however. The more people heard about the fort through the media or my public presentations the more people wanted to visit the site. Controlled tours of the site could not satisfy the public demand to see Fort Hoskins. Accelerating problems with trespassing and vandalism caused us to close the project and reduce our involvement in public education. My interest in the site never faded, but other projects on public lands beckoned.

One of the continual problems with the development of the history and archeology of Fort Hoskins has been that the site was in private ownership. Every time an attempt was made to educate the public about the fort and the history that surrounded it, the property owners were swamped with phone requests from people wanting to visit the site, or collect relics from it. Many didn’t bother to phone, they simply trespassed and on occasion threatened the land owner when asked to leave (Francis Dunn, personal communication). In order to sustain and increase an interest in an historical place and the events associated with it, a physical connection to the site is required.
In 1991 Benton County was given an option to buy the Fort Hoskins site by the landowner. Since the significance of Fort Hoskins was a well known fact in the County and long range development plans called for a park in northwestern Benton County, a Task Force was put together to raise acquisition funds for 130 acres of land including Fort Hoskins. The land went into the public trust as a Benton County Park in 1992.

Before the park is opened to the public or any development occurs, development and management plans must be formalized and approved. The process will be long and complex, involving the work of specialists in a variety of disciplines as well as input from the public. This document is the first step toward identifying significant cultural resources and developing a management plan for those resources within the boundaries of Fort Hoskins County Park. The primary thrust of this project, funded by a grant from the Oregon State Historic Preservation Office, is to begin to develop an historic context statement within which to place the significant cultural resources found within or near the park. The historical context of the Fort Hoskins locality is broken down into interpretive themes since public education is one of the primary objectives for the development and long term management of this park.

The historical themes that could be used in a public education program range from the prehistoric period to, and including, the development of the park. Since no prehistoric archaeology has been done in the Kings Valley or upper Luckiamute River drainage we have not introduced that as a theme in the document to follow. This is a theme that can, and will, be developed in the future. We also didn’t develop any historical information after 1940. As we moved into the World War II time frame, we realized that the history of this era is still in the minds of the people of Kings Valley and would require an extensive oral history program to get at it. This is certainly a worthy project for the future, but beyond the scope of our mandate. The remaining themes, identified by chapter headings, are not completely developed. Our intent with this document is to introduce the variety of historical themes that could be appropriately interpreted at the park (more happened here than the construction of Fort Hoskins). A great deal more time and money will be required to fully develop each of these themes. Enough information is presented, however, to give the reader a good sense of the ebb and flow of human events that have surrounded a small knoll in southern Kings Valley.
After the discussion of the historic themes, a brief overview of the archaeology that has taken place at the site of Fort Hoskins is presented in chapter 13. The final chapter of this document provides a summary of the potentially significant archaeological and historical resources that still remain within the boundaries of the new County Park and some management recommendations for these resources.

The authors would like to thank Bill Lewis at the Benton County Historical Society for allowing us to use a portion of a manuscript prepared for the Benton County Historic Resources Survey (Weber and Juntunen 1984) by Nahani Stricker on the history of northwestern Benton County.
2. PHYSICAL SETTING

Location and Topography

The site of Fort Hoskins is situated in the southern end of Kings Valley which is located in the northwest corner of Benton County, Oregon. Specifically, the site is located in the N.E. 1/4 of section 30, T.10S. R.6W. Willamette Meridian (Fig. 2.1). The Fort Hoskins site lies within the Coast Range physiographic province which is characterized by mature topography with irregular ridges and short, steep slopes (Dicken 1973). Elevations along the summit of the Coast Range vary from 600 to 4097 feet. Marys Peak, located five miles south of the site area, is the highest peak in the Coast Range at 4097 feet.

Scattered within this mountainous topography are many small valleys which generally reflect in miniature the characteristics of the adjacent Willamette Valley. Kings Valley, drained by the Luckiamute River, is one of the larger of these Coast Range valleys. Surrounded by mountains of the Coast Range, Kings Valley is bordered on the west by the main core of the Coast Range and on the east by a northeast trending spur of the Coast Range which separates it from the Willamette Valley (Danylik 1954). The average elevation of this spur, which contains McDonald Forest, is 1,500 feet. The main basin of Kings Valley is about six and a half miles long (north-south) and has an average width of three miles. The total area is approximately 38 square miles, fourteen of which can be characterized as flat to gently rolling land. Most of this lowland is located in the northern portion of the valley and is encompassed within the 350 foot contour line which is approximately 100 feet higher than the lowlands of the Willamette River Basin in the Corvallis vicinity (Danylik 1954). In the northeastern portion of Kings Valley are a few scattered, isolated hills of between 500 and 600 feet in elevation. The southern half of Kings Valley is generally higher and more rugged with the highest elevation being 769 feet. Low, flat land is found here only along Vincent Creek, and bordering the Luckiamute on the north and south in the vicinity of the big bend (Danylik 1954). Fort Hoskins is located on a flattened ridge approximately 1,000 feet from the northeast bank of the Luckiamute River and 60 feet above its floodplain. The parade ground at Fort Hoskins lies at an elevation of 400 feet above sea level.
Figure 2.1. Location of the Fort Hoskins site.
In addition to the main basin of Kings Valley, there are several tributary valleys which are connected to the main valley by steep, narrow canyons. The largest of these is located north of Hoskins on the Luckiamute River. The elevation of this valley floor is 300 feet and the surrounding mountains rise steeply to between 1000 and 1500 feet. The smallest of these subsidiary valleys lies along Price Creek. The lowland here is very limited averaging only 250 feet in width. The valley floor lies at 500 feet and is surrounded by steep slopes (Danyluk, 1954).

The Luckiamute River and its main tributary streams (Bonner, Burgett, Vincent, Plunkett, Woods, Price, and Maxfield Creeks) drain the northeast portion of Benton County. The Luckiamute with its headwaters on the south slope of Bald Mountain in Polk County, emerges from the core of the Coast Range at Hoskins, flowing southeasterly, and then makes a sharp turn to the northeast where it forms Kings Valley. The Luckiamute River joins the Willamette River near Buena Vista in Polk County.

Soils

The Kings Valley lowlands, like most Coast Range valleys, are dominated by two major geomorphic features. These features are alluvial floodplains and alluvial terraces - valley plains. Alluvial floodplains which lie immediately adjacent to waterways are generally composed of recent alluvial sediments and are subject to yearly flooding. They range in width from a few feet on smaller streams to hundreds of feet on larger tributaries and drainage is generally poor. Balster and Parsons (1968: 9-10) have grouped the alluvial floodplain sediments into the Horseshoe soils unit and note that these surfaces are usually less than 100 years old. Alluvial terraces bordering the floodplains and the valley plains beyond are more stable surfaces and are generally assumed within the Ingram soils unit. The terraces and plains are older than the deposits in the floodplains, are higher in elevation, and have better drainage (Longwood, 1940). The Ingram soils have been radiocarbon dated between 500 and 3200 years old (Balster and Parsons 1968:9). Looney and Dolph soils dominate the uplands above the valley floors. These soils are old surfaces dominated by in place weathering of local bedrock (Balster and Parsons 1968).

Kings Valley has a highly irregular soil pattern due to the wide variation in surface features. Fourteen different soil types have been identified in Kings Valley. These
soil types are included in four major soil units noted above which are defined, in part, on the basis of origin, physiography, and drainage.

The recent alluvial soils (Ingram and Horseshoe) are the most limited in the valley. They are located adjacent to the Luckiamute River and its tributaries, and are characterized by smooth to gently rolling surfaces (Danylk 1954, Balster and Parsons 1968). They generally correspond to the floodplains of the watercourses and once supported dense gallery forests before white settlement. In the Willamette Valley, once the gallery forests were cleared, the floodplain was often used for pasturage or for growing hay. These soils have a high productivity and can support a wide variety of crops such as fruit, orchard, and vegetable crops (Towle 1982). The 1854 township survey map of Kings Valley shows that nearly all fields under cultivation were located in the floodplain and terrace areas adjacent to watercourses.

The old alluvial soils (Ingram and Dolph units) are generally located on the terraces of the Luckiamute and its tributaries. The surface is gently sloping to undulating with well developed drainage. Fertilization and irrigation enable this otherwise productive soil to support a wide variety of vegetable crops (Danylk 1954, Balster and Parsons 1968). These soils correspond in large part to the prairie and open woodland vegetation types.

Prairies which bordered the floodplains were often the site of the earliest farms in the Willamette Valley. Prairie soils, in valley basins beyond the terraces, are classified as poorly drained because of the heavy clay base and level topography, but this was not a serious problem for the pioneer farmer. The small grains which were grown, such as wheat and oats, needed no spring plowing or other land preparation and were well suited to these soils (Towle 1982).

The last group, the residual soils of the hill land (Looney unit), are the most common in Kings Valley. They are located on the higher, steeper terrain. In general, they are characterized by small rock fragments within the soil matrix, rocky outcroppings (especially on the steeper, more broken slopes) and well developed to excessive drainage (Danylk 1954, Balster and Parsons 1968). The native vegetation supported by these soils was prairie and open woodland on the lower slopes and upland forests at higher elevations (Towle 1982). These soils, in the lower elevations, can be used for grazing, growing wheat and oats, orcharding (where soils
are deep enough), and growing oak and fir timber. The residual soils of the hill land found at higher elevations are termed as "Rough Mountainous and Rocky Soils" and are found surrounding Kings Valley in the Coast Range Mountains. They are usually so rough, broken, or stony, that they can only be used for timber production or grazing (Danyluk 1954).

In the Willamette Valley, the lower hill slopes were widely used as pastures. Soon after white settlement and the cessation of annual Native American burning of these hillsides, the prairie and open woodland vegetation began to develop towards closed Douglas fir forests. As early as 1870, this development was recognized as a threat to the open landscape the settlers had first encountered on these slopes (Towle 1982). This process of reforestation was probably occurring in Kings Valley as well.

Climate

The Kings Valley vicinity is characterized by warm, dry summers and mild, wet winters. The mean temperature recorded at the nearest weather station (Falls City, 15 miles northward), measured in degrees Fahrenheit, is 52.2 degrees. The mean January temperature is 37.7 degrees and the mean minimum recorded is 31.4 degrees. Prolonged cold temperatures seldom occur. Summer temperatures are moderate with July averages about 61 degrees and the average maximum is 81 degrees. The average length of the growing season is 165 days. Precipitation, averaging about 43 inches annually, is predominantly in the form of rainfall and is seasonal, most of it (about 38 inches) falling between November 1 and April 30 (Danyluk 1954).

In the Coast Range proper, annual precipitation is higher than in Kings Valley. Along the summit it reaches maximums of 200 inches. Although winter is somewhat harsher in the mountainous area than in Kings Valley, winter temperatures are still considered mild and seldom drop to 25 degrees (Beckham et. al. 1982).

Vegetation

Study of the vegetation of the Willamette Valley at the time of early white settlement (1845-1855) has been conducted by several researchers. Using the surveyors' notes and maps of the early 1850's, as well as the observations of early explorers (e.g.
David Douglas, 1826), general maps of existing vegetation for the valley basin and bordering hills have been made. Transects across the Willamette Valley through Polk, Marion, Benton, and Lane counties all revealed a fairly uniform picture of Willamette Valley vegetation patterns. These plant species, and the communities which they formed in the Willamette Valley, would have been generally typical of the vegetation that existed at the time of white settlement in Kings Valley (Frenkel 1985).

There is varying terminology applied to the major historic vegetation zones in the Willamette Valley; Towle's (1982) is used here. Towle's vegetation zones are: 1) dense upland coniferous forest; 2) open woodland composed of isolated groves of fir and oak surrounded by prairie; 3) prairie; and 4) gallery (streamside) forests.

**Upland Forest**

Upland forests were located on the higher, steeper slopes of the Coast and Cascade Ranges which border the Willamette Valley on the west and east (Towle 1982). In northwest Benton County this upland forest type predominates. It is found everywhere except the low-lying valleys. Known as the Western Hemlock Zone for the potential climax species, this forest type is found in the Coast Range between approximately 450 and 3,000 feet in elevation (Beckham et. al. 1982). The 1850's surveyors did not go deep into the Coast Range. Instead, they concentrated mostly on areas with arable land, but the forest descriptions they provide are fairly representative of the Coast Range forests that were to be found in the Kings Valley area. The surveyors described dense stands consisting of Douglas fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii*), Western hemlock (*Tsuga mertensiana*), Western red cedar (*Thuja plicata*), Big leaf maple (*Acer macrophyllum*), Pacific dogwood (*Cornus* spp.), Vine maple (*Acer circinatum*), White oak (*Quercus garryana*), and California laurel (*Umbellularia californica*). Of these, Douglas fir is considered to have been the dominant tree species by Habeck (1961). However, Towle (1982) states that hemlock, along with cedar and maple, was more common than Douglas fir in his study area.

This difference does not necessarily reflect a true ecological difference between the two transects. It must be remembered that even the most accurate interpretation of the surveyors' notes carries a possible element of error in regard to the ratios of the plant species present. Ratios are, in part, determined by the kinds of trees selected by the surveyor as "witness" or "bearing" trees to establish township and section corners.
In so doing, it is assumed that the surveyor did not favor one kind of tree over another and that the surveyor most often chose the closest trees to a corner (Habeck 1961). In addition, the fine points of technique, content, and quality of any particular survey will vary with the individual surveyor, who varied from area to area.

Habeck's findings of Douglas fir as the predominant tree species in the forests of the 1850's is supported by modern studies of forests in the Western Hemlock zone of both the Coast and the Cascade Ranges. Although the potential climax species for these forests is Western hemlock, large areas are dominated by Douglas fir. Although this is in part due to the logging and burning activities of the last 150 years, even old growth stands (400-600 years old) frequently retain a major component of Douglas fir (Franklin and Dymess 1973).

Kings Valley and the surrounding hills (T10S R6W) were surveyed in 1854 and 1857. The survey maps describe the land within the Coast Range hills west of Kings Valley as "mountainous and broken. Unfit for cultivation. 2nd rate soil and Timber Fir." The hills to the east, which are part of a northeast trending spur of the Coast Range, are described as "Land hilly and broken. Soil 2nd rate. Timber Fir, Oak, & c. (cedar)."

While surveyors' notes and other historic documents provide a listing of the major plant species that were present, they give little or no description of the understory vegetation. To fill in the picture of plant communities found in the higher elevation of the overview area, descriptions of the vegetative cover as it exists today in the Coast Range must be relied upon. As previously stated, the major tree species in the Western Hemlock Zone are Douglas fir, Western hemlock, and Western red cedar (although Western red cedar is not listed for Benton county). The tree species most common in a particular location and the community of plants associated with them varies along a moisture gradient (Franklin and Dymess 1973).

In that part of the Coast Range forest which lies within Benton County, Franklin and Dymess (1973) list five major plant communities. The driest sites are characterized by Douglas fir, Incense cedar (Libocedrus decurrens), Pacific madrone (Arbutus menziesii), and Big leaf maple; shrubs such as Salal (Gaultheria spp.), Creambush ocean spray (Holodiscus spp.), Vine maple, Pacific dogwood and Western yew (Taxus brevifolia); and herbs such as Sword fern (Polystichum spp.), Oregon iris.
(Iris chrysophylla), Twinflower (Linnaea borealis), Evergreen violet (Viola sempervirens) and Common beargrass (Xerophyllum tenax). Areas of intermediate moisture levels support two forest communities. The first is Western hemlock forest, which is characterized by a well developed shrub layer dominated by Vine maple, Salal, and Oregon grape (Berberis spp.). Sites slightly more moist are characterized by the Western hemlock, Salal, and Swordfern association.

Those areas of high moisture content are also broken into two distinct communities. The first, considered the regional climatic climax community for the Western Hemlock zone in the Oregon Coast Range, consists of Western hemlock and Swordfern in association with considerable amounts of the herb, Oregon oxalis (Oxalis spp.), and variable amounts of such shrubs as Vine maple, Red huckleberry (Vaccinium spp.), and Evergreen huckleberry (Vaccinium ovatum). The wettest sites are similar to the previous community with the addition of moisture-loving ferns such as Western maidenhair fern (Adiantum spp), Ladyfern (Athyrium spp.), Deerfern (Franklin and Dyrness 1973) and Skunk cabbage (Lysichitum americanum) (Beckham et al. 1982).

It is unclear for Benton County, and Kings Valley in particular, whether "cedar" in the surveyors' notes refers to Western red cedar or to incense cedar. Franklin and Dyrness (1973) state that no Western red cedar is to be found in Benton County. However, Habeck (1961) and Johnnessen et. al. (1971) interpret "cedar" to mean Western red cedar in their study areas which lie just north and south of the Kings Valley.

Immediately below the Upland Forests (Western Hemlock Zone) in the Coast Range on the foothills and lower slopes, the surveyors of the 1850's found scattered forests of Douglas fir and White oak. These forests were not as dense as those at higher elevations (Towle 1982).

Open Woodland

The second major vegetation type described in the 1850's survey of the Willamette Valley was the Open Woodland composed of isolated groves of fir and oak which were surrounded by prairie. These parkland or savannah-like areas were dominated by White oak and Douglas fir and covered most of the valley lowland, as well as
extending up into the bordering hills. The groves ranged in size from three or four trees to several square miles in extent. Douglas fir tended to be more common near hilltops and the margins of the floodplains because it does not do well in heavy, poorly drained soils. White oak is much more tolerant of wet soils and tended to be the predominant species in such areas (Towle 1982).

The surveyors often differentiated these groves as either oak openings or oak forests. Both were dominated by oak with Douglas fir usually present in varying amounts. The difference between the oak openings and forests was the density of the trees. Trees in the oak openings were characterized by a uniform scatter - standing about 140 feet apart. Intermixed were a few small thick groves. In the oak forests the average distance between the trees was approximately forty feet. In addition, varieties of trees not mentioned for the oak openings, but which are listed for the oak forests, included Red alder (Alnus rubra) and Laurel (Kalmia spp.). Oak forests occur today in areas which have not been burned very often and it is thought that the location of oak forests, as noted by the surveyors, includes areas which escaped the frequent fires which historically occurred in the Willamette Valley (Habeck 1961).

The 1854 survey map of the Kings Valley area describes the vegetation in the hills between Maxfield Creek and the Luckiamute River as "oak and fir openings." No similar historic (c.1850) descriptions of the valleys found in the central Coast Range have been found. However, modern description of the vegetation of these valleys (intermediate between the upland forests and valley floodplains) is quite similar to the open woodland described above (Beckham et. al. 1982).

As is true in all vegetation descriptions of the early surveyors, the understory vegetation of the open woodland is mentioned only in the most general terms (Habeck 1961). Modern plant community descriptions show that where similar vegetation exists today, White oak and Douglas fir are found in combination sometimes with Big leaf maple, as well as Common snowberry (Symphoricarpos spp.), Serviceberry (amelanchier spp.), and Pacific poison oak (Rhus diversiloba). Groundcover includes such species as Swordfern, Trailing blackberry (Rubus spp.), and various bedstraw species, as well as the grass and other species common to the prairie (Franklin and Dyrness 1973).
Prairie

The third major vegetation type, the Prairie, extended from the floodplain margins up onto the bordering hillsides of the valley. In some areas the prairie was open grassland and in others it existed in combination with the isolated groves of trees in the Open Woodland vegetation types. Prairie comprised most of the Willamette Valley's vegetation. Indeed, the most striking feature of the Willamette Valley at the time of the 1850's survey was its openness (Towle 1982).

A small portion of the prairie was characterized as "low and wet" and the rest as "upland" prairie. In areas of open grassland the surveyors often had to mark corners by creating an earthen mound or a rock cairn. Shrub species mention include California hazel (Corylus cornuta), Oregon grape, rose (Rosa spp.) and Ninebark (Physocarpus spp.). The only references to herbaceous plants made by surveyors were "grasses, ferns, and weeds" (Habeck 1961).

The 1854 survey map of Kings Valley describes the land along the Luckiamute as "Level Prairie, soil 1st Rate." Again, the equivalent historic documentation for other valleys in the overview area is lacking, but the vegetation types here would not have differed appreciably from those of the Willamette Valley (Frenkel 1985).

A more detailed description of the prairie vegetation at white contact, based on modern plant community descriptions, is difficult because of the lack of virgin prairie existing today. The grasslands of the Willamette Valley have been destroyed or altered more than any other vegetation type. In those grasslands which exist today, more than half of the species are introduced. Data on native prairie is restricted to a few plots which have been grazed but not plowed. Three major community types have been identified. In the lower, flatter areas which have seasonally wet soils, tall grasses predominated and rushes were found. In the swales, Camas (Camassia spp.) and Needle spikesedge predominated. Secondly, in areas of intermediate elevation, medium height prairie grass was found along with sedges (Carex spp.), Cut-leaved geranium (Geranium spp.) and Chilean aster (Aster chilensis). The third prairie type, found on hummocks (raised areas), was a shrub thicket community. Prairie grasses (of shorter stature than those of the low, wet prairie) surround islands of shrubs dominated by Sweetbriar rose (an introduced species). The other more common shrubs found in this last prairie community are Black hawthorn (Crataegus
spp.), Saskatoon serviceberry (*Amelanchier* spp.), Cascara (*Rhamnus* spp.), Pacific poison oak, and common snowberry (Franklin and Dyrness 1973).

**Riparian Forest**

The last of the four major vegetation types documented by the 1850's surveyors was the gallery (riparian) forests which were found on the floodplains of water courses. They varied in width and continuity. Along the Willamette River these forests varied from one to two miles on either side. Smaller tributary streams had proportionally narrower forest on their margins. The predominant tree species were Oregon ash (*Oleaceae* spp.), Black cottonwood (*Populus trichocarpa*), willow (*Salix* spp.), alder, Big leaf maple, Douglas fir (Towle 1982), White oak, laurel, and Bitter cherry (*Prunus* spp.) (Habeck 1961). In poorly drained swales, ash thickets bordered by oak were sometimes found. Surveyors found this bottomland forest difficult to traverse and commented on the thick underbrush and the large size of the cottonwoods (Johnnessen et. al. 1971).

The 1854 survey map of Kings Valley does not mention any gallery forest, but all streams would have had some trees along their banks. Since plowed fields are shown bordering the Luckiamute River and its tributary streams the gallery forest was at least in part cleared off by this time. Modern description of gallery forests in the valleys of the Coast Range (Beckham et. al. 1982, Franklin and Dyrness 1973) is the same as that given historically for the Willamette Valley as discussed above.

**Changing Vegetation Patterns**

Many changes in the vegetation patterns found in Kings Valley, and the Willamette Valley in general, have occurred over the last 150 years. Upland forests, where Douglas fir is dominant (often the sole dominant), are more common today than in pre-settlement times due to logging and selective planting activities (Franklin and Dyrness 1973).

In Towle's (1982) description of Willamette Valley vegetation in 1970, he states that Open Woodland had nearly disappeared. Where this vegetation was found on valley flats or gently sloping land, there is now field and pastures. Open Woodland on steeper hill slopes has been succeeded by closed forest of Douglas fir. In fact, this
change had occurred in large part by 1900. This change in species composition is attributed primarily to the cessation of yearly Native American burning practices.

Native, unaltered prairie is not known to exist today in the Willamette Valley or Kings Valley. Some areas which have never been plowed occur in small plots, but even these have been altered by grazing activities and by the introduction of exotic species (Franklin and Dyrness 1973).

The species composition of the gallery forests has changed little since the time of settlement, but its extent has been much diminished. The major impact on gallery forests began shortly before 1900 when softwood trees began to be cut on a large scale for use as pulpwood. Later, in the first half of the 20th century diversification of crops, expansion of irrigation and the initiation of flood control programs led to the wholesale clearing of much of the gallery forests in the Willamette Valley (Towle 1982).
3. ETHNOGRAPHIC BACKGROUND

When the first Europeans and EuroAmericans arrived in the Willamette Valley between 1813 and 1834 they encountered numerous small bands of Native Americans which collectively became known as the Kalapuyans. The implication of valley-wide homogeneity implied by the term “Kalapuyan” does not reflect past cultural reality. Berreman (1937:21), working with informants around the turn of the century, identified three distinct, almost mutually unintelligible Kalapuyan dialects. They were (1) Tualatin-Yamhill, (2) Yoncalla, and (3) Calapuya. The three major subgroups were further divided into territorially discrete named political bands. The exact number of these territorially distinct or named macro-bands varied between seven to nine (Frachtenburg 1913; Berreman 1937; Jacobs 1945).

The entire Luckiamute River drainage was occupied by a linguistically distinctive group of Kalapuyans variously referred to as the *Luckiamute, Lakmiut, or Chelukiamaukes* (Fig. 3.1). The Lukiamute bands were linguistically grouped with the Calapuya dialect. There were five distinct political bands recorded in the Luckiamute River drainage. Three of these bands were located on the river (*Ampalamuyu, Tsalakmiut*, and the *Tsantuisha*) and the remaining two bands were situated in upland areas. It is not clear from the quality of the Gatschet (1899) map which band may have lived in the southern Kings Valley area (Gatschet 1899, Berreman 1937, Mackey 1974).

Even prior to the physical presence of Euro-Americans in the Willamette Valley, European diseases rapidly and significantly reduced indigenous populations. A smallpox epidemic swept through the valley in 1782-83 killing an estimated 50 percent of the population (Mackey 1974:21, Boyd 1975:136). Between 1783 and 1830 a variety of European diseases swept through the native populations exacting heavy tolls on human life. An epidemic described as either viral influenza or malaria killed an estimated 75 percent of the remaining native population from 1830 to 1833 (Mackey 1974:21, Boyd 1975:138-140). When the first Euro-Americans arrived in the Willamette Valley, they were witness to a culture under stress, a fragment of a cultural system no longer able to sustain itself.
Figure 3.1. Distribution of named Kalapuya bands in the Willamette Valley.
The small dispersed bands of Kalapuyans were no match for European settlers who quickly claimed the primary farm lands.

Treaties signed in 1854 and 1855 officially terminated the native American occupation of the Willamette Valley. Surviving Kalapuyans were ordered on to the Grand Ronde Reservation west of the coast mountains (Mackey 1974:143). For all practical purposes however, extensive aboriginal exploitation of the Willamette Valley ended with the epidemics of 1830-33.

During the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries the last surviving members of the adjacent Marys River band were interviewed. Unfortunately, the informants were several generations removed from pre-contact culture and therefore could not be expected to recall a lifeway which ceased functioning during the 1700s. No members of any of the Luckiamute Bands were ever interviewed. Realizing the limitations of available data, a brief account of Kalapuyan culture is presented below. Unless otherwise noted, the following sketch was derived from Melville Jacobs’ (1945) “Kalapuya Texts.”

Details of Kalapuyan political organization are sketchy. In the central Willamette Valley the largest integrative unit was the patrilineal bands. The position of headman was hereditary. A class system based on wealth and prestige was present, but not to the degree found in the northern valley. Society was ranked into a noble or wealth class, commoners, and slaves. Nobility was generally hereditary although a commoner could, through the acquisition of wealth, move into this class. Slavery was generally not hereditary. The Kalapuyans were patrilineal and patrilocal. The sororate and leverite were practiced.

Religion was an individualistic affair. At or near puberty a male in particular and occasionally females would attempt to acquire a guardian spirit. The animistic spirit being was obtained in a vision. The powers of one’s tutelary spirit were manifest in the abilities and accomplishments of the individual. Without the aid of a guardian spirit, one could hope for no more than a mediocre life.
The Kalapuyans were hunters and gatherers. Their economy and settlement pattern probably revolved around principal food sources, camas roots and salmon. Relative scarcity of economic resources occurred during the winter months in the Willamette Valley. The absence of dispersed resources, the need for substantial shelter, and a necessity for intergroup cooperation resulted in the aggregation of indigenous populations into semipermanent winter villages. The major requirement for this type of winter settlement was stored food surpluses. Dried salmon and processed camas roots were principals among storable food commodities.

The camas, which at one time was widely distributed in wet meadows over the entire valley, was harvested by women with the aid of a digging stick. Camas was roasted in earth ovens for several days. It was then either eaten immediately or processed for storage by grinding, then formed into thick cakes. The cakes were then stored in baskets.

Camas ripened in the lowlands in early spring and in upland meadows by early fall. A similar elevational ripening cline typified several other root and berry crops. Foremost among these were tarweed, salalberries, blackberries, huckleberries, salmonberries, and wild onions. Hazel nuts and acorns were late summer and fall commodities. The availability of these botanical resources determined to a large degree spring through fall settlement patterns. Settlement during this time of year consisted of small camps situated adjacent to root or berry grounds. From these base camps men would venture out and procure game animals. Hunting contributed less food to the total diet than gathering or fishing. Mammals, birds, and insects were taken in organized hunts or by solitary hunters. Seasonal variability of these animals allowed hunting to be carried on year-round.

Fishing probably provided the greatest amount of protein to the diet. Salmon was the principal exploited species. Trout, suckers, and eels taken form tributary steams were also important dietary adjuncts. A reliance on dried salmon as the main source of protein throughout the winter months required the procurement of large quantities of fish. Nets, weirs, and spears were used to accomplish this task. Salmon procurement required a settlement shift back to the main river systems and larger tributary streams during the fall. Major winter villages were situated near these fishing localities.
A settlement system involving major semipermanent villages situated adjacent to major rivers and streams during the winter months, followed by a dispersed settlement system from spring to fall which centered on small upland camps, typified Kalapuyan culture. The settlement system was integrally related to the availability of a few abundant resources.
4. EARLY EXPLORATION

Although the length of the Willamette Valley has been traversed by fur trappers and explorers since 1812, and numerous accounts of their travels exist, no information as to the presence of those early explorers in Kings Valley has been found. Munford (1983) states that Kings Valley was known to fur trappers before white settlement, but he has not yet been able to determine any specific individuals or dates (Munford 1985). A recent monograph by Zybach (1993), focused on early explorers and trappers in the adjacent Soap Creek Valley, similarly has no references to Kings Valley. Reports of various coastal brigades, such as that of McLee's in 1826, state that small parties of trappers were sent to the "upper reaches" of such coastal rivers as the Yaquina (Dillon 1975). But no specific information as to the exact extent of these trips seems to exist since Munford (1985) states that the first recorded exploration of the Coast Range in western Benton and eastern Lincoln Counties was not until 1849. By the late 1840's there are specific references to travel and settlement in northwestern Benton County.

While knowledge of early trails and explorers in northwestern Benton County is scarce, documentation of the route of the Hudson's Bay Company Pack Trail (Oregon-California Pack Trail) is readily available. Although it did not go through the overview area, it was very close, running north and east of Kings Valley about five miles away. It seems highly unlikely that the numerous and intrepid trappers of the early 19th century would not have traveled through the nearby valleys and mountains of the Kings Valley vicinity in their search for beaver.

The Willamette River is first mentioned by members of the Lewis and Clark Expedition in 1806 when Captain Clark traveled up the Willamette Valley about seven miles (WPA 1942). Intensive investigation of the Willamette Valley began in 1812 when at least three major expeditions traversed the area. Donald McKenzie's party went as far as the East Fork of the Willamette River (the McKenzie River). WPA historians (1942) consider it "more than probable" that they passed through Benton County. The purpose of McKenzie's mission was more to explore than to trap beaver. He was requested to explore the "southern quarter" of the Willamette Valley in order to become acquainted with the Indians and to study the topography. Later the same year, Duncan McDougal traveled as far south as the Umpqua River on a trapping expedition (Ross 1849). Also in 1812, William Wallace and J.C. Halsey spent six months exploring the
Willamette Valley. WPA researchers (1942) believed it probable that these men investigated the Marys River country during their travels.

Even though the Willamette Valley was frequently traveled by these explorers and trappers, a well established route does not seem to have been determined until the late 1820's. In 1826, Chief Trader Alexander Roderick McLeod of the Hudson's Bay Company headed an expedition up the west side of the Willamette Valley. However, he had to rely on Alex Aubichon to act as the guide. McLeod complained that even though Aubichon had the most knowledge of the country, he was not very satisfactory, his route being "too circuitous." The party traveled for about 45 miles after crossing the Yamhill River in this "circuitous" fashion until they ran into "a fine beaten track said to be the main road leading to the Umpqua" running up the west side of the valley. McLeod promptly began to follow this much welcomed "road" (Davies and Johnson 1961). Among the members of this party were the botanist David Douglas, Donald Manson, Etienne Lucier, Michel LaFramboise, Jean Baptiste Dubreuil, John Kennedy, five Hawaiians, and two Indians (Dillon 1975).

This old Indian trail was taken up and expanded upon by the fur traders and became the Hudson's Bay Pack Trail from Fort Vancouver to California (WPA, 1942). By 1829, this path along the foothills of the Coast Range, which ran along the west side of the Willamette Valley, was the predominant route of travel. This route had two major advantages. It avoided the floods and deep mud of the river plain during the rainy season and, as brigade leaders soon discovered, the streams flowing from the Coast Range were smaller and easier to cross than those from the higher Cascade Mountains (Smith 1947).

Throughout the first half of the 19th century this trail was well traveled. In the journals of the travelers so far examined no description can be found that this trail, or a variation of it, passed through Kings Valley. However, there are several references to the area surrounding the branches of the Luckiamute River near the present town of Maple Grove to the northeast and the Soap Creek region to the east where the stream emerges from the Coast Range.

John Work, leader of the Snake River Brigade for the Hudson's Bay company since 1830, traveled the Oregon-California Trail in 1834. His journal entries show that his party traveled past present day Dayton, Amity, McCoy, and Dallas. They camped near
what is now called the Little Luckiamute River ("2nd Fork from the Yamhill"), forded the "South Fork of the Luckiamute," traveled southeast to Soap Creek skirting the hills of present Paul Dunn and McDonald State Forests, and continued on through the Willamette Plain to a camp near the confluence of the Marys and the Willamette Rivers where Corvallis now stands (Scott 1923).

In 1845 James Clyman traveled through the Willamette Valley on his way to settle in California. He was a veteran mountain man who began his career with fur trader William Ashley in 1824. He and Jedidiah Smith, among others, were the men who opened the Rockies and the land beyond to the Sierra Nevada to the Americans. Mr. Clyman and others camped near the Luckiamute River "a few miles" above the confluence of the Little Luckiamute River and the Luckiamute River within five or six miles of Kings Valley. They camped here for several days during which time he took trips into the surrounding countryside (Camp 1960). However, no description in his journal can be identified as being within Kings Valley.

In 1843, the Applegate Family settled in the Salt Creek Valley about three miles north of what is now the town of Dallas in Polk county, approximately 20 miles north of Kings Valley. They lived here for seven years during which time the family made hunting and recreational trips into the surrounding Coast Range hills (Rucker 1930), and may well have traveled into the Kings Valley region.

Travel was not, however, restricted to the west side of the valley. Journals of travelers such as Ewing Young in 1834 and 1837 (Holmes 1967), The Reverend Gustavus Hines in 1840 (Hines 1851), and Lt. Charles Wilkes in 1841 (Dicken and Dicken 1979), show that the east side was also widely used as a thoroughfare. But the western trail was the best known. In 1840, the Reverend Gustavus Hines mentions the "California Trail." "This is the great trail extending from Upper California to the Columbia River (which) passes through the valley of the Willamette, on the west side of the River" (Hines 1851).

Through the first half of the 19th century, English, Scots, French-Canadians, Hawaiians, Iroquois, other Native Americans, and Euroamericans: men, women and children: fur trappers, explorers, and scientists, are known to have traveled along the Oregon-California Trail, passing within a few miles of Kings Valley. Although the above mentioned travelers constitute only a sampling of those known to have traveled
this route during the early 1800's, they suffice to show that Kings Valley was close to much early activity and therefore demonstrate the likelihood of early exploration within its boundaries.

By the late 1840's, there is some mention of early travel within the overview area in addition to the activity of the early permanent settlers of 1846. Smith (1947) states that an alternate portion of the Applegate Trail ran from Maple Grove (Polk County) through Kings Valley and rejoined the main trail approximately two miles south of Philomath. Smith is vague as to the date this route was established, but it was apparently in use as early as 1846.

In 1849, the first recorded exploration of western Benton County (now Lincoln County) was undertaken by Lt. Theodore Talbot. He and an eight man party, set out from Fort Vancouver to look for coal in the Coast Range and to explore the coast. They followed the Oregon-California Trail as far as the Luckiamute River and then followed the Luckiamute up to Kings Valley (Munford 1985).

From the site where Fort Hoskins would be built several years later (in 1856), the Talbot expedition followed "a small Indian Trail" over the mountains and down into the Siletz Valley (six years later Lt. Phil Sheridan attempted to turn this same trail into a wagon road) (Munford 1985). The trail led west along Bonner Creek and crossed Bonner Mountain. It then went north along the West Fork of the Marys River and crossed the Coast Range summit approximately five miles north of where a wagon road and a railroad later crossed the summit (near present day Nashville). Continuing west, the trail went into the valley of Little Rock Creek (in present day Lincoln County) which is a tributary of the Siletz River, and on to the coast (Munford 1985).

As settlement began in Benton County, changes occurred at an ever increasing rate. While Lt. Talbot's 1849 trip through the extreme northwest corner of Benton county was making history as the first recorded exploration of the Coast Range in what is now Lincoln County, farmers had already been breaking the soil in other portions of Benton County since 1845. When Lt. Talbot passed through Kings Valley, Nahum King and his family had been settled there since 1846. So by 1845 in Benton County, and 1846 in Kings Valley, the time of exploration had ended and the Pioneer Period had begun.
The earliest settlers in northwestern Benton County were those associated with the Nahum King Family. Their party numbered 26; seven men, seven women, six boys, and six girls; all the children, grandchildren, and in-laws of Nahum King and his wife, Sarepta Norton King. The Kings arrived in Oregon in the fall of 1845 and in the spring of 1846. They settled their Donation Land Claim in the area between the Marys River and the top of the valley formed by the Luckiamute River, known as early as 1854 as King's Valley.

**King Family Background**

The Nahum King family traces its history in America to 1635 when William and Dorothy Hayne Kinge arrived in Salem, Massachusetts from England. Nahum King was born in New Salem, Massachusetts in 1783 (Wirfs 1980, 1981) to Amos and Hopestill Haskins King (Munford 1980).

A common pattern among the pioneers who came to Oregon was a history of having moved several times, often starting new homesteads each time, before making the final move to the West Coast (Dole 1986). The King Family fit this pattern. Nahum’s parents moved to New York State near Albany when he was a boy. In 1807 at the age of 24 Nahum married Sarepta Norton who was 15 years old. Sarepta, the daughter of James and Dulaney Norton, and her husband soon moved to Madison County, Ohio. Here they lived for more than 20 years, and here most of their children were born (Munford 1980).

In 1841 the family moved to Carroll County in central Missouri on the Big Bend of the Missouri River. In 1844, a flood destroyed their farm and by the spring of 1845 the King clan was on their way to Oregon (Munford 1980).

**The Trip to Oregon**

The journey to the West was a dramatic, adventurous, and dangerous undertaking for men and women even in their prime, but Nahum was 62 and Sarepta 54 years old when they started for Oregon. Various reasons are given for their making this
decision. They had been bothered by floods in both Ohio and Missouri (Munford 1980). Also, Nahum King's granddaughter said he was seeking a more healthful climate. There was consumption in the family and he seemed to be getting the disease (Phinney interview, Mrs. Rebecca Price Alexander, c. 1935).

All the living children of Nahum and Sarepta (three of their sixteen children had died in childhood) joined their parents on the journey to Oregon except the two elder daughters, Saretta and Lucretia (Munford 1980). Apparently, both daughters had arranged to follow the family the next year. In a letter written by Anna Maria King from "The Valley of the Luckiamute" in the spring of 1846, Maria said, "We are looking for Moses Moon and Herman Hallock this fall" (Holmes 1983). They were the husbands of Saretta and Lucretia. Saretta, 37 years old when her family left for Oregon, never did come to Oregon (Wirfs 1980). Lucretia came with her husband, Herman S. Hallock, eight years later, and settled on a claim between her brother Isaac, and her sister, Rhoda Ann.

Nahum King was determined to keep his family intact. Julia Chambers Price, daughter of Rowland Chambers, said that he told his father-in-law, Nahum King, that he and Sarah could not go because they had no money. Nahum proceeded to purchase their supplies in order to keep the family together (Phinney interview, Julia Chambers Price, c. 1935).

The twenty-six members of the King Family traveled in five wagons (Munford 1980). They were joined by their neighbors from Ohio, the Arnold Fuller Family, at St. Joseph, Missouri (Munford 1980). The Fullers intermarried with the King Family after their arrival in Oregon. Amos and Melinda Fuller King settled in Portland, and Abigail King and her new husband, Price Fuller, settled northwest of Lewisburg (Clark and Tiller 1966) near his father, Arnold Fuller (Munford 1980).

The journey to Oregon was relatively uneventful for the Kings until they reached Fort Boise. There, they and about 200 other families (between 1000 and 1500 people) were persuaded by Stephen Meek to follow him on what came to be known as the "Terrible Trail". This route diverged from the normal one, going west through the deserts of eastern Oregon and north along the Deschutes to rendezvous with the other travelers at The Dalles.
Meek told the travelers that his route would avoid hostile Indians and save them time. In the end it took six weeks longer to reach The Dalles, and the party suffered many hardships. In all, at least 24 people died. One of these was Sarah King Chambers, who died of "camp fever". She is buried at Castle Rock in southeastern Oregon. Many of the survivors were starving and delirious by the time they reached The Dalles (Clark and Tiller 1966). The King Family did not suffer to this extent. Anna Maria King wrote in 1846, "Two thirds of the immigrants ran out of provisions and had to live off beef, but as it happened we had plenty of flour and bacon to last us through."

When the Kings arrived at The Dalles on the Columbia River in early October, 1845, the party led by Samuel Barlow and Joel Palmer had just left to blaze a wagon road over the Cascades. The Kings wanted nothing to do with this so-called shortcut, and decided to follow the then regular route—rafting down the Columbia River (Munford 1980). This turned out to be the most dangerous portion of the trip for the Kings. The raft of the John King family overturned, and all, except their five year old son, Luther, were drowned. Lost in that one accident were John King, his wife, Susan Cooper King, and their children, Electra and infant son. Anna Maria King also mentions the loss of Dulaney C. Norton and the wife and daughter of Mr. Arnold Fuller. In all, "eight of our two families have gone to their long home."

**Arrival in the Willamette Valley**

The King party made their way to Linnton, a town on the Willamette River below Portland. From here they crossed the Tualatin Mountains and plains to Gales Creek, near present day Forest Grove. Here they spent their first winter with the help of Joseph Gale (Munford 1980).

That spring the men in the party rode out in search of land. It is thought that after following the Hudson's Bay Pack Trail, they crossed the Little Luckiamute River, and then took an alternative pack trail up the Luckiamute River. After passing what is now Pee Dee, in Polk County, they discovered the valley formed by the Luckiamute River at its "big bend" (Munford 1980).
Settlement Patterns

Williard Price described the manner in which the King party chose their claims.

They had been troubled with overflows in both Ohio and Missouri and the higher ground in this region appealed to them. They traveled up the Valley and found creeks coming down from the hills to the east about a mile or so apart. This would give each man his mile square claim with running water on each claim. They located enough claims for their party, numbered them and put the numbers in a hat to draw lots. Before they drew, Rowland Chambers made the proposition that if they would give him his choice of claims he would build a gristmill. His proposal was gladly accepted. He chose a claim which took in a natural fall in the (Luckiamute) river of about four feet (Phinney interview, Willard Price 1936).

The claims staked by the Kings in 1846 were among the earliest in Benton County. The first Donation Land Claim settler is generally acknowledged to have been T.D. Reeves, who in late 1845, built a cabin on his claim three miles north of Monroe where he spent the winter. Joseph C. Avery, who staked his claim at the mouth of the Marys River in 1845, built a cabin there in the spring of 1846. There were settlers in the Philomath vicinity in 1845-46 and in the Soap Creek area in 1846. The Belknap clan, similar to the King clan in size and in manner of settlement, established the Belknap Settlement in 1848.

Settlement of the entire Willamette Valley was relatively new and sparse in 1846. A house near Monroe was, in that year, said to be the settlement furthest south in the Willamette Valley (WPA 1942). For the first four years the King clan had the Luckiamute River Valley nearly to themselves. Other settlers who came to the Kings Valley area in the 1840's were James Watson, 1847; Charles Allen, 1849; and Job S. Hayworth, 1849.

Beginning in 1850 settlers arrived at an ever increasing pace in Benton County. Between 1850 and 1855 forty new claims were settled in northwestern Benton County. No other Donation Land Claims (DLC's) were settled after this date. By 1853 the Kings were surrounded by neighbors - that year the Government Land Office surveyors noted that Kings Valley was thickly settled with a very industrious population (Fig.5.1).
Figure 5.1. Location of Donation Land Claims in southern Kings Valley.
(based on 1929 Chas. F. Metsker map)
This boom in population reflects the trend for all of Benton County. Between 1850 and 1860 the county experienced a nearly 300% increase in population - a greater percentage increase than in any other ensuing decade. This increase is attributed to improved transportation facilities and the Donation Land Claim Act of 1850 which provided married men with 300 acres and single men with 160 acres of land (Longwood 1940). Settlement up to 1855 in northwestern Benton County was concentrated in the eastern two townships containing Kings Valley and Wren. The extreme northwest corner of Benton County (Township 10S Range 7W) contained only half of one 1854 DLC. The township containing Summit and Blodgett (Township 11S Range 7W) contained seven DLC's, all clustered in the Blodgett Valley.

As would be expected, the claims chosen by the earliest (1840's) settlers occupied the areas with the greatest amount of cultivable land. All Benton County claims in the 1840's (except Nahum King's) were in Kings Valley. These claims were oddly shaped to obtain the maximum advantage of land resources. Claims made in the 1850's tended to consist of less arable land, being located in the hills or along tributary valleys.

**Early Subsistence**

From early descriptions of Kings Valley a picture emerges of rich farm and pasture land surrounded by timber and provided with a wealth of natural foods. Sol King recalled that lots of elk and deer were to be had and that wild bunch grass grew waist high (Fagan 1885). Anna Maria King described the valley as they found it in 1846.

> The water is all soft as it is in Massachusetts. Soda springs are common and fresh water springs without number...There are thousands of strawberries, gooseberries, blackberries, whortleberries, currants and other wild fruits but no nuts except filberts and a few chestnuts. The timber is principally fir and oak...It is an easy place to make a living. You can raise as many cattle as you please and not cost you a cent, for the grass is green the whole winter... (Holmes 1983).

Nahum King brought with him a fine herd of thirty short-horned Durham cattle (*Gazette Times* 1959), and in the next year, 1847, James Watson brought additional stock (Fagan 1885), beginning the long tradition of cattle raising in the Kings Valley area. Fagan (1885) says that "in early days" of settlement, Kings Valley was considered second to none as luxuriant pasture land for stock.
The King families set about creating homes out of the rich but wild land. By 1849 Lt. Talbot noted in his journal that there were four families living in Kings Valley and that they had well-improved farms. They provided clothing for themselves. Louisa King carded, spun, and wove wool from their sheep, and dyed it with various leaves and barks. She was quick to take advantage of labor saving conveniences as they appeared, however. As soon as Horning built a carding mill near Corvallis, she purchased wool there for spinning (Phinney interview, Rebecca Chambers Alexander, c. 1935).

The Kings purchased anything they needed but could not produce themselves. Anna Maria King noted in 1846 that such items as sugar, molasses, tea, calico, etc., were readily available; however, she does not say where they purchased their supplies (Holmes 1983). A general merchandise store began operating in Corvallis in 1849 (Fagan 1885).

Transportation

As noted earlier, Kings Valley had been known for some time as a favorable place to cross the mountains to the coast. An Indian trail crossed the Coast Range from the valley, and, in 1849, Lt. Talbot's expedition selected this as a site for crossing the Coast Range (Munford 1985). An 1851 map shows a "Trail to Yacoonah Bay". Beginning at the home of Rowland Chambers and cutting across the big bend of the Luckiamute River proceeding northwesterly through the Coast Mountains (Preston 1978) (Fig. 5.2).

The official move towards road building in Benton County began in the early 1850's. There already existed the Oregon-California Trail which had developed from the old Hudson's Bay Pack Trail. This served as the main north-south travel corridor for the Willamette Valley (WPA 1942). In September of 1851, John Watson and Lazarus VanBeber applied for the survey of a road beginning at or near Rithners (immediately north of Kings Valley on the Luckiamute River) and terminating at Matzgers Mill (just west of present day Philomath) where it would connect with another road which continued south to Herbert's gristmill.
Figure 5.2. Detail of an 1851 Map of the Willamette Valley depicting trail to "Yacoonah" from Kings Valley. (Preston 1978:12-13)
The survey was ordered in March of 1852 and the route was established as Road Number 2. Today's Highway 223 and the portion of Highway 20 between Philomath and Wren follows this 1852 route very closely.

County Road Number 2 continued through Township 11S Range 6W, going through present day Wren. In addition, this township is shown on the 1854 GLO map as being criss-crossed with roads which went from house to house.

The terminal point of County Road Number 2 near Matzger's Mill, was that road's intersection with County Road No. 1 (WPA, 1942; GLO maps). Interestingly, the "Kings Valley Road" (County Road Number 2) may not have been the preferred route to Corvallis. Mrs. Rebecca Chambers Alexander, born in 1860, said that the family preferred to go for supplies to Corvallis via Tampico to avoid the hills on the more direct route (Phinney Interview, c. 1935). Whichever routes may have been preferred by the settlers, there were enough good roads in the vicinity for Captain Auger of Ft. Hoskins to remark that in 1856, "there is direct and good communication from it (the location of the fort) to all the settlements along the base of the mountains and in the Willamette Valley..." (Onstad 1964).

The Kings Valley 1854 General Land Office (GLO) map also shows a road going from near the Charles Allen home to the VanPeer sawmill where Hoskins now stands (Fig. 5.1). This closely follows the present Hoskins-Kings Valley Road. In 1854, this road terminated at the sawmill and a trail ran due west into the Coast Range from there.

**Industry**

**Lumber**

The earliest industry in Kings Valley was probably the sawmill of Henry VanPeer which was "already in operation" in 1853. It was located on his DLC on the west side of the Luckiamute River, across from the present town of Hoskins (WPA 1942). The sawmill probably did not begin operating before 1853 since VanPeer settled his claim in that year.
Although not the first sawmill in Benton County, the VanPeer Mill was one of the earliest. Matzger's sawmill, near present day Philomath, was built "shortly after 1850" and several sawmills were built in 1852 (WPA 1942). These early sawmills were all very small, poorly equipped, and had only a local market for their rough products. Oxen were used in the woods, four or five yokes being used as a unit to skid logs to the riverbanks where they were floated down to the mill (Longwood 1940).

General Land Office surveyors noted in 1853 that a gristmill was under construction in the Kings Valley Township. This was the gristmill of Rowland Chambers. Many King family sources state that the mill was operating by 1852, but General Land Office information indicates that it could not have been before 1853. It was one of the earliest grain milling establishments in the county. [The earliest was probably the 1850 Herbert Mill on Beaver Creek (WPA 1942).] Rowland Chambers had announced his intention to build a gristmill in 1846. He built the mill at the site on his selected claim where the Luckiamute River naturally dropped four feet (Fig. 5.1). For more than fifty years the mill ground top quality flour from locally grown wheat (Phinney interview, Willard Price, c. 1936).

Gristmills

Rowland Chambers was assisted in building the gristmill by his brother-in-law, Stephen King (Wirfs 1980), and a professional millwright named A.H. Reynolds. Mr. Reynolds is associated with at least two other mills in Oregon - the Elias Buell gristmill on Mill Creek, Polk county, and the first woolen mill in Salem. By 1859 he had moved on to Washington where he continued to build flour and woolen mills (Wirfs 1980). The Chambers mill was perhaps the most famous in the county in part because of the French stones used for grinding which were shipped around the Horn (WPA 1942).

Schools

Schools were a top priority in pioneer communities of Benton County. The first school to be built was probably the Fuller Schoolhouse in 1848. Only one or two others are thought to have been built before 1850 (WPA 1942). One of these was the first school in Kings Valley. It was a log building constructed in 1849 (Fagan 1885).
on the Lucius Norton DLC on the main road running through the valley (Phinney, Historic sites, c. 1935). This school served the community through about 1860. Before this schoolhouse was erected one of the women held school in her house (McDonald 1983). In 1850 many schoolhouses were constructed in Benton County. In 1852 Benton County was divided into school districts and Kings Valley, District #6, reported forty-three students - twenty-four boys and nineteen girls. [Forty students were reported by Marysville (Corvallis) in 1852]. (WPA, 1942).

In the early years, school terms were typically short, perhaps three or four months out of a year. Funds for running a school were often short, bad winter weather often kept children from walking to school, and children were at times needed on the farm. Some parents who could afford to do so, and felt strongly enough about the value of education, hired tutors who came into the home.

A common feature among rural schools during the 19th and early 20th centuries was the central role they played in the social life of the community. The children had parties, and whole communities turned out for May Day picnics, plays and other activities.

**Religious Activities**

Before churches were built services were held in schoolhouses on Sundays whenever a preacher could be found (McDonald, 1983). Mrs. Julia Chambers Price, born in 1861 in Kings Valley, recalled that "in the early days" there was preaching once a month at the schoolhouse by a Methodist preacher (Phinney, Interview, c. 1935) B.Y. Frantz, who settled at Hoskins in 1866, recalled that church services and revival meetings were held regularly at the Kings Valley schoolhouse and "we always went" (McDonald 1983). This was probably the case during the 1850's as well.

Sometimes church services and Sunday Schools were held in an open grove or in someone's home when an itinerant preacher was available. Churches were formally organized before 1850 in many Benton County communities. Churches began to be built as early as 1852 in Corvallis and 1857 near Philomath. The earliest church building referenced for Kings Valley was not organized until 1877.
Town Development

In 1855 the Kings Valley Post Office opened with Rowland Chambers as its first postmaster (Payne 1959). It served the community until the 1960's (KVPC, 1985). The specialized services available to Kings Valley settlers before 1860 were apparently quite few: a sawmill, a gristmill, a post office, and a school. Stores, churches, and other such amenities had to wait for later decades. There was at least one private store situated near Fort Hoskins frequented by the soldiers, and a sutlers store (which opened in 1857) contracted to the post (Fagan 1885). However, since no mention of the settlers using these stores has yet been located, it is unclear to what extent the Kings Valley settlers made use of them.
In the 1840's and early 1850's the Klickitats, who came from the region north of the Columbia River and east of Mt. Adams, moved into the Willamette Valley and virtually "dispossessed" the few remaining Kalapuys (WPA 1942). As previously noted, the Kalapuyan population had been severely reduced by epidemic diseases in the late 18th and early 19th century. The Kalapuys remained in the Willamette Valley, but in ever smaller numbers.

The first settlers in the Luckiamute Valley, and elsewhere in Benton County, encountered Indians from the beginning, and continued to interact with them on a regular basis for several decades. There are numerous negative accounts about the Indians and their relations with the settlers. The Reverend H. Atkinson wrote in 1848 that the Klickitats in Benton County were "becoming troublesome. They got into a quarrel with a man and threatened to shoot him. They provoke the whites..." (WPA 1942). Armed conflict between white settlers and miners and Native Americans erupted periodically in western Oregon until 1856 when the Rogue Indian Wars were concluded. At this time the Superintendent of Indian Affairs, Joel Palmer, decided to move the Indians in western Oregon and concentrate them on the Coast and the Grande Ronde Reservations. (Onstad 1964).

But the accounts of the settlers in the Kings Valley area have a much different tone. Anna Maria King wrote home in 1846, shortly after arriving in the Luckiamute Valley, and said, "the Indians appear to be very friendly, like to have Bostons come, as they call them" (Holmes 1983).

In 1880, Solomon King, youngest son of Nahum King told the Corvallis Gazette that there were between 200 and 300 Klickitat Indians camped in the Luckiamute Valley when they arrived in 1846.

Good Indians they were; tall and straight as a dart. When we came in and camped the Chief, Quarterly, his name was came to my Father and said: 'What do you want here?' 'We have come to settle down and farm and make homes for ourselves' replied my Father. 'Well,' said the Indian, 'you can if you don' meddle with us; we won't hurt you.' No more they did; we never had a cross word from them. The country did not belong to them; it belonged to the Calapooias and the Klickitats had rented it from them for some horses and clothes, and what not, for a hunting ground...The Klickitats had regular lodges -sticks set round in a circle and tied together at the top and covered
over with those rush mats. Good workers they were, too... (Fagan 1885)

There were Kalapuya Indians still in the area as well. Sol King continued to say that

...one day, the Klickitats came running in to say there were ever such a lot of Calapooias coming to attack them and the (the Klickitats) sent their squaws and children to the hills, and then drove all their horses down to our camp...There must have been several hundreds of these Calapooias. That did not come to anything that time; they patched it up with some presents of horses, beads and other things... (Fagan 1885)

In later years the Indians would leave the Siletz Reservation at times and pass through Kings Valley. Leone Price Lyday remembers her family talking about Indians camping in their orchard while fishing in the Luckiamute. The Indians were allowed to pick fruits and vegetables on the farm and gave the farmers baskets in exchange (KVPC 1985). Indians worked (as Pickers) for the Frantz Family (who came to Hoskins in 1866) in their hop fields. They are remembered by the family as "very clean", often neater than many white farmers (KVPC, 1985).
7. OREGON INDIAN POLICY AND THE SILETZ RESERVATION

OREGON INDIAN POLICY FROM 1849 TO 1853

When Joseph Lane arrived in Oregon to organize the Territorial government in March 1849, tension between settlers and Indians was high after the destruction of the Whitman mission. The situation in Oregon was complicated by the fact that the Federal Government had not been able to control the process of settlement as it had in other portions of the country. Elsewhere the government had extinguished land titles of the Indians and had then provided some military protection before large numbers of settlers moved in. (Spaid 1950:59-60) On July 20, 1849, Governor Lane and the Territorial Legislature sent a memorial to Congress which asked the government to purchase the rights of the Indians and to remove them from the districts of settlement. The memorial cited the lack of security caused by the exodus of so many men to the mines in California, the moral and civil rights of the whites, and the necessity of humane provision for the Indians by the government. The memorial made no recommendations as to where or how the Indians should be removed beyond the idea that they should be colonized in some region distant from the growing settlements. (Spaid 1950:68-69)

At the same time, Samuel R. Thurston, Territorial delegate from Oregon, wanted to secure a donation land law. In preparation for this he proposed to remove the Indians of Western Oregon to the east side of the Cascades. (Spaid 1950:69) The Oregon Indian Bill, approved June 5, 1850, (Spaid 1950:70) provided for a board of commissioners to secure the extinguishment of the land titles of the Western Oregon Indians and to secure their removal to the interior. The bill also established the post of Superintendent of Indian Affairs. (Spaid 1950:71) The Donation Land Claim Act was passed soon after the Oregon Indian Bill (Spaid 1950:70).
In July of 1850 Anson Dart became the first Superintendent of Indian Affairs for Oregon. Dart arrived in Oregon City late in September, 1850, and began meeting with the Indians. He soon decided against the idea of their removal, proposing instead that the Indians be integrated into the white communities closest to them, learning farming and trades. (Spald 1950:71) Dart's ideas ran counter to official policy, which was explained in the orders given to the Board of Commissioners: extinguish the land titles of the western Oregon Indians so that the white settlers could finalize their land titles and provide for the removal, if at all possible, of all western Oregon Indians to the east side of the Cascades. The Board began its work in February, 1850. They, like Dart, also quickly came to the conclusion that it was inadvisable to attempt to force the Willamette Valley tribes to move to eastern Oregon. The Board felt that removing the Indians from their fisheries would lead to their deaths either from starvation or at the hands of hostile interior Indians. Although the Willamette Valley Indians the Commissioners talked to were willing to cede much of their lands, they refused to move to eastern Oregon. They were determined to remain on their ancestral lands despite offers of selected land, increased annuities, and military protection. (Spald 1950:73-76)

The Commissioners proposed to create a system of reservations consisting of a few sections of tribal lands and to protect fishing grounds. The Office of Indian Affairs approved this plan in principle and the Commissioners proceeded to negotiate on this basis, even though the plan had not been given final approval. (Spald 1950:75-76) The Commission negotiated with six bands from the lower Willamette Valley - the Santiam, Tualatin, Yamhill, Luckiamute band of the Kalapuya, and the upper and lower Molallas (Figure 7.1). Annuities amounting to a total of $180,000 were to run for twenty years and were scheduled to begin as soon as the treaties were ratified by the Senate. (Spald 1950:77) However, the Congress abrogated the power of the Commission in February 1851. The treaties which they had negotiated were declared invalid and were never ratified. (Spald 1950:78-79)
SKETCH
of the Willamette Valley, showing the purchases and reservations made by the Board of Commissioners, appointed to treat with the Indians of Oregon, April and May 1851, prepared by George Calhoun and Robert A. Steckly.

The course of the Columbia River, and of the Willamette, as far up as Oregon City, is enlarged by Cape River. That of the Willamette, from Falls, to Niles, is from a survey by Lieutenant White of Dallas. The survey of the other streams are laid down from various information obtained from surveys. They are intended to be considered only as an approximation, and are from the most probable, as near as can be with the detail given.

Figure 7.1. 1851 Map of the Willamette Valley depicting the purchases and reservations made by the Board of Commissioners.
(Preston 1978:12-13)
The Superintendent and his sub-agents were now invested with the authority to make treaties. In August, 1851, Superintendent Dart and Agents Spalding and Parrish began negotiations with the Indians of Southwestern Oregon. As with the treaties negotiated by the Commission, these new treaties provided the Indians with small reservations that preserved a portion of their ancestral land. Two treaties with four bands from the Port Orford area were signed. Approximately two and one-half million acres were ceded in exchange for annuities lasting ten years, government protection from the whites, and the ability to stay in their homes for another ten years. These treaties were also rejected by the Congress. (Spaid 1950:82-84) The Secretary of the Interior explained that "It is believed that these treaties were rejected, not so much on account of objections to their details as to the leading principles embraced in them, which secured particular districts of the country for the exclusive use of the Indians." (Spaid 1950:85)

INDIAN POLICY UNDER SUPERINTENDENT JOEL PALMER 1853 - 1856

Anson Dart resigned as Superintendent in December, 1852, when the treaties which he and the Commission had negotiated were rejected. Joel Palmer assumed the duties of Superintendent of Indian Affairs for Oregon on May 13, 1853. By this time Indian affairs in Oregon were in a chaotic condition and conflict between the settlers and the Indians seemed inevitable. Indian titles to the land had not been extinguished and white settlers were impatient to have their land claims under the Donation Land Claim Act finalized. The Indians were waiting for the promised payment for their lands, and they feared the possibility of extermination at the hands of the whites. Encroachment into the lands of Indians in outlying areas was also leading to heightened tensions. (Spaid 1950:58) The outbreak of warfare in 1851 which marked the beginning of the "Rogue Indian Wars" (1851-1856), and the sporadic warfare between the southern coast tribes and settlers and miners in 1852 and 1853, led to renewed calls for removal of the Indians from the vicinity of white settlement. Some who advocated
removal of the Indians saw this as the only way to save them from further predation, but most simply wanted to get the Indians out of the way of what they considered their legitimate enterprises. (Harger 1972:19-21)

By the time Palmer began his work in 1853, the official Indian Policy had become the collection of Indians with similar habits and customs onto reservations that were remote from white settlements (Spald 1950:89). Palmer rejected the idea of settling the Indians along side whites, as well as the doctrine that they be moved to eastern Oregon [at least with regard to the Coastal Indians]. In Palmers first recommendation for a permanent solution of Indian affairs in Oregon, given in June of 1853, he suggested that the Indians be settled in western Oregon. (Spald 1950:95)

Palmer negotiated three treaties in 1853 and 1854 with the Rogue Indians and the Chasta-Skotons-Umpquas, which extinguished Indian claim to 3,780,000 acres of the middle and upper Rogue Valley while providing for temporary reservations at Table Rock, Port Orford, and in the Umpqua Valley, until the Indian Department could acquire land for a permanent reservation in western Oregon. Because there were so many requests for removal of the Indians from so many sources - humanitarians, settlers, and the Superintendent - and because of the large number and warlike nature of the Rogue and Umpqua Indians involved, Congress reversed its earlier opposition to reservations in western Oregon and ratified the treaties which Palmer had negotiated by March, 1855. However, the Indians were not safe at these temporary reservations. The whites attacked them and the Indian agents had no troops with which to protect the Indians. The agents urged the removal of the Indians for their own safety. (Harger 1972:21-23)
Selection of Permanent Reservations

Soon after his appointment as Superintendent in the spring of 1853, Joel Palmer began looking for a site for a permanent reservation. When he began his search there were only two large isolated areas where suitable farm land remained, the Klamath Lake area and the coast north of Coos Bay. (Harger 1972: 24) In 1853 Palmer proposed to locate the Willamette Valley Indians in the small valleys along the Pacific Coast between the Yaqquina and Alsea Rivers. He gave as his reasons the friendliness, free intercourse, and similarity in customs and languages of the Indians inhabiting the coast region and the Willamette Valley; the abundance of game and fish; and the apparent unattractiveness of the small isolated valleys for white settlement. (Spaid 1950:97) In 1854 Palmer visited the area between the Yaqquina and Alsea Rivers which he had previously recommended as a reservation site for the Coast Indians. The area, he reported, was not quite so desirable as he had been led to believe. Much of it was covered with a dense growth of brush because the forests had been destroyed by fire. However, he thought that if the Indian Department would furnish sufficient resources it would still be suitable as a reservation. (Spaid 1950:131-132)

In August, 1854, Palmer explored the eastern slope of the Cascades as far south as the Klamath Lake region. Palmer believed that Klamath Lake had distinct advantages over the coast region as a place on which to locate some of the Indians from the Willamette Valley as well as those from the Umpqua Valley: it was sufficiently large to colonize the Indians of the two valleys, it was isolated and remote from the white settlements, and the location of an Indian agent there was needed to protect the middle emigrant road. (Spaid 1950:133) Palmer hoped to settle the Umpquas and Kalapuyas of the Umpqua Valley (eleven bands), and the Cow Creeks, in the Klamath Lake area. (Spaid 1950:137,139) However the Indians refused to move to Klamath Lake and so Palmer recommended the coastal area for these Indians as well as all the other western Oregon Indians. (Spaid 1950:142)
The Coast Reservation

In anticipation of the Indian Departments approval of the Coast Reservation, and to keep settlers from making claims, Palmer gave public notice which described the area closed to settlement in spring of 1855. (Spaid 1950:142) President Franklin Pierce established the Coast Reservation by Executive Order on November 9, 1855. This was done with the understanding that Congress could later reduce the boundaries. The Coast Reservation originally consisted of the entire coast between the ocean and the Coast Range from Siltcoos River to Cape Lookout (Figure 7.2) (Harger 1972:32), totalling more than one million acres (Beckham 1977:148).

Soon after its selection, the Coast Reservation was divided into two parts. The Alsea Sub-Agency was established for the non-treaty Alsea, Coos, Siuslaw, and Umpqua Indians. It occupied the territory between the Yaquina and the Umpqua Rivers which was the southern half of the reservation. The northern half became the Siletz Reservation and was to be the home of the tribes of southern Oregon and the tribes of the northern coast - the Tillamook, Nestucca, and Yaquina. What eventually became the Siletz Reservation was bounded by the Yaquina River in the south and the Salmon River in the north. Within this area was a land of densely wooded, rugged mountains, with small valleys and a few bays and estuaries. (Kent 1973:2)

In July, 1855, Superintendent Palmer and Captain Philip Sheridan toured the Siletz River region to select a site for the Agency headquarters and a blockhouse (Kent 1973:1). Eventually, the Siletz Agency was located twenty-five miles from the ocean at the southern end of the Siletz River Valley (Kent 1973:2) on a small prairie near the big bend in the Siletz River, which is now the town of Siletz. Several thousand acres of apparently good farm land lay nearby along the river, and the navigable Yaquina River was only eight miles away so that reservation supplies could be shipped most of the way. (Harger 1972:45) A blockhouse was constructed at the site of Agency headquarters, overlooking the homes of the Indians (Onstad, 1964:183).
Figure 7.2. Coast Reservation. (Adapted from Harger 1972:153)
The Grand Ronde Reservation

In 1855 Superintendent Palmer decided that the Grand Ronde Valley would serve as the home of those Indians from the lower Columbia region and the Willamette Valley whom he considered to be "meeker and more civilized". They were to be separated from the "fiercer and more aggressive" Indians from southwest Oregon which were to be settled in the more remote Coast Reservation. It was intended that the Grand Ronde tribes would act as a buffer between the white settlers of the Willamette Valley and the Indians at the Coast Reservation. The Grand Ronde Reservation consisted of forty-one square miles near the south fork of the Yamhill River. (Harger 1972:31) White settlers had already created farms in this area, and so there were extant buildings and land improved for cultivation. This area was also attractive as the site for a reservation because it was isolated from the Willamette Valley by a chain of rugged hills, with the only access being a pass on the margin of the Yamhill River. There were excellent sites for schools, mills, and other buildings, and timber was available for lumber. The soil had already proven to be fertile and well-adapted for the production of wheat. (Spaid 1950:184)

Indian Removal

In January, 1855, the Molallas and the Kalapuyan bands formally ceded their title to the Willamette Valley - one of the last remaining Indian claims in western Oregon. With this treaty, and the earlier ones of 1853 and 1854 negotiated with the Rogue and Chasta-Skotons-Umpquas Indians, Superintendent Palmer had acquired for the Federal Government the title to most of the white-settled areas in western Oregon. In August and September, 1855, Palmer visited the Oregon Coast tribes from the Salmon River to the California border and negotiated four more treaties, known collectively as the Coast Treaty, whereby the Coast tribes ceded all the land west of the Coast Range from the Columbia River to California and agreed to move to the Coast Reservation. (Harger 1972:26-27) [The final cession of Indian land in Western Oregon came on
December 22, 1855, when the Molalla of the upper Umpqua Valley agreed to a treaty (Harger 1972:30).] The way now seemed clear to bring the Indians to the Coast Reservation, but its establishment was delayed by the third Rogue Indian War which began in September, 1855. This was the longest and most destructive of the Rogue Wars. (Harger 1972:27) Fighting eventually extended across five southwest Oregon counties - Curry, Coos, Josephine, Jackson, and Douglas. At the height of the Third Rogue War only one small band of Indians between the Umpqua River and Yreka, California, remained friendly to whites. (Harger 1972:28)

On November 12, 1855, Superintendent Palmer notified Commissioner Manypenny of his decision to establish a winter encampment for the friendly Rogue River and Umpqua bands in the Grand Ronde Valley. The Rogue River and Umpqua bands would be moved to the Coast Reservation as soon as suitable improvements could be made. Palmer stated that in view of the emergency situation caused by the Rogue War, this step was necessary to insure the safety of those Indians, as well as the peace and security of the whites [it was feared that friendly Indians would be persuaded to hostilities by Indians who were fighting or that they might be incited to fight if attacked]. Palmer explained that it was apparent that the garrison at Fort Lane was too small to give adequate protection to the Indians. Finally, Palmer informed the Commissioner that the removal of these Indians to the Grand Ronde Valley was the initial step in carrying out the proposed permanent policy of concentrating all the Indians west of the Cascade Mountains on one large reservation. (Spald 1950:182-183)

Various factors made Palmer anxious to remove all friendly Indians to the permanent reservations as soon as possible. Foremost was the problem of ensuring the safety of the Indians. Numerous Indian women and children had been murdered during the fall of 1855 and white threats of general extermination were becoming more frequent. In the fall and winter of 1855 the Portland Oregonian and the Oregon City Oregon Argus contained articles which proclaimed "These inhuman butchers and bloody
fiends must be met and conquered, vanquished--yes, EXTERMINATED; or we can never hope for, or expect peace, prosperity or safety". With the fighting spread out over a wide area there were few soldiers available to protect the peaceful Indians who were scattered throughout western Oregon on the eight or nine small temporary reservations, and the 334 Indians camping around Fort Lane. (Harger 1972:29) In addition to the need to ensure the safety of the reservation Indians, it was difficult and expensive to provide for the various reservations. Palmer hoped to be able to stretch his limited appropriations and provide for everyone when they were concentrated in one or two locations. (Harger 1972:30)

By the end of 1855 the Coast and Grand Ronde Reservations had been established and Superintendent Palmer was ready to begin removal of the Indians. However, there was much opposition to these plans in Oregon. Settlers and miners either wished for the eradication of the Indians, or wanted them taken anywhere but their own backyard. Meetings of angry citizens protested both wasting good land on Indians and settling potential hostiles near the Willamette Valley settlements. Threats were made to massacre any Indians moving through the Willamette Valley on their way to the Coast or Grand Ronde Reservations. (Harger 1972:33) On December 18, 1855, twenty-five settlers from Dallas held a public meeting of protest. They warned that if their protests were not heeded, steps would be taken to expel the Indians from the country. It is interesting to note, however, that John E. Lyle, who lived nearer to the Grand Ronde Reservation than anyone else who attended this meeting, told Palmer that the citizens living nearest to the Reservation had not bothered to attend the meeting. Furthermore, he had not heard any of his neighbors complain about the Grand Ronde Reservation. Lyle told Palmer that he supposed that if any complaint should be registered, the people living the closest to the Indians would be the first to do so. (Spaid 1950:223-224)
Protest was not limited to community meetings. On December 21, 1855, the Oregon Legislative Assembly sent a memorial to Congress urging it not to confirm the Executive Order establishing the Coast Reservation. The Legislature based its opposition on the following points: The Reservation 1) cut off access to the Pacific Coast and use of the bays and inlets; 2) bounded the Willamette Valley on the west for 100 miles and although for some distance there were mountains, numerous passes would permit easy access for the Indians to descend upon the settlements and then flee to the wilderness; 3) contained lands more valuable for agricultural and commercial purposes than the land the Indians then occupied. Point three of the Resolution went on to say that, in any case, the Indians were opposed to removal. Finally, the Resolution stated that the policy of removing Indians from useless and wild lands to the borders of the oldest settlements was contrary to governmental policy in the past and was dangerous to the peace and safety of the country. Palmer’s policy was "impracticable and visionary". (Spaid 1950:225-226) Then on January 8, 1856, the Legislature passed a memorial to President Pierce calling for Palmer’s removal as Superintendent because of his alleged membership in the Know-Nothing Party and poor handling of Indian affairs. (Harger 1972:34)

Those who opposed the establishment of the Coast and Grand Ronde Reservations were well organized and very vocal. The press, which tended to be anti-Indian, gave much room to their opinions but often either refused to publish opinions in support of the Indians and/or the western Oregon reservations proposed by Superintendent Palmer, or demanded payment to publish pro-Indian articles. John Beeson, author of *A Plea for the Indians*, felt that there were many in Oregon who approved of the plans to save the Indians from extinction but they were not active in their support. He wrote to Palmer that he had found "more or less sympathizers and Friends in every place I have been, but it is all Private, rather passive in its nature. No one has offered material aid or active assistance, yet the moral sentiment of all approve."

(Spaid 1950:238)
Despite the growing local opposition to the Coast and Grand Ronde Reservations, Superintendent Palmer went forward with his plans for removal, and threatened to call in troops to "shoot down the citizens" who resisted the movement of the Indians to their reservation. Troops, however, which Palmer needed both to protect and control the Indians, were in short supply because of renewed fighting which broke out in southwest Oregon in January, 1856. Additionally, the Indians on the southwest Oregon temporary reservations were reluctant to move during the winter months. The winter of 1855-56 was unusually hard in southwest Oregon, with deep snows and extreme cold, and many of Indians were sick or lacked adequate clothing and shoes. The Indians were also fearful of being attacked enroute. Despite these obstacles Palmer pressed ahead. He finally persuaded the Indians to move, and he organized a small armed guard of Indian sub-agents and citizens to escort the Indians. (Harger 1972:34-35)

Between January and April, 1856, approximately 1,500 friendly Indians (Harger 1972:35); the Lower Umpqua, Rogue River, Shasta, Klamath, and Modoc; walked or rode in wagons under Army escort to Grand Ronde (Kent 1973:3). They travelled under extreme conditions of intense cold, bad roads, scanty food, inadequate clothing, and insufficient wagons for the old and sick. One Indian was murdered enroute and many died from the harsh conditions. Originally Palmer had planned to send the Rogue Indians on to the Coast Reservation, but after their arrival at Grand Ronde he decided that they could stay. The Rogues had been peaceful, they were in deteriorated physical and emotional condition after the terrible removal, and the Coast Reservation was almost completely unimproved. By April, 1856, the temporary reservations in the Umpqua and Rogue Valleys had been abandoned. (Harger 1972:35-36) [In the summer of 1857 most of the Klamath and Modoc were returned to southern Oregon (Kent 1973:3).]
Superintendent Palmer now began planning the removal of the Indians from the temporary reservations on the southern coast, but, before this next phase of the removal could begin fighting had broken out. During the early winter of 1855-56, the Indians in the Port Orford district were relatively calm and cooperative. Most stayed near the small, temporary reservations for protection from the miners. Then, in mid-February, Indians from the upper Rogue River and lower coast began arriving in the area, urging retaliation for past grievances. Soon afterward, on February 22, 1856, Ben Wright, the special Indian sub-agent of the Port Orford region, and Captain John Poland, head of the Southern Oregon Volunteers, were killed near Gold Beach. It is thought that this action may have been a revenge killing for the massacre of about forty Modocs at a peace talk in 1852 by volunteers under Ben Wright’s command. Fighting quickly spread. Seven scattered settlements were attacked, a fort was besieged, sixty houses were burned and a total of thirty-one whites were killed. (Harger 1972:36-37)

Volunteer companies reorganized all over southwest Oregon, indiscriminately attacking and destroying Indian camps. Skirmishing continued all during the spring of 1856 along the coast, and in the Coquille and lower Umpqua Valleys. Conditions in the temporary reservations near Port Orford and the mouth of the Rogue began to deteriorate as they became filled with peaceful Indians seeking protection, as well as bands that had surrendered. Removal, however, had to wait until regular troops could be obtained to escort the Indians. Troops finally became available in June, 1856, after the Rogue War was concluded in late May. By May 30 most of the Rogue bands had turned over their guns and had agreed to go to the Coast Reservation. By Mid-June approximately 700 Indians were moving under troop escort down the Rogue River toward Port Orford. Meanwhile other troops were moving up the coast from California, bring the Chetcos and Pistol River Indians with them. (Harger 1972:37,39)
Superintendent Palmer proceeded to Port Orford and began making plans to remove to the Coast Reservation the hundreds of Coast Indians already camped nearby. On June 21, 1856, he left Port Orford on a steamship filled with about seven hundred friendly Indians from the nearby temporary reservation - mainly Tututnis, Chasta-Skotons, and Umpquas. The steamship went first to Portland where the Indians changed to river boats for the trip up the Willamette and Yamhill Rivers to Dayton, and then overland to the coast. Although Palmer felt that this route was easier on the Indians than the overland trip taken to Grand Ronde earlier in the year, it was still very difficult and frightening. (Harger 1972:39) Seasickness was a problem for the Indians and some tried to jump overboard and swim back to shore. Many were afraid that they were going to be shot and then thrown into the ocean. Each Indian was allowed to take only one package or pack with them, and many decided to bring food. Virtually all of their belongings had to be left behind. (Kent 1973:3) The overland portion of the trip was also difficult. Mountain roads were flooded with rain and blocked by fallen timber, and were nearly impassible to the wagons carrying the old and children. (Harger 1972:39-40)

Before the first group had even arrived at the Coast Reservation a second steamship left Port Orford on July 8 with about seven hundred more Indians - Chastacostas, Rogues, Gallice Creeks, Applegate Creeks, and Cow Creek Umpquas. Meanwhile in late June, 1856, the last band of Rogues had finally surrendered and joined the Chetcos and Pistol Rivers forming a group of about 250 who were marched 125 miles up the coast to the Coast Reservation. (Harger 1972:39-40) These three mass removals cleared most of the Indians from Southwest Oregon. Four small tribes of coast Indians, the Coos, Lower Umpqua, Alsea, and Siuslaw, remained in the Winchester Bay and Alsea Bay areas and later composed the Umpqua (later Alsea) Sub-Agency. By autumn of 1856 Palmers removal policy had been completed. (Harger 1972:41)
SILETZ RESERVATION

As explained above, the area that became the Siletz Reservation was located in the northern half of the Coast Reservation, between the Yaquina and Salmon Rivers. Most of the Indians that went to the Siletz Reservation were from southwest Oregon (Harger 1972:1). Indian Bureau records and ethnographic studies indicate that at Siletz there were approximately thirty name designations. About half of the names listed are tribal divisions and the other half are band names. The tribes were the Alsea, Chasta Scotons, Coos, Coquille, Chetco, Nestucca, Rogue River (Takelma), Port Orford, Shasta, Siuslaw, Tillamook, Tututni, Umpqua, and Yaquina. Major band names were Cow Creek, Joshua, Gallice Creek, Flores Creek, Euchee, Applegate, Nehalem, Siletz, Chasta Costa, Sixes, Noltnatnah, Mac-en-noot-c-way, Delwashe, and Pistol River. [Note that the spelling varies from authority to authority, and that there is no absolute consensus on the usage of the names.] (Kent 1973:3,5)

It was a very diverse group of people who found themselves living together on the Siletz Reservation. Their customs, diets, and physical attributes, varied greatly. Communication was a problem, because there were seven different languages spoken - Athapaskan, Yakonan, Kusan, Takilman, Shastian or Hokan, Salishan, Chinookan, and Shahaptian. Chinook jargon, the Northwest trading language, had to be used by the Indians in order to communicate with each other. Their attitudes toward white people and reservation life differed greatly. The Rogue River, Shasta, and Coquille had been at war with the Army and they were far from home in a strange region where the climate, and foods were very different. These people had left most of their possessions behind and were destitute. Reservation life was a radical change for them. By contrast the Siuslaw, Tillamook, and Yaquina, had never been at war with the white people and they were still in their homes, which had become part of the reservation. Their life went on much the same as it always had for many years, until white encroachment began to shrink the Siletz Reservation, and they were forced to move closer to the Agency. (Kent 1973:5)
In June, 1853, Superintendent Joel Palmer had described his vision of how the Coast and Grand Ronde Reservations should provide for the Indians.

There they must be guarded from the pestiferous influence of degraded white men, and restrained by proper laws from violence and wrong among themselves. Let comfortable houses be erected for them, seeds and proper implements furnished, and instructions and encouragement given them in cultivation of the soil. Let schoolhouses be erected, and teachers employed to instruct their children, and let the missionaries of the Gospel of peace be encouraged to dwell among them. Let completeness of plan, energy, patience, and perseverance characterize the efforts... (Spald 1950:95)

The reality of the Siletz Reservation could hardly have been more different.

The early years at Siletz Reservation were the worst for those Indians who had come from outside the area and were settled near the Agency. Very little preparation had been made before the first Indians arrived in late summer, 1856. The Agency site had been designated only weeks earlier, and no improvements such as roads or buildings had been built. No settlers had worked the land here - the Siletz Reservation was a raw, untamed wilderness. Before winter came there was only just time to build an Agency office and some dwellings for the Indians. (Harger 1972:45-46) However, many of the Indians had to provide their own housing, which proved inadequate for the colder, wetter climate. The Coquilles, for example, built a long-house and small huts for shelter. They lived off the land, since there was very little food provided for them. (Kent 1973:7)

A first hand account of the early days of the Siletz Reservation was given by J. Ross Browne in his report on the condition of the Indian reservations in the Territories of Oregon and Washington dated November 17, 1857.
Agent R.B. Metcalfe took charge of this reservation on the 20th of August, 1856. It was not until December, however, that he was located on the ground. No work was done prior to the 1st of January, 1857. The rain commenced on the 25th of November, and continued, with an intermission of only eighteen days, till the latter part of March following. On this account great difficulties and hardships were experienced, and but for the extraordinary firmness and energy of Agent Metcalfe the Indians would have abandoned the reservation. I consider that great credit is due to him for the manner in which he preserved order among these wild and warlike tribes under so many disadvantageous circumstances; and it is a matter of surprise how they ever got through the winter. When Mr. Metcalfe reached the reservation there were neither tents nor buildings of any kind upon it. There was no provision to support the large bands of Indians soon after congregated there. Dense floods of rain were pouring down day after day without cessation. The whole country was deluged with water. The Indians, naturally averse to being taken away from their homes, not knowing what was going to be done with them, strangers to the arts of civilization, disappointed in the fulfillment of nearly all the treaty stipulations, and suffering from cold and partial starvation, were in a disaffected and dangerous condition. To add to these sources of trouble, a schooner laden with a cargo of flour was wrecked on the 9th of December at the mouth of the Siletz river [sic]. In this was centered all their hopes of relief. The flour was packed ashore and carried up on the beach, thirty feet above high water mark. It was piled up there ready to be carried to the reservation, which they were in the act of commencing, when another storm arose, and drove up the waters of the ocean to such a height that nearly the whole amount saved from the wreck was washed away, and lost. In this way fifty-five thousand pounds of flour, one ton of potatoes, and other substantial stores for winter use, were destroyed at this inopportune crisis.

The mouth of the Siletz is thirty miles north of the Yaqueima bay [sic] and five miles south of the Salmon river [sic] station, where most of the Indians were at that time located. There were no houses for purposes of storage north of Yaqueima, and no shelter for the Indians against the inclemency of the season.

In a state of great destitution they were promptly moved down to the Yukina [sic], where a cargo of flour had previously arrived. This they rapidly consumed, having no other stores to supply the cravings of hunger. To prevent absolute starvation, the agent in the meantime contracted for a supply at the King’s valley [sic] mills, distant thirty miles over the mountains. It was impossible to deliver it by means of wagons, and even for pack mules the mountains were then impassable. On the summits there was from two to four feet of snow. Bands of the strongest and most reliable of the Indians were engaged to cross the mountains and pack this flour to the reservation, which they succeeded in doing often the most incredible hardships. They packed
upon their backs in this way twenty thousand pounds of flour....

On the 7th of April another cargo of flour reached the Yaquima. What had been received from King’s valley was consumed, and by this last arrival it was hoped that further suffering would be prevented; upon examination, however, it was found that the supposed flour was an inferior article of shorts and sweeps ground over, and, of course, only fit for cattle....To deliver ground shorts and sweeps...was a fraud of the most palpable and enormous character. The agents, however, had no choice but to receive it. The Indians were in a state of starvation. In a few days more they would have been driven by the laws of self-preservation to abandon the reservation and seek relief by attacking the settlements....Owing to its inferior quality [the flour] made many of the Indians sick. They got the idea that the whites had poisoned it, and it was with the utmost difficulty that the agent pacified them. He ate freely of the flour himself in their presence, and they saw that all the white employes used the same article. On the 29th of April a cargo of thirty-one thousand pounds arrived. This was even worse than the other... On the 26th of May a third cargo of [flour] arrived...this last was nothing but the poorest kind of mill sweeps, worth about two cents per pound. In the meantime every effort has been made to procure supplies from other sources; but government credit, through the non-fulfillment of the promises of its agents, had become so depreciated no person could be found to trust to the remote chances of getting paid....

The buildings on this reservation consist of the following: one office and storehouse, built of hewn logs with bed rooms attached; used by the agent, clerk and other employes as a dwelling. One large warehouse, with bed rooms, one issue house, one cook and messhouse for employes; one blacksmith shop, one school house; one slaughter house, one stable, one large barn; one hospital, one warehouse at upper depot on coast; a few shanties for fishermen at the mouth of Yaquima bay; twenty-seven Indian board houses; and timbers and boards ready for thirty more, which will probably be completed in a month. The house of the agency are all built of substantial hewn logs neatly put together, and with good shingle roofs....

A licensed store is kept on the reservation by Mr. Bledsoe, who sells clothing, sugar, coffee, tea, &c., to the Indians upon the certificates of the agent. These certificates are given to the Indians who are hired to work at a compensation of $30 per month. Good Indian woodsawyers earn from two to three dollars per day....Of stock, thirty-two oxen have been purchased....

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Several hundred Indians died that first winter from measles, various other diseases, poor diets, and exposure. Those Indians who came from the warm and dry southwest corner of the state found the Siletz to be "cold, sickly and destitute of game". The Coos, Coquille, and Port Orford, tried many times to escape by sending small parties of women and children down the coast. Most, however, were captured and returned by the Army. In March, 1857, after the first miserable winter about 1100 Joshuas, Chetcos, Coquilles, Tututnis, Chasta Costas, Port Orfords, and Rogue Rivers threatened to leave. (Kent 1973:5,7) Agent Metcalfe reported in 1857 that the Indians all express a strong desire to return to their native country, and appear to have a superstitious awe of having their bodies buried in a foreign land. Many of the more sensitive have died from a depression of the spirits, having failed in the last desperate struggle to regain their country... (Beckham 1977:150)

Subsistence

The primary goal of the Siletz Reservation was to teach the Indians to farm. However, during the period between 1856 and 1858 the emphasis was on setting up the reservation - somehow feeding the Indians, constructing some buildings and fences, keeping order, and collecting stragglers and escapees - rather than instructing the Indians in agriculture. (Harger 1972:57) Agent Metcalfe carried out experiments in agriculture in the early years. Although agriculture was thriving in the nearby Willamette Valley, little was known about farming in the Coast Range. Metcalfe knew almost nothing about the fertility of the land, the climate, the length of the growing season, or even what crops would grow there. (Harger 1972:45) However, some progress was made toward large-scale farming during this time. Land was broken, fences built, and crops experimented with. Most of this work was done by reservation employees and occasional hired laborers during this period. Those Indians who were willing to work in the fields were usually women - winning over the Indians to this unaccustomed work was a gradual process. By July, 1857, 400 acres had been enclosed, 300 of which were broken, and about 288 of these acres were planted. The primary crop was wheat, but they also planted oats, potatoes, turnips,
and peas. The wheat failed completely, and the other crops were only a partial success. By 1858, 625 acres had been fenced and plowed, 501 acres planted with a variety of crops. Again the yields were poor. (Harger 1972:58) In 1858 Superintendent Nesmith stated that "The entire reservation is the worst possible selection that could be made for agricultural pursuits, and was so worthless that at the time of its selection it was almost entirely destitute of white settlers..." (Beckham 1977:153)

Food shortages were chronic in 1857 and 1858. In July, 1858, Agent Metcalfe described the difficulties of living at Siletz.

The country assigned to these people is poorly adapted to stock raising, there being little or no grass, except on the small prairies, which will be required for cultivation, and the wild game, which was tolerably abundant last year, have all been driven back to the high mountains. As the spring salmon do not run up any of these streams, it leaves us entirely destitute of food during the spring and summer, except as has been provided by the government. (Beckham 1977:150)

To feed the Siletz population the agent had to rely on government subsistence which was inadequate for a number of reasons. The primary problem was a lack of funding. The Siletz had two main sources of operating funds - treaty annuities and special congressional appropriations. Because the Coast Treaty was not ratified, three-quarters of the Indians at Siletz received no annuities. The Siletz Reservation received less than five thousand dollars a year, which meant that each Indian received less than three dollars annually for subsistence and clothing. Congressional appropriations were also meager. (Harger 1972:53) When supplies were purchased, it was not uncommon for the shipments to be lost due to accident or theft, and the government was sometimes cheated by unscrupulous merchants. (Harger 1972:47)

By 1862 the Coast Treaty of 1855 was still not ratified due to active Congressional opposition to treaties that dealt with the Indians as quasi-independent nations and that cost large sums. This last argument gained strength in government circles as Civil
War expenses increased. Additionally, government preoccupation with the Civil War and the Southern Indian Superintendency meant that the Oregon Superintendency received few special appropriations. Chronic under-funding of the Siletz Reservation meant continued hardship for the Indians. Funds were not available for the tools and skilled labor needed to construct log or frame houses. In 1862 many Indians still lived in bark-brush structures and sweathouse-type houses. Hundreds of Indians died between 1857 and 1861, but because more Indians were being brought in during this period, the population remained near two thousand. Winters were times of starvation, and in the spring many families moved to the coast or to the mountains to forage for fish, game, and green shoots. In 1861 and 1862 many Indians escaped the reservation and headed for their former homes. (Harger 1972:62-72)

Early efforts at self sufficiency were unsuccessful. In 1859 a flour mill was constructed on an inadequate stream in a narrow gully, and was useless. Another gristmill, built in 1860, and a sawmill, built in 1861, were also poorly located on small streams. These mills were damaged when heavy fall and winter rains back-flooded, shifting the soil. By 1863 neither of these mills were operational. (Harger 1972:63)

Slow progress was made in farming efforts. The amount of cultivated land between 1859 and 1864 was approximately 800 acres. Progress was hampered by the lack of oxen and plows, all manner of farming utensils, wagons, fresh healthy seed for planting, adequate skilled employees, and by disorder among the Indians. (Harger 1972:61,63) In 1859 the various Indian groups were organized onto four separate farms. The middle and upper Rogue Indians were sent to the Rogue, or Upper Farm, that was located on the Siletz River about eight miles northeast of the Agency buildings. The Chasta Costas, Coquilles, Joshuas, Mackenootenays, Tootootenays, and any Indians that the Agent considered potential "trouble-causers", were assigned to the large Agency Farm that surrounded the Agency buildings. The small Chasta Farm for the Chasta-Skotons was located near the Agency. The Chetcos, Euchres,
Flores Creeks, Port Orfords, Sixes Rivers, and Noltananas were assigned to the large Lower Farm located on the Siletz River eight miles north of the Agency Farm. (Harger, p.74) The Indians also had their own small family garden plots (Harger 1972:102).

Although slow but steady progress was made in growing food, hunger among the Indians remained a problem throughout the 1860’s. As a result of the continuing impossibility of making a living on the reservation, some Indians were given passes to work outside the reservation for wages to buy food and clothing. Many Siletz Indians worked for settlers in the Willamette Valley or around Yaquina Bay harvesting grain, picking fruit, or doing laundry. A few Indians scouted for military expeditions in southeastern Oregon, while others earned a dollar a day digging in the gold mines. (Harger 1972:81) In 1862 passes were given to some of the Rogue River Indians allowing them to go back to southern Oregon to hunt. Sometimes the Indians refused to return to Siletz, and the Army was sent to bring them back. (Kent 1973:15)

Although poverty and disease were widespread, health generally improved during the 1860’s because of the increased farm produce and better constructed houses. The population remained between 2,000 and 2,300 during this decade. (Harger 1972:82-83) Improvements included the construction of roads, fences, mills, houses, (Harger 1972:97) and the planting of orchards (Kent 1973:17).

**Education**

Although a schoolhouse was among the first buildings constructed at the Siletz Agency in 1857, Superintendent James Nesmith advised that it be abandoned, probably because of cost. Some of the Siletz children attended school at Grand Ronde. (Kent 1973:12-13) The school reopened in 1860 for a short time, but was soon closed again (Kent 1973:15). Students exhibited a general lack of interest, reflecting the general depression and ill health common at Siletz. By 1863 the schoolhouse was in a dilapidated condition, without doors or windows, and had become a stock shelter.
In 1863, former Army Captain J.B. Clark and his wife brought renewed energy and interest to the teaching of the children. Mr. and Mrs. Clark repaired the school and began the manual-labor system of education. The Siletz school became a boarding school where, in addition to basic academic studies, the boys learned gardening and various vocational trades such as carpentry, and horseshoeing, while the girls were taught homemaking skills such as cooking, sewing, and knitting. They were also instructed in the white man's concepts of morals, manners, and hygiene. The parents of the children objected to their children living away from home. They realized that the boarding school was deliberately designed to prevent children from learning their traditional culture as well as their tribal languages. From 1863 to 1868 education continued at Siletz, based on the model set up by the Clarks. In 1868, the school went back to a day school, due to the cost involved in running a boarding school. (Kent 1973:15-17)

Religion

Beginning in 1860, Catholic Priest Father Croquet began work at the Grand Ronde Reservation. Several times each year he went to Siletz to hold mass among the Indians. But soon the Siletz Reservation became to province of the Methodist Church. In the 1860’s the federal government decided that the various churches of the United States would receive exclusive rights to work on reservations. Siletz was given to the Methodists, who strongly objected to Father Croquet preaching among "its Indians". (Beckham 1977:164-165)
Reduction of the Siletz Reservation

The groundwork for the eventual dismantling of the Coast Reservation was laid even as it was being formed. The Executive Order that created the Coast Reservation was done with the understanding that Congress could later reduce it. The Oregon Legislatures' 1855 memorial protesting the formation of the Coast Reservation shows that Oregon businessmen were already looking forward to colonization of the Oregon Coast. By the early 1860's white pressure against Indian land began again in western Oregon. Large valuable beds of oysters were discovered near Yaquina Bay in 1861, and late in 1863 the Commissioner of Indian Affairs approved a contract between the Siletz Reservation and a San Francisco company allowing the company exclusive rights to the oysters. In return the Reservation received fifteen cents per basket, which amounted to several hundred dollars over the next two years. The money was invested in improvements on the Reservation. However, in 1863 Captain Richard Hillyer, who worked for another company, sailed into Yaquina Bay and also began gathering oysters. The Agent demanded that Hillyer leave, which he did, but Hillyer promptly returned from San Francisco to collect more oysters. The Agent and the Army commander at Siletz Blockhouse arrested Hillyer in February, 1864. He was soon released and then sued the government for interference with his business. Although the Indian Department won the case, the tide of white encroachment could not now be stopped. (Harger 1972:85-86)

Ironically, the establishment of the Coast Reservation had shown that the Yaquina Bay estuary could be used by sailing ships. Each year, commencing in the 1850's, supply ships came into Yaquina Bay to carry goods to Depot Slough where they were then taken by horse or mule team to the Siletz Agency headquarters. (Beckham 1977:161) On March 3, 1863, Congress permitted the establishment of a townsite on the shore of Yaquina Bay. Later that year, several buildings were constructed on the Bay and armed men moved in to protect them. As word spread about the good harbor at Yaquina Bay, farmers and businessmen in the Willamette Valley began to envision a
great port at the Bay. In 1864 a wagon road was constructed from Corvallis to the Yaquina Bay tidewater, and before long trade had begun with ocean-going vessels from San Francisco unloading goods at the Bay which wagons then carried to Corvallis. Near Seal Rocks, there were two beach gold-mining operations. (Harger 1972:86-87)

Settlers in the Willamette Valley wrote to their congressmen demanding that the Siletz Reservation be reduced, and urged that Yaquina Bay be opened for white settlement. On December 21, 1865, President Andrew Johnson signed an executive order which cut the Coast Reservation into two parts. The Siletz Reservation now became the area between the Siletz and the Salmon Rivers. In the middle of the Coast Reservation the President opened up the Yaquina Tract which began two miles south of the Siletz Agency buildings and extended to the Alsea River, including the Yaquina and Alsea Bays and estuaries. (Harger 1972: 87-88) The remaining area to the south of Alsea Bay became the Alsea Reservation (Figure 7.3). The government gave no compensation to the Indians for this loss of land, village sites, or resources. (Beckham 1977:162) The Indians who had been settled near the Bay were bitter and rebellious, as settlers seized their garden plots, houses, and fences. These Indians were supposed to move to the Agency Farm, but some refused and either escaped to southern Oregon or settled among the whites, begging for whiskey and food. (Harger 1972:88)
Figure 7.3. 1876 Map of Oregon showing the division of the Coast Reservation into two sections, as per the Executive Order issued on December 21, 1865, and the extent of development in the Yaquina Tract. (Preston 1978:26)
The Army

Before Superintendent Joel Palmer left office in 1856 he requested the Army Department to station a troop of soldiers at the Siletz Agency. Superintendent Palmer stated that

Whilst I do not apprehend any immediate danger of collision between our citizens and the Indians upon this reservation, I regard it of the utmost importance that a military command should be temporarily established in its vicinity ...They are now entirely defenseless, and, as an act of justice, entitled to our protection, and if allowed to remain at peace would soon be able to nearly subsist themselves.

The Army was charged with the responsibility of protecting the Indians from attack by settlers, but they were also there to prevent the Indians from leaving and to give the agents more support and control over the Indians. Three forts were established around the boundaries of the Coast Reservation. They were Fort Umpqua, at the mouth of the Umpqua River, Fort Hoskins in Kings Valley, and Fort Yamhill near Valley Junction. (Kent 1973:4) The Army also maintained a blockhouse near the Siletz Agency, which was manned by twenty-five soldiers. (Kent 1973:10) Fort Hoskins was located thirty-five miles from the Siletz Agency. (Kent 1973:11)

Although there were no incidents where whites tried to enter the Reservation to harm the Indians, it is quite probable that the presence of Forts Yamhill, Hoskins, and Umpqua, are to be thanked for this. Certainly the virulent anti-Indian sentiments of many of the settlers in the Willamette Valley are well documented. In one incident in 1864 rumors of an impending Indian attack swept the Willamette Valley, and some called for the settlers to attack the Indians first. Rumors in turn circulated among the Siletz Indians that the whites were planning to attack them and take away their reservation lands, frightening and exciting the Indians for weeks. (Harger 1972:84) The value of Fort Hoskins and Fort Yamhill in keeping either side from doing something rash is apparent.
The major official interaction that the soldiers had with the Indians seems to have been in a police capacity. Soldiers were often dispatched to retrieve Indians who had run away. They were also often called upon to calm unrest among the Indians on the Reservation. The first Indian agent at Siletz, Courtney Walker, was greatly aided by the Army, especially in the control of the Indians who would have fled the reservation if they had not been under guard. (Kent 1973:4) Very early in the history of the Coast Reservation, in the summer of 1856, Captain Sheridan was called on to rescue the Indian Agent. Sheridan stated that

...the Coquille Indians on the Siletz, and down near the Yaquina Bay, became, on account of hunger and prospective starvation, very much excited and exasperated, getting beyond the control of their agent, and even threatening his life, so a detachment of troops was sent out to set things to rights and I took command of it. I took with me most of the company, and arrived at Yaquina Bay in time to succor the agent, who for some days had been besieged in a log hut by the Indians and had almost abandoned hope of rescue. Having brought over with me over the mountains a few head of beef cattle for the hungry Indians...I had six heeves killed [for the use of the Indians]... the situation at Yaquina Bay did not seem very safe, notwithstanding the supply of beef we brought; and the possibility that the starving Indians might break out was ever present, so to anticipate any further revolt, I called for more troops...When this reinforcement arrived, the Indians saw the futility of further demonstrations against their agent, who they seemed to think was responsible for the insufficiency of food...

During the first few years after the Reservation was established, disorder reigned at Siletz. The Indians were unhappy there, especially the southwest tribes who wanted to go back to the Table Rock Reservation. There were numerous clashes between the tribes and some murders. During the period between 1856 and 1858 hungry Indians staged a couple of minor rebellions, and many tried to escape. (Harger 1972:49,52) Soldiers were often called in during disputes among the Indians. These disputes often had to do with the practice of killing shamans who had treated a patient who died or who were suspected of causing diseases. Soldiers sometimes had to protect shamans, or when a shaman was killed, they were charged with arresting and imprisoning those who were guilty. John’s Band of Rogue River Indians were a disruptive element at
the Reservation. When one of them killed a Siletz Indian, the Army was sent in to disarm Old John. (Johnson 1980:9-10) In the case of Captain Hillyer and his pilfering of reservation oysters, the Army was called on to arrest him.

Although the Army was indespensible to the Siletz Agents in keeping order, the Indian Agents criticized the soldiers stationed at Fort Hoskins for being a disruptive influence. The hard-drinking soldiers willingly supplied liquor to the Indians, some of whom spent their time in the woods around the fort instead of farming. Some Indians spent their wages on whiskey and gambling rather than on farming implements or stock. Drinking made many Indians violent. (Harger 1972:83) Many of the soldiers kept Indian women. Bensell reported that "These Indians all of them sell their women to any persons wishing to purchase. Price according to age and appearance some $5 and other $50, and the whole tribe or tribes will see that the bargain is sustained." These relationships were officially censured, but continued just the same. After 1862 it was an offense for enlisted men to visit nearby Indian camps or for non-commissioned officers or privates to keep Indian women in quarters or spend the night out of quarters. (Johnson 1980:14) Some soldiers simply attacked and raped Indian women. (Harger 1972:83)

At Fort Umpqua a few of the soldiers married Indian women (Jones 1856). Although there are no known marriages between soldiers stationed at Fort Hoskins and Indian women, there is one documented case of what seems to have been a serious love for an Indian woman, rather than the more common casual relationships. Lt. H.H. Garber commanded Col. F, 4th Infantry at Fort Hoskins. His stubborn refusal to end his relationship with a Siletz woman eventually led to his imprisonment and suspension. In the spring of 1858 Lt. Garber took a Siletz woman with him to Ft. Vancouver. Both Agent Metcalfe and the woman's parents asked for her return. Lt. Garber returned the woman to the Reservation, but soon afterward, during the absence of Commanding Officer Auger, sent for her and kept her in the garrison. When Auger returned and learned of this he immediately ordered the Lieutenant to send the
woman back to the Reservation. Lt. Garber steadfastly refused to send her away. He was arrested and the woman sent back to Siletz. Still Garber protested his case to no avail. Lt. Garber was eventually released, but within a short time he died of a sudden illness on October 12, 1859. (Onstad 1964:187-188) There is no official account which explains the nature of his illness, but local stories insist that he died of a broken heart. Lt. Garber is the only Fort Hoskins soldier who is buried in Kings Valley.

At the outbreak of the Civil War in 1861, troops stationed at the blockhouse and the three forts surrounding the Coast Reservation were reduced to token forces because of the greater need for regular troops elsewhere. (Harger 1972:70) As early as 1862 Fort Hoskins could no longer effectively keep Indians on the Siletz Reservation. In 1856 the Fort had been positioned on the only trail between the reservation and Kings Valley. But by 1862, Commanding Officer Seidenstriker complained that there were at least ten passes being used over the mountains. (Johnson 1980:15) In 1862, Fort Umpqua was abandoned, apparently because it was thought that the desire of the Indians to escape the reservation had diminished to a low enough point as not to warrant the expense of the fort. (Kent 1973:16) However, many Indians took advantage of the closure of Fort Umpqua to attempt escape. Many escapes and several large round-ups occurred in 1863 and 1864. The soldiers from Fort Hoskins and the Siletz Blockhouse made two expeditions down the coast in April and July 1864, collecting several hundred Indians from southwest Oregon. (Harger 1972:91) By the summer of 1866 it was felt that the Army was no longer needed. The Agency blockhouse was closed, along with Forts Hoskins and Yamhill. (Kent 1973:20)
Post Script - 1865-1900

When Siletz Reservation Agent Ben Simpson left his position in 1871 he gave the following observation of the Siletz Reservation.

Here, they have been kept ever since as prisoners of war, supported by a removal and subsistence fund, appropriations for which, varying from $10,000 to $30,000, have been annually made by Congress. For sixteen years this such irregular, and uncertain charity, doled out to them from time to time...they have been fed upon promises that were made only to be broken...They have seen the white man gather in annually his golden harvests from the lands which they surrendered; and for all those sixteen long, weary years they have waited, and waited in vain, for the fulfillment of the pledges with which the white men bought those lands. (Kent 1973:20)

By the end of the 1860's farming was progressing with some success. By 1868, 1000 acres of Indian and Agency lands were under cultivation and another 1000 acres were enclosed in meadows and pastures. This was double the number of acres in 1863. In 1869 the Indians owned 190 calves and 160 pigs. (Harger 1972:81, 101)

On March 3, 1875 Congress finally officially established the Siletz Reservation. By this time 1,160,000 acres of the original Coast Reservation had been lost. The Siletz Reservation now consisted of 223,000 acres. The coastal boundaries were Cape Foulweather in the south and Cascade Head in the north. (Kent 1973:26) Also on March 3, 1875 the the Alsea Reservation was closed (Beckham 1977:162).
Figure 7.4. 1878 Map of Oregon showing reduced Siletz Reservation.  
(Preston 1978:32)
Figure 7.5. 1881 Map of Oregon showing reduced Siletz and Grand Ronde Reservations. (Preston 1978:36)
The final destruction of the Reservation during the Nineteenth Century came in 1887 with the Dawes Severalty Act or General Allotment Act, which assigned homesteads to individual Indians, much as the General Donation Land Claim (DLC) Act had for whites decades earlier. Typically, however, the granting of land under the Allotment act was much less generous than it had been under the DLC law. Allotments began to be assigned at Siletz in 1887, but the Indians of the Siletz Reservation did not officially agree to allotment until October 31, 1892. With allotment came the break up of the Indian land base and the destruction of tribal government. By the end of 1892 the Indians had filed on 536 allotments from the banks of the Salmon River to the shores of Siletz Bay. The total land held by the Indians after allotment was about 46,000 acres. The agreement of 1892 promised the Siletz that the tribal government, created in 1871, would retain five sections of timberland, nine acres for a cemetery and church, and four acres for a sawmill and lumberyard. (Beckham 1977:167-169) Unallotted land was ceded from the Siletz Reservation in 1894, and in 1895 the ceded land was opened for settlement to whites. (Kent 1973:33) Every year more people died than were born at Siletz. The population of Indians at the Siletz Reservation dropped from 2,026 in 1856 to 483 in 1900. (Beckham 1977:169)
Figure 7.6. 1900 Map of Oregon showing Siletz and Grand Ronde Reservations. (Preston 1978:42)
Oregon was declared a territory of the United States by an act of Congress on August 14, 1848. President Polk appointed Joseph Lane as territorial governor soon thereafter. Governor Lane arrived in the Oregon Territory in 1849 and issued a proclamation formalizing the establishment of the territorial government on March 3 of that year. Prior to Lane's arrival, the War Department dispatched a small token force from the regular Army to help police the new territory whose problems with the indigenous Indian population and white settlers were becoming increasingly difficult (Hoop 1929:346).

Two companies of the First Artillery sailed from New York in November, 1848 and arrived in Astoria on May 13, 1849. Company L, under the command of Major John Hathaway, continued on to the Hudson's Bay Company (HBC) post Fort Vancouver where they garrisoned just north of the old HBC post. The U.S. Army post which was established at the old HBC fort was also named Fort Vancouver. After a short stay in Astoria the remaining company transferred to Fort Nisqually, another old HBC post on the southern end of Puget Sound (Hoop 1929:346).

A regiment of mounted riflemen (1st Dragoons) was dispatched from Fort Leavenworth on May 10, 1849 for the Oregon Territory to assist the recently formed Oregon Militia in their dispatch of the "Cayuse War" and to protect immigrant trains coming into the territory. The Dragoons were under the command of Colonel William Loring. After an arduous overland journey which resulted in the loss of 45 freight wagons, 1 ambulance, over 300 horses and mules, and 70 men to death and desertion, the troops arrived in Oregon City during the winter of 1849-50. They set up a tent camp at Oregon City until proper accommodations could be provided at Fort Vancouver (Victor 1894:245-246). Soon after the troops arrival in Oregon City another 120 men deserted to the California gold fields (Hoop 1929:347).

On September 20, 1852, the Fourth Infantry, under the command of Lieutenant Colonel B.L. Bonneville, arrived at Fort Vancouver by ship. Due to its central location on the Columbia River near the mouth of the Willamette River, Fort Vancouver was selected as headquarters for military operations in the Oregon Territory (Hoop 1929:348).
By the Time the 4th Infantry arrived in the Pacific Northwest the Cayuse War was winding down but the discovery of gold in southwest Oregon was about to spawn another major conflict between the Indians of that region and a major influx of white and Chinese miners. The conflict that ensued became known as the Rogue River campaign by the military. Several small “one company” forts were established by the U.S. Army and Oregon Militia during the campaign. Most of these posts were abandoned by the end of the conflict in 1855-56 (Victor 1894, Hoop 1929:348). The Indian removal policies established by the United States Government in 1855 required that a new series of forts be established in western Oregon to keep the peace, however.

As discussed in the previous chapter, the solution to the Indian problem in the eyes of the Government was to establish a reservation system for Native American groups who were being displaced by the ever expanding immigrant population. Government officials felt that conflicts could be kept to a minimum if the white and Indian populations were kept separate. At the conclusion of the Rogue River campaign Joel Palmer, Superintendent of Indian Affairs, was determined to put the surviving Indians on reservations which he had established along the central Oregon coast and in the Grand Ronde Valley. The Coast Reservation stretched from just south of Tillamook Bay to the mouth of the Umpqua River. The crest of the Coast Range served as the Coast Reservation’s eastern boundary (Fig. 8.1).

Once the decision was made to establish the Coast Reservation, boundaries defined, and the location of Agency headquarters determined, a security network manned and administered by the United States Army was set in place. Allocation of troops to the reservations was justified as much for the protection of the Indians from incursions by whites as it was for the protection of the Indian agents and white settlers against the Indians.

Site Selection

One of the early descriptions of the Coast Reservation, and reasons for the placement of the military posts within it, is found in the following excerpt of a report attached to a letter dated September 11, 1856, from Secretary of War Jefferson Davis to Oregon Governor George Curry. The report was written by Colonel Robert Buchanan
concerning the disposition of troops "for the protection of the reservation" (WPA-1, Oregon State Archives).

In compliance with your request I submit the following memorandum of the measures taken to secure the safe-keeping of the Indians recently removed by me from southern Oregon to the Coast Reservation. The reservation is 125 miles long and about 2.5 miles wide - bounded on the west by the Pacific Ocean, and on the east and north by the coast range of mountains which are said to touch the coast at its northern extremity. From the existing settlements to the reservation there are as yet known but three passes over the mountains - one toward the north-eastern extremity, near the town of Dayton - another towards the middle, near the town of Corvallis... and the third at the southern extremity immediately along the coast. At these three points I have ordered new posts to be established and garrisoned as follows: At the first [Fort Yamhill], 2 companies, Capt. A. J. Smith's 1st Dragoons and Capt. D. Floyd-Jones' 4th Infantry. This post will be supplied from Fort Vancouver, by means of steamboats to Dayton, from whence it is distant 25 miles. At the second [Fort Hoskins], 1 company, Captain C. C. Auger, 4th Infantry. This will also be supplied from Vancouver, by way of Corvallis, distant about 25 miles, to which point steamboats are running regularly. At the third [Fort Umpqua] 1 company Capt. & Bvt. Major J. F. Reynolds, 3rd Artillery, which will be supplied from San Francisco, by way of the mouth of the Umpqua, from which it is distant 20 miles. Since the close of my campaign there have been removed to the reservation about 2,200 Indians, of which 1,225 were those who had been in arms and fighting against us. The commanding officers of Posts have positive orders not to allow any whites to visit the Reservation unless they be actually in the employment of the Superintendent of Indian affairs, and this officer is required to furnish them with a list of his employees. These arrangements, if not interfered with, will, in my opinion, ensure the tranquility of that section of the Territory. The Reservation abounds in game of various kinds, is well watered by several streams emptying into the Ocean, which affords a bountiful supply of salmon and other fish - contains sufficient arable land for raising all their necessary grain and vegetables - is heavily timbered and rich in such nuts, roots, and other articles of food as these Indians have always been accustomed to, - and has not yet been considered as worth occupying by the whites.

As noted by Col. Buchanan, there were only three known routes from the interior into the Coast Reservation in 1856. Each of these access points would be garrisoned. The northern trail was secured by the construction of Fort Yamhill on high ground overlooking the Grand Ronde Valley and the nearby Grand Ronde Agency administrative headquarters (Fig. 8.1). Fort Yamhill, named after the nearby river, was the first of the three forts to be constructed. Construction began at Fort Yamhill on March 25, 1856. The post was completed the following year (Adams 1991).
Figure 8.1. Location of Forts associated with the Coast Indian Reservation, 1856 to 1866. (adapted from Barth 1959)
General John Wool, commander of the Department of the Pacific had intended that the southern access to the reservation be secured by the construction of a fort at the mouth of the Siuslaw River. This intent is mirrored in Buchanan’s report. On July 28, 1856, Captain Joseph Stewart, commanding the 3rd Artillery, arrived at the mouth of the Umpqua River and established a temporary encampment. The Umpqua camp served as a base of operation while Captain Stewart scouted the coast to the north for a suitable site for his fort. Having rejected the Siuslaw River site as too isolated and difficult to provision, Stewart briefly considered a site near the mouth of the Siltcoos Lake outlet before rejecting that location for similar reasons. By mid-August 1856, it was determined that the best location for the fort was at the mouth of the Umpqua River and on August 17, 1856, confirmation that the fort would be located in that vicinity arrived from San Francisco. The post was named Fort Umpqua and was sited on the north bank of the Umpqua River about 2 miles above its mouth (Beckham 1969) (fig. 8.1).

The central access to the reservation, over a difficult trail from the southern end of Kings Valley to the expansive upper valley of the Siletz River near present day Logsden, was to be secured by a post located near the Siletz Agency headquarters on the Siletz River. Captain Christopher Colon Auger (Fig. 8.2), commanding Company G, 4th Infantry, was charged with locating and overseeing operations at this post. Captain Auger and his company were temporarily garrisoned at Fort Yamhill while they scouted a location for their post (Adams 1991:24). Since Captain Auger’s lieutenants were assigned elsewhere, he was able to temporarily attach 2nd Lieutenant Philip Sheridan to his command. On July 21, 1856, Captain Auger directed Lieutenant Sheridan to find a location for his post that would properly command the passes leading into the central reservation. Captain Auger was unable to head this scouting party as he was ill at the time (Fort Hoskins Letter Book July 21, 1856). In this same letter to his superior, Major W. W. Mackall, Captain Auger foreshadows a problem he would face in strategically locating his post. “In case it is found that the proper point to command these passes is situated without the line of the reserve shall I nevertheless fix upon it and declare the usual military reserve connecting it if possible with the Indian reserve”.

On July 21, 1856, Lieutenant Sheridan, accompanied by Joel Palmer as guide, and their escort traveled from Fort Yamhill (not yet named) over to the coast then south to the Siletz River. They then traveled up the Siletz Valley and crossed the pass to the
Luckiamute River drainage and Kings Valley. Lieutenant Sheridan selected a site he deemed most practical for a garrison. Captain Auger joined his advance party on July 25 and concurred with Sheridan's assessment of the site (Onstad 1964:178). In a letter dated July 30, 1856, to Major Mackall (Fort Hoskins Letter Book July 30, 1856), Captain Auger described the location of their new fort.

It is at the extreme western limits of settlements in the vicinity of the pass and the entire country between it and the reservation one mass of mountains without grass or timber. The same may be said of the country towards the coast until you strike a prairie on the Siletz River about twenty-five miles from here and about twelve miles within the reservation. There is but one opinion on the impracticability of establishing a post between this point and that prairie and the question therefore resolves itself into a site selection between the two. The object of the Post being to keep the Indians away from the settlements and the whites from the Reservation and to afford protection to settlers in case the Indians should ever break out - each one of these objects can be better accomplished with the Post at this point than at the prairie, inasmuch as all intercourse between the settlements and the Reserve must pass through this point and therefore can be regulated here, whereas at the prairie there are twelve miles within the reserve upon which intercourse can be carried on between whites and Indians for a long time before it would be known at the post. In the same way the Indians not being interdicted from those twelve miles between the post and the eastern line of the reserve could pass from thence into the settlements without restraint.

Captain Auger goes on to observe that a sawmill was located less than a third of a mile from the site and there was also a flour mill nearby. He notes that there was "one of the finest agricultural valleys in the Territory about it, where Bacon, fresh meat, vegetables and forage can be procured in ample quantities for the use of the post". He continues to argue that "the only supplies required from Depot are small rations and Quarter Master Stores". He concludes his argument by noting that the Kings Valley site would reduce the construction costs of the fort as well as keep supply costs down compared to having to pack everything over "an almost impracticable trail on pack animals" into the distant prairie location (Fort Hoskins Letter Book July 30, 1856).

On July 26, 1856, Captain Auger named the new post Fort Hoskins in honor of Lieutenant Charles Hoskins killed at Monterey, Mexico, September 21, 1846. Lieutenant Hoskins was killed while serving as adjutant in the same regiment as Auger during the Spanish American War (Hoop 1929:351).
General Wool responded to Auger’s selection of the site for Fort Hoskins on August 1, 1856, “conveying the instructions of the General Commanding that Fort Hoskins be established on the Reserve” (Fort Hoskins Letter Book August 10, 1856). Captain Auger staunchly defended the site he had chosen in a letter to Colonel Mackall, which would be forwarded to General Wool, dated August 10. Auger once again reiterated the economic arguments for placing the fort in Kings Valley adding to his argument the cost of building a wagon road some 20 miles through the Coast Range which would be needed to supply a fort on the upper prairie of the Siletz. Auger also noted that Joel Palmer was in agreement with the placement of Fort Hoskins (although the Siletz Agent and his employees sided with Wool in opposition to the Kings Valley site). Auger did state, however, that “should the General still deem it of commensurate importance to have a force on the Reserve, I would recommend that I be authorized to build a Blockhouse at this prairie and to keep there say a detachment of fifteen to twenty men, relieving them every month to give them opportunity for medical attention and supplies” (Fort Hoskins Letter Book August 10, 1856).
Construction of Fort Hoskins and Support Facilities

Knowing that there would be a delay in receiving a reply from General Wool, and with winter approaching, Captain Auger began to build temporary winter quarters at Fort Hoskins in August 1856 and directed Lieutenant Sheridan to improve the trail to the upper prairie on the Siletz River and to build a blockhouse there. Auger was operating on the assumption that the Siletz Agency would be built on the upper prairie site selected by Superintendent Palmer near present day Logsden (Onstad 1964:179, Adams 1991:40).

Wagon Road

In his later years Philip Sheridan recalled some of his experiences at Fort Hoskins including his charge to construct the Coast Range road (Sheridan 1888:95-97).

I undertook to make a road across the coast mountains from Kings Valley to the Siletz, to shorten the haul between the two points by a route I had explored. ...I set to work with the enthusiasm of a young pathfinder. The point at which the road was to cross the range was rough and precipitous, but the principal difficulty in making it would be from heavy timber on the mountains that had been burned over years and years before until nothing was left but limbless trunks of dead trees - firs and pines - that had fallen from time to time until the ground was matted with huge logs from five to eight feet in diameter. These could not be chopped with axes nor sawed by any ordinary means, therefore we had to burn them into suitable length, and drag the sections to either side of the roadway with from four to six yoke of oxen.

The work was both tedious and laborious, but in time perseverance surmounted all obstacles and the road was finished, though its grades were very steep. As soon as it was completed, I wished to demonstrate its value ... so I started a Government wagon over it loaded with about fifteen hundred pounds of freight drawn by six yoke of oxen, and escorted by a small detachment of soldiers. When it had gone about seven miles the sergeant in charge came back to the post and reported his inability to get any further. Going out to the scene of the difficulty I found the wagon at the base of a steep hill, stalled. Taking up a whip myself, I directed the men to lay on their gads ... to start the team, but this course did not move the wagon nor have much effect on the demoralized oxen; but following as a last resort an example I heard of on a former occasion, that brought into use the rough language of the country, I induced the oxen to move with alacrity, and the wagon and contents were speedily carried to the summit. The whole trouble was at once revealed; the oxen had been broken and trained by a man who, when they were in a pinch, had encouraged them by his frontier
vocabulary, and they could not realize what was expected of them under extraordinary conditions until they heard familiar and possibly profanely urgent phrases. I took the wagon to its destination, but as it was not brought back, even in all the time I was stationed in that country, I think comment on the success of my road is unnecessary.

The road never did prove adequate for wagons, so, for the duration of the life of Fort Hoskins goods were shipped to the Siletz Agency and blockhouse by pack train or on peoples backs (Onstad 1964:180).

**Blockhouses**

The blockhouse built on the upper prairie in the fall of 1856 had also been placed in an ineffectual location. Joel Palmer's original plans to locate the Siletz Agency on this prairie never transpired. The Coast Reservation Indian agent temporarily located his headquarters on Yaquina Bay in the summer of 1856 (Sheridan 1888:101-104). Before the summer of 1857 the Agency headquarters were moved up the Siletz River to a prairie 6 miles below (west of) the original blockhouse. This location became the permanent site for the Siletz Agency which is now the town of Siletz. Auger responded to this move in April of 1858 by dismantling the original blockhouse and floating the lumber down the Siletz River to the new site where the blockhouse was reerected on a prominence overlooking the village. Accommodations were also constructed for the troops on detached duty at Siletz (Onstad 1964:183).

In the fall of 1856 troops under Sheridan's command built another blockhouse at Yaquina Bay for the Indian agent and his employees to use in ease of trouble. No troops were stationed at this blockhouse. The total disregard and contempt for the customs and beliefs of the local Indians was exhibited by Sheridan when he chose to put the blockhouse on a prominent burial ground (Sheridan 1888:101-104).

Having completed the road improvement project and having overseen construction of two blockhouses, Sheridan returned to Fort Hoskins. Once back at the fort, Sheridan served as quartermaster until he was ordered to rejoin his own Company at Fort Yamhill in May 1857 (Frost 1968:21).
Figure 8.3. Plat map of land leased by the Army for Fort Hoskins, Benton County, Oregon
Fort Hoskins

On November 1, 1856, Captain Auger received authorization from General Wool to locate Fort Hoskins at the site he had chosen (Fort Hoskins Letter Book December 16, 1856). Auger could now enter formal negotiations for the land required to build his permanent garrison. On June 20, 1857, the Army leased eighty acres of ground from Henry Van Peer for $300 a year. The first lease was amended on October 19, 1858, for the purpose of enlarging the government holdings to better accommodate activities at the fort (Benton County Deed Records) (Figure 8.3).

As Preston Onstad (1964:181) has stated, “there is no reason to believe that anyone but Captain Auger had anything to do with planning and building Fort Hoskins”. The parade ground and primary buildings surrounding the parade were situated on a large bench approximately 60 feet above the Luckiamute River Valley floor. As we discovered during the course of archaeological work at the site in 1976, some site preparation work was done prior to the construction of the major buildings around the parade ground. The east half of the parade was originally a ridge sloping from north to south. The soldiers truncated the ridge just behind the future site of their barracks. This part of the ridge was cut down about 15 feet. The remainder of the ridge from the barracks site to about the location of the flagpole was also leveled. The weathered bedrock removed from the leveling process was deposited on either side of the truncated ridge widening the parade between the barracks and the officers quarters. The ground surface from the flagpole to the site of the officers quarters was already relatively flat. The western half of the future parade was a broad shallow draw also sloping from north to south. The head of this draw was situated on the northern margin of the parade, at which point the steep terrain of the large hill which looms over the soon to be occupied bench began. A large bench was cut into the west side of the draw to create flat ground for the warehouse located on the west margin of the parade. The powder magazines were dug into the hillside at the head of the draw on the northwest corner of the parade. The bottom of the draw was relatively flat creating a lower parade area. The lower (western) parade is about 10 feet lower than the upper (eastern) parade.

The military road which connected the fort with the Willamette Valley arrived at the post on the hillside above the enlisted men’s barracks. The road was cut into the hillside as it came down into the fort behind the powder magazines, turned to the
south west of the warehouse, then continued down the draw to the Luckiamute River flood plain. A grade for a wooden walkway entering the parade near the adjutants office and extending down to the hospital at flood plain level was also a major undertaking. Given the amount of ground modification required to prepare the site for the buildings, the lack of any mention of these activities in the official records is interesting.

Building supplies for the fort were readily available. Lumber was obtained from the VanPeer sawmill just upstream from the fort and bricks would have been available from numerous local brickyards operating in the central Willamette Valley (Gurke 1987). Hardware and furnishings were shipped to Corvallis where a merchant named George Cole acted as agent for the fort (OHS Scrapbook 35:86).

Very little information is available detailing the construction of the fort. Two years after the founding of Fort Hoskins most of the major buildings were in place. A two story enlisted men’s barracks and a powder magazine were erected on the north side of the parade and a guard house on the east. Three officers houses were located on the south side of the parade opposite the barracks with a view overlooking the valley. A warehouse, bakery, and laundry buildings were positioned along the west parade. A hospital was operational east and below the main building complex. Stables and livery were situated on the flood plain south of the officers quarters (Fig. 8.4).

Possibly the first building completed at the fort was the bakery. By February 1857 Auger noted that bread was being sold and money was going into the company fund (Fort Hoskins Letter Book February 1857). Company F, 4th Infantry, first arrived at Fort Hoskins on March 22, 1857. Since they were waiting for adequate quarters to be constructed before being garrisoned at the fort, the barracks probably wasn’t completed much before that date. Until the barracks was completed Company G had been living in tents. Plaster work was still being completed inside the officers houses in November 1858 indicating that these structures were just being completed (Mansfield 1858).

Construction costs incurred at Fort Hoskins amounted to $15,694.29. Between July 1, 1856 and July 1, 1857 (fiscal 1857) $7,257.54 were spent. During fiscal 1858 (July 1, 1857 - July 1, 1858) $8,436.75 were incurred in construction costs. The
peak of construction expenditures was in the spring and summer of 1858 (Ledbetter 1935:75-76).

Appearance and Operation of Fort Hoskins

Perhaps the best physical description of Fort Hoskins that exists is a report of the Inspector General of the U.S. Army, Col. Joseph Mansfield dated November 19, 1858. The portions of this report dealing directly with Fort Hoskins are presented below.

Quarters, Gardens &c.

There are three small buildings for officers quarters; a good hospital, a good store house for Quartermaster & Commissary supplies: a good barrack two stories high for two companies, with kitchens, & mess rooms, washrooms, &c. complete: a good bakery: five small houses for laundresses: good sheds all sufficient for mule stables &c.: and a sutlers store. These buildings are all framed and new, and judiciously executed, with no unnecessary expense, and water is brought into most of them from a spring on the side hill, & by means of pipes underground. I regard the post as built with a proper regard for economy, and quite creditable to Capt. Auger. There are good gardens, and a summer & winter supply of vegetables are easily cultivated. No more material expense need be incurred here for quarters.

Troops &c.

This command is composed of Companies G & F of the 4th Inft: with Assistant Surgeon Lewis Taylor & a hospital steward.

Company G Capt. C.C. Auger in command: 1Lt. R. Macfeely detached at Headquarters of Regiment as Regimental Quartermaster at Fort Vancouver; and as Commissary of Subsistence at that post: 2nd Lt. W.T. Gentry, acting Assistant quartermaster, Commissary of Subsistence, & recruiting officer. - 4 Sergeants, 4 Corporals, 2 Musicians, 68 Privates, of which one was sick, 2 confined & 1 absent confined & 18 on detached service.

This company was in old uniforms, very neat and in good order. Knapsacks & haversacks, painted canvas. The Cantecns mostly gutta percha and of no use. The arms, the old smooth bore muskets. The new rifled musket was expected by the next steamer. The rain precluded all drills and target firing. The quarters & company books &c in excellent order. The men slept on double bunks, two tiers high and every desirable comfort afforded them. 12 desertions in 1856; 9 in 1857, 8 in 1858. Attached to this company 1 laundress, a fund of 212.63 doll., 90 muskets, 1 Sharps rifle. It had a good garden in which it raised 800 bushels potatoes for winter use.
Figure 8.4. Plan of Fort Hoskins by Col. Joseph Mansfield, November 1858
(Mansfield Report November 19, 1858, National Archives)
Company F Capt. D.F. Jones absent on detached duty at Gov. Island N.Y. and left his company in November 1856; 1 Lt. H.C. Hodges Adjutant Regiment, at Headquarters, at fort Vancouver; 2nd Lt. H.H. Garber in arrest for disobedience of orders in refusing to send out of the Garrison a squaw - charges awaiting the decision of Bvt. Brig. Genl. N.S. Clark[e], at that time in command of the Dept. Thus the Company is temporarily without an Officer: - 4 Sergeants, 4 Corporals, 2 Musicians, 66 privates, of which 3 sick, 4 confined, 17 on detached service.

This Company like Company G was in old uniform, in excellent order in every respect & equally well accommodated by itself in the west half of the same building - 22 desertions in 1856 - 14 in 1857 - 14 in 1858. The deserters are almost double those of Company G, which may be attributed to its former stations, and the absence of its Captain. Pertaining to this Company are 3 laundresses & a fund of 16.91 dollars. As it arrived at the post on the 7 October from fort Vancouver, there was no opportunity to cultivate a garden.

Officers &c

The want of Officers at this post is felt, where a Company is left in Command of a 2nd Lt., and a detachment of 30 men is kept at the Block House in command of 2 sergeants, & two corporals, say 25 miles distant. Such a detachment should be under an Officer. Lieut. Gentry was necessarily ordered to take command of Company F for the present.

Post Ordinance

There is one 12 pr brass gun here in serviceable order with suitable ammunition; and 5000 ball & buck musket cartridges. A small building is used as a magazine. And there is at the Block House a 12 pr howitzer, with 36 howitzer shells, 48 spherical case, 24 howitzer canister shots & a years supply of other ammunition.

Medical Department

Is under the direction of Assistant Surgeon Lewis Taylor, who has a good steward, and a supply of medicines &c for one year, for one company: but as the post is healthy, it will probably answer for the two companies now here. The dispensary, wardroom, & kitchen & Books &c in good order, & there seems to be nothing wanted for the sick. He keep (sic) a cook, nurse & matron. The latter is a squaw, as no other was to be had to do the washing. There is a fund of 32.23 dollars, & a garden.

Guard

The guard is 6 strong, & 1 sergeant & 1 corporal. There were 3 prisoners undergoing sentence, 1 waiting trial & 1 minor offense.
The guard house is a small frame building, with a prison room & adequate.

Bakery

A small frame building with a good oven, & baker, & good bread.

Commissary Department

2nd Lt. W.T. Gentry has been acting commissary since the 15th May, 1857. The supplies are all ample, & good, & stores in a good frame building, which is likewise occupied by the quartermaster’s supplies: flour is obtained at 8 dolls the barrel in the neighborhood, beef at 8 cts delivered here, & 11 cts delivered at the Block House. Sugar costs 16 cts for brown, & 20 cts for crushed!! - ... He receives his funds from the Commissary at fort Vancouver. ... He keeps in his employ one extra duty man, as Commissary Sergt. & occasionally a cooper.

Quartermasters Department

2nd Lt. W.T. Gentry is also acting Assistant Quartermaster since the 15th May 1857. His supplies are ample except in clothing, & shoes nos 7, 8, 9. He keeps 8 horses, 37 mules, 3 wagons, one ambulance. These horses and mules are necessary to keep up the supplies for this post, & at the Block House, & for expresses. He pays 50c the bushel for oats; 20 to 25 dolls the ton for hay; 6 1/2 dolls the cord for wood; 45 cts the bushel for charcoal. This last charge is extremely high.

He has a smith’s & saddler’s shop, where extra duty men are employed; and has in his employ a citizen carpenter at 5 dolls per day, & a plasterer at 8 dolls, till the quarters of the Officers are completed, which will soon be; and he has extra duty men, one clerk, one ostler, two teamsters, 4 packers, one carpenter, one painter, & 3 laborers, as circumstances require. ...

Sutler

H.H. Meyer is the Sutler of the post, but has not yet his supply of goods complete, nor has his appointment yet been confirmed by the Secretary of War.

Command Discipline &c

Capt. Auger is a good commander. The troops are in good discipline, and the comforts of the men consulted in the arrangements of the quarters, and he studies the economy of the service. Hitherto the men have been engaged in putting up buildings, including the Block House, at the Agency. It is to be hoped that hereafter, there will be some time devoted to the instruction of the men, in the drills & at the Target.
Other than Col. Mansfield’s concern over the lack of officers in Company F, his only other concerns were as follows.

The only objection I see to this post is, that it stands on leased ground at 500 dollars per annum; but when broken up, the U.S. will have the right to sell the buildings. It is now too late to change on this account, as the buildings are all up & the expense of them has been incurred, & post answers the purpose of over awing the Indians, and protecting the inhabitants.

It was commenced by Capt. C. C. Auger of the 4th Inft. on the 26th July 1856; by order of Bvt Major Genl. Wool, and was calculated for a two company post, & is ample except in one small building at the Block House for an officer in charge of the detachment.

Descriptions of the interior of any of the buildings at Fort Hoskins is almost nonexistent. Another glimpse at the interior of the enlisted men’s barracks is provided by Corporal William Hileary, 1st Oregon Volunteer Infantry, who arrived at the post in January, 1865 (Hileary 1883).

Much of the time while at Hoskins we were required to go into the woods and cut our own wood. It required about two cords of wood every day to keep up the fires in the fort. We had no stoves, not even cook-stoves, but open fire places in every room. The usual style of bunk was two stories high, arranged for four persons, two above and two below. The end of the bunk was set against the wall with a space of two feet between it and the next one. On the end of the bunk next the aisle a gun rack was fixed up for four guns and the necessary fixtures. There was a row of such bunks on either side of the squad room. The bed sacks were generally made single width, hence there was no grumbling that one or the other had all the straw on their side.... The squad room was kept in order by a ‘room orderly’ detailed by the order sergeant every day. It was his duty to keep up the fires and swept (sic) out and keep the floor clean. Sometimes it would be ordered that the room orderly carry a mop and when he caught any one spitting on the floor he was authorized to hand the mop over to the offender, who in turn had to carry it and keep the floor clean until he could catch some one else spitting on the floor.

No defensive works were built at Fort Hoskins. This would indicate that Captain Auger and his superiors were not concerned about any direct threats to the fort itself. The Siletz blockhouse was undoubtedly viewed as the first line of defense and early warning system should trouble break out at the Siletz Agency. Ample warning could be given to muster the troops and, if battles were to be fought they would be at some
distance from the fort. The Coast Range served as an adequate defensive work for Fort Hoskins.

Although not noted by Col. Mansfield in 1858, the only other known map of Fort Hoskins, drawn by E.Y. Chase in 1864 (Fig. 8.5), clearly shows a fence with gates and stiles around the parade ground and adjacent buildings. Indeed, the officers quarters have clearly delineated fenced yards. Post security was provided by enlisted men and noncommissioned officers regularly serving guard duty, standing post and walking the perimeter fence around the main compound. Over the years the guard varied from two to twenty-four men depending on the perceived threat or general lack thereof. At least in the waning days of the fort's existence, the weather frequently had a lot to do with the posting of guards. Corporal William Hilleary, stationed at Fort Hoskins in 1865, regularly notes in his diary that on rainy days or nights few if any guards were posted beyond the guard house (Nelson and Onstad 1965).

One innovative feature of Fort Hoskins mentioned by Col. Mansfield and illustrated on the 1864 Chase map was a plumbing system bringing water to several of the buildings. Few western posts had such a luxury. The primary water source for the fort was a spring several hundred feet above and northeast of the enlisted men's barracks. A cistern was built at the spring then a pipe brought the water down to a holding tank on the hill just behind the enlisted men's barracks. Water was then piped into the barracks with four T connectors coming off the main line. The pipe then ran west behind the powder magazines and took a right angle turn behind the laundries and bakery. The pipe ran into another holding tank behind the bakery and water was then piped into the bakery. Another pipe came out of the bakery holding tank and continued south before taking a right angle to the east which then carried water to the rear of each of the three officers houses (Fig. 8.5). The water line trench behind the easternmost officers house was discovered during archaeological excavations directed by David Brauner in 1976. A foot long section of rolled lead pipe was found in the trench.

Another spring northeast of the hospital served the needs of that structure. There is no evidence that water was piped into the hospital.

The only buildings added to the fort complex after the 1858 Mansfield inspection was an adjutants office which was located just south of the guard house on the eastern
Figure 8.5. Map of Fort Hoskins by Y.E. Chase, 1864. (National Archives)
side of the parade ground, a blacksmith shop near the 1858 stable, a stable for the
Sutler, and a new stable built in 1861 near the Luckiamute River. The 1858 stable
was gone by 1864.

The damp climate at Hoskins combined with a significant amount of deferred
maintenance in the last months of the 4th Infantry’s occupation of the fort resulted in
a rapid deterioration of the buildings. On March 3, 1862, Captain Schmidt,
commander of Company B, 2nd California Volunteer Infantry, wrote that he thought
the buildings at Fort Hoskins needed extensive enough repairs to equal the cost of
building a new post (at Siletz). He noted that the water lines needed repair, that
building foundations were decaying especially under the store house and the men’s
quarters, and the stables which were under construction needed to be removed from
the flood plain as they flooded in the spring (Lamont 1897:903). Later that same year
Captain Seidenstricker, commander of Company D, 1st Washington Territorial
Volunteers, “considered it necessary to have the Company Quarters, Kitchen and
Store Rooms inside, and if possible outside of the Buildings of this post repaired and
whitewashed”. The Quartermaster was supposed to furnish “for these purposes the
required quantitat (sic) of about 6 Barrels of Lime ... also brown paint for the
window frames of the Officers Quarters” (Fort Yamhill Post Orders, July 17, 1862).
Corporal Royal Bensell, Company D, 4th California Infantry, commented in his diary
when first arriving at Fort Hoskins on May 20, 1863, that “the Fort has a bad
location and looks lonely, baards [sic] weather-beaten, and the quarters need white
washing to make them look cheerful” (Barth 1959:90). On November 6, 1863,
Bensell recorded that high winds had destroyed the fence surrounding the garrison
(Barth 1959:109). Corporal William Hilleary was stationed at the fort in its final days
but has little to say about the condition of the post. He does note in a diary entry
dated March 7, 1865, that while serving night duty in the Guard House that “the old
chimney looks so much like falling that I don’t think of lieing down” (Nelson and

As illustrated on Figure 8.6 and Table 8.1, Company G, 4th Infantry, commanded by
Captain Auger was the longest serving Company at Fort Hoskins. The Army
designed Fort Hoskins to be a two company post. With the exception of an 8 month
gap in 1858, a second company was garrisoned at the fort while U.S. Army regulars
were stationed there. Several companies of regulars were in and out of Fort Hoskins
prior to 1861 but Company F, 4th Infantry, was the usual subordinate company to
GARRISONS AT FORT YAMHILL AND FORT HOSKINS, 1856-1866

Figure 8.6. The garrisons at Fort Yamhill and Fort Hoskins. (from Adams 1991:81).
### Table 8.1. Companies Stationed at Fort Hoskins

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Company</th>
<th>Commander</th>
<th>Date Garrisoned</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>G, 4th Infantry</td>
<td>Captain Auger*</td>
<td>July 25, 1856 - June 25, 1861</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F, 4th Infantry</td>
<td>Lt. Wheeler</td>
<td>March 22 - April 8, 1857</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B, 9th Infantry</td>
<td>Captain Dent</td>
<td>April 18 - April 30, 1857</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F, 4th Infantry</td>
<td>Captain Floyd-Jones</td>
<td>June 19, 1857 - Jan. 19, 1858</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F, 4th Infantry</td>
<td>Captain Floyd-Jones</td>
<td>Oct. 5, 1858 - June 14, 1861</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B, 9th Infantry</td>
<td>Captain Dent*</td>
<td>June 20, 1861 - Nov. 1, 1861</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B, 2nd California Infantry</td>
<td>Captain Schmidt*</td>
<td>Nov. 1, 1861 - July 14, 1862</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D, 1st Washington Infantry</td>
<td>Captain Seidenstricker*</td>
<td>July 14, 1862 - April 4, 1863</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D, 4th California Infantry</td>
<td>Lt. Garden/Captain Scott*</td>
<td>April 4, 1863 - Oct. 8, 1864</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B, 1st Oregon Infantry</td>
<td>Captain Palmer*</td>
<td>Dec. 29, 1864 - April 10, 1865</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F, 1st Oregon Infantry</td>
<td>Captain Waters</td>
<td>Dec. 29, 1864 - April 10, 1865</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Base Commander

Company G. Company F was pulled out of Fort Hoskins on June 14, 1861 and Company G a few days later on June 25th. Captain Dent, Company B, 9th Infantry, relieved Captain Auger on June 20, 1861. Dent's command only stayed at Fort Hoskins long enough to be relieved by Company B, 2nd California Volunteer Infantry, on November 1, 1861. From that point until the arrival of two companies of Oregon Volunteer Infantry Companies on December 29, 1864, Fort Hoskins was only manned by one company of State or Territorial volunteers. During the months of October and November, 1864, a sergeant and six soldiers from Company D, 4th California Infantry were the only troops stationed at Fort Hoskins.

By the beginning of the Civil War, Fort Hoskins had just about outlived its usefulness. Numerous routes through the Coast Range had been discovered and were being used by both the whites and the Indians, negating much of the security capability that the fort's location originally provided. The Siletz Agency and a small but growing white population on the coast were increasingly being supplied by sea. Reservation lands were shrinking and more Indians were getting work permits to leave the Reservation. The soldiers were reduced to a police force whose primary function was to round up and return Indians who had left the Reservation without valid papers or who had become drunk and disorderly. With the outbreak of war on the East Coast the military could ill afford to leave valuable troops thousands of miles from where they were now needed. The military could not, however, ignore the
fact that with the removal of troops from Oregon a not completely subdued Indian population could take advantage of the situation and rise up in arms against white settlers. The military could also not ignore the fact that there were strong Southern sympathies in Oregon and the Federal Government was not at all sure if Oregon would secede from the Union at the outbreak of the war.

Until a final decision could be made concerning the future of Fort Hoskins, the regular troops serving there, Company B, 9th Infantry, under the command of Captain Dent, were relieved by Company B, 2nd California Volunteer Infantry, commanded by Captain Schmidt, on November 1, 1861. By the end of November rumors of secessionists rising up in arms in western Oregon were being taken seriously by the authorities. Lt. Campbell, Post Adjutant at Fort Hoskins, had gone so far as to accuse the previous post commander, Captain Dent, of providing arms and ammunition to local secessionists and Indians in order for them to capture Fort Hoskins. He was taking these rumors very seriously considering he only had 11 men garrisoned at the Siletz blockhouse and 8 at Fort Hoskins (Lamont 1897:739-740). Although Fort Hoskins itself would be of little importance as a base of operations for secessionists, the arms and ammunition stored there were considered a commodity worth fighting for.

The Knights of the Golden Circle, a national anti-Union organization, had a strong following in western Oregon and rumors that the Knights were raising several militia companies to attack Fort Vancouver and posts like Hoskins abounded. However, there were never any attacks. The anti-Union movement generally manifest itself with the display of a few Confederate flags, secessionist articles in a few newspapers, and numerous heated arguments that frequently ended in fist fights (Platt 1903, Williams 1966). Throughout the first few years of the Civil War however, the rhetoric and rumors spreading through western Oregon were enough to keep the small military garrisons on edge.

The Indian Agent at Siletz, Benjamin Biddle, did take rumors that the Indians were arming themselves for a summer attack on the agency headquarters very seriously. He communicated his fears to Captain Schmidt at Fort Hoskins in a letter dated December 24, 1861 (Lamont 1897:903-904). Captain Schmidt also took these rumors seriously. He reported these rumors to his superiors at Fort Vancouver and once
again brought up the issue that Fort Hoskins was in the wrong place (Lamont 1897:902-903).

The agent informs me that there is a large number of arms in their hands... I am told that in some of their wigwams there are as much as eight or ten shooting irons of all descriptions, that their quivers are full of new arrows, and that they intend to make a break early in the summer, if not before. ...

... This post is not situated in the right place. The supposition that it guards the only pass to or from the reservation is incorrect. There are at least ten passes. If this post was intended to guard the reservation it is a fallacy, and should be moved for more reasons than one...The distance, thirty-five miles, renders it inadequate to promptly render the assistance required in case of a sudden outbreak... There is also a ground rent of $300 per year paid for this site. Again, it is environed by polluting tipplers, which occasions a great deal of trouble to the men at the post. There they would be free from that, as no intoxicating drinks could come near them on the reservation.

Nothing serious came from the rumors of Indian uprisings on the Siletz, but the agent did leave for a time, fearing for his life (Lamont 1897 pt.2:328).

Rather than move Fort Hoskins to Siletz, the first serious attempt to simply close the post came in 1863. In a letter dated February 6, General Alvord, Commander at Fort Vancouver, determined that only one post was needed to support the Siletz Agency. He selected Fort Yamhill since a better wagon road could be built from Yamhill to Siletz than the treacherous route from Hoskins (Lamont 1897 pt.2: 304). Upon hearing the news, a prominent group of citizens from Corvallis and Kings Valley protested the closure in the most colorful language (Lamont 1897pt2:328). They drew upon images of the most horrible things the Indians might do to white residents in the central Willamette Valley should Fort Hoskins no longer be there to protect them (although the underlying reason seems to have been pure economics). Their petition was successful and the post remained open although garrisoned with less than 30 men.

A year later Alvord did decide to close Fort Hoskins (Onstad 1964:185). Company D, 4th California Volunteer Infantry, left Hoskins for Fort Yamhill on October 6, 1864. They left a small detachment of men to guard the government property in Kings Valley (Lamont 1897pt.2:1008).
Fort Hoskins did not sit idle long. Governor Gibbs and General Alvord decided to use Fort Hoskins as a training base for the newly established 1st Oregon Volunteer Infantry (Lamont 1897 pt.2:1087). On December 29, 1864, Company B and Company F, 1st Oregon Volunteer Infantry, mustered in Salem in front of the capital building then marched to Fort Hoskins. The Oregon Volunteers were under the command of Captain Ephraim Palmer of Company B. Company F was the subordinate Company under the command of Captain Abner Waters (Onstad 1964:185).

At the conclusion of the Civil War, Fort Hoskins was closed. The Oregon Volunteers pulled out on April 10, 1865. The government property on the site was sold at public auction on June 1, 1865 (Oregon Statesman 1865). The land reverted back to VanPeer.

**Soldiers Daily Life**

Since only two diaries kept by enlisted men who served at Fort Hoskins are known to exist and both those men served with the 1st Oregon Volunteer Infantry in the waning days of the post’s operation, our insights into the daily lives of the soldiers are rather limited. The Fort Hoskins post returns and letter book provide additional insights into the activities of the enlisted men from the officers perspective. These official documents generally provide information about daily routines (Table 8.2), work details, and disciplinary problems. Occasionally a document is encountered which provides insights into the interaction of the soldiers in the local community as well (cf McAurthur 1929).

A Masters Thesis focusing on the daily lives of the soldiers who served at Fort Hoskins is currently in preparation. Julie Schablitsky, a Graduate Student in the Department of Anthropology, at Oregon State University is authoring this document. Enlistment records, post returns, letter books, diaries, and archaeological data are being used for this study. The document should be available within the year.

Another Masters Thesis currently in preparation by Tim Trussell, also a Graduate Student in Anthropology at Oregon State University, is focused on the role of Post Surgeons at western military forts and the function of post hospitals. Fort Hoskins serves as the focal point of this project.
Table 8.2. Daily Schedules by Commander at Fort Hoskins, Benton County Oregon.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Auger</th>
<th>Schmidt</th>
<th>Seidenstriker</th>
<th>Garden</th>
<th>Palmer</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Reveille</td>
<td>5am</td>
<td>Reveille</td>
<td>5am</td>
<td>Reveille</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Breakfast</td>
<td>7am</td>
<td>Breakfast</td>
<td>6:30am</td>
<td>Breakfast</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fatigue</td>
<td>7:30am</td>
<td>Surgeons call</td>
<td>7:30am</td>
<td>Breakfast</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Guard mounting</td>
<td>8am</td>
<td>Guard mounting</td>
<td>7:45am</td>
<td>Fatigue call</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recall</td>
<td>12pm</td>
<td>Fatigue call</td>
<td>8am</td>
<td>Guardmount</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dinner</td>
<td>1pm</td>
<td>Orderly call</td>
<td>12am</td>
<td>8am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fatigue</td>
<td>2pm</td>
<td>Dinner call</td>
<td>12:05pm</td>
<td>Recall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recall</td>
<td>6pm</td>
<td>Fatigue call</td>
<td>12:30pm</td>
<td>Orderly call</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Retreat</td>
<td>sunset</td>
<td>Restrict</td>
<td>1:30pm</td>
<td>12pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tattoo</td>
<td>9pm</td>
<td>Tattoo</td>
<td>1:30pm</td>
<td>Dinner</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Taps</td>
<td>9:15pm</td>
<td>Taps</td>
<td>3pm</td>
<td>12:30pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>5pm</td>
<td>1:30pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>6:30pm</td>
<td>1:30pm</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>9pm</td>
<td>4:45pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1:20pm</td>
<td>8:45pm</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>9:15pm</td>
<td>9pm</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
9. FORT HOSKINS SITE: 1866 - PRESENT

Unfortunately, the record of the June 1 sale has not been found. We do know that the buildings (and contents?) were sold at public auction. Some of the buildings may have been removed from the site whole or in sections, others were probably scavenged for usable hardware, fixtures, brick and lumber. Local lore claims that one of the officer’s houses was put on skids, hauled to the Luckiamute River and floated down to the town of Pedee. The house was still standing in the late 1970s when it was viewed by Professor Philip Dole, Architectural Historian at the University of Oregon. According to Dole the house was the right age and from what was known about the officer’s houses at the fort it could well be one of them (Dole, personal communication). This house is still standing in Pedee but it has been significantly altered in the past three years to the point that its historic integrity may be gone (Dennis Werth, personal communication).

Frantz-Dunn House

The Frantz family acquired the fort site in 1866 and, according to family tradition, lived in one of the fort buildings while they built a home where the base hospital stood (Francis Dunn, personal communication). The Gothic house that still stands on the site is the old Frantz house (Fig 9.1). Local tradition has also claimed that the Frantz-Dunn house was totally, or in part, the original military hospital. Although the house is located about where the hospital stood and does face the old military road on the hill above it, it is not the Fort Hoskins hospital. Philip Dole has looked at the house and concluded that it was built in the late 1860s or 1870s (Dole, personal communication). Using the 1864 Chase map as a reference, the hospital was a large structure approximately 80 feet long and 62 feet wide. The Frantz-Dunn house has a footprint of 40 by 32 feet. There are no internal or external measurements in the house that correlate with the hospital. Tim Trussell, a graduate student in Anthropology at Oregon State University, is doing an analysis of the Fort Hoskins hospital and its associated archaeology. He has concluded that the Frantz-Dunn house is situated just to the east of the hospital site, not on it (Fig. 9.2). Among our current working hypotheses is the thought that the hospital structure may not have been completely removed from the site when Frantz began construction of his house.
Figure 9.1. The Frantz-Dunn House as it looked in 1976
Figure 9.2. The hypothesized relationship of the Frantz-Dunn House to the Fort Hoskins Hospital Building
This could account for the lack of overlap of the two structures on a very small building site.

Photographic Record of Fort Hoskins Site

The earliest known photographs of the Fort Hoskins site were taken by S. Maurice Ball on Memorial Day, 1922. On that day John Horner, Professor of History at Oregon Agricultural College, organized a rededication ceremony at the site of Fort Hoskins. Professor Horner had spent considerable time searching for the site of the “lost fort”. When his research was complete, and he was positive he had identified the site beyond a shadow of a doubt, it was a cause for celebration. A great many people arrived from as far away as Portland and Medford. Speeches were made, a flag pole was erected, stone markers were placed on the locations of the various buildings, and photographs were taken (McIntosh 1922). An overview photograph of the site taken at this time is presented as Figure 9.3.

None of the buildings in this photograph were associated with the fort. These buildings were built by the Frantz family in the late 19th century and in the early 20th century (Richard Dunn, personal communication). The building in the center of the picture was the blacksmith shop. The large barn to the left of the blacksmith shop was a hay barn. The fenced and tilled area was a family garden plot that was situated in the lower parade ground. The powder magazines would have been located just below the apple tree in the foreground of this photograph. The barn in the far right of this photograph was built on the leveled platform constructed for the military Store House. The large hay barn and blacksmith shop were located on the upper parade ground. The two small barns in the left of this photograph were located near the enlisted men’s barracks. The truck and table with people around it in the center of the photo behind the blacksmith shop was where the Officers Quarters were located. The flag pole, raised at the dedication ceremony can be seen just behind the peak of the large hay barn.

A drawing of the fort published in the McIntosh (1922) article was rendered by Mr. Ball for the dedication ceremony. This drawing of what Fort Hoskins would have looked like, periodically shows up in publications (Hart 1967:147) but it is more fiction than fact so it will not be reproduced here.
Figure 9.3. Photograph of the Fort Hoskins Site, Memorial Day, 1922.
(Oregon Historical Society, neg. 49617)
Photographs of the site were taken for a newspaper article focused on Lt. Garber’s romance with an Indian woman published in 1935 (Maxwell 1935) but provide a very limited perspective on the farmstead at that time.

Several photographs are available of the Fort Hoskins site taken in the 1960s. Several excellent perspective views of the parade ground area are published in Hart (1967:146-147). Perhaps the best overview photograph of the Fort Hoskins site and Frantz farmstead taken in the 1960s is a view by Preston Onstad in circa 1961 (Fig. 9.4). This photograph is particularly important in that it shows the entire hill behind the fort site and a dominant oak savanna vegetation cover with a few large open growth Douglas firs scattered among the oaks. The vegetation pattern illustrated in this photograph is more representative of the historic plant cover in the area than the heavy coniferous forest developing there today.

The final perspective photograph we have chosen to include, was taken by Brauner in 1976. Dick Dunn had given up farming a few years before and the farmstead was in a rapid state of deterioration (Fig. 9.5). This photograph was taken from the same place as the 1922 view (Fig. 9.3). Blackberry vines had covered two of the collapsed buildings but the remainder of the old fort site was grass covered. With the exception of the metal covered building, all of these structures have now collapsed. The remains of the big hay barn were removed from the site before Benton County acquired the property. Remains of the other two buildings are still on site.
Figure 9.4. Overview Perspective of the Fort Hoskins Site about 1961. View to North. (Preston Onstad Collection, Benton County Historical Society)
Figure 9.5. Overview of the Fort Hoskins Site 1976. View to south.
10. EXPANDING SETTLEMENT: 1860-1880

Settlement Patterns

By 1860 the foothills and valleys of Benton County were "well speckled" with homesteads. There were 365 farms with approximately half of these located in the foothills. Settlement in the county slowed between 1860 and 1870, however, but between 1870 and 1880 the pace increased again. By 1880 nearly all readily accessible farm and range land was occupied, and only inaccessible areas in the mountains were unclaimed by 1885 (Longwood 1940).

The best land in the Kings Valley area had been settled under the Donation Land Claim system by 1855. Settlement, which had begun in Kings Valley in 1846, spread in the early 1850's up the small valleys associated with the tributary streams of the Luckiamute River. After 1860 settlement expanded into the Coast Range.

One of the pioneering families moving into northwestern Benton County in the 1860s was the Joseph Skaggs Family. Joseph Skaggs migrated to the California gold fields in 1852. There he married a woman named Mary. In about 1860 the family came to the Summit area, locating approximately four miles north of today's town of Summit. One of their eleven children, Austin Skaggs, was born here about 1878. He remembers the area as having only cow trails for roads. They got their groceries from Kings Valley via the Siletz Indian Trail, and had to go to Philomath for mail. With the completion of the Corvallis to Yaquina toll road in the 1860's, their isolation was partially alleviated (Gazette Times 1959).

The S.P. Frantz Family came from Iowa and settled in the Fort Hoskins area of Kings Valley in 1866. By this time there was no free land available and Frantz had to purchase land from parts of four different DLC's to get the land he wanted. Part of this land was on Henry VanPeers's DLC, and their farm included the site of Fort Hoskins which had been abandoned in 1865. The Frantz Family moved into some of the abandoned buildings. In 1877 Wallis Nash described the land immediately south of Kings Valley as a "fine stretch of farming country only partly occupied."
Agriculture

Two agricultural activities dominated Benton County between 1860 and 1880, wheat cultivation and grazing cattle and sheep. Wheat, which had been the predominant crop grown in Benton County even before 1850, grew steadily in importance during this era. By 1880, it had outdistanced cattle grazing as the primary industry of the county (Longwood 1940). By 1870 cereal grains had crowded the beef industry sufficiently in Benton County so that many areas were combining the two pursuits and thus realizing a double profit from their land. Wheat, and secondarily oats, were planted in the fall. Cattle and sheep were allowed to eat the sprouting shoots, and further provided manure as fertilizer. This practice insured the farmer a bumper crop (Longwood 1940).

Descriptions of farmland in Kings Valley during this era (1860 to 1880) confirm this mixed emphasis on stock and wheat. In 1877 Wallis Nash said that the lower land between Philomath and Kings Valley was fit for all kinds of wheat, and that the upper slopes, covered with thick grass, were adapted for both cattle and sheep.

In 1885 Fagan described the farms of Kings Valley and the surrounding area.

For the farmer who desires mixed land...the long stretch of foothills of the Coast Range and the western slopes of the same foothills are full of good farms. Here may be found many a choice spot where the white farmhouse, seated on its eminence with barn and stock corral adjoining, overlook the thrifty orchard. A good clearing of say fifty acres, grows the wheat and oats, whilst all around, the pasture interspersed with brush and timber, gives food and shelter to the cattle and sheep which seem here to be in their native home. Kings Valley particularly is full of such places; as is, indeed the whole strip of county lying within ten miles on either side of the foothills of the Coast Range.

Wheat

Kings Valley was a rich grain producing portion of the county, with even the hillsides yielding to their highest points good winter wheat (Fagan 1885). Indeed, the wheat harvest was so prolific, and of such good quality, that the gristmill originally founded by Rowland Chambers flourished for at least sixty years with a reputation for producing top quality flour from strictly locally produced wheat. In a 1936 WPA interview, Willard Price noted that "the river bottoms [in Kings Valley] produced
hard wheat and the higher ground grew a fine grade of hard wheat. This made it possible for the Kings Valley mill to manufacture the finest grade of flour."

**Beef Cattle**

Cattle had been important in Kings Valley from the beginning of settlement there in 1846. Later, when Mr. Frantz arrived at Hoskins in 1866, he is said to have been more interested in cattle raising than in general farming, and many of his neighbors shared this view (Longwood 1940). The Kings Valley area had long been known as having excellent pasturage. The hills in areas like Kings Valley were described by Fagan (1885) as being excellent for livestock raising. "By going farther into the hills the dairy and stock farmer will find...abundant range, where natural grasses grow in profusion, while wild pea spreads everywhere beneath the fern..." Soldiers at Fort Hoskins had no trouble obtaining all the beef they needed from the surrounding community (Onstad 1964).

**Hops**

One specialty crop was hops, which were apparently first planted in Kings Valley in 1862 near the Luckiamute River, north of the town of Kings Valley. The Frantz Family of Hoskins grew hops sometime after 1866 (when they settled there), and they hired Indians to work as pickers. Unfortunately, no dates for the Frantz Family operation have yet been located. In 1877 Wallis Nash noted hop fields near Philomath. Hop farming continued as a crop in Kings Valley into the early 20th century (KVPC 1985).

**Industry**

Industrial pursuits in Kings Valley seem to have been mainly limited to the lumber industry. Also, the gristmill in Kings Valley continued to thrive.

**Lumber**

In the period between 1846 and 1885 in Benton County, existing forests were utilized on a limited scale. Only single trees or small groups of trees were cut, and these were readily logged and transported by water. The hills around Kings Valley had the
greatest number of acres of forest in the county. In the rest of Benton County timber
was mainly along the major water courses (Longwood 1940).

The U.S. Census for Benton County in 1860 shows twelve sawmills, and in 1880,
eleven sawmills (Longwood 1940). Mention of one and possibly two mills have
been found for the northwest Benton County area during this era. In 1875, S.P.
Frantz and P.F. Stone built the Kings Valley Saw and Planing Mill on the
Luckiamute River at Hoskins. By 1883 the mill was solely owned by the Frantz
brothers (Fagan 1885).

W.C. Frantz (1976) recalls his grandfather building this mill. S.P. Frantz dammed
the Luckiamute and ran the mill on waterpower. The enterprise was a family affair
with the older sons working at the mill with their father. The mill was the only one in
the area and had a good market for its product. Finished lumber was hauled by
wagon to the customer. When taking lumber to the Nash Family of Nashville, Mr.
Frantz had an all day trip - one way! Roads were difficult to traverse- they were
muddy in winter and deeply rutted in the summer. The Kings Valley Saw and
Planing Mill was operated by the Frantz Family until its closure in 1910.

Another sawmill is mentioned by Mrs. Rebecca Chambers Alexander (Phinney
interview, c. 1935). She married A.B. Alexander in 1876. He farmed "for a short
time" in Kings Valley and then ran a sawmill. She cooked for the men working at the
mill. The location of this mill, and its dates of operation, have not yet been
determined.

**Development of Towns**

During the period between 1860 and 1880 towns providing special services began to
develop in Benton County., and settlers no longer needed to go long distances for
every item they did not produce themselves.

In Kings Valley the first store opened in 1868 and was operated by C.G. Nelson
(Fagan 1885). It served the community until about 1919 when it burned down. In
that year the store which existed until just a few years ago in Kings Valley, was
erected on the same site. This store was a focal point for the community (Weber
1984).
The town of Kings Valley continued to grow, and by about 1880 it had the following businesses: two stores in addition to the one described above (Jacob Cline and Co., and Paul Clifford, owners); a saloon and grocery store owned by Abbey and Simpson; a hotel owned by M. Simpson; a blacksmith shop owned by M.P. Newman; the Chambers & Co. Gristmill (WPA 1942); and, the post office which had opened in 1855. Development of other towns in northwest Benton County did not occur until the 1880's and 1890's.

**Schools**

Four new schools were built between 1860 and 1880. Both Summit and Kings Valley constructed new schools around 1860, a new school was erected at Hoskins about 1875, and a second Summit area schoolhouse was constructed in 1879. The first Summit School is thought to have been a log building, and was located where the town of Summit was later established. Enrollment in the 1870's included between sixteen and twenty-five students. About 1879 a second schoolhouse, a frame structure, was built approximately one mile north of the first Summit school (McDonald, 1983).

The first Hoskins school was built about 1875 when the number of local students became large enough to support their own facility. It was a frame structure located west of the Luckiamute River. Before 1875 children from Hoskins had attended the Kings Valley School, crossing the Luckiamute River on a footbridge. Even after the Hoskins school was built, those students who wanted a full year of schooling had to go to Kings Valley part of the year, because the Hoskins school was only open for five or six months. (McDonald 1983).

The 1849 Kings Valley log schoolhouse was replaced by a frame structure known as "the little red schoolhouse" about 1860 (McDonald 1983). The Kings Valley School was located about one mile south of the town of Kings Valley.

**Religious Activities**

In 1872 an Evangelical Church revival meeting was held in Kings Valley and a church was organized. Thereafter, meetings were held weekly (Phinney interview, Julia Chambers Price, c. 1935). In 1877 the first Evangelical Church was built at the
corner of Price Creek and the Kings Valley Road, across from the schoolhouse (Phinney, Historic Sites, c. 1935) on land donated by Lucius Norton (KVPC, 1985). This structure no longer exists, but an Evangelical Church built in the 1890's still stands. Like all rural churches, it served as a community focal point, hosting young peoples meetings, socials, and other events (KVPC 1985).
11. RAILROAD ERA: 1880-1900

Settlement Patterns

By 1880 nearly all the accessible farm and range land in Benton County was occupied. Only inaccessible land in the mountains was unclaimed in 1885. Between 1885 and 1900 population increased in the foothill regions, so that by 1900 there was little opportunity for acquiring farmland (Longwood 1940).

Between 1880 and 1900 there was a cycle of farm settlement, and subsequent abandonment, in the foothill regions. W.C. Frantz (1976), born in Hoskins about 1904, remembers seeing, as a boy, many abandoned farms in the hills behind Hoskins. Many settlers who had come there in the 1890's had failed to make a living.

Fagan, however, writing in 1885 as a sort of community booster, spoke in more positive terms. In answering the question, "What openings are there in Benton County?", he replied that for all kinds of farming there was still ample scope. Farms with mixed land types and farms for livestock were available in the hills of western Benton County and were less expensive than bottom land in the Willamette Valley proper. It appears that unoccupied land was becoming scarce, but improved farms were available for purchase during this time.

Agriculture

Grains

Wheat was the most important crop in Benton County between 1880 and 1890, with production steadily climbing (Longwood 1940). In 1873 the county produced approximately 300,000 bushels of wheat and 83,000 bushels of oats. In 1900 the figures were 548,390 bushels of wheat and 392,390 bushels of oats (WPA 1942). The importance of wheat to the economy of the Kings Valley area continued as before.
Dairy Farming

Between 1885 and 1900 the trend in Benton County was away from beef cattle and towards dairy cattle (Longwood 1940). In 1885 Fagan made a plea for more dairy production in Benton County. He lamented that cheese and butter had to be imported "from afar" when the county was so obviously suited to this pursuit.

The Kings Valley area seems to have followed the trend towards dairying at least to some extent. Mrs. Bertha Plunkett Thompson, born in 1876, lived in Kings Valley as a child and as an adult in Blodgett. She stated in 1938 that, "The greatest change I have seen in this country since I was a child is the change from dairying to lumbering" (Phinney interview, 1938). Dairying continued in the area into the next century. Milk was one of the products farmers in Kings Valley hoped to ship on the new Valley & Siletz Railroad in 1917 (KVPC 1985).

Industry

Lumber

Between 1880 and 1900 logging continued to be light, but large stands of Douglas fir and other species were expanding as a result of the cessation of yearly burning. In the decades to come these acres of timber would provide the basis for the rapid expansion in lumbering (Longwood 1940).

In Hoskins, the Kings Valley Saw and Planing Mill owned by the Frantz brothers continued to thrive. In 1885 the mill employed six men and had a capacity of 10,000 feet per day processing principally fir (Fagan 1885).

In 1881 several saw mills were purchased by the Oregon Pacific Railroad Company (OPRR) and set to work at various points in proximity to the line. The railroad was under construction until December of 1884. One of these mills is described by Fagan (1885). "Oregon Pacific Railroad Company is logging timber off of the hills near Summit and on the western slope of 'Summit Hill' " (near Nashville). Near the Marys River [in the Summit area] OPRR had a sawmill in which large amounts of lumber was being manufactured for use in the construction of the railroad. Fagan
also mentions Harris Mill, presumably a sawmill, located on the Marys River fifteen miles from Corvallis in 1884.

Transportation

Corvallis to Yaquina Rail Line

Although a rail line connecting Corvallis and Yaquina Bay built during this era did not pass through Kings Valley, its construction a few miles to the south of Kings Valley provided the local residents greater access to the outside world and so will be mentioned here. A railroad company was first incorporated to construct this line in 1867 (Fagan 1885) under the name 'Corvallis and Yaquina Bay Railroad Company'. In 1874 the company was reincorporated under the name 'Willamette and Coast Railroad Company'. In 1880 it became the 'Oregon Pacific Railroad Company'. Although the railroad had financial difficulties, the line was eventually completed. It was part of a grand transportation scheme meant to make Corvallis and Benton County the marketing center of the Willamette Valley (WPA 1942). Many of these plans were never realized, but the railroad has served the county well up to the present time.

Work on the Oregon Pacific Railroad began in 1874 (Fagan 1885), and the line was first used in 1885 (WPA 1942). The route chosen closely followed the old Corvallis-Yaquina Bay Wagon Road. Once it reached Philomath the railroad followed the Marys River to Summit. About a mile north of Summit the railroad crossed the wagon road and went another mile to the north and then doubled back on itself, leaving Benton County approximately a mile northwest of Summit.

Actual construction on the Oregon Pacific Railroad began with citizen volunteers anxious to get the project underway providing the labor. Between 1874 and 1877 the volunteers built ten miles of track from Corvallis to Philomath to fulfill the Oregon Legislature’s requirement that ten miles of track be completed before it would approve the railroad company's charter privileges (Fagan 1885). Financial problems halted construction until 1881, when work began again at full speed. Contracts were made at this time for a large Chinese labor force, and "hundreds" of Chinese arrived in Corvallis in late summer, 1881. Crossing the Coast Range proved a difficult task with tunnels and high trestles being necessary. But in December, 1884, the last spike
was driven near Harris, and in March, 1885, the first train traveled from Corvallis to Yaquina Bay (Fagan 1885).

A rail line first came to the central Willamette Valley in the early 1870's on the east side of the Willamette River. The West Side Railroad, owned by the Oregon and California Railroad Company, did not reach Corvallis until 1879. The Oregon Pacific Railroad was meant to connect with the west side line, providing the central Willamette Valley with a direct route to the seaport at Yaquina Bay, a common stopping place for cargo carrying ships at this time. Great hopes were held for creating a major seaport at Yaquina Bay. This would allow the area to bypass Portland and thus end that city's monopoly on trade in and out of Oregon (WPA 1942).

The plan had been to link the Willamette Valley with San Francisco and other ports by steamships (operating out of Yaquina Bay) which the Oregon Pacific Railroad planned to own and operate. These ships would be served by the Oregon Pacific Railroad. But shortly after the railroad was finished in 1884, a railroad line between San Francisco and Oregon was completed taking the freight and passenger service with it (WPA 1942). Additionally, Yaquina Bay was not suitable as a major port for increasingly deeper draft vessels. However, the original scheme did succeed on a limited scale for awhile, serving as a link with steamships that did use Yaquina Bay. Later, traffic was extended to Portland by means of three steamers built by the company as feeders for the railroad. The Yaquina Line was sold to the Southern Pacific Company in 1907, and has served as a branch line for them (WPA 1942) until its recent acquisition (lease) by the Willamette and Pacific Railroad Company.

**Development of Towns**

In the 1880's many of the residents of northwestern Benton County lived in isolated situations. In describing the farms in the foothills and mountains in Kings Valley, and western Benton County, Fagan wrote in 1885 that the occupants "will have to take a longer journey to church and warehouse, and must content himself and family with a weekly visit to town."
No town in Benton County ever developed the number and variety of amenities that Corvallis offered, but in the late 1880's, a few basic services became more accessible in rural areas, as new towns began to develop. Four of these - Summit, Wren, Blodgett, and Harris - were the result of the new Oregon Pacific Railroad which began freight and passenger service in 1885. They are all on the rail line and served as stops or stations.

One town which began to grow at this time, but did not have its beginnings as a railroad town, was Hoskins. The Frantz Family had built a sawmill in 1875 (Fagan 1885), and in the 1880's they built a general merchandise store. The Hoskins Post Office was established in 1891 with J.N. Hoffman, serving as Postmaster (KVPC 1985).

Schools

To serve the expanding population in northwest Benton County seven new schools opened between 1880 and 1900: Ward, Moody (Aldergrove), Fernridge, Mountain Top, Alexander (Cloverdale), Nois, and Troxell. The founding of these schools is an indication of the expansion and growth of population up small tributary streams in western Benton County during this era.

Three of these schools, Ward, Moody (Aldergrove), and Fernridge, were in Kings Valley. Ward School (pre-1899 - 1958) was located on Maxfield Creek northeast of the town of Kings Valley near the Benton-Polk County line. It was always a small school. Moody (Aldergrove) School (pre-1897 - 1950?) was located approximately three miles north of Hoskins on the Luckiamute River and averaged fifteen students. Fernridge School (1894 -1930) was located near the center of Township 10S Range 7W on the old road between Summit and Hoskins. It had between fifteen and twenty-five students (McDonald 1983).

Religious Activities

During the 1890's a division occurred in the Kings Valley Evangelical Congregation which had been formed in 1872. In the early 1890's a new Evangelical Church was built (WPA 1942) at the corner of Kings Valley Highway and Maxfield Creek, on land deeded by the Chambers family, by Preacher Youst and community members.
(Weber 1984). In 1913 the differences between the two churches were reconciled and the congregation was reunited (WPA 1942). The church now standing is the 1890's building.

The Kings Valley minister would travel to Peedee and Airlie to deliver church services for the citizens. He would also travel to Summit on a regular basis, but not as often as he went to the other communities. The Kings Valley Church held services until 1950 (KVPC 1985).
Agriculture

Wheat
The early 20th Century saw the demise of the pre-eminence of wheat growing in
Benton County. By 1939, wheat production had dropped to 127,825 bushels from a
high in 1900 of 548,390 bushels (WPA 1942). This trend can be seen in Kings
Valley. When Willard Price was interviewed in the late 1930's he said, "In recent
years the supply of wheat has become insufficient (to run the gristmill) and the quality
of flour failed" (Phinney Interview, 1936).

Dairy Farming

Dairy farming continued to grow in Benton County in the early 20th Century, and by
1920 it ranked as one of the major businesses in the county. By 1934 it was the
leading business. A 1924 survey of Benton County stated that the areas best suited to
the dairy farming were Alsea, Corvallis and Kings Valley (Longwood 1940). One
specific reference to dairy farming is from the Blodgett area where Edwin L. Davis
began farming with registered Jerseys in 1910. He was one of the first breeders of
registered cattle in Benton County (Gazette Times, 4/21/59). An early indication of
the dairy business in Kings Valley is the mention of milk as a product which would
benefit from access to the new Valley and Siletz Railroad in 1917 (KVPC 1985).

In the early 1930s Kings Valley residents Carl and Marjorie Bush began a large dairy
operation with registered Jersey cows. They built two large gothic-arch roof barns
and a milk house to support this operation. During their first few years of operation
they were mainly involved in cream production selling their product to the
Meadowland creamery in Corvallis which used the cream for the manufacture of ice
cream. When the Meadowland creamery went out of business the Bush family
changed their focus to milk production (Weber 1984).

The Bush dairy bordered the Frantz farmstead on the east. The large dairy barns are
still standing although the dairy went out of business in 1966. The barns are a major
landmark in the Hoskins vicinity and are readily observable from the Fort Hoskins
site. One of the early 20th century barns (now a ruin) situated on the site of Fort Hoskins (Frantz-Dunn farmstead) is configured as a small dairy barn indicating that for a time the Frantz family was involved in the dairy industry to some degree. The full extent of the dairy industry in Kings Valley needs further research.

Hops

Hop growing continued to contribute to the Kings Valley economy in the early 20th Century. First grown in 1862 at the north end of Kings Valley, hops were eventually grown along the Luckiamute River in various locations, including Hoskins, where the Frantz Family had hop fields for many years (Theurer 1984). A photograph (c. 1910) shows workers in a hop field in Kings Valley. Hops from Kings Valley were one of the agricultural products shipped on the Valley and Siletz Railroad (KVPC 1985) to eastern markets (Culp 1958:17).

Industry

Chambers Gristmill

About 1900 the Chambers gristmill was improved by its new owner J.P. Logan with modern milling equipment and a new 15,000 bushel elevator. The new proprietor hoped to expand his business beyond the local area to include the coast (Pacific Homestead Magazine, c. 1905). But the next several decades saw a decrease in business for the mill. As the wheat supply lessened the quality of the flour decreased until it could not compete successfully. By the late 1930's it was used only to grind feed for the surrounding farms (Phinney Interview, Willard Price, 1936).

Lumber

The most important economic development in western Benton County between 1900 and 1940 was the development of the lumber industry. The first discernible awakening of the lumber industry in Benton County came in 1900. It was not a boom or a rush but a gradual realization of the opportunities this industry held. This potential began to be realized within the next ten years when there was a noticeable increase in the amount of logging and the number of mills.
By 1910 the lumber industry was firmly established. In 1914 and 1915, there was a noticeable increase in logging with a peak occurring about 1920. From 1920 to 1940, except for the Depression years, the lumber industry remained at about the 1920 level. In 1940, the lumber industry was one of the largest industries in the county (Longwood 1940).

Mill towns sprang up in many locations. In 1912, the Valley and Siletz Railroad was built in order to facilitate the lumber industry in Kings Valley and southern Polk County. The lumber industry became, in large part, the basis of economic life in the area. A 1936 survey of Benton County showed that the major areas of timber harvest were around Blodgett, Kings Valley, Philomath, Greenberry Station, and Corvallis (Longwood 1940).

Before about 1910, mills in Benton County were largely dependent on water transported logs (Longwood 1940). The log drives on the Luckiamute River before the Valley and Siletz Railroad was established in 1917 are a famous part of Kings Valley history. Loggers built a dam above Hoskins to impound a good supply of water and then waited until the river was running high. Then they opened the dam gates and this added surge of water flushed out the accumulated logs that had been dumped into the Luckiamute River or along its banks. The logs were driven to the Willamette River at the mouth of the Luckiamute River near Buena Vista. There the logs were assembled into rafts and sent down the Willamette River (Gazette Times, 4/21/59). Splash dam construction and the water transportation of logs ceased on the Luckiamute River when the Valley and Siletz Railroad was completed in 1917.

**Transportation**

The Valley and Siletz Railroad was closely associated with the timber industry. It was constructed in order to transport timber, and in time it influenced the operation of the timber industry along its route. The Valley and Siletz Railroad was built by William Mitchell and Jonathan Cobbs so that they could access their timber holdings. In 1904, William Mitchell purchased 36,000 acres of timberland in western Polk and eastern Lincoln Counties. Mitchell and his partner, Jonathan Cobbs, had planned to wait several years before harvesting this timber, but in 1910 a forest fire partially burned some 4,000 acres. In order to salvage this timber, they had to begin logging operations earlier than planned (KVPC 1985).
The Valley and Siletz Railroad Company was incorporated in the state of Oregon on January 20, 1912. The name Valley & Siletz was selected because the original plans for the railroad envisioned a line which ran from the Willamette Valley to Newport over the summit of the Coast Range, crossing the Siletz River. This plan was eventually abandoned and the completed Valley and Siletz Railroad went from Independence to Valsetz. At Independence the V&S RR connected to the transcontinental Southern Pacific Line. The terminus of the V&S RR was the town of Valsetz, whose name was derived from the railroad. Valsetz was located near the center of Mitchell’s and Cobb’s timber holdings that had burned. (Culp 1958:9)

The 40.4 mile long railroad followed the Luckiamute River, going through the towns of Hoskins and Kings Valley. Track began to be laid in August, 1913, and the line was completed in 1917 (KVPC 1985). The line became operational on January 1, 1918 (Culp 1958:20). The railroad’s freight was ninety percent saw logs, but hops, other farm produce, and the mail were also shipped, and the train carried passengers as well (KVPC 1985).

Soon after World War I, the railroads effect on the logging and milling industry was felt. Many small sawmills were built along the Valley and Siletz line. The railroad built spurs to these mills, dumping off empty cars in the morning and picking them up full of lumber in the evening (KVPC 1985). W.C. Frantz (1976) states that in the years after World War I there were eight to ten small sawmills operating at the same time sawing second growth fir trees. Before the railroad, small mills could not have operated because of the lack of transportation. The presence of the railroad with its connecting spurs made their operation feasible. Most of these small mills were doing their own logging on their own small timber holdings.

The Valley and Siletz Railroad began to falter in the 1950’s. In 1952, it lost its mail contract, and passenger service was discontinued. Eventually, the mill at Valsetz closed, sealing the fate of the railroad. Between 1979 and 1983, the track was removed (KVPC 1985).

Besides the Valley and Siletz Railroad, the major development in transportation in northwest Benton County was the construction of Highway 20 to Newport and the paving of other major roads (Longwood 1940).
Development of Towns

The development of towns in western Benton County in the early 20th Century was related to railroads and the lumber industry. Hoskins is a good example of this phenomenon. Hoskins was the center of construction for the Valley and Siletz Railroad with tracks being laid from Hoskins in both directions. In 1912, the Cobbs and Mitchell Co. purchased the Lyday sawmill in Hoskins and began the preparation of building materials. The company had five and one-half acres in Hoskins for shop buildings, a roundhouse, and superintendent quarters. (KVPC 1985). This activity spurred the growth of Hoskins, which in 1920 was described as the trading point for Kings Valley by a booster pamphlet for Benton County. At its peak, Hoskins had a school, post office, store, sawmill, bank, hotel, many houses, and the buildings associated with the railroad (KVPC 1985).

The 1929 Metzker Map shows a small community called Kopplein situated along the Valley and Siletz tracks about five miles northwest of Hoskins. This was a short lived town, which needs further research.
The first professional archaeological inquiry at Fort Hoskins began in 1976 (Brauner 1977). Prior to 1976 artifacts were collected from the site by the land owners and visitors on a sporadic basis. With one exception the property owners never purposely dug for artifacts (Francis Dunn, personal communication 1976). The collection of artifacts that were in the Dunn’s possession had primarily been found in the gardens around their house (infirmary site) and in the tilled garden in the lower parade ground area (barracks disposal area). After Francis Dunn-Burbank’s death a couple of years ago the whereabouts of the Dunn family collection is uncertain. The only record of this collection are photographs of a few specimens illustrated in the published version of William Hilleary’s diary (Nelson and Onstad 1965).

In 1964 Richard Dunn, acting on a rumor that gold coins had been tossed into the hole excavated for the post flagpole by the soldiers during the post dedication ceremony, dug an extensive crater in search of this treasure (Preston Onstad, personnel communication) (Fig. 13.1). The base of the flagpole was discovered (Fig. 13.2) but instead of coins under the flagpole a large dark green wine bottle sealed with red wax was found. The *Gazette -Times* (July 15, 1964) reported the discovery as follows:

Last year [Richard] Dunn decided to dig for the remains [of the flagpole]. He used a bulldozer to make a first trench eight to ten feet deep. The excavation left a circle of dark earth clearly visible. There Dennis Dunn and his mother took turns removing the earth until they eventually uncovered a chunk of Douglas fir three feet long by two feet thick. An 18 inch tenon projected from the bottom. Further digging revealed a bottom block 32 inches square and about a foot thick, mortised to fit the tenon of the pole stump. It was under this block that the dedicatory bottle--placed deep in the hole dig for the flagpole 105 years before--was finally found.

Inside the bottle they found a scroll of paper which read as follows (*Gazette -Times*, July 15, 1964; *Oregonian*, June 17, 1964):

This flag staff was erected at Fort Hoskins, Oregon on the 19th day of January in the Year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and fifty-nine and the eighty-third year of the independence of the United States.

President of the United States, James Buchanan.

Commander in Chief, Lieut. General Winfield Scott.

Ladies at the post: Mrs. C.C. Auger and six children.

Garrison of the post: Companies ‘F’ and ‘G’ 4th Infy.

This post was established in the year 1856 by Captain Auger, 4th Infy. by direction of Major General Wool, then Comdg. Department of the Pacific, and continued at this point by direction of Brigadier General Clarke, Cmdy. Dept. of Pacific.

The Department of Oregon not being organized until in October, 1858.

The dedication document and the bottle were donated to the Oregon Historical Society by the Dunn family. The Gazette -Times (July 15, 1964) also reported that the base of the flagpole was given to the Oregon Historical Society as well.

When Oregon State University archaeologists arrived at the site in 1976 the crater produced by the flagpole excavation was still clearly visible. In fact, we were urged by several local residents to dig deeper in the hole because the coins must still surely be down there. Other than serving as a reference point for the location of the flagpole, the crater was not explored further. The flagpole crater can be seen in Figure 9.5 just to the foreground side of the automobile in the center of the photograph.

The crater was filled in during the early 1980’s when a road was constructed through the parade ground area to facilitate the placement of a double-wide mobile home on the hill above the fort site. This mobile home currently serves as the park caretakers home and the access road to this house is still positioned over the flagpole site.

The first systematic archaeological investigations to be conducted at the Fort Hoskins site occurred during the summer of 1976. Professor Onstad and others were concerned that due to Richard Dunn’s failing health the farmstead might be sold to interests who had little sympathy for preserving this important archaeological site. Sensing that the property may indeed have to be sold, the Dunn family gave Oregon
State University permission to archaeologically explore the site while the opportunity existed. Exploratory excavations were conducted throughout an eight week field season in 1976 and again during the summer of 1977. The archaeological field work was directed by David Brauner. The crews were composed of archaeological field school students from Oregon State University. Financial assistance was provided by Oregon State University and the Oregon State Historic Preservation Office.

Before excavations were begun an extensive background literature review was initiated and the site was recorded with the Oregon State Archaeological Site File at the Museum of Natural History on the campus of the University of Oregon and given the catalog designation 35BE15. In 1993 the site was redesignated ORBE15 by the Oregon State Historic Preservation Office.

All archaeological investigations during the 1976 and 1977 field season were confined to the area around the Fort Hoskins parade ground. The Dunn family was still living in the house on the base hospital site so this area was not investigated. The Sutler’s Store site above the fort was also not investigated as this area had been extensively bulldozed during previous logging operations on the property.

Prior to excavation, the parade ground was divided into four areas designated A through D to facilitate artifact cataloging and record keeping. Area A encompassed the officers quarters site. Area B was coincident with the enlisted men’s barracks, adjutants office, and guard house. Area C included the enlisted men’s privy and Area D overlapped the store house, laundry buildings, and bakery sites (Fig. 13.3). A single cartesian grid and datum were established to ensure horizontal and vertical controls for mapping purposes.

Our objectives for the 1976 field season were to evaluate the general archaeological integrity of the site and try to locate some of the structures that had once stood around the parade ground. We were particularly interested in the officers quarters and the enlisted men’s barracks.

A two meter wide by forty meter long trench was excavated parallel to the location of the officers houses in Area A (Fig. 13.4). All cultural material was mapped in place before removal and all sediment was passed through 1/4 inch mesh hardware cloth to
Figure 13.3. Location of archaeological excavations during the 1976 field seasons at Fort Hoskins.
ensure significant recovery of material not found in place. We began encountering mid-19th century cultural material from the surface to a depth of 30 centimeters below the surface. It became quickly apparent that the area around the officers quarters had never been plowed. As a consequence, we were seeing good in-situ clustering of architectural remains and yard debris associated with the houses. The debris scatter associated with the easternmost officers house can be seen in the foreground of the trench illustrated in Figure 13.4 and the central officers house location is evident by the debris cluster midway down the trench. We had just begun to expose a similar concentration of debris associated with the third officers house when excavations were terminated in Area A.

The architectural material associated with the houses was primarily composed of fragmented locally manufactured bricks and machine cut square nails. The distribution of the debris, although on the site of the individual houses, was suggestive of the scavenging activities that took place after the fort was closed. The distribution of the domestic artifacts around the houses did relate to the military occupation however. Excavations were expanded over the central officers house in 1977 to better validate the above assumptions.

The privy behind (south) the easternmost officers house was located and excavated in 1976. A small dump downslope (south) from the privy was also sampled in 1976. In 1977 the privy behind the central officers house was excavated and a similar dump downslope from that privy was sampled. The privy behind the westernmost officers house was located but not excavated. With the exception of the architectural remains from Area A, all of the artifacts have been described and discussed by Bowyer (1992).

A single enlisted men’s privy was excavated in 1976 on the slope above the barracks in Area C. With the exception of the faunal material, the contents of this privy have been described by Bowyer (1992).

The barn overlying the enlisted men’s barracks was in use in 1976 and 1977 so no test excavations were placed in that area. The Dunns had noted that uniform parts and architectural debris were frequently found at the base of the slope in the middle of the old parade ground when they plowed their garden. We excavated two trenches perpendicular to this slope in 1976 and 1977 in order to investigate what seemed to be
Figure 13.1. Greg Onstad and Dennis Dunn digging out the base of the flagpole in 1964.

Figure 13.2. The flagpole base removed in July 1964.
Figure 13.4. Excavation trench across officers quarters area at Fort Hoskins, 1976.
an extensive concentration of artifacts where they would be least expected. We eventually concluded that the enlisted men’s barracks and whatever contents was left in it by the Oregon Volunteer Infantry had been dumped onto this slope soon after the fort was abandoned and burned. With the exception of the architectural debris, the cultural material recovered from Area B is described by Bowyer (1992).

Three one by two meter test pits were excavated in the vicinity of the laundry buildings (Area D) in 1977. No evidence of these buildings were found. An aerial view of the mid-1970’s excavations is presented in Figure 13.5.

As noted in the introduction, increased public interest in the archaeology at Fort Hoskins and the publicity that went with it began causing problems for the landowners. To alleviate the growing problem, excavations were terminated at the site at the end of the 1977 field season.

Limited archaeological testing resumed at Fort Hoskins in 1993 just after Benton County acquired the property. The Gothic Revival house (Frantz-Dunn House) on the property is earmarked to become the central interpretive facility for the historic site. Needed renovations on the house will require ground disturbing activities including the construction of a foundation. Since stabilization and renovation of the house will be a top priority for the County, a timely evaluation of the archaeological potential near the house was required. Archaeologists from Oregon State University under the direction of David Brauner excavated seventeen one by 2 meter test pits around the margins of the standing structure (Fig. 13.6). Several thousand artifacts dating from the Civil War to the late 1980’s were recovered from these test units. The artifactual material from this project is currently being analyzed by Tim Trussell as part of his research for his Masters Degree at Oregon State University. The wealth of archaeological materials around and under this structure will basically require that archaeologists dig the foundation and utility trenches when stabilization and renovation moneys are found.

Archaeologists from Oregon State University, under the direction of David Brauner, returned to the site in 1994 to continue archaeological testing around the Frantz-Dunn House and began sampling around the barn overlying the site of the enlisted men’s barracks. At this writing cataloging of materials is still underway. A letter report will
be submitted to the County and the Oregon State Historic Preservation Office when the analysis of these data are complete.
Figure 13.5. Aerial view of the Fort Hoskins Site showing location of excavations, 1977.
Figure 13.6. Distribution of test pits around the Frantz-Dunn House, 1993.
14. INTERPRETIVE AND MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

The potential historical interpretive themes which could be developed at the interpretive center and on site specific locations at Fort Hoskins County Park have been outlined in the preceding chapters. None of these themes has been fully developed and more work will need to be done prior to the development of displays or interpretive signage. We do feel, however, that the preceding information highlights the incredible wealth of human experiences that have waxed and waned around a relatively small piece of ground in the central Coast Range of western Oregon and illustrates the tremendous educational potential of this site.

Significant Built Environment Features

Most of the historic buildings which stood within the confines of the County Park are gone or in ruins. Two structures still standing on the property are worthy of preservation, however.

The Frantz-Dunn House

The most significant standing structure on the site is the late 1860’s to early 1870’s Frantz-Dunn House. This is one of the best and most intact examples of a Gothic house still standing in Benton County. This house is the ideal focal point for the historical interpretive program at the park. The house needs a foundation, utilities upgrade, a fire suppression system, a security system, and general restoration of its historic fabric.

Prior to any alterations to the existing structure, we would recommend that a qualified historic architect be hired to document the structure as it now stands through measured drawings and photographs. The historic architect should also be involved in the design aspect of any alterations to the structure well in advance of implementation.

Along these same lines, we have documented the fact that the house sits on a significant archaeological site. The Fort Hoskins infirmary was situated adjacent to the house site and military related artifacts underlie the house as well as the adjacent
yard area. The archaeological debris from the early Frantz family occupation is also a significant component to the archaeological record at the site. Prior to any ground disturbing activities under or around the house, a professional historic sites archaeologist should be consulted and, if excavations are required, costs for this work should be programmed into the construction or project budget. The cost of analysis and reporting of the archaeological work should also be considered in the budget development process. Just removing artifacts from harms way is not enough. Vital information about the site could be generated from every archaeological inquiry at the site. This will not happen if analysis is left to volunteerism.

We also recommend that a historic landscape specialist inventory the exotic vegetation around the Frantz-Dunn House to insure that no historically significant plants are destroyed during the course of site development. Two very old cherry trees and a pear tree near the house certainly need the aid of a professional botanist to ensure their continued longevity.

In 1993 our archaeological field crew cleared a ten foot buffer between the house and the encroaching blackberry vines. The blackberries were growing up on the house again the following year. We recommend that at least a ten foot buffer be kept vegetation free around the east side and back of the house to reduce physical damage to the structure by encroaching vines, reduce moister buildup around the house, and lessen the fire hazard to the structure. Once the vegetation is cleared, only periodic maintenance with a weed whacker or herbicide would be necessary to stabilize the buffer. Mechanical equipment should not be used around the house to remove heavy vegetation cover. Significant archaeological materials do occur in the shallow root zone.

The pole and plywood wood shed adjacent to the Frantz-Dunn house should be removed. This is a recent structure which only detracts from the view of the historic house. The cold room or pantry that is attached to the south end of the wood shed might be retained. It is a sturdy and secure structure which would provide a good exterior storage unit for the house.
Pole Barn

The only standing structure associated with the Frantz-Dunn farmstead is a pole barn situated on the hill to the northwest of the old fort parade ground. This barn could serve as a wet weather shelter for visitors to the park as well as a focal point for interpreting late 19th and early 20th century farming in the area. The remnants of an historic fenced fruit orchard to the west of the pole barn should also be preserved for the same interpretive theme. Both the barn and the orchard have a commanding view across the core of the old Frantz-Dunn farmstead and the Fort Hoskins parade ground.

The pole barn is restorable now, but if it is not stabilized soon it will join its brethren as a ruin. The pole barn should be temporarily shored up before this winter’s storms can do further damage to it. Temporarily shoring up the barn now will provide the time needed to acquire the funding for its complete restoration. We recommend that this action be put on the top of the County’s priority list, as this structure may not last another winter without help.

Archaeological Features

The most prominent archaeological feature or resource within the confines of Fort Hoskins County Park is the fort site itself. There are, however, two other sensitive archaeological areas that should be interpreted and carefully managed as archaeological sites. We refer specifically to the Hoskins School site and the site of a late 19th century house associated with the development of the town of Hoskins.

Hoskins School

The Hoskins School was situated several hundred meters west of the Frantz-Dunn farmstead and the Fort Hoskins parade ground (Fig. 14.1). The school was still standing until the late 1970’s when it burned to the ground. The above ground basement framed in concrete with a portion of the burned out wood structure above still stands on the site. The remnants of the charred wood framing and floor will have to be removed for safety concerns. The concrete basement should be left on the site as a focal point for interpretive purposes. Several photographs and some drawings of the school were produced in the mid-1970’s prior to the loss of the building.
(Fig. 14.2). These images along with a text focused on rural education and community social events would provide the core of an excellent interpretive focus for this area. The yard area around the school could also be restored to enhance the immediate setting.

The Dunn family had stored old tools and other farmstead artifacts in the basement of the school. Some of those items are still under the rubble on, or imbedded in, the dirt floor. It is our recommendation that when this structure is cleaned out that a qualified historic sites archaeologist be on site to collect objects that will be valuable for the future interpretive program at the site. There was also a privy associated with the school. This feature should be located and protected from future site development.

**Late 19th Century Structure**

A two story late Queen Anne style home was situated between the school building and the old fort parade ground, just above and west of the Fort Tavern (Fig. 14.1). This structure burned to the ground in 1977. No research has been done on this house and the site has not been evaluated for its archaeological potential. The structure was built during the growth period of the town of Hoskins and may yield archaeological materials which can enhance our understanding of that era in local community development. Until an archival and archaeological evaluation can be done of this site no development activities should take place here.

**Fort Hoskins Archaeological Site**

The archaeologically sensitive areas of the Fort Hoskins site are the parade ground and the building sites around the parade, the visible section of the original road entrance to the fort, the still visible walkway from the parade ground to the infirmary and the yard area around the Frantz-Dunn House which was the infirmary site (Fig.14.1). The Sutler's Store and stable site north of the enlisted men's barracks has been completely destroyed by past logging related activities and need not be a protected area, although interpretive signage should be placed there.

As previously noted, except for the lower parade ground which has been plowed, the remaining parade ground area and associated building sites are remarkably intact. With the exception of privies, the cultural material is close to the surface. No ground
disturbing activities should take place in this area without prior archaeological clearance.

When the military arrived in 1856 the Fort Hoskins site was a grassy knoll. While the fort was active vegetation was kept to a minimum. As can be seen from historic photographs trees were not present in the core of the farmstead on the fort site. Trees began to invade the site in the early 1980’s. Numerous Douglas fir trees are now growing on and adjacent to the parade ground. **These trees must be removed.** These trees are recent intrusions having nothing to do with the historical aspects of the site. Beyond the concern for an historically accurate presentation of the parade ground area for the visitor, our concerns about these trees runs deeper. As these trees get larger their roots are mechanically moving and breaking up potentially valuable archaeological remains. The acidic environments created around their roots are also chemically dissolving buried organic remains and speeding up the oxidization of metal artifacts in contact with them. Tree removal on the Fort Hoskins site should happen immediately in order to stop the site destruction that is taking place every day that the trees are allowed to remain. The trees should be removed by cutting their trunks flush with the ground. Stump removal would cause additional damage to the site that can be easily avoided by leaving the stump in place and letting it naturally decay.

Ultimately the parade ground and adjacent building locations could be maintained with a thick grass cover mowed to no less than 4 inches thick with interpretive signage marking the location of buildings. Eventually intact archaeological features could be protected and interpreted for the visitor in small enclosed structures. But, until that level of site interpretation and site security is achieved the best protection may be the berry vines that are taking over large areas of the site. At least for now, we would recommend that the blackberries remain on the site.

The fort was also located on the knoll because of its commanding view of the Luckiamute River drainage. Thick vegetation growth on the slope between the Hoskins Road and the officers quarters area is obscuring this historic vista. Although not advocating complete tree removal on this slope, some selective thinning to open up the view should be considered.
A portion of the officers quarters area and the slope below the officers houses containing some military dump sites are on land associated with the Fort Tavern. We would recommend that a portion of this private 2 acre parcel be purchased for inclusion in the park and ensure the protection of the last remaining section of the archaeological site not in public ownership. The proposed boundary modification presented on Figure 14.1 seems acceptable.

We would recommend that an alternative access to the caretakers house be found which would not be so intrusive on the fort site. The present road, constructed in the 1980’s, goes directly through the eastern half of the parade ground and directly over the site of the flagpole. Continued use of the road posses no new threat to the archaeological site but its visual impact for future interpretive plans is unacceptable. Vehicular traffic through the archaeologically sensitive areas of the park should be kept to a minimum.

**General Recommendations**

Signs should be placed near the entrances to the park and eventually in the parking lot areas noting that collecting or removing artifacts from the park without an Oregon State archaeological permit is against the law. As soon as Senate Bill 61 has an ORS number this law can be cited on the sign. On the same sign a statement to the effect that the use of metal detectors is prohibited in the park is also needed. Public parks are a favorite haunt for metal detector buffs. It has become standard practice at State Parks such as Champoeg to enforce this type of prohibition to protect their historic archaeological sites. These signs should not wait for public access restrictions to be lifted before they are posted. They should go up as soon as possible.

For safety reasons, and eventual park development, the collapsed barns and outbuildings on the Fort Hoskins site will need to be removed. We would recommend that an historic sites archaeologist be present to record and collect any significant architectural elements associated with the structures and portable artifacts which were in or under the structures before they collapsed.

All artifacts from Fort Hoskins and associated archaeological records should be curated in one local repository. Since all of the collections to date are housed in the curation facility within the Department of Anthropology at Oregon State University,
we would recommend that this become the repository for future collections as well.
Items in this curational facility from Fort Hoskins could only be removed for
scientific or interpretive purposes with written permission from Benton County Parks
and the concurrence of the curator of collections at Oregon State University.

Should a gift shop ever be associated with the interpretive facility at the park, no
items should ever be sold that are replicas of items that might be found
archaeologically. If such replica items were lost or “planted” in an archaeologically
sensitive area within the park they may be mistaken by future archaeologists as
genuine artifacts. This issue may also be a valid concern if reenactment groups camp
on the site.
Will Be Inserted When Received From John Stewart

Figure 14.1. Location of significant cultural resources within Fort Hoskins County Park.
Figure 14.2. The Hoskins School in 1977.
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