

Oregon Historic Site Record

LOCATION AND PROPERTY NAME			
address:	Tampico & Soap Creek Rds Adair Village vcty, Benton County	historic name:	Tampico Townsite
assoc addresses:		current/other names:	
location descr:		block/lot/tax lot:	
		tnwshp/rng/sect/qtr sect:	10S 05W 24
PROPERTY CHARACTERISTICS			
resource type:	Site	height (stories):	
elig evaluation:	demolished	total elig resources:	
prim constr date:	c.1855	NR Status:	
	second date:	date indiv listed:	
primary orig use:	Other	orig use comments:	Townsite
second orig use:		prim style comments:	
primary style:		sec style comments:	
secondary style:		siding comments:	
primary siding:		architect:	
secondary siding:		builder:	
plan type:			
comments/notes:			
GROUPINGS / ASSOCIATIONS			
Survey/Grouping Included In:	Type of Grouping	Date Listed	Date Compiled
Benton County RLS Survey 2009	Survey & Inventory Project		2009
SHPO INFORMATION FOR THIS PROPERTY			
NR date listed:	N/A	106 Project(s):	None
ILS survey date:		Special Assess Project(s):	None
RLS survey date:	09/30/2009	Federal Tax Project(s):	None
ARCHITECTURAL / PROPERTY DESCRIPTION			
<i>(Includes expanded description of the building/property, setting, significant landscape features, outbuildings and alterations)</i>			
<p>The former town site of Tampico is located approximately nine miles north of Corvallis in the vicinity of the current intersection of Soap Creek and Tampico Roads. Upon cursory examination of the former town site, there were few features observed on the landscape that date to the time when Tampico was in existence. Along the west side of Tampico Road, before the soap creek intersection, are several very large Douglas Fir trees. Reportedly, these trees were planted in 1858. Possibly another row of firs, perpendicular and to the west of those on the road, were also planted at that time. The only other feature observed was a slight depression in the ground in the approximate former location of the Tampico schoolhouse. Corresponding depressions that may have been privy locations were also noted. House was removed since last survey and a modern barn on the southwest corner still exist.</p>			
HISTORY			
<i>(Chronological, descriptive history of the property from its construction through at least the historic period - preferably to the present)</i>			
<p>Written by Mary Weber & Kathy Schutt in 11/11/1985: the first settler in the immediate vicinity of what was to become Tampico was D.D. Davis. Mr. Davis' house as located close to Soap Creek, on the west side of Tampico Road today. Mr. Davis became postmaster of the Soap Creek post office in 1854. The name of this office was changed to Tampico in December of 1854. A store was kept in the Davis House by James O'Neal. In 1854 or 1855, D.D. Davis built another residence, the first building to be built in what was the become Tampico. The residence was used as a store and a hotel. In November of 1857, a survey plat was filed with the county for the town of Tampico. The plat, which was surveyed for William J. Crouch, had eight blocks, with each block divided into eight lots. First Street was the Territorial Road, which was at that time the major route from Portland to the Umpqua region. Most of the buildings that were built in Tampico were located along first Street. Between 1855 and 1860, Tampico consisted of the Davis residence, which also served as a boarding house; a store known as the Crouch and Co. Store; the Arcade Saloon, built in 1858 by Bill Bowers, who was also the owner and bartender; the Wash Roberts boarding house; a livery stable; a blacksmith shop, which also had a turning lathe to manufacture such items as wagons and chairs; a boarding house owned by William Beattie; and a schoolhouse. The schoolhouse was also used for religious purposes. Tampico had a reputation as being a rather "lively" place, with gambling being a popular activity. On Saturdays, men would gather to have shooting matches and horse races. Tampico was known for its racetrack north of town. This track was 600 feet long and was kept scraped and in good condition. During the 1859s, there was a rivalry between Tampico and Corvallis. A song about Tampico, written in the 1850s, that consists of twelve or more verses, provides much historical information on Tampico and includes one verse about this rivalry. The rivalry ended abruptly in 1860, however, when the town of Tampico ceased to exist. Green Berry Smith, who acted as a money lender for many of the Tampico businesses and residents, eventually gained possession of all the land within the plat of the town of Tampico. In 1860, Mr. Smith annulled and vacated the plat. Given the density of occupation, undoubtedly subsurface cultural material exists in the location of the former town. The archeological component of the Tampico site may be significant for the potential to yield information on life in Benton County during the 1850s. Although several recent activities, such as driveway construction and tree planting have certainly impacted a portion of the town site, several areas do not appear to be disturbed by any major impacts. The importance of Tampico as a potential archeological site is enhanced by its short span of occupation.</p>			
RESEARCH INFORMATION			
Title Records	Census Records	Property Tax Records	Local Histories
Sanborn Maps	Biographical Sources	SHPO Files	Interviews
Obituaries	Newspapers	State Archives	Historic Photographs
City Directories	Building Permits	State Library	
Local Library:		University Library:	
Historical Society:		Other Respository:	
Bibliography:			

Braunner, David. Personal communication, 1985. Davis, Edward Erwin and David Davis. "Our Pioneer Ancestors", Family Genealogy on file with Benton County Historical Museum, Philomath, Oregon, 1978. McArthur, Lewis A. "Oregon Geographic Names". Oregon Historical Society. Portland, Oregon. 1974. Smith, John E. Benton County Towns, in the John E. Smith Collection, Benton County Historical Museum, Philomath, Oregon. (Notes taken in 1926 by Dr. Blake during an interview with James Hunter. Map of Tampico included.)