

STATE OF OREGON INVENTORY  
 HISTORIC SITES AND BUILDINGS  
 Oregon State Highway Department, Salem 97310

2. County Coos  
 Town \_\_\_\_\_  
 Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 (Common) Coquille Lighthouse  
 (Historic) (Same)  
 Original Use Lighthouse  
 Present Use Deserted; State Park  
 Present Owner State of Oregon  
 Date 1896 Style \_\_\_\_\_  
 Source of Date \_\_\_\_\_  
 Architect \_\_\_\_\_  
 Builder U.S. Lighthouse Service

1. Site/Structure is historically significant to: Town County State Nation

Site/Structure has historical associations with the following themes:

- |                          |                               |
|--------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Aboriginal man           | Transportation/Communication  |
| Maritime exploration     |                               |
| Overland exploration     | Military/Indian Affairs       |
| Fur trade                | <u>Government</u>             |
| Missionary frontier      | Arts and Sciences             |
| Oregon Trail migration   | Religion/Philosophy           |
| Mining frontier          | Social/Humanitarian movements |
| Cattlemen's empire       | Ethnic immigration            |
| Agriculture              | <u>Travel/Recreation</u>      |
| <u>Commerce/Industry</u> | Conservation                  |
| Development town/city    |                               |
| Other _____              |                               |

3. CONDITION: Good Fair Poor Re-sited Altered Restored \_\_\_\_\_  
 (Site) Open Overgrown Developed Obliterated by \_\_\_\_\_

NEIGHBORING LAND USE: Commercial/Industrial Residential Blighted Undeveloped

SITE ENDANGERED BY Deterioration ACCESSIBLE TO PUBLIC: Yes No  
 On what basis Free Access

4. DESCRIPTION 6a, 8b 5. LOCATION DIAGRAM (Refer to known points)

Frame: Wood Iron Steel Brick  
 Wall cover: Rough-hewn timber  
 Lap/Tongue-in-groove siding  
Brick Stone masonry Concrete Glass  
 Stories: Basement 1 2 3 Attic  
 Roof: Gable Gambrel Tower Spire Mansard  
 Dormers Cupola Spire Dome  
 Other \_\_\_\_\_  
 Chimneys: 1 2 3 4 Stone Brick  
 Interior trim:  
 Paneling: Milled Carved  
 Wainscot Baseboard Chair-rail  
 Interior Walls: Boards Brick Plaster  
 Ornament: Molded plaster Wood-carved  
 Decorative painting \_\_\_\_\_  
 Original: Fixtures Hardware Furniture  
 Stairs: Central stair-hall Straight flight  
 Geometric Dog-legged Double-return  
 Enclosed Wood Iron Removed  
 Openings: Regular Irregular  
 Attachments: Simple Porch Double Piazza  
 One/Two-story portico Veranda(s)  
 Side/Center ell Wing(s) Shed  
 Outbuildings: Wood shed Bath/Cook house  
 Smoke house Carriage house Barn  
 Other \_\_\_\_\_  
 Landscaping: Formal Forecourt Informal  
 Date executed \_\_\_\_\_ By \_\_\_\_\_

Indicate North

Road or Highway Park from Highway 101  
 Street and No. \_\_\_\_\_  
 Township 28S Range 15W Section 25  
 Recorded by Stephen Dow Beckham  
 For OCCDC and State Parks Division  
 Date 1 August 1974  
 Photo: Available \_\_\_\_\_

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION (Comment on original condition, alterations, and notable features)

The Bandon, Oregon, harbor was little developed until the 1880's when Capt. Judah Parker began developing his sawmill and shipyards at Parkersburg on the lower Coquille River. This led to the building in 1896 of a brick lighthouse on a rock adjacent to the north spit of the river. Nearby stood a two story duplex for a keeper and an assistant, a barn, and a storage shed. Of these structures, only the lighthouse survives.

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE (Elaborate on the historical theme circled on front of form)

The Coquille River Lighthouse at Bandon, Oregon, was constructed in 1896 to provide navigational aid to vessels entering and leaving the harbor. The lighthouse was an adjunct to the building of the jetties which improved the Coquille bar and brought, for the next sixty years a modest commerce to the region. Capt. Judah Parker's mill and shipyards at Parkersburg, the Pershbaker mill at Propser, and the sawmill of Cody Lumber Company at Bandon all employed coastal lumber schooners to carry cargoes to market. The lighthouse enabled the captains of these vessels to cross the shallow bar with greater certainty. The station was tended, in part, in the 1930's by Rome M. Beckham. He served as interim keeper. It was the scene of the gathering of many refugees who fled the great Bandon Fire of 1936 and were ferried across the river and landed on the North Spit. Presently the station is in very bad repair, deserted, and a part of Bullards Beach State Park. It was nominated to the national register of historic landmarks in May, 1974. Briefly in 1958 it appeared that the House Merchant Marine Committee would authorize the sale of the remaining 11½ acres of the reserve. The station was abandoned in 1939. It cost \$17,600 when it was built in 1896.

SOURCES CONSULTED (Existing surveys, publications, records)

"Lonely Lighthouse Offers Testimony of Another Day," Fabulous Fifty Miles Recreation Guide, 1972 (Bandon, Ore. & Port Orford, Ore.: Peterson & Strycker, 1972), p. 15.

"Lighthouses," pp. 492-493 in Emil R. Peterson and Alfred Powers, A Century of Coos and Curry (Portland, Ore.: Binford & Mort, 1952).

Peterson, Ernest W. "Lights of Sea Kept Bright by Daring Men," Oregon Journal (4 Sept. 1932)

"Lighthouse Sale Eyed," Oregonian (16 Feb. 1958).

"Lighthouse Sale Posed: Structure Marked for History," Oregonian (30 March 1958).

"Coquille Lighthouse An Historic Place," Gazette-Times (Corvallis, Ore.), (16 May 1974)

"Lighthouse One of Plentiful Subjects," by Gene Kelsey. Gazette-Times (Corvallis, Ore.), (1 Dec. 1972)

District-Site Boundaries \_\_\_\_\_

Approximate acreage of site \_\_\_\_\_

Location of current property title(s) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ County Assessor's Map No. \_\_\_\_\_ attached.

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