

HISTORIC RESOURCES INVENTORY

STATE OF OREGON INVENTORY
OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES
State Historic Preservation Office
Oregon State Parks, Salem, OR 973



County CURRY
Theme #2a Exploration - Maritime
Name
(Common) Cape Blanco & Cape Blanco Reef
(Historic) Cape Orford, (Vancouver 1792)
Cabo Diligencias, Heceta
Address _____
Present Owner U.S. Government
Address n/a
Original Use Landmark
Date of Construction n/a

Physical description of property and statement of historical significance:

Description: Cape Blanco is 160+ feet above sea level and at a longitude 124° 33½' the most westerly point in Oregon (Cape Alva in Washington at 124° 43' is the most westerly point in the continental lower 48 states). The Cape Blanco Reef consists of 9 sea stacks and numerous rocks off of Cape Blanco.

Significance: The earliest recorded landmark sighted along the Oregon coast was this wind-swept headland which appeared in the log of the explorer Ferello in 1543. As the early Spanish captains stayed a great distance from the rough waters near the shore there is some question as to the accuracy of the early navigational reconings. Captain George Vancouver named the cape after an English earl whom he admired (Waldpole, Earl of Orford). Cape Orford appeared on the Russian charts of 1848. However, Blanco stuck and the name Orford was applied to the Orford Heads 5 miles south.

The name Blanco in Spanish means white and probably refers to its chalky appearance from a distance.

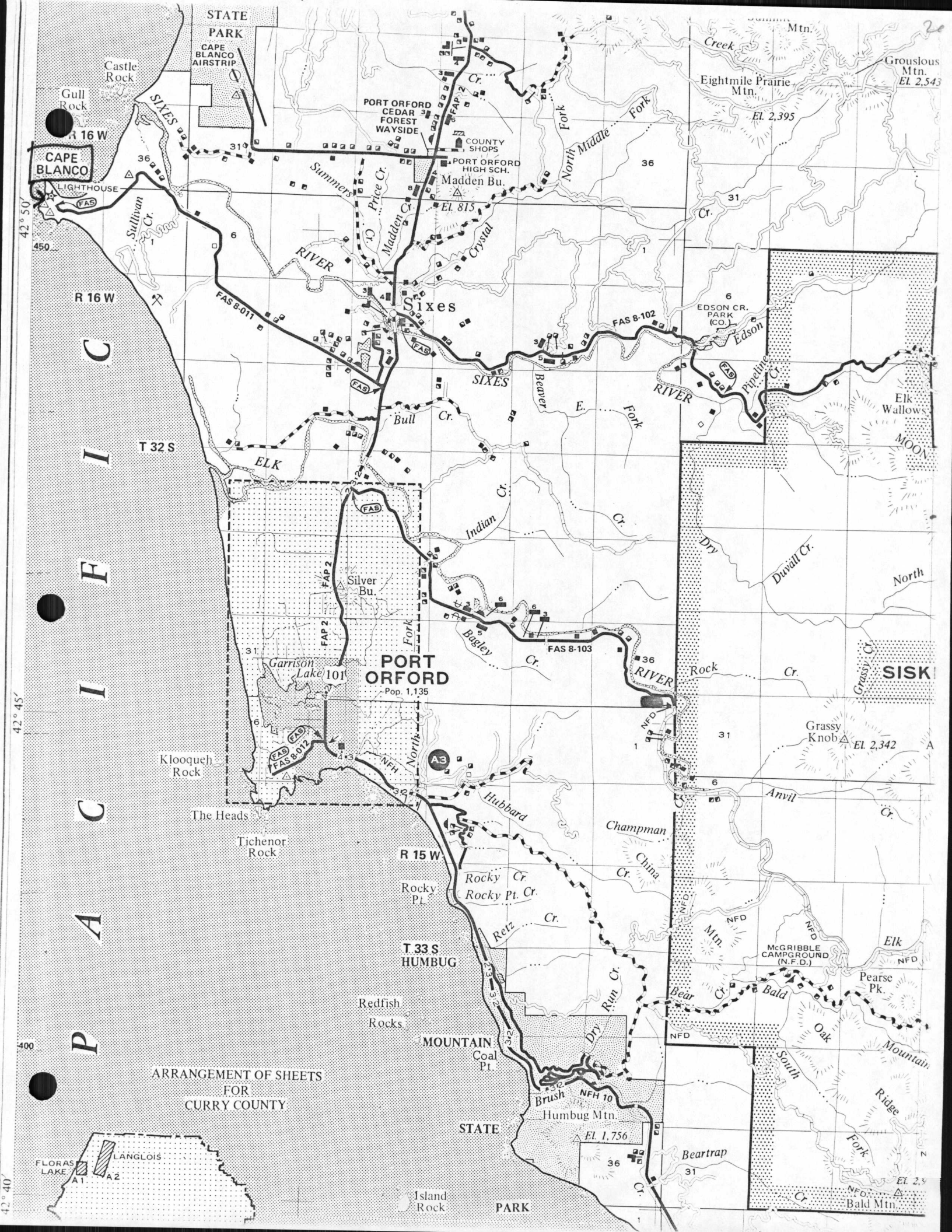
The Cape Blanco reef has been the site of many maritime disasters. The Cape and the Reef are the reason for location of the Cape Blanco Light. While extremely picturesque this reef is equally treacherous for mariners. At the turn of the century sea lions were harvested for bounty on and around these rocks. Today they afford many choice locations for the "bottom fish" anglers and commercial fishermen. continue on back if necessary

Recorded by Patrick Masterson Date 5/83

Sources consulted (continue on back if necessary):

Peterson & Powers, Century of Coos and Curry; US Coast Guard Navigational Charts;
Aerial Sheet #8; Assessor's Map 32-16 300

Please enclose map. Township 32 ^N/_S 16 ^E/_W Section 2



PACIFIC

R 16 W

T 32 S

R 15 W

T 33 S

HUMBAG

ARRANGEMENT OF SHEETS FOR CURRY COUNTY

FLORAS LAKE A1 A2 LANGLOIS

Island Rock

STATE

PORT ORFORD

SIXES

ELK RIVER

SIXES RIVER

PORT ORFORD CEDAR FOREST WAYSIDE

PORT ORFORD HIGH SCH. Madden Bu. El. 815

Crystal

Summers

Price Cr.

Madden Cr.

County Shops

North Middle Fork

Fork

Eightmile Prairie Mtn. El. 2,395

Grouse Mtn. El. 2,543

Castle Rock

Gull Rock

CAPE BLANCO AIRSTRIP

STATE PARK

CAPE BLANCO LIGHTHOUSE

Sullivan Cr.

FAS 8-011

Crystal

North Middle Fork

36

31

6

EDSON CR. PARK (CO.) Edson

FAS 8-102

Pipeline Cr.

Elk Willow

MOON

Elk

Bull Cr.

Indian Cr.

Grassy Cr.

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