

ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCE INVENTORY

STATE OF OREGON INVENTORY
OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES
State Historic Preservation Office
Oregon State Parks, Salem, OR 97310

Hubbard Creek Archaeologic Site



County CURRY
Theme #1(a) Prehistory-Primary Domestic
Name
(Common) Hubbard Creek
(Historic) Quo-to-mah (Kwa-ta-h-mi)
Address _____
Present Owner State of Oregon
Address _____
Original Use Primary village site
Date of Construction Unknown

Physical description of property and statement of historical significance:

Description: An area of about 15 acres along both sides of the thread of the stream at the mouth of Hubbard Creek which is one mile south of the city limits of Port Orford. The area is comparatively low with the higher ground not much above twenty feet from the mean high tide line of the ocean. At present the south side of the creek has a dense cover of fir trees about 50 to 75 feet high.

Significance: This village site was occupied by the "Tu-tu-ney's" (Athabascan linguistic stock) Indian band named "Quo-to-mah" at the time of white exploration and settlement. Ideally located, the site afforded ample protection from seasonal storms, unlimited year-round fresh water, and an adequate food supply. Much of the area has been covered with material used for construction of bridge approaches (1950) while in earlier years the creek was dammed and the resulting pond used in conjunction with a sawmill operation (1880's). Much amateur digging has transpired here over the years and many artifacts have been lost to private collections without any scientific study related to them. The main village sites of "Quo-to-mahs" were Hubbard Creek, Sixes River, and Floras Lake. The name "Quo-to-mah" means "people-who-lived-on-the-bay" and refers to this village site at the mouth of Hubbard Creek.

continue on back if necessary

Recorded by Patrick Masterson Date 5/83

Resources consulted (continue on back if necessary):

P. Schumacher Graves research, Oregon.

Smithsonian 1877 USGS

Aerial Sheet #15

Assessor's Map 33-15-A 300 & 400

Please enclose map. Township 33 N S 15 E W Section 9

68

5
Significance: Con't

Their residency was contested and the island was the scene in the summer of 1851 of a bloody confrontation between white settlers and the Qua-to-mah band of Athapascan-speaking natives on this section of the coast. Capt. William Tichenor had dreamed of developing the small roadstead at Port Orford into a town to supply the mines of the Rogue River Valley and the Upper Klamath River in northern California. For details see:

Beckham, Stephen Dow. Requiem For a People: The Rogue Indians and The Frontiersman. Norman, Okla.: University of Oklahoma Press, 1971.

The island refuge of the settlers was the site of a hanging during the Indian war of 1855-56. Jake Summers, the first white man married on southern Oregon's coast after the establishment of Curry County, is buried on the rock with his Indian wife.

At the building of the coast highway -- then named the Roosevelt Highway -- there was a proposal to erect a statue to Theodore Roosevelt atop a horse on the island. The plan was not carried out.

On the adjacent shore and at both sides of Gold Run Creek are middens of a major Qua-to-mah village.