

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

2. County Douglas

Town \_\_\_\_\_

Name  
 (Common) Umpqua Lighthouse

(Historic) (Same)

Original Use Lighthouse

Present Use Lighthouse

Present Owner U.S. Coast Guard

Date 1857/1894 Style \_\_\_\_\_

Source of Date See References

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

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

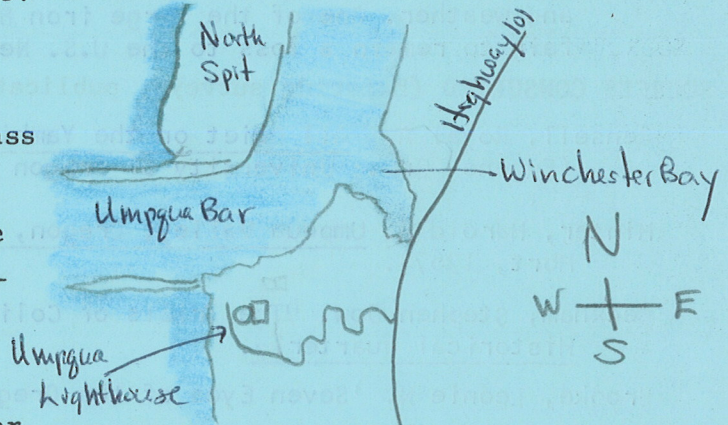
NEIGHBORING LAND USE: Commercial/Industrial Residential Blighted Undeveloped

SITE ENDANGERED BY \_\_\_\_\_ ACCESSIBLE TO PUBLIC: Yes No  
 On what basis Limited Hours

4. DESCRIPTION

- 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 Hipped Mansard  
 Dormers \_\_\_\_\_ Cupola Tower 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  
 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 \_\_\_\_\_

5. LOCATION DIAGRAM (Refer to known points)



Road or Highway Highway 101; Lake Marie Access  
 Road

Street and No. \_\_\_\_\_

Township 22 <sup>N</sup> <sub>S</sub> Range 13 <sup>E</sup> <sub>W</sub> Section 13

Recorded by Stephen Dow Beckham

For OCCDC and State Parks Division

Date 1 August 1974

Attached

Photo: Available \_\_\_\_\_

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

The lighthouse station includes a brick, light tower of sixty-five feet in height, a keeper's quarters (2½ stories with dormers) a five car garage with dormers, several outbuildings, and trailers. A water tower, approximately forty feet tall and covered with a shingled exterior was razed in the 1960's. The lighthouse is adjoined by a small service building with a fireplace. The lantern has 200,000 candlepower and is visible sixteen miles at sea.

The lantern is in a six foot glass case. It was made in Paris in 1890 and brought to the station in 1894. It is illuminated by a 500 watt bulb.

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

Development of the Umpqua Harbor commenced in 1850. By 1851 towns at Umpqua City, Gardiner, and Scottsburg drew increasing commerce. The discovery of gold in the interior of southern Oregon in 1852 brought an increased boom in shipping at the port. Between 1850 and 1858 at least eight ships wrecked near the harbor entrance, thus pressure mounted for a lighthouse and aids to navigation. Rudimentary channel markers were erected shortly after Colin Wilson came to the lower river in 1852 as the first Custom's Collector for the southern district of Oregon. In 1857 a lighthouse was constructed at the river's mouth, but it was constructed on the sand and was toppled during the flood of 1860-61. On April 28, 1864, Royal A. Bensell visited the site and commented:

Passed Umpqua Light house, now in ruins. This costly structure was built in '60 on a foundation of Sand and this when a fine, solid resting place was near at hand. The Keeper, (Ed Brin) a San Francisco bummer, retains his 'polish' and salary of \$800 per annum. The oil and lamps lay exposed to wind and weather. One of the large iron Barge broken lose and drifted ashore, bids fair to remain a loss to the U.S. Near all this waste of property is a large (cont.)

SOURCES CONSULTED (Existing surveys, publications, records)

Bensell, Royal A. All Quiet on the Yamhill: The Civil War in Oregon. Gunter Barth, ed. (Eugene, Ore.: University of Oregon Books, 1959).

Minter, Harold A. Umpqua Valley, Oregon, and Its Pioneers (Portland, Ore.: Binford & Mort, 1967).

Beckham, Stephen Dow. "The Trials of Colin Wilson," forthcoming in 1974 in the Oregon Historical Quarterly.

Brooke, Leonie N. "Seven Eyes of the Oregon Coast," Oregonian (27 Sept. 1953).

Gibbs, James A., Jr. Sentinels of the North Pacific (Portland, Ore.: Binford & Mort, 1955).

Pratt, Gerry. "Light Station Marks 99 Years of Duty," Oregonian (29 Jan. 1956).

Pollard, Lancaster. "First Oregon Lighthouse Built on Umpqua," Oregonian (6 Dec. 1959)

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

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

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

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

Umpqua Lighthouse (Douglas County), Oregon.

Historical Significance (cont.):

wrecked schooner loaded with timber, the rigging gone, a large hole in her bottom into which the never ceasing surf dashes up and down the hatchway. Barnacles and musels hold silent carnival. (Bensell, All Quiet, p. 144)

In 1893 new Congressional appropriations were made to build the present lighthouse and keeper's quarters.



JUN 74

