

LIHN COUNTY INVENTORY OF HISTORIC RESOURCES

Historic name Milton Hale's Ferry Crossing Site

Inventory number 240

Address _____

Vicinity North end of Bluffs Road on the
Santiam River

Township 10S Range 3W Section 3

U.S.G.S map _____

Theme Settlement/Transportation

Present use _____

Present owner _____

Recorded by Elaine Smith

Date recorded February 2, 1983

Place photo
here

Description/Historic Significance: Although the exact location of Milton Hale's Ferry Crossing is not known, it was approximately ¼ mile downstream from an area now known as The Bluffs on the Santiam River which is a few miles downstream from the town of Jefferson. The ferry that was built at this location by Hale in 1846 provided the first reliable means of crossing the Santiam for immigrants traveling south. Two towns grew at this location: Syracuse in Linn County and Santiam City across the river. Hale and his family arrived at this location in the spring of 1846 and found the water in the river too high to cross. In the following weeks he built a ferry to take him and his family across the river and during that time other immigrants arrived and also found the water too high to cross. It was, thus, apparent that a commercial ferry could be profitable operated at this point, so when Hale finished the ferry, he crossed the river, settled on his claim, and for several years hence operated a ferry at this location. The two towns that grew at this location were both washed out in the flood of 1861 and never rebuilt. There is no known trace of these towns remaining today.

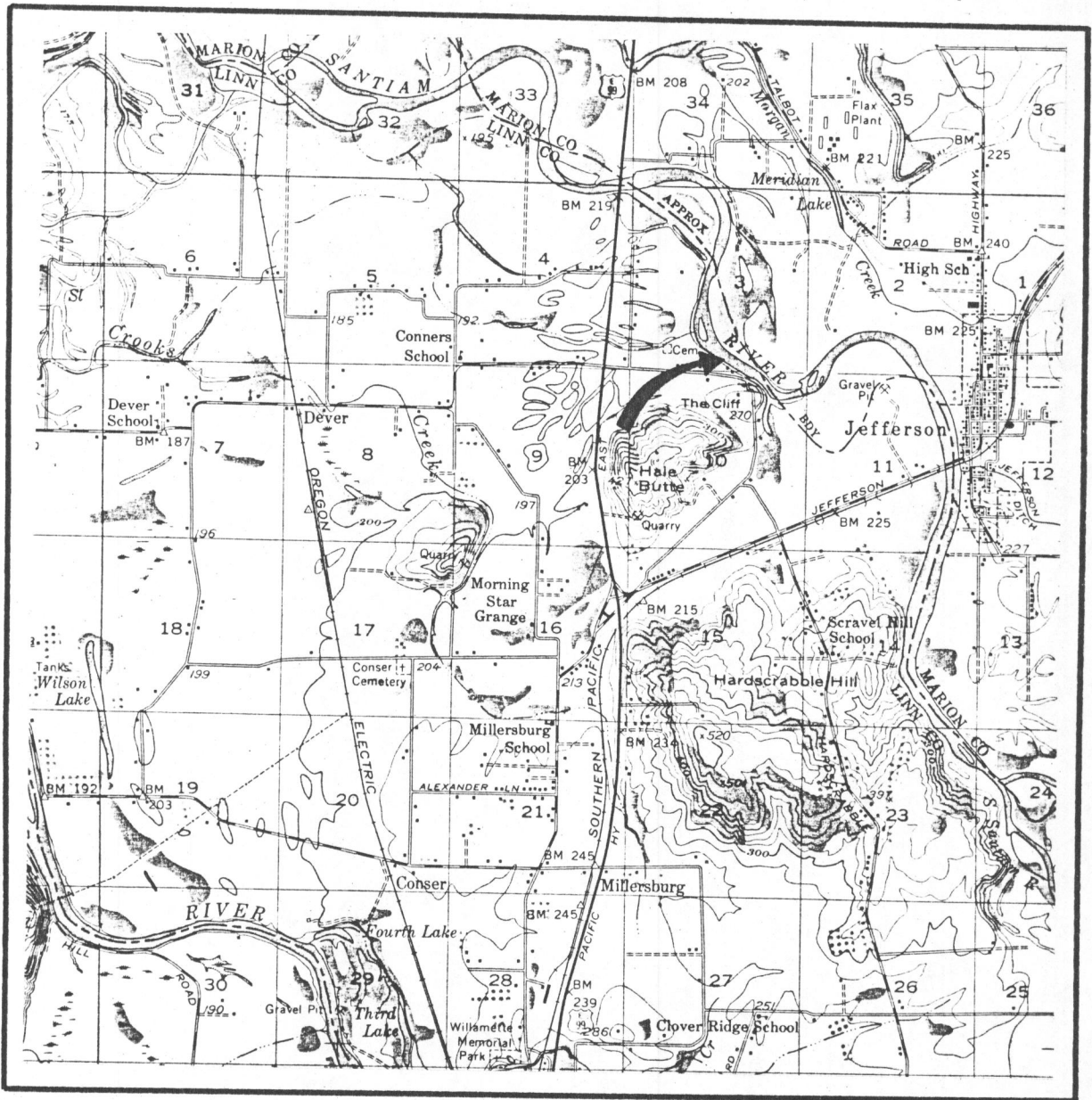
Remarks: A property owner at the Bluffs location has cleared out a pull-off from the road and landscaped this area.

Sources:

Mullen, Floyd. Land of Linn. Lebanon: Dalton's Printing, 1972, pp. 25-6, 76-7, and 108-9.

arks Project Administration. History of Linn County. L. M. Wheeler, 1982, pp. 4-6.

Milton Hale's
Ferry Crossing



Albany
U.S.G.S. Quadrangle Map