

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number _____ Page _____

SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 88002016 Date Listed: 11/3/88

Cape Perpetua Shelter and Parapet Lincoln Oregon
Property Name County State

Multiple Name _____

This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.

Bruce J. Noble Jr.
for Signature of the Keeper

11/3/88
Date of Action

=====
Amended Items in Nomination:

Contrary to the instructions in National Register Bulletin 16, both building and structure are checked in the Classification section of the nomination. This property should actually be classified as a district. The resource count for the district should be one contributing building (shelter) and one contributing structure (parapet).

DISTRIBUTION:

- National Register property file
- Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

RECEIVED

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National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

NATIONAL
REGISTER

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Cape Perpetua Shelter and Parapet
other names/site number n/a

2. Location

street & number Three miles south of Yachats N/A not for publication
city, town Yachats vicinity
state Oregon code 41 county Lincoln code 041 zip code 97498

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	_____	_____ buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	_____	_____ sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> structure	<u>2</u>	_____ structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	_____	_____ objects
		<u>2</u>	<u>0</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A
Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register N/A

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

Evan D. DeBlois, Preservation Officer 12-13-88
Signature of certifying official Date
U.S.D.A. Forest Service
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

[Signature] May 6, 1988
Signature of commenting or other official Date
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer
State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register.
 See continuation sheet.

determined eligible for the National Register. See continuation sheet.

determined not eligible for the National Register.

removed from the National Register.

other, (explain:)

Bruce J. Noble, Jr. 3/17/89
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Outdoor recreation

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Outdoor recreation

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(enter categories from instructions)Other: NPS rustic architecture

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation stone
walls stone

roof shake
other _____

Describe present and historic physical appearance.Present

1. The shelter is a 15' x 20' rectangular stone shelter with a split shake salt box style roof. North and south walls arch above the roof in a semi-elliptical shape. Arching structural door openings with radiating voissiors are set within these walls. Adjacent to the door opening are semicircular window openings towards backside of structure. The east wall is entirely closed; the west is open. The floor is of flagstone which extends to the west as a terrace enclosed by a solid stone wall, approximately three feet high.

2. The parapet is a stone wall structure also about three feet high which is located on the south side of the Cape. The parapet and shelter were the only two stone structures built on the top of the Cape and are the only recreation sites built by the C.C.C. at Cape Creek that still exist.

Original

Both 1933 structures stand in their original locations with very few modifications. Originally, the interior of the shelter had a hewn cedar bench which was placed on the east wall. The cedar bench does not exist today because of deterioration, but the place where the stone braces were marks its location. Also, a register booth was built on a stump outside the shelter which today no longer exists.

The original roof on the shelter was made of hemlock poles split in half, then hewn out and placed over each other in an interlocking manner. This roof was replaced with a shake roof in a few years' time because of deterioration. A third roof replaced the second in the 1950's. By this time, the poles used in framing the original roof had rotted and were replaced by 4" x 4" posts.

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally statewide locally

Applicable National Register Criteria A B C D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) A B C D E F G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

 Transportation

 Social History

Period of Significance

1933

 1932-1936

 1933-1937

Significant Dates

1933

 1933

Cultural Affiliation

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

CCC / USFS

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

Both the shelter and the parapet are unique stone structures that are located near the top of Cape Perpetua, 800 feet above the sea. The stone shelter, which stands today almost exactly as it was built in the summer of 1933, provides an excellent view of the Oregon coast. On a clear day, a person can see south to Cape Blanco and north to Cape Foulweather. The distance is more than 150 miles.

The Overlook Shelter was built in accord with a plan recommended by the U.S. Forest Service for "rocky points and along the coast." It is a 15x20 foot rectangular structure of random ashlar with flagstone floor, battered corner pilasters, segmental arched openings, a cedar shake roof on log or pole rafters, and a rock parapet in the "Swiss style" on either gable end. The roof has been replaced twice, most recently in the 1950's, at which time rotted pole rafters were replaced with 4x4's. The original hand-hewn cedar bench is missing from the interior. Notwithstanding these modifications, the Cape Perpetua Overlook Shelter is significant among projects of the Civilian Conservation Corps in the Pacific Northwest as the only example of its type to have been constructed in the region.

The 3-foot-high stone parapet lines a widening in the trail approximately 800 feet east/southeast, or downslope from the shelter. Although they are separate, the two features lie in close proximity to one another and form a discrete unit of the larger C.C.C. improvement projects for the Forest. The stone used in construction was quarried locally at Round Mountain northeast of Yachats.

9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheet

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

See continuation sheet

Primary location of additional data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Specify repository: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of property 4.68 Waldport, Oregon 1:62500

UTM References

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Zone Easting Northing

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Zone Easting Northing

D

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See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

Beginning at a brass cap marking section corner ^{3 2}/_{10 11} T15S., R11W, W.M. go 2392 feet north and 1196 feet west to the southeast corner of the historic property; hence along an east line N 20°E, two-hundred-six (206) feet to a corner; hence along a north line N 67°30' W, nine-hundred-ninety (990) feet to a corner; hence See continuation sheet (continued)

Boundary Justification

The nominated area is drawn to encompass the Cape Perpetua Overlook Shelter and its immediate visual field and the full extent of the stone parapet lining the pathway, or approach to the shelter. The shelter and parapet are the complementary contributing features of the nominated area.

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title John W. Montague and Saraya E. Meza, students-Dept. of Resource Recreation Manager
 organization Oregon State University date November 18, 1983
 street & number _____ telephone _____
 city or town Corvallis state Oregon zip code 97330

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SECTION VIII SIGNIFICANCE

Building the Cape Perpetua Shelter and Parapet

Construction of the trail shelter, parapet, and other recreational improvements on the Siuslaw National Forest at Cape Perpetua came as a result of President Franklin D. Roosevelt's creation of the Civilian Conservation Corps in March of 1933. The CCC's work on National Forests in the west included reforestation, fire suppression, and construction. In Forest Service Region Six, which comprised the National Forests in the states of Oregon and Washington, recreational development was an important part of the construction program.

In June of 1933, near the nadir of the national depression, the CCC began building a camp at Cape Creek, on Cape Perpetua, at the southern extreme of Lincoln County (Waldport Tribune June 8, 1933). The camp would bring CCC enrollees into the area and, more importantly, provide employment for local men who could serve as contractors or "local experienced men" (LEM's) for the camp. In the same month, the State of Oregon approved a plan to build five major highway bridges across coastal estuaries. When the bridges were complete, the Oregon Coast Highway would span the scenic coast from the California border to Astoria. The prospects of new state and federal payrolls brightened the mood in the hard-pressed communities of Waldport and Yachats.

By the end of June, a permanent CCC camp at Cape Creek was finished, and a temporary or spike camp had been built near Waldport to the north (Waldport Tribune June 29, 1933). During the summer, the CCC men from Cape Creek worked on recreational developments on the Cape, including a picnic ground at the base and a road that climbed to the crest. The Cape was a ideal spot for recreation. Part of the Siuslaw National Forest and commanding a splendid view of the surrounding beaches, the Cape offered the public a rugged stretch of coast with numerous potential camp sites, picnic areas, and viewpoints.

In October, as the weather changed from the brief coastal summer to the autumn stormy season, the CCC crews finished up their improvements on the Cape, including the parapet and shelter on the crest trail (Wakefield interview). The CCC construction superintendent at Cape Creek was Fenton Starr, and the plans for the shelter were furnished by the Siuslaw National Forest

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Supervisor's Office. The local newspaper pronounced Cape Perpetua "wonderfully improved" at the end of the CCC's first season there, and predicted its future success as a tourist attraction (Waldport Tribune Oct. 19, 1933).

During the remaining years of the CCC's tenure at Cape Creek, crews continued to make minor improvements to the Cape's recreation facilities. At the end of the 1936 tourist season, the Waldport Tribune estimated that over 4000 motorists had visited the Cape. The following summer brought more tourists, and the paper commented on the "beautiful grounds" of the Cape, including the picnic tables, campground, and the "rustic shelter and vista house" located on the crest trail (Waldport Tribune May 13, 1937, p.4).

Significance

The Cape Perpetua Shelter is significant for its participation in three historical themes important to Oregon and the Pacific Northwest. These are the "rustic style" of public architecture, the Civilian Conservation Corps, and the development of the Oregon Coast Highway.

The Rustic Style

Architectural historians have applied the term "rustic style" to a type of architecture favored by public agencies in the west during the first four decades of this century. The general characteristics of the style include the use of indigenous materials (especially stone and wood), building techniques requiring hand labor, adaptations of traditional designs, and a sensitivity to the relationship between structures and the landscape (Walton 1974: 539; Throop 1979: 31; Clark 1983: 189; Tweed et al. 1977: i).

As William Tweed (1977) points out, the term "rustic" is somewhat a misnomer, since it implies an eclectic design that chooses architectural elements from the past without regard to their appropriateness. Tweed and others who value the style concede that it was eclectic, but argue that it was a distinctive product of the industrial age, consciously rejecting the "regularity and symmetry" of that period.

The roots of the style can be traced back to the American

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Romantic movement of the nineteenth century, especially the work of architect Andrew Jackson Downing, whose seminal Cottage Residences (1842) influenced a century of American residential and landscape architecture. Frederick Law Olmstead's designs of parks and recreational structures also influenced the early practitioners of the rustic style. The Arts and Crafts movement and the Craftsman style of architecture contributed ideas about natural materials and hand labor to the rustic style.

Among the earliest examples of the style was the Cloud Cap Inn near Mt. Hood, designed by Portland architect W.H. Whidden in 1889 (Clark 1983). Later, associates of California architect Bernard Maybeck created one of the most influential statements of the style in 1903 when they built the Sierra Club's Le Conte Memorial Lodge in Yosemite Valley.

During the 1905-1918 period, the rustic style matured in a series of buildings in National Parks throughout the west. Notable among these were hotels and lodges in Glacier National Park, Grand Canyon National Park, Yosemite, and Crater Lake (Tweed et al. 1977). Hallmarks of the style included the extensive use of native stone, exposed timber structural elements, battered columns and chimneys, massive roofs of hip or jerkinhead design, and multi-light windows. The resulting style was distinctive, although indebted to earlier architectural ideas. Elisabeth Walton (1974) also notes the similarity of the western rustic style to the Catskill Mountain style popular in resorts in the eastern U.S.

In 1923, California architect Thomas C. Vint assumed responsibility for the landscape division of the Western Field Office of the National Park Service. Under Vint's direction, the office moved from Los Angeles to San Francisco, where Vint employed an increasingly large staff of structural and landscape architects. Design projects for the western parks in the 1920's and early 1930's included administrative buildings, museums, entrance kiosks, restroom buildings, and shelters. All of these projects conformed to Vint's goals of rustic style and "non-intrusive" placement of structures in the landscape (Tweed et al. 1977).

Under Vint's direction, the National Park Service achieved a consistency and quality of design that influenced the architectural ideas of other government agencies, including the Forest Service. As a result, when the Forest Service began its building program in response to the nationwide depression, "the

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prevailing Park Service ethic of non-intrusive architecture was found to be appropriate and adopted" (Throop 1977: 32). Each regional headquarters in the National Forest system prepared designs suitable for projects on forests within the Region, so that standard plans for most types of structures reflected collaboration at the local, regional, and national levels.

The creation of the Civilian Conservation Corps in 1933 made the human and material resources available for an ambitious building program on public lands in the west. Between 1933 and 1941, the CCC improved hundreds of recreation sites on National Forests, National Parks, and other state and federal properties. Although the CCC building crews were committed to follow whatever architectural ideas the Forest Service or other host agency advanced, the combination of the rustic architecture and CCC labor was convenient. Stone and rough timber work required enormous amounts of hand labor, and the CCC had that in abundance. On the other hand, architectural styles requiring highly skilled labor, sophisticated machines, or exotic materials would have presented real problems to the depression-era building programs.

The Architecture of the Cape Perpetua Shelter

The original design of the Cape Perpetua Shelter was the standard "Overlook Shelter" provided in the Forest Service Region Six Lands Handbook. Like other trail shelters, it was based on an Adirondack-type shelter design, with an asymmetrical roof of two uneven gable pitches (Throop 1977: 63). Other shelters were built in Region Six, but the Cape Perpetua Shelter is the only example of its specific type (Throop interview). It is also one of the best-preserved shelters, remaining intact when most other shelters have suffered vandalism and disrepair.

Design elements important to the Cape Perpetua Shelter include the form of the structure, the materials, and the choice of site. Each of these elements reflects the aesthetics of 1930's rustic architecture and non-intrusive landscape management.

The building has a rectangular plan with a semi-circular portico on the front or western elevation. Entrances are located on the two gable ends, the north and south elevations. The rear or eastern elevation is open, as is the front. In addition to an arched entrance, each gable end also has a narrow unglazed window. The gable walls are the most substantial portions of the structure. They rise from a broad base to a narrower top,

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providing the familiar "battered" or tapering silhouette characteristic of pillars and chimneys built in the Craftsman style.

Although most rustic style buildings feature a prominent roofline, the roof of the shelter is concealed by parapets rising from each gable wall. This roof design is the shelter's most unusual feature. The tops of the parapets are finished with uneven stones; indeed, the design calls for ashlar even more ragged than those the builders provided. At the roofline, the gable walls are pierced for three purlins, which extend through the walls, but not beyond them. The purlins support the five rafters and provide visual clues to the location of the roof. The resulting design is similar to Mary Elizabeth Jane Colter's 1914 design for the Lookout Studio, a Fred Harvey Company facility at the Grand Canyon (Tweed et al. 1977: 11; Pl. I-VII). Other similar designs were prepared by the National Park Service architects for structures located above timberline (Tweed et al. 1977: Pl. IV-VIII).

The shelter is built of stone and timber, with both materials left in a rough state. The stones were taken from a pit nearby (Wakefield interview). Dressing was left to a minimum, so that all the stones including quoins and voussoirs have the appearance of undressed fieldstone. The stones also retain a pleasing variety of colors. Timbers inside the shelter originally included rough-hewn rafters and purlins. The rafters have been replaced, but the purlins appear to be the original ones. The roofing material was hand-split cedar shakes.

The choice of sites for the shelter again reveals the non-intrusive aesthetic at work. The shelter is located on a side hill overlooking the ocean. The trail runs through the shelter, entering at the south wall and exiting to the north. Since the trail skirts the timber, the shelter is sited at the edge of the forest, with trees behind it and an open expanse in front of it. The shelter cannot be approached from the front or rear; these sides are blocked respectively by the escarpment and the forest. The site offers a splendid view of the Oregon coast, then, but almost no view of the shelter itself.

The Civilian Conservation Corps

During the Depression, the CCC contributed to the economic stability of many forest-dependent communities throughout the

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Pacific northwest. The CCC retains an important place in the region's social history. Roosevelt's original concept of the CCC was an army of unemployed young men from the cities doing conservation work on America's forests and farms (Schlesinger 1959: 337). For the mill towns in the northwest, the CCC offered more, frequently sustaining whole communities when the mills closed down. Unemployed single men were enrolled in the program, and tradesmen were hired as "local experienced men" to train the enrollees. Local businesses sold the camps food and materials, and the local mills cut lumber for the construction projects (Throop 1977: 25).

At Cape Creek, the original CCC enrollees were twenty-five boys from Lincoln County (Wakefield interview). This practice of enrolling local men to establish camps was apparently common in Oregon (Throop 1977: 23). Newspaper accounts written in 1933 and 1934 record socializing between the CCC camp and the town of Yachats in the form of dances, beach excursions, and athletic contests, especially baseball games. In 1936, the Cape Creek Camp and its seven spike camps had over 1000 CCC enrollees, most from other areas of the country. In 1937, Waldport enrollees were working in a camp near Reedsport, one hundred miles to the south (Waldport Tribune May 21, 1936; Feb. 25, 1937).

Relations between the south Lincoln County communities and the CCC camps were generally cordial from 1933 to 1936, but then began to decline. During the summer of 1937, CCC men were arrested in Waldport for public intoxication, drunken driving, and indecent exposure (Waldport Tribune June 19, 1937). By this time, most of the Cape Creek men were outsiders who may have been seen as chronically unemployed, rather than victims of the depression (Wakefield interview). Public Works Administration projects in south Lincoln County employed more workers than the CCC after the winter of 1937 (Waldport Tribune Feb. 4, 1937; March 4, 1937).

The Oregon Coast Highway

The recreational developments at Cape Perpetua, like others on the Oregon Coast, were tied to the conception and construction of the Oregon Coast Highway. The first efforts toward a coastal highway were begun at the northern end of the coast in Clatsop County in 1914 (Corning 1956: 183). In 1919, the Oregon Legislature passed HB 147, which called for construction of a highway "to be known as the Roosevelt coast military highway" from Astoria to the California border. The bill included a 2.5 million

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dollar bonding proposal.

Funded by state and federal agencies, work on the highway began in 1919 at the northern and southern ends. Grades were to be kept under 5%, and the roadbed was to be 24' wide, with 12' of road surfaced (Oregon Highway Commission 1921-22: 55). The northern and southern portions of the highway presented fewer problems for the engineers than the rugged central portion, especially the Lincoln County coastline.

By the end of the 1920's, the Highway Commission was anxious to complete the road: "...the outstanding and most important objective of Oregon's road building program is the completion of the construction of the Roosevelt Coast Highway" (Oregon Highway Commission 1929-30: 76). In 1932, the highway was officially dedicated, after the Legislature had changed the name to the more descriptive "Oregon Coast Highway."

Construction proceeded in the Cape Perpetua vicinity according to the following chronology:

- Route Reconnaissance.....c.1921
 - Location Survey.....1924-25
 - Right-of-way Acquisition.....1925-28
 - Final Survey.....1929
 - Grading.....1930
 - Stone Surfacing.....1930
- (Oregon Highway Commission 1922-32)

The 1925-26 Biennial Report commented on the difficulties (and potentials) Cape Perpetua offered.

This section of the Roosevelt Coast Highway traverses an extremely picturesque and rugged country, ascending to the summit at Cape Perpetua at an elevation of approximately 400 feet and descending on the south side to the county line.... Construction work over this section of the highway will be extremely heavy and expensive, but will afford a wonderful view and as a scenic spot will be unsurpassed (p.372).

When the CCC arrived in Lincoln County in the summer of 1933, then, the Oregon Coast Highway had been dedicated and officially open for only one year. Five bays and estuaries along the route still needed bridges, but ferries were available. The highway was attracting tourists even during the depression. Among the notable

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visitors motoring the Oregon Coast that summer were former President Herbert Hoover and his party.

The five bridges--at Yaquina Bay, Alsea Bay, the Suislaw River, Reedsport, and Coos Bay--were completed in 1936. In the following year, the Oregon Journal (Oct. 10, sect.1. p.10.) called statewide attention to Cape Perpetua's scenic attractions, while the Waldport Tribune (May 13, p.4) lauded the CCC's building program at the Cape.

While the Oregon Coast Highway served practical needs of the communities and industries along the coast, the connection between scenic highways and outdoor recreation was a favorite theme of the federal and state agencies who funded the project. Ideas about the healthy effects of outdoor recreation infused the New Deal, and were manifested in many of its accomplishments (Ekirch 1965).

In their 1939 analysis of New Deal architecture and building programs, Short and Brown commented that the public works projects built during the national depression would provide the "...opportunity for outdoor life and exercise" that the American public would be able to enjoy during better times to come.

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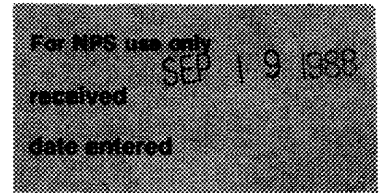
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along a west line S 20° W, two-hundred-six (206) feet to a corner; hence along a south line S 67° 30' E, nine-hundred-ninety (990) feet to a place of beginning, containing 4.68 acres more or less. Bearings are given in true bearings.



Cape Perpetua Trail Shelter
Siuslaw National Forest
Lincoln County, Oregon

Ward Tonsfeldt Photo, 1988
Neg-on file, Siuslaw NF
Covallis, OR 97333

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South elevation, looking north

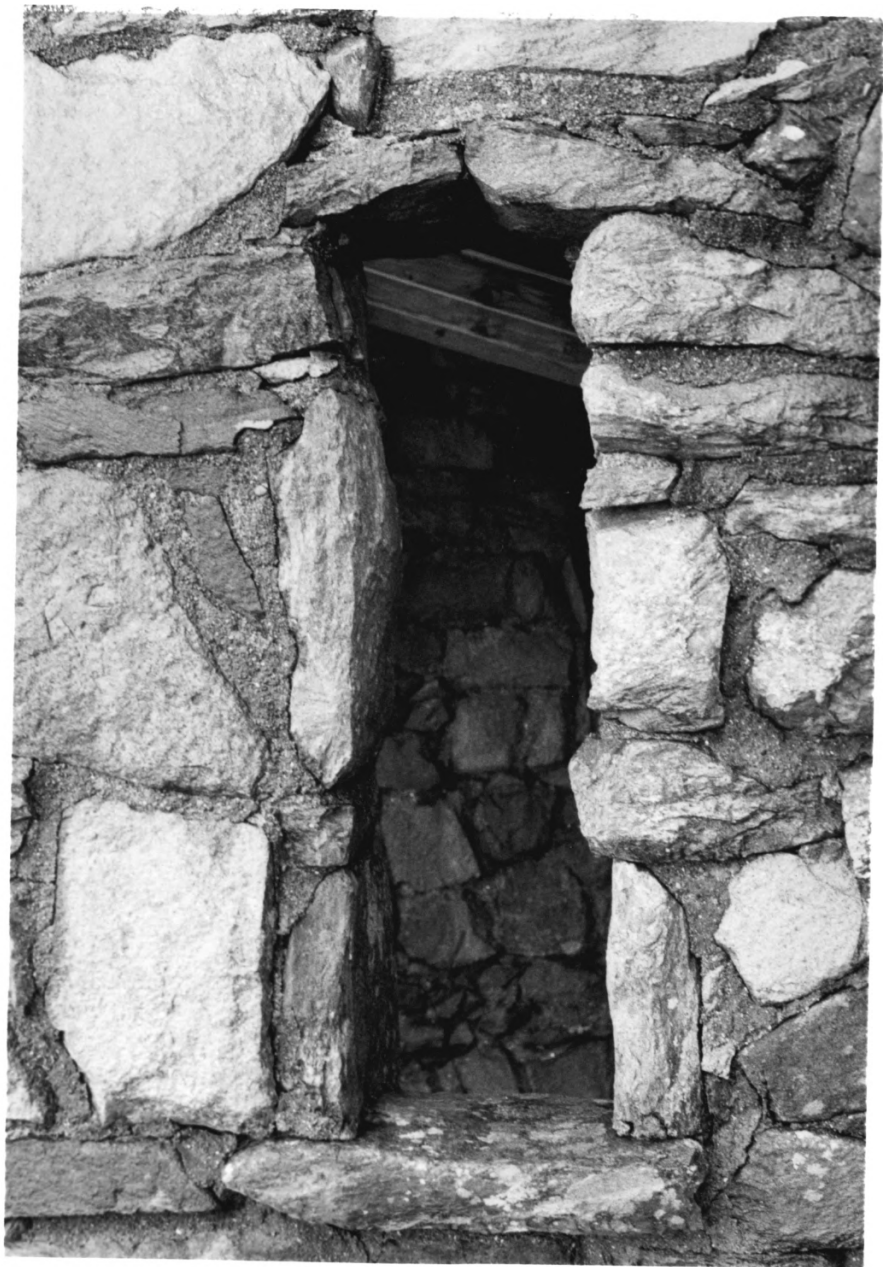


Cape Perpetua Trail Shelter
Siuslaw National Forest
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Ward Tonsfeldt Photo, 1988
Neg. on file, Siuslaw National Forest
Corvallis, OR 97333

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Detail of purlin, rafter, and roofing
south elevation, looking north



Cape Perpetua Trail Shelter
Siuslaw National Forest
Lincoln County, Oregon

Ward Tonsfeldt Photo, 1988
Neg. on file, Siuslaw National Forest
Corvallis, OR 97333

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Detail of stonework
South elevation, looking north



Cape Perpetua Parapet
Siuslaw National Forest
Lincoln County, Oregon

Ward Tonsfeldt Photo, 1988

Neg. on file, Siuslaw National Forest
Corvallis, OR 97333

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North end of parapet, looking southeast



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Detail of stonework on parapet

South end of parapet, looking northwest