

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED MAR 17 1976

DATE ENTERED AUG 11 1976

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC
 Parkersville Site (45-CL-115)
AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

NOT FOR PUBLICATION
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE

Washington

VICINITY OF

CODE

53

COUNTY

Clark

CODE

011

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

- DISTRICT
- BUILDING(S)
- STRUCTURE
- SITE
- OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

- PUBLIC
- PRIVATE
- BOTH
- PUBLIC ACQUISITION**
- IN PROCESS
- BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

- OCCUPIED
- UNOCCUPIED
- WORK IN PROGRESS
- ACCESSIBLE**
- YES: RESTRICTED
- YES: UNRESTRICTED
- NO

PRESENT USE

- AGRICULTURE
- COMMERCIAL
- EDUCATIONAL
- ENTERTAINMENT
- GOVERNMENT
- INDUSTRIAL
- MILITARY
- MUSEUM
- PARK
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- RELIGIOUS
- SCIENTIFIC
- TRANSPORTATION
- OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Port of Camas - Washougal

STREET & NUMBER

54 Second Avenue

CITY, TOWN

Washougal

STATE

Washington

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Clark County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Vancouver

STATE

Washington

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

None

DATE

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

EXCELLENT
 GOOD
 FAIR

DETERIORATED
 RUINS
 UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

UNALTERED
 ALTERED

CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE
 MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Parkersville archaeological site is located [REDACTED] in Clark County, Washington. The site, which occupies [REDACTED] on the [REDACTED], 23 meters wide and encompasses 1,781 square meters or approximately .4 of an acre.

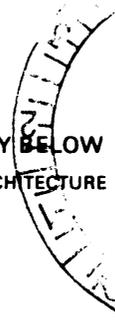
Three test cores, taken from the site, show a sod grass cover, followed by 15 to 25 centimeters of dark brown Sauvie Silt Loam grading into Sauvie Silty Clay Loam to a depth of 105 centimeters. The Silty Clay Loam deposit is underlain by loose gravel aggregate interspersed with fine sand and dense clay. Utilized flakes with perimeter retouch, spall tools, amorphous-form basalt scrapers and fire-cracked rock, with associated charcoal, were among the artifacts recovered with the test cores within the first two levels from the surface.

Apple and black walnut trees grow along the northernmost portion of the site and an access road, [REDACTED], borders the site [REDACTED]. Construction of the access area during the years 1969-70 consisted of the dumping of fill, then leveling and grading to extend the natural river terrace some fifty feet into the Columbia. The leveling and grading operation cut into a small portion of the terrace on the south face of the site and revealed a number of artifacts. These artifacts, collected from the surface by members of the Oregon Archaeological Society, included points, scrapers, drills, stone and shell beads, net sinkers and a clay pipe.

In 1968-69, when the land to the west of the Parkersville Site, on the same terrace level, was excavated for the construction of three residences, mortars, pestles, hammerstones, net weights and a stone effigy were found and retained by the residents. These artifacts indicate that the site area may have been an extensive one taking in an additional 210 meters to the west along the terrace. On the other hand, the terrace may have held contiguous sites with tool complexes representative of different periods of occupation. With the exception of the trees, planted some 60 years ago, the Parkersville Site is the only portion of the terrace that remains relatively undisturbed. The total site encompasses some 3.88 acres.

In retrospect, little has been done to preserve the potentially rich archaeological/historic resources in the Camas-Washougal area. Chester O. Selby and Emory Strong, in the late 1950's recovered artifacts from sites on Lacamas Creek and the Washougal River, respectively. In 1974 the Oregon Archaeological Society completed a survey of nearby Lady Island. The survey disclosed five archaeological sites; two major and four minor historic sites. One archaeological site on Lady Island was excavated by the Society in 1975.

8 SIGNIFICANCE



RECEIVED
MAR 17 1976

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> NATIONAL SCIENCE REGISTER
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Parkersville Site is significant not only as an archaeological site but as an historic site as well.

From historic accounts of explorers Lewis and Clark; Astorian, Gabriel Franchere; Alexander Ross of the North West Company; botanist, David Douglas of the Hudson's Bay Company; and artist Paul Kane, the subsistence pattern of the Indians, who spoke Chinook, on the Lower Columbia has been well documented.

Although salmon was the mainstay of their economy, sturgeon, lesser seafoods, crustacea, fresh-water clams and the seals that gathered at the confluence of the Washougal River and the Columbia were also part and parcel of their diet. Elk, bear and deer were larger game pursued and caught in sufficient numbers on the prairies near the river to make inland excursions to hunt unnecessary.

Edible roots of the bracken fern, white clover and wappato were indigenous to the area and various wild fruits: huckleberries, salmon berries, gooseberries, strawberries and crabapples, together with plentiful wild greens, rounded out their menu.

The cooking of food was accomplished by roasting before an open fire; steaming in an earthen pit lined with stone or boiling by means of hot stones placed in water-tight baskets or specially constructed wood boxes. Occasionally, on hunting expeditions, canoes were used as cooking vessels.

The Indians built handsome dugout canoes, pointed at both ends, with a separate, upward projecting prow for river travel. The art of basketry, utilizing both woven and coiled methods, was well developed among these early people and the natural fibers of cattail, rushes and nettle served to produce textiles for mats, robes and nets.

Clothing was avoided or was minimal during the summer months but winter garb consisted of deerskins, woven cedar-bark cloth shirts, short skirts for the ladies, blankets and broad-brimmed, conical-peaked hats and capes to ward off rain.

Multiple family, broad-planked longhouses, such as one unearthed by the Oregon Historical Society on Lady Island in 1975, were dwellings for the Indians of the Lower Columbia. However, the outlines of semi-subterranean pithouses have also been found in the Camas-Washougal area.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Barry, J. Neilson. Broughton on the Columbia in 1792, Volume 27, No. 4, Oregon Historical Quarterly, Eugene, Oregon, 1926.

Ford, Martha Kloniger. Washougal Before the Twentieth Century, Fort Vancouver Historical Society, Vancouver, 1962. Clark County History.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than four 3.88 acres - Mrs. Welch
UTM REFERENCES

A	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING	B	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Maxine Morris and Jeanne M. Welch, Archaeologist

ORGANIZATION

Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation

DATE

STREET & NUMBER

P. O. Box 1128

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Olympia, Washington 98504

STATE

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

Adam M. Sholish

TITLE

State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

March 4, 1976

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

8/4/76

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

DATE

8-10-76

ATTEST:

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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Although the Indians had permanent winter villages, during their seasonal activities of fishing, hunting, berry picking and gathering of roots, they occupied temporary campsites at the pertinent locale.

This land of plenty, which held excellent subsistence potential for the Indian, also had strong appeal to the white man.

The first recorded exploration of the Camas-Washougal area was made in 1792 by Lieutenant W. R. Broughton, who as a member of Vancouver's Expedition, explored the Columbia in the cutter of His Majesty's Armed Brig, the *Chatham*, as far as the Columbia Gorge. Lieutenant Broughton dined on salmon caught in Camas Slough by a local Indian chief who had a large retinue, numbering ten canoes, attending him. Broughton named the island where he had stopped, Johnstone Island (Lady Island), after the *Chatham's* sailing master.

Another historical account of the area is found in the journals of Lewis and Clark for the period from March 31, 1806 to April 6. Lewis and Clark made camp on the [REDACTED] bank of the Columbia in the Parkersville Site area, where they hunted bear, elk and deer. They dried the meat to last them on their journey to the Clearwater River in Idaho. Clark, with an Indian guide discovered and explored the Multnomah (Willamette) River during their encampment. The explorers named the nearby island White Brant (Lady Island) after the species of fowl that inhabited the island in great numbers. They called the Washougal River, Seal River in reference to the many adult seals and pups that clustered about the mouth of the river to feed on migrating fish.

In 1811, Alexander Ross of the North West Fur Company, on his way from Astoria to the Cascades, stayed the night in "Washougally Camp", so termed by the Indians as "land of plenty and pleasant". Although other voyageurs came to the area as map-makers, artists and fur-traders, the first American settlers did not enter the region until 1844.

The George Bush and Michael T. Simmons party reached the Dalles in 1844 intending to settle in Oregon. George Bush, a negro, was dismayed to learn that the prejudice he sought to escape in the East was still extant in the Willamette Valley. Since the British still claimed sovereignty over the lands north of the Columbia, where color barriers did not then exist, the party wintered over in the Camas-Washougal area. Christopher Columbus Simmons, the first white child of American settlers, in what is now the State of Washington, was born in April 1845 before the party moved on to settle in the Puget Sound region.

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The first permanent American settler was David C. Parker. David Parker was born in Clay County, Kentucky in 1804. In his early thirties, in 1838, he met and married his wife Ann, a girl from Missouri. With his wife and four small children, all under the age of six, he arrived in the Oregon Territory in 1844. Traveling down the Columbia from the Dalles, the family chose the fertile lands near the Washougal River for their home. By the fall of the year they had erected a log cabin on the northern bank of the Columbia and occupied it along with their children. By the spring of the next year, Parker had cleared a quarter of an acre of land and planted it to potatoes from seed he had secured from the Hudson's Bay Company store at Fort Vancouver. To receive supplies and to accommodate the river boats that came upstream, Parker built a small dock on the Columbia that became known as Parker's Landing. Parker's light and landing are still noted on the maritime charts of the Columbia today.

Other families soon followed suit and settled near Parker's Landing. The Joseph Gibbons in December of 1847; the Richard Oughs in March of 1849; the H. J. G. Maxons in October of the same year and the George Hunsackers in 1852. The area was surveyed by Justin Chenoeth, under contract to James Tilton, Surveyor General of the United States, in 1856. The Maxon and Hunsacker mills were operating by then and Townplats Nos. 3 and 4 established the town of Parkersville.

When David Parker died in 1858, Lewis VanVleet accepted part of Parkersville for his services as administrator of Parker's estate. Lewis VanVleet had come from Michigan to claim a homestead on Fern Prairie, north of Camas in 1853. VanVleet was the first notary public and his daughter, born on the homestead in 1862, became the first woman doctor in the Camas-Washougal area. When Dr. Wright retired from medical practice in 1912, she moved an old house, portions of which date from 1878, to the eastern edge of Parkersville. Her son, Cecil VanVleet and his wife Mary occupy the same house today. The property, which included four river-front lots of the original 160 lots platted as Parkersville, now belongs to the Port of Camas-Washougal. According to VanVleet, a disagreement over a property line arose between his grandfather and another early resident of Parkersville, a Fritz Braun. Mr. Braun moved his hotel and saloon to the present location of Washougal. Other businessmen followed Braun's move and Washougal began to flourish while Parkersville became deserted.

The Parkersville Site assumes considerable significance in that the land holds artifacts of the earlier inhabitants. These artifacts may answer questions about their way of life, their housing, fishing-hunting tools, their industries, perhaps their rivercraft -- traits that may have set them off from other cultures or indeed may integrate them with those who may have occupied the area over a long period of time with little change. The archaeological site could well span some 2,500 to 3,000 years of prehistory.

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As an historic site Parkersville has figured prominently in the state's history from the time of Lieutenant Broughton's voyage of October 26, 1792, as the first upriver white-Indian contact. In addition it is an early permanent American settlement. The rich cultural heritage from the past at the Parkersville Site should be preserved for the future.

As an archaeological site the research potential of the Parkersville Site is significant. Test Cores show that artifactual material extends to a depth of 105 cms., is heavily concentrated and contains charcoal suitable for radio-carbon dating. The points recovered compared with other lower Columbia River sites indicate the terrace site may have been occupied over a period of some 3,000 years. A nearby site on the Washougal River excavated by Emory Strong in the late 1950's disclosed housepit sites. Another site on Lady Island to the west of Camas Slough excavated by the Oregon Archeological Society in 1975 revealed the remains of a longhouse. The Parkersville Site may well provide data pertinent to cultural change related to these house types in the immediate area or may help to determine that the house types reflect two distinct cultural entities. The geographic location of the site below the Dalles on the Columbia River yet accessible from the mouth of the river has the potential for providing data on "trafficking and trading" activities among the lower, middle and upper Columbia Indians. In addition, the site may well increase our knowledge of the cultural change -- the adaptive processes undergone by Native Americans after contact with the early explorers, fur traders and the more permanent early American white settlers who founded Parkersville.

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Kroeber, A. L.
1923 American Culture History and the Northwest Coast
American Anthropologist Vol. 25
Menasha, Wisconsin

Personal communication:
Don White, Manager
Turnbull National Wildlife Refuge

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- Franchere, Gabriel. Adventures at Astoria, Hoyt C. Franchere Ed., University of Oklahoma Press, 1967.
- Gibbs, Charles H. and Starkey, Judy. Archaeological Survey of Lady Island, Clark County, Oregon Archaeological Society, Portland, Oregon, 1974.
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- Ray, Verne F. Lower Chinook Ethnographic Notes, Volume 7, No. 2, University of Washington, 1938.
- Ross, Alexander. Adventures of the First Settlers on the Oregon or Columbia River, London, 1849.
- Strong, Emory M. Stone Age on the Columbia, Binfords & Mort, Portland, Oregon, 1959.
- Thwaites, R. G. Original Journals of the Lewis and Clark Expedition, 8 Volumes, Antiquarian Press, New York, 1959.
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- "Pioneer Town Parkersville Now Just Empty Field, Memory", Vancouver Evening Columbian, February 1, 1968.
- "Port Moorage Job Launched", The Post Record, Camas-Washougal, March 5, 1969.
- Screenings, Volume 24, Nos. 9, 10, 11, 12, Oregon Archaeological Society, 1975.
- U. S. Government Land Survey, 1856, Surveyor General, Washington Territory, U. S. Department of Interior. Microfilm, Washington State Library, Olympia.
- "Washougally, Camp of Pioneer Days Now Thriving City", The Columbian, Vancouver, Washington, July 31, 1953.

76601880

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

3/23/90

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number _____ Page _____

Parkersville Site Clark County, WASHINGTON

ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION APPROVAL

for Keeper Alton Byers 4/3/90

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service



MAR 23 1990

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

**NATIONAL
REGISTER**
Parkersville Site, Camas-Washougal vicinity
Clark County, Washington

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GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

UTM References:



Verbal Boundary Description:

The nominated property is a roughly rectangular parcel whose boundaries are indicated by the dotted line on the accompanying survey map drawn to a scale of approximately 1" = 50'.