Form No. 10-300 (Rev. 10-74)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

# NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED
DATE ENTERED

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

## 1 NAME

HISTORIC: Chinook Point

AND/OR COMMON:

## 2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER: U.S. Highway 101 and State Route 12 — __NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN: — __ VICINITY OF — CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:

STATE: Washington — CODE: 53 — COUNTY: Pacific — CODE: 049

## 3 CLASSIFICATION

| CATEGORY | OWNERSHIP | STATUS | PRESENT USE | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| __DISTRICT | XX PUBLIC | __OCCUPIED | __AGRICULTURE | __MUSEUM |
| __BUILDING(S) | __PRIVATE | XX UNOCCUPIED | __COMMERCIAL | XX PARK |
| __STRUCTURE | __BOTH | __WORK IN PROGRESS | __EDUCATIONAL | __PRIVATE RESIDENCE |
| XX SITE | **PUBLIC ACQUISITION** | **ACCESSIBLE** | __ENTERTAINMENT | __RELIGIOUS |
| __OBJECT | __IN PROCESS | __YES: RESTRICTED | __GOVERNMENT | __SCIENTIFIC |
| | __BEING CONSIDERED | XX YES: UNRESTRICTED | __INDUSTRIAL | __TRANSPORTATION |
| | | __NO | __MILITARY | __OTHER: |

## 4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME: State of Washington -- Administered by the Parks and Recreation Commission

STREET & NUMBER: Thurston Airdustrial Center

CITY, TOWN: Olympia — __ VICINITY OF — STATE: Washington

## 5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Pacific County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER:

CITY, TOWN: South Bend — STATE: Washington

## 6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE:

DATE: — __FEDERAL __STATE __COUNTY __LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

CITY, TOWN: — STATE:

# 7 DESCRIPTION

| CONDITION | | CHECK ONE | CHECK ONE |
|---|---|---|---|
| __EXCELLENT | __DETERIORATED | XX UNALTERED | XX ORIGINAL SITE |
| XX GOOD | __RUINS | __ALTERED | __MOVED DATE_____ |
| __FAIR | __UNEXPOSED | | |

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Chinook Point is closely associated with events of three centuries--from Gray's discovery of the Columbia River in 1792 until World War II when modern coast artillery batteries were added to Fort Columbia's outmoded gun installations.

Chinook Point is a hilly spur jutting westward into the Columbia River between the towns of Megler and Chinook, Washington. It was named in 1792 by W. R. Broughton after a nearby Chinook Indian village. Chinook Point is located on the north side of the Columbia River. About five miles to the southeast is the site of Fort Astoria in the city of Astoria, Oregon. Chinook point and Scarboro Hill are both included in the state park. The park is largely forrested and its natural beauty is relatively untouched.

The surviving historic structures of Fort Columbia include three batteries; the emplacements were built of heavy concrete and steel in 1897-1900, and 13 frame buildings were erected in 1902. The two-story barracks was converted into a museum in 1954, and contains exhibits telling the story of Pacific explorations, regional history, and also the military history of the fort. Still present are the remnants of the long dock that served the fort in earlier days when all supplies were brought in by water. Located within the boundary but not adding to the historical significance is a modern sewage plant and a test laboratory.

# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

| PERIOD | AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| __PREHISTORIC | __ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC | __COMMUNITY PLANNING | __LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE | __RELIGION |
| __1400-1499 | __ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC | __CONSERVATION | __LAW | __SCIENCE |
| __1500-1599 | __AGRICULTURE | __ECONOMICS | __LITERATURE | __SCULPTURE |
| __1600-1699 | __ARCHITECTURE | __EDUCATION | XX MILITARY | __SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN |
| XX 1700-1799 | __ART | __ENGINEERING | __MUSIC | __THEATER |
| __1800-1899 | __COMMERCE | XX EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT | __PHILOSOPHY | __TRANSPORTATION |
| __1900- | __COMMUNICATIONS | __INDUSTRY | __POLITICS/GOVERNMENT | __OTHER (SPECIFY) |
| | | __INVENTION | | |

SPECIFIC DATES 1765-1846 BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The discovery of the Columbia River, in 1792, by the American captain and fur trader, Robert Gray, marked the climax of a long search for the legendary Great River of the West, and gave the United States a valid claim to the Pacific Northwest. It led to the Lewis and Clark expedition in 1804-1806 and to the founding of Fort Astoria in 1811. It also aroused a British response to this challenge that expressed itself in sea and overland explorations and the establishment of British fur trading posts in the Pacific Northwest.

On August 17, 1775, the Spanish navigator Bruno Heceta narrowly missed discovering the Columbia River. He sailed his ship the Santiago into a large bay he named Assumption. The northern headland, now Cape Disappointment, he called Cape San Roque, the southern promontory, now Point Adams, he named Cape Frondosa. Illness among the crew prevented close investigation, and during the night currents swept the ship out to sea and so far leeward as to discourage another attempt to enter the bay. But he noted in his log that "currents and eddies of water cause me to believe that place is the mouth of some great river."

The English explorer Captain James Cook coasted Oregon in 1778, but bad weather caused him to miss the bay altogether. On June 6, 1788, the English sea captain and fur trader, John Meares, tried to confirm Heceta's suspicion that a great river emptied into the bay. But when he saw the line of great breakers that closed the bay he discounted the Spanish report, and expressed his disillusion by naming the northern promontory Cape Disappointment, and the bay Deception.

On April 27, 1792 the British explorer Captain George Vancouver sighted and correctly identified Deception Bay. In April 1792, the American sea captain and fur trader, Robert Gray was also sailing along the coast of Oregon and Washington. Gray had been off the mouth of a river where the currents at its mouth were so strong that he could not enter the river. On May 11, 1792, Gray returned and succeeded in entering Deception Bay. Entering the river, he named it the Columbia. His first anchorage was about 10 miles within the entrance and here he began trading with the Indians. On the 14th of May, he sailed some 26 miles further up the river where Gray took the wrong channel and was stopped by shoals. He then dropped down the Columbia noting a Chinook Indian village. Landing in a boat at one point, Gray was also visited by many Indians in their canoes and obtained a good quantity of furs. Gray's discovery of the Columbia gave the United States a valid claim, for

international law held that the discovery and entrance of a river mouth gave the discovering nation soveriegnty not only over the water, but also over its valley, watershed and all the adjacent coast.

Soon after the Mexican War, the United States took measures to provide for the defense of the immense new territory it had acquired in the West. Army engineers were sent to the Pacific coast to determine suitable sites for fortifications.

In 1864, the United States established a military reservation at Chinook Point for the purpose of erecting an additional fort to complete the system of coastal defenses. The Civil War ended before any construction at Chinook Point could be started and this reservation remained neglected and practically abandoned until 1895 when the war department again decided to strengthen the defenses at the mouth of the Columbia. Between 1896 and 1904 an intensive reconstruction program was carried out at Fort Stevens, Fort Canby; and Fort Columbia on Chinook Point was then erected.

Chinook Point is a prominent landmark of the lower Columbia and was closely associated with the aboriginal life of the area. It served as bearing marks for early navigators and was mentioned in the narratives of many explorers and early visitors. Within sight of Chinook Point unfolded the whole pagent of exploration and development of the Columbia region.

See Boundary Map

Section I

All that parcel of land within Ft. Columbia State Park labeled "I" in red on a map of said park drawn Jan. 6, 1976 by J. Martin, boundaries superimposed in red as follows: Beginning at point A on the south right-of-wayline of U.S. Highway 101 and south of the tunnel, proceed south 510', more or less, along the fence to a point on the river, the state park boundary; proceeding thence east along the line of the river 810', more or less, to a point on the south right-of-way line of U.S. 101, thence northwest along the said highway line 1000', more or less, to a point, the point of beginning.

Section II

Beginning at Point B located on the north right-of-way line of U.S. 101, proceed northeast 600' to a point, thence east approximately 50' to a point, thence northeast 660' to a point, thence east 500' to a point, thence north 460', thence northeast 2400', thence northwest 2540', thence southwest 1440', thence southeast 1600', thence northeast 40', thence southeast in a curving fashion to the point of origin.

Section III

Beginning at Point C located on the south right-of-way line of U.S. 101, proceed west 140' to the coast line which is the boundary of the state park, thence follow the state boundary northwest approximately 1800', thence east 100' to the south right-of-way line of U.S. 101, thence southeast along the right-of-way line to the point of origin.

## 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES


Herbert H. Bancroft - The History of the Northwest Coast.
Bernard De Voto - The Course of Empire.
Dorothy O. Johansen - Empire of the Columbia.


## 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 286 acres

UTM REFERENCES

| | ZONE | EASTING | NORTHING | | ZONE | EASTING | NORTHING |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| A | 10 | 428570 | 5123460 | B | 10 | 430250 | 5123460 |
| C | 10 | 430240 | 5122080 | D | 10 | 428570 | 5122080 |

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

(See continuation sheet).

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

| STATE | CODE | COUNTY | CODE |
|---|---|---|---|
| STATE | CODE | COUNTY | CODE |

## 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE
Cecil McKithan, Historian

ORGANIZATION
Historic Sites Survey Division, NPS

DATE
10/10/77

STREET & NUMBER
1100 L Street, NW.

TELEPHONE
(202) 523-5464

CITY OR TOWN
Washington,

STATE
D.C.

## 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.

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE

TITLE

DATE

(NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARKS)

Landmark Designated: July 4, 1961
date

Boundary Certified:
June 28, 1978
date

(NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARKS)

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

DATE 11/24/78

ATTEST:

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

(NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARKS)

(NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARKS)