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ARCHAEOLOGY & HISTORY

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HRA Letter Report 09-6: Archaeological Discovery Probing for the
Siuslaw River Bridge Interpretive Wayside
in Florence, Lane County, Oregon

This letter reports the results of archaeological discovery probing for the proposed Siuslaw River Bridge Interpretive Wayside in the City of Florence, Lane County, Oregon (Figure 1). The proposed project will create a scenic wayside featuring a viewing platform, plastic composite walkway, picnic area, bark path, natural and constructed wetland, and stormwater treatment swale. Interpretive signage will be provided that discusses the history of the nearby historical U.S. Highway 101 bridge and surrounding area, ecological importance of the estuary, and functional and aesthetic aspects of stormwater treatment in the built environment. A small parking area will be constructed to the west of the wayside beneath the highway bridge.

Kendra Carlisle and Robert Wenger of Heritage Research Associates, Inc. conducted shovel probing in the area of the proposed wayside on February 20, 2009. Ms. Carlisle and Linda Hart of Heritage analyzed the recovered artifacts. The proposed parking area was previously investigated by Heritage, and the results have been presented in a separate report (Minor 2007).

Project Location

The project is located at the west end of Old Town Florence in the southeast quarter of Section 34, Township 18S, Range 12W (W.M.). The project area is a vacant waterfront lot situated on the north bank of the Siuslaw River. The southern portion of the lot consists of intertidal zone. Tidal wetland abuts the intertidal zone to the north and receives stormwater run-off channeled south from Bay Street by an existing ditch. Slightly higher ground borders the ditch/wetland area to the east; overall, the

project area slopes gently from north to south. The vegetation in the area of the drainage ditch is dense and consists of tall shrubs and a few small trees; lush grasses cover the wetland area as well as most of eastern portion of project area (Figure 2).

Cultural Background

The Siuslaw River flows across the single largest dune mass on the Oregon coast, designated the “Coos Bay Dune Sheet” (Cooper 1958). The northern portion of this dune mass falls within the traditional territory of the Siuslaw (or Siuslawan) Indians, which was centered along the Siuslaw River drainage and adjacent Oregon coast from Tenmile Creek on the north to Siltcoos Lake on the south. Siuslaw villages were concentrated around the Siuslaw River estuary, with seasonal use sites situated along streams in the interior and Coast Range (Zenk 1990: 572).

According to Zenk (1990: 572), “Siuslawan villages were evidently all within a few miles of the ocean shore.” His map titled “Siuslawan and Coosan territories and villages about 1830” indicates a “downstream village complex” that clearly includes settlements at present-day Florence (Zenk 1990: 573). Siuslaw culture is not well-documented, but a summary account has been published in the *Handbook of North American Indians* (Zenk 1990).

When the cadastral survey map for T18S, R12W was created in 1879, Florence City was depicted as a cluster of 12 city blocks (Hall 1879). However, Florence was not formally incorporated until 1893. The nearby Siuslaw River Bridge was the smallest of the five bridges built by the Public Works Administration in the 1930s across coastal rivers in Oregon (Hadlow 2001: 105). Completed in 1936, the bridge is a “1,650-foot structure featuring deck-girder approaches to a central section of two reinforced-concrete tied arches on either side of a double-leaf bascule drawbridge” (Hadlow 2001: 94).

Records Search

A review of the cultural resource records maintained by the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) indicates that seven sites are situated within one mile of the project area. Five of the sites are prehistoric (consisting of an exposure of fire-cracked rock, burned sand, shell, and bone [Cole 1965]; three wood-stake weirs [Tveskov and Connolly 1993a, 1993b; Byram 1999a] and a shell and fish bone midden [Byram 1999b]), one is a historic-period Native American burial (Minor 1995), and one is a historical site containing structural remains and artifact fragments indicating use from ca.1920 to present day (Bland et al. 2008).

In addition to the three wood-stake weirs formally recorded as archaeological sites, Don Ivy, Cultural Resources Coordinator for the Coquille Indian Tribe, reported observing at low tide a Native American wood-stake fishing weir approximately 150 yards east of the south end of the Siuslaw River Bridge. It appears this location is included in the archaeological database maintained by SHPO, but it lacks a site number.

Native American fishing weirs are relatively common on the Siuslaw River. Eight (35LA1101 through 35LA1108) have been recorded upstream from Florence (Byram 1998). Radiocarbon dates available from three of the weirs place one at approximately 900 years old and the other two within the last 300 years (Byram 1998: 208-209).

The site nearest to the current project area is 35LA1460, a concentration of historical structural and artifactual remains, located at the north end of the Siuslaw River Bridge. The site was encountered during recent shovel-probe excavations, which were conducted because of the high potential for cultural materials (Bland et al. 2008). The refuse shows evidence of burning, suggesting that it is likely the remains of trash burns. Also nearby is site 35LA1152, a Native American burial which was exposed during construction of the Nopal Street parking lot (approximately four blocks east of the Siuslaw River Bridge) in November 1994 (Minor 1995). The burial included the partial remains of an adult female, age 35 to 45 at time of death, accompanied by glass beads and other historical artifacts. Analysis of these artifacts suggested that the burial dated to ca. 1855, roughly the time at which the Coast Reservation was established.

The General Land Office (GLO) map from 1879 shows the project area abutting the southernmost platted blocks of “Florence City” on the north bank of the Siuslaw River (Figure 3) (Hall 1879). By 1920, the William Kyle and Sons Salmon Cannery had been built along the waterfront (Sanborn 1920). The project area encompasses the footprints of two warehouses associated with the cannery and also partially overlaps the actual cannery building, a “platform,” and a “room” (Figure 4). According to a later map, most of the cannery had been dismantled by 1930 (Sanborn 1920-1930).

Field Methods and Results

A total of seven 30-cm-diameter round probes (RP) were excavated for discovery purposes with the permission of the property owner. Six of these were placed on the higher ground east of the drainage ditch and tidal wetland (RP-1 through 6), and one was placed in the wetland (RP-7) (Figure 5). Depths of 50 to 90 cm below surface were reached in all the probes except one (RP-4), where a large rusty metal object blocked progress below 20 cm. A total of approximately 0.3 cubic meters of soil was excavated. The soil in all probes was removed in 10-cm arbitrary levels and screened through 1/8-inch hardware mesh screen. A 25-cm-diameter manual bucket auger was used to excavate the lowermost levels in three of the seven probes (RP-1 through 3). All probes were backfilled upon completion.

A mixture of modern and historical material, consisting primarily of bottle and window fragments and rusted metal nails, was recovered from the probes. Few temporally diagnostic artifacts were found. Of the 310 items collected for lab analysis (Table 1), only three are clearly more than 50 years old (two of these are over 75 years old). Fragments of a “Duraglas” bottle (ca. 1943) and turn-molded bottle (ca. 1880 to early 1920s) were recovered from levels 4 and 5

of RP-1; a sun-colored amethyst glass fragment (ca. 1880s-1920) was recovered from level 4 of RP-7. The density of material varied between probes, with the highest observed in the northeast portion of the project area. At the time of fieldwork, abundant rusted metal debris was observed in the intertidal zone (Figure 6). The metal was significantly corroded, but a couple pieces of large machinery and a heating radiator were distinguishable (Figure 7).

The matrix within the probes appeared to be largely disturbed, as evidenced by the considerable mixing of colors and textures within individual levels (Figure 8) as well as the variation between probes. A few discrete fill layers were observed, such as the white mortar-like material in levels 2 and 3 of RP-6 (Figure 9), and the distinct yellow sand in levels 4 and 5 of RP-1. The matrix in RP-1 through 3 and RP-6 generally consisted of gravelly sandy loam above sand with minor or trace gravel. The depth of the transition varied between probes, however, as did other characteristics of the matrix. An orange sand was encountered at the bottom of RP-1 and 6 (and to a very limited extent in RP-2 and 3), which possibly represents a natural substratum. RP-4 was distinct as it lacked an overlying sandy loam, while RP-5 featured a dense basal layer of cobbles. RP-7, placed in the tidal wetland, featured homogeneous moist brown loam (which became increasingly sandy and wet with depth) above wet tan sand.

Conclusions and Recommendations

Shovel testing in the area of the proposed wayside yielded a mixture of modern and historical material that was largely unidentifiable due to the fragmentary or extremely corroded condition of the recovered items. Only a few temporally diagnostic historical artifacts were found, and these were in disturbed contexts. Overall, the matrix observed in the probes appeared to be disturbed and/or fill. For these reasons, no further archaeological investigation is recommended prior to construction.

It is possible that the metal debris in the intertidal zone is associated with the Kyle and Sons cannery that formerly stood in the area. However, given the generally poor condition of the metal and the fact that all proposed improvements will occur north of the intertidal zone, no additional investigation is recommended prior to the wayside project.

If ground disturbance during construction exposes buried cultural materials or deposits that were not previously detected, Oregon State laws (ORS 97.740 to 97.760, 358.905 to 358.955, and 390.235), as well as any federal laws and regulations that may be applicable, require that work in the vicinity of any such discoveries be suspended. The State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), appropriate tribes, and involved agencies should be notified immediately, and a qualified archaeologist should be contacted to evaluate the find and recommend subsequent courses of action in consultation with the SHPO and the appropriate tribes.

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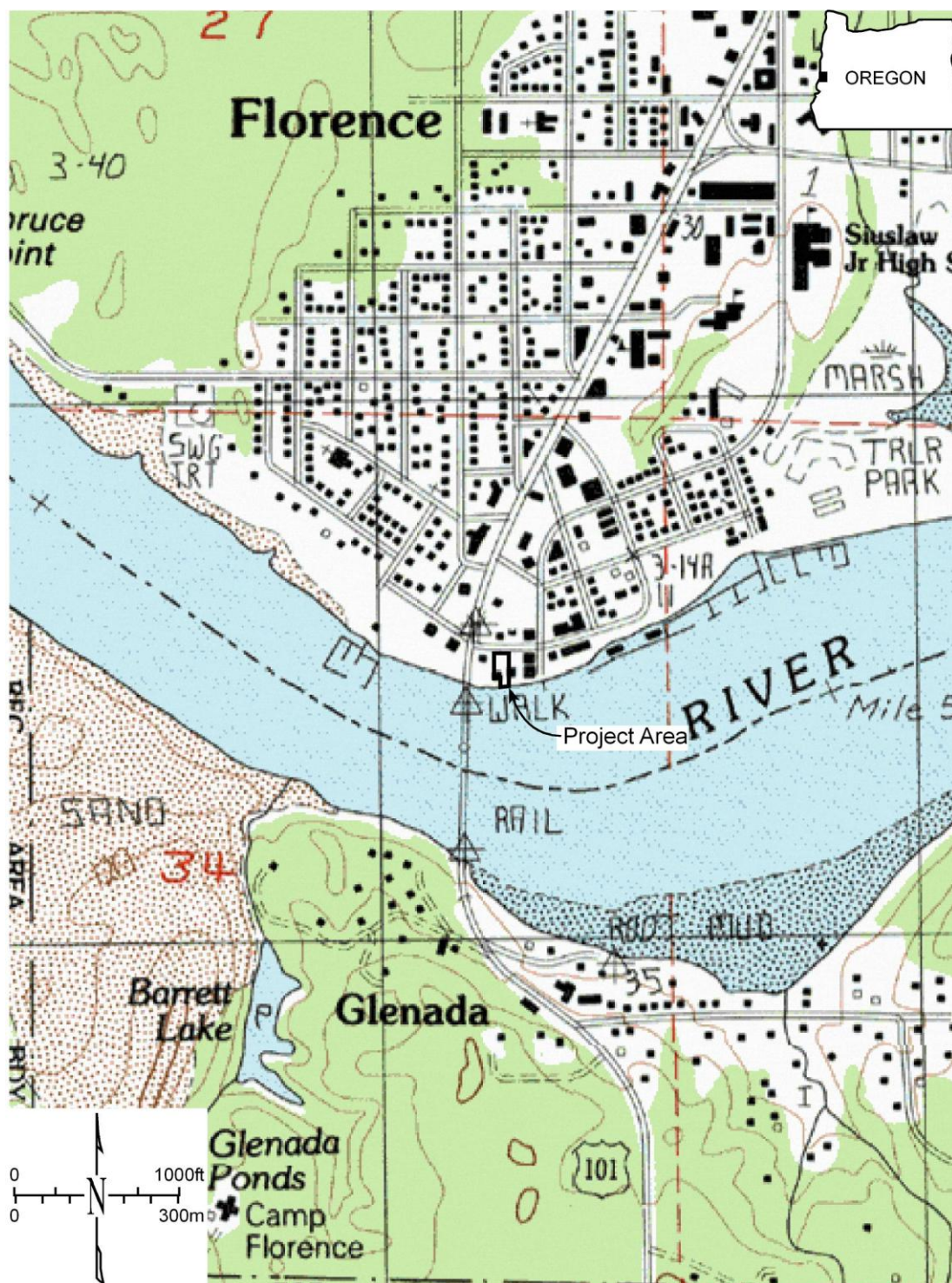


Figure 1. Location of the proposed Siuslaw River Bridge Interpretive Wayside project area (USGS Florence 7.5' quadrangle, 1984).



Figure 2. Overview of the project area with the Siuslaw River Bridge in the background (view to southwest). Backdirt and screens in the foreground mark the location of RP-1; the brushy area in the center-right of the photo contains the existing stormwater drainage ditch.

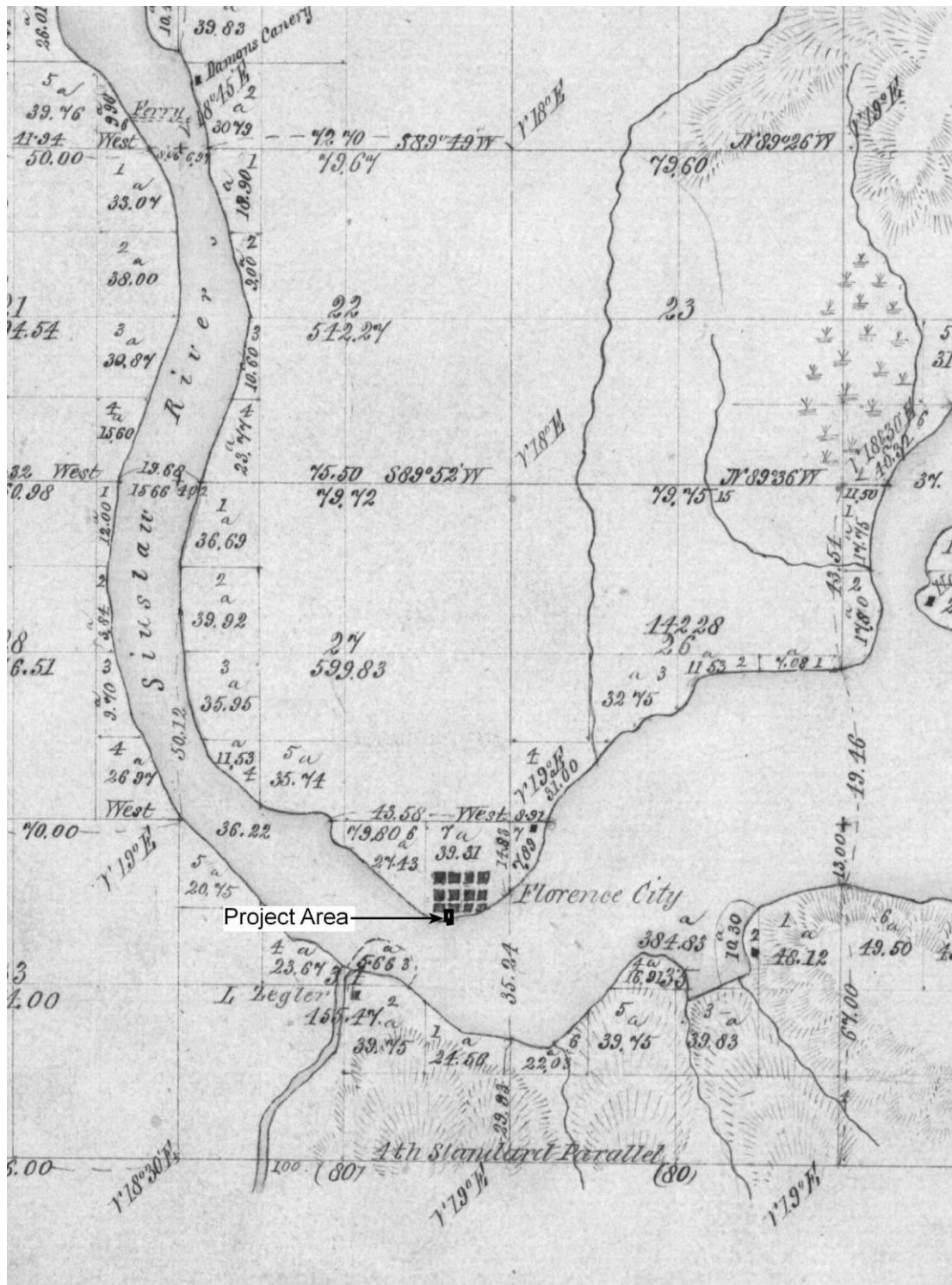


Figure 3. Overlay of the project area and 1879 General Land Office plat of survey (Hall 1879).



Figure 4. Overlay of the project area and Sanborn map from 1920.



Figure 5. Distribution of shovel probes within the project area (base image by Google).



Figure 6. Rusted metal debris in the intertidal zone (view to north).



Figure 7. Rusted radiator and machinery fragment in the intertidal zone (view to northeast).



Figure 8. Disturbed matrix in RP-6 (evidenced by mixed colors and textures in the sidewall).



Figure 9. Fill layer consisting of white mortar-like material in levels 2 and 3 of RP-6.

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Table 1. Material Recovered from the Siuslaw River Bridge Interpretive Wayside Project Area.

Level	<u>Shovel Probe</u> RP-1	
1	3 colorless glass fragments; 1 unidentified heavily rusted nail	Level Total: 4
2	1 rusted large machinery gear	Level Total: 1
3	5 glass fragments (3 colorless, 2 brown); 4 unidentified heavily rusted metal fragments	Level Total: 9
4	1 modern metal screw bottle cap; 1 base/body fragment of round, brown “Duraglas” bottle (ca. 1943); 1 base/ body fragment of oval colorless bottle with suction scar (ca. 1905-modern) 32 glass fragments (12 colorless, 18 brown, 1 aqua, 1 white); 1 colorless glass fragment with blue applied label; 14 windowpane fragments (5 with pale green paint on one side); 2 rusted wire nails (7” length-- possible gutter spikes); 1 unidentified heavily rusted nail; 1 piece wrapped copper wire (probably electrical-related); 6 unidentified heavily rusted metal fragments; 1 piece tar paper; brick flecks*	Level Total: 61
5	1 base/body fragment of brown turn-molded bottle (ca. 1880 to early 1920s); 1 externally threaded finish/neck fragment of colorless ABM bottle; 1 base/body fragment of brown bottle with “(QU)ART” embossed above heel; 1 cup base/heel fragment of brown bottle with partial unidentified trademark 28 glass fragments (14 colorless, 13 brown, 1 green); 2 red, grooved glass fragments; 13 windowpane fragments (10 with pale green paint on one side); 12 unidentified heavily rusted nails; 3 unidentified heavily rusted metal fragments; 2 zinc(?) pieces; 1 dry cell battery carbon core; 1 nodule white mortar-like material	Level Total: 66
6	3 glass fragments (2 colorless, 1 brown); 1 windowpane fragment with pale green paint on one side; 10 unidentified heavily rusted nail fragments; 4 unidentified heavily rusted metal fragments	Level Total: 18
7	1 neck/shoulder fragment of large colorless bottle (possible demijohn or similar); 1 colorless glass fragment; 4 rusted agglomerations (probably nail fragments)	Level Total: 6
8	-	Level Total: 0
9	-	Level Total: 0
		Probe Total: 165

(-) indicates excavated level
 *not collected for lab analysis

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Table 1 (continued)

Level		<u>Shovel Probe</u>		
		RP-2		RP-3
1	colorless and brown glass fragments*; unidentified rusted metal fragments*; brick pieces*	Level Total: --	4 colorless glass fragments (1 fire-altered); 1 heavily rusted hook/hanger; 1 large fragment of unidentified rusted metal*	Level Total: 6
2	-	Level Total: 0	7 colorless glass fragments (1 with partial embossing, 3 fire-altered); 1 unidentified heavily rusted nail; 1 bone fragment; 1 possible shell fragment	Level Total: 10
3	colorless glass fragments*	Level Total: --	6 colorless glass fragments (1 fire-altered); 1 green glass fragment; 2 windowpane fragments; 1 unidentified heavily rusted nail fragment; 1 unidentified heavily rusted metal fragment; screw and ceramic fragment from insulator; 1 fragment fire-altered ceramic	Level Total: 14
4	trace colorless and brown glass fragments*	Level Total: --	3 colorless glass fragments (2 fire-altered); 1 aqua glass fragment; 2 windowpane fragments; 2 unidentified heavily rusted nails	Level Total: 8
5	3 glass fragments (1 fire-altered colorless, 1 brown, 1 green); 13 windowpane fragments; 1 heavily rusted wire nail; 1 unidentified heavily rusted nail fragment	Level Total: 18	6 colorless glass fragments (1 fire-altered); 1 aqua glass fragment; 2 windowpane fragments; sample of thin plywood-like material, painted on one side; 2 unidentified chalky pieces	Level Total: 12
6	5 colorless glass fragments (2 possibly from light bulb, 1 fire-altered); 4 windowpane fragments; 1 heavily rusted wire nail; 1 rusted nut	Level Total: 11	7 glass fragments (6 colorless, 1 green); 1 rusted wire nail; 6 unidentified heavily rusted metal fragments (inc. possible nail and small door hinge); 1 fragment fire-altered ceramic	Level Total: 15
7	-	Level Total: 0	-	Level Total: 0
8	unidentified heavily rusted metal fragments*; 1 colorless glass fragment	Level Total: >1	2 unidentified heavily rusted metal nodules* (likely intrusive from shallower levels)	Level Total: 2
		Probe Total: >30		Probe Total: 67

(-) indicates excavated level
 *not collected for lab analysis

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Table 1 (continued)

Level	<u>Shovel Probe</u>			
	RP-4		RP-5	
1	4 glass fragments (2 colorless, 1 brown, 1 green)	Level Total: 4	1 unidentified rusted metal piece*	Level Total: 1
2	1 brown glass fragment; 2 unidentified heavily rusted nails; 1 large unidentified rusted metal object	Level Total: 4	2 glass fragments (1 colorless, 1 brown); 1 heavily rusted fragment of large machinery; 1 fragment brown-glazed earthenware; 1 unidentified bone fragment; cellophane*; red brick (in sidewall)*	Level Total: 7
3			1 unidentified heavily rusted metal nodule; 1 fragment brown-glazed earthenware	Level Total: 2
4			1 unidentified heavily rusted nail	Level Total: 1
5			4 colorless glass fragments	Level Total: 4
		Probe Total: 8		Probe Total: 15

(-) indicates excavated level
 *not collected for lab analysis

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Table 1 (continued)

Level		<u>Shovel Probe</u>		
	RP-6		RP-7	
1	cellophane*; bic lighter*; can fragments (modern)* 1 colorless glass fragment; 1 fragment brown-glazed earthenware; 3 brick fragments	Level Total: >5	-	Level Total: 0
2	1979 quarter; 1 cup base/body fragment of brown bottle coiled copper (electrical-related)*	Level Total: 3	2 pieces fire-altered glass	Level Total: 2
3	9 unidentified heavily rusted nails; 3 unidentified heavily rusted metal fragments; 2 brick fragments	Level Total: 14	-	Level Total: 0
4	small brick fragments*	Level Total: --	1 sun-colored amethyst glass fragment (ca. 1880s-1920)	Level Total: 1
5	-	Level Total: 0	-	Level Total: 0
6	-	Level Total: 0	-	Level Total: 0
		Probe Total: >22		Probe Total: 3

(-) indicates excavated level
 *not collected for lab analysis

Table 2. Stratigraphy of Discovery Probes.

RP-1

Level 1 (0-10cm)	<i>grass; brown sandy loam with angular to rounded pebbles</i>
Level 2 (10-20cm)	<i>brown sandy loam with angular to rounded pebbles</i>
Level 3 (20-30cm)	<i>brown sand with increased subrounded pebbles and decreased large angular rock fragments; woody debris-- possibly bark (some burnt)</i>
Level 4 (30-40cm)	<i>pockets of gray-brown sand changing to yellow; primarily subrounded pebbles; woody debris-- possibly bark (some burnt)</i>
Level 5 (40-50cm)	<i>yellow then brown sand; primarily subrounded pebbles; woody debris-- possibly bark (some burnt)</i>
Level 6 (50-60cm)	<i>brown sand with woody debris-- possibly bark</i>
Level 7 (60-70cm)	<i>brown then moist orange sand; trace subrounded pebbles and single fragment of large rounded cobble; few bark pieces</i>
Level 8 (70-80cm)	<i>(augered) moist orange sand with residual gravel</i>
Level 9 (80-90cm)	<i>(augered) moist orange sand with residual gravel</i>

RP-2

Level 1 (0-10cm)	<i>grass; brown sandy loam with large angular gravel at bottom</i>
Level 2 (10-20cm)	<i>brown sandy loam with abundant angular to subrounded gravel (pebble to cobble-size)</i>
Level 3 (20-30cm)	<i>brown sandy loam with abundant angular to subrounded gravel (pebble to cobble-size)</i>
Level 4 (30-40cm)	<i>brown sandy loam with abundant angular to subrounded gravel (pebble to cobble-size)</i>
Level 5 (40-50cm)	<i>brown sandy loam with abundant angular to subrounded gravel (primarily pebbles, some cobbles); bark (some burnt)</i>
Level 6 (50-60cm)	<i>brown sandy loam with gray (possibly ashy) sand associated with large chunks of burnt woody debris; abundant small angular (crushed) gravel</i>
Level 7 (60-70cm)	<i>(augered) increasingly gray and sandy; charcoal continuing; decrease in gravel</i>
Level 8 (70-80cm)	<i>(augered) gray-brown sand mixed with orange and yellow sand; abundant charcoal; trace gravel; large rock at bottom prevented further excavation</i>

Table 2 (continued)

RP-3

Level 1 (0-10cm)	<i>brown sandy loam with abundant angular to rounded gravel (pebble to cobble-size)</i>
Level 2 (10-20cm)	<i>brown sandy loam with abundant angular to rounded gravel (pebble to cobble-size)</i>
Level 3 (20-30cm)	<i>brown sandy loam becoming increasingly sandy, pockets of gray-brown sand; gravel continues with increase in pea-size</i>
Level 4 (30-40cm)	<i>brown sand becoming increasingly gray-brown; same gravel as previous level</i>
Level 5 (40-50cm)	<i>gray sand with decreased subangular to rounded pebble-size gravel; trace bark</i>
Level 6 (50-60cm)	<i>(augered) moist gray sand with minor subangular to rounded pebble-size gravel</i>
Level 7 (60-70cm)	<i>(augered) moist gray sand with trace gravel</i>
Level 8 (70-80cm)	<i>(augered) moist gray sand with trace inclusions of orange sand; trace gravel; probe terminated as sand too loose to remain in auger</i>

RP-4

Level 1 (0-10cm)	<i>grass; mixed brown and yellow-brown sand with trace subrounded pebbles and rounded cobbles; minor woody debris</i>
Level 2 (10-20cm)	<i>mixed brown and yellow-brown sand with increased rounded and well-rounded pebbles, few cobbles; large woody debris; large rusty metal object at bottom prevented further excavation</i>

RP-5

Level 1 (0-10cm)	<i>brown sandy loam with minor subrounded pebbles</i>
Level 2 (10-20cm)	<i>brown sandy loam abruptly changing to yellow sand at 18cm; minor subrounded pebbles</i>
Level 3 (20-30cm)	<i>yellow sand with minor subrounded pebbles and cobbles/cobble fragments</i>
Level 4 (30-40cm)	<i>brown sand with rounded pebbles and high density of rounded cobbles/cobble fragments (minor subangular cobble fragments as well)</i>
Level 5 (40-50cm)	<i>extremely dense rounded cobbles/cobble fragments with minor brown sand, rounded pebbles; hole terminated due to cobbles</i>

Table 2 (continued)

RP-6

Level 1 (0-10cm)	<i>grass; brown sandy loam with minor gravel (of varying roundness)</i>
Level 2 (10-20cm)	<i>brown sandy loam; white mortar-like material at bottom</i>
Level 3 (20-30cm)	<i>lens of white mortar-like material until 24cm, then mottled black (charcoal), brown, and gray sand</i>
Level 4 (30-40cm)	<i>mottled black (charcoal), brown, and gray sand with few inclusions of orange sand</i>
Level 5 (40-50cm)	<i>mottled gray sand becoming yellowish with depth; orange sand inclusions continue</i>
Level 6 (50-60cm)	<i>mottled yellowish sand with high percentage of orange sand</i>

RP-7

Level 1 (0-10cm)	<i>roots, grass, and woody debris mixed with moist brown loam; thin lens of yellowish sand at 9-10cm</i>
Level 2 (10-20cm)	<i>roots, grass, and woody debris mixed with moist brown loam</i>
Level 3 (20-30cm)	<i>wet brown sandy loam with some coarse organics</i>
Level 4 (30-40cm)	<i>wet brown sandy loam changing abruptly to wet tan sand at 37cm</i>
Level 5 (40-50cm)	<i>wet tan sand</i>
Level 6 (50-60cm)	<i>wet tan sand</i>

SHPO REPORTING DATA

Findings:	-
Prehistoric:	-
Historic:	- (recent/late historic)
Isolates:	-
County:	Lane
Township	18S
Range:	12W
Section:	34
USGS Quad:	Florence 7.5' quadrangle
Project Acres:	0.4
Acres Surveyed:	0.4
Project Type:	Discovery Probing
Archaeological Permit:	None (private)
Field Notes Location:	Heritage Research Associates, Inc., Eugene
Curation Location:	Oregon State Museum of Anthropology
Project Title:	<i>Archaeological Discovery Probing for the Siuslaw River Bridge Interpretive Wayside in Florence, Lane County, Oregon (Heritage Letter Report 09-06)</i>
Authors:	Kendra Carlisle, M.A., RPA Linda Hart, M.A.
Consultant:	Heritage Research Associates, Inc.
Client:	Branch Engineering for ODOT
Date:	March 5, 2009