# MUSEUM open

## PRESERVING OUR HERITAGE FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS

*Winter 2025/26*

*An overview of our projects in progress as well as other initiatives such as how you can get involved. History is for everyone ~ Join us!*

### *in the Kitchen & Laundry Room*

**HUGHES HOUSE DIORAMA** ~ The Cape Blanco Heritage Society is working with Coastman's Scenic Products to realize a third diorama of the Hughes House and Ranch to accompany our other two very successful designs featuring the Port Orford Lifeboat Museum and Cape Blanco Lighthouse. The concept is to visualize it when it was a successful dairy farm around 1909/1910. This project will continue through 2027 and we will keep everyone informed of the progress in upcoming issues of our quarterly newsletter, *"The Heritage Journal"*.

**LIGHTHOUSE MURALS** ~ On a related note, we are in the process of raising funds for a series of murals to be displayed in the Cape Blanco Lighthouse Greeting Center Gift Shop. These murals will depict the grounds from the early lighthousekeeping era, the USCG era, as well as how the cape appeared before the lighthouse was built focusing on the history of the indigenous people. A fourth mural will illuminate the 11 historic lighthouses of Oregon.

### *in the Guest Room*

**CITIZEN HISTORY** ~ Our group has increased our publishing efforts dramatically over the past few years in an effort to involve as many people as possible who want to help preserve our heritage. This includes our quarterly newsletter, *"The Heritage Journal"*, our new one-sheet format, *"News of Note"*, as well as frequent postings to our website and *"Port Orford Historical Photos"*, a companion website devoted to Port Orford history in general. The one-sheets are quite popular with visitors at our three historic sites.

Interpretation : Cape Blanco Lighthouse

Visualization : Historic Hughes House & Ranch

### *in the Men's Parlor*

**DIGITIZING OUR COLLECTIONS** ~ CBHS is working to make our collections more accessible in 2026. In 2025, we began work on enhancing our collections digitally. This includes creating digital archives of all of our records, lighthouse logs and accessions forms that describe the origin of artifacts in our museum(s). We also researched new software platforms in order to increase access for our staff, volunteers and the public. As a result, we will have complete records of all three sites including the lighthouse which will host an archive of materials for public perusal at the Cape Blanco Interpretive Center in 2026.

### *in the Main Dining Room*

**DIVERSITY OF CAPE BLANCO** ~ This Spring, the docents at Cape Blanco began documenting research-grade observations at iNaturalist within a 3-5 mile radius of the historic lighthouse museum. As of October 2025, this project has grown to well over 2000 observations! We also installed a bird bioacoustic monitoring device to aid in the identification of species. Watch this project in 2026 as it grows to support an archive of photography by wildlife photographer Lois Miller who was a frequent visitor to the lighthouse.

**CAPE BLANCO WEATHER STATION** ~ Recording weather conditions was an early function of the Cape Blanco Lighthouse. Charles Pierce, the second keeper at Cape Blanco (after Harvey Burnap who was the first to light the fresnel lens) began daily entries covering mostly wind direction and weather in the AM and PM, in essence creating the first weather station out at the lighthouse in 1875. We are continuing this tradition with this fun project and are working to add a live feed on the web with wind information in 2026.

### *in the Main Parlor and Sewing Room*

**SAVE OUR LIGHTHOUSE** ~ The tower of our Cape Blanco Lighthouse has been closed to tours since 2020. It is in dire need of structural repairs in order to re-open to the public. In September 2022, a group of preservation experts investigated our lighthouse and prepared an assessment as well as a ballpark amount of what it will take to repair the lighthouse to the point that the tower can re-open for tours. The estimated cost for repairs is $682,000 and this does not include the cost to repair the failing road or the bearings of the fresnel lens which have to be repaired or reconditioned. Learn more about our efforts to Save Our Lighthouse and about the National Historic Lighthouse Preservation Act.

**LIVING HISTORY MOVIES** ~ We are recording history relating to the three CBHS sites with our first episode of Living History Movies featuring Don McMichael and Wayne Gage, two of the last officers stationed at the Port Orford Lifeboat Station while it was still in service. Additional movies include a virtual tour of the Cape Blanco Greeting Center Gift Shop, *"Meet me at the Lighthouse"*, a Hughes House Walkthrough, and Christmas Concert Archives. Episodes of Living History Days at the Hughes House will be created in the future.

CAPE BLANCO HERITAGE SOCIETY
ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

# MUSEUM open

*Cape Blanco University, built by the pioneering Hughes family in 1881 is one inspiration for* ***Museum OPEN.***

REGISTER OF VISITORS

## *CBHS Projects in Progress*

## January 31 2026
## 1:00pm ~ 3:00pm

*Illuminating History • Digital Archives*
*Diversity of Cape Blanco • Weather Station*
*Save Our Lighthouse • News of Note*

MB 388

**At the Historic Hughes House & Ranch in Cape Blanco State Park**

More information at capeblancoheritagesociety.com

**MUSEUM OPEN ~ PRESENTED BY THE CAPE BLANCO HERITAGE SOCIETY**

### *Guide to Rooms ~*

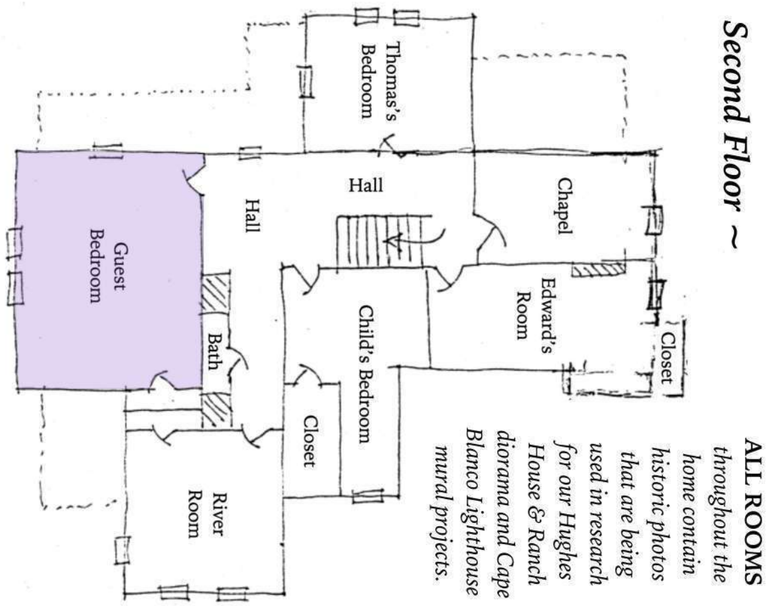
**DISCOVER MORE** *about the projects you are most interested in by visiting the indicated rooms. The Cape Blanco Heritage Society is fueled by creativity and is involved in projects supporting our historic sites year round. If you would like to get involved or support a project, let us know!*

**DONATIONS** *are a great way to support the general operations of our group and our projects. If you would like to support a particular project, indicate which one when you make your donation.*

***Checks can be mailed to:***
*Cape Blanco Heritage Society*
*PO Box 1132*
*Port Orford, OR 97465*

### *First Floor ~*

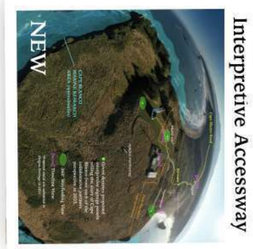
### *Second Floor ~*




*Source: Map by Patrick Masterson, National Register of Historic Places Inventory Nomination Form, Oct. 28 1980*

**ALL ROOMS** *throughout the home contain historic photos that are being used in research for our Hughes House & Ranch diorama and Cape Blanco Lighthouse mural projects.*

**Living History : The Lifeboat Station**
**The WWII Torpedo**



**Interpretive Accessway**

**The Weather Station : Cape Blanco**

**Restoration : #36498**