

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION

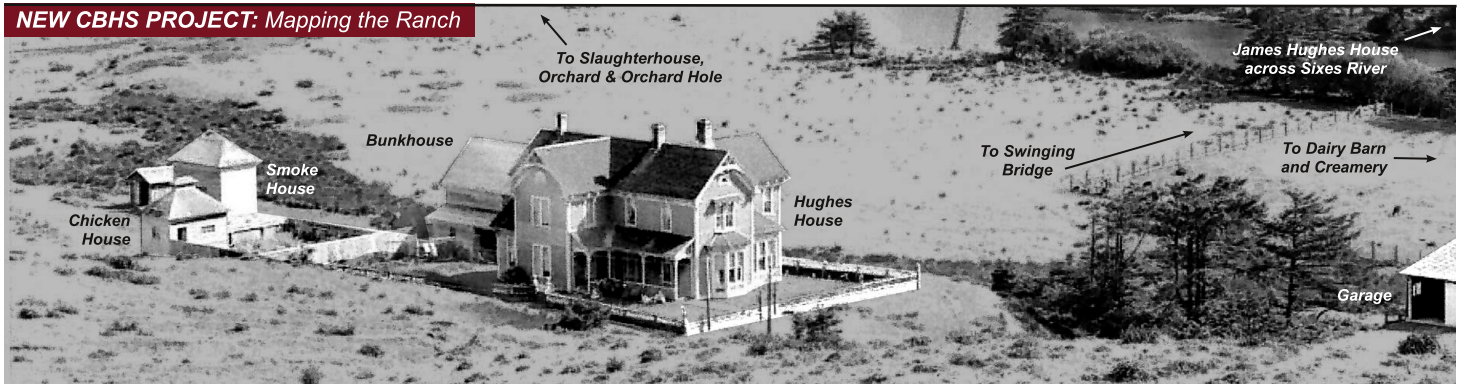
of the
**CAPE BLANCO
 HERITAGE SOCIETY**



CBHS BOARD MEETINGS: Currently held at Point.B Studio at 10:00 AM on the 2nd Tuesday of every month.
PLEASE NOTE: Our meetings are open to everyone who would like to attend. We invite and encourage anyone interested in CBHS to participate!

Hughes House & Ranch ~ The Lay of the Land

NEW CBHS PROJECT: Mapping the Ranch



Above: Sixes River Ranch at Cape Blanco on S. Oregon coast, 1941. Text for this issue is excerpted Pat Masterson's "Port Orford: A History"

This edition is a research project-in-progress for a diorama that will depict the Hughes House and Ranch when it was a successful dairy farm. You can track updates as the project progresses in 2026 by subscribing to our quarterly newsletter, "The Heritage Journal".

The Cape ~ The area from the cemetery to the lighthouse. This area was heavily timbered until the 1950s with spruce and pine. The state highway was constructed in the 1920s and evidence of the Old Cape Road which traversed the land from north to south is still marked by wagon wheel ruts west of the cemetery.

The Island ~ The large hummock situated to the right (north) of the main road as you cross the first bottom. This area was left unfenced and provided sanctuary for the stock in times of high water.

The Church ~ The small mission church named "Mary, Star Of The Sea", built in 1892 on the cape. It was the farthest west church structure in the United States.

The Orchard ~ Located just east of the island near the river, this large orchard provided apples, plums, pears and cherries for the ranch families as well as many neighbors and friends

but is now nonproductive.

The Orchard Hole ~ Features a large rock in the middle of the river that provided an excellent swimming and diving spot, as well as a well-fished haven for the wily chinook, steelhead and trout.

The Ford ~ The shallows located just upriver from the Orchard Hole was used as an animal and equipment crossing to the James Hughes Ranch north of the river.

The Boathouse ~ A commercial boat rental and landing facility located at the first bend of the river and operated by Pat B. Miller and Dolly Smith in the 1930s. A slaughter

house was located to the east of the main house on the river and used in the late 1800s to prepare fish netted commercially.

The Swinging Bridge ~ A narrow suspension bridge located near the first bend, connected the Hughes and the Sweet Ranches and provided a precarious walkway for the Sweet family school bus on the south side.

The Garden ~ A fenced area about 1/2 mile from the house near the old original barn and farmstead. The deer loved it.

The Potato Patch ~ An acre or so of ground a little west of the island that produced a bountiful crop.

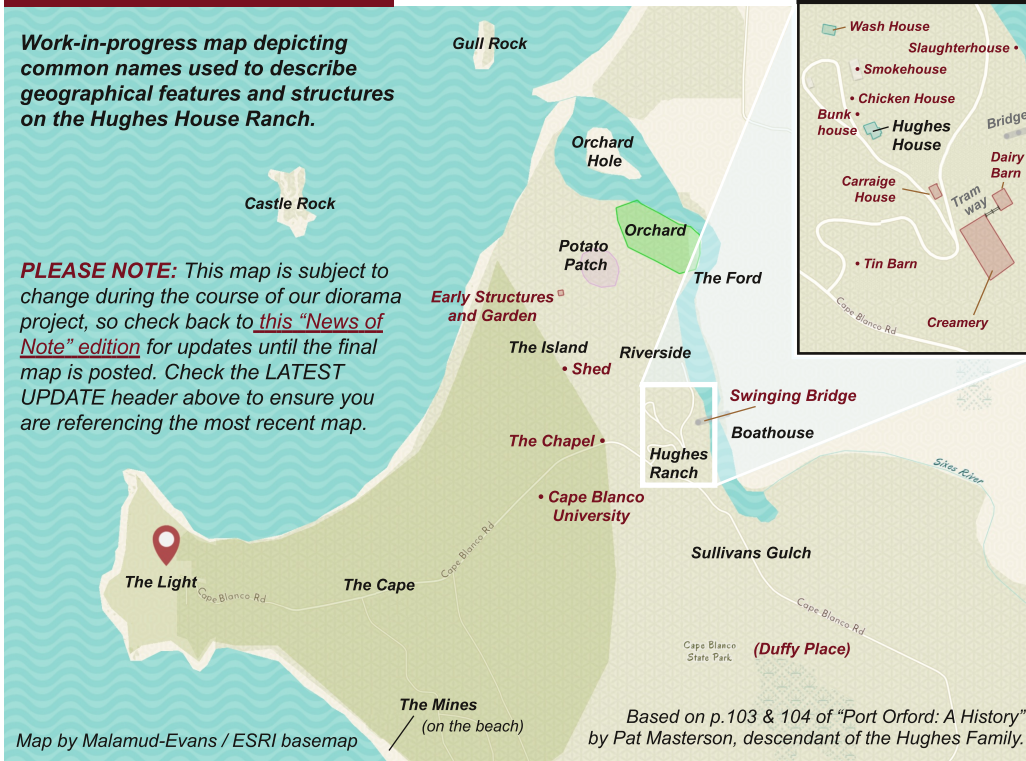
THE EARLY YEARS: 1860-1898



Early Hughes Ranch structures including first barn and residence where the Hughes family lived for 38 years prior to the construction of the historic Hughes House & Ranch.

Work-in-progress map depicting common names used to describe geographical features and structures on the Hughes House Ranch.

PLEASE NOTE: This map is subject to change during the course of our diorama project, so check back to [this "News of Note" edition](#) for updates until the final map is posted. Check the LATEST UPDATE header above to ensure you are referencing the most recent map.



The Mines ~ An old cabin and spring on the beach, south of the present park parking area. The original mine was further south towards Elk River but this area was used until the mid-1940s.

Duffy Place ~ Farmstead of Michael Duffy, close Irish friend of Patrick, who worked in the mines and on the ranch. Property now held by the VanLoos.

Sullivan's Gulch ~ A low swampy

area near the original mine unproductive for the most part. It is an ancient river bed now named Beaver Marsh.

The Barn ~ The main barn located 14 mile east of the house (*Ed. Note: is this a typo or did the Hughes family own land up the Sixes?*). Built in 1905, the complex included a separator room and creamery.

Tin Barn ~ Metal barn located just under the hill as you come down the

first grade. Used for winter hay storage.

The Shed ~ A large machine shop and storage facility sites just south of the cut of the roadbed at the Island. Old tractor stored there.

Castle Rock ~ The largest rock at the north beach, known also as Thomas's Rock.

Riverside ~ Name Father Hughes used for the ranch. He always addressed his envelopes with this term on the lower left hand side.

The Light ~ The term applied to the lighthouse. You always "went up to the light."

Cape Blanco University ~ The name given to the one room school-house of District 15, on the cape by the Hughes's. Built in 1882.

The Chapel ~ The small room at the head of the stairs equipped with a small altar and religious statues and used by Father Hughes during his visits.

The Wash House ~ Bunkhouse, washroom, potato and tool storage west of house.

The Smoke House ~ Two-story structure between the main house and the smaller residence used for meat and fish smoking. ✱

Become a MEMBER of the CAPE BLANCO HERITAGE SOCIETY



OUR MISSION: To provide interpretative and educational services for the Cape Blanco Light Station, Historic Hughes House and Ranch and the Port Orford Lifeboat Station. We are a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization and your donation is tax-deductible.

Mail this portion of the form with your check made out to:
Cape Blanco Heritage Society. P.O. Box 1132 Port Orford, Oregon 97465.

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NAME:	INDIVIDUAL	\$15
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