

U. S. COAST AND GEODETIC SURVEY.

*F. M. Horn*, Superintendent.

State: *Wash. Terr.*

DESCRIPTIVE REPORT.

*Topographic Sheet No. 1798.*

LOCALITY:

*Rosario Strait:  
North part of  
Bellingham Bay.*

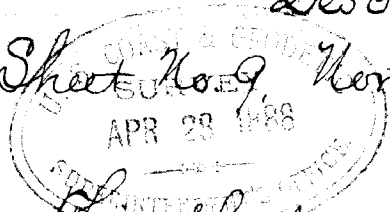
*1857.*

CHIEF OF PARTY:

*J. J. Gilbert.*

## Descriptive Report

Sheet No. 9, North Part of Bellingham Bay, W. I.



This sheet embraces all the north part of Bellingham Bay, joining sheet No. 7 on the S. E. and sheet No. 8 on the S. W.

The shores from the point of juncture as far as Whaleten Creek, are mostly sandstone. From Whaleten Creek to the Mouth of the Nooksack River they are of clay, and gravel, except the base of the cliff under Signal Eldridge, which is rock; from the Nooksack to limit of sheet they are also gravel and clay. Northward of signal John the immediate shoreline is low. S. W. from signal John they are bluff. - Mostly from 20 to 30 feet, but rising to 50 feet at Bright Stump. The beaches are mostly of Cobble & larger stones, with frequent boulders of large size. All have been set free from the bluffs as they have been washed away.

From the point north of  $\Delta$  John around to the point below the Lummi Post Office the shores are muddy, and sandy, and in some places marshy. From the point S. of Lummi P. O. to

The Whateam Creek the shores are bluff, and cut down to ravines at only two places, one just W. of Signal Eldridge, which is full of Springs, and extends back about  $\frac{1}{3}$  mile, the other  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile East of Eldridge, through which the Squallicum Creek flows. These bluffs are from 40 to 60 feet high.

Southward from the Valley of the Whateam Creek the Country is very hilly and densely wooded. Westward from Whateam Creek it is comparatively level, densely wooded, and most of it good agricultural land. There is but little cleared outside of the town limits, and within the limits of the sheet.

Whateam Creek is the outlet of Whateam Lake, which is about  $3\frac{1}{2}$  miles from Seboue, and 350 feet above the Sea; the Creek for the last mile or two flows through nearly level Country, and has but little current. At the Mouth there is a Mill dam, from which the Creek flows over ledges of rock into the Bay, forming a pretty Cascade.

The volume of water depends on the season,

in late summer it is not sufficient to run the Sawmill continuously.

Squalicum Creek drains the country for several miles back, it is in summer, about half the size of Whateam Creek.

From a streak of gravel near the foot of the bluff, under  $\Delta$  Eldridge, and to W of the ravine near it issue several considerable streams of pure and coldest water. Water also issues from the bank in the vicinity of Fort Bellingham.

The Nooksack River is a mountain stream, when the River is full, steamers of light draft ascend it regularly, as far as Lynden, eighteen miles above the mouth. The South fork heads somewhere among the snow fields of Mr. Baker.

Very extensive shoals or flats extend out from its mouth, which are indicated, without any attempt at accuracy, on the sheet. A small boat cannot get into the river at low tide, the shoal portion of the channel extends from the swampy islands so of mouth, until well out toward deep water. Once inside the river it is deep enough as far up as sheet

extends. The marshes skirting the river are  
 tule, and fresh, and too low to be thoroughly  
 drained, but ditches and dikes might improve  
 them, and permit a crop of hay to be raised.  
 Some parts are high, and have been farmed.

Whateam was settled in Dec. 1852. by Mr.  
 R. V. Peabody and Capt. Henry Rorder, who built a  
 Sawmill in 1853 at the mouth of Whateam Creek.  
 And a townsite was laid out in 1854, and named  
 Whateam, which was the Indian name for  
 the Creek. The same year Coal was discovered  
 where the town of New Whateam or Scheme now  
 is, and a mine was opened in 1855, and the  
 town of Scheme laid out.

Whateam's population did not exceed 30 or 40  
 until 1858. when it became for a short time  
 the rendezvous for miners bound to the new  
 gold diggings on Frazer River, and had a  
 transient population of 4000, mostly living  
 in tents. British Customs regulations soon  
 diverted this population to Victoria B.C., and  
 Whateam has since then been a slowly growing  
 town, its present population is 300 or 400.

Sehome. Started by the Coal mines, as a rival to Whatcom. Never had a large population, and now it has dwindled to less than 50.

The Coal mines were operated until about ten years ago. when they were abandoned because the coal was of inferior quality and could not compete with the mines near Seattle. Two or three years ago the Bellingham Bay and British Columbia Rail-road Co. was incorporated, and controlled by the old Coal Co. About 3 miles of the road was slashed. Most of the grading done for a distance of more than two miles, and the track laid nearly one mile, - from Sehome Wharf to the Crossing of Whatcom Creek. No more work has been done, but the Company realized a handsome fortune from the sale of lots in Sehome.

Lummi Village, on the Indian Island at the Mouth of the Nooksack is an Indian settlement. Lummi P.O. - Mr. McDermoughs landing, - is a village of one family.

The principal business with the farmers

is raising cereals, roots, and fruits, - the last do excellently well, and Messrs Eldridge, Burnett and Lusk have large and thrifty orchards.

Fishing for Salmon in the Mouth of the Nooksack is one of the industries of the Bay.

Old Fort Bellingham has almost gone to decay. Built in 1855 or 6, during the Indian war, it was abandoned a few years later.

A thrifty orchard occupies the old parade ground. The Stockade has been removed from two sides, has fallen down on the third, and is becoming very weak on the side next the Bay.

One "Block House" still stands at the S.W. angle and the Flagstaff still stands with its topmast leaning grossly out of plumb.

Sketch No. 1. represents this old fort. - and is taken from a point across and west of the fort.

Chuckanut Mtn. is seen in the distance.

Sketch No. 2. represents the City of Whatcom, and the long wharf - from the city to deep water, it was taken from the old Coal Bunker,  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile below Sehome wharf.

Sketch No. 3. is a view of Whaletown Lake.

The tide flats are very extensive in front of Whaletown, and all along the shore as far as the Nooksachuk - though of less extent - between  $\Delta$  Eldridge and the Entrance to Nooksachuk.

J. J. Gilbert  
Assist. B. G. Sawyer





FORT BELLINGHAM

SITUATED 3 MILES NORTH OF WHITESON.

BUILT IN 1856.

Sheet No. 9. No. 1

239.



WHATCOM V.C.T.

*Sheet - No. 9. 7. 10. 2*

240.



LAKE WHATCOM

LOOK BY ESE

Sheet No. 9, No. 3