U. S. COAST AND GEODETIC SURVEY.

Dr. M. Thron. Superintendant.

State: Wash. Terr.

DESCRIPTIVE REPORT.

Topographic Sheet No. 1798.

LOCALITY:

Rosario Street.

North part of Bellingham Bay.

1867.

CHIEF OF PARTY:

J. J. Gilbert.
Descriptive Report
Sheet No. 9. North Part of Bellingham Bay, W.T.

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 Whidbey Creek, are mostly sandstone, from Whidbey Creek to the Mute of the Nooksack River they are of clay and gravel. Except the base of the cliff under Signal Bluff, 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. Northly from 20 to 30 feet, least rising 50 to 50 feet at Eight Stump. The beaches are mostly of Cobble and 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 Signal John around to the point below the Lummi Post Office the shores are muddy and sandy, and in some places muddy. From the point S.W. of Lummi P. O.
the Whalen Creek the shores are bluff, and
C cut down to ravines at only two places, one
just W. of Signal Eldridge, which is full of
springs, and extends back about 1/3 mile,
the other 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 Whalen
Creek the country is very hilly and densely wooded.

Westward from Whalen Creek it is comparatively
level, densely wooded, and most of it good
agricultural land. There is least little cleared
outside of the town limits, and within the
limits of the fort.

Whalen Creek is the outlet of Whalen
Lake, which is about 3/4 miles from Shelone,
and 350 feet above the Sea; the Creek for
the last mile or two flows through nearly level
country, and less hilly little hilly. 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 Slocumill Continuously.

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

From a streak of gravel near the foot of the bluff, under Eldridge, and to W of the town near its issue several considerable streams of sweet and coldest water. Water also issues from the bank in the vicinity of Fort Bellingham.

The Hooksaich River is a mountain stream. When the River is full, Streams of light draught ascend its rugged, as far as Sycamore. Eighteen miles above the mouth, The South fork heads somewhere among the snow fields of Mr. Baker.

From Extensive flats or flats extend out from its mouth, which are indicated, without any attempt at accuracy, on the Chart. A small boat cannot get into the river at low tide, the Shores of the channel extends from the Swampy islands 20 or 30 of mouth, until well out toward deep water. Once inside the River it is deep enough as far up as Shel-
Extends. The Marshes bordering the river are
thick, and furnish, 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.

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

Whatcom's population did not exceed 300 or so
until 1858. When it became for a short time
the rendezvous for miners bound to the New
Gold diggings on Fraser River, and had a
transient population of 4000, mostly living
in tents. British Columbian regulations soon
directed this population to Victoria B.C., and
Whatcom has since then been a slowly growing
town, the present population is 300 or so.
Scheme, started by the Coal mines, as a rival to Whateum. Never had a large population, and now it has dwindled to less than 10.

The Coal mines were operated until about 10 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 Railroad 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 Scheme Wharf to the Crossing of Whateum Creek. No more work has been done, but the Company realized a handsome fortune from the sale of lots in Scheme.

Lemmi Village, on the Indian Island at the mouth of the Nooksack is an Indian settlement. Lemmi P.O. - Mr. McDonough's landing - is a village of one family.
is raising cereals, roots, and fruits—the last do exceedingly well, and Messrs. Eldridge, Burnett and Luck 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 being eaten by “wear on the side next the bay. One block house still stands on the sea angle, and the flagstaff still stands with its topmost leaing greatly out of place.”

Sketch No.1. Represents this old fort—and is taken from a point north and west of the fort.

Chokkamut Mt. 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 wharves, 1/2 mile below Sehome Wharf.
Sketch No. 3. is a view of Whaleme Baska.

The tide flats are very extensive in front of Whaleme, and all along the shore as far as the Hooksaelsk—though of less extent between Dadindye and the entrance to Hooksaelsk.

[Signature]

Admiral B. F. Savery