

T30W R5W 9

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**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

For HCRS use only

received

date entered

CA 276

1. Name

historic Bagley Lake Farm Tunnel

and/or common

2. Location

street & number The end of Lake Farm Road not for publication

city, town Port Angeles ☒ vicinity of congressional district 3rd-Donald L. Bonker

state Washington code 053 county Clallam code 009

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name C.W. Thompson

street & number 204 South Albert

city, town Port Angeles vicinity of state Washington 98362

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Clallam County Courthouse

street & number 223 East 4th

city, town Port Angeles state Washington 98362

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Clallam County Cultural Resource Survey has this property been determined eligible? ☐ yes ☒ no

date 1978 ☐ federal ☐ state ☒ county ☐ local

depository for survey records Clallam County Courthouse

city, town Port Angeles state Washington 98362

7. Description

Condition☐ excellent☒ good☐ fair☐ deteriorated☐ ruins☐ unexposed**Check one**☒ unaltered☐ altered**Check one**☒ original site☐ moved

date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Lake Farm Tunnel is a man-made excavation located two miles east of Port Angeles in Clallam County, along the southern shore of the Strait of Juan de Fuca. The tunnel is cut into the well-cemented soils of a sand and gravel cliff, the material being deposited by glaciers during the Holocene epoch and eroded by the Juan de Fuca arm of the Cordillerian Ice Sheet 10,000 years B.P. The tunnel enters the base of a cliff, 150 feet high, a few feet above the high tide mark. It is a triangular shaped opening 20 feet wide and 30 feet high at the peak. The tunnel runs inland at a slight uphill angle for 200 feet where it opens into a circular cavern about 30 feet in diameter and approximately 80 feet deep.

On the surface, several drainage ditches lead to the cavern opening, and during the winter a stream enters the cavern and flows out through the tunnel mouth. The intermittent flow has eroded the tunnel headward and has scoured the walls of the excavation, but this is the only change since the time of its initial excavation.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400–1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500–1599	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699	<input type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1870

Builder/Architect

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Bagley Lake Farm Tunnel is significant as a unique piece of pioneer engineering and an example of the extreme difficulty early settlers encountered securing farmland on the Olympic Peninsula.

One of the most important elements in the success or failure of a homestead on the peninsula was the availability of good soil for crops. The methods used to obtain cropland in a new region covered with immense trees illustrates the ingenuity and hard work that were a necessary part of survival. Some people were lucky enough to find prairies. Other farmers diked the tidelands, converting saline estuaries to cropland. The most common and most difficult method was to fall the trees and burn the slash. Sometimes the stumps might be left and crops planted around them. Removing the stumps required blasting with dynamite, burning, or the use of a cable and gear device known as a stump puller. All of these methods were as difficult as they were dangerous.

The Bagley Lake Farm Tunnel was a creative departure from the usual means of acquiring farmland. When early-day pioneer John Bagley homesteaded in 1860, a lake occupied the land very near the edge of the cliff that overlooked the Strait of Juan de Fuca. It was Bagley's thought to secure open farm land by providing continuous drainage of the area occupied by the lake, venting the water to the Strait. No records of the construction effort are known, but it is likely that he first drained the lake of surface water and then developed the tunnel as a means of providing positive, maintenance-free drainage of the reclaimed area. Unfortunately he found that beneath the lake was a layer of peat, and his scheme still left the land too swampy for farming.

The Lake Farm passed through several ownerships until 1887, when the property was purchased by Charles Wentworth Thompson. Thompson arrived in Port Angeles from Nova Scotia in 1865, and logged with oxen in early logging camps along the Strait of Juan de Fuca until he had become prosperous enough to purchase a farm. When Thompson acquired the farm in 1887, the previous owners had allowed the eighty acre lake bed to grow up in brush and young alder trees. Thompson burned the brush and in doing so set the underlying peat on fire. The addition of ash to the soil improved its fertility immensely and large crops of oats and hay have been grown on the property since. The Thompson family still owns the Lake Farm and its tunnel.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Jimmy Come Lately, A History of Clallam County, Clallam County Historical Society: 1971.

Interview with C.W. Thompson, Jr.; August, 1980.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property less than one

Quadrangle name Morse Creek

Quadrangle scale 7½ minute

UMT References

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5	3	2	8	7	1	0
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Zone Easting Northing

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Verbal boundary description and justification

The Bagley Lake Farm Tunnel lies in the NW quarter of Section 9, Township 30N, Range 5W of the Willamette Meridian; the nominated property is bounded on the north by the Strait of Juan de Fuca and occupies a parcel 100 feet in width which follows the line of the cave inland 250 feet.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	n/a	code	county	code
state	n/a	code	county	code

state	n/a	code	county	code
state	n/a	code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Patrick Neal, Historian

organization Clallam County Parks

date 1980

street & number 223 East 4th

telephone (206) 452-7831, Ext. 291

city or town Port Angeles

state Washington 98362

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

 national state local

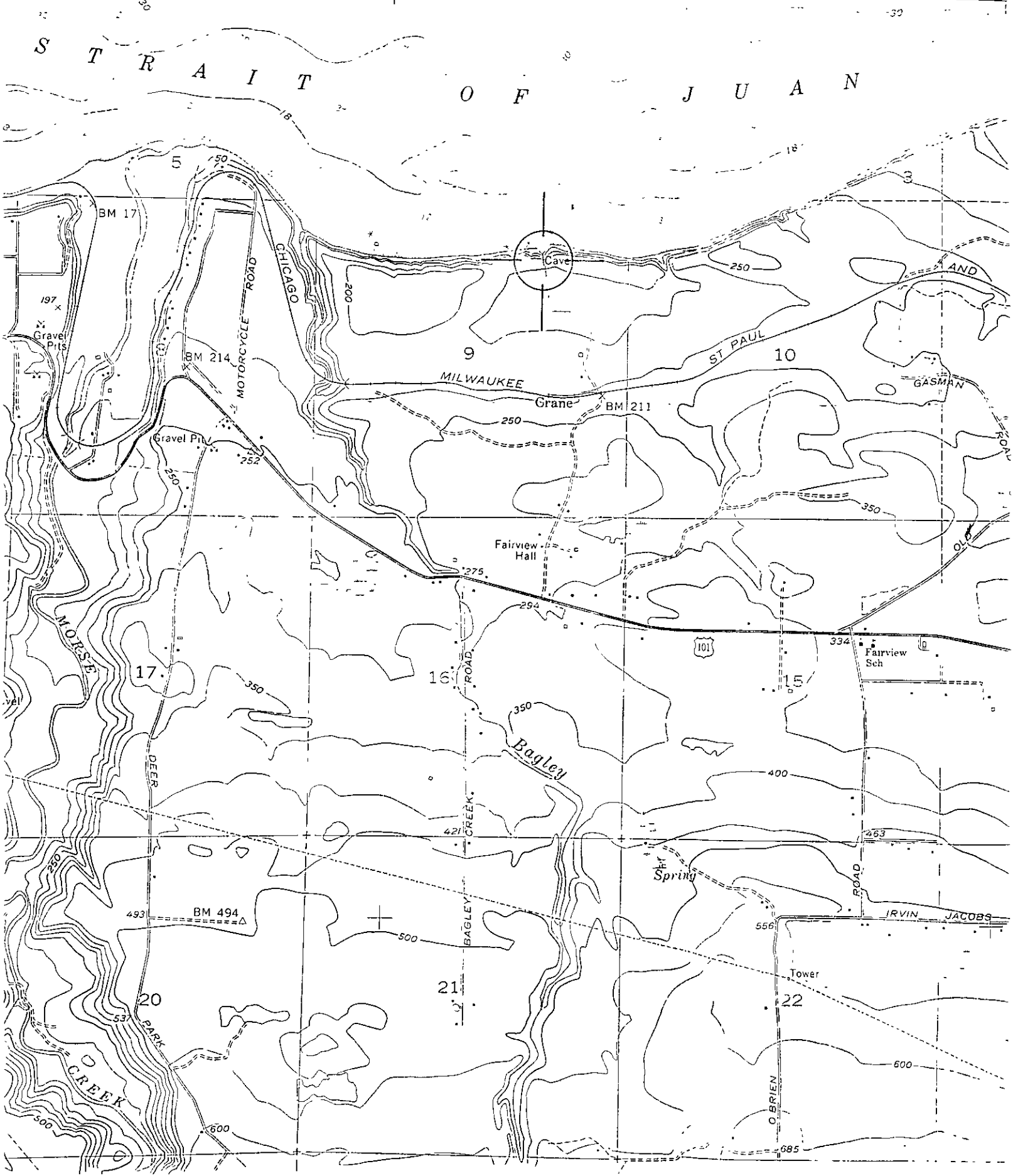
As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

title	date
For HCRS use only I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register	
	date
Keeper of the National Register	
Attest:	date
Chief of Registration	

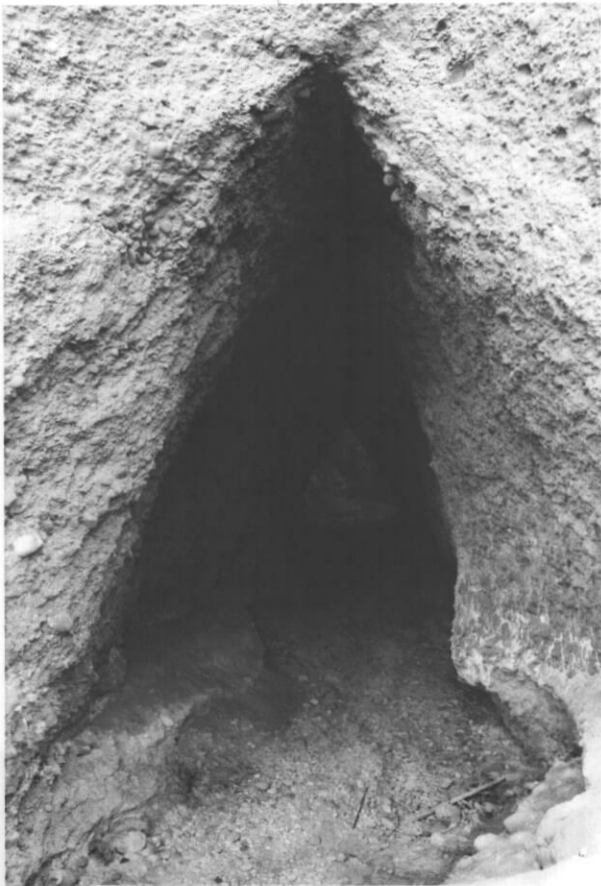
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