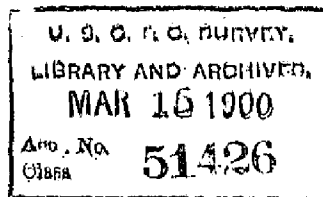


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Descriptive Report

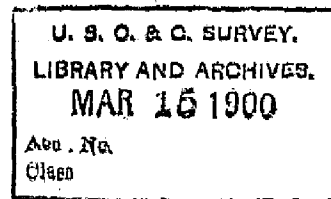
Fairhaven Harbor Wash.

Registry No = 2070

1891

J. J. Gilbert

2070



Descriptive Report
Fairhaven Harbor Wash

Sheet registered No. 2070

1891

J. J. Gilbert

Descriptive Report
Fairhaven, Washington.
1891.

This Survey was made for the Washington State Tide Land Commission.

Fairhaven proper is built around a small bay at the S. W. part of Bellingham Bay, a little more than two miles from the mouth of Whatcom Creek.

The town was first laid out about 1886, by Dan. Harris, who built a wharf, and small public House, in 1887 when I made the original survey of this region. There were no streets, perhaps half a dozen lots had been sold, and three or four small cabins had been built.

A year or two later the boom came, a Townsite Company bought out Harris, and adjoining claims, and laid out a great city reaching to the head of Chuckanut Bay. The advent of the Great Northern Rail Road gave the new city a start. Streets were graded, brick buildings erected, wharves, warehouses, and saw mills lined the water front. An Electric road was built to Whatcom, and prosperity seemed assured. In 1891, it was a busy place, with stores of all descriptions, - and the finest hotel on

Puget Sound. The timber was cleared all the way to Chuckanut Bay, and all platted in town lots. The "boom" was of short duration and now, 1900, it is a small town.

The best anchorage and shelter in Bellingham Bay is in the small bay in front of Fairhaven.

The entire shore-line, except a little in the bay and west of it is sandstone. For $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles south of the bay it is covered with clay - and there is quite a bluff, around the double bight half way to Chuckanut Bay entrance. Beyond the bluff and around to the low marshy land at Chuckanut Creek, the shore line is perpendicular sandstone bluffs and cliffs, carved and smoothed by the action of wind and wave.

The beach is gravel, boulders, and sand from the N. limit of the sheet to the the end of the bluff in the double bight - but around the point into the Chuckanut there is no beach, all is rock, and very nearly perpendicular. There are places where the largest ship might safely lie broadside to the rocks, as to a wharf. Just across Chuckanut Bay from the point are the stone quarries, it is a fine bluish sandstone, and used very extensively for building. The Cretaceous horizon at

Port Townsend, Astoria and Portland, were built of this stone, as was the Court-House at Olympia; it is extensively used for trimmings in Seattle.

South West from the city wharves, there is quite an extensive shoal, really forming a danger to steamboats coming to Fairhaven and Whatcom, because such shoals are not common, and there is a tendency to keep close to the shore to avoid the strong tidal currents.

The head of Chuckanut Bay is bar at low tide, the bottom is sand.

A small stream of water, or rather two small streams close together, empty into the head of Chuckanut Bay. Another small stream empties into the little bay at the Fairhaven wharves. This last stream is the outlet of Lake Padden $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles back.

Fairhaven is to all purposes a part of Whatcom, and efforts have been made to have them unite, but that has not yet been accomplished.

The hydrography was done from Steam Launch and with a small boat.

J. J. Gilbert
Assist. C. G. Survey