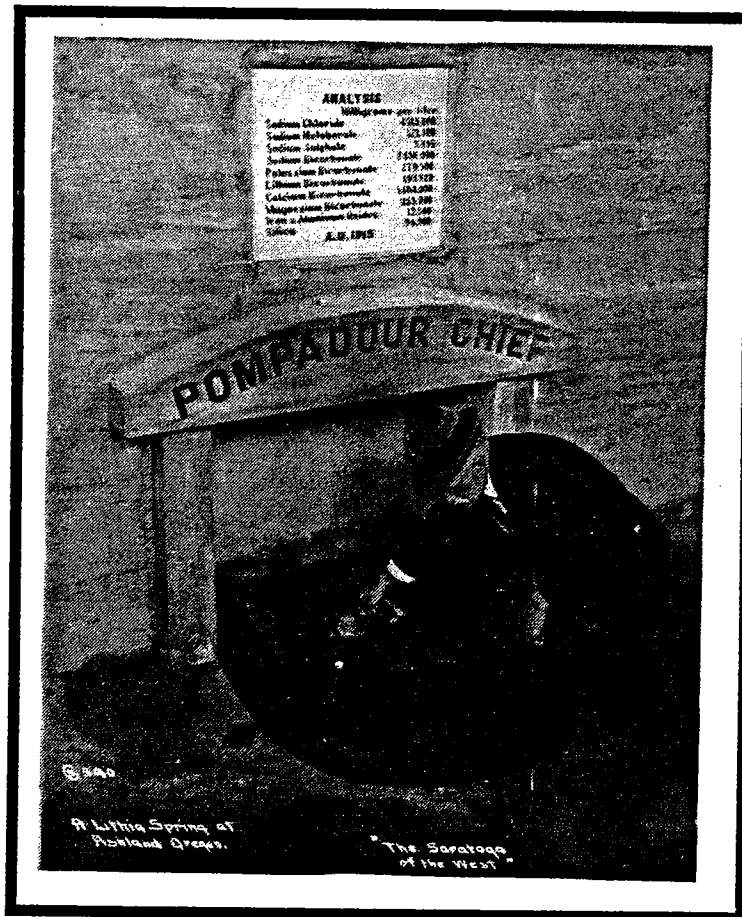


AN INVENTORY, HISTORIC DOCUMENTATION, AND ASSESSMENT  
OF CULTURAL RESOURCES AT LITHIA SPRINGS AND WINBURN CAMP



By Nan Hannon and Clayton G. Lebow  
For the City of Ashland



December 11, 1987

IRI Report No. PNW87-8

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Ashland, Oregon 97520



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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

INFOTEC Research, Inc. (IRI), between August 29th and December 11, 1987, conducted a cultural resource inventory and historic documentation of the Lithia Springs and Winburn Camp properties, for the City of Ashland. The purpose of this project was to identify and record any cultural resources located on these two properties, document the history of these resources, and to recommend management measures. Three cultural resources were recorded: two historic sites on the Winburn Camp property, and a single historic site on the Lithia Springs property. The historic sites on the Winburn Camp property include the Winburn Cabin site and a historic dump site. The Winburn Cabin site is probably not eligible for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places, although the site is interesting, and could be managed and protected by the City simply by continuing the present property management strategy. The historic dump site is not eligible for the National Register of Historic Places, and need not be considered in future management plans. The historic site located on the Lithia Springs property includes features associated with the development of Lithia Springs. Given the significant role that Lithia Springs has played in the history of the City of Ashland, there is no question that this site (particularly with the Pompadour Chief, the steel bridge over Emigrant Creek, the City Springs pumphouse and retaining wall, and the angular concrete retaining wall at Lithia Spring all present) is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. It is recommended that this site be nominated, and the property managed in such a way as to protect the site. No prehistoric sites were observed on either the Lithia Springs or Winburn Camp properties.

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## INTRODUCTION

A cultural resource inventory and historic documentation of Winburn Camp and Lithia Springs, both owned by the City of Ashland, was conducted by INFOTEC Research, Inc. (IRI), under contract with the City of Ashland. The purpose was to provide information which would allow the City of Ashland to properly manage the cultural resources on these two properties. The project was guided by four goals: (1) to comply with Oregon's Land Conservation and Development Commission (LCDC) Goal 5, which states that the "location, quality and quantity" of "historic areas, sites, structures and objects" (among other resources) shall be inventoried; (2) to compile a historical background on each property, particularly as the property and the people associated with the property were involved in the development of the City of Ashland; (3) to survey both properties to locate unrecorded cultural resources; and (4) to file completed site forms with the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) on all cultural resources identified on the two properties.

This project was the result of a matching grant received by the City of Ashland from SHPO. IRI's staff for the project included Clayton Lebow as the Principal Investigator, Nan Hannon as the project Historian, and Richard Pettigrew as the Project Manager. Al Alsing served as Project Supervisor for the City of Ashland, and Jim Olson and Jim Roberts assisted by mapping cultural resource sites; the City also provided in-kind services, including the graphics, which were completed by Jim Olson. The field work was completed by Clayton Lebow, Nan Hannon, Jim Olson, and Jim Roberts between August 29th and September 1st; a total of seven person-days was spent on this task.

This report consists of four major parts. The first part provides an introduction, and information on the physical, ethnographic, prehistoric, and historical settings of the two properties (as no prehistoric archaeological sites were recorded, the ethnographic and prehistoric settings are very brief); the second part is a discussion of the field methods used during the survey, and the research and interview methods used during the historic documentation. This is followed by an in-depth discussion of the history of the project areas, and the impact the people associated with the two properties had on the City of Ashland. The final section is a discussion of the sites recorded, including potential significance, and recommendations for cultural resource management.

## PHYSICAL SETTING

The Winburn Camp property, composed of 160 acres, is located in southern Jackson County in the W $\frac{1}{2}$  of the NE $\frac{1}{4}$ , the SE $\frac{1}{4}$  of the NW $\frac{1}{4}$ , and the NW $\frac{1}{4}$  of the SE $\frac{1}{4}$  of Section 32, T39S, R1E, WM, between 3840 and 3280 ft (1170 and 1000 m) in elevation (Figure 1). The West Fork of Ashland Creek flows through, and is joined by, Weasel Creek and Annie Creek within the property boundaries. The project area, which is within the boundaries of the Ashland Ranger District of the Rogue River National Forest, is also within the Ashland Municipal Watershed. The climate is typical of upland forested environments in the

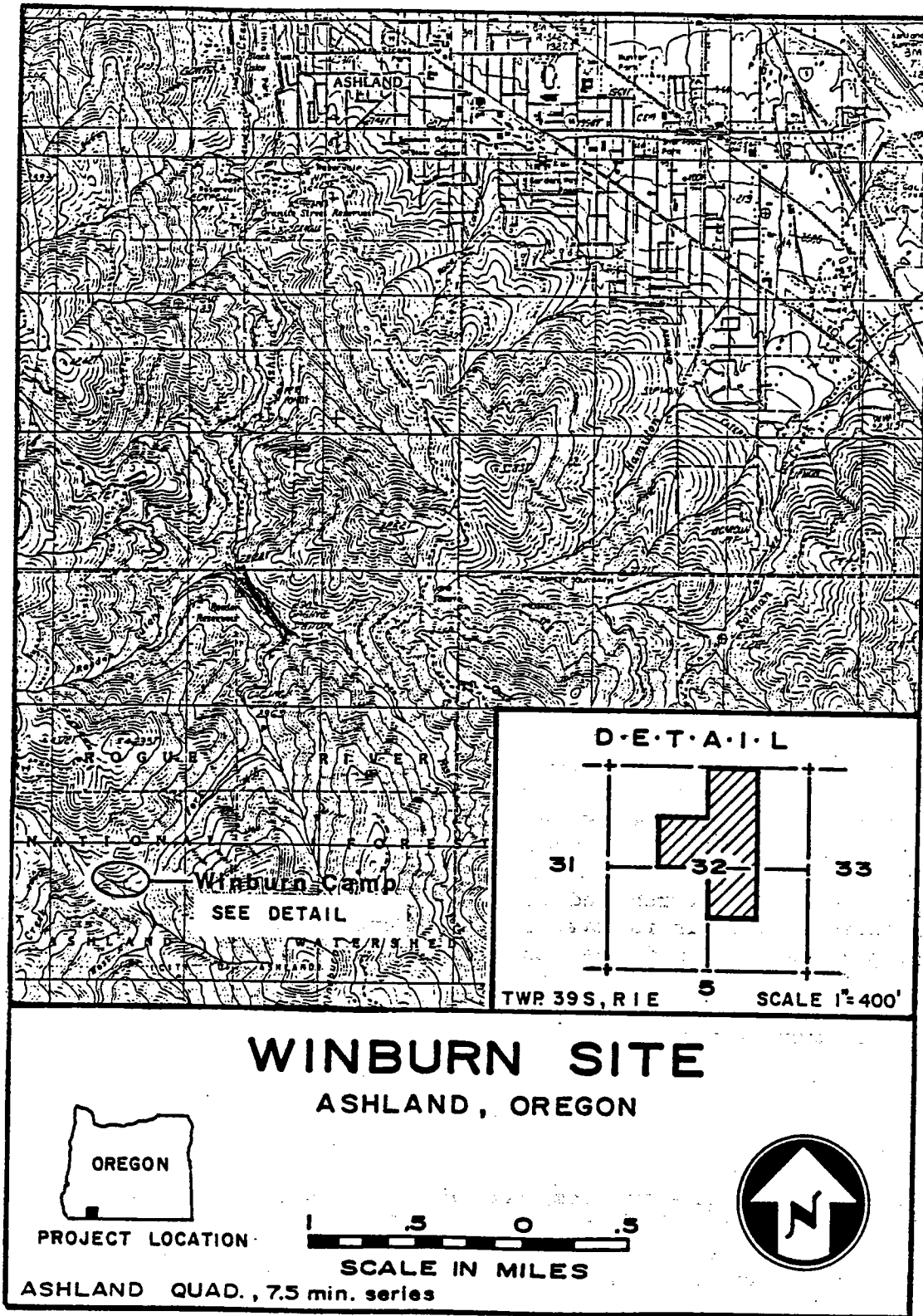


Figure 1. Location of the Winburn Camp Property.

upper Rogue River drainage, with warm and dry summers, and cool and moist winters. The vicinity probably accumulates a winter snowpack. The topography of the area consists of steep slopes, with slopes over 90% not uncommon. The only relatively level area of any consequence is at the confluence of Weasel Creek and the West Fork of Ashland Creek; this area consists of approximately one to two acres of alluvial terrace with slopes less than 10%. Situated just west of this terrace is a small (approximately  $\frac{1}{2}$  acre) open meadow, with a ground slope of approximately 10%. Two benches, both less than one-half acre in size and with slopes less than 20%, were located east of and overlooking the West Fork of Ashland Creek. Except for the open meadow, the property is heavily timbered, with Douglas-fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii*) the dominant overstory; other plants observed include bigleaf maple (*Acer macrophyllum*), white fir (*Abies concolor*), red alder (*Alnus rubra*), chinkapin (*Castanopsis chrysophylla*), incense cedar (*Libocedrus decurrens*), Pacific yew (*Taxus brevifolia*), Pacific madrone (*Arbutus menziesii*), California hazel (*Corylus cornuta californica*), ocean spray (*Holodiscus discolor*), salal (*Gaultheria shallon*), dwarf Oregon grape (*Mahonia nervosa*), wild rose (*Rosa* spp.), wood sorrel (*Oxalis* sp.), swordfern (*Polystichum munitum*), brackenfern (*Pteridium aquilinum*), maidenhair-fern (*Adiantum pedatum*), horsetail (*Equisetum* sp.), and beargrass (*Xerophyllum tenax*). Other than road and building construction associated with the Long and Winburn cabins (see discussion later in this report), the property has undergone little historic alteration.

The Lithia Springs property, 66 acres in size, is located in southern Jackson County, in the SE $\frac{1}{4}$  of the SE $\frac{1}{4}$  of Section 12, T39S, R1E, WM, and the SW $\frac{1}{4}$  of the SW $\frac{1}{4}$  of Section 7, T39S, R2E, WM, between 1900 and 2025 ft (579 and 617 m) in elevation (Figure 2). The Lithia Springs property is situated on the eastern edge of Bear Creek Valley, approximately two miles (3.2 km) east of Ashland. Emigrant Creek, which is a major tributary to Bear Creek, is located along much of the northern property boundary. The climate is moderate (but more xeric than the upland Winburn Camp property), with hot and dry summers, and cool and damp winters. The vegetation falls within the "Interior Valley Zone" (Franklin and Dyrness 1973:44-45, 110, Fig. 27). The property is predominately grassland, with Oregon white oak (*Quercus garryana*) and California black oak (*Quercus kelloggii*) present on the slopes, and willow (*Salix* spp.), Oregon white ash (*Fraxinus latifolia*), black cottonwood (*Populus trichocarpa*), blackberries (*Rubus* spp.), and poison oak (*Rhus diversiloba*) found along the banks of Emigrant Creek. Topographically, the property consists of two distinct areas. Approximately half of the property consists of a relatively level alluvial terrace (Figure 3); located within this terrace are the Lithia Springs and the City Springs. The remainder of the property is on gently rolling hillsides with slopes up to 30%, although occasional rock outcrops create much steeper slopes. Unlike the Winburn property, the Lithia Springs landscape has been extensively altered during the historic time period, particularly on the alluvial terrace. Most of the terrace has been artificially filled (probably to alleviate the marshiness associated with the mineral springs, and Emigrant Creek has been diverted from its original channel (Appendix D). Except for the eastern corner of the terrace, no original surface (present prior to historic occupation) was observed. The hillsides remain relatively unaltered.



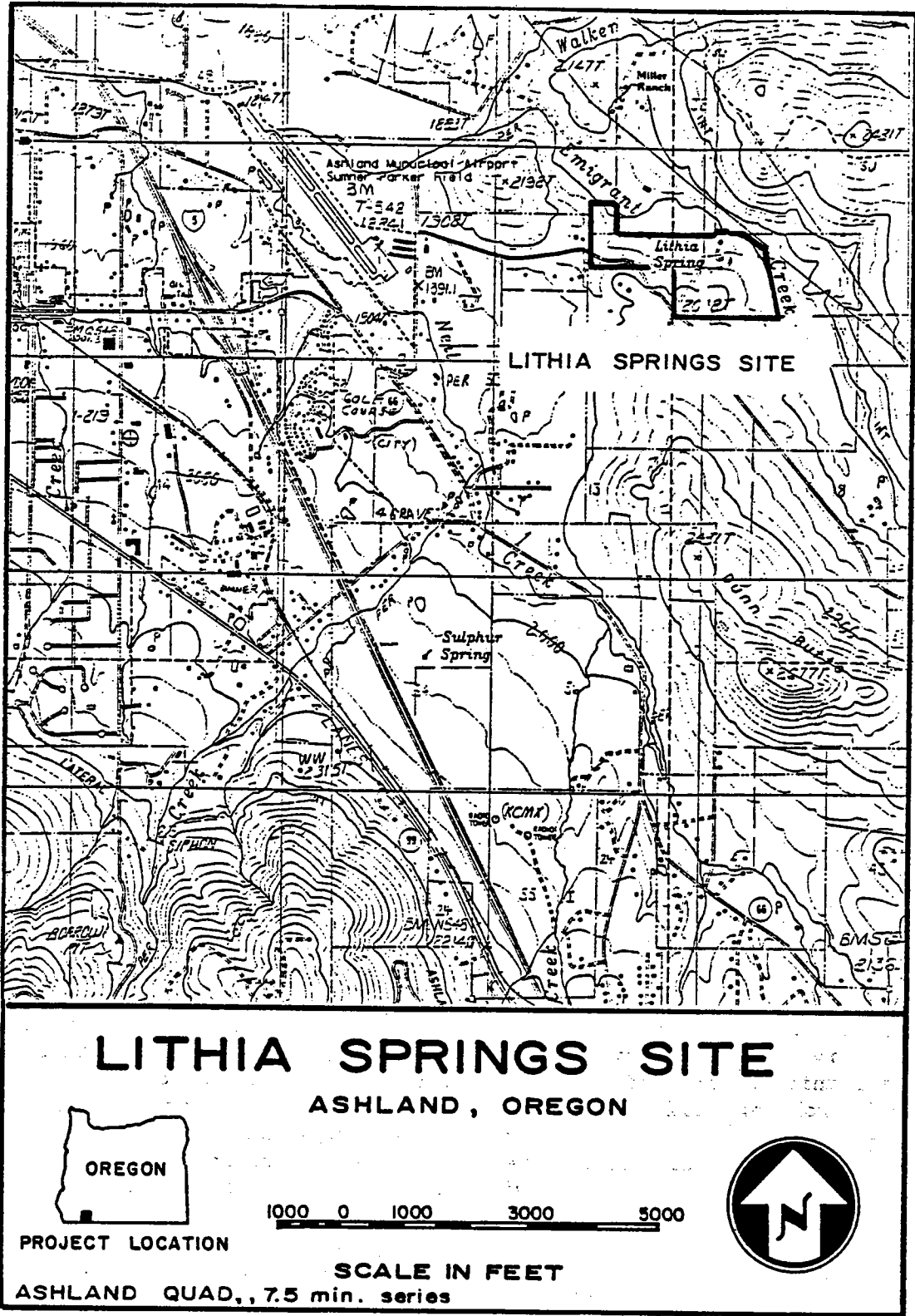


Figure 2. Location of the Lithia Springs Property.

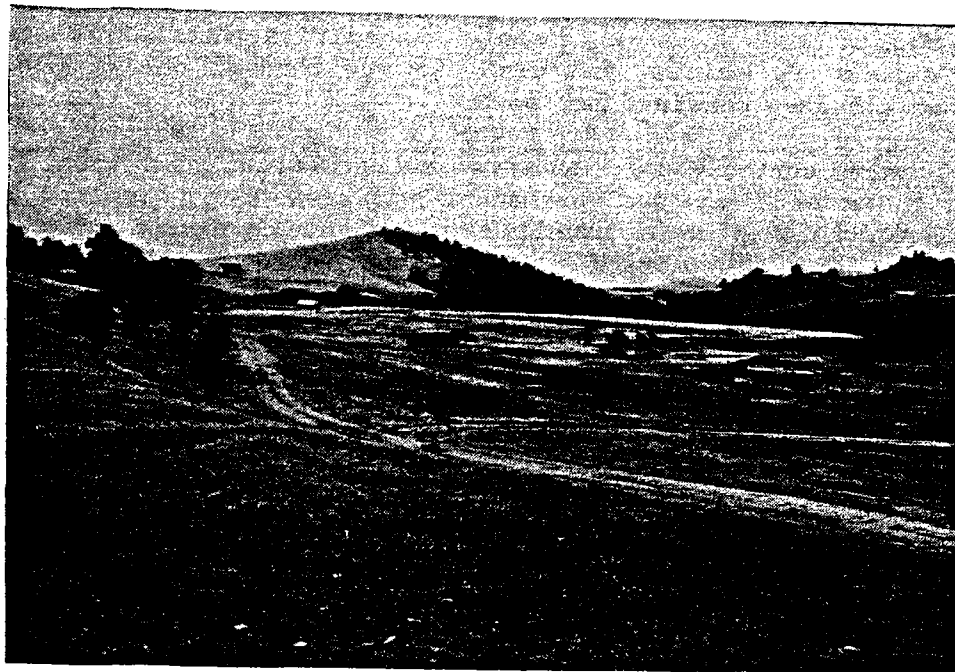


Figure 3. View of the Lithia Springs Property, to the West.

#### BACKGROUND

#### ETHNOGRAPHIC SETTING

At the time of historic contact, Bear Creek Valley between Ashland and Talent was the boundary between the Upland Takelma and the Shasta (Gray 1985:35-36). This would place both the Winburn Camp and Lithia Springs properties within Shasta territory, although it is likely that these properties were actually seasonally exploited by both groups. Although speaking different languages (the Upland Takelma belonged to the Penutian language family, the Shasta to the Hokan Language family [Schaeffer 1959]), the two groups were similar in many ways. The following brief summary is taken from the ethnographies of Dixon (1907), Holt (1946), and Sapir (1907); for more in-depth information, refer to those authors, or to the compilation of southwestern Oregon ethnographies by Gray (1985).

The basic socio-political unit among the Shasta was the small, exogamous, patrilineal, extended family band, although each band belonged to a larger, geographically defined group (the Shasta of Bear Creek Valley, for instance, belonged to the Ikirakutsu group). Each group was under the leadership of a head man, whose position was hereditary (and, due to the practice of paying fines as blood-money, required that he be wealthy). Another influential

individual (or individuals) within the group was the shaman (usually a woman); this position was also hereditary. Religious belief of the Shasta revolved around numerous supernatural beings or spirits which inhabited various inanimate objects or natural features; it was through one or more of these spirits that a shaman obtained her power.

The Shasta were central-based hunters and gatherers who spent the winter months in permanent or semi-permanent villages along lowland streams or rivers; these villages were usually small, and consisted of the extended family unit. In the spring, the village would be abandoned (with the exception of a few elderly individuals), and the summer and early fall months would be spent in the uplands gathering such resources as acorns and berries, and hunting large game. In the fall, they would move back to the winter village in time for the fall salmon run. Approximately five months would be spent in the winter village before again returning to the uplands. A Shasta village minimally consisted of family dwellings, which were rectangular, semi-subterranean pole and plank structures. If a village consisted of several families, then a men's sweathouse might also be constructed. Temporary structures, used during forays away from the village, consisted of open, roofless shelters of brush.

#### ARCHAEOLOGICAL SETTING

Archaeological research in the Elk Creek area on the upper Rogue River by IRI in 1986-1987 has resulted in a synthesis of southwestern Oregon prehistory, and development of a cultural chronology which divides the prehistory into two stages (Paleo-Indian and Archaic), and the Archaic Stage into four phases (Pettigrew and Lebow 1987).

The earliest evidence of prehistoric occupation in southwestern Oregon is two isolated, fluted, "Clovis" type projectile points found in the upper Rogue River drainage area. This is a distinctive projectile point style which is found throughout North America, and has been dated between 9500 and 9000 B.C.; these points are the hallmark of the Paleo-Indian Stage. The earliest phase of the Archaic Stage is the Applegate Phase (8500-6500 B.C.), which is characterized by distinctive projectile point forms, with shapes ranging from square-based lanceolate to broad, diverging-stemmed, concave-based items with neck widths between 12 and 19 mm. Edge-faceted cobbles are common in this phase, end scrapers are rare, and obsidian is present but not prevalent. The subsequent Marial Phase (6500-2500 B.C.) is characterized by relatively high proportions of willow leaf shaped point types with maximum widths greater than or equal to 12 mm, frequent end scrapers, high incidence of obsidian, and substantial numbers of McKee unifaces. The next phase is the Coquille Phase (2500-250 B.C.), marked by a dramatic decrease in the frequency of obsidian, and by the appearance and predominance of a broad-necked (widths greater or equal to seven mm), unbarbed, converging-stem point type. Following this is the Rogue Phase, which dates from 250 B.C. to Euro-American settlement. This phase is characterized by narrow-necked projectile points (probably marking the introduction of the bow-and-arrow). End scrapers become rare, and obsidian use remains low. Ceramic use was common for a time (A.D. 900 to A.D.

1300) during this phase.

Although substantial archaeological research has taken place in southwestern Oregon as a region, relatively few significant archaeological investigations have been conducted in the upper Bear Creek drainage. Newman (1959) surveyed the proposed Emigrant Dam reservoir (approximately three miles southeast of Lithia Springs), and identified two sites: 35JA1 and 35JA2, which he subsequently tested. A relatively large number of grinding implements were recovered, as well as animal bones, and late style projectile points, prompting Newman to propose that these were intermittently occupied hunting and gathering sites used in the relatively recent past. Between 1966 and 1969, a local junior high school class informally excavated the Cove Creek Rockshelter, located approximately three miles northeast of Lithia Springs; the cultural materials recovered are currently being analyzed by one of the authors (Hannon). The cultural materials include a high incidence of well preserved bone and bone tools, grinding stones, and projectile point styles ranging from willow-leaf-shaped to narrow-necked, barbed points. The point styles indicate that the site could have considerable temporal depth, and has potential to be a highly significant site.

On the western side of the Bear Creek drainage, the Rogue River National Forest has tested site 35JA191, which is situated on Ashland Creek between the Winburn Camp property and the City of Ashland. This site includes anthropic organic soil, and may contain the remains of prehistoric houses. Very high densities of lithic debitage were recovered, as were narrow-necked, barbed projectile points, and a single grinding implement. An intact hearth or earth-oven was recorded. Temporally diagnostic artifacts indicate that the site was occupied recently (within the last 1500 years); the site appears to be very significant (LaLande 1987). Another site tested by the Rogue River National Forest is site 35JA168, located on Winburn Ridge, southeast of Winburn Camp (LaLande 1983). Analysis revealed that the site was small (less than ¼ acre), shallow, and with low densities of cultural materials. Brief, intermittent, use of the site by small groups on their seasonal travels to the high elevation meadows of the Siskiyou Crest was inferred. A third site identified in the vicinity of Winburn Camp is the East View Site (35JA187), situated approximately three miles southeast of Winburn Camp. This site is a small, sparse surface lithic scatter. However, this site is unusual in that a carved basaltic zoomorphic figurine head fragment was recovered (LaLande, personal communication, 1987). Future work is planned at this site.

No prehistoric archaeological sites are recorded on either the Winburn Camp or Lithia Springs properties. Delmar Hubbard, of Central Point, Oregon, whose grandparents homesteaded on what became the Winburn property, and who lived on the site as a child, states that his family never found Indian artifacts on the property. Eve Nye and Gertrude Biede Easterling, who both spent time on the property, were also unaware of any prehistoric material being discovered on the Winburn property (appendices A, C, and E). On the Lithia Springs property, a former city worker recovered a large (approximately 36x8 cm) blade from a trench excavated in the property, but no other evidence of a prehistoric site was observed by the worker (Baize, personal communication, 1987).

## HISTORICAL SETTING

Euro-American settlement of Ashland occurred relatively late in the history of the western frontier because of the hostile reputation of the local Indians and the ruggedness of the mountains surrounding the Rogue Valley (Beckham 1971:23-46). However, the discovery of gold near Jacksonville in January of 1852, and the promise of free land in the Oregon Territory under the Donation Land Claim Act of 1850, caused a rapid influx of population into the area in the early 1850s (LaLande 1980:64-71).

The first Euro-Americans to arrive in Bear Creek Valley found an Indian village located along Ashland Creek, on the site now occupied by the Ashland Plaza and the entrance to Lithia Park. This was probably a Shasta winter village, and was home to around 100 people, under the leadership of a chief called Tipsoe Tyee (Cardwell 1879:11-19). The conflicts between the settlers and the Shasta and Takelma living in the southern Oregon region have been well-documented by Beckham (1971). Those Indians who survived disease, starvation and warfare were sent to the Siletz reservation on the northern Oregon coast in 1856. Their culture was rapidly forgotten by the settlers eager to establish themselves in the Rogue Valley.

Ashland's first settlers had been unsuccessful in the gold fields of California, and rightly guessed that Oregon's enduring gold would be her timber and agricultural products. Abel Helman and partners built a sawmill on Ashland Creek in 1852, and a flour mill nearby in 1854. The town of Ashland Mills grew up around these two buildings (O'Harra 1986:11-12).

The early population of Ashland was largely homogenous. Most settlers were from the Midwestern states and territories, and shared common values and a normative Protestant outlook (Haines 1980:5-13). They placed a great deal of value on education and culture. Consequently, churches and schools were quickly established. Development of a college was begun in 1869, and in 1872 the first students were admitted (O'Harra 1986:18). Ashland had one of the first lending libraries in the state, and in 1893 was awarded a Chautauqua contract, making Ashland one of the stops on a nationwide lecture circuit. Every summer, visitors flocked to Ashland for two weeks of presentations by visiting lecturers. Ashland residents developed an appetite for cultural events and an interest in the economic benefits of tourism (Ashland Commercial Club n.d.).

Cultural life and tourism were both made possible by the arrival of the first train in Ashland in 1884. It took another three years to lay tracks over the rugged Siskiyou Mountains, but in 1887 Charles Crocker, vice-president of Southern Pacific, drove a golden spike near Ashland to mark the completion of the circuit of railway around the United States (O'Harra 1986:27; Ashland Daily Tidings, June 17, 1976, p.2, col. 1-3). The railroad changed Ashland's character dramatically. Examination of census records shows that there was rapid population growth as railroad workers moved to town and new businesses opened to serve them and the passengers stopping at the Ashland Depot. In 1880, Ashland's population was 854; by 1890, the population had doubled, and by 1900 there were 3,000 Ashland residents. The population was also no longer

homogenous. Chinese laborers who had helped to build the railroad settled in Ashland, as did Greek, Italian, and Irish crew members.

Jackson County was now linked to the national economy, and able to export its abundant agricultural products. Ranchers and merchants prospered, large new homes were built, the Chautauqua program flourished, and Ashland's business district expanded (LaLande 1980:81; O'Harra 1986:70-72). A number of ambitious people saw both the beauties and opportunities in the area, and moved to the little town nestled in the Siskiyou to take advantage of them. Typical of the entrepreneurs who arrived in Ashland during this period were the Carters of Iowa, who arrived in 1884 to open Ashland's first bank and invest in orchards, a land company and a produce business; Dr. and Mrs. F.G. Swedenburg, of Wisconsin, who arrived in 1909 and invested in a hospital, orchards, and land; C.C. Chappell, a New York stockbroker who retired to Ashland in 1904 while in his early 50's; the Silver family, also of Wisconsin, who arrived in 1905 after investigating investment opportunities all over the West Coast; and Bert Greer, a well-travelled newspaperman, who purchased the Ashland Tidings in 1911.

During the first two decades of the century, people such as these formed the Ashland Women's Civic Improvement Club and the Ashland Commercial Club, which undertook projects such as development of parks, paving of City streets, lobbying for road improvements, construction of a library, and publication of brochures designed to attract tourists and new residents to Ashland (O'Harra 1986:79-84). In 1913, community spirit and entrepreneurial energy crystallized in a plan to make Ashland a health resort. Ashland Tidings editor Bert Greer outlined a program to pipe mineral waters to the City, expand the existing Chautauqua Park into Lithia Park, and develop an attractive tourist hotel (Mahar 1963:323-324).

Greer and the Commercial Club were successful in pushing through a \$175,000 bond issue to finance bringing mineral waters to town and expanding what became Lithia Park. They were not successful in attracting the expected tourists to use the mineral waters. Many Ashland residents charged that the project had been too costly, that the company which charged \$100,000 to lay the pipes had done a poor job, and that the entire program was ill-conceived (Silver Family Papers n.d.:2-50). The local controversy was eclipsed by America's entry into World War I.

During the post-war period, Ashland's business leaders realized that outside capital was required for development of a health resort. Ashland College Professor Irving Vining was sent on a cross-country tour. Vining lectured on the opportunities in Ashland to a variety of groups. At one of these lectures, he met millionaire Jesse Winburn, who was persuaded to move to Ashland and invest in the resort project. However, conflicts quickly developed between Winburn and his Ashland partners, and the ambitious projects were abandoned (Mahar 1963:325-340). Jesse Winburn became disillusioned with Ashland, and left town (for a further discussion of Winburn's contribution to Ashland, see below). After Winburn left town, development plans were forgotten as Ashland's economy faltered. In 1926, Southern Pacific re-routed most of its freight and passenger service through Klamath Falls. This was a devastating economic blow to Ashland. Railroad section crews were transferred

