

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION

of the
**CAPE BLANCO
HERITAGE SOCIETY**



CBHS BOARD MEETINGS: Currently held at Point.B Studio at 10:00 AM on the 2nd Tuesday of every month.
PLEASE NOTE: Our meetings are open to everyone who would like to attend. We invite and encourage anyone interested in CBHS to participate!

The Langlois Lighthouse Keeping Tradition

James and Elizabeth Langlois



CBHS Archives



Frank Langlois



William (14 years in service)



Oscar (33 years in service)

A history of Cape Blanco lighthouse keeping is not complete without recognizing the pioneer Langlois family to the north. James Silverton Langlois is a legendary keeper with a career spanning 42 years which is the longest tenure of any lighthouse keeper serving at a single lighthouse on the West Coast (and possibly the entire United States). He began as assistant keeper in 1875 under Charles Pierce just five years after the lighthouse was constructed and retired in 1919 once he reached the mandatory age for retirement (age 70) established by the United States Lighthouse Service.

Frank Marion Langlois, James's younger brother, was also a lighthouse keeper at Cape Arago in the 1870s. He is perhaps better known as the first postmaster of the town of Dairyville (he was appointed in 1881 the same year the town was established). This appointment ultimately led to the name of the town being changed to "Langlois" when Frank dubbed his branch the "Langlois Post Office" and the name Dairyville soon fell out of favor.

However, the Langlois dynasty of lighthouse keepers certainly didn't end with these two impressive men. James

Langlois's eldest son William Thomas Langlois (born just a couple of years before his father began his service at Cape Blanco) made a name for himself serving as keeper at dangerous outposts such as Tillamook Rock Lighthouse (a.k.a. Terrible Tilly) and Destruction Island. The second son, James Merton Langlois, would eventually serve in the United States Life Saving Service at Bandon for a number of years. Third son, Oscar Rudolph Langlois, followed in his Uncle Frank's footsteps serving at Cape Arago first and then as a long-time lighthouse keeper at Coquille

River Lighthouse in Bandon (his wife Marie is listed as 1st Assistant Lighthouse Keeper here in 1925). Even daughter Mary Grace Langlois married lighthouse keeper George McGinitie, who began as second assistant under his father-in-law, James, at the Cape Blanco Lighthouse (1918-1921).

This is just the tip of the iceberg when it comes to the Langlois story and we encourage you to learn more in the excellent series of articles "[How The West Was Won](#)" & "[Further Won](#)" published by Lighthouse Digest and "[A Short History of Langlois, Oregon Grocers](#)" by Bonnie Jensen Cox. ✨

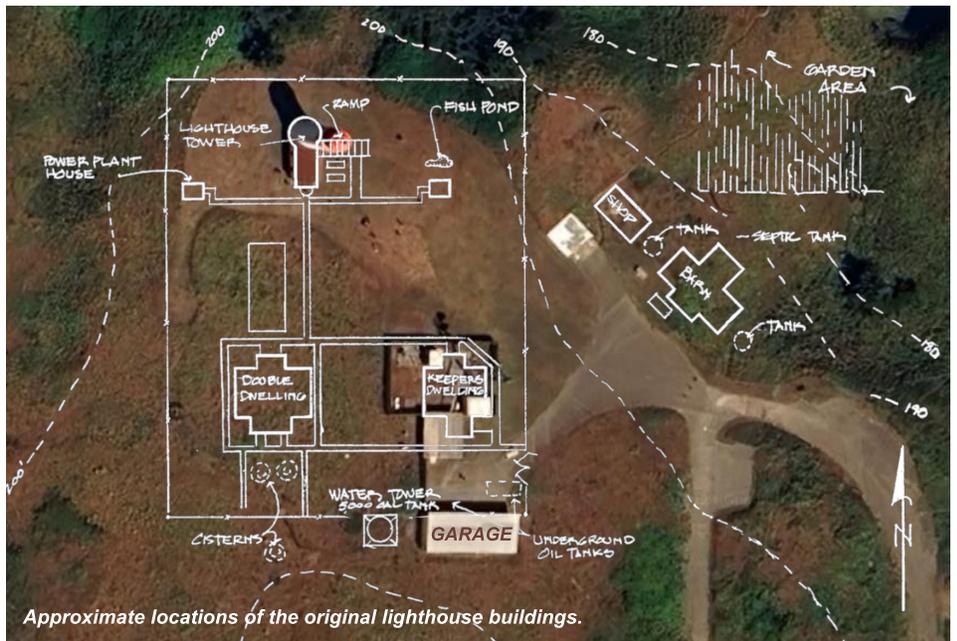


Langlois Main Street in 1912

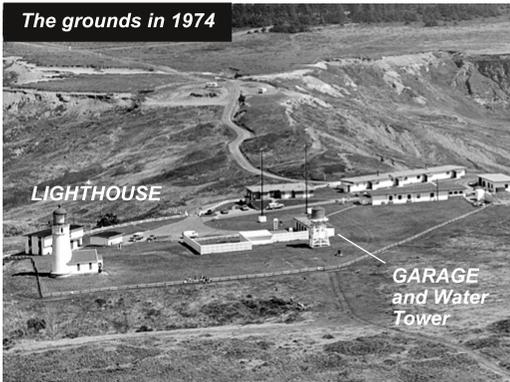
Changing Landscape

Visitors frequently ask where the original lighthouse keeper dwellings were. To the right is a hand drawn map showing approximate locations of the various buildings superimposed over a Google map of the grounds today.

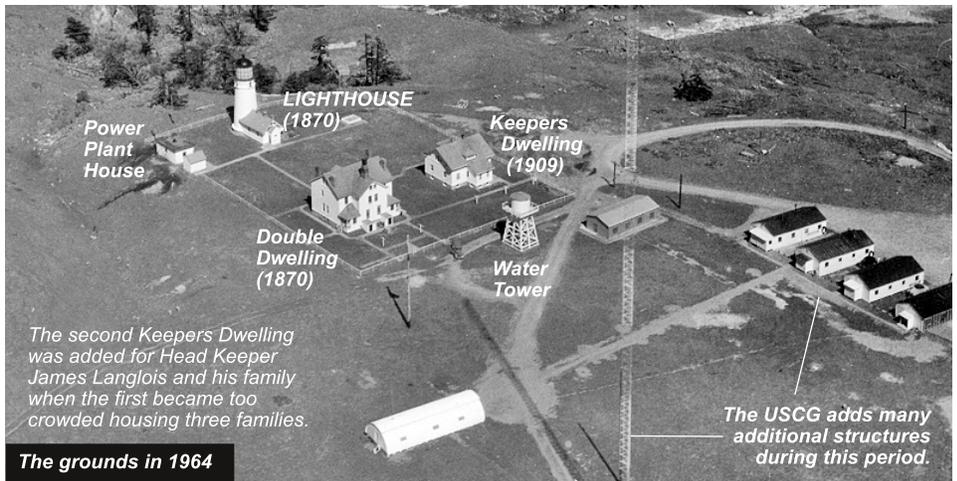
This outlay changed considerably in 1939 when the US Coast Guard took over and added several buildings to support their daily operations of which the 1964 photo provides visual context in relation to the dwellings. The only buildings that remain from that era are the Cape Blanco Lighthouse and the former USCG garage that is now home to the Cape Blanco Greeting Center Gift Shop. The 1974 photo below shows the grounds without the two distinctive keeper's dwellings



Approximate locations of the original lighthouse buildings.



The grounds in 1974



The grounds in 1964

Become a MEMBER of the CAPE BLANCO HERITAGE SOCIETY



OUR MISSION: To provide interpretative and educational services for the Cape Blanco Light Station, Historic Hughes House and Ranch and the Port Orford Lifeboat Station. We are a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization and your donation is tax-deductible.

Mail this portion of the form with your check made out to:
Cape Blanco Heritage Society. P.O. Box 1132 Port Orford, Oregon 97465.

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