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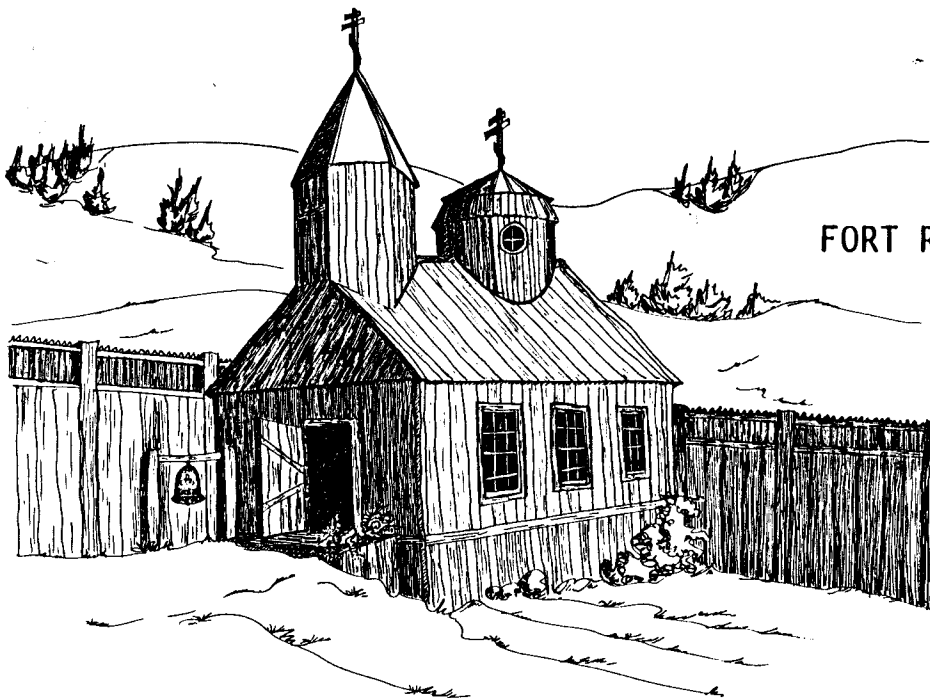
Fort Ross and Salt Point parks have benefited greatly from many dedicated volunteers and staff who have given generously to these parks. Board of directors from FRIA and FRC have fundraised, organized events, overseen volunteers, spearheaded interpretation and restoration projects, and offered substantial support to California State Parks across many decades.

These digitized newsletters capture the activities over the following historic periods:

- Fort Ross Interpretive Association (FRIA): 1976 - 2012
- Fort Ross Conservancy (FRC is the same legal entity as FRIA but the organization changed its name): 2012 - present

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Fort Ross Conservancy, a 501(c)(3) and California State Park cooperating association, connects people to the history and beauty of Fort Ross and Salt Point State Parks. © Fort Ross Conservancy, 19005 Coast Highway One, Jenner, CA 95450, [707-847-3437](tel:707-847-3437) [www.fortross.org](http://www.fortross.org)



FORT ROSS INTERPRETIVE ASSOCIATION  
NEWSLETTER

MARCH - APRIL  
1990

FRIA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

GLORIA FROST, Membership Chairman \* JAY HARRIS, President \* VANA LAWSON \*  
KENT LIGHTFOOT \* BETTY MACKENZIE, Recording Secretary \* PAT MCADAM \* JOHN  
MCKENZIE \* JOHN MIDDLETON, Vice President \* JEANNETTE ROSSON \* JOHN STAFFORD \*  
FRIEDA TOMLIN, Corresponding Secretary \* DAVID WILLSON \* ELIZABETH SIDOROV \*

We regret to announce that Barbara Black has resigned as a FRIA Board Member. David Willson has been appointed to fill the vacancy.

FRIA CONSULTING STAFF

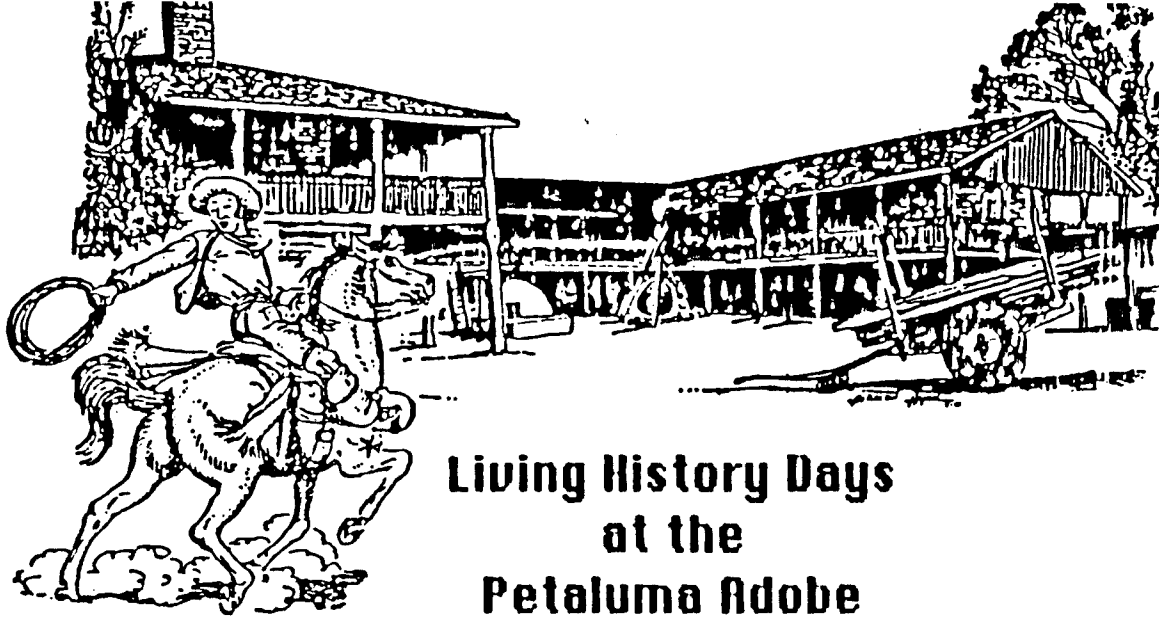
WENDY PLATT, Treasurer \* LYN KALANI, Newsletter Editor, Bookstore Manager, Seminar  
Coordinator \* LAKE PERRY HUNTER, Bookstore Sales \*

UPDATE ON FORT ROSS HISTORIC ORCHARD PROJECT

Two or three volunteer fruit tree "culturists" are needed. Margaret and I have carried along this project since 1977 with three or four visits a year from Auburn. Each visit we do five or six days of orchard management. Most of the time this is pointed at the 105 "daughter" trees Wally Winkler has produced for us from our "mother" tree cuttings. Since co-worker Jim Mackenzie's death, we need people with whom we can coordinate dates to work on making the orchard a true self-guided tour of Russian and Ranch Era history. Please call Ranger Bill Walton at 847-3286 or leave a message with your name and phone if you can help. Or call us at 916 889-1429. Thanks a bunch of pears and apples!

John Smith  
Sonoma County Horticultural Advisor, Retired

Bare root daughter trees are still available for \$10.00 at the Fort Ross Bookstore. After the bare root season the remaining trees will be planted in five gallon cans and sold for \$15.00.



## Living History Days at the Petaluma Adobe

Fort Ross Interpretive Association  
19005 Coast Highway 1  
Jenner, CA 95450

February 27, 1990

Dear F.R.I.A.

I would like to make a submission for the F.R.I.A. Newsletter March-April issue:

Petaluma Adobe State Historic Park will host its Living History Days May 19 & 20, 1990. Organizers would like to invite participants from the Fort Ross Living History Program to join in its sister event in Petaluma.

The Event in Petaluma reenacts Californio life in 1840 at Mexican General Mariano Vallejo's adobe rancho. We do period crafts demonstrations of candle making, carpentry, blacksmithing, saddle making, adobe brick making, wool spinning and dyeing, bread baking and more. We are developing scenarios including; Mexican Officials and Russian Officials, Mexican and Hudson's Bay Company Traders, Mexican and a Boston Trading Ship's Captain.

The Petaluma Living History Program would like to have a visiting Russian delegation from Fort Ross. 1840 was approaching the end of the Russian Period at Fort Ross. Perhaps the delegation could be coming to Petaluma to propose selling the Russian buildings and equipment at Fort Ross to General Vallejo.

For people who would like to branch out and try a new Living History character, we have plenty of Mexican Californio roles to fill. Californio men's and women's period dress is fairly simple, we have outfitting guides available. We also have background information about Mexican Californio life for people interesting in participating.

There are already a handful of people who participate in both of the Living History Programs at Fort Ross and Petaluma Adobe. It is our hope that encouraging more cross participation will help both programs grow and improve.

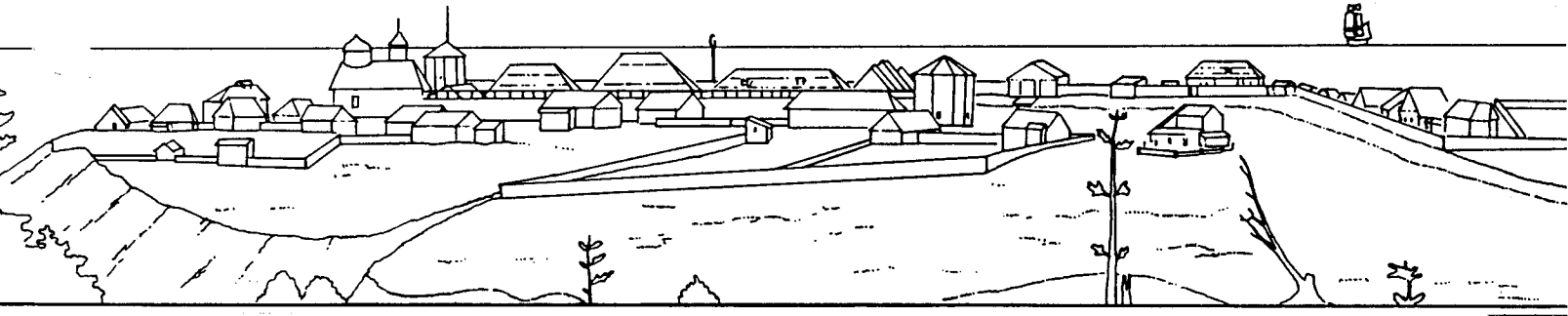
The Petaluma Adobe Living History Program is planning an organizational meeting sometime in April. If you are interested please write: Troy Dunham, 610 El Arroyo Place Novato, CA 94949 or phone (415)382-8590 evenings 7-9 P.M.

Troy Dunham is a member of F.R.I.A. and has been a Fort Ross Living History Volunteer for six years. In recent years he has organized the Living History Hudson's Bay Company Encampment.

Thank you,

Troy Dunham

FORT ROSS FIELD SEMINARS  
SPRING 1990



BIRDS OF FORT ROSS

This is an introduction to birds and birdwatching, anatomy, and how to view birds. Bring your bird book and binoculars.  
Daniel Murley

Saturday, April 21  
10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.  
Fee: \$15.00

PLANTS OF FORT ROSS

Take a walk into the hills east of Fort Ross and learn more about the plants that grow here--wildflowers, grasses, shrubs, trees, useful and medicinal plants.  
Wayne Roderick

Sunday, April 29  
11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.  
Fee: \$15.00

EDIBLE SEAWEEDS AND POKE POLE FISHING

This class will be spent at the ocean's edge. Our main focus will be learning a good number of edible seaweeds. There will be discussion about preparation, recipes, methods of storage and nutritional values. For those who care to try, after the seaweed class, we will gather some bait, and stalk on into a poke pole fishing adventure. Bring tide pool clothes and shoes and extras to change into afterwards and your fishing license. The instructor will provide poles and hooks for those who do not have them.  
Jesse Longacre

Saturday, May 19  
10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.  
Fee: \$15.00

SURVEY OF CALIFORNIA INDIAN BASKETRY

The class will be continuing study of the collection and preparation of basketry materials. There will be instruction about a variety of coiling and twining techniques used by Central California Indians. Students may start a basket using techniques and materials of their choice, or they may continue a basket in progress. There is a \$15.00 materials fee in addition to the class fee which is payable directly to the instructor. (Or you may bring your own materials.)  
Pegg Mathewson

Saturday, May 26  
10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.  
Fee: \$15.00

INTRODUCTION TO FLINTKNAPPING

This class is an exploration of stone fracture principles and techniques using antler, pad, obsidian and hammer stone. There will be demonstration and individual practice. There is a \$10.00 materials fee in addition to the class fee which is payable directly to the instructor.  
Pegg Mathewson

Sunday, May 27  
10:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.  
Fee: \$15.00

ALL CLASSES MEET AT THE FORT ROSS VISITOR CENTER

SEMINAR REGISTRATION FORM

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

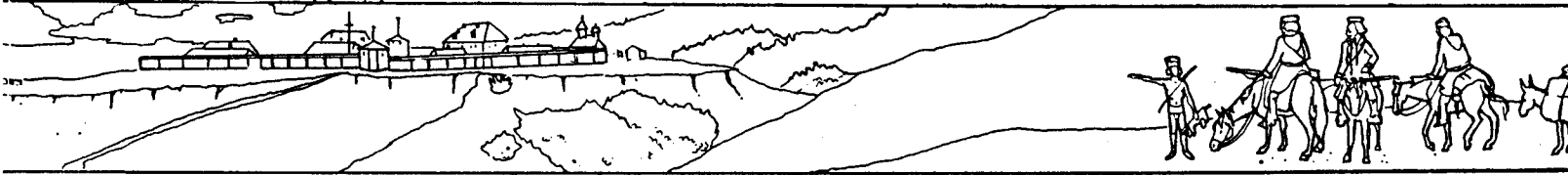
ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

PLEASE ENROLL ME IN THE FOLLOWING CLASSES:

- \_\_\_\_\_ BIRDS OF FORT ROSS
- \_\_\_\_\_ PLANTS OF FORT ROSS
- \_\_\_\_\_ EDIBLE SEAWEEDS AND POKE POLE FISHING
- \_\_\_\_\_ SURVEY OF CALIFORNIA INDIAN BASKETRY
- \_\_\_\_\_ INTRODUCTION TO FLINTKNAPPING

Enclosed is my check for \$ \_\_\_\_\_ in full payment of class fees.

CHECKS PAYABLE TO FORT ROSS INTERPRETIVE ASSOCIATION  
19005 Coast Highway 1, Jenner, California 95450



ABOUT THE INSTRUCTORS

DANIEL MURLEY is a Ranger at Fort Ross. He has been an avid birder for many years and has instructed rangers in interpreting birds.

WAYNE RODERICK is retired Director of Tilden Park Botanical Garden in Berkeley. He has been lecturing for 17 years at U. C. Berkeley Botanic Garden and for 8 years at Tilden Botanic Garden.

JESSE LONGACRE is a naturalist who specializes in the edible and medicinal uses of wild plants, seaweeds and mushrooms. He has a B. A. in Environmental Studies and has been teaching for twelve years at Santa Rosa Junior College, California School of Herbal Studies, California State Parks, and privately.

PEGG MATHEWSON is an anthropologist and teacher of Indian arts and life skills. She is currently pursuing her Ph. D. at U. C. Berkeley. She has wide and varied teaching experience, including teaching Fiber Arts of Western North America at Malheur Field Station, Princeton, Oregon.



## THE CHERNYKH RANCH SITE: A NEW HYPOTHESIS

For many years my usual back-route home from Fort Ross to Santa Rosa has led me over Graton Road, east of Occidental. Many times I thoughtlessly sped past the intersection with Green Hill Road, where Graton Road's wooded descent meets the flat, narrow plain near the Purrington Creek bridge. At this point the valley opens up to vineyards on all sides, clusters of ranch structures along the road, and mountain vistas far beyond the nearby Santa Rosa plain. Imagine my astonishment not long ago, when I first realized, by piecing together the various early accounts, that the Graton - Green Hill Road intersection fit all the known indicators for the site of the long-lost Chernykh Ranch, last and easternmost of the three Russian ranches in Northern California.

The ranch's founder, Yegor Leontievich Chernykh (known locally as Don Jorge), was a Moscow-trained agronomist sent by the Russian-American Company to improve agricultural productivity in the Fort Ross area. He arrived at Fort Ross in January 1836, and ten months later already envisaged the extension of Russian agriculture deep into the interior. As he wrote back to Moscow:

About a dozen miles inland from Fort Ross there are plains which are truly blest: excellent lands, various forests, and lakes and rivers with fish. Fogs could not affect the crops there. And up to now the Californios have not occupied these places. If permission to occupy them were granted, the Company would then, even with its present resources, not only begin to feed itself abundantly in all respects, but could also send some of its field produce to Kamchatka and Okhotsk. <sup>1</sup>

Thus the optimistic Chernykh foresaw a potential agricultural breakthrough in California, which could turn the Company's economic difficulties around and bring prosperity across the Russian North Pacific to the Siberian seaboard itself.

We know that not long thereafter Chernykh was given the necessary permission to establish an experimental ranch inland from the coast. Despite the ranch's brief existence, of not more than four years, much recent speculation has been given to its "exact" location. Such possible areas as Coleman Valley, Occidental, and Freestone have been suggested. However, a trusting glance at several contemporary sources (including a map, a sketch, a real estate inventory, and a travel memoir) points to the site several miles west of Graton as most convincing of all.

First, Chernykh himself tells us (almost incidentally) that "Chernykh Ranch [was] located about 10 miles [15 versts] from the sea." <sup>2</sup> A detailed map of Sonoma County allows us to draw a line the equivalent of ten miles inland, and parallel to the coast, which passes through the Graton - Green Hill Road intersection area (see fig. 1).

Secondly, the map drawn by Eugène Dufлот de Mofras (agent of the French government), places the ranch's location quite far to the northeast (and inland) from the better-known Klebnikov Ranch (at today's town of Bodega). <sup>3</sup> Indeed, the three major Russian ranches, as shown on Dufлот's map, form three points of an almost equilateral triangle. Moreover, Dufлот indicates an early trail or road network that linked the three ranches together quite directly (see fig. 2).

Thirdly, both inventory versions (in Spanish and in French), originally prepared for Mariano G. Vallejo and John Augustus Sutter, respectively, mention Chernykh's vineyards (indeed with 2000 grape plantings). <sup>4</sup> As noted above, this area affords today the first extensive

Notes:

- 1 E. Chernykh, "O sostoianii zemledielia v selenii Ross, v Kalifornii" (The Condition of Agriculture at Fort Ross, in California), in *Zemledielcheskii zhurnal* (Agricultural Journal), no. 6 (1837), pp. 343-44. Chernykh's letter (to the Director of the Moscow Agricultural Society) is dated Nov.16, 1836. A published version in English is in J. Gibson, "Two New Chernykh Letters," *Pacific Historian*, vol. 12, no. 3 (summer 1968), p. 52.
- 2 E. Chernykh, "O zemledielii v verkhnei Kalifornii" (Agriculture in Upper California), in *Zhurnal sel'skago khoziaistva i ovtsevodstva* (Journal of Agriculture and Sheepbreeding), no. 9 (1841), p. 239.
- 3 "Carte détaillée des établissements russes dans la haute Californie," Map Collection, Bancroft Library, University of California, Berkeley.
- 4 Original versions of the ranch's inventory are in the Bancroft Library, University of California, Berkeley: M. G. Vallejo, "Documentos para la Historia de California," X, pt. 3, 229, 11-12 ; and "Mélanges par M. de Mofras," vol. 2, pt. III, p. 20. Standard translations are in C. J. Dufour, "The Russian Withdrawal from California," *Quarterly of the California Historical Society*, vol. XII, no. 3 (September 1933), p. 259; and *Duflet de Mofras' Travels on the Pacific Coast*, trans. M. E. Wilbur (Santa Ana: Fine Arts Press, 1937), II: 254.
- 5 Published reprints of Voznesensky's sketch are in the current Park brochure, *Fort Ross: Indians Russians, Americans* (Fort Ross Interpretive Association), p. 19; and in E. Blomkvist, "A Russian Scientific Expedition to California and Alaska, 1839-1849; The Drawings of I. G. Voznesenskii," *Oregon Historical Quarterly* (June 1972), p. 114.
- 6 G. M. Waseurtz af Sandels, *A Sojourn in California by the King's Orphan, . . . a Swedish Gentleman, Who Visited California in 1842-1843* (San Francisco: The Society of California Pioneers, 1945), p. 80.

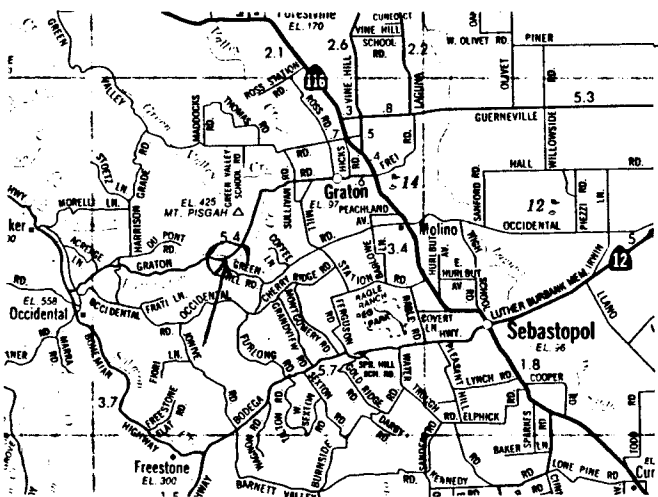


fig. 1. presumed ranch site today.

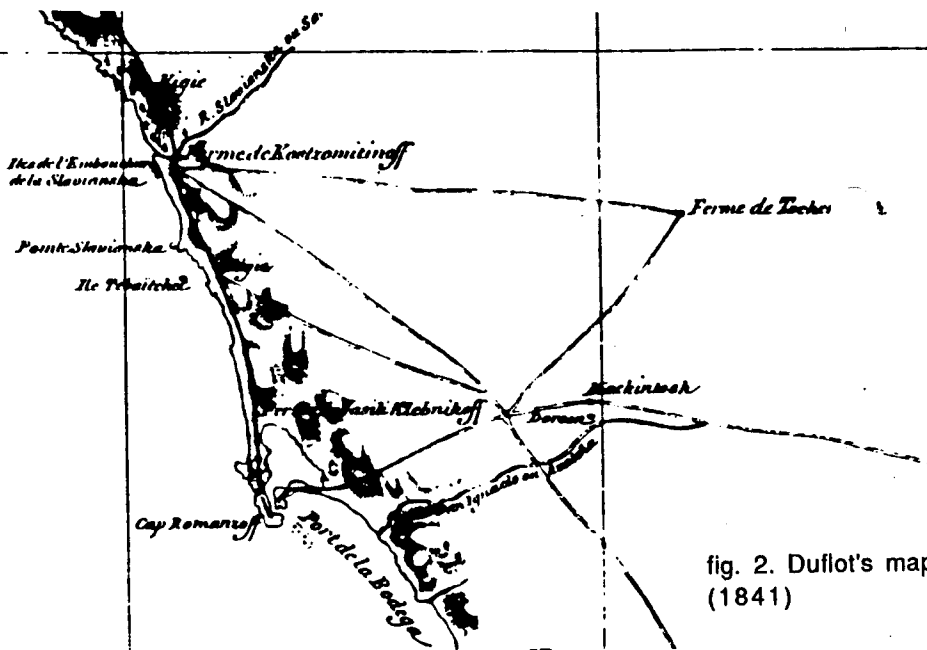


fig. 2. Duflet's map (1841)



fig. 3. Vineyards in today's valley

## THE CHERNYKH RANCH SITE, continued

viticulture east of the coast, and of Occidental itself (fig. 3). Small vinegrowing areas to the west lack the year-round water supply provided by Purrington Creek; see fig. 4). The ranch's Russian bath, listed in the inventory, presumably required a reliable source of fresh, running water - as did the overall needs of the ranch and its personnel. In this respect, Chernykh Ranch was no different than its "sister" ranches, Kostromitinov and Khlebnikov, along Willow Creek and Salmon Creek, near the coast. Moreover, the few scattered fruit trees visible today in the meadow, south of the creek, may even be the ones (or their descendants) planted by Chernykh and mentioned in the inventory (fig. 5).

Fourthly, we have the unique sketch of Chernykh Ranch drawn by artist-scientist Ilya Voznesensky, who visited the area in 1840-41.<sup>5</sup> Voznesensky's sketch clearly shows various ranch structures along a wooded creekside; many of the trees are deciduous. The corral area, in the foreground, corresponds surprisingly to the meadow one sees today, when looking northeast from Green Hill Road toward the creek (at a point somewhat south of the intersection, just before the road climbs uphill). Even the hills beyond the creek and the ranch structures bear a resemblance to the panorama drawn by Voznesensky 150 years ago (figures 6, 7).

Finally, we have the corroborative account of the Swedish physician, Gustavus M. Waseurtz af Sandels, who visited the area in 1843. Sandels evidently took the "back-route" to Fort Ross from "Basillii farm" (i.e. Khlebnikov ranch) at today's town of Bodega. Indeed, from what his memoir indicates, Sandels appears to have followed the routes drawn by Dufлот on his map only a few years earlier. Sandels describes, as follows, what appear to have been Chernykh Ranch and its approaches:

If one rode through the mountainous and wooded part of the country from Basillii farm, it was shaded almost all the way. I did so. . . .

I passed in my road another Russian abandoned farm. I do not remember its owner's name. It was a wilderness forest of oak and pine, sycamores and laurel. A small mountainous brook wound through it. . . . After a day's ride we descended toward the sea.<sup>6</sup>

Sandels no doubt approached (and left) the abandoned ranch by way of Purrington Creek, which descends through the forested area to the west of the site, where it begins to meander across the valley plain.

Yegor Chernykh left California and his farm in late 1841. His last known essay about his California experiences is accompanied by a note dated April 8, 1842, and sent from Sitka (New Archangel) to the Moscow Agricultural Society. A later reference to Chernykh last places him in Sitka in October 1843. Although he had returned to California briefly in mid-1842 on business (and may have revisited his ranch), Sandels appears correct in describing the farm (without a former owner's name) as "abandoned," one year later.

In conclusion, much of the visual evidence from the Graton - Green Hill Road area today seems to confirm what the early written comments, map, and sketch tell us about Chernykh's ranch. The brief observations of Sandels and of Chernykh himself, the items listed in the Russian inventory, Voznesensky's meticulous drawing, and Dufлот's carefully proportioned map all point persuasively to the existence of the third and easternmost Russian ranch ten miles inland, alongside a wooded creek and in grape country, mid-way between the present-day towns of Occidental and Graton, California.

Stephen Watrous





fig. 4. Purrington  
Creek in summer



fig. 5. Old fruit  
trees in area.



fig. 6. Vista of area  
today

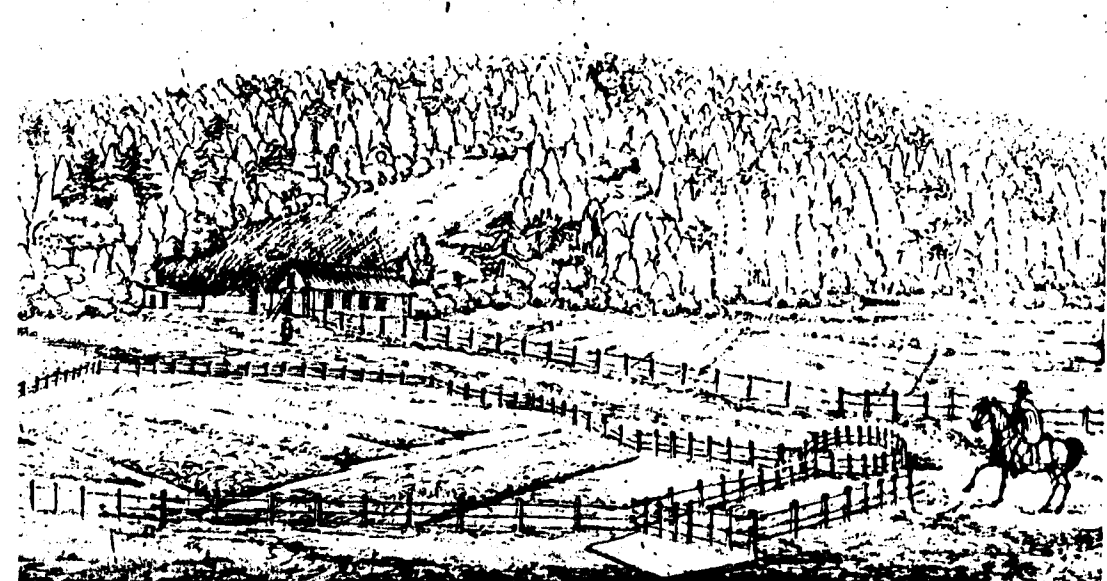


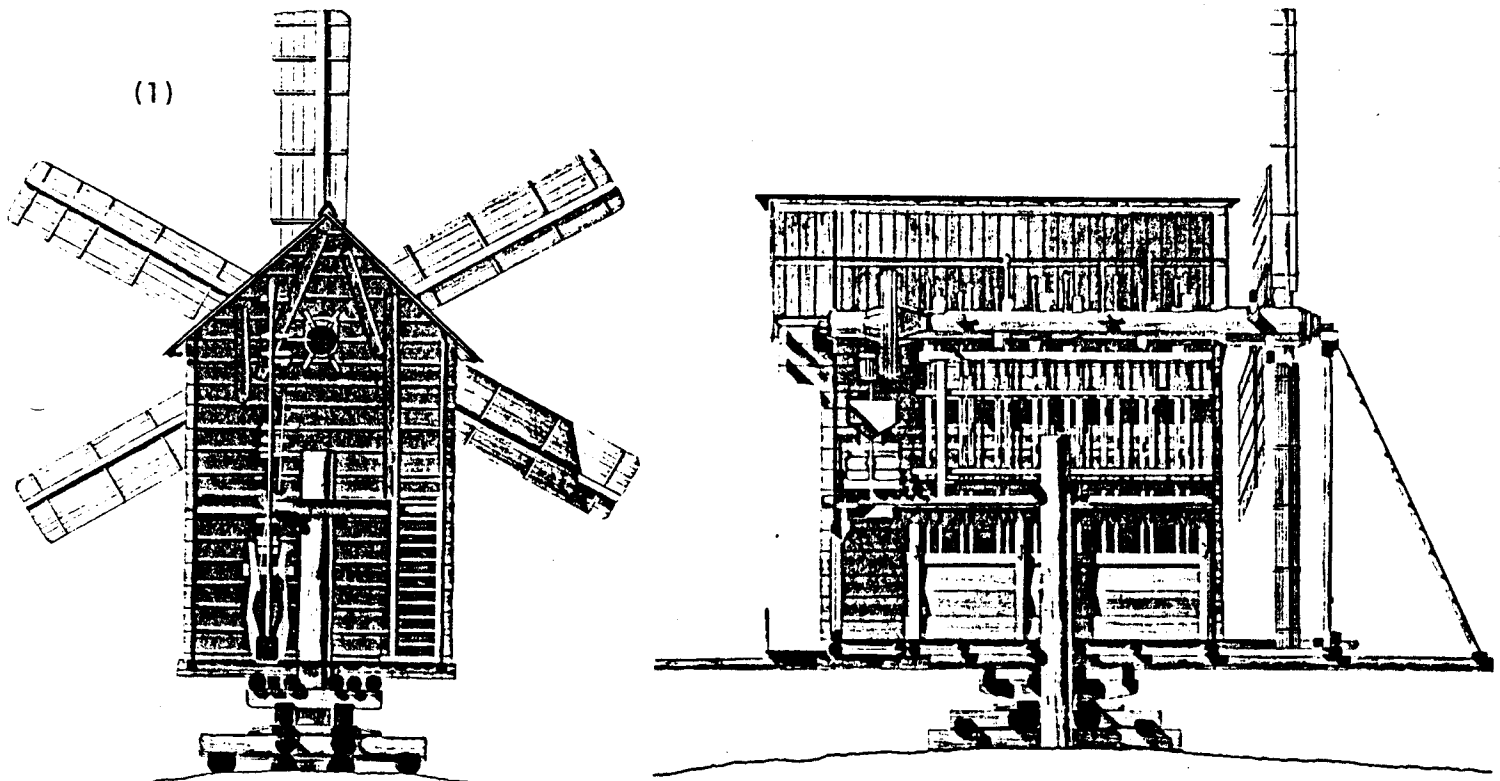
fig. 7. Voznesensky's  
sketch of ranch (1841)

This will begin a series of reports of subjects both suggested and requested by F.R.I.A. and Fort Ross Staff prior to my F.R.I.A. sponsored trip to the Soviet Union. The materials in this and subsequent reports are the result of my research in the various Institutes, Museums and Archives mentioned.

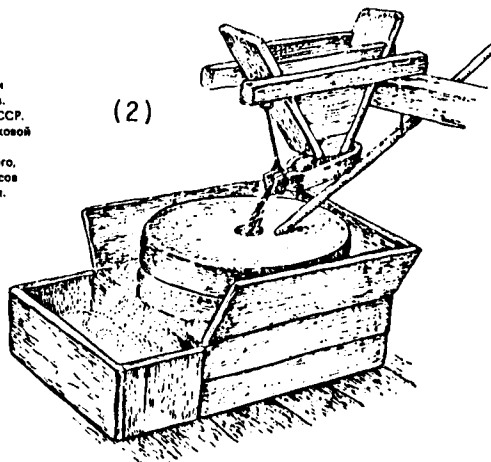
John Middleton

### WINDMILLS

Windmills have been an essential feature of Russian village and town life for centuries. Constructed entirely of wood, except for the metal king-pin and the mill stone, the Russian windmill is a marvel of the wood craftsman's art and ingenuity. As can be seen from the accompanying illustration (1) the windmill was a complete grain to flour operation, combining both hulling and grinding features. Two or more floors allowed for greater room, separating the two operations which were activated by the same mechanism. When the wind turned the central axel, which ran the entire length of the housing, a set of wooden teeth lifted and dropped the heavy pestels used in the hulling. The grain was removed from the lower trough and taken to the second floor where the grinding was accomplished by a mill stone attached to a geared pole which was turned by a larger ratio gear on the main axel. The flour was gathered below in a bin (2) and removed for use.



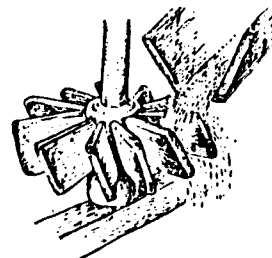
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Мельница  
из дерева  
Волкостров.  
Карельская АССР.  
Передний и боковой  
фасады;  
плечи нижнего,  
верхнего яруса  
и основания.  
Обмеры



#### Мельницы-мутовки

Слева — внутреннее устройство мельницы (д. Моснали Чердынского р-на);  
справа — столы мельницы с лопастями (д. Русново Чердынского р-на)

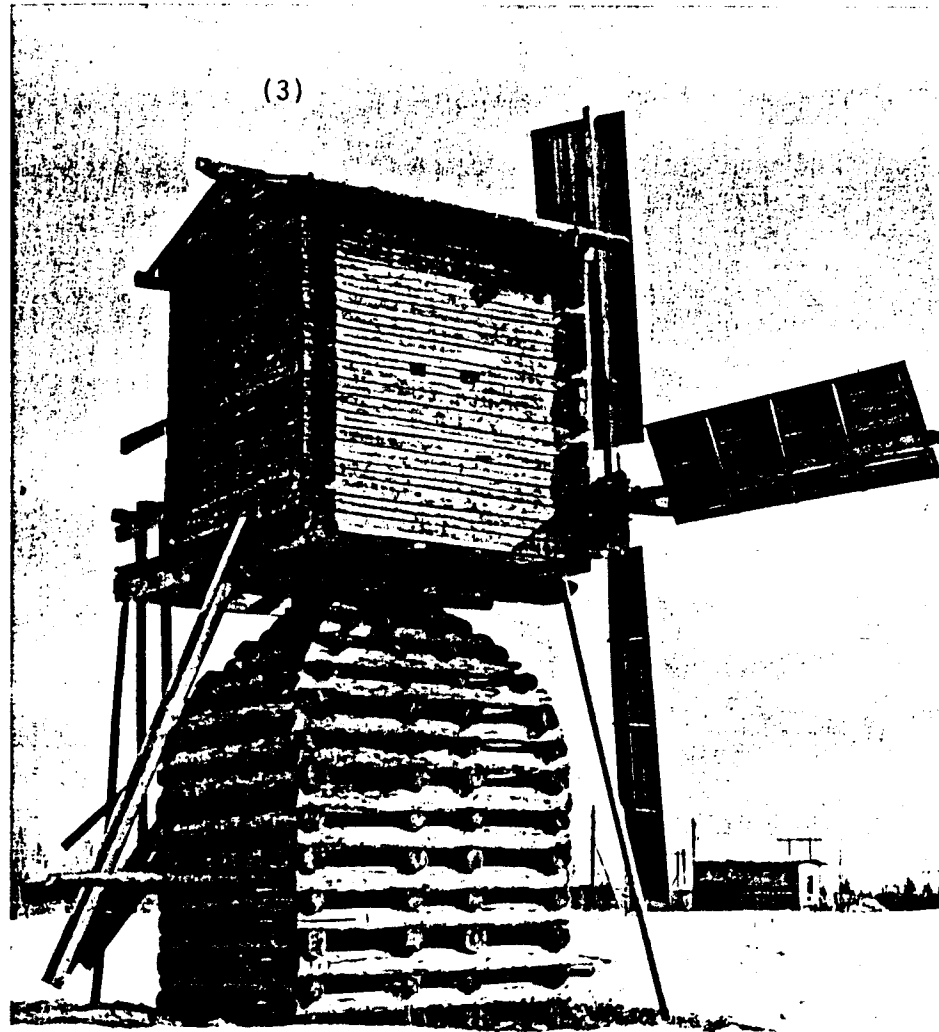
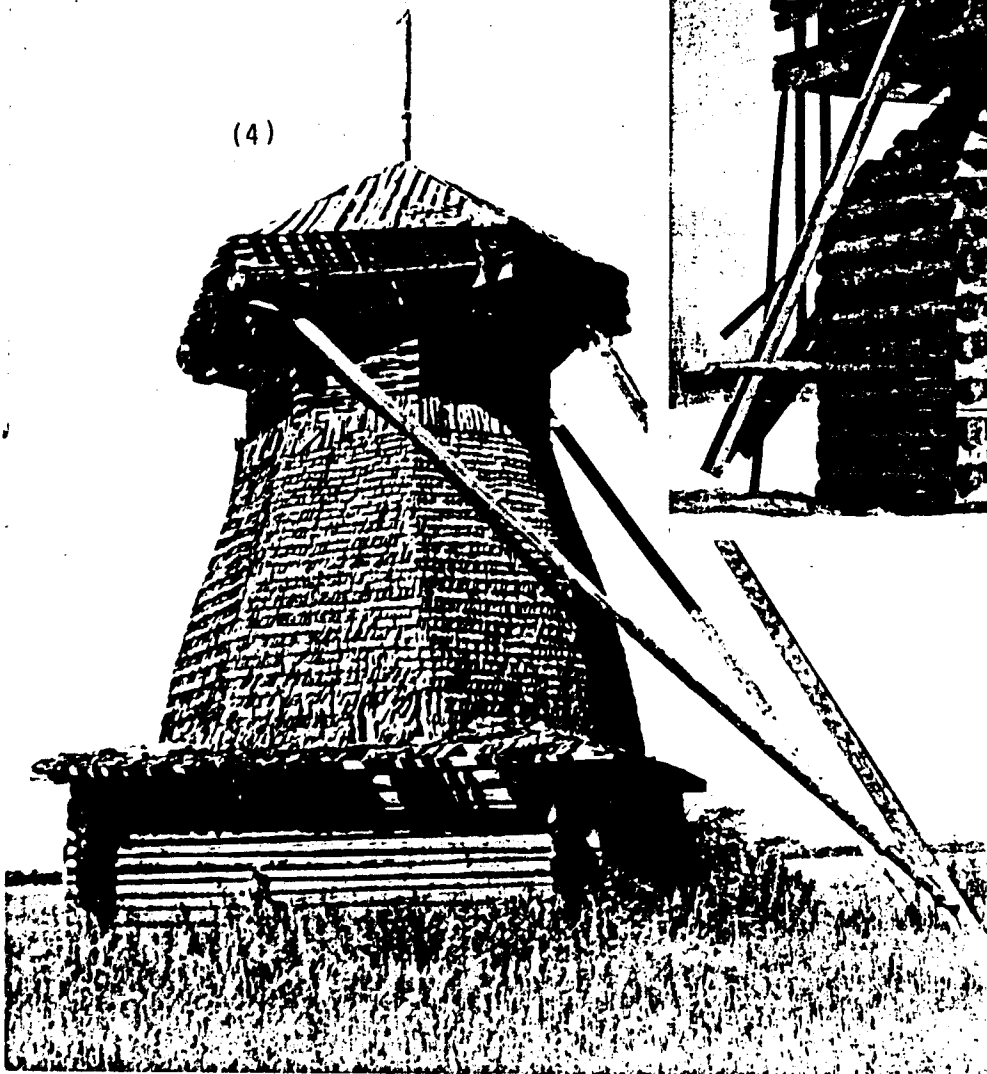
228, 229  
Мельница  
из дерева  
Волкостров.  
Карельская АССР.  
Поперечный  
и продольный  
разрезы.  
Обмеры.



Two general types of windmills existed in Russia in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. Stolbovki, which comes from the Russian word for column, where the entire body of the windmill is mobile, and turns on a large vertical column (3) and Shatrovki, from the Russian word for tent, where only the top turns. The mill housing on Shatrovki types is stationary, much like the Dutch windmills upon which this design is based (4). The Shatrovki were usually much larger than the Stolbovki, and were a later innovation to windmill technology, coming to Russia with many of Peter 1's western ideas.

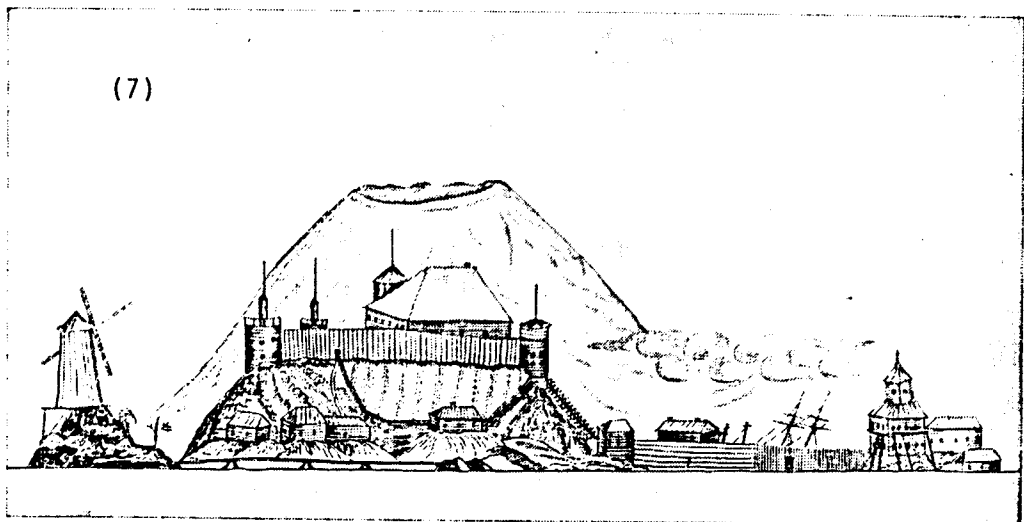
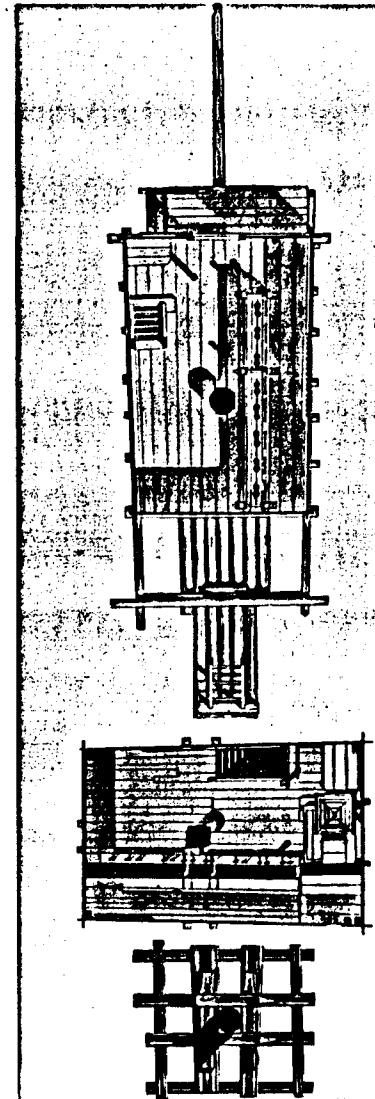
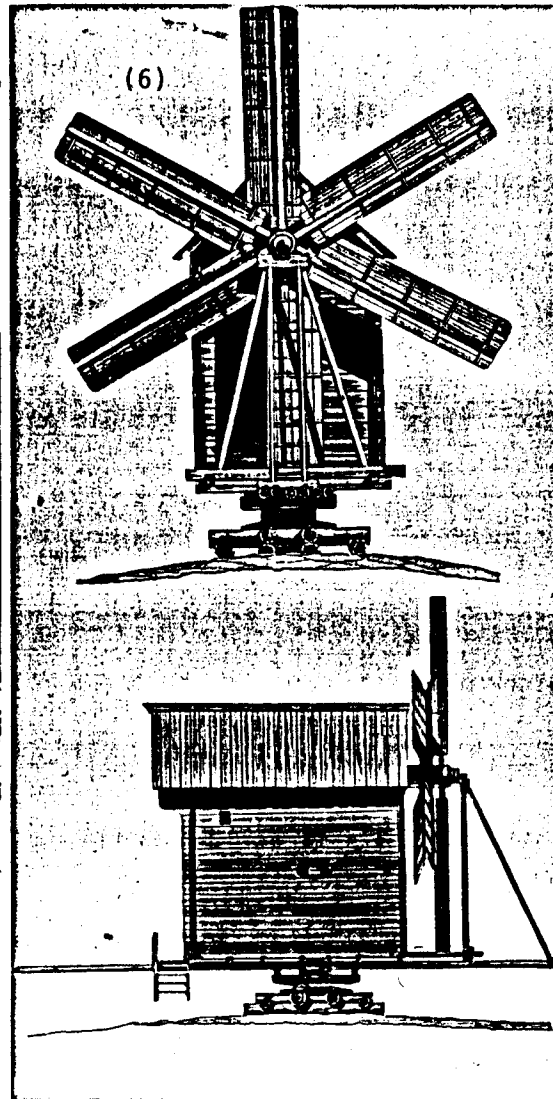
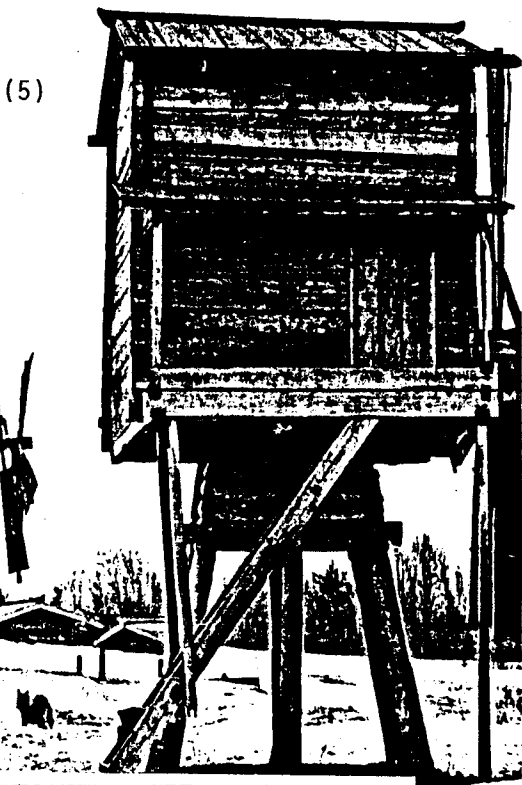
ГЛАВА 4. ПРОМЫСЛОВЫЕ ПОСТРОЙКИ

ГЛАВА 4. ПРОМЫСЛОВЫЕ ПОСТРОЙКИ



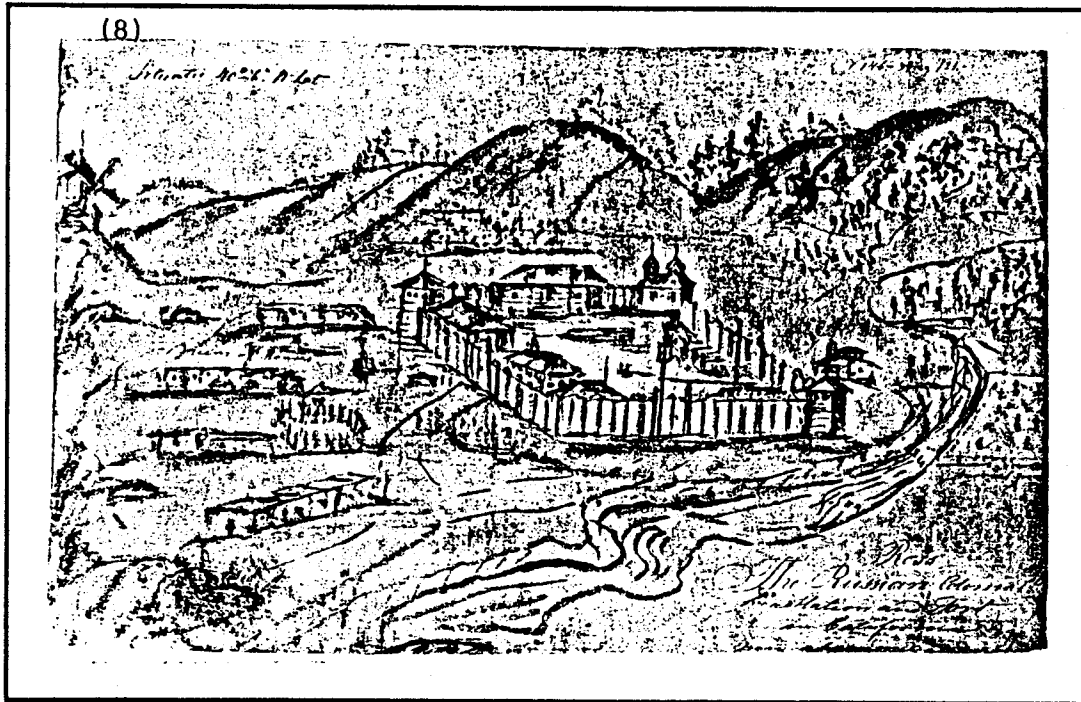
WINDMILLS, continued

Stolbovki windmills can vary greatly in construction methods, from a post-pier support for the upper mill (5) to a stacked log pyramidal base, called Koster, typically associated with the Russian windmill. Another type employs a low stacked log or beam frame built very close to the ground (6) allowing greater working space within as the necessity to allow for lightness and balance, thus restricting size, is lessened.



Deciding upon an appropriate type for Fort Ross presents several problems. Open air museums in the U.S.S.R. which preserve windmills in their collections often have at least two or more representing various regions in Russia. Deciding which type should be used by determining the population base at Fort Ross may not be the best way to proceed. Drawings from the period show a Shatrovki type (7) in use at Sitka, and a Stolbovki type in use at Fort Ross in the 1840's (8).

The Ethnographic History Atlas of the U.S.S.R. lists twenty six variations of both types in its illustrations, so one may be faced with the prospect of choosing the most typically Russian (the Stolbovki with Koster). However Fort Ross proceeds in its future windmill reconstruction, we can be thankful for the efforts of the very helpful staff of the Moscow History Museum's architectural archives in providing much needed information for both past and present researchers.



#### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

April 14, Saturday--FRIA BOARD MEETING

May 3, Thursday--Submissions due for May - June Newsletter, PLEASE CONTRIBUTE

FORT ROSS INTERPRETIVE ASSOCIATION  
19005 Coast Highway 1  
Jenner, CA 95450  
707 847-3437

