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THE "LOST" STRUCTURES OUTSIDE FORT ROSS "FOUND" AGAIN

The Missing Pages in Clarence DuFour's Translation of
the Vallejo Inventory at Fort Ross*

- 1) the Spanish original (1841)
- 2) a first-ever translation by Stephen Watrous
- 3) the Duflot de Mofras parallel inventory (French)
- 4) a re-translation by Stephen Watrous
- 5) the original English translation of Duflot by
Marguerite Wilbur (1937)

* Clarence DuFour, "The Russian Withdrawal from California,"
Quarterly of the California Historical Society, September 1933,
pp. 257-260.

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Excerpt from Vallejo, M. G. "Documentos para la Historia de California," tomo 10, pte. 3 (1841). [CB10, pt. 3 (Cal MSS, B10, pt 3, 229-6/8)]. Bancroft Library, University of California, Berkeley.

Spanish (original) version

229-6 En contorno de Presidio

Cosina de Caserna ahi una panaderia, largo 5 braz., ancho 3 br.

Dos fabricas vaquerizas de tablas gruesas, largo de 20 braz., ancho 3 1/2, ahi un corral largo 28 braz., ancho 20 braz.

[section excluded from DuFour's translation, 1933, p. 257, begins here]

Un aprisco fabrica para ovejas de tablas gruesas, largo 18 braz., ancho 2 1/2 br.

229-7

Fabricas. por los cerdos # 2 braz.

Lecheria de tablas largo 6 braz., ancho 3 1/2 braz.

Casa de trillar, de tablas gruesas, largo 7 3/4 braz., ancho 3 1/2 braz.

Era de tablas gruesas, en diametro 8 braz. con piso de tablazon, ahi un corral.

Molino de viento (nuevo) de una piedra; ahi una machina para machucar cascara; puede molir 20 fanegas de dia.

Molino de sangre, de una piedra, ahi machina para machucar cascara, puede moler 4 fanegas.

Machina para fabricar sarciaf [*sic*] (cordages).

Soportal de carpinteros, largo 7 braz., ancho 3.

Era para ventear trigo, de tablazones largo 6 3/4 braz, ancho 5 br.

229-8

Pozo hondo de 1 1/2 braz.

En contorno de presidio son tambien

4 Casas largo 5 braz., ancho 2 1/2 br.

8 do do 4 1/2 do do 2 1/2 do

9 do do 3 1/3 do do 2 do

3 do do 2 do do 2 do

Casi cada casa tiene una huerta.

[Omitted excerpt in English translation ends here.]

8 Soportales, 8 baños, y 10 cosinas.

Las casas tienen techas de tablas, ventanas con vidrios e suelas de madera.

Translation from the Spanish:

Round about the Fort

A Barracks Kitchen along with a Bake-house, 30' x 18'

Two Cattle Barns made of thick planks, 120' x 21'; plus a corral, 168' x 120'

[section excluded from English translation, 1933, begins here]

A Sheepfold built with thick boards, 108' x 15'

Pigpens, 12' x 12'

Wooden dairy barn, 36' x 20'

Wooden stable, 36' x 20'

Building for threshing wheat, made of thick boards, 46' x 21'

Threshing floor of thick boards, 48' in diameter, with a flat platform and corral adjoining

Wind mill (new), with one grindstone; there is a machine here that crushes bark; it can also grind 12 bushels [20 fanegas] per day.

Wind-mill (old), with one grindstone

Animal-powered mill, with one grindstone; it too has a machine for crushing bark and can grind 11½ bushels [4 fanegas per day].

Machine for making cordage.

Carpernters' shop, 42' x 18'

Threshing floor for winnowing wheat, consisting of a board platform 40½' x 30'

Well 9 feet deep.

Also around the Fort are:

Four houses 30' x 15'

Eight houses 27' x 15'

Nine houses 20' x 12'

Three houses 12' x 12'

Almost every house has a garden.

[Omitted excerpt in English translation ends here]

Eight sheds, eight bath-houses, and ten kitchens

The houses have board roofs, glass windows, and wooden floors.

Excerpt Eugène Duflot de Mofras, "Mélanges, par M. de Mofras . . .
Manuscripts; Vol. II: 1839-1863 (pt. 3; Mémoires sur le port russe
de la Bodega). Bancroft Library, UC-Berkeley. [m AP63/.D7/v.2]

p. 16 Autour de l'enceint se trouvent:

1. Une cuisine pour la caserne avec une boulangerie, longueur 10 metres sur 6 metres.
2. Deux étables pour les vaches, en madriers, longueur 40 m., largeur 7 m., avec une enceinte en planches de 6 m. sur 40 m.
3. Une bergerie pour les brebis en madriers, longueur 40 m., largeur 5 m.

p. 17

4. Étable pour les cochons, longueur 40 m. en carré.
5. Laiterie en planches, longr 12 m., profondeur 7 m.
6. Ecurie en planches, longr 12 m sur 7 metres.
7. Maison en bois pour depiquer le blé, longueur 12 metres sur 7 metres
8. Aire a battre le blé construite en poutres, ayant 16 m. en carré au-
près d'une enceinte en planches pour les bestiaux.
9. Un moulin à vent neuf à une seule meule, pouvant moudre 20 fanegas
(11 hectolitres) par jour, ayant en outre une machine pour
écraser les écorces à tannere.
10. Un moulin-à-vent vieux à une meule.
11. Un moulin à bras ou à bête de somme à une meule, pouvant moudre 4
fanegas (2 hectolitres) par jour; il y a en outre une machine
pour écraser les écorces à tannere.
12. Une corderie et une machine à fabriquer les cordages.
13. Un atelier de charpentier, longr 14 m sur 6 metres.
14. Une aire à vanner le blé, construite en poutrel, longueur 13 metres,
largeur 10 metres.
15. Un puits de 3 m. de profondeur.
16. Quatre maisons, largeur 10 m., pf. 5 m.
Huit maisons, largeur 9 m., pf. 5 m.
Neuf maisons, " 7 m., pf. 4 m.

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Chaque maison a un petit jardin; les maisons sont couverts en
planches, leur sol est planches; elles ont des fenêtres avec des
carreaux.

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17. Dix cuisines.
18. Huit bains russes & huit hangars en bois.

English translation from Duflot's version in French:

Around the stockade are found:

1. A kitchen for the barracks, with a bake-house, 10 m x 6 m.
2. Two cattle stables, made of thick planks, 40 m x 7, with an enclosure 6 m x 40.
3. A sheepfold of thick planks, 40 m x 5.
4. Pigsty, 40 metres square.
5. Dairy, made of boards, 12 m x 7
6. Stable, made of boards, 12 m x 7.
7. Wooden house for threshing wheat, 12 m x 7
8. Threshing floor for wheat, built of beams, 16 meters square, next to which is a wooden enclosure for livestock.
9. A new wind mill with a single millstone, which can grind 20 fanegas [12 bushels] (11 hectoliters) per day. It also has a machine for crushing bark for tanning.
10. An old windmill with one millstone.
11. A hand or animal-powered mill, with one millstone, which can grind 4 fanegas [2¹/₂ bushels] (2 hectoliters) per day; it also has a machine for crushing tan bark.
12. A rope shop and a cordage-making machine.
13. A carpenter's shop, 14 m x 6.
14. A threshing floor for winnowing wheat, built with small beams, 13 m x 10.
15. A well, 3 meters deep
16. Four houses, 10 m x 5.
Eight houses, 9 m x 5.
Nine houses, 7 m x 4.
Three houses, 4 m x 4

Each house has a small garden; the houses are covered with boards; they have wooden floors and windows with glass panes.

17. Ten kitchens.
18. Eight Russian bathhouses and eight wooden sheds.

Marguerite Wilbur's published translation (1937), *Duflot de Mofras' Travels on the Pacific Coast*, pp. 251-52.

p. 251

In the vicinity are:

- 1) A barrack's, kitchen and bakery 6 by 10 meters.
- 2) Two wooden sheds for cattle, 40 meters by 7, with a wooden corral 6 by 40 meters.
- 3) A wooden pen for sheep, 40 meters by 5.
- 4) Shed for pigs, 40 meters square.
- 5) A milkhouse built of planks, 7 by 12 meters.
- 6) A wooden stable 12 by 7 meters.
- 7) A wooden house for trampling wheat 12 by 7 meters.

p. 252

8. Threshing floor for wheat built of heavy timbers, 16 meters square and with a board enclosure for the animals.
- 9) A new windmill with a single millstone, which has a daily capacity of 20 fanegas (11 hectoliters) containing another machine for crushing pine bark.
- 10) An old windmill with one millstone.
- 11) A windmill run by manpower, or animals, with one millstone; this has a capacity of 4 fanegas (2 hectoliters) a day; there is also a machine for crushing pine bark.
- 12) A cordage shop, and a machine for making rope.
- 13) A carpenter's shop, 14 by 6 meters.
- 14) A floor for threshing wheat, built of heavy planks measuring 13 by 10 meters.
- 15) A well 3 meters deep.
- 16) Four houses 10 by 5 meters.
Eight houses 9 by 5 meters.
Nine houses 7 by 4 meters.
Three houses 4 by 4 meters.
Each house has a small garden; the houses are covered with planks, their floors are of wood, and they have square windows.
- 17) Ten kitchens.
- 18) Eight Russian baths and eight wooden sheds.

"LOST" STRUCTURES AT FORT ROSS NOW "FOUND" AGAIN

For many years the only detailed description of the three Russian windmills at Fort Ross came from a translation of Eugene Duflot de Mofras' inventory list of 1840-41. Published in English in 1937,* Duflot's original inventory, written in French, was prepared by Alexander Rotchev, Manager at Fort Ross, in his efforts to make the Russian holdings in California look attractive to outside buyers.

Rotchev also wrote up a second, Spanish text of the inventory for General Mariano Vallejo, another potential purchaser. The "Vallejo" manuscript was translated and published in English in 1933.** However, the translator, Clarence DuFour, omitted inclusion of the windmills and numerous other outlying structures in his publication. What went wrong? As it turned out, DuFour inadvertently left out about a page and a half of the original manuscript from his translated text. Consequently, for almost 60 years Fort Ross planners, scholars, and history buffs have had to settle for a truncated inventory in English that excludes several important categories of structures outside the stockade.

These structures include not only the three windmills, but livestock and threshing facilities, several workshops, an outside well, and residential housing for Fort Ross employees. Twenty four houses of various sizes featured wooden roofing and flooring, glass windows, and surrounding vegetable gardens. The "eight pools" (DuFour's translation) also included in the "vicinity of the fort" (p. 257) were in reality eight Russian bathhouses (*baños*).

The original Spanish and French texts are remarkably similar in content. Duflot's version in French, however, specifies that the millstones crushed bark "for tanning" (*à tannere*) and that a rope shop (*corderie*) accompanied a machine for making cordage. Measurements are somewhat different in the two texts: brazos in the Spanish, and meters in the French. The Russians themselves used the seven-foot *sazhen* as a unit of long measure. At the suggestion of State Archeologist Glenn Farris, the brazo has been rendered as equivalent to seven feet (in brackets, corresponding to the *sazhen*), as well as six feet, following DuFour's example.

* * * * *

Spanish (original) version***

229-6

En contorno de Presidio

Cosina de Caserna ahi una panaderia, largo 5 braz., ancho 3 br.

Dos fabricas vaquerizas de tablas gruesas, largo de 20 braz., ancho 3^{1/2}, ahi un corral, largo 28 braz., ancho 20 braz.

[section excluded from DuFour's translation, 1933, p. 257, begins here]

Un aprisco fabrica para ovejas de tablas gruesas, largo 18 braz., ancho 2^{1/2} br.

229-7

Fabricas. por los cerdos # 2 braz.

Lecheria de tablas largo 6 braz., ancho 3^{2/3} braz.

Caballaria de tablas, largo 6 braz., ancho 3^{1/2} braz.

Casa de trillar, de tablas gruesas, largo 7^{3/4} braz., ancho 3^{1/2} braz.

Era de tablas gruesas, en diametro 8 braz. con piso de tablazon, ahi un corral.

Molino de viento (nuevo) de una piedra; ahi una machina para machucar cascara; puede molir 20 fanegas de dia.

Molino de viento (viejo) de una piedra.

Molino de sangre, de una piedra, ahi machina para machucar cascara, puede moler 4 fanegas.

Machina para fabricar sarcias (cordages).

Soportal de carpinteros, largo 7 braz., ancho 3.

Era para ventear trigo, de tablazones largo 6^{3/4} braz, ancho 5 br.

229-8

Pozo hondo de 1^{1/2} braz.

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En contorno de presidio son tambien

4 Casas largo 5 braz., ancho $2\frac{1}{2}$ br.

8 do do $4\frac{1}{2}$ do, do $2\frac{1}{2}$ do

9 do do $3\frac{1}{3}$ do, do 2 do

3 do do 2 do, do 2 do

Casi cada casa tiene una huerta.

[Omitted excerpt in English translation ends here.]

8 Soportales, 8 baños, y 10 cosinas.

Las casas tienen techas de tablas, ventanas con vidrios e suelas de madera.

* * * * *

Translation from the Spanish

(A note on measurements: one brazo is set at one fathom, i.e. 6 feet. In brackets, one brazo is set at one Russian sazhen, i.e. 7 feet, the standard unit of construction measure at Fort Ross.)

Round about the Fort

A Barracks Kitchen along with a Bake-house, 30' x 18' [35' x 21'].

Two Cattle Barns made of thick planks, 120' x 21'; plus a corral, 168' x 120' [140' x $24\frac{1}{2}$ '; 196' x 140'].

[section excluded from English translation, 1933, p. 257, begins here]

A Sheepfold built with thick boards, 108' x 15' [126' x $17\frac{1}{2}$ ']

Piggens, 12' x 12' [14' x 14']

Wooden dairy barn, 36' x 20' [42' x 25']

Wooden stable, 36' x 20' [42' x $24\frac{1}{2}$ ']

Building for threshing wheat, made of thick boards, 46' x 21' [54' x $24\frac{1}{2}$ ']

Threshing floor of thick boards, 48' [56'] in diameter, with a flat platform and corral adjoining.

Wind mill (new), with one grindstone; there is a machine here that crushes bark; it can also grind 30 bushels [20 fanegas] per day.

Wind-mill (old), with one grindstone

Animal-powered mill, with one grindstone; It too has a machine for crushing bark and can grind 6 bushels [4 fanegas per day].

Machine for making cordage.

Carpenters' shop, 42' x 18' [49' x 21']

Threshing floor for winnowing wheat, consisting of a board platform $40\frac{1}{2}$ ' x 30' [47' x 35']

Well 9 feet [$10\frac{1}{2}$ '] deep.

Also around the Fort are:

Four houses 30' x 15' [35' x $17\frac{1}{2}$ ']

Eight houses 27' x 15' [$31\frac{1}{2}$ ' x $17\frac{1}{2}$ ']

Nine houses 20' x 12' [23' x 14']

Three houses 12' x 12' [14' x 14']

Almost every house has a garden.

[Omitted excerpt in English translation ends here]

Eight sheds, eight bath-houses, and ten kitchens

The houses have board roofs, glass windows, and wooden floors.

- Stephen Watrous

* Duflet de Mofras' *Travels on the Pacific Coast*, translated by Marguerite Wilbur (Santa Ana: Fine Arts Press, 1937), II: 252.

** Clarence DuFour, "The Russian Withdrawal from California," *Quarterly of the California Historical Society*, September 1933, pp. 257-60.

*** From M. G. Vallejo, "Documentos para la Historia de California," tomo 10, pte. 3 (1841). [CB10, pt. 3 (Cal MSS, B10, pt. 3, 229-6/8)]. Bancroft Library, UC-Berkeley