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Appendices

Appendix A: Archeological Reconnaissance Summary Report, Portsmouth Village, Middle Community, and Sheep Island

Appendix B: Inventory and Assessment of Landscape Features

Appendix C: Historic Maps and Aerial Photographs

Appendix D: Portsmouth Village Historic District National Register Nomination

Appendix A: Archeological Reconnaissance Summary Report, Portsmouth Village, Middle Community, and Sheep Island

Introduction

The archeological reconnaissance of Portsmouth Island and a portion of Sheep Island was conducted between February 26 and March 3, 2007, by a two-person crew. The purpose of the reconnaissance was to identify and locate cemeteries and other archeological features outside the boundaries of the established Portsmouth Village Historic District but known to local informants. A combination of historic maps, maps of existing conditions, and informant information was used to help locate potential archeological resources. Local informants included Chester Lynn, Rudy Austin, and Dave Frum. Chester Lynn and Rudy Austin are lifelong residents of Ocracoke Island whose ancestors and neighbors lived on Portsmouth Island. These gentlemen shared their extensive knowledge of the location of former home sites and cemeteries. Dave Frum is a long-time NPS employee who currently maintains the grounds within the Portsmouth Island historic district.

The topography at Portsmouth Island is typical of a barrier island. The portion of the island facing the sound consists of stable dunes separated by salt marsh and low, wet ground containing small ponds of fresh water. The dunes are a few feet above sea level, well drained, and covered in long leaf pine and Eastern red cedar trees. The majority of these areas have a dense understory of brush, brambles, and marsh grass; recent hurricanes have knocked down large numbers of trees. The island is dotted with elevated landforms known locally as hammocks that were the focus of human habitation. At Portsmouth Island these hammocks were often named after the residents who lived on them.[1]

Methods

Fieldwork consisted of a pedestrian survey targeting specific locations outside the historic district. These locations included the area known as the Middle Community along the Straight Road south of the historic district, and informant locations where cemeteries were believed to be sited. Additionally, the area where tombstones had fallen into Warren Creek was examined. The 1866 U.S. Coast and Geodetic Survey Map was used to gain an understanding of settlement patterns around Middle Community and along the Straight Road. Although the location of shorelines and marshes has shifted in 140 years, the landforms that contained historic occupations remain for the most part intact.

Local informants were able to provide the exact location of gravesites and home sites. Further, informants identified areas containing a high potential for cultural resources. Whenever possible the local informants accompanied the field crew. On days when the local informants were not present, the investigators conducted reconnaissance on areas where the 1866 map depicted occupations or areas where informants suggested the presence of resources.

In selected areas the pedestrian reconnaissance entailed walking along transects spaced at 32-foot (10 m) intervals. In some areas the vegetation and tree-falls were too thick to allow for a systematic walkover. On a situational basis, a solid-steel push probe was used to locate the presence or absence of buried features or tombstones. The solid-steel probe is an effective tool for locating buried features at Portsmouth Island since the island is comprised of sand and buried objects are readily identified.

1. Chester Lynn, personal communication, March 2007.

A GPS unit capable of sub-meter accuracy was used to provide an accurate location of features (Fig. A-1). To assure that GPS information recorded outside of the boundary of the historic district could be integrated into GIS, the field crew recorded the location of cemeteries in the historic district. The historic road network was also recorded. Recording known features within the historic district allowed these features to serve as reference points for the locations recorded during our survey. Features outside of the historic district could then be overlaid onto historic maps (Fig. A-2 and Fig. A-3).

FIGURE A-1. GPS recordation in progress. Source: John Milner Associates, Inc., 2007.

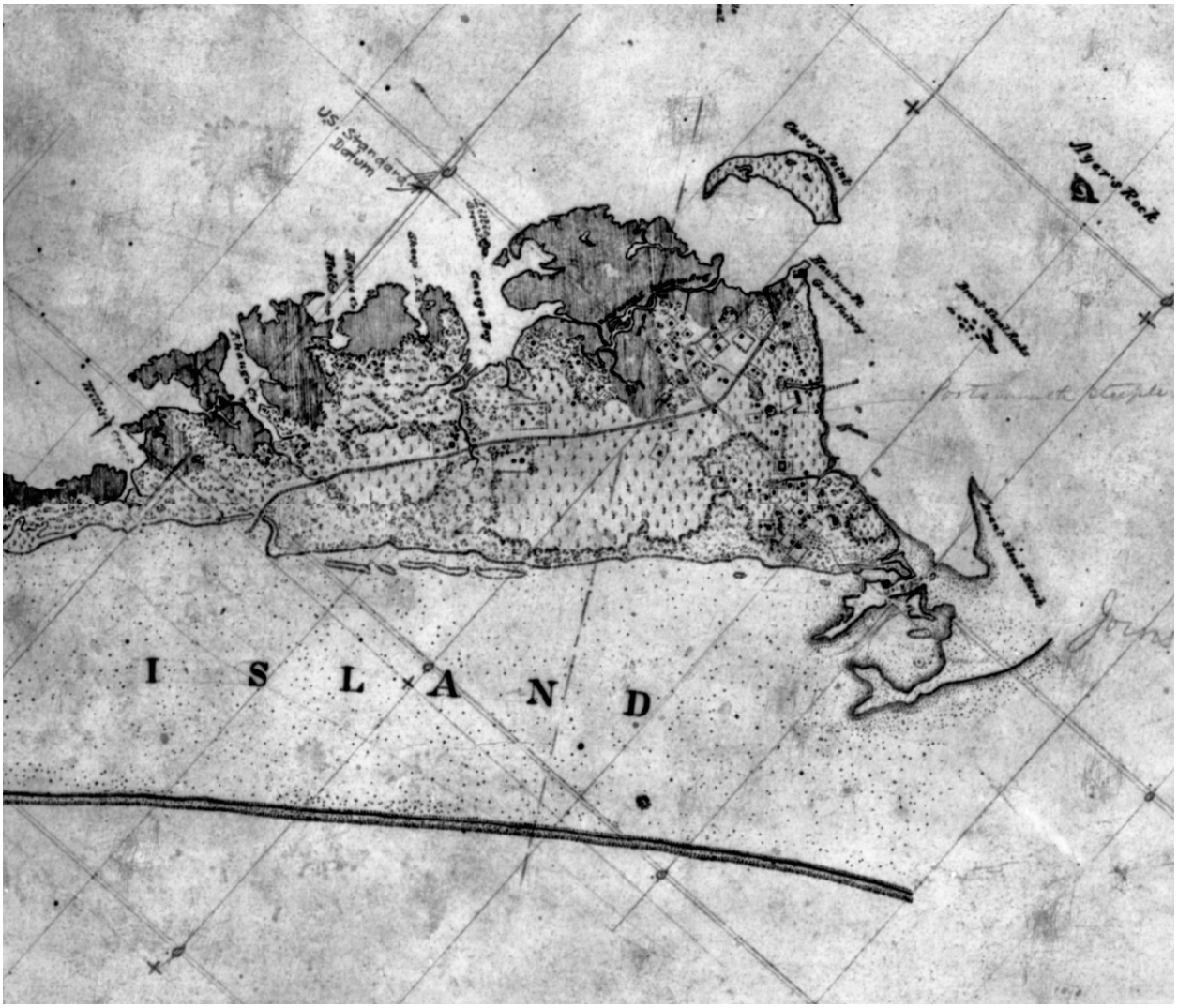


FIGURE A-2. Detail of 1866 coastal survey map. Source: National Archives.

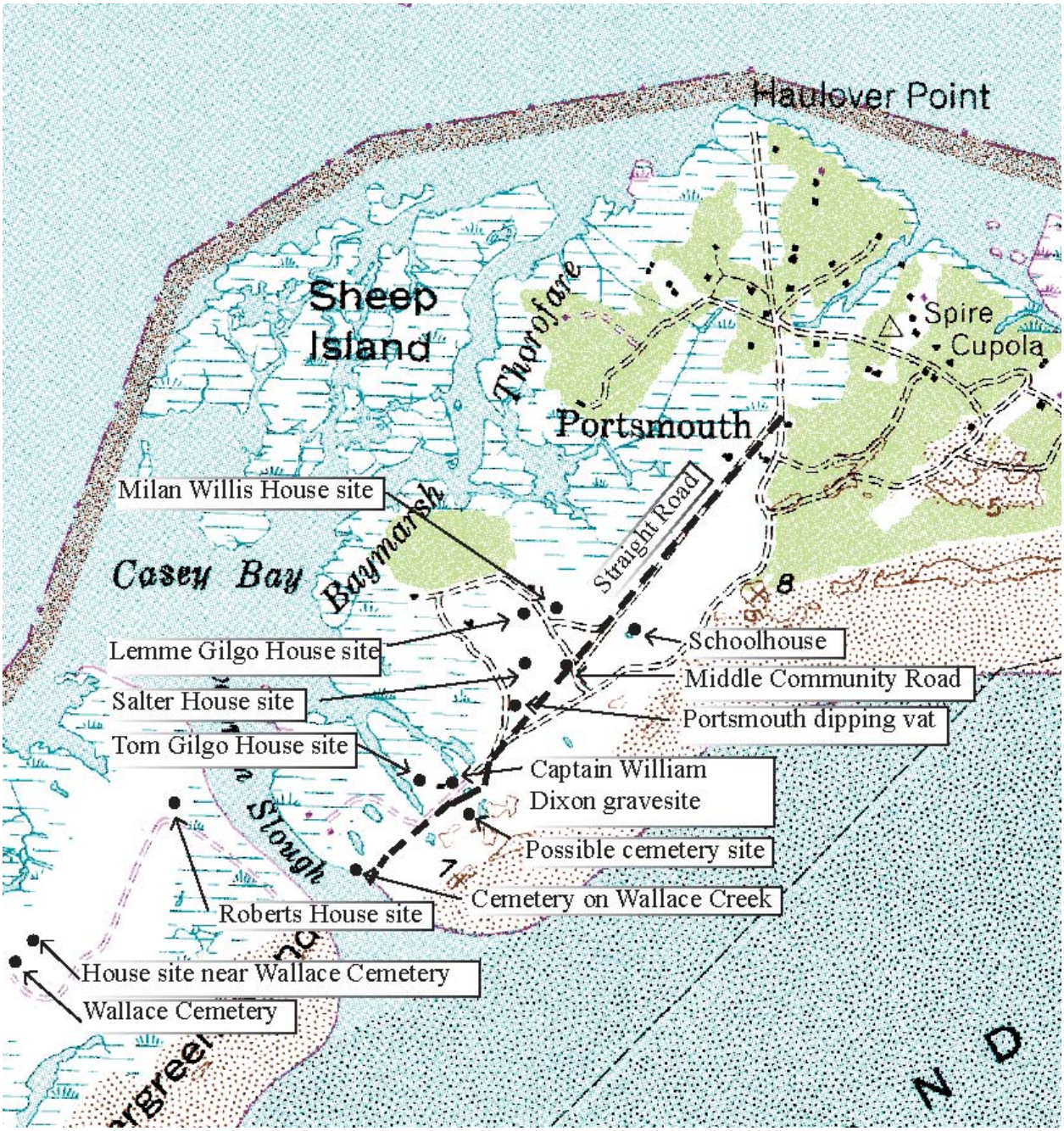


FIGURE A-3. 1948 (1983 photorevised) USGS Quadrangle map annotated with February 2007 survey sites. Source: USGS map.

Results

The focus of preservation efforts has been on Portsmouth Village, where the historic district is well documented and mapped. Cultural resources in the rest of the island have not been identified and are not accurately located on NPS maps. For Portsmouth Island, the Straight Road can be used as a reference point when recording the cultural landscape because this road survives and runs the length of the island.

Fourteen cultural features outside of the historic district were identified. These locations include historic road traces, home sites, cisterns, and cemeteries (Table A-1). Additionally, informants noted the location of several other cultural resources that could not be found or their locations could not be examined; the majority of these locations were cemeteries (Table A-2).

Table A-1. Cultural Resources Identified by the Archeological Reconnaissance

Resource Name	Location	Features	Comments
Straight Road		Approximately ten-foot wide road trace built up where it crosses marsh	Portion maintained by NPS
Mattie Gilgo House site and cistern	North end of Straight Road	Concrete and brick aggregate cistern	Informants associate this cistern with the U.S. Marine Hospital, but the hospital was not located in the immediate vicinity
Schoolhouse	Northeast of Middle Community	Two brick piers	Potential for artifact midden
Middle Community road trace	Middle Community	Road trace	Shown on USGS map
Theodore Salter House site	Middle Community	Cistern and wood piers	
Lemme Gilgo House site	Middle Community	Wood piers	
Milan Willis House site	Middle Community	Chimney, brick walk, fence posts	Overgrown yard, but several features survive
Portsmouth dipping vat		Concrete	Maintained in open space by NPS
Tom Gilgo House site	Tom Gilgo Hammock	Artifact scatter	Hammock covered in dense vegetation and tree falls
Capt. William Dixon gravesite	Vicinity of Tom Gilgo Hammock and Straight Road	Brick vault and marble tombstone	
Cemetery on Warren Creek	North side of creek near where Straight Road historically crossed creek	Four grave markers	Markers were removed from creek and then removed to the Community Cemetery by the NPS. No surface indications of a cemetery along creek
Wallace Cemetery	Sheep Island	At least four graves	Maintained by NPS
House site near Wallace cemetery	Sheep Island	Chimney	Near Battle Brothers Building
Roberts House site	Sheep Island	Brick pier	Near Battle Brothers Building

Table A-2. Additional cultural resources reported by Chester Lynn

Potential Cultural Resource	Location	Features	Comments
Cemetery near two seamen's graves	West-facing hill slope between graves and Life-Saving Station	Numerous graves	A brief walkover did not identify any surface indications that this area was a cemetery, but the majority of the surface is masked by vegetation.
George Gilgo House site	Middle Community	Evidence of home site, ornamental plantings including rose bushes and Oak trees	Probably one of several home sites located on the large hammock west of the main Middle Community occupation
Vira Willis gravesite	Middle Community	Marble tombstone	Located near the George Gilgo House site
Two graves	Unknown	Two graves	Graves reported in the general area along a path or road between the extant school and the ocean
Large cemetery	Unknown	Up to fifty graves	A large cemetery is thought to be located southeast of Tom Gilgo's Hammock and the Straight Road. A walkover of the area did not identify any surface features, but the area is covered in dense vegetation that makes locating surface features impossible.
Cemetery	Historic district between Alfred Dixon site and Pigott House	Unknown	No surface features observed
Dixon House site and possible cemetery	Middle Community	Unknown	Site on west side of Middle Community, in area between cistern and Portsmouth dipping vat

Straight Road. The Straight Road extends southwest across Middle Community from south of the Schoolhouse to Sheep Island. This approximately 3,050 foot long (930 m) portion of the road is maintained by the NPS. It served as one of the primary causeways for residents on Portsmouth Island by connecting the three areas of the community (Fig. A-2 and Fig. A-3). The road builders excavated the surrounding marsh and heaped the spoils to create an elevated road-bed approximately eight to ten feet wide. Between the historic district and Middle Community the roadbed crosses marshlands and is readily identifiable as a raised causeway. Southwest of Middle Community, the road course changed over time. By 1948, several other roads meandered through this area (Fig. A-3). The road was constructed across several salt marsh areas.

The reconnaissance recorded approximately 16,000 feet (4,850 m) of the Straight Road beginning at the boundary of the historic district extending westward to Warren Creek. Past Middle Community the road is difficult to follow, but in several places small segments of mounded road were encountered.

Mattie Gilgo Site. This site is located along the west side of Straight Road, just near the boundary of the historic district. On the existing conditions base map, the location is identified as the Mattie Gilgo site. Informants believe that the concrete and brick aggregate cistern at the site is associated with the U.S. Marine Hospital. The hospital, however, is located east of the Mattie Gilgo site. The field team mapped the location of the cistern.

Schoolhouse. The location of a former schoolhouse was examined. This schoolhouse pre-dates the extant schoolhouse. The schoolhouse site is located on the east side of the Straight Road approximately 4,000 feet (1,220 m) from the southwestern boundary of the historic district (Fig. A-3 and Fig. A-4). At the schoolhouse, the reconnaissance survey covered an approximately 22,500 square foot (6,850 sq. m) area. The schoolhouse location was identified by the presence of two brick piers constructed of scavenged bricks bonded with a sand mortar. One pier was *in situ* and may represent the northwest corner of the schoolhouse (Fig. A-5). The other pier is located on the edge of a marsh and has been displaced from its original position. Since only one *in situ* pier was found, the footprint of the schoolhouse could not be determined. Chester Lynn reported that when the area contained less vegetation, artifacts were present on the ground surface. This suggests that a related artifact scatter may be associated with this site. Maps show a Primitive Baptist Church on the same side of Straight Road southwest of the schoolhouse site. No evidence for this building was found in the dense underbrush.

FIGURE A-4. Overview of the NPS maintained portion of Straight Road and the hammock containing the Middle Community Schoolhouse site, facing northeast. Source: This figure and all subsequent figures by John Milner Associates, Inc., 2007.

FIGURE A-5. Brick pier for Middle Community Schoolhouse.

Middle Community Road Trace. A road trace extends west from the Straight Road for approximately 230 feet (70 m). This road trace is just west of the schoolhouse site and was built to provide access to the Middle Community. The road trace is shown on the USGS map (Fig. A-3). According to the local informant, members of the Willis family constructed the road to provide the Willis children easier access to the schoolhouse.[2] The road trace runs along the west edge of a marsh and also may have marked the boundary of a pasture. Currently, the road trace is bounded by trees and shrubs.

Theodore Salter House Site. A cistern (Fig. A-6) measuring approximately five feet by ten feet (1.5 m by 3 m) and constructed of form-poured concrete with a crushed-brick aggregate marks the location of the Theodore Salter House site.[3] In addition to the cistern, two wooden piers were also identified and may be the remains of the house or an outbuilding. The piers are approximately 5 inch (12 cm) diameter wood timbers cut close to the ground. The area in the vicinity of the cistern and piers is covered in dense vegetation.

Lemme Gilgo House Site. The Lemme Gilgo House site is located is approximately 165 feet (50 m) north of the Theodore Salter cistern and 130 feet (40 m) west of the Milan Willis House site. Two burnt wood piers provide surface evidence for the Gilgo residence (Fig. A-7). Mr. Lynn knew the location of these piers. The piers extended approximately one foot above the ground surface. Mr. Lynn and Mr. Austin related

2. Ibid.
3. Ibid.

that the house burned when a fire swept across this portion of the island. The area in the vicinity of the piers is covered in dense vegetation. No other evidence for this occupation was found, although several fence-posts were discovered northeast of the burnt posts. These posts may demarcate the boundary between the yard and an adjacent pasture.

FIGURE A-6. Interior of the cistern at the Salter House site, facing west.

FIGURE A-7. Burnt pier at the Gilgo House site, facing northwest.

Milan Willis House Site. The Milan Willis House site is located approximately 325 feet (100 m) north of the Salter cistern. Identified archeological features attributed to the Willis House site included a brick chimney base, the remains of a brick walkway, and wooden fence posts (Fig. A-8). The cultural remains of the Willis site are the most distinct of any of the sites encountered outside of the historic district. Although covered in dense vegetation, the yard area and the structure location are identifiable. The yard may have had a fence demarcating it, but this was not clear. The walkway is adjacent to the chimney and was identified by probing. It is beneath several inches of organic debris.

Portsmouth Dipping Vat. The dipping vat is located approximately 1,300 feet (400 m) southwest of the Middle Community (Fig. A-3). The feature is approximately 5 feet wide and 20 feet long (1.5 by 6 m) (Fig. A-9). The vat is currently within an area cleared of vegetation by the NPS. The vat is constructed of form-poured concrete with a crushed-brick aggregate. The dipping vat was the result of a community effort to stop the spread of disease amongst the sheep and cattle on the island.[4] No evidence for associated structures, fence lines, or fenced holding areas was found.

Tom Gilgo House Site. Tom Gilgo's Hammock is located approximately 1,640 feet (500 m) southwest of Middle Community. The name and occupation of this location was identified as Tom Gilgo's by Mr. Lynn.[5] In general, this entire hammock is covered in dense vegetation and fallen trees. Fallen trees disturbed the ground in areas when the root-ball was displaced. Reconnaissance of this hammock located a brick fragment and pieces of whiteware ceramics exposed in root-balls. The presence of these artifacts suggests that a scatter associated with the habitation is present. The chimney, reported to be present, was not encountered.

4. Ibid.
5. Ibid.

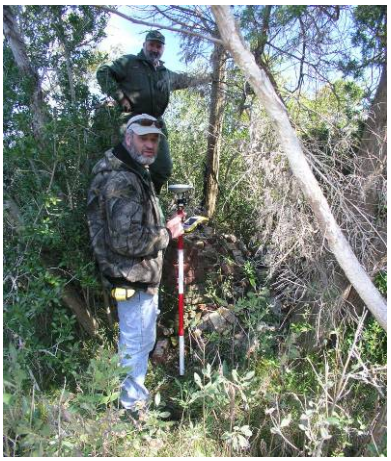


FIGURE A-8. Remains of the brick chimney at the Willis House site, facing north.

FIGURE A-9. Long view of the Portsmouth dipping vat, facing northeast.

Captain William Dixon Gravesite. The gravesite of Captain William Dixon is located east of Tom Gilgo House site and the Straight Road. The vault of Captain Dixon is located approximately 80 feet (25 m) from the west side of Straight Road. The area is covered in dense vegetation. Although Mr. Lynn knew the grave's location, the vault was only located after an extensive search. The grave could not be seen until the team was within a few feet of it. The vault is constructed of a white marble tombstone resting on a brick vault (Fig. A-10). The inscription on the tombstone reads, "William Dixon/Sacred to the Memory of Capt. William W. Dixon who departed this life on Sept. 14 1840 Age 40 Years 3 Months 10 Days." The epitaph on the slab reads, "No for me my friends so dear/Because my body is molding here/My spirit blessed with Gods at rest." Prior to the earlier discovery of the grave location by Chester Lynn, the marble vault had been displaced by flooding. Mr. Lynn and several of his acquaintances have replaced the vault cap back onto the brick vault.[6] Mr. Lynn noted that the Dixon grave was a local rest and gathering stop for island residents who used the vault as a bench during travels to and from Sheep Island.

FIGURE A-10. The Captain William Dixon vault, facing west.

FIGURE A-11. Overview of Warren Creek showing approximate location of graves discovered, facing northeast.

Cemetery on Warren Creek. Recent storms have exposed a cemetery on the north side of Warren Creek (Fig. A-11). In the creek itself several tombstones and fragments had been observed and moved by local residents to the adjacent shoreline. The NPS recently moved the markers to the Community Cemetery in the Portsmouth Village Historic District (Fig. A-12). Clearly, Warren Creek has widened, but by how much remains unknown. The marsh adjacent to the creek has been subjected to considerable shoreline erosion,

6. Ibid.

most notably after Hurricane Isabel in 2003. The original location of the cemetery is believed to now be submerged. The graves are likely to have eroded away, but this is not known. There is no surface evidence of a cemetery along the shoreline adjacent to where the markers were found. Probing of the shore and the shallow creek bottom did not reveal any additional features.

FIGURE A-12. Gravestones discovered in Warren Creek and salvaged by the NPS.

FIGURE A-13. Overview of the Wallace cemetery, facing southwest.

Wallace Cemetery on Sheep Island. The Wallace Cemetery is located on Sheep Island and is maintained by the NPS. The field team visited the site to map its location. The cemetery contains the vaults of George Wallace and his wife Rebecca and two other graves that could not be identified (Fig. A-13). The cemetery is located on a small landform elevated slightly above marshlands. No evidence of a boundary fence was observed.

Informants believe additional graves are present. Informal probing identified an additional headstone beneath the sod, several ballast stones, and a few bricks. The field team partially exposed the stone to confirm that it was in fact a tombstone. It had fallen face first onto the ground and no inscription was observed on the portion exposed. The presence of one buried headstone and other buried stones and bricks strongly indicate that additional unidentified graves are present.

Sheep Island Home Sites. The team did not undertake a walkover of Sheep Island. However, like Portsmouth Island, the settlement pattern on Sheep Island focuses on the occupation of hammocks. It is likely that archeological and landscape resources survive on Sheep Island and that these resources can contribute to the understanding of the island's occupation. To assist future research and historic map projections, the Wallace Cemetery and the locations of two home sites were mapped. The chimney of a an old home site approximately 300 feet (95 m) northwest of the Wallace Cemetery was mapped. The chimney is in the rear of an extant residence. The second home site is located on the west shore of Warren Creek. The location consists of an extant residence and partially inundated brick pier along the shore line (Fig. A-14). According to Chester Lynn, the pier is part of the remains of the Roberts family homestead. A brief survey of the shoreline along Wallace Creek did not result in the discovery of additional artifacts or features related to the Roberts House site.

FIGURE A-14. Brick pier attributed to the Roberts House site on Sheep Island, facing northeast.

Summary

The archeological reconnaissance of Portsmouth Island and a portion of Sheep Island, although brief, located intact archeological and landscape features. This reconnaissance demonstrates that past occupations of the island have survived outside of the historic district. Local informants have a wealth of information and are key to locating and recording Portsmouth Island's cultural resources and heritage.

The historic district is accurately mapped, but the features present on the rest of Portsmouth Island and Sheep Island are not. The current vegetation cover outside of the Portsmouth Village Historic District makes the identification of cultural resources difficult, if not impossible in some locations. In addition to brick piers, buildings were often constructed on wood piers. Although wood piers were found in the Middle Community, these features are difficult to identify. Surface features were often masked by the dense vegetation and in most cases were difficult to locate even with informants who knew the exact locations of features. It is likely, however, that the majority of hammocks and "higher" elevations were occupied at some point in the past.

It should also be noted that buildings and building materials were moved or salvaged by the local residents. Mr. Lynn related that historically, residents of Portsmouth Island frequently dismantled and salvaged lumber and brick from abandoned houses.[7]

7. Ibid.

It is recommended that a continued dialogue be undertaken with local informants; a detailed topographic survey of the island be made; and a continued effort be made to identify additional surface features. Fieldwork could include Phase I survey and additional walkovers. The clearing of vegetation by fire is not recommended. Fires would destroy portions of the landscape such as ornamental plantings, wood piers, and fence posts. The archeological remains on Portsmouth Island have the potential to address research questions about settlement and subsistence on the barrier Islands of North Carolina; access to markets; the utilization of space; and social hierarchy, among others.

Appendix B: Inventory and Assessment of Landscape Features

Feature Name	Alternate names	Contributing status	Date of origin	Restored/Altered/ Reconstructed	Dates of changes	LCS #	Park ID	Condition	Notes
NATURAL SYSTEMS AND FEATURES									
Haulover Point		Contributing						Good	
Doctor's Creek		Contributing						Good	
Coast Guard Creek		Contributing						Good	
Warren Creek		Undetermined		Currently eroding.				Good	
Ocracoke Inlet		Contributing						Good	
Salt and Brackish Marshes		Contributing						Good	
Hammocks		Contributing						Good	
Shrub savannah and shrub thicket		Contributing						Good	Locations of contributing communities not determined
Grassland		Contributing						Good	Locations of contributing communities not determined
RESPONSES TO NATURAL RESOURCES									
Docks and boardwalks		Contributing						see structures	Extant docks are not contributing but use of docks is contributing
Seawall and ramp		Contributing	1914–1918					see structures	
Airplane landing strip		Contributing	1941					see circulation	
Pond and channels		Contributing	1930s					Good	
Siting of cultural features atop hammocks (cemeteries, dwellings)		Contributing						Good	
Cisterns and wells		Contributing						see structures	
Above-ground septic systems		Non-contributing						see structures	
TOPOGRAPHY AND TOPOGRAPHIC MODIFICATIONS									
Grading to establish landing strip		Contributing							
Hammocks		Contributing						Good	
Pond and channels		Contributing						Good	
								Good	
SPATIAL ORGANIZATION									
Relationship of building sites to water transportation		Contributing						Fair	Partially obscured by vegetation
Streetscape of dwellings, church, and post office/general store along main roads; crossroads community		Contributing						Fair	Loss of many historic features
Precincts associated with cultural features		Contributing						Fair (loss of many historic	Loss of many historic features

Feature Name	Alternate names	Contributing status	Date of origin	Restored/Altered/ Reconstructed	Dates of changes	LCS #	Park ID	Condition	Notes
Siting of Schoolhouse		Contributing						Fair	Siting of building no longer connected to
LAND USES (condition not assessed)									
Educational/Museum/Interpretive		Non-contributing							
Residential		Contributing							
Recreational		Contributing							
Cemetery		Contributing							
CIRCULATION									
Roads						012532			
Haulover Point Road	Old Brick Road	Contributing	by 20th century					Good	Some ponding near
Village Road		Contributing						Good	Some ponding
Road to the Beach		Undetermined						Good	
Old Straight Road	Old Main Road	Contributing	by 19th century					Good/Fair	Overgrown with
Access Road to Dixon-Salter House, Portsmouth Cemetery, Will Willis House ruins		Undetermined						Good	
Access Road to T.T. Potter House, dock, Keller-Styron Cemetery		Undetermined						Good	
Access Road to Carl Dixon and Frank Gaskill Houses		Undetermined						Good	
Access Road to Robert Wallace, Tom Gilgo, and Henry Pigott Houses		Undetermined						Good	
Access Road to Schoolhouse and Cecil Gilgo House		Undetermined						Good	
Access Road to Ed Styron House		Undetermined						Good	
Access Road to Two Seamen's Graves		Undetermined						Good	
Airstrip		Contributing	1941					Good	
Pedestrian									
Brick and concrete steps at Dixon-Salter House		not assessed						Good	
Wood steps, front and side, Post Office entrance		not assessed						Good	
Wood steps, front, Robert Wallace House		not assessed						Good	
Wood ramp to T.T. Potter Shed		not assessed						Good	
Wood steps to sheds, porches, T.T. Potter House		not assessed						Good	
Wood steps leading to porch, Styron-Bragg House; ramp leading to kitchen porch		not assessed						Good	
Wood steps leading to front and rear porches, Cecil Gilgo House		not assessed						Good	
Concrete steps and brick landing at Schoolhouse entrance		not assessed						Good	

Feature Name	Alternate names	Contributing status	Date of origin	Restored/Altered/ Reconstructed	Dates of changes	LCS #	Park ID	Condition	Notes
Parged brick steps and concrete landing at entrance to Portsmouth Church		Contributing						Good	
Wood steps leading to front and rear porches, brick landing, Jesse Babb		not assessed						Good	
Wood steps leading to front porch and side porch, McWilliams-Dixon House		not assessed						Good	Needs paint
Brick steps leading to porch, Dennis Mason House		not assessed						Good	
Wood steps leading to front porch and rear deck, Roy Robinson House		not assessed						Good	
Wood steps leading to door of generator shed		Non-contributing						Good	
Concrete steps leading to porch, Life-Saving Station		Contributing	circa 1918					Good	
Concrete steps leading to front and side entrances, Life-Saving Station Kitchen		Contributing	circa 1943					Good	Some wear evident
Concrete walks associated with Portsmouth Life-Saving Station		Contributing	1914–1918					Good-Fair	Some wear evident
Wood steps leading to front and side porches, Henry Pigott House		not assessed						Good	
Wood steps leading to porch, Tom Gilgo House		not assessed						Good	
Wood steps leading to deck, west side, and east entrance, Frank Gaskill House		not assessed						Good	
Wood ramp/steps leading to the comfort station along the Road to the Beach		Non-contributing						Good	
VEGETATION									
Mown grass precincts around residential complexes		Undetermined						Good	
Pine plantation		Undetermined						Good	
Eastern red cedar trees associated with most properties		Undetermined						Good-Poor	Varies due to storm damage
Irises in planting bed at Post Office		Undetermined						Good	
Yaupon holly and peach tree at Styron-Bragg House		Undetermined						Good-Fair	Trees not robust
Wax myrtle shrubs at Portsmouth Church		Undetermined						Good	
Flowering bulbs at porch, Jesse Babb House		Undetermined						Good	
Perennials in planting beds at McWilliams-Dixon House; fig shrub		Undetermined						Good	
Fig shrub and three deciduous trees in McWilliams-Dixon yard		Undetermined						Good	

Feature Name	Alternate names	Contributing status	Date of origin	Restored/Altered/ Reconstructed	Dates of changes	LCS #	Park ID	Condition	Notes
BUILDINGS AND STRUCTURES									
Portsmouth Life-Saving Station	Portsmouth Coast Guard Station; Station 188, 7th Coast Guard District	Contributing	circa 1894	Altered; Rehabilitated/ Stabilized	1940–1949; 1978	021512	501A	Good	Flooding has led to some structural deterioration and weathering
Portsmouth Life-Saving Station Kitchen	Sugar Shack; Summer Kitchen	Contributing	1908	Addition; Rehabilitated	1942; 1978–1984	091745	501B	Good	Weathering has occurred
Portsmouth Life Saving Station Stable	Portsmouth Life-Saving Station Shed	Contributing	1928	Altered	1960–1969	012534	501C	Fair	Some of the boards are bowing out on the front facade; battens are loose; doors fit poorly
Generator Shed		Non-Contributing	1982						
Portsmouth Life-Saving Station Stable well house		Contributing	by 1940s						
Portsmouth Life-Saving Station pump house		Undetermined	by 1940s						
Roy Robinson House	Lionel Gilgo House	Contributing	1926	Moved to its present location in 1935 from Life-Saving Station area		021513	502	Fair	Sills are rotting and the exterior is weathered
Dennis Mason House	Captain Dave Willis House	Contributing	1895	Remodeled; Restored	1920s; 1980–1985	012514	503	Good	
Mason Shed		Undetermined	?					Poor	missing siding
Jesse Babb House	Marion Gray Babb House	Contributing	1935			021515	504A	Good	
Babb Kitchen	Babb Shed #2	Contributing	1935			091752	504B	Fair	Siding is damaged and missing in places
Babb Generator Shed	Babb Shed #1	Contributing	1935			091753	504D	Good	Central door on southwest facade is missing
Babb Privy		Contributing	1935			091754	504E	Good	
Babb Garage		Contributing	1935			091746	504C	Good	Siding is damaged and rotting in places
McWilliams-Dixon House	Elma Dixon House	Contributing	1910–1919	Moved to present location in 1937 from Life-Saving Station area		091779	507A	Good	
McWilliams-Dixon Privy		Contributing	1910–1919			091782	507D	Fair	The privy exhibits some structural deterioration
McWilliams-Dixon Shed		Contributing	1910–1919			091781	507C	Good	
McWilliams-Dixon Cool House		Contributing	1910–1919			091780	507B	Good	
Ed Styron House	Kitty Cabin; Ed & Kate Styron House	Contributing	1933	Altered	1950–1959	012516	505	Good	Gutters are falling off of the building and the roof is in poor condition

Feature Name	Alternate names	Contributing status	Date of origin	Restored/Altered/ Reconstructed	Dates of changes	LCS #	Park ID	Condition	Notes
Portsmouth Methodist Church	Methodist Church	Contributing	c. 1915	Replaced an earlier church possibly on the same site lost in 1913 storm		012518	508	Fair	Some foundation piers are leaning, others have bricks missing and need repointing.
Washington Roberts House		Contributing	1840s	Kitchen wing added circa 1910, no longer extant		091783	509	Fair	The western addition is collapsed and the windows are boarded.
George Dixon House		Contributing	1887			021519	510	Poor	This building has been mothballed, and is enclosed within protective plywood and cable bracing.
Post Office and General Store		Contributing	1900–1909	Stabilized	1997	012526	518	Fair	This building is suffering from structural deterioration.
Henry Pigott House		Contributing	1900–1909			012520	511	Good	
Pigott Summer Kitchen		Contributing	1900–1909			091747	511B	Fair	
Pigott Cool House		Contributing	1900–1909			091748	511C	Fair	
Pigott Shed (and cistern *see below*)		Contributing	1900–1909			091749	511D	Good	
Pigott Shed #2		Contributing	1900–1909			091750	511E	Fair	
Pigott Privy		Contributing	1900–1909			091751	511F	Fair	
Tom Gilgo House		Contributing	1920s	Moved to present location in 1928 from Life-Saving Station area		012521	512	Good	The tarpaper has come off of the roof, leaving plywood exposed.
Robert Wallace House	Old Grace House; John Wallace House	Contributing	1850–1859	kitchen wing added later, and then razed		012522	513	Fair	This building is suffering from structural deterioration.
Carl Dixon House		Contributing	1930			012528	521A	Poor	
Carl Dixon Summer Kitchen	Carl Dixon Shed	Contributing	1930–1939			091760	521B	Fair	Windows are boarded
Frank Gaskill House		Contributing	1930			012529	522	Good	
Gaskill Shed									
Dixon-Salter House	Visitor Center; Theo Salter House	Contributing	1900–1909	Moved to its present site circa 1930		012527	519A	Good	
Dixon-Salter Cool House	Salter Cool House; Salter Outbuilding #1	Contributing	1900–1909			091757	519B	Poor	This building is suffering from structural deterioration
Dixon-Salter Privy		Contributing	1900–1909				519-D	Fair	
Dixon-Salter Shed	Salter Outbuilding #2; Salter Shed	Contributing	1900–1909			091758	519C	Fair	Vertical board siding is damaged
Cecil Gilgo House	Ben Salter House	Contributing	1936			091784	515	Poor	There is structural deterioration, including wood damaged in places

Feature Name	Alternate names	Contributing status	Date of origin	Restored/Altered/ Reconstructed	Dates of changes	LCS #	Park ID	Condition	Notes
Portsmouth Schoolhouse		Contributing	1910–1919			012524	516A	Fair	The Schoolhouse windows are shuttered; some structural deterioration has occurred
Schoolhouse Shed		Contributing	1910–1919			091755	516B	Good	Structural deterioration, missing shingles, severely weathered clapboard due to neglect
Styron-Bragg House	Jody Styron and Tom Bragg House	Contributing	1928			012530	523A	Good	
Styron-Bragg Shed		Contributing	1920–1929			091761	523B	Good	
Styron-Bragg Cool House		Contributing	1920–1929			091762	523C	Fair	Screens are missing from door and sides
T.T. Potter House	Armtek House	Contributing	1952			012531	524	Good	
T.T. Potter Equipment Shed		Undetermined	?						
T.T. Potter Generator Shed		Undetermined	?						
T.T. Potter Dock Shed		Undetermined	?						
Comfort Station on road to beach		Non-contributing	?						
Cisterns									
U.S. Marine Hospital brick cistern		Contributing	1853					Good	
Schoolhouse cistern		Contributing	1910–1919			091756	516C	Good	The cistern has suffered structural deterioration due to neglect
Henry Pigott cistern		Contributing	1900–1909			091749	511D	Good	
Brick cistern near Keller-Styron		Contributing	?					Fair	Some deterioration
Concrete cistern near Keller-Styron Cemetery		Contributing	?					Fair	Some deterioration
Mattie Gilgo House Site cistern		Contributing	?					Fair	Efflorescence, chipping
Water box at McWilliams-Dixon House		Contributing	?					Fair	Wood planks need repair
Dixon-Salter water box		Contributing	?					Good	
Roy Robinson cistern		Contributing	?					Fair	Wood planks need repair
Henry Babb ruin cistern		Contributing	?					Poor	In ruins
Carl Dixon brick cistern		Contributing	?					Fair-Good	Parging missing, needs paoint.
Frank Gaskill cistern		Contributing	?					Fair-Good	Parging missing, needs paoint.
Water box at Jesse Babb House		Contributing	?					Good	
Life-Saving Station cistern		Contributing	?					Good	
Docks									
Dock and boardwalk at Haulover Point		Non-contributing	?					Good	

Feature Name	Alternate names	Contributing status	Date of origin	Restored/Altered/ Reconstructed	Dates of changes	LCS #	Park ID	Condition	Notes
Dock and boardwalk at T.T. Potter House		Non-contributing	?					Good	
Dock and boardwalk behind Styron-Bragg House		Non-contributing	?					Good	Section behind house in need of repair
Dock east of Henry Pigott House		Undetermined	?					Good	
Bridges									
3 Wood bridges along Village Road		Non-contributing	?					Good	
Wood plank bridge along Old Straight Road		Undetermined	?					Good	Grass growing in planks
Concrete seawall and ramps, Portsmouth Life-Saving Station		Contributing	1914–1918					Fair	Cracking, chipping, vegetative growth in joints
Wood Platform									
Wood platform associated with T.T. Potter House shed		Non-contributing	?					Good	
VIEWS AND VISTAS									
Expansive view from Life-Saving Station tower		Contributing	1894						
View to Portsmouth Church from Post Office/cross-roads		Contributing	1930s						
View to village from boat approach along Ocracoke Inlet		Contributing	1930s						
SMALL-SCALE FEATURES									
Fences									
Picket fence around Grace Cemetery		Contributing						Good	
Picket fence around Styron-Bragg House precinct		Contributing						Fair	Missing segments
Picket fence with gate around Babb-Dixon Cemetery		Contributing						Good	
Fence posts with rails near brown sign in front of Washington Roberts House		Undetermined						Poor	Incomplete remnants
Remnant fence posts west of Washington Roberts House		Undetermined						Poor	Incomplete remnants
Picket fence around McWilliams-Dixon House precinct, four gates		Contributing						Good-Fair	Needs paint
Picket fence with missing gate around Henry Pigott House precinct		Contributing						Fair	Missing sections
Metal gate and wood posts limiting vehicular access to the village from the Road to Beach		Non-contributing						Good	
Wood bollards and posts with metal chains as part of gate system at Road to Beach		Non-contributing						Good	
Wood posts, Robert Wallace House		Undetermined						Poor	Remnant
Board fence remnants, Monroe and Mattie Gilgo House Site		Undetermined						Poor	In ruins

Feature Name	Alternate names	Contributing status	Date of origin	Restored/Altered/ Reconstructed	Dates of changes	LCS #	Park ID	Condition	Notes
Temporary barrier at George Dixon House		Non-contributing						Good	
Wood post and chain barrier at wooden bridge along Old Straight Road		Non-contributing						Good	
Septic Structures									
Septic leach field near airstrip		Non-contributing						Good	
Septic tank and wooden fencing, Styron-Bragg House		Non-contributing						Good	
Septic tank and wooden enclosure, T.T. Potter House		Non-contributing						Good	
Septic tank and wooden enclosure, Jesse Babb House		Non-contributing						Good	
Septic tank and wooden enclosure, McWilliams-Dixon House		Non-contributing						Good	
Septic tank and wooden enclosure, Henry Pigott House		Non-contributing						Good	
Septic tank, Dennis Mason House		Non-contributing						Good	
Septic tank and wooden enclosure, Carl Dixon House		Non-contributing						Good	
Cemeteries									
Babb-Dixon Cemetery headstones		Contributing					506	Good	5 headstones, silk flowers
Grace Cemetery Headstones		Contributing				012523	514	Poor	Fallen headstones
Community Cemetery Headstones		Contributing	1885		no longer in use after 1961	012525	517	Fair	24 head and footstones, some are weathered, bricks dislodged, concrete lids cracked
Fence posts at Community Cemetery		Undetermined						Poor	Only remaining feature are peeled cedar posts
Concrete vault covers, Community Cemetery		Contributing						Fair	Some are broken and cracked
Group plot, brick edging; group plot, concrete edging, Community Cemetery		Contributing						Fair	Missing or dislodged bricks, cracked concrete
Portsmouth Cemetery headstones and footstones		Contributing					527	Fair-Poor	15 headstones in groups; broken, leaning and eroded stones
Fence posts at Portsmouth Cemetery		Undetermined						Poor	Only wooden posts remain
Group plots, concrete block surrounds, Portsmouth Cemetery		Contributing							
Ed Keeler Cemetery Headstones		Contributing					559		
Two Seamen's Graves		Contributing					526	Fair	Etching detiorated

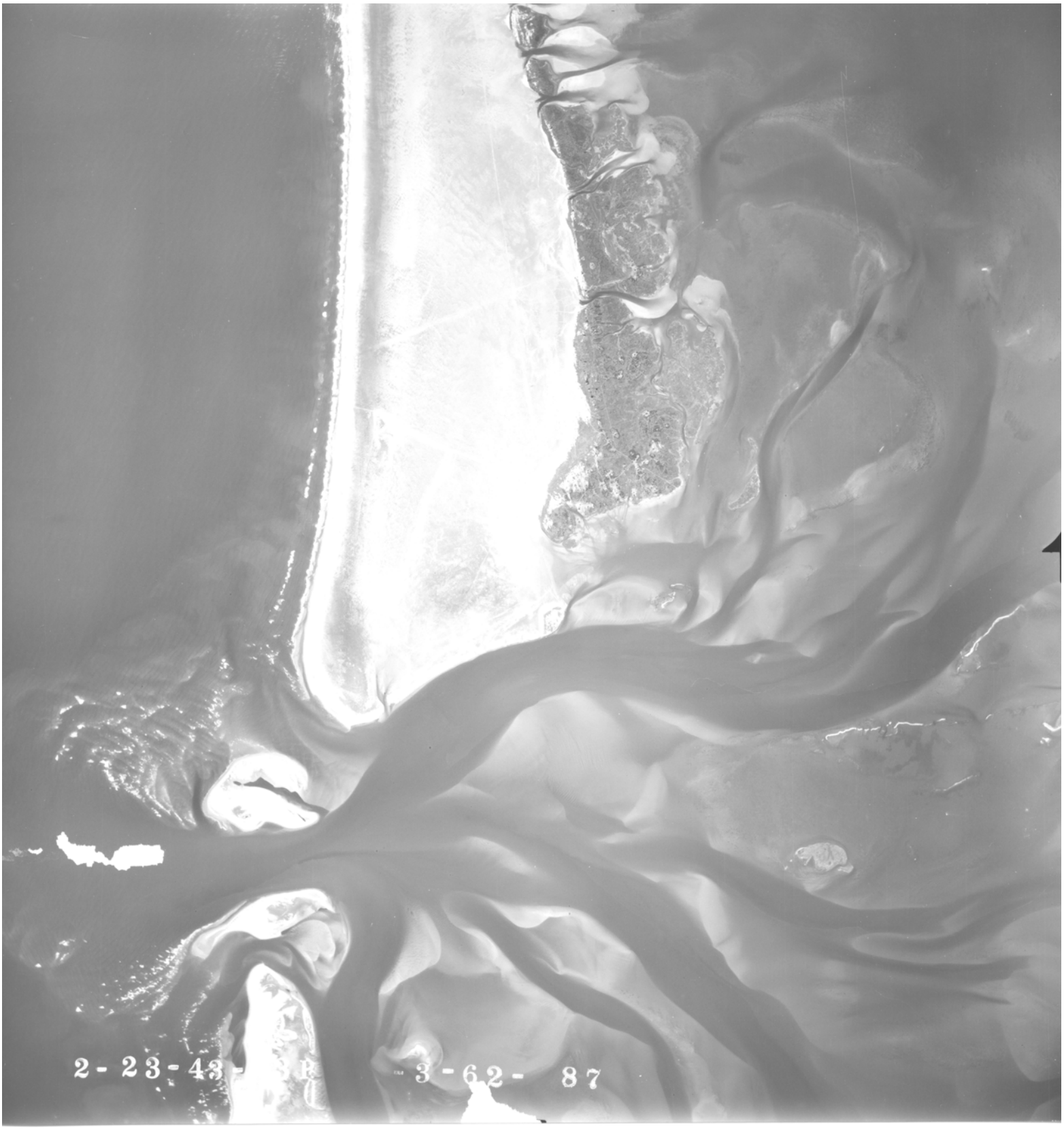
Feature Name	Alternate names	Contributing status	Date of origin	Restored/Altered/ Reconstructed	Dates of changes	LCS #	Park ID	Condition	Notes
Keller-Styron Cemetery Headstones		Contributing					529	Fair-Poor	10 headstones and footstones, some headstones are broken or leaning
Brick outline of one grave, Keller-Styron Cemetery		Contributing						Fair	Missing bricks
Fence posts at Keller-Styron Cemetery		Undetermined						Poor	Only corner posts remain
Dr. Samuel Dudley grave headstone		Contributing						Fair	
Elijah Gaskill headstone		Contributing						Fair	
Signage									
Painted wooden signs marking historic properties (at Dixon-Salter property, Post Office, Grace Cemetery, Robert Wallace House, Styron-Bragg House, Keller/Styron Cemetery, George Dixon House, Cecil Gilgo House, Schoolhouse, Monroe and Mattie Gilgo House site, Washington Roberts House, Portsmouth Church, Jesse Babb House, McWilliams-Dixon House, Dr. Samuel Dudley Gravesite, Dixon-Babb Cemetery, Dennis Mason House, Roy Robinson House, Portsmouth Life-Saving Station, Portsmouth Life-Saving Station Kitchen, Portsmouth Life-Saving Station Stable, U.S. Marine Hospital, Road to the Beach, near Two Seaman's Graves site, Henry Babb ruins, Tom Gilgo House, Henry Pigott House, Carl Dixon House, Frank Gaskill House)		Non-contributing							
Sign suspended from Old Straight Road bridge		Non-contributing						Good	
Brown painted wood sign in front of Washington Roberts House		Non-contributing							
Brown painted wood sign indicating "To Beach" southwest of Portsmouth Life-Saving Station Kitchen		Non-contributing						Good	
Brown painted wood sign indicating "Foot Traffic Only" along Road to Beach		Non-contributing						Good	
Unpainted wood informational sign along Road to Beach		Non-contributing						Good	
Sign with image of a jeep		Non-contributing						Good	
Directional sign indicating "Portsmouth Beach, Wallace Channel Dock" along Road to Beach		Non-contributing						Good	

Feature Name	Alternate names	Contributing status	Date of origin	Restored/Altered/ Reconstructed	Dates of changes	LCS #	Park ID	Condition	Notes
Directional sign noting "Haulover Point Dock" along road to dock		Non-contributing						Good	
Wood post, north corner Portsmouth Life-Saving Station		Undetermined						Good	
Wood boat relic, mounted for display near Life-Saving Station		Contributing						Good	
Flagpole at Styron-Bragg House		Contributing						Good	
Bird house along dock behind Styron-Bragg House		Non-contributing						Good	
Wildlife refuge sign		Non-contributing						Good	
Wood channel marker, Portsmouth Life-Saving Station		Undetermined							
Wood mooring posts, Portsmouth Life-Saving Station		Undetermined							
Remains of outbuilding, Henry Piggot House		Undetermined						Fair	
Mail box on wooden post by dock, Henry Pigott House		Undetermined						Good	
Storage bin at Henry Pigott House		Undetermined							
Fish table at Henry Pigott House		Undetermined						Good	
Water pump at Henry Pigott House		Undetermined						Good	
Television antenna, Henry Pigott House		Undetermined						Good	
Antenna at T.T. Potter House		Undetermined						Good	
Fish cleaning table, T.T. Potter House		Undetermined							
Wood table at T.T. Potter House		Undetermined						Good	
Trash bag receptacles		Non-contributing						Good	
Concrete slab at Dixon-Salter House		Undetermined							
Stones lining planting beds at Post Office		Undetermined						Good	
Steel cattle guard crossings of wet areas along Old Straight Road		Undetermined						Good	
Wood picnic tables at Washington Roberts House		Non-contributing						Good	
Wood table north of Jesse Babb House		Undetermined						Good	
Metal pole and anchor set within circular planting bed, McWilliams-Dixon House		Undetermined						Good	
Propane tank behind McWilliams-Dixon House		Non-contributing						Good	
Tanks associated with Generator Shed, Portsmouth Life-Saving Station		Non-contributing							
Television antenna, Frank Gaskill House		Undetermined						Fair	

Appendix C: Historic Maps and Aerial Photographs

Aerial photography from the collection of the Cape Lookout National Seashore. Photographs are dated:

- October 21, 1940
- 1941
- February 23, 1943
- May 4, 1958
- April 7, 1968
- May 23, 1996
- July 9, 1997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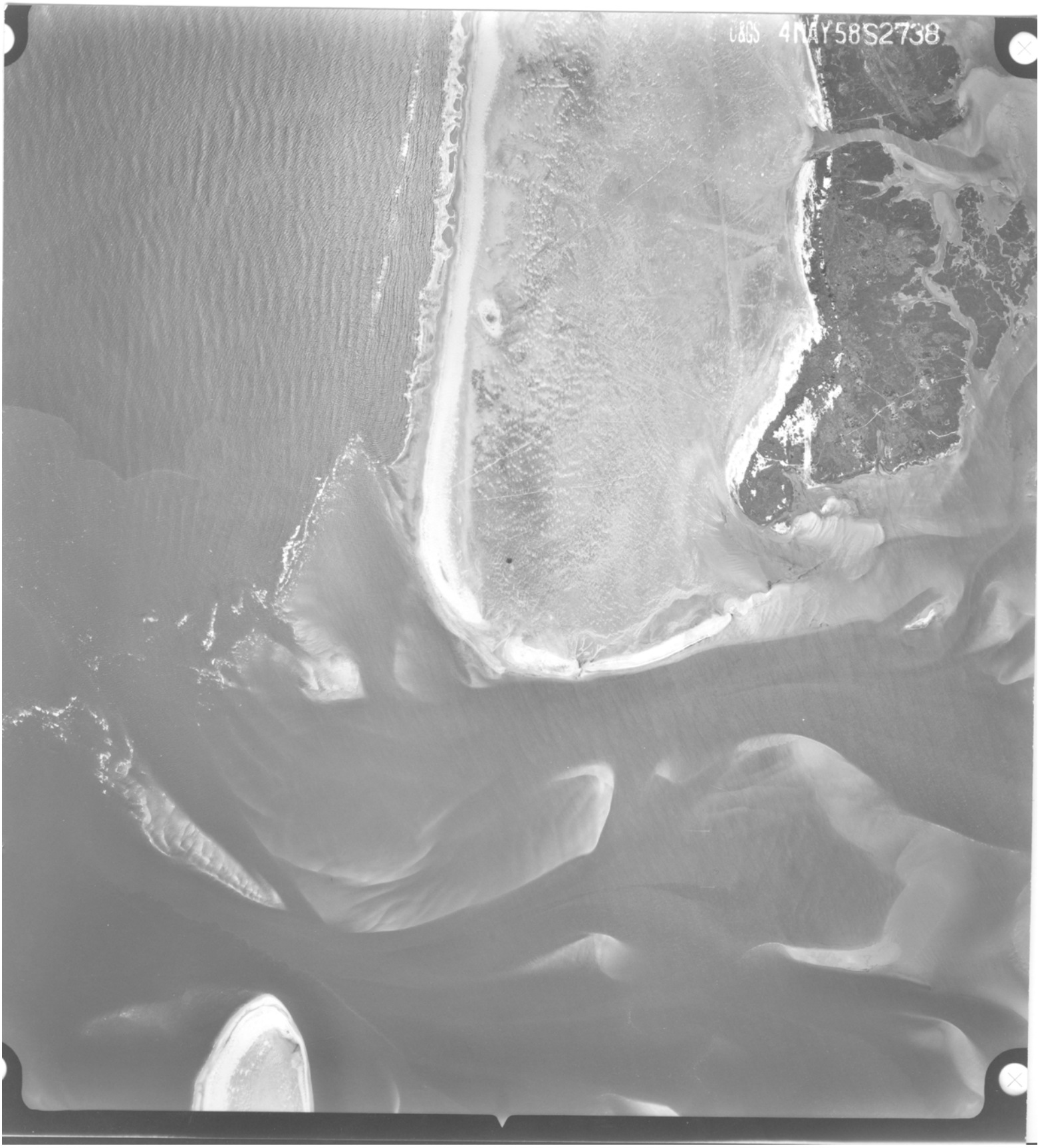
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4

Appendix D: Portsmouth Village Historic District National Register Nomination

Form No. 10-306 (Rev. 10-74)

PH0663379

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR FEDERAL PROPERTIES

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED FEB 21 1978
DATE ENTERED NOV 29 1978

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC
Portsmouth Village

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER
Northern end of Portsmouth Island — NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN
Cape Lookout National Seashore — VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
First

STATE
North Carolina

CODE
37

COUNTY
Carteret

CODE
~~0301~~ 31

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE	
X DISTRICT	— PUBLIC	X OCCUPIED	— AGRICULTURE	— MUSEUM
— BUILDING(S)	— PRIVATE	— UNOCCUPIED	— COMMERCIAL	X PARK
— STRUCTURE	X BOTH	— WORK IN PROGRESS	— EDUCATIONAL	X PRIVATE RESIDENCE
— SITE	**PUBLIC ACQUISITION**	**ACCESSIBLE**	— ENTERTAINMENT	— RELIGIOUS
— OBJECT	X IN PROCESS	— YES: RESTRICTED	— GOVERNMENT	— SCIENTIFIC
	— BEING CONSIDERED	X YES: UNRESTRICTED	— INDUSTRIAL	— TRANSPORTATION
		— NO	— MILITARY	— OTHER:

4 AGENCY

REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS: *(If applicable)*
Southeast Regional Office, National Park Service

STREET & NUMBER
1895 Phoenix Boulevard

CITY, TOWN
Atlanta — VICINITY OF

STATE
Georgia 30349

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.
Carteret County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN
Beaufort

STATE
North Carolina

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE
None

DATE

— FEDERAL — STATE — COUNTY — LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
__EXCELLENT	X DETERIORATED	X UNALTERED	X ORIGINAL SITE
X GOOD	X RUINS	__ALTERED	__MOVED DATE_____
X FAIR	X UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Village of Portsmouth on the Outer Banks of North Carolina has existed on the south side of Okracoke Inlet since before the Revolutionary War--a 1770 map showed eight structures making up the village. The village grew steadily during the next quarter century and the census of 1800 recorded a white population of 165, including 25 heads of families, plus 98 slaves. The glory years of the village were to be the first half of the 19th Century. During this period, it served as a trans-shipment point for cargoes from seagoing vessels that were lightered to warehouses at Portsmouth, reloaded on the sea-going vessels after they had crossed over the Okracoke Bar, or shipped to inland ports such as New Bern, North Carolina. By 1821 there were 37 heads of families, a white population of 265, 92 slaves, and four free blacks. Over 80 percent of the working population was engaged in water-related commercial activities. By 1850 there were 70 dwellings in the village, a free population of 377. Ten years later, Portsmouth reached its peak with a white population numbering 581 and 109 dwellings. Eighty-five percent of the working population was employed in sea related occupations.

With the opening of the Hatteras Inlet to the north in the 1850's and the use of this new passage by shipping, Portsmouth's decline was as rapid as its rise. By 1880 the population was 227. It continued to shrink until by 1955 there were only 14 residents, and by the mid-sixties only three permanent inhabitants remained. The old buildings disappeared also. The Marine Hospital, established by the U.S. Treasury in the 1820's for seamen, burned in 1894. The Methodist Church destroyed in 1899 was rebuilt two years later and still stands in the village. Other structures fell victim to hurricanes or were moved to the mainland by their owners.

Today Portsmouth Village is made up of about 25 complexes of one or more buildings. These are scattered over an area some 3,000 feet east to west and about 1800 feet north to south. Because of the meandering system of roads and the vegetative cover, there is a sense of isolation or compartmentalization. Seldom can more than one or two complexes be seen from the same point. As you walk the narrow grass covered lanes, you "discover" each structure or complex of buildings in turn. Most of the present buildings date from the decades before and after 1900 with architecture typical of the venacular style found on the coastal areas of the Carolinas. The only style that could be clearly identified is bungaloid style with additions. The Coast Guard Building has elements of the Stick style.

Many of the buildings are painted white or have weathered to gray. Two of the houses (Henry Piggott's and Dave Willis') are pink and a few others are yellow or ochre. The condition of the structures is varied. The Henry Babb House (HS-520) has collapsed and is in ruins. The Washington Roberts house, possibly the oldest structure in the village, is in an advanced state of deterioration and is now surrounded by mature trees and brush. The majority, however, have suffered some deterioration, but are presently being utilized as vacation or weekend retreats under renewable 1-year special use permits issued by Cape Lookout National Seashore. Maintenance activities allowed under the special use permits are limited to painting and replacement in kind of historic fabric as needed. Four of the complexes--HS 504, 507, 522 and 524--are either life estates or 25-year leases and are in good condition. All the cemeteries except the Babb-Dixon plot are overgrown and need clearing.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
__PREHISTORIC	__ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	__COMMUNITY PLANNING	__LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	__RELIGION
__1400-1499	__ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	__CONSERVATION	__LAW	__SCIENCE
__1500-1599	__AGRICULTURE	__ECONOMICS	__LITERATURE	__SCULPTURE
__1600-1699	__ARCHITECTURE	__EDUCATION	__MILITARY	X SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
__1700-1799	__ART	__ENGINEERING	__MUSIC	__THEATER
X 1800-1899	X COMMERCE	__EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	__PHILOSOPHY	__TRANSPORTATION
X 1900-	__COMMUNICATIONS	__INDUSTRY	__POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	__OTHER (SPECIFY)
		__INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Portsmouth Village on the northern end of Portsmouth Island is the surviving remnant of the thriving pre-Civil War port that reached its zenith in the decade prior to 1860. Its significance today is as the only existing village on the Core Banks south of Ocracoke Inlet— an existance that can be traced back over 200 years to the 1760's. Today the charm and significance of the area is in the informal placement of the complexes on high ground in the typical low salt marsh outer banks vegetation. These individual sites are connected by narrow, winding, grassy roads or lanes. This site relationship is very characteristic of early coastal villages. Except for these lanes, small cleared building sites and a grass landing strip for light planes, the environment of the district gives the appearance being untouched by the incursions of man.

Portsmouth Village was authorized by the North Carolina Colonial legislature in 1753. A town was laid out shortly thereafter. The 50-acre town site consisted of half-acre lots and a system of streets. The town grew slowly--a tavern existed by 1757 and in 1760, St. John's Parish appointed a reader for Portsmouth. A map dated 1770 shows what appears to be eight structures in the village. The Revolutionary War touched the village only in passing--the British foraged on the island carrying off cattle and sheep. By 1790 the population of the village was over 200, including slaves. The leading citizen was David Wallace, Jr. who owned 16 slaves and by 1795 had two houses--one of them a two-story structure. David was doubtless related to John Wallace who was a major force in developing Shell Castle on Ocracoke Sound.

John Wallace and John G. Blount of Washington, North Carolina, on the Pamlico River were developing a major shipping and trading center on Shell Castle during the 1790's. Here vessels from the open sea could anchor, unload their cargoes via lighters, make repairs, load their outbound cargoes and depart without having to enter Pamlico Sound or dock at the old port towns up the Neuse or Pamlico Rivers. By 1800 Shell Castle contained a warehouse that was 300 feet in length, a grist mill powered by a windmill, a lumber yard, store, and ship chanderly, a tavern and extensive wharves. The Shell Castle lighthouse was lit in 1803. The permanent population totaled 25. A combination of Wallace's death, a series of hurricanes, and the closing of the channel that served Shell Castle combined to end the activities on this island by 1812.

Perhaps as a result there was considerable growth in the village of Portsmouth which by 1810 boasted a population of 246, including 121 slaves, as well as an academy and a windmill. With over 4/5th of the population involved in sea-related commercial activities, Portsmouth was the second largest town on the Outer Banks of North Carolina.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Stick, David, The Outer Banks of North Carolina, 1584-1958, Chapel Hill, U. of North Carolina Press, 1958.

Salter, Ben B., Portsmouth Island: Short Stories and History, No Publisher, 1972.

Holland, F. Ross, Jr., "A Survey History of Cape Lookout National Seashore, "Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation, National Park Service, Jan. 30,1968

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 250

Latitude and Longitude on continuation sheet

UTM REFERENCES

	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
A				B			
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Beginning at the northernmost point of the district, Hatteras Point, the boundary runs southeast along the high tide line past the mouth of Doctors' Creek and Station Creek and turns northeasterly, rounds the point and goes south and then west along the high tide line to a point 2200 feet due south of the Post Office or crossroads. The line then turns 45° west of north for approximately 1500 feet to the head of a slough or gut and follows the south bank of this gut for about 1000 feet to the center of the channel between Sheep and Portsmouth Island and goes up the center of the channel to its north end and ~~then follows the high tide line on the northwest shore to Hatteras Point and its beginning~~.

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE
Lenard E, Brown, Regional Historian

DATE
June 1977

ORGANIZATION
Southeast Regional Office, National Park Service

TELEPHONE
996-2520, Ext. 243

STREET & NUMBER
1895 Phoenix Boulevard

STATE

CITY OR TOWN
Atlanta, Georgia 30349

12 CERTIFICATION OF NOMINATION

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

YES ✓ NO ___ NONE ___

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

In compliance with Executive Order 11593, I hereby nominate this property to the National Register, certifying that the State Historic Preservation Officer has been allowed 90 days in which to present the nomination to the State Review Board and to evaluate its significance. The evaluated level of significance is ___ National ✓ State ___ Local.

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE

TITLE Deputy Assistant Secretary

DATE FEB 14 1978

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

~~DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION~~

DATE 11/29/78

ATTEST: William Lebovich

~~KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER~~

DATE Nov 27, 1978

Portsmouth was at one time the largest settlement on the Outer Banks of North Carolina and today remains as the only surviving village on the Core Banks which stretch north from the Cape Lookout Lighthouse to Ocracoke Inlet, a distance of 40 miles. Although the surviving residences and support buildings are less than 100 years old, it may be assumed that evidence of many other structures that date to the years before the Civil War could be found to the south of the road that runs from the Coast Guard Station to Pamlico Sound or are scattered among the surviving structures north of this road.

Buildings and Sites Contributing to Character of District:

501A. Coast Guard Station is a two-story stick style structure with a screened porch, observation cupola and two sets of large doors for launching of surf rescue boats. It rests on wood piers enclosed by lattice work. Dimensions approximately 66 x 43.

501B. The Sugar Shack was one of the out buildings, probably the kitchen or dining hall. A frame structure with gable roof, the west half is shingle siding and the east half weather boarding. It measures 31 x 19.5 feet.

501C. A wood frame structure with vertical siding that served as support building. Now used as housing under special use permit.

501D. Boathouse with large garage type doors, wood frame with gable roof. Contains 333 square feet.

502. Lionel Gilgo House is white frame structure with modified hip roof and open porches on front and back. Rests on brick piers.

503A. Dave Willis House - frame house with low gable roof with center gable dormer. Front porch columns are wood supports on brick piers. House is irregular in shape. Outbuildings include privy and collapsed shed.

503B. George Willis House - has collapsed and is in ruins. Dimensions were 14x25 feet.

504. Marion Gray Babb House - rectangular frame house with gable roof and center gable roofed dormer, central chimney. Side porch on rear. Outbuildings include gable roof shed with rear addition, privy, gable roof shed, and shed with hip roof. Main house is 830 square feet. The complex is held as a life estate.

505. The Kitty Cabin Home of Ed and Kate Styron is a small frame building on wood piers with an open porch. It is on a special use permit. Area, including porch, is 450 square feet.

506. Babb, Dixon, Pigott Cemetery is a well kept area enclosed by a white picket fence. It is the final resting place of Henry Pigott, last resident of the island, and members of the Dixon and Babb family. Plus two parakeets who belonged to the Babb family.

507. Elma Dixon House - Ell with gable roof. Front porch has shed roof with side porch on rear. Enclosed by picket fence. Outbuildings include raised rabbit or chicken pen less than 11 square feet in area, plus two sheds with gable roofs. This complex also is part of a life estate.

508. Methodist Church is National Park Service property. Features central extension tower on front. Wooden construction on brick piers of earlier church. Windows in church are gothic in style. Interior has wooden pews, organ and lectern. Bell in the tower still works. Sanctuary is 40 1/2' x 25' with 10' x 10' tower.

509. The Washington Roberts house is very deteriorated and may be the oldest house on the island. Interior features wainscoting to chair rail height. Mode of construction would date house to 1880 or earlier. Contains hand hewn timbers, hand split lath and solid oak floors.

510. George Dixon House is rectangular with gable roof and shed roof porch on front and back. House rests on wooden piers. Chimney is offset to right. House measures 37 x 30 1/2 including front and rear porches. Wood cistern, 7' in diameter, is to left rear of house. Used as residence under special use permit.

511. Henry Pigott Cottage is a 2-story gable roofed ell shaped structure built of frame. Painted pink, the Pigott house is surrounded by a picket fence and has shed roof porches on the front and side. There are six outbuildings associated with this complex including privy, former kitchen (10.3 x 16.5) with rear chimney, and shed-all with gable roofs. Two shed roof structures and an elevated chicken or rabbit house of about 12 square feet complete the complex. Main house has three bedrooms upstairs and measures 21 x 32 feet.

512. Tom Gilgo House is a small gable roofed wood structure with vertical siding and rear wing. Open porch has shed roof on front with side porch.

513. Old Grace or Wallace House is two story with gable roof and one large center front dormer and two large rear dormers. Structure was built on foundation of earlier house. Evidence of older foundation is visible on the north side. A rear wing has been removed.

514. Cemetery across from Post Office may be the Grace Cemetery. It is overgrown and in need of maintenance. Contains two or three graves.

515. Ben Salter House is on road to former school house and is a rectangular house with low gable roof and open porch across front. Windows are boarded over, structure is in poor to fair condition. Measures 16 x 33 with an 6 x 8 front porch. A rear porch has collapsed.

96 516. Old Schoolhouse. Now used as residence under special use permit, it is a hip roof structure measuring 20.5 x 36.5 feet. Adjacent to the main building is an above ground cistern 8 feet in diameter, a gable roofed shed with rear addition and a privy.

517. Large Cemetery containing over 25 graves including members of Dixon, Babb, Styron, Williams, Daly, Gilgo and Roberts families. Heavy overgrown, it is located near the Post Office.

18 518. Former Post Office and General Store - The building of frame construction with gable roof measures 37 x 17.5 and still contains some furnishings including safe and mail clerk's office.

519. Theo Salter House (Salter Gun Club) is a two-story frame hip roof structure with hip roof dormers on front and back. Features two interior chimneys. Rear wing 7' is also hipped roof and there is a widow's walk accessible from outside. Front porch has wood columns on brick piers. Out-buildings include storage shed and privy, both with low hip roofs. Square footage of main house, including porches, is 1525. Utilized under special use permit.

1a 520. Henry Babb House has collapsed, but brick chimney is still standing.

521. Carl Dixon House is a gable roof structure with an enclosed shed roof addition on the side, a screen porch on the front, and a shed roof porch on the rear. There is a catwalk or widow's walk accessible from outside. Wood frame building. Adjacent to the main house are a generator building and net building, both gable roofed. Main house contains 850 square feet, including porches.

522. Frank Gaskill House is wood frame structure with a shed roof porch. Roof on the main house is a low hip roof. A brick cistern measuring 6 x 6 1/2 feet and a privy are located at the rear of the house. House is 31 x 21 feet, excluding 8 x 15 porch. Nearby is a shed with tin walls and a flat roof also tin. Complex is held as a life estate.

92 523. The Jody Styron (Tom Bragg) House is a 1 1/2 story frame house with a hip roof and dormers on all four sides. An open porch is on the front with a screened porch on the left rear. There is a central chimney in the main house and a second chimney in the rear addition. Exterior dimensions are 32.5 by 46.5 with a front porch measuring 7.5 x 27 feet. Outbuildings include a small privy and a gable roof shed with shed roof addition as well as a boat house on Pamlico Sound.

524. Armfield House--modified and modernized the house, under a 25-year lease, is frame with a low gable roof. It rests on wood piers. Overall dimensions are 34.4 by 26 feet. Nearby are a boat house and a flat roofed shed.

525. Ruins of frame house which may have belonged to Ed or Carl Dixon.

526. A frame building in ruins with the roof collapsed and the interior littered with structural material.

The one clearly non-conforming building is the trailer near the mouth of Doctor's Creek. It is a 28 x 8 foot mobile home with an 8 x 16 foot attached shed. Adjacent to this is a badly deteriorated structure and a tin shed, both less than 100 square feet in area. Designated EMN on map. The grassy landing strip, more open field than air field, is inobtrusive.

The addresses of the four individuals who hold either Life Estates or long term leases on properties within the boundaries of Portsmouth Village are set out below.

Marion Babb House
Marion Babb - Life Estate
P. O. Box 311
Beaufort, North Carolina 28516

Elma Dixon House
Elma Dixon - Life Estate
P. O. Box 311
Beaufort, North Carolina 28516

Potters House
Armtex, Inc., - 25 year lease
Ed Armfield
P. O. Box 546
Pilot Mountain, North Carolina 27041

Frank Gaskill House
William and Lola Guthrie
Route 1 Bogue
Newport, North Carolina
and Life Estate
Roger W. Jones
Broad Creek, North Carolina

TAX [illegible] ACT
[illegible] 1978

The village of Ocracoke on the northern side of the inlet was slightly larger. The population by 1820 totaled 362. The population of the village and the island of Portsmouth continued to grow during the next 40 years with a total of 109 dwellings reported in 1860. Edmund Ruffin, an agricultural scientist from Virginia, described Portsmouth in the late 1850's as follows:

> "The village of Portsmouth owes its existence to the fact of its adjoining the nearest water of Pamlico Sound, where vessels must anchor and wait for fair winds and tides to cross the shallow and dangerous bar of Ocracoke Inlet--and after passing outward, as usual but partly laden, to wait to receive the remainder of the cargo, carried across the bar by lighters. The occupations of the whole resident population of Portsmouth are connected with the vessels which have to wait here. Pilots and sailors or owners of vessels make up the greater number of heads of families and adult males--and the remainder are the few, who as shopkeepers, etc., are necessary to minister to the wants of the others." [1]

Ruffin offered a final observation on Portsmouth that had the ring of prophecy, "If Ocracoke Inlet should be closed by sand (which is no improbable event), the village of Portsmouth would disappear--or, (like Nagshed) remain only for its other use, as a summer retreat for transient visitors, sought for health and sea-bathing."[2] Hatteras Inlet had been opened by a hurricane in 1846 and continued to enlarge during the fifties. By 1861, Hatteras had surpassed Ocracoke as the most important inlet on the coast.

The Civil War touched the Outer Banks during its first year. Confederate troops occupied the banks and were stationed at Portsmouth. Fort Morgan in the center of the inlet was manned. In August 1861 when the Union troops moved against the forts near Hatteras Inlet, the troops at Portsmouth were moved to Fort Hatteras. With the fall of Forts Hatteras and Clark, Fort Morgan on Beacon Island was abandoned. When the Federal soldiers arrived at Portsmouth, they found a ghost town as most of the inhabitants had fled. After burning the military stores, the troops departed.

1. Edmund Ruffin, Agricultural, Geological, and Descriptive Sketches of Lower North Carolina and the Similar Adjacent Lands (Raleigh: Printed at the Institution for the Deaf and Dumb and the Blind, 1861), pp. 123-132.

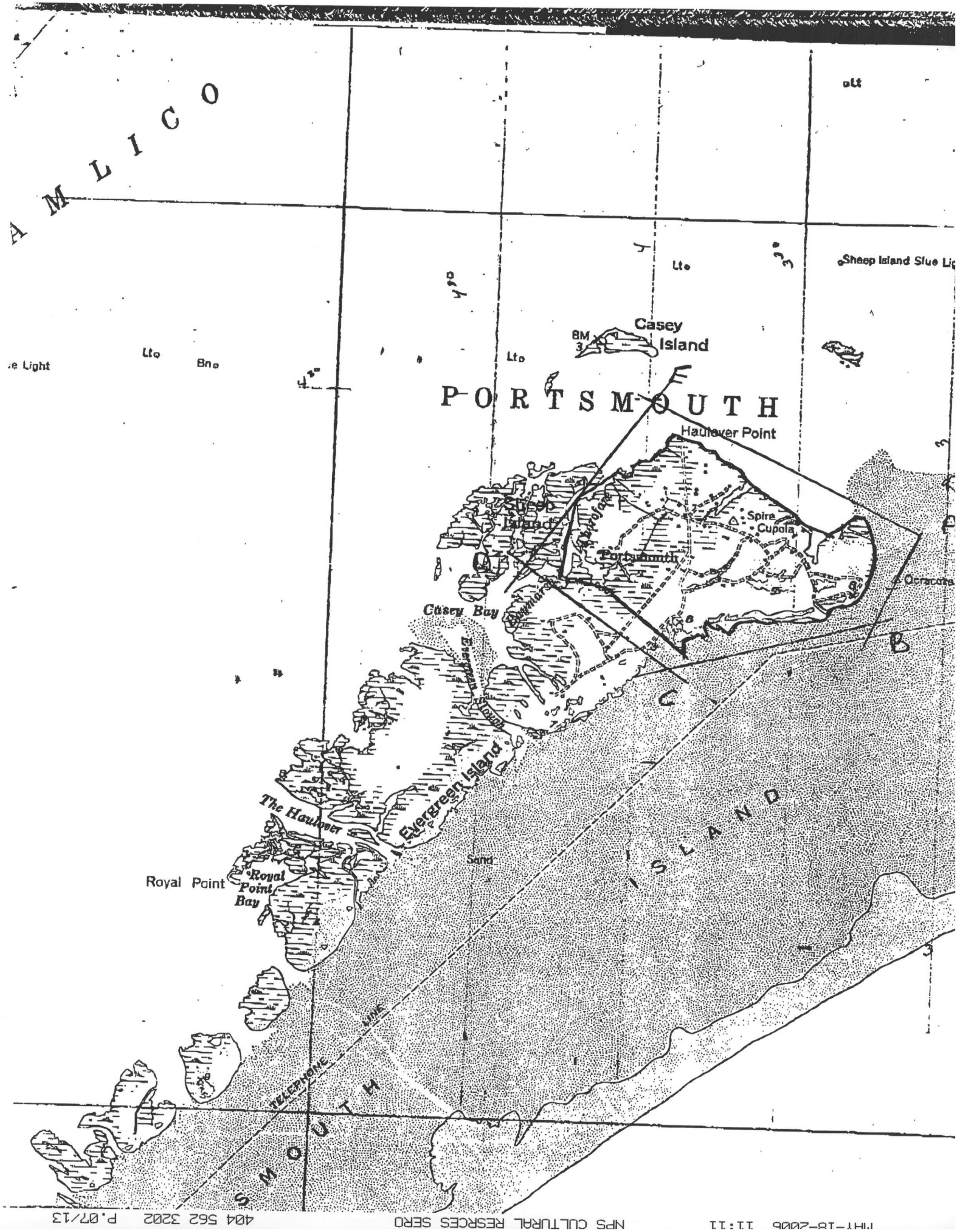
2. Ibid.

When the inhabitants returned at wars end the village's vitality was gone. Attempts to revitalize the village came to naught. By 1870 the population was 323 and dropped another hundred in the next 10 years. In 1880 there were 44 dwellings on the island of Portsmouth, most in the village. Those residents that remained continued to depend on the sea for their livelihood. Storms played their part in reducing the population. Houses were destroyed and residents moved to the mainland. Other residents left taking their homes with them to the mainland. In 1895 a Lifesaving Station was established at Portsmouth that provided employment for seven of the residents from 1897 to 1938 when it was closed. The Post Office, open in 1840, was finally closed in 1959 when the total number of permanent residents numbered less than 15. The school, active into the 1930's, closed its doors in the fifties also. By the mid-1960's, there were three permanent residents--Henry Piggott, Elma Dixon, and Marion Gray Babb--on the island.

Portsmouth Village in 1977 is composed of groups or complexes of buildings separated by vegetation and topographic features in such a manner as to give each a sense of isolation, yet the narrow winding grass covered lanes and the similarity of materials and architecture combine to unify the district. The houses date to the last decades of the 19th and the first decades of the 20th century. Because most fall within this 40-year range and all have a sense of age and weathering about them, there is a distinct feeling of time and place about the village — the time about 1930 and the place a town on the Outer Banks which still boasted all the amenities of a small village. The only modern intrusion into this is the grassy airstrip at the Coast Guard Station and even it seems to be part of the environment for it is more open meadow than airstrip, and is used by weekend residents who fly into their vacation cottages. With the exception of four complexes, all the houses are utilized under 1-year special use permits issued by Cape Lookout National Seashore.

The Portsmouth Historic District includes not only the surviving buildings but also now-hidden remains of other buildings of 125 years ago when Portsmouth still made claim to being a major port on the Outer Banks of the Carolina Coast.

	Latitude	Longitude
A	35° 4' 09"	76° 3' 05"
B	35° 3' 55"	76° 3' 13"
C	35° 3' 45"	76° 3' 54"
D	35° 4' 02"	76° 4' 22"
E	35° 4' 30"	76° 3' 58"



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