
Existing Conditions

Introduction

This chapter describes through narrative text, contemporary photographs, and labeled base mapping, the current conditions and extant landscape features associated with the Portsmouth Village Historic District. The purpose of documenting the park's existing landscape is three-fold. The primary role of the existing conditions documentation is to convey the range and breadth of landscape features by identifying, describing, and locating them on a map. This documentation serves as a baseline of information for the rest of the document. The second purpose is to generate an inventory of park features that can be utilized to develop several cultural landscape analyses and assess National Register eligibility and integrity. The final role is to provide a record of the landscape that may prove useful to future research efforts.

The first section of this chapter—Environmental and Cultural Context and Setting—sets Portsmouth Village within a regional and local context, looking at the larger systems that surround the property and provide connections to important nearby cultural and natural resources. The second section—Site Description—describes the overall organizing elements and features that characterize the property. The third section—Landscape Description by Characteristic—individually depicts the extant landscape features and resources that together comprise the Portsmouth Village Historic District. The landscape characteristics categories used to organize landscape resource documentation in the CLR include:

- Natural Systems and Features
- Responses to Natural Resources
- Topography and Topographic Modifications
- Patterns of Spatial Organization

- Land Uses
- Circulation
- Cultural Vegetation
- Buildings and Structures
- Views and Vistas
- Small-scale Features
- Archeological Resources

Appendix B is an inventory of the park landscape features described herein. The inventory includes condition assessment information for each feature. The assessment is based upon the condition rating standards established by the National Park Service (NPS) in the *Cultural Landscapes Inventory Professional Procedures Guide*. Features are described as being in good, fair, poor, or unknown condition. Features categorized as fair, poor, or unknown are accompanied by a brief annotation to explain the rating.

Graphic documentation, in the forms of maps and photographs, accompany the text. Representative photographs illustrate many of the features described in the text and each inventoried feature is also located on a map. All photographs used to illustrate existing conditions are coordinated with photographic station-point maps found at the end of the chapter (Fig. 150 through Fig. 153).

Environmental and Cultural Context and Setting

See Fig. 23, Site Location and Context Maps. Portsmouth Village Historic District is located at the far northern end of Cape Lookout National Seashore just below the Island of Ocracoke along North Carolina's Outer Banks. The historic district extends over approximately fifty acres on the lee side of Portsmouth Island. The island is edged by Ocracoke Inlet to the north; the Baymarsh Thorofare and Sheep Island, which are in turn edged by Core Sound, to the west; marsh and a large expanse of tidal flats—known as Portsmouth Flats—to the east and south; and Warren Creek and shrub savannah to the southwest. Middle Community, a former component of the village that no longer includes substantial above-ground evidence of its cultural developments, is located on Portsmouth Island to the west of the historic district. Sheep Island, located across Baymarsh Thorofare, was also traditionally associated with Portsmouth Village, but little evidence of this portion of the community survives. Casey Island is located in the inlet north of the island's primary dock facility at Haulover Point. Wallace's Channel, an important site for lightering in the eighteenth century, is located beyond the historic district to the north and east.

Cape Lookout National Seashore is a federally protected unit of the National Park System that has been administered by the National Park Service since 1966. Cape Lookout National Seashore includes Shackleford Banks, Core Banks, Portsmouth Island, and a portion of eastern Harkers Island where the park headquarters and visitor center are located. Portsmouth Village can only be reached by boat. Most of its 2,000 annual visitors arrive from either Cedar Island, located forty miles north of Harkers Island, or by private ferry from Ocracoke Island.

Portsmouth Island is located within east-central North Carolina's Carteret County. Relatively rural,

the county has an estimated population of 60,000 and extends over 532 square miles.¹²⁰ Local residents have traditionally derived their livelihood from farming and commercial fishing; in recent years, however, tourism and real-estate development have become important components of the local economy since the region is a popular destination for summer vacationers. Portsmouth Village itself is inhabited seasonally through a historic lease program. Six of the historic houses are available through the program. Volunteers and NPS personnel are also present at Portsmouth Village periodically throughout the year.

The closest towns are Beaufort (population 3,771), a fishing community and the county seat located approximately forty miles southwest and about four hours travel by boat and car, and Morehead City (population 7,707), a shipping and rail terminus that lies five miles to the southwest of Beaufort along U.S. Route 70.¹²¹

The region typically enjoys a mild southeastern maritime climate. The mean average temperature for January is 48 degrees. In July, the mean average temperature is 80 degrees. The area's average annual rainfall is 54 inches, but this can vary greatly. Cape Lookout National Seashore lies directly in the extratropical storm track and is subject to frequent hurricanes. The Outer Banks have experienced at least 150 hurricanes since 1585.¹²²

North Carolina's Outer Banks are part of the world's largest barrier island system, which extends along America's Atlantic Coast and the Gulf of Mexico from Massachusetts to Texas. Known simply as the Sand Banks by the region's earliest settlers, the term "banks" is possibly the only topographic term that is unique to North Carolina.¹²³ As described in the Historic Resource Study for Portsmouth Village:

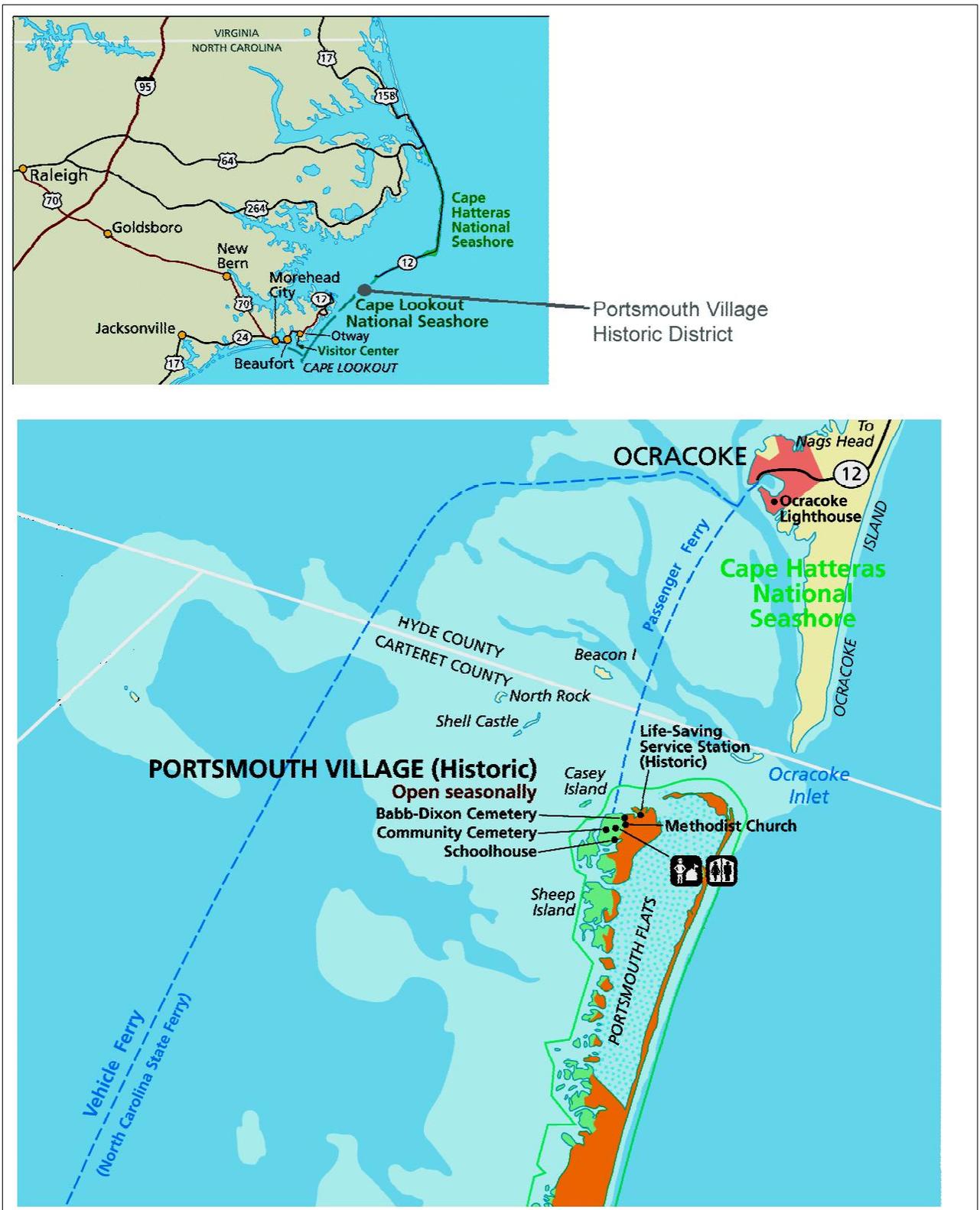
The banks are a long series of low sand hills that stretch south and east from the Virginia state line to Cape Hatteras and then turn sharply southwest from Ocracoke Inlet and Cape Lookout, a total distance of nearly 175 miles. The banks are separated from mainland North

120. U.S. Census Bureau, 2000 census data.

121. Ibid.

122. National Park Service, *Cape Lookout Environmental Assessment, Alternatives of General Management Plan and Wilderness Study* (Denver: National Park Service, Denver Service Center, February 1978), 25.

123. Fred M. Mallison, *The Civil War on the Outer Banks* (Jefferson, North Carolina: McFarland & Company, 1998), 3, 8, 9.



Source: National Park Service.



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Map Prepared by John Milner Associates, Inc.

Figure 23.
Site location and context maps.

Carolina by shallow inland seas, or sounds. To the north of Roanoke Island are Albemarle Sound and its much smaller neighbors, Currituck, Croatan, and Roanoke Sounds. The great Pamlico Sound lies to the south, with Core Sound branching off it. Each day some 15 billion gallons of water empty into these sounds from the vast network of rivers of northeastern North Carolina. Eventually, all this water finds its way to the Atlantic Ocean through the inlets, which have been carved into the Outer Banks by hurricanes and major storms and which are affected daily by tides.

Frequent and dramatic geographic shifts are a salient characteristic of the history of the Outer Banks. . . . The most apparent changes have been the opening, closing, and reopening of inlets. . . . The inlets are the only arrival and departure points for North Carolina's commercial traffic. However, only a handful of these inlets have been navigable, and at times there have been no navigable approaches to the state's inland waters. . . . Of the several inlets that have existed on the banks, only Ocracoke Inlet has remained open continuously, although it has not always been fully navigable. The settlements that have arisen on the Outer Banks, including Portsmouth, have generally been associated with a navigable inlet and have been established primarily to ease the navigational detriments to North Carolina's commerce. The tenuous existence of these towns has depended upon the erratic commercial progress of the inland ports and upon the unpredictable changes in the Outer Banks caused by natural forces.¹²⁴

Barrier islands are large, highly mobile accumulations of sand that are a result of the Pleistocene ice ages. Beginning about 18,000 years ago, melting glaciers retreated across Pennsylvania, New York, and New England, leaving behind large deposits of pulverized geological materials—sand, silt, and clay. Large river systems such as the Delaware and Susquehanna dropped this debris onto the continental shelf where it was distributed by longshore (littoral) drift. Although wave angles and longshore drift shift seasonally, the net transport of the glacially deposited material has

been from north to south. Longshore drift annually moves an estimated one million cubic yards of sand past Cape Hatteras.

As the glaciers melted, sea levels rose, driving shorelines landward, and leaving behind drowned deltas, truncated spits, and shoaling sand bars that coalesced into islands of sand.¹²⁵

Barrier islands are typically bordered on the ocean side by a remarkably straight shoreface and on the landward side by an irregular shoreline adjoining a back bay, sound, or lagoon. Islands are geomorphically zoned and, from the ocean side to the back bay, typically consist of a broad, gently-sloping beach, a berm or beach ridge, a chain of beach front (primary) dunes, a series of swales behind the primary dunes, and a group of back (secondary) dunes, which eventually give way to the bayside shoreline of tidal flats and small isolated beaches. Overwash deposits blanket areas behind the primary dunes where they are lower and more easily breached during storm surges. Overwash deposits that reach the back bay give this shoreline a typically irregular form, while the beachfront attains its straight, linear form through the repeated action of waves on a highly mobile substrate.

Barrier islands are highly ephemeral in nature, a condition that was poorly understood until the 1970s. Since then, research has shown that Core Banks and Cape Lookout have migrated more than four miles landward in the past 7,000 years, and the Outer Banks may have moved as many as forty or fifty miles since sea level began rising 18,000 years ago.¹²⁶ For example, Cape Hatteras Lighthouse was 1,500 feet from the surf in 1872, but only 150 feet away by 1983. In 2000, the structure had to be moved inland to prevent it from washing away. Landward migration is primarily driven by winds, tidal currents, through inlets, and storm washovers. Some contributing factors, such as the effects of wind and waves, are barely detectable, yet constantly at work. Other other factors, such as hurricanes and nor'easters, arrive infrequently but can elicit dramatic change. All of these forces,

124. Sarah Olson, *Historic Resource Study: Portsmouth Village, Cape Lookout National Seashore, North Carolina* (Denver: National Park Service, March 1982), 9–10.

125. Origins of barrier islands are discussed in Maurice Schwartz, *Barrier Islands* (1973) and in S.D. Halsey, "Nexus: New Model of Barrier Island Development" (1979). See references section of this report.

126. Walter Sullivan, *Landprints* (New York: New York Times Books, 1984), 232. In some places along the Outer Banks, tree stumps from former maritime forests and peat deposited in back bay marshes are exposed along the ocean beaches, as are shells from oysters that once lived in the back bay.

whether ongoing processes or extraordinary events, are responsible for rolling the islands landward, continually moving sand from the shoreface into the back bay. “Vegetation is critical in maintaining what little stability exists on the barrier islands. Extensive root systems of maritime grasses help to stabilize sediments, whether windblown or waterborne. The grasses themselves tend to trap windblown sand. In this way, dunes build naturally and topography is elevated just enough so that other forms of plant life can take root.”¹²⁷

Maritime forests—woody plant communities that arise through secondary succession on coastal dune systems—once characterized portions of the Outer Banks. They are generally restricted to the coastal barrier islands as they develop under the influence of oceanic exposure and conditions including salt spray, wind shear, low water availability, and nutrient-poor soils. They are more likely to arise on the stabilized dunes of the sound side of islands, such as where Portsmouth Village Historic District is located. While there are currently no maritime forest areas represented on the island, they were likely present at the time of European-American settlement. Lopazanski suggests “early settlements such as Old Nags Head, Ocracoke, Portsmouth, and Diamond City were established in these island ‘oases.’ It was within the maritime forests that early settlers found homesites that were less susceptible to flood waters, high winds, and harsh temperatures.”¹²⁸ Maritime forests are associated with two primary tree species: Eastern red cedar (*Juniperus virginiana*) and live oak (*Quercus virginiana*). Other species frequently found in varying degrees within maritime forest areas include trees such as loblolly pine (*Pinus taeda*), red maple (*Acer rubrum*), sweetbay magnolia (*Magnolia virginiana*), black ash (*Fraxinus tomentosa*), American holly (*Ilex opaca*), and shrubs such as willow (*Salix spp.*), wax myrtle (*Myrica cerifera*), and red osier (*Cornus spp.*). The composition of the forests is directly tied to local environmental conditions and natural and cultural disturbance history. While Portsmouth Village may have at one time supported stands of maritime forest, today it is characterized by shrub thicket vegetation

composed of an impenetrable tangle of small trees, shrubs, and vines. This condition is primarily due to past cultural disturbances.

Salt marshes occur on the Outer Banks in two types that are directly tied to tidal inundation. Low salt marshes occur along the low to high tide fluctuation zone and are dominated by smooth cordgrass (*Spartina alterniflora*), which can survive anaerobically. The high salt marsh occurs above the mean high tide mark, but is still subject to salt water inundation during spring and storm tides. This marsh is dominated by salt meadow cordgrass (*Spartina patens*), black needlerush (*Juncus roemerianus*), and various forbs.

Cape Lookout National Seashore is located along the Atlantic flyway. Several important nesting areas occur within the park. Important habitat includes beach/berm areas, low dunes, and tidal flats. Salt marshes are also an important nurse habitat for fish and bivalves. The Eastern brown pelican, a federally listed endangered species, is prevalent within the park. The Arctic peregrine falcon, another federally listed endangered species, is an overwintering and spring visitor of the area. The Atlantic loggerhead turtle, a federally listed threatened species, is also known to nest within the park, including on Portsmouth Island.

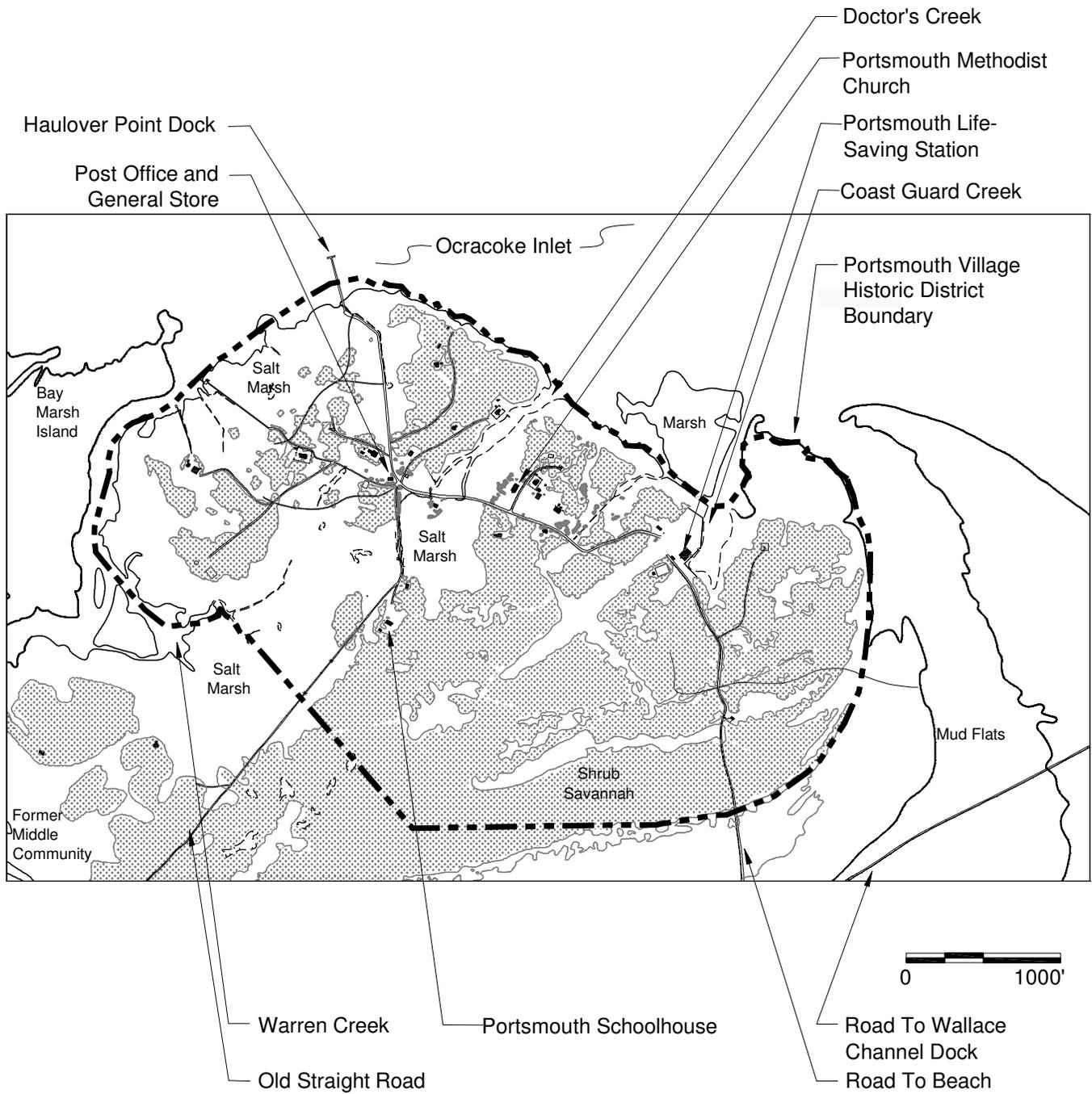
Site Description

See Fig. 24, Existing Conditions Site Map. As noted above, Portsmouth Village Historic District extends over approximately fifty acres of Portsmouth Island. Although the island is surrounded by Atlantic Ocean waters, siltation of Ocracoke Inlet in the vicinity of Portsmouth Island has led to increasing difficulties in accessing the island and by boat. The primary point of arrival is the dock at Haulover Point. Only boats with very shallow drafts can currently access this dock, however.

The primary organizing element of the former village is a pair of circulation routes that meet near the heart or core of the village. These roads extend

127. National Park Service, *Final Environmental Impact Statement: General Management Plan / Development Concept Plan: Cape Lookout National Seashore, North Carolina* (Carteret County, North Carolina: Cape Lookout National Seashore, December 1982), 40–41.

128. Michael Lopazanski, Jonathan P. Evans, and Richard E. Shaw, “An Assessment of Maritime Forest Resources on the North Carolina Coast” (publishing information not available), 8.



Sources: 2005 GlobeXplorer NAIP aerial image, 1997 aerial image (NPS), and Portsmouth Historic Zone Base Map (NPS).



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Map Prepared by John Milner Associates, Inc.

Figure 24. Existing Conditions.

Site map

north/south from the dock at Haulover Point to the Old Road and east/west from the marsh along Warren Creek to the Portsmouth Life-Saving Station complex and beyond to the beach and tidal flats. Modest wood frame dwellings, a post office/general store, and Methodist Church edge these roads. Various unimproved access roads arise from the primary roads and lead to additional residences. Elevated landforms or hammocks dot the landscape. These have frequently been utilized to site important cultural features such as dwellings and cemeteries due to their higher topography and slight protection against flooding. Ruins of former dwellings are found on many of the hammocks. The landscape around each of the dwelling complexes is maintained in closely mown grasses; some cultural properties also include fencing around the dwelling precinct.

Dwellings and outbuilding structures such as sheds, cool houses, privies, cisterns, and above-ground septic tanks form cultural precincts associated with most properties. Beyond the precincts, much of the landscape is dominated by salt marsh, meadow or grasslands, and shrub savannahs and thickets. In the southern portion of the district and to its south, the landscape is dominated by shrub savannah that is difficult to penetrate and marshes along what is known as the Baymarsh Thorofare. The area around the Life-Saving Station is generally characterized by shrub savannah and grassland, with expansive tidal flats beyond. Between Haulover Point and the Old Main Road, the vegetation is generally a shrub thicket community. The village is edged on most sides by salt marsh, tidal flats, and creeks or Ocracoke Inlet. There is also a pine plantation that edges a portion of the village, including its grass airstrip.

The primary soil type associated with Portsmouth Island is Lafitte-Hobucken-Carteret. This is a poorly drained organic and mineral soil on nearly level land that sometimes includes mucky material formed from herbaceous plant remains over mineral sediments. It also occurs in marshes flooded frequently with salt water. These soils have a seasonal high water table and are subject to frequent flooding. Portions of the island are also associated with Newhan-Corolla Beaches soil. These soils are

on dunes near beaches and waterways, and are formed from sandy marine sediments. They are sandy throughout their soil profiles, excessively drained with very rapid permeability, and a low shrink-swell potential. They also have seasonal high water tables, which has the potential to impact septic system.

NPS activities within the district include maintenance of the buildings and landscape, interpretation through guided tours, and maintenance of a visitor contact facility near Haulover Point. Volunteers staff the facility periodically during the week from April to November. Exhibits and restrooms are available to visitors here and at the Life-Saving Station; there is also a comfort station along the Road to the Beach. A historic lease program affords opportunities for seasonal use of the village dwellings. In 1982, the GMP noted that there were twelve special use permits in effect for occupancy of structures in Portsmouth Village at that time; today there are six. These permits are intended to help protect the historic structures in the village.¹²⁹ The leases are popular with fishermen.

Existing Conditions Documentation by Landscape Characteristic

Natural Systems and Features

See Fig. 25, Natural Systems and Features, Responses to Natural Resources, and Topography. Natural resources associated with the Portsmouth Village Historic District include island landforms, tidal creeks, sandy hammocks, and vegetation communities ranging from salt marshes to shrub savannahs. All of the plant communities on the island have been heavily impacted by cultural activities, particularly the raising of livestock, which were allowed to graze over much of the island until the 1950s. Oral histories suggest that vegetation was periodically burned in the past to encourage new growth for grazing.¹³⁰

Mount Truxton. This landform is a high point in the eastern portion of the island that appears on

129. *Final Environmental Impact Statement* (December 1982), 54.

130. National Park Service, "Natural Resources Management Plan for Cape Lookout National Seashore, North Carolina, Management Report No. 14" (Harkers Island, North Carolina: Cape Lookout National Seashore, December 1976), 18.

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historic maps. It is described as a lookout point for the village. The location of Mount Truxston was not identified during this study.

Haulover Point. Haulover Point is a natural extension of the island's landform that is used as a landing area.

Doctor's Creek. Two tidal creeks extend from the heart of the village to the shoreline. These include Doctor's Creek and Coast Guard Creek. Doctor's Creek is located in the central part of the village below Haulover Point (Fig. 26). The Henry Pigott House was constructed along the creek margin to take advantage of the boat access once afforded from this location. A dock extends from the house precinct into the creek. Pigott was once the mail carrier for the island and received mail deliveries at this dock. The creek has two branches that extend to the main east/west roadway and converge west of the McWilliams-Dixon House. Wooden bridges carry the road over these branches. This tidal creek appears to be in good condition, although sand deposits have made it very difficult to access this part of the island, and the creek likely does not serve boat traffic as well as it did in the past.

Coast Guard Creek. Coast Guard Creek extends south from the Life-Saving Station to Ocracoke Inlet along the eastern margin of the historic district (Fig. 27). This creek was an important consideration in the siting of the Portsmouth Life-Saving Station. While the building is sited far enough inland to be relatively sheltered, access to the coastal waters for the Life-Saving Station rescue boats was afforded via this creek. In 1908, the Life-Saving Station crew dammed the western end of Coast Guard Creek just east of the station and backfilled with sand, which significantly shortened the creek.¹³¹ A seawall and ramps were constructed in 1918 along the edge of the creek to facilitate access to the water for rescue boats. Siltation has occurred within the creek, evidenced by the portions of the seawall now embedded in its banks. Otherwise, this tidal creek appears to be in good condition.

Warren Creek. This tidal creek edges the historic district to the west. The Keller-Styron Cemetery sits atop a hammock overlooking the creek. This creek also appears to be in good condition.



FIGURE 26. View northeast toward Doctor's Creek from the Henry Pigott House.



FIGURE 27. View northeast along Coast Guard Creek.



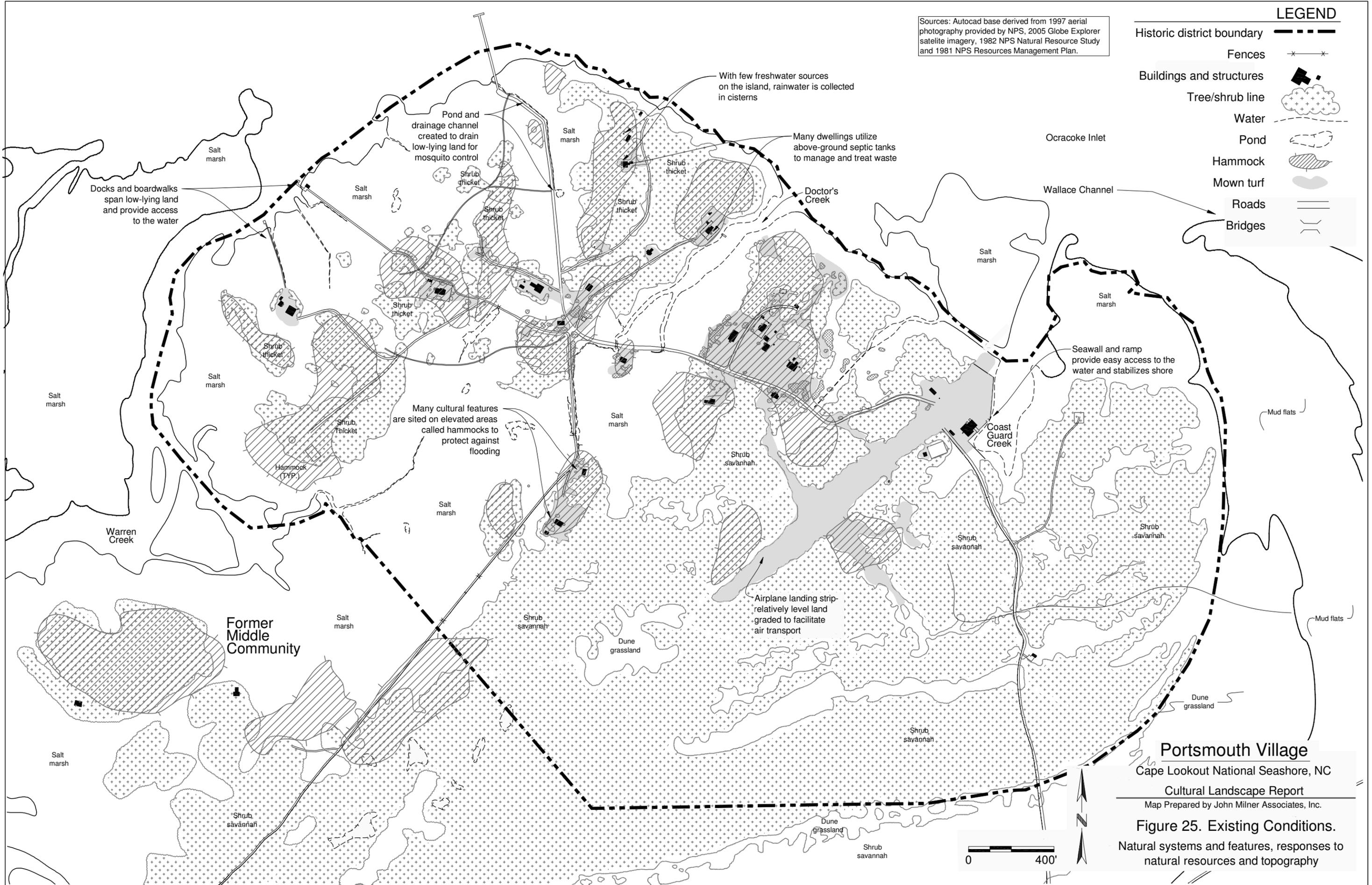
FIGURE 28. View northeast of Ocracoke Inlet from north of Portsmouth Village, and a fishing structure.

131. Tommy Jones, *Portsmouth Life-Saving Station Historic Structure Report* (Atlanta, Georgia: National Park Service, 2006), 30, citing station logbook for August 11–12, 1908.

Sources: Autocad base derived from 1997 aerial photography provided by NPS, 2005 Globe Explorer satellite imagery, 1982 NPS Natural Resource Study and 1981 NPS Resources Management Plan.

LEGEND

- Historic district boundary 
- Fences 
- Buildings and structures 
- Tree/shrub line 
- Water 
- Pond 
- Hammock 
- Mown turf 
- Roads 
- Bridges 



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Figure 25. Existing Conditions.

Natural systems and features, responses to natural resources and topography





FIGURE 29. View southeast from Haulover Point Road of one of the marsh areas dominated by black needlegrass.



FIGURE 30. View southeast of one of the marsh areas dominated by salt meadow cordgrass. This marsh is located near the T. T. Potter House.



FIGURE 31. An example of shrub savannah vegetation near the Styron-Bragg House.

Ocracoke Inlet. This water body extends between Ocracoke Island and Portsmouth Island (Fig. 28). The inlet, while currently too shallow for most boat traffic, once served as a primary shipping thoroughfare between Pamlico Sound and the Atlantic Ocean. Casey Island is located to the northwest of Portsmouth Island at the edge of the inlet; Shell Castle Island sits further to the west within Pamlico Sound. Wallace Channel sits within the inlet and extends outside of the historic district. It can be reached via a pedestrian path that arises from the Road to the Beach. A dock is located along the edge of the channel.

Hammocks. Hammocks are sandy landforms that are slightly more elevated than their surroundings. On Portsmouth Island, there are numerous hammocks located within the historic district. They have been utilized to site cultural features due to the slight protection against flooding afforded by their elevation. The hammocks generally appear to be stable and in good condition.

Salt and Brackish Marshes. Salt and brackish marsh occupies much of the western portion of the district, its southern margins, and the margins of Doctor's and Coast Guard Creeks (Fig. 29 and Fig. 30). These naturally-occurring plant communities arise over areas that are regularly inundated with salt water due to tides. The primary species characteristic of the low marsh are smooth cordgrass and saltwort (*Salicornia perennis*). Other glassworts, sea lavender (*Limonium carolinianum*), and salt grass (*Distichlis spicata*) may also be present. The high marsh is more diverse, and characterized by saltmeadow cordgrass, sea ox-eye (*Borrichia frutescens*), and various rushes (*Juncus spp.*). Brackish marshes are dominated by saltmeadow cordgrass, fimbristylus (*Fimbristylis spp.*), little bluestem (*Andropogon virginicus*), foxtail grass (*Setaria geniculata*), and panic grass (*Panicum spp.*). Shrubby components of the marshes include marsh elder (*Iva frutescens*), silverling (*Baccharis halmifolia*), and sometimes wax myrtle. Needlegrass and sedges (*Scirpus americanus*) are also present in brackish marshes. These communities appear generally to be in good condition. No invasive alien plant species were observed to be threatening these communities during field investigations conducted for this project.

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Shrub Savannah and Shrub Thicket. Shrub savannahs and shrub thickets are present over portions of the Portsmouth Village Historic District (Fig. 31 and Fig. 32). These plant communities are characterized by species such as Eastern red cedar, yaupon holly (*Ilex vomitoria*), and wax myrtle but differ in their degrees of woody plant cover. Additional species that may be present include persimmon (*Diospyros virginiana*), poison ivy (*Rhus radicans*), Hercules' club (*Zanthoxylum clava-herculis*), live oak, silverling, marsh elder, beautyberry (*Callicarpa americana*), red mulberry (*Morus rubra*), dogwood (*Cornus stricta*), bamboo vine (*Smilax laurifolia*), Virginia creeper (*Parthenocissus quinquefolia*), pepper vine (*Ampelopsis arborea*), and muscadine grape (*Vitis rotundifolia*). Savannah communities are characterized by grasslands dotted with open grown shrubs and small trees. Thickets include more woody vegetation, and arise in response to increased protection against wind and salt spray from the ocean and overwashes. Both of these community types generally appear to be in good condition. No invasive alien plant species were observed to be threatening these communities during field investigations conducted for this project.

Grassland. Also present within the historic district are open grasslands dominated primarily by grasses and forbs (Fig. 33). These occur where woody growth is less apt to become established because of winds, salt spray, a lack of available soil moisture, and the potential for overwash or storm damage. Species characteristic of Portsmouth Village grasslands include: saltmeadow cordgrass, water pennywort (*Hydrocotyle bonariensis*), seaside goldenrod (*Solidago sempervirens*), fimbriatylis, and purple muhly (*Muhlenbergia capillaris*). The grassland areas serve as habitat for various birds such as the common Eastern meadowlark, mourning dove, boat-tailed grackle, and marsh hawk. This plant community type generally appears to be in good condition. No invasive alien plant species were observed to be threatening these communities during field investigations conducted for this project. Both the shrub and grassland communities generally appear to be migrating toward the tidal flats, forming very clear bands of vegetation. Scientific study is being conducted by local natural resource specialists to determine the cause of this unusual successional pattern.



FIGURE 32. An example of shrub thicket vegetation near the schoolhouse.



FIGURE 33. An example of grassland vegetation near the tidal flats.



FIGURE 34. View northwest along the dock behind the Styron-Bragg House. The dock is one of four dock and boardwalk complexes located within the district that provides access to the water.



FIGURE 35. View northeast along the seawall and ramp that afforded access to Coast Guard Creek for Life-Saving Station needs.



FIGURE 37. During the Works Progress Administration era, a pond and channels are said to have been excavated as a mosquito control measure within Portsmouth Village. This is a view southeast of one of the channels edging Haulover Point Road.



FIGURE 36. View southwest along the airplane landing strip, which was sited to take advantage of a relatively level part of the island.



FIGURE 38. The pond purportedly excavated for mosquito control, shown here, is also located along Haulover Point Road.

Responses to Natural Resources

See Fig. 25, Natural Systems and Features, Responses to Natural Resources, and Topography. The cultural responses to natural resources in evidence within the district include the use of docks and boardwalks to facilitate access to the water; bridges to cross tidal creeks; the establishment of a seawall and ramps at the Portsmouth Life-Saving Station to facilitate access to the water; ditching for mosquito control; the siting of cultural features on hammocks to avoid flooding; the use of cisterns to collect and store rainwater; the use of above-ground septic systems to avoid pollution of the saturated soils; and the establishment of an airstrip on the island's most level area.

Docks and boardwalks. Four docks within the historic district provide access to the water and a mooring for boats (Fig. 34). These are located at Haulover Point, near the T. T. Potter House, behind the Styron-Bragg House, and adjacent to the Henry Pigott House. Boardwalks are utilized at Haulover Point, near the T. T. Potter House, and behind the Styron-Bragg House to cross salt marshes that occur between a dwelling and a dock.

Seawalls and ramp. The margin of Coast Guard Creek is edged by a seawall and ramp system associated with the Life-Saving Station (Fig. 35). The seawall was complete in 1918. The ramps were used to facilitate transfer of rescue boats from the boat house to the water and the seawall to maintain clear access to the water. In 1908, the Life-Saving Station



FIGURE 39. Most of the cultural resources present within the historic district, including this cemetery, are sited on high points called hammocks to protect against flooding.



FIGURE 40. Cisterns like the U.S. Marine Hospital structure shown here are used to store rainwater on the island and are the primary source of fresh water.

crew dammed the western end of Coast Guard Creek just east of the station and backfilled with sand, which significantly shortened the creek.¹³²

Airplane landing strip. A relatively level section of the island near the Life-Saving Station complex was adapted as an airstrip during the 1940s (Fig. 36). Some of the area was regraded to establish the airstrip.

Pond and channels. At least one culturally-derived pond and two channels exist within the village that are said to have been established through the Works Progress Administration in support of mosquito control during the 1930s or 1940s (Fig. 37 and

Fig. 38). The pond lies east of the road leading south from Haulover Point, and the channels edge Haulover Point Road and follow a portion of the Village Road. These features appear to be in good condition.

Siting of cultural features atop hammocks. The Keller cistern and Keller-Styron Cemetery are two examples of cultural features sited on hammocks for protection against storm flooding (Fig. 39).

Cisterns and wells. Most residents of Portsmouth Island derived their fresh water from the collection of rainwater stored in cisterns (Fig. 40). Most properties within the historic district have a cistern or water box. The condition of wells, water boxes and cisterns on the island and their ability to provide and store drinking water is not currently known.

A 1978 study of the ground-water resources of the Cape Lookout National Seashore provides information about the availability of freshwater within the district. It indicates that there are two aquifers that underlie the Core Banks, an upper confined sand aquifer, or freshwater lens, and a lower confined system comprised of upper and lower strata. The confined system is thought to retain fresh water south of New Drum Inlet.¹³³ The study indicated the presence of several shallow wells and three deeper wells within the vicinity in the late 1970s: one on Casey Island; one associated with the Margaret Wallace property outside the district; and a third associated with the Charles McKay property, which appears to be located in the vicinity of the Henry Pigott House. The well on Casey Island (Ct-134) is indicated as 306 feet deep and having been drilled in 1910. This well may have originally reached the lower confined aquifer, but could only be sounded to the upper confined aquifer in 1978. The connection to this well is said to have been broken by the impact of a boat hitting the pipe and no longer exists. The Wallace property well was described as eight feet deep and yielding five gallons per minute. The well on the Charles McKay property was described as three feet deep, yielding five gallons per minute, and associated with the upper unconfined aquifer that extends beneath the Core Banks.

132. Ibid.

133. *Final Environmental Impact Statement* (December 1982), 39.

The existence of these wells was not confirmed by this study. The study also indicates the following about fresh water sources within the district:

A relatively large area around the Village of Portsmouth is estimated to be underlain by a lens of freshwater, based on the data from [two wells]. Most of the island, however, is less than 5 feet in altitude and is subject to overwash from storms, which could temporarily contaminate the freshwater lens with saltwater. . . It is probable that the aquifer contains saltwater beneath this section of Portsmouth Island.¹³⁴

Above-ground septic systems. Many of the dwellings on Portsmouth Island have above-ground septic tanks for managing and treating effluent (Fig. 41). These tanks are generally located in close association with the houses and enclosed within low wood fencing, which obscures much of the view of the feature but does not impede maintenance access. Given the high water table on the island, these tanks are likely an important adaptation to existing conditions.

Topography and Topographic Modifications

See Fig. 25, Natural Systems and Features, Responses to Natural Resources, and Topography. Much of Portsmouth Island is relatively level. Most of the island is only about five feet above mean sea level at high tide. The highest elevation on the island is approximately eight feet above mean sea level, which occurs in two locations overlooking the tidal mud flats outside of the historic district. Within the historic district, the high point is generally considered to be the area where the marine hospital was once sited near the existing brick cistern. Otherwise, the landform of the island gently undulates between lower-lying areas and the slightly higher sand mounds known as hammocks. Ditches have been established to drain some of the lower lying lands, such as the road to Haulover Point, for mosquito control.

Grading to establish landing strip. Personal communication with local residents suggests that the relatively level expanse of the airstrip was established through minor grading during the 1940s



FIGURE 41. Above-ground septic systems are typically used for wastewater treatment and management in association with most buildings.



FIGURE 42. View northeast along the island's airstrip established in the 1940s with limited grading.

(Fig. 42). This landscape feature continues to be maintained in mown grass and is in good condition.

Hammocks. Although these landforms are only raised slightly above the surrounding elevation, they have traditionally afforded local residents a degree of protection against flooding and overwashes.

Pond and channels. As noted above, there are at least one pond and two channels within the village that appear to be culturally-derived. These are located in lower-lying marshy areas along the road leading south from Haulover Point and the Village Road.

134. M.D. Winner, Jr., "Ground-Water Resources of the Cape Lookout National Seashore, North Carolina" (Raleigh: U.S. Geological Survey, June 1978), 49.

Patterns of Spatial Organization

Relationship of building sites to water

transportation. In addition to the Portsmouth Life-Saving Station complex, there are some dwellings on the island that have been sited to take advantage of proximity to the water. The Henry Pigott and the T. T. Potter Houses are the primary examples of cultural features that have direct connections to the water through docks and boardwalks. The relationship between the village and the water is partially obscured today by woody vegetation.

Streetscape of dwellings, church, and post office and general store along main roads; crossroads community.

Many of the village features are sited along the Village Road between its intersection with the Haulover Point Road/Old Road and the Life-Saving Station complex (Fig. 43). In addition to numerous dwellings, this relatively open streetscape also includes the Post Office and General Store and the Portsmouth Methodist Church. The streetscape is in relatively good condition, but trees sometimes obscure formerly important visual connections.

Precincts associated with cultural features. Many of the dwellings, institutional buildings, and cemeteries located within the historic district have distinct precincts delineated by perimeter fences, closely mown turf, and collections of outbuildings oriented along the same axes as the primary dwelling or building (Fig. 44). These precincts are maintained in mown lawn and are relatively legible and therefore in good condition.

Siting of Schoolhouse. The current entrance to the schoolhouse faces southwest, away from the existing access road to the building (Fig. 45). The original entrance to the building was located on the east facade, behind the existing cistern.

Land Uses

See Fig. 46, Land Uses, Circulation, and Views and Vistas. The primary land use of the district is educational/museum/interpretive. Other land uses associated with the historic district include residential, recreational, and cemetery.

Educational/Museum/Interpretive. The primary land use associated with Portsmouth Village Historic District is educational/museum/interpretive. The NPS protects and maintains the historic properties located within the district and



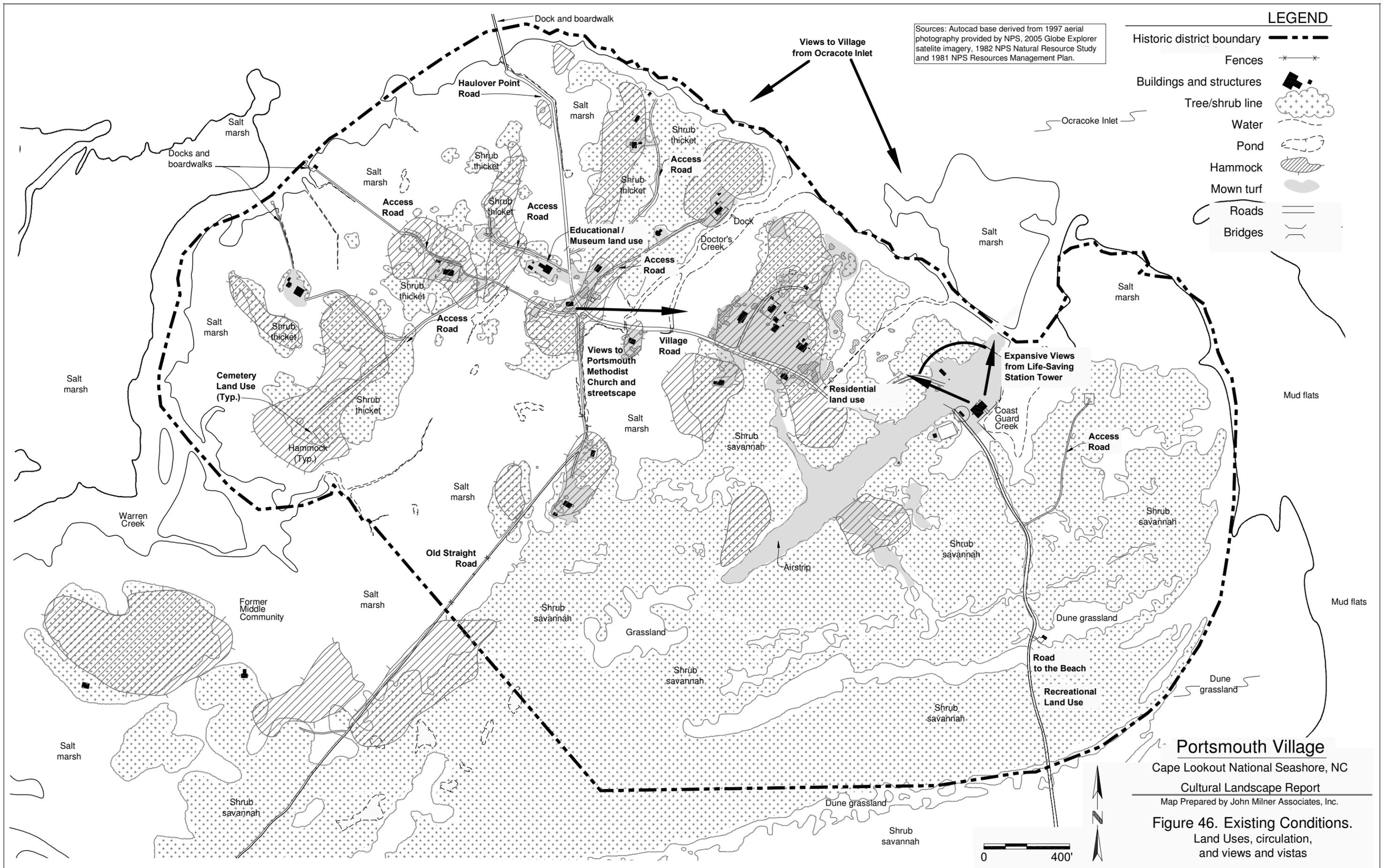
FIGURE 43. Many of the village properties are sited along the Village Road, forming an open streetscape.



FIGURE 44. Most of the properties located within the historic district, such as the Styron-Bragg House shown here, are maintained through close mowing of the grass to establish an open precinct around the buildings.



FIGURE 45. The original entrance to the schoolhouse was at the end wall where the cistern is now located. This former entrance was closed up when the building was converted to living quarters circa 1940s.



Sources: Autocad base derived from 1997 aerial photography provided by NPS, 2005 Globe Explorer satellite imagery, 1982 NPS Natural Resource Study and 1981 NPS Resources Management Plan.

LEGEND

- Historic district boundary: - - - - -
- Fences: - x - x -
- Buildings and structures: [Symbol]
- Tree/shrub line: [Symbol]
- Water: [Symbol]
- Pond: [Symbol]
- Hammock: [Symbol]
- Mown turf: [Symbol]
- Roads: [Symbol]
- Bridges: [Symbol]

Views to Village from Ocracote Inlet

Expansive Views from Life-Saving Station Tower

Views to Portsmouth Methodist Church and streetscape

Portsmouth Village

Cape Lookout National Seashore, NC

Cultural Landscape Report

Map Prepared by John Milner Associates, Inc.

Figure 46. Existing Conditions.

Land Uses, circulation, and views and vistas

0 400'

makes them available for visitor education. There are numerous opportunities for interpretation within the district, particularly in association with exhibits housed within the Visitor Contact facility and the Life-Saving Station, and information conveyed about many of the other properties through signage and brochures.

Residential. While there are currently no full-time residents of the village, historic lease programs associated with dwellings such as the Henry Pigott House and occasional use of the Life-Saving Station kitchen for housing NPS personnel constitute on-going residential uses within the historic district.

Recreational. The primary recreational land uses associated with the historic district are the opportunity to walk throughout the village landscape and to the beach, and to picnic, fish, and view wildlife.

Cemetery. There are numerous small cemeteries located throughout the historic district. While there have not been any burials in these cemeteries since the 1970s, it appears that there are no legal restrictions preventing descendants of former residents from being buried in one of the Portsmouth Island cemeteries.¹³⁵

Circulation

See Fig. 46, Land Uses, Circulation, and Views and Vistas. There are two primary road systems located within the historic district, and various secondary or access roads that lead to residences. These roads are all generally unimproved and composed of sand surfaces maintained through periodic grading. Circulation features listed on the LCS (LCS 012532) include eight unimproved roads, described as eight to ten feet wide, with a total length of 8,400 feet, and in good condition. None are mapped or named, however, so it is not clear which of the roads described herein are included on the LCS. The CLR documented twelve road corridors within the historic district.

Haulover Point Road. This road is a long, straight, sand road that extends between Haulover Point and the Old Straight Road (Fig. 47 and Fig. 48). The northern portion of the road frequently floods, and remains wet, causing visitors difficulty when they arrive on the island. The road is generally in good



FIGURE 47. View south along Haulover Point Road.



FIGURE 48. Haulover Point Road, as seen here, often exhibits ponding and standing water, which can be a problem for visitors.



FIGURE 49. View northwest along the Village Road.

135. Personal communication, Michael Rikard, Resource Management Specialist, Cape Lookout National Seashore, April 2007.

EXISTING CONDITIONS

condition, except for where ponding occurs near the boardwalk.

Village Road. Haulover Point Road intersects the primary west/east trending road - the Village Road - that extends between the dock behind the Styron-Bragg House and the Portsmouth Life-Saving Station, near the Post Office and General Store (Fig. 49). This road crosses various tidal creeks and drainages, with wooden bridges serving as water crossings. This road is generally in good condition, although sections near the Methodist Church appear to regularly experience ponding. Additional roads lead off of this primary east/west route, providing access to various dwellings, cemetery sites, and the Road to the Beach as noted below.

Road to the Beach. The Road to the Beach extends from the Life-Saving Station complex south to the beach and tidal mud flats that edge the historic district (Fig. 50). This road is variously surfaced with graded sand and mown grass. An access road leads to the two seamen's graves from the Road to the Beach. The road is generally in good condition.

Old Straight Road. The Old Straight Road is the historic route of travel between Portsmouth Village and the Middle Community (Fig. 51). It joins Haulover Point Road near the Schoolhouse. This route has a mown grass surface. The portion of the road that is interpreted within the historic district is in good to fair condition, although it requires constant maintenance to remain unobstructed by vegetative growth. Beyond the historic district boundary, this road is difficult to follow due to overgrown vegetation.

Access Road to Dixon-Salter House, Portsmouth Cemetery, and Will Willis House ruins. This access road leads west from Haulover Point Road near the Dixon-Salter House and the village crossroads (Fig. 52). The road splits; one branch leads to Portsmouth Cemetery and the other to the Will Willis House ruins. This road has a mown-grass surface. It is generally in good condition, but becomes increasingly overgrown near its terminus.

Access Road to Robert Wallace, Tom Gilgo, and Henry Pigott Houses. This road leads northeast from the Village Road and partially parallels the access road to the Carl Dixon and Frank Gaskill Houses (Fig. 53 and Fig. 58). It extends to the Henry Pigott House along Doctor's Creek. The road has a



FIGURE 50. View south along the Road to the Beach.



FIGURE 51. View southwest along the Old Straight Road near the Schoolhouse.



FIGURE 52. View southwest toward the village crossroads.



FIGURE 53. View northeast along the access road to the Robert Wallace, Tom Gilgo, and Henry Pigott Houses.



FIGURE 56. View east along the access road to the Ed Styron House.



FIGURE 54. View west along the access road to the T. T. Potter House.



FIGURE 57. View northeast along the access road to the Two Seamen's Graves.



FIGURE 55. View south along the access road to the Schoolhouse and the Cecil Gilgo House.



FIGURE 58. View north along the access road near the Tom Gilgo House.

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mown-grass surface and is generally in good condition.

Access Road to T. T. Potter House, dock, and Keller-Styron Cemetery. This road arises near the Styron-Bragg House and leads south/southwest from the Village Road (Fig. 54). The sand- and grass-surfaced road splits; one branch leads to the Keller-Styron Cemetery, the other to the T. T. Potter House. This road is generally in good condition.

Access Road to Carl Dixon and Frank Gaskill Houses. This access road arises from Haulover Point Road near the Dixon-Salter House and leads east/northeast. The road has a mown-grass surface and is generally in good condition.

Access Road to Schoolhouse and Cecil Gilgo House. This access road arises at the intersection of Haulover Point Road and the Old Straight Road (Fig. 55). It has a mown-grass surface and provides access to the Cecil Gilgo House and the Schoolhouse. This road is generally in good condition, although there is vegetation along its perimeter in some areas that must be maintained to keep the road passable.

Access Road to Ed Styron House. This access road leads northeast from the vicinity of the Portsmouth Methodist Church (Fig. 56). It has a mown-grass surface. The road has been damaged by heavy vehicles and the NPS is working to mitigate the damage.

Access Road to Styron-Bragg House and Boardwalk and Dock. This access road leads west from Haulover Point Road and provides access to the Styron-Bragg House area and a boardwalk leading to a dock along the western edge of the island.

Access Road to Two Seamen's Graves. This modest access road has a mown-grass surface (Fig. 57). It leads north from the Road to the Beach to the site of two graves. This road is generally in good condition.

Airstrip. This circulation feature, located near the Life-Saving Station, is no longer in use. It has a mown-grass surface and extends between the edges of the marshland to the north of the Life-Saving Station inland in a southwesterly direction for approximately 1,600 feet. It crosses between the Life-Saving Station and the Life-Saving Station



FIGURE 59. Brick and concrete steps lead to the Dixon-Salter House porch.



FIGURE 60. Wood steps lead to the entrance to the Post Office and General Store.



FIGURE 61. A wood ramp provides access for vehicles into the T. T. Potter Shed.

Stables building. This feature is generally in good condition.

Small-scale Circulation Features

Dixon-Salter House, brick and concrete steps. A concrete stair, consisting of two risers with a ground-level concrete landing, provides access to the front porch of the Dixon-Salter House (Fig. 59). The stair is flanked to either side by 18-inch-tall brick walls capped with concrete. These steps appear to have been repaired recently and are in good condition.

Post Office and General Store, wooden steps, front. A set of unpainted wood steps without handrails leads to the front entry of the Post Office and General Store (Fig. 60). The steps have three risers simply constructed of stringers and planks. The steps appear to be in good condition.

Post Office and General Store, wooden steps, side. A set of unpainted wood steps, also without handrails, leads to the south entry of the Post Office and General Store. There are three risers simply constructed of stringers and planks. The steps appear to be in good condition.

Robert Wallace House, wooden steps, front. A set of unpainted wood steps without handrails leads to the front porch of the house. The steps have two risers and are simply constructed using stringers and planks. The steps appear to be in good condition.

T. T. Potter, ramp to shed. A simple wood ramp, approximately eight feet wide, provides vehicular access into the shed (Fig. 61). The ramp is not edged in any way. This ramp appears to be in good condition.

T. T. Potter, wooden steps to sheds, porches. A flight of seven unpainted wood steps without handrails, like those described for other buildings above, leads to the front entrance into the house and porches at the rear and side of the house. These steps appear to be in good condition.

Wooden steps leading to porch, Styron-Bragg House. Painted wood steps provide access to the front and side porches of the Styron-Bragg House. The steps are constructed of five wood treads that extend beyond the stringers and the face planks. There is no handrail associated with either flight of steps. These steps appear to be in good condition.



FIGURE 62. Steps lead to the porch at the Jesse Babb House.

Ramp leading to the kitchen, Styron-Bragg House. A simple narrow wood ramp provides access into the kitchen outbuilding behind the Styron-Bragg House. The ramp appears to be in good condition.

Wooden steps leading to front porch and rear door, Cecil Gilgo House. Simple wood steps with a single handrail lead to the entrances into the Cecil Gilgo House associated with porches along its front and rear. The steps appear to be in good condition.

Concrete steps and brick landing at Schoolhouse entrance. Two concrete steps lead to a five-foot-wide concrete-with-brick-surface landing outside the entrance into the Schoolhouse. The steps and landing appear to be in good condition.

Parged brick steps and concrete landing at entrance to Portsmouth Methodist Church. A concrete landing sits at the base of the Portsmouth Methodist Church. Three brick and concrete steps lead from the landing to the entrance. The concrete is parged with stucco. The steps and landing appear to be in good condition.

Wooden steps leading to front porch, Jesse Babb House. A flight of four painted wood steps without handrails lead to the front porch of the Jesse Babb House (Fig. 62). A brick landing sits at the base of the steps. The steps appear to be in good condition.

Wooden steps leading to front porch and side porch, McWilliams-Dixon House. Flights of painted wood steps lead to the front and side porches of the McWilliams-Dixon House. Both have wood handrails with posts at the base. The rear porch

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handrail also has pickets. The steps appear to be in good condition, although they may need to be painted.

Brick steps leading to porch, Dennis Mason House. Two brick steps lead to the porch of the Dennis Mason House. The brickwork is consistent with the porch columns. The steps appear to be in good condition.

Wooden steps leading to front porch and rear deck, Roy Robinson House. A narrow flight of two simple wood steps provides access to the front porch of the Roy Robinson House. The steps appear to be in good condition.

Wooden steps leading to door of the Generator Shed. A flight of four simple wood steps without handrails leads to the door of the generator shed near the Life-Saving Station. The steps appear to be in good condition.

Concrete steps leading to porch, Portsmouth Life-Saving Station. Simple concrete steps lead to the porch and entrance into the Life-Saving Station. These steps are very narrow. They are in relatively good condition, with some evidence of wear.

Concrete steps leading to front and side entrances, Portsmouth Life-Saving Station kitchen. Narrow concrete steps provide access to the two entrances into the Life-Saving Station kitchen. They are in relatively good condition, with some evidence of wear.

Concrete walks associated with the Portsmouth Life-Saving Station. Concrete walks approximately three feet wide edge the Life-Saving Station along its front facade and lead from the station to the summer kitchen, extend toward the stable, and edge the side of the building where two concrete ramps lead inside (Fig. 63). This system of concrete walks was built in 1914–1918, except for the walk to the summer kitchen, which was added in 1942. The paths are exhibiting evidence of deterioration, including cracking and spalling, and vegetative growth within many of the control joints. They are in fair to good condition.

Wooden steps leading to front and side porches, Henry Pigott House. Two sets of painted wooden steps lead to the front and side porches of the Henry Pigott House. Handrails with pickets edge the flights



FIGURE 63. Concrete walks extend between the Portsmouth Life-Saving Station and summer kitchen, as well as into the landscape.



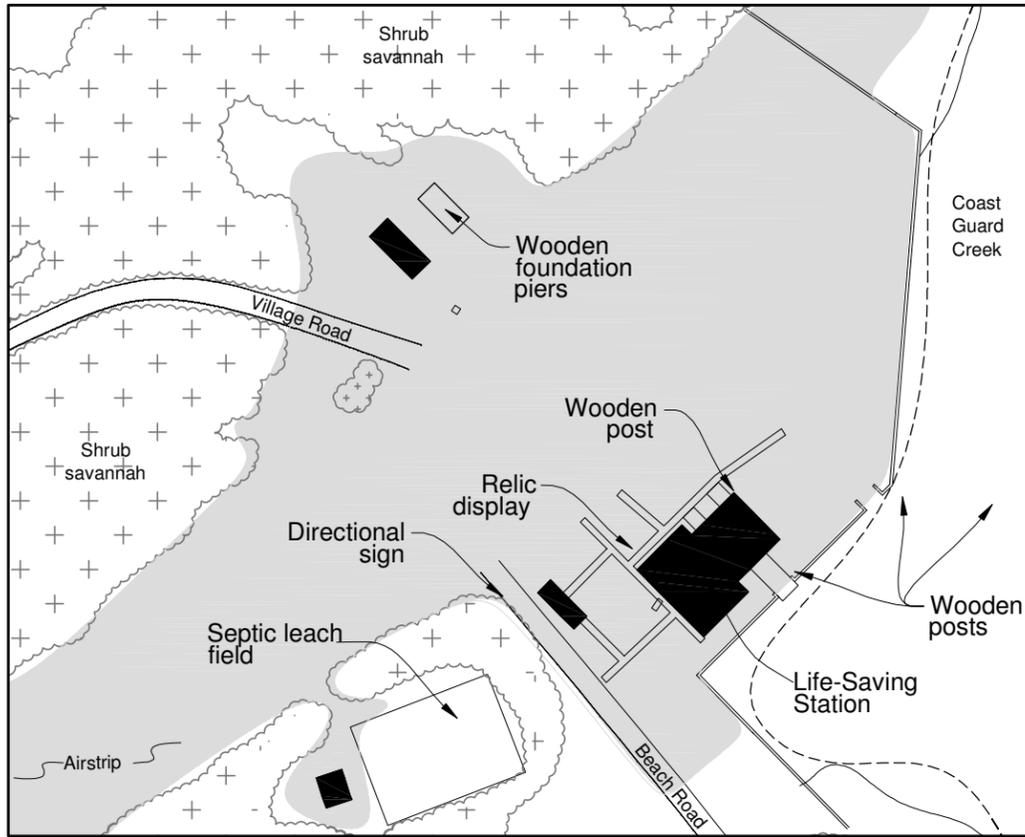
FIGURE 64. Wooden ramp and steps leading to the comfort station along the Road to the Beach.

of four steps. The steps appear to be in good condition.

Wooden steps leading to porch, Tom Gilgo House. Simple wooden steps without handrails lead to the porch along the front of the Tom Gilgo House. The steps appear to be in good condition.

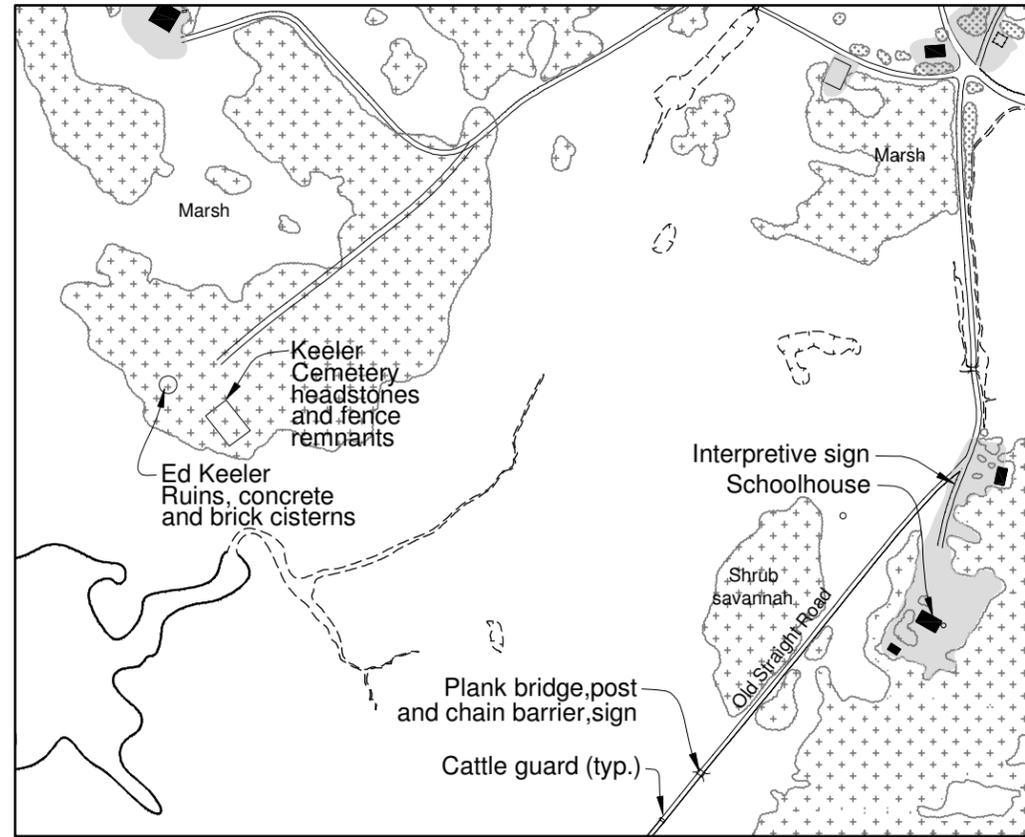
Wooden steps leading to deck on west side and east entrance, Frank Gaskill House. Simple wooden steps lead to the deck on the west side and the east entrance to the Frank Gaskill House. There are no handrails associated with the steps, which appear to be in good condition.

Wooden ramp/steps leading to the comfort station along the Road to the Beach. A long ramp system and flight of wooden steps provides access to the



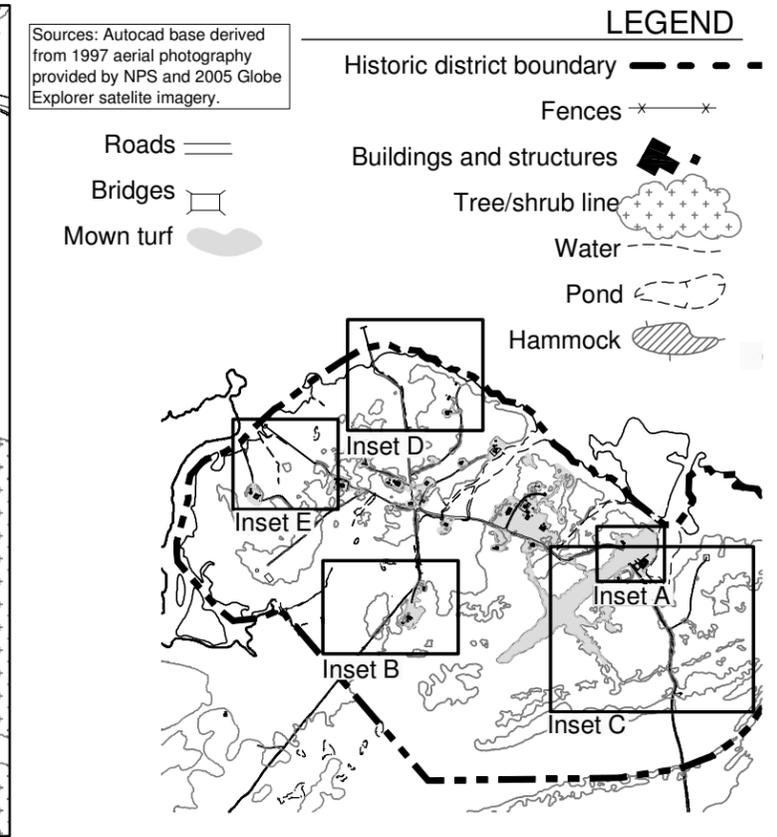
Inset A- Portsmouth Life-Saving Station Complex

0 100'



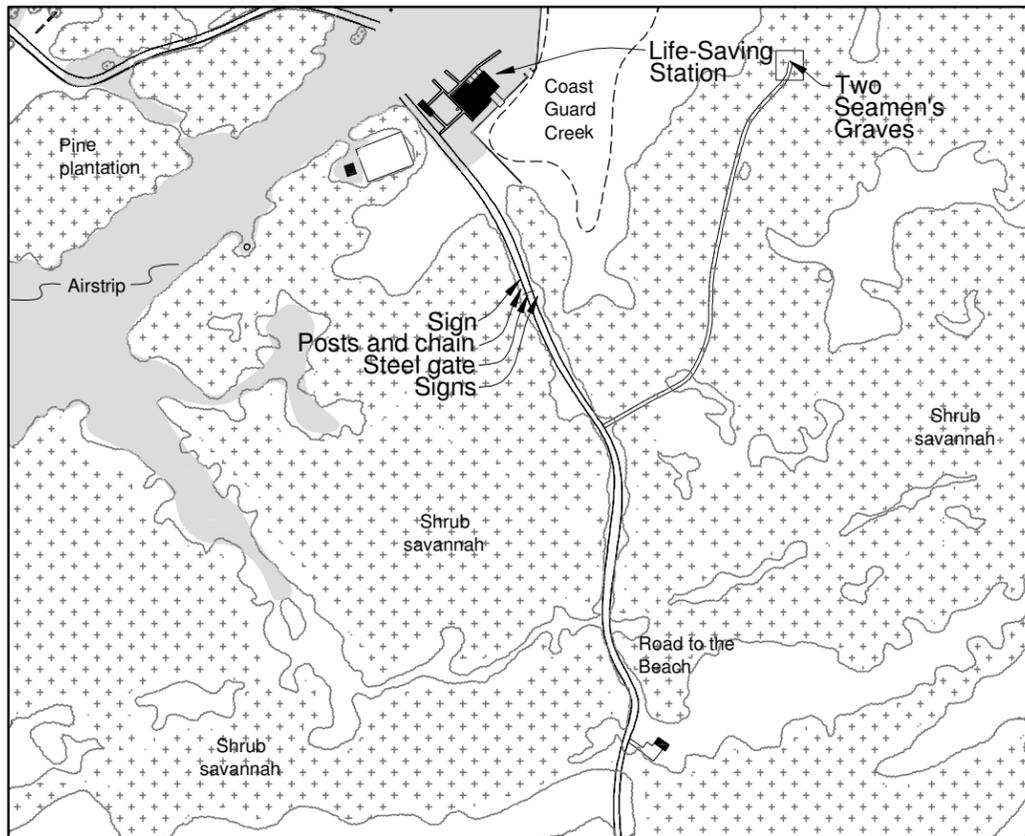
Inset B- Schoolhouse Environs

0 300'



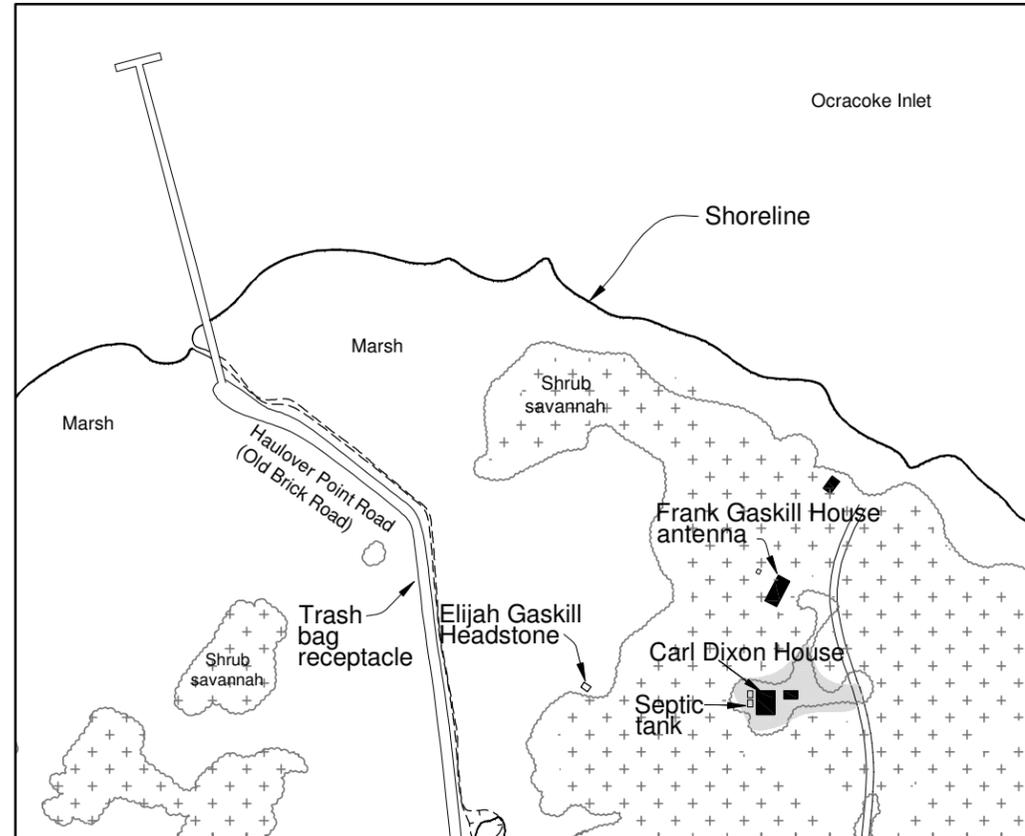
Study Area Map

0 1500'



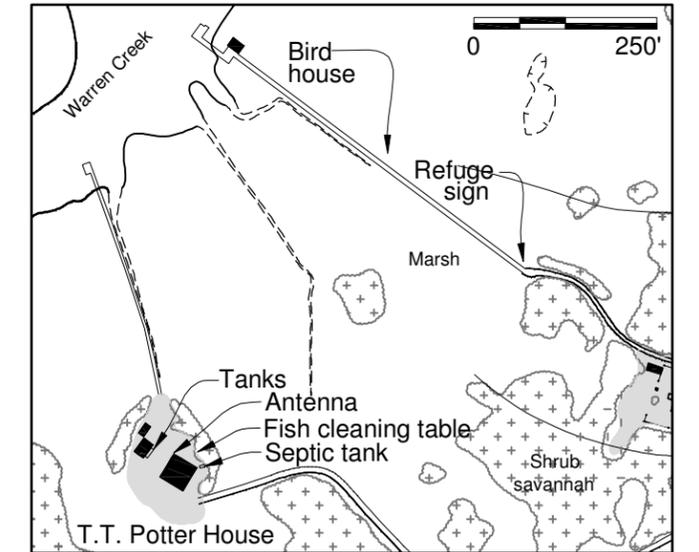
Inset C- Beach Road

0 300'



Inset D- Haulover Point

0 200'



Inset E- T.T. Potter House Environs

0 250'

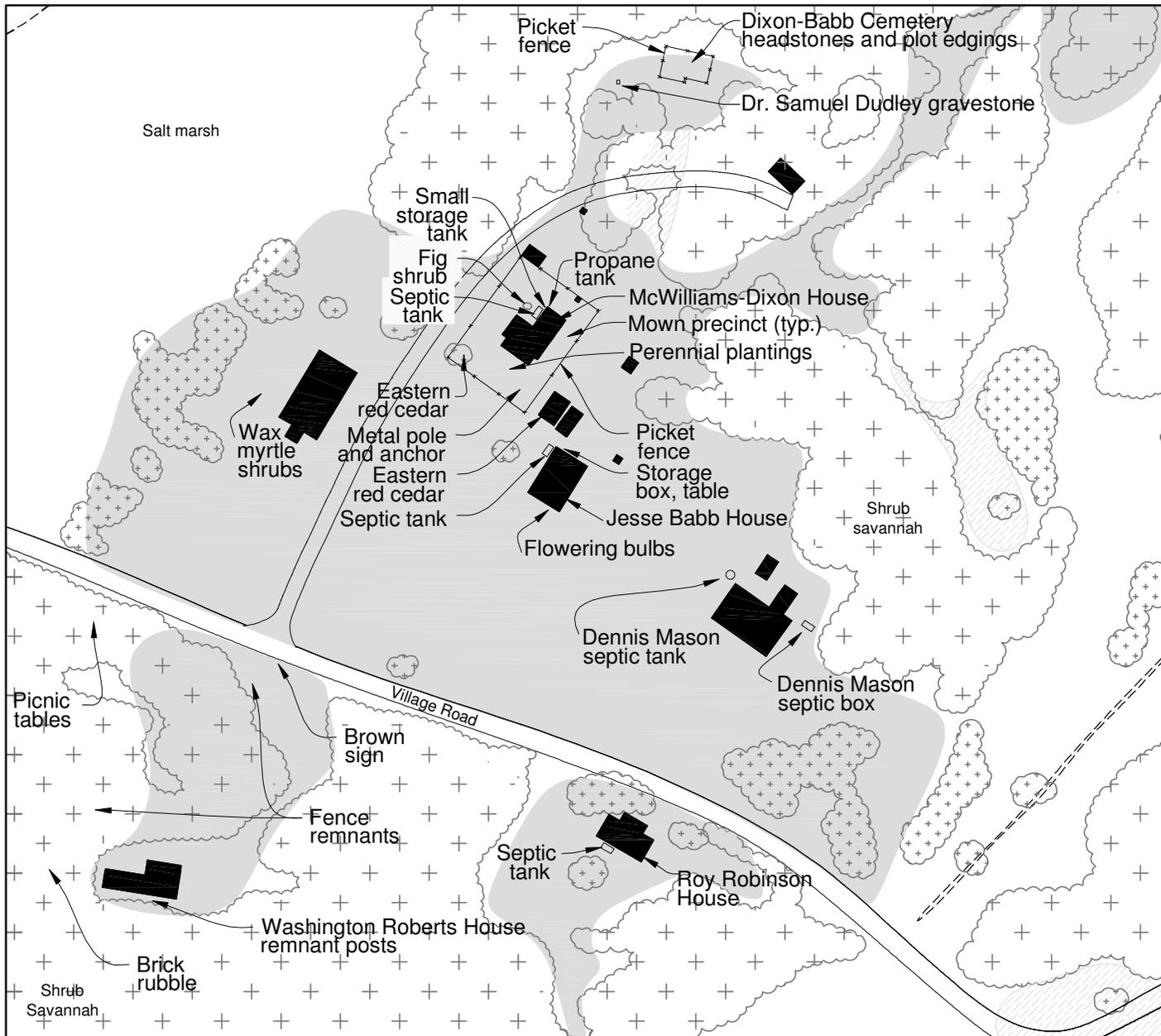
Portsmouth Village
 Cape Lookout National Seashore, NC
 Cultural Landscape Report
 Map Prepared by John Milner Associates, Inc.

Figure 65. Existing Conditions.
 Small-scale features and cultural vegetation

Sources: Autocad base derived from 1997 aerial photography provided by NPS and 2005 Globe Explorer satellite imagery.

LEGEND

- Historic district boundary - - - - -
- Roads ———
- Bridges □
- Mown turf [shaded area]
- Fences *—*—*
- Buildings and structures [black shapes]
- Tree/shrub line [cloud-like shape]
- Water [wavy lines]
- Pond [dashed outline]
- Hammock [hatched area]



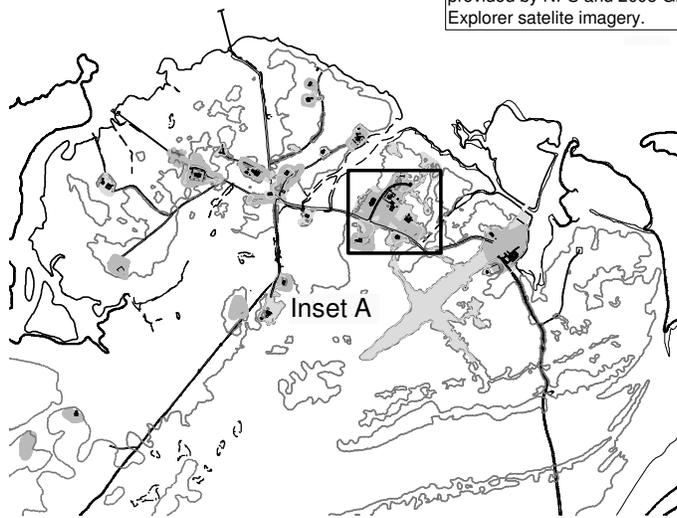
Inset A- Village Center- East

Sources: Autocad base derived from 1997 aerial photography provided by NPS and 2005 Globe Explorer satellite imagery.

0 100'

LEGEND

- Historic district boundary
- Fences
- Buildings and structures
- Hammock
- Mown turf
- Roads
- Tree/shrub line
- Water
- Pond



Study Area Map

0 1500'



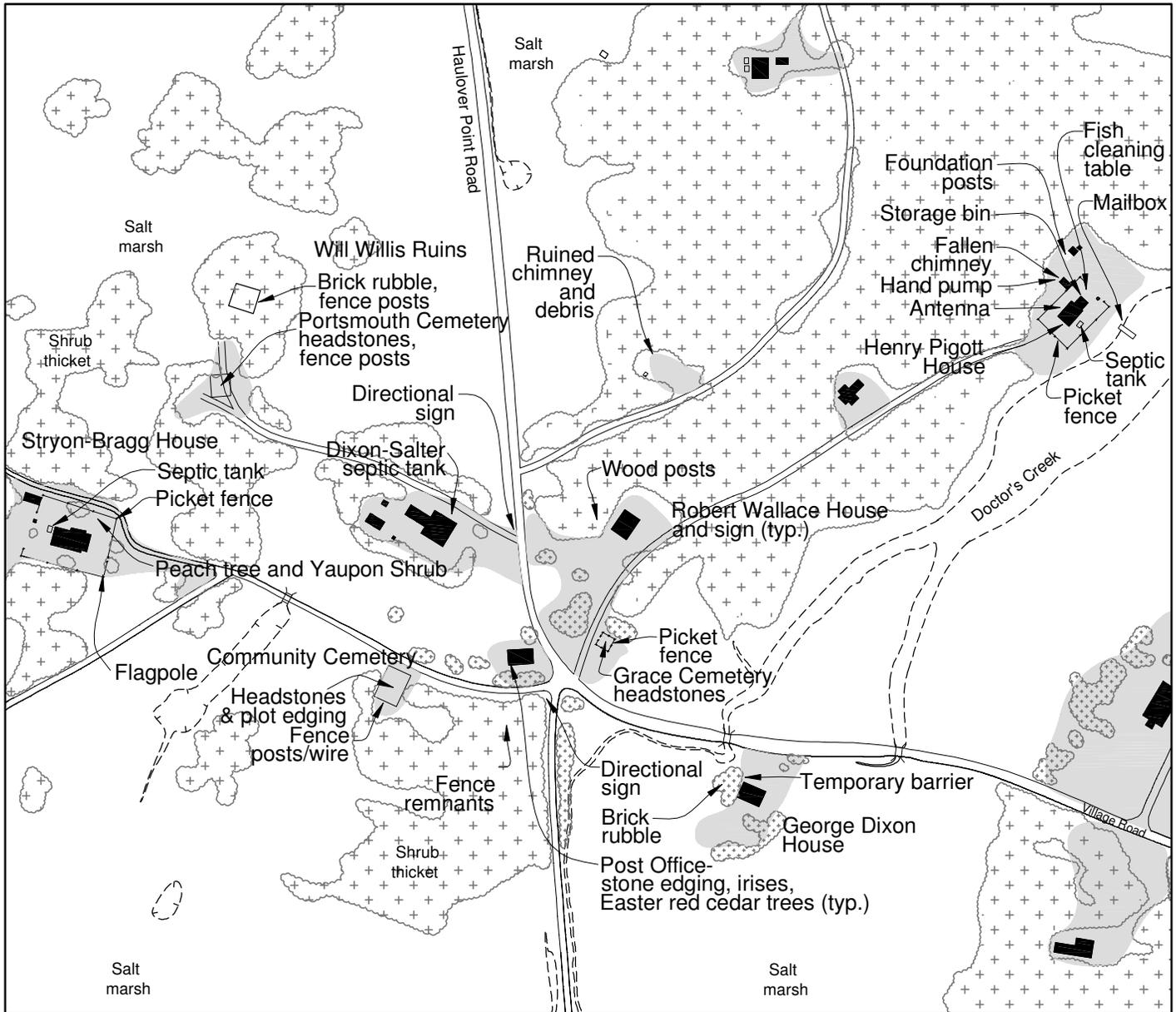
Portsmouth Village

Cape Lookout National Seashore, NC

Cultural Landscape Report

Map Prepared by John Milner Associates, Inc.

Figure 66. Existing Conditions.
Small-scale features and cultural vegetation



Inset A- Village Center- West

Scources: Autocad base derived from 1997 aerial photography provided by NPS and 2005 Globe Explorer satellite imagery.



- Historic District Boundary
- Fences
- Buildings and Structures
- Hammock
- Mown turf
- Roads
- Bridges
- Tree/Shrub Line
- Water
- Pond

Portsmouth Village

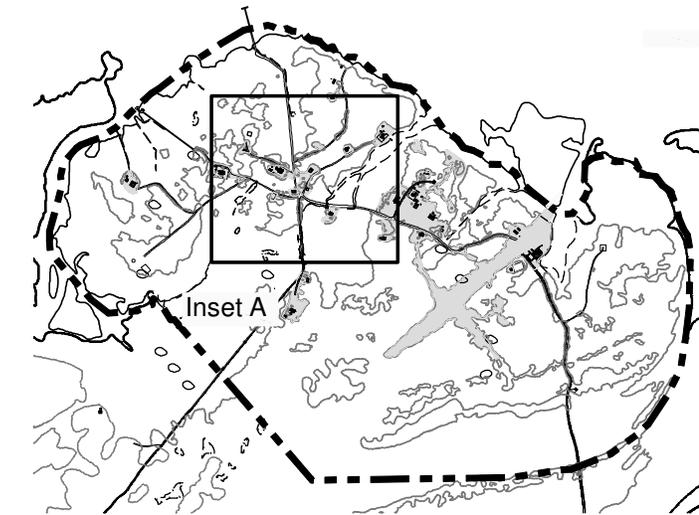
Cape Lookout National Seashore, NC

Cultural Landscape Report

Map Prepared by John Milner Associates, Inc.

Figure 67. Existing Conditions.

Small-scale features and cultural vegetation



Study Area Map



comfort station along the Road to the Beach (Fig. 64). These features include handrails at two heights, one for wheelchair accessibility. The ramp and stairs appear to be in good condition.

Cultural Vegetation

See Fig. 65 through Fig. 67, Cultural Vegetation and Small-scale Features. In addition to the vegetation described above under Natural Resources and Systems, there are plantings and maintained vegetative conditions that are specific to cultural properties within the district. Each of the historic properties, for example, is surrounded by a mown-grass precinct, while less closely mown grassland and shrubby growth typically edge the precincts. A few former residential properties also include ornamental and shade trees and shrubs or perennial and bulb plantings. There is a plantation of loblolly pines to the northwest of the airstrip.

Mown-grass precincts. The grass around most of the historic properties is closely mown, forming an open precinct for visitors to explore. The species of grasses are not currently known, but these lawn areas appear generally to be in good condition.

Eastern red cedars. There are Eastern red cedar trees located in association with most of the residential properties within the district. At the Post Office and General Store, for example, Eastern red cedars edge the building on two sides. Some of the trees in the line to the south appear to have recently been lost. (Fig. 68) Eastern red cedars are also a primary component of the landscape surrounding the Robert Wallace House. (Fig. 69) These native evergreens are also associated with many of the cemeteries within the district, including the Keller-Styron Cemetery. (Fig. 70) Many of the trees within the cemetery appear to be suffering from damage due to storms or salt spray and are stunted. They range individually from good to poor condition.

Pine plantation. Located south of the Village Road between the Washington Roberts House and the airstrip and behind the Roy Robinson House is a loblolly pine plantation. This planting has existed since at least the 1970s. Little is known about who planted the trees, when they were planted, and why, although Boy Scout troops are known to have planted pines elsewhere in the region, including Cape Lookout in the 1960s, and may have been



FIGURE 68. Eastern red cedars are prevalent throughout the historic district. Shown here is a line of trees that edge the Post Office and General Store.



FIGURE 69. Eastern red cedars are also found in close proximity to many residences, such as the Robert Wallace House shown here.



FIGURE 70. Eastern red cedars edge many of the cemeteries as well.



FIGURE 71. Irises are planted in the rock-lined bed in front of the Post Office and General Store.

involved in this planting. This plantation appears to be in good condition.

Irises in planting bed at Post Office. What appear to be bearded irises were observed growing in the rock-lined planting bed in front of the Post Office and General Store in October 2006 during CLR fieldwork (Fig. 71). These bulbs appear to be in good condition.

Yaupon holly, and elm and peach trees in the Styron-Bragg House yard. Within the area enclosed by picket fencing at the Styron-Bragg House, there is a single ornamental shrub that was not identified by genus and species during fieldwork conducted for this CLR, a yaupon holly, a peach tree (*Prunus sp.*), and a slippery elm (*Ulmus rubra*). The peach tree was clearly planted; a 1979 set of drawings of Portsmouth Village properties indicates that the property included a cluster of four peach trees at that time (Fig. 44). It is not known whether the yaupon and elm arose naturally or were planted. The holly appears to be in good condition, while the elm and peach trees appear to be in decline and are in fair condition.

Wax myrtle shrubs around the Methodist Church. There is a large clump of wax myrtle shrubs growing in the vicinity of the Portsmouth Methodist Church. These are in good condition.

Flowering bulbs in front of the Jesse Babb House. Fall flowering bulbs were observed in October 2006 growing to either side of the steps leading to the Jesse Babb House porch (Fig. 62). The plantings



FIGURE 72. A rock-lined planting bed edges the McWilliams-Dixon House porch, and is planted with perennials such as gaillardia.

appear to be relatively well tended and in good condition.

Perennials, annuals, rose bush in front of the McWilliams-Dixon House. A rock-lined planting bed edges the McWilliams-Dixon House porch, and there is a circular planting bed in the yard in front of the house (Fig. 72). Perennials such as gaillardia are growing in these beds. A rose bush has been trained on the picket fence in front of the house. What appear to be canna lilies are growing next to the steps leading to the back door. The stump of a poplar is also evident in the front yard. Except for the poplar, the plantings appear to be relatively well tended and in good condition.

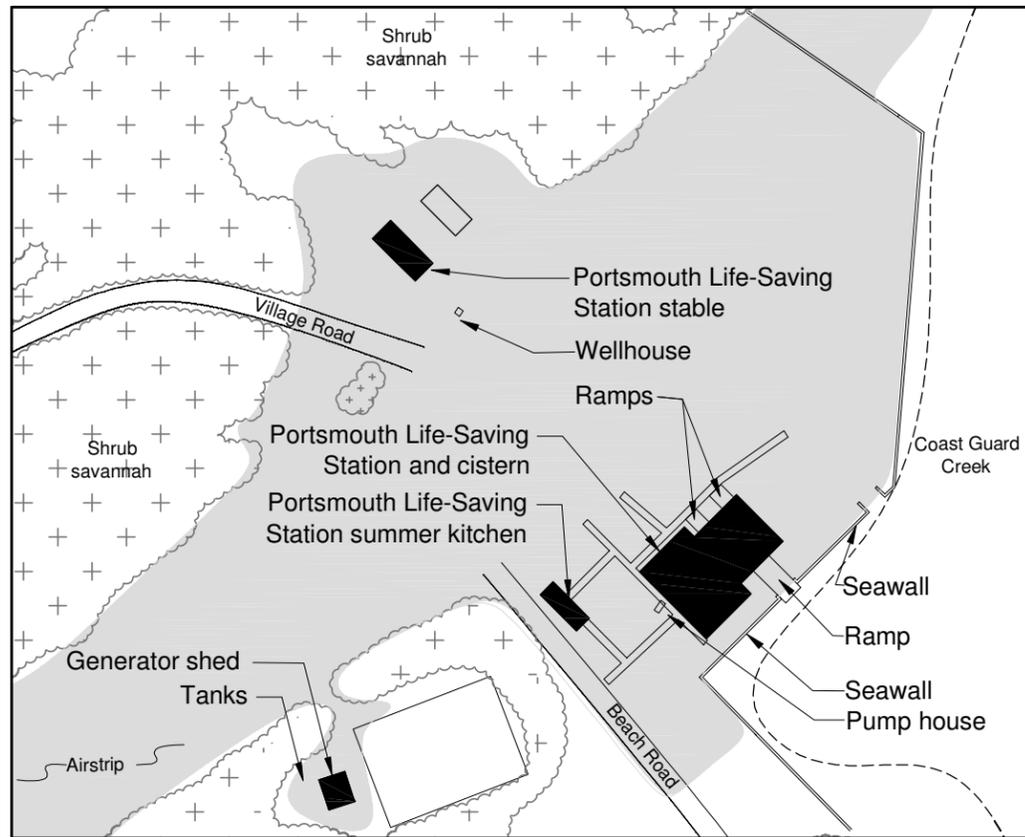
Fig shrub and three trees in the McWilliams-Dixon yard. A fig shrub and three deciduous trees, possibly sweetbay magnolia (*Magnolia virginiana*), are growing in the rear yard of the McWilliams-Dixon House. The plantings appear to be relatively well tended and in good condition.

Other potential culturally-derived vegetation. Although not observed during CLR field investigations, there are reportedly rose bushes behind the Washington Roberts House and a row of white poplar trees associated with the Ann Yurn House.¹³⁶

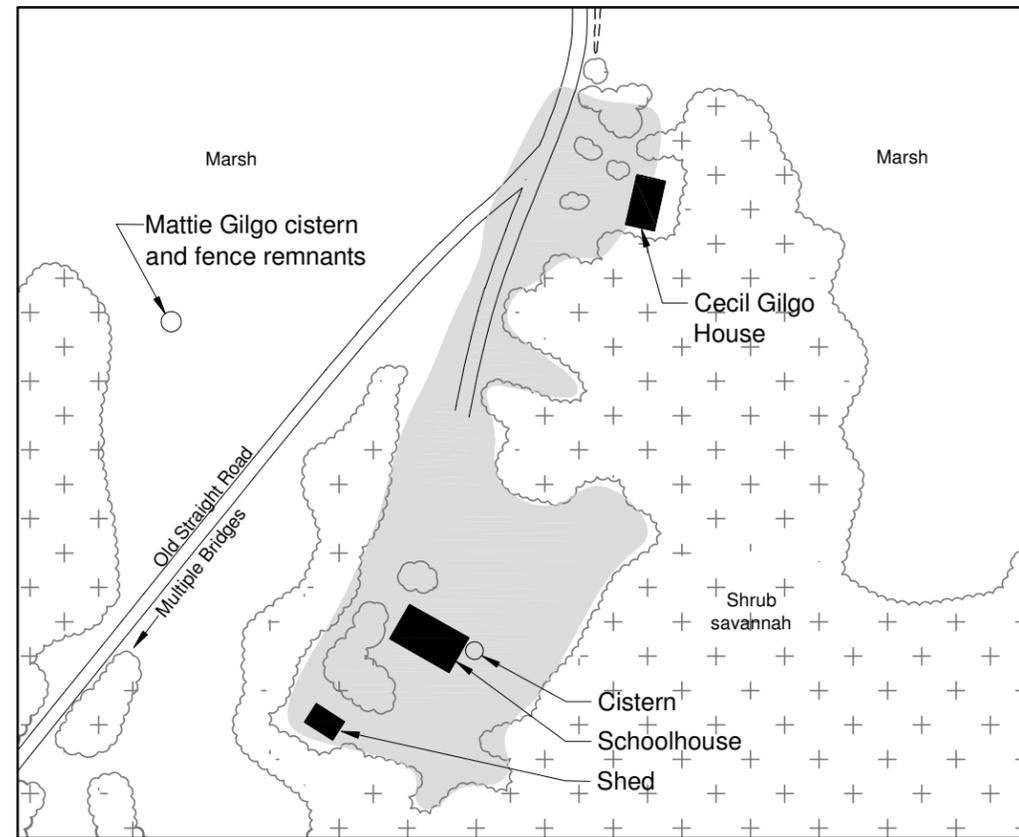
Buildings and Structures

See Fig. 73 through Fig. 75, Buildings and Structures.

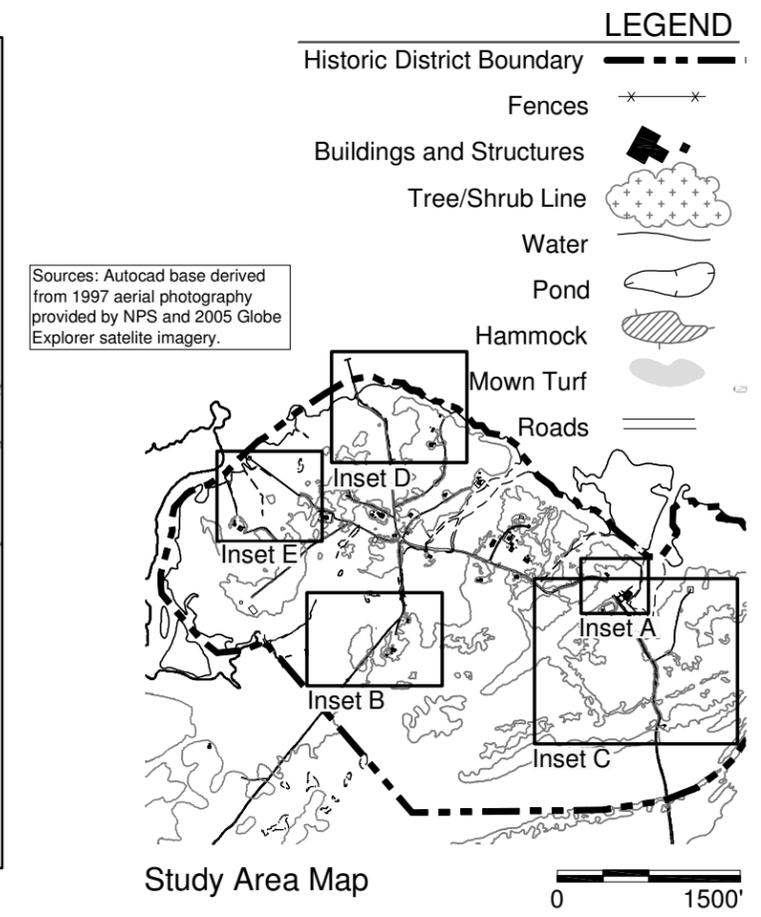
Portsmouth Life-Saving Station. The Portsmouth Life-Saving Station (Fig. 76, LCS 012512) was



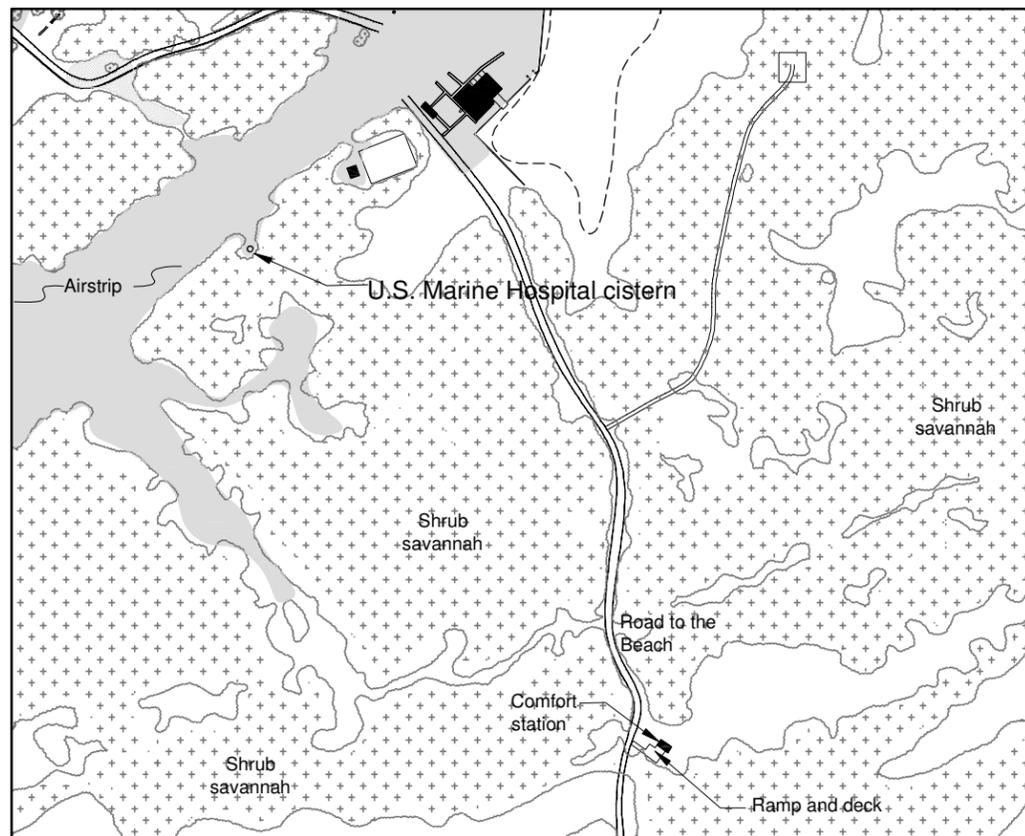
Inset A- Portsmouth Life-Saving Station Complex



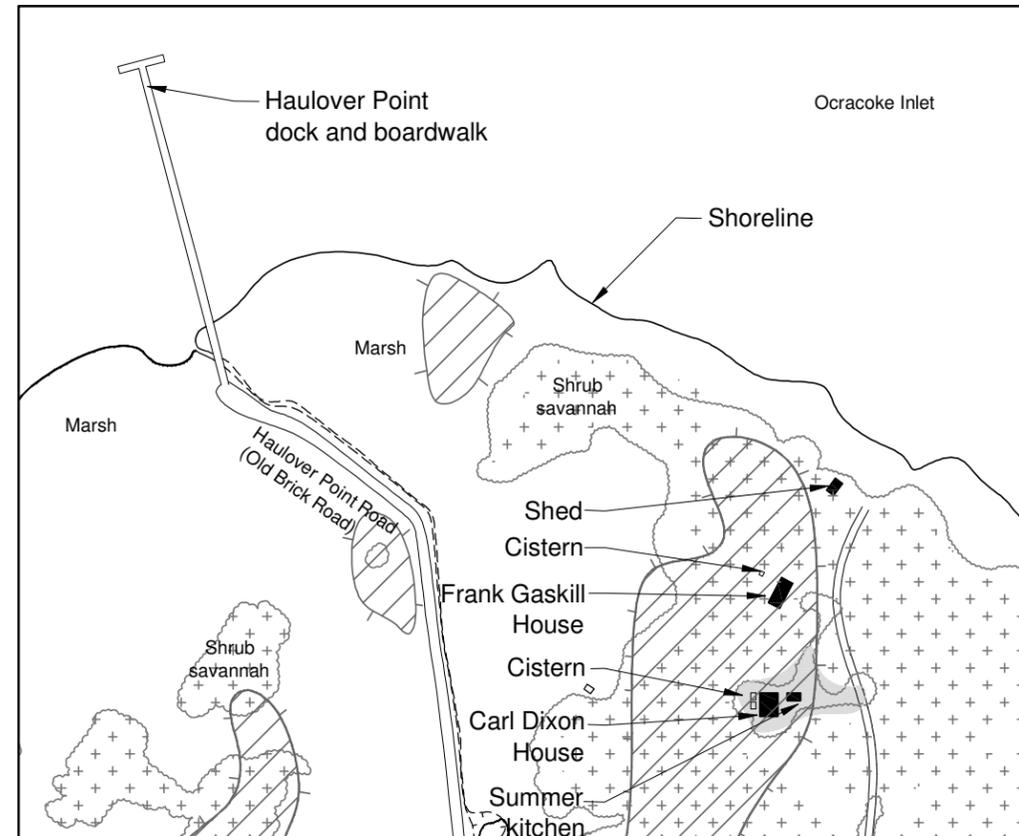
Inset B- Schoolhouse Environs



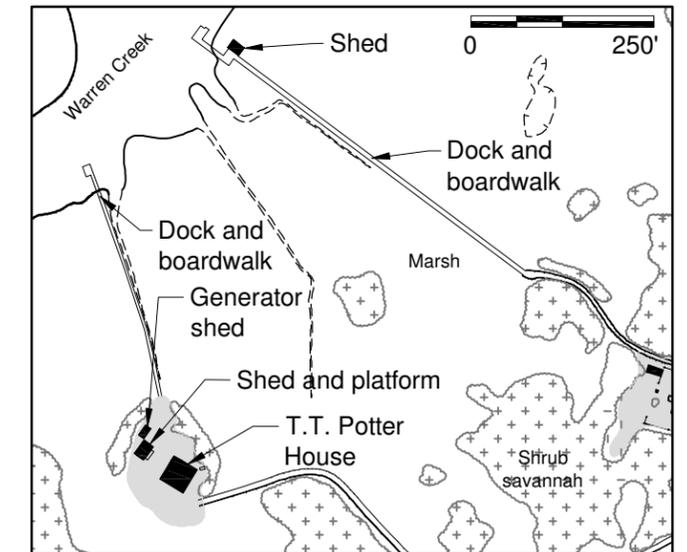
Study Area Map



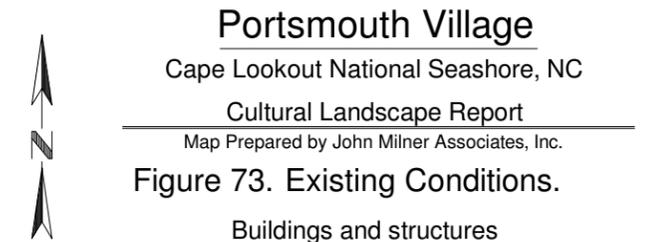
Inset C- Beach Road

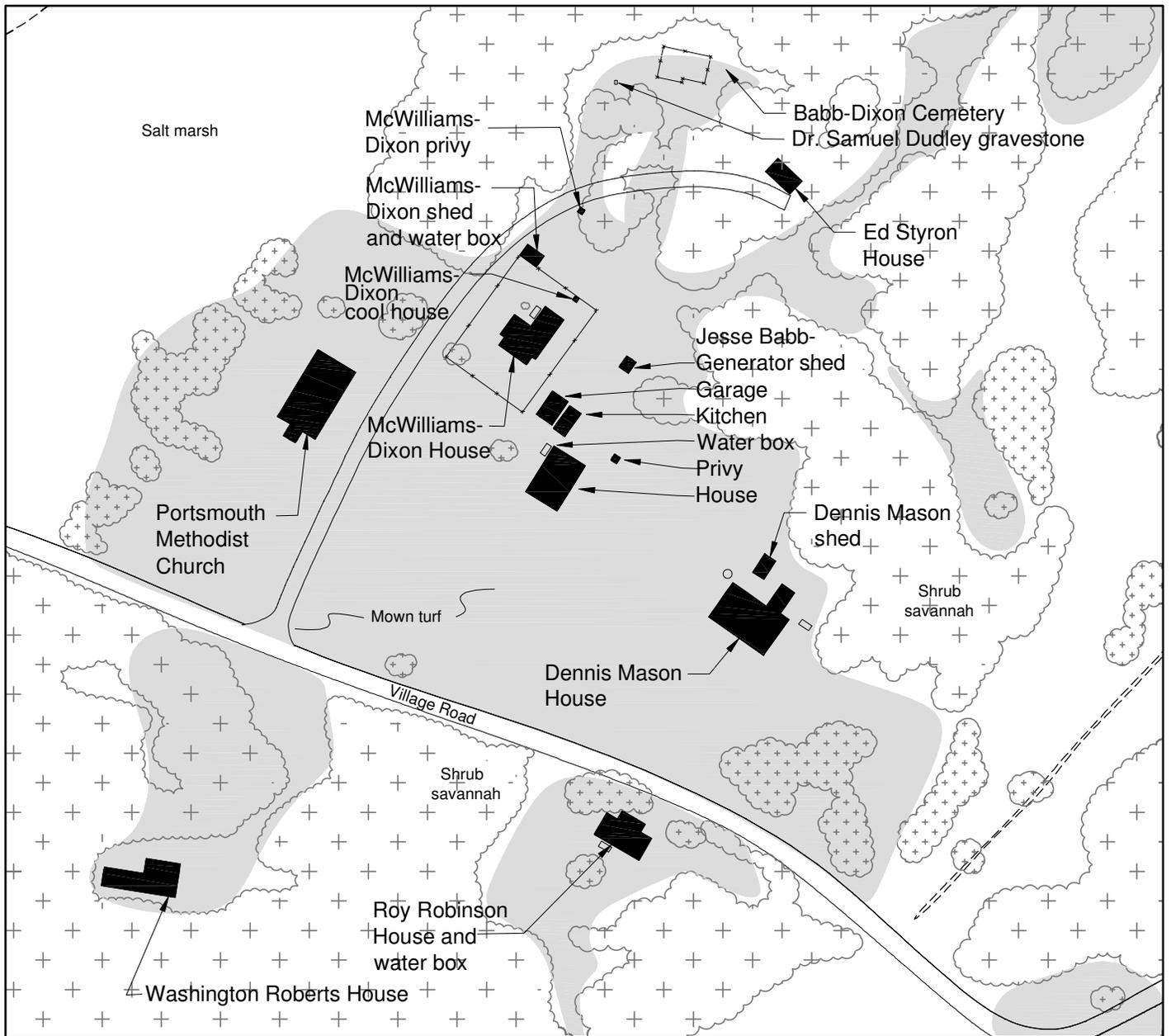


Inset D- Haulover Point



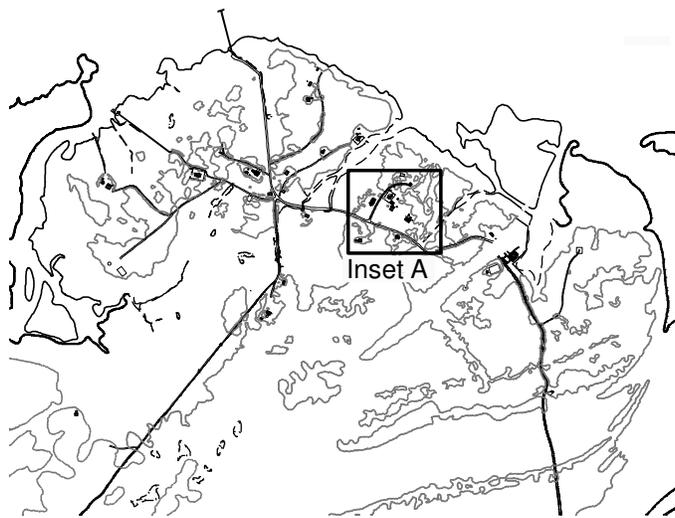
Inset E- T.T. Potter House Environs



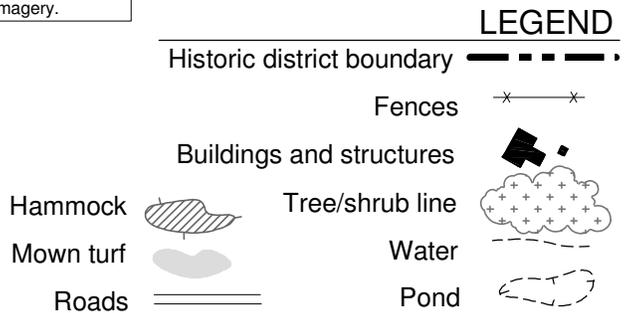


Inset A- Village Center- East

Sources: Autocad base derived from 1997 aerial photography provided by NPS and 2005 Globe Explorer satellite imagery.



Study Area Map



Portsmouth Village

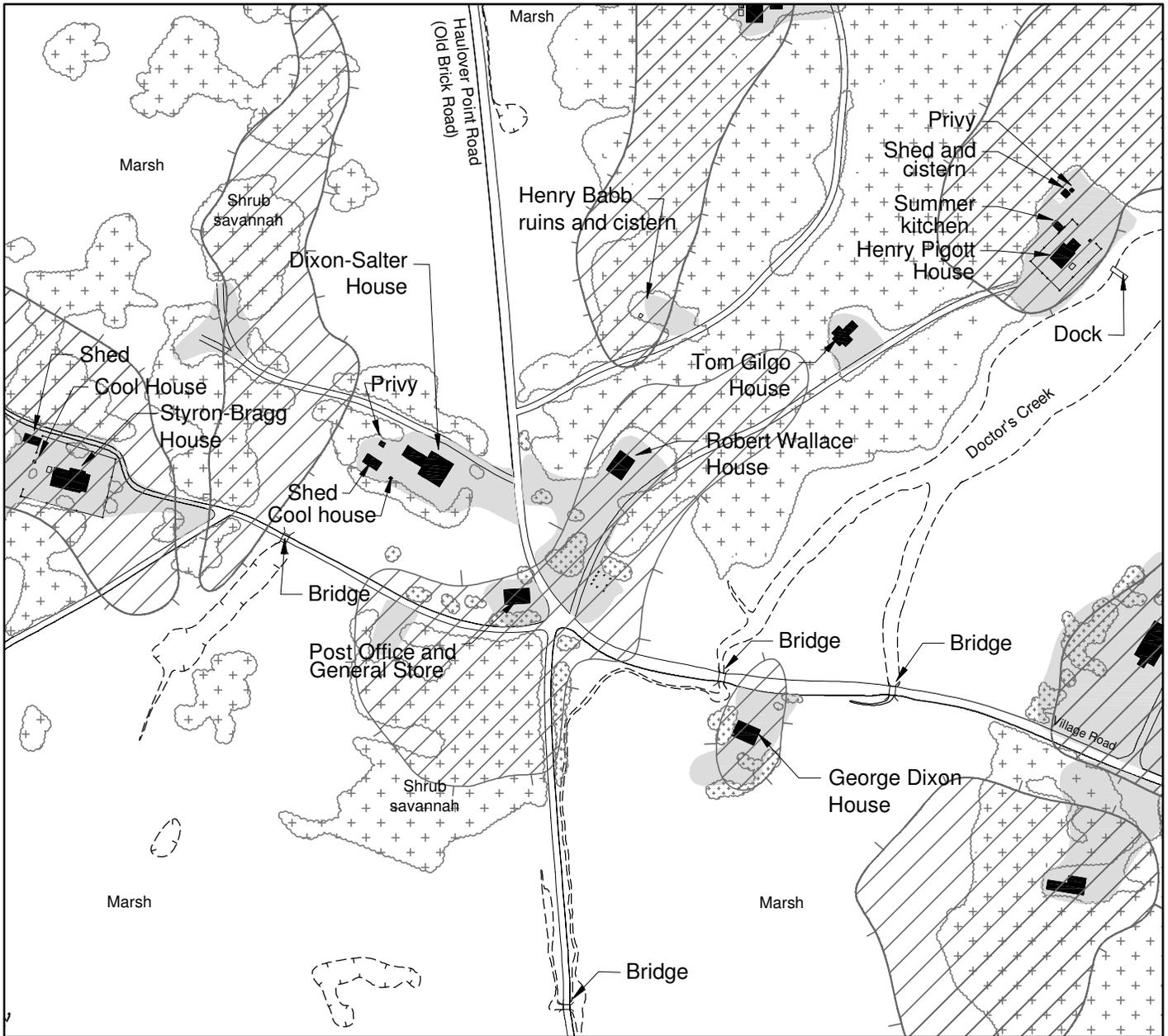
Cape Lookout National Seashore, NC

Cultural Landscape Report

Map Prepared by John Milner Associates, Inc.

Figure 74. Existing Conditions.

Buildings and structures



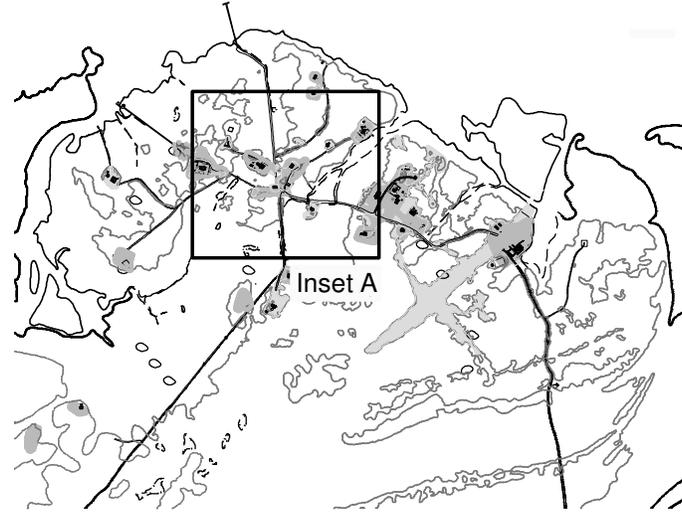
Inset A- Village Center- West

Sources: Autocad base derived from 1997 aerial photography provided by NPS and 2005 Globe Explorer satellite imagery.

0 200'

LEGEND

- Historic district boundary
- Fences
- Buildings and structures
- Hammock
- Mown turf
- Roads
- Tree/shrub line
- Water
- Pond



Study Area Map

0 1500'



Portsmouth Village

Cape Lookout National Seashore, NC

Cultural Landscape Report

Map Prepared by John Milner Associates, Inc.

Figure 75. Existing Conditions.

Buildings and structures



FIGURE 76. View of the Life-Saving Station from the southwest.



FIGURE 78. The stable at the Life-Saving Station.



FIGURE 77. The summer kitchen adjacent to the Life-Saving Station. The generator shed is visible beyond at left.



FIGURE 79. Roy Robinson House.

constructed in 1894. The station is rectangular in plan with a hip roof. A hip-roof porch is located at the south end of the station, wrapping around to the east and west sides. At the north end of the roof is the lookout tower. The exterior wall and roof surfaces are covered with wood shingles. Most of the windows are double hung units with divided lights. The building is supported on wood posts, and there is a central brick chimney. The station was restored in the early 1980s and was assessed in good condition in 2006 for the LCS.

The Life-Saving Station includes two ancillary outbuildings. The summer kitchen (Fig. 77, LCS 091745) was likely constructed in 1908 and originally consisted of a single room with shingled exterior walls. Circa 1942, the kitchen was extended east with a dining room addition that was finished

with shiplap siding. The kitchen is a gable-roof structure with wood shingles covering exterior wall and roof surfaces. The kitchen has small six-light rectangular windows. The older portion of the kitchen is supported on a concrete foundation, while the dining room addition is supported on wood posts. There is a brick chimney at the west gable end. In 1980, the NPS installed shingles over the entire building. The kitchen was assessed in good condition in 2006 for the LCS.

Southwest of the summer kitchen is the generator shed, constructed by the NPS in 1982. This outbuilding consists of a small gable roof structure with a wood shingle roof and unpainted plywood wall cladding.

136. The information about roses associated with the Washington Roberts House was conveyed by the NPS in comments on a draft version of the CLR draft report; information about poplar trees conveyed by local resident Chester Lynn in personal interview conducted October 2006.



FIGURE 80. Dennis Mason House.



FIGURE 82. McWilliams-Dixon House.



FIGURE 81. Jesse Babb House.



FIGURE 83. Ed Styron House.

The existing stable (Fig. 78, LCS 012534) was apparently constructed in 1928, replacing earlier stables destroyed by a hurricane. After the last horses left the station in 1932, the building was used for storage and as a garage. The stable is a rectangular gable-roof structure. The stable has a concrete foundation, board-and-batten siding, and a wood shingle roof. The stable was assessed in fair condition in 2006 for the LCS due to damage that occurred from Hurricane Ophelia in mid-September 2005.

Roy Robinson House. The Roy Robinson House (Fig. 79, LCS 012513) was built circa 1926 on the foundation of the Marine Hospital and moved to its current site in 1935.¹³⁷ Roy Robinson was chief of the Portsmouth Coast Guard Station from 1925 to 1931. The Robinson House is a one-story, hip-roof structure supported on wood posts. The house is rectangular in plan with a hip-roof porch along the north front and an open platform porch at the

southeast rear corner. The walls are board-and-batten siding painted blue. The double-hung windows are generally two-over-two, aside from two windows at the front porch which are six-over-six. The roof is wood shingle, with a brick chimney; localized areas of the roof were replaced following Hurricane Isabel in 2003. The house was assessed in fair condition in 2006 for the LCS.

Dennis Mason House. Across the village road from the Robinson House is the Dennis Mason House (Fig. 80, LCS 012514).¹³⁸ The house was originally built circa 1895 with three rooms. Later, it was owned by Captain Dave Willis and by Harry Dixon. In the 1920s, Dixon remodeled the house extensively. The house is a dormer front bungalow with two small one-story wings, one to the west side and one to the rear (north). The house is supported on wood posts. The walls are clapboard siding painted yellow, and the windows are six-over-six double-hung units. The roof is wood shingle, with a

137. This property has also historically been referred to as the Lionel Gilgo House.

138. This property has also been known historically as the Captain David Willis House.



FIGURE 84. Portsmouth Methodist Church.



FIGURE 85. Washington Roberts House.

brick chimney. A large front porch with brick piers, partially covered, extends across the south front of the house. There is also a small rear porch at the northwest corner of the house. The house includes a number of Craftsman-style details, including tapered porch columns and eave brackets. The house was assessed in good condition in 2006 for the LCS. Behind the house is a small outbuilding on grade with unpainted board and batten siding and a wood shingle roof. The outbuilding is in poor condition, with large portions of the siding missing.

Jesse Babb House. The Jesse Babb House (Fig. 81, LCS 012515) is located west-northwest of the Dennis Mason House. Babb was a cook and machinist at the Coast Guard Station, and he built this house circa 1935. The house is a dormer front bungalow supported on brick piers. The walls are clapboard siding painted yellow, and the windows are three-over-one double-hung units. The roof is wood shingle, with a brick chimney. A large porch extends across the south front of the house, and there is a second porch at the northeast rear corner. The house includes a number of Craftsman-style details, such as eave brackets. The house was assessed in good condition in 2006 for the LCS. Behind the Babb House are a number of outbuildings including a kitchen, garage, generator shed, and privy. The outbuildings are typically raised on wood post foundations and have vertical wood board siding and wood shingle roofs. The kitchen is at the northwest corner of the house and has a front gable roof. The garage is located directly west of the kitchen and has a hip roof. The generator shed is north of the house and has a side gable roof. The

privy is located east of the house and has a front gable roof. The kitchen was assessed in fair condition in 1998 for the LCS. The garage was assessed in good condition in 2006 for the LCS. The generator shed was assessed in good condition in 2006 for the LCS. The privy was assessed in good condition in 2006 for the LCS.

McWilliams-Dixon House. Directly west of the Babb House is the McWilliams-Dixon House (Fig. 82, LCS 091779), constructed circa 1910 near the Life-Saving Station by Keeper Charles McWilliams. The house was moved to its current site circa 1937 by Ed Dixon. Elma Dixon, one of the last residents of the village, resided here until 1971. The house has a T-shaped plan and is clad with vertical wood board siding painted yellow and a wood shingle gable roof with a galvanized metal ridge cap. The house is supported on wood posts. The house has six-over-six double-hung windows and a porch across the south front with Queen Anne style posts. The house is surrounded by a wood picket fence, and within the enclosure behind the house is a cool house. A shed is located at the northwest corner of the fenced yard, and a privy is located behind the house. The shed was used as a wash house and was relocated from the George Dixon house site in the late 1930s.¹³⁹ The house was assessed in good condition in 1999 for the LCS. The cool house was assessed in good condition in 1998 for the LCS. The shed was assessed in good condition in 1998 for the LCS. The privy was assessed in fair condition in 2006 for the LCS.

139. Tommy Jones, *George Dixon House Historic Structure Report* (Atlanta, Georgia: National Park Service Southeast Region, 2004), 20.



FIGURE 86. George Dixon House.



FIGURE 87. Portsmouth Post Office.

Ed Styron House. North of the Dennis Mason and Jesse Babb Houses is the Ed Styron House (Fig. 83, LCS 012516). This house was constructed circa 1933 when the Styron family's previous house on Sheep Island was damaged by a hurricane. The house was restored in 2002. The house is a simple one-story cottage supported on wood posts. The walls are unpainted board and batten siding, and the windows are six-over-six double-hung units. The roof is wood shingle, with a brick chimney. An open platform porch extends across part of the north elevation. The house was assessed in good condition in 2006 for the LCS.

Portsmouth Methodist Church. West of the McWilliams-Dixon House is the Portsmouth Methodist Church (Fig. 84, LCS 012518), constructed in 1915 after the previous church

structure was destroyed in a severe hurricane on September 2–3, 1913.¹⁴⁰ The church is supported on red brick piers and has wood siding and a wood shingle gable roof. The steeple features decorative cut shingles. Gothic Revival-style elements include the divided light pointed arch windows and the pointed arch door opening. The main entrance to the church is in the steeple tower at the southwest end. The church was assessed in fair condition in 2006 for the LCS, due to a leaning foundation and brick piers urgently in need of repointing and repair.

Washington Roberts House. South of the church on the opposite side of the village road is the Washington Roberts House (Fig. 85, LCS 091783), constructed in the late 1840s, with a kitchen/dining room wing added circa 1910.¹⁴¹ The wing was reconstructed by the NPS after it was destroyed by Hurricane Isabel in 2003. The house is supported on wood posts and is clad with unpainted clapboard siding and has a wood shingle gable roof. The windows are nine-over-six double-hung units. The house includes two building masses: a main 1-1/2-story gable roof portion and an attached one-story wing at the west end. Wood posts mark the location of a missing rear porch. The house was assessed in poor condition in 1998 for the LCS. Based on recent restoration work, the CLR assesses its condition as fair.

George Dixon House. The George Dixon House (Fig. 86, LCS 012519) stands along the Village Road in open marsh land west of the church and the Washington Roberts House. The house was built around 1887 by George and Martha Dixon. The house was severely damaged by Hurricane Isabel in 2003. Currently, the walls are completely boarded up with plywood, and wood structural shores stabilize the walls of the house. Prior to the hurricane, the house had asphalt composition siding, six-over-six double-hung windows, a brick chimney, and front and rear porches. The house historically also had a kitchen/dining room wing. In the late 1990s, the house had a wood shingle roof installed. The house was assessed in poor condition in 2006 for the LCS.

Portsmouth Post Office. West of the George Dixon House is the Portsmouth Post Office and General

140. Life-Saving Station Logbook for September 2–3, 1913, and August 10, 1915. See Tommy Jones, *Portsmouth Life-Saving Station Historic Structure Report* (Atlanta, Georgia: National Park Service Southeast Region, 2006), 163.

141. Comments received on draft report from NPS staff.



FIGURE 88. Henry Pigott House.



FIGURE 90. Robert Wallace House.



FIGURE 89. Tom Gilgo House.



FIGURE 91. Carl Dixon House.

Store (Fig. 87, LCS 012526), constructed circa 1900, which stands at the crossroads of the village. The gable roof structure supported on wood posts has painted clapboard and vertical wood board siding, and a wood shingle roof with galvanized metal ridge cap. The front gable end has a central door and a pair of six-over-six double-hung windows. The house was assessed in fair condition in 2006 for the LCS.

Henry Pigott House. At the end of the access road leading northeast from the village crossroads stands the Henry Pigott House (Fig. 88, LCS 012520), constructed circa 1900. The house is T-shaped in plan, with a front-facing gable at the base of the T. The house is supported on wood posts and has clapboard siding painted yellow, a wood shingle roof with a galvanized metal ridge cap, and a brick chimney. The windows are four-over-four double-hung units. The yard is partially enclosed by a wood picket fence. Other structures in the yard include a

cool house, a kitchen (with board and batten siding and a collapsed brick chimney), two sheds, a privy, and a cistern. The house was assessed in good condition in 2006 for the LCS. The cool house was assessed in fair condition in 2006 for the LCS. The summer kitchen was assessed in fair condition in 2006 for the LCS. The first shed is in good condition while the second shed was assessed in fair condition in 2006 for the LCS. The privy was assessed in fair condition in 2006 for the LCS.

Tom Gilgo House. Southwest of the Henry Pigott House is the Tom Gilgo House (Fig. 89, LCS 012521). The house was originally constructed in the mid-1920s near the Life-Saving Station and moved to this site in 1928. The small T-shaped house was substantially rehabilitated by the National Park Service in the 1990s. The house is supported on wood posts. The walls are clad with a mixture of unpainted board and batten and clapboard siding and the roof is wood shingle. A porch extends



FIGURE 92. Frank Gaskill House.



FIGURE 94. Cecil Gilgo House.



FIGURE 93. Dixon-Salter House.



FIGURE 95. Portsmouth Schoolhouse.

across part of the front elevation. The windows are six-over-six double-hung units. The house was assessed in good condition in 2006 for the LCS.

Robert Wallace House. Near the Post Office and General Store at the road to the Henry Pigott House is the Robert Wallace House (Fig. 90, LCS 012522), constructed circa 1850. The 1-1/2-story house is supported on wood posts. The house is rectangular in plan with two wide gabled dormers on the front and back roof plane. The exterior is clad with painted clapboard siding, and the building has a wood shingle roof. The house has a brick chimney. The windows are two-over-two double-hung units. A porch extends across the front of the house; the central portion of the porch includes a wood balustrade. The house once included a kitchen/dining room wing to the east. It was assessed in fair condition in 2006 for the LCS.

Carl Dixon House. Parallel to the road leading to the Henry Pigott House is a second road leading

northeast to the Carl Dixon and Frank Gaskill Houses. The Carl Dixon House (Fig. 91, LCS 012528) was constructed circa 1930 as a front gable structure supported on wood posts. The front porch has a hip roof and is supported on brick piers. Directly adjacent to the house is a kitchen supported on wood posts. The walls of the kitchen are unpainted clapboard and the roof is sheet metal. The windows of both the house and kitchen are two-over-two double-hung units. Also adjacent to the house is a brick cistern. The house was assessed in poor condition in 2006 for the LCS. The summer kitchen was assessed in fair condition in 1998 for the LCS.

Frank Gaskill House. The Frank Gaskill House (Fig. 92, LCS 012529) stands closer to the shore of the inlet. It was constructed circa 1930 and has a hip roof covered with wood shingles and galvanized metal ridge caps. The house is supported on wood posts and has painted clapboard siding. At the front door is an open platform porch. The house has a



FIGURE 96. Styron-Bragg House.



FIGURE 97. T. T. Potter House.

brick chimney and six-over-six double-hung windows. Also part of the property is a shed with sheet metal walls, which is located at the shore of the inlet. The shed appears to be in good condition. The house was assessed in good condition in 2006 for the LCS.

Dixon-Salter House. Just northwest of the Post Office and General Store near the village crossroads, stands the Dixon-Salter House (Fig. 93, LCS 012527). This large two-story structure with rear one-story wing was constructed circa 1900 and moved to its current site circa 1930. The hip roof is wood shingled, and the walls are clad with painted clapboard. The house is mainly supported on wood posts but includes brick porch posts and several brick chimneys. The front porch has tapering wood columns and a front-facing gable on its hip roof. The windows are two-over-two double-hung units. Around the house are several outbuildings, including a cool house, a shed, and a privy. The

house was assessed in good condition in 2006 for the LCS. The shed was assessed in fair condition in 1998 for the LCS. The privy was assessed in fair condition in 1998 for the LCS. The cool house was assessed in poor condition in 2006 for the LCS.

Cecil Gilgo House. From the village crossroads, the Old Straight Road runs southward. The Cecil Gilgo House (Fig. 94, LCS 091784) stands along this road and was constructed circa 1936 from salvaged materials. The house is a rectangular one-story structure supported on wood posts. The walls are clad with unpainted vertical wood board siding, and the gable roof is wood shingle with a galvanized metal ridge cap. The house has a brick chimney and six-over-six double-hung windows. There is an open platform porch at the front door. The house was assessed in poor condition in 1998 for the LCS.

Portsmouth Schoolhouse. Beyond the Cecil Gilgo House is the Portsmouth Schoolhouse, built in the 1910s (Fig. 95, LCS 012524). The hip roof structure is supported on brick piers and has walls clad with painted clapboard siding. The wood shingle roof has galvanized metal ridge caps. The windows are mainly six-over-six double-hung units with dark green painted shutters. The school has a brick chimney and sits adjacent to a cylindrical cistern. Near the school is a two-part shed: the front part has a brick foundation, clapboard walls, and a wood shingle roof; the rear part is supported on wood posts and has asphalt composition shingle roofing and wall cladding. The schoolhouse was assessed in fair condition in 2006 for the LCS. The shed was assessed in good condition in 2006 for the LCS.

Styron-Bragg House. From the village crossroads, a road runs west-northwest. West of the Post Office and General Store along this road is the Styron-Bragg House (Fig. 96, LCS 012530). The house was built circa 1928 as a sportsmen's lodge. The 1-1/2-story house with one-story rear wing has a wood shingle hip roof with four dormers and galvanized metal ridge caps. The walls are clad with clapboard painted yellow. The house is supported on wood posts and has brick chimneys, Colonial Revival type porch columns, and two-over-two double-hung windows. A painted wood picket fence partially encloses the yard, which contains a cool house, a shed, and a contemporary plastic septic tank. The house was assessed in good condition in 2006 for the LCS. The shed was assessed in good condition in 1998 for the LCS. The cool house was assessed in

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fair condition in 1998 for the LCS. The LCS includes a privy associated with the Styron-Bragg but this structure does not exist.

T. T. Potter House. A southwest branch off the road to the Styron-Bragg House leads to the T. T. Potter House (Fig. 97, LCS 012531) near the shore of the sound. This 1952 house is a larger, ranch-type house supported on wood posts. The walls are clad with composition board siding, and the roof is asphalt shingle. The house has a mix of window types and a large porch along the north side. Also on the site are two outbuildings, a contemporary plastic septic tank, and an outdoor fish cleaning table with sink. The house was assessed in good condition in 1998 for the LCS.



FIGURE 98. View north toward the Schoolhouse cistern.

Cisterns

U.S. Marine Hospital brick cistern. Reportedly constructed circa 1847, this brick structure is one of the largest cisterns still extant within the district (Fig. 40). It measures ten feet in diameter and is eight feet deep. The brick structure is round and open at the top. Standing water is visible within. The cistern appears to be in fair condition; it is evidencing biological growth, efflorescence, and a portion of the brickwork appears to have been repointed with incompatible mortar.

Schoolhouse cistern. The Schoolhouse cistern is a cylindrical structure composed of vertical boards with a conical metal roof capped with a short metal pole (Fig. 98, LCS 091756). The structure is approximately eight feet in height, and sits on wooden posts one to two feet off of the ground. The structure is painted white. The cistern was assessed in good condition in 2006 for the LCS.

Henry Pigott cistern. This structure is a wooden box located adjacent to one of the property's two sheds (LCS 091749). Wood roof gutters are connected to a pipe that feeds the cistern. This cistern appears to be in good condition.

Keller cistern. In close proximity to the Keller-Styron Cemetery there are two round cisterns once associated with the Ed Keller House, now in ruins. The concrete cistern is approximately three feet high and ten feet in diameter (Fig. 99). The brick cistern is slightly smaller. They are currently open to the air. These cisterns are exhibiting some signs of deterioration and are in fair condition.



FIGURE 99. The concrete cistern near the Keller-Styron Cemetery.



FIGURE 100. The Mattie Gilgo site cistern.

Mattie Gilgo site cistern. The cistern associated with the Mattie Gilgo site is a circular parged brick structure, similar to those located near the Keller-Styron Cemetery (Fig. 100). Approximately three feet tall and ten feet in diameter, the cistern is open to the air, and there are plants growing inside. It is exhibiting some signs of deterioration such as efflorescence, chipping of the mortar slurry that covers the brick and biological growth. It is in fair condition.

McWilliams-Dixon water box. A wooden structure attached to the side of the McWilliams-Dixon House appears to serve as the water collection and storage structure for the property. It sits adjacent to the steps leading to the side porch. This structure is in fair condition; it is in need of painting and some repair of the wooden planks.

Roy Robinson water box. A wooden structure that sits adjacent to the side of the Roy Robinson House appears to be a water storage and collection structure. This wood structure is in fair condition. It requires repair of some wood boards.

Henry Babb site cistern. The ruins of a cistern associated with the Henry Babb House site are located along the access road to the Frank Gaskill House. This cistern is in poor condition.

Carl Dixon brick cistern. A brick structure with a pitched roof covering sits adjacent to the Carl Dixon House. Two sections of PVC pipe lead from the roof gutters into the in-ground structure. The brick extends approximately 2-1/2 feet above the ground.

This structure appears to be in fair to good condition. Some of the parging is missing along the bottom portion of the brick structure, and the wooden lid needs painting.

Frank Gaskill brick cistern. Similar to the Carl Dixon House cistern, the Frank Gaskill brick cistern is a rectangular in-ground structure edged by a two-foot-high brick enclosure and covered with a pitched metal roof. The cistern is located further away from the house than the cistern at the Carl Dixon House; a long section of PVC pipe leads from the roof gutters into the in-ground structure. This structure appears to be in fair to good condition. Some of the parging is missing along the bottom portion of the brick structure, and the wooden lid needs painting.

Jesse Babb water box. Similar to the McWilliams-Dixon House, the Jesse Babb House has a wooden water box that is connected to the roof gutters (Fig. 101). It is located adjacent to the rear facade of the building. This water box appears to be in relatively good condition.

Portsmouth Life-Saving Station cistern. Adjacent to the porch of the Life-Saving Station building is a large brick cistern structure with a wooden cover and hatch (Fig. 63). The approximately ten foot long, four foot wide, and five foot high structure is painted red and matches the detailing of the Life-Saving Station. This structure appears to be in good condition. There is also a cylindrical metal cistern, originally erected in 1921, in storage.



FIGURE 101. The Jesse Babb water box is attached to the side of the house.



FIGURE 102. View south along the dock and boardwalk at Haulover Point.



FIGURE 103. View north of the dock and boardwalk at the T. T. Potter House.



FIGURE 105. View south of the dock east of Henry Pigott House.



FIGURE 104. View northwest of the dock and boardwalk behind the Styron-Bragg House.



FIGURE 106. View west along the Village Road of one of the three wood bridges located within the village.

Docks and Boardwalks

Haulover Point is the primary boat landing point for visitors to Portsmouth Village. Although this landform has changed in shape over the years due to shifting tides and current, it has remained an important docking site since at least the nineteenth century. At Haulover Point today there is a thirty-five foot long dock and boardwalk that extends from the island to water deep enough for a boat to land (Fig. 102). The dock, constructed by the NPS, is constructed of marine-treated round pylons and nominal lumber boards. It appears to be in good condition.

A second dock and boardwalk are located near the T. T. Potter House. The boardwalk extends across marsh land to a dock on Ocracoke Inlet (Fig. 103). The dock was established by the NPS for their use in

bringing equipment, housed in the T. T. Potter House sheds, to the island. This dock and boardwalk complex appear to be in good condition.

There is also a dock and boardwalk complex behind the Styron-Bragg House (Fig. 104) that appears to be in good condition except for one damaged section. Additionally, a dock extends into Doctor’s Creek behind the Henry Pigott House (Fig. 105). This dock appears to be in good condition.

Bridges

Three wooden bridges along Village Road. The Village Road crosses wet areas, creeks, and channels in three locations. Each crossing is associated with a V-shaped wood bridge, constructed of tightly set timbers laid perpendicular to the road, and edged by 6 inch by 6 inch wood timbers nailed to their



FIGURE 107. View northeast of the wooden bridge along the Old Straight Road.



FIGURE 109. The well house near Portsmouth Life-Saving Station stable.



FIGURE 108. The pump house near the Portsmouth Life-Saving Station.



FIGURE 110. View along the concrete seawall and wooden mooring posts in Coast Guard Creek at the Portsmouth Life-Saving Station.

margins (Fig. 106). These bridges appear to be in good condition.

Wooden bridge along Old Straight Road. A wood plank bridge is located along the Old Straight Road to provide access across a wet area (Fig. 107). This bridge has grass growth through its plank surface but appears to be in relatively good condition.

Other Structures

Pump House, Portsmouth Life-Saving Station.

This small structure, set in the ground adjacent to one of the concrete walks near the Life-Saving Station, is composed of a concrete block base with a wood shingle gable roof (Fig. 108). The pump house is approximately eight feet long, three feet wide, and four feet tall. It appears to be in good condition,

although some of the shingles are in need of repair or replacement.

Well House, Portsmouth Life-Saving Station

Stable. The well house is a small, three foot by four foot structure consisting of a concrete block base and a wood shingle gable roof with a vent (Fig. 109). The structure is set in the ground. It appears to be in good condition.

Concrete seawall and three ramps at Portsmouth Life-Saving Station. A concrete seawall with a cap of flat stones embedded in a mortar slurry with seashell aggregate edges Coast Guard Creek in proximity to the Life-Saving Station (Fig. 35 and Fig. 110). This wall was cast-in-place, as were the three concrete boat ramps that extend between the Life-Saving Station and the creek. The ramps and seawalls were constructed circa 1914–1918. Portions

EXISTING CONDITIONS

of the wall have become embedded in marshland and silt. The ramps are evidencing some deterioration and are in fair condition. There is vegetative growth in some of the control joints and chipping of the concrete. The seawall is also evidencing some cracking and chipping.

Wooden Platforms

Wooden platform associated with T. T. Potter House shed. The larger shed located behind the T. T. Potter House is edged by a simple wooden platform (Fig. 61). Two large plastic tanks are stored on the platform. The platform appears to be in good condition.

Views and Vistas

See Fig. 46, Land Uses, Circulation, and Views and Vistas. Views associated with Portsmouth Village include short views of dwelling complex features, broader views of the community from the vicinity of the Portsmouth Methodist Church, views to Ocracoke Inlet from the northern and far western sections of the village, longer views along road corridors, and expansive views from the Life-Saving Station watchtower. Throughout the Portsmouth Village landscape, groves of Eastern red cedar trees and shrub thickets limit expansive views.

From atop the Life Saving Station. The watchtower located atop the Life-Saving Station affords a 360-degree view of the island and its surrounds (Fig. 111). Much of the village is visible from this vantage point.

From the Post Office area toward the Portsmouth Methodist Church. A linear view is afforded along the Village Road, particularly from its intersection with Haulover Point Road near the Post Office and General Store toward the Portsmouth Methodist Church (Fig. 112). The steeple of the church is a landmark for district views.

From the sound approaching the village from north. Boats arriving at Haulover Point dock from Ocracoke Island pass along the northern edge of the island. From this vantage point, there is a good view of the village, punctuated by the Portsmouth Methodist Church steeple (Fig. 113).



FIGURE 111. View looking northwest from the watch tower of the Portsmouth Life-Saving Station.



FIGURE 112. View east toward the Portsmouth Methodist Church from the Post Office and General Store area.



FIGURE 113. View south from Ocracoke Inlet toward the village.



FIGURE 114. Grace Cemetery is surrounded by a picket fence.



FIGURE 116. The picket fence around the Babb-Dixon Cemetery.



FIGURE 115. The picket fence around the Styron-Bragg House precinct.



FIGURE 117. A remnant fence post west of the Washington Roberts House.

Small-scale Features

See Fig. 65 through Fig. 67, Small-scale Features and Cultural Vegetation.

Fences

Picket fence around Grace Cemetery. Grace Cemetery is a small family cemetery surrounded by a white picket fence (Fig. 114). A gate provides access into the cemetery along the side facing the road. The fence is constructed with simple unadorned squared pickets attached to three cross boards and anchored by corner posts. The three cross boards extend horizontally along the faces of the fence at even intervals beginning at the midpoint of the pickets. The lowest cross board is near the base of the fence. This fence appears to be in good condition.

Picket fence around Styron-Bragg House precinct.

White-painted picket fencing surrounds the Styron-Bragg House precinct (Fig. 115). The pickets are cut to rounded points at the top. They are nailed to two cross boards, one near their top, and the other along the base of the fence. Corner posts are set inside the fence sections. There is an opening in the front that is off-center from the door of the house; this may have included a gate at one time. Sections of the fence in the rear have been removed and are stored against the wall of the shed. This fence is in relatively good condition where it exists. The missing segments lower the overall condition rating to fair.

Picket fence with gate around Babb-Dixon Cemetery.

The Babb-Dixon Cemetery is surrounded by a wood picket fence similar in design and construction to the Grace Cemetery fence, with

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a gate located along the southwestern face (Fig. 116). The area enclosed by the fence is primarily rectangular, with a small bump-out along the southeastern side. This fence is in good condition.

Fence posts with rails near painted sign in front of Washington Roberts House. Simple wood posts with remnant fence rails are located near the sign in front of the Washington Roberts House. These posts are remnants of an incomplete fence system that is in poor condition.

Remnant fence posts west of Washington Roberts House. Simple wood fence posts are also present near the house (Fig. 117). These posts are also remnants of an incomplete system that is in poor condition.

Picket fence around McWilliams-Dixon House precinct, four gates. This fence is similar to other picket fences within the district (Fig. 118). The fence is badly in need of paint, but otherwise appears to be in good to fair condition.

Picket fence with missing gate around Henry Pigott House precinct. This fence is similar to other picket fences within the district (Fig. 119). The fence is generally in good condition but is missing the front gate and some sections in the rear and is thus rated in fair condition.

Metal gate and wood posts limiting vehicular access to the village from the Road to the Beach. A metal gate hung on wood posts limits vehicular access to the historic district from the beach (Fig. 120). Wood posts with chains are set to the sides of the posts, providing a structure to support the gate when it is open and a means for securing it. This gate system is in good condition.

Wood bollards and posts with metal chains as part of gate system at Road to Beach. Wood bollards are set along the edge of the Road to the Beach near the gate to prevent vehicles from circumnavigating the gate. These features are in good condition.

Wood posts, Robert Wallace House. Remnant peeled cedar log fence posts are located near the Robert Wallace House in the yard to its west. The posts are part of an incomplete fence system that is in poor condition.



FIGURE 118. The picket fence around the McWilliams-Dixon House precinct.



FIGURE 119. The picket fence around the Henry Pigott House precinct.



FIGURE 120. A metal gate and wood posts limit vehicular access to the village from the Road to the Beach.

Board fence remnants, Monroe and Mattie Gilgo House Site. Remnant board fence materials are located near the Mattie Gilgo House site. The remnant materials are ruins.

Temporary barrier at George Dixon House. A low wood post and rope system has been placed along the Village Road in front of the George Dixon House to prevent visitors from approaching the temporarily stabilized structure (Fig. 121). The barrier is in good condition.

Wood post-and-chain barrier at wooden bridge along Old Straight Road. Vehicles are prevented from driving into the historic district along the Old Straight Road by a wooden post and chain barrier edging the wooden bridge. The barrier is in good condition.



FIGURE 121. Temporary barriers limit access to the mothballed George Dixon House.

Septic Structures

Septic leach field near airstrip. A large wood retaining wall is located near the generator shed associated with the Portsmouth Life-Saving Station (Fig. 122). The wall retains a raised soil area approximately 3-1/2 feet high used as a septic leach field. This feature appears to be in good condition.

Above-ground septic tank and wooden fencing, Styron-Bragg House. Behind the Styron-Bragg House is a low wooden-board structure that encloses an above-ground septic system. The system is comprised of a yellow tank connected by a pipe to the house, set within sand, and edged by the wooden structure. The wooden fencing provides general screening, but the system is not covered. This feature appears to be in good condition.



FIGURE 123. An above-ground septic tank at the T. T. Potter House.



FIGURE 122. The septic leach field shown at left is near the airstrip.



FIGURE 124. The Dennis Mason septic tank.

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Above-ground septic tank and wooden enclosure, T. T. Potter House. This septic system is similar to the Styron-Bragg cistern described above (Fig. 123). A long section of white PVC pipe leads from the house into the tank. This feature appears to be in good condition.

Above-ground septic tank, Dennis Mason House. As with many of the residential properties within the district, the Dennis Mason House property includes an above-ground fiberglass 500-gallon septic tank set in sand edged by a low wooden retaining wall. The septic tank is located north of the rear of the residence. This feature appears to be in good condition.

Dennis Mason septic box. A metal covering in the lawn adjacent to the Dennis Mason House suggests that there is an underground septic tank present (Fig. 124). This metal cover appears to be in good condition, although there is rust in evidence that should be treated and painted.

Septic tank and wooden enclosure, Jesse Babb House. This septic tank (Fig. 125) is similar to those described above. This feature appears to be in good condition.

Septic tank and wooden enclosure, McWilliams-Dixon House. This septic tank is similar to those described above. This feature appears to be in good condition.

Septic tank and wooden enclosure, Henry Pigott House. This septic tank (Fig. 126) is similar to those described above. This feature appears to be in good condition.

Septic tank and wooden enclosure, Carl Dixon House. This septic tank (Fig. 127) is similar to those described above. This feature appears to be in good condition.

Dixon-Salter septic tank. In the yard to the north of the Dixon-Salter House there is an eight inch high raised rectangular concrete slab approximately six by eight feet in size that covers a septic tank. This feature appears to be relatively new or recently reconditioned, and appears to be in good condition.

Cemeteries

Babb-Dixon Cemetery headstones. The Babb-Dixon Cemetery (Fig. 128, LCS 012517) is located



FIGURE 125. An above-ground septic tank and wooden enclosure at the Jesse Babb House.



FIGURE 126. An above-ground septic tank and wooden enclosure at the Henry Pigott House.



FIGURE 127. An above-ground septic tank and wooden enclosure at the Carl Dixon House.



FIGURE 128. The Babb-Dixon Cemetery.



FIGURE 130. Many of the burials at the Community Cemetery are surrounded by brick edging.



FIGURE 129. The Community Cemetery.



FIGURE 131. The condition of some of the concrete vault covers in the Community Cemetery is poor.

west of the McWilliams-Dixon House. This family cemetery includes seven burials. Three of the burials are set within brick-edged rectangular precincts, and two are set within concrete block precincts. The precincts also include granite headstones and footstones, and some are marked with silk flowers. The dates of the interments range from 1945 to 1971. Two of the burials are the tiny graves of pet parakeets. The features of the cemetery were listed in good condition on the 2006 LCS.

Grace Cemetery headstones. The Grace Cemetery is located across Haulover Point Road from the Post Office and General Store (Fig. 114, LCS 012523). There are four family burials associated with the cemetery. These date between 1872 and 1912. There are three marble headstones and four footstones included within the cemetery. The headstones are

sited in a line. Two are free-standing marble slabs with angled tops set in rectangular marble bases. The headstones are carved with a graphic as well as text. The other two burials are marked by a double headstone similar in character to the other two, but with rounded tops and no marble base. Very small footstones are located behind the headstones. The cemetery is surrounded by a picket fence. The cemetery was assessed as in poor condition by the LCS in 1998 due to the condition of headstones and the fact that most had fallen down and were lying flat on the ground, exposing the carved surfaces to weathering. In April 2005, local resident Dave Frum re-set the headstones in an upright position.

Community Cemetery headstones. The Community Cemetery is located behind the Post Office and General Store building (Fig. 129,

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LCS 012525). The earliest recorded burial dates to 1812, the most recent to 1961. There are approximately twenty-four headstones located within the confines of the cemetery, associated with twenty-seven burial areas.

At least two graves are unmarked. Most headstones are accompanied by footstones. Some of the burial plots are covered with a thin concrete vault cover. Many of the graves are grouped together in linear arrangements edged by concrete and/or brick bands (Fig. 130). There are also individual graves. Conditions observed at the cemetery include weathered headstones, broken and leaning headstones, cracked and displaced edging, missing or dislodged brick edging, and broken and cracked

concrete vault covers (Fig. 131). The general condition of the cemetery as assessed in 1998 by the LCS is fair.

Fence posts at Community Cemetery. Simple peeled cedar wood posts, some with barbed wire attached, along the margins of the cemetery. It is assumed that a fence once enclosed the cemetery to prevent livestock from accessing the area. The fence is in poor condition.

Portsmouth Cemetery headstones and footstones. This cemetery is located west of the Dixon-Salter House along a short access road.¹⁴² Marble, granite, and concrete headstones and footstones mark fifteen burials within the cemetery



FIGURE 132. The Portsmouth Cemetery.



FIGURE 134. There are condition problems with many of the headstones in the Portsmouth Cemetery.



FIGURE 133. Some of the burials are surrounded by concrete block outlines.



FIGURE 135. The headstones of the Two Seamen's Graves.

142. This cemetery may historically have been referred to as the Bragg Cemetery. National Park Service documents refer to it as the Portsmouth Cemetery. This name has been used throughout this document for consistency. Additional investigation into the local name for this cemetery is warranted.

(Fig. 132). There is no surrounding fence. Some of the burials are grouped together and surrounded by concrete-block edging, two blocks high (Fig. 133). The burials date between 1889 and 1960. Conditions observed at the cemetery include broken, leaning, eroded headstones. The cemetery is in fair to poor condition (Fig. 134).

Fence posts at Portsmouth Cemetery. Simple wood posts, some with barbed wire attached, are located along the margins of the cemetery. It is assumed that a fence once enclosed the cemetery to prevent livestock from accessing the area. This fence is in poor condition.



FIGURE 136. The Keller-Styron Cemetery.



FIGURE 137. Remnant fence post at the Keller-Styron Cemetery.

Two Seamen's Graves. The headstones associated with Two Seamen's Graves are relatively large and ornate in comparison with others within the district (Fig. 135). They include detailed funerary carvings. These gravestones appear to be in fair condition due to deterioration of the inscriptions.

The first includes the following epitaph: "To the memory of Captain Thomas W. Greene of Providence, R.I. who died Jan. 17, 1810 in the 32nd year of his age. In thy fair book of life divine my God inscribe my name that may fill some humble place beneath the slaughtered lamb."

The epitaph of the second includes the following epitaph: "In memory of Capt. William Marten who died Oct. 4, 1821 aged 36 years 2 months 27 days. Far from my native land my spirit wings its flight to dwell at God's right hand with angels fair and bright."

Keller-Styron Cemetery headstones. This cemetery includes ten grave sites and is maintained in mown grass (Fig. 136). Headstones exist for seven



FIGURE 138. The Elijah Gaskill headstone.

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graves. The burials date between 1866 and 1932. The headstones are marble and granite. There are a few footstones. One grave is outlined in a single row of mortared brick.

Some of the headstones are eroding. The brick outline is losing some of the bricks. Some of the headstones are broken, others are leaning. The cemetery is in fair to poor condition.

Fence posts at Keller-Styron Cemetery. Several 4-inch by 4-inch wood posts mark the extent of a fence system that once enclosed the Keller-Styron Cemetery (Fig. 137). The fenced precinct appears to have formed a rectangle forty-two-and-one-half feet by fifty-seven feet in size. Remnants of wire remain attached to the posts, suggesting that the fence was used to limit access by livestock. The fence is in poor condition.

Dr. Samuel Dudley headstone. An unmarked gravesite is located seventeen feet south of the Babb-Dixon Cemetery. This gravesite has been identified as that of Dr. Samuel Dudley, a physician stationed at the U.S. Marine Hospital during the early nineteenth century, although his body has been reinterred on the mainland. An interpretive sign is associated with the grave. The cemetery was assessed as in fair condition in 1998 by the LCS.

Elijah Gaskill headstone. A single marble headstone marks the grave of Elijah Gaskill (Fig. 138). The grave is located near the Carl Dixon House. The headstone is in fair condition.

Signage

Painted wooden signs marking historic properties. A unified sign system is utilized within the historic district to identify historic structures and provide interpretive information. These signs are composed of painted square wood posts and painted wood boards nailed to them that have a rectangular area for text (Fig. 139). The rectangular area is oriented with the long dimension running horizontally. The upper left corner is punctuated by a carved extension fashioned to recall the Portsmouth Methodist Church steeple. They are generally in good condition. The signs are painted white, with a black border and black text. These signs are located:

- Along the road leading south from Haulover Point



FIGURE 139. One of the painted wooden signs that mark most of the historic properties within the historic district.

- At the Dixon-Salter House
- At the Dixon-Salter cool house
- At the Post Office and General Store
- At the Grace Cemetery
- At the Robert Wallace House
- At the Styron-Bragg House
- At the Keller-Styron Cemetery
- At George Dixon House
- Along the access road to the Two Seamen's Graves
- At the Cecil Gilgo House
- At the Schoolhouse
- At the Monroe and Mattie Gilgo site
- At the beginning of the Old Straight Road
- At the Washington Roberts House
- At the Portsmouth Methodist Church
- At the Jesse Babb House

- At the McWilliams-Dixon House
- At the Dr. Samuel Dudley gravesite
- At the Babb-Dixon Cemetery
- At the Dennis Mason House
- At the Roy Robinson House
- At the Portsmouth Life-Saving Station
- At the Portsmouth Life-Saving Station summer kitchen
- At the Portsmouth Life-Saving Station stable
- At the U.S. Marine Hospital site
- At the gate along the Road to the Beach
- At the Henry Babb ruins
- At the Tom Gilgo House
- At the Henry Pigott House
- At the Carl Dixon House
- At the Frank Gaskill House

Directional sign noting “Haulover Point Dock” along road to dock. A brown painted wood sign indicates the route leading to Haulover Point Dock (Fig. 140). This approximately three foot high sign is set on a square wooden post painted brown. The text is routed letters and an arrow, painted white. A metal sign indicating that vehicles are not permitted within the district is also nailed to the lower half of the sign. The sign is in good condition.

Identity sign at gate along Road to Beach. A larger identity sign (Fig. 141) located at the access control gate along the Road to the Beach welcomes visitors to Portsmouth Village and Cape Lookout National Seashore. The sign is in good condition.

Brown painted wood sign indicating “Foot Traffic Only” along the Road to Beach. This sign is comprised of a small rectangular wood sign plate mounted on an unpainted wood post. The sign text is routed into the wood. The routed letters are painted white and the sign face NPS brown. The



FIGURE 140. One of the brown-painted wood signs with routed text located within the district.



FIGURE 141. An informational sign along the Road to the Beach provides guidance to visitors and in formation about the village.



FIGURE 142. This directional sign is located along the Road to the Beach.

EXISTING CONDITIONS

sign stands approximately three feet in height. The sign is in good condition.

Brown painted wood sign indicating “To Beach” southwest of Portsmouth Life-Saving Station kitchen. A brown painted wood sign indicates the route leading to the beach from the vicinity of the Life-Saving Station. The sign is in good condition.

Three-way directional sign indicating “Portsmouth Beach, Wallace Channel Dock” along the Road to Beach, and a sign with an image of a jeep. There is an unpainted wood post along the Road to the Beach that includes three brown-painted routed wood signs pointing in the direction of various routes arising from its intersection with other paths (Fig. 142). The narrow signs point to Portsmouth Beach, Wallace Channel Dock, and Portsmouth Village. A metal sign nailed to the top of the five foot tall post includes a symbol of a jeep and a red diagonal line indicating that vehicles are prohibited along these routes. The sign is in good condition.

Sign suspended from Old Straight Road bridge. The wooden plank bridge along the Old Straight Road is marked with two posts at its southern end. A metal chain strung between the posts limits access to the bridge. A white painted wood board fence hangs from the chain. Painted on the sign is “Foot Traffic Only.” The sign is in good condition.

Wood post, north corner Portsmouth Life-Saving Station. Near the concrete ramp leading into the Life-Saving Station boat storage area, on the landward side of the seawall, there is a square wooden post set into the ground. This post may be used to secure boat lines. The post is in good condition.

Wood mooring post, Portsmouth Life-Saving Station. A round wood post is set within Coast Guard Creek adjacent to the seawall near the Life-Saving Station (Fig. 110). This treated post is used for mooring boats. The post is in good to fair condition.

Wood boat relic, mounted for display near the Portsmouth Life-Saving Station. To the west of the Life-Saving Station building are artifacts associated with a boat wreck (Fig. 143). The remains are bolted to two wood posts. The exhibit is in good condition.



FIGURE 143. A shipwreck relic displayed near the Portsmouth Life-Saving Station.



FIGURE 144. There is a flagpole within the Styron-Bragg House precinct.



FIGURE 145. Along the dock behind the Styron-Bragg House is a bird house.

Wood foundation piers marking the site of the former Portsmouth Life-Saving Station Shed.

Remnant wood posts outline the rectangular form of a shed structure that once stood adjacent to the stable. This structure washed away during one of the early twenty-first century hurricanes that affected the island. These posts are in fair condition.

Flagpole at Styron-Bragg House. At the corner of the picket fencing surrounding the Styron-Bragg House precinct is a metal flagpole that no longer includes flag-raising hardware (Fig. 144). The flagpole is rusted and is in fair condition.

Bird house along the dock behind the Styron-Bragg House. Along the dock leading across the marsh west of the Styron-Bragg House is a large bird house set on a tall wood pole (Fig. 145). The house has four openings. It is fashioned to look like a two-story Colonial house with a brick chimney and a shingle roof. The birdhouse is in good condition.

Wildlife refuge sign. Near the end of the dock is a sign that notes the importance of the area as a wildlife refuge area and as a North Carolina Wildlife game lands and bear sanctuary. The sign is in good condition.

Remains of outbuilding, Henry Pigott House. The remains of a missing outbuilding associated with the Henry Pigott House includes wooden foundation posts and a sill plate. This feature is located behind the summer kitchen and its collapsed brick chimney. These features are in fair condition.

Mail box on a wooden post by the dock, Henry Pigott House. Near the end of the wooden dock associated with the Henry Pigott House there is a grey metal mailbox, with a red flag, on a square unpainted wooden post. This feature relates to Henry Pigott's role as the island's mailman for many years. The mailbox is in good condition.

Fish table at the Henry Pigott House. Behind the Henry Pigott House is a simple wooden plank table that is likely used to clean fish. The table appears to be in good condition.

Water pump at the Henry Pigott House. A metal pump is located to the south of the wooden foundation posts and sill plate. The pump is operated by a red metal hand-operated lever. It stands approximately three feet in height. It is not



FIGURE 146. The T. T. Potter House includes a television antenna.



FIGURE 147. Near the T. T. Potter House is a fish cleaning table with a sink.



FIGURE 148. The yard in front of the McWilliams-Dixon House includes a rock-lined planting bed decorated with an anchor and a pole.

EXISTING CONDITIONS

known whether the pump is operating. It appears to be in good condition.

Television antenna, Henry Pigott House. Behind the Henry Pigott House is a metal television antenna that is comprised of a thin metal pole supporting a branched metal reception structure. This antenna appears to be in good condition.

Antenna at T. T. Potter House. A metal television antenna is located along the rear facade of the T. T. Potter House (Fig. 146). This antenna appears to be in good condition.

Fish cleaning table, T. T. Potter House. A simple wooden table on sturdy wooden legs sits to the side of the yard of the house (Fig. 147). A metal sink and faucet are set into the table. It is assumed that the table is used to clean fish. This table is in good condition.

Metal pole and anchor set within a circular planting bed, McWilliams-Dixon House. A decorative feature in the front yard of the McWilliams-Dixon House is a circular planting bed edged with small round rocks, inset with a metal anchor, and a five foot tall wood pole (Fig. 148). It is not clear what function the pole serves. These features appear to be in good condition.

Propane tank behind the McWilliams-Dixon House. Many of the residential properties on Portsmouth Island have metal propane tanks associated with the main dwelling house, such as that located at the McWilliams-Dixon House. These are likely used for cooking fuel. These features appear to be in good condition.

Stone-lined planting bed at Post Office and General Store. A number of melon-sized stones of varying material, possibly former ship's ballast, are arranged to outline a small planting bed to either side of the front entry of the Post Office and General Store. This feature is in good condition.

Wooden picnic tables at the Washington Roberts House. There are simple wood picnic tables near the house that appear to be in good condition.

Wood table north of Jesse Babb House. A simple wood plank table sits behind the Jesse Babb House summer kitchen. This table appears to be in good condition.



FIGURE 149. Trash bag receptacles are located along Haulover Point Road and the Road to the Beach.

Television antenna, Frank Gaskill House. Located adjacent to and behind the Frank Gaskill House is a small metal television antenna. This antenna appears to be in fair condition.

Steel cattle guard crossings of wet areas along the Old Straight Road. The Old Straight Road includes three steel cattle grates along its length where it crosses wet areas. These grates appear to be in good condition.

Trash bag receptacles along Haulover Point Road and the Road to the Beach. Cape Lookout National Seashore is a rustic park that assumes that visitors will leave the park carrying any trash they may have generated during their visit. Along Haulover Point Road near the end of the boardwalk, and at the entrance into the historic district from the Road to the Beach, the park has placed trash bag dispensers where visitors may secure a bag for holding their trash (Fig. 149). A sign on the dispensers notes that "Cape Lookout National Seashore is a Trash Free Park." The dispensers are

white painted wood boxes with an opening along the bottom where bags can be removed and a metal fabricated sign that is screwed onto the face of the box. The wood boxes are affixed to painted square wood posts. These features are in good condition.

Archeological Resources

Limited archeological investigation has been conducted to date at Portsmouth Village. Three sources of information were utilized to prepare this summary of known and potential archeological resources associated with Portsmouth Village: a 1976 assessment of archeological and historical resources within Cape Lookout National Seashore, a 2006 archeological survey prepared by the NPS Southeast Archeological Center, and walk-over survey prepared on behalf of this CLR. The following summarizes what is currently known about archeological resources within the Portsmouth Village Historic District and the associated areas of Middle Community and Sheep Island from these sources.

In 1976, the National Park Service completed an overview assessment of archeological and historic resources within the entire Cape Lookout National Seashore. The 1976 “Cape Lookout National Seashore: Assessment of Archeological and Historical Resources” suggested the following in regard to the archeological potential of Portsmouth Island and the historic district:

Of the five historic manifestations located within Cape Lookout National Seashore only Portsmouth Village (NPS 15) need be considered for nomination to the National Register. While it is assumed that the Historic Structure Report will provide the necessary background to fully determine the significance of this resource, it is felt that it should be mentioned here. Portsmouth dates back to 1753 and was a crucial transportation juncture. It was the only lightering outlet to the sea in the eighteenth century for ports on the Roanoke, Pamlico, and Neuse Rivers. Portsmouth represents one of the few tangible remnants of this period remaining along the Outer Banks of North Carolina.¹⁴³

The study notes that “site significance, prehistoric as well as historic, was measured against the following: 1) Relative abundance and variety of cultural data contained within a site; 2) Relationship to the surrounding environment; 3) Research potential; and 4) Data contained in the site which would correct current deficiencies in cultural knowledge of the area.”¹⁴⁴

During summer 2006, Meredith Hardy of the NPS Southeast Archeological Center conducted a survey, which is in the process of being documented. A draft report provided the information that follows.

Most archeological resources are likely to be associated with the sites of existing structures and known former structures, although it appears that no subsurface testing has been conducted to evaluate the integrity of resources that might exist. As noted by Hardy,

They should be intact, though they would have been impacted by hurricanes, severe storms, etc. Systematic survey and testing should be conducted around places where structures are no longer standing—the marine hospital, several houses indicated on maps that today are marked only by a few small brick piers, cisterns, and collapsed chimneys.¹⁴⁵

Contemporary NPS maps suggest the locations of ruins at various sites, such as the Ed Keeler House ruins (foundation and chimney in evidence), the Ben Dixon Site ruins (brick chimney in evidence), and the Tine Bragg ruins (cistern and wood debris in evidence). There appears to be archeological potential at the Washington Roberts House. Brick rubble at the west end of the kitchen wing may be associated with the house’s original kitchen, and there is a large mound in front of the house that should be investigated. In addition, two former house sites—the Cecil Gilgo House and the Monroe and Mattie Gilgo House—are traditionally thought to have included small family cemeteries or burials. Further investigation is also needed to confirm the existence of these burial grounds.

143. John Ehrenhard, “Cape Lookout National Seashore: Assessment of Archeological and Historical Resources” (Tallahassee: National Park Service, Southeast Archeological Center, 1976), ii.

144. *Ibid.*, xi.

145. E-mail communication, Meredith Hardy, National Park Service, Southeast Archeological Center, to Liz Sargent, JMA, April 30, 2007.

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Hardy's investigations yielded the likely location of the late eighteenth century to early nineteenth century windmill and gristmill complex, Sam Tolson House site, Henry Babb House site, Dixon-Gilgo House site, Claudia Daily House site, Joe Roberts House site, Warren Creek cemetery site, Harmin Austin House site, Rose Pigott House site, various unidentified house sites, and a sheep dipping vat.

Hardy also notes from her summer 2006 investigations at Portsmouth Island:

As far as the Middle and Sheep Island communities are concerned, not much is known. Some wooden fence posts are visible through field observation. It seems that there should be some evidence, but it would be in the form of fallen chimneys and small house mounds (prepared platforms where houses would have been). Very tough to see. On Sheep Island, I know the location of the Wallace Cemetery; he, his wife, and two children are buried there. There should also be some evidence of the small community that was on the island. I would recommend that intensive systematic survey be conducted to locate both of these potential archeological resources.¹⁴⁶

Investigations conducted by CLR project team members Joseph Balicki and Bryan Corle in late February and early March 2007, aided by local knowledgeable resident Chester Lynn, focused on the Middle Community and Sheep Island. The goal of the investigation was to locate house sites and cemeteries using a handheld GPS unit. The results of this visit follow. See Appendix A for more information.

The Old Straight Road extends south from the historic district. It was possible to follow this road trace across the entire island; it provides a good reference point to historic maps. A road trace leading to Middle Community was also located. Based on GPS readings it was determined that contemporary NPS maps are only accurate within the historic district.

A portion of Tom Gilgo's hammock was visited and locations recorded, including the Tom Gilgo House site, and the grave of Captain William Dixon nearby. Several house sites were identified and recorded in the Middle Community. Six cemeteries in and

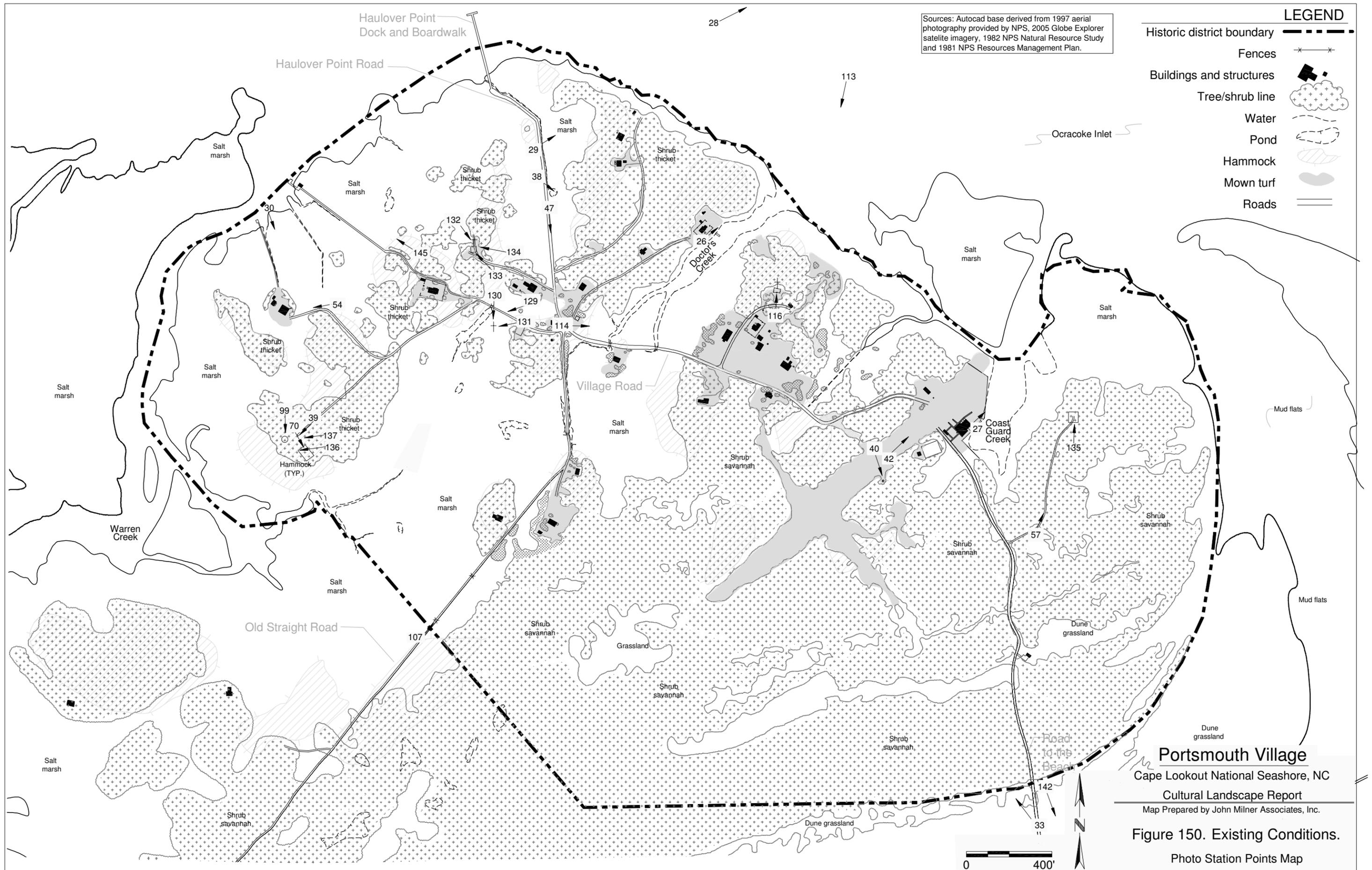
around the Middle Community were located and recorded. However, the vegetation on this part of the island is almost impenetrable and will need to be cleared before additional features can be located. The white granite tomb of Captain Dixon could not be seen from five feet away because of the undergrowth. The tomb was only found because Mr. Lynn knew its location.

The Old Straight Road leads almost directly to the cemetery that has eroded into the creek. Careful searching around the creek did not reveal any additional indications of a cemetery or other occupation.

On Sheep Island, only the location of the Wallace graveyard and one house site could be mapped. Evidence was found for at least one additional grave besides the ones with exposed markers.

In summary, the area of Portsmouth Island outside of the historic district contains numerous archeological resources. The vegetation cover and numerous tree falls make for challenging survey conditions. It is likely that every hammock outside the historic district has a site on it. Given that the historic sites were houses built on wood pilings or on brick footers, the archeological signatures are very indistinct. Further, Mr. Lynn spoke of houses being moved and materials salvaged.

146. Ibid.



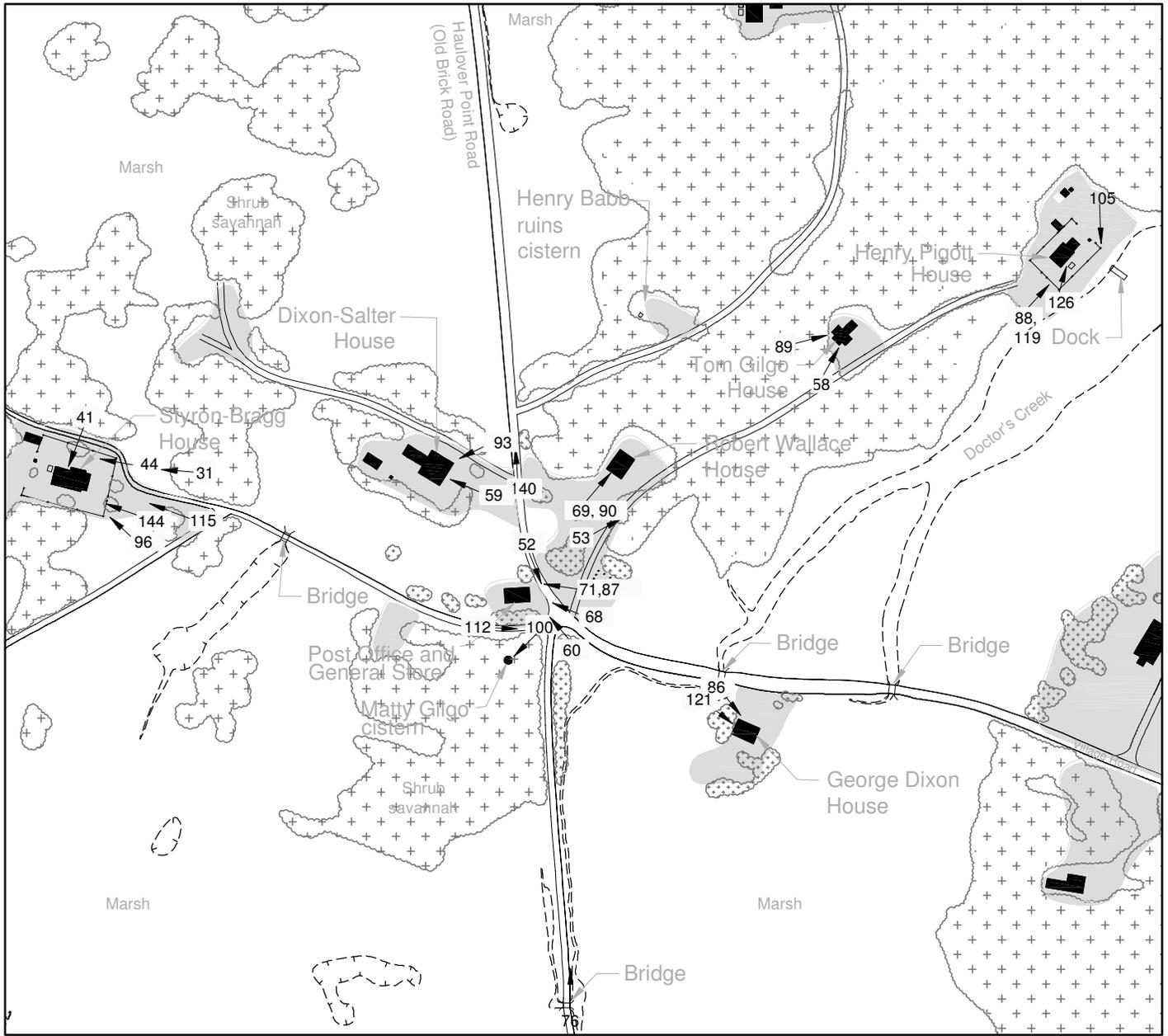
Sources: Autocad base derived from 1997 aerial photography provided by NPS, 2005 Globe Explorer satellite imagery, 1982 NPS Natural Resource Study and 1981 NPS Resources Management Plan.

LEGEND

- Historic district boundary
- Fences
- Buildings and structures
- Tree/shrub line
- Water
- Pond
- Hammock
- Mown turf
- Roads

Portsmouth Village
 Cape Lookout National Seashore, NC
 Cultural Landscape Report
 Map Prepared by John Milner Associates, Inc.

Figure 150. Existing Conditions.
 Photo Station Points Map



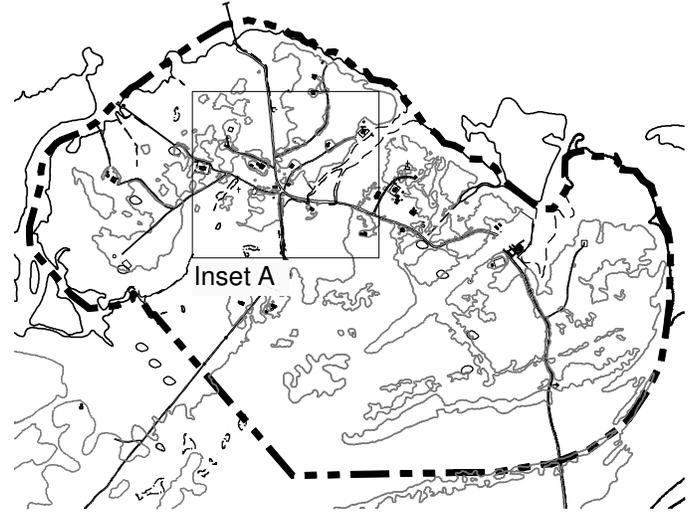
Inset A- Village Center- West

Sources: Autocad base derived from 1997 aerial photography provided by NPS and 2005 Globe Explorer satellite imagery.

0 200'

LEGEND

- Historic district boundary
- Fences
- Buildings and structures
- Hammock
- Mown turf
- Roads
- Tree/shrub line
- Water
- Pond



Study Area Map

0 1500'

Portsmouth Village

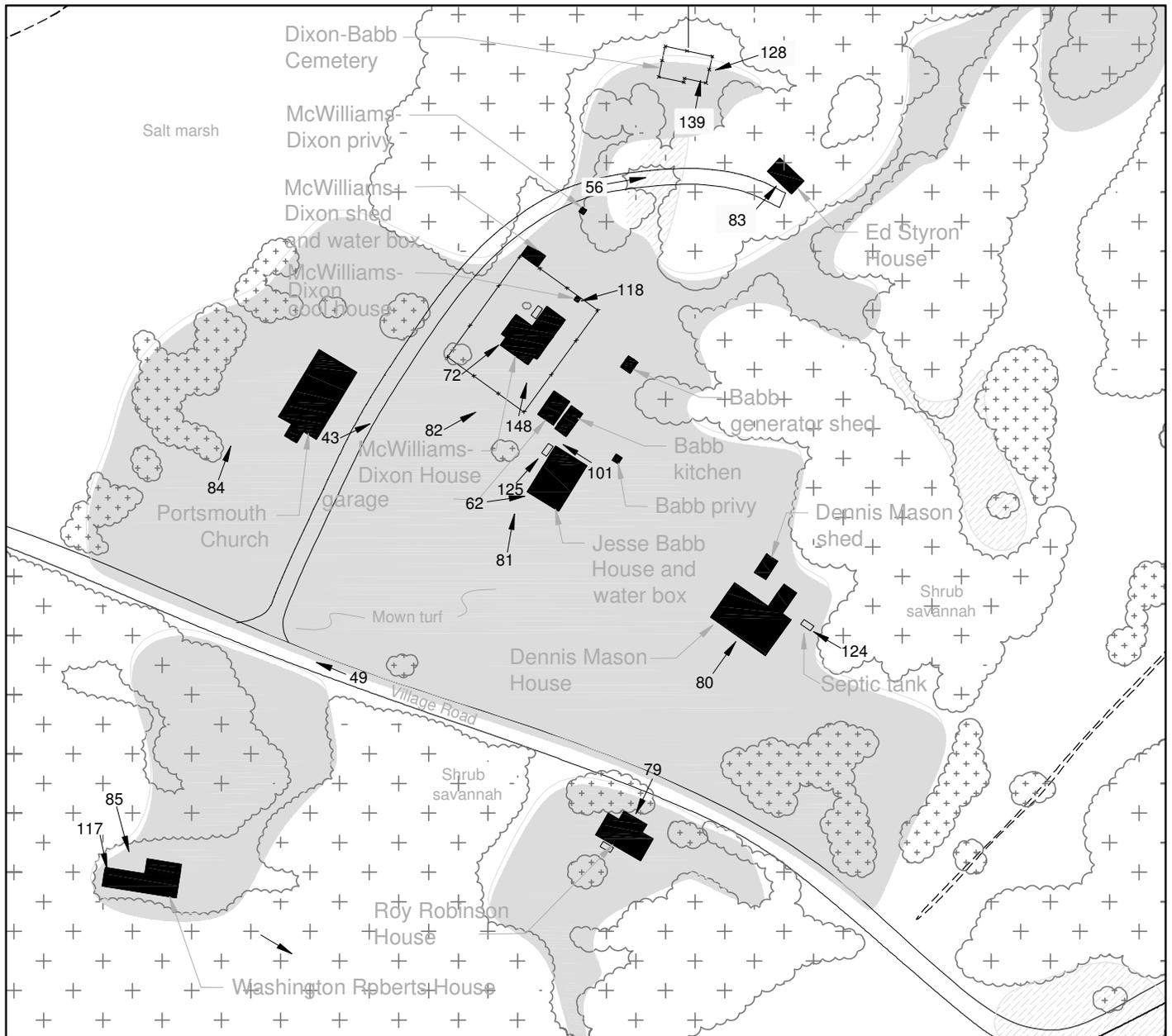
Cape Lookout National Seashore, NC

Cultural Landscape Report

Map Prepared by John Milner Associates, Inc.

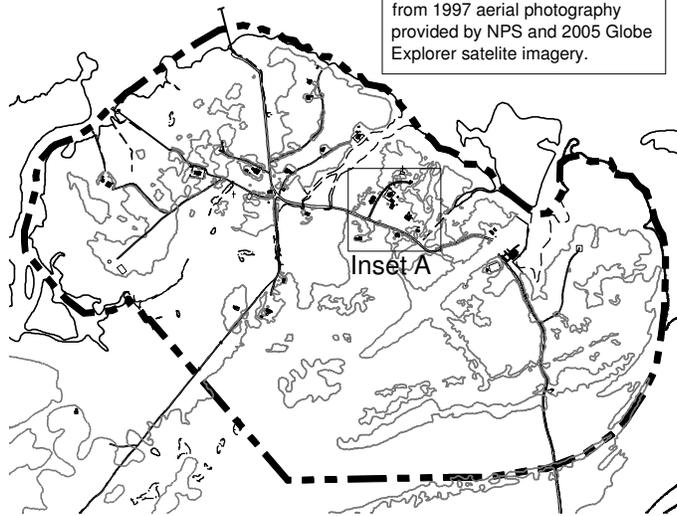
Figure 151. Existing Conditions.

Photo Station Points Map



Inset A- Village Center- East

Note: Position of spur road that bypasses Portsmouth Church is uncertain.
 Sources: Autocad base derived from 1997 aerial photography provided by NPS and 2005 Globe Explorer satellite imagery.



Study Area Map

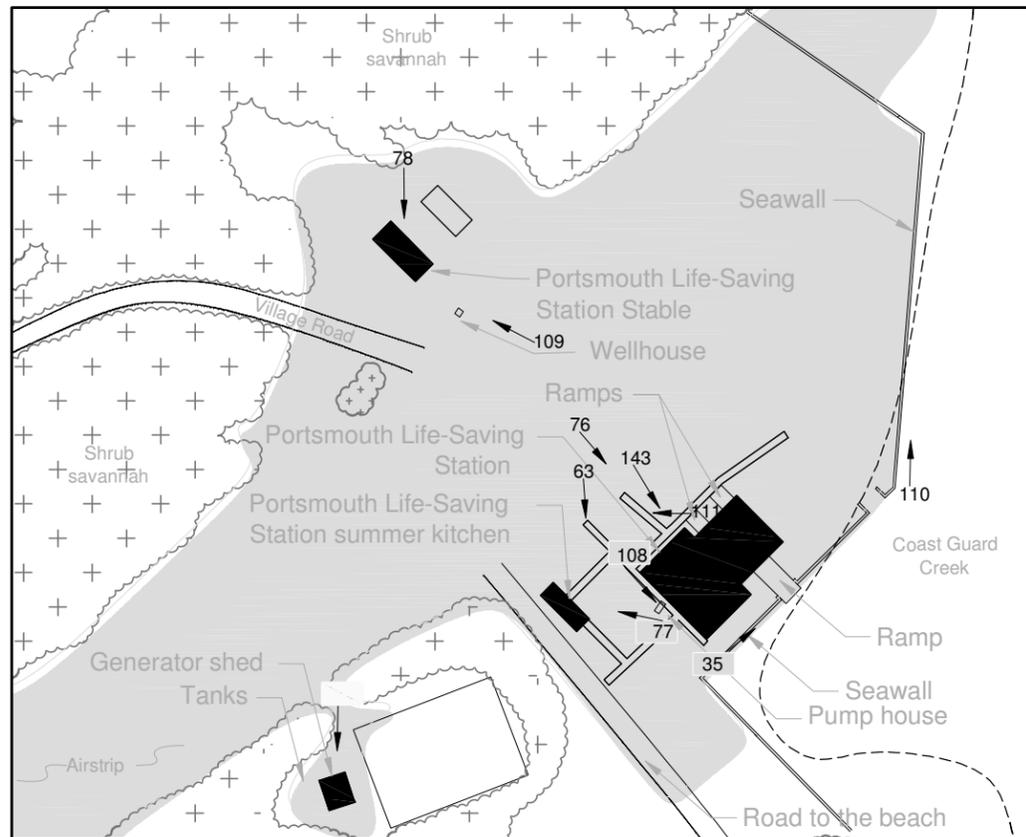


LEGEND

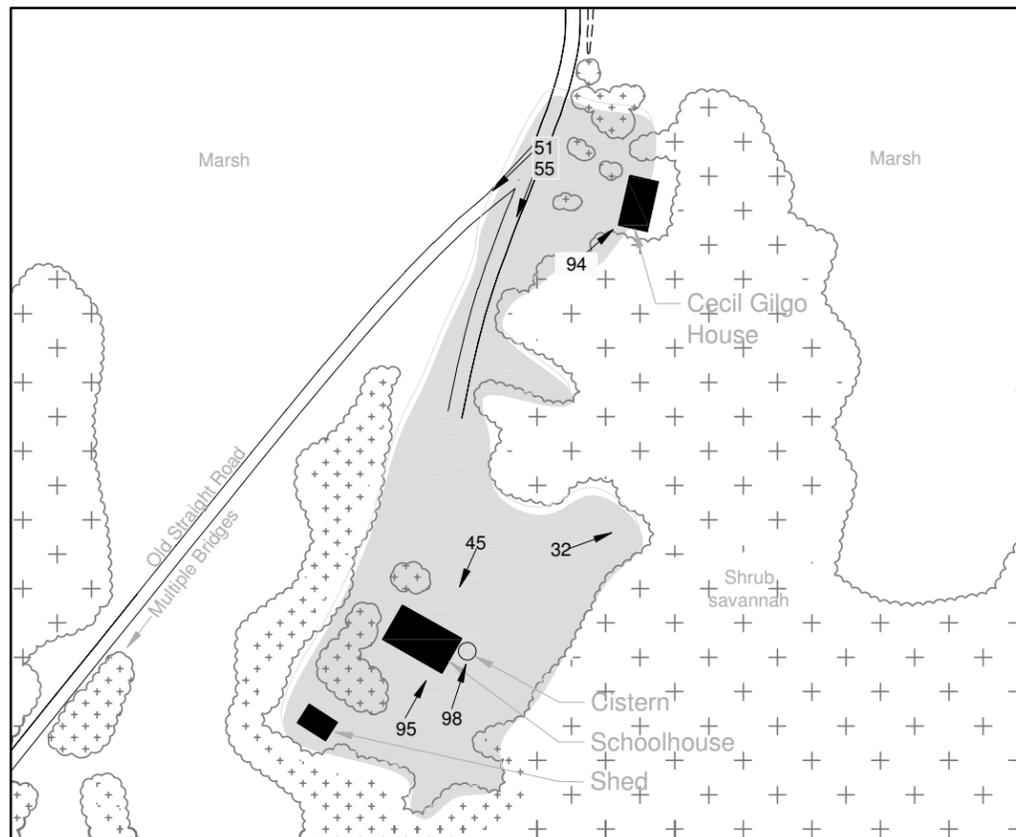
- Historic district boundary
- Fences
- Buildings and structures
- Hammock
- Mown turf
- Roads
- Tree/shrub line
- Water
- Pond



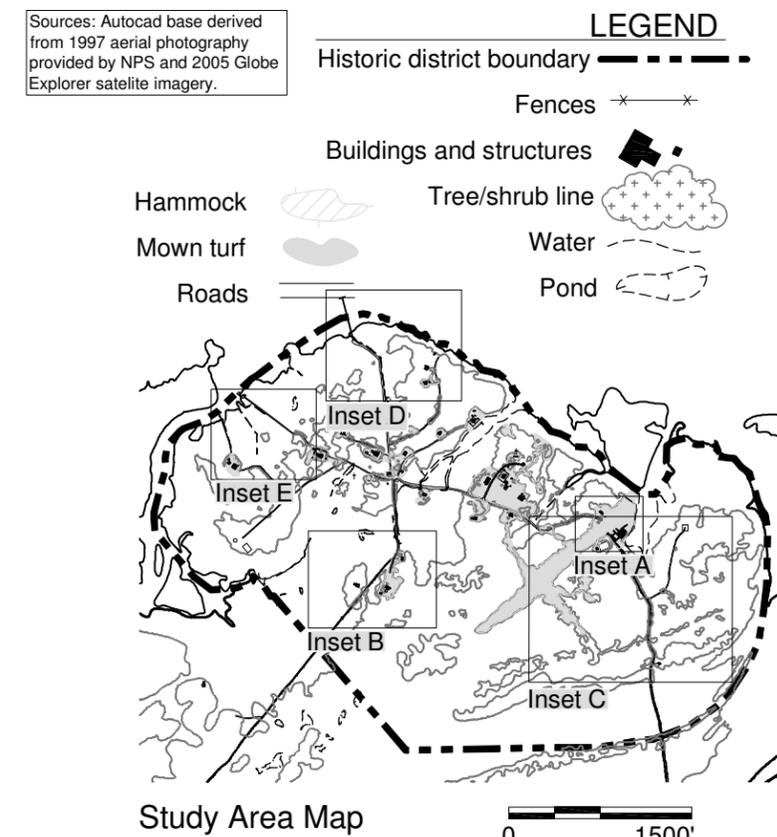
Portsmouth Village
 Cape Lookout National Seashore, NC
 Cultural Landscape Report
 Map Prepared by John Milner Associates, Inc.
Figure 152. Existing Conditions.
 Photo Station Points Map



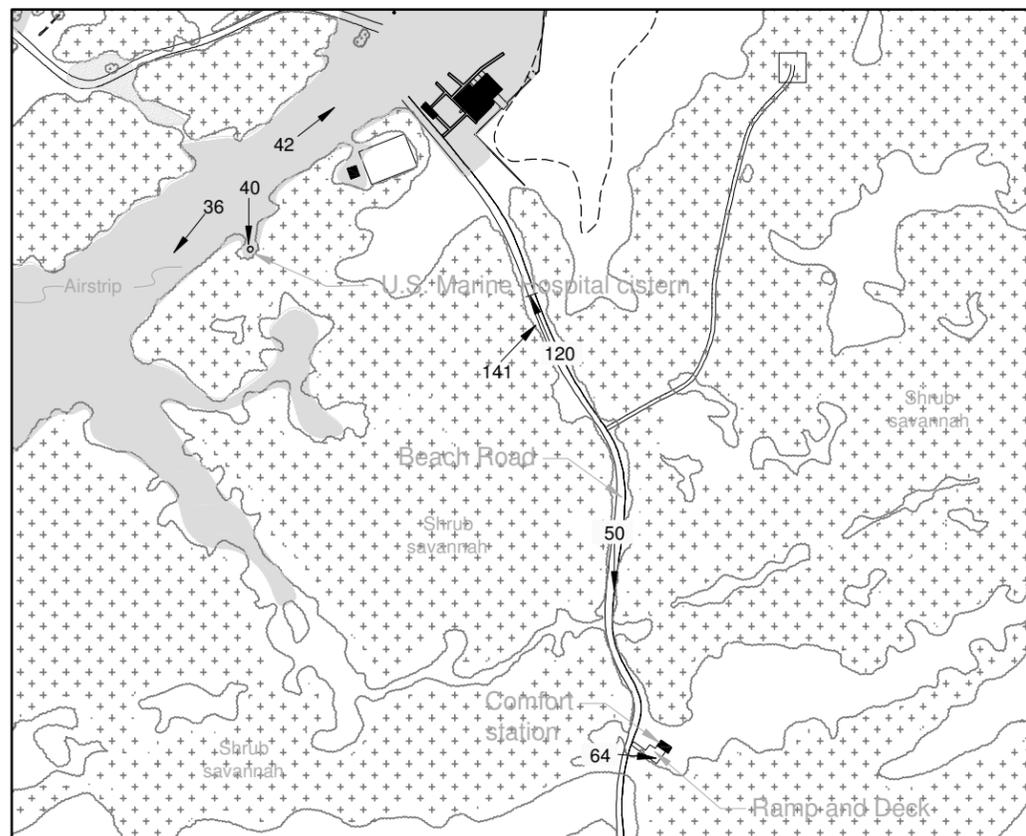
Inset A- Portsmouth Life-Saving Station Complex



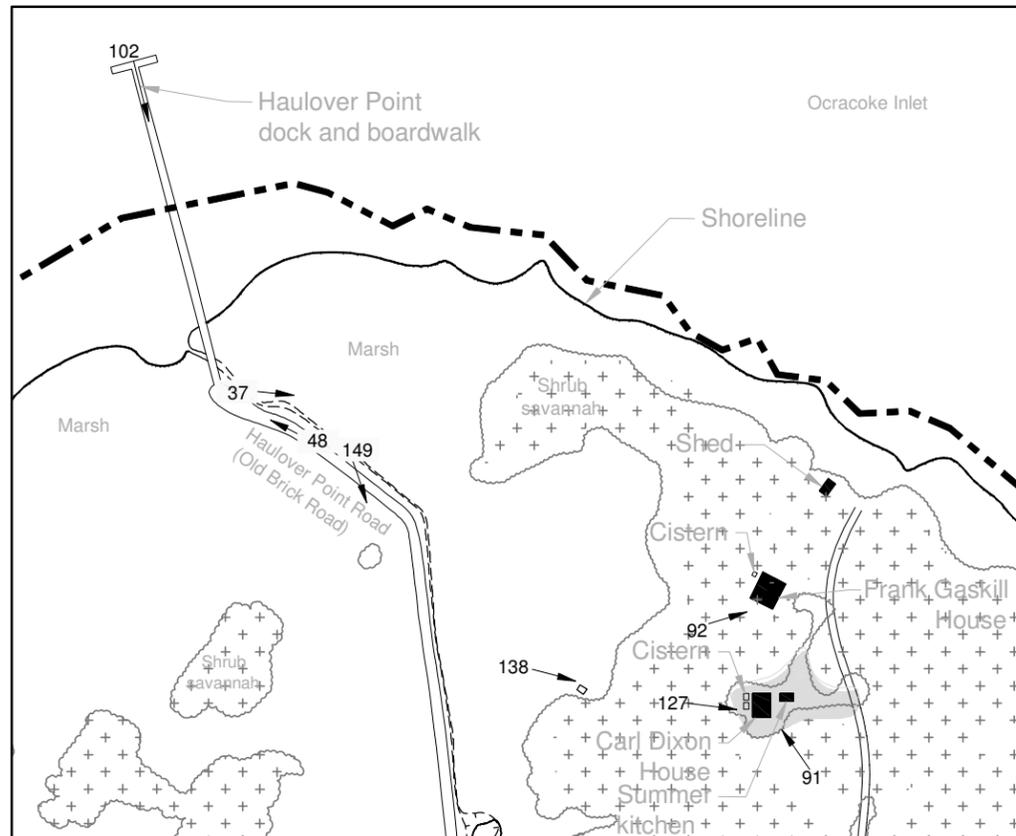
Inset B- Schoolhouse Environs



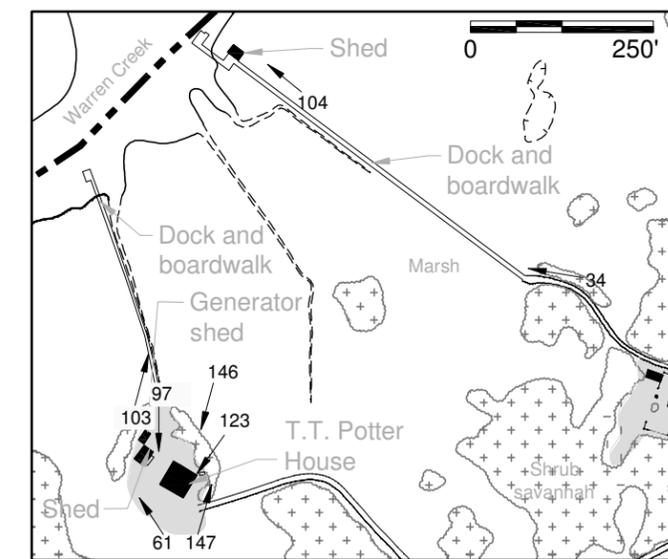
Study Area Map



Inset C- Beach Road



Inset D- Haulover Point



Inset E- T.T. Potter House Environs

Portsmouth Village
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Figure 153. Existing Conditions.
 Photo Station Points Map

Sources: Autocad base derived from 1997 aerial photography provided by NPS and 2005 Globe Explorer satellite imagery.