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U. S. GEOLOGICAL
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Department of Commerce and Labor
COAST AND GEODETIC SURVEY

O. H. Pittman
Superintendent.

State: *Alaska*

DESCRIPTIVE REPORT.

Top. ³⁴⁷³ Sheet No. *3473*

LOCALITY:

Annette I.

Port Chester

1914

CHIEF OF PARTY:

C. L. ...

11-1645

3473

DESCRIPTIVE REPORT
AND
LIST OF PLANE TABLE POSITIONS
OF
PLANE TABLE SURVEY
OF
PORT CHESTER, S. E. ALASKA
BY D. Karr - Aid.
May 15 - June 15, 1914.

Sheet No. 2.

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water line as well as the high water line was rodde*d* in. The extent of the reefs lying near the entrance to the harbor was determined at low water. The elevation of a number of points on the hillsides as well as the summits were determined and the sketching of the contours is believed to be very accurate. The topography east of Leadville Mt., and Front Hill, was rodde*d* in so that the position and size of the lakes and ridges are correct. On this portion of the work orientation was made on the needle and the position checked by cuts to mountain tops and to all visible signals in the bay. The remainder of the work was done by traversing.

SHORELINE:

The northerly and southerly shores of Port Chester Harbor are much alike. Both are low stretches of land with beaches of small boulders, coarse sand or broken shells, and outcroppings of ledge rock. At Village Point, on the southern shore, there is a fine beach of gravel and broken shells which extends for several hundred meters east and west of the point. It is considered one of the best stretches of beach in Southeastern Alaska. There are a number of small bights in the northern shore with smooth beaches, and in some can be found a little good sand. The eastern shore is steep

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and rocky. In most places the water is very deep, but a few meters off shore. The shore of Hemlock Island is for the most part of ledge rock with a few short stretches of stony beach.

There are many small islands lying in the center of the harbor. Gull Island and Scrub Islands, are rocky islets. The latter bear a few scrubby trees and the former is well covered with trees. Murdo Island is bare of trees except for a few large dead ones. It is a sandy island and a small patch on it has been cultivated. The other little islands, which at high water are but a few meters in extent, are bare of trees. The reefs are of ledge rock covered with loose boulders.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION.

Approaching Port Chester from the SW., the white buildings of the town of Metlakatla are visible for a long distance. The large white church with its two square towers is a prominent land mark. It faces NW. (true). Purple Mt., and Leadville Mt., both of a deep purple color, are distinctive features. They are seen directly east of the village. Entering the harbor, Metlakatla lies on the starboard hand on what is known as Village Point. The land is even and rises gently from the shore to an elevation of 50 to 60 feet. It offers a splendid city site. There is an anchorage to

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be found east of Village Point about 1/2 mile and opposite the C. & G. Survey Boat House, in 20 to 30 fathoms of water. Another anchorage often used is over by the waterfall between Purple Mt., and Leadville Mt., where there is less water. The waterfall offers a good watering place. There is a good dock and wharf at Metlakatla, a large and well equipped cannery, and a saw mill. There are several stores where staple provisions can be purchased. The town has a library, two school houses, (one of which is maintained by the Federal Government), other public buildings, and from about 150 to 200 dwellings. The population of the village in winter consists of about 600 natives and 8 white people. In the summer almost 3/4 of the natives leave to fish for other canneries. The soil is a heavy black loam. At present the land is very swampy, but the slope of the land would lead itself easily to drainage. The natives raise vegetables and berries, and in several cleared places grass and clover grow abundantly.

East of the village for about a mile and a half the land is low. There is a little timber still standing in this small section. Purple Mt., rises abruptly from this low land. For the first 500 or 600 feet it is almost precipitous and is well wooded. Above that elevation the rise is less steep and the mountain is practi-

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cally bare except for short scrub bushes. The distinctive purple color of the rock formation gives the mountain its name. Leadville Mt., lying immediately north of Purple Mt., is of the same formation and of similar color. Both are covered with loose boulders and broken rock. Lake Chester, elevation 825 ft., and Lake Edgecomb, elevation 1,005 ft., lies behind these two mountains and between the two ridges that run nearly due east (true) from their summits, and parallel to each other. A stream runs from Lake Edgecomb to Lake Chester. The overflow of Lake Chester empties into Port Chester Harbor. Its drop of 800 feet in as many meters, makes a most beautiful waterfall. Water from these lakes is piped to Metlakatla for domestic use and for use at the cannery, and the water power is used at the saw mill. All these hills are of the same glacial formation. Just NE. of Leadville Mt., lies Melanson Lake, elevation 225 feet, with five small ponds emptying into it. Trout Hill rises north of Melanson Lake to an elevation of 880 feet. It is rugged and rather difficult to climb, because of the boulders, broken rock, and scrub cedar covering its sides. The color of the rock is the characteristic purple of this section. North of Trout Hill and between it and Janesville Mt., (elevation 2,555 feet), lies Trout Lake, elevation 60 feet, so named, no doubt, because of the scarcity of trout in it. All of these lakes are beautifully

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clear water, and reported to be deep by native fishermen. Janesville Mt., rises precipitously, its southerly side being scored with numerous arroyos. The hills immediately north of Trout Lake are distinctly different from those to the south of it. They are heavily timbered, and the contours are decidedly more regular.^{apparent?} Near the summit of the mountains the timber is thin. Small scrubby undergrowth covers the tops and gives them a bright green color. Cherango Mt., (not shown on the sheet) bears about N.W., from Janesville Mt. Between them is a gap which is blocked at the westerly end by a knoll, (elevation 650 feet). The natives questioned, did not know whether or not there is a lake in the depression. Driest Point, a narrow rocky stretch of wooded land running out into Nichols Passage, forms the northerly boundary of Port Chester Harbor. At its highest point it is under 200 feet. Hemlock Island has some good spruce and hemlock still on it, although a great deal has been cut out. In several places the natives have made gardens in the small clearings. It is about 150 feet in elevation at highest point. There are some yellow cedars to be found, but most of the timber on Annette Island is spruce and hemlock. Like most of the timber in that part of the country, it is straight and grows 75 feet to 100 feet in height, and not over 3 feet in diameter.

Douglas Kane and

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The STATISTICS for this sheet are as follows:

Lineal miles of Shoreline (statute) - 19

Area in statute square miles 13

D. H. M. A. S.

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DESCRIPTIONS OF SIGNALS

to accompany

Topographic
HYDROGRAPHIC SHEET No. 1.

<u>Signal</u>	<u>Latitude</u>	<u>D.R.</u>	<u>Longitude</u>	<u>D.M.</u>	<u>Height</u>	<u>Mark</u>
Boat	55° 07'	876 979	131° 33'	794.0 270.0	35 Ft.	Gable of C.& G.S.Boathouse.
Camp	55° 09'	1569.0 286.0	131° 33'	956.0 106.0	8 "	Gable of shack
Cro	55° 08'	685 1170	131° 35'	275.0 788.0	15 "	Dead stump
Crab	55° 09'	990.0 865.0	131° 33'	694.0 368.0	15 "	Banner on tree
Dug	55° 10'	737.0 1118.0	131° 36'	114.0 948.0	10 "	Braced pole
End	55° 09'	758.0 1097.0	131° 33'	554.0 508.0	10 "	Banner on tree
Flag	55° 07'	862 993	131° 33'	541.0 523.0	12 "	Flag in tree
Fly	55° 10'	329.0 1526.0	131° 35'	818.0 224.0	45 "	Braced pole
Hem	55° 09'	852.0 1093.0	131° 34'	432.0 629.0	30 "	Banner in tree
Low	55° 09'	468.0 1387.0	131° 34'	49.0 1013.0	5 "	Braced pole
Lock	55° 09'	1750.0 105.0	131° 33'	890.0 172.0	3 "	Braced pole
Round	55° 09'	441.0 1414.0	131° 33'	833.0 229.0	12 "	Small scrub tree
Shack	55° 08'	1209.0 646.0	131° 32'	111.0 953.0	15 "	Gable of shack

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DESCRIPTIONS OF SIGNALS

to accompany

Topographic
~~Hydrographic~~ SHEET No. 1.

<u>Signal</u>	<u>Latitude</u>	<u>D.E.</u>	<u>Longitude</u>	<u>D.M.</u>	<u>Height</u>	<u>Mark</u>
Scrub	55° 08'	711 1144	131° 34'	157 906	15 Ft.	Braced pole
Sig	55° 09'	55 1800	131° 34'	340 722	3 "	Braced pole
Stick	55° 10'	870 985	131° 36'	383 679	3 "	Braced pole
Top	55° 10'	152 1703	131° 35'	562 400	3 "	Braced pole
White	55° 10'	50 1805	131° 34'	¹⁰ 100 32 30	3 "	Braced pole
FLAG POLE	55 07	¹³⁷⁴ 481	131 34'	577 484		30' Flag Pole at School House

School house flag pole