DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR
COAST AND GEODETIC SURVEY

Superintendent.

State: Massachusetts

DESCRIPTIVE REPORT.

Locality:
West Shore of Cape Cod
Bay from Derricott to Ship Pond.

1907

Chief of Party:
O.B. French.
Descriptive Report to accompany

The revision of original topographic sheets No. 719, 612, 425, 455, and 1063, west, show of Cape Cod Bay from Scituate to Ship Pond, Massachusetts.

The method followed in making this revision was as follows: Old triangulation stations were resurveyed and occupied to determine the positions of many objects (such as masts, towers, chimneys, lighthouses, flagstaffs, tanks, etc.) to afford a control for the new work.

Local plates were obtained whenever possible and two or more points located accurately upon each one as well as upon a tracing over the original sheet. Tracings of the original sheets and their local plates were taken into the field and all details plotted or sketched from them thus bringing them up to date. A sextant was used to locate such objects as could not be accurately figured in other ways the angles thus obtained being plotted later.

All changes from the original sheets are shown on tracings made over the original sheets.
All buildings, roads, railroads, and shore are shown on these tracings, as the changes were so numerous it was considered better to have the whole data in one place. As there were few changes in the other details of the original sheets only these changes are shown on the tracings.

Data which is not in question now is shown on the tracings in red ink, except contours. The latter are shown in red ink and only the changes from the original are shown on the tracings.

Whenever data on the tracings covers data on the original sheets the latter should be cut out, as an attempt to show such data in red would be confusing.

Fence lines were not revised. Many of the fences on the survey herein, and most of the main fences shown on the original sheets are still in question.

No attempt was made to carry the revision to the limits of the original sheets, the new work being ordinarily confined to a narrow strip along the shore or to the main road which is marked the coast.
On Sheet No. 1163, from White Horse Beach around Rocky Pt. the original topography was so poorly represented that the new road could not be located at all accurately; hence a serious traverse was run over this section and the data shown on the tracing is as accurate as could be desired although much different from that shown on the original sheet.

The main road to Wauquash over the little moon rocks triangulation station was plotted from data obtained from Mass. Highway Department as also was the remainder of this road southward to a point about a mile south of Fish Pond.

Most of the main roads in this region are macadamized and excellent, but the other roads are rather poor owing to a sandy soil.

Charts of Wauquash, White Horse Beach, Plymouth, Kingston, Duxbury, Scituate, East and vicinity, Grim Harbor, Braint Rock, Rockham, Ahamarock, Fish Hill, and Sea View, were obtained from Richards Atlas of Plymouth County, 1925, and
was found to be very reliable.

There is only one important change in the shore line in this section since the original survey, and few minor changes. This prominent change is in the position of the mouth of North River shown on Top. Chart No. 779. The old mouth is entirely closed and the new one is some 3 miles further north and appears to have a good depth of water over the bar.

The entrance to Green Harbor is changed a little, due to the stone jetty placed there a few years ago.

A large part of the shore is of such a character that it cannot change materially since it was not very subjected to change by inspection. Many points which were tested were found unchanged, or so slightly in error that the distortion of the chart would very easily account for the apparent displacement, and no correction has been made for such cases.

The changes in the town, village, etc., have been more pronounced, however.
The principal town, Plymouth, has grown very materially and other old towns nearly in proportion. Several new towns have been established on the coast. They are practically summer resorts composed mostly of small wooden cottages. But most of these are numerous cottages used ordinarily only during the summer, many of them being durable and expensive.

There are few changes in the timber distribution since the original survey and little probability of any material change in the near future except where summer cottages are to be located. The timber is very small and of little commercial value.

There are no manufacturing industries in this region except in the neighborhood of Plymouth and Kingston. There are rural woolen and cotton mills and factories for manufacture of wool, flax, etc. Midway between Plymouth and Kingston is one of the largest codfish works in the United States.

The State of Maine has led the conduct to open a channel from this codfish works...
to deep water so small going craft can go directly to the plant with their loads of cordage making materials. Bridges are now at work upon this channel and have been all during the winter (1908-9).

The channel is to extend directly from the wharf at the Cordage Works, easterly at an angle of about 15° to southward of the south shore of Captain's Head, to the main channel into Kingston, thence about S.E. to the main channel just south of Dryden Point Head L.H.

The Cordage Co. has planned a much larger wharf and a turning basin just north of it.

The two large chimneys at the Cordage works are very prominent objects when entering Plymouth Harbor. So also are the following objects in Plymouth: e.g., Paint Mill, Concrete Chimney, Electric Power House, Brick Church, High School Wharf, and wireline poles or mast.

The most prominent artificial object in this region is the large Mayfield Monument on Captain's Hill. Almost
as prominent (possibly more so from Cape Lookout) is the tall white mass at Grant's Rock.

All channels to Plymouth and rocks along the coast are marked by buoys which do not shift very readily.

Respectfully submitted,

Chow R. French
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April, 1909.