U. S. COAST AND GEODETIC SURVEY.

O. H. Jettmann, Superintendent.

State: Md.

DESCRIPTIVE REPORT.

Topographic Sheet No. 2465

Locality: Elk Neck

1905

Chief of Party: J. H. Dowin
Treasury Department,
Office of the Coast and Geodetic Survey,
Washington, D.C.,
January 14, 1901.

Mr. Andrew Braid,
Assistant in charge of the Office.

Sir:

I again forward Topographic Sheet No. 2465, "Elk Neck, Md," by Assistant Donn, together with my letter of November 15, 1901, upon which, so far, no action seems to have been taken by the Office.

Respectfully yours,

[Signature]

Assistant and Chief, Drawing and Engraving Division.

The former letter, with the sheet 2465, was at the time referred to the Chief, Office of Survey, for action, and was by him forwarded to the Australian War Congress, when it was referred back to the same by the letter of Jan. 14, 1903.
Mr. Andrew Braid,

Assistant in charge of the Office.

Sir:

I forward herewith Topographic Sheet No. 2465, "Elk Neck, Md.", by Mr. J. W. Donn in 1900. A comparison of this sheet with No's. 2383 and 2411 show that there are small areas which have not been properly filled out, localities of which are indicated on the upper portion of this sheet in the vicinity of the towns of Northeast and Elkton by red pencil marks. Would it not be desirable to have the topography at Elkton extended so as to show at least a part of the town itself. We have been unable to finish all the lettering of the sheet as the names furnished were so hurriedly written that we are unable to make them all out; for instance, which is correct "Bacon Hill" or "Beacon Hill".

The following differences in names have been noted on this sheet from the same names as they appear on Chart No. 136 and some of the older plane-table sheets:

✓ "Thackery Pt." is "Tackaras Pt." on Chart 136 and "Tachreys Pt." on Top. Sheet 186.

✓ "Hylands Pt." is "Corn Landing" on Chart 136 and Sheet 186.
"Roach Pt." is "Roach's Pt." on Chart 136 and "Roch Pt." of Top. Sheet 184.


"Oldfield's Pt." is "Old Field's Pt." on Chart 136.

Will you kindly refer the matter to Mr. Donn for examination.

Respectfully yours,

Wm. Ward Duffield

Assistant and Chief, Drawing and Engraving Division.
Descriptive Report

of

Topographical Sheet-Reg.No.

Elk Neck Md.

1800

The general character of Elk Neck is that of an irregularly rolling country, unique in its difference from all other parts of the Eastern shore of Maryland. The land rises from the Rivers forming its Eastern and Western boundaries with more or less abruptness, that along the North East River in its upper part by gentle slopes and the lower by precipitous banks, the highest of which is at Maulden’s Mountain, which is elevated above the tide 270 feet. Its face constantly suffers loss by erosion. From North East until Bull Mtn is reached, the country rises gradually to the series of hills and ridges forming the backbone of the Neck, which extends from Maulden’s Mtn to the Hog Hills, across the northern spur of which the Elkton and North East road passes.

Along the Elk River shores, the eastern water shed rises with a moderate grade to the average height of sixty feet for a mile and then abruptly to the backbone.

Geologically the formation is that of the drift and the relief complex. Large fragments of conglomerate in which degenerate iron ore largely predominate. Immense gravel beds forming hills of considerable height
and occasional masses of gneiss, are found. In a valley opening to the West between Eulls and Mauldin's Mountains a very large deposit of red granite boulders of very large size are exposed and fragments of the same are found on the hill trending to the South for a half mile indicating that the deposit underlies it for that distance at least.

Erosion is rapidly changing the shores, the eroded material passing into the Bay and eventually finding its way to the sea. The two rivers are shoaling and in their upper parts channels are greatly narrowed by thickly growing eel grass. There are no marshes that could be easily reclaimed. With the exception of Plum Creek the area of marshy lands is very small. The water is rarely saline at the heads of the two rivers named.

Vegetation is of a mixed and varied character—all hard and soft woods that are found in a temperate climate grow readily in the soils of Elk Neck. The same may be said of fruit trees. But little timber of large size can be found, nearly all now growing being secondary. The higher hills are covered with this growth and with it are great copses of laurel and other shrubbery. The areas of arable and wooded country are in the proportion of three to seven while grass lands cut but a small figure.

The two principal towns lie upon the northern border—one "North East" was settled in the seventeenth century. Elkton is not so old. Their settlements were indicated by their positions upon power streams—the North East
and the Elk Rivers. They are mostly maintained by manufactures and the facilities afforded by railroad transportation. The principal products of manufactures are wood pulp for paper making and the reduction of iron ore. Fire brick are also made on the North East River.

The chief means of communication are by river navigation and railroads. The roads are of varied character but as a rule their condition is bad in rainy weather. The material for their building is usually obtained from the roadside, though the finest gravel is found in abundance in the hills easy to be obtained and transported.

The railroads are the Pennsylvania and the Baltimore and Ohio.

Both branches of the Elk, which unite at Elkton, are capable of furnishing water power. The North East is of a similar character. These streams are used to a very small extent however. Both the Elk and North East are navigable at all times when not obstructed by ice. There are no floods with much greater elevation than is seen in spring tides. Bridges are small—two or three of iron and several of wood, covered as in days long past.

No health or pleasure resorts exist. By comparison with the first survey the North East has but slightly increased its population. Elkton has quadrupled statistical subjects.

The area of Elk Neck is about forty two square miles.

The weather during the period between May 1st and June 10th, 1900 when the first work of the re-survey was done, was for a large part wet and unfit
for field work. But eighteen days of the period served for advancing the work. The second period began Nov. 1st and ended Jan. 5th, 1901. During November the weather was fairly favorable. In December and until the close there was much cold and inclement weather.

The scale of the survey was 1/200000. The cost per square mile was about $42.

With the exception of the Turkey Point primary, all triangulation points were tertiary and had no permanency of marking. All essential to the work were found. Plane table points were of every class mostly 3 pt. 2 pt or traverse and where practicable in wooded areas declinor stations were used. Topographical details were precise and full to the power of the scale.

The continued cold weather during the latter part of January brought the work to a close at the time mentioned. The survey was resumed in May and eight days sufficed to bring it to a close, but a large part of the month was inclement.

[Signature]
Chief of Party C. & C. Survey