

2896



Department of Commerce and Labor
COAST AND GEODETIC SURVEY

C. H. Tittmann,
Superintendent.

State: *Md. & Va.*

DESCRIPTIVE REPORT.

Topographic Sheet No. *2896*

LOCALITY:

*Middle Part of Chincoteague
Bay, incl. the Ocean Beach
from Winter Quarter to
Chincoteague I d.*

1908.

CHIEF OF PARTY:

E. B. Latham.

COAST AND GEODETIC SURVEY,
LIBRARY AND ARCHIVES

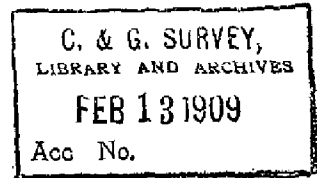
FEB 13 1909

Acc No.

2896

2896

Descriptive Report



Topographic Sheet, Number 2896

Resurvey of the shore line, Chincoteague Bay and the ocean beach. From the northern end Chincoteague Island to Robbins Marsh.

This sheet shows a resurvey of the shore line and the location of prominent objects along shore.

The area covered by this survey is low, with extensive marshes along the shore lines of the Bay. The country back of the marsh is rolling and from 10 to 20 feet above mean high water. The area between the eastern shore of Chincoteague Bay and the ocean beach varies in width from 460 to 2900 metres. There is a flat barren area along the ocean beach extending back to low sand hills. Back of these hills there is brush with some pine and cedar woods and on the shores of the Bay generally marshes. At several the flat barren are extended entirely across the strip and in high beds with heavy sea running these places are

overflowed, carrying much sand into and shoaling the eastern side of Chincoteague Bay.

Along the eastern side of the Bay from Beach Bluffs to the northern end of Chincoteague Island there are numerous islands, some of them formed since the Survey of 1849. When holes were dug to set marks for topographic stations, the marshes, (on the Eastern side of the Bay), were found to have a layer of sand about one foot below the surface. This with the outline of low water islands shown by the sheet of the survey of 1849, gives, probably, certain evidence of the recent formation of these islands.

There is attached a tracing of the vicinity of the old Green Run Inlet, showing the shore line from Topographic sheet number 311 in red ink and the shore line of the present survey, 1908 in black ink.

Where the influence, from the closing of the Green Run Inlet do not pertain, the shores have washed away, and many small islands have disappeared.

The western shores of the Bay are low and practically all marsh, the only exception being near the Marsh Hill Public Landing and south of Swan Creek at Red Hills. There are numerous islands in the western part of the Bay.

The erosion from ice and wash has changed

exposed and narrow points, and small islands.

The maximum erosion is approximately 200 metres for a period of 59 years. There has been but little change in the main outlines of the shore.

Several small ditches or canals have been dug for a passage for small boats there vary in width from 12.3 metres and are extremely shallow. The canal through Long Point near Franklin City, originally about 3 metres wide and 4 feet deep has washed to a width of 130 metres and to a depth of 12 to 15 feet.

There has been but little change in the position of the outer beach, a comparison of the survey of 1849 and 1908 showing the change to be from 50 to 150 metres. The inlet at Green Run has been closed and there is no evidence of its former existence at this time.

The raising of cattle, sheep and horses is an extensive industry on Assateague Island. No feed is given and all animals subsist on what naturally grows on the island. Well bred cattle and ponies with a Shetland and thoroughbred cross are running wild on this range.

There is no permanent settlement or population on that part of Assateague Island shown on this sheet. Formerly there was a farm, with several buildings at Scott Landing, at present it is not cultivated and no one lives in the houses. The crews of the Life Saving Stations and Sturgeon fishermen, who live in shanties on the Bay shore and fish in the ocean, are the only inhabitants. The Sturgeon fishing season lasts about 3 to 5 months.

Mills and Tizzara Islands, have high ground formerly cultivated, both are now in grazing lands and no one occupies the houses on Mills Island.

The marshes are 1600 metres in width, at their greatest width and extend to a gently rolling country 10 to 25 feet above mean sea level. About 75% of the available lands are in cultivation to corn, potatoes tomatoes and fruits.

The ocean beach is without a trace of indentation, the changes in direction are small and gradual. The beach is of soft sand, the beach below high water is too soft for driving with any but very light vehicles.

The shores of Chincoteague Bay are much broken and irregular and almost wholly of marsh.

The Life Saving Service, have stations at Green Run and Popes Island, the last named station is near and south of the Maryland and Virginia State line.

The sand hills are about 12 feet in height and constantly change their positions and heights. The outer beach shifts position in heavy easterly weather, toward the west and builds toward the east by the action of the westerly winds on the dry sand.

The Pennsylvania railroad runs a line of steamers to Chincoteague from Franklin City, making two trips each way daily except Sunday. There is a gasoline boat which carries the mail and has accommodation for a limited number of passengers, this boat makes two trips each way daily except Sunday. There is telegraphic and telephonic communication from Franklin City, Virginia. There is a government telephone line connecting all the life saving stations.

There are numerous gasoline boats engaged in the shell fish industry, delivering oysters and clams to Franklin City and the

numerous landings for transportation by and to the railroads. There are several small Schooners engaged in the coasting trade with head quarters, at Franklin City.

There are two canneries in operation at Franklin City; canning tomatoes, potatoes, crabs and clams, both canneries operate only a few months in the year.

The usual drive way along the beach is below the high water line but it is possible to drive with a light load or vehicle along a road, which is practically a trail. There are no summer or other resorts within the limits surveyed.

Opportunity to note the condition of the roads, did not offer during the survey of the shore line. Many new houses were noticed and there are probably many new roads and changes in the outline of the cleared areas.

A list of objects and marked plane table stations, with their positions and elevations together with a tracing showing changes in the shore line in the vicinity

the old Green Run Inlet are submitted with the sheet.

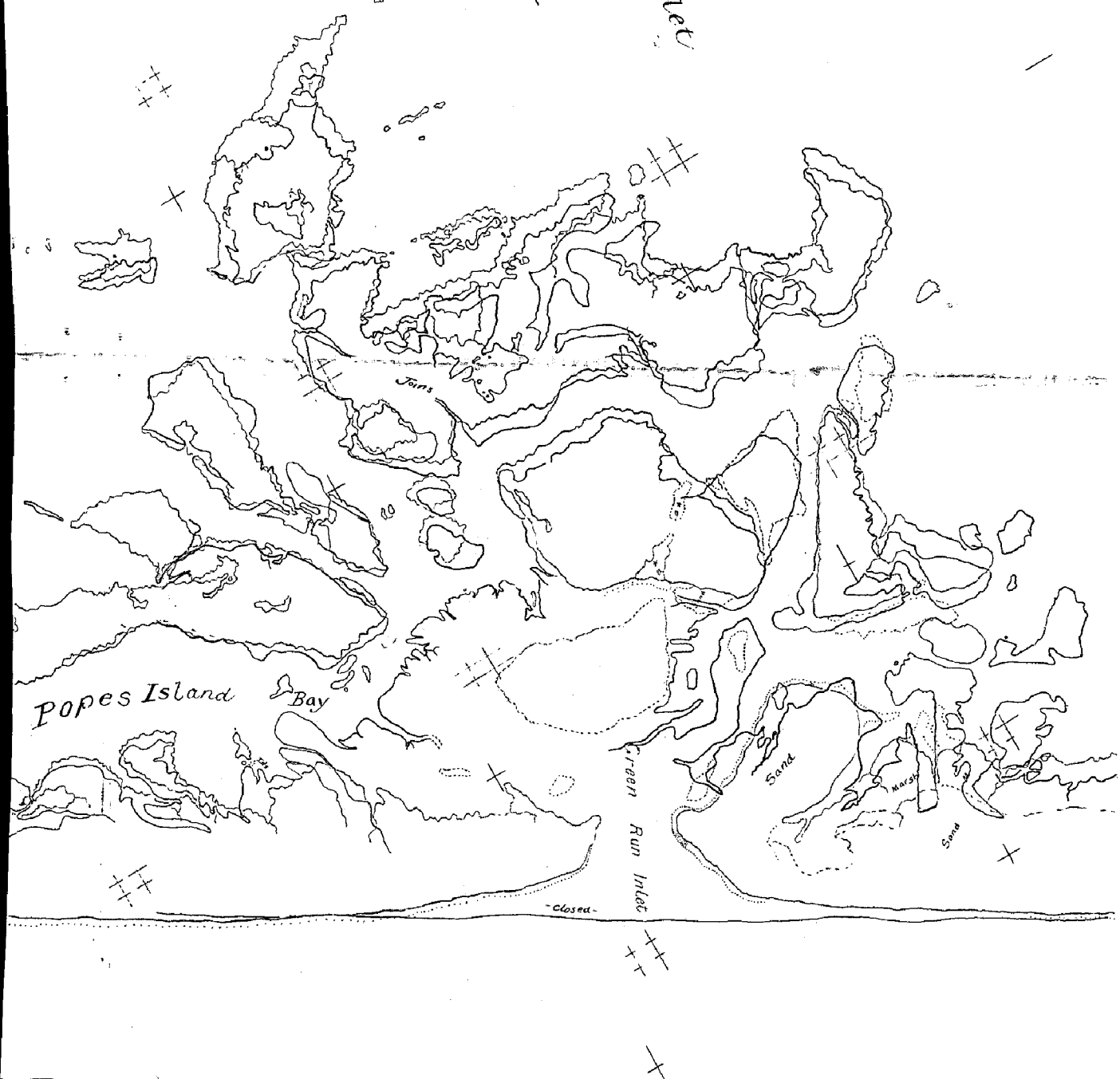
Respectfully submitted
E. B. Latham
Chief of Party, C. & G. Survey

Washington D.C.
Feb 5th 1909.

Sketch Showing
Change in Shoreline
of Green Run Inlet
1849 to 1908

Scale 1-20,000

Red Shoreline 1849
Black Shoreline 1908



Plane Table Positions

Topographic Sheet Number 2896

Resurvey of the shore line Chincoteague Bay and the Ocean Beach.

From the northern end Chincoteague Island to Robbins Marsh

Objects	Latitude	D.M.	Longitude	D.P.	Height	Remarks
Cedar Tree	37 58	1326	75 25	1218		Marked with Δ cut in back.
Pavilion, Red Hill	37 58	1428	75 25	1228		E. gable of pavilion.
P.T. Signal	37 59	238	75 25	804	1	4 in. terra cotta pipe.
Barn	37 59	808	75 25	496	46	So. gable N. shorts.
Pine Tree	37 59	504	75 25	286		On edge of marsh
Oyster House	37 59	284	75 24	630	24	East end, top of gable.
Yellow House	38 00	1444	75 23	250		Top of N. Chimney.
P.T. Station	38 01	1826	75 21	796	1	Marked with 4" terra cotta pipe
P.T. Station	38 02	362	75 20	1366	8	Terra cotta pipe near old chimney.
P.T. Station	38 02	806	75 20	964	1	On N. side small creek. T.C. pipe.
Oyster House	38 02	1192	75 21	30	20	Chimney (top)
P.T. Station	38 03	168	75 21	520	2	4" pipe on south side small creek
House	38 03	836	75 21	336	28	N. E. chy. (very prominent in bay).
P.T. Station	38 03	1424	75 18		1	4" terra cotta pipe.
Oak Tree	38 03	1404	75 19	140		So. end Assabokin Is. marked with Δ
Tree	38 03	982	75 19	722		On N.W end ridge on Mills Island
Dead Tree	38 04	644	75 21	1238		
Pine	38 04	1320	75 21		68	Very prominent. marked with Δ .
House	38 04	1794	75 21	70	35	N. E. Chimney. (top of).

Objects	Latitude	D.M.	Longitude	D.P.	Height	Remarks
Barn	38 05	914	75 21	724		Red top, Cen. of cupola.
P. T. Station	38 05	1600	75 18	708	1	T.C. pipe on patch of sand in marsh
Tree	38 06	44	75 17	1178	28	Unsound. of two trees
Hawk nest in tree	38 06	398	75 18	116	31	Hawk nest in dead tree.
House	38 06	290	75 18	834	34	Cen. Chimney (top)
House	38 06	1818	75 18	444	33	N. chimney of white house (top)
Barn	38 08	302	75 17	1230	81	So. gate of large white barn.
P. T. Station	38 08	190	75 17	410	1	4" terra cotta pipe on side of canal.
House	38 08	1094	75 17	474		top of largest chimney, yellow house on hill.
Windmill	38 09	444	75 17	642		Center of head..
White house	38 09	1494	75 17	828		Top of main chimney, small white
P. T. Sta	38 09	204	75 17	62	1	4" terra cotta pipe.
P. T. Sta	38 07	1420	75 11	644	1	4" terra cotta pipe
P. T. Sta	38 06	1160	75 11	1296	12	2 Terra Cotta pipes (1 above other) on sand hill
House	38 06	290	75 12	240		Store pipe of Fish shanty.
P. T. Sta	38 06	462	75 12	864	1	4" terra cotta pipe.
P. T.	38 06	90	75 14	184	1	4" terra cotta pipe.
Green Run. L. S. L.	38 05	184	75 12	192		Spindle of lookout - main building.
P. T.	38 04	1540	75 12	1296	3	4" terra cotta pipe
Tree	38 04	1466	75 12	1268		Pine tree on bluff - marked D.
P. T.	38 04	588	75 14	1008	1	4" T.C. pipe.
P. T.	38 04	00	75 14	552	1	4" T.C. pipe.
Tree	38 03	1344	75 14	530		small sym. buttressed cedar.
Tree	38 03	1320	75 14	568		small asymmetrical cedar
P. T.	38 03	420	75 15	1448	1	4" terra cotta pipe.
House	38 01	1138	75 15	530	22	Top ch. unpainted (small)
P. T. Sta	38 01	652	75 15	808	1	On S. end small island
Cedar Tree	38 01	392	75 16	1212	16	Small Core cedar on marsh (top)
P. T. Sta	38 01	324	75	1414		4" terra cotta pipe
P. T.	38 00	518	75 17	174	1	4" terra cotta pipe
House	38 00	1154	75 16	1128	10	Top store pipe, watch house.
House	37 59	908	75 17	352	34	Top of small chimney, N. N. end.

Objects	Latitude	N.M.	Longitude	D.P.	Height	Remarks
Dead Tree	37 59	434	75 18	76		dead pine
Tree	37 59	412	75 17	1444	16	small pine.
P.T.	37 58	1600	95 19	1146	1	marked 4" terra cotta pipe.
Tree	37 58	1532	75 19	1084		small cedar N.W. end woods marked.
Tree	37 58	1022	75 19	1016		Cedar - So of tree
Big Pine	37 58	216	75 20	144	750 ft	Very large pine marked 4.
Pine	37 57	1702	75 20	112	85 approx	Most prominent tree on N. end of Chinierague Id.
Tree	37 57	918	75 20	1184		Small pine marked 4.
Tree	37 57	918	75 20	1184		Middle of N. end.
House	37 58	1226	75 18	176	12	4" terra cotta pipe on sand hill.
P.T.	37 57	1658	75 18	976		Leaning cedar with Y limbs
Tree	37 56	1728	75 19	726		marked with 4.
Cedar	37 56	1702	75 19	558		Large lone cedar
House	37 56	702	75 19	238	14	Center of Northern end