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Form 504	
U. S. COAST AND GEODETIC SURVEY	
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE	
DESCRIPTIVE REPORT	
Type of Survey	<i>Topographic</i>
Field No.	Office No. <i>2897</i>
LOCALITY	
State	<i>Virginia</i>
General locality	<i>Chincoteague</i>
Locality	<i>Inlet and Point of Chincoteague Bay</i>
<i>1908</i>	
CHIEF OF PARTY	
<i>E. B. Satham</i>	
LIBRARY & ARCHIVES	
DATE	

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Department of Commerce and Labor
COAST AND GEODETIC SURVEY

O. H. Tittmann,
Superintendent.

State: *Va.*

DESCRIPTIVE REPORT.

Topographic Sheet No. *2897*

LOCALITY:

*Chincoteague Inlet
and Part of Chincoteague Bay.*

190 *8.*

CHIEF OF PARTY:

E. B. Latham.

C. & G. SURVEY,
LIBRARY AND ARCHIVES

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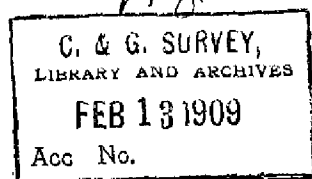
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Descriptive Report Topographic Sheet Number

Resurvey of the Shore line in Vicinity of

Chinicateague Inlet.



This sheet is a resurvey of the shore line and location of prominent objects on shore. The survey was made during November and December of 1908. Its southern limits, to comply with the Superintendent's instructions, are those of Chart number 128.

The main land, 20 to 40 feet above mean sea level, is fringed by extensive marshes, 3 miles wide at their greatest width, and the three islands Chinicateague, Assateague and Hallaps Island are a short distance off the main shores.

Chinicateague Island, is low with well wooded ridges, laying in the direction of North east and South west and ten feet in elevation, interspersed with fresh water ponds and marshes. At the northern and southern ends of the island are extensive marshes.

Assateague Island, to the eastward of Chinicateague island is marshy at the northern and near its South-western ends. The greater part of its surface is sandy with a well defined group of sand hills near the northern limit of this sheet in the center of the island which extend toward the southwest to and beyond Assateague.

Sight here, these hills vary in elevation from 20 to 40 feet.

Mallopa Island forms the southern shore of Ahincoaque Inlet, it is low with extensive low sand hills, fairly well covered with sand. To the westward of these hills it is marshy. The marshes both on the islands and the main land are much broken and cut with creeks dikes and small bays.

There has been but little erosion or change in the shores on the marshes, except at sharp or much exposed points. The shores of the western side of Ahincoaque Island have changed but little. At Ahincoaque Point the northern shore of the inlet, there has great change both in outline and position. From comparison of the surveys of different dates, (1849-1887 and 1908) the erosion seems to have been at a constant rate. The recession between 1849 and 1908 was 290 metres, at the rate of 4.9 metres per year, this rate per year applied to the time 1849 to 1887, would give a recession of 191.7 metres, and the recession as measured from the sheets of these dates give a difference of 192 metres.

There is attached to this report a tracing from the topographic sheets surveyed during 1908-1904-1902 1887-1888 and 1849. From the note on sheet No 723 (1888) it is probable that the shore line on this sheet was transferred from sheet No 522 (1849)

The northeastern end of Wallops Island has advanced toward the northeast direction and for a distance of 300 metres.

This indicates a shift in position of the inlet into Chincoteague ^{Bay} of 280 metres, in a general northern direction, but there is only a difference in width of 40 metres between the determinations of 1849 and 1908.

Chincoteague Inlet and outer beaches. From a comparison of the topographic sheets of this region there appears to be changes of great magnitude. The hook at the south end of Assateague Island having grown down from Fishing Point forming the Assateague Anchorage, subsequently to the Coast Survey first work in 1849. North from the old position of Fishing point, the old and new shore lines approach, becoming identical in position about 5 miles away. They remain practically identical for a distance of twenty-five miles, except at the old Green Run Inlet, they then separate, the new shore line being 200 metres to the westward of the old shore line, two miles south of Ocean City, Md. and 50 metres in the same direction at Ocean City.

Ahead of the old position of Fishing Point, the outer shore has moved 192 metres toward the southeast. From the same point, the shore line has grown or advanced for a distance of 4900 metres in the general direction of S. 26° W. A table showing the growth of this point

for different periods, with rate of growth is shown later.

Owing to irregularity and change in the direction of the growth of this point, it is difficult to arrive at the amount of growth from year to year or to predict a rate of growth for future periods.

Table Showing Advance in Shoreline at Fishing Point.

Date of Surveys.	No of years between	Total Growth	Rate of advance per year.
1849-1908	59	4940 M	84 Metres
1849-1887	38	3600 "	95 "
1887-1908	21	1500 "	71 "
1849-1902	53	4420 "	83 "
*1902-1908.	6	130 "	22 "
*1902 1908	6	315 "	53 "
+1902 1904	2	184 "	92 "
+1904 1908	4	350 "	87 "
+1904 1908	4	103 "	26 "

* at different points.

+ at different points.

This peninsula, varies in width from 160 to 730 metres, being not more than 1 or 2 feet above high water for the last 400 metres of its length.

Behind this strip has formed Assateague

anchorage, an excellent anchorage for small boats, and the only harbor of refuge between Delawan and Chesapeake Bays. The north shore of the anchorage has advanced 350 metres, in a southern direction since 1849. Assateague Point has advanced (grown) south westerly for a distance of 1516 metres between 1849 and 1908. There is a movement, by the people of Chincoteague Island to leave this harbor and approaches improved by the General Government.

The outer beach of Wallops Island, has receded, (moved toward the west) about 100 metres.

Horses, sheep and cattle on Chincoteague and Assateague Islands, all get their living from the vegetation on the island, no food at any season of the year being furnished.

Wallops Island is largely owned by two clubs, both of which maintain club houses.

The life saving service have stations on the southern end of Assateague and the northern end of Wallops Islands.

There are several lines of breakers off the shore and landing is dangerous and impracticable for ordinary ships boats except in calm weather.

The sand hills on the eastern side of Assateague are about 12 feet in height, and shift in position and height constantly. The change in elevation, on the western end

of Fishing point is so gradual, that the location of the high water line shifts 100 to 200 metres with a slight change in the water level. This condition makes the position of the mean high water line indefinite and its location by different observers would probably differ considerably.

Akincoague Island has a population of about 4000, most of whom are engaged in the shell fish or fishing industry. There are two sawmills on the island and numerous small boat builders, who build sail-boats and hulls for gasoline boats. There is a railway capable of lashing a 100 ton boat.

Freight is forwarded by steamer to Franklin City, the terminus of a branch of the Pennsylvania railroad which makes two trips each way daily except Sunday. Gasoline boats run between Franklin City and Silverfish Point and Akincoague Island carrying mail and passengers twice daily except Sunday. It is 4 miles from Silverfish Point to the nearest station Matamoras, on the N.Y. P. and N. Railroad.

Telephonic communication is through Silverfish Point to the telegraph line along the N.Y. P. and N. R.R.

There is a government telephone line from the Wallap Island Life Saving station to Ocean City, Md and north of that point.

Numerous small boats ply these waters

engaged in the shell fish industry, and in transporting wood.

There are quite a number of sailing vessels in the coasting trade whose home port is Chinisteague Island.

There are no other towns within the limits surveyed.

On Assateague Island there is a settlement of a few hundred in the neighborhood of the light house.

The so called road south from Ocean City disappears before the northern limits of this sheet are reached. It is practicable to drive along the beach, and by traveling near low water, fairly good passage for light vehicles below the high water line may be found. This beach is comparatively soft, and the beach on Wallop Island being very hard and firm.

The roads on Chinisteague Island are fairly good, then being a rural free delivery maintained by the Post office Department. No opportunity offered to see the roads on the mainland during the progress of the resurvey of the shore line, but from the number of new houses ^{seen} and the change in the lines of communication since the last survey of the interior topography (1858) it is probable that there are numerous new roads and changes in the outline of the cleared areas. There is submitted with this report and sheet a list, of the positions and elevations, of prominent objects on shore and marked plane table stations, and a tracing

from the topographic sheets of this region, surveyed
between 1849 and 1908, showing the change of shore
line in the vicinity of Behm College Inlet.

E. B. Sacham.

Chief of Party C. F. Murray

Washington D.C.

Feb 9th 1909

Plane Table Positions

Topographic Sheet Number 2897.


Resurvey of the Shoreline

In the Vicinity of

Chincoteague Inlet

X

Object	Latitude	D.M.	Longitude	D.P.	Height	Remarks.
Terracotta Pipe 4"	37° 51'	1786	75° 22'	290	2.	Near extreme End of ^{Todds} Fishing point. 2 ones on top.
Fishing Pt Beacon	37 51	1574	75° 21'	1306	17	Top of structure.
Assateague Anchorage light	37 52	882	75 21	382	37	Top of light on steel frame on concrete base
4" Pipe	37 52	1522	75 20	1380	2	4" T. C. pipe 4" above ground
Pipe	37 52	120	75 21	1138		4" H. pipe 4" above ground
Boarded stake	37 52	442	75 21	1352		In water
Pipe	37 53	746	75 21	514	2	4 inch terracotta pipe
Boat house	37 53	946	75 21	920	18	Cent. S. gable boat house L.S.S.
House	37 53	1280	75 21	1008		Center back gable of summer cottage
Pipe	37 53	1136	75 22	970	6	On small sand hill.
Tripo	37 53	880	75 23	418		Crutch of tripod of 3 iron rods
Pipe	37 53	776	75 24	10	10	Front one of 2, used for range
House (indefinite)	37 53	1170	75 23	600	14	No stove pipe or salient point.
Pole	37 54	448	75 22	1014		Leaning braced pole in which is placed cable box of Gov. Telephone
Pole	37 54					on East side Assateague Channel
House	37 54	1504	75 21	866		East End storage house S.H. Estab.
Pipe	37 54	1522	75 21	600	8	On sand hill near old house in trees.

Object	Latitude	DM	Longitude	D.P	Height	Remarks
Pine	37 54	1786	75 20	1310		Marked with a small Δ
Pipe 4" Terra Cotta	37 55	620	75 20	828	1	4" above the marsh
Pipe "	37 56	686	75 19	1028	1	4" above sand bank on marsh
Pipe "	37 56	310	75 19	308		4" above the marsh.
Pine tree very prominent.	37 55	1728	75 20	1436	81	{ Near northern end. Pine Island, and very conspicuous.
Pipe 4" F. Co.	37 54	1694	75 22	1284	8	4" above surface sand bluff
Pine tree	37 54	1762	75 22	1322		In grove, marked with Δ
Telephone pole	37 54	410	75 23	76		Braced pole of the cable landing of L. S. Tel. line.
House	37 53	1590	75 23	1028	12	Top of stove pipe.
Telephone Poles	37 53	1340	75 25	502		Cable landing of telephone line, last of double line poles
A 2 braced by jacks						
Pipe 4" Terra Cotta	37 53	1128	75 24	1328	3	On sandy beach.
Pipe "	37 53	1618	75 25	550	8	A.W. from old boiler of Fish Factory, on Chincoteague Point.
Telephone pole	37 54	230	75 24	868		Intersection of 2 pole cable landing south side of blue.
Pine tree	37 54	778	75 23	1250		Low and prominent  at Cratch point observed
Pine tree	37 54	1672	75 23	1010		E. side of street marked with Δ
Pine tree, dead top	37 55	458	75 23	716		Low and marked with Δ
Windmill	37 55	732	75 23	576		Center of the framed head.
Church (yellow)	37 55	866	75 23	194		Slender tower back from shore.
Windmill	37 55	1526	75 22	1244		Center of frame at head.
Saw mill stack	37 55	1722	75 22	1288		Top of stack Rolers Saw mill
Wind mill	37 56	88	75 22	768		Cent of head
Tower, Wheelton's house	37 56	122	75 22	792		Round lower slate roof larger house on Chincoteague Island.
White house	37 56	968	75 21	1418		North chimney of large white house.
Purple House	37 57	206	75 21	66		North Chimney.
" "						
Terra Cotta pipe	37 56	1238	75 23	520		4" above marsh

Object	Latitude	DM.	Longitude	D.P.	Height	Remarks.
Watch house	37-57	444	75 23	794	21	Chimney; white in the water.
Terra Cotta Pipe	37 56	190	75 23	1404	2	4" above marsh.
Terra Cotta pipe 4"	37 56	796	75 23	1394	2	4" above marsh
Terra Cotta pipe 4"	37 55	1260	75 24	1090	2	4" above surface, small island.
Terra Cotta pipe 4"	37 55	138	75 24	858		4" above marsh
Terra Cotta pipe 4"	37 56	28	75 25	210	2	On E. side blue
Needles, Oyster house	37 56	1640	75 25	446	19	Top of stove pipe, apparently of terra cotta
North Chim House	37 58	656	75 26	254		Prominent Brick house.
Water tower	37 58	610	75 26	242		Top water tower, white
House	37 57	1660	75 26	554	26	Top of main chimney, small white, back side road. Herndon
House						Sanding.
House	37 57	764	75 26	928	42	North chimney white (top ch.)
House	37 57	406	75 26	1424		North chimney yellow house.
Terra Cotta pipe 4"	37 57	260	75 26	30		4" above marsh
Barn,	37 56	1464	75 27	584		Prominent on large hill. Center of Capota.
Terra Cotta pipe 4"	37 56	66	75 25	1318		
Terra Cotta pipe	37 55	854	75 26	1112	2	4" above the marsh
Watch house	37 54	960	75 25	1012	18	White oyster watch house, top of stove pipe
Chy. Watch house	37 54	488	75 26	1332	21	Top of terra cotta stove pipe
Terra Cotta pipe	37 54	814	75 25	1390		4" above the marsh.
Terra Cotta pipe 4"	37 52	1832	75 26	830	2	4" above marsh
Center chimney of Olahouse	37 52	1266	75 26	1116	28	Top of Center chimney very old house on marsh
Terra Cotta pipe 4"	37 53	1488	75 28	500	2	4" above marsh
North Chy. house	37 54	1746	75 28	614		
North Chy house	37 54	1472	75 28	904		N. Chy. very much faded, apparently unpainted.
Cabin Near Shore	37 54	780	75 28	958	32	Near shore in edge of hills top of single chimney
Cabin	37 53	1172	75 29	268		Chimney. Near Nicks Sanding
Terra Cotta pipe	37 52	1660	75 29	710		On north side of road at Wishers Point Sanding

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Object	Latitude	DM	Longitude	D.P	Height	Remarks
Double telephone Pole	37° 52'	1728	75 27	94		Branch of 2 poles. Cable landing telephone line
Terra Cotta pipe	37 53	392	75 26	354	8	} 4" Terra Cotta pipe 10 feet from main at Cable landing S.S. telephone line and near Clubhouse wharf
Terra Cotta pipe	37 52	1590	75 25	1024	2	
Windmill	37 52	357	75 26	156		Center of head of frame structure
North Chimney	37 52	440	75 26	664		N. Ch., Aloha Club house

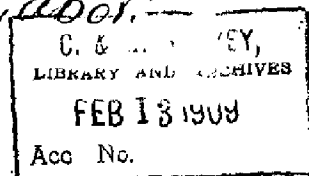


Sketch Showing
Change in Shoreline
Vicinity of Chincoteague Inlet
1849-1854-1859-1864

Red 1849-1854
Yellow 1854-1859
Green 1859-1864
Black 1864-1869

2897

Department of Commerce & Labor.



Coast and Geodetic Survey.

O.H. Tittmann, Superintendent.

Chinonteague Inlet and Vicinity

*and Port of Chinonteague, Is. of
Virginia*

Plane Table, Resurvey of the Shoreline.

Nov-Dec 1908

E.B. Latham, Assist. C&G Survey

Chief of Party.

Scale 1:20,000.

*Note: Outline of marsh, woods etc. are approximate
only. Where names differ from previous work, they are
the accepted local name.*