State: New York

DESCRIPTIVE REPORT

Topographic Sheet No. "A" 6098

LOCALITY

Orient Point, Plum Island, Great Gull Island, and Little Gull Island

193 4

CHIEF OF PARTY

Tom D. Patterson, Lieut.
The Topographic Sheet should be accompanied by this form, filled in as completely as possible, when the sheet is forwarded to the Office.

Field No. "A"

REGISTER NO. 5098

State. New York

General locality. Gardiners Bay, L.I.

Locality. Plum Island and VICINITY

Scale. 1:20,000

Date of survey. June - July, 1934

Vessel. Field Party No. 5.

Chief of party. Lieut. Wm. D. Patterson

Surveyed by. Lieut. (J.G.) George E. Morris, Jr.

Inked by. C. R. Smith

Heights in feet above ground to tops of trees

Contour. Approximate contour. Form line interval feet

Instructions dated. May 14, 1934

Remarks: 

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DESCRIPTIVE REPORT TO ACCOMPANY

TOPOGRAPHIC SHEET "A" (Field Letter)

ORIENT POINT, PLUM ISLAND, GREAT GULL ISLAND,

AND LITTLE GULL ISLAND, NEW YORK.

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DATE OF INSTRUCTIONS

Director's Instructions dated May 14, 1934.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF COAST

Little Gull Island is low and small with Little Gull Island Lighthouse, a gray granite tower, rising to the north of a two story stone dwelling, occupying the center of the island. A reef extends about ¼ mile east-northeastward. The passage between Little and Great Gull Island is foul.

Great Gull Island is about 3/8 of a mile long, about 30 feet high, has steep rocky banks, is grass covered, and has several large buildings on the western end. The largest building has "Ft. Michie, N.Y." painted on the eastern slope of the roof of its east wing. The eastern end of the island has several gun positions behind high grass covered slopes.

The passage between Great Gull Island and Plum Island contains several rocks.

Plum Island is 2½ miles long, hilly, covered with grass and small bushes, has several large buildings near its center, and has Plum Island Lighthouse, a white tower on a granite dwelling, at its northwesterly end. The ruins of an old wharf are on the north side of the island about 7/8 of a mile from the eastern end. The ruins of another wharf are on the east side of Pine Point. Plum Gut Harbor has an entrance between pile dolphins and stone jetties. There is a wharf and the ruins of two old wharves in the harbor.

The reef between Orient Point Lighthouse and Orient Point is foul. There are several large rocks 1/10 of a mile northwest of Orient Point Lighthouse.

Orient Point is low and sandy. Beginning ½ mile west of the point the land is cultivated and there are several farm houses and windmills. The south side is low and sandy. The north side has steep bare banks and is rocky along the shore.

The water surrounding the land areas in this locality is strewn with sunken rocks except for the areas south of Orient and Pine Points.
LANDMARKS

A list of landmarks is submitted under separate cover as a special report.

CHARACTER OF CONTROL USED.

Stations located by triangulation were used for control. Signals for hydrography were located by planctable. The shoreline and topographic features are to be obtained from photo-topographic sheets so only the shoreline of Great Gull and Little Gull Islands was delineated on this sheet. No traverse was run.

PHOTOGRAPHS

Pictures of the lighthouses in the area covered by this sheet were obtained. The pictures clearly show the rocky character of the shoreline. The rock formations extend out into the water around all the islands. The negatives of the photographs are being sent to the Washington Office under separate cover.

Respectfully submitted,

George E. Morris, Jr.
Lieutenant (J.g.),
U. S. Coast & Geodetic Survey

Approved:

Wm. D. Patterson, Lieut.,
U. S. Coast & Geodetic Survey,
Chief of Field Party No. 5.
LITTLE GULL ISLAND LIGHTHOUSE
Bearing 180° true
The foul ground extends in an east-northeastwardly
and a south-southwestwardly direction.

SENTRY HOUSE ON PLUM ISLAND
Bearing 180° true
PLUM ISLAND LIGHTHOUSE
Bearing 125° true
The rocks extend well out into the water.

ORIENT POINT LIGHTHOUSE
Bearing 0° true
Oyster Pond Reef lies between the lighthouse and Orient Point.
The channel is east of the lighthouse.