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Department of Commerce and Labor  
COAST AND GEODETIC SURVEY

Superintendent.

State: *Delaware*

DESCRIPTIVE REPORT.

*Top* Sheet No. *3087*

LOCALITY:

*Delaware Bay - Clark's  
point to Deep point*

1910

CHIEF OF PARTY:

*R. S. Patton*

3087

# 3087

Descriptive Report.

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To accompany topographic sheet #  
Delaware Bay: Clark Point to Deep Point.

The area embraced in this sheet extends from Clark Point, latitude  $39^{\circ}00'$  to Deep Point, latitude  $39^{\circ}12'$ .

Throughout this entire section the country adjacent to the bay is low, flat, and marshy; the marsh extending inland a distance varying from  $\frac{1}{2}$  to  $1\frac{1}{2}$  miles, where it gives place to a scattering, irregular forest growth.

The shores themselves have usually a narrow strip of sand beach; a mere fringe of sand piled up above high water mark, with the marsh just beyond. At the northern portion of the region this sand beach disappears and the marsh extends all the way to the water. It is quite evident that in this region the shores are still washing away: one frequently sees along the shore portions of the marsh submerged by the rear of the current, which has cut away the soft soil beneath, leaving a foot-thick stratum of soil held together by the roots of the marsh grass, which has then dropped down upon the more solid bed beneath.

The only town along the coast in this section is Bowers. It is on Mudds Hill Neck, between the Mudds Hill and the St. Jones River. A dredged cut, said to be sixty feet wide and with a least depth of six feet at mean low water lead to

each of these rivers, and the entrance to each is marked by range lights, red front and white rear. A stranger, however should approach either entrance with extreme caution, for in each case the material taken from the cut has been dumped just south of it, thus forming as a southern boundary of the channel, a ridge having not more than three or four feet of water at high tide. Thus in the Menderhill entrance there is a distance of only about fifteen meters between the center of the channel and a ridge, parallel to the channel bar at half tide. The ridge at the Menderhill extends out 1130 meters from the shore, and at the St. Jones River, 970 meters.

Mahon's River, however, is the most important of all the streams in this section, as during the winter it affords shelter for the numerous schooners engaged in oyster dredging in the vicinity. In Mahon's River, also, the wharf just inside the entrance is piped with good artesian water; this being the only place in the entire region where vessels can obtain a supply.

A brief description of such prominent objects located as may be of use to the navigator follows:

(1) Sarge Barn; lat.  $39^{\circ} 00' + 1288$ ; long  $75^{\circ} 20' + 1436$

This barn is the most conspicuous one of a group of five or six large buildings standing  $\frac{3}{4}$  of a mile back from the shore above Belair Point. The barn is gray, with a slate colored roof, and stands somewhat in front of the other buildings, and with its side toward the water.

3. Pear range light, Mendocillo Point;

lat. 39-03+583 long. 75-24+550

This is a tall pole, painted white, showing by day a lattice of  
ferrous rods at the top, and by night a white light. It is <sup>lattice</sup> feet high.

4. Beach hotel, Ponce, lat 39-03+1272; long 75-23+1230

The hotel is a square, two-story brick red structure, standing in  
the center of a clump of dark trees. The building itself is not  
conspicuous, as it is hidden by the trees, but the entire group may  
easily be recognized.

7. House; lat. 39-06+60; long. 75-24+864

A 1 1/2 story, white painted house, with its side toward the water. It  
stands about 300 meters east of a smaller white house. It is prominent  
only from the south of east, and then only a few miles out in  
the bay.

Respectfully submitted.

P. S. Patton,

Asst. Coast Survey.

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## Geographic Positions of Permanent Points.

### Clark Point to Leipsic Creek - Delaware Bay.

Object	Latitude	Longitude	Brief Description.
1. Large Barn	39 00 1288	75 20 1436	Gray; side to water
2. Range Light	39 03 583	75 24 550	} Murderkill River Post Light; Red Rear
3. " " "	39 03 840	75 23 1372	
4. Beach Hotel - Bowers	39 03 1272	75 23 1230	In prom. clump of trees.
5. Range Light - rear	39 03 1820	75 24 224	} St. Jones River
6. " " front	39 03 1828	75 24 170	
7. House	39 06 60	75 24 864	White; 1/2 story

For more complete description, see Description Report.