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Form 504

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
U. S. COAST AND GEODETIC SURVEY

State:

11-4013

DESCRIPTIVE REPORT.

Sup. Sheet No. 3707

LOCALITY:

191

CHIEF OF PARTY:

3707

Descriptive report to accompany topography sheet, 3707.
Hatteras Inlet to New Inlet North Carolina.

The contour of the shore lines was found to have remained practically the same, especially on the beach side which, although pounded by a very heavy surf, seemed to have undergone no change. The coast line is very regular with no indentations and at times is straight as far as the eye can see. Just the opposite is true of the shore line on the sound side, it is very irregular, being broken by numerous creeks and bays.

The country is very low and sandy, it having been estimated that the highest point of land on this reef (in Buxton) is not over fifteen feet above high water. There is no vegetation on the beach side of the reef and it is usually necessary to go back to the other shore in order to find a growth of any kind. This consists mostly of reed covered marshes and swamps that are flooded with water at high tide.

There is a heavy growth of trees (principally pine) on the lower end of the reef, from Trent to Buxton, but they do not seem to flourish on other parts of this section and those in the vicinity of Salvo and Rodanthe are fast disappearing. In fact all those at the latter place has disappeared entirely. The principal settlements are Hatteras, Trent (called Frisco by natives), Buxton, Kinnakeet (Avon P.O.) and the three following villages Salvo, Middle Woods, and Rodanthe, which constitute the section known as Chicamicomico.

Hatteras is a small settlement on the lower end of the reef, just to the northward of Hatteras Inlet. It has a population of about four hundred and has no industry of any importance. Most of the people earn their living by either fishing or working in one of the various Coast Guard Station's in this vicinity. The Durant L.S.S. and tower of the weather bureau here, serve as good landmarks.

Trent, or Frisco, is situated on the sound side about three miles to the northward of Hatteras. It is located in a heavy wooded section and the people here, of whom there are about one hundred, earn their living chiefly by fishing.

Buxton, the next settlement along the reef is located, like Trent, in a rather heavy wooded section that obscures it from view of passing boats. It is in the immediate vicinity of Cape Hatteras Lighthouse and the latter is the only important landmark in this section, as all others are obscured by the woods or are visible for so short a time as to make them practically worthless. There are about two hundred people living in this village.

About five miles to the northward of Buxton is located the village of Kinnakeet (Avon P.O.) This is divided in two settlements known as Little Kinnakeet and Kinnakeet. They are about three miles apart (the former being the most northerly one.) Together these two places contain about two hundred people, of the typical fishermen type found in this section.

There is a small clump of woods at each place (located approx. on sheet) and they serve as excellent landmarks. The Coast Guard station at Little Kinnakeet is situated to the North of the settlement, on a barren tract, so that it makes a good landmark for inshore navigation, being visible from all directions.

To the North of Kinnakeet are located the villages comprising the Chicamicomico section, known as Salvo, Middle Woods and Rodanthe. In all they have a population of about three hundred and the people's chief source of revenue is fishing. About two miles below Salvo are a clump of woods that serve as a good landmark as they are well away from the settlement and surrounded by a barren waste. They can be seen for a good distance.

There is a small white church in Salvo (no steeple) that affords a fairly good landmark for mariners into Sound, especially when viewed from the West and Southwest. The size of this object however prohibits its being seen distinctly at a distance of more than four miles.

Middle woods is located about two miles North of Salvo and one and one half miles South of Rodanthe. There are only about ten or fifteen houses in this section and no good landmarks for inshore navigation as most of the houses are hidden by trees. The village itself however, would afford a good landmark for offshore navigation.

About mid way between Middle Woods and Rodanthe is located a church with a steeple which is an excellent landmark. It is situated on a clear, barren stretch of beach and is visible from all directions. There are no trees in Rodanthe and the houses can be seen from all directions, but there are no good landmarks in Rodanthe as the dwellings are all of about the same size and appearance and can not be differentiated between at a distance of ~~one or~~^{over} two miles.

The old Chicamicomico Life Saving Station (now abandoned) and the club house, about two miles north of the station, are good landmarks and are very conspicuous.

All Coast Guard Stations here have telephone communication with each other and are connected up with the weather bureau at Manteo, on Roanoke Island. It has been found in the survey and noted by people living in this vicinity, that the inlets are constantly shifting to the southward. There is a very high bar across the New Inlet and fishermen, in that vicinity, say that they have been unable to get their boats out through it lately. The hydrographic party was unable to get over this bar, while doing work in that vicinity, in a boat drawing eighteen inches of water, on a perfectly calm day.

The survey of Gull Island did not show any marked or noticeable change in its formation but undoubtedly there is some, as it is merely a reed-covered, marshy island and is flooded with water to a depth of about six inches during southerly winds. There is a shoal extending out from it in all directions and water, driven by a heavy wind, breaking across this shoal strikes the island with considerable force and must wear it away, as it is not of very stable formation.

There is only one landing place and that is a very narrow slough to the island from the East. This slough carries about two feet of water up to the island, boats drawing more than that would have a hard time effecting a landing except at extremely high tides.

A hunting house situated on the island affords a good landmark, as it is of a fairly good size and can be seen from all directions, There was also a fish^{house} located about a mile and a half from the island, in a Northwesterly direction, but this was probably carried away during the heavy ice floes in January 1918.

Respectfully,

Francis L. Gallen.

Deck Officer,
U.S.C. & G.S. Schr. MATCHLESS.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
U. S. COAST AND GEODETIC SURVEY

TOPOGRAPHIC TITLE SHEET

The finished Topographic Sheet is to be accompanied by the following title sheet, filled in as completely as possible, when the sheet is forwarded to the Office.

U. S. Coast and Geodetic Survey.

Register No. 3707

State North Carolina

General locality Pamlico Sound

Locality . Hatteras Inlet to New Inlet

Chief of party N.H.Heck, R.F.Luce and E.E.Smith

Surveyed by M.O.Witherbee, B.J.Gales, ^{Hartley} E.H.Burnett, H.H.Jones, F.L.Gallen.

Date of survey June, 1917

Scale 1:40,000

Heights in feet above

Contour interval feet.

Inked by E.L.Gallen . . . Lettered by . . E.L.Gallen

Records accompanying sheet (check those forwarded): Photographs,

Descriptive report, Horizontal angle books, Field computations,

Data from other sources affecting sheet

Remarks: