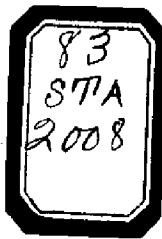


2008

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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>2008</i>
LOCALITY	
State	<i>Connecticut</i>
General locality	<i>Connecticut</i>
Locality	<i>River</i>
<i>1890</i>	
<i>194</i>	
CHIEF OF PARTY	
<i>W. C. Hodgkins</i>	
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DATE	



2008

U. S. COAST AND GEODETIC SURVEY.

T. C. Mendenhall, Superintendent.

State: *Conn.*

DESCRIPTIVE REPORT.

Topographic Sheet No. *2008.*

LOCALITY:

Connecticut River.

1890.

CHIEF OF PARTY:

W. C. Hodgkins.



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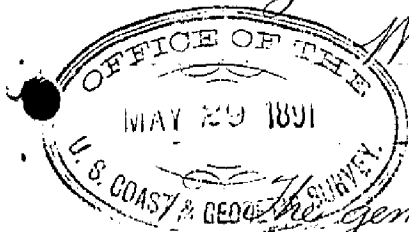
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5-29-91

Descriptive Report

to accompany Original Topographic Sheet
2008 No. 3 of Connecticut River, Conn.

Surveyed in October and November, 1890, by
W. C. Hodgkins, Assistant.



The general character of the topography is hilly and, so far as touched upon in this partial survey, consists, broadly speaking, of two nearly parallel ridges of granitic rock, between which the river flows.

These ridges are, however, broken in several places by cross valleys, especially on the western side of the river; and the rock is generally overlaid with drift, outcrops of bed-rock occurring usually on the hill tops and along the river shore, though in some cases there are striking examples of precipitous outcrops on the sides of the hills.

Where stratification is visible, it is generally much inclined, often vertical, or nearly so.

There are several quarries from which granite of good quality is obtained and feldspar is found in considerable deposits, which have been worked in the past.

8. The soil is generally stony, and vegetation not luxuriant, though certain tracts yield good crops.

The trees are largely of forest growth, though on the farms are found numerous orchards and in the villages many handsome shade trees, usually elms.

The forest growth is rarely of any great height, being new growth in former clearings.

It is of mixed character, including chestnut, oak, beech, hemlock, spruce, birch, maple, dogwood, etc. The undergrowth is usually dense.

The trees range from twenty to fifty feet in height.

The apple is the most common fruit-tree, though the peach, pear, plum, cherry, etc. are found.

9. About two thirds of the land appears to be wooded, and of the remainder, the greater part is in grass, though this varies somewhat from year to year.

The only villages yet reached by the survey are Higganum and Middle Haddam.

The first of these is situated on the right bank of the Connecticut, nine miles below Middletown, at a point where a small tributary enters the river, with a fall just above its mouth.

It may well be supposed that this little stream, with its convenient water power, determined the location of the original settlement.

At any rate, the manufactories established there now furnish the principal business of the place.

The principal manufactures are agricultural implements and textile fabrics.

Communication with Higganum is almost altogether by land, the depth of water at the landing not permitting the river steamers to approach. A certain amount of traffic in coal, wood, stone, etc., is carried on by sailing vessels of light draught. The roads are generally in fair condition, but the grades are heavy. The only railroad is the Valley Division of the New York, New Haven and Hartford R.R. Middle Haddam is on the left bank of the river, in the township of Chatham and is a very quiet village, without manufactures of importance. It supplies a certain portion of the back country and is a landing place of the New York Steamers. It is also a station on the Air Line Division of the N.Y., N.H. & H. R.R.

The Connecticut River is navigable throughout the extent of this sheet. There is a daily line of steamers between New York and Hartford and many sailing vessels ply up and down the river.

The Salmon River, a narrow tributary entering from the left bank of the river, at the lower end of this sheet, is navigable for small vessels to a village called Moodus, two or three miles from its mouth, but at the present time has been surveyed for only a quarter of a mile.

The Connecticut is subject to floods, especially in the winter and spring; but owing to its large catchment area and to the narrowness of the stream at many points, a few days of heavy rain in central and northern New England will produce a considerable rise at any season. In this portion of the river, a rise will range from one to five feet vertically and in some places will increase the width of the river by a quarter or half a mile. Ice gorges are rare.

There are no bridges across the Connecticut on this sheet nor is there any steam ferry.

A row-boat ferry is maintained at the "Red Store" Landing, abreast of Haddam village and another between Maromas Station and Middle Haddam, but there is no place within the limits of this sheet where a vehicle or even a horseman can cross the river, the nearest ferries being at Goodspeed's, two miles or so below this sheet and at Middletown several miles above this sheet.

Fences are both of wood and stone.

10. There are no places on the sheet distinctively known as health or pleasure resorts, but during the summer a number of visitors find their way to Haddam, Higganum and Middle Haddam.

But few changes seem to be in progress in this locality, the growth of the population being gradual and confined mainly to the villages.

W. C. Hodgkins

Assistant