
National Park Service
Cultural Landscapes Inventory

2018



Haulover Point to Post Office and T.T. Potter Environs
Cape Lookout National Seashore

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Cultural Landscapes in the Cultural Resources Inventory System:

The Cultural Resources Information System (CRIS)

CRIS is the National Park Service's database of cultural resources on its lands, consisting of archeological sites, historic structures, ethnographic resources and cultural landscapes. The set of CRIS records for cultural landscapes is referred to as CRIS-CL. CRIS-CL records conform to a standardized data structure known as the Cultural

Landscapes Inventory (CLI).

The legislative, regulatory and policy directions for conducting and maintaining the CRIS are: Section 110 of the National Historic Preservation Act, NPS Management Policies (2006), Director's Order 28 (Cultural Resources) and Director's Order 28a (Archeology).

The Cultural Landscapes Inventory (CLI)

The CLI is the data structure within CRIS used to document and evaluate all potentially significant cultural landscapes in which NPS has, or plans to acquire any enforceable legal interest.

Each CRIS-CL record is certified complete when the landscape is determined to meet one of the following:

- Landscape individually meets the National Register of Historic Places criteria for evaluation; or,
- Landscape is a contributing element of a property that is eligible for the National Register; or,
- Landscape does not meet the National Register criteria, but is managed as cultural resources because of law, policy or decisions reached through the park planning process.

Cultural landscapes vary from historic sites, historic designed landscapes, historic vernacular landscapes to historic ethnographic landscapes, but may also fit within more than one type. Those eligible for the National Register have significance in the nation's history on a national, state or local level, as well as integrity or authenticity.

The legislative, regulatory and policy directions for conducting and maintaining the CLI within CRIS are: *National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (16 USC 470h-2(a)(1)). Each Federal agency shall establish...a preservation program for the identification, evaluation, and nomination to the National Register of Historic Places...of historic properties...*

Executive Order 13287: Preserve America, 2003. Sec. 3(a)...Each agency with real property management responsibilities shall prepare an assessment of the current status of its inventory of historic properties required by section 110(a)(2) of the NHPA...No later than September 30, 2004, each covered agency shall complete a report of the assessment and make it available to the Chairman of the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation and the Secretary of the Interior...

Executive Order 13287: Preserve America, 2003. Sec. 3(c) Each agency with real property management responsibilities shall, by September 30, 2005, and every third year thereafter, prepare a report on its progress in identifying... historic properties in its ownership and make the report available to the Council and the Secretary...

The Secretary of the Interior's Standards and Guidelines for Federal Agency Historic Preservation Programs Pursuant to the National Historic Preservation Act, 1998. Standard 2: An agency provides for the timely identification and evaluation of historic properties under agency jurisdiction or control and/or subject to effect by agency actions (Sec. 110 (a)(2)(A) Management Policies 2006. 5.1.3.1 Inventories: The Park Service will (1) maintain and expand the following inventories...about cultural resources in units of the national park system...Cultural Landscape Inventory of historic designed landscapes, historic vernacular landscapes,... and historic sites...

Cultural Resource Management Guideline, 1997, Release No. 5, page 22 issued pursuant to Director's Order #28. As cultural resources are identified and evaluated, they should also be listed in the appropriate Service-wide inventories of cultural resources.

Inventory Unit Description:

Portsmouth Village is a National Register of Historic Places district located on the northern end of Cape Lookout National Seashore, Carteret County, North Carolina. Cape Lookout National Seashore was established in 1966 “to preserve for public use and enjoyment an area in the State of North Carolina possessing outstanding natural and recreation values” (U.S. Congress, 80 Stat. 33, approved 10 March 1966). Portsmouth Village is the sole surviving village on the Core Banks south of Ocracoke Island. The district contains several dozen historic buildings and structures, associated circulation features, tidal creeks, sandy hammocks, vegetation communities, and a range of small-scale features, in addition to other related cultural landscape features.

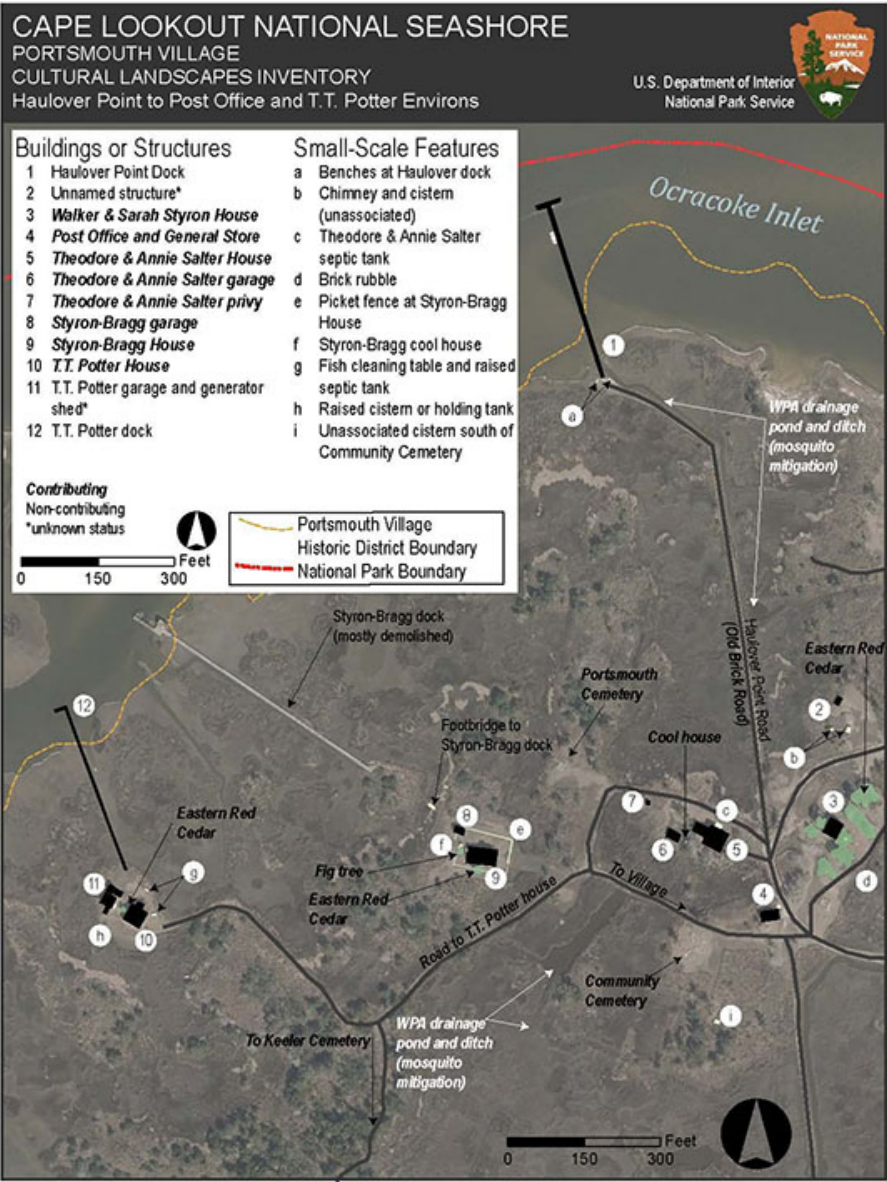
The period of significance for the Portsmouth Village Historic District begins in 1753 and concludes in 1971, encompassing the establishment of the community through the time when the last permanent residents left the island. The district is significant at the state level under Criteria A, C, and D of the National Register of Historic Places, in the areas of social history, maritime history, military history, architecture, and archeology. The site retains sufficient integrity to convey the associations of its period of significance to the visitor.

The village of Portsmouth was initially established by an act of North Carolina colonial legislature and flourished as a place for lightering, a process in which cargo was removed from ocean-going vessels to warehouses until they were light enough to cross the bar at Ocracoke Inlet. In addition to maritime uses, Portsmouth was an active village with a customs house, marine hospital, and post office, with a population that peaked at 600 residents and over 100 dwellings in 1860. Additional land uses included agriculture and military activities. With the transfer of land management to the National Park Service (NPS) in 1966, land use shifted primarily to public recreation and limited residential use.

Within Portsmouth Village is the Haulover Point to Post Office and T.T. Potter Environs component landscape. The component landscape contains several residences and associated outbuildings, the village Post Office, cemeteries, and circulation features including the main access points to the historic district by way of the T.T. Potter dock and Haulover Point dock.

The majority of extant cultural features survive from the early to mid-twentieth century and the Portsmouth Village Historic District landscape most closely reflects its character as it evolved during this time. Surviving resources represent the continuation of the earliest patterns of construction, land use, and way of life. No buildings exist from the initial eighteenth century development period and only a handful of structures remain from the nineteenth century. The site lacks integrity for this early period. Other modifications to the historic district include changes in circulation, vegetation, and alterations to accommodate the administration of Cape Lookout National Seashore.

Site Plan



Site Plan of Haulover Point to Post Office and T.T. Potter Environs component landscape.

Property Level and CLI Numbers

Inventory Unit Name:	Haulover Point to Post Office and T.T. Potter Environs
Property Level:	Landscape
CLI Identification Number:	976088
Parent Landscape:	976096

Park Information

Park Name and Alpha Code:	Cape Lookout National Seashore - Haulover Point to Post Office and T.T. Potter Environs - CALO
Park Organization Code:	5210
Park Administrative Unit:	Cape Lookout National Seashore

CLI Hierarchy Description

The Portsmouth Village parent landscape contains five component landscapes: Haulover Point and West Portsmouth Village, Doctor’s Creek and East Portsmouth Village, Portsmouth Life-Saving Station Complex, Road to the Beach, and Schoolhouse Environs

Concurrence Status

Inventory Status: Complete

Completion Status Explanatory Narrative:

The information in this CLI was derived from the Portsmouth Village Cultural Landscape Report, which was signed by acting Superintendent Michael McGee on November 13, 2007. Further fieldwork was completed by the Southeast Regional Office in June 2017 to update the district's existing conditions for this CLI.

Concurrence Status:

Park Superintendent Concurrence:	Yes
Park Superintendent Date of Concurrence:	08/08/2018
National Register Concurrence:	Eligible -- SHPO Consensus Determination
Date of Concurrence Determination:	11/29/1978

National Register Concurrence Narrative:

The Portsmouth Village Historic District nomination was determined to meet the National Register criteria by the SHPO and was entered in the National Register of Historic Places on November 29, 1978.

Concurrence Graphic Information:

Haulover Point to Post Office and T.T. Potter Environs
Cape Lookout National Seashore

Attachment File Path



IN REPLY REFER TO:
1.A.2 (SER - CRD)

United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
Southeast Regional Office
Atlanta Federal Center
1924 Building
100 Alabama St., SW.
Atlanta, Georgia 30303



Memorandum

To: Superintendent, Cape Lookout National Seashore

From: Division Chief Cultural Resources, Research, and Science - Southeast Region 

Subject: Certification of List of Classified Structures (LCS) and Cultural Landscapes Inventory (CLI) records

In our continuing efforts to update cultural resource data as directed by the WASO Park Cultural Resources Program we seek your concurrence on the condition assessment and management category for records in the LCS and CLI databases.

Attached herewith is documentation related to the condition assessment and management category for the recently reassessed CALO LCS structures and the Cape Lookout Village Historic District and Portsmouth Village Cultural Landscapes Inventories. Staff of the Cultural Landscapes program, Margaret (Meg) Frisbie and Mary Scales English, prepared this documentation in consultation with Curtis Rintz of your staff. Please review the attached documentation, indicate your concurrence by signing the forms, and return a copy to our office. If you have any questions or wish to make changes to the information, contact David Hasty, Senior Historical Landscape Architect, Cultural Resources Division at 404-507-5780 or David_Hasty@nps.gov.

Upon receipt of the signed concurrence forms, the LCS and CLI databases will be updated accordingly. Please return the signed concurrence forms to the address below by **24 August 2018**.

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List of Classified Structures – FY18 Recertification Documentation

This review of LCS structures coincides with the recent reevaluation of structure conditions at CALO, which is completed on a 6-year cycle, and supports the maintenance of “complete, accurate, and reliable” records in the LCS database. Reassessment of structure condition (Good, Fair, Poor, Unknown) will be solicited in future correspondence based on the 6-year cycle of reassessment, or when circumstances warrant. LCS listings for individual parks are generally not all reassessed at the same time due to workload, date of original LCS listing, and date of most recent assessment.

As stated in the LCS technical guidance for assessing condition, historic structures listed on the LCS will fall into one of four condition categories, Good, Fair, Poor, or Unknown as described below.

Good: For historic structure purposes, structures listed on or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places are in good condition when,

- a) the structure possesses integrity of location design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association to the historically significant period(s) based on the National Register Criteria for Evaluation (36 CFR 60.4), and,
- b) the structure and important features are intact, structurally sound, and performing their intended purpose.

For prehistoric or historic ruined structures listed on or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places, the assignment of condition should be based on the goal of maintaining the structure’s integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association, and stability of the structure as acquired, excavated, or existing.

Structures managed as a cultural resource based on legislation or the park planning process are in good condition when the structure and important features are intact, structurally sound, and performing their intended purpose.

Good condition, as defined for GPRA Goal 1a5 and LCS listing, is NOT the same as good condition as defined for facility management purposes. DO NOT use the Facility Condition Index (FCI) results when reporting LCS condition, as the FCI does not take into consideration the integrity of the location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association.

Fair: The structure is in fair condition if either of the following conditions is present:

- a) There are early signs of wear, failure, or deterioration though the structure and its features are generally structurally sound and performing their intended purpose;
- b) There is failure of a significant feature of the structure.

Poor: The structure is in poor condition if any of the following conditions are present:

- a) The significant features are no longer performing their intended purpose;
- b) Significant features are missing;
- c) Deterioration or damage affects more than 25% of the structure;

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d) The structure or significant features show signs of imminent failure or breakdown.

Unknown: Not enough information is available to make an evaluation.

Generally, structures that are listed in Fair or Poor condition are those that either require repair or rehabilitation or have permanent structural wear or damage that would be prohibitively expensive or impractical to repair or replace.

Cultural Landscapes Inventory – FY 18 Documentation

There are two parent cultural landscapes at Cape Lookout National Seashore. The first identified cultural landscape is the Cape Lookout Village Historic District, which contains three component landscapes: the Cape Lookout Lighthouse Complex, Cape Lookout Village, and the Cape Lookout Coast Guard Station. Portsmouth Village is the second identified cultural landscape. It contains five component landscapes: Haulover Point and to Post Office and T.T. Potter Environs, Doctor's Creek and East Portsmouth and Village Environs, Road to the Beach, Portsmouth Life-Saving Station Complex, and Schoolhouse Environs.

Wiss, Janney, Elstner Associates, Inc. and John Milner Associates, Inc. completed the Cultural Landscape Reports (CLRs) for the Cape Lookout Village Historic District and Portsmouth Village in 2005 and 2007, respectively. The CLI effort used information from the CLRs as a basis for their work. In order to update existing conditions for the CLIs, the cultural landscapes team conducted a site visit at Cape Lookout National Seashore from June 27 to 29, 2017. In addition to photographing and documenting cultural resources, the team also collected georeferenced data to create a robust geographic information systems (GIS) database. Combined data has functioned to inform the condition re-certification efforts for the LCS, as well as the establishment of the CLI inventory units.

In order for the CLIs to be considered complete and certified, the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) or Keeper of the NR needs to concur on the eligibility of the property for listing. David Hasty, Senior Historical Landscape Architect, SERO, will submit the CLIs to North Carolina SHPO for review and consensus determination signature. If the CLI condition assessments are agreed upon, please sign the attached approval form and return it to our office to David Hasty by e-mail (david_hasty@nps.gov) or Google docs. If you have any questions, please contact David Hasty by e-mail or phone (404.507.5780).

Cultural Landscape Inventory Condition Assessment

As stated in the Professional Procedures Guide – Section 8 for assessing condition, CLI resources will fall into one of four categories: Good, Fair, Poor, or Undetermined. The following data elements in this table provide information on the current condition of the inventory unit as well as condition reassessments.

Good: Indicates the inventory unit shows no clear evidence of major negative disturbance and deterioration by natural and/or human forces. The inventory unit's cultural and natural values are as well preserved as can be expected under the given environmental conditions. No immediate corrective action is required to maintain its current condition.

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United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
Southeast Regional Office
Atlanta Federal Center
1924 Building
100 Alabama St., SW.
Atlanta, Georgia 30303



IN REPLY REFER TO:
H22 (SERO-CRD)

12 July 2018

Ramona Bartos
Administrator and Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer
North Carolina State Historic Preservation Office
Department of Natural and Cultural Resources
Office of Archives and History
109 E. Jones St.
Raleigh NC 27601

Dear Ms. Bartos:

Enclosed please find a copy of the Cultural Landscapes Inventories (CLIs) for Cape Lookout Village Historic District and Portsmouth Village Historic District, both located in Currituck County, North Carolina, at Cape Lookout National Seashore.

The CLI is an evaluated list of landscape properties in the National Park System considered eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places or that contribute to an existing historic property. In order for CLI data to become certified, National Park Service regulations require concurrence from the SHPO on the eligibility of these properties. We are requesting your review of these CLIs and ask that you sign and return the enclosed concurrence form.

The *Cape Lookout Village Historic District* was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 2000, completed by Ruth Little of Longleaf Historic Resources in 1998 and amended by the North Carolina SHPO. The 2000 nomination focuses primarily on historic structures within the district and contains a brief description of the circulation networks and landscape features that emphasize the connection between the natural landscape and built environment. Overall the nomination lacks adequate documentation of landscape features.

The National Register nomination lists the district as significant under Criteria A and C, and Criterion Consideration B, while the cultural landscape documentation expands the criteria to include Criterion D, for data potential as there may be archeological sites that yield important information in prehistory or history. Further, the cultural landscape documentation adds Archeology and Military History as areas of significance to the previously listed areas of Social History, Maritime History, and Architecture (Vernacular). Although few above-ground resources



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associated with this period have survived, the cape was extensively used to defend the coast during World War II, in addition to military operations during World War I and the Civil War.

The cultural landscape documentation suggests that if further research and documentation is completed, the boundaries of the historic district might be expanded to include World War II military-related sites and the 1910s jetty to the west

The *Portsmouth Village Historic District* National Register nomination was completed by Lenard E. Brown of the National Park Service Southeast Regional Office in 1977 and listed on the National Register the following year.

The 1977 nomination contains a historic overview of the district and short descriptions of the extant buildings and structures. Overall the nomination lacks adequate documentation of landscape features and some of the information is outdated. The investigation into the Portsmouth Village cultural landscape suggests an additional significance criterion and a more precise period of significance than the 1977 nomination.

The National Register nomination lists the district as significant under Criteria A and C, while the cultural landscape documentation expands the criteria to include Criterion D, for data potential as there may be archeological sites that yield important information in prehistory or history. Areas of significance for the National Register nomination include Commerce and Social/Humanitarian; the cultural landscape documentation includes Community and Maritime History, Military History, Architecture (Vernacular), and Archeology.

The 1977 National Register nomination lists the period of significance of the village as covering the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. This broad period of significance does not reflect the development, evolution, and decline of the village, or any specific dates associated with its history. The cultural landscape documentation suggests a period of significance from 1753-1971 to be utilized in an updated nomination; 1753 is the date at which the village was founded and 1971 is the date at which the last permanent residents left the village.

An updated National Register nomination is scheduled for 2018. Further investigation of the landscape could result in expanding the current 280 acre boundary of the Portsmouth Village Historic District to include the former Middle Community and Sheep Island settled areas. Although these areas do not retain integrity of above-ground resources, they were an important part of the community historically, and archeological information potential appears to exist that supports their inclusion within the district. While some survey and limited subsurface excavation has been conducted, additional investigations are needed to determine the extent to which evidence of these earlier eras survives in the archeological record that may contribute to the information potential of the district.

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- Fair:** Indicates the inventory unit shows clear evidence of minor disturbances and deterioration by natural and/or human forces, and some degree of corrective action is needed within 3-5 years to prevent further harm to its cultural and/or natural values. If left to continue without the appropriate corrective action, the cumulative effect of the deterioration of many of the landscape characteristics will cause the inventory unit to degrade to a poor condition.
- Poor:** Indicates the inventory unit shows clear evidence of major disturbance and rapid deterioration by natural and/or human forces. Immediate corrective action is required to protect and preserve the remaining historical and natural values.
- Undetermined:** This pick can be used during consultation with the park regarding the landscape's condition. Condition must be determined before a record can be approved as complete.

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Resource Management Categories

Management categories are hierarchical, and are based on the significance, use, condition, and location of the resource as it relates to the National Register criteria. The below-listed management categories function for both the LCS and CLL. This hierarchy is represented by four Management Category Codes as described below:

Category A: Resources that MUST be Preserved and Maintained

A resource meeting any of the following criteria must be classified in Category A:

- the resource's preservation is specifically legislated;
- the resource is related to the park's legislated significance;
- the resource is nationally significant as defined by the National Historic Landmark criteria (Category of Significance Ia);
- the resource is less than nationally significant, but contributes to the park's national significance (Category of Significance Ib);
- the resource is prehistoric.

Category B: Resources that SHOULD be Preserved and Maintained

A resource must individually meet all of the following criteria to be placed in Category B (failure to meet any of the conditions moves it to a lower category):

- the resource may meet the National Register criteria individually or as a contributing element of a site or district (Categories of Significance II and III);
- the resource is not incompatible with the park's legislated significance;
- the resource has a continuing or potential use based upon design and location.

Category C: Resources that MAY be Preserved or Maintained

A resource that meets either of the following conditions must be placed in Category C:

- the resource may meet the National Register criteria individually or as a contributing element of a site or district, but because of condition, location, or other factors does not qualify for Category B;
- the resource does not meet the National Register criteria, but a decision has been reached through the planning process to manage the structure as a cultural resource.

Category D: Resources that may be or have been disposed of, altered for some other management purpose, or have been destroyed by natural forces or accident

A resource that meets any of the following criteria may be placed in Category D:

- the resource is an irreparable hazard to public health and safety;
- the resource has lost its historical integrity;
- the resource is a physical or visual intrusion on the park's legislated significance;
- the resource has been disposed of by planned action or destroyed by natural forces or accident.

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Haulover Point to Post Office and T.T. Potter Environs
Cape Lookout National Seashore

CULTURAL LANDSCAPES INVENTORY
CONDITION ASSESSMENT CONCURRENCE SHEET – 29 JUNE 2017

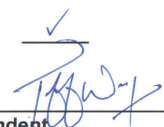
Park Information

Park: Cape Lookout National Seashore
District: Portsmouth Village Historic District
State: North Carolina
Counties: Carteret

Cultural Landscape Information

Inventory Name	CLI Id #	Condition	Condition Date
Portsmouth Village HD	550012	Good	6/29/2017
Haulover Point to Post Office And T.T. Potter Environs			
Doctor's Creek and East Portsmouth and Village Environs	976090	Good	6/29/2017
Portsmouth Life-Saving Station Complex	976092	Good	6/29/2017
Road to the Beach	976094	Fair	6/29/2017
Schoolhouse Environs	976096	Good	6/29/2017

Park Superintendent Concurrence

Concur ☒ **Do Not Concur** ☐

Superintendent **Date** 8/8/13

Superintendent Signature

Haulover Point to Post Office and T.T. Potter Environs
Cape Lookout National Seashore

With concurrence from your office, the findings become certified in the CLI database. Your concurrence also gives us justification to submit proper additional documentation to you at a future date. If you have any questions about these documents, please contact David Hasty, Senior Historical Landscape Architect, Southeast Region, at (404) 507-5780 or by e-mail at david_hasty@nps.gov. If the findings are agreed upon, the concurrence form can be returned by e-mail to David Hasty.

We greatly appreciate your office's assistance with the project.

Sincerely,



Dan Scheidt
Chief, Cultural Resources, Partnerships, and Science Division
Southeast Region

Enclosures

Letter to SHPO p. 3



North Carolina Department of Natural and Cultural Resources
State Historic Preservation Office

Governor Roy Cooper
Secretary Susi H. Hamilton

Ramona M. Bartos, Administrator

Office of Archives and History
Deputy Secretary Kevin Cherry

August 24, 2018

Dan Scheidt, Chief
NPS Cultural Resources, Partnerships, and Science Division
Southeast Regional Office
100 Alabama Street, SW
Atlanta, GA 30303

Re: Cultural Landscapes Inventory, Cape Lookout Village Historic District, Cape Lookout National Seashore, Core Banks, Carteret County, H22 (SERO-CRD), ER 18-1796

Dear Mr. Scheidt:

Thank you for your July 31, 2018, submittal of the National Park Service's Cultural Landscapes Inventory 2018 for the National Register-listed Cape Lookout Village Historic District (CR 0266). We find that the inventory report provides a thorough and concise analysis and evaluation of the existing condition of the thirteen landscape characteristics identified for the Cape Lookout Village Historic District *wiz*: archaeological sites; buildings and structures; circulation; cluster arrangement; constructed water features; cultural traditions; land use; natural systems and features; small-scale features; spatial organization, topography; vegetation; and views and vistas.

We have reviewed the inventory report and concur with the findings/recommendations as follows:

- The Cape Lookout Village Historic District retains sufficient integrity to convey the important associations of its period of significance.
- Based upon further research, documentation, and evaluation, the National Register nomination could be expanded to include Criterion D for information potential as intact prehistoric and historic archaeological sites, features, and deposits may exist throughout.
- The National Register nomination could be expanded to include Archaeology and Military History as additional areas of significance.
- Based upon further research, documentation, and evaluation, it may be possible to expand the district boundaries southward and westward to include World War II-era military sites (both terrestrial and under-water) and the 1910s jetty.
- The inventory report indicates that the 2005 Cultural Landscape Report suggests that an end date of 1945 for the district's period of significance may be more consistent with the surviving resources. To date, sufficient documentation to fully support revising the period of significance has not been discovered. Should documentation supporting such a revision be discovered, a revision of the period of significance may be warranted.

Location: 109 East Jones Street, Raleigh NC 27601 Mailing Address: 4617 Mail Service Center, Raleigh NC 27699-4617 Telephone/Fax: (919) 807-6570/807-6599

SHPO Concurrence Signature p. 1

Haulover Point to Post Office and T.T. Potter Environs
Cape Lookout National Seashore

- Based on our review of the inventory report, we further recommend that should the nomination for the district be revised, the revised document should include a more thorough documentation of the landscape features.

The above comments are made pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation's Regulations for Compliance with Section 106 codified at 36 CFR Part 800.

Thank you for your cooperation and consideration. If you have questions concerning the above comment, contact Renee Gledhill-Earley, environmental review coordinator, at 919-807-6579 or environmental.review@nps.gov. In all future communication concerning this project, please cite the above referenced tracking number.

Sincerely,


for Ramona M. Bartos

cc: David Hasty, NPS, David.hasty@nps.gov

SHPO Concurrence Signature p. 2

We have reviewed the submitted documentation that identifies cultural landscape features at Portsmouth Village Historic District and Cape Lookout Village Historic District at Cape Lookout National Seashore in Cartaret, North Carolina. We concur with the findings of the Cultural Landscapes Inventories, and understand that these features have the potential to contribute to the existing National Register of Historic Places nominations for the park.



North Carolina State Historic Preservation Officer

8.24.18
Date

SHPO Concurrence Signature p. 3

Geographic Information

Geographic Information & Location Map

State and County:

State:	North Carolina
County	Carteret County

Size (Acres) 48

Land Tract Number(s)

Inventory Unit Boundary Description:

Cape Lookout National Seashore forms a portion of North Carolina's Outer Banks in the easternmost part of the state. To the east lies the Atlantic Ocean and leeward are a series of named sounds, including Pamlico Sound, Core Sound, and Back Sound. The park includes North and South Core Banks, with Portsmouth Village located at its northern end.

The Portsmouth Village Historic District extends over approximately 280 acres on the lee side of Portsmouth Island. The island is edged by Ocracoke Inlet to the north; Baymarsh Thorofare and Sheep Island, which are in turn edged by Core Sound, to the west; marshes and large expanse of tidal flats-known as Portsmouth Flats-to the east and south; and Warren Creek and shrub savannah to the southwest.

The Haulover Point to Post Office and T.T. Potter Environs component landscape is in the western portion of the historic district. The west boundary of the component landscape is on the western side of the island, beginning with the T.T. Potter House and dock. The boundary then travels northeast along the waterfront of the Ocracoke Inlet to include the Haulover Point dock and then travels south along the east side of Haulover Point Road beyond the intersection with the east-west road that leads to the T.T. Potter House. To the south of the intersection the boundary then travels west back towards the waterfront to include the Community Cemetery and reconnect with the T.T. Potter House and dock.

Boundary Coordinates:

Source: USGS Map 1:24,000
Type of Point: Area
Latitude: 35.0686257787541
Longitude: -76.0637862536688

Narrative:

Source: USGS Map 1:24,000
Type of Point: Area
Latitude: 35.0683173025572
Longitude: -76.0670833997699

Narrative:

Source: USGS Map 1:24,000
Type of Point: Area
Latitude: 35.0724158754757
Longitude: -76.0695935268622

Narrative:

Source: USGS Map 1:24,000
Type of Point: Area
Latitude: 35.0701043666282
Longitude: -76.0638054348331

Narrative:

Location Map:



Location of Portsmouth Village Historic District in red circle.

Regional Context:

Type of Context: Physiographic

Description:

Portsmouth Village Historic District is located at the far northern end of Cape Lookout National Seashore just below the Island of Ocracoke along North Carolina's Outer Banks. The historic district covers approximately 280 acres of the lee side of Portsmouth Island. The island is edged by Ocracoke Inlet to the north; the Baymarsh Thorofare and Sheep Island to the west; the Portsmouth Flat marsh and tidal flats to the east and south; and Warren Creek and shrub savannah to the southwest. Middle Community, a former component of the village that no longer includes substantial above-ground evidence of its cultural developments, is located on Portsmouth Island to the west of the historic district. Sheep Island, located across Baymarsh Thorofare, was also traditionally associated with Portsmouth Village, but little evidence of this portion of the community survives. Casey Island is located in the inlet north of the island's primary dock facility at Haulover Point. Wallace's Channel, an important site for lightering in the eighteenth century, is located beyond the historic district to the north and east.

Cape Lookout National Seashore includes Shackleford Banks, Core Banks, Portsmouth Island, and a portion of eastern Harkers Island where the park headquarters and visitor center are located. Portsmouth Village can only be reached by boat. Most of its 2,000 annual visitors arrive from either Cedar Island, located forty miles north of Harkers Island, or by private ferry from Ocracoke Island.

Type of Context:

Cultural

Description:

English settlement of coastal North Carolina began in the 1670s. During colonial times, the Outer Banks were thinly settled and used primarily for grazing stock. Portsmouth Village was initially established by an act of the colonial legislature of North Carolina in 1753 on fifty acres at the north end of North Core Bank. Prior to the opening of Hatteras Inlet in 1846, Portsmouth flourished as one of North Carolina's primary seaports due to its location on the principal access into Pamlico Sound and proximity to other ports across the sound. The federal government established a customs house at Portsmouth in 1806, a marine hospital in 1827, and a post office in 1840. The town reached the zenith of its growth in 1860, with more than 600 residents and 109 dwellings.

Evacuated during the Civil War, Portsmouth never fully recovered its population or its economic vitality, and the customs house was abolished in 1867. As the population declined, the number of residences in the town dwindled as well, falling to fifty-nine in 1870 and forty-four by 1880. By the late nineteenth century, the shifting sands of the Outer Banks had closed Ocracoke Inlet to shipping, forcing a dwindling population to turn to fishing for its livelihood. Many buildings sat abandoned, including the marine hospital, which burned in 1894; those that survived hurricanes and a generally harsh environment were dismantled or relocated as the village slowly contracted. A hurricane in 1913 destroyed the Primitive Baptist and Methodist Churches. The community remained strong enough to support reconstruction of the Portsmouth Methodist Church by 1915, however.

On August 23, 1933, a moderate hurricane swept across Hatteras, bringing heavy rain but not particularly strong winds to Portsmouth. Less than one month later, a much stronger hurricane hit the area, with winds over 100 mph and torrential rain. Most of the island was flooded and many houses were destroyed. So much damage was done that most residents left the island to resettle on the mainland. In 1937, the Coast Guard (Life-Saving) Station was closed, and by 1940, there were only forty-two full-time residents; by 1950 that number stood at fourteen. The post office closed in 1959.

During this period, a number of the old buildings were adapted for temporary use by sport fisherman, especially after World War II. The Life-Saving Station, for example, was used as a sportsmen's club in the 1950s and 1960s. In the twentieth century, the availability of motorboats allowed commercial fishermen to reside on the mainland, leading to the decline of permanent settlement on the Outer Banks, but providing for increased access by recreational users.

In 1966, the Cape Lookout National Seashore was authorized "to preserve and enhance the natural character and recreational opportunities" of the barrier island system. At that time, only a handful of permanent residents remained; those that were interested were offered life leases on their properties. With the death of the village's last surviving male resident, Henry Pigott, in 1971, the only other full-time residents, Elma Dixon and her niece Marion Babb, left Portsmouth. Portsmouth Village was thereafter used seasonally by locals and park visitors.

Type of Context: Political

Description:

Cape Lookout National Seashore is a federally protected unit of the National Park System that has been administered by the NPS since 1966. Portsmouth Island is located within east-central North Carolina's Carteret County. Relatively rural, the county has an estimated population of 60,000 and extends over 532 square miles (U.S. Census Bureau, 2000). Local residents have traditionally derived their livelihood from farming and commercial fishing; in recent years, however, tourism and real-estate development have become important components of the local economy since the region is a popular destination for summer vacationers. Portsmouth Village itself is inhabited seasonally through a historic lease program. Six of the historic houses are available through the program. Volunteers and NPS personnel are also present at Portsmouth Village periodically throughout the year.

The closest towns are Beaufort (population 3,771), a fishing community and the county seat located approximately forty miles southwest and about four hours travel by boat and car, and Morehead City (population 7,707), a shipping and rail terminus that lies five miles to the southwest of Beaufort along U.S. Route 70 (U.S. Census Bureau, 2000).

Management Information

General Management Information

Management Category: Should be Preserved and Maintained

Management Category Date: 08/08/2018

Management Category Explanatory Narrative:

Portsmouth Village meets National Register criteria and is compatible with the park's legislated significance. The historic district was listed on the National Register on November 29, 1978.

Agreements, Legal Interest, and Access

Management Agreement:

Type of Agreement:

Type of Context:

Management Agreement Explanatory Narrative:

NPS Legal Interest:

Located in managed wilderness?: Unknown

Public Access:

Type of Interest: Unrestricted

Explanatory Narrative:

While the public can openly access the inventory unit via boat, many of the buildings and structures are closed to the public. Some buildings contain exhibits and are open to the public on select days.

Adjacent Lands Information

Do Adjacent Lands Contribute? No

Adjacent Land Narrative:

National Register Information

Documentation Status:

Entered Inadequately Documented

National Register Explanatory Narrative:

Several National Register of Historic Places nominations have been completed for Cape Lookout National Seashore between 1972 and the present day. The Portsmouth Village Historic District National Register nomination was completed by Lenard E. Brown of the National Park Service Southeast Regional Office in 1977 and listed on the National Register the following year.

The 1977 nomination contains a historic overview of the district and short descriptions of the extant buildings and structures. Overall the nomination lacks adequate documentation of landscape features and some of the information is outdated. The cultural landscape investigation into the Portsmouth Village landscape suggests an additional significance criterion and a more precise period of significance than the 1977 nomination.

The National Register nomination lists the district as significant under Criteria A and C, while the cultural landscape documentation expands the criteria to include Criterion D, for data potential as there may be archeological sites that yield important information in prehistory or history. Areas of significance for the National Register nomination include Commerce and Social/Humanitarian; the cultural landscape documentation includes Community and Maritime History, Military History, Architecture (Vernacular), and Archeology.

The 1977 National Register nomination lists the period of significance of the village as covering the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. This broad period of significance does not reflect the development, evolution, and decline of the village, or any specific dates associated with its history. The cultural landscape documentation suggests a period of significance from 1753-1971 to be utilized in an updated nomination; 1753 is the date at which the village was founded and 1971 is the date at which the last permanent residents left the village.

An updated National Register nomination is scheduled for 2018. Further investigation of the landscape could result in expanding the current 280 acre boundary of the Portsmouth Village Historic District to include the former Middle Community and Sheep Island settled areas. Although these areas do not retain integrity of above-ground resources, they were an important part of the community historically, and archeological information potential appears to exist that supports their inclusion within the district. While some survey and limited subsurface excavation has been conducted, additional investigations are needed to determine the extent to which evidence of these earlier eras survives in the archeological record that may contribute to the information potential of the district.

Concurrence Narrative:

The Portsmouth Village Historic District nomination was determined to meet the National Register criteria by the SHPO and was entered in the National Register of Historic Places on November 29, 1978.

NRIS Number: 78000267
Primary Certification Date: 11/29/1978
Other Certifications and Date: MM/dd/yyyy

National Register Eligibility

National Register Concurrence: Eligible -- SHPO Consensus Determination
Contributing/Individual: Contributing
National Register Classification: District
Significance Level: State
Significance Criteria: A - Associated with events significant to broad patterns of our history
Significance Criteria: C - Embodies distinctive construction, work of master, or high artistic values
Significance Criteria: D - Has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important to prehistory or history

Period of Significance:

Time Period: CE 1753 - 1971
Historic Context Theme: Creating Social Institutions and Movements
Subtheme: Recreation
Facet: General Recreation
Other Facet: None
Time Period: CE 1753 - 1971
Historic Context Theme: Creating Social Institutions and Movements
Subtheme: Social and Humanitarian Movements
Facet: Historic Preservation Movement
Other Facet: None

Time Period:	CE 1753 - 1971
Historic Context Theme:	Developing the American Economy
Subtheme:	Agriculture
Facet:	Fish Farming
Other Facet:	None
Time Period:	CE 1753 - 1971
Historic Context Theme:	Expressing Cultural Values
Subtheme:	Architecture
Facet:	Vernacular Architecture
Other Facet:	None
Time Period:	CE 1753 - 1971
Historic Context Theme:	Expressing Cultural Values
Subtheme:	Landscape Architecture
Facet:	Protection Of Natural And Cultural Resources
Other Facet:	None
Time Period:	CE 1753 - 1971
Historic Context Theme:	Expressing Cultural Values
Subtheme:	Landscape Architecture
Facet:	Rural Cemeteries
Other Facet:	None
Time Period:	CE 1753 - 1971
Historic Context Theme:	Peopling Places
Subtheme:	Colonial Exploration and Settlement
Facet:	English Exploration And Settlement
Other Facet:	None

Time Period: CE 1753 - 1971

Historic Context Theme: Peopling Places

Subtheme: Development of the Colonies

Facet: Physical Development

Other Facet: None

Time Period: CE 1753 - 1971

Historic Context Theme: Peopling Places

Subtheme: Development of the Colonies

Facet: Social And Economic Affairs

Other Facet: None

Time Period: CE 1753 - 1971

Historic Context Theme: Shaping the Political Landscape

Subtheme: World War II

Facet: The Home Front

Other Facet: None

Time Period: CE 1753 - 1971

Historic Context Theme: Transforming the Environment

Subtheme: Conservation of Natural Resources

Facet: Scenic Preservation

Other Facet: None

Area of Significance:

Area of Significance Category:	Social History
Area of Significance Category:	Maritime History
Area of Significance Category:	Military
Area of Significance Category:	Architecture
Area of Significance Category:	Archeology

Statement of Significance:

In order for a site to be eligible for inclusion in the National Register, it must possess significance under one of four criteria. The Criteria for Evaluation (Code of Federal Regulations, Title 36, Part 60) state:

The quality of significance in American history, architecture, archeology, engineering, and culture is present in districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects that possess integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association, and:

- A. That are associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history; or
- B. That are associated with the lives of persons significant in our past; or
- C. That embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, or that represent the work of a master, or that possess high artistic values, or that represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction; or
- D. That have yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

The 280 acre Portsmouth Village Historic District is located on the lee side of Portsmouth Island on the far northern end of Cape Lookout National Seashore. The 1977 National Register nomination lists the Portsmouth Village Historic District as eligible at the state level under Criteria A and C of the National Register, significant in the areas of Commerce and Social/Humanitarian. The cultural landscape research and analysis further illustrate and expand upon the themes established by the National Register nomination. Based on research and survey since the nomination was completed, Portsmouth Village can also likely be considered significant under National Register Criterion D, for the potential to yield important information in prehistory or history. Additional survey is suggested to further understand the archeological record. The National Register areas of significance are Community and Maritime History, Military History, Vernacular Architecture, and Archeology. Although the two communities have somewhat different histories and settings, a description used in reference to Cape Lookout Village applies equally well to Portsmouth: it is one of the last surviving and relatively intact historic settlements on the Outer Banks with an “inextricable connection of the natural landscape and the built environment” (Cape Lookout Village National Register nomination 2000, 19).

The National Register nomination lists the period of significance of the village as covering the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. This very broad period of significance does not reflect the development, evolution, and decline of the village, or any specific dates associated with its history. If the significance of the village is considered to be primarily related to its existence and survival as a community, then a reasonable starting date for the period of significance is 1753, the date when the village was founded, and a reasonable ending date is 1971, the date at which the last permanent residents left the village.

The period 1753 through 1971 is also supported by the characterization of Portsmouth Village presented in the 1977 National Register nomination form. The village is significant as a “surviving remnant of the thriving pre-

Civil War port that reached its zenith in the decade prior to 1860. Its significance today is as the only existing village on the Core Banks south of Ocracoke Inlet—an existence that can be traced back over 200 years to the 1760s” (Brown, 1977). Although very few built resources that pre-date the 1860s survive, the period of significance is relevant in that archeological remains may exist from the earliest settlement of Portsmouth. Furthermore, the late nineteenth and early twentieth century buildings that do survive represent the continuation of the earliest patterns of construction, land use, and way of life.

Criterion A: Community and Maritime History

The history of Portsmouth Village is directly related to its geography and is eligible under Criterion A of the National Register in association with Community and Maritime History. As with other communities on the Outer Banks, the settlement, development, and historic land use of the town of Portsmouth was closely interrelated with geographic changes and alterations to the inlet and its channels. The village was initially established as a place for lightering and grew into an active village. Edmund Ruffin, an agricultural scientist from Virginia, described Portsmouth in the late 1850s as follows (Ruffin, 1861, 123-124):

The village of Portsmouth owes its existence to the fact of its adjoining the nearest water of Pamlico sound, where vessels must anchor and wait for fair winds and tides to cross the shallow and dangerous bar of Ocracoke inlet—and after passing outward, as usual but partly laden, to wait to receive the remainder of the cargo, carried across the bar by lighters. The occupations of the whole resident population of Portsmouth are connected with the vessels which have to wait here. Pilots, and sailors, or owners of vessels, make up the greater number of the heads of families and adult males—and the remainder are the few, who as shopkeepers, &c., are necessary to minister to the wants of the others. If Ocracoke inlet should be closed by sand, (which is no improbable event,) the village of Portsmouth would disappear—or...remain only for its other use, as a summer retreat for transient visitors, sought for health and seabathing.

While its channels remained accessible, and while other inlets to the north remained closed, Ocracoke Inlet was the key port for shipping of goods from North Carolina. Its shallow entrance and changing channels made the role of marine pilots essential and provided a source of work to inhabitants of Portsmouth for many decades. The village grew up around activities related to the sea, particularly piloting and later the Life-Saving Service. The population peaked at around 600 residents and over 100 dwellings in 1860.

By the mid-nineteenth century, the channel and inlet were becoming unusable for commercial traffic, and the opening of Hatteras Inlet provided an alternate entrance along the North Carolina coastline. Together these factors led to the gradual and steady decline of Portsmouth as a maritime port in the middle nineteenth century. However, the community survived and evolved with an economy based on fishing and recreation into the second half of the twentieth century. Public amenities such as the Life-Saving Station, Portsmouth Methodist Church, Schoolhouse, and Post Office and General Store survived into the period of the mid twentieth century. New construction and development in the early decades of the twentieth century were a continuation of the way of life and cultural landscape of Portsmouth Village.

The village is characterized by informally placed residential buildings and outbuildings, located along narrow roads or grassy lanes. The buildings are sited on high grounds amidst the low salt-marsh vegetation characteristic of the Outer Banks. The relationship of the individual dwellings is typical of early coastal villages. The National Register nomination notes, “Except for these lanes, small cleared building sites and a grass landing strip for light planes, the environment of the district gives the appearance being untouched by the incursions of man” (Ruffin, 1861, 123-134). The features that characterized the village throughout its history—and particularly its relationship to its setting, which governed its evolution—remain intact today.

Criterion A: Military History

The historic district is also eligible under Criterion A in association with Military History. From the Revolutionary War, when the British landed at Portsmouth and Ocracoke to attack New Bern in 1777, to the War of 1812 when a British fleet attacked Portsmouth and Ocracoke, and the Civil War when Union forces landed and took control of Cape Hatteras, Cape Lookout has been a part of several military operations. In 1915 the U.S. Life-Saving Service was merged with the Merchant Marine to form the U.S. Coast Guard that took over the operation of the Life-Saving Station. In 1937, the Coast Guard decommissioned the Portsmouth station as part of a consolidation of resources, although it was reactivated for a brief period during World War II. Cape Lookout

played a role in coastal defenses from the start of U.S. involvement in World War I in 1917 through World War II, when soldiers were stationed at Cape Lookout to defend the harbor. While no significant aboveground features associated with the early military history of Portsmouth Village remain, the area played a role in several campaigns associated with coastal defense of the United States for two hundred years.

Beyond the historic district boundary along the island's eastern beach front in the vicinity of the mud flats, two garrisoned fortifications were established to protect the mouth of Pamlico Sound. The first was provided for by the same act that established a town at Portsmouth Village in 1753. Known as Fort Granville, the complex included a fascine battery, garrisoned with forty men and equipped with eight, 18-pound guns facing the Ocracoke bar, and twelve, 12-pound guns trained on the harbor. These fortifications were used for coastal defense during the French and Indian Wars, and rebuilt for use during the War of 1812 and the Civil War, but subsequently abandoned. During the War of 1812, 500 British soldiers attacked Portsmouth and Shell Castle Islands. Soldiers pitched tents on the banks, and Admiral Sir George Cockburn set up his headquarters at David Wallace's house. The British army destroyed much property on the island and appropriated hundreds of head of livestock, indicating that the raising of livestock was a primary agricultural pursuit of island residents at the time.

The inlet was blockaded during the Civil War. Confederates first established outposts in the area at Fort Morgan on Beacon Island in the Ocracoke Inlet and Fort Washington on Portsmouth Island. Five hundred troops were stationed at Portsmouth in barracks on the beach, and the fort was armed with thirty-pound guns. Union forces destroyed the Confederate garrison in August 1861 and maintained control of the region for the remainder of the war. One of their strategies was to block the inlet with sunken vessels.

While there are no aboveground resources associated with the island's early military history within the district boundaries, the island played important roles in several military campaigns from the mid-eighteenth century through World War II. Further investigation into the military history of Portsmouth Village is suggested for the planned National Register update.

Criterion C: Architecture

The Portsmouth Village Historic District is eligible for listing under Criterion C for embodying the distinctive characteristics of architectural types, in association with Vernacular Architecture adapted to the coastal environment. In the 1977 National Register nomination, the buildings at Portsmouth Village were not recognized as having architectural significance. Based upon information obtained as part of the present study, consideration should be given to the significance of the Life-Saving Station as an example of federal architecture in the Shingle Style and to the residential buildings as examples of mid-nineteenth-century coastal vernacular types.

During the 1870s and 1880s a series of small picturesque life-saving stations were built along the Outer Banks. The Portsmouth Life-Saving Station, completed in 1895, was one of twenty-one stations constructed with similar designs. Of the ten surviving stations, the Portsmouth station is the least altered of the group. These stations survive at Cape Lookout (1888), at Portsmouth Village (1895), and at Oak Island (1891).

Several of the privately-built houses of the village are surviving examples of mid-nineteenth-century vernacular construction adapted to the coastal environment. These include the Washington Roberts House and the Walker and Sarah Styron House, both of which date to circa 1850. Residential buildings in the village are generally vernacular wood-frame houses of a consistent type. Although lacking individual significance, collectively these houses can be considered significant as examples of the particular vernacular dwelling type tailored to the Outer Banks environment. The houses are typically supported on piers or pilings that lift the structure off the ground and allow storm surges and shifting sand to move underneath. The houses are conventionally wood framed using dimensional lumber. Roofs typically have a very low pitch, a structurally desirable configuration for a hurricane-prone area. Although most of the buildings are simple and unadorned, a few buildings include decorative details relating to popular architectural styles of the time, such as the Craftsman-style front porch of the Harry and Lida Dixon House. Similarly, the Portsmouth Methodist Church incorporates Gothic Revival details but can mainly be considered a vernacular structure.

Criterion D: Archeology

The district has the potential to yield archeological information about prehistoric and historic habitation on the cape. Specific subject areas of potential interest for archeological investigation include prehistoric settlement, early settlement, Revolutionary War-era activities, and Civil War-era activities. Underwater surveys near the shoreline and offshore investigation could be performed to identify vessels from shipwrecks along the coast.

Recent archeological investigations by staff of the NPS Southeast Archeological Center (SEAC) and as part of the present study suggest that areas outside of the historic district boundaries at Middle Community and Sheep Island contain numerous archeological resources, such as gravesites, ruins, road traces, and probable house sites. The existing village historic district also contains numerous known house sites and ruins with archeological potential.

In 2008, pedestrian survey was completed in Portsmouth Village and the Middle Community area. Much of the Middle Community area was overgrown with dense vegetation, but one shovel test pit was excavated near the Middle Community Schoolhouse. Dense vegetation limited overall survey efforts and additional fieldwork was recommended to further consider the archeological potential of the site.

The 2015 Cape Lookout National Seashore Archeological Overview and Assessment completed by SEAC recommended more detailed subsurface testing be conducted at Portsmouth Village and the nearby Middle Community to identify early historic sites. The historic district can be considered eligible under this criterion due to its clear archeological potential, and this criterion suggests that the boundaries of the district could be revised based on the findings of further systematic survey.

Chronology & Physical History

Cultural Landscape Type and Use

Cultural Landscape Type: Historic Site

Current and Historic Use/Function:

Primary Historic Function: Outdoor Recreation

Primary Current Use: Village Site

Other Use/Function	Other Type of Use or Function
Beach	Current, Historic
Department Store (General Store)	Historic
Fishing Facility (Hatchery)	Historic
Interpretive Landscape	Current,
Landing (Wharf, Dock)	Current, Historic
Scenic Landscape	Current, Historic
Secondary Structure (Garage)	Historic
Single Family House	Historic
Visitor Contact (Visitor Center)	Current,

Current and Historic Names:

Name	Type Of Name
Portsmouth Village	Both Current And Historic
Portsmouth	Both Current And Historic
Core Banks	Both Current And Historic
Portsmouth Village Historic District	Current

Chronology:

Year	Event	Annotation
BCE 1950	Established	By 1950, Portsmouth Village had only 14 residents
CE 1710	Colonized	By 1710, the Core Sounds area had become a small colony. Landowners included Shackelford, Ward, Moy, Worden, Simpson, Bell, and Fulford

Year	Event	Annotation
CE 1753	Established	An act was established "laying out a Town on Core Banks, near Ocacock Inlet, in Carteret County, and for appointing Commissioners for completing the Fort at or near the same place." Portsmouth existed as a place for lightering
CE 1760	Developed	By 1760, the town had developed into the largest English port south of Virginia
CE 1770	Settled	Portsmouth Village was one of the largest settlements on the Outer Banks
CE 1775	Established	Henry Mouzon's map of North and South Carolina shows a road running southwest from the center of Portsmouth Village along the banks, likely the existing Old Straight Road
CE 1808	Established	Jonathan Price's 1808 map of North Carolina depicted David Wallace Sr. and David Wallace Jr.'s houses, both of which were near the shore and used as landmarks, in addition to the Gaskill House. A two-story academy is depicted on 1806 and 1821 maps
CE 1840	Established	A post office was established in the village
CE 1850	Built	c. 1850s. The Walker and Sarah Styron House was constructed, possibly on the foundation of an earlier structure
CE 1860	Established	By the 1860s, Portsmouth was an established village. Some residences had fencing and there were scattered groups of loblolly pines and other dense vegetation
CE 1870 - 1910	Built	Mullet fishing was an important summer and fall activity off of the Core Banks and Shackleford Banks. Seasonal shacks were constructed for sleeping in and storing fish
CE 1880 - 1890	Developed	At the end of the nineteenth century, Portsmouth Village had two major roads, crossing near the Post Office, two churches, and the Life-Saving Station, in addition to residences
CE 1881 - 1885	Established	A telegraph connection to the mainland existed
CE 1900 - 1909	Built	The Post Office and General Store was constructed
CE 1900 - 1909	Built	The Theodore and Annie Salter House and associated cool house, shed, and privy were constructed
CE 1928	Built	The Styron and Bragg House was constructed as a sportsmen's lodge
CE 1933	Destroyed	A hurricane destroyed many homes at Portsmouth
CE 1950 - 1960	Inhabited	Several houses were occupied seasonally by hunters and fishers. Houses were remodeled for seasonal use
CE 1950 - 1960	Purchased/Sold	The state of North Carolina began to acquire land from private owners

Year	Event	Annotation
CE 1952	Built	The T.T. Potter House was constructed and modified for use as a seasonal fishing camp. A shed and boathouse are also on the property
CE 1957	Built	Construction of a paved highway and regular ferry service across Hatteras Inlet made Ocracoke a vacation destination
CE 1959	Abandoned	The Post Office at Portsmouth Village closed
CE 1960	Established	Ferry service connected Ocracoke to Cedar Island
CE 1963	Land Transfer	By 1963, the state had acquired about 80% of the land between Ocracoke Inlet and Cape Lookout
CE 1965	Established	The Salter Gun Club used the Theodore and Annie Salter House
CE 1965 - 1970	Established	Late 1960s. Tree and shrub cover had regrown. The settled area contracted to the village core
CE 1966	Established	Cape Lookout National Seashore was established
CE 1970 - 1980	Altered	The National Park Service began clearing brush and trees from the post-WWII era. Mown turf was established around the houses
CE 1978	Established	Portsmouth Village was listed on the National Register of Historic Places
CE 1980	Restored	The National Park Service undertook stabilization and restoration efforts in Portsmouth Village
CE 1997	Stabilized	The Post Office building was stabilized by the NPS
CE 1999	Damaged	Hurricane Dennis came ashore at Cape Hatteras in August-early September; Hurricane Floyd followed in September. Buildings were lost
CE 2005 - 2006	Rehabilitated	A new roof was put on the Walker and Sarah Styron House in 2005 and the residence was further rehabilitated the following year
CE 2006	Established	Fieldwork for the Portsmouth Village Cultural Landscape Report was completed
CE 2007	Established	The Portsmouth Village Cultural Landscape Report was certified
CE 2017	Established	June. Fieldwork was completed for the Portsmouth Village CLI

Physical History:

Please see parent Portsmouth Village CLI for complete History section

Portsmouth from Its Founding to the Civil War: Ocracoke Inlet and the Founding of Portsmouth

As with other settlements on the Outer Banks, the development of the town of Portsmouth was closely interrelated with geographic changes and alterations to the inlet and its channels. As noted in

the 1982 Historic Resource Study (Olson, 1982, 10):

The settlements that have arisen on the Outer Banks, including Portsmouth, have generally been associated with a navigable inlet and have been established primarily to ease the navigational detriments to North Carolina's commerce. The tenuous existence of these towns has depended upon the erratic commercial progress of the inland ports and upon the unpredictable changes in the Outer Banks caused by natural forces... Portsmouth has been so thoroughly involved with Ocracoke Inlet... virtually every geographic change that occurred at the inlet was reflected in what happened at Portsmouth.

Inlets at Curratuck, Roanoke, and Hatteras were closed or closing by the 1730s, and ships traveled to Ocracoke Inlet to gain passage between the sound and the Atlantic Ocean from that period until well into the nineteenth century. North Carolina's commercial interests were in naval stores including tar, pitch, and turpentine, and in exportation of shingles and other lumber products. The importance of Ocracoke to North Carolina's economy as a point of transshipment is illustrated by a description in 1835 as "the outlet for all the waters of North Carolina, excepting the Cape Fear and its tributaries" (Olson, 1982, 13). However, Ocracoke Inlet presented several obstacles to navigation, including the bar at the entrance and the shoal or swash within the inlet. The extent to which the bar and swash were passable varied widely. Even in optimum conditions, when many ships could cross the bar, larger ships could not cross the swash. Several channels led from the bar to deeper water within the inlet, but the degree to which these channels were passable also varied widely. When the northern channels became shallower and were unusable for commercial passage, Wallace's Channel to the south became more frequently used by larger ships, also encouraging development at Portsmouth.

Portsmouth existed primarily as a place for lightering, a process in which cargo was removed from ocean-going vessels to warehouses until they were light enough to cross the bar at Ocracoke Inlet. Goods were stored for trans-shipment inland. Departing vessels were reloaded outside the bar, with the cargo carried across the inlet by small boats known as "lighters."

The need for skilled mariners to guide ships through the changing channels and assist in the lightering process led to large numbers employed as pilots in and around the inlet. The pilots, working from twenty foot vessels with three to five hands per ship, also marked channels and posted signals for larger vessels. An act in 1715 by the colonial assembly provided for pilots at both Roanoke and Ocracoke inlets, and provision in 1723 authorized beacons or buoys to be placed at these inlets. These acts may not have been put into effect, and in 1738, a third act was passed for these improvements (Olson, 1982, 17, 23, 25).

In 1753, an act was established "laying out a Town on Core Banks, near Ocacock Inlet, in Carteret County, and for appointing Commissioners for completing the Fort at or near the same place." The commissioners were instructed "to lay out fifty acres of land on Core Banks, most convenient to the said harbour, adjoining the said Banks, for a town, by the name of Portsmouth, into lots of half an acre each, with convenient streets, as they may think requisite" (Stick, 1958, 40). The same act provided for establishment of a fortification to be known as Fort Granville.

A lot in the town could be acquired for 20 shillings, which was paid to one of the appointed commissioners and then turned over to the owner of the land, John Kersey (Olson, 1982, 27). Purchasers were required to build a frame or brick house or warehouse, not less than twenty feet long by sixteen feet wide (Olson, 1982, 25). In 1757, the first tavern was opened by Valentine Wade (Stick, 1958, 42). By 1760, Portsmouth had developed into the largest English port south of Virginia (Davis, 1982, 63). In the same year, St. John's Parish appointed John Toalson as reader at Portsmouth (Burke, 1958, 16).

There were no organized churches in Portsmouth at this time, although a minister named Alexander Stewart visited Portsmouth on October 7, 1766, and "baptized twenty-seven children from the different islands round me" (Stick, 1958, 42). In 1767, pilot David Wallace acquired 100 acres of land in Portsmouth (Olson, 1982, 29).

By 1770, Portsmouth Village was one of the largest settlements on the Outer Banks. Collet's map of North Carolina, published in 1770, shows Portsmouth shaded to indicate settlement. Henry Mouzon's

map, published in 1775, also shows Portsmouth having eight structures, one of which may be a church.

Portsmouth as a Major Port

The growth of Portsmouth continued in spite of frequent storms. One hurricane struck Portsmouth on August 10, 1835, and another storm in late August 1839 completely covered the island with water, destroying gardens, drowning livestock, and sinking four ships sheltering at the inlet. This storm was considered the worst since 1795 by longtime residents (Burke, 1958, 40).

In 1840, a post office was established in the Village (National Park Service). In 1842, the U.S. House Committee on Commerce reported, "Ocracoke Inlet is the outlet for all the commerce of the State of North Carolina, from the ports of Newbern, Washington, Plymouth, Edenton, and Elizabeth City . . . more than two thirds of the exports of the State of North Carolina pass out to sea at this point" (Stick, 1958, 87-88). By 1850, the population had reached approximately 377 free persons, living in 70 dwellings in the village. Of the working population, approximately 82 were engaged as fisherman, seamen, boatmen, and pilots; four as merchants; four as carpenters; two as farmers; two as doctors; and one as a teacher (Holland, 1968, 44).

The exact physical layout of the village in the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries is not well documented. It appears that the original center of settlement was at the northeast shore of the island, but this had shifted inland by 1836, when it was reported that the maritime hospital was "not in the centre of the inhabitants" (Olson, 1982, 66). The existing Old Straight Road was probably in place as early as the eighteenth century; the 1775 Henry Mouzon map of North and South Carolina shows a road running southwest from the center of the village along the banks. Early structures in the village included the houses of David Wallace, Sr., and David Wallace, Jr., both of which were near the shore and were used as landmarks for vessels entering Wallace's Channel to Shell Castle; and the Gaskill House, identified on Jonathan Price's 1808 map of North Carolina. A two-story "academy" is shown on maps drawn in 1806 and 1821 (Olson, 1982, 70).

Life in Portsmouth in the Early Nineteenth Century

The soil at Portsmouth was too poor for cultivation. Villagers in the early nineteenth century grew sweet potatoes and had gardens. They also kept horses, sheep, cattle, and goats, which fed on native grass and rushes. One inhabitant was reported as having over 700 sheep, 250 head of cattle, and 250 horses (Holland, 1968, 42). Portsmouth as it existed around 1860 was described by Edmund Ruffin, a writer from Virginia. Ruffin was a well-known geologist and agriculturalist and had published an influential book on the relationship between soil acidity and productivity. Ruffin wrote (Ruffin, 1861, 130-133):

Except at and near Portsmouth, and where actual residents have possession, there is no separate private property in lands, on this reef, from Ocracoke to Beaufort harbor. . . . There are cattle and sheep on the marshes of this portion of the reef, obtaining a poor subsistence indeed, but without any cost or care of their owners. On the other hand, the capital and profits are at much risk, as any lawless depredator can, in security, shoot and carry off any number of these animals. But horses cannot . . . be caught and removed by thieves—and, therefore, the rearing of horses is a very profitable investment for the small amount of capital required for the business. There are some hundreds of horses, of the dwarfish native breed, on this part of the reef between Portsmouth and Beaufort harbor— ranging at large, and wild (or untamed), and continuing the race without any care of their numerous proprietors...

Twice a year...there is a general 'horse-penning,' to secure, and brand with the owner's marks, all the young colts. . . . The 'horse-pennings' are much attended, and are very interesting festivals for all the residents of the neighboring main-land... All the horses in use on the reef, and on many of the nearest farms on the main-land, are of these previously wild 'banks' ponies'... Any [horses] raised in other localities, if turned loose here, would scarcely live through either the plague of blood-sucking insects of the first summer, or the severe privations of the first winter.

The Landscape in the Mid-Nineteenth Century

In the 1860s, Portsmouth was an established village with numerous small residences spread over a wide area. Some residences included fences enclosing private yards. The settled portion of the village extended beyond the current National Register of Historic Places district boundaries. A factory was located on Haulover Point and the U.S. Marine Hospital was located east of the center of the village (a structure labeled "Grey's Factory" is shown on Topographic Survey T 1016, U.S. Coast and Geodetic Survey, Washington, D.C., 1866). Scattered groupings of loblolly pine trees or other dense vegetation broke up the open landscape.

The 1860 landscape of the Outer Banks was also described by Edmund Ruffin. He noted the lack of settlement on the Outer Banks, the scattered cedar and loblolly pine trees, the grazing livestock. He wrote (Ruffin, 1861, 123-126):

The sand-reef (commonly termed, by residents on the main-land, the 'banks' or the 'beach') stretches along the whole sea-coast of North Carolina for about three hundred miles, and with an extension into Virginia. The few important breaches or inlets north of Beaufort harbor have been mentioned. There is not one of them navigable north of Ocracoke inlet, except the one newly opened, and still enlarging near Cape Hatteras. One other, Oregon inlet, has been passed through only by a small steamer of very shallow draft...

The portion of the reef that extends from Ocracoke inlet to Beaufort harbor, until recently, was one continuous island, of some fifty miles in length, and of very regular general width, of less than three-quarters of a mile. New breaches are frequently made across the narrower and lower parts of the reef, by the ocean waves driven across by violent storms— and which breaches are usually soon closed again. One such was not long since opened through this before continuous island, and which is still increasing in depth, though not yet to more than two or three feet. It is ten miles south of

Ocracoke inlet, and is known as Whalebone inlet. The small village of Portsmouth is near Ocracoke, on a wider part of this smaller island. The land there is one and a half miles wide. Except this place, and a similar but smaller enlargement of the reef near Cape Lookout (where, about the light-house, there are a few inhabitants,) there are no human residents, and no cultivation... The village of Portsmouth owes its existence to the fact of its adjoining the nearest water of Pamlico sound, where vessels must anchor and wait for fair winds and tides to cross the shallow and dangerous bar of Ocracoke inlet—and after passing outward, as usual but partly laden, to wait to receive the remainder of the cargo, carried across the bar by lighters. The occupations of the whole resident population of Portsmouth are connected with the vessels which have to wait here. Pilots, and sailors, or owners of vessels, make up the greater number of the heads of families and adult males—and the remainder are the few, who as shopkeepers, &c., are necessary to minister to the wants of the others. If Ocracoke inlet should be closed by sand, (which is no improbable event,) the village of Portsmouth would disappear—or, (like Nagshead) remain only for its other use, as a summer retreat for transient visitors, sought for health and sea-bathing. Another such settlement or village, and supported in like manner, is at Ocracoke, north of the inlet.

The whole reef consists of several distinct kinds and characters of earth or soil... First, the ocean beach proper, or shore, or the space above low-water mark, and covered by every ordinary flood tide. This, as in all other cases along a low and sandy coast, is a very gradual slope, of beautifully smooth and firm sand...

Second, in the rear of the firm sea-shore, and lower than its highest ridge, or crest line, (above ordinary high-tide mark,) lies what I will distinguish as the sand-flat... In every storm, the waves which rise highest on the shore, pass, in part, over the ridge or highest beach line; and the water thence flows and spreads, in a very shallow sheet, over the whole of this lower flat...

Third, whenever this sand-flat is dry at its surface, the dry and loose sand, (the texture being very open and soft,) is either lifted or rolled by strong winds—and, if driven landward, when reaching higher ground, or the growth on the marsh, or any other obstructions, the grains of sand there are stopped, and accumulate in low ridges or mounds—or, where circumstances are favorable, begin to form ranges of sand-hills, which are of all heights not exceeding about one hundred feet. The grains of fine sand, which form these high hills, are so easily moved and shifted by high winds, that every exposed portion of the surface may be said to be in movement—and gradually the entire hill is thus moved land-ward... The broad sand-flat near Ocracoke, and the high sand mounds of latest formation, are bare of all vegetation, and entirely barren... These moderate accumulations of sand, but where no high sand-hills have been raised, in longer time, make a wretchedly poor and very sandy soil, on which, where it is of sufficient height and extent, some worthless loblolly pines (*p. tæda*,) can grow, and where the inhabitants, (if any) may improve for, and cultivate some few garden vegetables. No grain, or other field culture is attempted south of Ocracoke inlet.

Fourth, another kind of land is marsh, subject either daily, or otherwise at much longer intervals, to be covered by the flood tides of the ocean. This marsh is wet, soft, and more or less miry on the surface—but, in general, is firm enough to bear well the grazing animals. The coarse salt-water grasses and weeds, which cover these marshes, serve to supply all the food, and for both winter and summer, for the live-stock living on the reef.

Village Development

Portsmouth Village at the end of the nineteenth century included numerous individual residences over a wide area, reaching as far south as Sheep Island. Two major roads, crossing near the Post Office and General Store, were the primary circulation and development corridors for the village. Two churches were located within the village, and the new Life-Saving Station complex was sited to the east of the residential area. A few new houses were built in the village in the late nineteenth century.

Maritime shipping through Ocracoke Inlet, already greatly reduced by the end of the nineteenth century, was brought to an end around 1910. New canals were developed that linked North Carolina's rivers and sounds to Chesapeake Bay to the north and the natural harbor at Beaufort to the south. The privately-owned Albemarle and Chesapeake Canal in Virginia opened in 1859. This canal was purchased by the federal government in 1913 and made toll-free. By 1910, the Adams Creek Canal connected Beaufort Inlet directly with Pamlico Sound to the north. Thereafter, Ocracoke and Hatteras Inlets ceased to be used as ports of entry for ocean-going shipping, although federal engineers continued to maintain and mark the inlets for local fishing boats (Stick, 1958, 182-183).

By about 1910, the use of motorboats for fishing was widespread. The use of motorboats made it possible for fisherman to live on the mainland and still fish near the cape. In the same way, motorboats also made the Outer Banks more accessible for vacationers and part time recreational users.

Interwar and World War II

The village in the 1920s and 1930s was described by Dorothy Bedwell, who spent summers on the island with her family from 1922 to 1940. Her family's summer house, no longer extant, stood just to the south of the Carl Dixon House (outside the component landscape). Bedwell wrote (Bedwell, 1984, 16):

Houses in the village were scattered at random, generally facing the narrow roadways but some set back among the trees, accessible only by footpaths. The larger houses were two-story with steep dormer windows, and many smaller ones consisted of only one, two or maybe three rooms. Regardless of size, all had a front porch or piazza as the residents called it. Most everyone had a fig tree, and many a jar of fig preserves was boiled off in late summer. Some of the houses had kitchens apart from the main house. A few had what they called their summer kitchens with lots of windows where families cooked and ate in hot weather.

In addition to the main village, Bedwell also recalled settlement at Sheep Island, where "homes were scattered" (Bedwell, 1984, 46). She and her family survived the hurricane of September 16, 1933, which damaged and destroyed many houses in Portsmouth and led some families to relocate to the mainland.

During the storm the tide peaked just below the floors of our house. Papa had bored holes in the floor so that the house would not float off its foundation blocks if the water got too high... At other homes it flooded the ground floors. ...Mr. Tom Bragg and Mr. Jody Styron reported a foot of water in their home. ...After the hurricane, it was a gruesome sight to look out over the sound and see the carcasses of drowned cattle floating (Bedwell, 1984, 62).

Postwar and the National Seashore: Recreation, Conservation, and the Changed Federal Role

The decades after World War II on the Outer Banks saw the continued decline of full time residential use. After World War II, changes in the role of the federal government in the region contributed to this process, as the Coast Guard, which had provided for continuous employment opportunities at Portsmouth since the establishment of the Life-Saving Service in the late nineteenth century, gradually disappeared. The federal government instead began to serve as steward of the natural and recreational environment through the efforts of the National Park Service.

In describing the economic improvements of the 1950s on the upper Outer Banks, related primarily to tourism, David Stick commented on the lack of development on the lower Outer Banks (Stick, 1958, 253):

But on the lower Banks, at Portsmouth, Core Banks, Cape Lookout, and Shackleford Banks, where stock continued to graze on an open range through World War II and afterwards with no effort made to control erosion, where there was no one . . . to push through the construction of roads and bridges, and where there still is no connection with the mainland, the long stretches of bald beach remain, devoid of vegetation and flooded by every storm tide— but the people have long since departed.

By 1950, Portsmouth Village had only fourteen residents (Stick, 1958, 307). By 1956, a postage stamp was the only item purchasable in the town, and in 1959, the Post Office closed. By the late 1940s, the former Life-Saving Station was sold to a private sportmen's club, and a landing strip was built, obliterating the site of the former marine hospital (Jones, 2004, 28). Some sources give a date of the 1950s for the creation of the landing strip. Another club, the Salter Gun Club, used the Theodore and Annie Salter House beginning in 1965 (Olson, 1982, 95). Other houses in the village were occupied seasonally by hunters or fishermen throughout the 1950s and 1960s. Often, the older houses were remodeled or rehabilitated by these seasonal users.

In 1957, the construction of a paved highway on Ocracoke Island and the beginning of regular ferry service across Hatteras Inlet made Ocracoke village more accessible as a vacation destination. By circa 1960, ferry service connected Ocracoke to Cedar Island, the eastern terminus at that time of U.S. Highway 70 (Olson, 1982, 301). Some schemes for private resort-type development were proposed in the 1950s and 1960s, but intensive recreational development was forestalled by government action. The state of North Carolina had begun to acquire land from private owners on Portsmouth Island, Core Banks, and Shackleford Banks starting in 1959, and by June 1963, had acquired about 80 percent of the land between Ocracoke Inlet and Cape Lookout.

Cape Lookout National Seashore

North Carolina turned to the federal government for assistance in managing this large resource. Initially consideration was given to extending Cape Hatteras National Seashore to include the Cape Lookout area. However, Cape Lookout was established as a National Seashore in its own right in 1966, encompassing a fifty-four mile stretch of the Outer Banks from Cape Lookout to Ocracoke Inlet, and the nine mile long Shackleford Banks running westward to the Beaufort Inlet. From the founding of the National Seashore, the objective of the National Park Service has been to provide for natural and scenic recreational use while preserving the seashore in its natural condition (Cape Lookout Master Plan Draft, 1968).

By 1966, the village had only three permanent residents. Some buildings were used as vacation homes, and the Life-Saving Station served as a seasonal lodge for a hunting and fishing club. Other buildings were unoccupied, and some had fallen into disrepair. The remaining residents were given life estate rights to a home in the village, while most of the remaining properties were acquired by the National Park Service in the late 1960s. With the death of Henry Pigott in early 1971, the last two permanent residents, Elma Dixon and Marion Babb, left Portsmouth.

By the late 1960s, most of the houses in the village were abandoned or inhabited only seasonally.

Tree and shrub cover had regrown within the village. The settled portion of the village had contracted to the core area currently included in the National Register Historic District; as noted above, the settlement of Sheep Island had been abandoned after the 1933 hurricane, and the vacant structures in Middle Community were later destroyed by fire.

Portsmouth Village was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1978, including the thirty primary structures, and numerous secondary structures and site features. The National Park Service undertook restoration and stabilization work at numerous structures in Portsmouth around 1980. For many structures, this included repainting or repair of historic wood siding and wood windows; removal of non-historic synthetic cladding materials; and replacement of asphalt-shingle roofing with wood shingles. The periodic seasonal occupation of some houses in the village that had begun after World War II continued under the National Park Service historic leasing program in the 1970s and 1980s. Also during the 1970s and 1980s, National Park Service staff began to clear brush and trees that had grown up in the decades after World War II, in part to reduce the risk of fire to the historic structures. Mown turf was established around many of the houses. In 1993, the last former resident with life estate rights in the village passed away (Cloud, 2006, 72).

In late August through early September 1999, Hurricane Dennis came ashore at Cape Hatteras and 19.13 inches of rain fell in Ocracoke. In mid-September 1999, Hurricane Floyd moved northward along the Atlantic coast and brought further heavy rain and severe flooding to North Carolina. During these storms, several buildings were lost, including a barn at the Jesse and Lillian Babb House and a privy at the Styron and Bragg House. In addition, a barn that had been sited near the shore between the McWilliams House and the water, near the creek, was lost during these storms. Another barn located near the Life-Saving Station stable, which had been dismantled by National Park Service and was to be reconstructed, was also lost (Personal interview, Mike McGee, Maintenance Supervisor, Cape Lookout National Seashore, 2007). The 2006 List of Classified Structures (LCS) documentation includes mention of the Jesse and Lillian Babb Barn and the Styron and Bragg privy, although these structures are no longer extant.

In 2003, the district was heavily affected by Hurricane Isabel, which made landfall on the Core Banks between Cape Lookout and Portsmouth Village on September 18. The storm overturned more than 400 trees, and damaged fences, outbuildings, cemeteries, roads, pathways, and other historic features. The George and Patsy Dixon House, already noted to be in poor condition when surveyed for the Historic Structure Report in 2002, suffered heavy damage. Subsequent to the storm, the house was stabilized with plywood board-up and timber shoring, which remains in place. The Life-Saving Station was also damaged by the storm. Archeological resources were exposed, and the establishment of new water channels caused loss of land associated with a cemetery. Impacts from subsequent storms, including Hurricane Ophelia in September 2005, led to the loss of hundreds more trees; to date, the cumulative damage from these recent storms has not been fully evaluated or mitigated, and much of the district is in need of stabilization and repair.

In 2006, the fieldwork for the Portsmouth Village Cultural Landscape Report was completed and the following year the document was certified.

Analysis & Evaluation of Integrity

Analysis and Evaluation of Integrity Narrative Summary:

Portsmouth Village Historic District retains sufficient integrity to convey the important associations of its period of significance to the visitor. The period of significance of 1753 through 1971 has been utilized to compare historic and existing landscape conditions within the district. As discussed previously, this period has been suggested to resolve the imprecise period recorded in the 1977 National Register nomination for the district. Documentation within the Analysis and Evaluation section focuses on the evolution of the community from its earliest establishment in 1753 to the time when the last permanent residents left the island in 1971, including

the changes to the physical contexts of the Ocracoke Inlet and the Outer Banks, and the primary economic endeavors of commercial shipping and fishing. To indicate the changes that have occurred over time, the analysis describes the features and characteristics that have comprised the community since its establishment in 1753.

The Portsmouth Village Historic District most closely reflects its early to mid-twentieth century formation and character. The strong connections between the siting of buildings and structures and natural features and processes continue to be expressed in the surviving fabric of the historic district. The historic use of materials dating from the early twentieth century are built upon earlier developments that are no longer present. Important visual and spatial connections also survive to a great degree. Overall, extant cultural features primarily remain from the early to mid-twentieth century.

There are no extant structures from the initial development phase of Portsmouth Village in the eighteenth century and only a limited number from the nineteenth century. The site thus lacks integrity for the eighteenth and nineteenth century period of significance. Additional investigations are needed to determine whether evidence of these earlier eras survives in the archeological record that may contribute to the information potential of the district. The comparative analysis nonetheless includes a discussion of what is known about these early features due to their significance and influence on later development.

This analysis and evaluation section addresses the Haulover Point to Post Office and T.T. Potter Environs component landscape. This section links extant features to their period of origin and assesses whether they are contributing to the significant historic fabric. Those features that are not associated with the period of significance are identified as non-contributing. Changes that have been made to historic features are noted. Features that are known to have existed during previous periods but are no longer extant are identified as missing. Landscape characteristics are used as the basis for the comparative analysis. These include: Archeological Sites, Buildings and Structures, Circulation, Constructed Water Features, Land Use, Natural Systems and Features, Small-Scale Features, Spatial Organization, Topography, Vegetation, and Views and Vistas.

Landscape Characteristics Summary

The primary organizing element of the former village is a pair of circulation routes that meet near the core of Portsmouth Village. These roads extend north/south from the dock at Haulover Point to the Old Straight Road and east/west from the marsh along Warren Creek to the Portsmouth Life-Saving Station complex and beyond to the beach and tidal flats. Modest wood frame dwellings, the Post Office and General Store, and Portsmouth Methodist Church edge these roads. Various unimproved access roads arise from the primary roads and lead to additional residences. Elevated landforms or hammocks dot the landscape. These have frequently been utilized to site important cultural features such as dwellings and cemeteries due to their higher topography and slight protection against flooding. Ruins of former dwellings are found on many of the hammocks. The landscape around each of the dwelling complexes is maintained in closely mown grasses; some cultural properties also include fencing around the dwelling precinct.

Dwellings and outbuilding structures such as sheds, cool houses, privies, cisterns, and above-ground septic tanks form cultural precincts associated with most properties. Beyond the precincts, much of the landscape is dominated by salt marsh, meadow or grasslands, and shrub savannahs and thickets. In the southern portion of the district and to its south, the landscape is dominated by shrub savannah that is difficult to penetrate and marshes along what is known as the Baymarsh Thorofare. The area around the Life-Saving Station is generally characterized by shrub savannah and grassland, with expansive tidal flats beyond. Between Haulover Point and the Old Main Road, the vegetation is generally a shrub thicket community. The village is edged on most sides by salt marsh, tidal flats, and creeks or Ocracoke Inlet. There is also a pine plantation that edges a portion of the village, including its grass airstrip.

The primary soil type associated with Portsmouth Island is Lafitte-Hobucken-Carteret. This is a poorly drained organic and mineral soil on nearly level land that sometimes includes mucky material formed from herbaceous plant remains over mineral sediments. It also occurs in marshes flooded frequently with salt water. These soils have a seasonal high water table and are subject to frequent flooding. Portions of the island are also associated with Newhan-Corolla Beaches soil. These soils are on dunes near beaches and waterways, and are formed from sandy marine sediments. They are sandy throughout their soil profiles, excessively drained with very rapid

permeability, and a low shrink-swell potential. They also have seasonal high water tables, which has the potential to impact septic system.

NPS activities within the historic district include maintenance of the buildings and landscape, in addition to the staffing the Theodore and Annie Salter House, which functions as a visitor contact facility, periodically from April to November. Exhibits and restrooms are available to visitors here and at the Life-Saving Station. A historic lease program previously afforded opportunities for seasonal use of the village dwellings. In 1982, the General Management Plan noted that there were twelve special use permits in effect for occupancy of structures in Portsmouth Village at that time; there were six in 2006. These permits were intended to help protect the historic structures in the village (Final Environmental Impact Statement, 1982, 54).

When comparing the landscape of Portsmouth Village during its period of significance to present-day conditions, one of the primary differences is the increase in tree and shrub cover. By 1971, few residents remained on the island, and little care was taken to maintain vegetative growth. Much of the island became overgrown by trees and shrubs. More recently, park staff has worked diligently to remove much of this woody vegetation and enhance the legibility of the community's historic cultural resources. Hurricanes and other storms have contributed to this effort, but the tree cover remains more extensive than during the period when the village sustained an active community. Based on review of historic photographs and aerials, the landscape appears to have been even more open before the exodus of residents in the 1940s due to a series of severe storms. Little is known about the vegetative character of the community during the nineteenth century, but it is clear that most residents raised livestock that were allowed to roam and graze freely about the island. This would likely have resulted in very open vegetative cover.

Other changes include the loss of some of the buildings and structures that were present in 1971, which has diminished the extent of the historic community, and the deterioration of the many outbuildings and fences.

The visual and physical connection to Middle Community and Sheep Island, both areas of residential development associated with Portsmouth Village, has also been obscured by vegetative growth, and many of the features associated with these areas have been lost due to a lack of maintenance and a fire that burned many of the residences.

There are some features located within the historic district that post-date the period of significance such as a comfort station and NPS equipment buildings, signage to support visitor use and education, a new dock at Haulover Point, and septic tanks outside of many of the buildings.

Aspects of Integrity:

The district possesses integrity of location as the original site of the community established to support commercial shipping activities and their navigation through the treacherous shoals of the Ocracoke Inlet remains. Despite the nineteenth century demise of these activities, the residential community in the Haulover Point to Post Office and T.T. Potter Environs component landscape survived and continued to occupy the same general area of the island first settled in the 1760s. Many of the twentieth century features remain in their original locations. There are newer docks in the component landscape used to access the area.

The district also possesses integrity of design, materials, and workmanship for the late nineteenth/early twentieth century period through the maintenance of existing institutional features including the residences and Post Office, as well as associated outbuildings, attendant landscape features, and cemeteries. Many residents began to abandon their properties within the community after World War II; little has been done since to alter the architectural integrity, materials, or spatial organization of the surviving resources, although there are examples of buildings that have been modified to accommodate seasonal hunting and fishing club use. Care must be taken in maintenance and repair projects to ensure that the integrity of these properties is maintained.

Integrity of setting is particularly strong within the district due to the community's location on an island with no sites of late-twentieth century development within view of the community. The relationship between the town and the ocean environment has not been altered and the overall association between the district and the surrounding natural features is vital to the district's setting. The setting of the Haulover Point to Post Office and T.T. Potter Environs landscape is maintained through the cumulative effect of the natural systems and features, building and structures, topography, spatial organization, and views and vistas. The district's relationship to its

natural systems and features is vital.

The historic district also possesses integrity of feeling and association for the late nineteenth/early twentieth century due to the presence of the many dwellings, cemeteries, roads, and community buildings such as the Post Office and General Store that provided services for community members. Dense woody growth currently detracts from the district's integrity of feeling, obscuring the sense of openness, and therefore connectedness that once linked community members. Vegetation, however, inevitably changes over time, and can be considered a reversible condition whereby the integrity of the site can be enhanced by thinning non-historic vegetation and enhancing historic views and spatial patterns.

Landscape Characteristic: Archeological Sites

Limited archeological investigation has been conducted to date at Portsmouth Village. An archeological reconnaissance of Portsmouth Island and a portion of Sheep Island was conducted between February 26 and March 3, 2007, by a two-person crew during the cultural landscape field investigation. The purpose of the reconnaissance was to identify and locate cemeteries and other archeological features outside the boundaries of the established Portsmouth Village Historic District but known to local informants.

An assessment of archeological and historical resources within Cape Lookout National Seashore was completed in 1976, a 2006 archeological survey was prepared by the SEAC, and the previously mentioned pedestrian survey was completed during the cultural landscape documentation in 2007. Results from the 2007 survey are available in the Portsmouth Village Cultural Landscape Report, Appendix A. The 2007 survey encompassed Portsmouth Island and a portion of Sheep Island and concluded that intact archeological and landscape features from past occupations of the island have survived outside of the historic district. The CLR recommended that these features be further surveyed and mapped and could result in the expansion of the historic district boundary.

An archeological survey was undertaken by SEAC in 2008 to investigate historic properties as a result of the recommendation in the 2007 Cultural Landscape Report. Fieldwork consisted of a pedestrian survey and limited subsurface testing. Pedestrian survey was completed in Portsmouth Village and in the Middle Community area. One shovel test was completed near the purported home site of nineteenth century resident Dr. Samuel Dudley and another was completed near the Middle Community Schoolhouse. Ultimately, due to the dense vegetation and mixed results of the survey, additional survey within the Middle Community was recommended.

Further fieldwork was undertaken in 2009 in preparation for completing the Cape Lookout National Seashore Archeological Overview and Assessment, finalized in 2015. Fieldwork included recording several new historic sites on Sheep Island.

A Hurricane Irene Damage Assessment was completed in 2011 followed by further archeological site condition assessments in 2012 including within the Portsmouth Village area.

The 2015 Cape Lookout National Seashore Archeological Overview and Assessment recommended more detailed subsurface testing be conducted at Portsmouth Village and the nearby Middle Community to identify early historic sites. The document contains descriptions of the archeological sites throughout the National Seashore, including detailed descriptions of the individual gravesites in Portsmouth Village.

To date, no individual archeological sites at the Cape Lookout National Seashore have been listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Landscapes and Structures

Contributing Buildings and Structures

On the northwest side of the road intersection in the core of the historic district is the Post Office and General Store. The Post Office and General Store was built circa 1900–1909. An outbuilding that is no longer extant stood adjacent to the structure and is visible in photographs taken in the 1930s. The Post Office was stabilized in 1997. In 2006, the LCS reported that the building exhibited interior damage from Hurricane Isabel. As noted in the George Dixon House Historic Structures Report, “George Dixon was a fisherman by trade, but [his wife] Patsy also worked to support the family by operating a store...According to Patsy’s daughter [Elma], the first store was located on the north side of Doctor’s Creek along the road to Henry Pigott’s House. Later Patsy acquired or built a larger store directly across the road from the Dixon’s house on the south side of Doctor’s Creek—Elma Dixon remembered that ‘you could step off the road onto the steps of the store.’ How long it operated has not been documented, but it was eventually moved across Doctor’s Creek (probably after Patsy’s death in 1914) and remained the community’s primary store and location of its post office until both were closed in the 1950s” (Jones, 2004, 12-13). Various members of the family also served as postmaster for the island during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.

The Post Office and General Store is rectangular in plan and supported on wood posts. It has painted white clapboard and vertical wood board siding, in addition to a steep pitch gable roof clad in wood shingles and featuring a galvanized metal ridge cap. The front gable end has a central recessed entrance door and a pair of six over six double-hung windows.

Further west from the Post Office and General Store is the Styron and Bragg House, also known as the Jody Styron-Tom Bragg House or simply the Styron-Bragg House, which was constructed circa 1928 as a sportsmen’s lodge. The property includes a shed and cool house. A privy that was formerly associated with the property is no longer extant. A dock and boardwalk behind the house are damaged and no longer in use.

The 1-1/2-story Styron and Bragg House with a one-story rear wing has a wood shingle hip roof with four dormers and galvanized metal ridge caps. The walls are clad with clapboard painted yellow. The house is supported on wood posts and has brick chimneys, Colonial Revival type porch columns, and two-over-two double-hung windows, many of which were boarded over at the time of survey. A painted wood picket fence partially encloses the yard, which contains a cool house, a shed, and a contemporary plastic septic tank. The Styron and Bragg shed and associated cool house were constructed in the 1920s.

North of the Post Office and General Store is the Theodore and Annie Salter House. This structure is also known as the Theo Salter House and the Salter Gun Club. Constructed circa 1900–1909, this house is thought to have been moved to its present site circa 1930. The Salter Gun Club was established in 1965–66. The building is currently utilized as the site’s visitor contact station and features exhibits and a comfort station inside. The NPS submitted a funding request in 2004 to repair storm-related damage to the building, primarily interior flooring, flooring on the porch, and siding on the summer kitchen. This work appears to have been completed in 2005.

This large T-shaped two-story structure with rear one-story wing has a hip roof that is wood shingled, and the walls are clad with white painted clapboard. The house is mainly supported on wood posts but includes brick porch posts and several brick chimneys. The front façade is symmetrical and the front porch has tapering wood columns and a front-facing gable on its hip roof. At the time of survey there were several rocking chairs on the front porch for visitors. The windows are two-over-two double-hung units. Around the house are several outbuildings, including a cool house, shed, and a privy.

The Theodore and Annie Salter cool house was constructed circa 1900-1909 and is a small square box with vertical wood siding and a gable roof clad in wood shingles, on raised wood posts. The cool house is missing screens. The associated shed, also known as the Salter shed and Salter outbuilding no. 2, was also constructed circa 1900–1909 and is rectangular in plan with vertical wood siding

painted white and a hip roof clad in wood shingles. The structure is resting on wood posts and has several door opening and two light windows. The associated Salter privy was also constructed circa 1900–1909 and is a small square structure entirely clad in wood shingles with a hip roof.

East of the Theodore and Annie Salter on the east side of Haulover Point Road is the Walker and Sarah Styron House. Also known as the Robert Wallace House and Old Grace House, the Walker and Sarah Styron House is another surviving example of the “story and a jump” house type and was constructed in 1850. The National Register nomination suggests that this house was constructed on the foundation of an earlier house, partially visible along the north side of the existing house. A 1955 photograph indicates that there was once a long kitchen extension associated with the house that is no longer extant. A new roof was put on the building in 2005.

The 1-1/2-story Walker and Sarah Styron House is supported on wood posts. The house is rectangular in plan with two wide gabled dormers on the front and back roof plane. The exterior is clad with painted white clapboard siding, and the building has a wood shingle roof. The house has a brick chimney. The windows are two over two double-hung units, most of which were boarded over at the time of survey. A porch extends across the front of the house. The house once included a kitchen/dining room wing to the east.

To the north of the Walker and Sarah Styron House is an unassociated wood shed. The shed likely was an outbuilding associated with the former Henry Babb house site. The Henry Babb House is no longer extant, although the shed, cistern, and remnants of a chimney remain. The shed is a rectangular structure on grade with board and batten walls and a gable roof clad in wood shingles. There is also a brick chimney at the former house site.

On the far western side of the historic district lies the T.T. Potter House. This structure is also known as the Armfield House and Armfield-Potter House. It was built circa 1952 and modified for seasonal recreational use as a fishing camp. This house may be sited on the location of an earlier dwelling. The T.T. Potter House is a larger, ranch-type house supported on wood posts. The walls are clad with composition board siding, and the roof is asphalt shingle. The house has a mix of window types and a large porch along the north side. The exterior is in poor condition with a significant split in the structure.

Two outbuildings are associated with the house: a shed and boathouse/shed. Little is known about the history of either building. They are currently used by the NPS to store ATVs and other large equipment. Also on the site are a contemporary plastic storage tank, and an outdoor fish cleaning table with sink.

Non-Contributing Buildings and Structures

There are non-contributing buildings within the Portsmouth Village Historic District, south of the Life-Saving Station precinct. These include a generator shed south of the Life-Saving Station that was constructed in 1982. A gas storage unit and a solar panel system are on the south side of the generator shed. There is a wooden comfort station that is accessed via a wooden ramp on the Road to the Beach. Additionally, there are two NPS maintenance/equipment buildings, one northeast of the comfort station and the other in the boneyard area south of the Life-Saving Station, that are non-contributing.

Docks and Bridges

No docks survive from the period of significance, although a few appear on historic maps of the island. Docks appear on the 1866 survey near present-day Coast Guard Creek and Baymarsh Thorofare. At least one dock was also associated with the Life-Saving Station complex after 1894. There may have been a dock associated with the U.S. Marine Hospital and another with Grey's Factory at Haulover Point, although docks do not appear in these locations on the survey. The three existing docks all post-date the period of significance and are non-contributing resources.

Today, Haulover Point is the primary boat landing point for visitors to Portsmouth Village. Although

this landform has changed in shape over the years due to shifting tides and current, it has remained an important docking site since at least the nineteenth century. At Haulover Point today there is a thirty-five foot long, T-shaped dock and boardwalk that extends from the island to water deep enough for a boat to land. The dock, constructed by the NPS, is constructed of marine-treated round pylons and nominal lumber boards. It appears to be in good condition.

A second dock/boardwalk is located near the T.T. Potter House. The boardwalk extends across marsh land to a dock on Ocracoke Inlet. The L-shaped dock was established by the NPS for their use in bringing equipment, housed in the T.T. Potter house sheds, to the island. This dock and boardwalk complex appears to be in good condition.

There was previously a dock and boardwalk complex behind the Styron and Bragg House that is damaged and no longer in use.

A wooden footbridge accesses the Styron and Bragg House that is currently in poor condition. See Circulation for more information on bridges.

Character-defining Features:

Feature Name:	Walker and Sarah Styron House
CLI Feature ID:	185661
Feature Contribution:	Contributing
CRIS-HS Resource ID:	12522
CRIS-HS Resource Name:	Wallace, Robert, House
CRIS-HS Resource Number:	HS-513
FMSS Record Type:	Location
FMSS Record Number:	43328
Feature Name:	Post Office and General Store
CLI Feature ID:	185663
Feature Contribution:	Contributing
CRIS-HS Resource ID:	12526
CRIS-HS Resource Name:	Post Office and General Store
CRIS-HS Resource Number:	HS-518
FMSS Record Type:	Location
FMSS Record Number:	43063

Feature Name: Theodore and Annie Salter House
CLI Feature ID: 185665
Feature Contribution: Contributing
CRIS-HS Resource ID: 12527
CRIS-HS Resource Name: Dixon-Salter House
CRIS-HS Resource Number: HS-519-A
FMSS Record Type: Location
FMSS Record Number: 43065

Feature Name: Theodore and Annie Salter Cool House
CLI Feature ID: 185667
Feature Contribution: Contributing
CRIS-HS Resource ID: 91757
CRIS-HS Resource Name: Dixon-Salter Cool House
CRIS-HS Resource Number: HS-519-B

Feature Name: Theodore and Annie Salter Shed
CLI Feature ID: 185669
Feature Contribution: Contributing
CRIS-HS Resource ID: 91758
CRIS-HS Resource Name: Dixon-Salter Shed
CRIS-HS Resource Number: HS-519-C

Feature Name: Theodore and Annie Salter Privy
CLI Feature ID: 185671
Feature Contribution: Contributing
CRIS-HS Resource ID: 91759
CRIS-HS Resource Name: Dixon-Salter Privy
CRIS-HS Resource Number: HS-519-D

Feature Name: Styron and Bragg House
CLI Feature ID: 185673
Feature Contribution: Contributing
CRIS-HS Resource ID: 12530
CRIS-HS Resource Name: Styron-Bragg House
CRIS-HS Resource Number: HS-523-A
FMSS Record Type: Location
FMSS Record Number: 43071

Feature Name: Styron and Bragg Shed
CLI Feature ID: 185675
Feature Contribution: Contributing
CRIS-HS Resource ID: 91761
CRIS-HS Resource Name: Styron-Bragg Shed
CRIS-HS Resource Number: HS-523-B

Feature Name: Styron and Bragg Cool House
CLI Feature ID: 185677
Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature Name: T.T. Potter House

CLI Feature ID: 185679

Feature Contribution: Contributing

CRIS-HS Resource ID: 12531

CRIS-HS Resource Name: Potter, T. T., House

CRIS-HS Resource Number: HS-524-A

FMSS Record Type: Location

FMSS Record Number: 43072

Feature Name: T.T. Potter Equipment Shed/Garage

CLI Feature ID: 185681

Feature Contribution: Undetermined

Feature Name: T.T. Potter Generator Shed

CLI Feature ID: 185683

Feature Contribution: Undetermined

Feature Name: Dock and boardwalk at Haulover Point

CLI Feature ID: 185685

Feature Contribution: Non contributing

Feature Name: Dock and boardwalk at T.T. Potter House

CLI Feature ID: 185687

Feature Contribution: Non contributing

Feature Name: Dock and boardwalk behind Styron & Bragg

CLI Feature ID: 185689

Feature Contribution: Non contributing

Feature Name: Small footbridge to the Styron and Bragg

CLI Feature ID: 185691

Feature Contribution: Non contributing

Landscape Characteristic: Circulation

Historic Conditions:

Circulation within the Portsmouth Village Historic District that survives from the period of significance includes two primary routes—the Old Straight Road and the Village Road—as well as various secondary and access roads leading to residences and cemeteries. Circulation routes originally served pedestrians, horses, and wagons, and evolved to support automobile and powerboat traffic. During the period of significance, circulation within Portsmouth Village centered around a primary north/south route extending between Haulover Point and Middle Community—referred to today as the Old Straight Road. The 1866 survey of the community indicates the presence of this route, which survives today both as an extant route along its northern segment and a road trace along its southern segment past the Schoolhouse. Secondary routes are also shown to the west of the Old Straight Road extending to and between various residences. The history and date of origin of the other main route, the Village Road, is currently unknown.

Many of the village dwelling complexes are not shown as connected with the main road in any way on the 1866 survey. There were likely, however, paths and trails that were not developed enough to appear on the document. Additional secondary routes appear in the vicinity of the marine hospital complex, leading to the “Great River” tidal creek, and between one of the properties in the western-central portion of the village and the waterway of Baymarsh Thorofare. Two bridge crossings are also shown at Doctor’s Creek within the Middle Community area across Lawrence’s Creek. A dock extends into the ocean along the northeastern margin of the island near Coast Guard Creek. It is likely that other docks existed at this time but are not represented on the survey.

During earlier periods, there were other circulation routes that appear on historic aerial photographs and maps that are no longer present. Some routes present during the twentieth century have since been lost, including various routes leading along the northeastern margin of the island between Haulover Point and the Life-Saving Station complex.

Existing Conditions:

Haulover Point is the primary boat landing site at Portsmouth Village with a thirty-five foot long T-shaped dock and boardwalk. The other main dock is near the T.T. Potter House. There was previously a dock at the Styron and Bragg House that is damaged and no longer in use. None of the docks date to the period of significance.

At present, there are two primary road systems located within the historic district, and various secondary or access roads that lead to residences. Roads are all generally unimproved and

composed of sand surfaces maintained through periodic grading. Circulation features listed on the LCS (LCS 012532) include twelve unimproved roads, described as eight to ten feet wide, with a total length of 8,400 feet, and in good condition. None are mapped or named, however, so it is not clear which of the roads described herein are specifically included on the LCS. The cultural landscape report documentation recorded twelve road corridors within the historic district.

The Haulover Point Road is a long, straight, sand road that extends south between Haulover Point at the northern end of the island to the core of the village, where it continues south as the Old Straight Road. The northern portion of the road frequently floods and can remain wet. The road is generally in good condition, except for where ponding occurs near the boardwalk.

The Old Straight Road is the historic route of travel between Portsmouth Village and the Middle Community. It joins Haulover Point Road around the core of the historic district. This route has a mown grass surface. The portion of the road that is interpreted within the historic district is in good to fair condition, although it requires constant maintenance to remain unobstructed by vegetative growth.

At the core of the historic district, Haulover Point Road intersects the Village Road, which is the primary east/west trending road that extends on the west side to the Styron and Bragg House (and associated former dock).

Additional roads lead off of the Village Road, providing access to various dwellings, and cemetery sites. North of the intersection of the Village Road and Haulover Point Road, an access road heads west from Haulover Point Road and travels along the north side of the Theodore and Annie Salter House towards the Portsmouth Cemetery. The road then travels back south past the Theodore and Annie Salter privy to reconnect with the Village Road. This road has a mown-grass surface. It is generally in good condition.

On the west side of the historic district and west of the Haulover Point and Village Road intersection, a road leading towards the T.T. Potter House, associated dock, and Keeler-Styron Cemetery arises just east of the Styron and Bragg House and leads southwest away from the Village Road. The sand- and grass-surfaced road splits with one branch leading south to the Keeler-Styron Cemetery and the other leading northwest to the T.T. Potter House. This road is generally in good condition.

There is a small footbridge over a marshy area to access the Styron and Bragg House. The bridge is composed of wood planks, approximately three feet wide, and is currently in poor condition with vegetation growing in and around the footbridge and several boards missing.

Character-defining Features:

Feature Name: Haulover Point Road (with modifications)

CLI Feature ID: 185649

Feature Contribution: Contributing

CRIS-HS Resource ID: 12532

CRIS-HS Resource Name: Roads in Portsmouth Village (Batch)

CRIS-HS Resource Number: HS-550-A

FMSS Record Type: Asset

FMSS Record Number: 100801

Feature Name: Old Straight Road

CLI Feature ID: 185651

Feature Contribution: Contributing

CRIS-HS Resource ID: 12532

CRIS-HS Resource Name: Roads in Portsmouth Village (Batch)

CRIS-HS Resource Number: HS-550-A

FMSS Record Type: Asset

FMSS Record Number: 100801

Feature Name: Access roads

CLI Feature ID: 185653

Feature Contribution: Contributing

CRIS-HS Resource ID: 12532

CRIS-HS Resource Name: Roads in Portsmouth Village (Batch)

CRIS-HS Resource Number: HS-550-A

FMSS Record Type: Asset

FMSS Record Number: 100801

Feature Name: Docks at Haulover Point and T.T. Potter
CLI Feature ID: 185655
Feature Contribution: Non contributing

Feature Name: Dock at Styron and Bragg House
CLI Feature ID: 185657
Feature Contribution: Non contributing

Feature Name: Small footbridge to the Styron and Bragg
CLI Feature ID: 185659
Feature Contribution: Non contributing

Landscape Characteristic:
Cluster Arrangement
See Spatial Organization

Landscape Characteristic:
Constructed Water Features

At least one pond and two channels exist within the village that are said to have been established through the Works Progress Administration in support of mosquito control during the 1930s or early 1940s (Figure 107). The pond lies east of the road leading south from Haulover Point, and the channels edge Haulover Point Road and follow a portion of the Village Road. These features appear to be in good condition.

See Small-Scale Features and Natural Systems and Features for discussion of septic systems, cisterns, and water boxes.

Character-defining Features:

Feature Name:	WPA-era channels for mosquito control
CLI Feature ID:	185647
Feature Contribution:	Contributing

Landscape Characteristic:
Land Use

Historic Conditions:

The principal land uses associated with Portsmouth Village Historic District today are museum, interpretive, and educational, in addition to recreational and cemetery. The recreational and cemetery land uses, in addition to limited residential uses, survive from the period of significance, while the museum and educational uses that take place on the property today post-date the period of significance and are non-contributing.

During the period of significance, the historic district supported many more land uses than are present today. These included full-time residential, industry, coastal navigation and maritime services, agriculture, coastal defense/military, commerce, medical facilities, and educational facilities. Industrial land uses included gristmilling associated with the windmill present during the late eighteenth and early nineteenth century, a fish processing plant present on the island between 1866 and 1869, and possibly a boat-building enterprise. Coastal navigation and maritime services were supported by the pilots who helped ships pass through the channels, shoals, sand bars, and swash of Ocracoke Inlet, and by the building complex along the southeastern side of the village that was variously utilized as a Life-Saving Station, Coast Guard Station, and Signal Corps facility from 1894 to 1937 and from 1942 to 1945. Historic records indicate that a telegraph line was established and maintained on the island between 1881 and 1885.

Agricultural activities conducted on the island focused primarily on the pasturing of livestock, including cattle, sheep, goats, horses, and fowl. Watering holes were sometimes dug for livestock. Ponies, rounded up biannually for transport to market, were one of the commercially raised species. The horses were driven into a pen established at the narrowest point on the island along Horse Island Channel located just off Portsmouth's north face, which was presumably named for the horses roaming that reef.

Many of the early residents were slave owners. Enslaved individuals were likely involved in lightering as well as agricultural occupations. Local residents were also involved in state politics. Early

residents John Wallace, John Wallace's son David, Elijah Piggott, and John Mayo represented Carteret County in the state's House of Commons. It is currently unclear if Elijah Piggott and Henry Pigott are related. Wallace, who is buried on Sheep Island, served as one of the first provisional Governors of North Carolina in the 1790s.

Coastal defense and military uses included the establishment, beyond historic district boundaries, of earthen fortifications on the island that were garrisoned during the French and Indian Wars, the War of 1812, and the Civil War. Historic commercial endeavors included not only the commercial fishing and canning enterprise described above, but also various stores that have been located within the historic district over time. Today, one of the buildings that served as a store and post office survives, although it is no longer a commercial endeavor.

Medical uses focused on the U.S. Marine Hospital developed in the 1840s, although this building complex was preceded by smaller medical facilities maintained by an island doctor during the 1820s and 1830s. The marine hospital was decommissioned circa 1866. An educational "academy" is known to have existed on the island during the early nineteenth century. The Schoolhouse that served the local population between the early 1900s and the 1940s survives on the island today.

Historically, hunting, fishing, and gun clubs were present on the island and supported the sporting interests of members and guests. There have been at least two sports clubs on the island to support such recreational pursuits as hunting, fishing, and shooting. The Pillintary Hunting Club existed on the island during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Czar Nicholas of Russia is said to have visited this club. Franklin Delano Roosevelt is also said to have visited before he became president. The Theodore and Annie Salter House was rehabilitated as a gun club during the second half of the twentieth century. These uses are no longer present.

Existing Conditions:

When the island became part of the Cape Lookout National Seashore in 1966, the diversity of land uses began to diminish. Today, the primary land uses of the district are educational, museum, and interpretive. Other land uses associated with the historic district include recreational and cemetery.

The primary land uses associated with Portsmouth Village Historic District are educational, museum, and interpretive. The NPS protects and maintains the historic properties located within the district and makes them available for visitor education and interpretation. There are numerous opportunities for interpretation within the district, particularly in association with exhibits housed within the Theodore and Annie Salter House (used as a visitor contact facility), Life-Saving Station, the Post Office, residences that are open to the public with interpretive information, and information conveyed about many of the other properties through signage and brochures. There was previously a historic leasing program for volunteers to live on the island part-time and today NPS personnel and volunteers periodically staff local dwellings including the Life-Saving Station kitchen. There are thus occasional part-time residential uses within the historic district.

Today, passive recreational uses of the site, such as walking, are enjoyed by visitors. The primary recreational land uses associated with the historic district are the opportunities to walk throughout the village landscape and to the beach, in addition to picnicking, fishing, and viewing wildlife. Cape Lookout National Seashore recorded 458,000 recreational visitors during fiscal year 2016.

There are numerous small cemeteries located throughout the historic district. While there have not been any burials in these cemeteries since the 1970s, it appears that there are no legal restrictions preventing descendants of former residents from being buried in one of the Portsmouth Island cemeteries (Personal communication, Michael Rikard, Resource Management Specialist, Cape Lookout National Seashore, 2007).

Character-defining Features:

Feature Name: Cemetery land use
CLI Feature ID: 185637
Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature Name: Recreational land use
CLI Feature ID: 185639
Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature Name: Informal educational land use
CLI Feature ID: 185641
Feature Contribution: Non contributing

Feature Name: Museum land use
CLI Feature ID: 185643
Feature Contribution: Non contributing

Feature Name: Interpretive land use
CLI Feature ID: 185645
Feature Contribution: Non contributing

Landscape Characteristic:
Natural Systems and Features

The topography at Portsmouth Island is typical of a barrier island. The portion of the island facing the sound consists of stable dunes separated by salt marsh and low, wet ground containing small ponds of fresh water. The dunes are a few feet above sea level, well drained, and covered in long leaf pine and Eastern red cedar trees. The majority of these areas have a dense understory of brush, brambles, and marsh grass; hurricanes have knocked down large numbers of trees. The island is dotted with elevated landforms known locally as hammocks that were the focus of human habitation. At Portsmouth Island these hammocks were often named after the residents who lived on them.

Historic Conditions:

The Portsmouth Village Historic District landscape is generally low-lying, with little of the island extending more than five feet above sea level at high tide. Most of the historic district is currently characterized by marshes, level areas, and small hammocks. It is edged by the ocean at Ocracoke Inlet, Baymarsh Thorofare, and three tidal creeks: Doctor's Creek, Coast Guard Creek, and Warren Creek. These conditions have remained relatively consistent since the community's early establishment and all contribute to the character and significance of the district. Due to the fact that the community is sited on the western or leeward side of the island and away from the ocean surf, it is less affected by littoral drift and erosion than the eastern side of the island outside of the historic district.

There have, however, been modest changes to the margins of the island, including the shape and configuration of Haulover Point and to the northeastern and northwestern shorelines since the eighteenth century. The land mass of Portsmouth Island is thought to have gradually receded on the north and northeastern faces between 1753 and 1861. Warren Creek is currently in an erosional phase, threatening a graveyard associated with the Sheep Island settlement. It is not known to what degree changes such as these affected the community, although shifting sands in the area of Haulover Point have most likely altered boat docking and other activities numerous times over the years.

Unstable sand in the vicinity of the existing Life-Saving Station is known to have led to the relocation of many dwellings to the west during the early nineteenth century. Dry Sand Point, a regularly inundated sand flat located to the east of the village, was an important area for lightering operations and for horse round-ups during the nineteenth century. This landform is no longer extant.

While little is known about vegetation on the island prior to eighteenth-century settlement, scientists believe that Portsmouth Island was one of the few locations along the Outer Banks to sustain maritime forest. This live oak, loblolly pine, and Eastern red cedar-dominated community type was likely lost to early settlers as the trees were cut for firewood and building material. This vegetation type is generally rare on the Outer Banks. Although scattered remnants of cedar, pine, and oak remain, the historic maritime forest is missing from the landscape today.

It is also likely that a patchwork of grasslands, shrub savannah, shrub thicket, and dune and marsh plant communities was present at the time of settlement; these communities continue to be present today. The island, however, is known to have been heavily grazed by livestock owned by community members. Horses, sheep, and cattle were present in large numbers on the island and allowed to roam free. Grazing by livestock likely had a large impact on vegetation, affecting the composition and health of grasslands, and further diminishing the presence of woody vegetation (Barber and Pikley, 2001).

Shifts in deeper water channels through Ocracoke Inlet have had a profound effect on the community. Sand deposition within the inlet has led to problems for boats trying to gain access to the island since the eighteenth century, although approaches to the island are far more limited today than they were during the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. Wallace's Channel, which was one of driving forces of commercial shipping through Ocracoke Inlet after it was opened by a hurricane in 1752, almost immediately began to fill with sand. Various measures were taken to keep the channel open through the early to mid-nineteenth century, but it eventually was lost and is no longer an important feature of the inlet. The island of Shell Castle, which supported a thriving lightering business and various industrial endeavors at one time, was heavily affected by various storms, most notably a hurricane in 1933. Today the island is only about ten feet wide.

Various place names associated with the area's historic geography appear on historic maps of the island and surrounding Ocracoke Inlet. While many of these place names continue to appear on contemporary mapping, such as the most recent USGS quadrangle map, others have either fallen out of use, or the sites have been lost. These place names are listed below and annotated to indicate whether they survive. Additional information about these places is provided in the following Existing Conditions section.

Dry Sand Point. This feature is not labeled as such on the USGS map, but is the landform that curves

to the east of the historic district.

Brant Shoal Marsh. This occupied a portion of Dry Sand Point. It is not labeled on current USGS mapping as such, but likely survives.

Brant Shoal Rocks. These are not labeled on the current USGS map; they were located northeast of Haulover Point.

Ayer's Rock. This feature is not labeled on the current USGS map; it was located south of Beacon Island in Ocracoke Inlet.

Beacon Island. This feature survives and is labeled on current USGS mapping; it is located northeast of Haulover Point.

Casey Point. This feature is not labeled on the current USGS map.

Casey's Bay. This feature survives and is labeled on the current USGS map. It is located below Baymarsh Thorofare, west of Middle Community.

Baymarsh Thorofare. This feature survives and is labeled on the current USGS map.

Lawrence's Creek. This feature is not labeled on the current USGS map.

White Shoal. This feature is not labeled on the current USGS map.

Haulover Point. This feature survives and is labeled on the current USGS map.

Sheep Island. This feature survives and is incorrectly labeled on the current USGS map as Evergreen Island; Sheep Island is incorrectly labeled to the west of the village.

Sheep Island Creek. This feature is not labeled on the current USGS map; it was located to the southwest of Casey's Bay.

Wallace's Channel. This feature survives and a label on the current USGS map indicates the Wallace Channel Light. The channel is far less prominent than it was historically.

Shell Castle Island. This feature survives and is labeled on the current USGS map. The island is far less prominent than it was historically.

Ocracoke Inlet. The channel is far less prominent than it was historically.

Pamlico Sound. Exists.

Horse Island Channel. This feature is not labeled on the current USGS map, but its location was between the village and the spit of land labeled Brant Shoal Marsh, and a similar feature may still exist. This channel is said to have been named for the horses pastured nearby.

Mount Truxton. This feature is not labeled on the current USGS map; the high point that was referred to as Mount Truxton overlooks the Life-Saving Station and mud flats. It likely still exists and could potentially be located.

Existing Conditions:

Natural resources associated with the Portsmouth Village Historic District include island landforms, tidal creeks, sandy hammocks, and vegetation communities ranging from salt marshes to shrub savannahs. All of the plant communities on the island have been heavily impacted by cultural activities, particularly the raising of livestock, which were allowed to graze over much of the island until the 1950s. Oral histories suggest that vegetation was periodically burned in the past to encourage new growth for grazing (Natural Resource Management Plan for Cape Lookout National Seashore, 1976, 18).

There are several landforms noted on Portsmouth maps. These include Haulover Point, which is a natural extension of the island's landform that is used as a landing area. Mount Truxton is a high point in the eastern portion of the island that appears on historic maps. It is described as a lookout point for the village. The location of Mount Truxton was not identified during this study.

Two tidal creeks extend from the heart of the village to the shoreline. These include Doctor's Creek and Coast Guard Creek. Doctor's Creek is located in the central part of the village below Haulover Point. The Henry Pigott House was constructed along the creek margin to take advantage of the boat access once afforded from this location. A small dock extends from the house precinct into the creek. Pigott was once the mail carrier for the island and received mail deliveries at this dock. The creek has two branches that extend to the main east/west roadway and converge west of the Ed, Nora, and Elma Dixon House. Wooden bridges carry the road over these branches. This tidal creek appears to be in good condition, although sand deposits have made it very difficult to access this part of the island, and the creek likely does not serve boat traffic as well as it did in the past.

Coast Guard Creek extends from the Life-Saving Station to Ocracoke Inlet along the eastern margin

of the historic district (Figure 109). This creek was an important consideration in the siting of the Portsmouth Life-Saving Station. While the building is sited far enough inland to be relatively sheltered, access to the coastal waters for the Life-Saving Station rescue boats was afforded via this creek. In 1908, the Life-Saving Station crew dammed the western end of Coast Guard Creek just east of the station and backfilled with sand, which significantly shortened the creek (Jones, 2006, 30). A seawall and ramps were constructed in 1918 along the edge of the creek to facilitate access to the water for rescue boats. Siltation has occurred within the creek, evidenced by the portions of the seawall now embedded in its banks. Otherwise, this tidal creek appears to be in good condition.

Warren Creek is a tidal creek that edges the historic district to the west. The Keeler-Styron Cemetery sits atop a hammock overlooking the creek. This creek also appears to be in good condition.

Ocracoke Inlet is a body of water that extends between Ocracoke Island and Portsmouth Island. The inlet, while currently too shallow for most boat traffic, once served as a primary shipping thoroughfare between Pamlico Sound and the Atlantic Ocean. Casey Island is located to the northwest of Portsmouth Island at the edge of the inlet; Shell Castle Island sits further to the west within Pamlico Sound. Wallace's Channel sits within the inlet and extends outside of the historic district. It can be reached via a pedestrian path that arises from the Road to the Beach. A dock is located along the edge of the channel.

On Portsmouth Island, there are numerous hammocks, sandy landforms that are slightly more elevated than their surroundings, located within the historic district. They have been utilized to site cultural features due to the slight protection against flooding afforded by their elevation. The hammocks generally appear to be stable and in good condition.

Salt and brackish marsh occupies much of the western portion of the district, its southern margins, and the margins of Doctor's and Coast Guard Creeks. These naturally-occurring plant communities arise over areas that are regularly inundated with salt water due to tides. The primary species characteristic of the low marsh are smooth cordgrass and saltwort (*Salicornia perennis*). Other glassworts, sea lavender (*Limnium carolinianum*), and salt grass (*Distichlis spicata*) may also be present. The high marsh is more diverse, and characterized by saltmeadow cordgrass, sea ox-eye (*Borrichia frutescens*), and various rushes (*Juncus* spp.). Brackish marshes are dominated by saltmeadow cordgrass, fimbriatylus (*Fimbristylis* spp.), little bluestem (*Andropogon virginicus*), foxtail grass (*Setaria geniculata*), and panic grass (*Panicum* spp.). Shrubby components of the marshes include marsh elder (*Iva frutescens*), silverling (*Baccharis halmifolia*), and sometimes wax myrtle. Needlegrass and sedges (*Scirpus americanus*) are also present in brackish marshes. These communities appear generally to be in good condition. No invasive alien plant species were observed to be threatening these communities during field investigations conducted for this project.

Shrub savannahs and shrub thickets are present over portions of the Portsmouth Village Historic District. These plant communities are characterized by species such as Eastern red cedar, yaupon holly (*Ilex vomitoria*), and wax myrtle but differ in their degrees of woody plant cover. Additional species that may be present include persimmon (*Diospyros virginiana*), poison ivy (*Rhus radicans*), Hercules' club (*Zanthoxylum clavaherulis*), live oak, silverling, marsh elder, beautyberry (*Callicarpa americana*), red mulberry (*Morus rubra*), dogwood (*Cornus stricta*), bamboo vine (*Smilax laurifolia*), Virginia creeper (*Parthenocissus quinquefolia*), pepper vine (*Ampelopsis arborea*), and muscadine grape (*Vitis rotundifolia*). Savannah communities are characterized by grasslands dotted with open grownshrubs and small trees. Thickets include more woody vegetation, and arise in response to increased protection against wind and salt spray from the ocean and overwashes. Both of these community types generally appear to be in good condition. No invasive alien plant species were observed to be threatening these communities during field investigations conducted for this project.

Also present within the historic district are open grasslands dominated primarily by grasses and forbs. These occur where woody growth is less apt to become established because of winds, salt spray, a lack of available soil moisture, and the potential for overwash or storm damage. Species characteristic of Portsmouth Village grasslands include: saltmeadow cordgrass (*Spartina patens*), water pennywort (*Hydrocotyle bonariensis*), seaside goldenrod (*Solidago sempervirens*), fimbriatylis, and purple muhly (*Muhlenbergia capillaris*). The grassland areas serve as habitat for various birds

such as the common Eastern meadowlark, mourning dove, boat-tailed grackle, and marsh hawk. This plant community type generally appears to be in good condition. No invasive alien plant species were observed to be threatening these communities during field investigations conducted for this project. Both the shrub and grassland communities generally appear to be migrating toward the tidal flats, forming very clear bands of vegetation. Scientific study is being conducted by local natural resource specialists to determine the cause of this unusual successional pattern.

Landscape Characteristic: Natural Systems and Features

The topography at Portsmouth Island is typical of a barrier island. The portion of the island facing the sound consists of stable dunes separated by salt marsh and low, wet ground containing small ponds of fresh water. The dunes are a few feet above sea level, well drained, and covered in long leaf pine and Eastern red cedar trees. The majority of these areas have a dense understory of brush, brambles, and marsh grass; hurricanes have knocked down large numbers of trees. The island is dotted with elevated landforms known locally as hammocks that were the focus of human habitation. At Portsmouth Island these hammocks were often named after the residents who lived on them.

Historic Conditions:

The Portsmouth Village Historic District landscape is generally low-lying, with little of the island extending more than five feet above sea level at high tide. Most of the historic district is currently characterized by marshes, level areas, and small hammocks. It is edged by the ocean at Ocracoke Inlet, Baymarsh Thorofare, and three tidal creeks: Doctor's Creek, Coast Guard Creek, and Warren Creek. These conditions have remained relatively consistent since the community's early establishment and all contribute to the character and significance of the district. Due to the fact that the community is sited on the western or leeward side of the island and away from the ocean surf, it is less affected by littoral drift and erosion than the eastern side of the island outside of the historic district.

There have, however, been modest changes to the margins of the island, including the shape and configuration of Haulover Point and to the northeastern and northwestern shorelines since the eighteenth century. The land mass of Portsmouth Island is thought to have gradually receded on the north and northeastern faces between 1753 and 1861. Warren Creek is currently in an erosional phase, threatening a graveyard associated with the Sheep Island settlement. It is not known to what degree changes such as these affected the community, although shifting sands in the area of Haulover Point have most likely altered boat docking and other activities numerous times over the years.

Unstable sand in the vicinity of the existing Life-Saving Station is known to have led to the relocation of many dwellings to the west during the early nineteenth century. Dry Sand Point, a regularly inundated sand flat located to the east of the village, was an important area for lightering operations and for horse round-ups during the nineteenth century. This landform is no longer extant.

While little is known about vegetation on the island prior to eighteenth-century settlement, scientists believe that Portsmouth Island was one of the few locations along the Outer Banks to sustain maritime forest. This live oak, loblolly pine, and Eastern red cedar-dominated community type was likely lost to early settlers as the trees were cut for firewood and building material. This vegetation type is generally rare on the Outer Banks. Although scattered remnants of cedar, pine, and oak remain, the historic maritime forest is missing from the landscape today.

It is also likely that a patchwork of grasslands, shrub savannah, shrub thicket, and dune and marsh plant communities was present at the time of settlement; these communities continue to be present today. The island, however, is known to have been heavily grazed by livestock owned by community members. Horses, sheep, and cattle were present in large numbers on the island and allowed to roam free. Grazing by livestock likely had a large impact on vegetation, affecting the composition and health of grasslands, and further diminishing the presence of woody vegetation (Barber and Pikley,

2001).

Shifts in deeper water channels through Ocracoke Inlet have had a profound effect on the community. Sand deposition within the inlet has led to problems for boats trying to gain access to the island since the eighteenth century, although approaches to the island are far more limited today than they were during the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. Wallace's Channel, which was one of driving forces of commercial shipping through Ocracoke Inlet after it was opened by a hurricane in 1752, almost immediately began to fill with sand. Various measures were taken to keep the channel open through the early to mid-nineteenth century, but it eventually was lost and is no longer an important feature of the inlet. The island of Shell Castle, which supported a thriving lightering business and various industrial endeavors at one time, was heavily affected by various storms, most notably a hurricane in 1933. Today the island is only about ten feet wide.

Various place names associated with the area's historic geography appear on historic maps of the island and surrounding Ocracoke Inlet. While many of these place names continue to appear on contemporary mapping, such as the most recent USGS quadrangle map, others have either fallen out of use, or the sites have been lost. These place names are listed below and annotated to indicate whether they survive. Additional information about these places is provided in the following Existing Conditions section.

Dry Sand Point. This feature is not labeled as such on the USGS map, but is the landform that curves to the east of the historic district.

Brant Shoal Marsh. This occupied a portion of Dry Sand Point. It is not labeled on current USGS mapping as such, but likely survives.

Brant Shoal Rocks. These are not labeled on the current USGS map; they were located northeast of Haulover Point.

Ayer's Rock. This feature is not labeled on the current USGS map; it was located south of Beacon Island in Ocracoke Inlet.

Beacon Island. This feature survives and is labeled on current USGS mapping; it is located northeast of Haulover Point.

Casey Point. This feature is not labeled on the current USGS map.

Casey's Bay. This feature survives and is labeled on the current USGS map. It is located below Baymarsh Thorofare, west of Middle Community.

Baymarsh Thorofare. This feature survives and is labeled on the current USGS map.

Lawrence's Creek. This feature is not labeled on the current USGS map.

White Shoal. This feature is not labeled on the current USGS map.

Haulover Point. This feature survives and is labeled on the current USGS map.

Sheep Island. This feature survives and is incorrectly labeled on the current USGS map as Evergreen Island; Sheep Island is incorrectly labeled to the west of the village.

Sheep Island Creek. This feature is not labeled on the current USGS map; it was located to the southwest of Casey's Bay.

Wallace's Channel. This feature survives and a label on the current USGS map indicates the Wallace Channel Light. The channel is far less prominent than it was historically.

Shell Castle Island. This feature survives and is labeled on the current USGS map. The island is far less prominent than it was historically.

Ocracoke Inlet. The channel is far less prominent than it was historically.

Pamlico Sound. Exists.

Horse Island Channel. This feature is not labeled on the current USGS map, but its location was between the village and the spit of land labeled Brant Shoal Marsh, and a similar feature may still exist. This channel is said to have been named for the horses pastured nearby.

Mount Truxton. This feature is not labeled on the current USGS map; the high point that was referred to as Mount Truxton overlooks the Life-Saving Station and mud flats. It likely still exists and could potentially be located.

Existing Conditions:

Natural resources associated with the Portsmouth Village Historic District include island landforms, tidal creeks, sandy hammocks, and vegetation communities ranging from salt marshes to shrub savannahs. All of the plant communities on the island have been heavily impacted by cultural

activities, particularly the raising of livestock, which were allowed to graze over much of the island until the 1950s. Oral histories suggest that vegetation was periodically burned in the past to encourage new growth for grazing (Natural Resource Management Plan for Cape Lookout National Seashore, 1976, 18).

There are several landforms noted on Portsmouth maps. These include Haulover Point, which is a natural extension of the island's landform that is used as a landing area. Mount Truxston is a high point in the eastern portion of the island that appears on historic maps. It is described as a lookout point for the village. The location of Mount Truxston was not identified during this study.

Two tidal creeks extend from the heart of the village to the shoreline. These include Doctor's Creek and Coast Guard Creek. Doctor's Creek is located in the central part of the village below Haulover Point. The Henry Pigott House was constructed along the creek margin to take advantage of the boat access once afforded from this location. A small dock extends from the house precinct into the creek. Pigott was once the mail carrier for the island and received mail deliveries at this dock. The creek has two branches that extend to the main east/west roadway and converge west of the Ed, Nora, and Elma Dixon House. Wooden bridges carry the road over these branches. This tidal creek appears to be in good condition, although sand deposits have made it very difficult to access this part of the island, and the creek likely does not serve boat traffic as well as it did in the past.

Coast Guard Creek extends from the Life-Saving Station to Ocracoke Inlet along the eastern margin of the historic district. This creek was an important consideration in the siting of the Portsmouth Life-Saving Station. While the building is sited far enough inland to be relatively sheltered, access to the coastal waters for the Life-Saving Station rescue boats was afforded via this creek. In 1908, the Life-Saving Station crew dammed the western end of Coast Guard Creek just east of the station and backfilled with sand, which significantly shortened the creek (Jones, 2006, 30). A seawall and ramps were constructed in 1918 along the edge of the creek to facilitate access to the water for rescue boats. Siltation has occurred within the creek, evidenced by the portions of the seawall now embedded in its banks. Otherwise, this tidal creek appears to be in good condition.

Warren Creek is a tidal creek that edges the historic district to the west. The Keeler-Styron Cemetery sits atop a hammock overlooking the creek. This creek also appears to be in good condition.

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On Portsmouth Island, there are numerous hammocks, sandy landforms that are slightly more elevated than their surroundings, located within the historic district. They have been utilized to site cultural features due to the slight protection against flooding afforded by their elevation. The hammocks generally appear to be stable and in good condition.

Salt and brackish marsh occupies much of the western portion of the district, its southern margins, and the margins of Doctor's and Coast Guard Creeks. These naturally-occurring plant communities arise over areas that are regularly inundated with salt water due to tides. The primary species characteristic of the low marsh are smooth cordgrass and saltwort (*Salicornia perennis*). Other glassworts, sea lavender (*Limonium carolinianum*), and salt grass (*Distichlis spicata*) may also be present. The high marsh is more diverse, and characterized by saltmeadow cordgrass, sea ox-eye (*Borrichia frutescens*), and various rushes (*Juncus* spp.). Brackish marshes are dominated by saltmeadow cordgrass, fimbristylus (*Fimbristylis* spp.), little bluestem (*Andropogon virginicus*), foxtail grass (*Setaria geniculata*), and panic grass (*Panicum* spp.). Shrubby components of the marshes include marsh elder (*Iva frutescens*), silverling (*Baccharis halmifolia*), and sometimes wax myrtle. Needlegrass and sedges (*Scirpus americanus*) are also present in brackish marshes. These communities appear generally to be in good condition. No invasive alien plant species were observed

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Character-defining Features:

Feature Name:	Haulover Point
CLI Feature ID:	185623
Feature Contribution:	Contributing
Feature Name:	Ocracoke Inlet
CLI Feature ID:	185625
Feature Contribution:	Contributing
Feature Name:	Salt and brackish marshes
CLI Feature ID:	185627
Feature Contribution:	Contributing

Feature Name: Hammocks
CLI Feature ID: 185629
Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature Name: Shrub savannah and shrub thicket
CLI Feature ID: 185631
Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature Name: Grassland
CLI Feature ID: 185633
Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature Name: Warren Creek
CLI Feature ID: 185635
Feature Contribution: Undetermined

Landscape Characteristic: Small Scale Features

Historic Conditions:

Little is known about small-scale features associated with Portsmouth Village during the eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries. Fencing is indicated on the 1866 coastal survey in association with many of the properties. Cemetery headstones are another small-scale feature that has likely characterized the landscape since the early nineteenth century. The small-scale features described below date from the period of significance and contribute to the significance of the historic district.

The Grace cemetery near the intersection of Haulover Point Road and Village Road is enclosed within a perimeter picket fence. Established in 1872, there are two single headstones and one double headstone. Some features are in need of repair, including several headstones that are no longer attached to their bases but rather lying nearby directly on the ground. West of the Grace Cemetery, the Community Cemetery is significantly larger and includes thirty headstones associated with the graves of members of the Babb, Dixon, Styron, Williams, Daly, Gilgo, and Roberts families. There are twenty-four commercial headstones and associated foot markers and grave plots edged by brick and concrete borders. The cemetery was established in 1885.

Historically, several of the individual buildings were enclosed by a perimeter picket fence as indicated on historic maps, including the Styron and Bragg House.

Existing Conditions:

Small-scale features generally have a shorter useful life than many other features and are typically more easily replaced. Thus, most of the small-scale features in the district date from after the period of significance and are associated with recreational uses and accommodation of visitors that date from after the establishment of the seashore in 1966. The noncontributing small-scale features located within the district today are primarily signage and other features associated with visitor interpretation and wayfinding and features associated with the adaptive reuse of buildings by the NPS, including more recent septic structures, and picnic tables. There are also numerous small-scale features associated with circulation.

Additionally, there are small-scale features associated with the historic cemeteries, cisterns and water boxes, and fencing remain that from the period of significance. There are a range of other small-scale features including remnants of buildings and structures in the form of brick rubble and wood post foundations.

Cemeteries

The Grace Cemetery is located across Haulover Point Road from the Post Office and General Store. There are four family burials associated with the cemetery. These date between 1872 and 1912. There are three marble headstones and four footstones included within the cemetery. The headstones are sited in a line. Two are free-standing marble slabs with angled tops set in rectangular marble bases. The headstones are carved with a graphic as well as text. The other two burials are marked by a double headstone similar in character to the other two, but with rounded tops and no marble base. Very small footstones are located behind the headstones. The cemetery is surrounded by a picket fence. The cemetery was assessed as in poor condition by the LCS in 1998 due to the condition of headstones and the fact that most had fallen down and were lying flat on the ground, exposing the carved surfaces to weathering. However, in April 2005, local resident Dave Frum re-set the headstones in an upright position.

Community Cemetery is located behind the Post Office and General Store building. The earliest recorded burial dates to 1812, the most recent to 1961. There are approximately twenty-four headstones located within the confines of the cemetery, associated with twenty-seven burial areas. At least two graves are unmarked. Most headstones are accompanied by footstones. Some of the burial plots are covered with a thin concrete vault cover. Many of the graves are grouped together in linear arrangements edged by concrete and/or brick bands. There are also individual graves.

The Portsmouth Cemetery is located west of the Theodore and Annie Salter House along a short access road (this cemetery may historically have been referred to as the Bragg Cemetery. National Park Service documents refer to it as the Portsmouth Cemetery, which is the name used throughout this document for consistency. Additional investigation into the local name for this cemetery is warranted). Marble, granite, and concrete headstones and footstones mark fifteen burials within the cemetery. There is no surrounding fence. Some of the burials are grouped together and surrounded by concrete-block edging, two blocks high. It is assumed that a fence once enclosed the cemetery to prevent livestock from accessing the area.

Fences

White-painted picket fencing surrounds the Styron and Bragg House precinct. The pickets are cut to rounded points at the top. They are nailed to two cross boards, one near their top, and the other along the base of the fence. Corner posts are set inside the fence sections. There is an opening in the front that is off-center from the door of the house; this may have included a gate at one time. Sections of the fence in the rear have been removed. This fence is in relatively good condition where it exists. The missing segments lower the overall condition rating to fair.

Signage

A unified sign system is utilized within the historic district to identify and provide information about historic structures, historic roads, and cemeteries. The signs are approximately two feet tall and composed of a rectangular metal base with an attached rectangular panel at an angle with an inset interpretive panel that includes the name of the structure and interpretive information. The bottom section of the interpretive panel includes an image.

The district previously exhibited signs composed of painted square wood posts and painted wood boards nailed to them that had a rectangular area for text. The rectangular area was oriented with the long dimension running horizontally. The upper left corner was punctuated by a carved extension fashioned to resemble the Portsmouth Methodist Church steeple. The signs were painted white, with a black border and black text. While most of these signs have been replaced by the current metal signs.

Other signage around Haulover Point includes a National Park Service Historic Portsmouth Village sign, a three-paneled interpretive display about the district, and a smaller directional sign adjacent to a former trash bag dispenser. Another former dispenser located on the Road to the Beach. The dispensers are white painted wood boxes with an opening along the bottom where bags can be removed and affixed to painted square wood posts. At the time of survey the dispensers were no longer in use. There are small signs attached to metal posts with information and a QR code for a self-guided tour.

Brown painted wood signs with routed letters painted white indicate directions around the historic district, such as "To Beach" and "To Schoolhouse". Additionally, there are interpretive waysides located throughout the district.

There is a vertical wooden high water mark sign adjacent to the Post Office that records the flood water level associated with weather events since the 1980s.

Septic Structures

Behind the Styron and Bragg House is a low wooden-board structure that encloses an above-ground septic system. The system is comprised of a yellow tank connected by a pipe to the house, set within sand, and edged by the wooden structure. The wooden fencing provides general screening, but the system is not covered. This feature appears to be in good condition. A septic system at the T.T. Potter House is similar to the Styron and Bragg cistern.

In the yard to the north of the Theodore and Annie Salter House there is an eight inch high raised rectangular concrete slab approximately six by eight feet in size that covers a septic tank. This feature appears to be relatively new or recently reconditioned, and appears to be in good condition.

Cisterns and water boxes:

There are cisterns and water boxes associated with many of the properties located within Portsmouth Village. Although specific dates of construction are not known for many, they all appear to date from the period of significance and are contributing resources of the historic district.

In close proximity to the Keeler-Styron Cemetery on the far western side of the district are two round cisterns, previously associated with the Ed Keeler House, now in a ruinous state. The concrete cistern is approximately three feet high and ten feet in diameter. The brick cistern is slightly smaller. They are currently open to the air. These cisterns are exhibiting some signs of deterioration and are in fair condition. East of the Keeler-Styron Cemetery, the cistern associated with the Mattie Gilgo site is a circular parged brick structure, similar to those located near the Keeler-Styron Cemetery. Approximately three feet tall and ten feet in diameter, the cistern is open to the air, and there are plants growing inside. It is exhibiting some signs of deterioration such as efflorescence, chipping of the mortar slurry that covers the brick and biological growth. It is in fair condition.

Other Small-Scale Features:

At the T.T. Potter House, the larger shed located behind the main house is edged by a simple wooden platform. A large plastic tank is stored on the platform. The platform appears to be in good condition. Additionally, a wood work table with in-set metal sink and faucet sits on the side of the yard of the house. The table was likely used to clean fish. The table is collapsing and in poor condition. On the west side of the T.T. Potter House, an eastern red cedar is growing out of a pile of bricks. The corners of the former brick structure are still visible, though many of the bricks are scattered about.

At the former Henry Babb house site to the north of the Walker and Sarah Styron House are a shed,

cistern, and remnants of a tall chimney remain.

Attached to the west side of the Walker and Sarah Styron House is the base of a brick chimney, with five to six courses of brick still present. To the west of the house are several posts creating a rectangular outline, with a pile of bricks at one end. There is also a wood post foundation of the former boathouse associated in the Life-Saving Station complex on the west side of the airstrip.

Other small-scale features include a flagpole at the corner of the picket fence surrounding the Styron and Bragg House. The metal flagpole no longer includes flag-raising hardware. The flagpole is rusted and in fair condition. A flagpole at the Post Office appears to be new with all hardware intact.

There is furniture on some of the residence porches, including rocking chairs on the Theodore and Annie Salter House porch. There are also several small-scale features inside of residences as part of museum exhibits.

Circulation related Small-Scale Features:

The Theodore and Annie Salter House near the core of the historic district includes a concrete stairway consisting of two risers with a ground-level concrete landing that provides access to the front porch of the house. The stair is flanked to either side by 18-inch-tall brick walls capped with concrete. These steps appear to have been repaired recently and are in good condition.

The Post Office and General Store, also located near the core of the historic district, has a set of unpainted wood steps without handrails that leads to the front entry of the building. The steps have three risers simply constructed of stringers and planks. The steps appear to be in good condition. A set of unpainted wood steps, also without handrails, leads to the south entry of the Post Office and General Store. There are three risers simply constructed of stringers and planks. The steps appear to be in good condition.

To the north of the intersection of Village Road and Haulover Point Road, the Walker and Sarah Styron House has a set of unpainted wood steps without handrails leads to the front porch of the house. The steps have two risers and are simply constructed using stringers and planks. The steps appear to be in good condition.

A simple wood ramp, approximately eight feet wide, provides vehicular access into the shed T.T. Potter shed, on the west side of the island. The ramp is not edged in any way. This ramp appears to be in good condition. A flight of unpainted wood steps without handrails leads to the front entrance into the house and porches at the rear and side of the house. These steps appear to be in good condition. There is also a flight of unpainted wooden steps that accesses the T.T. Potter generator shed.

Painted wood steps provide access to the front and side porches of the Styron and Bragg House. The steps are constructed of five wood treads that extend beyond the stringers and the face planks. There is no handrail associated with either flight of steps. These steps appear to be in good condition.

Character-defining Features:

Feature Name:	Picket fence around Grace Cemetery
CLI Feature ID:	185549
Feature Contribution:	Contributing

Feature Name: Grace Cemetery headstones
CLI Feature ID: 185551
Feature Contribution: Contributing
CRIS-HS Resource ID: 12523
CRIS-HS Resource Name: Grace Cemetery Headstones
CRIS-HS Resource Number: HS-514
FMSS Record Type: Asset
FMSS Record Number: 43032

Feature Name: Picket fence around Styron Bragg House
CLI Feature ID: 185553
Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature Name: Community Cemetery headstones
CLI Feature ID: 185555
Feature Contribution: Contributing
CRIS-HS Resource ID: 12525
CRIS-HS Resource Name: Community Cemetery Headstones
CRIS-HS Resource Number: HS-517

Feature Name: Concrete vault covers, Community Cmtry
CLI Feature ID: 185557
Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature Name: Portsmouth Cmtry headstones, footstones
CLI Feature ID: 185559
Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature Name: Flagpole at Styron and Bragg House

CLI Feature ID: 185561

Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature Name: Theodore & Annie Salter House water box

CLI Feature ID: 185563

Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature Name: Keeler-Styron Cemetery headstones

CLI Feature ID: 185565

Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature Name: Brick outline of one grave

CLI Feature ID: 185567

Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature Name: Ed Keeler Cemetery headstones

CLI Feature ID: 185569

Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature Name: Septic tank , Styron and Bragg House

CLI Feature ID: 185571

Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature Name: Henry Babb cistern ruin

CLI Feature ID: 185573

Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature Name: Brick cistern near Keeler-Styron Cmtr7

CLI Feature ID: 185575

Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature Name: Concrete cistern by Keeler-Styron Cmtry

CLI Feature ID: 185577

Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature Name: Wayside exhibits

CLI Feature ID: 185579

Feature Contribution: Non contributing

Feature Name: Porch furnishings and museum exhibits

CLI Feature ID: 185581

Feature Contribution: Non contributing

Feature Name: Signs marking historic properties

CLI Feature ID: 185587

Feature Contribution: Non contributing

Feature Name: Flagpole at the Post Office

CLI Feature ID: 185589

Feature Contribution: Non contributing

Feature Name: Historic Portsmouth Village signs

CLI Feature ID: 185591

Feature Contribution: Non contributing

Feature Name: Directional sign "Haulover Point Dock"
CLI Feature ID: 185593
Feature Contribution: Non contributing

Feature Name: Trash bag receptacles
CLI Feature ID: 185595
Feature Contribution: Non contributing

Feature Name: Fence posts at Community Cemetery
CLI Feature ID: 185597
Feature Contribution: Undetermined

Feature Name: Fence posts at Portsmouth Cemetery
CLI Feature ID: 185599
Feature Contribution: Undetermined

Feature Name: Brick/concrete steps at Salter House
CLI Feature ID: 185601
Feature Contribution: Undetermined

Feature Name: Wood steps, front and side, Post Office
CLI Feature ID: 185603
Feature Contribution: Undetermined

Feature Name: Wood steps, front, Walker/Sarah Styron
CLI Feature ID: 185605
Feature Contribution: Undetermined

Feature Name: Wood posts creating rectangle-Styron

CLI Feature ID: 185607

Feature Contribution: Undetermined

Feature Name: Fish cleaning table, T.T. Potter House

CLI Feature ID: 185609

Feature Contribution: Undetermined

Feature Name: Concrete slab w asphalt at Salter House

CLI Feature ID: 185611

Feature Contribution: Undetermined

Feature Name: Brick rubble pile, T.T. Potter House

CLI Feature ID: 185613

Feature Contribution: Undetermined

Feature Name: Steps and ramp at Styron and Bragg

CLI Feature ID: 185615

Feature Contribution: Undetermined

Feature Name: Wood posts, Walker and Sarah Styron

CLI Feature ID: 185617

Feature Contribution: Undetermined

Feature Name: Fence posts at Keeler-Styron Cemetery

CLI Feature ID: 185619

Feature Contribution: Undetermined

Feature Name: Wood lining along roads in district
CLI Feature ID: 185621
Feature Contribution: Undetermined

**Landscape Characteristic:
Spatial Organization**

Historic Conditions:

Over time, the broad patterns of spatial organization within the village have changed as settlement moved further inland. Initial settlement is described as occurring along the edge of the water, but few of these buildings survive today. A large concentration of built features that once occupied the district's high point near the surviving Life-Saving Station is also no longer extant.

The 1753 act establishing the town indicated that the fifty-acre site was to be divided into lots, one-half acre in size, with "convenient" streets. The act noted that those buying lots were required to "build a good substantial habitable framed or brick house or a good substantial warehouse, of not less dimensions than 20 feet in length and 16 feet wide" (Stick, 1958, 40). One of the best primary source documents illustrating the composition of the village during its most populated period is the 1866 U.S. Coast and Geodetic Survey Map. This map indicates a high concentration of buildings south of Haulover Point, along the northeastern shoreline, and in the vicinity of the Marine Hospital. Below Portsmouth Village, there are various houses in the area locals referred to as Middle Community. There are many dwellings shown on the map set within a heavily vegetated landscape indicated as "bushes." Many of the structures are surrounded or enclosed by fencing forming a series of square or rectangular dwelling precincts. Much of the development edges the historic Haulover Point/Old Straight Road alignment. Few other roads are indicated.

Existing Conditions:

Today, the configuration of the village centers on the Haulover Point/Old Straight Road alignment as well as the Village Road that do not appear on the 1866 survey map. The composition of the community and its patterns of spatial organization survive from the period of significance but more closely approximate patterns representative of twentieth century adaptations to the changed economy after the filling of Wallace's Channel.

There are some dwellings on the island that have been sited to take advantage of proximity to the water. The T.T. Potter house is an example of cultural features that have direct connections to the water through docks and boardwalks. The relationship between the village and the water is partially obscured today by woody vegetation.

Creating a central village area, many of the features are sited along the Village Road between its intersection with the Haulover Point Road/Old Road and the Life-Saving Station complex (Figure 150). In addition to numerous dwellings, this relatively open streetscape also includes the Post Office and General Store. The streetscape of dwellings and post office is in relatively good condition, but trees sometimes obscure formerly important visual connections.

Many of the dwellings, institutional buildings, and cemeteries located within the historic district have distinct precincts delineated by perimeter fences, closely mown turf, and collections of outbuildings oriented along the same axes as the primary dwelling or building. These precincts are maintained in mown lawn and are relatively legible and therefore in good condition.

Character-defining Features:

Feature Name: Relationship of building sites to water
CLI Feature ID: 185543
Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature Name: Streetscape of dwellings and post office
CLI Feature ID: 185545
Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature Name: Precincts associated w cultural features
CLI Feature ID: 185547
Feature Contribution: Contributing

Landscape Characteristic:
Topography

Historic Conditions:

The topography of the Portsmouth Historic District is primarily low-lying with wide sandy beaches. During the period of significance, there appear to have been few culturally derived topographic modifications that can be described with certainty. Those topographic conditions and modifications that survive from the period of significance and contribute to the village's significance are described below. The elevated sand mounds referred to as hammocks have been used since at least the nineteenth century to site buildings and cemeteries. The seawall constructed in association with the Life-Saving Station between 1914 and 1918 to facilitate access to the adjacent tidal creek for rescue boats likely involved earth-moving. During the Works Progress Administration era in the 1930s, ditches and possibly ponds were dug near the village as part of a mosquito control program. These are located along Haulover Point and Village Roads and near the Schoolhouse. There is a pond located along Haulover Point Road.

The sand roads within the village are maintained through periodic grading. In the past, this was done with the use of a horse-drawn scraper or by hand using shovels.

Outside the boundaries of the historic district, a dredging machine was used to maintain access along Wallace's Channel for shipping needs. The dredging machine does not appear to survive.

Existing Conditions:

Much of Portsmouth Island is relatively level (Figure 153). Most of the island is only about five feet above mean sea level at high tide. The highest elevation on the island is approximately eight feet above mean sea level, which occurs in two locations overlooking the tidal mud flats outside of the historic district. Within the historic district, the high point is generally considered to be the area where the marine hospital was once sited near the existing brick cistern. Otherwise, the landform of the island gently undulates between lower-lying areas and the slightly higher sand mounds known as hammocks. Ditches have been established to drain some of the lower lying lands, such as the road to Haulover Point, for mosquito control.

Topographic modifications that post-date the period of significance include the establishment of the septic leach field along the airstrip behind the marine hospital cistern and grading of Haulover Point Road.

Although hammocks are only raised slightly above the surrounding elevation, they have traditionally afforded local residents a degree of protection against flooding and overwashes.

As noted above, there are at least one pond and two channels within the village that appear to be culturally-derived (see Constructed Water Features). These are located in lower-lying marshy areas along the road leading south from Haulover Point and the Village Road.

Character-defining Features:

Feature Name:	Hammocks
CLI Feature ID:	185539
Feature Contribution:	Contributing
Feature Name:	WPA-era pond and channels
CLI Feature ID:	185541
Feature Contribution:	Contributing

Landscape Characteristic:
Vegetation

Historic Conditions:

Little is known about cultural vegetation associated with the historic Portsmouth Village community. The soils of the island are not highly conducive to raising crops or growing trees to produce edible fruits or nuts. Shade trees, similarly, may have been difficult to establish and maintain. Farming is said to have occurred on a limited basis through small domestic gardens. Sweet potatoes were one of the more successful crops grown. Otherwise a limited range of vegetables were attempted. Currently, there is evidence that peach trees have been grown within the village. Examples exist at the Styron and Bragg House.

It is unlikely that the specimens survive from the period of significance, but similar plantings may have existed prior to 1971. There are also limited examples of perennial and ornamental shrub plantings associated with some of the historic dwellings. These plantings generally have been established and maintained by those holding historic leases, but have likely changed over the decades.

Portsmouth Village community descendant Chester Lynn provided information about other ways that local residents acquired food and household goods on the island. Mr. Lynn indicated that sea kale was collected and cooked like collards. Residents also ate birds, fish, and shellfish, including clams, oysters, whales, porpoises, and sea gull eggs. Naturally-occurring bayberry was collected to make candles. The most popular wood used for cooking was oak. The stumps of cut oak trees were left to re-sprout. Ornamental vegetation was found in association with some properties; a popular plant was hydrangea.

Many residents raised livestock, fed on the naturally occurring grasses and shrubs. The island's tree cover is said have been kept closely clipped by free-roaming livestock. The raising of livestock is said to have been of little cost or trouble to owners; fences were not used to pen the animals, and no supplemental food was provided since they ate the native marsh grasses as fodder. The most prominent livestock were sheep, horses, and cattle. Chickens were also raised. No pigs were kept on the island, due to the damage they caused to vegetation.

Existing Conditions:

In addition to the vegetation described under Natural Resources and Systems, there are plantings and maintained vegetative conditions that are specific to cultural properties within the district. Each of the historic properties, for example, is surrounded by a mown grass precinct, while less closely mown grassland and shrubby growth typically edge the precincts. A few former residential properties also include ornamental and shade trees and shrubs or perennial and bulb plantings. There is a plantation of loblolly pines to the northwest of the airstrip.

The grass around most of the historic properties is closely mown, forming an open precinct for visitors to explore. The species of grasses are not currently known, but the lawn areas appear generally to be in good condition. There are Eastern red cedar trees located in association with many of the residential properties within the district. Eastern red cedars are a primary component of the landscape surrounding the Walker and Sarah Styron House.

The cultural vegetation in Portsmouth Village varies from home to home. While most home surrounds are maintained in mown grass, several homes have foundation plantings that include non-native shrubs and shade trees. Within the area enclosed by picket fencing at the Styron and Bragg House, there is a single ornamental shrub that was not identified by genus and species during fieldwork, in addition to a fig tree and an Eastern red cedar. A 1979 set of drawings of Portsmouth Village properties indicates that the property included a cluster of four peach trees at that time.

The cultural vegetation has changed within the district over the past decade. Bearded irises were observed growing in a rock-lined planting bed in front of the Post Office and General Store also during the 2006 CLR fieldwork. These were no longer present at the time of survey in 2017.

Character-defining Features:

Feature Name:	Eastern red cedar trees in district
CLI Feature ID:	185533
Feature Contribution:	Contributing
Feature Name:	Mown grass precincts around residences
CLI Feature ID:	185535
Feature Contribution:	Undetermined
Feature Name:	Ornamental/cultural veg in village
CLI Feature ID:	185537
Feature Contribution:	Managed as cultural resource

**Landscape Characteristic:
Views and Vistas**

Historic Conditions:
Little is recorded about historic views and viewsheds at Portsmouth Island. The village was generally sited to view Wallace’s Channel and the lightering activities occurring there. Earthen fortifications were constructed on the mud flats and beach front to the east of the village to protect Ocracoke Inlet and were likely to have included good views of ocean approaches to the inlet.

Existing Conditions:
Views associated with Portsmouth Village include short views of dwelling complex features, broader views of the community, views to Ocracoke Inlet from the northern and far western sections of the village, and longer views along road corridors. Throughout the Portsmouth Village landscape, groves of Eastern red cedar trees and shrub thickets limit expansive views.

A linear view is afforded along the Village Road, particularly from its intersection with Haulover Point Road near the Post Office and General Store toward the Portsmouth Methodist Church outside the boundary of the component landscape.

Boats arriving at Haulover Point dock from Ocracoke Island pass along the northern edge of the island. From this vantage point, there is a good view of the village, punctuated by the Portsmouth Methodist Church steeple.

Character-defining Features:

Feature Name: Views along road corridors
CLI Feature ID: 185529
Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature Name: View to village from boat approach along
CLI Feature ID: 185531
Feature Contribution: Contributing

Condition

Assessment Interval (Years): 6

Next Assessment Due Date: 09/30/2024

Condition Assessment and Impacts

Condition Assessment: Good

Assessment Date: 08/08/2018

Condition Assessment Explanatory Narrative:

Stabilization Measures:

