

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC ENDICOTT ROCK

AND/OR COMMON

ENDICOTT ROCK

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Weirs Channel, Weirs Beach, Laconia

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Laconia

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

VICINITY OF

First

STATE

New Hampshire

CODE

COUNTY

Belknap

CODE

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE	
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL	<input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME State of New Hampshire

Department of Resources and Economic Development, Division of Parks & Recreation

STREET & NUMBER

Box 856

CITY, TOWN

Concord,

VICINITY OF

STATE

New Hampshire 03301

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Belknap County Court Registry of Deeds

STREET & NUMBER

64 Court Street

CITY, TOWN

Laconia,

STATE

New Hampshire 03246

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

New Hampshire's State Historic Preservation Plan

DATE

1970

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

State of New Hampshire

Department of Resources and Economic Development

CITY, TOWN

Concord

STATE

New Hampshire 03301

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Numerous efforts have been made to insure the preservation and protection of Endicott Rock and its inscription since 1832, when the Rock was rediscovered.

The Rock was originally isolated by its location in Weirs Channel (outlet to Lake Winnepesaukee) which took its name from prehistoric fish weirs. (Remnants of the weirs, now destroyed, were extant in the late 1940's, as shown by a photograph in the possession of the City of Laconia Planning Office.) After the rediscovery of Endicott Rock, the channel was partially filled to incorporate the stone with what is now Weirs Beach/Endicott Rock Park, and a protective granite enclosure was built around the rock. Although the exposed portion of the rock is thought to have been approximately twenty feet square, only the inscribed peak is visible. The rock and its enclosure are now situated in the center of a small peninsula of approximately .04 acre in area. (Photos 1 & 2)

The protective structure was erected by the State of New Hampshire in 1892, under authority of legislation of 1883 and 1885. (Photos 3 - 5) It consists of four L-shaped corner units of large split-face granite blocks set in stacked bond with mortar joints. The corner units are surmounted by a continuous granite frieze/lintel, and support a slightly-sloping hipped granite canopy with projecting granite fascia and crown mould. The whole is surmounted by the statue of an Indian facing north-easterly over the Lake to the White Mountains. (The sculptor is unknown, pending further research.)¹ Openings on the north, south and west sides of the canopy contain protective metal railings; the eastern space, at the head of the inscription, is filled with a commemorative granite tablet. A smaller metal plaque is affixed to the south side of the southeast corner support.

Adjacent to the rock, but not included in this nomination, is a beach, picnic area, and parking lot. Formerly known as Weirs Beach State Park, it was deeded to the City of Laconia by the State of New Hampshire in 1953 (under provisions of legislation enacted in 1951); but the State specifically reserved to itself the monument and small peninsular area surrounding Endicott Rock.

The Rock and the monument are both in good condition; the inscription placed by Jonathan Ince in 1652 is still legible (Photo 5).

The site of Endicott Rock is separated from the Weirs/Aquadoctan Archaeological Site (National Register of Historic Places: May 12, 1975) by a Federal highway, a raised railroad bed, paved parking lots, and buildings. Recent archaeological testing at the Weirs Beach Park area has located artifacts spanning prehistoric and historic Native and European occupation and/or usage. (See Continuation Sheet #6.)

¹ State of New Hampshire Division of Parks and Recreation records state, "Dr. J. A. Greene, agt. for State of NH to expend appropriation of \$1,650. for bridge to monument; to 'put finishing touch on the whole work,' placed order with concern at McKeesport, Pa., for a bronze statue of an Indian to top canopy. Life size, 5'5" tall; 300 lbs., made from sketches furnished by Lawyer E. P. Jewell 'genuine NH-Indian;' equipped with tomahawk and knife, facing Mt. Washington, one hand shading eyes, other on tomahawk, contracted to be in place July 1st. Laconia Democrat 3 May 1901, p.4(4)" and "New Iron Bridge and Bronze Indian Dedicated, Laconia Democrat 12 July 1901, p.4(2-4)(ill)!"

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW				
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)		
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION				

SPECIFIC DATES 1652

BUILDER/ARCHITECT N/A

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

In the 1640's, as Massachusetts Bay Colony was expanding in population and ambition, the tiny proprietary colonies of New Hampshire (Mason's Grant) and Maine (Gorges' Grant) were in the midst of political and economic chaos. The four towns of New Hampshire (Dover, Exeter, Hampton, and Portsmouth/Strawbery Banke) eventually petitioned the General Court of Massachusetts for admission to Massachusetts Bay Colony. After the death of Sir Fernando Gorges in 1647, the settlers of Maine (often called Acomenticus) also petitioned for admission to the Massachusetts colony.

The General Court of Massachusetts Bay had to be able to justify absorbing the new settlements to the north under the terms of the original Bay charter of 1629. That document had given the colony all the land to the west it wanted (to the Pacific Ocean); however, the northern boundary of the colony was fixed by the charter as a line three miles north of the Merrimack River. Those who drafted the patent evidently believed that the Merrimack River ran in a generally east-west direction; subsequent exploration of the river, however, demonstrated that while the lower portion of the river (from the coast to Dracut Falls, now Lowell, Massachusetts) did flow southwest to northeast, the remainder (and greater length) above the falls ran north-south.

On May 31, 1652, the General Court of Massachusetts Bay voted:

"...that the extent of the line is to be from the northernmost part of the River Merimacke, & three miles more north, where it is to be found, be it an hundred miles, more or less, from the sea, & thence uppon a streyght line east & west, to each sea; & this to be the true interpretation of the termes of the limitts northward graunted in the patent."¹

This was done in anticipation that the "streyght line east & west, to each sea" would be well north of the settlements in New Hampshire and Maine, thus justifying their incorporation into Massachusetts Bay.

In the same year, a commission was established to implement the legislation by finding the northernmost point on the Merrimack, or, as it was assumed, the headwaters of the river. The two commissioners appointed were Simon Willard, and Captain Edward Johnson, author of Wonder-Working Providence of Sions Savior in New-England (1659), one of the most-read early histories of Massachusetts Bay. The two surveyors were John Sherman of Watertown, and Jonathan Ince, a Harvard student (class of 1650).² The party's two Indian guides were named Pontauhum and Ponbakin.

Upon reaching what is now Franklin, New Hampshire, the commissioners discovered that

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Refer to Continuation Sheet # 3.

UTM NOT VERIFIED

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 04

ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED

UTM REFERENCES

A	1,9	3,0,17,7,5	4,8,3,0,7,7,5	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The boundary of the area nominated to the National Register as "Endicott Rock" is that specifically reserved to the State of New Hampshire by provisions of a quitclaim deed pursuant to Chapter 219, Laws of 1951, from the State of New Hampshire to the City of Laconia, dated December 15, 1952, and recorded in Book 344, Page 291 of the Belknap County Registry of Deeds on February 19, 1953; and as shown in the sketch map on Continuation Sheet #4.

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	N/A	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE		CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE	Frank R. Denormandie, Director of Public Works, Laconia, NH and R. Stuart Wallace, Research Assistant, NH Historical Society		
ORGANIZATION	See Continuation Sheet # 5.	DATE	August 1975 / August 1976
STREET & NUMBER		TELEPHONE	
CITY OR TOWN		STATE	

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL X STATE LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

[Signature]
STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

TITLE NH State Historic Preservation Officer
Commissioner, Dept. of Resources & Economic Development
DATE August 20, 1976

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER	
<i>[Signature]</i> DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION	DATE 5/23/80
ATTEST: <i>[Signature]</i> KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER	DATE 5/13/80

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DESCRIPTION, continued:

The archaeological remains at Endicott Rock and the surrounding Endicott Park are another aspect of its significance. The archaeological site is, for the most part, covered by an asphalt parking lot. Although it gives the site an unusual appearance, the asphalt has protected the site from vandalism for thirty or more years.

Some of the archaeological remains are disturbed to the extent that iron nails are found as deep as the glacial till. However, some of the archaeological remains are up to a meter in depth and, underlying a disturbed layer which contains a variety of cultural remains, are undisturbed deposits of great value. Parts of the site have very clear physical stratigraphy and other areas contain a very black homogenous midden.

The uppermost layer contains artifacts of the Late Archaic Period representing the Squibnocket Complex (Ritchie 1969; Dincauze 1976). Typical artifacts include small stemmed points and triangular points of a style which is widespread throughout the Northeast. Radiocarbon dates for this stratum suggest a date of 3,600 B.P.- 4,000 B.P.

Middle Archaic cultural remains underlie the Late Archaic. Typical artifacts include both Neville and Stark points (Dincauze 1976) which have analogs further south in West Virginia (Broyles 1966) and North Carolina (Coe 1954). One Neville chopper has also been recovered from this level of the site; a radiocarbon date of 7,315 B.P. dates this level.

A firmly dated Early Archaic stratum underlies the Middle Archaic. The four radiocarbon dates from 8,000 B.P.-9,615 B.P. date the Early Archaic stratum. The Early Archaic at Weirs Beach is atypical of the Early Archaic in most of the eastern United States. It lacks the typical projectile points such as those found in West Virginia (Broyles 1966) or North Carolina (Coe 1954). The typical artifacts of the Weirs Beach Early Archaic are steep-faced quartz scrapers and ground stone rods which are some of the earliest dated ground stone tools in North America.

The lowest level of the site contains Plano-like materials. These artifacts are very scarce and probably do not represent game hunters as they do in plains areas.

Broyles, Betty J.

1966. "Preliminary Report: The St. Albans Site (46ka27), Kanowha County, West Virginia." West Virginia Archaeologist 19: 1-43.

Coe, Joffre L.

1954. "Formative Cultures of the Carolina Piedmont." Transactions of the American Philosophical Society, n.s., vol 54, No. 5. Philadelphia.

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DESCRIPTION, continued:

Dincauze, Dena F.

1976. The Neville Site: 8,000 Years at Amoskeag, Manchester, New Hampshire.
Peabody Museum Monographs, No. 4.

Ritchie, William A.

1969. The Archaeology of Martha's Vineyard; A Framework for the Prehistory
of Southern New England; A Study in Coastal Ecology and Adaptation.
Garden City, NY: Natural History Press.

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SIGNIFICANCE (Continued)

the river separated into two branches. They felt that the Merrimack went northward, along the present Pemigewasset River. However, the Indians insisted that the river they were following went toward the east, along the present Winnepesaukee River, to Lake Winnepesaukee. (Had the party followed the Pemi, the Massachusetts boundary would have extended to Franconia Notch, almost forty miles north of Endicott Rock.) They reached the outlet of Lake Winnepesaukee on August 1, 1652, referring to it as "Aquedahian." Documentary evidence indicates that a Jesuit mission had been established ca. 1650 in the nearby Indian village of Aquadoctan,³ but may have been abandoned by 1652, as no records mention contact between the English Puritan explorers and the French Roman Catholic missionaries.

The rock now known as Endicott Rock, which was then in the middle of the outlet to the lake, was surveyed and given the latitude $43^{\circ} 40' 12''$ (although modern calculations make it $43^{\circ} 36' 02''$). This rock, marking the assumed headwaters of the Merrimack, was inscribed by Jonathan Ince as follows:

EI	SW
WP	
IOHN	
ENDICVT	
IS	II

EI: Edward Johnson
SW: Simon Willard
WP: Worshipful
IS: John Sherman
II: Jonathan Ince⁴

Governor John Endicott of Massachusetts Bay accepted the report of the commission.⁵ The governor subsequently sent a group to the Maine coast to mark latitude $43^{\circ} 40' 12''$, which fell along the shore of Casco Bay. Accordingly, the settlements in Maine were organized into a county, "Yorkshire," and incorporated into Massachusetts Bay. As Maine did not effectively contest the jurisdiction of Massachusetts in the 18th century, it remained part of that state until 1820. The original justification for Massachusetts' ascendancy over Maine was based upon the assumed location of the headwaters of the Merrimack River, marked by Endicott Rock.

Massachusetts continued to regard the line generated westward from three miles north

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SIGNIFICANCE (Continued)

of Endicott Rock as its northern boundary for almost a century, during which the Bay Colony and the Masonian Proprietors of New Hampshire (and their successors), struggled for control of territory included in overlapping claims. The boundary dispute was linked with, and a reflection of, the Puritan/Stuart political antagonisms in the mother country; the issue was not resolved until an English court decision of 1740, which set the northern boundary of Massachusetts west of the Merrimack as a line directly (not three miles north) west from Dracut Falls.⁶

In the early nineteenth century, a dam was placed on the Winnepesaukee River below Endicott Rock, raising the level of the lake and submerging the Rock. In 1832, a channel was dug to allow the new steamship Belknap to pass between Lake Winnepesaukee and its winter mooring in Laconia. A cofferdam was constructed at The Weirs, between the Rock and the original dam, and the water drained; thus, Endicott Rock was rediscovered.⁷

Endicott Rock is significant not only as visible proof of the visit of first Englishmen to Lake Winnepesaukee, but also as the focal point of one of the most active boundary disputes in American history.

1 Records of Massachusetts Bay, Volume III, 274.

2 Sibley's, Vol. 1, 256-258.

3 Refer to Howard R. Sargent's nomination forms for Weirs/Aquadoctan Archaeological Site: National Register of Historic Places, May 12, 1975.

4 Philip Carrigain, "Letter giving an account of an ancient inscription found on a rock near the outlet of Winnepesaukee," NHHS Collections, Vol. 4, 194-200.

5 Records of Massachusetts Bay, Vol. III, 288; Vol. IV, Part I, 109; Vol. IV, Part II, 242.

6 Charles Clark, The Eastern Frontier, New York: Knopf, 1970. Discusses the boundary dispute and its effects on the development of New Hampshire.

7 New England Historical and Genealogical Register, 1, 1847:311; Another account is found in Report of the Commission for the Preservation, Protection, and Appropriate Designation of the Endicott Rock, Concord, NH: 1893. The best secondary account of the Rock's history may be found in Lawrence Shaw Mayo's John Endicott, Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 1936, 218-226.

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SIGNIFICANCE, continued:

The Late Archaic remains at Weirs Beach (particularly those which may exist at the State-owned "Endicott Rock" site), are important because of their geographic location, and the excellent state of preservation of the Late Archaic strata and their contents in the surrounding context. However, the importance of these remains is overshadowed by cultural remains which lie deeper in the site.

Until the discovery of the Neville Site (Dincauze 1976), Middle Archaic cultural remains were not believed to exist in New England. The Weirs Beach site contains a thick undisturbed Middle Archaic stratum which could yield abundant evidence of prehistoric settlement/subsistence patterns.

Early Archaic archaeological remains had not been previously found in an undisturbed context in New England. Many archaeologists (Ritchie 1969; Salven 1975) believed that Early Archaic peoples could not exist in New England because of an insufficient biomass. The Early Archaic cultural remains at Weirs Beach are atypical of most of the eastern United States and promise to yield information on a completely new facet of Early Archaic culture. The unusual nature of the diagnostic Early Archaic artifacts has probably caused many archaeologists to not recognize them in other sites.

Therefore, the archaeological context of Weirs Beach--a portion of which is protected by State ownership at Endicott Rock--is significant at the local, state and national level.

Dincauze, Dena F.

1976. The Neville Site: 8,000 Years at Amoskeag, Manchester, New Hampshire.
Peabody Museum Monographs, No. 4.

Ritchie, William A.

1969. The Archaeology of Martha's Vineyard: A Framework for the Prehistory of Southern New England; A Study in Coastal Ecology and Adaptation.
Garden City, NY: Natural History Press.

Salven, Bert.

1975. "Post-Glacial Environments and Cultural Change in the Hudson River Basin."
Man in the Northeast No. 10: 43-70. Georges Mills, New Hampshire.

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Massachusetts, Commonwealth of. Records of Massachusetts Bay, Volume I, 256-258; Volume III, 274, 288; Volume IV, Part I, 109, 207; Volume IV, Part II, 242. Nathaniel T. Shurtleff (ed.), Five volumes published in 1853-1854, Boston, Mass.

Mayo, Lawrence Shaw. John Endicott. Cambridge, Massachusetts: Harvard University Press, 1936. 218-226.

McClintock, John N. History of New Hampshire, Volume I, Boston: B.B.Russell, 1889.

New England Historic Genealogical Society. New England Historical and Genealogical Register, Volume I, 311. Boston:, 1847. One hundred thirty volumes since 1847.

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Sibley, John Langdon, Sibley's Harvard Graduates, Volume I, 256-258. Cambridge, Mass: Massachusetts Historical Society. Published 1873 - 1975.

Squires, J. Duane. The Granite State of the United States. Volume I, New York: American Historical Company, 1956. Four volumes.

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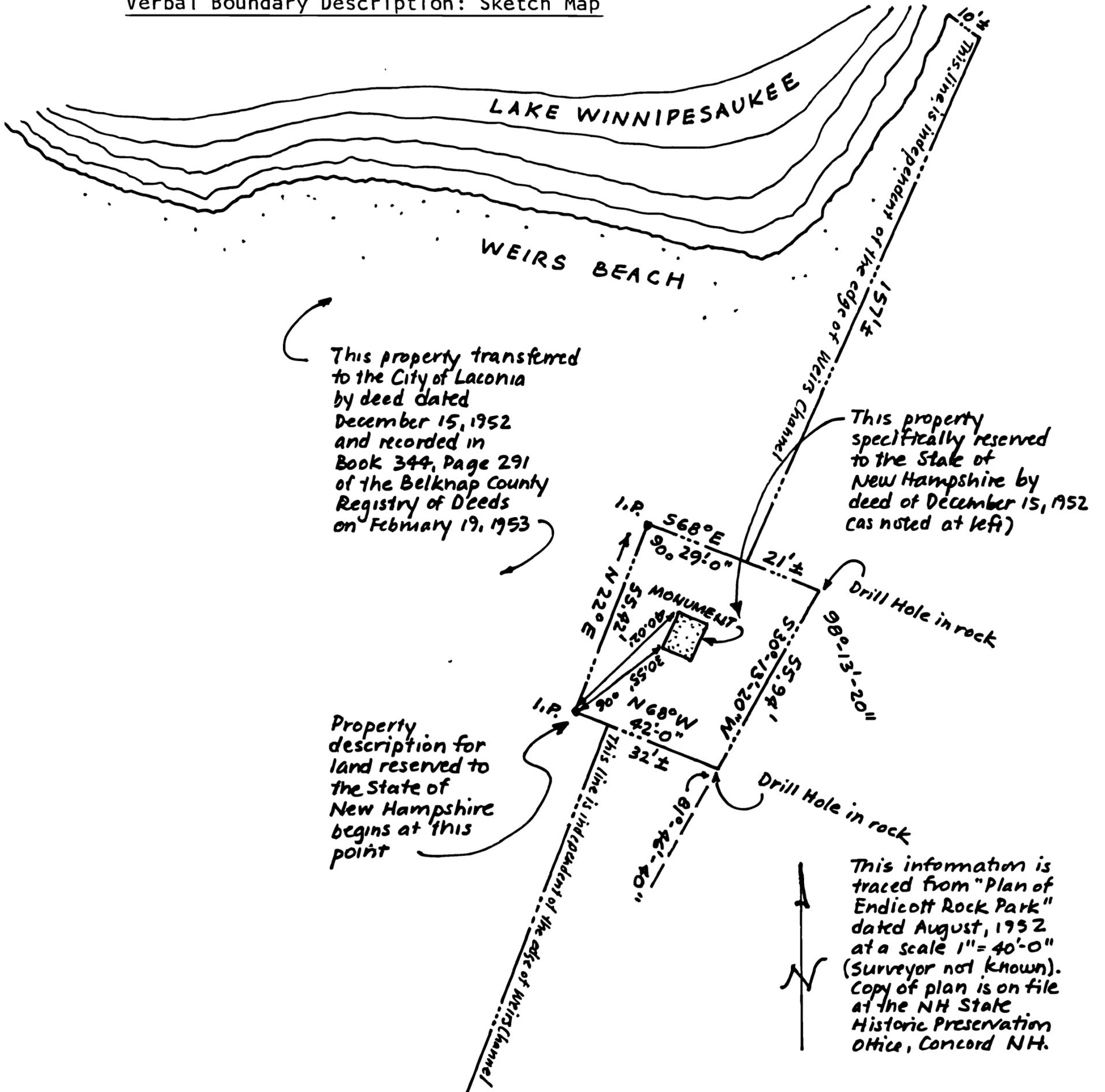
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10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA, continued:

Verbal Boundary Description: Sketch Map



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