

PHOTOGRAPH

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

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Maine	
COUNTY: Cumberland	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER 70. 2.18. 0010	DATE 2-16-70

1. NAME

COMMON:
Eagle Island *Robert F. Peary House*

AND/OR HISTORIC:
"Sawungun"

2. LOCATION *5 1/2 miles south of Bailey Island on longle Island*

STREET AND NUMBER: *2 1/2 miles south of Bailey Island in Casco Bay - Atlantic Ocean (1st District - Hon. Peter N. Kyros)*

CITY OR TOWN:
Harpswell (South Harpswell, P.O. 04079)

STATE: Maine CODE: 23 COUNTY: Cumberland CODE: 005

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) <u>Recreation</u>

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
State of Maine State Park and Recreation Commission

STREET AND NUMBER:
State Office Building

CITY OR TOWN: Augusta CODE: 04330 STATE: Maine CODE: 23

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Cumberland County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Portland STATE: Maine CODE: 23

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

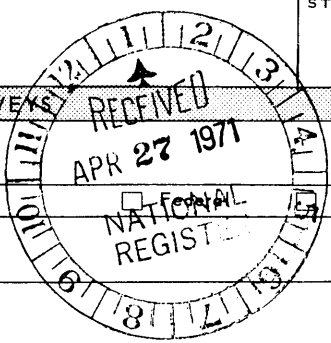
TITLE OF SURVEY:

DATE OF SURVEY:

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: Federal State County Local

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: STATE: CODE:



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Maine
COUNTY: Cumberland
ENTRY NUMBER:
DATE:

FOR NPS USE ONLY

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered		<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site	

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

LOCATION AND SETTING:

Eagel Island is the outermost of six islands of size which lie due south of Bailey Island a section of Harpswell. It is 12 miles northeast of Portland and 15 miles south of Brunswick. The setting is isolated, an island fronting on the broad expanse of the Atlantic. Much of the island is covered with trees and shrubs whose roots cling tenaciously to the granitic rock base. There is but little soil. The island is a favorite haunt of sea fowl and the waters about it abound in marine life. This rugged island and the environment about it is a joy to behold.

CONSTRUCTION AND MATERIALS:

On this island there are two man made buildings and several associated structures.

1. The Maine Residence: This building is basically a two story, single bay front, wooden frame, gable roofed cottage; which rises above a stone laid foundation. The floor dimensions of the basic cottage are 34' by 38'. It is located on the north end of the island and it faces the mainland. The gable roof front holds a continuous dormer window section containing three double mullion windows. The dormer and remaining roof area is covered with asphalt shingles. The profile of the gable approaches being bellcase creating an overhang which extends over the width of the full front porch. The porch's middle placed doorway is flanked by triple sash windows on each side. This doorway opens onto a stone laid terrace which meets the natural landscape by a stone stairway with six risers. The rear roof of the basic cottage again holds a continuous dormer with three single sash windows between two double mullions. The second story holds five bedrooms and a wash room. A central chimney passes through the peak of the gable roof. This chimney serves a central living room's stone built fireplace. The rear of the basic building has an attached one story wing 51' long and 34' wide with a low gable roof. The first room holds a bath. The next room is a kitchen which is served by a chimney which passes through the peak of this low gable. This roof is covered by composition roofing. The rear end of this wing holds a dining area with a bay window. Windows predominate along the outside of the total building, while natural cedar shingles and then finished boards painted white complete the exterior side cover.

The cellar area is the most interesting facet of this building, as it not only underlies most of the building, but extends out and beyond under the front terrace and to both sides where semi-circular rooms were created. These semi-circular rooms are built of stone masonry. The roofs are supported with steel I beams and planks, overlaid with tar and gravel. The stone work of the foundations and these turret-like rooms provide a castle-like appearance. The west side turret was used as a library. The east side turret was an aboretum.

2. Guest Cottage: A single story low hip roofed wooden cottage which is 20' wide and 36' long; lies 200' back and to the west of main residence. This small building rises above a stone laid foundation which underlies a front porch and runs back midway of the length of the building. A single dormer in the front of the hip roof provides light and space for loft sleeping accommodations. The front room is a living room. The second room is the kitchen and the third, a bedroom.

SEE INSTRUCTION

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

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE Maine	
COUNTY Cumberland	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER 70-218-0010	DATE 2/16/70

(Number all entries)

Continuation of Description:

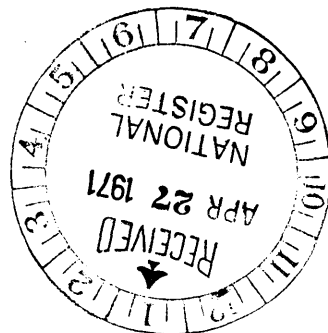
3. Pier: This structure is new, having been built by the State Park and Recreation Commission. It serves as an obvious access to the island for varied boating visitors who unlike the original owners are not equipped to land on a rugged shore and contend with a fluctuating tide.

4. Retaining Walls: At various locations along the shore, near and about the habitable portion, stone retaining walls have been built to counter sea wash erosion and also to provide space for land fill areas for gardens and shrubs.

The man made structures do not speak in terms of refined architecture. They are vernacular, built to serve functions, but overall the effect is pleasing. These man made structures come to terms with this islands rugged landscape.

Potential Threat: Forces of Nature only.

In 1967 the heirs of Admiral Robert E. Peary deeded Eagle Island to the State of Maine. The buildings were in poor repair and much of the fabric had deteriorated. A major restoration program has been undertaken which will be completed by the fall of 1972. A pier has been built. Masonry has been pointed up. New roof covers will be laid. Walks and terraces will be restored. Trim will be painted. This program has been initiated by the State Park and Recreation Commission with two purposes in mind. The first is to give an historical recognition of Admiral Robert E. Peary-explorer, engineer and naturalist. The second is to provide a way station for recreation boating enthusiasts. A caretaker is on duty during the summer season; visitors are welcome. The State Park and Recreation Commission will have spent \$200,000 on this project. This historic place and natural area has been saved.



3. SIGNIFICANCE

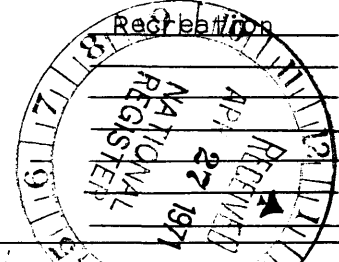
PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian | 16th Century | 18th Century | 20th Century
 15th Century | 17th Century | 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1904

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Science | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | | |



STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

BACKGROUND:

Robert E. Peary was born in Cresson, Pennsylvania in 1856 and died in Washington, D. C. on February 20, 1920. His 64 years were spent in a life style envied by many but duplicated by few. Reared in Maine, he graduated from Bowdoin College in 1877, second in his class. From 1881 he was a civil engineer in the U. S. Navy and assistant to the chief engineer of the Nicaragua Canal survey in 1884-85. His ambition changed from tropical to polar exploration and in 1886 he sailed north aboard the whaler "Eagle".

In 1891 Peary organized his first expedition to Greenland. Besides his wife, the former Josephine Diebitsch, the party on board his ship "Kite" included Matthew A. Hensen, a negro, and Dr. Frederick A. Cook, surgeon. This expedition proved that Greenland was an island. Peary, with Hensen and Cook, made trips to the Arctic in 1893-1895, 1896, 1897, 1898-1902 and 1905-1906. In 1908 he pushed his new ship, the "Roosevelt" built in Verona, Maine, as far north as Cape Sheridan on Ellesmere Island and on March 1, 1909 Peary and his party started across the frozen ice on the dash to the North Pole. On April 6th they were within 3 miles of the approximated North Pole and traveled several miles in every direction from the approximated Pole to be sure that they had not gone past it. During the return journey he reached a telegraph post in Labrador in September of 1909, and it was here that he first learned of Cook's published claim of reaching the North Pole in 1908. Time proved Cook's claim to be false and Peary's claim was the one accepted by scientific experts. In 1911 he became interested in aviation and during World War I was chairman of the National Committee on Coast Defense by air.

EAGLE ISLAND:

This island was, in distant times, known by coastal Maine Indians as Sawungun. This island gains its historic note in the fact that it became the summer home of Admiral Robert E. Peary. Sawungun was bought by Robert E. Peary in 1880 with the first money which he earned after leaving Bowdoin College in Brunswick, Maine, but it was not until 1904 that he started to build on it. It is a fair assumption that Peary renamed Sawungun to Eagle Island in honor of the whaling ship "Eagle" which first took him to the Arctic. It was in this island home that Peary made his plans for the historic expedition in 1909 which gained the Pole, and it was here that he later devoted his energies to writing, and research on engineering, nature and coastal defense. It was here, also, that he was able to share the brief periods of his private life with his wife and children, Robert Jr. and Marie.

In 1966 Mrs. Marie Peary Kuhne, daughter of the late explorer, gave Eagle Island to the State of Maine as an historic site to be used for purposes of recreation and nature study by the people of Maine and their guests in such a manner that its essential beauty would not be disturbed.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

1. Peary, Robert E., Nearest the Pole, Doubleday, Page and Co., New York 1907.
2. Peary, Robert E., North Pole, Frederick A. Stokes Co. New York, 1910.
3. Peary, Robert E., Northward Over the "Great Ice". Frederick Stokes Co. New York, 1898.
4. Federal Writers Project, WPA, Maine - A Guide Down East, Boston, Houghton Mifflin Company, 1937

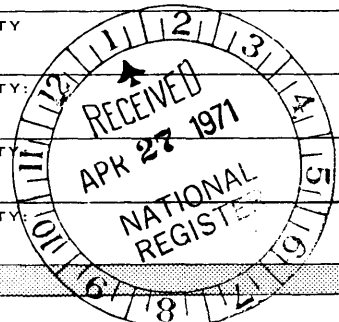
10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY				O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES										
CORNER	LATITUDE				LONGITUDE			LATITUDE			LONGITUDE				
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	43°	42'	54"	70°	3'	34"									
NE	43°	42'	54"	70°	3'	12"									
SE	43°	42'	39"	70°	3'	12"									
SW	43°	42'	39"	70°	3'	34"									

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 17 acres

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE



11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: John W. Briggs, Historian

ORGANIZATION: State Park and Recreation Commission DATE: December 24, 1969

STREET AND NUMBER: State Office Building

CITY OR TOWN: Augusta 04330 STATE: Maine CODE: 23

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name Lawrence Stuart
 Title Director
 Date December 24, 1969

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

Ernest A. Connelly
 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

NOV 23 1971

Date _____

ATTEST:
William H. Murray
 Keeper of The National Register

NOV 22 1971

Date _____

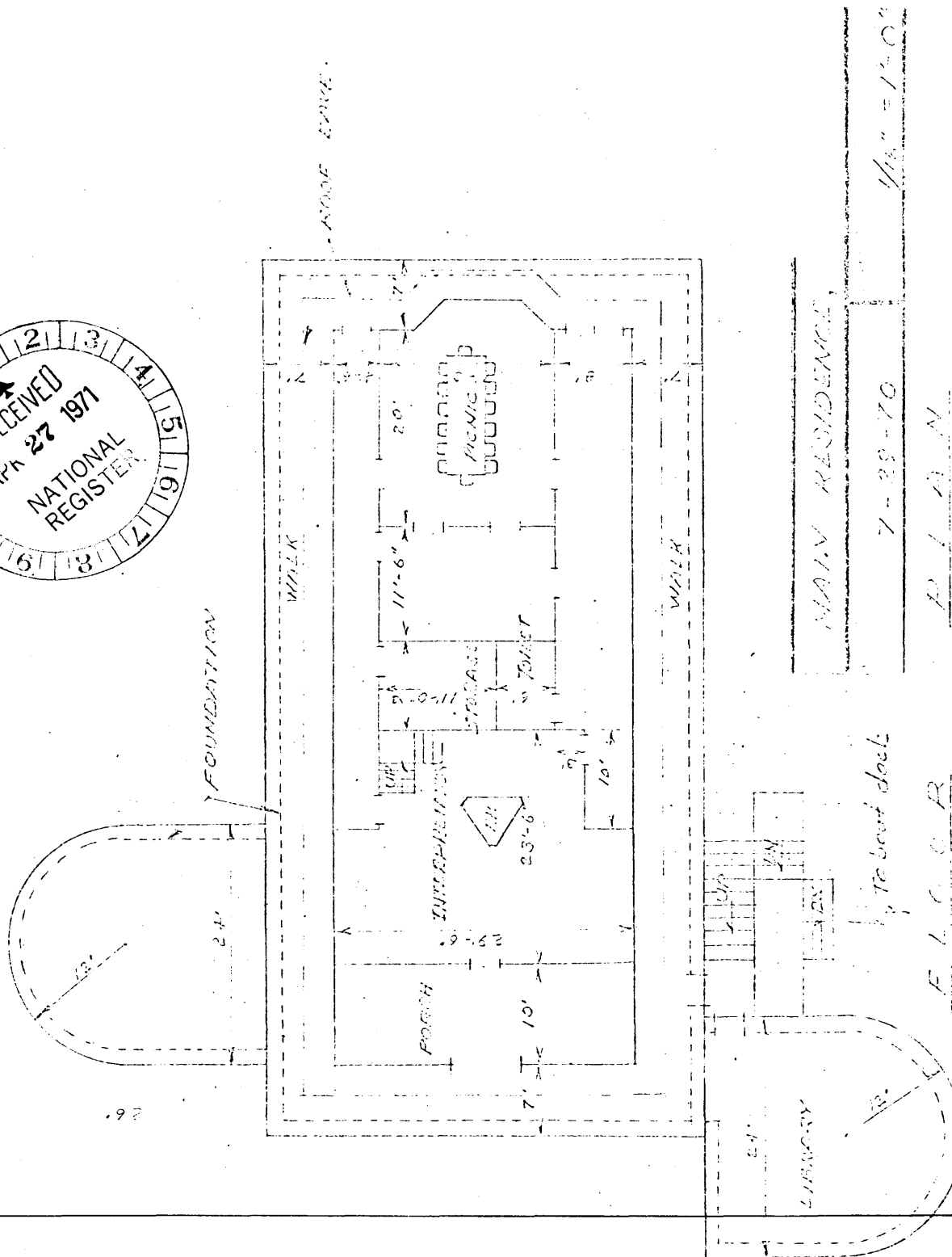
SEE INSTRUCTIONS

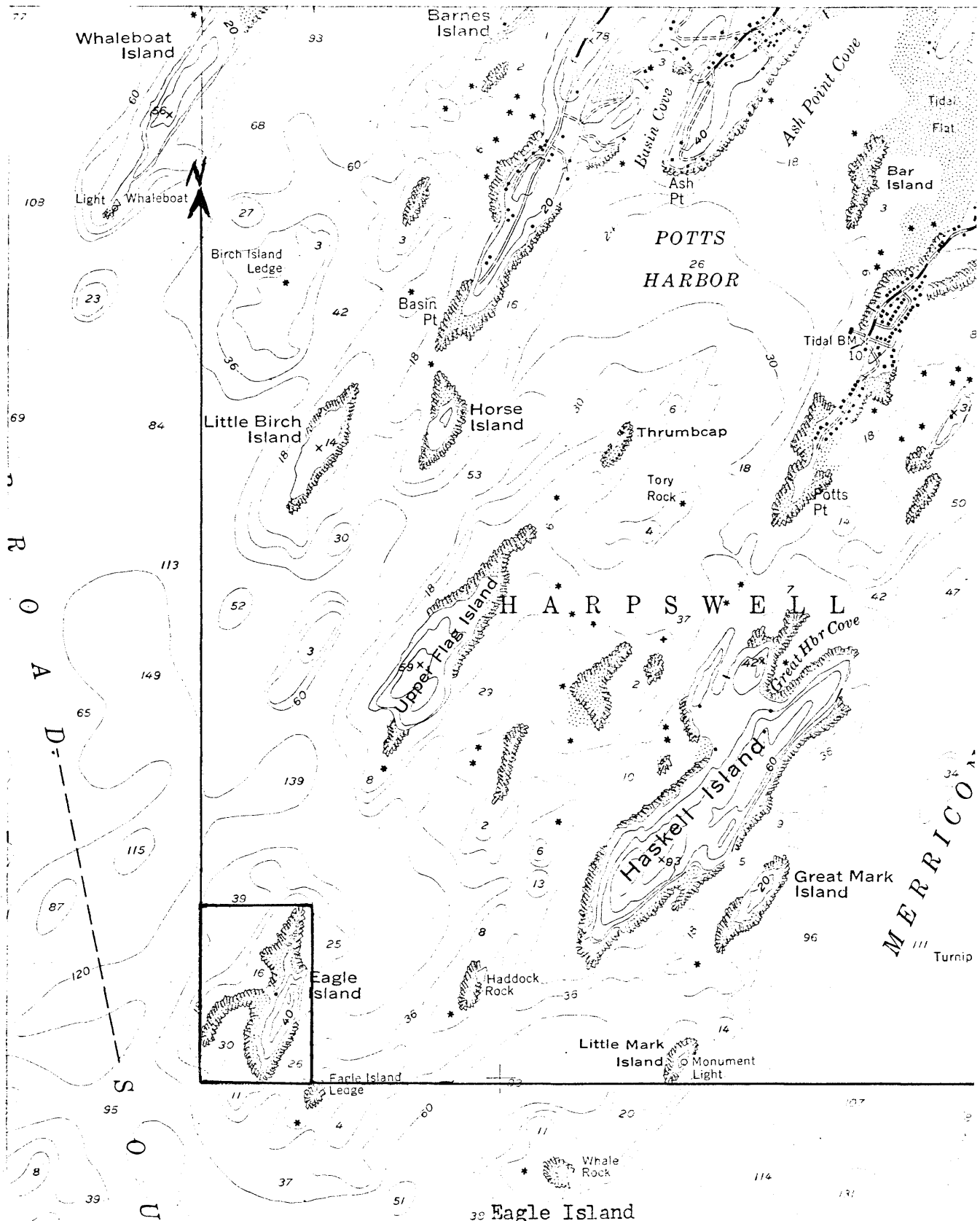
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SOUTH HARPSWELL, MAINE

NE 1/4 CASCO BAY 15' QUADRANGLE
N 4337.5—W 700017.5

1956

Latitude

NW 43° 42' 54"
NE 43° 42' 54"
SE 43° 42' 29"
SW 43° 42' 29"

Longitude

NW 70° 3' 34"
NE 70° 3' 12"
SE 70° 3' 12"
SW 70° 3' 34"

Island
ge