

PH 0024377

**DATA SHEET**

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

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Maine	
COUNTY: Knox	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER 70-1-18- <del>1033</del> 0007	DATE 1/24/70

**1. NAME**

COMMON:  
Rockport Historic Kiln Area

AND/OR HISTORIC:  
Rockland-Rockport Lime Company, & Merriam & Shepherd Lime Companies

**2. LOCATION**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
On west side of mouth of Goose River at confluence with Rockport Harbor

CITY OR TOWN:  
Rockport

STATE: Maine      CODE: 18      COUNTY: Knox      CODE: 013

**3. CLASSIFICATION**

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

**4. OWNER OF PROPERTY**

OWNER'S NAME:  
"Friends of Rockport Harbor Trust

STREET AND NUMBER:  
c/o Mr. Russell B. Brace, Spruce Street

CITY OR TOWN:  
Rockport

STATE: Maine      CODE: 18

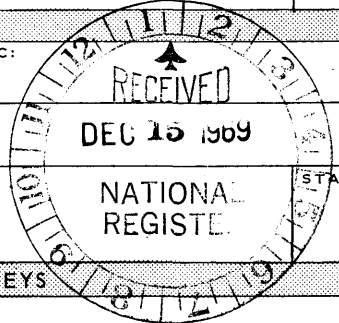
**5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

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

STREET AND NUMBER:  
62 Union Street

CITY OR TOWN:  
Rockland

STATE: Maine      CODE: 18



**6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE OF SURVEY:

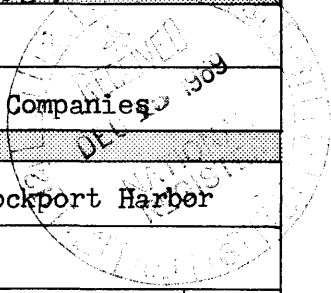
DATE OF SURVEY:       Federal     State     County     Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:      STATE:      CODE:

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



STATE: Maine  
COUNTY: Knox  
FOR NPS USE ONLY  
ENTRY NUMBER  
DATE

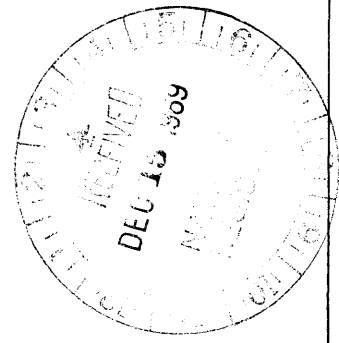
7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input 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

Very little is known of the original appearance of the individual kilns. Accurate construction dates cannot be assigned to any of the kilns on the site. Research references, though descriptive at times refer to groups of company owned kilns, no longer identifiable (or even surviving.) This site lies at the head of Rockport Harbor. This was the scene in days past of heavy industry and shipping. This site is on the water front. Wharf areas have been filled in and graded in recent years. On a portion of the filled in area a fish processing plant was built, but this enterprise is now closed. The buildings are being removed. Seven lime kilns now remain on the site. Two kilns are in good condition, one of which has a smoke stack still attached and in fair condition. These two kilns have received maintenance and restoration work. Three of the remaining five are in fair condition, and they could be restored. The Lime Burning Industry has seen many innovations and technical changes. Many changes were pioneered on this site. The first kilns were constructed from field stone and were lined with fire brick. They were fired with kiln wood. In time the use of coal and coal gas replaced the kilnwood fuel. Coal led to the development of iron kilns. All vestiges of the iron kilns are gone (sold for scrap). The seven kilns that remain are of the older, but not the oldest of the field stone and brick type of construction. Fires have devastated this industrial site on several occasions in times past. The last such fire occurred in July of 1907. This spelled the end of the lime burning on this site. For many years the site remained unoccupied. This site will be clear of all structures when the fish plant removal is completed. The Friends of Rockport Harbor Trust, who now own this site, are planning a dual purpose project in the creation of a park. Historical recognition of the Lime Industry will be represented by the restoration of five of the kilns. Materials taken from the remaining two will be used in the restoration. Interpretive signs and a museum will be erected. The State Park and Recreation Commission's Division of Waterways, working with matching funds from the Department of Commerce's Economic Development Administration will provide a boat launching access and automobile parking facility. This project will improve the aesthetic appearance of this potentially beautiful harbor.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



**5. SIGNIFICANCE**

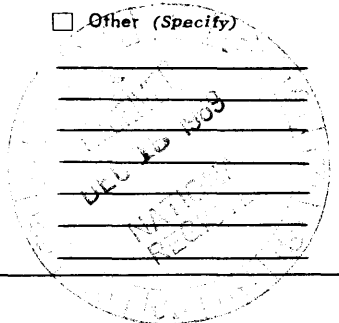
PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian	<input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 20th Century
<input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century	

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1817 lime was shipped to Washington, D. C. for use

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate) in the new Capitol

<input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal	<input type="checkbox"/> Education	<input type="checkbox"/> Political	<input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning
<input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> Engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Historic	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Industry	<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	
<input type="checkbox"/> Communications	<input type="checkbox"/> Music		
<input type="checkbox"/> Conservation			



STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The history of the lime industry in the State of Maine is of local, state, national and even of international importance. For over a century, Maine lime, produced for use as mortar and finishing plaster, dominated New York and other east coast markets. Almost all of Maine's lime was produced in the Knox County towns of Thomaston, Rockland, Rockport and Camden. Aside from water-filled quarries, almost all physical evidence of this once flourishing industry has disappeared. A major, and fortunate, exception to this generalization is the existence of several, relatively well preserved kilns located on the shore of Rockport Harbor near the mouth of the Goose River. The first kiln built in Knox County was erected on the land of Samuel Waldo in 1733. This kiln was located nearly opposite where the state prison at Thomaston now stands. A major impetus to the lime industry was provided by Major-General Henry Knox, a member of Washington's Cabinet. Lime burned in his kilns was sent from Thomaston by sea to Boston and other Massachusetts markets. In 1817 a cargo of three hundred casks of Camden lime was shipped to Washington and was used in building the Capitol. Rockport at that time was a part of Camden.

Prior to the Civil War, most lime kilns were built of stone and used wood for fuel. Kilnwood was at first cut by local farmers in their spare time and carted to the kilns. As the local supply dwindled, vessels were employed to bring wood from the Penobscot Bay islands and ports further to the east. One of the exciting chapters of the industry's history involves the unique craft, the Johnny Woodboat, that first appeared in large numbers in the 1880's and 1890's. These Canadian vessels, loaded with kilnwood, often filled Rockport Harbor. The local customs district, which included Rockport, was the fourth largest in the nation at one time in the nineteenth century. Only New York, Philadelphia and New Orleans recorded more arrivals and departures. A fleet of several hundred lime schooners was needed to transport the product as far south as New Orleans.

The Nash Cooper Shop was recently dedicated at Old Sturbridge Village, Massachusetts. A gift of Mrs. Arthur H. Brown of Waldoboro, Maine, the shop represents another important branch of the lime industry, the making of lime casks. If a branch of the industry is recognized as being worthy of historic recognition, certainly the preservation of lime kilns, the very functioning heart of the industry, should receive similar consideration. A map of Rockport published in 1875 shows the location of eight lime kilns. The kiln of Jotham Shepherd was located near the site being offered to the Commission for consideration. In 1889 there were fourteen kilns in operation at Rockport: Carleton, Norwood and Company (5), S. E. and H. L. Shepherd (3),

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Eaton, Cyrus, History of Thomaston, Rockland and South Thomaston, Maine  
 Locke, John, History of Camden, 1605-1859  
 Robinson, Ruel, History of Camden and Rockport, Maine  
Map of Camden, Knox County, Maine, 1875  
Rockland Gazette  
Rockland Free Press  
Rockland Opinion  
 Grindle, Roger L., essay, The Maine Lime Industry, Fort Kent State Collge, Maine, 1969  
Down East; the Magazine of Maine

**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	
NW	0	'	"	0	'	"	44	0	11	12
NE	0	'	"	0	'	"	69	0	04	33
SE	0	'	"	0	'	"				
SW	0	'	"	0	'	"				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY:

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 & Recreation Commission**

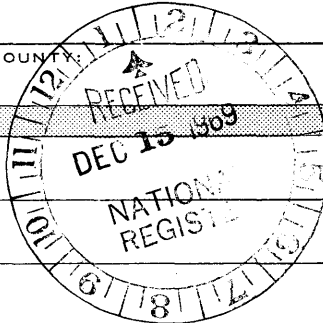
STREET AND NUMBER:  
**State House**

CITY OR TOWN:  
**Augusta**

STATE  
**Maine**

DATE  
**Dec. 4, 1969**

CODE  
**18**



**12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION**

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 12-11-69

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

Ernest Allen Connolly  
 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date JAN 26 1970

ATTEST:

William J. Smutegh  
 Keeper of The National Register

Date JAN 14 1970

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

19/11/2007 10:29:00  
 1-19-76  
 OTM Ref - 000

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

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	Maine
COUNTY	Knox
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
70-118- <del>0037</del> 0007	1/26/70

(Number all entries)

Continuation of Statement of Significance:

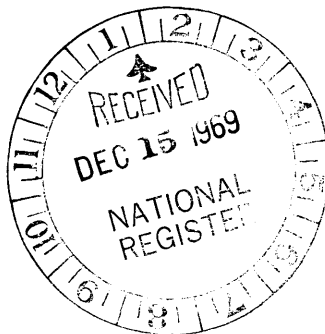
G. F. Burgess and Company (2), J. H. Eells (1), and O. P. Shepherd (1). Rockport's G. E. Carleton was one of the first manufacturers in the nation to experiment with burning lime with coal. His process was eventually patented in 1889 and was adapted for use in other states, especially Ohio.

The McKinley and Wilson Tariff Acts contained high protective duties on lime for the sole purpose of protecting Maine manufacturers from Canadian competition. Rockport's H. L. Shepherd went to Washington to lobby for this duty. Here was national recognition of the importance of a local industry.

Knox County kiln-builders were constantly in demand outside the environs of their own state. Most of the kilns in Saint John, New Brunswick, were built by Maine masons, as were those at Lime Ridge outside Montreal. Knox County manufacturers made use of their skills in firms they were associated with in Virginia, Missouri and California.

Knox County kilns were capable of producing over 2,000,000 casks of lime annually in the 1880's and 1890's. Although the bulk of this total was manufactured in the neighboring city of Rockland, some of the most efficient kilns were those located at Rockport. Also, one of the highest quality limes, the famous "Jacobs Lime", was burned in the kilns of the Rockport firm, Carleton, Norwood and Company. Both Rockland and Rockport parties received patents for improved kiln designs.

In 1900, the Rockland-Rockport Lime Company was capitalized at \$2,000,000, among the properties it acquired were Rockport's famous Limerock Railroad, built to bring rock from the inland quarries to the kilns at the shore, and the entire lime manufacturing property of S. E. and H. L. Shepherd Company, the third largest manufacturer of lime in the county. In face of increasing competition from other lime producing states and the introduction of new building materials in the twentieth century, the Knox County kilns closed down one by one. Where Jotham Shepherd once piled his kilnwood, a fish plant was erected. Through the efforts of a handful of dedicated Maine citizens an important historic site has been rescued, temporarily, from oblivion. The property containing the lime kilns at Rockport, Maine, deserves to be preserved both as state and national historic sites.



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

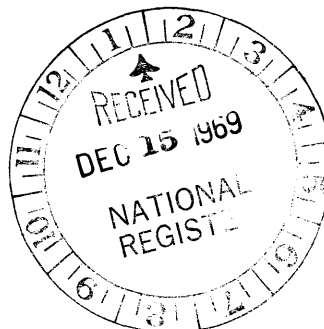
(Continuation Sheet)

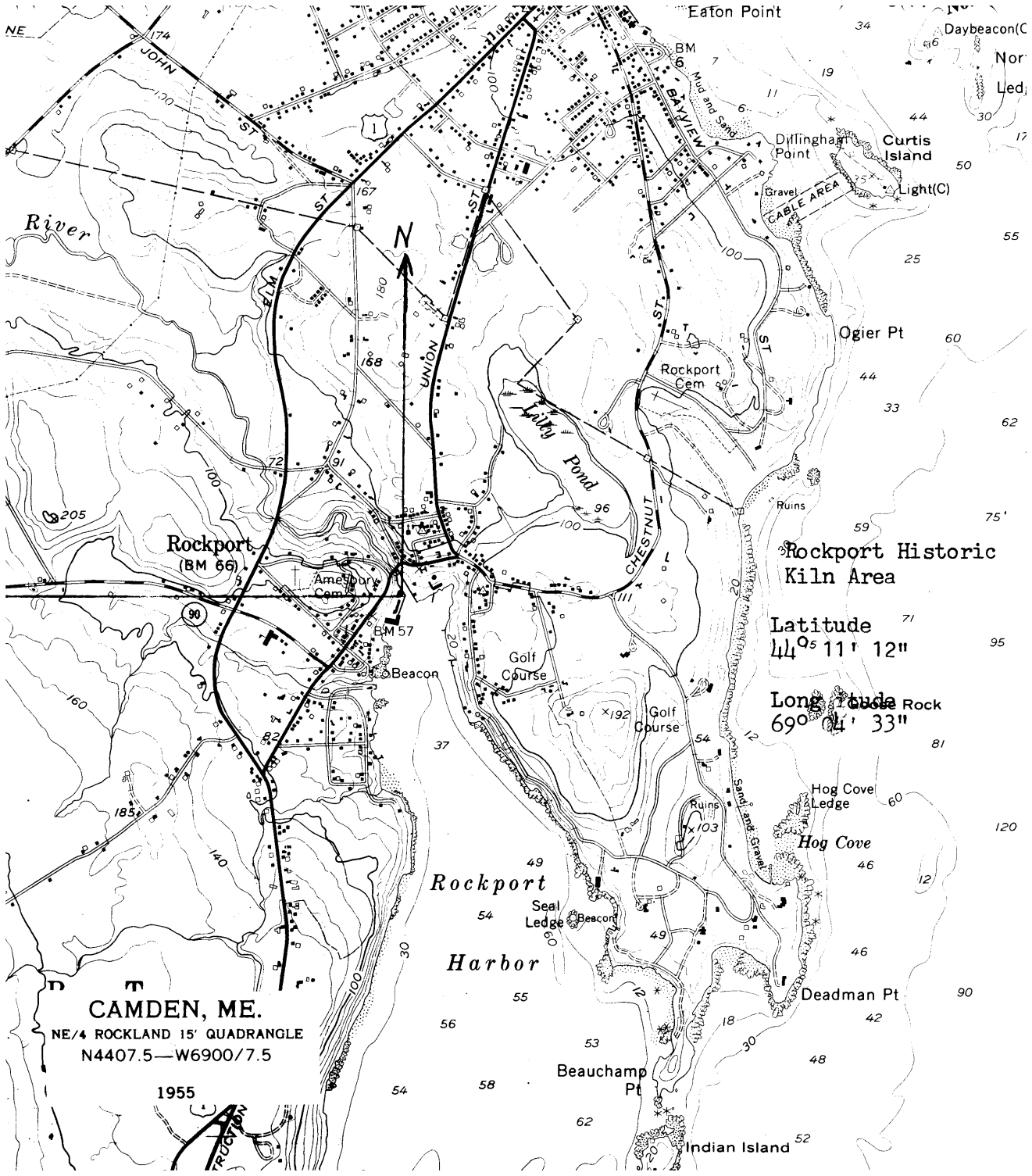
STATE Maine	
COUNTY Knox	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER 70-1-18- <del>0033</del> 0007	DATE 1/26/70

(Number all entries)

The efforts of Ambrose C. Cramer, State AIA Liaison Officer with Historic Buildings Survey, National Park Service, and Charter Member and Architectural Consultant to the Advisory Committee on Historic Sites to the State Park and Recreation Commission have been instrumental in the development of the concepts for this project.

It was Mr. Cramer's application that led to this nomination for the Rockport Historic Kiln Area.





River

Rockport  
(BM 66)

Amesbury  
Commons

Beacon

Golf Course

Golf Course

Rockport Historic  
Kiln Area

Latitude  
44° 05' 11" 12"

Longitude  
69° 04' 33"

CAMDEN, ME.

NE/4 ROCKLAND 15' QUADRANGLE  
N4407.5—W6900/7.5

1955

Rockport

Harbor

Beauchamp  
Pt

Indian Island

Hog Cove  
Ledge

Hog Cove

Deadman Pt

Dillingham  
Point

Curtis  
Island

Light(C)

Ogier Pt

Rockport  
Cem

Ruins

Ruins

Seal  
Ledge

Beacon

18

48

52

42

46

60

71

44

44

44

34

Daybeacon(C)

Nor  
Led

17

55

60

62

75'

95

81

120

90

52

Eaton Point

BM

Mud and Sand

BAYVIEW

Gravel

CABLE AREA

CHESTNUT ST.

UNION ST.

BAYVIEW ST.

DILLINGHAM ST.

ROCKPORT ST.

AMESBURY COMMONS

BEACON

GOLF COURSE

GOLF COURSE

RUINS

SAND AND GRAVEL

HOG COVE

HOG COVE

SEAL LEDGE

BEACON

DEADMAN PT

BEAUCHAMP PT

INDIAN ISLAND

INDIAN ISLAND