

PHOSE 5/16/1

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

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Maine
COUNTY: York
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY DATE MAY 1 6 1974

HR
2/19
DEPTORR
NATIONAL REGISTER
OFFICE
MAY 16 1974

1. NAME

COMMON:
ISLES OF SHOALS

AND/OR HISTORIC:
Same

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: ~~Located within a radius of 2.5 miles from "Crystal Lake" on Appledore Island, which lies at latitude 42° 59' 12"; 6.5 miles southeast~~

CITY OR TOWN: **of Kittery** CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: **1st: Hon. Peter N. Kyros**

STATE: **Maine** CODE: **23** COUNTY: **York** CODE: **031**

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input checked="" 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"/> Commercial <input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> Park <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) Historical Site <input type="checkbox"/> Comments

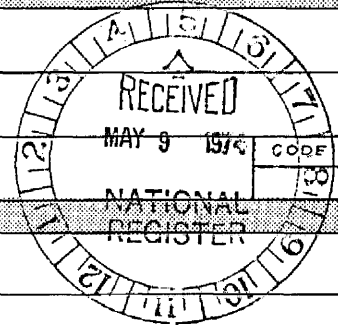
4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
SEE CONTINUATION SHEET

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:

STATE:



5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:
York County Registry of Deeds

STREET AND NUMBER:
York County Courthouse

CITY OR TOWN: **Alfred** STATE: **Maine** CODE: **23**

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
SEE CONTINUATION SHEET

DATE OF SURVEY: Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:

STATE:

CODE:

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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7. DESCRIPTION

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

Present Physical Appearance: The Isles of Shoals are in a group of nine rocky islands and a number of ledges, totalling 206.6 acres in area and lying some nine miles southeast of the mouth of the Piscataqua River. The boundary line between Maine and New Hampshire passes from the mid-point of the Piscataqua River through this archipelago, so that five of the islands, which are the subject of this nomination, with an approximate total area of 145.6 acres, lie within the State of Maine, while four of the islands, with an approximate total area of 61.0 acres, lie within New Hampshire.

Geologically, the islands are primarily composed of igneous rocks, especially granite and pegmatite. Traces remain of older metamorphic rocks, which were uplifted by the intruding granite and subsequently were largely eroded away. There are also numerous trap dikes, where a still more recent igneous rock penetrated faults in the granite. The Isles of Shoals likewise reveal numerous traces of the great ice age, which ended some 10,000 years ago and marked the islands with striae or scratches, erratic boulders carried from points to the northwest, a general rounding off of the rock masses, and scouring of the soil.

Botanically, the Isles of Shoals are characterized by sparse and hardy herbaceous vegetation, with few trees. Essentially all the soil of the islands is post-glacial, and the thin earth and cold winter winds have precluded the development of substantial numbers of woody plants. Nevertheless, more than 250 land plant species have been identified on the islands (Howard, 1968).

The rocky islands, their tidal margins, and the waters that surround them provide a habitat for many species of marine animal life. Various seagulls, black-crowned night herons, black guillemots, snowy egrets and glossy ibis all nest at the Shoals, and for some species the archipelago represents the extreme of nesting range in North America. A checklist of the marine flora and fauna of the Isles of Shoals, compiled by the staff of the Cornell University Shoals Marine Laboratory (1973), includes 256 species of invertebrates, 139 species of algae, 49 species of fish, and 145 species of birds. The distinctive Shoals biome has been preserved by low population density and by the considerable distance of the islands from heavily-populated centers.

The Isles of Shoals were occupied by as many as 600 people before the outbreak of the American Revolution, and remnants of their activities may still be traced throughout the islands. Several cemeteries, including those of the Haley, Caswell, Beebe and Loughton families, stand near the foundations of houses once occupied by these former inhabitants. Throughout the islands, a number of house sites may be identified, some dating from the seventeenth century, some from the eighteenth, and some from the resort era of the nineteenth century. Among the oldest buildings still

(See Continuation Sheet)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

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

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Science | <u>archaeological:</u> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | <u>Cultural History</u> |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Art | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Music | | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | | _____ |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

The Isles of Shoals, though small in area, barren in appearance, and possessed of an inhospitable winter climate, have exerted an historical and cultural influence that is disproportionate with their modest area and resources. Strategically located in the southern part of the Gulf of Maine, the Shoals were recognized during the early seventeenth century as an important defensive outpost and as a fishing depot of inestimable value. Although their vigor as a fishing community was vitiated by their evacuation during the American Revolution, they still supported some 112 people, possessed of unique local folkways, in 1800. The development of large resort hotels, beginning in 1846, brought persons of significant literary talent to the Isles of Shoals, and the islands emerged during the late nineteenth century as a major source of artistic inspiration. During the twentieth century, the Isles of Shoals have been utilized for extensive religious conferences and have been recognized by two major universities as possessing an unspoiled marine environment of great scientific importance.

Architectural Significance: One structure at the Isles of Shoals is of notable architectural significance; the Samuel Haley Cottage on Smuttynose Island. The Haley Cottage is important as probably the last example of eighteenth century domestic architecture to survive in situ on the islands (Other Shoals houses of the pre-Revolutionary period were reportedly moved to York Village, Maine, where they still survive, Jenness, 1857). As such, the Haley Cottage is the epitome of a large group of buildings that once dotted the islands, and is significant in revealing the gross features of wooden framing, the details of domestic joiner's work, and the general design and proportioning of the better houses on the islands during the eighteenth century.

Artistic Significance: From the beginning of the resort era in 1846, the Isles of Shoals have attracted painters and inspired their work. Artists who have visited the islands include Olaf Martinius Brauner, J. Appleton Brown, Maurice Frederick deHass, (Frederick) Childe Hassam, William Morris Hunt, Rose Lamb, Ellen Robbins, Ross Turney and Anne Whitney. Hunt noted for his monumental murals in the New York State Capitol at Albany and for his superb portraiture, drowned in the pool near Celia Thaxter's Cottage on Appledore Island in 1879. Childe Hassam, one of the most brilliant

(See Continuation Sheet)

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET

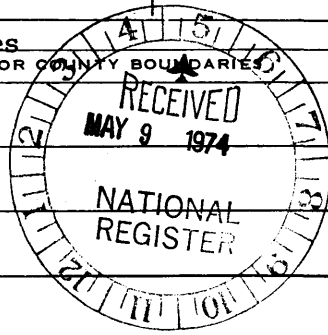
10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

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	
NW	43° 01' 00"	70° 37' 11"		° ' "	° ' "	
NE	43° 00' 44"	70° 35' 05"		° ' "	° ' "	
SE	42° 58' 26"	70° 35' 40"		° ' "	° ' "	
SW	42° 58' 43"	70° 37' 46"		° ' "	° ' "	

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 145.6 acres

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: James L. Garvin, Research Curator

ORGANIZATION: Strawberry Banke, Inc. DATE: 2/26/74

STREET AND NUMBER: P.O. Box 300

CITY OR TOWN: Portsmouth STATE: New Hampshire CODE: 33

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: James H. Mundy

Title: State Historic Preservation Officer

Date: May 6, 1974

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

A.R. Mortensen
Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: 5/16/74

ATTEST: Wm. H. ...
Keeper of The National Register

Date: 5.14.74

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STATE Maine	
COUNTY York	
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4. OWNER OF PROPERTY, Continued

Duck Island: The Star Island Corporation
110 Arlington Street
Boston, Massachusetts 02116

Appledore Island:

The Star Island Corporation
110 Arlington Street
Boston, Massachusetts 02116

Norene Winkley
Old Dover Road
Kittery Point, Maine 03905

Rodney Sullivan
Pepperrell Road
Kittery Point, Maine 03905

Heirs of A. St. Hilaire
c/o Paul G. St. Hilaire
31 Myrtle Street
Somersworth, New Hampshire 03878

Raymond Burge
441 Richards Avenue
Portsmouth, New Hampshire 03801

Hugh Hamilton
Piscataqua Road
Durham, New Hampshire 03848

Edwin G. Warrington
Exeter Road
Kingston, New Hampshire 03848

A. L. Kimball
26 Hillcrest Parkway
Winchester, Massachusetts 01890

Smuttynose Island:

Rosamond Thaxter
Cutts Island
Kittery Point, Maine 03905

Malaga Island:

Unknown

(See Continuation Sheet)



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
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4. OWNER OF PROPERTY, Continued

Cedar Island:

Norman H. Foye
2 Church Street
Kittery, Maine 03904



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6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS, Continued

Title of Survey: Natural Area Inventory Number 175
"Isles of Shoals"

Natural Area Inventory Number 9
"Appledore Island"

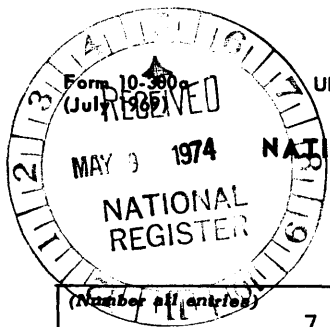
Date of Survey: 1971-1973 - State

Depository for Survey Records:
Natural Resources Council of Maine

Street and Number:
20 Willow Street

City or Town: Augusta, State: Maine Code:23





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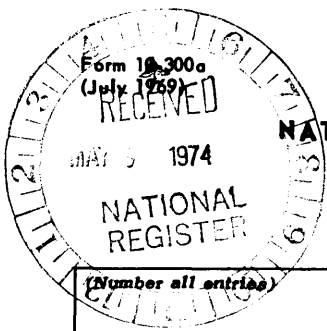
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7. DESCRIPTION

standing is the Haley Cottage on Smuttynose Island, a house which certainly dates from before 1800 and has been described as one of the oldest houses in Maine. This 1½ story wooden-frame dwelling, recently repaired to assure its preservation, is five bays wide across the front, and has a central doorway and chimney, with a room on each side of the entrance. Its end walls have two windows on the first floor and one in the attic. Early photographs indicate that this simple "Cape Cod" House is typical of the predominant style of dwelling that formerly existed on the islands; another example, the Crandall Cottage on Lunging Island, dates from the mid-nineteenth century and illustrates the persistence of this architectural type.

Original Physical Appearance: The original appearance of the Isles of Shoals has been recorded in the writings of early explorers. John Smith (1614), who named the archipelago Smith's Isles, referred to them as "a heape together, none neere them, against Accomintycus." Christopher Levett (1628) wrote, "The first place I set my foote upon in New England, was the Isles of Shoulds, being Ilands in the Sea, about two leagues from the Mayne. Upon these Ilands, I neither could see one good timber tree, nor so much good ground as to make a garden. The place is found to be a good fishing for 6. Shippes, but more cannot well be there: for want of convenient stage roome, as this yeares experience hath proved. The Harbour is but indifferent good. Upon these Ilands are no Savages at all." Jedidiah Morse (1800) reveals that the occupation of the islands by men and their cattle had altered the ecology and appearance of the group somewhat: "These Islands have a dreary and inhospitable appearance, and but for their advantageous situation for carrying on the fisheries, would probably never have been inhabited. They are a bed of rocks raising their disjointed heads above the water. The greater part of their surface is covered with a thin soil, yielding grass sufficient to support, during the summer and autumn, twenty or thirty cows, and about 150 sheep...Nearly half of the sward, on Star Island, has, within a few years, been cut up by the necessitous inhabitants, dried and burnt, instead of more solid fuel." Regarding the buildings upon the islands in his time, Morse remarks, "At the close of the year 1800, there were, on Haley's island (now Smuttynose Island), three decent dwelling-houses... a wind mill, rope-walk, 270 feet long, salt-works, erected before the war, a bake-house, brewery, distillery, built in 1783, and a blacksmith's and cooper's shop. These works, in consequence of the unprosperous state of these islands, are all going to decay. On Star Island, are eleven dwelling-houses, if they may be so called. Four excepted, they appear to be, of all abodes of human beings, the most loathsome. In the fall of 1800, by the hand of charity, they received some slight repairs. Interspersed among these, are ten other buildings for curing and storing fish." Regarding vegetation, Morse confirms earlier descriptions of the islands as inhospitable to trees by noting: A few willows and lombardy poplars, planted by the inhabitants, are the only trees on these islands.



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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8. SIGNIFICANCE CONT.

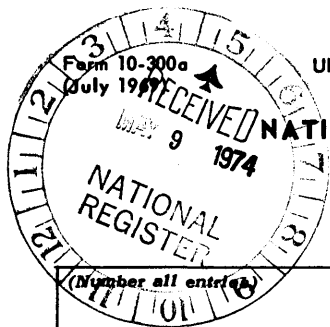
of American Impressionists, had a studio on Appledore and executed some of his finest sketches and canvasses there.

Commercial Significance: The commercial significance of the Isles of Shoals was built upon the fisheries. As early as 1628, Levett remarked upon the virtues of the islands as a fishing depot, and historians have consistently agreed that the Shoals were being used by transient European fishermen during the sixteenth century. In February, 1624, when the Council of New England allotted Captain John Mason the specific grant of land that eventually became New Hampshire, they deliberately mentioned "the South halfe of the Isles of Shoales" because of their great commercial importance. Similarly, the right of Ferdinando Gorges to the northern half of the Islands was specifically confirmed. Morse (1800) remarks that by "the year 1730, and afterwards, the fisheries on these islands increased to that degree, that three or four ships used to load here, annually, with winter and spring merchantable fish, for Bilboa, in Spain, and smaller vessels for other places. Besides, a large quantity of cod and scale fish were carried to Portsmouth, for the West-India Market." The special strength of the Isles of Shoals was their unique ability to produce dumbfish or dunfish, a painstakingly-cured cod of superior quality. Morse reports that in the autumn of 1800 the islanders employed thirteen whaleboats in the fishery. "From a thousand to fifteen hundred quintals (i.e., 100,000 to 150,000 pounds) of fish are caught here annually; from 100 to 250 quintals of which are what is called winter or dumb fish... a 'fairer, larger, and thicker fish,' than those caught in the same places in summer." Celia Thaxter (1873) described dunfish as "handsome, cut in transparent strips, the color of brown sherry wine," and noted that they were rarely prepared for market during her time. She accurately predicted the end of the predominance of the Shoals as a fishing port, noting that "for the last ten years fish have been caught about the Shoals by trawl and seine in such quantities that they are thinning fast, and the trade bids fair to be much less lucrative before many years have elapsed."

Conservation Significance: The Isles of Shoals are now listed as a New England Natural Area particularly notable for the significance of their land water interfaces. Duck Island is also set aside for conservation practices, and is under the jurisdiction of the Cornell University Shoals Marine Laboratory. The entire archipelago is utilised for intensive studies in marine biology by Cornell University and the University of New Hampshire (see below, Scientific significance).

Educational Significance: Historically, the Isles of Shoals had a particular educational significance as the site of a noted academy on Appledore Island, to which boys were sent from the mainland because of the excellence of its academic program.

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8. SIGNIFICANCE CONT.

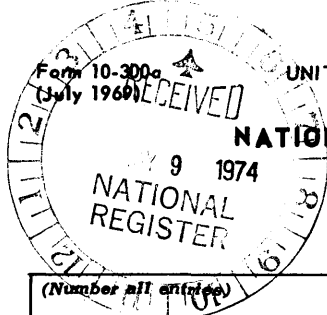
More recently, the islands have assumed a major role in the training of marine biologists. From 1928 to 1940, the University of New Hampshire conducted the Appledore School of Marine Zoology on the islands. At least six M.S. theses were written as a result of this program, as well as at least two M.A. Theses on historical subjects connected with the Shoals. In 1971 Cornell University began construction of laboratory facilities on Appledore. A vigorous summer program in marine science is now carried on by Cornell in conjunction with the University of New Hampshire and the State University of New York at Stony Brook (see below, Scientific significance).

Engineering Significance: The severity of the weather at the Isles of Shoals has rendered engineering work there extremely difficult. Major engineering projects have taken the form of the construction of granite breakwaters to quell the force of storms and create a safe harbor. The first of these seawalls was built between Malaga and Smuttynose Islands about 1800 by Samuel Haley. In 1821, this wall was repaired and a second breakwater, between Smuttynose and Cedar Islands, was built by the well-known Portsmouth builder-architect Jonathan Folsom under agreement with Thomas Haven, a contractor for the United States Government. This barrier was shortly destroyed by a storm, rebuilt, destroyed again in 1871, and rebuilt again in 1904. In 1913-14, a third breakwater, between Cedar and Star Islands, was constructed by the United States Government, creating a fully sheltered harbor enclosed by Malaga, Smuttynose, Cedar and Star Islands.

Landscape Architecture Significance: Although no formal monuments of landscape architecture were ever created at the Isles of Shoals, Appledore Island was the site of a famous garden established during the late nineteenth century by the poetess Celia Thaxter. This garden was documented in Celia Thaxter's book An Island Garden, illustrated by the artist Childe Hassam. Cornell University is presently conducting research for the eventual restoration of this garden; authentic genetic material to recreate the varieties of the period will be supplied by Cornell Plantations.

Literary Significance: In addition to nurturing the extensive writings of Celia Thaxter and those of her brother Oscar Loughton, the Isles of Shoals have attracted numerous writers and literary historians. Among those who visited the islands were Charles Francis Adams, Jr., John Albee, Henry M. Alden, Thomas Bailey Aldrich, Henry Ward Beecher, Henry Cuyler Bunner, Frances Hodgson Burnett, Rev. James Freeman Clarke, Henry Richard Dana, Kate Field, Annie Adams Fields, James T. Fields, John Fiske, Edward Everett Hale, Julian Hawthorne, Nathaniel Hawthorne, Thomas Wentworth Higginson, William Dean Howells, Laurence Hutton, John Scribner Jenness, Sarah Orne Jewett, Rev. Alvan Lamson, Lucy Larcom. Samuel Longfellow, James Russell Lowell,

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8. SIGNIFICANCE CONT.

Emma E. Marean, Silas Weir Mitchell, Louise Chandler Moulton, Mary Noailles Murfee (pseud.: Charles Egbert Craddock), Walter Hines Page, Elizabeth Stuart Phelps, James Whitcomb Riley, Franklin Benjamin Sanborn, Elisha Horace Scudder, Harriet Prescott Spofford, Edmund Clarence Stedman, Harriet Beecher Stowe, John Townsent Trowbridge, Elizabeth Stuart Phelps Ward, Charles Dudley Warner, Rev. John Weiss, and John Greenleaf Whittier. Whittier's poems dealing with the Shoals, together with Celia Thaxter's writings (see section 9. BIBLIOGRAPHY), have rendered the islands a monument in American literary history.

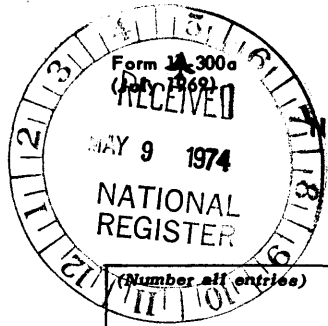
The value of the Shoals as an outpost from which to survey and harass the mainland was not overlooked by pirates. Early in the seventeenth century, the renegade Dixy Bull was chased from the vicinity of the islands by a flotilla of New England vessels. In the early eighteenth century, the pirates Blackbeard, Scott and Quelch are said to have visited the Shoals and to have hidden treasure there. In 1724, Robert Saunders of Star Island brought word to Portsmouth of a "pirate ship hovering about the coast (Jenness, 1875)."

Because of the strategic location of the islands and the chance that the inhabitants might be induced to aid the British, provincial authorities compelled most of the residents to remove to the mainland in 1775.

In the Second World War, the islands served as a post for aircraft spotters and as the site of a radar installation.

Musical Significance: The Isles of Shoals inspired musicians and composers in the same manner that they attracted painters. Among the musicians who visited the islands were Ole Bull, Julius Eichberg, Lowell Mason, William Mason, John Knowles Paine, Kate Vannah, and Arthur Whiting. Ole Bull, the Norwegian violinist, gave concerts at Appledore to benefit the small Shoals community of Norwegian fishermen. Kate Vannah set Celia Thaxter's poem "Good-Bye Sweet Day" to music.

Scientific Significance: The Isles of Shoals have retained their ecological balance almost unimpaired, and for this reason have been of great importance in furthering the science of marine biology. The University of New Hampshire Appledore School of Marine Zoology (1928-1940) and the Cornell University Marine Science Program (1966-present) have exerted an important influence in the training of biologists, zoologists, and oceanographers. At least six M.S. theses were written in conjunction with the University of New Hampshire program. Similarly, the clear exposure of geological features on the Isles of Shoals led to the more recent study, Geology of the Isles



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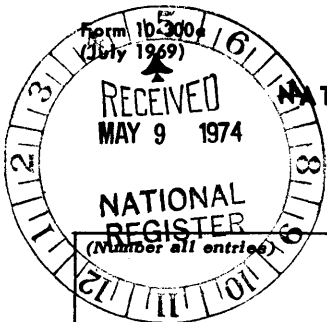
8. SIGNIFICANCE CONT:

of Shoals, by Katharine Fowler-Billings. Because of their rare state of ecological preservation, these islands have assumed a scientific importance out of proportion with their limited land area.

Archaeological Significance: As a land area that was first visited by Europeans in the sixteenth century, and was continuously occupied from the early seventeenth century, the Isles of Shoals are rich in archaeological remains. Few Shoals sites have been systematically studied, but the islands have been so little disturbed since the nineteenth century that they represent one of the richest sites for historical archaeology in New England. Dr. John M. Kingsbury, Director of the Cornell University Shoals Marine Laboratory, has verified that the waters around the islands abound in archaeological remains and present a rich opportunity for marine archaeology.

Cultural Significance: The inhabitants of the Isles of Shoals were an isolated community of some hundreds of individuals who were engaged in single primary occupation. As such, they developed distinctive folkways and an unusual dialect that were often remarked upon by commentators. Although no women were permitted upon the islands during the early seventeenth century, this prohibition was soon relaxed and a continuum of insular family life developed. Early records demonstrate that independence and self-sufficiency became characteristics of the Shoals fishermen at an early time, and these traits nurtured a strong culture. Commentators like Jenness (1875) have emphasized the intemperate habits of the islanders, and both Morse (1800) and Thaxter (1873) remarked upon the poverty of their dwellings. Jenness likewise remarked upon the unformalized marital relationships of the inhabitants. These comments are balanced by the positive assessments of the physical and mental characteristics of the Shoals inhabitants offered by both Morse and Thaxter. Thaxter, too, comments upon the very pronounced dialect peculiar to the Isles of Shoals, a dialect that may have been transmitted to mainland towns like Seabrook by the compulsory evacuation of the islands at the time of the Revolution (Kurath, 1939). The town records of Gosport (a community which existed until 1876 on Star Island), the comments of nineteenth century writers, and modern linguistic surveys all point to the former existence of a strong indigenous culture on the Isles of Shoals. A study of this culture by trained anthropologists should present a classic illustration of the development of regional traits in a small and isolated environment.

A second area in the cultural history of the Isles of Shoals developed from the establishment there, in the late nineteenth century, of a small but vigorous community of Norwegian fishermen. Their story is told in part by Oscar Loughton (1929), but the details of their life are best revealed in Celia Thaxter's "A Memorable Murder," which recounts the story of an infamous double homicide that occurred in 1873.



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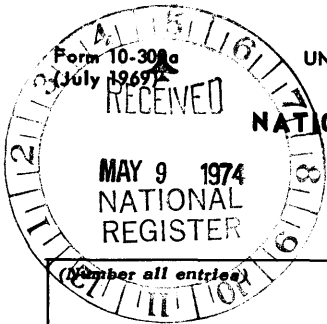
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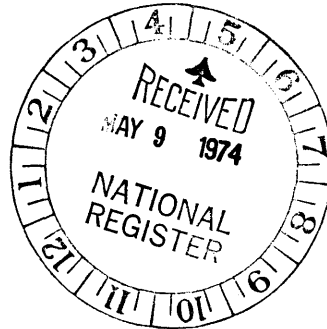
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ISLES OF SHOALS HISTORIC DISTRICT

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Although to date (1979) there has been no comprehensive archaeological survey of the Isles of Shoals, the importance of these small islands in early Colonial Maine makes them highly sensitive with regard to sites of English fishing bases from c.1620 to the 18th century. Test excavations on Damariscove Island in Maine's mid-coastal region (N.R. 5/22/78) have shown remarkable site integrity where there have been no industrial or demographic pressures. As Damariscove's size, population, and economy from 1623 on were equivalent to that of the Isles of Shoals, we may expect satisfactory site integrity here as well. This needs to be confirmed in the field, however.

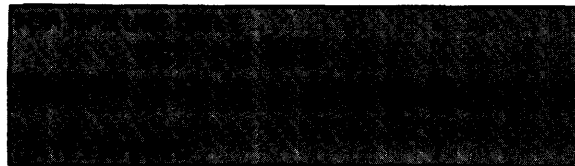
Archival sources for the Isles of Shoals during the 17th century are not as detailed or extensive as one might wish, but the glimpses which they provide are adequate to determine the nature and scope of English activities from an early date.

The first recorded mention of the Isles of Shoals was made by Capt. John Smith in 1614, at which time they were uninhabited. Christopher Levitt in 1623 implied that this was still the case, and he observed that he could see not "one good timber tree, nor so much good ground as to make a garden". Winthrop in 1629, however, noted that "the Isles of Shoals are woody". Levitt, it should be noted, was searching for a suitable site for a major colony, which the Isles of Shoals could never have been. As a fishing base, on the other hand, the islands were soon recognized as ideal. Winthrop wrote in 1635: "Mr. Luxon arrived here (Massachusetts Bay) in a small pinnace. He fished at the Isle of Shoals, as he had done many years..." By 1640 Thomas Gorges referred to the Isles of Shoals as "Mr. Wannerton's Islands", visited them in 1641, and cited the excellent fishing around them in 1642. At the same time John Winter, proprietor of the fishing base on Richmond's Island (N.R. 11/2/78), "...received 2 keys of the locks of the doores of the 2 little houses on the Ile of Shoulds(sic)". This is the earliest mention of buildings, but they must have been present from the 1630's on, if not the 1620's. Colonel William Pepperrell settled on Appledore in 1676, the year King Philip's War ravaged English Maine. The Shoals became a periodic refuge in the difficult decades which followed. Sir William Pepperrell, born on the Isles in 1696, subsequently became famous as the leader of the Anglo-American expedition of Louisbourg in 1745, for which he was knighted.

Combining Maine's predictive model for historic archaeological sites (in the formative stage) with archival sources and intensive surveys on other early 17th-century insular sites in the state strongly indicates that excavations on the Isles of Shoals will locate middens and stone footings of buildings dating from the earliest European occupation. And it is conceivable that features and artifacts will be assignable to the shadowy contact period prior to the early 17th-century when various western European countries were conducting seasonal trade and fishing in the Gulf of Maine.

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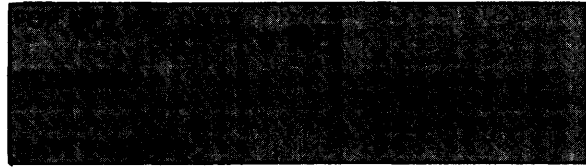
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Verbal Boundary Description:

The nomination boundaries encompass all of the islands and ledges of Maine's portion of the Isles of Shoals. Limited surrounding waters are included because of suspected shipwreck sites.

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Frank A. Beard, Historian
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Organization: Maine Historic Preservation Commission
242 State Street
Augusta, Maine 04333

Date: 2/26/74, revised 10/4/79