

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

For NPS use only

received

MAY 15 1984

date entered

JUN 29 1984

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination FormSee instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic

Prehistoric Sites in the Boothbay Region (Thematic Nomination)

and/or common

2. Location

street & number Various, see individual inventory sheets☒ not for publication

city, town

Various

— vicinity of

state

Maine

code

023

county

Lincoln

code

015

3. Classification

Category

☐ district☐ building(s)☐ structure☐ site☐ object☒ Thematic

Ownership

☐ public☐ private☒ both

Public Acquisition

☐ N/A in process☐ being considered

Status

☒ occupied☐ unoccupied☒ work in progress

Accessible

☐ yes: restricted☐ yes: unrestricted☐ no ☒ Various

Present Use

☐ agriculture☐ commercial☐ educational☐ entertainment☐ government☐ industrial☐ military☐ museum☐ park☐ private residence☐ religious☐ scientific☐ transportation☒ other: Various

4. Owner of Property

name

Various, see individual inventory sheets

street & number

city, town

— vicinity of

state

Maine

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Lincoln County Registry of Deeds

street & number

County Court House

city, town

Wiscasset,

state

Maine

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Maine Archaeological Surveyhas this property been determined eligible? ☒ yes ☐ no

date

1979-1983☐ federal☒ state☐ county☐ local

depository for survey records

Me. Historic Preservation Comm. and Dept. of Anthro., Univ. of Me.—Orono,
Augusta, Maine

city, town

state

7. Description

Condition

☒ excellent
☒ good
☐ fair

☐ deteriorated
☐ ruins
☐ unexposed

Check one

☒ unaltered
☐ altered

Check one

☒ original site
☐ moved date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Intensive survey for prehistoric archaeological sites between 1979 and 1982 has resulted in the discovery of nearly 200 sites in the Boothbay region, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] of which 80 percent has been walked and tested by crews working for the University of Maine, Orono, under the direction of Dr. David Sanger. Those areas not included in the walk-over type survey are currently under buildings in towns such as Boothbay, Bristol, etc., or are in areas of high, steep, cliffs such as those found in the Sheepscot River.

Unlike many other areas on the Maine coast, the Boothbay map area contains a wide range of littoral habitats, including: outer islands, headlands, protected coves in small and in large estuaries, riverine tidal environments, and tidal creeks. The survey and test excavation research design was aimed at understanding the prehistoric utilization of each of these distinctive habitats. Functional reconstruction is greatly aided by the "shell midden" nature of these sites that results in preservation of occupation features and the skeletal remains of food animals.

Thirteen prehistoric sites nominated in this document join three sites [REDACTED] that are already on the National Register: the historic settlement of Damariscove (on an island of that Name), and Pemaquid Restoration are primarily historic sites with a scattering of prehistoric occupation. The third is an early contact period site (early 17th century), Nahanada (16-90).

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 type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

1050 B.C. - A.D. 50

Specific dates 3,000 B.P. - 500 B.P. Builder/Architect

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

[REDACTED] the area selected for survey and accompanying research, is significant for a number of reasons. The research design approached the area as a whole rather than individual sites. This strategy was based on the expectation that the inhabitants of the area moved in response to availability of resources. In this model of settlement, concentration of effort on one or two large sites was thought to result in a skewed view of aboriginal life. In this paradigm, small sites have equal potential to add to the record. Therefore, a sample of sites in varied habitats, amounting to about 10 percent of the total, was tested.

The Boothbay area contains the estuaries of the [REDACTED] both of which were important rivers for the aboriginal occupants of the central Maine coast. [REDACTED] are the most famous of all the coastal middens, the Damariscotta oyster shell heaps, for which a historic district nomination is planned. The Boothbay area is quite likely part of a prehistoric settlement pattern that included riverine travel to and from the large oyster shell middens upstream.

The sites have the potential to add important information on the lifestyles of people residing in the area between 500 B.C. and A.D. 1600. Although there are data on earlier occupants, erosion has largely destroyed the older sites.

The affects of erosion upon the archaeological record have long been recognized. Not until the Boothbay research, however, was a methodology evolved to assess the impact of the erosion upon the record (Kellogg, 1982). The same analysis allows statistically significant statements about the aboriginal settlement pattern, because the cultural pattern can be distinguished from natural.

Other techniques for improving site analysis were developed during the Boothbay area work. A method for determining seasonality in mussels by examining microscopic growth lines was transferred to soft shell clams, the most common mollusk in the sites (Hancock, 1982). Ongoing research is assessing the utility of column sampling for the recovery of small (less than 6 mm.) skeletal remains, while the relationship between column samples and 1 meter squares is applied to a better understanding of site micro-stratigraphy.

9. Major Bibliographical References

- Hancock, Mary. 1982. The Determination of Archaeological Site Seasonality Using the Remains of *Mya arenaria*(L); Examples from the Central Maine Coast. Unpublished M.S. Thesis University of Maine, Orono.
- Kellogg, Douglas. 1982. Environmental Factors in Archaeological site location for the Boothbay Maine Region. Unpublished M.S. Thesis, University of Maine, Orono.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name _____

See individual inventory forms Quadrangle scale _____

UTM References

A

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Zone Easting Northing

B

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Zone Easting Northing

C

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D

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E

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F

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G

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H

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Verbal boundary description and justification _____

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
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state	code	county	code
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11. Form Prepared By

name/title Dr. Arthur E. Spiess (Me. Hist. Pres. Comm.) and Dr. David Sanger (Univ. Me.-Orono)

organization Maine Historic Preservation Commission date February, 1984

street & number 55 Capitol Street telephone 207/289-2132

city or town Augusta, state Maine 04333

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

☐ national ☒ 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

State Historic Preservation Officer signature *E. S. Stewart*

title S.H.P.O.

date 5/8/84

For NPS use only

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

Norman D. Stewart
Keeper of the National Register

date 6/29/84

Attest: *See Continuation Sheet for listings*

date _____

Chief of Registration

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
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Continuation sheet

Item number

Page 1 of 2

Multiple Resource Area
Thematic Group

dnr-11

Name Boothbay Region Prehistoric Sites Thematic Resources
State Lincoln County, MAINE

Nomination/Type of Review

Date/Signature

- | | | | |
|---|-------------------------------------|------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1. Archeological Site 16.8 | Substantive Review | for Keeper | <u>Yvonne H. Stewart</u>
6/29/84 |
| | | Attest | |
| 2. Archeological Site 16.20 | Entered in the
National Register | for Keeper | <u>Delores Byers</u> 6/29/84 |
| | | Attest | |
| 3. Archeological Site 16.21 | Entered in the
National Register | for Keeper | <u>Delores Byers</u> 6/29/84 |
| | | Attest | |
| 4. Archeological Site 16.37,
Area I & II | Entered in the
National Register | Keeper | <u>Delores Byers</u> 6/29/84 |
| | | Attest | |
| 5. Archeological Site 16.38 | Entered in the
National Register | for Keeper | <u>Delores Byers</u> 6/29/84 |
| | | Attest | |
| 6. Archeological Site 16.47 | Substantive Review | for Keeper | <u>Yvonne H. Stewart</u>
6/29/84 |
| | | Attest | |
| 7. Archeological Site 16.68 | Entered in the
National Register | for Keeper | <u>Delores Byers</u> 6/29/84 |
| | | Attest | |
| 8. Archeological Site 16.73 | Entered in the
National Register | for Keeper | <u>Delores Byers</u> 6/29/84 |
| | | Attest | |
| 9. Archeological Site 16.198 | Entered in the
National Register | for Keeper | <u>Delores Byers</u> 6/29/84 |
| | | Attest | |
| 10. Archeological Site 16.175 | Entered in the
National Register | for Keeper | <u>Delores Byers</u> 6/29/84 |
| | | Attest | |

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Continuation sheet

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Multiple Resource Area
Thematic Group

Name Boothbay Region Prehistoric Sites Thematic Resources
State Lincoln County, MAINE

Nomination/Type of Review

Date/Signature

11. Archeological Site 26.27

for Keeper *Thomas H. Stewart*
6/29/84
Attest

12. Taylor Site ^{SITE} (16.65)

for Keeper *Helene Byers* 6/29/84
Attest

13.

Keeper

Attest

14.

Keeper

Attest

15.

Keeper

Attest

16.

Keeper

Attest

17.

Keeper

Attest

18.

Keeper

Attest

19.

Keeper

Attest

20.

Keeper

Attest