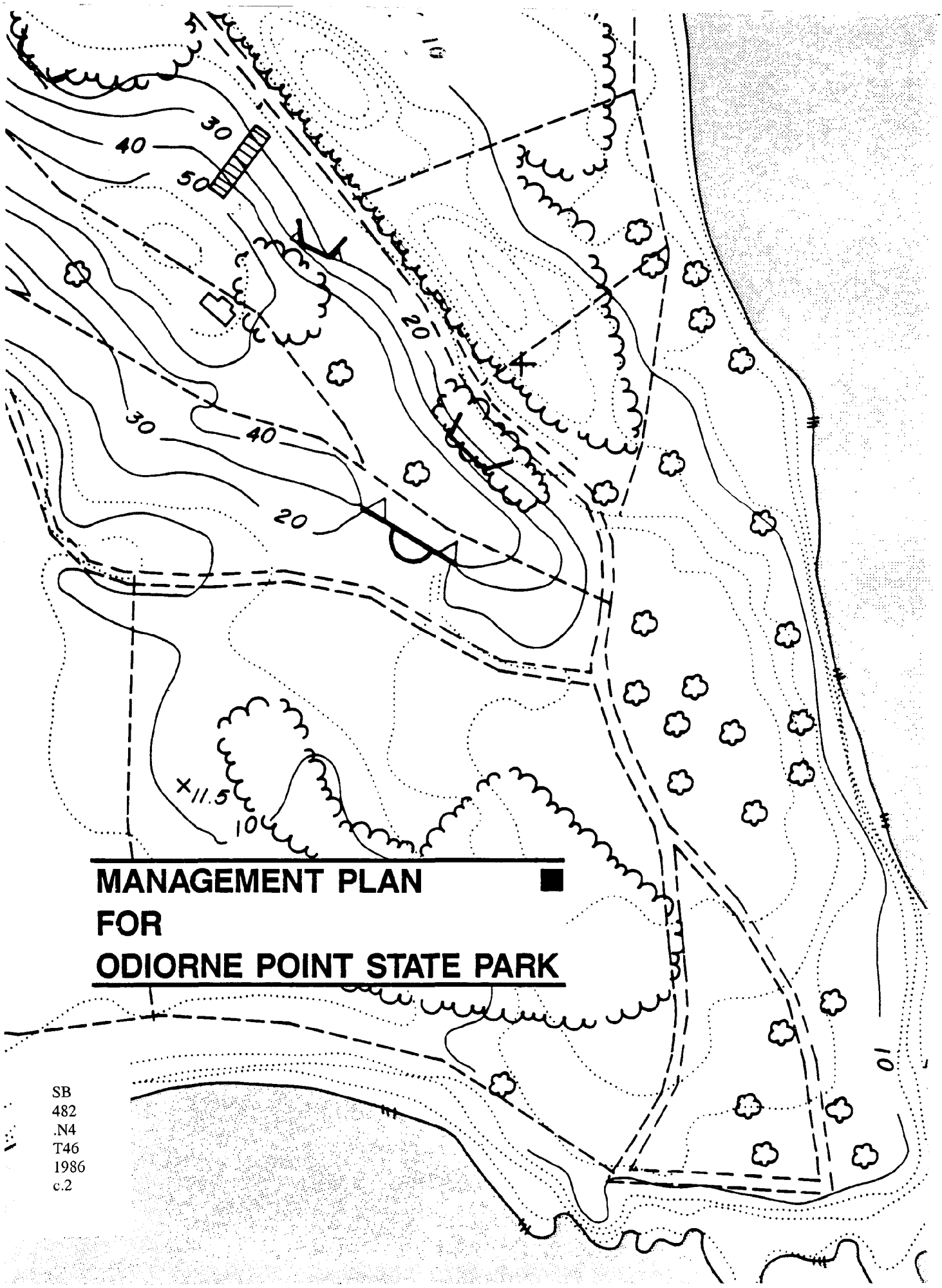

MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR ODIORNE POINT STATE PARK

SB
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1986
c.2

N. H. DIVISION OF PARKS & RECREATION
P. O. BOX 856
CONCORD, N. H. 03301

MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR ODIORNE POINT STATE PARK

SB482.N4T46 1986 c.2

Prepared for

Division of Parks and Recreation
Department of Resources and Economic Development
State of New Hampshire
Concord, New Hampshire

Prepared by

The Thoresen Group
Planning Consultants
Portsmouth, New Hampshire

May 1986

The New Hampshire Coastal Program provided a grant for the preparation of this Management Plan which was financed in part by the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972, as amended, administered by the Office of Ocean and Coastal Resources Management, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

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THE THORESEN GROUP

May 29, 1986

Wilbur LaPage, Director
Division of Parks and Recreation
Department of Resources and Economic Development
P.O.Box 856
Concord, NH 03301

Dear Mr. LaPage:

The Thoresen Group is pleased to submit the attached "Management Plan for Odiorne Point State Park."

The Management Plan was developed over a period of five months with the assistance of an advisory committee representing the park's sponsors and other interested parties. The Thoresen Group appreciates the considerable time and contributions of committee members in the development of this Management Plan.

Submitted under separate cover are a base map of Odiorne Point State Park on reproducible mylar and the graphics used in public meetings. Both the Existing Conditions and Management Plan maps, prepared in color at a scale of 1" = 100', are included in this report as black and white reductions.

This report contains considerable data which will assist the sponsors in the management of the park. The Management Plan contains recommendations for the immediate future and in a 2-5 year time frame.

The Thoresen Group believes that the implementation of this Management Plan will allow the sponsors to operate the park on a year-round basis with a suitable Visitor Center in keeping with the park's mission.

Sincerely,

Susan Werner Thoresen

Susan Werner Thoresen
Principal

Table of Contents

PREFACE

I. INTRODUCTION 1

II. EXISTING CONDITIONS 7

A. Natural Features 7

B. Historic Features 20

C. Military Features 21

D. Other Site Elements 24

E. Visitor Center and Support Facilities 35

F. Staff 37

G. Programs/Interpretation 40

H. Public Relations 43

I. Funding 44

III. MANAGEMENT PLAN 47

A. Natural Features Recommendations 49

B. Historic Features Recommendations 59

C. Military Features Recommendations 60

D. Other Site Elements Recommendations 63

E. Visitor Center and Support Facilities 75

F. Staff 88

G. Program 92

H. Public Information and Relations 95

I. Funding 98

J. Management Agreements 101

APPENDIX A. 104

APPENDIX B. 121

Preface

The development of this Management Plan for Odiorne Point State Park was funded by a grant from the New Hampshire Coastal Program, administered by the New Hampshire Office of State Planning. The Division of Parks and Recreation of the New Hampshire Department of Resources and Economic Development saw the need for such a management plan for this fragile and beautiful site that it owns along the New Hampshire seacoast.

The Division of Parks solicited interest from qualified consultants to assist in preparation of this Management Plan. After review of the proposals, the Division of Parks hired The Thoresen Group in mid-December 1985 to prepare the plan.

The Thoresen Group worked with several consultants as subcontractors during the course of this project. G & Underwood, Engineers, Inc., were hired to prepare a large scale base map of the site. Aerial photography was flown in December and a new base map of the entire 137 acre site east of Route 1A was developed by the engineering firm. 'Etoile H. Holzaepfel, a consulting landscape architect, worked with The Thoresen Group throughout the project. She participated in Working Group meetings, conducted site visits, developed graphic material and maps for the report and public meetings, and conducted interviews. Dr. Clotilde Straus served as a consulting botanist and provided her expertise to the natural features section of the plan, especially plant identification and management needs. Caroline Macdonald served as researcher and administrative assistant in helping to produce the planning document.

The Thoresen Group also worked extensively with an advisory committee, called the Working Group. They provided valuable insight and contributed their knowledge and opinions to help shape this Management Plan. Members, appointed by the Division of Parks, were as follows:

Wilbur LaPage, Director, Division of Parks, DRED
Malcolm Thomas, Park Planner, Division of Parks, DRED
Richard MacLeod, Seacoast Park Manager, Division of Parks, DRED
Julia Steed Mawson, Visitor Center Director, Marine Education Specialist, Marine Science Extension Service, UNH
Joanne Cassulo, Principal Planner, CZM, Office of State Planning
Chuck Gibilisco, Education Director, Audubon Society of NH
Thomas Arter, Naturalist, Seacoast Chapter of ASNH
Louise Tallman, Historian, Driftwood Garden Club and Rye Conservation Commission
Elizabeth Greene, State Representative, Town of Rye
Howard Crosby, UNH Marine Docent and Friends of Odiorne Point, Inc., (Chair of the Working Group)

The Working Group's role is further discussed in the Introduction.

I. Introduction: Mission, Goals and Objectives

Odiorne Point State Park in Rye is a large and environmentally sensitive State-owned park strategically located on New Hampshire's short seacoast. It provides unique educational and interpretive opportunities not available elsewhere on the seacoast.

In order to protect this park resource and provide for its reasonable use, the Division of Parks and Recreation decided to develop a Management Plan. The purpose of this report is to create the Management Plan for Odiorne Point State Park. The plan is designed to be used by the Park's principal sponsors: the Division of Parks and Recreation, Department of Resources and Economic Development, State of New Hampshire (DRED); the Marine Service Extension Program, University of New Hampshire (UNH); and the Audubon Society of New Hampshire (ASNH). It is considered to be a working document covering numerous topics related to management needs and is designed to integrate the purposes of the many user organizations.

There have been a number of studies prepared about Odiorne Point State Park in the past. They are referenced in Appendix A as the "Inventory and Evaluation of Existing Information." This Management Plan builds on those reports as it delineates the management needs regarding natural

features, historic features, military features, other site features, the Visitor Center, staff, program, public information, funding and management agreement needs.

One of the needs this Management Plan addresses is communication among the many user organizations. The reason this plan is so detailed is to reflect the critical thinking that went into developing the plan. This is the only plan done for Odiorne Point State Park which addresses all of these management needs and as such it communicates to, and reflects communication from, each sponsor, as well as other interested park participants.

Throughout the contract, the consultants received input from a variety of sources. During the course of the contract, the Working Group, described earlier, met with the consultants on a frequent basis. Two public meetings were held: one in February to discuss the proposed mission statement and preliminary goals and work on developing objectives; and the other in April to discuss the existing conditions and preliminary management plan. The consultants prepared and distributed press releases about the meetings, a press data kit on the park as well as feedback sheets for the audience. The audience participated in both meetings and follow-up letters and comments were received and reviewed.

The meetings with the Working Group allowed members to express a variety of opinions about issues of concern. Considerable time was spent developing and refining the goals and objectives for the park, which in turn served as the desired results and as evaluation criteria in developing the Management Plan.

Committee members also contributed background data and insight into the existing conditions of the park as well as management needs. The committee process allowed the airing of controversial issues. A concensus was formed on a number of important issues during the project. Thus, the process of developing this Management Plan served to improve communications and, in most cases, resolve concerns among the various sponsoring organizations concerned with the future of the park.

Mission Statement

One of the first tasks of the consultants and the Working Group was to develop an overall Mission Statement for Odiorne Point State Park. The Mission Statement reflects the purpose, tone, and philosophy of the park. It sets the framework within which goals and objectives are developed and the park is managed and operated. The following Mission Statement was developed for Odiorne Point State Park.

> The purpose of Odiorne Point State Park is to provide a well-maintained and managed, year-round interpretive park which protects the unique natural and built features on the site, interprets the wide range of natural and cultural history

through informational and educational programs which foster greater awareness of and appreciation for the natural and cutural history and environment of the seacoast, and offers other compatible recreational opportunities.

Goals

After reviewing preliminary goals and objectives culled from the reports in Appendix A as well as interviews and conversations with members of the Working Group, park users and other interested parties, goals and objectives were developed. They were further refined after the first public meeting, due to the excellent audience participation. The goals serve as the broad direction for the park and the objectives reflect desired actions in order to meet the goals.

Goal 1: Management. To manage the Park based on clear direction and good communication, with adequate physical facilities, staff and funding.

Objectives/Activities

1. Establish a management agreement between the State of New Hampshire and those agencies or groups desiring to make a commitment to Odiorne Point State Park including the University of New Hampshire, Audubon Society of New Hampshire, Friends of Odiorne Point, Inc., the Driftwood Garden Club of Rye, and any other appropriate interested agency or group. The agreement shall include a long term financial commitment in writing from all park sponsors which will address staff, facility and site needs and individiual responsibilities.

2. Establish an annual work plan which divides responsibilities between appropriate agencies and includes a semi-annual evaluation of its implementation.

3. Increase park staff to adequate level to address park operating, resource management, and educational and interpretive program needs. Park personnel may include the park manager, the visitor center director, park gatekeepers, park maintenance and security personnel, interpretive/educational staff, student interns, docents, and other volunteers. They may be employees of any of the management agencies.

4. Provide adequate funding to address existing maintenance needs of the Russell B. Tobey Visitor Center for 1986 operation and stablize the building for future use.

5. Hire architect to design new Visitor Center or compatible addition to the existing center based on Visitor Center space and use needs as delineated in the Management Plan and related research, a structural and space analysis of the Russell B. Tobey Visitor Center and Battery 204, and funding parameters.

6. Seek higher level of park funding in the State legislature to address operating and capital (for example Visitor Center) needs in keeping with this Management Plan.

Goal 2: Resource Protection. To protect natural resources and cultural history within the Park.

Objectives/Activities

1. Research and update as needed and map the location of plants, including rare plants, and other unique natural and cultural resources which should be protected. Review every ten years. (The location of rare features may be kept in a confidential file at the site and, in order to protect them, not be shown on a public map.)

2. Develop a rescue program for areas where rare features are in danger of disappearing and implement as a priority.

3. Develop criteria for implementing management decisions based on the formula: "Does it contribute to the natural, historical, educational aspect of the Park?"

4. Maintain existing trails, complete segments of the perimeter trail which have disappeared, and provide one obvious trail to/from the sandy beach and the perimeter trail.

5. Develop a grounds maintenance program with the participation of all sponsors and implement it.

6. Keep the sandy beach on Little Harbor as is.

7. Repair stone walls and stairs in visible locations.

8. Research and obtain designation at a National Natural Landmark based particularly on the drowned forest and rocky shore.

9. Evaluate and implement as needed further protection of the drowned forest.

10. Research the cultural history of Odiorne Point, including archeological research, and prepare a nomination to the National Register of Historic Places.

Goal 3: Education/ Interpretation. To expand educational and interpretive programs including marine environment, ecology, geology, prehistory and built history (early settlement, farming, seasonal residences and World War II) as well as seacoast resources and environment.

Objectives/Activities

1. Prepare and show a continuous slide program to serve as an introduction to the park.

2. Establish an area in the park to display and interpret the history of the park such as native American, early settlement, resort and military use.

3. Establish an area in the park to continue the current natural science programs on an expanded year-round basis for schools and groups.

4. Prepare new self guided brochure using new trail map to be distributed at the park entrances, Visitor Center or in a mail box.

5. Interpret Portsmouth coastal harbor defense history by printed material, slide programs and/ or oral history means and relate Fort Dearborn history to other seacoast fortifications.

6. Develop an archeology program in the park.

7. Protect and interpret Battery Seaman, Battery 204 and Plotting Room in the long term when there is adequate park staff by opening at least one of them for an occasional use for an interpretive walk with a guide.

Goal 4: Resource Utilitzation. To provide optimum year round opportunities for visitors to participate in all activities appropriate to the park.

Objectives/Activities

1. Investigate the need to provide separate, safe bus parking and recommend an appropriate area, if needed.

2. Do not increase parking capacity without full documentation as to need, a complete environmental assessment, and a public meeting.

3. Encourage cross country skiing in appropriate conditions.

4. Develop appropriate programs that protect and utilize the resources of the Hotin Tract.

5. Add gatekeeper to North Park Entrance by Seavey Creek entrance.

6. Sponsor off-site field trips to study the coastal environment of the area around the park including Atlantic Ocean, Little Harbor and the salt marsh ecosystem.

Goal 5: Public Information. To develop a continuing program of information generation about the Park, its resources and the Seacoast.

Objectives/Activities

1. Develop a public information program to inform the public about the progress in implementing the Management Plan through brochures, press releases, radio, etc.

2. Design a public information and relations program based on and compatible with the park's natural and cultural resources, and promote existing and new programs through newsletters, media, brochures, etc.

3. Prepare a new self guided walking tour brochure on the park, its natural resources and cultural history, and the need to protect them.

4. Increase park presence at the park entrances by distributing brochure, displaying daily activity announcement (tide, bird sighting, field trips) and pointing out the Visitor Center.

5. Prepare permanent park location maps at a scale of no less than 1"= 100' and place at both park entrances and either Frost Point or Battery Seaman.

6. Provide a library and reference material relating to Odiorne Point State Park for use by visitors in the Visitor Center, such as a reading room.

7. Develop a researcher (educator)-in-residence program with public informational responsibilities.

8. Interpret to raise the visitors' awareness about possibilities in natural science and history and not provide all the answers.

II. Existing Conditions

Odiorne Point State Park is located in the Town of Rye, New Hampshire. It borders the Atlantic Ocean, Little Harbor, Seavey Creek, Route 1A and ends at the area known as the Drowned Forest. There is a small segment of four acres across Route 1A from the main park which is part of the park as is the 110 acre Hotin Tract which is located west of Route 1A between the park and Wallis Sands State Park. The Hotin Tract consists of a salt marsh and upland forest and was not studied as part of this Management Plan.

The contract for the development of a Management Plan was let in December 1985 and aerial photographs were immediately taken in order to prepare a new base map. However, the conditions for both aerial photography and site evaluation were not ideal given the time of year and weather. Most of the site work including field checks of the new map was done in the period of January to March, 1986, although the consultants all have had experience with the park in other seasons. The consultants also interviewed members of the working group individually and others knowledgeable about the park in determining the existing conditions of Odiorne Point State Park. The aerial and site photographs contained in this section were taken in April 1986 by The Thoresen Group.

The following three pages contain the Existing Conditions Maps showing the northern, central and southern parts of Odiorne Point State Park. The original maps were done at a scale of 1"= 100' and are on file with the Division of Parks and Recreation. The text which follows contains references to features which are on the maps.

A. NATURAL FEATURES

The borders of Odiorne Point State Park contain a number of diverse natural resources which make the park unique, including a tidal creek eco-system with salt marshes and mud flats, a tidal harbor and sandy beach, a rocky shore along the Atlantic Ocean, and a drowned forest at the southern border indicative of changes in land and the Atlantic Ocean over many centuries.

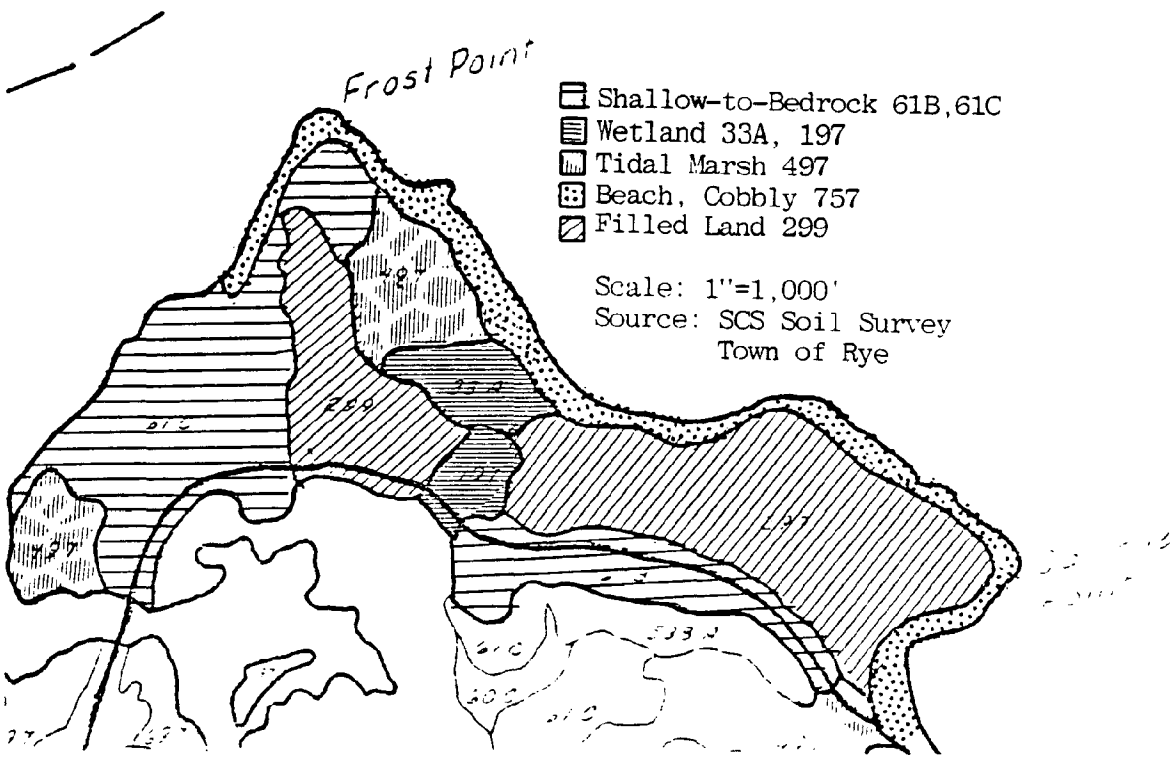
There are two primary sources for data on natural features at Odiorne Point State Park: the "Odiorne Point State Park Natural Science and Historical Studies" (NSHS) edited by Annette B. Cottrell and the "Water Quality Management Plan" (WQMP) for the Town of Rye, NH, prepared by Wright-Pierce Engineers. Both reports are described along with other resouce material in Appendix A.

The NSHS is a significant site specific report describing in detail natural science and historical studies at the park. Prepared in 1973 by volunteers under the direction of Mrs. Cottrell, much of the data remains valid today. Individual authors are specifically cited in the

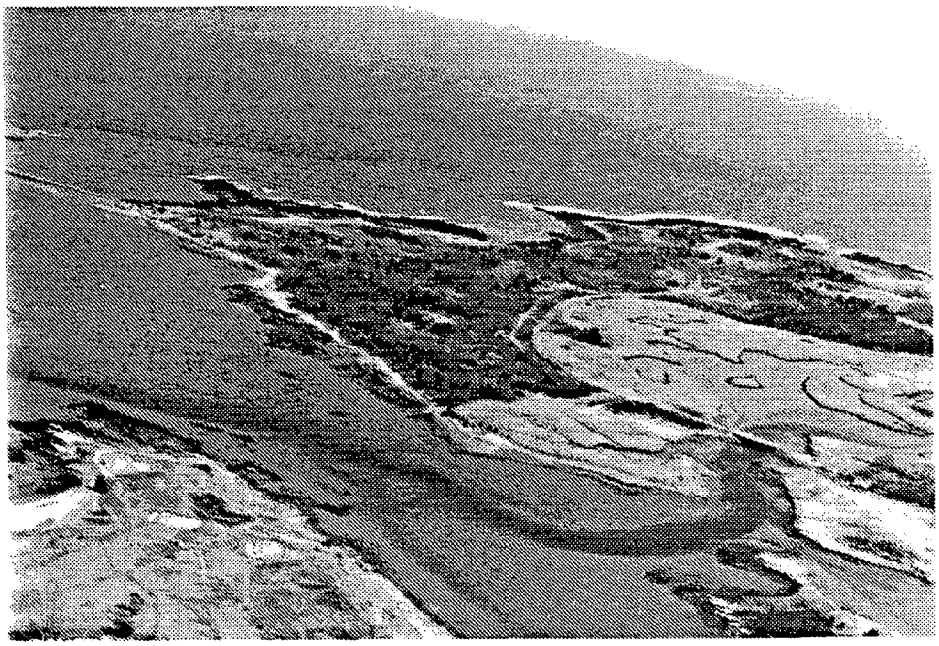
text following. In general, the reports provided a point of departure and the findings were referenced, not repeated, in this report.

The WQMP contains a good data base on natural resources including a number of maps which contain natural resource data related to the park which are summarized below. The report indicates that most of the park is composed of glacial till. The area south and west of the park drains out from Berry's Brook into Seavey Creek into Witch Creek and Little Harbor. The park contains a considerable amount of floodplains and both tidal and fresh water wetlands. There are archaeological, historical and architectural resources (historic sites and areas of high archaeological potential) identified in the maps. There is a nearby public water supply area with the City of Portsmouth providing service to Seavey Creek on the north and the Rye Water District providing service to Pollock Drive on the south. A location of nearby major non-point sources of water pollution or waste water is the boat mooring basin in Little Harbor.

Within the park much of the land has been altered due to, first, the development of an early settlement, a hotel and seasonal residences and their support structures and gardens, and then, more extensively, the development of Fort Dearborn in the early 1940s. The soils map prepared by the Soil Conservation Service and reproduced here indicates that much of the site consists of filled land with wetlands and tidal marshes remaining plus one soil type, Shallow-to-Bedrock, which is suitable for development. However, the map does not indicate that within one segment of the Shallow-to-Bedrock, namely north of Frost Point Road, there also is filled land with several military structures. This generalized map serves to point out that the natural resource conditions have been disturbed, but specific site research may yield additional, more specific data.



Because the park encompasses or abuts a number of significant natural resources, an understanding of them is necessary to aid in park planning and management. Beginning at the northern end, the following describes the general condition of the natural features. The aerial photograph below, taken at low tide, shows the northern part of the park from Little Harbor and Seavey Creek to the Atlantic Ocean in the background.

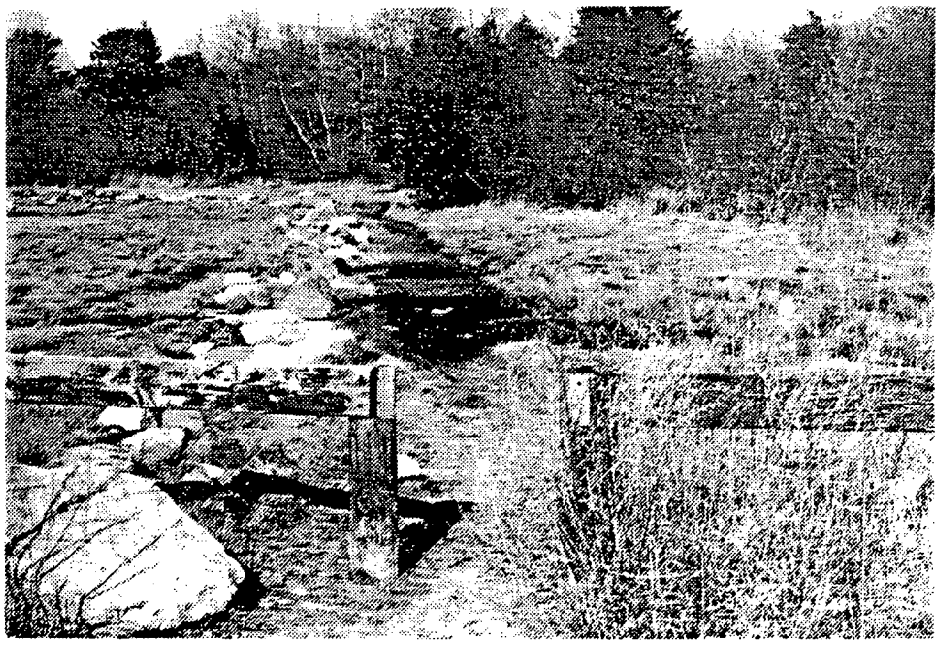


Estuary. A coastal estuary is made up of the waters and wetlands at the mouths of coastal streams and rivers. Thus, the northern boundary of the park encompasses portions of the Little Harbor estuary as can be seen in the above photograph. Estuarine environments are noted for their organic and mineral nutrients which provide a food source for the young of many species. For information on the offshore birds as well as the other bird habitats at Odiorne Point State Park, see "Birds of the Odiorne Point Area," (NSHS) by Arthur C. Borror.

Although Little Harbor is not on the scale of the Great Bay Estuary, it is nevertheless a significant natural resource which is affected by development adjacent to or near it. The State of New Hampshire through its coastal program has demonstrated an interest in shoreland protection in the seacoast. The Town of Rye has two overlay districts in its zoning which offer some protection, a Wetlands Conservation District and a Flood Hazard District, but does not have a specific Shorelands Conservation District. The Town has zoned the park "Public Recreation."

Salt Marsh. Most of the area across from the park on Route 1A as well as much of the Hotin Tract is a salt marsh. However, within the park east of Route 1A there is only a small salt marsh bordering the north entrance parking area by Seavey Creek. The salt marsh not only provides a habitat for a variety of species but also stores nutrients for the

estuarine environment and aids in flood control. The salt marsh is a tidal wetland. The perimeter trail from the north parking lot to Frost Point crosses a small section of the salt marsh which extends almost to Route 1A. The trail is often wet and sometimes flooded near the entrance where it crosses the marsh for it impedes drainage of this small section of the marsh as can be seen in the photograph below. The trail then continues along the border of the marsh before it turns east. Otherwise, there is no trail on the salt marsh. For more information on the salt marsh, see "The Odiorne Point Salt Marsh" (NSHS) by Phelps Laszlo and Wallace Blanchard.



Sand and Pebble Barrier Spit. This small spit serves as the Seavey Creek/Witch Creek/Little Harbor border of Odiorne Point State Park. It is composed of sand, pebbles, and sediment which are transported by wave action and tidal currents. It serves as a protective barrier for the salt marsh. Pedestrian access is off the perimeter trail by the north parking lot.

Open Woods.. Between the North Park Entrance and Frost Point Road is a forested area called open woods in the "Floristic Study and Plant Communities of the Odiorne Point Area," (NSHS) by Clotilde Magnant Straus. (For information on plant species throughout the park see this article.) This forested area is the only mature forest in the park. Primary species are white pine, oak, shagbark hickory and others. Access is limited since there is no road access and the only nearby trail is the perimeter trail. There are some stone walls within and near the forest. Forests and other natural areas provide a habitat for birds and mammals. For information on mammals, see "A Survey of the

Mammals of Odiorne Point State Park" (NSHS) by Richard R. Tardif.

Sandy beach. This small beach serves as a buffer between Little Harbor and the shoreland. It is protected somewhat by the Frost Point jetty at the entrance to Little Harbor and the rocky shore. There is a small area with dunes at the site. Access to the beach is via small boat or trails from the north parking lot or Main Park Entrance. There are no picnic tables, restrooms or trash receptacles at or near the beach. For information on marine life along the sandy beach and rocky shore, see "Guide to the Intertidal Life of the Odiorne Point Area: The Rocky Coast and Western Sandy Beach," (NSHS) by Margaret Ann Mills. The sandy beach, Frost Point, rocky shore, fresh water marsh and Battery Seaman can be seen in the aerial photograph below.

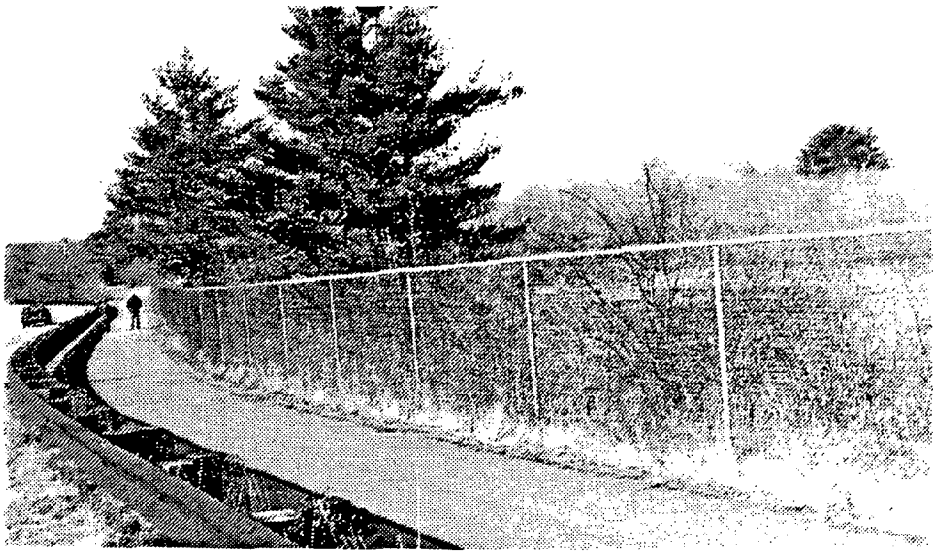
Foye-Whitcomb Field. Located west of the Heritage Garden (described following) near the open woods, the Foye-Whitcomb field contains remnants of earlier residential landscaping including flowering shrubs and herbaceous plants. Other weedy species are beginning to encroach on the fields.

Heritage Garden. The Heritage Garden was established in the 1920s by the Whitcombs at the site of the George Frost house built in 1760. It is in the northern end of the park near the Plotting Room. This garden is the most intact garden remaining on the site and is presently maintained by the Driftwood Garden Club of Rye. The garden is bordered by a stone wall and hedge. It contains a variety of roses, grapes and other plants. There are small signs identifying the species though no sign identifies the gardens. However, the garden is referenced on the "Trail Map and Historical Notes" brochure.

Rocky shore. Much of the eastern border of the park along the Atlantic Ocean is considered a rocky shore. The perimeter trail fades out along the rocky shore. Rocky shores, like wetlands, serve as a nutrient rich environment for intertidal life. They also protect the shore from erosion in storms. Two concerns have been voiced about the public use of the rocky shore: the possibility of personal injury due to climbing in a slippery environment, and the desire of park visitors to collect marine life for souvenirs. The interpretation of the rocky shores is a signficant feature of the marine interpretive program at the park. Visitors are being educated not to harvest the marine environment and take personal care when visiting the shore. Additional studies related to interpretation of the rocky shore include: "Marine Algae," by Arthur C. Mathieson; "A Preliminary Survey of Bryophyte Flora at Odiorne Point State Park," by Elizabeth M. Sherrard; and "Geology of the Odiorne Point Area," by Marland P. and Katharine F. Billings (NSHS).

Fresh Water Marsh. The fresh water marsh is located between Battery Seaman and the Atlantic Ocean. There is a small trail on the north side of it. The marsh has changed in character from a salt water marsh to a fresh water marsh, although with an unusually high tide it can be brackish. It has the potential to revert to a salt water marsh if the rocky shore is significantly breached. Like other wetlands, the fresh water marsh varies in its water retention. For further information on the fresh water marsh and the pond, see "Freshwater Algae" (NSHS) by Hannah Croasdale.

Fresh Water Pond. This pond resulted from World War II construction when gravel was removed from the area. The pond borders the bike trail. Access and views are difficult due to the high cyclone fencing and tall hedge buckthorn added along the trail and extensive wetlands vegetation and ground cover including poison ivy around the remainder of the pond. The steep trail down the backside of the former gravel pit ends before the pond. The pond serves as a bird habitat and, in 1986, green herons nested there according to Elizabeth Phinney.

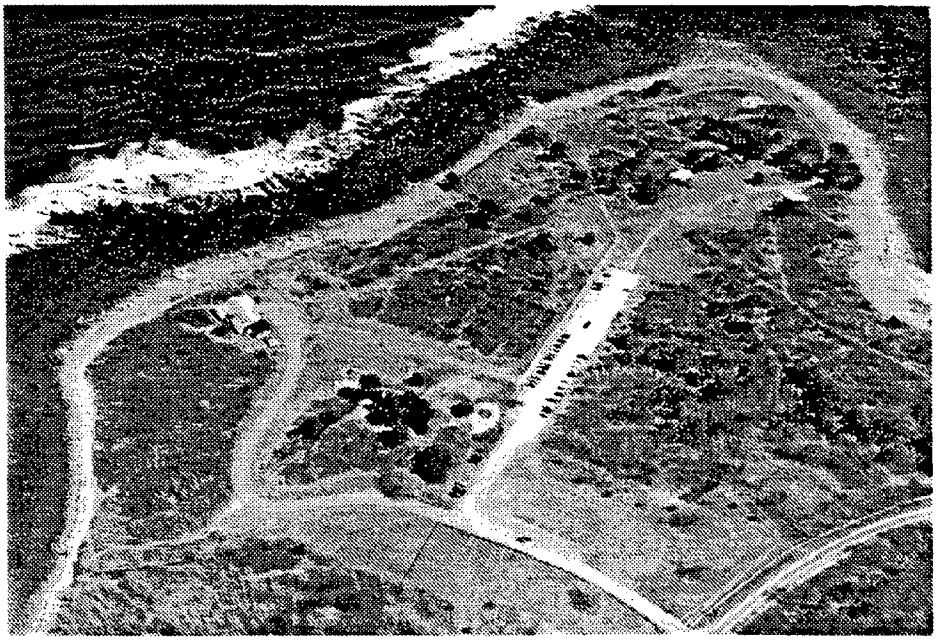


Fields - Middle Area. In the middle area of the park between Frost Point Road and the fresh water pond, there are open fields which include remnants from residential landscaping including sizeable trees lining the interior park trail and several foundations and stone walls. There are several small trails in this area connecting the interior park trail to the bike trail north of the pond. Part of the fields on the southern end are beginning to be lost due to encroaching sumac.

Thicket - Middle Area. The thicket is an area running parallel to and behind the rocky shore and moor between Frost Point and Battery 204. It has a dense understory and limited overstory with scattered trees, tall shrubs and herbaceous plants. It provides a natural wildlife habitat as it is not very accessible to the park visitor.

Moor. Inland from the rocky shore and north of the Visitor Center is an area designated a moor by Mrs. Straus. It once contained several varieties of berry plants. It has become overgrown with sumac (like other areas) causing other native species to disappear. This natural succession has been allowed to continue unchecked by park management.

Fields - Main Park Entrance. There are open fields on both sides of the Main Park Entrance. The fields on the northern side have been mowed on an annual or occasional basis which allows for the development of wild flowers but keeps woody plants under control. Near these fields close to the Marvin fountain are remnants of residential landscaping such as lilacs, day lilies, arborvitae, blue spruce, *Akebia quinata*, yews and lilies-of-the-valley.



Part of the fields on the southern side have been mowed to keep the grass short. This allows greater pedestrian use in the area with the greatest need and overflow parking in the mowed area directly adjacent to the park entrance. On the southern side near the bike trail, there is a meadow with rare mountain mint which first appeared about 6-8 years ago according to Mrs. Straus, as well as black-eyed Susans. The poplars are beginning to encroach on the small meadow. There are also a number of mature trees such as maples, mountain ash and willows near the Main Park Entrance, Route 1A and the bike trail which have dead limbs and need pruning. There does not appear to be a set mowing plan to designate when open fields should be mowed.

Residential Landscaping Remnants. In the southern area of the park, there are plants which reflect the earlier residential era of Odiorne Point. Examples include pines, ornamentals, and roses as well as some native species. Some of these are overgrown and need pruning. There has been damage to some of the roots of the pine trees.

Ledges - East. The ledges east of the parking lot are generally exposed or with a thin layer of soil. The shrubs and plants found in this fairly open habitat are primarily native coastal species with some encroaching sumac. While the character of the ledges is changing, many of the native species remain.

Ledges - West. The ledges are surrounded by thickets in this area of the park. They contain oak, maple, pitch pine and shadbush in a mixed forest stand, which provide a screen from Route 1A, visually separating the most densely used part of the park from the highway. There is one trail through the ledges which is overgrown and slightly eroded at the bike trail connection.

Pebble Barrier and Barrier Swamp. This low lying area at the southern border of the park is between the playground area, drowned forest, Route 1A, and the southern trail. It has wetlands and barrier characteristics. Note on the existing conditions map its low topography.

Drowned Forest. The drowned forest, noted on some maps as the sunken forest, is located in the cove at the southern border of the park. The New Hampshire Department of Transportation controls the land and small parking areas adjacent to it on Route 1A. Stumps can be seen at low tide. This unusual geological feature, along with the drowned forest at Jenness Beach in Rye, may qualify as a National Natural Landmark. Access to it is from both the park and adjacent parking lots. Although the parking lots have boulders to prevent vehicle access, off road vehicles have been successful in reaching the drowned forest and the park. For further information on the drowned forest, see "The Drowned Forest at Odiorne Point State Park," (NSHS) by Donald H. Chapman as well as "Sea-Level and Crustal Movements Along the New England-Acadian Shore, 4,500-3,000 B.P." an article by W. Harrison and C. J. Lyon.

Plant Communities. A great deal of Odiorne Point State Park has been disturbed by man for farming, summer residences and most extensively for

construction of the military structures of Fort Dearborn in World War II. The vegetation reflects this disturbance, particularly in the upland areas where one finds open fields, remnants of former gardens and orchards, and thickets of shrubs, vines and scattered trees, including many introduced species. The extensive shoreline of the park provides a variety of habitats for plant communities that are composed chiefly of native species and show little evidence of disturbance by man. There is presently no system for periodically updating park records on natural resource changes, or a central location for keeping such records together and accessible to the public. Mrs. Straus has continued to keep an updated personal record of losses from and additions to the plant list (NSHS).

Some plantings such as the bittersweet and other woody plants on the Frost Point Road side of Battery Seaman were introduced to camouflage the facility. However, these plants and other invasive species are encroaching on established plant communities and eliminating them. The concern is not that all areas need to be maintainted and controlled as is, but rather that some areas should be so designated in order to maintain a diversity of plant species. Because this has not been done, sumac and poison ivy are rapidly spreading into many areas of the park and choking out the existing plant communities. The moor near the Visitor Center to the north has already been altered, perhaps permanently, and other areas, such as the ledges near the main parking lot, are in danger of losing their native species. The lack of a concensus and management plan has resulted in a decrease of variety in the plant communities.

A current area of concern regarding the diversity of plant communities within the park centers on the issue of natural succession versus maintenance of existing plants and control of invasive species. To date, park management has favored natural succession. Until 1986, only the Heritage Garden has been designated for maintenance and control, and that appears to have occurred due to the dedication of the Driftwood Garden Club and particularly Louise Tallman. Maintenance of the garden has meant mowing, cutting undesired species and adding appropriate rose species to the garden. Several other areas were designated for maintenance and control on encroaching species beginning in May 1986. They include the ledges and open meadow in the southern area, the fields in the middle, and the Foye-Whitcomb field.

There also has been no clear concensus as to whether certain areas of the park should be mowed and how frequently. There has been no mowing plan. Fields exist near the Main Park Entrance and are mowed. Most of the remainder of the park is left in its natural state of succession. Thus some of the characteristics described in earlier research at Odiorne Point State Park no longer exist.

Earlier residents added trees such as sugar maples along entrance roads in several areas of the park. The State has added a number of trees by the paved entrance road to the Visitor Center. There is no apparent landscape design in the plantings and the trees follow a road only used

by the staff. The landscaping does not serve to delineate and define the park entrance and Visitor Center. The remainder of the park appears relatively unchanged in terms of landscape additions since World War II.

B. HISTORIC FEATURES

Native American Indians were the first humans to occupy the lands at what is now Odiorne Point State Park as evidenced by arrowheads, pottery, and other artifacts. Odiorne Point is known to be the area of the first documented European settlement in New Hampshire. David Thomson came from England in 1623 to establish a plantation for engaging in the commerce of fishing and trading. The exact location where he erected his "great house" is uncertain. It may be across from the park on land west of Route 1A presently owned by Ralph Brown or within the park near Route 1A and opposite the Ralph Brown property. For further information, see "Odiorne Point: Highlights of History," (NSHS) by Louise H. Tallman.

During the decade from 1623 to 1633, the settlement at Odiorne Point became well-established, engaging in fishing and farming. In 1660, John Odiorne purchased homestead land that remained in the family until the Army acquired it for the development of Fort Dearborn in 1942. His land encompassed much of what is today Odiorne Point State Park as well as the Ralph Brown property. Other significant eighteenth century land owners within the present park were John Foye and George Frost. Frost purchased land along Little Harbor and erected a house there in 1760. From his ownership has come the name for Frost Point.

During the nineteenth century, Rye evolved gradually from a farming to a summer resort community. Frost Point was the site of one of the fashionable hotels built during this era. Known as the Sagamore House, the hotel was built in stages. It reached its grandest size and elegance in 1870 only to burn the following year. During the last quarter of the nineteenth century and well into the twentieth century, the park was the site of a number of large summer houses. Several of the land owners drew up plans to subdivide their property for house lots, though none were implemented. Residential occupation of this area came to an abrupt end with the onset of World War II. The Army began development of Fort Dearborn and took over the homes on the site.

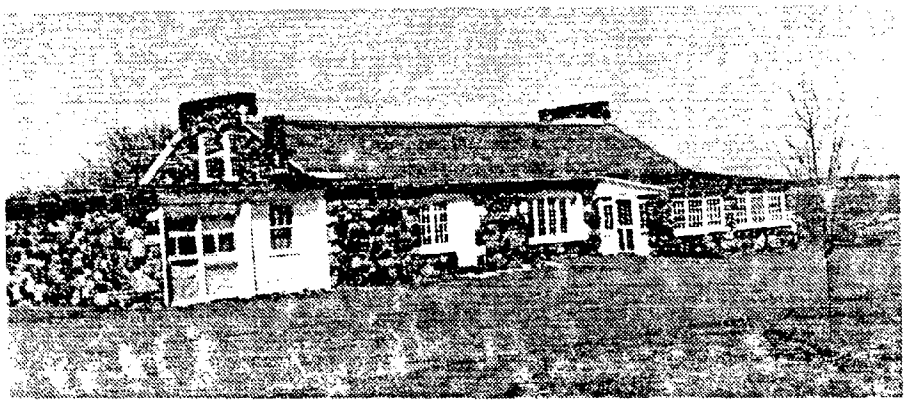
Frost Point. Very little archeological research has been carried out in the park. Much of the park has been disturbed, particularly during construction of the batteries and auxillary structures for Fort Dearborn during World War II. Preliminary investigation found evidence of early native American use of the Frost Point area. For further information see, "The Archaeology of the Odiorne Point Area" (NSHS) by Eugene D. Finch and Frederick Johnson.

Stone Walls, Gates, Foundations. Foundations, cellar holes and stone walls from many of the earlier residences exist within the park, though none are identified by signage. There are several cellar holes near

Frost Point Road. Others were disturbed by the construction of Fort Dearborn. A number of the stone walls and cellar holes are well camouflaged by the dense understory. There are two stone entrance gates along Route 1A near the Main Park Entrance which appear to mark a semi-circular entrance drive to the Marvin estate.

Fountain. Another historical example from the Marvin estate is a dolphin fish fountain in a six foot high stone semi-circular wall with built-in seats adjacent to the former extensive gardens. It is near the Main Park Entrance off the interior trail. The condition appears good although the fountain is not working. There is no interpretive signage.

Sugden House. The Sugden House is a Colonial Revival, former summer house constructed of stone in 1920 for the Robert I. Sugden family. Presently it serves as the Russell B. Tobey Visitor Center which was formerly called the Nature Center. It is the only example remaining of a summer home in the entire park as well as the only enclosed structure on the site currently suitable for Visitor Center use. The attached garage dates from a more recent period.



The Sugden House is significant for its historical associations and its interesting construction of indigenous stone. Constructed as a seasonal home, it was used during World War II as a headquarters, mess hall and fire control room and later in the 1950s it was used as an airmen's barracks. Then in the 1970s, it served as the residence of the park manager, prior to becoming the Nature Center. In 1985, it was named the Russell B. Tobey Visitor Center in honor of the State's first director of parks.

The 1½ story stone building is inventoried, along with the military features described in the following section, in the report "Fort Dearborn at Odiorne Point State Park" by The Thoresen Group et al. The Sugden House has water leakage problems on the walls and near the chimney. The responsibility for maintenance rests with the Department of Resources and Economic Development of the State of New Hampshire.

Since the State has acquired the property, the Sugden House has received new wiring, a new roof, a number of new windows, and other interior changes including removing changes made by the Air Force when the building served as a barracks. A discussion on the building's use as the Visitor Center is in Section E.

C. MILITARY FEATURES

Odiorne Point State Park contains several former World War II military structures including, in the northern end of the park, Battery Seaman, the Plotting Room, a Command Post, a Reservoir and Pumping Room and underground storage tanks and, in the southern end of the park, Battery 204 and four separate gun mounts. All of the above mentioned structures with the exception of the Command Post and gun mounts are within what appear to be earthern hills. The entrances to these structures have been sealed by the Parks Division with large boulders, concrete and fill since the mid 1970s. Securing these structures from vandals and making them safe for park visitors has been a costly expense and an ongoing major concern of park staff. The following specific features are described beginning with those located in the northern section of the park.

Plotting Room. This World War II structure located north of Frost Point Road between the road and the north parking lot is a smaller structure than the two batteries. The two entrances are largely blocked by boulders. There are trails over the battery, the top of which provides an excellent view of the salt marshes to the west of the park. As is true with the other batteries, there are various ventilation shafts which can be found on top of the Plotting Room and are a safety hazard. There is no interpretation signage on the Plotting Room. There is a trail around the base of the Plotting Room.

Reservoir and Pumping Room. Located adjacent to Frost Point Road, the entrance to this small storage facility is on the north side and is not particularly obvious. It is blocked with large stones. A lid on the room is sealed, although vandals have opened it in the past. There is a trail over the room connecting it with Frost Point Road and the Plotting Room.

Underground Storage Tanks. There are also several underground storage tanks, which have been drained, on the same side of the road across from Battery Seaman near a connecting trail to the perimeter trail . The lid of one was not on in April 1986, thus revealing the interior ladder and bottom of the tank and a potential safety problem.

Battery Seaman. Battery Seaman is the 640' long battery on Frost Point Road. There are three sealed entrances off of Frost Point Road and two on the ocean side which held 16" guns during World War II. The fill that has been placed in the entrances to Battery Seaman is unattractive. While the Frost Point Road side entrances are not as obvious due to the understory growth and setback from the road, the oceanfront entrances

are an obvious eyesore. The dirt mounds are mounded up to the interior entrance and lack sufficient grading and landscaping. Steel girders from the gun mounts are hanging in places. The gun mount area serves as an informal shelter and gathering place. The view from the top of Battery Seaman encompasses Little Harbor, New Castle, Kittery Point and the Isles of Shoals. There is no directional or interpretive sign on the battery or on top of it. Access to the top is via trails or stairs. The stairs at Battery Seaman are not particularly obvious along Frost Point Road and some steps are missing. They do provide an option to the somewhat eroded trails which have appeared over the battery. There are well used trails from both ends of the battery and a wide trail which a car can use which goes up the oceanside of the battery. (Park personnel periodically patrol the northern end of the park by vehicle and the Rye police also have access from the locked gate on Frost Point Road. The consultants have observed a motorcycle on top of the battery as well.)

Another problem which remains is the concern over safety. At the present time, it is possible for someone to fall off the top of the two gun emplacements. There are no guard rails and the paths from the top of the battery to the overhangs are somewhat steep and eroded. However, a contract is out to fence the two gun mounts with a protective rail similar to that used at Fort Stark. The fire control and battery command station on top of Battery Seaman is the subject of considerable graffiti which appears to be whitewashed annually. Although the Parks Division does an annual cleanup of the park, this area in particular seems to collect broken bottles and litter on a continual basis which provide a hazard and reflect a lack of ongoing park maintenance particularly in the off-season. In the peak season, there is a weekly cleanup by a toll attendant from June 20 - Labor Day.

It is difficult to evaluate the existing condition of the battery without going into it. Vandals have excavated the entrances on the oceanside a number of times, resulting in numerous attempts to seal the battery. In 1983, the consultants with the park manager visited Battery Seaman by crawling via an excavated tunnel into the battery. The interior, in general, appeared to be dry. Concern has recently been voiced that a sealed battery is more likely to deteriorate due to salt water evaporation than a ventilated battery. It is worth noting that these batteries were built to withstand attack and their condition should remain solid for years.

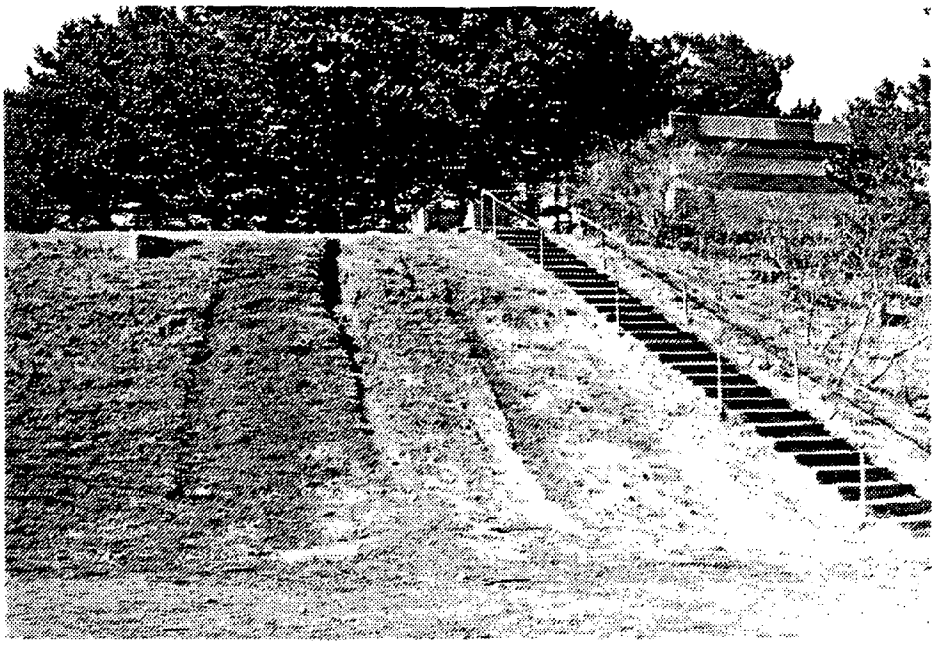
Command Post. This small structure off the connecting park maintenance road near Frost Point Road was well camouflaged, but the cement structure is now largely exposed because the State has cut back much of the plant growth around it, thus making it obvious to the casual visitor. The structure is open and is subject to graffiti and some undesirable visitation. There are some safety problems behind the structure with exposed vents. The Command Post was formerly identified as the Security Building.

Battery 204. Battery 204, located near the Main Park Entrance and parking lot, receives considerable use. It provides a scenic view of

the site that many visitors enjoy. The battery has cement steps and also a hand railing. Formerly, the State had an observation lookout on top of the Battery 204 Observation Tower which was removed due to its vandalization. Yet again over the winter a vandal has broken into the sealed Observation Tower on top of Battery 204. It is a serious safety problem because the tower contains a direct, dangerous drop into the mid-level of the battery. The interior floor door of the tower was sealed in March 1986 so visitors cannot drop down to the battery. The lookout still needs to be secured.

The interior of the battery was checked for vandalism and storage of discarded goods prior to sealing the floor door in the observation tower in March 1986. Copies of the War Department floor plans for Battery 204 provided by Robert D. Zink, military historian, in January 1986 illustrate the interior design of the battery. The floor plan of Battery 204 is slightly different from that of Battery 213 shown in the Fort Dearborn report, particularly due to the presence of the observation tower in Battery 204. The room dimensions, however, are very similar with a few variations of up to one foot and the combination of two rooms into one.

Approximately six feet of cement slab, three to five feet of compacted fill and six inches of topsoil cover Battery 204. The earth covering



Battery 204 also has serious erosion problems with the trails and paths over it. Adjacent to the stairs, the tracks appear to indicate that cars or at the very least motorcycles or motorized vehicles have attempted to drive up the battery. This erosion may date to prior to

the installation of the parking lot wood guard rails when vehicular access was easier. Park visitors were observed parking by the paved entrance road and climbing up the battery by the wood guard rail or parking in the parking lot, going over to read the nicely done, large interpretive sign, and then climbing up the battery over the west entrance. There also is significant erosion at that site with part of the cement slab over the battery now revealed. The trail down the north side of Battery 204 is also eroded. It appears to be a favorite of children, large and small, who use it for cross country skiing in the winter and running year-round. Most then cross the paved road toward the oceanfront perimeter trail, thus creating a potential safety problem with any vehicle using the road. There is no fencing or landscaping in place to discourage the use of these paths or stop erosion.

Gun Mounts. There are also remnants of four gun mounts at the southern end of the park in the picnic area. One is exceptionally well camouflagued with plantings and shrubs around it. Another is partially covered by the paved loop trail. The one closest to the ocean (and drowned forest) has an exposed base on the water side but appears to be in no imminent danger of collapse. The fourth appears to be in good condition.

D. OTHER SITE ELEMENTS

The following describes the additional site characteristics of Odiorne Point State Park beginning with the north park entrance.

North Park Entrance. A secondary entrance to Odiorne Point State Park is located at the far north end of the park adjacent to the Route 1A bridge over Seavey Creek. This entrance is not identified by any park signage. There is, however, a sign for an historical marker with an arrow pointing to an area near the parking lot in both directions. The historical marker is not in the parking lot but rather is behind a fence between the entrance and Seavey Creek. There is no vehicular parking near the marker.

There is no toll booth to control access and collect visitor's fees from park users entering the park at this point. The entrance road is approximately 12 feet wide and has large ruts and grading problems. It is not wide enough for two cars. The entrance connects to a parking area that can hold approximately 60 cars.

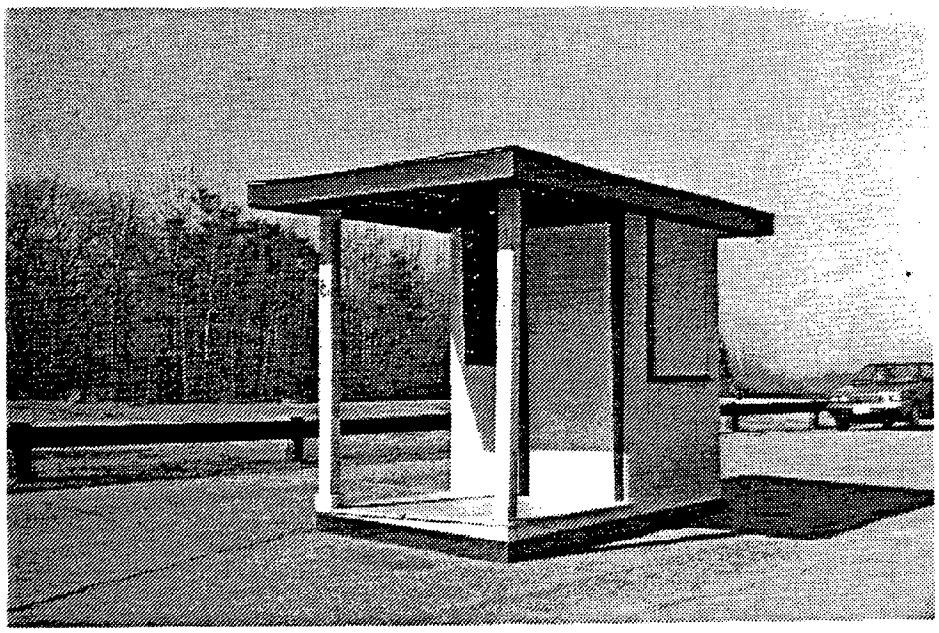
The parking lot is over 80' wide. There is a graded area to Seavey Creek which allows boat launching at high tide. The launching area is partially blocked by a few large boulders on the northern side which also serve to protect the adjacent salt marsh. The parking lot is particularly used by those who wish to explore the northern end of the park including the beach and use the limited boat launching area. There is one trash receptacle in the parking lot and no picnic tables or restroom facility. The photograph on the following page shows the north parking lot.

Frost Point. There is a breakwater or jetty maintained by the Army Corps of Engineers at Frost Point. There has been limited archeological research in this area which indicates evidence of earlier native American civilization. The road pattern dates from the residential period. Adjacent to Frost Point are some rare species of plants on ledges. There is concern park visitors may disturb these plants because the perimeter trail is not clearly defined in the area. There is no interpretive signage at Frost Point and no picnic or restroom facilities.

Main Park Entrance. The main entrance to Odiorne Point State Park is located in the southern portion of the Park. Two similar signs alert drivers on Route 1A that they are approaching the Odiorne Point State Park entrance. One sign is approximately 800 feet to the south on the east side of Route 1A and states the entrance is in 800 feet. The other sign is approximately 1400 feet to the north on the west shoulder of Route 1A, although it states the entrance is 1000 feet. The entrance is identified by a sign on the east side of Route 1A which states "Odiorne Point State Park." A small sign attached to the main sign adds "Russell B. Tobey Visitor Center." No significant landscaping or additional signage is present to help identify the Main Park Entrance. There is good sight distance in both directions along Route 1A where the entrance drive intersects it.

The entrance drive is paved up to the point where it enters a gravel-surfaced parking lot. A small wood frame toll booth is located in the middle of the entrance drive approximately 250 feet from the intersection with Route 1A. This allows adequate room for the stacking

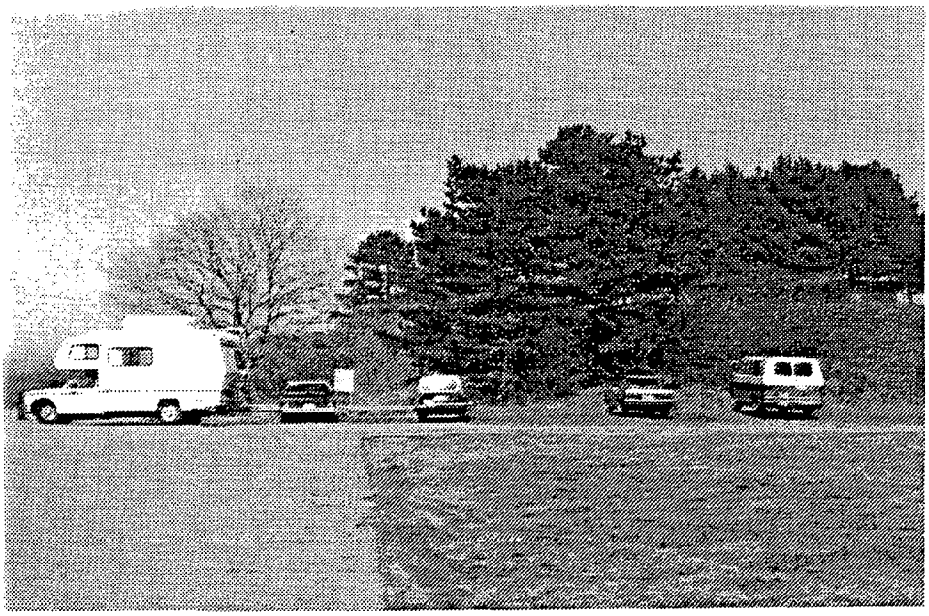
of cars on busy days as they wait to pay the visitor's fee. The 8' high x 8' long x 6' wide toll booth including a porch has no foundation and therefore is a temporary or moveable structure. The width of the road and the placement of the toll booth tend to encourage parking along the entrance road.



The entrance drive proceeds directly toward Battery 204, which blocks any views of the Visitor Center or the ocean. The visitor entrance drive makes a 90° turn to the south where it enters the parking lot. At this turn, a paved road also continues ahead east around Battery 204 to the Visitor Center. This second road is for use by authorized personnel and is usually chained off. However, when open it does cause some confusion among park visitors as to where they are permitted to drive and park. There are no signs designating public parking.

Park visitors park in three undesignated areas along the entrance road: on the paved entrance drive on the southern side - head in, and on the northern paved side - parallel, and on the eastern side by Battery 204 between the paved eastern road and the designated parking lot - head in parking on the ground. However, there are no signs prohibiting parking in these areas and the signage placed by the paved drive implies parking by Battery 204. Visitor Center staff also park on the lawn by the garage.

In previous winters, over twenty cars have been observed parking in the entrance area, in part because the main parking lot was not plowed. In the winter of 1986, parking was available in the parking lot.



Many cars were observed parking on the lawn in several locations in March, 1986, resulting in obvious tire indentations in the lawn, and cars were parked on the entrance road when there was ample parking available in the obvious parking lot. During the spring season when school busses bring students to visit the park and its Visitor Center, busses have also parked on the unpaved area between the toll booth and the paved parking lot.

Main Parking Lot. The main parking lot is approximately 340' by 60' and contains a low wood guard rail around three sides. Between the end of the paved entrance drive and the guard rails on the western and eastern sides is an undesignated area which appears to be used also for parking. There are two small paved handicapped parking areas. One is on the eastern side closest to the Visitor Center and the other is on the southern side closest to the restrooms. Along the eastern side of the parking lot is a paved walkway. The lot is mostly gravel, contains ruts and skid marks, and cannot be lined.

The main parking lot is located in close proximity to the playground, restrooms, and picnic area but a rather long walk to the Visitor Center. The entire parking lot holds approximately 75 cars, although the method of parking may decrease the capacity.[1] The guard rails contain a break

1. According to the Town of Rye's 1985 Master Plan, there are 400 parking spaces at Odiorne Point State Park. The Plan cited the Town of Rye Municipal Coastal Inventory and Assessment report done in 1979 by the Southeastern New Hampshire Regional Planning Commission as the source. Even with the addition of the north parking lot, the actual designated parking capacity is about 135 cars.

approximately every sixteen feet, thus encouraging cars to park two to a guard rail. However, there was no signage to encourage this and the reality did not reflect this occurring.

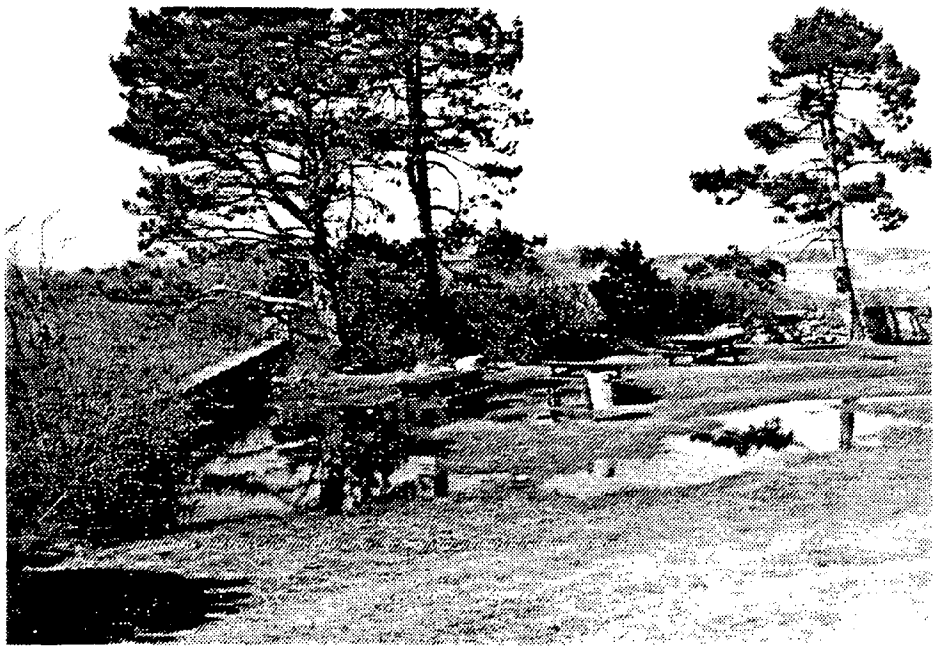
The consultants have observed 20-50 cars parked in the main entrance area and lot on numerous occasions. According to park personnel, a maximum of 30 school busses have parked at Odiorne Point State Park in the spring. A car needs approximately 9-10 feet in width, while a school bus needs about 12 feet in width. Most school busses are 37-39' long. A 60' deep lot gives them only 21-24' to maneuver. At the time school busses use the lot, there are also cars since the park is open to the public. Thus, the parking lot appears to be adequate except for bus parking. Parking in undesignated areas, however, is a constant problem.

Parking Capacity. Determining the land carrying capacity for park visitors was not part of this project. However, if the park visitor capacity is equal to the parking lot capacity, then the park capacity varies considerably. The main entrance parking lot has a capacity of 75 cars which at 3 persons per car translates into 225 people. If only school busses parked head-in and no other parking was allowed on the western side, the parking lot capacity for busses would be about 28. If the parking lot had 28 busses, at an elementary school capacity of 70 people, there would be 1960 people. At an adult capacity of 46, there would be 1288 people. Again, with no marked spaces, the capacity is often smaller.

In addition, the 60 car north parking lot could hold 180 people. Furthermore, the staff can park along the paved Visitor Center drive to increase the parking capacity. Thus, the park capacity ranges from about 400 to 2140 depending on the type of vehicle. Even at the busiest times when the school busses are at the site, there has not been a report of feeling crowded.

Picnic Area - Group. The group picnic area is well defined by an old stone wall. There are two signs on the entrance wall which mark the area for group use and state park regulations. The signs are old, faded, and difficult to read. A new group use sign is scheduled to be installed this Spring and the regulation sign is to be removed. The stone wall is deteriorating and in need of repair. At least four areas are broken through and crumbling, with two on the northern side, one on the ocean side and one on the southern side.

The only proper openings in the stone wall are on the west side towards the parking lot and restrooms. There is a stone stairs with steps on both sides of the wall to give access to the ocean side. However, the ocean "walk" on the ocean side of the wall has broken segments of a former walk, numerous rocks, and unsafe conditions. Picnickers and other visitors interested in viewing the ocean or walking along the shore climb on and over the stone wall.



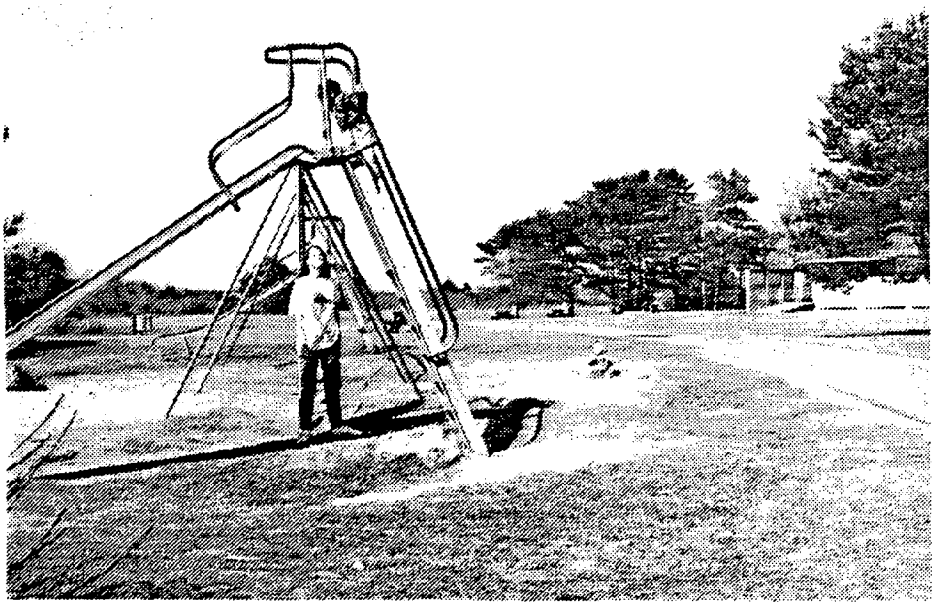
The lawn within the group picnic area is sunken and poorly drained with standing water and mud during wet seasons of the year. Up to one third of the area can be under water. The Rosa rugosa hedge inside the stone wall has been partially destroyed and needs some replanting if it is to persist. The rather uneven grade within the group picnic area does not provide many level sites for picnic tables. The slope away from the ocean's edge together with the stone wall block most views of the ocean from within, particularly when people are seated at picnic tables. There are several coal pit containers and trash containers in this picnic area.

Picnic Areas - Other. Other individual picnic areas are located primarily in the southern end of the park. In general, they are

convenient to parking, the paved loop trail, the restrooms and, for some, the playground. One is by the Visitor Center.

Individual picnic sites provide attractive views of the park and ocean's edge. Two on the loop trail are designated for handicapped use and are paved. Picnic tables are located through the area, some with ocean views, others with interior views. Concrete pipe basins designated for coal disposal and trash bins with trash bags hung from wood posts were located throughout the area. Trash was found in many of the coal containers throughout the picnic area in March. The trash containers which are damaged are scheduled for replacement. There are no public grills.

Playground. The playground is located at the southern end of the park. It is well-sited in terms of access to the restrooms and the picnic area, though there is some concern that it is too close to the main paved loop trail. The play structures are limited to four swings and two standard slides constructed of metal. There is no enclosed swing for use by infants. The current playground is quite small, not creative in design and not very attractive. It is heavily used much of the year. The photo below was taken in March.



Fencing. A great variety of fencing materials has been used throughout the park. This is particularly evident along the bike path and Route 1A where there are old stone walls, wood guard rails, guard rails with heavy metal railing, and cyclone fencing of two different heights. There are also three different types of gates blocking the three park

entrances: covered chain, chain link, and wood rail.

Most of the fencing appears to be in good condition, although the fence at the northern entrance has been damaged. Wood rail fences like that at the main entrance gate are scheduled for the north entrance gate and Frost Point Road. Most of the cyclone fence is four feet tall. It obscures the view of the park as seen from Route 1A, while the low guard rails do not. Cyclone fence blocks a fourth entrance to the park which was between Frost Point Road and the north parking lot, resulting in no vehicular access to that part of the park. Therefore, the paved bike trail has been used for limited vehicular access for park mowing and maintenance. The cyclone fence between the bike path and the fresh water pond is about six feet tall which interferes with views of the pond from the only location where it is visible. The cyclone fences provide an easier area for vines to grasp than the low wood guard rail fences and hence they are more difficult to clear and maintain. They are also more easily vandalized than the guard rails. The photo below shows the entrance gate to Frost Point Road and adjacent fence.

There are no clear park boundaries. The diversity of materials used fails to identify clearly the extent of the park and the location of the park entrances. There is wood guard rail fencing delineating the main entrance and boundaries of the parking lot, but none exists at the north entrance to identify the park and parking lot. There is only a cylcone fence and chain gate. The wood guardrail fencing on the main park entrance road is only on the north side thus allowing expanded parking everywhere there is no guardrail.

Signage. Although some of the signs have been mentioned in other sections, it is useful to address the entire topic as a whole. Indeed, part of the problem may be that that has not occurred in the past given the existing park signage. Also, different governmental bodies have placed different signs, particularly along Route 1A. The following are observations about the current conditions:

- No signs identify the north park entrance and parking lot.
- No signs are in parking lots with map of park and information to orient visitors to location of park facilities and features.
- No signs indicate entrances to trail system.
- No signs identify or interpret primary natural and historic features except sign at main entrance parking lot describing World War II Battery 204.
- No signs identify area views.
- Sign for visitor/interpretive center is low, small, barely visible and has different wording than sign on entrance post and two different signs on the building.
- Posts for apparent new sign are placed even further back from parking lot - less visible from most of parking lot and high sign has potential to block view.
- Bike trail signs are at extremes of park, but few are within.
- Odiorne Point historical marker is at wrong location.
- Temporary signs are posted about hunting and park closure at dusk.
- Signs are inconsistent in materials, design, and names used for buildings and features.

Examples of signs are shown in the photographs on the following page as well as in this section of the report.

Trails. The present trail system at Odiorne Point State Park seems to be extensive enough to provide good access to nearly all areas of the park. There are a variety of types of trails: the paved bike trail, the paved loop trail, the park perimeter trail, the park interior trail, and a variety of small connecting trails. The main trails can be seen on the Existing Conditions Map. All unpaved trails require periodic clearing and grading, and some need widening in some places to maintain a four foot width.

The paved bike trail begins at Seavey Creek bridge in the north and continues within the park roughly paralleling Route 1A to the parking lot immediately south of Odiorne Point State Park. Built by the NH Department of Public Works and Highways as part of the proposed seacoast Route 1A bike trail, it is maintained by the Parks Division within the park.

There is a paved loop trail around Odiorne Point which provides handicapped access in the southern area of the park plus a paved trail from the main parking lot to the Visitor Center. Handicapped users can also use the paved bike trail as do walkers. The condition of the paved trails appears to be good.

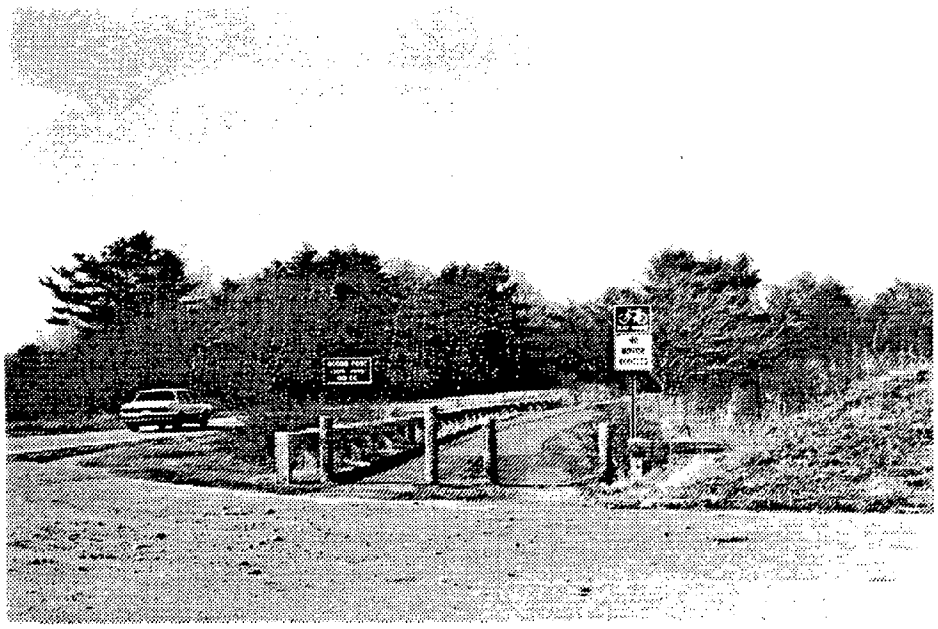
ODIORNE'S POINT

ODIORNE POINT
STATE PARK
1000 FT

NO HUNTING

NATURAL HILLS?

The photograph shows the southern bike trail entrance and signage as well as the Main Park Entrance sign in the background.



One largely interior trail is wide enough for vehicles to use for maintenance and security work. This interior park trail runs from Frost Point Road around (and up) Battery Seaman to almost the Main Park Entrance. Park vehicles reach the beginning of the interior trail in the south via the movable park entrance gate. The guard rail along the main entrance road contains a small break which allows pedestrians' access. However, the entrance to the actual trail which begins across the field is not clearly defined.

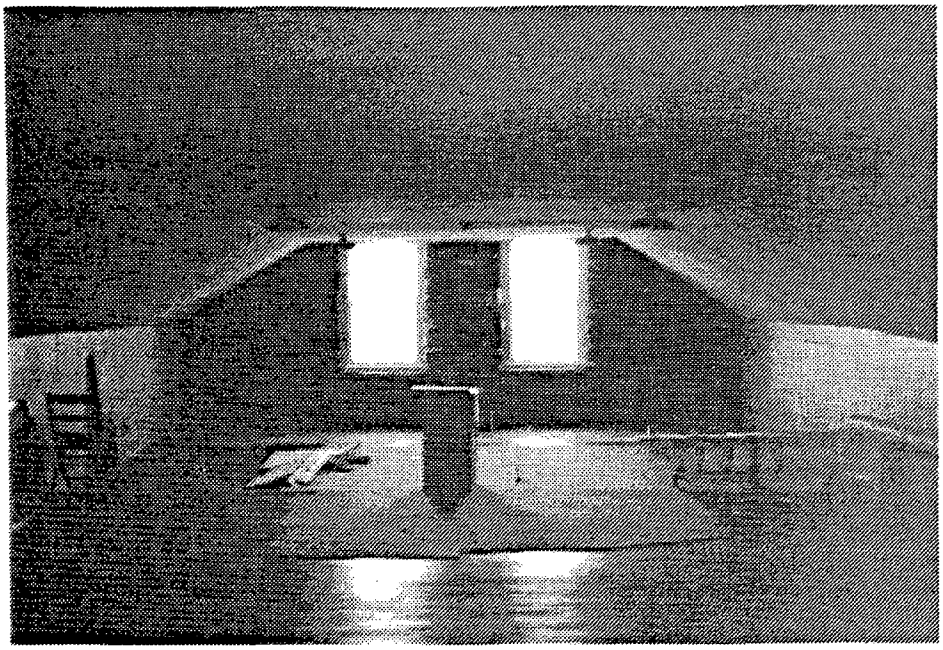
The trail along the park perimeter goes from the north parking lot via Frost Point to the paved road at the main entrance. There are places where the trail disappears or needs definition. Particularly along the rocky shore near both the intersection with the park interior trail and near Frost Point, the trail fades into rocks and is not very safe or passable. Also, near the Frost Point segment, there are rare plants growing on the ledges. The lack of trail definition could cause visitors to disturb them.

There are several bushwhacked trails between the sandy beach and Frost Point Road as well as between the park interior trail and the bike trail. The trail through the fresh water marsh is narrow but appears appropriate. A trail through the thicket in the southern section connecting to the bike trail near the southern boundary is quite overgrown. The trail connecting the restrooms and the Visitor Center is not clearly identified by signage and/or appropriate entrance fencing.

E. VISITOR CENTER and SUPPORT FACILITIES

Russell B. Tobey Visitor Center (Sugden House). The Visitor Center is sited at the ocean's edge allowing panoramic views of the ocean, shoreline, and Isles of Shoals. The two locational drawbacks of this site are its lack of visibility from the main entrance drive and parking lot and its distance of more than 350 feet from the main parking lot. The Visitor Center can be seen from only a few parking places near the entrance walk. The dominant building view from the entrance drive and parking lot is the restroom facility, not the Visitor Center. There is one small, low sign near the parking lot indicating a visitor-interpretive center, and there are two large posts closer to the center which indicate that another sign is forthcoming. However, neither sign site is very visible from most of the parking lot. There are no other directional signs pointing to the Visitor Center. Landscaping is needed to enhance and delineate the walk from the parking lot to the Visitor Center as well as the trail connecting the Visitor Center and the restroom facility.

The Visitor Center contains 3,114 square feet on the first floor and 1,259 square feet on the second. Although the 1½ story building appears to be in good condition, it is in need of repairs. The garage roof was repaired in 1985 and the ceiling was repaired. The stone walls, however, leak badly into new windows and doors and they need extensive waterproofing. The electrical system does not meet the federal code for public meetings. The windows and doors are not tight and many need replacement. Heating is not adequate. There is no wall insulation. (The State removed the insulation installed by the military because it was not in keeping with the historic character of the building.) Storage space is limited. There is little work space and privacy. There is no handicapped access to the second floor. The ceiling height of the second floor, due to the gabled roof, restricts movement and use.



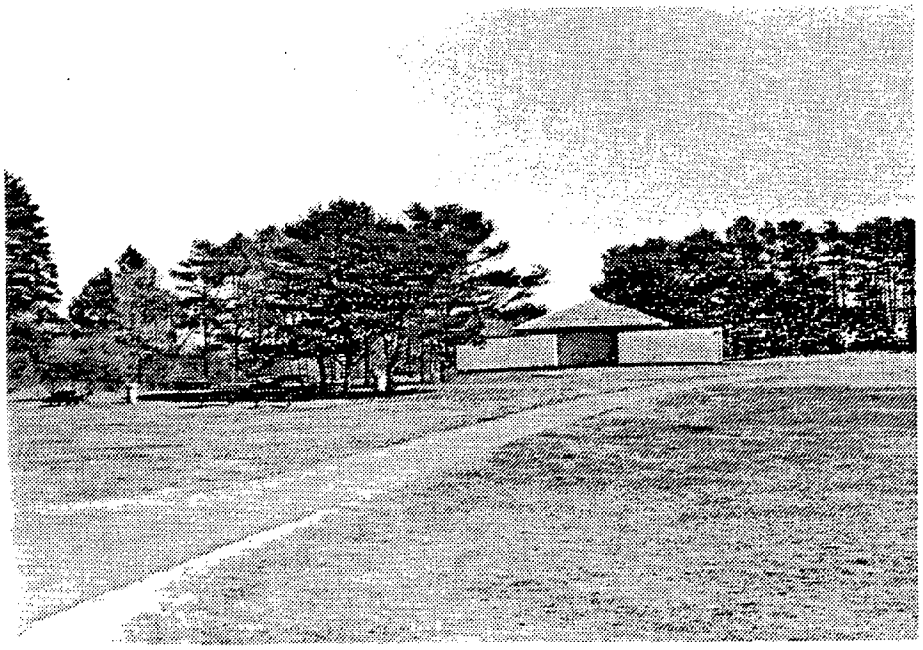
The entrance to the Visitor Center is via the 8½' wide enclosed porch. There are four entrances off the porch to the interior; three are in use. To enter the interpretive area, the visitor goes through a 16' x 33½' exhibit room which has been used for slide programs or other introductory purposes. Lighting is not adequate, the space is limited, and the floor plan allows little flexibility in use. The interpretive area contains two rooms, one being 24' x 32' and the other 11' x 18.2'. Between the two rooms are two restrooms. In the remainder of the downstairs, there is a small reservation area by the back door and a storage area and office in the garage.

In general, much has been accomplished in a limited space. The present structure is too small to accommodate current users and the downstairs does not offer any room for expanding park programs. However, the upstairs space could have its load capacity analyzed, plumbing added, and roof height addressed, if feasible in keeping with the building's character, and its area be divided and soundproofed, which might increase use.

Restroom Facility. Built in 1971, it is a free standing, barrier free building with separate women's and men's rooms. It appears to be in excellent condition and well maintained. The women's room contains four regular stalls, one handicapped stall and two sinks. The men's room contains three urinals, one regular stall, one handicapped stall and two sinks. There are no showers.

There is a paved walk to the building off the loop trail. The restroom is visible from the parking lot due to the direct view from the entrance drive to the parking lot and the limited landscape screening of the facility. There are no signs indicating the facility from the Visitor

Center, although it can be easily seen from the mowed trail.



Maintenance Facility. There is no maintenance facility or permanently designated maintenance storage area at the site. The garage of the Sugden House has served for the storage of the maintenance equipment on a temporary basis, for example, lawn mowers, as well as Visitor Center equipment storage space. At the present time, the seacoast park maintenance equipment is stored at the Wentworth-Coolidge Mansion garage off Little Harbor Road in Portsmouth. Because the batteries are sealed, they cannot be used for equipment storage. (In some parks with similar batteries which are dry, they are used for equipment storage.)

Park Manager Residence. Although the Sugden House served in the past as the caretaker residence, there no longer is an on-site residence for a park caretaker. A park manager residence can provide a continual park presence.

F. STAFF

There is no full time, year-round staff assigned solely to Odiorne Point State Park. The only staff member with year-round park responsibilities on-site is the seacoast park manager who is responsible for all State parks and historic sites in the seacoast on a year-round basis. The marine education specialist who serves as the Visitor Center director has year-round educational responsibilities but is not responsible to Odiorne Point State Park on a year-round basis.

The following describes the position, hours, season and funding source for staff members of Odiorne Point State Park. Several volunteer groups with commitments to the park are also cited. In the first group are those paid positions which are based at or work in the park.

Seacoast Park Manager. The seacoast park manager spends approximately 20 percent of his time year-round on Odiorne Point State Park, the largest park on the New Hampshire seacoast. His responsibilities range from opening and closing the park daily in the off season when the park staff is small, to meeting with the Visitor Center director and the Friends of Odiorne, Inc., to supervising and managing the park staff, to developing budgets, to supervising park repairs, to working with local authorities such as the Town of Rye police. The seacoast park manager spends about 1-2 hours daily in the off season at Odiorne Point State Park. The position is funded by the State of New Hampshire, Division of Parks, Department of Resources and Economic Development.

Visitor Center Director (Marine Education Specialist). The director of the Russell B. Tobey Visitor Center works almost full time at Odiorne Point State Park from April to October. Three quarters of her time year-round is allocated to the park. Her office is at the University of New Hampshire which funds the position using Sea Grant monies. In the off-season she occasionally visits the site for program planning purposes or field trips. She develops, coordinates, and evaluates all programs; supervises, coordinates, and trains naturalists and volunteers; trains student interns and teachers and the docents; works with the Friends of Odiorne Point, Inc.; and writes grant applications to increase support of the Center's programs.

Park Personnel. There are two gatekeepers funded by the State who work overlapping 40 hour weeks in the summer from June 20-Labor Day. On the weekends in good weather, they work from May 1-June 20 and from Labor Day to Columbus Day. The gatekeeper not on duty at the toll booth does a park pick-up on a weekly basis along the major trails and may mow lawns.

Program Personnel. There are two summer naturalists who serve as program personnel from June to Labor Day. The Audubon naturalist is funded by the Audubon Society of New Hampshire. The Audubon Society of New Hampshire started the first Nature Center program at Odiorne Point State Park and in earlier years funded two summer naturalists. The second naturalist recently has been funded using available funds from Sea Grant, the State, local foundations and donations of the Friends of Odiorne Point, Inc. and the Seacoast Chapter of the NH Audubon Society.

Maintenance Mechanic. The maintenance mechanic works a total of 40 hours a week. The position is funded by the State. He covers Odiorne Point State Park, Wentworth-Coolidge Mansion and Grounds, Fort Stark, Fort Constitution, Jenness Beach, Wallis Sands State Park, and Rye Harbor State Park. He works weekends from mid-May to June 20, full time from June 20 to Labor Day, and part-time from then to Columbus Day. He spends at the most 10 hours a week at Odiorne Point State Park.

Mowing Crew. The mowing crew works for the State and mows Odiorne Point State Park along with all other seacoast parks. They bring the equipment with them, but sometimes store it overnight in the garage of the Visitor Center. The mowing crew spends about two to three days a month at Odiorne Point State Park.

Park Patrol. The park patrol is a security force of the Division of Parks and is based at Hampton Beach. It began in 1985. They patrol Odiorne Point State Park on an irregular basis averaging about one hour a day in the summer.

Laborer. A part-time laborer works off season at Odiorne Point State Park to open and close the gates and check the property to enable the Seacoast Park Manager to take days off including vacation days. In the past, a part-time mechanic fulfilled this role during the off-season. The laborer is a State employee.

The following positions are based in Concord or Durham but contribute time to Odiorne Point State Park on an ongoing basis. There are other staff members of the three agencies who also contribute time to the park, including the directors and finance managers of the three sponsoring agencies, but are not included in this discussion because they are not considered operating staff with specific Odiorne Point State Park responsibilities.

State Park Planner, DRED. The State park planner supervises site planning, development and management. At Odiorne Point State Park, the park planner determines the species to be protected, managed or added, areas to be mowed and frequency, and the location of trails and parking. The planner directs park staff who implement the site plan.

Audubon Society of New Hampshire Education Director. The Audubon Society of New Hampshire Education Director provides program direction to the park staff and communicates to the Society's members information about park programs.

Public Information Officer, DRED. The public information officer provides communications and public information about the park. A small amount of time is allocated.

Secretary. There is a year-round secretary funded by the Sea Grant Marine Education Program at UNH who is assigned to work half-time on Odiorne Point State Park at the University. For the Visitor Center, the secretary provides some support on areas like scheduling, brochures, and material used in the marine education program.

Communication Staff, Marine Program. Funded by the Sea Grant Marine Education Program at UNH, the writer-editor and communications director write and edit publications and press releases related to Odiorne Point State Park and distrbute them to State-wide media.

Marine Docent Director (Marine Education Specialist). The marine docent director is an employee of the University of New Hampshire. The position is funded with Sea Grant monies. The marine docent director is responsible for training the volunteer marine docents who work at Odiorne Point State Park and other seacoast locations.

The following groups serve as volunteers at Odiorne Point State Park on an ongoing basis.

Marine Docents. The approximately 20 marine docents work from mid-April to early June on a weekday basis working with the school program at Odiorne Point State Park. They also work in the summer and on a more limited basis in the fall to supplement the staff of the Visitor Center. The docents contribute about 2000 volunteer hours to the park. Their travel costs are paid by Sea Grant.

UNH Student Interns. Approximately 6 to 8 students are trained from January to March and then serve as interns in April and May working with the school groups. If funding is available, they work after the University term is finished until mid-June.

Portsmouth RSVP. The Retired Senior Volunteer Program volunteers provide staff support for the Visitor Center.

Driftwood Garden Club. The Club maintains the Heritage Garden near the Plotting Room including mowing the area, planting and pruning. The Club contributes about 8 hours to the park on a monthly basis.

Seacoast Chapter of the Audubon Society of New Hampshire. Members of the Seacoasat Audubon Society lead approximately 12 field trips within the park, offer a variety of programs, and provide some limited financial support.

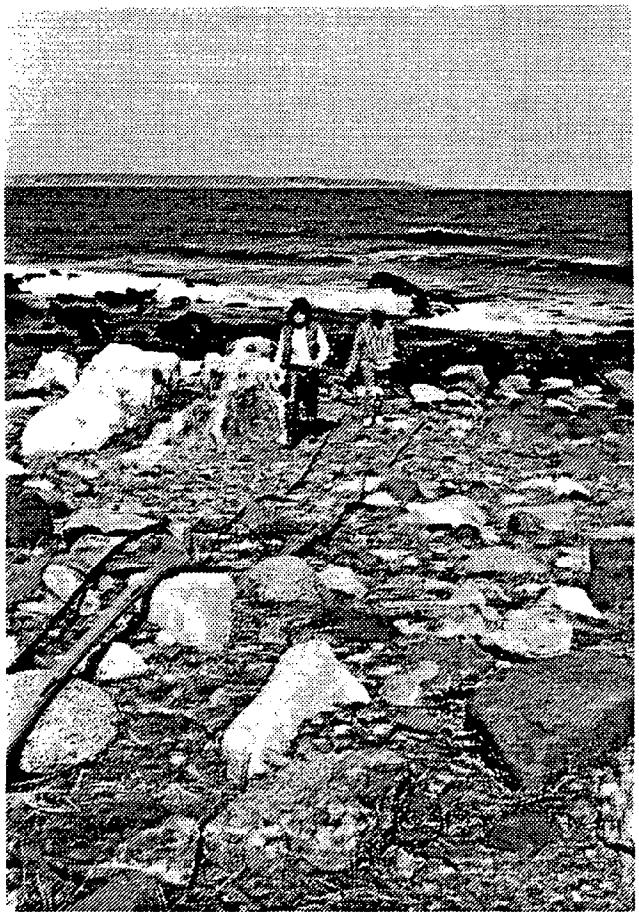
Friends of Odiorne Point, Inc. This newly formed non-profit organization provides advisory and financial support to the Visitor Center staff and programs and the park. It has hired a fund raising consultant to assist in developing a membership drive and increasing the base of support.

G. PROGRAMS/INTERPRETATION

There are a variety of programs offered at the Russell B. Tobey Visitor Center (formerly known as the Nature Center). The programs have varied over the years depending on the funding and resources available. The first several years that the park was open, the Massachusetts Audubon Society and the Audubon Society of New Hampshire developed the program and operated the Nature Center (which was in a different building and location). As funding became available through the Sea Grant program at the University of New Hampshire, the University took on a greater program role at Odiorne Point State Park and the Audubon Society

maintained a smaller role. University students as marine education interns have provided program assistance and staff support for the spring program annually. The Division of Parks did not sponsor any program staff at Odiorne Point State Park until the last year when it contributed a small amount to the salary of the second naturalist.

In 1985, over 8,000 visitors came to the Visitor Center. Much of the program focus is marine education on the rocky shore and intertidal area since that is unique to the site. A pilot program is scheduled in 1986 on the salt marsh. The primary marine education programs are described below. Both "Through the Looking Glass" and "A Wave of Concern" are offered during the school year and include teacher training. The intent is to bring students to Odiorne Point State Park and increase their awareness of the coastal environment. The photo below shows the student interns assisting procuring sea water in the Spring for use in the Visitor Center sea tanks.



Offered since 1978, "Through the Looking Glass" is an in-service teacher training program, designed to train teachers to lead effective field

trips to Odiorne Point State Park. The conceptual focus is on the rocky shore with pre-trip preparation, on-site field work, and post-trip follow-up. The first year the teacher works with the director and attends a mandatory pre-trip workshop. Marine docents then give an in-class presentation for parent-aides and teachers. At the Visitor Center, the teachers and parent-aides assist the staff with the classroom activities. In the second year, the teacher attends a refresher workshop, invites a marine docent to the classroom, and brings the students to the Center for a short visit. In year three, the teacher does not have to return to the Center for further training; she/he has received sufficient training to be a leader and can lead her/his class on site field trips. About 3,000 students, 150 educators and 450 parent-aides participate in the program each spring coming from New Hampshire, Maine, Vermont, and Massachusetts.

The Visitor Center can handle 8-10 groups a day for a half hour program and one group for a 3 hour program which is offered on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays. According to the Visitor Center director, about 45 percent of the teachers are now in stage 3 of the training program, i.e., on their own. In 1986, the Visitor Center charges $75.00 for a three hour program including a mandatory teacher workshop and an outreach visit to the classroom prior to the classroom visiting the park, and $15.00 for a half hour Visitor Center program. An information packet called "Alone on the Shore: Survival Packet for Educators" is available which includes the "Through the Looking Glass Teacher's Guide" and other classroom materials at a cost of $7.50.

"A Wave of Concern" is a New Hampshire coastal issues curriculum designed for high schools and junior high schools. The curriculum developed by the Marine Education Specialist is intended to foster the development of critical thinking skills and resource protection values. The program focuses on coastal issues and involves concepts, decision-making, research, role playing and evaluation skills.

An exhibit was also developed on coastal issues for the Visitor Center. Also, an all day program to introduce educators to the "critical issues that challenge our coastal corridor" called "Coastal Issues: A Wave of Concern," was held in May 1986 at the Urban Forestry Center with a fee of $12.00. The program is cosponsored by the New Hampshire Coastal Program of the Office of State Planning and the Gulf of Maine Marine Education Association.

"Summer by the Sea" is the name for the summer programs at the park. Offered since 1973, there are prearranged group programs on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays, weekday children's programs, and slide and film programs on the weekends, evening lectures, several mini-courses, weekend walks, and coastal mini-tours. The weekday group programs are entitled "Down by the Water" with a focus on the ecology of the rocky shore. About 1,080 visitors participated in this program in July and August in 1985.

The weekday children's program began to be offered in 1978, was cut back in scope in 1983 due to staff and funding constraints, and is scheduled to resume in 1986. The children's program is designed for children from 3 to 12 years of age with programs ranging from "Tidepools for Tots" to "Seaside Detectives" to conceptual programs on habitats for older children.

The weekend programs vary from year to year but are designed for the adult/family audience. Approximately 740 visitors attended 31 field or lecture programs and 12 slide programs in 1985 which ranged from "Birding for Beginners" to an "Early History of Odiorne Piont" to "A Salt Marsh Celebration." The Visitor Center director arranges programs and field trips on various subjects, particularly those related to the "Natural Science and Historical Studies."

The program staff has primarily consisted of people trained in marine science or natural science. There has been some concern expressed that there have been few staff members with historical, archeological, military science or botanical training. However, there have been professional community resource people with various expertise who have participated in "Summer by the Sea" programs. It is logical that the sponsoring agencies would provide staff with the expertise of that agency and would present programs with that orientation.

H. PUBLIC RELATIONS

Public Relations encompasses brochures, advertisements and communications.

Brochures. A number of years ago, a small self-guided park brochure was prepared by Julia Steed Mawson. It has been the only brochure available to the public. The map in the brochure "Trail Map and Historical Notes" is conceptual and contains inaccuracies. The text provides a nice historical overview of the site, but contains little mention of the natural features. A small number of brochures were distributed at the toll booth in 1985, however, there was not a sufficient quantity to give the brochure to all visitors.

A Seacoast brochure on State parks and historic sites was prepared by the Division of Parks in late 1985. Distribution is scheduled off-site and at the toll booth in 1986.

Annually a brochure entitled "Summer by the Sea" is prepared by the Visitor Center staff. It announces weekday group programs and Saturday and Sunday slide programs, films and field trips. The brochure is financed by the UNH Sea Grant Advisory Program and is available at the park and other locations. Also, the "Through the Looking Glass Teacher's Guide" is printed annually and revised occasionally.

The "Tidepool Times," an informational newsletter on the marine environment, is written and sent to educators and is available to the

general public at the Visitor Center. The editor of the "Tidepool Times," Debbie Coulombe, has also written the Seaside Naturalist which is a book version of the "Tidepool Times."

Advertisements. The State of New Hampshire undertook, in 1985, an extensive radio advertising program which included an advertisement on seacoast fortifications in State parks. Advertisements focused on the "Year of the Parks" celebrating the 50th anniversary of New Hampshire State Parks. One special 50th program was at Odiorne Point State Park.

Articles about events at the park are submitted weekly to local and regional media announcing the programs. All sponsors have provided newspaper articles and public service announcements.

Communications. Because this is a park with three partners, internal communications are extremely important. The three park sponsors have established a good working arrangement over the years, although there does not appear to be any signed written management agreement among the three parties. There is, however, a draft of a management agreement for the Visitor Center between the State and University which contains a discussion on the role of the Audubon Society (as well as the Friends of Odiorne Point, Inc.). Informally, the State has the responsibility for maintaining and operating the park and the University of New Hampshire and the Audubon Society of New Hampshire have the responsibility for generating the program.

Two examples of communication problems in 1985 among the sponsors were the decision to rename the Nature Center the Russell B. Tobey Visitor Center as part of the 50th Celebration without consultation among the sponsors and the confusion among the sponsors over the decision to charge no park admission fee for the Celebration. On the other hand, the annual park planning meetings and this project are examples of good communication among the sponsors and interested parties since all had the opportunity to participate in the development of this management plan and voice their concerns.

A second area of concern is the communications between the park staff and the visitor. The visitor's first impression of the park occurs at the park entrance. Little or no information regarding the Visitor Center, special activities, tide information etc. is distributed at the park gate. There was some concern expressed that the gatekeepers as the most visible representatives of the park are not sufficiently informed about the park and its activities and all staff would benefit from a one day park training retreat. There is no park site map at any location. Park activities are posted on the bulletin board within the Visitor Center.

I. FUNDING

Tracking down the funding of Odiorne Point State Park is not easy. There are three park sponsors who provide funding. Their budgets do not

necessarily reflect the actual operating costs of OPSP. For example, a number of the expenses of personnel have to be allocated on a percentage basis. Table 1 shows the park expenditures of the three agencies.

In the Parks Division budget for Odiorne Point State Park, in the twelve year span between 1973 and 1984, income ranged from $1,364 in 1973 to $9,415 in 1984. The expenses fluctuated from a low of $21,324 in 1974 to a high of $55,841 in 1984. The expense figures are misleading. The State allocates entire salaries for personnel to various parks. The park manager is allocated to the Odiorne Point account although he spends at most one fifth of his time there. In 1984, an assistant park manager was also allocated to Odiorne Point when again no more than 20 percent of his time was spent there. Furthermore, the maintenance mechanic was included in the budget when perhaps 25 percent of his time was spent there. The gatekeepers were correctly allocated. However, the mowers were allocated to Wallis Sands and the security to Hampton Beach. No staff in Concord were allocated to Odiorne Point State Park. Therefore, to get a correct picture of the park staff allocations for Odiorne Point, it is necessary to compute estimated percents from various budgets.

At the University of New Hampshire, it is necessary to allocate the percent of time spent by the Visitor Center director, the marine docent director, the secretary (and any other personnel allocated to the park) and related expenses.

At the Audubon Society of New Hampshire, the amount of time of the education director as well as the summer naturalist needs to be allocated.

In addition, approximately 2500 volunteer hours are donated to the park. Estimated at $6/hour, that value is another $15,000. Thus, the 1985 cost of operating Odiorne Point State Park is $79,000 and most people do not consider that even "bare bones."

For discussion purposes, the table on the following page shows the estimated costs of operating OPSP in 1985.

TABLE 1: ODIORNE POINT STATE PARK OPERATING BUDGET, 1985

Parks and Recreation Division, DRED	
Staff	$12,000
Employee Benefits	3,000
Other Expenses	7,000
	22,000
UNH	
Staff	25,000
Employee Benefits	6,250
Other Expenses	6,000
	37,250
Audubon Society	
Staff	3,000
Employee Benefits	750
Other Expenses	1,000
	4,750
TOTAL CASH COST	$64,000
Volunteer Staff	15,000
GRAND TOTAL	$79,000

The operating budget (Table 1) does not reflect the park's capital expenditures.

Capital expenditures by DRED over the years have included the restroom facility ($50,000 in 1971), and parking lots and trails ($10,000 in 1975). It has been estimated that over the years the State has spent in excess of $20,000 sealing the military structures. The State also has spent money on repairs and renovations in the Sugden House including the roof, some windows, and part of the second floor flooring, some of which were in the current capital budget. Also, items like the addition of cyclone fences, wood guard rails and the bike trail along Route 1A do not appear to be in the DRED budget and probably were in the DPWH budget as capital items.

III. Management Plan

The purpose of this Management Plan is to provide policy and operational guidance in the future utilization of Odiorne Point State Park. The two basic areas of consideration in developing a management plan for Odiorne Point State Park were the site needs and the administrative needs. Site considerations were the following: natural features, historic features, military features, other site features, and the Visitor Center and support facility needs. Administrative needs were the following: staff, programs and interpretive needs, public relations, funding, and management agreements. In addition to these areas of consideration, there were important assumptions made with regard to the park, its mission, management, and development.

This Management Plan was developed under the assumption that Odiorne Point State Park would be operated on a year-round basis in keeping with the mission statement and goals and objectives established during the course of this study and described in Chapter I. The Management Plan makes immediate (one year) and long range (two to five years) recommendations for Odiorne Point State Park. The management plan developed for the immediate future assumes the level of staff planned for 1986. The management plan developed for the long range (two to five years) assumes a year-round Visitor Center and staff. The Management Plan assumes that once the five year management plan is implemented, the management needs will remain ongoing and relatively stable unless the park is greatly expanded. In other words, this plan assumes that at the end of five years and thereafter, Odiorne Point State Park will be managed and operated at a level in keeping with the mission statement. The park, of course, will continue to evolve. New programs may be added and different features may be interpreted. However, the park will continue to be operated at least at the level established by year 5.

Odiorne Point State Park has been the subject of numerous studies (See Appendix A) with different perspectives. No doubt the Nylen "Master Plan" and the Cottrell "Natural Science and Historical Studies" have been the most influential in terms of park planning. The differing perspectives of these two reports with an emphasis on development of a grand scale park versus protection of the existing park resources remain to a lesser extent in 1986. If the State provides adequate staff and funding to manage and operate the existing park east of Route 1A, then there appears to be support for enlarging the park to include land west of Route 1A which is contiguous to the park. However, the consultants do not believe that the re-routing of Route 1A is needed or necessarily desired from the perspective of encouraging use and understanding of the existing or expanded park, and the consultants do not believe that it is desirable to substantially relocate now or in the future the Main Park

Entrance for a number of reasons which are further discussed later in this section.

This Management Plan was designed to address the area east of Route 1A. The management needs of other areas of the park were specifically excluded in the request for proposals. However, in the overall context of the park, it is important to recognize that the State does own a small parcel of land contiguous to the park west of Route 1A closer to the North Park Entrance and it also owns the Hotin Tract which is between the south park boundary and Wallis Sands State Park and is not contiguous to Odiorne Point State Park. The State may also acquire a long term lease of White Island, which is part of the Isles of Shoals, and include that island in Odiorne Point State Park. Therefore, in the context of park planning, the entire expanded park has to be considered in terms of resource management, administrative needs, and traffic circulation issues. The management and program use of the Hotin Tract and White Island will require additional operating and capital expenditures. Basically, if the park boundaries are expanded, administrative resources also need expansion.

Another assumption that is important to consider is that the three sponsors will remain at Odiorne Point State Park. All three have compiled a track record at the park. The State has carried the capital expenditures, maintenance and support staff expenditures. The Audubon Society of New Hampshire established the initial Nature Center and has continued to contribute to the interpretive program. The Marine Program at UNH has used Sea Grant monies to establish and operate an educational program using the site and the Visitor Center. If the sponsoring agencies do not remain involved at the park, the scope of the program and Visitor Center needs may change, but the philosophy of the park would remain the same.

In developing a Management Plan for Odiorne Point State Park, the consultants have attempted to delineate the assumptions and air the positions of interested parties so that the decision makers are well informed as to the options and implications of the Management Plan. There are many interests at the park and many reflect a particular, sometimes conflicting, viewpoint. Numerous people have contributed hundreds of hours to protecting specific resources or educating others about the park. A number have developed a feeling of "ownership" of the park's resources, in part because a Management Plan had not been developed earlier and the park staff and budget has not been adequate to meet the park's needs. Hence, this document is designed not only to be a working Management Plan to be used by the three sponsors and park staff in their ongoing park management and planning, but it is also designed to document to the public and the three sponsors the need to provide an adequate staff and budget.

The first part of this chapter focuses on the management of the park east of Route 1A and follows the general format of Chapter II, Existing Conditions. That is, the discussion begins at the northern boundary of the park and continues south. The immediate (1 year) options for each

site feature are discussed first, followed by the long range (2-5 years) options for each site feature.

The three site maps contain a number of recommendations for the northern, middle, and southern segments of the park. The maps of the park have been reduced from the scale of 1"=100'. The large scale maps have been given to the Division of Parks and Recreation for use at Odiorne Point State Park.

A. NATURAL FEATURES RECOMMENDATIONS

Throughout Odiorne Point State Park, the desired end result is the protection and management of natural features. In specific areas, this may mean benign neglect, and in others, aggressive management. When the natural features have been left to develop, changes in some of those features have occurred due to natural succession. There is nothing wrong per se in natural succession. It is not realistic or desirable to expect that the entire site be managed to prevent natural succession. What is desirable is that representative segments reflecting different features be managed in order to keep a variety of species and habitats reflecting the different conditions that have occurred at the site.

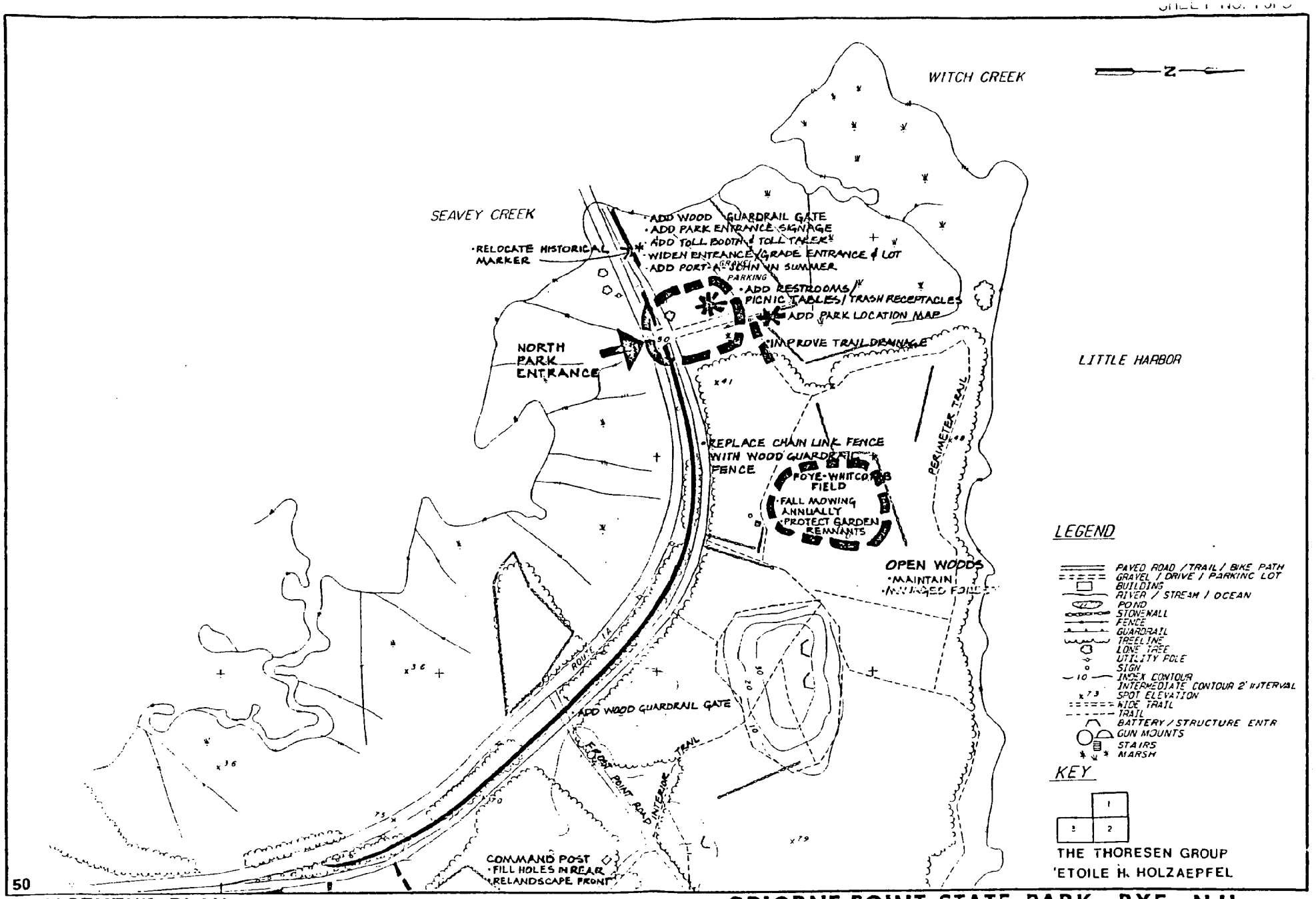
Because many of these natural features have not been subject to a management plan, the protection and management of most are considered an immediate priority. Beginning in the north, both immediate and long range options are discussed below by feature and are noted on the maps.

Immediate (Year 1)

Salt marsh. The salt marsh by the north parking lot should be protected by improving the drainage of the perimeter trail which bisects it and not adding another trail within or through it. Care should be taken in program use of this small marsh.

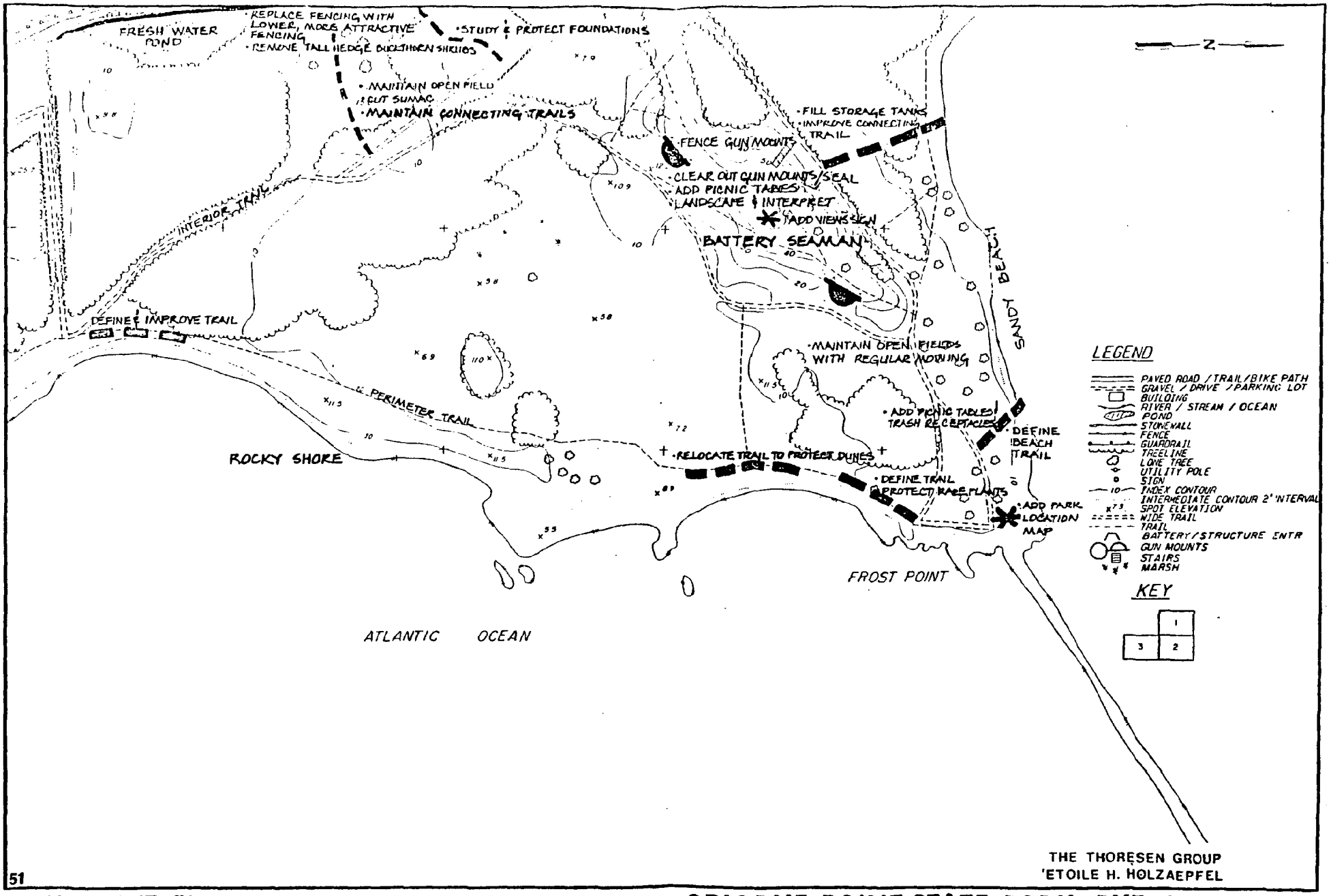
Sand and Pebble Barrier Spit. This spit should be protected by not adding any trail to it and not interpreting it in signage at the north entrance site. Supervision of other dredging in Little Harbor is needed to assure that the spit is protected and that dredge material from Witch Creek or Seavey Creek is not added to the spit. It is natural that the spit will change over the years and, if so, additional protective management may be needed.

Sandy Beach. This beach should be left as is, but one trail from the beach to Frost Point should be widened to four feet to encourage interior access along a designated trail and discourage use via bushwacked trails. There should be no trash receptacles at the beach thus encouraging visitors to carry out their trash. However, there should be trash receptacles at both the North Park Entrance and the Frost Point Road-Battery Seaman intersection which can easily be



MANAGEMENT PLAN

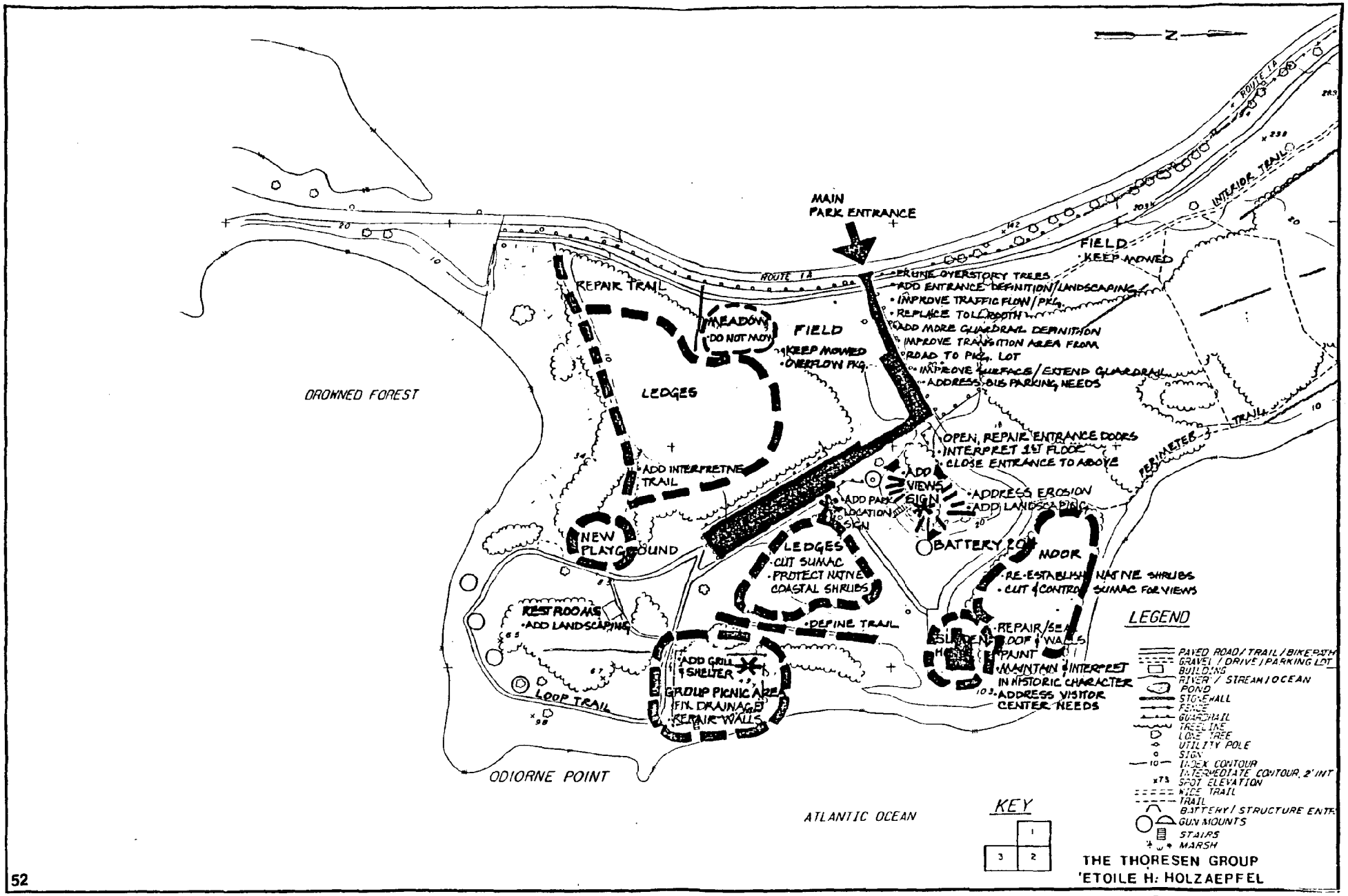
ODIORNE POINT STATE PARK, RYE, N.H.



THE THORESEN GROUP
ETOILE H. HOLZAEPFEL

MANAGEMENT PLAN

ODIORNE POINT STATE PARK, RYE, N.H.



MANAGEMENT PLAN

ODIORNE POINT STATE PARK, RYE, N.H.

serviced by park maintenance vehicles. Small boat access to the beach should continue to be allowed.

Foye/Whitcomb Field. This field contains remnants of earlier residential landscaping including flowering shrubs and herbaceous plants. The fields should be mowed seasonally to encourage wildflowers. Species worthy of protection should be designated and encroaching species should be removed. The State should invite interested parties to walk the site, suggest site specific species worthy of protection, and, if desired by the parties, participate in a management agreement to maintain the field.

Heritage Garden. A written management agreement is needed between the State and the Driftwood Garden Club if the Club is to maintain and develop the historic character of the garden. A small interpretive sign about the garden should be added in keeping with the existing small signs identifying species. If at a later date the Driftwood Garden Club no longer desires to manage the garden, the Club should provide the State with a management plan for the garden and the State should manage it. A list of the plants in the garden should be on file in the Visitor Center.

Rocky Shore. The perimeter trail fades out as it approaches the rocky shore. Trail definition is needed both near Frost Point and in the middle section of the park where the park maintenance road intersects with the rocky shore trail. At the Frost Point location there are plant species which need protection. Thus, the siting of the trail should include participation by a botanist in order to route the trail away from unique species. The placement of a location map at the Frost Point area should also help with the trail definition in this area.

Fresh Water Marsh. The fresh water marsh provides another type of habitat. The small trail through it should be kept small to discourage use and not be widened to four feet unless the use and demand is sufficient to warrant a wider trail. For the most part, this plan recommends that trails be maintained at a four foot width except in areas with a fragile environment such as this marsh.

Thicket - Middle Area. This area should be managed to maintain the wildlife habitat. The poison ivy and sumac encroaching on the trail adjacent to the thicket should be controlled.

Fields - Main Park Entrance. The fields on the north side by the park entrance should be mowed on a monthly basis to encourage wildflowers but still allow park vehicle access to the maintenance trail. The entrance to the interior trail should be mowed weekly to indicate the trail entrance. The fields on the south side should be mowed weekly to allow overflow parking as needed. When the parking entrance and lot improvements are made, the long term management of the fields should be further addressed.

Residential Landscaping Remnants, Picnic Area. The living remnants vary within the picnic area with specific features needing protection or maintenance (e.g. ornamental gardens). For example, the roses along the stone wall and near the restroom facility need attention including possible replanting. In addition, a number of pine trees have exposed roots and may need topsoil added. The placement of picnic tables should encourage a traffic pattern which minimizes erosion. Hence, the trees with potential problems need to be designated so that the tables can be placed in appropriate locations. Some ornamental species and garden areas may need pruning or additional maintenance. The park staff should walk the site with interested parties, designate the problem areas that need attention, and take action to address the problems.

Ledges - East. The ledges contain a variety of coastal native species which should be protected and, later, interpreted. The area between the parking lot and Visitor Center should be managed by delineating which species to protect and which to control. (See discussion on plants following.) Another consideration is cutting to increase the visibility of the Visitor Center from the parking lot.

Ledges - West. The ledges on the southwest end of the park contains one trail that connects the bike trail near the southern park boundary to the area near the playground. The location for the trail should remain and not be moved. The trail needs grooming to a four foot width near the park trail entrance. The trail should be slightly rerouted as it slopes down a small hill near the bike trail to encourage use and address the erosion.

Pebble Barrier and Barrier Swamp. There is a short trail from the playground to this area. Pedestrian traffic in the south boundary area should be encouraged on the thicket trail, not through this more sensitive environment.

Drowned Forest. The State (DRED) should develop a management agreement with DOT (formerly DPWH) concerning the two parking lots adjacent to the southern boundary of Odiorne Point State Park. Traffic from these lots can have an adverse impact on the drowned forest. The placement of additional large boulders is needed to prevent vehicular access to the park via the drowned forest.

Plant Communities. There are numerous types of plant communities within the park: native species, remnants of residential landscaping, World War II camouflage plantings, and park landscaping along or near entrance roads. It is a given that the park cannot control the growth of all species. Odiorne Point State Park is not a formal garden park but rather is an informal "natural" area park with a seasonal home and camouflaged military structures which give the park diversity.

In this section specific plant communities in specific areas are recommended to be managed and in some cases rescued. Their exact locations should be confirmed on-site with park personnel including the State park planner, park manager, maintenance and mowing crew chief, and

Visitor Center director. Both Clotilde Straus (native species and rare species) and Louise Tallman (landscape gardens) should be consulted in their areas of expertise. Mrs. Straus is providing a current list of plant species to be kept at the Visitor Center in 1986.

The Foye-Whitcomb field has remnants of residential landscaping with a variety of cultivated species. Here sumac and poison ivy can be cut back and poisoned where they encroach on species such as lilacs which provide an historic record of earlier residents. Otherwise, the field can be mowed once a year in October.

The open field south of Frost Point Road, between the interior trail and Route 1A, should be mowed annually in the fall. The growth of the fruit trees should be encouraged. There are ornamental shrubs in remnants of a garden which should not be mowed. The Frost Point area should be maintained as an open meadow and be mowed annually.

On the southern side of the Main Park Entrance is a grassy meadow near the bike trail with mountain mint which should be protected. Because the poplar are beginning to encroach on the meadow's edge, they should be cut back once at this time. The meadow should not be mowed. A small wood guard rail fence may need to be installed to prevent the mowing crew from accidently eliminating these species. The Main Park Entrance fields should be mowed several times a month near the road and in the fall in the area behind the everygreens.

In the picnic area, the roses should be protected by pruning and eliminating encroaching shrubs. The pink Odiorne Rosa rugosa, "pink Grootendorst," needs rescue in the group use area and could be transplanted to another area. The "Sir Thomas Lipton" white Rosa rugosa can be preserved in the group use area and also be planted near the Visitor Center. Rosa rugosa could be added to Battery 204 to assist in erosion control.

On the ledges between the Visitor Center and restroom facility, the following significant species should be protected:

Herbaceous species of particular interest

Anaphalis margaritacea	Dearly Everlasting
Antennaria neodioica	Ladies' Tobacco
Antennaria Parlinii	Ladies' Tobacco
*Lycopodium tristachyum	Ground Pine
*Lycopodium obscurum	Round Branch Ground Pine
Potentilla tridentata	Three-toothed Cinquefoil
Sericocarpus asteroides	White-topped Aster
Solidago bicolor	Silver-rod
Solidago nemoralis	Goldenrod
*Spiranthes gracilis	Slender Ladies Tresses

* Rare species, not in the sense of "rare and endangered," but being fairly rare for the area and "single-stations" for the park.

Stable, typical native shrub species

Amelanchier canadensis	Shadbush (Juneberry)
Amelanchier stolonifera	Shadbush (Juneberry)
Gaylussacia baccata	Huckleberry
Lyonia ligurtrina	Male-berry
Myrica pensylvanica	Bayberry
Pyrus melanocarpa (Aronia)	Black chokeberry
Pyrus floribunda Aronia)	Purple chokeberry
Vaccinium angustifolium	Low Sweet Blueberry
Vaccinium corymbosum	High-bush Blueberry
Viburnum recognitum	Arrow-wood

These low to moderately high shrubs have outstanding scenic value when in bloom, are bee-productive, and have outstanding bird-population value when in fruit. A maximum of two foot trails (as still visible now) can be encouraged with no maintenance needed except for the sumac (and some juniper) eradication and control discussed with the State Park Planner. Sumac should be cut and poisoned at the stem to control its growth and encourage the growth of other native species.

The basic mowing schedule is as follows:

	Fall	2x/Yr	Monthly	2x/Month
Foye-Whitcomb Field	X			
Frost Point Road (Fresh pond field)	X			
Frost Point Meadow	X			
Trails - Poison Ivy/Sumac		X		
Interior Park Maint.Trail			X	
Main Park Entrance Fields				
by road				X
behind evergreens	X			
Main Trail Entrances				X
Picnic Areas				X

Long Range (Years 2-5)

Estuary. The protection of the Little Harbor estuary is of State and local interest. The State owns waterfront property in Rye, Portsmouth, and New Castle and thus is in a position to demonstrate protective use along the estuary. Shoreland zoning can be adopted by local governments to protect the estuary from unsuitable nearby development.

Public concern about waterfront access including both boating access and beach access should only increase as development pressures continue to increase on waterfront property such as marinas. The State (Parks, Marine Services, Fish and Game, Transportation, and the Office of State Planning) and local governments (Portsmouth, Rye and New Castle) need to

develop a shorefront management plan for the Little Harbor estuary to allow needed public access in appropriate locations and protect unique natural resources. The City of Portsmouth at Pierce Island provides the only sizeable public boat launch area in the Little Harbor estuary and there are tidal difficulties in using that site. This plan suggests that the State consider the purchase of appropriate property or easements to guarantee boating access to the Little Harbor area. There is some contention that the Frost Point area would be a better boat launch location than Seavey Creek. However, this Management Plan does not recommend that the Frost Point Road area of Odiorne Point State Park become a marina or be used for boat launching because it will negatively alter the character of the entire northern end of the park. The Seavey Creek boat launch is at the North Park Entrance and has less impact on the park than the Frost Point alternative.

Open Woods. The open woods area of the park can only be managed on foot. There is no vehicular maintenance trail in this area and none is recommended. It can be managed by occasional cutting to remove dead, diseased, or problem trees and allow continued forest growth. The State should establish a management agreement with the Urban Forestry Center to manage the small woods with the objective being to retain the health and characteristics of this climax forest.

Fresh Water Pond. As with a number of natural features, there are conflicting desires in terms of management of the resource. This manmade pond is now obscured from view by the fence along the bike trail, the lack of interior trails and the steep bank of the pond. It is therefore conducive to being a habitat for nesting birds. Since the pond presently is not managed, its habitat may change. This plan recommends that a lower fence be placed along the bike trail. Also, the tall hedge buckthorn shrubs (Rhamnus frangula) planted by DOT along the pond edge next to the bike trail should be removed. Not only do these hedges obscure views of the pond, but since they are not a native species of shrub they will be an undesirable addition to the seed pool of the park's plant species.

Moor. Much of this area has been permanently altered in character due to encroachment by sumac and other weedy species which have eliminated the pre-existing coastal native shrubs. In a State park with a variety of natural features, it is impossible to control natural succession in all areas. A small area of the moor near the Sugden House should be cut and cleared of sumac to allow an improved northern view and the re-establishment of native species. This sumac control program then has to be done annually. The State should work with a botanist to identify any native species at the specific control site so that the sumac management is site specific.

Fields - Main Park Entrance. When the Main Park Entrance road and parking lot are addressed, appropriate landscaping should be added to the fields near the road to increase the entrance definition. Long range plant recommendations follow under "Plants."

Ledges - West. If the existing parking lot is expanded toward Route 1A, it would have an adverse impact on the thicket adjacent to the existing parking lot (see parking alternative discussion, Section D). The existing trail through the ledges and thicket should be expanded to contain an interpretive loop. This provides another interpretive experience for those unable to hike the entire park.

Drowned Forest. The drowned forests at Odiorne Point and Jenness Beach may be eligible for National Natural Landmark status. This should be pursued by the State since it controls both Odiorne Point and Jenness Beach. A former staff member of the Office of State Planning initiated this preliminary documentation. While there may be other features worthy of the status, including the rocky shore at Odiorne Point State Park, the drowned forest appears to be unique. Interpretive and protective signage about the drowned forest should be added in the park overlooking the forest and possibly in the two parking lots overlooking the forest.

Plant Communities. The mowing schedule established in the immediate plan remains in the long range, but should be reviewed and revised annually. The primary long range plant needs concern landscaping the Main Park Entrance drive to the main parking lot, the new or expanded Visitor Center, and the restroom facility.

The entrance drive landscaping should serve to help define the visitor parking. The plantings should allow the ocean view to remain. Since the site has had native and ornamental species, the State has some flexibility in choosing plant species which thrive at the site. The following are suggested for consideration to define the entrance drive: 1) the native, graceful shrub Shadbush (also known as Shadblow); 2) a collection of lilacs; and 3) flowering cherries and plums.

The restroom facility visually is the dominant building from the parking lot. This is due not only to location but also to the lack of plantings to blend the building into the landscape. The Rosa rugosa roses, lilacs, yews, or bayberry could be planted here. The site has a northern exposure which would indicate that hardy plants or shrubs are needed.

The Visitor Center landscaping should complement the Visitor Center. It may be desirable to remove the existing pavement in front of the Sugden House and replace it with a walkway and appropriate landscaping. Should this be done, a suitable hard surface for group activities should be provided. A few shadbush in a random pattern could be added. The native species collection (wildflowers) by the entrance should be labelled and added to annually. The path from the parking lot to the Visitor Center should be landscaped. Gardens with different species could be placed along the path. Formal gardens, however, are not recommended. In general, this plan recommends that any new landscaping be selected from existing park plant species or low flowering shrubs which withstand coastal weather. It is recommended that the Visitor

Center landscaping be done at the same time as the Visitor Center improvements. Once the Visitor Center alternative is selected, the walkway landscaping could be addressed.

B. HISTORIC FEATURES RECOMMENDATIONS

The desired end result is the protection and interpretation of historic features of the park. Many of these features from the period of European settlement to World War II no longer remain and hence only the remnants can be protected or interpreted and the period can be interpreted in the Visitor Center and in brochures. This plan does not suggest that every stone wall needs to be interpreted, but rather that these remnants be left as a resource for exploration and further research as funds become available. There are areas where specific recommendations are made.

Immediate (Year 1)

Stone Walls/Foundations/Entrance Gates. These remnants of earlier settlements should be left as is and only be repaired if safety measures so dictate. One exception is the stone walls in the group use area. The walls have deteriorated or been vandalized in a number of places in this high use picnic area. People walk on the walls, and the shorefront walk in front of the walls is broken up. It is important that the walls be repaired and maintained in keeping with the style and structure of the present wall. Prior to repairing the walls, fill should be added to the area and the drainage problem corrected. The wall on the northern side of the group use area may become more like a retaining wall as a result of the filling.

Sugden House. This section describes the building needs. Visitor Center needs are addressed serparately in Section E. Repairs and renovations should be in keeping with the historic character of the house. The State has already installed in 1986 some new windows and repaired floorboards in the upstairs of the Sugden House. Another immediate need to address is the sealing of the rock walls and the roof near the chimney to prevent water leaks from occurring. Exterior lighting and security improvements need to be considered. A suitable heating system is needed even for seasonal use.

Long Range (Years 2-5)

Frost Point/Odiorne Point Archeology. There has been little archeological research at Odiorne Point State Park. The State should allocate monies to new, more cost effective technology for identifying prehistory areas and the early European settlement areas so that site specific research can occur. There are a number of foundations and

cellar holes which can be further researched. Money for archeological field research should be included during analyses of sites for possible parking, Visitor Center, or major trail construction.

Fountain. The dolphin fish fountain is located slightly off the main park maintenance trail which probably is an advantage because it has not been a target of vandalism. This plan recommends that the fountain be interpreted in a brochure but not with a site sign.

Sugden House. The Sugden House should be preserved as a separate house or incorporated into an expanded Visitor Center. The Sugden House does not meet all the needs of a Visitor Center. The plan recommends a year-round Visitor Center. If the Sugden House, with an addition, were to remain the Visitor Center, it would have to be winterized and the summer seasonal character of the structure would be altered. It may be possible to re-use the space in the Sugden House in a different manner. However, it should be recognized that the space does limit the programs. The Sugden House could remain as a program facility which remains seasonal in character and operation if there is a separate year-round Visitor Center. The Management Plan recommends that the interpretation of the settlement and cultural history include the Sugden House since it is the only remaining example of a seasonal summer home in the park.

C. MILITARY FEATURES RECOMMENDATIONS

Most of the recommendations for the military features are long range because the consultants believe that additional staff is needed at the park prior to using the military features in any way different than used presently. The State has spent a considerable amount of money in sealing all the large structures and they continue to have to spend money repairing the holes caused by vandals trying to seek access. Nevertheless, the cost of opening the structures and maintaining adequate staff in each open structure for security and interpretive purposes is not deemed realistic or feasible in the time frame of this plan. There are, however, specific recommendations for the immediate and 2-5 year time frame.

Immediate (Year 1)

Battery Seaman. There are three immediate concerns which need to be addressed at Battery Seaman: safety fencing over the gun mounts, graffiti/vandalism, and daily safety/litter patrol. Protective fencing is already on order to be installed over the two gun mounts at Battery Seaman. The concern is to provide, at the least, a small rail which would allow someone to stop a fall should the person slip down the camouflaged hill over the gun mount.

The management of graffiti and vandalism has been, and no doubt will remain, an ongoing problem until the park personnel presence is much

higher. Beginning in 1985, graffiti is greywashed annually. Vandalism into the battery has to be evaluated on a case-by-case basis. Due to the long range recommendations, expenditures to address vandalism should be evaluated in terms of cost and effectiveness because another approach is suggested in the next phase.

A daily, and at times, hourly safety/litter patrol is needed in the park, particularly in the middle and northern areas which are subject to less visible supervision. Battery Seaman is a favorite target for vandalism. The staff can use park vehicles for the patrol on a regular basis but a presence on foot allows the staff to add an interpretive presence to the site. A horse patrol could be considered. The staff should have walkie-talkies or a communications link to the Visitor Center and Rye police. Patrols of two persons are preferable for safety reasons. Trash recepticles should be added near the Frost Point Road and Battery Seaman location, the two gun mounts, and the control tower. Trash should be picked up regularly during the high use season including trash from the control tower area.

Command Post. The Command Post has become something of an "(un)attractive nuisance." The removal of the sumac resulted in a visible unattractive building off of the interior park trail which is attractive to some undesirable elements. Therefore, the use of the building should be carefully monitored and documented. The relatively shallow vent hole behind the building needs to be filled. The building needs greywashing annually. The front of the building could be landscaped with native species.

Battery 204. Already in 1986, the floor door in the observation tower has been opened by vandals and resealed by the State. The hole opened into the tower remains to be repaired. It has been vandalized in the same location previously. In addition to fixing the tower again, this plan recommends that the erosion problems be addressed in the immediate future. There are quite a few areas over the battery which have erosion problems. Of particular concern are those facing the parking lot near the west entrance and also the stairs. This erosion gives an immediate first impression about the park which is not positive. New loam, reseeding and possible fencing or plantings are needed. The trail down the north side may need a turn added to discourage the visitor from running straight down it and across the road without stopping. Landscaping and signage need to be added to encourage the use of stairs.

Long Range (Years 2-5)

The re-use of the military structures was discussed in some detail in the report "Fort Dearborn at Odiorne Point State Park." Given that background, the availability of additional material on the construction of the batteries, and the management needs at the park, the following long range recommendations are made.

Plotting Room. The Plotting Room is sealed by large boulders which do allow access to determined people. This Management Plan views the

access problem as less severe than at the two batteries and, therefore, a lower priority. If the problem of access continues, the Plotting Room should be resealed with earth covered by 4-6" of reinforced concrete. Due to its location and size, this military structure is not suitable for park use in terms of a maintenance facility, Visitor Center or interior military interpretation area. The Plotting Room should be identified, interpreted via brochures, and interpreted via signage and exhibits at the Visitor Center and possibly at Battery Seaman as discussed below.

Reservoir and Pumping Room. This World War II structure should remain sealed and be interpreted in a brochure. If there are vandalism problems in the future with the entrance or lid, they should be addressed in a more permanent manner. The State should consider placing a flat metal interpretive marker in the ground, perhaps replacing the existing lid, which would identify and interpret the room. The marker would only be visible to people who took the trail over the room. If people knew what the mound was, perhaps it would be less likely to be vandalized. If this marker is successful and not vandalized, then a similar marker could be placed on top of the Plotting Room.

Battery Seaman. Battery Seaman, the largest battery at the park, has the most useable interior space in terms of re-use as a Visitor Center or maintenance facility. Located on Frost Point Road in the northern section of the park, it contains about 19,000 square feet including a 500 foot corridor with 7,900 square feet. While the opening of Battery Seaman and use as either of these alternatives are feasible, the management and site implications are discussed in Section E.

This Management Plan recommends that Battery Seaman, for the most part, remain sealed. It does recommend, however, that some improvements be made within the 2-5 year planning period which could be made in years 2 and 3. While the entrances to the battery off of Frost Point Road are relatively well camouflaged, the two gun mount entrances facing the ocean are not. This plan recommends that the Frost Point Road side be left as is, but that the two gun mounts be: 1) cleared of the dirt and debris; 2) the corridor be resealed with a steel door or similar method; 3) the steel girders be either refixed in position or removed; 4) the Battery and adjacent natural areas be interpreted with appropriate wall signage; and that 5) both areas be landscaped, several picnic tables be placed under the gun mount and trash containers added. There should be daily trash pickup in the summer. Battery Seaman should also be interpreted in brochures and within the Visitor Center. On the top of Battery Seaman, there should be a sign identifying views from the battery, e.g. Forts Stark, Foster and Constitution, the Isles of Shoals, Piscataqua River, Little Harbor, etc. This sign could be metal and mounted flush with the ground like a sun dial.

Command Post. The small command post should be interpreted by an identification sign and in the brochure. While military historians prefer keeping buildings on site so that the military history can be correctly interpreted, others have concerns about park visitor safety

and structures which attract undesirable elements. If necessary, consistent with the documentation discussed in the immediate needs, the building could be sealed or demolition could be considered.

Battery 204. Battery 204 contains about 3,671 square feet on one floor. There is an observation tower with interior access via two steep sets of stairs with a connecting walkway. There are 19 rooms, the largest of which has 759 square feet. Battery 204 is sealed at all of its entrances including the tower. The consultants have not been inside this battery but have visited similar batteries. The possible use of Battery 204 as either a Visitor Center or maintenance facility is discussed in Section E.

This plan recommends that, when there is adequate staff, Battery 204 be reopened and that steel doors be repaired, if they exist, or added which are similar to those at Fort Foster to allow the walk-through interpretation of this battery on a scheduled basis, for example, once or twice a week. This plan recommends that the lower floor entrance to the observation tower also be sealed because the stairs are not safe for public use. The battery should be interpreted by signage and in brochures. This plan recommends that an area view sign be added to the top of Battery 204 similar in design to the one recommended for the top of Battery Seaman but pointing out different views. Additional appropriate landscaping should be incorporated on and around the battery as needed.

Gun Mounts. In the long range, there is one gun mount closest to the drowned forest which may need to have an erosion problem addressed. However, the need does not appear imminent. The gun mounts could also be interpreted in signage with a ground mounted sign on one of the gun mounts. The visitor could be asked to notice the location of the four gun mounts, one of which is not very visible. The gun mounts can also be interpreted in a brochure.

D. OTHER SITE ELEMENTS RECOMMENDATIONS

In this area of the management plan, a number of site conditions are described which are significant but are not natural, historic or military features of Odiorne Point State Park. The discussion includes both site specific features such as park entrances and generalized conditions such as fencing. One of the main problems with the park is its lack of unity and identity as a park. Hence the management plan focuses on addressing this problem. Basically, the immediate recommendations can be undertaken within the next year, and those requiring larger expenditures or staff are assigned to later years. The description begins with the northern area of the park.

Immediate (Year 1)

North Park Entrance. The North Park Entrance needs identification that it is part of Odiorne Point State Park. Entrance signs need to be added indicating that this is the North Park Entrance and that the Main Park Entrance and Visitor Center are 3/4 miles ahead (or 3600 feet.) The entrance gate needs to be replaced with a gate similar to the Main Park Entrance gate. The entrance road needs to be widened and graded. A small toll booth at the entrance to the parking lot needs to be added as well as staff to take tolls. The toll booth should have a communications link with the Main Park Entrance and the Rye Police. A park location map should be placed at the North Park Entrance at a scale no smaller than 1" = 100'.

The 80' x 300' parking lot appears to be adequate for 60 cars or 30 cars with small boat trailers. If the parking lot is used near capacity, its size may allow a reconfiguration of parking spaces which would allow greater capacity. For example, if only cars use the lot, parking can be allowed down the middle in a row. If the lot is expanded, it should only be expanded in the direction of Route 1A to avoid encroachment on the salt marshes. The lot should remain a gravel lot. The boat launch area may need to have a few large boulders moved closer to the salt marsh. A port-a-john should be added for the summer season since the restrooms at the park are very distant. The drainage problem of the perimeter trail leading from the parking lot should be addressed as was mentioned earlier.

Frost Point. The trails in the Frost Point area need definition. Entrance fencing can be added to the beach and to the perimeter trail by the beach and by the rocky shore. Due to the location of rare species of plants on the ledges, the actual location of the entrance along the rocky shore should be coordinated with a botanist. A park location map similar to the maps to be placed at the North Park Entrance and Main Park Entrance should be placed at Frost Point near the interior park trail intersection. There should be a management agreement with the Army Corps of Engineers regarding the maintenance of the jetty.

Main Park Entrance. The general location should remain for the Main Park Entrance. Recommended improvements to this entrance are in the 2-5 year plan. Brochures, information on special events at the Visitor Center, and parking directions should be distributed at the toll booth.

Main Parking Lot. The main parking lot is about 60' x 340'. It is not adequate to hold school busses which are 37-39' long. The marine education program during the school year attracts up to 30 school busses at a time which creates a parking problem particularly for the peak period of May and early June. Busses need at least a depth of 80' in order to park and turn easily. In the immediate plan, the State will have to continue to allow busses to park on the grass field by the Main Park Entrance when the current lot is full. If there is staff on duty, extra busses can be directed to park at the North Park Entrance.

The main parking lot is gravel (except for a total of four paved handicapped parking spaces in two locations). It therefore cannot be lined to space cars or busses. A gravel lot needs regrading on an annual basis if it is subject to considerable use and abuse (e.g. wheelies) which occur when there is little supervision. Other recommendations are in the long range section.

A park location map should be added by the parking lot near the paved entrance trail to the Visitor Center. Additional signage for the Visitor Center and restroom facility may be needed near the southern border of the lot.

Parking Capacity. This plan does not determine a land carrying capacity, but it recommends that one be established. A land carrying capacity would determine the desired numbers of visitors the park could hold at one time which would not adversely affect the park's natural and historic resources.

This plan does look at the relationship between parking, program and number of visitors. In the spring, up to 30 busses a day holding up to 70 elementary age children (2100 children) plus additional people from cars visit the park at once. A maximum of ten school groups can use the present Visitor Center a day. Neither the main parking lot nor the Visitor Center can handle the current demand. However, a bus parking capacity cannot be implemented until there is an adequate level of staff to enforce the parking plan.

When there is a year-round Visitor Center and staff, the program and use can be spread out through the year. A bus parking capacity is suggested based on the Visitor Center capacity in the long range. In the short term, if there is Main Park Entrance staff in the spring, excess busses can be directed to the north parking lot or be allowed on the lawn.

Picnic Area - Group. The group picnic area within the stone walls provides a unified area which is near the restrooms. The site needs improvement to correct the drainage problems in the northeast section. Fill is needed and the area needs grading. The stone walls should be repaired in a number of places since this is a heavily used area and the walls are breaking apart in a number of spots.

Although the picnic area is adjacent to the ocean, the ocean cannot be seen when one is seated at a picnic table. The pipe containers for coals and trash receptacles should remain. The outdated signs should be replaced with signs in the same style as the main park signs. The tables should not be anchored to allow the flexible placement for groups.

Picnic Areas - Other. This plan recommends keeping the picnic tables spread through the area with clusters near the restroom facility and playground area since these areas are also widely used by groups. The tables should be placed near the anchored trash containers and coal storage pipes. However, they should not be anchored or placed on

permanent pads, because visitors appear to like the flexibility of arranging their tables to fit their needs and the park staff can change the table placement. The existing handicapped picnic tables serve that purpose. The rest should be placed away from any fragile areas (like exposed pine roots) but in manners to capture views.

Fencing. Fencing serves a number of purposes in a park including park definition and safety. The immediate fencing need is for safety purposes, namely the placement of low protective fencing over the two gun mounts at Battery Seaman. The second need is to have the three park entrance gates be of the same material as the Main Park Entrance gate to increase the identity, improve the condition and appearance, and decrease vandalism.

Signage. Like fencing, signs help unify and give definition to a park. When signs are of diverse materials, sizes and shapes as they are at Odiorne Point State Park, they reflect a lack of park definition and multiple agency coordination. There are signs at the park placed by the Division of Parks, the Highway Department, Fish and Game Department, and possibly the Audubon Society of New Hampshire.

The Parks Division has ordered and placed a number of new signs in recent years, including military and historic identification signs. The most widely read sign is the interpretive sign by Battery 204.

Throughout the park (and State park system), signs should be of the same material and style. This is both an immediate and long range need. Management agreements with the various agencies should include signs - their content, material, and placement.

The immediate priority is to add a North Park Entrance sign and support signs, as was discussed earlier. The Visitor Center signs should contain the same name. The planned large new sign should be placed close to the parking lot replacing but slightly higher than the existing small sign, so that it is visible upon entering the lot and yet does not obscure the view. The small sign could be reworded and placed at the entrance to the trail connecting the loop trail and restrooms to the Visitor Center.

A new park location map sign should be made similar to the types in ski areas using the map produced as a part of this plan as the base. Three signs should be built and placed at the two entrances and at Frost Point. The signs should be consistent and made of durable material.

Trails. The main park interior trail should remain at road width. Most of the other designated trails should be 4' wide at a minimum. There are some small trails which can remain as is, such as the narrow trail through the fresh water marsh and the connecting trails to the bike trail. The paved bike trail and paved loop should continue to be maintained to encourage bike and handicapped use of the park.

The perimeter trail by the North Park Entrance needs to have the salt marsh drainage problem addressed. A culvert could be added. One short

trail close to Frost Point from the sandy beach to Frost Point needs to be defined. The perimeter trail needs to be defined by Frost Point to protect the rare plants on the ledges and show the trail entrances, near the sand dunes to protect the dunes, and along the rocky shore, by the intersection with the park interior trail to address the rocky uneven paths. Erosion needs to be addressed on parts of the trails of both batteries by either redirecting the trails, or adding loam and landscaping with appropriate shrubs like blueberries or rugosa roses. The southernmost trail from the playground to the bike trail needs widening. Along trails, poison ivy and sumac should be cut back. Cross country skiing can be encouraged in the winter on the trails.

Long Range (Years 2-5)

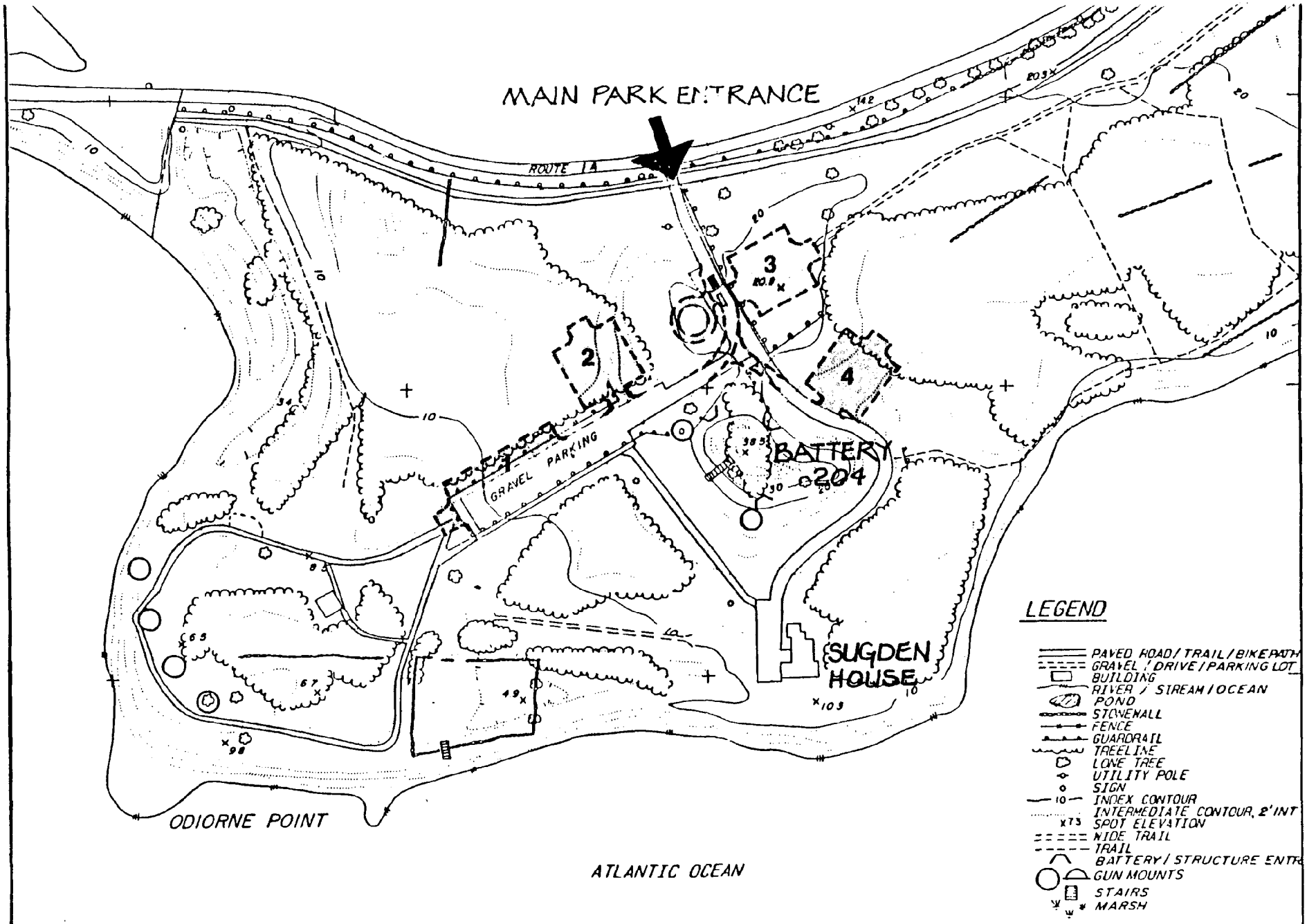
North Park Entrance. After the Visitor Center is completed and the park is operating on a year-round basis, the North Park Entrance should be evaluated in terms of year-round toll taking. If the tolltaking is seasonal, a toll booth similar to the one currently used at the Main Park Entrance is adequate. If the tolltaking is year-round, then a small permanent structure with heat and a public restroom are needed. A bike rack similar to those in Market Square in Portsmouth should be added to allow bikers to lock their bikes.

Frost Point. This is an area of potential archeological interest in early native American history. Archeological field work should occur prior to the disturbance of any significant records of land use.

Main Park Entrance. The Main Park Entrance is in need of improvement. The general location is appropriate, but the road alignment needs to be slightly changed, the toll booth needs to be upgraded to improve the first impression of the park, a turnaround for buses and cars needs to be added to permit the safe exit of vehicles which don't want to pay or when the parking lot is full, the pavement needs to be replaced, and additional wood guard rails and landscaping are needed to give the entrance definition, a positive sense of arrival and purpose.

The present entrance is a direct outgrowth of the World War II military road alignment with the paved road around Battery 204 to the Sugden House. Although the Sugden Road appears to be the main road, it is now merely a staff access road. The current entrance drive encourages parking on the lawn by Battery 204 and on the entrance drive itself. The location of the toll booth in terms of distance from Route 1A is well placed.

The diagram on the following page illustrates the present alignment and the proposed entrance realignment as well as four bus parking alternatives which are discussed in the following section. With the new alignment, the emphasis is placed on the visitor. The realignment coupled with the parking improvements should decrease the current parking problems. Landscaping to emphasize the visitor's road and parking should be added.



PARKING AND ENTRANCE DRIVE ALTERNATIVES

ODIORNE POINT STATE PARK, RYE, N.H.

Main Parking Lot. With a year-round park, and indeed, even with a seasonal park that caters to school children, adequate room for a limited amount of safe bus parking should be provided. The logical location for this bus parking is near the Visitor Center and highest area of use. This management plan suggests that the final location of bus parking as well as the Visitor Center be incorporated into the architect's physical master plan and that a public meeting be held to ascertain public preferences before the final choices are made.

This plan suggests that the bus parking capacity in the long range be linked to the new Visitor Center capacity and be established at 20 busses. The parking capacity is discussed in the section following. This plan suggests that there are four bus parking options to consider: the deepening of the lot toward Route 1A on the southern end to accommodate 20 busses (240' of length would be deepened) with the remainder of the lot remaining as is; or the addition of a separate bus parking lot to accommodate 20 busses (three possible locations). These options are illustrated on the preceding map.

Option 1 has combined bus and car parking. It probably is a less expensive alternative. It requires moving the wood guard rail and expanding into the ledge area of the park. The walk around the parking lot could be expanded to the west side if crossing the lot is a safety issue. This option would have an adverse impact on the pitch pines, native shrubs and ledges bordering the parking lot.

Option 2 is a separate bus parking lot off of the main parking lot tucked within the wooded area in the ledges and thus is camouflaged from Route 1A and the main parking lot. This location may be slightly more expensive to build but would not require extensive landscaping costs. However, it would have an adverse impact on the pitch pines, huckleberry, native shrubs, and forested area closest to the entrance. The open grass gives a feeling of spaciousness which would be lost if the lot was expanded. The Committee views this as the least desirable alternative.

Option 3 is north of the entrance drive. It separates the busses from not only the cars but also the picnic area, restrooms and visitor center. Therefore, the bus visitors would need a location map and trail from the lot to the three immediate areas of need or interest. The site is extremely visible from Route 1A and thus would require extensive landscaping. The first thing a visitor sees at Odiorne Point State Park should not be parking, let alone bus parking. The soil has been disturbed in this area so there are no plant species to save. Landscaping from Route 1A could be a berm of flowering shrubs near the road, pines, hemlock, a few crabapples, or other varied species selected from among those already existing in the park.

Option 4 is a separate bus parking lot off of Sugden Road between the two main park trail heads. It would require cutting into the poplar and aspen stand. The lot could be planted with appropriate trees or shrubs. The picnic area and restrooms are not visible from this location, but it

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would be near all of the Visitor Center alternatives discussed in Section E except Alternative 4.

While the location of parking is related to the Visitor Center location, it is important that this issue be addressed as soon as possible because adequate, safe bus parking is needed now. The State can hire an architect to do the Visitor Center and related site analysis and design including parking and then put out to bid the parking improvements. There are two Visitor Center locations in the main entrance area which could conflict with the parking alternatives and those alternatives appear to be the least desirable.

This plan also recommends that the main parking lot be paved and lined because it is easier to maintain. The lot should be slightly expanded on the west side near the entrance to reflect the de facto parking. Adding wood guard rails and landscaping the entrance to the parking lot will eliminate many of the problems.

Parking Capacity. There is no need to establish a parking capacity based on cars alone. Cars are not the problem. They hold an average of three people. The success of the marine program has created a need to address bus parking. As more teachers have been trained, more classrooms use the park without using the Visitor Center thus increasing the need for adequate, safe bus parking.

This Management Plan suggests that the bus parking be linked to the use of the new Visitor Center and be limited to 20 busses with a reservation system established as the park moves into a year-round operation. Each of the twenty busses then has the opportunity to use the Visitor Center. It is assumed only four groups will be in the active interpretation/ education area and the remainder will be for the audio presentation and passive interpretation area. Staff are needed to implement the reservation system and to direct the parking. A sample reservation system sheet is in Appendix B. Excess busses could go to the North Park Entrance. If there are no busses, cars can park in the bus space.

If the land carrying capacity indicates the park has too many visitors, then the busses and education program should be limited to the desired number. This Management Plan suggests a decrease in bus parking capacity from its current level because a year-round park can spread out the interpretive/ educational programs over a longer time period which will have less of an adverse impact on the park's natural resources than a concentrated seasonal approach.

The year-round park should have a parking capacity based on the parking for 20 busses and up to 75 cars in the main parking lot(s) plus 60 cars in the north parking lot. On the following page is a chart which shows the linkage of park visitors with parking capacity. In Option 1 with busses, the main parking lot car capacity is 49 and in Options 2, 3 and 4 is 75. In Option 1 without busses, the car capacity is 75 and in Options 2, 3 and 4 is 95. Another 60 cars can park in the north parking lot. Based on these figures, park capacity is calculated as follows:

PARK CAPACITY BASED ON PARKING

	Main Park Entrance			North Park Entrance	Total	
	Busses	Cars	Cars Only	Cars Only	Cars Only	Busses & Cars
Option 1						
Vehicles	20	49	75	60	135	129
People	1400	147	225	180	405	1727
Options 2, 3, and 4						
Vehicles	20	75	95	60	155	155
People	1400	225	285	180	465	1805

If cars only parked in the area designated for busses, the visitor capacity would be about one quarter of the capacity that can occur when busses use the park. In option one, there would be fewer total vehicles when the busses use the parking lot, but there could be over four times as many people. In options 2, 3, and 4, there would be the same number of vehicles since it assumed that the lined bus parking lot could only handle the same number of cars. Again the visitor capacity about quadruples when bus parking occurs in place of car parking. It should also be noted that if excess busses park in the north parking lot, then the bus capacity figures could easily double and the car figures would decrease. Hence the determination of the land carrying capacity could dramatically affect the number of busses allowed at one time at Odiorne Point State Park since it is the busses, not the cars, that allow a large number of park visitors.

Picnic Area - Group Use. Adult or mixed age groups are two of the types of visitors attracted to the park. For planning reasons, such groups presently reserve the group use area and the meeting area in the Visitor Center and would probably reserve a shelter if one were available for group use. A reservation basis requires staff time, but it assists the park management in planning and supervision.

In the long term, a shelter should be considered in the group use area either on the northwest side or outside of the designated area. The northwest location has the least impact visually on the current group use area. The shelter should be open such as the shelters at Stratham Hill Park or Fort Foster and contain a grill suitable for group use. While some people suggest that a park such as Odiorne does not need to provide an amenity such as a shelter, others suggest that user groups which come because of the location and group use area, also should have their needs addressed. A shelter serves both as sun and rain protection. Some people can enjoy the park and group experience but cannot sit in the sun. This plan suggests that only a group use shelter is desirable, not individual shelters such as at Four Tree Island.

School groups generally have children bring their own lunches, do not need the grill, and can use the busses for shelter in inclement weather.

Picnic Areas - Other. The picnic area in the southern section should meet the visitor's needs. In the northern area, a few picnic tables can be added near the North Park Entrance, Frost Point and Battery Seaman under the gun mounts and possibly on top with trash receptacles nearby. The placement of picnic tables should be near the interior park trail to increase supervision and litter maintenance and decrease vandalism opportunities.

Playground. This plan recommends the construction of a new playground slightly to the north of the existing playground. It should be set back further from the loop trail. The entrance to the playground could be in cement with animal prints cast in the cement trail. The playground should be primarily made of wood. The playground should compliment not dominate the site. This plan suggests that an appropriate simple, low, wood theme play structure be built perhaps symbolizing the earlier use in the park such as a fishing boat, fish flake racks, and/or a stylized wood frame salt box house. Short wood posts can be placed to delineate a sand box in the shape of a whale. Another alternative is purchasing appropriate play structures. The present playground should then be dismantled and reseeded with loam.

Fencing. Fencing should be used to define and unify the park. The cyclone fencing along Route 1A gives the appearance of a military institution, not a park. The approximately 2,000 linear feet of cyclone fencing should be replaced with a low wood guard rail fence which matches the fence near the Main Park Entrance. While this may appear to be a frivolous item, it is not. The park is defined by its fencing and entrance(s). The mixture of fencing at Odiorne reflects a lack of park definition and ownership. It gives a negative impression of the park.

A much smaller project is to replace the high cyclone fencing by the fresh water pond with a lower, more attractive fence which does not obscure the view from the bike trail.

Fencing of the wood guard rail variety can also be used to define the entrance to trails. It has been used at the entrance to the park perimeter trail north of Battery 204. It has been used to define but partially block the two entrances to the southernmost trail. The wood guard rail on the northern side of the Main Park Entrance road has a cutback in one location to encourage pedestrian access, but there is no indication then where the interior park trail begins. Trail entrance fencing should be used at points where the trail is unclear, e.g. between the Visitor Center and restrooms, at the entrance to the interior trail, at the intersection of the park perimeter and interior trails, at the Frost Point intersection, and perhaps at the desired sandy beach access point.

Signage. Signs serve a number of purposes: welcome, orientation, regulations, identification and education. Their uniformity of design

and materials helps interpret the park. Limited examples of all types of signs are now at the park, but the placement of some is counter productive and the design, materials and wording are diverse. On the other hand, others are well placed. Additional signage is needed.

Concern has been expressed that vandals damage signs, such as markers for interpretive trails. While it is possible to write a self guided interpretive trail brochure without markers, signage can and should be part of the park's interpretive experience. Therefore, a number of specific signs and/or locations are suggested in this plan.

The Odiorne Point historical marker should be moved from its obscure location near Seavey Creek behind the fence to a site near the middle of the park. It should be placed so that cars can pull over and read it. An alternative location is the south boundary parking lot. While Odiorne Point appears to be a generic name for the entire area, the current placement is misleading. It is believed by historians that the first European settlers' "great house" was on the Ralph Brown property or within the park opposite his property.

Also at the southern boundary and, more importantly, within the park, there should be an interpretive sign for the drowned forest. If the National Natural Landmark becomes a reality, an appropriate sign would have to be added.

Area view signs (see earlier discussion) should be placed on top of Battery Seaman and Battery 204, the two best viewing locations in the park. In the ground signs are suggested because they do not obscure the view and are more difficult to vandalize. The two signs will not be identical because the views are not. Therefore, each sign has to be custom designed and placed.

An information kiosk would be a welcome addition at the main park entrance, and possibly the North Park Entrance as well. The kiosk should be designed by a professional in keeping with the Visitor Center and site plan and could contain information such as: the park location map, tide tables, park activities announcements (field trips, meetings, space reservations), and an invitation panel ("come on") regarding the Visitor Center. This is particularly important if the Visitor Center remains distant from the parking lot.

Signage within the two batteries should explain the military significance of the buildings and support buildings. The signs at Battery Seaman should be placed high on the gun mount walls.

In general, the natural resources can be best interpreted by brochures. The fresh water marsh could be interpreted by a sign under one gun mount at Battery Seaman or along the rocky shore near the marsh and connecting trail. Because this area is open and may be less likely to be vandalized, it might be a suitable location to field test this type of interpretation. For the most part, signs placed in obscure locations tend to get vandalized and hence they are not recommended.

Trails. This plan suggests the addition of only a few trails. In general, the trail system is adequate, but always needs ongoing maintenance. In the northern section, the connecting trail from the park interior trail on Frost Point Road and the park perimeter trail near the fireplace by the sandy beach needs maintenance. Also the beach trail or access point near Frost Point needs definition to encourage park access in one locaton.

The middle section of the park also may need slight trail improvement in the area between the park interior trail and the bike trail. The small trail by the foundations is not likely to be a high use trail, but it could provide another interpretive experience at the site and also provide the opportunity to view the fresh water pond as does the small trail through the open field. This plan does not recommend cutting a new or wider trail to view other areas of the pond.

In the south, the plan recommends the addition of an interpretive loop to the southern trail. The thicket and ledge areas contain a variety of species suitable for interpretation. The current trail for most visitors goes nowhere. A loop trail could have appropriate small interpretive signage similar to that in the Heritage Garden.

E. VISITOR CENTER AND SUPPORT FACILITIES

The desired end result is a Visitor Center and park facilities which encourage an appreciation of the park's resources in keeping with the mission statement of the park. At the present time there are two park facilities in operation: the Russell B. Tobey Visitor Center located in the Sugden House and a separate restroom facility located in the picnic area. There is no maintenance or caretaker facility. The two buildings are open and operated on a seasonal basis. Immediate building improvements for the Sugden House were discussed earlier. There are, however, several Visitor Center concerns which should be addressed in the immediate future.

Immediate (Year 1)

Russell B. Tobey Visitor Center. The primary capital need identified in this Management Plan is an adequate Visitor Center. This plan assumes that regardless of the ultimate location of the Russell B. Tobey Visitor Center, the Sugden House and Battery 204 will remain and be interpreted in keeping with their historic period. The Sugden House was built as a seasonal residence. It does not contain sufficient square footage, has space flow inadequacies, and necessitates the program adapting to the space. There are similar concerns with Battery 204 in terms of use as a Visitor Center.

The three sponsors in the immediate future should develop and sign a management agreement for Odiorne Point State Park which describes their working relationship and commitments to funding and staff over a minimum period of five years.

The fifth year and years thereafter should reflect the operation of a year-round park and Visitor Center. The role of the Friends of Odiorne Point, Inc. should also be delineated in a written agreement.

This management plan assumes that there will remain a need for a year-round Visitor Center with both passive and active interpretive exhibits and program, sponsored by the three agencies. Each agency brings resources to the park: park resource and recreation management and protection, University education, marine and Sea Grant resources, and community and conservation resources. While the needs of the park indicate the ideal program direction and Visitor Center needs, it is important to the park's long range operation that the three sponsors continue to have a commitment to the park. If that sponsor commitment is lacking, and there are no other potential sponsors willing to fill the void, then the space needs and design of a Visitor Center should be altered. The State could then opt to have a smaller year-round Visitor Center, such as those found in many State and national parks, with no active interpretation areas. If the State of New Hampshire is going to provide a suitable facility for use by all sponsors, then the sponsors should provide the commitment to contribute to its operation.

Consistent with the sponsors' management agreement, the State should allocate money in its next budget to hire an architect to design an appropriate Visitor Center based on space needs and location alternatives, and integrate bus parking alternatives and other physical site needs described in this Management Plan. The specific Visitor Center space needs and location alternatives are described in the long range needs section following.

Long Range (Years 2-5)

Russell B. Tobey Visitor Center. A visitor center is a multi-purpose, public use building whose general functions are to meet the visitors' needs, increase their awareness of the park, and impart an expanded awareness of the area. Adequate support administrative space is also very important in a Visitor Center.

Use Needs. Prior to analyzing the existing Visitor Center, the specific needs for a Visitor Center at Odiorne Point State Park were identified.

Visitor Center Use Needs

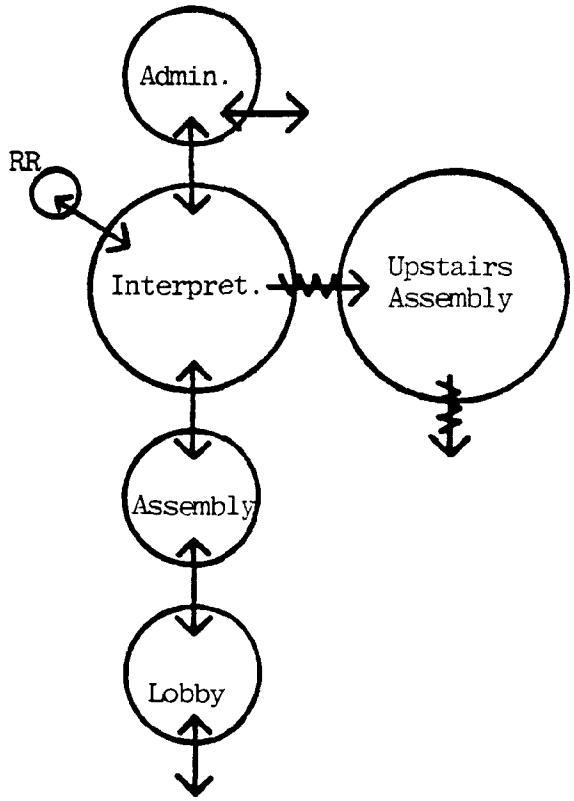
- Lobby/Entrance Area
- Restrooms/public telephone/water fountain
- Audio-visual room for rear-projected, continuous slide program
- Meeting room to hold 70 with small kitchen
- Room(s) for passive interpretive displays
- Room(s) for active interpretation
- Small children's area
- Room(s) for educational programs
- Library/reference room

- Storage room(s)/coat closet
- Dark room/workrooms/running sea water system area
- Staff office(s)/volunteers' workroom
- Conference room
- First Aid room/lounge

Some of these needs may be grouped in one space with combined uses. Some are public spaces while support spaces are private. They can be combined into general areas as follows: lobby/reception/passive interpretation, restrooms, assembly/auditorium, active interpretation/education, and administration.

Space Flow. The location of these areas within the Visitor Center is important because the resulting traffic pattern affects staff needs and the visitor experience. In general, public spaces should be separate from private work spaces. The public entry area should have adjacent restrooms which are often the visitor's first priority. The audio-visual area should be near the entrance area and be easily supervised. Separate types of activities should be in separate areas. The visitors and staff should not have to cross and interrupt all the different use areas in order to reach their destinations. However, the different use areas should be easily accessible to the staff and visitors.

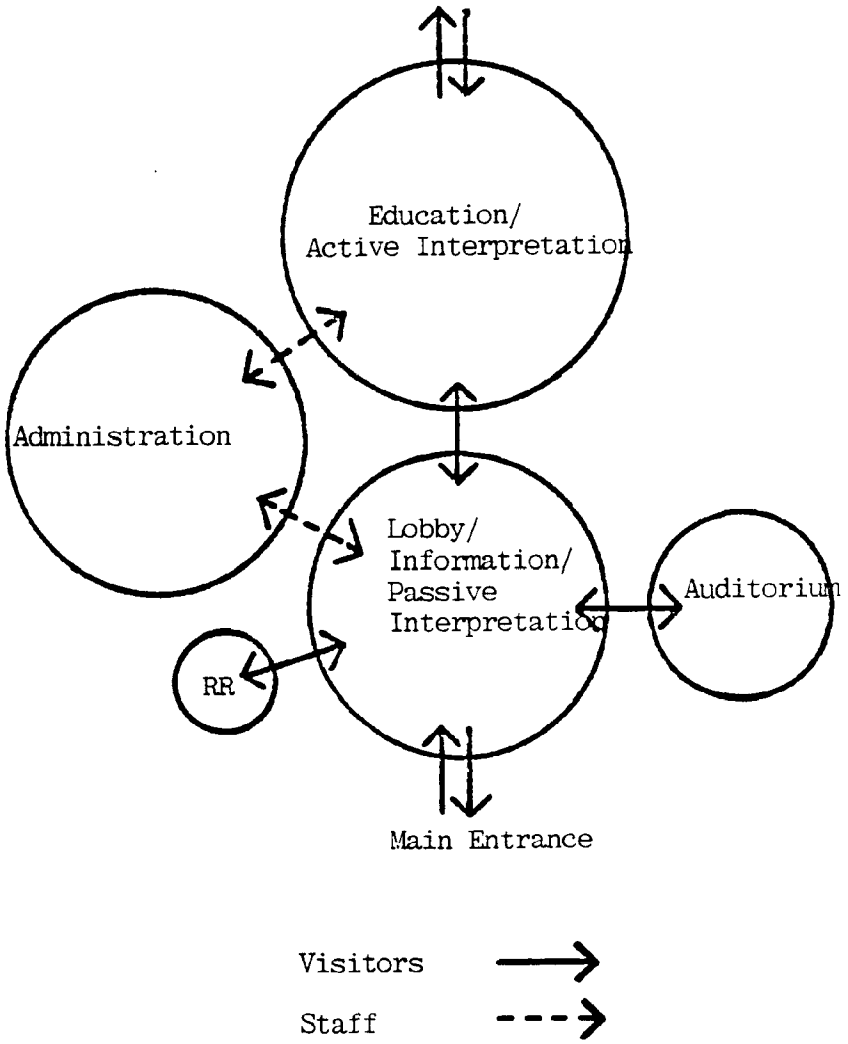
The space flow diagram of the present Visitor Center is below.



PRESENT VISITOR CENTER SPACE FLOW DIAGRAM

The present Visitor Center has the following circulation problems: the restrooms are distant from the entrance, the interpretive U-shaped lobby has multiple interior access doors, all traffic to the interior must go through the audio-visual room and then the active interpretation rooms, thus disrupting the program(s), and the staff office is in the garage along with sundry storage and work materials. The small staff reservation area in the hall has immediate visitor access and the upstairs meeting room is not barrier free and has a low ceiling.

As part of this Management Plan, four other space flow alternatives were considered. The relative size of the space in terms of Visitor Center needs was also considered. Based on the desired uses and relationships at Odiorne Point State Park, this Management Plan recommends the Visitor Center reflected in the space flow diagram shown below:



RECOMMENDED VISITOR CENTER SPACE FLOW DIAGRAM

Square Footage Needs. This Management Plan suggests the following square footage by area based on the Visitor Center holding the capacity of one elementary school bus of 70 children in the reception, auditorium, and education/active interpretation areas at the same time.

	Square Footage Area	Total
Reception/Information/Passive Interpretation		2,000
Lobby 70 x 9 sq.ft./person	600	
Exhibit 70 x 14 sq.ft./person	1,000	
Circulation	400	
Auditorium - 70 Seat		1,000
Auditorium 70 x 10 sq. ft./person	700	
Kitchen	100	
Circulation	200	
Restrooms		500
Men	200	
Women	200	
Circulation	100	
Education/Active Interpretation		2,500
Public Use Space 70 x 20 sq. ft./person	1,400	
Workrooms	600	
Circulation	500	
Administration		2,000
Staff Offices	550	
Conference Room	150	
Research/Library	150	
First Aid/Lounge	200	
Storage Areas	550	
Circulation	400	
TOTAL USE	6,400	
TOTAL CIRCULATION	1,600	
GRAND TOTAL	8,000	8,000

An 8,000 square foot building should be considered the minimum desired square footage needed to accommodate passive and active interpretive needs. Circulation criteria suggest that 25 percent of the building space be so allocated. If there was no active interpretive area, then the reception/lobby/passive interpretation/education area should be increased to 3,000 square feet and the Visitor Center would have a total of 6,500 square feet.

There are 4,373 square feet in the current Visitor Center including the porch, garage and upstairs. The current use compares with the proposed needs as follows.

VISITOR CENTER: CURRENT AND PROPOSED USE AREAS

Use	Proposed Sq.Ft.	Current Sq. Ft.	Percent of Proposed
Reception/Passive Interpretation	2,000	807	40.4
Auditorium/Assembly	1,000	1,557	155.7
Restrooms	500	160	32.0
Education/Active Interpretation	2,500	968	38.7
Administration	2,000	879	44.0
TOTAL	8,000	4,373	54.7

This square footage analysis is slightly misleading because it includes the square footage of the U shaped porch, the audio room with a sizeable stone fireplace and five doors, a reservation area in the hall, storage and workrooms in the garage, and an upstairs which does not have sufficient height to allow adults to stand along the room's perimeter.

There is another structure within the main entrance area which has been mentioned as a possible Visitor Center. Battery 204 has 3,671 square feet. There are 19 rooms in the battery; only one has sufficient square footage (759) to meet public needs in a Visitor Center. Unfortunately this room's location in the middle of the battery does not facilitate interior public traffic flow. It is not considered feasible to enlarge the small rooms by removal of interior walls given the type of military construction. It, too, does not meet Visitor Center needs.

The only structure within Odiorne Point State Park which presently contains sufficient square footage for a Visitor Center is Battery Seaman on Frost Point Road. The structure has about 19,000 square feet of space, 7,900 of which is the corridor which connects the two gun mounts. The 1971 Master Plan includes a design for a Visitor Center in Battery Seaman. There are 20 rooms plus the 500 foot long corridor, many of which have sufficient size to allow appropriate Visitor Center activities. Re-use alternatives are further described in the 1983 Fort Dearborn study.

Both the present Visitor Center and Battery 204 would require sizeable additions and all three would require extensive renovation and winterization in order to meet year-round Visitor Center needs. The State should consider the long term maintenance and staff costs in the design of the building. This plan suggests that an energy efficient building with low maintenance cost designed around a minimum operating staff level may cost the State more to build and/or renovate, but less to operate. Also, it is important that the Visitor Center have a good

security system and that there be adequate lighting from the building to the parking area. The long range concern here is maintaining an adequate operating budget and the Visitor Center should be designed with that criterion in mind.

Cost Estimate. It is estimated that an 8,000 square foot building will cost between $520,000-$600,000 based on a square foot cost ranging between $65 and $75. (See Repair and Remodeling Cost Data, 1985, R.D. Means Company.) The incorporation of an existing structure should lessen the cost, but not substantially since each structure has large areas which should be discounted in terms of meeting the space needs of the Visitor Center. In other words, the use of two of the existing structures would require an addition which together exceeds the total amount of desired square footage, and the third structure already exceeds the needed space. The cost of the Visitor Center should be bonded in the next capital budget. Thus the year-round Visitor Center should be in operation in year 5, and could be earlier.

Location. Another concern reviewed during the development of this Management Plan was the desired location of a Visitor Center. There are two possible locations: in the northern area off of Frost Point Road or in the Main Park Entrance area. In either area existing structures could be used or new structures could be built.

North A. Battery Seaman. The battery could be opened and used as the Visitor Center. If the battery became the Visitor Center, the park orientation would change resulting in an increased park presence and use and less vandalism in the northern part of the park, particularly at Battery Seaman. Opening the battery would allow the interpretation of the largest structure at Odiorne Point State Park. There would also be an increase in use of the sandy beach and the increased feasibility of a boat launch in the Frost Point area, which, depending on one's perspective, would be an advantage or disadvantage. If Battery Seaman were the Visitor Center, there would be an increase in both vehicular and pedestrian use in the area, a parking lot near the Visitor Center and probably a paved Frost Point Road.

There are a number of disadvantages because a northern Visitor Center results in a separation of activities within the park. There are pedestrian circulation problems between the south and north entrances due to the increased use of Frost Point Road. Other problems include: the disturbance of wildlife habitat; increased pressure on natural resources in the middle and northern part of the park; separation of the picnic area from the Visitor Center or relocation of the picnic area to the Frost Point area; separation of the main intertidal interpretive area from the Visitor Center; three entrances to the park or a closure of one or two others; security and supervision problems of two structures (Battery Seaman and the Sugden House) in very different locations which would increase staff needs; design of the Visitor Center program and use based on the structure versus design of the structure

based on the program and needs; the long, expensive distance for the sea water system; and most probably higher operating costs.

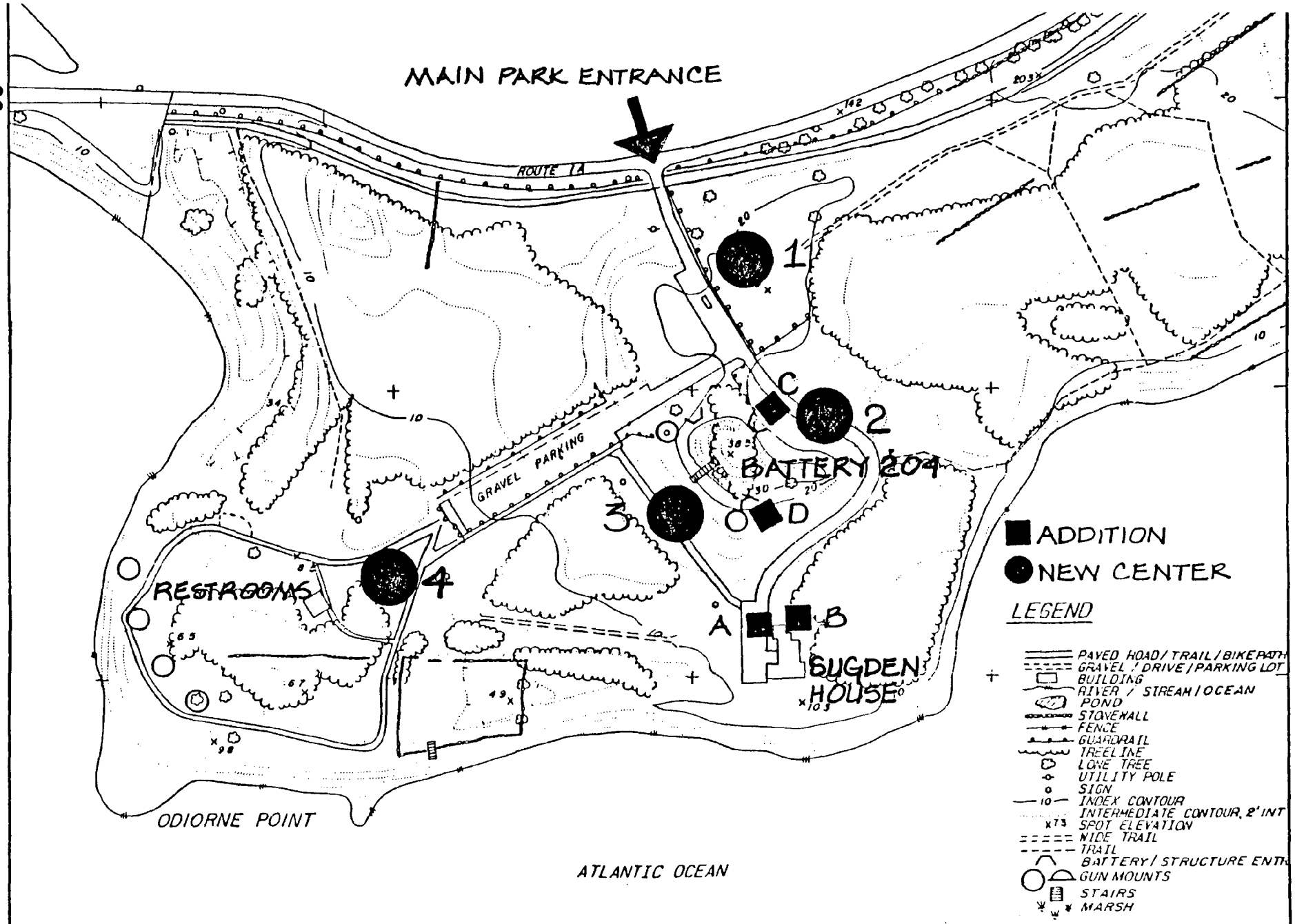
North B. New Building. Another alternative is building an appropriate Visitor Center on Frost Point Road near Route 1A. While a number of the same concerns apply as with Battery Seaman, the location closer to Route 1A and the smaller size would have less of an adverse impact on the site. Either the Plotting Room or Battery Seaman could be opened for interpretation, if there was adequate staff for supervision. However, the other concerns regarding the Sugden House and relationship with the primary use area remain. Furthermore, this location would particularly be difficult and expensive to have a sea water system.

Because these two alternatives in the northern end of the park result in such a major shift in orientation in the park, they are not deemed appropriate as the site of a Visitor Center. Therefore, most of the attention is then placed on the southern area. The map on the following page shows four possible placements of an addition to either the Sugden House or Battery 204 and four sites for a new Visitor Center. The four locations for an addition are as follows: A) on the south side of the Sugden House near the garage; B) on the north side of the Sugden House near the garage; C) on the north side of Battery 204 near Sugden road; and D) on the east side of Battery 204 near the Sugden House. The four possible new sites are as follows: 1) near Route 1A by the Main Park Entrance; 2) across from Battery 204 on the north side of the Sugden road; 3) across from Battery 204 on the south side; and 4) on the south side between the restroom facility and the parking lot. There are advantages and disadvantages to each location.

Sugden House. The Sudgen House serves as the current Visitor Center. Its building needs were discussed earlier as were its existing square footage, use and space flow. The Sugden House is a good location for a Visitor Center because it is near the Main Park Entrance, the ocean and primary activity and use area of the park. Also, it is near the picnic area, restroom facility and paved loop trail which address handicapped needs. There are two possible locations for an addition to the Sugden House which would give the Visitor Center adequate space.

Addition A. Sugden House. The first location for a Sugden House addition is to the front and west of the building. The garage, which is of more recent vintage, may or may not be kept as a part of this design. The building itself would remain largely intact with an addition connecting it. It is possible for the new building to contain the reception/passive interpretation, assembly, and administrative areas and the existing building contain the active interpretation/education areas.

The advantages of this addition are that it would increase the visibility of the Visitor Center from the parking lot although the distance would remain and it would continue to use the only remaining seasonal house at the park. Furthermore, the space flow and useage of the existing building would improve with the addition. A sea water system to this building should be the least costly because it is closest



VISITOR CENTER ALTERNATIVE LOCATIONS

ODIORNE POINT STATE PARK, RYE, N.H.

to the ocean. The addition would capture the southern exposure, thus encouraging an energy efficient design. The disadvantages of this addition are that, depending on the actual design, it could block the initial view of the Sugden House from the parking lot. The historic character of the interior of the Sugden House would be altered when winterized. The upstairs of the existing building would still not be appropriate for public use, unless the roof were raised which would additionally alter the historic character of the house.

Addition B. Sugden House. The second location for a Sugden House addition is to the rear and west of the building. It may be possible to reorient the use of the Visitor Center with the entrance via the garage area, bathrooms in the small exhibit space, the audio-visual room in the main interpretive room, a corridor added connecting the entrance via the bathroom/meeting room area to the porch and present audio room where passive exhibits could occur, the exit being from the porch, and new active interpretive/administrative space via the small office room. This does not quite meet the desired space flow pattern, but it could be possible. This is only one possible alternative that an architect should consider when analyzing designs for an addition.

An advantage of the second alternative addition is that it has less of a visual impact on the existing building because the addition is to the rear. The disadvantages of this alternative remain the continued low visibility of the Visitor Center (due to the building location and distance from the parking lot), the permanent and major alteration of the historic structure, an upstairs which lacks head room and is not barrier free, and the necessity of designing the program around the space. It also may be a disadvantage that the use of the space may need reorganization in order to meet Visitor Center needs. The advantages of these two alternatives are that the Visitor Center is close to the ocean and the sea water source, that the existing building is guaranteed to be maintained and used, the capital costs may be lower than other alternatives, and the operating costs may be lower due to the sea water system costs.

Battery 204. Battery 204 is ideally situated for a Visitor Center location because it is near the Main Park Entrance, parking lot, picnic area, and main interpretive area. The top of the battery provides an excellent view of the southern end of the park. However, the re-use of the World War II structure presents the following problems: the room configuration cannot be changed other than rooms be made smaller; most of the rooms do not come close to being large enough to meet Visitor Center needs; the interior is noted for being damp with ventilation problems; there is no feasible public access to the observation tower from the battery; an addition would be needed to meet the Visitor Center needs; the incorporation of Battery 204 into the Visitor Center may not be cost effective compared to other alternatives; and the interior space may not present the environment desired for staff and storage space in a Visitor Center.

Four addition alternatives were reviewed. However, two of the alternatives were eliminated after preliminary review. Adding an addition on the west side of the battery by the parking lot was eliminated because even though it would be very visible, it would completely disrupt the existing parking lot and require the addition of a new parking lot in another location. The alternative of an addition on top of the 6' cement slab roof of the battery was eliminated because the World War II character of the battery would be changed, an elevator would be needed, and the public would be limited in viewing and interpreting the interior. Two alternatives are further addressed.

Addition C. Battery 204. If an addition was added to the north and the interior of the battery was used, the Visitor Center would be visible from the Main Park Entrance drive, be near the main parking lot, and probably near bus parking. The addition could be tucked into the backside of the battery changing the appearance at one side, but the impact on the site might be less than an addition in another location. An addition in this location would have the advantage of being near the main park trails as well as the Sugden House which would encourage the use of both. Views of the ocean could be increased by selective cutting in the area known as the moor.

The addition might allow the interior interpretation of a military battery depending on the Visitor Center use allocated to the existing battery. The disadvantages of an addition in this location are the road to the Sugden House would need to be changed, the northern site orientation is not conducive to energy efficiency, the southern view is blocked by the battery, the other interior use concerns would remain, and the sea water system could be costly to install although the underwater-like environment may be particularly appropriate for an aquarium type of exhibit.

Addition D. Battery 204. If the addition was between Battery 204 and the Sugden House, it would be less visible from the main parking lot and entrance drive. The site was disturbed previously and is relatively open for an addition. The Sugden road might need slight alteration, the southern view and greater energy efficiency would be captured, but the interior use problems would remain. This location for an addition is slightly closer to the ocean for the sea water system than Addition C.

When the State hires an architect to design a new Visitor Center, the alternative additions and uses described above and elsewhere in this report should be evaluated as part of the design process. The following four locations are suggested for consideration as possible sites for a new Visitor Center.

New Location 1. This site has the advantage of being visible from Route 1A and is closer to the expanded park's center and the park interior trail. The site was previously disturbed with military structures and now primarily is an open field. The location would tend to increase usage of the Visitor Center and reorient usage of the park. The disadvantages of the site are that it lacks views of the ocean, it is

distant from other widely used park facilities like the picnic area, restroom facility, playground, Sugden House and rocky shore, it would require relocating parking close to the Visitor Center, and it is the most distant of any of the Main Park Entrance alternatives from the sea water source. Its distance from the Sugden House and Battery 204 would increase the supervision needs of both structures which would remain and could be interpreted.

New Location 2. This site adjacent to Battery 204 on the north has the advantage of being highly visible from the Main Park Entrance road and possibly from Route 1A. It is near both Battery 204 and the Sugden House which would facilitate the passive interpretive use of both structures. It is near the head of both of the two main trails. Views of the ocean might be possible if the moor area is selectively cleared. Bus parking could be added in the general area. The disadvantages are that it is more distant from the picnic area and playground, it has very limited exposure and views to the south due to the battery, the Sugden road may need to be altered, and the site may create circulation problems.

New Location 3. This site adjacent to Battery 204 on the south has the advantage of good visibility from the Main Park Entrance road and existing parking lot. It has good views of the southern part of the park with a southern exposure and protection from the north. Its location also facilitates the interpretation of Battery 204 and the Sugden House, although it would block the already limited view of the historic building from the parking lot. The site is close to the picnic area, restroom facility, and playground, and fairly close to the park perimeter trail entrance. The disadvantages of the site are that it is not visible from Route 1A, it is not very close to the entrance of the main interior trail, and it may have an adverse impact on the native shrub community in the ledges adjacent to the site. Also, it would require the relocation of the paved trail to the Sugden House, and the sea water system might be more costly to install due to the increased distance from the ocean.

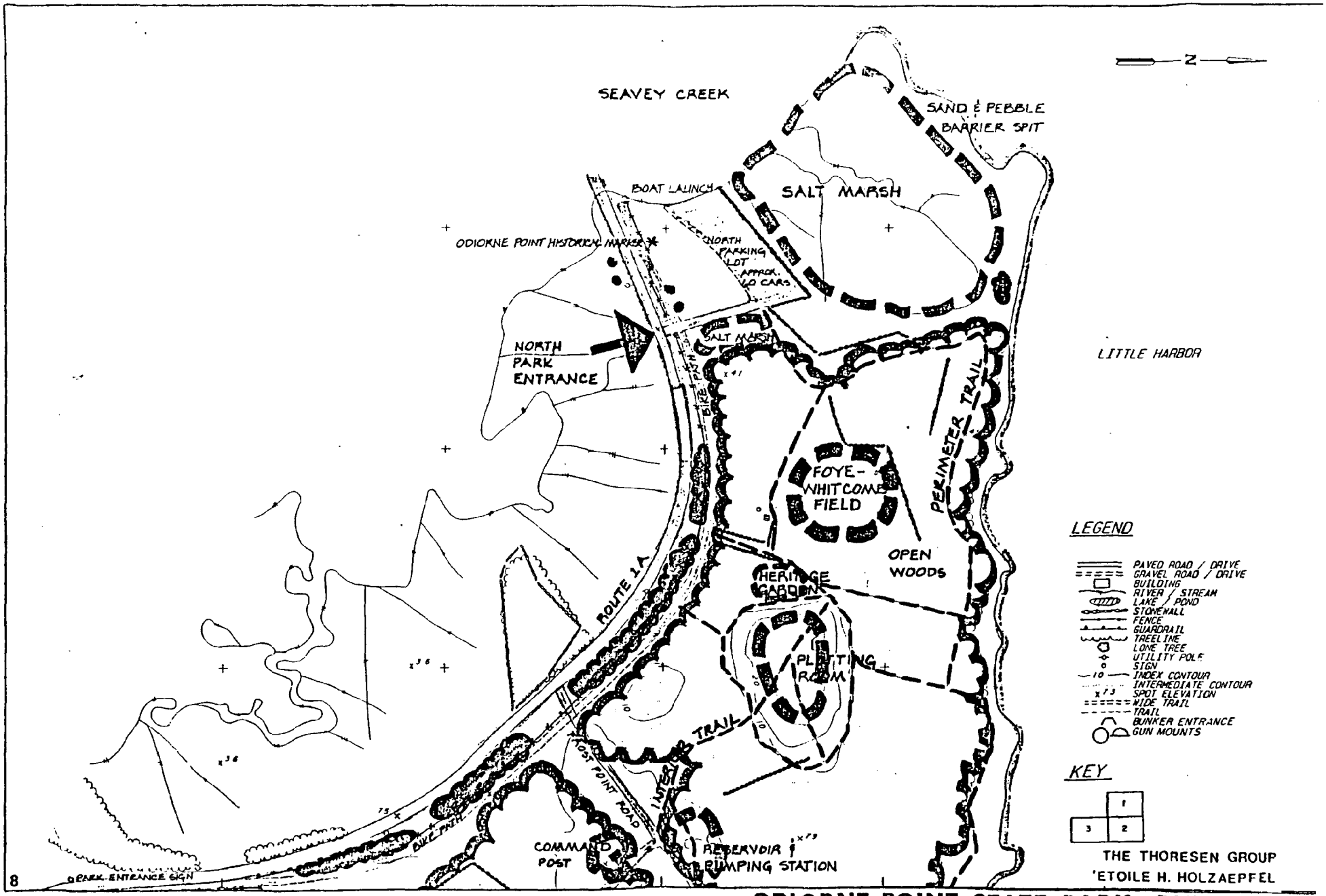
New Location 4. This site at the southern end of the parking lot has excellent visiblity from the Main Park Entrance drive into the parking lot. It is close to the parking lot, picnic area, playground, and restroom facility, rocky shore and drowned forest. The disadvantages are in some ways the same as the advantages. The site's problem is that it crowds an area of the park which already receives considerable use. Perhaps it would be possible to incorporate the existing restroom facility into the new Visitor Center and add a restroom facility, for example, in the garage of the Sugden House, which would be used seasonally. This fourth location also has the disadvantage that it is farthest from the main trail system, it blocks the playground area from the group use area, and the site itself has drainage problems which would have to be addressed.

The question is, "Which alternative is best in the long range?" This Management Plan spells out the needs and the alternatives. The answer to the question should be prepared by an architect working with representatives of the three sponsors. The State of New Hampshire has the responsibility of funding the building, but as long as the responsibility for operating the park is shared, then this plan suggests that all three sponsors have input into this important decision.

Restroom Facility. The restroom facility itself meets seasonal park needs and its location is good in terms of the picnic area and playground. The year-round Visitor Center would have a restroom which meets year-round needs. The only problem with the restroom facility is that its siting is too prominent in terms of the Main Park Entrance drive and parking lot. This Management Plan has already discussed the long range need to landscape the northern side of the restroom facility in order to blend it into the site. If new Visitor Center location 4 discussed above is implemented, then the restroom facility should be re-evaluated in terms of use and location. If location 4 is not selected, the landscaping of the restroom facility should occur in year 2 or year 3.

Maintenance Facility. It is not part of this Management Plan to evaluate the maintenance facility needs of all the seacoast parks. The maintenance equipment for all parks is presently housed in the garage at the Wentworth-Coolidge Mansion in Portsmouth. The consultants have heard the desire expressed to move it to a more central location such as Odiorne Point State Park, perhaps in the Frost Point Road area near Route 1A. Neither the Plotting Room nor the Battery Seaman are appropriate to use as a maintenance center due to the structures' design and location and to maintenance center needs. If DRED decides to relocate its park maintenance facility, any location within the heavily traveled part of Odiorne Point State Park or bisecting the natural area would have an adverse impact on the park because of traffic and the type of work involved. This Management Plan suggests that it is preferable to locate the seacoast park maintenance facility outside the main part of Odiorne Point State Park.

There is a need, however, to consider the temporary storage at the park of some outdoor maintenance equipment such as mowers. The problem is that the park mowers are moved from location to location. When they are at Odiorne Point State Park, they stay several days and need a place to be stored overnight. There also may be a need to store site specific equipment at the park such as one vehicle for maintenance, security and emergency use, and garden equipment like rakes, clippers, and chain saw. These outdoor equipment needs should be included in the Visitor Center. Indoor maintenance needs such as storage or work rooms should also be within the Visitor Center. This Management Plan does not believe there is a need for a separate facility to address these needs, especially since a small section of Battery 204 could be used to meet the outdoor needs if there is not adequate storage room in the Visitor Center.



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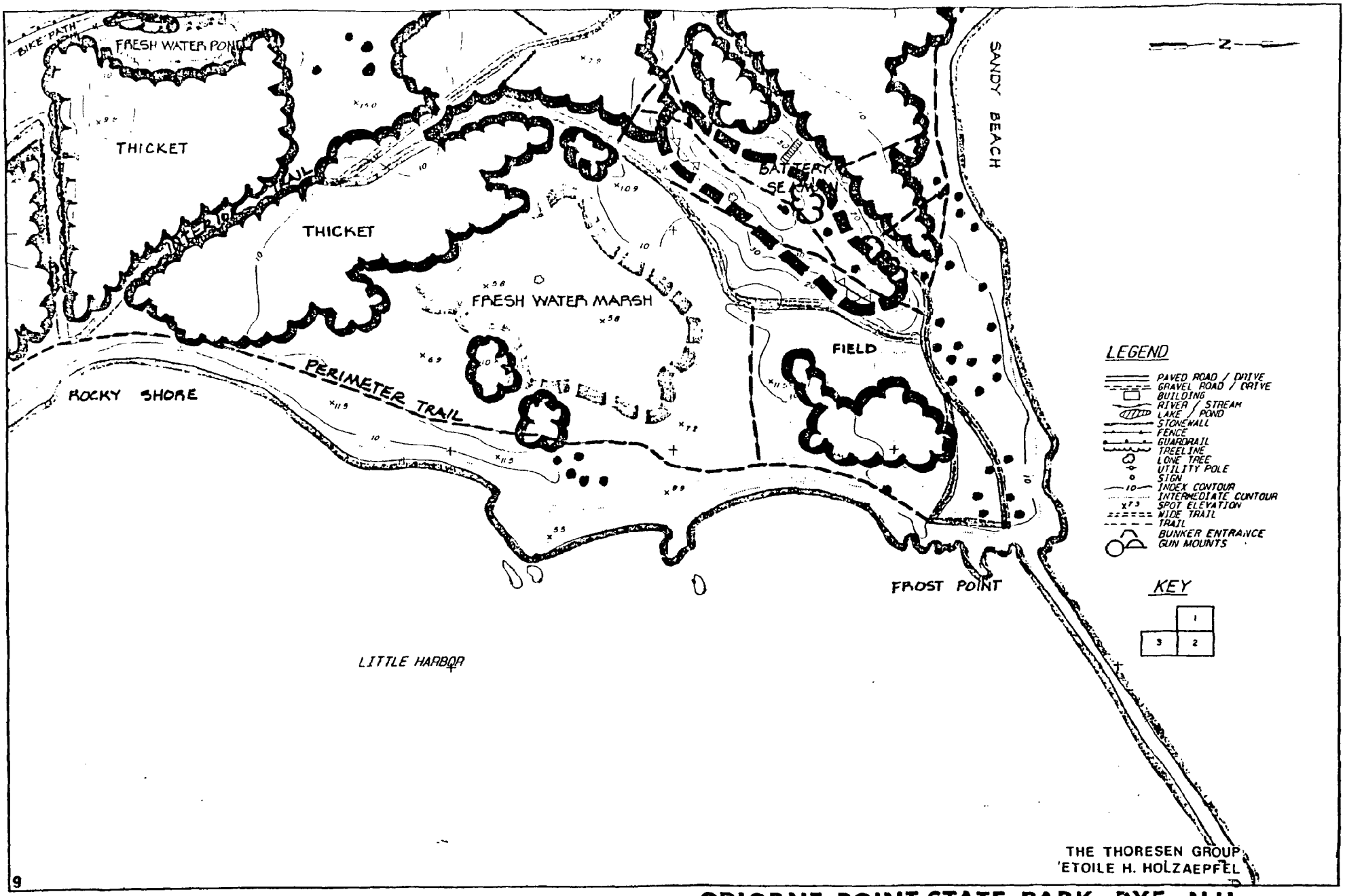
EXISTING CONDITIONS

ODIORNE POINT STATE PARK, RYE, N.H.



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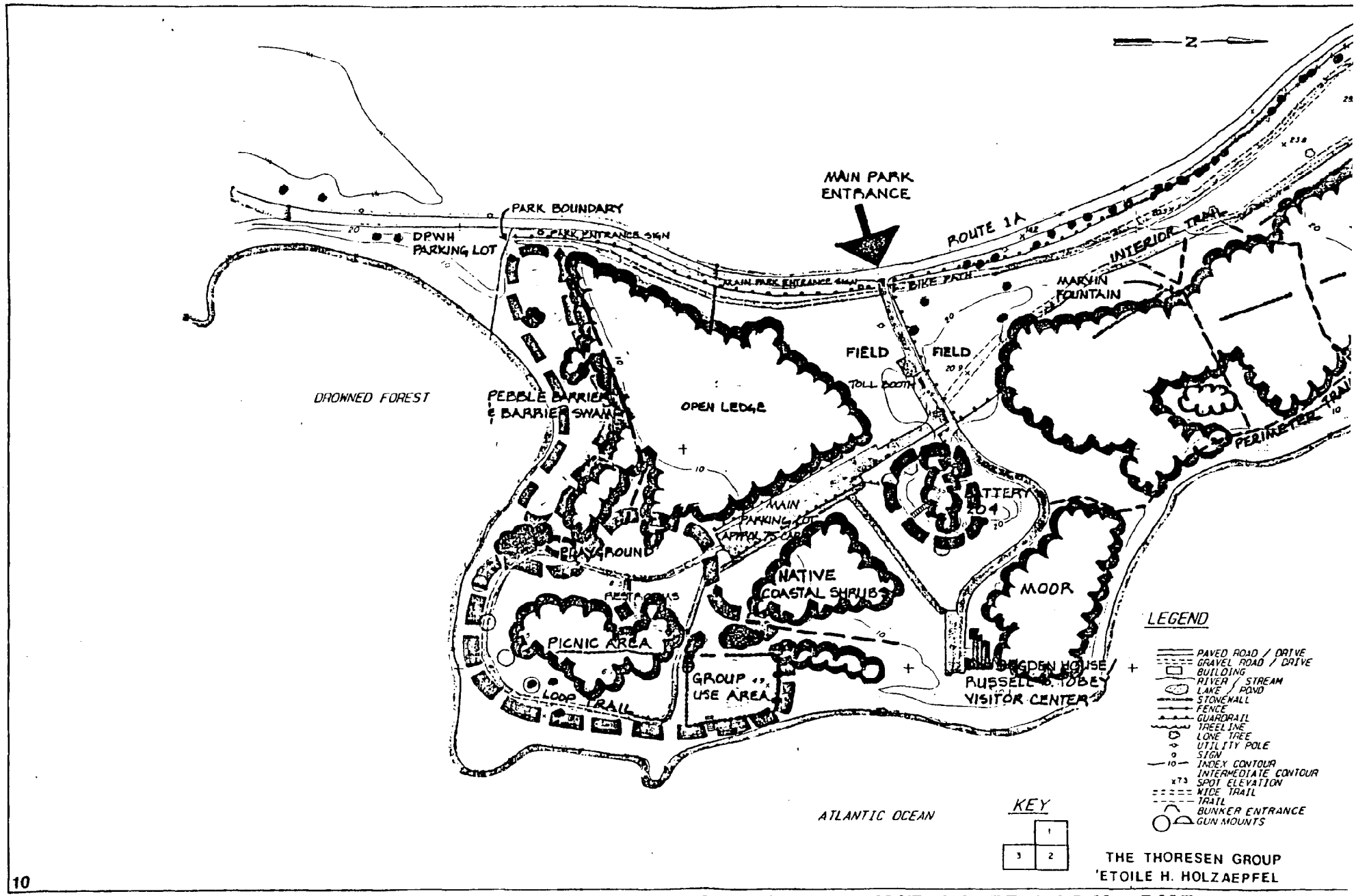
EXISTING CONDITIONS

ODIORNE POINT STATE PARK, RYE, N.H.



EXISTING CONDITIONS

ODIORNE POINT STATE PARK RYE N.H.

Park Manager Residence. With a year-round park in operation, it may be expedient for the State to have a park manager residence at the site to increase the park presence and add security. This residence could be assigned to another staff person such as the caretaker. For the safety of the caretaker, that residence would also have to be carefully sited. Basically there are two options if a park manager residence is desired: 1) locate it near the Visitor Center or 2) locate it near Frost Point Road and Route 1A.

Location 1. The Sugden House has been used as a caretaker residence in the past. It would be feasible to have an apartment on the second floor of the building (1,257 square feet) for use by the caretaker. This approach is similar to that used by the Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests in its Conservation Center in Concord and the Urban Forestry Center in Portsmouth, both of which have on-site caretakers living near their visitor centers. Another alternative in this area is a separate building which would have some privacy and separation from the Visitor Center and possibly be located closer to Route 1A.

Location 2. Currently, the northern part of the park has less park supervision and use. While there are concerns over vandalism and safety in the area, others are concerned about increasing visitors in the area. The park manager residence should be sited in this area close to Route 1A off of Frost Point Road. This allows supervision over the road and gate. The location of the house would not have a major impact on the site. (Archeologists should be consulted over the location since there may be old foundations in this area which should be evaluated.) The disadvantage of the location is that it does not allow easy supervision over the Main Park Entrance, especially the Visitor Center, although supervision by vehicle can occur via the interior park maintenance trail.

Security systems. Unfortunately, Odiorne Point State Park is located in an area which is becoming increasingly urban in character. The staff in general desires to have two people on duty within the Visitor Center or on-site, particularly in the northern area. Security systems should be installed at the Visitor Center, Sugden House, Battery 204 and Battery Seaman's gun mounts and be connected to a security system at the park manager's residence. Park staff should have walkie talkies. Permitting the walking of dogs on leashes in the off season should be considered from the north parking lot.

F. STAFF

This Management Plan was developed under the assumption that the park would be operated on a year-round basis with the participation of the three sponsoring agencies: the State of New Hampshire Division of Parks (DRED), the Audubon Society of New Hampshire (ASNH), and the University of New Hampshire (UNH) Sea Grant Extension Program (formerly called Advisory Program). The State would continue to have operation and

maintenance responsibility since it owns the site. It also, in the long range, would share in program responsibility. It was further assumed that program participation from UNH and the Audubon Society of New Hampshire would continue. It was assumed the type of programs at the park and the maintenance and operation needs would continue and be expanded. The management agreement between the three sponsors should address those assumptions.

Throughout this plan there are recommendations for immediate action. For the most part, they have been predicated on the existing level of staff. In the Existing Conditions section of the report, the staff was described for 1985. Staff include both those who work at the park and those who do park related work but are based elsewhere. That staff totaled approximately 19 part-time people, 12 of whom were funded by DRED, four by UNH, two by ASNH and one by multiple sources. There were no employees allocated full time to Odiorne Point State Park. The University's employees had the largest time allocation. There were also about 40 volunteers, about half of whom were UNH marine docents.

Immediate (Year 1)

This Management Plan assumes that in the immediate future the park will remain operational on a seasonal basis. One concern which should be addressed in the immediate future is staff training for all park personnel. All park employees are important to the visitor and need to be informed about the park, its history, and where signficiant features are located. The first impression the visitor receives is from the gatekeeper who collects the toll. Since the gatekeepers also serve as park patrol, it is important that they, along with the Visitor Center staff and volunteers, be well informed as to these basic points in good public information and relations. An operations manual may be desired to assist in employee communications and park operation.

The second immediate need is to increase the park staff or the hours of existing staff. The three sponsoring agencies have increased their level of staff for 1986. Changes over the existing paid staff described earlier are indicated here.

Gatekeepers. With the development of the North Park Entrance including the addition of a toll booth, two gatekeepers need to be added. They may be seasonal or year-round employees depending on whether the North Park Entrance is open year-round. The addition of the gatekeepers who will work overlapping hours, will be to increase the park presence in the northern end of the park since gatekeepers also patrol the trails, pick up litter, and answer visitor questions.

ASNH Naturalist. This is a new part-time program position designed to give both professional assistance in program development and supervision of the ASNH summer naturalist at Odiorne Point State Park. This position increases and lengthens the commitment of the Audubon Society to the park. The position is based at the park on a scheduled basis.

UNH Visitor Center Program Assistant. This new program position, funded by Sea Grant, is designed to increase marine science program assistance to the marine education specialist who serves as the Visitor Center director. The position means another paid person assists the director in the spring at the Visitor Center by leading programs to augment the efforts of the volunteers and student interns who serve as staff.

Mowing Crew. The mowing crew should increase their time spent at Odiorne Point State Park in keeping with the mowing schedule established earlier. At the beginning of the season, the mowing crew should meet with the Seascoast Park Manager to review the plan and walk areas of specific concern.

Park Patrol. The supplemental park patrol should continue as needed to insure that the park is adequately patrolled. While the gatekeepers will also serve a patrol function, the park patrol is particularly needed at dusk and possibly in the early morning.

The following three groups also provide volunteer assistance at the park in maintenance, program, and financial support. Changes from the existing volunteer groups are described here.

Driftwood Garden Club. The Club may want to consider also maintaining the Foye-Whitcomb field which is near the Heritage Garden.

Seacoast Chapter of the Audubon Society of New Hampshire. The Seacoast Chapter is one of the ongoing users of the site for field trips and meetings. It should be encouraged to continue to support the park by providing financial and program contributions.

Friends of Odiorne Point, Inc. The Friends were recently re-established and can be a positive volunteer group to assist the park and the Visitor Center in addressing park needs. The Friends need to develop and sign a Management Agreement with the State in regard to their purpose and responsibilities. All of the sponsors should be informed as to their purpose and program. When a group establishes itself to assist a park or historic site in raising monies the owner could otherwise not raise, the owner still must retain responsibility for the decisions made regarding fund-raising and expenditures of funds to insure that they meet the needs of, and are in keeping with, the park. The purpose of fund-raising and allocation of monies by priority should be decided by all parties prior to the group raising monies. Thus, all parties will support the effort and be pleased with the result.

Long Range (Years 2-5)

In the long range at the time that the Visitor Center and park are operational year-round, the needed level of park personnel is a minimum of 12 full time and 10 part-time personnel, some of whom are seasonal employees (summer). It is possible to have a smaller full time component of eight with 14 seasonal employees initially and only operate

the North Park Entrance seasonally. New or revised park employee positions are discussed as follows.

Seacoast Park Manager. The Seacoast Park Manager should have a park planning, management and supervisory role at Odiorne Point State Park. In the long range, this position should have less time allocated to the park, about ten percent, but it should be at a higher level of decision making and management.

Odiorne Park Manager. This is a recommended new position which would be full time, year-round. The Odiorne Park Manager should supervise and direct all park staff, manage the site including the Visitor Center, manage and implement the Management Plan under the supervision of the Seacoast Park Manager, and serve as a liaison with park volunteer groups. The Odiorne Park Manager has the ultimate responsibility for managing and operating the park and its programs. The Odiorne Park Manager should have experience in park management, program development, budgeting, and community relations. The position should be funded by the State.

Odiorne Park Program Director. The program director should be a full time, year-round position. The program director plans on-site and outreach programs, develops and directs the interpretation and education programs and exhibits in the Visitor Center, trains the interpretive and volunteer program staff, and coordinates the overall program with the Odiorne Park Manager. The program director should have experience in park interpretation and education, particularly in marine education and natural science, since they are the dominant programs at the site. The position should be funded by UNH given current patterns, but could be funded by another sponsor.

Park Personnel. Six full time positions may need to be funded by the State on a year-round basis. The six personnel cover the two park entrances and the Visitor Center reception/passive interpretation area, with two allocated per area. In addition to public relations and information responsibilities, these personnel have park patrol and litter pickup responsibilities. It may not be cost effective to collect admissions from late fall to mid spring. If the North Park Entrance is only seasonal, then four positions should be year-round and two could be seasonal.

Naturalist. This is one of two full time year-round staff program positions. If the naturalist is funded by the Audubon Society of New Hampshire in keeping with its past and current involvement at the park, it would give a year-round presence to the Audubon Society on the seacoast. The naturalist would work on passive interpretive exhibits and in the active interpretation/education program.

Historian/Archeologist. This is a new full time, year-round program position which should be funded by the State. This is the one program area where there has not been professional staff to develop programs. The historian/archeologist should cover prehistory, settlement history

and military history interpretation. The position should work on both passive interpretive exhibits and active interpretation/education. Outreach to other seacoast parks would be possible.

Seasonal Naturalists. The two positions should be funded by UNH and the Audubon Society of New Hampshire for the summer.

Secretary. The secretary should be a full time, year-round position based at the park and be funded by UNH and DRED since much of the work involves scheduling and assisting in program development.

Volunteer Coordinator. With a year-round park relying on numerous volunteers, it may be necessary to have a paid person coordinate, train and schedule all of the volunteers. The Volunteer Coordinator should work part-time, year-round. The position could expand upon the marine docent director's activities which are funded by Sea Grant.

G. PROGRAM

This Management Plan did not analyze the existing program or its management. It did explain the programs presently offered at the park. Various people interviewed offered suggestions for additions to the program. Concern was also expressed that the program had a heavy marine orientation at the expense of other interests in the site.

There is a logical reason for the marine and natural science programs. Both build on the natural resources which are unique to the site. Both programs are sponsored and funded by individual agencies which reflect the program's orientation. If other agencies with a particular expertise offered to sponsor and fund a specific program at the park, and if it was in keeping with the park's mission, no doubt the State would consider allowing it as well.

From a management planning perspective, the program does have an impact on the site and site planning. The active interpretation/education program is the reason that schools and school busses come to Odiorne Point State Park. The success of the program has increased the number of visits to the site. The concern over park capacity is directly related to the program. The school program draws hundreds more visitors a day than the park does on its own. The consultants have observed that some of the people most protective of the "fragile" environment at Odiorne Point State Park want to limit the number of visitors and not expand the parking lot to accommodate busses, but also strongly support the marine and natural science education program and the Visitor Center.

Immediate (Year 1)

This Management Plan recommends that the current program continue with the participation of all three agencies. If other agencies make proposals to offer programs or otherwise use the park, all three sponsors should be consulted. Furthermore, a delegate from all three

agencies should meet with the architect to discuss program space needs in the Visitor Center.

An immediate program need is to fund an oral history research program. It is important to tape, and possibly video-tape, interviews with former summer residents, coastal harbor defense veterans, and seacoast residents knowledgeable about the park. Time is particularly important because some of these people signficant to the park are well over 70 years of age.

Long Range (Years 2-5)

The program in the long range should continue to address the marine environment, ecology, geology, natural science, prehistory, and early settlement, farming, seasonal residences and World War II history. In order to address year-round program needs, the staff must be increased. Therefore, prior to the time of construction of the Visitor Center, the Odiorne Park Manager should be hired and the program staff should shift to a year-round basis in order to plan the interpretive program and exhibits. The State should also add the historian/ archeologist to the program staff so that the staff reflects the main interpretive needs of the site.

The sponsors should also continue to hire consultants with site specific expertise to assist in the preparation of exhibits on various features of the site described in the "Natural Science and Historical Studies" and other work. This can be done on an annual basis with different exhibits prepared for different seasons or years to increase interest in, and repeat visits to, the Visitor Center.

The existing programs offered at Odiorne Point State Park can be expanded to a year-round basis. While the shore exploration may be curtailed in winter, there are other features which can be interpreted throughout the year with the emphasis being the changes which occur in the seasons. The Forest Society at its Conservation Center in Concord has offered floodplain field trips in the fall, winter and spring, and some schools come visit each season.

The new programs at the park should not only be located within the Visitor Center and park, but also may reach out into the seacoast community. The introductory audio-visual program should be designed to ask questions but not to provide all answers about the park. Slide programs about the park focusing on a particular feature can be given to both adults' and children's groups both on and off site. Interpretive exhibits developed for the park can also be designed to be displayed in appropriate locations outside the park. Brochures, the updated "Natural Science and Historical Studies" and other publications described in Section H can continue to be distributed in a variety of locations including area libraries.

If Battery 204 is opened, it would allow the interpretation of the interior of a battery from World War II. Depending on whether it is

part of the Visitor Center, its interpretation may vary. Oral history gathered from veterans, former park property owners and renters, and other seacoast residents can be used in interpreting this battery and the development of Fort Dearborn. Military documents, scrapbooks, and artifacts can also be used in interpreting the defense of Portsmouth harbor. The exhibits should be displayed in the Visitor Center, but the battery can have its rooms labeled with appropriate signage. The interpretation of Battery 204 should also include its relationship with Battery Seaman and the other coastal fortifications.

If the Sugden House is not used as part of the Visitor Center, it may be used on a seasonal basis for additional programs. The upstairs may be used as a caretaker's residence. The downstairs could be interpreted as an example of a seasonal residence. The construction of the building could be interpreted. Examples of other former seasonal homes as well as the Sagamore House could be interpreted through exhibits, photographs and oral history.

The historian/archeologist can direct field research at the site. A program could be offered around a summer "dig," which could be tied to UNH or Strawbery Banke's programs. There are numerous foundations and sites to investigate.

The program should focus on the unique aspects of the park and complement, not duplicate efforts of nearby parks and museums. Other program or interpretive suggestions include panel exhibits rotated on a seasonal basis showing conservation principles. A soil exhibit with profiles showing the different layers of soil and examples of the several types at the site could be constructed. A water exhibit showing how a fresh water marsh turns brackish, or a shorefront becomes polluted, or the effects of water erosion could be done. The Little Harbor estuary could be interpreted. The forested area could be interpreted in terms of forest management, wood products, renewable resources and wildlife habitat. Tree and plant species could be interpreted and a cross section of a tree stump could be used for interpretive purposes. A beehive could be added near or in the Visitor Center (with outside access) since the ledge area is a favorite bee habitat. The aquarium could be expanded. Wildlife habitat could be interpreted and examples of mammals, birds, and reptiles common to the site could be illustrated. A geology wall could be constructed showing the different types of rocks at the site. The drowned forest could be interpreted in terms of glacial changes in topography. Undersea exploration and related equipment, changes in the fishing industry since settlement times, and harvesting waves for energy could be interpreted.

New technology can be used in the passive interpretation area. In addition to well designed panels, computers can be used to increase visitor participation and interest. Self-activated programs can be developed or purchased which interpret the sea as well as other features at the site. Tape cassettes interpreting an exhibit or a walk on the site can be developed and offered for rent. (Requiring a license deposit for the rental usually solves possible theft temptations.)

The opportunities are unlimited provided there is adequate staff and funding. Given an adequate operating budget, the staff can develop these exhibits and seek funding for special exhibits or programs. However, outside funding should supplement not support the basic level of staff and programs which is the responsibility of the sponsors.

A rear-projected audio-visual slide program should be prepared prior to the opening of the Visitor Center. It should contain an introduction to the park citing the park's historical development and resources which can be found through park exploration. It should be no longer than 10 minutes and need little staff participation. Ideally it should conclude with last slide showing the view from the exit of the Visitor Center or a view from the windows if the screen opens to the view.

H. PUBLIC INFORMATION AND RELATIONS

Public information and relations are an ongoing need at any park. This management plan looked at three areas of importance: brochures, advertisements, and communications. The management plan did not research and analyze the effect of the public information and relations. There has been no user survey done analyzing the effect of the material or determining users' opinions about the park. This management plan makes observations based on the consultants' experience and the comments made by a number of people interviewed as part of this management plan.

Immediate (Year 1)

Brochures. There are two types of brochures used at Odiorne Point State Park: one announcing the program and the second an introductory brochure with a trail map. The brochures have been funded with Sea Grant monies.

The immediate need is to update and republish the "Trail Map and Historic Notes" brochure. The map should be corrected based on the map in this Management Plan. The brochure has a "History of Odiorne Point" which gives a nice overview of the site, but does not relate it in any way to the trail map. The brochure is an introductory brochure to the site, not a self guided walking tour brochure. An introductory brochure should also give information on the park's mission, special features, hours of operation, and any general rules which should be conveyed to the visitor, all of which are lacking in the present brochure. This brochure would be the only site specific brochure given to the public. It should be distributed by the gatekeeper at both entrances.

Funding is needed to review and update as needed the "Natural Science and Historical Studies" and reprint the publication. All of the original authors (who originally donated their time) should be contacted and asked to participate in the project. Their original material should be appropriately noted. The publication should be available to the public in area libraries and at the Visitor Center and it should be sold to the public.

Advertisements. Each sponsor places its own articles in the newspaper about activities it is sponsoring at the park. This arrangement should continue but be included in the sponsors' management agreement. Area media should continue to receive informational articles about activities in the park.

Communications. The first need is to develop and sign a management agreement among the three sponsors. This has been referenced a number of places and is viewed as a high priority. Management agreements which are needed are further discussed in the last section of this plan. The annual park planning meeting should be continued.

The second high priority is to continue and increase staff training. The entire staff should have an annual staff training day in the spring focusing on key interpretive features of the park. It is important that the staff from the different agencies know each other, the park's and agencies' purpose, and their own responsibility at the park. It is particularly important that all park personnel in contact with the public have a basic level of knowledge about the park, especially the gatekeepers who meet the visitor first. The gatekeepers should welcome and direct the visitor to the parking lot, Visitor Center, restroom facility, picnic area, and trails. A personnel manual for all staff would be a valuable asset for coordinating staff.

Third, the park should have location maps based on the map in this Management Plan placed at the two entrances to the park and at Frost Point. The map could have the trails color coded indicating the bike trail, the paved loop trail, the park perimeter trail, the park interior trail, and other small trails.

Long Range (Years 2-5)

Brochures. In year 2, the emphasis should be on developing a self guided walking tour brochure based on the location map, natural, historical and military features, and area views. There has been considerable discussion about the use of trail markers and vandalism. The consultants believe it is possible to design a self guided walk without specific trail markers. However, it should be recognized that trail markers, like numbers on rocks or wood posts, do assist the visitor. Without trail markers, it may be necessary to add additional trail definition.

The first new brochure prepared should provide a glimpse into the multiple features of Odiorne Point State Park. Features it could point out include: the salt marsh, open woods, sandy beach, Little Harbor, Heritage Garden, Plotting Room, Frost Point, Battery Seaman, fresh water marsh, Atlantic Ocean, Isles of Shoals, rocky shore, Command Post, thicket, fish fountain, Battery 204, Sugden House, gun mounts, drowned forest and ledges. Data in the Existing Conditions (Chapter 2) and the "Natural Science and Historical Studies" could be used. The brochures should be primarily designed for the regular park visitor, not the

school visitor who has the benefit of being in an organized group. The brochures can also be used by the cross country skier.

The second tier of self guided brochures should focus on either specific sites or features. For example, the new interpretive loop trail in the southern end could have a small trail guide. The trail could have identification signs like those used in the Heritage Garden. This type of brochure would need plant identification drawings to assist the user. A whole series of brochures could be researched and written on different features based on the updated "Natural Science and Historical Studies" as well as other research. This approach encourages multiple visits and seasonal visits. For example, one day the visitor may look at the park's brochures and exhibits related to animal life. Another day, it may be habitats. On a third visit, intertidal life. The following, military history. Then, settlement history or plant species or prehistory. This is not a new idea in terms of education at the park, but it has not been translated into self guided walks available to the visitor.

The third tier of brochures should focus on the interconnectedness of Odiorne Point State Park to the seacoast. This is particularly relevant in the areas of settlement history, military history and marine resources. However, there are other features which could be the subject of an area brochure. Thus, there would be a seacoast settlement brochure, which would also direct the visitor to other historic resources. The coastal harbor defense brochure would also include other fortifications along the Piscataqua River. The marine resource brochure would include the area from the Isles of Shoals to Great Bay to the Gulf of Maine. These area brochures encompass both New Hampshire and Maine sites and should be a cooperative project.

Advertisements. When Odiorne Point State Park is operated on a year-round basis, there will be a need to increase the advertising related to the park. The intent is to spread the programs and use throughout the year. Because the marine program is bi-state, there may be a desire to increase the use of the park program in southern Maine.

Entrance Fee. Many seacoast people already use the park in the off-season. A New Hampshire park visitor's pass should be promoted in the seacoast at this time. It is important to the State that the park be supported locally. Residents are not used to paying in the off-season so the year-round membership (visitor's pass) should be at a reasonable fee. A non-resident higher entrance fee could be considered.

Communications. With a year-round staff, the training can take place in the off-peak time of year, such as winter. However, summer employees will still need an orientation session.

I. FUNDING

There are two methods of funding at Odiorne Point State Park: operating and capital. The operating budget is provided by the three sponsors. The capital budget is provided by the State of New Hampshire. Because three different agencies have been involved, it has been difficult to determine the actual expenditures at the site. Federal funds and foundation grants have been used by several sponsors and other departments of the State of New Hampshire (which may not be recorded in operating or capital budgets of the three sponsors) and positions have been allocated to the park which don't reflect the actual staff time allocations.

Immediate (Year 1)

On an annual basis the sponsors should determine the annual budget, staff and work plan so that everyone is informed. The park budget should be viewed as a cooperative budget. The State should also provide its capital work plan and budget which means that several State agencies need to cooperate in its preparation.

Long Range (Years 2-5)

The budget of the park should be in keeping with the mission statement. In the course of developing this Management Plan, a number of staff alternatives have been discussed. There is considerable frustration at the current low level of staff support, particularly on the part of the State. The State has many employees who spend some time at the park, but the overall time commitment in the operating budget is minimal. There is concern that the federal funding of the Sea Grant program may be cut and drastically affect the park in the long run. The budget suggested below is considered appropriate, yet still minimum in operating the park on a year-round basis.

PROPOSED YEAR 5 ODIORNE POINT STATE PARK BUDGET

Staff	$200,000
Employee Benefits (@25%)	50,000
Operating Costs	50,000
TOTAL	$300,000

This budget for year 5 reflects the operation of a year-round park and Visitor Center. This budget could translate into a substantial increase in expenditures among all three park sponsors. In addition, about $35,000 in time is anticipated to be donated by volunteers. The budget

is consistent with the staff needs discussed earlier, but does not reflect capital needs which are discussed later. Operating costs were budgeted as follows: program including supplies $20,000; advertising/ brochures $4,000; fuel $4,000; electricity $2,000; telephone $2,000; maintenance $5,000; interior equipment and replacement $5,000; and exterior equipment and replacement $8,000.

The operation of a year-round park at Odiorne Point State Park assumes that revenue will increase substantially as well. The visitor figures used by the State are very misleading for Odiorne Point State Park because they only show the time that the State collects a toll, namely the summer and on some weekends. The big user of the park, the schools, do not pay any fee to the State. They do, however, pay a fee for the education program at the Visitor Center which goes into the UNH account. This is another area which must be addressed in the sponsors' management agreement.

None of the sponsors has an unlimited supply of monies. The park did not come with an endowment like the Urban Forestry Center did. Therefore, it is important that a budget be established that is realistic. While it is conceivable that the DRED share of the budget could be reduced slightly if the North Park Entrance is operated only seasonally, the basic budget needed represents a substantial increase over the present level of funding. If the park is going to operate in keeping with its mission, the three sponsors have to show good faith to themselves and the public that they will fund this budget. It cannot be expected that groups, like the Friends of Odiorne Point, Inc., will raise money to address the needs of the basic operating budget. There is little sense in building a new Visitor Center or expanding the existing one if an adequate operating budget cannot be maintained.

The major capital expenditures needed are the responsibility of the State. However, at least two of them are directly related to the program offered by the sponsors. If the active interpretation/education program did not exist at the site, then the existing Visitor Center would require less extensive expansion to meet year-round needs and there would be no bus parking needs. This is not said to indicate that there should be no active interpretation/education program on the site. On the contrary, this Management Plan recognizes the importance and success of the program as well as the New Hampshire legislative mandate vis-a-vis UNH and the park and the long standing, early commitment of ASNH to the park. However, all three sponsors should recognize that the capital expenditures are related to the program and the sponsors should have a strong commitment to maintaining and expanding that program in order for the State to justify the increase in both operating and capital expenditures.

The capital expenditures outlined on the following page do not include those being addressed in 1986. Expenditures planned in 1986 include protective fencing at Battery Seaman, trail improvements, signage, special landscape work in the area known as the ledges, and improvements to the North Park Entrance.

ESTIMATED IMPROVEMENT COSTS AT ODIORNE POINT STATE PARK 1987-1989

Subject	Amount
Main Entrance / Parking Lot Improvements	$50,000
Assorted Small Fencing/Signs	$10,000
Battery Seaman Improvements Gun Mount Clearing/ New Interior Sealing	$20,000
Sugden House Improvements Security/ Electricity/ Windows/ Repairs	$50,000
Battery 204 Improvements Removing Seal/ Probably New Doors/ Electricity/ Ventilation	$20,000
Visitor Center 8,000 sq.ft. ($70/sq.ft.)	$560,000
Professional Services for Vis. Ctr. Analyze Sugden House/ Battery 204/ Design Visitor Center, Main Entrance road and parking lot improvements, and related site planning	$60,000
Route 1A Guard Rail Fencing 2,000 linear feet	$35,000
North Entrance Restroom/Entrance Booth/ Improvements	$25,000
Contingencies at 10% Construction Costs	$75,000
GRAND TOTAL	$905,000

The design analysis of the Visitor Center requires access to Battery 204 and related expenditures of opening one door to the battery to allow inspection and analysis. Main Park Entrance improvements should occur following the completion of the Visitor Center and site design analysis. The sponsors should also budget for new exhibit construction for the year-round Visitor Center.

J. MANAGEMENT AGREEMENTS

As this Management Plan was developed with representatives from various interests at Odiorne Point State Park, it became obvious that there was a need to develop written management agreements among the sponsors and between the Parks department and other users at the site. While this can be viewed as time consuming, bureaucratic paperwork, it is needed so that all parties understand their responbilities at the park.

Odiorne Point State Park is viewed as "private turf" by a number of individuals and organizations who have contributed long hours to the park. As was obvious in both public meetings, some of these individuals can articulate the concerns of a particular need well, but do not necessarily see the entire park needs or relationship between the competing needs. In part because the State has not exhibited financial commitment in terms of operating staff to the park, various groups or individuals have assumed responsibility or "ownership" of the park or particular resources. As a result, individuals protect their resources and the sponsors are often not even privy to their work or research. Furthermore, the sponsors are not even privy to each other's work. Indeed, much of the data is not even stored at the site because there is inadequate staff office, storage and work space.

Friends groups provide citizen participation and support for parks. From a management perspective, such groups require constant participation by management level staff. That is not to say that these groups are not desired, but they do cost the sponsors personnel time. If the management staff does not participate, decisions could be made which are not in keeping with the mission of the park.

There are a number of commissions advising the State on specific properties. Each advisory commission or committee needs ongoing staff participation which is difficult given the small number of management level park personnel in Concord and the seacoast. Therefore, the State should be congnizant of the demands placed on existing staff each time a new "Friends" organization is created.

There may be opposition to having various users develop and sign management agreements. However, if the management agreements are simply designed and executed in a timely fashion, the users should realize and support the overall purpose. A management agreement should be viewed as a lease: it protects both parties.

Immediate (Year 1)

The top priority is the development of a management agreement among all three sponsors: the Division of Parks and Recreation Services (DRED), the marine and sea grant program (UNH) and the Audubon Society of New Hampshire (ASNH). The agreement should include the park's mission statement and goals, the assignment of sponsor responsibilities, the allocation of staff, the allocation of funding, the long term commitment of the sponsor to the park, liability and other insurance, and

non-compliance with the management agreement. The development of the agreement should include the directors of the agencies and the highest level staff person at the site. It is important that both the management and operational staff participate in and have ownership of the agreement. The agreement should be reviewed annually and updated as needed as part of the annual park planning among the three sponsors.

After this key document is developed, the State should then develop management agreements with the other park users and support groups. These agreements should be in keeping with the sponsors' management agreement. The consultants recommend that the State be responsible for all of the other agreements since they are the owner, but that the other two sponsors receive a copy of the agreements and that a copy be placed on file in the Visitor Center.

The following specific agreements are recommended between the Parks division of DRED and:

Friends of Odiorne Point, Inc.	The agreement should focus on the role and responsibilities of the non-profit group in terms of mission, fund-raising purpose and expenditures of monies. All three sponsors should have representation on the Board of the Friends of Odiorne, Inc.
Driftwood Garden Club	The agreement should focus on the maintenance of the Heritage Garden and Foye-Whitcomb field if desired. A copy of the garden data should be kept at the Visitor Center.
Seacoast Chapter Audubon Society of New Hampshire	The agreement should focus on the role and responsibilities of Seacoast Audubon Chapter at the park.
N.H. Fish and Game	The agreement should focus on whether seasonal waterfowl hunting should be allowed between Frost Point and Seavey Creek.
Urban Forestry Center (or Division of Forest and Lands, DRED)	The agreement should focus on the management of the climax forest near Seavey Creek.
Marine Services (DRED)	The agreement should focus on the needs of the boat launch area and fees to be charged. It does not appear that there is a need for Marine Services to manage the boat launch since it is a small part of the North Park Entrance.

DOT (Department of Transportation) (formerly DPWH)	The agreement should focus on Route 1A access, the south boundary parking lots by the drowned forest, and the type and placement of signage and fencing along Route 1A. The historical marker should be moved to an appropriate location where it can be easily read.
Army Corps of Engineers	The agreement should focus on the maintenance of the Little Harbor jetty and dredging Little Harbor and Seavey Creek vis-a-vis the park.
Other Groups/Individuals	All groups or individuals desiring to carry out research at the park or use it on a regular basis should have an agreement.

Management agreements are a written form of communication. They can always be altered at the request of and agreement among the parties. They are particularly needed in a situation like this where there are multiple sponsors and interests and it is very easy for communication not to occur. Particularly with a limited staff with multiple needs and limited budget, time has to be set aside to develop management agreements, plan programs, and train staff.

This Management Plan is a working document. It is designed to give the sponsors and interested readers a comprehensive view of the management needs at the park. It is designed to contain specific work elements which can be accomplished in the immediate future. It spells out the implications of the mission statement and goals in terms of the site, staff, program, public information and funding in the long range. It is hoped that this document provides a better understanding of the park and its needs which will allow the sponsors to increase their funding and support for this unique park in the State of New Hampshire.

Appendix A: Inventory and Evaluation of Existing Information

A number of reports and memoranda have been prepared relative to Odiorne Poont State Park and Fort Dearborn. Books about Rye also contain data about the earlier settlement at Odiorne Point. While Odiorne Point is the southernmost point at the Park and Frost Point is the northernmost point, Odiorne Point has been used by many to describe the entire peninsula.

A summary follows regarding each book, report, or memoranda. At the end of the summary, initials indicate where the resource may be found. None of the materials are presently kept at the Visitor Center. However, many are located in the Rye library, Portsmouth Public library, the University of New Hampshire marine program office, the Recreation Services Office of DRED, the Office of State Planning, and the Audubon Society of New Hampshire. Copies owned by The Thoresen Group are also noted should other sources be unavailable. The Portsmouth Athenaeum also has copies of many books relating to local history.

The Rye Public Library keeps a book shelf on Rye history in it reading room. In addition to the books on Rye, there are notebooks with plant inventories and historic inventories prepared by Louise Tallman. The Fort Dearborn study is kept behind the librarian's desk. Annual Reports of the Town of Rye are kept in a bookcase in the reading room.

The Portsmouth Public Library has these books and reports in four possible locations. Books in circulation are in the stacks. Other books, often old and/or historic, are kept in the Portsmouth room and may not be checked out of the Library. Some books are in both places. If reports are not in the card catalog, they can be in two other places: the State circulation file or the vertical file. The Fort Dearborn and the Cottrell reports were in the vertical file. The OSP New Hampshire Coast Program EIS was in the State document file.

The Committee asked that the review and assessment be kept short in the summary of reports. The Committee recognizes that all these reports are resources for either resource protection, management or interpretation. People who are interested in these books, reports or data can use this summary to further their research.

* Frank R. Bean, DRED, "Land Utilization Study - Present and Potential, Fort Dearborn, Rye, N.H., Present and Potential Use of State Land at Fort Dearborn (Preliminary)," undated c. 1963.

At the time of this report, the State had a full time maintenance man living at the Sugden House. Entrance to the park was on a reservation basis. The boat launch site was established. A tennis court was in the

middle of the site. Frost Point was considered to have "the most potential for future development than any other area." Battery Seaman is suggested to be an "historic shrine."

"If the park is properly developed, the facilities it will offer patrons include swimming and beaching, picnicing, athletic activities such as tennis and horseshoes, nature study, sight-seeing, camping, relaxation, eating facilities, toilets, recreation fields for just "fooling around," boating, educational structures such as an oceanic laboratory, and historical shrines commemorating the founders of New Hampshire, the settlers of New Hampshire, and the Harbor Defense for the Second World War. In addition, all sorts of exhibits illustrating various activities and industries of the State. A monument dedicated to the founders of New Hampshire in 1899 can be moved from its present location in the cemetery west of Route 1-A to its appropriate location near Odiorne's Point."

This reports indicates that the park's potential is increased by its relationship to Route 1A. (DRED)

* Frank R. Bean, "Historical Significance of Fort Dearborn, Rye, N.H. circa 1963.

This is a 3 page history of the area, giving a brief overview of the periods of European settlement and World War II. (DRED)

* Annette B. Cottrell, Editor, "Odiorne Point State Park Natural Science and Historical Studies, " 1973.

This report contained articles on geology (Marland P. and Katherine F. Billings), the drowned forest (Donald H. Chapman), algae (freshwater- Hannah Croasdale and marine- Arthur C. Mathieson), bryophyte flora (Elizabeth M. Sherrard), plants (Clotilde Magnant Straus), intertidal life (Margaret Ann Mills), salt marsh (Phelps Laszlo and Wallace Blanchard), birds (Arthur C. Borror), mammals (Richard R. Tardif), archeology (Eugene D. Finch and Frederick Johnson), and history of the Odiorne Point area (Louise H. Tallman). The report contains considerable background material and a number of maps referencing the data. Each section was prepared by an authority in the field. A number of the reports indicated that additional data or research was needed since the changes were ongoing.

The report played a significant role in the State's planning for Odiorne Point State Park due to its documentation of the extensive natural and historic resources in the park and the need for protection and preservation. The report encouraged the development of a less intense park than planned at that time. The report has served as a resource manual for a number of the brochures, manuals and exhibits which have since been prepared. (There has been concern expressed by some of the authors, who did this work as volunteers, that their work has not been

properly acknowledged by subsequent people who have used the data and maps.) The report provides reference material for interpretative and educational programs at Odiorne Point State Park. Some areas need updating due to the ongoing natural resource changes at the park or the availability of additional research data. (PPL,UNH, DRED, ASNH, TTG)

* Department of Resources and Economic Development and Office of Comprehensive Planning, 1977 New Hampshire Outdoor Recreation Plan, 1977.

This report contains data on outdoor recreation on a community basis and includes a recreation inventory and guidelines for the outdoor recreational facilities in New Hampshire. There is no natural areas inventory data sheet specifically for Odiorne Point Park though there was one included for the Isles of Shoals. The 1977 acquisition (for $20,000) of 200 acres of tidal marsh adjacent to the park on the westerly side of Route 1A was noted as being a "logical visual extension of the park environment and a primary element in the park's natural resource interpretation program." The report also defines the criteria for areas being designated as National Natural Landmarks; these criteria included the land having "outstanding geological formations or features significantly illustrating geologic processes" and being "an ecological community significantly illustrating the process of succession and restoration to natural conditions following disruptive change." Odiorne Point State Park was not at the time of the report being considered as a potential national natural landmark. (OSP, DRED, TTG)

* Department of Resources and Economic Development, Program of Utilization, 1959 and Revised Program of Utilization, December 31, 1973.

The State initially prepared a program of utilization in 1959 as part of its acquisition of Fort Dearborn. The first program envisioned Fort Dearborn as a Public Recreation Area with a small boat marina, picnic area north of the plotting room, observation areas on top of the two batteries, a group use area in the central portion of the site, and a camping area across Route 1A on property not owned by the State. It envisioned a considerable level of activity and facility development.

Following the Per Nylen "Master Plan" in 1971 and the Annette Cottrell edited "Odiorne Point State Park Natural Science and Historical Studies" in 1973, the State prepared a Revised Program of Utilization which reflected a changed emphasis to protection of the natural resources, day activities with a picnic area, trails, nature study and scenic views and little development in a more intensive use. The northern area was to be left in its natural state although Battery Seamen might be used in the future. No marina or athletic fields were suggested and day group use was suggested in the south end of the Park. An administrative and maintenance facility site was suggested west of Seavey Creek.

Recognition was to be given to the "original settlement site...adjacent to the surplus property." Although camping was eliminated from the program (on land adjacent to the site), the program still anticipated future land acquisition for resource protection and park development. The program acknowledged the University of New Hampshire's interest in using Fort Dearborn for academic and scientific purposes but said those activities would occur outside the federal surplus property and be compatible with the primary purpose of public outdoor recreation. The revised program of utilization is an important statement which reflects the State's desired direction of OPSP. (OSP, DRED, TTG)

* Michael Donovan, Master Plan 1985, Town of Rye, 1985.

The Master Plan identifies Odiorne Point State Park as part of Rye's unique coastal resources with its rocky shores, wetlands, and scenic and unusual natural areas. The Plan's major goals which relate to OPSP are to maintain the present character of Rye's coastal areas, preserve and protect Rye's wetlands, preserve and protect Rye's unique scenic and natural resources, and preserve Rye's heritage. Concerns which were voiced included beach access, beach erosion, adequacy of comfort facilities along the coast, pedestrian walkway plans for the entire coast, and the extension of the Odiorne Park bike path. The Plan not only stressed the regional responsibility that Rye has as a provider of regional recreation and as a protector of regional natural resources, but it stated that the "...importance of state participation...cannot be over emphasized" both in the development of a recreation plan and in the protection/preservation of natural resources. The report also noted the effects and pressures put on the Town of Rye with regard to the heavy seasonal traffic, the overcrowding of beaches and shoreland, the need for additional police protection, and the extra burden placed on the waterways and level of water pollution. The report reflects the Town's desires which are in keeping with the revised Program of Utilization. (RL, TTG)

* Susan E. Hardy and Laurence Morris, Interns, Massachusetts Audubon Society, "Summary and Evaluation of the Nature Center Odiorne Point State Park, First Summer," 1973. (Sponsored by the Audubon Society of New Hampshire.)

The two interns developed a program based on the Natural Science and Historical Studies book. The Nature Center was operated in the old firehouse building during the summer. The interns recommended for the future "more children's exhibits and participatory games, a library and reading center, slides and/or weekly evening movies, repair to and expansion of the building, a large permanent sign on the nature center, bird feeders, shrubs, organic garden and mini-trail around the center, and running water and restrooms." The report contained copies of several newspaper articles (written by the interns) and Richard R. Tardiff's "A Survey of the Mammals of Odiorne Point State Park, Rye, NH." Tardiff found or considered probable the following mammals:

opossum, shrew, mole, bat, rabbit, chipmunk, woodchuck, squirrel, beaver, mice, vole, muskrat, rat, porcupine, fox, raccoon, fisher, weasel, mink, skunk, bobcat, and deer. He noted that moose and black bear were possible as well as whales, porpoises, seals and dolphins which moved along the New Hampshire coast. (ASNH,TTG)

* W. Harrison and C.J. Lyon, "Sea-Level and Crustal Movements Along the New England-Acadian Shore, 4,500 - 3,000 B.P.," 1963.

The report investigated the remains of three drowned forests including Odiorne Point. "The forest site consists of the remains of a largely coniferous stand whose short stumps and fallen logs are found within a small cove...partially protected by offshore ledges...rooted in a firm woodland peat." The authors concluded the trees were killed by submergence rather than infrequent storm waters. (There also is a drowned forest at Jenness Beach. The date of the forest was documented by Isotopes, Inc. Radiocarbon Measurements.) The report is significant because it identifies a unique resource of the Park which may qualify as a National Natural Landmark. (UNH, TTG)

* Lt. Col. Wilbar M. Hoxie, "Fort Dearborn: Keystone in the Harbour Defenses of Portsmouth," 1970.

This report contains data on the early fortification of Portsmouth Harbour as well as the development of Fort Dearborn. It also contains anecdotes about some of the people who served in the coastal harbor defense. Fort Dearborn was named for General Henry Dearborn "a native of Hampton, born 1751, who settled in Nottingham to practice medicine" who later served on General Washington's staff, as well as representing his district in Maine in Congress, and under President Jefferson, as Secretary of War. This report is more detailed than the fortification component in the Cottrell report and can be used in military interpretation. (DRED, TTG)

* Arthur D. Little, Inc., "Recreational Boating Needs Assessment and Expansion Feasibility Study for the Tidal Waters of New Hampshire," 1981.

The report provides an inventory of available docks and mooring areas along the New Hampshire coast, determines the demand for boating facilities, and recommends where new or improved facilities could be developed. It suggested a potential marina off Frost Point using up to three acres of OPSP. It also suggested the relocation of the Witch Creek launch ramp, adding parking spaces, and realigning moorings. The report argues that the potential disruption of the marine environment and critical habitat areas in Little Harbor would be avoided or mitigated. The report reflects the desire of the boating community to use the northern part of Frost Point. It is not compatible with the

revised Program of Utilization. (DRED, Port Authority)

* National Park Service, "Visitor Facility Building Requirements," undated, copy provided by Audubon Society of New Hampshire.

The article reviews the steps to designing a visitor facility. Steps include: 1) master plan indicating building location, 2) interpretive prospectus indicating detailed building requirement for lobby, exhibit room, audiovisual room, and other areas, 3) program needs based on interpretive prospectus, 4) exhibit plan and audiovisual plan, and 5) visitor center design.

Basic architectural design criteria include: 1) unique and individual solution in harmony with park character site which satisfies building requirements, 2) design should grow from landform and not dominate landscape, 3) use regional materials and echo forms but not echo period architecture, 4) total concept should have consistent architectural unity, 5) building should have emotional impact, particularly interior, 6) integrate interior and exterior space to create exciting, moving scene, 7) sculptural relief adds rhythm and repetition, and 8) color very important, second only to location and design. (ASNH)

* Nature Center Division, National Audubon Society, "A Proposal for A Marine Nature and Conservation Center for Fort Dearborn State Park, Rye, New Hampshire," November, 1962.

This 1962 proposal describes the purpose and general objectives of a nature center in four areas: educational, scientific, cultural and recreational. It calls for a "dynamic program in natural history and conservation education." There are a number of general program suggestions ranging from field trips to school visits to live animals to films, workshops, hobby clubs, discussion, special needs programs and weekend courses. The 1962 estimated capital costs including a new building of 2,500 square feet ranged for $22,000-$42,250 and the operating costs (of the visitor center) ranged from $10,250 to $18,800 for a year-round program.

The New Hampshire Audubon Society should be the sponsor of the Nature Center. An advisory committee (with representatives of schools, scouts, service, civic, garden, sportsmen's and business clubs, town recreation, Division of State parks, and government and conservation agenices) "should help with administration." The proposal recommended: that there be clear park purpose and objectives, that the program consider the "competition" for the land and that recreation uses not be close by the Center, that camping be allowed only if connected to the program, that the parking lot close to the Center accomodate 50 cars, that collections of natural objects "be held to a strict minimum", that a master plan for the nature center area be prepared, that the University of New Hampshire education department have practice teaching at the Center, that a

special program for hotel guests be developed, that a Women's Guild be organized to raise funds, and that a small out-of-state fee be charged for the center's activities.

The 9 page illustrated appendix has a detailed list of conservation principles and their supporting ideas on interpretation which remain valid 25 years later. Areas covered include general conservation, and specific resources such as soil, water, forest, fish and wildlife, geology and minerals, and educational facilities. (DRED)

* No author, "Visitor Center Design," provided by Audubon Society of New Hampshire.

A visitor center is a "public use building" with one objective being "to provide adequately a service to the public." The visitor wants warmth, friendliness and freedom from decision. First, satisfy creature comforts. Secondly, provide purposeful help and guidance.

Three possible placements for the visitor center are: 1) at or near park entrance, 2) between entrance and destination, and 3) terminus. About 20 percent of park visitors visit the center. Placement affects the number of visits.

The report contains square feet criteria for public spaces. They were given as follows:

Lobby	12 sq. ft. per person per hour
Waiting Room	20 sq. ft. per person per hour
Rest Area	20 sq. ft. per person per hour
Reading Room	20 sq. ft. per person per hour
Auditorium	9 sq. ft. per person per hour
Exhibit Rooms	20 sq. ft. per person per hour

In addition, space for staff offices must be provided and 25 percent of the total square footage should be allowed for space circulation in calculating the total square feet. (ASNH)

* Per Nylen, "Odiorne Points, Rye, New Hampshire, Master Plan Report," January 1971.

The Master Plan study considered the optimum location and extent of the various recreational facilities in a multi-use park including adjacent water and land which is outside the present park boundary. It analyzed natural and historic resources. The report recommended that the park be designated an historic and preservation area and utilization of the park emphasize natural and historic awareness, education and research. It recommended acquiring an additional 550 acres of land, relocating Route 1A, and having vehicular access via Seavey Creek. It further recommended that most buildings at the site be removed, archeological surveys be undertaken, and based on their results, that an early

settlement be recreated. It recommended the re-use of Battery Seaman as a visitor center and that a docking facility be north and west of Seavey Creek bridge. The reports reflects a multi-use park which is not consistent with the Revised Program of Utilization. (DRED, TTG)

* Office of State Planning and the Department of Resources and Economic Development, "New Hampshire Outdoors," 1983.

This plan was prepared to continue New Hampshire's eligibility to participate in the Land and Water Conservation Fund program. The report contains data on recreation supply, demand and need in New Hampshire, the roles of various governments including a description of their responsibilities and programs, and lists of programs which have been funded. It states that the value of Fort Dearborn when it was transfered was $182,000, the Rye Air Force Station was attributed no value, and the Gap Filler annex was valued at $6,000. These three parcels make up most of Odiorne Point State Park. The report contains criteria of use in estimating community recreation demand and standards per 1000 people. It shows the State perspective on outdoor recreation. (OSP, TTG)

* Office of State Planning (NH) and NOOA, "New Hampshire Coastal Program Ocean and Harbor Segment and Final Environmental Impact Statement," 1982.

The report outlined a comprehensive management plan for coastal lands and waters in New Hampshire. The publication summarizes the responsibilities of State agencies and authorities. Of particular relevance to OPSP are a number of policies: "1) protect...and preserve submerged lands under tidal and fresh waters and wetlands from despoliation and unregulated alteration; 8) preserve and develop unusual scenic, scientific, historical and recreational areas and facilities for the public, expand facilities within...to achieve maximum benefit and increase the value for the tourist and resident; 9) promote use and conservation of historical, archeological, architectural and cultural heritage; and 17) establish and maintain an academic base of excellence in marine related education, research and service activities within New Hampshire". The revised Program of Utilization appears to be compatible with this report. (PPL, OSP, TTG)

* Office of State Planning (NH), "New Hampshire State Parks Policy Plan," Draft, May 1986.

The Office of State Planning has developed a statewide parks policy plan for New Hampshire. The report builds on the Legislature's 1985 Sunset report, the Division of Parks and Recreation parks condition report, and a series of public meetings held in conjunction with the State Parks 50th Anniversary in 1985. State policies include the State park system

seeking "public input" and responding "to public needs in making management decisions," coordinating its "activities and responsibilities with other providers having complementary responsibilities in the areas of recreation and resource protection" (p.18); "protecting the best examples of the State's natural heritage within the State park system, providing "for the optimum recreational activities within the State park system," protecting "historic properties with special significance" (p.32); operating parks "as a service to the public," and generating "within practical and reasonable limits, income" (p.48). (DRED)

* Langdon B. Parsons, History of the Town of Rye, NH, 1905.

The book contains an early history of Rye from its settlement until 1903. It noted that by 1688 the population of Rye was around 100 and that by 1773 it contained 842 people including 19 slaves. It discussed the early settlement at Odiorne Point. Chapter 1 discusses the David Thomson settlement settlement at the Pannaway plantation in 1623. Odiorne Point according to New Hampshire records of 1704 was known as "Rendezvous Point" at least until the Revolutionary War. Sawmills owned by the Odiornes by Seavey Creek bridge burned in 1862. If a bridge or mills were built prior to 1652, it cannot be proved because the Portsmouth selectmen destroyed town records, "an audacious and indefensible a piece of official rascality as ever was perpetrated." (p.20) The summer resort activity at Odiorne Point is described including the transfer of properties to various owners. The report contains data of use in interpretation of Rye history as it relates to Odiorne Point State Park.
(RL,PPL)

* Philip E. Reynolds, PhD., "Conservation Master Plan for the Town of Rye, NH,", 1978.

The conservation master plan describes the key natural resources in Rye. The Bellyhack Bog, an important natural resource in the northern part of Rye, drains out via Berry's Brook into Seavey Creek and Witch Creek. Of the 8300 acres of land in Rye, in 1978 the Town had "protected 130 acres of mostly wetlands." The Town of Rye instituted wetlands zoning in 1977. The protection of natural resources is consistent with the revised Program of Utilization. (RL)

* Lyman V. Rutledge, Ten Miles Out (3rd Edition), 1956.

The Isles of Shoals are a part of the Town of Rye. From the nearest point in Rye, the islands are 6½ miles out. White Island Light is at 42°58" latitutde and 70°37" longitude. The lighthouse is 85' high and dates from 1865. The island is six acres and is connected to the 4 acre Seavey Island at low tide. There is some question whether Seavey is a separate island. (This book is included because White Island may become part of Odiorne Point State Park.) (RL, PPL)

* Rye Junior High School, "A Handful of History 1623-1980," 1980.

The report contains a capsule history of Rye on different subjects prepared by the students. It stated that at the Odiorne Point settlement called Pannaway in 1623, there was a brick fort. Another student stated that "the bunkers at Odiorne are one of the main attractions." A third said the "State filled the bunkers for safety." The report gives a student perspective on Rye and indicates the educational potential and interest in OPSP. (RL)

* Carol F. Smith, "New Hampshire Endangered Species Program Common Tern Management and Research Project," 1982.

The New Hampshire Endangered Species Projram is cooperatively administered by the New Hampshire Audubon Society and the New Hampshire Fish and Game Department. The Common Tern is facing a loss of prime nesting habitat and problems including predation, tidal flooding, vandalism and human disturbance. Prime seacoast nesting sites are the Back Channel Islands (the closest site to OPSP) and the Seabrook and Hampton Harbor. The back channel program is an example of specialized wildlife management to increase survival. Though the tern is not nesting at OPSP, the report indicates the concern of keeping natural areas for nesting sites and birding which is consistent with the revised Program of Utilization. (ASNH, OSP, TTG)

* Southeastern New Hampshire Regional Planning Commission, "Economic Impact of Certain Shoreline Users on the New Hampshire Coastal Zone," 1975.

There are 12 miles of sandy beach and 7500 acres of tidal marsh in New Hampshire. The study surveyed users on the sandy and non-sandy areas and analyzed the results grouped by day users and vacationers. The study found that non-sandy areas (e.g.OPSP) appeal to day users who have families with or without children or are in organized groups and to vacationers without their children, or in groups, or as single people. Coastal NH residents spend less money at the sites than others. Beach users spend more than non-beach users. Problems identified in non-sandy areas include: cleanliness, parking, bathhouses (lack thereof), and rules (too many). The study also contained a business survey which determined the most desirable type of seacoast development in descending order of priority as: museums, marinas, public parks/picnic areas, children's playgrounds, fishing pier, year-round residences, public boat launching areas, roads and highways, seasonal residences, bird and wildlife sanctuaries, restaurants, and theatres/movies. The report is one of the few shoreline user studies. It provides some overall perspective on the types of users and development (or lack) desired which can be applied to OPSP. (TTG)

* Julia M. Steed and Dr. John E. Carroll, "Project S.U.N.: An Environmental and Interpretive Plan for Odiorne Point State Park," 1977. (S.U.N. is for Student University Naturalist.)

The report defines goals and philosophies regarding the park and its environmental programs, describes the history and current use of the park, identifies park and community needs, assesses the suitability of the park as an environmental resource center, makes recommendations for future programs, and prepares a list of resources and literature pertinent to the park and its program. The "Friends of Odiorne Point" was formed in 1970 "to help raise funds and stir public interest for Park preservation..." The major park problems identified were: vandalism, visitor abuse, communication problems between contributing organizations, lack of continuity in summer program from year to year, lack of sufficient time, funding and personnel for existing programs, and lack of a four season program. In 1976, the "majority of visitors to the nature center were families or ogranizations from the nearby area."

The report stated that "the rationale for the existence of the environmental center...must be more deep seated than just recreation if park planning is...future oriented. A basic function of the park's programs...expose the visitor to a philosophy of living...based on ecological principles...presented...through...examples and focus of the programs themselves." The report suggested that the interpretive program "illustrate basic concepts about the biological systems emphasizing the relationship between man and the marine environment," and provide information, encourage community involvement, and foster an awareness of stewardship both within and outside the park. Environmental interpretation should include: the park's social and natural history, the seacoast park system and natural history of coastal habitats, marine awareness program, and "grass roots" programs to various alternatives in living. Because "lack of sufficient funds has been a major stumbling block to program development," the report advocated community involvement and specifically volunteers, as "one way to circumvent the staffing problem." Student naturalists could be hired as interns for the interpretive center in exchange for university credit (Project S.U.N.). The report suggested a year-round program. Much of the report's concerns remain valid today and the philosophy is consistent with the revised Program of Utilization. (UNH, TTG)

* Louise Tallman, "Ecological Succession at Odiorne," 1985.

The memorandum focuses on the continuing ecological changes occurring at the park. It notes that the plant list compiled in 1972 "expresses a moment in time," and needs updating. Precise locations are needed for rare plants. Some areas need intensive mowing and others annual mowing in order to maintain permanent open area. The Odiorne Point Rose, which may be unique to the park, is worthy of protection. The memorandum contains recommendations which need to be considered in keeping with resource protection at OPSP. (DRED, TTG)

* Louise Tallman, "Preservation-Restoration Proposal for the Foye-Whitcomb Field, Odiorne Point State Park," 1978. "Post-mortem," January 1986.

The objective of the proposal is to maintain species diversity in one section of the park. "The proposal is to maintain as field an area about 100 feet across, located at the northwest part of the old Foye-Whitcomb field." The area is bounded on two sides by stone walls and on the south and east by woody shrub and tree growth. The area contains lilac, myrtle, a pear tree, crab apple and other assorted plants. Invading plants included blackberry, bittersweet and Buckthorn. "Mowing this site to enable original materials to survive would require a once-a-year mowing of the 100 foot circle....It may by now (1986) be impossible to attempt this particular rescue." It "should be feasible" to rescue the Odiorne Point Rose located east of the restrooms. This memorandum focuses on one area of the park and emphasizes maintaining species diversity in keeping with resource protection at OPSP. (DRED, TTG).

* Louise Tallman (no author stated), "The Heritage Garden," 1976.

The memorandum describes the heritage garden located within Odiorne Point State Park in the northern area near the Plotting Room. The garden dates from an earlier estate. The Draftwood Garden Club has worked with the Division of Parks to "rescue" the garden. The club has identified woody plants to be encouraged and discouraged within the garden, park garden plants to be used, cultivated materials of interest near the garden, wild herbaceous plants to be encouraged, tolerated, and/or featured, and roses both within the garden and the park. "Old roses were selected as the feature specimens to go into the Heritage Garden." Some grape vines were removed and roses were added to the garden in 1976. The report reflects the action of a private club project in a public park to address a need not identified in early research. (DRED, TTG)

* Malcolm H. Thomas, "Parks 1985: A Report on the Condition and Trend of New Hampshire State Park Properties," Department of Resources and Eocnomic Development, pp. 97-99.

The report contains a three page analysis in the 1984 condition of Odiorne Point State Park. The comments indicate that in the Division's judgement, "acquisition of the remaining portion of the historic lands of 1623" and "dead-ending the present highway at the south end of the park property and redirecting through traffic to the much shorter route provided by Marsh Road and Brackett Road... is <u>essential</u> to achieving the level of parkland integrity and recreational enjoyment which such a premier park potential deserves."

Below are specific recommendations:

Route 1A	Relocate to Marsh & Brackett Road
Park Entrance	Keep until Route 1A changed
Bike Path	DPWH - maintain pavement
Boat Launch Area	Widen road, resurface (gravel), add gravel and culvert to trail
Trail Network	New treadway improvements & ongoing maintenance program, trail patrol program, extensive woodland management along trails and at vista points
Grassed Areas	Need complete rehabilitation project and annual turf management
Parking Area	Pave and stripe, extend 200' to southwest
Playground Equip.	Replace with commercial wood equipment
Toilet Building	Add landscaping
Picnic Sites	Add compacted gravel pads and anchored tables
Entrance Sign	Add new masonry and wood sign
Toll Booth	Need masonry and wood landscaped island
Bus Parking	Need separate area
Public Use Grounds	Need tree and shrub planting program and ongoing landscape management program
Nature Center	Construct 3 level facility enclosing Battery 204 with top level being viewing area
South Boundary Area	Add fieldstone masonry wall to eliminate vehicular access.

(DRED,OSP)

* The Thoresen Group, etal., "State Coastal Properties Project: Part II: Fort Dearborn at Odiorne Point State Park," 1983.

The report focuses on Fort Dearborn at Odiorne Point State Park. The report describes the history of Fort Dearborn, an inventory of and the discussion on the current use of the remaining Fort Dearborn structures, and a discussion of re-use alternatives. The report recommended that the State interpret the three New Hampshire coastal harbor defense parks (Fort Constitution, Fort Stark and Fort Dearborn) in a coordinated manner with emphasis being placed on the uniqueness of each site. Regarding Odiorne Point State Park, the report recommends that the State increase the operations staff, undertake prehistoric and archeologic research at the site, evaluate with the Audubon Society and University of New Hampshire their long range interpretive and physical space needs, and develop a master plan with policy guidelines and a long range development plan.

Regarding the Fort Dearborn structures, the report recommends the State address identified safety concerns, that the earth mounded structures remain sealed until above stated OPSP recommendations are addressed, that concrete stairs be added to the Battery 204 tower, that other military structures remain as is but be further interpreted, that Battery 204 eventually be re-used as a coastal harbor defense exhibit and/or for park storage, and that the State in the long range consider a

walk through in part of Battery Seaman. The report contains several additional interpretive recommendations on coastal harbor defense, brochures, directional plaques, brochure distribution, trail marking, oral interpretation and tapes. The report provides background data which can be used in the interpretation of Fort Dearborn and the Piscataqua Harbor Coastal defense. TTG and DRED continue to receive additional military data of use in future interpretation. (RL, PPL, UNH, DRED)

* Town of Rye, "Special Report on Fort Dearborn State Park," December 16, 1970?

The four page report described the development plans for Fort Dearborn State Park as presented by Per Nylen and discussed town and individual concerns ranging from decreasing the Town's tax base, to continuing to allow hunting of water birds in the Route 1A to Brackett Road area if that area was acquired. The authors of the various "natural science and historical studies" were cited. (DRED)

* United States of America and the State of New Hampshire, Deed, February 7, 1961.

"In consideration of the continuous use and maintenance of the premises...as and for public park and recreational purposes" and for $91,000, the State of New Hampshire through the Department of Parks purchased the land of Odiorne Point State Park. There were conditions attached for a period of twenty years, including biennial reporting to Department of Interior. (DRED)

* University of New Hampshire, Marine Program and State of New Hampshire, Division of Parks and Recreation, "Memorandum of Understanding," Unsigned draft copy, c. 1985.

The State owns and operates through the Division of Parks and Recreation ten coastal properties. The Marine Program of the University of New Hampshire "plans, develops and conducts a wide spectrum of marine-related research and educational projects which require access to a wide variety of coastal environments." The memorandum documents "the bases for these mutual efforts."

Areas included are: project development, facilities management, program management, personnel, reviews and reports. Basically, projects may be developed jointly. Facility management is the responsibility of the owner of the site. Program management is the responsibility of the agency assigned program management responsibilities. Both agencies are responsible for related employees, volunteers or contractors. Annual reviews on each project go to both agencies. (DRED, UNH)

* University of New Hampshire, Marine Program and State of New Hampshire, Division of Parks and Recreation, "Draft Memorandum of Agreement Odiorne Point State Park Visitor Center." 1985.

The subject of this draft memorandum between the University of New Hampshire Marine and Sea Grant Programs and the New Hampshire Division of Parks and Recreation is the operation of the Russell B. Tobey Visitor Center. Although the draft cites the role of the Audubon Society of New Hampshire as the third sponsor, it does not include the Audubon Society of New Hamphire in the agreement.

The draft defines the program mission of the Visitor Center: preserve and protect the park's natural resources, interpret natural and social history of the park and New Hampshire's marine resources, and provide a knowledge base on aquatic resources for citizens. The sponsors "strive to expand and maintain the interpretive and educational opportunities of this unique coastal site" and "recognize... (that) the dominant use of this entire property should focus on low intensity use through education, recreation and research."

The draft discusses administration and basic agency responsibilities. "The UNH Marine and Sea Grant Programs provide principal leadership... development and oversight of all programs and exhibits of the Center... a marine education specialist...serves as the Director of the Visitor Center...(is an) employee of the University...coordinates the activities of all agencies involved at the Visitor Center." The University of New Hampshire Sea Grant provides secretarial, administrative and volunteer support (marine docents).

The Audubon Society of New Hampshire provides a summer naturalist and direct funding for programs. The ASNH also provides technical support (Education Director), public relations and volunteer support (Seacoast Chapter).

The New Hampshire Division of Parks provides technical and public relations support through its Public Information Officer. The Division is responsible for "development, construction, maintenance and upgrading of the physical facility including all structures, utilities, trails and grounds." They also control access and security including fire and burglary protection systems.

"The Friends of Odiorne, Inc. serve in an advisory and support role for the three major sponsors of the Center." Their function is to identify Visitor Center needs, "assist in the development of appropriate recommendations to meet these needs and to seek community support for the Center, including financial support."

Each sponsor pays its own staff and provides staff liability coverage. The State has property insurance for the site and liability insurance for the visitors. The University has a Visitor Center account to receive income from sales of publications, royalties received, donations and user fees. The Friends of Odiorne, Inc. also have their own account.

The Director of the Visitor Center coordinates all communications and promotional activities; chairs a yearly program/planning meeting with all sponsors, representatives of the UNH Marine docent program and Friends of Odiorne, Inc.; coordinantes program evaluation; prepares an annual report; and otherwise keeps the sponsors informed. The draft indicates that the Visitor Center will be "staffed by no less than two individuals during any day of operation." (DRED, UNH)

* University of New Hampshire, "Summary of the University of New Hampshire's Conceptual Thinking Regarding Odiorne's Point State Park," January 1971.

This summary reflected "the University's initial input to the long range plan for the use of this area to be jointly prepared by the Parks Division of DRED and the University as authorized and directed by the General Court in RSA Chapter 328:1, 1978." The memorandum focused on the University's "marine-oriented educational, research and science interests" and its "Corridor to the Sea" approach from Durham to the Isles of Shoals. The University described its activities as: involving marine oriented educational, research, and service activities of faculty and students of the physical and life science departments in a park planned for low intensity, recreational usage. The University defined "low intensity" as understood to describe that usage in which the Park's natural beauty will be its primary attraction. The University "is also interested in Park activities which complements (sic) its own and focuses (sic) on the unique marine setting." Furthermore, the joint venture between the University and Parks (DRED) was explored. The memorandum reflects the University's commitment to marine programs and OPSP and is generally in keeping with the revised Program of Utilization. (DRED, UNH, TTG)

* William M. Varrell, Rye on the Rocks, 1962.

The book primarily focused on the history of hotels in Rye, many of which were destroyed due to fire. The Sagamore House which began as a boarding house at Frost Point and was destroyed by fire in 1871 was discussed. Visitors to the Sagamore House initially came by boat. The New Hampshire part of the Isles of Shoals was added to the Town of Rye in 1876. The book noted that Odiorne Point was formerly a flat woodlands with some summer cottages and barns which were converted during World War II and camouflaged with land, trees and foliage. This book is another resource for historic interpretation. (RL, PPL)

* Margaret Watkins, Draft Suggested Natural Landmark Form of Odiorne Point State Park as a National Natural Landmark, c. 1984.

The National Natural Landmarks Program was established in 1962 to "identify and encourage the preservation of areas that illustrate the ecological and geological character of the United States, to enhance the

educational and scientific value of areas thus preserved, to strengthen cultural appreciation of natural history, and to foster a wider interest and concern in the conservation of the nation's natural heritage." The application states "Of particular interest for NNL designation are the drowned forest off Odiorne Point and the site's biological diversity," which were further described. The Office of State Planning sent this nomination form to the National Park Service for a "preliminary judgement on the merits of this site for landmark purposes and recommended boundaries" in September 1984. A NNL would be consistent with resource protection and the revised Program of Utilization. (ASNH, OPS, DRED, TTG)

* Wright-Pierce, Engineers & Architects and DSI Environmental Engineers, Water Quality Management Plan, Town of Rye, NH, January, 1982.

Though this report's primary focus is on Rye's waterways, water supply and quality, and water and waste management issues, it provides background material on Rye with regard to the natural and cultural environments. It also contains a set of maps which effectively illustrate certain features of the Rye area, such as topography, surficial geology, hydrology, floodplains, wetlands, environmentally sensitive areas, and archeological, historical and architectural resources. These maps are useful tools in studying Rye in general and the Odiorne Point State Park area. The report would aid in natural resource interpretation and protection, particularly of the adjacent Seavey Creek ecosystem. (RL, TTG)

REGISTRATION FORM
ODIORNE POINT STATE PARK

DATE _____ **B**

NAME OF GROUP/CONTACT/TELEPHONE

MEETING ROOM/AUDIO

4-7 pm _____

7:30-9:30 pm _____

GROUP PICNIC AREA SHELTER

11 am - 2 pm _____

4-7 pm _____

BUS PARKING/VISITOR CENTER SCHEDULE

Active Interpretation/Education

1. (am) _____
2. (am) _____
3. (pm) _____
4. (pm) _____

Audio Program/Passive Interpretation

5. (9:00) _____
6. (9:20) _____
7. (9:40) _____
8. (10:00) _____
9. (10:20) _____
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