

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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I. INTRODUCTION

In April 2015 the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs of the One Hundred and Twenty-Seventh Maine Legislature requested the Maine Historic Preservation Commission (MHPC) to study a site on the Penobscot River in the Town of Bucksport that may be the site of Fort Norumbega in order to preserve its archaeological significance. This request was in response to a bill sponsored by Representative Richard Campbell of Orrington (Appendix A). Specifically, the MHPC was asked to conduct a preliminary survey of the site, at no cost to the State, for the purpose of determining whether a formal Phase I archaeological survey should be conducted in the future. The MHPC was encouraged to engage a representative from Bucksport and tribal representatives who may have an interest in the significance of the site (Appendix B).

The MHPC conducted background research to learn more about the potential site of Norumbega including its history and location. A meeting in Bucksport was arranged with Emeric Spooner, who had identified the potential sites, and Representative Campbell to gather additional background information and to identify the localities that were to be the subject of the requested study. Four potential sites were chosen for investigation, consisting of a stone canoe burial, main Norumbega fort, and Norumbega wharf in north Bucksport, and the site of the trading post of Negue in Orono. The findings and results of the study of the three Bucksport sites are presented below. Investigation of the proposed trading post is scheduled for the spring of 2016 pending landowner permission, and will be reported on under separate cover.

II. BACKGROUND RESEARCH

The term “Norumbega” was used by European cartographers in the 16th and 17th centuries to refer to what is today much of New England and southeastern Canada. Over time the area represented by the term was narrowed down to the general location of Maine, and finally to the Penobscot River region at the approximate location of Bangor. As this location was narrowed down over the years, the map label transitioned from letters to a physical kingdom depicted as an elaborate European-style castle (Fig. II.1). Along with these depictions were reports of a vast kingdom of gold and riches. Samuel de Champlain, in exploring the coast in 1604-05, purposefully sailed up the Penobscot River in search of the famed kingdom, but according to his journals no such place was found. By the time Captain John Smith completed his map of eastern North America in 1614, he had become quite knowledgeable of the region through personal experience. Interestingly, he did not make use of the term. Only a few succeeding European map makers such as Visscher (1655) continued to use the term, but it had all but disappeared by the 18th century (Figs. II.2-II.4).

Use of the term was renewed in the latter 19th century when the concept of the Viking discovery of America became popular. It was Eben Horsford, who made his fortune by developing and marketing baking powder, who became convinced that the Cambridge, Massachusetts area was actually Vineland and the site of Norumbega as depicted in early maps. Horsford’s ideas ceased upon his death.



Figure II.1. Detail of 1597 Wytfliet map.

A number of experts in the prehistory, early history and archaeology of Maine were consulted about the potential site of Norumbega. These included Dr. Emerson Baker of Salem State University; Dr. Bruce Bourque of the Maine State Museum, Dr. Neill Depaoli; Gretchen Faulkner of the University of Maine, Orono; Dr. Nathan Hamilton of the University of Southern Maine; Dr. Arthur Spiess, prehistoric archaeologist with the MHPC; and Lee Cranmer, former historical archaeologist with the MHPC. The consensus from consultations with these experts was that there is no documentary or physical evidence for the existence of an actual site known by the name of Norumbega. Pointed out by several was the fact that the assumed existence of such a site is based on a literal interpretation of 16th, 17th and a few 18th-century maps, the majority of which were based on information from early explorers and fishermen rather than on personal New World observation or experience. It was also pointed out that many cartographers copied features on earlier maps, thus perpetuating many inaccuracies that were infrequently corrected when new sources of information became available.

Due to the lack of reliable documentary evidence and the consensus among regional experts that there was no such fort or kingdom, an archaeological survey of the potential localities was determined to be the only way to identify deposits that might be associated with such an early and unique site. Details of a preliminary meeting with Emeric Spooner and results of the archeological survey are presented below.



Figure II.2. Ranusio 1565 map depicting Maine as *Terra Denvrvmbega*.

Figure II.3. Detail of the 1614 John Smith map of New England with no Norumbega label.

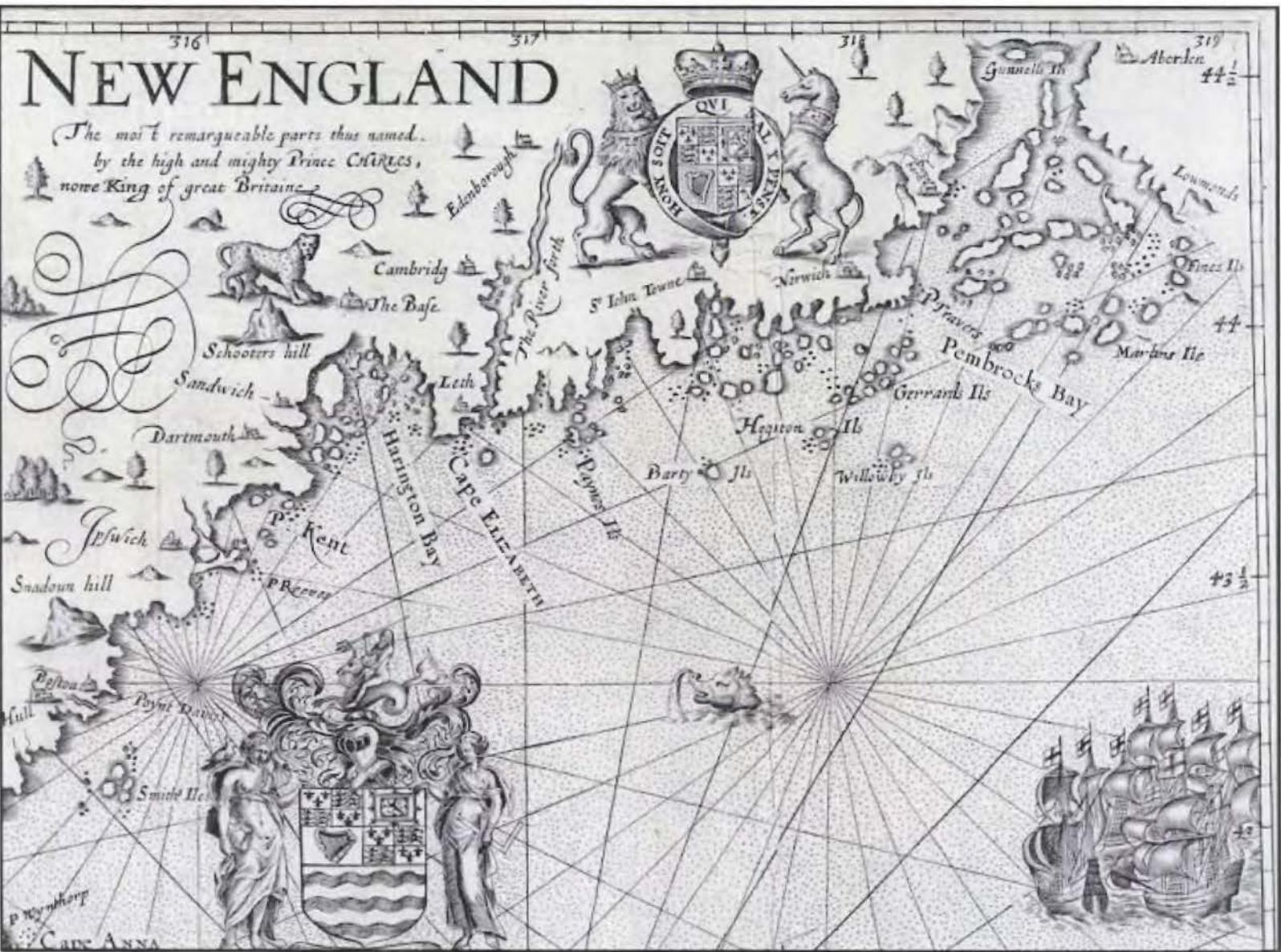




Figure II.4. Detail of Visscher 1655 map labeling Norumbega in the top right corner.

III. PRELIMINARY WALKOVER SURVEY

The preliminary survey began with a meeting arranged by Dr. Leith Smith for May 14, 2015 and attended by Rep. Richard Campbell, Mr. Emeric Spooner and Dr. Leith Smith. The purpose of the meeting was to review Mr. Spooner's research and to specifically determine which localities were to be the focus of this investigation. The meeting was held at the Bucksport public library where Mr. Spooner is employed. We began the meeting by sitting down at Mr. Spooner's computer to review his ideas about potential contact period Native American and early European sites. Downloaded historic maps of New England and the Penobscot River region were used as illustrations. We discussed the concept of Norumbega to help with Rep. Campbell's understanding. We then reviewed a series of Google Earth images of several areas along the Penobscot River where Mr. Spooner believes specific historic features are present.

The first potential site to be presented was a grouping of stones that Mr. Spooner believes represents a canoe or canoe burial similar to those documented in Scandinavia. This feature was noted to exist on the border of what he believed to be an historic carriage road and important former Native trail leading from Route 15 northeastward to Kings Mountain, and then potentially further north to Route 9.

We next viewed images of the area in north Bucksport that Mr. Spooner believes is the actual site of the Norumbega fort and settlement. He envisions the site as once present on both the west and east sides of Route 15, with the major portion containing structures between Route 15 and the river. A number of stone walls were the principle features used to identify the site. He compared the site to an artist's rendering of the 1673 French Fort Frontenac in Kingston, Ontario. By reversing the artist's rendering, Mr. Spooner found that the depicted buildings fit neatly into the Bucksport landscape and within the stone walls that he had identified. Also viewed via Google Earth images was an outcrop of ledge and stones that extended out from the shore and into the river immediately south (downstream) of the proposed Norumbega site. This feature is hypothesized to be a Norumbega-era wharf that was accessed via a road from the main settlement.

The third feature discussed was the potential site of an early Plymouth Colony trading post known as Negue, Negew, Negas or Crowns Point. By analyzing features depicted on the 1671 Lafontaine Plan of Pentagouet, Mr. Spooner hypothesized this site to be located in a wooded tract on the west side of the Penobscot River north of Bangor. Several surface features were pointed out on Google Earth images. Based on Mr. Spooner's interpretation of the historic map, the area identified as its potential location appeared very likely. Mr. Spooner kindly copied his research file onto a thumb drive to help with the MHPC's assessment and background research.

At the conclusion of the computer session it was determined that four potential sites would be the focus of archaeological investigation. These consisted of the stone canoe burial, Norumbega fort or kingdom and Norumbega wharf in Bucksport, and the trading post of Negue north of Bangor. Mr. Spooner, Rep. Campbell and Dr. Smith then drove northward on Route 15 to conduct a field reconnaissance of the potential canoe, Norumbega and wharf sites.

Potential Stone Canoe

Our first stop was the west end of McGill Road, off Millvale Road to view the potential canoe site. We parked at the entrance gate to a recently constructed gravel road used to service a gas pipeline. The potential feature is located off the west side of the new road and about 50 yards from the gate. We looked over the feature and noted that it consisted of large and small fieldstones, some of which had been placed on top of one another. The stones did, indeed, resemble the shape of a boat approximately 65 ft (20 m) long with a pointed or bow end facing east, and wider stern end facing west. The widest portion of the stones, about 16 ft (5 m) north of the stern, was 10 ft (3 m). Rep. Campbell removed some brush from the stones to provide better viewing and for photos (Fig. III.1). It was observed that the stone feature lay on the south edge of and parallel to a dirt roadbed as noted by Mr. Spooner.

Further visual reconnaissance of the area revealed additional fieldstones immediately east of the potential feature on the same side of the road, and the fact that the landscape immediately south had been cleared of stones for cultivation sometime in the past. Other isolated fieldstones were observed on the north side of the road, as well as a small mid-20th-century shed constructed of small logs fastened by wire nails. Continued observation from different perspectives revealed the stones on the south side of the road, which included the potential canoe feature, to make up an elevated berm that was not present on the north side of the road. Construction of the gas pipeline access road appeared to have removed this berm along with the historic roadbed immediately west of the potential canoe feature. Walking in a direct line across the pipeline access road revealed the historic roadbed and elevated fieldstone berm to continue westward through the woods to Route 15. Thus, it became clear that the potential

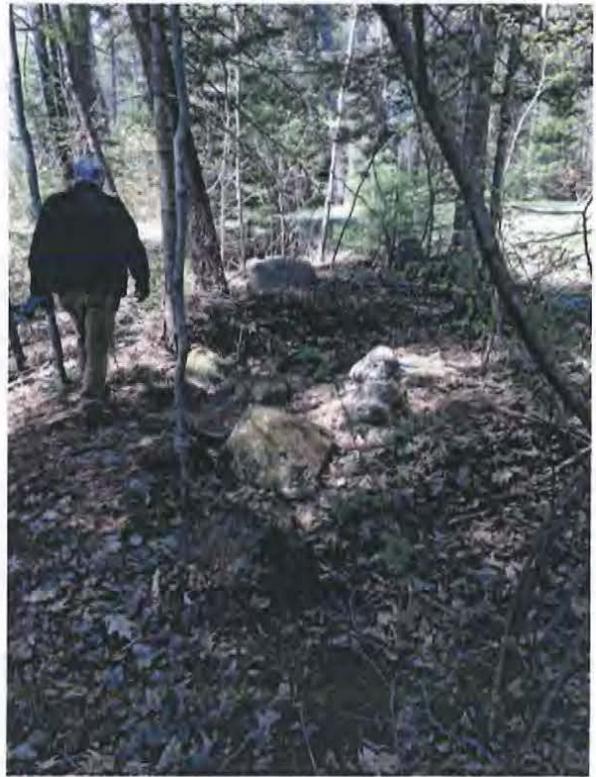


Figure III.1. Proposed stone canoe (facing west).

canoe feature lay within an elevated, linear berm of fieldstones parallel to the south side of the historic road, which likely derived from clearing of fields immediately south. This observation lessened the possibility that a portion of the berm represented a Native stone canoe burial site. Nevertheless, an archaeological testing strategy was presented by which several shovel test pits could be excavated on either side of the stone alignment and another within the stones if it was possible to find soil between the stones.

A second walkover of the site was conducted on June 24th, 2015 with Penobscot Tribal Preservation Officer (THPO), Chris Sokolexis, to obtain his opinion regarding the potential for the site to represent a stone canoe burial. After viewing the stones and surrounding area Mr. Sokolexis concluded that the potential feature was part of a stone boundary fence.

Potential Norumbega Fort

We then drove further north to observe the potential site of Norumbega itself. We parked at a gas line access station and then walked south on a railroad bed. Dr. Smith had visited this site a year earlier so was familiar with the landscape and stone features within an open woodland. The site is on undulating, west and south sloping ground immediately east of the rail line (Figs. III.2 and III.3). The primary feature consists of alignments of neatly stacked fieldstones in the shape of a large oval approximately 165 ft (50 m) long and 100 ft (30 m) wide. Several openings are present on the east and south sides of the feature. Separate stone enclosures built into a bedrock outcrop lay a short distance to the northeast. The landscape to the east is rocky and uneven, while that to the south, west and north appears to have been cleared for cultivation. The landscape to the north sloped downward to a gully containing a seasonal stream. Mr. Spooner had determined that the land belonged to occupants of a nearby house that could easily be seen through the trees. A testing strategy consisting of 10 m interval shovel tests within and outside the stone walled area was devised. Judgmentally placed test pits would be employed to assess specific areas.



Figure III.2. Stone walls at potential Norumbega site.



Figure III.3. Location of potential Norumbega fort and wharf sites in Bucksport.

Potential Norumbega Wharf

After seeing the potential Norumbega fort Rep. Campbell departed for Augusta. Mr. Spooner and Dr. Smith continued the reconnaissance to view the area that was hypothesized to be a contact period wharf. We worked our way along the river shore as the tide was low and still going out. The shore in the area of the potential wharf consisted of grass-covered mudflat that was inundated at high tide. The flats are 100 ft or more in width and the river side edge stepped down between 1½ ft and 3 ft due to erosion. As the potential wharf area was approached a deposit of slab wood approximately 1 ft thick was observed in the eroded face approximately 1.5 ft below the present mudflat surface (Fig. III.4). It was hypothesized that the slab wood lay on what would have been the mudflat surface in the second and third quarters of the 19th century when numerous lumber mills were operating upstream. Thus, a foot and a half of sediment had accumulated on top of this deposit over the past 150 years. Walking over the area revealed a linear arrangement of fieldstones on top of the present tidal flat. This was determined to be a foundation that probably supported a rectangular deck or building at least 30 ft (10 m) in length. Tidal debris covered the feature so discerning its exact dimensions was not possible.



Figure III.4. Layer of slab wood probably dating to the 1830s-1870s under the mud flat.

What is believed to be the wharf itself consists of natural ledge and isolated boulders along with river deposited silt, sand and gravel that extends out into the river from the mudflat. All of this area lies within the intertidal zone and below the surface of the mudflat. A large piece of split granite with quarrying drill holes was present at the west (river channel) end of the area. A large drill hole in a piece of ledge was also noted. Cultural material present in this intertidal area

consisted of pieces of fractured and decaying concrete, several pieces of twisted iron rebar, cast iron pipes (3 sizes), 20th-century bottle glass and slab wood. It was apparent from this material that the present ledge and large boulders and stones may have supported a wharf in the late 19th or early 20th centuries. This suggestion was made with a word of caution, however, since winter ice picks up, carries and deposits all kinds of material including large boulders and trees from upstream. In making the wharf suggestion, Mr. Spooner was of the opinion that such a later wharf would have been built on top of a much earlier wharf. No evidence of an earlier structure, however, was observed in the intertidal zone.

Investigation of the lowest landform above the mudflats revealed a relatively level area that was either natural or had been cut into the bank to create a flat terrace approximately 100 ft (30 m) long and 26 ft (8 m) wide. The west edge of the terrace consisted of an erosional bank so the terrace may have been wider in the past. This landscape treatment is typical of ice house facilities from the latter 19th and early 20th centuries. It was hypothesized that such a structure may have occupied this site and was accessed via a simple wharf. The cleared area may also have been for wagons and carriages associated with wharf use. It was determined that the area could be archaeologically investigated with a small number of shovel tests to determine if the small terrace was natural or culturally altered, and if altered, what its function might have been. If the terrace was a natural formation, the locality had a relatively high potential to contain a prehistoric Native American site since evidence of such occupation is present along much of the river shore where canoe access was possible. The stone foundation on the mudflat, which was clearly of late 19th or early 20th-century date, would also be documented if visibility and low tide permitted.

Walking up the forested river bank above the wharf, we came to the railroad line. Mr. Spooner noted that a railroad station had once been present here, evidenced today by concrete foundations and pads for two structures on the east side of the track. A separate spur was once present and the station was known as Hinks Landing. This line was constructed in 1873 and 1874 by the European and North American Railroad that operated until 1879. Ownership changed hands to the Bucksport and Bangor (1879-80), Eastern Maine (1882-83) and Maine Central (1883-1981). Hinks Landing was the 9th stop out of Bangor at a distance of 10 miles on the 17.5 mile line. Passenger service appears to have ended by 1936 (Lindsell 2000:306-307). Dr. Smith very quickly identified a roadbed that led from the former station area down to the site of the potential wharf, making it clear that if a wharf (or landing) had been present, it was likely contemporaneous with the station.

We returned to the car at the gas line facility and upon leaving the area Dr. Smith noticed two people down the driveway of the house that Mr. Spooner had identified as belonging to the land owners of the potential Norumbega fort. Dr. Smith suggested we turn around to seek permission to conduct the testing, but Mr. Spooner was very uncomfortable with the idea. Dr. Smith dropped Mr. Spooner off at the Bucksport library and immediately returned to the proposed site to meet land owner John Tricomi, who was very friendly and granted permission to conduct the testing.

Potential Negue Trading Post

A walkover survey of a large, wooded area identified by Mr. Spooner as potentially containing the site of the Negue trading post was completed on October 16th, 2015. It was quickly determined that much of this section of the western Penobscot River shore south of Ayer's Island was badly disturbed by sand and gravel operations, probably in the mid-20th century from the size of trees in the secondary growth forest. The northern end of this wooded tract, where Mr. Spooner recently suggested the site to be located, appears to be less disturbed, therefore archaeologically testable. The adjacent property immediately upstream, which consists of cleared, level landscape, however, was determined to hold the greatest potential to contain the trading post site. The characteristics favorable for such a site included a relatively low river bank and excellent views both up and down river. A trip was made to the Orono Town Hall to obtain landowner information, but attempts to contact the person were unsuccessful. A call to a relative with the same last name was not comfortable providing a cell number. A formal letter explaining the project and seeking permission to conduct a survey was mailed to the landowner's address, but there has been no response. Efforts to contact the land owner will be renewed in the spring of 2016.

IV. PHASE I ARCHAEOLOGICAL RECONNAISSANCE SURVEY

Potential Norumbega Fort

A Phase I reconnaissance archaeological survey of the potential Norumbega site was conducted on June 24th and 25th, 2015. Field work was performed by William Burgess and Dr. Leith Smith of the MHPC. Assisting this work was Chris Sokalexis (Penobscot THPO), who was present for the first half of the first day and for the morning of the second day. Representative Dick Campbell, along with a friend, was present for the first half of the first day and made afternoon visits on both days. Emeric Spooner did not want to be present even though he was encouraged to take part.

The survey commenced with laying out a total of 24, 50 cm x 50 cm shovel test pits (STPs) at intervals of 10 m and arranged in four, staggered transects oriented north-south across the site (Fig. IV.1). A single judgmental STP was placed in the upper eastern portion of the site to test a small enclosure bounded by stone walls and ledge outcrop. The purpose of the STPs was to document the types and depth of soils that characterize the site, sift the soil through 1/4in hardware cloth to retrieve cultural material, and to search for cultural features such as post impressions, sill stains and stone foundations that might be indicative of structure locations. Elevations for the tests were recorded from the ground surface so that soil changes were recorded at a specific number of centimeters below surface, denoted cm bs.

Transect 1, composed of six tests, was located on the western portion of the site to test the open area outside of the large, stone-walled enclosure. The soil profile consisted of 16 to 20 cm of dark brown silt or clay loam with stones over a brown, yellowish brown or orangy brown silt loam or sandy silt with stones. This second soil generally lay on stones or ledge, but if a third layer was present, it consisted of grayish brown, medium brown or orangy brown sandy silt and stones (Appendix D). No cultural material and no features were found in any of the tests.

Transect 2, consisting of seven STPs, tested the western interior of the stone enclosure as well as exterior northern and southern borders. The upper A-horizon soil consisted of grayish brown silt loam or clay loam with stones that extended as deep as 25 cm. Below this was yellowish brown clay loam with stones or a mixture of soils with stones and gravel. The only artifact found was the head of a cut nail (ca. 1805-1850+) from STP 2-2. No other cultural materials or features were observed.

Transect 3, consisting of six STPs, tested the eastern interior and southern exterior of the stone walled enclosure. The upper soil consisted of very dark brown or dark grayish brown silt loam or clay loam ranging in depth between 12 and 27 cm. The second layer varied between grayish brown or medium brown silt loam with stones or yellowish brown to orangy brown silt loam with stones. Ledge was hit at 12 cm bs in STP 3-4. Soil in STP 3-6 at the highest south end of the transect revealed 14 cm of medium brown silt loam with stones over bright orangy brown silt loam with gravel lying on ledge. The only artifact found was a thin ferrous strip of unknown function. No other cultural materials or features were observed.

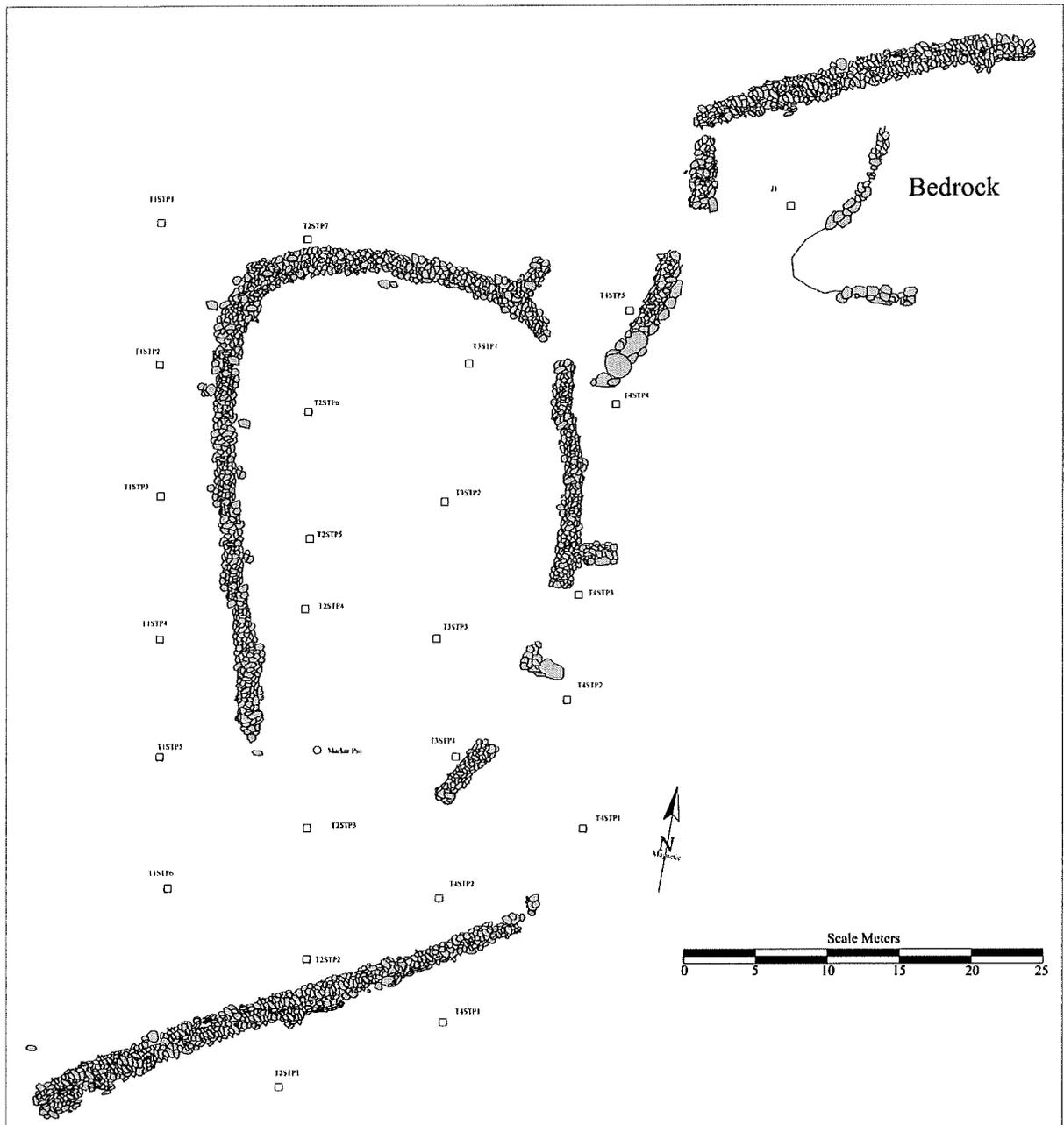


Figure IV.1. Plan of stone walls and shovel test pit locations at the potential Norumbega fort.

Transect 4, consisting of 5 STPs, was located just outside (east) of the stone enclosure and in an area of ledge outcrops. As a result, STPs 3 and 5 could not be excavated due to ledge at these locations. STP 1 at the south end of the transect revealed 24 cm of dark brown silt loam and fractured ledge overlying ledge. STPs 2 and 4 revealed 20 cm of dark medium brown or medium brown silt loam with stones over yellow brown or orangy brown silt loam with stones. A single small fragment of bone was found in the upper soil of STP 4. No other cultural material materials or features were observed.

A single judgmental test was completed in the northeastern portion of the site where two stone wall and ledge enclosures were located. The test was placed in the middle of the western enclosure and revealed 17 cm of medium brown silt loam over a B-horizon of orangy brown silt loam with stones. No cultural materials or subsurface features were observed.

Archaeological testing both outside and within the stone wall enclosure found no evidence of Native American occupation and extremely little evidence of specific historic activities. The walls were initially interpreted to be associated with the keeping of livestock, probably sheep, in the 19th and possibly early 20th centuries as evidenced by the presence of a Model-T Ford fender in the stone enclosure and the single cut nail.

Potential Norumbega Wharf

The relatively flat and narrow terrace at the foot of the hill overlooking the potential wharf site (Hinks Landing) was investigated with a single transect of three shovel tests spaced at intervals of 10 meters. STP 1, furthest south, revealed 21 cm of dark brown fine sandy silt over a B-horizon of yellowish brown fine sandy silt that extended to 39 cm bs. Artifacts in the two levels included a variety of quartz, Kineo rhyolite and gray Munsungun chert flakes, fragmented pottery that appears fabric impressed, calcined bone, charcoal and fire cracked rock. Also present was a piece of window glass and a small strip of ferrous metal. This upper B-horizon transitioned to sterile dark yellowish brown silty fine sand that extended below 67 cm bs.

The upper soil layer of STP 2 consisted of yellowish brown silty fine sandy loam to 29 cm bs. Artifacts consisted of additional lithic debitage and a piece of a large chopper and calcined bone. Also present was a fragment of brick and creamware ceramic plate (ca. 1775-1820). The B-horizon consisted of dark yellowish brown silty fine sand to 41 cm and contained a few additional flakes and stone fragments. A tobacco pipe stem with a bore diameter of 8/64ths (ca. 1620-1650) was also present. The B₂-horizon, consisting of yellowish brown fine sand was sterile and was excavated to 69 cm bs.

STP 3, furthest north, revealed 15 cm of dark brown fine sandy silt over dark yellowish brown silty clay loam with a few stones. Artifacts here were limited to calcined bone, two lithic flakes and a brick fragment present between 5 and 30 cm bs.

Testing of the terrace revealed that this landform served as a temporary camp site by Native Americans, probably on more than one occasion during the ceramic period (ca. 1000-2700 years ago) and possibly at other times. This finding was not surprising since similar camp sites have been documented along much of the Penobscot River shore where canoe access was possible. The additional presence of the early pipe stem suggests either a Native contact period occupation or early colonial occupation. Such early pipes are frequently found as isolated finds at localities around the state, but due to the lack of archaeological investigation at such sites, little is known about occupation associated with them. The creamware, in turn, suggests some activity at the site in the last quarter of the 18th or early 19th centuries. The window glass is modern so could be associated with wharf related activities if one was present in the late 19th to early 20th centuries. It is always possible that some of this material derives from field manuring associated with agricultural activities. The most intensive use of this small terrace overlooking the river was

during the Native ceramic period. No evidence was found of intensive use during the 17th, 18th or 19th centuries, nor was there evidence for a 19th-century ice house as was initially suspected. The stone foundation observed on the mudflat during the initial walkover was almost completely obscured by dense marsh grass and a layer of dead reeds that prevented documentation.

Potential Stone Canoe

A total of 5 STPs were planned to test this potential feature. Two were attempted within the canoe, one toward what had been shown to be the bow and another toward the stern. Both attempts were blocked by the presence of stones. Removal of upper stones revealed only more stones below. Interior testing was thus abandoned in favor of three tests outside of the stone alignment. STP 1 was located toward the potential feature's southeastern end, and 50 cm out from the stones visible at the ground surface. The soil profile consisted of 22 cm of dark brown silt loam plow zone with an increasing number of stones with depth. The concentration of stones suggested these may be a continuation of the linear arrangement of exposed stones that had become covered over time. Orangy brown sandy silt loam B-horizon subsoil extended from 22 cm to below 48 cm bs and contained some field stones. No cultural materials or features were observed. STP 2 was located at the southwestern end of the potential feature, and 50 cm out from the exposed stones. Encountering stones just below the surface, however, required moving the test an additional meter out (south) from the stones. The soil profile here varied slightly, consisting of 20 cm of dark brown silt loam with stones over a yellowish brown silt loam B-horizon. The B-horizon transitioned to orangy brown at 28 cm bs and extended below 45 cm bs. No cultural materials or features were observed in the test. STP 3 was located on the north side of the stone alignment on the edge of the dirt road. The road surface was of slightly higher elevation than the former field on the south side of the stones. This test revealed damp dark grayish brown silt loam and stones that extended to 12 cm bs. Below this the soil transitioned to mottled yellowish brown sandy silt loam with a few stones to 18 cm bs. This layer may reflect the mixing of upper soils due to use of the road. The soil then transitioned to orangy brown sandy silt loam with a few stones and this continued below 40 cm bs. No cultural material or features, other than the mixed road soil was observed.

Testing of the potential stone canoe was performed in the old road bed and on what appears to be the edge of an old field that has reverted to forest. Testing within the stone alignment was not possible due to the density of stones. No evidence of either Native American or Anglo-American occupation was found on either side of the stone alignment. Additional walkover after completion of the testing confirmed the fact that the stones making up the potential canoe are part of a long field border composed of fieldstones and boulders that were cleared from the adjacent overgrown field to the south. This border wall and associated roadbed on its north side extends westward to Route 15 and eastward for at least 50 yards to a wet area.

V. CONCLUSION

A Phase I archaeological survey of three of the four potential Norumbega Project sites was completed in 2015. Field observation and testing of the potential stone canoe burial site suggests that the stones making up the potential feature are part of a common fieldstone boundary fence created from clearing agricultural fields in the 19th century.

Similarly, the survey at the potential fort or kingdom of Norumbega failed to find any evidence of contact period Native American or European occupation. The stone wall enclosure was hypothesized to be the remains of a 19th-century livestock pen at the time it was first viewed in the spring of 2014. While that interpretation was not accepted by Mr. Spooner at the time, the interpretation remains the same after the formal archaeological investigation.

Observation of the potential Norumbega wharf provided no evidence that a contact period structure was present on this shallow side of the river. On the contrary, structural refuse and late 19th to early 20th-century trash suggests more recent use of the intertidal zone, but interpretation is blurred by the fact that river ice moves tremendous amounts of material downstream each season. As a result, refuse resting in the intertidal zone in Bucksport may have originated in Bangor. Of particular importance regarding the wharf is the fact that there needs to be a population of significant size and a commercial need to support constructing such a feature. There is no documentary or archaeological evidence for such a settlement in the area. As was noted above the period of most intensive occupation here was during the Native American ceramic period, probably well before any maps depicting Norumbega were drawn. Additional archaeological investigation of the small terrace would be useful in determining if there is any additional evidence for a short-term contact period occupation either by Native Americans or Europeans. Such testing should include investigation of an upper terrace that could be a more likely location of an early contact period or historic occupation.

The site of the Negue trading post as proposed by Mr. Spooner may, indeed, be present at or near the recently specified location. It is hoped that landowner permission for an archaeological survey will be obtained in the spring of 2016, and our office looks forward to the opportunity to search for the location of this important historic site.

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APPENDIX A
Legislative Document No. 877



127th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2015

Legislative Document

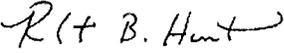
No. 877

H.P. 596

House of Representatives, March 12, 2015

Resolve, To Study the Fort Norumbega Site in Bucksport

Reference to the Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs suggested and ordered printed.


ROBERT B. HUNT
Clerk

Presented by Representative CAMPBELL of Orrington.
Cosponsored by Senator ROSEN of Hancock and
Representatives: BEAR of the Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians, DUCHESNE of Hudson,
MITCHELL of the Penobscot Nation, NUTTING of Oakland, VEROW of Brewer, Senator:
DILL of Penobscot.

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APPENDIX B
Letter from the Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs to the MHPC

SENATE

BRIAN D. LANGLEY, DISTRICT 7, CHAIR
PETER E. EDGECOMB, DISTRICT 1
REBECCA J. MILLETT, DISTRICT 20

PHILLIP MCCARTHY, LEGISLATIVE ANALYST
CRAIG NALE, LEGISLATIVE ANALYST
PLACIDA "AIDA" GAGNON, COMMITTEE CLERK



HOUSE

VICTORIA P. KORNFIELD, BANGOR CHAIR
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BRIAN L. HUBBELL, BAR HARBOR
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MATTHEW G. POULIOT, AUGUSTA
PAUL A. STEARNS, GUILFORD

STATE OF MAINE
ONE HUNDRED AND TWENTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE
COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS

April 16, 2015

Maine Historic Preservation Commission
c/o Earle G. Shettleworth, Jr.
Director and State Historic Preservation Officer
55 Capitol Street
65 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333-0065

RE: Preliminary study of potential site of Fort Norumbega in Bucksport

Dear Mr. Shettleworth:

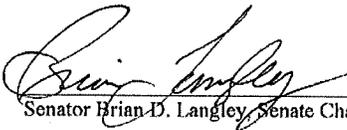
As you are aware, Rep. Campbell of Orrington has sponsored a bill, LD 877, which would have directed the Maine Historic Preservation Commission to assist the Town of Bucksport in studying a site on the Penobscot River in the Town of Bucksport that may be the site of Fort Norumbega in order to preserve its archaeological significance.

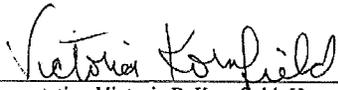
The Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural affairs considered this bill at a public hearing on April 2, 2015, and held a work session on the bill on April 9, 2015. We understand from your testimony, as well as testimony from the Sponsor, Kirk Mohney and John Leith Smith, that the Commission is willing and able to conduct a preliminary survey of the site, at no cost to the State, for the purpose of determining whether a formal Phase I archaeological survey should be conducted in the future. With this in mind, the Committee voted that this bill Ought Not to Pass.

We fully support and strongly encourage you to undertake this project, and we look forward to learning the results of your preliminary study during the Second Regular Session of the 127th Legislature. We also encourage you to engage a representative from Bucksport and tribal representatives that may have an interest in the significance of the site and any potential surrounding historic tribal communities.

Thank you for your input during our consideration of this bill, and for your work in studying and preserving Maine's past.

Sincerely,


Senator Brian D. Langley, Senate Chair


Representative Victoria P. Kornfield, House Chair

cc: Rep. Richard H. Campbell