Holbrook Island lies in eastern Penobscot Bay about .4 miles from the mainland part of Holbrook Island Sanctuary. Bordered by rocky ledges, sandy beaches and mud flats, the mile long island includes about 115 acres of woods and fields. Seeing the forested parts of the island, a visitor might not guess the island's long human history.

According to Anita Harris, the island's last private owner, Holbrook Island was settled just after the Revolutionary War by Capt. Jesse Holbrook of Truro, Massachusetts. For years, his island provided the tall pines for the sailing ships built in nearby Castine. The next owner reportedly kept his mistress on the island, and their daughter tended to sheep there most of her life. In 1891, Edward Kelleran Harris bought the island from her for \$500, cleared more fields for a farm, and built a summer home for his family. His daughter Anita, the last member of his family, lived on the island until her death in 1985.

A great lover of nature, and of animals in particular, Anita Harris willed her island to the State of Maine on condition that it be maintained "as a wildlife and natural area....devoted wholly to the preservation of nature".

In keeping with her wishes, most of the buildings have been removed to allow the island to return to a natural state. To further protect the island, Miss Harris' will forbids picnic facilities, motorized vehicles, commercial ventures, road construction, hunting, fishing, and trapping. Within these constraints, the Bureau of Parks and Lands, provides for appropriate, low-impact use of the island.

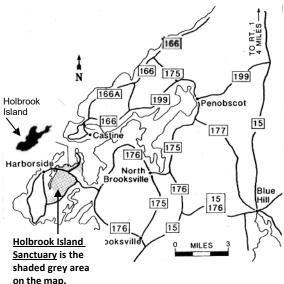


- Miss Harris said in a 1966 interview. We support this goal and request your cooperation.



Seal Nursery

Please do not approach or disturb.



Holbrook Island



"A unique coastal treasure"

Holbrook Island Sanctuary State Park 172 Indian Bar Road Harborside, Maine 04642

Lat 44.351855 / Lon -68.793291

Open all year; 9:00 a.m. to sunset daily unless otherwise posted.

No entry fee is charged.



www.parksandlands.com

