

ODIORNE POINT

This historic point was used by native peoples for centuries as well as early fishermen before permanent European settlement in 1623. Originally called Rendezvous Point, the Odiorne family settled there in the later 1600's and after the Revolution the name was changed. This family formed the core of a small farming community at the north end of town, hemmed in by the sea, the river and the salt marsh. By the 1800's more well to do folks had discovered the point and increasingly more substantial homes were built. Nations, communities and families were transformed forever by the Second World War as most of the homes were razed to make way for military fortification to protect the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard. After the war the area was abandoned until the struggle for its use began between the state of NH, UNH, private proposals and the "Friends of Odiorne Point." The latter group persevered and we are grateful for their efforts as the modest Sugden House marine outreach program of the 1970's finally became the Seacoast Science Center in 1992.