

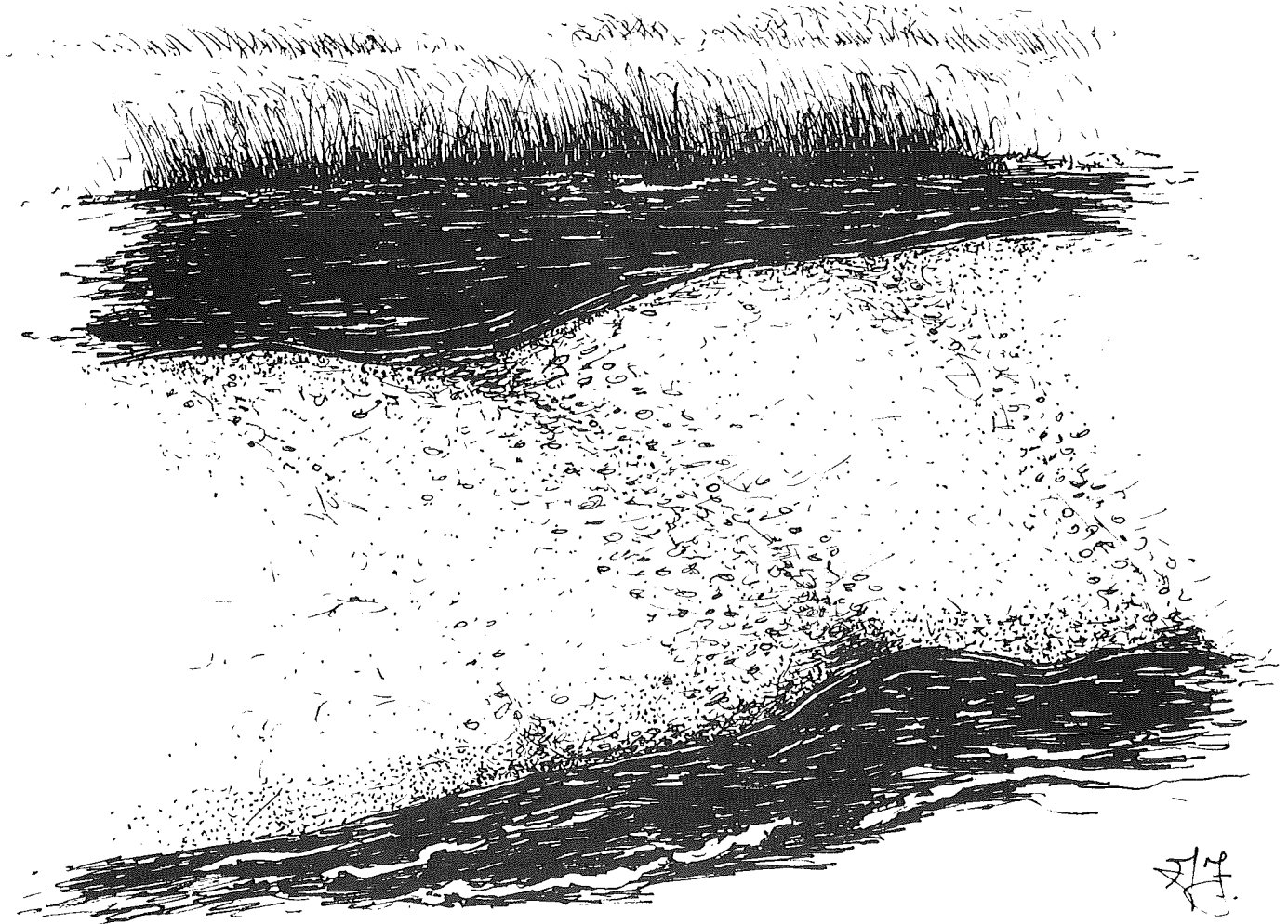
SITE 18 - A BLOW-OUT, MOVING SAND AND CHANGING BEACHES

..... *You throw the sand against the wind,
And the wind blows it back again.*

William Blake [1757-1827]

Poems From MSS [Circa 1800-1803]

Untitled Poem, Stanza I



W.B.

SITE 18

A BLOW-OUT, MOVING SAND AND CHANGING BEACHES



Here and to the east of where you stand is a large expanse of stonewall; some standing, some in disrepair. The great hurricanes have sent water smashing into the flat stones. Some have resisted; others weakened and collapsed.

Right here the wall has broken down allowing storm-generated waves to wash over the narrow bit of beach and into the marsh. As the waves come they move the sand and in time the beach will break down and a small channel will form. The continued inundation's of the waves almost insure that there will be little chance for the beach grass to take hold to stop the erosion. This is a classic example of beach erosion. Were it not for the presence of stonewall and beach

grasses at either end of this site area, storms would eventually breach this narrow strip, pushing the sand into the marsh.

Near sites 20 and 21 you can see evidences that water has made its way through the battered wall. The crescent-shaped design cut into the beach is typical of the way in which water moves through a constricted area. As it passes through the smaller opening, it tends to spread out in all directions until it stops at the sand. You will see this formation over and over again wherever small sections of the wall have collapsed.