1835 1836 1837

1835 • 1836 1837

Form 504

U. S. COAST AND GEODETIC SURVEY

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

DESCRIPTIVE REPORT

Type of Survey Topographic

Field No. 1835 Office No. 1836 1837

LOCALITY

State Florida

General locality West Coast

Locality Of Florida

~~1838~~

CHIEF OF PARTY

Joseph Hergesheimer

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DATE

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SEP 7 1888
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U. S. COAST AND GEODETIC SURVEY.

F. M. Thorn, Superintendent.

State: Florida.

DESCRIPTIVE REPORT.

Topographic Sheets Nos. 1835, 1836 + 1837.

LOCALITY:

West Coast of Florida
Cape Romano
to
Pavilion Key.

1888.

CHIEF OF PARTY:

Joseph Herzesheimer.

Assist in Chg.

Penn. & Hancock,
Germantown,
Philadelphia.

Give full address to which reply should be sent.

ack'd 4/C.

U. S. COAST & GEODETIC SURVEY SEP 4 SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE

U. S. Coast and Geodetic Survey,

Germantown Phila.
July 30th, 1888

F. M. Thorn Esq.
Superintendent U.S. Coast and Geodetic Survey
Washington D.C.

Sir,

I have the honor to forward you my descriptive report of the topographical work on the West Coast of Florida, Cape Romano to Pavilion Key executed by the party in my charge the past season 1888 in the Schooner Quick.

The Coast, as shown on the sheet, Cape Romano, to the West side of the first inlet to the Eastward is dry sandy and covered with a growth of grass, palms and buttonwood with good sandy beach for about one mile to the Eastward

of the pitch of the Cape.
The land is about three feet above ordinary high water mark.
Cocoanuts have been planted about the Cape and seem to be doing well.
From the first inlet to the Eastward of Cape Romano to Panlin Key the general character of the coast is the same mangrove islands fringed with shell limestone or coquina reefs on the ocean side with occasional short beaches, and a growth of oysters along the edge of the mangroves on the backs of the islands and up the creeks. The islands are overflowed at high water except the dry places on the outside islands as shown on the charts.
The dry places on the outside islands are receding where not protected by the reefs as in many places dead

trees are standing in the water.
The mangroves adjacent to the flats or shoals are on the increase, but along the channels and deep water there seems to be little change. I judge from the size of the trees. The mangrove islands are fringed with a growth of oysters in great quantities and I think the time will come when they will be collected and planted. The large oysters are gathered in the creeks a few miles back from the coast. The trees along the coast are mangroves and buttonwood, (the buttonwood on the dry places) from 20 to 50 feet in height along the coast, and increase in height as you go in among the islands. There are a few palmettos of small growth on the dry spots along the coast. The only cultivation between

Cape Romano and Pavilion Key is on Cape Romano and Panther Key a few cocoanuts on the Cape with some and few vegetables on Panther Key. The only Key inhabited and worth anything within the limits of the survey is Panther Key occupied by Pilot Gomez, a Spanial, who claims to be over 100 years old. and is yet an active pilot. He lives with his wife on Panther Key. There is a well of fair water near his palmetto house. The Key he named Panther Key, from the number of panthers on it. they have killed all his live stock. The only Agrit. imate trade carried on in this locality, is in palmetto logs and buttonwood. used in Key West for building docks and fuel, fishing and turtling. I saw green turtle in great numbers, in the waters

behind Pavilion Key. I have noticed many suspicious looking small vessels passing in and out among the islands. I find a number of good harbors for the Yacht, among the Keys, and am of the opinion that the hydrographic work should be carefully done within the limits of my survey and out to 6 feet low water. 1/20.000 scale. The hydrographic work along the Coast on 1/40.000 scale does not show these harbors among the islands, which are much sought after, by the many small vessels passing up and down the Coast. The weather during the season was unusually fine, with few squalls, and no just something unusual. The field work was executed between F'ebruary 6th and April 17th. 167 miles of shore line, 34 sq miles of area.

Number of miles of shore line to the sq. mile 5 - Cost of survey per sq mile $79. Cost of shore line per mile $16 - Total cost of the party for the season $2716 - The field work was executed between Feb. 6th and April 17th. The above showing of cost of work per mile and sq mile includes expenses of fitting out and time in repairing vessel, laying her up, trip Manatee to Key West and return and the transportation of four Officers Washington to Manatee and return an item in itself of over $400 - Scale of the survey 20.000. The triangulation points 8 in number located on the land were all recovered in good order they were marked by marble posts. The water signals used in the triangulation within the limits of the

work 5 in number have disappeared. I erected and determined 4 water signals, to take the place of those washed away. These re-erected were of the same construction as the original ones. The plane table points erected and determined number 491 accurately determined and marked with care. The points consisted mostly of scantling driven into the rock, about which was cut a Δ. The trees were marked by a Δ. The points were determined directly from the Δ² points by head lines and cuts from the water signals. The water signals were determined by 3 lines from the Δ² points on shore. The work was done with great care all with the table on good determined points. The reef line was all surveyed at low water. In regard to the

names, I got all I could. There is but one occupied house within the limits of the work, and he the occupant over 100 years old. I interviewed a number of passing boatmen in regard to names but got little on no reliable information.

In order to facilitate the execution of the work, I duplicated the office projections which enabled Mr. Gray and myself to work at the same time for the same anchorage thus avoiding the expense and time lost in keeping up a camp. I desire to continue this work the coming season and hope to finish the Coast Topography for Pavilion Key to Cape Sable.

Respectfully Submitted
Joseph Heyrheimer
Assistant