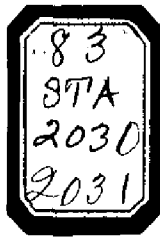


2030

2031

2030
2031

Form 504
U. S. COAST AND GEODETIC SURVEY
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
DESCRIPTIVE REPORT
Type of Survey <i>Topographic</i>
Field No. Office No. <i>2030-2031</i>
LOCALITY
State <i>Florida</i>
General locality
Locality
<i>1891</i>
<i>194</i>
CHIEF OF PARTY
<i>P. A. Welker</i>
LIBRARY & ARCHIVES
DATE



U. S. Coast and Geodetic Survey,
T. C. Mendenhall, Superintendent.

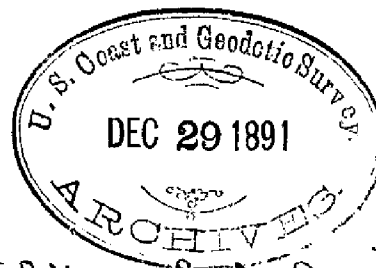
State : Florida.

Descriptive Report,
Topographic Sheet No. 2030 and a small portion
of work, which was necessary to complete the
survey, on Sheet No. 2031.

Locality.

A Portion of Escambia Bay,
Including a Portion of the Escambia River; the
mouth of the White River; Bayou Moulatto; and
numerous small bayous.

1891.



Chief of Party : P. A. Walker, Sub-Assistant.

2030-2031

Write me at: 2122 Maplenood Ave., Toledo, Ohio.

Telegraph me at: _____

My Express Office is: _____

U. S. Coast and Geodetic Survey,

Toledo, Ohio.

Dec 23rd, 1891.

2-647

Dr. T. C. Mendenhall,
Superintendent, U.S. Coast & G. Survey,
Washington, D.C.,

Dear Sir:

In obedience to Instructions and Memoranda for Descriptive Reports, 1887, I beg leave to submit the following report of Topographic Sheets, Nos. 2030 and 2031.

The two sheets consist of a Topographic survey, on a scale of $\frac{1}{10000}$, of a portion of Escambia Bay, Florida. As sheet No. 2031 only contains a small portion of the work, which was necessary to make the survey of the head of the bay complete, but one report is made.

The base of the work was established from a triangulation carried up Pensacola and Escambia Bays from the Live Oak Yard Wharf - Fort Pickens. The plane-table was used for the execution of the topography.

At the southeast end of the sheet the Pensacola and Atlantic Railroad crosses Escambia Bay on a wooden trestle. About one-third of the distance across this trestle there is an iron draw bridge, which is tended by a man, day and night.

Beginning from a point about two hundred meters west of the triangulation station West Escambia a high bluff follows the beach closely for about two miles, where it turns slightly away from shore, back of a narrow strip of swamp land. From this point the bluff follows the general direction of the shore line, the extent of swamp land gradually increasing. The bluff at some places, especially where it is close to shore, is very abrupt, broken and cut up by large gulleys. The soil is a mixture of red clay and sand. Springs of water leak from some of the gulleys, but it generally disappears in the sand before reaching the shore. The slopes along the shore range from 25° to 50° . Back of the swamp the slope is more gentle and uniform, being not

more than 5° at some places. The soil along the beach to within 200 meters of the southern entrance to Escambia River is a clean white sand.

The entire country as far as described is densely timbered. Very little of the soil is fit for agricultural purposes.

The small village of Escambia is a collection of houses occupied almost entirely by people employed at Skinner's saw-mill which is located here. Roads lead from here into Pensacola and the interior, but they are very poor. There is also a railroad station within one mile. There is telephone connection with Pensacola and ^{the} numerous saw-mills about the country.

From the mouth of the Escambia River, all of the country to the west and north, as far as the sheet extends, to within one half mile of the triangulation station East Head is one vast swamp grown over with a thick grass from four to six feet high; a few trees are scattered about. The swamp is cut up by numerous sloughs and bayous and at every

high tide it is entirely covered with water to within a short distance of the bluff line. Along the banks of the Escambia River there is a dense growth of timber, but it does not extend far into the grassy swamp to the north. The other streams have in scattering places a growth of small scrubby timber.

The Escambia River drains a vast extent of timber country. There are numerous saw-mills located close to it. The river has a strong current and an immense amount of timber put up into rafts is floated down annually. Numerous huts are scattered along the banks which are occupied by people engaged in handling timber. At Ferry Pass there is a collection of houses built upon piles in the swamp. These are also occupied by people engaged in handling timber. Before the Pensacola and Atlantic Railroad was built a ferry boat was used in crossing from a point on the north shore of Escambia Bay to Ferry Pass; this is no longer in use, but the place still keeps its name. Roads

lead from Ferry Pass into Pensacola and the interior, but they are poorly defined and are very heavy for traveling on account of the deepness of the sand. The nearest railroad connection is at Escambia. There is telephone connection with Pensacola and some of the saw-mills interior.

The remaining part of the north shore of Escambia Bay as far around as the mouth of Bayou Moulatto is dry land with the exception of a few small swamps near the mouths of small streams entering the bay. The land rises very gradually in leaving the shore and it is densely timbered. The soil is a mixture of clay and sand; its character is similar to that on the south side. There are very few settlers.

Bayou Moulatto is a salt water stream emptying into Escambia Bay. The stream would be navigable for boats not drawing over 5 feet of water for about $\frac{1}{2}$ mile, if it were not for the Pensacola and Atlantic R.R. crossing over a wooden trestle at its

mouth. This trellis has no draw and boats are prevented from entering the bayou. A short distance beyond the mouth there are two irregular forks, one running from the north about $\frac{3}{4}$ mile long and the other from the south, about 2 miles long. The latter heads within a few meters of the shore of Escambia Bay. Both of these forks run through grassy swamps which are entirely under water at an ordinary high tide. The main fork of the bayou runs west and heads about 4 miles east from its mouth. The banks of the main fork are high and dry.

The trees in the country surrounding the bay are from 10 to 70 feet high, but, very few of them are of any value at present. They consist mostly of spruce, pitch and yellow pine, scattering live oak, water oak and scrub oak, magnolia, palmetto, red bay and sweet bay. In the swamps that are not flooded at an ordinary high tide there is a thick

growth of briars and underbrush. Juniper and cypress are also found in the swamps.

Mullet, trout, sea-bass, spanish mackerel and other salt water fish are found in the bay. Oysters are also plentiful.

Only the high water line and marsh limits are shown on the sheet.

Very respectfully yours,

P. A. Walker.

Sub-Assist., C. & G. Survey.

Statistics.

Miles of shore line surveyed	21.4
" " roads and railroads surveyed	12.8
" " creeks surveyed	51.5
" " marsh line "	11.2
Approximate area of country surveyed, sq. mi.	18.5