1979 1979 1980
1931 2034

1979 1980 1931 2034

Form 504

U. S. COAST AND GEODETIC SURVEY

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

DESCRIPTIVE REPORT

Type of Survey Topographic 1979-1979 1980 1981

Field No. ..... Office No. 2034

LOCALITY

State Alabama & Florida

General locality Perdido Bay

Locality .....

1890

~~194~~

CHIEF OF PARTY

Stehman Forney

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U. S. COAST AND GEODETIC SURVEY.

T. C. Mendenhall, Superintendent.

State: Ala. + Fla.

DESCRIPTIVE REPORT.

Topographic Sheets Nos. 1979, 1980 + 1981.

1979a

LOCALITY:

Perdido Bay.

1890.

CHIEF OF PARTY:

Stehman Forney,
Assist.

Descriptive Report

of

Topographical Sheets Nos. 2 - 4 & 5.

Perdido Bay, Alabama and Florida

Surveyed by the party of Assistant Stehman Forney,

January - February & March 1890.

The general character of the country shown on these sheets, is broad and simple and is comprised of moulded drift.

The sea-shore is a low sand beach beaten hard and rigid. The low water line is defined upon the sheets, by dotted lines. A stranded ship might survive a storm on this beach with little risk to loss of life. The beach is backed by shifting sand dunes, from fifteen to twenty feet in height; general direction of fore and rear slopes, east and west, ~~hauling~~ traveling to the westward.

The general character of the vegetation is salt grass, palmetto and scrub oak. The trees are of forest growth, and comprise the yellow pine, average height ninety feet, cyprus, average height fifty feet, live and water oak, average height forty feet; fruit trees comprise the sweet and bitter orange, peach and apricot in small numbers, the magnolia grows wild in places, about one tenth of the country is arable and grass land; wagon roads are numerous and not much traveled and consequently in poor condition. The

fences are chiefly built of wood. The climate on the western end of the bay is pleasant and healthy, but unhealthy at Millview on the eastern end of the Bay.

But little commercial importance attaches to Perdido Bay it may be described in general terms as a wide and irregularly shaped Sound, about fifteen miles long, with innumerable ramifications of creeks and bayous; at its north-eastern extremity is the mouth of Perdido River which penetrates the interior for about forty miles, and is navigable for light draft vessels about thirty miles above its mouth. Seven miles above its mouth it branches, sending off an arm to the north-westward called "the Blackwater"; one mile and a half above the confluence with the Blackwater it again divides, the branch running northwesterly being known as "the Styx".

The entrance to Perdido Bay is through a very narrow inlet into a lagoon called "Old River" The bar is shifting and has upon it an average depth of nine (9) feet at mean low water. During the prevalence of southerly winds the bar deepens, but becomes shallow under the pressure of continuous "Northers"

The usual tidal current is about (4) knots, but it must be remarked in this connection, that during the prevalence of a norther there is no tidal current - the volume of water running constantly seaward.

The usual channel into the bay is not now (except during

north winds) through Old River but through a so-called "cut off", made some fifteen years ago by parties living in that locality, through the narrow strip of low land separating Old River from Bayou St. John (or Bay Ornoco). This cut has now greatly increased in width and has deepened to three fathoms of water, although originally it was but a ditch four feet wide and four feet deep. This fact is worthy of mention, only because, if such a scour has developed in this particular channel, and in such a time, it may have a bearing upon the future of the bay as a commercial port.

At present, there is no maritime commerce - the timber (mostly yellow pine, spruce and live oak) being conveyed to Millview, at the eastern end of the bay where there are two large saw mills belonging to the "Sou-thern States Land and Lumber Company" which have a manufacturing capacity of 200,000 feet per diem; here it is sawed and transported to Pensacola by rail. There is no other trade. The soil is light, sandy and little productive.

Yours respectfully,

(Signed) Stehman Forney,

Assistant C. and G. Survey.

K. L.

1979

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Department of Commerce and Labor

COAST AND GEODETIC SURVEY

Superintendent.

State:

DESCRIPTIVE REPORT.

Sheet No.

LOCALITY:

190

CHIEF OF PARTY:

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Topo 1979 1979

U. S. COAST and GEODETIC SURVEY

O. H. TITTMANN Supt.

PERDIDO BAY

ALABAMA and FLORIDA

Stadia Survey of Inlets

by

T. E. Smith

Edwin Smith

Chief of Party

Scale = $\frac{1}{20000}$

February 1911.

C. & G. SURVEY.
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SEP 25 1911
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Drawing & plotting by T. E. S. and plotting checked by E. S.

The soundings written in pencile represent the depth at the two inlets as well as I can give them and are sufficient for all practical purposes as the depth of water on the bar changes with every strong wind.

The west inlet is not now used even by the smalest boats that enter.

When once inside the east inlet the inner bay can be reached by either the eastern or western passage but the eastern passage is far the best.

To go through the western passage make straight for the bluff close to the shore and turn to the west as shown by the pencile line.

To go through the eastern passage make straight for the bluff till the narrow channel passing the east point is reached and then turn to east and keep close to outer shoal and shore till well inside

When we entered this inlet Feb. 3, 1911 at low water there was five feet over the bar. When we came out Feb. 24, 1911 there was seven feet over the bar at low water.

The bar is about as far out as the distance between the two points of land. The depth over the bar changes from four to eight feet with the wind.

The plotting is on Charleston & Savannah Datum

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1981
2034

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U. S. COAST AND GEODETIC SURVEY.

T. C. Mendenhall, Superintendent.

States: Ala. & Fla.

DESCRIPTIVE REPORT.

Topographic Sheets Nos. 1981 & 2034.

LOCALITY:

Perdido Bay.

See also 1980

1891.

CHIEF OF PARTY:

Stehman Forney.

U. S. Coast and Geodetic Survey
JUL 29 1891
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Descriptive Report
2. Chart-No. 1981 & 2054
Topography of
Perdido Bay Ala" & Fla"
from
Dupont A Station on the Florida side
to
The Millview Fla. at the Head of Bay,
& from
Manuel A Station on the Alabama side
to
The mouth of Perdido River Ala" Fla.
1891

The general Character of the Country on the Alabama side is high land (20 to 40 feet above the bay), and Covered with Pine and Cypress timber, with here and there Small patches of Cultivated land. On the Florida side, at Millview and the mouth of Perdido River it is low - marshy and Sandy Covered with Cypress and Pine timber Most of the large timber has been

cut-off for lumber, The average height of the trees is from 50 to 100 feet. About 1/3 of the land is arable, 1/3 marsh & 1/3 wooded.

Millview is a small town at the head of Perdido Bay on a low swampy shore backed by timber and Cypress swamps. The greater portion of this town is built-on the saw dust-and refuse from the saw mills located there, belonging to the Southern States Land and Timber Co., who have two saw mills with a capacity of 200,000 feet of lumber per day. Millview has about-300 inhabitants, (mostly negroes). The town is connected with Pensacola Bay (nine miles East) by a single track broad gauge rail road, over which the lumber is transported from Millview to Pensacola Bay, and shipped from there to all parts of the world.

Millview is unhealthy being subject

to Chills and Fever, Most of the white employes of the mills live from two to four miles from town, in the direction of Pensacola.

There is a Post-office - two good Stores - School House & two Churches at this place.

Respectfully Submitted
Stenman Hovey
Asst. C & G. Survey