

2207

Form 504  
Ed. June, 1928

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
U. S. COAST AND GEODETIC SURVEY

....., Director

State: California

**DESCRIPTIVE REPORT**

Topographic }  
Hydrographic } Sheet No. 2207

LOCALITY

Pt. San Mateo Northward  
San Francisco Bay

1894-95

CHIEF OF PARTY

A. E. Rodgers

U. S. COAST & GEODETIC SURVEY  
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Acc. No. ....

A. F. Rodgers, 1894-95.NOTE:

The marsh-sloughs shown in blue ink on tracing to which this note is appended, are copied from the survey by A. F. Rodgers, Assistant, in 1854. Changes in these sloughs have taken place since that date, but the general character of the salt-marsh lands is the same, unless dykes have interfered with the natural flow of the tides, which at times of spring tide cover these lands with a depth of not less than one foot of water, then these areas appear as they were originally, deep indentations in the shore-line of the bay, at these times the shore-line of the bay appears to be the interior marsh-line at the edge of the fast land.

This interior line of the salt-marshes changes but little from year to year unless dykes, as before mentioned, interfere with the natural conditions or cultivation of the arable land throws soil over the interior margin of the salt-marshes, in this last case the arable margin grows outward over the marsh-lands, but very slowly; the progress is more rapid in the case of salt-marshes subject to overflow of freshet detritus from the land; I know of no such influence within the limit of the tracing herewith, *with one exception noted on tracing.*

The area shown in dots is the best distinctive representation that can be offered for marsh-lands filled in, but with no vegetation covering them; this is the case under south of San Bruno Point where the intended large operations of the Chicago Meat Packing Company and the South San Francisco Land and Improvement Company inaugurated the excavation of deep water

docks from the marsh area and by hydraulic pumping used the excavated material to fill in and raise the level of areas intended for town buildings.

These intended improvements proceeded no further in the work of excavation and filling than shown upon the tracing.

Note that the Chinese village and wharves on the east front of San Bruno point were abandoned during the progress of the topography, the houses were torn down removed and re-erected approximately two miles west of Point San Mateo. (This refers to sheet north of one herewith).

The contours on San Mateo Point are copied from the survey by Mr. C. M. Bache in 1853 or 4, with the addition of an 80 feet contour, which was probably an inadvertent omission if it is not shown on the original survey by him. San Mateo Point was one of the stations occupied by Assistant Richard D. Cutts who was to my knowledge encamped for a month or more within two miles of that station, and it is much more than probable he furnished the correct elevation to Sub-Assistant Bache who was at that time a member of his party.

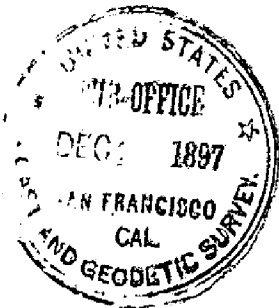
The contours in blue ink shown on the tracing west from the marsh area, are copied from a survey by Assistant Cleveland Rockwell in January, 1868, a portion of the Peninsula Survey made for the U. S. Engineers in preparing plans for defense of the City of San Francisco, as Mr. Rockwell had a level man using a Y-level for determination of elevations it is thought the contours by him are very close delineations of nature.

Note: It is thought that the county road shown in blue ink and within the limits of Mr. Rockwell's survey of 1868 (29 years

ago) is now lined on both sides with eucalyptus trees as are other portions of the same road. These trees are a marked feature and a great detriment to the use of the plane-table, as they form an impenetrable barrier to vision and prevent sight of stations.

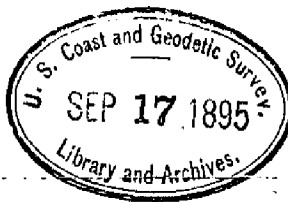
Respectfully  
Alfred D. Rodgers  
Assistant

Note



Please return tracing to  
San Francisco Sub-office  
as soon as it is no longer  
required & oblige.

A. D. R.



U. S. COAST AND GEODETIC SURVEY.

*Gen. W. W. Duffield*, Superintendent.

State: *California.*

DESCRIPTIVE REPORT.

*Topographic Sheet No. 2207.*

LOCALITY:

*San Francisco  
Bay.*

*Northward from  
Point San Mateo.*

*1894-95.*

CHIEF OF PARTY:

*Aug. F. Rodgers,*  
*Assistant.*

Mr. Fowler

Chief Draughtsman

I enclose attached these  
two copies of letters  
received from Port  
Dorchester to his top-  
ographical sketch of  
San Mateo Pt.

Respectfully

W. H. L.

Chief of Base

2207  
C O P Y .

U. S. COAST AND GEODETIC SURVEY SUB-OFFICE.

San Francisco, Cal., November 23, 1897

General W. W. Duffield,  
Superintendent, U. S. C. & G. Survey.,  
Washington, D. C.

S i r :

After receipt of your letter dated November 13th. and my reply of the 18th. in reference to San Mateo Point, San Francisco Bay; as Assistant Westdahl was in the vicinity of San Mateo and has been using a Y-Level in some recent contour work, I requested him to run a line of levels from H. W. mark to the highest elevation of San Mateo Point and I have the honor to forward to you herewith his letter giving the results of his determination, showing an error in the elevation given by the survey of 1853.

I am Sir,

Very respectfully,

(Signed.) Aug. F. Rodgers,  
Assistant U. S. C. & G. Survey.

Top 2207

(C O P Y.)

U. S. Coast and Geodetic Survey,

Redwood City, Cal., November 22, 1897.

Assistant Aug. F. Rodgers,

U. S. Coast and Geodetic Survey,

San Francisco, Cal.

Dear Sir:

The result of the leveling to-day at San Mateo Point is as follows:

Highest Point of ground = 82.99 ft. (Above H. W. mark.)

" " of rock = 83.09 ft. about 15 m. north from highest point. Height of ground at San Mateo Pt. Extr.  $\Delta$  = 34.30 ft.

The highest point above mentioned is about 95 m. south from the nearest edge of bluff, and  $186\frac{1}{2}\%$  west from San Mateo Pt. Extr.  $\Delta^2$ . These distances are paced and the directions only approximate on account of trees. The 80 ft. contour on summit of the hill is about 30 m. long, N.W. & S.E., by about 15 m. wide. There may be another summit somewhere among the trees, but I do not think so. Near this summit is a tank scaffolding probably the reservoir used for irrigating the ground when the trees were first planted. On the summit are cypress trees, and there are many patches of such all over the point.

Very respectfully,

(Signed.) Ferdinand Westdahl, Assistant.



Resurvey of San Francisco Bay,  
California, 1894 - 95.

Descriptive Report to Accompany Topographic Sheet,  
Extending Northward from Point San Mateo.

(Point San Mateo is locally known to  
San Francisco Bay Pilots and Sailors as Big Coyote.)

Changes &c. Since Original Survey  
By the U. S. Coast Survey.

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Triangulation.

The two triangulation stations within the area of the sheet at its southern end are hopelessly lost to use, from the positions being covered with planted trees; Point San Mateo Station and Sanchez Station are both so covered. Over the locations of these stations the trees were planted in close rows so that the branches meet and completely obscure vision to or from the position. In the case of the San Mateo grove I was able at a distance to identify one tree-top in the grove, that from its slender top and greater height I could observe upon and determine, and I did this with considerable advantage to the topographic work; computation of sides and L. M. Z. proved this tree-top to be approximately forty meters south of the old station, but owing to the dense interlaced foliage I could not, when upon the ground within the grove, be certain which one of the trees the top determined belonged to.

Most of the trees within the area of the sheet are

planted in hedge-form along the sides of highways, but they have grown to such heights and are of such dense growth that they have the effect of covering the region as with a forest, and I found them a very serious impediment to both triangulation and topography, it being impossible to locate signals upon the ground and make any use of them. Inside the salt-marsh limit I found one or two high buildings which could be seen from several directions between the trees, and availed myself of their use.

Topography.

There has been little change in the shoreline of the fast land at Point San Mateo, but the salt-marsh shoreline has somewhat receded from erosion. The building of the inclosures to protect the oyster beds shown upon the sheet, has had the effect of throwing a strong current close along the shore, a stronger littoral current than I have ever noticed in such shoal water under natural conditions. This sheet was made to overlap the one to the north of it in greater degree than usual, in order to avail myself of the use of the large structures determined in that direction, for topographic use.

County Roads, Railroads, &c.

There are no important roads in the interior of the sheet paralleling those shown. The Central Pacific, San Francisco toward San Jose, being the only railway, this and the County road between same places were surveyed to a junction with former work in the San Francisco Peninsula Survey. Owing to the tree impediment to topographic work above mentioned, any extension of the topography toward the interior would have

been slow and difficult, and expensive beyond equivalent advantage

The interior country rapidly rises in elevation to the Coast-range separating the bay and ocean, and is farming-land moderately settled first and then changes into cattle ranges quite spare in settlement.

Streams &c. There are no streams within the limits of the sheet beyond the creek or rivulet class.

Towns. The town of San Mateo, twenty-one miles from San Francisco by rail, is a summer resort and the summer residence of some of the wealthy residents of San Francisco; the land is held generally in large tracts and the improvements are of the better class.

Milbrae, seventeen miles, and San Bruno Railroad station fifteen miles from San Francisco, have no importance except as freighting depots for shipment of dairy and farm products.

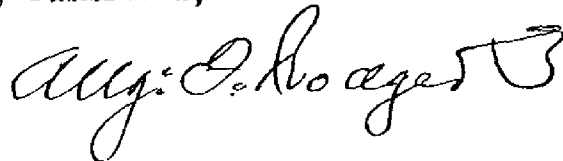
Oyster-Beds. The oyster-houses, or "camps" as their owners denominate them, shown upon the sheet, were determined trigonometrically; they were found very useful in topographic work and will be of important use in hydrography.

They are substantial and expensive structures, generally two stories in height and built upon piles, from their size and being painted white they form quite a marked feature and can be seen at distances of many miles.

The oyster cultivation is principally in the hands of a

wealthy company known as the Morgan Oyster Company, with large holdings of shoal-water-lands extending from the northern limit shown on the sheet to the extreme south end of the bay, and at intervals on both the east and western shores. The oysters are brought from the East overland, quite diminutive in size, and planted in these California beds and left to grow for two or three years before being marketed.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Aug. D. Hoag", followed by a stylized flourish.

Assistant U. S. C. & G. Survey.