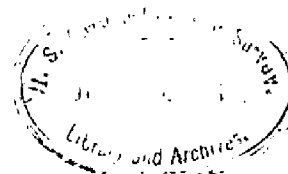


2311



U. S. COAST AND GEODETIC SURVEY.

Henry S. Pritchett, Superintendent.

State: *California*

DESCRIPTIVE REPORT.

Topographical Sheet No. 2311

LOCALITY:

*Resurvey San Francisco Bay
San Carlos to Menlo Park*

1897.

CHIEF OF PARTY:

Asst. A. F. Rodgers

(Ferdinand Westdahl)

2311

Descriptive Report

to accompany topographic sheet with title as follows:

Treasury Department

JUL - 1 1886
U. S. Coast and Geodetic Survey

Henry S. Pritchett Superintendent

Pacific Coast

Re-survey of San Francisco Bay

California

San Carlos to Menlo Park

Topographic survey under the direction of

Assistant Aug. F. Rodgers

by Ferdinand Westdahl, Assistant

xxxxxxx

Scale 10,000

AND

This is a re-survey of all the area covered with solid land, but not entirely so of the salt marsh lands where only the bay shore-line, the principal sloughs used, or capable of being utilized, for navigation, and some small connecting sloughs have been resurveyed.

All heights are determined by our rod-reading only, or

by intersection, except the large and more conspicuous buildings. All small fences surrounding barns, town-lots, etc. are sketched or omitted. Fences bounding roads and large fields are carefully surveyed as are also the town-blocks where it was practical to find corners. The method used to survey the houses of towns after the blocks were determined was to set up the table at street intersections, read the rod held at the start line abreast the house and then let the rodman pace the distance in.

The region near Minto Park, covered with natural oak forest, was very difficult to survey accurately, because no signals could be seen and the rod had to be depended upon almost entirely. The line of the R. R. was first established accurately and used as a base for orientation. The houses and villas surrounded by trees and shrubbery are paced in and the garden walks, drive-ways and ornamental grounds sketched as accurately as possible.

Contours. These are based upon the salt marsh in its natural state. All contours shown on this sheet are surveyed with a leveling instrument and plane-table. The leveling was

done after the other topography was executed. The contours were followed individually, and marks were left on fences, trees, etc., which were then determined with the table by the setting up anywhere at a fence and reading the distance to the contour. This was found to be a very rapid method.

Towns Redwood City, the County seat of San Mateo county, is the principal town within the limits of the sheet, and is shown in its entirety. It is a flourishing place containing many stores, hotels, and tradesmens shops. It is a supply depot for all the settlements on the coast and interior valleys, and much teaming is done over the roads leading to the town. Two daily stages leave for the coast and interior settlements.

Redwood lumber, whence the town derives its name, was formerly manufactured in the mountain valleys of the interior towards the coast, hauled to Redwood City, and shipped thence to the San Francisco market; but now the conditions are reversed. Lumber of all kinds is imported to Redwood City in bay craft and sea-going vessels and distributed in the interior. Two tanneries are located here, one of them being

a very large establishment employing about 200 men. This is Frank's Tannery, located on the marsh immediately in front of Redwood City. The small slough leading up to the town, although dredged at some time, is entirely dry at large low waters. The municipality has built a wharf where it falls into the main slough, and a piled roadway across the marsh thence to the town. At this wharf there are two or three feet of water at the lowest tides, with a channel to the bay.

Menlo Park consists of a few stores, saloons, a hotel, and badminton houses near the R. R. station with a collection of cottages, dwellings of labouring people employed on the R. R. and large country places in its immediate vicinity. Surrounding this small settlement are numerous large, elegant villas with extensive ornamental gardens and orchards around each of them, all occupied as summer residences by wealthy people.

Hillsdale Park is a new town-site and has only a few houses upon it. Towards the R. R. is a bridge of cypress pierced in three places by gateways built of stone. The center

one of these gates is a stone arch surmounted by a large sculptured figure of an elk.

Fronting the bay shore of this skirt is an extensive Oyster bed owned by the Morgan Oyster Company. It is enclosed by a fence the pickets of which are of split redwood three to four inches in diameter driven into the bottom about six or eight inches apart in order to keep out stingrays, seals, and other predatory marine animals which feed upon and destroy oysters. The upper edge of the fence is straddled by having light boards nailed to the pickets. The construction is purposely light so as to offer no serious obstacles to bay craft which in foggy weather frequently by accident run through it. Upon this bed are transplanted ^{eastern} oysters from the beds at the head of the bay where they are first placed for a year or two when transported over the R. R. from the Atlantic coast.

Outside of this oyster bed, a small Chinaman fishing establishment, and a few ineffective dykes near the solid land there are no improvements on the salt marsh

within the area of this sheet. All the sloughs draining into Redwood City Slough were surveyed by special direction in order to show the total area of drainage and to furnish a definite comparison with the former survey, by which changes in similar unimportant sloughs and flats might be estimated. As a general rule they are diminishing in area.

Of the old triangulation points within the limits of this sheet the monument over Pulgas West Base Δ is still standing almost intact. There has been some digging around the base by curious persons and some bricks have been looted, but otherwise it is in good condition.

At Marsh Island Δ was found a piece of scantling very old, stuck into the ground, but it bore no marks of stakes. Not knowing the nature of the underground mark, if any, it was not disturbed.

Respectfully submitted

Ferdinand Westdahl

Assistant