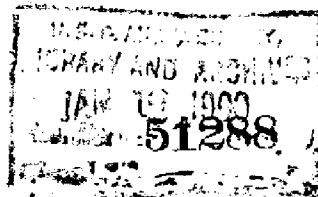
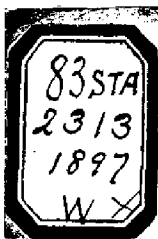


# 2313



U. S. COAST AND GEODETIC SURVEY.

*Henry S. Pritchett*, Superintendent.

State: *Cal.*

## DESCRIPTIVE REPORT.

*Topographic* Sheet No. *2313*

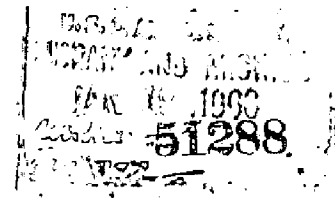
### LOCALITY:

*Resurvey of San Francisco  
Bay. - Alviso to Warm  
Spring*

*1897.*

### CHIEF OF PARTY:

*Ferdinand Westdahl*



Descriptive Report to accompany Topographic Sheet entitled:

Treasury Department

U. S. Coast and Geodetic Survey

Henry S. Pritchett, Superintendent

Pacific Coast

Re-Survey of San Francisco Bay

California

Southern Extremity of Bay

Alviso to Warm Springs

Topographic Survey under the direction of

Assistant Aug. F. Rodgers

By Fremont Morse, Assistant

And Ferdinand Westsahl, Draughtsman

From Nov. 30 to Dec. 29, 1896 - March 15 to April 23, and

July 1 to July 10, 1897

Scale  $\frac{1}{10,000}$

This sheet was begun by the undersigned and, owing to assignment to other duties, turned over to Assistant Morse in later part of December 1896. At that time the greater part of the Salt-marsh lands had been completed. The party was withdrawn from the field in the beginning of January 1897, to March 15, when work was resumed under Assistant Morse. The Southern limit of the sheet originally decided upon was the county-road between Milpitas and Alviso, and when the party was again turned over to me in the middle of April this area was nearly completed, lacking but three or four good days' work. After the next sheet, from Alviso to

Mountain View, had been almost completed it was deemed advisable to include in it Agnews Insane Asylum, which for local reasons could be more readily surveyed by using this sheet. It was therefore again taken to the field in July and the area bounded by Agnews Insane Asylum, thence along Gaudalupe River to the Alviso -- Milpitas road, thence along said road to Milpitas, and the irregular line from Milpitas to Agnews added to make a better finish to the sheet. Owing to being ordered to other duties neither Assistant Morse nor I had the opportunity to ink our respective portions of the sheet, it being done by temporarily employed draughtsmen under the direction of Assistant Rodgers, the Chief of Party.

A part of the Salt-marsh only on this sheet was included in the old survey, so that practically this entire sheet is original topography based upon triangulation executed by Assistant J. J. Gilbert, and it defines the entire tidal area of the head of the Southern arm of San Francisco Bay. All the marsh-lands shown upon it are covered with salt water at the periods of extreme high waters in June and December.

The principal streams emptying into the sloughs at the head of the bay are the Coyote Creek, joined by the Penitencia near the mouth, and the Gaudalupe River, now flowing partly into the headwaters of Alviso Slough through a channel dug for it in front of the town of Alviso. In the rainy season both are considerable streams. To protect the valuable orchards and fields in the low country through which it flows Coyote Creek has been dyked. These

dykes rise twenty and more feet above the general level at the Southern limit of the sheet, are broad enough for a road along the top, and are covered with willows and bushes. The small creeks on the East side, between Warm Springs and Milpitas, have been confined to ditches dug for them from the point where they issue on the flat lands. Artesian wells are numerous and ditches to carry off the surplus flow are everywhere in evidence. The debatable area immediately adjoining the Salt-marsh, which is sometimes covered at high tides, is used for pastures: all the rest is highly productive and valuable. Vineyards and orchards alternate with large fields devoted to the culture of continuous crops of asparagus, straw berries, black berries, and other small fruit and vegetables.

The Salt-marsh, except the dyked area near Milpitas Landing where scant crops of hay and grain are raised, is unimproved. The dykes shown on the sheet are low, ineffectual, and never completed across the small sloughs.

Contours. Assistant Morse did the contouring on this sheet and used a level for the purpose. I did not try a level on the addition to the sheet, the area between Agnews and Milpitas, but from the direction of the 20 ft. curve on the adjoining sheet which was run out with a level I judged that that curve would not come in on this sheet on the western side of the valley. I have been informed that parties from the <sup>U.S.</sup> Geological Survey have run several lines of levels across this region.

Towns and villages. Alviso is the principal town within the limits of the sheet but the whole of it is not shown, a part of it lying to the westward of the railroad used as a boundary between the sheets. In the years before the completion of the railroads from San Francisco to San Jose this was an important shipping point. Almost all the produce from the Santa Clara valley was loaded on bay-craft here and sent to San Francisco. The numerous warehouses, now decaying, testify to the large amount of traffic carried on here. Building material is still imported and steam and sailing schooners bring lumber from outside coasting ports direct to Alviso, whence it is teamed to San Jose and other towns in the valley. The export is mainly fruit and vegetables. A stern-wheel steamer makes daily trips hence to San Francisco with freight and passengers, the latter being carried to and from San Jose and vicinity in stages run in connection with the steamer.

Milpitas is a small and apparently thriving town. It is the center of a large area devoted to the raising of asparagus and other vegetables. A couple of canneries are located here and in the fruit season many people are employed in them.

Milpitas Landing is practically abandoned.

Warm Springs is a small village consisting of a store, hotel, blacksmith shop and saloons, with a few dwellings. It derives its name from some springs about a mile distant in the foot-hills where there is a hotel, the flagstaff on which was determined in the triangulation.

Warm Springs Landing is used now mainly for the shipping of hay and lime-stone, the latter being hauled in wagons from a quarry situated in the hills back of the old Mission San Jose.

The South Pacific Coast R. R. is built on piled trestles across the salt-marsh and afterwards filled in with solid material except at the crossings of the large sloughs. Draw-bridges are maintained at the crossings of Mud Creek and Coyote Creek, but Grey Goose Slough and Gaudalupe River are closed to navigation by the piled roadway. The collection of cabins shown on the adjoining sheet on both sides of the R. R. between the two draw-bridges are built and maintained for the accommodation of duck-hunters who congregate here during the season when it is permitted to hunt ducks.

Of the cadastral features on the sheet the houses are determined by one rod-reading only or by intersection, except the large and more prominent structures. Small fences surrounding dwellings and barns are sketched generally, but fences along the roads and between the fields are determined as closely as the scale will permit. The boundaries between orchards, vineyards, and other cultivated fields are shown as they existed at the time of the survey, but orchards are being planted everywhere owing to the greater profit derived from horticulture, and it is safe to predict that this entire region will be devoted to it as soon as the low country can be protected from overflows. In delineating large buildings, such as Agnews Asylum, warehouses, etc, the distinction between wood and brick or iron is on the original sheet shown

6.

thus: for wooden buildings ☒ ; for brick, stone, or iron  
buildings ☒ .

Respectfully submitted,

*Ferdinand Westdahl*

Assistant C. & G. Survey.

U. S. Stmr. "McArthur"

San Francisco Bay, Cal.

January 9th 1900.