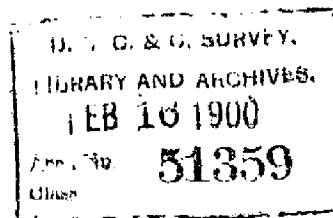


# 2315



U. S. COAST AND GEODETIC SURVEY.

*Henry S. Pritchett*, Superintendent.

State: *Cal.*

## DESCRIPTIVE REPORT.

*Topographic* Sheet No. *2315*

LOCALITY:

*Mountain View to  
Alviso*

*1897.*

CHIEF OF PARTY:

*A. F. Rodgers*

# 2315

RECEIVED  
FEB 10 1900  
APR. 28  
1899

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

Mountain View to Alviso

Topographical Survey under the direction of

Assistant Aug. F. Rodgers

By Ferdinand Westdahl, Draughtsman

from May 20 to July 1, and July 11 to Aug. 7, 1897.

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

This is practically an original survey. The only exception is the marshland area covered by former work in which only the principal sloughs used for navigation, new connections between sloughs made since that time, and improvements, such as dykes, houses etc, have been re-surveyed. All houses, except large and conspicuous buildings, are determined by one rod-reading only or by intersection. Small fences surrounding houses and barns are sketched; all others bounding fields, orchards, and roads are determined as closely as the scale will permit. This is also true of the town blocks and the houses within them.

Contours. All the contours were surveyed with a leveling instrument and the plane-table, and are based upon the level of the salt-marsh in its natural state, undisturbed by the tramping of cattle or solidified by dyking. They are 20 feet apart in elevation above the marsh and each is followed separately with the level and marks left on fences, trees, etc, which were afterwards determined with the table.

Towns. A part of Alviso is shown on this sheet but the description of the town as a whole was included in the report on the adjoining sheet.

Agnews is the beginning of a town located on the opposite side of the rail-road from the State Insane Asylum of the same name. It has a store, hotel, and a few scattered houses. Neither town blocks nor street lines are as yet defined so that they could be marked on the sheet.

Mountain View is a thriving town, with many stores, hotels, and tradesmen's shops. Only a part of it is included within the limits of the sheet, this being the principal business district however. A long street or road lined with residences stretches to the South-west from this about one-quarter of a mile.

Landings. Beside Alviso there are four landings for bay craft on this sheet, as follows:

McCubbin's Landing on the Gaudalupe River, whence hay is shipped to San Francisco.

Jagels Landing, on the slough of the same name, is a shipping place for hay, grain, and wine.

3.

Guth's Landing, where there is a substantial brick warehouse, was not operated during the time of the survey.

Mountain View Landing is the most important on the sheet next to Alviso. There is nearly always some bay craft loading here, and sometimes two or three. The principal products handled here are hay, grain, and wine.

I saw nothing brought to these landings, not even lumber, by the bay craft. Alviso is the nearest depot for lumber and other building material in the vicinity. The sloughs upon which these landings are situated run dry at low water and all the moving of the vessels has to be done at high tide.

Another landing near the headwaters of Indigo Slough was operated for many years, but the warehouse, said to have been 600 feet long, burned down several years ago while filled with hay. While surveying in the vicinity of its site I saw large chunks of what looked like lava rock but much heavier in weight. Upon inquiry I learned that these apparent rocks were the remains of the Saccharine matter contained in the hay after the fire.

The salt-marsh on this sheet is unimproved, all dykes shown upon it, except those at Jagels and Mountain View Landings, being ineffective and decaying. I am informed that for several years good crops of barley and hay were raised on a piece of dyked marsh near Alviso slough, where stations Hut A and Shed A are located, but through neglect the salt water broke in and ruined it. Scattered over the marsh are many flowing artesian wells bored by the company which built the dykes appearing on these topographical sheets

to the Southeastward of Dumbarton Point. A great amount of money and labor has been wasted here through bad engineering, and the enterprise has been abandoned.

The bay shore-line, although separated from the channels by a wide expanse of mud flats at low tide, is jagged and wave worn by the ceaseless summer afternoon winds at or near high water. The outer edge of the marsh is quite steep until it becomes undermined and falls, and the spray from the assaulting waves is thrown twenty or more yards in over the marsh.

The small fresh water creeks emptying into the sloughs within the limits of this sheet have been straightened and dyked. Stephens Creek carries a great volume of water and gravel in the wet season. Although its dykes are high and substantial its increasing width towards the mouth slackens the current so that the gravel has filled it nearly to the top of the dykes and it overflows to the detriment of the orchards on either side. None of these creeks, except Campbell's and the Gaudalupe River, had any water in them at the time of the survey.

The scattered oak trees in the fields adjoining the marsh are individually determined. The forrest of oaks in the vicinity of Mountain View is being rapidly cleared and orchards planted instead. Until quite recently the land in this vicinity has belonged to large estates but is now being subdivided and small holders offered opportunities to engage in horticulture, an industry which is largely pursued in this neighborhood. The individual cultivators cure their crops by drying or send it to a fruit cannery

4.

located at Mountain View. There are also extensive vineyards and wineries in this vicinity.

Respectfully submitted,

*Ferdinand Wendt*

Asst. C. & G. Survey.