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U. S. COAST AND GEODETIC SURVEY.

H. S. Pritchett, Superintendent.

State: Porto Rico

DESCRIPTIVE REPORT.

Topographic Sheet No. 2414

LOCALITY:

San Juan Harbor

See No 2413

1899.

CHIEF OF PARTY:

W C Hodgkins

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Form 504

U. S. COAST AND GEODETIC SURVEY

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

DESCRIPTIVE REPORT

Type of Survey Topographic

Field No. 2413 Office No. 2414

LOCALITY

State Porto Rico

General locality San Juan

Locality Harbor

1899

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CHIEF OF PARTY

W. C. Hodgkins

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U. S. COAST AND GEODETIC SURVEY.

H. S. Pritchett, Superintendent.

State: Porto Rico

DESCRIPTIVE REPORT.

Topographic Sheets Nos. 2413 & 2414.

LOCALITY:

San Juan Harbor.

1899.

CHIEF OF PARTY:

W. C. Hodgkins

Descriptive Report

to accompany Topographic Sheets 2413 & 2414, of San Juan, Porto Rico, 1899.

This was merely an outline survey to furnish shore line for the hydrographic survey of the harbor of San Juan made in April, 1899.

It includes on sheet 2413 the greater part of the shore line of San Juan Island and on sheet 2414 that of the southwest side of the harbor, from Palo Seco Point to Cataño Point. This latter piece of shore is low and sandy and will require no further mention as it is out of the way of any ordinary navigation.

The shore of San Juan Island is generally bold and rocky, but on the north, or ocean, side it has many outlying rocks which prevent close approach from seaward.

As the harbor is entered, the shore becomes less bold but has fewer outlying dangers.

The western and higher part of the island is occupied by the city of San Juan, a walled town, the fortifications of which consist of the two main works, Morro and San Cristóbal Castles with the walls and minor works which join them.

Morro Castle is on the extreme western point of the island, at the harbor mouth, while San Cristóbal is on the summit of the ridge at the east end of the town.

The walls of these ancient forts rise sheer from the sea beach. Besides connecting them on the ocean front, the city wall extends from Morro along the harbor side as far as the Marina, at the landing place, between which point and the old landgate, (Puerta de Tierra) the wall has been removed, in the interest of commerce.

Railway and highway bridges across the San Antonio channel afford communication with the main island of Porto Rico. This approach to the capital is defended by an extensive line of wall and by two detached works.

A steam ferry affords communication with the suburb of Cataño on the south side of the harbor, whence a railroad runs to Bayamon and thence to Arecibo.

There is also direct rail communication with Rio Piedras and intermediate points.

San Juan is closely built up with masonry structures, usually two stories high.

The streets are narrow but well paved and are kept very clean. The population is very dense. The port has an extensive commerce, the principal exports being coffee, tobacco, sugar, molasses, rum and live cattle.
The imports include almost all kinds of food stuffs and manufactured articles.
There is a kerosene refinery on the S.W. side of the harbor near Batario.
In San Juan there is an ice factory and there are several machine shops.

W. C. Hodgkins
Chief of Party