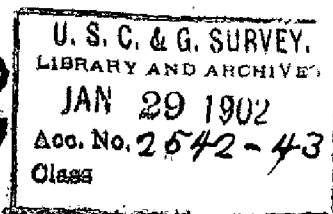
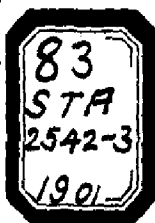


2542 2542
2543



U. S. COAST AND GEODETIC SURVEY.

C. H. Tittmann, Superintendent.

State: *P. R.*

DESCRIPTIVE REPORT.

Topographic Sheet No. *2542-43*

LOCALITY:

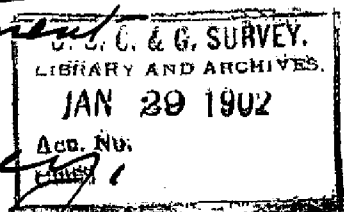
Vieques or Crab Island

1901

CHIEF OF PARTY:

S. F. Orney

Treasury Department
JAN 19 1902 02100
U.S. C. & G. Survey



C. H. Littmann Superintendent

Descriptive Report—
Original Plans & Sheets
Nos 2542 and 2543

Vieques or Crab Island
Puerto Rico
Scale 1/20,000

Surveyed by

Stetman Forney
Asst. C. & G. Survey

From January 28th to June 12th 1901

Descriptive Report of Original Topograph-
ical Sheets Nos. 2542 and 2543, "Fieguas"
or "Crot" Island Porto Rico, Scale 1/24,000
Surveyed by Herman Hensley Assistant C
S. Survey from January 28th to June 1st 1901.

The plane table survey of the Island was
made on a scale of 1/24,000, embracing
two sheets Nos. 2542 and 2543. The shore
line - heights and positions of prominent
peaks and ridges were accurately determin-
ed with the plane table. The contouring of
the summits of these peaks and Mount
Pico on the West end of the Island was care-
fully executed with the plane table. The heights
are expressed in meters and are referred
to mean high water. The contour intervals
are shown for every ten meters difference
of elevation. The interior ridges and valleys
are shown by form contours and represent
the work of a plane table reconnaissance.
The interior roads and trails were delineated
by liberal plane table sketching, giving a
general idea of these features. The form

Centouring. Mapping of roads and trails was executed in accordance with the instructions of Asst. Lieut. G. Ogden, Inspector of Hydrography and Topography under date of April 28th 1901. That he issued to me after inspecting my field work and making a personal reconnaissance of the entire Island.

The Spanish names of Points - Head Lands - Bays - Soundings - and Port Harbours as well as the name of the Island, were obtained from Eusebio Flores, a native of Vieques Island. and the man who acted as pilot to Commodore Sampson U.S. Navy, when he was cruising in the waters around Porto Rico, during the Spanish American War. On the G. L. Survey Charts and those published by the U.S. Hydrographic Office & the British Admiralty the island is - called "Coral Island." By the natives it is called "La Isla de Vieques" The oldest inhabitants of Porto Rico also know it by this name. The word Vieques is not found in the Spanish Dictionary, people living on the Island say it is an Indian name, "Cangrajo".

is the Spanish for Crab. The island is covered with an immense number of Land Crabs, owing to this fact the English Sailors among whom given it the name of "Crab Island".

The town located at Puerto de Mulas is called "Vieques" by the U.S. Post-Office Department and Americans generally. The U.S. War Department and the natives call the town "Isabel Segura".

The Island of Vieques is twenty one miles in length $4\frac{1}{8}$ miles at the widest part with an average width of 3 miles with fifty nine statute miles of shore line, embracing an area of fifty three square statute miles. The shore line is comprised of low bluffs with beautiful sand and beach, upon which safe and comfortable landings can be made in small boats during the greater part of the year. From November to June the prevailing winds are from the North East; during this period landings can be made at all of the best Harbors and beaches on the South Coast. The West-end of the Island, "Margarita Playa" - Puerto de Mulas and "Punta de Surina" are the South Coast of the Island.

Puerto de Mulas is the principal landing
 on "Coral Island" for a line of Steamers run-
 ning from San Juan Porto Rico around
 the Island of Porto Rico touching at "Puerto
 de Mulas" twice every ten weeks, at "Mosquito
 Playa" six miles west of "Puerto de Mulas" on
 the North Shore of the Island. Several Anchorage
 about one-half of a mile off from the beach
 and small Sugar and Cane with lighters,
 "Puerto Lorenzo" at the west end of the Island
 is a good anchorage with the wind from
 the North East - North and South East, "Puerto
 Real" on the South Coast is a good An-
 chorage and smooth landing and fresh
 beach during the North East - Trade, but
 very rough during Easterly and Southerly
 winds, "Puerto Mosquito" is a small locked
 boat harbor very shallow at its entrance.
 "Puerto Harro" is a small harbor for light-
 draught vessels, the entrance is narrow, some
 years ago ketches landed here and loaded with
 sugar and rum for New York and
 Boston, In December 1900 a large three
 masted Schooner struck coming in through
 the entrance sprang a leak and sank

When well into the harbor, the Hull and
 masts are still in sight, since then this
 point has been abandoned. "Port-Real" is
 near the shipping point for the Esmeraldas
 and Campor Santa Mills, Grand Port-
 the South Coast of the Island is a large Bay
 with a good depth of water at its entrance
 but there are numerous Coral Reefs inside
 where the water breaks with the wind and
 sea from the Southward and Eastward,
 During the North East-trades Safe boat land-
 ings can be made on the Sand beaches
 inside of the Bay, These beaches are very rough
 during Southerly and Easterly winds.

"Salina del Liri" at the South ^{East} End of the
 Island is a good boat-landing on a hard
 sand beach, at all times except with the
 wind from the South-East and North

A well defined ridge extends the entire
 length of the Island from East to West
 with isolated peaks and hills ranging in
 height from 137 meters at the Eastern
 end to 299 meters at "Mt Pnata" on the
 Western end, The hills on the North side
 of the Island rise abruptly from the

rise to their summits on the main Ridge
 or back bone of the Island, then falling off
 gently to the South Shore, interspersed with
 rich valleys and table lands. The Eastern
 end of the Island is covered with mangroves,
 brush and hard wood timber, Some of the
 ridges and valleys on the Central part of the
 Island are covered with brush and hard wood
 timber, On the Western end of the Island
 Mount Piseta and some of the first hills
 are covered with brush and hard wood tim-
 ber. There are three large ponds of salt water
 on the West end of the Island that abound
 with wild, waterfowl, All of the uncultivated
 land on the Island is covered with an abun-
 -dance of rich nutritious wild grasses,
 That supports about ^{2,000} 12,000 head of Cattle
 and horses. The best Cattle are large and
 well bred very fat - and produce excellent
 tender beef. The draught cattle are very large,
 and the horses are larger than those on the
 Island of Porto Rico.

Approaching Cast Island from the
 sea, it has the appearance of a long low
 island with one prominent peak on the

Extreme Eastern end that looks like an
 island cut-off from the main one, on
 the Western end two prominent-peaks are
 seen, "Mount-Picota" and "Martin Hill"
 "Vigues or Crab" Island, practically ~~is~~ owned
 by six individuals, three Spaniards two French
 men and one Dane, with ten exceptions these
 parties are exclusively engaged in the grow-
 ing of Sugar Cane, and the manufacturing
 of Sugar-Molasses and Rum. The Cane
 land is very rich and productive. The Cane
 is replanted once every seven years, and
 there is one instance, a small tract on the
 plantation of Mr Mowbrail, where they
 have been cutting Cane from roots thirty
 years old. The mills are equipped with
 crude Ancient Machinery that loses
 about 40 per cent of the Saccharine matter in
 crushing the Cane, notwithstanding these
 methods of crushing the Cane, the output
 this year from 2800 acres of Cane, amount-
 ed 29000 sacks and 350 Tons of Sugar
 650 Casks of Rum, and 110 gallons of Molasses
 valued at 350,000, About one half of the
 Cane land available on the island is now

under construction, Sugar Cane can be grown to the very tops of the hills.

This Island like the South Shore of Porto Rico is subject, at times, to droughts. This could be provided for by the storage of rain water and spring water. The plantations and farm houses have large cisterns for storing rain water. All over the island there are many large retaining tanks built of Command - coral used for detaining the water. they are quite a feature on the island, and one specimen thus on the plain table sheets. On the old Spanish fort at Pto. Segundo there are two large Command water tanks for storing rain water. The town has a cistern with a capacity of 75,000 gallons, which is generally filled with rain water. On the South slope of the island half way between Pto. Segundo and Playa Grande a large stream of fine water empties in to the ocean called the Rio Escondido. The damming up of this river would store a large volume of water which could be utilized for power and irrigating purposes. During normal rain conditions the island on the

North and South Shores West from Isabel
 Segunda is well supplied with Springs and
 streams of good water. There are also numer-
 ous wells on the island, but the water is not
 so good for drinking, on the North Shore
 of the Island West of La Berron's Plantation
 there are two streams of fine water. There is
 a passable wagon road leading from
 Isabel Segunda across the Island and along
 the South Slope westward to "Playa Grande"
 Plantation, thence across the West-End of the
 Island to Maria Plantation on the North West
 Shore, thence to the Extreme West-End at Punta
 Arenas. There is also a fair road from
 Maria Plantation along the North Shore to
 Isabel Segunda. Thence along the Coast-~~line~~
 passed the La Berron Sugar Mill and
 through the La Berron Plantation to within
 four miles of the Extreme Eastern End of the island.
 There is also a passable road from "Isabel
 Segunda" direct to Mr Mowbrail's Plantation.
 All of the roads on the island are in a very
 bad condition. Most of them only passable
 for ox carts and on four wheels. One can
 ride around the island and all over it

can have Luck, providing they can find
 the gates through the numerous vines,
 Pine Apples, Bananas - Plantains - Coco Nuts
 Oranges - Limes - Guavas - Pomogranates - Sweet -
 and Irish Potatoes, Corn and Cabbages, are
 grown in sufficient quantities to supply the
 local market. The wild fruits of the tropics
 are plentiful, Guavas and Royal Palm grow,
 Bananas Orchards the brilliant foliage and
 flowers of the tropical growth are found in
 profusion on this beautiful island. The
 winter climate is delightful and healthy,
 the scenery is charming. According to the
 Census taken in 1899 and 1900 by the United
 States the population of the island was nearly
 six thousand, composed of Negroes from the
 Danish West Indies and from the
 Island of Porto Rico. The rainy season
 lasts from May until October. The rain
 fall, as a rule, is not so copious as it is
 on the Eastern end of Porto Rico. Many rain
 clouds pass over Crook Island and the rain
 is not precipitated until the clouds strike the Moun-
 tains at the Eastern end of Porto Rico.

Respectfully Submitted,

Stephen J. Ferry
 Capt. U. S. Army