

2576

U. S. C. & G. SURVEY.
LIBRARY AND ARCHIVES
APR 23 1902
APR 23 1902
Aug. No. 2576
Class

83
STA
2576
1901

U. S. COAST AND GEODETIC SURVEY.

O. H. Tittmann, Superintendent.

State: *Florida*

DESCRIPTIVE REPORT.

Topographic Sheet No. 2576

LOCALITY:

*Mouth of Withlacoochee
River.*

*Gulf of Mexico
Fla.*

1901

CHIEF OF PARTY:

Henry L. Marindin Asst.

2576

To accompany Topographical Sheet # 2576.

Title:

U. S. Coast and Geodetic Survey

O. H. Tittmann Sup^t.

Plane table Survey of mouth of

Wichitawoochee River

Florida

Surveyed by H. L. Merindin, Asst.

October

— 1901 —

Scale $\frac{1}{5,000}$

NOTE: This work was done before the triangulation was completed by the measurement of a short base line on the plank walk, and from which the points "Sand" and "Ingle's flag staff" were determined by plane table, subsequently these two points were observed up and their geographical positions well determined, and the projection placed on sheet after my arrival at the office in Washington D.C.

H. L. Merindin
Asst.

Description:

The survey represented on this sheet. (# 2576) was incidental to the request of the Dannelon Phosphate Co and Port Hughes Terminal R.R. Co. for an Hydrographic survey of an anchorage for ocean going steamships while loading Phosphate rock from the Co's mines in the vicinity of the Withlacoochee River.

The plane table work was done while waiting the completion of the arrangements to secure a suitable steamer to do the sounding and other work.

The sheet covers that part of the river where for nearly two years, these companies have been at work improving the navigation of the river by dredging. The improvement begins just above the "fork" ~~at~~ the upper end of Chambers Island and extends to the line of outer oyster reefs, or the points marked "Cage Stake" and "Baul Stake".

The one large island indicated on the sheet to which the name of Chambers Island now attaches, was formerly cut in two by a run forming two small islands. This run is now filled up and the space ^{grown up} ~~filled up~~ with marsh grass. The original name of Chambers Island was given to the southernmost island. It is now proposed to call the present island and vicinity "Port Hughes" in honor of Captain John L. Hughes the President of the Dannelon Phosphate Co and Vice President of Port Hughes Terminal R.R. Co. who now owns the ground and who has built a "Bungalow" and cottages for workmen thereon.

The shores at the mouth of the Withlacoochee River are low and marshy, here and there within the marshes hummocks of trees are found; where the ground is somewhat higher; The trees are Cabbage Palm, Gum, Cypress and some Cedar, formerly there were found many mangroves but they were nearly all killed by the severe frosts of 1885-6 -

Chambers Island can be reached from the Gulf side by boats with a draft of 5 or 6 feet of water, by entering the mouth of the river where improved by the Terminal Co. the entrance is now marked by a "Cage" beacon and a "Buoy" beacon on either side of the channel, thence proceeding up river to a small wharf at now known as the "Blacksmith's wharf"

The route from the land side into starts from Rockwell Sta. by train on the Port-Ingles Terminal R.R. to "Ingles" then by steamer "Barker" also belonging to the P.I.T. Co. R.R. down river 8 miles to the Blacksmith Wharf on the island. As both the R.R. road and the steamer belongs to the P.I.T. Co. and the island also, there is at present no regular schedule for the public, but the boat usually makes a trip each day and the train one trip every other day, between Rockwell and Ingles.

The highest tides cover the marshes and communication from the Blacksmith Wharf to the other parts of the island is by plank walks built above the highest tide. There are ^{walks} indicated on the sheet.

The highest part of the Island lies at its southern end where the material dredged from the channel of the South Pass was pumped up, consisting principally of dead oyster shells and coral sands. The ground on which Capt. Hugh "Bungalow" and cottages have been built is about 7 feet above mean high tide.

Shell mounds are found along the shores, two of these are found on the Island which are of considerable magnitude, these are shown on the survey.

The shores abound in oyster reefs, most of which are bare at the lowest tides.

Good fishing can be found around the Island and in the river above the "fork" of the South Pass.

Respectfully submitted
Henry A. Clairdin
Assistant