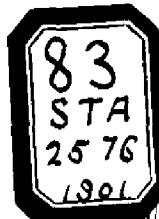
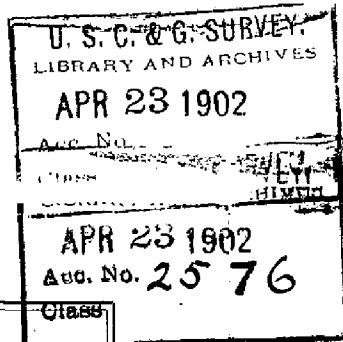


2576



U. S. COAST AND GEODETIC SURVEY.

O. H. Titterann, 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 Ass't.

26  
15  
22

To accompany Topographical Sheet # 2576.

Title:

U. S. Coast & Geodetic Survey

O. H. Tittmann Sup't.

Plane-table Survey of mouth of  
Withlacoochee River  
Florida

Surveyed by H. L. Marindin, 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 "English  
flag staff" were determined by Plane-table, subsequently  
these two points were observed upon and their  
Geographical Positions well determined, and the  
projection placed on sheet after my arrival at  
the office in Washington D.C.

H. L. Marindin  
Asst.

Description:

The survey represented on this sheet (# 2576) was incidental to the request of the Dunnellon Phosphate Co and Port Hughes Terminal RR 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 "Barrel 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 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 Dunnellon Phosphate Co and Vice President of Port Hughes Terminal RR Co. who now owns the ground and 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 frost 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 "Bowl" beacon on either side of the channel; thence proceeding up river to a small wharf at now known as the Blacksmith Wharf

The route from the land side is to start from Rockwell Fla., by train on the Port-English Terminal R.R. to "Inglis" then by steamer "Barker" also belonging to the P.I.T. Co. N. down river 8 miles to the Blacksmith Wharf on the Island. As both the Road and 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 Inglis.

The highest tides cover the marshes and communication from the Blacksmith Wharf to the other parts of the Islands is by plank walks built above the high tide these <sup>walks</sup> are isolated 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. Duglin "Bungalow" and cottages have been built is about 7 feet above mean high tides.

Shell mounds are found along the shores, two of these are found on the Island which are of considerable magnitude, they 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 L. Morland  
~~Assistant~~