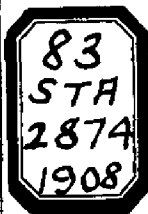


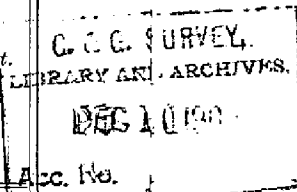
2874



Department of Commerce and Labor
COAST AND GEODETIC SURVEY

O. H. Tittmann
Superintendent.

State: *Alaska*



DESCRIPTIVE REPORT.

Topographic Sheet No. *2874*

LOCALITY:

*Shoreline and Village
of Metlakatla*

1908

CHIEF OF PARTY:

A. B. Derickson

2874

2874

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Descriptive Report
to accompany the
Topographic Sheet
showing the survey of the
Shoreline and Village of Metlakatla,
Alaska,
by the party on the
U.S.C. & G.S. Str. "Gedney."
November 1908.
R.B. Derickson, Asst.
Commanding.
L.O. Colbert, Aid,
Topographer.

Descriptive Report to accompany Topographic Sheet of
the Shoreline and Village of Metlakatla, Alaska.

Executed by the party on the U.S.C. & G.S. Str. "Gedney"

November 1908.

This sheet was made to show the location of the United States Coast and Geodetic Survey Boat-house, built this fall, in relation to the village of Metlakatla; and is to scale of 1:5000. The shoreline and principal streets were run in by traverse, and rod readings were taken to the intersections of the side streets and to the larger buildings. Cuts were taken to the beacon and to the center of the islands in the harbor. A magnetic meridian was laid off on the sheet.

Appearance of the shore:- The land above the long shingle beach is fairly level, but a low hill rises just behind the town and from this the ground gradually slopes upward to Yellow Hill, except for a slight valley with a small pond about three quarters of a mile from the beach. A small stream emptying into the harbor beside the sawmill has its source in this pond. At the eastern and western limits of the sheet, the beach is rocky, and the western end is covered with boulders. The rest of the beach is good and the natives haul their boats up on it.

Yellow Hill, easily distinguished by its name from the characteristic color of the soil, is two miles from the village and has an elevation of 554 feet. There is a large quantity of serpentine in the hill. The ground is covered with moss, grass and deciduous bushes intermingled with small spruce.

Village Pt. is a prominent point 250 meters west of the wharf. The U.S.C. & G.S. Boathouse is located at the tree-line on the eastern end of the stretch of beach extending from the Village Pt. to the upper part of the harbor. It is half a mile from the wharf.

The Village:- The village of Metlakatla is occupied by the natives of the Tsimpsean tribe under the leadership of Mr. Wm. Duncan. This Indian tribe emigrated with Mr. Duncan from British Columbia to the present site in 1887. Under an Act of Congress, the island (Annette Island) was set apart for these natives and such others as might join them. It is governed by a council of the leading natives and an efficient police force maintain a well ordered community.

The streets consist of board walks 8 feet wide. There are three miles of these walks in the village. Those along the waterfront and on the principal streets are kept in good order, but on the side streets the walks are in poor condition. Ditches for drainage are dug under the center of the walks or on either side of them.

The Public Property valued at \$69,000 consists of a guest house, a school house, a hospital, a girls home, a church, and a public library. In the library building, the lower floor is reserved and fitted with cells for use as a jail. The Church, 70 feet by 100 feet and costing \$10,000, is the most conspicuous feature in approaching the harbor. There are two bell towers, one beside the general store and the other on the walk along the beach front, to give an alarm in case of fire.

Industries:- The Metlakatla Industrial Co. owns and

operates a cannery, saw mill, general store and a dwelling house. This is a corporation under the laws of Oregon and formerly the stock in it was held solely by the natives and Mr. Duncan, but the latter has since bought out the other interests in order to make the management of the company more efficient. A water pipe line from Crystal Lake, 2-1/2 miles from the town, supplies power to the saw-mill and cannery; and, by an open tap in front of the general store, furnishes the village with water. A pipe running to the end of the wharf is very convenient for steamers to take fresh water aboard. The system cost about \$10,000. Plane Table cuts and vertical angles to the top of the first visible waterfall near the lake, gave the lake a height of 575 feet, and in a report of Mr. Duncan's who has surveyed this for his pipe line, the elevation of the lake is given as 800 ft. Note discrepancy of elevation shown by contours on chart No. 8074.

*{ 2 Glacier Lake
between 100 x 200 ft.
by contours*

During the fishing season, the cannery usually employs 150 hands and 30 fishermen. Two steam tugs owned by the company are used to bring in the catch. A blacksmith shop is attached to the cannery. The saw-mill employs five men and several others find employment in logging for the mill. There are four stores in the village besides the general one.

Population:- The population varies considerably. During the fishing season, when the cannery is running, there are sometimes 300 persons in the village. During the winter months many go to Ketchikan and to the neighboring Indian towns. There are five white people at Metlakatla; viz. Mr. Duncan, Mr. & Mrs. Mitchell, teachers; Mr. Wallace, who is foreman at the saw-mill

and his wife.

The Geographic position of this sheet can only be located in a tentative way as no positions or description of stations were available at this time. The cuts^{*} to Yellow Hill, the center of the islets in the harbor and location of the post light at entrance, will approximately fix the position.

L. O. Colbert.

Aid, C. & G. Survey,

Topographer.

Approved

R. B. American

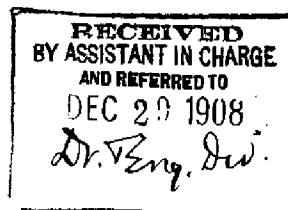
Asst., Chief of Party.

Comdg.

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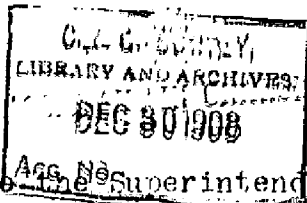
EXPRESS OFFICE:



Department of Commerce and Labor

COAST AND GEODETIC SURVEY

U.S.S. "GEDNEY" Admiralty Inlet, Wash.



December 19, 1908.

To the Superintendent,

U.S. Coast & Geodetic Survey,

Washington, D. C.

Sir:-

Your letter of December 12th, in regard to the Topographic sheet No. 2874, Shore line and Village of Metlakatla, is received.

I have to state that the contours are given for 25 feet intervals of elevation.

For the description of Prominent Objects, reference is made in the descriptive report to the Church-house as the most prominent and useful landmark. The Church is represented on the sheet by the church symbol, also the Light-beacon and C. & G. S. boat-house are lettered in pencil.

Respectfully submitted,

R. B. Dickinson

Asst., Comdg.