

4883

Form 504  
Rev. Dec. 1933  
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
U.S. COAST AND GEODETIC SURVEY  
R. S. PATTON, DIRECTOR

## DESCRIPTIVE REPORT

Topographic } Sheet No. 0 4883  
~~Hydrographic~~

State California

### LOCALITY

Santa Barbara Channel

Point Conception and Vicinity

1933

CHIEF OF PARTY

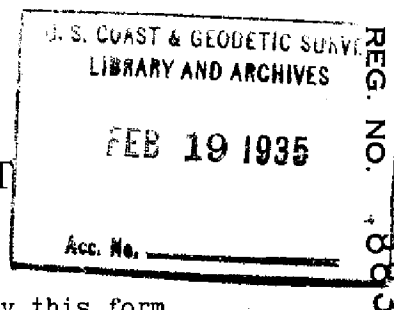
C.K. Green

U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE: 1934

4883

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
U. S. COAST AND GEODETIC SURVEY

TOPOGRAPHIC TITLE SHEET



The Topographic Sheet should be accompanied by this form, filled in as completely as possible, when the sheet is forwarded to the Office.

Field Letter \_\_\_\_\_0\_\_\_\_\_

REGISTER NO. 4883

State \_\_\_\_\_California\_\_\_\_\_

General locality \_\_\_\_\_~~Pt. Conception~~ Santa Barbara Channel\_\_\_\_\_

Locality \_\_\_\_\_Point Conception and Vicinity\_\_\_\_\_

Scale \_\_\_\_\_1-10,000\_\_\_\_\_ Date of survey \_\_\_\_\_September, 19 33\_\_\_\_\_

Vessel \_\_\_\_\_shore party\_\_\_\_\_

Chief of Party \_\_\_\_\_C.K. Green\_\_\_\_\_

Surveyed by \_\_\_\_\_Harry T. Kelsh\_\_\_\_\_

Inked by \_\_\_\_\_H.T.K. and E.C.S.\_\_\_\_\_

Heights in feet above \_\_\_\_\_H.W.\_\_\_\_\_ to ground ~~to tops of~~ trees

Contour <sup>v</sup> Approximate contour Form line interval \_\_\_\_\_50\_\_\_\_\_ feet

Instructions dated \_\_\_\_\_October 31\_\_\_\_\_, 19 32

Remarks: \_\_\_\_\_

Descriptive Report  
to accompany  
Topographic Sheet '0'  
Pt. Conception & Vicinity  
California

Instructions

October 31, 1932

Limits and Scale

This sheet embraces a strip of shoreline in the vicinity of Pt. Conception from a point two miles north of the point to five miles east of it.

The scale is 1-10,000

General Description

Point Conception is the point on the California Coast where the coastline makes an abrupt right angle turn, swinging from the general north south direction as coming from the north, to a due east west coastline forming the north shore of Santa Barbara Channel.

The shoreline east of the point consists of a low line of dirt cliffs 30-50 ft in elevation, broken by small arroyos. Behind this cliffline the country is open and rolling, with small knobs; difficult to contour, rising about a mile back from the shore into the foothills. The country is undeveloped, and practically impassable for trucks or cars. A single trail runs east from the Conception Station practically disappearing at the ranch  $1\frac{1}{2}$  miles east of there, from which point it cuts across the open fields and is subject to frequent changes, as the ground is plowed etc. The portion from the ranch mentioned to the east limit of the sheet is merely approximated (and shown by single line).

Pt. Conception, on which the lighthouse is located is a round prominent hill 208 ft high, but standing out because of the flat country behind it with a general elevation of 100 ft. The light is not on top of the hill but is located on the south east corner of the seaward slope, with the light itself at about an elevation of 140 ft.

The plateau behind the point for a distance of a quarter mile consists of a stretch of sand dunes merging into a flat sandy country covered with sparse grass. There is no development at this point other than the S.P. R.R. Station and a large and prominent galvanized barn; and a couple of small shacks.

North of the point the cliffs rise more sharply, and increase in height until at the north end of the sheet they average 200 ft in elevation. They are of dirt and loose shale, with a general buff or light brown color.

The hills swing back toward the coastline, and at the north end of the sheet rise directly from the cliffs.

The one road (or trail) serving the lighthouse is accurately shown. It comes over the hills from the Lompoc road north of the limits of this work, and as it reaches the last foot hill one branch turns towards Arguella and the other to Pt. Conception as shown here.

### Special notes

200 meters offshore, directly off Pt. Conception is a small rock (sig Rok) awash at H.W.

Just north of the light ( $\frac{1}{4}$  mile) a narrow ledge projects out with two large rocks in the ledge. Outer rock has an elevation of 8 ft. Directly off this at distance of 470 meters from main shoreline is a detached submerged rock.

These are the outside dangers at Pt. Conception. Normally shipping keeps well offshore at this point, so that they represent no real danger to navigation.

In bad northwest weather small boats anchor in the bight east of Pt. Conception called Coxo (locally pronounced Coho). There is a thin line of kelp extending out in a southeast direction as shown on the topographic sheet, and best anchorage is just to east of this.

The most prominent object on the sheet is the detached hill on which the light is located. This is visible for a long distance. On the top is a large house and a red elevated water tank.

### Control

3 miles is the longest stretch between triangulation signals on the beach, and control is ample. Short traverses were run. No adjustment necessary. On this sheet as for the whole stretch between Conception and Ventura wherever possible the block signals on the Southern Pacific R.R. line were located, and offer easily recovered points for any small local resurvey that might be needed in the near future.

### Geographic Names

This section is sparsely developed, and there are no new names, of importance. Gato, shown on present chart 5202 is a railroad siding.

Coxo and little Coxo just to the east of it are correctly shown as anchorages, although the east (little Coxo) is not very good.

It is noted that chart 5202 shows a first class road extending from the lighthouse along the shoreline, and between it and the railroad. Apparently this was taken from the Geological quad for this area. However it is incorrect. There is no road of any kind at place shown. The only road is correctly shown to the point east of the ranch  $1\frac{1}{2}$  miles east of the point where for all practical purposes it stops; resuming at the Hollister ranch (about 120-20-300 long) from which point

on sheet 'K' it was again accurately run. This is a private road but was run as it is the only access to this section.

#### Changes in Shoreline

The shoreline on this sheet appears unchanged from the previous work. West of the Point it appears that the sand is making up a little, at the base of the cliffs, as several flat ledges at the base of the cliffs previously shown, are now buried in the sand.

#### Contours

As the previous work had been done in great detail, the topo work done on this stretch of coast was confined largely to running the actual shoreline, at the shoreline, instead of along the cliff tops; and the contour work confined to taking such shots as could be secured; and where contours are shown should be considered merely as a general check on the old work; or to show some artificial change as cuts, fills, etc. All elevations shown, however, are considered accurate.

  
Harry T. Kelsh, Surveyor

APPROVAL OF CHIEF OF PARTY

Topographic sheets lettered "L" to "O" have been inspected and approved by me, as have the descriptive reports.

*Chas. K. Green*

Chas. K. Green,  
Chief of Party.

Survey No. T 4883

Date. Mar. 7, 1935

GEOGRAPHIC NAMES  
California

Chart No. 5202

Diagram No. 5202-2

Examination by H.L.F.

Approved by the Division of Geographic Names, Department of Interior. \*

Referred to the Division of Geographic Names, Department of Interior. R

Under investigation. Q —

Names underlined in red approved Mar. 27, '35  
Harlow Bacon

[illegible]

Section of Field Records

REVIEW OF TOPOGRAPHIC SURVEY NO. 4883 (1933)

Point Conception and Vicinity, Santa Barbara Channel, California

Surveyed: September 1933

Instructions dated: October 31, 1932 (Green)

Plane Table Survey - Cloth Mounted

Chief of Party - C. K. Green.

Surveyed by - H. T. Kelsh.

1. Condition of Records.

The records conform to the requirements of the Topographic Manual with the following exceptions:

- a. Names of triangulation and topographic stations and notes regarding land features are shown with slanting letters. The accepted manner is to use vertical lettering for everything which does not cover at high water.

2. Compliance with Instructions for the Project.

The survey complies with the instructions for the project.

3. Junction with Contemporary Surveys.

Satisfactory junctions were made with T-4882 (1933) on the east and with T-4864 (1933-34) on the northwest.

4. Comparison with Prior Surveys.

a. T-313 (1850).

This is a survey, without projection, on scale of 1-2000 of vicinity of Conception Point. A comparison of this survey and the present survey was made, and no disagreement was found with the exception of slight differences in delineation of rocks and of the low water line.

b. T-1122b (1869).

This survey on scale of 1-40,000 embraces Point Conception and vicinity. A general comparison of this survey with the present survey shows good agreement in general features.

c. T-1122 a (1869) and T-1330 (1873).

These surveys are on scale of 1-10,000 and include all the area shown on the present survey. There is good agreement in the one mile of shoreline which is common to T-1330 and the present survey.



A comparison of T-1122a with the present survey shows good agreement throughout except where the beach is building out. The building out is apparent on the present survey where the high water line is outside of the foot of bluffs and is confined to the western half of the area included on the present survey except that the high water line in Little Coxo long. 120°25' is now about 30 meters farther out than on the former survey. All rocks formerly shown are verified with the exception of a sunken rock in lat. 34°26'.9, long. 120°26'.6 and a sunken rock in lat. 34°28'.7, long. 120°28'.65. These will be disposed of in the review of the contemporary hydrographic survey.

5. Field Drafting.

The field inking of the survey is good.

6. Additional Field Work Recommended.

The survey is complete and no additional field work is required.

7. Superseding Old Surveys.

Insofar as the area actually included on the present survey is concerned, it supersedes the following surveys for charting purposes:

T-313 (1850) in part.  
T-1122 a & b (1869) in part.  
T-1330 (1873) in part.

8. Reviewed by A. F. Jankowski, April 1935.

Examined and approved:

C. K. Green, *C. K. Green*  
Chief, Section of Field Records.

*L. O. Robert*  
Chief, Division of Charts.

*B. B. Borden*  
Chief, Section of Field Work.

*G. Thuder*  
Chief, Division of H. & T.

*Applied to drawing of chart 5302 - Mar. 31, 1936 - JFW.*  
*" " " " 5202 - Mar 1936 R.M.J.*

*App'd to Cht. 5280 - 12-7-63 - GRT*