U. S. COAST AND GEODETIC SURVEY.

Henry S. Aitchison, Superintendent.

State: California

DESCRIPTIVE REPORT.

Topographic Sheet No. 2353.

Locality:

Resurvey of San Francisco Bay
Alamida Creek to Beards Creek

1896.

Chief of Party:

Ferdinand Westdahl
Description Report to accompany topographic sheet entitled

W. S. Coast and Geodetic Survey

W. H. Duffield, Superintendent

Pacific Coast

Survey of San Francisco Bay

Alameda Park to Boats Creek

California

Topographic survey under the direction

of Assistant Capt. J. Rodgers

by

Ferdinand Westphal, Draughtsman

From Aug. 10 to Sept. 14, 1876.

Scale 1/10,000

This is a re-survey only in part. All improvements
made since the preceding survey are shown and they are
carried beyond the former limits as far as the chart
would admit. On the salt-marsh only the channels
used for navigation, the shore-line, the area between
the old and new bay, shore, and improvements, such as dykes, house, and salt works, have been surveyed. All houses, except large ones, are determined by our soil trading, only, or by instruction. All small fences surrounding houses or barns are neglected or omitted. Fences along the roads and bounding fields and orchards are accurately determined. The outer edge of cultivation is shown, and within this limit all land not used for railway, roads or streets, is richly grain field, vegetable garden or orchard. Even the rail-
way reservation, on either side of the track, and within the fences, is in many places used for raising vegetables.

The main group of the Coyote or Red Hills is still unimproved and used for grazing purposes only. The salt marsh to the westward of these is in its natural state and therefore not preserved. To the eastward of these a large area of former salt marsh has been dyked and is now used for grazing cattle. The old sloughs within this area will remain but will soon disappear from the constant stamping of cattle in the dry prairie when the fresh wate
accumulated in them during winter has drained off or
washed away.

The wooded area shown on the sheet tracing east
ward from the head of the Coyote Hill Creek is a thicket
made up of willow, poplar, alder and other deciduous trees
growing in moist ground. There are numerous springs within
this area, and the water from them are conveyed in ditches
to irrigate the adjoining fields which are mainly cultivated
by Chinamen and produce fine vegetables. The soil is a
rich, black loam in the vicinity and within the wooded
area where many patches have been cleared and drained.

It is reported that new springs frequently break out and
fill the ditches with water holding a fine, white sediment
in solution. A similar sediment is found in the water
from the artesian wells near Alvarado, the Alamdar
Creek, running through Nevada Canyon, has probably in
time past run through this region and formed the
Coyote Hill Creek. The numerous bridges on the roads
and culverts on the railway span dry channels caused
by this eratic stream in general east and west directions across
the low land between the mouth of the canyon and the bay.
These channels, although cultivated like the neighbor-
boing fields, are liable to be filled with greatest overflows
during the port season.

The town of Newark, shown on this sheet contains
the repair shops of the South Pacific Coast Railway. It has
also a Passenger car factory and two flour foundries. The
older and larger town of Centerville lies about three
miles northward from Newark, and one mile south-
westward from the upper right hand corner of this sheet
along the county road. It is connected with Newark by
a branch of the narrow-gauge railway and is the
centre of a large area devoted to horticulture. This
branch of the railway formerly running from Newark
to Ormiston Point on the Bay shore is no longer oper-
ated, the rails are removed, and it is now used for
a wagon road as far as the crossing of Newark Slough.
The flume carrying the sewage pipe of the Spring Valley
The shore line bordering the bay is, like that on the adjoining shore to the northward, jagged and although apparently retreating away is really growing at a more rapid rate. The new marsh formed since conditions favorable to its growth began is entirely different in character from the old and the line of demarcation between them is very distinct. The old marsh is smooth, spongy, full of salt ponds and covered with short marsh grass with bushy growths along the sloughs. The new marsh is harder, uneven, full of lumps and holes, has no ponds and is covered with long grass now like the rules of Sitkin Bay and lighter in color than the old growth. There are several patches of broken shells on the shoreline between Kasichie and the next large slough to the westward in addition to the long shell banks shown on the chart, the formation of which furnishes a clue to the

*See Description Report of Topographical Sheet from Robert Landig

to Alameda Creek, 1876.
manner in which the numerous small sloughs have been filled up along this stretch of the bay shore —
— Boards Creek, or more properly, Slough is rapidly filling up and is no longer usable for navigation. One of the contributing causes for this action is the fact that the flood tides enter it first from Newark Slough, which has a deeper entrance than Boards Slough, and the two flood currents meet about mid-way in the slough. At extreme low water a small skiff can only with difficulty pass through now. The flat at the mouth of this slough uncours some time before low water thereby stopping the scouring force of the flood current at its most effective stage. 

This chart and the adjoining one to the northward contain all the salt farms in existence on the shore of San Francisco Bay. 

The chartable stations on the banks of the navigable slough are marked with red circles and a small red flag is left at each place for the guidance of the hydrographic party.
Of the old triangulation points, within the limits of this part of the following have not been found and are probably lost. 

Union Island 

Peake 

These were not particularly searched for as I had no description of them, but no surface marks were visible. Of the new triangulation points recently determined.

Coyote House is a stone pipe projecting from the building. This stone pipe has since been removed to an addition built on the southwest end of the house. Coyote House is on the south gable of an old building on piers. It is abandoned, about to fall and leans to the southwest. Coyote House is a substantial building on concrete piers with a wharf around it. I did not have a suitable boat to visit it which is the reason for that improvement not being shown on this chart.

Respectfully submitted,

Ferdinand Hesseltine

 Draughtsman O. G. Sherry