U. S. COAST AND GEODETIC SURVEY.
H. S. Pritchett, Superintendent.

State: Porto Rico.

DESCRIPTIVE REPORT.
Topographic Sheet No. 2414.

Locality:
San Juan Harbor

See No 2413

1899.

Chief of Party:
W. C. Stodgill
FORM 504
U.S. COAST AND GEODETIC SURVEY
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

DESCRIPTIVE REPORT

Type of Survey: Topographic
Field No.: 2413
Office No.: 2414

LOCALITY
State: Porto Rico
General locality: San Juan
Locality: Harbor

1899 - 1914

CHIEF OF PARTY
W.C. Hodgkins

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DATE: ___________________________
U. S. COAST AND GEODETIC SURVEY.

H. S. Pritchett, Superintendent.

State: Porto Rico

DESCRIPTIVE REPORT.

Topographic Sheets Nos. 2413, 2414.

Locality:
San Juan Harbor.

1899.

Chief of Party:
W. C. Hodges.
Descriptive Report

to accompany Topographic Sheets 2413 & 2414,
of San Juan, Porto Rico, 1899.

This was merely an outline survey to furnish
shore line for the hydrographic survey of the
harbor of San Juan made in April, 1899.

It includes on sheet 2413 the greater part of
the shore line of San Juan Island and on
sheet 2414 that of the southwest side of the
harbor, from Palo Seco Point to Cataño Point.

The latter piece of shore is low and sandy
and will require no further mention as it is
out of the way of any ordinary navigation.
The shore of San Juan Island is generally
bold and rocky, but on the north, or ocean,
side it has many outlying rocks which pre-
vent close approach from seaward.

As the harbor is entered, the shore becomes
less bold but has fewer outlying dangers.
The western and higher part of the island is oc-
cupied by the city of San Juan, a walled town, the
fortifications of which consist of the two main works,
Morro and San Cristóbal, bastions with the walls
and minor works which join them.
Morro castle is on the extreme western point of
the island, at the harbor mouth, while San Bries-
toba is on the summit of the ridge at the east-
end of the town.

The walls of these ancient forts rise sheer
from the sea beach. Besides connecting
them on the ocean front, the city wall extends
from Morro along the harbor side as far as
the Marina, at the landing place, between
which point and the old landgate (Puerta
de Tierra) the wall has been removed, in the
interest of commerce.

Railway and highway bridges across the San
Antonio Channel afford communication with
the main island of Porto Rico. This approach
to the capital is defended by an extensive line
of wall and by two detached works.

A steam ferry affords communication with
the bulk of Barrio on the south side of
the harbor, whence a railroad runs to
Bayamón and thence to Arecibo.

There is also direct rail communication with
Rio Piedras and intermediate points.

San Juan is closely built up with masonry
structures, usually two stories high.
The streets are narrow but well paved and are kept very clean. The population is very dense. The port has an extensive commerce, the principal exports being coffee, tobacco, sugar, molasses, rum and live cattle.

The imports include almost all kinds of food-stuffs and manufactured articles. There is a kerosene refinery on the N.W. side of the harbor near Lorient.

In San Juan there is an ice factory and there are several machine shops.

W.C. Hodge
Chief of Party