U. S. COAST AND GEODETIC SURVEY.

O. H. Petersen, Superintendent.

State: Florida

DESCRIPTIVE REPORT.

Topographical Sheet No. 2576

LOCALITY:

Mouth of Withlacoochee River

Gulf of Mexico, Fla.

1901

CHIEF OF PARTY:

Henry C. M. Wood, Capt.
To accompany Topographical Sheet 25th.

Title:

U.S. Coast & Geodetic Survey

O.H. Tittmann, Sup't.

Plane table Survey of mouth of

Withatoochee River

Florida

Surveyed by H.L. McLeod, Cst.

October

1901

Scale 1

5,000

Note: This work was done before the triangulation was completed by the measurement of a short baseline on the land walk and from which the points "Sand" and "Dugli's 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 DC.

H.L. McLeod
Cst.
Description:

The survey represented on this sheet (No. 2576) was
incidentally to the request of the Dunellen Phosphate-
Co. and Port Eugene Terminal R.R. Co. for an
Hydrographic survey of an anchorage for ocean
going steamships while loading Phosphate
rock from the Corr mines in the vicinity of
the Witherscomo River.

The plane table work was done while awaiting
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 at the points marked "Cape St. In.
and "Rocky State"

The one large island indicated on the sheet
to which the name of Chambers Island was
taken, was formerly cut in two by a line
forming the smaller island. This saw is now
filled up and the space 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 view
"Port Inghis" in honor of Capt. John L. Inghis,
the President of the Dunellen Phosphate Co.
and Vice President of Port Eugene Terminal R.R. Co.
who now owns the ground and who has built
a "Bungalow" and cottages for woodmen thereon.
The shores at the mouths of the Whitecoats Rivers are low and marshy here and there within the marshes hammerums of trees are found where the ground is somewhat higher; the trees on Cabbage Palm Gum appear as some Eleven years ago they were found many mangroves but they were nearly all killed by the same floods of 1887-8.

Chambers Island can be reached from the Gulf side by boat with a draft of 20 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 "Vessel" beacon on either side of the channel; thence proceeding up river to a small cove at mouth known as the Blacksmith's Wharf.

The route from the land side starts from Rockwell Tha. by train on the Port Inglis Terminal R.R. to Inglis then by steamer "Barbie" also belonging to the P.I. & T. Co. down river 8 miles to the Blackburn Wharf on the Island. As both the steamer and steamer belongs to the P.I. & T. Co. and the steamer 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 tide cover the marshes and communication from the Blacksmith Wharf to the other parts of the Island is by flat-bottomed boat above the highest tide. Then the individuals on the shore.
The highest part of the Island lies on its southern end where the material dredged from the channel of the South Pass was pumped up consisting principally of double shell shells and coral sands. The ground on which Capt. Dugan's '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, there are shown on the survey.

The shores abound in coral reefs, most of which are bare at the lowest tides.

Good fishing can be found around the Island and in the river above the fall of the South Pass.

Respectfully submitted

[Signature]

Assistant