# DESCRIPTIVE REPORT

**State:** Florida  
**Locality:**  
- Florida Bay  
- Little Madera Bay  

**1936**  
**Chief of Party:** E. R. McCarthy
The Topographic Sheet should be accompanied by this form, filled in as completely as possible, when the sheet is forwarded to the Office.

Field No. 

REGISTER NO. 3541 T5441

State: Florida

General locality: Florida Bay

Locality: Little Madiera Bay

Scale: 1:20,000 Date of photographs: Jan. 17 & 22, 1955

Vessel: Shore party No. 14, Atlantic Coast

Chief of party: E. B. McCarthy

Surveyed by: See data sheet attached to descriptive report

Inked by:

Heights in feet above to ground to tops of trees

Contour, Approximate contour, Form line interval feet

Instructions dated: November 17, 1933

Remarks: Compiled from aerial photographs at a scale of 1:20,250 for reproduction by the photo-lithographic process at a scale of 1:20,000.
DATA SHEET
SHEET REGISTER NO. T-541

Portion of Work                Done by                Date completed.

Projection made by:            Washington Office        May 20, 1936
" checked by:                  E. R. McCarthey       May 20, 1936
Control Plotted by:            M. B. Gill              May 21, 1936
" checked by:                  E. R. McCarthey       May 29, 1936
Radial plot developed by:      J. C. Mathisson         June 5, 1936
" " verified by:               M. B. Gill              August 20, 1936
Compiled in pencil by:         J. C. Mathisson         September 18, 1936
Shoreline inked by:            J. C. Mathisson and    October 29, 1936
H. D. McMillan                 J. C. Mathisson and    Fred Natella
Symbols inked by:

* * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * *

STATISTICS

Statute miles of shoreline, Mainland 43.4
" " " Keys 24.4
" " " Lakes and ponds 77.4
TOTAL STATUTE MILES 145.2

Statute miles of creeks and rivers 5.3

Area, square statute miles, Mainland 63.0
" " " Keys 3.5
TOTAL AREA, SQUARE. STATUTE MILES 66.5

REF. STA. MADEIRA 1934

DATUM - N.A.
LAT. 25°10'28.363" (872.8 M) (unadjusted)
LON. 80°37'50.682" (1419.3 M)
DESCRIPTIVE REPORT
to accompany
PHOTO TOPOGRAPHIC SHEET
REGISTER NO. T-5538
LITTLE MADEIRA BAY
FLORIDA BAY
FLORIDA
Scale of compilation 1:20,280

PROJECT INFORMATION:
For general information which applies to the project of which this sheet is a part, see the General Descriptive Report which is bound with the report for Sheet Register No. T-5538.

DESCRIPTION OF AREA:
The area covered by this sheet is located in Florida Bay at the south end of the Florida peninsula. It covers part of the bay area and part of the mainland of Florida for a distance averaging from three to six miles north of the south shoreline. The coverage over the Florida Bay area is between Snipe Point on the east to Madeira Bay on the west and this area extends six miles south of the east neat line and three miles south on the west neat line.

The description of the area is dealt with in a general way in the General Descriptive Report of the area which is attached to the report for Sheet Register No. T-5538. The remarks contained here are those dealing with the sheet in a more specific nature.

The land area from the north neat line to the area of mangrove and lakes on the south is the southern limits of the Everglades. This area is covered with a heavy growth of saw grass and is dotted with numerous areas of hammock. These hammocks areas are small in size and the land is little above the water surface that covers the saw grass area. This saw grass area which is known locally as "glades" is covered with from two to eighteen inches of water, draining out of the extensive Everglades area to the north, during all seasons of the year. The depth of the water is, of course, deeper during the rainy season and less during the dry periods. It is impossible to traverse the area of the glades during any season of the year as the land is very marshy and will not support a footing. The mud in the area is very
soft and a person, in walking across the area, will sink until the under-
lying rock is reached which is about two or three feet under the surface
of the mud. The glades area is broken in several localities by long, narrow
finger of mangrove extending northward from the extensive mangrove area
to the south.

The glades area gradually merge into an area which consists of saw
grass and short scattered growths of mangrove and this area in turn gives
over to the thick growth of mangrove as shown on the compilation. This
mangrove area is very thick and impenetrable. In the locality there are
lakes of considerable area and at others there are found many small ponds.
These lakes and ponds are usually very shoal but the ones that are connect-
ed by streams to the area of Florida Bay generally are deeper and have
a channel through them which are navigable by boats of the shoallest draft.
These channels are scoured out by the run-off during periods of heavy rain
fall over the area of the Everglades. This run-off reaches considerable
proportions during the rainy season and continues for as long as two weeks
after a period of rain. This is due to the large area that is drained over
this area and the gradual slope of the land from north to south. Due to
the scouring effect through the creeks the bottom of them are rock and they
are from four to five feet deep. The entrances are generally obstructed by
bars of mud but in times of average water, 18 inches can be carried over
these bars.

Immediately north of and roughly paralleling the high water line
of the mainland there is usually found hammocks of dense semi-tropical
growth. The land in this area is little higher than that found elsewhere.
The additional foot or foot and a half elevation above the average water
height is due almost entirely to the decayed matter found under the trees
and vines. This layer is often two or three feet deep. The water table
in these hammock areas is never more than two inches under the top surface.
A further discussion of the type of trees growing in the hammock area is
contained in the General Descriptive Report.

All of the keys in the Florida Bay area shown on this sheet are of
mangrove formation. A characteristic of these keys is the existence of
a mud flat or pond in the interior of them which leads to the belief that
they were originally formed by a fringe of mangrove.

The water in the bay area covered by this sheet is comparatively
shoal. The shoals and keys in the area divide the water area into bodies
that are known by the fishermen and local residents as "lakes". The passes
between these areas have been shown on the compilation and the approximate
depth of water through the passes where known have been indicated on the
name sheet. The shoals outlined, except the western edge of the one crossed
by Betty Pass Drag-over, are very definite on the photographs. These shoals
are bare at some stages of the tide but due to the nature of this tide in
the area it is difficult to delineate the portions bare at low water. The
shoals as shown are an outline of that part of the area shoaler than the general
depth.
There are no inhabitants within the limits of the area covered by this compilation. An attempt has been made to cultivate the higher area along the mainland immediately north of the shoreline. There are three fields located just west of Trout Creek and a field on either side of Davis Creek. A shack has been built on a point of Deer Key and is indicated on the name sheet of the area.

GENERAL INFORMATION:

The area of this sheet is covered by a portion of one flight of five lensc photographs and partially covered by a portion of a second flight. The north flight appearing on this sheet centers about two and a half miles south of the north neat line. The photographs in this flight are from 350 to 375 and were secured on January 22, 1935 at 9:30 A. M. The second flight cuts across the southeast corner of the sheet and contains only ten photographs, numbers 211 to 219 inclusive. These photographs were obtained at 2:15 P. M. on January 17, 1935.

An index of photographs is appended to the General Descriptive Report of the area.

CONTROL:

With the exception of the two control stations located to better control the long radial plot between the east and west coast of the state of Florida, the control used in the compilation of this sheet was contained in the field computations submitted by the party of H. A. Cotton. This triangulation is on the North American Datum.

The additional stations located north of the scheme used by the party of H. A. Cotton and appearing on this sheet and Sheet Register No. T-3440 were located by triangulation. These stations are treated as recoverable topographic stations on the sheets and described on Form 524. The computations necessary for the location of these four stations is being transmitted with this report and marked "Not for triangulation Files!"

There is appended hereto a list of the triangulation stations appearing on this sheet. This list shows the plotting distances used for the scale of the compilation, 1:20,260.

COMPILATION METHODS:

The usual radial line method as described in "Notes on the Compilation of Planimetric Line Maps" was used in the compilation of this sheet. Due to the available control in the vicinity of the southern flight across this sheet, the usual radial line plot was not necessary. The General Descriptive Report which is attached to the report for Sheet Register No. T-5558 contains a description of the radial plot across the state. The flight of photographs across the northern part of the area on this sheet is contained in this radial plot.
INTERPRETATION OF PHOTOGRAPHS:

Generally, the photographs used in the compilation of this sheet were clear. Some difficulty was experienced in obtaining the shoreline of some of the small shoal ponds that appear north of the mainland high water line. In all cases where these ponds appeared on the "B" prints the identification was easy but where they appeared on the wing prints it was more difficult to obtain the delineation. The general practice was to obtain the detail from the photograph on which the information appeared the clearest. Often this detail did not check when other photographs were used to check the delineation. In these cases corrections had to be made. It is believed that this difficulty was due to the water area being so shoal that light fringes around the ponds appeared as the water line on some photographs and not on others. Light conditions at the time that the photographs were made probably added to the difference in appearance of photographs of the same area.

Poor coverage of the area by the photographs is noted in several localities. It was necessary to delineate Madeira Point and the shoals in the vicinity as well as the high water line between Madeira Point and the west point of Little Madeira Bay as they appeared almost on the outer edge of the wing prints, the center of these photographs being about three and a half miles inshore. The shoals in this area appeared very poorly on the photographs.

A similar difficulty was experienced in obtaining the delineation of Triplet Keys from the photographs through the center of Florida Bay and the delineation of the shoals to join those obtained from the flight located further north. The accuracy of the locations in this locality is somewhat less than that obtained elsewhere in the compilation.

In some cases the passes between the keys and shoal areas appear very well in the photographs and in others the delineation cannot be relied upon. The approximate delineation of Betty Pass Drag-over was obtained by inspection as the pass is a very poor one and does not appear well in the photographs. Stumpy Pass was impossible of delineation because it is very narrow. This pass was dug by hand by the party that used the fields to the north for cultivation. Most of the passes appearing on the sheet are marked by stakes. These stakes have not been shown on the compilation because brush stakes are used for the purpose and they are of a very temporary nature.

INFORMATION FROM OTHER SOURCES:

All topographic detail appearing on this sheet was obtained from the photographs covering the area. There are no surveys by other agencies or contemporary surveys in this area.

In addition to those names appearing on the present chart covering the area of this sheet, names were obtained from local residents of the keys and from fishermen and sportmen who frequent the area for fishing and hunting. These names are discussed under Geographic Names in this report.
COMPARISON WITH CONTEMPORARY SURVEYS:

With the exception of a few sounding appearing in the southeast corner of this sheet and shown on Hydrographic Sheet No. H-5542, no contemporary surveys cover the area embraced by this compilation.

COMPARISON WITH PREVIOUS SURVEYS:

The only record of the results of previous surveys in the area of this sheet available in the field office was contained in the published chart of the area. No photostat copies of original topographic or hydrographic surveys were furnished by the Washington Office because of the condition of these surveys.

The results of this compilation was compared with the detail shown on the chart of the area with the used of the projector. It was necessary to make the projection twice in order to bring the detail down to the scale of this chart, from 1:20,280 to 1:80,000.

This comparison shows very good agreement in the case of some of the keys in the bay but very poor agreement along the mainland shoreline. There is appended to this report a section of Chart No. 1250 with the shoreline detail drawn in red as obtained from the air photo compilation of the area. This section of chart explain the comparison between the two sheet better than could be explained in words. A great deal of the changes may be due to natural causes but others seem to be due to faulty locations in the original surveys. Very good agreement is noted in the shoal areas on the sheet.

LANDMARKS:

There are no landmarks suitable for charting purposes in the area of this sheet.

GEOGRAPHIC NAMES:

The names appearing on the name sheet accompanying this sheet fall into three classifications, those obtained from the published chart of the area, those in local use and several assigned by the field party.

The names obtained from the present published chart are few. Only Deer Key, Eagle Key, Snipe Point, Lake Key and Park Key as geographic names were obtained from this source.

The names in local use in the area were very difficult to obtain because the waters in the area are little frequented by other than fishermen and they prove difficult to contact and in addition cannot read a chart. The names that were obtained are from residents of Miami and vicinity who have often hunted in the area during the past ten years. Other names were obtained from the representatives of the Department of Agriculture active in the locality destroying the wild cotton. These names and a discussion of their derivation follows.
JOE BAY is a name in local use. Few inhabitants of the area know of the existence of this bay. A survey made by W. J. McCormick during 1915, using the published chart as a base, shows a note over the area stating "no bay here". The entrances through the creek are well hidden by overhanging trees and for this reason few people have been able to find the bay. The name as obtained from the local inhabitants knowing the area was Joe's Bay but this has been changed to Joe Bay and so appears on the name sheet for the compilation.

TROUT CREEK COVE and TROUT CREEK are names in universal local use. No conflict could be found in the name of these features. It is recommended that they be charted.

RAUL BIGHT is the name most used in referring to the bay next west of Trout Creek Cove. This bay is also known as Davis Cove by some of the inhabitants. Raul Bight is recommended for charting. DAVIS CREEK is the name in local use for the creek between Raul Bight and Joe Bay. These names are derived from the inhabitant of the area, Raul Davis, who cultivated the fields and dug the pass now known as STUMP PASS. Stump Pass is so named because of the many stumps in the water just under the surface. This name is in use locally.

There are two names in local use in the case of the bay just west of Raul Bight. Locally this bay is known as Alligator Bay or Little Alligator Bay and Mud Bay. Due to the fact that the only name obtained for the creek on the west side of this bay is MUD BAY CREEK, it is recommended that the name MUD BAY be charted as well as the name Mud Bay Creek. These names are in use by the Department of Agriculture.

LITTLE MADEIRA BAY, MADEIRA BAY, BIG MADEIRA HAMMOCK and LITTLE MADEIRA HAMMOCK are names in local use. The General Land Office map of the area, showing the unsurveyed public lands of Monroe County, gives the name Madeira Bay for Little Madeira Bay which is in local use. This is believed to be in error as every authority agrees that Little Madeira Bay is the correct name of this feature. This map also shows a town site in Little Madeira Bay which is called Madeira. The town does not exist on the ground.

The two streams entering Little Madeira Bay from the north are known as EAST CREEK and TAYLOR RIVER. East creek is in universal local use but there is some question as to the proposed designation of Taylor River. This name appeared on the survey mentioned above, made by W. J. McCormick. On this survey the name appears at the vicinity as Big Slough or Taylor River and might have applied to the low area of mangrove extending north into the glades area in the northwest corner of the compilation. The name Taylor River has been used by the photo party to designate the chain of connecting streams and ponds at the location shown on the cover name sheet.

MADEIRA POINT is a name assigned by the photo party. The point separates the two bays of the same name and it is suggested as an appropriate name.

The name TRIPLET KEYS is in local use. This group has three keys but only two appear on this compilation, the third falling on Sheet Register No. T-5539.
The pass over the shoal southeast of Madeira Point is known to the inhabitants of the keys as Betty Pass. This name was derived from the fact that a small boat, the Black Betsy, was found in the pass aground with the skeleton of her owner aboard. The story is that the owner went aground in attempting to get across the shoal and with no assistance available he died from hunger or thirst, being unable to get ashore by wading because of the deep mud on the bottom. Because of the shallowness of the water across this pass it is suggested that it be called BETTY PASS DRAG-OVER.

There are two passes between the keys and connecting shoals between Little Madeira Bay and Park Key. These passes are known locally as EAGLE KEY PASS and LAKE KEY PASS. These name are recommended and have been shown on the name sheet.

NEST KEYS, a group of two keys appearing in the southeast corner of this compilation, is the local name of this group. The name is recommended for charting.

A name in local use but the feature appearing only partially on this sheet is SEVEN BUSHES. This is the name given to several groups of prominent mangrove bushes growing on the shoal area south of Park Key. Only one of the original group of seven from which this name is derived appears on this compilation. The others appear on the sheet to the south, Sheet Register No. 7-5539. The name of this feature has been used in the locality since before 1915.

The group of keys to the southeast of Madeira Point, the key between Eagle Key and Lake Key and the group of keys on which triangulation station Spit is located have no names that could be determined in the field. Names that have been suggested for these keys are Barrier Keys, Pass Key and Tern Keys in the order named. The keys and the shoal area on which they are located form the first barrier to navigation for a boat attempting to pass from east to west along the mainland and for this reason the name BARRIER KEYS is suggested. The name PASS KEY is suggested because it is just north of Lake Key Pass. A large colony of tern, a sea bird smaller than the common gull, frequent the sand spit near triangulation station Spit during the nesting season. For this reason it is suggested that this group of keys be known as TERN KEYS.

SHOAL COMPARISON:

As a matter of interest and because the fact was overlooked when the paragraph on comparisons was written, attention is called the the comparison of the shoal areas as they appear on the compilation and the soundings as shown on the published chart of the area. This comparison is shown on the section of Chart No. 1250 which is appended to this report.

The two small detached shoal areas delineated on the compilation, one in Raul Bight and the other one off the east point of Deer Key, fall on one half foot soundings appearing on the present published chart.
The small detached shoal appearing about one mile west of the south point of Park Key on the compilation, also falls on a one half foot sounding on the published chart.

The indefinite edge of the broad shoal lying between Madiera Bay and Barrier Keys as shown on the compilation embraces the shoal water as shown on the chart of the area. This edge of the shoal was spoken about above as being indefinite and grading gradually into deeper water.

Most of the shoalest soundings, one foot and less, shown on the present chart of the area are enclosed by the shoal areas as delineated on the compilation.

RECOMMENDATION FOR FURTHER SURVEYS:

It is believed that this compilation covers the area adequately and that further surveys are not needed at the present time. It is further believed that standard accuracy has been maintained in the compilation of this sheet over a majority of the area. Less accuracy may be expected in the areas mentioned earlier in this report.

John C. Mathisson,
Jr. H. & G. E.,
U. S. Coast and Geodetic Survey.

Miami, Florida.
November 18, 1936.
### TABLE OF TRIANGULATION CONTROL

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Names underlined in red approved by K.T.A. on 12/22/34.
REVIEW OF AIR PHOTO COMPILATION NO. T-541

Chief of Party: E. R. McCarthy

Project: Shore party No., 14

Instructions dated: Nov., 17, 1933

1. The charts of this area have been examined and topographic
information necessary to bring the charts up to date is shown
on this compilation. (Par. 16a, b, c, d, e, g and i; 26; and 64)

2. Change in position, or non-existence of wharfs, lights, and
other topographic detail of particular importance to naviga-
tion which affect the chart, is discussed in the descriptive
report. (Par. 26; and 66 g, n)

3. Ground surveys by plane table, sextant, or theodolite have been
used to supplement the photographic plot where necessary to
obtain complete information, and all such surveys are discussed
in the descriptive report. (Par. 65; and 66 d, e)

4. Blue-prints and maps from other sources which were transmitted
by the field party contain sufficient control for their applica-
tion to the charts. (Par. 28) No maps transmitted.

5. Differences between this compilation and contemporary plane
table and hydrographic surveys have been examined and rectified
in the field before forwarding the compilations to the office
and are discussed in the descriptive report.

6. The control and adjustment of the photo plot are discussed in the
descriptive report. Unusual or large adjustments are discussed
in detail and limits of the area affected are stated. (Par.
12b; 44; and 66 c, h, i)

7. High water line on marshy and mangrove coast is clear and ade-
quate for chart compilation. (Par. 16a, 43, and 44)

NOTE: Strike out paragraphs, words or phrases not applicable and
modify those requiring it. Paragraph numbers refer to those in the
Topographic Manual. Refer also to the pamphlet "Notes on the Compila-
tion of Planimetric Line Maps from Five Lens Air Photographs."
8. The representation of low water lines, reefs, coral reefs and rocks, and legends pertaining to them is satisfactory. (Par. 36, 37, 39, 39, 40, 41)

9. Recoverable objects have been located and described on Form 524 in accordance with circular 30, 1933, circular letter of March 3, 1933, and circular 31, 1934. (Par. 29, 30, and 57)

10. A list of landmarks was furnished on Form 567 and instructions in the Director's letter of July 16, 1934, Landmarks for Charts, complied with. (Par. 16d, e; and 60)

11. All bridges shown on the compilation are accompanied by a note stating whether fixed or draw, clearance, and width of draw if a draw bridge. Additional information of importance to navigation is given in the descriptive report. (Par. 16c)

12. Geographic names are shown on the overlay tracing. The accepted local usage of new names has been determined and they are listed in the report, together with a general statement as to source of information and a specific statement when advisable. Complete discussion of place names differing from the charts and from the U. S. C. S. Quadrangles is given in the descriptive report, together with reasons for recommendations made. (Par. 64, and 66k)

13. The geographic datum of the compilation is North American and the reference station is correctly noted.

14. Junctions with adjoining compilations have been examined and are in agreement. (Par. 66j)

15. The drafting is satisfactory and particular attention has been given the following:

   1. Standard symbols authorized by the Board of Surveys and Maps have been used throughout except as noted in the report.

   2. The degrees and minutes of Latitude and Longitude are correctly marked.
3. All station points are exactly marked by fine black dots.

4. Closely spaced lines are drawn sharp and clear for printing.

5. Topographic symbols for similar features are of uniform weight.

6. All drawing has been retouched where partially rubbed off.

7. Buildings are drawn with clear straight lines and square corners where such is the case on the ground.

(Par. 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 48)

16. No additional surveying is recommended at this time.

17. Remarks:

18. Examined and approved;

E. R. McCarthy
Chief of Party

19. Remarks after review in office:

Reviewed in office by: L. C. Landy

Examined and approved:

C. A. Green
Chief, Section of Field Records

Fred. R. Peacock
Chief, Section of Field Work

L. O. Rollins
Chief, Division of Charts

Chief, Division of Hydrography and Topography.
There are no contemporary graphic control surveys in the area covered by this sheet.

Comparison with Contemporary Hydrographic Surveys

H-5542 (1834), 1:20,000

Only a small portion of H-5542 is covered by this compilation. That portion is in agreement.

Comparison with Former Topographic Surveys

T-1154 (1870), 1:40,000

There are numerous differences between T-1154 and this compilation and the photos have been examined in each case. The compilation is complete and adequate to supersede the portion of the above survey which it covers. See pages 5 and 9 of the descriptive report, T-5441, "Comparison with Chart" to which T-1154 has been applied.

Comparison with chart 1250

See pages 5 and 9, paragraph "Comparison with Previous Surveys" of report for detailed comparison.

General

Additional mangrove symbols have been added in the northwest section of the compilation to facilitate ready interpretation of detail. This has been called to the attention of the field party. Some of the tree and mangrove symbols are too light for good reproduction. This symbol is difficult to draw with celluloid ink. Otherwise the compilation and report are complete and the drafting is excellent.

The fine line on this compilation is around the outer edge of mangrove areas the interiors of which are flooded at mean high water. The heavier line is used around the usual high water line.

No statement is made in the report as to how the slight of vote given in the second person was determined.

Dec. 24, 1936.

F. C. Landy

BG Jones