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DESCRIPTIVE REPORT

TO ACCOMPANY

TRACING

ENTITLED

PACIFIC COAST



Topo 2078

"PARTINGTON'S SEA VIEW LANDING TO PFEIFFERS POINT"

California.

1891.

Scale, 75,000

TOPOGRAPHIC SURVEY,

BY

Aug. F. Rodgers Assistant,

John Nelson, Sub Assist.

Note,

The tracing above referred to was made from 3 original P.T. Sheets Nos. 4, 5 and 6, as shown on Progress Sketch forwarded with letter dated 30<sup>th</sup> November 1891. Topography South of Station Tellison A; from P.T. Sheet No 5 (Nelson) Completed 14<sup>th</sup> Sept 1891. Topography from Tellison A to PFEIFFERS POINT, from Sheet No 4 (Rodgers) Completed 19<sup>th</sup> Aug. 1891. Topography Northward from PFEIFFERS POINT from Sheet No 6 (Rodgers) Completed Novem 3<sup>rd</sup> 1891 & 27.57 miles from work of 1876

Aug. F. Rodgers Assistant

Write me at: \_\_\_\_\_

~~Camp Dr.~~  
San Francisco, California

Telegraph me at: \_\_\_\_\_

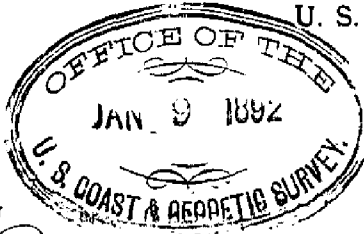
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JAN. 8. 1892. 000434



U. S. Coast and Geodetic Survey,

Assistant in Charge

San Francisco, Cal. A23

2<sup>d</sup> January, 1892

Prof: T. C. Mendenhall  
Superintendent U.S. C. & G. Survey  
Washington D.C.

Sir: In Descriptive Report  
forwarded with my letter of 30<sup>th</sup> Ultimo, mentioning  
Coast Elevation, Creek line, "Partington Sea  
View Landing to Pfeiffer Point, California" I  
stated distance of visibility at sea, correctly,  
but looking at my copy, think I misstated  
formula:  $D = \frac{8}{7} \sqrt{\text{Elevation}}$  as " $\text{Dis} = \frac{7}{8} \sqrt{\text{Elevation}}$ ".  
The latter would give distance of visibility too  
small; I beg to amend the mis-statement.

Respectfully yours  
A. J. Hayes  
Assistant

(Topography)  
Descriptive Report to accompany  
Tracing, entitled  
PACIFIC COAST

PARTINGTON'S SEA VIEW LANDING TO PELEEFERS POINT  
California

1897

Scale 70,000 ft

Locality

Coast of Monterey County, California,  
Shores of Monterey Bay, from "Partington's" or  
"Sea View Landing," northward round Pfeiffer  
Point.

Geographic locality

Latitude  $36^{\circ}09'$  to  $36^{\circ}18'$ , The Central  
Meridian of Tracing is  $121^{\circ}46'$ .

Climate

Common to areas upon coast, south of San  
Francisco bay, marked by general equality of temperature,  
with notable local exceptions caused by topographic formation

Rain-fall

Not very different from San Francisco bay, where  
annual average is  $23^+$  inches; rather less than San

San Francisco Bay area's, Sparse Settlement  
has presented general record of observation

An exceptional feature is the snow-fall, on  
Crest of hills bordering the Ocean, where elevations from  
2000 to 3800 feet are within less than 2 1/2 miles from  
the Sea, snow reaches down to 1000 feet elevation

### Wind

The dominant or North-west wind blows with  
great force from May to September, over immediate coast  
areas North of Pfeiffer Point, and seaward past that  
Point, with an hourly rate of from 20 to 35 miles per  
hour, Maximum near Meridian, gradually diminish-  
ing to Off-shore; varying to a continuous night  
& day blow for 72 hours, 3 days.

In marked contrast to the heavy wind sea-  
ward past Pfeiffer Point, is the nearly calm belt  
in the light or undulation South-eastward from  
that Point, This feature is well known to Mariners  
who when bound Northward in Coasting Steamers  
or Steam Schooners (Schooner Smith's auxiliary Steam)  
tug the shore Southward of Pfeiffer Point as closely  
as possible, & when obliged to face the wind & head-sea  
are rounding the point, stand off shore under

Both Sail & Steam, Close-hauled!

The rapid rate at which these Vepes appeared to set to windward, suggested the possibility of a strong littoral current northward past Peiffer's Point.

On June 8<sup>th</sup> 1891 and again on the 26<sup>th</sup> Close Coasting Steam Schooner & attracted my attention & measuring angles of depression to their Water-lines, Computed their respective distances off shore, as follows, 8<sup>th</sup> June, Elevation P.T. Station (965 ft) 29.4° metres  $\angle$  depression Water-line 15.45'; Distance Comp. (from intersection Water-line and Vertical, to Vessel) 1073.2 metres  
26<sup>th</sup> June, Elevation P.T. Station (1970 ft) 600.3 metres  $\angle$  depression 19° 30', Distance Computed 1695 metres; Subtracting from this distance, the distance in each case of the P.T. Station from shore or Coast line, I found the Vepes 8<sup>th</sup> June to have been 632.4 metres off shore and that one observed 26<sup>th</sup> June 495 metres. These positions were plotted in blue ink on Tracing.

The risks of such Close Coasting are considerable. It is certain that if an accident occurs, it will be ascribed, as usual in such cases "to danger & not shown upon the charts."

For view of the peculiar temptations &

To incur unusual Marine risks, induced by this  
Calm belt, commencing Southward of the limits of the Tracing  
& extending Northward to Peffer's Point, it would seem  
worth just to the public & of interest to the Coast Survey  
to leave the possible hydrographic feature undeveloped.

### Barometer

Barometric range must be same as that  
of San Francisco bay areas, Normal Ommet height  
of Column at Sea-level, about 30<sup>in</sup> with a range of  
few tenths of an inch. In Winter & In Spring Season  
Extremes may reach 30<sup>in</sup> to 29<sup>in</sup>, the former before a  
Sudden fall, the latter at Culmination of a South-  
West Storm.

### Topographic detail &

The tracing embraces an area of notable  
Elevation, close to a rugged, rock bound Coast line, the  
heights at Northern end of Tracing reach 3300 feet and  
3800 at the Southern end, approximately 2 1/2 miles from  
the Ocean.

These Elevations would be visible at Sea, in clear  
Weather, approximately by formula ( $Dis = \sqrt{\frac{8}{7} Elevation}$ ) respec-  
tively 65.6 and 70.7 Nautical miles, to which may be added  
2 1/2 to 5 miles for height of vessel's deck, above sea level.

A much greater offshore distance

than elevation of similar height usually  
 afford. The summit of Coast line  
 which extends nearly parallel to the coast,  
 is serrated by undulations and generally  
 covered with timber; at the Southern end  
 as shown on Tracy, by Oak & Pine, at the  
 Northern end by Oak principally. Though some  
 of the largest specimens of Madroño, I have  
 seen in California, grow yet in full vigor, upon  
 this Coast, though evidently of great age.

### Coast-line

Nearly always a steep bluff, cut at intervals  
 by deep Cañons, as at Sea View Landing, These Cañons  
 in many cases form barriers to travel, and a fence-line  
 terminating on the edge of some of them, more effectually  
 bars passage to the Semi-Wild hill Cattle of the  
 locality, than a wire fence.

Most of the Cañons have direction at right angle  
 to the coast, that of Big Owl River, the embouchure  
 of which upon the Ocean, is about two miles Northward  
 of the limits of the Tracy, is the only notable  
 exception; entering the limits of the Tracy its direction  
 for three or four miles is nearly parallel to the coast

Until at the lower formed detritus fans.  
 "Mauel" - "Posts" on Tracing, it turns abruptly  
 Eastward.

The Big Bend is the only one of the Canons  
 where small level accessible areas suggest profitable  
 tillage; There are many other detrital areas within  
 the limit of the Tracing, but at such excessive  
 elevation as to make them valueless to any  
 but a Hermit homestead seeker.

### Character of Soil

Generally a rich loam, overlying Limestone  
 & Slate or Coarse Granite, showing great fertility  
 wherever hill slopes permit ploughing.

### Beaches

At many points the ocean washes to the  
 very feet of these everlasting hills at all sta-  
 ges of tide, leaving no beaches.

Immediately North & Southward of Pfeiffer  
 Point there are sand beaches, Northward easily  
 accessible from shore, Southward less so from  
 being flanked by an unbroken bluff from  
 100 to 300 feet high.

All along the shore line of the tracing



Places are exceptional when sea-level  
 can be reached from the bluffs without artificial  
 aid; however good the prospect from above, upon  
 reaching the lower 20 or 30 feet, it will be found  
 a vertical jump off.

### Rocks, ledges &c

There are no marked off-lying rocks  
 or ledges visible above water & the shore rocks  
 are not prominent features of the coast line.

### Lines of breakers &c

In ordinary weather, no defined lines of  
 breakers & noticeable, owing to deep water close  
 inshore.

### Danger to Shalanda Vepel

Preponderance of rock formation & absence  
 of sea-beaches, would make stranding much more  
 dangerous than upon <sup>some</sup> other parts of coast of California.

### Travelling down town

### Shingle levees town

### Rivers & River-beds

No Rivers or River-beds properly so called  
 within limits of tracing. The Big River is  
 a Mountain Stream, with a steep Cañon bed

Eastward from "Manuel" Park's, and from  
 thence to the Ocean, its winter torrent bed, is  
 from 100 to 300 metres in width; in the summer  
 months this bed is not nearly filled by the  
 tortuous rapid stream flowing through it, 10 to  
 20 or 30 metres wide; in pools perhaps, (often times  
 formed by jams of fallen timber,) less or three feet  
 deep, but in connecting shallows not more than  
 6 or 8 inches. It is however never less than a  
 beautiful mountain stream, & filled with trout,

There are times in winter, when it fills  
 its bed 10 to 12 feet deep, for a few days, and then  
 suspends all travel to the only town accessible  
 by road, from the area covered by the Torrey, viz  
 Monterey.

Sacramento land, from

### Natural Vegetation

The natural grasses of California, as well  
 as Alopecurus & Alfalfa grow upon all the  
 mountain's slope, when not out-crowded by  
 Chaparral & give support to small herds of  
 hardy Cattle, the main source of money getting to  
 settle. The most prominent of

tree growths within limits of the Tracing, is the "Redwood", the "Sempul Firms", of the Botanist  
 The Friend of the Pettles wherever it is found, furnishing to him, with least time and labor, from its special quality of ready riving, Shingle or Shake - Board or Beantling, Fence posts, pickets & Nails.

The growth of the tree is principally in the Canions, out of the scorching heat of the summer sun & not too far from the Coast to be deprived of the moisture of fogs, which condense upon its fronds & falling in heavy drops, diminish the desiccative effects of California's rainless summer.

Wild flowers grow in profusion & in the Spring months and cover & hide the ground under masses of varied colors.

Natural Fruits &c

Wild Strawberries, Black-berry, Goose-berry & the Huckle-berry (*Rubus occidentalis*) grow luxuriantly wherever their seeds find lodgment.  
 Birds & Animals

Valley & Mountain quail, the Lark & members of the Thrush family are numerous.

Beaver, Deer, the California Lion or Puma

The Coyote, Fox, The Pole Cat, The Raccoon and various Tree & Ground Squirrels are Habitués of all the Area Covered by the Tracing and except the Bear & the Puma, expected to be met on the high Stages on any day of the year.

### Settlements

There are no other Settlements within the limits of the Tracing, than the few small farms shown, & the oldest of these date back to fish occupation less than 25 years. The nearest town to the Northward is Monterey, 38 miles from Potos W.B., a wagon road connects the two.

Southward Golon, is about 60 miles from Potos, over Mountain trails, which seem to have been originally laid out, with the purpose intention of making Communication laborious & difficult.

### Cultivation of Soil

Barley is the principal Cereal grown within the limits of the Tracing; grown for Hay.

Corn does well on the Big Dry Valley Potatoes from the Staple grown for table use, among the vegetables, all table vegetables & Melons grow well.

The Orchards within limits of tracing

are quite small, but yield abundantly  
in time & labor expended.

Apples, Peaches, Plums, Prunes,  
all the fruits of the Atlantic Middle  
States grow luxuriantly, & of course, the Almond  
& English Walnut grow well. Grapes common.

### Domestic Animals

Cattle are the main support of settlers  
within the limits of Tracing; a few Hogs are raised,  
a very few Sheep, a few goats. Horses are  
raised in small numbers. Each settler makes  
a few barrels of Butter, most of them give some  
attention to Raisin & derive some profit from sale  
of Honey. Except cattle & Hogs, not much  
is raised beyond family consumption, owing  
to difficulty & expense of Transportation.

### Mail Roads & Towns

Wharves & Harbors

### Anchorage

The only good anchorage I have  
heard mentioned is under Pigeon Point, and  
that good only during prevalence of North West  
Winds, it is entirely exposed to South Wind & Sea.

## Landing's &c

The only artificially dyked  
land within limits of Tracing to that at "Sea  
View" or "Parkington"; at this place a tunnel  
was excavated under the ridge abutting upon the  
Ocean in order to give connection between a landing  
& the Main Cañon running back from the coast at  
the Point. A rough platform is shored out  
from the side of a rock bound indentation and  
forms a table on which the limited freight is  
hauled. The vessel hauls in with her  
dail under this platform, with breast & quarter-  
lines out to hold her clear of the bold rocky  
shore. Domestic supplies for families of  
Settlers - a return freight of Tan-bark has heretofore  
induced a single vessel to make the annual  
San Francisco - Parkington trip for several  
years past.

The above respectfully Submitted

Aug<sup>o</sup> A. Dodges Esq  
Assistant