GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS.

OFFICE OF THE SURVEYOR GENERAL.

To Deputy Surveyors:

You will provide yourself with a good surveying compass, a level, a field book, and a standard measure in the office of the Surveyor General, and examine by you frequently in the field, in order to detect any errors or irregularity that may arise in the use of them.

These lines are to be laid off in Townships, of precisely six miles square, by lines running due north and south, east and west, commencing on the southern and eastern boundary of the district surveyed, and terminating the corner or deficiency on the north and west sides thereof. On each of these lines, precisely at the distance of one mile, section corners are to be established, and at every half mile quarter section posts should be placed.

In subdividing Townships, these lines should be run as nearly parallel as the topography will permit, and at the same time so as to be free from obstructions. These lines are to be run in the manner best calculated to allow the greatest facility in the pursuit of the work, and will divide the Township into 36 sections, each section being one mile square.

In measuring the section lines, the quarter section posts must be set precisely equidistant from the section corners; exact in the northern and western tier of sections, when they are to be set exactly at 10 chains from the corner; and exactly in the southern and eastern tier of sections, when they are to be set exactly at 1 chain from the corner. The bearing and distance of the section lines and quadrant sections must also be determined with the greatest care, and checked by triangulation, or any other method deemed necessary.

Sections north and west of these line posts, and points of a given distance from the quarter section line, must be determined by triangulation, or any other method deemed necessary.

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Sections north and west of these line posts, and points of a given distance from the quarter section line, must be determined by triangulation, or any other method deemed necessary.
The width of streams and bayous bounding your surveys as well as those intersecting them are to be carefully noted at every intersection of your lines with, and except when both streams constitute the boundary between two squares of surveys, they are not to interrupt the regular lines of the Townships through which they pass, but those lines are to be continued across the stream in the common manner.

In designating the two sides of a stream you will suppose yourself looking down stream, the bank on your right hand will in all cases be treated the right hand, and that on your left hand the left bank.

When swamps or marshes prevent the closing of your survey upon a coast, river or lake, you will state the fact in your field notes, and mention the margin of those swamps, or marshes, but have them as unsettled surveys; and when from this or any other cause you report any of your work impracticable, you will insert in your field notes a full description of the causes that render it so.

All lines must be measured horizontally, your reckoning must be kept in chains of 4 poles, 100 links, and all your calculations and plats must be made in accordance therewith. Your daily roads or plans should not exceed fourteen inches in length. You will avoid legitimacy in this matter in which your estimators perform their duty, and cause it to be correctly and faithfully executed.

For the surveying and location of private claims or other tracts, not conforming to the section lines, special instructions will be given. All permits under the armed occupation law must conform to the section lines. The settler is authorized to take continuous or contiguous half quarter sections so as to include his improvements; and as much of the land surveyed by him not exceeding 100 acres as can be embraced by regular legal subdivisions or half quarter sections of the same or different sections. He must designate to you in writing the half quarter sections for which he wishes a permit; but if he fails to do so, you will select the same so as to include his main improvements.

Your field notes must contain an accurate, clear, and minute record of every thing that is done by you under these instructions.

You will carefully note the distances from your last corner post to the point where you meet with or leave any lakes, rivers, creeks, brooks, swamps, prairies, hills, roads, canals, or any other natural or artificial object, with their general course; and also take their bearings, so as to establish the position of any important object which you may see on either side of your line, that your field notes may afford a full and accurate topographical description of the country surveyed by you. You will be especially careful to note in your field books where groves of Live Oak and Red Cedar abound.

On the last page of your field book, you will insert the number of the Township and Range; the date on which you surveyed; the date of the survey; and at the head of each subsequent page the No. of the Township and Range.

At the end of the notes of each section lines the quality of the land and description of the timber growing thereupon is to be given.

Besides the field notes taken on the lines, you will add at the end of the notes of each township, such further description or information as you may be able to give concerning the general quality of the soil, and productions, with all other things worthy of notice.

Your original field notes must in all cases be returned to the office of the Surveyor General, and if not in a fair and legible hand, true and fair copies must also be returned with them.

Each field book must contain the entire Survey of a Township, and at the close thereof the following oath or affirmation (will be required):—

I, Deputy Surveyor do solemnly swear (or affirm) that in pursuance of a contract made the day of , I have surveyed and subdivided into sections and townships the territory described in my contract, and that the foregoing field notes are true and correct, as far as prepared and delivered as aforesaid, and that those parts which are reported impracticable, were rendered so from the cause therein stated.

If the field book is of Township lines and not of subdivisions, instead of using the words subdivided into section townships, the following shall be used—of townships—of Range—of townships and Range—of sections of townships.

You will return a plat or diagram of the Township lines surveyed by you with the field notes; this may be on a scale of two inches to a Township.

Each of the lines the length in miles must be inscribed; and also the variation of the magnetic meridian; together with the general outline of the Topographical features of the country.

A plat of each Township subdivided by you will likewise be returned with the field notes thereof on a scale of 40 chains to an inch; exhibiting in like manner all lakes, ponds, rivers, creeks, prairies, hills, and other natural objects with their known original names, and also the roads, canals, mines, minerals, salt-springs, mill-sites, towns, villages, &c. &c. The courses and distances of all lines when not run by the true meridian, must be indicated upon them with the distances to the crossings of the streams or other natural or artificial objects—and a general outline of the topographical features of the country.

Any material departure from these instructions, or negligence in the observance thereof, will be considered a violation of the conditions of your contract, and be cause of future declines for payment; all loose, inaccurate, precipitate or defective work, either as respects the surveys in the field or the notes and returns thereof on paper, will be rejected.

V. Y. CONWAY, Surveyor General.
### Form of Field Books

#### First Page

**Township No. 10**  
**Range No. 5 S. & E.**  
Surveyed by [Name],  
in the months of November and December,  
1845.

[Subsequent pages for Township lines.]

#### North boundary of T. 10, R. 5 S. & E.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Distance</th>
<th>Action</th>
<th>Land description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>40 00</td>
<td>Began at N. E. corner and ran West in open pine country.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
            | 1st mile set 4 S. Post of Cedar,  
            | Pine, N 20° W 15° L.  
            | S 17° E 10° L. |  
| 31 00    | to Creek 75 L.  
            | S 17° E 10° L. |  
| 64 00    | to pond (deep water) |  
| 73 00    | to pond to open pine land. |  
| 69 00    | to 1st mile post of Oak,  
            | Pine N 49° W 35° L.  
            | Oak N 29° E 17° L. |  

(Land levels, 3d rate pine, &c., &c.)

#### Subsequent pages for subdivision.

**Township 9, Range S. & E. Sec. 36.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Distance</th>
<th>Action</th>
<th>Land description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>20 00</td>
<td>Began at 1st mile post West on S boundary, and ran north, in rolling pine land, 3d rate.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
<pre><code>        | to prairie. |  
</code></pre>
<p>| 25 00    | Began at 1st mile post of Pine and Palmetto. |</p>
| 49 00    | Set 4 Sec. post of Lightwood.  
            | Pine N 29° W 10° L.  
            | Day S 15° E 20° |  
| 60 00    | Set temporary Post. |  
| 72 00    | Began at 1st mile post North on E boundary and ran West. |  
| 42 00    | Set 4 Sec. post.  
            | Pine N 30° W 10° L.  
            | Day S 15° E 20° |  
| 79 00    | Intersected line 50 links South of post and set permanent post at intersection.  
            | Pine N 29° W 10° L.  
            | Oak N 15° W 12° |  
            | Grass S 10° E 17° |  
| 84 00    | Pine S 30° W 8°. |  
| 34 00    | Run Pine Land. |  

(For subsequent work.)