

Vicente Sebastián Pintado Papers

A Finding Aid to the Collection in the Library of Congress



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LC Online Catalog record:

<http://lcn.loc.gov/mm78051045>

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Revised and expanded by Karen Linn Femia and Julie Miller

Collection Summary

Title: Vicente Sebastián Pintado Papers

Span Dates: 1781-1842

Bulk Dates: (bulk 1799-1817)

ID No.: MSS51045

Creator: Pintado, Vicente Sebastián, 1774-1829

Extent: 1,500 items ; 7 containers ; 3 linear feet ; 6 microfilm reels

Language: Collection material in French and Spanish.

Location: Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Summary: Surveyor general of Spanish West Florida. Correspondence, bills of sale, court transcripts, testimonies, surveys, notebooks, plats, land grants, maps, petitions, and other papers relating principally to Pintado's duties as alcalde, commandant, and surveyor general.

Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Library's online catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically therein.

People

Armas, Christoval de--Correspondence.

Bolling, Christopher--Correspondence.

Collins, José--Correspondence.

Cruzat, Antonio--Correspondence.

Folch, Vicente--Correspondence.

Kneeland, Ira Cook, -1812?--Correspondence.

Lynd, Juan.

López, Manuel, 1780-1860--Correspondence.

Morales, Juan Ventura, 1756-1819--Correspondence.

Pintado, Vicente Sebastián, 1774-1829.

Reggio, Pedro--Correspondence.

Rivas, Francisco, Captain--Correspondence.

Tegart, Patrick--Correspondence

Trudeau, Charles Laveau, approximately 1750-1816--Correspondence.

Organizations

Vicente Sebastián Pintado Collection (Library of Congress)

Subjects

Deeds--Alabama.

Deeds--Florida.

Deeds--Louisiana.

Deeds--Mississippi.

Land grants--Alabama.

Land grants--Florida.

Land grants--Louisiana.

Land grants--Mississippi.

Land tenure--Alabama.

Land tenure--Florida.

Land tenure--Louisiana.

Land tenure--Mississippi.

Real property--Alabama.

Real property--Florida.

Real property--Louisiana.

Real property--Mississippi.

Places

Alabama--Maps, Manuscript.
Alabama--Surveys.
Florida--History--Spanish colony, 1784-1821.
Florida--Maps, Manuscript.
Florida--Surveys.
Louisiana--Maps, Manuscript.
Louisiana--Surveys.
Mississippi--Maps, Manuscript.
Mississippi--Surveys.
Spain--Colonies--America.

Occupations

Surveyors.

Administrative Information

Provenance

The papers of Vicente Sebastián Pintado, surveyor general of Spanish West Florida, were donated to the Library of Congress in 1974 by Cherrill W. Adams via Mrs. Janet Schroeder of the Duluth Public Library, Duluth, Minnesota. An addition to the papers was purchased in 1985.

Processing History

The papers of Vicente Sebastián Pintado were arranged and described in 1978. The collection was expanded and revised in 1998. The finding aid was revised in 2008, 2012, and 2013.

Additional Guides

Maps in the Maps and Plats series of the Pintado Papers are described and listed in John R. Hébert, "Vicente Sebastián Pintado, Surveyor General of Spanish West Florida, 1805-1817, the Man and His Maps," *Imago Mundi* 39 (1987): 50-72. Some of the maps from the Pintado Papers are also described in John R. Hébert and Anthony P. Mullen, "The Luso-Hispanic World in Maps: A Selective Guide to Manuscript Maps to 1900 in the Collections of the Library of Congress", available at <http://www.loc.gov/rr/geogmap/luso/lusohome.html>

Transfers

The Maps and Plats (Oversize) series was transferred to the Geography and Map Division in 2012, where it is identified as part of these papers.

Copyright Status

The status of copyright in the unpublished writings of Vicente Sebastián Pintado is governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C.).

Access and Restrictions

The papers of Vicente Sebastián Pintado are open to research. Researchers are advised to contact the Manuscript Reading Room prior to visiting. Many collections are stored off-site and advance notice is needed to retrieve these items for research use.

Microfilm

A microfilm edition of part of these papers is available on six reels. Consult reference staff in the Manuscript Division concerning availability for purchase or interlibrary loan. To promote preservation of the originals, researchers are required to consult the microfilm edition as available.

Online Content

An image of [map 12](#) is online at "The Luso-Hispanic World in Maps." Maps 33, 36, and 38 are described there. The maps in the Pintado Papers, now in the Geography and Map Division, are being prepared for online presentation.

Preferred Citation

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: Container or reel number, Vicente Sebastián Pintado Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Biographical Note

<i>Date</i>	<i>Event</i>
1774, Feb.	Born, Santa Cruz de la Palma, Canary Islands; later educated as an engineer
1794-1795	Commanded sloop on the lakes Borgne and Pontchartrain for Governor Luis Héctor Carondelet of Louisiana
1796-1803	Assistant surveyor, province of Louisiana
1798	Captain, Caballería de Milicias de Nueva Feliciana
1799	Appears in the records of West Florida as property owner in Baton Rouge District
1799-1805	Alcalde, New Feliciana District
1803-1805	Assistant surveyor, Spanish West Florida
1804-1805	Assisted in defeat of the Kemper brothers' raids in Spanish West Florida
1805-1817	Surveyor general of Spanish West Florida, Pensacola
1816	Married Maria Teresa Eulalia Balderas
1817	Transferred to Havana, Cuba; served as military engineer
1829	Died, Havana, Cuba

Scope and Content Note

The papers of Vicente Sebastián Pintado (1774-1829) span the years 1781-1842, with the bulk of material dating from 1799 to 1817. The papers consist of correspondence, bills of sale, court transcripts, testimonies, surveys, notebooks, plats, land grants, manuscript maps, petitions, and papers relating to Pintado's official duties as alcalde, commandant, and surveyor general of Spanish West Florida from 1799 to 1817. An undated Spanish/Talapuche Indian vocabulary is also in the papers. The papers include no record of his official duties in Havana. The collection contains four series: [General Correspondence](#), [Official Papers](#), [Maps and Plats \(Oversize\)](#), and an [Addition](#). Sixty-two maps and plats, originally part of this collection, were transferred to the Geography and Map Division in August 2012. They are included on the microfilm, and they are listed in this finding aid.

Spanish West Florida encompassed Louisiana from the Mississippi River to the Pearl River north of Lake Pontchartrain, the Gulf coasts of the present day states of Mississippi, Alabama (Mobile and vicinity), and western Florida (Pensacola and St. Mark's vicinity). The papers offer information on the critical transition in this region from the time of the Louisiana Purchase in 1803 through the seizure and occupation of West Florida by the United States in 1813-1814 to the ultimate

cession of East and West Florida by Spain to the United States by terms of the Adams-Onís Treaty of 1819. They provide insight into the multicultural relationships which developed in the area.

Place names that appear in this register are from this geographic area unless otherwise specified. Although some of the papers predate Pintado's appointment as alcalde in 1799, most of the material relates to land surveys, land purchases, and deeds from his appointment as alcalde until his departure for Cuba in 1817. After moving to Cuba, Pintado served as a military engineer. The papers include no record of his official duties in Havana.

The [General Correspondence](#) includes manuscript copies of many outgoing letters as well as communications from Christoval de Armas, Christopher Bolling, Antonio Cruzat, Vincent Folch (United States Governor of West Florida), Manuel Gayoso de Lemos (Governor of Baton Rouge), Charles Boucher de Grand-Pré (Governor of Baton Rouge), Ira Cook Kneeland (Pintado's deputy surveyor), Manuel López, Juan Ventura Morales (intendant of West Florida), Captain Francisco Rivas, and Charles Laveau Trudeau (Spanish surveyor in Louisiana). There is also documentation on the Nicolls raid in the Apalachicola River area and the Kemper brothers' raids in Louisiana, 1804-1805.

In addition to Pintado's personal and professional correspondence, the collection originally included part of the land records of Spanish West Florida. [Maps](#), charts, plats, and land surveys now in the Geography and Map Division, many cadastral, relate to the coastal area from West Florida to the Mississippi River, with special attention to the Baton Rouge, Feliciana, Mobile, and Pensacola districts. This material is supplemented by correspondence between Pintado and his corps of surveyors including José Collins, Ira Cook Kneeland, Pedro Reggio (who became assistant surveyor after the death of Kneeland in 1812), and Patrick Tegart. Legal documents such as court transcripts, testimonies, surveys, land grants, deeds, and petitions are in the [Official Papers](#).

The [Addition](#) to the papers consists of a bound volume dated 1806 containing five maps and written text concerning various properties of Juan Lynd located in the vicinity of Baton Rouge.

Arrangement of the Papers

This collection is arranged in four series:

- [General Correspondence, 1785-1829](#)
- [Official Papers, 1781-1842](#)
- [Maps and Plats \(Oversize\), 1783-circa 1830](#)
- [Addition, 1806](#)

Description of Series

Container

BOX 1-4
REEL 1-3

Series

General Correspondence, 1785-1829

Letters sent and received.
Arranged chronologically.

BOX 5-6
REEL 4-5

Official Papers, 1781-1842

Court transcripts, testimonies, wills, bills of sale, surveys, notebooks, land grants, petitions, deeds, and other papers.
Arranged chronologically.

REEL 6

Maps and Plats (Oversize), 1783-circa 1830

Maps of the entire region of West Florida and of Baton Rouge and other cities and regions, plats of towns, plantations, and land ownership divisions. Available on microfilm only in the Manuscript Division; originals housed in the Geography and Map Division.
Arranged as numbered and described by John R. Hébert in "Vicente Sebastián Pintado, Surveyor General of Spanish West Florida, 1805-1817, the Man and His Maps," *Imago Mundi* 39 (1987): 50-72.

BOX 7
not filmed

Addition, 1806

Bound volume of maps and text re properties of Juan Lynd near Baton Rouge.

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