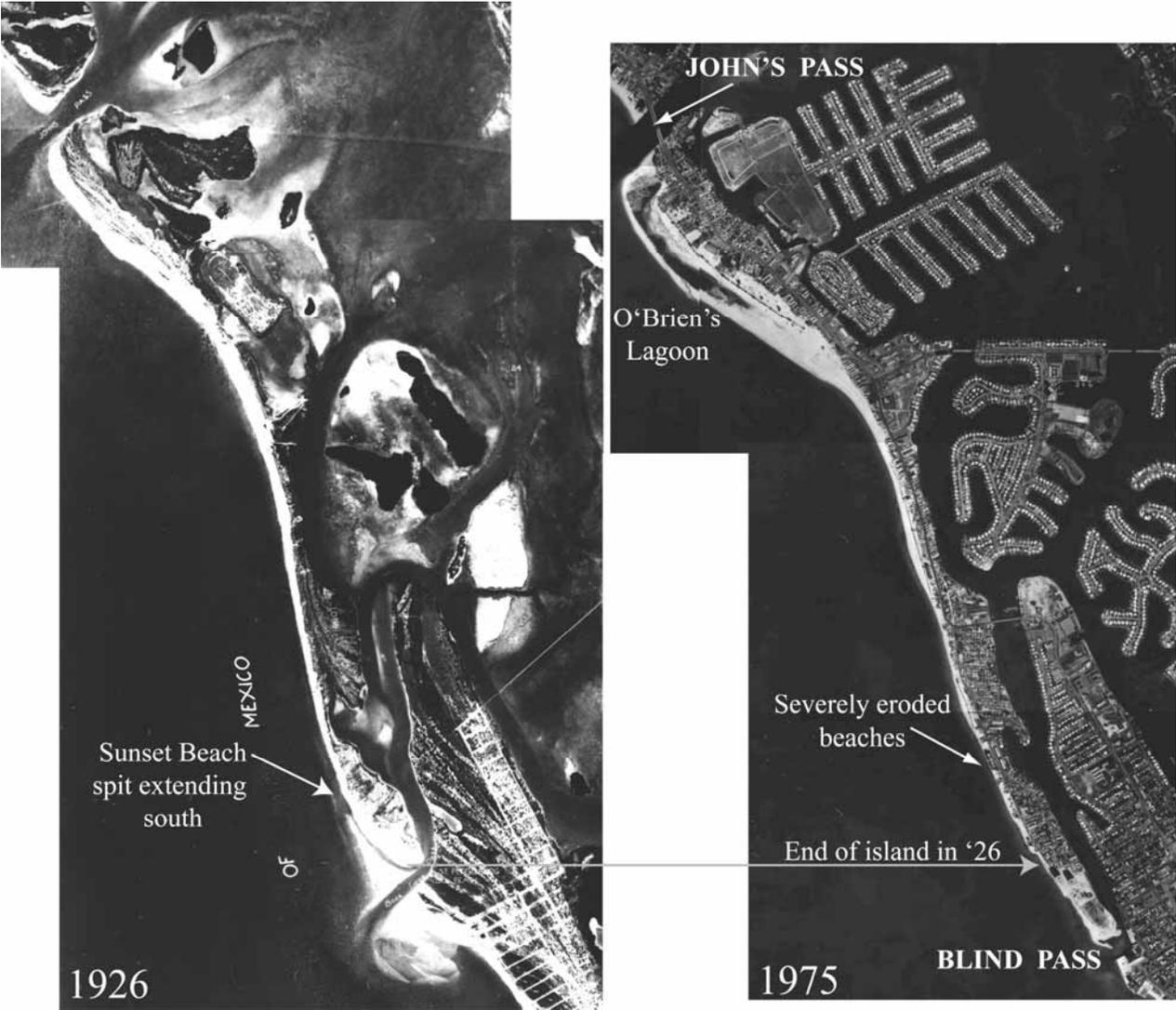
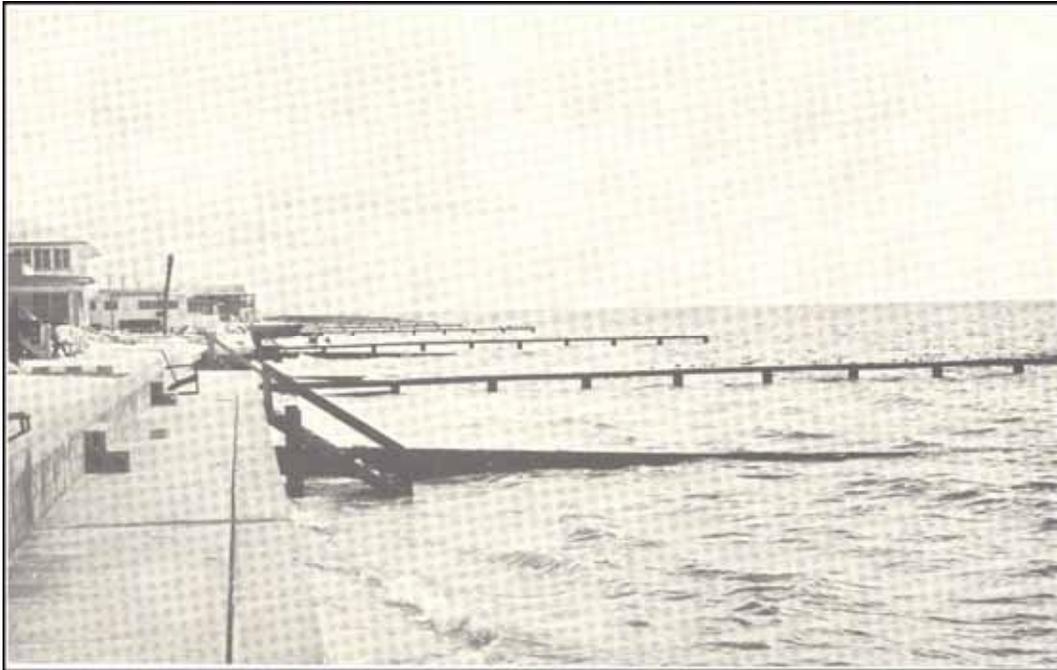


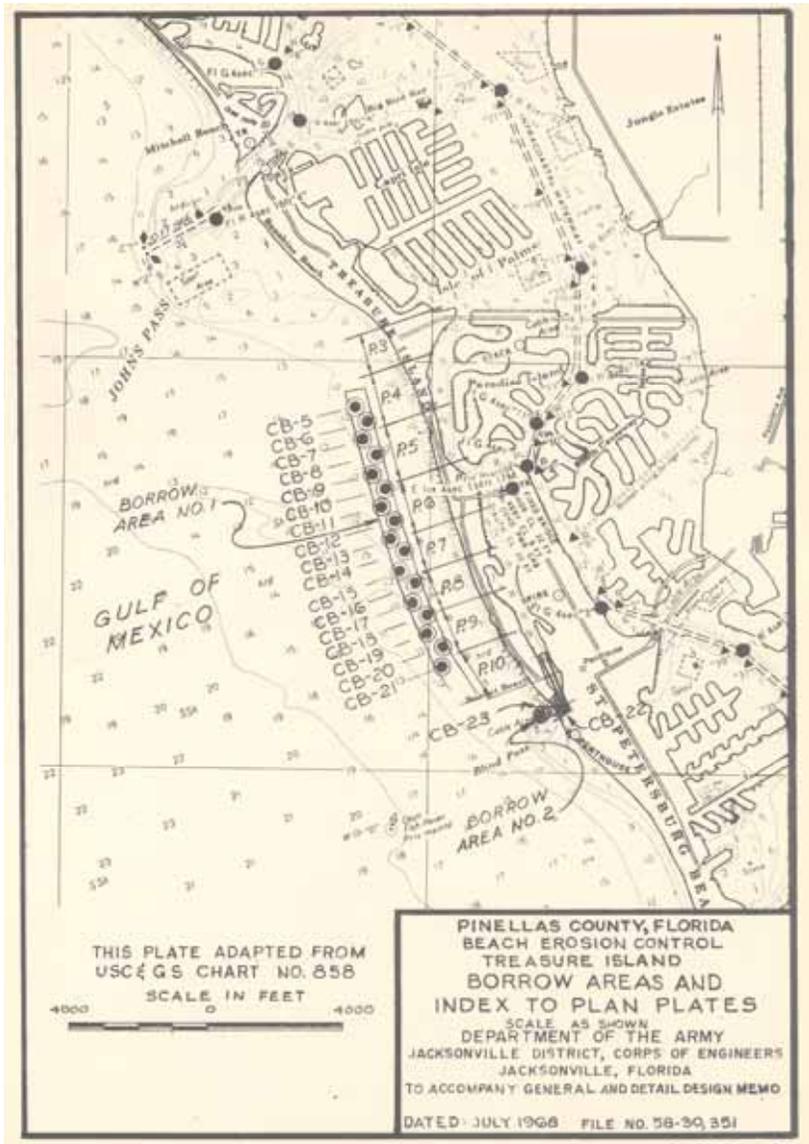
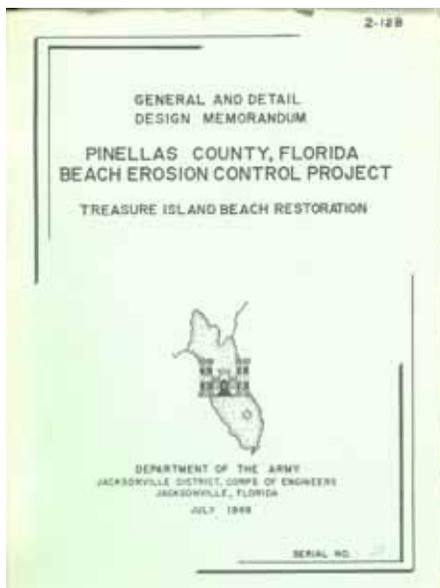
Treasure Island Coastal Management History



Most of Sunset Beach, which makes up the southern third of the island, did not exist in the 1800's. After the formation of John's Pass in 1848, Blind Pass destabilized and migrated to the south. Concurrently, a spit on the southern end of Treasure Island extended and Sunset Beach was created. The above aerial photos show the morphologic evolution of the island from 1926 to 1975.



Like many other coastal communities in the state of Florida, Treasure Island began to experience significant beach erosion in the 1950s. This was the result of unregulated coastal development, which included dredge-and-fill construction in the back barrier bays. In an effort to curb erosion, the city constructed 56 ineffective groins shown above (and labeled as “Severely eroded beaches” on 1975 aerial above). The complete lack of a beach was in direct contrast to the large volumes of sand that supplied the island during the early 1900’s.



The federal government authorized the Pinellas County Beach Erosion Control program in 1966. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers first addressed Treasure Island by publishing a General Design Memorandum (GDM) in 1968. The GDM recommended the use of a shore parallel borrow pit (above) as the sand source for nourishment of the southern beaches. This was a common practice in the 1960's. The shore-parallel pit was a cheap and efficient way to build a beach, and it was an improvement over dredging the productive mangrove and tidal flat ecosystems in the back barrier bays.

Treasure Island was the first federal nourishment project constructed on the west coast of Florida in 1969.

Over the years, Treasure Island has been involved in 14 federal fill placement projects, including 1969. Treasure Island is presently on a four-year renourishment interval. The project is combined with the renourishment of Upham Beach, on Long Key, the barrier to the south. Sunset Beach was renourished during the infamous 2004 hurricane season when four hurricanes made landfall in Florida. Excellent intergovernmental cooperation resulted in a successful project in the face of a

potential disaster. This 2004 Treasure Island/Long Key nourishment project received the American Shore and Beach Preservation Association's [2006 Top Restored Beach in America award](#).

After another unprecedented hurricane season in 2005, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers conducted a study of beach erosion due to the 2005 hurricanes. The [PIR \(PDF 21.5 MB\)](#) (Project Impact Report) concluded that the Treasure Island project qualified for federal emergency funding. Sunset Beach and northern Treasure Island were renourished in August 2006 at 100% federal cost. The project [website](#) provides construction details, environmental impacts, and funding information.