

THE FLOODING OF PUEBLOS PERDIDOS FOR THE CREATION OF THE PANAMA CANAL

IN THE EARLY 1910'S THE CHAGRES RIVER WAS DAMMED, CREATING GATUN LAKE AND FLOODING MANY VILLAGES ALONG THE RIVER

MAPPED VILLAGES ARE PULLED FROM 1845 AND 1849 MAPS OF THE AREA BEFORE THE DAM, NARRATIVE TEXTS + QUOTES ARE FROM 1911 PANAMA CANAL RECORD (PRODUCT OF THE US)

"The region in which these lake settlements are situated will probably not be under water before August, 1912, but the railroad track will be torn up in February, and therefore the native hamlets and American canal settlements are being moved, the houses torn down to be erected again elsewhere, or in the case of the shacks merely abandoned in the jungle"

SAN PABLO:
Once a plantation under Spanish occupation, then became a French labor camp, a small canal village by 1908

FRIJOLAS:
1908 Census estimated a population of 784. Known for bananas of "peculiarly delicious flavor"

MATACHIN:
1908 Census estimated a population of 2,042: 698 "whites"

GORGONA:
1908 Census estimated a population of 2,750: 1,646 "blacks", 1,065 "whites", and 39 Chinese. Was a stop for river travelers before the railroad. Its many shops were relocated to Balboa

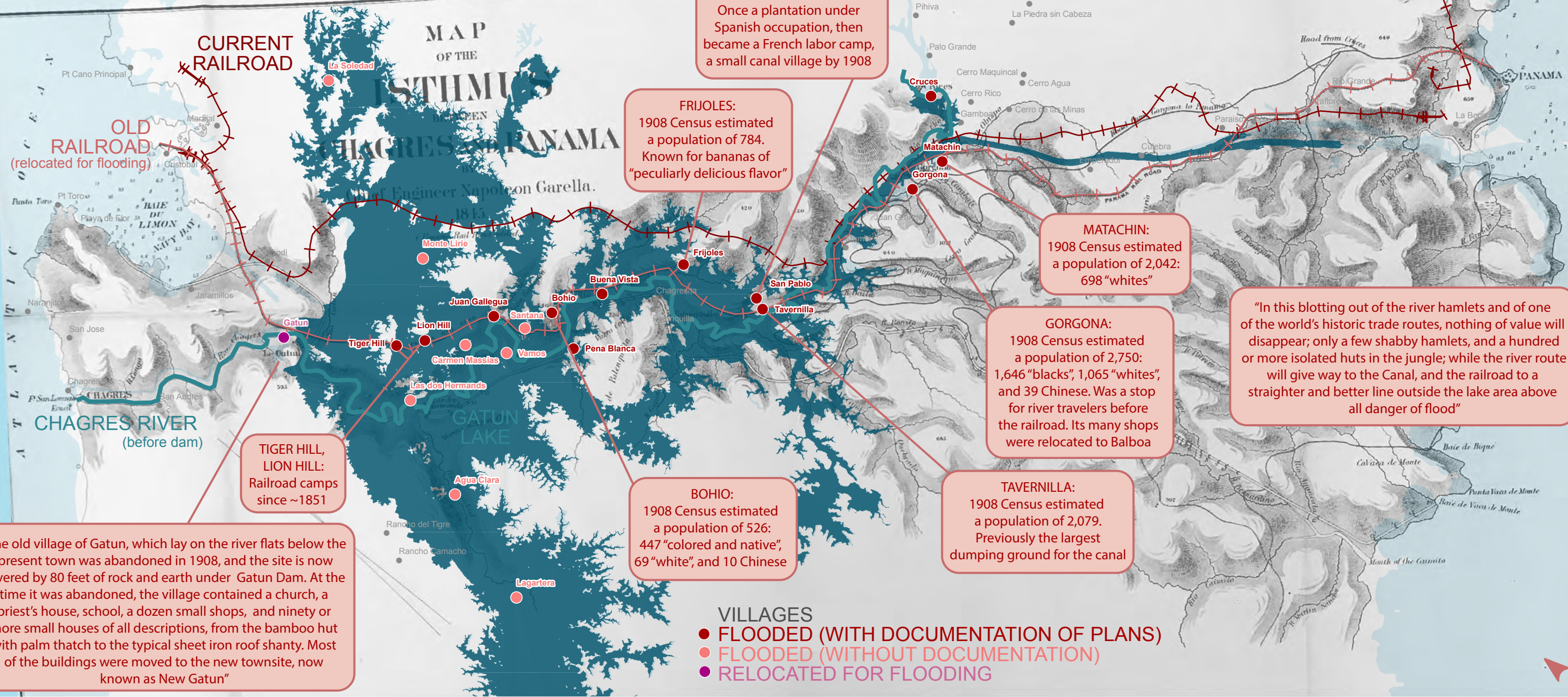
"In this blotting out of the river hamlets and of one of the world's historic trade routes, nothing of value will disappear; only a few shabby hamlets, and a hundred or more isolated huts in the jungle; while the river route will give way to the Canal, and the railroad to a straighter and better line outside the lake area above all danger of flood"

TAVERNILLA:
1908 Census estimated a population of 2,079. Previously the largest dumping ground for the canal

BOHIO:
1908 Census estimated a population of 526: 447 "colored and native", 69 "white", and 10 Chinese

TIGER HILL, LION HILL:
Railroad camps since ~1851

"The old village of Gatun, which lay on the river flats below the present town was abandoned in 1908, and the site is now covered by 80 feet of rock and earth under Gatun Dam. At the time it was abandoned, the village contained a church, a priest's house, school, a dozen small shops, and ninety or more small houses of all descriptions, from the bamboo hut with palm thatch to the typical sheet iron roof shanty. Most of the buildings were moved to the new townsite, now known as New Gatun"



- VILLAGES**
- FLOODED (WITH DOCUMENTATION OF PLANS)
 - FLOODED (WITHOUT DOCUMENTATION)
 - RELOCATED FOR FLOODING

