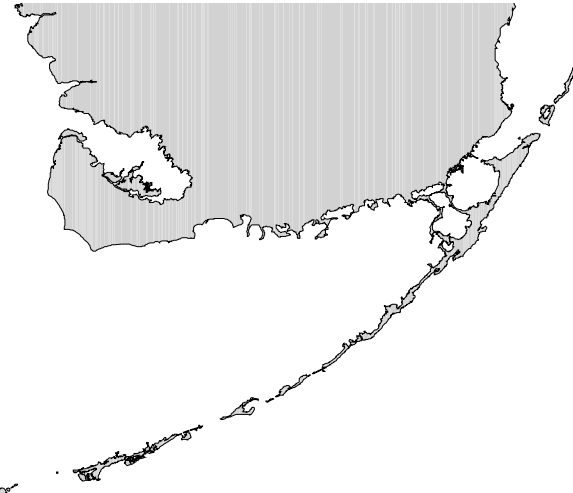


The Key West Hurricane of 1846 - Oct. 11-12 - Part I



Key West was almost completely destroyed. The barometer in Havana dropped to 917 mb. Ho's estimate of the barometric pressure as the storm passed near Key West on the 11th was 902 mb. (Sandrik 1999)

An extreme tropical cyclone (max. winds > 135 mph) was observed in the Key West vicinity on Oct. 11-12. The entire city was nearly destroyed. (Dunn and Miller 1964)

Colonel W.C. Maloney called this storm the "most destructive of any that has ever visited these latitudes in the memory of man." This great hurricane left a path of destruction from Cuba northward along the West Coast of Florida, and then northeastward along the Atlantic coast to Canada. The course of the hurricane over Middle Florida cannot be determined as there were no reports between Tampa and St. Augustine. A storm track over Cedar Key is probable, then a turn to the NE between Tallahassee and Jacksonville. The principle ports of the South Atlantic coastline were to the east of the storm's center. The center of the storm passed between Augusta and Savannah, and between Columbia and Charleston. The storm accelerated through east-central North Carolina, and then entered Chesapeake Bay early on the 13th. It passed to the west of Norfolk, and caused notable damage to the Middle Atlantic States and western New England.

