

= 1899 Carrabelle hurricane =

The 1899 Carrabelle hurricane caused significant damage in the Dominican Republic and the Florida Panhandle . The second tropical cyclone and second hurricane of the 1899 Atlantic hurricane season , the storm was first observed south of the Dominican Republic on July 28 , 1899 . Shortly thereafter , it made landfall in Azua Province , Dominican Republic with an intensity equivalent to a Category 1 hurricane on the modern Saffir - Simpson hurricane wind scale . Early on July 29 , the system weakened to a tropical storm , shortly before emerging into the Atlantic Ocean . It then moved west - northwestward and remained at the same intensity for the next 24 hours . The storm made landfall near Islamorada , Florida on July 30 . It then brushed Southwest Florida before emerging into the Gulf of Mexico . The storm began to re - intensify on July 31 and became a hurricane later that day . Early on August 1 , it peaked with winds of 100 mph (155 km / h) , several hours before making landfall near Apalachicola , Florida at the same intensity . The storm quickly weakened inland and dissipated over Alabama on August 2 .

In the Dominican Republic , three large schooners were wrecked at Santo Domingo ; only one crew member on the three vessels survived . " Great " damage was reported along coastal sections of the country while a loss of telegraph service impacted most of interior areas . In Florida , damage in the city of Carrabelle was extensive , where only nine houses remained . Losses in the city reached approximately \$ 100 ,000 (1899 USD) . At least 57 shipping vessels were destroyed ; damage from these ships collectively totaled about \$ 375 ,000 . Additionally , 13 lumber vessels were beached . Many boats at the harbor and the wharfs in Lanark were wrecked ; large portions of stores and pavilions in the city were damaged . The towns of Curtis Mill and McIntyre were completely destroyed , while the resort city of St. Teresa suffered significant damage . Overall , seven deaths were confirmed in Florida and losses in the state reached at least \$ 1 million .

= Meteorological history =

A " violent hurricane " was first observed near the south coast of Hispaniola at 1200 UTC on July 27 . Within the next six hours , the storm made landfall in Azua Province , Dominican Republic with winds of 80 mph (130 km / h) ? equivalent to a Category 1 hurricane on the modern Saffir - Simpson hurricane wind scale . Early on July 28 , it weakened to tropical storm while moving northwestward across northern Haiti . A few hours later , the storm emerged into the Atlantic near Port - au - Paix . The system maintained intensity for over 24 hours as it moved northwestward and parallel to the north coast of Cuba . At 1000 UTC on July 30 , the storm made landfall in Islamorada , Florida on Upper Matecumbe Key with winds of 45 mph (75 km / h) . It weakened slightly and then moved just offshore or struck the mainland portion of Monroe County , Florida . Early on July 31 , the storm began to re - strengthen while entering the eastern Gulf of Mexico .

HURDAT ? the North Atlantic hurricane database ? indicated that the system re - intensified into a hurricane at 1200 UTC on July 31 . Further deepening occurred , with the storm becoming a Category 2 hurricane early on August 1 . Later that day , the hurricane made landfall between Carrabelle and Eastpoint , Florida with winds of 100 mph (155 km / h) . Reports at landfall indicate that the storm was small , spanning a diameter of only 40 miles (64 km) . At 1800 UTC on August 1 ? about an hour after it moved inland ? a weather station measured the storm 's minimum barometric pressure of 979 mbar (28 .9 inHg) . Early on August 2 , it weakened to a tropical storm and then a tropical depression several hours later . Shortly thereafter , it dissipating over southern Alabama .

= Impact =

News reports indicate that a " violent " hurricane struck the Dominican Republic on July 28 . Three large schooners were wrecked at Santo Domingo ; only one crew member on the three vessels survived . " Great " damage was reported along coastal sections of the country , while a loss of

telegraph service impacted most of interior areas .

Due to " somewhat threatening " weather conditions on July 30 and July 31 , advisories were issued to stations across Florida , warning of the potential for strong winds . As a result , 40 vessels , coasting schooners , and spongers remained at port in Cedar Key . According to the displayman at Cedar Key , " they [the ships and sailors] would have sailed and some would have been lost " had they not received warnings .

At the time of the storm , it was described as " the most disastrous cyclone that ever visited this section of Florida " . Losses from the storm in Florida reached at least \$ 1 million . The city of Carrabelle was devastated as only nine houses in the city remained . According to the mayor , about 200 families were left homeless . The New York Times stated that , " Carrabelle is literally wiped from the map . " Losses in the city reached approximately \$ 100 @, @ 000 . One fatality occurred in Carrabelle when a house collapsed on a woman ; numerous other people in the area sustained injuries . At least 57 shipping vessels were destroyed , including 14 barques , 40 small boats , and 3 pilot boats . Losses for these ships collectively totaled about \$ 375 @, @ 000 . At the Chattahoochee , then known as River Junction , a mass meeting of citizens was held on August 4 to collect money for the victims of the storm in Carrabelle .

Additionally , 13 lumber vessels were beached . A 30 mile (48 km) portion of the Carrabelle , Tallahassee and Georgia Railroad was washed away . A passenger train was blown over 100 yards from the track , injuring many passengers . Many boats at the harbor and the wharfs in Lanark were wrecked . The local summer resort of Lanark Inn was blown into the Gulf of Mexico . Large portions of stores and pavilions in the city were damaged . At McIntyre , virtually the entire town was destroyed , except for only two mill boilers . The city of Curtis Mill was completely destroyed . Additionally , the resort city of St. Teresa suffered significant damage . A total of fifteen ships either destroyed or beached at Dog Island , including the Benjamin C. Cromwell and James A. Garfield . At least 15 people were reported missing . Six drowning deaths were confirmed in association with this storm .