

2254

Form 504

U. S. COAST AND GEODETIC SURVEY

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

DESCRIPTIVE REPORT

Type of Survey *Topographic*
Field No. Office No. *2254*

LOCALITY

State *Louisiana*
General locality *Lake Pont-*
Locality *Chartier*

1897

194

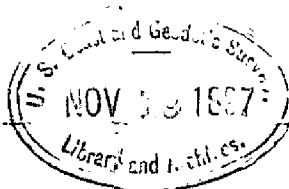
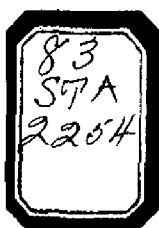
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2254



U. S. COAST AND GEODETIC SURVEY.

W. W. Duffield, Superintendent.

State: *Louisiana*

DESCRIPTIVE REPORT.

Topographic Sheet No. *2254*

LOCALITY:

Lake Pontchartrain
from West End to
Bayou Lacombe

1897.

CHIEF OF PARTY:

P. A. Welker, Assist.

2254

Write me at:

Telegraph me at:

My Express Office is:

U. S. COAST AND GEODETIC SURVEY,

Washington D. C.

Nov. 12th, 1897

2-547

Gen. W. W. Duffield

Superintendent, U. S. Coast & Geod. Survey

Washington D. C.

Sir:

In obedience to Instructions and memoranda for Descriptive Reports, 1887. I beg leave to submit the following report of Topographic Sheet No. 2254, Scale 10,000. This sheet covers a portion of the shore of Lake Pontchartrain La., and extends from Lat. $30^{\circ} 00'$ to $30^{\circ} 02'$ and from Long. $90^{\circ} 06'$ to $90^{\circ} 13'$. This includes the shore line from the town of West End to Bayou L'Anier, and also takes in Indian Bayou, Schupitoulas Bayou, Bayou le Bar and Bayou L'Anier, with several other smaller streams. West End is a suburb of New Orleans, about six miles from the city Post Office, and is within the city limits. It is connected with New Orleans by the N. O. C. & G. R. R. In winter trains run over this road every one and a half hours, while in the spring and summer they are much more frequent. West End is used as a summer resort

and a large part of it is owned by the rail-road company. There are about 100 houses in the place altogether, and most of them are either hotels or saloons. Most of the navigation of the lake reaches New Orleans by the New Canal which runs from West End to the heart of the city; though some of the vessels still use the old Bayou St. John route. The upper drainage canal is about $\frac{1}{2}$ mile west of the new canal and runs into the city parallel with and near 17th Street extended. A break-water extends between the two canals, and back of this is a shallow basin about 200 meters wide, which is nearly dry at extreme low-water. The "Orleans" drainage canal empties into the New Canal at a point about $\frac{1}{2}$ mile from its mouth. On the east bank of the New Canal, at its mouth is the "New Canal" Light House, which was established in 1838 and rebuilt in 1890. This is a fifth order, fixed white light, 47 $\frac{1}{2}$ feet above high water, and is built on the levee between the lake and the canal. The Southern Yacht Club House is about 100 meters north of the Light House on the west side of the canal. This is built on piles out in the lake, and is the most prominent object in the vicinity, being visible for a distance of from twelve to fifteen miles.

There are several Wharves between the new and upper drainage canals, but they are mostly in poor repair and little used. Indian Bayou is $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles west of West End, and is about $\frac{1}{2}$ mile in length, branching out into two separate streams $\frac{1}{4}$ mile from the shore of the lake. There are two small streams between this bayou and West End. The entire shore of the lake shown on this sheet is covered with tule cane, which extends inland a distance of from $\frac{1}{4}$ mile to two miles where it joins a dense swamp which is full of willow and other trees. Tchoupitoulas Bayou is about $\frac{1}{4}$ mile west of Indian Bayou, and $1\frac{1}{2}$ mile long with five tributaries. At this point the tules extend back from the shore to a distance of $\frac{1}{2}$ mile, though there are many trees growing on the banks of this bayou within 200 meters of the lake shore. Bayou le Bar is $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile west of this point and is $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles long with over twenty tributaries. It runs through the tules to within about 300 meters of its end, and is connected with Tchoupitoulas Bayou by one small stream. Bayou Lamar is two miles west of Bayou le Bar, and runs for two miles inland striking the timber line $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles from its mouth. It has a branch however that runs in a

westerly direction for two miles, and covers more ground with its tributaries than the main bayou.

In most respects these bayous are much alike in character; being sluggish streams, and favorite haunts for snakes and alligators. Most of them are full of Water Hyacinths, which was introduced about five years ago and spread to such an extent that it is now a nuisance.

It is a hardy tough vine that blooms in the latter part of April or first of May. Some of the streams are so choked up by this plant that it is almost impossible to force ones way through them. The shore of that portion of the lake shown on this sheet is very soft and muddy, and there are quite a number of snags and stumps of trees scattered through the water; though it is not as bad in this respect as on the north shore.

This shore line is evidently receding, as triangulation signals that were erected the year before nearly 100 meters inshore, were found to be awash; and in one or two instances had been either disturbed or knocked down by floating logs.

Outside of West End the territory covered by this sheet is practically uninhabited; as with the exception of small negro huts at the mouth of

the bayous, there are no dwelling houses. The banks of the bayous are for the most part solid ground, and are covered with vegetation and trees. These banks only extend for a few meters from the bayous, where they join the swamp which is completely covered with water at high tide. The trees on this solid ground are mostly water and scrub oak, while in the swamp willows predominate with here and there a cypress. These trees are for the most part too small to be of much value as timber, though some of them have been cut, and a ditch known as "Garrett's Canal," runs into Bayou le Bar from the south. This was evidently used at one time to float logs to the lake, though it seems to have been neglected in late years.

Very Respectfully Yours
 Fred. A. Young
 Assistant C. & G. S.