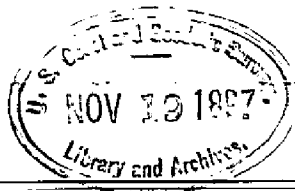


2255

Form 504	
U. S. COAST AND GEODETIC SURVEY	
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE	
DESCRIPTIVE REPORT	
Type of Survey	<i>Topographic</i> <i>Louisiana</i>
Field No.	Office No. <i>2255</i>
LOCALITY	
State	<i>Louisiana</i>
General locality	<i>Lake Pont</i>
Locality	<i>Chartier</i>
<i>1897</i>	
<i>191</i>	
CHIEF OF PARTY	
<i>P. A. Melker</i>	
LIBRARY & ARCHIVES	
DATE	

2255



U. S. COAST AND GEODETIC SURVEY.

W. W. Duffield, Superintendent.

State: *Louisiana*

DESCRIPTIVE REPORT.

Topographic, Sheet No. 2255

LOCALITY:

Lake Pontchartrain
From Lumbert to
Bayou le Branch

1897.

CHIEF OF PARTY:

P. A. Welker, Assistant

2255

Write me at:

Telegraph me at:

My Express Office is:

U. S. COAST AND GEODETIC SURVEY,

Washington D. C.

Mar. 15, 1897

2-547

Gen. W. W. Driffield

Superintendent U. S. Coast & Geod. Survey

Washington D. C.

Sir:

In obedience to "Instructions and Memoranda for Descriptive Reports, 1897". I beg leave to submit the following report of Topographic Sheet No. 2255, scale $\frac{1}{20,000}$. This sheet includes that portion of the north shore of Lake Pontchartrain, La., extending from L'Anse aux Pins (just west of Bayou L'Anse aux Pins) to Bayou le Branch. It also takes in John Pier Bayou, Alligator Bayou, Double Bayou and Bayou le Branch; and extends inland for a distance of from two to four miles; the limits being from Lat. $30^{\circ} 00'$ to $30^{\circ} 04'$ and from Long. $90^{\circ} 11'$ to $90^{\circ} 24'$. John Pier Bayou is a small stream about $\frac{1}{2}$ mile in length. Its mouth is 200 meters west of John Pier Δ , or two miles west of the eastern limits of the sheet. This bayou is heavily wooded, and the mouth is not at all well defined, though it can be located from a small hut on the

west bank 100 meters from the lake shore.

Alligator Bayou is $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile west of John Pier, and gets its name from the number of alligators found in its waters. One mile from its mouth this bayou branches out into two separate streams, one running south and the other west. They are both of about the same length, extending inland for a distance of $1\frac{1}{4}$ miles from their junction. They have each about five tributaries, and into one of these of the southern branch, $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles from the lake, a ditch was cut $\frac{1}{2}$ mile in length, and running in a south westerly direction. The shore of the lake shown on this part of the sheet is covered with tule cane, while there are numerous trees scattered through it. The timber line is not so well defined as on the eastern shore of the lake, and the banks of the bayous are covered with trees and vegetation. There is also a quantity of valuable cypress growing through the swamps, and a good deal has been cut for timber. The trees on the banks of the bayous, which are comparatively hard ground, consist of willows together with a few scrub and water oak, at their source. $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles west of Alligator Bayou is Double Bayou, which gets its name from the fact that there are really two separate

streams, the mouths of which are 200 meters apart. The western stream is the largest, and has one branch that runs for two miles in a westerly direction.

The eastern stream is $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles in length, and has five small tributaries. $1\frac{1}{2}$ west of Double Bayou a ditch known as "Walkers Canal" comes out into the lake. This runs for three miles from the lake in a south-easterly direction, and ends in a small stream that crosses under the track of the Illinois Central Railroad, $4\frac{1}{2}$ miles south east of Le Branch Station. This ditch also crosses two different tributaries of the western branch of Double Bayou, at a distance from the lake of one and $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles, respectively. The Illinois Central Railroad runs for eight miles in a tangent, from the north west corner of this sheet in a south easterly direction. The track is laid on an embankment built up from the swamp and crosses over numerous streams on trestles. Near the western end of the sheet is Bayou le Branch, which is the largest bayou in the vicinity. The main part of this bayou is four miles in length, and near its end a ditch comes in that runs for $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles in a south westerly direction. This bayou has two branches; one joining the main bayou $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile from the lake, and runs in a

south westerly direction for $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles. The other comes in
 $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles from the mouth, and runs in an easterly
 direction for $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles. A ditch runs south from
 this branch for a distance of a mile, being nearly
 parallel with, and a mile from the main
 bayou. Bayou Le Branch crosses under the Illinois
 Central Railroad $\frac{1}{2}$ mile from its mouth. For $\frac{1}{4}$ mile
 above that point the stream was so choked up by
 water hyacinths, that a great deal of time was lost
 in forcing the boats through them. On the west
 bank of the bayou at the bridge is the R.R. Station
 Le Branch. There are about ten buildings in the
 neighborhood including a section-house, store, one or
 two dwelling houses, the Le Branch Fishing & Hunting club,
 and a few sheds. With the exception of a few huts
 on the banks of the different bayous, these are the
 only buildings on the sheet. On the lake shore just
 east of the mouth of Bayou Le Branch, and on the
 east bank of the bayou itself are small plots of
 cultivated land where cabbages are raised.
 A small stream runs into the bayou at its mouth,
 that crosses under the railroad track $\frac{1}{2}$ mile north
 west of Le Branch Station. All of these bayous are
 lost at their source in a large flooded swamp
 which is locally known as the "Lake".

Bayou le Branch is a comparatively deep stream, and with a little expenditure of money in clearing out the willows and water hyacinths, could be made navigable for small craft all the way to its source, and from there a canal could be easily cut to the Mississippi River. In the lake from 50 to 200 meters from the shore, and running parallel with it, are several short rows of piles. These are evidently the remains of some structure, though no information on the subject could be obtained.

Very Respectfully Yours
 Fred. W. Young
 Assistant Col. U.S.