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Treasury Department,
U. S. COAST AND GEODETIC SURVEY.

O. H. TITTMANN.

Superintendent.

State: VIRGINIA.

DESCRIPTIVE REPORT.

Topographic Sheet No. 2771.

LOCALITY:

Hampton Roads

North of Norfolk.

1906.

CHIEF OF PARTY:

Ass't O.B. French

U. S. C. & G. SURVEY,
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JAN 24 1907

cc. To.

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DESCRIPTIVE REPORT

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TO ACCOMPANY TOPOGRAPHIC SHEET NO. 2771, JAN 24 1907

EXECUTED BY PARTY OF ASSISTANT O. B. FRENCH. ^{Co. No.}

This sheet contains a plane-table re-survey on a scale of 1-10,000, of that territory lying north of Tanners Creek and west of Mason's Creek to Hampton Roads, near Norfolk, Va. It is all new work, controlled by points located trigonometrically by Assistants E.B.Latham, (1903) and O.B.French, (1906). Owing to the scarcity of signals on the south and east edges of the sheet, the work was carried forward by traverse from good positions at the north and west sides with an occasional check on some station.

This land is of alluvial character and low. There is no elevation exceeding eighteen (18) feet excepting, perhaps, a sand dune or two along the west shore. It is all cut up by long, narrow, salt marshes and creeks extending to the interior from Tanners, Roush, and Mason's Creeks. The edge of this marsh is practically the high water line as at high tides these marshes are all submerged. From the edge of these marshes, the shore generally rises somewhat abruptly to a height of eight or ten feet and is usually bordered with a row of deciduous trees, holly and underbrush. One large fresh marsh near the northwest corner of the sheet has perhaps had at some time, a connection with Hampton Roads but, at present, is entirely shut off. The Hampton Roads shore on the west side is high and shelving, with a narrow strip of sand beach. Near the point where Tanners Creek enters Hampton Roads, there are a number of trees standing well out from the high water line, which indicates that the shore, at this

point, is being eroded. Also, the high, caving bank along the west side, with an occasional fallen tree seems to indicate that the shore line is being slowly worn away, but there are no reliable data on which to base an estimate of the extent of it.

A large part of this territory is covered with a growth of brush and small trees, with an occasional grove of pine. The trees are mostly pine, oak and gum, and very few of marketable size.

Nearly all of the cleared land along Tanners Creek is under cultivation but, elsewhere, a large portion of it is neglected and grown up with small brush and weeds. A large part of this land is owned or controlled by The Hampton Roads Land Company and held in a sort of speculating scheme to be subdivided into building lots. The sheet shows three or four places where the street grading and subdivision has already been done.

There are no villages on the sheet, excepting Pine Beach, which is more of a summer resort than anything else. There are a few permanent residents who stay there through the winter, but generally, everything is closed. There is more business there than usual during this winter owing to the building of, and preparations for The Jamestown Exposition which is located on the north end of the peninsula. Ordinarily, there is no business except truck-farming and oyster fishing. Pine Beach consists of a large hotel and several small ones, a few stores, a large Amusement Casino, and a few small concession buildings. It has a Post Office, and has telephone and street car connections with Norfolk, nine miles to the southward. There is a ferry plying regularly between Newport News and Pine Beach, connecting with the electric cars at both places.

The roads on this sheet are ordinary country roads, fairly good in dry weather but becoming rather bad in wet weather.

The main road from Pine Beach joins, at the south east corner of the sheet, an excellent shell piked road that extends all of the way to Norfolk. This shell road is a toll road north of Tanners Creek.

The only highway bridge of importance on the sheet is the long bridge over Tanners Creek, with a ~~long~~ draw not far from the north shore. At this time, the bridge is in very poor condition but is to be repaired in connection with the building of a new boulevard which is now being constructed from Norfolk to the Exposition Grounds, along the east side of the tracks of the Norfolk and Atlantic ~~Terminal~~ Company. There are practically no fences on the sheet. There is one steam railroad having its terminal on the sheet-The Tidewater Railway. It has nothing of any importance as yet, but it is stated that the company intends to erect some large coal piers on the west side, extending out into Hampton Roads.

About one-third of the work was executed by Assistant O. B. French and the remainder by Aid J. B. Bingham under the direction of Ass't. French.