3702
3703

Department of Commerce and Labor

COAST AND GEODETIC SURVEY

_____

Superintendent.

State: _____

DESCRIPTIVE REPORT.

Sheet No. 3702
3703

LOCALITY:

1916

CHIEF OF PARTY:

11—4645

DESCRIPTIVE REPORT TO ACCOMPANY TOPOGRAPHIC SHEETS "D" AND "E"

INSTRUCTIONS Superintendent's instructions dated October 30, 1916.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION Sailing through Horn Island Pass, Horn Island and Petit Bois Island present themselves as stretches of sand beaches with trees in the back ground. On the very end (western) of Petit Bois Island, on the north shore, there are two prominent creosote piles and several other slender piles with cross pieces on them. When the main land appears in view, a black flat shore line, with a back ground of trees, separates the land from the water with scarcely a prominent object thereon other than the Pascagoula water tank which, in clear weather, can be seen from the Pass. Round Island appears as a clump of trees with Round Island Light House painted white which can be seen only south of the line joining Round Island North Spit with it. With the exception of the sand beach from Belle Fontaine Point to West Pascagoula, which appears as a white shore line with a black background of trees, the entire shore line from West Pascagoula to the mouth of Mobile Bay, appears as a continous black shore line with but occasional distinguishable breaks at abrupt changes in the shore line as at the eastern and western ends of Grand Batture Island, at Point aux Pins, and at L'Isle aux Dames. The oyster cannery east of Bayou La Batre, standing on a shell bank, shows up well in the distance, especially if the sun be shining upon it. The houses in the vicinity can also be seen from off shore though not as far off.

This long black stretch of coast line is nothing but a ragged marshy beach. The high water mark falls abruptly to about six inches and from there to the low water mark is a gradual slope of sticky mud which makes it extremely difficult to approach the shore at low tide. Mouths of bayous break through here and there, the axes of which are generally oblique to the shore line, so that as a result, from offshore the shore line at these mouths appears continuous. This peculiarity renders them indistinguishable from offshore and only local pilots could detect them. Moreover, across the mouths of most bayous there is a bar which can be sailed over by ordinary draft only at high tide. Most of the bayous are unimportant though some are extensively used to fish in, to sail inland, or to go from one big body of water into another. The last are called "rigolets", French for running stream.

The pine woods afford much lumber, which accounts for the saw mills at Moss Point, Miss., and at Bayou la Batre, Ala. the creosote works at Gautier, Miss. and the Ship yards at Pascagoula, Miss. where channels are dredged through bayous to accommodate the ship building industries. Comparatively heavy traffic is experienced by waterways like Pascagoula River and Bayou la Batre, the latter experiencing it through its shrimp cannery mostly, however, and mainly by shallow draft vessels.

CHANGE IN COAST LINE. The most striking change in the coast line is to be found on the islands. Horn Island has had about one square mile added to its western end and much of its eastern end is washed away. Petit Bois Island is continually having its eastern end washed away though very little is being added to its western end. It seems as though the islands were shifting westward. After each annual storm, a change in their coast line appears. The mainland suffers changes from these storms also. Around the West Pascagoula River, islands have formed, have been cut through, and the general appearance of the shore line has changed. At Grand Bay the bayous have created islands and during high tides have formed new tributaries.

CHANNELS AND BAYOUS. The channel connecting the West Pascagoula River and the Pascagoula River has the decided advantage over any other waterways connecting the two rivers, and at the same time the two towns Pascagoula and Gautier, in being the shortest possible cut. This channel was in part an existing bayou. When the shell road running parallel to it was constructed, however, this bayou was dredged in

order to fill in the gaps as at Lake Masse. Boats drawing three feet of water can safely go through at mean low water. This information was obtained by me from an old native fisherman who had sounded his way through it many times.

BAYOU LABATRE Like the mouths of most bayous, that of Bayou La Batre is very indistinguishable and especially so at night when it is extremely difficult to find. In the day time, the private beacon, 2 piles, one having a target thereon, marks the entrance, which again, like most bayous has a bar acroos, thus preventing boats drawing more than one foot from entering at low water. At more than low water, to enter, one must follow the so-called channel, a slue dug out by the passage of previous boats. If a line be drawn from the beacon to the east point of the mouth of the bayou, that line is the eastern side of the channel and a line parallel to it and about 15 meters from it marks the other side. To navigate the bayou requires a local pilot for there are many shoals therein and the channel is very irregular. This bayou is much used by fishermen who fish therein and by shrimp trawlers who bring their catch of shrimp to the shrimp cannery in the village. Merchant schooners, too, frequently use the bayou.

NORTH RIGOLETS. This bayou starts at Jose's Bay and ends in Grand Bay. It is used much by small boats as a short cut from Point aux Chenes Bay to Grand Bay. A boat drawing two feet can safely go through at mean low water. This information was obtained from a fisherman who camped there for years.

SOUTH RIGOLETS. This bayou is used much the same as the North Rigolets, but since it has not as much water only skiffs go through and then at high tide.

BAYOU LA FOURCHE, BAYOU HERON, and LITTLE RIVER are used for fishing as are a good many other anonymous bayous in Grand Bay.

SURVEY METHODS. All work on both sheets was done by plane table except that included between Pascagoula River and West Pascagoula River, and south of the L.& N. R. R. which was done by sextant topography. This was due to the fact that the land thus included is so marshy and covered with tall grass that a plane table was impossible to be used to advantage.

Not all low water marks are shown since that can only be obtained at certain times (i.e. at low tide). Moreover, the sticky mud makes it extremely difficult to bog over and one can not stand for any length of time without continually sinking.

LOCAL NAMES. The local names that appear on the chart were secured by me from the oldest and most experienced fishermen and then corroborated by other natives. As far as possible I tired to get the origin of these names. I succeeded in securing but a few, however. The following are well established names whose origin I could not ascertain:-

Middle River, Pt. Tousaine, Twin Islands, Rabbit Island, Rail Road Corner, Bayou Chicot, Crooked Bayou, North Rigolets, South Rigolets, L'Islet Chaude, L'Islet Chaude Bayou, Middle Bay, Little Bay, Bayou la Fourche Bay, Southwest Bayou, Bull Bay Bayou, Point Caddy, Bayou Caddy, Grand Bayou, Snake Bayou, Bayou Combest, Clay Bayou, Middle Bayou, and Bayou Cameau.

The following are well established local names whose origin was ascertained:-

Dredge Bayou. So named because it was dredged.
Irvin's Lake. Names after C. T. Irvin, owner of a log camp on Pascagoula River who used this lake to float his logs.

Brown's Bayou. Named after Brown who camped on this bayou for years.

Barton Island. Named after Barton who tried to settle on the island, his attempt proving a failure, tho he lived there for years.

Jose's Bay, Island and Bayou. These are named after Jose an oyster watchman who camped in this section for years. Jose's Island is not an actual island but a shell bank and oyster bed.

Thefollowing are well established local names in present use which conflict with the names used on previous charts for the corresponding places:-

Lac la Buche. This is the present name for the lake indicated on previous charts as Lac la Butte. The spelling I could not ascertain but the spelling used is the closest, the "u" being pronounced as in French.

Bang's Bayou and Lake. These are the respective names in present ~~time~~ use for Pt. Clear Bayou and Lake found on previous charts. The natives have never heard of any other names. These as well as Bang's Island were named after Bang who owned much property, lived, and camped here.

Grant's Lake and Bayou. These are indicated on previous charts as Lake Yazoo, which the natives have never heard of and are named after Grant who owned the grounds about them.

Comynie Bayou. This bayou is indicated on previous charts as Bayou Pichot. It is named after the Delcomyn family who owned property in the vicinity.

Delmas Bayou. On previous charts shown as Bayou la Butte. It is named after the Delmas family.

Middle River Cut Off. This is the present name of that which is shown on previous charts as "The Gap".

Les Grandes Isles. These are at present known as Twin Islands and Rabbit Island.

Bayou la Fourche. This represents the water shown on the present chart instead of the area included on previous charts.

Bayou Coden. Bayou Coq'D'Inde on previous charts has been anglosized to its present form.

Bayou la Batre. This is the bayou shown as Bayou Battry on previous charts. Various spellings for this bayou are current as Bayou la Batre, Bayou La Batre, and the form adpoted. The correct French is as is spelled in the first form and the more educated villagers use it. The post office, however, having adpoted the form Labatre, I accepted that.

L'Isle aux Dames. Though L'Isle au d'ame shown on previous charts is pronounced in the same way as the form I have adopted, it vblates the rules of French Grammar, the language from which it is derived and at the same time means nothing, as it is intranslatable. Moreover, one fisherman had heard it called the ladies island, which is in accord with the form I have adopted.

In general old local names are of French origin and are descriptive of the feature named (i.e. Grand Batture Island, descriptive of the sand bar (batture) surrounding it). Most of these names are still retained though some have been anglosized (i.e. Coq' d'Inde now Coden). Names newly coined as a rule are English and are named after a person connected with the feature (i.e. Barton Id., Brown's Bayou, etc.), though some are descriptive (i.e. Rail Road Corner, Middle River Cut Off).

Jose's Island, Devil's Island, Mitchel Island, L'Islet Chaude Island are not actual islands but oyster banks and grounds with clumps of shrubbery and trees about them. These "islands" are good oyster grounds.

MISCELLANEOUS. The shell banks on the sheets are marked in red for two reasons; First, I could find no individual symbol for them, and secondly the shell banks in this vicinity are important, for when the sun shines upon them, they become prominent aids to inshore and even offshore navigation. A fine illustration is the oyster house east of Bayou la Batre which can be seen about eight miless offshore owing to the fact that it stands on any oyster shell bank with a black background of trees and marsh.

PETIS BOIS ISLAND. The part of Petit Bois Island shown dashed was shown fully by Mr. Witherbee who surveyed it. Several months later, however, after the September storm, I had occasion to run a traverse in that vicinity, and at that time found that the area included was awash at high water. The area indicated is only approximate, no rod readings having been taken to determine it.

ROADS. The roads around Bayou la Batre and Coden are in the main sketched in. Only as much as could be seen from the shore was actually rodded in.

Respectfully submitted,

by Nathan Cherniack

Aid, U. S. C. & G. Survey.

APPROVED:

H. B. Williams

H.& G. Engineer, U. S. C. & G. Survey,
Commanding Str. HYDROGRAPHER.

LIST OF PLANE TABLE POSITIONS TO ACCOMPANY SHEET "D".

Station	Lat.	D. M.	Long.	D. P.	Description.
Pine	30° - 13'	8.0	88° - 34'	888.5	Pine tree with triangu-
		1839.5		716.5	lar blaze and 4 nails.
					Horn Island.
Ham	30° - 13'	777.5	88° - 36'	22.0	12' iron pipe; 8' in the
		1070.0		1582.9	ground on top of sand
					dune.
Bad	30° - 13'	1468.5	88° - 37'	830.9	Deserted house on Horn
		380.0		774.0	Island.
Coon	30° - 13'	1306.5	88° - 39'	383.6	Pole and target on sand
		541.0		1221.3	dune at S. end cut thru
					trees. Horn Island.
How	30° - 14'	1448.0	88° - 41'	1407.3	Club house on Horn Is.
		399.5		196.0	
Tank Gautier	30° - 22'	1239.0	88° - 36'	1242.4	Water tank at Gautier P. R.
		608.5		359.8	Station.
Eat	30° - 21'	1258.0	88° - 38'	703.0	Flagpole in front of
		589.5		899.5	large white house.
Tree	30° - 13'	1392.0	88° - 37'	360.0	2 trees near together on
		455.5		1244.6	Horn Id. Blown down Sept.
					1917.
Joe	30° - 17'	900.0	88° - 35'	350.0	White boat house on
		947.5		1253.5	Round Island.
Cap	30° - 20'	1210.0	88° - 41'	1593.0	Flagpole in front of gree
		637.5		9.7	house at Bell Fontaine.
Dan	30° - 21'	420.0	88° - 40'	1496.0	Banner on pole.
		1427.5		106.4	
Shack	30° - 21'	1198.0	88° - 39'	507.0	Shack east of grave line.
		649.5		1095.4	
Lot No.2	30° - 13'	312.0	88° - 32'	1462.0	Tree E. end of Horn Id.
		1535.5		142.6	Blew down Sept,1917,mark-
					ed by 12' pipe,6' in grd.
Striped Buoy	30° - 14'	664.0	88° - 38'	1280.0	North of triangulation
		1183.5		324.6	Station Shoe.
Red Nun #10.	30° - 14'	640.0	88° - 39'	904.0	
		1207.5		700.4	
Red Nun #8c	30° - 13'	1441.0	88° - 34'	1280.0	
		406.5		324.6	
* Black Can #15	30° - 14'	200.0	88° - 38'	238.0	
		1647.5		1366.4	
* Black Can #13	30° - 13'	1707.0	88° - 37'	374.0	
		140.5		1230.6	
* Black Can #11	30 - 13'	1803.0	88 - 35'	1510.0	
		44.5		94.6	

* Note:- These buoys were located previous to storm of September, 1917. These positions were used for hydrography up to September 24, 1917. Later locations are by sextant fixes after placing of freshly painted buoys by lighthouse tender.

LIST OF PLANE TABLE POSITIONS TO ACCOMPANY TOPO SHEET "E".

Signal					
Slim	30° - 12'	501 1346	88° - 23'	1153 452	Signal temporarily put up for inshore hydrography. Not marked.
Murt	30° - 12'	544 1303	88° - 24'	753 852	Same as above.
May	30° - 12'	216 1631	88° - 27'	309 1296	Same as above. (Destroyed in Sept. storm.
May 2	30° - 12'	210 1637	88° - 27'	942 663	Signal temporarily put up for inshore hyd. Not marked.
Lad	30° - 12'	439 1408.5	88° - 28'	153 1452	Do. (Destroyed in Sept. Storm.)
Lad 3	30° - 12'	469 1378.5	88° - 28'	503 1102	Signal temporarily put up for inshore hyd. Not marked.
Jar					The first reference mark for △ "Wet".
Al	30° - 11'	1620.5 227	88° - 26'	974 631	Temporary signal put up for inshore hyd. Not marked.
Oat	30 °- 19'	1587 260	88° - 33'	532 1071	A day mark in the Pascagoula River channel.
Nut	30° - 18'	467 1380	88° - 31'	1231 372	Do.
Bum	30° - 17'	1346 501	88° - 31'	399 1204	Do.
Brim	30° - 20'	1022 825	88° - 26'	1222 381	Temporary signal put up for inshore hyd. Not marked.
Mar	30° - 23'	674 1173	88° - 20'	1340 262	Do.
Rai	30° - 23'	1827 20	88° - 20'	965 638	Do.
Gab	30° - 22'	1438 409	88° - 15'	1283 309	West gable of oyster house East of Bayou la Batre.
Mud	30° - 23'	1303 544	88° - 19'	355 1247	Temporary signal put up for inshore hyd. Not marked.
Tin	30° - 12'	1029 818.5	88° - 22'	136.5 1468.5	Do.
Sit	30° - 12'	751 1096.5	88° - 22'	1309 296	Do.
Run	30° - 12'	580 1267.5	88° - 23'	948 657	Do.
Nit	30° - 12'	409 1438.5	88° - 26'	731 874	Do.
Draw	30° - 22'	182 1665.5	88° - 33'	1292 310	L.& N. R. R. draw bridge across Pascagoula River. Center tower.

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DESCRIPTIVE REPORT.

To accompany photographs of topograchic sheets, vicinity of Pascagoula, Miss. L 3703

The railroad from West Pascagoula River to Pascagoula River runs over a solid embankment, carrying a double track, and which is bulkheaded the entire distance with no openings between the two rivers.

North of the R.R. embankment, a wagon road has been built connecting with a ferry at the Pascagoula end and a new bridge over West Pascagoula River as indicated. This road is on an embankment, bulkheaded with openings only where bridges are indicated.

North of the Wagon Road and close to it, a canal for small boats has been dredged from river to river, this canal is about 30 feet wide and has a depth of two feet at low water.

The rest of the topography between the rivers seems to be unchanged from that represented on the photographs sent to me and returned herewith with above corrections indicated.

J. D. Dantelle
Inspector U.S.C. & G. Survey

Form 537a
11—5813

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
U. S. COAST AND GEODETIC SURVEY

TOPOGRAPHIC TITLE SHEET

The finished Topographic Sheet is to be accompanied by the following title sheet, filled in as completely as possible, when the sheet is forwarded to the Office.

U. S. Coast and Geodetic Survey.

Register No. Sheet ("E") 3702

State . Mississippi and Alabama. . . . . .

General locality Mississippi Sound. . . . . .

Locality . . Pascagoula, Miss. to Bayou Cameau. . . . . .

Chief of party . H. A. Seran and F. B. T. Siems. . . . . .

Surveyed by M.O. Witherbee, L.P. Raynor and N. Cherniack. .

Date of survey . August, 1917 to December 1917 . . . . . .

Scale . . . . . 1:40,000 . . . . . .

Heights in feet above . . . . . .

Contour interval . . . . feet.

Inked by Nathan Cherniack E.H. Bernstein Lettered by N. Cherniack. . . . . .

Records accompanying sheet (check those forwarded): Photographs,

Descriptive report ✓, Horizontal angle books, Field computations,

Data from other sources affecting sheet . . . . . .

Remarks:

Names obtained from natives.

Form 537a
11—5813

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
U. S. COAST AND GEODETIC SURVEY

TOPOGRAPHIC TITLE SHEET

The finished Topographic Sheet is to be accompanied by the following title sheet, filled in as completely as possible, when the sheet is forwarded to the Office.

U. S. Coast and Geodetic Survey.

Register No. Sheet (D.) 3703

State . Mississippi. . . . . .

General locality . ~~Coast of~~ Missisippi Sound. . . . .

Locality . Belle Fontaine Point to Pascagoula, including Horn Is.

Chief of party . H. A. Seran and F. B. T. Siems. . . . . .

Surveyed by . Max O. Witherbee and Nathan Cherniack. . . .

Date of survey August to September, 1917. . . . . .

Scale . . . . 1: 40,000 . . . . . .

Heights in feet above . . . . . .

Contour interval . . . . feet.

Inked by Nathan Cherniack Lettered by . Nathan Cherniack. . .

Records accompanying sheet (check those forwarded): Photographs,

Descriptive report ✓, Horizontal angle books, Field computations,

Data from other sources affecting sheet . Local information .

Sheet D' (topo.) executed by another party and to be forwarded later in cludes the remaining topography in Eastern Miss. Sound.

Remarks: Local names of waters, islands, etc. not indicated on previous chart or not corresponding to those indicated on chart were obtained from native local fishermen continually using the said waters, islands and points.

applied to IWW #874, 9-17-46, CRH
" " " #875, 11-21-46, CRH