

4614

Form 504
Ed. June, 1928

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
U. S. COAST AND GEODETIC SURVEY
R. S. Patton, Director

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DESCRIPTIVE REPORT

Topographic | Sheet No. B 4614
Hydrographic

LOCALITY

Houston Ship Channel

Vicinity of Morgan Point

1931

CHIEF OF PARTY

John A. Bond, H. & G. E.

4614

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
U. S. COAST AND GEODETIC SURVEY
R. S. PATTON, DIRECTOR

Project No. 68
1930-31

Descriptive Report
to
Accompany
TOPOGRAPHIC SHEET B
of
HOUSTON SHIP CHANNEL AND VICINITY
TEXAS

John A. Bond, H. and G. E., U. S. C. and G. S.
Chief of Party

Descriptive Report to Accompany Topographic Sheet B
Houston Ship Channel, Texas

INSTRUCTIONS.

The topography on sheet B is a part of Project No. 68, the instructions for which were dated July 24th, 1930.

LIMIT AND SCALE.

Surveyed on a scale of 1/5000, the sheet covers the shore line of Upper Galveston Bay north of Ash Point and areas adjacent to the Houston Ship Channel as far north as the south neck of Hog Island. The sheet joins sheet C on the northwest and sheet A on the southeast.

CONTROL AND SURVEY METHODS.

Usual plane table survey methods were employed. Positions were obtained mainly from resections and three point fixes, with but two short traverses on the sheet.

Traverse No. 1 was a 1000 meter traverse between triangulation stations Allen and Right, with a closing error of one meter in distance. No adjustment was made. Traverse No. 2 was between triangulation stations Shore and Evergreen, a distance of 1865 meters, and closed with an error of 10 meters, caused mainly by large sheet distortion due to very unfavorable weather conditions. An adjustment was made in the field by setting up the plane table at triangulation station Wet and cutting in the plane table stations on the traverse. The detail and shore line was then adjusted between plane table stations.

The control consisted of twenty triangulation stations of a 2nd order scheme very adequately spaced upon the sheet.

All elevations on this sheet are known to be ^{0.5 ft high} ~~3/10~~ foot low; none of them have been corrected. (and memo of Feb. 28, 1934 from Dir. of T. & C.) See explanation in Descriptive Report, Sheet A. (T4613)

GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF TOPOGRAPHIC FEATURES.

The shore line of upper Galveston Bay, between Evergreen Pt. and Ash Pt., is very ragged with numerous small marshes reaching from the foot of a steep slope to the shore line. On top of the hill is a heavy stand of oak, elm and a few bitter pecans. The slope is covered with a scattered growth of mesquite and brush except at the eastern extremity of the sheet where a prominent twenty foot grass covered slope is seen from the bay.

The portion of Tabbs Bay shown on this sheet is completely filled with oil wells, and their necessary derricks, sheds, pipelines and runways built up on piling. The shore line of Tabbs Bay is covered with a thick coating of crude oil.

A proposed highway is to extend across Tabbs Bay from Evergreen Point. It will cross the low marsh on the eastern tip of Hog Island and extend down its southern arm to a point opposite Atkinson Island where a ferry will operate to Morgan Point. Several of the location stakes are shown on the sheet.

The eastern and central part of Atkinson Island is covered with a 2 ft. growth of salt marsh grass. The western edge of

the island is composed mainly of dredge dumps covered with large dense clumps of a 6 to 9 ft. growth locally known as "coffee bean". This growth is perennial in nature. The narrow sand and shell spit forming the south part of Atkinson Island has been built up by dredge spoil from the adjacent Ship Channel.

The U. S. E. base line stakes on Atkinson Island, with the exception of concrete monument 0+00, which has been located as triangulation station End, are all wooden stakes driven flush with the ground.

There are many crabbing piers of a temporary nature as well as sheds and small cottages on Morgan Point. The flat at the extreme Point is gradually being raised by the dredge spoil from the channel.

The area to the southwest of Morgan Point cut is the site of many fine summer homes. Many of the homes have docks of a permanent nature extending out from 1000 to 1800 feet from their property.

Attention is called to the large pile of granite rocks at the edge of the ship channel about 120 meters south of Beacon 28. These rocks form a 10 x 18 meter pile 5 feet in height.

A project is now under way to widen the cut at Morgan Point. The work is under the jurisdiction of the Army Engineers and is expected to be completed by the end of the present year.

COMPARISON WITH PREVIOUS SURVEYS.

The three small islands to the east of the ship channel and to the south of Hog Island as shown on chart 532 now form a continuous arm of land.

Several small ponds shown on chart 532 in the vicinity of the ship channel at Morgan Point do not exist.

Since the previous survey a low narrow shell reef has been formed to the north of Cedar Bayou Channel, midway between Atkinson Island and Ash Point. It extends one-half foot above mean high tide.

The lower portion of what is charted as San Jacinto River, from Lynchburg to Morgan Point, is known locally as Houston Ship Channel.

All buoys shown on the sheet have been accurately located and there are no buoys in the area surveyed which are not shown.

NEW NAMES.

All names shown on the sheet have been taken from chart 532, with the exception of "Tabbs Bay" for the bay between Evergreen Point, Goose Creek and Hog Island, which name is well established in local usage.

LANDMARKS.

A list of landmarks for charts which contains the positions

of prominent objects and all beacons and ranges will be forwarded under separate cover.

Respectfully submitted.

Edmund L. Jones

Washington, D.C.,
October 20, 1931.

Edmund L. Jones
Aid, U.S.C. and G.S.

Approved:

John A. Bond
John A. Bond, H. and G.E.,
Chief of Party, U.S.C. and G.S.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
U. S. COAST AND GEODETIC SURVEY

REG. NO. 4614

TOPOGRAPHIC TITLE SHEET

The Topographic Sheet should be accompanied by this form, filled in as completely as possible, when the sheet is forwarded to the Office.

Field No. B

REGISTER NO. **4614**

State Texas

General locality Houston Ship Channel

Locality Morgan Point and vicinity

Scale 1/5000 Date of survey December, 1930, 19

Vessel Lorraine

Chief of Party H. B. Campbell
John A. Bond

Surveyed by Edmund L. Jones

Inked by Edmund L. Jones

Heights in feet above M.H.W. to ground ~~to tops of trees~~

Contour, ~~Approximate contour~~, ~~Form line~~ interval 20 feet

Instructions dated July 24, 1931, 19

Remarks: