

4618

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Form 504

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

U. S. COAST AND GEODETIC SURVEY

R. S. Patton Director

State: Texas

DESCRIPTIVE REPORT

Topographic } Sheet No. F 4618
Hydrographic }

LOCALITY

Houston Ship Channel

Lynchburg and Vicinity

1930-31

~~1930~~

CHIEF OF PARTY

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

GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE

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

Project No. 68
1930-31

Descriptive Report
to
Accompany
TOPOGRAPHIC SHEET F
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 F

Houston Ship Channel, Texas

INSTRUCTIONS.

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

LIMITS AND SCALE.

Surveyed on a scale of 1/5000, the sheet covers the shore line of the Houston Ship Channel in the vicinity of Lynchburg, together with Burnett Bay and portions of Crystal Lake, San Jacinto River and Old River. The sheet joins sheet E on the southeast and sheet G on the west.

CONTROL AND SURVEY METHODS.

Usual plane table survey methods were employed. Positions were obtained mainly from three point fixes and resections, with a small amount of graphic triangulation in the vicinity of Old River and Lost Lake. There were no stadia traverses on this sheet.

The control consisted of 20 triangulation stations adequately spaced upon the sheet.

A series of air photos of the Houston Ship Channel will be forwarded under separate cover, and should prove useful in supplying interior detail which could not be economically covered by plane table methods. The area included on this sheet is covered by photos Nos. 26 to 31.

In most cases the low water line shown on the sheet has been drawn from information obtained during the hydrographic survey.

All elevations on this sheet are known to be ^{0.5 ft high} ~~5/10 feet low~~; none of them have been corrected. See explanation[✓] in Descriptive Report, Sheet A. (T4613) *(and memo of Feb. 28, 1934 from Dir. of T.S.C.)*

At a few places where there was a good agreement with the U.S. G.S. survey of 1915 small sections of the 20 ft. contour were drawn on the sheet without the usual survey methods.

At no place was an extra plane table station established in-shore solely to delineate the 20 ft. contour.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF TOPOGRAPHIC FEATURES.

The topography on this sheet is varied. The area along the ship channel is covered with many low sand and clay dredge dumps, with a scant growth of vegetation. Much of the shore line of the bays, lakes and bayous is very marshy. The high ground on the eastern edge of Burnett Bay is heavily wooded with elm, oak and pine. Some magnolia and cedar, in addition to oak and pine, is found between Old River and Carpenter Bayou. A small amount of palmetto borders the shore line of Hog Island in San Jacinto River.

Special attention is called to the rushes growing outside of the high water line in Burnett Bay, Old River and San Jacinto River. The outer edge is indicated on the sheet by a dashed line.

Texas State Park, the site of the battle in 1836 between Sam Houston's Texas army and the Mexican army under General Santa Anna has many acres of well kept park land in addition to several miles of concrete and shell roads. The docks on the ship channel, in the vicinity of triangulation station Flag are of a concrete and creosoted timber type and are in good repair. They are publicly owned and are for pleasure craft only.

The two ferries shown on the sheet, one at Lynchburg and the other about one mile to the west, are owned and operated by Harris County. There are no charges on either of these ferries.

A general store having telephone facilities is to be found at Lynchburg. Only the most prominent buildings and tanks in this area are shown on the sheet.

The U.S.E. base line extends along the south shore of the ship channel in the central portion of the sheet. At base line station 528 + 03.46, near topographic signal Gab, the base line crosses to the opposite shore and continues to the west limits of the sheet. The station numbers on the base line are distances measured on the center line of the channel from the zero at Morgan Point. Markers are set along the shore line which are normal to their corresponding points on the center line. The markers are bronze discs set in concrete every 500 feet, with iron pipes or wooden stakes at intermediate 100 ft. stations.

COMPARISON WITH PREVIOUS SURVEYS.

The land areas adjacent to the ship channel have undergone many changes due to extensive dredging operations on the channel.

The 20 ft. contour of a knoll located about 250 meters north of the mouth of Carpenter Bayou is not shown on chart 532. This knoll is shown on the U.S.G.S. survey but does not conform closely to its present shape.

Only a fair agreement existed between the 20 ft. contour as surveyed on this sheet and the U.S.G.S. survey of 1915.

The shore line of all of the bays, lakes and bayous shown has undergone many small changes.

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

The portion of the ship channel that is charted as Buffalo Bayou and San Jacinto River is known locally as Houston Ship Channel.
NEW NAMES.

All names shown on the sheet have been taken from chart 532, with the exception of "Texas State Park", 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.

Washington, D.C.,
November 13, 1931.

Edmund L. Jones
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

TOPOGRAPHIC TITLE SHEET

U. S. COAST & GEODETIC SURVEY LIBRARY AND ARCHIVES
NOV 23 1931
Acc. No. _____

REG. NO. 4618

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. F

REGISTER NO. 4618

State Texas

General locality Houston Ship Channel

Locality Lynchburg and Vicinity

Scale 1/5000 Date of survey February, 1931, 19

Vessel _____

Chief of Party John A. Bond

Surveyed by Edmund L. Jones

Inked by E. L. Jones, H. W. Murray

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, 1930, 19

Remarks: _____