Form 504  
Rev. Dec. 1933  
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
U.S. COAST AND GEODETIC SURVEY  
R. S. PATTON, Director  

**DESCRIPTIVE REPORT**  
Topographic | Sheet No. 7

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**State**: Texas  

**Locality**  

- Matagorda Bay  
- Caranakah Bay  

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1935  
CHIEF OF PARTY  
E. O. Heaton  

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U.S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE: 1934
applied to ch. 1284 Jan 19, 1938 J.G.H.
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. X

REGISTER NO. 4927

State: Texas

General locality: Coast of Texas Matagorda Bay

Locality: Caranahua Bay

Scale: 1:20,000 Date of survey: Feb.-Mar., 1935

Project: HT-118

Chief of party: Earl O. Heaton

Surveyed by: J. W. Somers

Inked by: J. W. Somers

Heights in feet above M.E.W. to ground:Texas State Plane Coordinate System

Contour, Approximate contour, Form line interval: feet

Instructions dated: Nov. 5, 1932, Nov. 16, 1933

Remarks:

...
DESCRIPTIVE REPORT
TO ACCOMPANY TOPOGRAPHIC SHEET Y
Northern Part of Carancahua Bay
Project: HT-118
Instructions Dated Nov. 5, 1932 & Nov. 16, 1933
E. O. Heaton, H. & C. Engr., Chief of Party
J. W. Somers, Topographer
Scale: 1:20,000

Purpose of Survey:
This topographic survey of the northern part of Carancahua Bay was necessary because the Photo-topographic sheets compiled by the party of Ensign T. M. Price did not extend north far enough to cover this area.

General Description of the Coast:
The shore of Carancahua Bay north of Lat. 28° 40' is in general a narrow sand and shell beach at the foot of a clay bluff bank which varies in height from three to fifteen feet, with the exception of a few small areas, where marsh extends to the bayshore.
A large part of the country is open prairie and chaparral pasture land. A small portion of the area covered by this sheet is cultivated.
Only boats of shallow draft (4 ft. or less) can navigate this part of Carancahua Bay. The first objects noticed when entering this part of Carancahua Bay are: the settlements at Fort Alto and Carancahua. The principal objects useful to navigation are: Slaileu's house, a two story frame house, at Carancahua; Sell's house, a one story (frame building; the gasoline station at Jack's Camp (C Store); and Weed's ranch house, a two story frame building. There is an electric light (C Light) on the roof of Weed's house which is a privately maintained beacon.

Landmarks:
Sell's house, cupola
Weed's house, light
Slaileu's house, chimney

Character of Control Used:
This sheet is controlled by one first order triangulation station, three second order triangulation stations, five third order triangulation stations, and plane table traverse.

Closing Errors and Methods of Adjustment:
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Traverse</th>
<th>Closing Error (meters)</th>
<th>Distance (miles)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bay to Mitchell's Monument</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>4.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mitchell's Monument to Mitchell's Monument,</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>5.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>via Mex, Art, Light, Bon, &amp; Bend</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mitchell's Monument to Slaileu</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>5.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Slaileu to Stake (3-pt.-fix)</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1.3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
All traverse lines adjusted as prescribed in Special Publication 144.

Junction with Other Work:
The shore line on this sheet was compared with the shore line on Photo-topographic sheet Register #555 at Lat. 28° 40.6', Long. 96° 23.5' and Lat. 28° 40.0, Long. 96° 24.5'. The shore line of the two sheets agree satisfactorily.
Geographic Names:
The following well established local names do not appear on chart

#1284:
Port Alto (See Photo-topographic sheet Register No.5355)
Five Mile Branch, Lat. 28° 42.5', Long. 96° 23'

Changes in Geographic Names:
The village of Carancahua no longer exists, the Post Office and store having been removed in about 1927, however, the locality still retains
the name. It is suggested that the name be retained as shown on this sheet,
and the village symbol be removed from the chart.

List of Plane-table Positions:
○Pet----windmill
○Mex----chimney, center of house
○Art----east chimney, white house
○Light----electric light on top of house
○Bend----windmill
○Store----south gable, gasoline station
○Lew----windmill
○LoF----west gable, house
○Cat----chimney
○Cab----west gable, cottage

Changes in Shore Line:
The shore line on this sheet was compared with the shore line on chart
#1284, which was taken to represent the latest previous survey. The follow-
ing discrepancies were noted:
At Lat. 28° 41', long. 96° 25.3' the shore line has receded 46 m. W.
" " 28° 41.4', " 96° 25' " " " " " 40 m. N.
" " 28° 42', " 96° 24.6' " " " " " 87 m. W.
" " 28° 45', " 96° 24.4' " " " " " 31 m. W.
" " 28° 43', " 96° 24.7' " " " " " 30 m. E.
" " 28° 43.53', " 96° 24.35' " " " " built out 100 m. N.
" " 28° 43.1', " 96° 26' " " " " built out 56 m. W.
" " 28° 43.4', " 96° 25' " " " " receded 20 m. N.
" " 28° 43.23', " 96° 23.2' " " " " " 44 m. E.
" " 28° 42.6', " 96° 23.6' " " " " " 209 m. E.
" " 28° 42', " 96° 23.4' " " " " " 79 m. E.
" " 28° 41', " 96° 23.7' " " " " " 19 m. E.

These discrepancies have been corrected for difference in datum as
follows:
Well Pt. (1856, 1906) Lat. 28° 38' plus 359.5m.; Long. 96° 19' plus 604.2
" " (1934) " " 28° 38' 261.8 ; " 96° 19' 583.0
-2.3 m. plus 21.2 m

Character of Marsh:
The marsh areas shown on sheet Y are typical salt marshes. The land
is composed of a black sand-clay and is covered with a rank growth of salt
grass and weeds. About 30% of the marsh shown on this sheet is covered by
M.H.W.

Inspected and approved: Respectfully submitted,
Clarence R. Reed, Observer
Aid, C. & G.S.
J. W. Somers,
Observer
**GEOGRAPHIC NAMES**

**Survey No.** 74927

**Chart No.** 1284

**Diagram No.** 1284

Date: 18 June, 1935

**Texas**

Approved by the Division of Geographic Names, Department of Interior. 

Referred to the Division of Geographic Names, Department of Interior. 

Under investigation.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Status</th>
<th>Name on Survey</th>
<th>Name on Chart</th>
<th>New Names in local use</th>
<th>Names assigned by Field</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Caracahua</td>
<td>✔</td>
<td>Same</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Caracahua Bay</td>
<td>✔</td>
<td>Karenkawa Bay</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Port Alto</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Matagorda Bay</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Five Mile Branch</td>
<td>✔</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Approved: 

W. U. FLEMMER
REVIEW OF TOPOGRAPHIC SURVEY No. 4927

Title (Par. 56) Carrancahu Bay, Texas

Chief of Party E.O. Nelon Surveyed by J.W. Samers Inked by J.W. Samers

Ship Shore Party Instructions dated Nov. 14, 1933 Surveyed in Feb. - March 1935

1. The survey and preparation for it conform to the requirements of the Topographic Manual. (Par. 7, 8, 9, 13, 16.)

2. The character and scope of the survey satisfy the instructions.

3. The control and closures of traverses were adequate. (Par. 12, 29.)

4. The amount of vertical control that the Manual specifies for contours form lines was accomplished. (Par. 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23.)

5. The delineation of contours form lines is satisfactory. (Par. 40, 50.)

6. There is sufficient control on maps from other sources that were transmitted by the field party to enable their application to the charts. (Par. 28.) None submitted

7. High water line on marshy and mangrove coast is clear and adequate for chart compilation. (Par. 16a, 43, 44.)

8. The representation of low water lines, reefs, coral reefs and rocks, and legends pertaining to them is satisfactory. (Par. 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41.)

9. Reefs and other important details shown on previous surveys and on the chart were verified. (Par. 25, 25, 27.) See reverse side

10. The span, draw and clearance of bridges are shown. (Par. 16a.)

11. Locations and elevations of summits are given. (Par. 19, 51.)

12. The tree line was shown on mountains. (Par. 16c.)

NOTE: Strike out paragraphs, words or phrases not applicable and modify those requiring it. Paragraph numbers refer to those in the Topographic Manual. Use reverse side for extending remarks.
Paragraph 9

The topography on the East and West sides of Carancahua Bay on H1095 (1871) was no doubt taken from T737 (1856) and T645 (1857). The remainder of the topography on H1095 is original with that survey.

The topography from H1095, T645 and T737 has been applied to Chart 1294.

In the locality of Carancahua Bay the topography has changed in several places. These Changes have been accurately tabulated on page 2 of the Descriptive Report of the present survey.

T4927 supersedes T645, T737 and H1095 in part.
13. The descriptive report covers all details listed in the Manual, in so far as they apply to this survey. (Par. 64, 65, 66, 67.)

14. The descriptive report also contains additional information required in aero-topography relative to type of photographs, method of compilation and type of ground control.

15. The descriptions of recoverable stations and references to shore line were accomplished on Form 524. (Par. 29, 30, 57, 67 except scaling of DNs and DPs, 68.) 10 cards submitted

16. A list of landmarks for charts was furnished on Form 567 and plotting checked. (Par. 16d, e, 60.) Not furnished on Form 567 nor were geographic positions for same submitted

17. The magnetic meridian was shown and declination was checked. (Par. 17, 52.) No note of having checked declinative

18. The geographic datum of the sheet is NAD 1927 (Adjusted) and the reference station is correctly noted. (Par. 34.)

19. Junctions with contemporary surveys are adequate.

20. Geographic names are shown on the sheet and are covered by the Descriptive report. (Par. 64, 66.)

21. The quality of the drafting is fair. (Par. 31, 32, 33, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50.) H.W. and L.W. lines too light

22. No additional surveying is recommended.

23. The Chief of Party inspected and approved the sheet and the descriptive report after review by

24. Remarks:

Reviewed in office by Chas. R. Buell, June 12, 1936.

Examined and approved:

E. H. Green
Chief, Section of Field Records

Fred L. Peacock
Chief, Section of Field Work

J. O. Hollis
Chief, Division of Charts

Frederick
Chief, Division of Hyd. and Top.