U. S. COAST AND GEODETIC SURVEY
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

DESCRIPTIVE REPORT

Type of Survey: PLANIMETRIC

Field No.: Ph-21(47) Office No.: T-9027

LOCALITY

State: LOUISIANA

General locality: LOUISIANA COAST

Locality: ATCHAFALAYA BAY-TURTLE BAYOU -

INTRACOASTAL WATERWAY

194' 50

CHIEF OF PARTY
C. W. Clark, Chief of Field Party.
A. L. Wardwell, Tampa Photogrammetric Office.

LIBRARY & ARCHIVES

DATE: Feb 9 - 1953
DATA RECORD

Project No. (II): Ph-2147

Quadrangle Name (IV): Turtle Bayou

Field Office (II): Morgan City, La.

Chief of Party: Charles W. Clark

Photogrammetric Office (III): Tampa, Fla.

Officer-in-Charge: Arthur L. Wardwell

Instructions dated (II) (III): February 12, 1948

Copy filed in Division of Photogrammetry (IV)

Method of Compilation (III): Graphic

Manuscript Scale (III): 1: 20,000

Stereoscopic Plotting Instrument Scale (III): Inapplicable

Scale Factor (III): None

Date received in Washington Office (IV): 3-24-50

Date reported to Nautical Chart Branch (IV): 3-24-50

Date received in Washington Office (IV): 3-24-50

Date registered (IV): 6-16-50

Publication Scale (IV): 1:70,000

Publication Date (IV): Issue - Oct 1950

Geographic Datum (III): N.A. 1927

Vertical Datum (III): M.H.W.

Mean Sea Level except as follows:
Elevations shown as (26) refer to mean high water
Elevations shown as (27) refer to sounding datum
i.e., mean low water or mean lower low water

Reference Station (III): TURTLE, 1934

Lat.: 29° 34' 05.260(162.0m)

Long.: 91° 04' 06.949 (187.1m)

Plane Coordinates (IV):

State: Louisiana Zone: South

X =

Roman numerals indicate whether the item is to be entered by (II) Field Party, (III) Photogrammetric Office,
or (IV) Washington Office.

When entering names of personnel on this record give the surname and initials, not initials only.
Areas contoured by various personnel
(Show name within area)
(II) (III)
DATA RECORD

Field Inspection by (II): John S. Howell
Date: May 1948

Planetary contouring by (II): Inapplicable
Date: 

Completion Surveys by (II): C.A. Navin
Date: August 1950

Mean High Water Location (III) (State date and method of location):

Date of Photographs 3/13/48 AIR PHOTO COMPI LATION
Date: Feb. 24, 1948

Date: Feb. 24, 1948

Projection and Grids checked by (IV): 

Date: March 21, 1949

Control plotted by (III): R.R. Wagner
Date: March 21, 1949

Control checked by (III): J.C. Richter
Date: March 28, 1949

Radial Plot compilation by (III): M.M. Slavney

Planimetry

Date: 

Stereoscopic instrument compilation (III):

Contours Inapplicable

Date: 

Manuscript delineated by (III): E.N. Cross
Date: April 11- May 12 1949

Photogrammetric Office Review by (III): J.A. Giles
Date: June, 1949

Elevations on Manuscript
checked by (II) (III): Inapplicable
Date: 
PHOTOGRAPHS (III)

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Tide (III)

No periodic tide

Reference Station:
Subordinate Station:
Subordinate Station:

Washington Office Review by (IV): L. Martin Sajick
Final Drafting by (IV): W. Taylor
Drafting verified for reproduction by (IV): C. Kupiec
Proof Edit by (IV): L. Martin Sajick

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Date: May 14, 1957
Date: Oct. 10, 1957
Date: Oct. 11, 1957
Date: 10-19-67

Land Area (Sq. Statute Miles) (III): 59
Shoreline (More than 200 meters to opposite shore) (III): None
Shoreline (Less than 200 meters to opposite shore) (III): 70.6 miles
Control Leveling: Miles (II): None
Number of Triangulation Stations searched for (II): 4
Number of BMs searched for (II): None
Number of Recoverable Photo Stations established (III): None
Number of Temporary Photo Hydro Stations established (III): None

Remarks:
Summary T-70-7

This planimetric survey is one of a series of 21 maps at scale 1:20,000 in the Gulf Coast area of Louisiana, except for T-9032 and T-9033, which are odd sizes, each is 7½ minutes in latitude and longitude.

The area covered by this project includes Houma, Louisiana, on the east, to Vermilion Bay on the west, and extends from the vicinity of the Intracoastal Waterway southward to Atchafalaya and Fourleague Bays.

Shoreline surveys for the Intracoastal Waterway of project Ph-11(46) at 1:10,000 scale, falling within the project, furnished some detailed information along both sides of the Waterway and for the planimetric maps of this project.

Adjoining this project to the west are 17 contemporary topographic quadrangles at 1:20,000 scale in project Ph-33(46). Adjoining to the east and covering the Intracoastal Waterway to Florida are a series of revision sheets at 1:20,000 scale of Project Ph-1(45). Bordering the three southernmost quadrangles of this project is an early photo compilation project completed in 1935.
FIELD INSPECTION REPORT
QUADRANGLES 9023, 9024, 9025, 9026, and 9027
PROJECT Ph-21(47)
MAY 1948

1. DESCRIPTION OF THE AREA

This block of five 7\(\frac{1}{2}\) minute quadrangles is bounded on the north by latitude 29° 37.5', on the east by longitude 91° 00', on the south by latitude 29° 30', and on the west by longitude 91° 37.5'. These limits embrace a land area of about 250 square statute miles. Important features in these quadrangles are, a portion of the Atchafalaya River, Wax Lake, Belle Isle, and the Bayou Sale district.

Wax Lake has been dredged by the U. S. Engineers and is now a portion of the lower Mississippi River drainage system. At the time of field inspection a large volume of water was being spilled down this waterway.

Belle Isle is the only prominent feature in this area. It is a large salt dome that rises about eighty feet and dominates the surrounding country. It is the site of an abandoned salt mine and the site of an active oil collecting point.

In the vicinity of Bayou Sale a major oil field has been discovered and the area now contains many producing wells. A unique feature of this field is the lack of permanent derricks and no pumping is necessary as is common to other fields.

In addition to oil, the area along Bayou Sale has long been established as a sugar cane producing area which has developed a narrow strip of populated country that parallels both sides of Bayou Sale.

2. COMPLETENESS OF FIELD INSPECTION

Field inspection is felt to be complete and adequate. Notes will be found on both sets of field prints
furnished the field party since the switch over to the second set of prints was made during the time of field inspection.

The field party has thoroughly inspected the area and by suitable notations, directly on the photographs, labeled and clarified detail. It is believed that sufficient notes have been made to enable the compiler to detail this area with no difficulty.

One area, the Bayou Sale district, is a highly developed oil field and contains nearly all the man made features in these quadrangles. This area was inspected by truck traveling along the roads and by boat moving along the shoreline.

In some cases where detail is not clear on one set of photographs, the compiler should refer to the corresponding picture in the other set.

3. **INTERPRETATION OF THE PHOTOGRAPHS**

Interpretation of the photographs should cause the compiler no difficulty. Although many photographic tones are visible in the marsh area, it must be remembered that the area is all marsh with the different types of marsh, or its having been burned over, causing the variation in tone.

When a thick growth of trees appear in the marsh area, these trees have resulted in the formation of a heavy swamp. Sufficient examples have been labeled to enable the compiler to select and outline these areas with no difficulty.

4. **HORIZONTAL CONTROL**

All U.S.C.& G.S. horizontal control stations within the limits of these quadrangles except those recovered on Project Ph-14(46) were searched for. If recovered, the station was identified on the photographs.

The identification of control at this season proved very difficult in that the water, near which most stations are located, was at a high stage and often flooded out much of the detail visible on the photographs. It was particularly difficult to identify small points of marsh and indentations on the shoreline.
A portion of the control was originally identified on the first set of photos furnished the field party and then transferred, at a later date, to the second and more recent set. The balance of the stations were identified on the most recent set of photographs.

It is believed that sufficient stations were positively identified to control the radial plot. No new stations were established.

Doubtful identification only was obtained on three stations as follows:
MYRTLE, 1933 - difficulty encountered identifying a sub-point.
SALT, 1933 - station destroyed; re-established point located.
TUCKY, 1933 - difficulty encountered transferring to new photo.

5. **VERTICAL CONTROL**

   (not applicable)

6. **CONTOURS AND DRAINAGE**

   Contouring was not required on this project.

   There is no definite drainage pattern within the limits of this area.

7. **MEAN HIGH WATER LINE**

   The shoreline is entirely apparent and is to be drawn as viewed or as labeled on the photographs.

8. **LOW WATER LINE**

   The first set of photographs was made at a time of extremely low water which resulted in a mud bank extending out from the apparent shoreline. This mud bank is normally covered by water.

   There is very little tidal effect in this area and the variations in water level is due to variations in the wind.

9. **WHARVES AND SHORELINE STRUCTURES**

   All wharves and shoreline structures were inspected
from a skiff, and suitable notations have been made on
the photographs.

10. DETAILS OFFSHORE FROM THE MEAN HIGH WATER LINE

Offshore detail was inspected from a small boat
and labeled where visible on the photographs. Detail not
visible was located by sextant fixes.

No detail requiring further investigation was
noted.

11. LANDMARKS AND AIDS TO NAVIGATION

One previously charted landmark (Belle Isle Salt
Works Stack, 1913) was visually inspected and it is
recommended for re-charting; in addition it is recommended
that the charting name be changed to "Stack" on Chart 1276.
(see attached chart section and Form 567).

All aids to navigation were either identified
on the photographs or located by sextant fixes. (see attached
Forms 567).

Shell Reef Light 3 (Atchafalaya River) was located
by identification on the photographs, supplemented by a
theodolite cut from Atchafalaya Channel Light 42 (see 9031).

East Bend Light 2 (Atchafalaya River) was located
by identification on the photographs, supplemented by a sextant
fix. A 1933 description by E. L. McU. of East Bend Light 2
(Atchafalaya River Beacon 2) is listed in Descriptions of
Triangulation Stations, No. 675, Louisiana Coast, Chenier le
Tigre to Oyster Bay Lighthouse, page 11. No geographic
position could be found for this light in the list of
Geographic Positions of this area. The light is not shown
as a triangulation station on the project index for Ph-21(47).

Atchafalaya River Light 5 and Sweet Bay Lake Light
7 are triangulation stations.

Atchafalaya River Light 9 was located on Project

Three lights, Nos. 1, 2, and 3; and six unnumbered
daybeacons at Bayou Sale Entrance, East Cote Blanche Bay, were
located by sextant fixes. The numbers of the lights in the
records are the numbers painted on the light. These three
lights and six beacons are privately maintained by the Texas Co. Bayou Sale Entrance Light 3 is about in the same location as the charted position of Atchafalaya Bay Daybeacon 12. The latter is to be deleted from Charts 1276, print date 6/15/46, and 1051, print date 6/12/47. Bayou Sale Entrance Lights 1, 2, and 4, and Daybeacons 5, 6, 7, and 8, charted on Chart 1276, 6/15/46, and listed on page 217 of the 1947 Light List, Intracoastal Waterway, are to be deleted. The daybeacons were replaced by six unnumbered daybeacons mentioned above. See attached Forms 567.

No inspection was made of aids to navigation outside the project limits south of Point Chevreuil.

Fixed aids to navigation within the limit of this report and charted on Chart 1276, print date 6/15/46, were investigated in the field and the result of this investigation is reported on the accompanying Forms 567. Salt Point Light 2, East Cote Blanche Bay Light 1, East Cote Blanche Bay Daybeacons 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, and 9 are to be deleted from the charts and the Light List, Intracoastal Waterway of the United States - 1947. One new local, privately maintained, daybeacon, marking the entrance to a private canal, was discovered and is to be charted on Charts 1051 and 1276 in addition to listing in the appropriate Light List.
12. HYDROGRAPHIC CONTROL

In accordance with instructions, enough recoverable topographic stations were established along the shore of Atchafalaya Bay and East Cote Blanche Bay, along with recovered triangulation stations, to give spacing of about 2 miles.

13. LANDING FIELDS AND AERONAUTICAL AIDS

There are no landing fields or aeronautical aids in these quadrangles.

14. ROAD CLASSIFICATION

All roads have been classified according to current instructions.

15. BRIDGES

There are no bridges over the navigable waters of this group of quadrangles.

16. BUILDINGS AND STRUCTURES

All buildings and structures have been field inspected and clarified on the photographs.

17. BOUNDARY MONUMENTS AND LINES

There are no parish boundary monuments in these quadrangles.

Two unmarked parish boundaries pass through this area. The St. Mary-Terrebonne Parish boundary follows the east bank of the Atchafalaya River from its mouth to Bayou Shaffer, northeast along the centerline of Bayou Shaffer to its junction with Bayou Chene, then in a northeasterly direction along the centerline of Bayou Chene until it leaves the quadrangle.

The second, an indefinite boundary, passing through the area, is a portion of the St. Mary-Iberia Parish line that passes somewhere through Morrison's Cut-off between Point Chevreuil and Rabbit Island in a southeasterly direction from East Cote Blanche Bay to Atchafalaya Bay.
Boundaries will be the subject of a special report to be submitted at a later date.

18. **GEOGRAPHIC NAMES**

Geographic names in this area were adequately covered by the "Special Report on Geographic Names; Houma, Louisiana to Vermilion Bay, Louisiana; Project Ph-14(46)" and no further investigation will be made by this party at this time.

Submitted by

[Signature]
John S. Howell
Cartographer

Approved and Forwarded by

[Signature]
Charles W. Clark, Lieut., USCGS
Chief of Party
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<th>LONGITUDE OR X-COORDINATE</th>
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1 FT = 0.3048008 METER

COMPUTED BY: J. Councill
DATE: Nov. 3, 1948
CHECKED BY: H.R. Rudolph
DATE: Nov. 15, 1948
PHOTOGRAMMETRIC PLOT REPORT

This is the subject of a special report submitted to the Washington Office May 5, 1949 and is included in Descriptive Report T-9093.

31. DELINEATION

The detail on the film positives of shoreline manuscripts T-8892 and T-8893, reduced to 1: 20,000 scale, could not be directly transferred to this manuscript, as the maximum discrepancy between some few points on the positives and on this map manuscript reached 23 meters. (See Photogrammetric Plot Report.) Therefore, the detail was entirely delineated from 1: 20,000 scale nine-lens photographs which were satisfactory as to scale and clearness.

The interpretation of the physical and cultural features agrees with the shoreline manuscript except for the course of Bayou Chene which was slightly altered after the date of photographs for the shoreline survey. (See Special Report on Intracoastal Waterway for Project Ph-14(46) page 17.)

The field inspection was adequate. All the shoreline on this manuscript within the limits of the film positives has been delineated in agreement with the positives as to type. The shoreline outside the limits has been drawn as the compiler interpreted it. It is believed that all shoreline along Bayou Chene and Bayou Cocodrie is fast land. This interpretation was derived after consultation with a field man who actively participated in the field inspection for this project and who is very familiar with the terrain. This has been referred to the field editor for confirmation.

32. CONTROL

The identification of control was good. There is sufficient control spaced throughout the sheet to insure proper photographic control.

33. SUPPLEMENTAL DATA

Film positives of shoreline manuscripts T-8892 and T-8893 were used as reference material for the delineation of this manuscript. (See Item 31.)
34. **CONTOURS AND DRAINAGE**

No difficulty was encountered in the delineation of drainage.
Contours are not applicable to this project.

35. **SHORELINE AND ALONGSHORE DETAILS**

The shoreline along the canals and bayous was evident from the photographs and no difficulty was encountered in its delineation. However, one small stretch of shoreline in the northeast part of the quadrangle was delineated as indefinite, with trees growing in the water.

Waters in this quadrangle are unaffected by tide.

36. **OFFSHORE DETAILS**

There are no offshore details that need further investigation by the hydrographer.

37. **LANDMARKS AND AIDS**

There are no landmarks or aids to navigation.

38. **CONTROL FOR FUTURE SURVEYS**

No topographic stations or photo-hydro stations were established.

39. **JUNCTIONS**

T-9028 to the east; in agreement
T-9026 to the west; in agreement
T-9033 to the south; in agreement
T-9022 to the north; in agreement.
40. **HORIZONTAL AND VERTICAL ACCURACY**

   No statement.

41. **BOUNDARIES**

   A part of the St. Mary Terrebonne Parish Boundary falls in the northwestern part of this quadrangle.

46. **COMPARISON WITH EXISTING MAPS**

   Comparison was made with Morgan City quadrangle Mississippi River Commission, scale 1: 62,500, edition of 1935, reprinted 1938. The following difference was noted:

   Two small islands were formed by the cutting and widening of Bayou Chene in the northwest part of the quadrangle.

47. **COMPARISON WITH NAUTICAL CHARTS**

   Comparison was made with Nautical Chart 880 scale 1: 40,000 published in November 1949 and bearing a print date of November 28, 1949. The shoreline sheets mentioned in Item 31 were the source of planimetry for this nautical chart. The manuscript and chart are in good agreement except for the slight displacement of details due to the difference in the two radial plots.

   Chart 1050 scale 1: 175,000 published November 3, 1947 corrected to May 4, 1948 and this manuscript are in agreement.

**ITEMS TO BE APPLIED TO NAUTICAL CHARTS IMMEDIATELY**

None.

**ITEMS TO BE CARRIED FORWARD**

None.

*Approved and Forwarded*

Arthur L. Wardwell,  
Chief of Party.
48. **GEOGRAPHIC NAME LIST**

All geographic names were taken from a field copy of a special report on Geographic Names - Houma to Vermilion Bay, Louisiana. This report was prepared at the time the field work for Project Ph-14(46) was being done and is subject to change by the Geographic Name Section of the Washington Office.

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Names approved,
5-21-51

/s/ A. J. W.
PHOTOGRAMMETRIC OFFICE REVIEW

1. Projection and grids  
2. Title  
3. Manuscript numbers  
4. Manuscript size  

CONTROL STATIONS

5. Horizontal control stations of third-order or higher accuracy  
6. Recoverable horizontal stations of less than third-order accuracy (topographic stations)  
7. Photo-hydro stations  
8. Bench marks  
9. Existing or evident lines  
10. Photogrammetric plot report  
11. Detail points  

ALONGSHORE AREAS

(Nautical Chart Data)

12. Shoreline  
13. Low water line  
14. Rocks, shoals, etc.  
15. Bridges  
16. Wrecks  
17. Radio locations  
18. Other alongshore physical features  
19. Other alongshore cultural features  

PHYSICAL FEATURES

20. Water features  
21. Natural ground cover  
22. Thalweg contours of streams, etc.  
23. Contours of general ground surface  
24. Other physical features  

CULTURAL FEATURES

25. Roads  
26. Buildings  
27. Railroads  

BOUNDARIES

28. Boundary lines  
29. Public land lines  

MISCELLANEOUS

30. Geographic names  
31. Junctions  
32. Legibility of the manuscript  
33. Discrepancy overlay  
34. Descriptive Report  
35. Field inspection photographs  
36. Forms  
37. Forms  
38. Forms  
39. Forms  
40. Forms  
41. Remarks (see attached sheet)  

FIELD COMPLETION ADDITIONS AND CORRECTIONS TO THE MANUSCRIPT

42. Additions and corrections furnished by the field completion survey have been applied to the manuscript. The manuscript is now complete except as noted under item 43.

43. Remarks:
FIELD EDIT REPORT
QUADRANGLE T-9027

51. METHODS

All features were checked with the exception of the upper reaches of Turtle Bayou and Bayou Piquant. These bayous were so choked with hyacinths as to prevent any navigation. All corrections and additions were made by planar methods and are shown on the field edit sheet, except the position of Horse Bayou which is corrected on photograph No. 21994. The positions of oil wells, gas wells, and new canals were determined by intersection methods with the most northeastern well being checked by the state coordinates as determined by the Shell Oil Company.

A legend is shown on both the photograph and the field edit sheet showing colored inks used.

Field edit data have been shown on one (1) field edit sheet; one (1) discrepancy sheet; and photograph No. 21994.

52. ADEQUACY OF COMPILATION

Satisfactory.

53. MAP ACCURACY

Satisfactory.

54. RECOMMENDATIONS

None.

55. EXAMINATION OF THE PROOF COPY

The field editor could not contact anyone familiar enough with the area whom it was felt could enhance the value of the map by examination and comment.
56. **INTERIOR FEATURES**

There are numerous swamp- buggy trails visible on the photographs of the area. These trails were established in 1948 and early 1949 during exploration work and for the most part have become indistinct. They should not be retained on the map.

Submitted
5 September 1950

Cecil A. Navin
Topographic Engineer

Approved
6 October 1950

George E. Morris, Jr.
Chief of Party
Review Report T-9027

62. Comparison with Registered Topographic Surveys

T-6179 (Intracoastal Waterway) 1:20,000 1934
T-8892 " " 1:10,000 1946
T-8893 " " 1:10,000 1946

Only the northern portion of this quadrangle, the area about the INTRACOASTAL WATERWAY, is common to the above shore-line surveys.

A substantial discrepancy in horizontal position exists between this survey and the plane table traverse for Section 18 of T-6179.

According to the Descriptive Report for T-6179 the traverse covering this section closed 87 meters long.

Adequate triangulation in this area controlled two different radial plots — T-8893 and the radial plot for this survey — and both of these surveys are in agreement. The radial plot for this survey is the stronger of the two.

Under these circumstances the positions for T-9027 supersede those found on Section 18 of T-6179.

63. Comparison with Maps of Other Agencies

Morgan City, La., Quadrangle, U.S.E., 1:62,500, 1938

Not appearing on the Morgan City Quadrangle are several canals that have been dredged to provide access to walls; also, cuts to lessen the acuity of two bends in BAYOU CHENE have been dug.

64. Comparison with Contemporary Hydrographic Surveys

None contemporary

65. Comparison with Nautical Charts

Chart 880 1:40,000 November 1949
881 1:50,000 September 1949
1050 1:175,000 April 1950
1116 1:45,596 May 1950

See Item 47 of the Compilation Report.
66. Adequacy of Manuscript

This compilation conforms to project instructions and the National Standards of Map Accuracy.

May 21, 1981

Reviewed by:

L. Martin Gazik

Approved by:

S. V. Stiffini 1/28/83
Chief, Review Section
Division of Photogrammetry

H. E. Edmonson
Chief, Nautical Chart Branch
Division of Charts

O. K. Hendren
Chief, Division of Photogrammetry

Earl D. Heston
Chief, Division of Coastal Surveys
## Record of Application to Charts

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**A basic hydrographic or topographic survey supersedes all information of like nature on the uncorrected chart.**

**Give reasons for deviations, if any, from recommendations made under "Comparison with Charts" in the Review.**