**DESCRIPTIVE REPORT**

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<td>Field No.</td>
<td>PH-21 (47)</td>
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<td>Office No.</td>
<td>T-9032</td>
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**LOCALITY**

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<tr>
<td>Locality</td>
<td>ATCHAFALAYA BAY-FOURLEAGUE BAY</td>
</tr>
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</table>

194 g

**CHIEF OF PARTY**

C.W. Clark  
T. B. Reed

**LIBRARY & ARCHIVES**

**DATE** June 25, 1951
DATA RECORD

T-9032

Project No. (II): Ph-21(47) Quadrangle Name (IV):

Field Office (II): Morgan City, Louisiana Chief of Party: Charles W. Clark
Photogrammetric Office (III): Tampa, Florida Officer-in-Charge: Ross A. Gilmore
Instructions dated (II) (III): Feb. 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):

Scale Factor (III): None

Date received in Washington Office (IV): 3-6-50 Date reported to Nautical Chart Branch (IV): 6-5-50

Applied to Chart No. Date: Date registered (IV): April 25, 1951

Publication Scale (IV): 1: 10,000 Publication date (IV): Nov. 1950

Geographic Datum (III): N.A. 1927 Vertical Datum (III):

Reference Station (III): HALTERS, 1933 except as follows: M.H.W.
Lat.: 29° 23' 32.013" (985.6m) / Long.: 91° 13' 31.552" (850.8m) / Adjusted

Plane Coordinates (IV): State: LOUISIANA Zone: SOUTH

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): W.M. Reynolds  Date: March-April, 1948

Planetary contouring by (II):  Date:

Completion Surveys by (II): None  Date:

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


Control plotted by (III): Eugene T. Ogilby  Date: Dec. 23, 1948

Control checked by (III): Webber W. Dawsey  Date: Dec. 23, 1948

Radial Plot M.M. Slavney  Date: Mar. 7, 1949

Stereoscopic Instrument compilation (III):
Planimetry
Contours

Manuscript delineated by (III): John C. Richter  Date: March, 1949

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

Elevations on Manuscript checked by (II) (III):  Date:
Camera (kind or source) (III): Nine-lens 8½" focal length

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Tide (III)

Reference Station: GALVESTON
Subordinate Station: Eugene L., Atchafalaya Bay.
Subordinate Station:

Washington Office Review by (IV): L. Martín

Final Drafting by (IV): R. Breene, A. Berry

Drafting verified for reproduction by (IV): C. Kopiec

Proof Edit by (IV): L. Martín

Land Area (Sq. Statute Miles) (III): 45
Shoreline (More than 200 meters to opposite shore) (III): 10.4 miles
Shoreline (Less than 200 meters to opposite shore) (III): 68.5 miles

Control Leveling - Miles (II):
Number of Triangulation Stations searched for (II): 5
Number of BMs searched for (II): none
Number of Recoverable Photo Stations established (III):
Number of Temporary Photo Hydro Stations established (III):

Remarks:
Summary T-9032

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

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

Adjoining this project to the west are 17 contemporary topographic quadrangles at 1:20,000 scale in Project Ph-33(48). 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 U.S.C.&G.S. photo compilation project completed about 1935.
1. DESCRIPTION OF THE AREA

This block of quadrangles lies in the southern portion of this project and embraces a land and water area that includes the eastern portion of Atchafalaya Bay; the ship channel through Point Au Fer Shell Reef; the mouth of the Atchafalaya River; and considerable marsh area to the east of Atchafalaya Bay.

The land is absolutely flat and consists of heavy, soft marsh that is cut by many bayous and ditches. This marsh land affords a large income to many trappers who, during the one hundred day annual trapping season, take out a harvest of furs valued at many thousands of dollars.

These trappers maintain cabins or houseboats throughout the area as a working base and rely entirely on the water as a mode of transportation.

In addition to the fur industry, oil wells have been brought in at many locations in the marshes and bays. Although no producing wells are located within the limits of these quadrangles, exploration and testing is a continuous process. South of these quadrangles on Point Au Fer Island several wells were being drilled at the time of field work.

The eastern portion of Atchafalaya Bay is generally shallow with a mud bottom; however, a dredged channel running in a northeast-southwest direction connects the mouth of the Atchafalaya River and the pass through shell reefs to the Gulf of Mexico. This channel is not deep enough for steamers, but it does convey a heavy traffic of fishing boats from the fishing grounds to their bases in and around Morgan City, Louisiana. The channel is marked by a fixed aid to navigation.

To the southwest and west of these quadrangles, separating Atchafalaya Bay and the Gulf of Mexico, is Point Au Fer Shell Reef. The channel across the bay has been dredged through this reef and affords a passage to the Gulf. In addition to the regular channel, a lighthouse has been built on the west side of the channel to mark the entrance.
2. COMPLETENESS OF FIELD INSPECTION:

Field inspection is felt to be complete and adequate. All field inspection notes are confined to the first of the two sets of field prints furnished to the field party. There is very little detail other than woods and marshes appearing in this area. The field party indicated cabins and small docks in the marsh area and it is recommended that the compiler show these structures on the map compilation since they are important to those persons working the marshes.

It is believed that sufficient samples of woods and marsh have been labelled to enable the compiler to delineate these features with no difficulty.

3. INTERPRETATION OF THE PHOTOGRAPHS:

Photographic interpretation should cause no difficulty. Although several tones appear on the photographs, the area is all marsh and should be shown as such. The various types of marsh grass varying from high dry to low wet photograph differently. In some cases the field party has labelled the various types of marsh for the information of the compiler.

During the trapping season the trappers burn large areas of the marsh which shows black on the photographs. Some of these fires are visible on the photographs and afford a comparison of the area before and after burning.

4. HORIZONTAL CONTROL:

All U. S. G. & C. S. stations within the limits of these quadrangles were searched for, and if recovered were identified on the photographs. In addition, several stations outside the quadrangles were recovered and identified for control of the radial plot.

The recovered control was identified on the first set of field prints furnished the field party and at a later date was transferred in the office to a new set of photographs.
The transfer was completed by the field party as a check to ensure that the stations can be properly transferred to other prints at a later date. No great difficulty was encountered while transferring control, but it was noted that in a few instances some of the detail is not as clear and distinct on one set of photographs as it is on the other.

Two lights, Atchafalaya Channel Lights Al and L2, were located by theodolite three-point fixes and may be used as horizontal control.

Positive identification was not secured on five control stations. Three of these doubtful identifications (VCSS, 1933; NICE, 1935; and WASHA, 1934) are due to indistinct photographic detail in the vicinity of the station.

Station PEBH 1933 was not positively identified because the field party suspected a shifting of the sub-point between the dates of photography and field inspection.

The fifth station not identified positively is POINT AU FER STACK 1933. The stack has been destroyed and its original position could not be determined. The old steam boiler to which the stack was probably attached is still in place in the marsh, so the end of this boiler was located as probably being close to the position of the stack.

An explanation of all doubtful identification has been made on the control identification cards that accompany the field data.

5. **VERTICAL CONTROL**

(not applicable)

6. **TOPOGRAPHY AND DRAINAGE**

No contouring was performed in these quadrangles.

There is no definite drainage pattern within the area covered by this report.

7. **MEAN HIGH WATER LINE**

The shoreline, with one exception, is all apparent and sufficient notes have been made on the photographs to guide the compiler. The exception noted is a fast shoreline on Point Au Fer Island (outside the project limit) and it has been indicated on the photographs.
8. LOW-WATER LINE

At the time of photography the tide was at an extreme low, well below the predicted low for the day. This low stage of the tide resulted in exposing a mud bank off the apparent shoreline that is normally swash at low water. The field party indicated the normal apparent waterline in the proper position and low waterline can be extended around the exposed areas outside the apparent shoreline.

9. WHARVES AND SHORELINE STRUCTURES

The only wharves and shoreline structures in the area are those at Eugene Island and they have been clarified by field inspection notes.

10. DETAILS OFFSHORE FROM THE HIGH-WATER LINE

The extreme low stage of the water exposed much of the Point Au Fer Shell Reef; however, the reef is swash at mean low water and local information states that no part of it is exposed. Show this reef as submerged.

Local information stated that several wrecks are scattered throughout the reef, but only one of these could be located by the field party.

Point Au Fer Shell Reef will require further investigation by a hydrographic party.

The cable area shown on chart 1276 as running from the mouth of the Atchafalaya River to Point Au Fer Shell Reef, was not investigated by the field party and must be investigated by Field Unit.

11. LANDMARKS AND AIDS TO NAVIGATION

Southwest Reef Lighthouse (old tower) is listed in the 1947 Light List, page 602, as Southwest Reef Daybeacon.

Previously unlocated aids to navigation were located by identification on photographs, by theodolite sights, by sextant fixes, or by a combination of two or more methods. At Atchafalaya Channel Lights 7 and 25 sextant angles were observed to assist in identification on photographs and location of these lights. Atchafalaya Channel Lights 41 and 42 were located by three-point fixes observed with a theodolite on stations EUGENE ISLAND LIGHT, 1933; DISCH, 1933; and PLUMB 1933; with a check on BEACON 9, 1933. And each of these lights, directions
were observed to other aids in the vicinity. Atchafalaya Channel Lights 25 and 36, Halters Island Point Light, and Atchafalaya River Light 1 were located by identification on photographs supplemented by theodolite cuts from Lights 41 and 42.

A" 933 description by L. R. McC. of Atchafalaya River Light 1 (Beacon 1) is listed in Descriptions of Triangulation Stations No. 675, Louisiana Coast, Chandeleur Le Tigre to Oyster Bay Lighthouse, page 11. No geographic position could be found in the list of geographic positions of this area. The light is not shown as a triangulation station on the project index for Ph-31(47).

A line of privately maintained beacons marking the approach to Locust Bayou, Point Au Fer Island, were located by sextant fixes, supplemented by cuts from Lights 41 and 42.

All other daybeacons charted on Charts 1050 and 1276 and listed in the 1947 Light List in Atchafalaya Bay and approaches to the bay east of Longitude 91° 30', were not in existence on 27 April, 1946.

A temporary steel radio mast on Eugene Island was located by the field party. This radio tower is owned and operated by private interests and will be removed at the completion of the job for which it was constructed. It is not recommended that this tower be charted, but if the compilation office chooses to chart it, it must be shown as temporary.

12. HYDROGRAPHIC CONTROL

In accordance with project instructions, topographic stations were established along the shore of the most important water areas. Where natural objects were not selected, stations were marked by standard discs set in a concrete monument. A Form 524 has been submitted for each topographic station.

13. LANDING FIELD AND AERONAUTICAL AIDS

There are neither landing fields nor aeronautical aids within the limits of these quadrangles.
14. ROAD CLASSIFICATION:

No roads exist within the limits of these quadrangles.

15. BRIDGES:

There are no bridges in these quadrangles.

16. BUILDINGS AND STRUCTURES:

The only substantial building in these quadrangles is the U.S. Coast Guard Station on Eugene Island. The Eugene Island Lighthouse projects from the top of this building.

Because of the lack of buildings, the field party located trappers cabin as mentioned previously.

17. BOUNDARY MONUMENTS AND LINES:

There are no boundary monuments in this area although the Terrebonne - St. Mary Parish line follows along the east end of Atchafalaya Bay from the east bank of the Atchafalaya River to the Gulf of Mexico around Point Au Fer. Boundaries will be the subject of a special report to be submitted at a later date.

18. GEOGRAPHIC NAMES:

Geographic names are covered adequately by "Special Report on Geographic Names: Houma, Louisiana to Vermetion Bay, Louisiana: Project Ph-M(46)".

19. ADDITIONAL ITEMS:

No additional items worthy of discussion were noted during the field work.

Submitted by,

\[\text{(s) John S. Howell}\]

Approved and Forwarded:

\[\text{(s) Charles W. Clark, Lt. USCGS}\]

Chief of Party.
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1 FT. = .3048006 METER

COMPUTED BY: J. Council  DATE: Nov. 5, 1948
CHECKED BY: H.P. Rudolph  DATE: Nov. 15, 1948
26 and 27. CONTROL AND RADIAL PLOT:

Discussion of control will be found in the Special Report on Main Radial Plot to be submitted at a later date by Milton M. Slavney, Photogrammetric Engineer. Included in Descriptive Report T-9038.

28. DELINEATION:

The photographs and field inspection were adequate for the delineation of this manuscript.

All pirogue trails have been delineated and shown with abbreviations for drainage or ditches.

29. SUPPLEMENTAL DATA:


30. MEAN HIGH-WATER LINE:

All shoreline within the limits of the manuscript is apparent.

31. LOW-WATER AND SHOAL LINES:

Refer to paragraph No. 8 of field report.

32. DETAILS OFFSHORE FROM THE MEAN HIGH-WATER LINE:

No offshore detail appears on this manuscript.

33. WHARVES AND SHORELINE STRUCTURES:

None appear within the limits of this manuscript.

34. LANDMARKS AND AIDS TO NAVIGATION:

No landmarks appear on this manuscript. One nonfloating aid was established by radial plot.

Form 567 showing the scaled position is submitted herewith as part of this report.
35. HYDROGRAPHIC CONTROL:

None.

36. LANDING FIELDS AND AIDS TO NAVIGATION:

None.

37. RECOVERABLE TOPOGRAPHIC STATIONS:

Three topographic stations were established on this manuscript.

Form 524, with scaled positions, is submitted.

38. GEOGRAPHIC NAMES:

A Washington Office geographic name sheet had not been received at the time of compilation of this manuscript; however, geographic names were taken from a field copy of "Special Report Geographic Names," Project Ph-14(46).

39. BOUNDARIES:

Boundaries were taken from the Special Report, Boundaries for Project Ph-21(47) submitted to this office by John S. Howell, Cartographer. No other boundaries other than parish are to be shown.

40. COMPARISON WITH EXISTING TOPOGRAPHIC QUADRANGLES:

Comparison has been made with War Dept., Corps of Engineers, Lake Decade, Louisiana, scale 62,500 quadrangle and found to be in good agreement.

A new canal has been dug in the east branch of Deer Island Bayou.

41. COMPARISON WITH NAUTICAL CHARTS:

Comparison has been made with Nautical Chart No. 1276, scale 1:80,000, latest published date August 18, 1947, and found to be in good agreement, except for a new canal that has been dug in the east branch of Deer Island Bayou.

Approved and Forwarded:

Ross A. Gilmore, 9/3/47
Chief of Party.

Respectfully submitted,

John C. Richter,
Cartographic Draftsman
The original projection extended to latitude 29° 22' on the south. This left approximately two square miles of unmapped marsh lands in the vicinity of "Big Carrion Crow Bayou", preventing the effecting of a junction with U.S. C. & G.S. Planimetric Map No. T-5389 (1931).

The manuscript was completed and forwarded to the Washington Office for inspection before field edit. A projection was ruled covering the previously mentioned unmapped area and sent to the Tampa Office along with the map manuscript and other related data.

The main radial plot was extended to cover this area and the details were compiled on the new projection which is labeled SHEET 2, T-9032. The neat line of the new projection overlaps T-5662 (1931) to the east by thirty-five seconds of longitude. At the junction along 91° 08' the shoreline of Big Carrion Crow Bayou is in good agreement; however, its shoreline (and that of a pond and two small streams) west of the neat line fails to agree by approximately thirty meters. The shoreline of Four League Bay in the overlapping area appears to have eroded consistently by about fifty meters. This same condition is apparent at South Point on Point Au Fer Island along the junction of map manuscript T-9032 with T-5389 (1931).

* Shoreline change due to erosion

Approved and Forwarded:

Ross A. Gilmore,
Chief of Party.
I recommend that the following objects which have been inspected from seaward to determine their value as landmarks be charted on the charts indicated.

The positions given have been checked after listing by

J. C. Richter
Tampa Photogrammetric Office

Charles W. Clark
Chief of Party.

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<th>Description</th>
<th>Signal Name</th>
<th>Latitude</th>
<th>Longitude</th>
<th>Datum</th>
<th>Method of Location and Survey No.</th>
<th>Date of Location</th>
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This form shall be prepared in accordance with Hydrographic Manual, pages 800 to 804. Positions of charted landmarks and nonfloating aids to navigation shall be surveyed to 0.5 foot datum. This form should be completed in an orderly manner and with leg.
I recommend that the following objects which have been inspected from seaward to determine their value as landmarks be charted on the charts indicated.

The positions given have been checked after listing by

J. C. Richter

Pampa Photogrammetric Office

Charles W. Clark

Chief of Party

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This form shall be prepared in accordance with Hydrographic Manual, pages 800 to 804. Positions of charted landmarks and nonfloating
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Names approved 6-28-50

A. J. W.
Review Report T-9032
Planimetric Map
July 3, 1950

62. **Comparison with Registered Topographic Surveys.**

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63. **Comparison with Maps of Other Agencies.**

Lake Decade, La., 1:62,500, U.S.E., 1935

64. **Comparison with Contemporary Hydrographic Surveys.**

None

65. **Comparison with Nautical Charts.**

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66. **Adequacy of Manuscript.** This survey complies with the National Standards of Map Accuracy.

67. **Miscellaneous.** Considering the nature of the terrain, the lack of development and habitations in the area, a field edit of this map was not deemed requisite.

Reviewed by:

[Signature]
L. Martin Gazik

Approved by:

[Signature]
Chief, Review Section
Div. of Photogrammetry

[Signature]
Chief, Nautical Chart Branch
Division of Charts

[Signature]
Chief, Div. of Photogrammetry

[Signature]
Chief, Div. of Coastal Surveys