
FORM 504

U. S. COAST AND GEODETIC SURVEY
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

DESCRIPTIVE REPORT

Type of Survey: TOPOGRAPHIC

Field No: PH-33(48) Office No: T-9116

LOCALITY

State: LOUISIANA

General locality: EAST COTE BLANCHE BAY

Locality: MARSH ISLAND

1948

CHIEF OF PARTY

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

LIBRARY & ARCHIVES

DATE: Oct. 24, 1952
DATA RECORD

T-9116

Project No. (II): Ph-33(48)  Quadrangle Name (IV):

Photogrammetric Office (III): Tampa, Florida  Officer-in-Charge: Arthur L. Wardwell
Instructions dated (II) (III): 2 July 1948  Copy filed in Division of
Photogrammetry (IV)  Office Files

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): 27 Jun 50  Date reported to Nautical Chart Branch (IV): 7-3-50
Applied to Chart No.  Date:  Date registered (IV): 7-8-52

Publication Scale (IV): 1:24,000  Publication date (IV):

Geographic Datum (III): NAD 1927  Vertical Datum (III):
Mean sea level except as follows:
Elevations shown as (25) refer to mean high water
Elevations shown as (3) refer to sounding datum
i.e., mean low water or mean lower low water

Reference Station (III): KEY, 1933

Lat.: 29° 35' 05" .246(161.5m)  Long.: 91° 44' 02" .520 (67.6m)  Adjusted

Plane Coordinates (IV):

Y=  X=  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: Sept. 1948

Planetable contouring by (II): None
Date: 

Completion Surveys by (II): None (see item 64)
Date: 

Mean High Water Location (III) (State date and method of location):
Date of photographs
Air Photo Compilation

Date: 26 Sept 48

Projection and Grids checked by (IV): W.E.W. ( " " )
Date: 26 Sept 48

Control plotted by (III): J. F. Armstrong
Date: 22 Mar 49

Control checked by (III): R. J. Fate
Date: 21 June 49

Radial Plot by (III): H. M. Slavney
Date: 11 Oct 49

Stereoscopic Instrument compilation (III):

Planimetry
Inapplicable

Contours

Manuscript delineated by (III): J.C. Richter
Date: Nov, 1949

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

Elevations on Manuscript
checked by (II) (III): None
Date: 

Camera (kind or source) (III): USC&GS
Nine lenses 8 1/2" focal length.

PHOTOGRAPHS (III)

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<th>Date</th>
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Tide (III)
Reference Station: Galveston
Subordinate Station: Cote Blanche, West Cote Blanche Bay

Washington Office Review by (IV): K. N. Mak
Final Drafting by (IV): Date: 4-17-51
Drafting verified for reproduction by (IV): Date: 
Proof Edit by (IV): Date: 

Land Area (Sq. Statute Miles) (III): 4
Shoreline (More than 200 meters to opposite shore) (III): 8.7 miles
Shoreline (Less than 200 meters to opposite shore) (III): 2.0 miles
Control Leveling - Miles (II): 
Number of Triangulation Stations searched for (II): 3
Recovered: 3
Identified: 2
Number of BMs searched for (II): 0
Recovered: 0
Identified: 0
Number of Recoverable Photo Stations established (III): 3
Number of Temporary Photo Hydro Stations established (III): None

Remarks:

Form T-Page 4
TOPOGRAPHIC MAPPING PROJECT PH 33 (48)

LOUISIANA - INTRACOASTAL WATERWAY
East Cote Blanche Bay — White Lake
T-9116 is one of 17 topographic quadrangles in Project Ph-33 (48) on the Louisiana Coast southwest of New Orleans in the area of West Cote Blanche Bay and East Cote Blanche Bay. The land area in this quadrangle covers the east end of Marsh Island. The land area is entirely marsh land. It contains no roads or other cultural features with the exception of several trappers' cabins. The field operations preceding compilation included complete field inspection and the recovery of horizontal control. The island area covered is less than 5 feet in elevation and no contours or spot elevations are shown. The map is a graphic compilation at a scale of 1:20,000 and consists of one sheet. No field edit was performed. The map is to be published by the Geological Survey at a scale of 1:24,000 as a standard 7½' topographic quadrangle. The registered data to be permanently filed in the Bureau Archives under T-9116 will include a cloth-mounted lithographic print of T-9116 at scale 1:20,000, a cloth-mounted color print of the published map at scale 1:24,000 and the original descriptive report.
1. DESCRIPTION OF THE AREA

The land area of these quadrangles is a large island lying south of the mainland between Vermilion Bay and the Gulf of Mexico. The name "Marsh Island" adequately describes the nature of the area.

Parts of the island are accessible by boat through the numerous bayous which pass in various directions throughout the area.

The land is too marshy to be of any use for farming and the only industry of note carried on in the section is the trapping of muskrats during a three month trapping season in the winter. Shrimp fishing is also practiced extensively in the several bays surrounding the Northern and Eastern sides of the island and also in the Gulf of Mexico which borders the island to the south.

The island is under the Jurisdiction of the State Conservation Commission as a state game preserve. Several Conservation camps, maintained by State employees, are found scattered over the island. These employees help to conserve the many migratory birds which winter in the section.

The exploration and development of oil fields is also worthy of mention. A large field is in operation just north of the island in Vermilion Bay. This field is operated by the Texas Co. Several other oil companies are engaged in offshore exploration and drilling in the Gulf of Mexico to the south of the island.

2. COMPLETENESS OF FIELD INSPECTION

Field inspection is believed to be adequate and complete. All detail on the photographs has been clearly labeled and the compiler should encounter no difficulty.

3. INTERPRETATION OF THE PHOTOGRAPHS

As the photography was of recent date no difficulty was encountered in the interpretation of the photographs.

Two tones (light and dark) prevail on most of the photographs. These were found to be a difference in the height of the marsh grass which covers the entire island.

4. HORIZONTAL CONTROL

All U.S.C.& G.S. control stations were searched for and where recovered were identified on the photographs.

Positive recovery and identification was made on the following stations:
Doubtful recovery and identification was made on the following stations:

MARSH ISLAND NORTH CONSERVATION TOWER, 1933
EAST, 1933.

MARSH ISLAND NORTH CONSERVATION TOWER was recovered and identified on Project Ph-21(47) and may be a better recovery and identification than that submitted with this project.

NED, 1933 is destroyed. Reference mark No. 2 was recovered. The only direction to the reference mark is a magnetic azimuth and the accuracy of location is not considered adequate for horizontal control. Reference mark No. 2 was identified as a recoverable topographic station. Doubtful recovery and identification of NED, 1933 was made on Project Ph-21(47). The Ph-21(47) identification of NED, 1933 should be transferred to this project.

OAK, 1933 was recovered and identified positively on Project Ph-21(47) and should be transferred to Photo 22038 for control on this project.

The following additional stations were searched for and not recovered.

CHENIER LA CROIX, WINDMILL, 1933
MARSH ISLAND CONSERVATION TOWER, WEST, 1933
" " EAST, 1933
MARSH 2, 1913

BIRD, 1890 in the southeast corner of Quad. 9116 was determined to have been destroyed on Project Ph-21(47). No further search for the station was made on this project.

5. VERTICAL CONTROL

No vertical control exists within these quadrangles. To control the contours along the Gulf beach in quadrangles 9114 and 9117, a plantablable traverse was run from BM Channel.

6. CONTOURS AND DRAINAGE

A very narrow strip along the beach of the Gulf of Mexico in quadrangles 9114 and 9117 was found to be above 5 feet and in accordance with the project instructions this area was contoured by standard plantablable methods.

The drainage system of the area is obvious on the photographs and this was not indicated.

7. MEAN HIGH WATER LINE.
of the Intracoastal Waterway. This light was not in operation at
the time of the field inspection (1 September 1948). The second
light is an unlisted and uncharted light about 2 miles northeast of
Light B 9. Both lights are privately maintained by the Texas Co.

The Southwest Pass - Vermilion Bay Lights marking the channel
through Southwest Pass from the Gulf of Mexico to Vermilion Bay, and
located in quadrangle T-9113, were cut in by theodolite from exist-
ing triangulation stations and recoverable topographic stations
established by this party. Some of these stations are in T-9113 and
some are in T-9114.

12. HYDROGRAPHIC CONTROL

In accordance with the instructions for this Project, topo-
graphic stations were set to supplement the existing horizontal
control. These stations were set in order to have a station at app-
proximately 2 mile intervals. See Item 38.

13. LANDING FIELDS AND AERONAUTICAL AIDS

There are no landing fields or Aeronautical aids within these
quadrangles.

14. ROAD CLASSIFICATION

There are no roads within these quadrangles.

15. BRIDGES

There are no bridges within these quadrangles.

16. BUILDINGS AND STRUCTURES

The only class I building in the area is the building at the
State Conservation Commission camps on Bayou Blane and Bird Island
Bayou. Other buildings are small trapper's cabins used only during
the trapping season. These latter buildings are classified as Class
II buildings. Buildings have been classified on the photos in acc-
ordance with Photogrammetry Instructions No. 29 dated 1 October 1948.

17. BOUNDARY LINES AND MONUMENTS

Marsh Island is entirely within Iberia Parish; however, two
parish boundaries cross the water area of these quadrangles.

The Vermilion - Iberia Parish boundary follows the channel
of Southwest Pass and thence in a northerly direction to Champlain
Point.

The Iberia - St. Mary Parish boundary crosses Quad. 9115 in a
northwest-southeast direction north of Marsh Island and extends into
Quad. 9116 in the water around the east end of the island.
The entire island comprises the State owned Marsh Island Wildlife Refuge.

So far as could be determined locally there have never been any permanently marked section corners on Marsh Island. Some section corners were searched for but none were recovered.

Police jury ward boundaries as well as all other boundaries will be made the subject of a special boundary investigation to be made at a later date. The results of the boundary investigation will be covered in "Special Report-Boundaries-Project Ph-33(48)". Refer also to Special Report-Boundaries-Project Ph-27(47). Refer also to Special Report-Boundaries-Project Ph-27(47) f.). City reports.


Geographic Names for this area is covered in "Special Report on Geographic Names, Gulf Intracoastal Waterway, Houma to Vermilion Bay, Louisiana, Project Ph-14(46)". No further systematic investigation of geographic names was made. No discrepancies in geographic names in the above report were noted. File in Geographic Names Section Div. of Charts.

19. **Coast Pilot**

Results of Coast Pilot investigation are covered in "Special Report-Coast Pilot-Project Ph-33(48)". File in Coast Pilot Section Div. of Charts.

Submitted:
1 October 1948

**William M. Reynolds**

William M. Reynolds
Engineering Aid

Approved:
Date

**Charles W. Clark**

Charles W. Clark
Chief of Party
<table>
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<tr>
<th>STATION</th>
<th>SOURCE OF INFORMATION (INDEX)</th>
<th>LATITUDE OR Y-COORDINATE</th>
<th>DISTANCE FROM GRID IN FEET OR PROJECTION LINE IN METERS</th>
<th>N.A. 1927 - DATUM DISTANCE FROM GRID OR PROJECTION LINE IN METERS</th>
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<tr>
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<td>01537 La. p.2</td>
<td>29.35 05.246</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td>67.6</td>
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1 FT = 0.3048006 METER

COMPUTED BY: ___________________________ DATE: ___________________________ CHECKED BY: ___________________________ DATE: ___________________________
PHOTOGRAMMETRIC PLOT REPORT

This is the subject of a special report submitted with T-9018 of Project Ph-21(47).

31. DELINEATION

The manuscript was delineated by graphic methods. The photographs and field inspection were adequate for the delineation of this manuscript.

32. CONTROL

There was enough primary and secondary control so spaced that no difficulty was encountered in cutting in detail points.

33. SUPPLEMENTAL DATA

None.

34. CONTOURS AND DRAINAGE

There are no contours or spot elevations for all the land area is marsh and below five feet in elevation.

Drainage was delineated directly from photographs without difficulty.

35. SHORELINE AND ALONGSHORE DETAILS

All shoreline is apparent. The shoreline inspection was adequate. No low-water or shoal lines have been shown.

36. OFFSHORE DETAILS

None.

37. LANDMARKS AND AIDS

None.
38. CONTROL FOR FUTURE SURVEYS

Three forms, 524, are being submitted herewith as part of this report. These stations have been listed under Item 49.

Guss, 1948
Burg, 1948
Ford, 1948

39. JUNCTIONS

A satisfactory junction has been made to the west with T-9115.

Junction to the north with T-9017 and to the east with T-9023 is not required because it is all water area, with East Cote Blanche Bay to the south. Parish Bay was junctioned.

40. HORIZONTAL AND VERTICAL ACCURACY

No Statement.

41. BOUNDARIES AND SECTION LINES

No section lines could be applied to the manuscript because no corners were found and there are no natural features to follow.

Reference Item 17 and Item 82

46. COMPARISON WITH EXISTING MAPS.

Comparison has been made with Mississippi River Commission quadrangle, Bayou Sale, Edition of 1937, reprinted 1941, scale 1:62,500 and found to be in good agreement except for two small islands that are called Shell Key; no longer exist. A small island just north of the western point of Marsh Island and Bird Key in Pass Fourchon, no longer exist.

47. COMPARISON WITH NAUTICAL CHARTS

Comparison has been made with U.S.C.G.S. Nautical Chart No. 1276, scale 1:80,000, published March 1939 (1st edition) bearing a print date of 23 May 1949 and found to be in very good agreement.

ITEMS TO BE APPLIED TO NAUTICAL CHART IMMEDIATELY

None.

ITEMS TO BE CARRIED FORWARD

None.

Approved and Forwarded

John C. Richter
Cartographic Photo Aid

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.

EAST COTE BLANCHE BAY
EAST PASS

IBERTA PARISH

LAKE POINT
LAKE SAND
LEW HAWKINS BAYOU
LOUISIANA
LOUISIANA GULF COAST

MARSH ISLAND

POLICE JURY WARD NINE

RUSSELL SAGE STATE GAME REFUGE

ST. MARIES PARISH

WEST COTE BLANCHE BAY

Names underlined in red arc approved 4-12-51
L. Heck
PHOTOGRAMMETRIC OFFICE REVIEW


CONTROL STATIONS

ALONGSHORE AREAS
(Nautical Chart Data)

PHYSICAL FEATURES

CULTURAL FEATURES
28. Buildings JG

BOUNDARIES
31. Boundary lines JG 32. Public land lines JG

MISCELLANEOUS

40. Jesse A. Giles JG William A. Rasure JG

Reviewer Supervisor, Review Section or Unit

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:

Compiler Supervisor
REVIEW REPORT
Topographic Map T-9116
17 April 1951

61. General Statement
No field edit was accomplished for the area of this map since there were no cultural or natural features of a critical nature requiring additional field verification or correction.

62. Comparison with Registered Topographic Surveys

<table>
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<th>Scale</th>
<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>T-764</td>
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</tr>
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<td>T-1680</td>
<td>1:20,000</td>
<td>1886</td>
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<td>T-6325b</td>
<td>1:20,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>T-6347a</td>
<td>1:20,000</td>
<td>1935</td>
</tr>
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</table>

This survey supersedes the above listed surveys for nautical charting purposes.

63. Comparison with maps of other agencies

Bayou Sale, La., 1:62,500 Corps of Engineers, 1937

The extreme eastern tip of Marsh Island is shown as unsurveyed on the U.S.G.S. quadrangle and as indefinite on the Corps of Engineers quadrangle. The significant difference between the quadrangles and T-9116 is the absence of land lines on T-9116. See item 67 on Section Lines and Boundaries.

64. Comparison with Contemporary Hydrographic Surveys

None

65. Comparison with Nautical Charts

<table>
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<th>Chart</th>
<th>Scale</th>
<th>Ed.</th>
<th>Corr.</th>
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<td>ed. 1943</td>
<td>corr. 5/29/50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1276</td>
<td>1:80,000</td>
<td>ed. 1939</td>
<td>corr. 10/9/51</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

There are no significant differences between the maps and the charts.

66. Adequacy of Results and Future Surveys

This map is adequate and complete as a base for hydrographic surveys and nautical chart construction and complies with the National Map Accuracy Standards.
67. Section Lines and Boundaries

Section lines are not shown because of the impracticability of accurately locating their position as shown on the General Land Office (Bureau of Land Management) plats. No corners were recovered and there are no fixed natural or cultural features on which the land lines could be imposed other than with a very general approximation.

The portion of Marsh Island drawn on this map is part of the Russell Sage Foundation State Game Refuge with the exception of Section 16, T17S, R 7E which is not shown because, as explained above, land lines could not be located on this map.

The Iberia-St. Mary Parish boundary has been noted as indefinite due to the fact that the various interpretations of the legal description could not be definitely resolved. The position of the boundary as shown on the map follows the location shown on the Bayou Sale quadrangle of the Corps of Engineers. This location places the boundary between Marsh Island and Rabbit Island (west of the now non-existent Bird Key). This interpretation is also followed on the Geological Survey map of the State of Louisiana published in 1922, reprinted 1938.

68. Geographic Names

A list of geographic names for the area of this map has been prepared by the Geographic Names Section, Division of Charts and attached to this descriptive report.

Reviewed by:

K. N. Maki
K. N. Maki

Approved:

Chief, Review Section
Division of Photogrammetry

Chief, Nautical Chart Branch
Division of Charts

Chief, Div. of Photogrammetry

Chief, Div. of Coastal Surveys
Acting.
HISTORY OF HYDROGRAPHIC INFORMATION
T-9116

Marsh Island, Louisiana Gulf Coast, Louisiana

Hydrography was applied to the map manuscript in accordance with the general specifications of 18 May 1949.

Depth curves and soundings are in feet at Mean Low Water and originate with the following surveys:

C&GS Hydrographic Survey
H-5852(1935) 1:20,000
H-5859(1935) 1:20,000

Depth curves and soundings were compared with C&GS Nautical Chart 1276 (1950) 1:80,000.

The depth curves are shown at 6, 12, 18, and 30 feet.

Depth curves and soundings were compiled by K. N. Maki and checked by R. E. Elkins.

K. N. Maki
7 June 1951
Div. of Photogrammetry