

5533

U. S. COAST & GEODETIC SURVEY  
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Form 504  
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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
U. S. COAST AND GEODETIC SURVEY  
R. S. PATTON, DIRECTOR

# DESCRIPTIVE REPORT

Topographic | Sheet No. T-5533  
~~Hydrographic~~

State Alabama

## LOCALITY

Mobile Bay

Fowl River to Mississippi Sound

1935.4

CHIEF OF PARTY

M. H. Reese

3333

Applied to Chh. 1266 - April 1936 - D. S. South  
Applied to Chh. 873 A & B

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
U.S. COAST AND GEODETIC SURVEY

REG. NO.

TOPOGRAPHIC TITLE SHEET

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. ....

REGISTER NO. T-5533

State Alabama

General locality Mobile Bay

Locality Fowl River to ~~Mississippi Sound~~

Scale 1:20,000 photos Date of ~~survey~~ July 16, 1934

~~Vessel~~ Air Photo Compilation Party No. 24, Pensacola, Fla.

Chief of party M. H. Reese

Surveyed by See data sheet in the descriptive report.

Inked by R. E. Wagner

Heights in feet above ----- to ground to tops of trees

Contour, Approximate contour, Form line interval --- feet

Instructions dated June 7, 1934

Remarks: Compiled on scale of 1:20,619. Enlarged and printed by photolithography on scale of 1:20,000. Scale factor 0.97.

*Blue print<sup>only</sup> scale 1:20,619 signature 2/28/36  
R.E.*

- STATISTICS -

on

SHEET, FIELD NO. \_\_\_\_\_, REG. NO. T-5533

PHOTOS, NO. \_\_\_\_\_ 512 TO NO. \_\_\_\_\_ 497

DATE OF PHOTOGRAPHS \_\_\_\_\_ 7/16/34 TIME \_\_\_\_\_ 9:45 a.m.

	BY	DATE
		FROM TO
ROUGH RADIAL PLOT	<i>G. E. Townsend</i> G. E. Townsend	6/6/35
SCALE FACTOR (0.97)	<i>G. E. Townsend</i> G. E. Townsend	6/6/35
SCALE FACTOR CHECKED	M. H. Reese	6/6/35
PROJECTION	<i>E. P. Hernandez, Jr.</i> E. P. Hernandez, Jr.	6/8/35
PROJECTION CHECKED	<i>G. O. Coignet</i> G. O. Coignet	6/8/35
CONTROL PLOTTED	<i>G. E. Townsend</i> <i>R. E. Wagner</i> G. E. Townsend - R. E. Wagner	6/12/35
CONTROL CHECKED	<i>R. S. Poor</i> R. S. Poor - A. J. McCorkle	6/13/35
TOPOGRAPHY TRANSFERRED		
TOPOGRAPHY CHECKED		
SMOOTH RADIAL LINE PLOT	<i>H. C. Caulfield</i> <i>R. E. Wagner</i> H. C. Caulfield - R. E. Wagner	6/21/35
RADIAL LINE PLOT CHECKED	<i>M. H. Reese</i> M. H. Reese	6/21/35
DETAIL INKED	<i>R. E. Wagner</i> R. E. Wagner	7/12/35
PRELIMINARY REVIEW OF SHEET	<i>E. L. Fitch</i> E. L. Fitch	7/18/35

TOTAL AREA OF SHEET 58.8 sq. Statute Miles  
 AREA OF DETAIL INKED 54.8 sq. Statute Miles (Land Area)  
 AREA OF DETAIL INKED \_\_\_\_\_ sq. Statute Miles (Shoals in Water Area)

LENGTH OF SHORELINE (more than 200 m. from nearest opposite shore)  
 10.6 Statute Miles

LENGTH OF SHORELINE (rivers and sloughs less than 200 m. wide)  
 79.0 Statute Miles

GENERAL LOCATION Mobile Bay

LOCATION Fowl River to Mississippi Sound

DATUM North American 1927 ✓

*Mon Louis 1930, 1935*

*30° 21' 40.275" (1240.2 m.)* ✓

*88° 06' 54.200" (1447.6 m.)*

*- Unadjusted*

Latitude 30° 21' 40.266" (1239.9 m.) ✓

STATION MON LOUIS 1930-1935 ✓  
(Adjusted)

Longitude 88° 06' 54.182" (1446.9 m.) ✓

COMPILER'S REPORT

FOR

PHOTO TOPOGRAPHIC SHEET NO. T-5533

I. GENERAL INFORMATION:

Instructions dated June 7, 1934.

The area covered by this sheet consists of cut-over land and marsh, traversed by Fowl River.

The southern portion of this sheet is marsh, drained by numerous streams. This marsh, starting at Mississippi Sound, goes inland about a half mile to the high, or dry, land. The termination of the marsh and beginning of the higher land is definitely marked on the photographs and is shown on the sheet as a broken line.

The island in the vicinity of Lat.  $30^{\circ}19'$  and Long.  $88^{\circ}08'$  is marshy. The Cedar Point road extends from one end to the other with a canal on the west side. The pass that separates this island from the mainland is not navigable. A wooden pile bulkhead with an earth fill dams the inlet. At the southern extremity of this island, in the immediate vicinity of Station CEDAR, are numerous pilings; these pilings were not shown as it was impossible to place them with any degree of accuracy.

The central portion of the sheet consists largely of cut-over land traversed by Fowl River. Marsh extends from fifty to one hundred meters from either shore of Fowl River. Several trails and dirt roads are in this section, and an abandoned branch right-of-way of the Mobile and Ohio Railroad.

In the northern portion of this sheet are found orange and satsuma groves. Along the shore of Mobile Bay are numerous piers.

There are numerous piers and wharfs shown on this compilation; three of which are approximately located by notes and sketches submitted by the field inspection party, because they did not show on photos. These piers are located as follows: one at Lat.  $30^{\circ}25.4'$ , Long.  $88^{\circ}06.2'$ ; one at Lat.  $30^{\circ}25.8'$ , Long.  $88^{\circ}06.2'$ ; and one at Lat.  $30^{\circ}24.3'$ , Long.  $88^{\circ}06.4'$ .

The tide in this area is about 1.1 ft. Due to the little difference between high and low water, the low water line was not shown.

This sheet was compiled from photographs taken by the Aero Service Corporation with five-lens camera H.U.I.-33. Photographs used: Nos. 512 to 497 taken July 16, 1934, at 9:45 a.m. This flight was flown in a north by northeast direction. (Acc. No. 588)

The five-lens pictures in the vicinity of Lat. 30°20' to 30°22' and Long. 88°09' to 88°11' were very dim and the detail was indefinite. A supplementary flight of five single-lens pictures was flown by the U. S. Navy in this area and used in the compilation. Corresponding radial points were picked on the single- and five-lens pictures. The detail and radial points were then traced from the single-lens photographs on celluloid, and by means of the shoreline projector this detail was reduced to the scale of the compilation and traced thereon. *Filed with above 5-lens photos. Acc. No. 588.*

II. CONTROL:

(A) Sources

1. Triangulation by Lieut. Geo. L. Anderson, 1935.
2. Transit traverse by ~~Jno. S. Huffman, Jr.~~, *Louise E. Meyer*  
Supervising Engineer, U.S.C. & G.S. State Survey - State of Alabama - 1935. *These stations are filed as Recoverable Stations on Form 524 under this survey, T-5533. \**

The geographic positions of stations along the transit traverses, executed under the supervision of ~~Jno. S. Huffman~~, 1935, for the U.S. C. & G.S. State Survey, Alabama, were computed in this office, on the North American 1927 Datum (unadjusted), from data obtained from the State Local Control Survey of the State of Alabama, with offices located in Mobile, Alabama. \*

These transit traverse stations were used as control with the exception of two stations which were put in after the field inspection was completed. These two stations were plotted on this compilation by their geographic positions and were not used in connection with the radial line plot. These stations are:

1. U.S.C. & G.S. State Survey T.T. 306-5  
Lat. 30°22'26.832"  
Long. 88°09'20.280".
2. U.S.C. & G.S. State Survey T.T. 306-6  
Lat. 30°22'09.373"  
Long. 88°08'32.921".

*These stations of the Alabama geodetic survey will probably be filed as second or third order traverses in the division of geodesy at some time in the future. However since no positions are yet available in geodesy and since the final positions may differ appreciably from those computed by Kern and Johnson on T-5533 the stations are shown on the sheet by circles. Staff.*

The following U.S.C. & G.S. transit traverse stations were used as control:

Traverse 308, from Station MON LOUIS 1930-1935 to Station FOWL 1935, along the Cedar Point road:

- ✓ 1. T.T. 308-1  
Lat. 30°21'46.082"  
Long. 88°06'53.441"
- ✓ 2. T.T. 308-2  
Lat. 30°25'28.704"  
Long. 88°06'21.510"
- ✓ 3. T.T. 308-3  
Lat. 30°26'21.201"  
Long. 88°06'37.341"
- ✓ 4. T.T. 308-4  
Lat. 30°27'53.563"  
Long. 88°06'52.925"

Traverse 304, from Station McADAMS 1935 to Station CROSS 1935:

- ✓ 1. T.T. 304-1  
Lat. 30°27'44.550"  
Long. 88°10'07.479"
- ✓ 2. T.T. 304-2  
Lat. 30°27'29.454"  
Long. 88°10'07.673"
- ✓ 3. T.T. 304-3  
Lat. 30°25'56.572"  
Long. 88°08'37.582"
- ✓ 4. T.T. 304-4  
Lat. 30°25'30.522"  
Long. 88°09'27.097"

Traverse 306, from Station CROSS 1935 to Station MON LOUIS 1930-1935:

- ✓ 1. T.T. 306-1  
Lat. 30°24'02.178"  
Long. 88°08'55.922"

- ✓ 2. T.T. 306-2<sup>23</sup>  
Lat. 30°22'52.837"  
Long. 88°08'55.874"
- ✓ 3. T.T. 306-3  
Lat. 30°22'51.537"  
Long. 88°09'20.258"
- ✓ 4. T.T. 306-4  
Lat. 30°22'37.234"  
Long. 88°09'34.198"

(B) Errors

No errors were found, and the control was adequate for the radial line plot.

(C) Discrepancies

No discrepancies were encountered.

III. COMPILATION:

(A) Method

The five-lens radial line method of plotting was used in the compilation. (See page 3, supplementary single lens photographs.)

(B) Adjustments of plot

No unusual adjustments of plot were necessary as the photographs were close to scale and well defined radial points were obtained.

(C) Interpretation

No difficulties were encountered in interpreting the photographs. The field inspection notes were complete.

The graphic symbols used in the drafting of this sheet are those approved by the Board of Surveys and Maps (1932) except the symbol ( § - ) used to denote brush.

*Removed from sheet 4-17-40*

(D) Information from other sources

No information from sources other <sup>than</sup> those mentioned above was used in compiling this sheet.



(E) Conflicting names

There are no conflicting names. All names appearing on overlay sheet were taken from U.S. C. & G.S. Chart No. 1266.

(F) New names

There are no new names.

IV. COMPARISON WITH OTHER SURVEYS:

The junction of this sheet with the sheet to the North (No. T-5532) is satisfactory.

V. LANDMARKS:

There are no landmarks of value to navigation in this area.

VI. RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FURTHER SURVEYS:

To the best of my knowledge this sheet is complete in all details of importance for charting purposes, and no further surveys are recommended at this time.

Submitted by: R. E. Wagner,  
Draftsman.

Approved by: M. H. Reese,  
Chief of Party.

*This survey is considered correct within 0.3 m.m. to 0.5 m.m. for interested points and 0.3 to 0.8 m.m. for other detail.*  
*T. G. E.*

## Remarks

## Decisions

	Remarks	Decisions
1		
2	<i>On photo-camp only.</i>	
3		
4		
5		
6		
7		
8		
9		
10		
11		
12		
13	<i>There are no islands here.</i>	
14		
15		
16		
17		
18		
19		
20		
21		
22		
23		
24		
25		
26		
27		

GEOGRAPHIC NAMES  
 Survey No. T-5599

Name on Survey	Source of Name										
	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	K		
✓ Fowl River	✓ 1266	T3713	✓				✓				1
✓ Mobile and Ohio R.R.	✓										2
✓ Point Judith	✓ 1266		✓								3
✓ Alabama Port	✓ 1266		✓								4
✓ Mobile Bay	✓ 1266	-	✓								5
✓ Mon Louis Island	✓ 1266	-	✓								6
Heron Bayou	✓ 1266	-	✓								7
✓ Heron Bay	✓ 1266	-	✓								8
Cedar Point Road		T3713	✓	✓							9
✓ Barry Point	✓ 1266	-	BARRY'S Pt.								10
✓ Cedar Point	✓ 1266	-	✓								11
✓ Mississippi Sound	✓ 1266	✓	✓				✓				12
Sand Islands											13
											14
											15
											16
											17
											18
											19
											20
											21
											22
											23
											24
											25
											26
											27

Names used in this survey were  
 by O'Keefe 2-5-36

REVIEW OF AIR PHOTO COMPILATION T 5533

Scale 1:20,000

There are no graphic control surveys in this area.

Comparison with Previous Topographic Surveys

Misc. 2 (1845), 1:200,000 - Reconnaissance  
T 240 (1847), 1:20,000  
T 275 (1849), 1:20,000  
T 3711 (1917), 1:40,000  
T 3712 (1917), 1:40,000  
T 3713 (1917), 1:40,000

The greatest changes between T 5533 and these old surveys is with T 275. Considerable change in the entrance to Fowl River has taken place since 1849.

There is fairly good agreement between this survey and the 1917 surveys.

T 5533 is adequate to supersede the above surveys over the common area.

There are no contemporary hydrographic surveys in this area.

Comparison with Chart 1266

The shoal spot in Heron Bay is now an island

Most of the small islands along the shoreline have disappeared.

The ruins of the dock extending into Mobile Bay some 700 meters at Pt. Judith no longer exist.

Aids to Navigation and Landmarks

All lights within the limits of this survey are shown. The day markers have not been shown.

The compilation party states that there are no landmarks of value to navigation in this area. The chart shows a landmark, Ch. Spire, at  $30^{\circ} 26 \frac{1}{3}'$ ,  $88^{\circ} 06 \frac{1}{2}'$ . Although this church is still in existence it is recommended that this landmark be deleted from the chart.

Feb. 26, 1936.

*Frank G. Erskine*  
Frank G. Erskine.

REVIEW OF AIR PHOTO COMPILATION NO. T-5533

Chief of Party: M. H. Reese

Compiled by: R. E. Wagner

Project: Alabama-Florida Compilation Instructions dated: June 7, 1934

1. The charts of this area have been examined and topographic information necessary to bring the charts up to date is shown on this compilation. (Par. 16a, b,c,d,e,g and i; 26; and 64)

Yes.

2. Change in position, or non-existence of wharfs, lights, and other topographic detail of particular importance to navigation which affect the chart, is discussed in the descriptive report. (Par. 26; and 66 g,n)

Yes.

3. Ground surveys by plane table, sextant, or theodolite have been used to supplement the photographic plot where necessary to obtain complete information, and all such surveys are discussed in the descriptive report. (Par. 65; and 66 d,e)

No supplementary surveys necessary.

4. Blue-prints and maps from other sources which were transmitted by the field party contain sufficient control for their application to the charts. (Par. 28)

None submitted.

5. Differences between this compilation and contemporary plane table and hydrographic surveys have been examined and rectified in the field before forwarding the compilations to the office and are discussed in the descriptive report.

No contemporary plane table or hydrographic surveys were executed in this area.

6. The control and adjustment of the photo plot are discussed in the descriptive report. Unusual or large adjustments are discussed in detail and limits of the area affected are stated. (Par. 12b; 44; and 66 c,h,i)

Discussed in report.

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

Discussed in report.

NOTE: Strike out paragraphs, words or phrases not applicable and modify those requiring it. Paragraph numbers refer to those in the Topographic Manual. Refer also to the pamphlet "Notes on the Compilation of Planimetric Line Maps from Five Lens Air Photographs." 11-97

Note: The classification given on  
the name overlay T5533  
is accepted and is as follows  
fixed wooden bridge vert cl.  
at m H.W. 12.5 ft ~~so~~ span 19 ft.

The Engineer Bridge book for 1935  
lists this as a Basalt Bridge  
with H.W. cl. of 6.5 ft and horiz.  
cl. of 19 ft.

1298

high

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

Yes.

9. Recoverable objects have been located and described on Form 524 in accordance with circular 30, 1933, circular letter of March 3, 1933, and circular 31, 1934. (Par. 29, 30, and 57)

~~To be done by U.S.C. & G.S. State Survey - Alabama  
for T.T. Stations.~~

10. A list of landmarks was furnished on Form 567 and instructions in the Director's letter of July 16, 1934, Landmarks for Charts, complied with. (Par. 16d, e; and 60)

No landmarks in this area.

11. All bridges shown on the compilation are accompanied by a note stating whether fixed or draw, clearance, and width of draw if a draw bridge. Additional information of importance to navigation is given in the descriptive report. (Par. 16c)

*Information regarding bridge at entrance to Four River is from  
Field Inspection notes. This information disagrees both in type and  
clearance of bridge with H. C. Cook's Bridge Book. Clear photographs bear out  
the information from the Field Inspection that the bridge is fixed rather than a draw as stated in  
Book.*

12. Geographic names are shown on the overlay tracing. The accepted local usage of new names has been determined and they are listed in the report, together with a general statement as to source of information and a specific statement when advisable. Complete discussion of place names differing from the charts and from the U. S. G. S. Quadrangles is given in the descriptive report, together with reasons for recommendations made. (Par. 64, and 66k)

Yes.

13. The geographic datum of the compilation is N. A. 1927 and the reference station is correctly noted. (Unadjusted)

Yes.

14. Junctions with adjoining compilations have been examined and are in agreement. (Par. 66j)

Yes.

15. The drafting is satisfactory and particular attention has been given the following:

1. Standard symbols authorized by the Board of Surveys and Maps have been used throughout except as noted in the report.
2. The degrees and minutes of Latitude and Longitude are correctly marked.


3. All station points are exactly marked by fine black dots.
4. Closely spaced lines are drawn sharp and clear for printing.
5. Topographic symbols for similar features are of uniform weight.
6. All drawing has been retouched where partially rubbed off.
7. Buildings are drawn with clear straight lines and square corners where such is the case on the ground.

(Par. 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 48)

16. No additional surveying is recommended at this time.

17. Remarks:

18. Examined and approved;

  
M. H. Reese  
Chief of Party


19. Remarks after review in office:

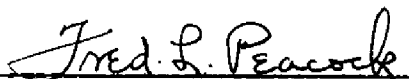
Reviewed in office by:

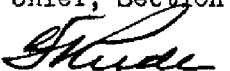


Examined and approved:

  
Chief, Section of Field Records

  
Chief, Division of Charts

  
Chief, Section of Field Work

  
Chief, Division of Hydrography  
and Topography.