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A NEGATIVE IMPACT REPORT OF A CULTURAL RESOURCES SURVEY OF
THE LITTLE CYPRESS REVETMENT FAILURE
PEMISCOT COUNTY, MISSOURI

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Memphis District

Jimmy D. McNeil
Staff Archeologist

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ABSTRACT

On 14 August 1986, an intensive cultural resources survey was conducted by the Environmental Analysis Branch of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Memphis District, over approximately 1.8 acres. The project is located in Pemiscot County, Missouri, Township 19N, Range 13E, SW 1/4 of the S 1/4 of the NE 1/4 of Section 11 of the Portageville Quadrangle. The proposed project includes repairing an eroded revetment. A pedestrian survey failed to locate any prehistoric, historic, or architectural sites within the project right-of-way.

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INTRODUCTION

An intensive survey for cultural resources was conducted by Memphis District Archeologists, Mr. Jimmy McNeil on 14 August 1986, within the Little Cypress Revetment failure project right-of-way. The total project includes 1.8 acres. The survey consisted of visual inspection of the exposed revetment failure and the exposed ground surface. No cultural resources was located within the project right-of-way. The pedestrian survey of this area is in accordance with requirements outlined in the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665) and recommended to the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (Public Law 91-190)

Study Area and Project Description

The project is located in Pemiscot County, Missouri, Township 19N, Range 13E, SW 1/4, SE 1/4, NE 1/4 of Section 11 of the Portageville Quadrangle (Figure 1).

Floodwaters have eroded through the existing revetment (Figure 2). Erosion has cut heavily into the existing revetment. In some places the erosion has occurred to a depth of greater than 4 meters below the top soil. The vertical profile showed alternating layers of sand and silt. The thickness of each layer varied.

The area beside and behind the failure was 90% covered with trees, bushes, and grasses.

The proposed maintenance action includes grading the failure bank to a stable incline and then replacing the revetment. All equipment will be brought in over existing roads and across existing levees and berms or by boat. All work will be conducted from/on the existing levee and berms or from river barges. Construction materials will be brought in will be boat. Project right-of-way will extend 100 feet either side of the existing damaged area and 200 feet behind existing top bank.

Environmental Setting

The project is located within the Mississippi Alluvial lowland of southeast Missouri which is the Mississippi Embayment of the Gulf Coast plain physiographic province (Steiermark 1963:xvi). The area is at the edge of an alluvial plain between Crowley's Ridge on the west and Sikeston Ridge to the east.

Today there are no large areas of woodlands remaining the area; however, there are scattered trees along roads and ditches. The trees are predominantly oak, elm, and sycamore.

Fauna present today includes racoon, fox, gray squirrel, fox squirrel and opossum. A large population of reptiles, amphibians, fish and birds are also found in the area.

Previous Research

Until recently, very little archaeological work has been conducted in the general area of this survey, and no work has been conducted in the immediate project area. Recent work within Pemiscot County has been conducted by Chapman (1955), LeeDecker (1978), Spier (1955), and Williams (1964).

Results of the Records Search

As the area was so small no records search was conducted.

Survey Methodology and Results

The designated maintenance area right-of-way is approximately 1.8 acres in size. The entire area had been disturbed when the levee was originally built. The survey area extended 100 feet either side of the existing damaged area and 200 feet behind existing top bank. The vertical profile of the erosional feature was carefully checked for cultural traces and indicators. None were found. The non-eroded areas was walked over and visually checked. Shovel samples were dug every 30 meters and the materials screened through a 6mm wire mesh. No cultural artifacts were found in the eight shovel tests. The failure profile was checked for signs of cultural deposits, none were found. The failure profile exhibited alternating layers of sand and silt. The top meter being mostly recently deposited sand.

Conclusions

Based on an in-field cultural resources survey, no evidence of significant prehistoric, historic, or architectural resources exists within the direct impact zone of the proposed maintenance work.

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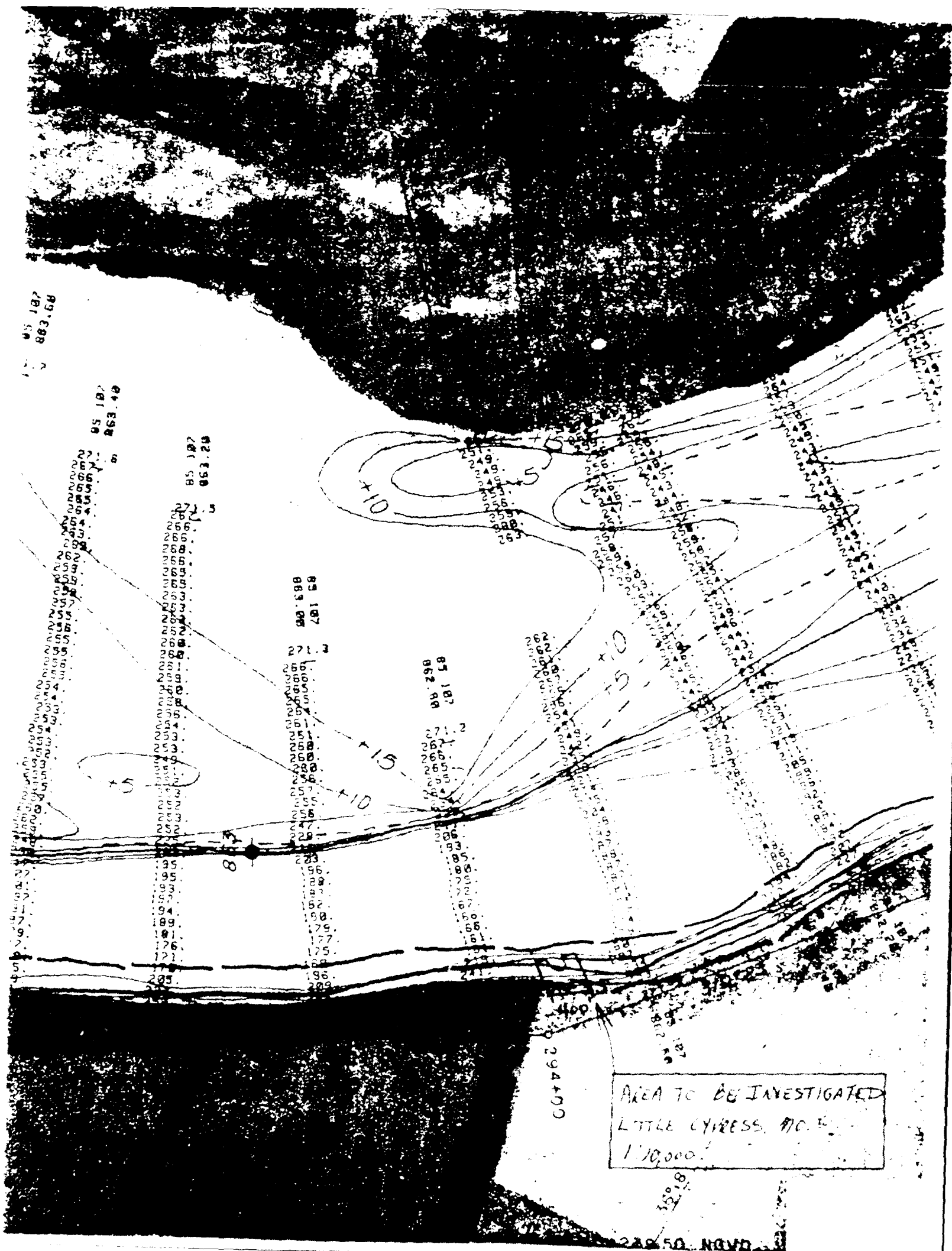
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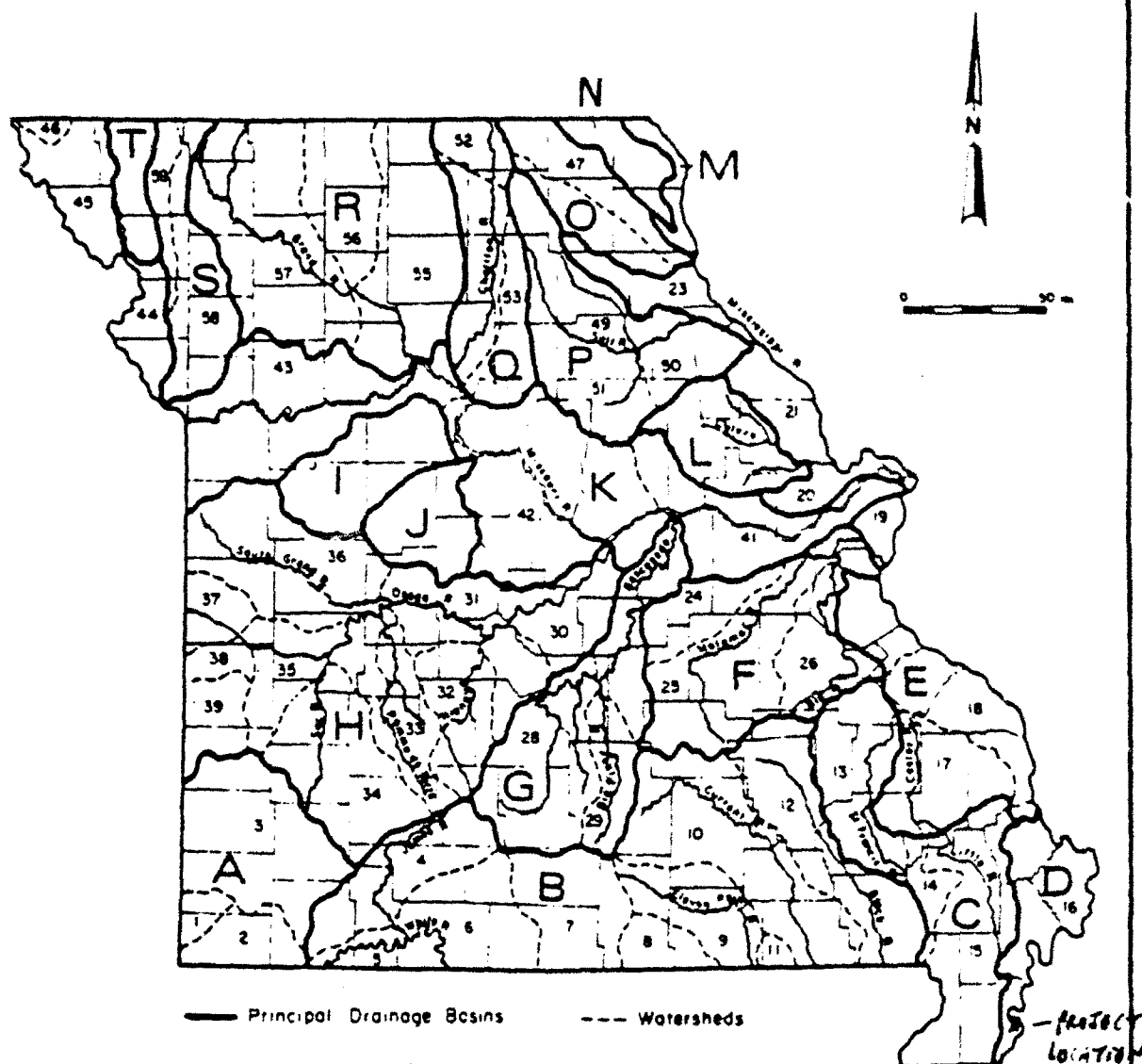
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AREA TO BE INVESTIGATED
LITTLE CYPRESS, MO.
1:10,000

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- | | | |
|-----------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|
| A. Arkansas | F. Meramec | L. Culvre |
| 1. Lost Creek | 24. Bourbeuse | M. Des Moines |
| 2. Elk | 25. Meramec | N. Wyaconda/Fox |
| 3. Spring | 26. Big | O. Fabius |
| B. White | G. Gasconade | 47. North Fabius |
| 4. James | 27. Lower Gasconade | 48. South Fabius |
| 5. Table Rock | 28. Upper Gasconade | P. Salt |
| 6. White | 29. Big Piney | 49. North Fork |
| 7. North Fork | H. Osage | 50. Salt 1 |
| 8. Spring | 30. Lower Osage | 51. Salt 2 |
| 9. Eleven Point | 31. Lake of the Ozarks | Q. Chariton |
| 10. Current | 32. Niangua | 52. Upper Chariton |
| 11. Fourche Creek | 33. Pomme de Terre | 53. Lower Chariton |
| 12. Black | 34. Sac | 54. Middle/East Fork |
| C. St. Francis | 35. Upper Osage | R. Grand |
| 13. Upper St. Francis | 36. South Grand | 55. Grand 1 |
| 14. Lower St. Francis | 37. Marais des Cygnes | 56. Thompson |
| 15. Little River | 38. Little Osage | 57. Grand 2 |
| D. Lower Mississippi | 39. Marmaton | S. Platte |
| 16. Lower Mississippi | I. Blackwater | 58. Platte |
| E. Upper Mississippi | J. Lamine | 59. One Hundred & Two |
| 17. Whitewater/Castor | K. Missouri | T. Nodaway |
| 18. Mississippi 1 | 41. Missouri 1 | |
| 19. Mississippi 2 | 42. Missouri 2 | |
| 20. Mississippi 3 | 43. Missouri 3 | |
| 21. Mississippi 4 | 44. Missouri 4 | |
| 22. Mississippi 5 | 45. Missouri 5 | |
| 23. North River | 46. Nishnabotna | |

Figure 3