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A Cultural Resources Survey of the  
Yazoo-Mississippi Delta Levee Slide Repair  
DeSoto County, Mississippi  
A Negative Finding Report

U. S. Army Corps of Engineers  
Memphis District

Jimmy McNeil

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August 1983

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### Abstract

On 28 July, 1983, an intensive survey of a proposed borrow area near Walls, Mississippi was conducted by the Environmental Branch of the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers; Memphis District Staff Archeologist, Mr. Jimmy McNeil and Ms. Joan Koch, conducted the survey.

The project is located in Township 1S, Range 9W, Section 28 NW 1/4 of the SW 1/4 of the Horn Lake, Mississippi-Tennessee-Arkansas Quadrangle map, DeSoto County, Mississippi.

The proposed work includes removal of fill materials from a designated borrow area, and placing the fill in levee slides. All fill materials will be transported over existing roads.

A pedestrian survey of portions of the borrow area 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 on 28 July 1983, within the proposed project right-of-way of the Yazoo-Mississippi Delta Levee as directed by the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers, Memphis District. This study was performed as required by the National Environmental Policy Act of 1968 (Public Law 91-190), Protection and Enhancement of Cultural Historic and Cultural Properties (36 CFR 800), and the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 898-665).

## Project Description

The permit area is located in DeSoto County, Mississippi, Township 1S, Range 9W, Section 28 NW 1/4 of SW 1/4 of the Horn Lake Mississippi-Tennessee-Arkansas Quadrangle; adjacent to Horn Lake. Four small slide areas on the levee require repairs. An area, approximately 3.4 acres in size, has been designated for borrow. The borrow area is at the southern end of an existing borrow area. The borrow materials will be placed in the levee slide areas. All materials will be transported over existing roads. The attached map (Map 1) and aerial photograph (Photo 1) depict the location of the project.

## Environmental Setting

This area is located within the Humid Continental Climate zone, which is noted for its hot summers and mild winters. Average annual precipitation is 49.7 inches (126 centimeters) of which approximately 10% is snowfall

(Commonwealth 1981).

Located about 7 miles southeast of the Mississippi River. The basic geologic history is of recent build-up. The uplands are capped with loess in thicknesses ranging from 3-30.5 meters. However, the floodplains are filled with up to 9 meters of recent alluvium.

Most of the area surrounding Horn Lake is in cultivation. Some trees and swampy areas remain near ditches and the levee. Most of these trees fall into the oak-hickory, elm-ash and gum-cottonwood-cypress catagories (COE 1973:10).

Fauna of the region includes deer, raccoon, opossum, squirrel and various birds and reptiles (COE 1975).

#### Previous Research

The major research conducted in the area of this survey was performed by Phillips, Ford and Griffin (1951). Later, 1949-1955, Phillips (1970) surveyed the Lower Yazoo River Basin. The Walls Site (Walls phase type site) was first described by Brown (1926) and later tested by Phillips, Ford and Griffin (1951). The Walls site is located approximately 4 miles west of this project.

The Nonconnah Creek Basin (next drainage north of Horn Lake) has been unsystematically surveyed by Dr. Gerald Smith (1971) since the early 1960's. A reconnaissance type survey was conducted by Gilbert/Commonwealth Associates

(1981) of the Memphis Metropolitan Area. Their reconnaissance included the Horn Lake Creek area.

#### Results of the Records Search

A search of the Mississippi Records File was not conducted because (1) of the area's small size; (2) the fact that the area has been previously disturbed, and (3) a literature and records search was conducted by Gilbert/Commonwealth in 1980. However, the National Register of Historic Places was consulted and no sites were listed within the project area.

#### Survey Methodology and Results

The survey conducted on 28 July 1983, consisted of walking over the area available for borrow. This area has been plowed and rained on, thus it had excellent visibility. No artifacts, stains, or other cultural resource indicators were found in the borrow area. The previously borrowed areas were under water.

#### Recommendations

As no cultural remains or indicators were found within the borrow area; and all non-borrow work and transportation will be conducted on the levee and existing roads, it is recommended that construction be allowed to proceed as planned.

The survey methodology used does not eliminate the possibility of encountering deeply buried sites. Therefore, it is recommended that any site encountered during construction be protected from further damage by stopping construction until its significance can be determined by the Environmental Resource Branch, Memphis District, U. S. Corps of Engineers in conjunction with the Office of Mississippi Division of Historic Preservation.

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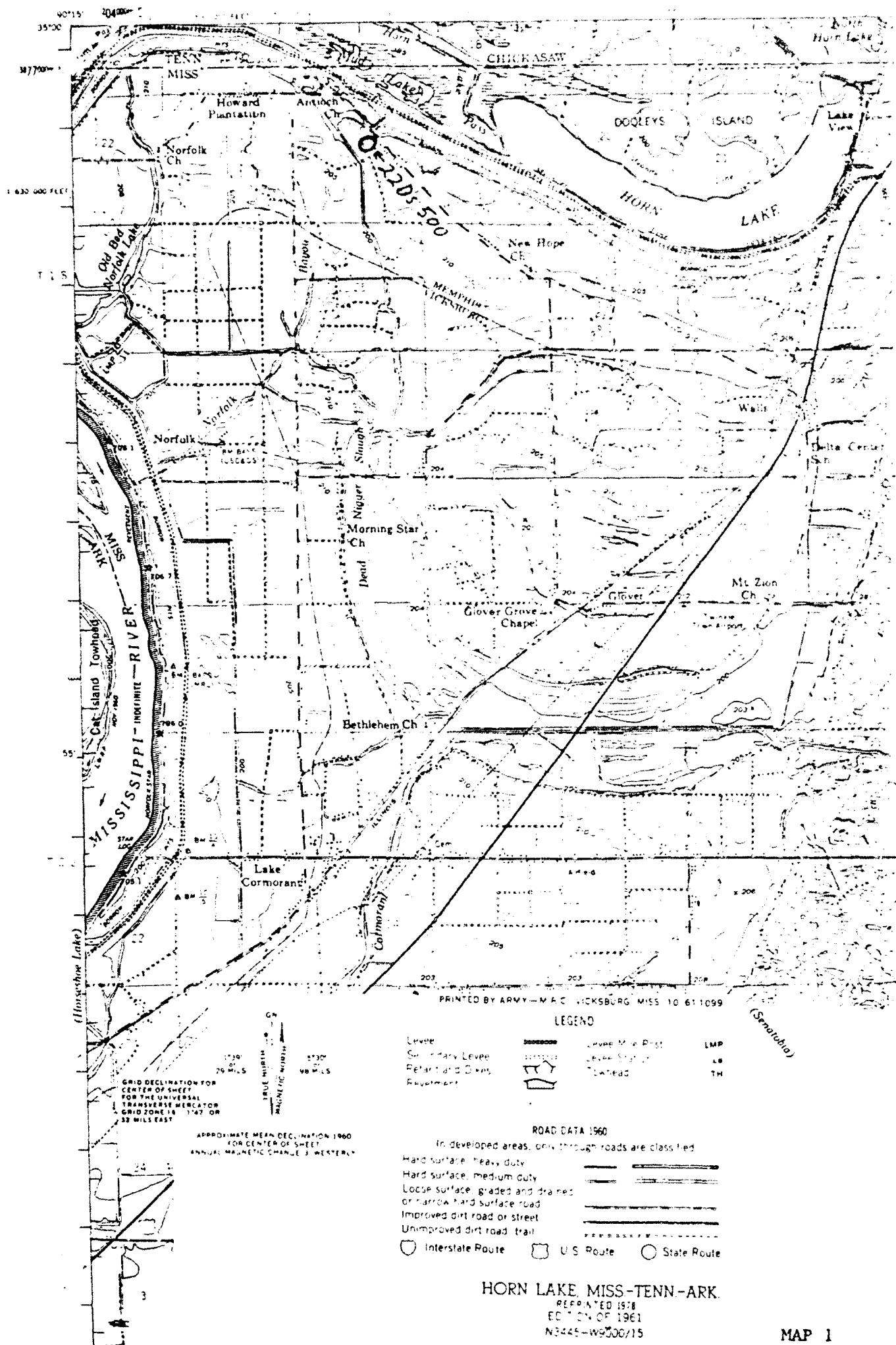
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