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An intensive cultural resources survey was conducted. The pedestrian survey failed to locate any prehistoric, historic, or architectural sites within the project right-of-way.

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A Cultural Resources Survey of the Trent
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(L'Anguille River)-14, Lee County, Arkansas

U. S. Army Corps of Engineers
Memphis District

Jimmy McNeil
Staff Archeologist

August 1983

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ABSTRACT

On 29 June and 22 July, 1983, an intensive survey of portions of the Trent Felton permit area was conducted by the Environmental Branch of the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers, Memphis District. Staff Archeologists, Mr. Jimmy McNeil and Mr. Doug Prescott, and Biologist, Mr. Don Martin, conducted the survey.

The project is located in Township 3N, Range 3E, Section 17 center of the Marianna, Arkansas Quadrangle Map, Lee County, Arkansas. This area covers approximately 250 acres adjacent to the L'Anguille River just north of the confluence of Larkin Creek and the L'Anguille River.

The proposed work includes ditching and deposition of fill material to form a low-profile levee. The purpose of the levee is to create a shallow impoundment from mid-October until February of each year.

A pedestrian survey of the higher elevation areas of the permit area failed to locate any prehistoric, historic and 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 in June and July 1983 within portions of the permit right-of-way 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 (36CFR800), and the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 898-665).

Project Description

The permit area is located in Lee County, Arkansas, Township 3N, Range 3E, Section 17 center of the Marianna, Arkansas Quadrangle; adjacent to the L'Anguille River just north of the confluence of Larkin Creek and the L'Anguille River.

The proposed project involves the deposition of approximately 22,320 cubic yards of fill material in wetlands to form a low-profile levee. The levee will be 8,800 feet long, with a 10-foot top width with 3:1 side slopes and an average height of 3.7 feet. Forty-seven hundred and fifty feet of the levee will be constructed in agricultural land and 4,050 feet in wetlands. The purpose of the levee is to create a shallow impoundment on approximately 250 acres (200 acres of bottomland hardwood wetlands, 50 acres agricultural land) from mid-October until February of each year. The fill will be removed by backhoe creating a ditch on the landward side of the levee. The levee will be constructed an average of 250 feet from the west bank of the river.

The attached map (Map 1) and aerial photograph (Photo 1) depict the location of the project. Both arms of the levee will end against the higher western terrace. This terrace will act as the fourth wall of the impoundment, thus retaining the water.

Environmental Setting

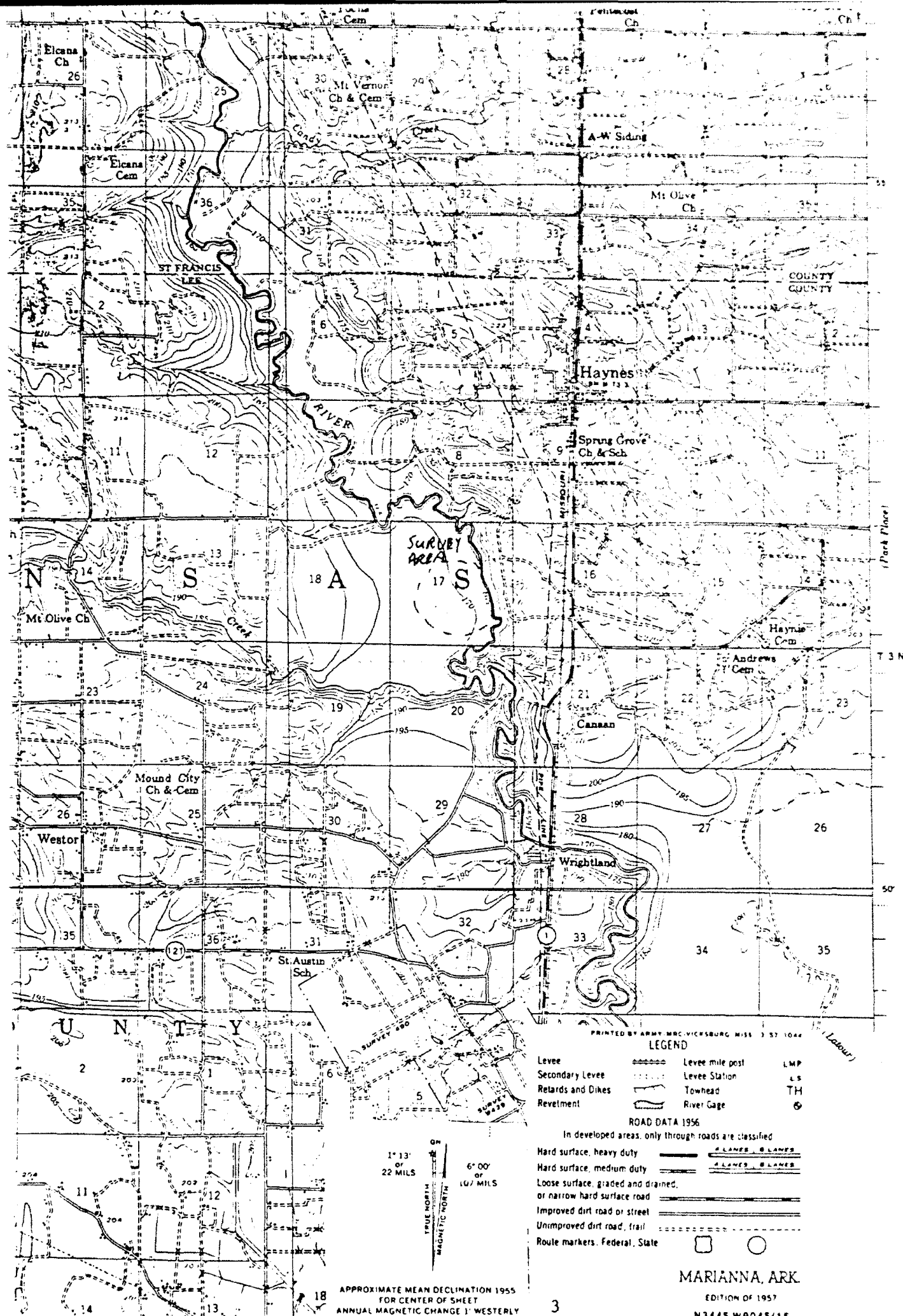
The Larkin Creek Watershed is in the northern part of the Lower Mississippi Valley region of the Gulf Coastal Plain in the southeastern corner of the Western Lowlands (Bennett, 1982).

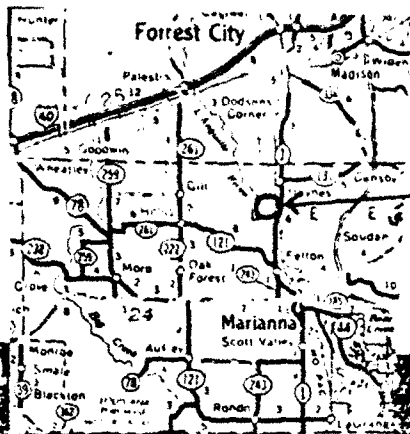
The Larkin Creek area is composed mainly of a series of late Pleistocene age fluvial terraces. The terrace sediments are mainly silts and clays over loess (Bennett, 1982).

The climate is generally warm during the summer and mild during the winter. Occasionally, there will be extremes in hot and cold temperatures.

The major portions of the woodlands area have been cleared. However, wooded areas still may be found in the old meander belts and at the edge of bayous. Primarily, the trees are willow, oak, cottonwood, hackberry, and sycamore. Underbrush consists of cane, honeysuckle, blackberry and wild grape.

Fuana in the area are not plentiful. Mammals include: rabbit, squirrel, raccoon, deer, possibly mink, muskrat and beaver. Numerous cottonmouth, rattlesnakes, and other reptiles are reported in the area.





PROJECT
LOCATION

L'ANGVILLE RIVER - 14
404 Permit Application
MR. TRENT FELTON

FEB '81 1:24,000



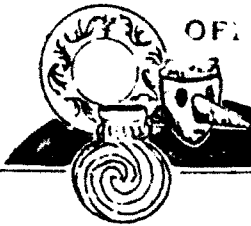
Previous Research

Enough work has been conducted in the general area of the project, by such researchers as Phillips, Ford and Griffin (1951), to isolate and date major cultural periods. More recently, the excavations of the Zebree site (Morse et al. 1980), the Brand site (Goodyear, 1974), and the Sloan site (Morse, 1975) have yielded specific prehistoric and historic data related to sites in the Eastern and Western Lowlands of northeast Arkansas.

Work in the L'Anguille River Basin has been limited. Although, Bennett (1982) conducted a cultural resources survey of the Larkin Creek Watershed, no archeological excavations have been undertaken in that area. Of the 39 sites found during the survey, 89% of them were located on the braided-stream terrace zone (Bennett, 1982).

Results of the Records Search

The Arkansas State Archeologist, Ms. Hester A. Davis, in her reply (memorandum 1) to the Permit Public Notice stated that many archeological sites were recorded near the permit area. However, she did not indicate that reported sites were located within the permit area. Thus, on the assumption that recorded sites would have been listed in her reply, a records search was not conducted. The National Register of Historic Places was consulted and no prehistoric, historic, or architectural properties are located within the permit area.



OFFICE OF THE STATE ARCHEOLOGIST

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File
6 June 83

M E M O R A N D U M

TO: Mr. P. C. Davis, Assistant Chief
Construction-Operations Division

FROM: Hester A. Davis, State Archeologist 

DATE: June 3, 1983

RE: LMMCO-G 1522-14 (L'Anguille River)-14 permit application of Trent Felton to deposit fill adjacent to the L'Anguille River north of the confluence of Larking Creek and L'Anguille River, Lee County, Arkansas

There are many recorded archeological sites near the location of the proposed 8800 foot long levee to be constructed by the deposition of fill in wetlands adjacent to the L'Anguille River. Excavation for fill and deposition could adversely affect any archeological site that is in the project area. It is recommended that the area of the levee project be investigated for the presence of archeological resources before the deposition is begun.

HAD:pnh
cc: State Historic Preservation Officer
Trent Felton
Skip Stewart-Abernathy

Survey Methodology and Results

The survey conducted on 29 June 1983 consisted of walking over much of the project area. This was done to determine if the proposed ditch and levee would impact any areas that might contain cultural resources. The proposed ditch and levee areas were located in low, swampy land that had been flooded this past winter. The only areas not in low, swampy land were at the western terminations of the north and south levees. These areas ended against a higher terrace.

However, one area (Area A, Photo 1) was approximately 0.8 meter higher than the surrounding surface--but, lower than the local terraces. On 22 July 1983, this high area was surveyed. The rise was approximately 304.8 meters long by 91.44 meters. The surface was approximately 75% visible; however, the surface consisted of last winters' fluvial deposits. Two rows of shovel cuts were placed along the top of the rise. No cultural remains were found in the shovel tests.

The general profile of the rise area was as follows: recent alluvial deposit over a thin layer of organics (leaves, etc.), overlying approximately 12 cm of sand; the sand overlies brownish-orange sandy clay. The sandy-clay layer extended below the depth (40-50 cm) of the shovel cuts. The soil profile indicates that this area is the remains of a terrace with some recent depositional materials on top.

Recommendations

As the proposed ditch and levee are located in low, swampy, areas it is felt that their construction will not impact any cultural resource. The terrace area within the proposed flood pool was surveyed and no cultural remains were discovered. The retained waters will not reach or exceed the higher terrace tops on the west side of the permit area, thus any sites that might exist on these terraces will not be affected by the impoundment. Because of these findings, it is recommended that the permit be issued and 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 Corps of Engineers in conjunction with the Office of Arkansas Historic Preservation Program.

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