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A NEGATIVE IMPACT REPORT OF A CULTURAL RESOURCES SURVEY OF
LEVEE MAINTENANCE ITEM No. R-25.3 R.A.C., NEAR CHARLESTON,
MISSISSIPPI COUNTY, MISSOURI

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ELECTE
MAY 17 1993
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U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Memphis District

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July 1984

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ABSTRACT

On 11 June 1984, an intensive cultural resources survey was conducted by the Environmental Analysis Branch of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Memphis District over approximately 0.23 acres. The project is located near Bird Cemetery, Mississippi County, Missouri, Township 27N, Range 17E, SE 1/4, SE 1/4 of NE 1/4 of Section 22 of the Wickliff Quadrangle. The proposed project includes repairing eroded areas along the levee. A records search and 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 cultural resources survey was conducted by Memphis District archaeologists, Jimmy McNeil and Doug Prescott, on 11 June, within the proposed Item No. R-25.3 R.A.C. Levee Repair project right-of-way. The total project includes approximately 0.23 acres. The survey consisted of visual inspection of the proposed borrow area. The pedestrian survey and literature search 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 near Bird Cemetery, Mississippi County, Missouri, Township 27N, Range 17E, SE 1/4, SE 1/4 of NE 1/4 of Section 22, of the Wickliffe Quadrangle (Figure 1).

The proposed borrow area showed evidence of having been previously disturbed. Presently the area is covered in young trees. The ground surface was covered with flood deposited silt.

The proposed maintenance action includes rebuilding the damaged levee area. All equipment will be brought in over existing roads and across existing levees and berms. All work and equipment sloping will be conducted from/on the existing levee and berms. Fill materials will be obtained from the project right-of-way.

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).

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 raccoon, 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 Mississippi County has been conducted by Hopgood (1969), and Williams (1964, 1966, and 1974).

Results of the Records Search

Mr. Michael Weichman, Chief Archaeologist of the Missouri State Historic Preservation Office, conducted a search of the state files to determine if sites had been recorded for Township 27N, Range 17E, Section 22. By phone, Mr. Weichman informed me that the nearest sites were recorded in Sections 27 (23 Mi 529), 33 (23 Mi 540) and 36 (23 Mi 532). No sites were recorded within the Project right-of-way.

Survey Methodology and Results

The designated maintenance area right-of-way is approximately 0.23 acres in size. The entire area had been disturbed when the levee was originally built. The survey area consisted of a strip 15.24 meters wide and 60.96 meters long, on the right descending bank. The borrow area was covered with trees but little ground cover. Ground visibility was approximately 60 percent. The ground surface had been recently covered with flood deposited silts. Five subsurface shovel test units (30cm x 30cm x 30cm) indicated that the flood silts extended at least 30cm beneath the surface. No artifacts or other cultural remains were found on the surface or within the shovel test units.

Conclusions

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

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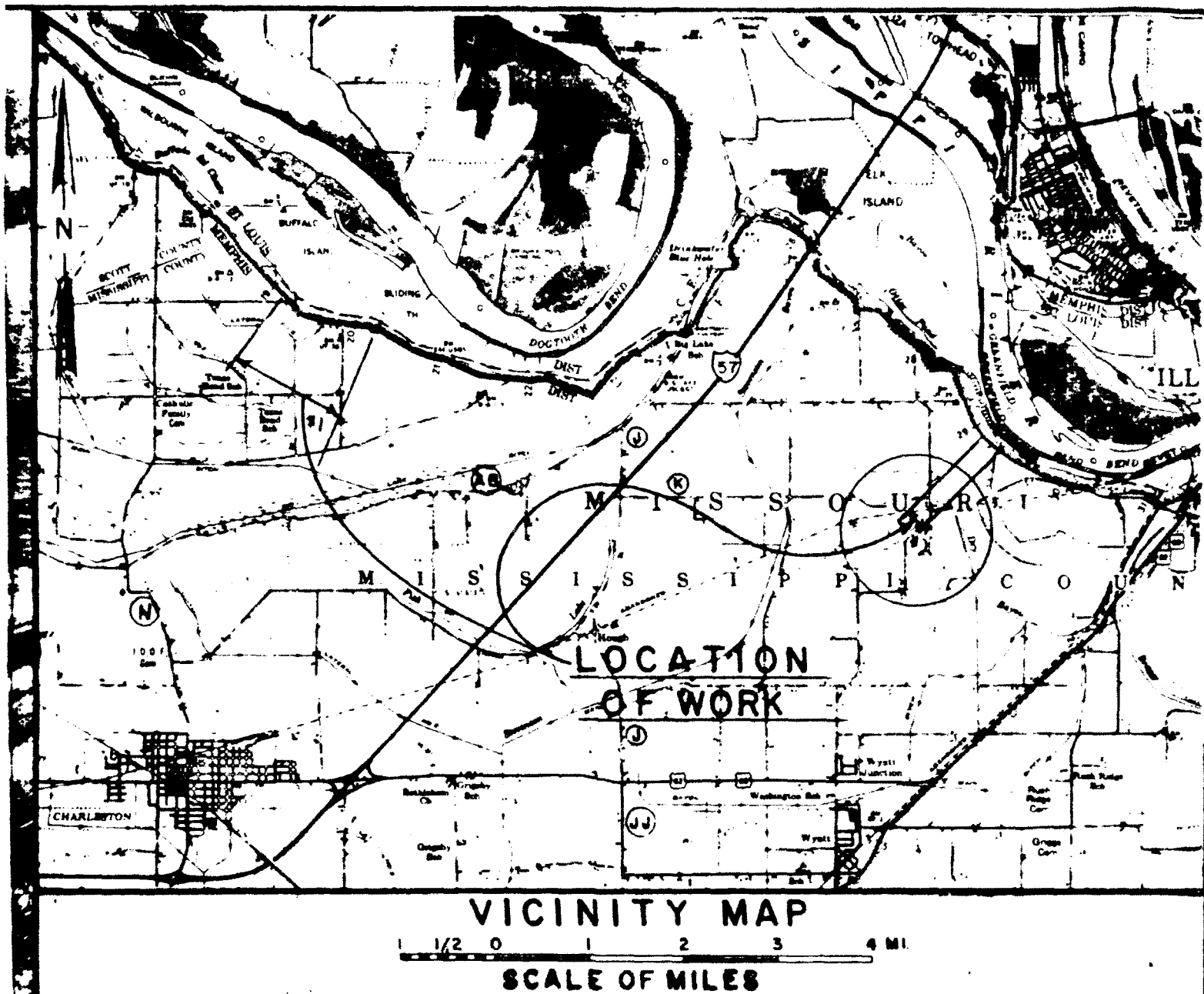
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baseline

WICKLIFFE, KY-MO-IL

T. 27N, R. 1E, NE 1/4, NE 1/4, NE 1/4

SEC.

2112409

FIGURE 1



P.T. 29/10+00
6

P.C. 29/13+93

29/11+00
29/11+70±

29/12+40±

Riverside Ramp
Repoff. Approx.
1/4 Mile

P.T. 29/14+81

ND OF ITC
29/20+00

3 E. of Graveled Road, A
1/4 Mile Stamped T.B.
Ground

AVAILABLE
FOR BORROW

309.42
304.16
300.58

296.83