

ATTACHMENT 1

A CULTURAL RESOURCES SURVEY OF
THE YAZOO AREA PUMP PROJECT, ISSAQUENA
COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI

BY KATE HUCKABAY YARBROUGH

A CULTURAL RESOURCES SURVEY OF
THE YAZOO AREA PUMP PROJECT,
ISSAQUENA COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI

by
Kate Huckabay Yarbrough

ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS BRANCH
PLANNING DIVISION
VICKSBURG DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS

20 July 1981

A CULTURAL RESOURCES SURVEY OF
THE YAZOO AREA PUMP PROJECT,
ISSAQUENA COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI

Introduction

On 15 June and 10 July 1981, Vicksburg District archeologists, Mary Ellen Fogarty and Kate Yarbrough, performed a cultural resources survey of selected features associated with the Yazoo Area Pump Project. The project area is located in Sections 11, 10, 15, 3, and 4, Township 17 North, Range 3 East, of USGS, Vicksburg, Mississippi-Louisiana, Quad (15 minute) (Figure 1).

Project Description

The tentatively selected project plan includes construction of a pumping plant located southwest of the Steele Bayou drainage structure in Issaquena County, an inlet channel about 4,000 feet long and 355 feet wide from Steele Bayou to the pumping plant, and an outlet channel about 6,000 feet long and 390 feet wide from the pumping plant to the Yazoo River (Figure 1).

The proposed project area is located in the Yazoo Basin, a physiographic subprovince of the Mississippi Alluvial Valley, which is a province of the Central Gulf Coastal Plain. The Yazoo Area is a large flood plain that contains oxbow lakes, swales, backswamps, and meander scars abandoned by the ancient Ohio and Mississippi Rivers and smaller rivers. Topographically, the project area is characterized by point bar and abandoned channel deposits. The project area is comprised primarily of bottom-land hardwoods.

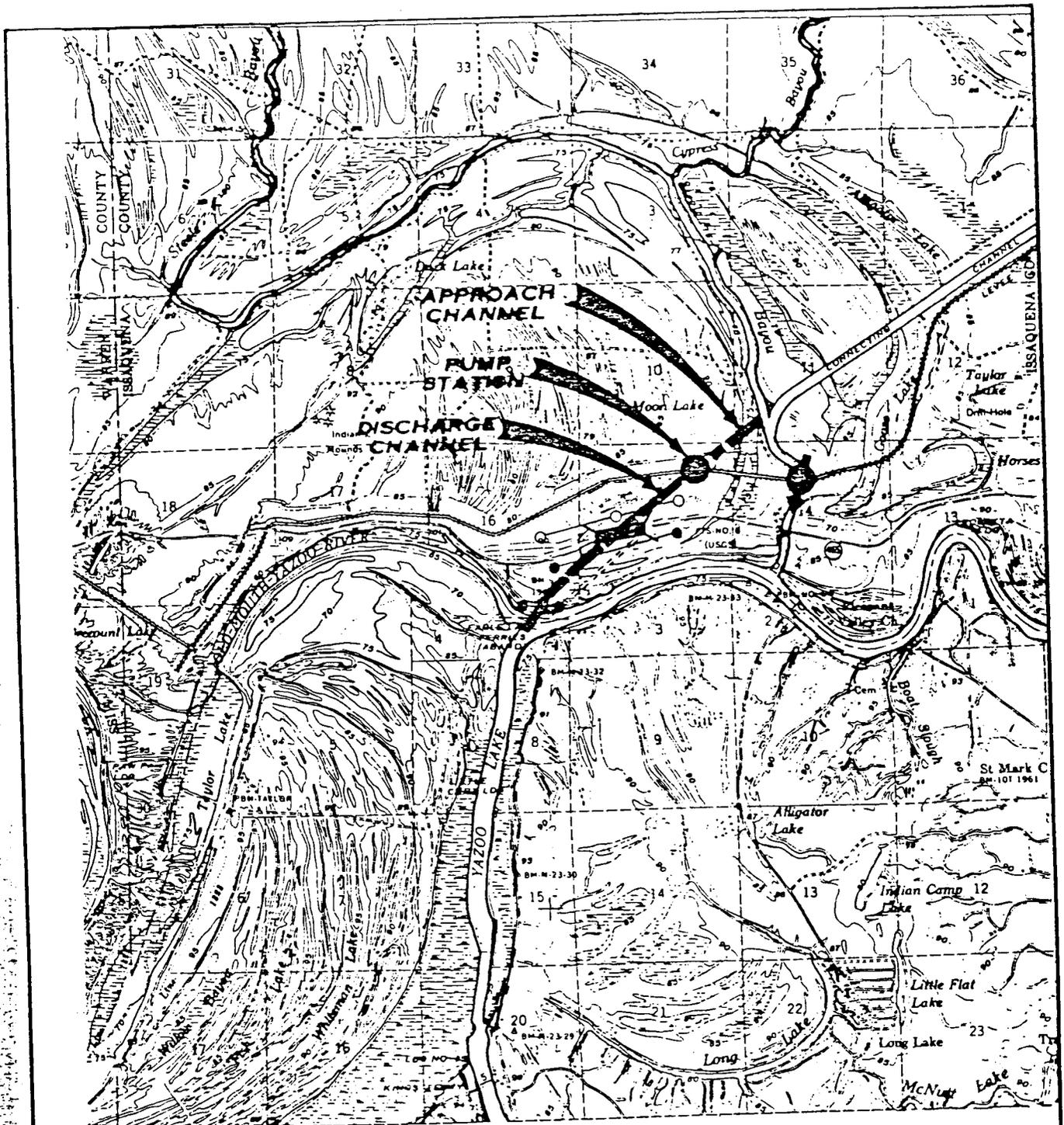
Survey Methodology

The National Register of Historic Places was examined to determine whether any sites within the project area were listed. None were found. State records were also reviewed to determine known sites in the study area. One archeological site, 22IS522, is located in the general vicinity; however, the site is not in the direct impact area.

An on-the-ground survey was conducted over the entire project area. Parallel pedestrian transects were undertaken for the length of the study area. Most of the project area was comprised of a forest environment of primarily bottom-land hardwoods. Wet flats and sloughs were also present in the study area. Areas between the low-lying regions were somewhat higher in elevation (approximately 90 feet, National Geodetic Vertical Datum). Areas south of the existing levee (approximately 100 to 200 yards) were characterized by tall grasses. These areas were previously used as fill for the levee and therefore were not examined for cultural resources. Survey conditions were poor; vegetative debris and standing water severely limited field inspection. An organic matting of decayed leaves covered almost the entire area. This matting was raked approximately every 30 to 40 meters to expose the ground. Special attention was given to the area of higher elevation. Exposed or eroded areas were also examined for cultural remains.

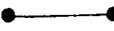
Survey Results and Recommendations

No evidence of historic/archeological sites was discovered during the survey. The absence of sites in the project area may be attributed to several factors. An obscuring mantle of forest growth may have concealed any cultural materials. This area frequently floods, and overbank deposition may have buried sites. Previous levee construction with borrow areas south of the present levee may have destroyed any existing sites. Because the majority of the project area consists of relatively low elevation, it is unlikely that these areas were ever the site of prolonged human occupation. It is recommended that construction activities proceed without adverse impacts to any cultural resources in the area. Should any cultural resources be unearthed during construction, work should be halted and the Vicksburg District archeologists contacted.



LEGEND

RELOCATIONS

- BRIDGE 
- POWERLINE 
- AERIAL TEL. LINE 
- BURIED TEL. LINE 
- ROAD 
- DRAINAGE STRUCTURE 

YAZOO RIVER BASIN, MISSISSIPPI
 YAZOO BACKWATER PROJECT
 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT
 STATEMENT
YAZOO AREA PUMP PROJECT
 SELECTED SITE
 LOCATION MAP

 U.S. ARMY ENGINEER DISTRICT, VICKSBURG
 CORPS OF ENGINEERS
 VICKSBURG, MISSISSIPPI
 DATE: 1981 FILE NO.: Y-14-215

Figure 1