A Negative Impact Report of a Cultural Resources Survey of the Little Cypress Revetment Failure, Pemiscot County, Missouri.

**6. AUTHOR(S)**
Jimmy D. McNeil

**7. PERFORMING ORGANIZATION NAME(S) AND ADDRESS(ES)**
In House

**9. SPONSORING/MONITORING AGENCY NAME(S) AND ADDRESS(ES)**
Dept. of the Army
Memphis District Corps of Engineers
B-202 Clifford Davis Federal Bldg.
Memphis, TN 38103

**12a. DISTRIBUTION/AVAILABILITY STATEMENT**
Unlimited

**13. ABSTRACT (Maximum 200 words)**
An intensive cultural resources survey was conducted over approximately 1.8 acres. A pedestrian survey failed to locate any prehistoric, historic, or architectural resources.
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

August 1986
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.
TABLE OF CONTENTS

Abstract i
Table of Contents ii
List of Figures ii
Introduction 1
Study Area and Project Description 1
Environmental Setting 2
Previous Research 4
Results of the Records Search 4
Survey Methodology and Results 4
Conclusions 5
Bibliography 6

List of Figures

Figure 1 General Survey Area
Figure 2 Drawing of the Project Area
Figure 3 Watershed Map
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 (Steyermark 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 oppossum. 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.
Bibliography

Chapman, Carl H. and Leo O. Anderson
1955 The Campbell Site, A Late Mississippian Town Site and Cemetery in Southeast Missouri, *The Missouri Archeologist*, 17:2 and 3

LeeDecker, Charles H. et. al.

Spier, Robert F. G.
1955 Skeleton Remains from the Campbell Site, *The Missouri Archeologist*, 17:2 and 3

Williams, J. Raymond
1964 *A Study of Fortified Indian Villages in S. E. Missouri.* Prepared for the National Park Service.