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A CULTURAL RESOURCES SURVEY OF THE
LLOYD MOORE'S MAYFIELD CREEK - 8
PERMIT REQUEST FOR A LOW PROFILE LEVEE RESERVOIR,
MAYFIELD CREEK, BALLARD COUNTY, KENTUCKY
A NEGATIVE FINDING REPORT

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Memphis District

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Jimmy D. McNeil
Staff Archeologist

September 1989

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ABSTRACT

On 11 September 1989, an intensive cultural resources survey was conducted by the Environmental Analysis Branch of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Memphis District over approximately 1.4 acres. The levee had already been dug, and the exposed materials were looked at for artifacts. The area within the levee was swamp and swamp vegetation. An in-house literature search and a pedestrian survey failed to locate any prehistorical, historical or architectural sites within the project right-of-way.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	<u>Page</u>
Abstract	i
Table of Contents	ii
Introduction	1
Project Description	1
Environmental Setting	1
Previous Research	2
Results of the Records Search	2
Survey Methodology and Results	2
Recommendations	3
References Cited	4

MAPS

Map 1	Overall view of project area
Map 2	Enlarged view of project area

Introduction

An intensive cultural resources survey was conducted by Memphis District staff archeologist, Mr. Jimmy McNeil on September 11, 1989, within the permit right-of-way as directed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Memphis District. The study was performed as required by the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (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 proposed project consists of a 3,900 foot long levee to create a shallow winter reservoir, approximately 20 acres in the enclosed area. The levee will have a maximum 3 foot height, with an 8 foot crown width, and 1V on 4H side slope. Approximately one-half of the site is presently a bottomland hardwood wetland, with the balance in wet meadow species.

Environmental Setting

The permit area is characterized by cool, wet winters and hot, humid summers. Typically, winter rains last for several days duration and cover large areas, but lack the severity of the summer storms. Summer thunderstorms are common but isolated and intense, causing localized flooding. The annual mean rainfall is 48 inches.

The project is located on a small tributary of the Mississippi River. In this reach of the stream, the channel has been realigned. The stream, in this reach, is noted for its high quality wetlands. However, this site may have been disturbed by earlier attempts to convert the area to agricultural production.

A small portion of the proposed reservoir consists of early successional bottomland hardwoods, such as, green ash (Fraxinus pennsylvanica), American elm (Ulmus americana), black willow (Salix nigra), and boxelder (Acer negundo).

About 75 percent of the area consists of marsh species, such as, cattail (Typha latifolia), sedges (Caryx sp.), smartweed (Polygonum lapathifolium) and (hydropiperoides), and spatterdock (Nuphar luteum). Baldcypress (Taxodium distichum) are present in the lower wetter areas with occasional buttonbush (Cephasanthus occidentalis).

The area is inhabited by raccoon, small rodents, squirrel and beaver. A great blue heron rookery has recently been discovered about a mile downstream from the site. Other species of birds on the site include: red-wing blackbird, field sparrows, eastern meadowlark, and in the late fall through early spring, various migratory waterfowl.

Previous Research

The earliest known archeological fieldwork in the Mayfield Creek area was conducted by C.B. Moore in 1915-16. In 1932 Webb and Funkhouser conducted some work in the area. More recent surveys have been conducted by Foster and Shock (1976), McGraw (1974), Weinland and Gatus (1979), Shock (1975, 1978, 1979), McHugh (1975) and Wesler (1982a and 1982b). In 1984 Klinger and Kandare did a literature search of the Mayfield and Red Duck Creeks areas for the Memphis District, Corps of Engineers. No actual work has been conducted in the direct project area.

Results of the Records Search

The Kentucky Heritage Council indicated that Sites 15Ba45, 15Ba70 and 15Ba72 were located within a mile of the proposed project area. A check of the Memphis District's in-house archeological records did not indicate any sites within the project right-of-way.

Survey Methodology and Results

Only the levee area of the project was surveyed. The levee had already been excavated. This included approximately 1.4 acres. As visibility was 100%, the area was visually surveyed. No shovel test were made. The approximately 20

acres behind the levee was not surveyed. The exposed soils indicated that this area had been swamp for an extremely long time. No artifacts or other indicators of human habitation were found in the project area.

Recommendations

Based on an infield cultural resources survey and a background records search, no evidence of prehistoric, historic or architectural resources exist within the direct impact zone. It is recommended that construction within the project right-of-way 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 Analysis Branch, Memphis District Corps of Engineers, in conjunction with the Kentucky State Archeologist.

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Ballard County



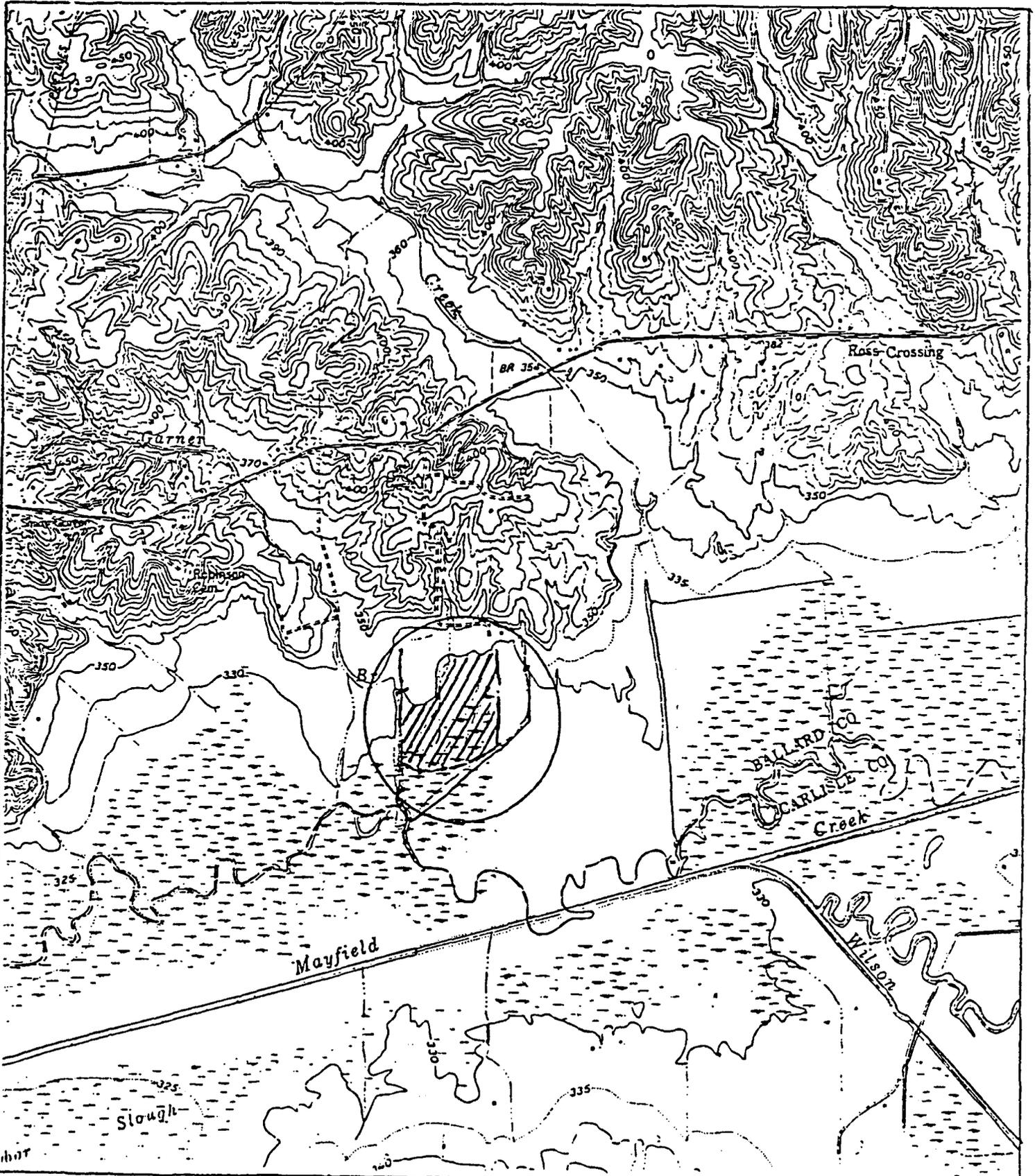
PURPOSE: LOW PROFILE LEVEE
FOR WINTER WATER-
FOWL RESERVOIR

VICINITY MAP
LLOYD MOORE
10550 CHILDRESS ROAD
WEST PADUCAH, KY 42086

LOW PROFILE LEVEE
IN: MAYFIELD CREEK
BALLARD COUNTY, KENTUCKY
MAYFIELD CREEK-8

Date 6-22-89

MAP 1



PURPOSE: LOW PROFILE LEVEE
FOR WINTER WATER-
FOWL RESERVOIR

LOCATION MAP
LLOYD MOORE
10550 CHILDRESS ROAD
WEST PADUCAH, KY 42086

LOW PROFILE LEVEE
IN: MAYFIELD CREEK
BALLARD COUNTY, KENTUCKY
MAYFIELD CREEK-8

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MAP 2