

BACKWATER AT BRIDGES AND DENSELY WOODED FLOOD PLAINS, YOCKANOOKANY RIVER NEAR THOMASTOWN, MISSISSIPPI

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HYDROLOGIC INVESTIGATIONS ATLAS
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INTRODUCTION
New techniques for flood-frequency water-surface profiles, needed in the design of economical, structurally sound, and environmentally compatible stream crossings, are under investigation. The investigation has concentrated with the aid of digital computers capable of analyzing large quantities of data. Among the techniques is the development of two-dimensional (2-D) digital models. Field data are essential for development and evaluation of these techniques for predicting water-surface profiles. This atlas is one of a series that provide a wide range of field data.

Since 1969 the U.S. Geological Survey has been collecting backwater data where densely vegetated flood plains are crossed by highway embankments and single-opening bridges. This work was done in cooperation with the Federal Highway Administration Department of Transportation, and the Mississippi State Highway Department, the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development, and the Alabama State Highway Department. The objective of this cooperative project is to present the data in a format conducive to the development of improved models for predicting hydraulic responses of flow at highway crossings of streams in complex hydrologic and geographic settings.

HYDROLOGIC INVESTIGATIONS ATLAS NUMBER

Alabama	Buckhorn Creek near Shiloh	HA-607
	Pea Creek near Lowland	608
	Poley Creek near Sanford	609
	Yellow River near Sanford	610
	Whitewater Creek near Terrell	611
Louisiana	Alexander Creek near St. Francisville	HA-600
	Beaver Creek near Dentwood	601
	Comite River near Olive Branch	602
	Cypress Creek near Downville	603
	Hogon Bayou near Libuse	604
	Little Bayou de Loure near Truxno	605
	Tennille Creek near Elizabeth	606
Mississippi	Rogue Chitto near Johnston Station	HA-291
	Coldwater River near Red Banks	592
	Lobatcho Creek near Lumberton	593
	Oktomoa Creek east of Magee	594
	Oktomoa Creek near Magee	595
	Falaha Creek at Watpaw	596
	Thompson Creek near Clara	597
	West Fork Amite River near Thomastown	598
	Yockanookany River near Thomastown	599

DESCRIPTION OF DATA

Data collected at all study sites consist of (1) depths, velocities, and discharge measurements through the bridge openings, and (2) peak water-surface elevations along the highway embankment and adjacent cross sections. A minimum of seven valley cross sections were surveyed at approximately equal valley-width intervals in the vicinity of the bridge at each site. Locations of cross sections are shown on maps and perpendicular to the assumed direction of flow. Cross sections were extended to intersect the edge of the valley at equal water-surface elevations. Surveying procedures described in the U.S. Geological Survey Techniques of Water-Resources Investigations series (Mettah, 1967; Benson and Arcement, 1967) were followed.

HIGH-WATER MARKS

Water-surface elevations were determined from high-water marks identified along the cross sections and the edges of the valley for each flood. During peak discharge measurements, water-surface elevations were marked with standard surveying stakes along the high-water marks. For some floods additional high-water marks were identified in the valley adjacent to the bridge to define in detail the water surface in the approach and exit reaches.

BRIDGE GEOMETRY

Detailed bridge geometry was obtained at each site. The bridge cross section was surveyed at the most contracted section. Piers, spur dikes, wingwalls, abutment slopes, and other pertinent geometry were measured.

MANNING'S ROUGHNESS COEFFICIENT

Schneider and others (1976) used composite Manning's roughness coefficients for the Yockanookany River. The roughness occurred in their study, used composite values of n were verified by matching spot backwater computations of the water surface with actual water-surface profiles for measurements. The range of n values used in this report is based on values used by Schneider and others (1976). Roughness varies from open fields to dense forests.

ROUGHNESS VALUES OR RATIOS OF ROUGHNESS VALUES IN DIFFERENT PARTS OF THE FLOOD PLAIN ARE SHOWN ON THE MAPS. THE VALUES SHOWN ARE BASED ON WATER DEPTH. THE HIGH VALUE IS THE VALUE WHERE WATER DEPTH IS LESS THAN 0.6 METER AND THE LOW VALUE APPLIES WHERE WATER DEPTH IS GREATER THAN 1.0 METER. A LINEAR RELATIONSHIP OF ROUGHNESS TO WATER DEPTH IS ASSUMED FOR WATER DEPTHS BETWEEN 0.6 AND 1.0 METER.

PRESENTATION OF DATA

The data are presented on topographic maps enlarged from standard 1:24,000 or 1:62,500 scale U.S. Geological Survey topographic maps which comply with National Map Accuracy Standards. Accuracy limits of the base maps are maintained in the enlargements. Although positions may be scaled close to the enlargements, they are not defined with greater accuracy than positions on the base map.

GROUND ELEVATIONS ARE PLACED ADJACENT TO SOLID SQUARES. ELEVATIONS OF FLOODPLAINS ARE INDICATED BY BURNED SQUARES. FLOODPLAIN FEATURES IN BRIDGE SECTIONS ARE SHOWN ON SEPARATE SHEETS. BRIDGE GEOMETRY AND ROAD EMBANKMENT DIMENSIONS ARE SHOWN WITH BRIEF NOTATIONS OF PIECE SPACING AND CONFIGURATION.

IN ADDITION TO THE DATA POINTS SHOWN ON THE MAPS, DISCHARGE MEASUREMENTS OF SELECTIONS, PLOTS OF CROSS SECTIONS AND VELOCITY DISTRIBUTION DIAGRAMS ARE SHOWN. CROSS-SECTION ELEVATIONS ARE TABULATED TO DEFINE STREAM CHANNELS AND FLOODPLAIN FEATURES IN GREATER DETAIL. EACH CROSS SECTION IS REFERRED TO A ZERO STATION ESTABLISHED AT THE EXTREME LEFT EDGE (FACING DOWNSTREAM) OF THE VALLEY.

DATUM

All elevations presented in this report are referred to National Geodetic Vertical Datum of 1929 (NGVD).

FLOOD FREQUENCY

Flood-frequency relations are presented graphically. Techniques for deriving flood-frequency relations are those described by the U.S. Water Resources Council (1977), and by Colson and Hudson (1976).

INTERNATIONAL SYSTEM OF UNITS (SI)

The International System of Units (SI) is used throughout this report. All data were measured in the U.S. customary units and converted to SI units. Ground elevations which were originally determined to the nearest tenth of a foot are rounded to the nearest 0.1 meter. Water-surface elevations which were surveyed to hundredths of a foot are rounded to millimeters. The same criteria apply to all other dimensions, except contour elevations which are shown to the nearest tenth of a meter.

The following factors may be used to convert SI units to the U.S. customary units:

MULTIPLY SI UNITS BY TO OBTAIN U.S. CUSTOMARY UNITS

LENGTH	Feet (ft)
Meter (m)	3.281
Square meter (m ²)	10.764
Cubic meter (m ³)	35.315
VELOCITY	Feet per second (ft/s)
Meter per second (m/s)	3.281
FLOW RATE	Cubic feet per second (cfs)
Cubic meter per second (m ³ /s)	35.315

DATA FOR YOCKANOOKANY RIVER NEAR THOMASTOWN, MISSISSIPPI

Data for Yockanookany River near Thomastown, Miss., obtained in an 11-kilometer reach crossed about midway by State Highway 429 are presented on nine sheets (fig. 2). Sheet 1 contains tables showing cross-section data (table 1) and discharge data (table 2). An aerial view looking downstream in the vicinity of the bridge is shown in figure 3. Relative magnitudes of the floods are shown on the frequency curve (fig. 4). The locations of representative ground elevations are shown on sheets 2A and 2B. These are points of significant changes in cross section elevation and alignment of the axis. Plots of the cross sections are graphic presentations of the tabular data.

Bridge geometry and road embankments are shown on sheet 2B as they existed at the time of the floods. The cross section surveyed at the downstream side of the bridge is tabulated on sheet 1. The cross section shown for velocity distribution was obtained by staking from the upstream side of the bridge during the discharge measurement.

Data for three floods on Yockanookany River are presented. The first flood occurred April 12, 1969, (sheet 3A and 3B). Ten valley cross sections were surveyed after this flood (sheets 2A and 2B). A survey of the old road fill upstream from the first roadway was made beginning at the right bank (facing downstream) of the low water channel (sheet 2B). The old road fill was removed completely during the fall of 1969. A second flood occurred on January 2, 1970 (sheets 4A and 4B). The third flood occurred March 15, 1975 (sheets 5A and 5B).

Valley cross sections surveyed are considered valid for all floods. Manning's roughness coefficients and the 1975 flood boundaries are shown on sheets 2 to 5.

FLOOD OF APRIL 12, 1969

Peak water-surface elevations, the measured cross section, and velocities for the flood of April 12, 1969, are shown on sheets 3A and 3B. The flood crest at an elevation of 108.079 meters at the reference point located on the downstream guardrail 50 meters from the left abutment. The measured peak discharge was 289 cubic meters per second (m³/s) (table 2). The measured cross section and velocity distribution for the discharge measurement April 12, 1969 are shown on sheet 3B. The recurrence interval of the peak discharge is 3 years (Colson and Hudson, 1976). See figure 4.

FLOOD OF JANUARY 2, 1970

Peak water-surface elevations for the flood of January 2, 1970, are shown on sheets 4A and 4B. The flood crest at an elevation of 107.969 meters at the reference point located on the downstream guardrail. The peak discharge was 229 m³/s, from an elevation of 106.545 meters at the reference point. The measured peak discharge was 470 m³/s (table 2). The measured cross section and velocity distribution for the discharge measurement March 15, 1975, are shown on sheet 5B. The recurrence interval of the 1975 peak discharge is 10 years (Colson and Hudson, 1976). See figure 4.

FLOOD OF MARCH 15, 1975

Peak water-surface elevations for the flood of March 15, 1975, are shown on sheets 5A and 5B. The flood crest at an elevation of 108.545 meters at the reference point. The measured peak discharge was 470 m³/s (table 2). The measured cross section and velocity distribution for the discharge measurement March 15, 1975, are shown on sheet 5B. The recurrence interval of the 1975 peak discharge is 10 years (Colson and Hudson, 1976). See figure 4.

SUMMARY

Floodflow data that will provide a base for evaluating digital models relating to open-channel flow were obtained at 22 sites on streams in Alabama, Louisiana, and Mississippi. Thirty-five floods were measured. Analysis of the data indicated methods currently in use were inaccurate where densely vegetated flood plains are crossed by highway embankments and single-opening bridges. This atlas presents flood information at the site on Yockanookany River near Thomastown, Miss. Water depths, velocities, and discharges through bridge openings on Yockanookany River near Thomastown, Miss., for floods of April 12, 1969, January 2, 1970, and March 15, 1975, are shown, together with peak water-surface elevations along embankments and along cross sections. Manning's roughness coefficient values in the peaks of the flood plain are shown on maps, and flood-frequency relations are shown on a graph.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Other information pertaining to floods in Alabama, Louisiana, and Mississippi is listed below:

- U.S. Geological Survey, U.S. Geol. Survey Water Supply Paper 1849, Room 202, Oil and Gas Board Building (P. O. Box V) University, Alabama 35486
- U.S. Geological Survey, 6564 Florida Boulevard (P. O. Box 66482) Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70896
- U.S. Geological Survey, 105-16, 105-17, 105-18, 105-19, 105-20, 105-21, 105-22, 105-23, 105-24, 105-25, 105-26, 105-27, 105-28, 105-29, 105-30, 105-31, 105-32, 105-33, 105-34, 105-35, 105-36, 105-37, 105-38, 105-39, 105-40, 105-41, 105-42, 105-43, 105-44, 105-45, 105-46, 105-47, 105-48, 105-49, 105-50, 105-51, 105-52, 105-53, 105-54, 105-55, 105-56, 105-57, 105-58, 105-59, 105-60, 105-61, 105-62, 105-63, 105-64, 105-65, 105-66, 105-67, 105-68, 105-69, 105-70, 105-71, 105-72, 105-73, 105-74, 105-75, 105-76, 105-77, 105-78, 105-79, 105-80, 105-81, 105-82, 105-83, 105-84, 105-85, 105-86, 105-87, 105-88, 105-89, 105-90, 105-91, 105-92, 105-93, 105-94, 105-95, 105-96, 105-97, 105-98, 105-99, 106-00, 106-01, 106-02, 106-03, 106-04, 106-05, 106-06, 106-07, 106-08, 106-09, 106-10, 106-11, 106-12, 106-13, 106-14, 106-15, 106-16, 106-17, 106-18, 106-19, 106-20, 106-21, 106-22, 106-23, 106-24, 106-25, 106-26, 106-27, 106-28, 106-29, 106-30, 106-31, 106-32, 106-33, 106-34, 106-35, 106-36, 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