MASTER DRAINAGE
and
FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT PLAN
for
CITY OF CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA

JOSEPH P. RILEY, JR., MAYOR

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DAVIS & FLOYD, INC.
CONSULTING ENGINEERS

MAY 1984

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SECTION I

PURPOSE AND SCOPE

Stormwater drainage is a major problem in the City of Charleston. The existing facilities for the removal of stormwater runoff at an acceptable level are inadequate in a large portion of the City, as is evidenced by the numerous and recurrent incidents of surface flooding during periods of moderate to heavy rainfall.

The severity of flooding varies from area to area and with the intensity and duration of the rain. Flooding can result in hardships to the City residents in the form of disruption of vital services and the loss of mobility and income. In some instances, the flooding has also resulted in property loss or damage, and most importantly, has posed a potential hazard to the health and safety of the population. With the continued growth, and the resulting land development, the frequency of flooding and its impact can only be expected to increase due to the increased quantities and concentration of stormwater runoff.

In recognition of the problem and the need for remedial action, the City of Charleston engaged Davis & Floyd, Inc. to provide the engineering services necessary to analyze and recommend corrective measures for the existing stormwater facilities in the City of Charleston. The study area comprises all of the area within the Charleston City boundaries as delineated on Figure No. 1 - Location Map.

The agreement between the City and the Engineers is the first of four phases required to reduce the City's existing drainage problems. The phases are as follows:

1. First Phase - study and report on the condition and capabilities of the existing stormwater drainage facilities and make recommendations as to improvements required.

2. Second Phase - secure funds for the construction of recommended improvements.

3. Third Phase - preparation of plans and specifications for recommended improvements.

4. Fourth Phase - construction of recommended improvements.

This report is submitted in compliance with the agreement between the City and the Engineers and constitutes completion of the First Phase of identifying the existing drainage problems and recommending improvements.

The flooding which is frequently experienced in the City of Charleston can be attributed to a number of causes, specifically: flat terrain which reduces runoff capacity; improper sizing and spacing of stormwater inlets; clogged inlets, pipes, culverts, and ditches; high ground water table; undersized pipes, culverts, and ditches; and tidal influence. While all of these causes will be addressed to some

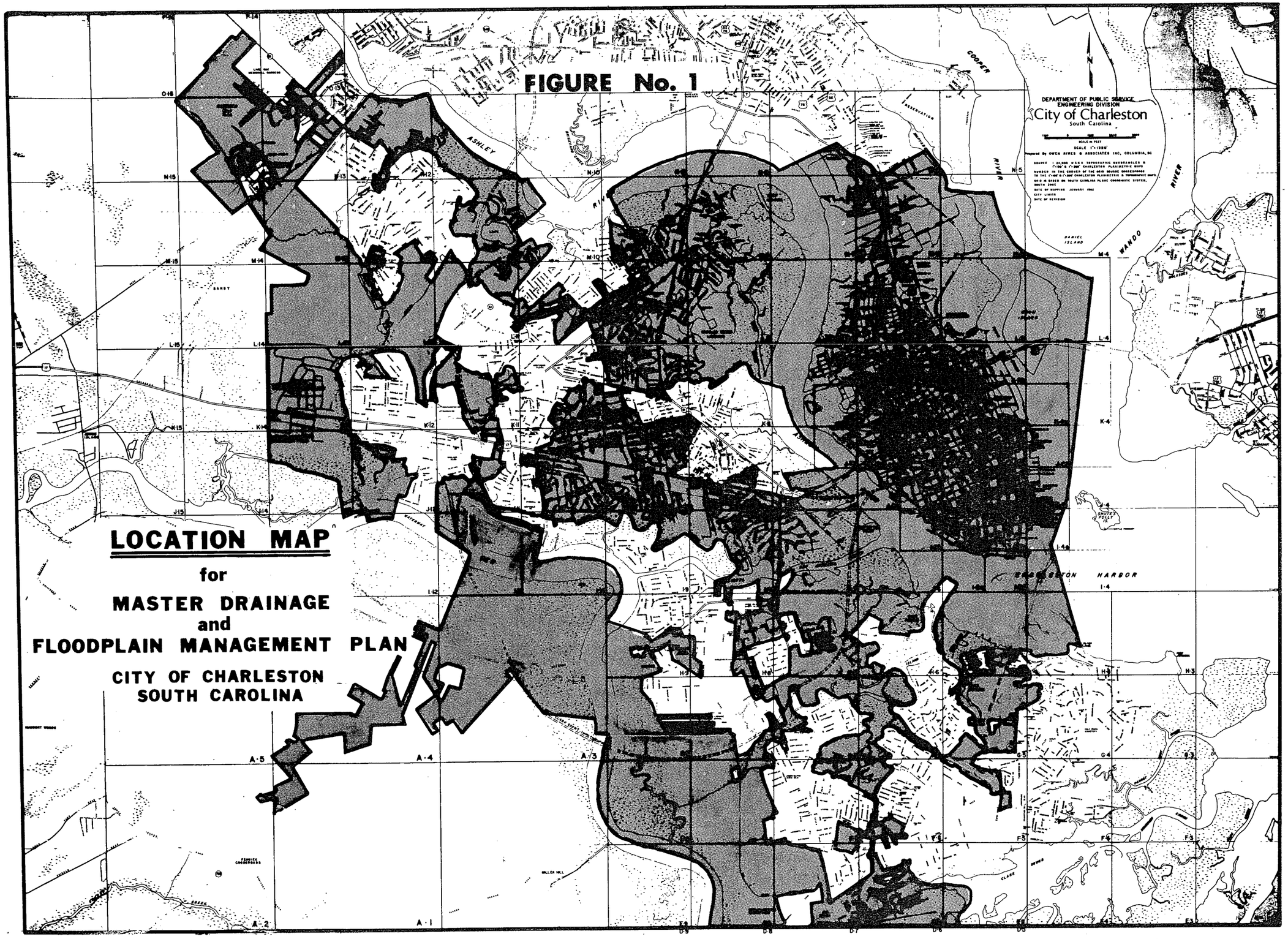


FIGURE No. 1
LOCATION MAP
for
MASTER DRAINAGE
and
FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT PLAN
CITY OF CHARLESTON
SOUTH CAROLINA
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SERVICE
ENGINEERING DIVISION
City of Charleston
South Carolina
ASHLEY
COOPER
RIVER
WANDO
RIVER
HARBOR
DANIEL ISLAND

extent in the subsequent sections, the primary focus of this study pertains to the analysis of major (24 inch diameter or larger) stormwater conveyance facilities with the detailed improvements addressed as the major drainage improvements are implemented.

This report presents the results of a field survey of the major existing drainage facilities, the methodology developed for use in evaluating the existing facilities, specific recommendations as to improvements needed to provide an adequate and coordinated stormwater drainage system for the City of Charleston, a floodplain management program recommendation, the estimated construction and total project costs for the proposed improvements, and a schedule for their construction on a priority basis. Subsequent sections of the report contain discussions of the following:

The Study Area. This section includes a description of the boundaries, topography, land use and other characteristics of the area which are pertinent to the design and configuration of stormwater drainage facilities.

Design Criteria. This section evaluates rainfall and tidal data, discusses the degree of protection desired or economically feasible, and develops a specific design criteria for use in the evaluation of the existing system and the design of proposed improvements.

Evaluation of Existing Stormwater Drainage Facilities and Recommended Improvements. Included in this section are detailed descriptions and evaluations of the existing drainage system components as to type, condition and capacity, and the designation of those which are deficient and require replacement, enlargement or relief. Preliminary designs have been prepared and total project cost estimates for the recommended facilities are presented.

Construction Program. Components of the overall recommended facilities are rated on the basis of capacity deficiency, greatest benefit to the most people at least cost, most urgent need, and health and safety of the public. A priority construction program based upon the above has been developed for recommended drainage improvements within the City.

Floodplain Management Program. This section presents a recommended program that the City should consider implementing to assure that future development in the City will be compatible with an orderly drainage plan so that new developments will not have an adverse impact upon the drainage of areas either upstream or downstream of the proposed development site.

SECTION II

THE STUDY AREA

The Study Area is the area inside the corporate limits of the City of Charleston as of May 1984, as illustrated on Figure No. 1. The area is bounded on the north by the Ashley River and the City of Charleston/City of North Charleston city limits, on the east by the Cooper River, on the south by the Stono River and the City of Charleston/Charleston County line on James Island, and on the west by the City of Charleston/Charleston County line in the West Ashley area and on Johns Island.

Although the detailed investigations and recommendations developed in this Study have been limited to the area described, the impact of stormwater runoff entering the areas from outside the corporate boundaries has been considered in the evaluations and recommendations. In addition, the stormwater runoff generated from several of the areas must pass through areas outside the City boundaries prior to discharge into one of the several receiving tributaries. The characteristics and capacities of these tributaries have also been analyzed.

To perform the investigations for the study, the areas were divided into individual drainage basins. A drainage basin is an area from which the runoff generated is discharged via one outfall system.

The physical characteristics of each drainage basin within the Study Area influences the quantity of stormwater runoff from the area, and therefore influences the stormwater drainage facilities used to transport that runoff. Physical characteristics include topography, land use, type and extent of development, soil and surface cover, and environmental features. Each of these characteristics and the effect of their influence is described in the following paragraphs.

Topography

Surface elevations within the Study Area range from mean sea level (MSL) to a maximum of 25 feet above mean sea level in the West Ashley area and can be characterized as low-lying, slightly undulating and gently sloping. Surface slopes are generally 1 percent or less, and slope to one of the several rivers or tributaries which surround the area, i.e., Cooper River, Ashley River, Stono River, etc.

Drainage systems have been installed throughout the Study Area and the drainage patterns established by the existing systems have been adhered to in the study. The configurations and limits of the areas drained by each of the existing systems have been determined by field surveys and observations.

The field surveys have resulted in the delineation of 182 separate drainage basins. Each of the basins has one separate outlet to either the Cooper River, Ashley River, Stono River, or James Island Creek, and each has been evaluated independently of adjacent areas. A discussion of each of the drainage basins is presented in Section IV, "Evaluation of Existing Stormwater Drainage Facilities." Section IV contains a detailed description of the limits, characteristics, and existing

drainage facilities, as well as recommended improvements for each of the drainage basins.

The influence of the topography of the Charleston area may be either beneficial or detrimental insofar as stormwater runoff protection is concerned. The flat slopes tend to result in storage of a portion of the rainfall in numerous shallow depressions and also to increase the quantities of rainfall which percolates into the ground. Overland flow velocities are also lower which increases the time for runoff to concentrate at specific points in the collection system. The low ground elevations and the very flat slopes result in areas for which protection is very difficult, especially during storms which occur at or just before high tide. Much of the development within the Peninsular City area is in fact impractical to protect without the use of stormwater pumping stations. The areas which can be protected by gravity flow require much larger diameter conduits than would be required for more steeply sloping areas.

Land Use and Development

The City has been divided into four separate and distinct study areas; (a) Peninsula, (b) West Ashley, (c) James Island, and (d) Johns Island. At present less than 65 percent of the land within the Study Area has been developed. Of those areas which have been developed, approximately 65 percent is designated for residential use, of which about two-thirds is single family dwellings. Single family type dwellings predominate the James Island and West of the Ashley areas, whereas the number of residential and multi-family dwellings is about equal in the Peninsular City area. General business, commercial, and institutional areas constitute approximately 25 percent of the area. These areas are located on the major traffic arteries in the James Island and West Ashley areas. In the Peninsular City area this type of development is diversely located, especially in the area south of the Crosstown Expressway. Industrial development comprises the remaining 10 percent of the area and is concentrated mainly in the northern section of the Peninsular City area above Mt. Pleasant Street.

The area which lies west of Ashley River Road and north of Highway 17 will undergo the greatest amount of transformation in the future. This area is an old phosphate strip mine area and presently is mostly undeveloped. The present runoff collects in the strip mined ridge and valley network and drains slowly to either Church Creek or Long Branch Creek. Development of the area will fill in the valleys and channelize the runoff to one of the receiving tributaries, resulting in increased peak and total flows if floodplain management is not utilized. Hydraulic analysis of Long Branch Creek was performed assuming full development of the drainage area with no floodplain management. The hydraulic analysis of the Church Creek drainage basin was performed assuming present development of the basin with floodplain management requiring future peak discharge equal to present peak discharge. The results of the comparative analysis of these drainage basins are included in Section IV.

Those areas which are presently not developed to potential in the James Island and Johns Island area will require careful planning to assure proper drainage. The majority of the areas will discharge directly to the Stono River or James Island Creek and their development should have a minimal effect on the drainage of the area if adequate facilities are planned for upstream runoff prior to development.

Soils

The soils throughout the Study Area are of marine or fluvial origin and consist of sediments ranging in particle size from clay to fine sand. The Soil Conservation Service and Forest Service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture have conducted extensive studies of the soils within the Study Area. The results of the studies have been presented in reports entitled "Feasibility Study of Requirements for Main Drainage Canals" dated 1963; and "Soil Survey, Charleston County, South Carolina", dated 1971. The locations, descriptions and characteristics of soils within the Study Area have been excerpted from these reports.

During the above referenced studies, soils with distinct characteristics and profiles were identified and classified in accordance with uniform national procedures. They were then placed in associations in which two or more soil types occur in a distinctive proportional pattern. The name of each association consists of the names of its principal soil components arranged in order of most prevalent to least prevalent.

The approximate boundaries of the soil associations which have been identified within the Study Area are shown in Appendix C, along with a detailed description of each. Those soil associations discussed include Chipley-Lakeland, Wando-Seabrook, Kiawah-Seabrook-Dawhoo-Yonges-Hockley-Edisto, Tidal Marsh, Mine Pits-Dumps-and-Made Land.

Several general conclusions can be drawn from the types of soils found in the Study Area:

1. Velocity of runoff from most of the unpaved areas will be slow.

2. A large percentage of the rainfall will percolate into the ground or be absorbed by vegetation.

3. Bottom and side slopes of drainage ditches will be subject to erosion unless protected or unless the velocity of flow is restricted to 2 to 3 feet per second or less.

Environmental Features

The Study Area has numerous environmental features which are of importance to the conduct of the study, and will have significant impact upon future construction. The most important of these are the tidal wetlands and archaeological and historic sites.

Tidal wetlands will probably have the most impact upon the future construction of stormwater drainage facilities. They are important to the environment in that they provide a nursery and source of food for various forms of aquatic life; fish, shrimp, oysters, etc. Wetlands are located along the Cooper River, Ashley River, Stono River and James Island Creek, and are controlled by federal and state law. A project which may disrupt or change the character of these areas must be reviewed and permitted by the U.S. Corps of Engineers and the South Carolina Coastal Council. Not only must a permit be obtained for new construction, but also for any maintenance of existing drainage facilities which will require excavation in these wetland.

Numerous historic and archaeological sites are located within the Study Area. Drainage projects which may in any way affect these areas must be carefully planned to assure their protection. A complete list of historical and archaeological sites may be obtained from the South Carolina Department of Archives and History.

The construction of proposed stormwater drainage projects will also adversely influence air quality and noise levels to some extent. However, the influences will be felt only during construction and will be localized and temporary in nature.

SECTION III

DESIGN CRITERIA

The design of stormwater drainage facilities for the study area and the degree of protection provided by those facilities is directly related to the intensity and duration of rainfall and the percentage of impervious land surface which influences the quantity of stormwater runoff. The capacity of the existing stormwater drainage facilities is also influenced by the tidal elevations of the receiving waters. Values selected for these factors, and the design methodology adopted for use in sizing drainage systems are discussed in the following paragraphs. The design data will be used for both evaluation of the existing stormwater drainage facilities and the development of proposed remedial stormwater drainage works in Section IV.

Rainfall Frequency - Duration - Intensity Relationships

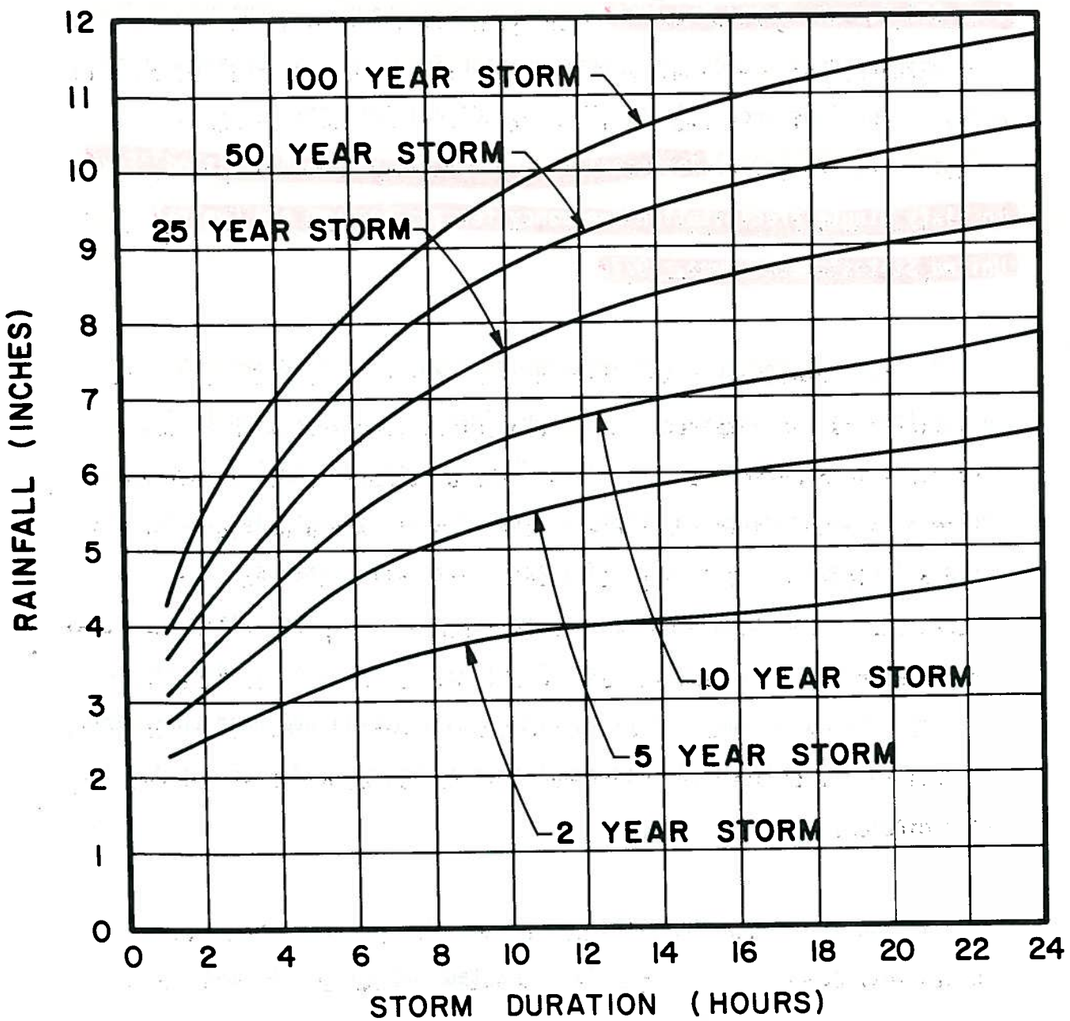
The U.S. Weather Bureau has maintained rainfall monitoring stations at two locations in the study area for many years. One station is at the U.S. Customs house located on East Bay Street and has been in operation since 1897. Another station is at the Charleston International Airport and has been in operation since 1931.

The U.S. Weather Bureau has compiled and analyzed the rainfall records from these stations, as well as other stations throughout the United States, and developed statistical relationships between rainfalls of various duration and magnitude and their frequency of occurrence. The results of the analyses are reported in several publications, two of which have been adopted for use in this study. The first of these is Technical Paper No. 40 entitled "Rainfall Frequency Atlas of the United States for Durations from 30 Minutes to 24 Hours and Return Periods from 1 to 100 Years", dated May 1961 and prepared by David M. Hershfield for the Engineering Division, Soil Conservation Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture. The second is the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) Technical Memorandum NWS HYDRO-35 entitled "Five to Sixty Minute Precipitation Frequency for the Eastern and Central United States" dated June, 1977.

Data pertaining to the Charleston Area was extracted from these publications and compared with data obtained from the two monitoring stations located in the study area. The pertinent rainfall information from these publications has been plotted and is shown on Figure Nos. 2 and 3. Figure No. 2 is a plot of total rainfall, in inches, for durations of 30 minutes to 24 hours and for return periods (frequency of occurrence) of 2, 5, 10, 25, 50 and 100 years. Figure No. 3 has been developed from the same data base; but total rainfall has been converted to rainfall intensity in inches per hour for durations from 5 minutes to 120 minutes.

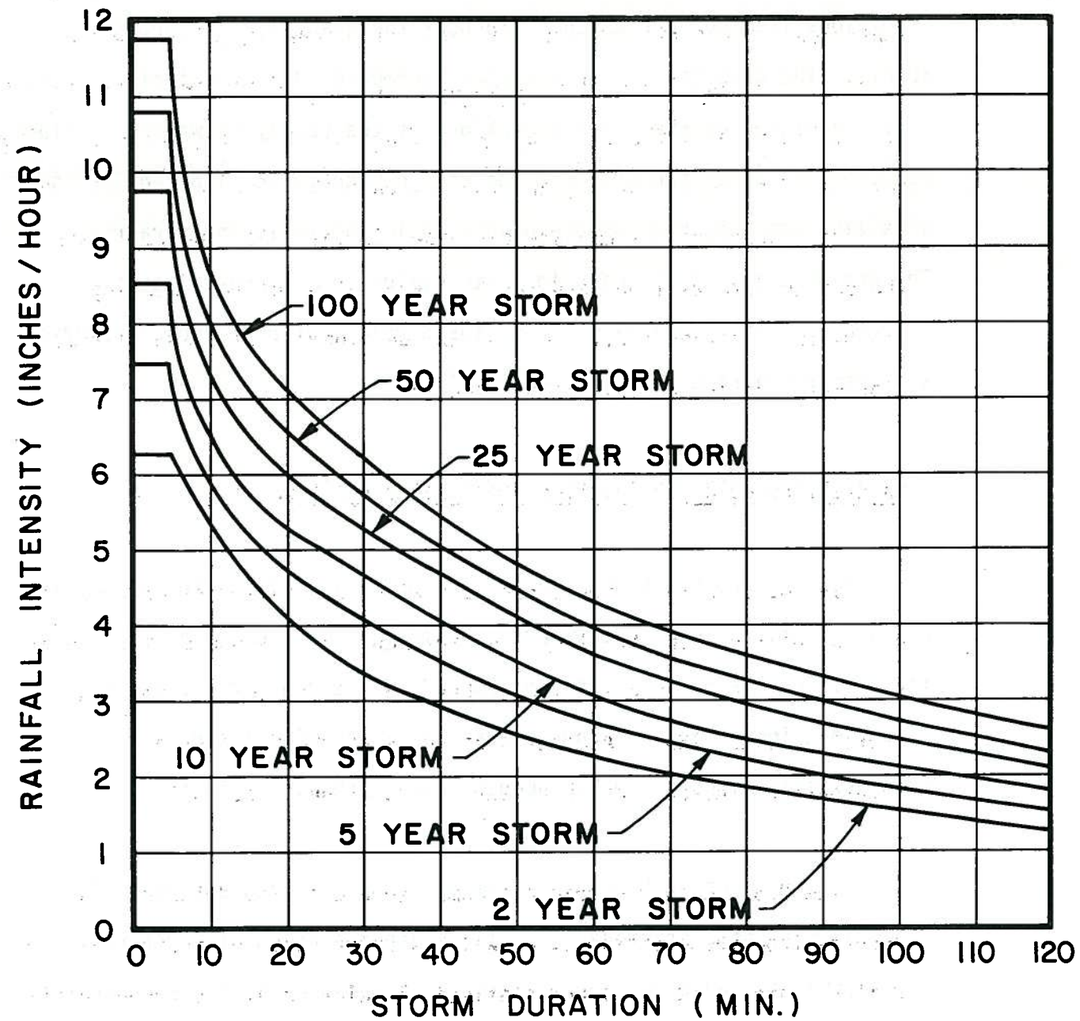
It must be acknowledged that the data, as plotted, is based on historical events. It is generally accepted, however, that the data presented, particularly for rainfalls of 25 year return frequency or less, are applicable to the future. The data has accordingly been adopted for use in the study.

FIGURE No. 2



CITY OF CHARLESTON
RAINFALL CURVE

FIGURE No. 3



CITY OF CHARLESTON
RAINFALL CURVE

Design Storm

The first step in the plan for the analysis of stormwater drainage facilities is the selection of a design storm, or the level of protection desired. A design storm is a statistical relationship between the amount of rainfall in the specific time period (intensity), and the amount of time between rainfalls of similar intensity. The storm frequencies selected are statistically average frequencies of occurrence based on long periods of historical data. It should be emphasized that storms of such magnitude are historical and may occur more or less frequently over short durations.

Drainage facilities may be designed to handle the runoff from a wide range of rainfall intensities depending upon the degree of protection required or desired. In theory, the selection of the design storm should be selected on a compromise or cost-benefit basis, which strikes a balance between the costs of installing drainage facilities and the potential costs related to flooding and resulting in possible property damage, injury or loss of life, loss of income or business and general inconvenience. While reasonable estimates of property damage costs may be made, it is very difficult, if not impossible, to place a dollar value on the potential for injury or loss of life and the other enumerated detrimental effects of flooding. Such detail, furthermore, is seldom warranted. For this reason, it is usual practice to adopt design rainfall intensities and frequencies on the basis of knowledge of the area, experience and judgement. This latter approach is considered adequate for the land uses and intensity of development which exist in the Study Area and has been adopted for purposes of the study.

Local governmental agencies have established stormwater design criteria. Current County of Charleston design standards require protection from an average 5 year frequency storm for local street, parking and yard areas and an average 100 year frequency for interior flooding of residential, commercial and industrial structures. The South Carolina Department of Highways and Public Transportation has adopted the following design standards:

1. Pipes across Secondary Roads - average 25 year frequency.

2. Pipes across Primary Roads and Interstates - average 50 year frequency.

3. Storm Sewers draining up to 40 acres - average 10 year frequency.

4. Storm Sewers draining over 40 acres - average 25 year frequency.

The above design frequencies are based on free flow in piping systems without a build up of headwater at pipe entrances. In addition to this design storm the Highway Department also checks the design of all new construction on Primary Roads and Interstates to insure that the pavement will not be overtopped by an average 100 year frequency storm.

This is based partially on the need for mobility of emergency vehicles during major storm events.

The current City of Charleston Design Standards specify that drainage facilities must have free flow during a 5 year frequency storm for all new drainage construction. For purposes of evaluation of existing systems and remedial improvements a 5 year frequency storm has been adopted for the study area, with the exception of the Peninsular City extending from the Battery to the Crosstown Expressway, for which a 10 year frequency storm has been adopted. The 10 year frequency storm was adopted for the Peninsular City because it is the center for medical facilities and commerce for the Study Area. Flooding which results in this area creates a threat to the health of the Study Area's residents due to the inaccessibility to the medical facilities, and may result in significant economic loss for the entire area. This design basis will provide, however, for a degree of protection greater than 5 or 10 years for road and structure flooding since ponding at pipe entrances and increased water elevations during less frequent storm events will increase the capacity of the system. During actual design, it is recommended that the effect of an average 100 year frequency event be checked to insure that primary roads and structures remain above flood elevation.

In summary, it is recommended that the following storm event frequencies be utilized for new stormwater facility design.

1. Channels and piping systems without headwater surcharge:

   a. Peninsular City (Battery to Crosstown Expressway) - 10 year frequency.

   b. Remainder of Study Area - 5 year frequency.

Protection from storms of greater intensity should be provided in those instances in which the incremental cost for providing such additional protection is nominal or believed to be justified to maintain vital services and to protect life or specified properties. Drainage systems may also be designed for storms of lesser intensity in an effort to reduce the cost of improvements; however, the savings in project cost will reduce the level of protection received. The design storm chosen for this study is the minimum recommended to obtain maximum utilization of funds.

Stormwater Runoff

The amount of runoff from any rainfall is equal to the quantity of rainfall minus losses due to infiltration, depression storage, interception by vegetation, and evaporation. The quantities of rainfall which are lost due to infiltration (percolation into the ground) and depression storage is substantial in the majority of the study area, particularly in the western section of which only a small percentage is presently developed. Small quantities are lost to evaporation and transpiration from vegetation.

Over the years, coefficients of runoff have been developed empirically to express the relationship between rainfall and runoff. These take the above listed losses into consideration and provide for adjustments to reflect differences in area characteristics. They have been and are widely used. More recently a number of investigations have been conducted in other parts of the country in attempts to establish more precise relationships between rainfall and runoff for specific drainage areas. These studies have involved detailed analysis of the drainage areas and extensive flow gauging. The analysis has been further complicated by the fact that the relationship is not constant but varies with the conditions prevailing prior to the rainfall and with the rainfall pattern itself. Considering the many variables involved and the time and effort required, the conduct of a similar study for the Charleston area is not believed to be warranted. It is questionable, furthermore, that the investigation would result in runoff coefficients sufficiently different to significantly affect the study results. For these reasons, established empirical coefficients have been adopted for use in the study. The coefficients vary to some extent depending upon the method selected for computing runoff.

Two technical sources for runoff computation have been adopted for use in the study, the Rational Method and Technical Release No. 55, by the Soil Conservation Service. These studies and the coefficients of runoff adopted for each are described below.

Rational Method

The Rational Method is the most widely used and simplest method for computing runoff from urban areas and is expressed by the formula Q = CIA where:

Q = rate of runoff in cubic feet per second.

A = area to be drained in acres.

C = Coefficient of runoff based on the percentage of impervious area.

I = rainfall intensity in inches per hour at the time at which flows from all parts of the drainage area are concentrating at the point in the system under investigation.

The method assumes that rainfall is uniform over the entire drainage area and that rainfall intensity is also uniform throughout the time of concentration. These assumptions are valid for small drainage areas up to 200 acres. The Rational Method has been adopted for the analyses of all small drainage areas tributary to the main streams of the Study Area. Runoff quantities computed for evaluation and design purposes have been based upon the rainfall intensities from Figure 3 and the coefficients of runoff listed in Table 1.

TABLE 1

RUNOFF COEFFICIENTS
CITY OF CHARLESTON
MASTER DRAINAGE AND FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT PLAN
(ASCE MANUAL NO. 37)

DESCRIPTION OF AREA	RUNOFF COEFFICIENTS
Business, downtown	0.90
Business Neighborhood	0.70
Residential, Single Family	
Lot size:	
1/2 acre or greater	0.35
Less than 1/2 acre	0.45
Apartments	0.60
Industrial, Light	0.70
Industrial, Heavy	0.80
Parks, Cemetaries	0.25
Playgrounds	0.25
Unimproved	0.15

TABLE 2

RUNOFF CURVE NUMBERS
CITY OF CHARLESTON
MASTER DRAINAGE AND FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT PLAN
(TR-55 Method)

LAND USE DESCRIPTION	HYDROLOGIC SOIL GROUP*			
	A	B	C	D
Business, Downtown (85% Impervious)	89	92	94	95
Business, Neighborhood (65% Impervious)	83	88	92	94
Residential:				
Single Family (30% Impervious)	57	72	81	86
Multi-Family (65% Impervious)	77	85	90	92
Industrial, Light (72% Impervious)	81	88	91	93
Industrial, Heavy (85% Impervious)	89	92	94	95
Parks, Cemetaries	39	61	74	80
Playgrounds	49	69	79	84
Unimproved:				
Wood or Forest Land:				
Thin Stand, Poor Cover	45	66	71	83
Good Cover	25	55	70	77
Meadow: Good Condition	30	58	71	78

* Soil Groups: See Appendix C for description of soil groups.

Technical Release No. 55

For drainage systems over 200 acres or those influenced by tidal fluctuation where storage or retention is available, the Rational Method is not very accurate. For these systems the procedures and criteria set forth in the Soil Conservation Service (SCS) Technical Release No. 55, dated January 1975, have been utilized. This method is essentially an adaptation of the widely used and accepted hydrological analysis of rural watersheds to urban conditions. As in the Rational Method, runoff computed by this method is a function of area, rainfall, surface cover and soil characteristics and time of runoff travel. It is based upon a storm duration of 24 hours and uses an empirical relationship of these factors to produce a stream hydrograph. The hydrographs developed for study purposes have been based on the total 24 hour rainfall from Figure 2 and the coefficients of runoff listed in Table 2 for various soil types and surface conditions. Appendix C contains a discussion of the soil classifications in the City. Each soil association has been subdivided into specific hydrological soil groups as discussed in Technical Release No. 55.

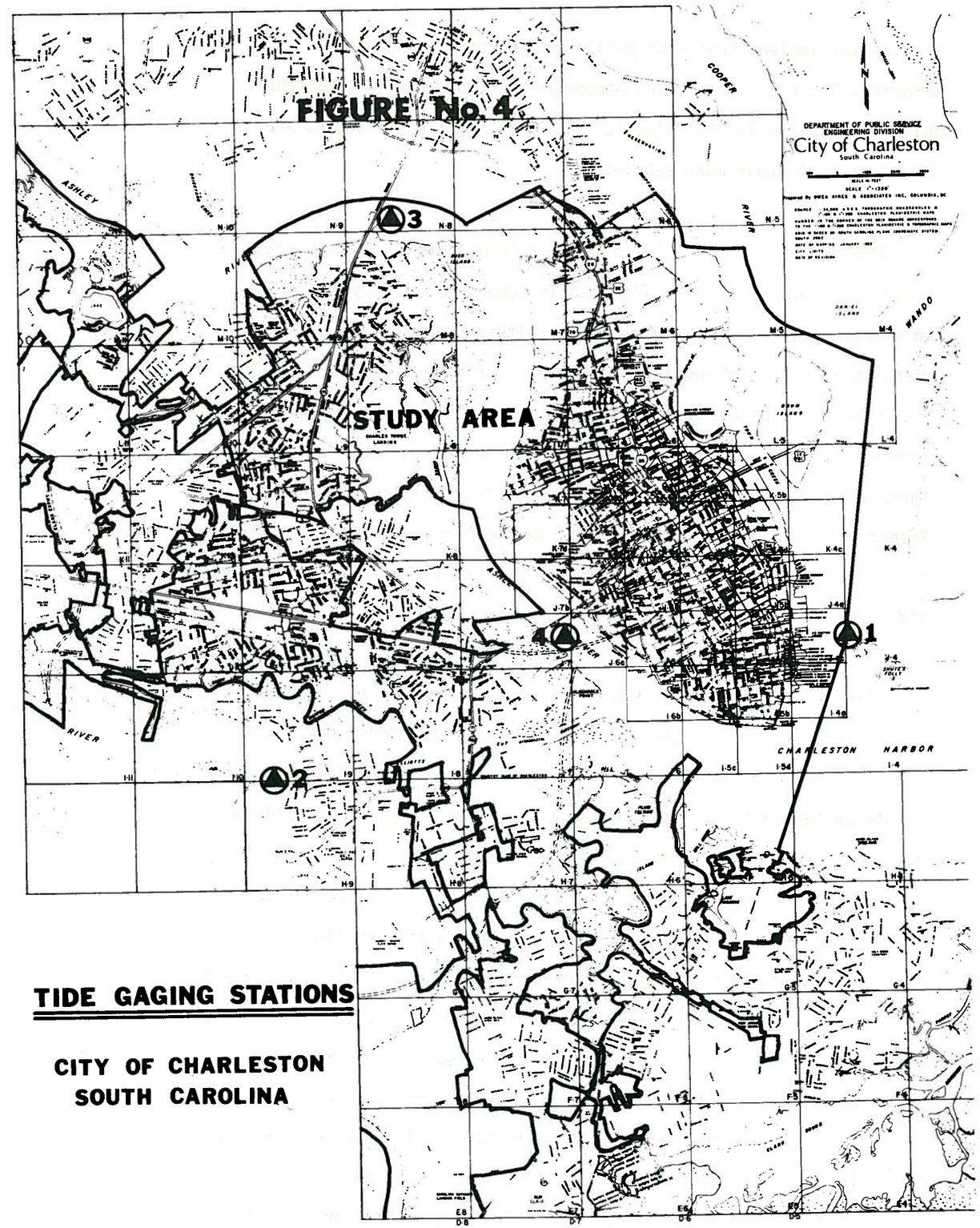
In both of the above methods it has been assumed that the characteristics of present developed areas will not change appreciably in the future. For undeveloped areas, assumptions based on their future developed condition have been used rather than their present or natural state.

Tidal Influence

All surface water runoff from the Study Area discharges to tidal estuaries. The tide level in these estuaries during periods of rainfall influences the capacity of the drainage systems in that the tide level establishes the elevation of the downstream hydraulic gradient for each of the systems. The magnitude of the impact depends, to a large extent, upon the amount of storage available in the downstream areas to retain surface water until the tide recedes. The impact from tides is greatest for the Peninsular City area because past development filled the marsh lands which surrounded and traversed the Peninsular City resulting in the loss of available storage areas. The potential for property damage is also greatest in this area since the majority of the area lies either in flood zone A or B as established by the Federal Insurance Administration. Flood Zone A and B are defined as follows:

ZONE	EXPLANATION
A	"Areas of 100-year flood; based flood elevations and flood hazard factors not determined."
B	"Areas between limits of the 100-year flood and 500-year flood; or certain areas subject to 100-year flooding with average depths less than one (1) foot or where the contributing drainage area is less than one square mile; or areas protected by levees from the base flood."

Tide stations are maintained on the Cooper, Ashley and Stono Rivers by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. The location of four of these stations pertinent to the Study Area is shown on Figure 4. The normal mean high tide and estimated highest water level for each



station was derived from data published by the U.S. Department of Commerce, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, National Ocean Service and is presented in Table No. 3. All elevations are listed as feet above mean sea level.

Several areas within the City are flooded during extremely high tides. For these areas the flooding is compounded during rainfalls which occur at high tide. Those areas within the City which are affected by tidal influence are depicted on Figures 5, 6 and 7. The area within the blue shading represents areas below elevation 4.36 MSL (average spring tide), and the area within the green shading represents the area below elevation 8.9 MSL (highest recorded tide elevation). Record high tide levels usually occur during hurricanes and are generally accompanied by intense rainfall. The highest recorded storm tide levels are listed in Table No. 4.

The differences in the range of the normal mean high tide elevations for the four gauging stations within the Study Area is not significant. For this reason, and in view of many intangibles inherent to stormwater system design, a spring high tide elevation of 4.36 feet above mean sea level at the Charleston Customs House has been adopted as the design for the study. Spring high tides occur twice per lunar month at or near both full and new moon. The gauging station at the Charleston Customs House has been in operation for sixty-one (61) years, and its fairly consistent data is considered reasonably accurate. Also, maximum rainfall may occur at either high or low tide or at any intermediate level and since no reliable data as to the probable frequency of concurrent maximum rainfall and high tide are available at this time, the drainage facilities recommended are sized to accommodate design storm rainfalls at the spring-tide elevation of 4.36 feet MSL.

TABLE 3

TIDE GAGING STATIONS

STATION NO.	LOCATION	MEAN HIGH WATER (M.S.L.)	ESTIMATED HIGHEST WATER LEVEL (M.S.L.)
1.	Charleston Customs House	3.03	8.08
2.	Welch's Wharf, Stono River	2.55	7.95
3.	Cosgrove Bridge, Ashley River	2.80	8.20
4.	South Ashley River Bridge	2.65	7.85

Source: U. S. Department of Commerce
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
National Ocean Survey

TABLE 4

STORM TIDES IN CHARLESTON, S.C.

DATE	TIDE ABOVE MSL
August 28, 1893	8.9
August 11, 1940	8.0
August 27/28, 1911	7.9
September 27/28, 1894	7.0
September 29, 1959 (Gracie)	6.0
October 15, 1947	6.0
July 14, 1916	5.9
September 4, 1979 (David)	5.9
October 20, 1944	5.8
September 18, 1928	5.6
August 17, 1955 (Diane)	5.2
September 11, 1960 (Donna)	5.0
September 18/19, 1955 (Ione)	4.4
August 11, 1955 (Connie)	4.3
October 15, 1954 (Hazel)	4.2
August 29/30, 1954 (Carol)	4.2
August 30, 1952 (Able)	4.0
September 27, 1958 (Helene)	3.9

Source: Corps of Engineers (1966) Table 1.
National Geodetic Vertical Datum of 1929.

used for all elevations ?

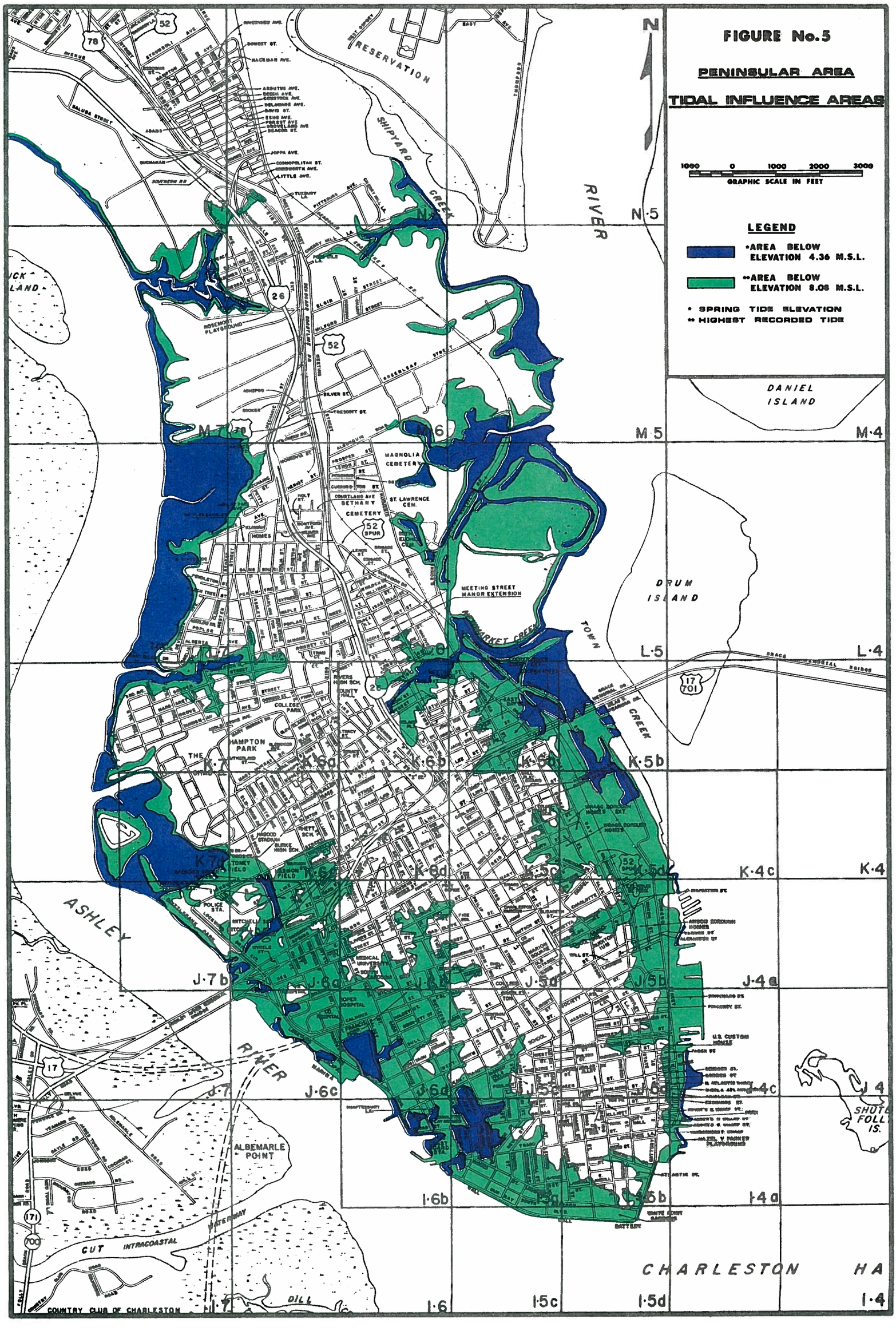
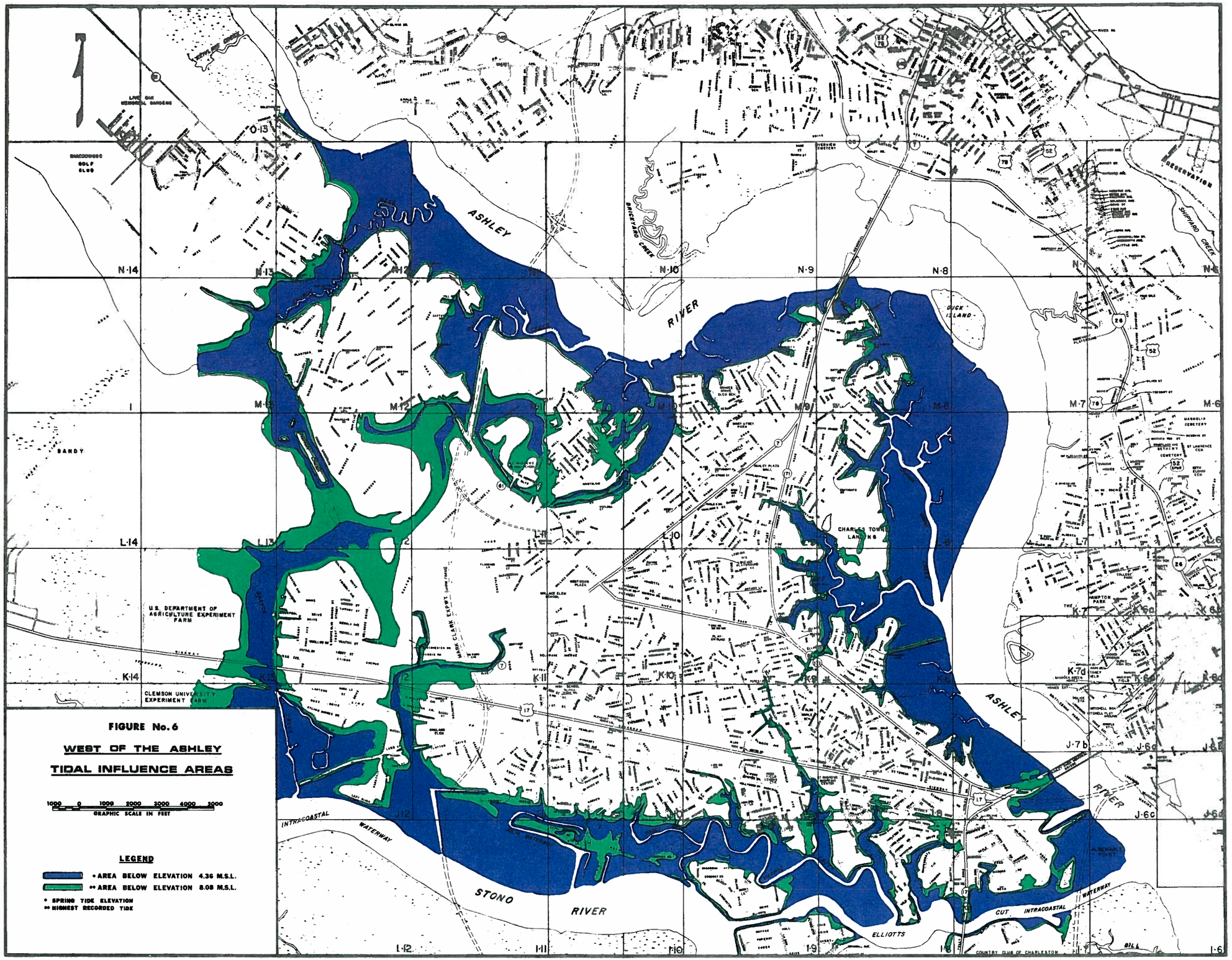


FIGURE No.5
PENINSULAR AREA
TIDAL INFLUENCE AREAS
1000 0 1000 2000 3000
GRAPHIC SCALE IN FEET
LEGEND
*AREA BELOW ELEVATION 4.36 M.S.L.
**AREA BELOW ELEVATION 8.06 M.S.L.
* SPRING TIDE ELEVATION
** HIGHEST RECORDED TIDE
N
RESERVATION
SHIPYARD CREEK
RIVER
DANIEL ISLAND
DRUM ISLAND
TOWN CREEK
ASHLEY RIVER
ALBEMARLE POINT
INTRACOASTAL WATERWAY
CUT
CHARLESTON HA
SHUTE FOLL IS.
MAGNOLIA CEMETERY
ST. LAWRENCE CEM.
BETHANY CEMETERY
MEETING STREET MANOR EXTENSION
HAMPTON PARK
COLLEGE PARK
ROSEMONT PLAYGROUND
COUNTRY CLUB OF CHARLESTON
N·5
M·5
M·4
L·5
L·4
K·5b
K·4c
K·4
J·7b
J·4a
J·4c
I·6b
I·4a
I·6
I·5c
I·5d
I·4


ASHLEY
RIVER
BRICKYARD CREEK
SHIPYARD CREEK
RESERVATION
DUCK ISLAND
SANDY
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE EXPERIMENT FARM
CLEMSON UNIVERSITY EXPERIMENT FARM
CHARLES TOWN LANDING
MAGNOLIA CEMETERY
HAMPTON PARK
ASHLEY
RIVER
INTRACOASTAL
WATERWAY
STONO
RIVER
ELLIOTTS
CUT
INTRACOASTAL
WATERWAY
COUNTRY CLUB OF CHARLESTON
FIGURE No. 6
WEST OF THE ASHLEY
TIDAL INFLUENCE AREAS
1000 0 1000 2000 3000 4000 5000
GRAPHIC SCALE IN FEET
LEGEND
* AREA BELOW ELEVATION 4.36 M.S.L.
** AREA BELOW ELEVATION 8.08 M.S.L.
* SPRING TIDE ELEVATION
** HIGHEST RECORDED TIDE

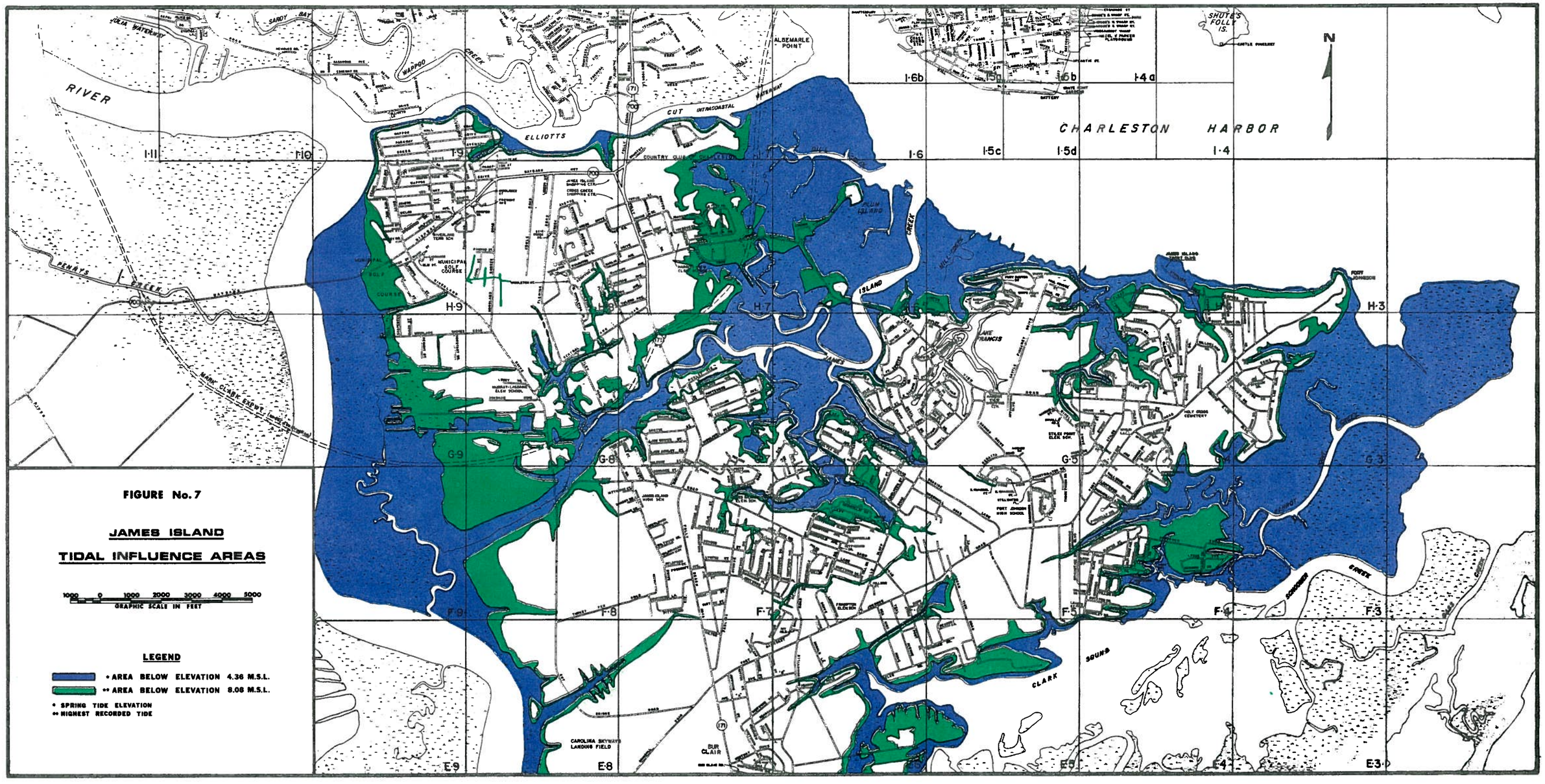


FIGURE No. 7

JAMES ISLAND

TIDAL INFLUENCE AREAS

1000 0 1000 2000 3000 4000 5000
GRAPHIC SCALE IN FEET

LEGEND

- * AREA BELOW ELEVATION 4.36 M.S.L.
- ** AREA BELOW ELEVATION 8.08 M.S.L.

* SPRING TIDE ELEVATION
** HIGHEST RECORDED TIDE

Pipe and Open Channels

The existing and proposed drainage systems for the Study Area consist of open channels, culverts under driveways, roads, railroads, etc., and buried pipe conduits. The Manning formula, in addition to accounting for pipe entrance and exit losses, has been used herein for both the evaluation and design of all drainage systems.

The formula is expressed: $Q = \frac{1.486}{N} A R^{2/3} S^{1/2}$ where:

Q = flow rate in cubic feet per second.

A = cross-section area of flow in square feet.

R = hydraulic radius; area of flow divided by wetted perimeter in feet.

S = slope of hydraulic grade line (feet per foot).

N = Manning's coefficient of roughness.

Pipe conduits have been sized for full flow at maximum flow rate. The pipe slope (hydraulic grade line) for the existing systems was computed by using the spring tide elevation (4.36 MSL) at the outlet, and allowing either one foot of head or one foot freeboard below the existing ground elevation at the point along the pipe system of lowest ground elevation. For proposed systems the pipe slope is assumed to be equal to the hydraulic grade line. The pipe slope has been selected to provide a minimum velocity of 2.5 feet per second to prevent, or minimize, silt from accumulating in the pipe. Manning formula "N" values of 0.015 and 0.023 have been selected for concrete pipe and corrugated metal pipe respectively.

The evaluation of existing culverts and the design of proposed culverts were based on criteria set forth in the National Corrugated Steel Pipe Association Technical Manual and the American Concrete Pipe Association Design Manual, and the Manual of Instructions for Drainage published by the Commonwealth of Virginia as applicable. Culvert entrance losses have been computed using a coefficient "Ke" of 0.2 for bell pipe end inlets, 0.5 for inlets with a square edge entrance and no culvert projection beyond the headwall face and 0.9 for culverts with sharp edge projecting inlets. For purposes of evaluation of existing culverts and selecting proposed systems, a water level to the crown of the culvert has been allowed for culverts operating under inlet control, and a head of 0.5 feet was used for culverts operating under outlet control.

All drainage channels have been evaluated using a trapezoidal cross section. The steepest side slope, consistent with bank stability, has been adopted as 2:1 (2.0 horizontal to 1.0 vertical) for channels less than 4.0 feet deep. These flattened slopes are necessary to allow maintenance of the side slope vegetation by the adjacent property owner without the need of special equipment. Channel shapes have been selected to limit channel velocities at maximum flow to 3.0 feet per second or less wherever possible. For those instances in which greater velocities are required, bottom and side slope protection is provided. Such protection is also provided at bends and junctions where turbulence

may result in scouring. All channels have been designed with a one foot freeboard at maximum flow and using a Manning "N" value of 0.03.

Channel bottom and side slope protection includes concrete paving of the channel invert, paving the channel up to the elevation of storm flow and the use of stone rip-rap to line the channel. The channel invert should be paved in areas where channel velocity is greater than 3.0 feet per second (FPS). The paving would cover the channel floor and extend one foot up side slopes. This affords protection from mildly erosive velocities by preventing erosion of the channel area that is most susceptible to scour due to the difficulty of establishing a vegetation cover. When channel velocity in the grassed condition exceeded 5.0 FPS the improvement schedule recommends full paving to the depth of storm flow. Depth of flow with paving was determined using a Manning friction factor of 0.015. Rip-rap was used in place of concrete primarily for marsh areas where a flexible channel cover is needed.

The above protective measures are only recommended for new construction in areas where the existing channel is undersized, thereby requiring improvement. Existing channels of adequate capacity, but high velocity, have been noted in Section IV as areas of potential erosion; however, in most cases the erosion has been reduced due to the establishment of vegetation adjacent to the channel.

Detention Basins

Detention basins have two applications in low lying coastal areas. The first application involves the construction of a basin in the upstream portion of a drainage area to intercept and retain a portion of the runoff from a rainfall, thereby moderating or reducing the peak rates of runoff to be handled by downstream drainage conduits. The second application involves the construction of a basin in the downstream portion of the drainage area to retain runoff during high tide periods or when discharge to the receiving waters is otherwise restricted. The applications are useful either to minimize corrective action for an existing stormwater conveyance system or to minimize conduit sizes for a new system.

In theory, the detention basin capacity is established by means of an economic analysis which strikes a balance between basin cost and related downstream conduit cost. In practice, however, the basin size is very often determined by the land available for its installation. Land available for detention basins is very limited in the Peninsular City and other highly developed portions of the Study Area, although, there are instances in which their use will be economically advisable.

The new South Carolina Coastal Council regulations require that new development peak discharge be equal to predevelopment peak discharge for a ten (10) year frequency storm. As a result of these regulations, many new developments will require detention basins.

The design of detention (or retention) basins and their consequent reduction in downstream peak flows has been based upon procedures outlined in the U.S. Soil Conservation Service publication entitled "Ponds" and by the previously mentioned stream hydrograph method. In computing available storage, one foot of freeboard between maximum water level and the top of the containment dike has been adopted. Special features of the basins, such as bottom or side slope treatment, outlet structures, the use of tide gates, etc. will be determined on a case by case basis during the design phase.

The foregoing discussion pertains to basins specifically constructed for detention purposes. The design procedures are equally applicable to areas providing natural storage such as the Church Creek Basin.

Pump Stations

Stormwater pump stations collect stormwater and lift and move the resulting runoff through pressure ("force") mains to selected outlets. Functional locations were selected where tidal influences forced impractical sizes of natural gravity drainage pipes and culverts.

Tidal influences affect gravity drainage facilities where ground elevations or long runs of pipe force drainage conduits to elevations that are inundated by tide waters. The higher the tide water is in the facilities the more the stormwater will be retarded because the hydraulic gradeline or effective slope is reduced. The effective slope directly affects the quantity of stormwater that will be carried through the pipe or conversely larger pipe is required to transport the same quantity of water as the effective slope is reduced.

Stormwater pump stations are sized so that two pumps will remove the stormwater from the respective areas. Each pump station has a recommended additional standby pump to assist if required by storm intensity or if required because one of the two duty pumps is inoperable. The volume of stormwater to be removed is computed from Soil Conservation Service hydrographs which portray storm events from no flow at the beginning of the rainfall event to a maximum water flow at peak (the time at which all waters within the respective drainage areas have concentrated at the pump station site). Following the peak event, water runoff recedes to no flow in a time span equal to one and two-thirds (1-2/3) times the time initially required to arrive at the maximum runoff event.

The stormwater runoff volumes determined above establish the required sizes and numbers of pumps and the sizes of the storage chambers (wet wells) required at each site. These, in turn, establish the sizes of conduits (force mains) needed to transport the stormwater to the estuaries.

In all proposed locations for stormwater pump stations a major concern was aesthetics. Fortunately, the wetwell of each pump station is subterranean or hidden from public view. The structure will be designed to go underneath streets at locations where it is advantageous

for present or future drainage facilities. For the most part underground utility lines that are located in the streets need not be relocated, but rather can continue service through the upper portion of each wet well. Water storage volumetric needs will be met at elevations below such utility conduits wherever possible. To further conceal stormwater pumping appurtenances, the pumps can also be subterranean with the prime movers for the pumps installed in remote locations if the pumps are hydraulically powered. Hydraulic lines to and from each pump allow locations as far as three hundred feet from the wet well with hidden pumping units to motor houses.

Under ordinary circumstances electric motors will power the hydraulic pumps which in turn power the stormwater pumps. In cases of power failure, a standby diesel powered engine provides power via immediate acting switching gear. Pump motors for the pump stations can be concealed within existing buildings, or within lattice-work or artistic fencing so that the area will not be degraded. Figure 8 illustrates a typical layout of the proposed pump stations for the Peninsular City.

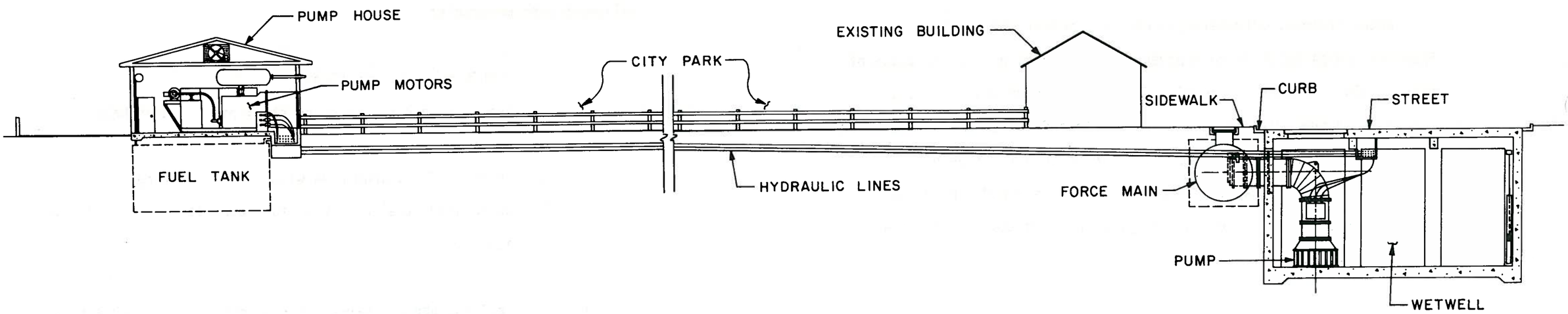
Construction Materials

Manufactured construction materials proposed for use on projects recommended in this Study consist almost exclusively of piping for underground systems and for culverts under driveways, roads and railroads. An investigation of the types of pipe and piping materials suitable for use in the Charleston area was conducted as a part of this study. A full report of the findings is included in Appendix B. The report substantially recommends that, except on an experimental basis, the installation of storm drainage systems be limited to the use of the following pipe materials:

1. Reinforced concrete pipe.
2. Asbestos bonded corrugated steel pipe with asphalt coating.
3. Corrugated aluminum pipe with asphalt coating.
4. Corrugated steel pipe with full asphalt coating and paved invert.

The use of all the above alternative pipe materials is subject to certain hydraulic, structural and coating requirements as set forth in the report. On the basis of these requirements the alternative types of pipe are expected to be closely competitive in cost. For this reason, and for the purposes of preparing cost estimates for the proposed drainage works, the use of reinforced concrete pipe has been assumed for all systems. During the preparation of detailed plans and specifications for specific projects, provisions will be made as applicable for bidding alternative types of pipe.

FIGURE No. 8



TYPICAL STORMWATER PUMP STATION
UNDERSTREET INSTALLATION