

JOINT
PUBLIC NOTICE

CHARLESTON DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS
69A Hagood Avenue
Charleston, South Carolina 29403-5107
and

THE S.C. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROL
Office of Environmental Quality Control
Water Quality Certification and Wetlands Programs Section
2600 Bull Street
Columbia, South Carolina 29201

REGULATORY DIVISION
Refer to: P/N # 2006-3817-2IT

2 February 2007

Pursuant to Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 (33 U.S.C. 403), and the S.C. Construction in Navigable Waters Permit Program (R. 19-450, et. seq., 1976 S.C. Code of Laws, as amended), an application has been submitted to the Department of the Army and the State of South Carolina by

SANTEE NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE
2125 FORT WATSON ROAD
SUMMERTON, SOUTH CAROLINA 29418
ATTN: KAY W. McCUTCHEON

for a permit to construct an observation boardwalk in navigable waters at the Santee National Wildlife refuge on Cantey Bay in Lake Marion at the Wrights Bluff Nature Trail in Summerton, Clarendon County, South Carolina (33.54226 Latitude/ 80.43745 Longitude).

In order to give all interested parties an opportunity to express their views

NOTICE

is hereby given that written statements regarding the proposed work will be received by both of the above mentioned offices until

12 O'CLOCK NOON, MONDAY, 5 MARCH 2007

from those interested in the activity and whose interests may be affected by the proposed work.

The proposed work consists of constructing an observation boardwalk at the Wrights Bluff Nature Trail. The boardwalk will connect with an existing footbridge in the uplands, and will be 105 feet in length. The first 7 feet of the boardwalk, near the upland footbridge will be 7 feet wide, with the remainder of the boardwalk being 5 feet wide. The entire boardwalk will be 4 feet above substrate. At the end of the boardwalk, a 4.75' long, 6' wide, and 5.6' tall observation blind will be constructed. No fill material is associated with this project. The purpose is for public recreational use.

NOTE: Plans depicting the work described in this notice are available and will be provided, upon receipt of a written request, to anyone that is interested in obtaining a copy of the plans for the specific project. The request must identify the project of interest by public notice number and a self-addressed stamped envelope must also be provided for mailing the drawings to you. Your request for drawings should be addressed to the

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**U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
ATTN: REGULATORY DIVISION
69A Hagood Avenue
Charleston, South Carolina 29403-5107**

The work shown on this application must be determined consistent with applicable provisions of the South Carolina Construction in Navigable Waters Permit Program. The applicant is hereby advised that supplemental information may be required by the State to facilitate the review. Persons wishing to comment or object to State navigable waters permit must submit all comments in writing to the S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control at the above address within thirty (30) days of the date of this notice.

Preliminary review of the scope of work sought by this application indicates that State and Federal permits should be processed concurrently. If the Federal permit is issued in advance of the State's a special provision will be included in the Federal permit expressing the endorsement of the District Engineer to any revisions or conditions subsequently imposed by the State permit.

This notice initiates the Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) consultation requirements of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act. Implementation of the proposed project would impact 525 square feet of estuarine substrates and emergent wetlands utilized by various life stages of species comprising the red drum, shrimp, and snapper-grouper management complexes. Our initial determination is that the proposed action would not have a substantial individual or cumulative adverse impact on EFH or fisheries managed by the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council and the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS). Our final determination relative to project impacts and the need for mitigation measures is subject to review by and coordination with the NMFS.

The District Engineer has consulted the most recently available information and has determined that the project will have no effect on any Federally endangered, threatened, or proposed species and will not result in the destruction or adverse modification of designated or proposed critical habitat. This public notice serves as a request to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Marine Fisheries Service for any additional information they may have on whether any listed or proposed endangered or threatened species or designated or proposed critical habitat may be present in the area which would be affected by the activity, pursuant to Section 7(c) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (as amended).

Pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), this public notice also constitutes a request to Indian Tribes to notify the District Engineer of any historic properties of religious and cultural significance to them that may be affected by the proposed undertaking.

In accordance with the NHPA, the District Engineer has also consulted the latest published version of the National Register of Historic Places for the presence or absence of registered properties, or properties listed as being eligible for inclusion therein, and this worksite is not included as a registered property or property listed as being eligible for inclusion in the Register. To insure that other cultural resources that the District Engineer is not aware of are not overlooked, this public notice also serves as a request to the State Historic Preservation Office to provide any information it may have with regard to historic and cultural resources.

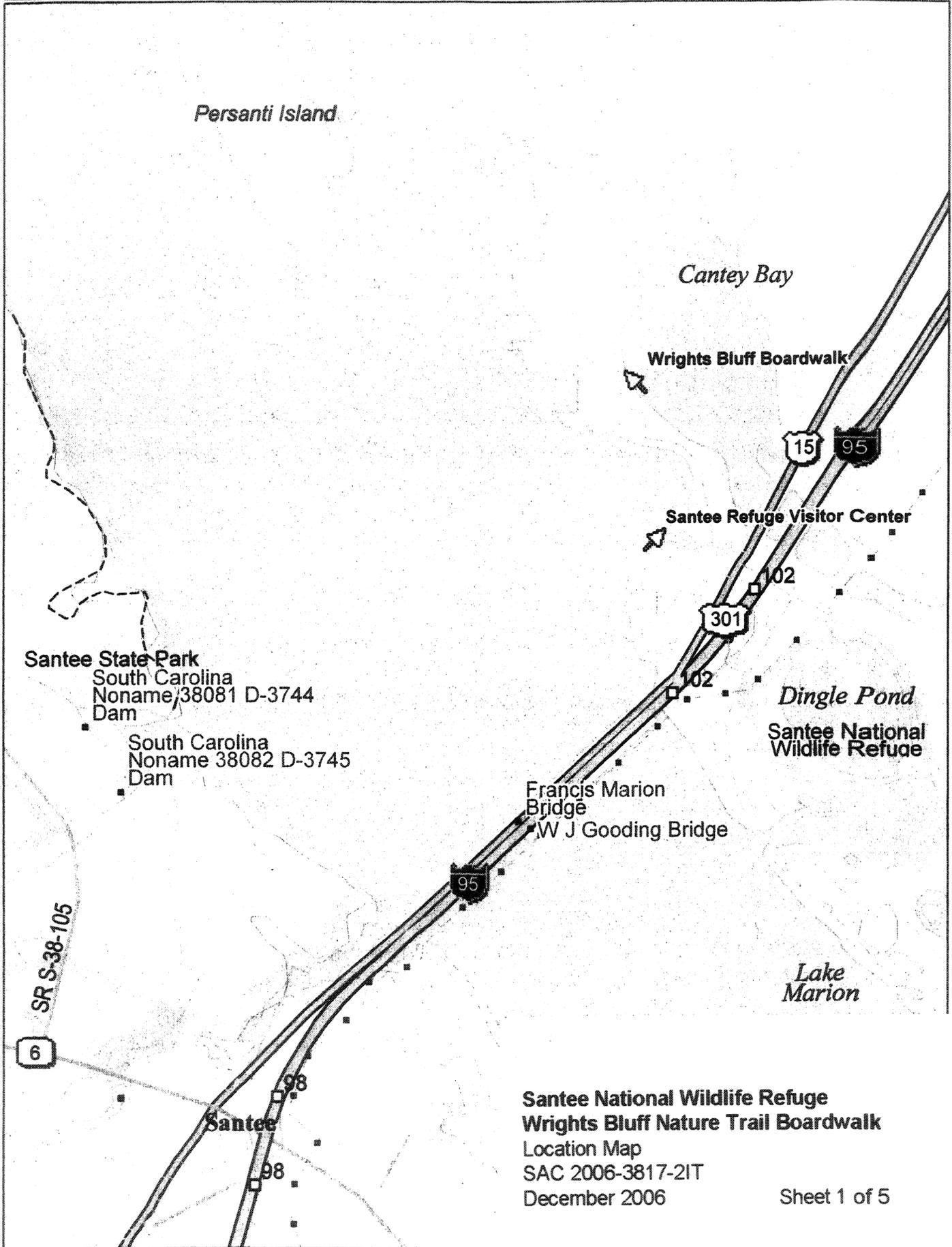
Any person may request, in writing, within the comment period specified in this notice, that a public hearing be held to consider this application. Requests for a public hearing shall state, with particularity, the reasons for holding a public hearing.

2 February 2007

The decision whether to issue a permit will be based on an evaluation of the probable impact including cumulative impacts of the activity on the public interest. That decision will reflect the national concern for both protection and utilization of important resources. The benefit which reasonably may be expected to accrue from the project must be balanced against its reasonably foreseeable detriments. All factors which may be relevant to the project will be considered including the cumulative effects thereof; among those are conservation, economics, aesthetics, general environmental concerns, wetlands, historic properties, fish and wildlife values, flood hazards, flood plain values, land use, navigation, shoreline erosion and accretion, recreation, water supply and conservation, water quality, energy needs, safety, food and fiber production and, in general, the needs and welfare of the people. A permit will be granted unless the District Engineer determines that it would be contrary to the public interest. In cases of conflicting property rights, the Corps of Engineers cannot undertake to adjudicate rival claims.

The Corps of Engineers is soliciting comments from the public; Federal, state, and local agencies and officials; Indian Tribes; and other interested parties in order to consider and evaluate the impacts of this activity. Any comments received will be considered by the Corps of Engineers to determine whether to issue, modify, condition or deny a permit for this project. To make this decision, comments are used to assess impacts on endangered species, historic properties, water quality, general environmental effects, and the other public interest factors listed above. Comments are used in the preparation of an Environmental Assessment and/or an Environmental Impact Statement pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act. Comments are also used to determine the need for a public hearing and to determine the overall public interest of the activity.

If there are any questions concerning this public notice, please contact Tracy C. Dotolo at 843-329-8044 or toll free at 1-866-329-8187.



**Santee National Wildlife Refuge
Wrights Bluff Nature Trail Boardwalk
Location Map**
SAC 2006-3817-2IT
December 2006



WRIGHTS BLUFF NATURE TRAIL BOARDWALK/OBSERVATION
Platform, Cantey Bay, Lake Mariposa Clarendon Ctny,

APPENDIX. JAILEE IWIN
Drawing 1 of 4
Drawing Date: 12/7/06

GENERAL LOCATION MAP

Lat: N33 32.577; Long: W80 26.264

Santee National Wildlife Refuge

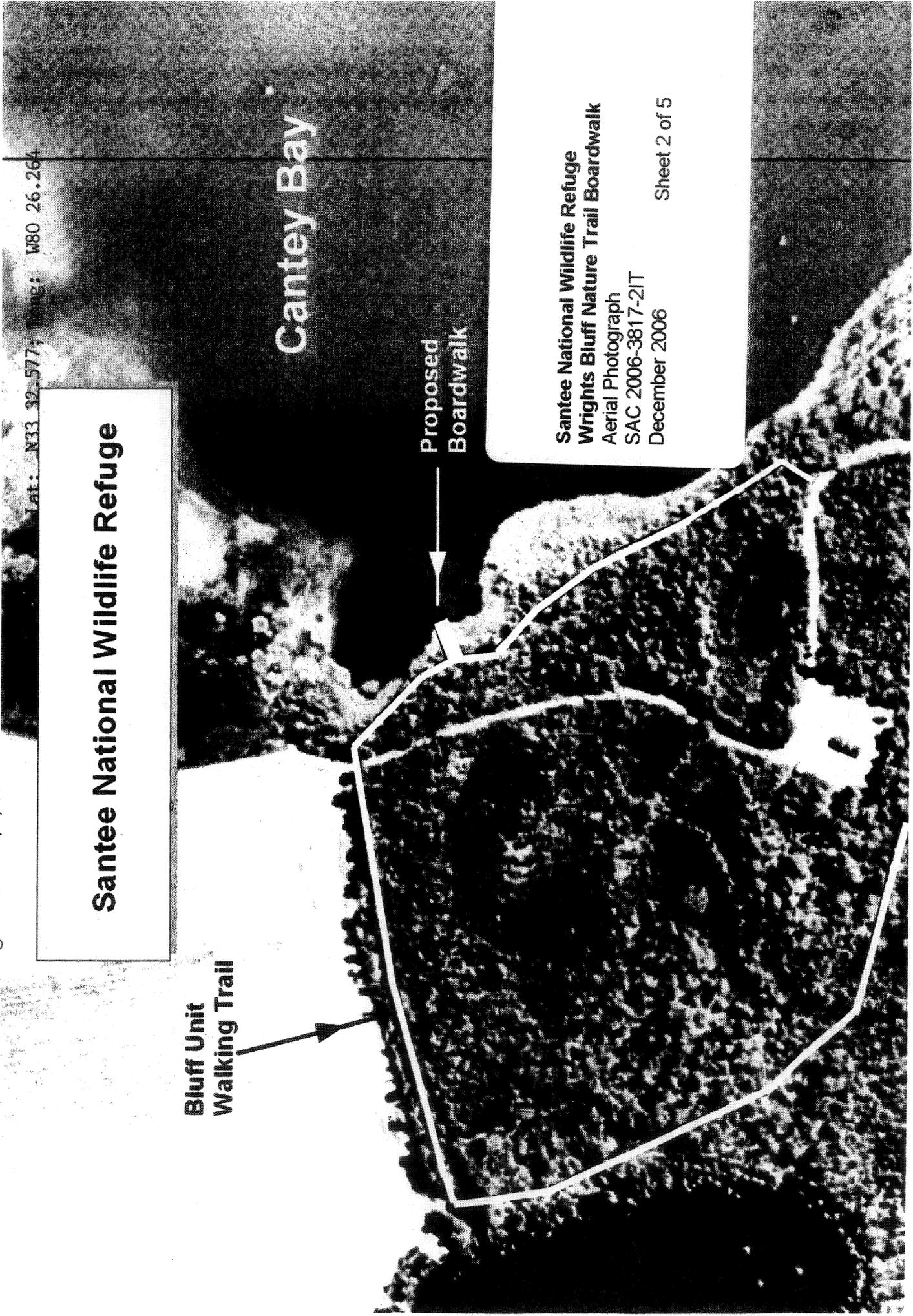
**Bluff Unit
Walking Trail**

Cantey Bay

**Proposed
Boardwalk**

**Santee National Wildlife Refuge
Wrights Bluff Nature Trail Boardwalk
Aerial Photograph
SAC 2006-3817-2IT
December 2006**

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WRIGHTS BLUFF NATURE TRAIL (EARTHEN)

Santee National Wildlife Refuge Wrights Bluff Nature Trail Boardwalk

Plan View

SAC 2006-3817-2IT

December 2006

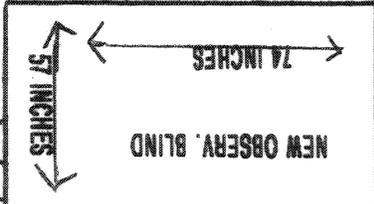
Sheet 3 of 5

VERTICAL PLAN VIEW

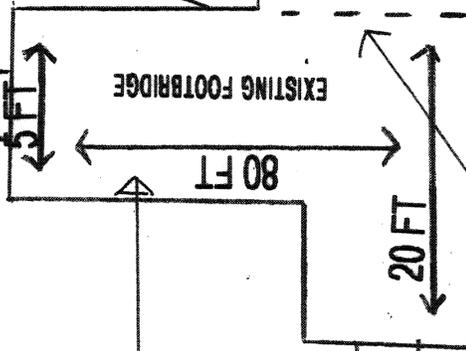
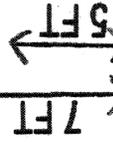
CANTEY BAY

SEASONALLY FLOODED WETLAND

SEASONALLY FLOODED WETLAND



NEW BOARDWALK

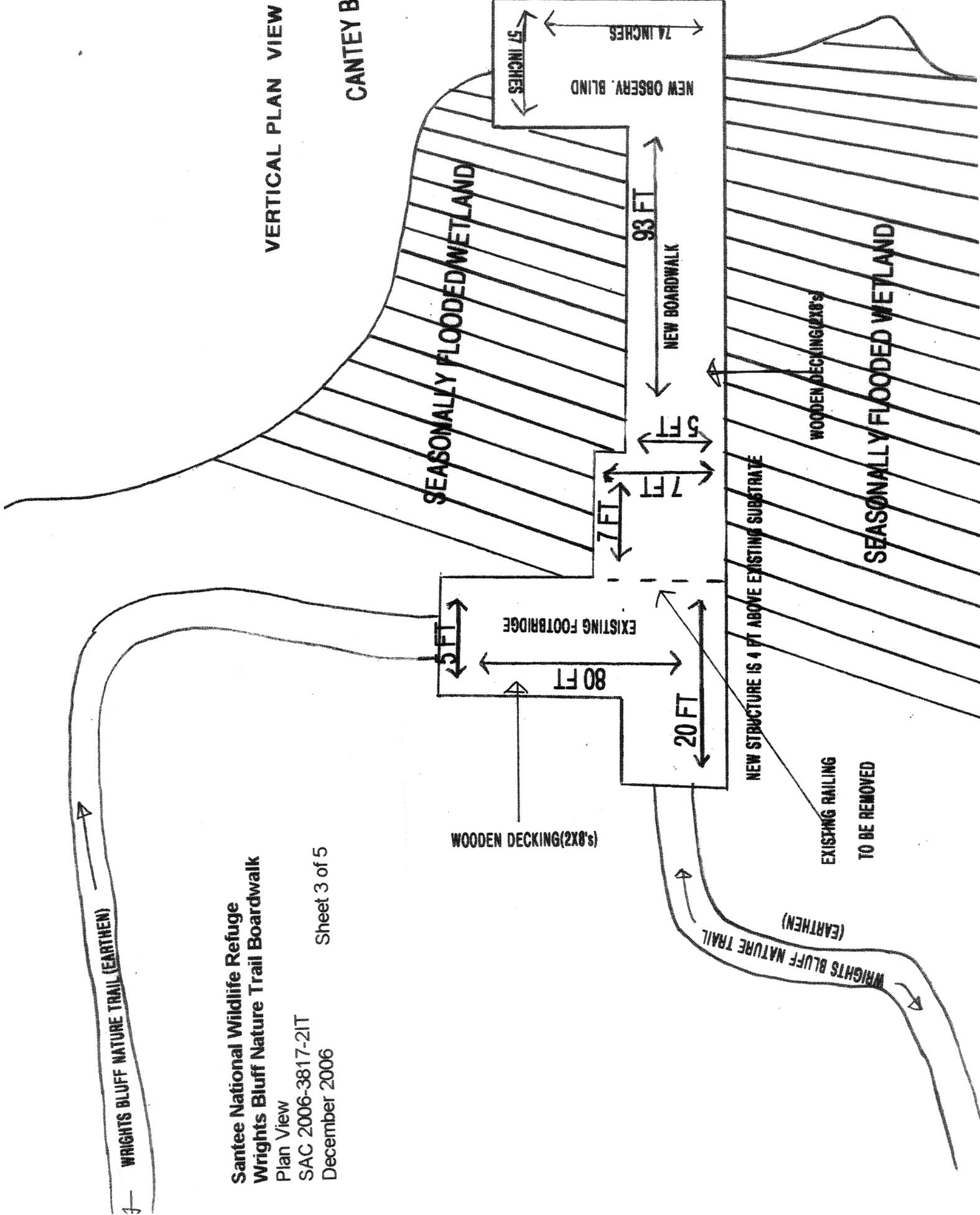


WOODEN DECKING(2X8's)

NEW STRUCTURE IS 4 FT ABOVE EXISTING SUBSTRATE

EXISTING RAILING
TO BE REMOVED

WRIGHTS BLUFF NATURE TRAIL (EARTHEN)



CANTEY BAY

CROSS SECTION VIEW

Santee National Wildlife Refuge
Wrights Bluff Nature Trail Boardwalk
Plan View and Cross Section
SAC 2006-3817-2IT
December 2006

Sheet 4 of 5

New Observation Blin
57" W x 74" L x 68" H
(see attached plan &
cross section views)

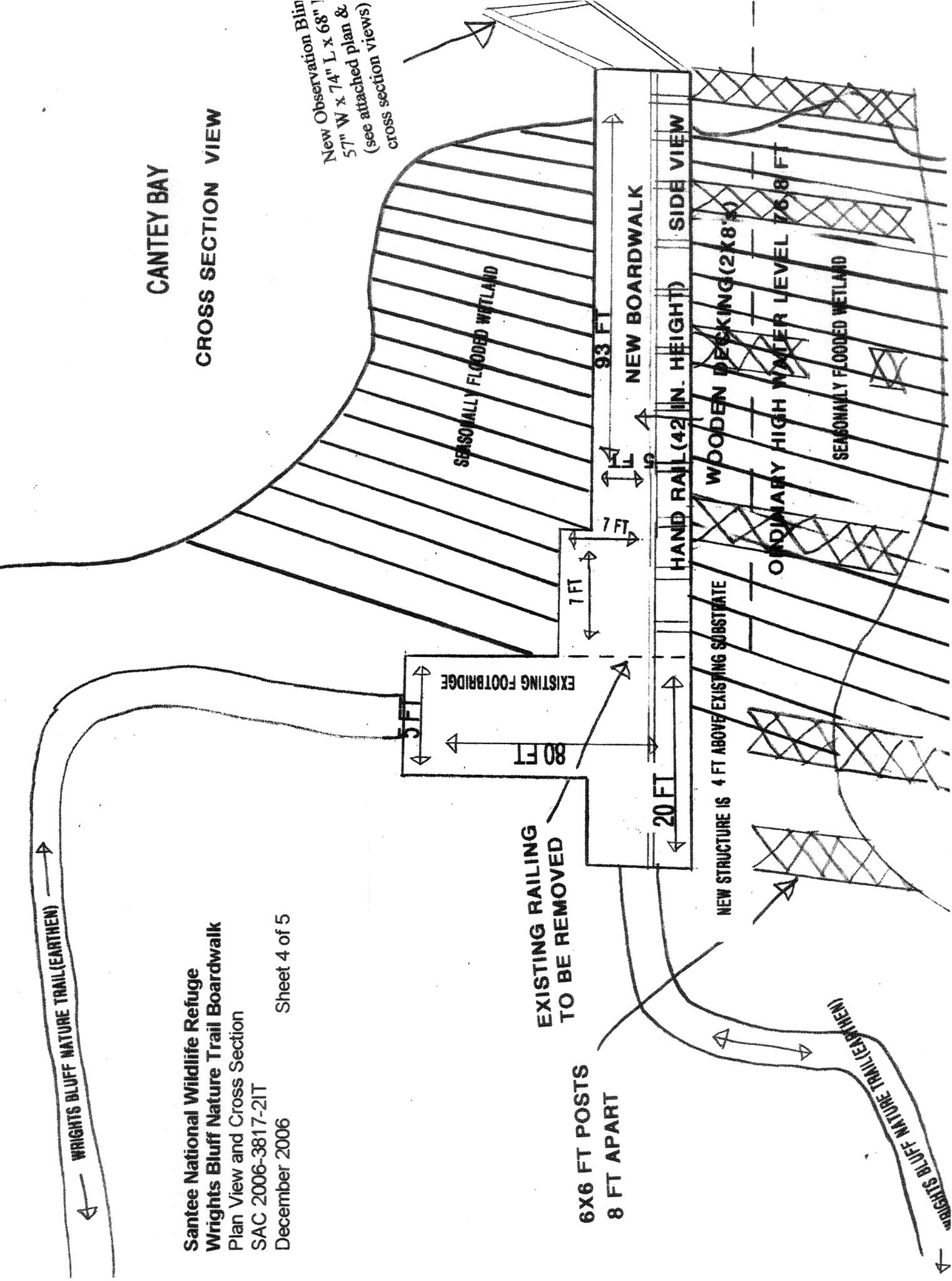
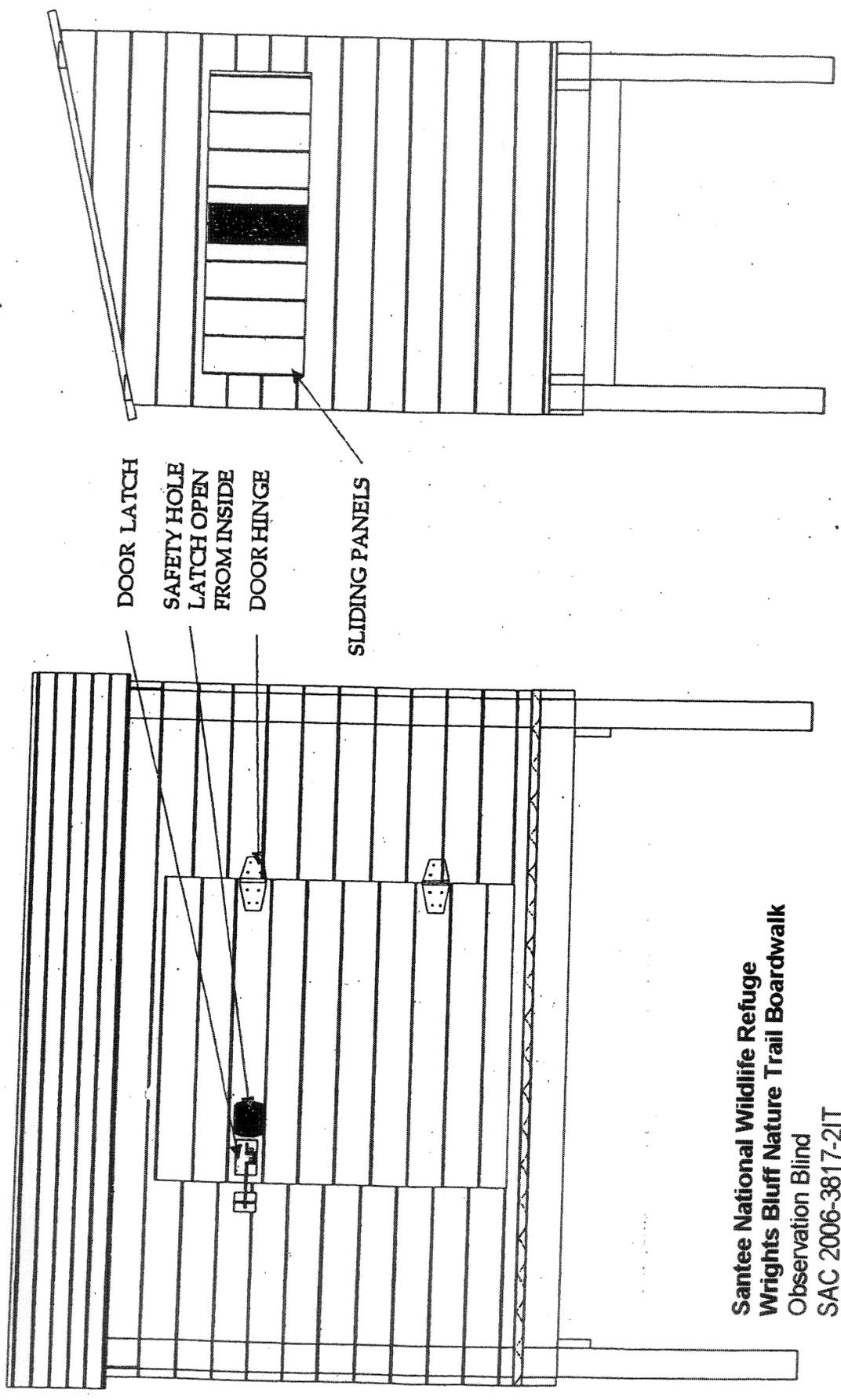


PHOTO BLIND

BACK & SIDE VIEW (OUTSIDE)



Santee National Wildlife Refuge
Wrights Bluff Nature Trail Boardwalk
Observation Blind
SAC 2006-3817-2IT
December 2006

Sheet 5 of 5

CROSS SECTION VIEW-OBS. BLIND

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