

THE GREAT FLOOD OF 1913: MIDDLETOWN, OHIO

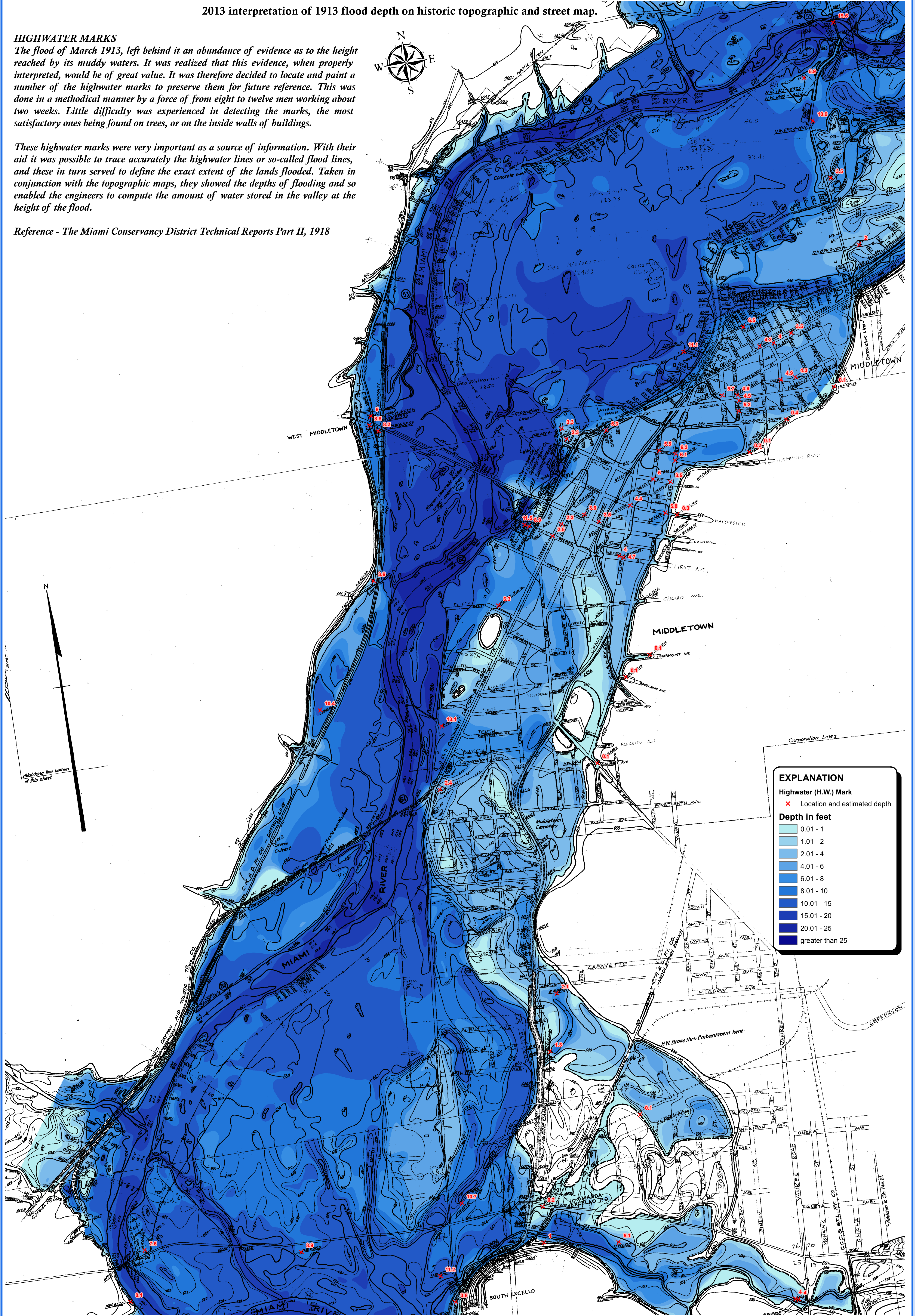
2013 interpretation of 1913 flood depth on historic topographic and street map.

HIGHWATER MARKS

The flood of March 1913, left behind it an abundance of evidence as to the height reached by its muddy waters. It was realized that this evidence, when properly interpreted, would be of great value. It was therefore decided to locate and paint a number of the highwater marks to preserve them for future reference. This was done in a methodical manner by a force of from eight to twelve men working about two weeks. Little difficulty was experienced in detecting the marks, the most satisfactory ones being found on trees, or on the inside walls of buildings.

These highwater marks were very important as a source of information. With their aid it was possible to trace accurately the highwater lines or so-called flood lines, and these in turn served to define the exact extent of the lands flooded. Taken in conjunction with the topographic maps, they showed the depths of flooding and so enabled the engineers to compute the amount of water stored in the valley at the height of the flood.

Reference - The Miami Conservancy District Technical Reports Part II, 1918



EXPLANATION	
Highwater (H.W.) Mark	
x	Location and estimated depth
Depth in feet	
Lightest Blue	0.01 - 1
Light Blue	1.01 - 2
Medium-Light Blue	2.01 - 4
Medium Blue	4.01 - 6
Dark Blue	6.01 - 8
Very Dark Blue	8.01 - 10
Dark Blue	10.01 - 15
Very Dark Blue	15.01 - 20
Black	20.01 - 25
Black	greater than 25

Depth calculated by use of 1913 highwater mark survey and 1915 topographic data collected by The Miami Conservancy District.

