

1947 Floodwall Construction - Steel sheet piling being driven into the soil to provide the foundation for the concrete floodwall.

Concrete Floodwall

Floodwall is constructed where clearance would be too restricted for levee construction. The floodwall is constructed of reinforced concrete with a steel sheet pile cutoff.

There are two specific types of concrete floodwall, I-Wall and T-Wall. Each type has several different designs to accommodate different conditions. Concrete floodwall is constructed on-top "sheet pilings" (pictured at left). T-Wall sheet piling was driven through the soil down to bedrock.

The "T" type wall has an average height of 10 + - feet above the landside ground surface and is about 4,040 feet long. The "l" type wall has an average height of about 9 +/- feet above the landside ground surface and is about 8,060 feet long.

Construction of the floodwall began in 1947 and was completed in 1951.



concrete floodwall











Typical T-Wall Type "T-2" cross section

Typical I-Wall Type "I-2" cross section

I-Wall has 3 different design types and T-Wall, 7 design types. Floodwall is constructed as free standing panels/monoliths approximately 25 feet in length.

There are approximately 500 panel sections that make up the entire length of the floodwall. The redline (left) indicates the approximate ground surface on the landside. There are about 10,000 linear feet of expansion joints throughout the length of the floodwall.

The concrete wall was poured as a reinforced cap over interlocking steel sheet piling. Sheet pilings provide two critical functions in the floodwall design; they support the concrete cap that rises to an average height of 10 feet above landside ground surface, and to block seepage



from the river to the landside. It is critical that the soil does not become over saturated during an event. Once saturated, the soils supporting a wall can quickly begin sliding, causing a collapse.

In order to control saturation, a complex network of wall drains was installed, landside, at the base of the wall. The wall drain is a perforated piping system designed to intercept seepage and channel it to pumping stations. The wall drain system extends for more than 2 miles, parallel to the floodwall, at it's base.

Wall "Type" Identification: Markings on the pilasters identify the wall design type. Three vertical grooves indicate "T-Wall", and two grooves indicate "I-Wall (see drawing at right).

