1.2 Geographic Location/Parish Description

St. Mary Parish is located in south central Louisiana. It is surrounded by Iberia Parish to the north, St. Martin Parish to the east, Assumption Parish to the southeast, Terrebonne Parish to the south and the Gulf of Mexico to the southwest. The parish has a total area of 1,119 square miles, of which 613 square miles is land and 506 square miles is water.

The two major industries of St. Mary Parish are oil and commercial shrimping. Industries of note are oil and its related industries, sugar refining, salt, carbon black, timber, shrimping and fishing. Agricultural related industries are sugarcane, rice, corn and soybeans. St. Mary Parish has a population of approximately 53,500. This figure indicates a steady decline of 17% since the 1980 and 1990 census were conducted. In 1980, the population was 64,253 and in 1990 the population was 58,086.

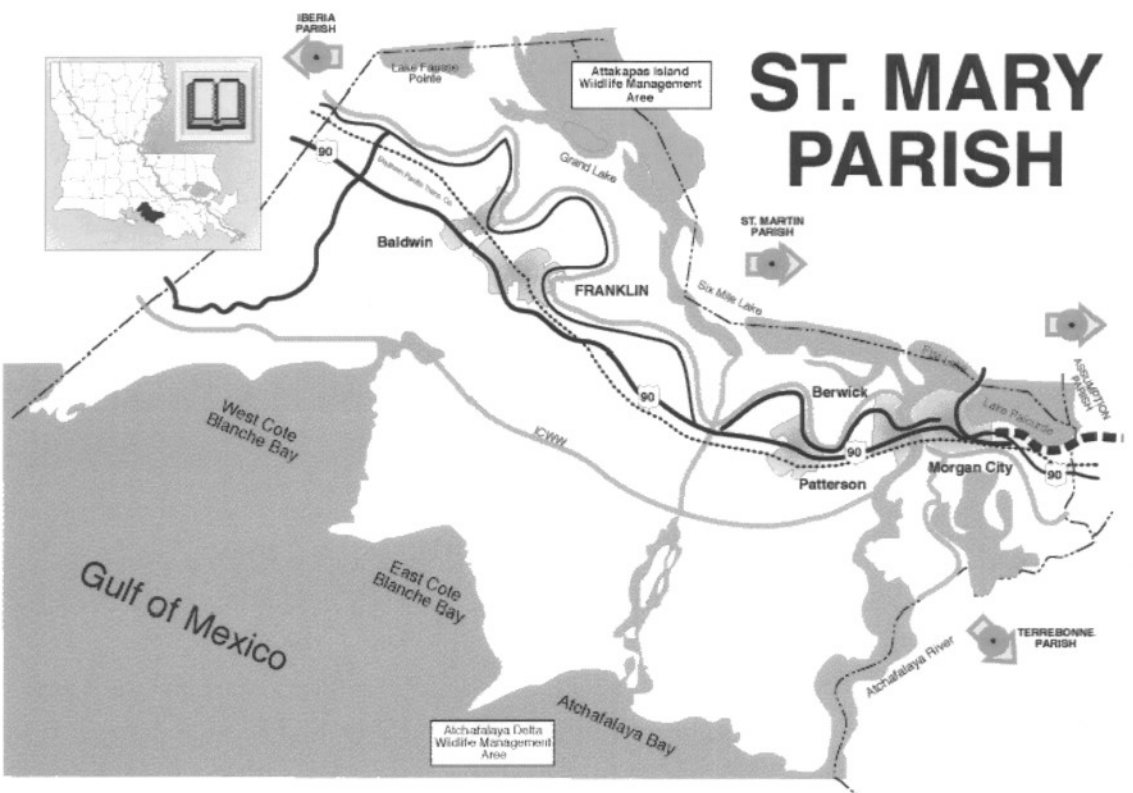

Figure 1: State Map Illustrating St. Mary Parish