Due Diligence Desktop Review and Archaeological Reconnaissance of the Luck Companies Cherokee Quarry

Cherokee County, South Carolina

New South Associates, Inc.

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Report Submitted to

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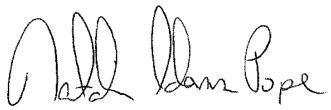

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Abstract

New South Associates, Inc. (NSA) was contracted by Luck Companies to perform a desktop review and an archaeological field reconnaissance of approximately 567 acres (ac.) in Cherokee County, South Carolina. This due diligence survey consisted of background research (state files, historic map research, etc.) and an archaeological reconnaissance to examine the existing condition of the property, including areas of known occupation, based on the desktop review, as well as areas that could contain precontact deposits. This review also included a desktop survey of all historic architectural resources located in or immediately adjacent to the project area.

In total, eight archaeological resources were identified on the property during this survey, one of which is also an above-ground resource (Smith Cemetery). Architectural resources found during the desktop review include seven previously recorded resources within a 0.5-mile (mi.) radius around the property that are recommended as not eligible for the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) and thirteen resources or sub-resources that are survey eligible and currently unassessed, including the Smith Cemetery. The Smith Cemetery is the only architectural resource in the project area, and it consists of a small cemetery with five marked graves enclosed by a stone wall. The two named headstones belong to Elizabeth Smith, who died in 1840, and James W. Smith, who died in 1839. Several South Carolina Codes protect historic cemeteries (South Carolina Code 27-43-10, Removal of Abandoned Cemeteries; 27-43-20, Removal to Plot Agreeable to Governing Body and Relatives; 27-43-30, Supervision of Removal Work; and 16-17-600, Destruction of Graves and Graveyards), so it is recommended that the cemetery be avoided.

The archaeological resources identified within the project area include: 1) a precontact lithic scatter, 2) a historic domestic trash dump in a natural drainage south of Thicketty Creek near stacked stone walls, 3) a historic farmstead house foundation with a barn, 4) a historic artifact scatter associated with a 1909 house site identified from a historic map, 5) a creek-side stone structure, 6) a historic bus, and 7) two utility buildings next to Magg Road. All of the archaeological resources represent activity in the area during the twentieth century. Although unassessed for the NRHP, most appear to have poor integrity. Many of these resources are in the southern half of the project area, south of Thicketty Creek, where judgmental shovel testing showed signs of heavily eroded soils.

Currently, no federal funding or permits are anticipated for this project. However, if in the future, federal funding or federal permits are necessary, additional survey may be required in order to comply with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA). If compliance with Section 106 is necessary, NSA recommends delineating the site boundaries of two of the archaeological resources to assess their eligibility for the NRHP if they cannot be avoided. The first is a precontact lithic surface scatter located in the north-central portion of the project area in a feed plot, on a ridgetop above Thicketty Creek. The presence of diagnostic tools suggests that it dates to the Middle to Late Archaic period. The density of surface artifacts, the location of the site on a good landform near water, and the integrity of the soil outside of the plowed feed plot suggest the potential for intact deposits. Additionally, historic maps show sustained historic activity (roads and structures) throughout the early to mid-twentieth century in the northwestern corner of the project area near Thicketty Creek. This location is where the creek-side stacked stone structure of unknown purpose is located. There could be buried cultural deposits related to the structure and any associated activities, so additional shovel testing is recommended for the area. The remaining archaeological resources appear to have poor integrity and research potential, so no additional work is recommended for those.

As the project is currently designed, direct effects to both resources will be avoided. The stone structure is located in a wetlands protected area. Therefore, this resource and areas within 400 feet (ft.) will not be directly affected. Direct effects to the precontact site will also be avoided. Based on the extent of the surface scatter and the configuration of the landform, the site is estimated to potentially extend 120 meters (m; 400 ft.) north-south and 90 m (300 ft.) east-west. A protective buffer of 30 m (100 ft.) is recommended.

The terrain on the property consists of several ridgetops and drainage systems leading towards Thicketty Creek. Oftentimes, ridge noses overlooking water sources have a high potential for precontact occupation. Floodplains also have the potential for buried cultural deposits, but many low-lying areas north and south of Thicketty Creek are currently under water due to the construction of a dam. Many of the flat areas south of Thicketty Creek have been disturbed by modern construction or are heavily eroded and therefore do not need additional attention. However, the ridges north of the creek should receive additional subsurface testing if the project area is ever subject to Section 106 due to intact soils and the presence of precontact artifacts nearby.

As for above-ground resources, it is unlikely that they will be within view of any proposed improvements because the current project design contains a 50-ft. vegetative viewshed buffer. However, if it is ultimately determined that any of the unassessed above-ground resources are located within view of any proposed improvements, they should be assessed for the NRHP.

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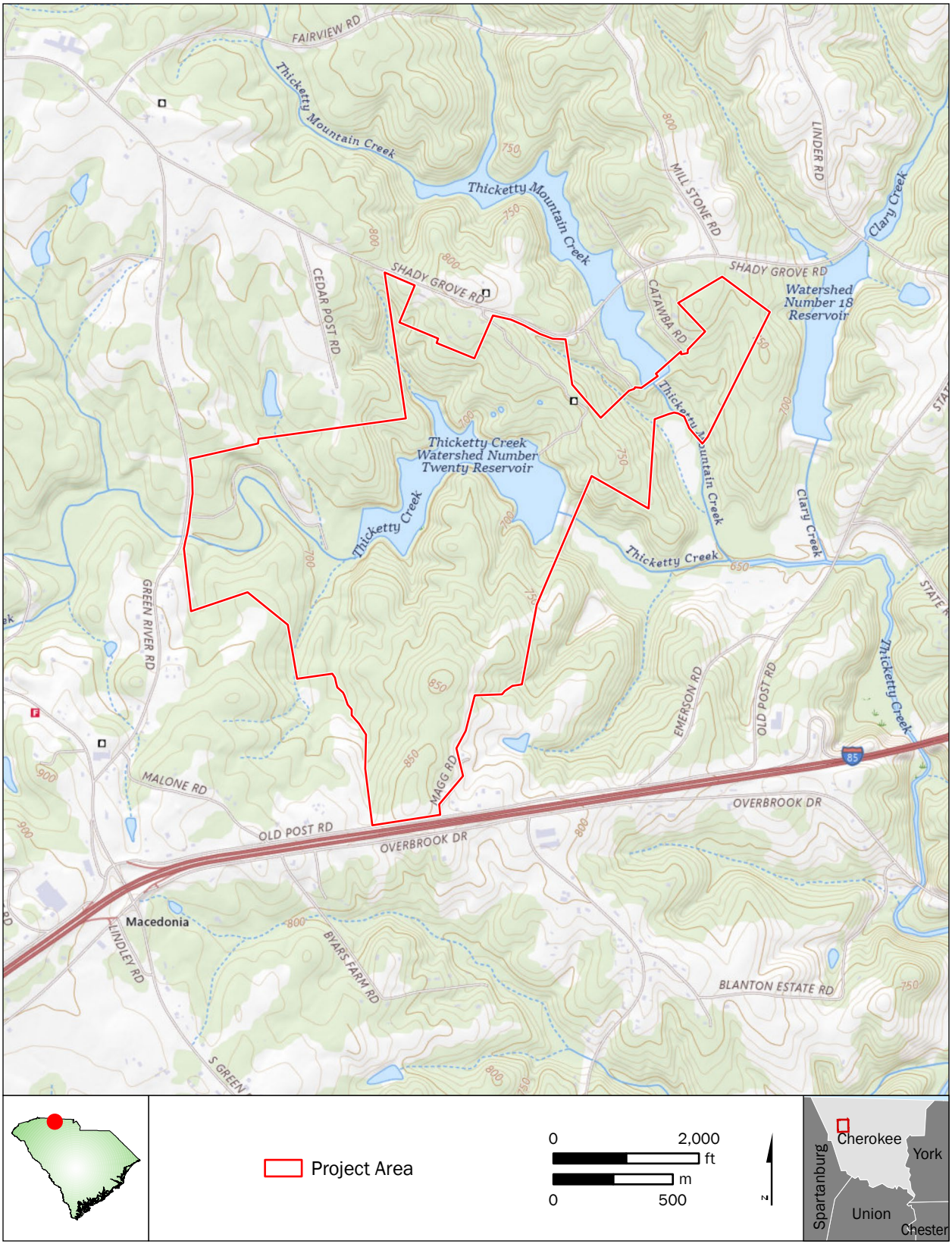
1. Introduction

New South Associates, Inc. (NSA) was contracted by Luck Companies to perform a desktop review and archaeological reconnaissance of approximately 567 acres (ac.) in Cherokee County, South Carolina. The project area is located 6.7 miles (mi.) west of the town of Gaffney and is roughly bounded by Old Post Road and I-85 to the south, Green River Road (State Rd S-11-39) to the west, Shady Grove Road (State Rd S-11-61) to the north, and private property to the east (Figure 1). This due diligence survey consisted of background research (state files, historic map research, etc.) and a site visit to examine the existing condition of the property, including areas of known occupation, based on the desktop review, as well as areas that could contain precontact deposits. This survey also included a desktop survey of any historic architectural resources located in or immediately adjacent to the project area. The purpose of this investigation was to determine the project area's potential to contain cultural resources that may be eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP).

Fieldwork for the archaeological survey was conducted December 17-19, 2024. Abigail Bythell, MA, served as Archaeologist, while Natalie Adams Pope, MA, RPA, served as Principal Investigator. Sean Stucker, MHP, served as architectural historian for the desktop review of nearby historic architectural resources. This report has five chapters, including this Introduction. Chapter 2 discusses the environmental setting, while Chapter 3 presents background research. Chapter 4 details the archaeological and architectural history results. Recommendations and a summary appear in Chapter 5. A list of references cited follows the last chapter.

Figure 1.
Map Showing the Location of the Project Area



Basemap: USGS The National Map (2024)

2. Environmental Context

The project area is situated in the South Carolina Piedmont, which slopes gradually eastward from the foot of the mountains to the Fall Line marking the inner boundary of the Coastal Plain. The typical topography is a series of gently rolling areas interrupted by steeper valleys of larger creeks. The topography in the project area ranges from 560 feet (ft.) above mean sea level (amsl) along the Broad River to 740 ft. amsl in the central portion of the tract. There are relatively few sharp breaks in the topography of the lower Piedmont except along major river valleys. Numerous small streams that drain into these rivers interweave these ridges and valleys (Barry 1980:57). Thicketty Creek and its reservoir bisect the property east to west in the northern part of the project area. Additionally, a short segment of Thicketty Mountain Creek crosses the property from north to south in the northeastern portion. The areas surrounding these waterways contain multiple ridges and drainages. In the southern portion of the property, there is a relatively flat upland area.

The soils in the project area are all well drained. Parent soils include loamy alluvium, residuum weathered from granite and/or gneiss, and clayey granite and gneiss. In the project area, 297.7 ac. (52.6%) are sloped more than 10 percent, while 313.6 ac. (55.3%) are comprised of eroded to severely eroded soils (Table 1, Figure 2).

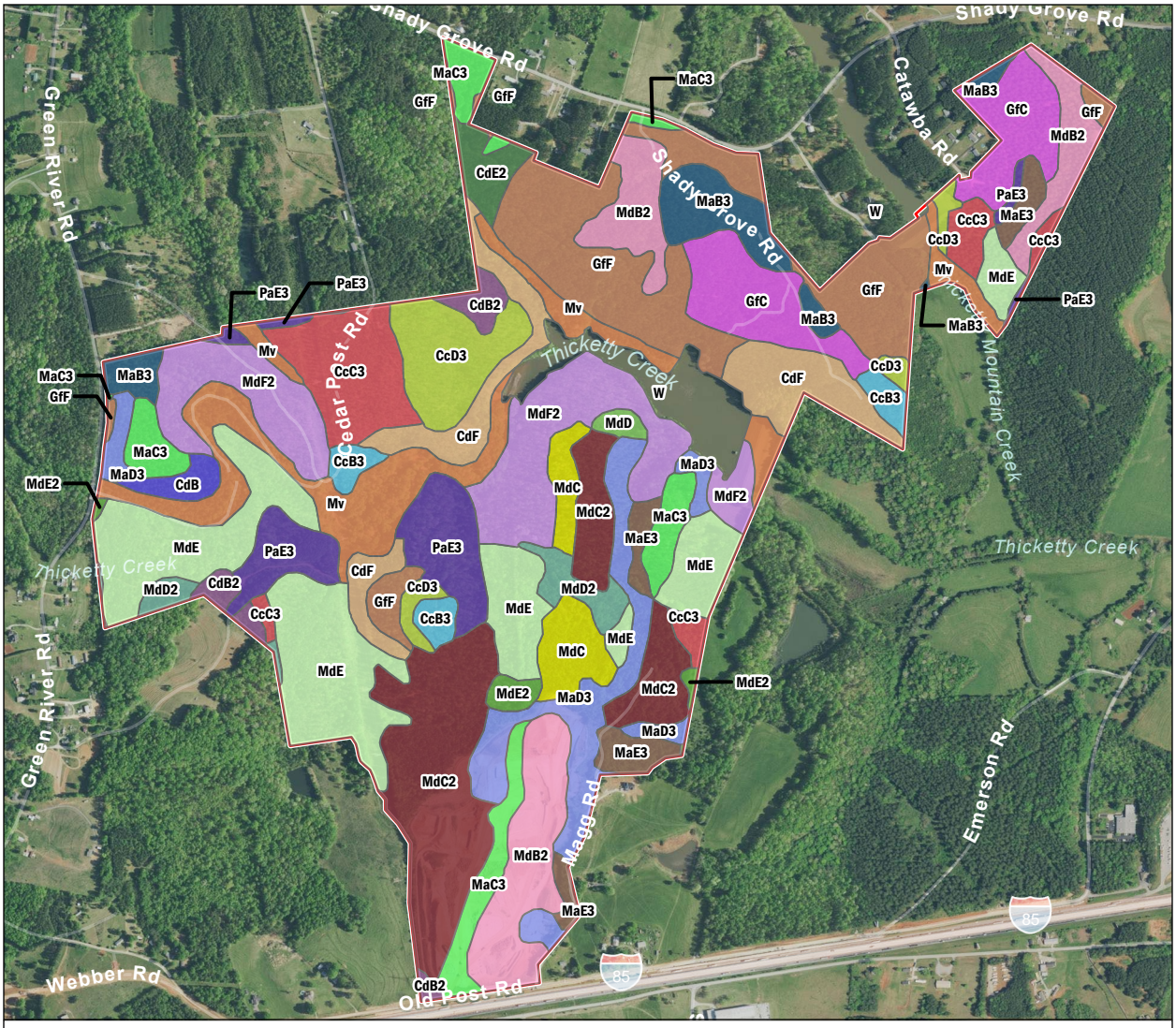
The piedmont forests generally belong to the Oak-Hickory formation (Braun 1950). However, a high degree of habitat diversity in relation to water and soil composition has led to the recognition of several general community types. The most characteristic association is the white oak-black oak-red oak association. Associated species include hickory, loblolly, shortleaf pine, black gum, and sweet gum. Understory vegetation consists of saplings, as well as flowering dogwood and sourwoods. The most common type of vegetation in the project area is mixed pines and hardwoods with minimal understory. Other vegetation includes briars and immature trees or small shrubs in areas that have been cleared. In the floodplain, there is wetland vegetation as well as hardwoods.

Several areas in the central and northern parts of the property have been managed for the purpose of hunting, such as tree clearing for feed plots and shooting lanes. The property is also actively undergoing land development, including cut roads throughout the project area and a large disturbance on the southern upland portion. Additionally, there are modern earthen dams across both Thicketty Creek and Thicketty Mountain Creek in the western portion of the project area (Figure 3).

Table 1. Soils in the Project Area

Map Unit	Map Unit Name	Drainage Class	Notes	Acres in Project Area	Percent of Project Area
CcB3	Cecil clay loam	Well Drained	2–6% slopes, severely eroded	7.4	1.3
CcC3	Cecil clay loam	Well Drained	6–10% slopes, severely eroded	25.7	4.5
CcD3	Cecil clay loam	Well Drained	10–15% slopes, severely eroded	20.6	3.6
CdB	Cecil sandy loam	Well Drained	2–6% slopes	3.6	0.6
CdB2	Cecil sandy loam	Well Drained	2–6% slopes, moderately eroded	6.3	1.1
CdE2	Cecil sandy loam	Well Drained	15–25% slopes, eroded	5.7	1.0
CdF	Cecil sandy loam	Well Drained	25–35% slopes	28.7	5.1
GfC	Gullied land	Well Drained	Friable materials, 2–10% slopes	29.7	5.2
GfF	Gullied land	Well Drained	Friable materials, 10–35% slopes	53.9	9.5
MaB3	Madison and Cecil clay loams	Well Drained	2–6% slopes, severely eroded	16.1	2.8
MaC3	Madison and Cecil clay loams	Well Drained	6–10% slopes, severely eroded	21.9	3.9
MaD3	Madison and Cecil clay loams	Well Drained	10–15% slopes, severely eroded	28.1	5.0
MaE3	Madison and Cecil clay loams	Well Drained	15–25% slopes, severely eroded	10.6	1.9
MdB2	Madison and Cecil sandy loams	Well Drained	2–6% slopes, eroded	38.7	6.8
MdC	Madison and Cecil sandy loams	Well Drained	6–10% slopes	12.5	2.2
MdC2	Madison and Cecil sandy loams	Well Drained	6–10% slopes, eroded	53.1	9.4
MdD	Madison and Cecil sandy loams	Well Drained	10–15% slopes	1.7	0.3
MdD2	Madison and Cecil sandy loams	Well Drained	10–15% slopes, eroded	7.4	1.3
MdE	Madison and Cecil sandy loams	Well Drained	15–25% slopes	69	12.2
MdE2	Madison and Cecil sandy loams	Well Drained	15–25% slopes, eroded	2.9	0.5
MdF2	Madison and Cecil sandy loams	Well Drained	25–35% slopes, eroded	46.6	8.2
Mv	Riverview loam	Well Drained	0–2% slopes, frequently flooded	38.4	6.8
PaD	Pacolet sandy loam	Well Drained	15–25% slopes	<0.1	<0.1
PaE3	Pacolet clay loam	Well Drained	15–25% slopes, severely eroded	22.5	4.0
W	Water	-	-	16.3	2.9
Total				567.5	100

Figure 2.
Soils in the Project Area



Mapunit Name

- CcB3 Cecil clay loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes, severely eroded
- CcC3 Cecil clay loam, 6 to 10 percent slopes, severely eroded
- CcD3 Cecil clay loam, 10 to 15 percent slopes, severely eroded
- CdB Cecil sandy loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes
- CdB2 Cecil sandy loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes, eroded
- CdE2 Cecil sandy loam, 15 to 25 percent slopes, eroded
- CdF Cecil sandy loam, 25 to 35 percent slopes
- GfC Gullied land, friable materials, 2 to 10 percent slopes
- GfF Gullied land, friable materials, 10 to 35 percent slopes
- MaB3 Madison and Cecil clay loams, 2 to 6 percent slopes, severely eroded
- MaC3 Madison and Cecil clay loams, 6 to 10 percent slopes, severely eroded
- MaD3 Madison and Cecil clay loams, 10 to 15 percent slopes, severely eroded
- MaE3 Madison and Cecil clay loams, 15 to 25 percent slopes, severely eroded
- MdB2 Madison and Cecil sandy loams, 2 to 6 percent slopes, eroded
- MdC Madison and Cecil sandy loams, 6 to 10 percent slopes
- MdC2 Madison and Cecil sandy loams, 6 to 10 percent slopes, eroded
- MdD Madison and Cecil sandy loams, 10 to 15 percent slopes
- MdD2 Madison and Cecil sandy loams, 10 to 15 percent slopes, eroded
- MdE Madison and Cecil sandy loams, 15 to 25 percent slopes
- MdF2 Madison and Cecil sandy loams, 25 to 35 percent slopes, eroded
- MdE2 Madison and Cecil sandy loams, 15 to 25 percent slopes, eroded
- Mv Riverview loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes, frequently flooded
- PaE3 Pacolet clay loam, 15 to 25 percent slopes, severely eroded

0 2,000 ft
0 500 m
N

Basemap: NAIP (2021)

A. Access Road and Typical Vegetation, Looking North

B. Overview of Feed Plot, Looking Southwest

C. Overview of Disturbance, Looking Northeast

D. Thicketty Creek Earthen Dam with Access Road, Looking South

Figure 3. Conditions in the Project Area

3. Background Research

Prior to fieldwork, NSA consulted South Carolina's cultural resource GIS database, ArchSite, to identify any previously recorded cultural resources within 0.5-mi. of the project area. Seven previously recorded historic resources were found within the search radius. However, no archaeological sites or previous surveys were recorded within the search radius. Additionally, historic maps and aerials were reviewed to understand past land usage and the locations of former historic occupations within the project area.

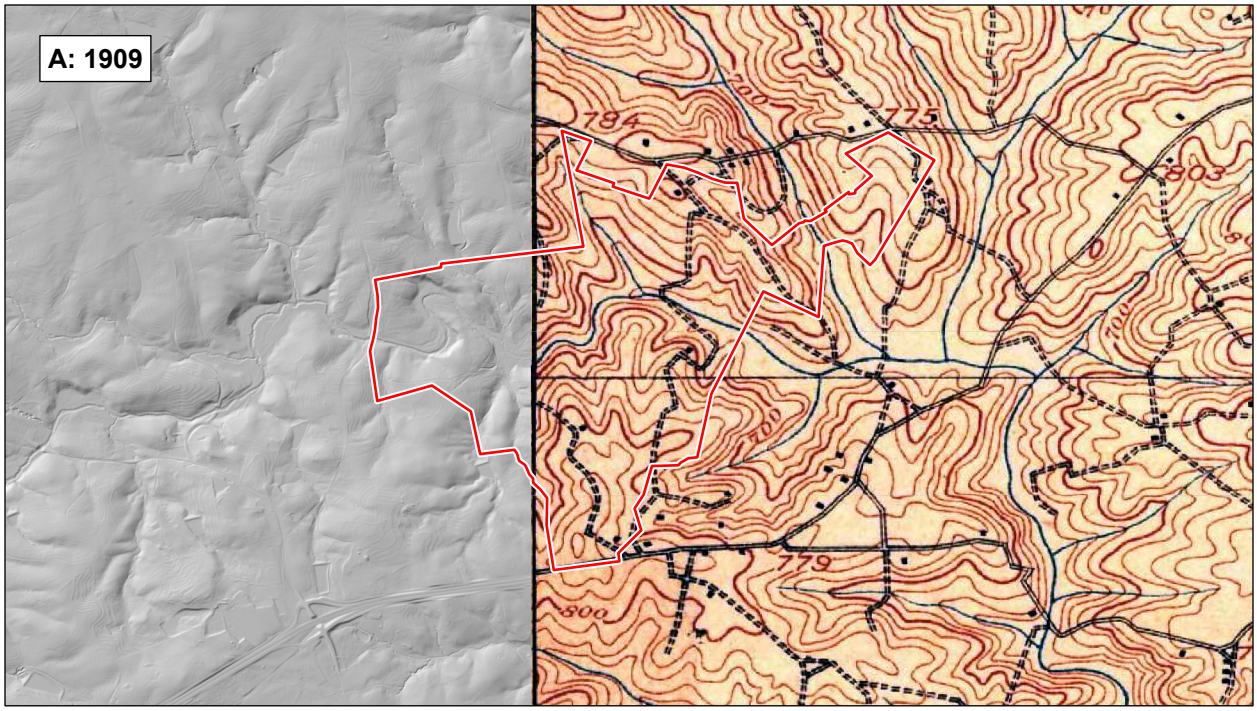
Previously Recorded Cultural Resources

There were no previously recorded archaeological resources within the 0.5-mi. search radius. Seven previously recorded historic resources are located within the search radius, but none are present within the boundary of the project area. SHPO Site Numbers 0186, 0187, 0188, 0189, 0190, and 0191 are all circa-1940 domestic structures near the southern portion of the project area recorded during a survey for widening of I-85 (Adair and Sipe 2015). SHPO Site Numbers 0186, 0187, and 0188 are all west of the project area, SHPO Site Numbers 0190 and 0191 are both east, and SHPO Site Number 0189 is south. SHPO Site Number 0192 is the circa-1850 Smith-Harris Cemetery located at the southwest corner of Overbrook Drive and Sarratt School Road. None of the resources are eligible for inclusion in the NRHP.

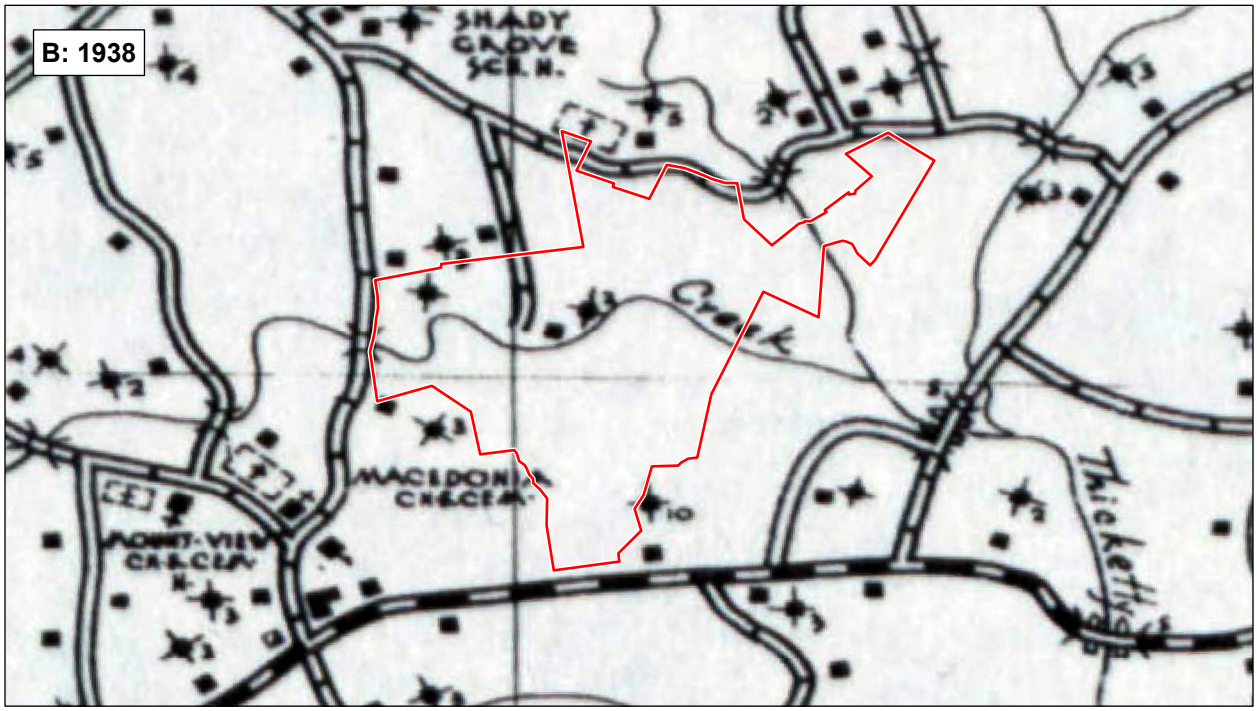
Historic Map and Imagery Research

In addition to ArchSite, NSA consulted historic and modern maps to determine if there was potential for historic sites on the property. These maps include the 1909 United States Geological Survey (USGS) 15-minute Topographic Quadrangle of Gaffney, South Carolina-North Carolina, as well as the 1938, 1942, and 1953 South Carolina Department of Transportation (SCDOT) Cherokee County Highway maps (Figures 4 and 5). These maps show scattered residences and old roads across the project area. The 1909 Gaffney topographic map depicts the western half of the project area and shows four historic

Figure 4.
Historic Maps of the Project Area (1 of 2)



Basemap: USGS Topographic Quadrangle, Gaffney (1909)



Georeferenced Basemap: SCDOT County Highway Map, Cherokee (1938)

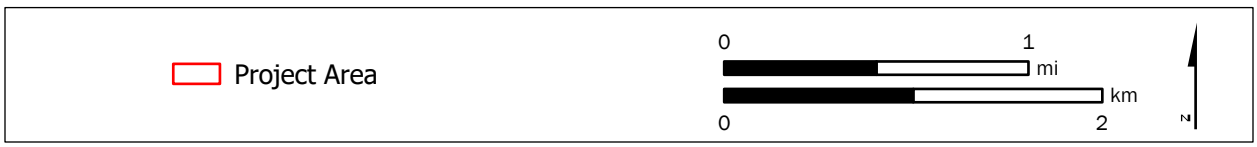
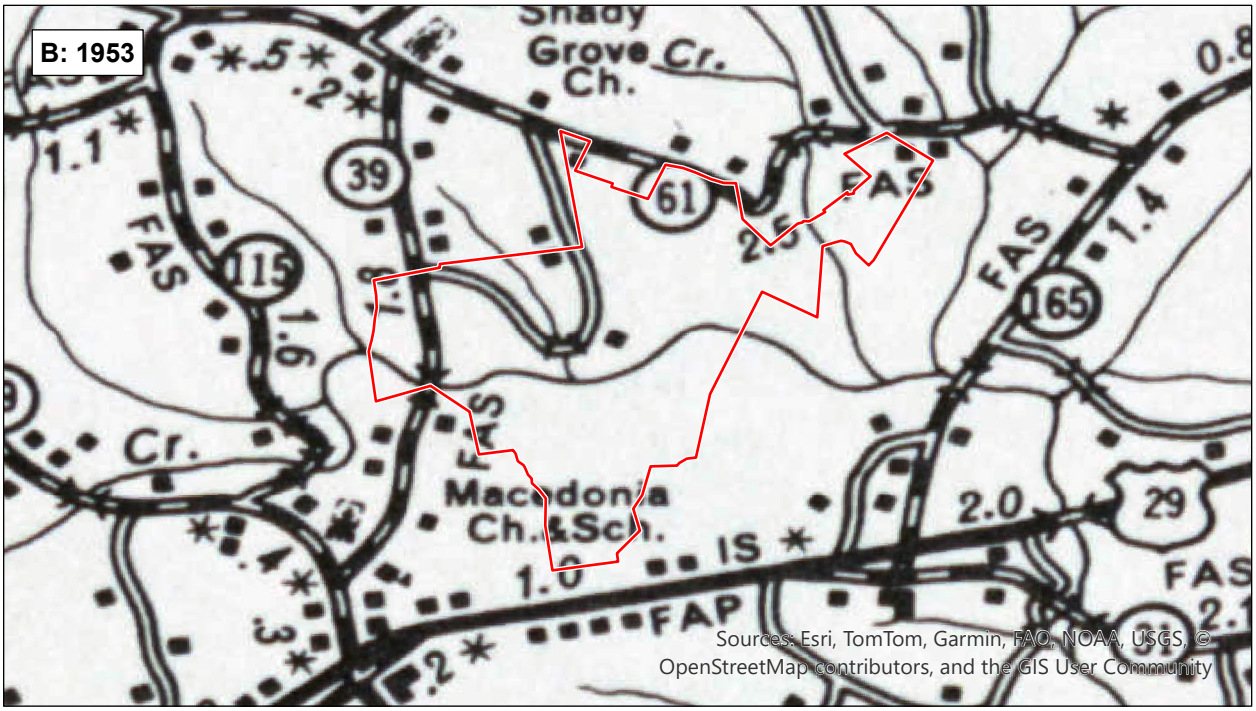


Figure 5.
Historic Maps of the Project Area (2 of 2)

Georeferenced Basemap: SCDOT County Highway Map, Cherokee (1942)

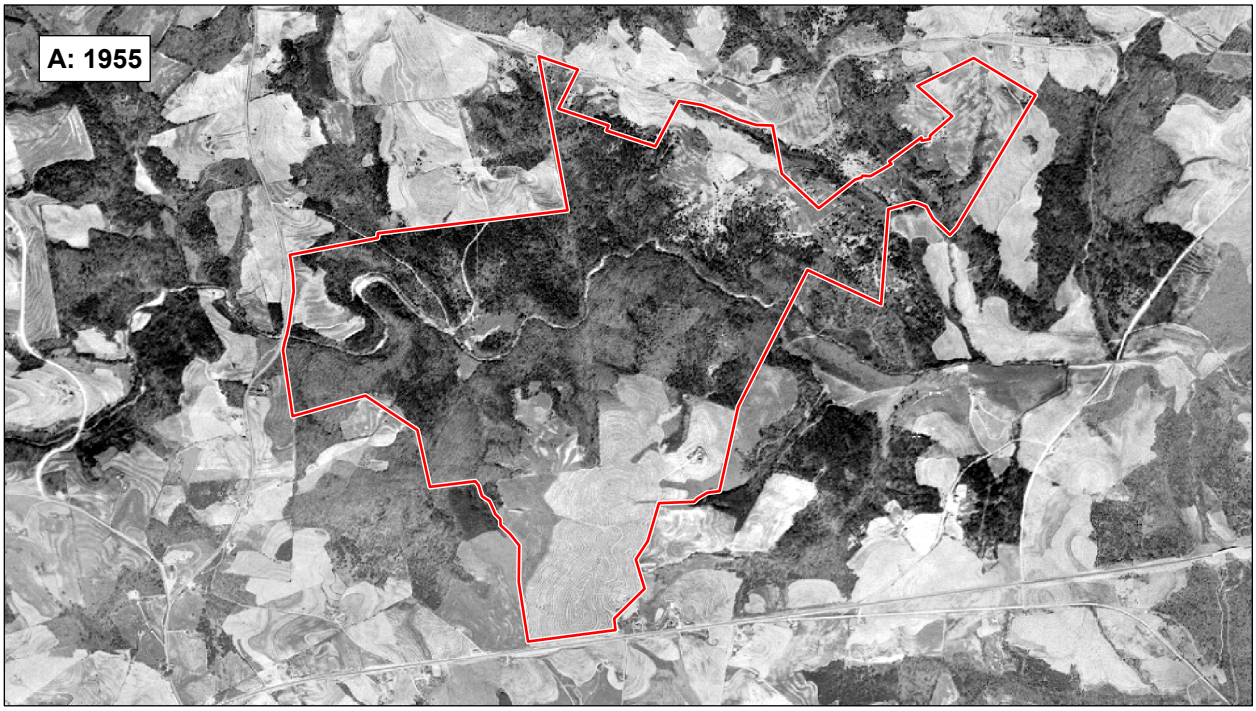


Georeferenced Basemap: SCDOT County Highway Map, Cherokee (1953)

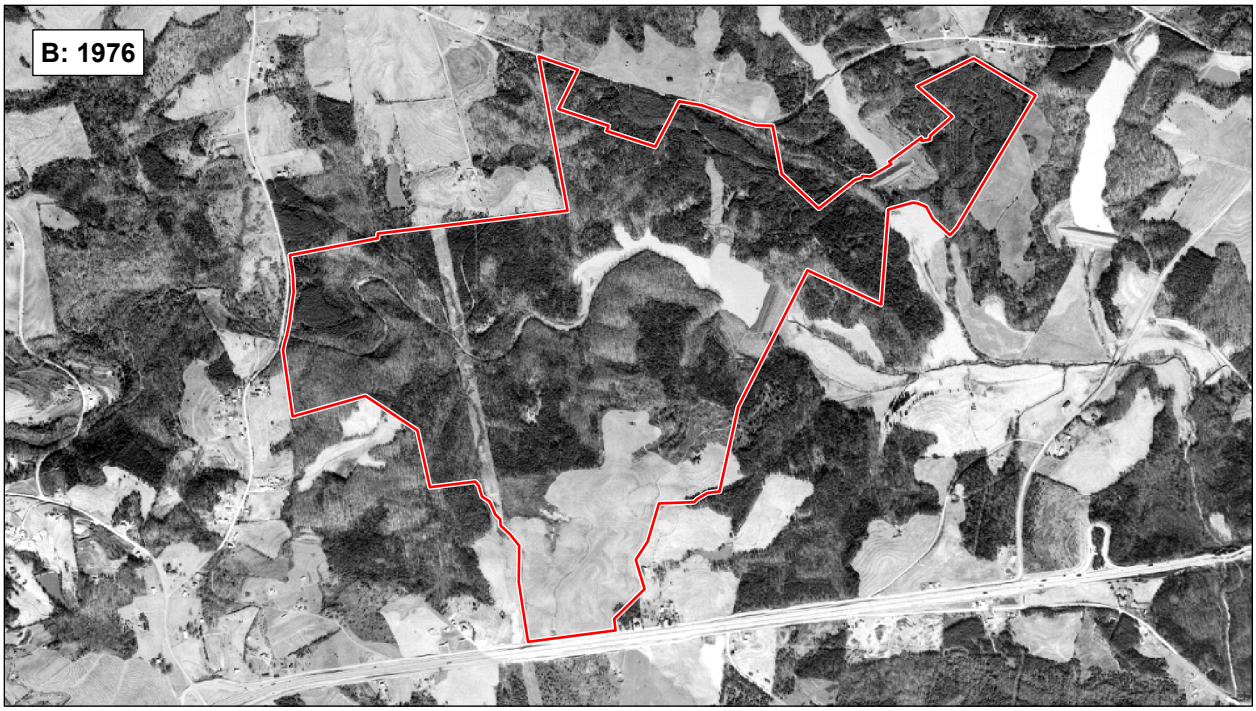
residences within the property. The SCDOT Cherokee County maps show the general locations for residences in and around the project area. On the 1938, 1942, and 1953 maps, Thicketty Creek was referred to as Macedonia Creek, and one residence is depicted just north of the waterway in the center of the project area. On the 1942 map, an unimproved road with three houses alongside it extends north from Old Post Road and is possibly related to the current Magg Road at the eastern edge of the property.

In addition to historic maps, historic aerials were also consulted to determine past land usage and disturbance within the project area (Figure 6). In 1955 and 1976, some of the land within the project area was being used for agriculture, particularly the southern portion. Within this large agricultural field, a collection of three buildings is visible near the western boundary of the project area. In the northeastern corner of the project area, Cedar Post Road is shown coming down south from Shady Grove Road to Thicketty Creek and then connecting to Green River Road in the west. This same road is depicted on the 1942 and 1953 SCDOT maps. By 1976, there is a transmission line bisecting the property north-south on the western side. Additionally, the two earthen dams blocking Thicketty Creek and Thicketty Mountain Creek have been completed.

Figure 6.
Historic Aerials of the Project Area



Georeferenced Basemap: Aerial Photography, Cherokee County (1955)



Georeferenced Basemap: Aerial Photography, Cherokee County (1976)

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4. Results

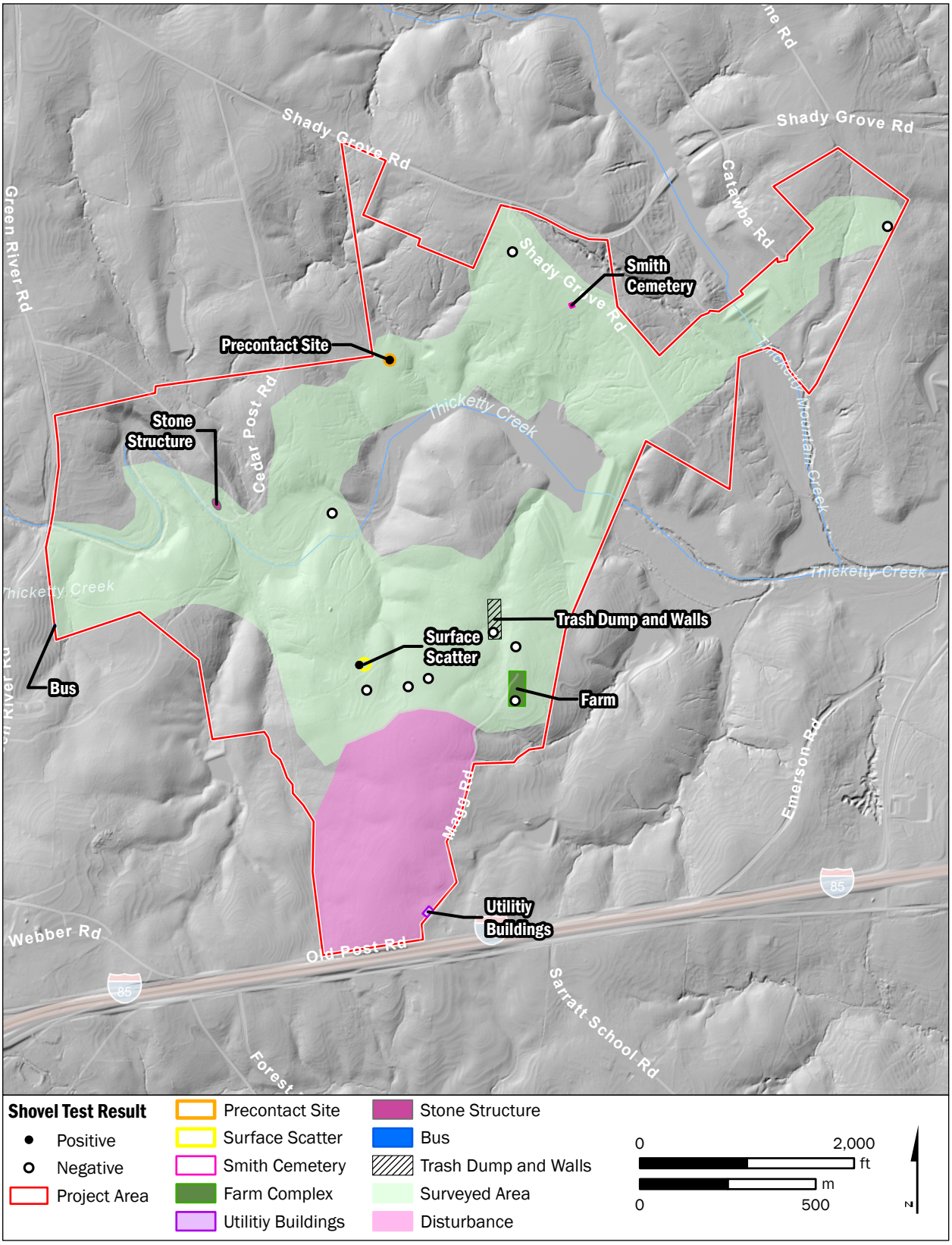
Archaeology

The field methods and reporting for this reconnaissance survey followed the newly released *South Carolina Standards and Guidelines for Archaeological Investigations* (Council of South Carolina Professional Archaeologists et al. 2024). The proposed archaeological field methods were pedestrian walkover and visual inspections of higher-potential areas to identify any exposed archaeological materials or above-ground features. Additionally, judgmental shovel tests were excavated to evaluate subsurface conditions in areas of high potential. This included shovel testing near mapped historic settlements and on flat ridgetops and saddles. If artifacts were encountered, they were analyzed in the field and returned to the shovel test or surface. Precontact archaeological sites tend to be located on relatively flat landforms adjacent to water sources. Historic sites are often found adjacent to transportation routes. The nearby historic structures depicted on twentieth-century maps are shown along Thicketty Creek (Macedonia Creek), Green River Road, Shady Grove Road, Old Post Road, and an unimproved road within the project area (See Figures 4-5).

The terrain on the property consists of several ridgetops and drainage systems leading towards Thicketty Creek and Thicketty Mountain Creek. The southern portion of the project consists of a relatively flat upland area. Ridge noses overlooking water sources and floodplains have the potential for precontact occupation. The project area has been subjected to historic agricultural practices, as evidenced by aerial photography (see Figure 6). Some areas of the property have had modern disturbances, such as the construction of a transmission line across the western part of the property (see Figure 6b) and a large area of ground disturbance on the southern portion (see Figure 3c). Additionally, two earthen dams are in the project area, one of which flooded low-lying areas of the property when it formed a reservoir for Thicketty Creek (see Figure 3d).

Locations examined during the reconnaissance are shown in Figure 7. Areas that displayed greater than 50 percent ground visibility with exposed subsoil were subjected to a pedestrian survey. In areas where leaf litter obscured the ground surface, judgmental shovel testing often yielded eroded soils (Figure 8). This survey also included a visual examination and judgmental shovel tests at the locations of former houses depicted on historic maps.

Figure 7.
Locations Examined During the Reconnaissance Survey and Identified Resources



Basemap: USGS 3D Elevation Program 3DEP (2024)

Figure 8.
Example of Eroded Soils in Shovel Test

Structures shown on historic maps are often slightly off from their expected location; Therefore, areas of the property with historic houses just outside of the project boundary were also investigated. Overall, eight archaeological resources were recorded during this reconnaissance survey. These resources are summarized in Table 2.

Table 2. Archaeological Resources Identified

Resource Type	Time Period	Management Recommendation
Cemetery (Smith Cemetery)	c. 1839	Avoidance
Precontact Surface Scatter	Middle to Late Archaic Period	Avoidance
Historic Trash Dump	c.1950s	No Further Work
Historic Farmstead	c.1950s	No Further Work
Historic Surface Scatter	Early to Mid-Twentieth Century	No Further Work
Creek-side Stone Structure	Unknown (Possibly Early-Twentieth Century)	Avoidance
Bus	Mid-Twentieth Century	No Further Work
Historic Utility Buildings	c.1950s	No Further Work

Smith Cemetery

The fieldwork examined a small family cemetery located in the northern part of the project area, south of Shady Grove Road. The vegetation of the area consists of mixed deciduous and pine forest with no ground surface visibility. The cemetery is situated on a flat area just south of a cut road bank. Some of the area to the west and southwest of the cemetery is cleared of trees for the purpose of hunting.

The graves in the cemetery are surrounded by a stacked fieldstone wall measuring approximately 3 meters (m) east-west by 9 m north-south. A large oak tree stands in the center of the western wall. In total, there are five burials, all laid directly parallel to one another inside the boundary wall. Each burial has both a headstone and a footer that indicate the length of the burial, which can suggest whether the individual was an adult or a sub-adult.

One of the two named headstones belongs to Elizabeth Smith, married to Willis Smith, who lived to the age of 41 and passed away in 1840 (Figure 9). The headstone directly north of her belongs to a James W. Smith who passed away at one year of life in 1839 (Figure 10). The three remaining burials north of James W. Smith are marked with field headstones and footers and consist of one sub-adult and two adults.

There was no evidence of any headstones, footstones, or grave depressions outside of this walled area. Several South Carolina Codes protect historic cemeteries (South Carolina Code 27-43-10, Removal of Abandoned Cemeteries; 27-43-20, Removal to Plot Agreeable to Governing Body and Relatives; 27-43-30, Supervision of Removal Work; and 16-17-600, Destruction of Graves and Graveyards). Cemeteries are considered as both archaeological sites and as historic resources. The Smith Cemetery is currently unassessed for the NRHP (see Table 3 in Chapter 4). Avoidance of the cemetery area is recommended.

Precontact Surface Scatter

Pedestrian walkover of a feed plot revealed a surface scatter of precontact lithics. The area is a flat ridgetop just north of Thicketty Creek with planted radishes surrounded by pine trees. Artifacts were encountered across the plowed area, with a concentration near the northern portion of the feed plot. Surface artifacts include quartz flakes, projectile points, and bifaces. Quartz was a major raw material exploited during the precontact period in the South Carolina Piedmont due to its local availability (Sassaman et al. 1988). The few projectile points in the artifact assemblage are most similar to types from the Middle and Late Archaic periods (Coe 1964:121; Figure 11).

A positive judgmental shovel test was excavated in the tree line northwest of the artifact concentration and away from the plowed area. The soils in this location are classified as well drained and moderately eroded Cecil sandy loam. The shovel test profile was an A horizon of brown (7.5 YR 4/3) sandy loam 0–13 centimeters (cm) thick, over a strong brown (7.5 YR 4/6) sandy clay loam 13–18 cm thick, over a red (2.5 YR 5/8) sandy clay subsoil (Figure 12). The soils displayed relatively good integrity, and a single quartz biface was recovered from between 13 and 18 cm below surface.

The landform is located above a water source and is relatively level, with only 2 to 6 percent slope. The density of flakes in the area, the presence of projectile points and stone tools, and the relatively intact soils suggest the potential for significant archaeological information. Direct effects to this site should be avoided, if possible. Based on the surface scatter and the extent of the landform the site is estimated to extend 120 m (400 ft.) north-south by 90 m (300 ft.) east-west. A 30-m (100-ft.) protective buffer is recommended.

Figure 9.
Headstone of Elizabeth Smith

Figure 10.
Headstone of James W. Smith

Figure 11.
Sample of Lithic Artifacts at Precontact Site

Figure 12.
Shovel Test Profile at Precontact Site

Historic Trash Dump and Stone Walls

Two stacked fieldstone walls, oriented northwest-southeast, create a small terrace in a natural drainage that runs north from the upland area into Thicketty Creek (Figure 13). They are clearly visible from the current gravel road that passes across the drainage. When these walls were built, the intention could have been to prevent erosion of a historic road as water drained towards the creek. Just south of the walls, an assortment of domestic artifacts, such as bricks with mortar, sheet metal, oil drums, metal bed frames, and glass bottles were found with piles of fieldstones. In particular, two Pepsi-Cola bottles were found on the surface, which can be dated between 1952 and 1958 based on the style and size (12-ounce) of the bottles (Lockhart 2010:278–279; Figure 14).

The disorganized nature of the materials and their location in a drainage suggest a mid-twentieth-century trash dump rather than the original location of a house. No structures are indicated nearby on the 1909 topographic or SCDOT maps (See Figure 4). Historic aerials show that the upland south of this area was used for agricultural purposes in 1955 and 1976 (See Figure 6). Additionally, a judgmental shovel test revealed heavily eroded soils. No further archaeological work is recommended for this area.

Farmstead

Along the eastern boundary of the property is a farmhouse foundation with a cement well and a standing barn nearby (Figures 15 and 16). North of the barn is a pile of field stones covered with sheet metal. A modern access road with evidence of recent tree clearing is located next to these structures. The vegetation of the area is mixed deciduous and pine forest, with Muscadine vines around the structures. A shovel test near the house foundation revealed heavily eroded soils.

The farmhouse foundation measures approximately 12 m north-south by 10 m east-west. Additionally, there is an extension in the northeastern corner that adds 5 m north-south by 3 m east-west. The foundation is composed of multiple materials, likely indicating that additions were added to the structure at different points in time. While the northwestern corner is composed of fieldstones held together with cement, the eastern half of the house is brick. The southwestern corner is a solid cement foundation with two steps and a brick column that could have been a front or side porch. The brick addition to the eastern side has a narrow shaft (less than 1 m wide) that appears to descend into a pit in the center of the house. The function of the pit is unknown.

Figure 13.
Stacked Stone Walls, Looking Southwest

Figure 14.
1950s Pepsi Bottle at Trash Dump

Figure 15.
Mid-Twentieth-Century Farmhouse Foundation, Looking East

Figure 16.
Mid-Twentieth-Century Barn, Looking East

The house also has two brick chimneys, a large one with a cement outer layer along the western wall and a smaller one along the northern wall. In front of the smaller chimney is a metal sink basin with utility pipes, suggesting it was part of a kitchen. The siding of the house is asbestos wall shingles nailed to wood, but all of it has collapsed. Behind the house, there are two power line poles with no current electrical hookup. A concrete well stands approximately 30 m southwest of the house.

To the north, a cinderblock barn with wooden trusses and a sheet metal roof is still standing. The structure is approximately 8 m north-south by 10 m east-west and has an entrance measuring 4 m across on the western side. Additionally, the building has two square windows each on the other three walls. Directly north of this barn, there are piles of field stones and large pieces of sheet metal that could have been part of a third structure.

The 1955 aerial shows three buildings in a row surrounded by agricultural fields at the same location as the farmhouse and barn (See Figure 6). By 1976, the same structures are still present, although less visible. These remains are part of a mid-twentieth-century farmstead that are unlikely to provide significant archaeological data. The period of historic occupation (older than 50 years) is limited to about 20 years of use; therefore, no further work is recommended.

Historic Artifact Scatter

Pedestrian survey of a clear-cut road in the center of the southern half of the project area revealed a surface scatter of historic artifacts (Figure 17). Artifacts were both on the ground and in push piles at the sides of the road. Surface finds included historic ceramics, miscellaneous glass, a single ceramic button, and the base of a large aqua glass bottle. A single judgmental shovel test revealed disturbed soils with three pieces of clear class and one piece of milk glass from a canning jar lid. The milk glass cap has the writing “BOYD’S” on it, which was used as early as 1869 through the 1950s (Glass Bottle Marks 2019; Figure 18). Aqua glass became less common past the 1930s (Lindsey 2024). No structures or foundations were found in the nearby vicinity, but the area is close to the location of a house mapped on the 1909 topographic map (See Figure 5a). Since there is poor integrity of the site due to erosion and the clear-cut road, as well as the lack of surface features such as a chimney, no further work is recommended.

Figure 17.
Clearing with Historic Artifact Scatter and Push Piles, Looking West

Figure 18.
Artifacts From Shovel Test

Creek-side Stone Structure

A stone structure is located alongside Thicketty Creek on the western part of the project area, just west of the transmission corridor (Figure 19). The structure is approximately 3 m northwest-southeast by 6 m northeast-southwest, with the shorter side facing the creek that lies around 10 m to the southwest. It is around 2 m tall and sits in a small floodplain. The northeastern side is attached to a raised dirt road that runs parallel to the creek. Although the southeastern side is visible, the northwestern side is fully buried in a dirt bank that is covered in small trees and shrubs. The entire structure is composed of large, flat fieldstones stacked with no mortar, and there are no visible entrances. The top is also stone, although it is entirely buried under 30 cm of dirt and leaves.

The SCDOT maps indicate that there were structures and an unimproved road (Cedar Post Road) in this area between 1938 and 1953 (See Figure 5). Aerials from 1955 and 1976 also show Cedar Post Road; however, no structures are visible (See Figure 6). Although there is no clear purpose for the structure, maps and aerials show that there was sustained activity in the area throughout the twentieth century, which suggests the potential for buried historical deposits. This site should be avoided. Since this resource is located within a protected wetlands area, it will not be directly affected. There are no planned improvements within 400 ft. of this resource.

Historic Bus and Trash Dump

A mid-twentieth-century school bus sits just inside of the western property boundary (Figure 20). The interior is filled with wooden shelving, wooden crates, metal, plastic, and glass jars and bottles. Some of the glass jars and bottles are also on the surface around the western side of the bus, including an Atlas Mason jar with a post-1954 Owens-Illinois logo and a date code for 1975 on the base (Lockhart and Hoenig 2018) and a Ball Mason jar with the post-1960 logo and a date code of 1962 on the base (Lockhart et al. 2013). In 1955 and 1976, this area was at the back of an agricultural field (See Figure 6), where vehicles and trash are often dumped. No further work is recommended at this site.

Figure 19.
Stacked Stone Structure Next to Creek, Looking North

Figure 20.
Bus, Looking East

Utility Buildings

Two small utility buildings are located just inside the eastern edge of the property boundary, directly off Magg Road (Figure 21). The larger building to the north has slanted walls with asbestos shingle siding and a wooden sliding door entrance. This base holds up a wooden truss tower topped by a flat surface. Due to the shape of the building and the presence of metal pipes in the interior, it was likely a water tower. The smaller building to the south is made of cinderblocks with a collapsed roof of modern asphalt shingles and a water heater in the interior. There is a modern trash dump behind the buildings that contains a dishwasher, wood, Styrofoam, and several laundry detergent bottles. Historic aerials from 1955 and 1976 show that these buildings would have been at the edge of an agricultural field and near some structures outside of the property boundary (See Figure 6). The area directly west of these structures has been heavily disturbed. No further work is recommended at this site since it likely lacks intact deposits that would have research potential.

Architectural History

The historic architectural survey included a desktop review of all previously recorded resources within a 0.5-mi. radius and of any unrecorded architectural historic resources located in or immediately adjacent to the project area (aka survey eligible). Only one historic resource is within the project area, the Smith Cemetery. Seven previously recorded resources are recommended as not eligible for the NRHP, while 13 survey-eligible resources or sub-resources are currently unassessed. These resources are listed in Table 3 and are depicted in Figure 22 below.

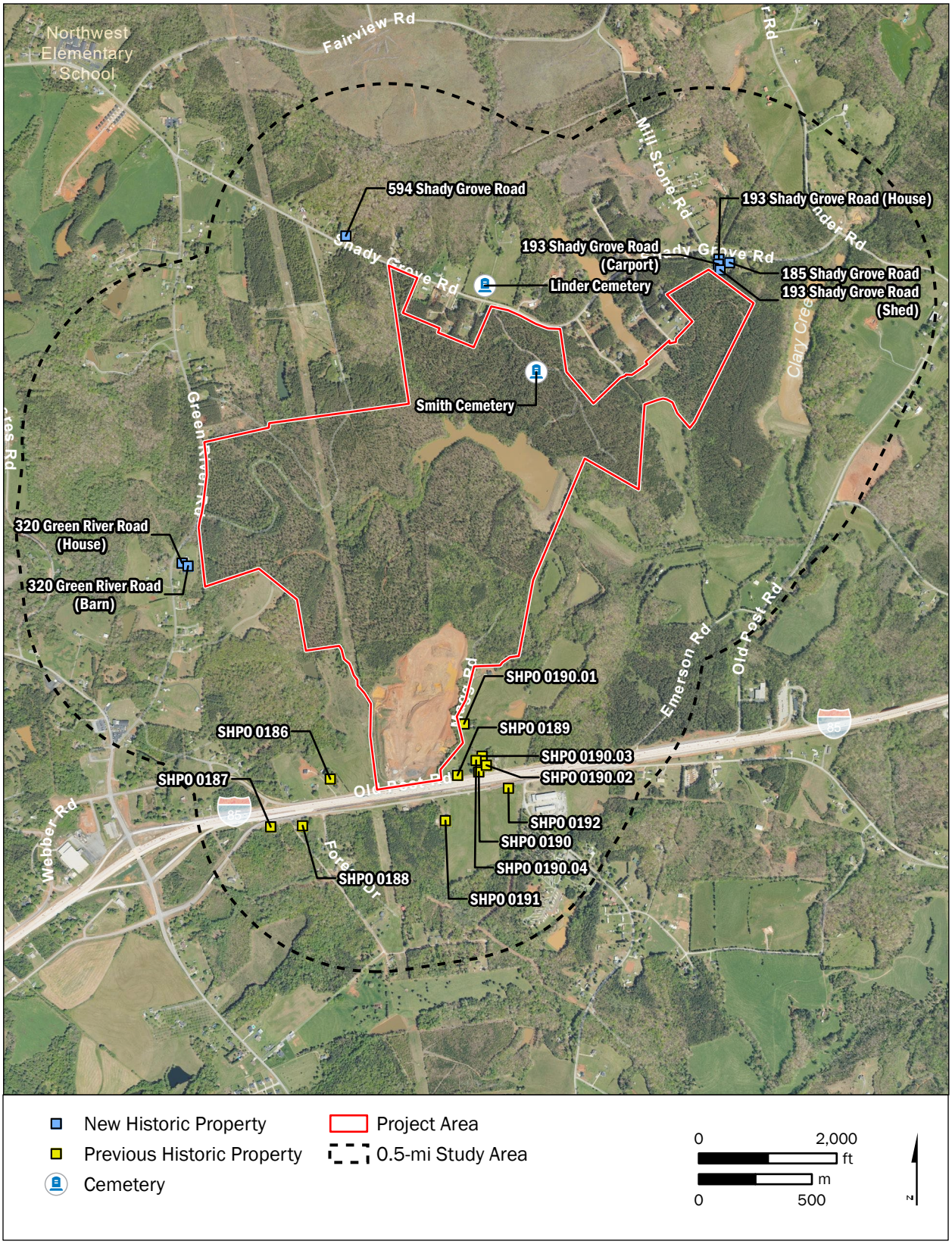
Table 3. Previously Recorded and Survey-Eligible Architectural Resources

SHPO Site Number	Name/Location	Historic Use	Build Date	NRHP Recommendation
0186	Unnamed House/ 249 Old Post Road	Domestic	c. 1940	Not Eligible
0187	Unnamed House/ 3015 Overbrook Drive	Domestic	c. 1940	Not Eligible
0188	Unnamed House/ 2911 Overbrook Drive	Domestic	c. 1940	Not Eligible
0189	Unnamed House/ 313 Old Post Road	Domestic	c. 1940	Not Eligible
0190	Unnamed House/ 329 Old Post Road	Domestic	c. 1940	Not Eligible
0191	Unnamed House/ 2761 Overbrook Drive	Domestic (Not Extant)	c. 1940	Not Eligible
0192	Smith-Harris Cemetery/ Overbrook Drive and Sarratt School Road (SW Corner)	Funerary	c. 1850	Not Eligible
N/A	Smith Cemetery/ Shady Grove Road (35.090994°N, -81.741358°W)	Funerary	Unknown	Not Assessed
N/A (0190.01)	House/ 329 Old Post Road	Domestic	c. 1940	Not Assessed
N/A (0190.02)	Barn/ 329 Old Post Road	Agriculture	c. 1940s	Not Assessed
N/A (0190.03)	Barn/ 329 Old Post Road	Agriculture	c. 1940s	Not Assessed
N/A (0190.04)	Barn/ 329 Old Post Road	Agriculture	c. 1960s	Not Assessed
N/A	House/320 Green River Road	Domestic	c. 1903	Not Assessed
N/A (.01)	Barn/320 Green River Road	Domestic	c. 1960s	Not Assessed
N/A	House/185 Shady Grove Road	Domestic	c. 1969	Not Assessed

SHPO Site Number	Name/Location	Historic Use	Build Date	NRHP Recommendation
N/A	House/193 Shady Grove Road	Domestic	c. 1954	Not Assessed
N/A (.01)	Carport/193 Shady Grove Road	Domestic	c. 1960s	Not Assessed
N/A (.02)	Shed/193 Shady Grove Road	Domestic	c. 1960s	Not Assessed
N/A	House/594 Shady Grove Road	Domestic	c. 1972	Not Assessed
N/A	Linder Cemetery/ Shady Grove Road (35.094417°N, -81.743881° W)	Funerary	c. 1878	Not Assessed

Figure 21.
Utility Buildings off Magg Road, Looking Southwest

Figure 22.
Architectural Resources Map



Basemap: USA NAIP Imagery (2021)

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5. Summary and Recommendations

The archaeological resources identified during the reconnaissance survey include: 1) the Smith Cemetery, 2) a precontact surface scatter, 3) a historic trash dump, 4) a historic farmstead, 5) a historic artifact scatter, 6) a creek-side stone structure, 7) a historic bus, and 8) two utility buildings. Architectural resources found during the desktop review within a 0.5-mi. radius around the property include seven that are recommended as not eligible for the NRHP and 13 survey-eligible resources or sub-resources that are currently unassessed. The Smith Cemetery, which is considered both an archaeological site and an above-ground resource, is currently unassessed for the NRHP and is the only architectural resource located within the project area.

The Smith Cemetery is a small cemetery with five marked graves enclosed by a stone wall. The two named headstones belong to Elizabeth Smith, who died in 1840, and James W. Smith, who died in 1839. Several South Carolina Codes protect historic cemeteries (South Carolina Code 27-43-10, Removal of Abandoned Cemeteries; 27-43-20, Removal to Plot Agreeable to Governing Body and Relatives; 27-43-30, Supervision of Removal Work; and 16-17-600, Destruction of Graves and Graveyards), so it is recommended that the area be avoided.

Currently, no federal funding or permits are anticipated for this project. However, if in the future, federal funding is used or federal permits are necessary, additional survey may be required in order to comply with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA). NSA recommends no additional survey for the majority of archaeological resources across the property. These resources include the displaced historic domestic trash dump in a natural drainage south of Thicketty Creek near stacked stone walls, the farmstead house foundation with a barn seen on the 1955 aerial, the historic artifact scatter associated with a 1909 house site identified from a historic map, the bus, and the utility buildings off Magg Road. All of these resources represent activity in the project area during the twentieth century. Although unassessed for the NRHP, they all appear to have poor integrity. Most of these resources are located in the southern half of the project area, south of Thicketty Creek where judgmental shovel testing showed signs of heavily eroded soils.

Both the precontact artifact scatter and the creek-side stone structure should be evaluated for the NRHP if there is a federal undertaking and if they cannot be avoided. The precontact site is estimated to potentially extend 120 m (400 ft.) north-south and 90 m (300 ft.) east-west. A protective buffer of 30 m (100 ft.) is recommended in order to avoid directly affecting the site. The creek-side stacked stone structure is in a protected wetlands and, therefore, will be avoided. There are no planned improvements within 120 m (400 ft.) of this resource.

The terrain on the property consists of several ridgetops and drainage systems leading towards Thicketty Creek. Oftentimes, ridge noses overlooking water sources have a high potential for precontact occupation. Floodplains also have the potential for buried cultural deposits, but many low-lying areas north and south of Thicketty Creek are currently under water due to the construction of a dam. Most of the flat areas south of Thicketty Creek have been disturbed by modern construction or are heavily eroded and therefore do not need additional attention. However, the ridges north of the creek should receive additional subsurface testing if the project area is ever subject to Section 106, due to intact soils and the presence of precontact artifacts in the area.

As for aboveground resources, it is unlikely that they will be within view of any proposed improvements since current project design contains a 50-ft. vegetative viewshed buffer. However, if it is ultimately determined that any of the unassessed aboveground resources are located within view of any proposed improvements, they should be assessed for the NRHP.

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