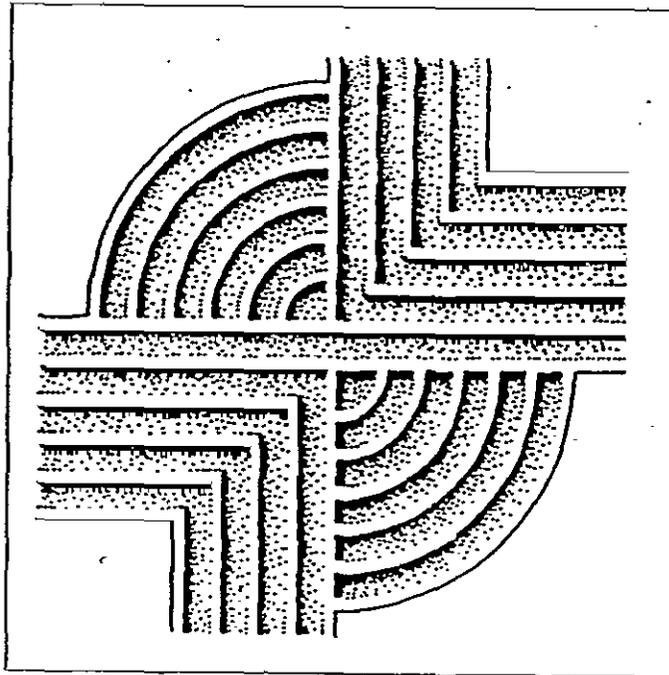


ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF THE FEDERAL PAPER TAP LINE, NEWBERRY COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA



RESEARCH CONTRIBUTION 71

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ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF THE FEDERAL PAPER TAP LINE
NEWBERRY COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA

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Chicora Research Contribution 71



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Introduction

This investigation was conducted by Ms. Natalie Adams of Chicora Foundation for Mr. Nick Roark of Sabine & Waters Environmental Land Management Consultants. The 70 foot wide 1.5 mile long corridor is located near the town of Prosperity in Newberry County. The corridor begins at the right-of-way for a South Carolina Public Service Authority transmission line and parallels a South Carolina Electric and Gas transmission line for approximately 1.2 miles. It then bears southeast for approximately 0.3 miles where it crosses a Norfolk and Western railroad track to property owned by Federal Paper (Figure 1).

The corridor is made up of alternating pine and pine/mixed hardwood forest with a thick understory of vegetation, as well as open areas. A small tributary of Cannons Creek crosses the corridor.

The corridor is intended to be used as a power line right-of-way. Planned improvements consist of the placement of triple wooden power line poles through the corridor at variable distances. Each pole will require an excavation of about 2 feet in diameter.

The proposed project was reviewed by the South Carolina State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) and an intensive archaeological survey was recommended. Chicora was requested to submit a budgetary proposal for such a survey by Mr. Nick Roark of Sabine & Waters. A proposal was submitted on August 13, 1991 and the work was approved on August 15, 1991.

This study is intended to provide a detailed explanation of the archaeological survey of the powerline corridor and the findings. The statewide archaeological site files held by the South Carolina Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology were examined for information pertinent to the project area. The field investigations were conducted on August 16, 1991 by Ms. Natalie Adams. This field work involved 8 person hours. Laboratory and report production were conducted at Chicora's laboratories in Columbia, S.C. on August 19, 1991.

Effective Environment

Newberry County is bounded to the north by Union County, to the west by Laurens County, to the south by the Saluda River and Greenwood, Saluda and Lexington counties, and to the east by the Broad River and Richland and Fairfield counties.

The county is located within the Piedmont region.

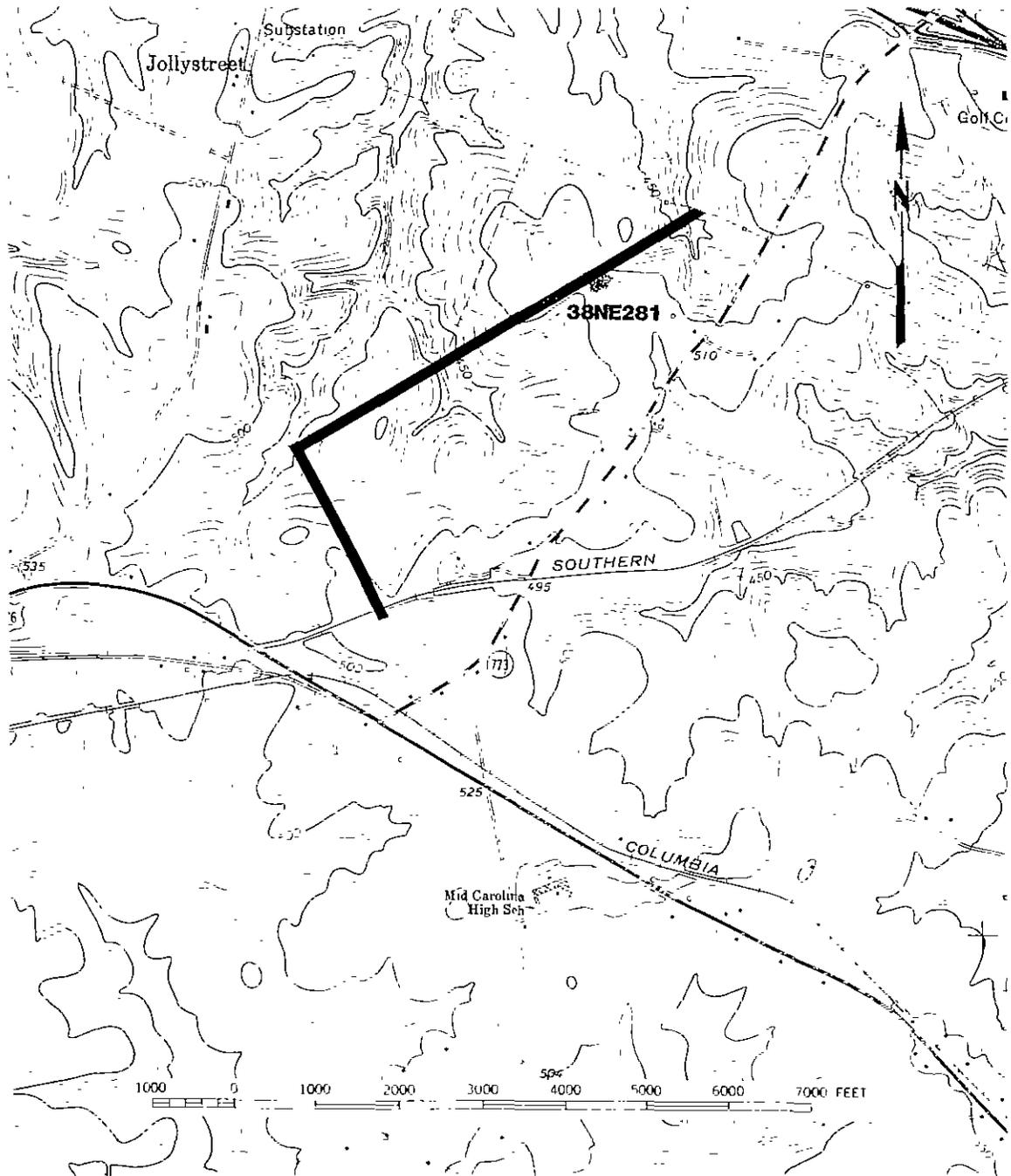


Figure 1. Project area in USGS Little Mountain Quadrangle and location of site 38NE281.

Physiographically, the county is a thoroughly dissected plain. The relief ranges from nearly level to steep, but it is dominantly gently sloping to moderately steep (Camp 1960:1).

The Broad River drains the northern and eastern portions of the county, and the Saluda River drains the southern and western areas. Numerous smaller streams (such as Cannons Creek) are found throughout the county. The vegetation consists of pine or mixed hardwoods and pine. Within the Piedmont, forest populations currently consist of large percentages of loblolly and short leaf pines, although during the prehistoric period it appears to have been characterized by mixed pine/hardwoods (Frothingham and Nelson 1944:19-21).

The geology of the county is characterized by unconsolidated water-laid beds of sand, silt, and clay. In the piedmont area, the soils are formed in saprolite that weathered from crystalline rocks and "Carolina slates". Soils from the river floodplains formed in sediment that washed from the uplands of the Piedmont province. Some of the soils in the county are severely eroded (Camp 1960:3). A 1934 soil erosion survey of the state shows the project area as exhibiting severe sheet erosion with occasional to frequent gullies as well as areas destroyed by gullying (Lowry 1934). This portion of Newberry County has lost up to 0.7 foot of soil through erosion in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries (Trimble 1974:3).

The topography of the corridor is moderately sloping with elevations ranging from 440 to 510 feet above MSL.

Background Research

General accounts of Newberry County history are presented in Pope (1973) and Central Midlands Regional Planning Council (1974). Also Mills (1825) shows the location of prominent settlements and localities in the early 19th century and gives a brief physical and economic description of the area in the 1820s (Mills 1826).

Newberry County was settled in the middle of the eighteenth century, primarily by Scotch-Irish, English, and Germans. As part of the Old Ninety Six Judicial District established in 1769, this area retained its frontier characteristics until after the Cherokee War. Newberry County was formed in 1785 when Ninety Six District was divided into six counties (Central Midlands Regional Planning Council 1974:138).

The Ninety Six District was crippled by effects of the Cherokee War and the area soon after fell prey to a wave of lawlessness until the 1760s when the Regulators were organized by back country citizens. The Regulator movement died out in 1769 when long overdue attention to the governmental needs of the back country was given by the Charleston authorities.

Newberry's involvement in the early stages of the American Revolution was largely irrelevant as most settlers in this area had no quarrel with the English King and little identity with coastal society's politics which urged separation from Britain . Local citizens became outraged by actions of Tory leader Robert Cunningham and the infamous Redcoat officer Banastre Tarleton which converted the citizens into ardent partisans. Guerilla warfare ensued between 1779 and 1781, laying waste to the area. Three Revolutionary encounters took place in the county: Williams Plantation, 1780; Mudlick Creek and Bush River in 1781 (Central Midlands Regional Planning Council 1974:138).

With the introduction of the cotton gin in the late 18th century, the area experienced radical changes in its society and economy. Initially an area of small, independent and diversified farmers, it became characterized by large cotton plantations, a reliance on slavery, and a one crop system ruinous to the soil. By 1800 the white population had decreased from 11,00 to 7,000 while the black population increased from 2,000 to almost 14,000 by 1860.

Westward emigration of people lured by the expanding cotton kingdom and increasing political polarization defending slavery grew in the first half of the 19th century, leading to almost unanimous citizen support in the area for nullification and secession. Although seriously stricken by the Civil War, the county was spared from the devastation experience by other South Carolina counties (Central Midlands Regional Planning Council 1974:139).

Very little archaeology has taken place in Newberry County with the bulk of work consisting of archaeological surveys in Sumter National Forest. The project area contained no known sites listed in the South Carolina Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology files. Because of the presence of well drained soils in the project area, it was believed that the project corridor had a moderately high potential for containing archaeological sites, although because of the highly eroded nature of the area no intact sites were expected.

Field Methods

The initially proposed field techniques involved the placement of shovel tests at 100 foot intervals, following South Carolina Department of Archives and History's suggestions, along the centerline of the corridor, with all fill being screened through 1/4 inch mesh. One transect was used since the corridor is only 70 feet wide and the impact will be limited to the placement of triple powerline poles with excavations measuring about 2 feet in diameter.

Should sites be identified by shovel testing, further tests would be used to obtain data on site boundaries, artifact quantity and diversity, site integrity, and temporal affiliation. The

information required for completion of South Carolina Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology site forms would be collected and photographs would be taken, if warranted in the opinion of the field investigator.

All soil would be screened through 1/4 inch mesh, with each test numbered sequentially. Each test would measure about 1 foot square and would normally be taken to a depth of at least 1 foot. All cultural remains would be collected, except for shell, mortar, and brick, which would be quantitatively noted in the field and discarded. Notes would be maintained for profiles at any sites encountered.

The actual field methods did not deviate from those initially proposed. In addition, where the corridor followed an existing transmission line and in areas of good surface visibility, pedestrian survey was performed to locate sites which may continue into the project area. When sites were discovered, areas around them were examined to understand site dynamics, such as erosion. For instance, areas outside the corridor, such as nearby hilltops, were examined when sites were encountered in the corridor right of way. This was done to help determine site boundaries and site integrity. A total of 91 shovel tests in 3 transects along the centerline were excavated within the study corridor. Transect 1 was approximately 2100 feet long and located between Federal Paper and where the corridor intersects the existing transmission line. Transect 2 was approximately 5800 feet long and located between the South Carolina Public Service Authority transmission line and the end of Transect 1. Transect 3 was situated in the area of site 38NE281, located approximately 1500 feet from the beginning of Transect 2.

Laboratory Analysis

The cleaning and analysis of artifacts was conducted in Columbia at the Chicora Foundation laboratories on August 19, 1991. It is anticipated that these materials will be catalogued and accessioned for curation at the South Carolina Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology. Field notes have been prepared for curation using archival standards and will be transferred to the South Carolina Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology as soon as the project is complete.

Analysis of the collections followed professionally accepted standards with a level of intensity suitable to the quantity and quality of the remains.

Results

The shovel tests and pedestrian survey identified one site, 38NE281 along the Federal Paper Tap Line (see Figure 1).

38NE281 is located approximately 1500 feet from the South Carolina Public Service Authority transmission line. The southern two-thirds of the site is contained within the SCE&G transmission line with the remainder of the site being within the project corridor. A series of eight shovel tests did not yield any cultural remains. However, eight artifacts were surface collected from the site. They consist of one rhyolite secondary flake, one rhyolite thinning flake, two broken bifacially worked quartz pieces, and four quartz thinning flakes. These surface finds indicated that the site measures approximately 150 by 100 feet in size. Visual inspection fail to indicate any dense/discrete concentrations of materials which might be indicative of subsurface remains being plowed out. Soil profiles indicated 0.2 feet of disturbed reddish brown sandy clay (Munsell Color 5YR4/2), and below this was reddish brown clay (Munsell Color 5YR4/4). The central UTM coordinates are E456320 N3787520 and the soils are severely eroded Cecil clay loam.

Site 38NE281 is recommended as not eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places. The lack of subsurface artifacts, the sparsity of remains, and the highly eroded nature of the soils indicates that this site is a small lithic scatter with no subsurface integrity.

Summary and Recommendations

As a result of the archaeological survey of the Federal Paper Tap Line, one site (38NE281) was discovered. This site is recommended as not eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places. No further investigations are recommended for this site by Chicora Foundation. It is possible that archaeological remains may be encountered in the survey tract during construction. Construction crews should be advised to report any discoveries of concentrations of artifacts (such as bottles, ceramics, or projectile points) or brick rubble to the project engineer, who should in turn report the material to the South Carolina State Historic Preservation Office or to the client's archaeologist. No construction should take place in the vicinity of these late discoveries until they have been examined by an archaeologist.

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