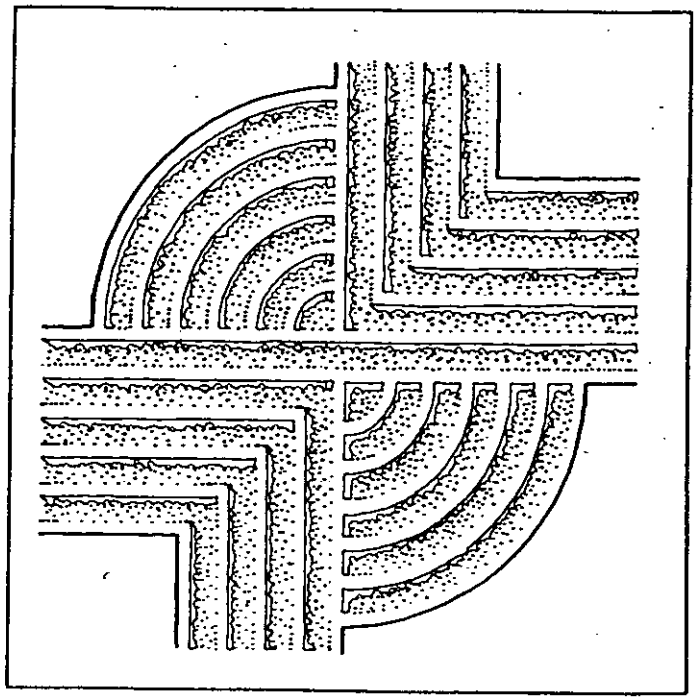
ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF THE SANTEE COOPER MT. PISGAH-SOUTH BETHUNE TRANSMISSION LINE, KERSHAW COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA



RESEARCH CONTRIBUTION 80

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF THE SANTEE-COOPER MT. PISGAH-SOUTH BETHUNE TRANSMISSION LINE, KERSHAW COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA

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Chicora Research Contribution 80

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Introduction

This investigation was conducted by Ms. Natalie Adams of Chicora Foundation, Inc. for Mr. Nick Roarke of Sabine and Waters Land Management Consultants. The 50 feet wide 15.1 mile long corridor is located near Kershaw in Kershaw County. The corridor follows an existing transmission line on the west side of Lynches River. It begins at the Mt. Pisgah substation and parallels the existing transmission line to the west unit it reaches the South Bethune substation (Figure 1).

The corridor is made up existing cleared transmission line right of way alternating with agricultural fields, planted pine, mixed pine hardwood vegetation, and grazing land. Several sizeable streams (eg. Jumping Gully Creek, Buffalo Creek, and Red Oak Camp Creek) bisect the corridor, as well as several small intermittent streams.

The corridor is intended to be used as a power line right of way. Some landscape alteration will occur which will cause considerable damage to the ground surface.

The proposed project was reviewed internally by Santee-Cooper and an intensive archaeological survey was recommended. Chicora was requested to submit a budgetary proposal for such a survey by Mr. Nick Roarke of Sabine & Waters. A proposal was submitted on January 15, 1992 and the work was approved on January 28, 1992.

This study is intended to provide a detailed explanation of the archaeological survey of the Santee-Cooper 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 February 3 through February 6, 1992 by Ms. Liz Pinckney and Ms. Natalie Adams. This field work involved 64 person hours. Laboratory and report production were conducted at Chicora's laboratories in Columbia, South Carolina on February 7 and 8, 1992.

Effective Environment

Kershaw County is bounded to the north by Lancaster County, to the east by Chesterfield and Darlington counties, to the south by Sumter and Lee counties, and to the west by Fairfield and Richland counties.

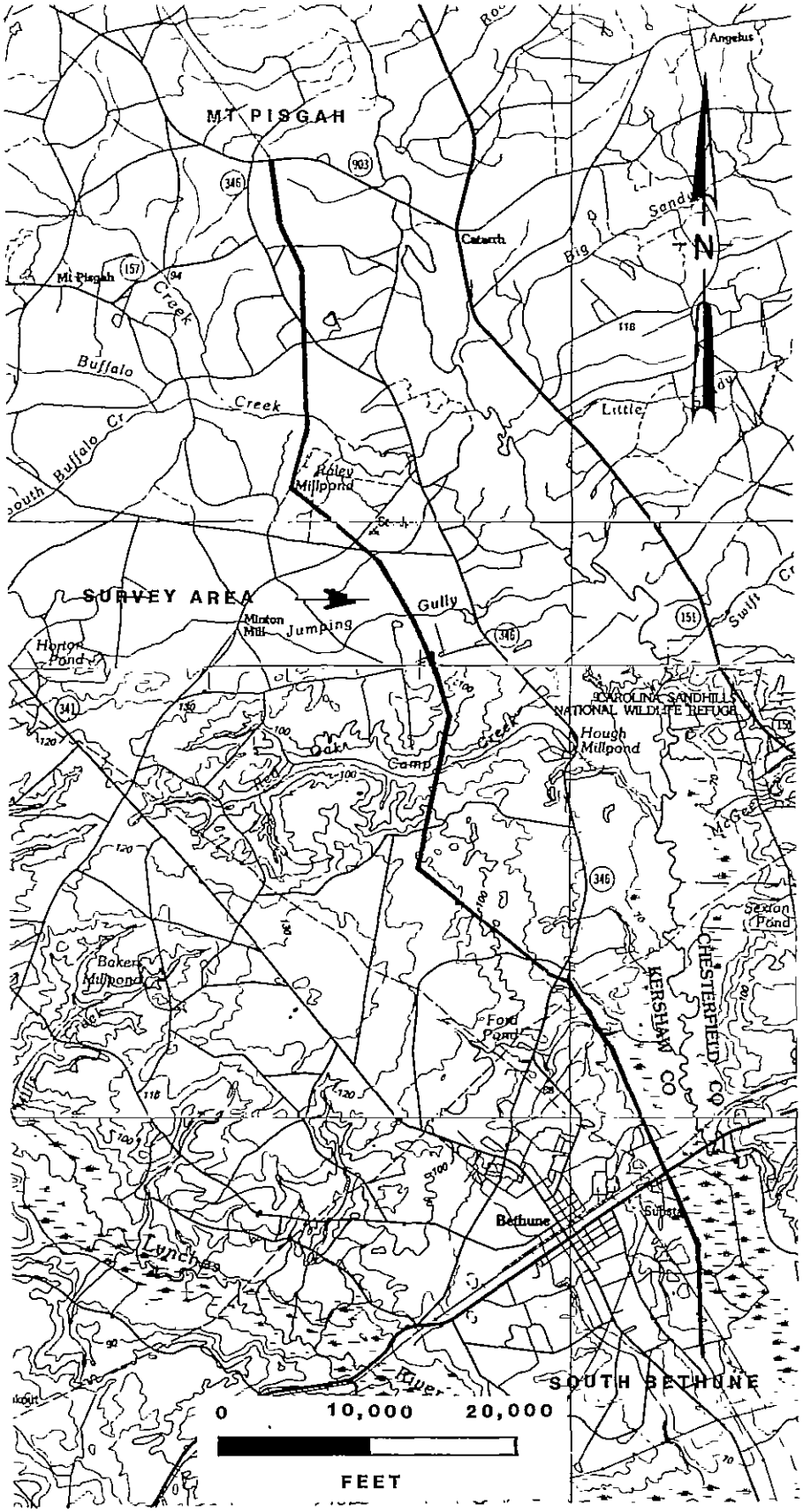

Figure 1. Vicinity of the survey corridor east of Kershaw, South Carolina.

The county contains three physiographic regions: the Piedmont, the Sandhills and the Coastal Plain. The Coastal Plain extends in from the Atlantic Ocean for about 150 miles to the Fall Line, a term used to identify the transition zone between the soft sediments of the Coastal Plain and the igneous and metamorphic rocks of the Piedmont. The sandhills region is characterized by gently rolling hills formed by their having once been the Atlantic coastline (Robertson 1974:29). The Piedmont gradually slopes eastward, dropping in elevation about 10 feet per mile and is characterized by gently rolling hills (Johnson 1951). In the vicinity of the Fall Line, dividing the Piedmont and Coastal Plain, major physiographic and geologic subdivisions occur which likely influenced human occupation. On major drainages, such as the Wateree, the occurrence of rapids could interfere with water travel and the location of early historic occupation on the Fall Line reflects this concern (Jones 1971; Mills 1826:157). The Fall Line also strongly influenced prehistoric occupation since its location between two major ecotones could allow exploitation of a greater diversity of materials (Goodyear and Anderson n.d.:8).

The Wateree River drains the western portion of the county, and Lynches and Little Lynches Rivers, tributaries of the Pee Dee River, drain the eastern portion. Numerous smaller streams (such as Red Oak Camp 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. In the Inner Coastal Plain, including the Sandhills, the region is characterized by two major forest types: the longleaf and loblolly pine communities (Frothingham and Nelson 1944:19-21). These communities consist primarily of pine with several species of hardwoods including gum and oak (Braun 1950: 285-286). Currently, the vegetation in the surrounding area consists of mixed pine/hardwood with a thick understory of vegetation. The corridor itself consists of grazing land, agricultural fields, planted pine, or mixed pine/hardwood forest.

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 "Carolina Slates". Soils from the river floodplains formed in sediment that washed from the uplands of the Piedmont province. Coastal Plain material consists of marine-deposited sediments made dominantly of quartz sand and kaolinitic clays (Mitchell 1989: 101). The project corridor is characterized by five soil series: Alpin sands, located on broad ridgetops and side slopes, which are excessively drained; Blanton loams, located on broadly irregular shaped ridges, which are somewhat excessively drained; Johnston loams, located on flood plains, which are very poorly drained; Lakeland sands, located on broad ridgetops and side slopes, which are excessively drained; and Pantego loams, located on broad flats next to flood

plains and are very poorly drained (Mitchell 1989). According to the United States Department of Agriculture (Lowry 1934), erosion is light in the majority of the corridor, except in the northern portion where there has been severe sheet erosion with occasional gullies.

The corridor is contained primarily within the Sandhills region, while the area near Bethune being within the Upper Coastal Plain. The topography of the corridor is gently rolling in the northern portion of the corridor with land becoming more flat in the southern area. Elevations range from 180 to 400 feet MSL.

Background Research

General accounts of Kershaw County history are presented by Kirkland and Kennedy (1905, 1926) and Lewis (1976). However, these sources concentrate primarily on the city of Camden. Kirkland and Kennedy (1905) provide a somewhat detailed map of initial settlement of the Camden area. Also, Mills (1825) shows the location of prominent settlements and localities in the early 19th century (Figure 2) and gives a brief physical and economic description of the Kershaw district in the 1820s (1826:585-594).

Kershaw County was originally part of Craven County, and later became part of the Cheraw District. In 1800, the present county limits were established. The area was settled as early as the 1730s (Kirkland and Kennedy 1905:68) and in the 1750s was settled near Camden by a colony of Quakers from Ireland. About 1760 Colonel Joseph Kershaw opened a store in Camden and the town was laid out in lots (Mills 1826:585-586).

Products raised in the district consisted of corn, cotton, wheat, rye, oats, potatoes, and "all the esculent vegetables" (Mills 1826:588). Considerable quantities of wheat were raised before the American Revolution, but the manufacture of flour was suspended during the war. Several flour mills were erected after the war, but the demand and value of cotton eventually superseded that of wheat. For the most part, wheat cultivation was abandoned. The value of riverland was considered superior to even the best uplands for agriculture (Mills 1826:588-589).

Camden became an important trade center since its geographic location along the Fall Line gave it great advantages. It carried on considerable trade with Charleston. All cotton was sent there in return for dry goods and groceries that was need in the western region (Mills 1826:590). Because of its location, Camden was used as the center of the British southern army during the American Revolution (Mills 1826:592). Camden remained an important trading center until it was eclipsed by Columbia, located approximately 30 miles to the west (Kirkland and Kennedy 1905).

Previous archaeological investigations in Kershaw County are

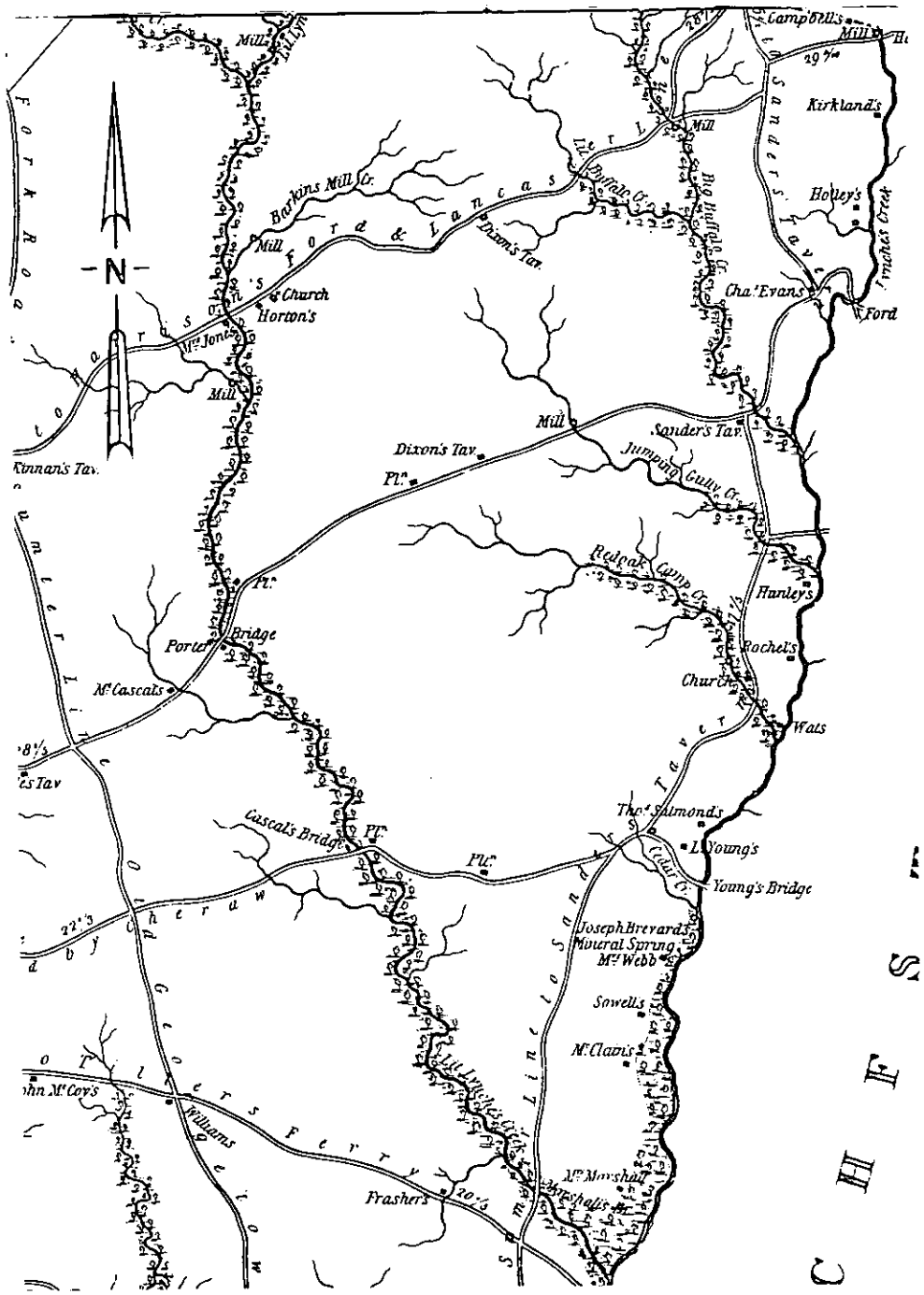

Figure 2. The John Boykin map of the Kershaw District, compiled in 1820 (Mills 1825).

presented in Ferguson (1971), Goodyear and Anderson (n.d.), and Lewis (1976). In the 1820s Dr. William Blanding visited a number of sites in the area and some of his findings were published in 1848 in Squire and Davis' Ancient Monuments of the Mississippi Valley. Also, George Stuart (1975) has presented a fairly detailed description of middle Wateree post-archaic occupation. These latter two studies concentrate on a number of late prehistoric mounds (such as Adamson, Boykin, and Mulberry) and settlements located in the Camden vicinity.

The project area contained no known sites listed in the Institute's files. In addition, Chicora Foundation has initiated consultation with the South Carolina Department of Archives and History for the identification of any National Register buildings, districts, structures, sites, or objects, or any structures surveys in the proposed corridor.

Because of the presence of well drained soils in portions of the corridor, it was believed that the project corridor had a high potential for containing archaeological sites.

Field Methods

The initially proposed field techniques involved the placement of shovel tests at intervals ranging from 100 to 200 feet (depending on topography, soils, drainage, and associated factors). These tests were placed 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 50 feet wide, the centerline was staked, and the impact will be limited to the placement of triple powerline poles with excavations measuring about 2 feet in diameter.

Should sites (defined by the presence of two or more artifacts from either surface survey or shovel tests within a 25 feet area) 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 investigators.

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.

In the field it was noted that much of the corridor had moderate to excellent surface visibility, so in addition to shovel

testing, a pedestrian survey was performed. When sites were discovered, areas around them were examined to understand site dynamics, such as erosion. For instance, areas outside the corridor, such as hilltops, were examined when sites were encountered on slopes in the corridor right of way. This was done to help determine site boundaries and site integrity. Otherwise, the original plans were put into effect. A total of 707 shovel tests in 20 transects along the centerline were excavated within the study corridor.

Laboratory Analysis

The cleaning and analysis of artifacts was conducted in Columbia at the Chicora Foundation laboratories on February 7, 1992. It is anticipated that these materials will be catalogued and accessioned for curation at the South Carolina Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology, the closest regional repository. Site forms have been filed with the South Carolina Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology. Field notes and photographic materials 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 intensive shovel testing and pedestrian survey identified two new sites along the Mt. Pisgah-South Bethune corridor.

38KE201 is located in the existing transmission line as well as in an area of planted pine to the west. The site is on a side slope, just south of Buffalo Creek, approximately 2000 feet southeast of station 616 + 05.67. A series of nine shovel tests did not yield any cultural remains. However, 45 artifacts were surface collected from the site. They consist of one argyllite flake, 35 small unidentifiable sherds, seven Yadkin Plain sherds, and five Yadkin Cordmarked (Coe 1964) sherds. These surface findings indicated that the site is approximately 100 feet north-south by 200 feet east-west in size. Visual inspection failed to indicate any dense/discrete concentrations of materials which might be indicative of subsurface remains being plowed out. In addition, the area upslope was examined using shovel tests and visual survey to determine if the artifacts were eroding from this area. However, no artifacts were recovered here. Soil profiles indicate that most of the side slope area contained no A horizon soils, while other areas revealed only about 0.1 foot of remnant A horizon. Where present, these soils are yellowish brown sands (Munsell 10YR5/4) while the subsoil is light yellowish brown sand (Munsell 10YR6/4). The central UTM coordinates are E555580 N3821540 and the soils are

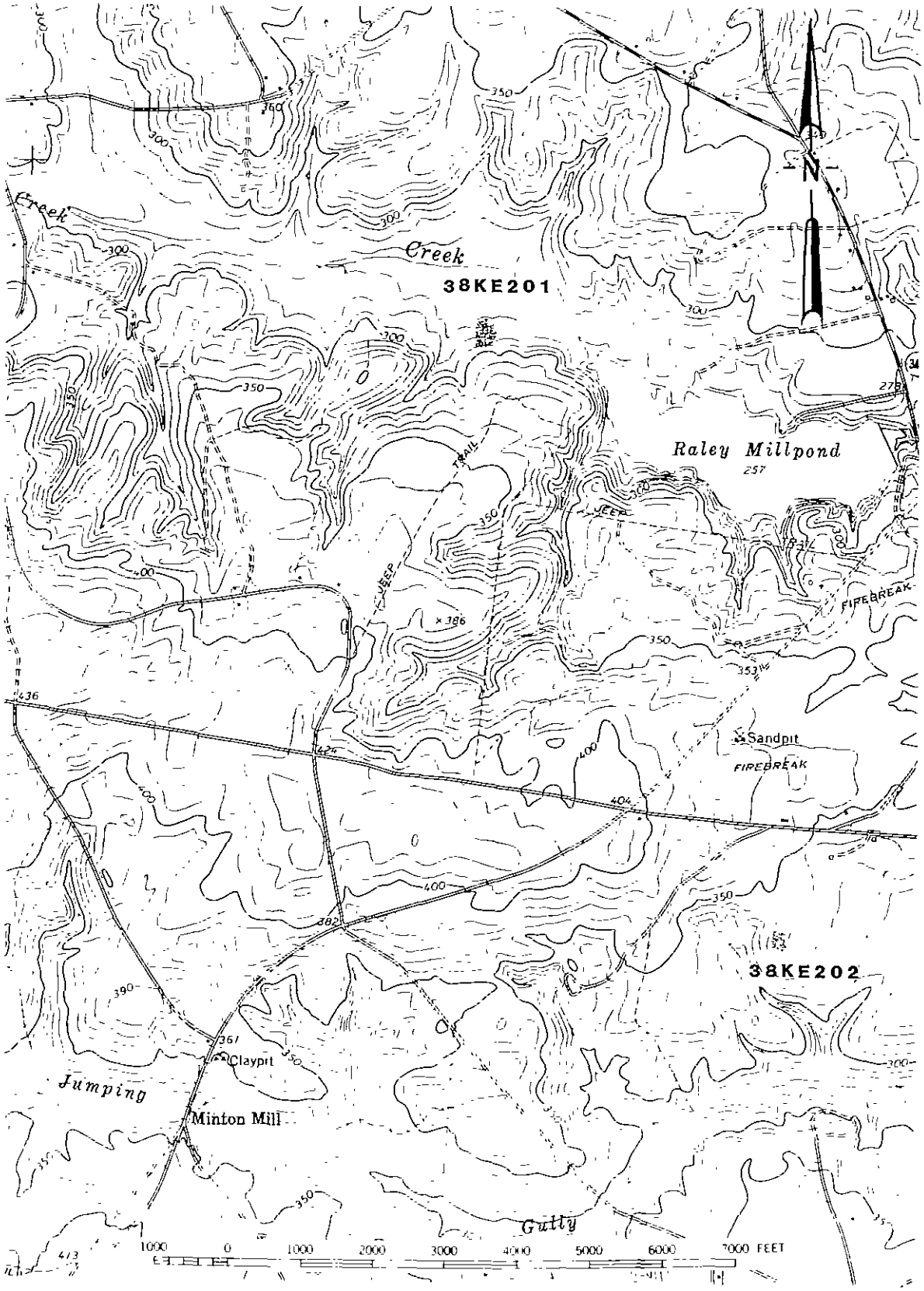

Figure 3. Location of 38KE201 and 38KE202 in the Mt. Pisgah Quadrangle.

excessively drained Lakeland sands.

Site 38KE201 is not recommended as eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places. The lack of subsurface artifacts and extensive erosion suggests that the site has no integrity.

38KE202 is located in an existing transmission line about 2000 feet south of Highway 42 on a broad ridge top overlooking Jumping Gully Creek, 600 feet southeast of station 551 + 79.17. Surface collection recovered two Yadkin sherds and a series of four shovel tests yielded no subsurface cultural material. These artifacts are confined to a 25 by 25 foot area. The central UTM coordinates are E556640 N3819280 and the soils are excessively drained Alpin sands. The Ap horizon was a yellowish brown sand (Munsell 10YR5/4) and was normally found to a depth of 0.7 foot. Subsoil was a light yellowish brown sand (Munsell 10YR6/4).

Site 38KE202 is not recommended as eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places. The small quantity of artifacts and the lack of subsurface remains indicates that the site is small and lacks integrity.

Summary and Recommendations

As a result of the archaeological survey of the Mt. Pisgah-South Bethune powerline corridor, two new sites (38KE201, 38KE202) were discovered. These sites are not recommended as eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places. Both sites revealed no evidence of integrity. No further investigations are recommended for these sites by Chicora Foundation.

Although the sites found are not considered eligible for the National Register, the survey still contributes to our understanding of past human occupation. These sites contribute information about site/population densities and use of the area by Middle Woodland period groups. While Kershaw County is known for its late prehistoric period mounds, little is known about other types of prehistoric occupations.

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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