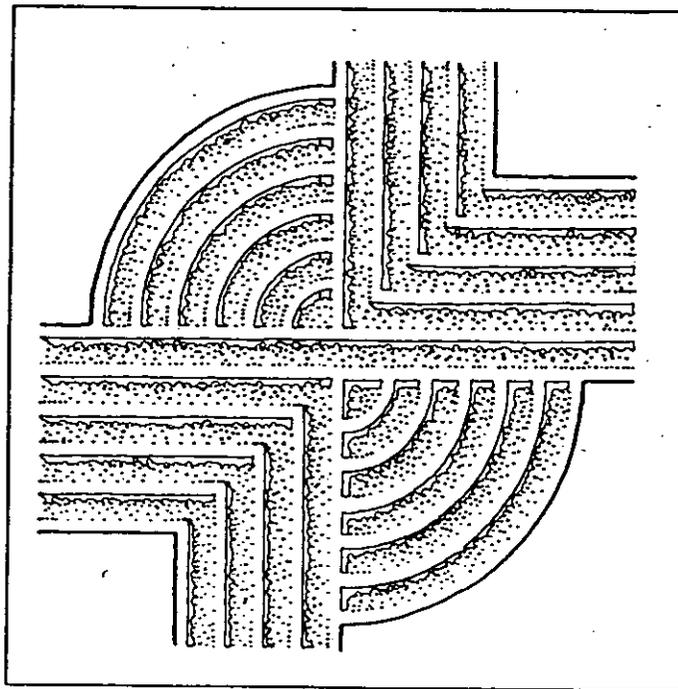


ARCHAEOLOGICAL RECONNAISSANCE SURVEY OF
THE BECKER MINERAL PROPERTY, CROOKED
CREEK, MARLBORO COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA



RESEARCH CONTRIBUTION 89

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ARCHAEOLOGICAL RECONNAISSANCE SURVEY OF THE
BECKER MINERALS PROPERTY, CROOKED CREEK
MARLBORO COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA

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Chicora Research Contribution 89

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Introduction

Chicora Foundation was requested to submit a budgetary proposal for a reconnaissance level archaeological survey of 16 tracts of land situated outside of Bennettsville, South Carolina. Specifically, the study was to address:

- whether or not cultural resources are likely to exist in the project area,
- how deep disturbances in the area are and the likelihood that they may have affected cultural resources, if present, and
- the land-use practices in the area for the past 50 years or so (scope of work letter from Mr. N.F. Wills to Dr. Michael Trinkley, dated July 27, 1992).

The Scope also specified that no literature search was required for this project.

Chicora Foundation provided Becker Minerals with a budgetary proposal and a brief outline of the tasks involved in a reconnaissance level study on August 10. The proposed work would consist of:

- a review of the S.C. Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology site files,
- coordination with the S.C. State Historic Preservation Office for any National Register sites or previous architectural surveys in the immediate area,
- a professional assessment addressing the likelihood of identifying archaeological or historical sites in the project area, based on a review of previous recorded sites, the land use history of the project area, a review of pertinent aerial photographs and maps held by the Thomas Cooper Map Repository, and our professional experience in the project area, and
- one field-day to verify the land use findings and identify any areas of particular concern, with shovel testing only to examine erosion and soil profiles.

This proposal was accepted by Becker Minerals on August 24. The historical and land use research was conducted by Dr. Michael Trinkley on Friday, August 28. The resources of the Thomas Cooper Map Repository and the South Caroliniana Library were used. Ms. Natalie Adams examined the site files of the S.C. Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology. A letter was hand delivered to the S.C. State Historic Preservation Office on August 26, requesting information on National Register sites and previous architectural surveys. A verbal response from Mr. Lee Tippett, Staff Archaeologist, indicated that none were known for the project area. The field investigations were undertaken by Ms. Natalie Adams on that same day. The laboratory processing of the resulting collections, curation preparations, and report production have taken place at Chicora Foundation's offices in Columbia on August 31 through September 2.

It is important to clearly indicate that this study involves only a reconnaissance investigation of the 16 tracts, totalling 132.27 acres. No intensive investigation has been undertaken by Chicora Foundation and the methodology of this reconnaissance investigation was designed and implemented to

address the specific questions posed by Becker Minerals. More generally, it was designed to allow an assessment of the likelihood that ground disturbing activities in the project area might impact unrecorded archaeological resources.

Project Area

The project area is located just southwest of Bennettsville. It is bounded to the north by SR35-43, to the west by several privately owned tracts and a railroad, and to the south and east by Crooked Creek (Figure 1). Sixteen parcels are found in the area which are characterized by well drained islands of Lakeland sands in the swamp of Crooked Creek (see Figure 4). Parcels 15 and 16 make up the vast majority of land area with Parcel 15 containing 73.94 acres (55.9%) and Parcel 16 containing 30.05 acres (22.7%) out of a total of 132.27 acres. The topography in the project area consists of a northeast-southwest running ridge with elevations ranging from 100 to 120 feet above mean sea level.

A dirt logging road enters the property from SR35-43 opposite Airport Road (also dirt) and runs in a southwesterly direction through Parcel 15. Parcel 15 has been logged and presently contains a dense understory of vegetation. Larger trees (primarily pine) are relatively few. Parcel 16 is located to the north of the railroad tracks, and contains a remnant overgrown field road. It has been clear cut in the past, probably for cultivation. Other parcels are smaller "islands" which appear to have been logged.

The survey tract is situated in the Sandhill region, south of the fall line and just north of the Coastal Plain. The area is defined by gently rolling, sandy topography at the interface between the Piedmont Plateau and the Coastal Plain. Extending from northern South Carolina to south-central North Carolina, the Sandhills are characterized by moderate elevation and relief, similar to the Piedmont, although the soils show a clear connect with the Coastal Plain.

Marlboro County is drained by the Great Pee Dee River. Originating in North Carolina with the confluence of the Yadkin and Uwharrie rivers near Badin, the Pee Dee crosses the fall line just north of the project to begin its slow movement through a wide, swampy flood plain to the Atlantic Ocean. A minor tributary, Crooked Creek originates in Scotland County, North Carolina and flows south and west to the Pee Dee, entering about four miles west of the survey tract. Mills (1972:632) lists Crooked Creek as the most important stream in the district, next only to the Pee Dee River itself. In the early twentieth century:

Crooked Creek, another bold and fertile stream, which has its head near Hamlet, N.C., runs nearly through the centre of this county, passes within two hundred yards of the county court-house and empties into the Great Pee Dee River. On this stream, are some magnificent sites for manufacturing enterprises of almost any character (Gibson 1902:11).

Metamorphic and volcanic rocks of the Carolina Slate Belt outcrop north of the survey area in Anson County, North Carolina and west along the fall line in southeastern Lancaster, northern Chesterfield, and Kershaw counties in South Carolina. In the survey area the geology consists of cross-bedded sands, gravel lenses, and impure clays (Bell 1974:9).

The soils surrounding Crooked Creek consist of the Norfolk-Rustin-Marlboro Association. These are found on nearly level to sloping, mostly well-drained sandy soils with yellowish-brown or yellowish-red clay subsoils. The bottomlands of Crooked Creek belong to the Wahee-Leaf-Flint Association of poorly drained to moderately well drained soils found on stream terraces (Craft 1962). The various survey tracts are almost entirely composed of excessively drained Lakeland sands (Craft 1962:21). These are frequently found as small "islands" surrounded by poorly drained soils which developed under swampy conditions. Other areas of Lakeland soils are found on terraces overlooking the swamp. Avoiding the heavy

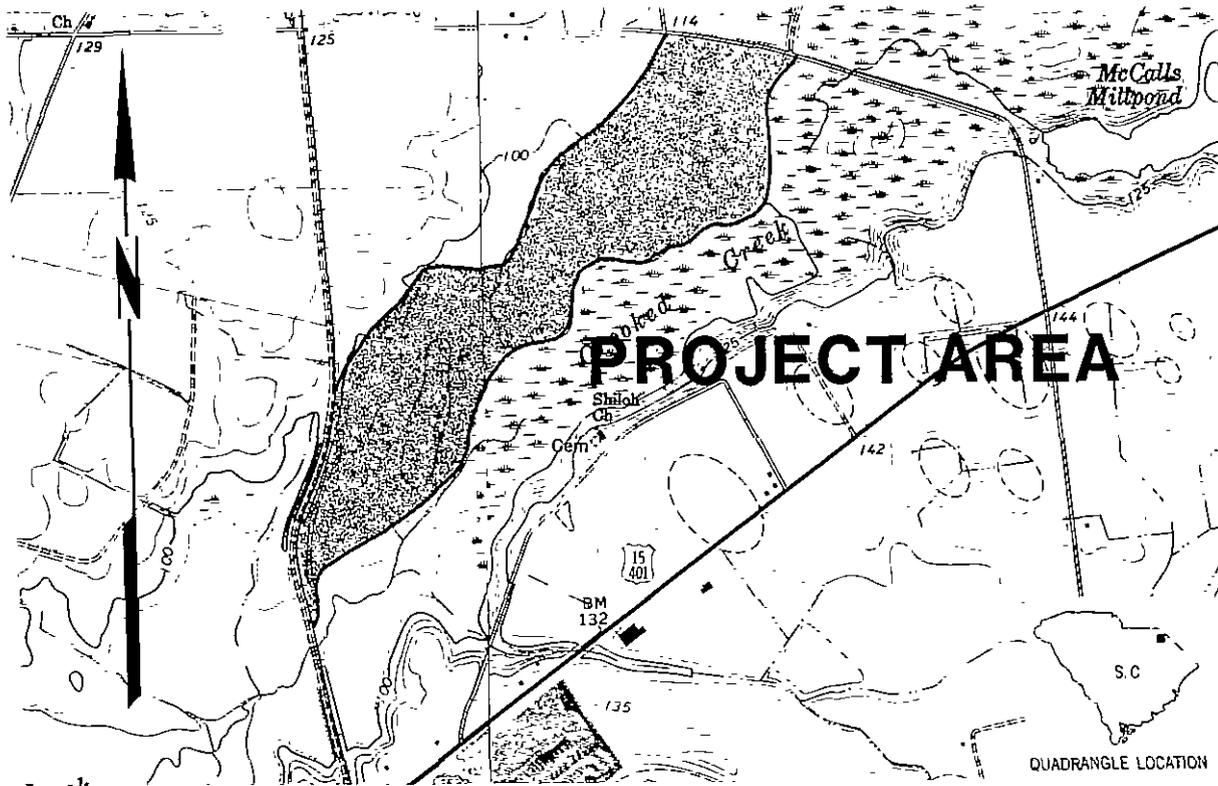


Figure 1. Vicinity of project area, Society Hill and Bennettsville South USGS quadrangle maps, 1972.

erosion found further north and west, the Sand Hills were characterized as having either little erosion or moderate sheet erosion (Lowery 1934).

Ward has noted that "the most striking feature of these soils is their infertility and general unsuitability for agricultural use (Ward 1978:10). In 1934 the Land Policy Section of the Department of Agriculture was authorized to purchase land from Sandhill farmers as part of a voluntary resettlement program. Mitchell observed that "most persons are appreciative of a chance to dispose of their land, which for the most part is unfit for farming purposes, and to purchase and move to better lands elsewhere" (Mitchell 1937:3).

Even in the early nineteenth century, Mills observed that the agricultural lands were those adjacent to the rivers and in the swamps, while the sandy uplands were much less productive:

The streams which intersect the district in every direction, furnish margins of excellent soil; but little of this is yet brought into cultivation. The river lands are cultivated even to the very edge of the water. . . . [The low grounds] constitute the wealth of the district . . . (Mills 1972:630).

Specific soils on the various survey parcels consist of Lakeland sands and Leaf fine sandy loams. Lakeland sands are found on almost all of the parcels. Parcel 16, however, contains Leaf fine sandy loam. These soils are surrounded by swamp. Lakeland soils are excessively drained sands. In the project area they are terrace soils which are occasionally flooded and contain more moisture than

upland Lakeland sands (Craft 1962:21-22). Leaf soils are poorly drained fine sandy loam. These soils generally occur in broad flat areas in drainageways (Craft 1962:23).

The project area, situated in an ecotone between the Piedmont and the Coastal Plain, is characterized by forest types of both provinces. These are frequently encountered with a more characteristic Sandhills association. Piedmont hardwoods, and pine-hardwood forests, primarily represented by oaks and hickories, are limited and typically restricted to the rims of bluffs and ridges. Sandhills vegetation of longleaf pine, turkey oak, and wire grass is more common. Intensively logged areas are frequently found in slash or loblolly pine. In the floodplain of Crooked Creek there are black-gum, scrub oak, tupelo gum, sweet gum, and yellow poplar. Cypress and cedar, while important in the past, are no longer significant due to exploitation by logging operations (Craft 1965:49; see also Mills 1972:633).

While the agricultural and faunal potential of the project area is somewhat limited, it exhibits diverse and abundant wildlife. The Pee Dee basin is a major fly-way and migratory birds, particularly mallard and black duck, are attracted to the region in great numbers. Mills observed that, "quantities of shad and sturgeon are caught in the Pedee during the spring" (Mills 1972:635), certainly being a major protein source for the Native Americans. The Sandhills are well suited to turkeys, which are found nesting along the edge of the swamp. The ecotone between swamp and uplands, piedmont and coastal plain, offers a prime habitat for a wide variety of mammals, almost all of which would have been used by Native Americans in the area. It is likely that the swamps associated with Crooked Creek were present prior to the creation of the various mill ponds. In fact, these swamps may owe their original formation to the beavers which were once very common in the region (Ward 1978:11).

Brief Prehistoric and Historic Synopsis

The Paleo-Indian period, lasting from 12,000 to 8,000 B.C., is evidenced by basally thinned, side-notched projectile points; fluted, lanceolate projectile points; side scrapers; end scrapers; and drills (Coe 1964; Michie 1977). The Paleo-Indian occupation, while widespread, does not appear to have been intensive. Points usually associated with this period include the Clovis and several variants, Suwannee, Simpson, and Dalton (Goodyear et al. 1989:36-38).

At least four Paleo-Indian points have been found in the Marlboro area, clustered along the Pee Dee River (Goodyear et al. 1989:33). This pattern of artifacts found along major river drainages has been interpreted by Michie to support the concept of an economy "oriented towards the exploitation of now extinct mega-fauna" (Michie 1977:124).

Unfortunately, little is known about Paleo-Indian subsistence strategies, settlement systems, or social organization. Generally, archaeologists agree that the Paleo-Indian groups were at a band level of society, were nomadic, and were both hunters and foragers. While population density, based on the isolated finds, is thought to have been low, Walthall suggests that toward the end of the period, "there was an increase in population density and in territoriality and that a number of new resource areas were beginning to be exploited" (Walthall 1980:30).

The Archaic period, which dates from 8000 to 2000 B.C., does not form a sharp break with the Paleo-Indian period, but is a slow transition characterized by a modern climate and an increase in the diversity of material culture. The chronology established by Coe (1964) for the North Carolina Piedmont may be applied with little modification to the Marlboro County area. Archaic period assemblages, characterized by corner-notched, side-notched, and broad stemmed projectile points, are common in the vicinity, although they rarely are found in good, well-preserved contexts.

The Woodland period begins, by definition, with the introduction of fired clay pottery about 2000 B.C. along the South Carolina coast and much later in the Carolina Piedmont, about 500 B.C. It should be noted that many researchers call the period from about 2500 to 1000 B.C. the Late Archaic because of a perceived continuation of the Archaic lifestyle in spite of the manufacture of pottery. Regardless of terminology, the period from 2000 to 500 B.C. was a period of tremendous change.

The subsistence economy during this early period was based primarily on deer hunting and fishing, with supplemental inclusions of small mammals, birds, reptiles, and shellfish. Various calculations of the probable yield of deer, fish, and other food sources identified from some coastal sites indicate that sedentary life was not only possible, but probable. Further inland it seems likely that many Native American groups continued the previous established patterns of band mobility. These frequent moves would allow the groups to take advantage of various seasonal resources, such as shad and sturgeon in the spring, nut masts in the fall, and turkeys during the winter.

The South Appalachian Mississippian period, from about A.D. 1100 to A.D. 1640 is the most elaborate level of culture attained by the native inhabitants and is followed by cultural disintegration brought about largely by European disease. The period is characterized by complicated stamped pottery, complex social organization, agriculture, and the construction of temple mounds and ceremonial centers. The earliest coastal phases are named the Savannah and Irene (known as Pee Dee further inland) (A.D. 1200 to 1550).

The history of the numerous small coastal Indian tribes after contact is poorly known. As Mooney noted, the coastal tribes,

were of but small importance politically; no sustained mission work was ever attempted among them, and there were but few literary men to take an interest in them. War, pestilence, whiskey and systematic slave hunts had nearly exterminated the aboriginal occupants of the Carolinas before anybody had thought them of sufficient importance to ask who they were, how they lived, or what were their beliefs and opinions (Mooney 1894:6).

The Pedee are first mentioned in 1711 when they formed a small part of Colonel John Barnwell's force against the Tuscarora in North Carolina (Milling 1969:118). Mooney (1894:76-77) notes that their village, in 1715, was situated on the east bank of the Pee Dee, probably in the vicinity of Marion County. A military map dating from 1715 shows the Pedees to be about 38 miles down river from the "Saraus" (Saras) and about 80 miles up river from the Atlantic Ocean. This would place the Pedee very close to their location shown by DeBrahm on his 1757 map.

By 1716 the Pedees were in a region called Saukey (thought by Swanton to be what is today Socatee) which was mentioned as a possible trading post or "factory" site (McDowell 1955:80). Several months later, however, the Indian Trade Commissioners abandoned Suakey in favor of Uauenee (or Great Bluff, today known as Yauhannah). It was observed that:

1st, its Vicinity to our English Plantations, will afford us News from thence, at all Times, by Land, within three or four Days, at most; whereas Saukey (the appointed Place) is much more remote; 2ndly, that Saukey being only covered by the Pedea's, is exposed to the Insults of the Charraws; 3rdly, that (besides the Interest it will be to us, in obliging the Wackamaws, a People of greater Consequence then the Pedees, by such a Settlement), Uauenee being contiguous to the Wackamaws, the most populous of those two Nations; so on the other Hand, 'tis the best seated for a general Concourse and frequent (McDowell 1944:111).

This passage, while ambiguous, suggests that Saukey was situated further north, perhaps along the Pee Dee River. But it is unlikely that it was at Socatee as suggested by Swanton.

During the early eighteenth century there was constant warfare between the southern and northern Indian groups, with a tremendous loss of life. An account in the British Public Records Office states:

Before the end of the said year [1716] we recovered the Charokees and Northward Indians after several Slaughters and Blood Sheddings, which has lessened their numbers and utterly Extirpating some little tribes as the Congarees, Santees, Seawees, Pedees, Waxhaws and some Corsaboys, so that by Warr, Pestilence and Civill Warr amongst themselves, the Charokess may be computed reduced to about 10,000 souls & the Northern Indians to about 2500 Souls (quoted in Mills 1972:223-224).

While it is possible that the Pedee suffered a severe reduction in population, it is clear from the historic accounts that some of their number survived. In February 1717 a Pedee, Tom West, came to Charleston to arrange a peace between the English and the Charraw (McDowell 1955:160, 176). Apparently the peace was not formed, or at least was short lived (McDowell 1955:209). Late in 1717 the Pedee appealed to the English not to move the trading post from Uauenee to the Black River (McDowell 1955:208).

At least as early as the 1740s some of the Pedee had joined with the Catawba in an uneasy confederation (Mooney 1894:77), while the remaining Pedee were classified as "Settlement Indians," living among the English (McDowell 1958:85, 166). Mooney reports that the Settlement Pedee joined in a variety of Anglo activities, even keeping black slaves (Mooney 1894:77). In 1752 the Catawba wrote Governor James Glen:

There are a great many Pedee Indians living in the Settlements that we want to come and settle amongst us. We desire you to send for them and advise them to this, and give them this String of Wampum in Token that we want them to settle here, and will always live like Brothers with them. The Northern Indians want them all to settle with us, for as they are now at Peace they may be hunting in the Woods or stragling about killed by some of them except they join us and make but one Nation, which will be a great Addition of Strength to us (McDowell 1958:362).

While many of the remaining Pedee apparently joined the Catawba, it did not provide total protection. As late as 1753 the Northern Indians took at least one Pedee Indian slave during a "visit" to the Catawba area (McDowell 1958:388). In 1755 a Settlement Pedee was killed by the Notchee and Cherokee (Mooney 1894:77, 84).

De Brahm's "Map of South Carolina and a Part of Georgia," dated 1757 shows the "Peadea Indian Old Town" situated almost immediately east of the survey tract. By the time of Mouzon's "An Accurate Map of North and South Carolina" in 1775 no further evidence of the Pedee was shown.

The last mention of the Pedee comes from Ramsay's History of South Carolina:

Persons now living remember that there were about thirty Indians, a remnant of the Pedee and Cape Fear tribes that lived in the Parishes of St. Stephens and St. Johns. King John was their chief. There was another man among the same tribe who was called Prince. Governor Lyttelton give him a Commission of Captain General and Commander-in-Chief of the two tribes, which superseded Johnny. The

latter took umbrage at the promotion of the former and attempted to kill him. There were some shots exchanged, but no mischief was done. All this remnant of these ancient tribes are now extinct except for one woman of a half-breed (Ramsay 1808:Appendix II).

Swanton was able to determine little more than this about the Pedee, observing that no words survived. In spite of this, he attributed the Pedee to the Siouan linguistic stock, probably on the basis of their frequent identification with other, supposedly Siouan, groups.

No archaeological sites attributable to the Pedee have been identified and Swanton observed, "no village names are known apart from the tribal name, which was sometimes applied to specific settlements" (Swanton 1952:97). The presumed protohistoric remains in this region are essentially identical (at least in a gross sense) to those found elsewhere. They include small, triangular projectile points, often crudely made; complicated stamped pottery with motifs ranging from finely applied to crudely stamped; and diminutive ground stone celts. Protohistoric to historic Pedee villages, when found, are likely to be evidenced by a significant quantity of trade goods, including glass beads, copper bangles, guns or gun parts, tobacco pipes, iron hatchets and knives, and similar items.

At the present, however, there is virtually nothing known of the Pedee Indians and their villages remain lost. The Pedee settlement which should be most easily identified based on period maps has received no professional attention, although there is some evidence that it has been looted by relic hunters.

The early history of Marlboro was succinctly presented by Mills:

Soon after Braddock's defeat [reference to General Edward Braddock and his disastrous defeat in the Ohio Valley at the hands of the French] the frontier inhabitants of Virginia and Pennsylvania began to move southwardly; and this section of the state was settled by a few of them. The progress of population was slow previous to the Indian treaty, in 1755; after which it began to increase; but received several checks, until the close of the revolutionary war, when a considerable accession took place (Mills 1972:629).

Much of this early settlement occurred in the area called Welsh Neck or Tract. Not strictly a township, a large portion, from Crooked Creek to Hunt's Bluff, had been granted in small parcels by 1746 to such individuals as Daniel Lewis, Samuel Wilds, and Daniel James. These, and other Welch, came largely from Pennsylvania, attracted by the possibly of plants such crops as hemp, flax, wheat, and barley (Wallace 1951:155).

McColl remarked that the first court house, build about 1787, was located near the Pee Dee River:

very near the road to Gardner's Bluff, not very far from the river and very close to the present cross roads leading from Bennettsville to Gardner's Bluff and from Evans' or Matheson's Mill to Cheraw (McColl n.d.:78).

Mills also notes that the court house was built close to the banks of Crooked Creek and remarked that:

there was built there three or four stores, and five or six dwelling houses, but no tavern. The village was called Winfieldsville (Mills 1972:631).

Mills also observed that the earliest settlements were consistently located along the Pee Dee River, an area thought, at the time, to be healthy. In fact, "the inhabitant of the sandy interior was deemed, upon the river, a kind of

curiosity, and half savage" (Mills 1972:634). As the years passed, however, the planters began moving inland, into the sand hills, to get away from the swamps and the associated fevers and miasmas. Consequently, the court house was moved to its current location in Bennettsville in 1818. A brick court house and jail were erected in 1821 (rebuilt in 1852, 1885, and 1952). Bennettsville, named for Governor Thomas Bennett (1820-1822), remained a sleepy, small town until after the Civil War.

One author remarked that:

Prior to the war the citizens of the sand hill section did but little in an agricultural way, and their main industry was the raising of cattle and hogs, which roamed at large through the extensive forests (Gibson 1902:5).

Where agriculture was practiced, it is clear from Mills that it was of the most ruthless kind:

the same ruinous system of cultivation practiced in other places is prevalent here. Once piece of land after another is exhausted, and abandoned; nothing like farming; no husbandry of the natural advantages of the soil; forest after forest is felled, and reduced to ashes, without regard to the consequences of such waste (Mills 1972:637).

Prior to the Civil War the Crooked Creek area well known for its extensive mills, including those of General Thomas, Major Robinson, and Major Pledger (Mills 1972:632). About five miles north of Bennettsville Mr. Meekins Townsend built a water powered cotton mill on Crooked creek. Gibson notes that, "a beautiful factory village occupied the high sandy level ridge east of the mill," and that the mill burned shortly before the Civil War (Gibson 1902:16).

In 1850, on the verge of the Civil War, Marlboro County was about evenly divided between whites and African American slaves (5033 to 5600). With 621 farms, only six counties had a smaller agricultural base. In spite of this, Marlboro ranked 16th in cotton production, with 9501 bales. Other significant crops included Indian corn and wheat (DeBow 1854:304-305).

The Civil War was not particularly kind to Marlboro. Sherman's army passed through the county on its way from Columbia, South Carolina to Fayetteville, North Carolina. Nearly all the gineries, some of the mills, and many of the residences were destroyed. Sherman and Howard both had their camps along Crooked Creek, in the vicinity of Goodwin's Upper and Lower Mills.

Like elsewhere in South Carolina the economy of Marlboro County was essentially destroyed. Renting and wage labor were the most common forms of black farm labor as late as 1884, although there were about 100 farms comprising 3000 acres owned by blacks (compared to about 6000 acres in 200 farms owned by whites) (Anonymous 1884). Significantly, 200 gins, 44 lumber mills, and 16 flour or grist mills were in operation only 20 years after the Civil War.

Col. C.S. McColl established a thriving mercantile business in the 1870s and eventually owned at least nine plantations, including Appin, Dundee, Steward, Islay, Pipkin, Cook, Ervin, Spears, and Cotton Hill. Described as a "100 plow" farm, as late as 1901 he planted 1600 acres in cotton, 600 acres in corn, and 300 acres in wheat and oats. He produced over 1000 bales of cotton a year and 1100 pounds of cotton seed per acre. Gibson remarks:

his mill . . . is only 2½ miles west of town, on Crooked Creek, very fine water power, splendid ginney and corn mill. The pond is well stocked with fish and the numerous ducks afford exhilarating and enjoyable sport (Gibson 1902:21).

McColl's amalgamation of plantations, however, was unusual and most agriculture was conducted by "two, three, or four plows," where the farms are small and largely worked only their owner (Gibson 1902:7).

The number of Marlboro farms operated by owners declined from 818 in 1900 to 697 in 1910 and 454 by 1930, while those operated by tenants increased from 1789 in 1900 to 2974 in 1930. Through this period the number of acres of cotton remained steady between 86,000 and 82,000 acres, although the yields fell dramatically from over 74,000 bales to less than 34,000 bales (Thirteenth Census of the United States: 1910 and Fifteenth Census of the United States: 1930).

Land Use History

The brief historical synopsis reveals that Crooked Creek was an exceptionally significant area of Marlboro County. It provided water power for a number of different mills, several of which are shown on Mills Atlas of Marlboro District (Figure 2). By 1901 Crooked Creek had "almost impenetrable swamps on either side" (*Charlotte Daily Observer*, December 29, 1901) and in 1902 Gibson remarked that both the "old wire road" and "old stage road" followed Crooked Creek (Gibson 1902:14).

The 1938 Marlboro County Highway Map (Figure 3) fails to reveal any roads or occupations in the survey tract. The Shiloh Church and Cemetery are shown on the north side of Crooked Creek only as a convenience, there being no available room to the south.

The earliest aerial photograph dates to 1941 and shows the survey tract as entirely wooded, although several areas are in young stands, revealing previous logging (Thomas Cooper Map Repository, PH 213-107). By 1949 there is evidence of several small farm tracts on the periphery of the wooded Crooked Creek swamp tract. Both the 1941 and 1949 photographs reveal a large field at the southern end of the survey tract which is in second growth, indicating that a large portion of the survey area had been recently taken out of cultivation (Thomas Cooper Map Repository, PH 3F-143/169). Additional photographs from 1953 and 1957 reveal that several woods roads have been constructed through the swamp. One particularly good enlargement reveals that the swamp vegetation consists of dense old hardwood stands interspersed with large areas of new, second growth (Thomas Cooper Map Repository, PH 3M-152/189, PH 4T-10/38).

The 1963 aerial photograph shows little change, while the 1969 imagery reveals that a new road has been recently cut between S-43 and U.S. 15/401. A series of gravel pits to the south of U.S. 15/401 were excavated between 1963 and 1969 and the new road connects these pits to a recently excavated pit to the north (Thomas Cooper Map Repository, PH 3EE-69/103, PH 3KK-9/145). By 1973 the northern gravel pit was extending into the woods on both sides of the new road (Thomas Cooper Map Repository, 45069-175-167).

The earliest topographic sheets for this area is the 1972 editions of the Bennettsville South and Society Hill quadrangles. The extensive gravel pits to the north of S-43 and to the south of US 15/401 are shown on these maps, as is the road connecting them, first visible on the 1969 aerial photographs.

The field examination has revealed that recently a large portion of the survey tract, identified as Parcel 16, has been clear cut. Otherwise, there appears to be relatively little change from the last examined aerial photograph.

This brief review of the land use history indicates that the project area, at least for the past 50 years, has been wooded with only minor areas of clear cut logging or cultivation (the most impact occurring recently with the logging of Tract 15). Older areas of cultivation are likely to have caused minimal damage since mule plowing tended to penetrate only the upper 0.5 to 0.7 foot of soil. Neither agricultural or forest activities appear intensive in the survey area.

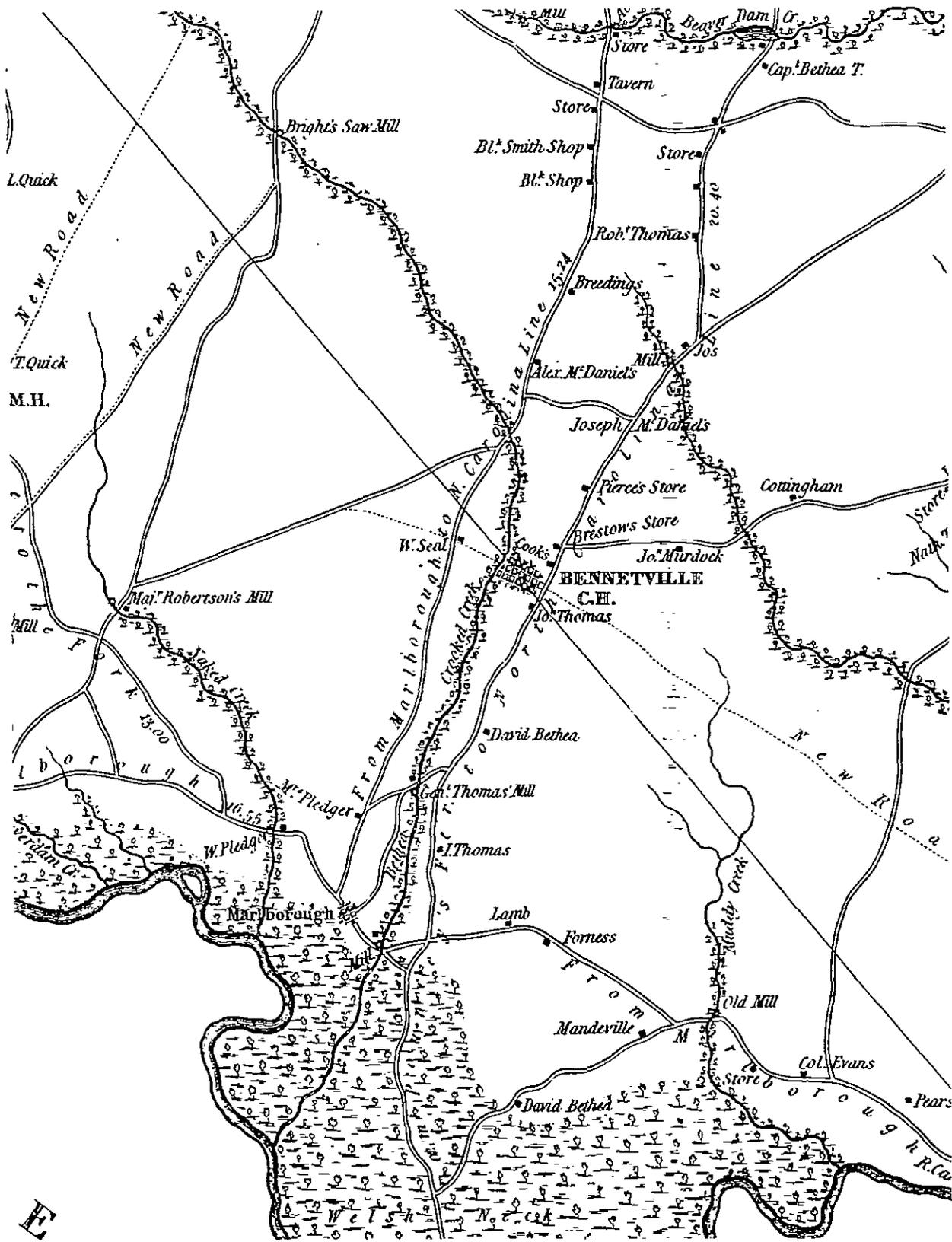


Figure 2. Mills Atlas (1825) showing the project area within the Marlboro District.

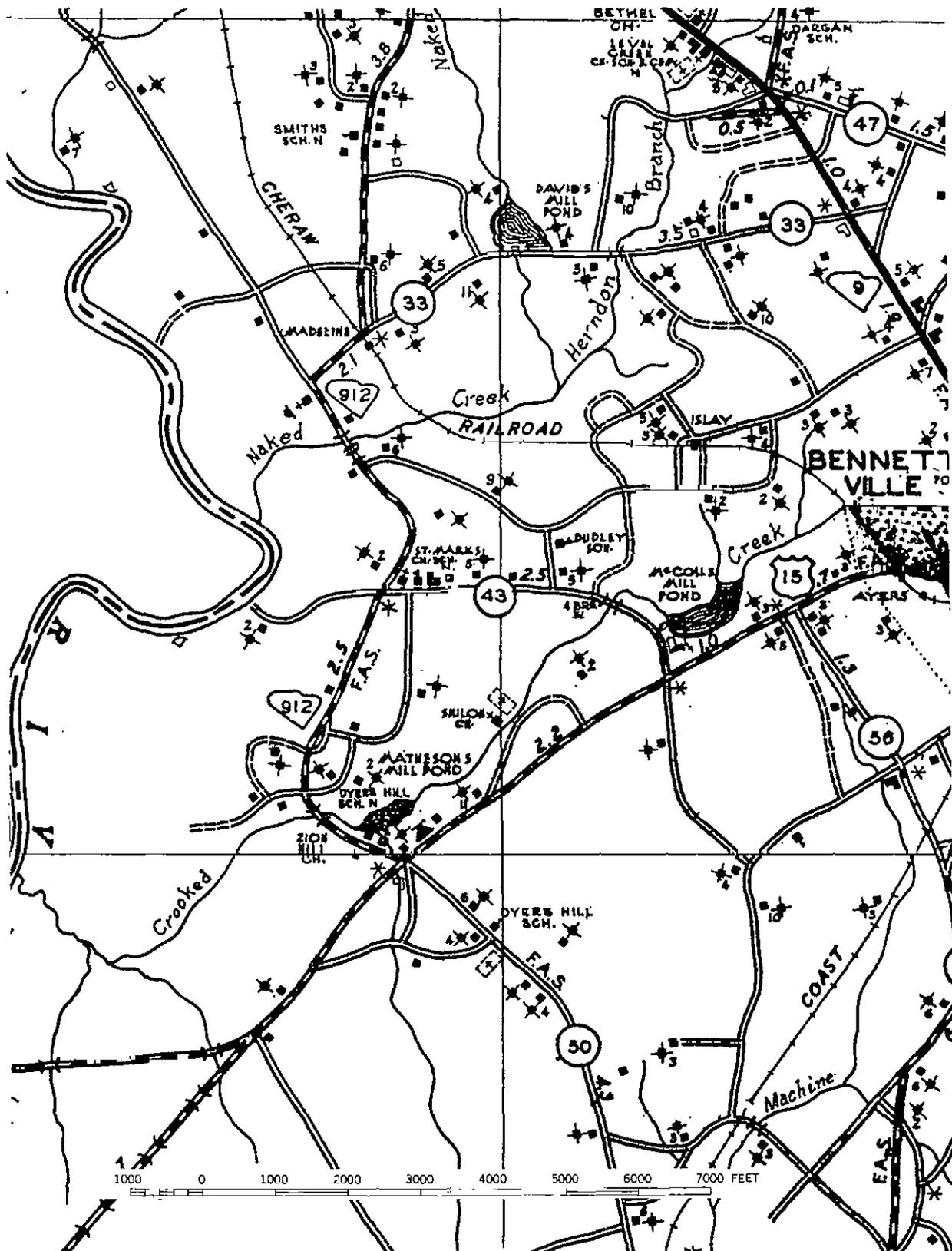


Figure 3. 1938 Marlboro County Highway Map.

Consequently, it is likely that any archaeological remains present will exhibit fair to good integrity.

Field Methods

The initially proposed field techniques involved reconnaissance level work, including examining areas with good surface visibility, such as dirt roads and bare spots. In addition shovel tests would be used to determine erosion, disturbance, and verify soil conditions.

Should sites be identified during surface collection or 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 soils from the shovel tests 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 significantly from those initially proposed. A total of 26 shovel tests were excavated at varying intervals to investigate site areas and verify soil conditions. While the number of shovel tests is very small for both the acreage involved (1 shovel test per 5 acres) and surface visibility (heavily vegetated) of the project area, this investigation represents only a reconnaissance investigation. The level of subsurface investigations was sufficient to examine soil stratigraphy, likelihood of erosion, and the nature of site deposition and formation.

For the purpose of this investigation, a site was defined as any area exhibiting two or more artifacts within 20 feet of each other on the surface. Artifacts which were separated by greater distances would be classified as isolated finds.

Laboratory Analysis

The cleaning and analysis of artifacts was conducted in Columbia at the Chicora Foundation laboratories. 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 archaeological reconnaissance identified four sites in the study area. In addition, one isolated artifact was found (Figure 4). While assessments are offered of the sites identified during this survey, it should be stressed that such assessments tend to have greater validity when they are made as a result of a broad areal survey, rather than as a result of a reconnaissance investigation. Regardless, the site assessments offered are based on some level of subsurface investigations at the specific site area and comparison with resources typical of Marlboro County.

38ML209 is located approximately 800 feet south of SR35-43 on a dirt road

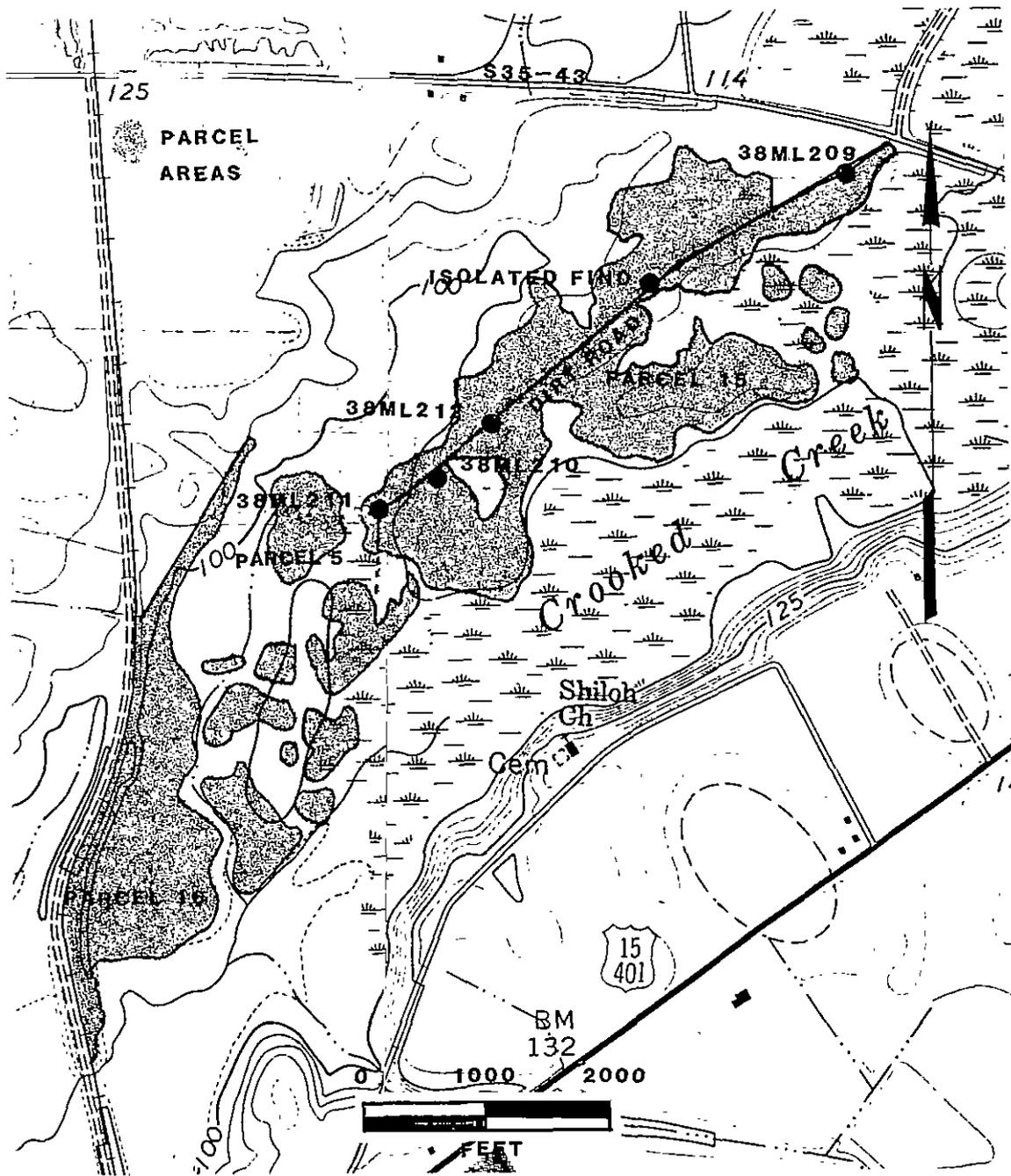


Figure 4. Project area showing individual tracts and site locations.

leading through Parcel 15. A series of four shovel tests at 50 foot intervals were placed in the site area. None yielded archaeological remains. Surface visibility was excellent in the road area although adjacent areas were heavily overgrown. The collection was obtained from the road area. Artifacts consist of both historic and prehistoric remains, including five sherds of clear bottle glass, one brown crown cap bottle fragment, two undecorated whitewares, three milk glass, and four non-cortical rhyolite lithic flakes. Although undecorated whitewares have a date range of 1820 to 1970 (Bartovics 1981), these probably date to the mid to late twentieth century since they are found in association with crown cap bottles. In addition, a pile of asphalt was found within the site boundaries.

The site measures approximately 100 feet by 50 feet. Soil profiles indicate 0.5 feet of yellowish brown sand (10YR5/6) overlying brownish yellow sand (10YR6/6). No topsoils typical of Lakeland sands (grayish brown) were found in the road area which contained the site. It is possible that the upper or A horizon soils have been removed. The central UTM coordinates are E615410 N3830200.

Site 38ML209 is recommended as not eligible for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places. The twentieth century component appears to be a trash dump area with no associated remains in the adjacent area, and the prehistoric component is only a light lithic scatter. The area has been badly disturbed by the road and by logging, and the site exhibits no real archaeological integrity.

38ML210 is an early/mid-nineteenth century site located approximately 3600 feet south of SR35-43 along the dirt road leading into Parcel 15, and approximately 400 feet north of a large logging station. A series of ten shovel tests at 25 foot intervals were placed in the site area. None yielded archaeological remains. All of the collected artifacts were recovered in the dirt road or in a push pile on the southeast side of the road. Despite intensive shovel testing adjacent to the road, no subsurface remains were recovered. Artifacts include one undecorated pearlware, one undecorated whiteware, two blue handpainted whitewares, one polychrome handpainted whitewares, two blue transfer printed wares (unknown type), and one oyster shell. Also noted were small bits of brick rubble. The datable ceramics yield a mean ceramic date of 1841.8 (Table 1).

Table 1.
Mean Ceramic Date from 38ML210

Ceramic	(xi)	(fi)	fi x xi
Pearlware, undecorated	1805	1	1805
Whiteware, poly hand paint	1848	1	1848
blue hand paint	1848	2	3695
undecorated	1860	1	1860
		5	9209

$$MCD = 9209 \div 5 = 1841.8$$

The site measures approximately 100 feet by 50 feet. Soil profiles indicate 0.3 feet of yellowish brown sand (10YR5/6) overlying brownish yellow sand (10YR6/6). Spoil piles adjacent to the road contained a mixture of these soils and grayish brown sand (10YR5/2), and other areas off of the road exhibited 0.4 feet of grayish brown topsoil sand, overlying yellowish brown sand. The central UTM coordinates are E614740 N3829440 and the soils are Lakeland sands.

Site 38ML210 is recommended as not eligible for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places. Despite shovel testing adjacent to the road, the source of this material was not identified. This site appears to have been pushed on this "site" and it is probable that the source of these artifacts is elsewhere