



CHICORA FOUNDATION, INC.

PRESERVING THE PAST FOR THE FUTURE

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COLUMBIA, S.C. 29202
803-787-6910

March 24, 2014

Mr. Tommy L. Jackson
Central Electric Power Cooperative
Supervisor of Environmental Services
P.O. Box 1455
Columbia, SC 29202

Re: Cultural Resources Survey of the Laurens Electric Cooperative Parking Area

Dear Mr. Jackson,

I conducted a cultural resources survey of the proposed Laurens Electric Cooperative Parking Area on Saturday, March 22, 2014. This brief letter report will provide additional information on the project, the methodology employed, and the results.

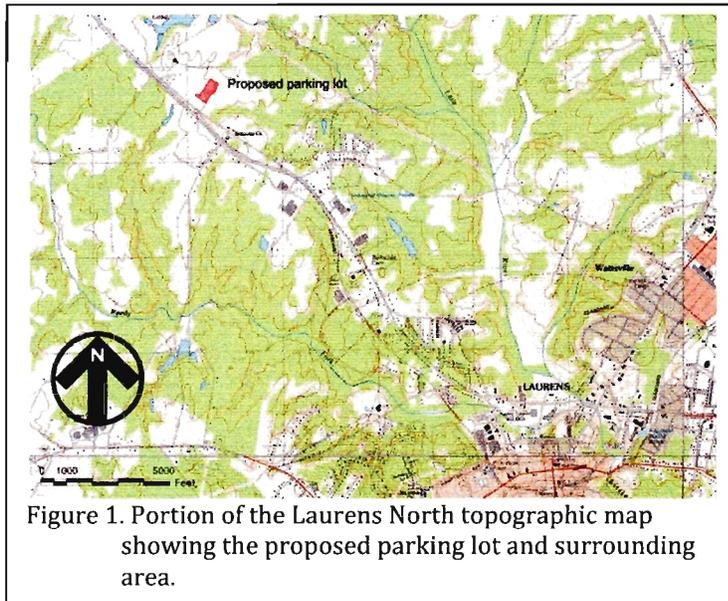


Figure 1. Portion of the Laurens North topographic map showing the proposed parking lot and surrounding area.

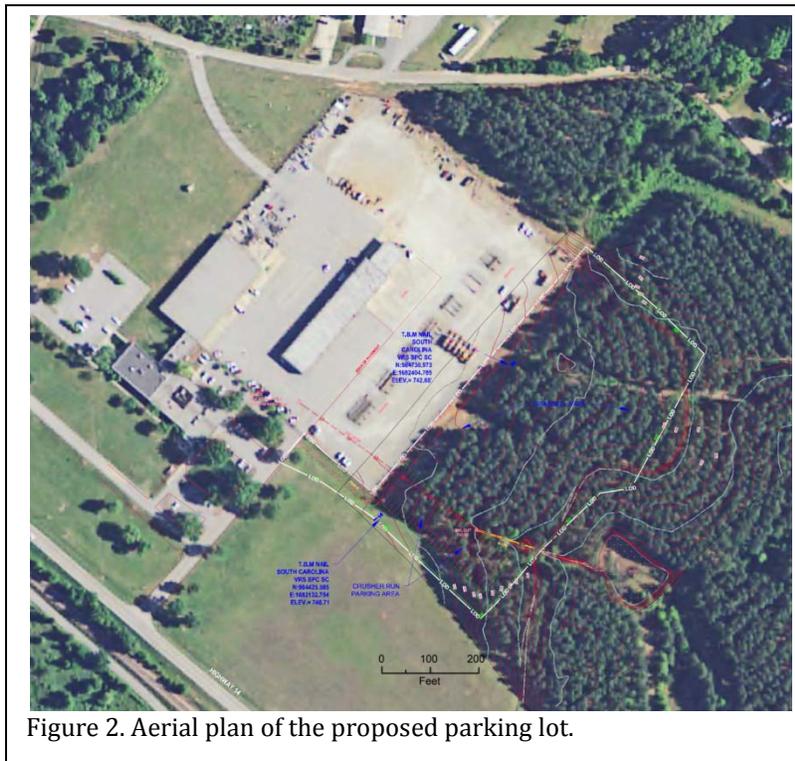
This project involves the expansion of the existing parking lot at 2254 South Carolina Highway 14 to the west, into an area that previously was planted pines. This is located about 3.5 miles northwest of downtown Laurens. The new parking area will be situated immediate southeast of the existing Laurens Electric Coop offices, set back off SC 14 about 400 feet. The area is rural, but includes a number of industrial facilities located in this area because of the proximity to a major highway and a railway paralleling SC 14.

The area of potential effect (APE) is defined as the footprint of the parking lot based on the proximity to the existing building and existing parking lot, as well

as the two-dimensional nature of the project.

Previously the proposed parking area had been in planted pines, although at the time of this survey the pines had been logged to the proposed footprint of the new parking facility, measuring about 750 feet by





325 feet. This new parking facility will include a small crush-run parking area at the southwest end of the open space, with the remainder grassed.

Topography in the area slopes to the west and southwest where a small pond is located. A drainage runs under the existing parking area, emptying into an exposed ditch in the logged area. This drains into the pond.

Soils in the area are Cecil sandy loams, ranging from 2 to 6 and 6 to 10% slopes. Erosion is most noticeable on the more steeply slopes where shallow gullies may be present. Where soils are intact there is an Ap horizon of brown (10YR5/3) sandy clay about 0.5 foot in depth, overlying a yellowish-red (5YR5/8) sandy clay loam B1t zone.

Part of the Cotton Plantation Area, Trimble observed high antebellum erosive land use with postbellum continuation. This resulted in the loss of as much as 0.6 foot of soil in this area historically. By the 1930s the USDA Soil Conservation Service documented moderate sheet erosion throughout his area of Laurens County. This damage is still visible today, shovel tests in the study area revealed no more than 0.1 foot of Ap soils overlying yellowish-red to red sandy clay subsoil. The process of logging has exacerbated soil profile damage, with ruts in some areas at least a foot in depth.

The investigation consisted of three lines of shovel tests running southwest to northeast spaced 100 feet apart. Six shovel tests were excavated along each line, for a total of 18 shovel tests across the project site. All tests were excavated to red clay subsoil and the fill was screened through ¼-inch mesh.

As a result of this investigation, no archaeological remains were encountered. Although the project area is situated on a ridge overlooking a water source to the southeast, the soils have suffered extensive erosion, silvicultural activity, and most recently, logging.

I do not recommend any additional archaeological or historical investigations prior to the construction of parking facility.

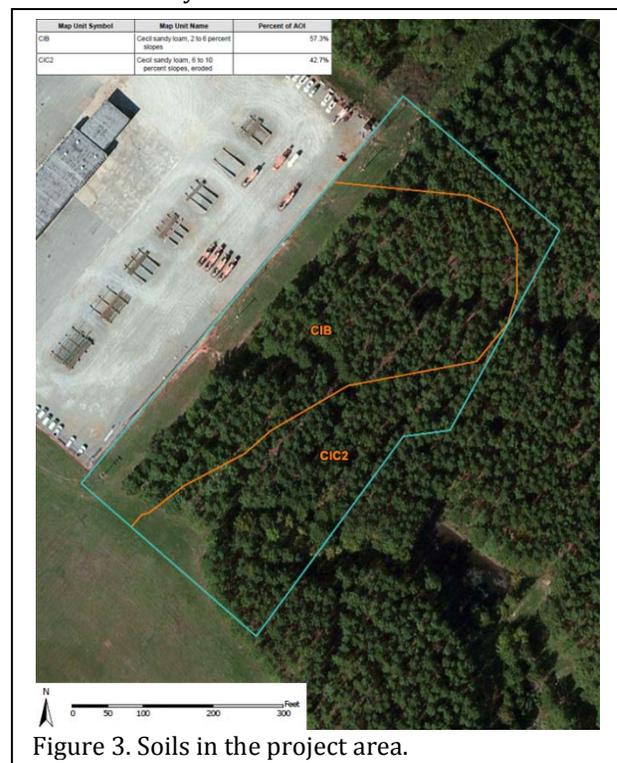




Figure 4. Project site looking north.

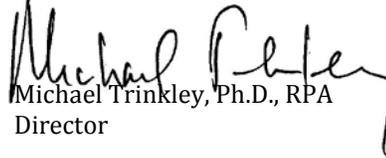


Figure 5. Severe rutting in the project site.

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If you have any questions concerning the investigation, please do not hesitate to contact me at 803-787-6910.

Sincerely,


Michael Trinkley, Ph.D., RPA
Director