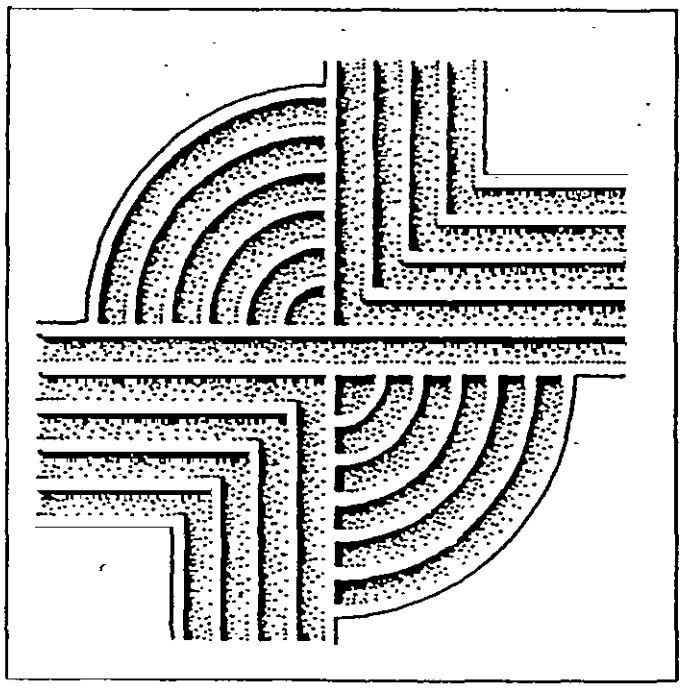
ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF EIGHT SITES TO BE IMPACTED BT POWERLINE STRUCTURES IN THE CLARKS HILL- NORTH AIKEN POWERLINE CORRIDOR, AIKEN, EDGFIELD AND McCORMICK COUNTIES , SOUTH CAROLINA



RESEARCH CONTRIBUTION 113

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF EIGHT SITES TO BE IMPACTED BY POWERLINE STRUCTURES IN THE CLARKS HILL - NORTH AIKEN POWERLINE CORRIDOR, AIKEN, EDGEFIELD, AND McCORMICK COUNTIES, SOUTH CAROLINA

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Research Contribution 113

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Background

On June 1, 1993 Chicora Foundation was requested to submit a budgetary proposal for an archaeological reconnaissance level survey of the 27 mile Clark Hill to North Aiken powerline corridor in McCormick, Edgefield, and Aiken Counties, South Carolina.

The archaeological reconnaissance located 15 new sites and revisited two previously identified sites (Adams 1993). No National Register eligibility recommendations were provided since they are not within the scope of a reconnaissance level study. In addition, the South Carolina Department of Archives and History does not comment on eligibility recommendations at this level.

On August 4, 1993 Chicora Foundation was requested by Santee Cooper to provide eligibility recommendations for sites that will be directly impacted by powerline structures. Based on our field maps and Santee Cooper's plan/profile maps for the new powerline, these sites include 38AK618, 38AK619, 38AK620, 38ED351, 38ED352, 38MC914, 38MC915, and 38MC916. Mr. Lee Tippett of the South Carolina Department of Archives and History requested that further detail be given on conditions of these sites to justify eligibility recommendations (Mr. Lee Tippett, personal communication 1993).

Project Area

The project consists of an existing powerline right of way beginning at the substation located at the base of Clark Hill dam. The corridor travels in an easterly direction for 27 miles crossing a number of creeks (including Stevens Creek, Horn Creek, Cheves Creek, and Horse Creek). It ends just north of Aiken at a substation located east of S.C. Hwy. 19 near the community of Ridgecrest. The centerline is located in the northern portion of the existing corridor.

The survey corridor is situated in the Piedmont and Sandhills regions. Approximately 75% of the area is located within the Piedmont region with the remaining 25% (all within Aiken County) located in the Sandhills. The topography varies, with moderately steep eroded clayey slopes found in the Piedmont to gently sloping sandy topography in the Sandhills. Elevations in the corridor range from about 200 to 500 feet above mean sea level (MSL).

Aiken, McCormick, and Edgefield counties are drained by the Savannah River which is a major watershed of the South Atlantic Slope. Dendritic tributary systems running perpendicular to the river are common. The largest stream bisecting the survey corridor is Stevens Creek which divides McCormick and Edgefield counties. Mills (1972:524) described

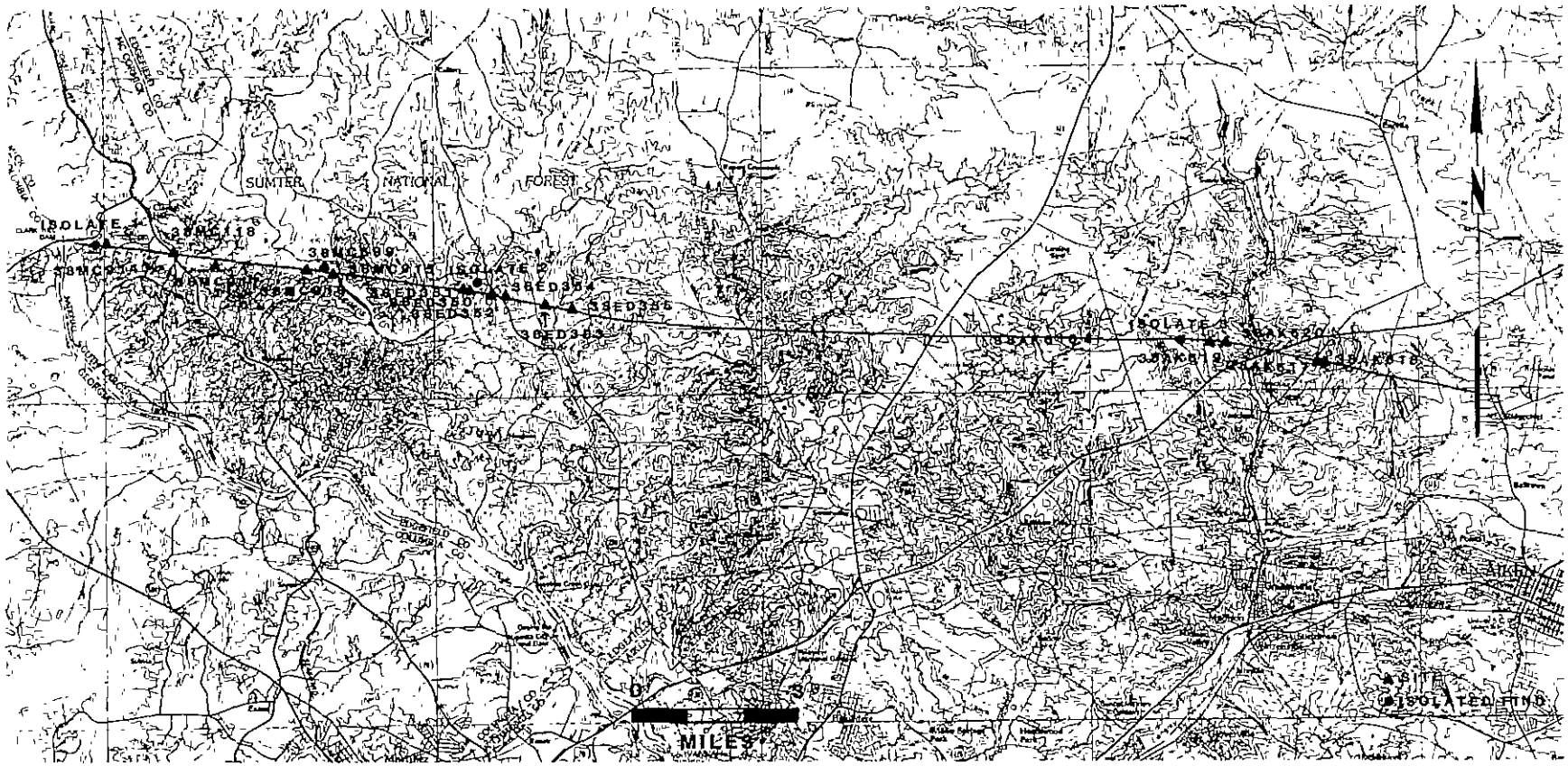

Figure 1. Location of the survey corridor.

Stevens Creek as "a large and rapid stream" which "might be made navigable into the heart of the [Edgefield] district".

The soils in the survey area consist of the Wilkes-Pacolet Association in McCormick County; the Cecil-Pacolet Association, Cecil-Cataula-Hiwassee Association, and Appling-Durham-Cataula Association in Edgefield County; and the Troup-Lakeland-Fuquay Association and the Vaucluse-Ailey-Troup Association in Aiken County. All of these soils are considered well drained. Lowery (1934) found that much of McCormick County and portions of Edgefield County contained severe sheet erosion with frequent gullies. Other portions of Edgefield County and much of Aiken County was characterized as having little or no erosion. As far back as the 1820s, the Edgefield district was experiencing severe erosion problems. Robert Mills noted that

> the greatest inconvenience which this land presents, is its rolling, hilly character, which subjects it, like most of the land in the middle and upper country, to wash into gullies by heavy rains. The lands in the lower part of the district being level, are not so subject to this deterioration (Mills 1972:521 [1826]).

The project area, situated in both the Piedmont and the Sandhills, is characterized by forest types of both provinces. Piedmont hardwoods, and pine-hardwood forests, primarily represented by oaks and hickories, are limited and typically restricted to ridges. In the Sumter National Forest portion of McCormick County (located in the piedmont) forests are often pine. Sandhills vegetation of longleaf pine, turkey oak, and wire grass is common to the eastern portion of the survey corridor. Intensively logged areas are frequently found in slash or loblolly pine. In the floodplain of Stevens 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). The actual corridor was cleared during the 1950s when the original powerline was constructed (Freddie Sanford, personal communication, 1993). Today the corridor contains primarily weedy grasses, blackberry brambles, and young saplings.

While the agricultural potential of the area is somewhat limited by soil types, the faunal variability is great. Mills, in the early nineteenth century, observed that:

> Shad, in their season, are very abundant in the Savannah river. The indigenous fish are, the catfish, brim, sucker, trout, rockfish, redhorse, jackfish, perch, &c. Deer are plenty, as also foxes, squirrels, raccoons, opossums, &c. Birds are numerous; such as the wild turkey, dove, partridge, robin, woodcock, duck, wild pigeon, and goose, at certain seasons, besides the buzzard, hawk, owl, eagle, swallow, red-bird, mocking-bird, blue-bird, wren, and others (Mills 1972:362 [1826]).

Many of these animals were certainly a major protein source for the Native Americans.

Previous Archaeological Investigations

A large amount of archaeological research has been performed in Barnwell and Aiken counties on Savannah River Plant property, and recently Sassaman et al. (1990) have provided synthetic information on the work that has been performed in that area.

Castille et al. (1988) have done some preliminary work at a number of Edgefield pottery kiln sites. Recently, salvage excavations have been performed at the Mims Point site (38ED9) by Dr. Ken Sassaman. Report production is still in process (Ken Sassaman, personal communication, 1993). Previous preliminary investigations at the site was performed by Dan Elliott (Elliot 1983; Elliot 1984).

Most of the archaeology in or near the project area has occurred in Sumter National Forest in McCormick County. Bates (1987 and 1989) performed reconnaissance surveys of portions of Compartments 318 and 319 in the Edgefield Ranger District, both of which are crossed by Santee Cooper's corridor. In addition, Trinkley (1979) performed a reconnaissance of the S.C. 28 widening and relocation in McCormick County. All of these studies have located several sites in the vicinity of the study area (see Results section).

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 13 Paleo-Indian projectile points have been found in Aiken County, eight in Edgefield County, and 12 in McCormick County. They are clustered along the Savannah River and its tributaries (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. 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).

There is minimal archaeological evidence for historic Indian occupation along the middle Savannah River. DePratter (1988) has recently summarized the historical evidence, and the general locations of a number of towns occupied after 1670 have been identified. Caldwell (1948) found evidence of a post-contact Indian site on the Savannah River in Hampton County which he believes is the early Creek town of Palachacolas. The only other evidence for historic Indian occupations in the Savannah River Valley comes from the upper part of the drainage, where a number of Lower Cherokee Towns were present until late in the eighteenth century (see Caldwell 1956; Kelly and DeBaillou 1960; Kelly and Neitzel 1961).

The survey corridor (presently in Aiken, Edgefield, and McCormick counties) is in what is historically known as the Edgefield District. In 1826 Mills remarks that the district is historically similar to other nearby districts:

> There is nothing that distinguishes the settlement of Edgefield from that of other districts in the upper and middle country. They were all gradually settled as the tide of emigration rolled from the north and east. It however

> may be observed of this, in contradistinction to some other districts, which were peopled a good deal by foreigners and their immediate descendants, (namely, by Irish, Scotch, and Dutch, mixed with a few English,) that Edgefield was settled principally, and indeed almost altogether, by emigrants from Virginia and North Carolina (Mills 1972:519-520 [1826]).

Although exploration of the Savannah River Valley began as early as the sixteenth century (DePratter 1989), substantial settlement of the area did not begin until after the Yamassee Indian War (1715-1718). By the mid-eighteenth century, cattle ranchers and subsistence farmers cleared land and established small farms and plantations (Kovacik and Winberry 1987:69-71), and by the eve of the American Revolution, cattle ranching was well established in the area (Brooks 1981).

While Tory forces were quite active in the Edgefield District during the American Revolution, only two skirmish took place in Aiken County. These were in conjunction with the American capture of Augusta from the British, and occurred at Beech Island and Galphin's Fort (Brooks 1984).

By 1800 the population consisted of 13,063 whites, 5,006 African-American slaves, and 61 free blacks totalling 18,130. In twenty years the population increased by about 7,000 with 12,864 whites, 19,198 slaves, and 57 free blacks, for a total of 25,119 individuals (Mills 1972:527 [1826]). By 1850, the population had increased substantially. There were 16,252 whites, 22,725 slaves, and 285 free blacks, totalling 39,262. In the years preceding the Civil War, the population growth in the state slowed considerably, as planters and farmers left the exhausted soils of South Carolina and moved to Georgia, Alabama, and Mississippi (Kovacik and Winberry 1987:92-93).

Mills Atlas (1825) shows that the Stevens Creek area was the most heavily populated portion of the powerline vicinity (Figure 2). Many of these settlements are on a road with an alignment similar to present day S.C. Highway 230.

The Edgefield District saw some activity during the Civil War. General H.J. Kilpatrick of the Union Army fought General Joseph Wheeler's troops at Blackville, Williston, and Aiken during his threat to Augusta (Wallace 1953:548).

It was not unit the end of the Civil War that Aiken came under attack. Will the fall of Savannah, General O.H. Hill was placed in charge of the Confederate forces in Augusta, where it was thought that Sherman's troops would surely head in order to destroy the vast stores of cotton. By late January 1865 Union forces were rapidly advancing through South Carolina, having taken Pocotaligo on January 14th and breaking the Charleston-Savannah railway for the first time during the war. The Confederate forces established a defensive line near Three Runs in Aiken County, near where the Savannah River Plant site is today. The Union forces reached Allendale by the 31st and succeeded in taking Blackville, breaking the Charleston-Hamburg Railroad connection.

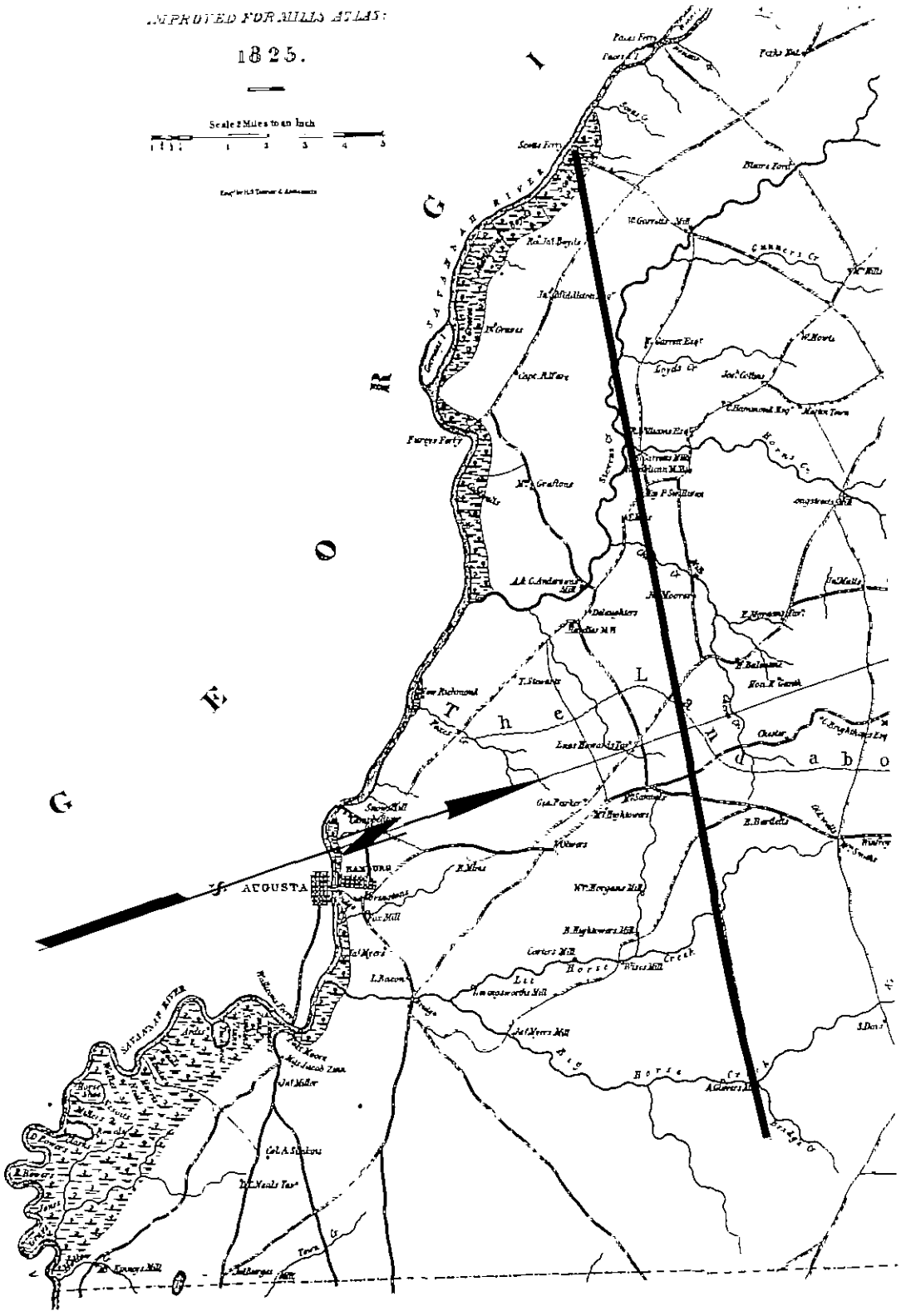

Figure 2. Mills Atlas (1825) showing the location of the corridor in the Edgefield District.

Union troops, including the 14th and the 20th Corps as well as Major General Hugh Judson Kilpatrick's cavalry, began following the railway line to the west, leading directly to Aiken. By February 10 Kilpatrick's cavalry reached Johnson's Turnout (at what is today Montmorenci), while the Confederate forces hastily established a line about two miles east of Aiken. Practicing total war, the country side was pillaged and the railway was destroyed. Kilpatrick remarked in a message to Sherman that "this is splendid country; plenty of forageand supplies" (quoted in Boylston n.d.:8). Efforts to advance through Aiken were foiled by Confederate troops under the command of General Joseph Wheeler. While Aiken was saved, as was the Graniteville cotton mill, and the stores of cotton in August, South Carolina was lost.

Exhausted by war and stunned by the upheaval of their economic and social system the residents of Edgefield District, as well as the rest of the state, were in a state of confusion and hardship. Immediately after the Civil War cotton prices peaked, causing many Southerners to plant cotton again, in the hope of recouping losses from the War. The single largest problem across the South, however, was labor. While some freedmen stayed on to work, others, apparently many others, left.

The hiring of freedmen began immediately after the war, with variable results. The Freedmen's Bureau attempted to establish a system of wage labor, but the effort was largely tempered by the enactment of the Black Codes by the South Carolina Legislature in September 1865. These Codes allowed nominal freedom, while establishing a new kind of slavery, severely restricting the rights and freedoms of the black majority (see Orser 1988:50). Added to the Codes were oppressive contracts which reinforced the power of the plantation owner and degraded the freedom of the Blacks. The freedmen found power, however, in their ability to break their contracts and move to a new plantation, beginning a new contract. With the high price of cotton and the scarcity of labor, this mechanism caused tremendous agitation to the plantation owners.

Gradually owners turned away from wage labor contracts to two kinds of tenancy -- sharecropping and renting. While very different, both succeeded in making land ownership very difficult, if not impossible, for the vast majority of Blacks. Sharecropping required the tenant to pay his landlord part of the crop produced, while renting required that he pay a fixed rent in either crops or money. In sharecropping the tenant supplied the labor and one-half of the fertilizer, the landlord supplied everything else -- land, house, tools, work animals, animal feed, wood for fuel, and the other half of the needed fertilizer. In return the landlord received half of the crop at harvest. This system became known as "working on halves," and the tenants as "half hands," or "half tenants."

In share-renting, the landlord supplied the land, housing, and either one-quarter or one-third of the fertilizer costs. The tenant supplied the labor, animals, animal feed, tools, seed, and the remainder of the fertilizer. At harvest the crop was divided in proportion to the amount of fertilizer that each party supplied. A number of variations on this occurred, one of the most common being "third and fourth," where the landlord received one-fourth

of the cotton crop and one-third of all other crops. In cash-renting the landlord provided the land and housing, with the renter providing everything else and paying a fixed per-acre rent in cash.

In the 1880s Edgefield County had no cotton mills and none under construction, while Aiken County had three mills (Graniteville, Vaucluse, and Langley). Cotton was, however, being produced in large amounts and it was estimated that the average cost of producing merchantable cotton was about eight cents a pound and 40 dollars to bale 500 pounds. It appears that a large portion of the manufacturing in the county was milling grain or producing lumber and turpentine. Of the 84 manufacturing establishments there were 55 grist mills, 22 lumber mills, and 6 turpentine establishments (Anonymous 1884). In Aiken County, corn was the largest agricultural product with 75,966 acres producing 703,080 bushels. Cotton closely followed with 63,127 acres producing 29,676 bales (Anonymous 1907:571). Edgefield County, however, produced primarily cotton with 58,366 acres producing 20,960 bales. 38,316 acres was planted in corn producing 306,120 bushels (Anonymous 1907:574). By 1900 Aiken County had a population of 39,032 rising from 31,822 in the previous decade. Edgefield County's population dropped dramatically from 49,259 in 1890 to 25,478 in 1900.

Field Methods

The initially proposed field techniques for the reconnaissance level investigation involved a visual inspection of high probability areas with occasional shovel tests to verify soil conditions. The minimal definition of a site in this study was two or more artifacts within a 25 foot area.

Should sites be identified by surface collection and/or shovel testing, further tests would be used if possible to help obtain additional data on site boundaries, artifact quantity and diversity, site integrity, and temporal affiliation. The information required for completion of the 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 from the shovel tests would be screened through ¼-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.

Curation

It is anticipated that field notes and artifacts will be 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.

Results and Recommendations

As a result of the archaeological reconnaissance of the Clark Hill to North Aiken transmission line 15 new sites were discovered and two sites were revisited. These sites include 38AK616 through 38AK620, 38ED350 through 38ED355, 38MC118, 38MC699, and 38MC914 through 38MC917. In addition, three isolated artifacts were found (see Figure 1).

In the reconnaissance level report (see Adams 1993) no eligibility recommendations were provided. The SHPO and the client later requested that eligility recommendations be made for those sites being directly impacted by powerline structures.

Of the 17 sites, eight (38AK618, 38AK619, 38AK620, 38ED351, 38ED352, 38MC914, 38MC915, and 38MC916) would be directly impacted by powerline structures. Adequate documentation was gathered from those sites to allow for eligibility recommendations.

38AK618 is located at station 1234 + 52. S.C. Highway 191 is approximately 400 feet west of the site (Figure 3). Surface visibility was good and a collection was made. Artifacts consist of one jasper utilized flake, one jasper tertiary flake, one banded rhyolite secondary flake, and one quartz flake. Three tests were placed in the site area along the centerline of the right of way. None of these tests yielded artifacts. The soil profile indicated a disturbed zone appproximately 0.9 feet. This zone was grayish brown (10YR5/2) in color overlying yellow (10YR7/6) sand. The soils are classified as Lakeland sands. The site measures approximately 100 feet by 50 feet, based on surface remains. The soils are classified as Lakeland sands and the central UTM coordinates are E426920 N3720880.

This site evidences disturbance related to the initial construction and ongoing maintenance of the existing powerline. In addition, the area has been used as a garden, resulting in further disturbances. Therefore, the site has limited integrity and cannot address significant questions relating to prehistory. As a result, this site is not recommended for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places.

38AK619 is located approximately 3,500 feet east of S-105 and approximately 400 feet west of Camp Branch (Figure 3). It is 50 feet west of station 1126 + 29. Surface visibility was good throughout the site area and a collection was made. Given the relatively large quantity of surface remains, 16 shovel tests at 25 foot intervals were excavated in the site area (Figure 4). Of these 16 tests, four (or 25%) yielded subsurface remains. The surface artifact collection consists of two small grit tempered sherds, one felsic tuff biface, 20 jasper tertiary flakes, four rhyolite tertiary flakes, five chalcedony tertiary flakes, 22 Allendale chert tertiary flakes, and one quartz tertiary flake. In addition, one Allendale chert tertiary flake was found in Transect 1 Shovel Test 2, two Allendale chert tertiary flakes were found in Transect 1 Shovel Test 5, one Allendale chert tertiary flake was found in Transect 2 Shovel Test 3, and one rhyolite tertiary flake was found in Transect 2 Shovel Test 6.

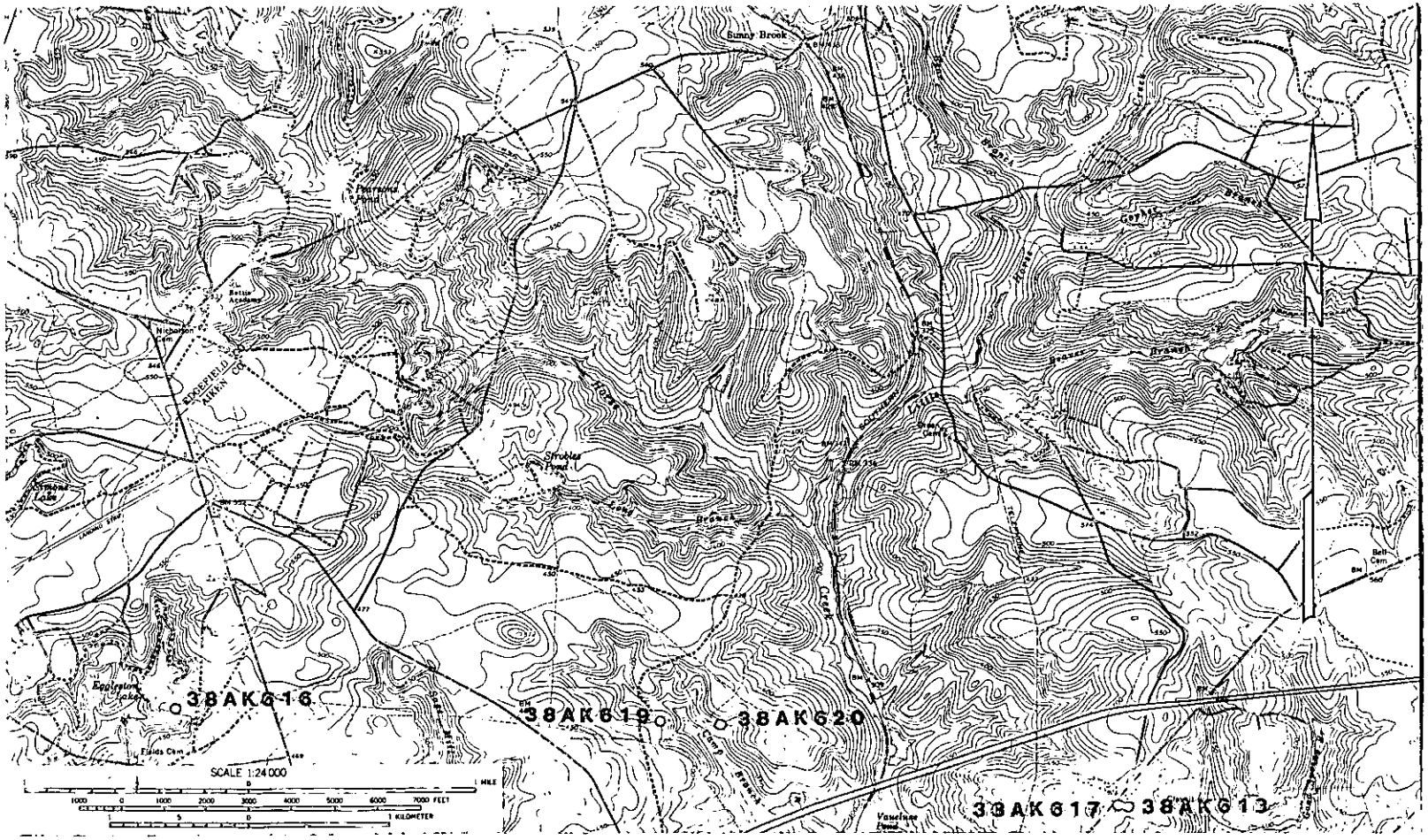

Figure 3. Location of sites in Aiken County on the Trenton Quadrangle.

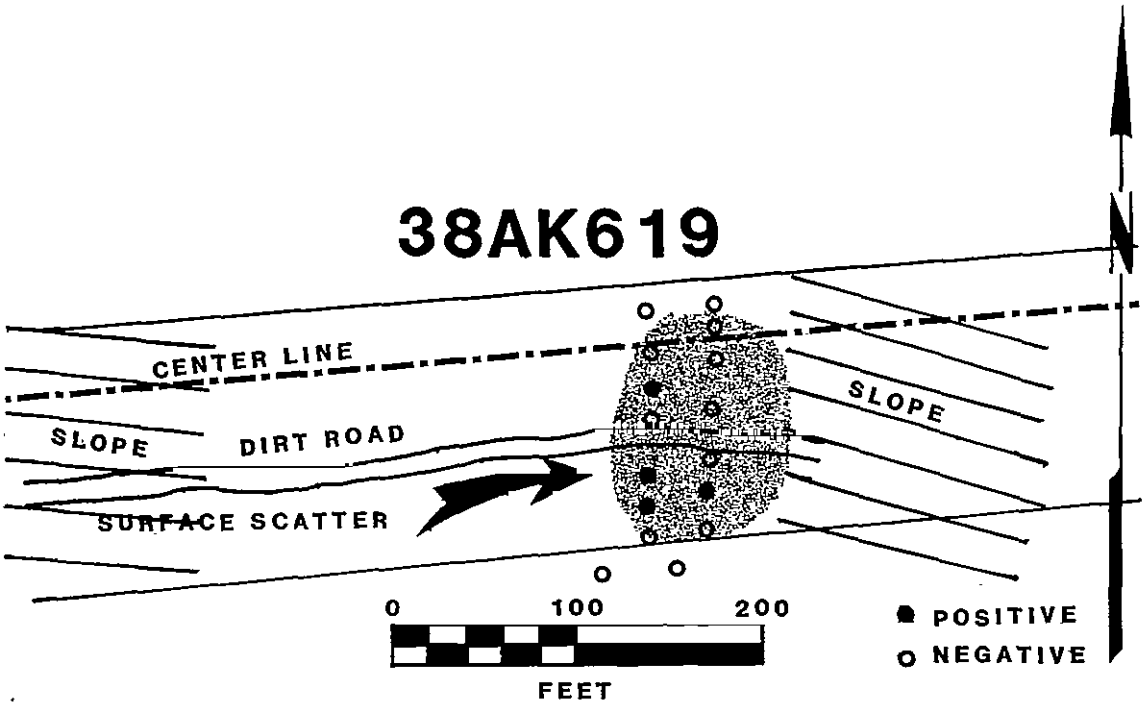

Figure 4. Location of shovel tests at 38AK619.

It is more appropriate to call the vast majority of these tertiary flake pressure flakesor flakes of bifacial retouch since they were often ¼ inch or smaller in size. A few appear to be bifacial thinning flakes. This suggests that site activities included tool maintenance or final retouch and trimming of biface blanks.

The site is located on a small level area of a drainage sideslope. Based on the small size of Camp Branch and the slope of the landform (6 to 15%) this area was believed to represent a low archaeological probability area. However, field inspection revealed that a small, relatively level area is located just before the landform drops off sharply to Camp Branch. It is, therefore, possible that areas traditionally (even by this investigation) classified as "low probability" actually contain these "micro-landforms" that do not show up well on USGS topographic maps. A topographic profile of the site area based on the USGS map indicates that is small landform is not represented (Figure 5).

The site measures approximately 100 feet by 75 feet, based on surface remains. Soil profiles indicate that the area is disturbed from 0.7 feet to 1.2 feet below the surface. The disturbed layer consisted of swirled A horizon and subsoil. This disturbance is probably due to powerline construction and maintenance. In addition to this disturbance, two possible "pot holes" were noted at the site. One was approximately two feet square dug through the

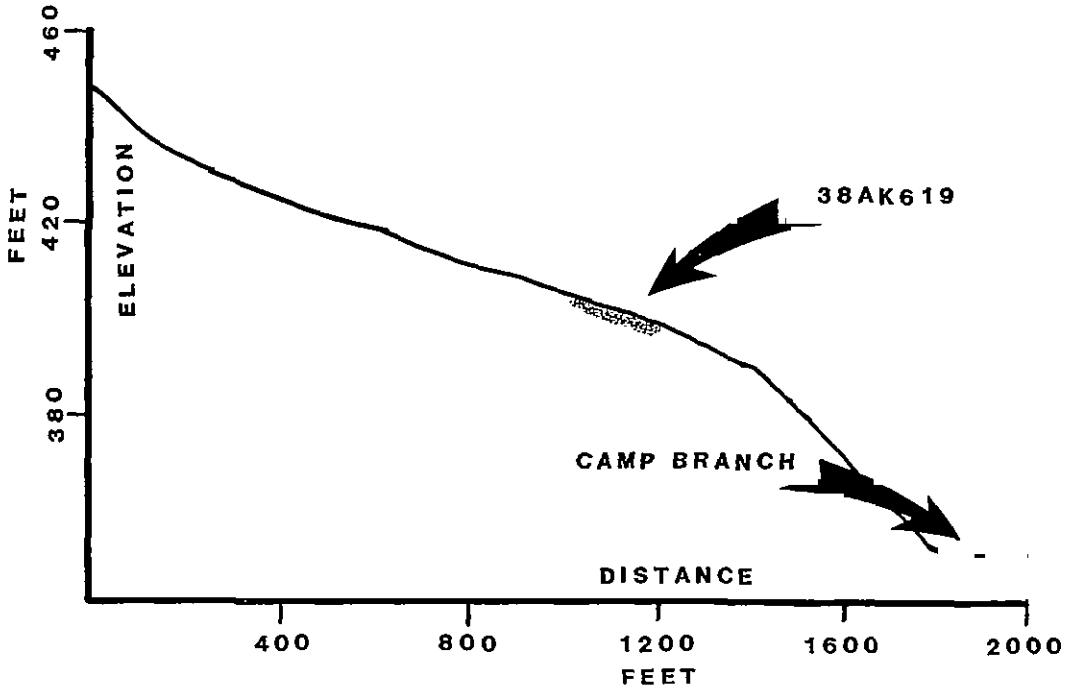

Figure 5. Topographic profile of 38AK619.

disturbed layer. The other was more informal, yet definite round shovel gouges were notedat the base of the hole. These may have been dug by persons hoping to find arrowheads or other artifacts.

The soils are classified as excessively drained Lakeland sands which typically exhibit eight inches of brown (10YR4/3) sand overlying yellowish brown (10YR5/4) sand. The central UTM coordinates are E423640 N371450.

This site has been badly disturbed by initial powerline construction and ongoing maintenance. It has also been damaged by possible pothunting activities. Because of these disturbances, it is unlikely that the site can contribute any further information about prehistoric settlement. As a result, 38AK619 is not recommended as eligible for inclusion on the National Register.

38AK620 is located approximately 800 feet east of Camp Branch about 50 feet east of station 1136 + 94 (Figure 3). Surface visibility was good particularly along the northern half of the right of way in a severely eroded side slope. A number of late nineteenth and early twentieth century artifacts were collected including one brown glass fragment, one aqua glass fragment, one cobalt blue glass fragment, one light olive green glass fragment, two black alkaline glazed stonewares, five greenish alkaline glazed stonewares, two grayish-

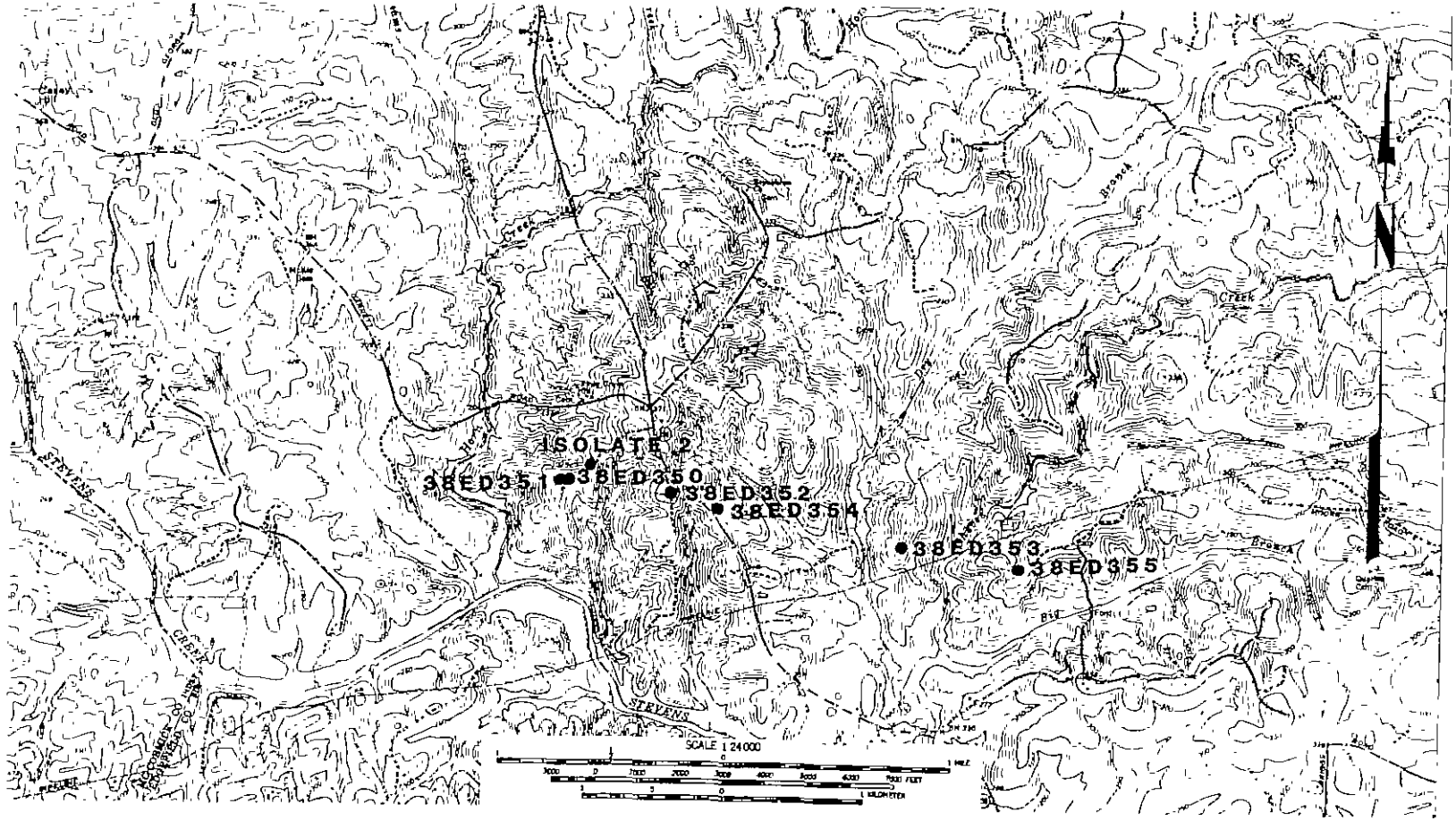

Figure 6. Location of sites in Edgefield County on the Colliers Quadrangle.

tan salt glazed stonewares, and eight undecorated whitewares (MCD = 1895; Bartovics 1981). While it is interesting that stonewares outnumber earthenwares, it is not surprising given the prevalence of local stoneware potters in the area during the time period represented (seeGreer 1981).

As stated previously, the right of way in this area was severely eroded with red clay subsoil visible throughout and deep gullying. Shovel probing (turning over the soil to determine erosion and other disturbances) indicated that the entire hill side contained no A horizon. As a result, no shovel testing was attempted. Based on surface remains, the site measures approximately 100 feet by 200 feet. The soils are classified as excessively drained Lakeland sands which typically exhibit eight inches of brown (10YR4/3) sand overlying yellowish brown (10YR5/4) sand. The central UTM coordinates are E424040 N371500.

This site is badly eroded and exhibits no integrity. As a result, it will unlikely produce any significant information about Aiken County history. This site is not recommended as eligible for inclusion on the National Register.

38ED351 is located at station 377 + 80. Surface visibility was excellent and a collection was made. This collection consists of one quartz tertiary flake and one jasper tertiary flake. Despite the excellent visibility and intensive surface survey no other artifacts were located.

Reddish-orange clay subsoil was exposed throughout the site area and shovel probing indicated that no A horizon was present. As a result, no shovel testing was attempted. Based on surface remains, the site measures 25 by 25 feet. The soils are classified as well drained Cataula sandy loam. The central UTM coordinates are E401060 N3723330.

It is unlikely that this site can produce any data which can address significant research questions. The artifacts are sparse and the site is badly eroded. As a result, this site is not recommended as eligible for inclusion on the National Register.

38ED352 is located near the Y-intersection of two dirt roads about 400 feet southwest of S-230 (Figure 6). Station 400 + 79 is located at the site area. The site was originally identified as a scatter of historic remains in a dirt road and the transmission line. Upon further investigation in the wooded area about 100 feet north of the north edge of the right of way, a brick chimney fall and a pile of fieldstones was located. Several pushpiles were also noted along the northern and western edge of the site. Surface collection produced a number of artifacts including one lustrous brown salt glazed stoneware, one white exterior/brown interior salt glazed stoneware, one white exterior/brown interior alkaline glazed stoneware, one unidentifiable stoneware, nine undecorated whitewares (MCD = 1895; Bartovics 1981), one white porcelain (MCD = 1883; Bartovics 1981), two melted clear glass fragments, three clear glass fragments, one light olive glass fragment, one brown glass fragment, two jar sealer fragments, one brass clothing grommet (marked WILD/GOOSE), one burnt 6d cut nail, one horseshoe fragment, one strap metal, one brass ½ inch rivet, and

two unidentifiable iron items.

Two shovel tests were excavated in the wooded area near the brick chimney fall and the fieldstone pile. Both tests revealed that no A horizon exists at the site in the wooded area. As stated previously, several push piles were found in the area and are probably related leveling the area around the house.

The 1968 USGS map shows this structure as standing. It may be that the house was abandoned and burned based on the presence of burnt artifacts immediately adjacent to the structural features. The remains were probably pushed into piles. As a result, any A horizon that existed was removed.

The portion of the site in the transmission line right of way evidenced severe erosion with gullying throughout, but particularly in the eastern half of the site. Shovel probing in this area indicated that no A horizon was present. As a result, no shovel testing was attempted in the right of way.

Based on surface remains, the site measures 200 by 200 feet. The soils are classified as well drained Hiwassee sandy loam and the central UTM coordinates are E401740 N3723280.

Because of the late date of the site and the disturbances noted, this site cannot address significant research question relating to South Carolina history. As a result, this site is not recommended as eligible for inclusion on the National Register.

38MC914 is located just northwest of S-235 at station 28 + 70. The site is situated on a ridgenose overlooking Nixon Branch (Figure 7). Surface visibility was good and a collection was made. Only two artifacts (jasper tertiary flakes) were collected despite extensive surface survey. No shovel testing was attempted since shovel probing indicated that the area was badly eroded and red clay B horizon was visible across the site.

The site measures 25 by 25 feet in size and the soils are classified as well drained Cataula sandy loam. The central UTM coordinates are E390380 N3724840.

The site is badly eroded and only two artifacts were recovered despite intensive surface survey. Therefore, it is unlikely that the site can contribute significant information about South Carolina prehistory. As a result, 38MC914 is not recommended as eligible for inclusion on the National Register.

38MC915 is located approximately 800 feet west of Stevens Creek about 100 feet west of station 241 + 00 (Figure 7). Surface visibility was good and a collection was made. In addition, 11 shovel tests were placed in the site area. Of these, 2 (or 18.2%) were positive (Figure 8).

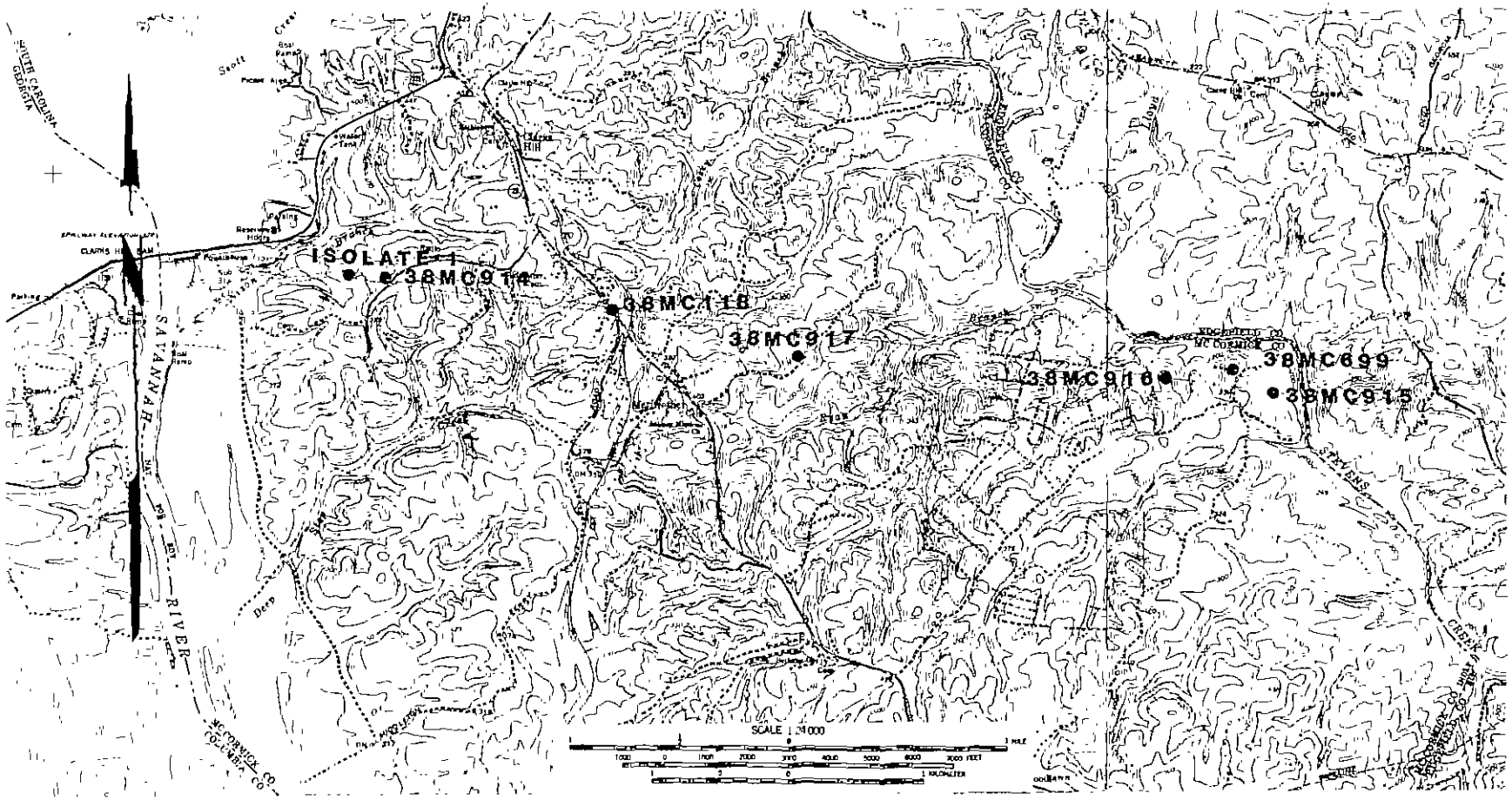

Figure 7. Location of sites in McCormick County on the Clarks Hill Quadrangle.

The surface collection consisted of a relatively large number of prehistoric artifacts including 11 chunks of soapstone, three pieces of mica, 27 quartz tertiary flakes, four quartz secondary flakes, two jasper tertiary flakes, three Allendale chert tertiary flakes, four felsictuff, nine banded rhyolite tertiary flakes, two porphyritic rhyolite tertiary flakes, 11 highly weathered tertiary rhyolite flakes, one highly weathered rhyolite utilized flake, one incomplete Kirk (Coe 1964) porphyritic rhyolite projectile point, and one incomplete Morrow Mountain I (Coe 1964) orthoquarztite projectile point. Shovel test artifacts include one quartz flake from shovel test 1, and two soapstone fragments and one Allendale chert fragment from shovel test 2.

The Kirk projectile point was not complete, so total length and width measurements could not be obtained. The haft measured 18.6 mm and the blade thickness was 6.97 mm. The Morrow Mountain point has a length of 70.07 mm, blade length 59.7 mm, blade width 44.0 mm (?), haft width 17.4 mm, and blade thickness of 8.0 mm.

The site occurs on a level area of a relatively shallow sideslope (Figure 9). Much of the site has been heavily eroded. One area on the eastern edge of the site appears to be intact. Here shovel tests revealed subsurface deposits and 0.3 feet of A horizon. The A horizon contains dark reddish brown (5YR3/4) sandy loam which overlies dark red (2.5YR3/6) subsoil.

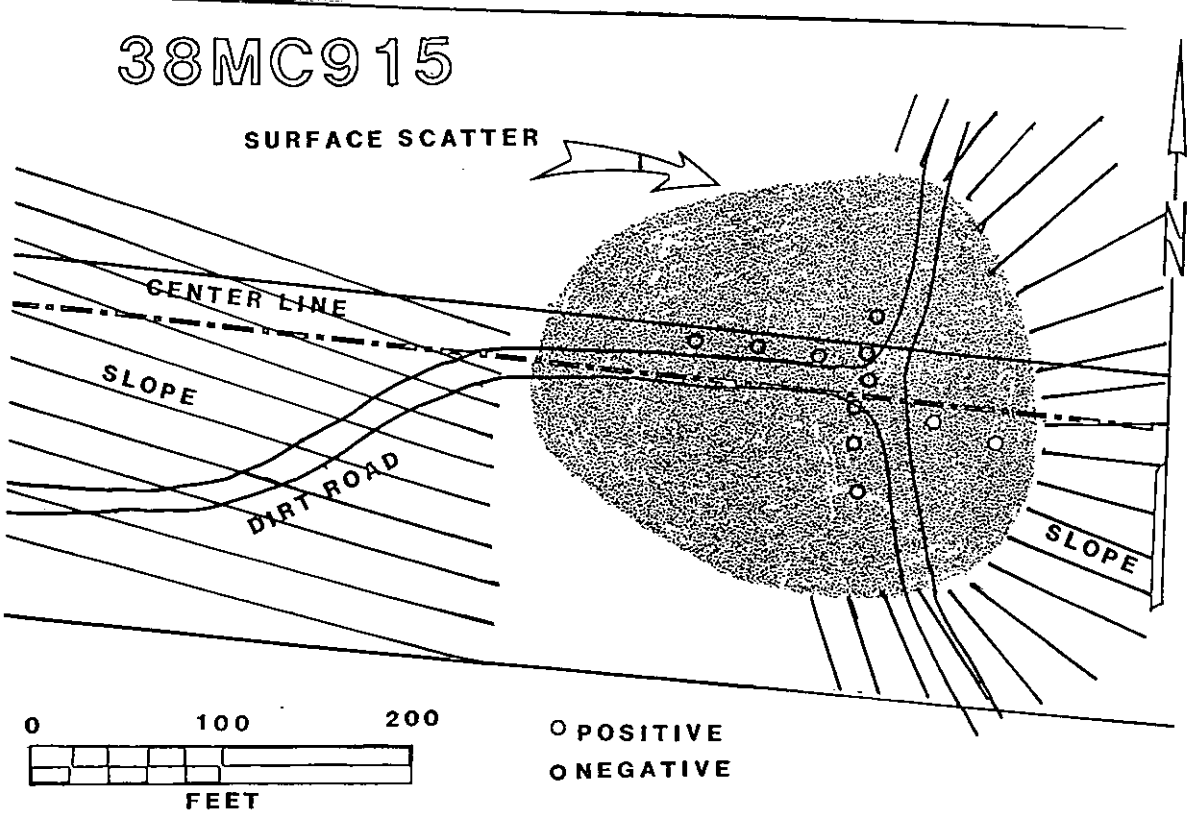

Figure 8. Location of shovel tests at 38MC915.

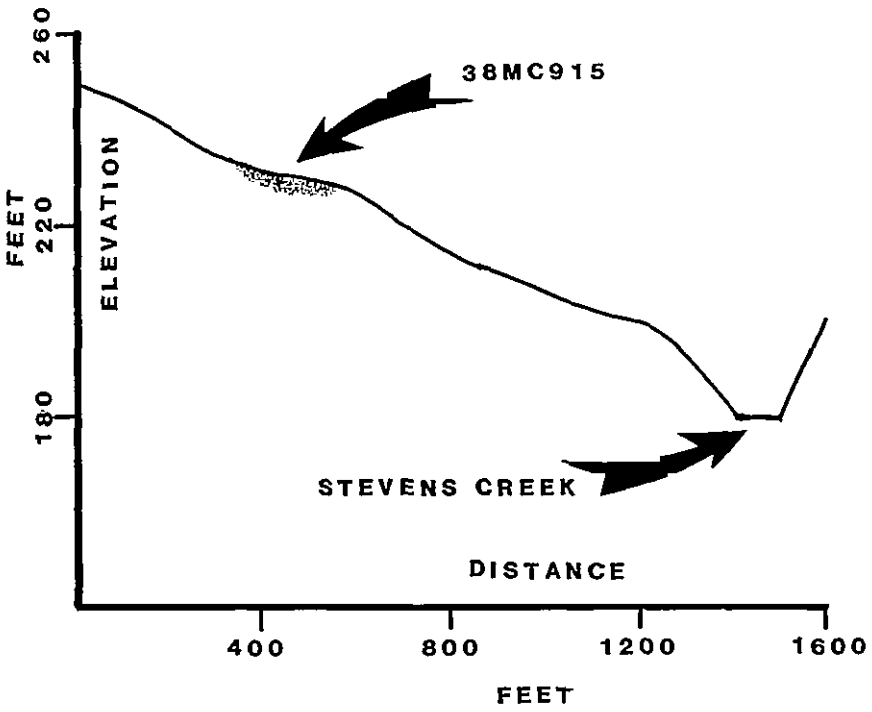

Figure 9. Topographic profile of 38MC915.

The soils are Hiwassee sandy loam and the site is about 300 by 200 feet in size. The central UTM coordinates are E396820 N3723920.

The site is heavily eroded. However, a small portion of the site (25 by 25 feet in size) contains A horizon. Since 99% of the site has been destroyed by erosion, it is our opinion that the remaining 1% cannot address significant research questions, particularly relating to intrasite settlement and prehistoric diet. It is also likely that this area contains soil and artifact deposits eroded from further upslope and will therefore only reflect general site information. This information would probably be redundant to information gathered during reconnaissance. As a result, this site is not recommended as eligible for inclusion on the National Register.

38MC916 is located on a small steep knoll just east of a dirt road leading to property belonging to Mr. Steve Powell at station 216 + 50 (Figure 7). The site is approximately 800 feet south of Stevens Creek. The site located within a plowed area underneath the existing transmission line and extends south in Mr. Powell's front and rear yard. Mr. Powell and a local collector have collected a number of projectile points and bifaces off of the site including Morrow Mountain and Kirk points (Mr. Steve Powell, personal communication 1993).

Surface visibility throughout much of the site area was excellent and a collection was made. This collection consists of one quartz biface, 28 quartz tertiary flakes, four jasper tertiary flakes, three Allendale tertiary flakes, four rhyolite tertiary flakes, one felsic tuff tertiary flake, one orthoquartzite tertiary flake, and one orthoquartzite secondary flake.

The soils are Cataula sandy loam and the site is about 200 by 300 feet in size. The central UTM coordinates are E396060 N3724070.

Three shovel tests were placed in the densest portion of the site which occurs near the apex of the eastern side of the hill. No remains were encountered in the shovel tests.

Severe erosion was noted along the west and east periphery and plowing has occurred in all but the southwestern portion of the site where there is a house and outbuildings. This area was not shovel tested since it was outside of the right of way and belonged to a private individual. It appears that the portion of the site under the transmission line has been destroyed by plowing and erosion. Also, the site has been extensively collected over the years. Because of these disturbances, this site is not recommended as eligible for inclusion on the National Register.

Summary and Conclusions

As a result of the archaeological reconnaissance of the Clark Hill to North Aiken transmission line, 15 new archaeological sites were discovered and two previously identified sites were revisited (Adams 1993). Of these 17 sites, eight (38AK618, 38AK619, 38AK620, 38ED351, 38ED352, 38MC914, 38MC915, and 38MC916) will be directly impacted by powerline structures.

These eight sites have all been disturbed by initial transmission line construction and ongoing maintenance. Most of the sites exhibit heavy erosion, and two of the sites have been plowed. As a result of these disturbances, none are recommended as eligible for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places.

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