

CULTURAL RESOURCE IDENTIFICATION SURVEY OF APPROXIMATELY 255 ACRES AT THE NORTHEAST COMMERCE CENTER SITE

DILLON COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA

Summary Report



February 2014

**CULTURAL RESOURCE IDENTIFICATION SURVEY OF
APPROXIMATELY 255 ACRES AT THE NORTHEAST COMMERCE
PARK SITE
DILLON COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA**

SUMMARY REPORT

Submitted to:
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INTRODUCTION

On January 28, 2014, TRC conducted an archaeological survey of approximately 255 acres approximately one mile west of Dillon in Dillon County, South Carolina (Figure 1). This work was done on behalf of Alliance Engineering, Inc. for the South Carolina Department of Commerce Industrial Site Certification Program.

The project area consists of an upland flat in the Upper Coastal Plain physiographic province. The tract overlooks Betsy Jackson Bay to the north. Old Mill Branch runs through the eastern half of the tract. The tract is bound on the north by the Bay, on the east by Interstate 95, on the south by Highway 34 and on the west by Harlees Bridge Road (Figure 1). The elevation of the project area is between 110 feet Above Mean Sea Level (AMSL) along Old Mill Branch and 120 feet near in the higher, drier elevations.

Well drained Persanti fine sandy loam is found throughout upland portions of the tract. Very poorly drained Coxville and Smithboro loamy sands are found along the drainages and low-lying wetlands in the south central portion of the property.

The tract is a corn field with good surface visibility. Stands of mixed pine and hardwood forest line Old Mill Branch and mark low-lying wetlands (Figures 2 and 3). The area surrounding the tract consists of farmland and commercial property along the Interstate 95/Highway 34 interchange.

A 2011 Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between the South Carolina Department of Commerce (DOC) and the SHPO concerning the certification of industrial parks has established minimum criteria for cultural resources surveys on any tract applying for certification. An archaeological reconnaissance survey was conducted within the tract to meet the current standards outlined in the MOA. Based on topography, vegetation, and the nature of the undertaking, the Area of Potential Effects (APE) is considered to be a 0.5-mile radius around the project area. Additionally an historic structure survey was carried out to photograph structures over 40 years old within or adjacent to the tract in order to assess potential effects.

One archaeological site (38DN178) was identified within the tract. This is a scatter of mid-twentieth century artifacts that has been heavily disturbed by plowing activities. The 1960 Dillon West USGS topographic quadrangle and the 1931 soil map of Dillon County indicate a number of farm houses within the boundaries of the tract. The 1978 Highway Map of Dillon County only shows two structures remaining within the tract. These structures are no longer present. They have all been razed and subsequently plowed over. There are no historic structures within or adjacent to the project tract.

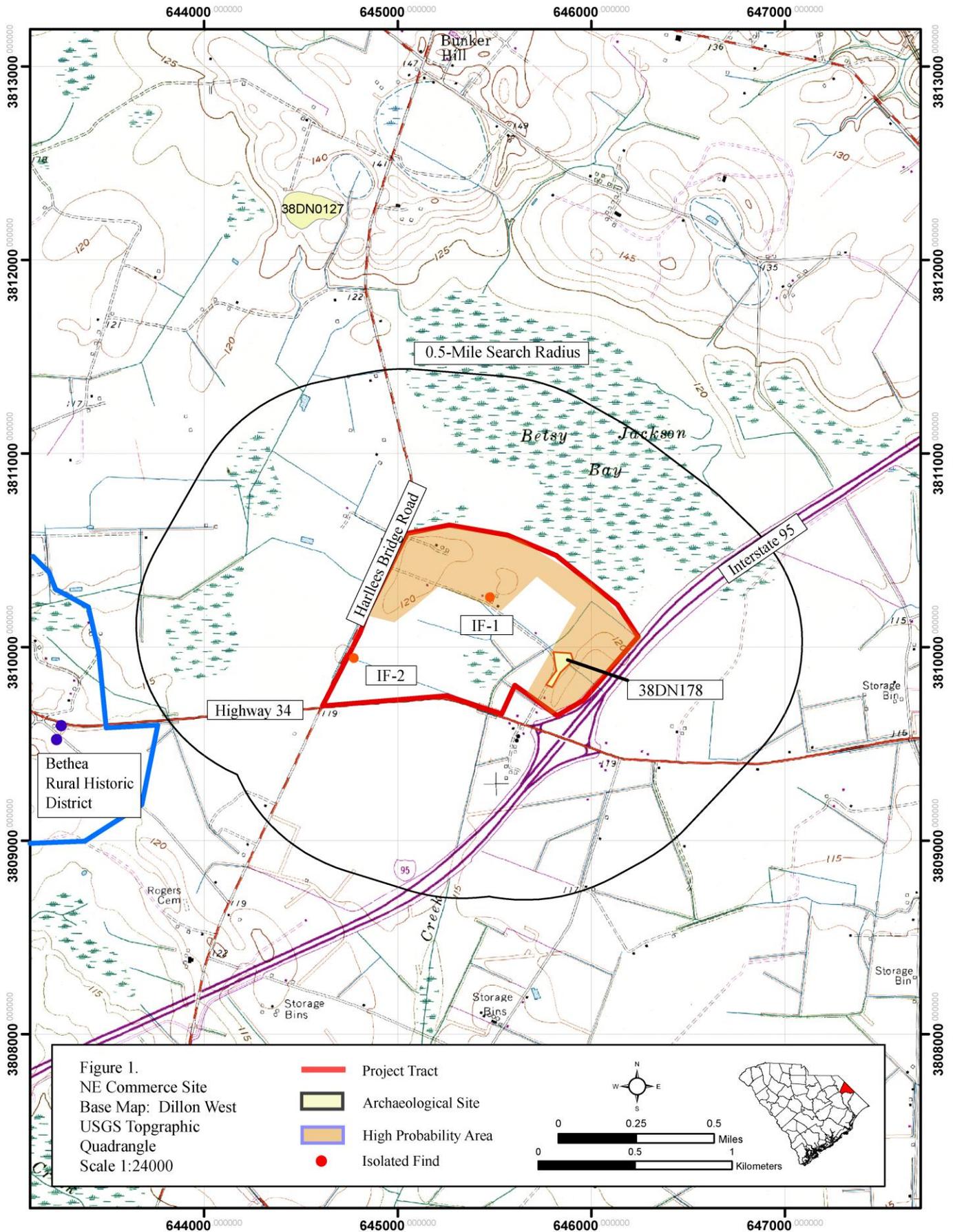




Figure 2. Corn field found throughout the tract facing east.



Figure 3. Surface visibility typical of the tract.

CONTEXT

The archaeological sites identified during the course of the survey consisted of one twentieth century site. A brief context of the history of Dillon County and the general project area follows as a background for the interpretation of the identified sites.

HISTORIC OVERVIEW

Spanish and French exploration of the Southeastern coast of the United States began in the early sixteenth century. The Spanish first came ashore in the vicinity of present-day Beaufort around 1520 at a place they would later name Santa Elena. Despite their exploration of this area, it was not until 1526 that they would attempt a permanent settlement on the South Carolina coast. The initial attempt was called San Miguel de Gualdape, with a postulated location anywhere from the Cape Fear area of North Carolina to Sapelo Island on the Georgia coast (DePratter 1994; Quattlebaum 1956). The French attempted a settlement in the Port Royal area in 1562, establishing Charlesfort, which lasted less than a year. The Spanish had more success in 1566 with the settlement of Santa Elena, which survived for 20 years (South 1981).

British interest in coastal South Carolina began in 1629 when Sir Robert Heath, attorney general to Charles I, obtained a royal charter to settle “Carolana”—a region that stretched from present day Virginia to Spanish Florida. However, his Carolina-bound expedition landed him in Virginia. In 1632, a Captain Henry Taverner explored the coast of South Carolina looking for a suitable place to found a colony. About that time, exploration began to slow and it was not until 1663 that nine wealthy aristocrats, who had supported Charles’ reinstatement to the throne in 1660, acquired a charter to the lands originally patented by Sir Robert Heath (Rowland et al. 1996:58–59). The new colony was intended to serve two purposes—it would prevent Spanish incursion into the already established colonies farther to the north, and it would provide income to a badly depleted British treasury. Ignoring Spain’s prior claims to the area around present-day Beaufort, Charles II granted a charter to the men in 1663. The new colony, named Carolina, included present-day North and South Carolina, as well as the island of Barbados.

By 1683 present day Dillon County was within the area of Craven County. Craven County was northern most of the three original “counties” established in “Carolana”. Its boundaries were somewhat ambiguous but generally it encompassed the area below the Cape Fear to the mouth of Awendaw Creek in present day Berkeley County. These counties were established more as geographic zones than political entities.

At the beginning of the eighteenth century South Carolina established the Parish system in order to create jurisdictional areas for the Church of England. The Parishes quickly took over both church and governmental activities. At this time Dillon County and the Northeast Commerce Center site were still part of the general area of Craven County but were in the Parish of Saint James Santee. When the Saint James Santee Parish was divided in the 1720’s Dillon County was partially in Parishes of Prince George Winyaw and Prince Frederick.

South Carolina eliminated the counties in 1768 and created Districts. Present day Dillon County was within the Georgetown District. Over time new districts were established with Dillon County

being in the Marion District (Figure 4). In 1910 Dillon County proper was created out of Marion County. Since its inception it has primarily relied on agriculture as its main economic force.

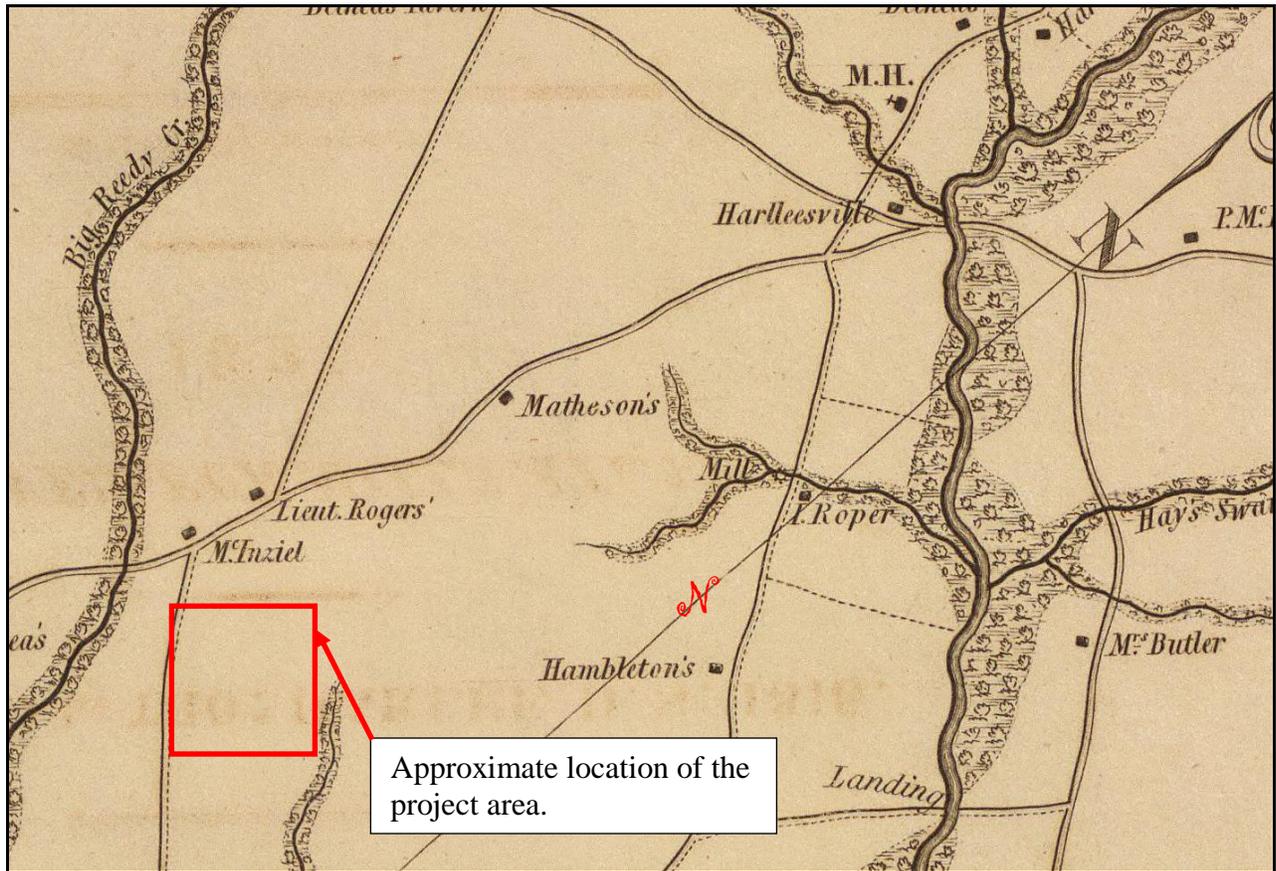


Figure 4. Mills Atlas (1825) Marion District showing the approximately location of the project area.

METHODS

Literature Review

Prior to fieldwork, TRC conducted background research at the South Carolina Department of Archives and History (SCDAH) in Columbia, and at the South Carolina Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology (SCIAA) in Columbia. The records examined at SCDAH included a review of ArchSite the GIS-based Cultural Resource Information System (CRIS) for sites listed in or eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP), and a review of the SCDAH Finding Aid for previous architectural surveys near the project area. The records examined at SCIAA include the master archaeological site maps, state archaeological site files, and any associated archaeological reports.

Field Survey

According to DOC standards a minimum of one shovel test per five acres is required. Shovel tests were excavated at 30 to 60 meter (m) intervals across areas of well drained soils, areas within 100 meters of a water source and in selected high probability and low probability areas (Figure 5). All shovel tests were approximately 30 centimeters (cm) in diameter and excavated to sterile subsoil. Soil was screened through 0.25-inch hardware mesh, and artifacts, if encountered, were bagged according to provenience. Notes were kept in a field journal and on standard TRC site forms.

When an artifact was recovered from a shovel test, that test was considered "positive." For each positive additional shovel tests were excavated in cardinal directions on a 15-m interval to delineate the site. Shovel testing was continued until two negative STPs were excavated in each direction; the first negative test in each direction was considered to be the site boundary. An archaeological site was identified by the recovery of three or more historic or prehistoric artifacts within a 30-m diameter. Field notes were maintained for transects and shovel tests, documenting soil profiles, cultural remains, and any other pertinent information.

For each site a map was drawn depicting the location of all shovel tests, site boundaries, and prominent natural and cultural features. UTM coordinates for each site were recorded with a Trimble hand-held GeoXT GPS receiver capable of sub-m accuracy. All artifacts recovered were bagged and labeled according to shovel test and depth below surface. Photographs were taken at each site to document vegetation and the general site conditions.

In addition to the archaeological survey, a windshield reconnaissance of the APE was conducted to determine whether the proposed project would affect any above ground National Register listed or eligible properties. Photographs illustrating the landscape were taken, and when line-of-site permitted it, photos were also taken from the historic property to the project area.

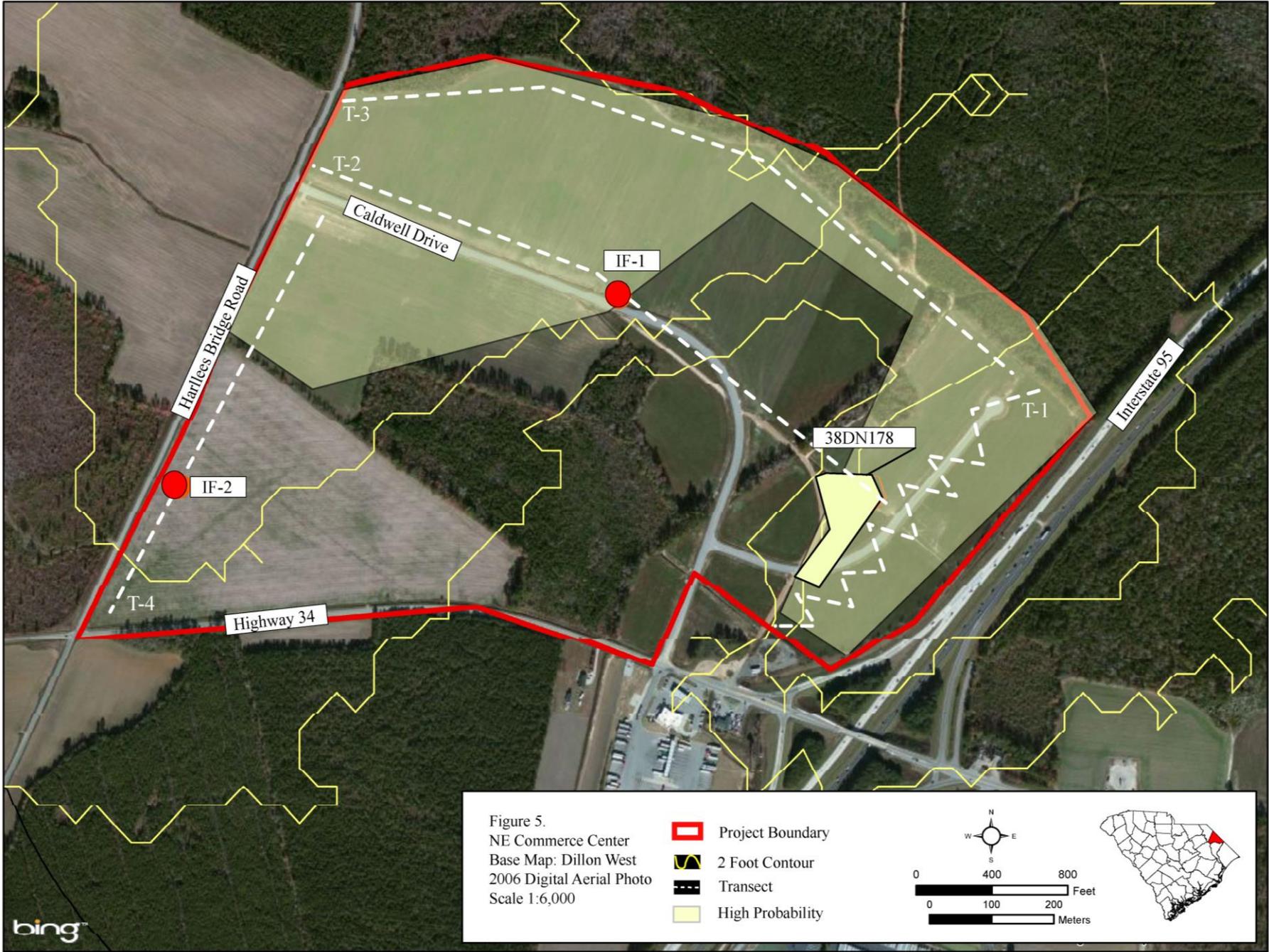
RESULTS

Literature Review

Background research at the SCIAA and on ArcSite indicates that there are no previously recorded archaeological resources within a 0.5-mile radius of the project tract. Likewise, there are no previously recorded structures adjacent to the project tract (Table 1). None of the structures are eligible for the NRHP

Field Survey

On January 28, 2014 a reconnaissance survey was conducted of the 255-acre project tract. A total of 67 shovel tests were excavated along high and low probability areas within the project area (Table 1, Figure 5). This is equal to one shovel test per every 3.8 acres. A majority of the tract is an active corn field. Areas that are wooded were found to be very poorly drained with standing water present. One archaeological site and two isolated finds were recorded during the survey.



Northeast Commerce Center Site Cultural Resource Identification Survey

Table 1. Shovel tests excavated at the Northeast Commerce Center Tract.

Transect STPs	Description	#of STPs/# of Positive
1	30 and 60 meter intervals	16/0
2	30 and 60 meter intervals	18/2 (Surface)
3	30 and 60 meter intervals	21/0
4	30 and 60 meter intervals	12/1

38DN178

Site Number: 38DN178	NRHP Recommendation: Not Eligible
Site Type: Historic Scatter	Elevation: 120 feet AMSL
Components: 19 th to 20 th Century	Landform: Upland Flat
UTM Coordinates: E645833, N389885	Soil Type: Persanti Fine Sandy Loam
Site Dimensions: 50 × 130 m	Vegetation: Agricultural Field

Site 38DN178 was identified as a scatter of historic ceramics and glass on the surface of a dirt road and within the rows of a cultivated corn field (see Figures 1 and 5). Brick fragments, modern glass, and whiteware were observed on the ground surface of a dirt field road. Fifteen shovel tests were excavated on a 15-meter interval, cruciform style testing pattern (Figure 6) in the vicinity of the brick scatter. Three shovel tests contained artifacts within the disturbed plowzone. The boundaries of the site are based on shovel testing, the extent of the surface scatter and the structures depicted on the 1980 Dillon West USGS topographic quadrangle.

Soils were shallow. A typical soil profile consisted of 20 centimeters (cm) of plowzone containing brownish gray (10YR 6/2) sandy loam, overlying mottled brownish yellow (10YR 6/8) sandy clay. Four whiteware fragments, one glass cabinet pull, one wire nail, one tin spoon, one brick fragment and one shard of clear container glass was collected.

The site consists of a sparse scatter of historic artifacts. Brick, glass and historic ceramics suggest a house site. The whiteware indicates a possible earlier history historic component; however, a review of historic soil maps indicates an early to mid twentieth century occupation. The structures that were once in this area have been destroyed and removed. Plowing has disturbed the integrity of this site and scattered the artifacts over a wide area. The structures have been razed and no structural features are present. This site offers limited information potential is therefore recommended not eligible for the NRHP

Isolated Finds

Isolated Find 1 is located in an area where the Dillon West USGS topographic quadrangle indicates the presence of three structures. The newly paved Caldwell Drive appears to run through where these structures once stood. A drainage ditch, a utility line trench, as well as plowing activities have also greatly impacted this area. Modern trash including plastic and bottle glass was present. One brick fragment was observed on the surface. Nine shovel tests were excavated in the vicinity of the brick fragment in an effort to determine if any remnants of the structures were present. No additional historic artifacts were recovered.



Northeast Commerce Center Site Cultural Resource Identification Survey

Isolated Find 2 is located in an area where the USGS soil survey indicates poorly drained soils. This area was considered to have little potential for cultural resources. One fragment of whiteware was recovered from the plowzone. Eight additional shovel tests were excavated in a cruciform pattern around the positive shovel test. No additional historic artifacts were recovered.

SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATIONS

One archaeological site and two isolated finds are located within the boundaries of the Northeast Commerce Center tract. Archaeological site 38DN178 is a heavily disturbed, early to mid-twentieth century house site. The structures associated with this site has been razed in order to plant corn. The artifacts from this site have been scattered by plowing activities. No structural features remain. It does not possess the criteria required for inclusion on the NRHP

The Dillon West topographic quadrangle depicts a number of historic structures within the boundaries of the project tract. These areas were shovel tested and visually examined for artifacts. None of the structures are present. While fragments of brick or additional twentieth century artifacts are likely present the potential to collect significant data from these locations is nonexistent.

No additional cultural resource work is recommended for the Northeast Commerce Center tract. Soils within the project area were found to be deflated with clay encountered below the disturbed plowzone and structures depicted on historic maps are no longer present in any meaningful way. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at 803-933-9991 or via e-mail at snorris@trcsolutions.com.

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