

**CULTURAL RESOURCE IDENTIFICATION SURVEY  
OF APPROXIMATELY 497 ACRES AT THE  
ALLIGATOR INDUSTRIAL PARK SITE**

*CHESTERFIELD COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA*

*Summary Report*



November 2014

**CULTURAL RESOURCE IDENTIFICATION SURVEY OF  
APPROXIMATELY 497 ACRES AT THE ALLIGATOR INDUSTRIAL  
PARK SITE  
CHESTERFIELD COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA  
SUMMARY REPORT**

Submitted by:  
TRC  
621 CHATHAM AVENUE  
COLUMBIA, SOUTH CAROLINA 29205

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Sean Norris, Principal Investigator, Author

November 2014

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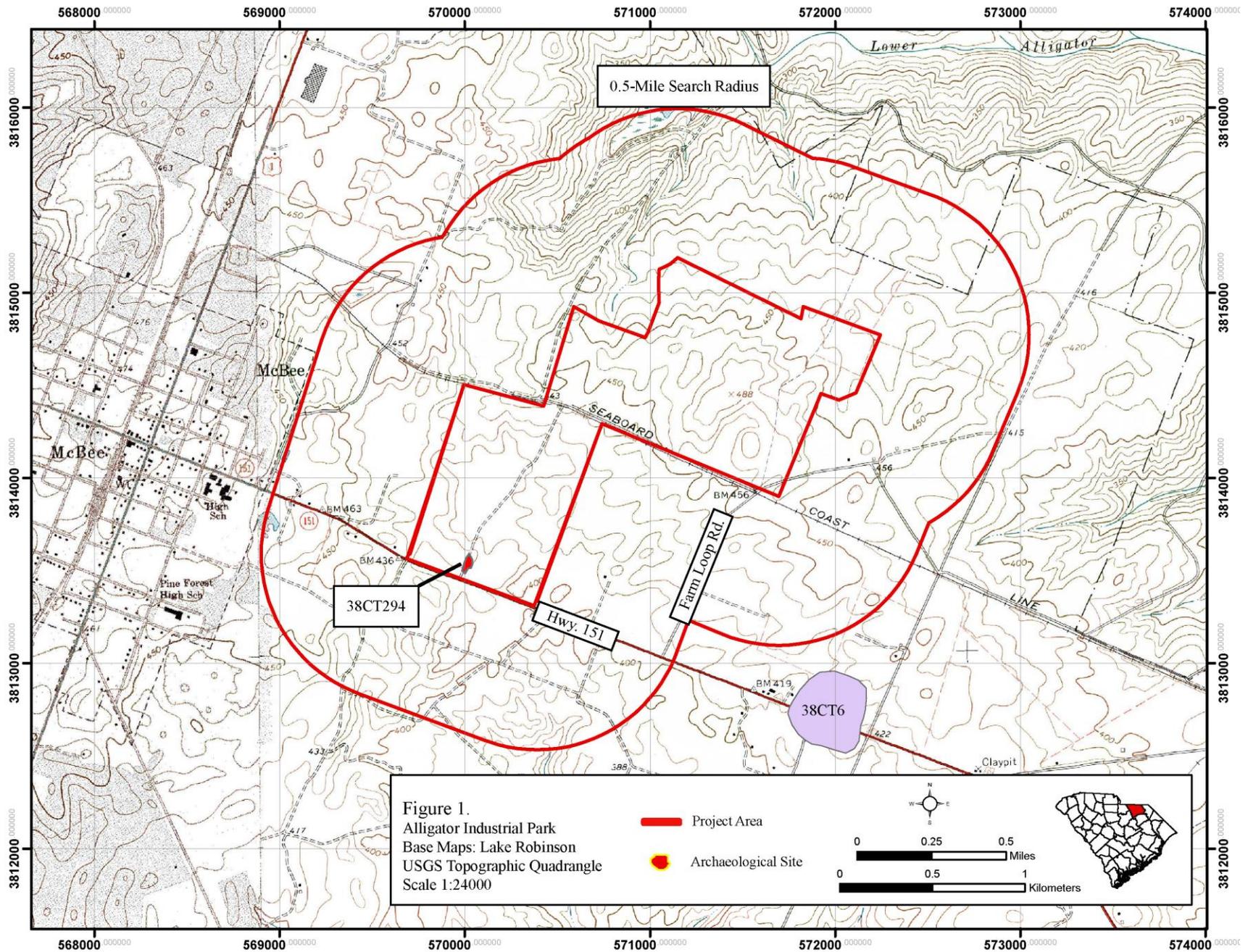
# INTRODUCTION

From November 4-5, 2014, TRC conducted an archaeological survey of approximately 497 acres approximately one mile east of the community of McBee and 1.5 miles west of Lake Robinson in Chesterfield 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 497-acre tract is bounded by SC Highway 151 on the south, Farm Loop Road (a maintained dirt road) on the east, and private property to the north and west. The project area is in the Sandhills portion of the Upper Coastal Plain physiographic province and topography consists of gently rolling hills (Figure 2), with elevations ranging from 380 to 442 ft. above mean sea level (amsl). Little Alligator Creek to the north and Lake Robinson, part of Big Black Creek, to the east are the major drainages in the area. The northern half of the project area is planted pine (Figure 3) and the southern half is pasture. The area surrounding the proposed site consists primarily of low-density residential properties and farms, and the McLeod Peach Farm is located adjacent to the property on the southeast.

Well to excessively well drained Alpin and Candor sands are found throughout the project area. These soils are found on marine terraces and are typically contained in area of 0-6% slope.

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 0.25-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. Two newly recorded archaeological sites and two isolated finds were identified. The following letter report describes the method and results of the Cultural Resource Identification Survey as well as provides recommendations for additional work.



*Alligator Industrial Park Site Cultural Resource Identification Survey*



Figure 2. Pasture in southern half of the tract.



Figure 3. Planted pine in the northern half of the tract.

# CONTEXT

The archaeological site identified during the course of the survey consisted of an early to mid-twentieth century house site. A brief historic of the general project area follows as a background for the interpretation of the identified sites.

## HISTORIC OVERVIEW

### Twentieth Century

The Town of McBee was incorporated in 1901. One year prior the Seaboard Air Line Railway built a depot at the site for its Cheraw to Columbia Line. Along with the depot the railway constructed “two sets of standard houses, a 55,000 gallon water tank and a cotton platform” (National Register Nomination Form 1999). The Town, named after railroad executive V. E. “Bunch” McBee quickly grew. In 1914 a second depot was built. This one catered to passengers as well as freight. The Town was almost entirely dependent on rail related commerce such as the distribution of local agricultural products and the timber industry.

In the years leading up to the Great Depression the community experienced steady economic growth (National Register Nomination Form 1999). However, after the Depression caused the centralization of banking in larger cities and the rise of the interstate system resulted in the increased reliance on automotive travel and freight McBee began a slow period of decline. Many small rural towns that relied on rail commerce experienced this fate. Nearby farmers began to sell their land to timber companies and the population fell. Today manufacturing and agriculture are the major economic drivers in the 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. The most commonly used model of archaeological site location for the Coastal Plain is that currently used by the U.S. Forest Service for the Francis Marion National Forest (USFS). The USFS classifies areas into high, moderate, and low potential based on factors such as slope, landform type, and distance to water.

In South Carolina, predictive modeling has been used to identify areas with a high potential for containing archaeological sites (e.g., Brooks and Scurry 1978; Cable 1996; Clement et al. 2001; Scurry 2003). The most significant variables for determining site location appear to be distance to a permanent water source, slope, soil drainage, and distance to the interface between well and poorly drained soils. Generally, sites tend to occur on low slope areas with well drained soils that are within 200 m of a permanent water source and/or the interface between well and poorly drained soils. As the entire project area consists of well or excessively drained soils, and there is no permanent water source nearby, none of the project area fell within these parameters. As a result, shovel testing focused ridge tops and potentially historic farm roads. These areas are known to have the greatest potential for cultural resources.

Pedestrian survey was undertaken along select dirt roads and cleared areas throughout the tract. Surface visibility was 100 percent along eroded roads and cleared areas, but was negligible in fields and forested areas.

Shovel tests were excavated at 30 to 60 meter (m) intervals across areas of well drained soils 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 10 or 15-m interval, at the discretion of the field director, 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

A review of the files and records at SCIAA and SCDAH revealed that there are no previously recorded archaeological sites or above ground resources located within a 0.5-mile radius of the project area.

## Field Survey

From November 11-12, 2014, TRC conducted a Cultural Resources Identification Survey of the 497-acre project tract. A total of 128 shovel tests were excavated along high and low probability areas within the project area (Table 2, Figure 5). This is equal to one shovel test per every 3.8 acres. The soils at the site were deep consisting of approximately 30 cm of gray sandy loam followed by 30-50 cm of brownish yellow sand. The strong brown clayey subsoil was encountered between 60 and 80 cm below surface (cmbs)

**Table 2. Shovel tests excavated within the project tract.**

Transect	Description	#of STPs/# of Positive STPs
1	30 and 60 meter intervals	23/0
2	30 and 60 meter intervals	17/2
3	30 and 60 meter intervals	22/0
4	30 and 60 meter intervals	18/0
5	30 and 60 meter intervals	12/0
6	30 and 60 meter intervals	12/2
7	30 and 60 meter intervals	10/0
8	30 and 60 meter intervals	4/0
9	30 and 60 meter intervals	6/0
Judgmental	Judgmental intervals	4/0

One archaeological sites and two isolated finds were recorded during the survey.

### 38CT294

<b>Site Number:</b> 38CT294	<b>NRHP Recommendation:</b> Not Eligible
<b>Site Type:</b> House Site	<b>Elevation:</b> 140 feet AMSL
<b>Components:</b> Twentieth Century	<b>Landform:</b> Upland Flat
<b>UTM Coordinates:</b> E570015, N3813533	<b>Soil Type:</b> Alpin Sandy Loam
<b>Site Dimensions:</b> 100 × 60 m	<b>Vegetation:</b> Pasture

Site 38CT294 was identified as structures depicted on the Lake Robinson USGS topographic quadrangle and on aerial photography (see Figures 1 and 6). The structures depicted are no longer present. Historic artifacts were observed along a dirt road and recovered from transect shovel tests. Fifteen shovel tests were excavated on a 15-meter interval, cruciform style testing pattern (Figure 6) in the vicinity of the find. Nine shovel tests contained artifacts. The boundaries of the site are based on shovel testing and the documented location of the structures.

The site is situated on the edge of a terrace that slopes down to the north, south and east to Reedy Creek and the Thompson Creek floodplain. A typical soil profile consisted of 20 centimeters (cm) of plowzone containing brownish gray (10YR 6/2) sandy loam overlying a buried A horizon consisting of 10-20 cm of brownish yellow (10YR 6/6) sandy loam. The strong brown (7.5YR 5/6) sandy clay subsoil was encountered between 30 and 50 cm below surface (cmbs). One stainless steel spoon, five pieces of whiteware, two wire nails and two shards of clear glass were collected. Brick and cinderblock fragments were observed but not collected. Recovered in direct association with the historic artifacts were plastic, fragments of PVC and modern aluminum cans.

While the whiteware indicates a potentially earlier date, the modern material, a 2013 aerial photograph showing the structures and the fact that the nearby town did not exist until the twentieth century argues for a mid to late twentieth century date to the site. The site does not possess the research potential or the integrity for inclusion in the National Register. No further work is recommended for this site.

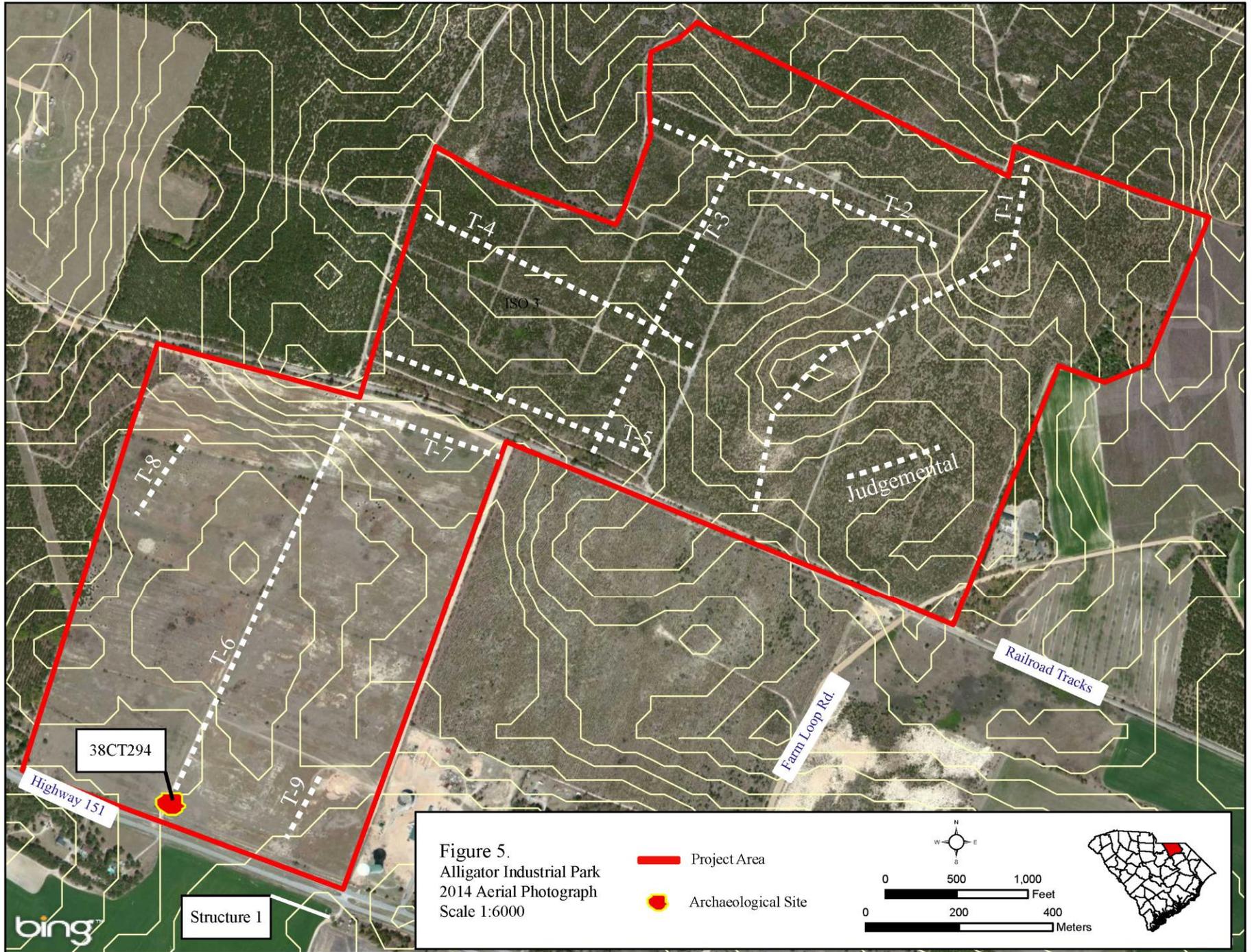
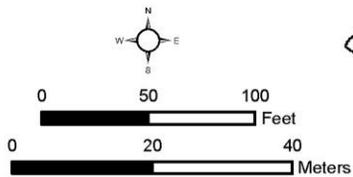


Figure 5.  
 Alligator Industrial Park  
 2014 Aerial Photograph  
 Scale 1:6000



Figure 6.  
 Site 38CT294  
 Base Map: 2014 Aerial  
 Photograph  
 Scale 1:1000

- Project Area
- Archaeological Site
- Negative STP
- Positive STP



## Historic Structures

**Resource 1** consists of two small grain silos and a collapsed, open-sided shed (Figure 7). These out buildings are located on the south side of Highway 151 directly opposite the southeast corner of the project tract (see figure 5). They appear to be mid-twentieth century in origin. They are not eligible for the National Register and can be considered abandoned ruins.



Figure 7. Silos and collapsed barn adjacent to the project tract.

## SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATIONS

One archaeological sites was identified during the course of the survey. Site 38CT294 is a mid to late twentieth century house site. The structures that once stood on this site have been recently razed and are no longer present. The site lacks integrity and information potential. The Alligator Industrial Park Site was found to possess little potential for intact cultural resources. The tract is not near any water sources that would suggest a high probability for prehistoric occupations. Shovel testing and large areas of near 100 percent surface visibility did not identify any other

artifacts. No additional cultural resource work is recommended for this tract. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at 803-933-9991 or via e-mail at [snorris@trcsolutions.com](mailto:snorris@trcsolutions.com).