

CULTURAL RESOURCE IDENTIFICATION SURVEY OF APPROXIMATELY 77 ACRES AT THE MARLBORO COUNTY INDUSTRIAL PARK SITE

MARLBORO COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA

Summary Report



July 2012

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APPROXIMATELY 77 ACRES AT THE MARLBORO COUNTY
INDUSTRIAL PARK SITE
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SUMMARY REPORT

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INTRODUCTION

On July 17, 2012 TRC conducted an archaeological survey of approximately 77 acres approximately two miles north of the town of Bennettsville, South Carolina (Figure 1). This work was done on behalf of Alliance Consulting Engineers, Inc. for the South Carolina Department of Commerce Industrial Site Certification Program.

The project area consists of agricultural fields, clear cuts and woods in the Middle Coastal Plain physiographic province. The tract is situated on interriverine terraces east of SC Hwy. 38 and west of Lilly Quick Creek. The tract is bound by private property to the north, and by existing industrial facilities to the west and south, with Lilly Quick Creek to the east (Figure 1). Topographically the tract is virtually level and the elevation of the project area is 190 feet Above Mean Sea Level (AMSL).

The tract contains agricultural fields, recently logged woods and a mixed pine and hardwood forest (Figure 2 and Figure 3). The area surrounding the tract consists of fields, woods and small-scale industrial development mixed with rural residential holdings. Soils include well-drained Lucy, and Blanton sands, as well as Norfolk and Noboco loamy sands, also well-drained.

A 2011 Memorandum of Agreement 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. Based on DOC standards, 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. An archaeological reconnaissance survey was conducted within the tract to meet the current standards. 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 archaeological sites and one historic structure were identified within or adjacent to the project area. Site 38ML364 is a multi-component scatter of historic and prehistoric artifacts. This site is heavily disturbed with nineteenth and twentieth century artifacts comingled with prehistoric lithic debitage. All artifacts were recovered from the ground surface or within the plowzone. It does not possess the characteristics required for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). Site 38ML365 is the Pearce Cemetery. It was first identified in 2005 during a reconnaissance survey of a portion the Marlboro County Industrial Park (deNeeve 2005) but not recorded as a site. The cemetery is not eligible for the NRHP however avoidance is recommended. A mid-twentieth century bungalow style house is located near the entrance of the industrial park. It does not possess the uniqueness of design or the association with significant peoples or events required for NRHP eligibility. One isolated find of prehistoric lithic debitage was also identified. No further work is recommended for this section of the industrial park. It is noted that the 2005 reconnaissance survey recommended additional work in the form of intensive survey on a 68-acre portion of the industrial park adjacent to the southern boundary of the current survey area (deNeeve 2005) (see figure 1).

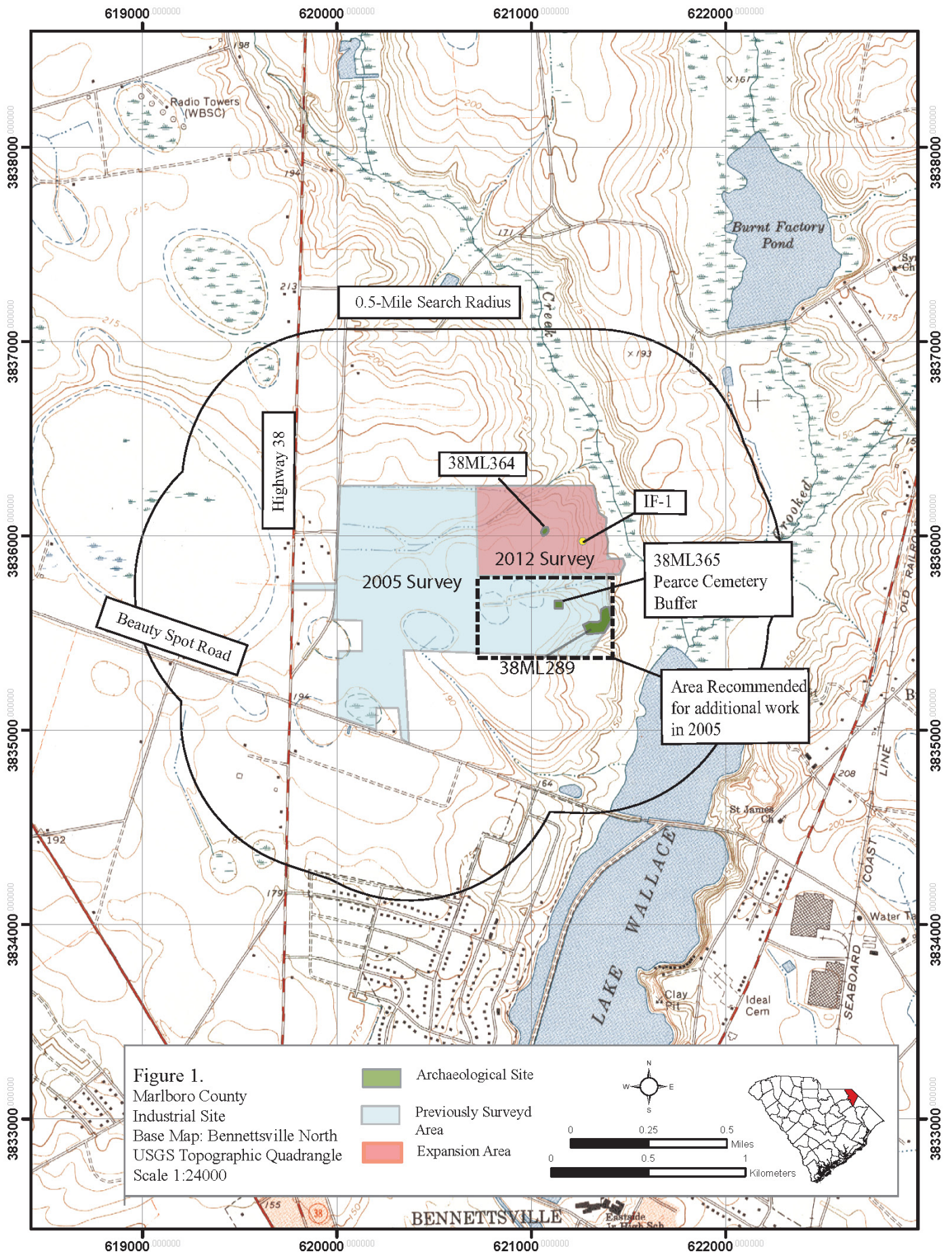




Figure 2. Woodlands in the project tract.



Figure 3. Clear cut in the project tract.

CONTEXT

HISTORICAL OVERVIEW OF THE PROJECT VICINITY

What is now Marlboro County was first part of vast Craven County which essentially occupied all of the lands between the Santee River and North Carolina. Before the American Revolution Craven County was split into several “districts” including Cheraw, which encompassed the project area. Marlboro County was established shortly after the Revolution.

In the 1730s the area began to be settled by Welsh Baptists from Pennsylvania and Great Britain. Settlement remained close to the Pee Dee River, in an area still known as Welsh Neck. Almost all political functions were conducted at Charleston until 1769. Churches kept order and parish boundaries (St. David’s in the project area) served to divide election districts.

The spirit of revolution was little felt until the fall of Charleston to the British in May 1780. From their base on the coast, the British staged raids into the backcountry in an effort to recruit American Tories and demoralize the citizenry. Instead, the continuous backcountry raids had the effect of galvanizing opinion against the Crown, and with the aid of Francis Marion and Nathaniel Greene, the Patriots were able to turn the tide (King 1981). Military action in the Pee Dee region during the Revolutionary War was limited primarily to raids by both Tories and Whigs.

The invention of the cotton gin in the 1790s changed the nature of agriculture in the region. It was now possible to separate the seeds from large quantities of cotton without expensive manual labor. Cotton, nevertheless, was a labor-intensive crop, and as its fortunes rose, the need arose for large numbers of slaves to plant, weed, and pick the cotton. Prior to the emergence of cotton as the principal crop of the region, most slaveholdings were small, and the majority of farmers worked their land with the aid of their families, neighbors, and day labor during peak periods (King 1981). During the early nineteenth century the slave population of the area increased steadily, from around 14,400 in 1800 to over 3,000 by 1820 (Mills 1826). At the same time the white population was decreasing, mainly due to the westward expansion of the cotton kingdom.

Mills’ (1965 [1825]) atlas of South Carolina shows the location of cultural features like roads, churches, mills, and dwellings in the vicinity of the project corridor during the early antebellum period (Figure 4). Although a recent study highlights some difficulties in using the Mills atlas maps (Gillam 2000), the dispersed nature of settlement and rural character of the region are clearly illustrated by the map. Mills and stores were scattered throughout the county.

There was little if any military action in the immediate vicinity during the Civil War. After the Civil War, the farmers set about rebuilding their economy, but progress was slow. Farmers attempted to preserve as much of the old social order as possible in the wake of sweeping changes. Although many Southerners suggested that a move away from cotton dependency was necessary, a number of factors inhibited a change in the agricultural regime. Cotton was familiar and any new crop would involve learning new farming techniques and finding new markets, a risky venture in the uncertainty of the post bellum period (Stokes 1978).

Eventually planters rebuilt the labor/social structure with the tenant system. Tenancy took a number of different forms, of which sharecropping, share renting, and cash renting were the main categories. In sharecropping and share renting the landlord supplied certain materials needed for

the production of the crop and received a portion of the crop in return. A variety of arrangements were possible under these basic parameters, depending on what the two parties supplied (Orser 1988).

Changes in agricultural practices resulted in the gradual abandonment of the tenant system. Mechanization, scientific farming, and diversification all made it difficult for tenants to raise cotton and corn at a profit. Members of the family often had to work for wages in order to purchase necessities through the year. Many tenants eventually abandoned farming altogether and moved into wage labor full-time, either locally or in the larger towns and cities of the South and Midwest. Their small plots were purchased by large landholders and incorporated into their mechanized operations. Although this shift away from tenancy was occurring during the 1920s and 1930s, it was not until after World War II that the trend was evident in the project area.

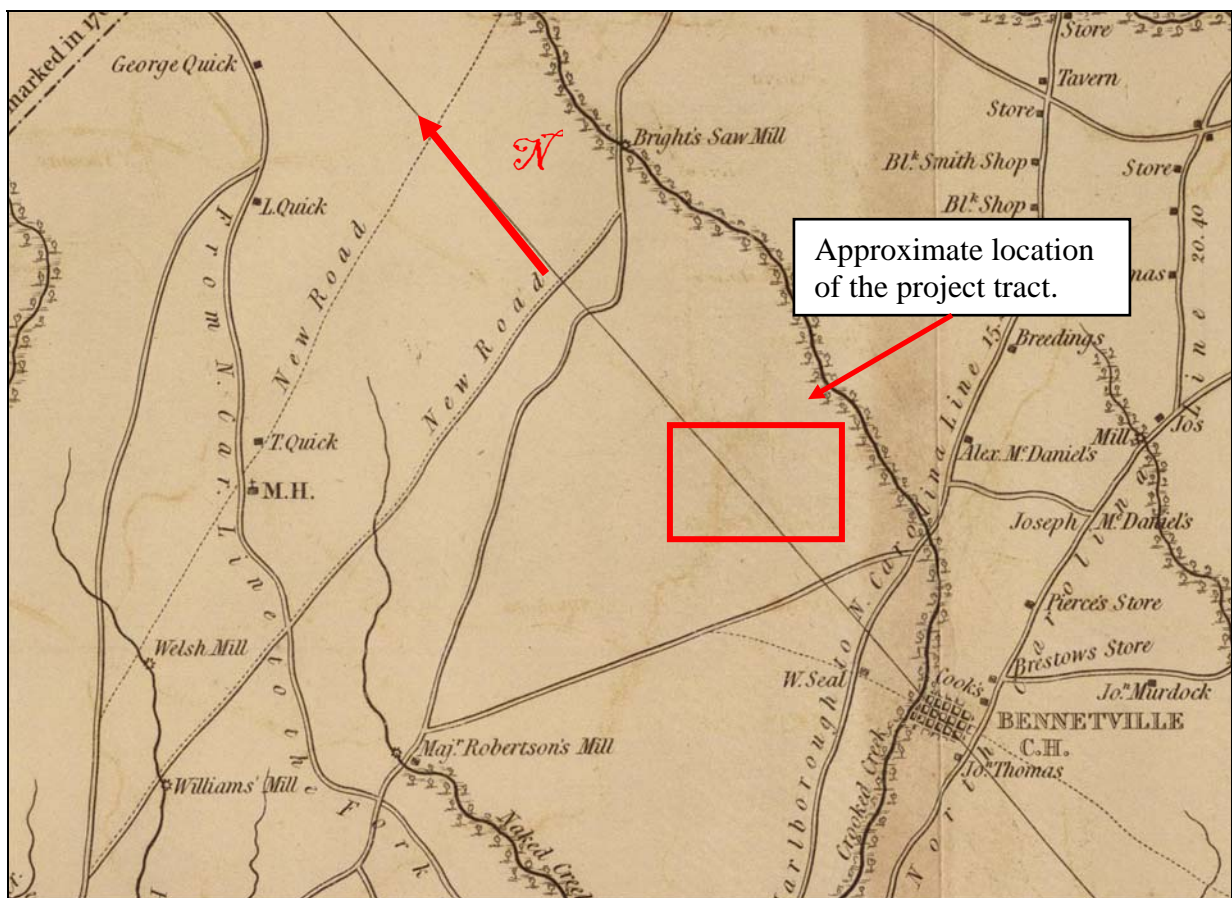


Figure 4. Mills Atlas depicting general project area.

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 ArcSite 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 tests were found 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 related 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 is one previously recorded cultural resource within a 0.5-mile radius of the project tract. The existing Marlboro County Industrial Park, immediately south and west of the project tract, was subject to a reconnaissance level survey in 2005. The 2005 survey meets current standards for Industrial Park Certification as outlined in the 2011 MOA between SHPO and the Department of Commerce. As a result of that investigation one site was recorded and a family cemetery was located but not recorded. Additionally, 34 acres of the 2005 survey tract were recommended for intensive survey (see Figure 1) (deNeeve 2005). A copy of the 2005 SHPO concurrence letter is attached as Appendix One.

According to the 2005 report, "38ML289 is a large lithic and ceramic scatter, with a minor late nineteenth/early twentieth century component. The site measures 105 m N/S by 135 m E/W, and is

located on a terrace containing well-drained sandy soils in the eastern end of the project area. Artifacts were found both on the surface and in shovel tests up to 50 cmbs” (deNeeve 2005). The site was recommended “potentially eligible” for the NRHP. No historic structures were identified during the 2005 survey.

Field Survey

On July 17, 2012 a reconnaissance survey was conducted of the 77-acre project tract. A total of 36 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 2.1 acres. The fields had good surface visibility and were examined for cultural material. One archaeological site and one isolated find were recorded. The Pearce Family Cemetery reported in the 2005 survey was revisited and recorded with SCIAA.

Table 1. Shovel tests excavated at the Marlboro County Industrial Park Site.

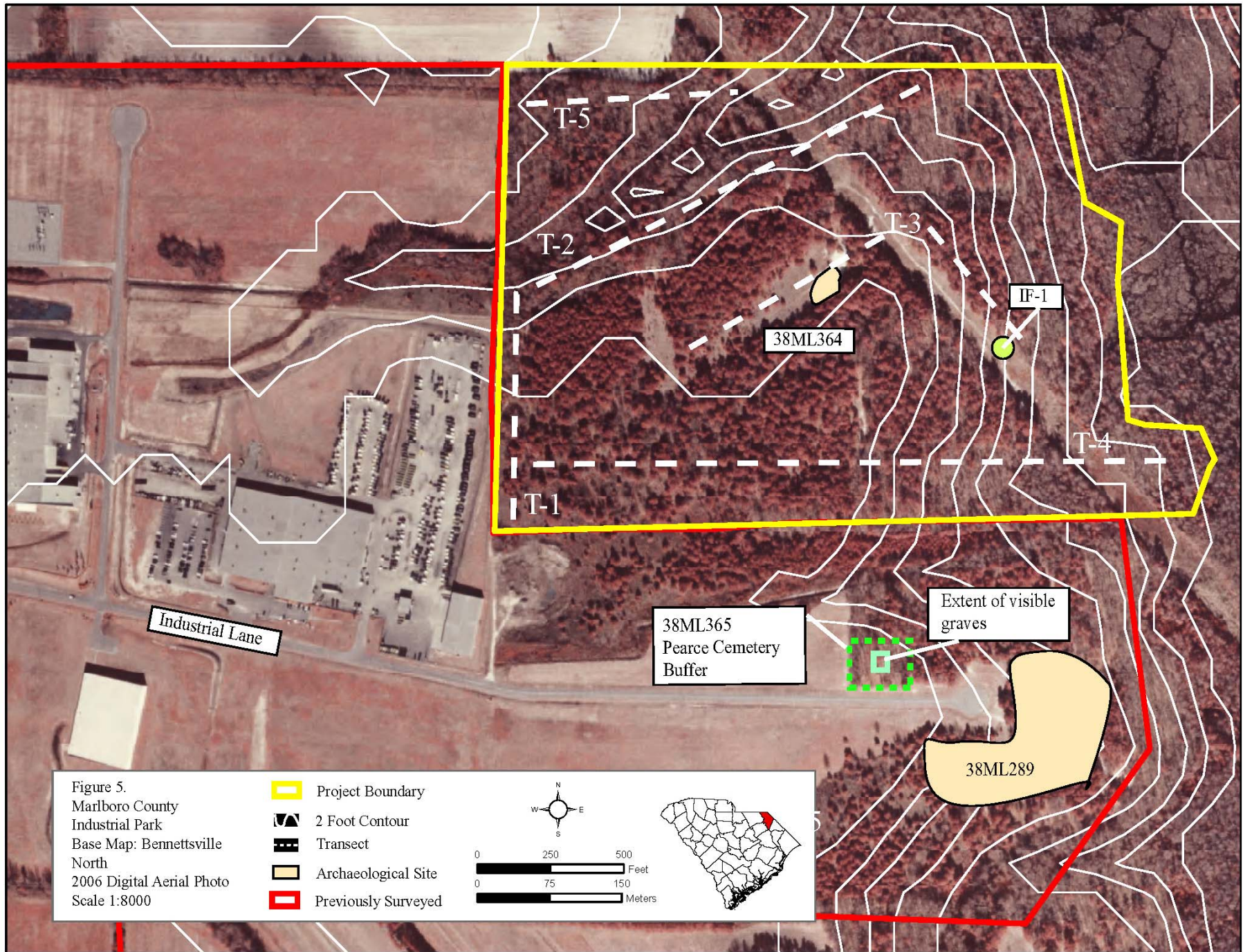
Transect	Description	#of STPs/# of Positive STPs
1	30 meter intervals	7/0
2	30 meter intervals	10/0
3	30 meter intervals	7/2
4	30 meter intervals	6/0
5	30 meter intervals	6/0

Site 38ML364

Site Number: 38ML364	Recommendation: Not Eligible
Site Type: House site?	Elevation: 90 feet AMSL
Components: 19 th -20 th c., Woodland	Landform: Plain
UTM Coordinates: E621072, N3836031 (NAD 27)	Soil Type: Blanton
Site Dimensions: 30 m E/W × 30 m N/S	Vegetation: Clear cut
Artifact Depth: 10 cmbs	No. of STPs/Positive STPs: 9/2

Site 38ML364 is a low-density scatter of late-nineteenth to early-twentieth century artifacts along with an even sparser prehistoric component. The site is located in a clear cut at the eastern edge of the survey tract (Figure 1). The site was identified when historic ceramics and were found on the surface. A cruciform pattern of shovel tests excavated at 15-m intervals radiating in cardinal directions from the initial find was excavated across the site. Two shovel tests contained subsurface material, found in the plow zone at 0-10 cm below the surface (Figure 6).

Heavy disturbance associated with logging was observed throughout the site. Soils consisted of 30 cm of dark brown (7.5YR 3/2) sandy loam and strong brown (7.5YR 5/8) clay subsoil was typically encountered at 30 cmbs. All but one metavolcanic flake and one fragment of white ware was recovered from the surface. Historic materials include white ware, amethyst and aqua bottle glass, and brick fragments. The prehistoric component is represented by three metavolcanic flakes and one plain, sand-tempered sherd. 38ML364 does not retain sufficient integrity to warrant additional investigations and it is recommended not eligible for the NRHP.



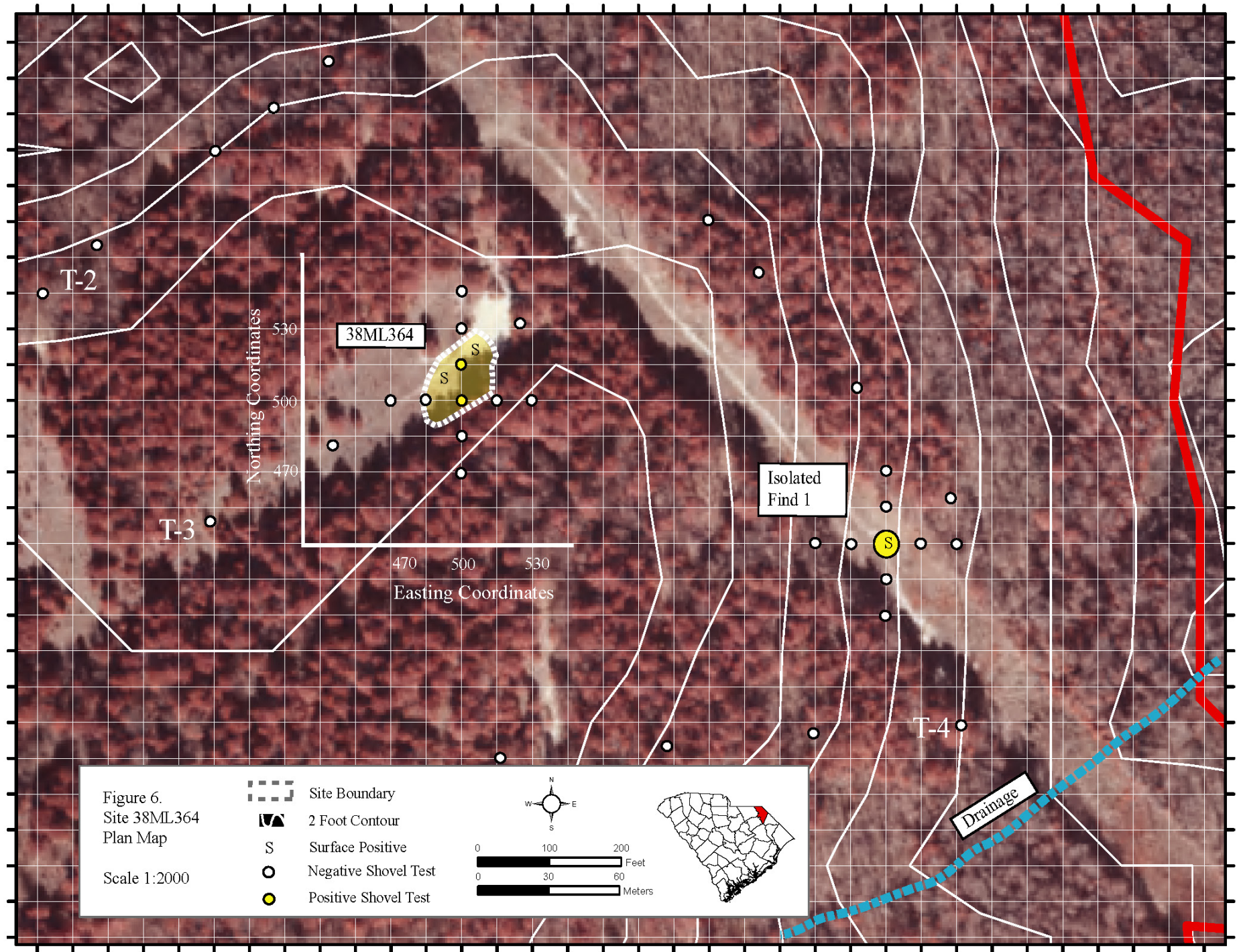
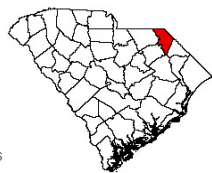
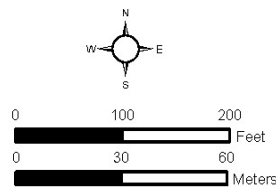


Figure 6.
Site 38ML364
Plan Map

Scale 1:2000

- Site Boundary
- 2 Foot Contour
- Surface Positive
- Negative Shovel Test
- Positive Shovel Test



Site 38ML365

Site Number: 38ML365	Recommendation: Not Eligible
Site Type: Cemetery	Elevation: 190 feet AMSL
Components: Mid-19 th -Early 20 th c.	Landform: Plain
UTM Coordinates: E621133, N3835648 (NAD 27)	Soil Type: Norfolk
Site Dimensions: 15 m E/W × 15 m N/S	Vegetation: Clearing
Artifact Depth: N/A	No. of STPs/Positive STPs: N/A

Site 38ML365 is a mid-nineteenth-early-twentieth century family cemetery located in a wooded copse south of the project tract (Figure 1). There are ten marked graves and at least three depressions suggesting unmarked burials. The graves belong to members of the Pearce family, with the earliest marked grave that of an infant who died in 1864 and the latest belonging to an adult who died in 1900. It is situated in a cleared space surrounded by a buffer of hardwoods (see Figure 5).

The cemetery is cleared but otherwise not maintained and some of the headstones are broken or displaced. The damage is more likely from storms and fallen trees than from vandalism (Figure 7). There is nothing to indicate that the cemetery is visited on a regular basis. There are no remarkable grave markers present, and there are no people of importance to local or national history interred there, which makes 38ML365 not eligible for inclusion in the NRHP. All cemeteries are protected through laws issued by the State of South Carolina, and we recommend that the area be avoided if at all possible.



Figure 7. Pearce Family Cemetery.

Isolated Find 1

This consists of a metavolcanic flake found on the surface of a transmission line (Figure 1). No other artifacts were noted in the vicinity and IF 1 is recommended not eligible for the NRHP.

Historic Resources Assessment

There is one historic structure within a 0.5 mile radius of the survey tract. Structure One is a bungalow house located east of the Marlboro County Industrial Park entrance on SC Hwy. 38. The house has composite shingle siding and a shed-porch addition on a cinderblock foundation.



Figure 8. Structure One, facing north

SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATIONS

One archaeological site and one isolated find were identified during the course of the reconnaissance survey. The site and the isolated find are not eligible for the NRHP. The Pearce Cemetery is well-marked and easily avoided. No further work is recommended for the 77-acre Marlboro County Industrial Park tract expansion. 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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Attachment 1 – 2005 SHPO concurrence letter