March 18, 2011

Re: Cultural Resource Identification Survey of the 33 Acre Highway 38/917 Industrial Park Site
Dillon County, South Carolina
SHPO Project No. 10RD0024

Our office has received the documentation dated February 23 under the Department of Commerce Site Certification program for the tract referenced above. This letter is for informational purposes only and constitutes our office's coordination under the 2011 Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the South Carolina Department of Commerce. This letter is not a result of consultation under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act or under any pertinent state law.

The cultural resources identification survey provided meets the general requirements of the MOU. No significant archaeological sites were located within the project area. The John Robert Bethea House, which meets the criteria for listing on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) is located with the .25 miles of the project area. If the 33 Acre Highway 38/917 Industrial Park Site were to require state permits or federal permits, licenses, funds, loans, grants, or assistance for development, we would recommend to the federal or state agency or agencies that no further archaeological work is necessary, but an intensive architectural survey may be required.

If you have any questions, please contact me at (803) 896-6181 or at jbarnes@scdah.state.sc.us.

Sincerely,

Jodi Barnes, PhD
Staff Archaeologist/GIS Coordinator
State Historic Preservation Office

cc. Sean Norris, TRC
Subject: Cultural Resource Identification Survey of the 33 acre Highway 38/917 Industrial Park Site, Dillon County, South Carolina, Summary Report-Revised

Enclosed is one copy of the above-referenced summary report. This revised copy is being sent in response to your letter dated September 3, 2010 indicating that the report did not meet the required elements of the MOU regarding the search radius around the proposed project area. This revised report includes an updated Figure 1 depicting both a 0.25-mile search radius and a 0.5-mile search radius. If this updated map meets the standards of the 2009 MOU can you please issue a letter, for inclusion in Department of Commerce’s file on the project, indicating that all requirements have been met? This project was conducted as part of South Carolina Department of Commerce Site Certification Program. If you have any questions or need additional copies please do not hesitate to contact me at 803-933-9991 or via e-mail at snorris@trcsolutions.com. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Sean Norris, M.A, RPA
Program Manager, Archaeology

Cc: Garrett Wine – Alliance Consulting Engineers, Inc.
CULTURAL RESOURCE IDENTIFICATION SURVEY OF APPROXIMATELY 33 ACRES AT THE HIGHWAY 38/917 INDUSTRIAL PARK SITE

DILLON COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA

Summary Report-Revised

February 2011
CULTURAL RESOURCES IDENTIFICATION SURVEY OF APPROXIMATELY 33 ACRES AT THE HIGHWAY 38/917 INDUSTRIAL PARK SITE DILLON COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA

SUMMARY REPORT-Revised

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

Sean Norris, Principal Investigator, Author

February 2011
INTRODUCTION

On July 14, 2010, TRC conducted an archaeological survey of approximately 33 acres at the intersection of South Carolina Highway 38 and South Carolina Highway 917 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 approximately 33-acre tract located west of the town of Latta in Dillon County, South Carolina. The parcel is in the Coastal Plain physiographic province and is characterized by broad flat uplands. The tract is bound on the north and west by South Carolina Highway 917, on the south by South Carolina Highway 38 and on the east by private property (Figures 1 and 2). A Carolina Bay is present on the western edge of the project area. Topography is generally flat with a few slight rises and an elevation of approximately 110 feet Above Mean Sea Level (AMSL). Gum Swamp is approximately 1.4 miles south.

Carolina Bays are not necessarily a fresh water source but they do offer a variety of plant resources and provide browse for game animals; consequently prehistoric sites are often found near the bays. Historic occupations are more often found along roads and flowing water sources, such as Whites Mill Branch.

Soils in the tract include well drained Pocalla loamy sand and Brogdon sand, poorly drained Paxville loamy sand was found in the Carolina bay.

The area surrounding the tract consists of scattered houses and farmland. Vegetation on the tract consists of a hay field. 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 (Figure 1).

CONTEXT

A vast body of research is devoted to the examination of prehistoric and historic occupations in South Carolina, and although most of our knowledge does not derive from research conducted in the Middle Coastal Plain enough is known provide a brief overview of occupation in the vicinity of the project.

Paleoindian Period (12,500–10,000 B.P.)

The arrival of humans in eastern North America is currently the subject of much debate, with suggested dates starting as much as 50,000 years ago (Goodyear 2004). Ongoing investigations along the Savannah River are focused on addressing this issue; however, in
Figure 1. 
Highway 38/917 Industrial Site 
Base Maps: Oak Grove Topographic Quadrangle 
Scale 1:24000
terms of known occupations, the earliest inhabitants of the area are generally accepted as arriving ca. 12,500 years ago (radiocarbon years before present). Evidence for Paleoindian occupation in the Coastal Plain is scant and limited to surface finds of diagnostic lanceolate projectile points (Goodyear et al 1989). Sea levels were as much as 9 m lower than at the present time, and it is generally believed that most evidence for Paleoindian occupations along the South Carolina coast is now submerged (Brooks et al 1989).

**Archaic Period (10,000–3,000 B.P.)**

A warming climate and changing environment led to changes in subsistence patterns and technology over time. These changes signal the Archaic period (ca. 10,000 to 3,500 B.P.), which is better understood than the Paleoindian period. Sea levels, however, were still much lower than at present, and Archaic sites are not well represented along the coast.

The Late Paleoindian/Early Archaic transition is marked by the presence of Hardaway and Dalton points, with distinctive concave bases and side notches (Coe 1964). Locally, the Taylor Point is recognized as a Hardaway-Dalton equivalent and is found primarily in the southern part of the state (Sassaman 1992, Michie 1992). Corner-notched Palmers and Kirks are firmly placed as Early Archaic types, along with a variety of bifurcates such as Lecroy and St. Albans (Anderson 1992). The corner-notched tradition appears to continue into the Middle Archaic period, which sees the advent of more expedient types such as Stanly, Guilford, and Morrow Mountain, with Morrow Mountain points predominate across the state (Coe 1964; Blanton and Sassaman 1989).

Early and Middle Archaic lifestyles continued to focus on hunting and foraging, with settlement patterns focused on river floodplains. Population is thought to have increased substantially during these periods (Goodyear et al 1989). By the time of the Late Archaic, the expedient tools of the preceding subperiod were giving way to stemmed bifaces, most notably the ubiquitous Savannah River point, which is found under various names from Florida to Canada. During the Late Archaic, settlement patterns began to change, and the there was an increase in repeated, intensive occupations of a seasonal nature (Sassaman 1993).

The terminal Late Archaic marks the introduction of fired clay pottery. Trinkley (1990:2) reasons that the technology heralds a new period of adaptation, while most others suggest that the introduction of ceramics did not result in a change in settlement or subsistence patterns (Sassaman and Anderson 1994:30). Regardless, around 4,500 B.P. ceramics were beginning to appear, and sites with ceramics are present in the project vicinity.

**Woodland Period (3,000–900 B.P.)**

Whereas the stylistic typologies of projectile points are used to differentiate the Archaic subperiods, changes in ceramic types are used to define the divisions of the Woodland period. The Early Woodland begins at approximately 3,000 B.P., although at least one researcher makes a case for this period beginning at 4,500 B.P. with the appearance of fiber-tempered pottery (Trinkley 1990). Suffice it to say, the progression from the Late Archaic to the Early Woodland was very gradual, with an increase in the reliance on seeds and planting, and the development of a “big-man” social structure. Reflective of this development in social structure is the use of
conical burial mounds and the elaboration of a widespread exchange network that occurs during this period.

The Deptford series, originally identified on the lower Savannah River (DePratter 1979; Waring and Holder 1968), serves as the bridge from the Early to Middle Woodland (ca. 2,800–1,500 B.P.) throughout the coastal regions. A similar, but poorly documented series is Deep Creek, originally identified at sites along the North Carolina coast (Phelps 1983; Trinkley 1990). Both series include sand-/grit-tempered pottery with cordmarked and simple-stamped surface treatments. Deptford, however, is most characterized by its distinctive check and linear check-stamped pottery, while Deep Creek is distinguished by its fabric- and net-impressed treatments.

Sites with Deptford components have been recorded throughout South Carolina, Georgia, and Florida, with minor assemblages recorded in southern North Carolina. During the Middle and Late Woodland periods, pottery typology becomes even more confused, and there is no reliance on a single regional sequence. Ceramics with either sand or grog temper (or both) and cordmarked or fabric-impressed surfaces dominate all Woodland assemblages; however, cordmarked sherds are more common in the south, whereas there is an emphasis on fabric-impressed pottery to the north.

Sand-tempered, fabric-impressed and cordmarked sherds identified as Cape Fear have been found at the Sandy Island site (38GE469) in Georgetown County, with dates ranging from 820–1,180 B.P. (Clement et al. 2001:30), while similar ceramics have been found at the nearby Tidewater site (38HR254) in Horry County dating from 860 to 1,020 B.P. (Southerlin et al. 1997:75–77). Earlier dates for Cape Fear ceramics have been found at the Mattassee Lake site (38BK226) in Berkeley County, with dates ranging from 1,240–1,430 B.P. (Anderson 1982:354).

Closer to Dillon County, it appears that Santee Simple Stamped is a Late Woodland/Early Mississippian type, with dates from Mattassee Lake ranging from 610–1,140 B.P. (Anderson et al. 1982:354; Anderson et al. 1996:230). Trinkley (1990:18–22), however, considers Santee a Middle Woodland type with a possible continuation into the Late Woodland. In coastal North Carolina, Late Woodland ceramics are identified by the presence of shell temper, a tradition that continued to the time of European contact (Ward and Davis 1999:210–228).

**Mississippian Period (A.D. 1100–1540)**

By the Mississippian period (ca. A.D. 1100–1540), Indians across much of the South Carolina Coastal Plain had adopted a sedentary village lifestyle. Associated with this lifestyle are highly organized social, political, and religious systems. Society was stratified and a ruling class exerted ascribed and achieved power over the general population.

While there was some reliance on the agricultural food production of domesticated imports such as maize, beans, and squash, there is no clear evidence that it was as important in the lower Coastal Plain as it was in the upper Coastal Plain and Piedmont. Hunting, gathering, and fishing were still very important in the Mississippian period economy.

Mississippian period ceramics in coastal South Carolina are regionally variable. To the south, the Savannah series is well documented (DePratter 1979; Williams 1968); however, in the project vicinity Late Woodland traditions extend into the Middle Mississippian, with little evidence for
Early Mississippian occupations. In general, little is known about the Mississippian period along the northern coast, and it was long assumed that this area fell outside the sphere of Mississippian influence (Reid et al. 1999:62). However, recent investigations on the Little River Neck may shed light on the Mississippian occupation of the area. At site 38HR243, conventional dates of 750±80 B.P. and 790±80 B.P. have been obtained from a pit feature containing shell-scraped, cordmarked, check-stamped, and fabric-impressed pottery (Reid et al. 1999), while at 38HR254 (Southerlin et al. 1997), located less than 600 m to the north, curvilinear complicated-stamped pottery was obtained from a shell filled pit yielding slightly later dates of 660±60 B.P. and 810±60 B.P. (shell, calibrated to A.D. 1430–1645).

Figure 3. General conditions at the project area, facing west.

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 their 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 CRIS and 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

Shovel tests were excavated at 30 to 90 meter (m) intervals across the tract, along elevated areas of the fields (Figure 3), and around the Carolina Bay (see Figure 2). 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.

RESULTS

Literature Review

Background research at the SCIAA and SCDAH identified six previously recorded archaeological sites within 0.5 mile of the project area (Figure 1, Table 1). The records search was also conducted in an effort to identify historic architectural properties in the vicinity of the project area. This research identified two recorded historic architectural resources reported within the 0.5-mile search radius (Table 2).

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Field Survey

On July 14, 2010, a reconnaissance survey was conducted of the proposed project tract. A total of 21 shovel tests were excavated along three transects and around the Carolina Bay (see Figure 3). All shovel tests were approximately 30 cm in diameter and excavated to sterile subsoil. One isolated find was identified.
Archaeology

**Isolated Find 1** is located on the north side of the Carolina Bay on the west edge of the project tract (see Figures 1 and 2). It consists of a medium sand-tempered low-fired earthenware sherd with indeterminate surface treatment. The sherd was recovered from the plow zone layer of a shovel test at 20 cm below surface. Delineation shovel tests were excavated at 5 and 10 m intervals and no other artifacts were recovered. This isolate is recommended not eligible for the NRHP.

Structures

One historic farm complex and five historic structures were identified during the survey within a 0.25–mile radius of the project tract (see Figures 1 and 2).

**Farm Complex 1** is located on the west side of Elberry Road near the intersection of Elberry and SC 38 (see Figures 1 and 2). It consists of five structures related to agricultural practices (see Figure 4). Structure A. is a wood-framed, rough wood sided shed of indeterminate purpose. Structure B is an open-sided pole barn that has partially collapsed. Structure C is a metal sided, metal-roofed barn. Gasoline pumps in front of the building suggest vehicle storage or maintenance shop. Structure D is another metal sided, metal-roofed barn. Structure E is a two story timber framed barn with hay loft. The complex appears to date to the mid-twentieth century.

**Structure 1** is located on the east side of Elberry Road at 1963 Elberry Road (see Figures 1 and 2). It is a single story wood-frame house with and internal chimney and an asphalt shingled roof (Figure 5).

**Structure 2** is located on Elberry Road across from the farm complex (see Figures 1 and 2). It is a single story flat roofed structure. An air conditioning unit has been added to the roof of the structure (Figure 6). It appears to have been constructed in the mid-twentieth century and may be related to the farm complex.

**Structure 3** is located on the east side of Elberry Road at 1931 Elberry Road (see Figures 1 and 2), and was the Quinn Chapel Colored School in the mid-twentieth century. The wood-frame structure is on brick piers with and has a metal roof (Figure 7).

**Structure 4** is located on the west side of Elberry Road south of the project area across SC 38 (see Figures 1 and 2). The structure is a 1930’s era two-story, L-shaped farm house (Figure 8).

**Structure 5** is located 1099 SC 38 (see Figures 1 and 2). The structure is know as the John Robert Bethea House. It was built in 1857 and previously located north of the project area near Catfish Canal. The current owners have restored the house and after having moved to its current location approximately six years ago (Figure 8).
Figure 4. Farm complex east of the project tract
Figure 5. Structure 1, front elevation.

Figure 6. Structure 2, south elevation.
Figure 7. Structure 3, front elevation.

Figure 8. Structure 4, south elevation.
SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATIONS

One isolated find, was encountered during the course of the reconnaissance survey. The project tract has little potential for intact, significant archaeological sites. No further archaeological work is recommended for the tract.

The John Robert Bethea House, being associated with someone of local significance may possess qualities making it eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. Should this project become a federal undertaking, an intensive architectural survey may be required. The remaining of the historic structures are likely not eligible for the NRHP due to lack of integrity, modern alterations and lack of uniqueness. It is TRCs recommendation that no further investigations are needed.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at 803-933-9991 or via e-mail at snorris@trcsolutions.com.
References

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