MANAGEMENT STATEMENT CULTURAL RESOURCES INVESTIGATIONS, LA 21 I-12 INTERCHANGE REHABILITATION, ST. TAMMANY PARISH, LOUISIANA

Management Statement

September 2006

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Submitted to
St. Tammany Parish
Department of Engineering
P.O. Box 628
Covington, Louisiana 70434

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CULTURAL RESOURCES INVESTIGATIONS
LA 21 I-12 INTERCHANGE REHABILITATION,
ST. TAMMANY PARISH, LOUISIANA

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Introduction

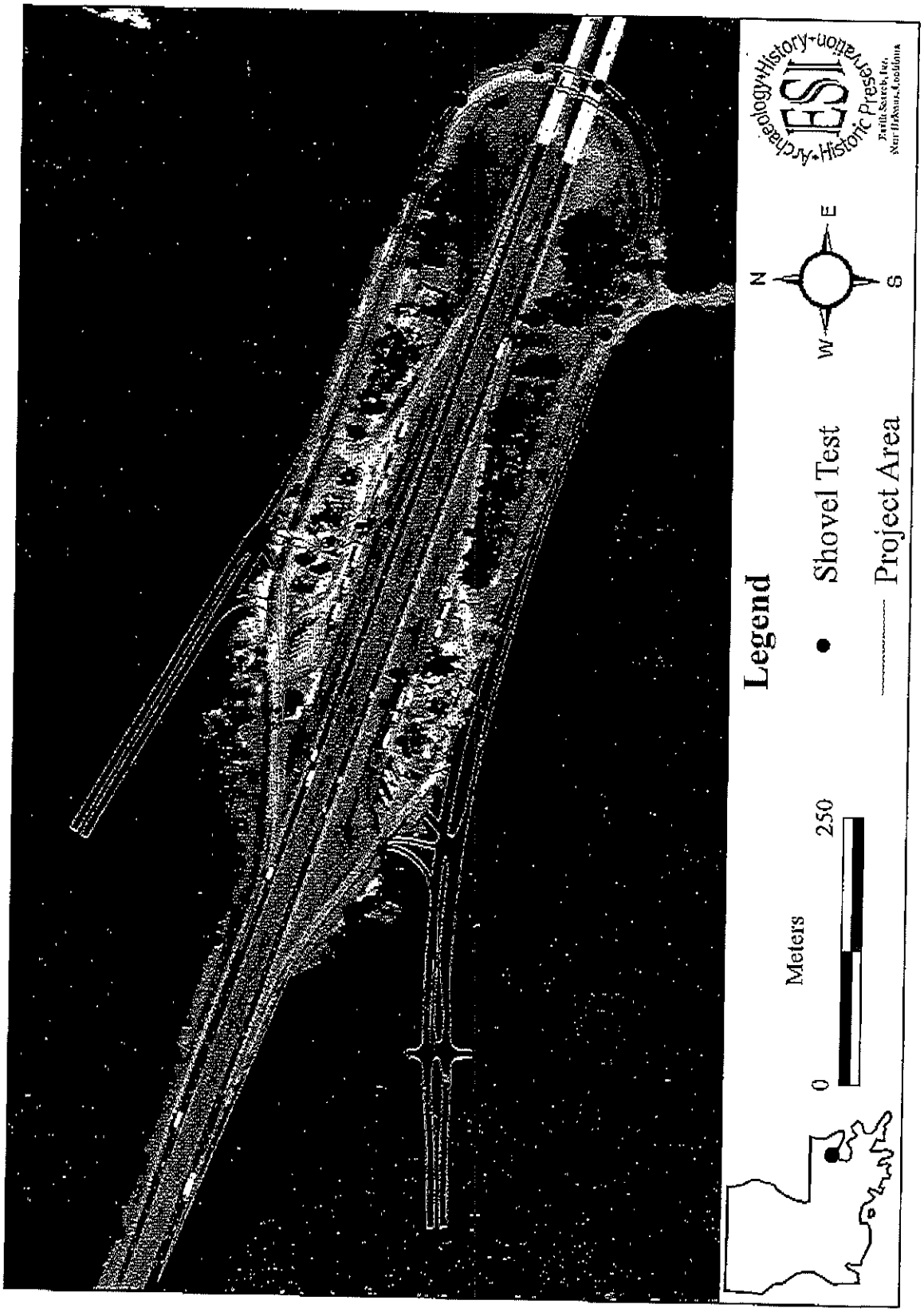
This management statement presents the results of the Phase I cultural resources survey of the high probability areas at a proposed interchange at the LA 21 I-12 rest area west of the Tchefuncte River, St. Tammany Parish, Louisiana. Background research had determined that the I-12 Scenic Overlook site (16ST92) is located in the immediate vicinity of project area. This site exhibits prehistoric and historic components. The site extent and NRHP eligibility are unknown (Louisiana State Site Files). Also, 16ST71 lies immediately across the Tchefuncte River from the northeastern boundary of the current project area. The identification of two sites in the immediate vicinity suggested that additional cultural resources might be located in the project area. Specifically, those areas adjacent to the Tchefuncte River and 16ST92 had a high probability for containing archaeological deposits. Based on the topography and the distance from the Tchefuncte River, as well as previous construction disturbance, much of the proposed interchange corridor was considered low probability for encountering archaeological deposits.

Current project plans do not include disturbance of 16ST92, therefore, no additional archaeological investigations at the site are necessary at this time. If project plans change or if future development includes activities that would impact the site, it is recommended that site delineation and evaluation be undertaken at that time. Site 16ST92 was not evaluated during the current investigations.

Field Investigations

Methods. Archaeological survey consisted of a single transect of shovel tests spaced 30 meters (98 feet) apart. The transect began at the southern high probability area north of 16ST92 (Figure 1). The transect extended east towards the Tchefuncte River, crossed the existing roadway, and continued by following the curve of the rest area road under the Tchefuncte River bridge, and terminated in the high probability area on the north side of the proposed interchange. The survey transect was 650 m (2132 ft) in length. Shovel tests excavated along the transect measured approximately 30 centimeters (12 inches) in diameter and were excavated to a depth of 50 cm below surface (cmbs) (20 inbs). Excavated soils were screened through 1/4 in mesh. The soil characteristics and stratigraphic associations of each shovel test were recorded. All tests were backfilled upon completion.

Results. A total of 20 shovel tests were excavated in the high probability areas. Most of the shovel tests revealed a mixed stratigraphy of fill associated with the construction of the rest area and roads. The first five shovel tests were excavated in a naturally depressed area approximately 3 m (9.8 ft) below the existing rest area roadway. The stratigraphy for these shovel tests were as follows: stratum I, 0 to 30 cm (0-11.81 in) was a 10YR 8/2 (very pale brown) silty, sandy, clay mix; stratum II, 30 to 50 cm (11.81-19.68 in) was a mottle of 10YR 8/2 (very pale brown) silty clay and 5YR 5/8 (yellowish red) silty, sandy, clay. Shovel tests 6-11 were centered along a slope that extended from the existing road towards the natural land level adjacent to the river. Shovel tests 12 and 13 recorded disturbed fill soils associated with bridge construction. Shovel tests 14-17 were centered in a sloping area that extends to the partially inundated wooded area adjacent to the river. Shovel tests 18-20 consisted of mixed construction fill. All of the shovel tests were negative for cultural remains.


Legend
Shovel Test
Project Area
Meters
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Archaeology•History•Historic Preservation
ESI
Environmental Services, Inc.
New Orleans, Louisiana

Conclusions and Recommendations

Although the project area lies in close proximity to a previously recorded archaeological site (16ST92), there is no evidence that site extends into the proposed interchange area. Also there is no evidence of previously unrecorded archaeological deposits in the proposed interchange area. This area has been previously disturbed by rest area and road construction. Construction of the proposed interchange will have no impact on historic resources. No additional archaeological investigations are recommended.

REFERENCES CITED

Louisiana State Site Files-Site Forms 16ST92

Montana, Angèle, Jessica Barton, Kathryn Lintott, Benjamin Maygarden and Rhonda Smith
2005 *Instensive Cultural Resources Survey at Sky Lake, Po Lutken and Darlove Mitigation Lands, Humpherys, Leflore and Washington Counties, Mississippi.* Submitted to the Vicksburg District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Vicksburg.