



JAY DARDENNE
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

State of Louisiana
OFFICE OF THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR
DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE, RECREATION & TOURISM
OFFICE OF CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT

CHARLES R. DAVIS
DEPUTY SECRETARY

PAM BREUX
ASSISTANT SECRETARY

1 May 2012

David H. Broussard
Airpark Development Manager
England Economic and Industrial Devel. District
1611 Arnold Drive
Alexandria, LA 71303

Re: Draft Report
La Division of Archaeology Report No. 22-4018
*Phase I Cultural Resources Survey of the Proposed Location of the England Heavy Industrial Site,
England Airpark, Rapides Parish, Louisiana*

Dear Mr. Broussard:

We acknowledge receipt of your letter dated 27 April 2012 and two copies of the above-referenced report. We have completed our review of this report and have no comments to offer.

We concur that no historic properties will be impacted by this project.

We look forward to receiving two bound copies and a pdf version of the final report. If you have any questions, please contact Chip McGimsey in the Division of Archaeology by email at cmcgimsey@crt.la.gov or by phone at 225-219-4598.

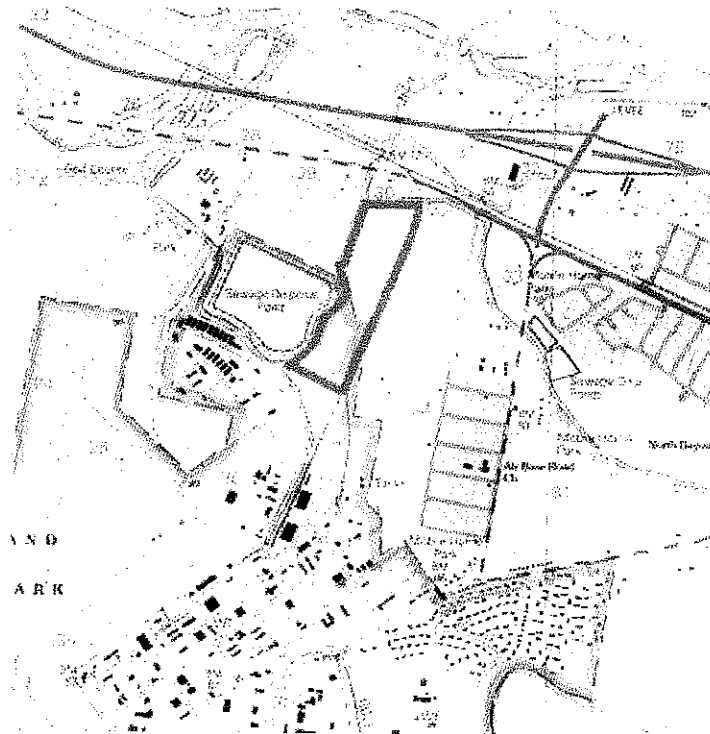
Sincerely,

Pam Breux
State Historic Preservation Officer

PB:crm

**PHASE I CULTURAL RESOURCES SURVEY
OF THE PROPOSED LOCATION
OF THE ENGLAND HEAVY INDUSTRIAL SITE,
ENGLAND AIRPARK,
RAPIDES PARISH, LOUISIANA
(NEGATIVE FINDINGS)**

DRAFT REPORT



**England Economic & Industrial Development District
1611 Arnold Dr.
Alexandria, La 71303
(318) 449-3504**



Since 1986

SURA, INC.
P.O. Box 14414
Baton Rouge, LA 70898-4414
(225) 381-8201

**PHASE I CULTURAL RESOURCES SURVEY
OF THE PROPOSED LOCATION
OF THE ENGLAND HEAVY INDUSTRIAL SITE,
ENGLAND AIRPARK,
RAPIDES PARISH, LOUISIANA
(NEGATIVE FINDINGS)**

DRAFT REPORT

by

Malcolm K. Shuman and Phillip K. Taylor

**Surveys Unlimited
Research Associates, Inc.
P.O. Box 14414
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70898-4414**

for

**England Economic & Industrial Development District
1611 Arnold Dr.
Alexandria, La 71303
(318) 449-3504**

April 23, 2012

ABSTRACT

SURA, Inc. conducted a Phase I cultural resources survey of a 31 acre (ac) (12.6 hectare [ha]) tract on the northeast side of England Industrial Airpark, formerly England Air Force Base, Alexandria, Rapides Parish, Louisiana. A total of 129 shovel tests were excavated, all of which were negative. It was concluded that there was no archaeological reason for the tract not to be certified as an industrial site under the Louisiana Department of Economic Development Sites Certification Program.

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ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The authors are indebted to many people who helped during the project. Mr. David Broussard, Development Manager of England Air Park, provided maps and guidance. Mr. Phillip Taylor served ably as crew chief and was aided by Ms. Brandy Kerr, Ms. Karen Field, Mr. Jason Foust and Mr. Eddie Rowzee. Dr. Malcolm Shuman was Principal Investigator. Mr. John Anderson, of the Louisiana State University Cartographic Information Center, was most helpful, as always.

CHAPTER ONE; INTRODUCTION

In April, 2012, SURA archaeologists conducted a Phase I cultural resources survey of the proposed location of a 31 acre (ac) (12.6 hectare [ha]) tract on the northeast side of England Industrial Airpark, formerly England Air Force Base, Alexandria, Rapides Parish, Louisiana. The project area lies in Sections 30, 31, and 34, T4N, R2W and is shown in Figure 1.

The present work was performed to satisfy the requirements of federal legislation as follow: PL 89-665 (1966), PL 91-190 (1969), and EO 11593 (1971). The work done conforms to the archaeological survey procedures detailed in the Cultural Resources Code of the State of Louisiana. The purpose of the survey was to allow the tract to be certified as a possible industrial location under the Sites Certification Program of the Louisiana Department of Economic Development.

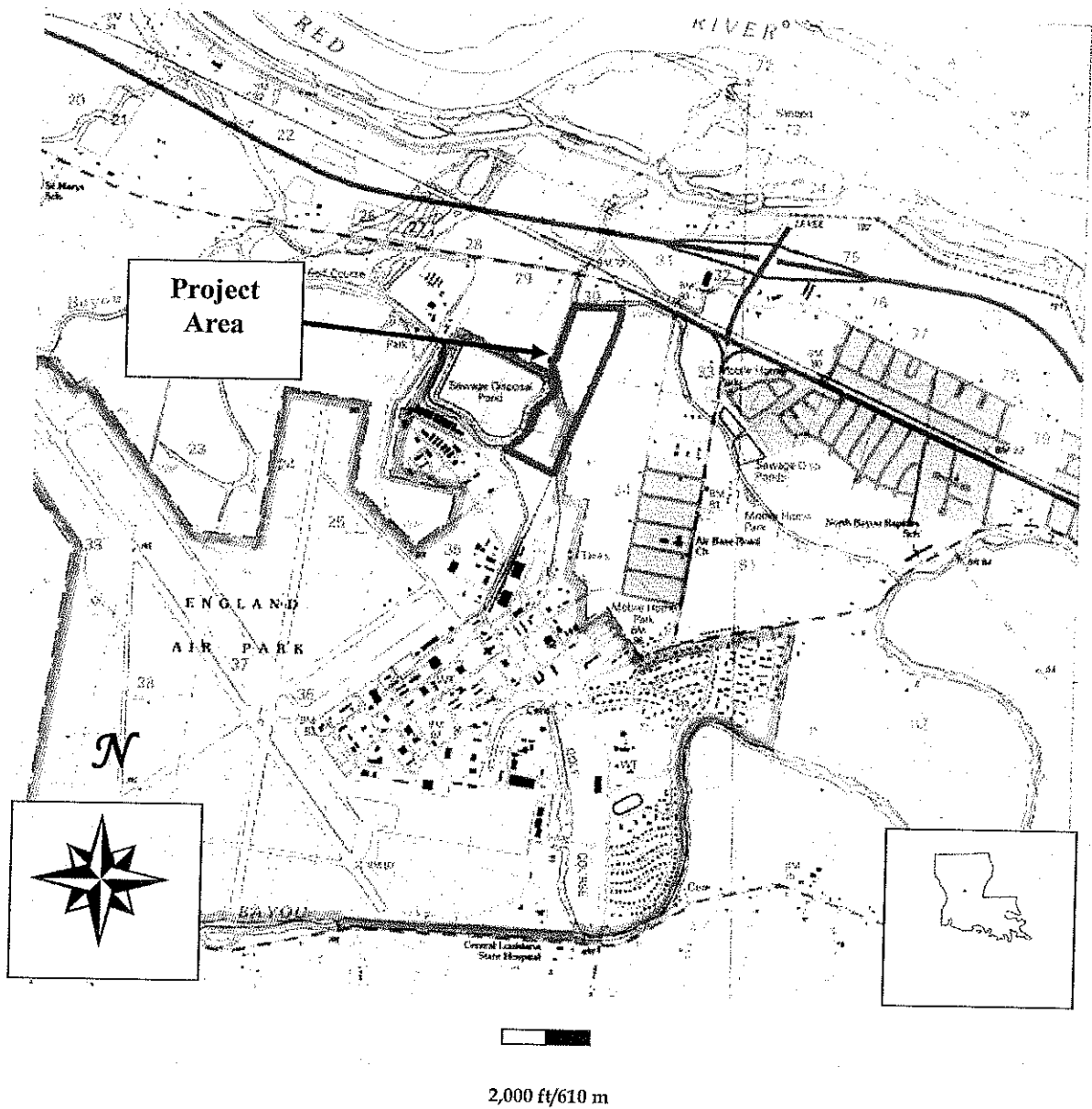


Figure 1. Portion of Rapides, Louisiana, 2003 7.5-minute topographic map showing project area.

CHAPTER TWO: ENVIRONMENT

Soils

The project area is found along the right descending bank of the Red River (USDA 1971) (Figure 2). The soils pertain to the Norwood Association and the Moreland-Latanier Association (Nos. 1 and 3 in Table 1). The former are nearly level, well-drained, alkaline, loamy soils. In a representative profile, the surface layer is usually a reddish brown silt loam, with under layers being reddish brown, calcareous, stratified very fine sandy loam, silty loam and silt clay loam (USDA 1971). These soils are utilized mainly for the cultivation of cotton, soybeans and sugarcane. Moreland-Latanier soils are level to nearly-level, somewhat poorly drained, alkaline and clayey. The surface layer is a dark reddish brown clay and the subsoil is brown, calcareous and silty; in Latanier soils, the subsoil is a light reddish brown loamy layer. These soils are utilized as woodland, pasture and cropland (USDA 1971).

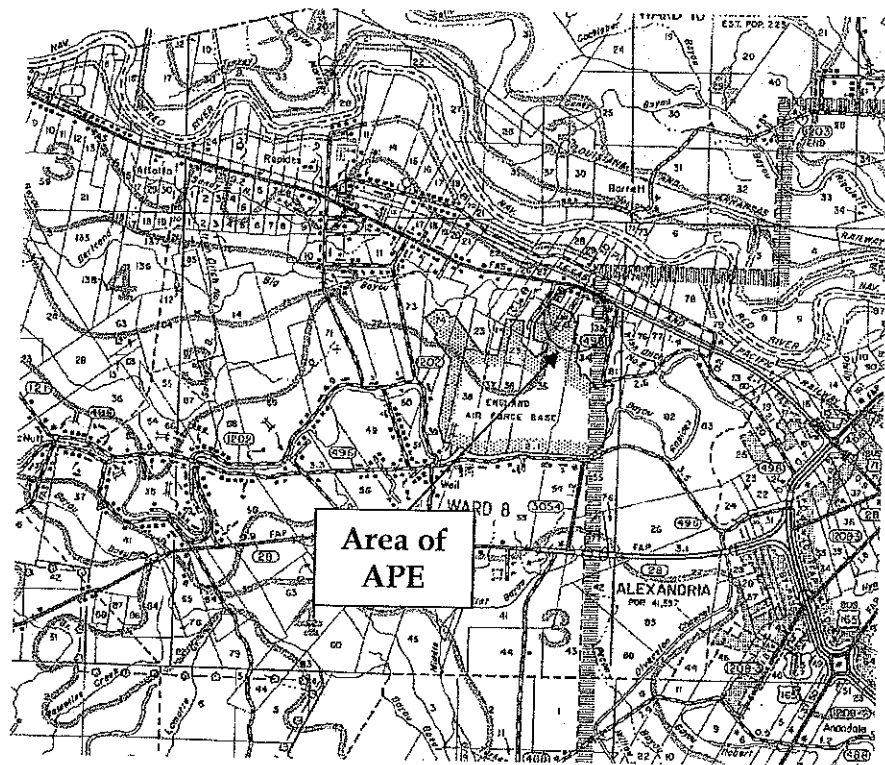


Figure 2. Soils in the APE and environs (Source: USDA 1971).

Table 1. Key to Rapides Parish soil associations (Source: USDA 1971).

No.	Soil Association	Traits
1	Norwood Association	Nearly level, well-drained, alkaline, loamy soils.
2	Gallion Association	Nearly level, well-drained, acid, loamy soils.
3	Moreland-Latanier Association	Level to nearly level, somewhat poorly-drained, alkaline, clayey soils.
4	Moreland Association	Nearly level, somewhat poorly-drained, alkaline, clayey soils.
5	Guyton Association	Level to depressed, poorly-drained, alkaline clayey soils.
6	Beauregard-Caddo Association	Nearly level to very gently sloping, loamy soils.
7	Acadia-Kolin Association	Nearly level to gently sloping soils with clayey subsoils.
8	Gore Association	Gently sloping soils with clayey subsoils.
9	Ruston-Malbis Association	Gently sloping to moderately steep loamy soils.
10	Smithdale Association	Gently sloping to moderately steep well-drained loamy soils.
11	Vaiden-Watsonia Association	Gently sloping to rolling clayey soils.
12	Kisatchie-Cadeville Association	Strongly sloping to hilly, clayey soils.

Fauna

The faunal assemblage is represented by a wide variety of mammals, reptiles and birds, to say nothing of insects. Common mammals are the opossum (*Didelphis virginiana*), armadillo (*Dasypus novemcinctus*), eastern cottontail rabbit (*Sylvilagus floridanus*), raccoon (*Procyon lotor*), red fox (*Vulpes fulva*), gray fox (*Urocyon cinereoargenteus*), bobcat (*Lynx rufus*), coyote (*Canis latrans*), striped skunk (*Mephitis mephitis*), gray squirrel (*Sciurus carolinensis*), beaver (*Castor Canadensis*) and the white-tailed deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*). In precontact times there were certainly black bear (*Euarctos americanus*), red wolf (*Canis rufus*) and cougar (*Felis concolor*), while the armadillo was absent. The reader desiring a more complete description of the mammalian inventory is referred to Lowery (1974).

Reptiles include three types of pit vipers, in the genera *Crotalus* and *Agkistrodon*, the Coral Snake (*Micrurus fulvius*), and a number of innocuous species (Dundee and Rossman 1989).

Birds include the crow (*Corvus brachyrhynchos*), hawks (*Buteo spp.*), various songbirds and a number of game birds. A fuller inventory may be found in Lowery (1955).

Flora

This is an area of predominantly hardwood vegetation, the most frequent species being sweetgum (*Liquidambar styraciflua*), oak (*Quercus spp.*), and hickory (*Carya spp.*).

Understory vegetation consists of a wide assortment of vines and briars, including poison oak and ivy (*Rhus spp.*)(Brown 1945).

CHAPTER THREE: PREVIOUS INVESTIGATIONS

Most of the archaeological investigations in this portion of Rapides Parish have occurred in connection with the development of the Red River Waterway (e.g., Hunter 1990 and Hinks et al. 1991). However, other nearby projects have involved proposed highway corridors and bridges (HPG 1981 and Baudoin 1991). One exemplary exception, though almost 14 miles (mi) (22.6 kilometers [km]) to the northwest of the current APE, is John House's salvage project in Lake Rodemacher Basin, which yielded evidence of almost every cultural period in Louisiana from the Late Archaic forward (House 1972).

Of more immediate relevance were two other studies. The first was Geo-Marine's assessment of properties to be used by the Joint Readiness Training Center at England Air Force Base. Of the buildings to be affected, however, none were considered eligible for the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) (Winchell 1993). The second investigation was CEI/ET/TT's survey of portions of England Air Force Base. The project, involving survey of 65 acres, resulted in the identification of three archaeological sites: McNutt Plantation (16RA692), Oak Isle Plantation (16RA704), and Weil Property (16RA703). All were considered potentially eligible for the NRHP (CEI/ET/TT 1994).

CHAPTER FOUR: SURVEY METHODOLOGY

Methodology for the survey included archival research and fieldwork. Archival research included review of relevant archaeological reports and an examination of site files in the Division of Archaeology. Historic maps in the Louisiana State University Cartographic Information Center (CIC) were also consulted. Fieldwork consisted of pedestrian survey and systematic shovel testing. Pedestrian survey consisted of lining up five abreast, at the southern end of the survey area, and proceeding north, along transects spaced 98.4 ft (30 m) apart, with each crew person excavating a shovel test pit every 98.4 ft (30 m). All excavated material was screened using .25 inch hardware cloth. Shovel tests were taken to 50 cm or clay, whichever came first. When archaeological sites are discovered, they are defined using the protocol described in the Louisiana Division of Archaeology Guidelines.

Each cultural resource site found is assessed according to current National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) criteria, as given below.

Eligibility for the National Register of Historic Places

According to the *National Register of Historic Places Bulletin 15 (1995:2)*, "The quality of significance in American history, architecture, archaeology, engineering, and culture is present in districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects that possess integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association are potentially eligible for the *National Register of Historic Places*." In order to evaluate this significance, four criteria have been developed. Eligible properties...

- "A. ...are associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history; or
- B. ... are associated with the lives of persons significant in our past; or
- C. ... embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or that represent the work of a master, or that possess high artistic values, or that represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction; or
- D. ... have yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important in history or prehistory" (NRHP 1995:2).

Curation Statement

Collected material and associated records are curated by the Louisiana Division of Archaeology (DOA) at Upon completion of the project, the artifacts will be delivered to the Louisiana Division of Archaeology, 1835 North Third St. 2nd Floor, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, along with associated records.

CHAPTER FOUR: RESULTS OF THE SURVEY

Archival Research

Archival research indicated seven archaeological sites in the environs of the present project, though not in the current APE. These were 16RA276 (No Name), a 20th-century house site; 16RA277 (No name), a 20th-century barn; 16RA278 (No Name), a 20th-century rural residence; 16RA692 (McNutt Plantation), a 19th-20th-century plantation/house site; 16RA703 (Weil), a 20th-century workers' quarters area; 16RA704 (Oak Isle Plantation), multi-component historic/prehistoric site; and 16RA768 (Tyrone Plantation), a 19th-20th-century plantation. The last four sites are recommended as eligible for the NRHP. Sites 16RA692, 16RA703 and 16RA704 are located on what was formerly England Air Force Base.

Background research also involved the examination of historic topographic maps from the Louisiana State University Department of Geography & Anthropology Cartographic Information Center (CIC). The earliest map is from 1941 and shows the project area as being bounded on the west by Big Bayou and on the north by Irish Ditch (Figure 3). There appears to be one standing structure in the southeastern portion of the project area. The 1956 map shows the standing structure as gone and a railroad track on the eastern boundary of the project area. It also, for the first time, shows England Air Force Base (Figure 4). The base opened in 1942, as Alexandria Army Air Base. Its name was changed to England Air Force Base in 1955, in honor of Lt. Col. John England, who died in an air crash in France. The base was closed in 1992 (www.EnglandAirForceBase.info). By the time of the 1972 map (Figure 5), a sewage disposal pond has been constructed on the southwest edge of the project area but otherwise the situation remains unchanged, as shown by the 1992 map (Figure 6). This configuration remains in place today. Figure 7 is an aerial photograph showing the project area as it exists now. Since the 2003 map a large building has been constructed just east of the project area and in the northern half of the APE there are two concrete runways. Figures 8-12 are field photographs showing the APE from ground level.

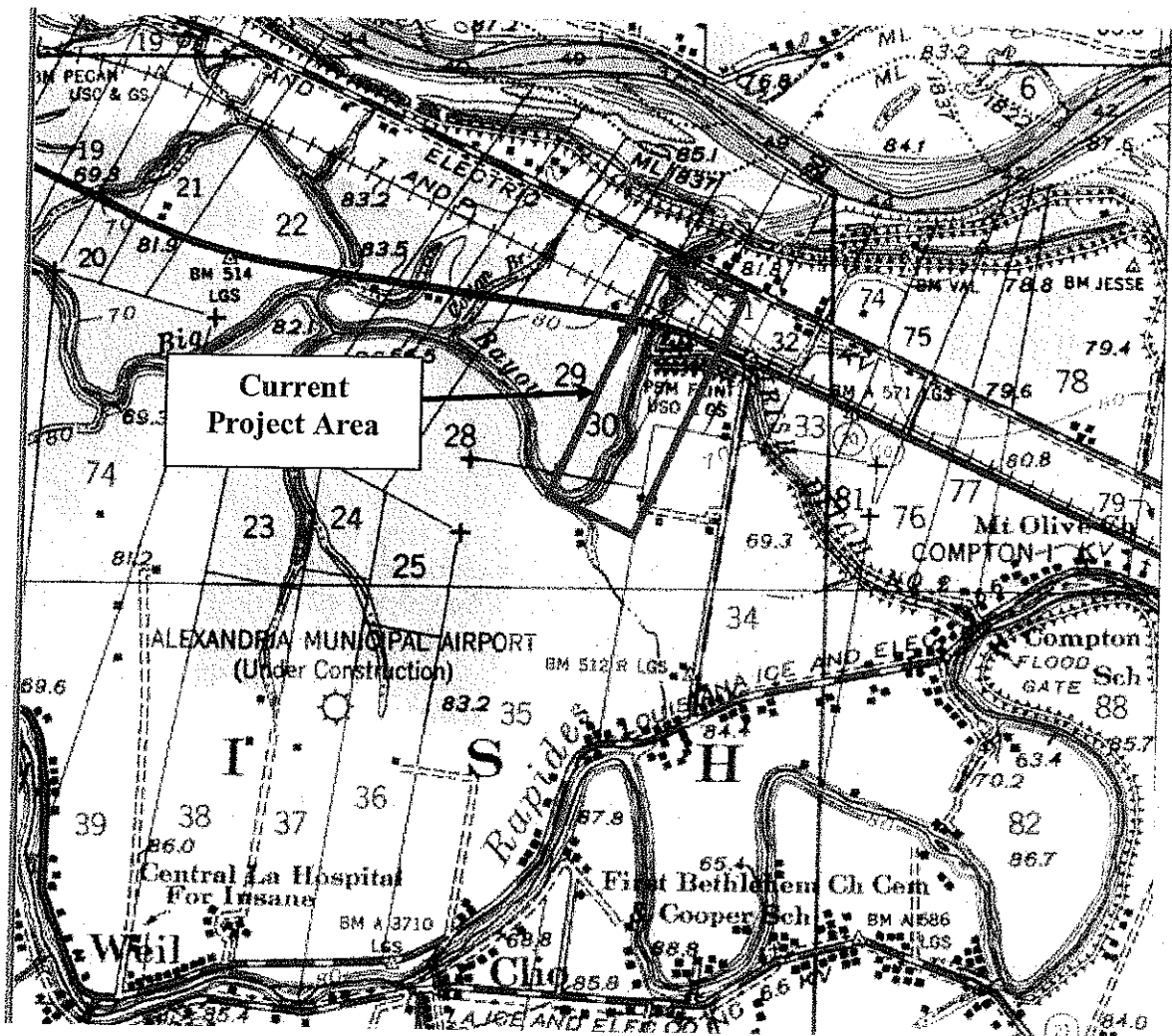


Figure 3. Portion of Boyce, Louisiana, 1941 15-minute topographic map, showing location of project area (Source: CIC).

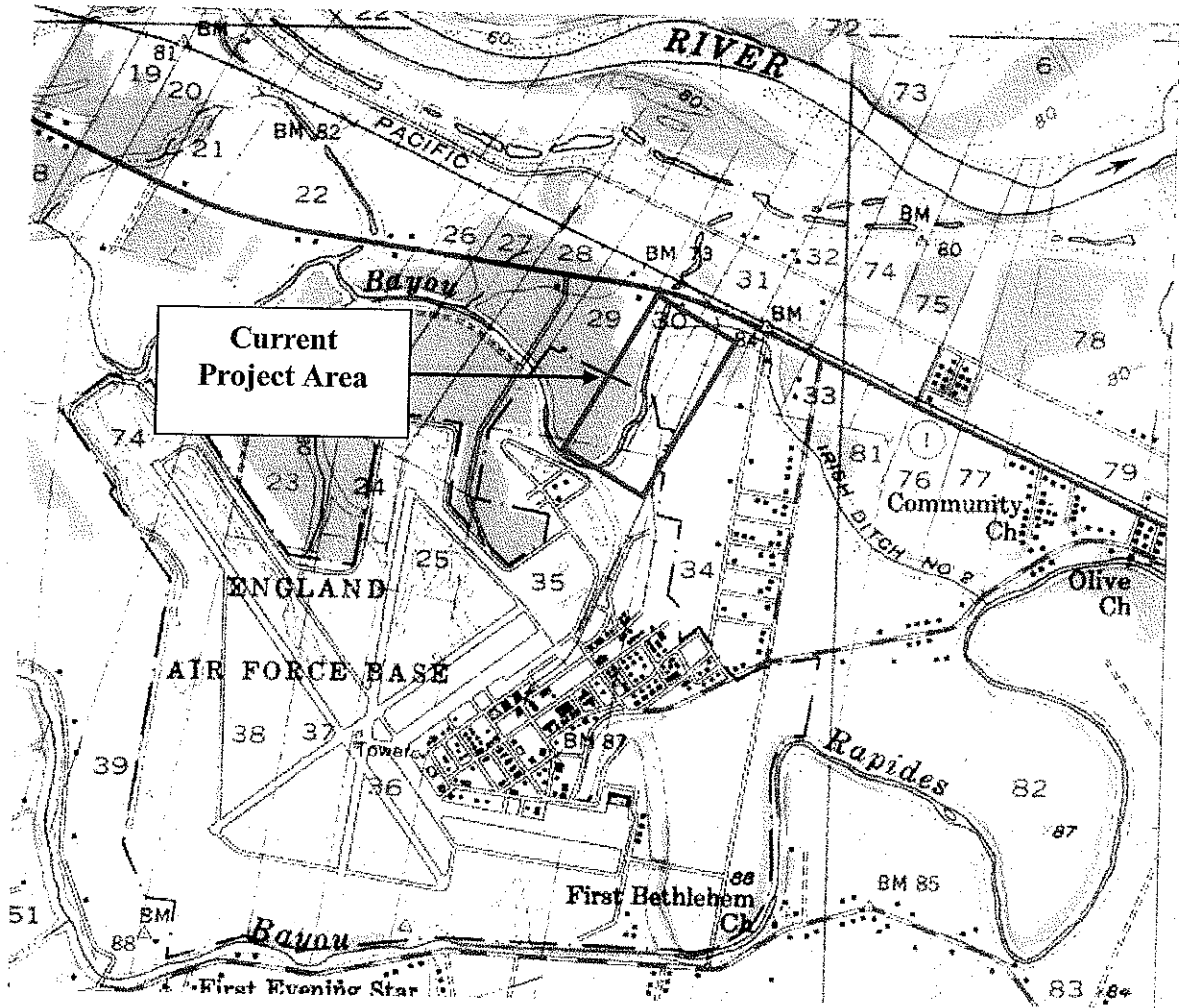


Figure 4. Portion of Boyce, Louisiana, 1956 15-minute topographic map, showing location of project area (Source: CIC).

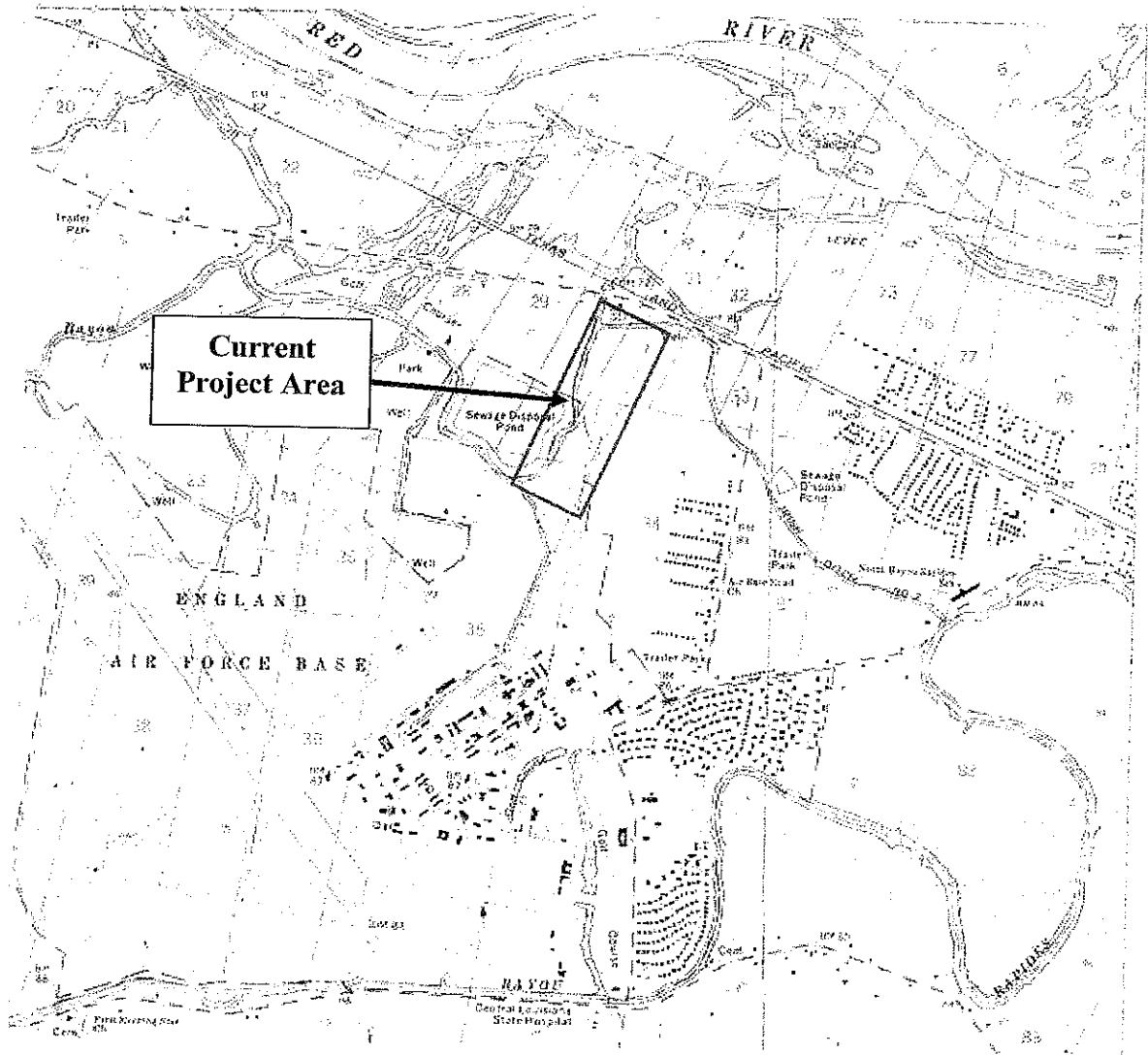


Figure 5. Portion of Rapides, Louisiana, 1972 7.5-minute topographic map, showing location of project area (Source: CIC).

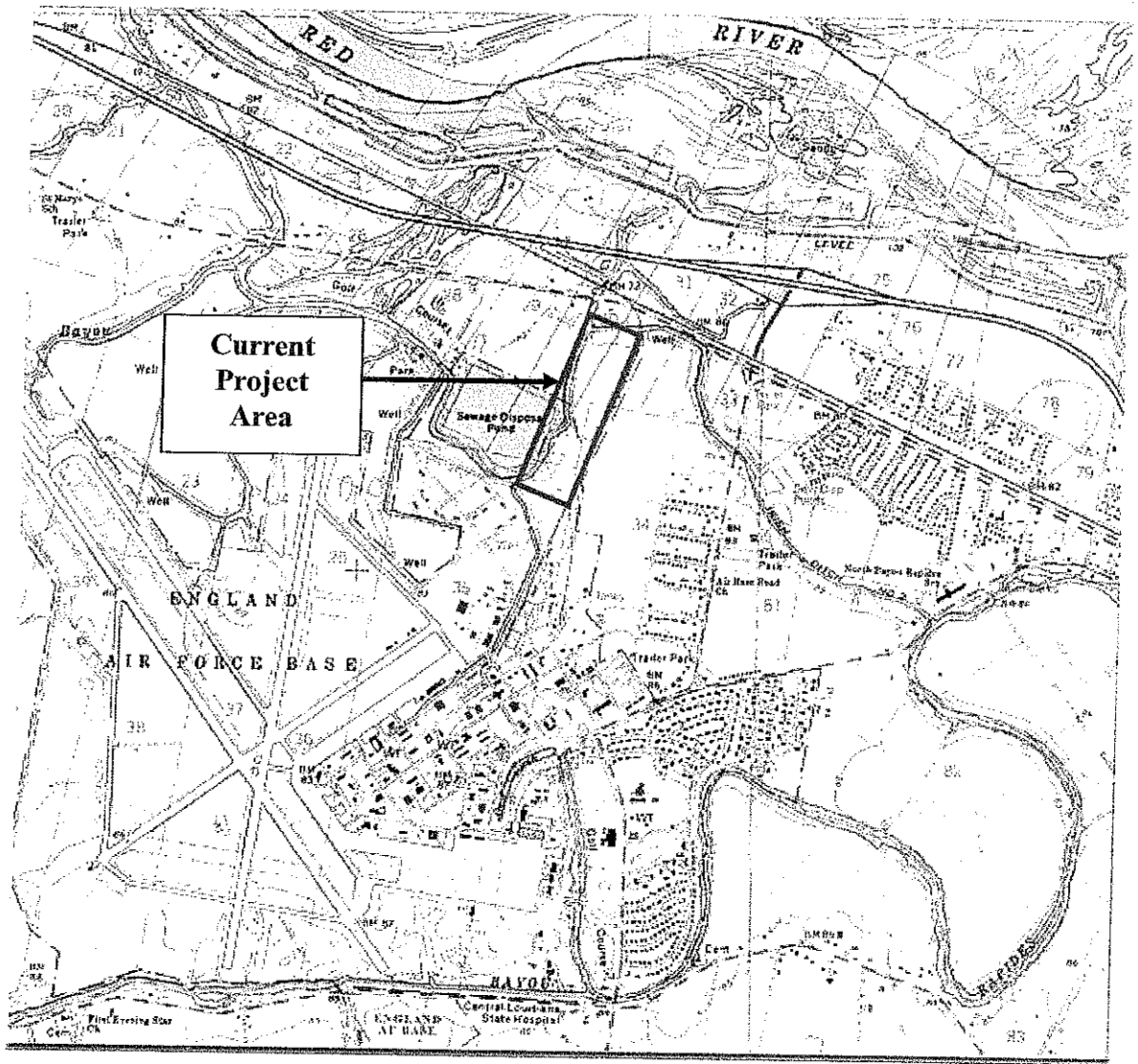


Figure 6. Portion of Rapides, Louisiana, 1992 7.5-minute topographic map (Photo Revised), showing location of project area (Source: CIC).

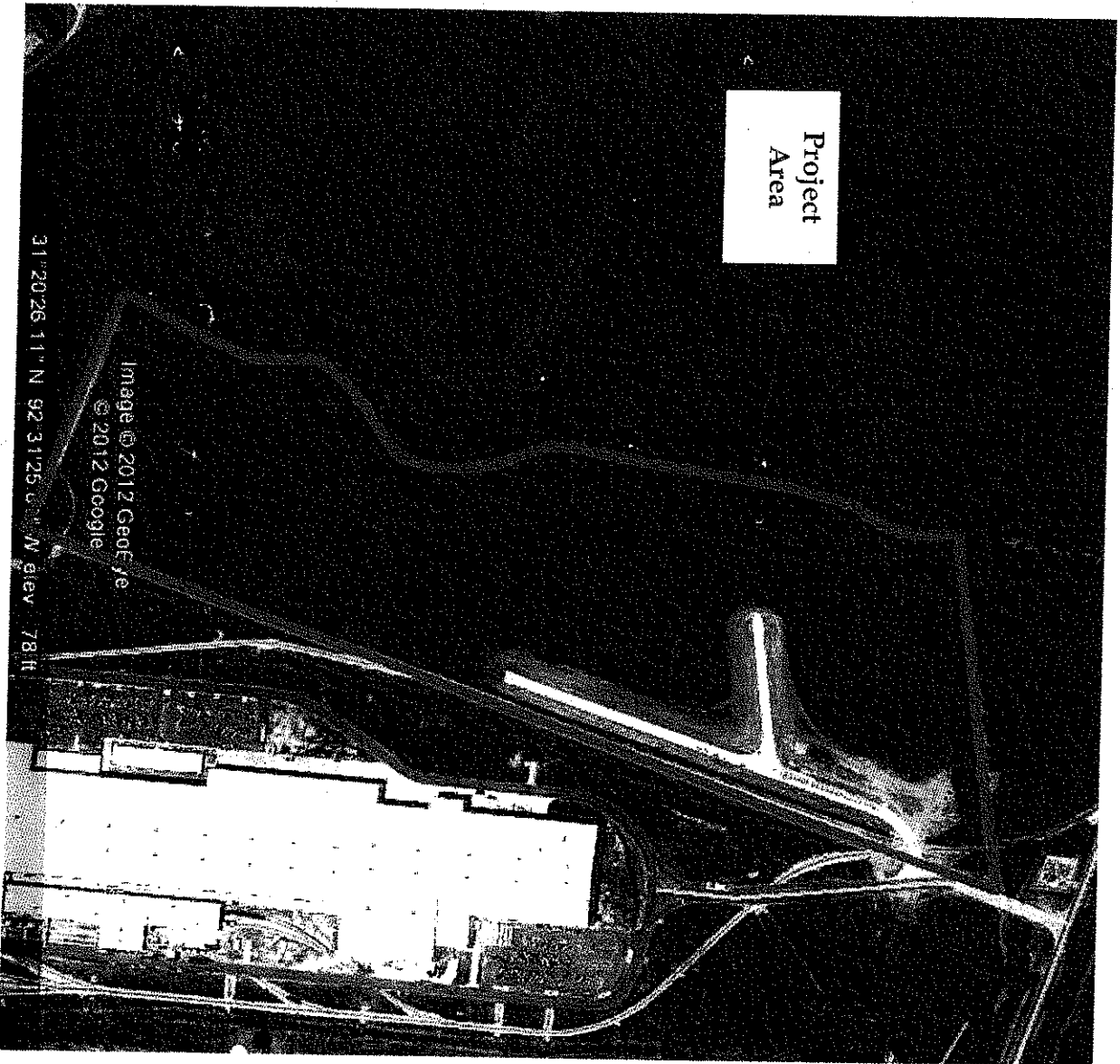
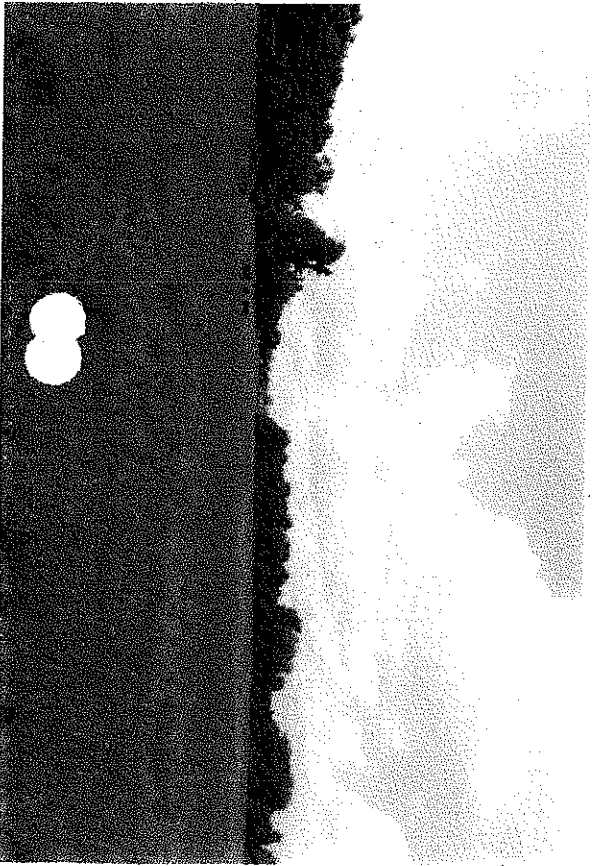


Figure 7. Aerial photograph showing APE (Source: Google Earth).



Figure 8. Southern portion of APE, looking north.



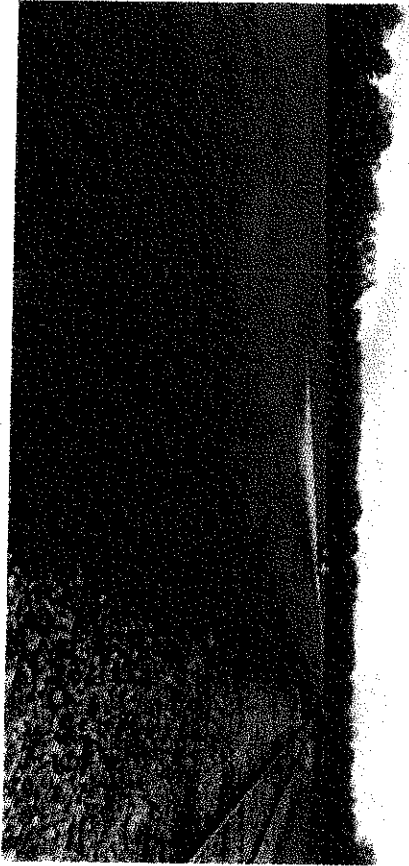
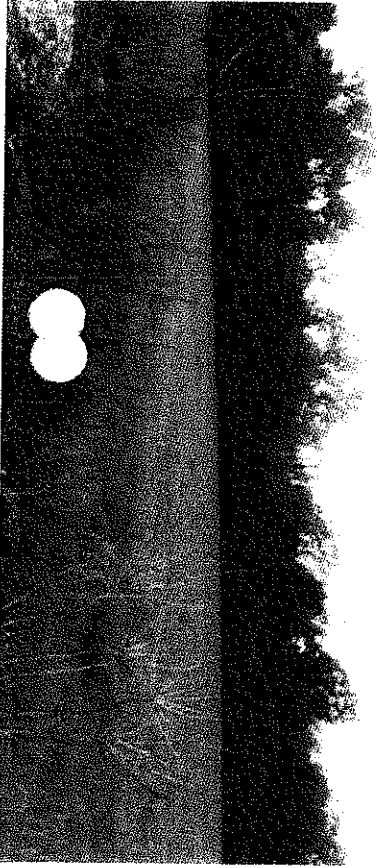


Figure 10. Northern portion of APE, looking northwest, from railroad tracks.



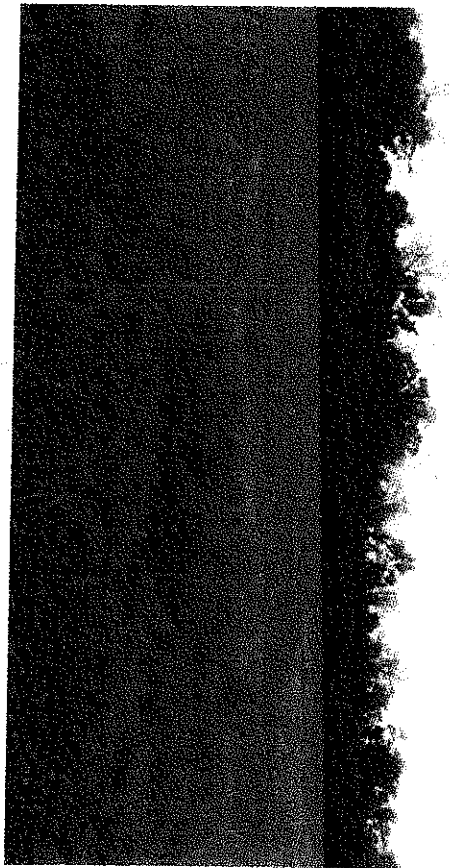


Figure 12. Northern portion of APE, looking west, from railroad tracks.

Fieldwork

Field survey was conducted on Friday, April 13, 2012. The entire APE was surveyed using a HP protocol of shovel testing.

None of the shovel tests in the APE were positive for cultural remains and all indicated profound disturbance of the soil surface. In general, shovel tests in the southern part of the APE revealed a sandy soil containing gravel overlying a clay stratum (Figure 12). The northern part of the APE revealed a sandy soil containing gravel overlying a clay stratum.

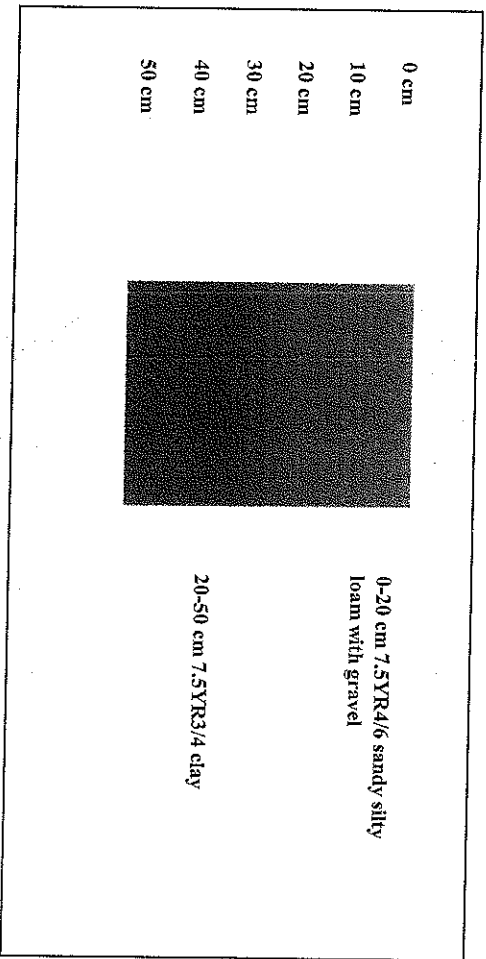
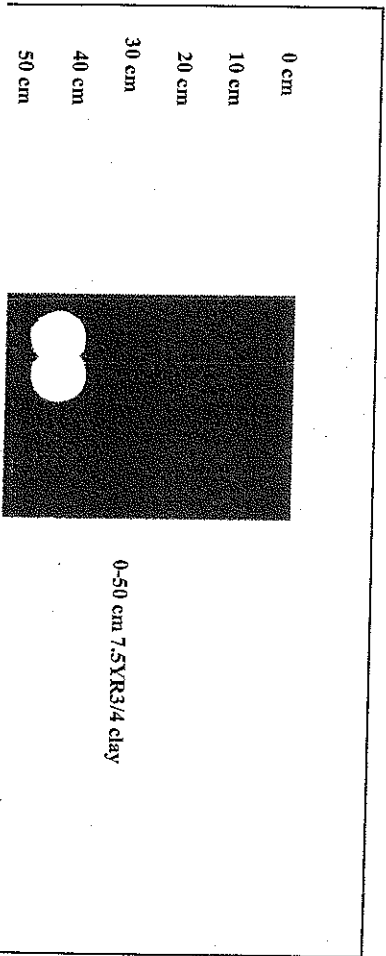


Figure 13. Representative shovel test profile for southern portion of APE.



In summary, the APE showed no indications of containing cultural resources.

CHAPTER EIGHT: CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

SURA, Inc., conducted a Phase I cultural resources survey of a 31 ac (12.6 ha) tract at England Air Park, Alexandria, Rapides Parish, Louisiana. No cultural resources were recorded and SURA concludes that there are unlikely to be properties eligible for the NRHP in the current APE. SURA, Inc., recommends that the project be allowed to proceed as planned. A total of 129 shovel tests were excavated.

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