

Exhibit HH. Noel Site Phase I Cultural Resources Assessment Report



Noel Site Phase I Cultural Resources Assessment Report

June 24, 2019

Mr. Russell Richardson
Baton Rouge Area Chamber
564 Laurel Street
Baton Rouge, LA 70801

**RE: Noel Site Phase I Cultural Resources Assessment Report
Certification Boundary
CSRS Project No 212161**

Dear Mr. Richardson,

As a prerequisite for site certification, the Noel Site located in Ascension Parish was subject to a Phase I Cultural Resources Assessment Report (Report) in October 2018. The purpose of this Report was to survey the site and determine the presence of areas eligible for the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) according to the four criteria listed in the Bulletin 15 (NPS 1995:2).

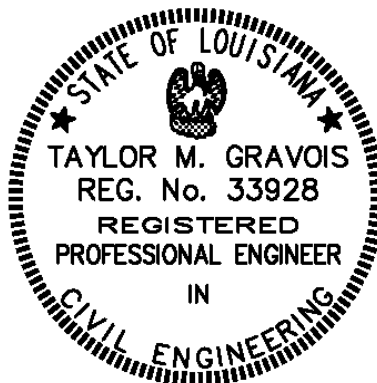
The Elise Schoolhouse (03-00763) is referenced in the Report but is not within the Noel certified site boundary. This schoolhouse area is approximately 3.4 ac (1.4 ha) and was built in 1907 (The Louisiana Planter and Sugar Manufacturer Vol. 39 1907). At the time of the Report field effort, exact property ownership boundaries were not verified and during the field work, access was not granted to evaluate the nearby Schoolhouse due to the lack of outside property ownership permission. The authors of the Report believe the Elise Schoolhouse may meet the NRHP eligibility criteria, but the schoolhouse is not located within the Noel certified site boundary and will not be an encumbrance for future development of the certified site boundary.

Thank you for the opportunity to assist you in this project. Should you have any questions or require additional information, feel free to contact me.

Respectfully,



Taylor M. Gravois, PE, PLS
Principal



**PHASE I CULTURAL RESOURCES SURVEY
OF 944 ACRES (382 HECTARES) NEAR DONALDSONVILLE,
ASCENSION PARISH, LOUISIANA**

**Noel Site Phase I Cultural
Resources Assessment Report**



for

**Baton Rouge Area Chamber (BRAC)
564 Laurel Street
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70801**

October 2018



SURA, INC.
P.O. Box 14414
Baton Rouge, LA 70898-4414
Since 1986



**PHASE I CULTURAL RESOURCES SURVEY
OF 944 ACRES (382 HECTARES) NEAR DONALDSONVILLE,
ASCENSION PARISH, LOUISIANA**

Revised Draft Report

by

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Malcolm Shuman**

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for

**Baton Rouge Area Chamber (BRAC)
564 Laurel Street
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70801**

October 2018

ABSTRACT

From May 21 to July 2, 2018, Surveys Unlimited Research Associates, Inc. (SURA) carried out a Phase I cultural resources survey of 944 acres (ac) (382 hectares [ha]) near Donaldsonville in Ascension Parish, Louisiana. The project was carried out under contract to the Baton Rouge Area Chamber (BRAC), as part of the Louisiana Economic Development Site Certification Program.

The project area was sectioned into areas of High Probability (HP) and Low Probability (LP). A total of 2,875 shovel tests (STs) were excavated at HP, LP, and during subsequent site delineation. The project area consisted mostly of sugar cane fields with a small wooded area included within the southern portion, while open fields and lawns comprised the northern portion. Various dirt roads, plow areas, and piles of trash and machinery were encountered throughout the northern portion of the project area. Moreover, a portion of the project area belonging to the Haywards and not the majority landowner, Mr. Marc Noel, was not surveyed due to denied access. This area consisted of 3.4 ac (1.4 ha) and is the location of the Elise Schoolhouse (03-00763) developed in 1907 (The Louisiana Planter and Sugar Manufacturer Vol. 39 1907).

The survey located three previously unrecorded sites within the project area: 16AN120 (the Noel East site); 16AN121 (the Noel West site); and, 16AN122 (the Noel Cane site). Research suggests these sites are associated with the former Elise Plantation, which, according to the 1904 Statement of Sugar and Rice Crops, has historically cultivated sugar cane (Bouchereau 1909). The former Elise Plantation was one of several plantations owned by George B. Reuss. The others include the Germania, Ashland-Belle Helene, Cuba, and Mulberry Grove Plantations, however, after thorough investigative research, there is no indication the Reuss family ever occupied the Elise Plantation; rather, its sole purpose was the harvesting of sugar cane.

Sites 16AN120-16AN122 and thirteen previously unrecorded structures (03-00760 through 03-00772) were encountered within the project area and were evaluated for National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) eligibility according to the four criteria considerations listed in Bulletin 15 (NPS 1995:2).

According to the National Register of Historic Places Bulletin 16 (NPS 1991:1, 36):

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:

- “A. That are associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history; or
- B. That are associated with the lives of persons significant in our past; or

- C. That 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. That have yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important in history or prehistory.” (NRHP 1997:2).”

Sites 16AN120-16AN122 and the twelve previously recorded structures (03-00760 through 03-00762 and 03-00764 through 03-00772) were evaluated against Criterion A (events), Criterion B (persons), Criterion C (workmanship), and Criterion D (information potential) of the NRHP. Although likely associated with the former Elise Plantation, research provides no evidence the Reuss family lived on this land; that it was only used to harvest sugar cane. The lack of evidence indicating historic structures associated with habitation of the land and the absence of features further suggests sites 16AN120-16AN122 and structures 03-00760 through 03-00762 and 03-00764 through 03-00772 do not possess significant integrity for inclusion to the NRHP and further work would not provide knowledge above and beyond what is currently known.

However, within the portion of the project area unable to be surveyed due to denied access sits the Elise Schoolhouse (03-00763), which the authors believe meets the National Register’s criteria for evaluation under Criterion A and Criterion C.

In summation, sites 16AN120-16AN122 and the twelve previously unrecorded structures encountered within the project area (03-00760 through 03-00762 and 03-00764 through 03-00772) do not meet the criteria for nomination to the NRHP. As such, there would be no effects to historic properties.

However, without definitive construction plans proposed for the project area, any direct or indirect effects to the Elise Schoolhouse (03-00763) are currently unknown. The authors, in accordance with the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), recommend further evaluation of the historic properties associated with the Elise Schoolhouse prior to ground disturbing activities to determine eligibility for inclusion to the NRHP.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The field crew consisted of Brandy Kerr, Hamzah Jule, Karl Shuman, Sally McMillian, Jake Mendoza, and Will McManus. Jennie Garcia, M.A., Historic Preservationist, provided information on and evaluated the impact of this project to the various structures encountered within the project area. Brandy Kerr led the crew and wrote the report. Dr. Malcolm Shuman served as principal investigator.

The authors would like to extend a special thank you to Mr. Marc Noel and Mr. John Landry for providing details on the history of the project area, along with Mr. Elliott Boudreaux of CSRS for providing maps, and finally, Dr. Rachel Watson of the Louisiana Division of Archaeology for consultation.

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CHAPTER ONE: INTRODUCTION

From May 21 to July 2, 2018, Surveys Unlimited Research Associates, Inc. (SURA) carried out a Phase I cultural resources survey of 944 acres (ac) (382 hectares [ha]) near Donaldsonville in Ascension Parish, Louisiana. The project was carried out under contract to the Baton Rouge Area Chamber (BRAC), as part of their Louisiana Economic Development Site Certification Program. The project area lies in Sections 31, 32, 33, 57, 58, and 71, T10S, R14E (Figure 1). The extent and utilization of development of the project area is currently unknown. Thirteen previously unrecorded structures (03-00760 through 03-00772) were encountered, one of which was unable to be surveyed (03-00763) due to denied access to the property, as well as three previously unrecorded sites-16AN120, 16AN121, and 16AN122.

The following chapters in this report describe the environmental setting, culture history, previous archaeological investigations, the methodology employed in the survey, the survey's results, and the study's conclusions and recommendations.

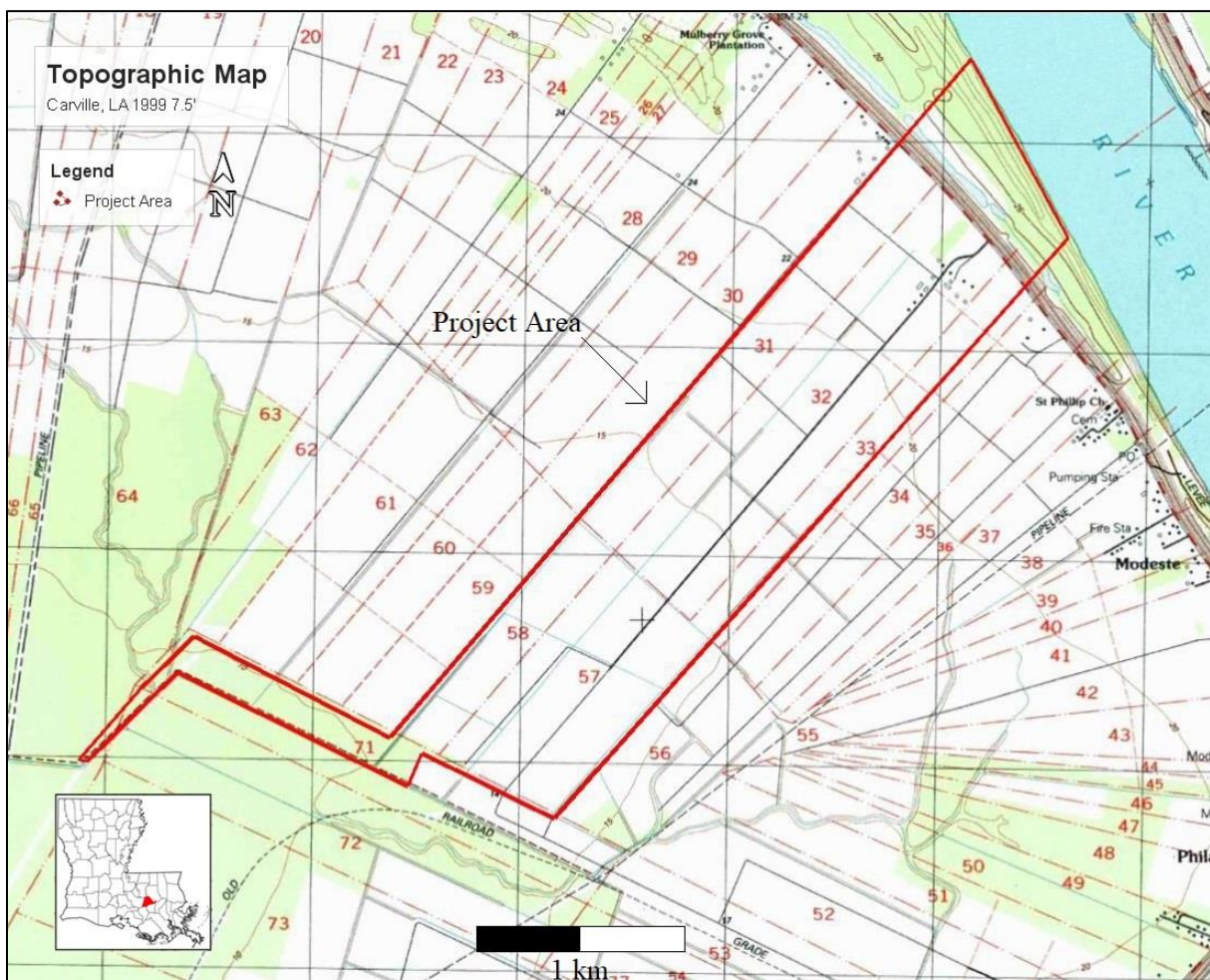


Figure 1. Portion of Carville, LA 1999 7.5-minute topographic map (source: USGS).

CHAPTER TWO: ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

Geology and Geomorphology

The most influential factors in determining the natural setting of the project area are the fluvial geomorphological processes associated with the lower Mississippi River. The meandering nature of the river, its associated tributaries and distributaries, the building of natural levees, and crevasses in the natural levee, affected the extent, time, and nature of prehistoric and historic occupations.

The Mississippi River changed abruptly, in geological terms, from a river of braided channels to a meandering stream approximately 12,000 years ago. This change is generally thought to have been caused by a rise in sea level dating from the end of the last Ice Age (Gagliano 1984).

This geomorphological event may have also coincided roughly with the arrival of man into what is now the Mississippi Valley-Gulf Coast region. In fact, archaeology and geomorphology have aided each other in dating the locations and times of the various shifts in the Mississippi River and its attendant streams because aboriginal occupations appear to have generally occurred along active stream channels (e.g. Russell 1938, McIntire 1958, Gagliano 1984).

Soils

The majority of the soils in the project area pertain to the Thibaut clay (Tu), Convent silt (Cs), and Commerce silty clay loam (Co) Associations. Figure 2 provides an aerial photo depicting the soils located within the project area.

Thibaut clays (Tu) are characteristically very deep, poorly drained, and slowly permeable soils. They are located on the lower parts of natural levees of the Mississippi River and its distributaries. They are agriculturally utilized for the cultivation of sugarcane, soybeans, and cotton.

Convent silt (Cs) and Commerce silty clay loam (Co) are characteristically very deep, somewhat poorly drained, and moderately permeable soils. Both soils are generally formed in loamy alluvium. Like Thibaut clay (Tu), Convent silt (Cs) and Commerce silty clay loam (Co) are utilized for cultivation of sugarcane, soybeans, and cotton (Source: USDA).

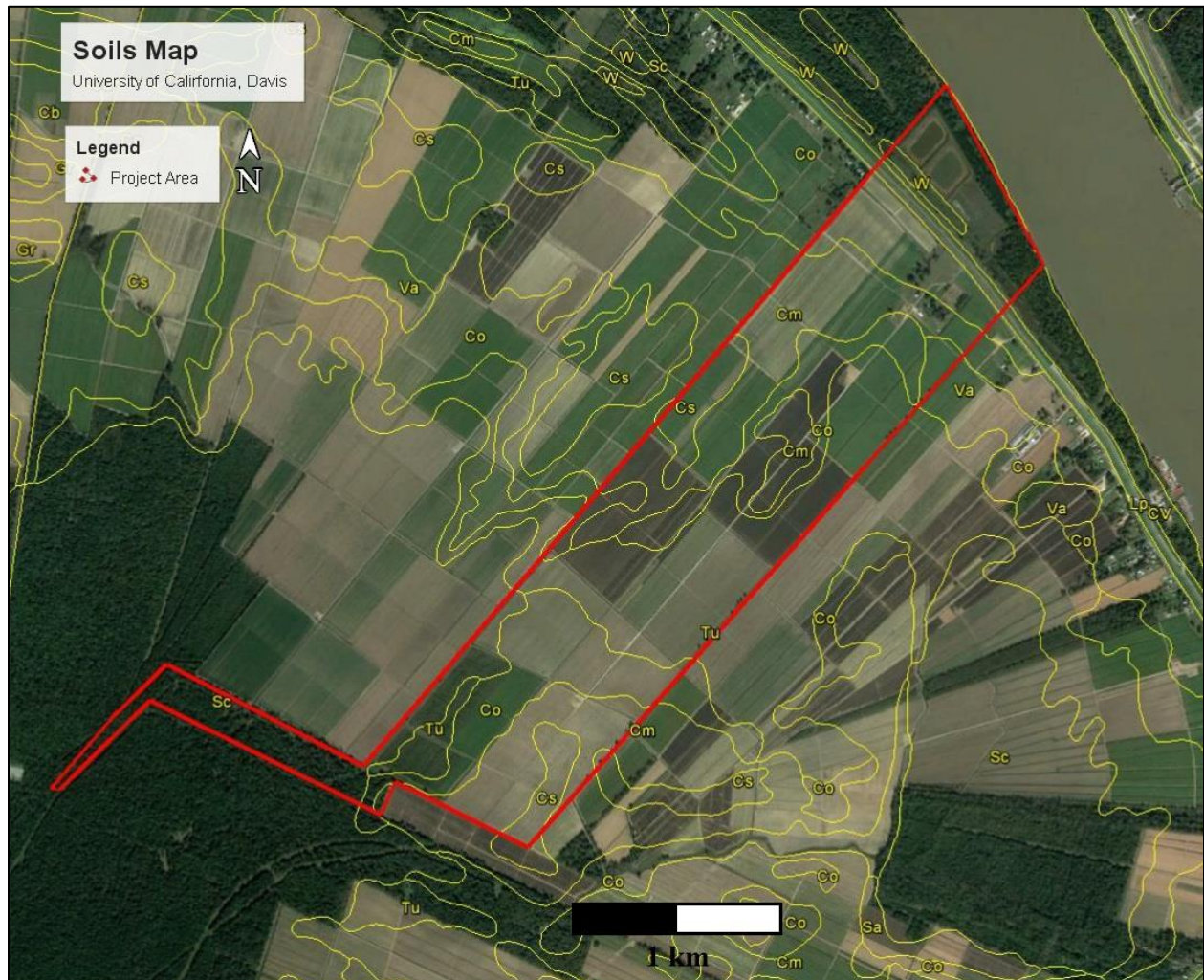


Figure 2. Soils map of project area (source: University of California, Davis 2016/Google Earth).

Flora and Fauna

Animal life is diverse and most of the 62-mammal species found in Louisiana may at one time have been found within the area. These include white-tail deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*), cottontail rabbit (*Sylvilagus floridanus*), swamp rabbit (*Sylvilagus aquaticus*), gray squirrel (*Sciurus carolinensis*), fox squirrel (*Sciurus niger*), skunk (*Mephitis mephitis*), black bear (*Euarctos americanus*), raccoon (*Procyon lotor*), mink (*Mustela vison*), beaver (*Castor canadensis*), opossum (*Didelphus virginiana*), bobcat (*Lynx rufus*), gray fox (*Urocyon cinereoargenteus*) and red fox (*Vulpes fulva*) (Lowery 1974). Birds include such predators as the great horned owl (*Bubo virginianus*), barred owl (*Strix platypterus*), marsh hawk (*Circus cyaneus*), and many others. Non-predatory types include woodcocks (*Philohela minor*), wood ducks (*Aix sponsa*), bobwhite quail (*Colinus virginianus*), and mourning doves (*Zenaidura macroura*) (Lowery 1955).

Reptile life is particularly diverse, owing to the heterogeneity of habitats in the area. Included are alligators (*Alligator mississippiensis*), several species of snakes, including the cotton mouth (*Agkistrodon contortrix*), and varied species of lizards and turtles. Amphibians include species of salamanders, frogs, and toads (Dundee and Rossman 1989).

Fish life is very prolific in this part of Louisiana and no doubt was likewise prehistorically. Prominent fish species are gar (*Lepisosteus spp*), largemouth bass (*Micropterus salmoides*), and bluegill (*Lepomis macrochirus*), among many others. Brackish water clams (*Rangia cuneata*) are frequently found in archaeological deposits near coastal Louisiana, although there are several archaeological sites in the vicinity of the project area that contain these shells indicating a more brackish water environment than exists currently.

CHAPTER THREE: PREHISTORY OF THE PROJECT AREA

It is unknown when humans first entered the New World. Some researchers place this event as early as 40,000 years ago, but more conservative investigators date the first Americans at no earlier than 23,000 B.P. Whatever the case, by 10,000 years ago Paleoindians were living in caves at the Straits of Magellan, so that their entry into the New World must have occurred several thousand years prior to that, as a minimum (Neuman 1984:58). Figure 2+ shows the prehistoric chronology for that portion of Louisiana containing the project area.

Paleoindian Period (?–6,000 B.C.)

In Louisiana, there is evidence of Paleoindians, both from a series of surface finds of fluted points and from excavations (i.e., Webb et al. 1971). Most of these data derive from the northern half of the state; evidence from the Coastal Zone is somewhat more ambiguous. During the 1960s, Sherwood Gagliano carried out a series of investigations at Avery Island, a salt dome island in Iberia Parish (Gagliano 1964; 1967; 1970). The results of these investigations led Gagliano to conclude that Avery Island had been inhabited by a “pre-Clovis” culture associated with a bipolar tool industry. As Neuman has written, however, Gagliano has been unable to point to a single Paleoindian artifact in situ, and his bipolar industry could just as easily be Archaic in date, judging from similar assemblages found elsewhere in Archaic contexts. In fact, a radiocarbon date for split cane matting found beneath extinct animal bones is Archaic (2310 \pm 1–590 B.C.), a fact that suggests that some of the important material recovered by Gagliano had been contextually disturbed (Neuman 1984:63–65). Finds of Dalton, Plainview and San Patrice points at the Blackwater Bayou (16EBR33) and Palmer (16EBR26) sites indicate that Paleoindian occupations were present in this general area (Weinstein et al. 1977; LDOA n.d.).

Archaic Period (6,000 B.C.–1,500 B.C.)

This period represents a time of heavy exploitation of wild plant foods and of small game, representing adaptation to an expanding boreal environment (Weinstein and Kelley 1984:32–34). The initial part of this period, the Early Archaic (6,000–5,000 B.C.), is defined by a series of distinctive projectile points, and it has been suggested that society was organized at the band level and focused on a seasonal round of hunting and gathering. The succeeding Middle Archaic period (5,000–3,000 B.C.) was marked by widespread regional differentiation of cultures and the development of ground stone technology (Weinstein and Kelley 1992:30). This subperiod corresponds to the Hypsithermal Interval, a time of increased warmth and aridity in areas around the Great Plains. It is presently unclear what effect this may have had on the Southeast.

Time Frame	Period	Sub-periods		Cultures		
A.D. 1700	Historic	American Colonial		Multicultural & Multiethnic		
A.D. 1500	Mississippian	Late Mississippi - Protohistoric		Mississippian	Caddo	
A.D. 1200		Middle Mississippi		Plaquemine		
A.D. 1000	Woodland	Late Woodland	Coles Creek	Coles Creek	Fourche Maline	
A.D. 700			Baytown	Troyville		
A.D. 400		Middle Woodland	Marksville	Marksville		
A.D. 1		Early Woodland	Tchula	Tchefuncte		
800 B.C.						
1700 B.C.	Archaic	Late Archaic	Poverty Point	Poverty Point		
2000 B.C.						
		Middle Archaic		Evans		
6000 B.C.				(poorly defined)		
8000 B.C.		Early Archaic		San Patrice var. Keithville		
8800 B.C.	Paleoindian	Late Paleoindian		San Patrice		
9500 B.C.		Middle Paleoindian		Clovis		
10,500 B.C.		Early Paleoindian		Pre-Clovis		
11,500 B.C.						

Figure 3. Prehistoric cultural chronology (source: Rees 2010:12).

The Middle Archaic in South Louisiana is represented by the Banana Bayou phase. Banana Bayou (16IB24) is a site on Avery Island. The mound yielded Williams and Pontchartrain points, crude bifaces, lithic debitage and a fairly large number of baked clay objects (Brown and Lambert-Brown 1978). Another site of some importance is 16IB101, which is located on the edge of the Prairie Terrace, overlooking the Teche channel, just south of New Iberia. This site contains a Middle Archaic component and may represent an elevated habitation locale associated with the active Teche-Mississippi (Weinstein and Kelley 1992:33). Weinstein and Kelley (1992:30–31) suggest that in the future, components of the Banana Bayou phase may be identified in this area.

The Late Archaic subperiod (3000–1500 B.C.) was a time of pronounced population increase and the development of extensive trade networks. Three geographically distinct phases have been identified for Coastal Louisiana, but only one of these, the Pearl River Phase, is well known (Gagliano and Webb 1970; Weinstein and Kelley 1992:33). The remaining two phases are the Copell phase, derived from a preceramic cemetery (16VM102) on Pecan Island (Collins 1941), and the Bayou Blue Phase, which comes from a site (16AL1) in Allen Parish (CEI 1977; Gagliano et al. 1982; Weinstein et al. 1977). Typical diagnostic artifacts include Evans, Palmillas, Ensor, Macon, Gary and Pontchartrain points and such ground stone implements as winged atlatl weights and tubular pipes (Weinstein and Kelley 1992:33).

The only Late Archaic phase so far identified for Southeast Louisiana is the Pearl River phase, suggested by Gagliano on the basis of oyster shell middens associated with early coastal features. Artifacts indicative of this phase are Kent, Macon, Male and Palmillas projectile points and certain types of atlatl weights (Gagliano 1963). The Mizell Mound site (16ST126), just west of the West Pearl River, has been suggested by Jones and Shuman (1988:136–137) to be a possible Archaic location.

Neoindian Period (1,500 B.C.–A.D. 1500)

The Neoindian period saw the introduction of ceramics, the widespread use of cultigens and the importation of the bow-and-arrow. The construction of earthen mounds, while apparently practiced to some extent during the Late Archaic (Gibson 1994; Russo 1994; Saunders 1994), became highly developed during the Neoindian period and the focus of ceremonial, mortuary and political activity (Neuman 1984). A number of cultures flourished during this time span, as detailed below.

Poverty Point Culture (1,500 B.C.–500 B.C.)

This culture, named for the gigantic semi-circular earthworks in West Carroll Parish (16WC5), was widespread throughout Louisiana, Arkansas and Mississippi, and was closely related to similar cultures in Missouri, Tennessee, Alabama and Florida (Ford and Webb 1956; Neuman 1984:90). The origins of Poverty Point culture remain obscure, although Neuman suggests that both local adaptation and influences from Mesoamerica were involved (Neuman 1984:91). The material culture of Poverty Point featured baked clay balls (Poverty Point Objects), microlithic and lapidary industries and the construction of earthworks. The presence of pottery is debatable, although Clarence Webb (1982:40-42) discusses a number of cases in which ceramics have been found at Poverty Point sites. Hunting and gathering seem to have been important in Poverty Point times, but whether agriculture was a vital subsistence activity is unclear (Neuman 1984: 110–111). Certainly, Webb (1968) sees agriculture as having had an important function at Poverty Point.

Other important Poverty Point sites in the Lower Mississippi Valley are Jaketown and Teoc Creek in Mississippi; the Terral Lewis site (16MA16) and the J. W. Copes site (16MA36), both in Madison Parish, Louisiana; the Aaron site (16EC39) in East Carroll Parish; and the Cowpen Slough (16CT147) and Dragline (16CT36) sites in the Tensas Basin. A number of small shell middens on the shores of Lake Pontchartrain evidence Poverty Point traits and suggest seasonal adaptations to marsh environments (Goodwin et al. 1991b:9). Writing about these locations, Goodwin and his coworkers cite Gagliano and Saucier (1963) to the effect that:

Sites located along the western shore exhibit Poverty Point traits exclusively; those along the eastern shore contain both bone tool and microlithic industries.... These sites represent two phases of Poverty Point culture: the Bayou Jasmine phase and the Garcia phase. Bayou Jasmine phase sites are located on the western shore of the lake as well as along natural levee ridges of the Mississippi River distributaries. Garcia phase sites are located along the eastern shore of Lake Pontchartrain (Goodwin et al. 1991:9).

The type location for the Garcia Phase is site 16OR34. It contained a beach deposit of *Rangia* shells along with midden material. Radiocarbon dates from Bayou Jasmine components cluster in the vicinity of 1,470 B.C., while Garcia phase components are about 1,000 years later (Gagliano 1963; Gagliano and Saucier 1963; Goodwin et al. 1991:9). Nearer the project area, one of the Monte Sano Mounds (16EBR17) yielded an unusually early radiocarbon date of 6,220 \pm 1,140 B.P, while Poverty Point objects were found during the excavation (Haag 1993). The place of this site in the Poverty Point sequence remains to be clarified.

By 800 B.C., Poverty Point culture had begun to decline and the extensive trade network that formed a pivotal part of the culture withered. A simpler, Archaic style of life centering on the hunting of small game and the gathering of wild foods seems to have been the rule, with social organization consisting of small bands of hunters and gatherers. The reasons for this decline are unknown (Neuman 1984:111–112).

Tchula Period (500 B.C.–A.D. 1)

The successors of Poverty Point culture were the Tchefuncte people, and the period in which they lived is called Tchula. The name Tchefuncte derives from the site of that name in St. Tammany Parish (16ST1) (Ford and Quimby 1945). Smith et al. (1983:163) have defined this period as being characterized by a simpler way of life than in the preceding Poverty Point period. This Tchefuncte way of life was similar to the Late Archaic, but with the introduction of a ceramic complex. The Tchefuncte people were hunter-gatherers who also apparently possessed horticulture to some degree, cultivating squash and bottle gourd (Byrd 1974). A wide variety of animals was hunted, including deer, raccoon, ducks, muskrat, otter, bear, gray fox, ocelot, and alligator. It seems that crustaceans were not eaten. The Tchefuncte culture is especially known for its shell middens, heaps of shells from the brackish water clam, *Rangia cuneata*. These clams were evidently eaten by the human populace, although Byrd has shown that their nutritive value is minimal (Byrd 1977; Neuman 1984:118).

The lithic artifact inventory of Tchefuncte people included adzes, drills, hammerstones, knives, scrapers and projectile points. Ground stone artifacts include abraders, atlatl weights, beads, cobble hammerstones, grooved plummets, mortars and pitted stones. Baked clay objects continued to be made, but in less variety and in fewer numbers than at Poverty Point (Smith et al. 1983:163). Typically, the Tchefuncte baked clay object is biconical in shape, which contrasts with the wide variety of forms employed during Poverty Point times. Weinstein and Kelley (1992:34–35) suggest that the Tchefuncte people were mound builders, but Neuman (1984:135) writes that “the evidence to support the theory that the Tchefuncte Culture Indians were mound builders is most vague.”

Perhaps the closest Tchefuncte site to the project area is Kleinpeter (16EBR5), which, while most heavily populated during Coles Creek and Plaquemine times, had a definite Tchefuncte component (Jones et al. 1994). Other sites of the Tchula period in the vicinity of Kleinpeter are Beau Mire (16AN17), studied by Weinstein and Rivet (1978), who used it to develop the concept of the Tchula phase, and the Lee (16EBR51) and Sarah Peralta (16EBR67) sites, studied by Weinstein et al. (1985) and Perrault et al. (1994), respectively.

Marksville Culture (AD. 1–400)

This culture, named for the type site in Avoyelles Parish (16AV1), was closely allied to the Hopewell culture of the Ohio and Illinois River valleys. The Marksville people constructed domed earthen mounds in which they buried their dead leaders, usually with funerary offerings (Neuman 1984). Marksville ceramics are finely made, with characteristic broadly incised lines and rocker stamping. The bird design is a frequent motif. Marksville ceramics are, in fact, often hard to distinguish from those made by Hopewell peoples, leading to much speculation about the nature of the Marksville-Hopewell interaction. Toth (1988) felt that the main evidence for such an interaction derives from Marksville mortuary practices and the comparison of ceramic types. Other cultural practices, such as subsistence and settlement pattern, may not have been a part of

whatever relationship existed between the two groups. It has been speculated that Marksville subsistence was based on hunting and the intensive gathering of wild foods, but the evidence for maize agriculture is still weak (Weinstein and Kelley 1992:35).

On the basis of his survey of sites along the Amite River, east of Baton Rouge, Weinstein identified two Marksville phases (Smithfield and Gunboat Landing) for the eastern part of Louisiana (Weinstein 1974). The Kleinpeter site (16EBR5), located on a terrace overlooking Bayou Fountain, also contains a significant late Marksville component, although there is no evidence that any of the mounds date from that period (Jones et al. 1994). Other significant Marksville sites in South Louisiana appear to be the Gibson mounds (16TR5) and Mandalay Plantation (16TR1), both in Terrebonne Parish (Weinstein and Kelley 1992:35). Nearer to the present project area, the Noland Mound (16WF7) may be Marksville, judging from its conical shape, though a nearby midden was almost entirely Coles Creek (Jones and Shuman 1986).

Baytown Period (A.D. 400–700)

Baytown (containing the Troyville culture) is perhaps the most problematical period in Louisiana prehistory. Partly, this owes to the manner of its original definition (Gibson 1982; Belmont 1982). But it is also true that the period has been dealt with differently by different authors. Neuman, for instance, places it with Coles Creek, calling the two Troyville-Coles Creek. Some authors, on the other hand, separate it as a distinct period between Tchefuncte and Coles Creek. Weinstein and Kelley (1992:36) suggest that the development of Baytown in the Lower Mississippi Valley is associated with the appearance of Quafalorma and Woodville painted pottery, along with Mulberry Creek cordmarked, Salomon Brushed, and Alligator Incised ceramic types. The attempt to devise phases for South Louisiana has been difficult. For example, the Whitehall phase, named for a site on the Amite River (16LV19), is the only Baytown phase known for this area (Weinstein and Kelley 1992:36).

Nevertheless, Baytown components have been found at several locations in south Louisiana. These include 16EBR5, 16EBR51, 16EBR67, and 16TR5 (The Gibson Mounds), which were investigated by Weinstein et al. (1978). Another site from this time period is Richeau Field (16TR82), a low mound on the Teche-Mississippi natural levee just southwest of Gibson (Weinstein et al. 1978). A Baytown (Troyville) component has been reported by Malcolm Webb (1982) from the Indian Village site (16ST6).

Coles Creek Period (A.D. 700–1200)

Coles Creek culture represents a cultural florescence in the Lower Mississippi Valley. The settlement pattern involved hamlets and small villages, centered around one or more pyramidal earthen platform mounds. These mounds served as bases for temples and the houses of leaders. Coles Creek culture was widespread in Louisiana and Mississippi and appears to have been

related to the very similar Weeden Island culture of northwest Florida (Weinstein and Kelley 1992:37).

Ceramic decoration in Coles Creek times centered around incised, stamped, and punctated designs that usually were restricted to a band around the rim of the vessel (Weinstein and Kelley 1992:37; Neuman 1984:186). Common motifs include horizontal incised lines, as in various varieties of Coles Creek Incised, and diagonal incised lines, as in Mazique Incised, vars. Mazique and King's Point. Another common type is French Fork Incised, consisting of zoned designs featuring punctations and incised decorations.

The economic basis of Coles Creek society is not clear. It has been widely assumed that maize was important to these people (e.g., Smith et al. 1983:282), but it has been impossible to demonstrate this due to a lack of *Zea mays* in securely dated Coles Creek contexts (Weinstein and Kelley 1992:37). It must be inferred, therefore, that the basis of Coles Creek society was an efficient gathering economy, supplemented by hunting and limited horticulture.

South Louisiana contains an abundance of Coles Creek sites, several of which (e.g., 16IV6, 16VM9, 16AS35, 16SMY1 and 16EBR5) have been at least partially excavated. From this, three temporally distinct phases have been developed. These are the Bayou Cutler, Bayou Ramos and St. Gabriel phases. Bayou Cutler derives from the work of Kniffen (1938) and was refined by Phillips (1970), who utilized data on 74 sites in the lower reaches of the Lower Mississippi Valley. The Bayou Ramos phase was developed by Weinstein in St. Mary Parish at Bayou Ramos I (16SMY133) (Weinstein et al. 1978). The St. Gabriel Phase was defined at a site in Ascension Parish (16AN128) excavated by Woodiel (1993), but perhaps the most spectacular example of the St. Gabriel Phase is at Kleinpeter (16EBR5) in East Baton Rouge Parish. There, Jones et al. (1994) found the remains of a circular house in a context where radiocarbon and archaeomagnetic dates averaged A.D. 1100. In West Feliciana Parish, the Noland site (16WF7), the Lee or Solitude Mound (16WF27), and the Turner Subdivision site (16WF48) all have Coles Creek components (Shuman and Jones 1985; Jones and Shuman 1986).

Mississippi Period (A.D. 1200–1700)

The Mississippi period in the southeastern United States is a time when cultural influences from the Central Mississippi Valley increasingly affected the indigenous cultures of the region. In Louisiana, this is reflected both in the Plaquemine culture, an outgrowth of the preceding Coles Creek, and the Mississippian culture proper. Specifically, this influence is indicated by vast complexes of truncated earthen pyramids and the use of shell temper in ceramics, as well as in distinctive ceramic forms, such as effigy vessels.

Mississippian culture sites were often fortified (Stoltman 1978:725). During this period, social and political organization appears to have centered on a chiefdom, and subsistence was based on the triad of maize, beans and squash.

Mississippian culture seems to have radiated from the Cahokia mounds group in Illinois, with its influence eventually extending both down the Mississippi River and along the Gulf Coast.

In Louisiana, Plaquemine culture is represented at such sites as Medora site (16WBR1), Kleinpeter (16EBR5), Bayou Goula (16IV11), Pritchards Landing (16C14), Fitzhugh (16MA1) and many others (Smith et al. 1983:197; Jones et al. 1994).

The nature of the relationship between Plaquemine and Mississippian cultures is as yet unclear. Phillips (1970), for example, considered Plaquemine culture to have evolved by about A.D. 1000 and to have thereafter been steadily influenced by the Mississippians until about A.D. 1400, when Mississippian groups actually displaced the indigenous Plaquemine peoples. Brain (1978), however, would place Coles Creek as lasting until approximately A.D. 1200, when it was influenced so heavily by Mississippian culture that it evolved into Plaquemine, which is, in his view, a hybrid.

On the basis of information developed largely from ceramic analyses, three regional phases have been suggested for early Plaquemine culture in this general area. The first is the Medora phase, based on the work of Quimby (1951) at the Medora site (16WBR1) in West Baton Rouge Parish. The second is the Barataria phase, based largely on investigations at the Fleming site (16JE36) (Holley and DeMarcay 1977), and the third is Burk Hill, which derives from the study of Brown (1982) at the Burk Hill site (16IB100) on Cote Blanche Island. It was also during early Plaquemine times that material relating to the "Southern Cult" appears. This term is used to denote a complex of traits that first appears around A.D. 1000 and reaches its zenith about A.D. 1500. This complex is associated especially with Mississippian culture proper, but it crossed cultural boundaries in the eastern United States (Neuman 1984:276). The complex focuses on an art style involving certain specific motifs, such as the cross, the sun, a bilobed arrow, the circle, the forked eye, the open eye, the barred oval, the hand and eye, and death motifs (Neuman 1984:277).

The closest Plaquemine sites to the study area are the Solitude Mound (16WF27) and the Riddle site (16WF4), both in West Feliciana Parish. Information about the former site is slight, although it has been reported as a pyramidal platform mound with Plaquemine period ceramics in an associated midden (Jones and Shuman 1986). The latter was originally visited by Beyer (1896), who found five platform mounds on the west bank of Thompson Creek. Unfortunately, when Jones and Shuman arrived to map the site 90 years later, only one mound remained (Jones and Shuman 1986). Another site in West Feliciana Parish with a Plaquemine component is the Turner Subdivision site (16WF48) (Shuman and Jones 1985; Jones and Shuman 1986). Further to the south in East Baton Rouge Parish, the Kleinpeter site (16EBR5) has been identified as a major Plaquemine period mound site in what are now the Florida parishes of Louisiana (Jones et al. 1994).

Protohistoric and Early Historic Cultures

The arrival of Europeans set in motion a chain of major population upheavals among the native Americans. With regard to the current project area, the chief group affected was the Tunica. Apparently, at the time the de Soto expedition reached the banks of the Mississippi River, in 1541, the Tunica were living in a village in northwestern Mississippi. This village was recorded by

chroniclers of the de Soto expedition as Quizquiz, a town of some importance that apparently participated in the Mississippian cultural sphere. By 1699, the inhabitants of Quizquiz had moved south to the Lower Yazoo River, where they were encountered by the French and referred to themselves as Tunica, which means “the people” (Brain et al. 1974). The settlement on the Yazoo lasted only a few years, for by 1706 the Tunica moved again, partly as the result of Chickasaw raids. This time they settled on the east bank of the Mississippi River, at what is now Louisiana State Penitentiary at Angola, opposite the mouth of the Red River (16WF2). Unfortunately, when the French defeated the Natchez in January 1731, the Natchez held the Tunica partly responsible. The Natchez thereupon attacked the Tunicas in April of that year, killing a number of Tunica warriors and wounding others. Once more the Tunica were obliged to move, settling this time at Trudeau Landing (16WF25). During this time (1731–1763), the Tunica thrived as horse traders, obtaining animals indirectly from the Spanish settlement in New Mexico and selling them to the French (Brain 1988a, b). It was by virtue of their success in this commerce that the Tunica were able to acquire European trade goods, many of which formed the famous Tunica Treasure unearthed at Trudeau (16WF25).

After 1763, when the French gave up sovereignty of Colonial Louisiana, the Tunica attempted to ambush an English party near Fort Adams and, fearing retribution, fled to the Gulf Coast, where they lived with the Biloxis. After a sojourn of a few months near present-day Mobile, the Tunica returned to their old area, settling on the east bank of the Mississippi a league above the Spanish post at Pointe Coupee. The encroachment of Europeans, however, led them to abandon this location sometime after 1784 and take up residence along the Red River, in Avoyelles Parish (Brain 1988b:39–44). There they have lived for two hundred years. Recognized by the Federal government as a tribe in 1980, they now live in Marksville, Louisiana, on the Tunica-Biloxi Indian Reservation.

CHAPTER FOUR: A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE PROJECT AREA

Early Exploration and Settlement

European explorers, lured by prospects of gold, began venturing into the southeastern United States within decades of Columbus' arrival in the New World. The first to actually touch what is now Louisiana were most likely members of a mapping party under contract to Spain. In 1519, Alonso Alvarez Pineda arranged to map the entire coast of the Gulf of Mexico. His expedition sailed past the Louisiana shores and at one point camped at the mouth of a massive river, a waterway Pineda named The River of Palms. Today, some dispute exists as to whether this was the Mobile River, the Rio Grande, or the Mississippi. Another Spaniard, Alvar Nunez Cabeza de Vaca, a member of the ill-fated Panfilo de Narvaez expedition, sailed along the coast of Louisiana in 1527 on his way to Texas but did not travel into the interior (LWPA 1941:37–43; Wall 1990:11).

Initial exploration of the interior was conducted about 15 years later. In 1541, a party under Hernando de Soto began an ambitious effort to explore North America. Landing at Florida, De Soto and his men explored the modern southeastern United States, and eventually penetrated as far inland as Arkansas. After De Soto's death, his men eventually traveled down the Mississippi River to the Gulf of Mexico, claiming the passing land, including West Feliciana, for Spain. However, as no Spanish settlers moved to occupy Louisiana, this early claim was tenuous at best (LWPA 1941:37–43).

During the seventeenth century, the French, having heard of a large river lying west of the Great Lakes, began scouting major waterways in North America for a passage to the Pacific Ocean. Robert Cavellier, Sieur de La Salle, traveled down the Mississippi River from the Great Lakes region in 1682, a voyage of approximately two months. Landing south of modern New Orleans in April, he held a formal ceremony in which he claimed all lands drained by the river for France and named Louisiana in honor of French King Louis XIV (Wall 1990:15–17).

The French proved more successful in maintaining their claim to Louisiana than the Spanish, for they began serious efforts to explore Louisiana's lands and rivers within a few decades of La Salle's voyage. As early as 1699, Pierre Le Moyne, Sieur d'Iberville, led an expedition up the Mississippi River, going as far as Pointe Coupee. Iberville encountered a number of Indian tribes and learned of another access to the Mississippi River from the Bayougoulas. This passage bypassed the long and winding course to the Gulf by following Bayou Manchac, a Mississippi River distributary, eastward to Lake Maurepas and then through Pass Manchac to Lake Pontchartrain. Iberville took this new route when he returned to the Gulf. Reporting back to his camp at Biloxi, he noted that the new route had saved him several days but still required many portages (Wall 1990:15–17; McWilliams 1981:25, 64–81).

Iberville had grand plans for the colonization of Louisiana. He hoped that one day its settlements would link up with those in Canada, thus giving the French control over the central

part of North America and its network of rivers. Initial attempts to colonize, however, were slow and sporadic. Because of problems in farming and the difficulties of recruiting people to settle across the Atlantic, Louisiana's population at first grew slowly. Prior to 1710, there were only a few hundred European inhabitants (Wall 1990:2223; Butler 1924:93).

European Exploration and Settlement of the Area

Eventually, settlement was accomplished as part of a larger effort by the French. France recognized the potential of Louisiana and established settlements along the Mississippi, Red, and Ouachita rivers during the early fifteenth century in order to maintain their claim to the territory and to keep the British out. In 1712, in order to populate and protect their claim, the French government contracted with Antoine Crozat to establish trade and colonize Louisiana. A similar agreement was drawn up with John Law in 1717, under which his Company of the West was able to offer land grants to willing settlers. Under these auspices, New Orleans was founded in 1718, a fort at Baton Rouge was established in 1722, and the Felicianas were included in a large land grant. In 1729, settlement began near a small fort, "St. Reyne aux Tonicas" (Fort St. Reine), which was probably near the modern site of St. Francisville. This settlement was short-lived and has not been relocated precisely. However, it was described as being between Natchez and New Orleans, in the vicinity of the Tunica. The Tunica, at the time, were living at the bluffs near present-day Angola Penitentiary (Wall 1990:36–38; Butler 1924:93).

Still, settlement continued to languish for several decades. Prior to the 1770s, the only other European activity in the area came from French Capuchin friars who established a chapel in what is now Pointe Coupee Parish. By 1738, regular flooding forced them to place their cemetery across the river near the site of Fort St. Reine. In the 1770s, under the jurisdiction of the Bishop of Santiago de Cuba, Spanish Capuchin friars moved to the area that is now St. Francisville in West Feliciana Parish and built a monastery and a cemetery. The name St. Francisville derives from their occupation (Butler 1924:92–93).

By 1740, the French presence extended along most of the navigable waterways in Louisiana, but political events in Europe changed the course of settlement. In 1762, France, on the verge of defeat in its war with Great Britain, ceded all of Louisiana to Spain under the Treaty of Fontainebleau. But in 1763, through the Treaty of Paris, Spain relinquished to Great Britain the territory of West Florida in exchange for Havana. West Florida included the land east of the Mississippi River and west of the Apalachicola River, but north of Bayou Manchac and Lakes Maurepas and Pontchartrain. The British immediately began their own colonization efforts by conferring land grants to British officers and soldiers. The amounts of land varied according to military rank. Captains, for example, received 3,000 acres (1,212 ha), privates as little as 50 ac (22.8 ha). West Feliciana began to take on a new character as it drew increasing numbers of Spanish and English landowners (Williamson and Goodman 1939:9–28; LWPA 1941:3143; Arthur 1935:12–15; Johnson 1993:548).

During this period, relations with the Indians were problematical. The French established trade relations with both the Tunica and Natchez, but with the increase in numbers of white

settlers, friction between the whites and Indians grew. In 1729, this led to an uprising by the Natchez, which caused the destruction of the French post at Fort Rosalie (Natchez). The French governor, Perrier, responded in force, pursuing the Natchez across the Mississippi River and defeating them in the vicinity of Sicily Island, in January 1731. Remnants of this disaster were further beaten at St. Denis, near Natchitoches (Swanton 1979:159–60). In April 1731, the Natchez, perceiving that the Tunicas had sided with the French, attacked and dispersed the latter. Thereafter, the Indian influence in West Feliciana diminished to where it was virtually nonexistent by the end of the century.

In 1779, Spain declared war against Great Britain, effectively entering the American Revolution on the side of the colonists. Spain continued to control both the mouth of the Mississippi River and New Orleans, which were of great strategic importance. Spain also recaptured West Florida, prized for its strategic location between Natchez and New Orleans, and Governor Bernardo de Galvez promptly began offering land to those loyal to the Spanish crown. The Spanish were to have a lasting effect on the area. Galvez named the area Feliciana for his Creole wife, and under Spanish stewardship, settlers laid the groundwork for future plantation development. Recognizing the agricultural value of Louisiana, Spanish law mandated that landowner's clear areas for farming and build and maintain levees (Arthur 1935:12-15).

The West Florida Rebellion

The Spanish reign over West Florida proved to be short-lived. In 1800, the Treaty of San Ildefonso returned most of Louisiana to France, and, in 1803, France sold Louisiana to the United States. Although Spain retained control over West Florida, the United States and Great Britain disputed that claim to ownership (Butler 1924:94–99; Padgett 1938:1–3).

After several years of disagreement, West Florida's residents took matters into their own hands. In 1810, led by John Rhea, John H. Johnson, and William Barrow, they engineered a rebellion, cast off Spanish rule, and established the Free and Independent Republic of West Florida. For 14 days, the modern Florida parishes existed as a tiny nation, complete with a constitution and a national flag (blue, with a single white star). Fulwar Skipwith was elected governor and St. Francisville was named the capital, although the capital was later moved to Baton Rouge (Reeves 1967: ix; Butler 1924:94–99; Padgett 1938:1–3). Later that same year, the United States claimed and took possession of West Florida, which it held illegally until the Adams-Onís Treaty in 1819 awarded all of Florida to the United States.

Louisiana under American Control

Having purchased Louisiana in 1803, American President Thomas Jefferson recognized the need to scientifically explore the lands west of the Mississippi River. In the interest of exploration, settlement and natural science, Jefferson sent two expeditions into Louisiana to

report on the natural flora, fauna and physical geography of the Red and Ouachita rivers. Having sent his best naturalist-explorers on the Lewis and Clark expedition, Jefferson initially relied on his West Florida friend William Dunbar to lead a short expedition in Louisiana; Dunbar was familiar with the Mississippi River area, having established plantations near Natchez and Baton Rouge in the late eighteenth century. In the fall and winter of 1804–1805, Dunbar and Dr. George Hunter went up the Red and Ouachita rivers, but the following year a larger expedition took up the project (Flores 1984:3–45, 99).

Louisiana's capital was originally New Orleans, but voters preferred a different location. In 1825, Donaldsonville, the seat of Ascension Parish was made the capital, although it was not until 1830 that the legislature actually transferred to Donaldsonville, and they quickly moved back to the more exciting New Orleans. Baton Rouge became the state capital in 1846. The seat of state government moved around during the Civil War but was returned to Baton Rouge in 1879 (Wall 1990:125–126).

Ascension Parish

After their expulsion from Canada in the mid-eighteenth century, many of the Acadian French immigrated to southern Louisiana, some settling in what became Ascension Parish. By 1772, the settlement acquired a resident priest, Father Angelus de Reuillagodos, who named the Catholic parish “Ascension” (Marchand 1936:1).

In 1806, William Donaldson purchased the land on the Mississippi River at the head of Bayou Lafourche from Mrs. Marguerite Allain and established the town of Donaldsonville, originally known as Donaldson Town. Donaldsonville was strategically located for commerce because Bayou Lafourche (earlier referred to as Riviere des Chetimaches) provided seasonal access to the Attakapas region of Louisiana from the Mississippi River. Donaldson himself continued to reside in New Orleans for a couple of years before moving to the town he founded. The town was incorporated in 1813 (Marchand 1936:16-20, 25, 37, 55).

The political unit Ascension Parish was established in 1807, when the United States began organizing the territory that would become the State of Louisiana and was named after the ecclesiastical district. Donaldsonville is the parish seat. In 1808, Ascension Parish got a post office, in Donaldsonville (Louisiana Legislative Council 1964:281, 283; Marchand 1936:24)

By 1827, the wealthiest planters in the state lived between New Orleans and Baton Rouge in what were known as the Acadian and German coasts, according to the origin of the predominant settlers. Sugar was the dominant crop, generating yet another appellation for the area: the “Golden Coast” (Marchand 1936:67).

In 1860, Ascension Parish was the fourth largest sugar producing parish in Louisiana with four large scale sugar refineries and several small ones. The parish had about 125,000 acres, of which 85,000 were uncultivated, 20,000 were in sugar cane, 17,000 were planted in corn, and less than 500 were planted in cotton. The population was about 15,000; nearly one-half were slaves (Prichard 1938:1122-25).

In the decades following the Civil War, Ascension Parish's population has waxed and waned, with an increase to 24,142 in 1890, but a decrease to 18,436 in 1930. Since then, however, the population has grown steadily to 58,214 in 1990 as the petrochemical industry has created employment and Ascension Parish has become part of the Baton Rouge metropolitan area.

CHAPTER FIVE: PREVIOUS INVESTIGATIONS

Projects within 1 mi (1.61 km) of Project Area

There are nineteen projects recorded within 1 mi (1.61 km) of the project area boundaries. These projects are summarized in Table 1 and depicted in Figure 4.

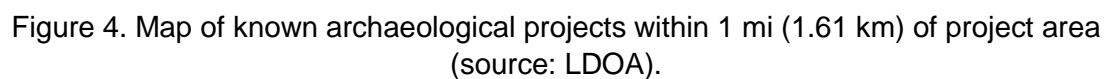
Table 1. Projects within 1 mi (1.61 km) of project area (source: LDOA).

Report No.	Title	Contractor	Author(s)	Type of Survey	Date
22-4387	<i>Phase One Cultural Resources Survey of 114 Acres (46.1 Hectares) Proposed for Industrial Use, Geismar, Ascension Parish, Louisiana</i>	SURA, Inc.	Gabour, Taylor, et al	Phase I	2013
22-4098	<i>Phase I Cultural Resources Survey of 225 Acres (91.1 Hectares) Proposed for Industrial Use, Geismar, Ascension Parish, Louisiana</i>	SURA, Inc.	Hoyt, Jon M. and Malcolm K. Shuman	Phase I	2012
22-2358	<i>Cultural Resources Study Supporting Supplement to the Final Environmental Impact Statement, Mississippi Main Line Levee</i>	R. Christopher Goodwin & Associates	George, David, et al	Assessment or Reconnaissance	2000
22-1488	<i>Archaeological Survey of the Geismar Liquid Carbonic Plant Extension, Ascension Parish, Louisiana</i>	Coastal Environments, Inc.	Guevin, Bryan L.	Assessment or Reconnaissance	1990
22-3879	<i>Phase I Cultural Resources Survey of the Proposed Praxair South Louisiana Hydrogen Pipeline, Expansion Project, Ascension, St. James, St. John the Baptist, and St. Charles Parishes, Louisiana</i>	Coastal Environments, Inc.	Kelley, David	Phase I	2011
22-1383	<i>Significance Assessment of 16AN26, New River Bend Revetment, Ascension Parish, Louisiana</i>	R. Christopher Goodwin & Associates, Inc.	Goodwin, R. Christopher, et al	Phase II	1989
22-0918	<i>Mississippi River Cultural Resources Study</i>	National Park Service	Greene, Jerome A., et al	Assessment or Reconnaissance	1984
22-0976	<i>Cultural Resources Survey of Five Mississippi River Revetment Items</i>	R. Christopher Goodwin & Associates, Inc.	Goodwin, R. Christopher, et al	Assessment or Reconnaissance	1985

Table 1 (cont.). Projects within 1 mi (1.61 km) of project area (source: LDOA).

Report No.	Title	Contractor	Author (s)	Type of Survey	Date
22-2398	<i>Intensive Cultural Resources Survey Proposed Enterprise Products Company Pipeline, Ascension, Assumption, and Iberville Parishes, Louisiana</i>	Earth Search, Inc.	Smith, Rhonda Lee, et al	Phase I	2001
22-5292	<i>A Phase I Cultural Resources Survey for the Evans Site at the Historic Claiborne Plantation in Iberville Parish, Louisiana</i>	TerraXplorations, Inc.	Carruth, Amy, et al	Phase I	2016
22-1041	<i>A Cultural Resources Survey of the Proposed Shell Pipeline between Station 9030+7 and Station 9863+45, Iberville and Ascension Parishes, Louisiana</i>	Coastal Environments, Inc.	Bryant, Douglas D.	Assessment or Reconnaissance	1985
22-2117	<i>Cultural Resources Survey of the Napoleonville to Tebone Pipeline, Louisiana</i>	AR Consultants	Skinner, S. Alan	Assessment or Reconnaissance	1997
22-1454	<i>Pillars on the Levee: Archaeological Investigations at Ashland-Belle Helene Plantation, Geismar, Louisiana</i>	Illinois State University	Babson, David, Charles E. Orser, Jr.	Phase II	1989
22-1830	<i>Archaeological Data Recovery at Ashland-Belle Helene Plantation (16AN26), Ascension Parish, Louisiana</i>	Earth Search, Inc.	Yakubik, Jill-Karen, et al	Phase III	1994
22-2306	<i>A Land Use History for Alhambra to Hohen-Solms and Hohen-Solms to Modeste Levee Enlargement Projects, Iberville and Ascension Parishes, Louisiana</i>	R. Christopher Goodwin & Associates, Inc.	Draughton, Ralph B. Jr., et al	Assessment or Reconnaissance	2000
22-2307	<i>Phase I Cultural Resources Survey and Archaeological Inventory of the Alhambra to Hohen-Solms and Hohen-Solm to Modeste Project Items, Ascension and Iberville Parishes, Louisiana</i>	R. Christopher Goodwin & Associates, Inc.	George, David R., et al	Phase I	2000
22-2732	<i>Historic Archaeology on the Batture: Data Recovery at Sites 16AN69 and 16AN70, Ascension Parish, Louisiana</i>	Coastal Environments, Inc.	Hunter, Donald G., et al	Phase III	2008
22-3005	<i>The History and Archaeology of Babin Place Plantation, Ascension Parish, Louisiana</i>	CEI	Hunter, Donald G. ad Jennifer M. Abraham	Assessment or Reconnaissance	2005

Report No.	Title	Contractor	Author (s)	Type of Survey	Date
22-0421	<i>Archaeological/Historical Survey: Shell Pipeline's Proposed Geismar-Napoleonville Pipeline, Assumption, Ascension, and Iberville Parishes, Louisiana</i>	None Given	McIntire, William G.	Assessment or Reconnaissance	1978



CHAPTER SIX: METHODOLOGY

Procedures

Methodology for the survey included archival research and fieldwork. Initially, historic maps and aerial photographs at the United States Geological Survey (USGS) were consulted to determine any structures or roads that might have existed on the property in the early to mid-twentieth century. In addition, the site files and the report library of the Louisiana Division of Archaeology (LDOA) were examined to determine archaeological sites reported for this area by previous investigators.

The survey involved systematic shovel testing at High Probability (HP), Low Probability (LP), and 32.8 ft (10 m) intervals. The area of HP testing was carried out between the Mississippi River and the 20 ft (6.1 m) contour line, which extends approximately 1 mi (1.61 km) from LA-405. This line was chosen as a convenient demarcation between natural levee and back swamp. Additionally, the 20 ft (6.1 m) contour line is the approximate location of the termination of Noel Rd (Figure 6), which is significant, as structures are known to have been located along historic roads. The remainder of the project area was subjected to LP shovel testing. HP transects were spaced 98.4 ft (30 m) apart with a shovel test (ST) dug every 98.4 ft (30 m). LP transects were spaced 164 ft (50 m) apart with a ST dug every 164 ft (50 m).

Consultation with Dr. Rachel Watson at LDOA determined that 32.8 ft (10 m) interval STs should be excavated around each of the twelve structures present within the project area. The crew also carried out 32.8 ft (10 m) interval testing along both sides of Noel Rd. beginning at LA-405 and continuing for approximately 0.31 mi (500 m), ending where structures are no longer depicted on the historic maps. Although earlier maps suggest other structures have come and gone within the project area, those along Noel Rd. have been consistently present over time. Therefore, additional 32.8 ft (10 m) interval STs were carried out along Noel Rd.

STs were excavated to 50 cm or clay, whichever came first. Material recovered from the STs was screened using .25-inch hardware cloth. When archaeological sites are discovered, they are defined using the protocol described in LDOA Guidelines.

Each cultural resource site found is assessed per 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.” 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

Artifacts are returned to the SURA laboratory, washed, analyzed and catalogued and will be deposited with the Louisiana Division of Archaeology, along with associated documents, at:

LDOA Curation/CRT
Central Plant North Building, 2nd Floor
1835 N. Third Street
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70802

CHAPTER SEVEN: RESULTS OF THE SURVEY

Background and Archival Research

A review of historic topographic maps from USGS shows that several structures have come and gone near or inside the project area boundary over the last 82 years. Beginning in 1936, several structures and roads can be seen within the northern portion of the project area (Figure 5). Although Modeste Plantation is depicted within the project area, research suggests the plantation within the project area was the Elise Plantation (Sternberg 2013). After 1936, evidence of the Modeste Plantation within the project area ceases to exist. According to the LDOA database, the Modeste Place site (16AN70), which is described as a plantation on its site form, is located south of the project area along LA-405 (see Figure 9).

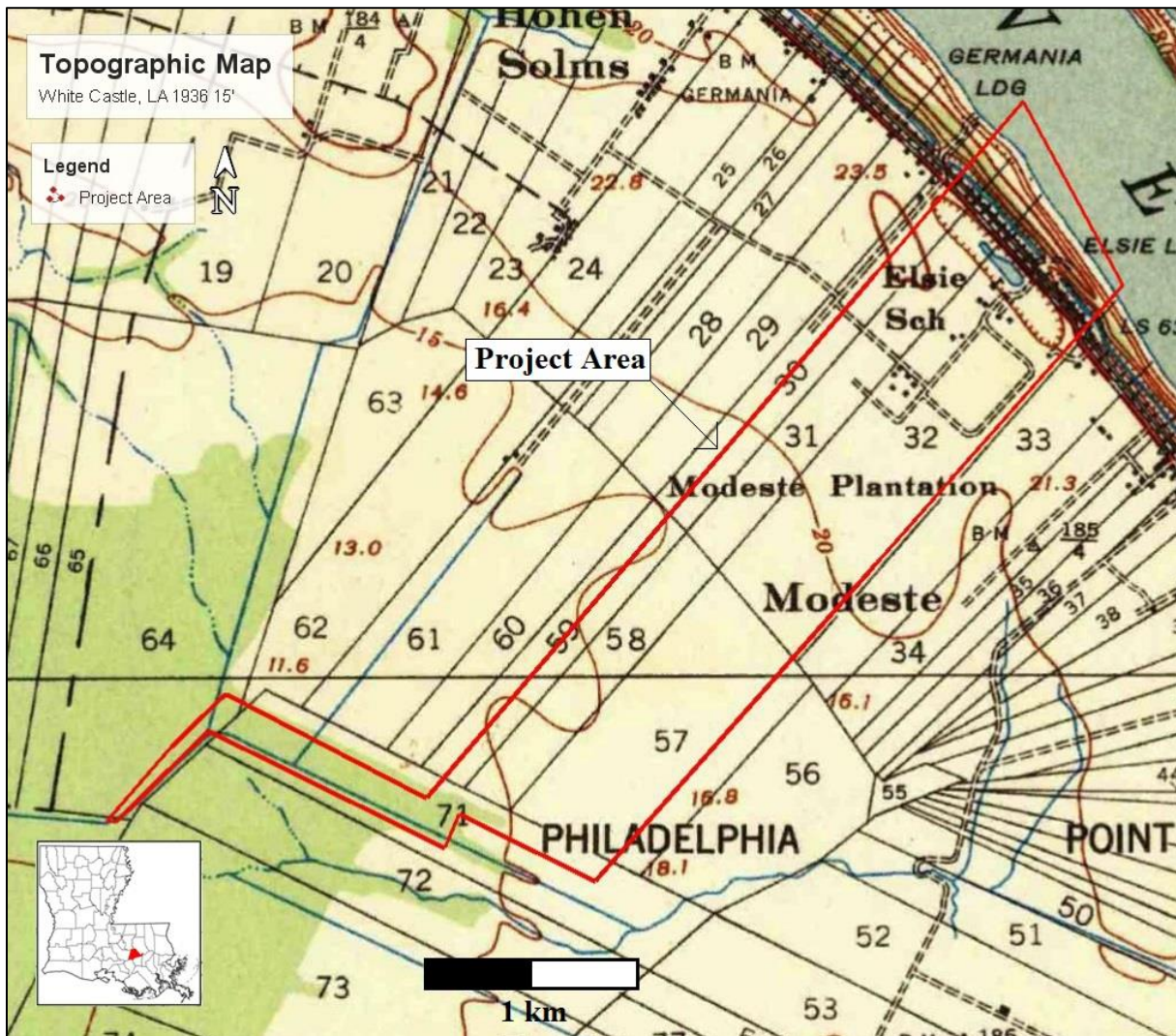


Figure 5. Portion of White Castle, LA 1936 15-minute topographic map (source: USGS).

By 1953, several structures and Noel Rd. can be seen within the northern portion of the project area (Figure 6).

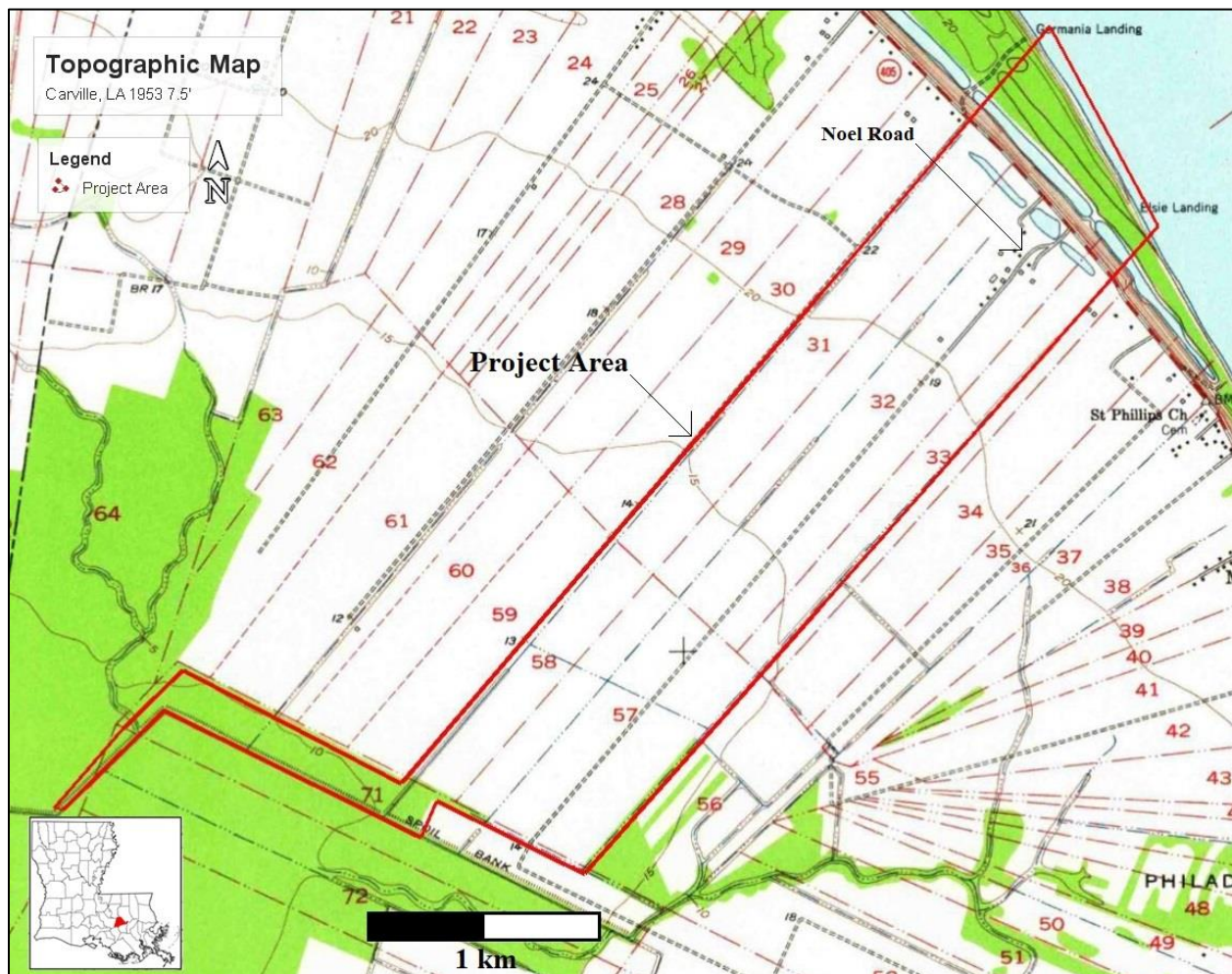


Figure 6. Portion of Carville, LA 1953 7.5-minute topographic map (source: USGS).

Inexplicably, the 1984 Baton Rouge, LA topographic map does not depict any structures within or around the project area, however, Noel Rd. is still present (Figure 7).

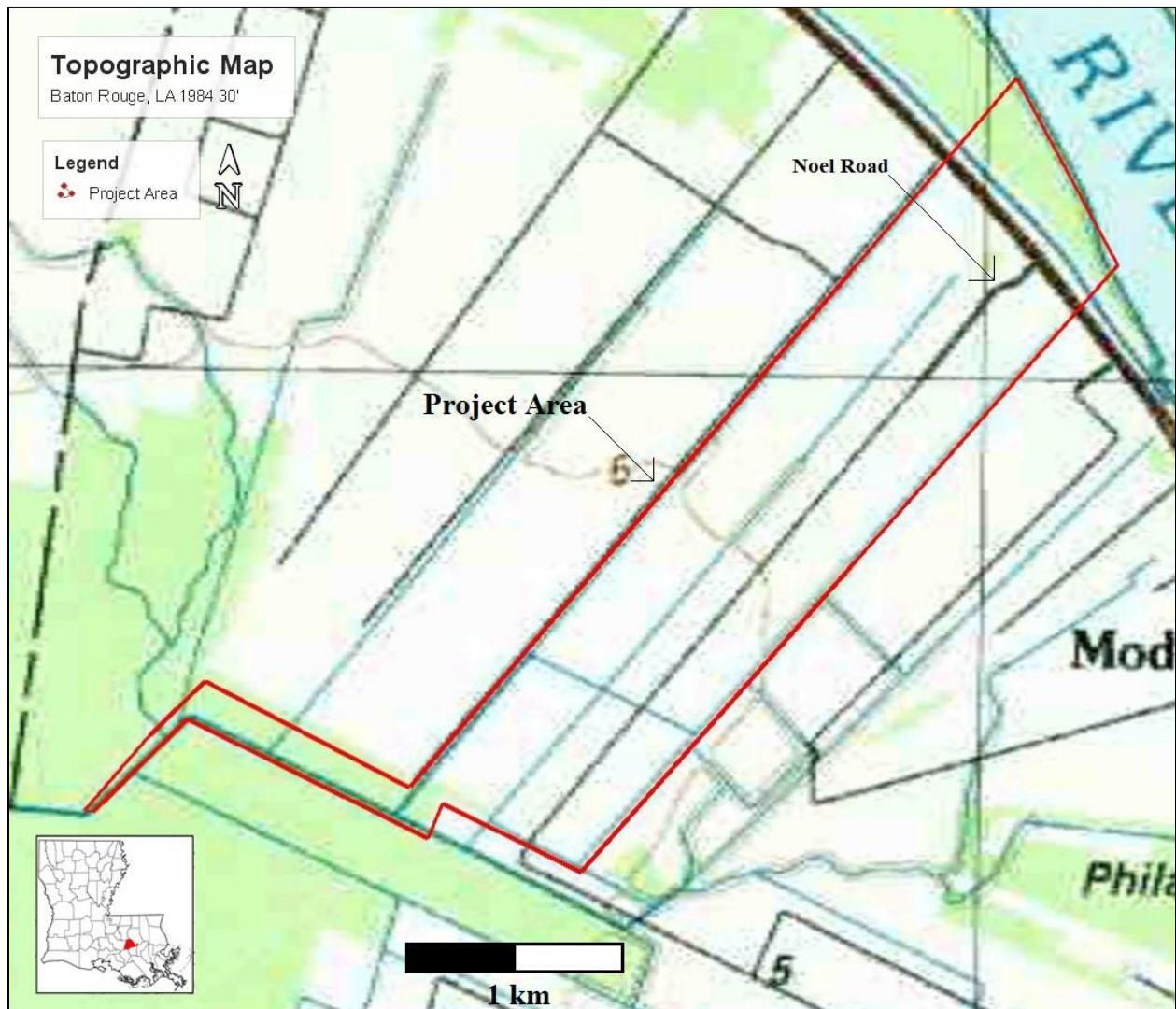


Figure 7. Portion of Baton Rouge, LA 1984 30-minute topographic map (source: USGS).

The Carville, LA 1999 topographic map continues to depict structures within the northern portion of the project area (Figure 8). The southernmost structure shown on the 1953 topographic map is no longer present.

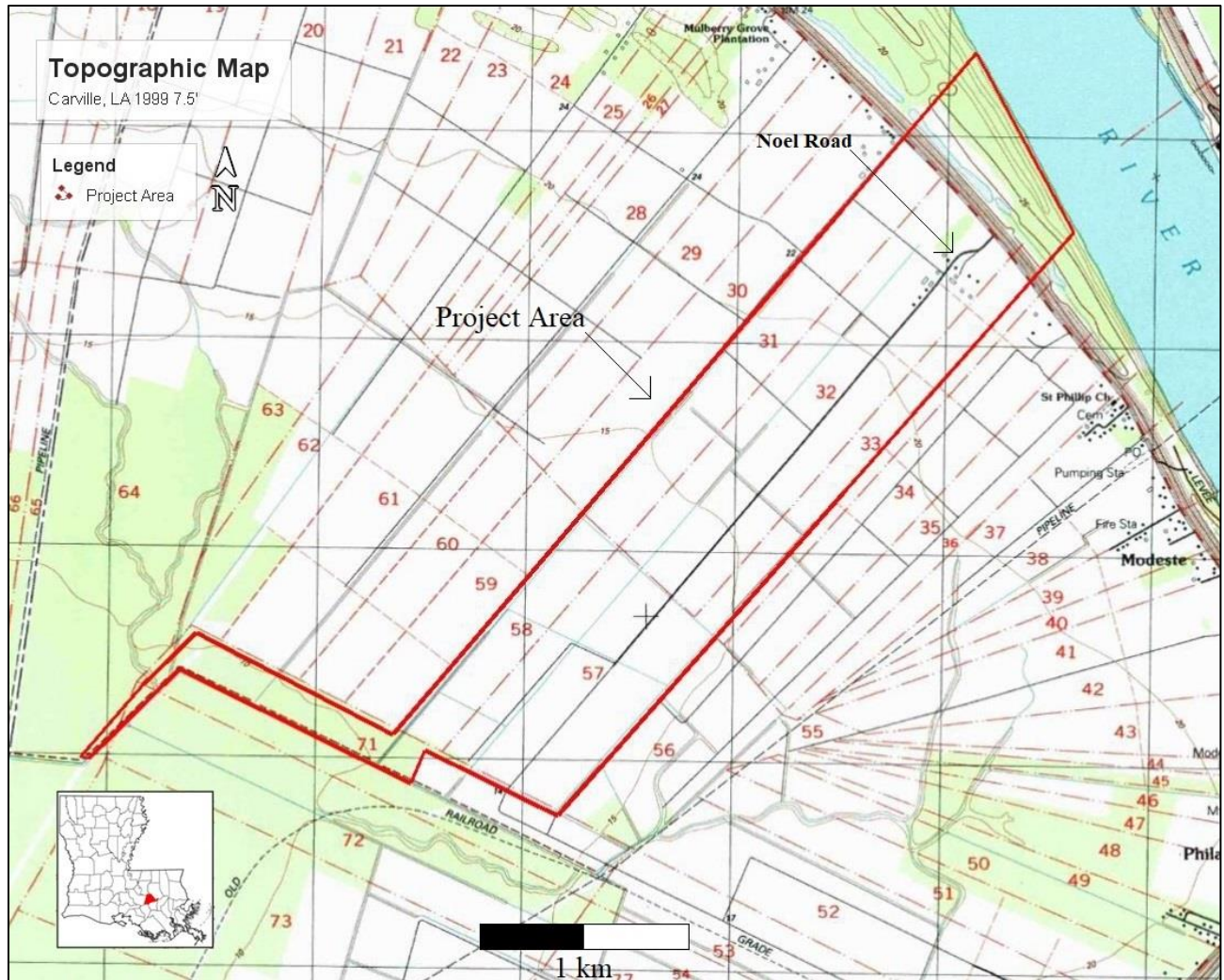


Figure 8. Portion of Carville, LA 1999 7.5-minute topographic map (source: USGS).

Archaeological Sites within 1 mi (1.61 km) of project area

There are six previously recorded archaeological sites within 1 mi (1.61 km) of the project area (Table 2). All sites are historic in nature and functioned as a plantation, village, or farmstead. Figure 9 depicts the location of these archaeological sites.

Table 2. Archaeological sites within 1 mi (1.61 km) of project area (source: LDOA).

Site No.	Name	Component(s)	Culture(s)	Function	NRHP Status	Last Visited
16IV226	Claiborne Plantation	Historic	Historic Exploration, Antebellum, Civil War & Aftermath, Industrial and Modern	Plantation, Industrial	Loci 1,2, 4-12, 16 Ineligible	2016
16AN3	Mt. Houmas Village	Historic	Historic Exploration	Historic town/Village	Ineligible	1983
16AN26	Ashland (Belle Helene)	Historic	Antebellum, Civil War and Aftermath, and Industrial and Modern	Farmstead, Plantation	Ineligible	1979
16AN70	Modeste Plantation	Historic	Antebellum, Civil War and Aftermath, Industrial and Modern	Plantation, Commercial	Ineligible	1999
16AN22	LeBlanc Farm	Historic	Civil War and Aftermath, Industrial and Modern	Farmstead	Unevaluated	1977
16AN21	Ascension Plantation	Historic	Historic Unknown	Plantation	Unevaluated	1977

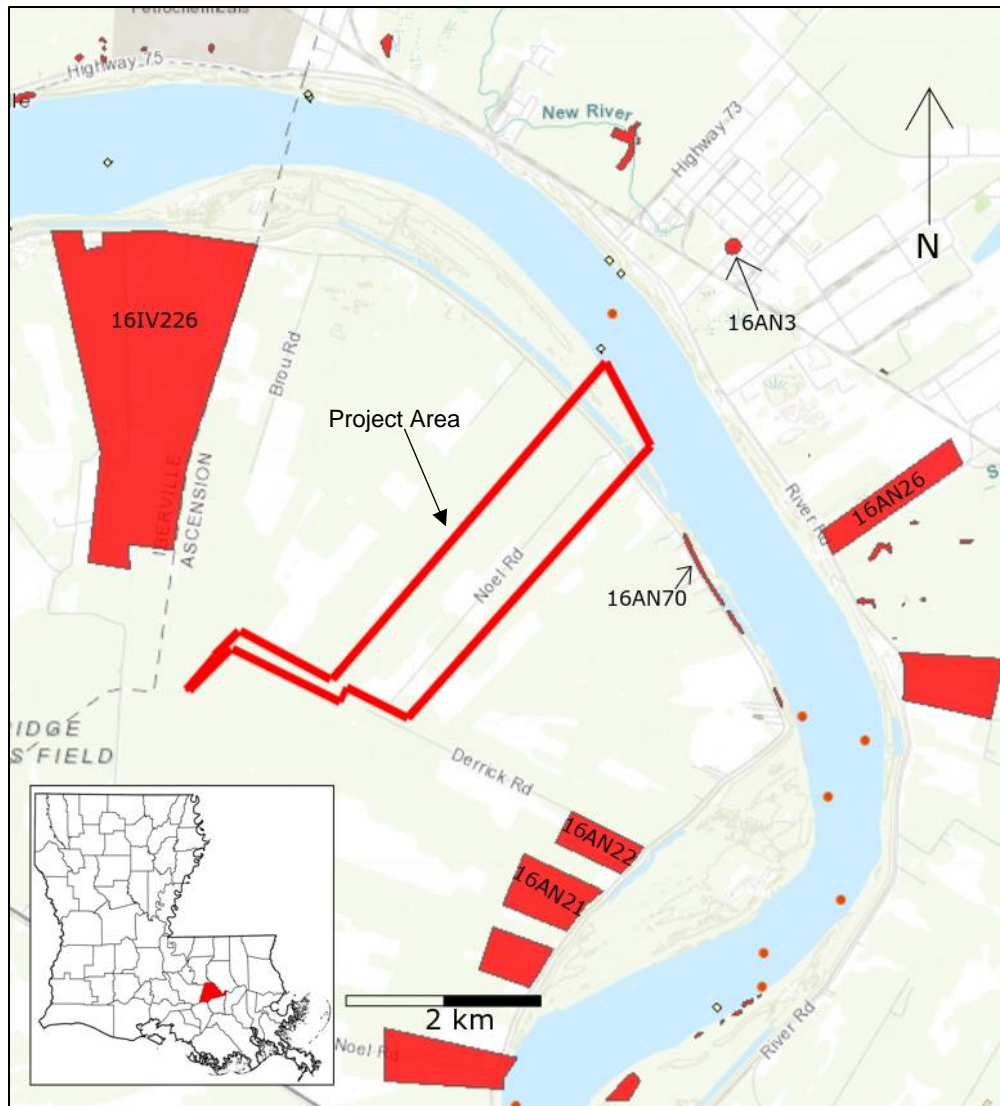


Figure 9. Map of known archaeological sites within 1 mi (1.61 km) of project area (source: LDOA).

Standing Structures within 1 mi (1.61 km) of project area

There are twenty-four previously recorded historic standing structures located within 1 mi (1.61 km) of the project area. They are summarized in Table 3. Figure 10 depicts the location of the structures with the listed Mulberry Grove Plantation House (03-011001) and the eligible Ashland-Belle-Helene Plantation House (03-00744) labelled.

Table 3. Standing structures within 1 mi (1.61 km) of project area (source: LDOA).

LHRI No.	Name	Address	Function	Style	Condition	NRHP Eligibility	Date Visited
03-00198	Unknown	Along River Rd, W. Bank of Miss. R., 6 mi NW of Donaldsonville	Residential	Queen Ann	Good	Unknown	1984
03-00745	Mulberry Grove Plantation	River Rd., 7 mi below White Castle	Residential	Acadian Raised Cottage	Good	Unknown	1983
03-011001	Mulberry Grove	La Hwy 405, 7 mi E-NE of intersection with La Hwy 1 at White Castle	Plantation House	Greek Revival	None Given	Listed	1993
03-00744	Ashland/Belle Helene Plantation House	River Rd., E bank, 2 mi below Geismar	Residential	Greek Revival	Fair	Eligible	1983
03-00199	Unknown	River Rd., W. bank of Miss. R., 6 mi NNW of Donaldsonville	Agricultural	Barn	Poor	Unknown	1984
03-00244	Unknown	Rt. 1 Box 179 W. of Miss. R., 4 mi NNW of Donaldsonville	Residential	Shotgun House	Fair	Unknown	1985
03-00230	Unknown	On River Rd., 4 mi NNW of Donaldsonville	Residential	None Given	Poor	Unknown	1984
03-00231	Unknown	On River Rd., W. of Miss. R., 4 mi NNW of Donaldsonville	Residential	None Given	Fair	Unknown	1984
03-00232	Unknown	On River Rd., W. of Miss. R., 4 mi NNW of Donaldsonville	Residential	None Given	Fair	Unknown	1984
03-00233	Unknown	On River Rd., W. of Miss. R., 4 mi NNW of Donaldsonville	Residential	Four Room Deep House	Ruin	Unknown	1984
03-00234	Modeste Post Office	On River Rd., 4 mi NNW of Donaldsonville	Governmental	Post Office	Good	Unknown	1984
03-00235	Unknown	On River Rd., W. of Miss. R., 4 mi NNW of Donaldsonville	Residential	Creole Cottage	Good	Unknown	1984
03-00236	Unknown	On River Rd., W. of Miss. R., 4 mi NNW of Donaldsonville	Residential	Shotgun House	Good	Unknown	1984
03-00237	Unknown	On River Rd., W. of Miss. R., 4 mi NNW of Donaldsonville	Residential	None Given	Good	Unknown	1984
03-00238	Unknown	On River Rd., W. of Miss. R., 4 mi NNW of Donaldsonville	Residential	Anglo	Fair	Unknown	1984
03-00239	Unknown	On River Rd., W. of Miss. R., 4 mi NNW of Donaldsonville	Residential	None Given	Fair	Unknown	1984
03-00240	Unknown	On River Rd., W. of Miss. R., 4 mi NNW of Donaldsonville	Residential	Two Room Deep House	Fair	Unknown	1984
03-00241	Unknown	On River Rd., W. of Miss. R., 4 mi NNW of Donaldsonville	Residential	None Given	Good	Unknown	1984
03-00243	Unknown	W. of Miss. R., NNW of Donaldsonville	Residential	None Given	Fair	Unknown	1985
03-00242	Unknown	W. of Miss. R., 4 mi NNW of Donaldsonville	Residential	None Given	Fair	Unknown	1984
03-00245	Unknown	On River Rd., W. of Miss. R., 4 mi NNW of Donaldsonville	Residential	Shotgun House	Good	Unknown	1984
03-00247	Unknown	On River Rd., W. of Miss. R., 4 mi NNW of Donaldsonville	Residential	Double Shotgun House	Poor	Unknown	1985
03-00172	Unknown	3 mi NW of Donaldsonville along the W. Bank of Miss. R.	Religious	Concrete Vault Burials	Good	Unknown	1984
03-00246	Unknown	On River Rd., W. of Miss. R., 4 mi NNW of Donaldsonville	Residential	Creole Cottage	Good	Unknown	1985

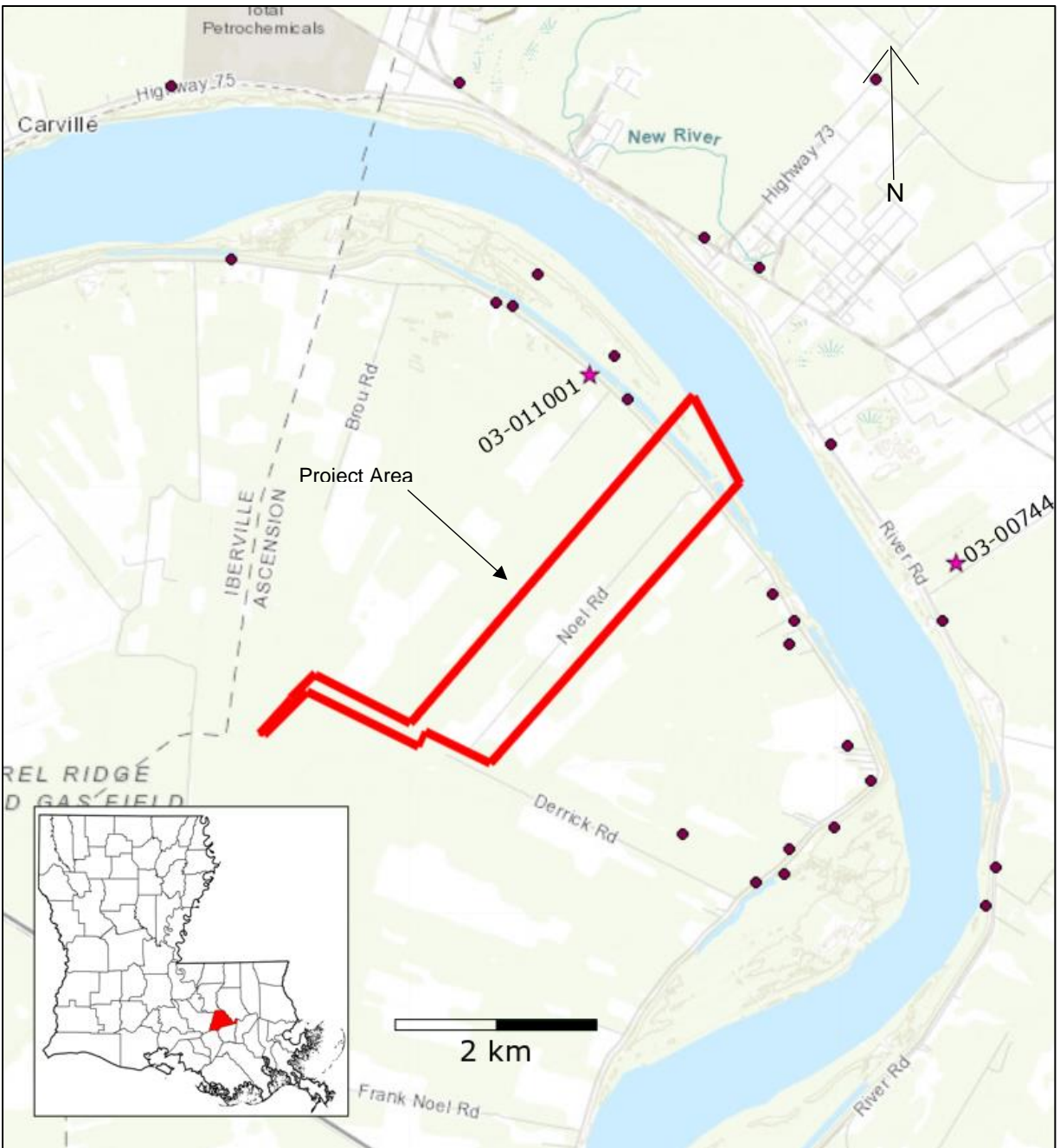


Figure 10. Map of recorded structures within 1 mi (1.61 km) of project area (source: LDOA).

Fieldwork

Field survey was carried out from May 21 to July 2, 2018. The project area was sectioned into areas of LP and HP (Figure 11). A total of 2,875 STs were excavated during the survey at LP and HP and during subsequent delineation. Of these, 765 were within the areas of LP and 1,896 within the areas of HP. Due to denied access, a portion of the project area belonging to the Haywards and not the majority landowner, Mr. Marc Noel, was left unsurveyed and is the location of the Elise Schoolhouse (03-00763). Three previously unrecorded sites were encountered, along with thirteen structures. Each section of the project area, as well as the sites and structures within the project area will be discussed further below.

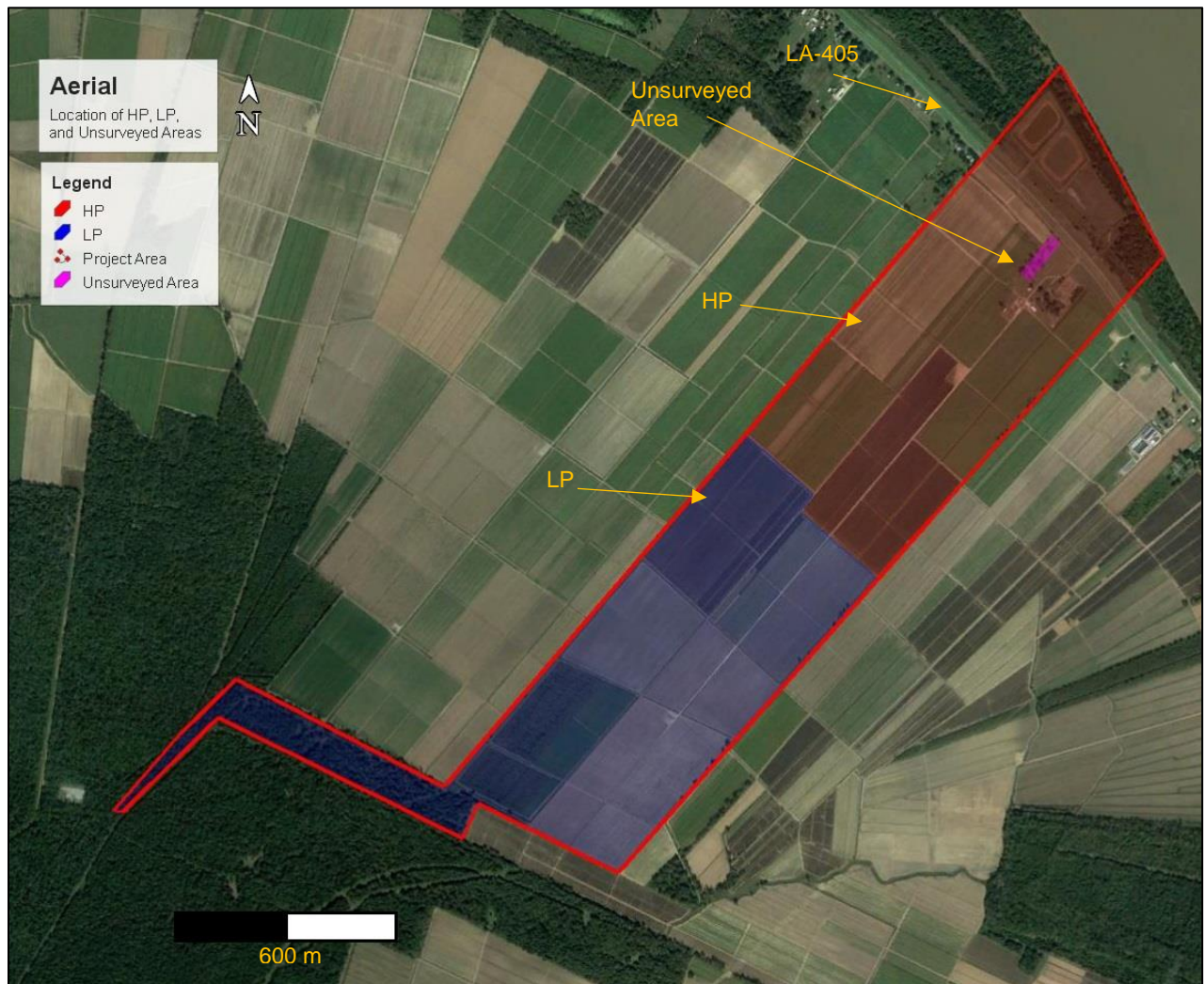


Figure 11. Aerial photo depicting locations of HP, LP, and unsurveyed area within the project area (source: Google Earth).

Low Probability Section

The area of LP survey consisted of sugar cane fields and a low-lying, wooded portion within the southern boundary of the project area. A total of 463.9 ac (187.7 ha) was surveyed at a LP protocol. The wooded portion accounted for 64.2 ac (25.9 ha) of the LP acreage. A total of 765 STs were excavated, with 110 located within the wooded area. A stream runs along the end of the transects within the wooded area and a pipeline runs along the beginning of the wooded transects. No sites were encountered within the area of LP.

An aerial photo depicting the beginning and ending transect STs can be seen in Figure 12. A Munsell of the soil profiles encountered is presented in Table 4. Figures 13-16 provide a representation of the topography.

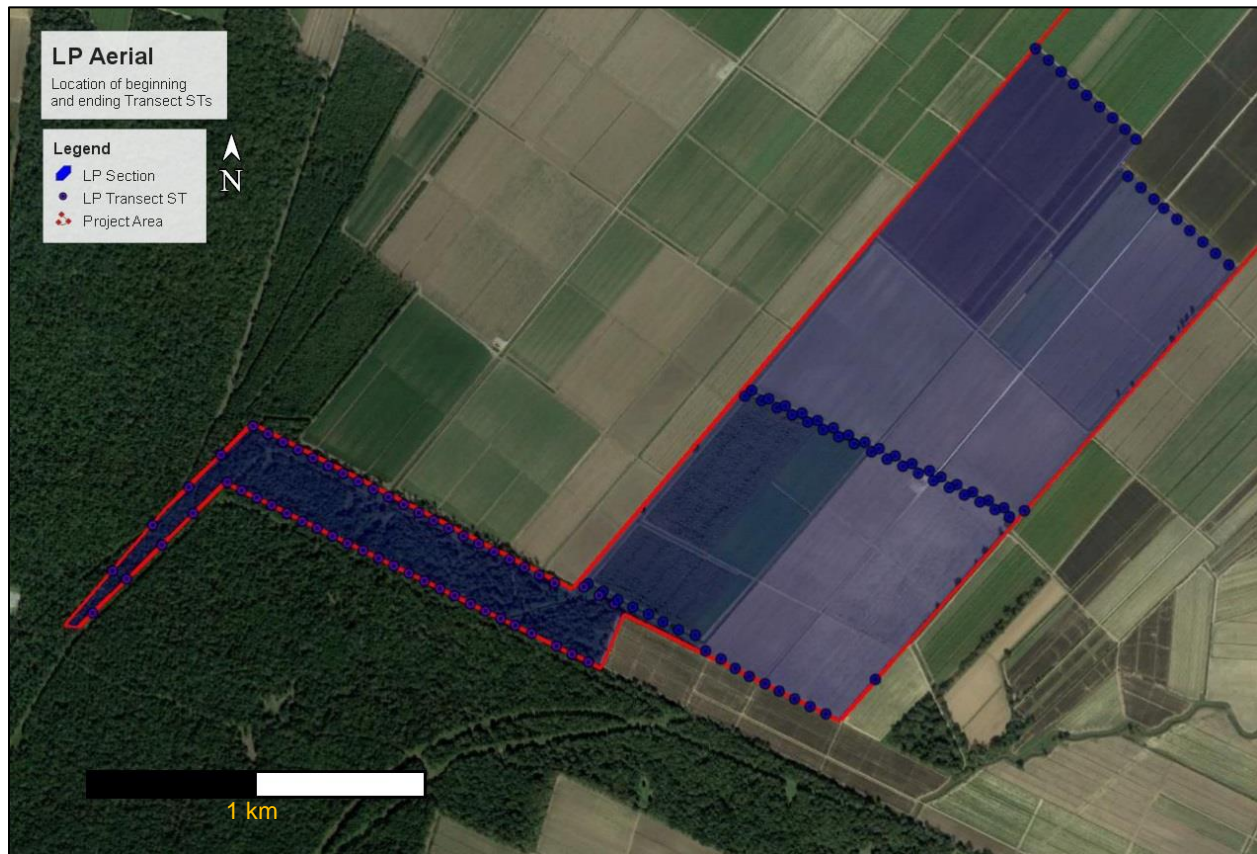


Figure 12. Aerial photo depicting beginning and ending transect STs in LP
(source: Google Earth).

Table 4. Representative Munsell soil profiles.

Location	Depth	Munsell	Description
T30ST5 (Sugar Cane Field)	0-50 cmbs	10 YR 4/2	Clay
T41ST2 (Wooded Area)	0-10 cmbs	10 YR 2/1	Silty Clay
	11-50 cmbs	10 YR 3/2	Clay



Figure 13. Sugar cane fields in LP, facing north.



Figure 14. Low-lying areas in wooded portion of project area, facing north.



Figure 15. Stream running along end of transects in wooded portion of project area, facing northeast.



Figure 16. Pipeline along northern boundary of transects in wooded portion of project area, facing northeast.

High Probability Sections

The areas of HP consisted of sugar cane fields, the levee located on the other side of LA-405, and an open area of fields and lawns with structures. Each will be discussed in detail below.

Sugar Cane Fields

The area of HP within the sugar cane fields consisted of 330 ac (133.5 ha) and a total of 1,543 STs were excavated at both HP and 32.8 ft (10 m) intervals. Additionally, 1.4 ac (0.6 ha) were omitted from survey as a result of inaccessibility due to trash piles. Because structures are depicted on the topographic maps dating back to 1936 along Noel Rd., it was decided that additional shovel testing be implemented. A total of thirty STs were excavated at 32.8 ft (10 m) intervals along both sides of Noel Rd. Shovel testing ended where historic maps no longer depict previous structures. Various dirt roads, drainages, and old machinery and trash piles were

encountered within the area. One site was identified. This was 16AN122 (the Noel Cane site). The site will be discussed further in the Archaeological Sites section.

An aerial photo depicting the beginning and ending transect STs can be seen in Figure 17. An additional aerial photo depicting the location of the 32.8 ft (10 m) interval STs can be seen in Figure 18. A Munsell of the soil profiles encountered is presented in Table 5. Figures 19-23 provide a representation of the topography.



Figure 17. Aerial photo depicting beginning and ending HP transect STs in sugar cane fields plus area omitted from survey (source: Google Earth).

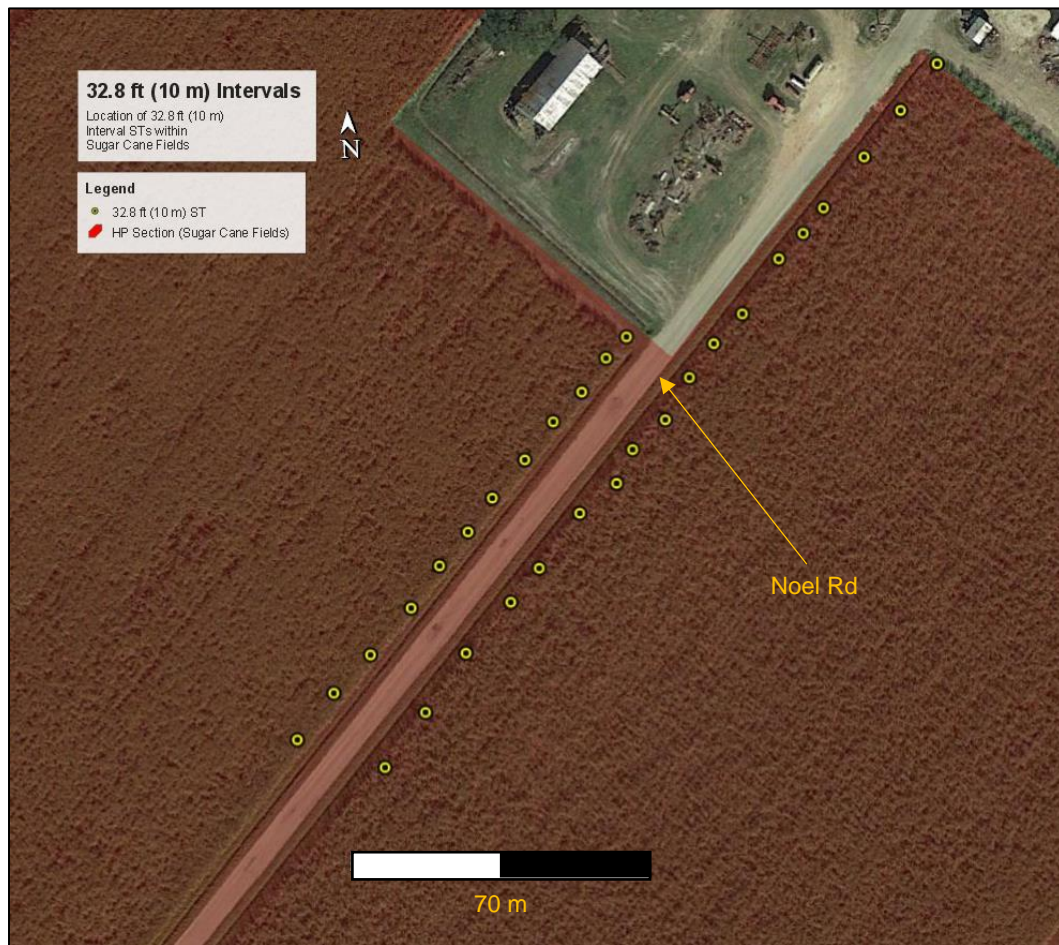


Figure 18. Aerial photo of 32.8 ft (10 m) interval STs within sugar cane fields (source: Google Earth).

Table 5. Representative Munsell soil profile.

Location	Depth	Munsell	Description
T23ST9	0-30 cmbs	10 YR 3/2	Clay
	31-50 cmbs	10 YR 4/4	Clay



Figure 19. Dirt road between sugar cane fields, facing south.



Figure 20. Row of sugar cane, facing southeast.



Figure 21. Noel Rd., facing west.



Figure 22. Drainage along sugar cane rows, facing south.



Figure 23. Gravel area with trash pile, facing north.

Levee

The area of HP on the levee consisted of 83.6 ac (33.8 ha). A total of 273 STs were excavated, with 100 unable to be dug due to standing water in the form of man-made ponds, drainages, and swamps. The areas unable to be excavated accounted for approximately 20 ac (8.1 ha) of the 83.6 ac (33.8 ha) on the levee.

An aerial photo depicting the beginning and ending transect STs can be seen in Figure 24. A Munsell of the soil profile encountered is presented in Table 6. Figures 25-30 provide a representation of the topography.



Figure 24. Aerial photo depicting beginning and ending HP transect STs on the levee (source: Google Earth).

Table 6. Representative Munsell soil profile.

Location	Depth	Munsell	Description
Levee	0-50 cmbs	10 YR 4/4	Silty Sand



Figure 25. Atop the levee, facing west.



Figure 26. Swamps and marshes, facing north.



Figure 27. Man-made pond, facing north.



Figure 28. Open area, facing south.



Figure 29. Drainage emptying into the Mississippi River, facing northeast.



Figure 30. Low-lying wooded area, facing north.

Standing Structure Area

The area of standing structures consisted of 23.8 ac (9.6 ha). The structure area was mostly open, with areas of gravel, plus piles of trash and miscellaneous farming equipment. Two sites were identified. These were 16AN120 (the Noel East site) and 16AN121 (the Noel West site). The sites will be discussed further in the Archaeological Sites section.

After consultation with Dr. Rachel Watson at LDOA, it was decided that, in addition to the HP transect STs, 32.8 ft (10 m) interval STs be implemented around twelve of the thirteen structures able to be surveyed. Several structures have been depicted on topographic maps throughout the years along Noel Rd. Therefore, it was further decided that additional 32.8 ft (10 m) interval shovel testing be implemented along both sides of Noel Rd.

Along the western side of Noel Rd., 32.8 ft (10 m) shovel testing was carried out from LA-405 to Structure 1. Along the eastern side, 32.8 ft (10 m) shovel testing was carried out from LA-405 to Structure 8. Including the initial HP STs, the 32.8 ft (10 m) interval STs, plus subsequent delineations, a total of 304 STs were excavated within the structure area, with nine unable to be dug due to gravel, machinery, and piles of trash.

An aerial photo depicting the beginning and ending transect STs can be seen in Figure 31. An additional aerial photo depicting the location of the 32.8 ft (10 m) interval STs can be seen in Figure 32. A Munsell of the soil profiles encountered is presented in Table 7. Figures 33 and 34 provide a representation of the topography.



Figure 31. Aerial photo depicting beginning and ending transect STs of HP structure area (source: Google Earth).

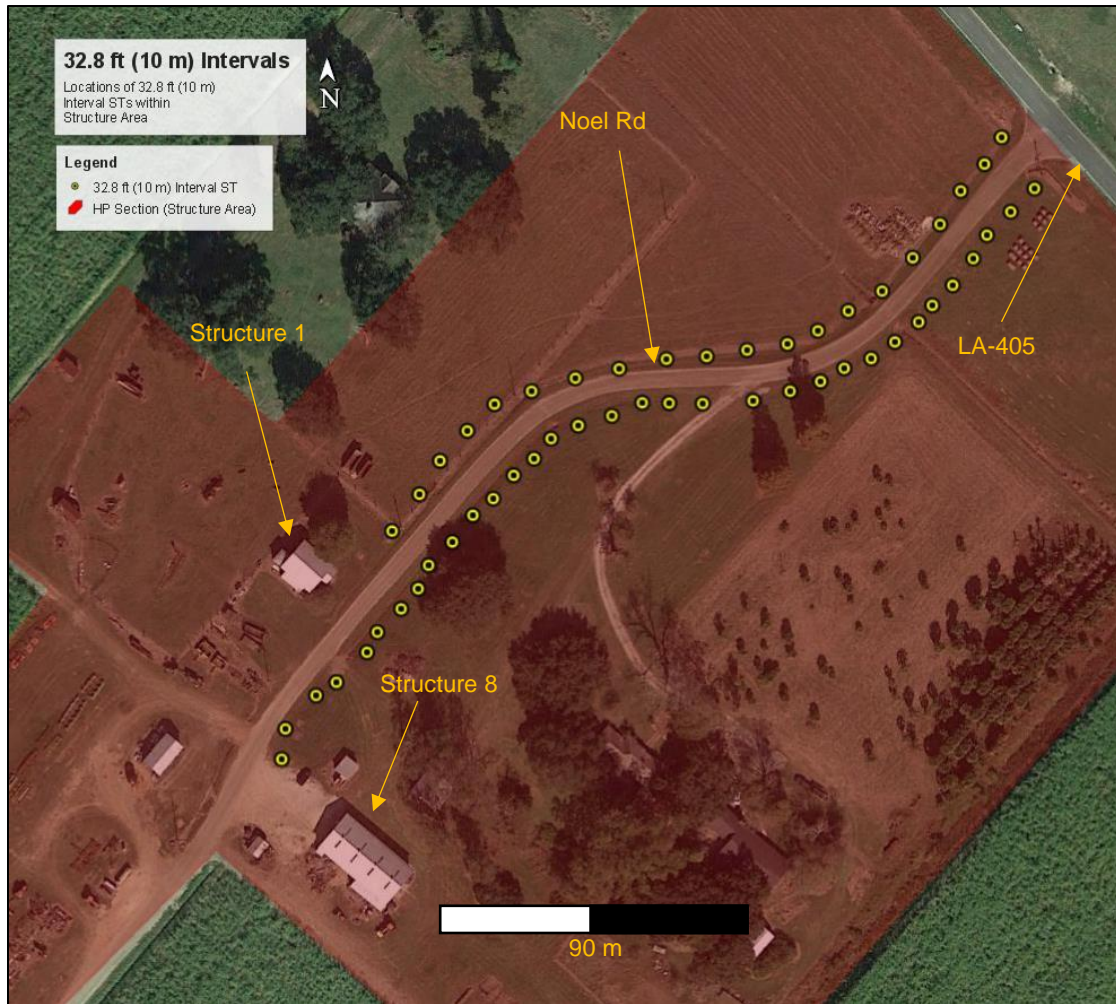


Figure 32. Aerial of 32.8 ft (10 m) interval STs along Noel Rd. (source: Google Earth).

Table 7. Representative Munsell soil profiles.

Location	Depth	Munsell	Description
T1ST1 (Open Lawn)	0-20 cmbs	10 YR 3/1	Silty Clay
	21-40 cmbs	10 YR 4/3	Clayey Silt
	41-50 cmbs	10 YR 4/6	Sandy Clay
Along Noel Rd	0-25 cmbs	10 YR 3/3	Silty Clay
	26-50 cmbs	10 YR 4/3	Silty Clay



Figure 33. Along LA-405, facing south.



Figure 34. Along Noel Rd., facing west.

Hayward Property

A portion of the project area belonging to the Haywards and not the majority landowner, Mr. Marc Noel, was unable to be surveyed due to denied access. While discussing the history of the project area, Mr. Marc Noel informed the crew that he did not have the authority to grant access to the Hayward property. It was later confirmed by Mr. Elliott Boudreaux of CSRS through email communication that the property was to remain unsurveyed.

This area is approximately 3.4 ac (1.4 ha) and is the location of the Elise Schoolhouse (03-00763), which was built in 1907 (The Louisiana Planter and Sugar Manufacturer Vol. 39 1907). Figure 35 is an aerial photo depicting the location of the Hayward property within the boundaries of the project area. Figures 36 and 37 present the Hayward property.

The Elise Schoolhouse (03-0763) will be discussed and evaluated in the Standing Structures section below.

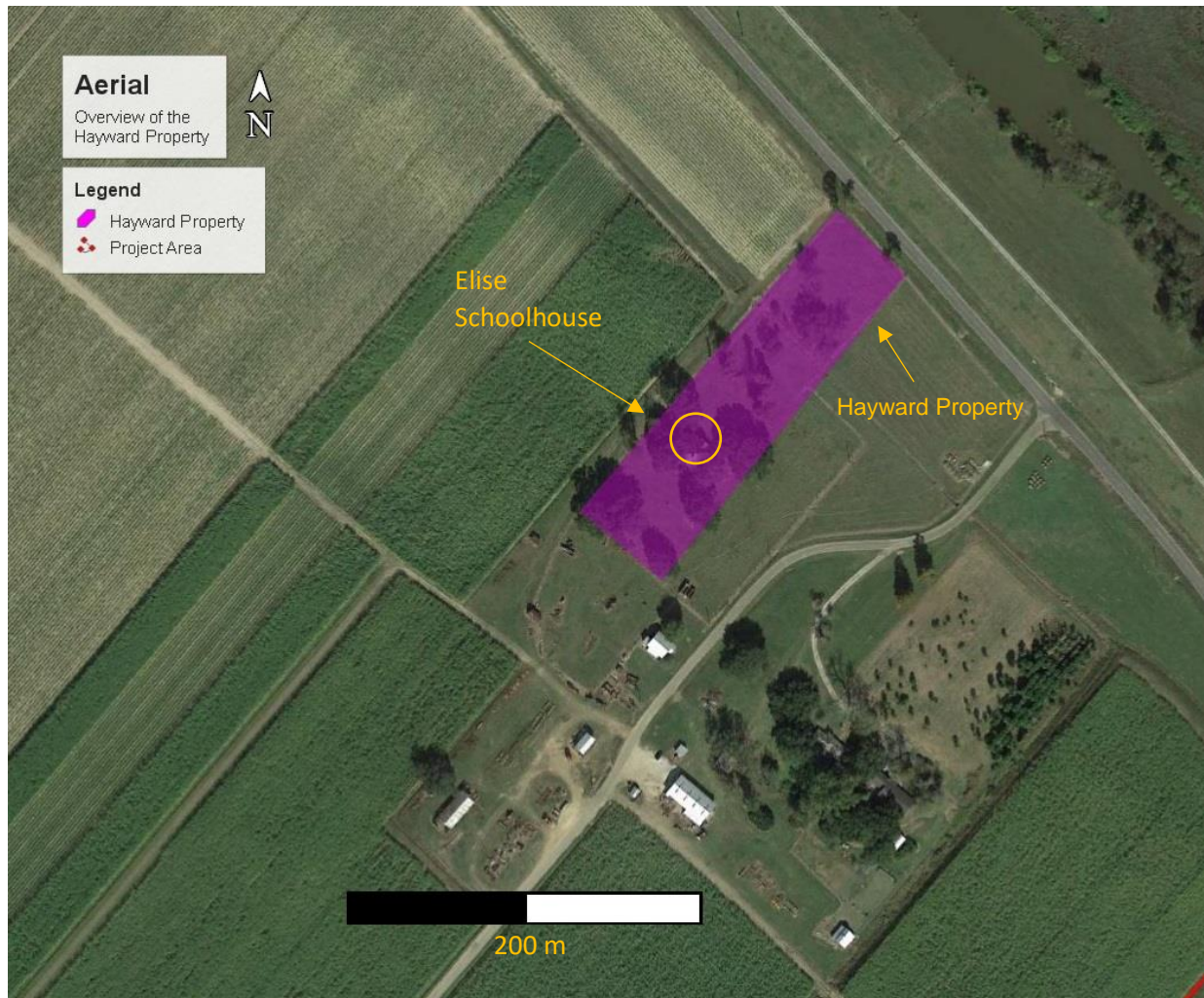


Figure 35. Location of the unsurveyed Hayward property and Elise Schoolhouse (03-00763) (source: Google Earth).



Figure 36. Hayward property, facing west.



Figure 37. Elise Schoolhouse on Hayward property, facing west.

Settlement along River Road, in the past, was known to reflect the nationalities of the inhabitants. One example of this is an area now referred to as the German Coast, which was inhabited by Germans in the early 1700s (Sternberg 2013). Research by Mary Sternberg revealed an 1881 publication by Frank Cayton listing the landings along River Road. Identification of which settlement was where was nearly impossible, as none provided signage. This is one reason why the Germania Plantation owned by John Reuss has been difficult to document a precise location (Sternberg 2013). The German Coast was considered prime farmland due to the fertility of the soils. Indeed, the cultivation of sugar cane was the most important crop and the land along River Road provided the ideal location for harvest. The leading production of sugar cane, for many years, was exported from Louisiana.

John and Helena Reuss, natives of Germany, moved to the United States in about 1850 and resided in Iberville Parish. In 1867, Mr. John Reuss purchased a large tract of land from the Melacon family. The exact acreage and location are unclear. This land, along with other properties purchased, formed the Germania Plantation. This area was a small agricultural community named Hohen Solms by John Reuss, likely named for his hometown of Hohenzollern, Germany (Sternberg 2013). This plantation consisted of 2200 ac (890.3 ha) of land and cultivated, quite successfully, sugar cane and corn (usgwararchives.net).

George R. Reuss was born in 1858 and was the only child of John and Helena Reuss. He married Bertha E. Spor in 1888. Four daughters were born to Mr. and Mrs. George B. Reuss: Helene, Ethelyn, Gussie, and Elise. In 1889, he added to the Germania Plantation with the purchase of Ashland and Bowden Plantations. George B. Reuss renamed the Ashland Plantation Belle Helene Plantation in honor of his recently born daughter, Helene (Sternberg 2013). It was at this time that the Reuss family moved into the Ashland-Belle Helene great house, which was located across the Mississippi River (crt.state.la.us). In addition to the Ashland-Belle Helene Plantation, George B. Reuss purchased the Mulberry Grove Plantation, the Cuba Plantation, and the Elise Plantation. Research indicates Mr. Reuss acquired Mulberry Grove Plantation and left it to one of his daughters, though the exact one is uncertain (Sternberg 2013).

Elise Reuss, one of the four daughters of George and Bertha Reuss, died in 1898. George B. Reuss erected the Elise Schoolhouse (03-00763) on, what was presumably to be her land, the Elise Plantation in 1907 (Sternberg 2013). In all likelihood, he named each of these four plantations after his four daughters. Though not entirely clear, research suggests the Reuss family never lived on the Elise Plantation. An archived *The Donaldsonville Chief* ad (Figure 38) reports of a dance held on the Germania Park in 1916 and carried out by the Elise Reuss Memorial School Association (Library of Congress). However, as the exact location of the Germania Plantation boundaries is ambiguous, such festivities could have been held on the Elise Schoolhouse land, or at the Ashland-Belle-Helene or Mulberry Grove Plantations. Despite such festivities, there is no indication of occupation at the Elise Plantation proper. Lack of occupation by the Reuss family is further supported by an ad in *The Times-Picayune* stating, "For Rent... Elise Plantation Ascension Parish. About 1600 acres not cultivated this year..." (*The Times-Picayune* 1925) (Figure 39).

Houma Editor Candidate For Office.

The Chief enjoyed a pleasant call Wednesday from P. E. Bienvenue, the talented editor of the Houma Times, who was on his way home after attending the Democratic state convention at Baton Rouge on the 23rd inst. Mr. Bienvenue is a candidate for the office of inspector of feeds and fertilizers for the district comprising the parishes of Terrebonne, Lafourche and St. Mary. As he was an ardent supporter of the Democratic nominees in the recent state campaign, and labored zealously for the party's success both in person and through the columns of his influential paper, he and his friends think he is entitled to some recognition, and are confident his claims to the office he desires will meet with the favorable consideration of the new commissioner of agriculture by whom the appointment is to be made.

Wait For the Big Show.

Why, yes, the play to be given under the auspices of the Junior Chamber of Commerce will be staged, and, and soon, too. Watch for the posters, and be sure to go, because the Juniors are working hard for a better Donaldsonville. Good singing is promised. Dashing young girls have been added to the cast, assuring a most attractive feature. The play will be a tabloid version of "The Merry Widow," and you can't afford to miss it. First, because you'll enjoy it and see giant you want; and second, because you will be helping to provide funds for equipping a public playground for our city. If you are a booster, talk about the play and buy a ticket. Charming girls will call on you shortly to sell you one.—Press Agent.

Branch Train Discontinued.

The state railroad commission has granted the application of the Texas & Pacific Railroad for permission to discontinue trains Nos. 541 and 542 on the Napoleonville branch, and trains Nos. 641 and 642 on the Thibodaux branch. Trains Nos. 541 and 41 formerly left Donaldsonville at 3:55 p. m., and Nos. 542 and 642 formerly arrived here at 1:45 and 3:55 p. m., respectively. The discontinuance of these trains was brought about as a result of the decreased traffic on the branch roads due to the operation of automobile lines between Donaldsonville and Napoleonville, and between Napoleonville and Thibodaux. Only one train day each way will be operated hereafter on the branch lines.

To the Traveling Public.

Due to the discontinuance of two of the trains on the Thibodaux branch of the Texas & Pacific Railroad, the undersigned will operate an automobile line between Donaldsonville and Thibodaux, making two round trips

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words of encouragement to the graduates, and on behalf of State Superintendent Harris expressed regret that it had been found impracticable to furnish them with diplomas, owing to the scarcity of paper.

The scholarship medal was presented by Principal Brodusard to Miss Vivian Pertuis, and that for the best essay on "Immigration," offered by the Interstate Bank of New Orleans, was awarded to Miss Lucy Hudson.

Houma Solms News.

The flood-rain last Sunday and Monday amounted to 8.15 inches, and from Thursday of last week until Tuesday morning a total of a little over ten inches of rainfall was recorded here. Crops were partly under water, but no serious damage was done to them, as the large canal of the Bayou Bieu drainage district carried the vast volume of water rapidly away.

G. B. Reuss spent Tuesday in Baton Rouge as one of the delegates of this parish to the Democratic convention.

Lately several articles of freight put off at different times by the steamers Omaha and Elam, at the landing near the Welcome store, were stolen. Thursday morning Sheriff E. C. Hanson arrested Marcelin, alias "Buck," Coleman, a young negro living at Modeste, who had been suspected of the theft. Coleman confessed to stealing a sack of 100 pounds of salt meat, which he took from the landing last Saturday morning. A few weeks previous he took a sack of rice. The negro implicated the keeper of the Welcome store, an Italian named Johnny Latino. The latter was arrested Thursday evening, and later released under bond. The receivers of freight here are greatly relieved to know the thief is safely behind the bars.

The open-air dance which was originally scheduled by the Elise Memorial School Association for Sunday, June 4, will take place next Saturday night, June 3, at Germania Park. The proceeds will go toward the purchase of a piano for the school, and a very large crowd is expected to enjoy a delightful evening.

BOOSTER.

Feature Productions at the Gem Next Week.

Sunday, May 28—"The Question," featuring Marguerite Leslie.

Tuesday—"Embers."

Wednesday—Second episode of "The Girl and the Game."

Thursday—"My Partner."

Friday—"Mistress of Life."

Saturday—"His Picture in the Paper" and a two-reel comedy, "Better Late Than Never." (Triangle).

Sunday—Clara Kimball Young in "The Yellow Passport."

The Chief is not responsible for views expressed by correspondents.

PRINCE the national joy smoke

R. J. Reynolds Tobacco Co., Winston-Salem, N. C. Cap

DISTRICT COURT.

Judgments Rendered in Several Suits at Session Thursday.

Pursuant to adjournment on the 18th inst., district court convened Thursday forenoon and transacted the following business:

Metropolitan Bank vs. J. D. Christman; judgment for plaintiff for \$5800, with 6 per cent interest from March 1, 1912, to March 1, 1913, and 8 per cent from latter date until paid.

Metropolitan Bank vs. William A. Bryan; judgment for plaintiff for \$3300, with 6 per cent interest from May 1, 1911, to March 1, 1913, and 8 per cent from latter date until paid.

Metropolitan Bank vs. Elmer E. Wardell; judgment for plaintiff for \$3700, with 6 per cent interest from May 1, 1911, to March 1, 1913, and 8 per cent from latter date until paid.

Metropolitan Bank vs. Mrs. Clara Jones, wife of Edward Jones; judgment for plaintiff for \$4600, with 6 per cent interest from May 1, 1911, to March 1, 1913, and 8 per cent from latter date until paid.

Mrs. S. J. Webb et als. vs. B. F. Webb et als.; default entered.

Metropolitan Bank vs. L. A. Hart and John Weaver; default entered as to L. A. Hart.

Canal Bank and Trust Company vs. Bank of Ascension; argued and taken under advisement.

Texas Oil Company vs. Emilie LeBoeuf; motion to dissolve argued and submitted.

Court adjourned without date.

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STATEMENT OF THE FINANCIAL FROM

Stenographer
Clerk police jury and tax assessor
Coroner
District attorney
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Janitor
Contingent
Coroner's jury
Justice of the peace
Constables
Police jurors
Parish printer	.....
Board of health	.....
Public schools	.....
Second road district	.....
Third road district	.....
Fourth road district	.....
Perk inebars	.....
Witnesses	.....
Grand juror	.....
Electors	.....
Normal School student	.....
Assessor	.....
Eye, Ear, Nose and Throat Hospital	.....
Storm Insurance	.....
Certificates of indebtedness	.....
Donaldsonville-Terrebonne Ferry	.....
South Louisiana Fair Association	.....
Shipping net certificate	.....
Bills payable	.....
Canal Bk. and Trust Co. certifi	.....
Donaldsonville Fire Department	.....

Amounts paid out.....

bal. of Approp. and Indebt.....

July 1, 1916, bal. bills payable, \$10

Taxes and license Auto license \$20

Dividends from P Bank \$100.00

Storm Insurance \$ Vehicle tax \$2.00

Transfer from def Receipts.....

Disbursements

Balance on R

From this statement, can will be seen that the indebted the contingent fund for month indebtedness was \$14,600. In due for parish highway bonds

REMARKS:—The balance outstanding bills payable, \$10 While the contingent fund fact the net overplus is but \$ and the item of \$2281.45 for sure the deposit in Peoples B further overdraft of \$1281.45

The following is the settin on July 1, 1916:

Balance due on bonds.....

Figure 38. Excerpt from *The Donaldsonville Chief*, 27 May 1916 (source: Library of Congress).

Archaeological Sites

During the Phase I survey, three previously unrecorded sites were identified – 16AN122 (the Noel Cane site), 16AN121 (the Noel West site), and 16AN120 (the Noel East site). Sites 16AN121 (the Noel West site) and 16AN122 (the Noel East site) have structures associated with the materials collected, while 16AN122 (the Noel Cane site) consisted solely of surface scatter within the sugar cane fields. Each structure will be discussed in more detail within the Standing Structures section. Each site will be discussed below. Figure 40 depicts the location of each site within the boundary of the project area.

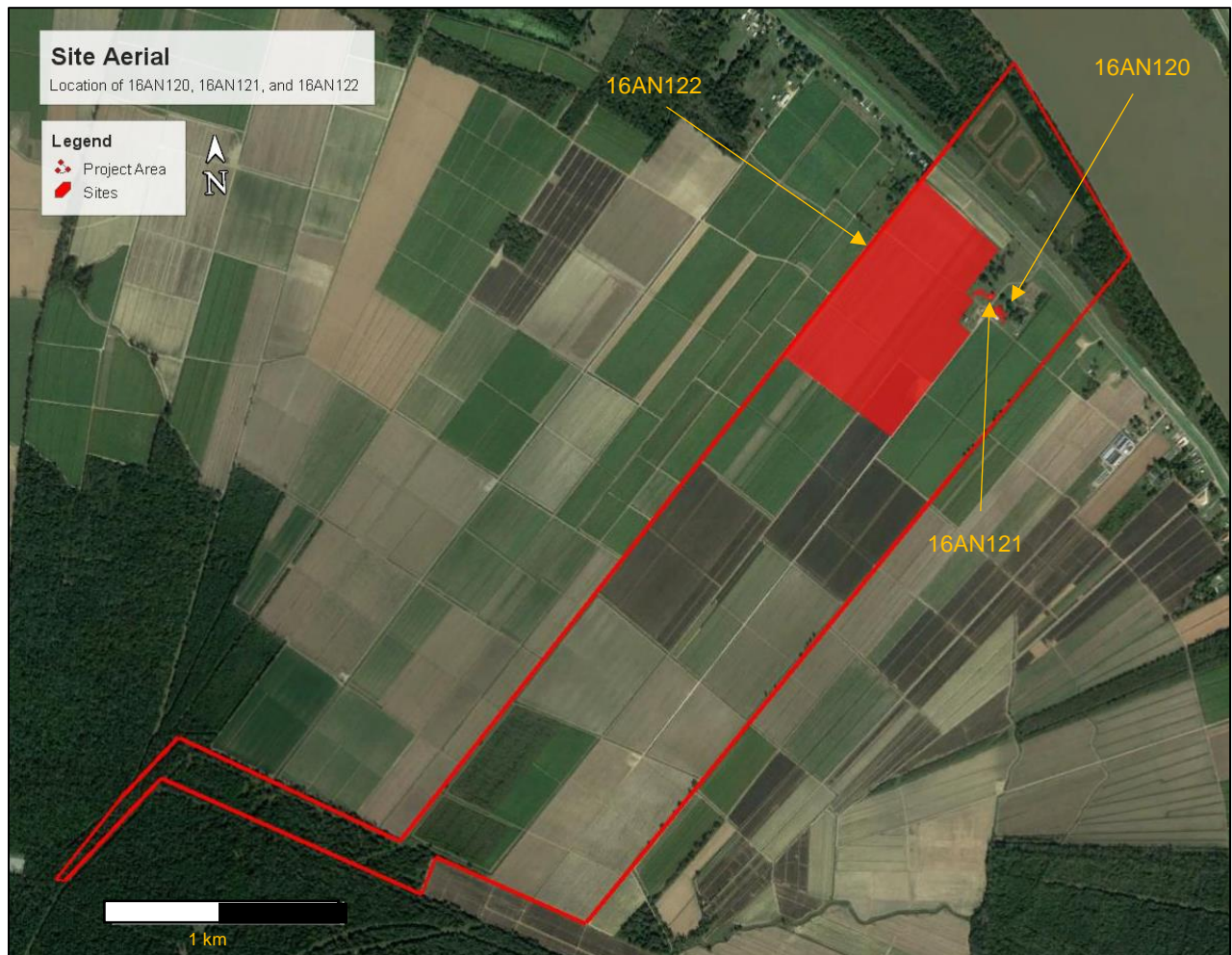


Figure 40. Aerial photo of site locations (source: Google Earth).

16AN122 (The Noel Cane Site)

16AN122 (the Noel Cane site), covering 124 ac (50.2 ha), consisted solely of surface scatter within rows of sugar cane and along dirt roads between sugar cane fields. Brick fragments, *Rangia cuneata* and oyster shells, and some charcoal were encountered on the surface, although these were mostly confined to the areas along Noel Rd. The site has been heavily disturbed from repeated plowing and harvesting of sugar cane.

The survey was carried out at a HP protocol with a ST excavated every 98.4 ft (30 m). A total of 560 STs were excavated within the boundaries of the scatter, all of which were negative for subsurface materials. As no subsurface materials were encountered, delineation shovel testing was not carried out. The site boundaries constitute the area where surface materials were no longer encountered.

Figure 41 shows an aerial photo of the site and Figure 42 presents a sketch map of the site. Table 8 describes the representative Munsell soil profile. Figures 43 and 44 show various views of the site. Table 9 is a list of the recovered artifacts preceding a brief explanation.



Figure 41. Aerial photo of 16AN122 (source: Google Earth).

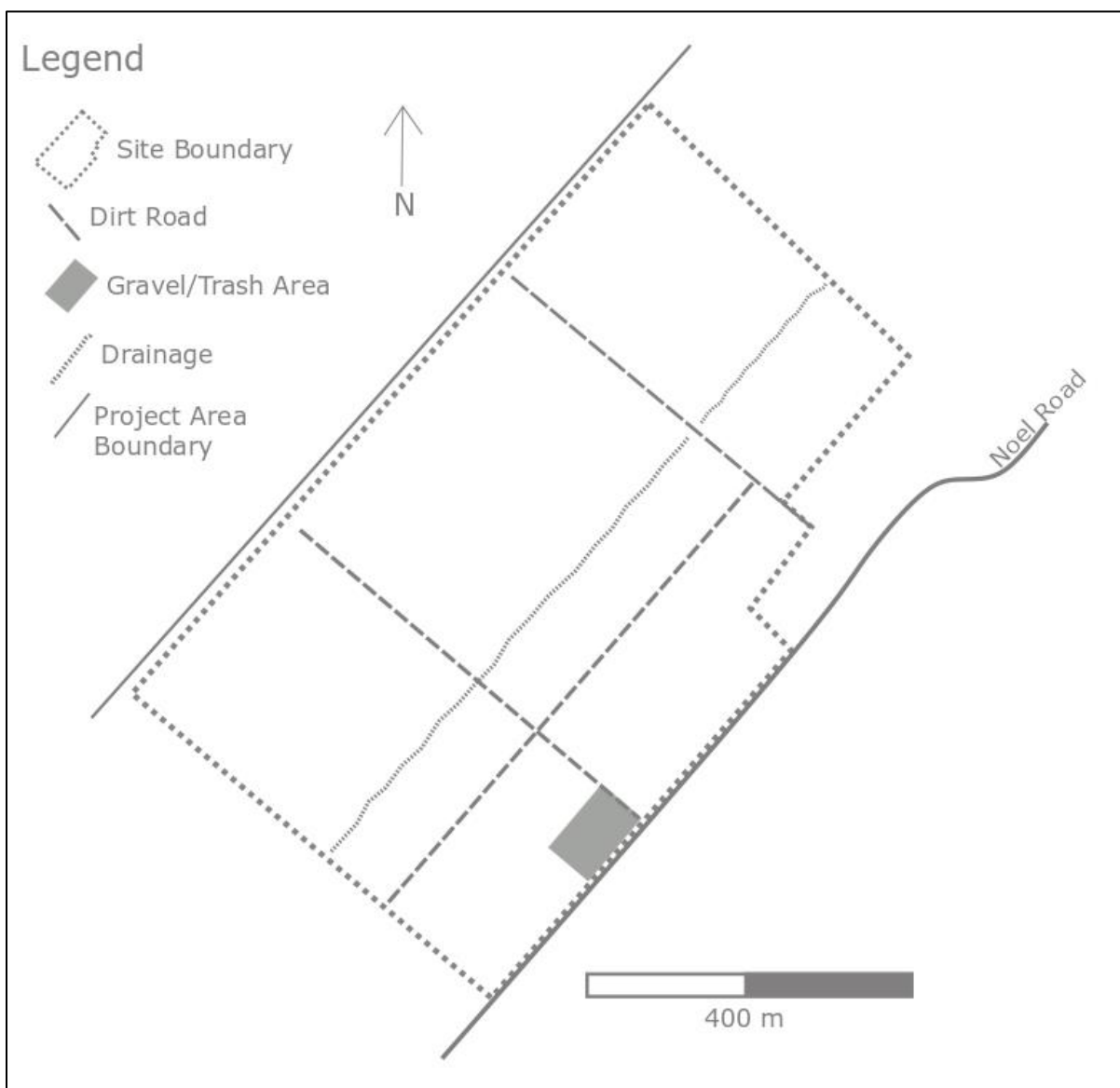


Figure 42. Sketch map of 16AN122.

Table 8. Representation of Munsell soil profile of 16AN122.

Location	Depth	Munsell	Description
T23ST9	0-30 cmbs	10 YR 3/2	Clay
	31-50 cmbs	10 YR 4/4	Clay



Figure 43. Sugar cane field at 16AN122, facing west.



Figure 44. Dirt road at 16AN122, facing southwest.

Table 9. Artifact tally of 16AN122.

	T9	T10	T23	T24	T25	T56	T57	T58	T59	T60	Dirt Rd #1	Dirt Rd #2	Dirt Rd #3	Dirt Rd #4	General Surface	TOTAL
Ceramics																
Whiteware																
Plain	13	9	16	4	13	2	1		5	4	2	9	23	1	7	109
Transfer Printed	3			1	2							2	2	1	1	12
Shell Edged			1	1	6							1	1			10
Hand-Painted		2	2	1	5							3				13
Banded		3							2			3	1			9
Mocha		3		1								1				5
Flow Blue				1	3											4
Maker's Mark					2									1		3
Banded					3											3
Molded													1	1	1	3
UID				1	3							2	4			10
Creamware																
Plain	4														5	9
Ironstone																
Plain	2		62	22	52	7	2	1	5	6	4	30	40	14	18	265
Maker's Mark		1			1				1				1	1	1	6
Transfer Printed							1					1		1	1	4
Banded												1				1
Pearlware																
Plain	10	4			1						2	5			1	23
Hand-Painted	3	1														4
Shell Edged	5	4										1			1	11
Mocha	2															2
Transfer Printed		2														2
Flow Blue		1										2				3
Molded												1				1
UID	2															2
Yellowware																
Plain			2		2								2			6
Banded			6		1											7
Transfer Printed													2			2
Molded													1			1
Porcelain																
Plain			3	1		1			3	1	1	6	6		1	23
Banded		2														2
Doll Part					1											1
Molded													1			1
Marble													1			1
Castor Wheel					1											1
4-Hole Button													3		1	4
Insulator													1			1
Stoneware																
Salt Glazed			3		4	3				1		1	1		1	14
Lead Glazed			4		2							1	1	2	2	12
Manganese			2						4				2			8
Bristol Slipped					4											4
Albany Glazed					1							1				2
Sponged														1		1

Table 9 (cont.). Artifact tally of 16AN122.

	T9	T10	T23	T24	T25	T56	T57	T58	T59	T60	Dirt Rd #1	Dirt Rd #2	Dirt Rd #3	Dirt Rd #4	General Surface	TOTAL
Faience																
Tin Enameled				1												1
Glass																
Curved	1	3	36	29	184	9	3	1	12	7	6	10	96	15	35	447
Flat				1	5					1	1		1			9
Milk			3	4	8	2			4	2		2	2			27
Marble					1											1
Whole Bottle					2											2
4-Hole Button					7											7
Metal																
Iron																
Nail																
Cut													1			1
Wire																
UID			1	2												3
Lock					1											1
Faunal																
Mammal																
Bone					1											1
Tooth					1											1
Shell																
<i>Rangia</i>					1						1					2
Oyster											1				2	3
Construction Mat.																
Slag				1						1						2
Asbestos					7								9			16
Slate									4	1						5
Coal								1			1			1		3
TOTAL	45	35	141	71	325	24	7	3	40	24	19	83	203	39	78	1,137

A total of 1,137 artifacts were collected at 16AN122, the majority of which were ceramics, accounting for 606 of the artifacts collected. Of these ceramics, the most common encountered were ironstone and whiteware. Although plain was most common (n=23), variously decorated pearlwares, including hand-painted and shell edged were also collected. Salt-glazed stoneware and banded yellowwares were also recovered. Additionally, several sherds of porcelain were encountered (n=34), including a doll leg, as seen in Figure 45.

Ironstone was the most common ceramic recovered (n=276), making up 46% of all ceramics. Most of these were plain sherds; however, six sherds of Ironstone that exhibited maker's marks and four sherds of transfer printed ironstone were recorded. One maker's mark sherd was able to be identified and can be seen in Figure 46. It was made by the Peoria Pottery Company circa 1888-1890 in Peoria, IL (Kovel and Kovel 2004). The second most frequently collected type of ceramic was whiteware (n=181), most of which were plain sherds (n=109). Assemblage included variously decorated whitewares, including transfer printed, hand-painted, and blue shell edged. The decorated whitewares date from the mid-1800s to the early 1900s (Hahn & Castille 1988; Hume 1970; Rickard 2006).

After ceramics, the majority of artifacts collected were shards of curved, flat, and milk glass (n=483). Two whole bottles were encountered, plus a bottle stopper with "Lea & Perrins" enscribed on the top (Figure 53). The bottles lacked markings for conclusive dating purposes, however, the stopper belongs to a Lea & Perrins ® Worcestershire Sauce bottle. Production of the Lea & Perrins ® Worcestershire sauce began in England in the early 1800s. In 1839, an entrepreneur from New York named John Duncan imported the sauce to the United States where demand continued, and production grew and spread (leaperrins.com).

Analysis of the artifacts collected suggest a period of occupation spanning the Civil War & Aftermath to the Industrial & Modern periods. Based on research uncovered and presented within the Land Use History section, it is likely this site is associated with the former Elise Plantation. Due to continued disturbance from the plowing the harvesting of sugar cane over the years, the exact context of the site can only be postulated. Furthermore, it is possible the artifacts encountered are remnants of dishware and other such supplies associated with the Elise Schoolhouse (03-00763), especially given the porcelain figurine leg recovered perhaps part of a child's toy (Figure 45). Additionally, the artifact assemblage could have been remains from a dance or other such festivity carried out on or near the project area. Because of the ambiguity surrounding the artifact assemblage due to loss of context from repeated plowing and harvesting of sugar cane, as well as a lack of indication of occupation within the site boundaries, 16AN122 is considered ineligible for inclusion to the NRHP under Criteria A-D, as further work is unlikely to provide knowledge above and beyond what is currently known.

Figures 45-53 provide a representation of the materials collected.



Figure 45. Porcelain doll leg, 16AN122.

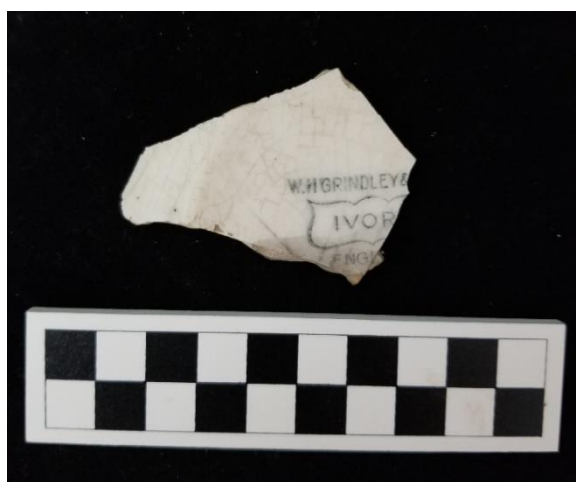


Figure 46. Ironstone sherd with maker's mark, 16AN122.



Figure 47. Glass perfume bottle, 16AN122.



Figure 48. Hand-painted whiteware sherd, 16AN122.



Figure 49. Salt glazed ironstone sherds, 16AN122.



Figure 50. Embossed aqua glass body shard, 16AN122.



Figure 51. Blue shell edged pearlware sherds, 16AN122.



Figure 52. Plain ironstone base sherds, 16AN122.



Figure 53. Lea & Perrins ® Worcestershire Sauce Bottle stopper, 16AN122.

16AN121 (The Noel West Site)

16AN121 (the Noel West site), covering 0.45 ac (0.18 ha), consisted of surface and subsurface materials in an open area of fields and lawns surrounding two structures (Structure 1 [03-00760] and Structure 3 [03-00762]).

Structure 1 (03-00760) was once part of a row of worker's cottages. Today it is the last remaining cottage in this area. It is considered to be associated to 16AN121 as it is a worker's cottage likely utilized during the height of agricultural work at the Elise Plantation.

Windows and a fireplace found within Structure 3 (03-00762) makes it likely that this small building was built for human use, likely seasonal plantation workers. This further suggests use during the height of sugar cane production at the Elise Plantation.

After consultation with Dr. Rachel Watson at LDOA, it was decided STs should be implemented at 32.8 ft (10 m) intervals around each structure. Once positive STs were identified, delineation continued at 32.8 ft (10 m) intervals until materials were no longer present. STs were excavated where possible around the various trash heaps and farming equipment.

Fifty-nine STs were excavated within and around the site boundary, with twelve positive for historic cultural materials. Piles of trash and pieces of farming machinery were encountered within and around the site boundaries.

Figure 54 shows an aerial photo of the site and Figure 55 presents a sketch map of the site. Table 10 describes the representative Munsell soil profiles. Figures 56 and 57 show different views of the site and Figure 58 provides a representation of machinery encountered. Table 11 is a list of the recovered artifacts preceding a brief explanation. Figures 59-61 provide a representation of artifacts encountered.

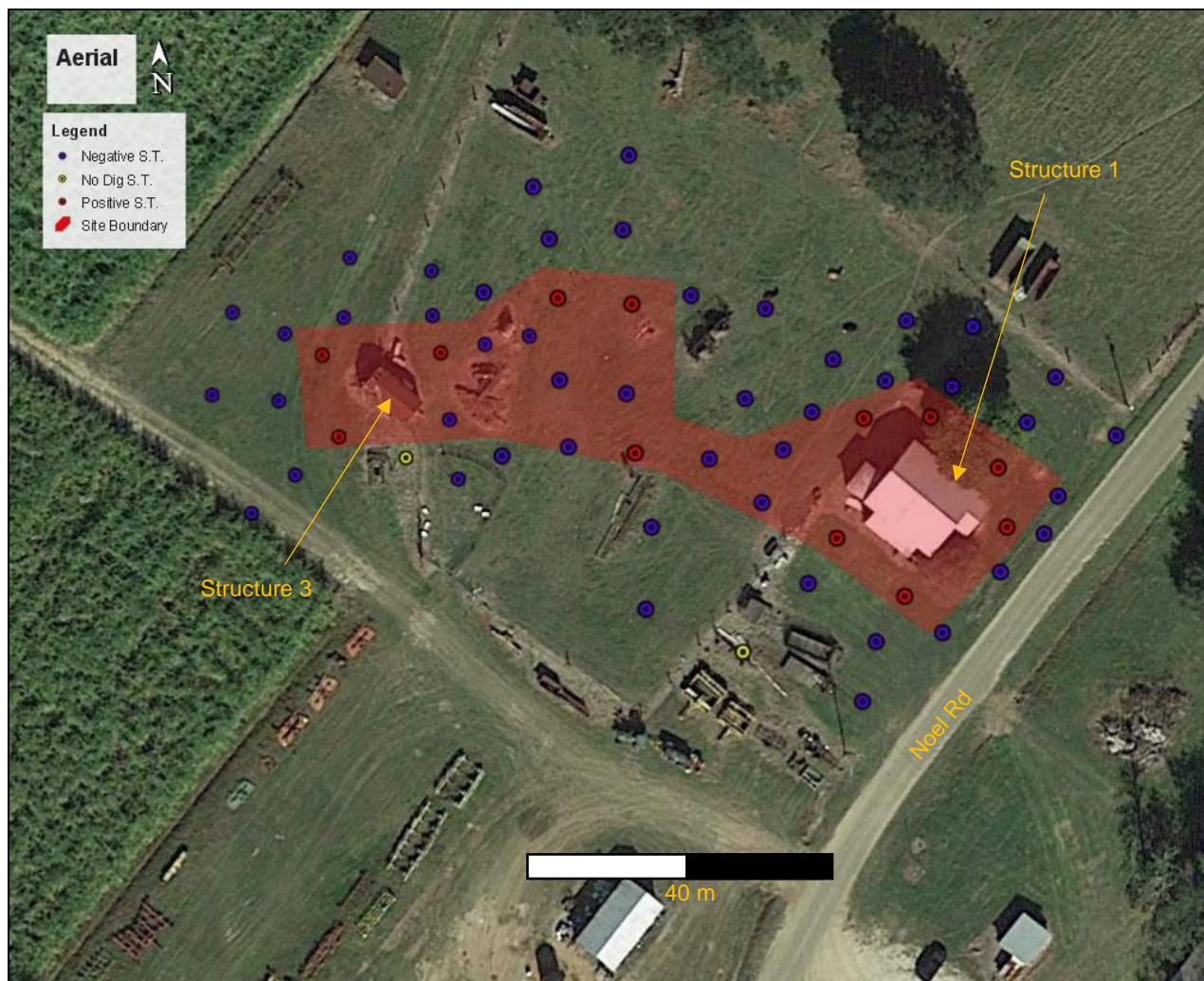


Figure 54. Aerial photo of 16AN121 (source: Google Earth).

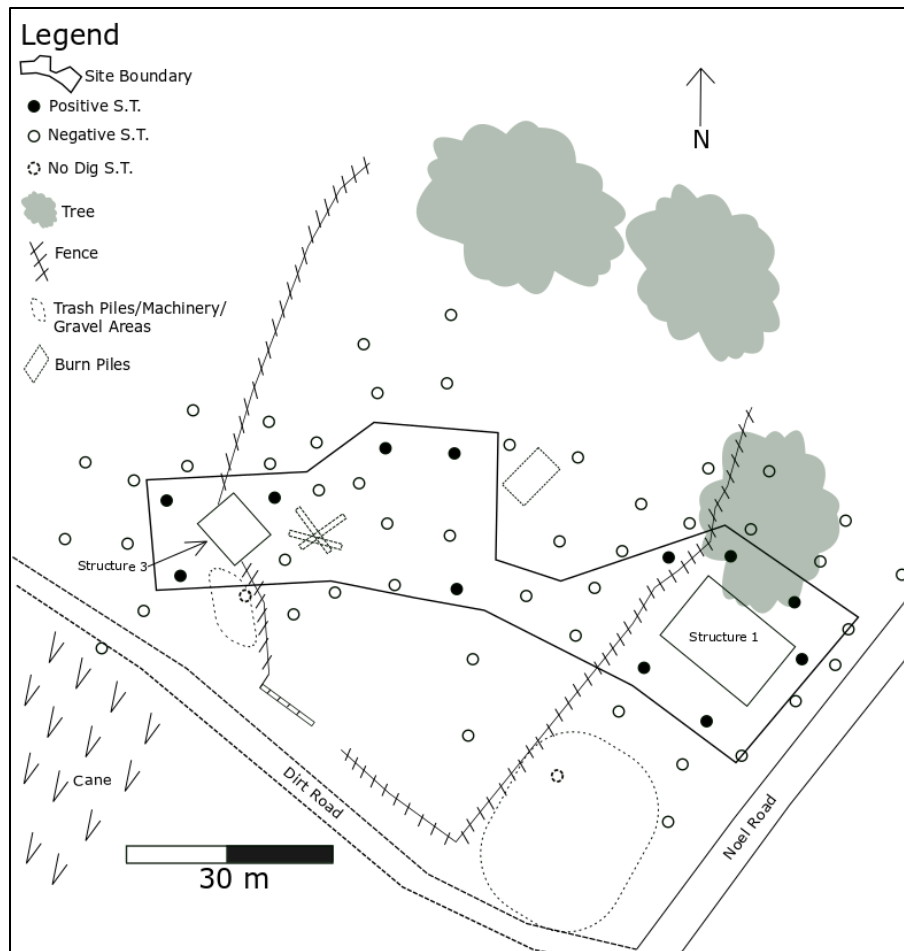


Figure 55. Sketch map of 16AN121.

Table 10. Representative Munsell soil profiles of 16AN121.

Location	Depth	Munsell	Description
T16ST2 (Center of Site)	0-20 cmbs	10 YR 3/2	Clay
	21-50 cmbs	10 YR 4/4	Gritty, Sandy Clay
Positive S.T. at Structure 3 (03-00762)	0-10 cmbs	10 YR 2/1	Silty Clay
	11-50 cmbs	10 YR 4/3	Silty Clay
Positive S.T. at Structure 1 (03-00760)	0-30 cmbs	10 YR 3/3	Silty Clay
	31-50 cmbs	10 YR 4/3	Sandy, Silty Clay



Figure 56. Center of 16AN121, facing north.



Figure 57. Center of 16AN121, facing east.



Figure 58. Representation of farming equipment around 16AN121, facing east.

Table 11. Artifact tally of 16AN121.

	*S1, S.T.1	*S1, S.T.2	*S1, S.T.3	*S1, S.T.4	*S1, S.T.5	*S1, S.T.6	*S1, Surface	*S3, S.T.1	*S3, S.T.3	*S3, S.T.4	T16ST2	T16ST2/ +10W	T16ST2/ +20S	TOTAL
Ceramic														
Whiteware														
Plain	1		2				4				1		1	9
Hand-Painted									1				1	2
Ironstone														
Plain							1						5	6
Pearlware														
Plain									1					1
Molded							1							1
Shell Edged							1		1					2
Stoneware														
Salt Glazed											1			1
Porcelain														
Plain							1					2	1	4
Decal												1		1
Glass														
Curved			1				3	5		3	3	1	5	21
Flat					1	2								3
Pressed		2												2
Whole Bottle												2		2
Metal														
Iron														
Nail														
Cut		1			4									5
Wire								2		2	4	1		9
Unidentified		2								1				3
Washer								1						1
Construction Mat.														
Brick Frag	1	1			7	3								12
Coal			1											1
Slag			1											1
Mortar				5										5
Slate										1				1
Faunal														
Bone														
Mammal			2		1									3
Shell														
Oyster					1									1
Charcoal											1			1
TOTAL	2	6	7	5	14	5	11	8	1	9	10	7	13	98

*Note: "S" stands for "Structure"

A total of ninety-eight artifacts were recovered at 16AN121 (the Noel West site), the majority of which were ceramics (n=27). Of these ceramics, the most common encountered were whiteware and ironstone. Additionally, four sherds of pearlware, one sherd of salt glazed stoneware, and five sherds of porcelain were collected. Plain whiteware accounted for nine of the eleven whiteware sherds collected, with two sherds hand-painted. Six sherds of plain ironstone were encountered.

Glass accounted for twenty-eight of the artifacts collected, making up 29% of all materials encountered. Most of the glass consisted of shards of modern bottle glass. Two whole glass bottles were recovered, though neither provided markings or writings for specific dating purposes. Nails were also collected, the majority of which were wire (n=9).

Analysis of the artifacts collected suggest a period of occupation spanning the Civil War & Aftermath to the Industrial & Modern periods. Based on research uncovered and presented within the Land Use History section, it is likely this site is associated with the former Elise Plantation. Furthermore, it is possible the artifacts encountered are remnants of dishware and other such supplies associated with the Elise Schoolhouse (03-00763) or from some festivity held on or near the project area. Additionally, a respectable amount the artifacts encountered were construction materials. Due to the ambiguity surrounding the artifact assemblage from disturbance from lawn maintenance and accumulation of modern trash, as well as a lack of indication of occupation within the site boundaries, 16AN121 is considered ineligible for inclusion to the NRHP under Criteria A-D, as further work is unlikely to provide knowledge above and beyond what is currently known.



Figure 59. Hand-painted whiteware sherd, Structure 3 ST 4, 16AN121.

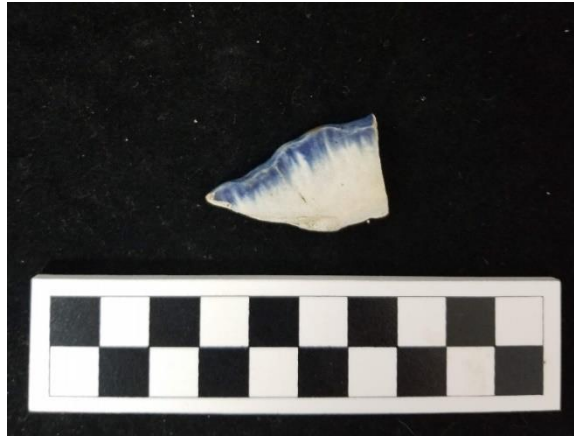


Figure 60. Blue shell edged pearlware rim sherd, Structure 1 surface, 16AN121.



Figure 61. Cut nails, Structure 1 ST 5, 16AN121.

16AN120 (The Noel East Site)

16AN120 (the Noel East site), covering 0.55 ac (0.22 ha), consisted of subsurface materials in an open area surrounding three structures (Structure 7 [03-00767], Structure 8 [03-00768], and Structure 9 [03-00769]). A few supporting structures for the worker's cottages were identified. One such structure is Structure 7 (03-00767), which was once a chicken coop associated with the worker's cottages. Unlike Structure 7 (03-00767), Structures 8 (03-00768) and 9 (03-00769) are not associated with broad agricultural contributions to the area and, are therefore, unlikely to have been associated with the Elise Plantation.

After consultation with Dr. Rachel Watson at LDOA, it was decided STs should be implemented at 32.8 ft (10 m) intervals around each structure. Once positive STs were identified, delineation continued at 32.8 ft (10 m) intervals until materials were no longer present.

Fifty-four STs were excavated within and around the site boundary, with eighteen positive for historic cultural materials. Six STs were unable to be dug due to gravel areas and sporadic piles of rubbish accumulation.

Articulated brick was encountered at Structure 9 (03-00769). According to Mr. John Landry, who leases the land from the majority landowner, Mr. Marc Noel, this was previously a brick walkway to a house that was occupied by the Noel family in the 1960s and town down about twenty years ago (John Landry, personal communication 2018). Although attempts have made to contact the landowner, requests for further information has not been provided.

Figure 62 shows an aerial photo of the site, Figure 63 presents a sketch map of the site, and Table 12 describes the representative Munsell soil profiles. Figures 64-66 depict views of the site from various locations. The brick walkway and its soil profile can be seen in Figures 67-69. Table 13 is a list of the recovered artifacts preceding a brief explanation.

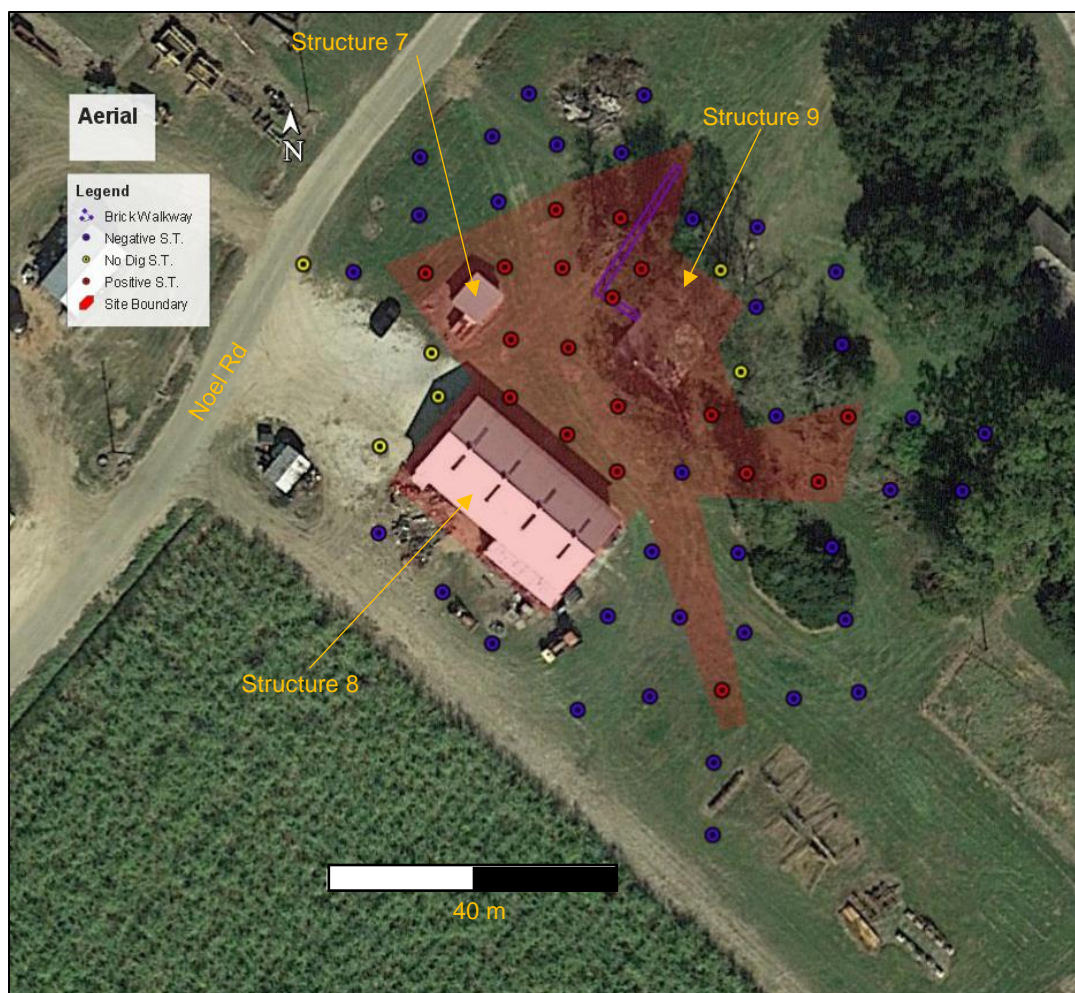


Figure 62. Aerial photo of 16AN120 (source: Google Earth).

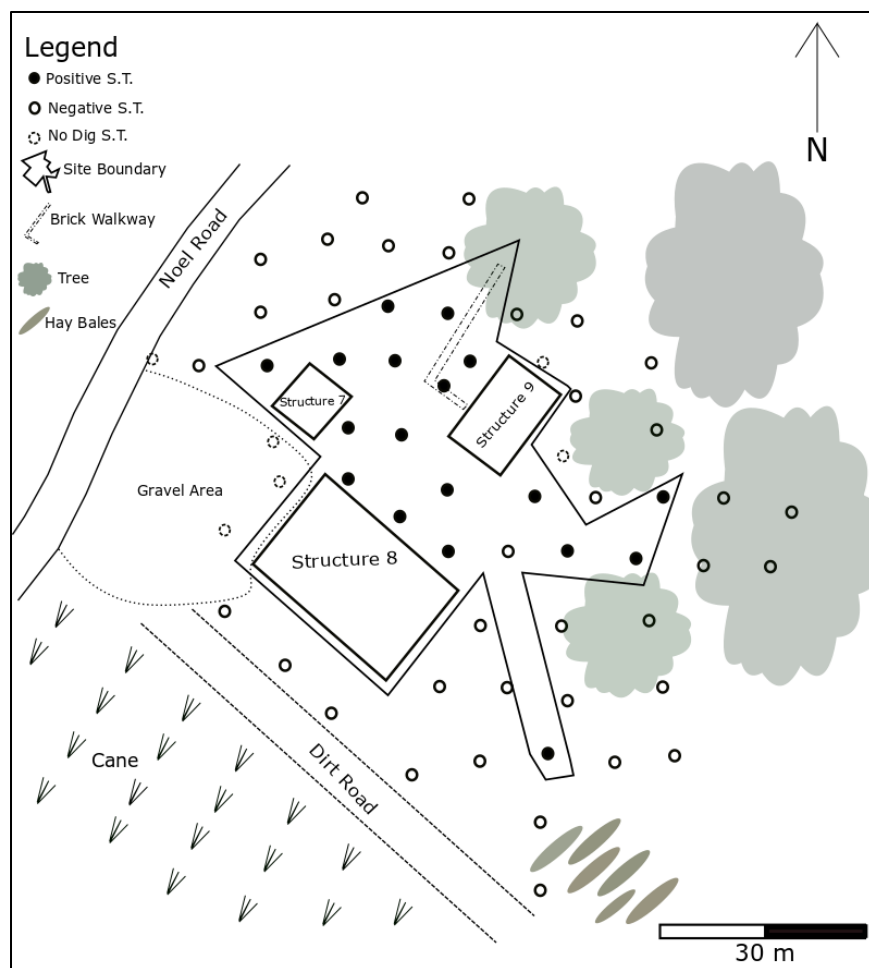


Figure 63. Sketch map of 16AN120.

Table 12. Representative Munsell soil profiles of 16AN120.

Location	Depth	Munsell	Description
T5ST11 (Pos. S.T.)	0-50 cmbs	10 YR 3/2	Clay
Positive S.T. at Structure 7 (03-00767)	0-25 cmbs	10 YR 3/3	Silty Clay
	26-50 cmbs	10 YR 4/3	Silty Clay
Brick Walkway	0-8 cmbs	10 YR 2/2	Coarse Sandy Clay
	9-12 cmbs	10 YR 4/4	Silty Sandy Clay



Figure 64. Southern boundary of 16AN120, facing north.



Figure 65. Overview of Structures 7 (03-00767), 8 (03-00768), and 9 (03-00769) at 16AN120, facing northwest.



Figure 66. Center of 16AN120, facing northeast.



Figure 67. Corner of brick walkway at 16AN120, facing northeast.



Figure 68. Extended view of brick walkway at 16AN120, facing northwest.



Figure 69. Soil profile of brick walkway at 16AN120.

Table 13. Artifact tally of 16AN120.

	S7 S.T.1	S7 S.T.2	S7 S.T.3	S7 S.T.1 +10E	S7 S.T.1 +20E	S7 S.T.1 +10N+10E	S7 S.T.1 +10N+20E	S8 S.T.1	S8 S.T.2	S8 S.T.3 +20E	S8 S.T.3 +30E
Ceramics											
Whiteware											
Plain	1			9	9			1			
Shell Edged				1							
Hand-Painted				1							
Transfer Printed					1		1				
Flow Blue									1		
Mocha											
Decal											
Banded											
Ironstone											
Plain	1	1	1	4	10	6	2		6	3	1
Shell Edged					1						
Mocha							1				
Transfer Printed											1
Hand-Painted											
UID									1	1	
Pearlware											
Plain	1			2							
Transfer Printed											
Shell Edged											
Sponged											
Creamware											
Plain				2							
Porcelain											
Plain							1			2	
4-Hole Button											
Decal											
Yellowware											
Plain											
Banded											
Stoneware											
Salt Glazed						1					
Manganese Glazed											
Lead Glazed											
Koalin Pipe Filter											
Glass											
Curved			1	4	2		1	2	3		
Flat											
Metal											
Iron											

Table 13 (cont.). Artifact tally of 16AN120.

	S7 S.T.1	S7 S.T.2	S7 S.T.3	S7 S.T.1 +10E	S7 S.T.1 +20E	S7 S.T.1 +10N+10E	S7 S.T.1 +10N+20E	S8 S.T.1	S8 S.T.2	S8 S.T.3 +20E	S8 S.T.3 +30E
Nail											
Wire					2		1	1			
Cut											
UID			1			1			3	1	
Bolt			1								
Staple											
Handle											
Cupreous											
Buckle					1						
UID								1			
Faunal											
Bone											
Mammal											
UID		1									
Tooth											
Shell											
Oyster											
Construction Mat.											
Slag											1
Coal										2	
Charcoal											
Brick Frag											
Asbestos											
TOTAL	3	2	4	23	26	8	7	5	14	9	3

Table 13 (cont.). Artifact tally of 16AN120.

	S9 S.T.1	S9 S.T.2	S9 S.T.3	S9 S.T.6	S9 S.T.6 +20E	T5 S.T.11	Brick Walkway	TOTAL
Ceramics								
Whiteware								
Plain		9	21	1			19	70
Shell Edged			3	1				5
Hand-Painted							1	2
Transfer Printed		1	2	1				6
Flow Blue					1			2
Mocha			1	1			1	3
Decal							2	2
Banded							1	1
Ironstone								
Plain	1	3	24	2	4		15	84
Shell Edged								1
Mocha								1
Transfer Printed								1
Hand-Painted			1					1
UID								2
Pearlware								
Plain			2	2			2	9
Transfer Printed		1	2	3			4	10
Shell Edged		1		2			5	8
Sponged							1	1
Creamware								
Plain								2
Porcelain								
Plain			3				1	7
4-Hole Button				1	1		1	3
Decal							1	1
Yellowware								
Plain							2	2
Banded			2					2
Stoneware								
Salt Glazed							1	2
Manganese Glazed	1						1	2
Lead Glazed				1			1	2
Kaolin Pipe Filter				1				1
Glass								
Curved	3	18	16	4	5	55	30	144
Flat			5				2	7
Metal								
Iron								

Table 13 (cont.). Artifact tally of 16AN120.

	S9 S.T.1	S9 S.T.2	S9 S.T.3	S9 S.T.6	S9 S.T.6 +20E	T5 S.T.11	Brick Walkway	TOTAL
Nail								
Wire		2	4				8	18
Cut	3	9	2		4		3	21
UID	1						4	11
Bolt								1
Staple		1						1
Handle		1						1
Cupreous								
Buckle								1
UID		3						4
Faunal								
Bone								
Mammal					1		7	8
UID		3	1					5
Tooth	1							1
Shell								
Oyster							1	1
Construction Mat.								
Slag		1	1		2			5
Coal					3			5
Charcoal			1					1
Brick Frag			1					1
Asbestos							2	2
TOTAL	10	53	92	20	21	55	116	471

A total of 471 artifacts were collected at 16AN120, the majority of which were ceramics, accounting for 233 of the artifacts recovered. Of these ceramics, the most common encountered were ironstone and whiteware. A total of twenty-eight sherds of pearlware were collected, mostly plain, transfer printed, and shell edged. Plain creamware (n=2) was also recovered.

Whiteware was the most common ceramic collected (n=91), making up 39% of all ceramics. Most of these were plain sherds, however, six transfer printed, and five shell edged sherds were the subsequent majorities. The variously decorated whitewares date from the mid-1800s to the early 1900s. Three pieces of mocha decorated whiteware, probably dating to the first half of the 19th century, though possibly the late 18th (Hahn and Castille 1988; Noel Hume 1970; Rickard 2006), were collected.

The second most frequently collected type of ceramic was ironstone (n=90). Of these, plain ironstone was the most common, dating from 1913 to well into the 20th century (Kovel and Kovel 2004; Campbell 2006). However, sherds of shell edged, mocha, transfer printed, and hand-

painted pieces were also recovered. Furthermore, the various decorations of ironstone collected date from 1813-20th century (Kovel and Kovel 2004; Campbell 2006).

The most common decorations of pearlware collected were transfer printed (n=10), dating from 1780-1830 (Hahn and Castille 1988). The smallest amount of ceramics encountered were two sherds of creamware. These sherds are the earliest chronologically and span from middle 18th to early 19th century (Hahn and Castille 1988).

In addition to ceramics, nails and glass were also encountered. Of the thirty-nine nails that could be identified, twenty-one (54%) were cut nails, dating to the 19th century (Edwards and Wells 1993). Curved glass shards accounted for 144 of the artifacts collected. A cobalt bottle lip was collected and is engraved with "DOSE AT..." on the base of the lip. This is a medicine bottle patented by John Wyeth & Bros in 1899 (George 1999).

Analysis of the artifacts collected suggest a period of occupation spanning the Civil War & Aftermath to the Industrial & Modern periods. Based on research uncovered and presented within the Land Use History section, it is likely this site is associated with the former Elise Plantation. Although pearlware sherds were encountered, the amount was relatively small when compared to the curved glass, plain ironstone and plain whiteware. One possibility for this could be that more recent dishware was thrown on top of older trash surrounding the walkway. Due to the ambiguity surrounding the artifact assemblage from disturbance from lawn maintenance and accumulation of modern trash, as well as a lack of indication of occupation by any significant person or persons within the site boundaries, 16AN120 is considered ineligible for inclusion to the NRHP under Criteria A-D, as further work is unlikely to provide knowledge above and beyond what is currently known.

Although a brick walkway was encountered, it is unlikely that it was once associated with a significant historical structure. Although attempts have made to contact the landowner, requests for further information have not been provided. For this reason, the time of construction cannot be indefinitely determined, other than it was present and utilized as early as the 1960s.

Figures 70-75 provide a representation of the materials collected.

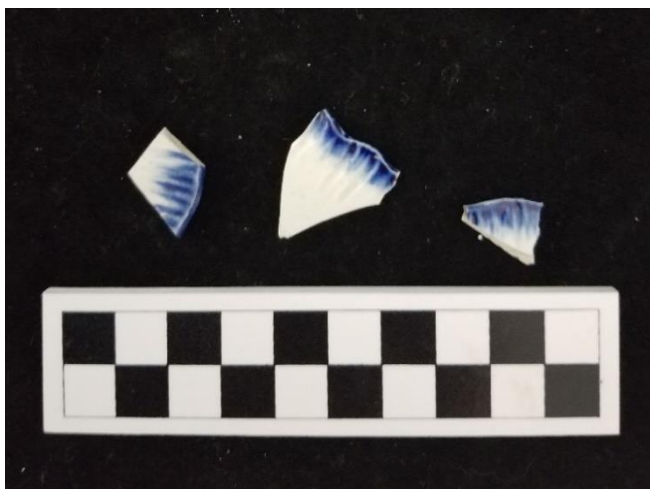


Figure 70. Blue shell edged whiteware sherds, Structure 9 ST 3, 16AN120.



Figure 71. Mocha ironstone sherd, Structure 7 ST 1, +10N+20E, 16AN120.



Figure 72. Blue transfer printed pearlware sherds, Structure 9 ST 6, 16AN120.



Figure 73. Plain creamware base sherds, Structure 7 ST 1, +10E, 16AN120.



Figure 74. Oxidized cut nails, Structure 9 ST 2, 16AN120.



Figure 75. John Wyeth & Bros. medicine bottle lip, brick walkway, 16AN120.

Standing Structures (03-00760 through 03-00772)

Thirteen standing structures (03-00760 through 03-00772) were encountered within the project area. Historic research uncovered that German immigrant George B. Reuss once owned this area then known as the Elise Plantation. Reuss also owned the surrounding areas of Ashland-Belle-Helene Plantation, Germania Plantation, Ashland Plantation, Mulberry Grove Plantation, and Cuba Plantation (Sternberg 2013). The 1904 Statement of Sugar and Rice Crops shows that the Elise Plantation has historically grown sugar cane crops. (Bouchereau 1909).

Upon analysis of historic maps and historic information, it was determined that there were no major structures such as historic plantation houses or supporting historic structures built within the project area.

Each structure will be discussed in detail below. Table 14 presents all structures recorded during the survey.

Table 14. Standing structures within the project area.

Inventory No.	Historic Name, if applicable	Latitude (Decimal Degrees)	Longitude (Decimal Degrees)	Street Number	Street Name	City	Parish	National Register Status
03-00760	Elise Plantation	30.182089°	-91.026740°	8380	Noel Road	Donaldsonville	Ascension	Ineligible
03-00761	Elise Plantation	30.181334°	-91.025375°	8380	Noel Road	Donaldsonville	Ascension	Ineligible
03-00762	Elise Plantation	30.182251°	-91.027483°	8380	Noel Road	Donaldsonville	Ascension	Ineligible
03-00764	Elise Plantation	30.180591°	-91.025687°	8380	Noel Road	Donaldsonville	Ascension	Ineligible
03-00765	Elise Plantation	30.182656°	-91.027492°	8380	Noel Road	Donaldsonville	Ascension	Ineligible
03-00766	Elise Plantation	30.182656°	-91.027492°	8380	Noel Road	Donaldsonville	Ascension	Ineligible
03-00767	Elise Plantation	30.181584°	-91.027190°	8380	Noel Road	Donaldsonville	Ascension	Ineligible
03-00768	Elise Plantation	30.181347°	-91.026911°	8380	Noel Road	Donaldsonville	Ascension	Ineligible
03-00769	Elise Plantation	30.181556°	-91.026634°	8380	Noel Road	Donaldsonville	Ascension	Ineligible
03-00770	Elise Plantation	30.181329°	-91.026587°	8380	Noel Road	Donaldsonville	Ascension	Ineligible
03-00771	Elise Plantation	30.181509°	-91.026351°	8380	Noel Road	Donaldsonville	Ascension	Ineligible
03-00772	Elise Plantation	30.181106°	-91.025375°	8380	Noel Road	Donaldsonville	Ascension	Ineligible

Table 15 (cont.). Standing structures within the project area.

Inventory No.	Eligibility Criteria	Status (Contributing, Non-Contributing)	Type of Resource	Date of Construction	Date of Alterations	Form	Architectural Style	Date Surveyed
03-00760		Non-Contributing	Building	1935		Bungalow	No Style	6/21/18
03-00761		Non-Contributing	Building	1950		Ranch	No Style	6/21/18
03-00762		Non-Contributing	Building	1935		Other	No Style	6/22/18
03-00764		Non-Contributing	Building	Unknown		Other	No Style	6/22/18
03-00765		Non-Contributing	Building	Unknown		Other	No Style	6/21/18
03-00766		Non-Contributing	Building	Unknown		Other	No Style	6/21/18
03-00767		Non-Contributing	Building	Unknown		Other	No Style	6/21/18
03-00768		Non-Contributing	Building	Unknown		Other	No Style	6/21/18
03-00769		Non-Contributing	Building	Unknown		Other	No Style	6/21/18
03-00770		Non-Contributing	Building	Unknown		Other	No Style	6/21/18
03-00771		Non-Contributing	Building	Unknown		Other	No Style	6/21/18
03-00772		Non-Contributing	Building	Unknown		Other	No Style	6/21/18

Structure 1 (03-00760)

Structure 1 (03-00760) is a circa 1935 front facing gable cottage raised on a mix of brick and concrete piers, exposed rafter tails, and a tin roof. A front porch, side porch, and back addition have been added over time. The center chimney has been removed from the roof line.

Six STs were excavated at 32.8 ft (10 m) intervals around Structure 1 (03-00760). All six STs were positive for historic cultural materials. The eighteen subsequent delineation STs were all negative for cultural materials, with one unable to be excavated due to piles of trash and various farming machinery. Structure 1 (03-00760) falls within the boundaries of 16AN121 and is considered to be associated with the materials recovered from the site.

Structure 1 (03-00760) was once part of a row of worker's cottages. Today, it is the last remaining cottage in this area. Even though it is a reminder of past agricultural patterns, the removal of supporting cottages has taken away its significance. Due to the removal of other worker cottages, various alterations over time, and a lack of integrity, Structure 1 (03-00760) is considered ineligible to the NRHP under Criteria A-D.

Figure 76 provides an aerial photo of Structure 1 (03-00760) and Figure 77 presents a sketch map. Table 15 describes the representative Munsell soil profile. Figures 78 and 79 depict Structure 1 (03-00760) as it currently stands.



Figure 76. Aerial photo of Structure 1 (03-00760) (source: Google Earth).

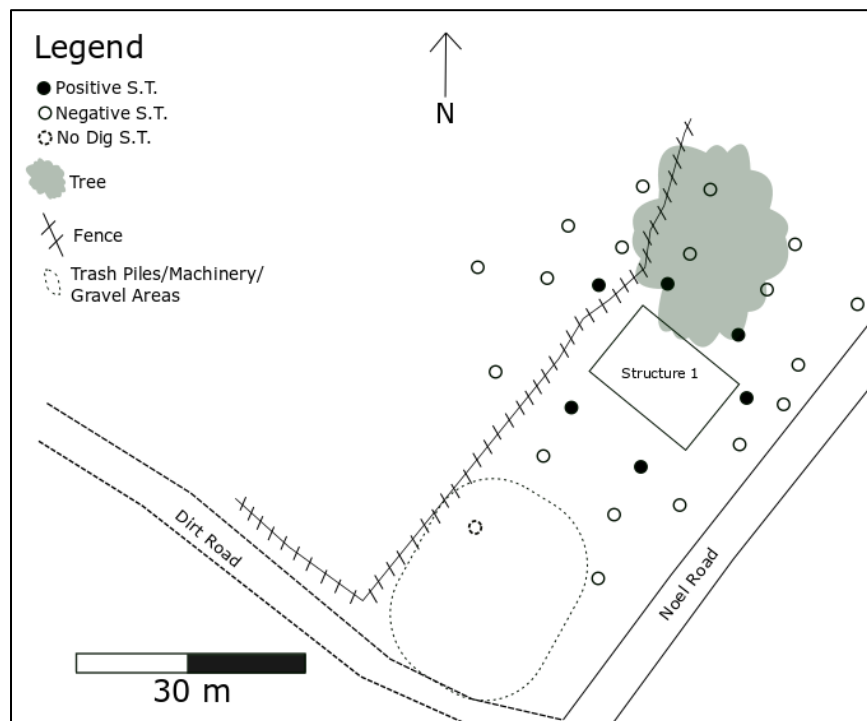


Figure 77. Sketch map of Structure 1 (03-00760).

Table 16. Representative Munsell soil profile of Structure 1 (03-00760).

Location	Depth	Munsell	Description
Structure 1 (03-00760)	0-35 cmbs	10 YR 3/3	Silty Clay
	36-50 cmbs	10 YR 4/4	Sandy Clay



Figure 78. Structure 1 (03-00760), facing northwest.



Figure 79. Structure 1 (03-00760) side porch and back addition, facing north.

Structure 2 (03-00761)

Structure 2 (03-00761) is a small wood frame shed enclosed with corrugated metal and a low sloping metal roof that houses a water pump. The northwest façade is completely open to allow for water to come out of the pump and water the fields. The northeast and northwest sides are semi enclosed, and the southeast side is completely enclosed in corrugated metal. Structure 2 (03-00761) does not meet the NRHP Criteria A-D, therefore, it is considered ineligible for inclusion.

STs were excavated at 32.8 ft (10 m) intervals. All four STs were negative for historic cultural materials. Figure 80 presents an aerial photo of Structure 2 (03-00761) and Figure 81 provides a sketch map. Table 16 offers a representative Munsell soil profile and Figure 82 depicts Structure 2 (03-00761) as it currently stands.



Figure 80. Aerial photo of Structure 2 (03-00761) (source: Google Earth).

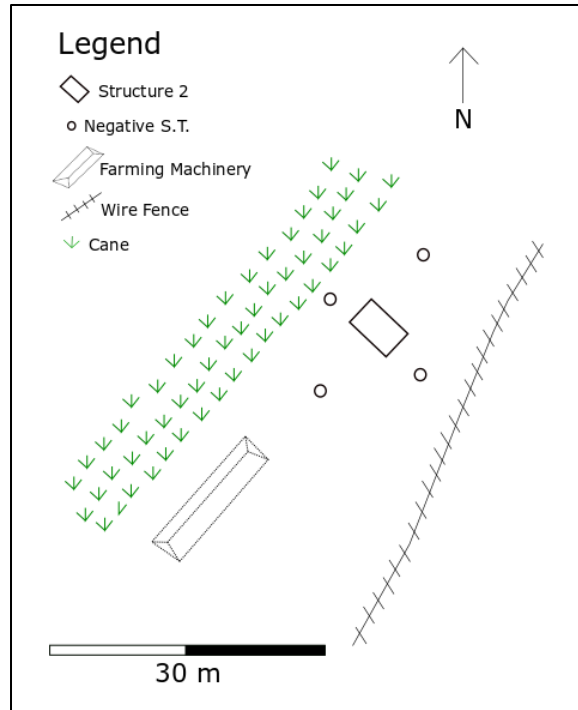


Figure 81. Sketch map of Structure 2 (03-00761).

Table 17. Representative Munsell soil profile of Structure 2 (03-00761).

Location	Depth	Munsell	Description
Structure 2 (03-00761)	0-15 cmbs	10 YR 3/3	Silty Clay
	16-50 cmbs	10 YR 4/4	Silty Clay



Figure 82. Structure 2 (03-00761), facing north.

Structure 3 (03-00762)

Structure 3 (03-00762) is a simple front facing gable cottage on raised brick piers with board and batten siding. Structure 3 (03-00762) has a front center entrance way and a fireplace located along the back gable. Today Structure 3 (03-00762) is in severe disrepair and is used to house miscellaneous pieces of wood.

Three STs were excavated at 32.8 ft (10 m) intervals around Structure 3 (03-00762), with one unable to be dug due to piles of trash and various farming machinery. All three STs were positive for historic cultural materials. The fourteen subsequent delineation STs were all negative for cultural materials. Structure 3 (03-00762) falls within the boundaries of 16AN121 and is considered to be associated with the materials recovered from the site.

Windows and a fireplace found within Structure 3 (03-00762) makes it likely that this small building was built for human use, likely a seasonal plantation worker. However, there is no further supporting evidence or important information that identifies Structure 3's (03-00762) original use. As such, it is not considered eligible to the NRHP under Criteria A-D.

Figure 83 provides an aerial photo of Structure 3 (03-00762) and Figure 84 presents a sketch map. Table 17 describes the representative Munsell soil profile. Figures 85 and 86 depict Structure 3 (03-00762).

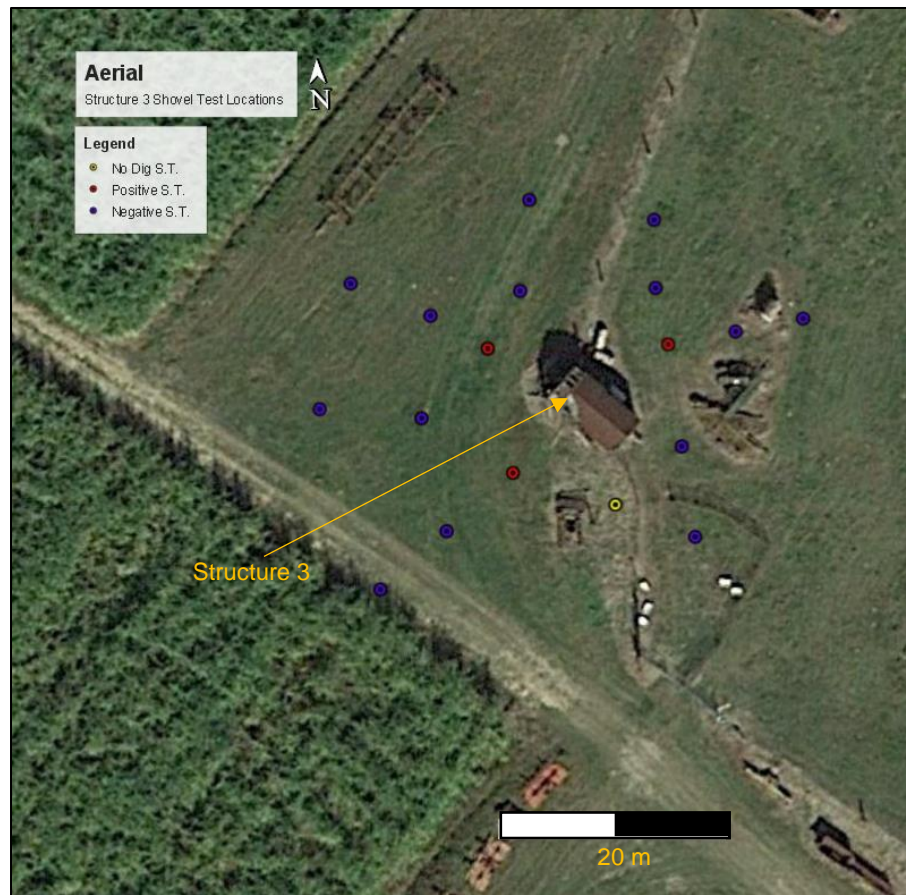


Figure 83. Aerial photo of Structure 3 (03-00762) (source: Google Earth).

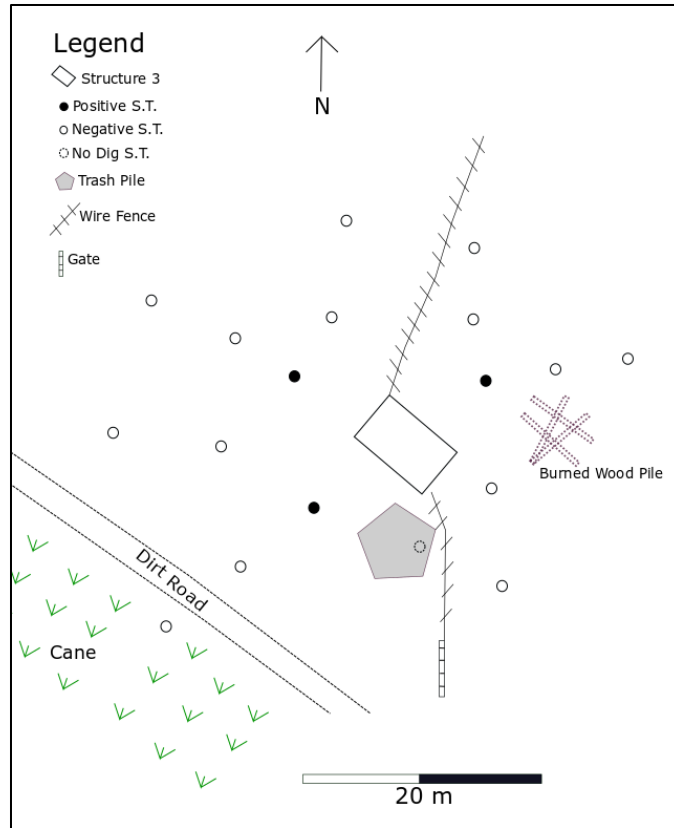


Figure 84. Sketch map of Structure 3 (03-00762).

Table 18. Representative Munsell soil profile of Structure 3 (03-00762).

Location	Depth	Munsell	Description
Structure 3 (03-00762)	0-7 cmbs	10 YR 2/1	Clay
	8-50 cmbs	10 YR 4/3	Silty Clay



Figure 85. Structure 3 (03-00762), facing southwest.



Figure 86. South façade of Structure 3 (03-00762), facing north.

Structure 4 (03-00764)

Structure 4 (03-00764) is a gabled barn with a wide center area. There is no evidence that this barn was used to house animals and was most likely always used to house large farm equipment. Structure 4 (03-00764) is constructed of wood frame, board and batten siding with a tin roof.

Structure 4 (03-00764) is associated with broad agricultural contributions to the area, however, it does not contribute significantly to any events nor does it embody distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction that represents the work of a master. Structure 4 (03-00764) is not considered eligible for the NRHP under Criteria A-D.

STs were excavated at 32.8 ft (10 m) intervals. All eight STs were negative for historic cultural materials. Figure 87 provides an aerial photo of Structure 4 (03-00764) and Figure 88 depicts a sketch map. Table 18 presents a representative Munsell soil profile and Figure 89 depicts Structure 4 (03-00764) as it currently stands.



Figure 87. Aerial photo of Structure 4 (03-00764) (source: Google Earth).

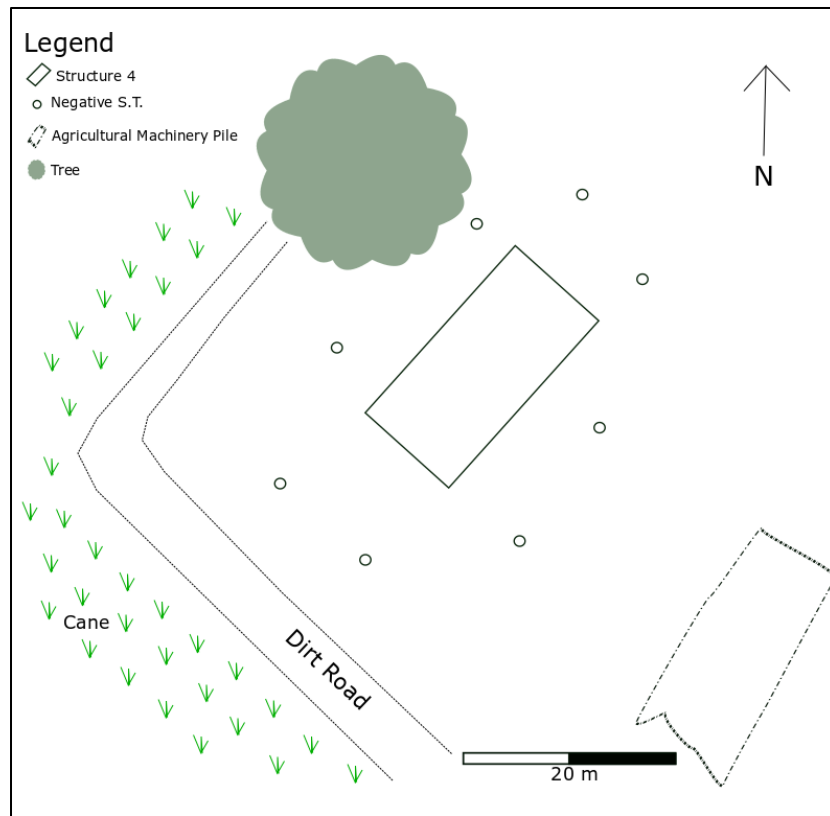


Figure 88. Sketch map of Structure 4 (03-00764).

Table 19. Representative Munsell soil profile of Structure 4 (03-00764).

Location	Depth	Munsell	Description
Structure 4 (03-00764)	0-50 cmbs	10 YR 3/3	Clay



Figure 89. Structure 4 (03-00764), facing southwest.

Structure 5 (03-00765)

Structure 5 (03-00765) is another gabled barn raised on concrete piers. It is a wood barn with a tin roof and also houses farm equipment. The barn is enclosed on both sides and has a center doorway on each gable end. Gravel and concrete surround Structure 5 (03-00765), making excavation below approximately 20 cmbs impossible.

Structure 5 (03-00765) is associated with broad agricultural contributions to the area, however, it does not contribute significantly to any events nor does it embody distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction that represents the work of a master. Structure 5 (03-00765) is not considered eligible for the NRHP under Criteria A-D.

STs were excavated at 32.8 ft (10 m) intervals. Three STs were able to be dug to approximately 20 cmbs in gravel filled clay and were negative for historic cultural materials, while three were unable to be dug due to piles of trash and farming equipment. Figure 90 provides an aerial photo of Structure 5 (03-00765) and Figure 91 depicts a sketch map. Table 17 presents a representative Munsell soil profile and Figure 92 depicts Structure 5 (03-00765) as it currently stands.

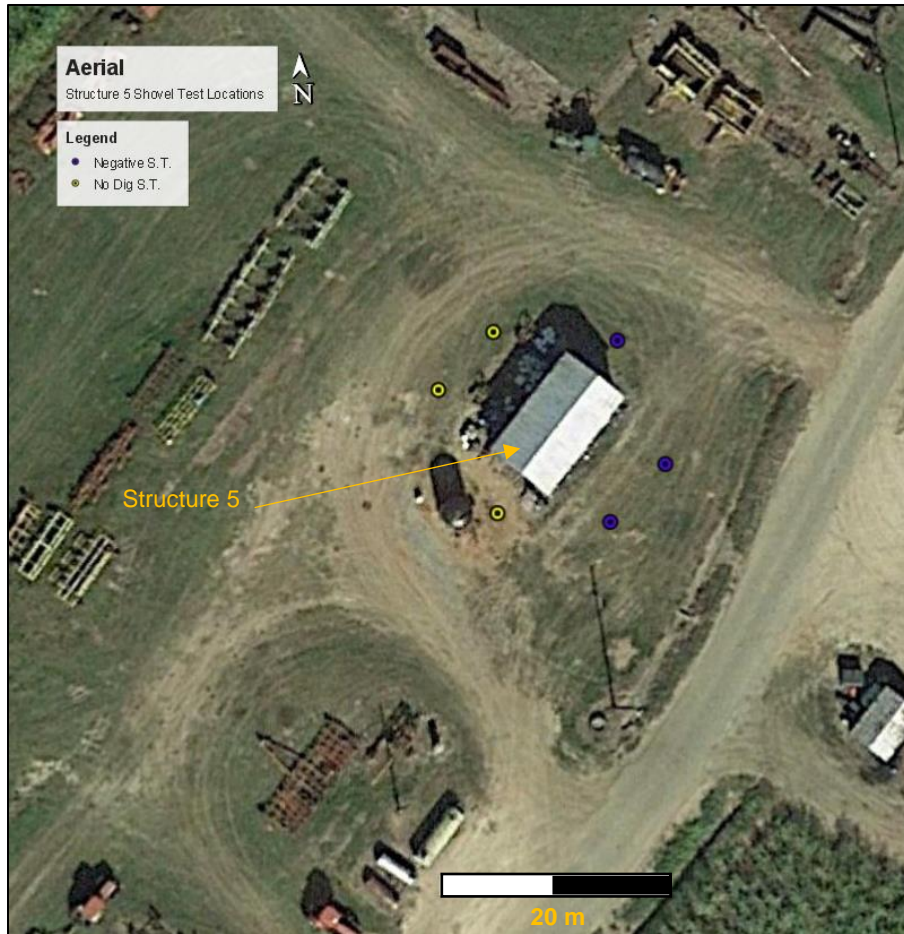


Figure 90. Aerial photo of Structure 5 (03-00765) (source: Google Earth).

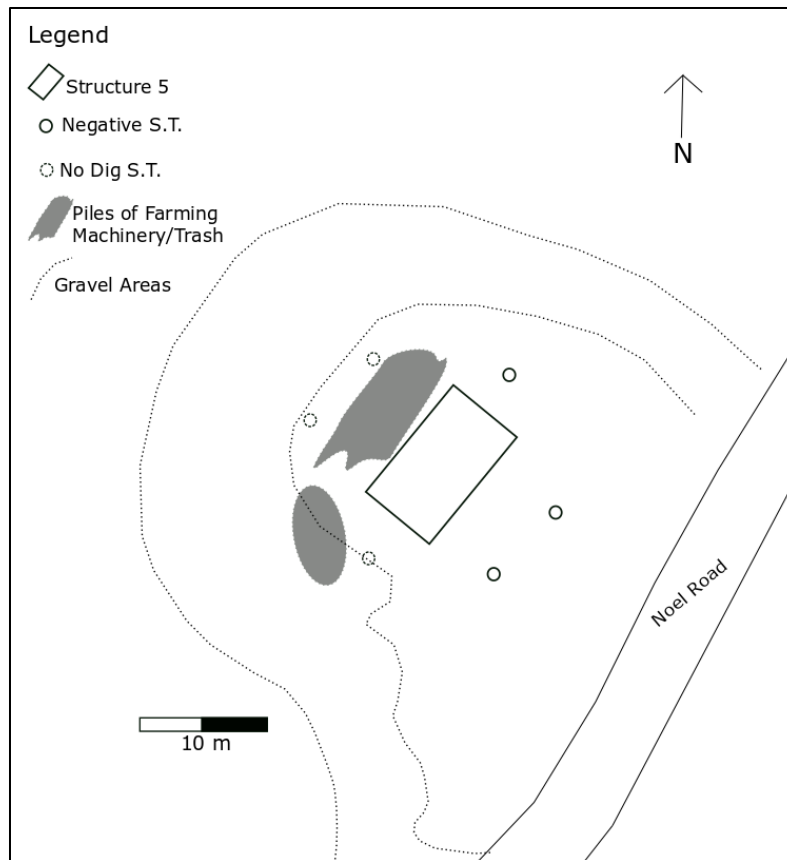


Figure 91. Sketch map of Structure 5 (03-00765).

Table 20. Representative Munsell soil profile of Structure 5 (03-00765).

Location	Depth	Munsell	Description
Structure 5 (03-00765)	0-20 cmbs	10 YR 3/2	Clay filled with gravel

/



Figure 92. Structure 5 (03-00765), facing south.

Structure 6 (03-00766)

Structure 6 (03-00766) is a gabled corrugated metal shed with a low roof pitch and one door located on the northeast façade. It is currently being used as a fuel shed. As such, it is not considered to meet the criteria for eligibility to the NRHP.

STs were excavated at 32.8 ft (10 m) intervals. Only one ST was able to be dug to approximately 10 cmbs in gravel filled clay and was negative for historic cultural materials, while three were obstructed by piles of trash and farming equipment. Figure 93 provides an aerial photo of Structure 6 (03-00766) and Figure 94 offers a sketch map. Table 20 presents a representative Munsell soil profile and Figure 95 depicts Structure 6 (03-00766) as it currently stands.



Figure 93. Aerial photo of Structure 6 (03-00766) (source: Google Earth).

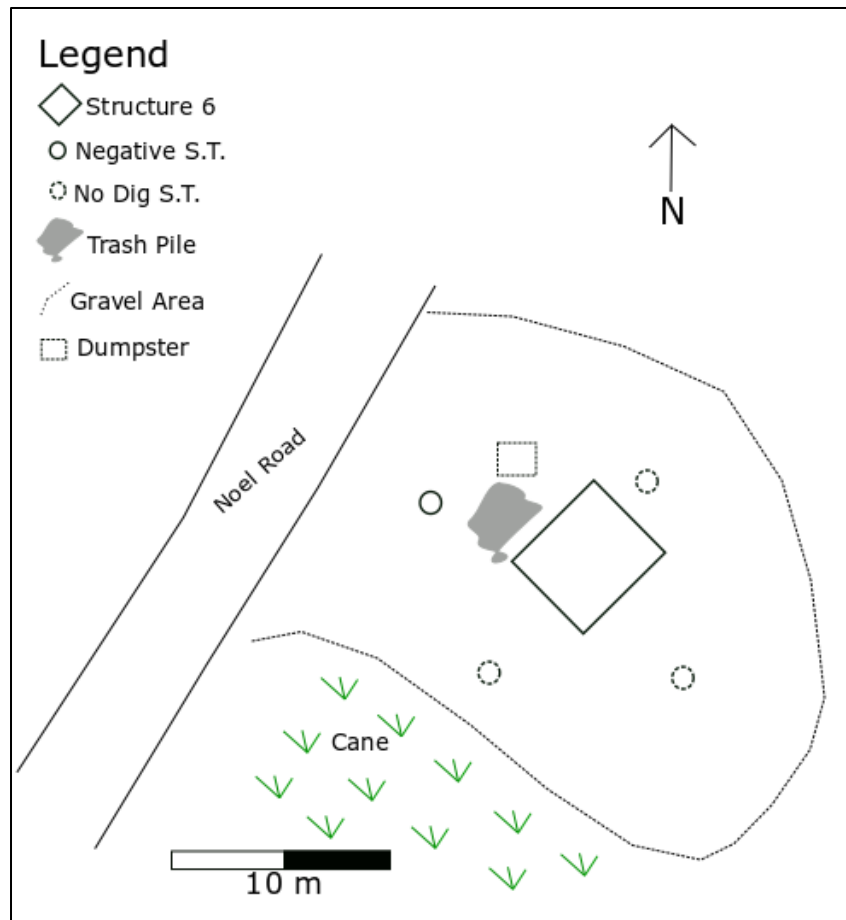


Figure 94. Sketch map of Structure 6 (03-00766).

Table 21. Representative Munsell soil profile of Structure 6 (03-00766).

Location	Depth	Munsell	Description
Structure 6 (03-00766)	0-10 cmbs	10 YR 3/1	Clay filled with gravel



Figure 95. Structure 6 (03-00766), facing south.

Structures 7 (03-00767), 8 (03-00768), and 9 (03-00769)

A few supporting structures for the worker's cottages were identified. One such structure is Structure 7 (03-00767), once a chicken coop associated with the worker's cottages. Structure 7 (03-00767) is made of wood construction and has a corrugated metal addition on the back. Today, Structure 7 (03-00767) is used to house miscellaneous equipment. Structure 7 (03-00767) falls within the boundary of 16AN120.

Structure 8 (03-00768) is a simple garage enclosure with only one opening along the front facing gable and a wooden door on the back gable. This garage does not have any doors and is open to the elements on one side. It is constructed of corrugated tin with asbestos shingles on each side of the gables. The inside is constructed of wooden vertical ends. Structure 9 (03-00769) is metal garage used for maintenance of farm equipment. This garage is of earlier construction and is made of corrugated metal. Structures 8 (03-00768) and 9 (03-00769) fall within the boundary of 16AN120.

STs were excavated at 32.8 ft (10 m) intervals. Structure 7 (03-00767) consisted of three positive STs, along with one that was unable to be dug due to gravel. Eight STs were excavated at Structure 8 (03-00768), three of which were positive for historic cultural materials. Two were unable to be dug due to gravel. Structure 9 (03-00769) consisted of four STs, all of which were positive. Furthermore, two STs were unable to be dug due to gravel and trash piles.

Subsequent delineations consisted of thirty STs implemented at 32.8 ft (10 m) intervals until materials were no longer present. Of the thirty STs, seven were positive. Only one was unable to be dug, as it fell on Noel Rd. Articulated brick was encountered at Structure 9 (03-00769). According to Mr. John Landry, who leases the land from the majority landowner, Mr. Marc Noel, this was previously a brick walkway to a house that was town down about 20 years ago (John Landry, oral communication 2018). It is unlikely that it was once associated with a significant historical structure. Furthermore, although attempts have made to contact the landowner, requests for further information have not been provided. For this reason, the time of construction cannot be indefinitely determined, other than it was present and utilized as early as the 1960s.

Structures 7 (03-00767) is associated with broad agricultural contributions to the area and the workers who once lived there, however, it does not contribute significantly to any events nor does it embody distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction that represents the work of a master. Structure 7 (03-00767) is not considered eligible for the NRHP under Criteria A-D.

Structures 8 (03-00768) and 9 (03-00769) are not associated with broad agricultural contributions to the area and does not contribute significantly to any events nor does it embody distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction that represents the work of a master. Structures 8 (03-00768) and 9 (03-00769) are not considered eligible for the NRHP under Criteria A-D.

Figure 96 provides an aerial photo of Structures 7 (03-00767), 8 (03-00768), and 9 (03-00769). A sketch map of the location of the structures and STs can be seen in Figure 97. Table 21 presents representative Munsell soil profiles and Figures 98-100 depict Structures 7 (03-00767), 8 (03-00768), and 9 (03-00769) as they currently stand. Figure 101 provides a view of the brick walkway.

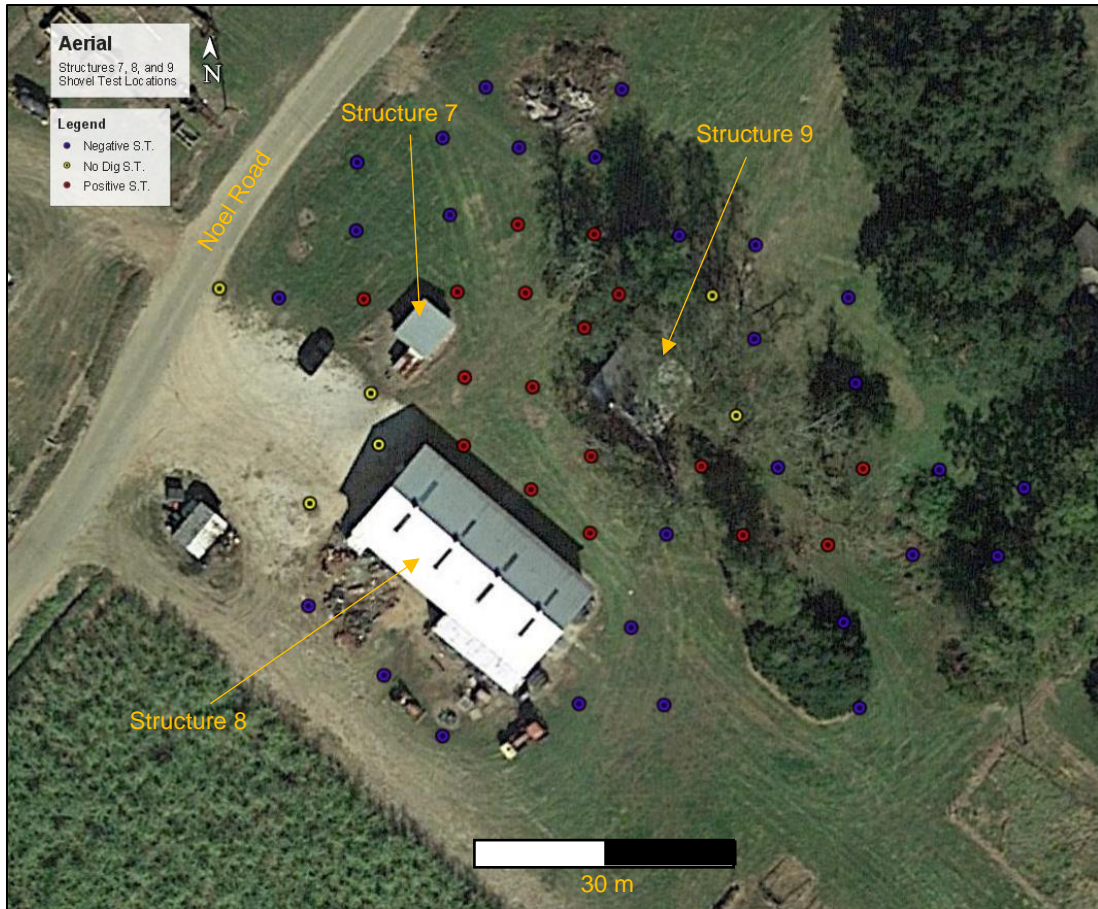


Figure 96. Aerial photo of Structures 7 (03-00767), 8 (03-00768), and 9 (03-00769) (source: Google Earth).

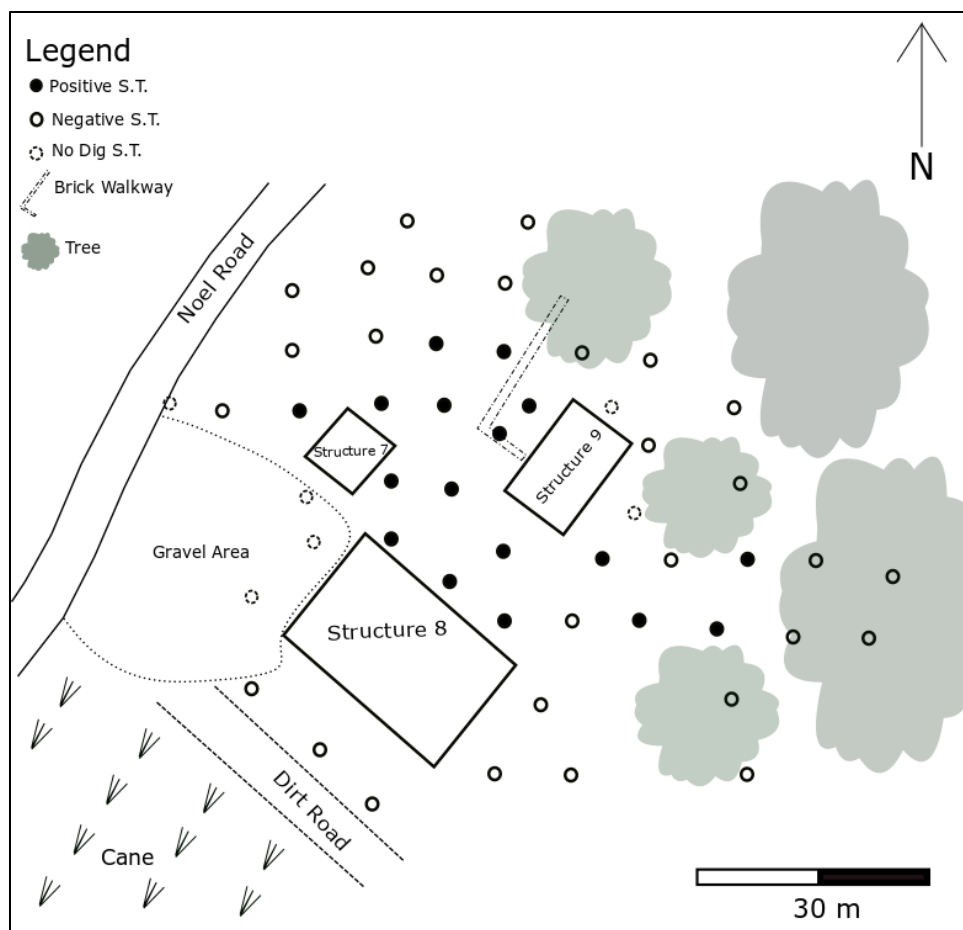


Figure 97. Sketch map of Structures 7 (03-00767), 8 (03-00768), and 9 (03-00769).

Table 22. Representative Munsell soil profiles of Structures 7 (03-00767), 8 (03-00768), and 9 (03-00769).

Location	Depth	Munsell	Description
Structure 7 (03-00767)	0-35 cmbs	10 YR 3/2	Clayey Sand
	36-50 cmbs	10 YR 4/4	Clay
Structure 8 (03-00768)	0-50 cmbs	10 YR 3/1	Sandy, gritty, gravel/ <i>Rangia</i> filled Clay
Structure 9 (03-00769)	0-15 cmbs	10 YR 2/1	Sandy Clay
	16-40 cmbs	10 YR 4/1	Sandy Clay
	41-50 cmbs	10 YR 3/3	Silty Clay



Figure 98. Structure 7 (03-00767), facing north.



Figure 99. Structure 8 (03-00768), facing southeast.



Figure 100. Structure 9 (03-00769), facing southwest.



Figure 101. Brick walkway at Structure 9 (03-00769), facing northwest.

Structure 10 (03-00770)

Structure 10 (03-00770) is a red monitor barn and is a remnant of a time when farm animals were housed on the Elise Plantation. Structure 10 (03-00770) has stalls indicating that at one point in time farm animals were housed in it. Today Structure 10 (03-00770) is empty of farm animals. Hay and mowed grass surround most of Structure 10 (03-00770).

Structure 10 (03-00770) is associated with broad agricultural contributions to the area, however, it does not contribute significantly to any events nor does it embody distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction that represents the work of a master. Structure 10 (03-00770) is not considered eligible for the NRHP under Criteria A-D.

STs were excavated at 32.8 ft (10 m) intervals. Four STs were excavated, all of which were negative for cultural materials. Figure 102 provides an aerial photo of Structure 10 (03-00770). A sketch map of Structure 10 (03-00770) can be seen in Figure 103. Table 22 presents a representative Munsell soil profile and Figure 104 depicts Structure 10 (03-00770) as it currently stands.



Figure 102. Aerial photo of Structure 10 (03-00770) (source: Google Earth).

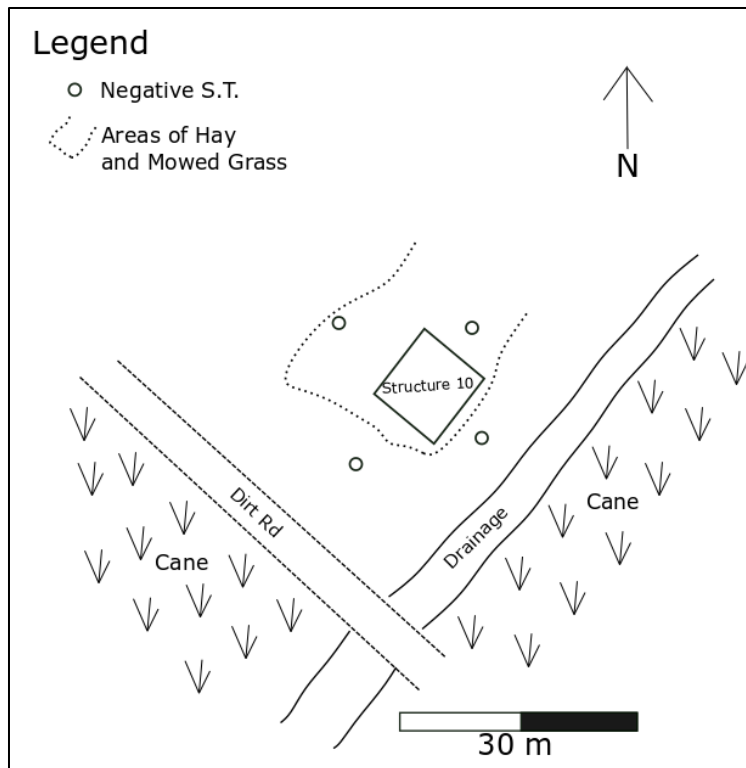


Figure 103. Sketch map of Structure 10 (03-00770).

Table 23. Representative Munsell soil profile of Structure 10 (03-00770).

Location	Depth	Munsell	Description
Structure 10 (03-00770)	0-40 cmbs	10 YR 3/2	Clay
	41-50 cmbs	10 YR 3/3	Silty Clay



Figure 104. Structure 10 (03-00770), facing southwest.

Structure 11 (03-00771)

Structure 11 (03-00771) is a metal garage with an overhang on the southwest façade and a small side overhang on the northwest façade. Structure 11 (03-00771) has a mechanical garage opening making this a newer structure within the project area.

Structures 11 (03-00771) is not associated with broad agricultural contributions to the area nor does it contribute significantly to any events and does not embody distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction that represents the work of a master. Structure 11 (03-00771) is not considered eligible for the NRHP under Criteria A-D.

Shovel tests were excavated at 32.8 ft (10 m) intervals. Three shovel tests were excavated, with one unable to be dug due to trash piles associated with the ranch house it's adjacent to (Structure 12 [03-00772]). All shovel tests were negative for cultural materials. Figure 105 provides an aerial view of Structure 11 (03-00771). A sketch map of Structure 11 (03-00771) can be seen in Figure 106. Table 23 presents a representative Munsell soil profile and Figure 107 depicts Structure 11 (03-00771) as it currently exists.



Figure 105. Aerial photo of Structure 11 (03-00771) (source: Google Earth).

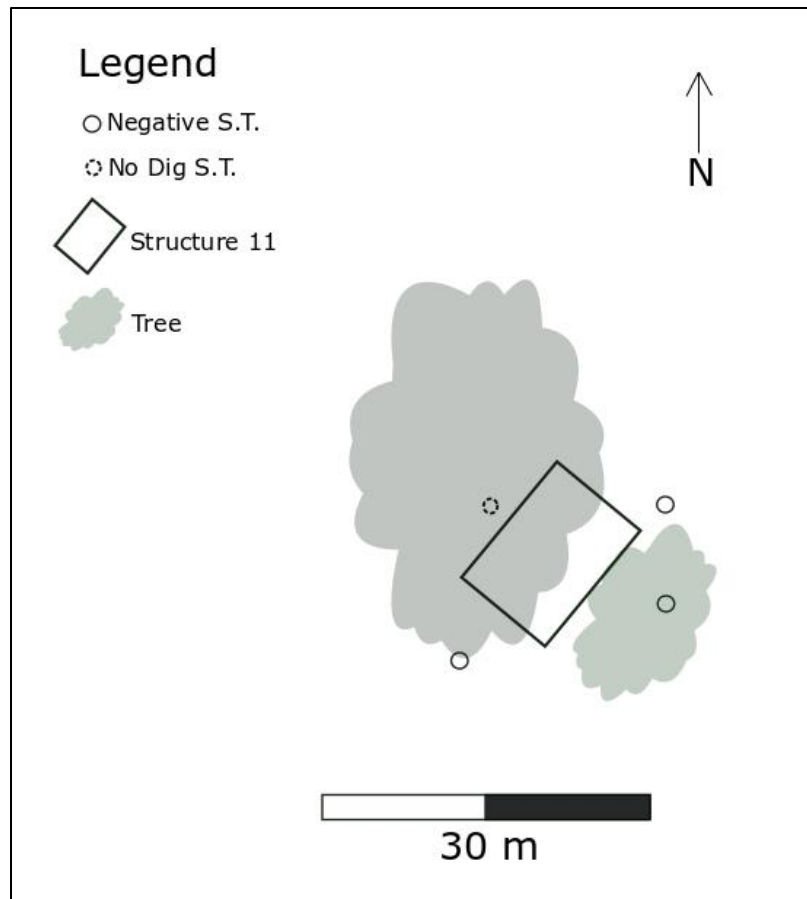


Figure 106. Sketch map of Structure 11 (03-00771).

Table 24. Representative Munsell soil profile of Structure 11 (03-00771).

Location	Depth	Munsell	Description
Structure 11 (03-00771)	0-25 cmbs	10 YR 2/2	Clay
	26-50 cmbs	10 YR 3/3	Silty Clay



Figure 107. Structure 11 (03-00771), facing northeast.

Structure 12 (03-00772)

Structure 12 (03-00772) is a small, compact ranch style home that has undergone numerous alterations over time. Structure 12 (03-00772) is made of yellow bricks with a combination of siding and a chimney made of reddish hued bricks.

Structures 12 (03-00772) is not associated with broad agricultural contributions to the area, however, nor is it associate with the lives of significant persons of our past. Structure 12 (03-00772) is not considered eligible for the NRHP under Criteria A-D.

STs were excavated at 32.8 ft (10 m) intervals. Six STs were excavated at Structure 12 (03-00772), all of which were negative for cultural materials. Figure 108 provides an aerial photo of Structure 12 (03-00772). A sketch map of Structure 12 (03-00772) can be seen in Figure 109. Table 24 presents a representative Munsell soil profile and Figures 110 and 111 depict Structure 12 (03-00772) as it currently stands.



Figure 108. Aerial photo of Structure 12 (03-00772) (source: Google Earth).

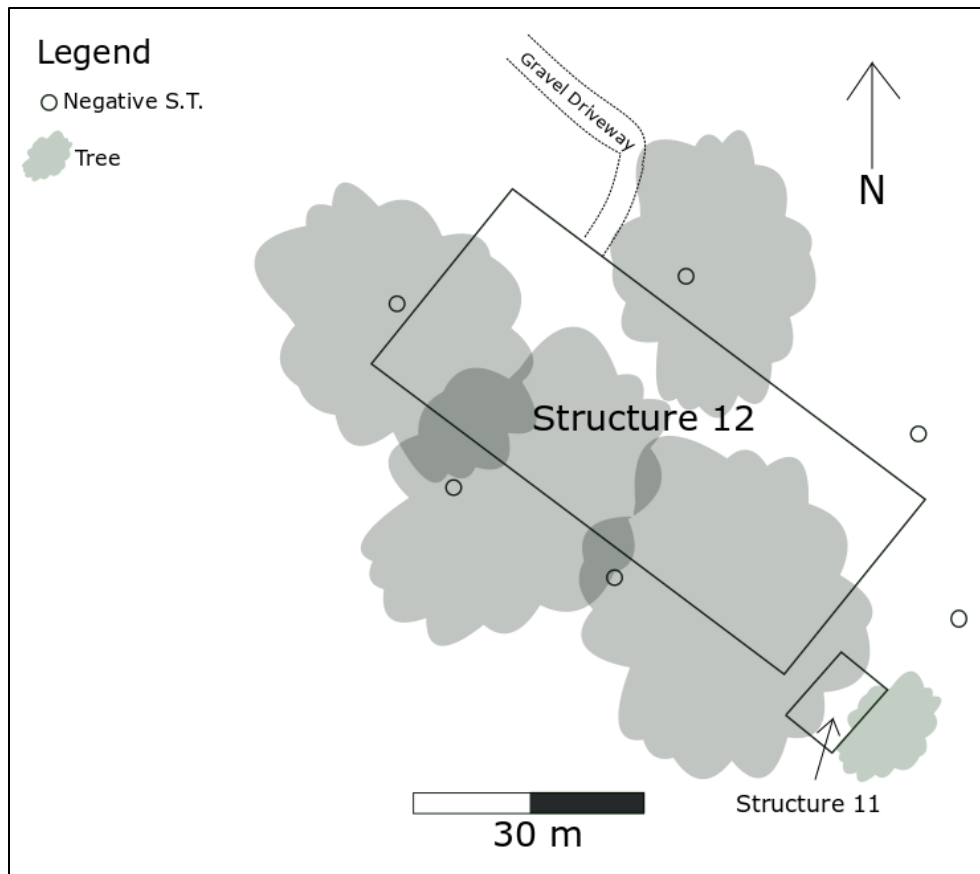


Figure 109. Sketch map of Structure 12 (03-00772).

Table 25. Representative Munsell soil profile of Structure 12 (03-00772).

Location	Depth	Munsell	Description
Structure 12 (03-00772)	0-20 cmbs	10 YR 3/1	Silty Clay
	21-50 cmbs	10 YR 3/3	Clayey Silt



Figure 110. Structure 12 (03-00772), facing southwest.



Figure 111. Structure 12 (03-00772), facing northeast.

The Elise Schoolhouse (03-00763)

George R. Reuss was born in 1858 and was the only child of John and Helena Reuss. He married Bertha E. Spor in 1888. Four daughters were born to Mr. and Mrs. George B. Reuss: Helene, Ethelyn, Gussie, and Elise. In 1889, he added to the Germania Plantation with the purchase of Ashland and Bowden Plantations. George B. Reuss renamed the Ashland Plantation Belle Helene Plantation in honor of his recently born daughter, Helene (Sternberg 2013). It was at this time that the Reuss family moved into the Ashland-Belle Helene great house, which was located across the Mississippi River (crt.state.la.us). In addition to the Ashland-Belle Helene Plantation, George B. Reuss purchased the Mulberry Grove Plantation, the Cuba Plantation, and the Elise Plantation. Research indicates Mr. Reuss acquired Mulberry Grove Plantation and left it to one of his daughters, though the exact one is uncertain (Sternberg 2013). Elise Reuss, one of the four daughters of George and Bertha Ruess, died in 1898. George B. Reuss erected the Elise Schoolhouse on, what was presumably to be her land, Elise Plantation in 1907 (Sternberg 2013). Presumably, he named each of these plantations after his daughters.

Under Criterion A, the schoolhouse is associated with educational events that have made a significant contribution to the history of education in Ascension Parish. In a 1906 article written in *The Donaldsonville Chief*, George B. Reuss was noted to be the employer of several hundreds of people with children to educate. Wanting to provide an education for his employees, George donated ten acres of land to erect a school in honor of his daughter Elise Reuss who passed away as a child. The land on which the schoolhouse was built was donated for the purpose of contributing to the cause of public education to Ascension Parish and was to be located on the Elise Plantation in the first ward. The Elise Schoolhouse (03-00763) was to serve the consolidated Germania and White Oaks schools (*The Donaldsonville Chief* 1906). In 1908, the school was noted as providing advanced schoolwork in a rural setting taught by two teachers who oversaw the running of the school (*The Donaldsonville Chief* 1908). In 1913, a fair was held to raise funds to hire a third teacher to teach higher grades (*The Donaldsonville Chief* 1913). Throughout the years, several local dignitaries such as District Attorney G.A. Gondran of Donaldsonville and Superintendent of Public Education J.L. Rusca attended memorial exercises or end of the year ceremonies held at the Elise Reuss Memorial School.

Under Criterion C, the school also embodies distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, or that represent the work of a master, or that possess high artistic values. The Elise Schoolhouse (03-00763) displays distinctive characteristics that are not typically found in rural schools. The school is built of brick masonry and was designed by New Orleans Architects, Mackenzie Goldstein and Biggs. It was constructed by builders Lydien Colet S.P. Braud. The school displays eclectic styles of Mission Revival on the front façade and ornamentation alongside Richardsonian Romanesque styled windows. In the newspaper *The Donaldsonville Chief*, the school was said to be 50 x 60 feet, constructed of wood, with a paved court in front, with two school rooms that will each measure 24 x 40 feet, contain a large hall, rooms for a principal and assistant teacher, cloak rooms, and all modern conveniences. Plans were prepared by Mackenzie & Goldstein, the same architects who drew plans for the new Donaldsonville High School (*The Donaldsonville Chief* 1906). In 1908, the Elise Schoolhouse (03-

00763) was stated to be the best building of its kind in the state and modern in every detail that is situated on a beautiful tract of ten acres with picturesque live oaks (*The Donaldsonville Chief* 1908). Figure 112 provides a depiction of the schoolhouse.



Figure 112. The Elise Schoolhouse (source: Flickr.com)

Summary of Fieldwork

From May 21 to July 2, 2018, field work was carried out near Donaldsonville in Ascension Parish, Louisiana. The project area, comprising 944 ac (382 ha), consisted mostly of sugar cane fields with a small wooded area comprising the southern portion of the project area. Open fields and structures were encountered within the northern portion of the project area. Various dirt roads, plow areas, and piles of trash and machinery were present throughout the project area.

The project area was sectioned into areas of LP and HP. A total of 2,875 STs were excavated at HP, LP, and subsequent delineation. Of these, 765 were within the areas of LP and 1,896 within the areas of HP. Additionally, a portion of the project area belonging to the Haywards and not the majority landowner, Mr. Marc Noel, was not surveyed due to denied access to the land. This area consisted of 3.4 ac (1.4 ha) and is the location of the Elise Schoolhouse (03-00763) developed in 1907 (The Louisiana Planter and Sugar Manufacturer, Vol. 39 1907).

Three sites were included in the project area, along with thirteen structures. The survey located three previously unrecorded sites within the project area: 16AN120 (the Noel East site); 16AN121 (the Noel West site); and, 16AN122 (the Noel Cane site). Twelve previously unrecorded structures (03-00760 through 03-00772) were encountered within the project area, most of which are utilized for storage of farm and other miscellaneous equipment. Due to continued alterations and damages over the years, none are considered eligible for inclusion to the NRHP under Criteria A-D.

The sites have undergone continued disturbance from the plowing and harvesting of sugar cane over the years, as corroborated by the majority landowner, Mr. Marc Noel. Historic research uncovered that German immigrant George B. Reuss once owned this area known as the Elise Plantation (Sternberg 2013). Moreover, the 1904 Statement of Sugar and Rice Crops, shows that the Elise Plantation has historically grown sugar cane crops (Bouchereau 1909).

Further analysis of historic maps and other research indicates there were no major structures such as historic plantation houses or supporting historic structures built within the project area. Due to the continued disturbance, along with the lack of distinctive characteristics relating to the life of any notable person or event from the past, further work is not recommended, as it would not provide knowledge above and beyond what is currently known of the sites. As a result, sites 16AN120, 16AN121, and 16AN122 are considered ineligible for inclusion in the NRHP under Criteria A-D.

However, the authors believe the Elise Schoolhouse (03-00763) located on the unsurveyed Hayward Property meets the National Register's criteria for evaluation for Criterion A and C.

CHAPTER EIGHT: CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

From May 21 to July 2, 2018, Surveys Unlimited Research Associates, Inc. (SURA) carried out a Phase I cultural resources survey of 944 ac (382 ha) near Donaldsonville in Ascension Parish, Louisiana. The project was carried out under contract to the Baton Rouge Area Chamber (BRAC), as part of their Louisiana Economic Development Site Certification Program.

The project area was sectioned into areas of LP and HP. A total of 2,875 STs were excavated at HP, LP, and subsequent delineation. The project area consisted mostly of cane fields with a small wooded area included within the southern portion. Open fields and structures comprised the northern portion. Various dirt roads, plow areas, and piles of trash and machinery were encountered throughout the project area. Moreover, a portion of the project area belonging to the Haywards and not the majority landowner, Mr. Marc Noel, was not surveyed due to denied access. This area consisted of 3.4 ac (1.4 ha) and is the location of the Elise Schoolhouse (03-00763) constructed in 1907 by George B. Reuss (The Louisiana Planter and Sugar Manufacturer, Vol. 39 1907).

The survey located three previously unrecorded sites within the project area: 16AN120 (the Noel East site); 16AN121 (the Noel West site); and, 16AN122 (the Noel Cane site). Historic research uncovered that George B. Reuss once owned this area known as the Elise Plantation, along with the Ashland-Belle-Helene Plantation, the Mulberry Grove Plantation, and the Cuba Plantation (Sternberg 2013). Moreover, the 1904 Statement of Sugar and Rice Crops shows that the Elise Plantation has historically grown sugar cane crops (Bouchereau 1909). These sites are likely associated with what was once the Elise Plantation. However, research suggests the Reuss family never lived on the Elise Plantation. Rather, the land was solely used for sugar cane cultivation.

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.” 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).

16AN120 (the Noel East site), comprising 0.55 ac (0.22 ha), consisted of 471 artifacts, all of which were historic in nature, dating to the Industrial & Modern period. Artifact assemblage consisted solely of subsurface materials in an open area surrounding three structures (Structure 7 [03-00767], 8 [03-00768], and 9 [03-00769]), all of which fall within the site boundary. Fifty-four STs were excavated within and around the site boundary, with eighteen positive for historic cultural materials. Articulated brick was encountered at Structure 9 (03-00769). According to Mr. John Landry, who leases the land from the majority landowner, Mr. Marc Noel, this was previously a brick walkway to a house that was torn down about 20 years ago (John Landry, oral communication 2018). It is unlikely that it was once associated with a significant historical structure. Furthermore, although attempts have been made to contact the landowner, requests for further information have not been provided. For this reason, the time of construction cannot be indefinitely determined, other than it was present and utilized as early as the 1960s.

16AN121 (the Noel West site), comprising 0.45 ac (0.18 ha), consisted of ninety-eight artifacts, all of which were historic in nature, dating to the Industrial & Modern period. Artifact assemblage consisted of surface and subsurface materials in an open area surrounding two structures (Structure 1 [03-00760] and Structure 3 [03-00762]). Both structures fall within the site boundary. The surface materials encountered were confined to the areas directly surrounding Structure 1 (03-00760), indicating modern trash from the workers currently living there. STs were excavated where possible around the various trash piles and farming equipment. Fifty-nine STs were excavated within and around the site boundary, with twelve positive for historic cultural materials. The area has been used as a dumping ground for trash, machinery, and various equipment.

16AN122 (the Noel Cane site), comprising 124 ac (50.2 ha), consisted of 1,137 artifacts, all of which were historic in nature, dating to the Industrial & Modern period. Artifact assemblage consisted solely of surface materials within sugar cane fields. A total of 560 STs were excavated within the boundaries of the scatter, all of which were negative for subsurface materials.

Sites 16AN120-16AN122 were evaluated for NRHP eligibility according to the four criteria considerations listed above in Bulletin 15 (NPS 1995:2). The information developed concerning site 16AN120 suggests that the following is the case with each criteria consideration. Under Criterion A, although part of the many plantations once present along River Road, 16AN120-16AN122 are not believed to be associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history. Research suggests the Elise Plantation is associated with 16AN120-16AN122, however, there is no evidence that the cultivation of sugar cane that took place would provide any significant contribution to the history of the area.

Under Criterion B, 16AN120-16AN122 would need to be associated with the lives of persons significant in our past. It is not believed that George B. Reuss had any major significance to our history. Documentation of his life is limited and he, himself, erected no plantations, rather he purchased already built plantations. Under Criterion C, 16AN120 would need to be associated with characteristics distinctive of a master. As previously stated, there is no evidence to suggest

he built the plantations he once owned. The Elise Plantation, associated with 16AN120 does not embody distinctive characteristics that would add to the current knowledge of the site.

Finally, under Criterion D, it is not believed further work would yield significant information in history. Furthermore, the area as a whole has been used as a dumping ground for trash, machinery, and various equipment. Although likely associated with the former Elise Plantation, research provides no evidence the Reuss family lived on this land, that it was only used to harvest sugarcane. The lack of evidence indicating historic structures associated with habitation of the land and the absence of features further suggests 16AN120-16AN122 to possess significant integrity. Additionally, continued mowing and associated maintenance further adding to the disturbance of the site suggests sites 16AN120-16AN122 are ineligible to the NRHP under Criterion D.

In summation, when analyzed against Criteria A-D, it is suggested that sites 16AN120-16AN122 do not possess the integrity or significance to be nominated for inclusion on the NRHP.

Thirteen previously unrecorded structures were encountered within the project area, most of which are currently being utilized for storage of farm and other miscellaneous equipment and have undergone considerable alterations. As with sites 16AN120-16AN122, each structure was evaluated against Criteria A-D and, for the same reasons as stated above, these structures are not believed to meet the criteria for inclusion to the NRHP. Sites 16AN120-16AN122 and twelve of the thirteen previously unrecorded structures (03-00760 through 03-00762 and 03-00764 through 03-00772) do not meet the criteria for nomination to the NRHP. As such, there would be no effect to historic properties within the surveyed area.

However, the authors believe the Elise Schoolhouse (03-00763) meets the National Register's criteria for evaluation for Criteria A and C. Under Criterion A, the school is associated with educational events that have made a significant contribution to the history of education in Ascension Parish. In a 1906 article written in *The Donaldsonville Chief*, George B. Reuss was noted to be employer of several hundreds of people with children to educate. Wanting to provide an education for his employees, George donated ten acres of land to erect a school in honor of his daughter Elise Reuss who passed away as a child. The land the school was built on was donated for the purpose of contributing to the cause of public education of Ascension Parish and was to be located on the Elise Plantation in the first ward. The Elise Schoolhouse (03-00763) was to serve the consolidated Germania and White Oaks schools (*The Donaldsonville Chief*, 1906). In 1908, the school was noted as providing advanced schoolwork in a rural setting taught by two teachers who oversaw the running of the school (*The Donaldsonville Chief*, 1908). In 1913, a fair was held to raise funds to hire a third teacher to teach higher grades (*The Donaldsonville Chief*, 1913). Throughout the years, several local dignitaries such as District Attorney G.A. Gondran of Donaldsonville and Superintendent of Public Education J.L. Rusca attended memorial exercises or end of the year ceremonies held at the Elise Reuss Memorial Schoolhouse (03-00763).

Under Criterion C, the school also embodies distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, or that represent the work of a master, or that possess high artistic values. The Elise Memorial Schoolhouse (03-00763) displays distinctive characteristics that are not typically found in a rural school. The school is built of brick masonry and was designed by

New Orleans Architects, Mackenzie Goldstein and Biggs. It was constructed by builders Lydien Colet S.P. Braud. The school displays eclectic styles of Mission Revival front façade and ornamentation alongside Richardsonian Romanesque styled windows. In the newspaper *The Donaldsonville Chief*, the purposed school was said to be 50 x 60 feet, constructed of wood, with a paved court in front, with two school rooms that will each measure 24 x 40 feet, contain a large hall, rooms for a principal and assistant teacher, cloak rooms and all modern conveniences. Plans were prepared by Mackenzie & Goldstein the same architects who drew plans for the new Donaldsonville High School (*The Donaldsonville Chief*, 1906). In 1908, the Elise Schoolhouse (03-00763) was stated to be the best building of its kind in the state and modern in every detail that is situated on a beautiful tract of ten acres with picturesque live oaks (*The Donaldsonville Chief*, 1908).

Recommendations

Due to the continued disturbance, along with the unlikelihood that Elise Planation served as a residence, coupled with the lack of distinctive characteristics relating to the life of any notable person or event from the past, further work is not recommended, as it would not provide knowledge above and beyond what is currently known of the sites and structures. As a result, sites 16AN120, 16AN121, and 16AN122, plus twelve of the thirteen structures encountered (03-00760 through 03-00762 and 03-00764 through 03-00772) are considered ineligible for inclusion in the NRHP under Criteria A-D.

However, the authors stress the importance for further work at the Elise Schoolhouse (03-00763) and the property on which it lies prior to construction of the project area. It is the authors' belief that the schoolhouse and the property on which it is located does provide notable events of the past, including the life of George B. Reuss, who played a significant role in the education system of Ascension Parish. The schoolhouse (03-00763) is considered eligible to the NRHP under Criteria A and C. Consultation with the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) will be required to determine the effects, direct or indirect, to the schoolhouse during construction.

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Personal Communication

Mr. Marc Noel, June 7, 2018

Mr. John Landry, June 25, 2018

Maps

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