

PHASE I CULTURAL RESOURCES SURVEY OF 194.01 ACRES (78.38 HECTARES) ON THE GREZAFFI SOUTH TRACT NEAR DUTCHTOWN, ASCENSION PARISH, LOUISIANA

Negative Findings Report

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

for

Baton Rouge Area Chamber (BRAC) 564 Laurel St. Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70801

October 9, 2014



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by

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ABSTRACT

A survey of 194.01 acres (78.38 hectares) on the Grezaffi South tract near Dutchtown, in Ascension Parish, involved archival research and pedestrian survey, including the excavation of 337 shovel tests (all negative). In the course of the survey no standing structures or archaeological properties were recorded. It was concluded that there was no archaeological reason for the area surveyed not to be made available for development.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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CHAPTER ONE: INTRODUCTION

On September 23, 24 and 26, 2014, SURA, Inc., conducted a Phase I cultural resources survey of 194.01 acres (ac) (78.38 hectares [ha]) on the Grezaffi South tract near Dutchtown, Ascension Parish, Louisiana. The tract is to be certified for industrial/business use. This project was contracted by the Baton Rouge Area Chamber (BRAC). The project location is in Section 50, Township 9 South, Range 2 East (Figures 1 and 2).

The present project was conducted as a result of a request for Louisiana Department of Economic Development (LED) certification. The survey conforms to the archaeological survey procedures detailed in the Cultural Resources Code of the State of Louisiana.

This survey was performed to determine whether or not there were any objects of cultural significance that would be affected by the proposed project. When such items are discovered, it becomes necessary to analyze them and attempt to integrate them into a regional pattern that will provide insight into human adaptations during past eras. Negative results, however, can also be valuable in that they may cause us to revise already formulated hypotheses.



1 mi/1.62 km

Figure 1. Topographic map showing location of APE (Source: LDOA).

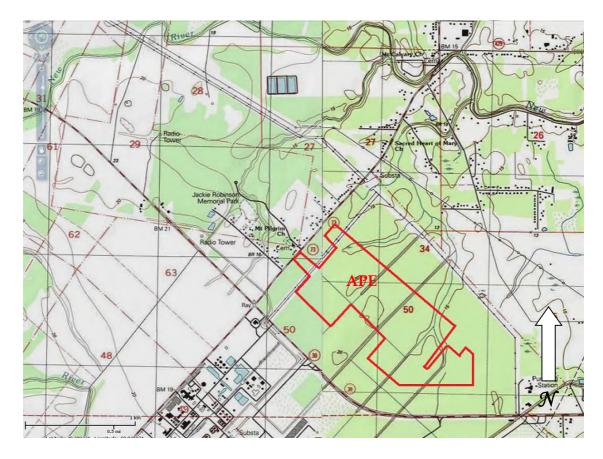


Figure 2. Portion of LDOA cultural resources map showing APE (Source: LDOA).

CHAPTER TWO: ENVIRONMENT

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 though to have been caused by a rise in sea level dating from the end of the last Ice Age (Gagliano 1984, Figure 3).

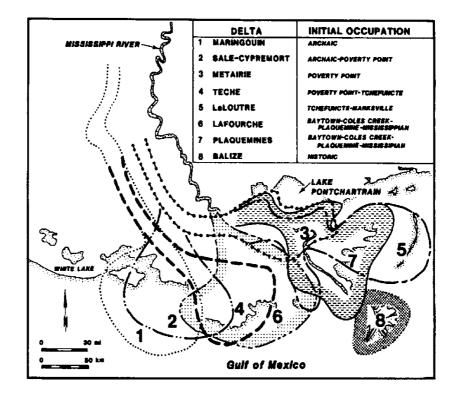


Figure 3. Major delta complexes and associated archaeological complexes in the Mississippi River deltaic plain (Adapted from Gagliano 1984:40).

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 soils in the study area are mapped as pertaining to the Acy-Essen-Jeanerette and Sharkey associations. The Acy-Essen- Jeanerette soils Association consists of loamy soils on broad flats and in slight depressions. The Sharkey Association is formed of clay soils that occur on the natural levees of the Mississippi River and its distributaries (USDA 1971). The distribution of these associations is shown in Figure 4.

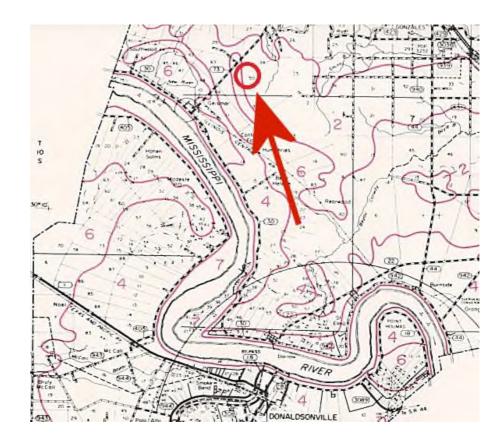


Figure 4. Portion of soils map for Ascension Parish, showing soils in project area (Source: USDA 1971).

Vegetation

In terms of natural vegetation, this region contains a mix of cypress (*Taxodium distichum*) and such hardwood varieties as water oak (*Quercus nigra*), hickory (*Carya spp.*), and hackberry (*Celtis laevigata*). In the areas of lower elevation that are affected by alluviation, species such as palmetto (*Sabal minor*) and water willow (*Salix nigra*) grow in abundance. Other flora are rich and varied and include broomsedges, briars, and poison ivy (Brown 1945).

Fauna

Animal life is likewise 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 (*Lepmis 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: PREVIOUS ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATIONS

Early Archaeological Studies

The first interest in the archaeology of this area may be traced back to Henry Marie Brackenridge who, in 1813, wrote to Thomas Jefferson about the Indian mounds along the Mississippi and Ohio Rivers. In this communication, Brackenridge listed a number of mounds, including the great Monk's mound at Cahokia, Illinois, the mound at Troyville (now Jonesville) (16CT7), Louisiana, since destroyed, and mounds "at Baton Rouge, and on the Manchac" (Brackenridge 1818).

Several decades later, Judge Carrighan, of Baton Rouge, writing in De Bow's Review, mentions that "...on the plantations of the Messrs. McHattons, near the Higland (sic) road, about two miles from the town, are two other large mounds...and several more are to be found on the Messrs. Daigle, Kleinpeter and Bexler" (Carrighan 1851:611). Clearly, the McHatton mounds are the pair of conical structures on the campus of Louisiana State University (16EBR6). The other mounds may have been located on the lands of the several plantation owners mentioned, although, as Jones et al. (1994:35) make clear, the Kleinpeter mounds referred to are not to be confused with the mound site (16EBR5) of that name.

The first true archaeological investigation of this area may be attributed to Clarence B. Moore, who examined a number of sites in Iberville Parish in 1912 (Moore 1913). He did not, however, cross the Mississippi into Ascension Parish. Following Moore, there was apparently little archaeological activity in the area until Dr. Fred B. Kniffen arrived at Louisiana State University in the late 1920s. Kniffen set out to make a number of cultural, archaeological, and geomorphological studies. In 1935, for instance, he visited 16EBR5 and gave the location the name Kleinpeter, after the nearest settlement (Kniffen, personal communication 1990). He went on to describe the site and to list other mounds in nearby Iberville Parish in a Louisiana Geological Survey bulletin (Kniffen 1938).

Kniffen, however, was primarily a geographer, and his archaeological work consisted largely of identifying sites and suggesting their temporal placement. Others of his contemporaries carried out more explicitly archaeological investigations. Among these, special mention should be made of the work of George Quimby. Working under WPA auspices, Quimby excavated the mound site (16WBR1) on Medora Plantation in West Baton Rouge Parish and gave Southeastern archaeology the concept of Plaquemine culture (Quimby 1951). He also carried out investigations at the Bayou Goula site (16IV11), in Iberville Parish, providing insight into what is now considered the

protohistoric Delta Natchezan phase (Quimby 1957). Notwithstanding the inevitable refinements and challenges of later investigators, a great deal of our understanding of late prehistoric and protohistoric groups in this area derives from Quimby's two studies.

Although Quimby published these two monographs in the 1950s, the excavations themselves were carried out in the late 1930s and early 1940s. Nevertheless, the 1950s and 1960s were a time during which important original research was done in this area. McIntire performed an investigation of Mississippi delta prehistoric settlement patterns and, while his study focused on the coastal zone, much of what he wrote is still applicable (McIntire 1958). Saucier published a monograph on the recent geomorphic history of the Pontchartrain Basin, dating many of the geomorphic features he described through the ages of known archaeological sites (Saucier 1963). Finally, Gagliano published a compendium of information on known Archaic sites in the region (Gagliano 1963). It should be mentioned that these three scholars published only after several years of formal and informal field explorations, which caused the list of known archaeological sites in the area to expand dramatically.

The Modern Era (1970-Present)

Beginning with the 1970s, most of the archaeological work done in the study area and its environs has been the result of contract archaeologists carrying out research pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966. Work during this period has included highway and road surveys (e.g., Rivet 1974; 1976), levee surveys for the U.S. Corps of Engineers (e.g., Castille 1979; Gagliano 1977; Stuart and Greene 1983; Goodwin et al. 1985; 1989; Hinks et al. 1993; Rader 1978; Lee et al. 1996; Wheaton et al. 1997; George et al. 2000a,b); pipeline surveys (e.g., Bryant 1985; Heartfield, Price and Green, Inc. [HPG] 1985; McIntire 1976, 1981; Madden 1985; Neuman 1978; Price 1977, 1987; Skinner et al. 1995; Davies et al. 1998; Smith et al. 2001); surveys for sewer projects (e.g., Neuman 1977; Landry et al. 1980; Robblee et al. 1997a,b; Robblee and Davis 1997); studies for industrial expansion projects (e.g., Carpenter et al. 1981; Coastal Environments, Inc. (CEI) 1977; Guevin 1990; McCloskey et al. 1981; South and Maygarden 2000a,b); a survey for a proposed fiber-optic cable (Jackson et al. 2000); a proposed railroad right-of-way (Shuman et al. 1997) and literature searches (e.g., Goodwin et al. 1990). Establishment of a regional archaeology program headquartered at Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge has led to state-sponsored archaeology in this area since the early 1990s (Hays 1996, 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000, Mann 2001). In addition, since 1970, grant funded projects, student theses, and papers given at professional meetings have provided valuable information on this area. These sources will be summarized below.

Our knowledge of the Paleoindian era has been advanced by a paper given by Weinstein, Burden and Gagliano, who have proposed a Jones Creek phase on the basis of Plainview, Dalton and San Patrice projectile points at the Jones Creek (16EBR13) and Blackwater Bayou (16EBR33) sites. The same authors have proposed an Early Archaic St. Helena phase for the Florida parishes, based on finds of Kirk and Palmer points (Weinstein et al. 1977). Other data on the Archaic period derives from a coring project at the Louisiana State University mounds (16EBR6) (Homburg 1988; Neuman 1988), although Jones (1993) has questioned the validity of their radiocarbon dates. Other Archaic radiocarbon dates, however, have come from the Monte Sano mounds (16EBR17), in the northern portion of the parish (Haag 1993). While these investigations were in East Baton Parish, they are applicable to that part of Ascension Parish that is Pleistocene Prairie terrace,

The early ceramic cultures are better attested than the pre-ceramic ones. In his Master's thesis, Richard Weinstein drew together an impressive amount of information about sites along the Amite River and proposed several refinements of the prehistoric sequence in this area (Weinstein 1974). A few years later, Weinstein and Rivet (1978) synthesized and analyzed data from the Beau Mire site (16AN17) and suggested the concept of the Tchula phase, a late Tchefuncte manifestation (Weinstein and Rivet 1978). Further data on the Tchefuncte culture derives from work at the Lee site (16EBR51), located on the edge of the Pleistocene terrace overlooking Bayou Fountain (Weinstein et al. 1985). While the site was occupied from Tchefuncte through Coles Creek times, the Tchefuncte or Tchula component was the most marked. Near the Lee site is the Sarah Peralta site (16EBR67), a prehistoric, multicomponent midden that extended from Tchefuncte through late Coles Creek times. This location was excavated by Perrault and her coworkers, who found the Tchefuncte component to be the most significant element and the site has subsequently been placed on the National Register of Historic Places (Perrault et al. 1994). Finally, Jones and his colleagues excavated a Tchefuncte trash pit containing ceramics and a Kent type projectile point at the Kleinpeter site (16EBR5), but found that the Tchefuncte component was apparently less significant at that location than later cultures (Jones et al. 1994). Marksville culture was also represented at the Kleinpeter site, both in the Smithfield and Gunboat Landing phases (Jones et al. 1994:197). These phase names, it should be mentioned, derive from Weinstein's survey along the Amite in the early 1970s (Weinstein 1974).

Several projects have investigated sites of the succeeding Baytown and Coles Creek cultures. Notable was the emergency excavation of the St. Gabriel mound (16IV128), by Woodiel (1993). This location consisted of a single platform mound that had a circular structure in a premound context. The ceramics recovered from this site placed it in a period transitional between Coles Creek and Plaquemine. She called this the St. Gabriel phase. The mound was destroyed by the construction of Hunt Correctional Institute. The Kleinpeter site (16EBR5), mentioned above, provided more information relative to the St. Gabriel phase, notably another circular structure at the base of a low platform mound. From the artifacts recovered, it would appear that the Kleinpeter site thrived during late Coles Creek and Plaquemine times. It is unclear when prehistoric

peoples ceased to live there (Jones et al. 1994). The protohistoric period of this area is represented by a study made by Brian Guevin of the 16AN35 site, location of the Grand Houmas Indian village (Guevin 1983).

The historic era in this portion of Ascension Parish is best represented by investigations at Ashland-Belle Helene Plantation (16AN26). Ashland-Belle Helene (16AN26) has been studied by three groups of researchers. R. Christopher Goodwin and Associates, Inc. (RCG), conducted limited investigations in 1984 and 1989 as part of two revetment projects for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Goodwin et al. 1984, 1989). A more detailed study of the plantation proper was carried out by Babson and Orser (1989) and consisted of testing the foundations of an outbuilding to the main plantation house and a portion of the slave quarters. Thirteen test units were excavated and nearly 23,000 artifacts were recovered, confirming the importance of this plantation to our understanding of ante- and post-bellum plantation life in the South. Five years later, Earth Search, Inc. (ESI), undertook data recovery operations at the site. They gridded an area of 102 ac (41.3 ha) and placed shovel tests at 98.4 ft (30 m) intervals. A portion of the site that was designated an impact area for development was gridded and shovel tested at 49.2 ft (15 m) intervals. In addition, trenches were placed across cabin sites and 89 1 m x 1 m test units were excavated at two cabin sites. As a result of these operations, eighteen slave/worker cabins were identified, at least 15 of which were double cabins. Archaeological evidence suggested that the cabins had been in continuous use from about 1840 until the turn of the century, when they were abandoned. Over 50,000 artifacts were recovered and 5,500 bone fragments were also salvaged (Yakubik et al. 1994).

CEI conducted a survey of a proposed extension of the Liquid Carbonics Plant in Geismar. The survey did not reveal any cultural resources in the project area (Guevin 1990).

Further studies in this area were made by Jones and Shuman in 1987 as part of a grant-funded project. They mapped all known Indian mounds in Ascension, Iberville, Pointe Coupee, St. James, and West Baton Rouge Parishes. During their project they visited and mapped the Broussard mounds (16AN1) and found that Mound B, which lies directly under high power lines, is the site of an antebellum cemetery related to the Tillotson family. The cemetery had been badly damaged, but inscriptions on tombstones were still legible. Mound A they found to be in good condition albeit with an abandoned ranch-style house on top. The third mound, on property belonging to another landowner, was in good condition but had been slightly eroded by cattle. These mounds were then considered to probably belong to the Coles Creek or a later period (Jones and Shuman 1987).

In 1995, SURA surveyed the proposed route of a liquid hydrogen pipeline (Shuman et al. 1995). This study recorded six cultural resource locations, including the Broussard Mounds Site (16AN1). Testing at this site showed prehistoric midden in an

area extending 100 feet (ft)(30.5 meters [m]) south of Mound B. As a consequence, the pipeline was rerouted further to the southwest from the prehistoric deposits. The midden itself contained prehistoric Marksville artifacts as well as materials dating from the establishment of Mound (later Riverside) Plantation, in the late 18th or early 19th century. An adjacent route was proposed for an Exxon pipeline in 1998. SURA archaeologists again conducted test excavations at 16AN1, this time near the base of Mound B (Jones et al. 1998). Once more they found intact deposits from the Marksville period and upon the recommendation of the State Archaeologist, Exxon elected to avoid the site by directionally drilling beneath it.

In further work at 16AN1, Benjamin Goodwin, as his M.A. thesis at Louisiana State University, attempted to apply remote sensing techniques to further explore the site. His results were equivocal, though in an attempt to ground truth the remote sensing he did carry out limited excavations that led him to believe that Mound B was associated with the early Marksville Smithfield phase (Goodwin 2003). In a 2012 pipeline project, Skinner and Craver visited Mound B of 16AN1; their client elected to directionally drill under the mound, thus avoiding it (Skinner and Craver 2012).

Several additional projects are worth mention. In 1980, HPG carried out a survey for the proposed IT Ascension Parish hazardous waste management facility and reported seven sites and nine spot finds. None of the cultural resources, however, were considered to be in danger from the proposed development (HPG 1980). A notable research project, which formed the basis of an M.A. thesis, was Guevin's study of historic Houma village sites, including the Grand Houmas Village (Guevin 1983).

In a 1985 project, RCG surveyed five levee locations, one of which is about 1 mi (1.6 km) downstream from the current APE. They recorded three non-significant sites in the New River Bend area (Goodwin et al. 1985). The following year, RCG surveyed the Burnside Revetment area along the Mississippi River. This work, which covered 14,255.1 ft (4,345 m), did not record any cultural properties (Goodwin et al. 1986). The following year the Louisiana Department of Transportation & Development surveyed a 160 ac (64.8 ha) tract for an airport but recorded no cultural resources (Ducote 1987). In the same year, 1987, HPG surveyed a proposed 50-mi (80.8 km) pipeline route and found one site (16AN40), which was considered to lack the integrity necessary for NRHP inclusion (Price 1987). Of some interest was a CEI survey of proposed telephone cable routes in Ascension and Livingston parishes. In the course of their survey, they found that 26 previously recorded archaeological sites and one historic town were in the vicinity of the project right-of-way. One new site (16AN38) was found outside the project right-of-way. Three of the sites investigated (16AN39, 16AN41 and 16LV41) were sufficiently close to the right-of-way to justify a recommendation of monitoring. Three other sites (16AN2, 16AN3 and 16AN13) were also investigated during the CEI project. The first, the Geismar mounds, could not be relocated. The second, Mount Houmas, the location of the Petit Houmas village, was destroyed by industrial activity in 1974 (CEI 1987). The last site, 16AN13, was reported by Haag in 1965 to be "on SE edge of Bluff Swamp where Jim Bayou enters swamp" and to consist of a midden 3,000 ft (91.4 m) long (DOA n.d.). CEI, however, was unable to relocate it (CEI 1987).

1989 saw RCG test three features on the batture at Ashland-Belle Helene Plantation (16AN26). None of these features were found to be significant (Goodwin et al. 1989). In 1990, CEI did a survey for a liquid carbonic plant extension but no cultural resources were recorded (Guevin 1990). The year 1995 saw AR Consultants survey a pipeline that ran from Cameron Parish to Ascension Parish. No cultural properties were found in the current APE (Skinner et al. 1995). That same year SURA surveyed the route of a proposed pipeline and two historic sites on adjacent Waterloo Plantation were recorded (Shuman et al. 1995). In 1997, RCG surveyed a proposed effluent force main line for the City of Gonzales and recommended 16AN60 (The Houmas Central Sugar Factory) for National Register testing (Robblee et al. 1997). Later that year, RCG conducted National Register testing of a portion of 16AN60. Backhoe trenching and unit excavation brought to light 80 features and three structures. Additional work was recommended (Robblee and Davis 1997). Also in that year, SURA, Inc. surveyed the route of a proposed railroad line but reported no cultural properties (Shuman et al. 1997). In 2005 CH2M Hill surveyed a proposed pipeline route running from Garyville to Port Hudson, but found no cultural properties in or near the current APE (Durio and Calvit 2005). In 2012 SURA conducted a survey of 225 ac (91.1 ha) near Geismar and recorded two sites, neither of which was significant (Hoyt and Shuman 2012). Three recent projects, a transmission line survey by CRC, LLC (Gabour et al. 2013) and a survey of two lots near Geismar, on LA 30, and a survey of 83 ac (33.5 ha) on Hwy 30, also near Geismar, both by SURA, Inc., produced negative results (Shuman et al. 2013a). Another survey by SURA, Inc., near Geismar, updated and expanded the information on 16AN58 (Waterloo Plantation)(Shuman et al. 2013b).

Projects within 1 mi (1.62 km) of current APE

Five studies have been conducted within a 1 mi (1.62 km) radius of the current APE. The previously cited CEI telephone lines survey (CEI 1987) passed along LA 73, on the NW boundary of the current APE. The SURA pipeline survey for EXXON Pipeline Company, also mentioned above (Jones et al. 1998) is also within this radius, as are the SURA railroad line survey (Shuman et al. 1997), the SURA Methanex Plant survey (Hoyt and Shuman 2012), and the CRC transmission line survey (Gabour et al. 2013).

CHAPTER FOUR: SURVEY METHODOLOGY

The methodology employed in the project consisted of two phases. Initially, the site files and report library of the Louisiana Division of Archaeology (LDOA) were examined to determine what archaeological sites had been reported for this area by previous investigators. Next, historic maps at the Louisiana State University Cartographic Information Center (LSUCIC) were consulted in order to determine whether there had been any significant changes to the APE since the first topographic map was produced in 1939.

The second phase, fieldwork, consisted of pedestrian survey, photography and shovel tests. In all parts of the APE within 100 ft (ca. 30 m) of a road, shovel tests were excavated at 98.4 ft (30 m) along transects 98.4 ft (30 m) apart, on the basis that houses and other structures were likely to be located along thoroughfares. In all other parts of the APE, shovel tests were excavated at 164 ft (50 m) intervals along transects spaced 164 ft (50 m) apart. All shovel tests were excavated to what appeared to be sterile soil and material recovered from the shovel tests was screened using .25 inch hardware cloth. When shovel tests are positive, site definition is carried out, with shovel tests being excavated at 32.8 ft (10 m) intervals in a grid oriented to the cardinal directions.

Curation Statement

All artifacts collected are returned to the SURA laboratory, washed, analyzed and catalogued. They, as well as documents pertaining to the survey, are then deposited with the Louisiana Division of Archaeology for curation. The location of the facility is given below.

LDOA Curation/CRT Central Plant North Building 2nd Floor 1835 North Third St. Baton Rouge, LA 70802

CHAPTER FIVE: RESULTS OF THE SURVEY

Archival Study/Maps

Archival study involved a review of the records in the Louisiana Division of Archaeology (LDOA) and the examination of maps at the Louisiana Division of Archaeology and at the Louisiana State University Cartographic Information Center (LSUCIC). The following historic topographic maps were examined: Donaldsonville, La. 1892, 1939, 1962, and 1935 15-minute sheets; White Castle, La. 1936, 1963, and 1964 15-minute sheets; Carville, La. 1953, 1974, 1992, and 1999 7.5-minute sheets; and Gonzales, La. 53; 1961; 1961 (Photorevised 1980); and 1991 7.5-minute sheets. The earliest of these, the White Castle, La. 1936 7.5 minute map does not show features or structures in the APE. The subsequent maps do not show any features or improvements on the tract.

Archaeological Sites near the APE

There is one archaeological site reported to be within 1 mi (1.62 km) of the current survey area. This is 16AN2 (The Geismar Mound). CEI attempted to locate this mound in 1987 and failed (CEI 1987). Jones and Shuman also failed to find it during their mounds survey and noted that local residents whom they consulted were unaware of any mound ever having been in or near the reported location. They joined CEI in the conclusion that 16AN2 was probably a part of 16AN1 (The Broussard Mounds), and had been mapped in the wrong location (Jones and Shuman 1987:46).

Fieldwork

Fieldwork was conducted on September 23, 24 and 26, 2014, 2014. The APE was primarily open field, some of which was covered with low grass (Figures 5-7) and some of which was plowed (Figures 8-9), with one artificial pond (Figure 10). Ground cover ranged from 100 percent visibility, to no visibility due to high grass.



Figure 5. View from end of Transect 1, facing north.



Figure 6. View from end of Transect 1, facing south.



Figure 7. View from end of Transect 37, facing north.



Figure 8. View from end of Transect 3, facing south.



Figure 9. View at SW corner of pond, facing north.



Figure 10. View at SE corner of pond, facing north.

Figure 11 shows the transects walked during the survey.

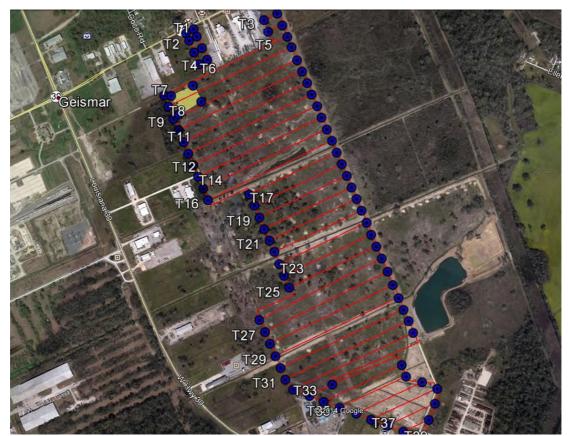


Figure 11. Aerial photograph of APE, showing transects walked (Source: Google Earth).

All shovel tests were negative. Figure 12 provides profiles of representative shovel tests.

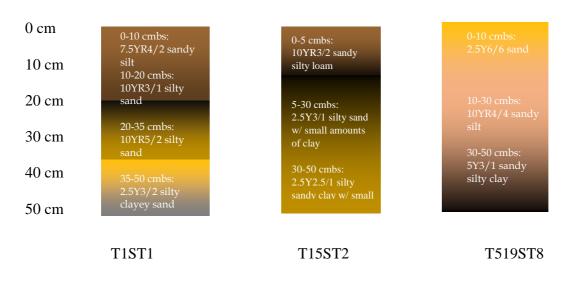


Figure 12. Representative shovel test profiles.

CHAPTER SIX: CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

A survey of 194.01 ac (8.38 ha) near Dutchtown, in Ascension Parish, involved archival research and pedestrian survey, including the excavation of 337 shovel tests. Eleven shovel test locations were not excavated due to prior disturbance or standing water.

In the course of the survey no standing structures or archaeological properties were recorded.

According to the *National Register of Historic Places Bulletin* 16 (NPS 20021:1, 36), to qualify for the NRHP a property must "possess integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, (and) association" (NPS 2002:1). Once this condition has been met, the property must meet at least one of four criteria. Properties are eligible...

- 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.

Archaeological properties are usually assessed under Criterion D, while standing and engineering structures are usually evaluated according to Criteria A, B or C.

Because no cultural properties were recorded, no NRHP criteria apply.

It is recommended that the area examined in this project be made available for development.

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MAPS

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PHASE I CULTURAL RESOURCES SURVEY OF 194.01 ACRES (78.38 HECTARES) ON THE GREZAFFI SOUTH TRACT NEAR DUTCHTOWN, ASCENSION PARISH, LOUISIANA: Addendum A

Negative Findings Report



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

for

Baton Rouge Area Chamber (BRAC) 564 Laurel St. Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70801

November 14, 2014



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

PHASE I CULTURAL RESOURCES SURVEY

OF 194.01 ACRES (78.38 HECTARES)

ON THE GREZAFFI SOUTH TRACT NEAR DUTCHTOWN,

ASCENSION PARISH,

LOUISIANA:

Addendum A

Negative Findings Report

Draft Report

by

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November 14, 2014

ABSTRACT

A survey of 23.51 acres (9.5 hectares) on the southwest side of the Grezaffi South tract near Dutchtown, in Ascension Parish, involved archival research and pedestrian survey, including the excavation of 74 shovel tests (all negative). In the course of the survey no standing structures greater than 50 years old or archaeological properties were recorded. It was concluded that there was no archaeological reason for the area surveyed not to be made available for development.

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CHAPTER ONE: INTRODUCTION

On November 11, 2014, 2014, SURA, Inc., conducted a Phase I cultural resources survey of 23.51 acres (ac) (9.5 hectares [ha]) on the southwest side of the Grezaffi South tract near Dutchtown, Ascension Parish, Louisiana. The tract is to be certified for industrial/business use. This project was contracted by the Baton Rouge Area Chamber (BRAC). The project location is in Section 50, Township 9 South, Range 2 East (Figures 1 and 2). The larger tract, consisting of 194.01 ac (8.38 ha), was originally surveyed in September, 2014, with negative results (Shuman et al. 2014).

The present project was conducted as a result of a request for Louisiana Department of Economic Development (LED) certification. The survey conforms to the archaeological survey procedures detailed in the Cultural Resources Code of the State of Louisiana.

This survey was performed to determine whether or not there were any objects of cultural significance that would be affected by the proposed project. When such items are discovered, it becomes necessary to analyze them and attempt to integrate them into a regional pattern that will provide insight into human adaptations during past eras. Negative results, however, can also be valuable in that they may cause us to revise already formulated hypotheses.



1 mi/1.62 km

Figure 1. Topographic map showing location of APE (Source: LDOA).

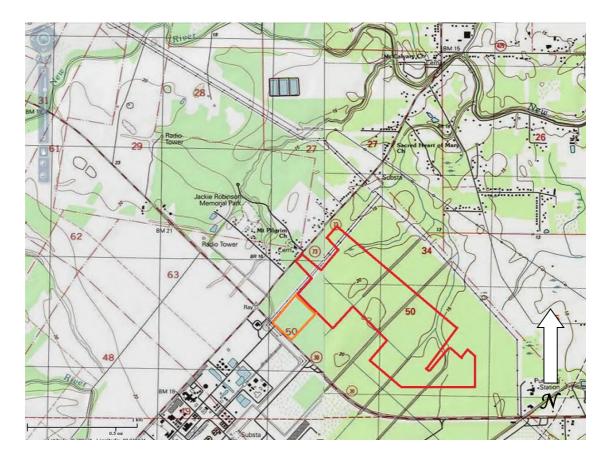


Figure 2. Portion of LDOA cultural resources map showing APE in orange (Source: LDOA).

CHAPTER TWO: SURVEY METHODOLOGY

The methodology employed in the project consisted of two phases. Initially, the site files and report library of the Louisiana Division of Archaeology (LDOA) were examined to determine what archaeological sites had been reported for this area by previous investigators. Next, historic maps at the Louisiana State University Cartographic Information Center (LSUCIC) were consulted in order to determine whether there had been any significant changes to the APE since the first topographic map was produced in 1939.

The second phase, fieldwork, consisted of pedestrian survey, photography and shovel tests. In all parts of the APE within 100 ft (ca. 30 m) of a road, shovel tests were excavated at 98.4 ft (30 m) along transects 98.4 ft (30 m) apart, on the basis that houses and other structures were likely to be located along thoroughfares. In all other parts of the APE, shovel tests were excavated at 164 ft (50 m) intervals along transects spaced 164 ft (50 m) apart. All shovel tests were excavated to what appeared to be sterile soil and material recovered from the shovel tests was screened using .25 inch hardware cloth. When shovel tests are positive, site definition is carried out, with shovel tests being excavated at 32.8 ft (10 m) intervals in a grid oriented to the cardinal directions.

Curation Statement

All artifacts collected are returned to the SURA laboratory, washed, analyzed and catalogued. They, as well as documents pertaining to the survey, are then deposited with the Louisiana Division of Archaeology for curation. The location of the facility is given below.

LDOA Curation/CRT Central Plant North Building 2nd Floor 1835 North Third St. Baton Rouge, LA 70802

CHAPTER THREE: RESULTS OF THE SURVEY

Archival Study/Maps

Archival study involved a review of the records in the Louisiana Division of Archaeology (LDOA) and the examination of maps at the Louisiana Division of Archaeology and at the Louisiana State University Cartographic Information Center (LSUCIC). The following historic topographic maps were examined: Donaldsonville, La. 1892, 1939, 1962, and 1935 15-minute sheets; White Castle, La. 1936, 1963, and 1964 15-minute sheets; Carville, La. 1953, 1974, 1992, and 1999 7.5-minute sheets; and Gonzales, La. 53; 1961; 1961 (Photorevised 1980); and 1991 7.5-minute sheets. The earliest of these, the White Castle, La. 1936 7.5 minute map does not show features or structures in the APE. The subsequent maps do not show any features or improvements on the tract.

Archaeological Sites near the APE

There is one archaeological site reported to be within 1 mi (1.62 km) of the current survey area. This is 16AN2 (The Geismar Mound). CEI attempted to locate this mound in 1987 and failed (CEI 1987). Jones and Shuman also failed to find it during their mounds survey and noted that local residents whom they consulted were unaware of any mound ever having been in or near the reported location. They joined CEI in the conclusion that 16AN2 was probably a part of 16AN1 (The Broussard Mounds), and had been mapped in the wrong location (Jones and Shuman 1987:46).

Fieldwork

Fieldwork was conducted on November 11, 2014. The APE was primarily open field, some of which was covered with grass, though much was plowed (Figures 3-4). Ground cover ranged from 100 percent visibility, to no visibility due to high grass.



Figure 3. View from Transect 73, facing south.



Figure 4. View from Transect 1, facing east.

Figure 5 shows the transects walked during the survey.



Figure 5. Aerial photograph of APE, showing transects walked (Source: Google Earth).

All shovel tests were negative. Figure 6 provides a profile of a representative shovel tests. All shovel tests contained heavy gravel content.

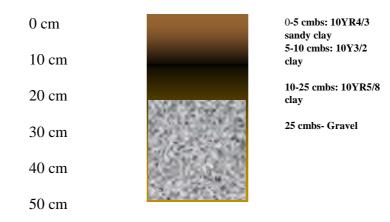


Figure 6. Representative shovel test profile.

CHAPTER SIX: CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

A survey of 23.51 ac (9.5 ha) near Dutchtown, in Ascension Parish, involved archival research and pedestrian survey, including the excavation of 74 shovel tests. Six shovel test locations were not excavated due to prior disturbance or standing water.

In the course of the survey no standing structures more than 50 years old or archaeological properties were recorded.

It is recommended that the area examined in this project be made available for development.

REFERENCES CITED

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1987 A Level I Cultural Resources Survey of Proposed Telephone Cable Routes in Ascension and Livingston Parishes, Louisiana. Unpublished report submitted to Certified Engineering, Inc., and on file with the Louisiana Division of Archaeology.

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MAPS

United States Geological Survey.

- 1953 Carville, La. 7.5-minute topographic quadrangle.
- 1961 (Photorevised 1980) Carville, La. 7.5-minute topographic quadrangle.
- 1974 Carville, La. 7.5-minute topographic quadrangle.
- 1992 Carville, La. 7.5-minute topographic quadrangle.
- 1999 Carville, La. 7.5-minute topographic quadrangle.
- 1892 Donaldsonville, La. 15-minute topographic quadrangle.
- 1939 Donaldsonville, La. 15-minute topographic quadrangle.
- 1962 Donaldsonville, La. 15-minute topographic quadrangle.
- 1965 Donaldsonville, La. 15-minute topographic quadrangle.
- 1953 Gonzales, La. 7.5-minute topographic quadrangle.
- 1961 Gonzales, La. 7.5-minute topographic quadrangle.

- 1961 (Photorevised 1980) Gonzales, La. 7.5-minute topographic quadrangle.
- 1991 Gonzales, La. 7.5-minute topographic quadrangle.
- 1936 White Castle, La. 15-minute topographic quadrangle.
- 1963 White Castle, La. 15-minute topographic quadrangle.
- 1964 White Castle, La. 15-minute topographic quadrangle.