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Exhibit EE. NRG Industrial Park Phase I Cultural Resources Assessment Report & Transmittal Letter

July 31, 2013

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Dear Ms. Breaux:

We herewith submit our draft report on a Phase I survey of 640 acres in Pointe Coupee Parish.

Sincerely,

Malcolm K. Shuman

Enc. Draft report (2)

Cc: Mr. Jim Cavanaugh, BRAC

**29HASE I CULTURAL RESOURCES SURVEY
OF 640 ACRES (259 HECTARES)
PROPOSED FOR INDUSTRIAL CERTIFICATION
NEAR NEW ROADS,
POINTE COUPEE PARISH, LOUISIANA**



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OF 640 ACRES (259 HECTARES)
PROPOSED FOR INDUSTRIAL CERTIFICATION
NEAR NEW ROADS,
POINTE COUPEE PARISH, LOUISIANA**

Draft Report

By

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July 29, 2013

ABSTRACT

In May and June, 2013, Surveys Unlimited Research Associates, Inc. (SURA) carried out a Phase I cultural resources survey of a 640 acre (259 hectare) tract on the right descending bank of the Mississippi River, near New Roads, Pointe Coupee Parish, Louisiana. This area will be certified for industrial development. The survey included all areas except for portions of the batture that were submerged. The Phase I survey indicated the presence of four archaeological sites, 16PC117, 16PC118, 16PC119, and 16PC120. The first three sites (16PC117, 16PC118, and 16PC119) are historic sites within the APE and are considered of unknown NRHP eligibility. The fourth site (16PC120) is a cemetery within the Big Cajun II plant grounds and thus outside the APE. It is recorded because of its relevance to settlement within the APE and probable cultural/historic connection to the other sites. A total of 3,280 shovel tests were excavated.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The authors are grateful to many people for assistance during this project. First, Mr. Jim Cavanaugh of BRAC, provided maps and coordination. Mr. Damien Glazier, who leases the area, provided information and directions for research. Mr. Brian Costello gave invaluable historical insights and Mr. Les Cantrell did important legwork in following up on leads related to St. Peter's Church and the NRG/Big Cajun II cemetery. Ms. Delphine Bridgewater was kind enough to accompany the field team to the cemetery and share her memories with the investigators. Mr. Ricky Boudreaux was the NRG point-of-contact and was very helpful with facilitating the fieldwork.

The field crew was led by Ms. Taylor Gabour and consisted of Ms. Brandy N. Kerr and Mr. Jason Foust, aided by Mr. Karl Shuman. Dr. Malcolm Shuman was the principal investigator and the primary author of this report, though portions of the background chapters are taken from previous reports for which Shuman was the principal investigator and the late Dr. Herschel Franks was project manager and principal author. Margaret Shuman edited the report.

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CHAPTER ONE: INTRODUCTION

In May and June, 2013, Surveys Unlimited Research Associates, Inc. (SURA) carried out a Phase I cultural resources survey of a 640 acre (259 hectare) tract on the right descending bank of the Mississippi River, near New Roads, Pointe Coupee Parish, Louisiana. This area will be certified for industrial development. It lies in Section 3, T 4S, R 11 E (Figure 1). The project area will be referred to herein as the Area of Potential Effects (APE).

This survey was conducted pursuant to the policy of the Louisiana Department of Economic Development (LED), as a part of the industrial certification process.

The present report will consider the environment, cultural background and history of the project area, previous research in this area and the methodology employed in the current undertaking. The results of the survey will be described, followed by a chapter of recommendations. References cited are appended to the end of the report.

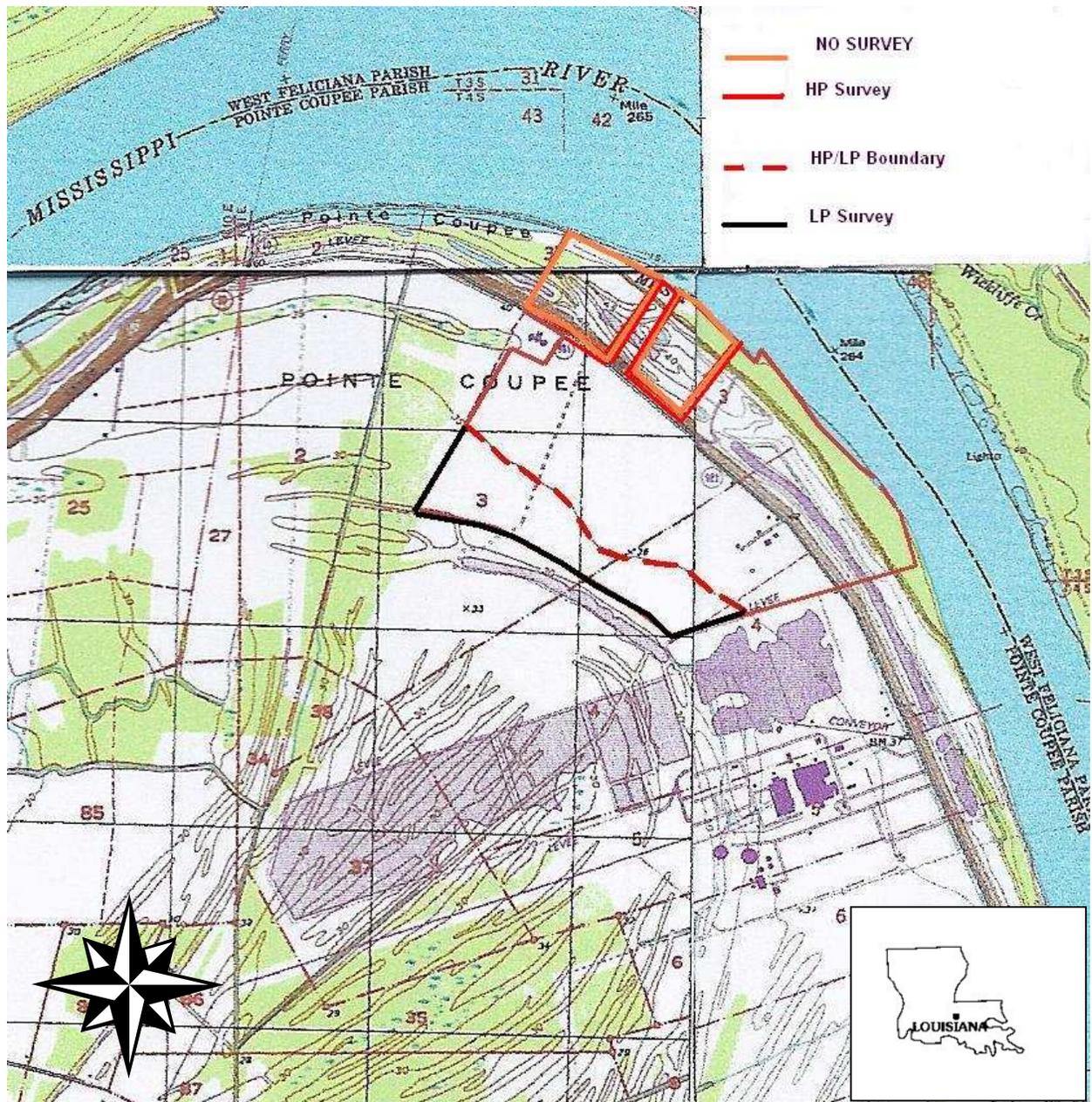


Figure 1. Composite of New Roads, St. Francisville, and Port Hudson 7.5-minute topographic quadrangles showing location of APE and survey areas.

CHAPTER TWO: NATURAL SETTING

Geomorphology

Much of southeastern Louisiana owes its existence to the activity of the Mississippi River, which created the Maringouin (9,000-6500 B.P.) and Teche (5800-3900 B.P.) deltas (Figure 2, Table 1). According to Weinstein and Kelley (1992:3-4), the Maringouin delta once reached 40 to 50 mi (miles) (ca. 65 to 81 km [kilometers]) beyond the current shoreline. Sea level was 40 to 60 ft (ca. 12 to 18 m) lower than it is now and when the sea rose to its current level, the Maringouin delta retreated. Those of its landforms that were not eroded away were buried.

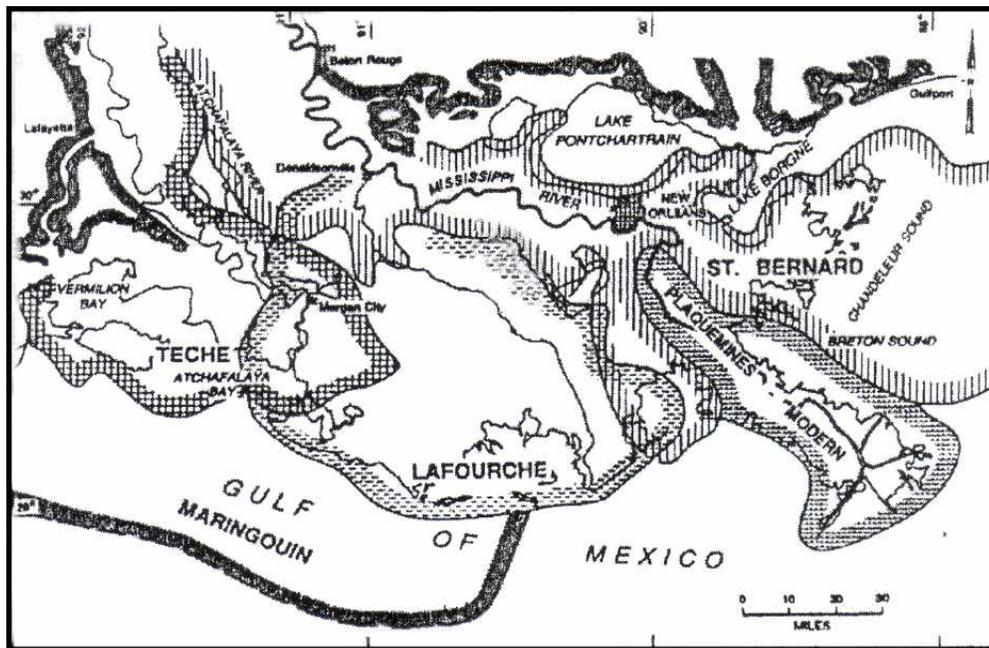


Figure 2. Widely accepted interpretation of the sequence for the development of Holocene era delta complexes (Source: Frazier 1967).

The Teche delta began to form about 5,800 years ago when the sea reached its current level. Bayous Teche, Boeuf, L'Ourse, and Black have all been trunk channels of the Teche system. The natural levees associated with this system have partially subsided but may still be detected as surface exposures .5 to 1 mi (.8 to 1.6 km) wide (Weinstein and Kelley 1992:3).

Table 1. The sequence of the deltas, their names (after their main supply river), and ages (Source: Coleman 1988).

Maringouin (7,500 to 5,000 years ago)
Teche (5,500 to 3,800 years ago)
St. Bernard (4,000 to 2,000 years ago)
Lafourche (2,500 to 800 years ago)
Modern Mississippi (Birdfoot) (1,000 years ago to today)
Atchafalaya (50 years ago to today)

There is no general agreement as to the easternmost extent of the Teche delta, with Weinstein and Gagliano (1985:123) placing this limit about 30 mi (48.5 km) east of Houma and Smith et al. (1986:61-62) placing the easternmost limit at Houma; the latter researchers also suggest that delta formation took place somewhat later, between approximately 4500 and 3500 B.P.

By about 4800 years before the present, the Mississippi began to abandon the Teche delta and began the creation of a new outlet near present-day New Orleans (Weinstein and Kelley 1992:4). Nevertheless, a portion of the Mississippi's discharge continued through the older Teche delta and when the Mississippi finally abandoned the Teche for good, the Red River occupied the course of Bayou Teche and began to empty directly into the Gulf (Weinstein and Kelley 1992:5).

It is not known how long the Red River occupied the Bayou Teche channel. Weinstein and Kelley (1992:5) point out that archaeological data argue for the Red River leaving the Teche course between 1800 and 1900 years ago.

The Mississippi River, meanwhile, began to shift westward again and this time began to flow down Bayou Lafourche, with this system reaching its peak flow approximately 2000 years before the present (Weinstein and Kelley 1992:5). Some time after 1500 B.P., the Fordoche Distributary System formed through the development of a crevasse channel in the current Mississippi River meander belt; this crevasse channel is the present Bayou Fordoche (Britsch 1998: 13-14; Tornqvist et al.1996; Wells 2001:5)

The current delta south and southeast of New Orleans began to form about 1,000 years ago, with the amount of flow down Bayou Lafourche diminishing significantly. Weinstein and Kelley (1992:5) state that after this, "subsidence and marine transgression became the dominant processes within the Terrebonne marsh."

The project area was heavily influenced by the creation of the Atchafalaya River, which happened less than 500 years ago when the Old River-Turnbull Island meander of the Mississippi River intersected the Red River. Floods incited by that event created a crevasse on the south side of the meander and this crevasse eventually became the Atchafalaya River

(Fisk 1952:65; Wells 2001:5). The new Atchafalaya River increased in flow until 1831, when the Old River-Turnbull Island meander was artificially cut off to separate the Atchafalaya from the Mississippi and Red rivers (Wells 2001:5). According to Wells, the clearing away of logjams in the Atchafalaya River during the 1840s and 1850s caused the river's channel to increase significantly, resulting in increased flooding in the Atchafalaya Basin. The consequence would have been the diversion of the Mississippi's main channel into the Atchafalaya had not the Old River Control structure been built in 1963 (Wells 2001:5).

It is unclear precisely when False River and Old River were cut off by the active channel of the Mississippi River and became oxbow lakes; in 1699 Iberville took a short cut, which he referred to as the Pointe Coupee, across a great bend in the Mississippi above Baton Rouge (LWPA 1941:38; McWilliams 1981). What is clear is that the APE for the current project is a point bar that has grown over the last few centuries.

Soils

The project area is formed of soils pertaining to the Commerce-Mhoon and Sharkey associations, with a small amount of land on the Mississippi River pertaining to the Loamy Alluvial land association (USDA 1971) (Figure 3). Commerce soils, which comprise about 65 percent of the Commerce-Mhoon group, are slightly acid to mildly alkaline. They have a dark grayish-brown silt loam surface and a grayish brown silty clay loam subsoil. Mhoon soils, which form about 20 percent of the association, have a dark gray silt loam surface and a dark gray silty clay loam subsoil. These soils form the natural levees of the Mississippi River. Sharkey soils are dark gray, clayey soils at the surface with a subsoil that is gray clay mottled with brown (USDA 1971).

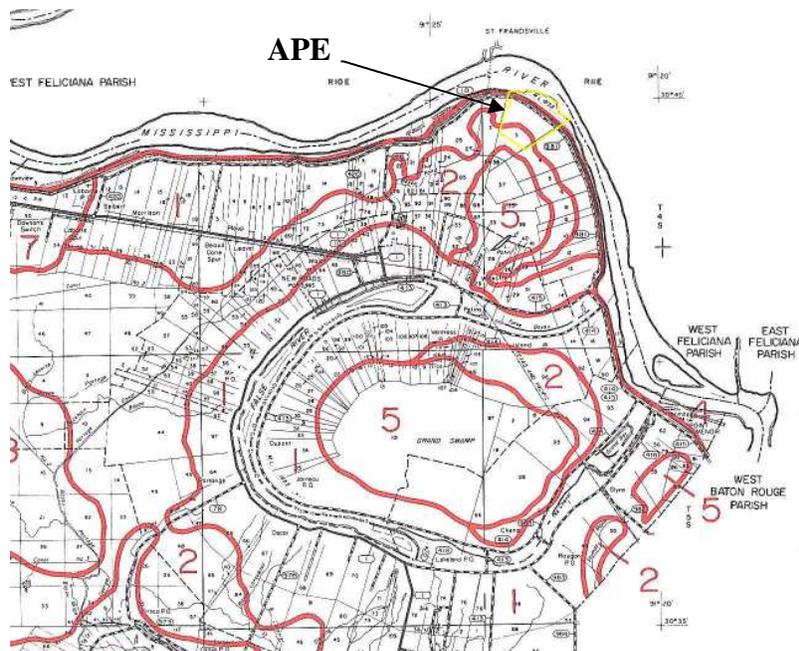


Figure 3. Soils map of project area (Source: USDA 1971).

Flora

Common vegetation in the general area includes the water oak (*Quercus nigra*), the sweet-gum (*Liquidambar styracflua*), ironwood (*Carpinus caroliniana*), American elm (*Ulmus virginiana*), black willow (*Salix nigra*), hackberry (*Celtis laevigata*) and live oak (*Quercus negundo*). Palmettos (*Sabal minor*) are very common shrubs. Ground cover such as Virginia creeper (*Parthenocissus quinquefolia*) and poison ivy (*Rhus radicans toxicodendron*) are also prolific.

The poorly drained fresh water swamps at the base of the natural levees of the distributaries are dominated by the bald cypress (*Taxodium distichum*) and the tupelo (*Nyssa aquatica*). Red maple (*Acer rubrum var. drummondii*) and ash trees (*Fraxinus spp.*) represent the other sub-dominants in this community. Shrubs include wax myrtle (*Myrica cerifera*), dahoon berry (*Ilex cassine*), and button bush (*Cephalanthus occidentalis*). Ground cover consists of smart weed (*Persicaria punctata*), alligator weed (*Alternanthera philoxeroides*), lizard's tail (*Saururus cernuus*), pickerel-weed (*Pontederia cordata L.*), and water hyacinth (*Eichornia crassipes*) (Brown 1945).

Fauna

A relatively large variety of animal life of all classes currently can be found in the vicinity of the project area and were likely to have been present during prehistory. Among the mammals present then and now are the muskrat (*Ondatra zibethicus*), raccoon (*Procyon lotor*), opossum (*Didelphis virginiana*), and the white tailed deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*), as well as others (Lowery 1974).

Reptiles include the alligator (*Alligator mississippiensis*), the eastern box turtle (*Terrapene carolina*), and a vast array of snakes, from water moccasins (*Agkistrodon piscivorus*) to water snakes (e.g., *Nerodia rhombifera*). A number of frogs and salamanders comprise the amphibian population (Dundee and Rossman 1989).

Fish are currently, as well as prehistorically, important as a food source. Many varieties of fresh water fish would have been found in the bayous during ancient times. Examples of fish currently available are the alligator gar (*Lepisosteus spatula*), the largemouth bass (*Micropterus salmoides*), the channel catfish (*Ictalurus punctatus*) and the blue catfish (*Tetalurus fureatus*).

Bird life is also rich in this area, and as might be expected, waterbirds were among the most numerous types. Ducks would have abounded, including the mallard (*Anas platyrhynchos*), the American pintail (*Anas acua*), and the blue winged teal (*Anas discors*). Also present were the great blue heron (*Ardea herodias*), the great egret (*Egretta alba*), and the snowy egret (*Egretta thula*) (Lowery 1955).

CHAPTER THREE: PREHISTORY OF THE PROJECT AREA

Paleoindian Period (?-6,000 B.C.)

The initial human occupation of Louisiana probably began in the Paleoindian period, perhaps as early as 12,000 years ago (Haag 1971; Neuman 1984) (Figure 4). These people hunted now extinct megafauna such as the mastodon and giant bison and lived in small bands. Lithic lanceolate projectile points, often with fluting along the sides, are the most diagnostic artifacts of this period, though few, if any, have been found in stratified contexts in Louisiana. Those that have been found come from areas of exposed Pleistocene terrace (Smith et al. 1983). In South Louisiana, virtually the only evidence of Paleoindian occupation stems from Gagliano's work at Avery Island (16IB22) (Gagliano 1967), but Gagliano's interpretations are not without critics (Neuman 1984).

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

After the Paleoindian period, and the close of the Pleistocene, there ensues a time of intensive gathering, fishing and hunting of modern species. This period, roughly equivalent to the Mesolithic of the Old World, is referred to in the Americas as the Mesoindian stage or Archaic. The Archaic stage is best known in the Southeast through such stratified deposits as that found in Russell Cave, Alabama (Miller 1956), but the geology of Louisiana does not permit many such formations. Consequently, most Archaic sites are known from surface scatters, many of which are found on the Pleistocene terraces of the Florida Parishes, to the north of the study area. Naturally, under such circumstances, much remains to be learned about the Archaic in Louisiana. Mound building is now known to have begun in the Archaic era, and much of this information has come from sites in Louisiana (see Gibson 1994).

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

Poverty Point Period (2000 B.C to 500 B.C.)

Following the Paleoindian and Mesoindian (Archaic) stages, there ensues a time referred to as the Neoindian era, which is subdivided into a number of discrete and relatively well-defined periods. The initial period, Poverty Point, is based on the Poverty Point site (16WC5) in West Carroll Parish, where the inhabitants, between the years 1,500 and 800 B.C., constructed a gigantic earthwork of six concentric earthen rings nearly .75 mi (1.2 km) across. The Poverty Point culture established far-flung trade networks, perhaps practiced some form of horticulture, and developed a unique material culture that is perhaps best represented by baked clay artifacts known as "Poverty Point Objects." These items were probably used in earth ovens, to radiate heat (Webb 1982). This culture was widespread throughout Louisiana, Arkansas, and Mississippi, as evidenced by more than 100 documented sites.

<i>YEARS</i>	<i>STAGE/PERIOD</i>	CULTURES IN LOWER MISSISSIPPI VALLEY	CULTURES IN NORTHWESTERN LOUISIANA San Patrice Complex
12,000(?) - 8000 B.C. 8000 – 6000 B.C.	<i>Paleo-Indian Era</i> Early Late	<i>Paleo-Indian</i>	<i>Paleo-Indian</i>
6000-5000 B.C. 5000-3000 B.C. 3000-2000 B.C.	Archaic Early Middle Late	<i>Archaic</i>	<i>Archaic</i>
2000-500 B.C.	<i>Neo-Indian Era</i> <i>Poverty Point</i>	<i>Poverty Point</i>	
500-200 B.C. <i>100 B.C. – A.D. 500</i> A.D. 500-700 A.D. 700-1000	<i>Neo-Indian Era</i> <i>Early/Tchula</i> <i>Middle/Markville</i> <i>Late/Baytown</i> Coles Creek	<i>Tchefuncte</i> <i>Marksville</i> <i>Troyville</i> Coles Creek	<i>Tchefuncte</i> Bellvue Focus Troyville Coles Creek
<i>A.D. 1000-1200</i> A.D. 1200-1700	<i>Neo-Indian Era</i> Mississippi <i>Early</i> Middle/Late	<i>Transitional</i> Mississippi/ Plaquemine	Caddo <i>Caddo i</i> <i>Caddo ii</i> <i>Caddo iii</i> <i>Caddo iv</i>
<i>A.D. 1700 – Present</i>	<i>Historic</i> Contact	<i>Various Tribes:</i> Bayougoula, Houma, Taensa, Natchez, Tunica, other	<i>Caddo V</i> Natchitoches Adai, Doustiony Kadohadacho, Yatasi Tribes

Figure 4. Prehistoric cultural chronology of archaeological periods and cultures in the Southeast, the Lower Mississippi Valley, and Northwestern Louisiana (from Jones et al. 1994:9)

How or why the Poverty Point culture declined is poorly understood, but it appears that after 800 B.C. the traits that mark this unique culture begin to die out and by 500 B.C. are mostly gone (Webb 1982). The reasons for the decline of Poverty Point culture are unknown but in a recent paper Kidder has speculated that catastrophic flooding throughout the Lower Mississippi Valley may have played a crucial role (Kidder 2002).

The Tchula Period (500 B.C. to A.D. 1)

The Tchula period has been called the “early ceramic period” because, with the exception of fiber-tempered pottery, this was the interval during which initial pottery complexes appeared in the Lower Mississippi Valley. Sites are few and scattered, and there are no universal markers. However, within subareas such as South Louisiana, regional markers, primarily Tchefuncte type ceramics, have been identified (Phillips 1970:7, 8, 15, 76).

People of the Tchefuncte culture were the first to engage extensively in the manufacture of ceramics. Fiber-tempered and some grog-tempered or temperless sherds have been recovered from earlier Poverty Point contexts. These may represent primarily trade goods from the earliest pottery-making cultures to the east. The basic Tchefuncte ware is temperless or grog-tempered, with accidental inclusions of small quantities of sand and vegetable fiber. Sand-tempered wares represent a minority constituent of Tchefuncte site assemblages (Shenkel 1984:47-48).

Four phases of the Tchula period have been identified for South Louisiana. The Pontchartrain phase is defined on the basis of sites around the edges of Lake Pontchartrain and Lake Maurepas. On the Prairie Terrace surface just to the west, evidence is found for a Beau Mire phase, which is believed to postdate the Pontchartrain phase (Weinstein and Rivet 1978). The Lafayette phase is defined on the basis of sites associated with the old Teche Mississippi course. In Southwest Louisiana, Tchefuncte sites are attributed to a Grand Lake phase (Gagliano et al. 1979:4-1-4-3).

Although both inland and coastal Tchefuncte sites have been identified within Louisiana, only adaptations associated with the latter are well understood. The closest Tchefuncte sites to the present project area that have been extensively excavated are Big Oak (16OR6) and Little Oak (16OR7) islands, along the southeastern shore of Lake Pontchartrain.

Big Oak Island is a stratified site with two distinct Tchefuncte components. The lowest occupation has a high artifact content but has no shell refuse. It has a radiocarbon date of 520 B.C. Above it is a *Rangia cuneata* shell midden, also containing numerous artifacts. Artifacts are primarily Tchefuncte, and the radiocarbon date is 300 to 200 B.C. The Little Oak Island site is 6,500 ft (1,981 m) east of Big Oak Island. It is a thin earth midden lying atop a natural shell beach, and has been dated to 215 B.C. Thus, the Little Oak Island occupation and the shell midden occupation at Big Oak Island are contemporaneous (Shenkel 1984:44-46).

The relation between Tchefuncte components at Big Oak Island and Little Oak Island provides considerable insight into activity patterning related to subsistence and settlement. The ceramic assemblage (based on pottery types, vessel size, and vessel shape) for the basal Big Oak Island occupation is most similar to that at Little Oak Island. Although they are not contemporaneous, both assemblages are derived directly from an earth rather than a shell midden.

These earth midden occupations by Tchefuncte peoples are interpreted as residential. Associated vessels were used for cooking and for storage. The shell midden occupation at Big Oak Island yielded a higher proportion of undecorated vessels than did the contemporaneous earth midden at Little Oak Island, and the vessels were generally smaller. These utilitarian ceramics were associated with gathering and with transport back to the village site (Shenkel 1984:49-51).

Faunal analysis confirmed the differential function of these sites. Freshwater drum predominated in both the Big Oak Island shell midden and the contemporaneous Little Oak Island earth midden. However, remains of these fish were primarily bony mouth parts at Big Oak Island, while interneural and dorsal spines predominated at Little Oak Island. Thus, fish heads were mixed with shell at Big Oak Island, while fish bones were mixed with other earth midden debris at Little Oak Island. Apparently, fish were obtained near Big Oak Island and at least initial cleaning occurred here. Big Oak Island appears to represent a large-scale faunal processing activity area. Cooking and consumption of these fish then took place at the Little Oak Island residential center. For the contemporaneous occupations at Big Oak and Little Oak islands, the three most important dietary constituents, in terms of estimated weight, were freshwater drum (40%), *Rangia* meat (37%) and deer (8%) (Shenkel 1984:60-61).

Interestingly, Tchefuncte occupations at Big and Little Oak islands are associated with a well-developed lithic technology. Over 100 projectile points have been recovered, as well as unifaces and bifaces, some of which have been worked into special-function tools such as picks and burins. Some ground-stone tools have also been recovered. The sources of raw materials for stone tool manufacture are streams flowing into northern Lake Pontchartrain. These are 18.6 to 24.9 mi (30 to 40 km) from the sites. At Little Oak Island primary, secondary, and bifacial thinning flakes are found. This indicates that all stages of lithic reduction were occurring. Occupants must have obtained raw materials either by traveling to streambed quarry sites to the north or by trading. Some exotic stones and some of the bifaces may have been collected from Archaic and Poverty Point sites north of the lake.

Tchefuncte occupations around Lake Pontchartrain and Weeks Island (16IB3) may represent the beginnings of exploitation of the Mississippi River delta and coastal plain. The adaptive strategy developed by Tchula period occupants of the region was then maintained by subsequent populations in coastal Louisiana. Collection of *Rangia cuneata* was a key part of this adaptation (Shenkel 1984:67).

Virtually all of the post-Tchefuncte sites found in South Louisiana are associated with *Rangia* middens. This clam is most abundant on muddy bottoms which receive occasional influxes of either fresh or salt water that promote spawning. Spring floods and storm surges provide these influxes. In addition to *Rangia*, its predators and aquatic species are represented on these sites.

Big Oak and Little Oak islands were abandoned at about the time Lake Pontchartrain changed from a brackish to a fresh water environment. This ecological change made the water an unsuitable *Rangia* habitat. Rather than adapt to a new environment, the Indians simply moved. Similar prehistoric cycles of occupation, abandonment, and in some areas, reoccupation, may be related to environmental shifts associated with the evolving Mississippi River delta (Shenkel 1984:65-67).

The Marksville Period (A.D. 1 to AD. 300)

The Marksville period is associated with Hopewellian culture and is manifested throughout the Lower Mississippi Valley (Phillips 1970:7, 17-18, 886). The phase designation for sites in southern Louisiana from the earlier part of this period, and associated with Lake Pontchartrain, is LaBranche. Sites to the east of the present course of the Mississippi River, including the Scarsdale site at English turn (16PL88) and the Magnolia Mound site in St. Bernard Parish (16SB49), are assigned to the somewhat later Magnolia phase (Phillips 1970:898-899; Gagliano et al. 1979:4-19). Late period Marksville occupations in the Barataria Basin are also assigned to the Coquilles phase (Beavers 1982:20-21).

The Hopewell culture's two major centers of development were in Ohio and Illinois, and date to between 200 B.C. and A.D. 400. Diffusion of aspects of the culture may have resulted from the activity of traders who established a wide-ranging network, sometimes termed the "Hopewellian Interaction Sphere." In addition to diagnostic pottery types of the Marksville period, conical burial mounds were characteristic of the culture. Interments are generally associated with grave goods. Some of these were manufactured from exotic raw materials (Neuman 1984: 142-168).

Excavations at the Coquilles site (16JE37) on Bayou des Familles provide the most complete picture of Marksville occupations in southeastern Louisiana below New Orleans. The site is multi-component, and excavations there have yielded data concerning the relationship between Marksville occupations and those of the subsequent Baytown period. Ceramic assemblages from the upper and lower levels of the excavations exhibit differences in the ratio of decorated to plain ceramics and the ratio of stamped to incised designs. From the upper levels, only 9% to 19% of the pottery was decorated, while 35% of the pottery from lower levels was decorated. Also, upper levels showed a higher number of incised designs while lower levels contained more stamped designs (Giardino 1984a:46-47).

These differences parallel those recorded by Beavers (1982:23-25) for earlier excavations at the same site. Within some of Beavers' excavation units, a sterile, sandy

stratum was interposed between upper and lower components. Absence of this sterile stratum in other parts of the site suggests it may be a result of cultural rather than natural deposition. Nevertheless, the ceramic frequency differences suggest that there was an “earlier” and a “later” occupation of the Coquilles site (Giardino 1984a:55).

Interestingly, ceramic artifact analyses by Beavers (1982) and by Giardino (1984a) indicated that despite the differences discussed above, the majority of excavated pottery should be assigned to the Marksville period. However, radiocarbon dates suggest that the upper component assemblage actually belongs to the subsequent chronological interval represented by the Baytown period (below). Although ceramic type frequencies vary, they do not exhibit sufficient change to indicate the presence of a new cultural tradition. This apparent continuity in ceramic assemblages suggests that at least within the Barataria Basin, late Marksville culture extends into the subsequent Baytown period with few apparent changes in the archaeological record. Similar difficulty in distinguishing late Marksville and Baytown occupations has been encountered elsewhere in the Lower Mississippi Valley (Phillips 1970).

A radiocarbon date of A.D. 115 was obtained at the base of the mound at Coquilles. Other dates from this feature cluster around A.D. 200. Unlike more “typical” mounds of the Marksville period, the Coquilles mound has yielded no evidence of burials, prepared floors, or burial platforms. This negative evidence has led to the suggestion that the mound was constructed to improve habitation and refuge conditions in times of tidal surges or heavy floods (Giardino n.d.: 13-14). However, some elderly informants remember the discovery of human burials during the course of the previous shell removal episodes (Giardino n.d.:13-14). Thus, the function of the mound at the Coquilles site remains undetermined.

A house floor within the village portion of the Coquilles site yielded radiocarbon dates of A.D. 280-320, consistent with a late Marksville period occupation. The associated structure was circular, with timbers averaging 6 to 8 centimeters in diameter. Large quantities of daub are evidence of the nature of the constructed materials. A hall-like entrance was oriented toward the southwest. Two infant burials were found almost directly below the wall. This structure represents the only Marksville period house discovered in southeastern Louisiana (Giardino n.d.:15-17).

The Baytown Period (A.D. 300 to AD. 700)

The Baytown period has been defined as the interval between the end of Hopewellian Marksville culture and the emergence of Coles Creek culture. In the southern half of the Lower Mississippi Valley, there are no area-wide horizon or period markers (Phillips 1970:901).

The Baytown period is often referred to as the “Troyville period” by Delta archaeologists, because of the dearth of diagnostic markers for the period in southeastern Louisiana. It is often assimilated with the subsequent Coles Creek period, and the two are together referred to and discussed as “Troyville/Coles Creek culture” (e.g., Neuman 1984). Gagliano et al. (1979:4-20) note that the entire eastern coastal zone of Louisiana is subsumed

within a single phase, called Whitehall. They consider it likely that further work in the Barataria Basin will permit a separate phase designation for that area.

The upper component of the Coquilles site (16JE37) is now attributed to the Baytown period (see below). As discussed previously, almost 35% of all sherds from the lower (Marksville) components of the Coquilles site are decorated, whereas only 7% to 16% of sherds from the upper (Baytown) levels are decorated. This difference may be due to the fact that Baytown peoples usually decorated only the necks of vessels, a practice that results in representation of a greater proportion of “plain body sherds” in archaeological assemblages. Other explanations have, however, been proposed. One other difference between Marksville and Baytown period pottery at the Coquilles site is that incised designs predominate in the later period, while stamped designs predominate in the earlier (Beavers 1982:22-25; Giardino n.d.: 18-22).

A circular house structure at Coquilles was radiocarbon dated to A.D. 410-450, thereby placing it within the Baytown period of occupation. It is similar to the Marksville period house discussed above, with one major difference noted. The Baytown house was constructed with poles that average six to ten centimeters larger in diameter than those of the earlier house. Daub, however, was used in the construction of both (Giardino n.d.:24-25).

Recovery of houses from both Marksville and Baytown periods, and radiocarbon dates ranging from about A.D. 200 to A.D. 570, suggest that a stable village-type occupation was located at the confluence of bayous des Familles and Coquilles for about 400 years. Although some changes in proportions of ceramic types have been noted, there is continuity between the two assemblages. This continuity appears to reflect long-term and possibly continuous occupation of the site.

The Coles Creek Period (A.D. 700 to A.D. 1000)

The Coles Creek Period begins with the emergence of Coles Creek culture in the southern part of the Lower Mississippi Valley and ends with the establishment of “full-blown” Mississippian culture in the northern part of the valley (Phillips 1970:1 8). Although it appears to represent a population zenith in the eastern delta province, many sites tentatively classified as Coles Creek may actually be from the Baytown period (Wiseman et al. 1978:3-5).

Coles Creek culture was characterized by small ceremonial centers with mounds, surrounded by villages of varying size. The culture developed in the area between the mouth of the Red River and the southern part of the Yazoo Basin. Its influence filtered into the delta region of southeastern Louisiana (Brown 1984:95).

Mounds associated with the Coles Creek culture generally are larger and exhibit more construction stages than those associated with the earlier Marksville culture. A more significant difference is that Coles Creek mounds are pyramidal and flat-topped, and they were used as substructures for religious and/or civic buildings. In contrast, Marksville peoples generally built conical burial mounds (Neuman 1984:167).

In southern Louisiana, generally, the early phase for the Coles Creek period is Bayou Cutler, and the late phase is Bayou Ramos (Brown 1984:97—99). However, in southeast Louisiana, only the Bayou Cutler phase is recognizable. The type site for the Bayou Cutler phase is Bayou Cutler I (16JE3), located within Barataria Basin (Gagliano et al. 1979: 4-27-4-30). The Bayou Cutler phase, as defined by Kniffen (1936), is identified by an absence of shell-tempering in pottery, presence of lugs or ears on vessel rims, and incised lines on rims, absence of handles on vessels, and a large percentage of check-stamped decoration. Phillips (1970:921) identified types and varieties that exhibit these characteristics (Wiseman et al. 1978:4-3, 4-9). The Pump Canal Site (16SC27) in St. Charles Parish appears to have had its greatest occupation during Bayou Cutler times; excavations by Earth Search, Inc. (ESI) in 1990-91 showed a midden rich in fish and animal remains, as well as wooden planks and post molds, all indicative of long term occupation. Interestingly, however, “the site occupation does not appear to extend into the later Coles Creek Bayou Ramos phase (Giardino 1994:431).” Giardino speculates that changes in the local environment may have been responsible for this decline. A Coles Creek component has also been identified at the Sims site (16SC2), a multi-mound complex near Des Allemands (Jones et al. 1994: 152).

Pontchartrain Check Stamped pottery is the most typical Coles Creek period ceramic of the delta region. Check stamping probably was a utilitarian technique that produced desired results during the manufacture of pottery. Thus, it may not have been solely a decorative style (Brown 1984: 115, 123). Pontchartrain Check Stamped pottery was contemporaneous with similar types being produced in northwest and eastern Florida. This similarity, as well as similarity of rim modes from the three areas during this period, suggests contact between Coles Creek peoples of the Louisiana delta and Gulf Coast occupants to the east (Brown 1984:115-122). However, ceramic designs also show influence from the Mississippi River alluvial valley (Wiseman et al. 1978:315).

Finally, it should be stated here that the recent rediscovery of the Bayou Grande Cheniere site (16PL159) and its neighbor, Mound Pierre (16PL160), the former of which has revealed a 12 mound complex in the Plaquemines Parish marsh, may well revise the picture of prehistoric coastal settlement described herein (DOA site files 2000, 2001; Mann and Saunders 2002). In a 2004 M.A. thesis based on excavations at 16PL159, Schilling suggested that the social organization of coastal Coles Creek culture differed significantly from the social organization of the same culture in the Lower Mississippi Valley proper, being tribal rather than hierarchical in nature (Schilling 2004). In his view, “the Bayou Grande Cheniere mounds were not at the center of (a) regional polity, but purposefully isolated (in order to) not privilege one group over another” (Schilling 2004:111). He also notes that the single radiocarbon date of 560±60 B.P. (A.D. 1390 ±60) is unusually late, leading to the possibility of a later, unidentified component; the persistence of Coles Creek longer in this area; or contamination of the bulk carbon sample submitted (Schilling 2004:116).

The Mississippi Period (A.D. 1000 to A.D. 1700)

The beginning of the Mississippi period is marked by the emergence of Mississippian culture in the northern part of the Lower Mississippi Valley and Plaquemine culture in the southern part (Phillips 1970:18-19). The Barataria phase is associated with early Mississippi

period occupations within the Barataria Basin (Gagliano et al. 1979: 4-36--4-41). It is the equivalent of the Medora phase as described by Quimby (1951) for the Baton Rouge area.

During the Barataria phase, the “Barataria Complex,” as defined by the neighboring sites Fleming (16JE36), Bayou Villars (16JE68), and Isle Bonne (16JE60), probably reached the height of its importance. Shell middens, shell mounds, earth and shell mounds, and probable extensive habitation areas are represented in this complex. Some sites along the des Familles-Barataria trunk represent small habitation locales and/or special activity areas (Gagliano et al. 1979:4-45; Yakubik and Franks 1988).

The Bayou Petre phase follows the Barataria phase. It is most strongly expressed in St. Bernard Parish to the east. The final phase of the Mississippi period within the area is termed “Delta Natchezan.” It is best represented at the Bayou Goula site (16IV11) to the north and at sites along Bayou Lafourche to the east. Many sites in the Barataria Basin exhibit a mix of Bayou Petre and Delta Natchezan traits so that assignments to either phase are problematic (Gagliano et al. 1979:4-45).

The Bayou Petre phase, as defined by Kniffen (1936), is identified by a high percentage of shell-tempered sherds, handles on vessels, simple nodes or lugs on rims, undecorated rims, gritty-textured ware, greater use of curvilinear lines and coarser wares than during the Bayou Cutler phase of Coles Creek; and by an absence of check stamped pottery. This list of traits is still applicable, although check stamped pottery is at least a minority ware in many Mississippi period sites in Louisiana. Type assignments for Bayou Petre wares from the eastern delta are generally the same as those for the eastern Gulf Coast, evidence for contact between the two areas (Wiseman et al. 1978: 4-3--4-4).

The Plaquemine culture itself is sometimes considered to be the classic development of temple mound construction in the lower portion of the Lower Mississippi Valley. However, archaeological excavations demonstrate that it actually represents a late prehistoric development of the preceding Coles Creek culture. Multi-mound construction and artifact assemblages are evidence that link the two. Absence of European trade goods indicates that the Plaquemine culture reached its zenith prior to contact (Neuman 1984:258-259).

The Medora site (16WBR1), the type site for Plaquemine culture, is located in West Baton Rouge Parish, on Bayou Bourbeaux. It originally consisted of two mounds separated by a 400 ft (123 m) long plaza. The major mound was completely excavated by Quimby (1951:88-92) and then restored, and excavations were conducted at other portions of the site.

Excavation of a pre-mound level at Medora uncovered numerous postholes and two rings, one inside the other, comprised of wall trenches and post molds. These were 45 and 25 ft (13.9 and 7.7 m) in diameter. Fire pits and a “clay altar” were located within the small ring. Some post molds suggested square structures as well. Wattle-and-daub was apparently the technique of house construction. The larger mound showed evidence of episodic construction, with pits and/or structures on the upper surface of each successive modification. Atop the smaller mound, either one or two structures were located, and these were marked by postmolds and a wall trench (Quimby 1951:94-101).

The work at Medora recovered 18,508 sherds, of which only 44 were shell-tempered. Paste characteristics in the Plaquemine sherds were uniform. The paste was soft, clay-tempered and poorly fired. Color was variable, but grays and tans predominated. Surface finish was smooth, and had a soft and chalky feel. About ten percent of the collection was decorated. Brushing and incising were the most common decorative techniques, but engraved and punctated sherds did occur. Although this was a single component site, some Coles Creek ceramics were found, including examples of Pontchartrain Check Stamped. These sherds exhibited the same or nearly the same paste characteristics as the Plaquemine ceramics, and were considered an integral part of the Plaquemine complex. Further, Plaquemine pottery appeared to be "...an outgrowth of Coles Creek pottery" (Quimby 1951:123-124, 129).

The Bayou Goula site (16IV11) also yielded data concerning the nature of a Plaquemine occupation in south Louisiana. The site is located on the west bank of the Mississippi River about 25 mi (ca. 40 km) downstream from Baton Rouge, in Iberville Parish. At the time of excavations, two badly eroded mounds were present, separated by a plaza about 600 ft (184.6 m) long. The river was about 500 ft (153.9 m) from the site (Quimby 1957:98-99).

The Plaquemine component was represented by two mounds and by artifacts in a midden deposit within an old humus level that was lying atop a bed of silt. The midden was beneath 4 to 5 ft (1.2 to 1.5 m) of more recent alluvium. The mound rested on the humus layer. The excavated mound showed evidence of three construction phases (Quimby 1957:104-105, 114-117).

Plaquemine component pottery types from non-mound portions of the site were dominated by Addis Plain, as was the case at Medora. Surprisingly, Pontchartrain Check Stamped was the most frequently occurring decorated type. One shallow depression about 3 ft (92 cm) in diameter was lined with canes, grass and leaves. Also, a small deposit of fragmentary, burned corncobs was uncovered (Quimby 1957:105).

Lying above the 4 to 5 ft (1.2 to 1.5 m) of relatively sterile alluvium was evidence of the historic period occupation of the site by Bayougoulas and other groups. The village had been visited in the late seventeenth and early eighteenth centuries by Iberville and other Europeans, some of whom left descriptions of material culture and of ceremonial activity associated with the mounds. Unlike the Plaquemine component here or at Medora, European goods were found in association with aboriginal wares in this late component, which was termed Delta Natchezan (Quimby 1957: 118-119).

European material included trade beads, glass bottle fragments, kaolin pipe fragments, copper and brass ornaments, and various metal items. European ceramics were found but have been described only in a summary fashion as "crockery" and "earthenware." Although Addis Plain dominated pottery types from the Delta Natchezan occupation, a number of shell-tempered plain ceramics of Mississippi Plain, *var. Fatherland* were the second most frequently occurring, while no sherds of this type were recovered from non-mound portions

of the Plaquemine component. This innovation in techniques of pottery manufacture was considered one of the markers for the Delta-Natchezan culture (Quimby 1957:134-144).

The Buras Mound site (16PL13) in Plaquemines Parish, based on ceramic analysis, also represents a late Mississippi period occupation. It is one of the southernmost aboriginal sites in the Mississippi River delta region. Although it is subsiding rapidly, four mounds arranged around a central plaza were observed in 1981. Buried shell middens are also present (Gagliano and Weinstein n.d.).

Faunal remains from the site include two species of *Rangia* as well as other shellfish, fish, reptile and mammal bones. Floral remains included hackberry, greenberry, walnuts, and charred cobs of maize. The latter were found in a concentrated area. Ceramic analysis indicates influence both from the eastern Gulf area and from the Mississippi River alluvial valley. A relatively high percentage of sherds were shell tempered. Although no European trade goods have been reported, the Buras Mound site may represent a very late prehistoric or early protohistoric occupation in the delta. De Soto's men reported the presence of hostile Indians who still used the atlatl in this vicinity (Gagliano and Weinstein n.d.).

The foregoing should not be taken to imply that our knowledge of the Coles Creek and Plaquemine cultures is complete. Two sites on the northern border of Lake Pontchartrain may be expected to add substantially to our knowledge of this time as more information becomes available.

The first location, the Hoover site (16TA5), is to be found on the southernmost edge of the Pleistocene Terrace, overlooking from the north the swamp that borders Lake Pontchartrain to the south. The site at one time consisted of five mounds arranged around a plaza. Unfortunately, only three mounds remain (Jones and Shuman 1988; Hays 1995; Saunders 1994, 1995). In its heyday, this site was undoubtedly a major center, and exotic lithic materials are found in abundance. Jones and Shuman surface-collected some 31 whole or partial projectile points, ranging from Archaic types to Albas. The ceramic inventory was similarly varied, ranging from Marksville Incised to Plaquemine types.

Saunders (1994, 1995) has carried out limited excavations at the mounds. During her work she discovered two human burials, various prehistoric ceramics and samples for absolute dating. OCR and MRT dates from Mound A suggest that this mound was a late construction at the site and A.D. 1100 is posited as an approximate date for Mound A construction (Hays 1995:22, Saunders 1995). Mound B, which yielded the burials, is more difficult to date. Saunders (1994) obtained a date of A.D. 370 from the buried A horizon at the base of the mound, which is earlier than expected if the mound pertains to the Coles Creek period. A follow-up date obtained by Hays (1995:21) was inconclusive due to a large sigma value. Finally, Saunders excavated portions of Mound D, and a sample from the buried A horizon beneath the mound provided a date of ca. A.D. 690+1-70), which is consistent with the large amount of Coles Creek pottery from the same stratum. A sample taken from the level directly below the buried A horizon gave a date of Ca. A.D. 440 +/-190, suggesting a Baytown occupation (Hays 1995:21).

It would appear, therefore, that the Hoover site was occupied for a long period, reaching its apogee perhaps in late Coles Creek and early Plaquemine times. Interestingly, Jones was able to apply Sherrod and Rolingson's formula to show that an aboriginal measuring unit of 154.4 ft (47.5 ft), the so-called "Toltec Module," seemed to have been used in spacing the mounds (Jones and Shuman 1988, Sherrod and Rolingson 1987).

Another site of some consequence, also just north of Lake Pontchartrain, is the Shadows Mound (16ST125). This mound, though known for some time, was excavated in 1985-86 by members of the Northlake Chapter of the Louisiana Archaeological Society (Dwayne Lassiter, personal communication 1988). While their investigation indicated that the mound itself was probably constructed during the Coles Creek period, they uncovered what appeared to be three later burials, consisting of two adults and one child. These burials were associated with over 130 trade beads dated between A.D. 1700-1750. Thus, the mound was apparently reutilized for mortuary purposes during contact times by people who may or may not have been descendants of its builders (Jones and Shuman 1988).

On the west side of the Mississippi River, the Pump Canal Site (16SC27) was apparently occupied only sporadically in Plaquemine Mississippi times (Giardino 1994:431-432). The Sims site (16SC2), a five mounds complex, however, seems to have been a Mississippian, rather than a Plaquemine, phenomenon, though the Mississippian levels were preceded by a Coles Creek occupation (Jones et al. 1994:153; Davis 1981:64-65).

Aboriginal Occupation During the Colonial Period

Identities and locations of Indian tribes in Louisiana cannot be determined from any period prior to about 1700. At about that time, literate French settlers and visitors began to record their observations regarding aboriginal occupants of the area. Even so, it remains difficult to sort pre- and post-contact culture traits. This is especially true for the lesser tribes living along the Mississippi River and other areas within southeastern Louisiana (Kniffen et al. 1987:45).

The primary Houma village in 1700 was located near present-day Angola (Louisiana State Penitentiary). Iberville reported 140 cabins, arranged in a circle, and estimated the population to include 350 warriors. The Bayougoula settlement (above), with a population of 400 to 500, clustered around a village near the modern community of Bayou Goula. The Acolapissa lived in six towns along the Pearl River and other streams flowing into Lake Pontchartrain. Their settlement pattern may have been diffuse. After 1700, they moved closer to Lake Pontchartrain, and in 1718 established a village on the Mississippi River above New Orleans (Kniffen et al. 1987:49-51).

The Quinapisa, who may have derived from the Acolapissa, lived at a village on the right bank of the Mississippi River near Hahnville in 1682. Prior to that, they lived in several villages nearer the mouth of the Mississippi. By 1700 their numbers had diminished, and they merged with the Mugulasha and moved to the Bayougoula village. In an unexplained bout of internecine hostility, numbers of them and the Mugulasha were slaughtered by the

Bayougoula. Little is known of the latter tribe, who disappeared from the historic record after the 1700 massacre (Kniffen et al. 1987:51-52).

Little was recorded concerning the Okelousa. They are thought to have lived on lakes to the west of and above Pointe Coupee. Described as the “wandering people west of the Mississippi,” they formed an alliance with the Houma to destroy the Tangipahoa village. In 1699, the combined population of the Okelousa, Chawasha and Washa was estimated at 700, of whom 200 were warriors (Kniffen et al. 1987:52-53).

The Chitimacha population in 1650 has been estimated as 4,000. Their tradition indicated a former home in the Natchez area, and the Natchez claimed kinship ties with the Chitimacha. They had settlements on the Mississippi River and Bayou Plaquemine. After the appearance of the French, two divisions of the tribe may have occupied lower Bayou Teche and upper Bayou Lafourche. The Chitimacha are among the lower Mississippi tribes that displayed the highest cultural attainments in the Southeast (Kniffen et al. 1987:53-55).

In 1699, the Washa lived around a central village on upper Bayou Lafourche. However, they ranged widely and utilized the resources peculiar to the Lower Mississippi and Gulf Coast. After the arrival of the French, the Washa moved frequently. Sibley reported that they originally lived in the Barataria area. By 1718 they had established a village on the Mississippi near the Cote des Allemands post. The Chawasha were said by the French to have the same character as the Washa. They also lived on Bayou Lafourche, near the principal Washa village. In 1718, that village was visited by a party of Natchez, Yazoo and Chickasaw who attacked the Chawasha, killed the chief and members of his family, and carried away eleven slaves, one of whom was the chief’s wife. After New Orleans was established, the group settled on the West bank of the Mississippi three leagues downstream from the city, just below English Turn. By 1722 they had moved half a league to the south, crossing to the east side of the river (Swanton 1946: 298-301). In 1730 that village was attacked by a group of black slaves directed by Governor Perrier (Kniffen et al. 1987:55-56).

The protohistoric and early historic periods were traumatic for aboriginal society in southeastern Louisiana. The effects of disease and of the ever-increasing European population are reflected in the declining aboriginal population and in the migration by remnants of various tribes. Internecine warfare typified relations among the various groups (Giardino 1984b).

Louisiana Indians feared and detested slavery more than any other European institution. One Tunica woman was reported to have hanged herself to avoid it. However, Europeans held slaves from a number of tribes. These slaves derived primarily from tribes that had traditionally exhibited hostility toward the Europeans. However, Indians from larger and more militant tribes such as the Caddo, Chickasaw and Choctaw were usually not enslaved (Kniffen et al. 1987:65).

CHAPTER FOUR: HISTORY OF THE PROJECT AREA

Discovery

Europeans first learned of the existence of the great river that would be called the Mississippi in 1527. A Spaniard, Cabeza de Vaca, a member of the ill-fated Panfilo de Narvaez expedition to Florida, tasted its fresh water even though he was a few miles out to sea in the Gulf of Mexico. In 1541, Hernando De Soto reached the Mississippi at a point somewhat south of where Memphis, Tennessee now stands. He died shortly thereafter, and was buried in the stream. For nearly a century and a half following the De Soto expedition, Spain left North America untouched, except for the Florida peninsula.

It was left to France, the rising European power in the seventeenth century, to rediscover and occupy the region drained by the Mississippi River. In 1672 two French Canadians, Louis Joliet and Father Jacques Marquette, descended the river to the mouth of the Arkansas. A decade later, another Frenchman living in Canada, Rene-Robert Cavelier, Sieur de La Salle, descended the river all the way to its mouth, completing the process that Cabeza de Vaca had begun 155 years before. On April 9, 1682, in a solemn ceremony on a spot of dry land near the mouth of the Mississippi, La Salle claimed "Louisiane" for France and its king, Louis XIV.

What is now called Louisiana was not visited again by Europeans until 1699, when Pierre Le Moyne, Sieur de Iberville, sailed up the Mississippi River, leading the French party whose mission it was to colonize Louisiana. Iberville, however, chose the eastern shore of the Bay of Biloxi as the site of the first settlement. During his trip up the Mississippi his Indian guides persuaded him to save time by making a portage across the neck of a large bend in the river. This location was subsequently called Cutoff Point, or, in French, Pointe Coupee (McWilliams 1953). There has been much discussion as to whether the actual cut-off was entirely natural or aided by human excavation. Costello, reviewing the evidence, concludes that the cut-off was a natural evolution of the Mississippi River (Costello 2010:13-14).

Later that year, Iberville sent his 19-year-old brother, Jean-Baptiste Le Moyne, Sieur de Bienville, back to the Mississippi River for further exploration. On September 15, 1699, Bienville, with five men in two bark canoes, came across an English corvette of ten guns, commanded by William Lewis Bond. The English ship was anchored in a bend of the river, about 25 leagues above its mouth, awaiting favorable winds to go further upstream. Although heavily outnumbered, Bienville, "sent two men to tell him to immediately leave the country, which was in the possession of the king (Louis XIV) and that if he did not leave, he would force him to," by calling up nonexistent reinforcements located downstream. The English captain fell for Bienville's bluff and abandoned the river (McWilliams 1981:107). The bend in the river where this incident took place has been known ever since as English Turn, or, as the French called it, "Detour aux Anglais."

What is now Pointe Coupee Parish first appears in a 1722, in which 15 men, five women, and two children are listed at St. Reyne concession. Some 11 men, six women and one child are enumerated for the Tunica village, near contemporary Angola. The Sieur de Mezieres is stated to live at the Terre Blanche concession just downriver from St. Reyne. These sites were all on the east bank of the river and all ultimately failed (Costello 2010: 18). In 1727, 29 persons were listed as living on the west bank of the river; this census is the first to mention residency within what is now Pointe Coupee Parish proper (Costello 2010: 20). The 1729 Natchez Massacre caused a number of French survivors to seek refuge in Pointe Coupee (Costello 2010:20). Artifacts dating from the 1740s at Stonewall Plantation, northwest of New Roads, establish this early French presence in the area (Costello 2010: 26). Interestingly, few if any Acadian refugees settled in the parish, despite later claims to the contrary (Costello 2010: 36-37). By 1770, the Pointe Coupee settlement was said to have extended for 20 mi (32.3 km) along the Mississippi River (Costello 2010:38).

During the Colonial Era, tobacco and indigo had been the main crops for this area, but with the Louisiana Purchase in 1803, American immigrants flooded in and shortly thereafter sugar became the main crop (Wells 2001:21, 26) but cotton was grown as well after 1800 (Costello 2010:59).

The Civil War brought disruption, and most of the strife took place in the False River/New Roads area (Wells 2001:26). In any case, by the early 1880s the plantation economy had reestablished itself along the major streams of the parish and slavery had been replaced by share cropping and tenant farming (Wells 2001:26).

In the 20th century, oil and gas exploration supplemented agriculture as a significant economic staple for the region (Wells 2001:27). In the year 2000, Pointe Coupee Parish had 22,648 inhabitants and Livonia had 1,339, up from 970 in 1990 (Calhoun 2008:209).

St. Peter's Church

According to Costello,

The earliest known African-American Protestant services are said to have begun in 1843 by a slave named Frank Yearby under a "brush arbor" behind a plantation upriver from Waterloo (Costello 2010:96).

This congregation, originally called Macedonia Methodist Episcopal Church, was the forerunner of today's St. Peter African Methodist Episcopal Church in New Roads (Costello 2010:96). The original brush arbor site was on a lot deeded to the congregation by Delphine Fortune, a free woman of color. Later, in the 20th century, the church moved to the River Road, where it is shown as St. Peter Church on the 1939 New Roads topographic map (See Chapter Seven) but on no other map before or after. After 1939, the church moved to New Roads (Costello, personal communication). The 1939 location is within the current APE.

CHAPTER FIVE: PREVIOUS INVESTIGATIONS

Investigations within 1 mi (1.6 km) of Study Area

Several archaeological investigations have been conducted near (i.e., within 1 mi/1.6 km) of the current study area. Perhaps the first was a 1976 pipeline survey by Coastal Environments, Inc. (CEI) south of the current APE. This survey suggested that portions of Crook Landing would be endangered by the proposed pipeline (Gagliano et al. 1976). The next project in this area was the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) survey of the Red Store Revetment, which recorded “one possible historic site (16PL33),” which was, in any case, outside the survey’s APE (Ryan and Flayharty 1982). The next year, a survey by the National Park Service (NPS) of the Pointe Coupee-Arbroth Levee Enlargement covered about 20 mi (32.3 km) and concluded that 16PC33 and another site, 16PC31, would not be affected by the work (Stuart and Greene 1983). In the same year, 1983, R. Christopher Goodwin & Associates, Inc. (RCG) investigated 16PC33 and 16PC46, Lakeland and Hollywood plantations. Their work led to a recommendation of ineligibility for the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) for both sites (Goodwin et al. 1983).

In 1992 Earthsearch, Inc. (ESI) carried out a revetment survey for the USACE and recorded a number of archaeological sites, the most notable of which were Nina Plantation (16PC92) and the former sugar house of Rose Hill Plantation (16WBR12). Both were regarded as potentially eligible for the NRHP (Yakubik et al. 1992). The ESI recommendation regarding Nina Plantation (16PC92) was followed-up by data recovery operations by RCG several years later. The 19th-century principal house was excavated, along with associated cisterns, a well, and two domestic outbuildings (Markell et al. 1999).

Finally, CEI conducted an extensive project for the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development (DOTD), in connection with the proposed Audubon Bridge. They recorded 42 archaeological properties, and recommended Phase II testing for 11 of them (Hahn et al. 2003).

CHAPTER VI: METHODOLOGY

The methodology employed in this project consisted of archival research, an interview with the landowner, fieldwork and laboratory work.

Archival Research: SURA conducted a preliminary review of available records, such as maps and previous reports, at the Louisiana Division of Archaeology.

Fieldwork: Fieldwork consisted of pedestrian survey with shovel testing at intervals determined by the type of probability area. These probability areas will be described below.

High Probability (HP) Survey. HP-level survey involved shovel tests at 98.4 ft (30 m) intervals, along transects similarly spaced. Based on the topographic and soil maps (USDA 1971), this was in the area of natural levee at and above the 35 ft contour line, which roughly marks the end of the natural levee and beginning of the backswamp.

Low Probability (LP) Survey. LP-level survey involved shovel tests at 164 ft (50 m) intervals, along transects similarly spaced in all areas that were not HP and that had not previously been surveyed; roughly speaking, these are backswamp areas (Figure 5).

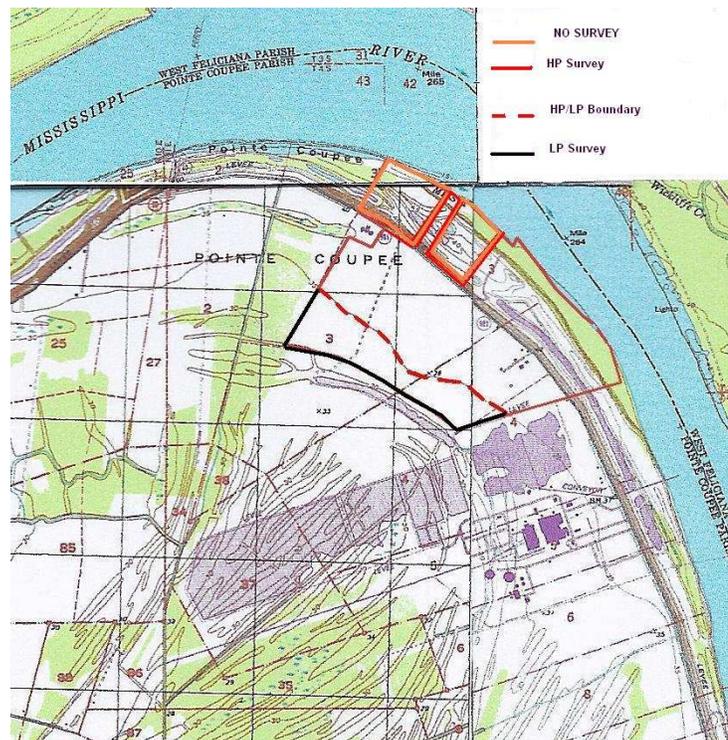


Figure 5. Recommended survey areas.

Laboratory work: Cultural material recovered was taken to the SURA offices for cleaning and analysis.

Curation Statement: 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 at the facility below:

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

CHAPTER SEVEN: RESULTS

Cartographic Research

Historic Mississippi River Commission hydrographic charts were examined and Chart No. 64 (1883) shows what were probably the main house and associated structures of Woodburn Plantation. Another feature is shown in a back field, though resolution of the digital image makes determining what this is difficult (Figure 6).

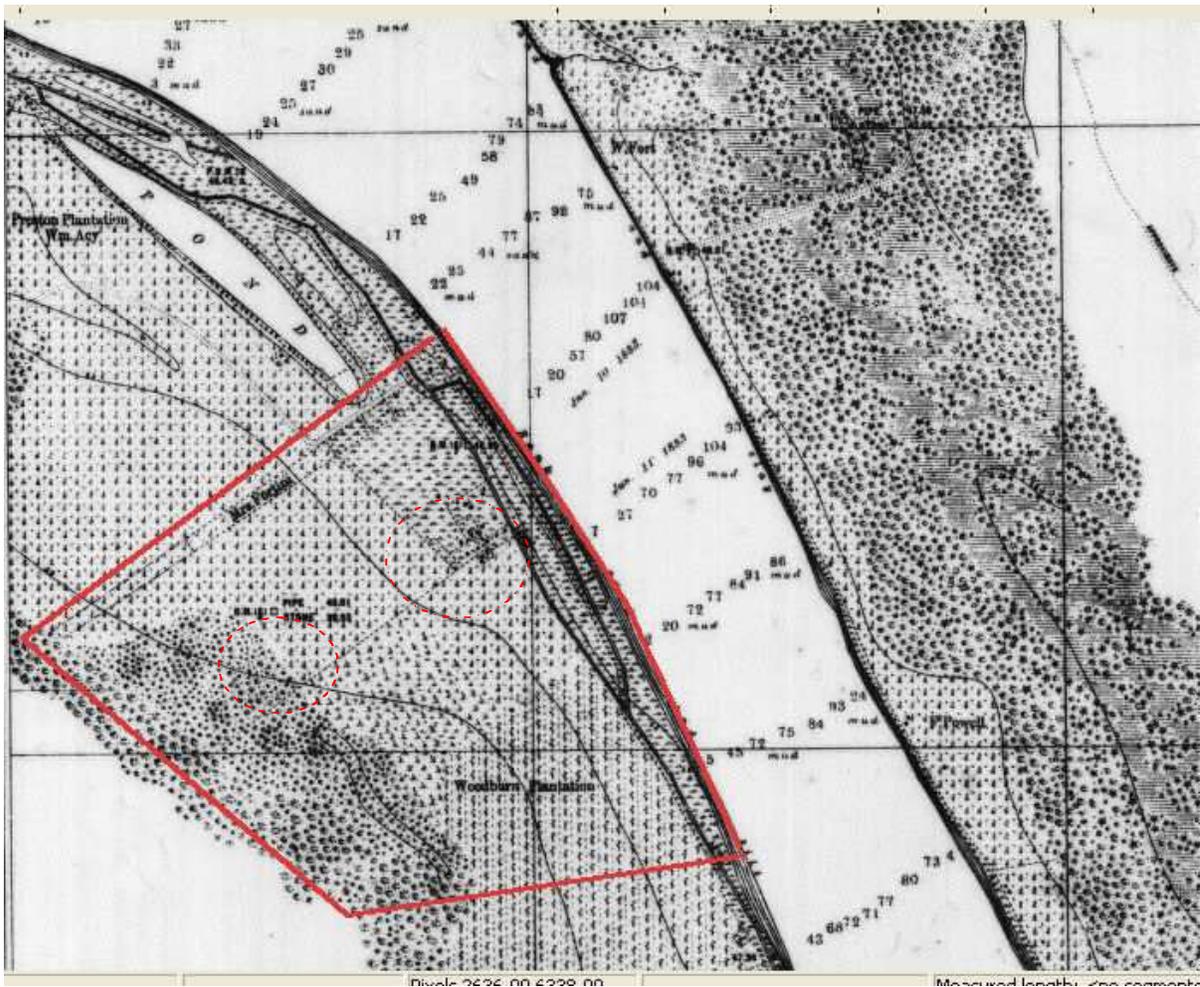


Figure 6. Portion of Mississippi River Commission Chart 64 (1883), showing APE.

The same problems of resolution exist for the 1913 chart (Figure 7), though it would appear there are structures scattered throughout the APE.

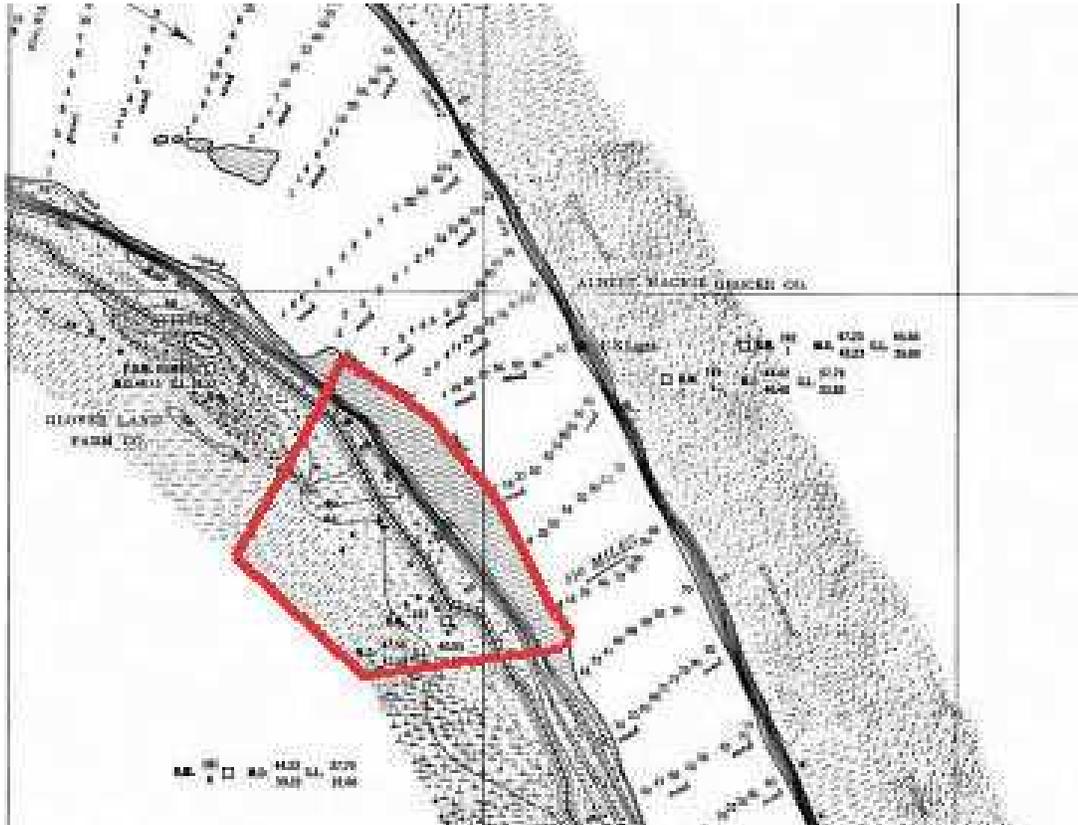


Figure 7. Portion of Mississippi River Commission Chart 64 (1913), showing APE.

The first historic topographic map is the Bayou Sara 1906 1/125,000 (Figure 8). It clearly shows structures at the base of the levee and what is probably the principal house complex of Woodburn Plantation.

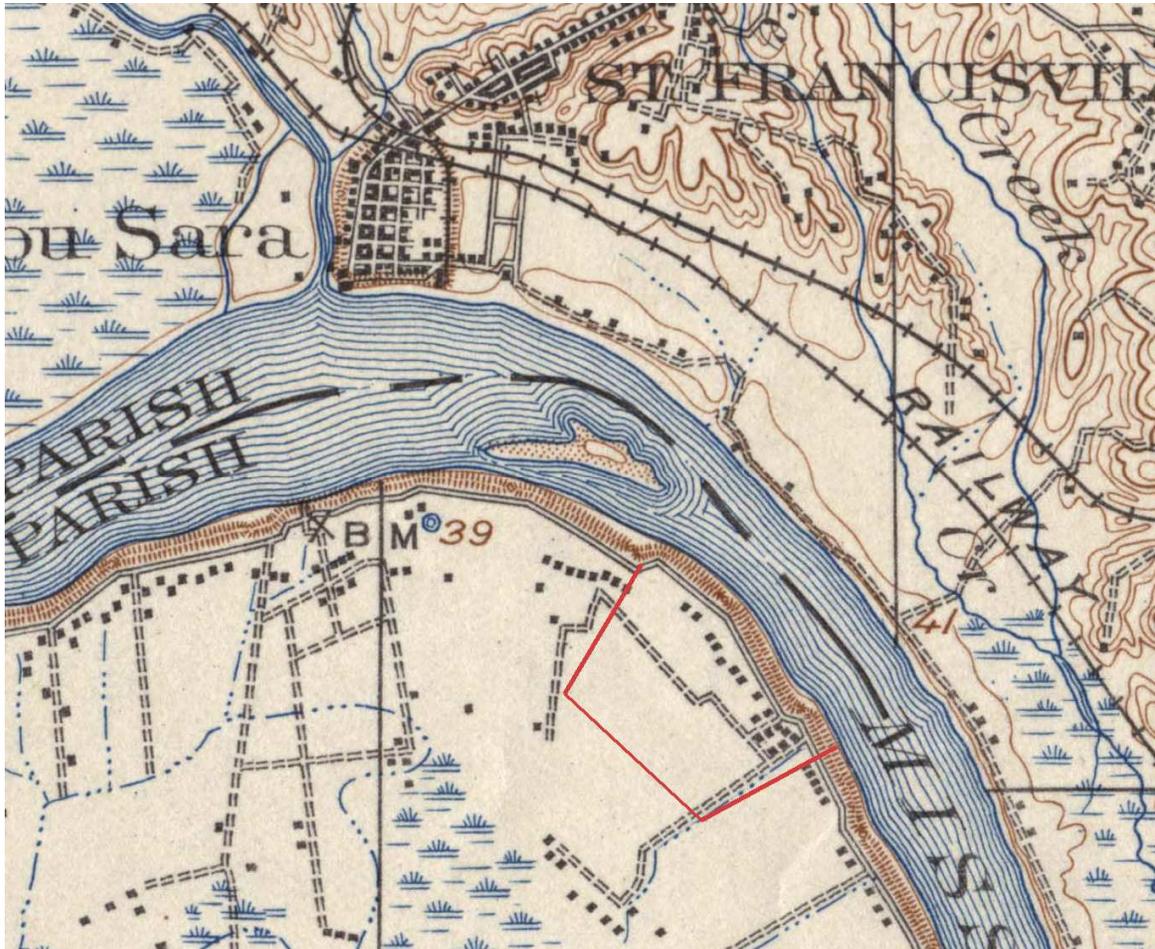


Figure 8. Portion of Bayou Sara, Louisiana, 1906, 1/125,000 topographic map showing APE.

In the next edition of the topographic map series, many of the structures on the previous map have vanished but, for the first (and only) time, a church is shown (Figure 9).

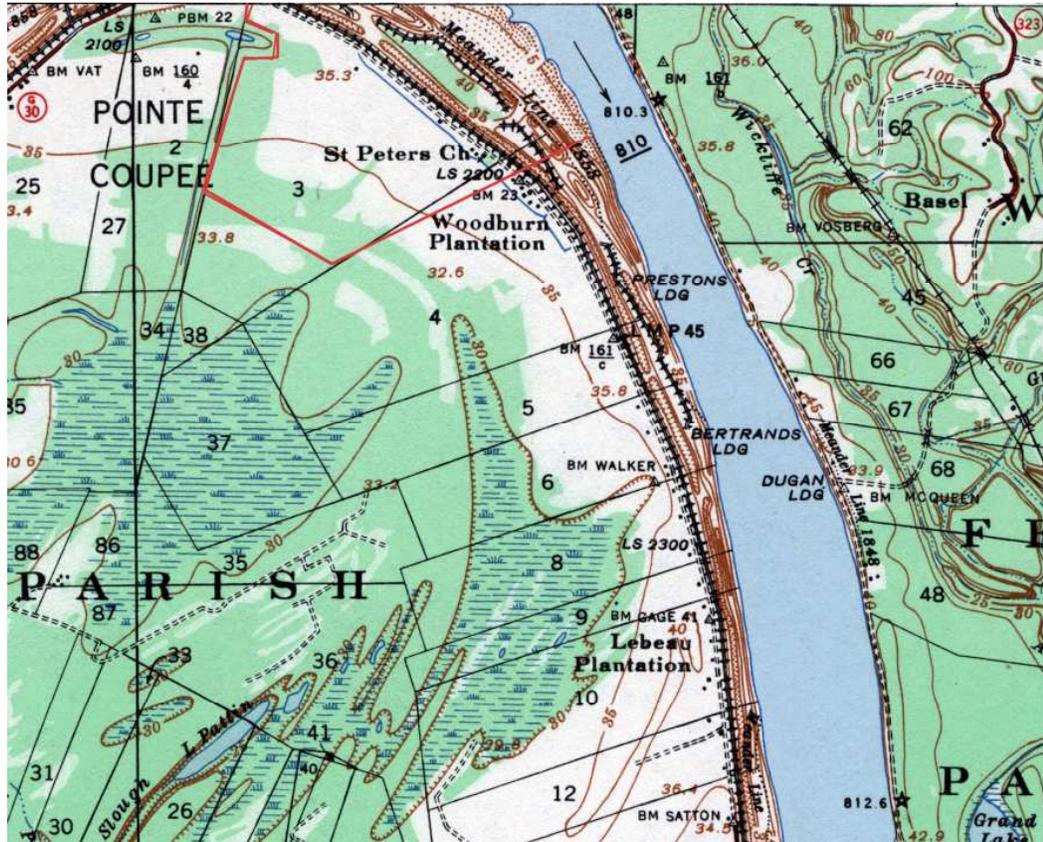


Figure 9. Portion of New Roads, Louisiana, 1939, 15-minute topographic map showing APE and St. Peter's Church.

Thereafter, the topographic maps were issued in 7.5-minute scale, such that a composite of Port Hudson, La. (1963), New Roads, La. (1962), and St. Francisville, La. (1969) is necessary to cover the entire APE (Figure 1).

Fieldwork

The fieldwork consisted of shovel testing along transects, in a soybean field (Figures 10-12).



Figure 10. Figure 9. View of northern portion of APE from levee, facing northwest.



Figure 11. View of central portion of APE from levee, facing west.



Figure 12. View of southern portion of APE from levee, facing southwest.

Figure 13 is an aerial photograph depicting the transects walked and cultural properties identified.



Figure 13. APE, showing transects walked and cultural properties identified, including St. Peter’s AME Church Cemetery (outside of APE) (Source: Google Earth).

The entire APE on the landward side of the levee was surveyed; the few acres on the river side (the batture) were submerged, making survey was impossible.

As a result of the survey, four cultural properties were recorded, three (16PC117, 16PC118 and 16PC119) within the APE, and one, 16PC120, outside the APE. The reason for recording the latter will be discussed later.

16PC117

This site was a scatter of bricks and ceramics in the northwestern part of the APE. The center of the site is at 654794E, 3402293N and figures 14-17 show views from all directions.



Figure 14. View from center of site 16PC117, looking east.



Figure 15. View from center of site 16PC117, looking north.



Figure 16. View from center of site 16PC117, looking south.



Figure 17. View from center of site 16PC117, looking west.

The site consisted of articulated bricks in its center (Figure 18), with brick debris extending along the surface for about 164 ft (50 m) in all directions.



Figure 18. View of articulated brick feature in center of site 16PC117.

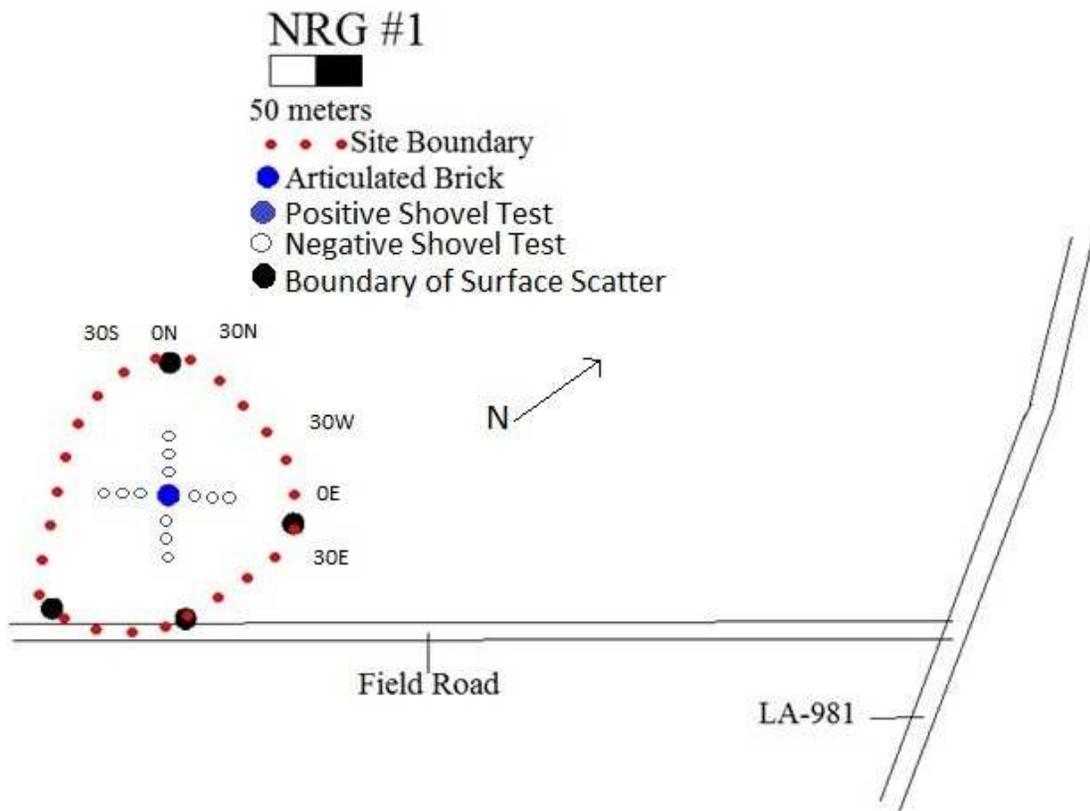


Figure 19. Sketch map of site 16PC117.

Table 2 presents a list of artifacts recovered from this location.

Table 2. Items recovered from 16PC117.

	Surface	TOTAL
Ceramics		
Whiteware		
Plain		
Transfer	1	1
Porcelain		
Plain	1	1
Pearlware		
Plain	1	1
Transfer	2	2
Flow		
Blue	2	2
Annular	2	2
Glass		
Bottle	4	4
Metal		
Spike		
(Iron)	1	1
Brick	1	1
Animal		
Tooth	1	1
TOTAL	16	16

In addition to bricks, bottle glass (Figures 20-22), a piece of plain whiteware, and a sherd of transfer whiteware, there were several types of pearlware (Figures 23-26) and a sherd of plain porcelain (Figure 27). Notably absent or under-represented were artifacts of metal and building materials (e.g., slate) other than brick.



Figure 20. Bottle glass from surface, 16PC117.



Figure 21. Base of possible perfume bottle from surface, 16PC117.



Figure 22. Fragment of hand-blown wine bottle from surface, 16PC117.



Figure 23. Blue transfer-printed pearlware, surface, 16PC117.



Figure 24. Flow-blue pearlware, surface, 16PC117.

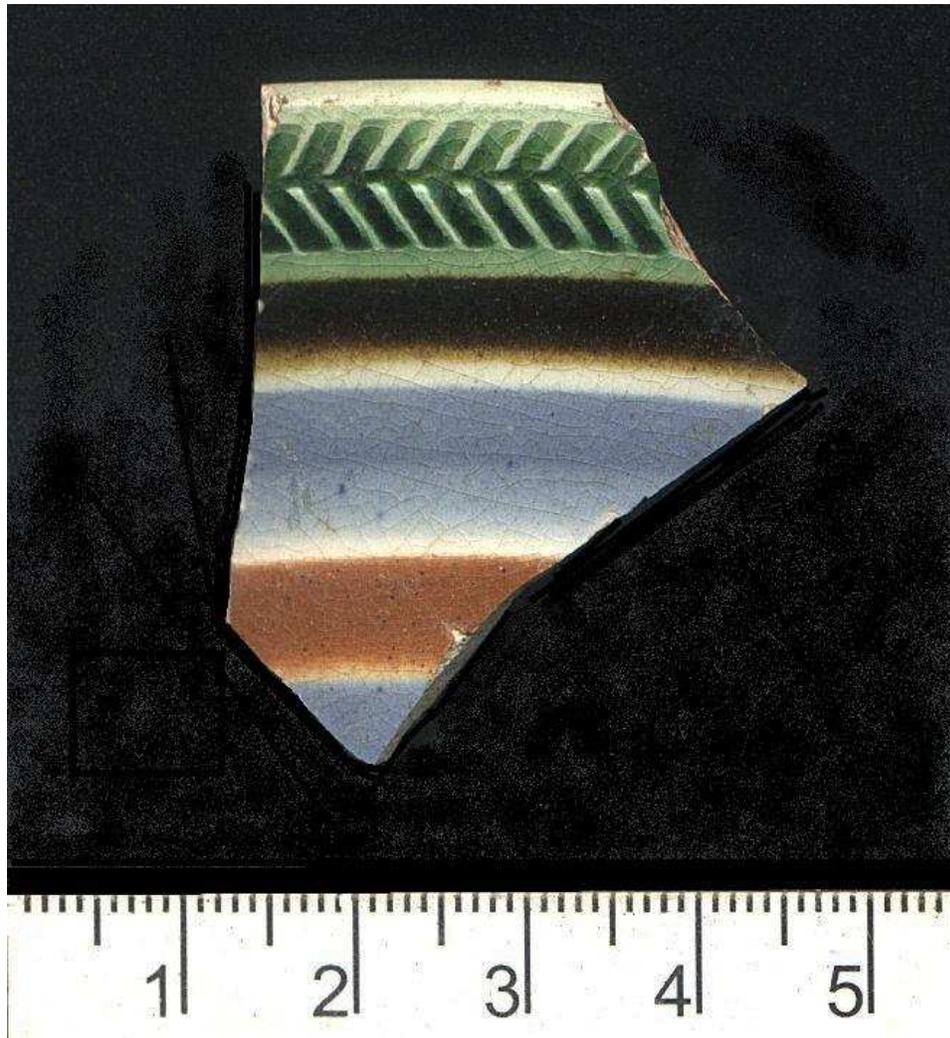


Figure 25. Annular-decorated pearlware, surface, 16PC117.



Figure 26. Annular-decorated pearlware, surface, 16PC117.



Figure 27. Porcelain from surface, 16PC117.

According to the lessee, Damien Glazier, this site represented an “old mill” that had been demolished “fifty to fifty-five years ago.” A call to parish historian Brian Costello elicited the facts that this site probably represented the plantation sugar house, which ceased to function after the First World War.

The artifacts certainly indicate a 19th-century age for this structure. The pearlware is antebellum: annular-decorated and transfer-printed pearlware date 1790-1830 (Hahn and Castille 1988:C-1). Flow-blue, on whiteware, dates 1844-1860 (Hahn and Castille 1988: C-2); presumably, on pearlware, it would date somewhat earlier.

Stratigraphy for this site is presented in Figure 28.

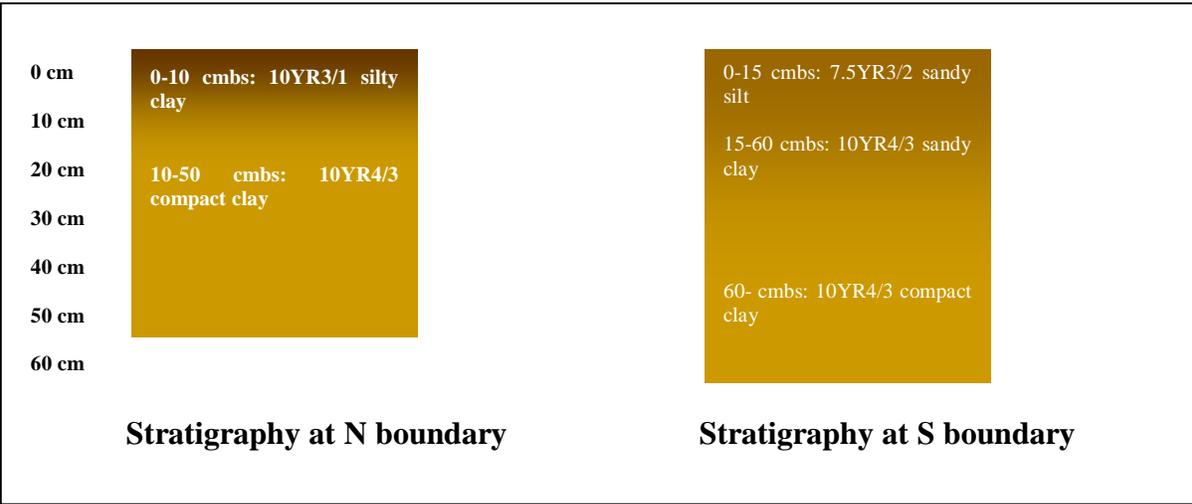


Figure 28. Representative stratigraphy of site 16PC117.

16PC118

This site was found in the southeastern part of the APE, at UTM coordinates 656075E, 3401688N. It consists of a widespread scatter of surface bricks, ceramics and glass in the area where the historic topographic maps show structures, including St. Peter’s Church (Figures 29-32).



Figure 29. Center of site 16PC118, facing NW.



Figure 30. Center of site 16PC118, facing NE.



Figure 31. Center of site 16PC118, facing SE.



Figure 32. Center of site 16PC118, facing SW.

The site covers an area of 188,149 ft² (17,480 m²), or 4.3 ac (1.75 ha). Figure 33 is a sketch map of 16PC118.

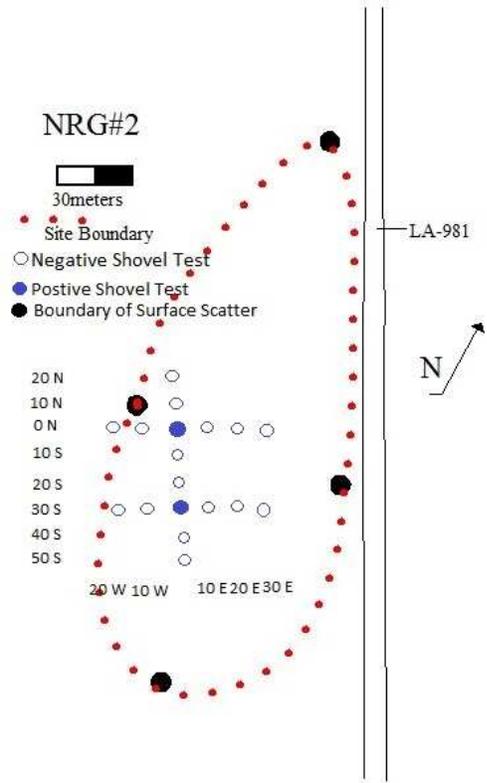


Figure 33. Sketch map of site 16PC118.

Table 3 presents a list of artifacts recovered from this location.

Table 3. Items from 16PC118.

	Surface	T1 S.T. 2	T2 S.T. 2	Totals
Ceramics				
Whiteware				
Plain	48	1	1	50
Decorated				
Transfer	2			2
Hand-painted	3			3
Flow Blue	1			1
Annular	3			3
Mocha				
Design	1			1
Embossed	1			1
Blue Glazed	2			2
Stoneware				
Bristol Glaze	3			3
Salt Glaze	3			3
Generic	6			6
Ironstone Ware				
Maker's Mark	5			5
Other	2			2
Pearl Ware				
Plain	2			2
Decorated				
Banded	5			5
Blue Sponge			1	1
Cream Ware				
Plain	1		1	2
Porcelain				
Yellow ware	2			2
Terra Cotta	1			1
Clay Pipe Stem	1			1

Table 3. Items from 16PC118 (Continued).

	Surface	T1 S.T. 2	T2 S.T. 2	Totals
Glass				
Milk Glass	1			1
Bottle (Curved)	12			12
Button	1			1
Metal				
Iron				
Hook	1			1
Misc.	1			1
Construction Material				
Brick	7	3	3	13
Bone				
Tooth				
Mammal (Bos. Sp.)	1			1
TOTAL	116	4	6	126

Besides bricks, bottle glass (Figures 34-36), milk glass (Figure 37), and plain whiteware (Figure 38), there were numbers of diagnostic ceramics. These included feather- and shell-edged whiteware (Figures 39 and 40, respectively), dating 1830-1860 (Hahn and Castille 1988: C-2); whiteware with flow blue treatment (Figure 41), dating 1844 to 1860 (Hahn and Castille 1988: C-2); whiteware having annular decorations (Figure 42), dating 1830-1860 (Hahn and Castille 1988: C-2); hand-painted whiteware (Figure 43), dating 1840-1860 (Hahn and Castille 1988: C-1); and whiteware with mocha designs (Figure 44). Mocha designs on pearlware span the period from roughly 1785-1815 (Noel-Hume 1969:131) but inasmuch as early whiteware appears in 1825, and annular whiteware, often related in terms of design elements to mocha, extends to 1860 (Hahn and Castille 1988:C-2), we may probably assign a range of about 1825 to 1860 for mocha whiteware.



Figure 34. Glass bottle base, possibly for perfume, surface, 16PC118.



Figure 35. Embossed bottle fragment, surface, 16PC118.



Figure 36. Bottle neck, ca. 1905, surface, 16PC118.



Figure 37. Fragment of milk glass vessel, surface, 16PC118.



Figure 38. Plain whiteware, TR 1, ST2, 16PC118.

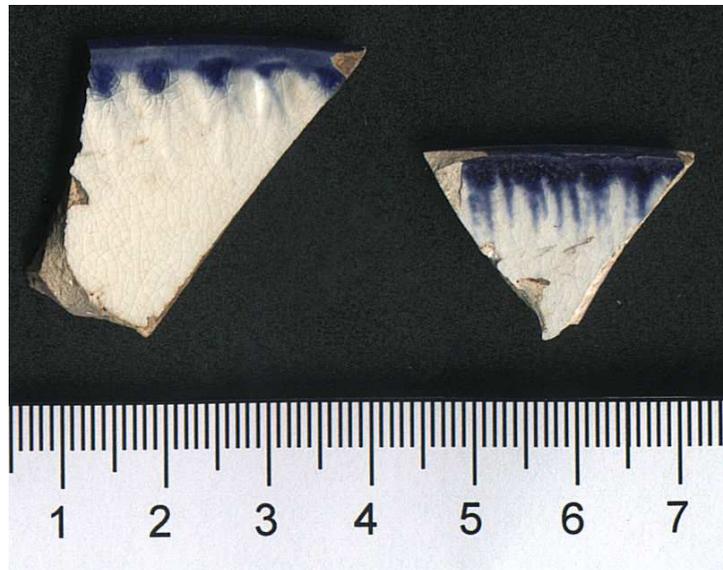


Figure 39. Blue feather-edged whiteware, surface, 16PC118.



Figure 40. Green shell-edged whiteware, surface, 16PC118.



Figure 41. Flow blue decorated whiteware, surface, 16PC118.



Figure 42. Whiteware with blue annular design, surface, 16PC118.



Figure 43. Hand-painted whiteware, surface, 16PC118.



Figure 44. Whiteware with red transfer design, surface, 16PC118.



Figure 45. Whiteware with classic dendritic mocha design, surface, 16PC118.

Pearlware was also well-represented (Figures 46-50), as was stoneware (Figure 51-52), including the ubiquitous ginger beer bottles (Figure 53). There was also a single sherd of what appeared to be creamware (Figure 54).



Figure 46. Pearlware with banded or annular design, surface, 16PC118.



Figure 47. Pearlware with blue sponge treatment, surface, 16PC118.



Figure 48. Pearlware with green and white mocha design, surface, 16PC118.



Figure 49. Pearlware with blue transfer design, surface, 16PC118.



Figure 50. Pearlware with rare red transfer design, surface, 16PC118.



Figure 51. Bristol-glazed stoneware, surface, 16PC118.



Figure 52. Salt-glazed stoneware, surface, 16PC118.



Figure 53. Fragment of stoneware ginger beer bottle, surface, 16PC118.



Figure 54. Sherd of probable creamware, surface, 16PC118.

A small amount of ironstone ware was also present, including several fragments with makers' marks. This includes the fragment depicted in Figure 55, which is J. and G. Meakin, Ltd., ironstone china, manufactured in Hanley, Staffordshire, England, in about 1890 (Kovel and Kovel 1986:11).



Figure 55. Fragment of J & G Meakin, Ltd., ironstone china, surface, 16PC118.

Far less diagnostic is the yellowware collected (Figure 56), which would date from 1830 to 1900, with a median date of 1865 (Hahn and Castille 1988: C-2).



Figure 56. Fragment of yellowware, surface, 16PC118.

One unusual specimen, however, deserves to be mentioned. This is a sherd with a yellow glaze on one side and a flow blue treatment on the other (Figure 57). It is reasonable to assume it dates around 1844-1860, which is when the flow blue treatment was utilized on whiteware.

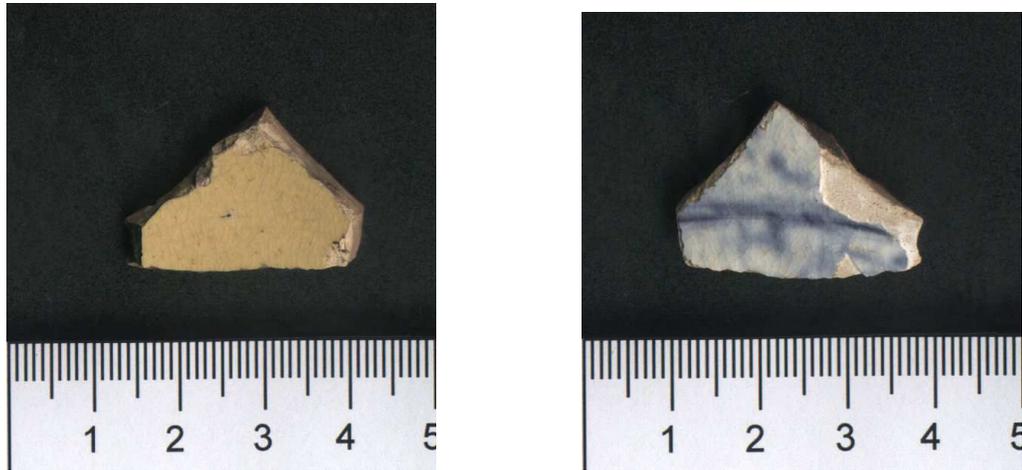


Figure 57. Unusual sherd of yellowware with flow blue treatment on reverse side, surface, 16PC118.

A very small amount of plain porcelain was also found (Figure 58).

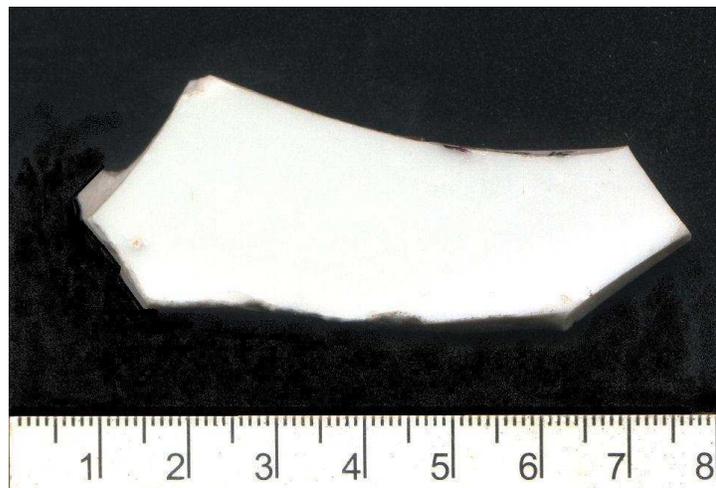


Figure 58. Plain porcelain, surface, 16PC118.

These ceramics, taken as a whole, suggest domestic activities. Other materials from the site reinforce this impression. These include a steel spoon (Figure 59), a glass button (Figure 60) and a clay partial pipe stem (Figure 61).



Figure 59. Steel spoon from surface, 16PC118.



Figure 60. Glass button from surface, 16PC118.

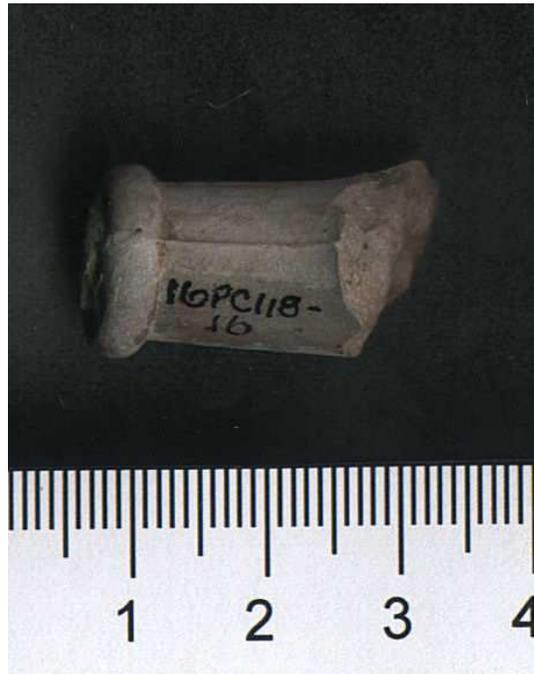


Figure 61. Clay partial pipe stem from surface, 16PC118.

The stratigraphy of this site is represented in Figure 60.

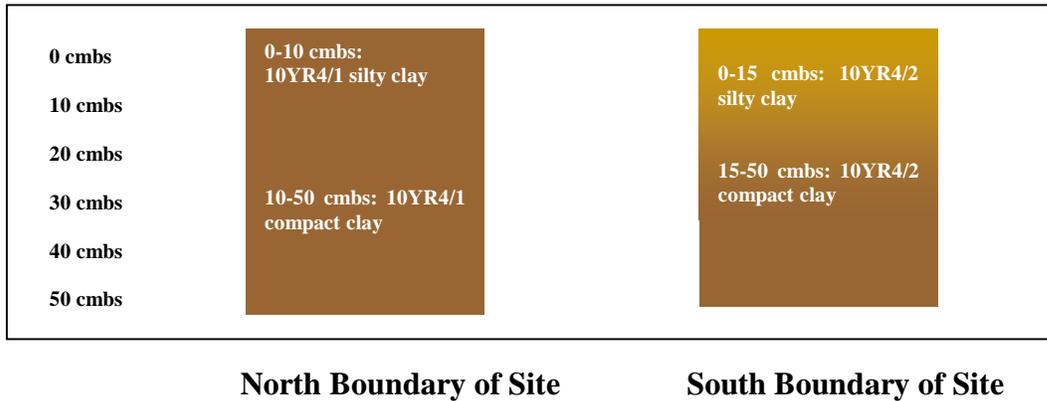


Figure 62. Representative stratigraphy of site 16PC118.

16PC119

This site was found at UTM coordinates 655843E, 3401582N. It consisted of a set of articulated, subsurface bricks in a fallow field, suggesting the presence at one time of a structure at that location. The lateral extent of this feature was 32.8 ft (10 m) perpendicular to the River Road by 13.1 ft (4 m). Views from the center of this feature are provided in figures 63-66.



Figure 63. View of brick feature, 16PC119, facing north.



Figure 64. View of brick feature, 16PC119, facing east.



Figure 65. View of brick feature, 16PC119, facing south.



Figure 66. View of brick feature, 16PC119, facing west.

A map of this feature is given in Figure 67. No artifacts other than brick were noted in connection with this feature but, because it appeared to be a structural foundation, it was given a site number. Representative stratigraphy is presented in Figure 68.

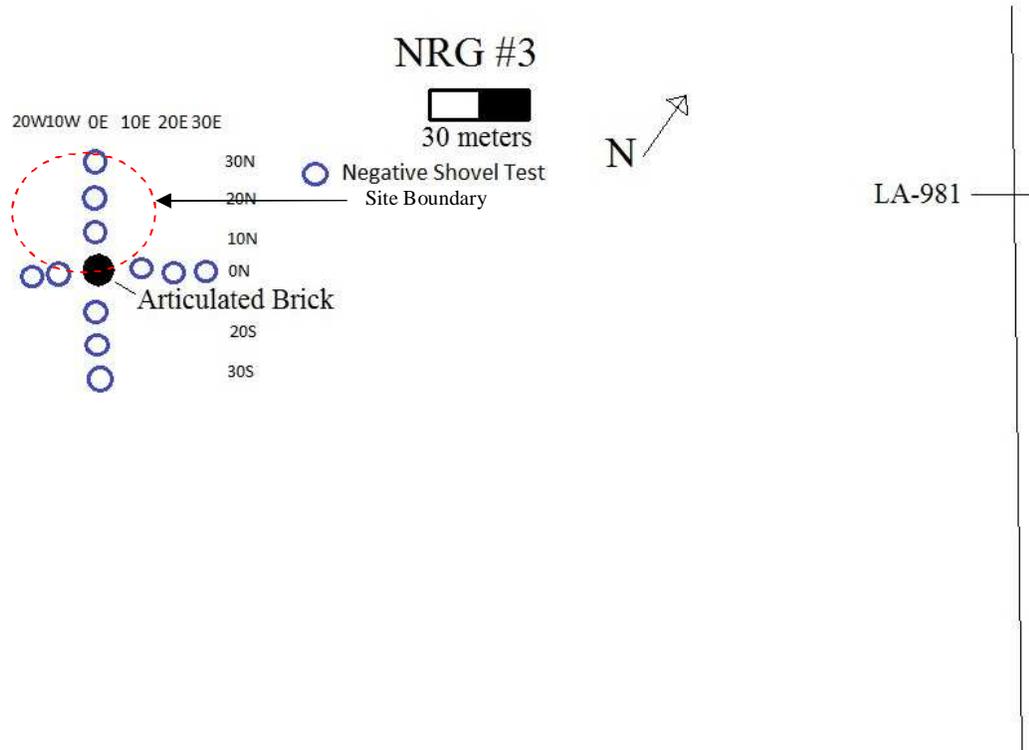


Figure 67. Sketch map of site 16PC119.

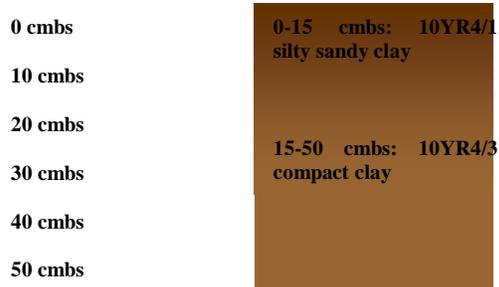


Figure 68. Stratigraphy at 16PC119.

16PC120

This site was not within the APE but was recorded as a site because of its direct relevance to the project. It consists of an historic cemetery within the confines of NRG’s Big Cajun II power plant. Interviews have suggested that this is the cemetery for St. Peter’s Church.

The location of this site is 655874E, 3401140N. It is 20 ft x 20 ft (400 ft²)/ 6.1 m x 6.1 m (37.2 m²) in extent, and is oriented NNW-SSE x NNE x SSW (figure 69). NRG personnel have placed concrete block barriers around the grave markers but there is good reason to believe that burials may extend beyond this circumscribed area.

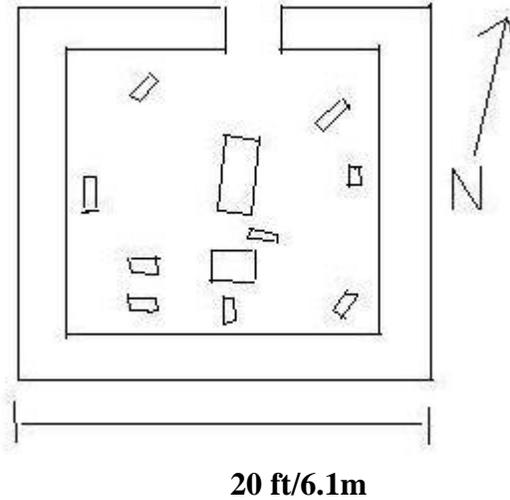


Figure 69. Sketch map of St. Peter Church Cemetery, 16PC120.

This cemetery appears to be previously unreported. It is associated with the St. Peter African Methodist Episcopal Church shown on LA 981 on the 1939 New Roads 15-minute topographic map. The church appears on no other map. According to Brian Costello of New Roads (225-638-9841), St. Peter's Church was founded in the 1830s and is the oldest black congregation in the parish. It was originally in a brush arbor somewhere on the back, wooded part of the property, on a lot deeded to the church by Delphine Fortune, a free woman of color. Later, in the 20th century, the church moved to the River Rd., where the 1939 map shows it, and then, in the 1930s, it moved to New Roads, where it still functions.

Ms. Delphine Bridgewater (809 Morningside Dr., New Roads, La.), a woman in her 60s-70s, visited the cemetery with SURA personnel. She remembered the cemetery and said her great-great grandparents were buried there and about 10-12 members of her family. She said they were members of the St. Peter's Church but that many more people were buried in the cemetery, including some who were not church members, and that the burials probably extend outside the concrete block enclosure NRG has set up. The ground was covered with coal dust when SURA visited and the plant manager refused to allow photographs. A Google Earth aerial view (Figure 70) is given in place of site photographs.



Figure 70. Google Earth image of cemetery at NRG plant, from altitude of 35 ft.

The construction of the plant began in 1976 and the plant went on line in 1980. The plant gave heirs of the cemetery the option of reburial or leaving the burials in place and the cemetery being preserved; the heirs chose the latter option.

The arrangement of grave markers in the enclosure is willy-nilly, with no consistent orientation; the impression is that they have all or almost all been reset. One marker has a simple cross on the concrete facing over the bricks. There are no inscriptions.

While NRG has preserved this site, the probability that graves extend beyond the formal enclosure (according to Ms. Bridgewater) indicates the desirability of monitoring the condition of this location in the future.

Discussion of sites 16PC117, 118, 119 and 120.

According to the *National Register of Historic Places Bulletin 15* (1995), “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*.”

Site 16PC117 was the Woodburn Plantation sugar house. It functioned during the 19th century and up or through WW I. Its remains are indicated by widespread brick debris, some articulated bricks, and 19th-century ceramics.

The age of the materials found meet the 50-year criterion for NRHP consideration. The fact that there are *in situ* remains suggests that this site possesses integrity of location/setting, as well. Criterion D states that those properties are eligible that,

D. That have yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important in history or prehistory” (National Park Service 1995:2).

It is here suggested that further investigation may satisfy Criterion D. Consequently, Site 16PC117 is considered at present to be of unknown NRHP eligibility.

Site 16PC118 covers the area shown on historic maps as being the location of structures, probably houses and St. Peter’s Church. The site is manifested as a widespread scatter of brick rubble and 19th-century ceramics.

One important consideration during the survey was the question of whether, given the location of St. Peter’s Church, a cemetery related to that church might be nearby. At this point, due to informant interviews, it is the feeling of the authors that there is, indeed, a cemetery, but that it is not in the APE and is probably represented by the cemetery on the Big Cajun II property, to be discussed below, as 16PC120.

The age of the materials found meet the 50-year criterion for NRHP consideration. No *in situ* remains were found, such as articulated brick foundations, but this does not mean such do not exist. In view of the ante-bellum nature of many of the ceramics, and the wide lateral area covered by them, it is here suggested that further investigation may show that Criterion D is satisfied. Consequently, this site is considered to at present be of unknown NRHP eligibility.

Site 16PC119 consists only of a small area of articulated brick. Its age cannot be determined at this point and there are no ceramics directly associated with it. Nevertheless, in view of the *in situ* nature of this feature, it appears wise to consider that the feature is of unknown NRHP eligibility, in that further work could show that it qualifies under Criterion D.

Site 16PC120, St. Peter's Cemetery, on the Big Cajun II property, is an early 20th century burial place. Informant interviews indicate that it is almost certainly directly related to the inhabitants of the structures represented by 16PC118—persons who also almost certainly worked at the plantation sugar mill (16PC117). This cemetery may in fact extend laterally beyond the small (20 ft x 20 ft/6.1 m x 6.1 m) area formally allocated to it by NRG.

According to NRHP Bulletin 15, a cemetery may be eligible for the NRHP if it is “associated with historic events including specific important events or general events that illustrate broad patterns” (NRHP 1995:35). As an illustration the booklet gives as eligible,

A cemetery associated with the settlement of an area by an ethnic or cultural group...if the movement of the group into the area had an important impact, if other properties associated with that group are rare, and if few documentary sources have survived to provide information about the group's history (NRHP 1995:35).

In this case, the ethnic/cultural group would be African-Americans who settled Woodburn plantation, and founded St. Peter's Church. Their history shows the importance of free persons of color (Delphine Fortune) and their relationships with the enslaved community and their heirs. There are no gravestone inscriptions and insufficient written records exist to document who is interred in the cemetery beyond those persons belonging to Delphine Bridgewater's family. It is possible that the cemetery could extend to the antebellum period. For these reasons, it is felt that a case could be made for this site's eligibility under Criterion D.

CHAPTER EIGHT: CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

SURA, Inc., conducted a survey of a 640 acre (259 hectare) tract on the right descending bank of the Mississippi River, near New Roads, Pointe Coupee Parish, Louisiana. This area will be certified for industrial development. It lies in Section 3, T 4 S, R 11 E (Figure 1). The project area will be referred to herein as the Area of Potential Effects (APE).

The survey recorded three archaeological sites in the APE and one, a cemetery, outside the APE.

The first site, 16PC117, consists of the remains of the old sugar mill for Woodburn Plantation. It contains in situ bricks and 19th-century ceramics. It is suggested that it may qualify for the NRHP under Criterion D.

The second site, 16PC118, consists of a wide-spread scatter of brick and 19th-century ceramics just off the River Road. It probably represents the remains of dwellings and perhaps St. Peter's Church, dating from the first half of the 20th century. It is suggested that, due to its extent and the 19th-century ceramics it contains, this site may qualify for the NRHP under Criterion D.

The third site, 16PC119, consists of only a small area of *in situ* in a field. It is suggested that, due to the fact that these bricks are articulated and may represent a structural foundation, the site may qualify for the NRHP under Criterion D.

The fourth site, 16PC120, is not in the APE but is an historic cemetery almost certainly related to the people who lived in the structures represented by 16PC119. Due to the fact that it may be "associated with historic events including specific important events or general events that illustrate broad patterns" (NRHP 1995:35) and thus may qualify for the NRHP under Criterion D.

Recommendations

It is recommended that sites 16PC117, 16PC118, and 16PC119, either be avoided or undergo Phase II testing to determine their eligibility for the NRHP.

Site 16PC120, a cemetery, should be avoided, as should a buffer of 50 ft (15.3 m) in all directions of its present boundaries. It is highly probable that this cemetery is the cemetery related to St. Peter's Church and that there is no other such cemetery near the former location of the church, within the APE.

It is also recommended that all other parts of the APE be cleared for development without further archaeological work.

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