CULTURAL RESOURCES SURVEY OF THE VARNVILLE 115kV TRANSMISSION PROJECT, HAMPTON COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA

CHICORA RESEARCH CONTRIBUTION 463

CULTURAL RESOURCES SURVEY OF THE VARNVILLE 115kV TRANSMISSION PROJECT, HAMPTON COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA

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ABSTRACT

This study reports on an intensive cultural resources survey of an approximately 7.2 mile corridor and substation lot in Hampton County, South Carolina. The work was conducted to assist Central Electric Power Cooperative comply with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and the regulations codified in 36CFR800.

The corridor and lot is to be used by Central Electric Power Cooperative for the construction of a transmission line and substation. The transmission line will connect an existing transmission line to the new substation. The topography is low and flat with wetlands consuming much of the property.

The proposed route will require the clearing of the corridor, followed by construction of the proposed transmission line and substation. These activities have the potential to affect archaeological and historical sites that may be in the project corridor or lot. For this study an area of potential effect (APE) 0.5 mile around the proposed transmission project was assumed.

An investigation of the archaeological site files at the S.C. Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology failed to identify any previously recorded sites in the project APE.

The S.C. Department of Archives and History GIS was consulted for any previously recorded sites. No sites were found. In addition, a 1986 SHPO reconnaissance survey for Hampton County was consulted, however no sites were recorded in the project APE.

The archaeological survey of the corridor incorporated shovel testing at 100-foot intervals along the center line of the 75-foot right-of-way, which was marked by stakes. No testing was performed in the substation lot because it had been fenced and locked, but several tests were performed around the outside of the fence. These tests were negative. All shovel test fill was screened through ¼-inch mesh with a total of 380 shovel tests excavated along the corridor and four shovel tests around the substation lot.

As a result of these investigations no sites were identified. This is likely the result of very poorly drained soils and the lack of distinct ridge tops.

A survey of public roads within a 0.5 mile of the proposed undertaking was conducted in an effort to identify any architectural sites over 50 years old which also retained their integrity. One resource, the Varnville Fire Tower, 0045, was recorded within the APE. The tower is recommended potentially eligible for the National Register. We do not, however, anticipate that the tower will be adversely affected by the project.

Finally, it is possible that archaeological remains may be encountered in the project area during clearing activities. Crews should be advised to report any discoveries of concentrations of artifacts (such as bottles, ceramics, or projectile points) or brick rubble to the project engineer, who should in turn report the material to the State Historic Preservation Office or to Chicora Foundation (the process of dealing with late discoveries is discussed in 36CFR800.13(b)(3)). No construction should take place in the vicinity of these late discoveries until they have been examined by an archaeologist and, if necessary, have been processed according to 36CFR800.13(b)(3).

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INTRODUCTION

This investigation was conducted by Dr. Michael Trinkley of Chicora Foundation, Inc. for Mr. Tommy L. Jackson of Central Electric Power Cooperative. The work was conducted to assist Central Electric Power Cooperative comply with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and the regulations codified in 36CFR800.

The project site consists of a 7.2 mile corridor and substation lot to be used for a transmission line and transmission substation in northeastern Hampton County (Figure 1). The project runs approximately north-south between S-14 where the proposed substation is situated and an existing transmission line (Figure 2).

The proposed corridor, as previously mentioned, is intended to be used as a transmission line. Landscape alteration, primarily clearing, and construction, including erection of poles, will damage the ground surface and any archaeological resources that may be present in the survey area.

Construction and maintenance of the transmission line may also have an impact on historic resources in the project area. The project will not directly affect any historic structures (since none are located on the survey corridor or lot), but the completed facility may detract from the visual integrity of historic properties, creating what many consider discordant surroundings. As a result, this architectural survey uses an area of potential effect (APE) about 0.5 mile radius around the proposed survey corridor.

This study, however, does not consider any future secondary impact of the project, including increased or expanded development of this portion of Hampton County.

We were requested by Mr. Tommy L. Jackson of Central Electric Power Cooperative to conduct a cultural resources survey for the project on November 2, 2006.

These investigations incorporated a review of the site files at the South Carolina Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology. As a result of that work, no archaeological sites were found within a 0.5 mile area of potential effect (APE).

The South Carolina Department of Archives and History GIS was consulted to check for any NRHP buildings, districts, structures, sites, or objects in the study area. No such sites were found. A 1986 reconnaissance survey performed by the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) was also consulted, but no properties were found near the project area.

Archival and historical research was limited to a review of secondary sources available in the Chicora Foundation files.

The archaeological survey was conducted from December 11-13, 2006 by Ms. Nicole Southerland and Ms. Julie Poppell under the direction of Dr. Michael Trinkley and failed to identify any archaeological sites.

The architectural survey of the APE, designed to identify any structures over 50 years in age that retain their integrity and were potentially eligible for the National Register of Historic Places revealed one structure – the Varnville Fire Tower (0045). It is recommended potentially eligible for the National Register. More historic research is needed to determine eligibility. Regardless, we do not anticipate that the project will adversely affect this resource.

Report production was conducted at

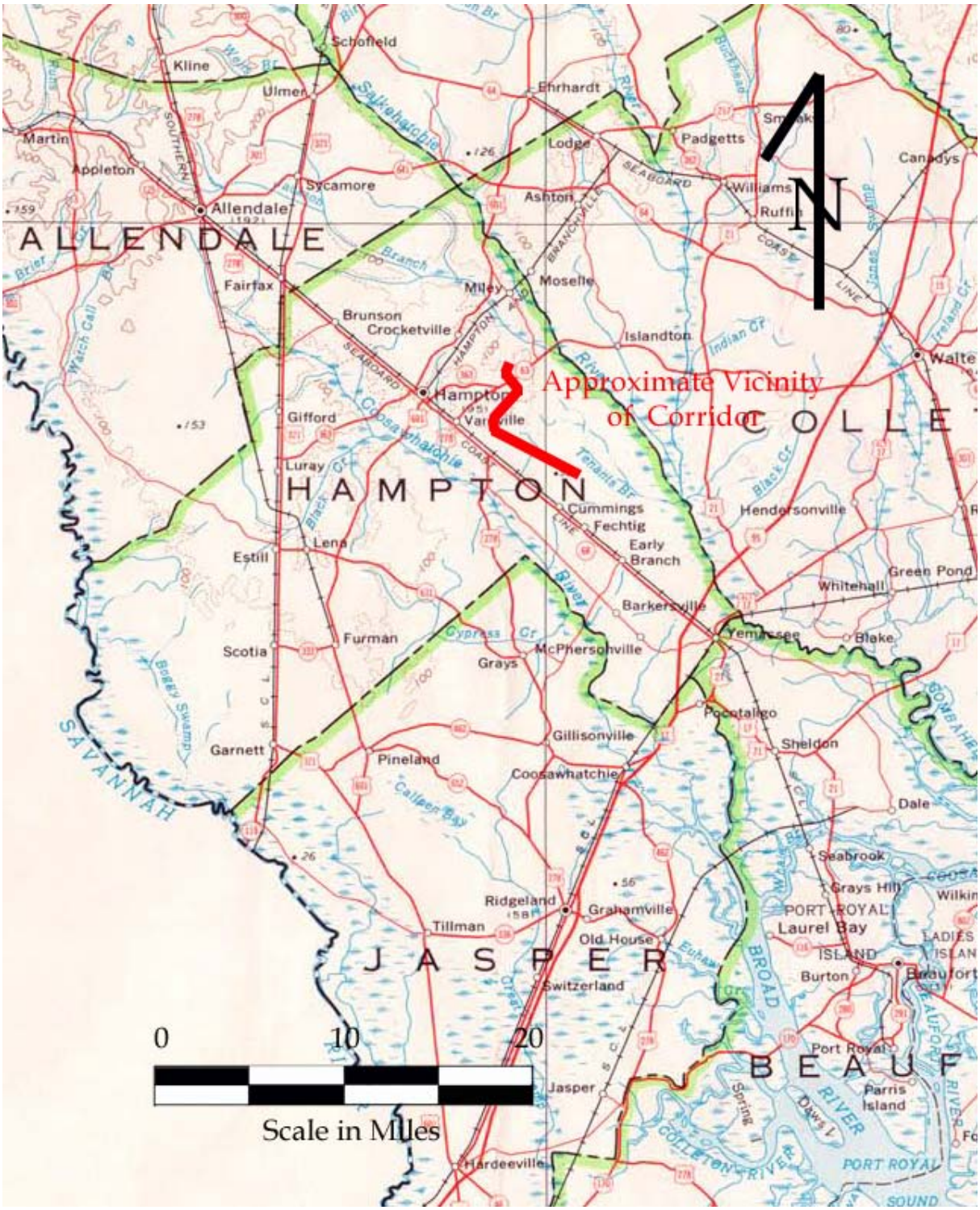

Figure 1. Project vicinity in Hampton County (basemap is USGS South Carolina 1:500,000).

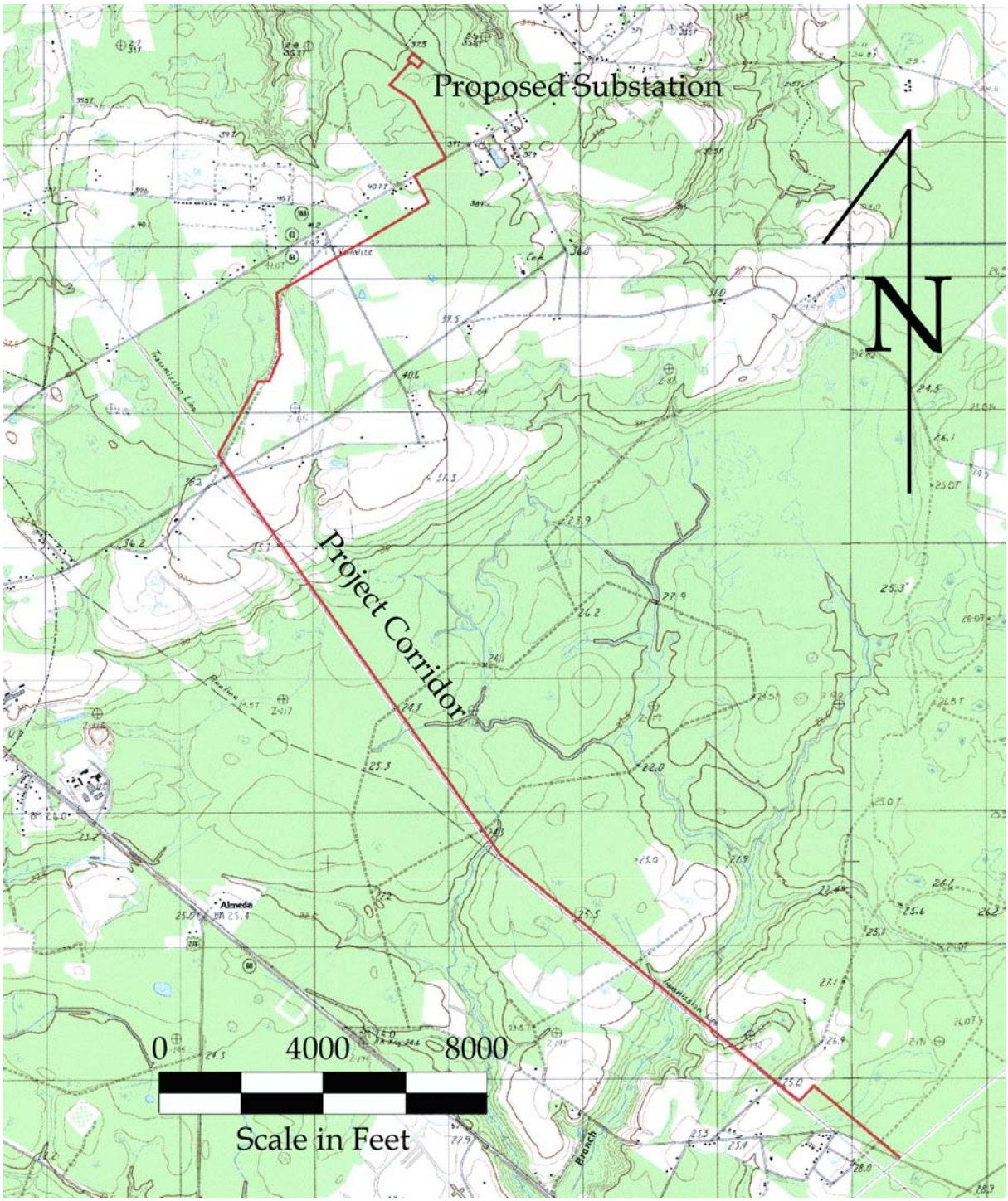

Figure 2. Project corridor and proposed substation (basemap is USGS Crocketville, Isandton, Hampton, and Cummings 7.5′).

Chicora's laboratories in Columbia, South Carolina from December 18-20, 2006. The only photographic materials associated with this project are digital images, which are not archival and will be retained for only 90 days.

NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

Physiography

Hampton County is located in the lower Atlantic Coastal Plain of South Carolina and is bounded to the west and southwest by the Savannah River, to the east by Colleton County, to the north by Allendale County, and to the south by Jasper and Beaufort counties. The eastern border follows the Salkehatchie and Combahee rivers as they flow southeastward into the Atlantic. The county primarily consists of nearly level lowlands and low ridges. Elevations range from about sea level to about 150 feet above mean sea level (AMSL) (Eppinette 1995:1).

The county is drained by two significant river systems. The Savannah River at the western edge of the county has a significant fresh water discharge, while the Salkehatchie, which turns into the Combahee River to the east, flows to the Atlantic Ocean. Because of the low topography of the Hampton area, there are many low-gradient interior drains that are present either as extensions of tidal streams and rivers or as flooded bays and swales.

Figure 3. View of planted pines along the corridor.

The topography along the corridor ranges from about 60 feet AMSL at Camp Branch to about 140 feet AMSL at the northern portion of the corridor.

Climate

The major climatic controls of the area are latitude, elevation, distance from the ocean, and location with respect to the average tracks of migratory cyclones. As a result, there are relatively short, mild winters and long, warm, humid summers. The large amount of nearby warm ocean water surface produces a maritime climate, which tends to moderate both the cold and hot weather. The Appalachian Mountains, about 220 miles to the northwest, block shallow cold air masses from the northwest, moderating them before they reach the sea islands (Landers 1970:2-3; Mathews et al. 1980:46).

Maximum daily temperatures in the summer tend to be near or above 91°F and the minimum daily temperatures tend to be about 68°F. The abundant supply of warm, moist and relatively unstable air produces frequent scattered showers and thunderstorms in the summer. Winter has average daily maximum and minimum temperatures of 63°F and 37°F respectively. The total annual precipitation for Hampton County is 48 inches and snow is uncommon (Eppinette 1995:2)

Table 1.
Soils found along the corridor

Soils	% of Corridor
Somewhat Excessively Drained	
Blanton fine sand	37.0
Foxworth fine sand	0.9
Well Drained	
Bonneau fine sand	0.9
Noboco loamy sand	2.8
Moderately Well Drained	
Chipley fine sand	3.7
Echaw sand	0.9
Goldsboro loamy sand	12.0
Somewhat Poorly Drained	
Lynchburg loamy fine sand	16.0
Ocilla fine sand	4.0
Seagate sand	1.8
Poorly Drained	
Osier loamy sand	0.5
Pelham loamy sand	2.8
Plummer loamy fine sand	3.7
Rains fine sandy loam	8.8
Very Poorly Drained	
Pantego loam, ponded	1.4
Rutlege loamy fine sand	2.8

This mild climate, as Hilliard (1984:13) notes, is largely responsible for the presence of many southern crops, such as cotton and sugar cane. Soybeans are now the major crop for the county.

Geology and Soils

The coastal region is covered in sands and clays originally derived from the Appalachian Mountains and which are organized into coastal, fluvial, and aeolian deposits. These were transported to the coast during the Quaternary period and were deposited on bedrock of the Mesozoic Era and Tertiary period. These sedimentary bedrock formations are only occasionally exposed on the coast, although they frequently outcrop along the fall line (Mathews et al. 1980:2).

The Pleistocene sediments are organized into topographically distinct, but lithologically similar terraces parallel to the coast. These terraces have elevations ranging from 215 feet down to sea level. The terraces, representing previous sea floors, were apparently formed at high stands of the fluctuating, though falling, Atlantic Ocean and consist chiefly of sand and clay (Cooke 1936). More recently, research by Colquhoun (1969) has refined the theory of formation processes, suggesting a more complex origin involving both erosional and depositional processes operating during marine transgressions and regression.

The project area is in what Cooke (1936) describes as the Sunderland terrace. This is an area about 170 feet above the present sea level.

The survey corridor includes areas with sixteen different soils represented (Eppinette 1995). Table 1 summarizes each soil found along the corridor.

Two somewhat excessively drained soils are found along the corridor, which are the most common soils found along the corridor. Blanton soils have an Ap horizon of pale brown (10YR6/3) fine sand to a depth of 0.6 foot over a very pale brown (10YR7/4) fine sand to a depth of 2.9 feet. Foxworth soils have an A horizon of grayish brown (10YR5/2) fine sand to 0.7 foot in depth over a yellow (10YR7/6) fine sand to 1.9 feet in depth.

Two well drained soils (Bonneau and Noboco) and three moderately well drained soils (Chipley, Echaw, and Goldsboro) were also found along the corridor, accounting for just over 20% of the corridor. Bonneau soils have an Ap horizon of dark grayish brown (10YR4/2) fine sand to 0.8 foot in depth over a very pale brown (10YR7/4) fine sand to 2.1 feet in depth. Noboco soils have an Ap horizon of grayish brown (10YR5/2) loamy sand to 0.8 foot in depth over a pale brown (10YR6/3) loamy sand to just over 1.0 foot in

Figure 4. View of pasture along the corridor.

depth.

The Chipley Series has soils with an Ap horizon of grayish brown (10YR5/2) fine sand to 0.8 foot in depth over a yellow (10YR7/6) fine sand to 2.0 feet in depth. Echaw soils have an Ap horizon of very dark grayish brown (10YR3/2) sand to 0.8 foot in depth over a light yellowish brown (10YR6/4) sand to a depth of just over 2.0 feet. Goldsboro soils have an Ap horizon of dark gray (10YR4/1) loamy sand to 0.8 foot in depth over a very pale brown (10YR7/4) loamy sand to 1.3 feet in depth.

Of the somewhat poorly drained soils, the Lychburg Series has an Ap horizon of dark gray (10YR4/1) loamy fine sand to 0.8 foot in depth over a very pale brown (10YR7/3) loamy fine sand to 1.3 feet in depth. Ocilla soils have an Ap horizon of gray (10YR5/1) fine sand to 0.5 foot in depth over a grayish brown (10YR5/2) fine sand to 1.0 foot in depth. Seagate soils have an Ap horizon of dark gray (10YR4/1) sand to just over 1.0 foot in depth over a dark reddish brown (5YR3/2) loamy sand to 1.6 feet in depth.

Poorly drained and very poorly drained soils account for 20% of the total corridor. Osier soils have an A horizon of very dark gray (10YR3/1) loamy sand to 0.5 foot over a light gray (10YR7/2) sand to 1.6 feet in depth. Pelham soils have an A horizon of very dark gray (10YR3/1) loamy sand to 0.5 foot in depth over a dark grayish brown (10YR4/2) loamy sand to 1.2 feet in depth. The Plummer Series has an A horizon of black (10YR2/1) loamy fine sand to 0.5 foot in depth over a grayish brown (10YR5/2) loamy fine sand to just under 1.0 foot in depth. Rains soils have an A horizon of very dark gray (10YR3/1) fine sandy loam to 0.5 foot in depth over a light gray (10YR7/2) fine sandy loam to 0.8 foot in depth.

For the very poorly drained soils, the Pantego Series has an A horizon of black (10YR2/1) loam to a depth of 1.0 feet over a very dark gray (10YR3/1) loam to 1.6 feet in depth. Rutledge soils have an A horizon of black (10YR2/1) loamy fine sand to 0.5 foot in depth over a black (10YR2/1) loamy fine sand to just over 1.0 foot in depth.

Floristics

The upland community includes a considerable range of vegetation types: old fields, pine forests, pine-mixed hardwoods, and hardwood stands. In the study area we found areas of current or recent agriculture, giving rise to old field communities, as well as both planted pines and also pine-mixed hardwood second growth areas. All are related by the effects of human intervention on the natural ecology of the area.

Originally most of the corridor was likely dominated by mixed hardwoods, particularly live oak and palmetto on the higher soils. These areas would likely have been somewhat similar to

maritime forests. On the lower inland soils there were likely areas of what today are called "Florida Scrub" pine flatwoods which often have slight depressions and ridges characterized by a dense woody pocosin understory. There would also have been some limited areas of wetland swamps with tupelo, bay, and ash. There would likely have been some areas of upland mesic hardwoods, also known as "oak-hickory forests" (Braun 1950). These forests contain significant quantities of mockernut hickory as well as pignut hickory, both economically significant to the aboriginal inhabitants. Other areas are more likely to be classified as Braun's (1950:284-289) pine or pine-oak forest communities. Wenger (1968) notes that the presence of loblolly and shortleaf pines is common on coastal plain sites where they are a significant sub-climax aspect of the plan succession toward a hardwood climax. Longleaf pine forests were likewise a common sight (Croker 1979).

Robert Mills, discussing Beaufort District in the early nineteenth century (which at the time included Hampton), stated:

> besides a fine growth of pine, we have the cypress, red cedar, and live oak . . . white oak, red oak, and several other oaks, hickory, plum, palmetto, magnolia, poplar, beech, birch, ash, dogwood, black mulberry, etc. Of fruit trees we have the orange, sweet and sour, peach, nectarine, fig, cherry (Mills 1972 [1826]:377).

He also cautioned, however, that "some parts of the district are beginning already to experience a want of timber, even for common purposes" (Mills 1972 [1826]:383) and suggested that at least 25% of a plantation's acreage should be reserved for woods.

PREHISTORIC AND HISTORIC SYNOPSIS

Previous Research

Hampton County has received very little archaeological attention. In Derting et al. (1991) only 17 projects are cited – the majority being compliance surveys.

Even within the State Historic Preservation Office Finding Aid, only two cultural resource projects are reported showing the lack of research for the county. One more recent project includes the survey of a natural gas pipeline, which runs through four counties, including Hampton (Baluha et al. 2001).

A survey searching for Civil War Fortifications along the coast included Hampton County (Trinkley and Fick 2000). Only one fortification, the Pocotaligo Earthworks, was identified on historic maps, however, this site was not located in the field. In addition, the site is located on the border with Beaufort County, leaving the bulk of Hampton County ignored by the war.

Prehistoric Overview

The Paleoindian period, lasting from 12,000 to perhaps 8,000 B.C., is evidenced by basally thinned, side-notched projectile points; fluted, lanceolate projectile points; side scrapers; end scrapers; and drills (Coe 1964; Michie 1977; Williams 1968). The Paleoindian occupation, while widespread, does not appear to have been intensive. Points usually associated with this period include the Clovis and several variants, Suwannee, Simpson, and Dalton (Goodyear et al. 1989:36-38).

Several Paleoindian points have been found in nearby Jasper County, with the earliest reported find perhaps being the point identified by Waring (Williams 1968:241) from a clay knoll overlooking the Coosawhatchie. Additional points continue to be documented from the area, although the density appears fairly low (Anderson et al. 1992). The pattern of artifacts found along major river drainages has been interpreted by Michie to support the concept of an economy "oriented towards the exploitation of now extinct megafauna" (Michie 1977:124).

Unfortunately, little is known about Paleoindian subsistence strategies, settlement systems, or social organization. Generally, archaeologists agree that the Paleoindian groups were at a band level of society, were nomadic, and were both hunters and foragers. While population density, based on the isolated finds, is thought to have been low, Walthall suggests that toward the end of the period, "there was an increase in population density and in territoriality and that a number of new resource areas were beginning to be exploited" (Walthall 1980:30).

The Archaic period, which dates from 8000 to 1000 B.C., does not form a sharp break with the Paleoindian period, but is a slow transition characterized by a modern climate and an increase in the diversity of material culture. The chronology established by Coe (1964) for the North Carolina Piedmont may be applied with little modification to the South Carolina coastal plain and piedmont. Archaic period assemblages, characterized by corner-notched, side-notched, and broad stemmed projectile points, are common in the vicinity, although they rarely are found in good, well-preserved contexts.

The Woodland period begins, by definition, with the introduction of fired clay pottery about 2000 B.C. along the South Carolina coast, about 1000 B.C. in the Upper Coastal Plain, and much later in the Carolina Piedmont, perhaps

500 B.C. It should be noted that many researchers call the period from about 2500 to 1000 B.C. the Late Archaic because of a perceived continuation of the Archaic lifestyle in spite of the manufacture of pottery. Regardless of terminology, the period from 2000 to 500 B.C. was a period of tremendous change.

The subsistence economy during this early period was based primarily on deer hunting and fishing, with supplemental inclusions of small mammals, birds, reptiles, and shellfish. Various calculations of the probable yield of deer, fish, and other food sources identified from some coastal sites indicate that sedentary life was not only possible, but probable. Further inland it seems likely that many Native American groups continued the previous established patterns of band mobility. These frequent moves would allow the groups to take advantage of various seasonal resources, such as shad and sturgeon in the spring, nut masts in the fall, and turkeys

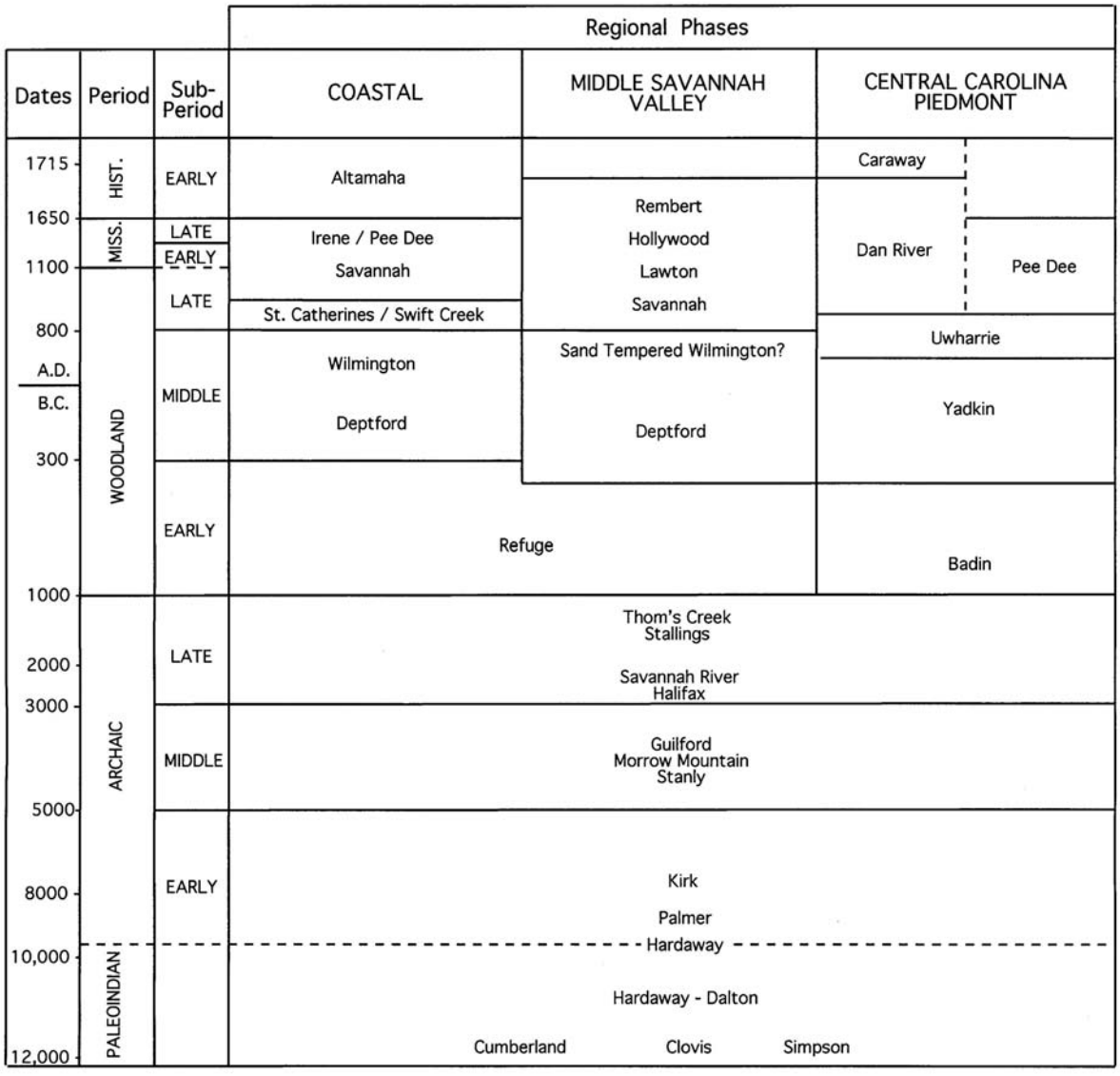

Figure 5. Generalized cultural sequence for South Carolina.

during the winter.

The South Appalachian Mississippian period, from about A.D. 1100 to A.D. 1640 is the most elaborate level of culture attained by the native inhabitants and is followed by cultural disintegration brought about largely by European disease. The period is characterized by complicated stamped pottery, complex social organization, agriculture, and the construction of temple mounds and ceremonial centers. The earliest coastal phases are named the Savannah and Irene (Known as Pee Dee further inland) (A.D. 1200 to 1550).

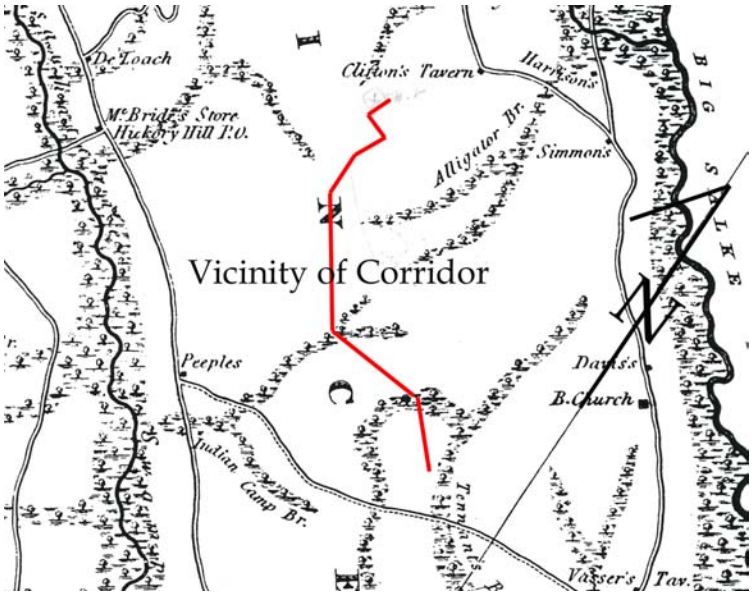

Figure 6. Portion of Mills' *Atlas* showing the project vicinity.

Historic Overview

Hampton County was not created until 1878, so the area has gone through a variety of political transitions. Initially administered through Charleston, by 1682 legal proceedings were likely handled by either nearby Colleton County and later Granville, although most deeds and other records continued to be filed in Charleston. By 1767 it was largely encompassed in St. Peter's Parish, along with portions in St. Luke's and Prince William's. When South Carolina was divided into circuit court districts in 1769, what is today Hampton fell into Beaufort District. In 1878 portions were removed (including the current project area) and associated with Hampton County. In 1912, the southern portion of Hampton was lost to Jasper County. Given all of these changes, Harvey and Poplin (1996:4) suggest that continuity in the region derives largely from the hamlets and other communities.

The Beaufort area saw many clashes between Loyalists and those supporting the American Revolution, and the area was occupied by British forces for several years. The more interior portions of Hampton County, however, seem to have seen little of the Revolution. In fact, Lipscomb (1991:4) recounts only two possible skirmishes in Hamton County; one at McPherson's Plantation in March 1780 and another at Salkehatchie Bridge connecting into Colleton County on March 18, 1780.

With the collapse of indigo after the Revolution and the increase in enslaved blacks, cotton quickly increased in importance, although rice was still an important crop of the planter elite along the Savannah and a few other areas especially adapted to its cultivation.

By 1790 Beaufort District (which included what are today Beaufort, Hampton, and Jasper counties) had a population of 18,753. African Americans made up nearly 76% of this population. The region's history is dominated by the large planters -- by 1860 nearly 12,000 acres of prime swamp and high ground were controlled by just 18 plantations. Yet there was also a strong yeoman presence in the district (see McCurry 1995). Mills' *Atlas* of 1825 reveals no settlements in the project area (Figure 6). Situated fairly far inland, the study corridor was likely held in woods or perhaps was cultivated in cotton or subsistence crops.

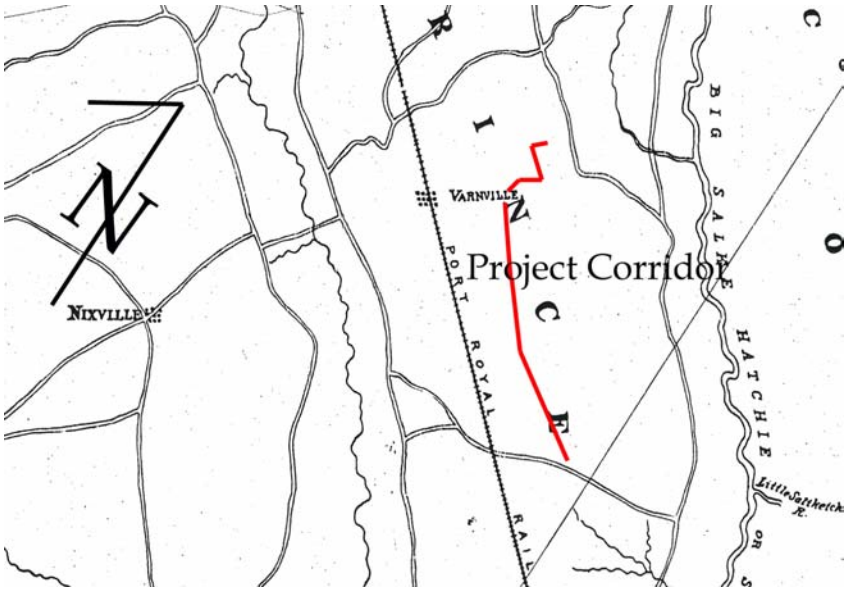

Figure 7. Portion of the 1873 *Copy of a Map of Beaufort County, South Carolina* showing the project area.

While the antebellum was a period dominated by agriculture (see Harvey and Poplin 1996:22), railroads were beginning to make their appearance in the 1830s. By the 1850s work was underway on the Charleston and Savannah Railway -- a crucial link during the Civil War. Yet even at this early date the rail line began to cast the region's history. By 1873, the Port Royal Railroad (currently called the Charleston and Western Carolina Rail Line), provided Varnville, just west of the project area, easier access to the rest of South Carolina (Figure 7).

The Civil War was focused on the rail line linking Charleston and Savannah (south of the project area), with the Confederate's attempting to secure that connection through a variety of earthworks. While the sea islands were abandoned to Union forces, the South held onto the rail system with tenacity throughout the war (see Trinkley and Fick 2000 for additional information on the region's Civil War fortifications). While the railroad was held, the region suffered extraordinary losses at the end of the war when Sherman's forces marched through St. Peter's and St. Luke's parishes.

After the Civil War, with slaves no longer providing easy labor for the cotton plantations, the economy was stagnant and a slow period of rebuilding began. The remaining

Table 2.
Systems of Tenure

	Share-Cropping	Share Renting	Cash Renting
Landlord furnishes:	land housing fuel tools work stock seed half of fertilizer feed for stock	land housing fuel 1/2 or 1/3 fertilizer	land housing fuel
Tenant furnishes:	labor half of fertilizer	labor work stock feed for stock tools seed 3/4 or 2/3 fertilizer	labor work stock feed for stock tools seed fertilizer
Landlord receives:	1/2 of crop	1/4 or 1/3 of crop	fixed amount in cash or lint cotton
Tenant receives:	1/2 of crop	3/4 or 2/3 of crop	entire crop less fixed amount

decades of the nineteenth century were focused on the dual goals of restoring the economy and ensuring that African Americans remained in a state as closely as possible resembling bondage.

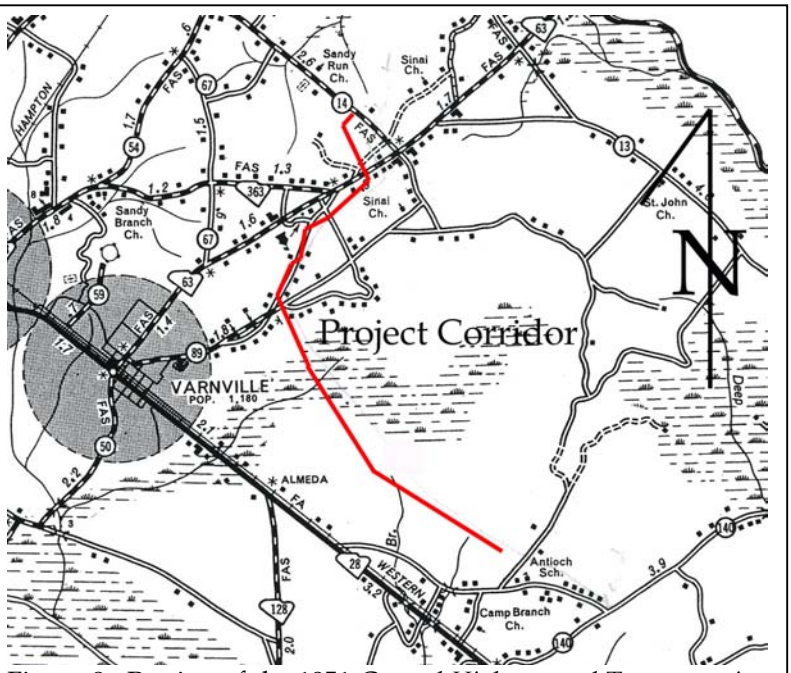

Figure 8. Portion of the 1951 *General Highway and Transportation Map of Hampton County* showing the project corridor.

The hiring of freedmen began immediately, with variable results. The Freedmen's Bureau attempted to establish a system of wage labor, but the effort was largely tempered by the enactment of the Black Codes by the South Carolina Legislature in September 1865. These Codes allowed nominal freedom, while establishing a new kind of slavery, severely restricting the rights and freedoms of the black majority. Added to the Codes were oppressive contracts that reinforced the power of the plantation owner and degraded the freedom of the Blacks. Many white planters formed "Democratic Clubs," designed to counter the "radical" influence. Members of these clubs resolved not to hire "radicals," or blacks associated with radical politics.

While cash labor was initially used, gradually owners turned away from wage labor contracts, at least partially because of the scarcity of money, but also because of the prevailing belief among whites that blacks were so lazy that with money in their pockets they would not work. In its place two kinds of tenancy -- sharecropping and renting -- developed. While very different, both succeeded in making land ownership very difficult, if not impossible, for the vast majority of Blacks.

Sharecropping required the tenant to pay his landlord part of the crop produced, while renting required that he pay a fixed rent in either crops or money. In sharecropping the tenant supplied the labor and one-half of the fertilizer, the landlord supplied everything else -- land, house, tools, work animals, animal feed, wood for fuel, and the other half of the needed fertilizer. In return the landlord received half of the crop at harvest. This system became known as "working on halves," and the tenants as "half hands," or "half tenants."

In share renting, the landlord supplied the land, housing, and either one-quarter or one-third of the fertilizer costs. The tenant supplied the labor, animals, animal feed, tools, seed, and the remainder of the fertilizer. At harvest the crop was divided in proportion to the amount of fertilizer that each party supplied. A number of variations on this occurred, one of the most common being "third and fourth," where the landlord received one-fourth of the cotton crop and one-third of all other crops. In cash renting the landlord provided the land and housing, with the renter providing everything else and paying a fixed per-acre rent in cash.

While there is no question concerning the importance of tenancy in Hampton County, Harvey and Poplin note that the dominant power in the region was timber. By the last several

decades of the nineteenth century large timber companies began to acquire large tracts in Hampton County and the yield of timber from southern forests doubled between 1880 and 1890. During the first three decades of the twentieth century the South's contribution of timber increased from one-third to one-half of the national market (Harvey and Poplin 1996:36). Companies such as W.F. Cummings and the Mauldin Lumber Company expanded rail lines, allowing easier extraction and shipment of the timber from the Hampton forests (Fetters 1990).

Northern businesses lead a "second northern invasion" acquiring not only timber lands, but also resorts for the wealthy. Drawn by the myth of the "Old South," they established "plantations" for hunting and entertaining -- often serving to maintain original plantation tracts. Harvey and Poplin (1996:41) note that many of these plantations were also investments and served as working farms.

The 1951 *General Highway and Transportation Map of Hampton County* shows the northern and southern portion of the corridor in residential areas while the central portion of the corridor appears to be in wetland caused from an extension of the Coosawhatchie River (Figure 8).

RESEARCH METHODS AND FINDINGS

Archaeological Field Methods and Findings

The initially proposed field techniques for the substation lot involved the placement of shovel tests at 100-foot intervals along transects placed at 100-foot intervals. The transmission corridor incorporated shovel testing along the center line of the corridor, which had a right-of-way of 75 feet.

All soil would be screened through ¼-inch mesh, with each test numbered sequentially. Each test would measure about 1 foot square and would normally be taken to a depth of at least 1.0 foot or until subsoil was encountered. All cultural remains would be collected, except for mortar and brick, which would be quantitatively noted in the field and discarded. Notes would be maintained for profiles at any sites encountered.

Should sites (defined by the presence of three or more artifacts from either surface survey or shovel tests within a 50 feet area) be identified, further tests would be used to obtain data on site boundaries, artifact quantity and diversity, site integrity, and temporal affiliation. These tests would be placed at 25 to 50 feet intervals in a simple cruciform pattern until two consecutive negative shovel tests were encountered. The information required for completion of South Carolina Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology site forms would be collected and photographs would be taken, if warranted in the opinion of the field investigators.

In the field, however, we discovered that the substation lot was fenced and locked. A series of four shovel tests were performed (one on each side) at the perimeter of the lot, which was 200 x 200 feet in size. Due to the size of the lot, four shovel tests would have been adequate to sufficiently test for resources. In addition, the substation exhibited good surface visibility to which no historic remains were observed on the periphery. The distance from a permanent water source and lack of resources elsewhere along the corridor in what would be considered good areas for prehistoric sites led us to believe no prehistoric specimens would be found in the substation lot. A total of 380 shovel tests were excavated along the corridor.

Sites would be evaluated for further work based on the eligibility criteria for the National Register of Historic Places. Chicora Foundation

Figure 9. View of substation lot. Note the good surface visibility.

Figure 10. View of corridor parallel to an existing transmission line.

only provides an opinion of National Register eligibility and the final determination is made by the lead agency in consultation with the State Historic Preservation Officer at the South Carolina Department of Archives and History.

Analysis of collections would follow professionally accepted standards with a level of intensity suitable to the quantity and quality of the remains.

Nevertheless, the archaeological survey failed to identify any remains. This is most likely due to the amount of poorly drained soils and the lack of distinct ridge tops.

Architectural Survey

As previously discussed, we elected to use a 0.5 mile area of potential effect (APE). The architectural survey would record buildings, sites, structures, and objects that appeared to have been constructed before 1950. Typical of such projects, this survey recorded only those which have retained "some measure of its historic integrity" (Vivian n.d.:5) and which were visible from public roads.

For each identified resource we would complete a Statewide Survey Site Form and at least two representative photographs would be taken. Permanent control numbers would be assigned by the Survey Staff of the S.C. Department of Archives and History at the conclusion of the study. The site forms for the resources identified during this study would be submitted to the S.C. Department of Archives and History.

Site Evaluation and Findings

Archaeological sites would be evaluated for further work based on the eligibility criteria for the National Register of Historic Places. Chicora Foundation only provides an opinion of National Register eligibility and the final determination is made by the lead federal agency, in consultation with the State Historic Preservation Officer at the South Carolina Department of Archives and History.

The criteria for eligibility to the National Register of Historic Places is described by 36CFR60.4, which states:

> 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, and
>
> 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 prehistory or history.

National Register Bulletin 36 (Townsend et al. 1993) provides an evaluative process that contains five steps for forming a clearly defined explicit rationale for either the site's eligibility or lack of eligibility. Briefly, these steps are:

- identification of the site's data sets or categories of archaeological information such as ceramics, lithics, subsistence remains, architectural remains, or sub-surface features;

- identification of the historic context applicable to the site, providing a framework for the evaluative process;

- identification of the important research questions the site might be able to address, given the data sets and the context;

- evaluation of the site's archaeological integrity to ensure that the data sets were sufficiently well preserved to address the research questions; and

Figure 11. View of the Varnville Fire Tower (0045).

- identification of important research questions among all of those which might be asked and answered at the site.

This approach, of course, has been developed for use documenting eligibility of sites being actually nominated to the National Register of Historic Places where the evaluative process must stand alone, with relatively little reference to other documentation and where typically only one site is being considered. As a result, some aspects of the evaluative process have been summarized, but we have tried to focus on an archaeological

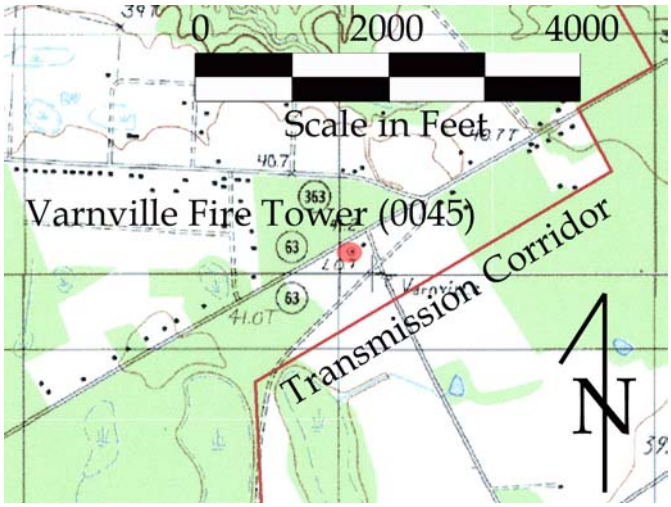

Figure 12. Topographic map showing the location of the Varnville Fire Tower (0045).

site's ability to address significant research topics within the context of its available data sets.

Although the 1986 SHPO reconnaissance survey and the 1979 survey of the lowcountry (Lowcountry Council of Governments 1979) failed to identify any structures, the current survey identified and recorded the Varnville Fire Tower (0045) within the 0.5 mile APE (Figure 11). Owned by the S.C. Forestry Commission, the tower was built in the 1930s by the CCC (Civilian Conservation Corps) as a look out for potential wildfires. These properties contained approximately 10 acres on which the tower and a dwelling for the operator were located (www.state.sc.us/forest/scpast.htm#1).

Although the Forestry Commission closed its fire tower system in 1993, many of these towers remain standing. A 1938 publication by the Department of the Interior briefly describes fire lookout structures (see Good 1938). These towers were generally built to blend in with the natural setting in state and federal parks. These wooden structures, while aesthetically pleasing, were generally expensive to produce. Not all towers, Good suggests, need to blend with their settings. Good advises:

> where it is not feasible to hide the structure without decreasing the efficiency of the lookout, or there is not opportunity for blending the structure to location, the benefits derived from fire detection and the public's interest in the operation itself as a conservational activity of the park area go far to offset any aesthetic shortcomings of the facility itself (Good 1938:156).

In other words, the function of the tower should prevail over appearance. Outside of the park system, most towers were built of steel, as is the Varnville Fire Tower.

The tower appears to retain good integrity, although years of continuing maintenance would have slightly altered its appearance. It is 100 feet tall and made of Bethlehem Steel. Although at least two antennae currently reside atop the structure, the basic design appears to be intact (i.e. the glass windows and roof).

The operator's house, however, has been demolished. David Owen of the S.C. Forestry Commission (personal communication 2006) stated that the house, which had been used as an office, was torn down approximately five years ago after a new office building was built. Since these sites have not been evaluated and eligibility determined, they do not fall under the purview of SC Code 60-12-10 et seq., Protection of State Owned or Leased Historic Properties.

A comprehensive survey for nearby Dorchester County (see Fick and Davis 1997) lists three lookout towers, however all were recommended not eligible for the National Register. The SHPO did not even list these towers as properties worthy of further investigation (Fick and Davis 1997:76-77). The current resource, 0045, is missing half of the original complex (the operator's house is gone), however with enough historic research, the site may still be potentially eligible, possibly even as an archaeological site. These towers are a dwindling resource especially

since the fire tower system has been closed. There is no further need for the towers in the way that they were originally used – lookouts for fires.

Consequently, the site is recommended potentially eligible, pending additional research. Regardless, the tower will not be directly impacted by the transmission line construction. Visual impact is minimal since other transmission lines exist in the immediate vicinity and would have been a routine part of the landscape as a result of REA activity.

CONCLUSIONS

This study involved the examination of an approximately 7.2 mile corridor and lot for a transmission line and substation in Hampton County. This work, conducted for Mr. Tommy L. Jackson of Central Electric Power Cooperative examined archaeological sites and cultural resources found on the proposed project corridor and is intended to assist Central Electric Power Cooperative in complying with their historic preservation responsibilities.

As a result of this investigation, no archaeological sites were found on the survey corridor. This is likely the result of the poorly drained soils found throughout the project area and the lack of distinct ridge tops.

A survey of public roads within 0.5 mile revealed on structure, the Varnville Fire Tower (0045). The tower is recommended potentially eligible for the National Register. Additional research is needed to determine eligibility. We do not believe, however, that the tower will be adversely affected by the transmission line.

It is possible that archaeological remains may be encountered during construction activities. As always, contractors should be advised to report any discoveries of concentrations of artifacts (such as bottles, ceramics, or projectile points) or brick rubble to the project engineer, who should in turn report the material to the State Historic Preservation Office, or Chicora Foundation (the process of dealing with late discoveries is discussed in 36CFR800.13(b)(3)). No further land altering activities should take place in the vicinity of these discoveries until they have been examined by an archaeologist and, if necessary, have been processed according to 36CFR800.13(b)(3).

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