

Cultural Resources Literature Review and Reconnaissance

Vinyard Property GRAD Tract
Newton County, Georgia

Prepared for:

Thomas & Hutton
Savannah, GA

Prepared by:

The image shows two handwritten signatures in black ink. The signature on the left is 'Alex' written in a cursive style. The signature on the right is a stylized, large 'S' followed by a horizontal line, likely representing 'Sweeney'.

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Brockington and Associates, Inc.

Atlanta ■ Charleston ■ Elizabethtown ■ Savannah

Between August 26 and 28, 2015 Brockington and Associates, Inc. (Brockington) conducted a Cultural Resources Literature Review and Reconnaissance of a proposed 745-acre (301-hectare [ha]) development tract in Newton County, Georgia. Figures 1 and 2 provide the project location. This investigation was conducted as part of a Georgia Ready for Accelerated Development (GRAD) site program application. Our archival research and reconnaissance assessment results in recovery of information useful for planning purposes only, and is not meant as compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) or other state and federal legislation. The reconnaissance was performed to determine if cultural resources are located within the project Area of Potential Effects (APE) for the proposed development. Brockington performed the tasks for this work while under contract with Thomas & Hutton.

The project tract is bound by the CSX Railroad to the south, woods and a pond to the north, woods to the west, and the boundary of Newton and Counties to the east. Portions of Strouds Creek and several of its unnamed tributaries are located throughout the project tract. The majority of the project tract is wooded and contains a mix of planted pine trees, hardwoods, and wild grasses. The lowland areas in the project tract consist of moderate to small mixed hardwoods. Several recently plowed fields were also observed within the project tract. Other observed disturbances within the project tract include recent timbering activities and several dirt roads. Figures 3 to 9 shows typical views of the project tract.

The Cultural Resources Reconnaissance consisted of archival research and limited field investigations. Archival research focused on documenting previously recorded archaeological and architectural resources within the project APE. Research was conducted at the Georgia Department of Natural Resource (DNR) Historic Preservation Division (HPD) in Atlanta and the Georgia Archaeological Site File in Athens.

At the HPD, the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) files and Newton County survey file were reviewed to determine if any NRHP eligible, nominated, or listed resources are within the project APE. At the Georgia Archaeological Site File, county files were reviewed to determine if any previously recorded archaeological sites are located within the project APE. In addition, survey reports associated with previous archaeological investigations near the project area were reviewed. The Georgia Natural, Archaeological, and Historic Resources (GNAHRGIS) database was also reviewed to determine if any previously recorded archaeological sites are located within the project APE.

Archival research revealed there are no previously recorded archaeological sites or historic resources located within the project tract. In addition, there are no previously recorded archaeological sites within 0.5-miles of the project tract. It is likely that the absence of previously recorded archaeological resources within the vicinity of the project tract is due to a lack of archaeological resources investigations in the area. However, there are 24 previously recorded historic resources within a 0.5-mile buffer of the project tract, all of which were documented through the University of Georgia's (UGA) Findit! historic resources survey program that examined resources in and around Social Circle, GA. Figure 10 shows the location of these previously recorded historic resources. Table 1 summarizes these 24 historic resources within the vicinity of the project tract.

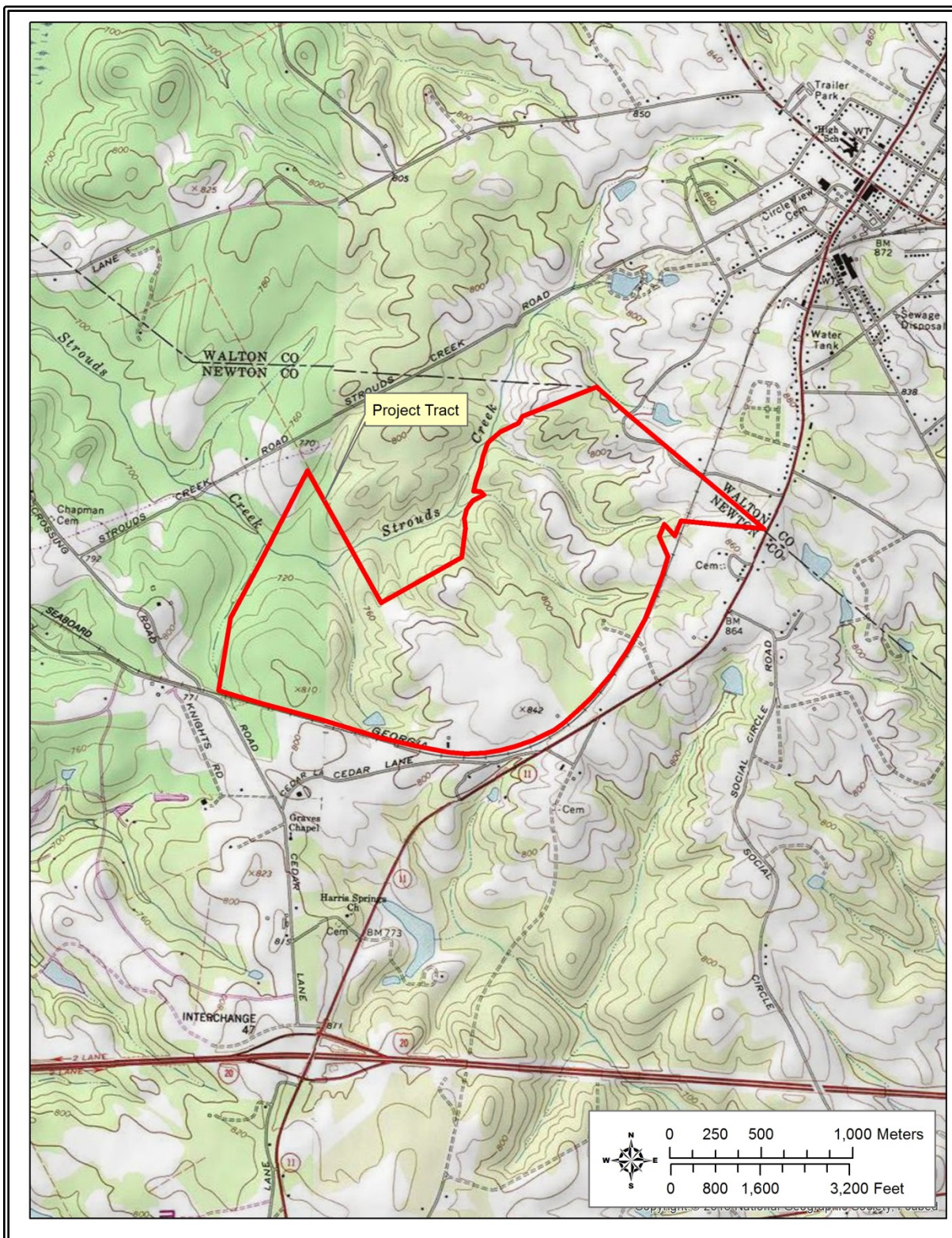


Figure 1. Location of the Vinyard GRAD Tract (1964 Covington, Jersey, 1971 Social Circle, and 1972 Mansfield, Georgia 7.5 minute USGS topographic quadrangles).

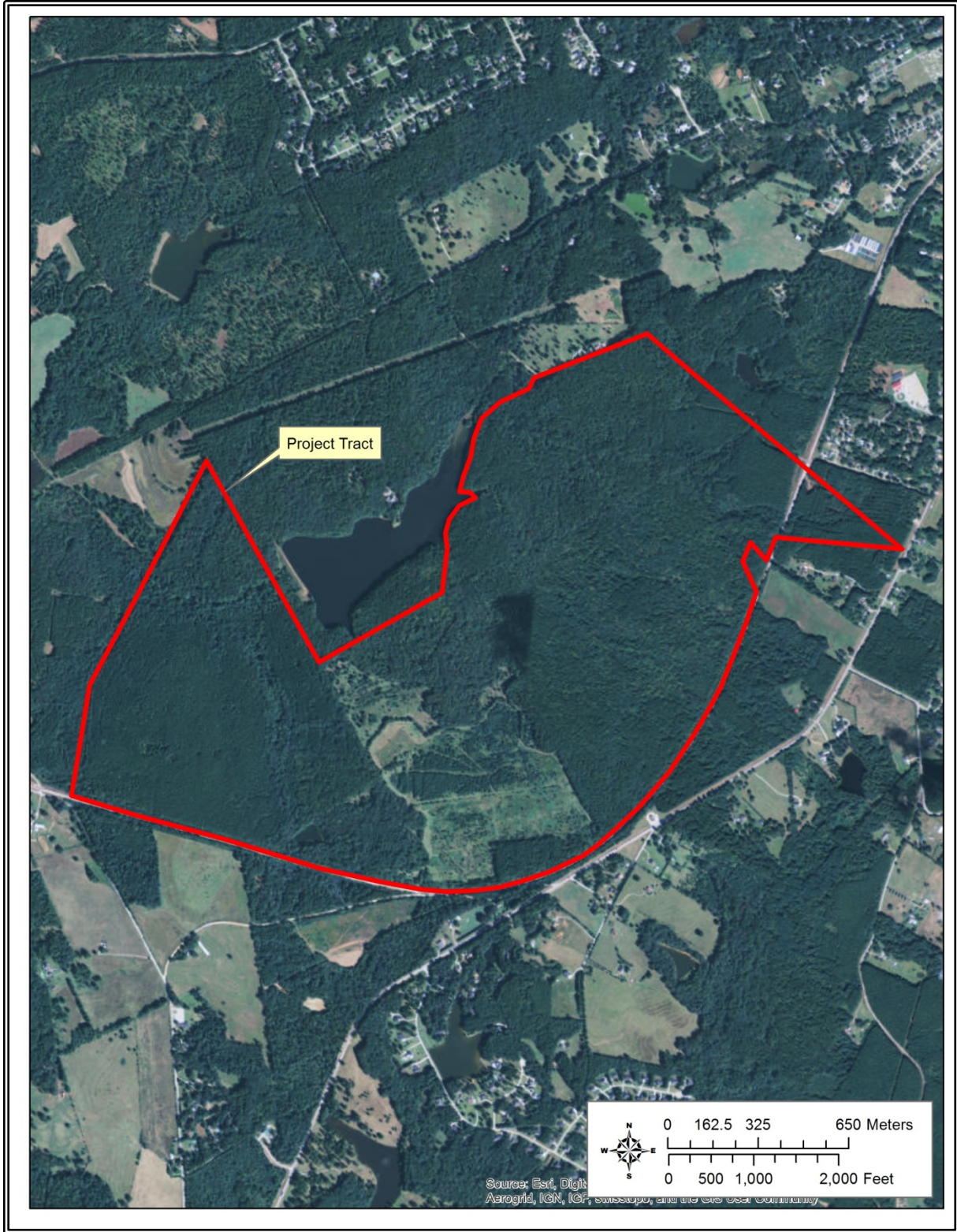


Figure 2. Aerial view of the project tract.



Figure 3. Typical view of the project tract, facing southwest.



Figure 4. Typical view of the project tract, facing northeast.



Figure 5. Typical view of the dirt road within project tract, facing north.



Figure 6. Typical view of project tract, facing north.



Figure 7. Typical view of the project tract, facing east.



Figure 8. View of a lowland portion of the project tract, facing west.



Figure 9. View of lowland portion of the project tract, facing west.

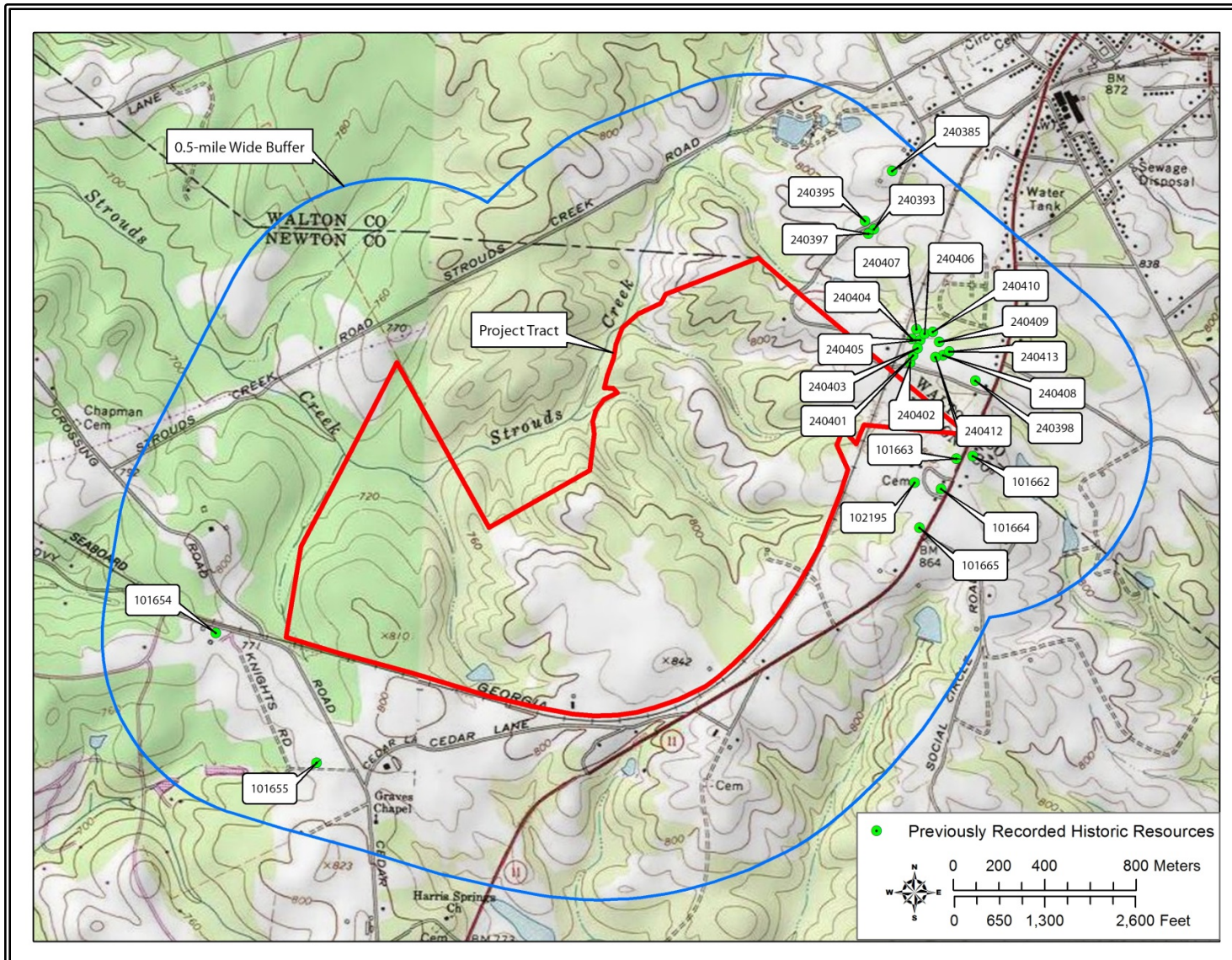


Figure 10. Location of previously recorded cultural resources within the vicinity of the project tract (1964 *Covington, Jersey*, 1971 *Social Circle*, and 1972 *Mansfield, Georgia* 7.5 minute USGS topographic quadrangles).

Table 1. Previously Recorded Historic Resources Within the Vicinity of the Project Tract.

GNAHRGIS ID	Resource Type	Construction Date	NRHP Eligibility Status	Situation
101654	Georgian Cottage	1880s	Unevaluated	Within 0.5 mile radius of project tract
101655	Georgian Cottage	1934	Unevaluated	Within 0.5 mile radius of project tract
101662	New South Cottage	1929	Unevaluated	Within 0.5 mile radius of project tract
101663	New South Cottage	1930	Unevaluated	Within 0.5 mile radius of project tract
101664	Unknown	1924	Unevaluated	Within 0.5 mile radius of project tract
101665	Side Gable Bungalow	1929	Unevaluated	Within 0.5 mile radius of project tract
102195	Church Cemetery	1877	Unevaluated	Within 0.5 mile radius of project tract
240385	Building	Unknown	Unevaluated	Within 0.5 mile radius of project tract
240393	Building	Unknown	Unevaluated	Within 0.5 mile radius of project tract
240395	Building	Unknown	Unevaluated	Within 0.5 mile radius of project tract
240397	Building	Unknown	Unevaluated	Within 0.5 mile radius of project tract
240398	Building	Unknown	Unevaluated	Within 0.5 mile radius of project tract
240401	Building	Unknown	Unevaluated	Within 0.5 mile radius of project tract
240402	Building	Unknown	Unevaluated	Within 0.5 mile radius of project tract
240403	Building	Unknown	Unevaluated	Within 0.5 mile radius of project tract
240404	Building	Unknown	Unevaluated	Within 0.5 mile radius of project tract
240405	Building	Unknown	Unevaluated	Within 0.5 mile radius of project tract
240406	Building	Unknown	Unevaluated	Within 0.5 mile radius of project tract
240407	Building	Unknown	Unevaluated	Within 0.5 mile radius of project tract
240408	Building	Unknown	Unevaluated	Within 0.5 mile radius of project tract
240409	Building	Unknown	Unevaluated	Within 0.5 mile radius of project tract
240410	Building	Unknown	Unevaluated	Within 0.5 mile radius of project tract
240412	Building	Unknown	Unevaluated	Within 0.5 mile radius of project tract
240413	Building	Unknown	Unevaluated	Within 0.5 mile radius of project tract

None of the previously recorded historic resources have been formally evaluated with regard to its eligibility status to NRHP. In addition, 17 of these resources are still part of an ongoing investigation within the UGA FindIt! Program, and only minimal information is currently available. We recommend a formal evaluation and survey of the previously recorded architectural resources that are located within the viewshed of the project tract. This evaluation and survey should be conducted prior to the development of the project tract in compliance with any Federal (i.e. – Section 106 of the NHPA, or Section 404 of the Clean Water Act) or State (i.e. – GEPA) permitting actions that are required for the proposed project.

An examination of the USDA soils survey identified nine soil types within the project tract. Table 2 briefly summarizes these soil types. Hiwassee sandy loam and Gwinnett sandy loam/sandy clay loam are the most common soil types, and comprise approximately 34.1 percent and 22.7 percent, respectively, of the total acreage within the project tract. Most of the project tract (approximately 86.9 percent) contains soil types that are described as well drained. Moderately well drained soils comprise an addition approximately 11.6 percent of the project tract. Somewhat poorly drained soils only consist of approximately 1.5 percent of the entire project tract. Past settlements and agricultural use tends to favor anhydric (dry) soils than hydric (wet) soils. Therefore, most archaeological habitation sites tend to be situated on drier, anhydric soils. The majority of the project tract has soil types that are favorable for containing an archaeological site. Low probability soils for archaeological sites are situated only in the low lying flood plain areas.

Table 2. Characteristics of Soil Types Identified Within the Project Tract (USDA 2013).

Soil Type	Drainage	Landform	Texture	Percent of Tract Area
Ashlar-Pacolet-Wedowee complex	Well drained	Hills	Sandy loam over sandy loam	3.9%
Cartecay and Chewacla soils	Somewhat poorly drained	Flood plains	Loam over loam	1.5%
Cecil sandy loam/sandy clay loam	Well drained	Hills	Sandy loam over sandy clay	15.0%
Gwinnett sandy loam/sandy clay loam	Well drained	Hills	Sandy loam over clay	22.7%
Hiwassee sandy loam	Well drained	Hills	Sandy loam over clay	34.1%
Madison sandy loam	Well drained	Hills	Sandy loam over sandy clay	8.1%
Pacolet sandy loam/sandy clay loam	Well drained	Hills	Sandy loam over Sandy clay	3.1%
Toccoa fine sandy loam	Moderately well drained	Flood plains	Fine sandy loam over fine sandy loam	5.0%
Toccoa and Congaree soils	Moderately well drained	Flood plains	Sandy loam over fine sandy loam	6.6%

The USGS topographic maps depicting the project tract shows that several broad terraces and ridgetops are situated within the project tract (refer to Figure 1). Elevations within the project tract range from approximately 219.5 to 256.5 meters (720 to 842 ft) above mean sea level, with the highest areas located along a broad ridgetop in the southern area of the project tract. These terraces gently slope down towards three unnamed drainages of Strouds Creek located in the project tract. In the north-central and northwestern portions of the tract, this slope is somewhat steeper than other areas of the tract. Given the topographic settings of the project tract, it would be expected that archaeological sites would likely be situated on ridgetops and terraces that lie above the unnamed drainages, particular in area near the convergence of the unnamed drainages and Strouds Creek. Also, the broad, relatively flat ridgetop in the southern portion of the tract also has optimal topographic conditions for archaeological resources as well.

The cultural resources field reconnaissance consisted of limited archaeological and architectural investigations. The archaeological investigation consisted of a general walk-over of a few easily-accessible portions of the tract. No subsurface inspections were conducted for this particular investigation. A local informant with extensive knowledge of the project tract accompanied the project archaeologist to show areas of unrecorded cultural resources. The project archaeologist identified four cultural resources within or adjacent to the project tract (Figure 11; Table 3). The location of each resource was recorded, and Georgia Archaeological Site Forms were prepared for each archaeological site so that they could be assigned with an official GASF-assigned Site Number. A brief description of each identified resource is provided below.

Table 3. Cultural Resources Identified Within the Project Tract.

Resource	Description	NRHP Evaluation	Recommendation
Cemetery 1	Late 19 th Century cemetery with one identified grave	Unevaluated	Avoid from impacts; relocate if avoidance not possible
Cemetery 2	Early 20 th Century Cemetery with at least three identified graves	Unevaluated	Avoid from impacts; relocate if avoidance not possible
Historic Barns	Early to Mid 20th Century, one standing structure, one collapsed structure	Unevaluated	Avoid from impacts until formal survey and evaluation
CSX/Georgia Railroad	Early to Mid 19 th Century Georgia Railroad – Atlanta Branch	Unevaluated (likely Eligible)	Evaluate

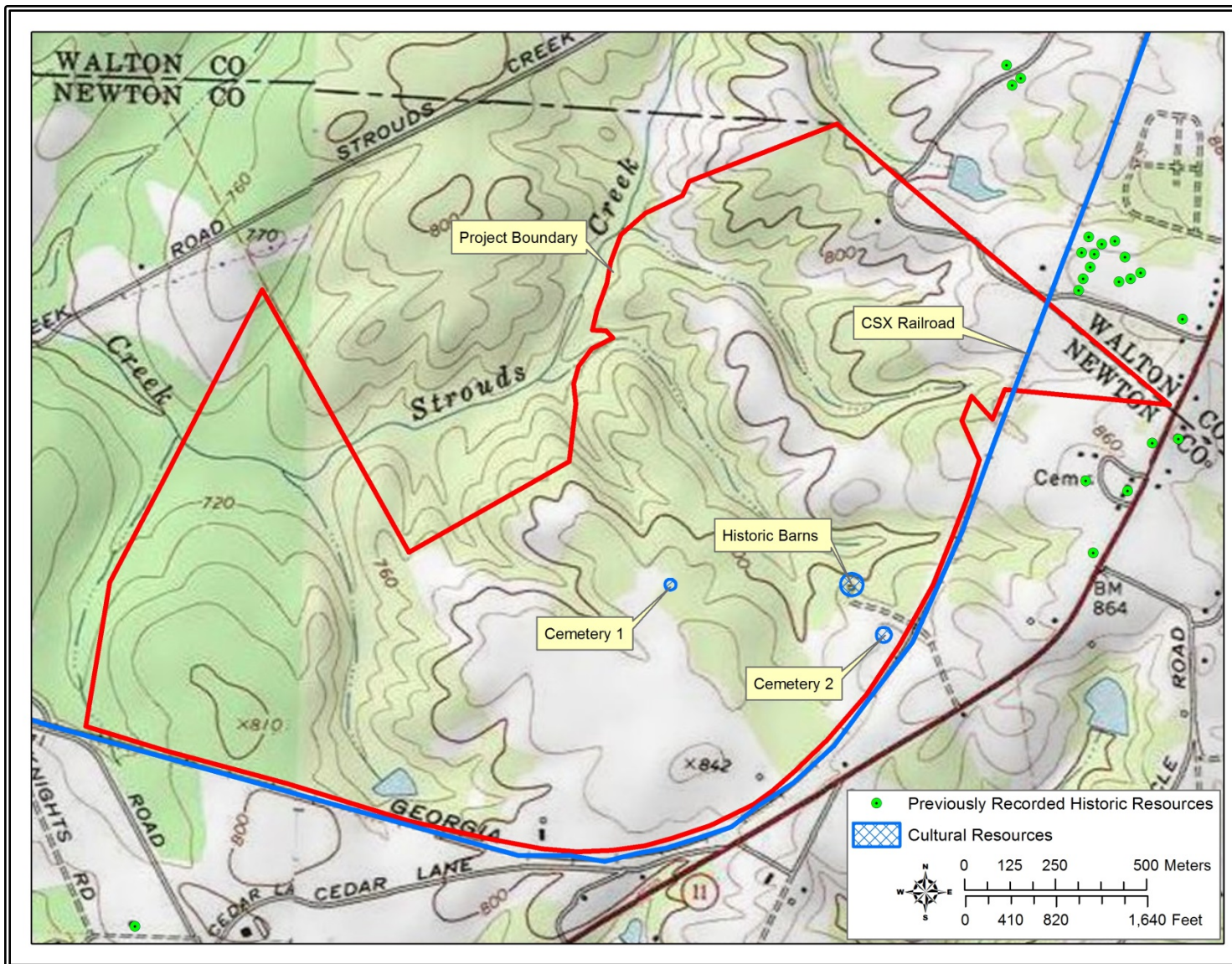


Figure 11. Location of identified cultural resources on the project tract (1964 Covington, Jersey, 1971 Social Circle, and 1972 Mansfield, Georgia 7.5 minute USGS topographic quadrangles).

Cemetery 1: This site consists of a cemetery located on a ridge top in the central portion of the project tract to the east from a dirt road and clearing. Vegetation around the cemetery is lightly wooded in with a mix of small to medium sized hardwoods and pines with a fairly open understory. One identified grave is present at the site (Figure 12). This grave contains a headstone and a foot stone. A medium sized hardwood appears to be growing within the grave, and it is possible that roots may have damaged the interment. Identified inscriptions on the headstone indicate that the interred is S. A. Hawk, who lived from 1839 until 1880 (Figure 13).



Figure 12. View of Cemetery 1, facing northeast.



Figure 13. View of headstone at Cemetery 1, facing north.

Cemetery 1 remains unevaluated with regards to the NRHP. This site is protected under the Georgia's Abandoned Cemeteries and Burial Grounds law (1991; 36-72-1 et seq.), and avoidance is recommended. If avoidance is not possible, then we recommend conducting a GPR survey to identify any additional unmarked graves in the vicinity of the cemetery and formally evaluate the site with regards to the NRHP, as well as preparation and execution of a burial treatment plan to relocate the identified graves.

Cemetery 2: This site consists of a cemetery located on a broad terrace eastern portion of the project tract to the west from the CSX railroad. Vegetation around the cemetery is lightly wooded in with a mix of small to medium sized hardwoods and pines with a light brushy understory. At least three identified graves are present at the site (Figures 14 to 16). One of the graves appears crypt-like and was constructed with stacked stones and a cut stone slab. The condition of this grave is poor, as it appears that the central portion of the crypt has collapsed, and is overgrown with small brush. Another grave consists of a broken headstone that is detached from its base adjacent to a slight soil depression which is likely the grave shaft. A date on the headstone indicates that the cemetery was used in 1918. The third grave, located approximately two meters west from the crypt-like grave, consists of a small illegible headstone, a footstone, and a soil depression in the location of the grave shaft.



Figure 14. View of Cemetery 2, facing west.



Figure 15. View of crypt-like grave at Cemetery 2, facing west.



Figure 16. View of grave with headstone and soil depression at Cemetery 2, facing northeast.

Cemetery 2 also remains unevaluated with regards to the NRHP. This site is protected under the Georgia's Abandoned Cemeteries and Burial Grounds law (1991; 36-72-1 et seq.), and avoidance is recommended. If avoidance is not possible, then we recommend conducting a GPR survey to identify any additional unmarked graves in the vicinity of the cemetery and formally evaluate the site with regards to the NRHP, as well as preparation and execution of a burial treatment plan to relocate the identified graves.

Historic Barns: This site consists of a standing structure and a collapsed structure on the edge of a terrace above an unnamed tributary of Strouds Creek in the eastern portion of the project area. This site is approximately 165 northwest from Cemetery 2. Vegetation at this site is moderately to densely wooded with a mix of small to medium sized hardwoods and pines with a moderate brushy understory. Both structures are barns that are made from corrugated iron, and may have been constructed in the Early to Middle 20th century (Figures 17 and 18). The remains of a dirt road extends to the south from the site.

This site remains unevaluated with regards to the NRHP. Therefore, we recommended avoidance of this site. If avoidance is not feasible, then we recommend that the site be completely surveyed and delineated, with the subsurface examined for its archaeological potential. This survey should be conducted in compliance with any necessary federal or state permitting requirements for the development of the tract. Data recovered from a formal survey will also allow for an initial evaluation of the site's NRHP status.



Figure 17. View of standing barn, facing west.



Figure 18. View of collapsed barn, facing southwest.

The CSX/Georgia Railroad : This resource, which is currently used as a CSX Railroad Line, is located along the southern boundary of the project tract. The Georgia Railroad was constructed in the early-middle nineteenth century. The Georgia Railroad Company started construction on a railroad line connecting Athens to Augusta in 1835. Construction started in Augusta, and was completed to Athens in late 1841. A branch connecting the railroad to Atlanta was later completed in 1845. During the Civil War, this railroad became part of the Confederacy's network of railroads between Atlanta and Virginia. Union forces destroyed the western segment of this railroad between the Oconee River and Atlanta. The railroad line was rebuilt and expanded after the Civil War. The Georgia Railroad was eventually leased to several different companies: Central of Georgia Railway and Louisville and Nashville Railroad (1881), the Atlantic Coast Line (1899), Seaboard Coast Line (1967), and CSX Transportation (1986) (Rail Georgia 2013) . Figures 19 and 20 show views of the railroad corridor.



Figure 19. View of CSX/Georgia Railroad, facing west.



Figure 20. View of the CSX/Georgia Railroad, facing south.

Currently, the section of the railroad corridor within the project's viewshed appears to be still in use. The Georgia Railroad Corridor, appears to retain sufficient integrity to be eligible for the NRHP under Criterion A, *event* and Criterion C *design/construction*. Although this resource is within the southern portion of the project's viewshed, it is likely that the proposed project would have no adverse effect on this resource. However, a Phase I Cultural Resources Investigation is recommended to definitively determine the eligibility of the railroad and formally assess the project's effects to the resource.

Summary and Recommendations

This cultural resources reconnaissance identified four cultural resources within the project tract. The NRHP eligibility for three of these resources (Cemetery 1, Cemetery 2, and Historic Barns) is currently unknown. One resource (the CSX/Georgia Railroad) appears to be eligible for the NRHP. Additional investigations (Phase I Cultural Resources Survey) at these sites would be necessary to formally define the boundaries and assess their NRHP eligibility. Since these resources currently have an unknown NRHP eligibility status, we recommend avoidance of these resources from adverse impacts, until this is completed.

In addition, two of the identified resources are cemeteries that are protected under Georgia's Abandoned Cemeteries and Burial Grounds law (1991; 36-72-1 et seq.). We recommend avoidance of these two cemeteries. However, if avoidance is not possible, then we recommend conducting a GPR survey to identify any additional unmarked graves in the vicinity of the cemetery and formally evaluate the site with regards to the NRHP. Also, a burial treatment plan will need to be prepared and executed for the relocation of all identified graves.

Since the field investigation was limited to a pedestrian reconnaissance of a select few areas within the 745-acre project tract, the likelihood of identifying additional cultural resources on the project tract is moderate to high throughout many areas of the tract. In particular, sites are likely located in gently sloping and relatively flat areas adjacent to the major tract landforms or in floodplain areas near the unnamed tributaries. As previously mentioned, the majority of the project tract contains optimal topographic settings and soil conditions for past occupations. An intensive Phase I Archaeological Survey with shovel test excavations could better determine how many additional archaeological resources are located within the project tract.

Prior to the development of this project tract, we recommend conducting a Phase I Cultural Resources Survey for the 745-acre tract and as part of compliance with any Federal (i.e. – Section 404 of the Clean Water Act, Section 106 of the NHPA) or State (i.e. – GEPA) permitting actions associated with development of the tract,. This survey would identify all archaeological within the immediate project tract, and all architectural resources within the viewshed of the project tract that could be impacted by the proposed project. All identified resources would be provided within initial NRHP eligibility assessments and appropriate management recommendations.

References Cited

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1964 *Covington, Georgia* 7.5 minute USGS topographic quadrangle.

1971 *Jersey, Georgia* 7.5 minute USGS topographic quadrangle.

1971 *Social Circle, Georgia* 7.5 minute USGS topographic quadrangle.

1972 *Mansfield, Georgia* 7.5 minute USGS topographic quadrangle.