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Girouard Site Phase I Cultural Resources Assessment Report



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A PHASE I CULTURAL RESOURCES SURVEY FOR
THE GIROUARD SITE
IN LAFAYETTE PARISH, LOUISIANA

DRAFT REPORT
NEGATIVE FINDINGS

PREPARED BY
TERRAXPLORATIONS, INC.

PREPARED FOR
ONE ACADIANA



A PHASE I CULTURAL RESOURCES SURVEY FOR
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DRAFT REPORT
NEGATIVE FINDINGS

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TERRAX REPORT NO. 2021.003

FEBRUARY 1, 2021

ABSTRACT

On January 18 and 19 of 2021, TerraXplorations, Inc. (TerraX) of Mobile, Alabama performed a Phase I cultural resources survey for the Girouard Site located on the eastern edge of Broussard in Lafayette Parish, Louisiana. This proposed project encompasses 31.6 acres (15.68 hectares). No cultural resources were encountered and there were no previously recorded sites or NRHP-listed properties in the project area. All paperwork and supporting documents will be curated at the Troy University Archaeological Research Center in Troy, Alabama. No historic properties will be affected by the proposed project and no further archaeological studies are recommended.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Abstract.....	i
Table of Contents.....	ii
Acknowledgments.....	iii
Chapter 1: Introduction.....	1
Chapter 2: Land Use History.....	5
Chapter 3: Previous Investigations.....	11
Literature and Document Search.....	11
Chapter 4: Methodology.....	15
Standing Structures.....	15
Archaeological Field Methods.....	15
Laboratory Methods.....	15
Curation.....	15
Chapter 5: Results.....	17
Overview.....	17
Chapter 6: Summary and Recommendations.....	21
References.....	23
Appendix A.....	A-1

LIST OF FIGURES

Figure 1.1. Aerial image showing the project area.....	2
Figure 1.2. Topographic map showing the project area.....	3
Figure 2.1. Historic 1939 topographic map showing the project area.....	6
Figure 2.2. Historic 1957 topographic map showing the project area.....	7
Figure 2.3. Historic 1970 topographic map showing the project area.....	8
Figure 2.4. 1983 topographic map showing the project area.....	9
Figure 3.1. Map showing previous surveys and previously recorded sites, historic resources, and NRHP-listed resources within a one-mile radius of the project area.....	12
Figure 4.1. Aerial image showing shovel tests within the project area.....	16
Figure 5.1. View of typical shovel test.....	17
Figure 5.2. View from southwestern corner of the project area, facing north-northeast.....	18
Figure 5.3. View from northeastern corner of project area, facing southwest.....	18
Figure 5.4. View of woods along boundaries of project area, facing west.....	19
Figure 5.5. View from southeastern corner of project area, facing west-northwest.....	19
Figure 5.6. View of old drainage ditch in center of project area, facing west-southwest.....	20
Figure 5.7. View of gate and gravel drive in project area, facing west.....	20

LIST OF TABLES

Table 3.1. Previously recorded sites within one mile of the project area.....	11
Table 3.2. Previously surveys within one mile of the project area.....	13
Table 3.3. NRHP-listed properties within one mile of the project area.....	13

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The Principal Investigator for this Phase I survey was Emily Warner, who was assisted by Matthew Sumrall, Dale Pate, and Steven Rogers. Natalie Ledesma digitized the maps and Amy Carruth was responsible for the contents of the report. This work was accomplished for One Acadiana of Lafayette, Louisiana. There is currently no lead federal agency involved. This is in support of the Louisiana Economic Development (LED) Site Certification process.

CHAPTER 1 INTRODUCTION

TerraXplorations, Inc. (TerraX) of Mobile, Alabama was contracted by One Acadiana of Lafayette, Louisiana to conduct a cultural resources survey for the Girouard Site project in Lafayette Parish, Louisiana. This is in support of the Louisiana Economic Development (LED) Site Certification process.

The Phase I survey was performed on January 18-19, 2021. The Principal Investigator for the survey was Emily Warner, who was assisted by Matthew Sumrall, Dale Pate, and Steven Rogers. QA/QC was performed by Jon Glass. The purpose of this study was to determine if any prehistoric or historic properties exist within the limits of the project area, and if so, to document and assess each based on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) criteria. The project area (PA) is the same as the area of potential effect (APE).

The project area lies northeast of U.S. Highway 90 and east of N Girouard Road on the northeast side of Broussard, Louisiana (Figure 1.1). Total acreage for this project is 31.6 acres (12.8 hectares). The project area is found within Sections 44, 45, and 96, Township 10 South, Range 5 East as seen on the 1999 Broussard, Louisiana USGS 7.5' series topographic quadrangle (Figure 1.2).

The project area is pasture/fallow hay field with lines of hardwoods along portions of the boundaries. Hay bales are stacked in a large metal barn adjacent to the property. A shallow drainage ditch is evident near the center of the property.

This report of our investigations is presented as follows. Chapter 2 contains information regarding land use history in the project area. Chapter 3 examines any previous sites or surveys in or near the project area. Chapter 4 presents the field and laboratory methodology as well as curation. Chapter 5 consists of the results of fieldwork. Chapter 6 concludes the report and summarizes our findings and recommendations. Appendix A is the curation agreement.

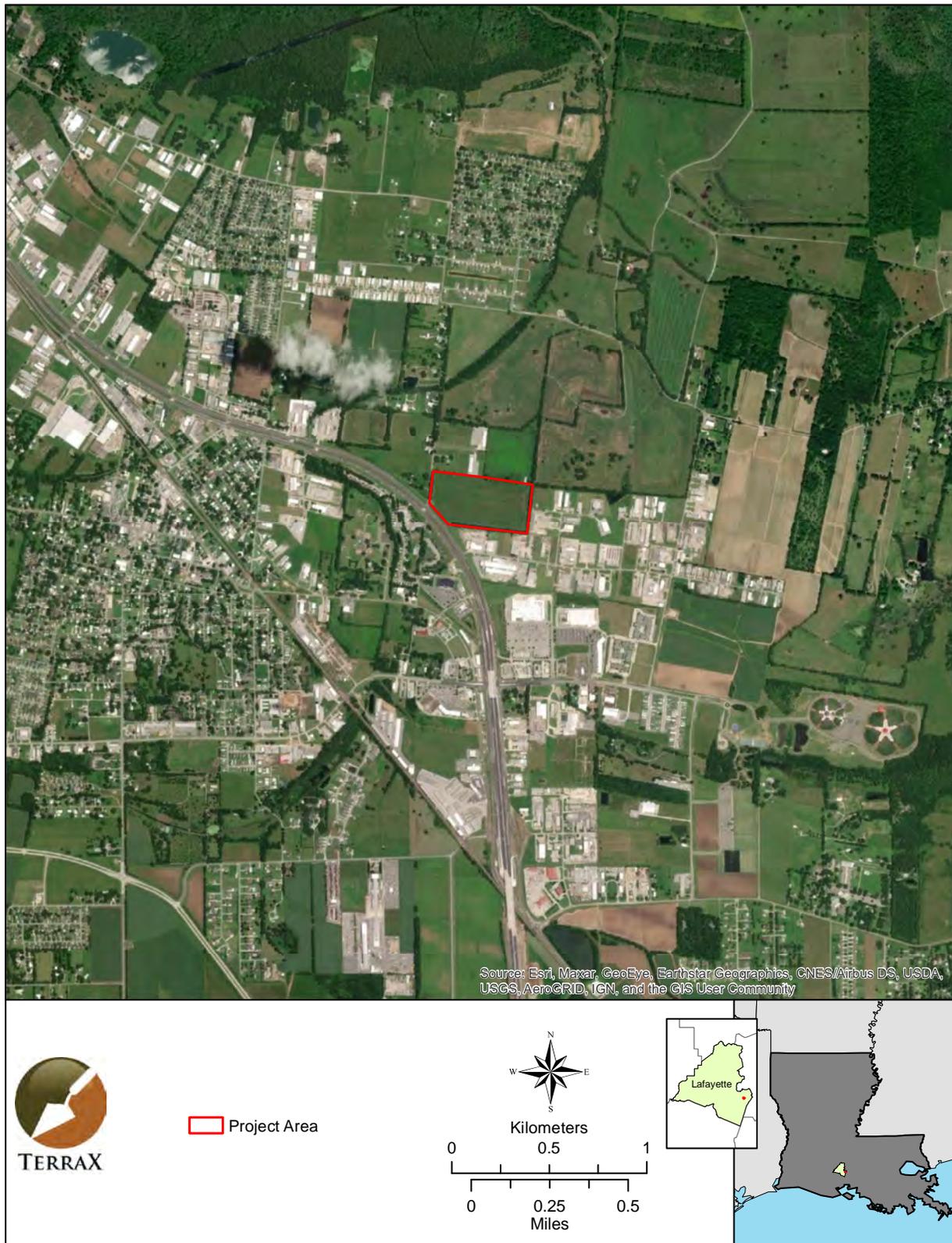


Figure 1.1. Aerial image showing the project area.

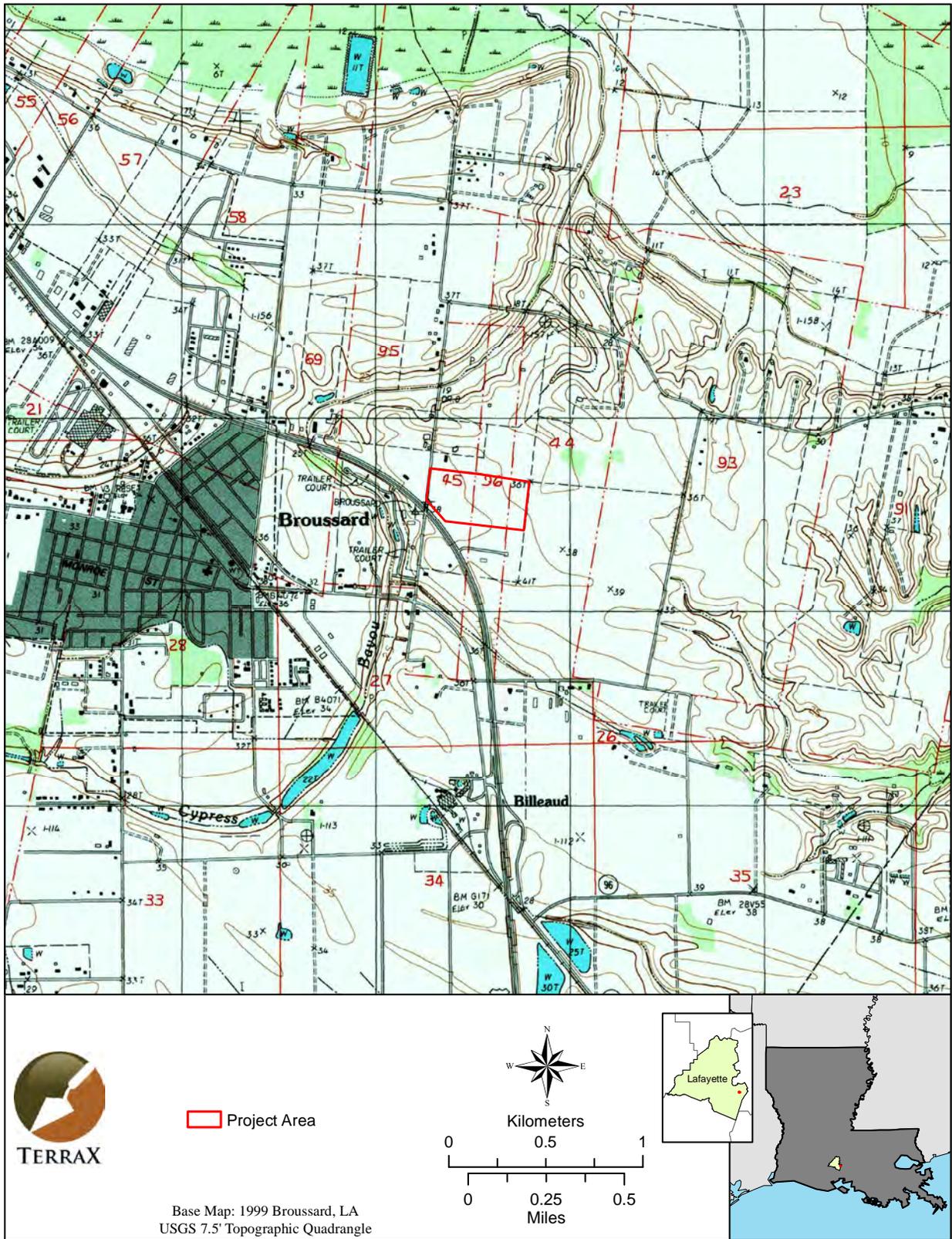


Figure 1.2. Topographic map showing the project area.

CHAPTER 2 LAND USE HISTORY

The project area is located in south-central Louisiana in Lafayette Parish and is occupied by late Pleistocene terraces covered with loess from the Mississippi Valley. It is within the Western Gulf Coastal Plain, which is relatively flat and contains mainly grassland. A high percentage of the land here is in crops and there are also gas and oil wells. Within this ecoregion, further divisions place the project area in the Lafayette Loess Plains. Historical vegetation includes big bluestem, little bluestem, yellow Indiangrass, switchgrass, and other herbaceous species. Now the area, in general, contains crops of rice, soybeans, cotton, sugarcane, sweet potatoes, and wheat. Crawfish aquaculture is also prominent in the area (Daigle et al. 2006). The project area is in the Vermilion-Teche Drainage Basin. Elevations in the project area are about 40 ft above mean sea level. The project area is within a fallow field adjacent to a light industrial park/commercial area across U.S. Highway 90 from the city of Broussard.

The 1939 St. Martinsville, Louisiana 15' series topographic quadrangle depicts the (Morgans Louisiana & Texas) Southern Pacific Railroad running through the eastern edge of Broussard, which is considerably smaller than present-day. Girouard Ranch is shown to the northeast and there are two structures depicted in the southwestern portion of the project area (Figure 2.1). By 1957, Broussard has grown only slightly and the railroad is still in place, but the structures seen in the project area in 1939 are gone (Figure 2.2). The main difference on the 1970 St. Martinsville topo map is the addition of U.S. Highway 90 at the southwestern border of the project area (Figure 2.3). Broussard's growth has remained fairly stagnant. The 1983 Broussard 7.5' series topo map shows little difference, particularly on the side of the highway where the project area is located (Figure 2.4). Indeed, the current 1999 topo map does not reflect any changes (see Figure 1.2).

The project area is low in elevation and may be an unlikely location for pre-contact sites. The only sites that have been recorded within a mile of the project area are historic sites. Most are ineligible. The only one that is potentially eligible is the Southern Pacific Railroad. The 1939 historic topographic map does depict two structures in the southwestern portion of the project area, so the chances of encountering a historic site within the project area are high.

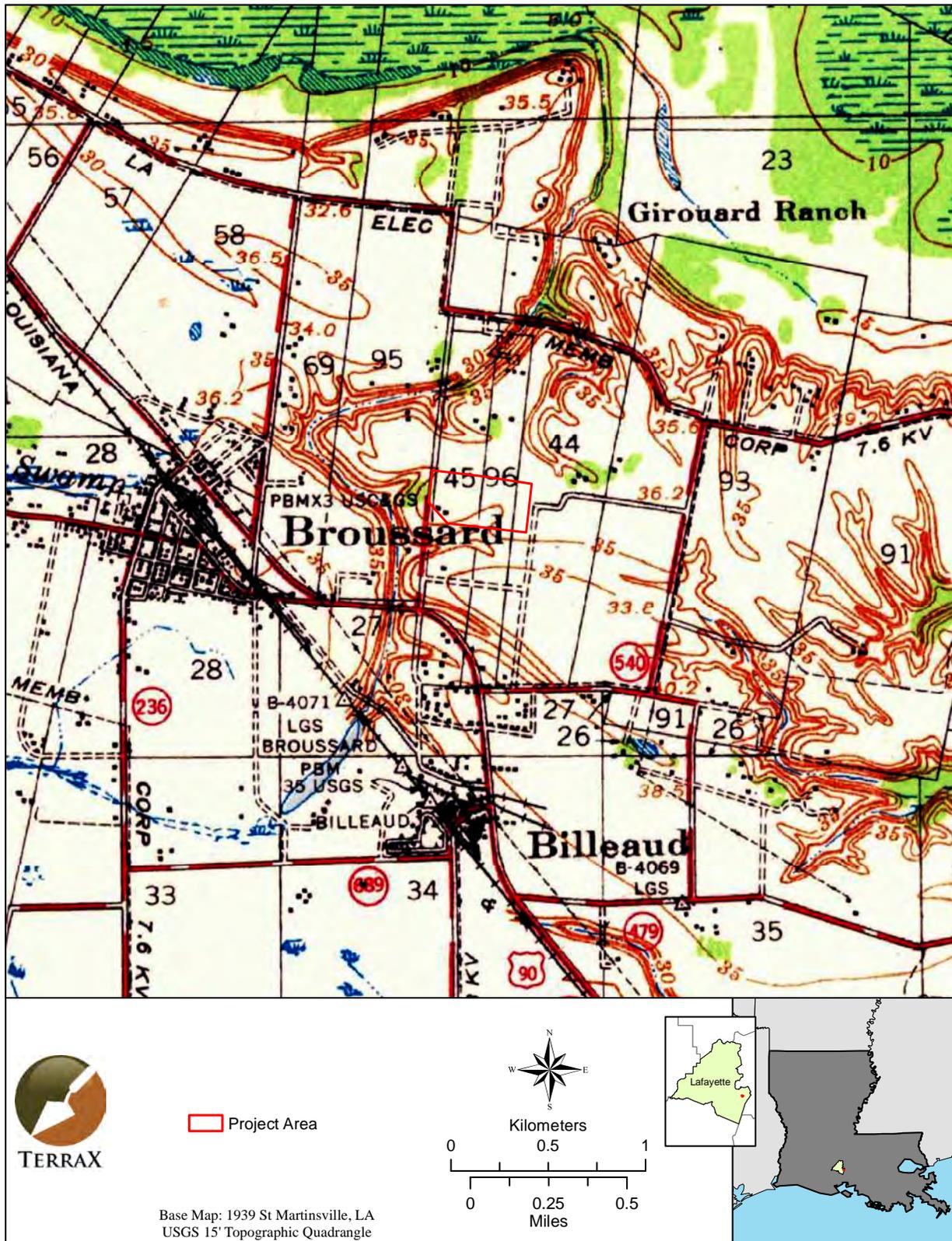


Figure 2.1. Historic 1939 topographic map showing the project area.

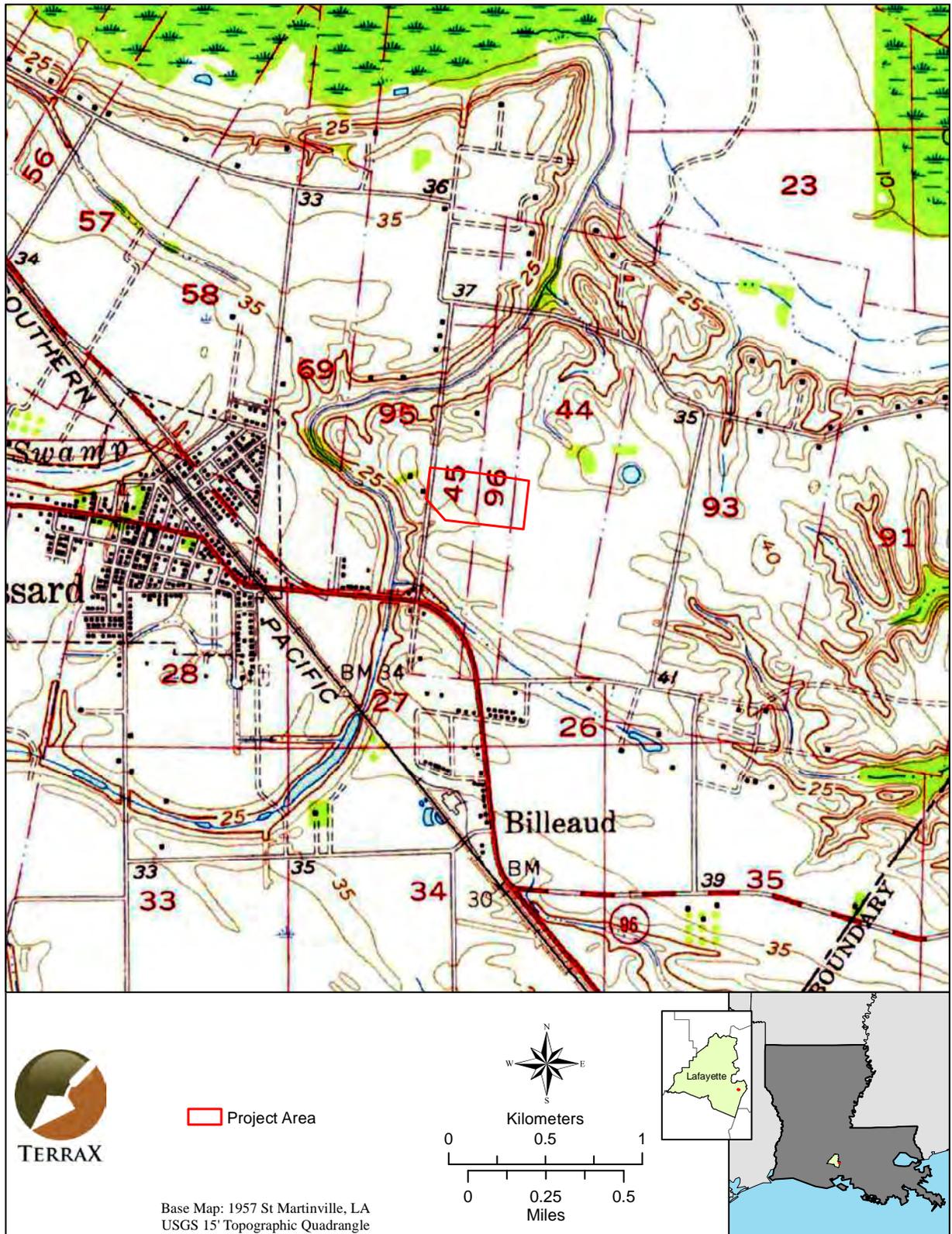


Figure 2.2. Historic 1957 topographic map showing the project area.

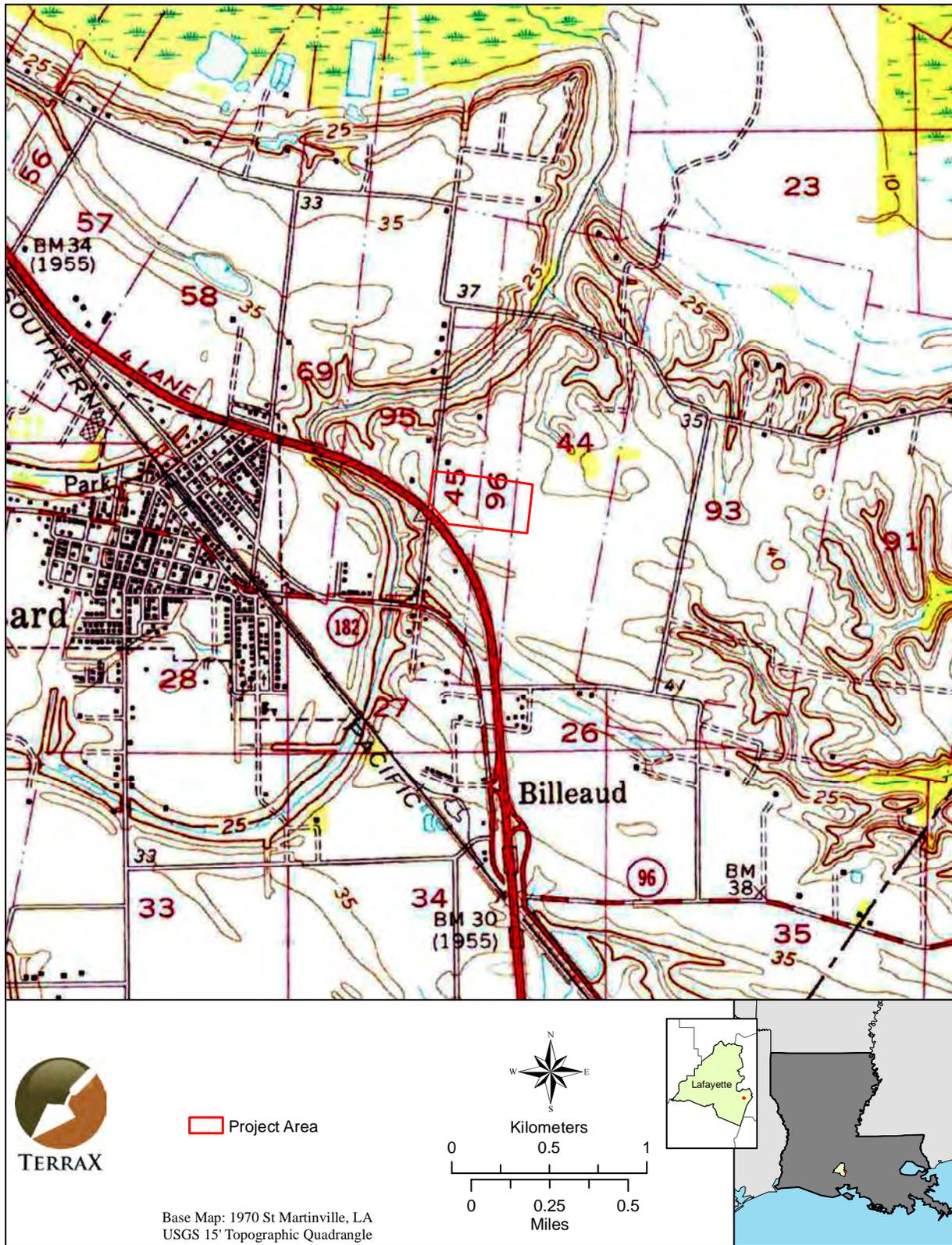


Figure 2.3. Historic 1970 topographic map showing the project area.

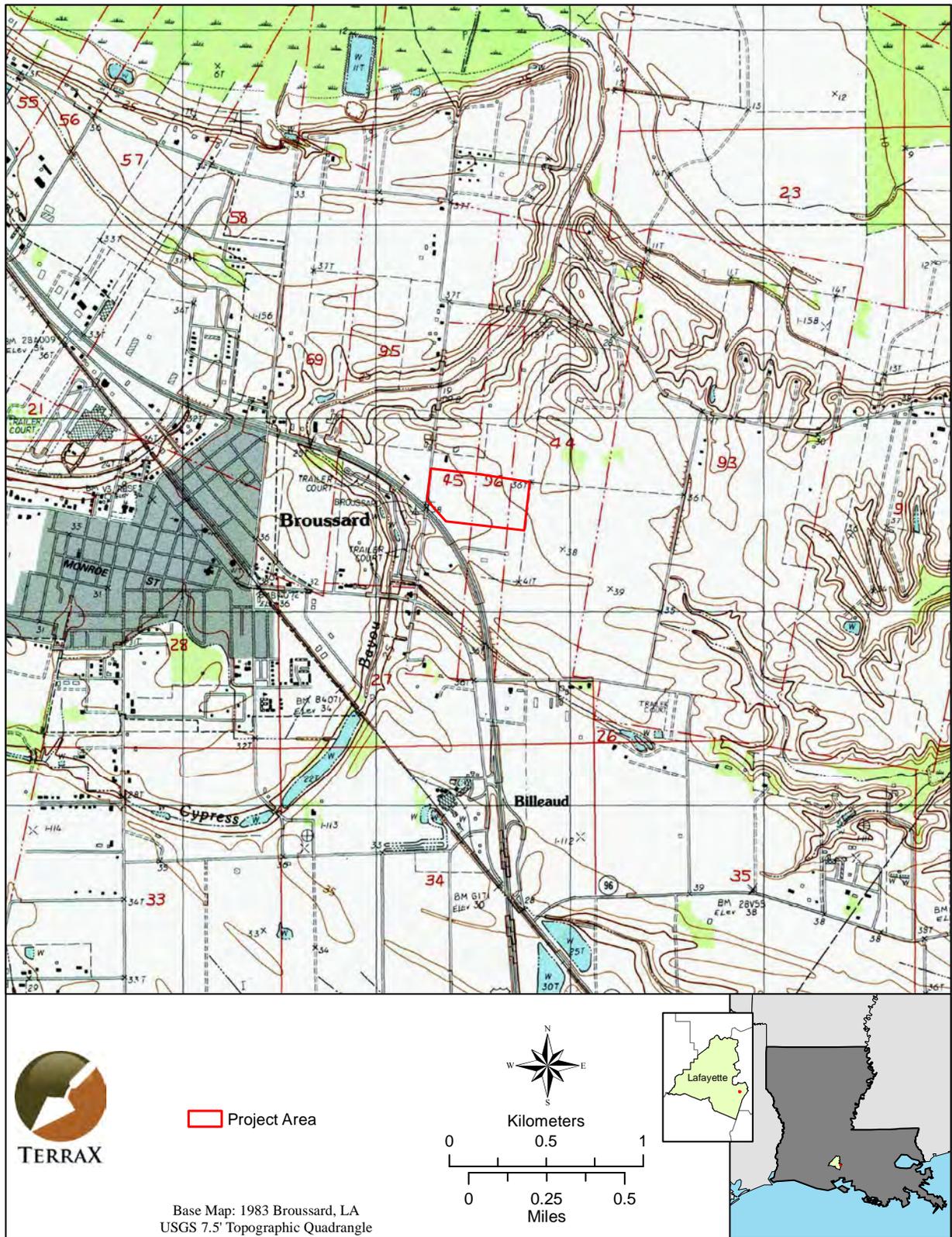


Figure 2.4. 1983 topographic map showing the project area.

CHAPTER 3 PREVIOUS INVESTIGATIONS

LITERATURE AND DOCUMENT SEARCH

Background research was conducted prior to the survey to identify previously recorded historic and prehistoric properties within a one-mile radius of the Girouard Site project located in Lafayette Parish, Louisiana. This search included an online query of the Louisiana Site Files (Louisiana Division of Archaeology [LDOA] 2021). A one-mile (1.6 km) radius search was conducted around the proposed project area for previously recorded archaeological sites and previous cultural resources surveys. Lastly, a query into the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) (National Park Service 2021) was conducted.

A search of the Phase I Surveys database maintained by LDOA (2021) identified nine previously recorded archaeological sites within a mile of the study area (Table 3.1; Figure 3.1). All of the sites are historic and most are recommended as ineligible. Site 16LY127 is the abandoned rail line of Southern Pacific (1880s-1950s). Recorded in 2009, the site form notes that the railroad played a critical role in the development of the town of Carencro. The rail grade was still intact at the time of recordation although the tracks had been removed. Site 16LY127 is recommended as potentially eligible. Site 16LY98 was recorded as a result of a disturbed burial outside the demarked cemetery. It was believed to have been an early burial whose location was lost in cemetery expansion.

Table 3.1. Previously recorded sites within one mile of the project area.				
Site Number	Site Name	NRHP Status	Components	Recorded by
16LY91		ineligible	19th-20th century	R. Christopher Goodwin & Associate, Inc.
16LY92		ineligible	19th-20th century	R. Christopher Goodwin & Associate, Inc.
16LY98	Sacred Heart Cemetery	undetermined	historic	Chip McGimsey
16LY106	Girouard Road Site	ineligible	historic	ESI
16LY107	St. Nazaire Road	ineligible	historic	ESI
16LY108	I49-W-02	ineligible	historic	ESI
16LY109	I49-W-03	ineligible	historic	ESI
16LY112	Albertson's Site	ineligible	historic	ESI
16LY127	Southern Pacific Railroad	potentially eligible	1880s-1950s	Wm. Matthew Tankersley

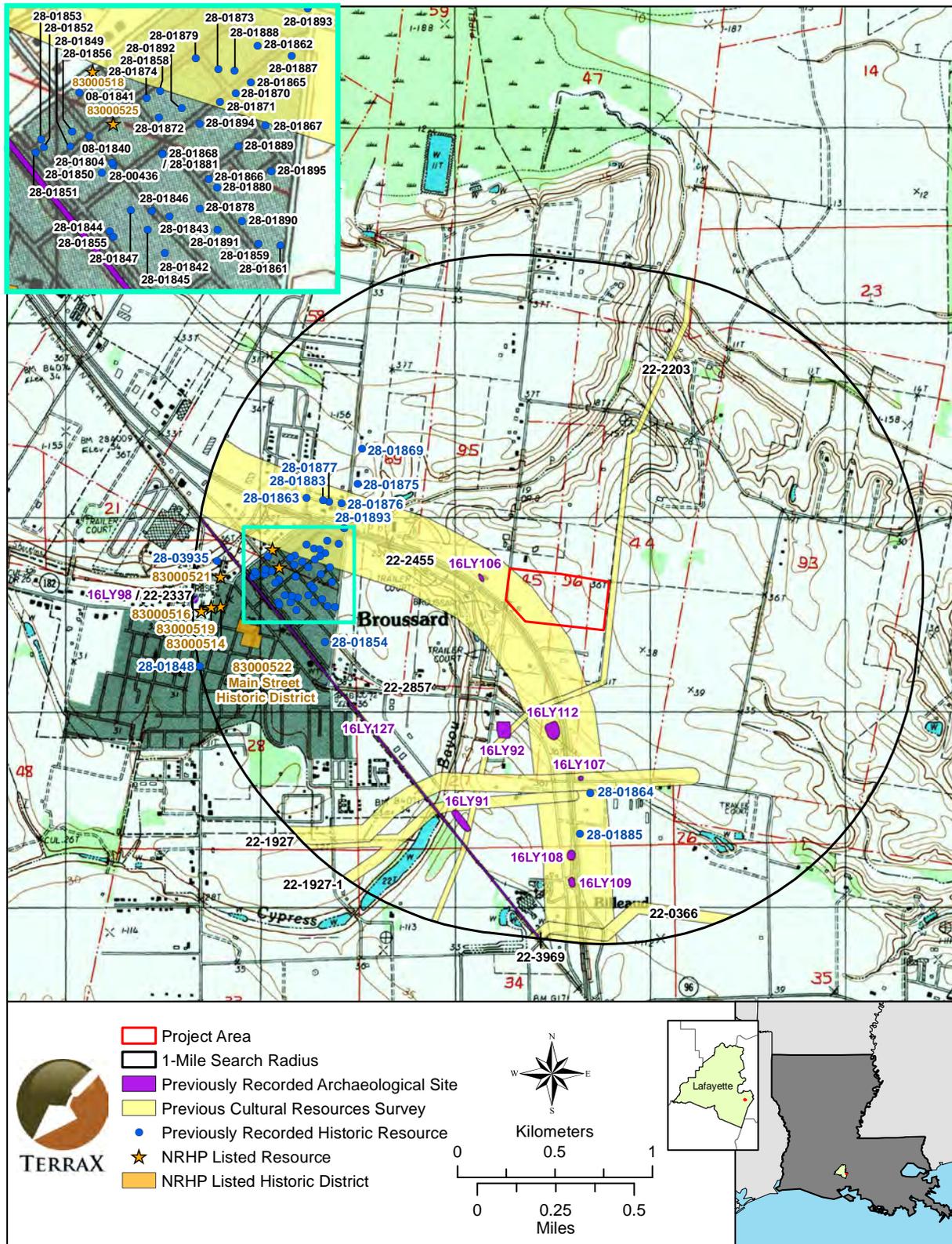


Figure 3.1. Map showing previous surveys and previously recorded sites, historic resources, and NRHP-listed resources within a one-mile radius of the project area.

There were eight surveys conducted within one mile, one of which overlapped with a portion of the current project area (Table 3.2; see Figure 3.1). Survey #22-2455 was conducted in 2004 by Earth Search for the proposed I-49 corridor right-of-way. Thirteen sites, seven isolated finds, and 58 buildings were recorded, none within the current project area (South et al. 2004).

Table 3.2. Previous surveys within one mile of the project area.		
Survey Number	Report Title	Author and Date
22-0366	<i>The Texas-Louisiana Ethylene Project</i>	William G. McIntire 1978
22-1927	<i>Beyond the River and the Ridge: Cultural Resources Investigations of Ambassador Caffery Parkway, Lafayette Parish, South-Central Louisiana</i>	Jon L. Gibson et al. 1996
22-1927-1	<i>Addendum to Beyond the River and the Ridge: Cultural Resources Investigations of Ambassador Caffery Parkway, Lafayette Parish, South-Central Louisiana: Alternates C, D, G, K, and L</i>	Jon L. Gibson & Carl A. Brasseaux 1997
22-2203	<i>Phase I Cultural Resources Survey and Archaeological Inventory of the Proposed Tends Breaux Bridge System Pipeline Project, Vermilion, Lafayette, and St. Martin Parishes, Louisiana</i>	Robblee et al. 1999
22-2337	<i>Marksville (16AV1), Lake Anacoco, and the Chenier Plain</i>	Charles R. McGimsey et al. 1999
22-2455	<i>Intensive Cultural Resources Survey I-49 South, Route US 90, Lafayette Regional Airport to Route LA 88, Lafayette, St. Martin and Iberia Parishes, Louisiana</i>	Barry South et al. 2004
22-2857	<i>Reconnaissance Archaeological Survey for the Proposed DT Broussard Communications Tower in Lafayette Parish, Louisiana</i>	Mark A. Rees 2006
22-3969	<i>Archaeology Report TCNS ID 82084 Proposed 15-foot by 50-foot Lease Area and Compound Expansion</i>	Environmental Corporation of America 2012

There are seven NRHP-listed properties within one mile (Table 3.3; see Figure 3.1). Six are individual properties and one is a small historic district consisting only of five buildings. All of these NRHP properties are eligible under Criterion C, Architecture. None are within or adjacent to the project area. Additionally, there are 54 historic resources that are identified from LDOA files (see Figure 3.1). None are within or adjacent to the study area.

Table 3.3. NRHP-listed properties within one mile of the project area.		
Number	Name	Year Built
83000514	Alesia - Queen Anne Revival cottage	c.1900
83000516	Martial Billeaud, Jr. House - Queen Anne Revival	1893
83000518	Comeaux House - Queen Anne-Colonial Revival	c.1908
83000519	Ducrest Building - Italianate	1903
83000521	Janin Store - Italianate	c.1890
83000522	Main Street Historic District	c.1890-1910
83000525	St. Julien House - Queen Anne-Colonial Revival	c.1910

CHAPTER 4 METHODOLOGY

STANDING STRUCTURES

Historic maps were reviewed before the field work was accomplished to ascertain the presence or absence of possible historic resources within the project area. While two structures appear on the 1939 St. Martinsville 15' series topographic map, field reconnaissance revealed that there are no standing structures within the project area currently.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELD METHODS

The field survey conducted implemented standard archaeological survey techniques. Full land coverage requirements were achieved through visual inspections of the entire survey area and subsurface testing. While conducting visual inspections, any exposed surfaces were carefully examined for cultural material.

Subsurface testing was performed along 30-m interval transects comprised of shovel tests spaced 30 m apart. Standard shovel tests consist of 30 centimeter (cm) diameter cylindrical holes excavated to the top of the sterile subsoil layer or until the water table or other obstruction was encountered. Soils from each test are screened through 1/4-inch (0.64 cm) hardware cloth for the purpose of recovering any cultural material that may exist at that location. When cultural material is encountered, the material is sorted by provenience and placed into bags labeled with the pertinent excavation information before being transported to TerraX's laboratory. If cultural material is identified during transecting, it is further examined in order to better define its horizontal and vertical limits. Delineations are conducted by placing additional shovel tests around positive tests. These additional tests are placed at 10 m intervals off of the original positive tests or cultural features in cardinal directions within the project area. This testing is conducted until two negative shovel tests are encountered in each direction or until delineations extend beyond the project boundary. A hand held Garmin GPS unit is used to record the site center and a sketch map is drawn by compass and pace and plotted to scale. Digital photographs are taken for any site recorded as well as for the survey area.

For the Girouard Site project, 143 shovel tests were attempted (Figure 4.1). All had negative results.

LABORATORY METHODS

Any cultural materials recovered during field projects are delivered to TerraX's laboratory in Mobile, Alabama for processing. Upon initial receipt of materials and field forms, bag lists are entered into a computer database for use with a labeling program. Materials are cleaned and, if necessary, stabilized before classification and quantification by laboratory analysts. Cultural materials are sorted on the basis of morphologic attributes, raw-material type (i.e., chert, quartz, etc.), measurements, and/or function. Previously defined types are often used to facilitate chronological assessments and intrasite comparisons. No material was recovered during this investigation.

CURATION

Along with any cultural material, all project records, photographs, and maps produced while conducting the investigation are transported for curation at the Troy University Archaeological Research Center, Troy, Alabama (Appendix A).

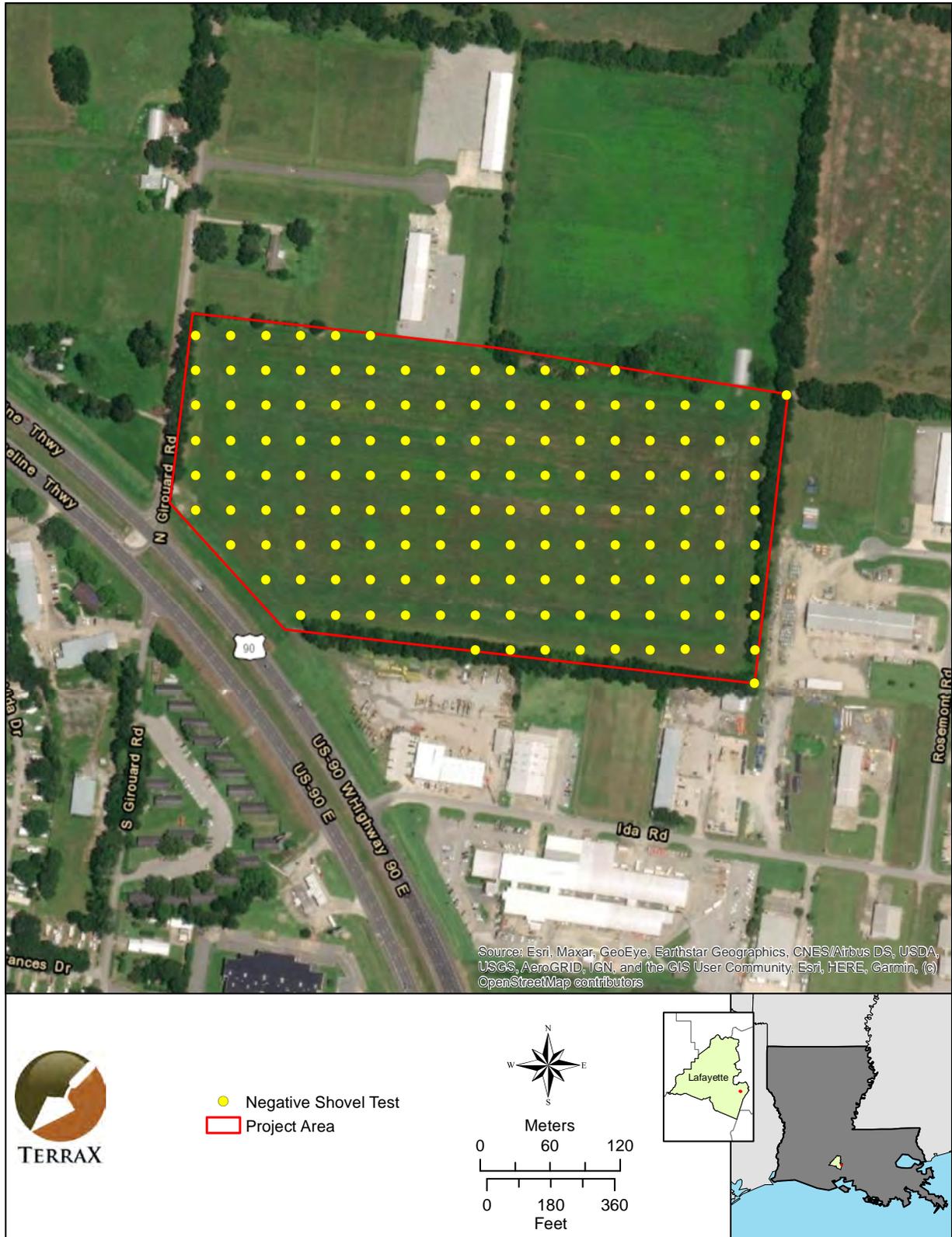


Figure 4.1. Aerial image showing shovel tests within the project area.

CHAPTER 5 RESULTS

OVERVIEW

This Phase I investigation included the placement of 143 shovel tests (see Figure 4.1). All were tested at 30-cm high probability intervals and all shovel tests were negative. A typical shovel test consisted of 25 cm of dark brown (10YR 3/3) silty loam over reddish brown (5YR 4/4) silty clay (Figure 5.1).



Figure 5.1. View of typical shovel test.

The project area is a flat pasture/fallow hay field with some linear stands of hardwoods along portions of the boundaries. Hay bales are stacked in a metal barn adjacent to the property. The remnants of a drainage ditch runs through the center of the field. A gated entrance on the western boundary off of N Girouard Road leads to a short gravel drive, although gravel was noticed in many of the shovel tests along the western portion of the project area. This is the area where two historic structures appeared on the 1939 St. Martinsville 15' series topographic map. The area now appears disturbed and no evidence of the former structures was found. Figures 5.2-5.7 depict the present condition of the project area.

No archaeological sites, historic areas, historic structures, or cultural material was found as a result of this survey and TerraX recommends that the project area be cleared of any cultural resource concerns.



Figure 5.2. View from southwestern corner of the project area, facing north-northeast.



Figure 5.3. View from northeastern corner of project area, facing southwest.



Figure 5.4. View of woods along boundaries of project area, facing west.



Figure 5.5. View from southeastern corner of project area, facing west-northwest.



Figure 5.6. View of old drainage ditch in center of project area, facing west-southwest.



Figure 5.7. View of gate and gravel drive in project area, facing west.

CHAPTER 6 SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATIONS

TerraX, under contract with One Acadiana of Lafayette, Louisiana, performed the Phase I cultural resources survey for the proposed Girouard Site project in Lafayette Parish, Louisiana. The Phase I survey was performed on January 18-19, 2021. The investigation did not identify any archaeological sites or historic resources within the project area. No further archaeological studies are recommended for the proposed Girouard Site and no historic properties will be affected by this project.

REFERENCES

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2006 Ecoregions of Louisiana (color poster with map, descriptive text, summary tables, and photographs): Reston, Virginia, U.S. Geological Survey.
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- South, Barry, M.E. Weed, J. Treffinger, J.K. Yakubik, B.D. Maygarden, P. Heinrich, A.L. Lee, G. Lazaras, D.R. Gray, E. Poitevent IV, M. Godzinski, W. Bosma, R.L. Smith, K.B. Lintott, M. Seward, G. Gordon
2004 *Intensive Cultural Resources Survey I-49 South, Route US 90, Lafayette Regional Airport to Route LA 88, Lafayette, St. Martin and Iberia Parishes, Louisiana*. Performed by Earth Search, Inc. LDOA #22-2455.

APPENDIX A
CURATION AGREEMENT

Troy, Alabama
36082

334-670-3000

TROY
UNIVERSITY

FROM: Stephen Carmody

TO: Paul Jackson
Terra Xplorations
3523 18th Ave NE
Tuscaloosa, Alabama 35406

DATE: December 18, 2020

SUBJECT: Letter of Acceptance of Archaeological Collections

This memo serves as our [Troy University Archaeological Research Center] acceptance and long-term curation of archaeological collections from TerraXplorations.

We appreciate this opportunity to be of assistance and look forward to working with you in the future.

Sincerely,



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Troy University Archaeological Center
120 MSCX
Troy, Alabama 36082
Lab Phone: (334) 808-6771
Office Phone: (334) 808-6850

