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Phase I Cultural Resources Assessment Report

LOUISIANA ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CERTIFIED SITE

GREATER BATON ROUGE ECONOMIC PARTNERSHIP

Magnolia Ridge Logistics Park Phase I Cultural Resources Assessment Report

PHASE I CULTURAL RESOURCES SURVEY OF 182 ACRES (73.65 HECTARES) IN GONZALES, ASCENSION PARISH, LOUISIANA

Draft Report

for

Magnolia Ridge Logistics Investment, LLC
3900 Lee St
Alexandria, LA, 71302

April 2025

SURA, INC.
P.O. Box 14414
Baton Rouge, LA 70898-4414
Since 1986

PHASE I CULTURAL RESOURCES SURVEY OF 182 ACRES (73.65 HECTARES) IN GONZALES, ASCENSION PARISH, LOUISIANA

Draft Report

by
Katt Doucet, Stephanie Banta and Malcolm K. Shuman

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

for

Magnolia Ridge Logistics Investment, LLC
3900 Lee St
Alexandria, LA, 71302

United States Army Corps of Engineers
7400 Leake Avenue,
New Orleans, Louisiana 70118

April 2025

ABSTRACT

From March 19th through 26th, 2025, Surveys Unlimited Research Associates, Inc. (SURA, Inc.) conducted a Phase I cultural resources survey of 182 acres (ac) (73.65 hectares [ha]) in Gonzales, Ascension Parish, Louisiana. The Area of Potential Effects (APE) is a part of Township 9 South, and Range 2 East. This survey was undertaken at the request of Magnolia Ridge Logistics Investment, LLC to comply with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. This area is the proposed site of a logistics center. Two isolated finds and one trash dump were located within the direct APE, however none of these finds had enough artifacts with enough diagnostic potential to be designated as sites. One standing structure within the Direct APE was evaluated and is not considered eligible for the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). The area was determined to have an indirect APE of 500 feet (ft) (152.4 meters [m]). No structures within that radius met the age criterion for recordation. As a result, we recommend that no historical properties will be affected by this project and the area requires no further work. We suggest that the project be allowed to proceed as planned.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The field crew was led by Katt Doucet and consisted of Stephanie Banta, Patrick Bradley and Katt Doucet. Katt Doucet, Stephanie Banta and Malcolm Shuman prepared this report. Malcolm Shuman served as the principal investigator.

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CHAPTER ONE:
INTRODUCTION

Between March 19th and 26th, 2025, Surveys Unlimited Research Associates, Inc. (SURA, Inc.) conducted a Phase I cultural resources survey of 182 acres (ac) (73.65 hectares [ha]) in Gonzales, Ascension Parish, Louisiana. The direct APE consisted of agricultural land divided by a road, with a few small patches of trees. The approximate center of the APE is 694610.78 m Easting and 3344698.61 m Northing. The field crew consisted of Katt Doucet, Stephanie Banta and Patrick Bradley. This survey was undertaken at the request of Magnolia Ridge Logistics Investment, LLC to comply with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and the lead federal agency was the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. This area is the proposed site of a logistics center. The indirect APE was 500 feet (ft) (152.4 meters [m]).

The following chapters in this report describe the environmental setting, previous archaeological investigations, the methodology employed in the survey, the survey's results, and the study's conclusions and recommendations.

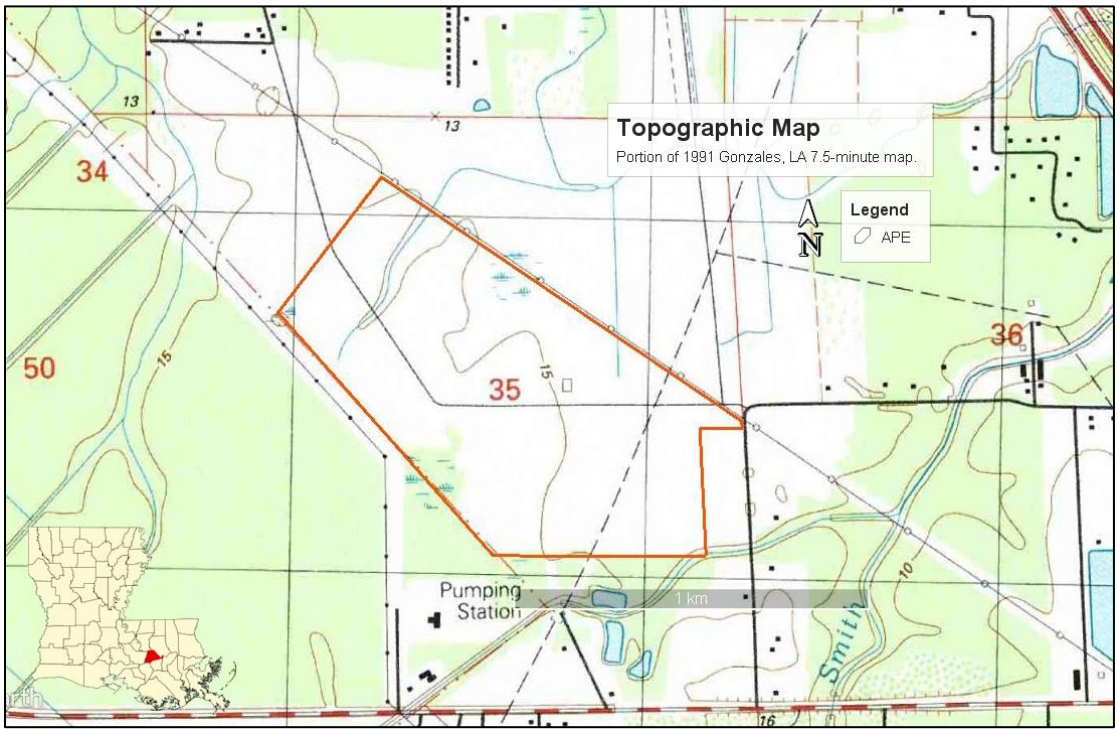

Figure 1. Topographic Quadrangle of 1991 Gonzales, LA, 7.5' map.

CHAPTER TWO:
LAND USE HISTORY

Geology and Geomorphology

The most influential factors in determining the natural setting of the project area are the fluvial geomorphological processes associated with the lower Mississippi River. The meandering nature of the river, its associated tributaries and distributaries, the building of natural levees, and crevasses in the natural levee, affected the extent, time, and nature of prehistoric and historic occupations.

The Mississippi River changed abruptly, in geological terms, from a river of braided channels to a meandering stream approximately 12,000 years ago. This change is generally thought to have been caused by a rise in sea level dating from the end of the last Ice Age (Gagliano 1984, Figure 2).

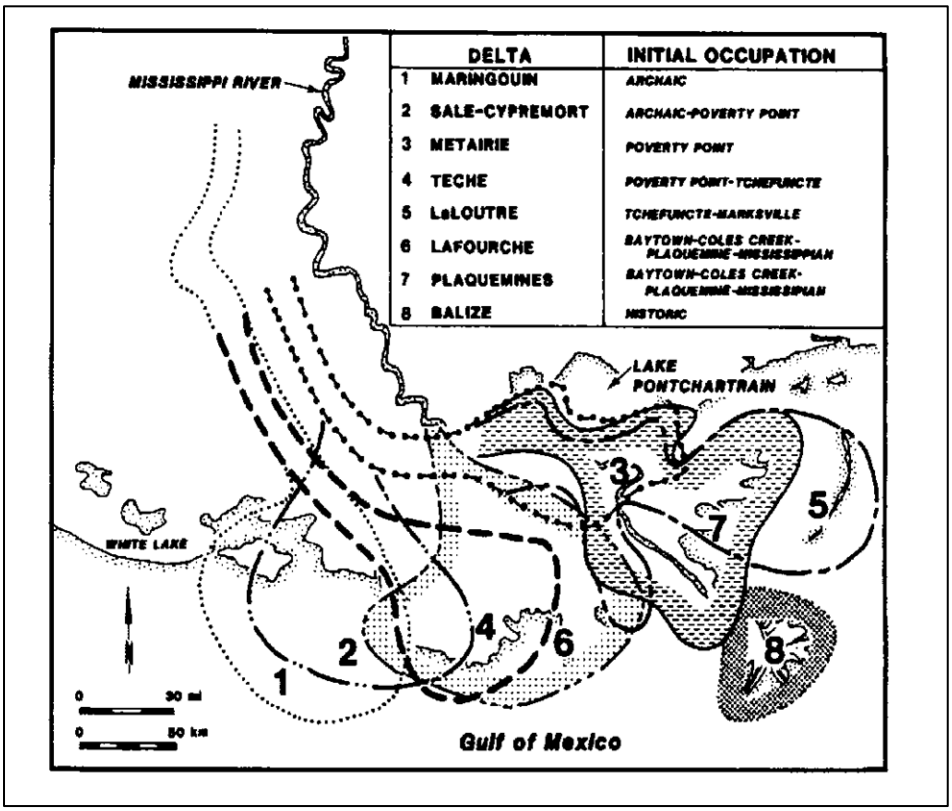

Figure 2. Major delta complexes and associated archaeological complexes in the Mississippi deltaic plain. Adapted from Gagliano 1984:40.

This geomorphological event may have also coincided roughly with the arrival of man into what is now the Mississippi Valley-Gulf Coast region. In fact, archaeology and geomorphology

have aided each other in dating the locations and times of the various shifts in the Mississippi River and its attendant streams because aboriginal occupations appear to have generally occurred along active stream channels (e.g. Russell 1938, McIntire 1958, Gagliano 1984). Figure 3 shows major delta complexes of the Mississippi River and the prehistoric occupations that have been associated with them.

Northwest of the project area, New River is also an important factor in determining the characteristics of the natural setting. This stream and Bayou Manchac, north of the project area, are the two watercourses that drain the area immediately east of the Mississippi River into the Maurepas Basin. The course of New River is described in some detail by Russell (1938:41-47) in a bulletin of the Louisiana Geological Survey. From its headwaters at the natural levee of the Mississippi River, New River parallels the Mississippi River for five miles or so but flows in the opposite direction. Two miles northwest of Geismar, New River turns its flow northeast toward the Maurepas Basin where it incises through the higher elevations of Oak Grove Island. According to Russell, at this point in its flow, the New River takes on the characteristics of a former distributary channel from the Mississippi River, which New River apparently occupied at some point after this former channel was cut off from the Mississippi. This has created an “underfit” stream where the terraces and natural levees that were built by Mississippi River discharge are now the banks of a much smaller stream and provide steeper banks and settings more likely to escape flooding from high water in New River.

The climate in this area is typical of the Louisiana Gulf Coast. Mean annual temperature is 61o F and there are 40 to 50 inches of rain per year (Calhoun 2006:210-211). According to Anderson et al. (1996:4), there have been major environmental changes in the Southeast, as reflected in vegetation, over the past 15,000 years. From 10,000 to 12,000 B.P., summers became warmer and winters colder, and precipitation increased, though in this particular area “a hardwood canopy was in place considerably earlier, perhaps throughout much of the previous glacial cycle” (Anderson et al. 1996:4). These researchers note that it was only in the period 4,000 to 8,000 B.P. that southern pines began to emerge in the interriverine uplands and extensive riverine swamps began to appear (Anderson et al. 1996:6).

Soils

There are two soil types within the Direct APE (Figure 3), Jeanerette silt loam (Je) and Acy silt loam (Ac). They are both characterized as being somewhat poorly drained but not frequently flooded and used as prime farmland.

Figure 3. Soil map of APE (University of California, Davis 2016/Google Earth).

Animal life is diverse and most of the 62-mammal species found in Louisiana may at one time have been found within the area. These include white-tail deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*), cottontail rabbit (*Sylvilagus floridanus*), swamp rabbit (*Sylvilagus aquaticus*), gray squirrel (*Sciurus carolinensis*), fox squirrel (*Sciurus niger*), skunk (*Mephitis mephitis*), black bear (*Euarctos americanus*), raccoon (*Procyon lotor*), mink (*Mustela vison*), beaver (*Castor canadensis*), opossum (*Didelphus virginiana*), bobcat (*Lynx rufus*), gray fox (*Urocyon cinereoargenteus*) and red fox (*Vulpes fulva*) (Lowery 1974). Birds include such predators as the great horned owl (*Bubo virginianus*), barred owl (*Strix platypterus*), marsh hawk (*Circus cyaneus*), and many others. Non-predatory types include woodcocks (*Philohela minor*), wood ducks (Aix sponsa), bobwhite quail (*Colinus virginianus*), and mourning doves (*Zenaidura macroura*) (Lowery 1955).

Reptile life is particularly diverse, owing to the heterogeneity of habitats in the area. Included are alligators (*Alligator mississippiensis*), several species of snakes, including the cotton mouth (*Agkistrodon piscivorus*), and varied species of lizards and turtles. Amphibians include species of salamanders, frogs, and toads (Dundee and Rossman 1989).

Fish life is very prolific in this part of Louisiana and no doubt was likewise prehistorically. Prominent fish species are gar (*Lepisosteus spp*), largemouth bass (*Micropterus salmoides*), and bluegill (*Lepmis macrochirus*), among many others.

Historic Land Use

A review of historic topographic maps from USGS shows development in the form of roads, buildings and transmission lines both within and outside of the direct APE. Beginning as marshland in 1892 (Figure 4), the direct APE and the surrounding areas are soon divided by roads and dotted with structures (Figure 5), and eventually developments like pumping stations and landing strips surround the direct APE (Figure 8).

Topographic Maps

Beginning in 1892, the entirety of the direct APE and much of the surrounding area appears to be marshland (Figure 4). A road running north to south is shown to the far east of the APE, lined by a few standing structures.

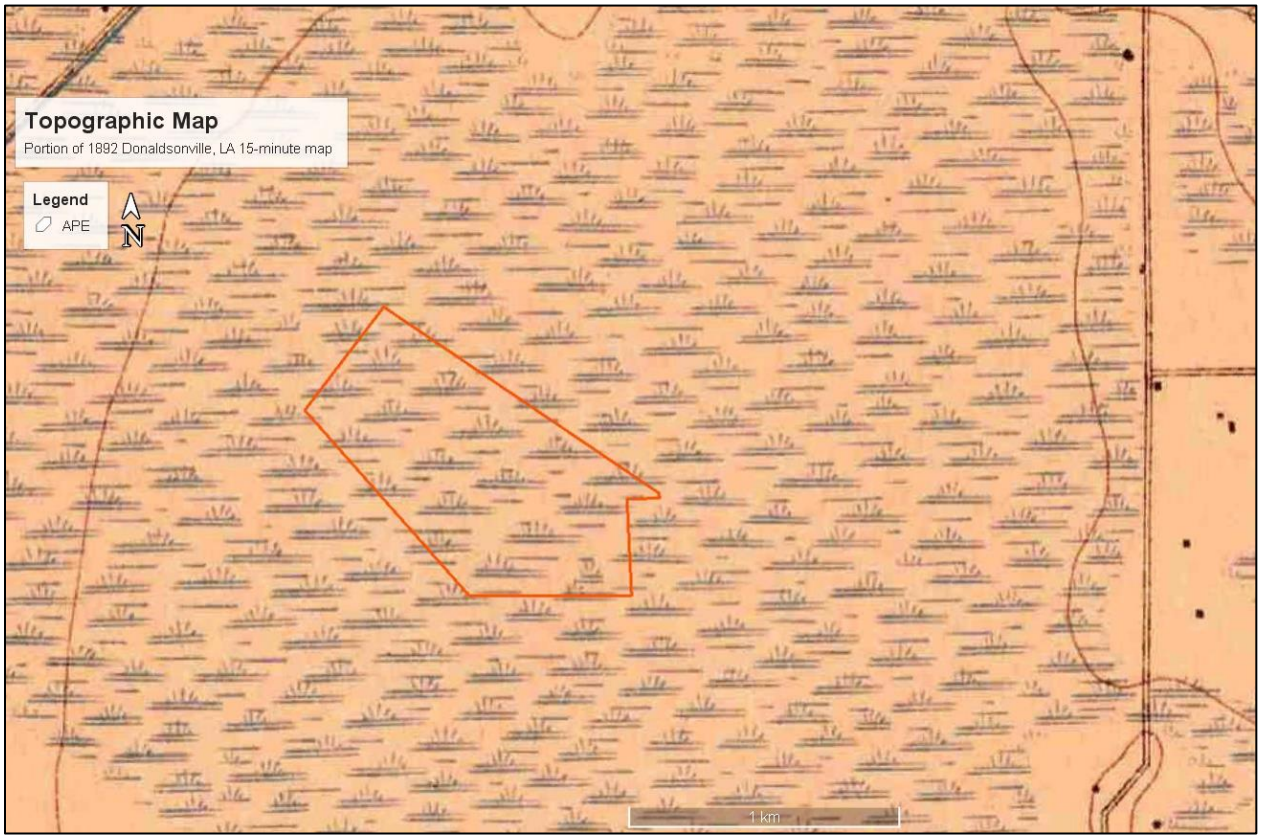

Figure 4. Portion of 1892 Donaldsonville, LA 15-minute map (Source: USGS)

By 1939, a road can be seen running northwest to southeast through the center and western parts of the direct APE (Figure 5), branching off in several directions. One standing structure is depicted within the direct APE, just west of the road. Smith Bayou can be seen east of the direct APE, and several structures are shown along roads outside of the APE. The road running through the direct APE connects with an abandoned railroad track in the south, which can also be seen branching south to northeast to the east of the APE.

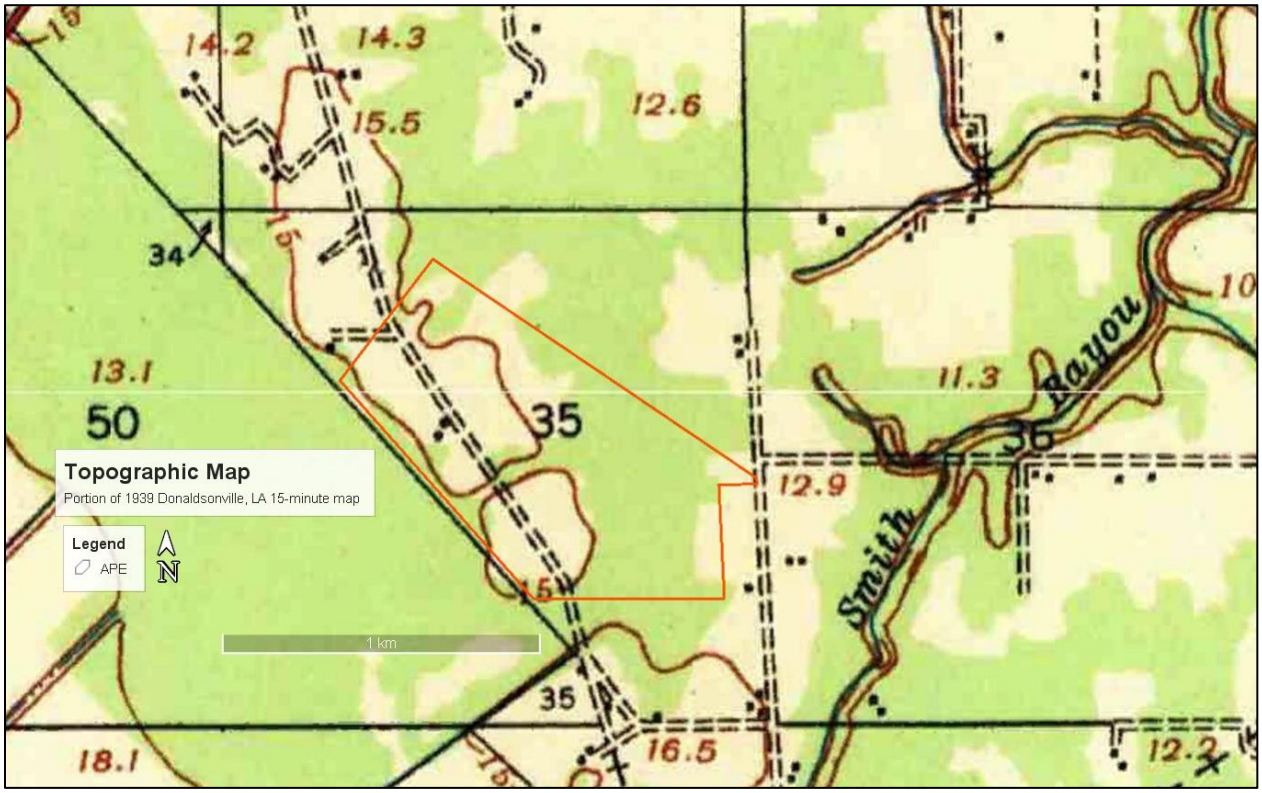

Figure 5. Portion of 1939 Donaldsonville, LA 15-minute map (Source: USGS)

By 1953, a transmission line can be seen running north to southwest through the western portion of the APE (Figure 6). A bit of marshland is depicted primarily to the north of the direct APE; however, some small segments of marshland are shown within the direct APE. Further development of roads and structures surround the APE to the north, east and south.

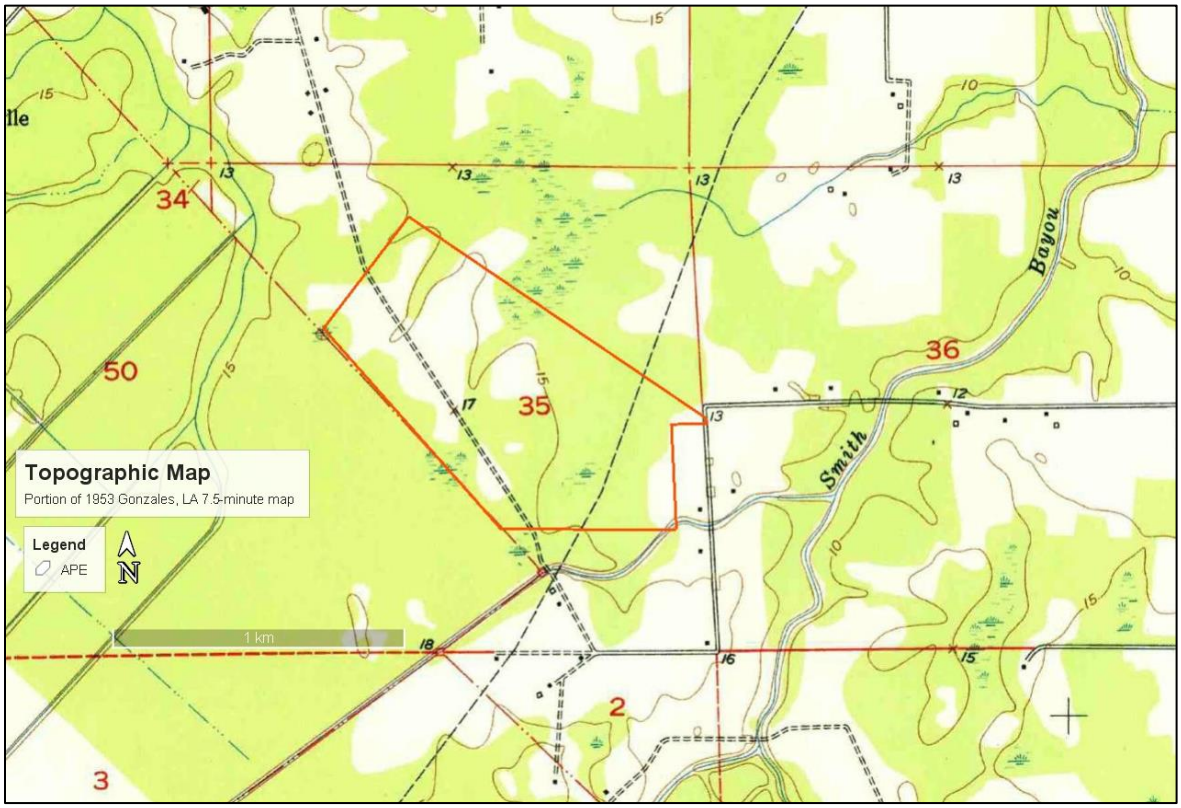

Figure 6. Portion of 1953 Gonzales, LA 7.5-minute map (Source: USGS)

By 1961, a transmission line has been installed running northwest to south just outside the southwestern boundary of the APE (Figure 7). A private road is now depicted branching off the previously shown road running through the direct APE, running west to east. Five standing structures can be seen within the direct APE. A tributary of Smith Bayou now divides the northwestern portion of the direct APE from the rest.

Figure 7. Portion of 1961 Gonzales, LA 7.5-minute map (Source: USGS)

Finally, by 1991, the structures within the direct APE are no longer shown (Figure 8). The southern section of the original road shown within the direct APE no longer extends past the addition of the private road that runs west to east. A pumping station is depicted south of the direct APE and a landing strip is depicted to the north of the direct APE. Interstate (I-) 10 is shown running north to southeast to the east of the direct APE. Development in the form of roads and buildings surround the direct APE to the north, east and south.

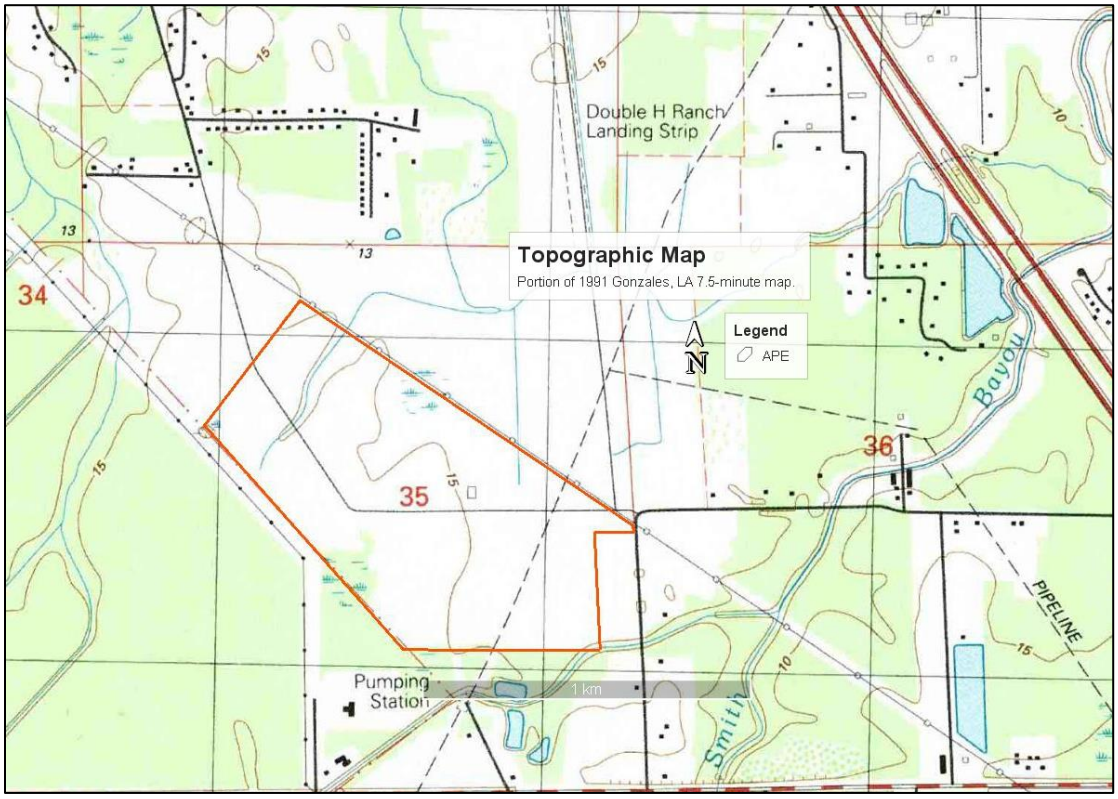

Figure 8. Portion of 1991 Gonzales, LA 7.5-minute map (Source: USGS)

Satellite Imagery

Beginning in February 1996, the direct APE is composed of agricultural land (Figure 9). A barn sits near the center of the APE, directly north of a road which runs east to west and branches northwest on the west side. A bit of development in the form of buildings and roads is present both south and east of the direct APE. Tributaries of Smith Bayou surround the APE to the north and east, with one running through the northwestern portion of the direct APE. Thick woods surround the direct APE to the west, east and south.

Figure 9. Satellite imagery of the Direct APE, 1996 (Source: Google Earth).

By May of 2005, a portion of the forest to the east of the direct APE has been razed for a pipeline (Figure 10). A portion of the forest to the southeast of the APE has been razed to make room for new roads and structures.

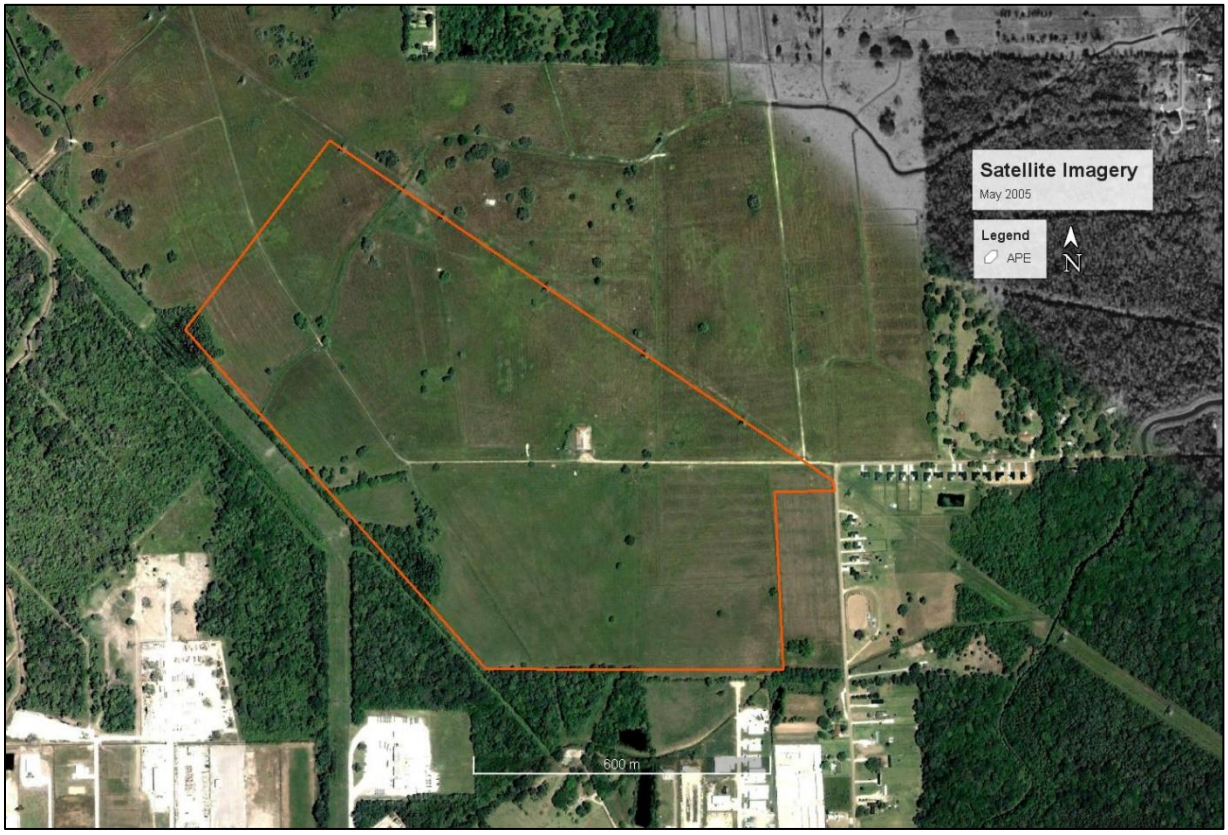

Figure 10. Satellite imagery of the Direct APE, 2005 (Source: Google Earth).

By October of 2007 much of the direct APE and surrounding agricultural area has been carved out by roads and pipelines (Figure 11).

Figure 11. Satellite imagery of the Direct APE, 2007 (Source: Google Earth).

By June of 2016, much of the direct APE and surrounding agricultural land is in active use (Figure 12). Development has continued to the south, southwest and east of the direct APE.

Figure 12. Satellite imagery of the Direct APE, 2016 (Source: Google Earth).

By October of 2016, the agricultural land within and outside of the APE is no longer in cultivation (Figure 13). Aside from a few more structures having been developed southeast of the APE, there are no other changes.

Figure 13. Satellite imagery of the Direct APE, 2005 (Source: Google Earth).

CHAPTER THREE:
PREVIOUS INVESTIGATIONS

Projects within 1 mi (1.6 km) of Project Area

There are 21 projects recorded within 1 mile (mi) (1.6 kilometers [km]) of the APE boundaries. These surveys are compiled in Table 1 and their proximity to the APE is depicted in Figure 14.

Table 1. Projects within 1 mi (1.6 km) of APE.

Report No.	Report Title	Contractor	Author(s)	Type of Survey	Date
22-1188	A Level I Cultural Resources Survey of Proposed Telephone Cable Routes in Ascension and Livingston Parishes, Louisiana.	Coastal Environments, Inc.	Not specified	Assessment and Reconnaissance	1987
22-1467	Literature Search and Research Design Amite River and Tributaries Project Ascension, East Baton Rouge, and Livingston Parishes, Louisiana.	R. Christopher Goodwin & Associates, Inc.	Goodwin, R. Christopher, Stephen Hinks, William P. Athens, Lawrence L. Hewitt, and William A. Morgan	Assessment and Reconnaissance	1990
22-2017	Phase I Cultural Resources Survey of Portions of a Proposed Railroad Line in Ascension Parish, Louisiana.	Surveys Unlimited Research Associates, Inc.	Shuman, Malcolm K., Dennis C. Jones, Melissa G. Wiedenfeld, and John F. Lindemuth	Phase I	1997
22-2161	Cultural Resources Survey of the Proposed Route of a Pipeline in Ascension, East Baton Rouge, Iberville, St. James, and West Baton Rouge Parishes, Louisiana.	Surveys Unlimited Research Associates, Inc.	Jones, Dennis, Malcolm K. Shuman, Tom Wells, and Ben Goodwin	Phase I	1998
22-2329	Phase I A Cultural Resources Investigation for a Proposed Fiber-Optic Line Through the Southern Portions of Louisiana.	Panamerican Consultants, Inc.	Jackson, Paul D., Rebecca Saunders, and Josetta LeBoeuf	Phase I	2000
22-3879	Phase I Cultural Resources Survey of the Proposed Praxair South Louisiana Hydrogen Pipeline Expansion Project, Ascension, St. James, St. John the Baptist, and St. Charles Parishes, Louisiana	Coastal Environments, Inc.	Kelley, David	Phase I	2011

Table 1. Projects within 1 mi (1.6 km) of APE (Continued).

22-4797	Phase I Cultural Resources Survey of 194.01 Acres (78.38 Hectares) on the Grezaffi South Tract near Dutchtown, Ascension Parish, Louisiana	Surveys Unlimited Research Associates, Inc.	Malcolm K. Shuman, Brandy N. Kerr, Matthew Chouest and Karl Shuman	Phase I	2014
22-4797-1	Phase I Cultural Resources Survey of 194.01 Acres (78.38 Hectares) on the Grezaffi South Tract near Dutchtown, Ascension Parish, Louisiana: Addendum A	Surveys Unlimited Research Associates, Inc.	Malcolm K. Shuman and Brandy N. Kerr	Phase I	2014
22-4798	Phase I Cultural Resources Survey of the Proposed Ascension Pipeline Project, Ascension, St. James, and St. John the Baptist Parishes, Louisiana	SWCA Environmental Consultants	Jacob Foreman, Matthew Helmer, Oscar A. Rothrock III, Merideth A. Moreno, and Kevin J. Pintz	Phase I	2016
22-5342	A Negative Findings Phase I Cultural Resource Survey of 4.79 Acres of the BASF Corporation Facility in Ascension Parish, Louisiana	CRA	Kennedy, Jason A.	Phase I	2016
22-6128	Phase I Cultural Resources Survey of the Baton Rouge Pipeline Project in Ascension, East Baton Rouge, Iberville, and West Baton Rouge Parishes, Louisiana	R. Christopher Goodwin & Associates, Inc.	Cropley, Peter and Wayne C.J. Boyko	Phase I	2018
22-6128-3	Addendum 3: Additional Phase I Cultural Resource Survey of the Baton Rouge Pipeline Project in Ascension, East Baton Rouge, Iberville, and West Baton Roge Parishes, Louisiana	R. Christopher Goodwin & Associates, Inc.	Peter Cropley, Wayne C.J. Boyko, Susan Barrett Smith, and Jill Enersen	Phase I	2019
22-6331	A Phase I Cultural Resources Survey of Five Segments for the Exxon Ac Mitigation Project in Ascension, Iberville, and West Baton Rouge Parishes, Louisiana	TerraXplorations	Jackson, Paul D., and Amy Carruth	Phase I	2016
22-6865	A Phase I Cultural Resources Survey for the Proposed MCC Methacrylates Americas Inc., Project Genesis, Ascension Parish, Louisiana	TerraX	Jenkins, Jessica A. and Briane Shane	Phase I	2021

Table 1. Projects within 1 mi (1.6 km) of APE (Continued).

22-6612	A Phase I Cultural Resources Survey for the Proposed BASF Geismar Railroad Expansion Project, Ascension Parish, Louisiana	TerraXplorations, Inc.	Jenkins, Jessica A. and Briane Shane	Phase I	2020
22-6901	A Phase I Cultural Resources Survey for the Proposed Reg Geismar Train B Project, Ascension Parish, Louisiana	TerraX	Jenkins, Jessica A., Virginia Jenkins, and Briane Shane	Phase I	2021
22-7030	Phase I Cultural Resources Survey for the Index 130 MS River Replacement Project, Ascension Parish, Louisiana	Perennial	Peyton, Abby	Phase I	2022
22-7366	Phase I Cultural Resources Survey and Archaeological Inventory of the Proposed 14.6 km (9.1 mi) Long Geismar Pipeline for the River Parish Sequestration Project in Ascension Parish, Louisiana	RCG	Heller, Nathanael, susan Barret Smith, and Emily Meaden Jeansonne	Phase I	2023
22-7498	A Phase I Cultural Resources Survey for the BASF Project in Ascension Parish, Louisiana	TerraXplorations	Filoromo, Steven J., and Paul D. Jackson	Phase I	2024
22-7677	Phase I Cultural Resources Survey for the Proposed BASF Project in Geismar, Ascension Parish, Louisiana	TerraXplorations	Pagels, Zackariah D., and Briane Shane	Phase I	2024

In 1997, SURA, Inc. completed a Phase I cultural resources survey of the proposed route of a pipeline, which runs directly through the center of the direct APE for this project. A total of 43.9 ha (108.4 acres ac) were surveyed along a 6.1 meter (m) (20 ft) wide corridor. Four historic sites, 16AN1, 16EBR41, 16IV28, and 16SJ49, were discovered over the course of the survey.

In 2016, SWCA Environmental Consultants completed a Phase I cultural resources survey of a proposed pipeline which runs briefly through the northern portion of the direct APE for this project. Three sites, 16AN110, 16AN111 and 16SJ73 were discovered over the course of the 33 mile long project.

In 2018, R. Christopher Goodwin and Associates completed a Phase I cultural resources survey of another proposed pipeline, running through the northern portion of the direct APE for this project. Nine sites, 16AN1, 16AN110, 16EBR35, 16EBR41, 16EBR192, 16IV228, 16WBR5, 16WBR52 and 16WBR53 were discovered over the course of this 1091.63 ac (44.8 ha), 35.68 mi corridor.

Archaeological Sites within 1 mi (1.6 km) of APE

There are 5 previously recorded archaeological sites within 1 mi (1.6 km) of the APE. These sites are compiled in Table 2 and their proximity to the APE is depicted in Figure 14.

Table 2. Archaeological Sites within 1 mi (1.6 km) of APE

Site No.	Name	Component(s)	Culture(s)	Function	NRHP Status	Last Visited
16AN110	None given	Historic	Industrial and Modern	Farmstead, dump	Ineligible	2019
16AN111	KJP040815A-2	Historic	early twentieth century to modern	Historic (Unknown); Possible Farmstead or Trash Dump	Ineligible	2018
16AN182	Belle Helene Plantation Road	Historic	Antebellum 1803-1860, War and Aftermath 1860-1890	Railroad	Unknown	2024
16AN183	Locus 2	Historic	Post-Contact (unknown)	Post-Contact (unknown)	Unknown	2024
16AN184	Locus 3	Historic	Post-Contact (unknown)	Post-Contact (unknown)	Unknown	2024

Standing Structures within 1 mi (1.6 km) of APE

There are 4 previously recorded historic standing structures located within 1 mi (1.6 km) of the APE. These structures are compiled in Table 3 and their proximity to the APE is depicted in Figure 14.

Table 3. Standing Structures within 1 mi (1.6 km) of APE.

LHRI No.	Name	Address	Function	Form	Condition	Listed on NRHP	Date Visited
33-00197	Mt. Pilgrim Baptist Church Cemetery	LA 73, Geismar	Religious	Cemetery	N/A	No	1976
03-00610	None given	Route 73, 1 mile N of Route 30	Residential	Unknown	Poor	No	N/A
03-00781	None given	11084 Dave Miller Rd.	Residential	Minimal Traditional Cottage	N/A	Ineligible	2018
03-00782	None given	37108 Ellem Road	Residential	Minimal Traditional Cottage	N/A	Ineligible	2018

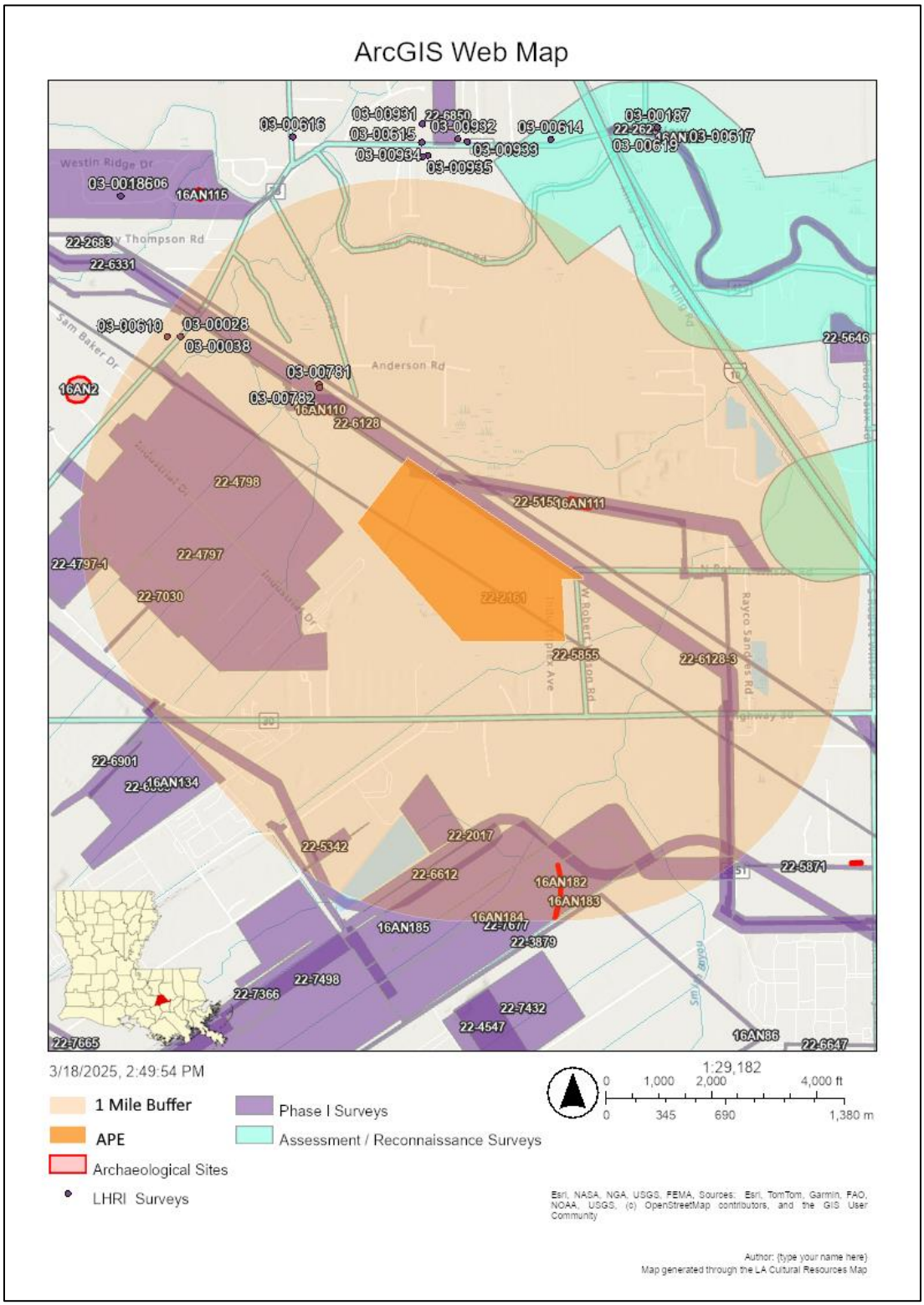

Figure 14. Map of known archaeological surveys, sites, and historic standing structures within 1 mi (1.6 km) of project area (LDOA).

CHAPTER FOUR: METHODOLOGY

Procedures

Methodology for the cultural resources survey included archival research and fieldwork. Initially, historic maps and aerial photographs at the United States Geological Survey (USGS) were consulted to determine any structures or roads that might have existed on the property in the early and mid-twentieth century. In addition, the site files and report library of the Louisiana Division of Archaeology were examined to determine archaeological sites reported for this area by previous investigators. All areas within 328 ft (100 m) of water features or historic roads were considered to be high probability. The remaining area was considered to be low probability. High probability transects were spaced 98.4 ft (30 m) apart with a shovel test dug every 98.4 ft (30 m). Low probability transects were spaced 164 ft (50 m) apart with a shovel test dug every 164 ft (50 m). All shovel tests were excavated to 50 cm or clay, whichever came first. Material recovered from the shovel tests was screened using .25-inch hardware cloth. When archaeological sites are discovered, they are defined using the protocol described in the Louisiana Division of Archaeology Guidelines.

Each cultural resource site found is assessed per current National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) criteria, as given below.

Eligibility for the National Register of Historic Places

According to the National Register of Historic Places Bulletin 15 (1995:2), "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." To evaluate this significance, four criteria have been developed. Eligible properties…

"A. … are associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history; or

B. … are associated with the lives of persons significant in our past; or

C. … 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. … have yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important in history or prehistory" (NRHP 1995:2).

Curation Statement

Artifacts are returned to the SURA laboratory, washed, analyzed and catalogued and will be returned to the landowner.

CHAPTER FIVE:
RESULTS OF THE SURVEY

Fieldwork

The field survey was conducted from March 19th through 26th, 2025. The direct APE consisted of agricultural land divided by a road, with a few small patches of trees. A total of 198 high probability, 243 low probability and 28 site/isolated find delineation shovel tests were excavated (Figure 15). Twenty-four shovel tests could not be excavated due to gravel (Figures 24 and 25) and inundation (Figures 28-31). Figures 21-32 show examples of topography encountered during the survey. Table 4 depicts representative Munsell soil profiles for the APE.

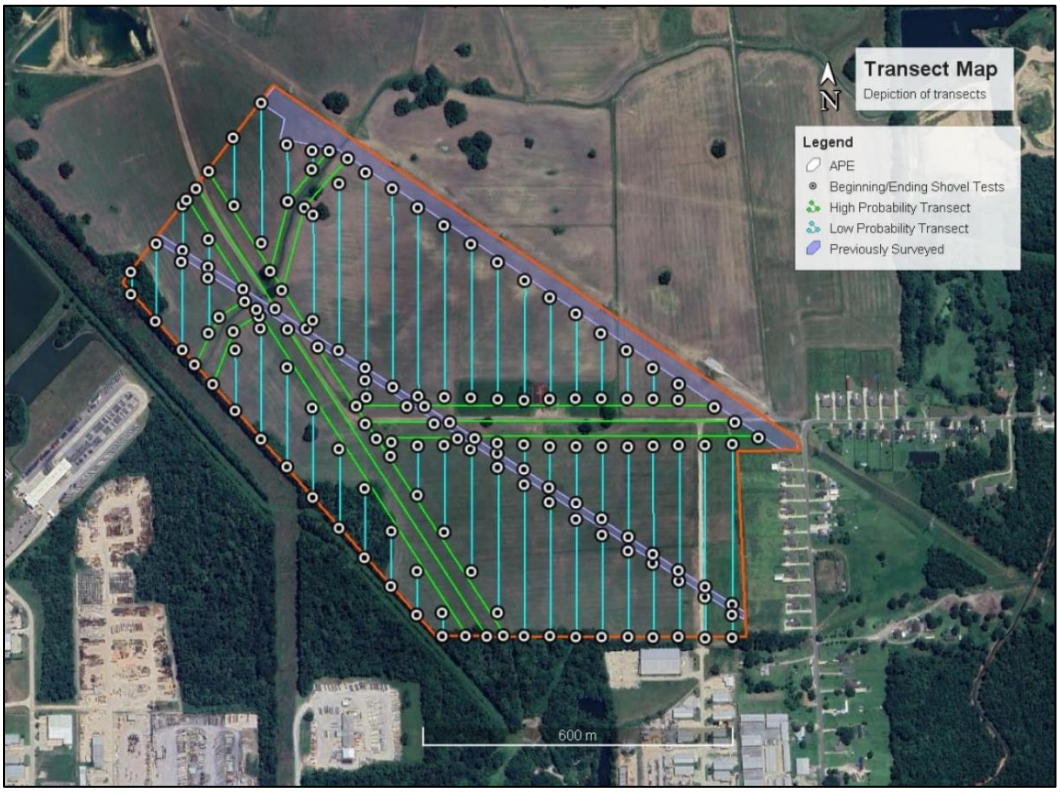

Figure 15. Aerial photograph depicting shovel tests and transects of the APE (Google Earth).

Table 4. Representative Munsell Soil Profiles.

Location	Depth	Munsell	Description
HP4 ST1	0-50 cmbs	7.5 YR 4/1	Dark grayish brown clay

Isolated Finds

Two positive transect shovel tests were excavated and delineated in the cardinal directions. Due to the small number of artifacts recovered and the lack of diagnostic characteristics, these were considered isolated finds.

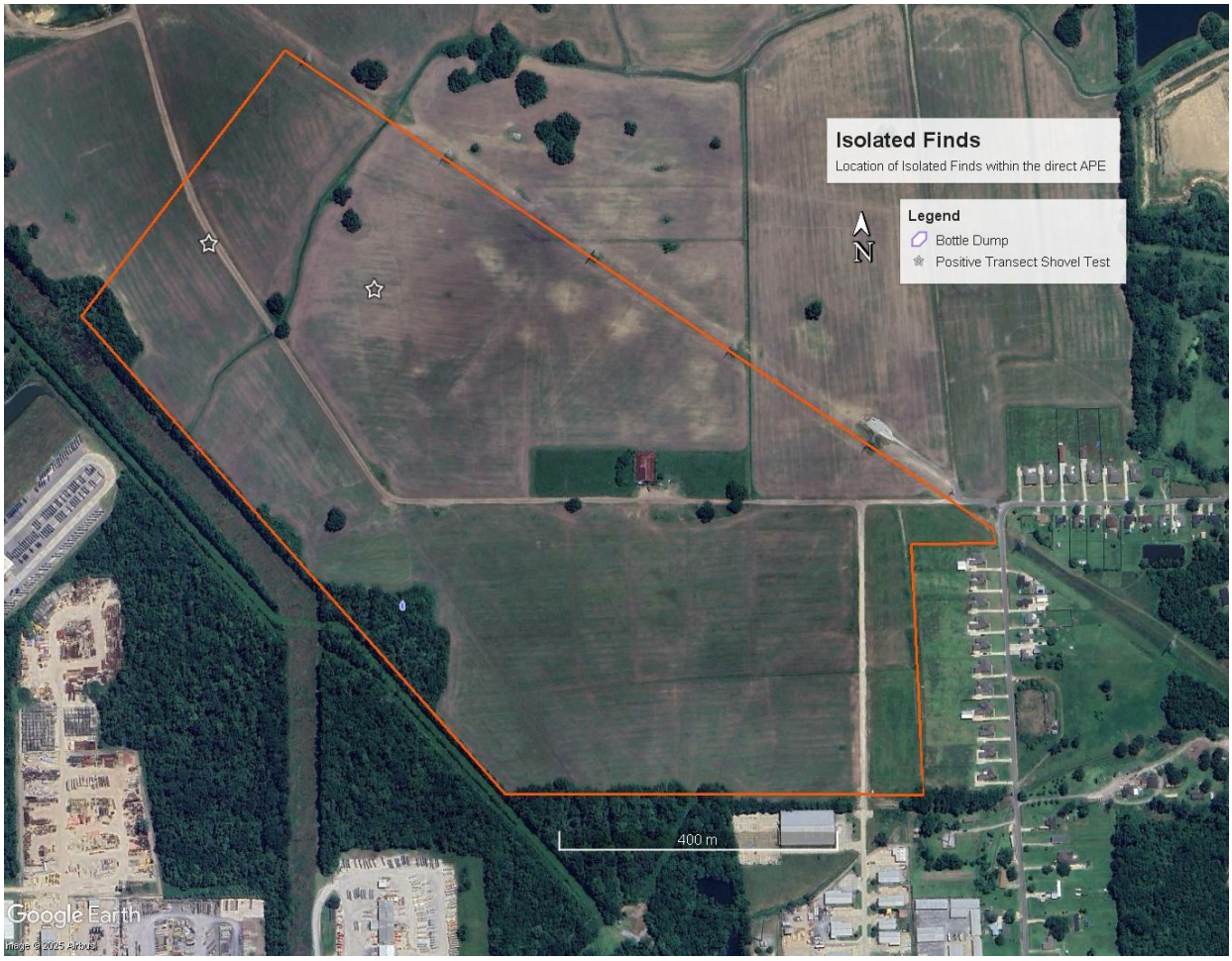

Figure 16. Depiction of isolated finds within the direct APE.

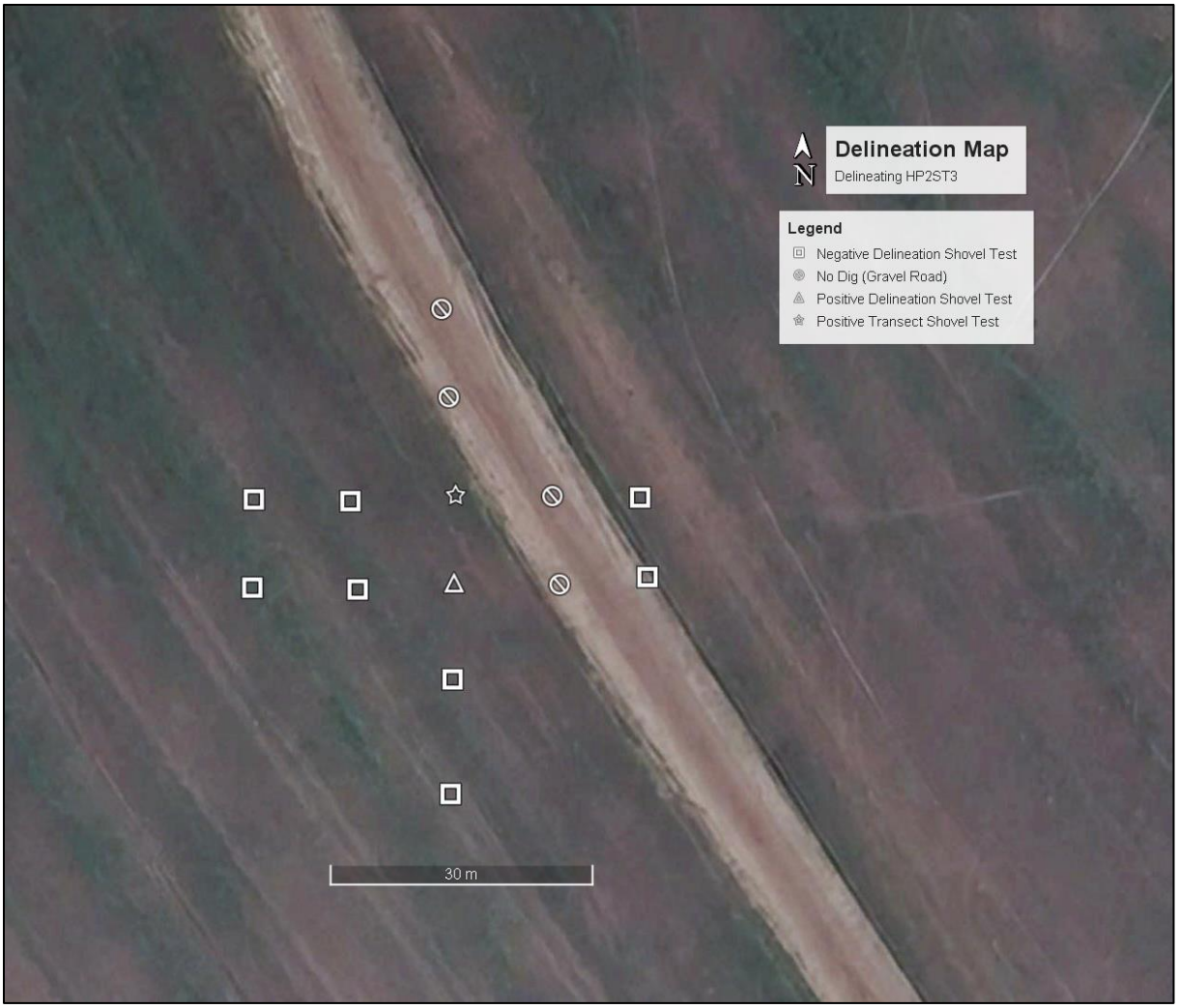

Figure 17. Delineating HP2ST3.

One piece of clear glass was discovered subsurface on the third shovel test of High Probability Transect 2. Delineation to the south revealed one piece of whiteware. Delineations yielded no further artifacts (Figure 17).

Figure 18. Delineating LP10ST4.

Low Probability Transect 10, Shovel Test 4 revealed one small piece of oxidized metal subsurface. Delineating in the cardinal directions revealed one piece of whiteware to the south. Further delineation revealed no additional artifacts. (Figure 18).

Dump Site

Systematic transect shovel tests led the crew into a small, wooded area where a trash dump was discovered. Artifacts were collected and boundaries of the scatter were recorded. A shovel test was excavated in the approximate center of the dump and the crew attempted to delineate in the cardinal directions (Figure 19), however some shovel tests were unable to be excavated due to the inundation within the wooded area (Figures 30 and 31). The trash dump consisted of 14 glass bottles, varying in size and color, rusted scrap metal, Styrofoam, unmodified animal bones, plastic bottles and a Ford hubcap. Due to the near contemporary age of the artifacts recovered, this find could not be designated as a site.

Table 5. Representative Munsell Soil Profiles within the Site Boundaries

Location	Depth	Munsell	Description
Datum	0-50 cmbs	7.5 YR 4/1	Dark grayish brown clay

Figure 19. Satellite depiction of trash dump and delineation shovel tests (Source: Google Earth).

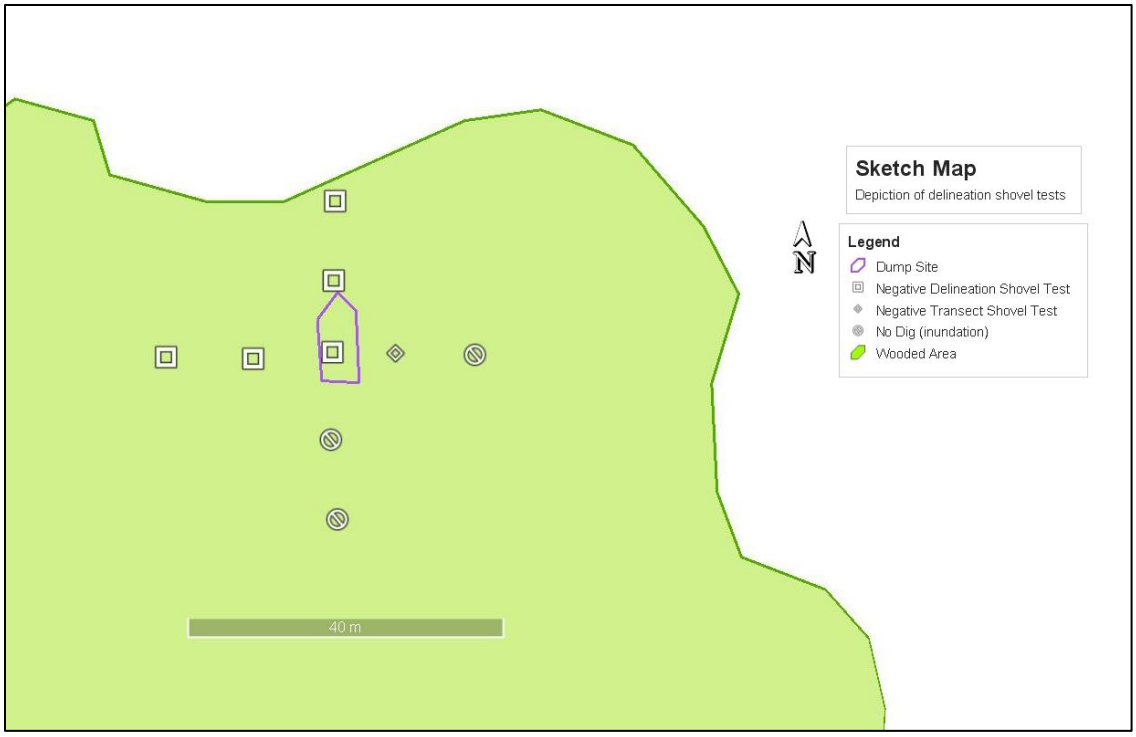

Figure 20. Sketch map of site and delineation shovel tests.

Figure 21. Trash dump, facing southeast.

Figure 22. Northwestern portion of the APE, facing south.

Figure 23. Southeastern portion of the APE, facing northwest.

Figure 24. Gravel road that runs through the APE, facing northwest.

Figure 25. Gravel extending from the road into the surrounding field, facing down.

Figure 26. View of barn, telephone pole and trees from just east of the approximate center of the APE, facing northwest.

Figure 27. The Easternmost portion of the APE, facing south.

Figure 28. Inundation within the fields, facing down.

Figure 29. Inundation within the fields, facing southeast.

Figure 30. Inundation within the wooded area, facing south.

Figure 31. Inundation within the wooded area, facing west.

Figure 32. Wooded area, facing south.

Standing Structures

The only standing structures within the APE are a tubular-steel frame transverse-crib barn and associated outbuilding at -90.977W, 30.219N (LHRI No. 03-01100). The barn is on the north side of, and faces, an unnamed field road that is a westward extension of North Robert Wilson Road. It measures 80 ft (24.4 m) wide (i.e., E-W) by 140 ft (42.7 m) long (i.e., N-S) and 20 ft (6.1 m) high. It has sheet metal sides and roof, three internal cribs, constructed, variously, of tubular steel and wood, and a floor that is partially concrete, partially earth. About 14.3 ft (4.4 m) east of the barn's southeast corner is a wooden pump structure that measures 8.3 ft (2.5 m) wide (E-W) by 7.4 ft (2.3 m) long (N-S) and 8.4 ft (2.6 m) high. According to the landowner, the barn was constructed between 1961 and 1971. The barn is currently unused and in poor condition, with the roof partially gone and the sides falling off. It does not meet any of the criteria for NRHP nomination, and, in addition, due to its dilapidation, lacks integrity.

Figure 33. Barn facing northwest.

Figure 34. Barn facing southwest.

Figure 35. Barn and pump house, facing northwest.

Indirect APE

The indirect APE for this project was set at 500 ft (152.4 m), based on the fact that the proposed development is a logistics center with no buildings extending higher than 40 ft (12.2 m). The metric employed was 10 ft (3.28 m) for each 10 ft (2.28 m) in height, plus a buffer of 100 ft (32.8 m), for a total indirect APE of 500 ft (328.1 ft) (Figure 36).

Within that 500 ft (152.4 m) radius, the only place where there are buildings within the radius is on the southwest side of the direct APE, along North and West Robert Wilson roads. Along the west side of West Robert Wilson Road is a line of residences (Nos. 10251, 10241, 10231, 10221, 20213, 10203, 10293, 10283, 10273, 10263, 10149 and 10129) built ca. 2024. These structures thus do not qualify as historic on the 50-yr age rule. Along the east side of West Robert Wilson Road, five houses (Nos. 10246, 10234, 10226, 10218 and 10210) are covered by the radius. According to property records, these homes were constructed in 2001. Likewise, the four structures on the south side of North Robert Wilson Road (Nos. 38043, 38035, 38027 and 38011) were constructed in 2001. The homes along the north side of North Robert Wilson Road (38012, 38022, 38032, and 38042) were built in 2024. Therefore, none of the structures included within the 500 ft (152.4 m) is of sufficient age to qualify as an historic structure. Finally, a large, one-story industrial building at 10103 Industrialplex, just south of the APE and within the indirect APE, has been constructed within the last thirty years.

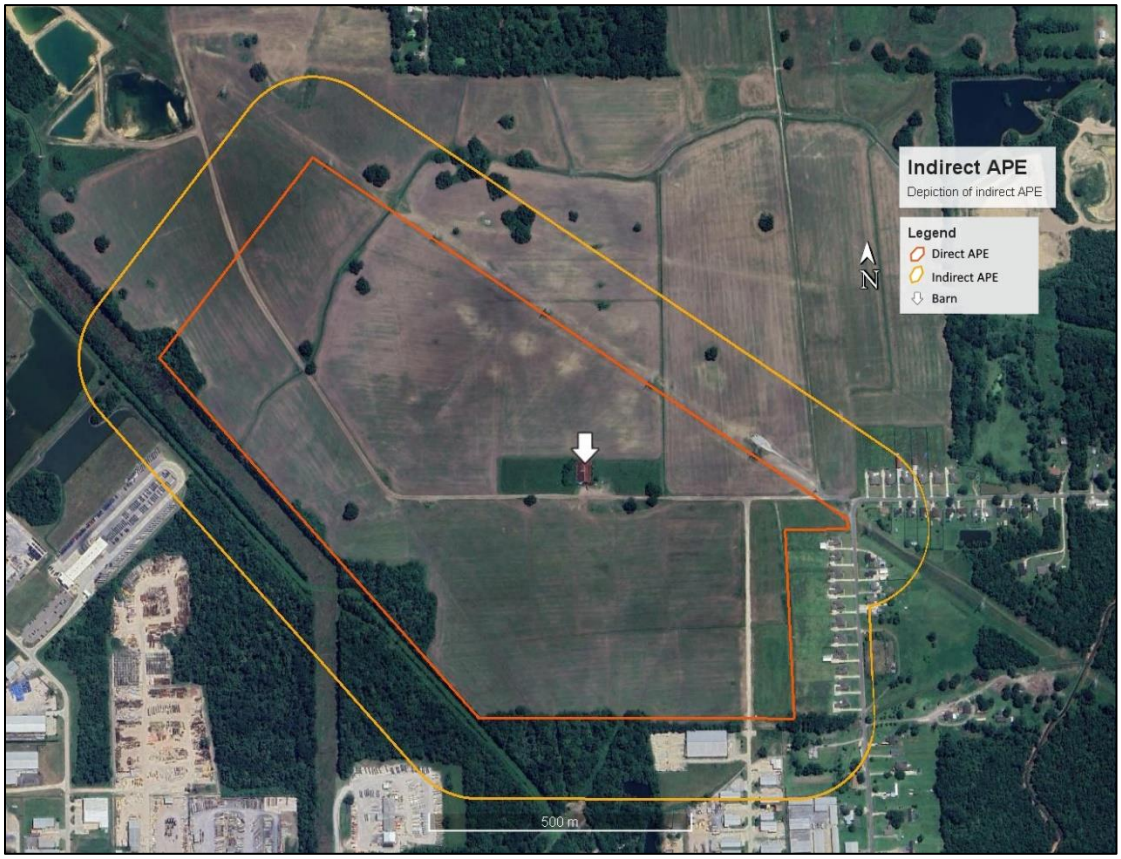

Figure 36. Depiction of proximity of standing structures to the Direct APE.

Summary of Fieldwork

Between March 19th and 26th, 2025, Surveys Unlimited Research Associates, Inc. (SURA, Inc.) excavated 198 high probability, 243 low probability and 28 delineation shovel tests in an attempt to locate cultural resources. Two isolated historic finds and one recent trash dump were discovered, but none of these finds had enough artifacts with enough diagnostic characteristics to designate them as sites. One standing structure (LHRI 03-01100), a barn, was recorded and considered ineligible for the NRHP. An indirect APE of 500 ft (152.4 m) was investigated, but none of the structures in that radius were old enough to be recorded. Twenty-four shovel tests could not be excavated due to gravel and inundation. The direct APE consisted of agricultural land divided by a road, with a few small patches of trees.

CHAPTER SIX:
CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

From March 19th through 26th, 2025, Surveys Unlimited Research Associates, Inc. (SURA, Inc.) conducted a Phase I cultural resources survey of 182 acres (ac) (73.65 hectares [ha]) in Gonzales, Ascension Parish, Louisiana, consisting of agricultural land divided by a road, with a few small patches of trees. This is the proposed site of a future industrial complex. A total of 469 shovel tests were excavated and two isolated finds (all historic) and one recent trash dump, along with one ineligible standing structure, were discovered. The isolated finds did not yield sufficient materials to be considered to be archaeological sites. As a result, we recommend that no historical properties will be affected by this project and the area requires no further work. We suggest that the project be allowed to proceed as planned.

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