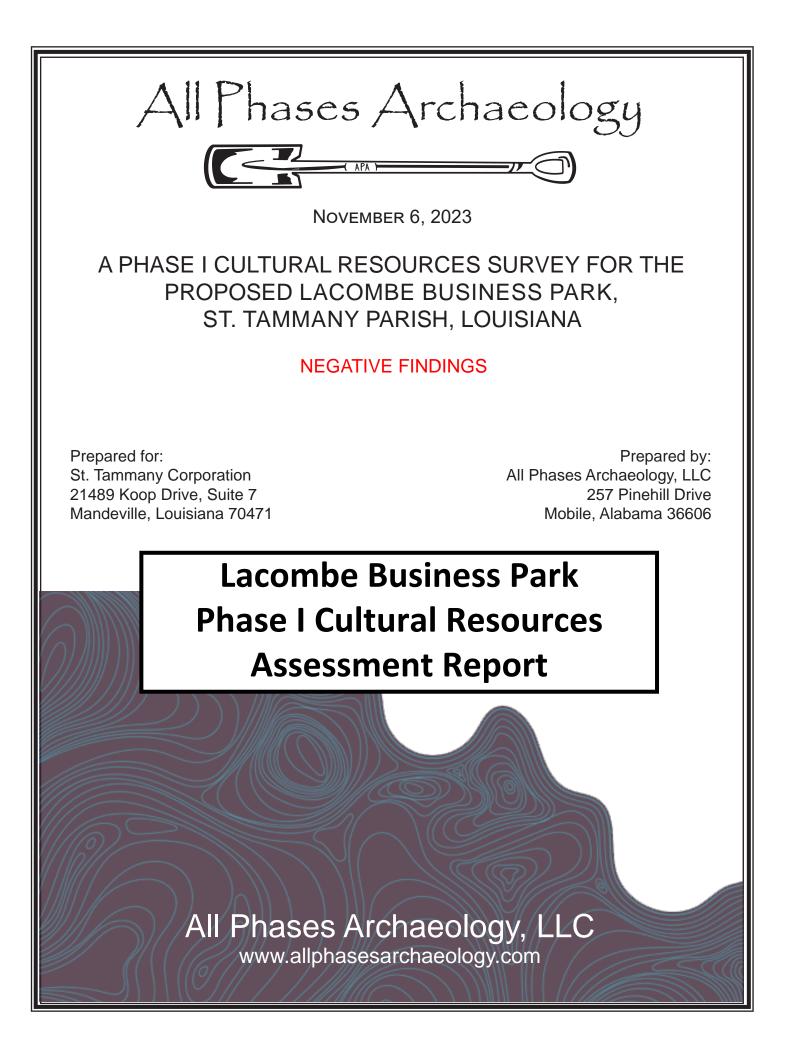


Exhibit GG. Lacombe Business Park Phase I Cultural Resources Assessment Report







A PHASE I CULTURAL RESOURCES SURVEY FOR THE PROPOSED LACOMBE BUSINESS PARK, ST. TAMMANY PARISH, LOUISIANA

NEGATIVE FINDINGS

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ABSTRACT

On October 25-27, 2023, All Phases Archaeology (APA) of Mobile, Alabama performed a Phase I cultural resources survey for the proposed Lacombe Business Park project located in St. Tammany Parish, Louisiana. The survey was conducted in support of the Louisiana Economic Development (LED) Site Certification process. The project area encompasses 69.42 acres. No cultural resources or historic standing structures were encountered within the project area and there were no 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 further cultural resources studies are recommended. No historic properties are present within the APE.

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ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The Principal Investigator for this Phase I survey was William J. Glass, who was assisted by Lucinda Freeman, Elijah Stevens, Jessica Brown, Kai Christensen and Karolina Nogues. Natalie Ledesma and Stacey Baggett digitized the maps and Lucinda Freeman produced the report. This work was accomplished for St. Tammany Corporation of Mandeville, Louisiana.

CHAPTER 1 INTRODUCTION

All Phases Archaeology (APA) of Mobile, Alabama was contracted by St. Tammany Corporation of Mandeville, Louisiana to conduct a cultural resources survey for the proposed Lacombe Business Park project in St. Tammany Parish, Louisiana. The survey was conducted in support of the Louisiana Economic Development (LED) Site Certification process.

The Phase I survey was performed on October 25-27, 2023. The Principal Investigator for the survey was William J. Glass, who was assisted by Lucinda Freeman, Elijah Stevens, Jessica Brown, Kai Christensen, and Karolina Nogues. 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 approximate 69.42 acre project area lies south of Interstate 12, east of Louisiana Highway 434, off of LBP Lane in St. Tammany Parish, Louisiana (Figure 1). The project area is found within Section 18, Township 8 South, Range 13 East as seen on the 1998 Lacombe, LA 7.5' USGS series topographic quadrangle (Figure 1.2). The project area consists of planted pine and mixed hardwoods.

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.

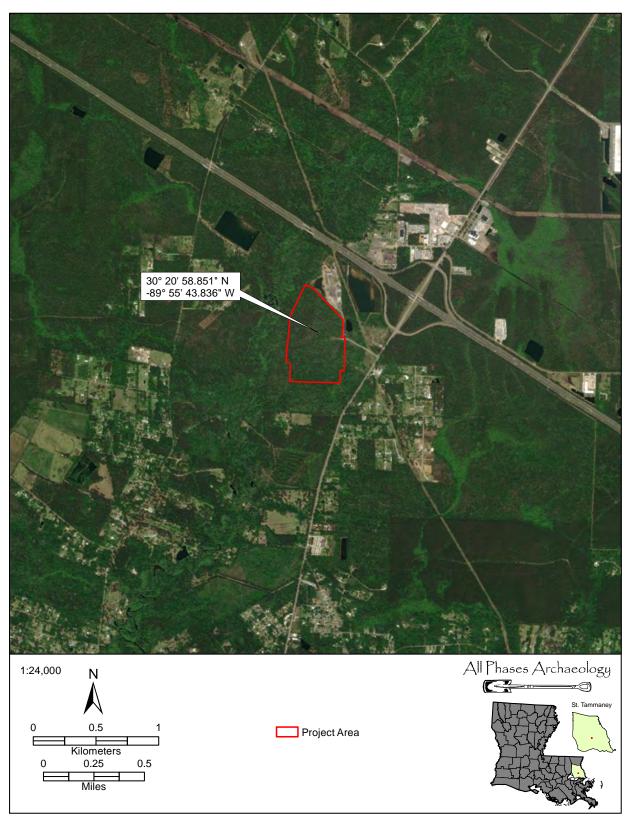


Figure 1.1. Aerial image showing the project area.

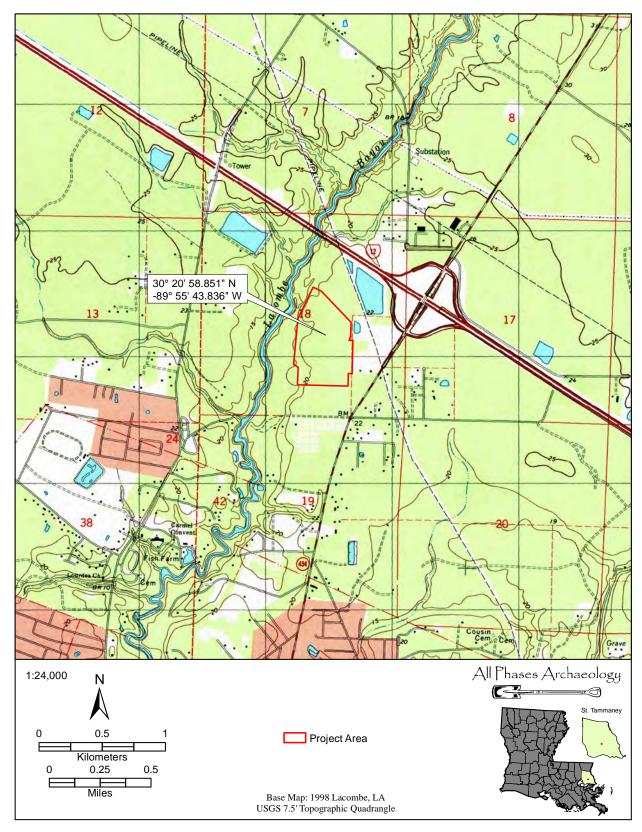


Figure 1.2. Topographic map showing the project area.

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CHAPTER 2 LAND USE HISTORY

The survey area is located in southeast Louisiana within the Gulf Coast Flatwoods of the Southern Coastal Plain. The region has relatively flat topography of nearly level terraces. Dense longleaf pine forests once dominated the landscape with open savannas interspersed. The native vegetation has mostly been replaced though remnant pine savannas still dot the landscape. These islands provide essential habitat for a variety of plants including grasses, milkweed, pitcher plants, orchids, butterworts and purple sundews. Soils are typically poorly to moderately well drained and are composed of alluvial and deltaic Quaternary-age sands and clays (Daigle et al. 2006). Elevation in the survey area is approximately 10-20 ft above mean sea level.

The earliest map available is the 1935 Slidell 15' topographic map (Figure 2.1). This revealed no structures within the project area (Figure 2.1). Several structures are seen around the project area mostly along the existing State Highway 187 and Lacombe Bayou to the east and west, respectively. There are a few unimproved roads in the area. Farther to the south, the communities of Oaklawn and Lacombe are located where Bayou Lacombe crosses State Highway 190 and the Gulf, Mobile, and Northern Railroad. The 1939 Slidell, Louisiana 15' USGS topographic quadrangle shows no changes within the project area (Figure 2.2).

The 1950 Slidell 15' USGS topographic quadrangle depicts no changes around the project area (Figure 2.3). On the 1971 Lacombe, Louisiana 7.5' USGS topographic quadrangle, Interstate 12 has been constructed up to the crossing of Lacombe Bayou (Figure 2.4). Most of the structures closest to the project area are no longer extant. The project area has remained undeveloped. A review of aerial photographs between 1959 and 2021 shows the area as forested (historicaerials.com 2023).

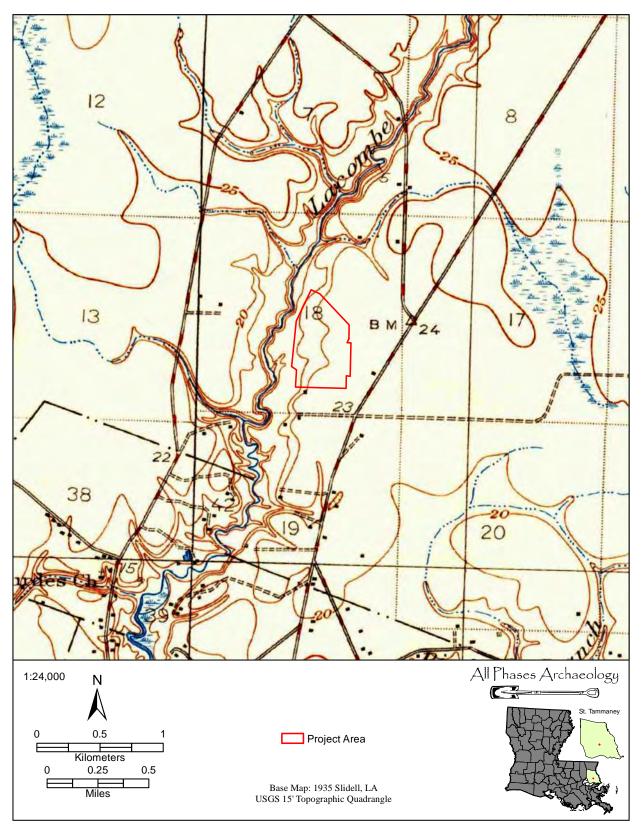


Figure 2.1. Historic 1935 map showing the project area.

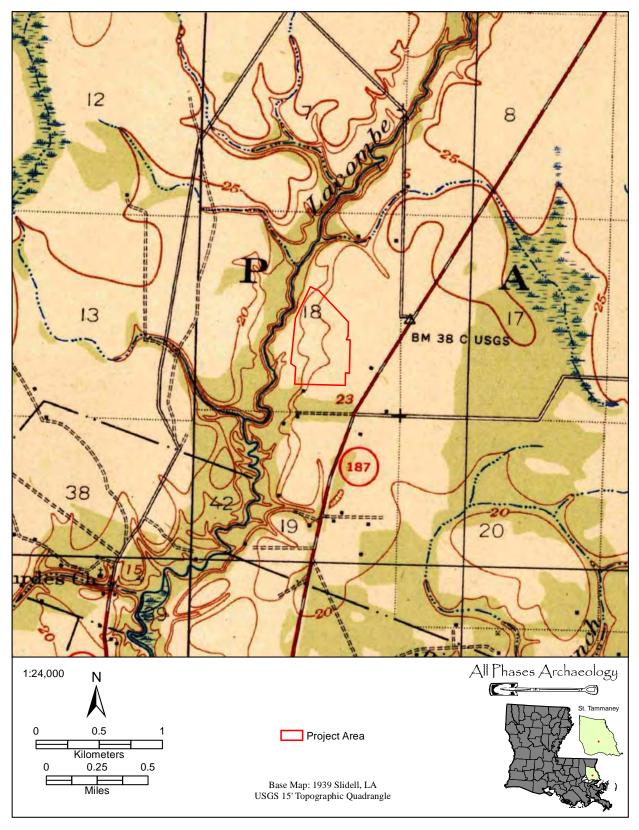


Figure 2.2. Historic 1939 map showing the project area.

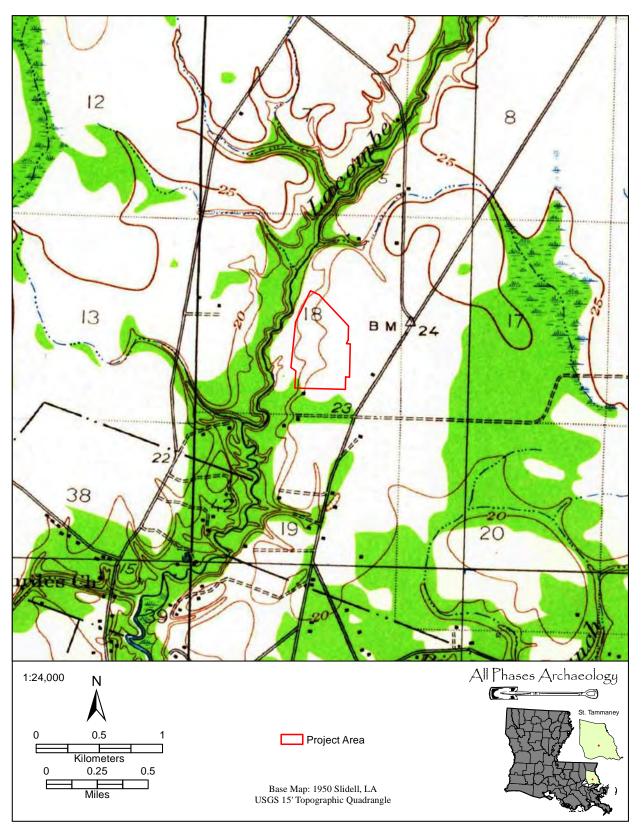


Figure 2.3. Historic 1950 map showing the project area.

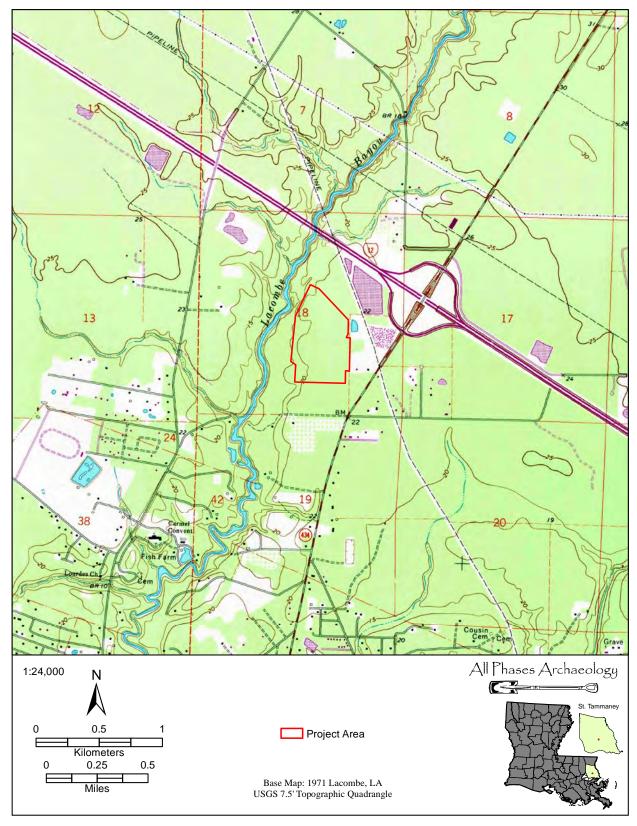


Figure 2.4. Historic 1971 map showing the project area.

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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 proposed Lacombe Business Park project located in St. Tammany Parish, Louisiana. This search included an online query of the Louisiana Site Files (Louisiana Division of Archaeology [LDOA] 2023). 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 2023) was conducted.

Research of the site files (LDOA 2023) identified no previously recorded archaeological sites and four documented cultural resource reports within a mile of the proposed study area (Figure 3.1; Table 3.1). Background research revealed four recorded historic resources within a mile of the study area (see Figure 3.1, Table 3.2). An examination of the NRHP online files identified no National Register properties within the one mile search radius. None of the surveys or historic resources are located within the proposed project area.

Table 3.1. Previous surveys within one mile of the proposed project area.							
Report number	Report Title	Author & Date					
22-1918	Cultural Resources Survey of the Proposed Right-of -Way of Highway 3241 in St. Tammany Parish, Louisiana	Shuman et al. 1996					
22-2921	Phase I Cultural Resources Survey for the I-12 to Bush Corridor Study, St. Tammany Parish, Louisiana	Parrish et al. 2011					
22-6401	Phase I Cultural Resources Survey of the Proposed Evangeline Pass Expansion Project in Orleans, St. Bernard, St. Tammany and Washington Parishes, Louisiana	Eberwine 2019					
22-7190	Phase I Cultural Resources Investigation of the Main Pass to Franklinton Pipeline Segment Replacement, St. Tammany Parish, Louisiana	on Pipeline Segment Ocampo and Eberwine 2023					

Table 3.2. Recorded historic resources within one mile of the project area.							
LHRI No.	Resource Name	Description	Year Built	NRHP Status			
52-00547	62133 LA Highway 434	Creole Cottage	circa (c.) 1910	Unknown			
52-00596-A	Huey P. Long Fish Hatchery-Ponds and Landscape	Landscape	1931	Unknown			
52-00596-В	Huey P. Long Fish Hatchery-Pavillion	Med. Revival	1934	Unknown			
52-00596-C	Huey P. Long Fish Hatchery-unknown structure	Hall Parlor	c. 1935	Unknown			

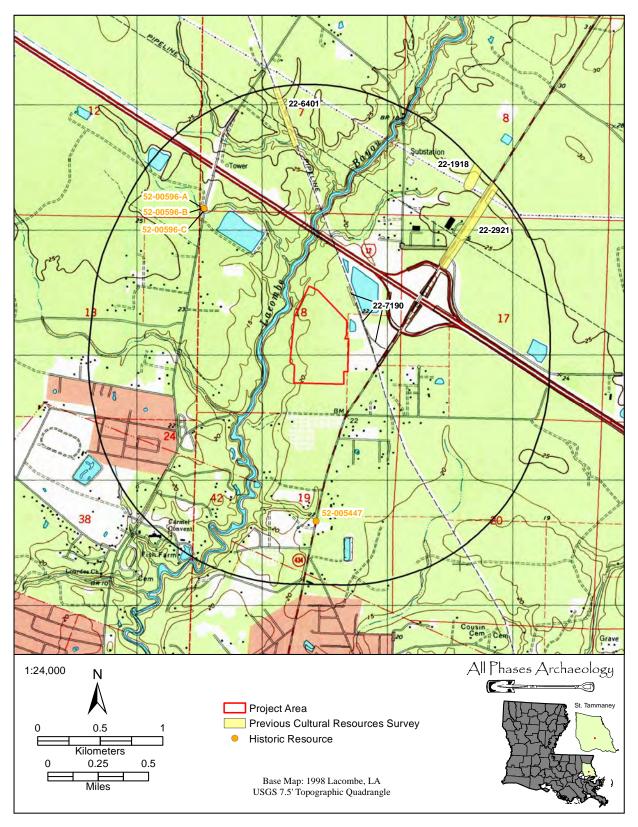


Figure 3.1. Map showing the previous surveys and the historic resources within one mile of the project area.

CHAPTER 4 METHODOLOGY

STANDING STRUCTURES

Historic maps were reviewed before the fieldwork was accomplished to ascertain the presence or absence of possible historic resources within the project area. No structures were seen within the project area on any of the historic maps. The reviewed maps include the 1935, 1939 and 1950 Slidell, Louisiana 15' series and the 1971 Lacombe, Louisiana 7.5' series topographic quadrangles.

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 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 APA'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 Lacombe Business Park project, 311 shovel tests were attempted (Figure 4.1). One shovel test could not be excavated and all remaining shovel tests were negative.

LABORATORY METHODS

All cultural materials recovered during field projects are delivered to APA'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).

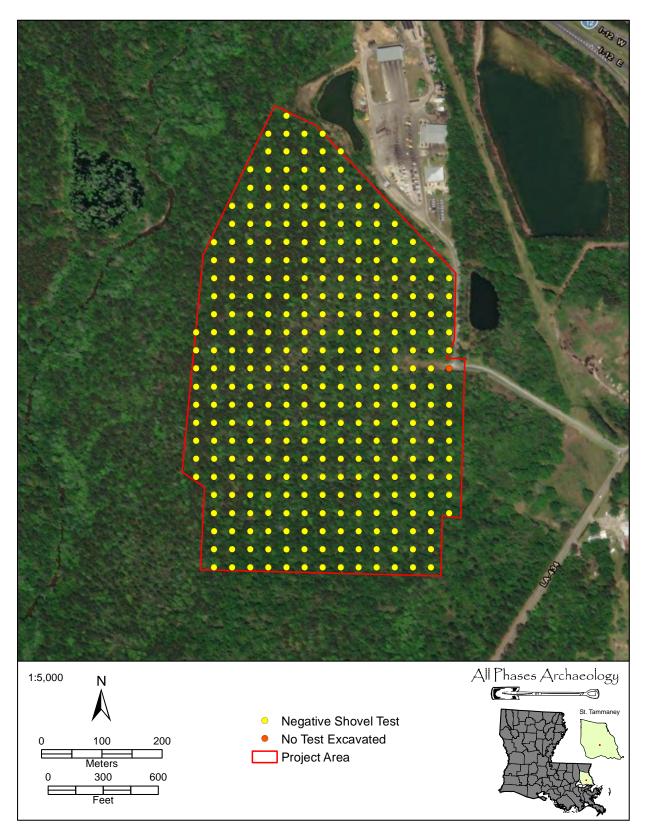


Figure 4.1. Aerial image showing shovel tests within the project area.

CHAPTER 5 RESULTS

OVERVIEW

The project area is relatively flat, except along the western boundary where it begins to slope down towards Lacombe Bayou which is situated west of the project area. The landscape is covered with planted pine with mixed hardwoods. A moderately dense undergrowth of yaupon and American holly was interspersed with areas with a variety of grasses and wildflowers. No utilities were observed within the project area, though a few logging roads are located near the west boundary. Near the center of the eastern boundary there is an access point off of LBP Boulevard with concrete slabs surrounded by gravel. This is most likely used as a turning space for the large trucks (dump trucks) entering and leaving the facility in the northeast. From this point two roads had been bush hogged, one leading to the northwest and one leading southwest. Both roads terminated within the west central portion of the project area. Most of the ground surface within the project area is obscured by the vegetation, leaf litter and pine straw.

This Phase I investigation included the placement of 311 shovel tests (see Figure 4.1). All were tested at 30-m high probability intervals. One shovel test could not be excavated due to a concrete and gravel surface on the eastern boundary. All the remaining shovel tests were negative. No evidence of any structures was found within the project area. Soils across the project area are loose at the surface and become more compact with depth. A typical shovel test consisted of 10 cm of pale brown (10YR 6/3) silt over a compact pale brown (10YR 6/3) silt mottled with yellow (10YR 7/6) silt to 50 cmbs. Some tests had manganese concretions in the second stratum (Figures 5.1). Figures 5.2-5.5 depict the present condition of the project area.

SITES

No sites were encountered within the project area.

STANDING STRUCTURES

There are no standing structures located within the project boundaries.

HISTORIC AREAS

No historic areas are located within the project area boundaries.



Figure 5.1. Typical shovel test profile.



Figure 5.2. Typical vegetation in the northern portion of the project area, facing north.



Figure 5.3. View of the vegetation in the northwest portion of the project area, facing north.



Figure 5.4. View of the dense vegetation covering most of the southern portion of the project area, facing south.



Figure 5.5. View of one of the bush hogged roads within the project area, facing east.

CHAPTER 6 SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATIONS

APA, under contract with St. Tammany Corporation of Mandeville, Louisiana, performed the Phase I cultural resources survey for the proposed Lacombe Business Park project located in St. Tammany Parish, Louisiana. The Phase I survey was performed on October 25-27, 2023. The investigation did not identify any new archaeological sites or historic resources within the project area. No further cultural resources studies are recommended for the Lacombe Business Park project. No historic properties are present within the APE.

REFERENCES

Daigle, J.J., G.E. Griffith, J.M. Omernik, P.L. Faulkner, R.P. McCulloh, L.R. Handley, L.M. Smith, and S.S. Chapman

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Historicaerials.com

2023 1959-2021 Aerial photographs. Electronic document, https://www.historicaerials.com/viewer, accessed November 2023.

Louisiana Division of Archaeology (LDOA)

2023 Louisiana Archaeological Site Files. Louisiana Division of Archaeology, Baton Rouge, Louisiana. Assessed online October 2023.

National Park Service

2023 *National Register of Historic Places*. Department of the Interior, Washington, D.C. Available online at www.cr.nps.gov/nr, accessed October 2023.

APPENDIX A CURATION AGREEMENT

TROY UNIVERSITY



Date: Nov. 1, 2023

Jon Glass All Phases Archaeology 257 Pinehill Drive Mobile, AL 36606

Dear Jon,

Per your request, this letter is to confirm our standing agreement to provide curation services for archaeological collections to All Phases Archaeology on an as-needed basis. As you know, we are recognized by a variety of Federal agencies as a repository meeting the standards in 36 CFR Part 79 and have formal agreements to provide curation under these guidelines to multiple federal agencies such as the Army National Guard and Natural Resources Conservation Service.

Please be advised that once a year we must be notified of all reports in which we were named as the repository. Project collections must be submitted within one calendar year of completion. Small projects may be complied for periodic submission. The AHC survey policy specifies which materials must be curated (Administrative Code of Alabama, Chapter 460-X-9). Renewal of this agreement is contingent upon compliance.

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

~

Stephen Carmody Director Archaeological Research Center Troy University