

Exhibit Q. Industrial Drive Minden Webster Site Desktop Cultural Resources Analysis



**DESK-BASED CULTURAL RESOURCES ASSESSMENT OF
THE PROPOSED INDUSTRIAL DRIVE MINDEN SITE,
WEBSTER PARISH, LOUISIANA**

Prepared For

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ABSTRACT

In support of application for the Louisiana Economic Development Site Certification Process and in preparation for potential environmental permitting, a desk-based cultural resources assessment was conducted for the proposed Industrial Drive Minden Site in Webster Parish, Louisiana. The goal of the review was to assess the available data on previous cultural resources surveys, recorded cultural sites, and historic resources within the vicinity of the project area, and to evaluate the potential for the presence of previously unidentified cultural materials within the project Area of Potential Effect (APE).

The background review revealed that three previously conducted cultural resources surveys were within a one-mile radius of the project area. One previously conducted survey identified during the review does partially intersect the current project area; however, for the most part, the project area has not been previously surveyed for cultural materials. In addition, the review revealed that a single recorded cultural resource was situated within one mile of the project area. The identified cultural resource was an historic bridge (60-00407) along U.S. Highway 371, near the town of Minden, Louisiana, approximately 0.74-mile west of the project area.

An examination of the geology and soils in the vicinity indicates that the environment throughout most of the project area is suitable for the presence of cultural deposits. The project APE is situated on a terrace and toeslope overlooking the east side of nearby Cooley Branch. In addition, it appears that the project area has primarily avoided the heavy disturbances that have occurred in the surrounding areas from urban and industrial development.

Based on the results of the desk-based cultural resources review, the site has not been subject to a Phase I Cultural Resources Survey and there are no known or previously recorded cultural or archaeological sites within the certification boundary. Therefore, Fenstermaker recommends that cultural resources field investigations may be warranted for the Industrial Drive Minden Site to determine if cultural resources potentially eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) may be adversely affected by the future development of the project area.

INTRODUCTION

On behalf of the North Louisiana Economic Partnership (NLEP), C. H. Fenstermaker & Associates, L.L.C. (Fenstermaker) conducted a desk-based cultural resources assessment of the proposed Industrial Drive Minden Site in Webster Parish, Louisiana. The purpose of the desktop analysis is to compile available information on previously recorded cultural resources surveys, archaeological sites, and historic resources within the proposed project area, and to assess the potential for the presence of unidentified cultural resources eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). In preparation for the Louisiana Economic Development Site Certification process, the goal is to provide information for project planning and development that may be required for future regulatory and environmental compliance.

The results of this report are the findings of a cultural resources background review and assessment of possible historic property and/or archaeological site locations within the vicinity of the proposed project area. Information was obtained from available online resources. A cultural resources survey of the project area was not conducted as part of this review. Therefore, this document does not represent archaeological clearance for work within the project area. It is intended to be used to coordinate future cultural resources compliance with relevant regulatory agencies.

DEFINITION OF PROJECT AREA

The project will be comprised of the potential development of an approximately 26.5-acre property on the north side of Industrial Drive, approximately 1.78 miles southeast of the town of Minden in Webster Parish, Louisiana. The project originates on the south side of an existing right-of-way (ROW), near an existing surface site and extends to the south for approximately 276 meters (m) before turning to the west for approximately 456 m. From this location, the project boundary extends along the north side of Industrial Dr. for approximately 40 m. The project boundary then turns northeast for approximately 264 m before turning east for 349 m back to the point of origin. The area of potential effect (APE) encompasses an area of approximately 26.5 acres. The project area is situated within the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) Minden South, Louisiana 7.5-minute topographic quadrangle maps (Figure 1).

REGULATORY FRAMEWORK

This review was conducted in support of the requirements of the Louisiana Economic Development Site Certification Process. In the future, portions of this project may potentially fall under the purview of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (NHPA), or other state or federal environmental regulations.

If an undertaking is federally permitted, licensed, funded, or partially funded, the project must comply with Section 106 of the NHPA, as amended. Section 106 requires that every federal agency consider the undertaking's effects on historic properties. The process begins with a historic properties inventory and evaluation. Under Section 106, any property listed in, or eligible for inclusion in the NRHP is considered significant. The NRHP is a historic resources inventory maintained by the Secretary of the Interior. This list includes buildings, structures, objects, sites, districts, and archaeological resources. These regulations are defined in "Protection of Historic Properties," 36 CFR 800 of the NHPA.

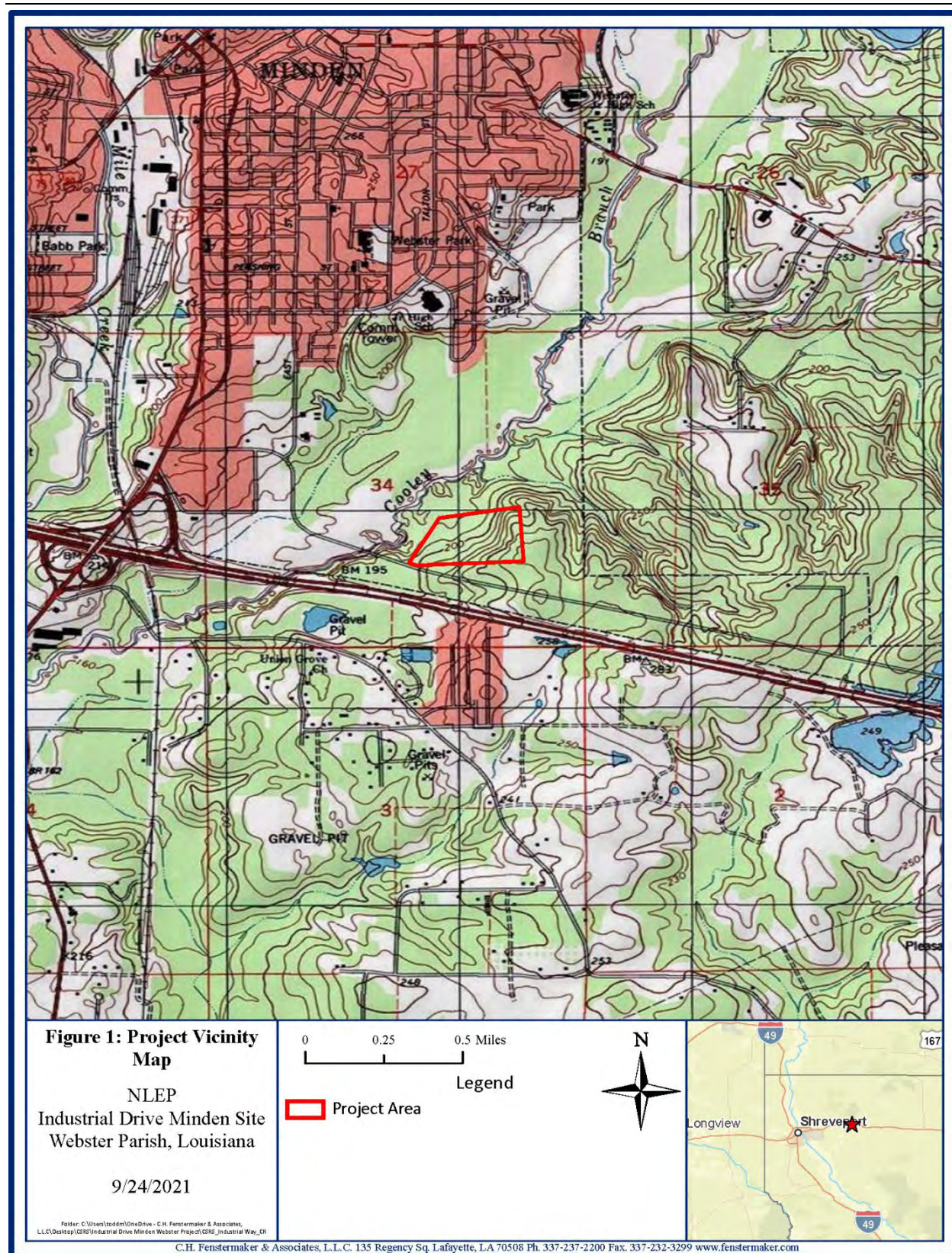


Figure 1. Proposed Project location.

METHODS

The cultural resources desktop review included a background cultural resources and environmental literature search of the proposed project area. The investigation utilized records of the Louisiana Office of Cultural Development (OCD), Division of Historic Preservation (DHP) in Baton Rouge, the Division of Archaeology (DOA) online Louisiana Cultural Resources Map, and the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) database administered by the National Park Service (2022). The USGS 7.5-minute topographic quadrangle map local to the project was reviewed on the Louisiana Cultural Resources Map (2022) for any previously recorded cultural resources surveys and historic or prehistoric sites located within the vicinity of the project area. In addition, the OCD Standing Structures and Districts Map, NRHP properties map were also examined for the project. This component of the review elucidates information on the nature and location of previously conducted archaeological surveys and previously recorded cultural resources sites. Listings are limited to projects under the purview of the DOA or the NHPA. Therefore, some previous work conducted in an area may not be readily available. Finally, aerial photographs, Louisiana Geological Survey Maps, and the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Web Soil Survey were also examined for historical and environmental information related to the project area.

Utilizing this information, areas within the project area were assessed for their potential to contain archaeological and/or historical materials. If applicable, the project area was then divided into high-probability and low-probability areas based on the potential to contain archaeological and historical resources. High-probability areas are defined as locales that possess, or have a high likelihood of containing, significant cultural resources. These areas are generally identified by distinct landforms and deposits that have been shown in other regional surveys to contain archaeological sites. In the case of historic resources, high-probability areas are identified by the presence of historic-age properties within the project area. Low-probability areas are defined as locales where archaeological and/or historical resources are likely absent or have limited potential to be preserved or significant (e.g., frequently flooded / inundated areas, upland settings, or areas with intensive development).

RESULTS

Geology

According to the Geological Map of Louisiana (Louisiana Geological Survey 1984), the project area is within the Willis Formation, unconsolidated (P_{uw}) geologic unit. This geologic unit is typically described as deeply dissected alluvial sediments deposited by Pliocene streams in west-central and northwestern Louisiana. The unit is unconformably underlain by Tertiary formations of Miocene to Eocene age, and is bounded downdip by the Lissie surface.

Soils

Soil survey data obtained from the NRCS (2022) for Louisiana parishes was used to compile a list of soil series within the project area. The project area extends across three mapped soil series. Table 1 provides the location and description of the soil series within the project area.

Table 1. List of soil series within the project area (NRCS 2022).

Soil Series	Texture	Landform	Description
Boykin (By)	Loamy fine sand	Nearly level to moderately steep uplands	Deep, well drained, moderately permeable soils that formed in sandy and loamy coastal plain sediments of Pleistocene age. Slopes range from 1 to 20 percent.
Malbis (Mp)	Fine sandy loam	Coastal plains	Very deep, moderately well or well drained, moderately slowly permeable soils on broad interfluvies and uplands of the Southern Coastal Plain. Slopes range from 0 to 12 percent.

Soil Series	Texture	Landform	Description
McLaurin (MV)	Loamy fine sand	Ridge tops and upper hillsides of ridges	Very deep, well drained, moderately permeable soils on dissected fluviomarine terraces of the Southern Coastal Plain. Slopes range from 0 to 8 percent.

Background Review

The results of the background review revealed that three previous cultural resource surveys have been conducted within a one-mile radius of the project area (Figure 2). One survey was conducted in the 1980s, one survey was conducted in the 1990s, and one survey was conducted in the early 2000s. One survey identified during the review does partially intersect the current project APE; however, for the most part, the project area has not been previously surveyed for cultural materials.

Table 2. Previously conducted cultural resources surveys within a 1-mile radius of the project area.

Parish	Year	Distance (mi)	Sponsoring Agency	Survey Type	Additional Information
Webster	1981	0.11	Louisiana Division of Archaeology	Linear	22-0731
Webster	1995	Intersects	-	Linear	22-1814
Webster	2006	0.01	-	Linear	22-2756

In addition to previously conducted cultural resource surveys, the background review indicated that a single recorded cultural resource was within a one-mile radius of the project area. The identified resource was a historic bridge along U.S. Highway 371, near the town of Minden, Louisiana. Table 2 provides a brief description of the cultural resource located within one mile of the project APE.

Table 3. Cultural resources located within 1 mile of the project alignment.

Parish	USGS Quadrangle	Resource Name / Number	Resource Type	Time Period	NRHP Eligibility	Distance (mi)
Webster	Minden South, LA	L. & A. Railroad Bridge / 60-00407	Historic Bridge	Historic	Eligible	0.74

An examination of historical topographic maps, as well as available aerial photography, revealed that the proposed project area has been within a relatively forested area on the eastern bank of Cooley Branch since at least the late 1940s. Prior to the 1940s, the area may have been cleared for either logging or agriculture and it appears that sometime before 1955, two utility line ROWs were constructed that now form the northern and eastern boundary of the project area. Furthermore, the historic topographic maps and aerial images indicated that the terrain surrounding the project area has undergone substantial urban and industrial development over the past several decades.

Findings and Archeological Assessment

After an examination of the soils, geology, previous cultural resources investigations, and historical topographic maps and aerial photographs within the proposed project area, it is the reviewer's opinion that there could be unknown archaeological deposits within the project area. Overall, the project area has avoided heavy disturbances that have occurred from the development of the surrounding area. Furthermore, the project APE is situated on a terrace and toeslope overlooking the east side of nearby Cooley Branch. In northern Louisiana, prehistoric populations often utilized relatively flat terraces and toeslopes located near creeks and rivers, just beyond frequent flooding, and on adjacent ridges.

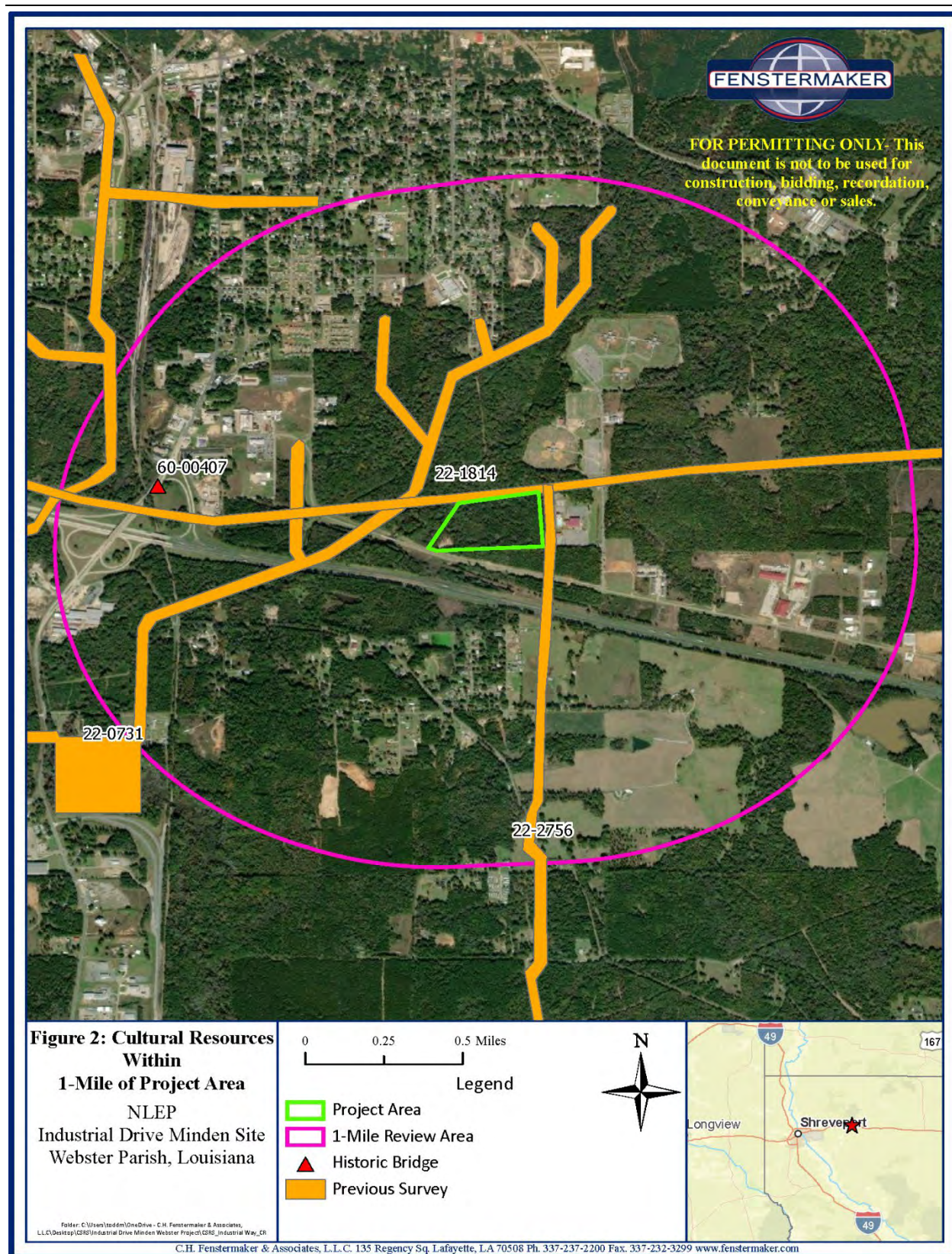


Figure 2. Map of Previous Field Investigations and Cultural Resources within a 1-mile radius.

SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATIONS

In preparation for the Louisiana Economic Development Site Certification process, a desk-based cultural resources assessment was conducted for the proposed Industrial Drive Project in Webster Parish, Louisiana. The goal of the review was to analyze and assess the available data on previously recorded cultural resources surveys, archaeological sites, and historic resources within the vicinity of the proposed project area, and to evaluate the potential for the presence of previously unidentified materials within the project APE.

The background review revealed that three previously conducted cultural resources surveys were within a one-mile radius of the project area. One previously conducted survey identified during the review does partially intersect the current project area; however, for the most part, the project area has not been previously surveyed for cultural materials. In addition, the review revealed that a single recorded cultural resource was situated within one mile of the project area. The identified resource is an historic bridge (60-00407) along U.S. 371, approximately 0.74-miles west of the project area.

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REFERENCES

Louisiana Geological Survey

1984 Geologic Map of Louisiana. Shreveport North Sheet, Louisiana Geological Survey, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge.

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