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Since 1986 Archaeology Historic Preservation Cultural Resources Management

Exhibit FF. Schexnayder Site Phase I Cultural Resources Assessment Report

February 9, 2015

Ms. Pam Breaux, SHPO
Office of Cultural Development
Division of Archaeology
Dept. of Culture, Recreation & Tourism
P.O. Box 44247
Baton Rouge, LA 70804

Re: Phase I Cultural Resources Survey of 1,000 Acres....Donaldsonville, Ascension Parish, La.
22-4878 Final Report

Dear Ms. Breaux:

We herewith submit the enclosed final report in two copies, along with a CD with the report in pdf format. Please note that in response to your review letter we have done the following:

1. We have included the LDOA report numbers, as requested, but in the References Cited section, to avoid cluttering the text. In future we will place them in the next for the projects that are near the APE if you wish.
2. We have added reports 22-0162 and 22-0742 to the discussion, as requested. As you noted, these are on the other side of the Mississippi River from the APE and we have not customarily included such projects as we consider the river to be a significant boundary.
3. We have deleted the Castille 1975 and Neuman 1976 projects as recommended.
4. We have added a table of nearby sites, as requested (P. 34)
5. We have replaced the earlier sketch map of 26AN104 with the latest map, from the site form, as requested.

Please thank Mr. Paul French for his thoughtful review.

Sincerely,

Malcolm K. Shuman

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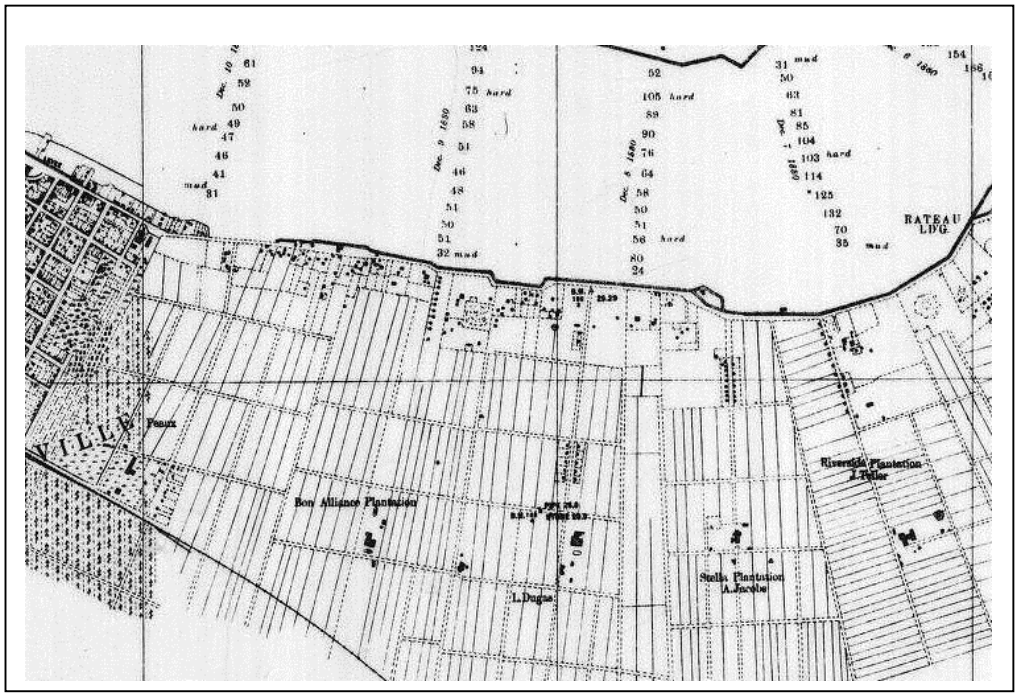
PHASE ONE CULTURAL RESOURCES SURVEY

OF 1,000 ACRES (404.69 HECTARES)

PROPOSED FOR INDUSTRIAL USE,

DONALDSONVILLE, ASCENSION PARISH, LOUISIANA



for
The Baton Rouge Area Chamber (BRAC)
564 Laurel St.
Baton Rouge, LA 70801

February 9, 2015

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PROPOSED FOR INDUSTRIAL USE,

DONALDSONVILLE, ASCENSION PARISH, LOUISIANA

Final Report

By

Malcolm K. Shuman, Taylor Gabour, Brandy Kerr, Matthew Chouest and Karl Shuman
SURA, Inc.
P.O. Box 14414
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For

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564 Laurel St.
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February 9, 2015

ABSTRACT

From October 14 through November 26, 2014, SURA completed a Phase I cultural resources survey of 1,000 acres (404.69 hectares) to be certified for industrial use under the Sites Certification Program of the Louisiana Department of Economic Development. The survey area is located just south of Donaldsonville, Ascension Parish, Louisiana. Survey methodology consisted of map research and shovel testing at high probability (HP) and low probability (LP) intervals. A total of 2,153 transect shovel tests were excavated.

Three archaeological sites were recorded, all historic in nature. Two (16AN104 and 16AN105) were considered of undetermined NRHP eligibility. Site 16AN106 was considered ineligible for the NRHP. It was recommended that the first two sites either be avoided or undergo Phase II NRHP testing. The remainder of the APE was deemed suitable for development without further archaeological work.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The authors are grateful to many people for assistance during this project. The field crew was led by Ms. Taylor Gabour, and field crew consisted of Brandy Kerr, Matthew Chouest, and Karl Shuman. Dr. Malcolm Shuman, the Principal Investigator, made site visits and wrote the report, while Messrs. Chouest and K. Shuman performed lab work. Margaret Shuman assisted in formatting the report. Mr. Taylor Gravois of CSRS and Mr. Jim Cavanaugh, of BRAC, coordinated the project. Mr. Harold Schexnayder and Mr. George Arcenaux took the crew on a tour of the property and pointed out access roads.

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CHAPTER ONE: INTRODUCTION

From October 14 through November 26, 2014, SURA completed a Phase I cultural resources survey of 1,000 acres (ac) (404.69 hectares [ha]) on the right descending bank of the Mississippi River. The area is to be certified for use as an industrial site under the Louisiana Department of Economic Development (LED) Site Certification Program. The area of potential effects (APE) is located on both sides of LA Hwy 3089, just south of Donaldsonville, La., in Ascension Parish (Figures 1 and 2). Survey methodology consisted of map research and shovel testing at high probability (HP) and low probability (LP) intervals. Only previously unsurveyed areas were included in this survey.

The survey crew consisted of between three and five persons at different times. A total of 2,153 transect shovel tests were excavated.

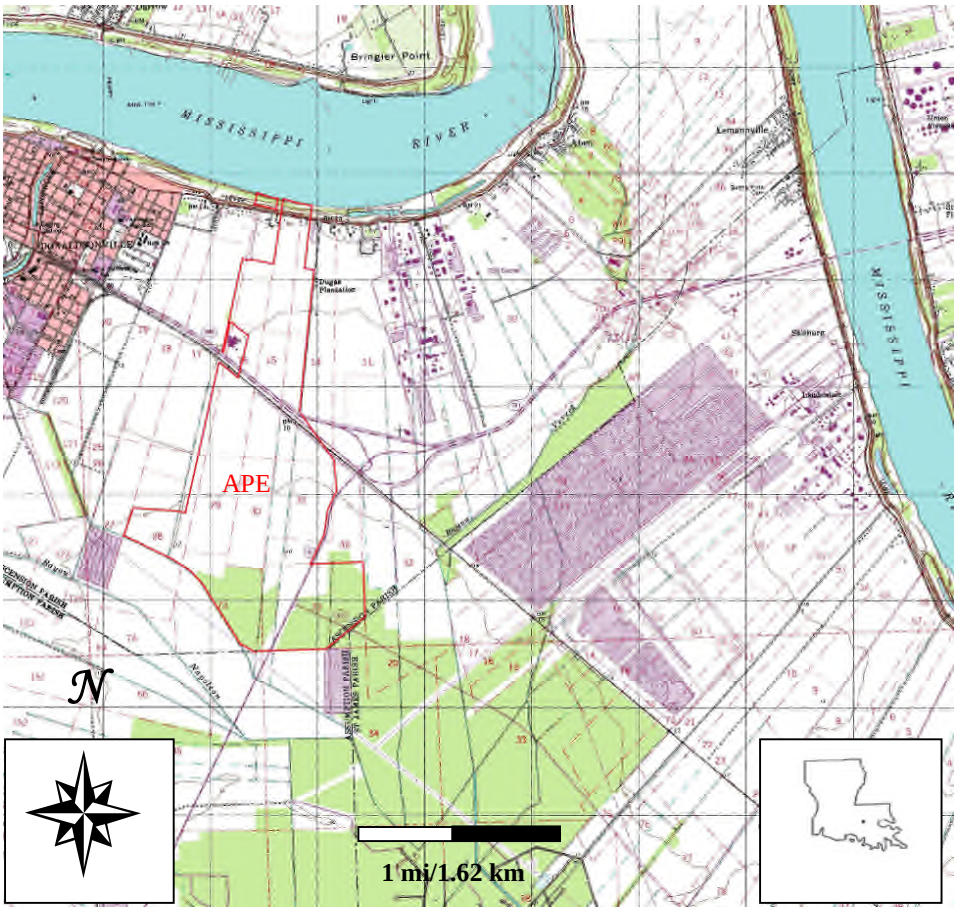

Figure 1. Portion of Donaldsonville, La. (1999) 7.5-minute topographic quadrangle, showing project area (Source: USGS).

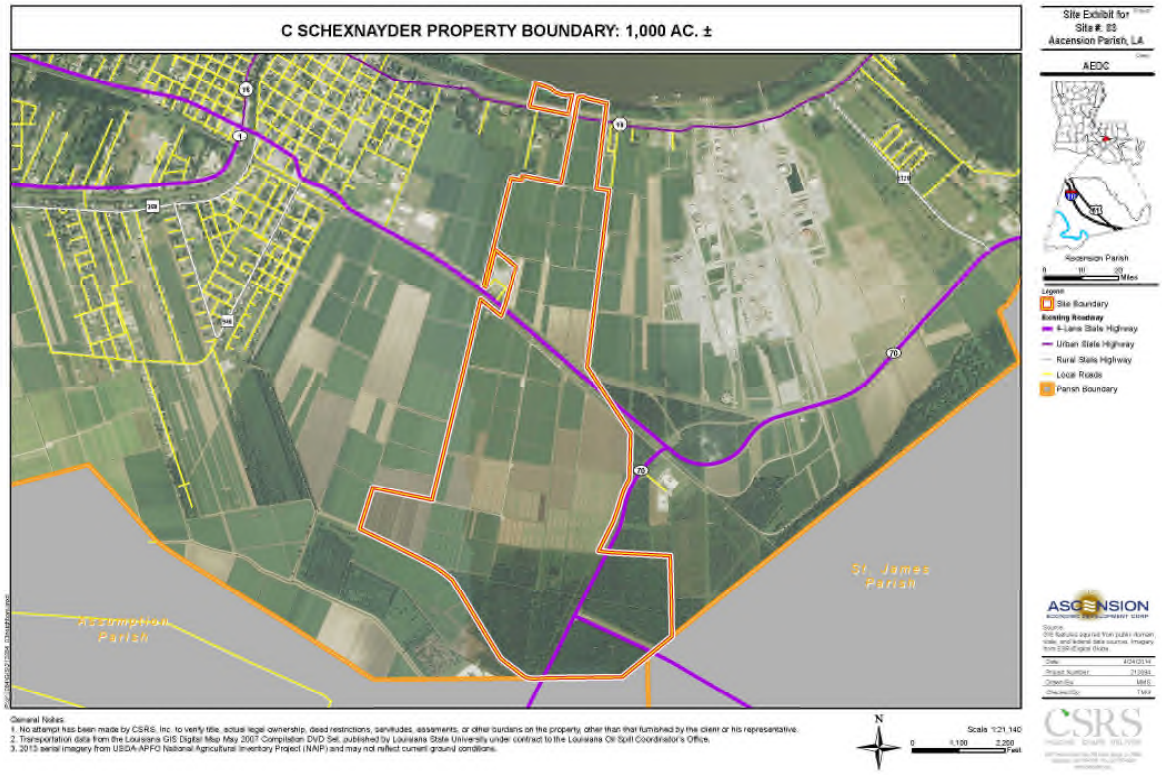

Figure 2. Aerial photograph of project area (Source: CSRS).

CHAPTER TWO: ENVIRONMENT

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 though to have been caused by a rise in sea level dating from the end of the last Ice Age (Gagliano 1984, Figure 3).

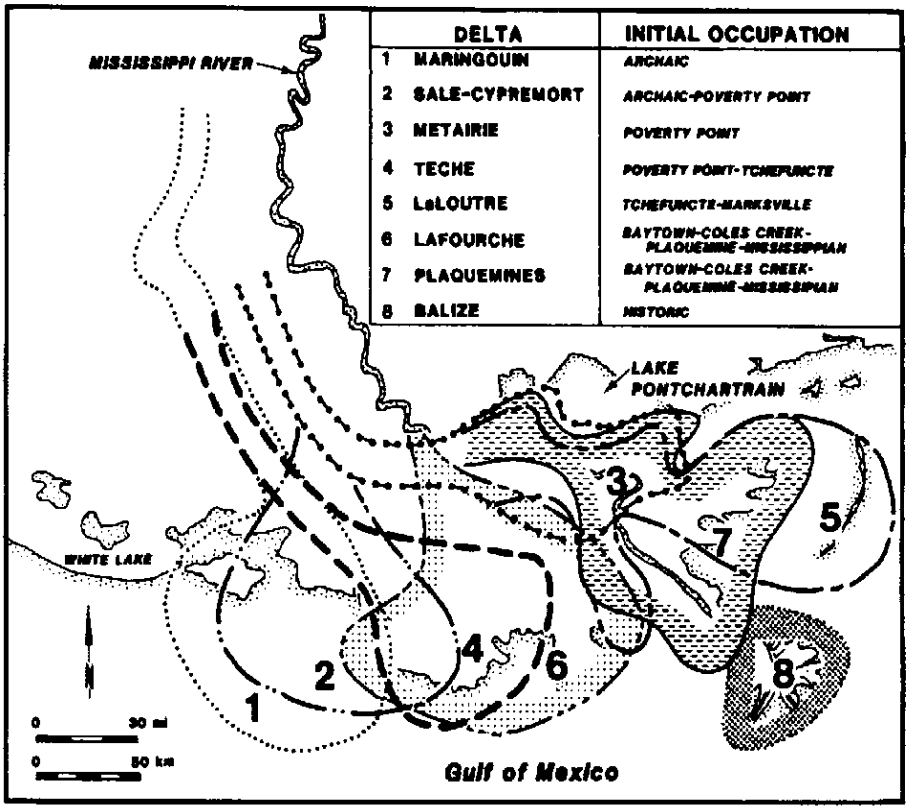

Figure 3. Major delta complexes and associated archaeological complexes in the Mississippi River deltaic plain (Adapted from Gagliano 1984:40).

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).

Soils

The soils in the study area are mapped as pertaining to the Commerce and Sharkey associations. Commerce soils are nearly level, poorly-drained soils that occur on natural levees of the Mississippi River. Sharkey soils are clays that occur on the lower elevations of natural levees of the Mississippi River (USDA n.d.). The soil distribution is shown in Figure 4.

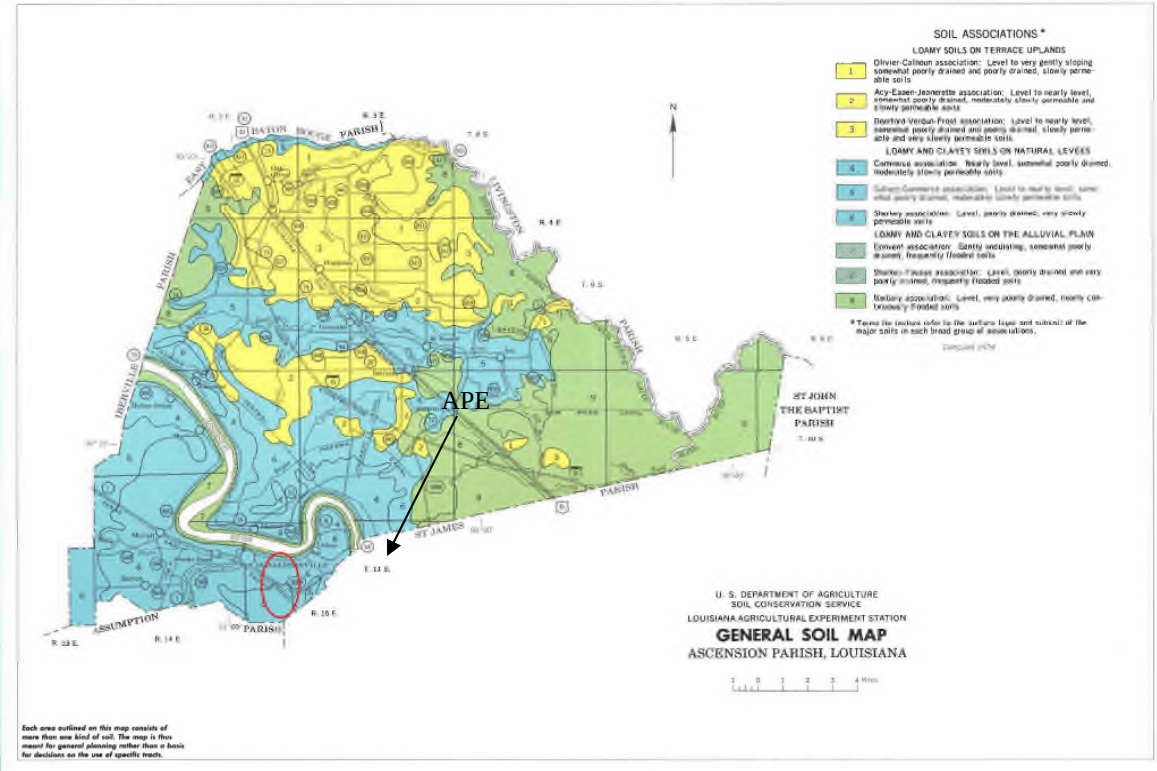

Figure 4. Soils map for Ascension Parish, showing soils in project area (Source: USDA n.d.).

Vegetation

In terms of natural vegetation, this region contains a mix of cypress *(Taxodium distichum)* and such hardwood varieties as water oak *(Quercus nigra),* hickory *(Carya spp.),* and hackberry *(Celtis laevigata).* In the areas of lower elevation that are affected by alluviation, species such as palmetto *(Sabal minor)* and water willow *(Salix nigra)* grow in abundance. Other flora are rich and varied and include broomsedges, briars, and poison ivy (Brown 1945).

Fauna

Animal life is likewise 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 contortrix),* 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. Brackish water clams *(Rangia cuneata)* are frequently found in archaeological deposits near coastal Louisiana, although there are several archaeological sites in the vicinity of the project area that contain these shells indicating a more brackish water environment than exists currently.

CHAPTER THREE: PREHISTORIC CULTURE HISTORY IN VICINITY OF PROJECT AREA

It is unknown when humans first entered the New World. Some researchers would place this event as early as 40,000 years ago, but more conservative investigators would place the first Americans at no earlier than 23,000 B.P. Whatever the case, by 10,000 years ago Paleoindians were living in caves at the Straits of Magellan, so that their entry into the New World must have occurred several thousand years prior to that, as a minimum (Neuman 1984:58) (See Figure 5).

In Louisiana, there is evidence of Paleoindians, both from a series of surface finds of fluted points, and from excavations (e.g., Webb et al. 1971). Most of these data derive from the northern half of the state; evidence from the Coastal Zone is somewhat more ambiguous. During the 1960s, Sherwood Gagliano carried out a series of investigations at Avery Island, a salt dome island in Iberia Parish (Gagliano 1963; 1967; 1970). The results of these investigations led Gagliano to conclude that Avery Island had been inhabited by a "pre-Clovis" culture associated with a bipolar tool industry. As Neuman has written, however, Gagliano has been unable to point to a single Paleoindian artifact *in situ,* and his bipolar industry could just as easily be Archaic in date, judging from similar assemblages found elsewhere in Archaic contexts. In fact, a radiocarbon date for split cane matting found *beneath* extinct animal bones is Archaic (2310 +1590 B.C.), a fact that suggests that some of the important material found by Gagliano had been contextually disturbed (Neuman 1984:63-65). Finds of Dalton, Plainview and San Patrice points at the Blackwater Bayou (16EBR33) and Jones Creek (16EBR13) sites indicates that Paleoindian occupations were present in the region of the current project area (Weinstein et al. 1977).

Archaic Period (6,000 B.C.-1500 B.C.)

This period represents a time of heavy exploitation of wild plant foods and of small game, representing adaptation to an expanding boreal environment (Weinstein and Kelley 1984:32-34). The initial part of this period, the Early Archaic (6000-5000 B.C.), is defined by a series of distinctive projectile points and it has been suggested that society was organized at the band level and focused on a seasonal round of hunting and gathering. The succeeding Middle Archaic period (5000-3000 B.C.) was hallmarked by widespread regional differentiation of cultures and the development of ground stone technology (Weinstein and Kelley 1992:30). This subperiod corresponds to the Hypsithermal Interval, a time of increased warmth and aridity in areas around the Great Plains. It is presently unclear what effect this may have had on the Southeast.

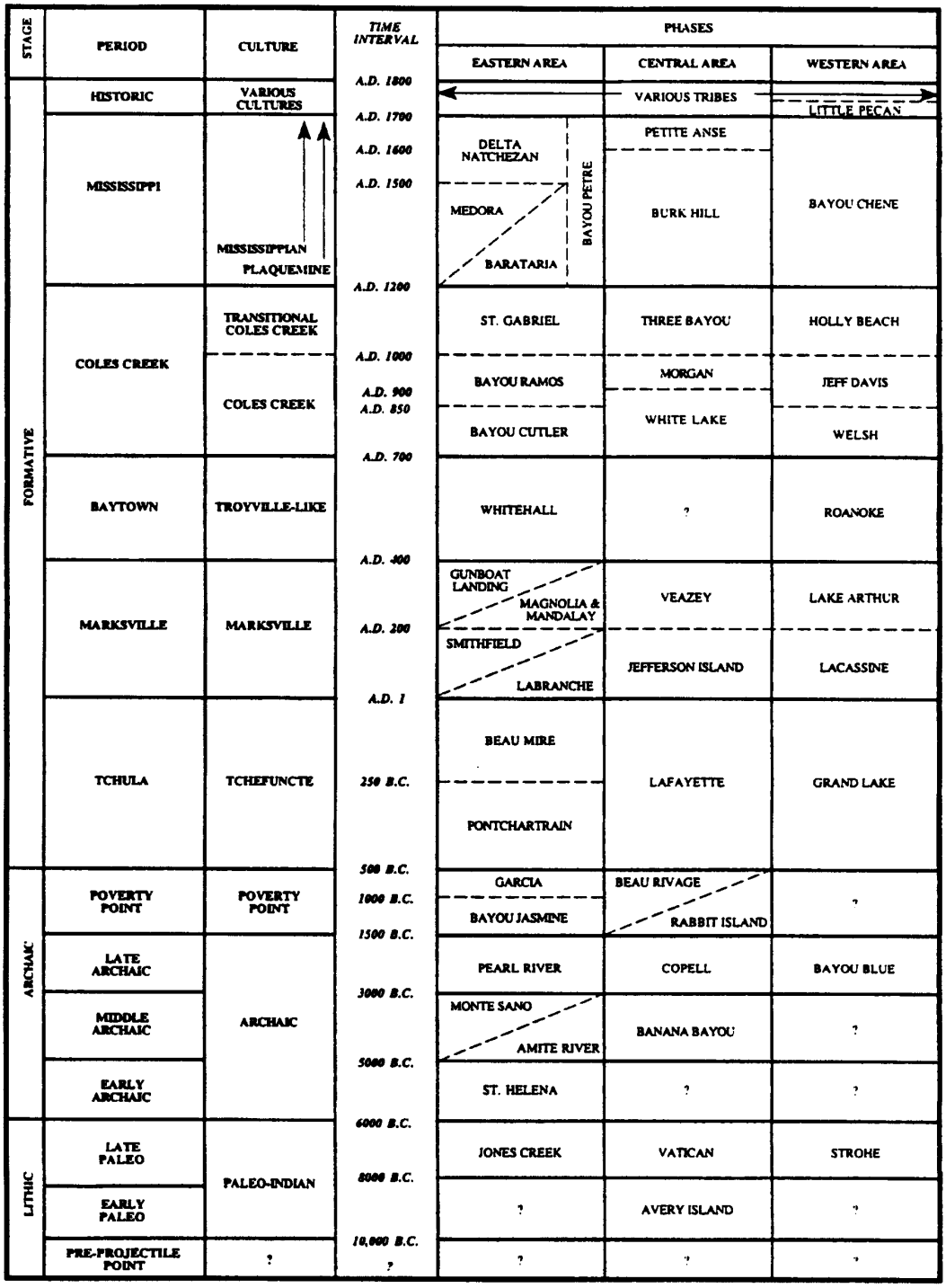

Figure 5. Prehistoric cultural chronology of southern Louisiana (Source: Weinstein et al. 1986).

The Middle Archaic is poorly represented in south Louisiana. Weinstein and Kelley (1992:30-31) suggest that components of the Banana Bayou phase may be identified in this area in the future. Banana Bayou (16IB24) is a site on Avery Island where the mound at the site yielded Williams and Pontchartrain points, crude bifaces, lithic debitage and a fairly large number of based clay objects (Brown and Lambert-Brown 1978). Another site of some importance is 16IB101, which is located on the edge of the Prairie Terrace, overlooking the Teche channel, just south of New Iberia. This site contains a Middle Archaic component and "may represent an elevated habitation locale associated with the active Teche-Mississippi" (Weinstein and Kelley 1992:33).

The Late Archaic subperiod (3000-1500 B.C.) was a time of pronounced population increase and the development of extensive trade networks. Three geographically distinct phases have been identified for Coastal Louisiana, but only one of these, the Pearl River Phase, is well known (Gagliano and Webb 1970; Weinstein and Kelley 1992:33). The remaining two phases are the Copell phase, derived from a preceramic cemetery on Pecan Island (Collins 1941), while the Bayou Blue Phase comes from a site (16AL1) in Allen Parish (Coastal Environments, Inc. [CEI] 1977; Gagliano et al. 1982; Weinstein et al. 1977; 1979). Typical diagnostic artifacts include Evans, Palmillas, Ensor, Macon, Gary, and Pontchartrain points and such ground stone implements as winged atlatl weights and tubular pipes (Weinstein and Kelley 1992:33).

The only Late Archaic phase so far identified for southeast Louisiana is the Pearl River phase, suggested by Gagliano on the basis of oyster shell middens associated with early coastal features. Artifacts associated with this phase are Kent, Macon, Hale, and Palmillas projectile points and certain types of atlatl weights (Gagliano 1963).

Neo-Indian Period (1500 B.C.-A.D.1500)

The Neo-Indian period saw the introduction of ceramics, the widespread use of cultigens and the importation of the bow-and-arrow. The construction of earthen mounds, while apparently practiced to some extent during the Late Archaic (Gibson 1994, Russo 1994, and Saunders 1994), became highly developed during the Neo-Indian period and the focus of ceremonial, mortuary and political activity (Neuman 1984). A number of cultures flourished during this time span, as detailed below.

Poverty Point Culture (1500 B.C.-500 B.C.)

This culture, named for the gigantic semi-circular earthworks in West Carroll Parish (16WC5), was widespread throughout Louisiana, Arkansas and Mississippi and was closely related to similar cultures in Missouri, Tennessee, Alabama and Florida (Neuman 1984:90). The origins of Poverty Point remain obscure, although Neuman suggests that both local adaptation and influences from Meso-America were involved (Neuman 1984:91). The material culture of Poverty Point featured baked clay balls (Poverty Point Objects),

microlithic and lapidary industries and the construction of earthworks. The presence of pottery is debatable, although Clarence Webb (1982:40-42) discusses a number of cases in which ceramics have been found at Poverty Point sites. Hunting and gathering seem to have been the mainstays of Poverty Point subsistence and squash and chenopodium may have been cultivated during this period (Webb 1982:13).

Other important Poverty Point sites in the region are Jaketown and Teoc Creek, in Mississippi; the Terral Lewis Site (16MA16) and the J.W. Copes Site (16MA36), both in Madison Parish, Louisiana; the Aaron site (16EC39) in East Carroll Parish and the Cowpen Slough (16CT147) and Dragline (16CT36) sites in the Tensas Basin. In South Louisiana, sites with probable Poverty Point components include: Rabbit Island (16SMY8), Cargill Canal (16SMY102) and 16SMY132 (Weinstein and Kelley 1992:34). It should be noted in connection with the latter site, however, that more recent investigations by Kuttruff and Shuman failed to find a Poverty Point component at this site (Kuttruff et al. 1993). By 800 B.C., Poverty Point culture had begun to decline and the extensive trade network that formed a pivotal part of the culture had withered. For several centuries thereafter, prehistoric society in Louisiana centered on small bands of hunters and gatherers.

Tchefuncte Culture (500 B.C.-A.D.1)

The successors of Poverty Point culture were the Tchefuncte people, whose name derives from the site of that name in St. Tammany Parish (16ST1). Smith et al. (1983:163) have defined this period as being characterized by a simpler way of life, similar to the Late Archaic, but with the introduction of a ceramic complex. The Tchefuncte people were hunter-gatherers who also, apparently, possessed horticulture to some degree, cultivating squash and bottle gourd (Byrd 1974). A wide variety of animals were hunted, including deer, raccoon, ducks, muskrat, otter, bear, gray fox, ocelot and alligator. It seems that crustaceans were not eaten.

In south Louisiana, the Tchefuncte culture is especially known for its shell middens, heaps of shells from the brackish water clam, *Rangia cuneata.* These clams were evidently widely eaten although Byrd has shown that their nutritive value is minimal (Byrd 1977; Neuman 1984:118).

The lithic artifact inventory of Tchefuncte people included adzes, drills, hammer stones, knives, scrapers and projectile points. Ground stone artifacts include abraders, atlatl weights, beads, cobble hammer stones, grooved plummets, mortars and pitted stones. Baked clay objects continued to be made, but in less variety and in fewer numbers than at Poverty Point (Smith et al. 1983:163).

Weinstein and Kelley (1992:34-35) suggest that the Tchefuncte people were mound builders, but Neuman (1984:135) writes, “the evidence to support the theory that the Tchefuncte Culture Indians were mound builders is most vague.” Significant sites in the

current project area with Tchefuncte components are the Kleinpeter site (16EBR5), the Lee site (I6EBR51), the Sarah Peralta site (16EBR67), and the Beau Mire site (16AN17).

Marksville Culture (A.D. 1-400)

This culture, named for the type site in Avoyelles Parish (16AV1), was closely allied to the Hopewell culture of the Ohio and Illinois river valleys. The Marksville people constructed domed earthen mounds in which they buried their dead leaders, usually with funerary offerings (Neuman 1984). Marksville ceramics are finely made, with characteristic broadly incised lines and rocker stamping. The bird design is a frequent motif. Marksville ceramics are, in fact, often hard to distinguish from those made by Hopewellian peoples, leading to much speculation about the nature of the Marksville-Hopewell interaction. Toth (1988) felt that the main evidence for such an interaction derives from Marksville mortuary practices and the comparison of ceramic types. Other cultural practices, such as subsistence and settlement pattern, may not have been a part of whatever relationship existed between the two groups. It has been speculated that Marksville subsistence was based on hunting and the intensive gathering of wild foods; the evidence for maize agriculture is still weak (Weinstein and Kelley 1992:35).

On the basis of his survey of sites along the Amite River, east of Baton Rouge, Weinstein identified two phases for Marksville (Smithfield and Gunboat Landing) for the eastern part of Louisiana (Weinstein 1974). The Kleinpeter site (16EBR5), located on a terrace overlooking Bayou Fountain, also contains a significant late Marksville component (Jones et al. 1994). Other significant sites in South Louisiana appear to be the Gibson Mounds (16TR5) and Mandalay Plantation (16TR1), both in Terrebonne Parish. Other late Marksville locations are 16TR4, 16TR47, 16TR76 and 16TR77. In addition, Gibson (1978) produced evidence of a late Marksville occupation from a test pit into the Oak Chenier site (16SMY49), near the confluence of bayous Penchant and Chene. This excavation also yielded a flexed human burial. Surveys Unlimited Research Associates (SURA) reported a late Marksville component from two test units south of Mound B at the Broussard Mounds site (16AN1) on New River in Ascension Parish. They were not able to determine, however, if the other two mounds at the site were contemporary with this time period (Shuman et al. 1995).

Baytown Culture (A.D. 400-700)

Baytown (or Troyville) is perhaps the most problematical period in Louisiana prehistory. Partly this owes to the manner of its original definition (Gibson 1982; Belmont 1982). But it is also true that the period has been dealt with differently by different authors. Neuman, for instance, places it with Coles Creek, calling the two "Troyville-Coles Creek." Some authors, on the other hand, separate it, as a distinct period between Tchefuncte and Coles Creek (Weinstein and Kelley 1992:36-37). Weinstein and Kelley (1992:36) suggest that the development of Baytown in the Lower Mississippi Valley is associated with the

appearance of Quafalorma and Woodville painted pottery, along with Mulberry Creek cord-marked, Salomon Brushed, and Alligator Incised ceramics. The attempt to devise phases for South Louisiana has been difficult. For example, the Whitehall Phase, named for a site on the Amite River (16LV19), is the only representative of its phase in the vicinity of the project area (Weinstein and Kelley 1992:36).

Even so, Baytown components have been found at several locations in south Louisiana. These include, again, 16EBR5; 16EBR51; 16EBR67; The Gibson Mounds (16TR5), investigated by Weinstein et al. (1978); and Richeau Field (16TR82), a low mound on the Teche-Mississippi natural levee just southwest of Gibson (Weinstein et al. 1978). Finally, there is likely a Baytown component at 16IB3, the Morton Shell mound, of which its excavator writes..."Although there were no unequivocal occurrences of funerary accompaniments with the Morton Shell Mound burials, the shell midden matrix did contain sherds attributable to late Marksville and Troyville-Coles Creek times" (Neuman 1984:200).

Coles Creek Culture (A.D. 700-1200)

The Coles Creek culture represents a cultural florescence in the Lower Mississippi Valley. The settlement pattern involved hamlets and small villages, centered around one or more pyramidal earthen mounds. These mounds served as platforms for temples and the houses of leaders. Coles Creek culture was widespread in Louisiana and Mississippi and appears to have been related to the very similar Weeden Island culture of northwest Florida (Weinstein and Kelley 1992:37).

Ceramic decoration in Coles Creek time centered around incised, stamped and punctated designs that usually were restricted to a band around the rim of the vessel (Weinstein and Kelley 1992:37; Neuman 1984:186). The economic basis of Coles Creek society is not clear. It has been widely assumed that maize was important to these people (e.g., Smith et al. 1983:182), but it has been impossible to demonstrate this due to a lack of *Zea mays* in securely dated Coles Creek contexts (Weinstein and Kelley 1992:37).

South Louisiana contains an abundance of Coles Creek sites, several of which (e.g., 16IV6, 16VM9, 16AS35, 16SMY1 and 16EBR5) have been at least partially excavated. From this several temporally distinct phases have been developed. These are the Bayou Cutler, Bayou Ramos and St. Gabriel Phases. Bayou Cutler derives from the work of Kniffen (1938), and was refined by Phillips (1970), who utilized data on 74 sites in the lower reaches of the Lower Mississippi Valley. The Bayou Ramos phase was developed by Weinstein in St. Mary Parish at Bayou Ramos I (16SMY133). And the St. Gabriel Phase was defined at a site in Iberville Parish (16IV128) excavated by Woodiel (1993).

Mississippi Period (A.D. 1200-1700)

The Mississippi period in the Southeastern United States is a time when cultural influences from the Central Mississippi Valley increasingly influenced the indigenous cultures of the region. In Louisiana, this is reflected both in the Plaquemine culture, an outgrowth of the preceding Coles Creek, and the Mississippian culture proper. It is represented by vast complexes of truncated earthen pyramids and the use of shell temper in ceramics, as well as in distinctive ceramic forms, such as effigy vessels. Mississippian culture sites were often fortified (Stoltman 1978:725). During this period, social and political organization appears to have centered on a chiefdom and subsistence was based on the triad of maize, beans and squash.

Mississippian culture seems to have radiated from the Cahokia mounds group in Illinois, with its influence eventually extending both down the Mississippi River and along the Gulf Coast. In Louisiana, Plaquemine culture is represented at such sites as the Medora site (16WBR1), the Kleinpeter Site (16EBR5), the Bayou Goula Site (16IV11), Pritchards Landing (16CT14) the Fitzhugh Site (16MA1) and many others (Smith et al. 1983:197; Jones et al. 1994).

The nature of the relationship between Plaquemine and Mississippian culture is as yet unclear. Phillips (1970), for example, considered Plaquemine culture to have evolved by about A.D. 1000 and to have thereafter been steadily influenced by the Mississippians until about A.D. 1400, when Mississippian groups actually displaced the indigenous Plaquemine peoples. Brain (1978), however, would place Coles Creek as lasting until approximately A.D. 1200, when it was influenced so heavily by Mississippian culture that it evolved into Plaquemine, which is, in his view, a hybrid.

Based on information developed largely from ceramic analyses, three regional phases have been suggested for early Plaquemine culture in this general area. The first is the Medora Phase, based on the work of Quimby (1951) at the Medora Site (16WBR1) in West Baton Rouge Parish. The second is the Barataria Phase, based largely on work at the Fleming Site (16JE36) (Holley and DeMarcay 1977), and the third is Burk Hill, which derives from the work of Brown (1982) at the Burk Hill site (16IB100) on Cote Blanche Island. It was also during early Plaquemine times that material relating to the "Southern Cult" appears. This term is used to denote a complex of traits that first appears around A.D. 1000 and reaches its zenith about A.D. 1500. This complex is associated especially with Mississippian culture proper but it crossed cultural boundaries in the eastern United States (Neuman 1984:276). The complex focuses on an art style involving certain specific motifs, such as the cross, the sun, a bi-lobed arrow, the circle, the forked eye, the open eye, the barred oval, the hand and eye, and death motifs (Neuman 1984:277).

Perhaps the preeminent Plaquemine site near the study area is the Kleinpeter site (16EBR5), a location consisting of six mounds and extensive midden areas. The site appears

to have been abandoned prior to the arrival of the first Europeans, probably at some time during the Delta Natchezan phase (Jones et al. 1994).

Protohistoric Cultures and Groups

The first Europeans to see this area were probably the survivors of the De Soto expedition, who passed down the Mississippi River en route to the Gulf in 1542. The beginning of sustained contact with whites, however, was the La Salle exploration of 1682. This party, led by Rene Robert Cavelier, Sieur de La Salle, sailed all the way from Canada to the mouth of the Mississippi and claimed the entire area for France before returning to Canada. Two years later La Salle attempted to relocate the mouth of the river from the Gulf and to establish a colony in the new land. Unfortunately, he missed the mouth of the river and landed in Texas, where he was eventually murdered by his men. It would not be until 1698 that another French expedition was sent.

This time the leaders were Pierre le Moyne, Sieur d'Iberville, and his brother, Jean-Baptiste Le Moyne, Sieur d'Bienville. That year, after landing near Biloxi, Iberville led an exploring party up the Mississippi to the mouth of the Red River (McWilliams 1981). During his trip, Iberville encountered a number of aboriginal groups. These included the Bayogoula, Quinapissa, Houma and the Mugulasha. The Bayogoula and Mugulasha lived in a single village on the west bank of the Mississippi above Bayou Lafourche (Swanton 1911:274). The Houma lived just north of them, their main village being in Wilkinson County, Mississippi or West Feliciana Parish, Louisiana (Swanton 1911:285; Guevin 1983 :49-64). The dividing line between the territories of the two nations was just above Baton Rouge (McWilliams 1981). The Quinapissa lived in seven villages "eight days' travel overland east-northeast of (the Bayogoula) village."

Iberville, who wished to visit the Quinapissa, found that they and the Bayogoula "are not on visiting terms because of some pique between the two chiefs" (McWilliams 1981:56). Apparently, the Quinapissa were not on very good terms with the Houma either, for Iberville writes that "The Bayogoula told me that the Ouma were the ones that had destroyed the village of the Tangibao, which was one of the Quynypyssa's seven villages and that now they are only six, as the Ouma carried off the remnant families of Tangibao and brought them to their village...(McWilliams 1981:61)." After proceeding upstream into the territory of the Houma, Iberville turned back and made his way to his ships in the Gulf via the short-cut of Bayou Manchac (McWilliams 1981).

The continued arrival of Europeans in the Lower Mississippi Valley and the Southeast throughout the eighteenth century set in motion a chain of major population upheavals among the native Americans. The Houmas, for instance, after an attack by the Tunicas, moved south to the vicinity of New Orleans in 1706 and then, in 1709, to Ascension Parish. In Ascension they built two, or possibly three, villages. One village, the Grand Village of the Houmas, was located near Burnside; Guevin has identified the Grand Village as site 16AN35 (Guevin 1983). The second village may be associated with site 16AN3 near

Geismar (D'Anville 1752). Charlevoix visited this village in 1722 and mentioned that there were French houses associated with it (Charlevoix 1976:165). The Houma lived in Ascension parish until the late eighteenth century, finally selling their land and moving to Terrebonne Parish (Swanton 1911:290-291). The Bayogoula, in 1706, allowed the Taensa to come live with them, but seven years later the latter rose up and slew their hosts (Swanton 1946). The remainder of the Bayogoula fled to Plaquemine Parish. By the 1730s they seem to have merged with the Houma (Guevin 1990:13).

CHAPTER FOUR: HISTORY OF THE AREA

This chapter presents a broad overview of historic patterns in the vicinity of the project area. In addition, there are descriptions of several specific places, events, or organizations in the area.

Early European Exploration and Settlement

European explorers, lured by prospects of gold, began exploring the southeast United States within decades after Columbus' arrival in the New World. Early exploration efforts, however, ignored much of Louisiana. The Spaniard Cabeza de Vaca, a member of the ill-fated Panfilo de Narvaez expedition, sailed along the coast of southwest Louisiana in 1527 on his way to Texas, but did not travel into the interior. In 1541, Hernando de Soto became the first European interloper into what is now Louisiana. Hernando de Soto's men followed the Mississippi River to the Gulf of Mexico in 1542. This early Spanish claim to Louisiana was tenuous, as no Spanish settlers moved in to maintain the claim (Louisiana Work Projects Administration 1941:37-43).

The French were more successful in establishing a right to Louisiana. During the seventeenth century, the French began scouting the major waterways. Traveling down the Mississippi River in 1682, French explorer Robert Cavelier, Sieur de la Salle, claimed Louisiana and named it for the French King, Louis XIV. But to maintain that claim, there would have to be a French presence. In 1698, Pierre le Moyne, Sieur d'Iberville led a French expedition to establish settlement in Louisiana. Upon reaching the Gulf Coast in early 1699, d'Iberville followed the coast westward to the mouth of the Mississippi River and moved upriver. He came across several Indian villages as he moved upstream, and from the Bayogoulas he learned about Bayou Manchac or the Ascantia River that provided an alternate route between the Gulf coast and the Mississippi River. By following Bayou Manchac, a Mississippi River distributary, eastward to Lake Maurepas, then through Pass Manchac into Lake Pontchartrain, travelers could get to the gulf easily and bypass the long and difficult trip down the Mississippi River. Europeans initially referred to the waterway as the Iberville River (Wall 1990: 15-27; McWilliams 1981:64-65).

As they continued up the Mississippi, the Iberville party came to an area of higher ground with a red stick in the soil. This "baton rouge" marked the boundary between the Bayogoulas and the Oumas. The settlement later founded on this spot was named for the red stick. Iberville returned to his camp at Biloxi by way of Bayou Manchac, cutting days off his trip. Although the passage required many portages, he believed that it could be cleared for easier travel (McWilliams 1981:25, 64-8 1).

France quickly recognized the potential of Louisiana, and established settlements along the Mississippi, Red, and Ouachita Rivers during the early eighteenth century in order to maintain their claim to the territory. British settlements in the interior of North America spurred the French on to more actively promote settlement. In 1712, Louis XIV contracted with Antoine Crozat, and in 1717 with John Law, to establish trade and colonize Louisiana. Law's Company of the West granted land to willing settlers. Those settlers founded New Orleans in 1718 (Williamson and Goodman 1939:9-28; Louisiana Work Projects Administration 1941:37-43).

Captain Bernard Diron Dartaguette also established a settlement at the first permanently dry high ground on the Mississippi River, at what is now Baton Rouge, in 1718. The settlement was abandoned a few years later (Albrecht 1945:59-62). By 1740, there were French people living along the navigable waterways in Louisiana, but political events in Europe changed the course of settlement. In 1762, France ceded Louisiana to Spain under the Treaty of Fountainbleau. But in 1763 with the Treaty of Paris, Spain relinquished to Great Britain the territory of West Florida in exchange for Havana. West Florida included the land east of the Mississippi River and west of the Apalachicola River, but north of Bayou Manchac and Lakes Maurepas and Pontchartrain. The British immediately began efforts to settle the Florida Parishes by conferring land grants to British officers and soldiers. The amounts of land varied according to military rank, from 5,000 acres for field officers, to 300 acres for privates (Williamson and Goodman 1939:9-28; Louisiana Work Projects Administration 1941:37-43; Arthur 1935:12-15).

Unfortunately for Great Britain, Spain continued to control the mouth of the Mississippi River and New Orleans, both of great strategic importance. In 1779, Spain declared war against Great Britain. Due to its strategic location between Natchez and New Orleans, Spain reclaimed West Florida. Upon recapturing West Florida in 1779, Don Bernardo de Galvez encouraged settlement by giving out large land grants to settlers loyal to the Spanish crown. Spain recognized the agricultural potential of Louisiana as well, and in return for Spanish land grants, settlers were required to clear land for agriculture and to build and maintain levees (Williamson and Goodman 1939:9-28; Louisiana Work Projects Administration 1941:37-43; Arthur 1935:12-15).

As a result, Spanish, English and French immigrants moved into the region. Acadian refugees, fleeing political and religious persecution from the British in Canada, also settled in south Louisiana. The first Acadians settled near Fausse Point in 1765, but the Acadians or Cajuns dispersed throughout southern Louisiana.

In 1800, after nearly four decades of Spanish rule, the Treaty of San Ildefonso returned control of most of Louisiana to France. The Florida Parishes remained under the control of Spain. Shortly after the actual restoration in 1803, France sold Louisiana to the United States. West Florida, including East Baton Rouge Parish, was in an area disputed by the United States and Great Britain, but held by Spain (Padgett 1938:1-3).

In 1810, residents of West Florida, including leaders John Rhea, John H. Johnson, and William Barrow, rebelled against Spain, established the Republic of West Florida, adopted a constitution, and elected Fulwar Skipwith governor. St. Francisville was initially made the capital, but it was later moved to Baton Rouge. Later that same year, the United States claimed and took possession of West Florida, which it held illegally until the Adams-Onis Treaty in 1819 gave all of Florida to the United States (Butler 1980:94-99; Padgett 1938:1-3).

American Acquisition

After the United States purchased Louisiana from France in 1803, President Thomas Jefferson recognized the need to scientifically explore the area west of the Mississippi River. In the interest of exploration, settlement, and natural science, Jefferson sent two expeditions into Louisiana to report on the natural flora, fauna, and physical geography of the Red and Ouachita Rivers, but the expeditions did not explore south Louisiana which was better known (Flores 1984:3-45, 99).

Louisiana was admitted to the Union in 1812, although the Florida Parishes (those that were the part of West Florida west of the Pearl River) were not added to the state for several months (Wall 1990:102-108). Louisiana's capital was originally in New Orleans, but voters preferred a different location. In 1825 Donaldsonville, the seat of Ascension Parish, was made the capital, although it wasn't until 1830 that the legislature actually moved to Donaldsonville, and they quickly moved back to the more exciting New Orleans. Baton Rouge became the state capital in 1846. The seat of state government moved around during the Civil War and Reconstruction, but was returned to Baton Rouge in 1879 (Marchand 1936:85-94; Wall 1990: 125-126).

The Civil War

The Union Army sought to dominate the Mississippi River, and early in the war gained control of New Orleans and Baton Rouge. If the Union Army controlled the lower Mississippi Valley, they would control access to the mouth of the Red River and points west. The Confederate Army recognized the danger in August 1862 and constructed a bastion at Port Hudson, north of Baton Rouge. Union Admiral David G. Farragut and General Nathaniel P. Banks did gain control of the Mississippi River, including Port Hudson, in 1863 (Hewitt 1987 :x-xiv; Spedale 1986 :ix-xv).

The Union Army established a stockade at Doyal's Mount Houmas plantation at Geismar, but in 1864 it was captured by the Confederate Army. Major S.P. Remington of the Union Army reported on the incident, and mentioned some of the facilities at or near Mount Houmas, such as a telegraph station. Equipment and stock were taken from Mount Houmas as well as from John Minor's Waterloo Plantation adjoining (Marchand 1936:161-2).

Ascension Parish

After their expulsion from Canada in the mid-eighteenth century, many of the Acadian French immigrated to southern Louisiana, some settling in what became Ascension Parish. By 1772, the settlement acquired a resident priest, Father Angelus de Reuillagodos, who named the Catholic parish "Ascension" (Marchand 1936:1).

In 1806, William Donaldson purchased the land on the Mississippi River at the head of Bayou Lafourche from Mrs. Marguerite Allain and established the town of Donaldsonville, originally known as Donaldson Town. Donaldsonville was strategically located for commerce because Bayou Lafourche (earlier referred to as Riviere des Chetimaches) provided seasonal access to the Attakapas region of Louisiana from the Mississippi River. Donaldson himself continued to reside in New Orleans for a couple of years before moving to the town he founded. The town was incorporated in 1813 (Marchand 1936:16-20, 25, 37, 55)

The political unit Ascension Parish was established in 1807, when the United States began organizing the territory that would become the State of Louisiana, and was named after the ecclesiastical district. Donaldsonville is the parish seat. In 1808, Ascension Parish got a post office, in Donaldsonville (Louisiana Legislative Council 1964:281, 283; Marchand 1936:24)

By 1827, the wealthiest planters in the state lived between New Orleans and Baton Rouge in what were known as the Acadian and German coasts, according to the origin of the predominant settlers. Sugar was the dominant crop, generating yet another appellation for the area: the "Golden Coast" (Marchand 1936:67).

In 1860, Ascension Parish was the fourth largest sugar producing parish in Louisiana with four large scale sugar refineries and several small ones. The parish had about 125,000 acres, of which 85,000 were uncultivated, 20,000 were in sugar cane, 17,000 were planted in corn, and less than 500 were planted in cotton. The population was about 15,000; nearly one-half were slaves (Prichard 1938:1122-25).

In the decades following the Civil War, Ascension Parish's population has waxed and waned. Entering the 20th century, the petrochemical industry has created employment and Ascension Parish has become part of the Baton Rouge metropolitan area, with a population of 76,627 in 2000, growing to 107,215 in 2010 (Calhoun 2012).

Economic Base

Agriculture served as the primary economic base for these parishes since permanent settlement in the mid-seventeenth century. Proximity to the Mississippi River, slaveholding, and large landholdings contributed to a prosperous economy during the colonial and antebellum period.

The most important agricultural export of the lower Mississippi Valley in the colonial period was indigo. Although Louisiana's indigo crop may have been of a lower quality, it easily sold in Europe. Indigo was a labor intensive crop that was also expensive to cultivate, so only wealthy planters with a large number of slaves were able to raise it (Dalrymple 1978:4-6).

During the early nineteenth century, sugar became an important cash crop throughout the South. In the colonial period, some sugar was grown and converted into rum, but it wasn't until technological changes in the processing of sugar made the crop economically successful. In 1795, Etienne de Bore developed a commercial process for granulating sugar, thus making it a more valuable crop. Further improvements in the refining process occurred during the next half century (Louisiana Work Projects Administration 1941:221-223).

In addition, steamboat service began on the Mississippi River in 1811, further increasing commercial traffic for planters along the river. William Donaldson, founder of Donaldsonville and a member of a committee appointed by Governor William C. C. Claiborne to oversee steamboats, inspected the first steamboat to travel down the Ohio and Mississippi Rivers. Subsequently, the Louisiana legislature gave Robert Fulton and Robert Livingston exclusive right to use steamboats in south Louisiana for a limited time (Marchand 1936:32).

William Edwards Clement wrote about his experiences growing up on a sugar plantation in Iberville Parish in the late nineteenth century. When he was a child, the plantation ground and processed its own sugar cane, but eventually the plantation took its sugar cane to a larger mill for processing. This probably reflects the general trend in sugar cane farming in the last 100 years. Clement described the sugar harvest and processing. Cane was harvested during the last three months of the year. After grinding at the steam-powered or horse-drawn mill, the cane juice was boiled in "big old-fashioned boilers" over large wood fires. Once the cane juice had reached the right consistency for molasses, it was poured into homemade barrels, although some cane juice was processed into soft brown sugar. Sugar products were then shipped downriver to New Orleans. Clement's family plantation did not have enough wood to fuel the sugar processing, so uprooted trees were collected from the Mississippi River during periods of high water. The wood was dried out and later used as fuel (Clement 1952:13-15).

Slave labor for agricultural production gradually became more and more important to the economy of the parishes. Some cotton and indigo were grown in the area, but sugar remained the dominant crop. Cotton was important, but it was usually grown inland, away from the Mississippi River. Sugar cane was very lucrative, but because it required a greater capital investment, it was usually grown nearer to the Mississippi River on more valuable tracts of land. Because sugar cane required intensive labor, most planters had slaves to work in the fields. As the white population and number of acres under cultivation increased, so did the slave population (Prichard 1938:1124).

According to Joseph Karl Menn, in his book, *The Large Slaveholders of Louisiana*, in 1860 West Baton Rouge Parish had about 3700 slaves, East Baton Rouge Parish had about 3000, Ascension Parish had about 5600, and Iberville had about 7300. Of those, most belonged to 176 large slaveholders who owned 50 or more slaves each (Menn 1964:120-126, 138-150, 237-249).

For many decades, Ascension Parish had a thriving cypress timber and lumber industry. In 1807, William Donaldson, founder of Donaldsonville, built the first sawmill in Iberville Parish, on the Mississippi River just south of Bayou Manchac. More sawmills followed, and by the turn of the century, nearly 5,000 people were employed in the timber industry in Iberville Parish alone. By the late 1930s, most of the old cypress had been logged out (Grace 1946:91-94). Though sugar remains an important part of the economy of parishes along the Mississippi River south of Baton Rouge, the petrochemical industry has emerged as a major force in this area. In 2010 the parish had a population of 107,215 (Calhoun 2012:184).

Donaldsonville

Donaldsonville, the seat of Ascension Parish, began as a trading post, soon after 1750. The trading post was established primarily to buy fur from the Indians in exchange for whiskey and firearms. Soon after 1760, the settlement's population doubled by an influx of Acadians. For many years the town was called "Ascension," after a Capuchin missionary, Father Angelus a Revillagodos, called it "The Ascension of Our Lord" (WPA 1941:550). The town proper was established in 1806, when William Donaldson founded a settlement he called LaVille de Donaldson. Later, the town was called Lafourche and then Donaldsonville. It was incorporated in 1822 and was the state capital from 1830 to 1831 (Calhoun 2012:211). The town had a 2010 population of 7,436 (Calhoun 2012:190).

CHAPTER FIVE: PREVIOUS INVESTIGATIONS

Early Archaeological Studies

The first interest in the archaeology of this area may be traced back to Henry Marie Brackenridge who, in 1813, wrote to Thomas Jefferson about the Indian mounds along the Mississippi and Ohio Rivers. In this communication, Brackenridge listed a number of mounds, including the great Monk's mound at Cahokia, Illinois, the mound at Troyville (now Jonesville) (16CT7), Louisiana, since destroyed, and mounds "at Baton Rouge, and on the Manchac" (Brackenridge 1818).

Several decades later, Judge Carrighan, of Baton Rouge, writing in De Bow's Review, mentions that "...on the plantations of the Messrs. McHattons, near the Higland (sic) road, about two miles from the town, are two other large mounds...and several more are to be found on the Messrs. Daigle, Kleinpeter and Bexler" (Carrighan 1851:611). Clearly, the McHatton mounds are the pair of conical structures on the campus of Louisiana State University (16EBR6). The other mounds may have been located on the lands of the several plantation owners mentioned, although, as Jones et al. (1994:35) make clear, the Kleinpeter mounds referred to are not to be confused with the mound site (16EBR5) of that name.

The first true archaeological investigation of this area may be attributed to Clarence B. Moore, who examined a number of sites in Iberville Parish in 1912 (Moore 1913). He did not, however, cross the Mississippi into Ascension Parish. Following Moore, there was apparently little archaeological activity in the area until Dr. Fred B. Kniffen arrived at Louisiana State University in the late 1920s. Kniffen set out to make a number of cultural, archaeological, and geomorphological studies. In 1935, for instance, he visited 16EBR5 and gave the location the name Kleinpeter, after the nearest settlement (Kniffen, personal communication 1990). He went on to describe the site and to list other mounds in nearby Iberville Parish in a Louisiana Geological Survey bulletin (Kniffen 1938).

Kniffen, however, was primarily a geographer, and his archaeological work consisted largely of identifying sites and suggesting their temporal placement. Others of his contemporaries carried out more explicitly archaeological investigations. Among these, special mention should be made of the work of George Quimby. Working under WPA auspices, Quimby excavated the mound site (16WBR1) on Medora Plantation in West Baton Rouge Parish and gave Southeastern archaeology the concept of Plaquemine culture (Quimby 1951). He also carried out investigations at the Bayou Goula site (16IV11), in Iberville Parish, providing insight into what is now considered the protohistoric Delta Natchezan phase (Quimby 1957). Notwithstanding the inevitable refinements and challenges of later investigators, a great deal of our understanding of late prehistoric and protohistoric groups in this area derives from Quimby's two studies.

Although Quimby published these two monographs in the 1950s, the excavations themselves were carried out in the late 1930s and early 1940s. Nevertheless, the 1950s and 1960s were a time during which important original research was done in this area. Mclntire performed an investigation of Mississippi delta prehistoric settlement patterns and, while his study focused on the coastal zone, much of what he wrote is still applicable (McIntire 1958). Saucier published a monograph on the recent geomorphic history of the Pontchartrain Basin, dating many of the geomorphic features he described through the ages of known archaeological sites (Saucier 1963). Finally, Gagliano published a compendium of information on known Archaic sites in the region (Gagliano 1963). It should be mentioned that these three scholars published only after several years of formal and informal field explorations, which caused the list of known archaeological sites in the area to expand dramatically.

The Modern Era (1970-Present)

Beginning with the 1970s, most of the archaeological work done in the study area and its environs has been the result of contract archaeologists carrying out research pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966. Work during this period has included highway and road surveys (e.g., Rivet 1974; 1976), levee surveys for the U.S. Corps of Engineers (e.g., Castille 1979; Gagliano 1977; Stuart and Greene 1983; Goodwin et al. 1985; 1989; Hinks et al. 1993; Rader 1978; Lee et al. 1996; Wheaton et al. 1997; George et al. 2000a,b); pipeline surveys (e.g., Bryant 1985; Heartfield, Price and Green, Inc. [HPG] 1985; McIntire 1976, 1981; Madden 1985; Neuman 1978; Price 1977, 1987; Skinner et al. 1995; Davies et al. 1998; Smith et al. 2001); surveys for sewer projects (e.g., Neuman 1977; Landry et al. 1980; Robblee et al. 1997a,b; Robblee and Davis 1997); studies for industrial expansion projects (e.g., Carpenter et al. 1981; Coastal Environments, Inc. (CEI) 1977; Guevin 1990; McCloskey et al. 1981; South and Maygarden 2000a,b); a survey for a proposed fiber-optic cable (Jackson et al. 2000); a proposed railroad right-of-way (Shuman et al. 1997) and literature searches (e.g., Goodwin et al. 1990). Establishment of a regional archaeology program headquartered at Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge has led to state-sponsored archaeology in this area since the early 1990s (Hays 1996, 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000, Mann 2001). In addition, since 1970, grant funded projects, student theses, and papers given at professional meetings have provided valuable information on this area. These sources will be summarized below.

Our knowledge of the Paleoindian era has been advanced by a paper given by Weinstein, Burden and Gagliano, who have proposed a Jones Creek phase on the basis of Plainview, Dalton and San Patrice projectile points at the Jones Creek (16EBR13) and Blackwater Bayou (16EBR33) sites. The same authors have proposed an Early Archaic St. Helena phase for the Florida parishes, based on finds of Kirk and Palmer points (Weinstein et al. 1977). Other data on the Archaic period derives from a coring project at the Louisiana State University mounds (16EBR6) (Homburg 1988; Neuman 1988), although Jones (1993) has questioned the validity of their radiocarbon dates. Other Archaic radiocarbon dates, however, have come from the Monte Sano mounds (16EBR17), in the northern portion of the

parish (Haag 1993). While these investigations were in East Baton Parish, they are applicable to that part of Ascension Parish that is Pleistocene Prairie terrace,

The early ceramic cultures are better attested than the preceramic ones. In his Master's thesis, Richard Weinstein drew together an impressive amount of information about sites along the Amite River and proposed several refinements of the prehistoric sequence in this area (Weinstein 1974). A few years later, Weinstein and Rivet (1978) synthesized and analyzed data from the Beau Mire site (16AN17) and suggested the concept of the Tchula phase, a late Tchefuncte manifestation (Weinstein and Rivet 1978). Further data on the Tchefuncte culture derives from work at the Lee site (16EBR51), located on the edge of the Pleistocene terrace overlooking Bayou Fountain (Weinstein et al. 1985). While the site was occupied from Tchefuncte through Coles Creek times, the Tchefuncte or Tchula component was the most marked. Near the Lee site is the Sarah Peralta site (16EBR67), a prehistoric, multicomponent midden that extended from Tchefuncte through late Coles Creek times. This location was excavated by Perrault and her coworkers, who found the Tchefuncte component to be the most significant element and the site has subsequently been placed on the National Register of Historic Places (Perrault et al. 1994). Finally, Jones and his colleagues excavated a Tchefuncte trash pit containing ceramics and a Kent type projectile point at the Kleinpeter site (16EBR5), but found that the Tchefuncte component was apparently less significant at that location than later cultures (Jones et al. 1994). Marksville culture was also represented at the Kleinpeter site, both in the Smithfield and Gunboat Landing phases (Jones et al. 1994:197). These phase names, it should be mentioned, derive from Weinstein's survey along the Amite in the early 1970s (Weinstein 1974).

Several projects have investigated sites of the succeeding Baytown and Coles Creek cultures. Notable was the emergency excavation of the St. Gabriel mound (16IV128), by Woodiel (1993). This location consisted of a single platform mound that had a circular structure in a premound context. The ceramics recovered from this site placed it in a period transitional between Coles Creek and Plaquemine. She called this the St. Gabriel phase. The mound was destroyed by the construction of Hunt Correctional Institute. The Kleinpeter site (16EBR5), mentioned above, provided more information relative to the St. Gabriel phase, notably another circular structure at the base of a low platform mound. From the artifacts recovered, it would appear that the Kleinpeter site thrived during late Coles Creek and Plaquemine times. It is unclear when prehistoric peoples ceased to live there (Jones et al. 1994). The protohistoric period of this area is represented by a study made by Brian Guevin of the 16AN35 site, location of the Grand Houmas Indian village (Guevin 1983).

The historic era in this portion of Ascension Parish is best represented by investigations at Ashland-Belle Helene Plantation (16AN26). Ashland-Belle Helene (16AN26) has been studied by three groups of researchers. R. Christopher Goodwin and Associates, Inc. (RCG), conducted limited investigations in 1984 and 1989, as part of two revetment projects for the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers (Goodwin et al. 1985, 1989). A more detailed study of the plantation proper was carried out by Babson and Orser (1989) and consisted of testing the foundations of an outbuilding to the main plantation house and a

portion of the slave quarters. Thirteen test units were excavated and nearly 23,000 artifacts were recovered, confirming the importance of this plantation to our understanding of ante- and post-bellum plantation life in the South. Five years later, Earth Search, Inc. (ESI), undertook data recovery operations at the site. They gridded an area of 102 ac (41.3 ha) and placed shovel tests at 98.4 ft (30 m) intervals. A portion of the site that was designated an impact area for development was gridded and shovel tested at 49.2 ft (15 m) intervals. In addition, trenches were placed across cabin sites and 89 1 m x 1 m test units were excavated at two cabin sites. As a result of these operations, eighteen slave/worker cabins were identified, at least 15 of which were double cabins. Archaeological evidence suggested that the cabins had been in continuous use from about 1840 until the turn of the century, when they were abandoned. Over 50,000 artifacts were recovered and 5,500 bone fragments were also salvaged (Yakubik et al. 1994).

CEI conducted a survey of a proposed extension of the Liquid Carbonics Plant in Geismar. The survey did not reveal any cultural resources in the project area (Guevin 1990).

Further studies in this area were made by Jones and Shuman in 1987 as part of a grant-funded project. They mapped all known Indian mounds in Ascension, Iberville, Pointe Coupee, St. James, and West Baton Rouge Parishes. During their project they visited and mapped the Broussard mounds (16AN1) and found that Mound B, which lies directly under high power lines, is the site of an antebellum cemetery related to the Tillotson family. The cemetery had been badly damaged, but inscriptions on tombstones were still legible. Mound A they found to be in good condition albeit with an abandoned ranch-style house on top. The third mound, on property belonging to another landowner, was in good condition but had been slightly eroded by cattle. These mounds were then considered to probably belong to the Coles Creek or a later period (Jones and Shuman 1987).

In 1995, SURA surveyed the proposed route of a liquid hydrogen pipeline (Shuman et al. 1995). This study recorded six cultural resource locations, including the Broussard Mounds Site (16AN1). Testing at this site showed prehistoric midden in an area extending 100 feet (ft)(30.5 meters [m]) south of Mound B. As a consequence, the pipeline was rerouted further to the southwest from the prehistoric deposits. The midden itself contained prehistoric Marksville artifacts as well as materials dating from the establishment of Mound (later Riverside) Plantation, in the late 18th or early 19th century. An adjacent route was proposed for an Exxon pipeline in 1998. SURA archaeologists again conducted test excavations at 16AN1, this time near the base of Mound B (Jones et al. 1998). Once more they found intact deposits from the Marksville period and upon the recommendation of the State Archaeologist, Exxon elected to avoid the site by directionally drilling beneath it.

In further work at 16AN1, Benjamin Goodwin, as his M.A. thesis at Louisiana State University, attempted to apply remote sensing techniques to further explore the site. His results were equivocal, though in an attempt to ground truth the remote sensing he did carry out limited excavations that led him to believe that Mound B was associated with the early Marksville Smithfield phase (Goodwin 2003).

Projects near the Current Study Area

Eleven cultural resources projects have been conducted within 1 mi (1.62 km) of the current project area. The majority of these have been pipeline surveys. Two projects (Shuman and Jones 1985 and Davies et al. (1998) each recorded cultural properties, but they were either not significant or the portion of the site to be impacted was not considered significant (i.e., Davies et al. 1998). Related to these pipeline studies was an investigation for a plant expansion in Donaldsonville by G. Harry Stopp. This undertaking did not record any archaeological properties (Stopp 1975). Two projects have examined levees for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE). These were CEI's study of four revetment areas (Kelley 1989) and ESI's survey from Mile 178 to 173.2 (Vigander et al. 1994). While the latter recorded no archaeological sites, the former recorded two historical sites and revisited two previously recorded sites. All four of these sites, however, were in East Baton Rouge Parish (Kelley 1989). Otherwise, there has been one overview by the National Park Service (Greene et al. 1984); one highway study which recorded no sites in the Ascension Parish portion (Rivet 1976); a survey within Donaldsonville proper that covered 80 city blocks and recorded standing structures and the location of Ft. Butler (16AN36)(Castille 1980); and one cell tower survey with negative findings (EBI 2013). Across the Mississippi River and not directly relevant to the current project one may cite Shenkel's 1976 survey of St. Elmo, which recorded no cultural resources (Shenkel 1976), and three projects by CEI in connection with a proposed coal transfer facility. The first investigation recorded archaeological materials related to the Hermitage Plantation (McCloskey et al. 1981). The second in the series document ted the NRHP eligibility of the Hermitage and Bocage plantations (Castille 1981). The final report of the group recorded a non-significant archaeological site (16AN33) (Castille and Pearson 1982).

CHAPTER SIX: METHODOLOGY

The methodology employed in the project consisted of two phases. Initially, historic maps and aerial photographs at the Louisiana State University Cartographic Information Center (LSUCIC) were consulted in order to determine what structures and roads might have existed on the property in the 20th century. In addition, the site files and report library of the Louisiana Division of Archaeology (LDOA) were examined to determine what archaeological sites had been reported for this area by previous investigators.

The second phase, fieldwork, consisted of shovel tests excavated each 98.4 ft (30 m) along transects 98.4 ft (30 m) apart within 100 ft (ca. 30 m) of roadways and within the area from the Mississippi River to the 15 ft (4.6 m) contour line or approximately the area of natural levee deposits. All other areas were surveyed at 164 ft (50 m) spacing for transects and shovel tests. Survey procedure was to have the crew form a skirmish line at one boundary and move along straight transects to the opposite boundary. All shovel tests were excavated to what appeared to be sterile soil and material recovered from the shovel tests was screened using .25 inch hardware cloth. When shovel tests are positive, site definition is carried out, with shovel tests being excavated at 32.8 ft (10 m) intervals in a grid oriented to the cardinal directions.

Recovered materials are taken to the SURA laboratory, where they are cleaned, identified, and catalogued.

Curation Statement

All artifacts collected are returned to the SURA laboratory, washed, analyzed and catalogued. They, as well as documents pertaining to the survey, are then deposited with the Louisiana Division of Archaeology for curation, at:

LDOA Curation/CRT
Central Plant North Building 2nd Floor
1835 North Third St.
Baton Rouge, LA 70802

CHAPTER SEVEN: RESULTS OF THE SURVEY

Topographic Research

Historic maps, including the relevant Mississippi River Commission (MRC) charts from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) and the historic topographic map for this area at the Louisiana State University Department of Geography & Anthropology Cartographic Information Center (LSUCIC), were reviewed. The earliest was the 1858 Persac Map (Norman's Chart), which shows the APE as being divided among several plantation holdings (Figure 6).

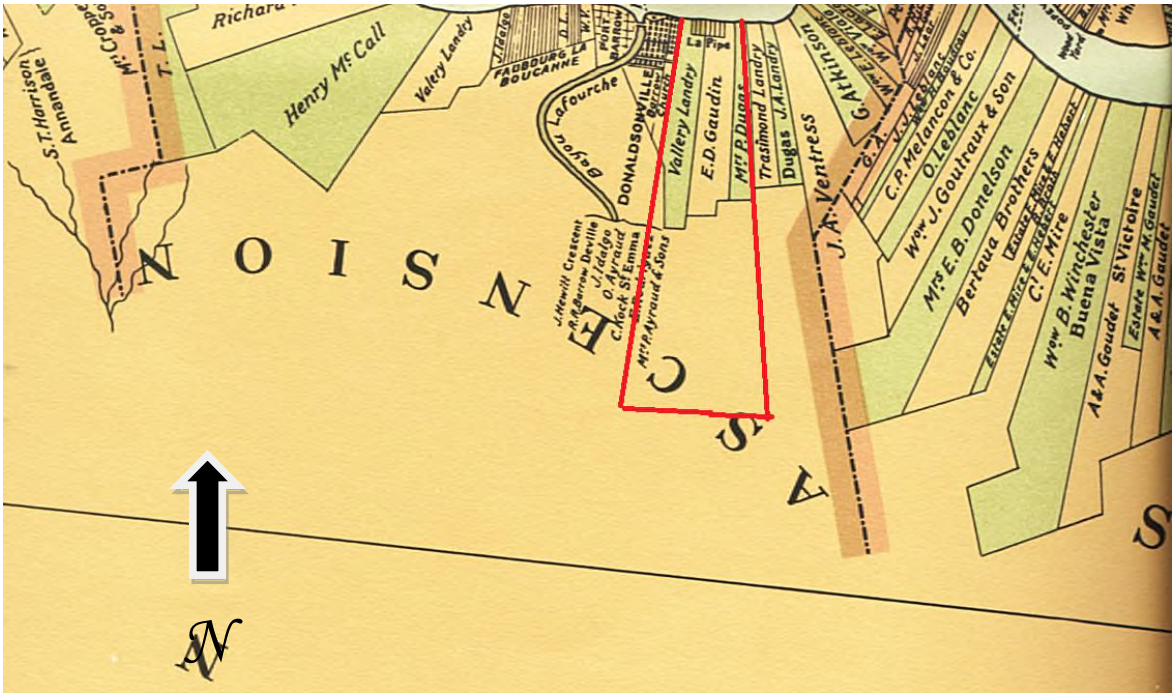

Figure 6. Persac map (Norman's Chart) (1858), showing APE (Source: SURA, Inc.)

The 1883 Mississippi River Commission (MRC) map shows the APE as pertaining to Bon Alliance Plantation. As might be expected, there are various structures near the river and a complex, probably the sugar house, located well behind or to the south of the other buildings (Figure 7).

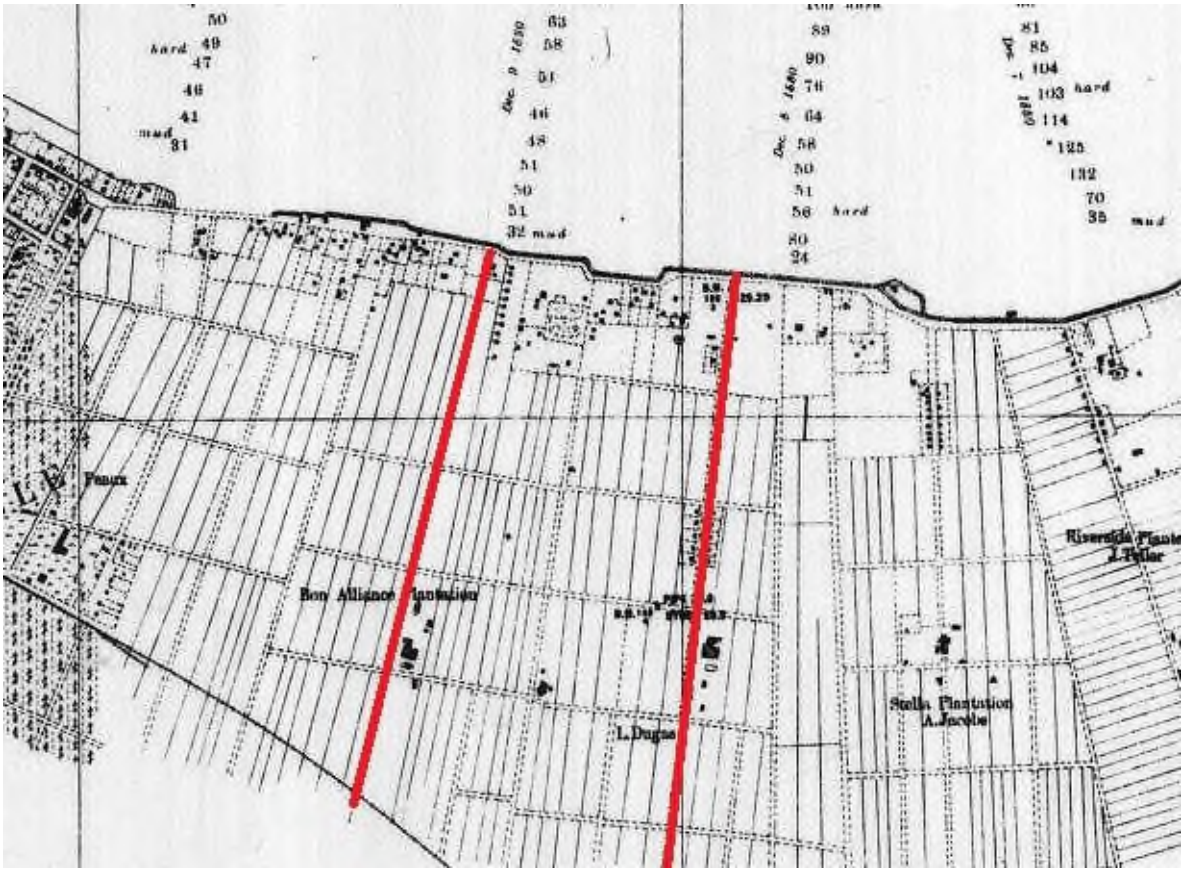

Figure 7. MRC Sheet 69 (1883), showing Bon Alliance Plantation area (Source: www.mvd.usace.army.mil/mrc)

By the time of issuance of Sheet 69 (1913), most of the structures shown on the 1883 map have vanished (Figure 8).

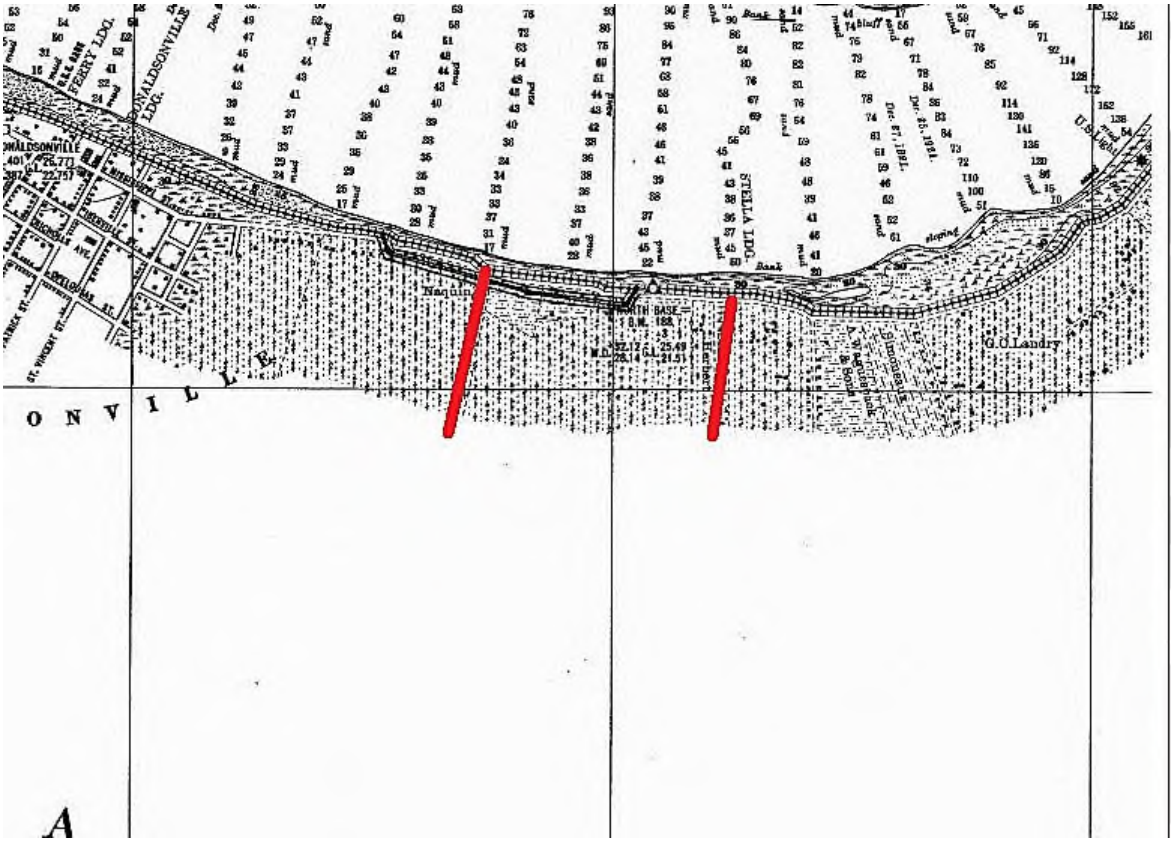

Figure 8. MRC Sheet 69 (1913), showing approximate area of APE (Source: www.mvd.usace.army.mil/mrc)

The 1935 sheets depict a few buildings along the river Road (La State Hwy 30) (Figures 9-10).

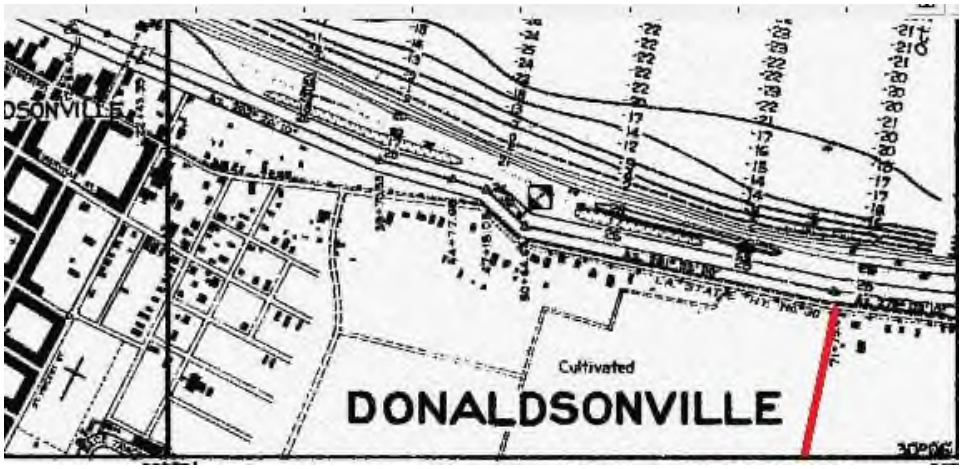

Figure 9. MRC Sheet 83 (1935), showing approximate area of west part of APE (Source: www.mvd.usace.army.mil/mrc)

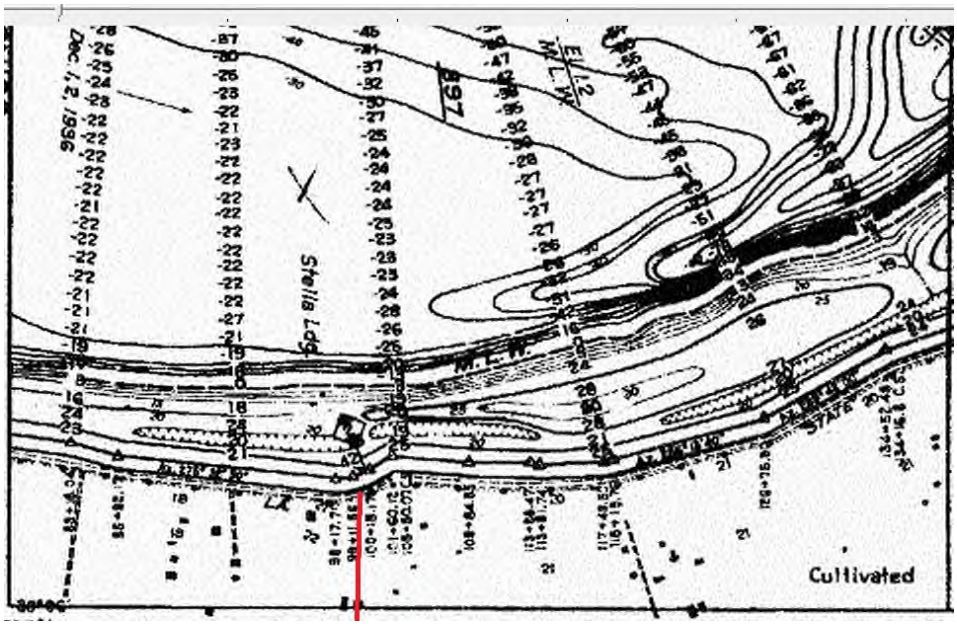

Figure 10. MRC Sheet 84 (1935), showing approximate area of east part of APE (Source: www.mvd.usace.army.mil/mrc)

The first topographic map reviewed was the 1892 Donaldsonville, La. 15-minute sheet (Figure 11). As with the 1883 MRC map (Figure 7), it shows structures in the northern part of the APE and also a set of buildings northwest of the railroad tracks. The southern portion of the APE is back swamp.

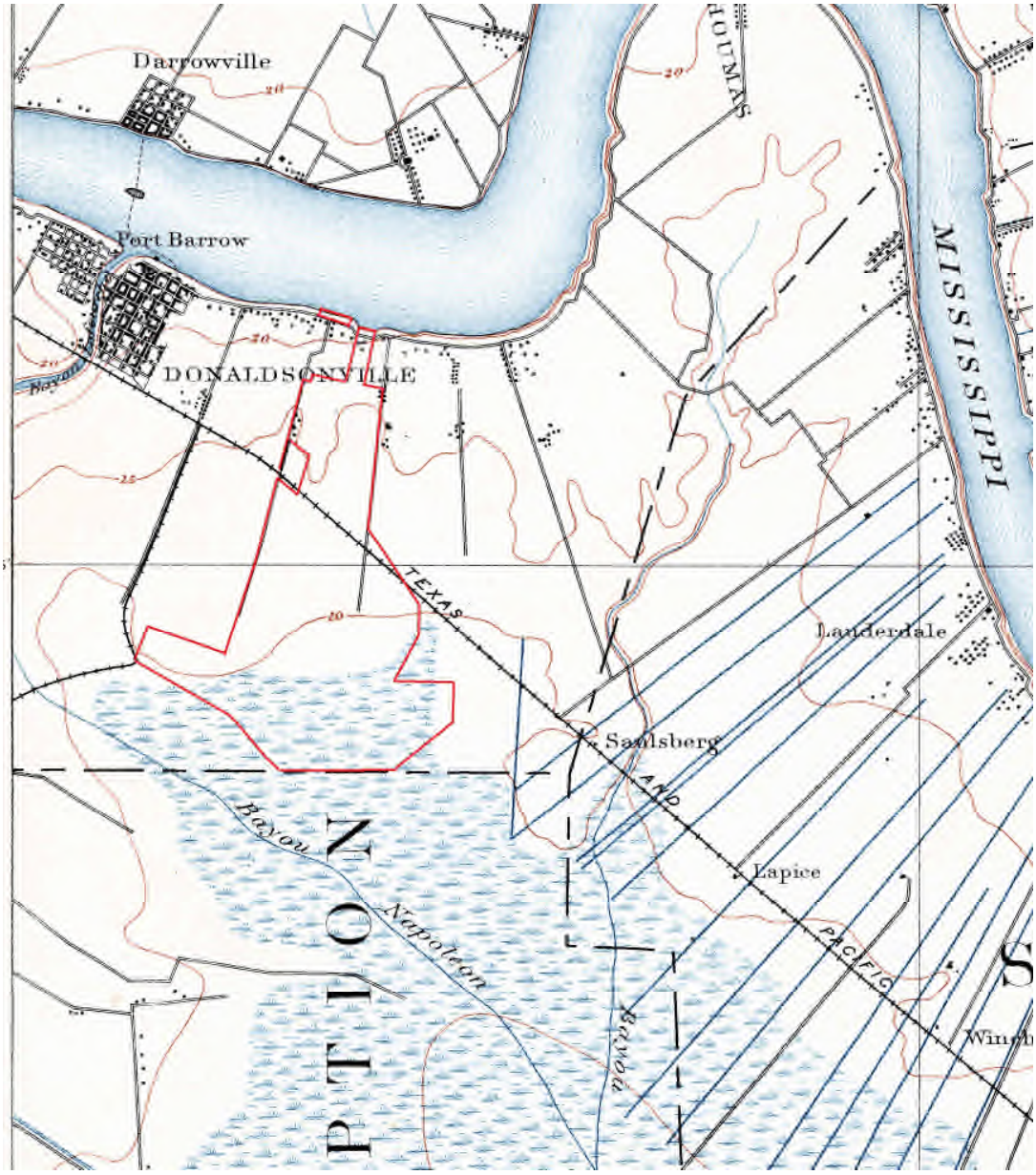

Figure 11. Portion of 1892 Donaldsonville, La. 15-minute topographic map, showing APE (Source: LSUCIC).

In the 1935 Donaldsonville, La. 7.5 minute (1:31,680) map, the structures to the northwest of the railroad are gone but a few buildings remain along the River Road (Figure 12). By this time much of the back swamp has been reclaimed for farm land.

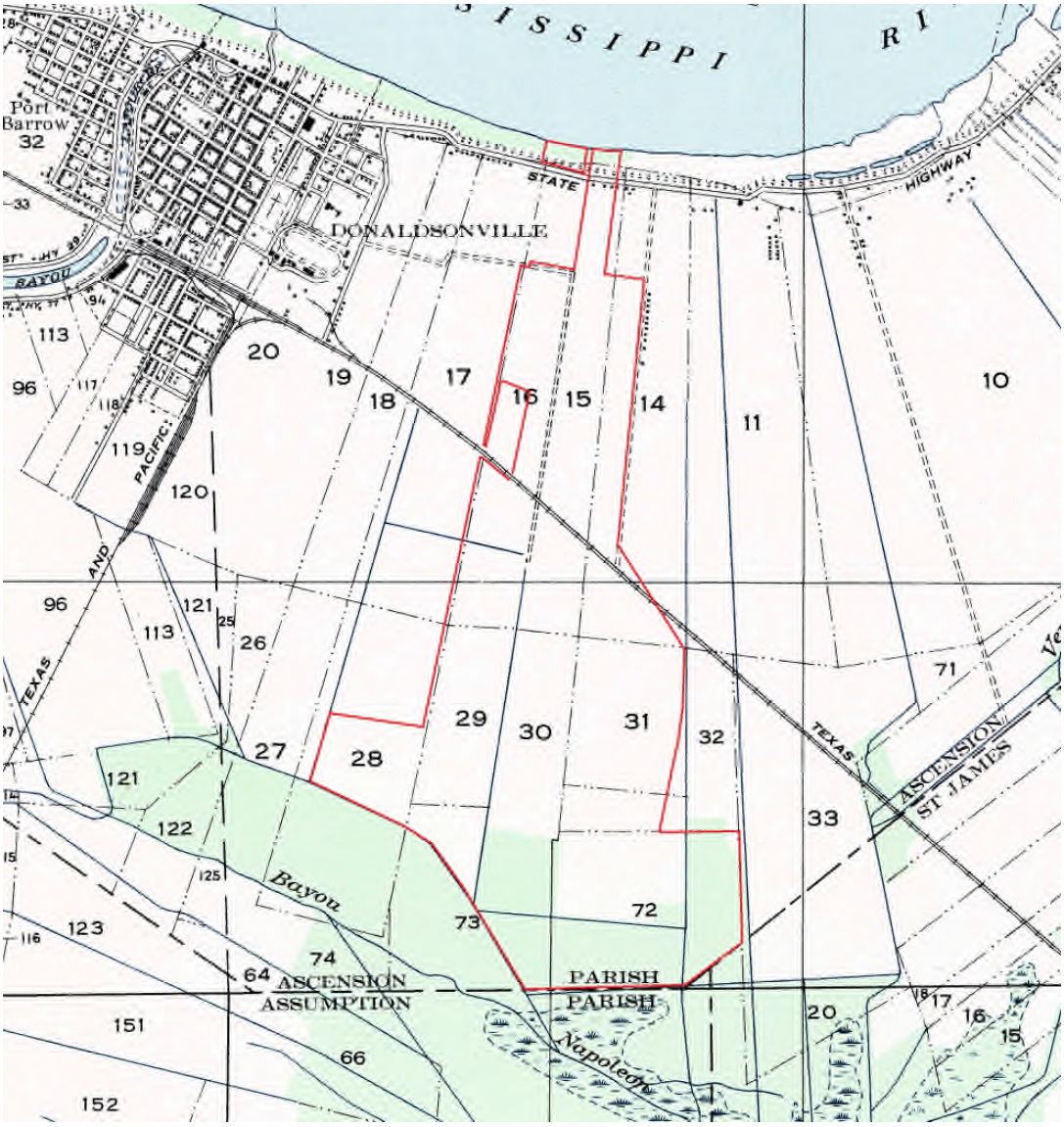

Figure 12. Portion of 1935 Donaldsonville, La. 7.5 minute (1:31,680) topographic map, showing APE (Source: LSUCIC).

The 1981 (Photorevised) 7.5 minute map shows essentially the same situation as in the earlier, 1935, sheet (Figure 13).

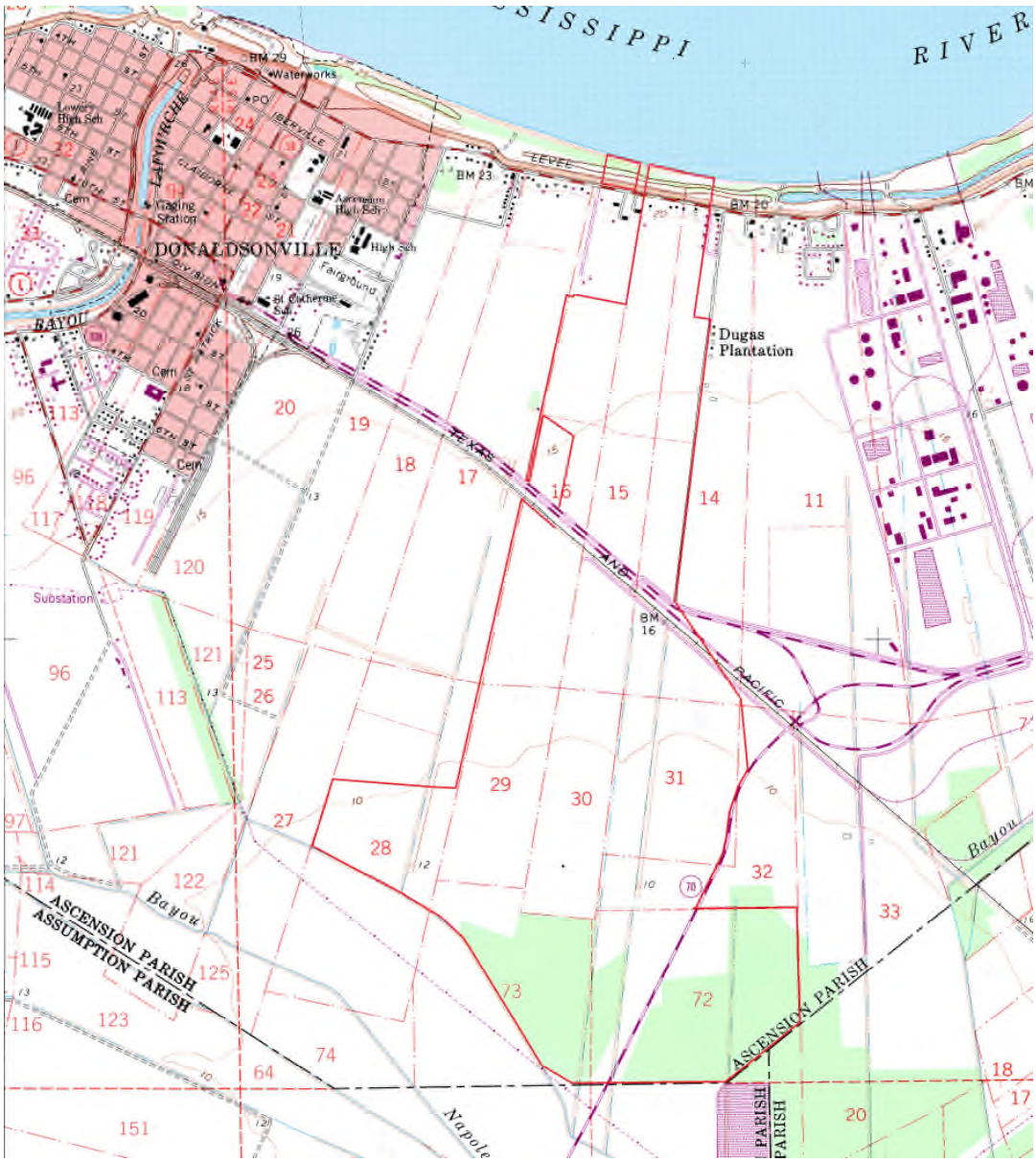

Figure 13. Portion of 1981 (Photorevised) Donaldsonville, La. 7.5 minute topographic map, showing APE (Source: LSUCIC).

By the time of issuance of the 1994 Donaldsonville, La. 7.5 minute map (not shown), a school complex has been placed in the enclave just northwest of the railroad tracks, and outside of the APE. This is essentially the same situation that exists today.

There are six recorded archaeological sites within ca. 1 mi (1.62 km) of the current APE (Table 1). All are historic and only one is significant. That is 16AN24 (Hermitage Plantation), which is on the other (east) side of the Mississippi River.

Table 1. Recorded archaeological sites within 1 mi (1.62 km) of APE (Source: LDOA n.d.)

Site No	Name	Type	NRHP eligibility
16AN24	Hermitage Plantation	Historic	Listed
16AN42	Dugas Plantation	Historic	No
16AN43	(No Name)	Historic	No
16AN44	(No Name)	Historic	No
16AN97	AW39	Historic	No
16AN100	Temp. Site # RC35	Historic	No

Fieldwork

With the exception of a small patch of swamp at the southern end of the APE, the area consisted of cane fields, which were in the process of harvest and burning during the survey (Figures 14-16). Figure 17 shows the transects walked during the survey and the locations of positive shovel tests.

Figure 14. End of Transect 1, facing east, north part of APE.

Figure 15. Transect 3, ST 14, facing west, north part of APE.

Figure 16. Southern part of APE, facing south.

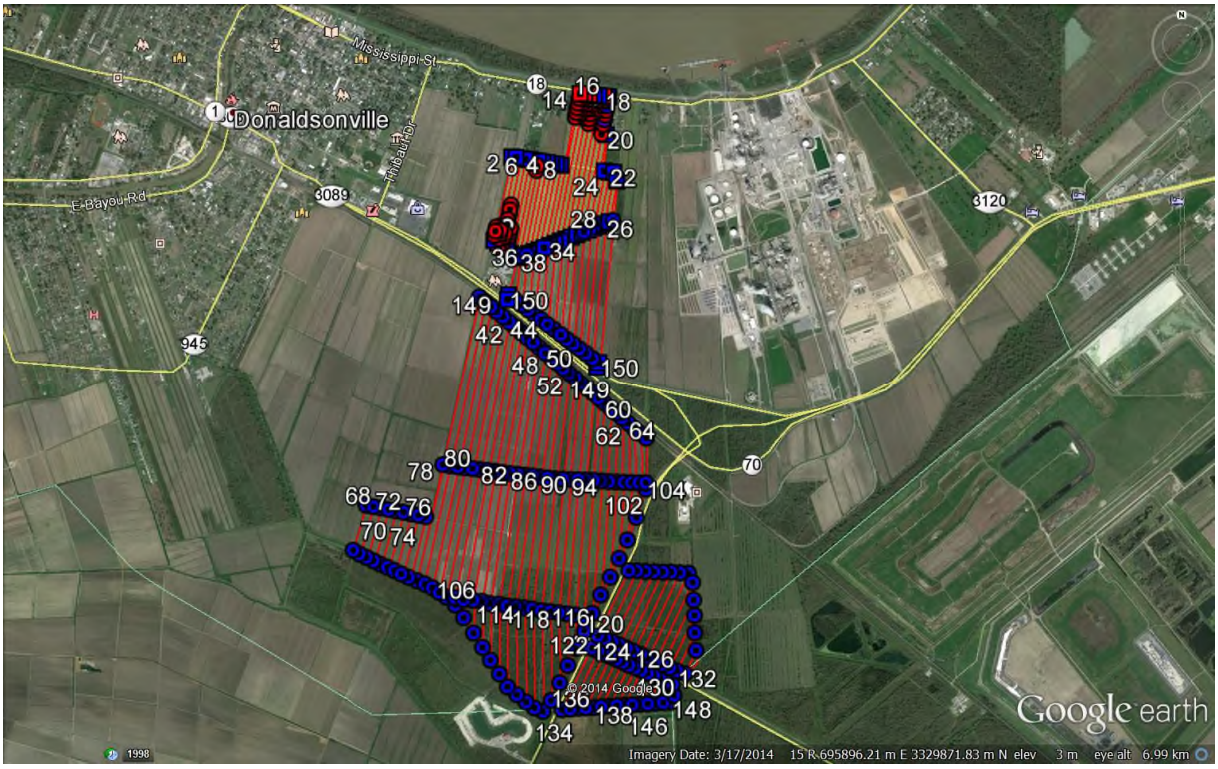

Figure 17. Survey transects and locations of positive shovel tests (Source: Google Earth).

Table 2 provides a typical negative shovel test profile for the cane field portion of the APE. The backswamp portion in the extreme south of the APE (Figure 16, above) was Sharkey clay from the surface down.

Table 2. Typical negative shovel test profile.

Depth	Munsell	Description
0-10 cmbs	10YR4/3	Sandy clay
10-25 cmbs	10YR3/4	Sandy clay
25-50 cmbs	10YR4/6	Sterile clay

Three archaeological locations and one non-archaeological location were recorded during the course of the survey. These will be listed below.

Bon Alliance Plantation (16AN104)
Coordinates: 695174E, 3330887N

This location consists of articulated brick foundations and associated ceramics, glass, and metal artifacts. It corresponds to the complex of structures shown on the 1883 MRC map (Figure 7) and labeled Bon Alliance. The site occupies about 5.7 ac (2.3 ha) (Figure 18).

Figure 18. Aerial view of Bon Alliance Plantation site (16AN104)(Source: Google Earth).

Figure 19 provides a site delineation map.

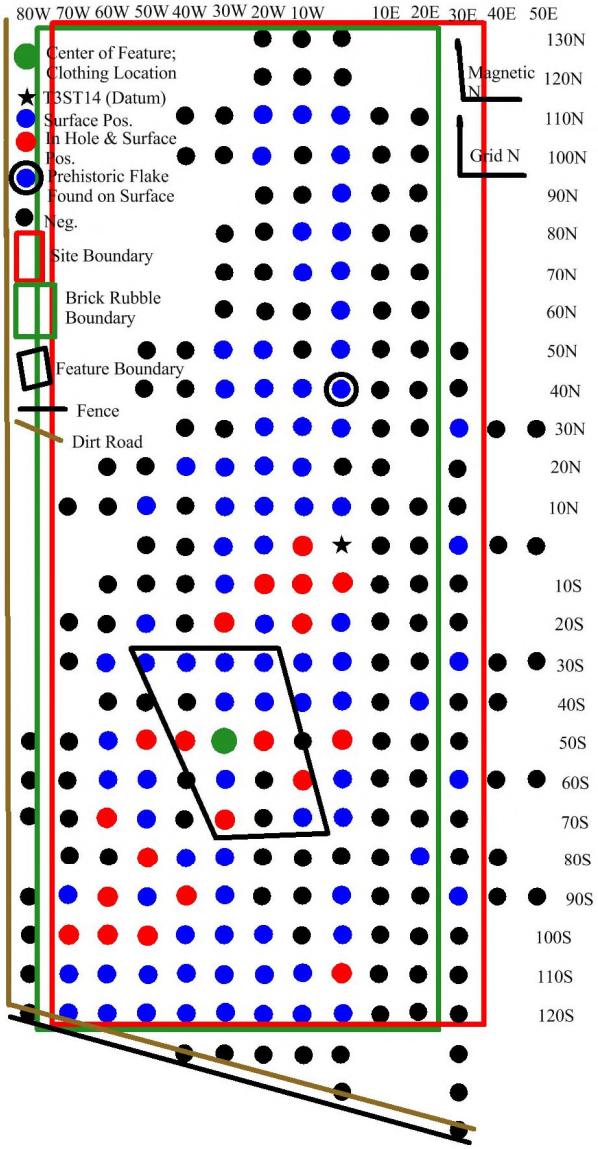

Figure 19. Site delineation map for Bon Alliance Plantation Site (16AN104).

The center of the site is located in a cane field about 300 ft (91.44 m) north of Donaldsonville Elementary School (Figure 20) and was recognized by the presence of surface artifacts (Figure 21).

Figure 20. Location of Bon Alliance Plantation site (16AN104), Facing south.

Figure 21. Surface brick at Bon Alliance Plantation site (16AN104); trowel points north.

The foundations of the apparent sugar mill were evident just below the surface (Figures 22-23). These foundations measure 131.2 ft x 164 ft (40 m x 50 m). In addition, a round-shaped brick base was found (Figure 24).

Figure 22. Northwest corner of structure foundation (Feature 1), Bon Alliance Plantation site (16AN104); trowel points north.

Figure 23. Center of Feature 1, Bon Alliance Plantation site (16AN104); trowel points north.

Figure 24. Round brick base, Bon Alliance Plantation site (16AN104); trowel points north.

Stratigraphy is represented in Table 3.

Table 3. Representative stratigraphy of site 16AN104.

Depth	Munsell	Description
0-10 cmbs	7.5YR3/2	sandy, clayey silt
10-25 cmbs	7.5YR3/4	sandy, clayey silt
25-40 cmbs	2.5YR3/2	sandy clay
40-80 cmbs	7.5YR4/6	sterile clay

Materials recovered from this site are listed in Table 4.

Table 4. Materials from Bon Alliance site (16AN104).

	LOCATION												
	Surface	Datum (T3ST14)	10W	10S	10 S, 10 W	10 S, 20 W	20 S, 10 W	20 S, 30 W	50 S	50 S, 20 W	50 S, 30 W	50 S, 40 W	TOTAL
Ceramics													
Whiteware													
Plain	120					1						1	122
Decorated	13												13
Transfer	7												7
Hand-painted	4												4
Flow Blue	1												1
Maker's Mark	3												3
Shell edge	1												1
Banded	10												10
Stoneware													
Plain	3												3
Slip Glaze	3												3
Bristol Glaze	3												3
Rockingham Glaze	1												1
Salt Glaze	13												13
Lead Glaze	1												1
Manganese	6											1	7
Transfer	1												1

Ironstone ware													
Plain	319	2	1		1		2	1					326
Decorated	5												5
Maker's Mark	11												11
Banded	1												1
Pearlware													
Plain	1												1
Earthenware													
Plain	3												3
Manganese	3												3
Slip Glaze	2												2
Red ware	1												1
Yellowware													
Plain	5												5
Banded	1												1
Porcelain													
Plain	41												41
Decorated	3												3
Caster Wheel	1												1
Tile	1												1
Refinedware													
Plain	12												12

Tile	1												1
Decorated	3												3
Transfer	1												1
Banded	1												1
Unidentified	11												11
Glass													
Bottle (Curved)	452						1					2	455
Window (Flat)	25												25
Milk	23				1								24
Metal													
Iron													
Nails													
Unknown	12								1		1		14
Stake	3												3
Shotgun Shell	2												2
Bolts	12									2			14
Hooks	2												2
Nuts	3												3
Chains	1												1
Unknown	93		1	1							1		96
Construction Material													
Brick	37		2										39
Fire	1										1		2
Concrete	1												1
Mortar	8											1	9
Slag	1												1
Slate	2												2

Asbestos	17												17
Bone													
Unknown												1	1
Shell													
Oyster	18										2	1	21
Wood													
Coal	16										3		19
Prosser Buttons	4												4
Prehistoric Flake													
Secondary	1												1
TOTAL	1,352	2	4	1	2	1	3	1	1	2	8	6	1,383

Table 4. Materials from Bon Alliance site (16AN104) (Continued).

	LOCATION													
	50 S, 40 W	50 S, 50 W	60 S, 10 W	70 S, 30 W	70 S, 60 W	80 S, 50 W	90 S, 40 W	90 S, 60 W	100 S, 50 W	100 S, 60 W	100 S, 70 W	110 S	Feature 1	TOTAL
Ceramics														
Whiteware														
Plain	1		2										18	21
Decorated														
Hand-painted													1	1
Annular													2	2
Other													1	1
Stoneware														
Salt Glaze													1	1
Salt & Manganese										1				1
Slip Glaze	1													1
Ironstone ware														
Plain					1				1			1	3	6
Maker's Mark													1	1

Pearlware														
Plain														
Decorated														
Shell edge													1	1
Red ware													1	1
Terracotta													1	1
Porcelain														
Plain								1					1	2
Decorated													6	6
Button														
Four Hole													1	1
Kaolin Pipe Fragments						1								1
Glass														
Bottle (Curved)	2			1	2	4	1		4	1	1	3	70	89
Window (Flat)					1				1				38	40
Metal														
Iron														

Fasteners														
Nails														
Cut		1											9	10
Wire											1		5	6
Unknown														
Washers													2	2
Bolts				1	2								8	11
Bolt w/ Nut		1										1	2	4
Hook Bolts													3	3
Hook Bolt w/ Nut													1	1
Rod													3	3
Misc.													6	6
Unknown								1						1
Copper														
Misc.						1								1
Misc. Aerosol Can													1	1
Misc. Oxidized UID													2	2
Plastic														
Misc.													2	2
Construction Material														
Brick														
Fire													1	1

Mortar	1	1											1	3
Asbestos											1			1
Bone														
Unknown	1													
Shell														
Oyster	1												18	19
Wood														
Charcoal		1												1
Coal													3	3
TOTAL	7	4	2	2	6	6	1	2	6	2	3	5	213	258

Representative artifacts are presented in Figures 25-62.

Figure 25. Plain whiteware from surface, 50S30W, 16AN104.

Figure 26. Annular-decorated whiteware from surface, 100S70W, 16AN104.

Figure 27. Banded polychrome whiteware, surface, 70S10W, 16AN104.

Figure 28. Early banded whiteware, T2, ST2, 16AN104.

Figure 29. Blue transfer whiteware, surface, 80S40W, 16AN104.

Figure 30. Blue transfer whiteware, T3, ST12, 16AN104.

Figure 31. Purple transfer whiteware, T2ST2, 16AN104.

Figure 32. Whiteware with partial maker's mark, surface, near T2ST5, 16AN104.

Figure 33. Whiteware with partial maker's mark, surface, 70S10W, 16AN104.

Figure 34. Hand-painted whiteware, T3ST14, 16AN104.

Figure 35. Hand-painted whiteware, T3ST14, 16AN104.

Figure 36. Blue shell-edged whiteware, surface, 30S30W, 16AN104.

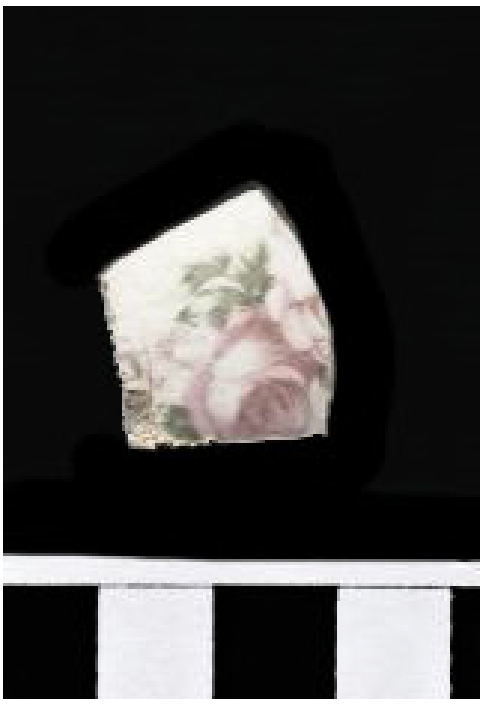

Figure 37. Decalcomania-decorated whiteware, surface, 10N10W, 16AN104.

Figure 38. Plain porcelain, surface, 100S60W, 16AN104.

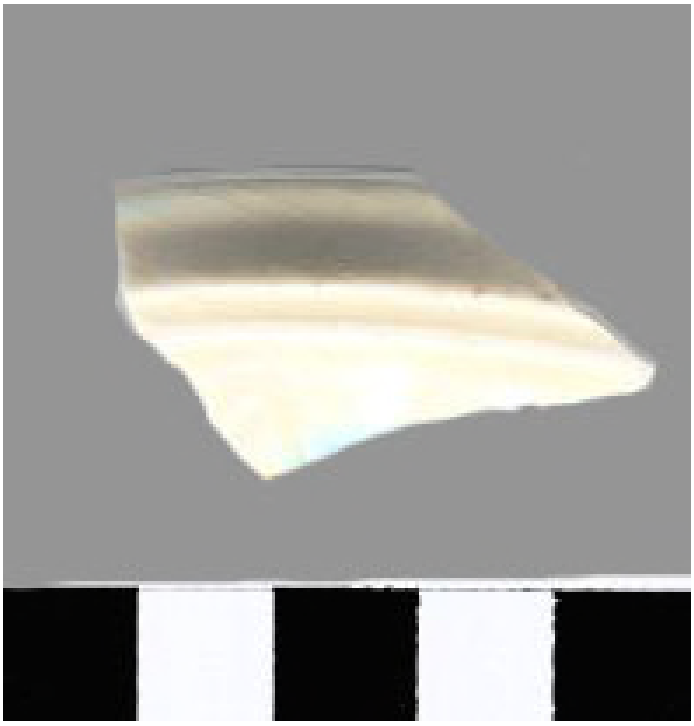

Figure 39. Molded porcelain, surface, 120S30W, 16AN104.

Figure 40. Porcelain with decalcomania design, surface, 120S50W, 16AN104.

Figure 41. Porcelain with decalcomania design, surface, near T4ST2, 16AN104.

Figure 42. Bristol glaze stoneware jug neck, surface, 20S50W, 16AN104.

Figure 43. Rockingham glaze stoneware, surface, 110N10W, 16AN104.

Figure 44. Salt glaze stoneware, surface, 40S10W, 16AN104.

Figure 45. Salt glaze stoneware with blue decoration, surface, near T3, ST14, 16AN104.

Figure 46. Salt glaze stoneware with Albany slip, surface, 20N10W, 16AN104.

Figure 47. Manganese-glaze stoneware, surface, near T3, ST15, 16AN104.

Figure 48. Plain ironstone rim, surface, 20N10W, 16AN104.

Figure 49. Plain pearlwware, surface, near T3, ST10, 16AN104.

Figure 50. Blue transfer pearlware, surface, near T3, ST10, 16AN104.

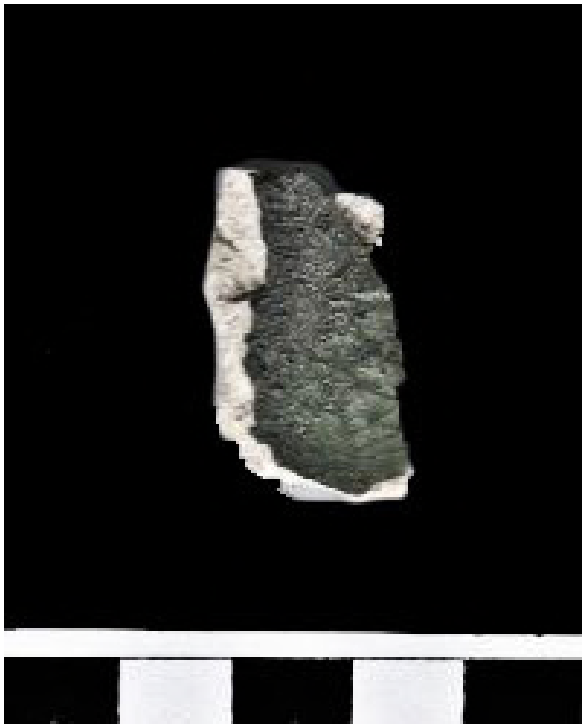

Figure 51. Refined redware with green glaze, surface, near T3, ST15, 16AN104.

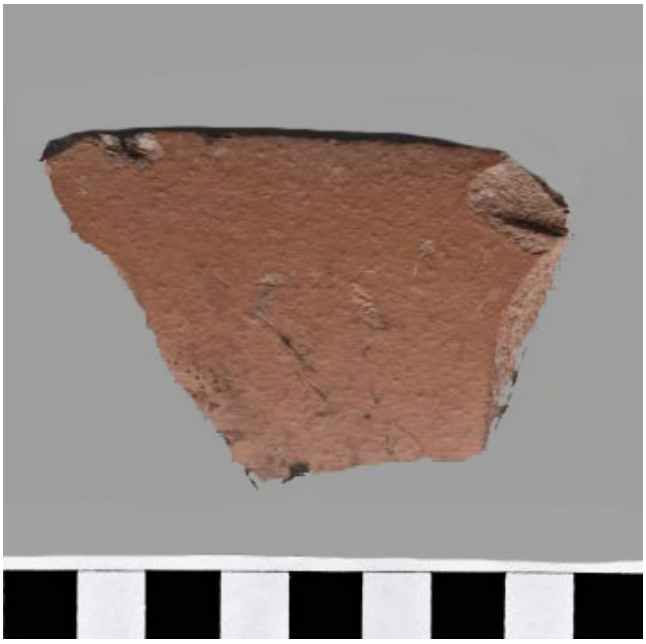

Figure 52. Coarse, unglazed earthenware, surface, 80S40W, 16AN104.

Figure 53. Yellowware, surface, near T3, ST14, 16AN104.

Figure 54. Bottle neck with applied lip, surface, 20N20W, 16AN104.

Figure 55. Mold-made bottle neck, surface, near T3, ST14, 16AN104.

Figure 56. Bottle base with letters, surface, 100S70W, 16AN104.

Figure 57. Flat glass, surface, 30S10W, 16AN104.

Figure 58. Glass four-hole button, surface, 10N30W, 16AN104.

Figure 59. Cut nail, ST50S30W, 16AN104.

Figure 60. Cut nail, surface, 100S70W, 16AN104.

Figure 61. Butchered cow (*Bos sp.*) long bone, surface, 50S40W, 16AN104.

Figure 62. Oyster shell (*Ostrea sp.*), surface, 100S70W, 16AN104.

The ceramic inventory suggests an antebellum through modern occupation. Historic ceramic dates are presented in Appendix A. In brief, almost 20 percent of the whiteware from 16AN104 displayed treatments from the antebellum period, such as shell-edging, transfer-printing, hand-painting and annular designs; the remaining 80 percent was non-diagnostic plain whiteware. The stoneware recovered is virtually all from the 1820-1900 period. The porcelain found was generic and non-diagnostic. Only one piece of Pearlware (1780-1830) was recovered.

The array of glass artifacts suggests a date range from shortly after the Civil War to the modern era, judging from the applied lips and mold-seams on several of the bottles (SHA n.d.).

Most of the nails are very oxidized, but several are cut types, indicating a probable 19th century date.

In summary, site 16AN104, judging from its extensive brick foundations, and the reports of locals who knew of it, was a sugar mill that functioned from the post-Civil War era into the early 20th century. This is confirmed by its presence on the 1883 MRC map (Figure 7). The antebellum ceramics may indicate that the location was occupied by a previous, smaller mill, or these may be legacy items that were deposited in the early Reconstruction period. Given the most generous interpretation, time-wise, there are insufficient artifacts to suggest an antiquity much beyond 1820.

This site is considered of unknown NRHP eligibility; further work, however. May reveal important data on sugar production and life in Reconstruction period Louisiana.

Schex18 site (16AN105)
Coordinates: 695804E, 3331754N

This site was found on the extreme northern boundary of the APE, facing the river road. It consists of a wood frame house and artifacts in the surrounding field. The site is roughly square in shape and covers 8.0 ac (3.2 ha) (Figure 63).

Figure 63. Aerial view of Schex18 site (16AN105)(Source: Google Earth).

Figure 64 provides a site delineation map:

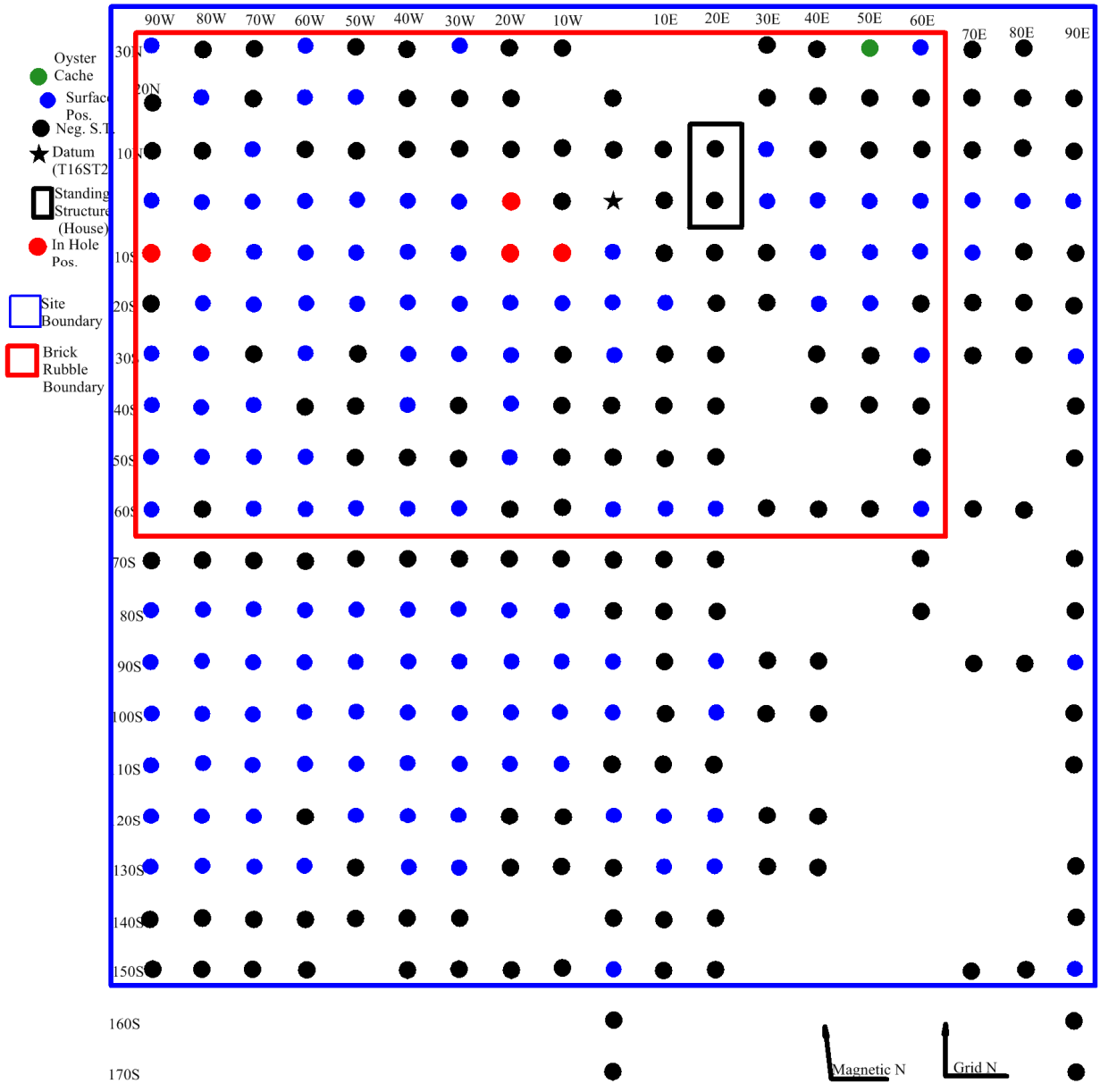

Figure 64. Site delineation map for Schex18 site (16AN105).

Figures 65-68 show the house and surrounding area.

Figure 65. Southeast corner of house at 16AN105, facing NW.

Figure 66. Northwest corner of house at 16AN105, facing SW.

Figure 67. Site 16AN105 facing west.

Materials recovered from this site included whiteware, creamware, pearlware, ironstone, porcelain, stoneware and yellowware, among the ceramics; nails (including cut nails), glass (window and bottle types), and asbestos tiles. Of some interest was an oyster shell lens or accumulation at 695852E, 3331743N (Figure 68).

Figure 68. Oyster shell accumulation, 16AN105. Trowel points north.

Stratigraphy is represented in Table 5.

Table 5. Representative stratigraphy of site 16AN105.

Depth	Munsell	Description
0-10 cmbs	10YR5/2	silty sand
10-20 cmbs	10YR3/2	silty, clayey sand
20--35 cmbs	10YR4/3	sandy clay
35-50 cmbs	10YR5/6	sandy clay

Table 6. Materials recovered from site 16AN105.

	LOCATION						
	Surface	20 W	10 S, 10 W	10 S, 20 W	10 S, 80 W	10 S, 90 W	TOTAL
Ceramics							
Whiteware							
Plain	360	2	4	1			367
Decorated							
Transfer	19						19
Hand-painted	21						21
Flow Blue	3						3
Annular	14						14
Stamped	1						1
Sponge	2						2
Shell edge	2						2
Maker's Mark	8						8
Decal	17						17
Blue Willow	1						1
Red Glaze	3						3
Green Glaze	1						1
Other	1	1	1				3

Table 6. Materials recovered from site 16AN105 (continued).

Stoneware							
Plain	4						4
Sponge	10						10
Rockingham Glaze	6						6
Salt Glaze	20						20
Salt & Manganese	11						11
Salt Glaze & Paint	2						2
Lead Glaze	5						5
Manganese Glaze	10						10
Slip	10						10
Transfer	1						1
Unglazed	3						3
Ironstone ware							
Plain	169	1					170
Decorated							
Transfer	2						2
Annular	5						5
Maker's Mark	7						7
Pearlware							
Plain	11						11
Decorated							
Transfer	11						11
Hand-painted	6						6
Flow Blue	8						8
Annular	4						4
Shell edge	10						10
Creamware							
Plain	4						4
Yellow ware							
Plain	9						9
Decorated							
Annular	1						1
Blue Dentritic	1						1

Table 6. Materials recovered from site 16AN105 (continued).

Blueware	2						2
Red ware	2						2
Earthenware							
Plain	1						1
Decorated							
Manganese Glaze	3						3
Yellow Glaze	1						1
Porcelain							
Plain	79						79
Decorated	23						23
Caster Wheel	1						1
Insulator	1						1
Other	3						3
Kaolin Pipestem	1						1
Faience	1						1
Bead	1						1
Button							
Four Hole	5						5
Two Hole	1						1
Terracotta Tile	1						1
UID Ceramic	1						1
Glass							
Bottle (Curved)	769	22	5	3	1	6	806
Whole Clear Bottle	1						1
Window (Flat)	74	1					75
Milk	85		1				86
Milk, Decal	1						1
Whole Milk Glass Bottle	1						1

Table 6. Materials recovered from site 16AN105 (continued).

Marbles	6						6
Gear Shaft Knob	1						1
Button (Four Hole)	1						1
Metal							
Iron							
Fasteners							
Nails							
Wire	5						5
Cut	37						37
Unknown	22	1			1		24
Stake	2						2
Padlock	1						1
Bolts	9						9
Bolt & Washer	1						1
Nut	4						4
Wing Nut	1						1
Nut & Nipple Attachment	1						1
Misc Fasteners	2						2
Hook	4						4
Hook & Eye	1						1
Buckles	1						1
Railroad Spike	1						1
Chain Link	7						7
Staple	2						2
Washer	3						3
Valve and Assembly	1						1
Pin	2						2
Strap	1						1
Misc.		2					2
Unknown	97			1			98
Lead							
Bullet, 22	1						1
Unknown	1						1

Table 6. Materials recovered from site 16AN105 (continued).

Copper							
Coins							
Penny, Lincoln Head	2						2
Bullet Casing	1						1
Plastic							
Button (Four Hole)	1						1
Construction Material							
Brick	24						24
Fire	11						11
Glazed	3						3
Concrete	1						1
Slag	1						1
Mortar	2						2
Asbestos	2						2
Bone							
Unknown	16						16
Shell							
Oyster	20						20
Wood							
Coal	17						17
Stone							
Marble	1						1
Miscellaneous	4						4
TOTAL	2,162	30	11	5	2	6	2,216

Representative artifacts are presented in Figures 69-130.

Figure 69. Hand painted whiteware, surface, 60S20E, 16AN105.

Figure 70. Hand painted whiteware, surface, near T16ST2, 16AN105.

Figure 71. Green banded whiteware, surface, near T13,ST3, 16AN105.

Figure 72. Green transfer whiteware, surface, near T16ST2, 16AN105.

Figure 73. Green transfer whiteware, surface, near T14ST4, 16AN105.

Figure 74. Blue transfer whiteware, surface, near T16ST2, 16AN105.

Figure 75. Blue transfer whiteware, surface, near T14, ST1, 16AN105.

Figure 76. Blue Willow design transfer whiteware, surface, near T16ST2, 16AN105.

Figure 77. Annular/Banded whiteware, surface, near T16ST2, 16AN105.

Figure 78. Annular/Banded whiteware, surface,10S40W, 16AN105.

Figure 79. Blue sponge decorated whiteware, surface, near T13ST2, 16AN105.

Figure 80. Whiteware with lettering, surface,90S20E, 16AN105.

Figure 81. Whiteware with partial maker's mark, surface, near T15ST2, 16AN105.

Figure 82. Whiteware with partial maker's mark, surface, near T16ST2, 16AN105.

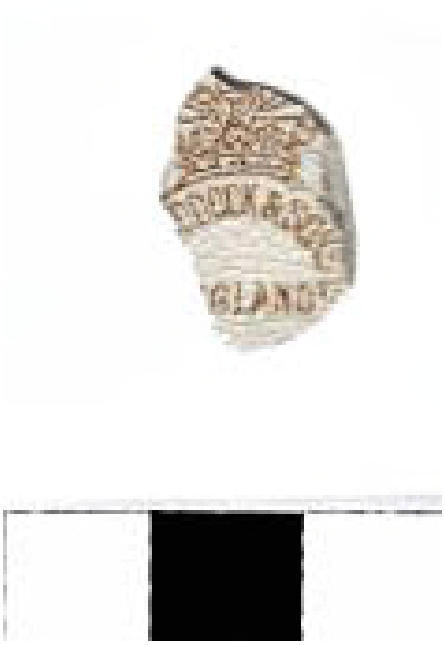

Figure 83. Whiteware with partial maker's mark, surface, 20S10E, 16AN105.

Figure 84. Plain porcelain rim, surface, 60S20E, 16AN105.

Figure 85. Green banded porcelain, surface, 110S30W, 16AN105.

Figure 86. Porcelain with decalcomania decoration, surface, 10S10W, 16AN105.

Figure 87. Porcelain with decalcomania decoration, surface, 10S30E, 16AN105.

Figure 88. Rockingham glaze stoneware jug handle, surface, near T13ST2, 16AN105.

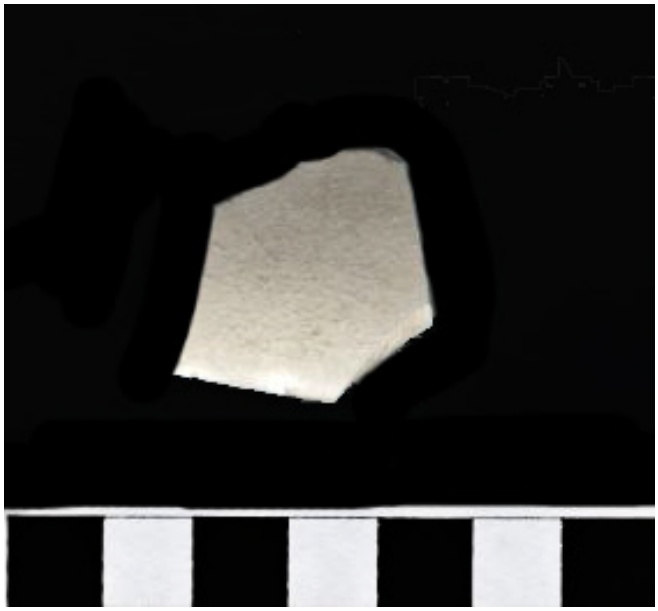

Figure 89. Salt glaze stoneware, surface, 60S20E, 16AN105.

Figure 90. Albany slip stoneware, surface, near T13,ST1, 16AN105.

Figure 91. Lead glaze stoneware, surface, near T16,ST2, 16AN105.

Figure 92. Manganese glaze stoneware, surface, near T3,ST2, 16AN105.

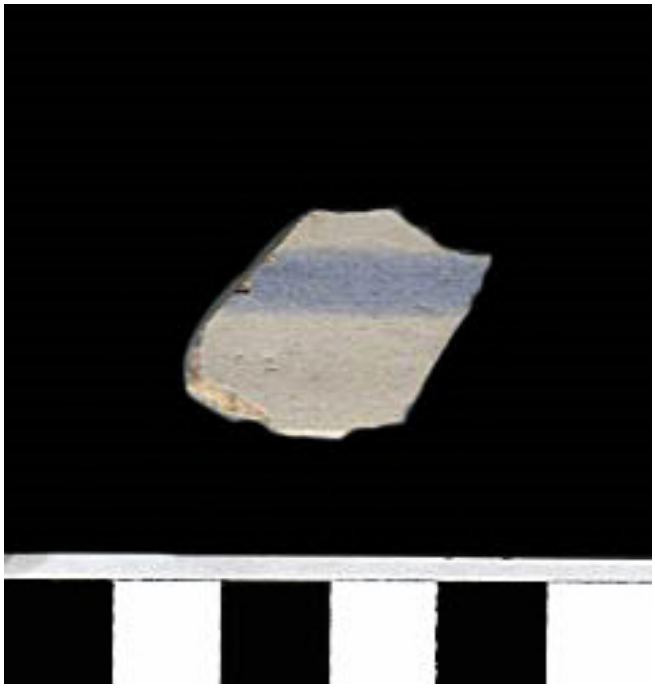

Figure 93. Banded stoneware, manganese glaze on reverse, surface, 30S20W, 16AN105.

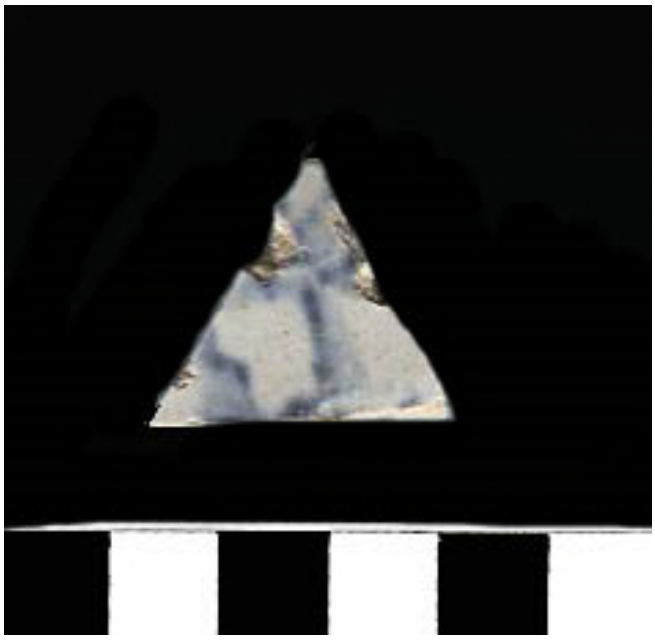

Figure 94. Blue sponge decorated stoneware, surface, 50S80W, 16AN105.

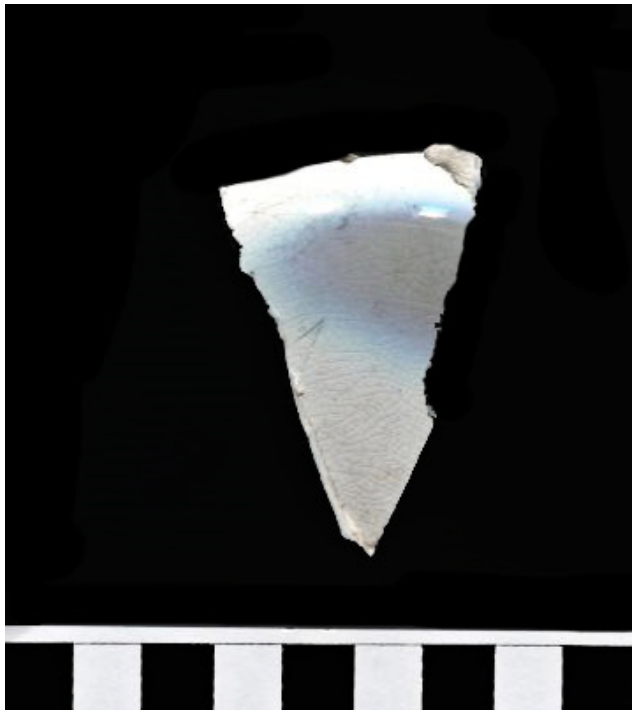

Figure 95. Plain ironstone, surface, near T13, ST2, 16AN105.

Figure 96. Red transfer ironstone, surface, 40S70W, 16AN105.

Figure 97. Ironstone with partial maker's mark, surface, 20N50W, 16AN105.

Figure 98. Ironstone with German partial maker's mark, surface, 10S40E, 16AN105.

Figure 99. Ironstone with partial maker's mark, surface, near T18, ST2, 16AN105.

Figure 100. Ironstone with partial maker's mark, surface, near T19, ST28, 16AN105.

Figure 101. Blue banded pearlware, surface, 40S20W, 16AN105.

Figure 102. Blue molded pearlware, surface, near T16, ST2, 16AN105.

Figure 103. Blue transfer pearlware, surface, near T16, ST2, 16AN105.

Figure 104. Blue shell-edged pearlware, surface, near T16, ST2, 16AN105.

Figure 105. Blue shell-edged pearlware, surface, 60S20E, 16AN105.

Figure 106. Flow blue pearlware, surface, near T13, ST1, 16AN105.

Figure 107. Flow blue pearlware, surface, T17, between STs 1 and 2, 16AN105.

Figure 108. Hand painted pearlware, surface, T17, between STs 6 and 7, 16AN105.

Figure 109. Plain creamware, surface, near T15, ST5, 16AN105.

Figure 110. Plain creamware, surface, near T13, ST5, 16AN105.

Figure 111. Plain creamware, surface, 40S40W, 16AN105.

Figure 112. Yellowware, surface, 20N80W, 16AN105.

Figure 113. Kaolin pipe stem, surface, 120S40W, 16AN105.

Figure 114. Ceramic button, surface, near T16, ST2, 16AN105.

Figure 115. Glass bottle neck, machined, surface, 10S50W, 16AN105.

Figure 116. Glass bottle neck, applied lip, surface, 10S90W, 16AN105.

Figure 117. Glass bottle neck, mold-made, surface, near T13, ST4, 16AN105.

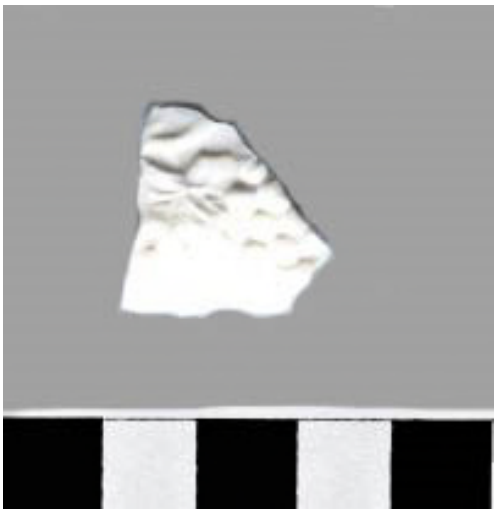

Figure 118. Milk glass, molded surface, surface, 60S20E, 16AN105.

Figure 119. Jar with screw-type neck, surface, near T16, ST2, 16AN105.

Figure 120. Flat glass, surface, near T13, ST2, 16AN105.

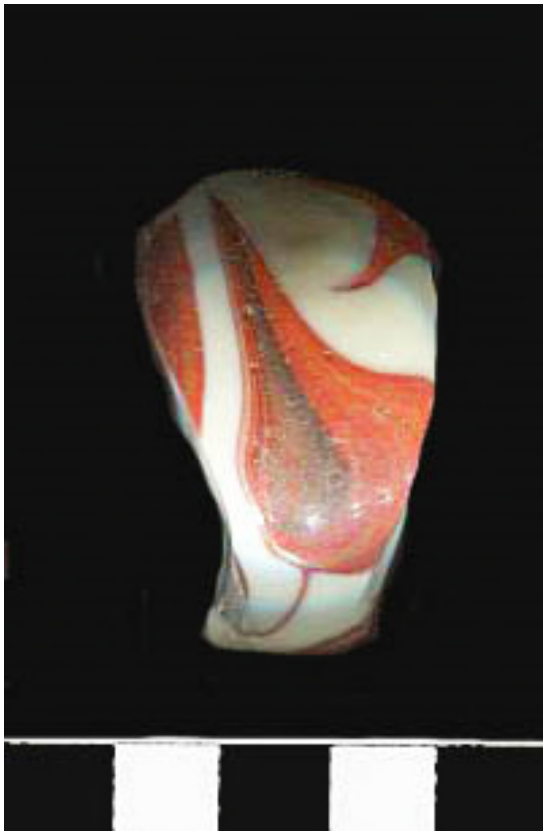

Figure 121. Marbelized glass, surface, 20S30W, 16AN105. Probably from gear shift.

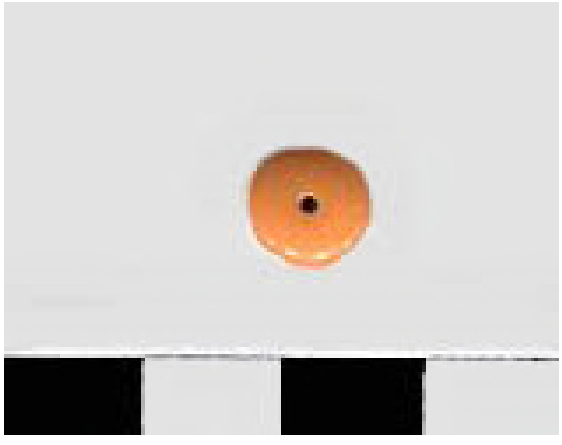

Figure 122. Glass one-hole button, surface, near T16, ST2, 16AN105.

Figure 123. Glass marble, surface, near T15, ST1, 16AN105.

Figure 124. Cut nail, surface, near T13, ST2, 16AN105.

Figure 125. Wire nail, surface, near T16, ST2, 16AN105.

Figure 126. Padlock, surface, 100S50W, 16AN105.

Figure 127. Belt buckle, surface, near T16, ST2, 16AN105.

Figure 128. Lincoln penny, date illegible, surface, 10S50W, 16AN105.

Figure 129. Bone, large mammal, surface, 10S60E, 16AN105.

Figure 130. Long bone fragment, medium-sized mammal, surface, near T16, ST2, 16AN105.

The ceramics from this site suggest a much earlier original occupation than do the materials from 16AN104. While the proportion of antebellum whitewares to total whitewares is roughly the same (19 percent for 16AN105 versus 20 percent for 16AN104), and the stoneware and ironstone cover roughly the same period (1820-1900), there is a relatively large array of pearlware (1780-1830) at 16AN105, as opposed to the single sherd from 16AN104. Further, there are four pieces of creamware (1762-1820) from 16AN105, as compared to none from 16AN104. Also found were two sherds of redware and one fragment of faience and a piece of kaolin pipe stem. Redware manufacture originates in the sixteenth century but the type continued to be made, in one form or another, into the nineteenth century (MU 2011:3). Faience began to be manufactured in the seventeenth century and forms of it continued to be made into the late eighteenth century (Hahn and Castille 1988:C-1). Kaolin pipes were developed in the late sixteenth century (Noel Hume 1969:296-302) and continued to evolve and be used throughout the Colonial period and into the nineteenth century. Thus, the ceramics of this site suggest an early antebellum inhabitation.

The glass artifacts of the site are not especially informative, but the metal artifacts have more diagnostic value. While there are quite modern items, such as a contemporary Master padlock, there is also the evidence of nails: Of the 42 that could be classified, 37 or 88 percent, were cut nails, dating from the nineteenth century (Edwards and Wells 1993).

Taken with such domestic artifacts as buttons, children's marbles, and butchered mammal bones, this site appears to indicate a domestic occupation that may have originated in the late eighteenth century. As such, it is of interest archaeologically and deserves either preservation or more work.

The standing structure that appears in Figures 65 and 66 is not eligible for individual listing on the NRHP or as a contributing part of an historic district. Through neglect, environmental factors and non-historic repairs, this single shotgun Creole cottage has lost its architectural integrity. The limited architectural features that do still exist are damaged and unsalvageable.

SchexGautreau Site (16AN106)
Coordinates: 695460E, 3331322N

This historic artifact scatter is located in the northern portion of the APE, between sites 16AN104 and 16AN105 (Figure 131). The site covers an area of about .5 ac (.2 ha).

Figure 131. Aerial view of SchexGautreau (16AN106)(Source: Google Earth).

Figure 132 provides a site delineation map.

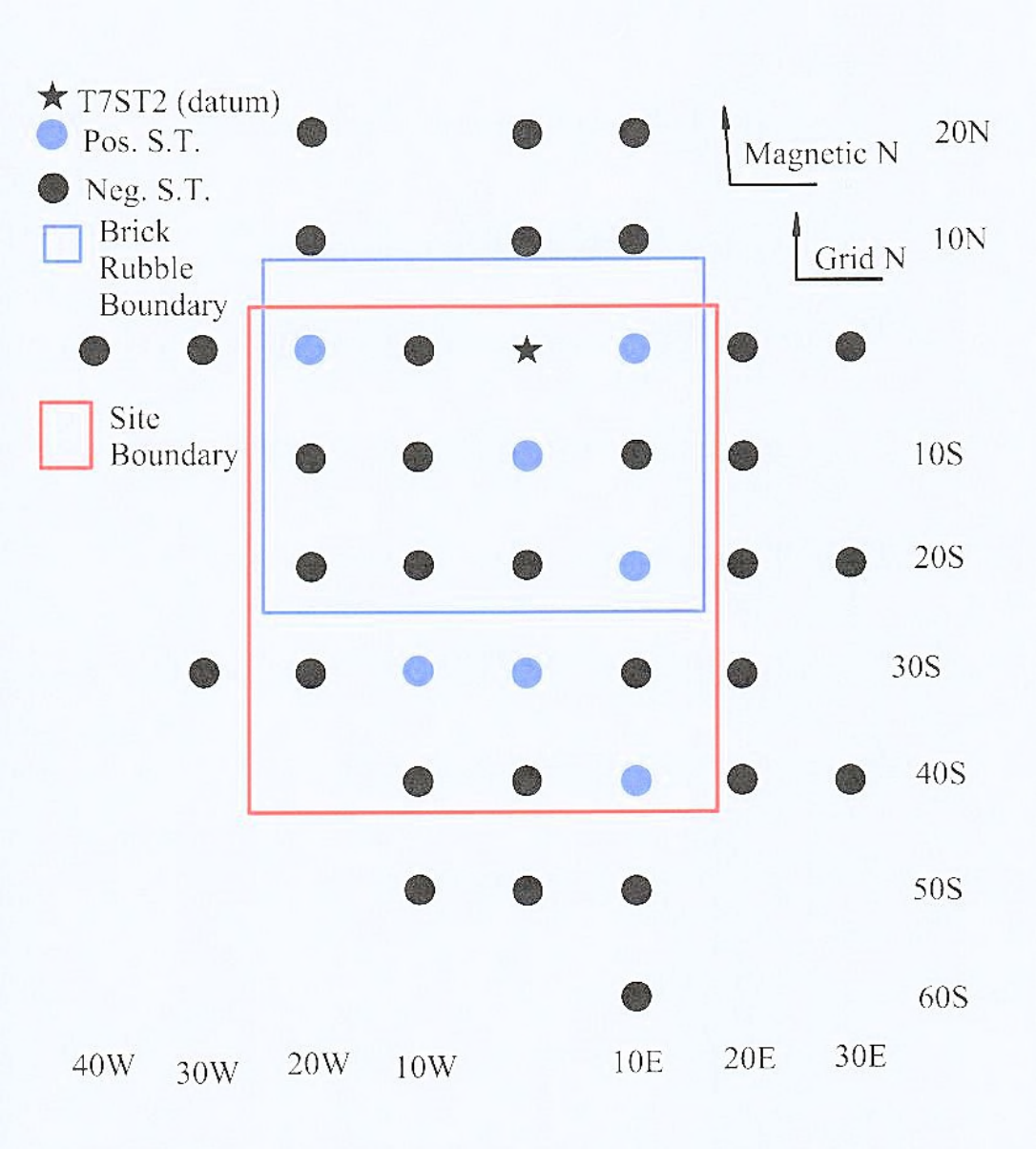

Figure 132. Site delineation for the SchexGautreau site (16AN106).

Figures 133-134 are views of this site.

Figure 133. Facing north from datum of SchexGautreau site (16AN106).

Figure 134. Facing south from datum of SchexGautreau site (16AN106).

Materials recovered from this site included whiteware, creamware, pearlware, ironstone, porcelain, stoneware and yellowware, among the ceramics; nails (including cut nails), glass (window and bottle types), oyster shells, and asbestos tiles.

Representative stratigraphy is provided in Table 7. Table 8 lists the material recovered.

Table 7. Representative stratigraphy for site 16AN106.

Depth	Munsell	Description
0-10 cmbs	10YR5/3	sandy silt
10-25 cmbs	7.5YR3/4	sandy clay
25-50 cmbs	10YR4/6	sterile clay

Table 8. Materials recovered from SchexGautreau Site (16AN106).

	LOCATION	
	Surface	TOTAL
Ceramics		
Whiteware		
Plain	15	15
Decorated		
Transfer	7	7
Shell edge	2	2
Earthenware		
Manganese Glaze	2	2
Pearlware		
Plain	10	10

Table 8. Materials recovered from SchexGautreau Site (16AN106) (continued).

Decorated		
Annular	2	2
Mocha	1	1
Transfer	1	1
Shell edge	8	8
Refined		
Plain	1	1
Decorated	1	1
Porcelain		
Plain	2	2
Glass		
Bottle (Curved)	8	8
Construction Material		
Brick	2	2
Unidentified	1	1
TOTAL	63	63

Figures 135-149 are representative samples of materials recovered in this location.

Figure 135. Plain whiteware, surface, near T7ST2, 16AN106.

Figure 136. Black transfer whiteware, surface, 30S10E, 16AN106.

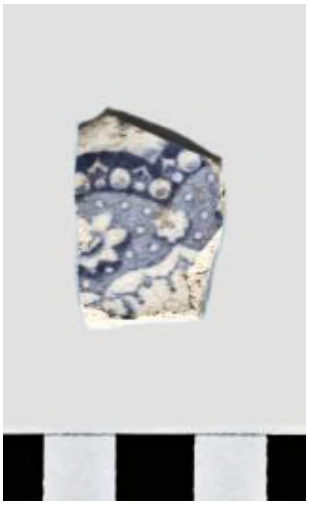

Figure 137. Blue transfer whiteware, surface, 40S10E, 16AN106.

Figure 138. Early transfer whiteware (possibly mocha), surface, near T7, ST2, 16AN106.

Figure 139. Blue shell-edged whiteware, surface, 30S10E, 16AN106.

Figure 140. Blue shell-edged whiteware, surface, 40S10E, 16AN106.

Figure 141. Marbelized ("Mocha") whiteware, surface, near T7, ST3, 16AN106.

Figure 142. Plain porcelain, surface, 40S10E, 16AN106.

Figure 143. Plain pearlware, surface, near T7, ST2, 16AN106.

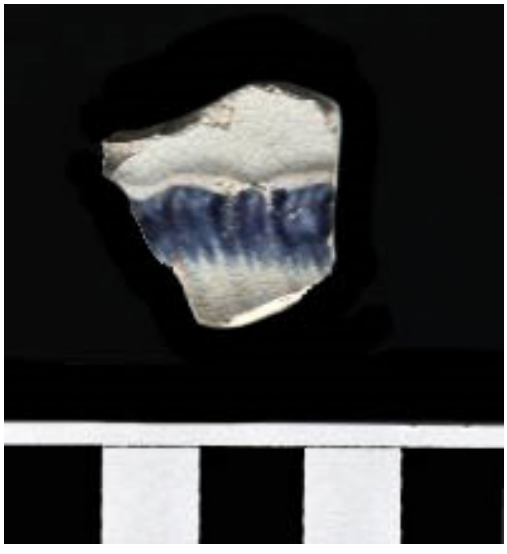

Figure 144. Blue shell-edged pearlware, surface, 40S10E, 16AN106.

Figure 145. Blue painted pearlware (Sponge?), surface, 40S10E, 16AN106.

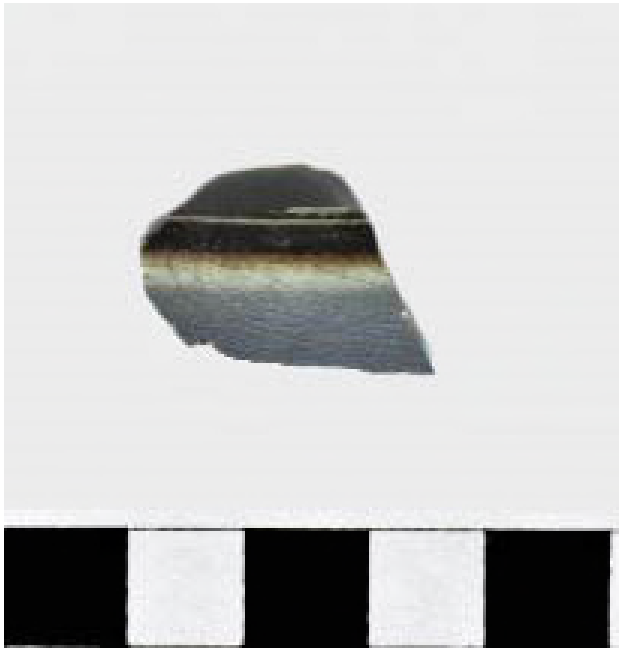

Figure 146. Polychrome, banded pearlware (Sponge?), surface, near T7, ST2, 16AN106.

Figure 147. Mocha (*sensu latu*) pearlware (Sponge?), surface, near T7, ST2, 16AN106.

Figure 148. Coarse earthenware with manganese glaze, surface, near T7, ST2, 16AN106.

Figure 149. Olive-colored bottle glass, surface, near T7, ST3, 16AN106.

Compared with sites 16AN104 and 16AN105, the material from this site was sparse, comprising only 63 items, 53 of which were ceramic. These items consisted of 24 pieces of whiteware; 22 sherds of pearlware; two pieces of porcelain; two sherds of refined earthenware of a type that seemed intermediate between whiteware and ironstone ware; and two bits of manganese-glazed stoneware. The nine pieces of decorated whiteware possessed transfer and shell-edged decorations, both techniques from the antebellum period. The pearlware exhibited a variety of decorative treatments and spanned the period 1780-1830 (Hahn and Castille 1988: C-1).

The other items from the site (eight pieces of bottle glass and two brick fragments) were non-diagnostic.

The ceramics from this site indicate an antebellum occupation, but inasmuch as no structural remains were found and the material recovered was sparse compared with the first two sites, it is felt that this site has little to offer when compared with 16AN104 and 16AN105.

Non-Archaeological Location
Coordinates: 695170E, 3330833N

A curious discovery, non-archaeological in nature, was made during delineation work at the Bon Alliance site (16AN104). There, on November 25, 2014, in about the center of the site, on the south side of a brick foundation that clearly pertained to the site, the archaeological crew found what appeared to be children's clothing at a depth of 80 cmbs. The clothing appeared to be in a hole filled with brick rubble (Figure 150).

Figure 150. View of clothes at bottom of pit, 16AN104. Trowel points north.

The clothes consisted of a girl's dress for age about 2 to 3 years-old, and assorted clothing that was in such bad condition it was difficult to determine what the items had been originally. Also present was a plastic tube of some form of feminine hygiene product (judging from what could be read from the label), and some of the clothes were stuck to what appeared to be some auto seat springs. The clothing resembled the kind of apparel available at contemporary discount/department stores. Two plastic buttons were also present.

The clothing was removed, using latex lab gloves, at the SURA lab, and examined for blood stains. None were evident. The items were then photographed on a lab table (Figures 151-154).

Figure 151. Items from intrusive pit, 16AN104.

Figure 152. Items from intrusive pit, 16AN104.

Figure 153. Items from intrusive pit, 16AN104.

Figure 154. Items from intrusive pit, 16AN104.

What seemed strange was that the clothing was not associated with the kind of material one would ordinarily expect in a garbage pit, such as glass and cans. But if the material pertained to a crime scene, neither were there osteological materials present. The items recovered weighed 1,044.9 g.

A computer search of missing persons from Donaldsonville was conducted and the Louisiana State University FACES Lab was contacted. Neither of these inquiries turned up missing persons from the area. Finally, the principal of Donaldsonville Elementary School, Ms. Mary McMahan, was visited, because the clothing was discovered about 300 ft (ca. 100 m) north of the school's north boundary. Ms. McMahan, though she had no information regarding missing children, was extremely concerned and called the Ascension Parish Sheriff's Department. Consequently, on December 2, 2014, Dr. Malcolm K. Shuman and Mr. K. M. Shuman showed Capt. Weiner and other members of the APSD the location where the clothing was found. The pit itself had been recovered, with plastic sheeting placed in the bottom of the excavation. Thereafter, at the request of the APSD Criminal Investigation Division, SURA delivered the materials, in two plastic zip-lock bags, to SSgt. Of Detectives Glenn Luna for storage at the sheriff's department.

CHAPTER EIGHT: CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Conclusions

A survey was conducted of 1,000 ac (404.69 ha) to be certified for industrial use, near Donaldsonville, Ascension Parish, Louisiana. A total of 2,153 transect shovel tests were excavated and three archaeological sites (16AN104, 16AN105 and 16AN106) were recorded.

Site 16AN104 (Bon Alliance) was the site of a 19th-20th century sugar mill. It yielded materials of antebellum, Reconstruction, and 20th century age. It also possessed intact brick foundations.

Site 16AN105 (Schex18) yielded materials indicative of an early antebellum and even Colonial era date. Among the materials found were items of domestic use, a kaolin pipe stem, and buttons.

Site 16AN106 yielded a sparse inventory of items that were largely antebellum to Reconstruction in date. No structural remains were found, though there were a few loose brick fragments present.

According to the *National Register of Historic Places Bulletin* 16 (NPS 1991:1, 36):

> 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.* In order to evaluate this significance, four criteria have been developed:
>
> A. That are associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history; or
> B. That are associated with the lives of persons significant in our past; or
> C. That 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. That have yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important in history or prehistory.

Archaeological sites are usually assessed under Criterion D.

It is considered, based on the lateral extent of 16AN104; the antiquity of the materials recovered; and the presence of intact structural remains; that further investigation of this site holds the potential to provide significant information on settlement patterns and commerce

on the Mississippi River during the 19th century. This reflects the themes of Plantation Archaeology, the Steamboat Era, and the Influence of the Mississippi River on Historic Settlement, as articulated in Louisiana's Comprehensive Archaeological Plan (Smith et al. 1983:252).

It is deemed, based on the lateral extent of 16AN105; the antiquity of the materials recovered; and the presence of domestic items that indicate permanent habitation; that additional investigation of this site holds the potential to provide significant information on settlement patterns and commerce on the Mississippi River during the 19th century. This reflects the themes of Plantation Archaeology, the Steamboat Era, and the Influence of the Mississippi River on Historic Settlement, as articulated in Louisiana's Comprehensive Archaeological Plan (Smith et al. 1983:252). The standing structure that occupies a part of the site is not considered eligible for the NRHP due to loss of integrity.

Site 16AN106 did yield antebellum materials. These materials, however, were sparse and there were no structural remains associated with the site. It is not felt that the site would likely provide any useful information on any of the themes elaborated in Louisiana's Comprehensive Archaeological Plan (Smith et al. 1983:252).

Recommendations

Other than the areas designated as being occupied by 16AN104 and 16AN105, the survey area is considered to be unlikely to contain National Register of Historic Places-eligible properties and it is recommended that the proposed development be allowed to proceed as planned. As for sites 16AN104 and 16AN105, it is recommended that these sites be considered of unknown, but potential, NRHP eligibility and that the sites either be avoided or be subjected to Phase II NRHP eligibility testing.

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MAPS

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APPENDIX A: Historic Ceramic Dating Table

	Date Range	Source(s)
Ceramics		
Redware	1500-Present	MU 2011
Tin enamel		
Faience	1675-1790	FMNH n.d.
Delftware	1640-1800	Hahn and Castille 1988:C-1
Creamware		
Plain	1762-1820	Hahn and Castille 1988:C-1
Handpainted	1780-1830	Hahn and Castille 1988:C-1
Annular	1780-1815	Hahn and Castille 1988:C-1
Transfer printed	1765-1815	Hahn and Castille 1988:C-1
Pearlware		
Plain	1780-1830	Hahn and Castille 1988:C-1
Decorated		
Hand-painted	1780-1830	Hahn and Castille 1988:C-1
Transfer-printed		
Blue-Willow	1790-1830	Hahn and Castille 1988:C-1
Other	1810-1830	Hahn and Castille 1988:C-1
Edged	1780-1830	Hahn and Castille 1988:C-1
Whiteware		
Plain	1840-1890	Hahn and Castille 1988:C-1
Decorated		
Hand-painted		
Monochrome	1830-1860	Hahn and Castille 1988:C-1
Polychrome	1840-1860	Hahn and Castille 1988:C-1
Transfer printed*		
Blue	1830-1860	Hahn and Castille 1988:C-1
Red	1830-1850	Hahn and Castille 1988:C-1
Purple	1830-1860	Hahn and Castille 1988:C-1
Brown	1830-1850	Hahn and Castille 1988:C-1
Black	1830-1850	Hahn and Castille 1988:C-1
Green	1830-1850	Hahn and Castille 1988:C-1
Shell-Edged		
Blue	1830-1860	Hahn and Castille 1988:C-1
Sponge	1840-1860	Hahn and Castille 1988:C-2
Flow Blue	1844-1860	Hahn and Castille 1988:C-1
Annular/Mocha/dipped**	1790-1830*	Hahn and Castille 1988:C-1; Noel Hume 1970:131; Ricard 2006
Yellowware (All types)	1830-1900	Hahn and Castille 1988:C-2
Stoneware		
Bristol glaze	1835-1900	FMNH n.d.
Rockingham glaze	1830-1900	Hahn and Castille 1988:C-2
Salt glaze	1820-1900	Hahn and Castille 1988:C-2
Porcelain		
American Porcelain	1738-Present	Kovel and Kovel 2004:59-60
Bone China***	1830-1900**	FMNH n.d.; Godden 1964:11
Canton Porcelain	1790-1835	FMNH n.d.
Chi Ing Blue-on-white	1790-1835	FMNH n.d.
Polychrome Overglaze	1700-1750	FMNH n.d.
English soft paste porcelain	1745-1800	FMNH n.d.
Japanese porcelain	1616-present	FMNH n.d.
Ironstone China	1813-20th century	Kovel and Kovel 2004; Campbell 2006

***Transfer printing is a form of decal technology. "Decalcomania" refers to the mass production of decal designs starting in 1876 (Simmons n.d.).**

****Noel Hume points out that many collectors have extended the term Mocha to banded wares. Ricard has some dipped wares going to ca. 1900.**

*****Godden notes that the words "English Bone China" or "Bone China" may indicate a 20th century date.**