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(Surveys Unlimited Research Associates, Inc.)

Since 1986

Archaeology

Historic Preservation

Cultural Resources Management

## Exhibit II. Gateway II Site SHPO Clearance Letter & Phase I Cultural Resources Assessment Report

July 11, 2013

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

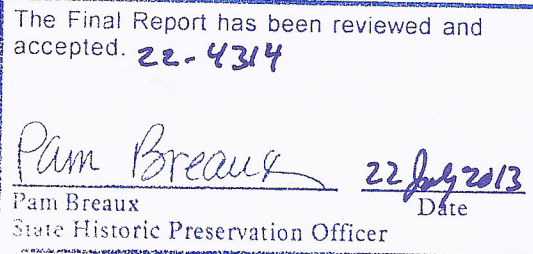
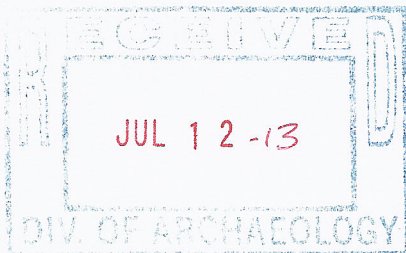
Re: Report 22-4314, "Phase I CRS of 83 Acres near Geismar, Ascension Parish, La."

Dear Ms. Breaux:

Enclosed please find two final copies and a CD for the above survey.

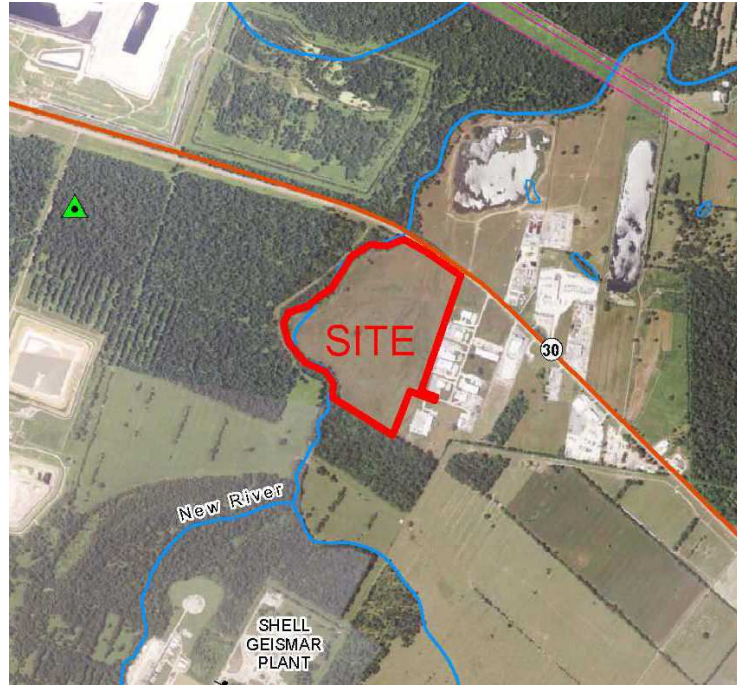
Sincerely,

Malcolm Shuman



**PHASE I CULTURAL RESOURCES SURVEY  
OF 83 ACRES NEAR GEISMAR,  
ASCENSION PARISH, LOUISIANA**

**Negative Findings Report**



by

**Malcolm K. Shuman, Jason Foust and Karl Shuman**

**Surveys Unlimited  
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P.O. Box 14414  
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70898-4414**

for

**Superstar Holdings, L.L.C  
P.O. Box 86558  
Baton Rouge, Louisiana**

**June 15, 2013**



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**PHASE I CULTURAL RESOURCES SURVEY**

**OF 83 ACRES NEAR GEISMAR,**

**ASCENSION PARISH,**

**LOUISIANA**

**Negative Findings Report**

**Draft Report**

**by**

**Malcolm K. Shuman, Jason Foust and Karl Shuman**

**Surveys Unlimited**

**Research Associates, Inc.**

**P.O. Box 14414**

**Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70898-4414**

**for**

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**P.O. Box 86558**

**Baton Rouge, Louisiana**

**June 15, 2013**

## **ABSTRACT**

A survey of 83 acres (33.6 hectares) near Geismar, in Ascension Parish, involved 501 shovel tests (all negative) and photographic recordation. In the course of the survey no standing structures or archaeological properties were recorded. It was concluded that there was no archaeological reason for the area surveyed not to be made available for development.

## **ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

The author is indebted to several people who helped during the project. Mr. Steve Burnham provided maps and coordinated the project. Survey personnel consisted of Dr. Malcolm K. Shuman, Mr. Jason Foust and Mr. Karl Shuman. Ms. Taylor Gabour and Ms. Brandy Kerr also assisted. Mr. John Anderson of the Louisiana State University Department of Geography & Anthropology Cartographic Information Center provided historic maps. Malcolm K. Shuman wrote the report and Mary Shuman was the editor.

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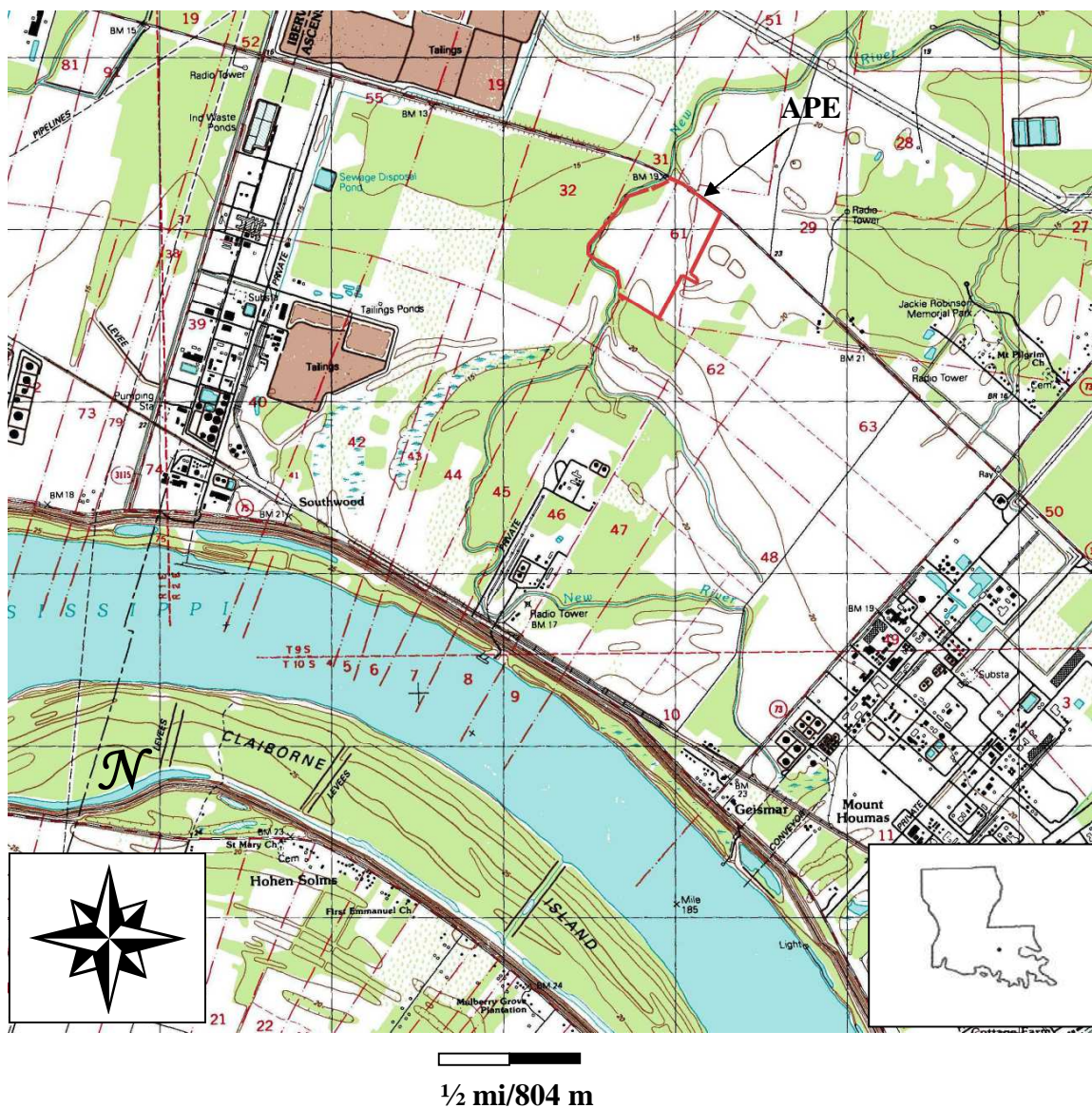
## **CHAPTER ONE: INTRODUCTION**

On April 25, 2013, SURA, Inc., conducted a Phase I cultural resources survey of 83 acres (ac) (33.6 hectares [ha]) near Geismar, Ascension Parish, Louisiana. The tract is to be certified for industrial/business use. This project was done for Superstar Investments, LLC, of Baton Rouge, La. The project location is in Irregular Sections 29, 31 and 62, Township 9 South, Range 2 East (Figure 1).

The present project was conducted as a result of a request for Louisiana Department of Economic Development (LED) certification, and because the Area of Potential Effects (APE) lies just south of 16AN1 (The Broussard site) and on the east side of New River. These geographic facts led to an opinion from the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) that a Phase I cultural resources survey should be carried out. The survey conforms to the archaeological survey procedures detailed in the Cultural Resources Code of the State of Louisiana.

This survey was performed to determine whether or not there were any objects of cultural significance that would be affected by the proposed project. When such items are discovered, it becomes necessary to analyze them and attempt to integrate them into a regional pattern that will provide insight into human adaptations during past eras. Negative results, however, can also be valuable in that they may cause us to revise already formulated hypotheses.





**Figure 1. Portion of Carville, La. 1999 7.5-minute topographic quadrangle showing location of APE.**

## 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 thought to have been caused by a rise in sea level dating from the end of the last Ice Age (Gagliano 1984, Figure 2).

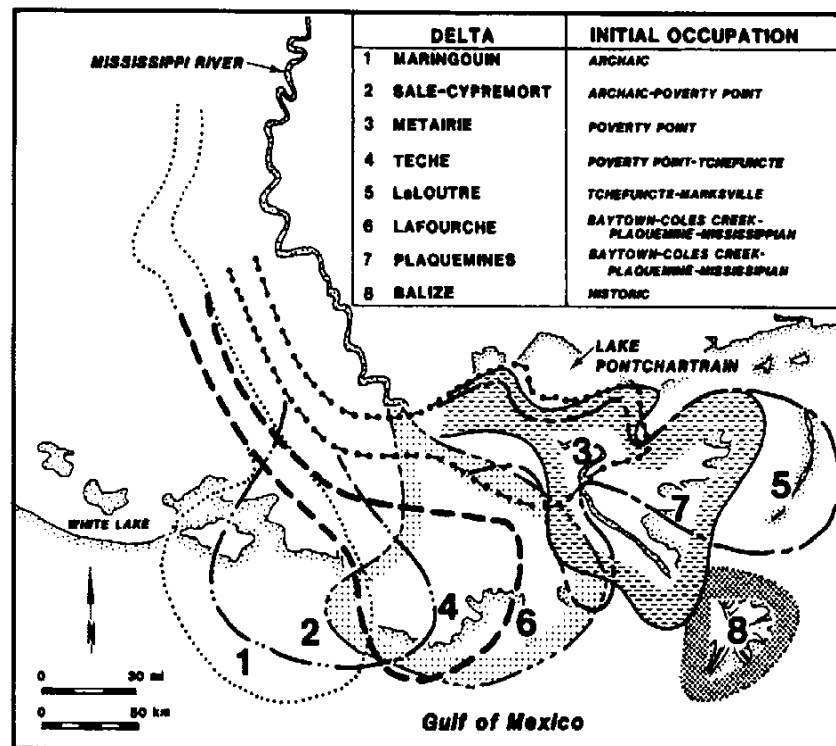


Figure 2. Major delta complexes and associated archaeological complexes in the Mississippi River deltaic plain (Adapted from Gagliano 1984:40).

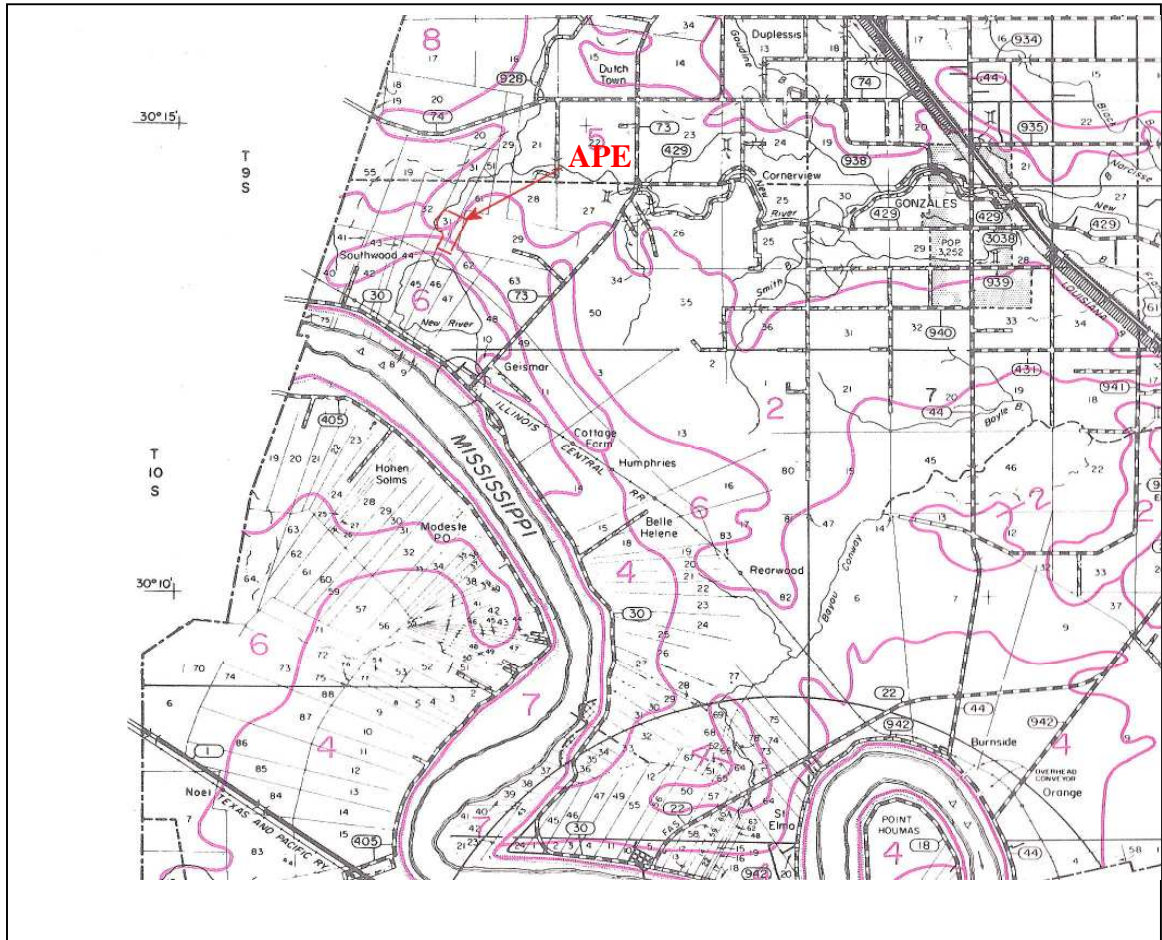
This geomorphological event may have also coincided roughly with the arrival of man into what is now the Mississippi Valley-Gulf Coast region. In fact, archaeology and geomorphology have aided each other in dating the locations and times of the various shifts in the Mississippi River and its attendant 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, Galvez-Commerce, and Acy-Essen-Jeanerette Associations. Commerce soils are loamy and occur on the natural levees of the Mississippi River. Galvez-Manchac soils are found along Bayou Manchac and New River. They are also loamy and used often for cropland. Acy-Essen- Jeanerette soils association consist of loamy soils on broad flats and in slight depressions (USDA 1971). The distribution of these associations is shown in Figure 3.

## **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).



**Figure 3. Portion of soils map for Ascension Parish, showing soils in project area (Source: USDA 1971).**

## 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 (*Lepomis 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: PREVIOUS ARCHAEOLOGICAL 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. McIntire 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 pre-ceramic 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. 1984, 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). In a 2012 pipeline project, Skinner and Craver visited Mound B of 16AN1; their client elected to directionally drill under the mound, thus avoiding it (Skinner and Craver 2012).

### **Projects Near the Current Project Area**

Several cultural resources projects have been conducted near the current project area. In 1980, HPG carried out a survey for the proposed IT Ascension Parish hazardous waste management facility and reported seven sites and nine spot finds. None of the cultural resources, however, were considered to be in danger from the proposed development (HPG 1980). A notable research project, which formed the basis of an M.A. thesis, was Guevin's study of historic Houma village sites, including the Grand Houmas Village (Guevin 1983).

In a 1985 project, RCG surveyed five levee locations, one of which is about 1 mi (1.6 km) downstream from the current APE. They recorded three non-significant sites in the New River Bend area (Goodwin et al. 1985). The following year, RCG surveyed the Burnside Revetment area along the Mississippi River. This work, which covered 14,255.1 ft (4,345 m), did not record any cultural properties (Goodwin et al. 1986). The following year the Louisiana Department of Transportation & Development surveyed a 160 ac (64.8 ha) tract for an airport but recorded no cultural resources (Ducote 1987). In the same year, 1987, HPG surveyed a proposed 50-mi (80.8 km) pipeline route and found one site (16AN40), which was considered to lack the integrity necessary for NRHP inclusion (Price 1987). Of some interest was a CEI survey of proposed telephone cable routes in Ascension and Livingston parishes. In the course of their survey, they found that 26 previously recorded archaeological sites and one historic town were in the vicinity of the project right-of-way. One new site (16AN38) was found outside the project right-of-way. Three of the sites investigated (16AN39, 16AN41 and 16LV41) were sufficiently close to

the right-of-way to justify a recommendation of monitoring. Three other sites (16AN2, 16AN3 and 16AN13) were also investigated during the CEI project. The first, the Geismar mounds, could not be relocated. The second, Mount Houmas, the location of the Petit Houmas village, was destroyed by industrial activity in 1974 (CEI 1987). The last site, 16AN13, was reported by Haag in 1965 to be “on SE edge of Bluff Swamp where Jim Bayou enters swamp” and to consist of a midden 3,000 ft (91.4 m) long (DOA n.d.). CEI, however, was unable to relocate it (CEI 1987).

1989 saw RCG test three features on the batture at Ashland-Belle Helene Plantation (16AN26). None of these features were found to be significant (Goodwin et al. 1989). In 1990, CEI did a survey for a liquid carbonic plant extension but no cultural resources were recorded (Guevin 1990). The year 1995 saw AR Consultants survey a pipeline that ran from Cameron Parish to Ascension Parish. No cultural properties were found in the current APE (Skinner et al. 1995). That same year SURA surveyed the route of a proposed pipeline that ran southeast of the current APE; two historic sites on adjacent Waterloo Plantation were recorded (Shuman et al. 1995). In 1997, RCG surveyed a proposed effluent force main line for the City of Gonzales and recommended 16AN60 (The Houmas Central Sugar Factory) for National Register testing (Robblee et al. 1997). Later that year, RCG conducted National Register testing of a portion of 16AN60. Backhoe trenching and unit excavation brought to light 80 features and three structures. Additional work was recommended (Robblee and Davis 1997). Also in that year, SURA, Inc. surveyed the route of a proposed railroad line but reported no cultural properties (Shuman et al. 1997). In 2005 CH2M Hill surveyed a proposed pipeline route running from Garyville to Port Hudson, but found no cultural properties in or near the current APE (Durio and Calvit 2005). In 2012 SURA conducted a survey of 225 acres (91.1 hectares) near Geismar and recorded two sites, neither of which was significant (Hoyt and Shuman 2012). Finally, two recent projects, a transmission line survey by CRC, LLC (Gabour et al. 2013) and a survey of two lots adjacent to the current project area, by SURA, Inc., produced negative results (Shuman 2013).

## **CHAPTER FOUR: SURVEY METHODOLOGY**

The methodology employed in the project consisted of two phases. Initially, 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. Next, historic maps at the Louisiana State University Cartographic Information Center (LSUCIC) were consulted in order to determine whether there had been any significant changes to the APE since the first topographic map was produced in 1939.

The second phase, fieldwork, consisted of pedestrian survey, photography and shovel tests each 98.4 ft (30 m) along transects 98.4 ft (30 m) apart. 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.

### **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. The location of the facility is given below.

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

## CHAPTER FIVE: RESULTS OF THE SURVEY

### Archival Study

Archival study involved a review of the records in the Louisiana Division of Archaeology (LDOA) and the examination of maps at the Louisiana Division of Archaeology and at the Louisiana State University Cartographic Information Center (LSUCIC).

### Archaeological Sites near the APE

Seven archaeological sites are recorded near the APE (Table 1).

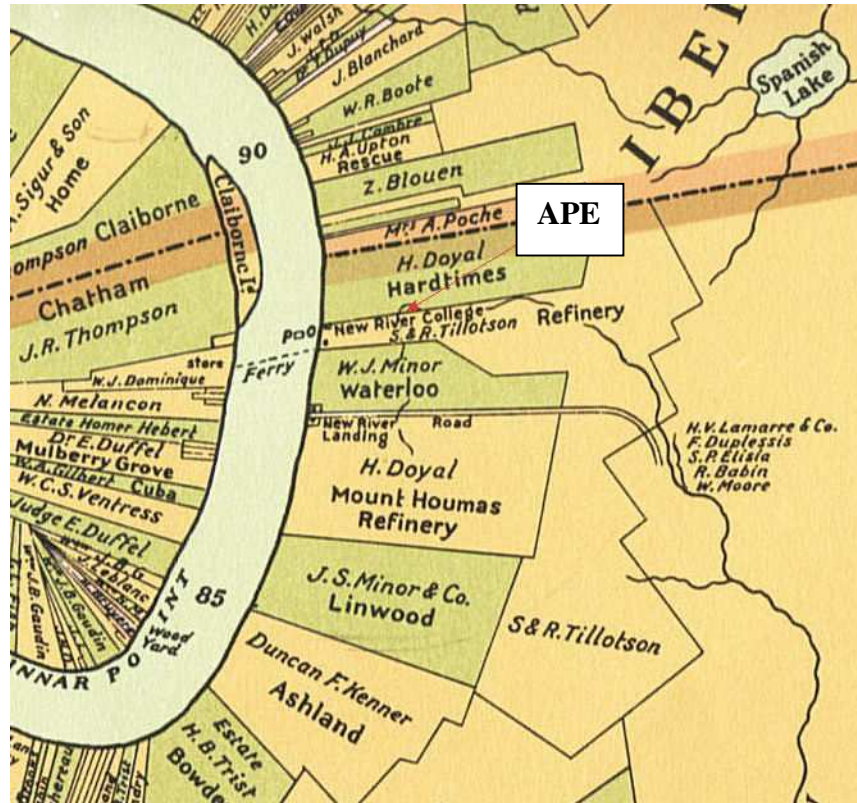
**Table 1. Archaeological sites near the APE (Source: LDOA).**

Site #	Site Name	Quad	His/Prehis	Lat. extent	Landform	NR status	Easting	Northing	Lat	Lon	Last Visit
16AN1	Broussard Mounds	Carville	Prehistoric	103 acres	Nat. Levee	Eligible	690750	3346500	30o14'06"	91o01'04"	2004
16AN2	Geismar Mound	Carville	Prehistoric	Unknown	Nat. Levee	Destroyed?	692350	3345500	30o13'33"	91o00'05"	1987
16AN51	Southwood Plant Sugar Mill	Carville	Historic	11.4 acres	Nat. Levee	Unknown	687846	3344663	30o13'13"	91o02'50"	2012
16AN57	(No Name)	Carville	Historic	.48 acres	Floodplain	Unknown	690380	3343775	30o12'38"	91o01'20"	1995
16AN58	(No Name)	Carville	Historic	3.4 acres	Floodplain	Unknown	690275	3343500	30o12'29"	91o01'24"	1995
16AN91	Melancon No. 1	Carville	Historic	.17 acres	Nat. Levee	Not eligible	690419	3343900	30o12'42'	91o01'18"	2012
16AN92	Melancon No. 2	Carville	Historic	.4 acres	Nat. Levee	Not eligible	690419	3343862	30o12'41"	91o01'18"	2012

Of these, the most relevant is 16AN1 (Broussard site). The maps that follow will show why this is the case.

## Historic Maps of the APE

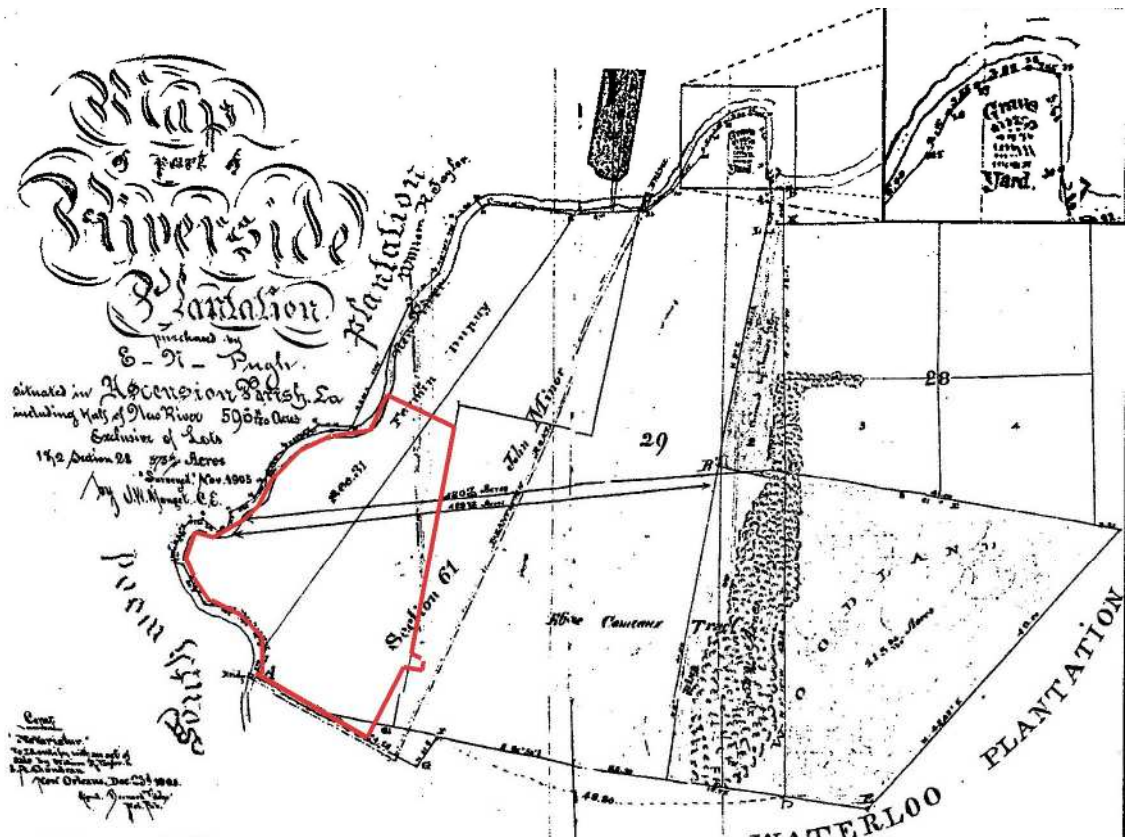
Historic maps were examined, beginning with the Persac 1858 map (Norman's Chart) (Figure 4).



**Figure 4. Persac 1858 map, showing approximate location of APE.**

Clearly indicated are the adjoining Tillotson and Waterloo plantations. The Tillotson plantation contains the 16AN1 site, which has the Tillotson family cemetery atop Mound B (Jones and Shuman 1987; Shuman et al. 1995). Waterloo Plantation contains sites 16AN57, 16AN58, 16AN91, and 16AN92 (Shuman et al. 1995; Hoyt and Shuman 2012). The reference to the Tillotson and Mount Houmas refineries is to sugar mills on those properties.

Unfortunately, the Mississippi River Commission (MRC) maps of 1883 and 1913 are not informative and so are not reproduced here (MRC 1883, Chart 68; MRC 1913, Chart 69). However, the 1905 map of Riverside Plantation (Figure 5) reproduced in Shuman et al. (1995) and Jones et al. (1998) does include the current area of interest.

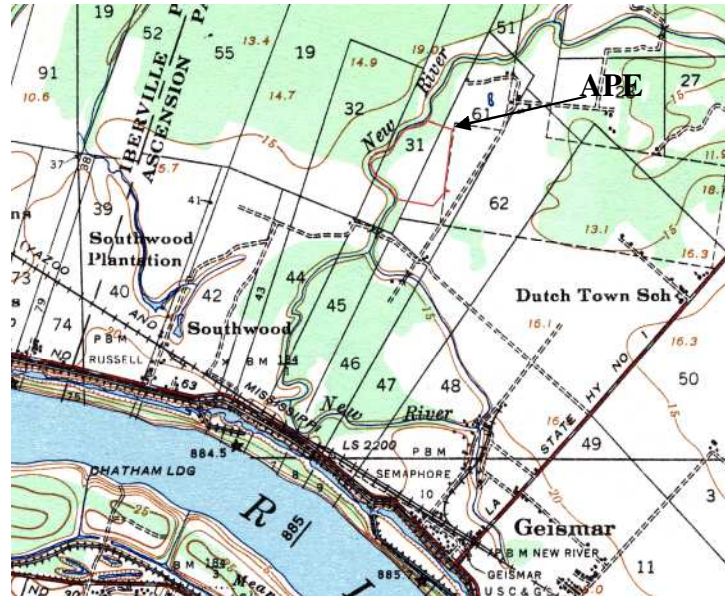


**Figure 5. 1905 Plat Map of Riverside Plantation, from Ascension Parish Clerk of Court's Office (Source: Jones et al. 1998:28).**

Riverside Plantation is the name of the 19<sup>th</sup>-century Tillotson holding, adjacent to Waterloo Plantation, and this map shows the Tillotson cemetery, atop Mound B of 16AN1. It does not, however, show any features in the current APE.



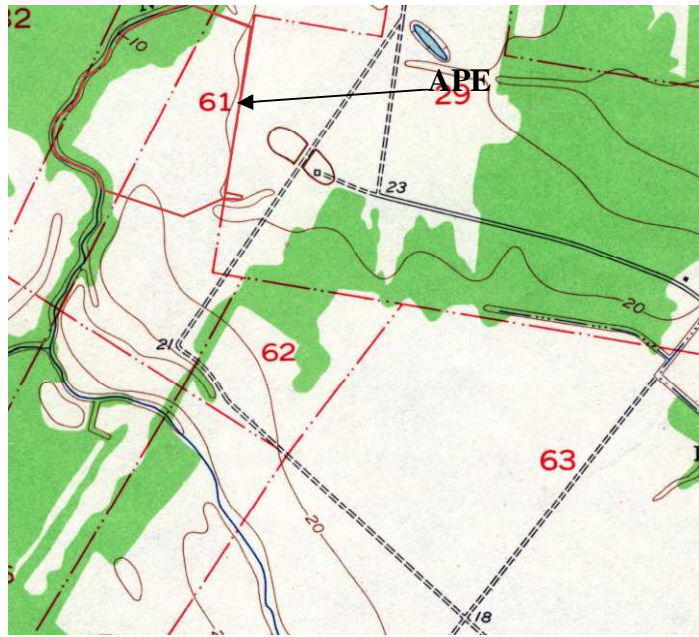
Nor does the 1936 Carville, La. 15-minute map show any features for the APE (Figure 6).



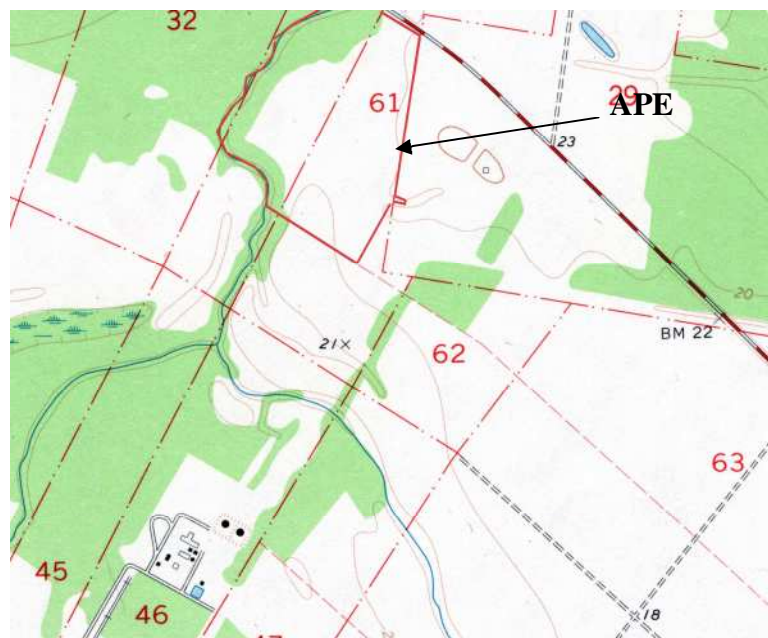
**Figure 6. Portion of Carville, La. 1936 15-minute map showing APE.**

The 1953 Carville, La. 7.5-minute map (Figure 7) is more informative. While it does not show any features in the APE proper, it depicts what appears to be a mound, which has been bisected by a road, just east of the APE. This feature continues to appear in the 1974 and 1992 (Figures 8, 9) and 1999 (Figure 1) maps, even after the road that bisects the feature has ceased to be shown.

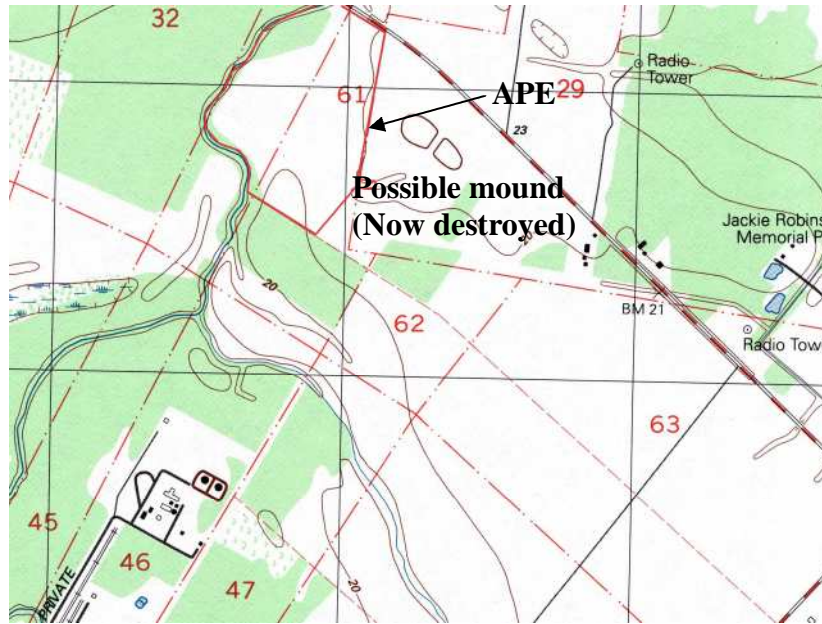




**Figure 7. Portion of Carville, La. 1953 7.5-minute map showing APE.**



**Figure 8. Portion of Carville, La. 1974 7.5-minute map showing APE.**



**Figure 9. Portion of Carville, La. 1992 7.5-minute map showing APE.**

These maps suggest there may have once been a southern mound to the 16AN1 complex but this mound, if such it was, now lies beneath the Gateway II building complex and asphalt parking lot. During the course of the survey, Dr. Shuman spoke with Mr. Huey Beason, owner of Delta Trailers, a business located on the east side of the APE. Mr. Beason stated that he had located in this area in 1999 and had once owned two lots adjacent to the APE. He confirmed that there had once been a rise with a vacant house on it. He showed Dr. Shuman where this feature had been located; the spot is now paved. Beason said that the entire area had been land-leveled and that the APE had had much of the topsoil removed, a fact confirmed by shovel testing. He said he had never seen Indian artifacts near the raised feature with the house atop it, but it is not clear that he would have recognized artifacts or midden. Unfortunately, we will probably never know if 16AN1 had a fourth mound.

### **Fieldwork**

The project area was an open field on the southwest side of LA Hwy 30 (Figures 10-13). Grass cover is 95% and the grass varies from ankle high (80%) to waist high (20%) of the surface area.



**Figure 10. APE, as seen from east boundary, looking west.**



**Figure 11. APE, as seen from Hwy 30, looking SSW.**



**Figure 12. APE, as seen from SW corner, looking NE.**

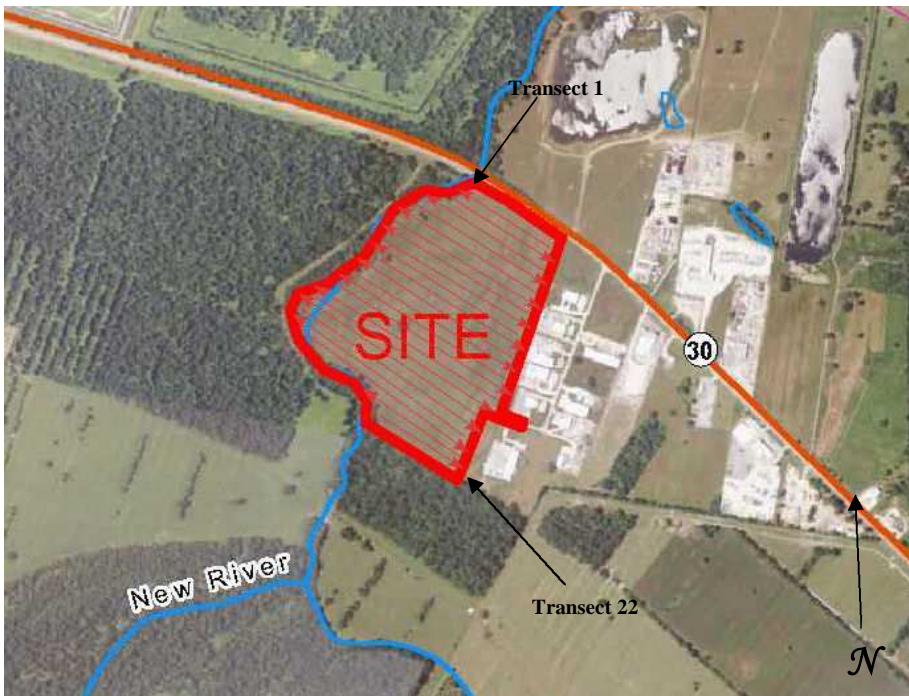




**Figure 13. APE, as seen from SW corner, looking NW.**

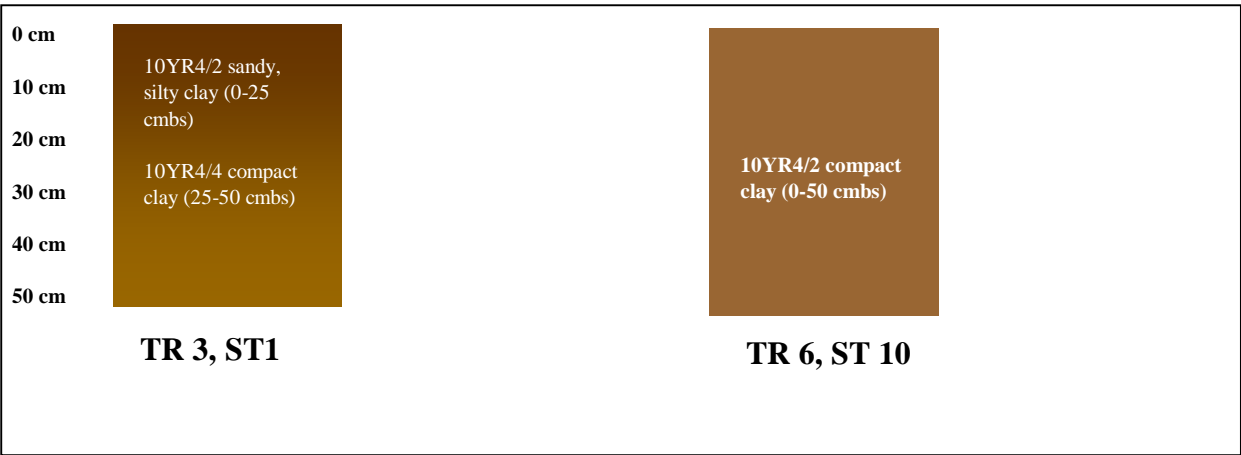
It is bounded by LA Highway 30 on the north and the Gateway II complex on the east, and New River on the west. On the SW it is bounded by New River and on SE there is no natural line.

The transects walked are illustrated by in Figure 15.



**Figure 15. Transects walked in course of survey (Source: Client).**

A total of 501 shovel tests were excavated, all being negative. Typical shovel test profiles are provided in Figure 16.



**Figure 14. Typical shovel test profile.**



In summary, the results of the survey were negative for cultural properties, probably at least in part owing to the disturbance caused by agriculture over the years.

## **CHAPTER SIX: CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

A survey of 83 ac (33.6 ha) near Geismar, in Ascension Parish, involved 501 shovel tests (all negative), and photographic recordation.

In the course of the survey no standing structures or archaeological properties were recorded.

According to the *National Register of Historic Places Bulletin* 16 (NPS 20021:1, 36), to qualify for the NRHP a property must “possess integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, (and) association” (NPS 2002:1). Once this condition has been met, the property must meet at least one of four criteria. Properties are eligible...

- 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 properties are usually assessed under Criterion D, while standing and engineering structures are usually evaluated according to Criteria A, B or C.

Because no cultural properties were recorded, no NRHP criteria apply.

It is recommended that the area examined in this project be made available for development.

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## MAPS

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- 1936 Carville, La. 15-minute topographic map.
- 1953 Carville, La. 7.5-minute topographic map.
- 1974 Carville, La. 7.5-minute topographic map.
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- 1974 Carville, La. 7.5-minute topographic quadrangle.
- 1992 Carville, La. 7.5-minute topographic map.
- 1999 Carville, La. 7.5-minute topographic quadrangle.