



STATE OF ALABAMA  
ALABAMA HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
468 SOUTH PERRY STREET  
MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA 36130-0900

TEL: 334-242-3184  
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June 9, 2009

Mr. Heath Franks  
Perc Engineering Co., Inc.  
P. O. Box 1712  
Jasper, AL 35502

Re: AHC 09-0099  
Mine No. 3  
Jackson County, AL

Dear Mr. Franks:

Upon review of the cultural resource assessment conducted by Jacksonville State University, we have determined that project activities will have no adverse effect on cultural resources eligible for or listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Therefore, we concur with the proposed project activities.

However, should artifacts or archaeological features be encountered during project activities, work shall cease and our office shall be consulted immediately. Artifacts are objects made, used or modified by humans. These include but are not limited to arrowheads, broken pieces of pottery or glass, stone implements, metal fasteners or tools, etc. Archaeological features are stains in the soil that indicate disturbance by human activity. Some examples are post holes, building foundations, trash pits and even human burials. This stipulation shall be placed on the construction plans to insure contractors are aware of it.

We appreciate your commitment to helping us preserve Alabama's non-renewable resources. Should you have any questions, the point of contact for this matter is Amanda Hill at 334-230-2692. **Please have the AHC tracking number referenced above available and include it with any correspondence.**

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Ann Brown

Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

**A PHASE I CULTURAL RESOURCES SURVEY  
FOR THE 47 ACRE PROPOSED GTM ENERGY PARTNERS, LLC  
MINE NO. 3 (REVISION R-3)  
IN JACKSON COUNTY, ALABAMA**

**FINAL REPORT**

Submitted to PERC Engineering Co., Inc.  
Jasper, Alabama  
In Support of GTM Energy Partners, LLC



JACKSONVILLE STATE UNIVERSITY  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCE LABORATORY



Jacksonville State University  
Archaeological Resource Laboratory

May 2009



**A PHASE I CULTURAL RESOURCES SURVEY  
FOR THE 47 ACRE PROPOSED GTM ENERGY PARTNERS, LLC MINE NO. 3  
(REVISION R-3) IN JACKSON COUNTY, ALABAMA**

By

Valerie Glesner

Jacksonville State University  
Archaeological Resource Laboratory  
JSU McClellan Center  
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Anniston, Alabama 36205

Principal Investigator



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Harry O. Holstein, Ph.D.

Submitted to  
PERC Engineering Co., Inc.  
Jasper, Alabama  
In Partnership with GTM Energy Partners, LLC

May 2009



## **ABSTRACT**

On May 15, 2009, the Jacksonville State University Archaeological Resource Laboratory (JSU-ARL) conducted a Phase I cultural resources survey of approximately 47 acres located in Section 11, Township 3 South, Range 8 East on the Stevenson and Flat Rock (1983) USGS 7.5 Minute Topographic Quadrangles in Jackson County, Alabama. This survey was performed under an agreement with PERC Engineering Co., Inc. of Jasper, Alabama for GTM Energy Partners, LLC to aid in regulatory compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) of 1966, as amended, prior to proposed strip-mining activities.

Visual (walkover) inspection was the method employed to survey the current project area. No prehistoric or historic artifacts/features were recovered or observed.

The entire project area has been subjected to previous strip-mining activities, creating strip-mine lakes, and recent timbering disturbance. Based on these findings, the JSU-ARL recommends that a Finding of No Historic Properties Affected is appropriate for the proposed strip-mining related activities.



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**A PHASE I CULTURAL RESOURCES SURVEY  
FOR THE 47 ACRE PROPOSED GTM ENERGY PARTNERS, LLC MINE NO. 3  
(REVISION R-3) IN JACKSON COUNTY, ALABAMA**

On May 15, 2009 the Jacksonville State University Archaeological Resource Laboratory (JSU-ARL) conducted a Phase I cultural resources survey of approximately 47 acres located in Section 11, Township 3 South, Range 8 East on the Stevenson and Flat Rock (1983) United States Geological Survey (USGS) 7.5 Minute Topographic Quadrangles in Jackson County, Alabama (Figure 1). This survey was performed under an agreement with PERC Engineering Co., Inc. of Jasper, Alabama for GTM Energy Partners, LLC for a proposed strip mine. The purpose of the Phase I cultural resources survey was to identify historic properties present, (if any), that might be affected by this proposed federal undertaking, as required by the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA). A "historic property" is defined by the administrative rule implementing the NHPA (36 CFR Part 800) as any prehistoric or historic district, site, building, structure, or object included in, or eligible for inclusion in, the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) maintained by the Secretary of the Interior. This term includes artifacts, records, and remains that are related to and located within such properties. The term includes properties of traditional religious and cultural importance to an Indian tribe that meet the National Register criteria.

For the purposes of this Phase I cultural resources survey, the Area of Potential Effects (APE) of the proposed undertaking has been considered to extend to the boundary of the subject property (Figure 1).

Harry O. Holstein, Ph.D. served as the principal investigator and Sean Williamon and Valerie Glesner conducted all fieldwork. Sean Williamon, served as the Geographic Information Systems (GIS) manager for the project.

Environmental and cultural background research was performed, consistent with the standards recommended in the Alabama Historical Commission's (AHC) *Policy for Archaeological Survey and Testing in Alabama* (1996, revised 2002, supp. 6/30/06), and is presented within context to the current archaeological study. Following all background research, the probability for the presence of cultural material was evaluated to determine the most efficient methods for conducting the fieldwork.

After field methods were decided upon, the field survey portion of the current project commenced. To aid in the review and evaluation of this study and to provide detailed information to future researchers, a shovel-test roster is included as *Appendix A*.

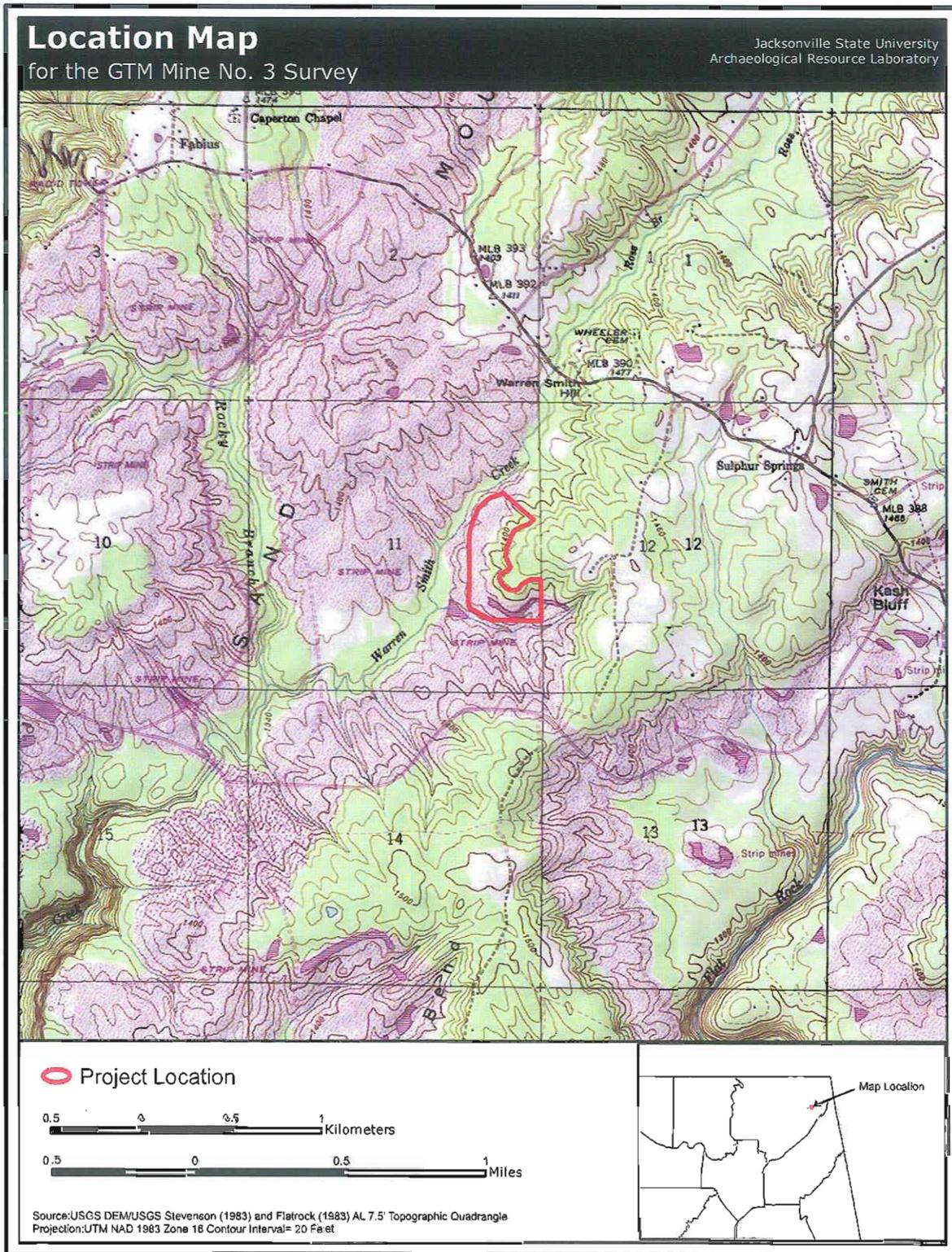


Figure 1. Project area location map.

## RESEARCH METHODS AND LABORATORY TECHNIQUES

### *Literature and Document Search*

Prior to beginning fieldwork, a series of data searches were conducted in order to determine the existence of previously recorded archaeological sites in or around the current survey area, along with historical property owners. The background research included, but was not limited to, reviews of the Alabama State Site Files (ASSF), the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP), the Alabama Register of Landmarks and Heritage, and the Bureau of Land Management General Land Office (BLM-GLO) database. Whenever possible, historic maps were geo-referenced to modern-day United States Geological Service (USGS) 7.5 Minute Topographic Quadrangles and Environmental Systems Research Institute, Inc. (ESRI) Satellite Imagery.

Searches with the BLM-GLO have produced 11 listings of historical property owners within Section 11, Township 3 South, Range 8 East. Information on these land titles is provided in Table 1. As noted in the table, data was unavailable for land ownership of some of the tracts within the section. Research also was conducted for the historical landowners through county records and brief internet searches to determine if the property associated with these individuals could be considered significant by its association to persons considered important in the understanding of the history of the region. At this time, no additional information could be located for the 11 listings of historical property owners within the area surrounding the APE of the proposed undertaking.

Searches of the NRHP and the Alabama Register of Landmarks and Heritage identified no

**Table 1. Results of BLM-GLO Research.**

Property Owner	Section Township Range	Section Area	Sign Date	Acres
Fuller, James H.	11/3S/8E	E1/2SE	03/03/1900	160.65
Fuller, James H.	11/3S/8E	NWSE	03/03/1900	0
Fuller, James H.	11/3S/8E	SWNE	03/03/1900	0
Goforth, George	11/3S/8E	NW	08/15/1896	160.45
Powell, Mary C.	11/3S/8E	N1/2NE	06/30/1891	160.64
Roach, Charles B.	11/3S/8E	SWNE	05/21/1890	160.68
Keys, Richard	11/3S/8E	SESW	02/13/1884	120.487
Keys, Richard	11/3S/8E	W1/2SW	02/13/1884	0
Keys, Richard	11/3S/8E	SESW	06/30/1875	120.49
Keys, Richard	11/3S/8E	N1/2SW	06/30/1875	0
Ashe, Cincie B.	11/3S/8E	SWSE	02/07/1890	40.16

historic properties within the APE of the proposed undertaking.

### **Field Survey Methods**

Fieldwork was conducted on May 15, 2009. In accordance with the guidelines set forth by the Alabama State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO), through the offices of the AHC, the field techniques used for the field investigation was visual (walkover) transects at 60-meter (m) intervals.

Pedestrian transects consisted of visually inspecting the exposed ground surface for the presence of cultural material.

In addition, the field crew also recorded the location of all visual (walkover) tests with a Garmin (Model GPSMAP76Cx) handheld Global Positioning System (GPS).

### **Site Evaluation**

The main objective of the current survey was to identify historic properties as required by Section 106 (36 CFR Part 800) of the NHPA of 1966, as amended. For listing in the NRHP, one of four criteria established by the National Park Service must be met for a site, building, structure, district, or object that possesses integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. The criteria are identified as:

(a) sites, locations, or objects that are associated with events that have made a significant contribution or the broad patterns of our history; or

(b) sites, locations, or objects that are associated with the lives of persons significant in our past; or

(c) sites, locations, or objects that embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction; represent the work of a master; possess high artistic value; or represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction; or

(d) sites, locations, or objects that have yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Under 35 CFR Part 800, NRHP-eligible properties are considered to warrant mitigation or avoidance. If an eligibility recommendation was not able to be determined as a result of the Phase I survey, then further subsurface excavation may be recommended. In some circumstances avoidance may be recommended in lieu of further testing.

## **ENVIRONMENTAL BACKGROUND**

### **Climate**

Jackson County averages approximately 48 inches of precipitation annually. The average temperature, in degrees Fahrenheit (F), ranges from highs in the 80s during the summer to lows in the 30s during winter. Throughout the year the temperature will, on occasion, reach highs above 90 degrees F and lows below freezing (NOAA, <http://cdo.ncdc.noaa.gov>, accessed May 2009).

### **Topography and Hydrology**

The current survey area is located in Section 11, Township 3 South, Range 8 East on the Stevenson and Flat Rock (1983) USGS 7.5 Minute Topographic

Quadrangles in Jackson County, Alabama (*see* Figure 1). This area is in the Sand Mountain district of the Cumberland Plateau physiographic section of Alabama (Figure 2). This region is described as being a “submaturely dissected sandstone and shale synclinal plateau of moderate relief (Sapp and Emplaincourt 1975).

The surface terrain within the project area is extremely disturbed by past mining activity and recent timbering. The project area ranges between 1,355 to 1,430 feet above mean sea level (amsl). Extreme slope, in excess of 25 percent, is visible throughout the current survey area.

Warren Smith Creek is located approximately 100 m west of the current APE. Strip-mine lakes run through the southern and central portions of the current project area (*see* Figure 1 and Figure 5).

### **Soils**

There are five different soil types found within the survey area, consisting of five soil series (Figure 3). Table 2 provides general information for soils mapped in the current APE (Swenson 1941).

Approximately 50 percent of the project area is covered by Palmerdale soils, hilly. Palmerdale soils are located in mine-spoil material where coal-mining operations have taken place, with slopes ranging from 2 to 60 percent. The current APE contained slopes in excess of 25 percent throughout the project area. The 1983 Stevenson and Flat Rock USGS topographic quadrangles indicate most of the project area had been previously strip mined. Attempts were made to

locate areas suitable for shovel testing; however, each attempt was unsuccessful due to exposed bedrock on the surface.

Given the extreme disturbance conditions of the current survey area, it is understandable that the APE retains little research potential and explains the absence of surface and subsurface archaeological material.

## **CULTURAL BACKGROUND**

### ***Previously Recorded Sites***

Research shows four previously recorded archaeological sites within one mile of the boundaries of the survey area (Figure 4). Three sites contain cultural material of prehistoric occupation, and one site is a pre-twentieth-century historic structure. None of the four sites have been recommended as potentially eligible for inclusion to the NRHP. Table 3 has been provided as an overview of the four sites. The following is a brief description of these cultural resources.

#### **1JA922**

This site was first recorded in 1991 by Merrill Dicks of DuVall and Associates, Franklin, Tennessee. This small rockshelter is located near Kash Bluff. Soot stained the ceiling, and one black chert flake was recovered in the dripline.

Site 1JA922 has not been recommended as potentially eligible for inclusion to the NRHP based on Criterion D (ASSF, accessed May 2009).

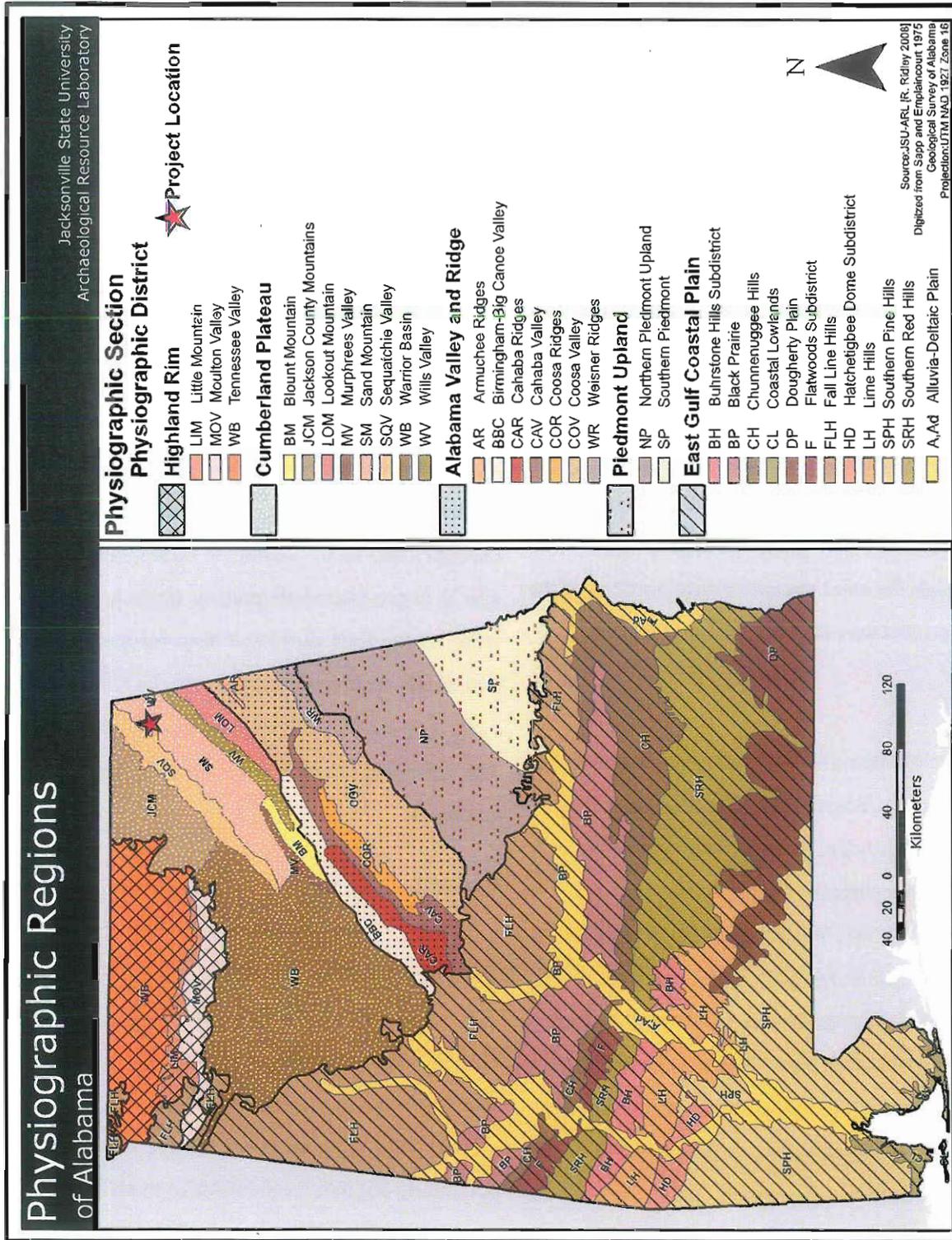


Figure 2. Physiographic Regions of Alabama.

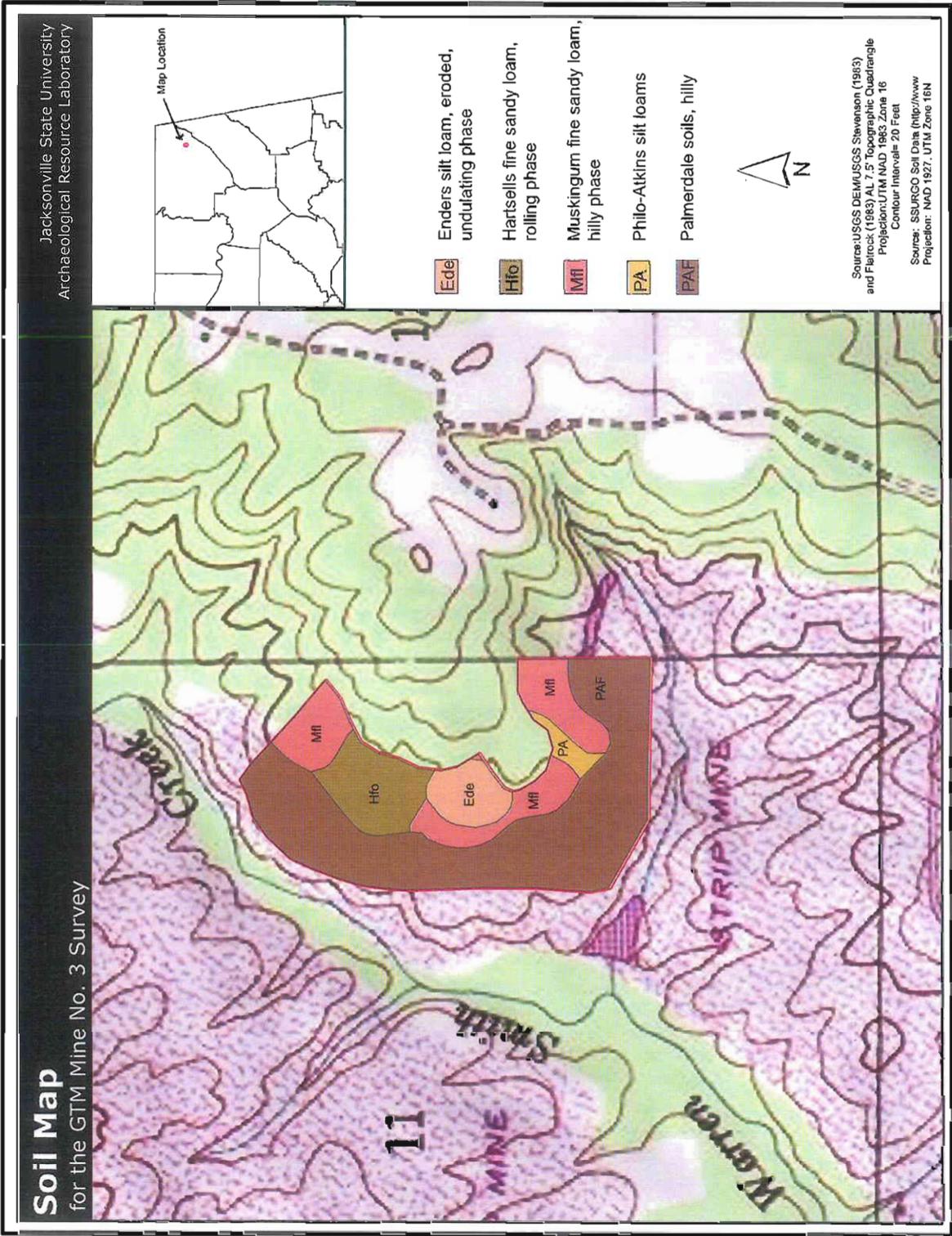


Figure 3. Map of soils within the current APE.

**Table 2. Soil profiles for current survey area.**

Soil Series	Comments	Soils
Enders	Very strongly acidic soils that are well drained. Susceptible to erosion, a variety of crops, including corn, oats, and hays, can be grown, except on slopes greater than 10 percent. Depth of profile is 50 to 112 cm. Surface soil is light brown to pale yellow silty clay loam approximately 7 to 30 cms thick. Subsoil is silty clay that is pale yellow to reddish-yellow. Shortleaf and old-field pines are the natural vegetation.	Enders silt loam, eroded, undulating phase (Ede)
Hartsells	Strongly to very strongly acidic soils, slightly erosive, and shallow to bedrock. Susceptible to erosion but has generally been cropped in cotton, corn, peanuts, soybeans, and potatoes. A-horizon is between 5 to 22 cms thick, consisting of light grayish-yellow sandy loam, underlain by light brown to brownish-yellow sandy clay loam. Natural vegetation is deciduous hardwood trees.	Hartsells fine sandy loam, rolling phase (Hfo)
Muskingum	Strongly to very strongly acidic soils. Depth to unweathered bedrock ranges from 30 to 40 cms. Surface soil is grayish-brown to brownish-gray underlain by yellowish-gray, grayish-yellow, or yellowish-brown subsoil. Very poorly suited to crops and pasture. Natural vegetation consists of hardwoods, with shortleaf, scrub, and Virginia pines.	Muskingum fine sandy loam, hilly phase (Mfi)
Philo	Poorly-drained soils not suitable for crops or pasture. Natural vegetation consists of hardwoods and swamp pine. A-horizon is between 15 to 20 cms thick, consisting of dark brownish-gray to grayish-brown silt loam. Subsoil is a 15 to 45 cms thick light brown to gray silt loam to sandy clay loam.	Philo-Atkins silt loams (PA)
Palmerdale	Deep, somewhat excessively drained soils developing in mine spoil material. Water runoff is medium. Slopes range from 2 to 60 percent. A horizon is 0 to 12 cms thick with a hue of 10YR through 5Y, value 3 through 5, and chroma of 2 to 6, extremely channery silt loam. Subsoil is 12 to 203 cms thick, a hue of 7.5YR to 5Y, values of 4 or 5, and chroma of 2 to 6 loam, silt loam, or silty clay loam. Palmerdale soils make up the majority of mine spoil areas where coal-mining operations have taken place.	Palmerdale soils, hilly (PAF)

**1JA923**

Recorded by Merrill Dicks of DuVall and Associates, Franklin, Tennessee in 1991, this site is a small overhang in the sandstone at Kash Bluff. Several flakes were observed in the dripline, and ceiling appeared soot stained.

Site 1JA923 was considered not eligible for inclusion to the NRHP based on Criterion D (ASSF, accessed May 2009).

**1JA924**

This site was first recorded in 1991 by Merrill Dicks of DuVall and Associates, Franklin, Tennessee. This large rockshelter is located in the Kash Bluff escarpment. The ceiling exhibited “considerable soot staining”, and several flakes, biface fragments, and charcoal was recovered in the dripline. Shovel testing produced additional chert flakes.

Site 1JA924 has not been recommended as potentially eligible for inclusion to the NRHP based on Criterion D (ASSF, accessed May 2009).

**1JA925**

This site was first recorded in 1991 by Merrill Dicks of DuVall and Associates, Franklin, Tennessee. This historic structure site consists of a chimney fall of unmortared, sandstone blocks, foundation, and a cellar depression. The site is located on an upland ridge with shallow ravines to the east and west. No artifacts were recovered, and the site was assigned a pre-twentieth century component.

Site 1JA925 has not been recommended as potentially eligible for inclusion to the NRHP based on Criterion D (ASSF, accessed May 2009).

**CURATION AND LABORATORY METHODS**

All Phase I survey material were transported to JSU-ARL facilities and included field paperwork and photographs of the project area. Originals and one photocopy of all field and laboratory notes, drawings, and photographs accompany the collection. All photographs were taken using digital methods and have been provided on electronic media, and

**Table 3. Previously recorded archaeological sites within one mile of current project area.**

Site	Characteristic(s)	Cultural Component	NRHP Status
1JA922	Rockshelter, artifact scatter	unknown Native American	undetermined
1JA923	Rockshelter, artifact scatter	unknown Native American	undetermined
1JA924	Rockshelter, artifact scatter	unknown Native American	undetermined
1JA925	Historic structure site	pre-20th Century	undetermined

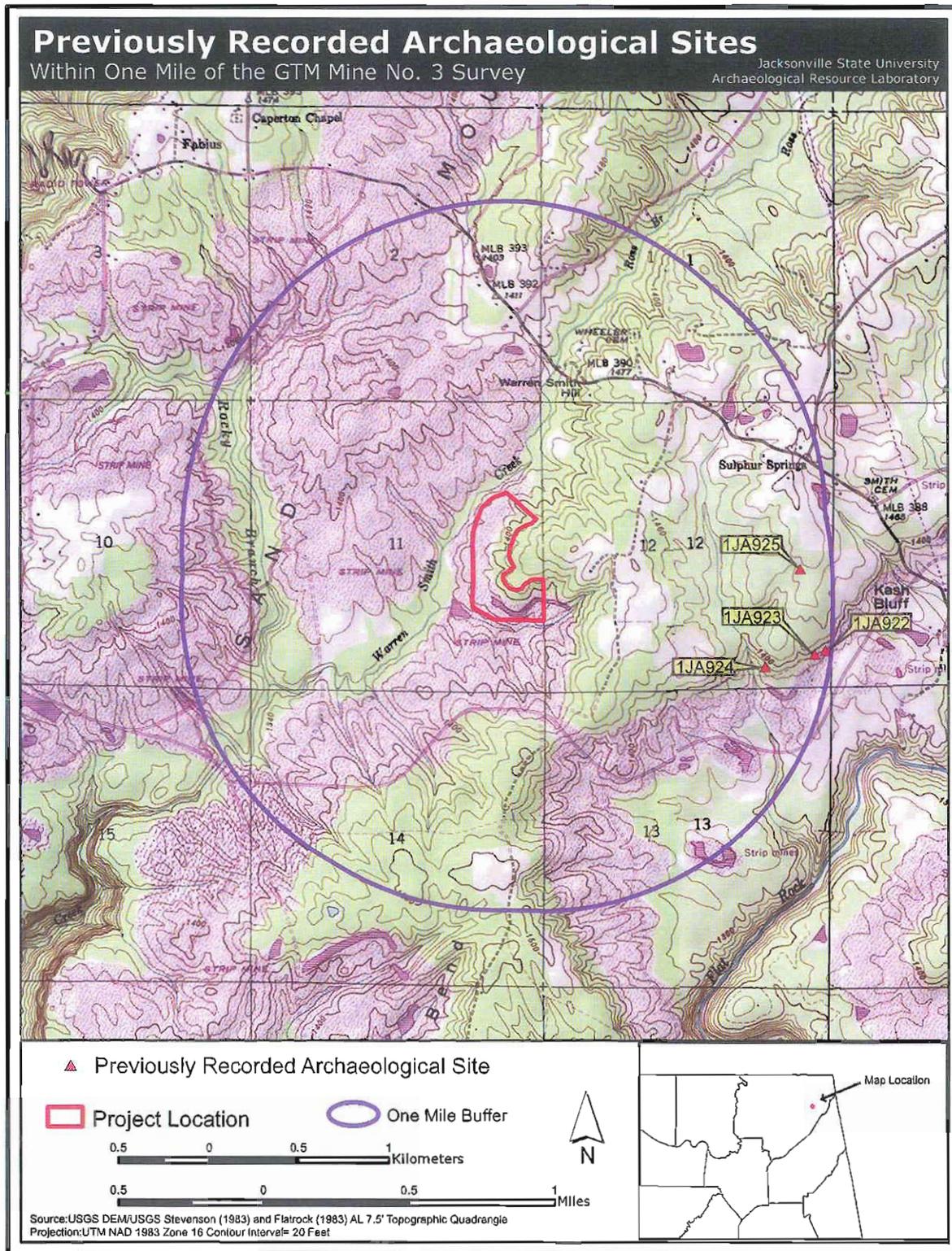


Figure 4. Previously recorded archaeological sites within a one-mile radius of the current survey area.

include high-resolution printed contact sheets and photograph logs. All documents from the current survey were packed in acid-free archival quality boxes. All project material will be stored at JSU-ARL repository facilities.

## FINDINGS

The current Phase I cultural resources survey was conducted in accordance with the guidelines established by the AHC. Visual (walkover) inspection was the method employed to complete the evaluation of the project area. The decision to utilize a 60-m walkover grid was made after the preliminary area studies were performed and initial observations made of the area prior to the commence of the fieldwork. The reasoning for this decision was a combination of factors that have led the area to be considered as low probability for prehistoric and historic-period occupation. These factors include the unsuitable nature of the soils for cultivation, poor accessibility to a suitable source of water, excessive slope in much of the area, and evidence of disturbance throughout the current APE (Figures 6-16). The entire project area was visually inspected for surface features such as foundations, roads, and surface artifacts. All of the project area has been altered from past mining activity, recent timbering, and/or soil erosion, as is evident in the lack of topsoil within the survey area.

The project area revealed no surface or subsurface prehistoric or historic artifacts or features.

## SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATIONS

On May 15, 2009 the JSU-ARL conducted a Phase I cultural resources survey of approximately 47 acres located in Section 11, Township 3 South, Range 8 East on the Stevenson and Flat Rock (1983) USGS 7.5 Minute Topographic Quadrangles in Jackson County, Alabama (*see* Figure 1). This survey was performed under an agreement with PERC Engineering Co., Inc. of Jasper, Alabama for GTM Energy Partners, LLC to aid in regulatory compliance with Section 106 of the NHPA prior to a proposed strip mine. Visual (walkover) inspection was the method employed to survey the current project area. No prehistoric or historic artifacts/features were recovered or observed.

The entire project area has been subjected to previous strip-mining activities, strip-mine lakes, and recent timbering disturbance.

Based on these findings, the JSU-ARL recommends that a Finding of No Historic Properties Affected is appropriate for the proposed strip mining related activities.

## REFERENCES CITED

- National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration  
2009 Climatography of the United States No. 81,  
<http://cdo.ncdc.noaa.gov/climatenormals/clim81/ALnorm.pdf>, accessed May 2009.  
National Climatic Data Center.
- Sapp, C.D. and J. Emplaincourt  
1975 *Physiographic Regions of Alabama*. State of Alabama Geological Survey Map 168.

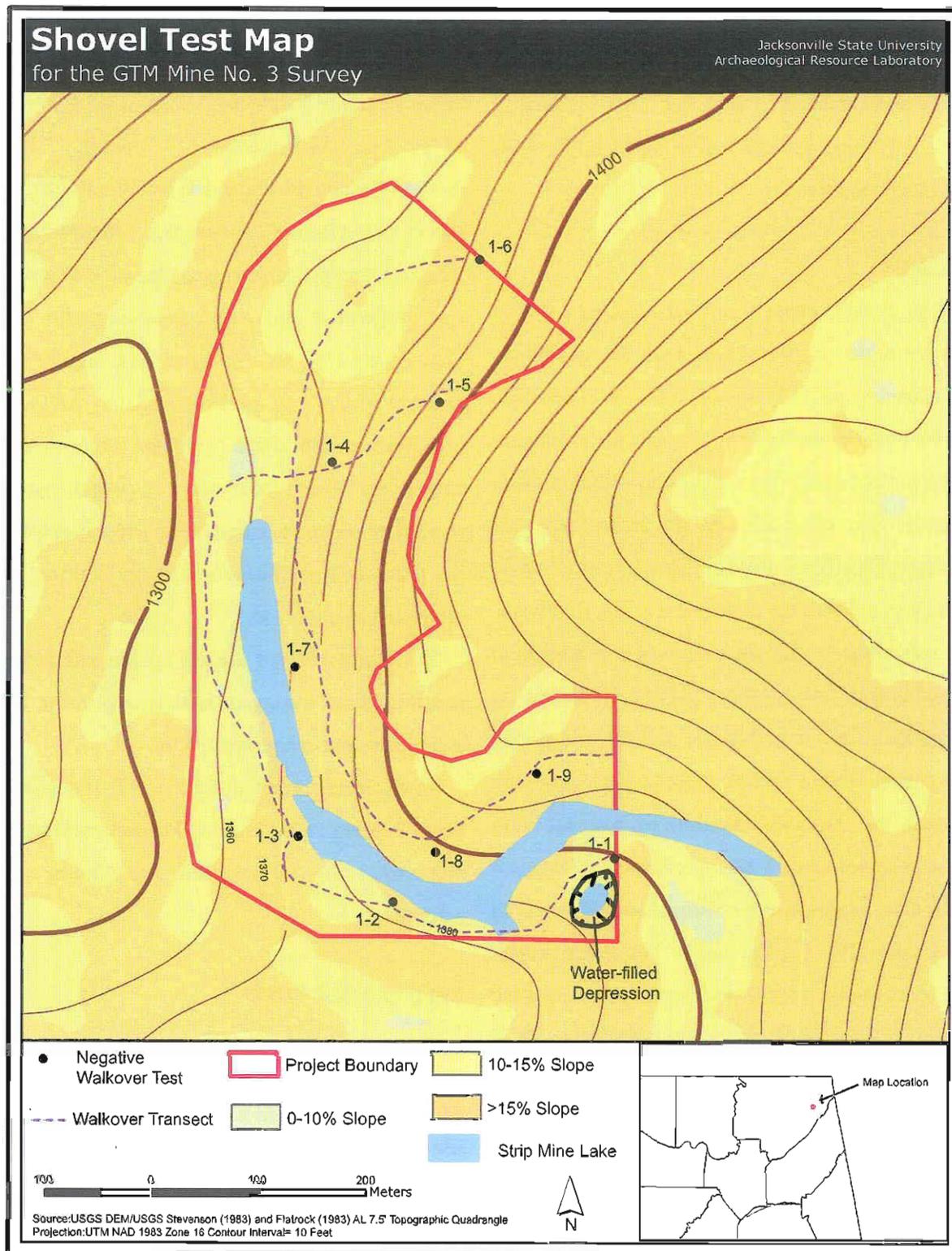


Figure 5. Shovel-test map for the current survey area.



**Figure 6.** Strip-mine lake at beginning of transect 1-1, viewing south.



**Figure 7.** Strip-mine lake at 1-2, viewing north.



**Figure 8.** Push pile and modern debris at 1-2, viewing southeast.



**Figure 9.** Disturbance 300 m east from center of APE, north of 1-3, viewing northwest.



**Figure 10.** Disturbance at center of APE, between 1-3 and 1-4, viewing northwest.



**Figure 11.** Disturbance and slope at 1-4, viewing east.



**Figure 12.** Strip-mine lake in background at 1-5, viewing southwest.



**Figure 13.** Northwest boundary of APE at 1-6, viewing west.



**Figure 14.** Unimproved road from northeast boundary, at 1-6, viewing south.



**Figure 15.** Unimproved road from 1-7, viewing southeast.



**Figure 16.** Strip-mine lake from 1-8, viewing south.

Swenson, G.A.

1941 *Soil Survey of Jackson County, Alabama*. U.S.  
Department of Agriculture Soil Conservation  
Service, Washington, D. C.

