



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

FRANK W. WHITE
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

TEL: 334-242-3184
FAX: 334-240-3477

May 1, 2013

Paul D. Jackson
TerraXplorations, Inc.
3523 18th Avenue, NE
Tuscaloosa, Alabama 5406

Re: AHC 13-0740
Cultural Resource Assessment
Cane Creek Mine
Walker County, Alabama

Dear Mr. Jackson:

Upon review of the cultural resource assessment submitted by your office, 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.

We appreciate your efforts on this project. Should you have any questions, please contact Greg Rhinehart at (334) 230-2662 or by e-mail at greg.rhinehart@preserveala.org. Please have the AHC tracking number referenced above available and include it with any correspondence.

Truly yours,

Elizabeth Ann Brown
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

EAB/GCR/gcr

A PHASE I CULTURAL-RESOURCES SURVEY
FOR THE PROPOSED CANE CREEK MINE,
WALKER COUNTY, ALABAMA

PREPARED BY
TERRAXPLORATIONS, INC.

PREPARED FOR
PERC ENGINEERING COMPANY, INC.



TerraXplorations, Inc.
2301 9th Street, Suite 2
Tuscaloosa, Alabama 35401
www.terraxplorations.com

APRIL 2013

PERC Engineering Company, Inc.
1606 Highway 78 West
P.O. Box 1712
Jasper, Alabama 35502-1712

A PHASE I CULTURAL-RESOURCES SURVEY
FOR THE PROPOSED CANE CREEK MINE,
WALKER COUNTY, ALABAMA

BY

MICHAEL FARMER
AND
SHANDA DAVIDSON

PREPARED FOR:

PERC ENGINEERING COMPANY, INC.
1606 HIGHWAY 78 WEST
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PREPARED BY:

TERRAEXPLORATIONS, INC.
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TUSCALOOSA, ALABAMA 35401

PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR
PAUL D. JACKSON

APRIL 15, 2013

A PHASE I CULTURAL-RESOURCES SURVEY FOR THE PROPOSED CANE CREEK MINE, WALKER COUNTY, ALABAMA

INTRODUCTION

TerraXplorations, Inc. (TerraX) of Tuscaloosa, Alabama was contracted by PERC Engineering, Company, Inc. of Jasper, Alabama to conduct a cultural-resources survey for the proposed Cane Creek Mine, Walker County, Alabama. The Phase I survey was performed on April 5, 2013. Shanda Davidson served as Architectural Historian and Michael Farmer conducted the archaeological survey under the direction of Principal Investigator Paul D. Jackson. The purpose of this study was to determine if any prehistoric or historic properties exist within the limits of the survey tract, and if so to document and assess each based on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) criteria.

The project area, as identified by PERC Engineering, Company, Inc., is an 8 acre tract located 2 miles south of Jasper, Alabama east of State Route 269. The survey area is situated in the NE ¼ of Section 33, Township 14 South, Range 7 West as seen on the 1949 (photorevised 1981) Jasper, Alabama, USGS 7.5' series topographic quadrangle (Figure 1).

PROJECT AREA ENVIRONMENT

The survey tract lies within a ridgetop setting that falls within the Warrior Basin district of the Cumberland Plateau physiographic region (Figure 2). These formations are made up of sandstone, siltstone, shale, and thin layers of limestone. The Warrior Basin consists mainly of gentle to moderate sloping ridgetops, which are predominately made up of sandstone-derived soils, steep side slopes of finer sediments, and colluvial material along stream terraces and toe slopes. All of Walker County sits above a nearly level bedded Pottsville Formation, while the entire area falls within the Warrior coalfield, all being of Pennsylvanian age (Stevens 1992).

The project area is located along the peak of a ridgetop and is situated at an elevation ranging between 370 and 510 ft. above mean sea level (AMSL). The study area slopes westward toward Hay Valley Road and State Route 269. Vegetation within the project area consisted of poplar, sweetgum, hickory, red oak, and pine, with briars, brush, and vines comprising the understory. The vegetation ran along the slopes of the ridge top and stood in the western portion of the survey area, while the ridgetop itself was clear cut, with little to no standing vegetation (Figures 3 and 4).

According to the Soil Survey of Walker County, Alabama, two soil types are found within the survey area. Sunlight-Townley complex (15 to 45 percent slopes) soils are defined as being shallow to moderately deep, well drained soils occurring on highly dissected ridgetops, side slopes, and lower slopes. These soils can be moderately to very steep and conform to the surrounding landscape. Sunlight soils generally consist of a surface layer of dark brown channery silt loam, followed by and an upper section of subsoil made up of a yellowish brown channery silty clay loam. The lower section consists of strong brown very channery silty clay loam, all of which is underlain by a yellowish brown, weather, shaly siltstone and sand stone. Townley soil (6 to 15 percent slopes) within this complex consists of a surface layer of very dark grayish brown silt loam, followed by a subsurface layer of brown loam. The subsoil consists of strong brown and red clay, mottled in the lower part.

Nauvoo-Townley complex (4 to 20 percent) soils are defined as deep and moderately deep, well drained soils. These soils can be gently sloping to moderately steep, located on narrow ridgetops and on side slopes.

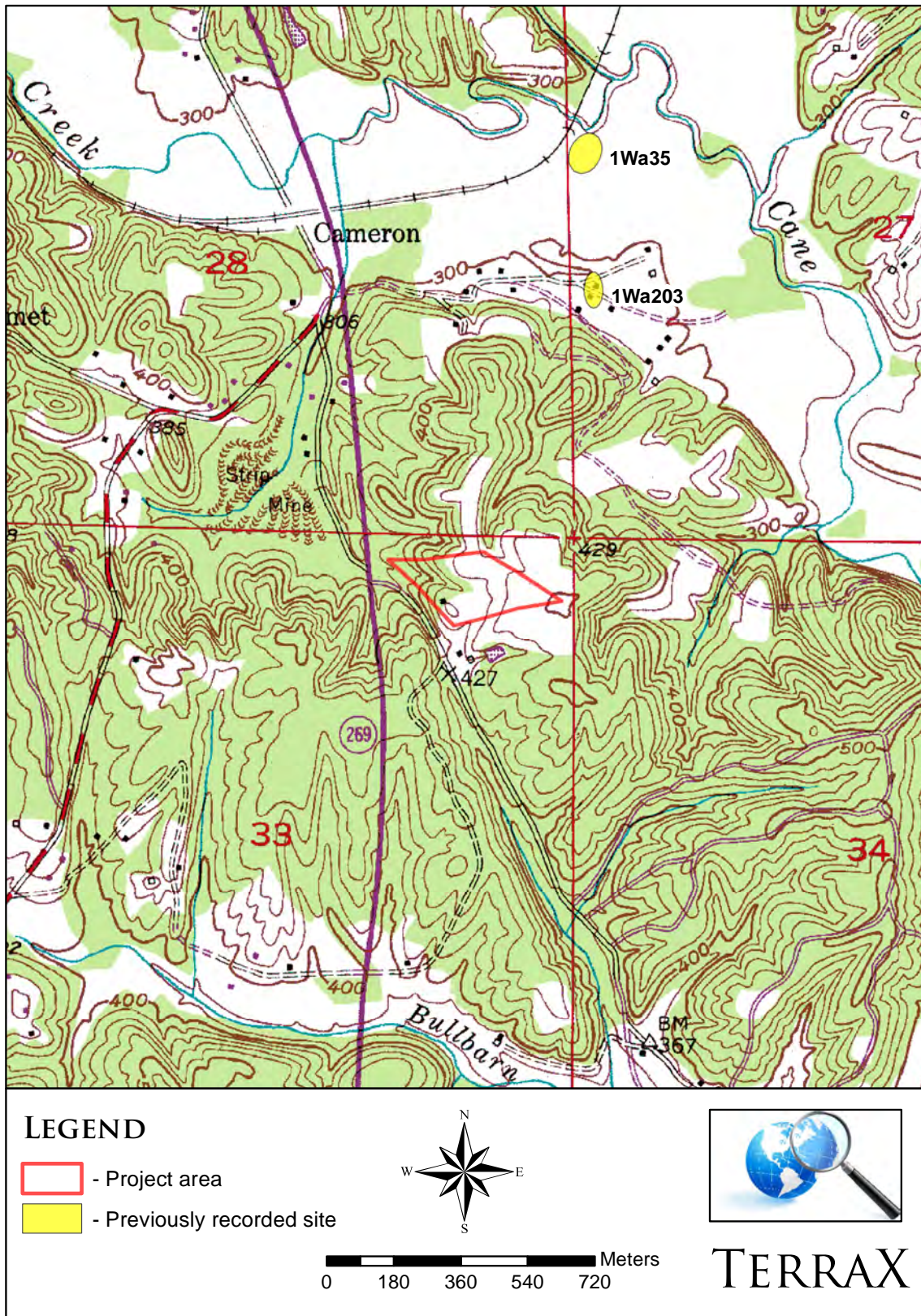


Figure 1. Map showing the project area and nearby previously recorded archaeological sites (based on the 1949 [photorevised 1981] Jasper, Alabama, USGS 7.5' series topographic quadrangle).

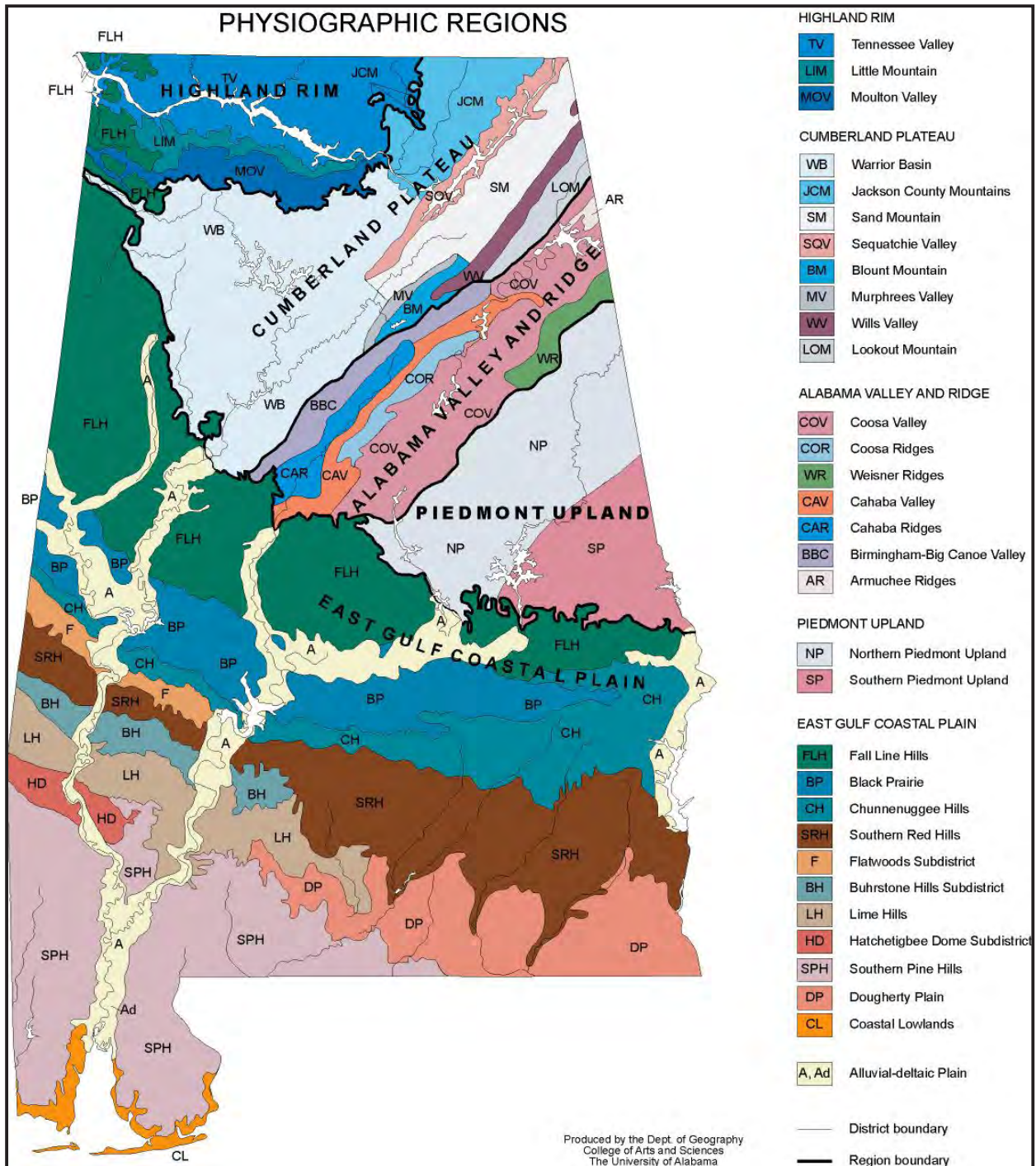


Figure 2. Physiographic Regions Map of Alabama (The University of Alabama 2013).



Figure 3. Southern portion of project area, looking west.



Figure 4. Eastern portion of project area, looking northwest.

Nauvoo soil is generally found on the higher, less sloping ridgetops and upper side slopes, with Townley soils being found on the lower ridges and side slopes. Nauvoo soil has a surface layer of dark yellowish brown fine sandy loam. The upper part of the subsoil consists of a red and yellowish red clay loam and sandy clay loam, while the lower part consists of a mottled yellowish red and strong brown fine sandy loam.

LITERATURE AND DOCUMENT SEARCH

Before conducting the fieldwork, TerraX performed a literature and document search in order to gather pertinent background information regarding the subject property and its surroundings. This research included inspections of the Alabama State Archaeological Site File (ASASF) (Office of Archaeological Research [OAR] 2013), the Alabama Register of Landmarks and Heritage (ARLH) (Alabama Historical Commission 2013), and the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) (National Park Service 2013).

Research of the ASASF (OAR 2013) identified two previously recorded sites (1Wa35 and 1Wa203) located within a mile of the survey tract. Site 1Wa35 was recorded by Jacksonville State University in 1989. This site is described as an unknown aboriginal lithic scatter. Site 1Wa35 was deemed ineligible for the NRHP. Site 1Wa203 was recorded by C.E. Hill of Jacksonville State University while performing a survey for the nearby Hay Valley Mine (Holstein and Hill 1999). This Woodland and Mississippian village site produced various prehistoric ceramics and lithics and is considered potentially eligible for the NRHP.

Research of the Alabama Register of Landmarks and Heritage (Alabama Historical Commission 2013) and the NRHP (National Park Service 2013) failed to identify any historic properties within or near the project area.

FIELD METHODS

The Phase I survey was guided by procedural standards created by the Alabama Council of Professional Archaeologists in concurrence with the Alabama Historical Commission's (2002) specifications as outlined in the Policy for Archaeological Surveying and Testing in Alabama. Land coverage requirements were achieved by walking and visually inspecting the entire survey area. Any exposed surfaces were carefully examined for cultural material. For areas determined to have a low probability of containing archaeological deposits (such as graded areas with exposed subsoil, areas of push piles, and low wet drainages) pedestrian walkover was the primary method of survey. For medium to high probability areas, systematic subsurface testing is generally employed.

Typically, subsurface testing is performed judgmentally or along 30-m interval transects comprised of shovel tests spaced 30 m apart. Standard shovel tests consist of 30 centimeter (cm) diameter cylindrical holes excavated to the top of the sterile subsoil layer. Soils from each test are screened through 1/4-inch hardware cloth for the purpose of recovering any cultural material that may exist at that location. When cultural material is encountered, the material is sorted by provenience and placed into bags labeled with the pertinent excavation information before being transported to TerraX's laboratory.

LABORATORY METHODS AND COLLECTION CURATION

All cultural materials recovered during field projects are delivered to TerraX's laboratory in Tuscaloosa, Alabama for processing. Here, materials are sorted by provenience, cleaned, and analyzed. Along with the cultural material, all project records, photographs, and maps produced while conducting the investigation are transported for curation at the Office of Archaeological Research, Erskine Ramsey Curation Facility, University of Alabama Museums, Moundville, Alabama.

RESULTS OF FIELD INVESTIGATION

The 8 acre survey parcel is located 2 miles south of Jasper, Alabama just east of the State Route 269 and Hay Valley Road intersection. The current survey area sits atop an undulating ridge top, surrounded by sloped sides. The Hay Valley Mine abuts the project area to the north. A logging road (Haul Road) demarcates this boundary. The eastern corner of the survey area represents the highest point in the survey tract, while the western boundary is found at the end of a small, steep, deep, drainage. Two small hunting blinds are located in the central portion of the survey tract overlooking a small grassy area. Approximately 70% of the survey has been clear-cut, with vegetation remaining on the side slopes and within the western portion of the survey area.

The investigation included both subsurface and surface inspections of the subject property. A total of seven judgmental shovel tests were placed in areas of least disturbance on what appeared to be higher, terraced areas, atop slopes and drainages (Figure 5). All seven tests produced negative results exposing shallow soils. Shovel test profiles consisted of 3 to 15 cm of yellowish brown silt loam above a strong brown to reddish brown silty clay subsoil. Eroded sandstone and shale were encountered in each shovel test. Visual examinations failed to identify any cultural material on exposed surfaces.

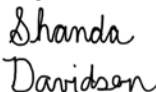
Although no archaeological sites were discovered, a structure was identified and recorded during the course of this survey. Structure 1 (Burton House) is of wood frame construction built between 1920 and 1960, based on the style of the house and exterior materials (Figures 6 and 7) (Appendix B). Additionally, this structure is seen on the 1949 (photorevised 1981) Jasper, Alabama 7.5' topographic quadrangle (see Figure 5). This building is a wood frame bungalow style house with a front-gable roof of standing seam metal. Asphalt siding resembling bricks covers the exterior, covering a vertical plank outside wall. Stacked stone foundation pillars, evenly placed around the outside wall, support the structure. The north, east, and west side of the structure is surrounded by a wood post and standing seam metal roof utilitarian sheds. The east side contains a garage attached to the back porch. The west side of the structure contains a livestock ramp, which leads to the covered area on the north side of the structure, which has completely collapsed due to a falling tree. Two outbuildings are also associated with the structure; a wood frame chicken house located on the east side of the structure, and a wood frame livestock pen located off the northwest corner (Figures 8 and 9). After consideration under Criteria C, and applying seven aspects of integrity, it is determined that the Burton House is not eligible for the Alabama Register or the National Register. Although the house retains some its integrity of location, design, materials, and workmanship, the house is in such a state of disrepair that the remaining integrity has been compromised. Therefore, the determination of effects is no historic properties affected.

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

TerraX, under contract with PERC Engineering, Company, Inc., performed the Phase I cultural-resource survey for the proposed Cane Creek Mine, Walker County, Alabama in compliance with federal and state regulations. The project was conducted on April 5, 2013 by Michael Farmer and Shanda Davidson. The investigation resulted in the recording and evaluation of one historic structure within the project boundaries. Structure 1 (The Burton House) and its associated outbuildings are recommended as ineligible for listing in the Alabama and National Registers due to their lack of historic integrity. Based on the findings of this Phase I survey, no further archaeological studies are recommended for the subject property.



Michael Farmer
Staff Archaeologist



Shanda Davidson
Architectural Historian



Paul D. Jackson
Principal Investigator

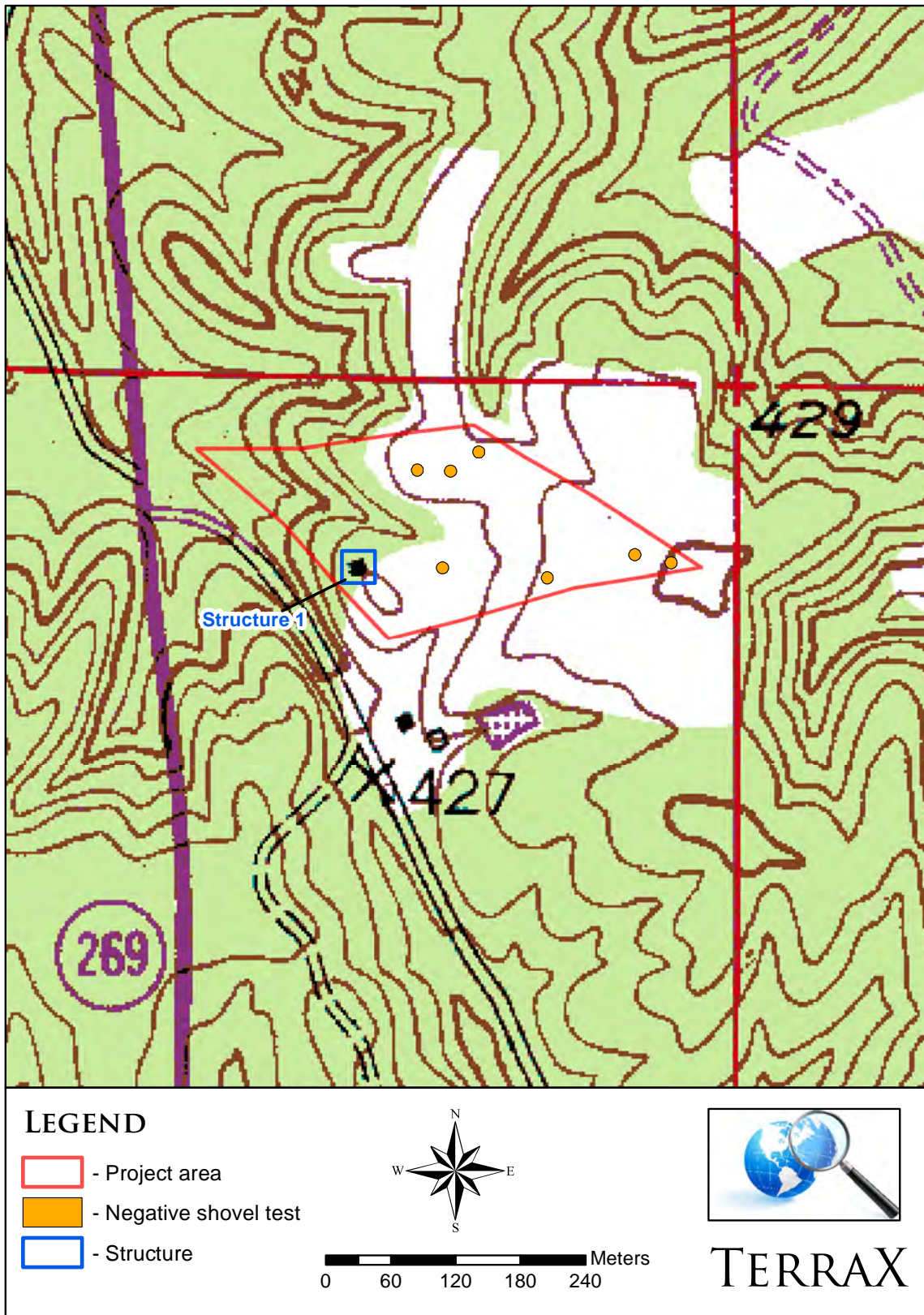


Figure 5. Map showing structure and shovel test locations within the project boundaries (based on the 1949 [photorevised 1981] Jasper, Alabama, USGS 7.5' series topographic quadrangle).



Figure 6. View of Structure 1 (Burton House), looking north.



Figure 7. View of Structure 1 (Burton House) garage, looking northeast.



Figure 8. View of chicken house associated with Structure 1 (Burton House), looking northeast.



Figure 9. View of livestock pen associated with Structure 1 (Burton House), looking northeast.

REFERENCES

Alabama Historical Commission

- 2002 Alabama Historical Commission Policy for Archaeological Survey and Testing in Alabama. Alabama Historical Commission, Alabama State Historic Preservation Office (ALSHPO), Montgomery, Alabama. Adopted May 13, 1996, Revised October 1, 2002.
- 2013 Alabama Register of Landmarks and Heritage. Electronic document available online at <http://preserveala.org/alabamaregister.aspx>. Accessed on April 11, 2013. Alabama Historical Commission, Montgomery, Alabama.

Holstein, Harry O. and Curtis E. Hill

- 1999 *An Archaeological Pedestrian Phase I Survey Survey of the Proposed Hay Valley Mine Project, Walker County, Alabama.*

National Park Service

- 2013 National Register of Historic Places. Electronic document available online at <http://www.nps.gov/nr/research/>. Accessed on April 11, 2013. Department of the Interior, Washington, D.C.

Office of Archaeological Research

- 2013 Alabama State Archaeological Site Files. The University of Alabama, Moundville, Alabama. Secure access website, accessed on April 11, 2013.

Stevens, Robert W.

- 1992 *Soil Survey of Walker County, Alabama.* Soil Conservation Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C.

The University of Alabama

- 2013 Physiographic Regions. Electronic document available online at <http://alabamamaps.ua.edu/contemporarymaps/alabama/physical/index.html>. Accessed on April 11, 2013. Produced by the Department of Geography, University of Alabama.

APPENDIX A
CURATION AGREEMENT

University of Alabama Museums
Office of Archaeological Research

THE UNIVERSITY OF
ALABAMA
MUSEUMS

April 20, 2012

Paul Jackson
TerraXplorations
3523 18th Avenue NE
Tuscaloosa AL 35406

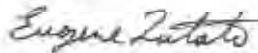
Dear Paul:

As per your request, this letter is to confirm our standing agreement with you to provide curation services to TerraXplorations on an as-needed basis. As you know, we are recognized by a variety of Federal agencies as a repository meeting the standards in 36 CFR Part 79 and have formal agreements to provide curation under these guidelines to agencies such as the National Park Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Soil Conservation Service, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Tennessee Valley Authority, National Forest Service, etc.

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

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

Sincerely,



Eugene M. Futato RPA
Deputy Director

13075 Moundville
Archaeological Park
Moundville, Alabama 35474
(205) 371-2266
or (205) 371-2494

APPENDIX B
HISTORIC BUILDING SURVEY FORM



ALABAMA HISTORICAL COMMISSION
The State Historic Preservation Office

468 S. Perry Street
Montgomery, Alabama 36130-0900
Voice: (334)242-3184
Fax: (334)262-1083
www.preserveala.org

HISTORIC BUILDING SURVEY FORM

I. Location/Ownership

AHC Survey Number:	W/a 00001	Form completed by:	Shanda Davidson	Date:	April 10, 2013
Property Name:	Burton House				
Location/Street Address:	East side of Hay Valley Road				
City/Zip:	Parrish 35880	County:	Walker		
USGS Quad:	Jasper	Township/Range/Section:	14S/7W/33		
Current Owner's Name & Contact Info (if known):	William J. Burton 209 Hay Valley Road, Parrish 35580				

2. Physical Description

Construction date:	c. 1920-1960	Source:	architectural evidence
Alteration date:	unknown	Source:	
Architect/Builder:	unknown	Contractor:	unknown
Physical condition: (Excellent, Good, Fair, Poor, Ruinous)	Poor	Remaining historic fabric: (High, Medium, Low)	Low
No. of stories:	One		
Historic use of property:	Dwelling		
Current use of property:	Vacant		
Architectural style category:	None	Architectural style sub-category:	None
Basic typology:	Bungalow	Basic shape:	Square
Basic floor plan:	Hall-and-Parlor	Historic Construction material(s):	Wood frame
Current exterior wall material(s)	Asphalt	Roof finish material(s):	Metal
Main roof configuration:	Front gable	Foundation material:	Rock supports
Porch type:	Rear porch		
Window type and materials:	1/1, wood, double hung; 6/6, wood, double hung		
Describe alterations:	W side: shed with livestock ramp; N side wood frame shed; E side wood frame carport		
Number and type of all outbuildings: (if significant, fill out separate survey form)	Wood frame with metal roof livestock pen and chicken house - very poor condition		
Exterior Architectural Description:	This is a square, one story, wood frame hall-and-parlor bungalow-style house. The roof is front gable with standing seam metal. The exterior is covered in rolled asphalt siding that resembles brick. The house is open underneath and supported by large rocks balanced by a brick. The wood, double hung windows are 1/1 and 6/6.		
Description of Setting:	The house is located in a rural area of Walker County on Hay Valley Road which is located off Highway 269 south of Jasper. The immediate area surrounding the house is overgrown with vegetation, and the house is accessed by a grassy, dirt road. Adjacent to the property is an occupied brick Ranch-style house.		
Historical Notes:			

3. Eligibility

Appears Eligible for Alabama Register:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> would contribute to a district	<input type="checkbox"/> Undetermined
Appears Eligible for National Register:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> would contribute to a district	<input type="checkbox"/> Undetermined
AR Criteria:	<input type="checkbox"/> A	<input type="checkbox"/> B	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C	<input type="checkbox"/> D <input type="checkbox"/> Undetermined
NR Criteria:	<input type="checkbox"/> A	<input type="checkbox"/> B	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C	<input type="checkbox"/> D <input type="checkbox"/> Undetermined
Level of Significance:	<input type="checkbox"/> Local	<input type="checkbox"/> State	<input type="checkbox"/> National	<input type="checkbox"/> Undetermined
Justification of Eligibility/Ineligibility:	This house was evaluated under Criteria C, Architecture. Although the building maintains most its integrity of location, design, materials, and workmanship, the house is in such a state of disrepair that the remaining integrity has been compromised.			