



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

FRANK W. WHITE  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

September 16, 2008

TEL: 334-242-3184  
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Keith Madison  
Goodwyn, Mills & Cawood  
44750 Highway 17  
Vernon, Alabama 35592

Re: AHC 08-1095  
Cultural Resource Assessment  
Shannon Mine No. 2  
Jefferson County, Alabama

Dear Mr. Madison:

Upon review of the cultural resource assessment conducted by P. E. LaMoreaux, 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 postholes, 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 efforts on this project. Should you have any please contact Greg Rhinehart at (334) 230-2662. 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

cc: Terry Lolley, PELA



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

FRANK W. WHITE  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
August 28, 2008

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

Keith Madison  
Goodwyn, Mills & Cawood  
44750 Highway 17  
Vernon, Alabama 35592

Re: AHC 08-1095  
Cultural Resource Assessment  
Shannon Mine No. 2  
Jefferson County, Alabama

Dear Mr. Madison:

We are in consultation with P. E. LaMoreaux regarding the cultural resource assessment conducted for this project. We will forward our comments to you as soon as possible.

We appreciate your efforts on this project. Should you have any please contact Greg Rhinehart at (334) 230-2662. 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 Resource Assessment  
For The Proposed Shannon Mine No. 2  
In Jefferson County, Alabama**



**Prepared For:**

Goodwyn, Mills, and Cawood, Inc.  
44750 Highway 17  
Vernon, Alabama 35592

**Prepared By:**

PE LaMoreaux & Associates, Inc.  
P.O. Box 12  
Lauderdale, MS 39335

August 21, 2008

  
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Terry L. Lolley, M.A., R.P.A.  
Archaeologist



## INTRODUCTION

In August 2008, an archaeological team from P.E. LaMoreaux and Associates, Inc. (PELA) conducted a cultural resource survey for Twin Pines Coal Co., Inc.'s proposed Shannon Mine No. 2 in southwest Jefferson County, Alabama. The purpose of this investigation was to locate and document any prehistoric or historic archaeological resources present, and to obtain sufficient data about those resources to allow PELA to make any recommendations for avoidance or mitigation of adverse impacts to any sites from the proposed activities.

The project area (Figures 1 and 2) is comprised of approximately 821 acres, with the majority previously surface mined, clear cut, and/or surveyed. The survey was conducted in Sections 21, 22, 27, 28, 29, 31, 32, and 33 of Township 19 South, Range 5 West on the McCalla (USGS 1980) topographic quadrangle. Graphics documenting the present state of the area with regard to terrain, general flora, and previous land-use are provided within this report (Figures 2 through 7).

Terry Lolley served as Principal Investigator for this project and was assisted in the field by Curt Spikes and Jimmy Mawk. The fieldwork was conducted on August 15<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>, 2008.

## LITERATURE AND DOCUMENT SEARCH

Prior to the fieldwork, a background literature review was performed. Neither the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) nor the Alabama Tapestry lists any historic properties within the project area. The 1908 Jefferson County Soil Survey map, the 1932 Yolanda 15' topographic

quadrangle, and the 1939 and 1967 Jefferson County Highway maps (ALDOT) indicated no structures within the project area at those times. Aerial photographs from the mid-1950s and 1960s indicate that some of the previous mining in the project area was taking place during those periods. The buildings that appear within the project area on the topographic quadrangle (USGS 1980) no longer exist and the area is currently in planted pines and contains ponds and spoil piles.

The primary source of information for the research was the Alabama State Archaeological Site Files (ASASF) maintained at the University of Alabama's Office of Archaeological Services at the Moundville Archaeological Park, Moundville, Alabama. An examination of the site file maps and site forms indicated five previously recorded sites in the vicinity (Figure 1). Sites 1Je214, 215, 216, and 217 each consisted of lithic scatters greatly disturbed from clear cutting and road construction (Meyer 1990). Site 1Je452 was also recorded as a lithic scatter in a disturbed area. The report for 1Je452 was not readily available for reference. A third survey was also conducted in the southern portion of the project area with no findings (Morgan 1985). None of the sites recorded within or adjacent to the project area was recommended as eligible or potentially eligible to the NRHP.

## FIELD METHODS

The project area lies within the Warrior Basin physiographic district. Elevation for the project area ranges from 480 to 640 feet above mean sea level. This portion of the county consists of many areas of current and previous surface and subsurface mining operations. The project area is characterized by moderate to very steep slopes either barren of trees or covered

with planted pines. High walls from previous mining operations were observed. Several ponds and other areas inundated from the previous mining operations were also present. An extensive number of roads traverse the project area (Figure 1) as well as two powerline right of ways. The central portion of the project area was mined at the time of the topographic mapping. The majority of the project area south of the old railroad bed has been mined since the previous surveys were performed. Large amounts of shale, sandstone, and coal tailings are present on the ground surface.

The Jefferson County Soil Survey (Spivey 1981) indicates three primary soil types within the project area. In general, the soil within the project area is poorly suited to cultivation due to the likelihood of severe erosion and lack of topsoil.

**Montevallo-Nauvoo association, steep.** This is a well-drained, moderately steep to very steep soil on highly dissected ridgetops, side slopes, and lower slopes. The surface layer is very dark gray shaly silt loam approximately 12 centimeters thick. The subsoil is yellowish-brown very shaly silt loam. Weathered shale and sandstone are common. This soil was present in areas not previously surface mined.

**Palmerdale complex, steep.** This complex consists of steep soils on surface mining spoil piles. This complex was present across much of the project area.

**Dump.** These are areas of coal mine tailings composed of shale and bedrock fragments. This mapping was limited to the western portion of the project area.

The survey was conducted in accordance with procedural standards set by the Alabama Historical Commission. Land coverage

requirements were achieved by physically walking and visually examining the project area. Any roads and areas of ground surface exposure that were not obviously disturbed were visually examined for cultural material. Although the previous survey (Meyer 1990) was conducted prior to the 1996 AHC survey guidelines, the area surveyed has since been logged or mined and the extent of disturbances negated the need for a resurvey. However, recorded site locations within the project area were examined to determine present site conditions.

A standard 30 meter interval transect pattern was employed where previous ground disturbance or slope did not preclude excavation (Figure 1). The majority of the project area did not require investigation due to previous surface mining, roads, ponds, and steep slope. Shovel tests were excavated at 30 meter intervals along any transects. Excavated shovel tests consisted of standard 30 centimeter (cm) diameter cylindrical holes excavated to the top of the underlying subsoil. Shovel test soils were passed through a 1/4" wire mesh screen to recover any cultural materials, which may have been present. All roads within the project area and outside of previously mined terrain were traversed and examined for cultural material. The use of a handheld GPS and digital topographic maps aided in transect and shovel test mapping. The device has a stated accuracy between 3 to 5 meters. A total of 55 transect shovel tests were excavated in the project area.

## LABORATORY METHODS AND COLLECTION CURATION

All project records and cultural material collected from cultural resource surveys are periodically transported for curation at the Office of Archaeological Research, Erskine Ramsay

Archaeological Repository, at the University of Alabama Museums, Moundville.

## **SURVEY RESULTS AND EVALUATION**

The survey was initiated in the southwestern portion of the project area where Black Diamond was mapped (Figures 1 through 3). This portion of the project area no longer contains any structures and has been disturbed from previous mining, clear cutting, and planting activities. The many roads that traverse the project area were used to gain access to the area on the south side of the old railroad bed. The majority of this area was previously surveyed and subsequently mined and/or clear cut (Figures 4 and 5). The landscape is currently open fields or planted pines. Transects were limited to those areas not previously surveyed or surveyed but with no observable ground disturbance. These factors resulted in transects traversed primarily between the railroad bed and the previously surveyed areas (Figures 1 and 6). The transects traversed rolling terrain with few areas of level ground surface.

In addition to several small ponds, a long water-filled pit was present along the edge of the project area in Section 28 (Figure 1). The ground surface for a great distance around these pits was badly disturbed from previous mining, road construction, and clear cutting.

On the north side of the railroad bed and the strip mine area mapped on the McCalla quadrangle (USGS 1980), the terrain was steeply sloped and eroded (Figure 7). Shovel tests were only conducted on the ridges at the edge of the project area or along the bottom of the slopes where the previous mining disturbance was not as great.

Previously recorded site locations for 1Je214, 215, 216, and 217 were examined to determine their current status. No evidence of the sites was observed on the ground surface. Each of the locations was described by the initial recorders as destroyed from previous disturbances. In most instances, the mapped site locations were along roads, previously mined through, or are now in areas that have been cleared of all vegetation to expose sandstone and shale. None of the sites was recommended as potentially eligible or eligible to the NRHP by the initial recorders.

Soils within the project area were compact, shaly, and exhibited shallow surface layers where subsoil or rock was not exposed. Where observed, the surface soil layer was dark yellowish-brown (10YR4/6) shaly silt loam no greater than eight centimeters in thickness. The subsoil was a very shaly yellowish-brown (10YR5/6) silt loam.

A vehicular and pedestrian survey for standing structures indicated there were no standing structures within or adjacent to the project area (Figure 1) over 50 years in age. The nearest structures are located south of the mapped Black Diamond community (Figure 1). These consist of a manufactured home, a brick church and cemetery, and modern houses. The fenced cemetery is outside the project area and clearly demarcated.

Although cultural resources have been recorded in portions of the project area, the area remaining that has not been previously disturbed or surveyed consisted of steep slope, previous surface mines, and other areas unlikely to result in the recording of cultural resources. The surface soil within the project area was thin and composed of large quantities of shale and sandstone. It is apparent that the previous surveys

were able to record the existing cultural resources prior to their complete destruction. The remaining area for the current survey was not ideal for prehistoric or historic settlements.

### RECOMMENDATIONS

This survey was conducted by P.E. LaMoreaux & Associates, Inc.

(PELA) for Twin Pines Coal Co., Inc. through Goodwyn, Mills, and Cawood, Inc. in compliance with Federal and State regulations. No archaeological sites were recorded through the course of the field investigation. It is PELA's opinion that the project area be cleared from further cultural resource investigations.

### REFERENCES

- Alabama Department of Transportation  
1939 Jefferson County Highway Map.  
1967 Jefferson County Highway Map.
- Meyer, Jeff  
1990 *An Archaeological Reconnaissance Survey of a Proposed Strip Mine Impact Area in West Jefferson County, Alabama.* Performed for Black Diamond Coal Mining Company. University of Alabama, Alabama State Museum of Natural History, Division of Archaeology, Moundville, Alabama.
- Morgan, Eddie  
1985 *Cultural Resource Evaluation of the Proposed Oswayo #5 Mine Site, Jefferson County, Alabama.* Performed for Black Diamond Coal Mining Company.
- Spivey, Lawson D., Jr.  
1981 *Soil Survey of Jefferson County.* United States Department of Agriculture, Washington D.C.
- United States Department of Agriculture  
1908 Soil Survey Map of Jefferson County, Alabama.
- United States Geological Survey  
1932 Yolanda 15' Topographic Quadrangle.  
1980 McCalla 7.5 Minute Topographic Quadrangle.  
2006 Aerial Photograph.

**FIGURES**

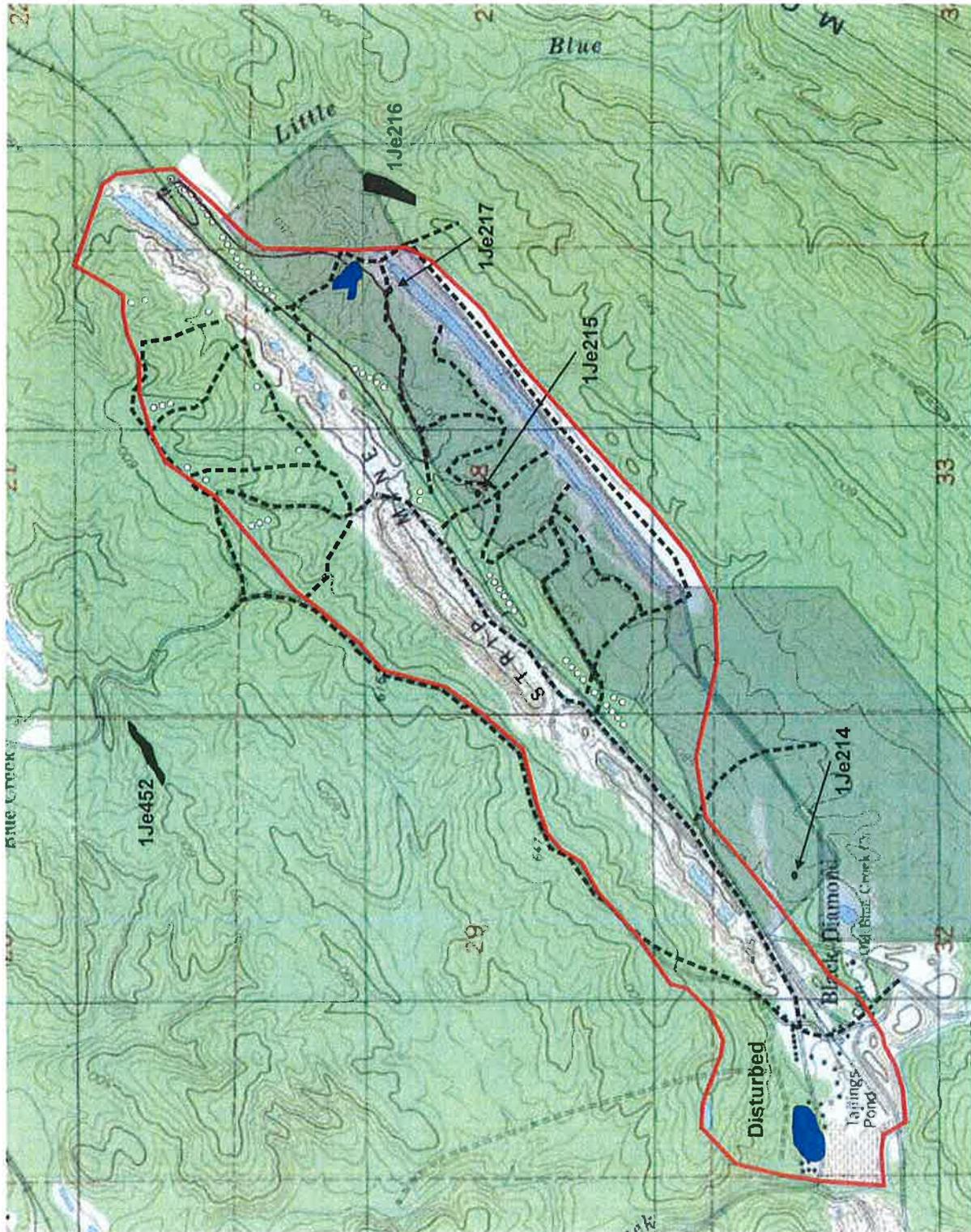


Figure 1. Project Area and Survey Coverage (McCalla 1980 USGS 7.5' Topographic Quadrangle).

- Negative Shovel Test
- Road
- ▒ Previously Surveyed/Mined

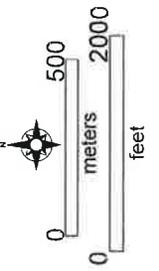




Figure 2. Approximate Project Area Location (Aerial Photo USGS 2006)



Figure 3. View of the Southwestern Portion of the Project Area.



Figure 4. Previously Mined and Surveyed Area.



Figure 5. Previously Mined Area in Section 28.



Figure 6. Example of Transect Areas South of Railroad Bed.



Figure 7. View in the Northern Portion of the Project Area.