

University of Alabama Museums
Office of Archaeological Research

December 5, 2011



Mr. Keith Madison
Shannon, LLC
74 Industrial Parkway
Jasper, Alabama 35501

OAR PROJECT NUMBER: 12-127
AHC TRACKING NUMBER: 10-0558

Dear Mr. Madison:

Please find enclosed for your company a copy of our recent report entitled "A Phase I Cultural Resources Survey for a Proposed Shannon Mine no. 3 Access Road and Cemetery Delineation for Located near Johns in Jefferson County, Alabama", by V. Stephen Jones of our staff. Please note that SHPO has 30 days to comment on our findings.

It has been a pleasure to be of service to Shannon, LLC. Please feel free to call for further information or services.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "MDG".

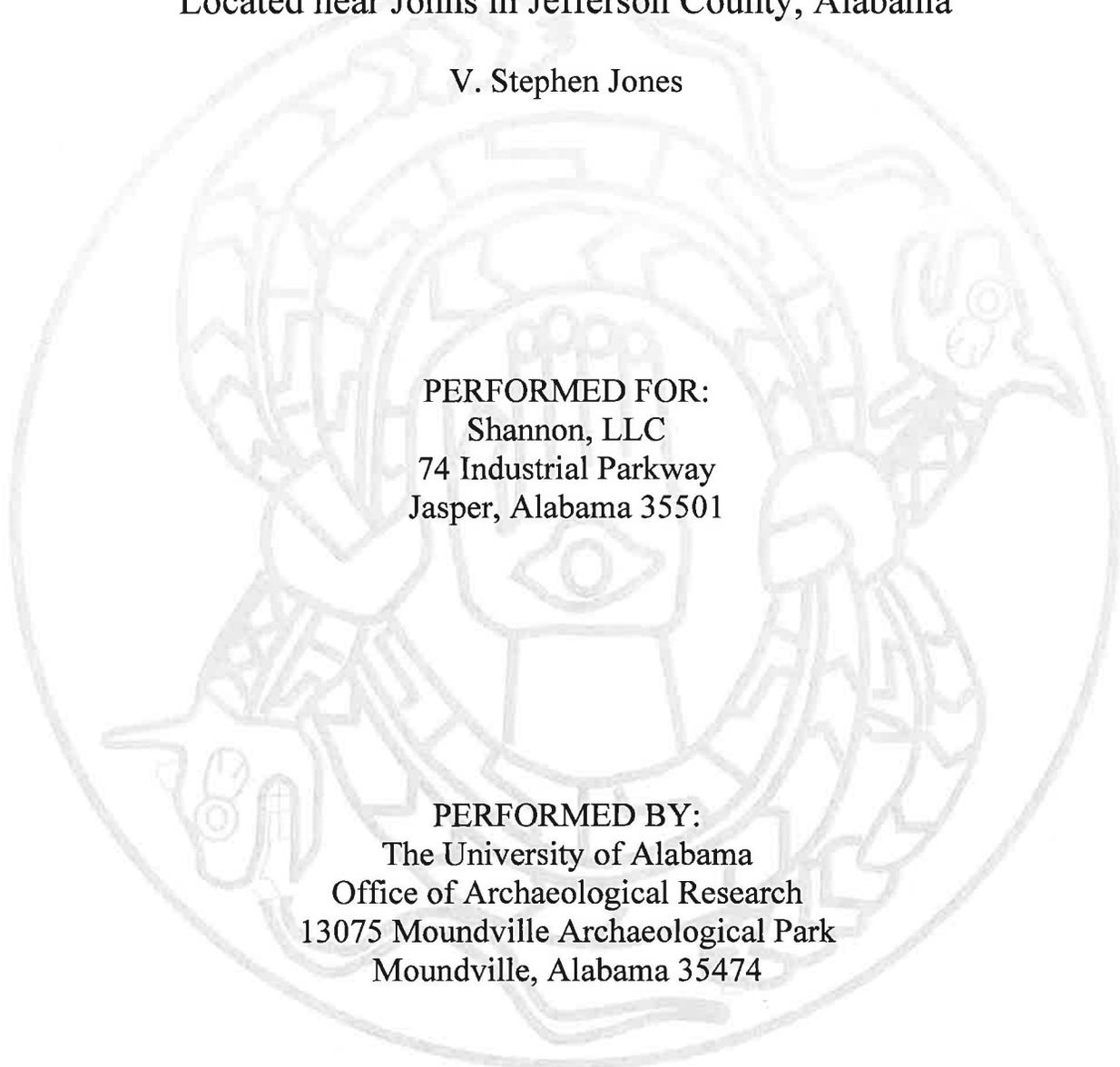
Matthew D. Gage/Director
The University of Alabama
Office of Archaeological Research

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Enclosures: Survey Report
Invoice for Professional Services

A Phase I Cultural Resources Survey for a Proposed
Shannon Mine No. 3 Access Road and Cemetery Delineation
Located near Johns in Jefferson County, Alabama

V. Stephen Jones



PERFORMED FOR:
Shannon, LLC
74 Industrial Parkway
Jasper, Alabama 35501

PERFORMED BY:
The University of Alabama
Office of Archaeological Research
13075 Moundville Archaeological Park
Moundville, Alabama 35474

December 2011

OFFICE OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCH

The University of Alabama

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December 5, 2011

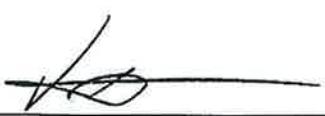
**A PHASE I CULTURAL RESOURCES SURVEY FOR A PROPOSED
SHANNON MINE NO. 3 ACCESS ROAD AND CEMETERY
DELINEATION LOCATED NEAR JOHNS IN JEFFERSON COUNTY,
ALABAMA**

OAR PROJECT NUMBER: 12-127
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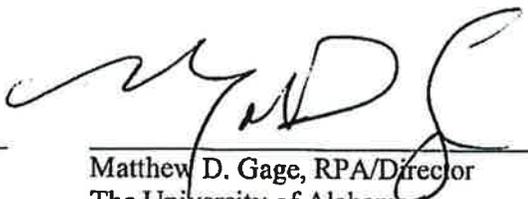
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PERFORMED BY: V. Stephen Jones, Cultural Resources Technician
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DATE PERFORMED: November 3-7, 2011



V. Stephen Jones
Cultural Resources Technician
Office of Archaeological Research



Matthew D. Gage, RPA/Director
The University of Alabama
Office of Archaeological Research

***A Phase I Cultural Resources Survey for a Proposed
Shannon Mine No. 3 Access Road and Cemetery Delineation
Located near Johns in Jefferson County, Alabama***

V. Stephen Jones

Management Summary

The University of Alabama, Office of Archaeological Research (OAR) was contracted by Shannon, LLC to perform a Phase I cultural resources survey and cemetery delineation for the proposed Shannon Mine No. 3, located near the community of Adger in Jefferson County, Alabama. The proposed project consists of 2 areas: Area 1 is a proposed 30.5 m (100 ft) wide access road extending for approximately 2.73 km (1.7 mi) and comprising approximately 8.9 ha (20 acres). Area 2 is a historic cemetery approximately 1.56 ha (3.5 acres) in size. Field investigations for the project were undertaken between November 3-7, 2011. V. Stephen Jones, (Cultural Resources Technician) serves as the project director and Matthew D. Gage, RPA, Director of OAR served as the Principal Investigator for the project.

During the cultural resources survey, no archaeological sites were identified. The historic cemetery was identified and added to the Alabama State Site File (ASSF) as a result of a previous cultural resources survey conducted by OAR (Mizelle 2010). The cemetery was revisited and the boundaries were defined and flagged for avoidance for the proposed mining operations.

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***A Phase I Cultural Resources Survey for a Proposed
Shannon Mine No. 3 Access Road and Cemetery Delineation
Located near Johns in Jefferson County, Alabama***

V. Stephen Jones

Introduction

The University of Alabama, Office of Archaeological Research (OAR) was contracted by Shannon, LLC to perform a Phase I cultural resources survey and cemetery delineation for the proposed Shannon Mine No. 3, located near the community of Adger in Jefferson County, Alabama. The proposed project consists of 2 areas. Area 1 is a proposed 30.5 m (100 ft) wide access road extending for approximately 2.73 km (1.7 mi) and comprising approximately 8.9 ha (20 acres). Area 2 is a historic cemetery approximately 1.56 ha (3.5 acres) in size. V. Stephen Jones, (Cultural Resources Technician), assisted by Daryl R. Berryman, (Cultural Resources Assistant) conducted the survey from November 3-7, 2011. The survey of the proposed access road conducted to locate and identify any archaeological sites or historic standing structures. The cemetery delineation was conducted to establish a buffer zone around the cemetery. The Principal Investigator for the project is Matthew D. Gage RPA, Director of OAR.

The research design of the Phase I survey is to locate and identify any archaeological sites or historic standing structures within the survey boundaries, assess their significance, and provide recommendation with regard to guidelines set forth by the National Park Service (NPS) for NRHP eligibility criteria. Included in this report is a discussion of the environmental setting of the survey area, a literature search of any previously recorded sites or previously conducted surveys within or near the survey area, a description of field and laboratory methods, the results of the cultural resources reconnaissance, and conclusions and recommendations based on the findings of this survey.

Environmental Setting

The location of the survey area can be seen on the 1980, USGS 7.5' McCalla, AL topographic quadrangle centered in the southern half of Section 19 and the northern half of Section 30. The proposed access corridor extends from the NW $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 30, northeasterly into the SE $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 19, and then for a short distance into the SW $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 20, all in T19S, R5W (Figure 1).

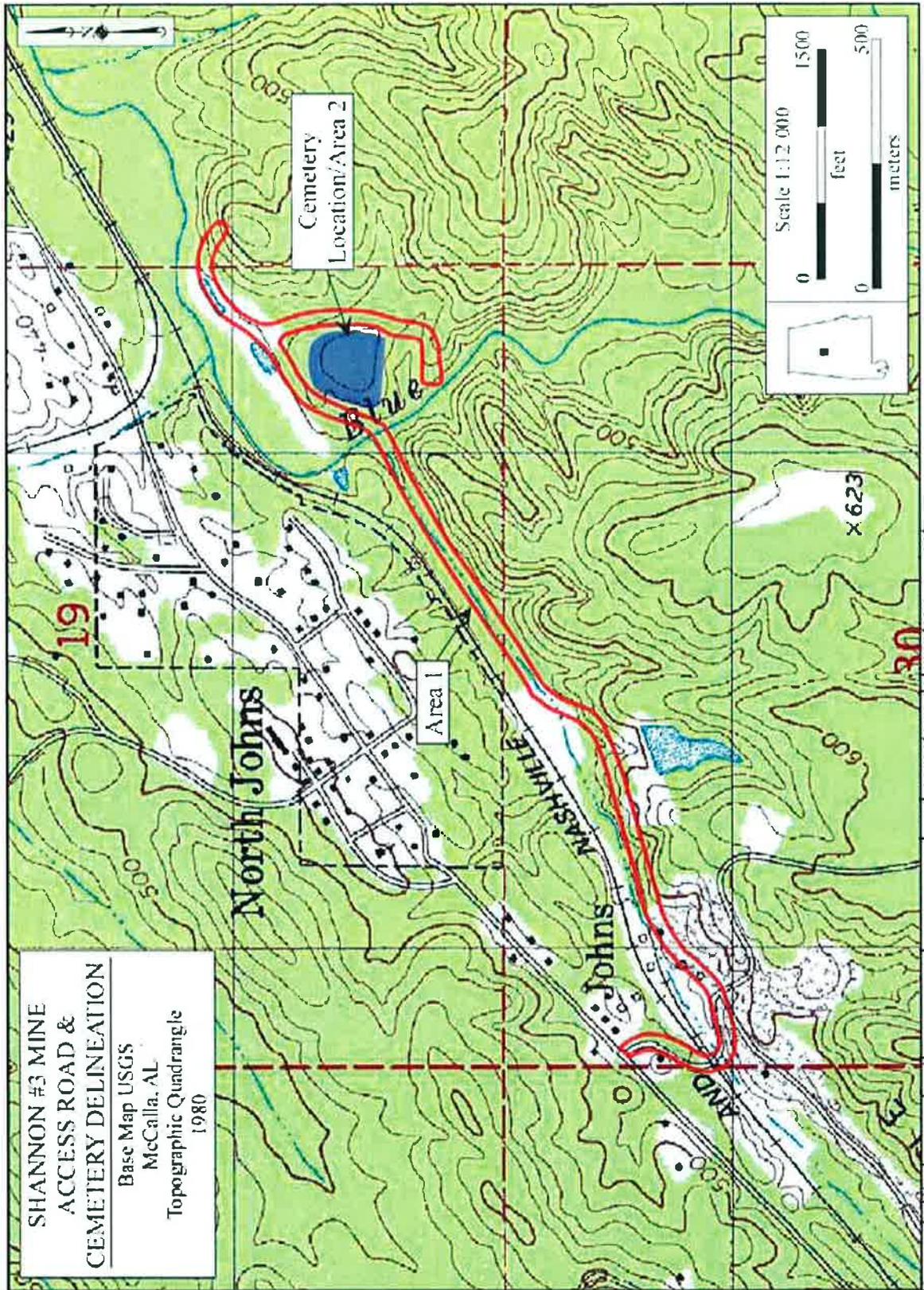


Figure 1. Study area for the proposed access road and cemetery delineation project.

Area 1 consists of an elevated roadbed coursing along the toe slopes of a series of moderate to steeply sloped uplands and the edge of a steeply incised excavated ravine. The area of the ravine appears on the topographic map as the floodplain of an unnamed intermittent tributary of Blue Creek and the Blue Creek proper. The ravine is bordered to the north by the right-of-way for the CSX rail line and the existing road bed. The origins and time of construction of the ravine are not known, but the degree of previous ground modification cannot be understated. The previous surface modification is such that the elevation contours as shown in Figure 1 no longer exist. Figures 2 and 3 are views of the ravine. Vegetation consists of secondary growth pine and hardwood, as well as some planted pine in the reclaimed areas.

Both Area 1 and 2 lie within the Warrior Basin district of the Cumberland Plateau physiographic section of Alabama. The Warrior Basin district is described as a “Synclinal Submaturely to maturely dissected sandstone and shale plateau of moderate relief” (Sapp and Emplainscourt 1975).

The National Cooperative Soil Survey (Soil Survey Staff 2011) for Jefferson County, Alabama shows 4 soil types/associations present within the survey areas (Figure 4). Due to the severely disturbed nature of Area 1, however, only the Montevallo-Nauvoo association, steep phase was found. All other shovel tests revealed highly disturbed mine tailings and fill material with no discernible stratigraphic sequence. A brief description of this soil, along with a representative soil profile follows.

Montevallo-Nauvoo association, steep (29): This map unit consists of soils on strongly dissected areas of sandstone and shale plateaus in the northern and western parts of the county. Montevallo soils have a surface layer of very dark gray shaley silt loam and dark grayish brown shaley silt loam about 6 inches thick. The subsoil is yellowish brown very shaley silt loam about 10 inches thick. Nauvoo soils are found on ridge tops and ridge sides. Typically, the surface layer is dark grayish brown fine sandy loam about 6 inches thick. The subsoil is about 36 inches thick. The upper 6 inches is yellowish brown fine sandy loam and the lower portion is about 30 inches of yellowish red clay loam

Literature and Document Search

For prior archaeological surveys conducted in the general area, the National Archaeological Database Bibliography housed at OAR, the Alabama State Site File (OAR 2002), and the Alabama Phase I Surveys Website (OAR 2008) were reviewed. Three Phase I surveys were conducted in close proximity to the survey area. All were associated with proposed surface mining activities. In 1984 Eddie M Hatcher conducted a Phase I survey of the proposed Oswayo Mine for Black Diamond Coal Mining (Hatcher 1984). This survey area lies adjacent to the western boundary of Area 1. Samuel D Mizelle, II conducted an 885 acre cultural resources survey for the proposed Shannon Mine No. 3 in Jefferson County, Alabama (Mizelle 2010). In 2011 Mizelle, conducted an additional 171 acre survey for an extension of the proposed Shannon Mine No. 3 (Mizelle 2011).



Figure 2. Ravine running adjacent to the elevated CSX rail line right-of-way. View to the north.



Figure 3. Excavated ravine. View to the north looking down from the survey corridor.

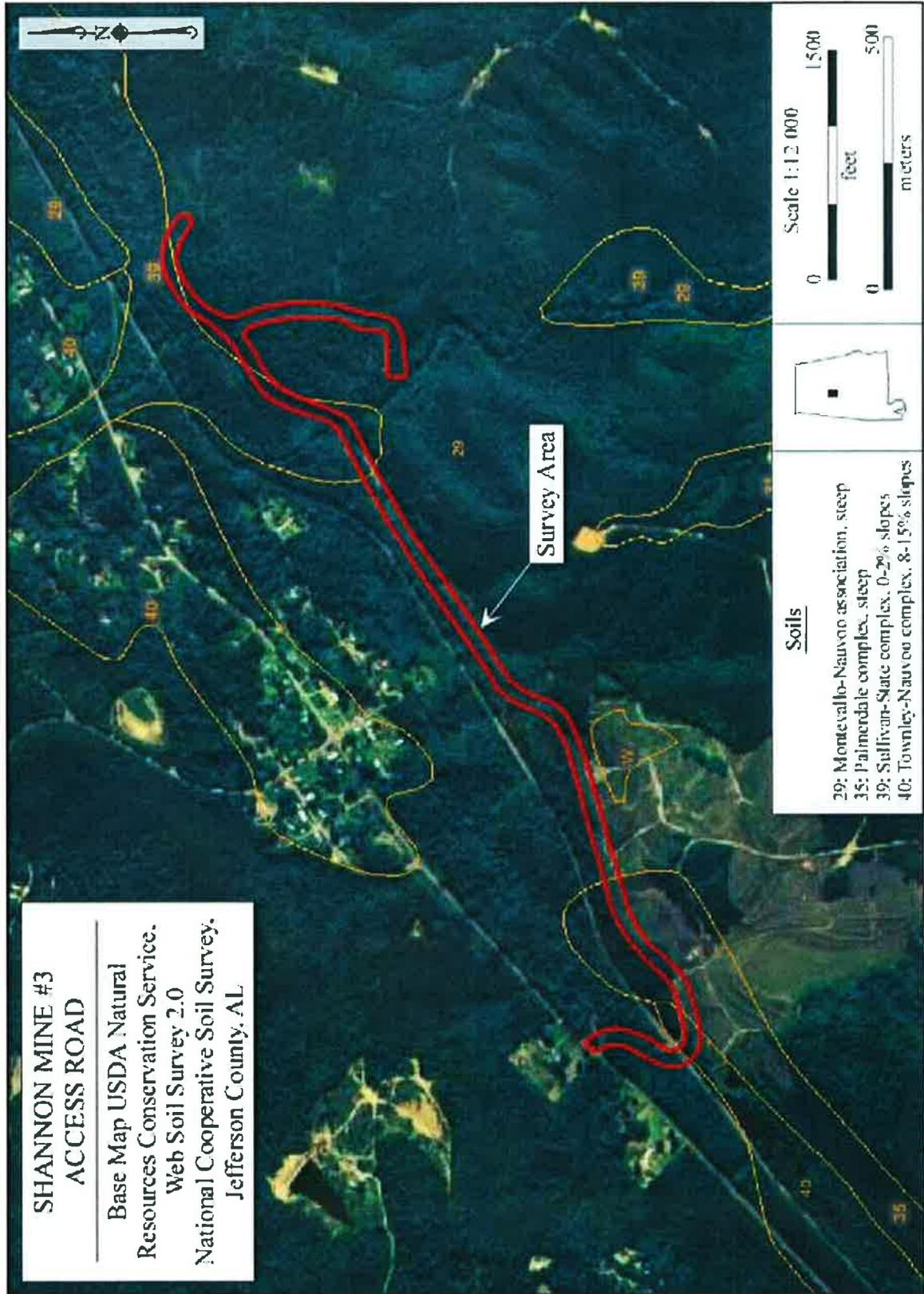


Figure 4. Aerial view of the soil types.

No cultural resources were discovered as a result of any of the surveys; however, during the course of Mizelle's 2010 survey a previously undocumented cemetery was discovered outside of the survey area. The cemetery was added to the ASSF as Site 1Je851. The cemetery boundary delineation is included in the scope of work for this report.

The NRHP and related supplements list no eligible properties located in the vicinity of the project area. The *Historical Map Index* section of the University of Alabama, Alabama Maps web site was examined for assistance in past land use patterns and development activities (Department of Geography 2011). A review of the 1908 Jefferson County, Alabama Soil Map shows previous development activities in and around Areas 1 and 2 (Figure 5). The 1932 Yolande, AL 15' topographic map indicates the location of the cemetery as well as a structure along the western bank of Blue Creek (Figure 6). This structure and the cemetery appear to be associated with the former mining community of Johns. The following is a brief description of the Johns community as presented in *The Birmingham District, An Industrial History and Guide* (White 1981:305).

The crossroads town of Johns sat at the intersection of the old Mud Creek-Oak Grove Road and the Tuscaloosa-Huntsville Road. The intersection is officially known as North Johns. South Johns which begins "just past the curve" was the site of the Black Diamond Commissary, which was a vast barn-like building where coal miners bought their shoes, overalls, mining supplies, and household items. When mining cut back, the commissary closed, sat empty and then burned.

Finally, the *Historical Atlas of Alabama, Vol. 2* listed no historic cemeteries located within the survey area (Remington 1999).

Field Methods

Field investigations consisted of a pedestrian walkover of the proposed project areas employing visual inspection of exposed ground surface and subsurface testing. Investigations were conducted by a two person crew. Per AHC guidelines, all shovel tests had a minimum diameter of 30 cm and were excavated to recognizable, culturally sterile subsoil. All excavated soil was sieved through 6.35 mm (¼ in) hardware cloth in an effort to recover cultural materials. Soil profiles were recorded for each shovel test noting soil colors, textures, and depths of soil texture/color changes and horizon boundaries. All shovel test locations were documented using global positioning systems units rated for 1-3 m accuracy. A total of 25 shovel tests was excavated in the course of this survey (Figures 24-25). Prior disturbance associated with surface mining, road and railway corridor construction, mine reclamation, sloping terrain, and the excavation of the extensive ravine, has negated the potential for areas of intact subsurface cultural deposits across most of Area 1. Extensive photographic documentation was undertaken to provide evidence of the degree of prior disturbance in Area 1. These photographs (Figures 2-3, and 7-23) are keyed to the topographic maps (Figures 24-25) showing their location.

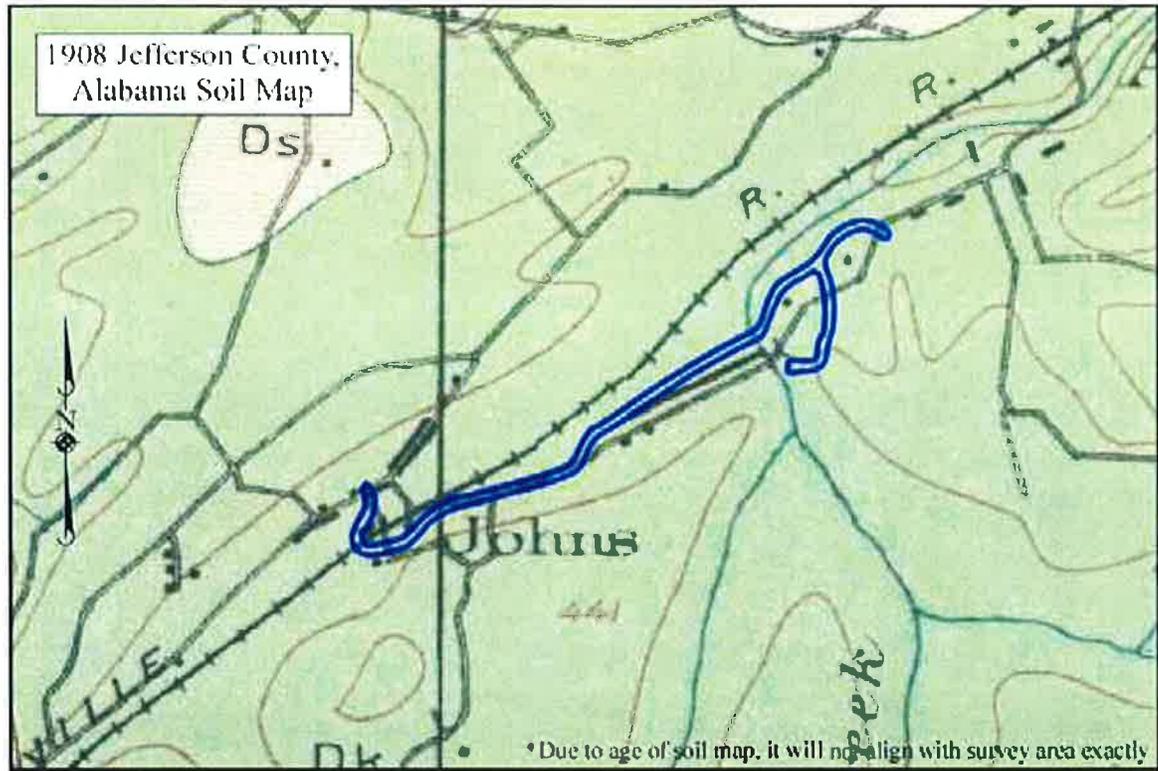


Figure 5. Previous development activities as indicated on the 1908 Jefferson County, Alabama Soil Map (Geological; Survey of Alabama: 1908)

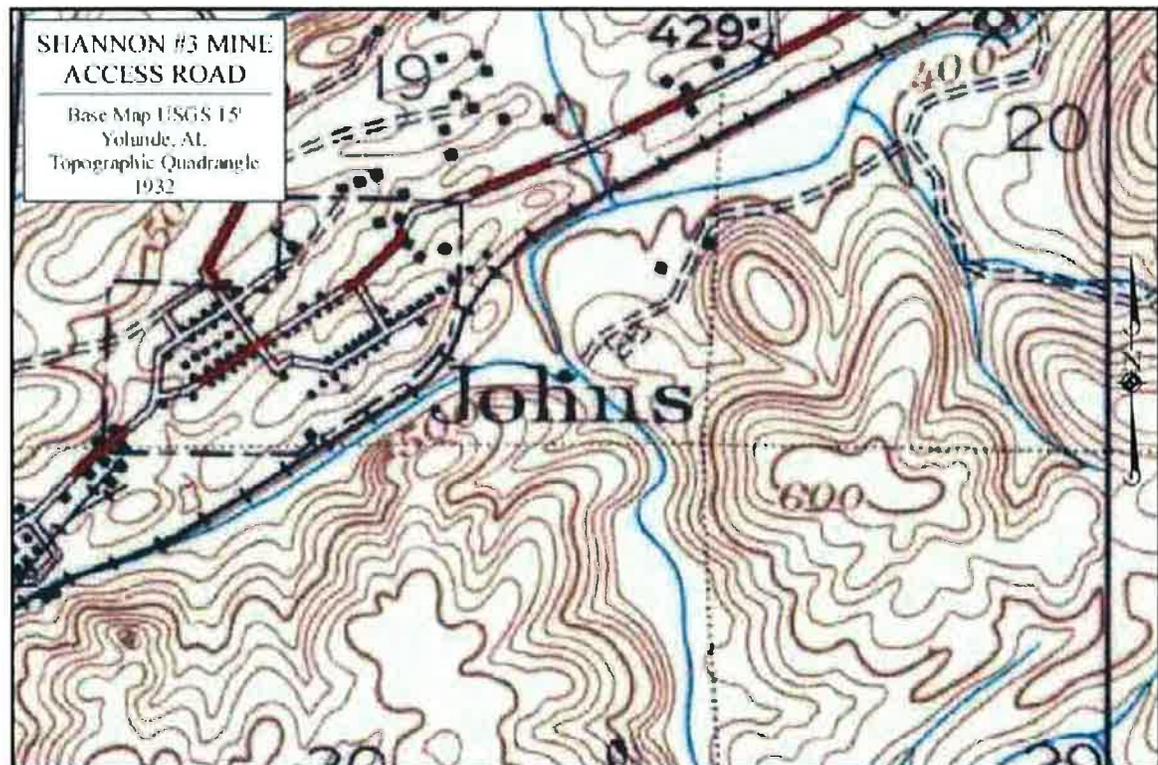


Figure 6. The cemetery location and previous development shown on the 1932 Yolande, AL 15' topographic map.



Figure 7. Western Terminus of Area 1. View to the south.



Figure 8. Area 1 at the CSX railway crossing. View to the south.



Figure 9. Cut bank profile showing severely disturbed fill material in Area 1. View to the north.



Figure 10. Steeply sloped reclaimed surface mine and planted pines in Area 1. View to the south.



Figure 11. Planted pines along a reclaimed toe slope in Area 1. View to the south.



Figure 12. Eroded area exhibiting fill material and planted pines in reclaimed surface mine in Area 1. View to the east.



Figure 13. Planted pines and eroded fill material in a reclaimed portion of Area 1. View to the south.



Figure 14. Rip-rap deposited for erosion control along a steeply sloped reclamation area. View to the south.



Figure 15. Mining debris, fill material, and trash in the excavated ravine. View to the north.



Figure 16. Elevated road bed/Area 1 corridor from within the ravine. View to the south.



Figure 17. Drainage pipe associated with mine reclamation activities crossing Area 1. View to the south.

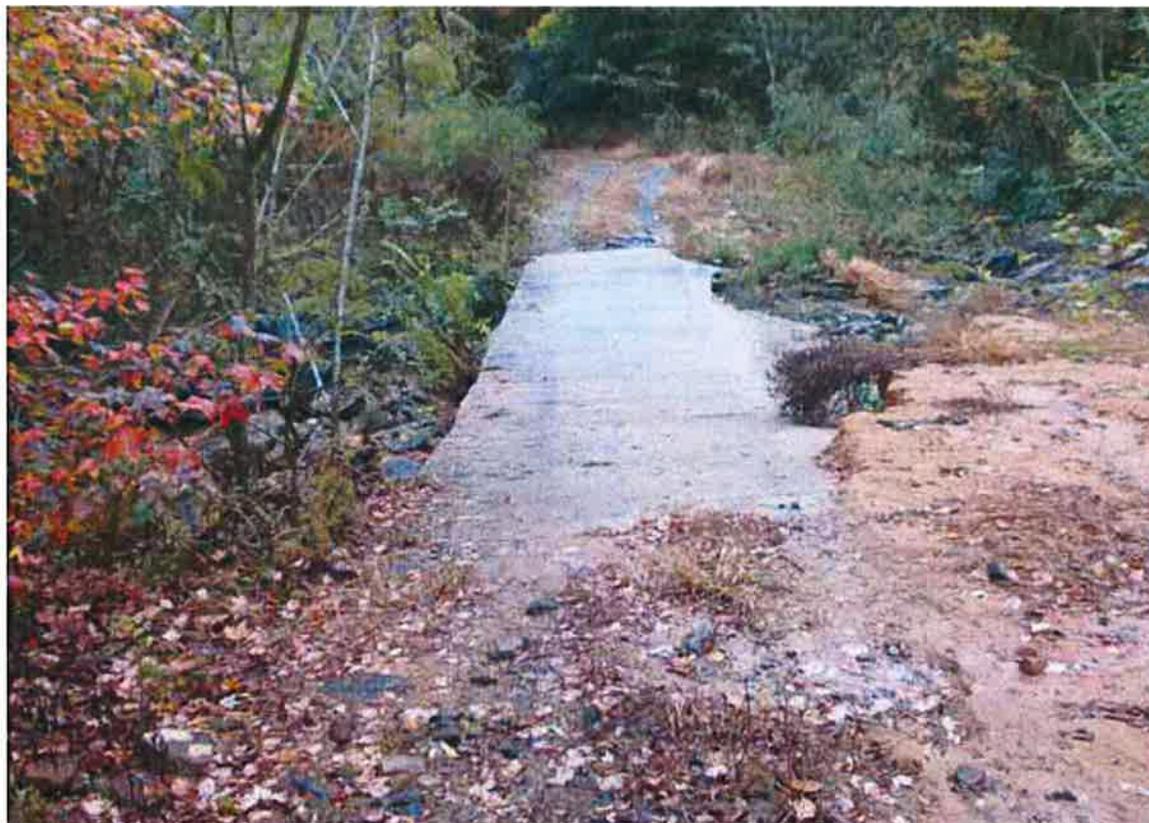


Figure 18. Concrete crossing spanning a flood overflow in Area 1. View to the east.



Figure 19. Concrete culvert under the road bed/Area 1 corridor at the Blue Creek crossing. View to the east.

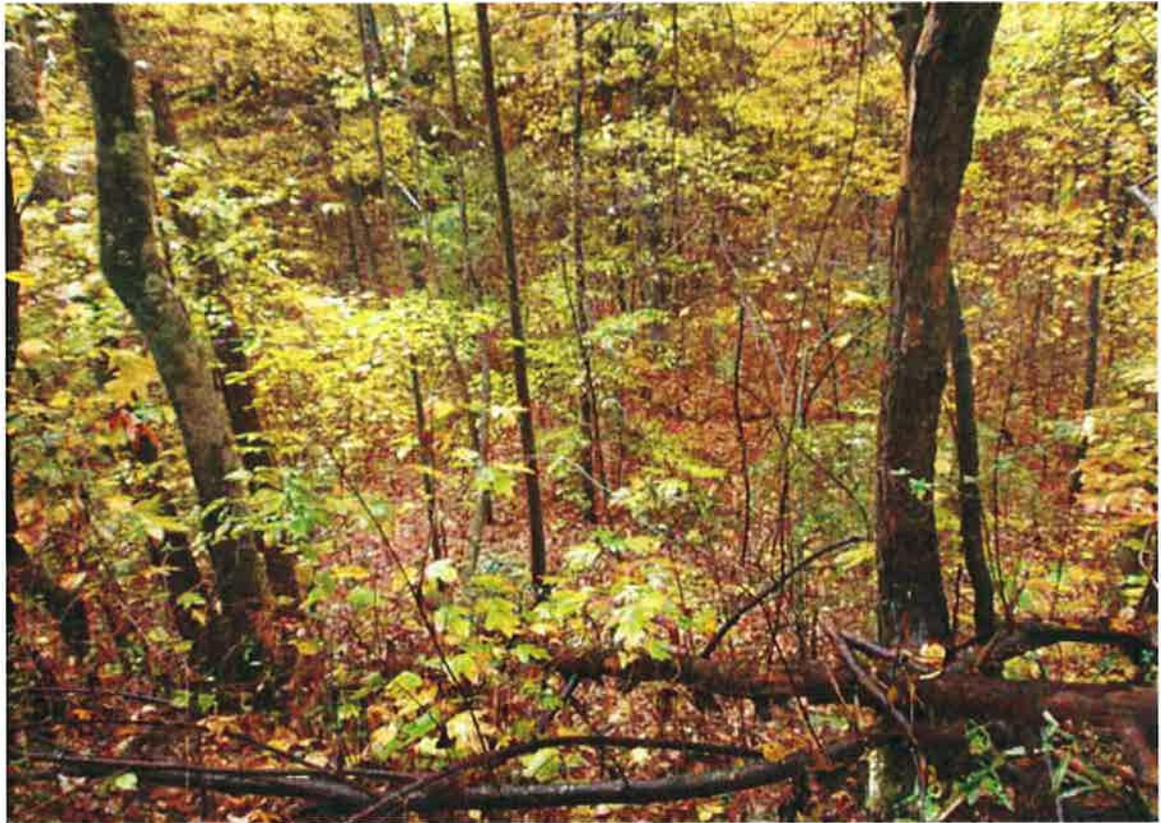


Figure 20. Excavated ravine adjacent to the cemetery location (Area 2). View to the north.



Figure 21. A game plot adjacent to Area 2 along the eastern edge of the cemetery. View to the south.



Figure 22. Cut bank profile of eroded Montevallo-Nauvoo soils to the east of the cemetery. View to the west.



Figure 23. Well house and utility infrastructure in the southernmost portion of Area 1. View to the west.

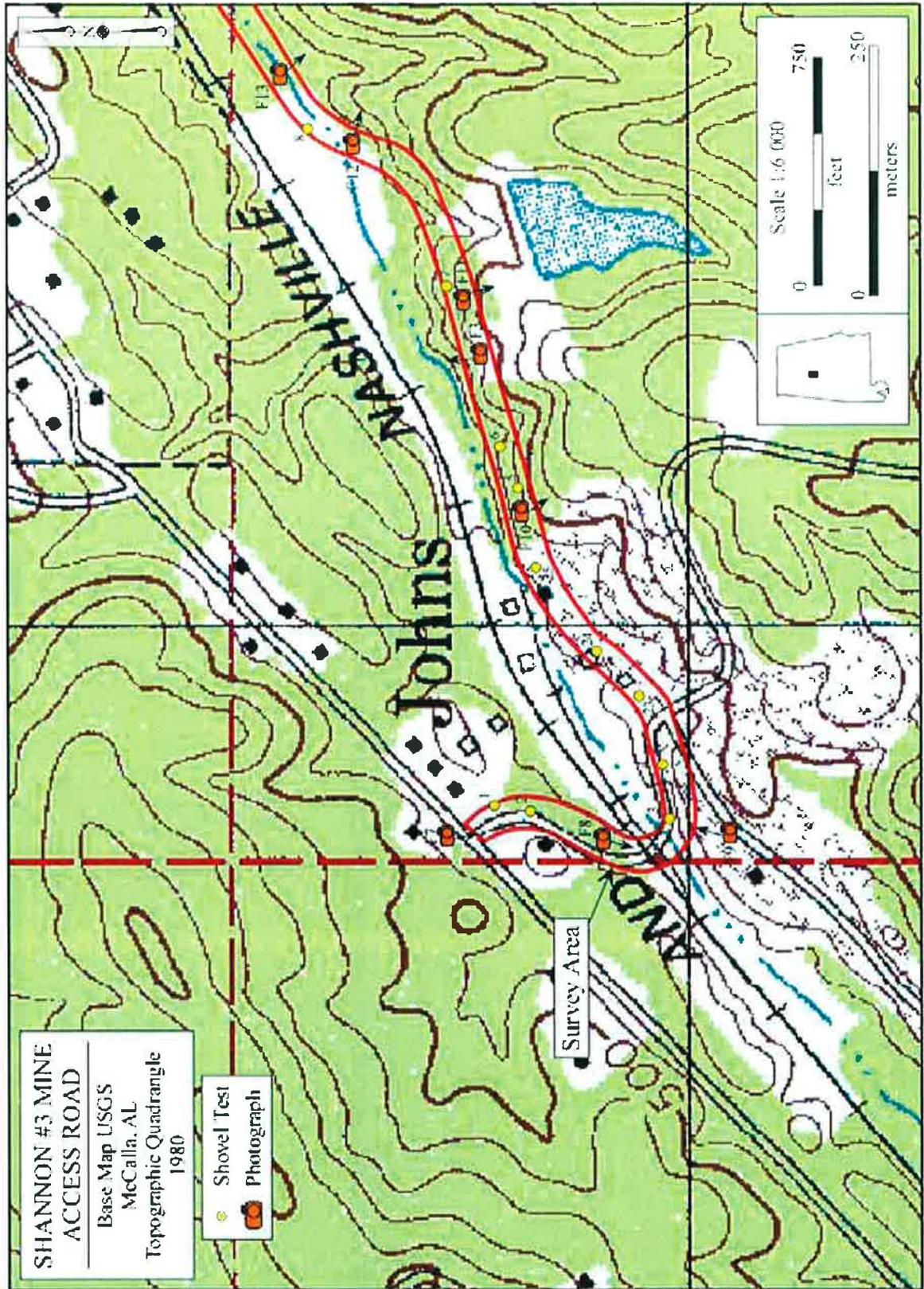


Figure 24. Shovel test and photograph locations in the western portion of Area 1.

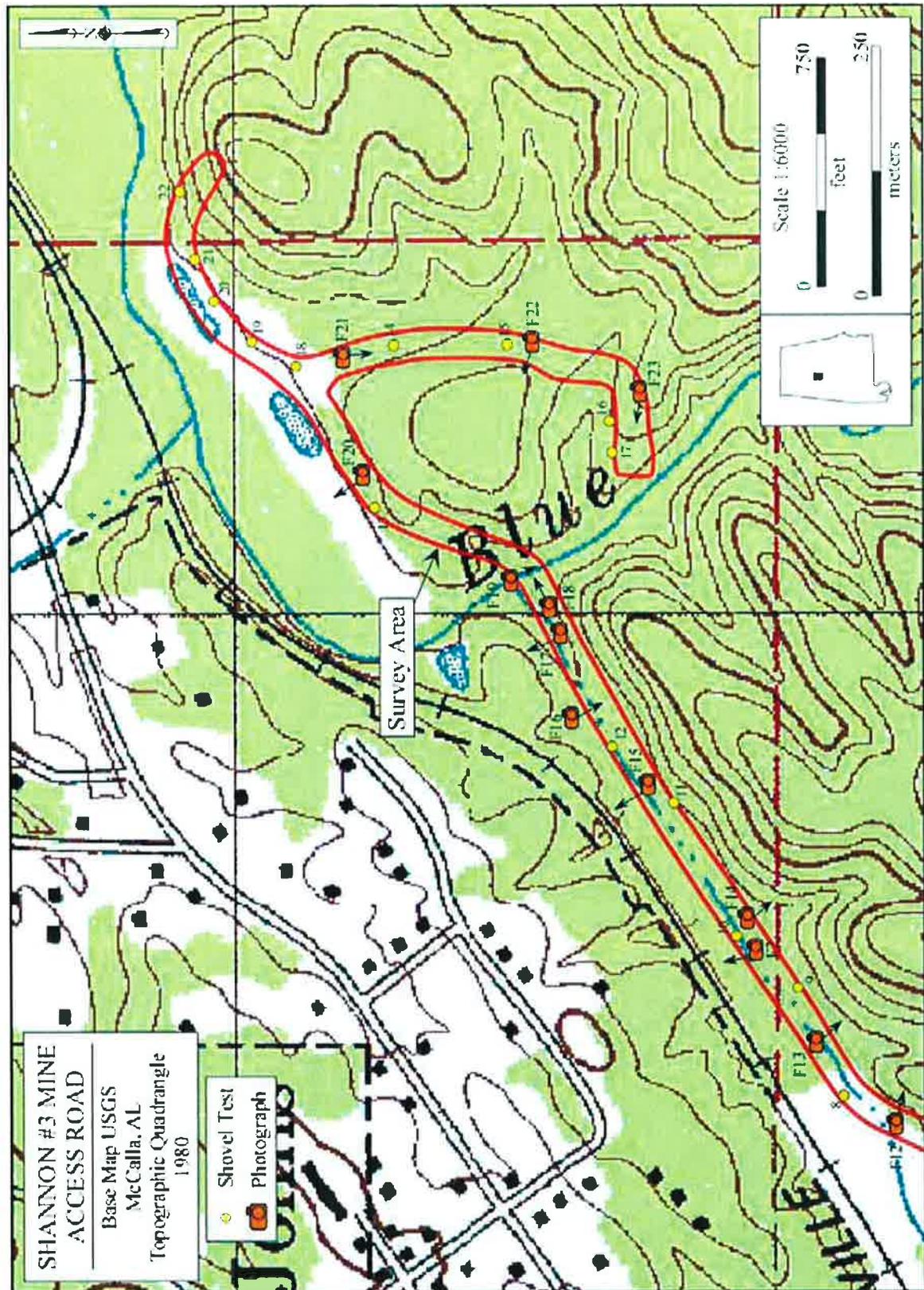


Figure 25. Shovel test and photograph locations in the eastern portion of Area 1.

Where exposed ground surface was present, initial investigations consisted of visual inspection. The locations included bare soil exposures along natural slopes, drainages, road cut-banks, road surfaces, and erosional surfaces. Where visibility was limited, shovel tests were excavated at 30 m intervals. Such areas were very limited in extent and consisted of landforms with relatively level settings (areas of less than 15 percent slope) and terraces adjacent to intermittent and permanent water courses. The 30 m interval subsurface testing method was also limited to those settings exhibiting an absence of disturbance from mine reclamation activities. Lower probability areas were sampled at greater intervals ranging from 60 m to 100 m and included gently sloped and disturbed settings. Slopes greater than 15 percent were visually inspected. Shovel test intervals in these areas exceeded the 60 m spacing and in some cases shovel testing was curtailed altogether due to the lack of intact near surface soil horizons.

Cemetery Delineation

The cemetery delineation was conducted in Area 2 by using surface inspection assisted by soil probing to define the absence or presence of graves. Surface investigations revealed numerous depressions aligned in north-south oriented rows which is consistent with Christian burial traditions. The burial locations and boundaries were flagged and plotting with the assistance of GPS. Upon completion of the delineation, and at the request of Shannon, LLC, a 30 m (100 ft) buffer zone was established outside of the area of the plotted graves. In order to accomplish the task of establishing a buffer zone the existing roadways, the course of Blue Creek, and a natural drainage along the southern portion of the land form containing the cemetery were utilized. The buffer zone was clearly marked using flagging tape. Upon completing the establishment and flagging of the buffer zone, a GPS polygon was plotted around the cemetery defining the boundary of the buffer. The GPS data were returned to OAR and a map was produced overlaying the cemetery location and buffer zone on the USGS McCalla, AL topographic quadrangle (Figure 26).

Laboratory Methods and Collection Curation

All photographs, field notes, maps, and documentation pertinent to the survey will be curated at the Erskine Ramsay Archaeological Repository located at Moundville Archaeological Park. This repository meets Department of the Interior curation standards as defined under 36 CFR Part 79 and required by Chapter 460- x -9 of the Administrative Code of Alabama. A letter of agreement for curation has been included as Appendix A.

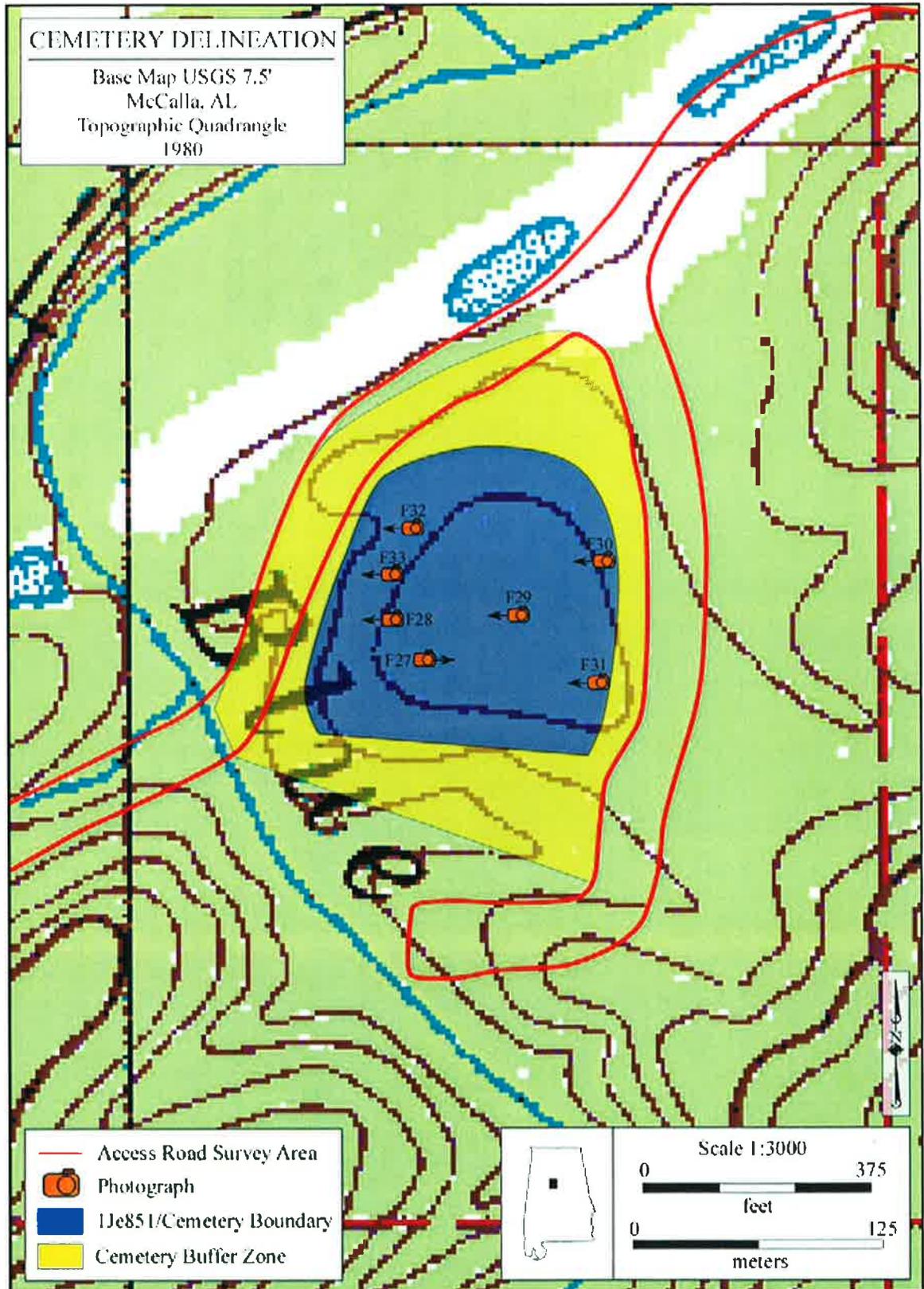


Figure 26. Photograph locations, the cemetery boundaries, and the perimeter of the established buffer zone.

Survey Interpretation and Evaluation

The Phase I cultural resources survey of the proposed access road (Area 1) identified a severely disturbed/modified environment. Historical documentation in the form of area maps dating to the early 20th century, and the current McCalla, AL topographic quadrangle reveal a history of landscape modification due to past mining activities (Figures 1-6). As a result no intact surface soils were recognized within the survey corridor.

The delineation of the historic cemetery (Area 1) revealed a large cemetery (Site 1Je851) that was active from the last quarter of the 19th century into the first one-third of the 20th century. Based on the available historic documentation the cemeteries origins are likely tied to the mining community of Johns which was located in the general vicinity (Figures 5 and 6).

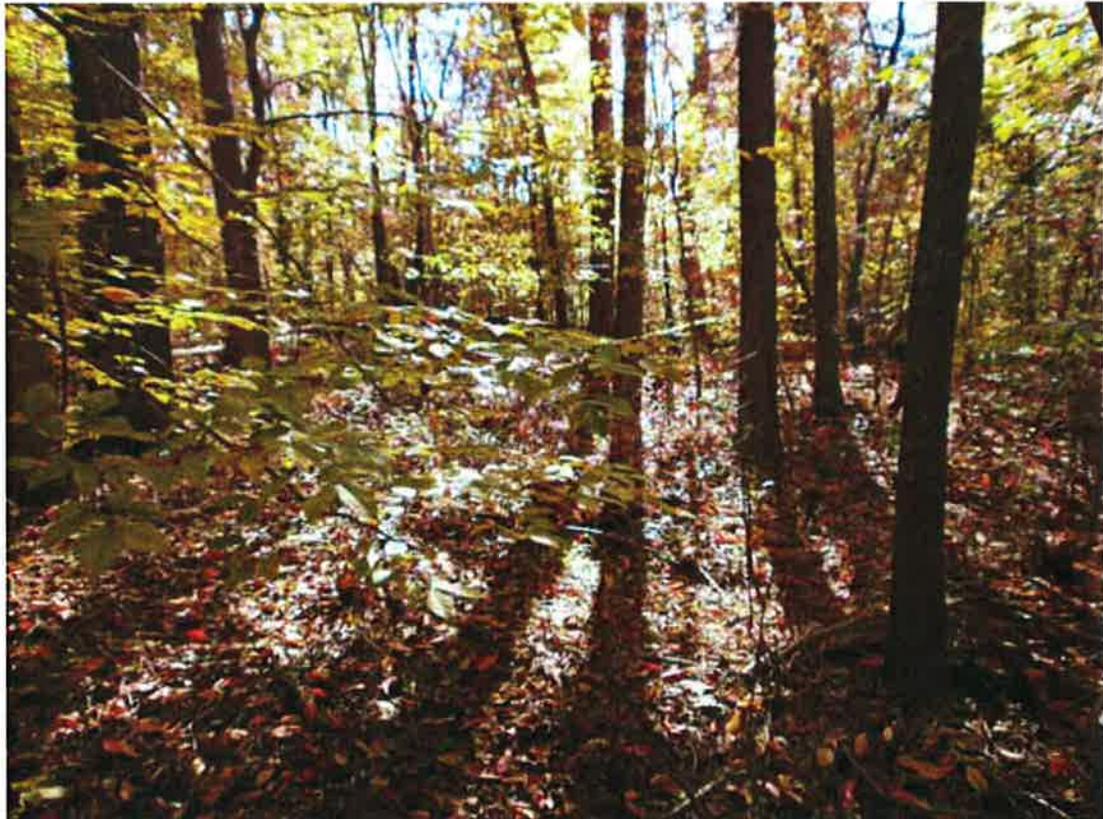


Figure 27. Surface vegetation within the cemetery at the time of the cemetery delineation. View to the east.

Results

As a result of the field investigations for the proposed access road no archaeological sites or historic structures were identified and documented. The delineation of the historic cemetery (Site 1Je851) revealed a large unmaintained cemetery of ± 1.10 ha (2.5 acres) that appears to have been active from the last quarter of the 19th century well into the first one-third of the 20th century. The cemetery delineation investigations indicate that the cemetery contains an estimated 500 to 1200 interments. Figures 27-33 are photographs of the cemetery and a sample of the gravestones in the cemetery. These photographs are keyed to the topographic map (Figure 26) showing their location within the cemetery.



Figure 28. The Eliza Barkley gravestone. View to the west.



Figure 29. The Sarah E. Roberter gravestone. View to the west.



Figure 30. The W. M. Campbell gravestone. View to the west.



Figure 31. Uninscribed gravestone. View to the west.

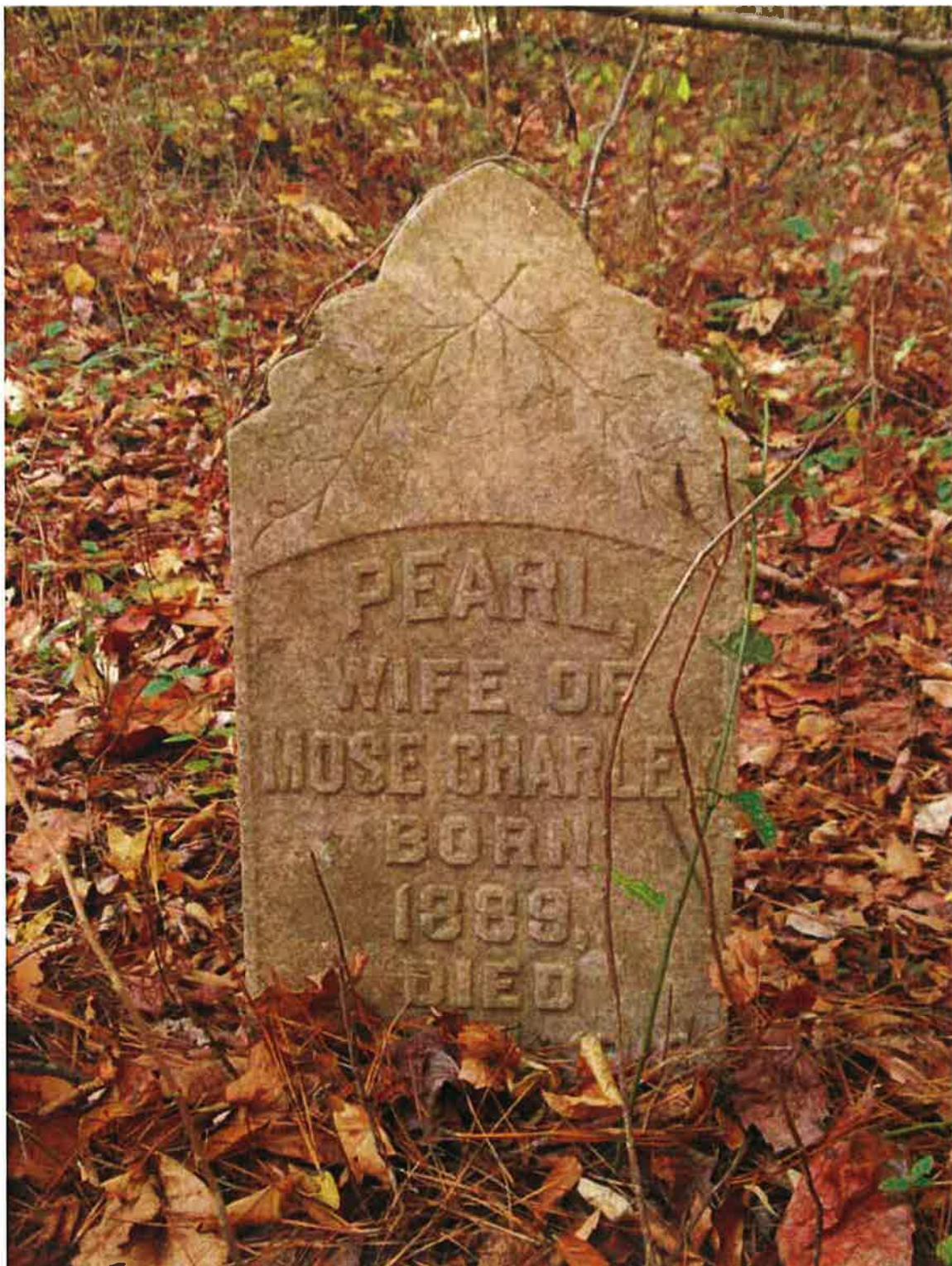


Figure 32. The Pearl Charley gravestone. View to the west.

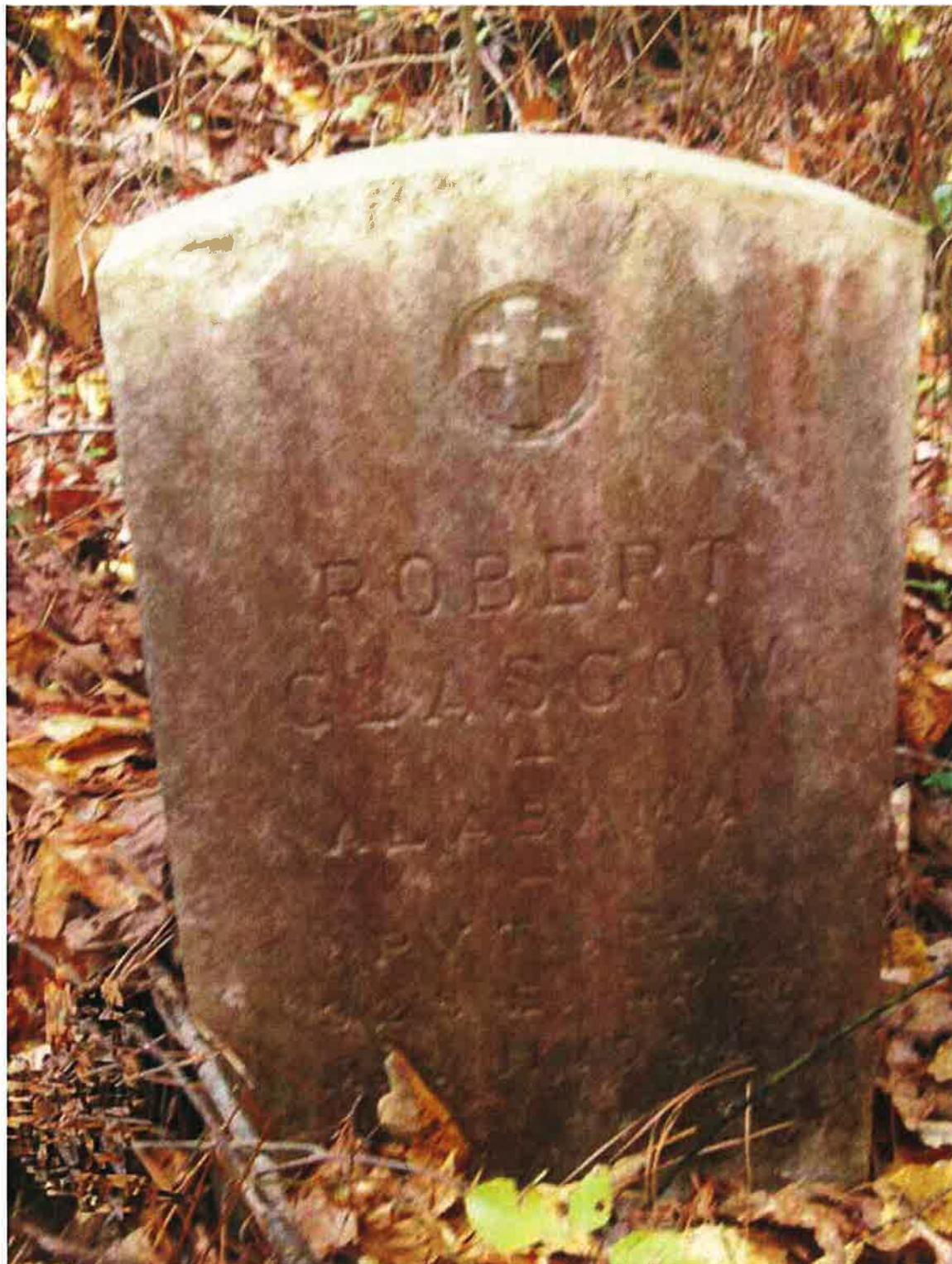


Figure 33. The Robert Glasgow gravestone. View to the west.

Recommendations

During the course of this survey no new archaeological sites or historic standing structures were discovered within the boundaries of the proposed Shannon Mine No. 3. Area 1 exhibits extreme soil disturbance associated with previous mining activities.

The cemetery delineation in Area 2 revealed a large cemetery confined to a wooded hill-top bounded by existing access roads and the stream bed of Blue Creek (Figure 26). The established buffer zone is confined to the existing access roads and fall within the required 30 m (100 ft) limits as defined by The Alabama Surface Mining Commission. As a result of these investigations, information concerning Site 1Je851 has been updated in the ASSF. The cemetery location was reported to Craig Remington, Editor, *Historical Atlas of Alabama, Cemetery Locations by County*. If Shannon, LLC remains within the right-of-way of the existing roadbed, the cemetery will not be affected by the proposed activities. Based on these findings, it is the opinion of this office that the proposed access road will not have an adverse effect on any significant historic properties.

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Office of Archaeological Research, University of Alabama Museums (OAR)

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- 1999 *Cemetery Locations by County*. Historical Atlas of Alabama, vol. 2. Department of Geography, University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa.

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1981 *The Birmingham District: An Industrial History and Guide*. Birmingham Historical Society, Birmingham.

January 4, 2012



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P.O. Box 621
Jasper, Alabama 35502

OAR PROJECT NUMBER: 12-142
AHC TRACKING NUMBER: 10-0558

Dear Mr. Madison:

Please find enclosed for your company a copy of our recent report entitled "A Cultural Resources Reconnaissance Survey for A Proposed Shannon Mine No. 3 Access Road Located near Adger in Jefferson County, Alabama", by R. Lance Richardson of our staff. Please note that SHPO has 30 days to comment on our findings.

It has been a pleasure to be of service to Shannon, LLC. Please feel free to call for further information or services.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M. D. Gage".

Matthew D. Gage, RPA/Director
The University of Alabama
Office of Archaeological Research

MDG:tkw
FILE:2011-12SURVEY.FCL/1

Enclosures: Survey Report
Invoice for Professional Services

Copy of Survey Report to:

Alabama Historical Commission
Attn: Stacye Hathorn

A Cultural Resources Reconnaissance Survey for A Proposed Shannon Mine No. 3
Access Road Located near Adger in Jefferson County, Alabama

R. Lance Richardson

PERFORMED FOR:
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P.O. Box 621
Jasper, Alabama 35502

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JANUARY 2012

OFFICE OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCH

The University of Alabama
University of Alabama Museums
13075 Mound State Parkway
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January 4, 2012

**A CULTURAL RESOURCES RECONNAISSANCE SURVEY FOR A
PROPOSED SHANNON MINE No. 3 ACCESS ROAD LOCATED
NEAR ADGER IN JEFFERSON COUNTY, ALABAMA**

OAR PROJECT NUMBER: 12-142
AHC TRACKING NUMBER: 10-0558

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Ronald Stallworth, Cultural Resources Assistant
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DATE PERFORMED: December 12, 2011


R. Lance Richardson
Cultural Resources Analyst
Office of Archaeological Research


Matthew D. Gage, RPA/Director
The University of Alabama
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***A Cultural Resources Reconnaissance Survey for A Proposed Shannon Mine
No. 3 Access Road Located near Adger in Jefferson County, Alabama***

R. Lance Richardson

Management Summary

The University of Alabama, Office of Archaeological Research was contracted by Shannon, LLC to perform a Phase I cultural resources survey for a proposed Shannon Mine No. 3 access road, located near the community of Adger in Jefferson County, Alabama. The proposed project area is a proposed 30.5 m (100 ft) wide access road right-of-way (ROW) extending for approximately 1.3 km (0.8 mi) and two short road-spurs with 15.2 m (50 ft) ROWs, all comprising approximately 3.9 ha (9.7 acres). Field investigations for the project were undertaken on December 12, 2011. R. Lance Richardson (Cultural Resources Analyst) serves as the Project Director and Matthew D. Gage RPA, Director is the Principal Investigator. State oversight for adherence to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act for this project is led by the Alabama Surface Mining Commission. The Alabama Historical Commission tracking number for this project is 10-0558.

As a result of the cultural resources survey, no archaeological sites were identified, documented, and added to the Alabama State Site File. In addition, no isolated finds were recorded. Finally, no standing structures were documented during the field investigations.

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***A Cultural Resources Reconnaissance Survey for a Proposed Shannon Mine
No. 3 Access Road Located near Adger in Jefferson County, Alabama***

R. Lance Richardson

Introduction

The University of Alabama, Office of Archaeological Research (OAR) was contracted by Shannon, LLC to perform a Phase I cultural resources reconnaissance survey for a proposed Shannon Mine No. 3 access road, located near the community of Adger in Jefferson County, Alabama. The proposed project area is a proposed 30.5 m (100 ft) wide access road ROW extending for approximately 1.3 km (0.8 mi) and two short road-spurs with 15.2 m (50 ft) ROWs, all comprising approximately 3.9 ha (9.7 acres). R. Lance Richardson (Cultural Resources Analyst), assisted by Ronald Stallworth (Cultural Resources Assistant) conducted the survey on November 18, 2011 to locate and identify any archaeological sites or historic standing structures. The Principal Investigator for the project is Matthew D. Gage RPA, Director of OAR. State oversight for adherence to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act for this project is led by the Alabama Surface Mining Commission (ASMC). The Alabama Historical Commission (AHC) tracking number for this project is 10-0558.

The research design of the Phase I survey is to locate and identify any archaeological sites or historic standing structures within the proposed project area, assess their significance, and provide recommendation with regard to guidelines set forth by the National Park Service for NRHP eligibility criteria. Included in this report is a discussion of the environmental setting of the survey area, a literature search of any previously recorded sites or previously conducted surveys within or near the survey area, a description of field and laboratory methods, the results of the cultural resources reconnaissance, and conclusions and recommendations based on the findings of this survey.

The location of the survey area can be seen on the 1979, USGS 7.5' Concord, AL and the 1980, USGS 7.5' McCalla, AL topographic quadrangles in the central portion of Section 21, T19S, R5W (Figure 1). The ROW for the proposed access road is 30.5 m (100 ft) in width and is located to the west of an exiting natural gas pipeline. The majority of the ROW has been disturbed by previous logging activities and existing access road construction.

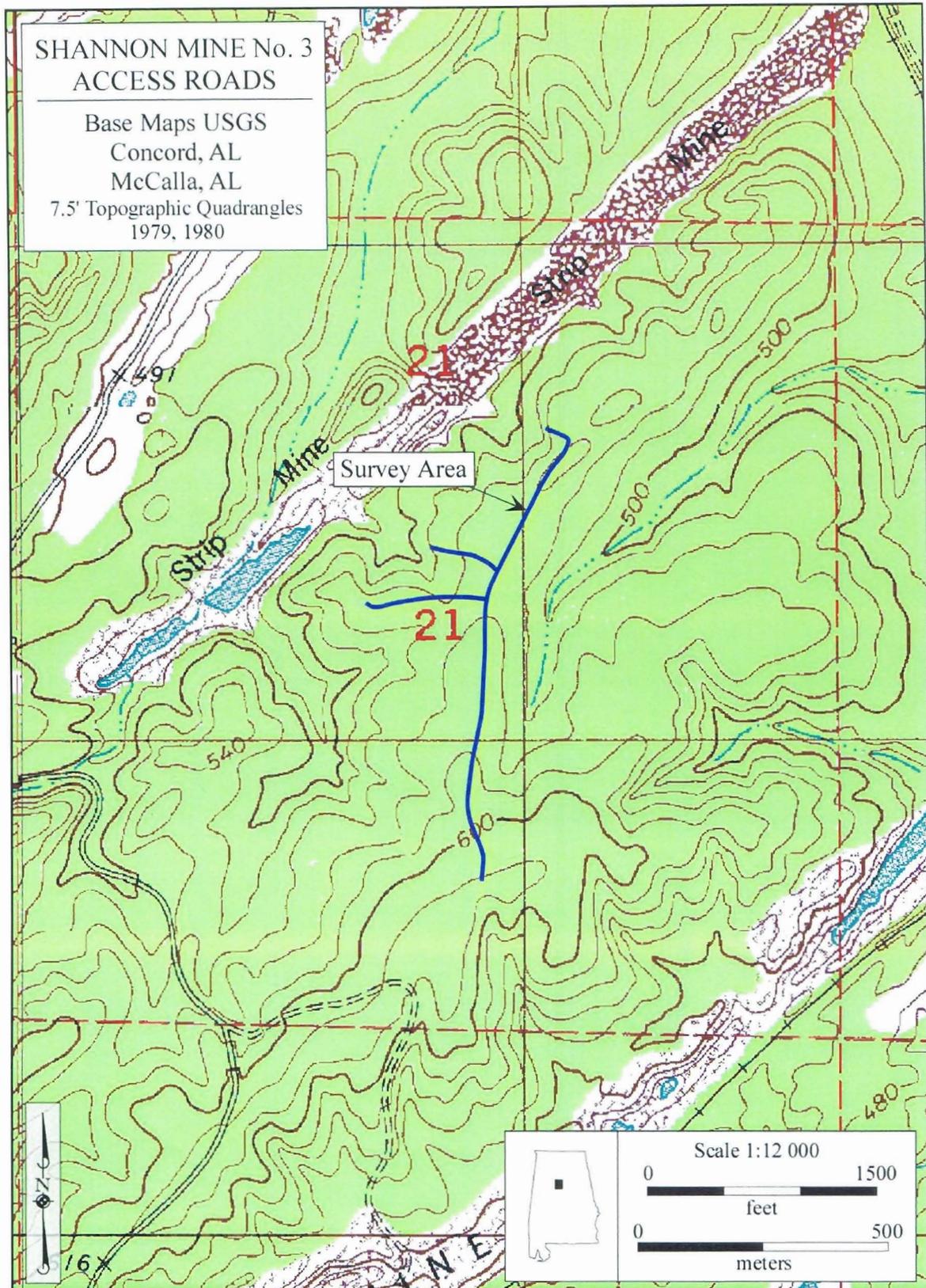


Figure 1. General location of the survey area.

Environmental Setting

The project tract consists of rolling upland, dominated by a series of northeast to southwest trending ridges with elevation ranging from a peak of 189 m (620 ft) AMSL at the southern terminus of the access road to a low of 158 m (520 ft) AMSL at the northern terminus. Much of the survey area has been previously impacted by access roadway construction, timbering activities, a transmission line, and a natural gas pipeline. Vegetation consists of secondary growth pine and hardwood, although large tracts of linear planted pine are also present.

The survey area lies within the Warrior Basin district of the Cumberland Plateau physiographic section of Alabama. The Warrior Basin district is described as a “homoclinal limestone valley of low relief. Synclinal submaturely to maturely dissected sandstone and shale plateau of moderate relief” (Sapp and Emplincourt 1975).

The National Cooperative Soil Survey (Soil Survey Staff 2011) for Jefferson County, Alabama shows one soil association present within the survey area (Figure 2). A brief description of this association along with a representative soil profile follows:

Montevallo-Nauvoo association, steep (29): This map unit consists of soils on strongly dissected areas of sandstone and shale plateaus in the northern and western parts of the county. Montevallo soils have a surface layer of very dark gray shaley silt loam and dark grayish brown shaley silt loam about 6 inches thick. The subsoil is yellowish brown very shaley silt loam about 10 inches thick. Nauvoo soils are found on ridge tops and ridge sides. Typically, the surface layer is dark grayish brown fine sandy loam about 6 inches thick. The subsoil is about 36 inches thick. The upper 6 inches is yellowish brown fine sandy loam and the lower portion is about 30 inches of yellowish red clay loam.

Literature and Document Search

For prior archaeological surveys conducted in the general area, the National Archaeological Database Bibliography, housed at OAR (2002), and the Alabama Phase I Surveys Website (OAR 2011) were reviewed. A total of seven previous surveys have been performed within one mile of the current survey area. Meyer (1990) and Watkins (2011a and 2011b) performed surveys for proposed strip mines. Shannon Mine No. 2 was surveyed (Hawsey 2011). Portions of the proposed Shannon Mine No. 3 were surveyed (Mizelle 2010 and 2011). Finally, the proposed Shannon Mine No. 5A was surveyed (Richardson 2011). The ASSF shows seven sites located within one mile of the survey area (OAR 2002). None of the seven sites was considered eligible for NRHP consideration. In addition, the seven sites lie well outside of this survey area, and will not be impacted by this proposed project.

The NRHP and related supplements list no eligible properties located in the general vicinity of the proposed project. A review of the 1908 Jefferson County, Alabama Soil Map shows no properties within the survey area. Also, the 1937 and 1960 editions of the Jefferson County, Alabama Highway Map reveal no standing structures located within of the survey area. Finally, the *Historical Atlas of Alabama, Vol. 2* lists no historic cemeteries located within the survey area (Remington 1999).

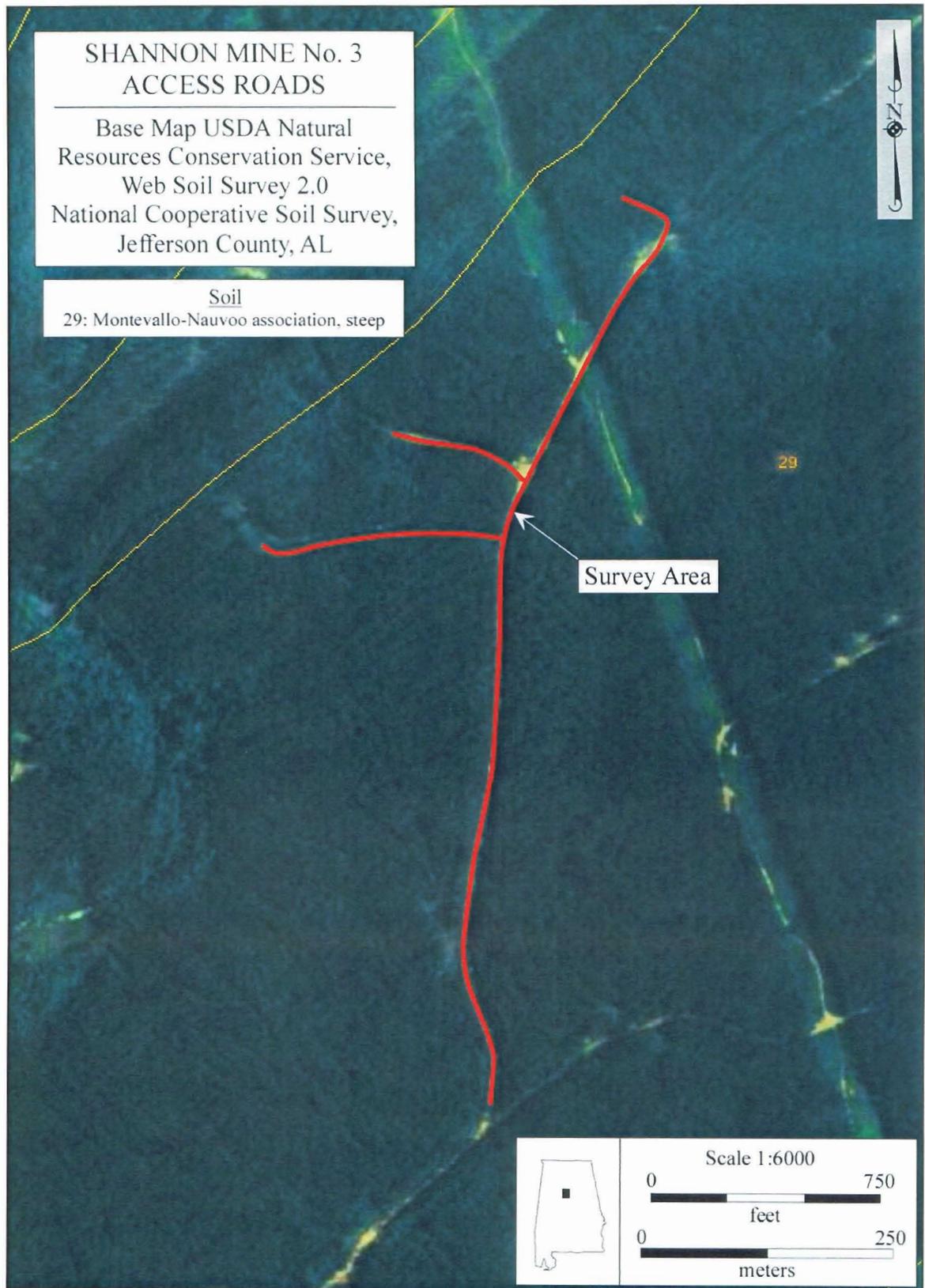


Figure 2. Soil Survey map of proposed project area.

Table 1. Previously recorded sites within one mile of the current survey area.

Site Number	Cultural Affiliation	Site Size	NRHP Status
Site 1Je215	Unknown Aboriginal	45 m x 44 m	Not Eligible
Site 1Je216	Unknown Aboriginal	No data	Not Eligible
Site 1Je217	Unknown Aboriginal	No data	Not Eligible
Site 1Je451	20th Century Nonaboriginal	50 m x 20 m	Not Eligible
Site 1Je452	Unknown Aboriginal	400 m x 10 m	Not Eligible
Site 1Je881	Unknown Aboriginal	25 m x 10 m	Not Eligible
Site 1Je882	Middle to Late 20th Century Nonaboriginal	12 m x 3 m	Not Eligible

Field Methods

Field investigations consisted of a pedestrian walkover of the proposed project area employing visual inspection of exposed ground surface and subsurface testing. Per AHC guidelines, all shovel tests had a minimum diameter of 30 cm and were excavated to recognizable, culturally sterile subsoil. All excavated soil was sieved through 6.35 mm (¼ in) hardware cloth in an effort to recover cultural materials. Soil profiles were recorded for each shovel test noting soil colors, textures, and depths of soil texture/color changes, and horizon boundaries. All shovel test locations were documented using global positioning systems units rated for 1-3 m accuracy. A total of 24 shovel tests was excavated in the course of this survey. The amount of sloping terrain, coupled with the extensive impact from prior timbering activities, access road and natural gas pipeline construction, and silviculture, has greatly reduced or even negated the potential for many areas of the tract to contain intact subsurface or even surficial evidence of prior aboriginal or historic occupation. Photographic documentation was undertaken to provide evidence of the varying environments and disposition of the proposed project area. These photographs (Figures 4-12) are keyed to the topographic map (Figure 3) showing their location and direction of capture.

Except for two road spurs that extend to the west, the proposed project ROW is located to the west of an existing natural gas pipeline corridor (Figure 4), which runs north-south. This road has recently been graded for use in timbering in the northern portion of the survey area and beyond (Figure 5). The ROW extends 30.5 m (100 ft) to the west of the pipeline for a distance of 1.3 km (0.8 mi). For the two road spurs, the ROW extends 15.2 m (50 ft) on either side of the centerline. The northern portion of the ROW has recently been timbered and extends south to an existing transmission line (Figure 6). To the south of the transmission line, the ROW is vegetated in long term growth planted pines and secondary growth (Figure 7). The northernmost road spur has recently been cut and graded (Figure 8) but the southernmost roadway follows an existing, old logging road (Figure 9). Along the recently graded roadway, which follows the natural gas pipeline, the survey area has been previously timbered, as evidenced by the many push piles located to the west of the roadway and south of the transmission line (Figure 10). The survey area

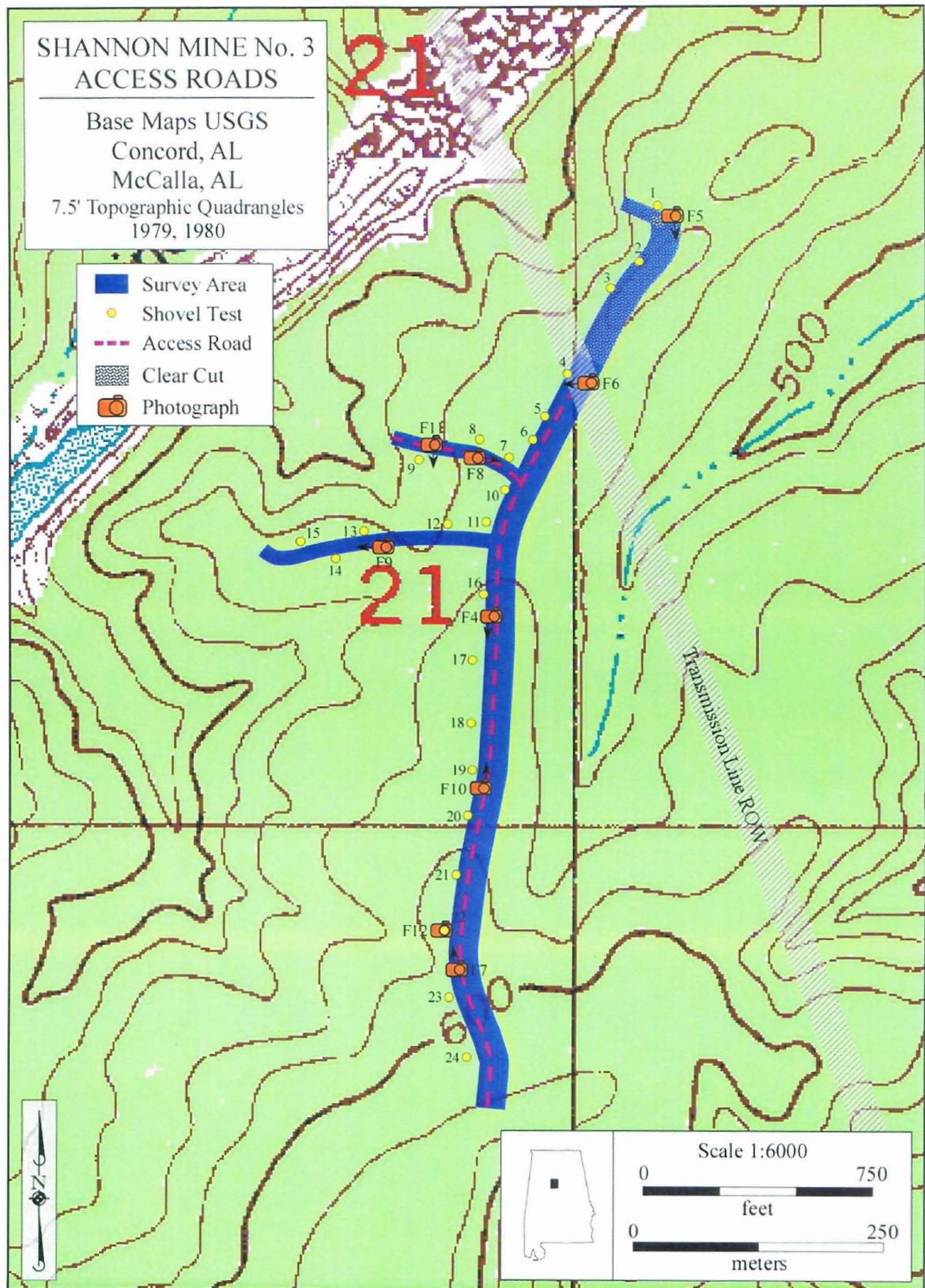


Figure 3. Photograph, shovel test, and site locations and environmental conditions within the survey area.



Figure 4. View of the existing natural gas pipeline (to the left) and the recently graded access roadway. View to the north.



Figure 5. Recently timbered portion of the survey area at the northern terminus. Note the visible subsoil at the surface. View to the south.



Figure 6. Existing transmission line tower location with subsoil at the surface. View to the west.



Figure 7. General view along the proposed project ROW. View to the north.



Figure 8. Recently graded roadway for the proposed northernmost road spur. View to the east.



Figure 9. Former logging road for the proposed southern road spur. View to the west.



Figure 10. Push pile and general view of the survey area. View to the north.



Figure 11. Slope within the survey area along the proposed northern road spur. View to the south.

is relatively flat on the upland crest (Figure 4), but there is a steep slope along the ROW for the northern road spur (Figure 11).

All exposed ground surface was visually inspected. These locations included bare soil exposures along natural slopes, drainages, road cutbanks, road surfaces, and erosional surfaces. Where visibility was limited, shovel tests were excavated at 30 m intervals. Such areas were very limited in extent and consisted of landforms with relatively level settings (areas of less than 15 percent slope). The 30 m interval subsurface testing method was also limited to those settings exhibiting an absence of disturbance from prior silviculture activities where subsequent erosion has removed near surface soil horizons. Lower probability areas were sampled at greater intervals ranging from 60 m to 100 m and included gently sloped and disturbed settings. Slopes greater than 15 percent were visually inspected. Shovel test intervals in these areas exceeded the 60 m spacing and in some cases testing was curtailed altogether due to the lack of intact near surface soil horizons.

Shovel testing along the proposed ROW was conducted in suitable areas. The recent timbering in the north and road construction activities created excellent surface visibility along the majority of the proposed project ROW. Previous timbering activity was evidenced by relic logging roads and numerous push piles within the survey area. Shovel testing in the area of planted pine and secondary growth, to the west of the existing natural gas pipeline, yielded up to 8 cm of disturbed fine sandy loam (Figure 12). No intact soils were found along the proposed ROW.



Figure 12. A typical shovel test showing absence of intact topsoil, Shovel Test #21.

Laboratory Methods and Collection Curation

All photographs, field notes, maps, and documentation pertinent to the survey will be curated at the Erskine Ramsay Archaeological Repository located at Moundville Archaeological Park. This repository meets Department of the Interior curation standards as defined under 36 CFR Part 79 and required by Chapter 460 x 9 of the Administrative Code of Alabama. A letter of agreement for curation has been included as Appendix A.

Recommendations

As a result of this survey, no new archaeological sites were discovered within the boundaries of the proposed project area. The majority of the survey area has been extensively altered from previous timbering and road grading activities. Based on these findings, it is the opinion of this office that the proposed Shannon Mine No. 3 access road will have no effect on any historic properties.

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APPENDIX A

University of Alabama Museums

Office of Archaeological Research



October 31, 2011

Matthew D. Gage, Director
Office of Archaeological Research
University of Alabama Museums
13075 Mound State Parkway
Moundville, AL 35474

Dear Matt:

This letter is to confirm our agreement to provide curation services for all the materials generated by this project. 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.

We appreciate having the opportunity to assist you with curation services in the past and look forward to working with you in the future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Eugene Futato". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "E" and "F".

Eugene M. Futato RPA
Deputy Director