A Phase I Cultural Resource Assessment For The Proposed Narley Mine No. 3 In Jefferson County, Alabama

Prepared For:

PERC Engineering, Inc.
1606 Highway 78 West
Jasper, Alabama 35501

Prepared By:

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

March 16, 2009

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

INTRODUCTION

In March 2009, P.E. LaMoreaux and Associates, Inc. (PELA) conducted a cultural resource survey of the Narley Mine No. 3 area in Jefferson County, Alabama for Best Coal, Inc. through PERC Engineering Co., Inc. 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 (Figure 1) consists of approximately 546 acres. Approximately 100 acres have been previously disturbed from surface mining. Nearly the entire portion of Survey Area 1 has been previously clear cut. The survey was conducted in Sections 23 and 24 of Township 15 South, Range 4 West on the Brookside, Alabama (USGS 1986) 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 6).

Terry Lolley served as Principal Investigator for this project and was assisted in the field by Jimmy Mawk. The fieldwork was conducted on March 12 and 13, 2009.

LITERATURE AND DOCUMENT SEARCH

Historic maps for Jefferson County (ALDOT 1938; USDA 1908) indicated no structures in the project area at those times. Presently, there are no standing structures within or adjacent to the project area.

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 Research at the Moundville Archaeological Park, Moundville, Alabama. An examination of the site file maps and site forms indicated no previously recorded sites within the project area.

A previous survey has been performed in the northern portions of Section 23 and 24 (Figure 1; Lolley 2003). The previous survey resulted in the recording of two archaeological sites in open and eroded locations. Site 1Je755 was recorded as very light density lithic and historic scatter. Site 1Je756 was recorded as a sparse historic scatter. None of the sites was recommended as eligible or potentially eligible to the NRHP.

FIELD METHODS

The project area lies within the Warrior Basin physiographic region of the Cumberland Plateau, and is underlain by the Upper Pottsville formation. Land surface elevation for the project area ranges from 440 to 620 feet above mean sea level. The land is characterized by steeply sloping hills and narrow valleys. There are a few unnamed intermittent streams within the project area that are tributaries of Trouble Creek.

Soils on the ridges were typical for this area, suffering from ground surface erosion or simply shallow surface layers due to soil characteristics and logging activities.

The Jefferson County Soil Survey (Spivey 1982) indicates three soil types within the project area. A description of each is provided below.

Montevallo-Nauvoo association, steep, is the primary soil type in across the project area. The surface layer is typically 15 centimeters in thickness and consists of dark grayish-brown fine sandy loam. The subsoil is yellowish-brown very shaly silt loam. The soils are most suitable for woodland use.

Nauvoo fine sandy loam, 8 to 15 percent slopes is a strongly sloping soil on upland plateaus underlain by sandstone. The surface layer is very dark grayish-brown fine sandy loam approximately 14 centimeters in thickness. The subsurface layer is yellowish-brown fine sandy loam. The subsoil is yellowish-red clay. This soil was mapped in the wooded upland portion of Section 24.

Palmerdale complex, steep, was mapped in areas previously surface mined.

FIELD METHODS

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 were visually examined for cultural material.

Due to the previous disturbances (Figure 2) and the extent of ground surface visibility and erosion, the survey consisted primarily of visual reconnaissance of the ground surface augmented by shovel test excavation in locations not previously disturbed. These transects were spaced at 30 meter intervals or spaced dependent on landforms and ground surface conditions. A standard 30 meter interval transect pattern was employed where previous ground disturbance, visibility, or slope did not preclude excavation (Figure 1). Shovel tests were excavated at 30 meter intervals along transects. 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.

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 35 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 surface soil throughout the majority of Survey Area 1 has been depleted from erosion resulting from previous clear cutting and the soil characteristics. Numerous dirt roads and expansive areas of pushpiles, trails, and other disturbances characterize this portion of the project area (Figures 3 and 4). The slopes in Survey Area 1 were very steep and the ridges were generally narrow. Each of the roads was traversed and visually examined for cultural material. Transects were traversed along the roadways and on level areas where no roads existed. A

thorough pedestrian walk over was conducted on the ridgetops with no cultural material encountered.

Shovel testing in Survey Area 1 was necessary only within an area that was not completely clear cut (Figures 1 and 5). Shovel test profiles in the area consisted of 0-18 centimeters of dark brown (10YR4/3) fine sandy loam, 18-24 centimeters of yellowish-brown (10YR5/4) fine sandy loam, and 24-30+ centimeters of yellowish-red (5RY4/6) sandy clay subsoil. No cultural material was observed.

Survey Area 2 consisted of two narrow ridges with steep slopes (Figures 1 and 6). A road traversed the top of the southernmost ridge. The road was visually examined for cultural material and an additional transect was traversed across the remainder of the level portion of the ridge with negative findings. The northernmost ridge had a road halfway across the ridge. The remainder of the ridge consisted of pine forest. Two shovel test transects were traversed across the remainder of the narrow ridgeline. No cultural material was observed.

Observations were made where possible on the slopes to determine if any rock shelters were present. No suitable rock formations were identified.

Overall, the ground surface within the majority of the project area has been disturbed from previous clear cutting and surface mining. Those activities, combined with the physical characteristics of the soils within the project area, have resulted in erosion of the surface layer.

RECOMMENDATIONS

This survey was conducted by P.E. LaMoreaux & Associates, Inc. (PELA) for Best Coal, Inc. through PERC Engineering Co., Inc. in compliance with Federal and State regulations. No sites were recorded through the course of the field investigation. It is PELA's opinion that the proposed project will not impact any cultural resources that are eligible or potentially eligible for the NRHP.

REFERENCES

ALDOT
1938 Jefferson County Highway Map.

Lolley, Terry L
2003 *A Phase I Cultural Resource Assessment, Proposed Narley Mine, Jefferson County, Alabama.* Performed for PERC Engineering. PE LaMoreaux & Associates, Inc., Tuscaloosa, Alabama.

Spivey, Lawson D., Jr.
1982 *Soil Survey of Jefferson County, Alabama*. United States Department of Agriculture, Washington D.C.

USDA
1908 Jefferson County Soil Survey Map.

United States Geological Survey
1986 Brookside 7.5 Minute Topographic Quadrangle.

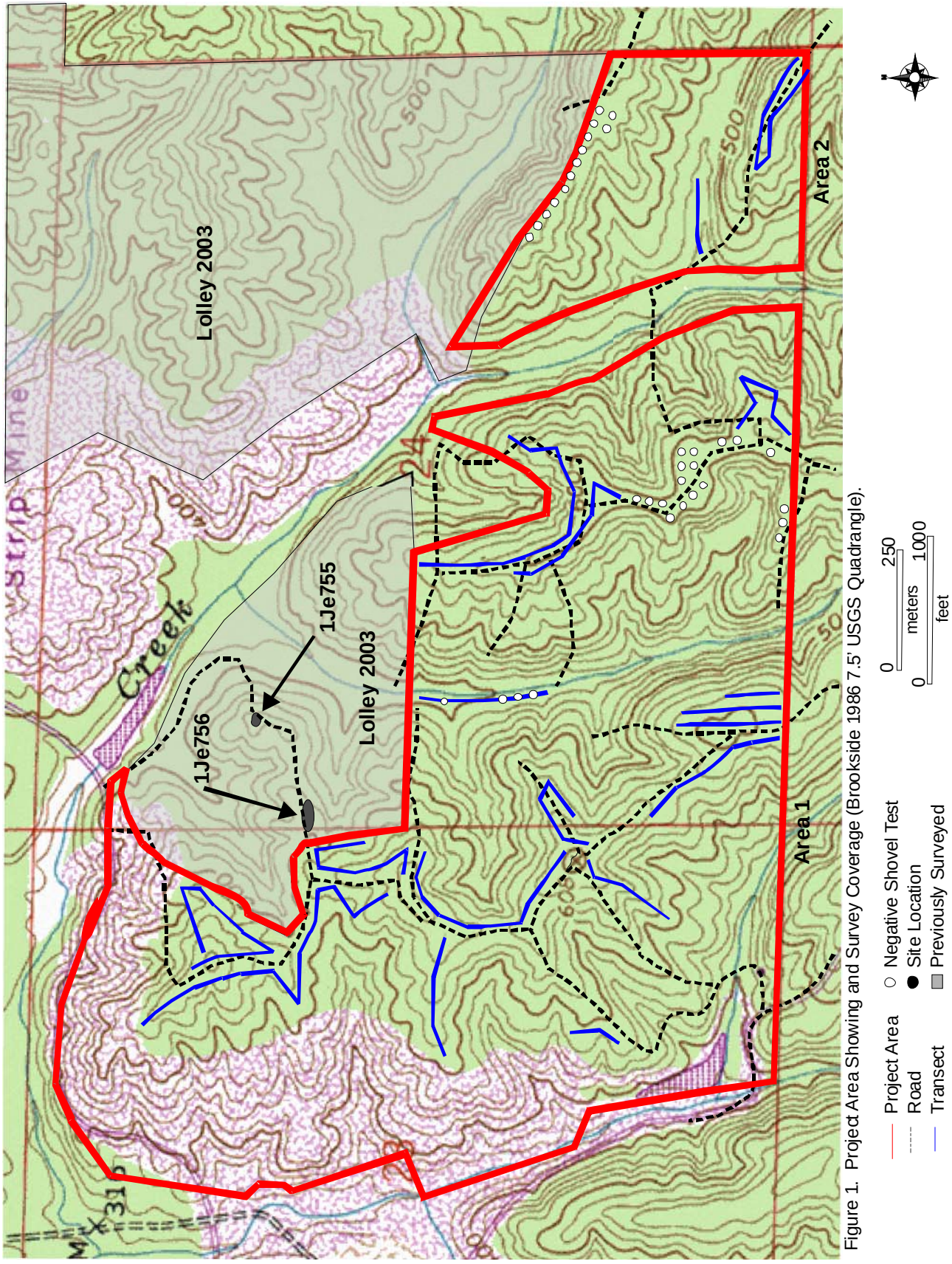

Figure 1. Project Area Showing and Survey Coverage (Brookside 1986 7.5' USGS Quadrangle).

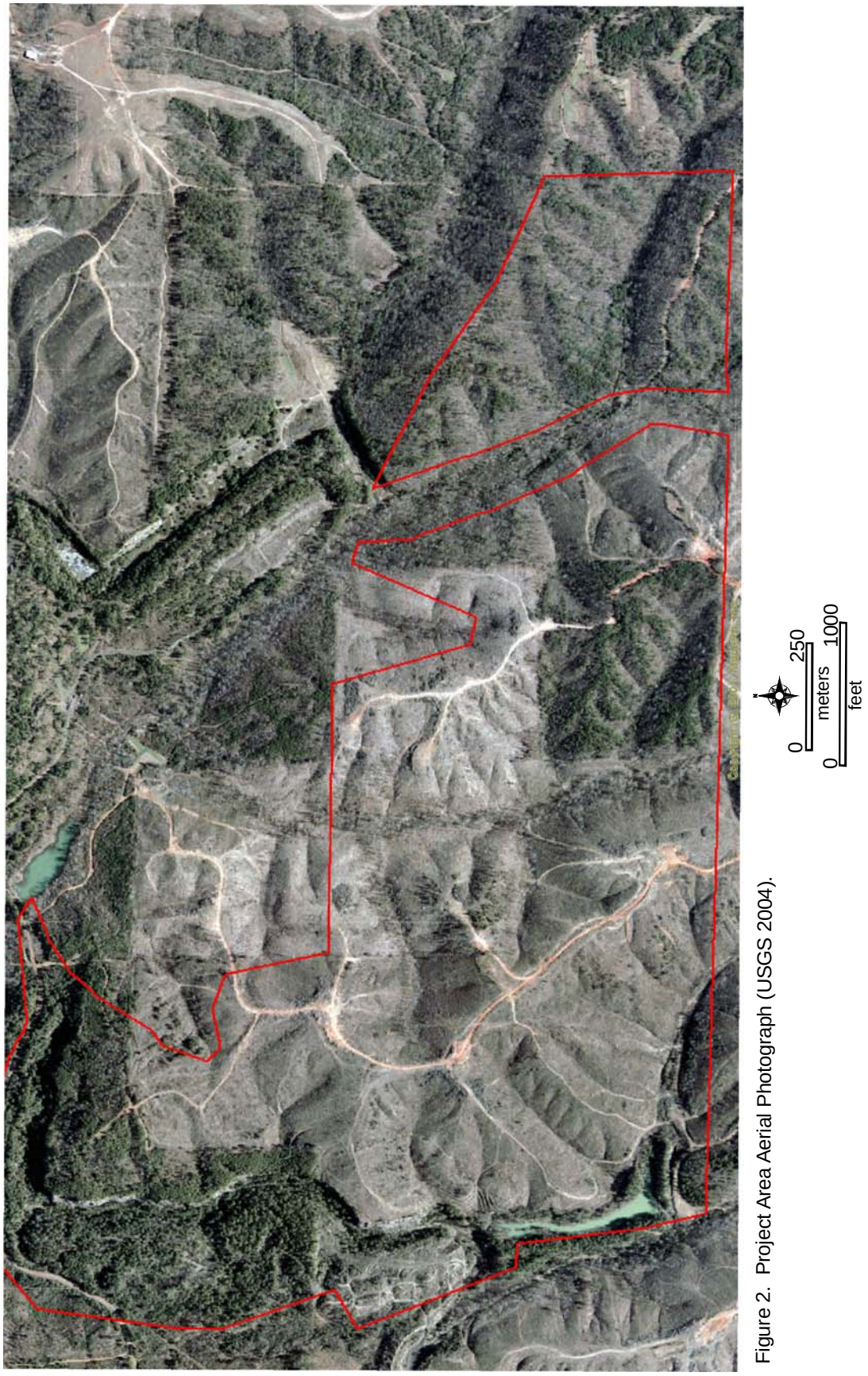

Figure 2. Project Area Aerial Photograph (USGS 2004).

Figure 3. Ridgetop View of Survey Area 1 Facing North.

Figure 4. Typical Roadway in Survey Area 1 Facing North.

Figure 5. Wooded Upland in Survey Area 1 Facing North.

Figure 6. Ridgetop in Survey Area 2 Facing South.

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

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

March 20, 2009

Heath Franks
PERC Engineering
P.O. Box 1712
Jasper, Alabama 35502

Re: AHC 04-0328
Cultural Resource Assessment
Narley Mine No. 3
Jefferson County, Alabama

Dear Mr. Franks:

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 questions, 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 Narley Mine No. 3 In Jefferson County, Alabama

Prepared For:

PERC Engineering, Inc.
1606 Highway 78 West
Jasper, Alabama 35501

Prepared By:

PELA GeoEnvironmental
P.O. Box 12
Lauderdale, MS 39335

April 24, 2012

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

INTRODUCTION

In April 2012, PELA GeoEnvironmental (PELA) conducted a cultural resource survey for proposed activities at the Narley Mine No. 3 area in Jefferson County, Alabama for Best Coal, Inc. through PERC Engineering Co., Inc. 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 (Figure 1) consists of approximately 13 acres. The survey was conducted in Section 24 of Township 15 South, Range 4 West on the Brookside, Alabama (USGS 1986) 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 and 3).

Terry Lolley served as Principal Investigator for this project and conducted the fieldwork on April 20, 2012.

LITERATURE AND DOCUMENT SEARCH

Historic maps for Jefferson County (ALDOT 1938; USDA 1908) indicated no structures in the project area at those times. Presently, there are no standing structures within or adjacent to the project area.

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 Research at the Moundville Archaeological Park, Moundville, Alabama. An examination of the site file maps and site forms indicated no previously recorded sites within the project area.

Previous surveys have been performed in portions of Section 23 and 24 (Figure 1; Lolley 2003, 2009). One of the previous surveys resulted in the recording of two archaeological sites in open and eroded locations. Site 1Je755 was recorded as very light density lithic and historic scatter. Site 1Je756 was recorded as a sparse historic scatter. None of the sites was recommended as eligible or potentially eligible to the NRHP.

FIELD METHODS

The project area lies within the Warrior Basin physiographic region of the Cumberland Plateau, and is underlain by the Upper Pottsville formation. Land surface elevation for the project area ranges from 440 to 560 feet above mean sea level. The land is characterized by steep slope aside from a small level upland along a roadway.

Soils on the ridges were typical for this area, suffering from ground surface erosion or simply shallow surface layers due to soil characteristics and previous logging activities.

The Jefferson County Soil Survey (Spivey 1982) indicates one soil type within the project area. The ***Montevallo-Nauvoo association, steep***, is the primary soil type across the project area. The surface layer is typically 15 centimeters in thickness and consists of dark grayish-brown fine sandy loam. The subsoil is yellowish-brown very shaly silt loam. The soils are most suitable for woodland use.

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 were visually examined for cultural material.

Due to the previous road construction and slope, shovel testing locations were limited. Shovel tests were excavated at 30 meter intervals along any transects traversed. 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.

A total of five 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 surface soil throughout the majority of the project area has been depleted from erosion resulting from previous clear cutting and the soil characteristics. Numerous dirt roads and slope characterize the general area. Each of the roads was traversed and visually examined for cultural material.

Shovel test profiles in the area consisted of 0-12 centimeters of yellowish-brown (10YR5/4) fine sandy loam, overlying 12+ centimeters of yellowish-red (5RY4/6) sandy clay subsoil. No cultural material was observed.

The survey resulted in no cultural material recovered from any of the shovel tests or from the ground surface examination of the project area. A vehicular survey of the project area and its environs indicated no historic standing structures within or immediately adjacent to the project area.

RECOMMENDATIONS

This survey was conducted by PELA GeoEnvironmental for Best Coal, Inc. through PERC Engineering, Inc. in compliance with Federal and State regulations. Based on the field methods employed, no cultural resources were identified during the field investigation and the project area should be cleared from further cultural resource concerns.

There is always the possibility of undetected cultural resources such as graves and other features not identified through standard survey methods. If any potential cultural features are revealed through the course of development of the project area, an archaeologist should be contacted to ascertain the nature of these features before development continues.

REFERENCES

ALDOT
1938 Jefferson County Highway Map.

Lolley, Terry L.
2003 *A Phase I Cultural Resource Assessment, Proposed Narley Mine, Jefferson County, Alabama.* Performed for PERC Engineering. PE LaMoreaux & Associates, Inc., Tuscaloosa, Alabama.
2009 *A Phase I Cultural Resource Assessment, Proposed Narley Mine No. 3, Jefferson County, Alabama.* Performed for PERC Engineering. PE LaMoreaux & Associates, Inc., Tuscaloosa, Alabama.

Spivey, Lawson D., Jr.
1982 *Soil Survey of Jefferson County, Alabama*. United States Department of Agriculture, Washington D.C.

USDA
1908 Jefferson County Soil Survey Map.

United States Geological Survey
1986 Brookside 7.5 Minute Topographic Quadrangle.

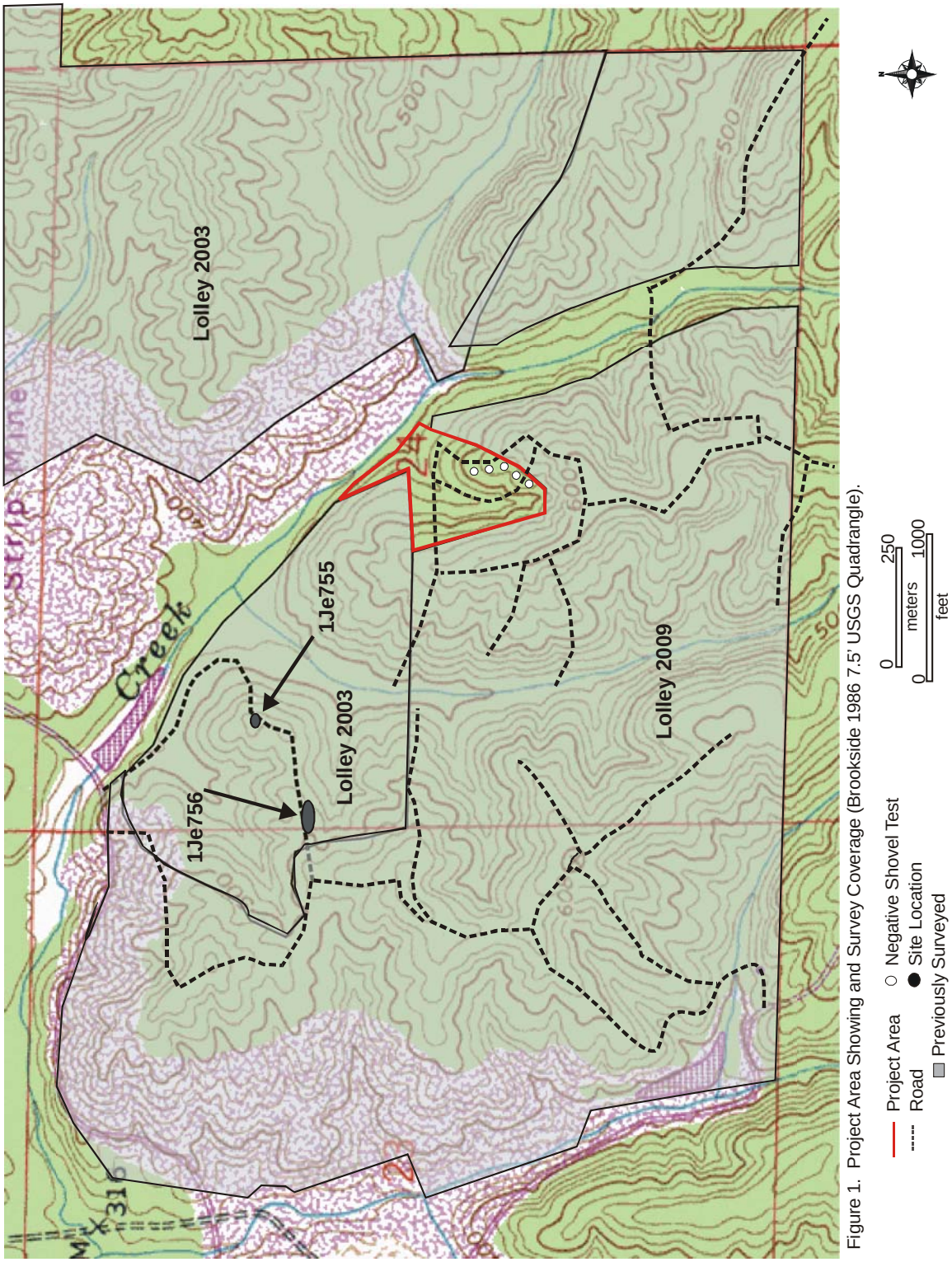

Figure 1. Project Area Showing and Survey Coverage (Brookside 1986 7.5' USGS Quadrangle).

Figure 2. General View Along the Bottom of the Hollow Road.

Figure 3. General View of the Upland Roadside.

University of Alabama Museums

Office of Archaeological Research

THE UNIVERSITY OF
ALABAMA
MUSEUMS

March 20, 2012

Terry Lolley
PELA GeoEnvironmental
PO Box 12
Lauderdale MS 39335

Dear Terry:

As per your request, this letter is to establish an agreement with you to provide curation services to PELA GeoEnvironmental on an as-needed basis. 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 having the opportunity to assist you with curation services and look forward to working with you in the future.

Sincerely,

Eugene Futato

Eugene M. Futato RPA
Deputy Director

13075 Moundville
Archaeological Park
Moundville, Alabama 35474
(205) 371-2266
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STATE OF ALABAMA
ALABAMA HISTORICAL COMMISSION
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FRANK W. WHITE
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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

May 8, 2012

Heath Franks
PERC Engineering
P.O. Box 1712
Jasper, Alabama 35502

Re: AHC 04-0328
Best Coal, Inc.
Narley Mine No. 3
13-Acre Addition
Jefferson County, Alabama

Dear Ms. Bazzill:

Upon review of the cultural resource assessment submitted by your office, we have determined that the project activities will have no adverse effect on cultural resources listed on or eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. Therefore, we concur with the proposed project. However, should artifacts or archaeological features be discovered 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. Please have the AHC tracking number referenced above available and include it with any correspondence.

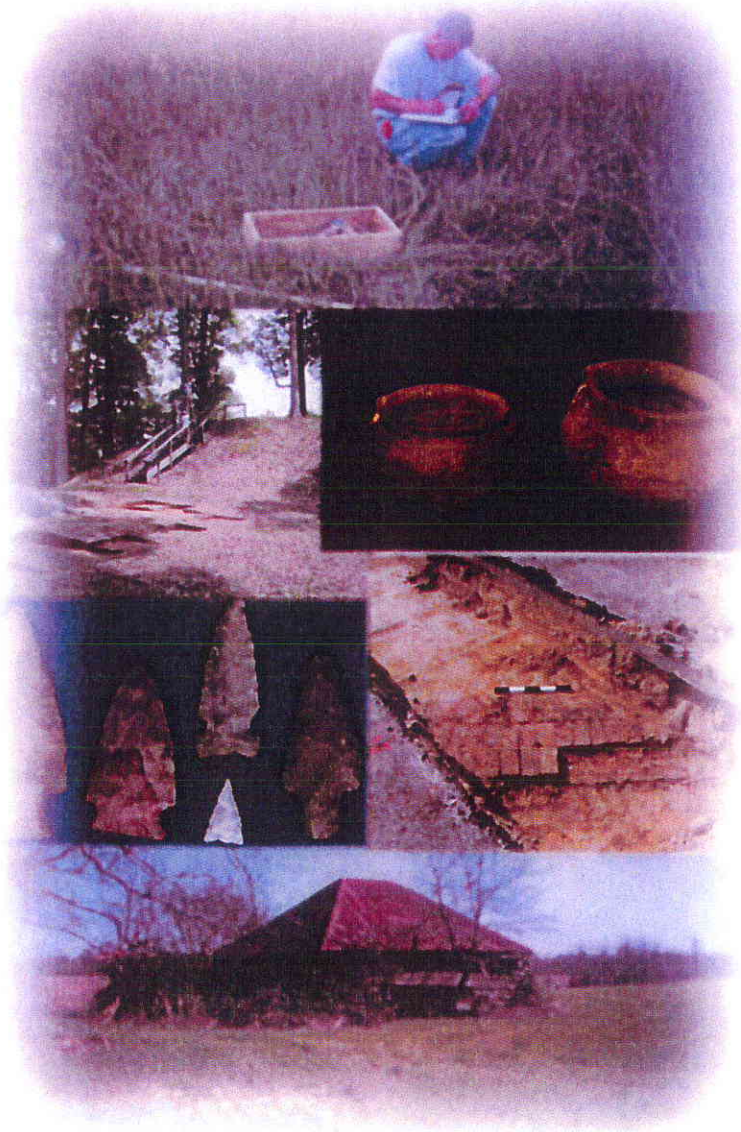
Truly yours,

Elizabeth Ann Brown

Elizabeth Ann Brown
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

EAB/GCR/gcr

Phase I Cultural Resource Assessment
Proposed Narley Mine
Jefferson County, Alabama



December 11, 2003

PELA

P.E. LAMOREAUX & ASSOCIATES, INC.
Hydrologists, Geologists, Environmental
Scientists, & Engineers

PELA

Phase I Cultural Resource Assessment
Proposed Narley Mine
Jefferson County, Alabama

Prepared For:

PERC Engineering Co., Inc.
1606 Highway 78 West
Jasper, AL 35501

Prepared By:

P.E. LaMoreaux & Associates, Inc.
PO Box 2310
Tuscaloosa, Alabama 35403

December 11, 2003

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

CONTENTS

FIGURES

APPENDIX A

Site Forms

INTRODUCTION

In December 2003, an archaeological team from P.E. LaMoreaux & Associates, Inc. (PELA) conducted a cultural resource survey of a proposed permit area for Best Coal, Inc.'s, Narley Mine in Jefferson County, Alabama. The purpose of this investigation was to locate and document any prehistoric and historic archaeological resources which may be 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 construction activities. Mr. Terry Lolley served as Principal Investigator for this project.

The proposed permit area (Figure 1) is comprised of approximately 409 acres, with 85 acres previously surface mined. The project area is located in Sections 13, 23, and 24 of Township 15 South, Range 4 West, and Section 18 of Township 15 South, Range 3 West on the Brookside, Alabama (USGS 1982) 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 8).

A total of two sites were recorded during the present investigation. It is PELA's opinion that the two sites are not eligible for the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP), and no further cultural resource investigations within the project area are recommended.

LITERATURE AND DOCUMENT SEARCH

Prior to the fieldwork, a background literature review was performed. Neither the NRHP nor the Alabama Tapestry lists any historic properties within the project area. The 1908 Jefferson County Soil Map (USDA 1908) showed three structures within the project area at that time; two of which were located in an area that has since been surface mined.

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 Research at the Moundville Archaeological Park, Moundville, Alabama. An examination of the site file maps and site forms indicated that two sites have been recorded in the vicinity of the project area. Sites 1JE183 and 1JE200 were both recorded as small lithic scatters north of Locust Fork.

LABORATORY METHODS AND COLLECTION CURATION

All recovered cultural material was transported to PELA's facilities in Tuscaloosa, Alabama. The materials were cleaned, sorted, and analyzed according to standard laboratory procedures. All artifacts, project records, photographs, and maps generated by the survey will be curated at the Office of Archaeological Services, University of Alabama Museums, Moundville.

A total of 17 artifacts were recovered during the survey. The recovery consisted of lithic debitage, whiteware fragments, stoneware fragments, a piece of amber glass, and milk glass fragments.

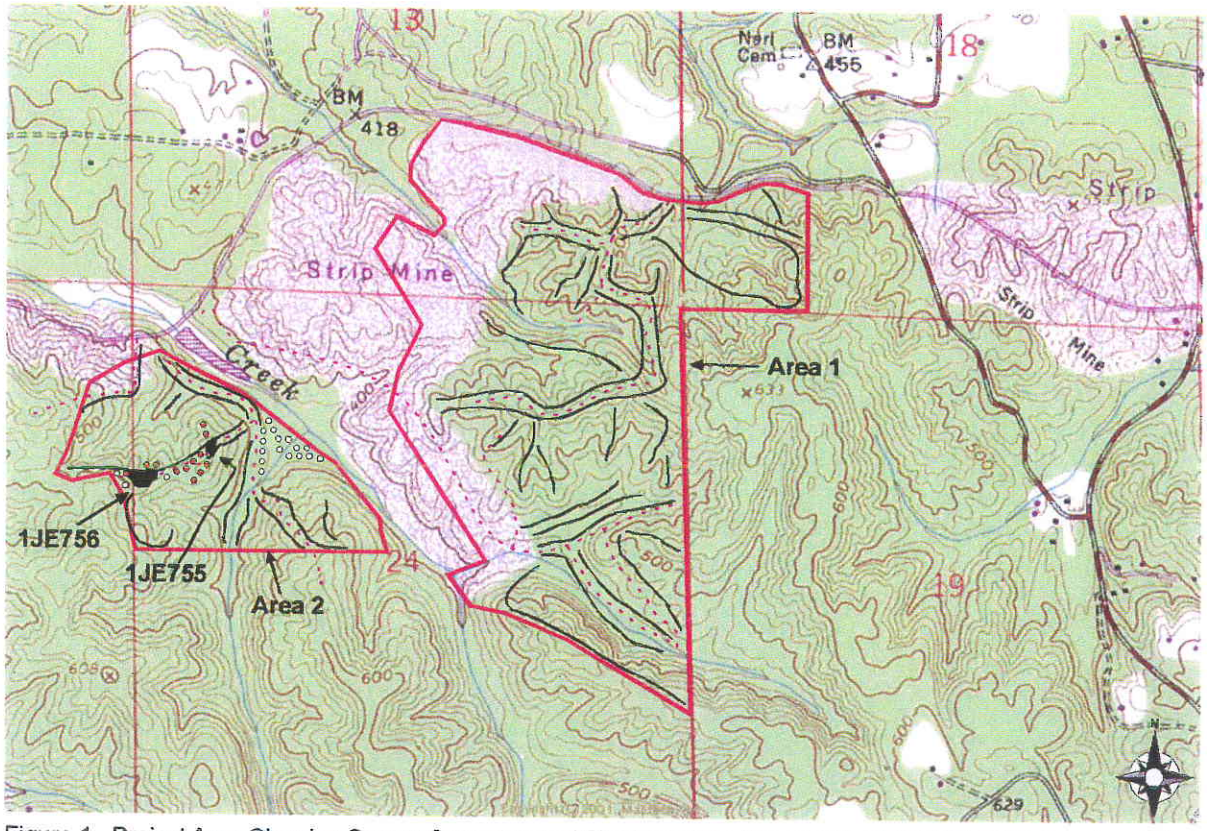


Figure 1. Project Area Showing Survey Coverage and Site Locations (Brookside 1986 7.5' USGS Quadrangle).

Project Area
Road
Transect
Negative Shovel Test
No Test Performed
Site Location
0 500
0 meters 2000
feet

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

The project area lies within the Warrior Basin physiographic region of the Cumberland Plateau, and is underlain by the Upper Pottsville formation. Land surface elevation for the area ranges from 370 to 580 feet above mean sea level. The land is characterized by steeply sloping hills and narrow valleys. There are a few unnamed intermittent streams within the project area that are tributaries of Trouble Creek.

Previous ground disturbing activities within the project area consist of surface mining, logging, and road construction. Approximately 85 acres of the total project area have been surface mined. The remainder of the area has been heavily logged (Figures 2 through 4). The previously mined area, including high walls and pits, was left for natural reclamation. Throughout the project area, the ground surface is covered with weathered shale and clay. The majority of the surface layer soil has been eroded, and where present, only a thin layer remains. Currently, the area is used for hunting and recreational off-roading with extensive and well-maintained trail systems.

The Jefferson County Soil Survey (Spivey 1982) indicates two soil types within the project area:

Figure 2. View of Area 1 Facing West.

Figure 3. View of Area 1 Facing North.

Figure 4. General View of Area 1 and 2 Facing South.

Montevallo-Nauvoo association, steep. This soil association occurs in areas underlain by shale and sandstone. Typically, the surface layer is very dark gray shale loam and dark grayish brown shaly silt loam to a depth of 13 cm, generally overlying a yellowish brown very shaly silt loam subsoil.

Palmerdale complex, steep. This soil type is limited to the previously mined areas and is made up of sediments from the weathering of highwalls and tailing piles.

FIELD METHODS

The survey was conducted in accordance with procedural standards set by the Alabama Historical Commission. A pedestrian walkover was performed as the primary method of survey for areas with low site probability as dictated either by previous survey experience in this region, or by the present condition of the land under investigation. These areas include steep side slopes, drainages, roadcuts and associated pushpiles, and areas where obvious and extensive erosion has exposed the subsoil.

Shovel tests were excavated at 30 meter intervals along transects where subsoil or disturbances did not preclude excavation. The 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. Site dimensions were recorded based on surface presence of cultural material. Shovel test locations labeled as "no test performed" were situated along a transect where ground surface conditions, such as erosion or other disturbance precluded the need for shovel testing.

The use of a handheld GPS and digital topographic map provided navigational assistance in transect placement and site recording. The GPS unit has a stated accuracy between 5.0-6.0 meters.

SURVEY RESULTS

A two-person archaeological team from PELA conducted the survey from December 3rd through 5th, 2003. A total of 19 transect shovel tests were excavated to a depth of less than 20 cm before encountering subsoil. The surface layer consisted of very dark gray (gley 1/4) shaly silt loam, from 0-7 cm, and dark brown (7.5YR 3/2) silty clay loam subsoil, from 7-20+ cm. These shovel tests were performed in a narrow, clear-cut, bottomland area where the soil appeared less disturbed than elsewhere in the project area. The majority of the project area exhibited sloping terrain, areas of clear ground visibility, and areas where erosion has exposed the subsoil. The dirt roads, green field, and eroded areas were also traversed and visually examined for cultural material.

The survey began in the easternmost portion of the project area (Area 1). An approximate 85 acre portion of this area (Figure 1) has been previously surface mined, and the surface soil throughout the remainder of Area 1 has been depleted from erosion due to clear cutting. Several small dirt roads traverse this portion of the project area. No shovel testing was necessary within Area 1 due to the ground disturbances and surface visibility. A thorough pedestrian walk over was conducted over the ridge tops and bottomlands with no cultural material encountered.

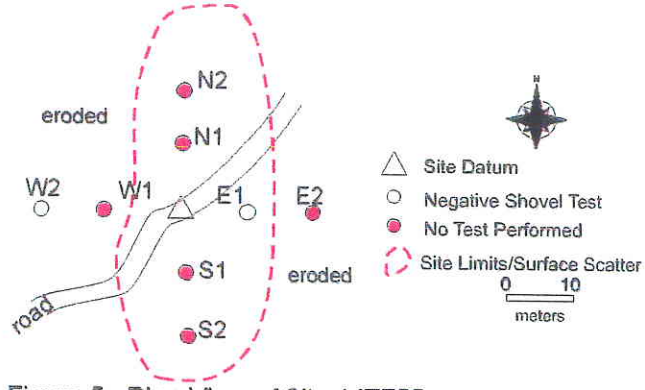


Figure 5. Plan View of Site 1JE755

Figure 6. View of Site 1JE755 Facing West.

The survey continued in the area to the west and south of Trouble Creek (Area 2). This area has been previously surface mined along the northwestern most edge (Figure 1). Area 2 has also been clear-cut over nearly the entire area. The remaining wooded area is located along a small stream in a narrow bottom. The 19 negative shovel tests were conducted in this area, but due to the amount of soil erosion, no further shovel tests were deemed necessary. During the pedestrian walkover, two sites (1JE755 and 1JE756) were recorded on adjacent ridgetops. Shovel testing was attempted on the ridge between the two sites to determine if additional cultural material existed. However, the 12 shovel tests between the sites were labeled as no tests performed due to the ground surface disturbances.

Site 1JE755

Artifacts recovered from the site consisted of three pieces of lithic

debitage, four plain whiteware sherds, and one piece of amber glass. The lithic debitage consisted of two partial 6 mm tertiary flakes and one partial 12 mm tertiary flake. These artifacts were located in an approximately 20 m by 50 m area (Figures 5 and 6). The area has been clear-cut and bulldozed and the artifacts were found in push-piles and along the dirt road. A total of two shovel tests were excavated where minimal ground cover prevented an examination of the ground surface. These tests indicated no surface soil was present. Due to the lack of subsurface material and the condition of the site environment, PELA recommends that site 1JE755 is not eligible for the NRHP.

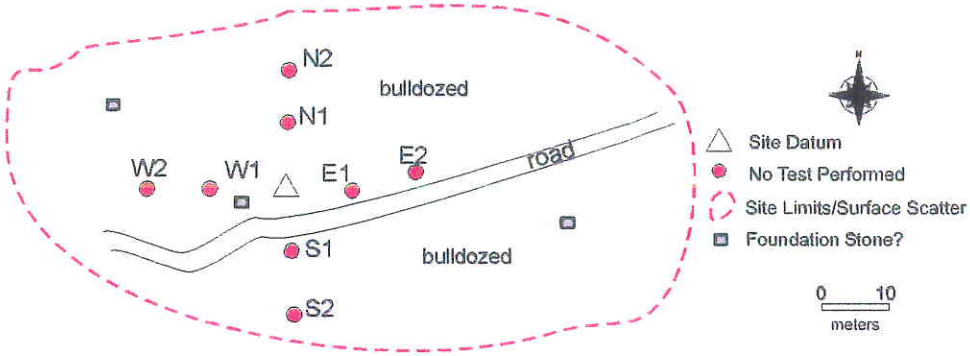


Figure 7. Plan View of Site 1JE756

Site 1JE756

Artifacts recovered from the site consisted of two pieces of milk glass, four plain whiteware sherds, and three stoneware sherds. There were also many pieces of plain whiteware not collected. The location of the site corresponds with the approximate location of a structure displayed on the 1908 Jefferson County Soil Map (USDA 1908). There were several rectangular pieces of sandstone that did not appear to be native to the project area and were probably foundation stones for a structure. Bulldozers have recently moved these stones. The site area is approximately 80 m by 50 m (Figures 7 and 8). This area has also been extensively clear-cut, leaving only two mature oak trees standing. A shooting house has also been built near the center of the area within the last few months. No shovel tests were conducted due to the lack of surface soil, disturbances, and the visibility of the ground surface. Due to the lack of site integrity and the general condition of the site environment, PELA recommends that site 1JE756 is not eligible for the NRHP.

Figure 8. View of Site 1JE756 Facing North.

SURVEY INTERPRETATION, EVALUATION, AND RECOMMENDATIONS

This survey was conducted by P.E. LaMoreaux & Associates, Inc. (PELA) for Best Coal, Inc. through PERC Engineering Co., Inc., in compliance with Federal and State regulations. Two sites were located through the course of the investigation. The

prehistoric/historic site, 1JE755, consisted of lithic debitage, plain whiteware, and a piece of amber glass. The historic site, 1JE756, consisted of two pieces of milk glass and several pieces of plain whiteware and stoneware.

The ground surface within the majority of the project area has been disturbed from previous logging and surface mining. Those activities, combined with the physical characteristics of the soils within the project area, have resulted in erosion of the surface layer. It is PELA's opinion that the current project boundary for the proposed Narley Mine will not impact any known cultural resources that are eligible or potentially eligible for the NRHP, and the area should be cleared from further cultural resource investigations.

REFERENCES

Spivey, Lawson D., Jr.
1982 *Soil Survey of Jefferson County, Alabama*. United States Department of Agriculture, Washington.

United States Department of Agriculture
1908 Soil Survey Map of Jefferson County, Alabama

United States Geological Survey
1982 Brookside, Alabama 7.5 Minute Topographic Quadrangle.

APPENDIX A

Site Forms

Sitexx: Computed Insert New Site

County: Jefferson

Site Name: 6629-1

Location and Size

Easting: 507870 Northing: 3731257 Elevation: 495

Township: 15S Range: 04W Section: 24

NE 1/4 of SW 1/4 of NW 1/4

Major Axis: 50 Minor Axis: 28 Max Depth: 0

Preservation Information

Preservation State: SEVERE EROSION

Immediate Destruction Pending: Yes Looting/Vandalism: ? % Destroyed: 100

National Register Status: NO

Archaeological Information

Level of Investigation: RECONNAISSANCE

Excavation Status: SURFACE & SHOVEL

Topographic Association: UPLAND BASE

Physiographic Description

Cumberland Plateau, Warrior Basin

Nearest Water Source: FIRST

Direction To: SE Distance To: 200 At Confluence: No

Drainage Basin: WARRIOR

Ground Cover: OPEN

Soil Type: MONTEVALLO

Soil Texture Class: SHALY LOAM

Degree of Disturbance: DEEP

USGS 7.5 Topographic Map: BROOKSIDE

Characteristics

☐ Human Remains	☐ Stone Mound(s)
☐ Features	☐ Weir
☐ Petroglyph/Pictrograph	☐ Quarry
☐ Rockshelter	☐ Standing Historic Structure
☐ Cave	☐ Historic Structure Site
☑ Artifact Scatter	☐ Historic Cemetery
☐ Midden	☐ Still
☐ Shell Midden	☐ Mill
☐ Single Earthen Mound	☐ Engineering
☐ Multiple Earthen Mound	☐ Other

Components

UNK ABO

Comments

SMALL LITHIC SCATTER LOCATED AMONG PUSHPILES AND BULLDOZED AREAS ON A NARROW RIDGETOP. SITE IS VERY DISTURBED. ALL SURFACE RECOVERY, NO SUBSURFACE MATERIAL.

Sponsored By: Perc Engineering

Recorded By: P. E. Lamoreaux and Associates

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If you desire a hard copy of this form, you must use the File->Print option in your browser BEFORE you press INSERT.

Sitexx: Computed Insert New Site

County: Jefferson

Site Name: 6629-2

Location and Size

Easting: 507656 Northing: 3731161 Elevation: 516

Township: 15S Range: 04W Section: 24

NW 1/4 of SW 1/4 of NW 1/4

Major Axis: 100 Minor Axis: 100 Max Depth: 0

Preservation Information

Preservation State: SEVERE EROSION

Immediate Destruction Pending: Yes Looting/Vandalism: ? % Destroyed: 100

National Register Status: NO

Archaeological Information

Level of Investigation: INTENSIVE

Excavation Status: SURFACE & SHOVEL

Topographic Association: UPLAND BASE

Physiographic Description

Cumberland Plateau, Warrior Basin

Nearest Water Source: FIRST

Direction To: SE Distance To: 330 At Confluence: No

Drainage Basin: WARRIOR

Ground Cover: OPEN

Soil Type: MONTEVALOO

Soil Texture Class: SHALY LOAM

Degree of Disturbance: DEEP

USGS 7.5 Topographic Map: BROOKSIDE

Characteristics

☐ Human Remains	☐ Stone Mound(s)
☐ Features	☐ Weir
☐ Petroglyph/Pictrograph	☐ Quarry
☐ Rockshelter	☐ Standing Historic Structure
☐ Cave	☐ Historic Structure Site
☑ Artifact Scatter	☐ Historic Cemetery
☐ Midden	☐ Still
☐ Shell Midden	☐ Mill
☐ Single Earthen Mound	☐ Engineering
☐ Multiple Earthen Mound	☐ Other

Components

20TH CENTURY

Comments

A SCATTER OF WHITEWARE, STONEWARE, AND GLASS WERE OBSERVED WITHIN A BULLDOZED AREA. SOME POSSIBLE FOUNDATION STONES WERE NOTED, HOWEVER, THEY ARE NOT IN THEIR ORIGINAL LOCATION DUE TO THE BULLDOZING. EARLY 1900S SOIL MAP SHOWS A STRUCTURE IN THIS GENERAL VICINITY. NO SUBSURFACE MATERAIL.

Sponsored By: Perc Engineering

Recorded By: P. E. Lamoreaux and Associates

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preserveALA
ALABAMA HISTORICAL COMMISSION

February 26, 2004

Keith Madison, P.G.
PERC Engineering Co., Inc.
P.O. Box 1712
Jasper, AL 35502

Re: AHC 2004-0328; CRA for Narley Mine, Jefferson County

Dear Mr. Madison:

Per your telephone conversation with Amanda McBride of our office, the Alabama Historical Commission has determined that the project activities will have no effect on any known cultural resources listed on or eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. Therefore, we can 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. They include but are not excluded to arrowheads, broken pieces of pottery or glass, stone implements, metal fasteners or tools, etc. Archaeological features are stains in the soil that indicated 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, please contact Amanda McBride of this office and include the AHC tracking number referenced above.

Very truly yours,

Elizabeth Ann Brown
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

EAB/ALM/alm

LEE H. WARNER
Executive Director

468 South Perry Street
Montgomery, Alabama
36130-0900

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