MRS CONSULTANTS, LLC.

Cultural Resource Specialists Archaeologists NHPA Section 106 Consultants

A Phase I Cultural Resources Assessment of 773 Acres For Rockcastle Mine near Abernant, Tuscaloosa County, Alabama

by
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April 9, 2019

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Project Information:
Proposed Use: Mining Operation
Survey Size: ±773 acres (313 ha)
Date of Survey: February 6-March 12, 2019

Locational Data:
County/State: Tuscaloosa County, AL
Topographic Map: Abernant, AL
Township: 20S **Range:** 7W **Sections:** 13 & 24
Township: 20S **Range:** 6W **Sections:** 18 & 19
Topographic Association: Uplands/slope

INTRODUCTION

MRS Consultants, LLC was contracted by McGehee Engineering Corp. to perform a cultural resources assessment for the proposed Cahaba Resources Rockcastle Mine near Abernant, Tuscaloosa County, Alabama. A pedestrian reconnaissance survey was conducted at the project area to assess the existence of cultural resources, including archaeological sites, historic structures, and cemeteries. Jeffery M. Meyer (Cultural Resource Specialist) and Linda A. Hollis (Research Assistant) performed the field survey during the weeks between February 6 and March 12, 2019. Beth A. Ryba serves as the Principal Investigator for the project. All phases of the research will be conducted in compliance with the guidelines set forth by the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) at the Alabama Historical Commission (AHC) and consider both archaeological and structural resources.

The study area is found off of State Route-216 (SR-16) between Abernant Loop and Milldale roads in rural Tuscaloosa County. The study limits include ±773 acres (313 ha) of upland terrain with eroded ridgecrests and steep side slopes. It is located in Township 20 South, Range 7 West, Sections 13 and 24 and Township 20 South, Range 6 West, Sections 18 and 19 as shown on the USGS 7.5' Abernant, Alabama topographic quadrangle (Figure 1). The property primarily consists of a mixture of previously clear-cut land and areas with severe mechanical impacts associated with mining activities, as well as terrain with immature planted pine trees and mixed forest. The majority of the property consists of sloping terrain that is severely disturbed and eroded. The mining activities noted in the survey area fall mostly fall within the southern half of the survey area. Surrounded by surface mining operations, numerous unimproved roads criss-cross the survey area providing visibility and access to the area. The landscape surrounding the project area is unpopulated and is characterized by large tracts of forests, numerous gas well pads, and surface mining operations.

As a result of these investigations three archaeological sites were discovered within the survey area. Specific data for the survey area are provided throughout the report, including general project data, information pertaining to the background research, and archaeological field data. Recommendations concerning the proposed project conclude the report.

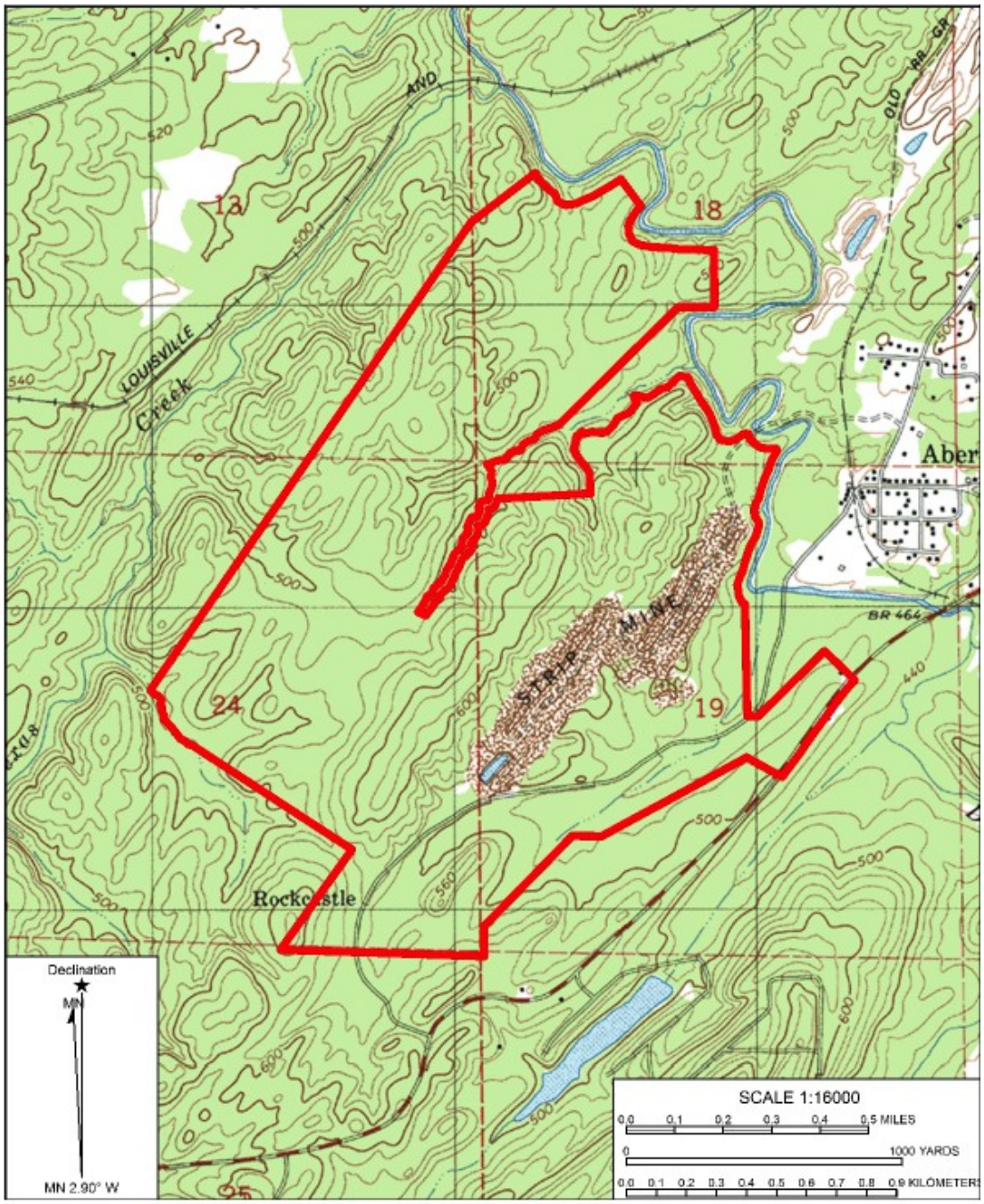

Figure 1. USGS 7.5' Abernant, Alabama Topographic Quadrangle Showing the Project Area.

BACKGROUND RESEARCH

Background research was conducted prior to the survey to identify any known cultural resources. This research also served to identify the potential for such resources. Several sources were referenced during the research, including the *Alabama Online Cultural Resources Database* (AOCRD) and *Phase I Surveys Module* maintained by the University of Alabama Office of Archaeological Research, the *National Register of Historic Places* (NRHP), the *National Historic Landmarks* (NHL), the *Alabama Register of Landmarks and Heritage* (ARLH). Historical maps at the *Historical Map Archive* website by the University of Alabama and *The National Map: Historical Topographic Map Collection* website at the U.S. Geological Service were also referenced. Below is a summary of the background research.

Alabama Online Cultural Resources Database: The AOCRD Alabama State Site File (ASSF) was referenced for previously recorded archaeological sites. No archaeological sites are recorded within one mile of the proposed project area.

Phase I Surveys: The Phase I Surveys website was referenced for previous cultural resource surveys. Six cultural resource surveys are documented within a one-mile radius of the survey area. One of the surveys falls within the project area. In 2011, Lolley surveyed a proposed dragline route across the northern portion fo the survey area. Table 1 provides a summary of information for each survey.

Table 1. Previous Surveys in the Area.

Author/Date	Survey Area	Description	Findings/Evaluations
Elmore (1993)	247 acres	Cultural Resource Survey of the Pattersontown Mine Permit Area, Southwest of Davis Creek, East Tuscaloosa County, Alabama	No cultural resources identified in APE.
Jones (2012)	154 acres	CRS of Jim Walter Mine No. 7, R-30, Tuscaloosa and Jefferson Counties, Alabama	No cultural resources identified in APE.
Lolley (2005)	59 acres	CRS of Jim Walter Mine No. 7, P-3247/Revision R-17, Tuscaloosa and Jefferson Counties, Alabama	No cultural resources identified in APE.
Lolley (2011	300 ft. by 98,500 feet	CRS of Proposed Dragline Route in Tuscaloosa and Jefferson Counties, Alabama	No cultural resources identified in APE.
Luis (2009)	0.5 miles	CRS of Bridge Replacement on SR-216 over Davis Creek in Tuscaloosa County, Alabama	No cultural resources identified in APE.
Richardson (2012)	3.5 acres	CRS of Borrow Pit near Abernant in Tuscaloosa County, Alabama	No cultural resources identified in APE.

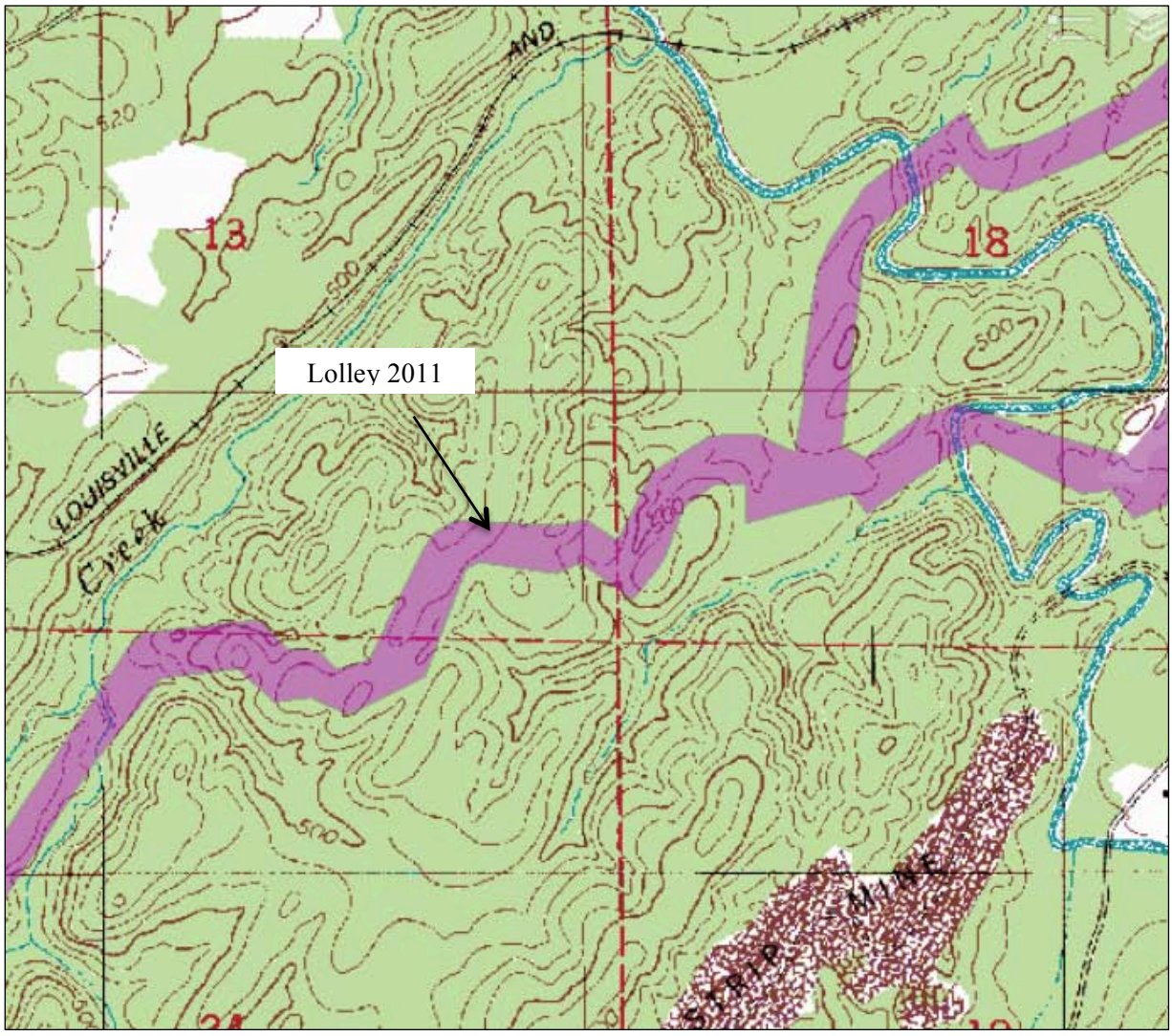

Figure 2. Portion of Topographic Map Showing Previously Conducted Survey by Lolley (2011) in Pink.

National Register of Historic Places: No NRHP properties are located within a one-mile radius of the study area.

Alabama Register of Landmarks and Heritage: No ARLH properties are located in the study area, or within a one-mile radius of the study area.

Alabama Historic Cemetery Register: No cemeteries listed on the AHCR are located within a one-mile radius of the study area.

Historical Atlas of Alabama, Volume 2: The Cemetery Atlas (Remington 2008) was referenced for any cemeteries documented within the survey area. No cemeteries described in the Atlas are reported in or near the survey area.

Historical Map Archives: Several maps were referenced at the University of Alabama's on-line web site; including the 1899 USGS 30' Brookwood quadrangle, the 1911 Tuscaloosa County soil map and the 1927 Adger and 1935 Yolande topographic quadrangles. The 1927 Adger map and the 1935 Yolande topographic map show mining in the southern portion of the survey area and the village of Rockcastle with numerous structures shown. None of the Rockcastle structures are extant. Also a mine and associated structures are shown in the project area as well as a no longer extant railroad spur line that ran from the main line.

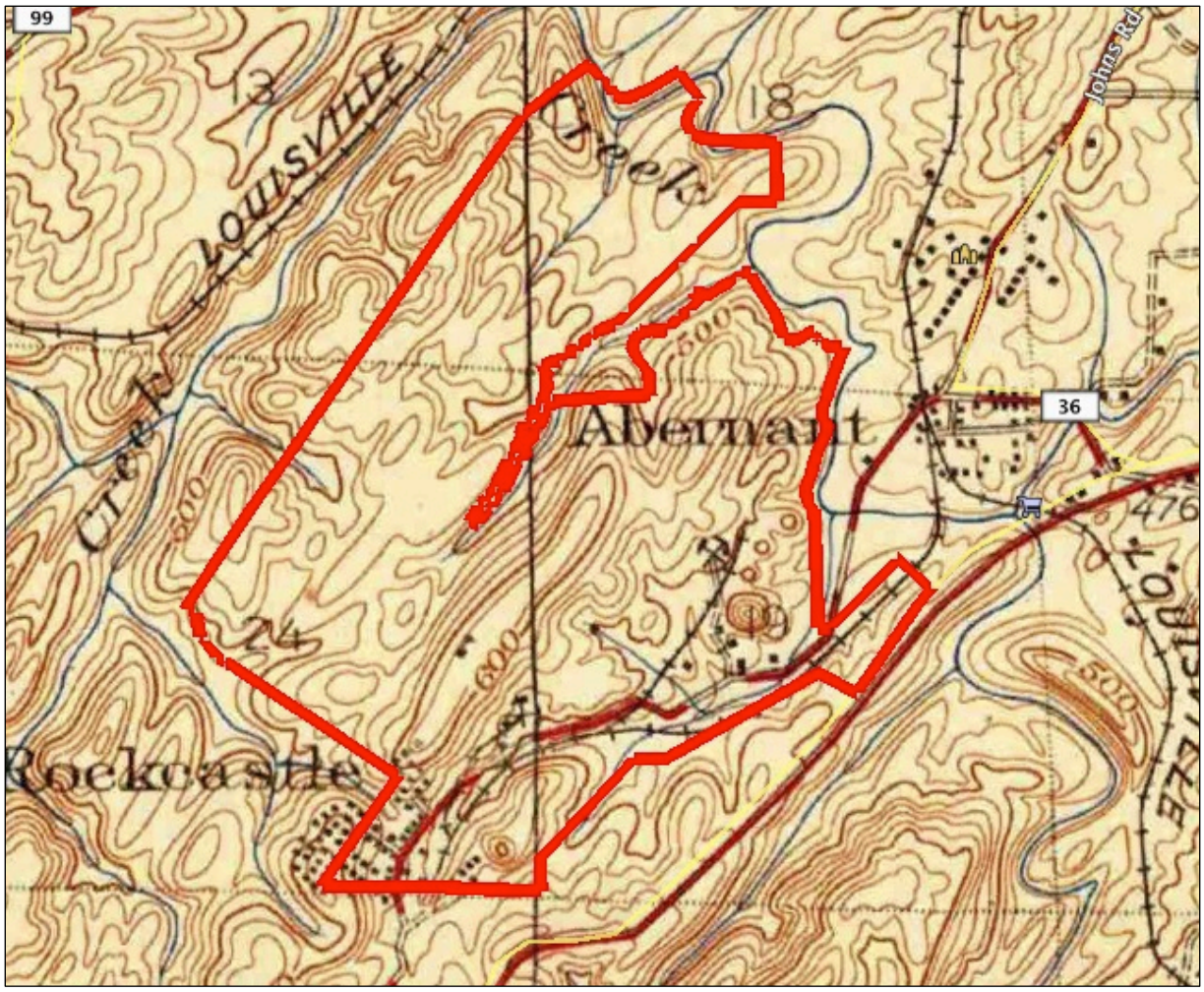

Figure 3. 1935 Yolande Map Showing the General Area. Note the Village of Rockcastle (No Longer Extant).

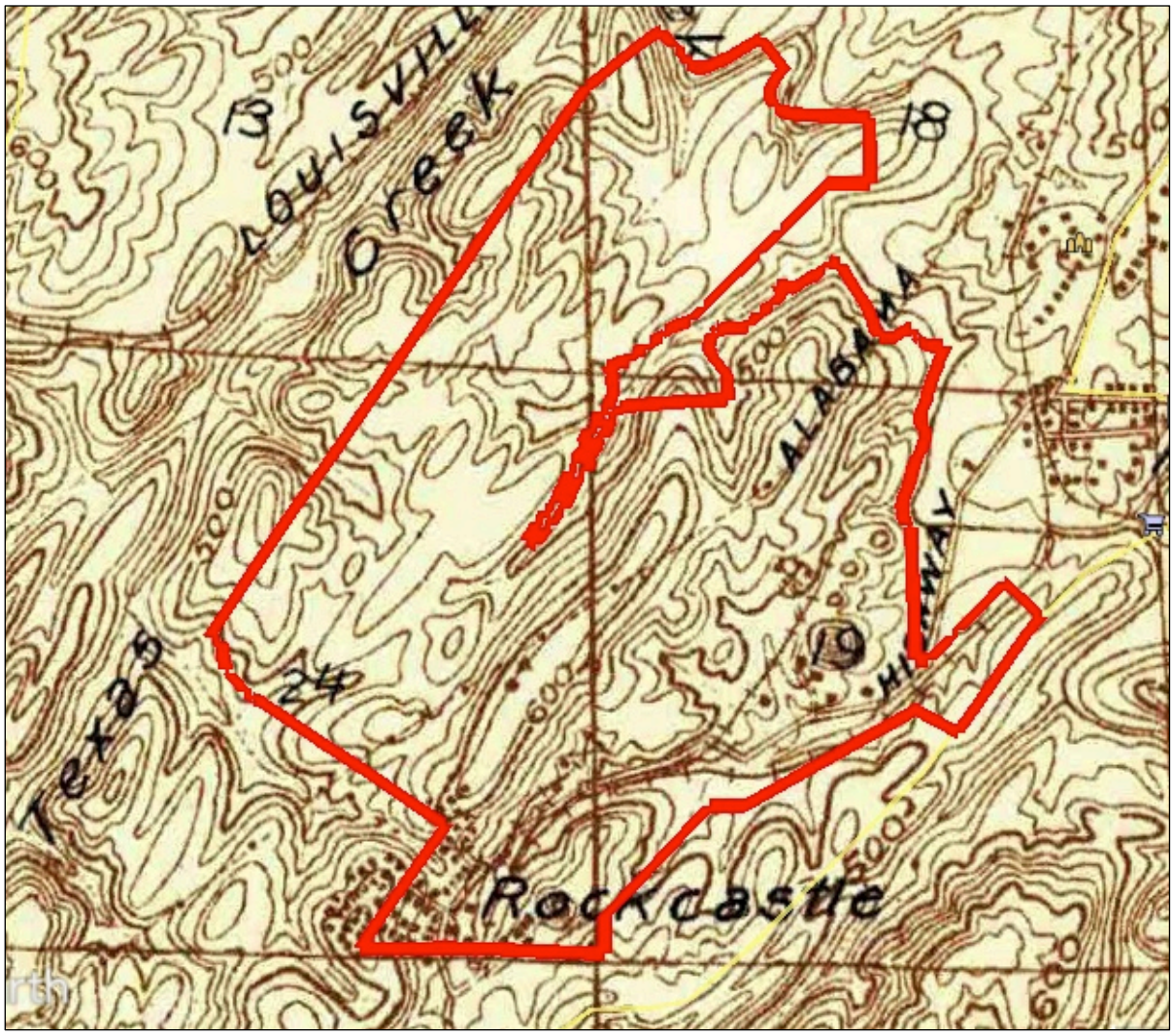

Figure 4. 1927 Adger Topographic Map Showing the General Area.

In addition to the historic maps, historical imagery on Google Earth was referenced to understand the history of the property. Images from 1998 through 2018 show that the property is have undergone clearcutting and regrowth with several logging/unimproved roads throughout the area. The southern portion is clearly disturbed by mining activities.

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

Ecoregion: The study area lies within the Southwestern Appalachians (Level III) ecoregion. More specifically, it falls within the Level IV Shale Hills which is sometimes called the Warrior Coal Field. "The region is mostly forested, but coal mining is a major industry, and the extensive open-pit mines

have altered the landscape, soils, and streams" (Griffith et al. 2001). Elevations range from 480 ft to 650 ft AMSL.

NRCS Soil Data: The NRCS Web Soil Survey (http://websoilsurvey.nrcs.usda.gov) was referenced for soils within the survey area and the NRCS soil data is downloaded into Google Earth. Soil information for the survey area is provided below.

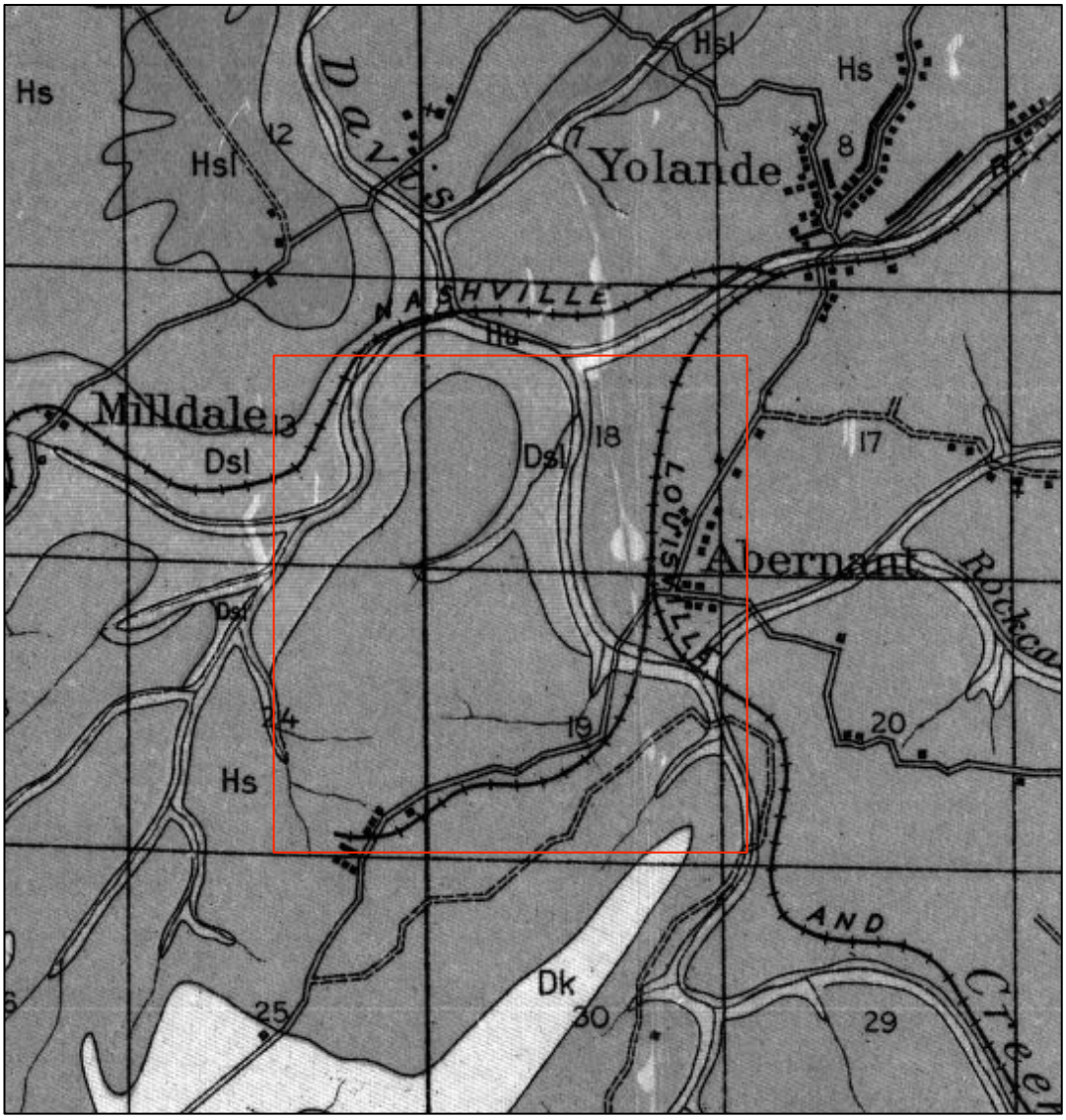

Figure 5. 1911 Soil Survey Map for Tuscaloosa County Showing the General Survey Area.

22—Montevallo-Nauvoo association, 10 to 45 percent slopes
Landform: Hillslopes
Parent material: Loamy residuum weathered from shale and siltstone
Typical profile
A - 0 to 7 inches: channery loam
B - 7 to 12 inches: very channery silt loam
Cr - 12 to 80 inches: bedrock

25—Palmerdale very shaly loam, 6 to 45 percent slopes
Landform: Hillslopes
Parent material: Gravelly mine spoil or earthy fill derived from sandstone and shale
Typical profile
H1 - 0 to 5 inches: very channery loam
H2 - 5 to 80 inches: very channery sandy loam

FIELD METHODS

The intensity of the survey was based on the probability to find significant, intact cultural deposits. Prior to the survey, the project area was evaluated for its potential to contain cultural resources, especially archaeological sites. Soil classification, slope and topography, and nearby water sources are factors in determining site probability. According to the NRCS websoil database, the majority of resident soils are eroded as expected in steep terrain or gravelly mine spoil associated with previous mining operations (NRCS 2019). These soils are associated with poor locations for human occupation, and thus, significant, cultural deposits.

The field survey conducted for the proposed mine project implemented standard archaeological survey techniques. Much of the survey area is sloped and has been affected by logging activities, as evidenced by immature vegetation, exposed subsoil, logging roads, logging staging areas, and push piles. Mechanical impacts have also affected the survey area. A pedestrian reconnaissance using visual inspection of exposed ground surfaces, i.e. road cuts, clearings, erosional gullies, and push-piles was conducted. Surface visibility ranged from poor to excellent; with an overwhelming amount of exposed ground surface along the ridge tops while the side slopes are generally covered with immature forest and secondary vegetation. Surface investigations were supplemented by shovel tests measuring 30-40 cm in diameter that were excavated to subsoil. Soils were then sifted through a 6 mm wire mesh screen in order to check for cultural materials. For each shovel test, the soil types and stratigraphic profile were recorded. Because of the extensive impacts within the project area and considering the upland topography, systematic, interval shovel testing was often not practical. Shovel tests were instead excavated based on subjective field decisions and the likelihood for encountering intact cultural deposits.

Regardless, walked routes were closely inspected for cultural materials, aboveground features, notable depressions, etc. A total of 173 shovel tests was excavated. Shovel testing was limited due to the disturbed setting, excellent surface visibility on the ridetops, and steep terrain that is unsuitable for human occupation. Soil probes are less formal tests that were utilized where topsoil measured 5 cm or less, and soils were not screened. These no dig/negative walk over points are documented to note surface disturbances, no available topsoil, or steep areas unsuitable for subsurface testing. Sloped areas not subject to shovel testing are eroded and evidence of no topsoil is noted. Furthermore, numerous push piles are available throughout the survey area. These piles provide a sample of subsurface soils and sediment, which were closely examined to identify any buried cultural materials. A total of 112 locations are noted as no dig/negative walk over points. Appendix A provides maps showing the shovel tests and No Dig locations. Figures 5 shows the project area with the survey details. Any artifacts recovered during the investigation were bagged by provenience, and returned to the laboratory for analysis. Each discovered resource (archaeological sites, cemeteries, and historic structures) was evaluated to a preliminary level necessary for determining its potential eligibility for inclusion on the NRHP. Standard information was derived for each archaeological site, i.e. GPS coordinates, dimensions, vertical depth, positive/negative shovel tests, environmental context, photographs, sketch maps, etc Figure 6 provides a map with shovel test locations and survey details illustrated. Photographs taken during the survey are provided at the end of this report.

In regard to prehistoric occupation, the survey area is considered to have a low to moderate probability for the occurrence of archaeological sites. The property is dominated by moderately steep to steep slopes and only a few areas are characterized as level to gently sloping terrain. Areas that are generally considered conducive to prehistoric occupation include the ridge tops within the survey area; however, these areas have extensive disturbances. These impacts significantly reduce the chance for cultural resource occurrence. Furthermore, except for the easternmost portion closer to Davis Creek, most of the survey area is located too far a distance from a reliable water source to be considered a high probability area for prehistoric occupation.

In addition to the archaeological survey, the survey area and adjacent properties were inspected for historic structures and cemeteries. The topographic quadrangle was reviewed and no cemeteries are shown in or in close proximity to the survey area. No historic properties are identified within or near the survey area APE. Therefore, no significant historic properties will be affected by the proposed undertaking.

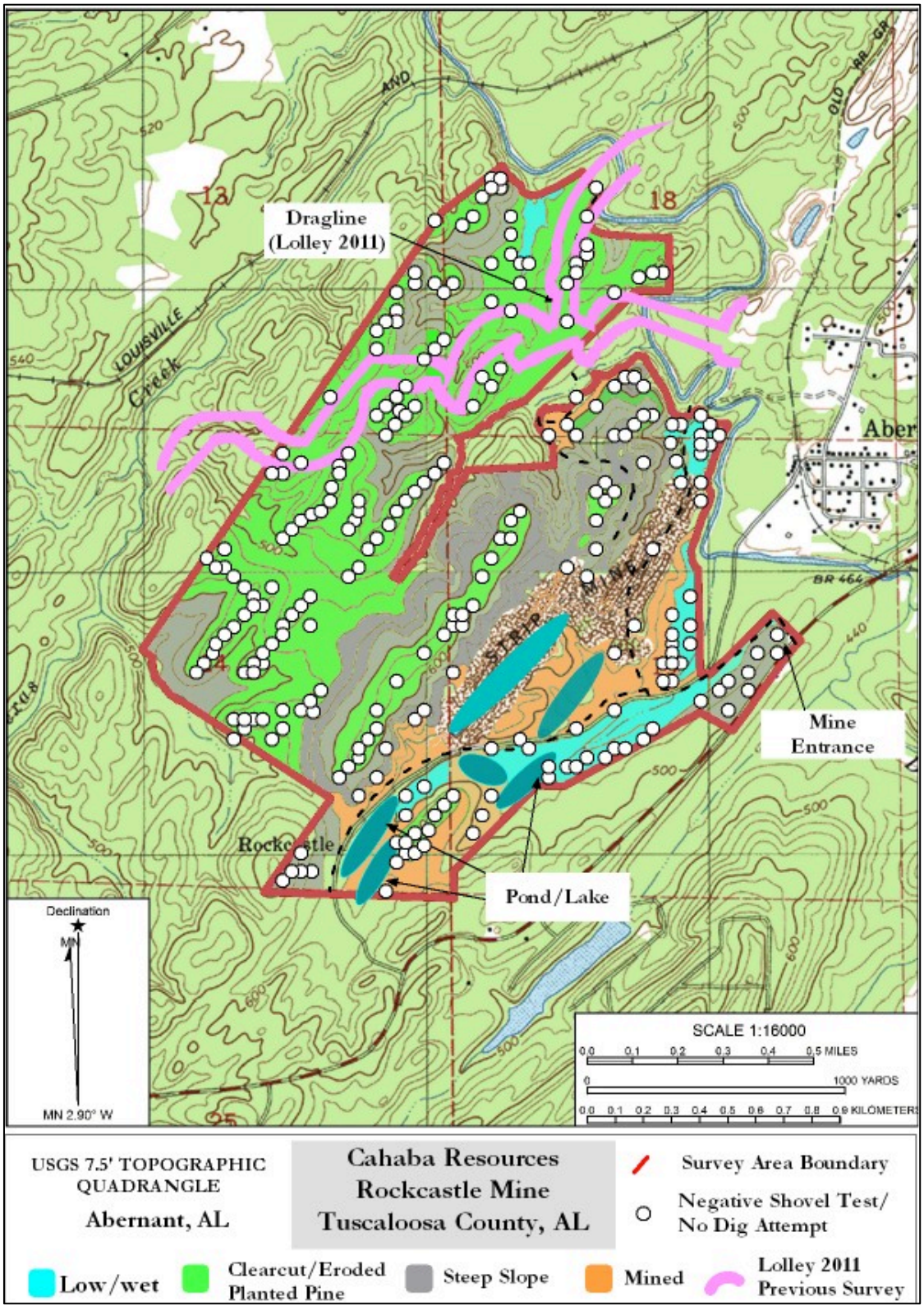

Figure 6. USGS 7.5’ Albernant, AL Topogr aphic Map Showing Survey Details.

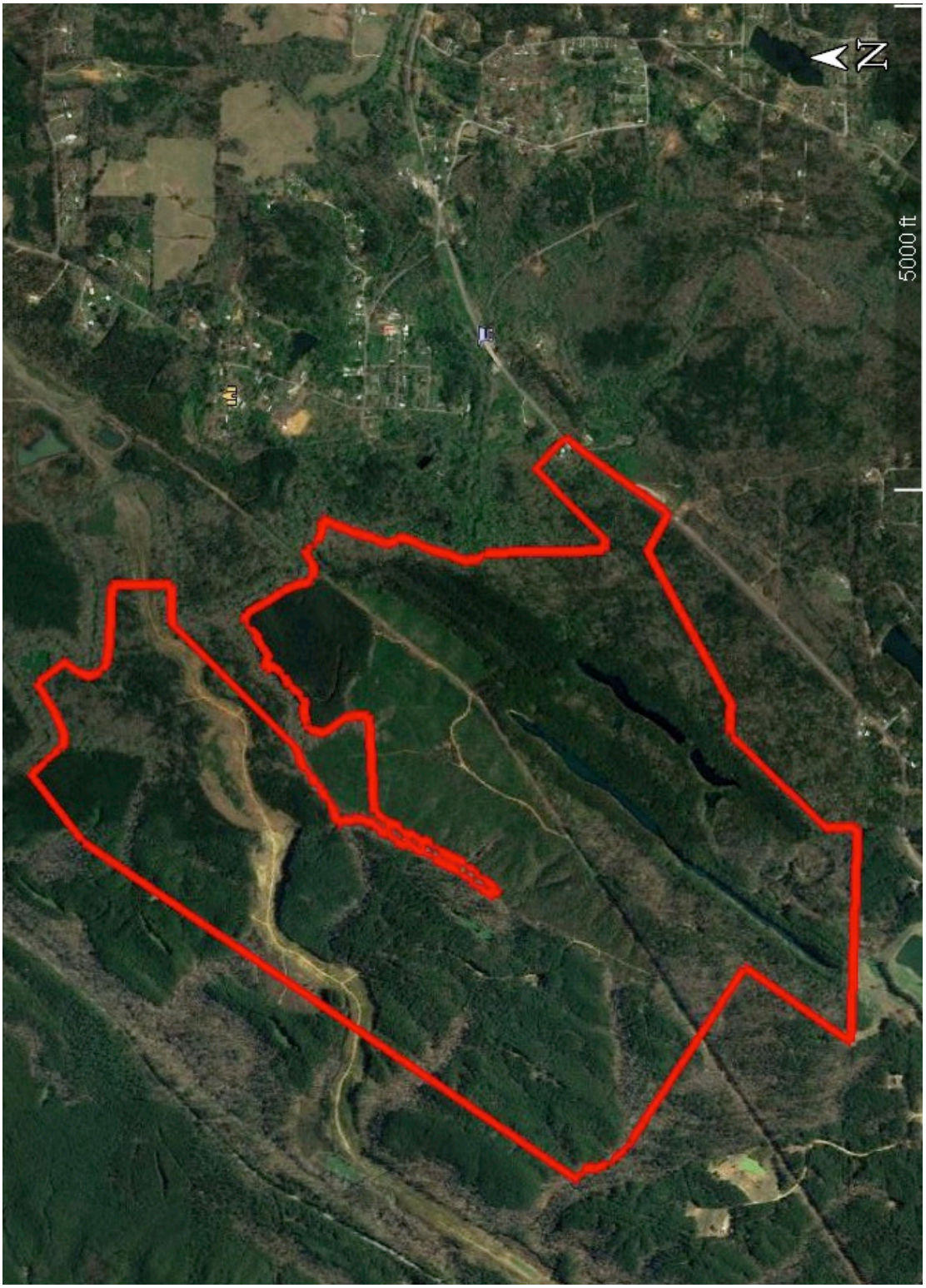

Figure 7. Aerial View of Project Area.

LABORATORY AND CURATION PROCEDURES

Cultural materials recovered from Site 1Tu1149 were bagged by provenience. Materials were returned to the MRS laboratory for washing, analysis, and preparation for curation. Laboratory analysis followed standard procedures, i.e. washing, sorting by artifact class, and tabulation of artifacts. Artifacts were solely classified as lithic. This artifact group was further divided into subcategories using standard types classifications. Processed artifacts were placed into archival bags with permanent provenience data, listed in an inventory by provenience, and prepared for curation. All materials and documentation will be curated at the Troy University Archaeological Research Center, which meets Department of Interior 36 CFR Part 79 standards.

Cultural Resources Specialist, Marla J. Spry conducted the artifact analysis for the project. The artifacts recovered during Phase I survey produced 13 artifacts total specimens (Table 2). The lithic artifact assemblage includes ten flakes, two shatter specimens and one unidentified chipped stone fragement. No diagnostic artifacts are identified.

RESEARCH FINDINGS

As a result of these investigations, three archaeological sites were discovered within the survey area. Designated as sites 1Tu1147, 1Tu1148, and 1Tu1149, two of the sites consist of poured concrete structures (1Tu1147 and 1Tu1148). Rectangular in shape; these sites are likely associated with previous mining activities in the area. Shovel testing was not warranted in the site areas as the areas are extremely disturbed by previous mining activites. However, no cultural material was noted in the site area. Site 1Tu1149 is a sparse density, prehistoric lithic scatter identified adjacent to an eroded access road. Further investigation into any of the three sites is unlikely to yield pertinent information regarding the cultural history of the area. None of the three sites are considered eligible for the NRHP and no further work is recommended.

The following section summarizes the findings of the investigations. Figure 9 shows the archaeological site locations. Photographs of the survey area and representative site photographs are provided at the end of the report.

Field Data:

Size of Survey Area: ±773 acres (313 ha)

Topography: Uplands/steep slope/ridge spurs

Previous Impacts: Mechanical disturbances/mining activities/road construction/timbering/erosion

Degree of Surface Visibility: 0-100%

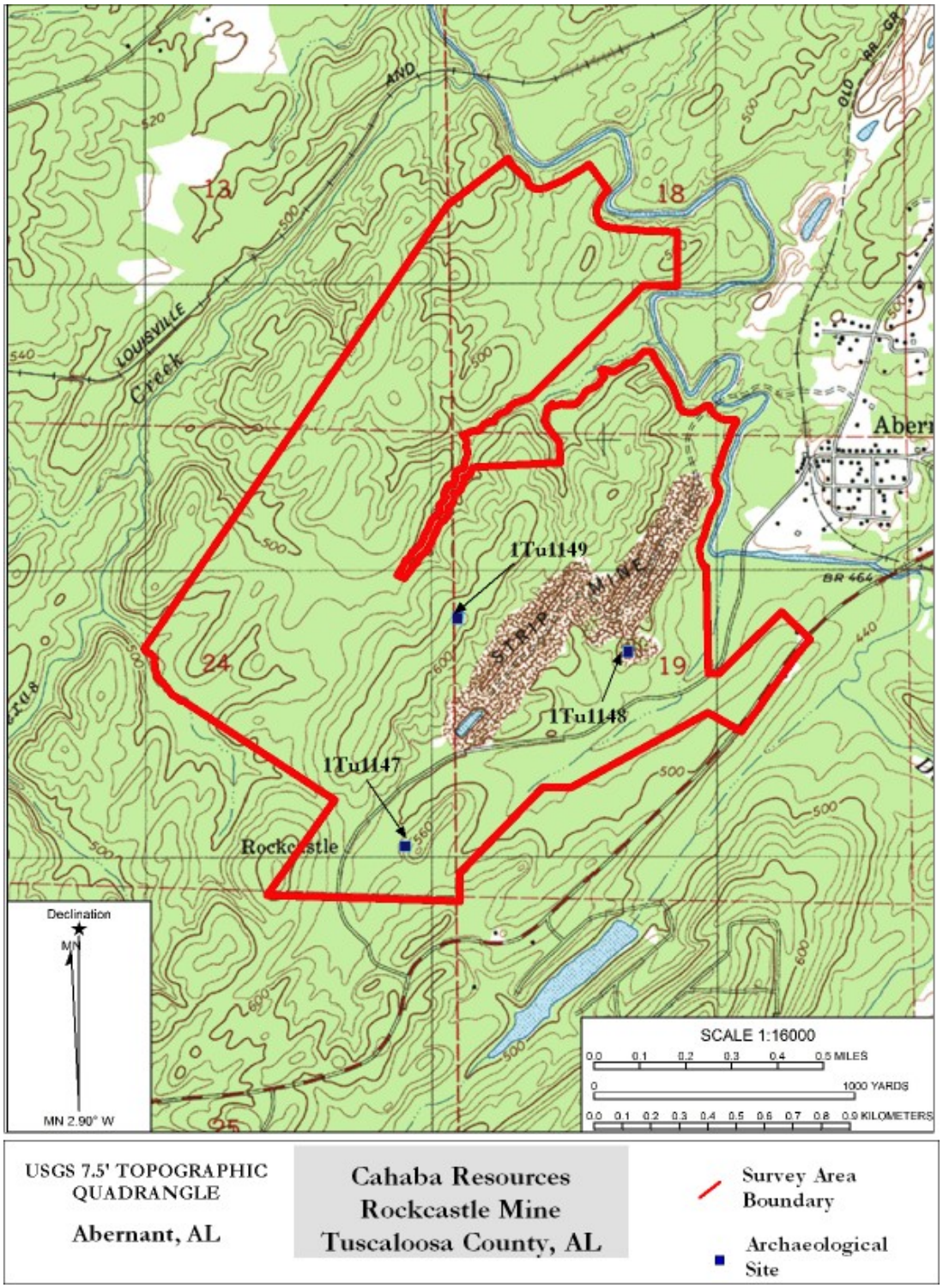

Figure 8. USGS 7.5' Albernant, AL Topogr aphic Map Showing the Archaeological Sites.

Soil Type: 22—Montevallo-Nauvoo association, 10 to 45 percent slopes
25—Palmerdale very shaly loam, 6 to 45 percent slopes (NRCS 2019)

Nearest Water Sources: Intermittent streams (2); Davis Creek

Number of Negative Shovel Tests: 173

Number of Positive Shovel Tests: 0

Negative Walkovers/Observation Points: 112

Depth of Topsoil: 0 cm to 12 cm

Number of Archaeological Sites: Three (3)

Survey Summary: The survey area was investigated using a combination of surface investigations, negative walker overs i.e. No Digs, and shovel tests. The property consists of steep slopes and upland ridge spurs that have been previously timbered and covered in immature planted pine forests and secondary growth. The previously cleared portions of the survey area are extensively disturbed and the mechanical impacts within the survey area are severe with significant earth moving activities. In general, the survey area is considered extremely disturbed by mechanical activities, mining activities, road construction, timber harvesting, and erosion. Numerous push piles and earth moving, mechanical impacts have negated any chance for the occurrence of cultural deposits. Surface visibility of 100% is common throughout the survey area due to the disturbances and earth moving activities.

A total of 173 shovel tests was excavated during the survey. In addition, 112 No Dig negative walk over points are also noted. These began as shovel tests, which were aborted upon realizing the absence of topsoil and/or disturbed context. These may also include the notation of exposed road beds, push piles, disturbed areas, steep slope, and areas with no available topsoil. The overwhelming majority of the surface area has been subject to various forms of disturbances ranging from timber operations, mining operations, construction activities, as well as severe erosion. Soil probes and shovel tests determined that the topsoil layer is shallow, typically including between 0 cm to 12 cm of medium grayish brown sandy clay loam with quartz inclusions, which is underlain by yellowish red sandy clay subsoil to 30+ cmbs. Most of the shovel tests contained less than 10 cm of topsoil. Locations considered suitable for shovel testing were limited. Archaeological investigations were limited in much of the survey area due to severe impacts and disturbances. Nevertheless, these areas were visually examined for cultural materials with extreme erosion and an absence of topsoil noted. Shovel tests and No Dig attempt locations are shown on Figure 6. As a result of these investigations, three archaeological sites were identified within the project area (1Tu1147-1149). Two of the sites consist of the remains of poured concrete structures/buildings that are associated with previous mining activities in the area. Shovel testing was not warranted in the these site areas due to the extreme disturbances from previous mining activities. The third site (1Tu1149) is an Unknown Aboriginal lithic scatter found on the exposed ground surface on an eroded ridgetop. None of the three sites are considered

NRHP eligible and no further work is recommended. The overwhelming majority of the survey area is severely disturbed, lack topsoil, and holds no potential for the occurrence of intact cultural deposits. Therefore, the proposed undertaking will not affect any significant historic properties for direct effect. A brief summary of the three archaeological sites follows.

Archaeological Sites:

Site 1Tu1147

Location: SE1/4 of the SE1/4 of the SE1/4, T20S, R7W Section 24 on the Abernant, Alabama topographic quadrangle.

UTM: 16S 479896.71 m E, 3682238.27 m N *Latitude*: 33°16'44.40"N *Longitud*e: 87°12'57.18"W

Elevation: 546 ft AMSL *Site Size*: +/- 12 m by 12 m

Description: The site consists of the remains of a poured concrete structure, rectangular in shape measuring approximately 40 ft. by 40 ft (12 m by 12m). A southeastern wall is estimated to be approximately 3.5 m high. There are two windows and a door (Figures 9-11). No cultural material is noted in the site area. The function of the structure remains unknown, however, it is most likely related to previous mining activities in the area. The Davis Creek Coal & Coke Company operated an underground mine in the Rock Castle area. The function and origin of the structure is undetermined. However, it does not appear to be NRHP eligible.

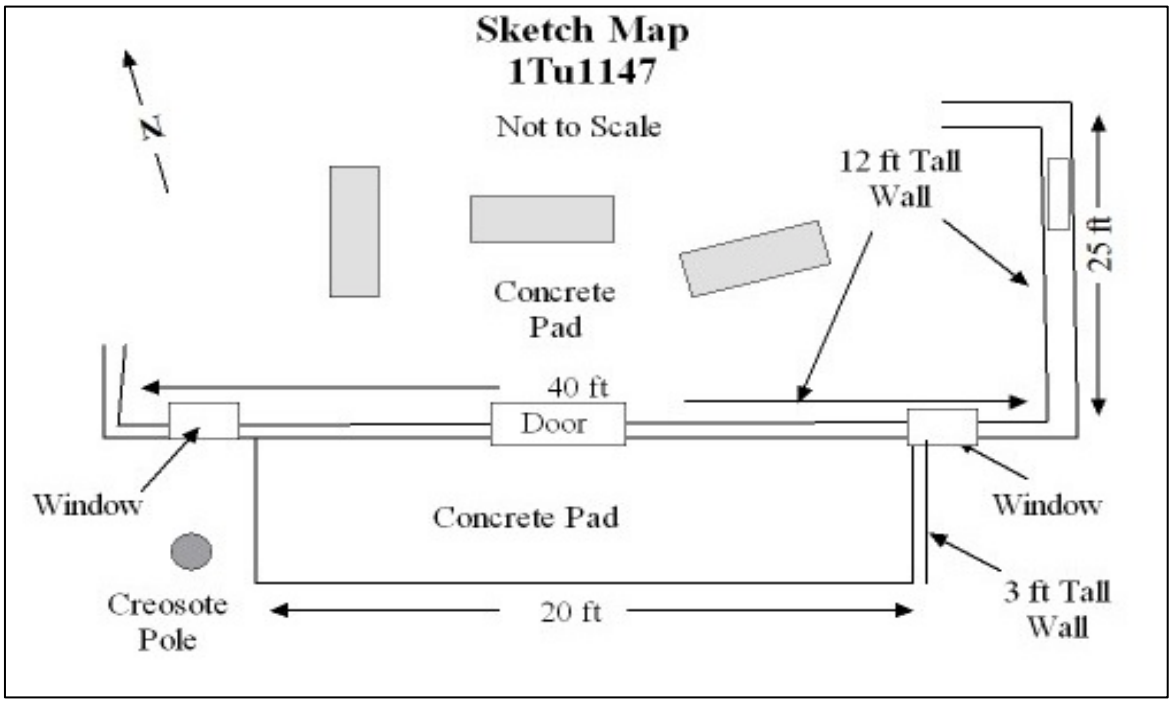

Figure 9. Site 1Tu1147 Sketch Map.

Figure 10. Site 1Tu1147, View to West.

Figure 11. Site 1Tu1147, View to East.

Site 1Tu1148

Location: SW1/4 of the SE1/4 of the NW1/4 ,T20S R6W, Section 19 on the Abernant, Alabama topographic quadrangle.

UTM: 16S 479896.71 m E, 3682238.27 m N *Latitude*: 33°17'7.00"N *Longitude*: 87°12'27.44"W

Elevation: 525 ft AMSL *Site Size*: +/- 10.5 m by 7.6 m

Description: The site consists of the remains of a poured concrete structure, rectangular in shape measuring approximately 25 ft. by 35 ft (10.5 m by 7.6 m). Standing walls are estimated to be approximately 2 m (6 ft.) high. There is one door on the south side and one window on the west side (Figures 12-14). No cultural material is noted in the site area. Adjacent to an old access road, the function of the structure remains unknown, however, it is most likely related to previous mining activities in the area. The Davis Creek Coal & Coke Company operated an underground mine in the Rock Castle area. The function and origin of the structure is undetermined. However, it does not appear to be NRHP eligible.

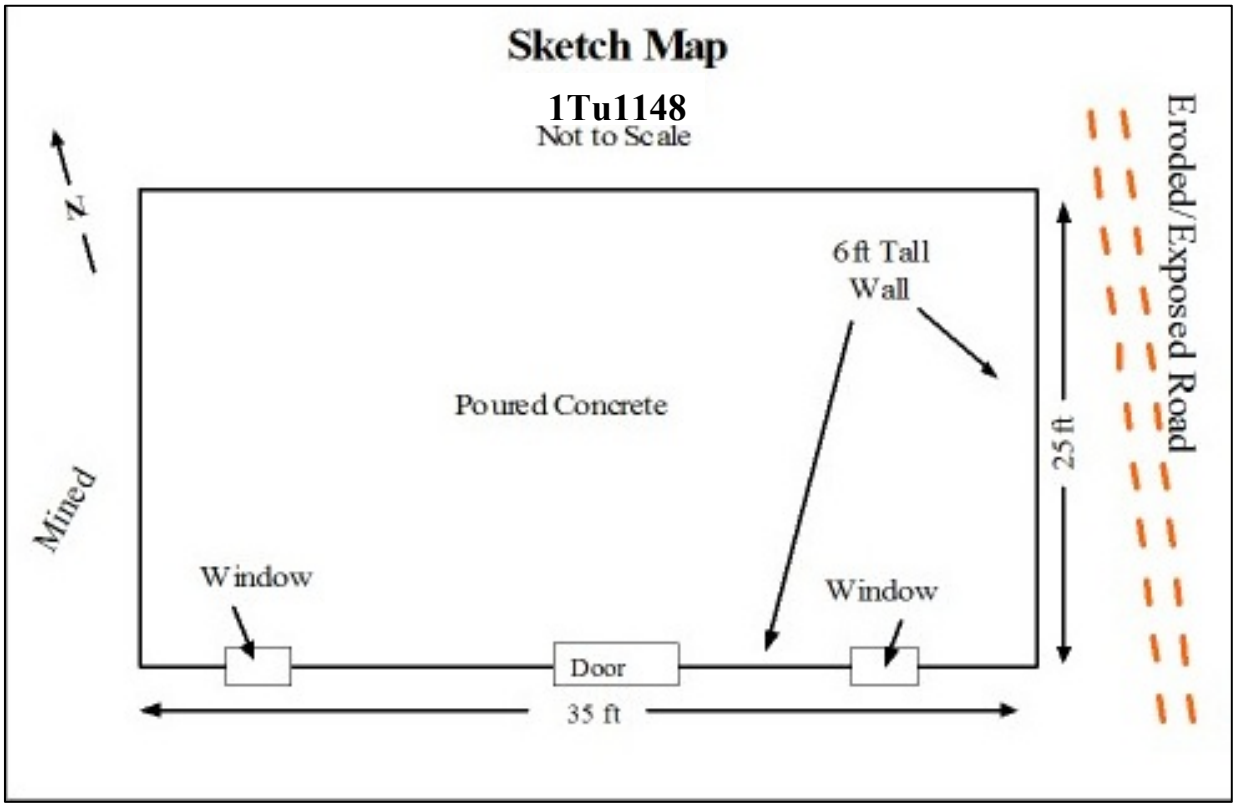

Figure 12. Site 1Tu1148, Sketch Map.

Figure 13. View to Northeast of 1Tu1148.

Figure 14. Interior of 1Tu1148.

Site 1Tu1149

Location: NW1/4 of the SW1/4 of the NW1/4, T20S, R6W, Section 19 on the Abernant, Alabama topographic quadrangle.

UTM: 16S 479896.71 m E, 3682238.27 m N *Latitude*: 33°17'10.01"N *Longitude*: 87°12'49.87"W

Elevation: 633 ft AMSL *Site Size*: +/- 10 m by 5 m

Description: The identified prehistoric site consists of a sparse density, unknown aboriginal lithic scatter identified adjacent to an eroded access road (Figures 15-17). Located in a previous clearcut with pine saplings, the surface visibility was 100 percent. Cultural material collected from the eroded surface includes lithic debitage with one artifact classified as unidentified chipped stone. Table 2 provides an artifact inventory. Shovel testing in the site area did not yield any additional cultural material and revealed approximately 4 cm of medium grayish brown sandy clay loam underlain by yellowish red sandy clay subsoil. The site is not considered NRHP elibile and no further testing is recommended. An artifact inventory for 1Tu1149 is presented below.

Table 2. Artifact Inventory, Archaeological Site 1Tu1149.

Provenience	Count	Category	Type	Description
Surface	1	Lithic	Biface Fragment/Unidentified Chipped Stone	Chert
	10	Lithic	Flakes	Chert
	2	Lithic	Angular Fragments/Shatter	Chert

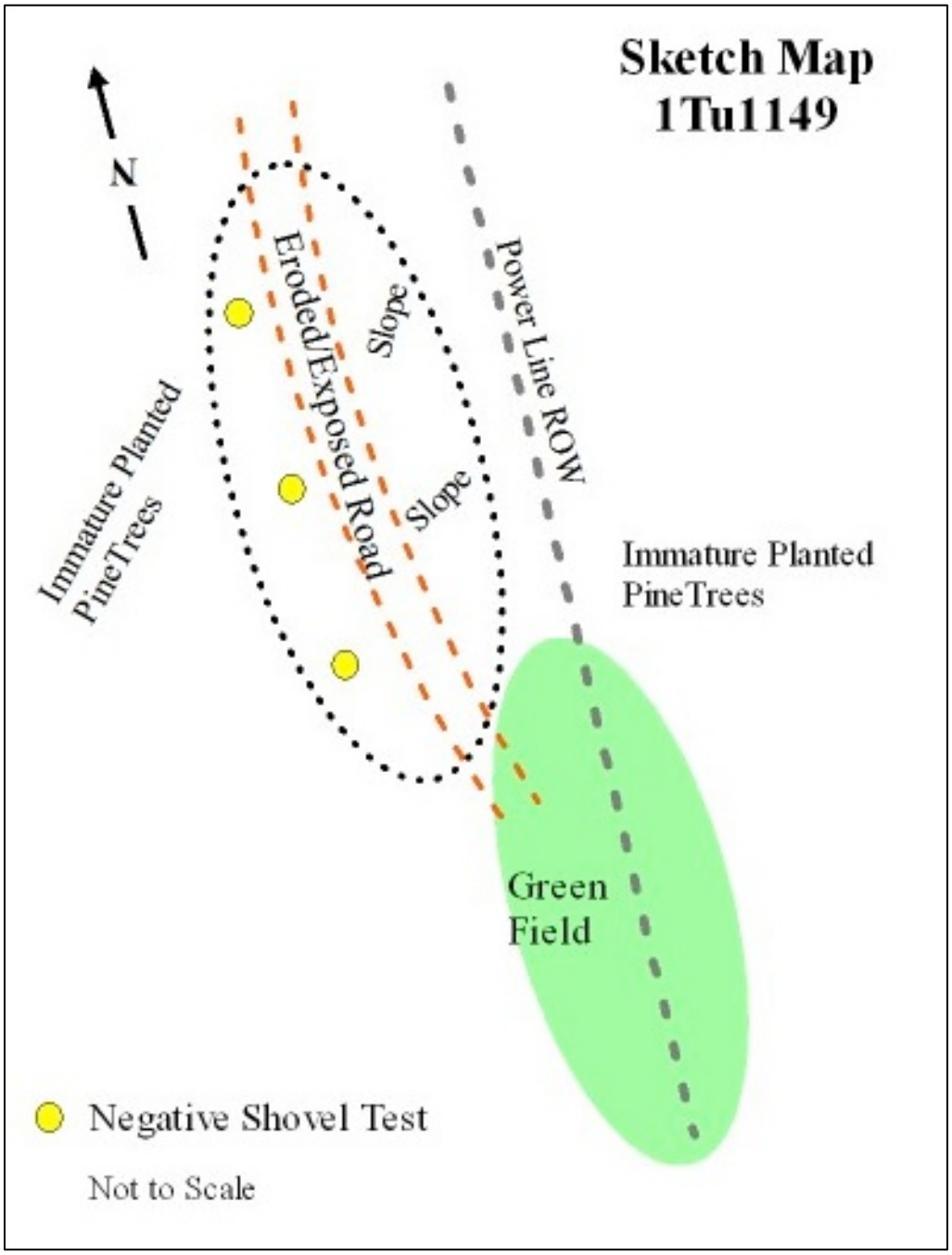

Figure 15. Site 1Tu1149, Sketch Map.

Figure 16. Site 1Tu1149, View to North.

Figure 17. Site 1Tu1149, View to West.

Architectural Data and Analysis of APE:

General Characterization of the APE: The study area is found off of SR-16 between Abernant Loop and Milldale roads in rural Tuscaloosa County. The APE is characterized as a sparse to unpopulated area with forested uplands and expansive mining operations compromising the surrounding landscape.

Background Research: Background research for the current undertaking did not identify any NRHP-listed or NRHP-eligible historic properties in the area for indirect or direct effect.

Field Evaluation/Findings: As a result of the field investigations, no historic properties are noted within the survey area or APE. As such, the proposed mining operations will have no effect upon any significant historic properties.

SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATIONS

MRS Consultants, LLC was contracted by McGehee Engineering Corp. to perform a cultural resources assessment for the proposed Cahaba Resources Rockcastle Mine near Abernant, Tuscaloosa County, Alabama. A pedestrian reconnaissance survey was conducted at the project area to assess the existence of cultural resources, including archaeological sites, historic structures, and cemeteries. Jeffery M. Meyer (Cultural Resource Specialist) and Linda A. Hollis (Research Assistant) performed the field survey during the weeks between February 6 and March 12, 2019. Beth A. Ryba serves as the Principal Investigator for the project. All phases of the research will be conducted in compliance with the guidelines set forth by the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) at the Alabama Historical Commission (AHC) and consider both archaeological and structural resources.

The study area is found off of SR-16 between Abernant Loop and Milldale roads in rural Tuscaloosa County. The study limits include ±773 acres (313 ha) of upland terrain with eroded ridgecrests and steep side slopes. It is located in Township 20 South, Range 7 West, Sections 13 and 24 and Township 20 South, Range 6 West, Sections 18 and 19 as shown on the USGS 7.5' Abernant, Alabama topographic quadrangle. The property primarily consists of a mixture of previously clear-cut land and areas with severe mechanical impacts associated with mining activities, as well as terrain with immature planted pine trees and mixed forest. The majority of the property consists of sloping terrain that is severely disturbed and eroded. The mining activities noted in the survey area fall mostly fall within the southern half of the survey area while the northern half is mostly comprised of immature planted pine and previously clearcut land. Lolley (2012) previously surveyed a proposed dragline route across the northern half. Surrounded by surface mining operations, numerous unimproved roads criss-cross the survey area providing visibility and access to the area. The landscape surrounding the project area is unpopulated and is characterized by large tracts of forests, numerous gas well pads, and surface mining operations.

The disturbances noted during the survey are severe with no to little likelihood for the occurrence of intact cultural deposits. Few areas were located suitable for shovel testing and excavated shovel tests generally revealed less than 10 cm of topsoil. However, three archaeological sites were discovered during the survey. Designated as 1Tu1147-1149, Site 1Tu1147 consists of the remains of a poured concrete structure, rectangular in shape measuring approximately 40 ft. by 25 ft. Site 1Tu1148 is also a poured concrete structure adjacent to an old mining road. Approximately 6 ft. in height, the structure measures approximately 35 ft. by 25 ft. Both of these sites are associated with previous mining activities in the area. Site 1Tu1149 is a sparse density, prehistoric lithic scatter identified adjacent to an eroded access road. Shovel testing in the site area did not yield any additional cultural material. Further investigation into any of the three sites is unlikely to yield pertinent information regarding the cultural history of the area and none of the three sites are considered eligible for the NRHP. No further work is recommended

Finally, no historic architectural resources are identified in the survey area or the surrounding APE. The surrounding area is virtually unpopulated and dominated by surface mining operations. No resources at least 50 years old are identified. As such, the proposed undertaking would have no effect upon any historic resources for indirect effect.

Based on these findings, MRS recommends clearance of the proposed Cahaba Resources, Rockcastle Mine in Tuscaloosa County, Alabama. The proposed undertaking should have no effect upon any significant historic properties for direct or indirect effect.

All materials and documentation related to projects conducted by MRS Consultants will be periodically curated at a curational facility that meets Department of Interior 36 CFR Part 79 standards. Curation agreement attached.

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Figure 18. View to the Southwest of Pond in Mined Portion of the Survey Area.

Figure 19. View to the West of Previously Mined Slope in Survey Area.

Figure 20. View to East of Spoil in Mined Area.

Figure 21. View to North of Previously Mined Area.

Figure 22. View to West of Mine High Wall and Pond.

Figure 23. View to East of Low-Lying Stream Area.

Figure 24. View to North of Low and Wet Area.

Figure 25. View to West of Davis Creek.

Figure 26. View to South of Access Road and Immature Pine Trees in Old Mine.

Figure 27. View to West of Drainage Slope.

Figure 28. View to South of Push Piles and Immature Pine Trees.

Figure 29. View to the West of Power Line.

Figure 30. View to West of Old Access Road and Disturbances in Planted Pine Forest.

Figure 31. View to Northeast of Mine Spoil.

Figure 32. View to North of Immature Trees and Slope.

Figure 33. View to Northeast of Planted Green Field.

Figure 34. View to East of Dragline Route.

Figure 35. View to Southeast of Dragline Route.

Figure 36. View to the East of Dragline Route and Immature Pine Forest.

Figure 37. View to the West of Dragline Route.

Figure 38. View to South of Low Lying Drainage Area.

Figure 39. View to Northwest of Slope.

Figure 40. Immature Planted Pine Trees.

Figure 41. View to Southwest of Immature Pine Forest in Clearcut.

Figure 42. Immature Pine Forest.

Figure 43. View to Northeast of Sloped Terrain.

Figure 44. View to North of Sloped Terrain.

Figure 45. View to Southeast of Steep Slope.

APPENDIX A

Alabama State Site File Forms

Site: TU1147 Retrieve Site

Site Name: ROCKCASTLE MRS 1

Location and Size

Easting: 479896 Northing: 3682037 Elevation: 546

Township: 20S Range: 07W Section: 24

SE 1/4 of SE 1/4 of SE 1/4

Major Axis: 12 Minor Axis: 12 Max Depth: 0

Location and Size

Preservation State: ?

Immediate Destruction Pending: Y Looting/Vandalism: N % Destroyed: 80

National Register Status: NO?

Archaeological Information

Level of Investigation: RECONNAISSANCE

Excavation Status: NO COLLECTION

Topographic Association: UPLAND CREST

Physiographic District: WARRIOR

Physiographic Section: CUMBERLAND

Nearest Water Source: FIRST

Direction To: NW Distance To: 480 At Confluence: N

Drainage Basin: WARRIOR

Ground Cover: SECONDARY

Soil Type: MONTEVALLO-NAUVOO

Soil Texture Class: CHANNERY LOAM

County Soil Survey: null

Degree of Disturbance: ?

Characteristics

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

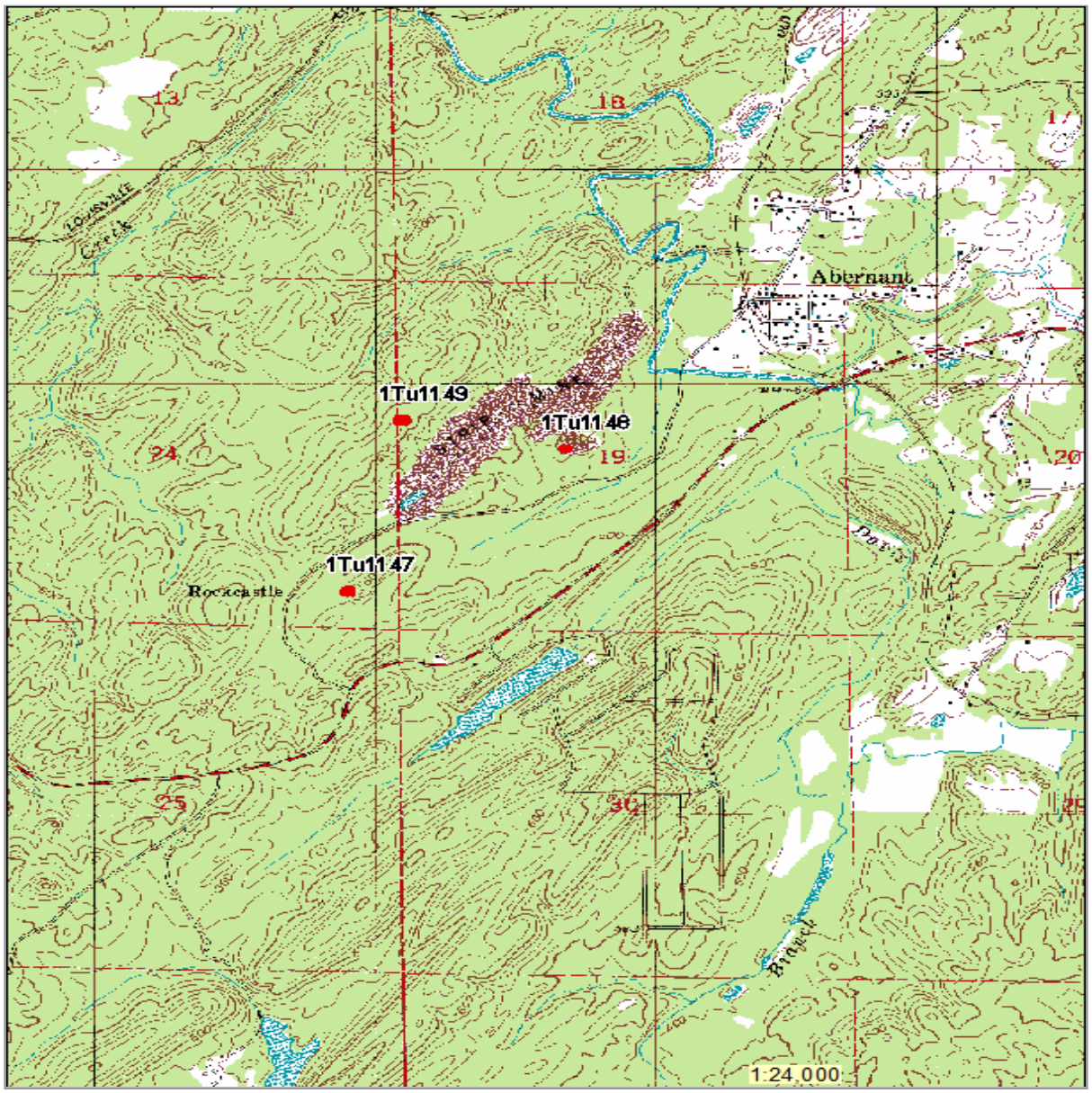
Components

20TH CENTURY NON ABORIGINAL

Comments

THE SITE CONSISTS OF THE REMAINS OF A POURED CONCRETE STRUCTURE, RECTANGULAR IN SHAPE MEASURING APPROXIMATELY 40 FT. BY 40 FT (12 M BY 12M). A SOUTHEASTERN WALL IS ESTIMATED TO BE APPROXIMATELY 3.5 M HIGH. THERE ARE TWO WINDOWS AND A DOOR. NO CULTURAL MATERIAL IS NOTED IN THE SITE AREA. THE FUNCTION OF THE STRUCTURE REMAINS UNKNOWN, HOWEVER, IT IS MOST LIKELY RELATED TO PREVIOUS MINING ACTIVITIES IN THE AREA. THE DAVIS CREEK COAL & COKE COMPANY OPERATED AN UNDERGROUND MINE IN THE ROCK CASTLE AREA. THE FUNCTION AND ORIGIN OF THE STRUCTURE IS UNDETERMINED. HOWEVER, IT DOES NOT APPEAR TO BE NRHP ELIGIBLE.

See More



USGS 7.5' Topographic Map: ABERNANT

Record Type:	☑ Clear	☐ Master	☐ Synonym
Form Status:	☐ Final	☐ Verified	☑ New
Form Completion:	☐ Final	☐ Map Search	☐ Literature Search

Sponsor Type:	PRI	Sponsored By:	McGehee Engineering
Recorder Type:	PRI	Recorded By:	MRS Consultants
Date Submitted:	2019-04-02	Date Revised:	2019-04-02

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Site: TU1148 Retrieve Site

Site Name: ROCKCASTLE MRS 2

Location and Size

Easting: 480674 Northing: 3682702 Elevation: 525

Township: 20S Range: 06W Section: 19

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

Major Axis: 11 Minor Axis: 8 Max Depth: 0

Location and Size

Preservation State: ?

Immediate Destruction Pending: Y Looting/Vandalism: N % Destroyed: 0

National Register Status: NO?

Archaeological Information

Level of Investigation: RECONNAISSANCE

Excavation Status: NO COLLECTION

Topographic Association: UPLAND SLOPE

Physiographic District: WARRIOR

Physiographic Section: CUMBERLAND

Nearest Water Source: FIRST

Direction To: SE Distance To: 235 At Confluence: N

Drainage Basin: WARRIOR

Ground Cover: SECONDARY

Soil Type: PALMERDALE

Soil Texture Class: VERY SHALY LOAM

County Soil Survey: null

Degree of Disturbance: ?

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

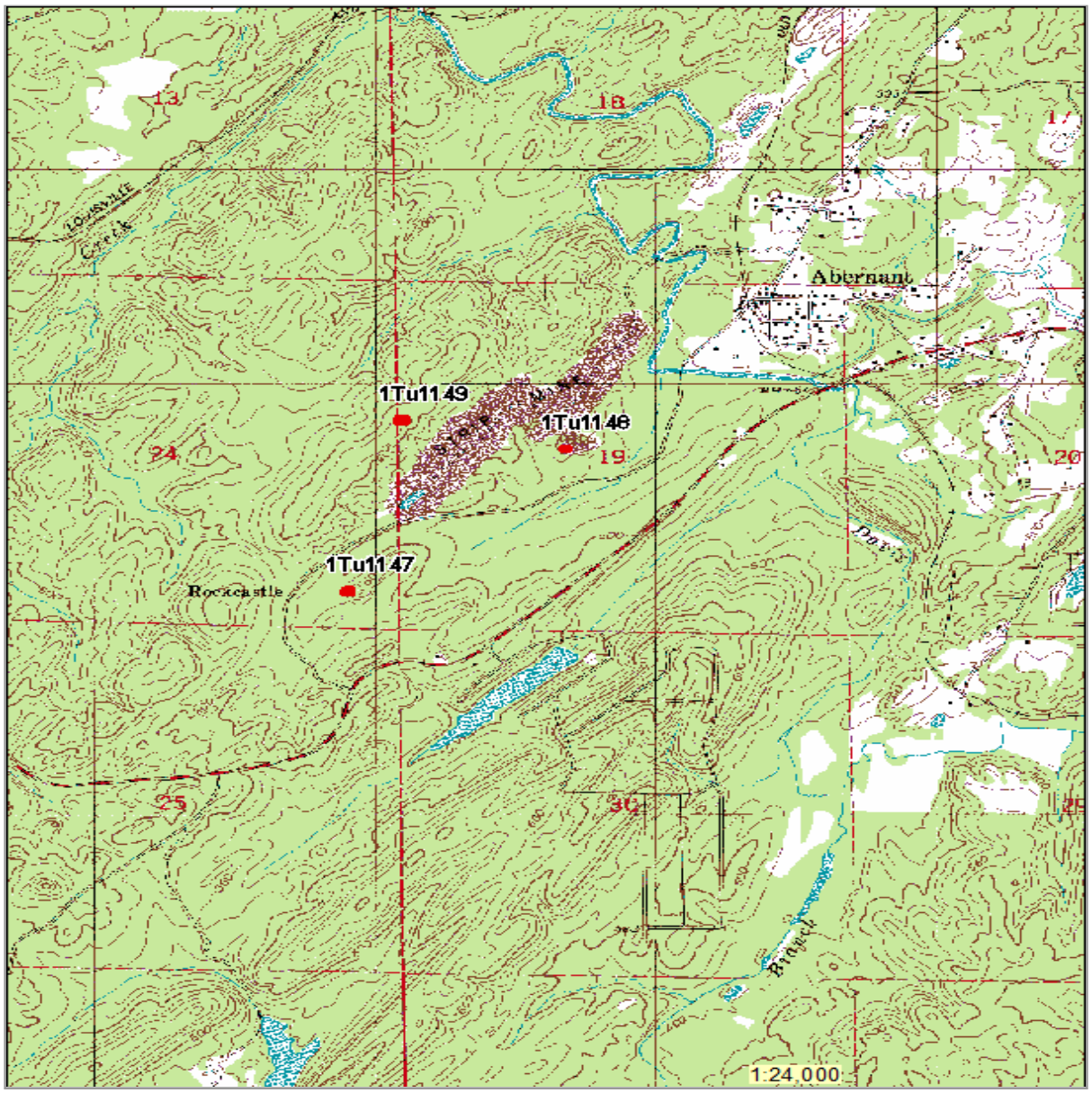
Components

20TH CENTURY NON ABORIGINAL

Comments

THE SITE CONSISTS OF THE REMAINS OF A POURED CONCRETE STRUCTURE, RECTANGULAR IN SHAPE MEASURING APPROXIMATELY 25 FT. BY 35 FT (10.5 M BY 7.6 M). STANDING WALLS ARE ESTIMATED TO BE APPROXIMATELY 2 M (6 FT.) HIGH. THERE IS ONE DOOR ON THE SOUTH SIDE AND ONE WINDOW ON THE WEST SIDE. NO CULTURAL MATERIAL IS NOTED IN THE SITE AREA. ADJACENT TO AN OLD ACCESS ROAD, THE FUNCTION OF THE STRUCTURE REMAINS UNKNOWN, HOWEVER, IT IS MOST LIKELY RELATED TO PREVIOUS MINING ACTIVITIES IN THE AREA. THE DAVIS CREEK COAL & COKE COMPANY OPERATED AN UNDERGROUND MINE IN THE ROCK CASTLE AREA. THE FUNCTION AND ORIGIN OF THE STRUCTURE IS UNDETERMINED. HOWEVER, IT DOES NOT APPEAR TO BE NRHP

See More



USGS 7.5' Topographic Map: ABERNANT

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Form Status:	☐ Final	☐ Verified	☑ New
Form Completion:	☐ Final	☐ Map Search	☐ Literature Search

Sponsor Type:	PRI	Sponsored By:	McGehee Engineering
Recorder Type:	PRI	Recorded By:	MRS Consultants
Date Submitted:	2019-04-02	Date Revised:	2019-04-02

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Site: TU1149 Retrieve Site

Site Name: ROCKCASTLE MRS 3

Location and Size

Easting: 480096 Northing: 3682831 Elevation: 633

Township: 20S Range: 06W Section: 19

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

Major Axis: 11 Minor Axis: 8 Max Depth: 0

Location and Size

Preservation State: LOGGING

Immediate Destruction Pending: Y Looting/Vandalism: N % Destroyed: 99

National Register Status: NO

Archaeological Information

Level of Investigation: RECONNAISSANCE

Excavation Status: SURFACE COLLECTION

Topographic Association: UPLAND CREST

Physiographic District: WARRIOR

Physiographic Section: CUMBERLAND

Nearest Water Source: FIRST

Direction To: SE Distance To: 800 At Confluence: N

Drainage Basin: WARRIOR

Ground Cover: SECONDARY

Soil Type: MONTEVALLO-NAUVOO AS

Soil Texture Class: CHANNERY LOAM

County Soil Survey: null

Degree of Disturbance: ENTIRE

Characteristics

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

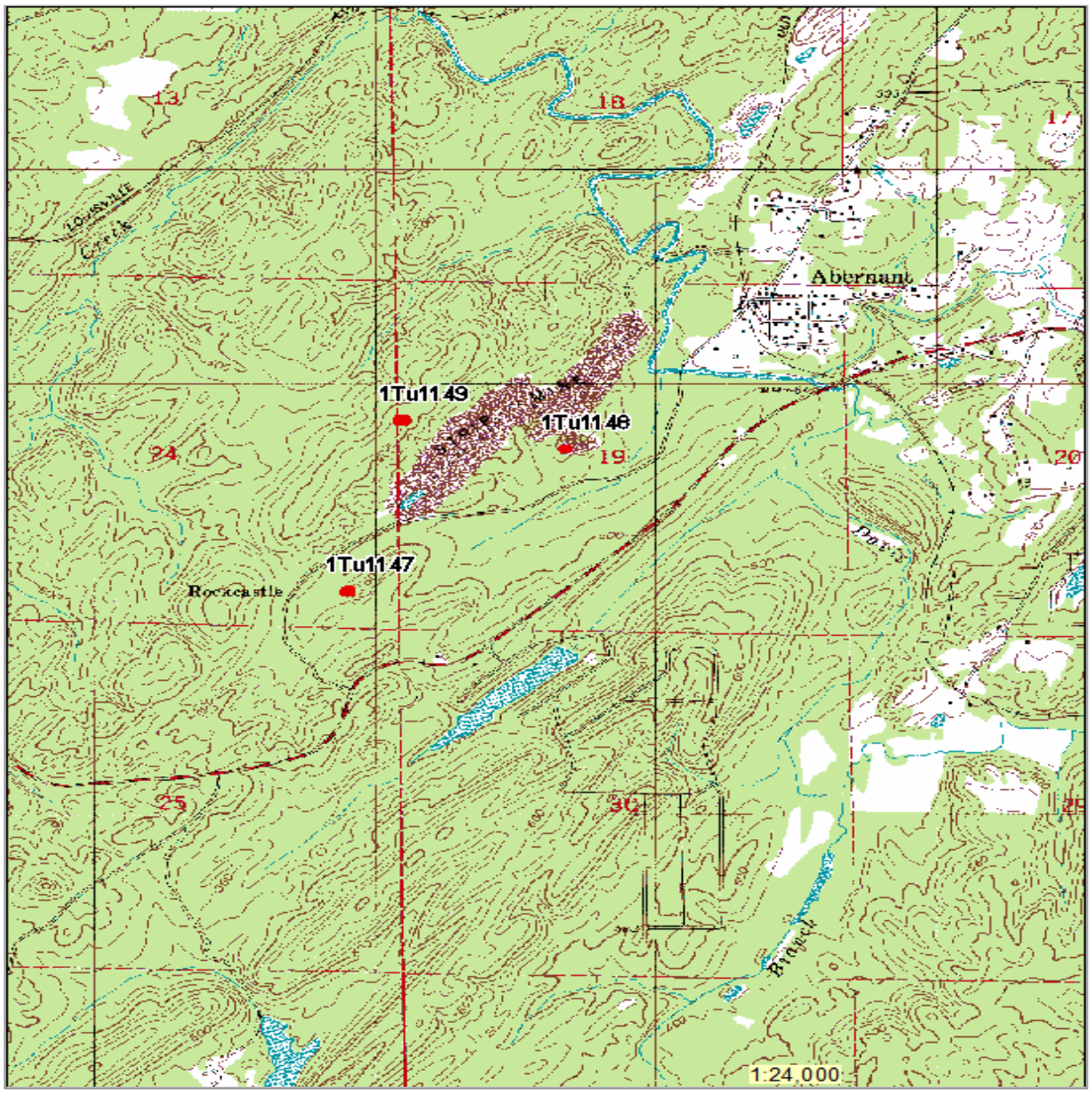
Components

UNKNOWN ABORIGINAL

Comments

THE IDENTIFIED PREHISTORIC SITE CONSISTS OF A SPARSE DENSITY, UNKNOWN ABORIGINAL LITHIC SCATTER IDENTIFIED ADJACENT TO AN ERODED ACCESS ROAD. LOCATED IN A PREVIOUS CLEARCUT WITH PINE SAPLINGS, THE SURFACE VISIBILITY WAS 100 PERCENT. CULTURAL MATERIAL COLLECTED FROM THE ERODED SURFACE INCLUDES LITHIC DEBITAGE WITH ONE ARTIFACT CLASSIFIED AS UNIDENTIFIED CHIPPED STONE. SHOVEL TESTING IN THE SITE AREA DID NOT YIELD ANY ADDITIONAL CULTURAL MATERIAL AND REVEALED APPROXIMATELY 4 CM OF MEDIUM GRAYISH BROWN SANDY CLAY LOAM UNDERLAIN BY YELLOWISH RED SANDY CLAY SUBSOIL. THE SITE IS NOT CONSIDERED NRHP ELIBILE AND NO FURTHER TESTING IS RECOMMENDED.

See More



USGS 7.5' Topographic Map: ABERNANT

Record Type:	☑ Clear	☐ Master	☐ Synonym
Form Status:	☐ Final	☐ Verified	☑ New
Form Completion:	☐ Final	☐ Map Search	☐ Literature Search

Sponsor Type:	PRI	Sponsored By:	McGehee Engineering
Recorder Type:	PRI	Recorded By:	MRS Consultants
Date Submitted:	2019-04-02	Date Revised:	2019-04-02

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TROY UNIVERSITY

Archaeological
Research Center

Date: June 6, 2018

Marla Spry
MRS Consultants LLC
PO BOX 3146
Tuscaloosa, Al 35403

Dear Marla,

As per your request, this letter is to confirm our standing agreement with you to provide curation services to MRS Consultants on an as-needed basis. As you know, we are recognized by a variety of Federal agencies as a repository meeting the standards in 36 CFR Part 79 and have formal agreements to provide curation under these guidelines to multiple federal agencies such as the Army National Guard and Natural Resources Conservation Service.

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 complied for periodic submission. The AHC survey policy specifies which materials must be curated (Administrative Code of Alabama, Chapter 460-X-9). Renewal of this agreement is contingent upon compliance.

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

Sincerely,

Jason Mann
Director
Archeological Research Center
Troy University