CULTURAL RESOURCE ASSESSMENT SURVEY
TECHNICAL MEMORANDUM
INTERSTATE 75 AND SR 884 (COLONIAL BOULEVARD)
LEE COUNTY, FLORIDA

Financial Project ID No.: 413065-1-52-01

Prepared for:

Florida Department of Transportation
District One
801 North Broadway Avenue
Bartow, Florida 33831

April 2017
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1. Introduction

Archaeological Consultants, Inc. (ACI) performed a cultural resource assessment survey (CRAS) within the area of potential effects (APE) for the Interstate (I) 75 and State Road (SR) 884 (Colonial Boulevard) Interchange from west of Ortiz Avenue to east of Dynasty Drive (Figures 1 and 2). This work was conducted for the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) as part of their proposed improvements to this section of I-75 and SR 884. The archaeological APE is defined as the area contained within the footprint of the project design; the historical APE includes the archaeological APE and properties immediately adjacent. This survey was performed to locate and identify any prehistoric and historic period archaeological sites and historic structures located within the APE to assess site significance in terms of eligibility for listing in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP).

The CRAS was initiated to comply with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended by Public Law 89-665; the Archaeological and Historic Preservation Act, as amended by Public Law 93-291; Executive Order 11593; and Chapter 267, Florida Statutes (FS). All work was carried out in conformity with Part 2, Chapter 12 (“Archaeological and Historical Resources”) of the FDOT’s Project Development and Environment (PD&E) Manual (September 2016 revision), and the standards contained in the Cultural Resource Management Standards and Operational Manual (Florida Division of Historical Resources [FDHR] 2003), as well as with the provisions contained in the revised Chapter 267, FS.

Field surveys were preceded by background research. Such work served to provide an informed set of expectations concerning the kinds of cultural resources which might be anticipated to occur within the project’s APE, as well as a basis for evaluating any new sites found. As a result of field work, no historic or prehistoric archaeological sites were found. In addition, no new historic resources were discovered.

2. Project Description

This section of SR 884 (Colonial Boulevard) is an urban principal arterial in the City of Fort Myers in Lee County. This project begins west of Ortiz Avenue and continues just east of Dynasty Drive including ramp improvements on I-75. The project is anticipated to enhance overall safety, capacity, and emergency evacuation within the County. In addition, the project will help serve travel demands created by anticipated countywide population and employment growth. The planned improvements will enhance access to I-75, as the I-75 interchange is in the center of this project. Colonial Boulevard is state maintained from US 41/SR45 in the west to Dynasty Drive in the east, serving as a main connection of the west and east sections of Lee County. Annual Average Daily Traffic (AADT) volumes on Colonial Boulevard for the opening year, 2020, are projected to be 88,000 while the design year, 2042 is anticipated to be 99,800 (American Consulting Professionals 2017).
Figure 1. Location of the I-75 and SR 884 Interchange project area, Lee County.

I-75 and SR 884 (Colonial Boulevard) Interchange, Lee County, Florida.
FPID No.: 413065-1-52-01
Figure 2. Environmental setting and location of the previously recorded linear resource within and adjacent to the I-75 and SR 884 Interchange APE (USGS Fort Myers SE).
3. **Environmental Overview**

The project APE is situated in Township 44 South, Range 25 East, Sections 27, 28, 33, and 34 (United States Geological Survey [USGS] Fort Myers SE, Fla. 1958, PR 1987; Figure 2) within the Gulf Coastal Lowlands, one of five natural topographic regions in which Florida can be divided (United Stated Department of Agriculture [USDA] 1984) and generally consist of level to nearly level poorly drained land. The topography of this region includes coastal ridges, sand dune ridges, estuaries, lagoon, and barrier islands.

The soils in the APE are part of the Oldsmar-Malabar-Immokalee soil association which is comprised of nearly level, poorly drained soils. The general topography is low and interspersed with seasonal wetlands and the Six Mile Cypress Slough, with elevations greater than 15 ft and less than 25 feet (ft) above mean sea level (amsl) found on flatwoods and in sloughs (USDA 1984). The natural vegetation within the APE includes South Florida slash pine, saw palmetto, waxmyrtle, and gallberry (USDA 1998:8), although most is no longer extant.

Disturbances within the APE include roadway construction, commercial development, and the presence of utilities (Photos 1 and 2). Thus, the archaeological APE is very disturbed.

![Photo 1](image-url). Buried utilities within project APE in the area of Ortiz Avenue/SR 884.
4. Historic and Prehistoric Overviews

In-depth historic and prehistoric overviews were included in three CRAS PD&E studies conducted within portions of the current project APE; these were approved by the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) (Gaske 2002, 2008, 2009) and are not repeated here (FDHR Project File Nos. 2002-6200, 2007-8108, and 2008-7685). These surveys include *A Cultural Resource Assessment Survey I-75 from South of Bonita Beach Road to North of SR 78, Lee County, Florida* (ACI 2002), *A Cultural Resource Assessment Survey Colonial Boulevard (CR 884/SR 884) from West of I-75 to East of SR 82, Lee County, Florida* (ACI 2007), and *A Cultural Resource Assessment Survey Colonial Boulevard (CR 884/SR 884) from West McGregor Boulevard to East of I-75, Lee County, Florida* (ACI 2008).

5. Archaeological and Historical Background

Prior to initiating the archaeological and historical survey, ACI reviewed the three previous CRAS reports for this section of I-75 and SR 884 (ACI 2002, 2007, 2008), which indicated that no NRHP-eligible or listed historic resources had been identified within the project APE and only one historic archaeological site (historic) had been previously recorded within one mile (Figure 2). This resource (8LL02332), the Fort Myers/Big Cypress Military Trail linear resource, was recorded during a survey of the Fort Myers Wellfield Parcel (Beriault 2005); the SHPO determined it not eligible for listing in the NRHP (FMSF). Other surveys conducted in and adjacent to the project area were also reviewed (see Table 1). These surveys resulted in negative findings within and adjacent to the project APE.
Table 1. Previous surveys within two miles of the APE.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Survey Title</th>
<th>Author/Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Annual Progress Report of the Cooperative Agreement for the Archaeological Salvage Program Between the Florida Department of Transportation and the Division of Archives, History, and Records Management</td>
<td>Jones 1975</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cultural Resource Assessment Proposed Pond Sites Technical Memorandum SR 93 (I-75) from South of Colonial to South of SR 81, Lee County, Florida</td>
<td>ACI 2005a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CRAS of Proposed Pond Sites Technical Memorandum, I-75 (SR 93) from South of SR 82 to South of Luckett Road, Lee County, Florida</td>
<td>ACI 2005b</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Background research also included FMSF research and NRHP listings (conducted in March 2017), a review of the Fort Myers SE, (USGS 1958) quadrangle map, the Soil Survey of Lee County (USDA 1984), historic aerials (Beriault 2005), the Lee County Archaeological Predictive Model (Austin 1987; Bellamo and Furhmeister 1992) as well as the standard archaeological predictive model for the Central Peninsular Gulf Coast and Caloosahatchee archaeological regions (Milanich and Fairbanks 1980; Milanich 1994). This research revealed that no prehistoric archaeological sites have been recorded within the project APE (Figure 2). Based upon the results of background research, the APE was assigned a low archaeological potential for site discovery primarily due to various disturbances within and adjacent to I-75 and SR 884. Prehistoric sites, if found, were expected to be small, low artifact density lithic and/or artifact (ceramics and lithics) scatters. The discovery of historic archaeological sites was considered moderate given the previously recorded historic road near the APE (Figure 2).

Background research indicated no potential for newly identified historic resources (50 years of age or older) within the project APE.

6. Survey Methods

The FDHR’s Module Three, Guidelines for Use by Historic Professionals, indicates that the first stage of archaeological field survey is a reconnaissance of the project area to “ground truth,” or ascertain the validity of the predictive model (FDHR 2003). During this part of the survey, the researcher assesses whether the initial predictive model needs adjustment based on disturbance or conditions such as constructed features (i.e., parking lots, buildings, etc.), underground utilities, landscape alterations (i.e., ditches and swales, mined land, dredged and filled land, agricultural fields), or other constraints that may affect the archaeological potential. Additionally, these Guidelines indicate that non-systematic “judgmental” testing may be appropriate in urbanized environments where pavement, utilities, and constructed features make systematic testing unfeasible; in geographically restricted areas such as proposed pond sites; or within project areas that have limited high and moderate probability zones, but where a larger subsurface testing sample may be desired. While predictive models are useful in determining preliminary testing strategies in a broad context, it is understood that testing intervals may be altered due to conditions encountered by the field crew at the time of survey. A reasonable and good faith effort has been made to document any historic properties located on the property.

The archaeological field survey included both ground surface reconnaissance and the judgmental excavation of shovel test pits. All shovel tests measured 1.6 ft in diameter and were planned to be dug to 3.3 ft in depth. All recovered soil was screened through a 0.25 inch (in) mesh hardware cloth to maximize the recovery of cultural materials, and, after soil stratigraphy was recorded, each test pit was refilled. The location of each shovel test was plotted on an aerial and shown on Figures 3 and 4.
Figure 3. Location of shovel tests (not to scale) within the the I-75 and SR 884 Interchange APE.
The historical/architectural field survey consisted of a reconnaissance of the project APE to verify that no historic structures were present.

**Laboratory Procedures and Curation:** In the event that cultural materials were recovered, they would be initially cleaned and sorted by artifact class and subjected to a limited technological analysis. However, no artifacts were found as a result of this survey.

All project related information will be housed at ACI (File Number P15048), in Sarasota, pending transfer to a FDOT-designated repository for permanent storage and curation. A copy of this report, FMSF form, and survey log will be on file at the FDHR in Tallahassee.

**Unexpected Discoveries:** It was planned that if human burial sites such as Indian mounds, lost historic and prehistoric cemeteries, or other unmarked burials or associated artifacts were found, the provisions and guidelines set forth in Chapter 872.05 FS (Florida’s Unmarked Burial Law) would be followed. However, it was not anticipated that such sites would be found within the APE.

7. **Results and Recommendations**

**Archaeological:** Field survey resulted in the excavation of 16 shovel tests placed within portions of the APE not previously tested. During ACI’s three previous surveys (2002, 2007, 2008) 18 shovel tests were placed within this project’s the APE (**Figure 3**). Previous shovel tests were placed at 50 m (164 ft) intervals, as well as judgmentally; recent shovel tests were placed judgmentally where possible since the area has been developed and consisted of underground utilities and concrete/asphalt. The distribution of the shovel test pits is noted in **Figures 3 and 4**. As a result of this archaeological testing, no sites were found and no additional archaeological testing is recommended. The stratigraphy of the shovel tests consisted of mainly of an upper layer of grey to brown soil mixed with fill, from about 0 to an average of 20 cm (8 in) followed by more road fill; fill consisted of chunks of concrete, crushed concrete, and/or stones of variable size.

No evidence of the previously recorded Fort Myers/Big Cypress Military Trail (8LL02332) was observed within the APE (**Photo 3**); no evidence was expected due to land alterations and the ephemeral type of resource. In addition, since the SHPO determined this linear resource not eligible for listing in the NRHP, the FMSF form was not updated.

**Photo 3.** I-75 southbound ramp to SR 884 looking in vicinity of 8LL02332.
Historical: As a result of historic/architectural field survey, no historic resources were identified within the project APE.

Conclusions: In summary, the proposed undertaking will have no effect on any cultural resources, including archaeological sites and historic resources, which are listed, determined eligible, or potentially eligible for listing in the NRHP.

8. Bibliography

American
2017 I-75/SR 884 Project Description, received electronically, March 7.

Archaeological Consultants, Inc. (ACI)
2002 A Cultural Resource Assessment Survey I-75 from South of Bonita Beach Road to North of SR 78, Lee County, Florida. ACI, Sarasota.
2005a Cultural Resource Assessment Proposed Pond Sites Technical Memorandum SR 93 (I-75) from South of Colonial to South of SR 81, Lee County, Florida. ACI, Sarasota.
2005b A Cultural Resource Assessment Survey of Proposed Pond Sites Technical Memorandum, I-75 (SR 93) from South of SR 82 to South of Luckett Road, Lee County, Florida. ACI, Sarasota.
2007 A Cultural Resource Assessment Survey Colonial Boulevard (CR 884/SR 884) from West of I-75 to East of SR 82, Lee County, Florida. ACI, Florida. ACI, Sarasota.

Austin, Robert

Bellamo, Randy V. and Charles Fuhrmeister

Beriault, John

Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT)

Florida Division of Historical Resources (FDHR)

Gaske, Frederick
Gaske, Frederick

Jones, B. Calvin
   1975  Annual Progress Report of the Cooperative Agreement for the Archaeological Salvage Program Between the Florida Department of Transportation and the Division of Archives, History, and Records Management. FDHR, Tallahassee.

Milanich, Jerald T.

Milanich, Jerald T. and Charles H. Fairbanks

United States Department of Agriculture (USDA)

United States Geological Survey (USGS)
   1958  Fort Myers, SE Florida; Photorevised 1987.
APPENDIX: Survey Log
Survey Log Sheet  
Florida Master Site File  
Version 4.1 1/07

Consult Guide to the Survey Log Sheet for detailed instructions.

**Identification and Bibliographic Information**

Survey Project (name and project phase)  
_I-75/SR 884, Phase I_

Report Title (exactly as on title page)  
_Cultural Resource Assessment Survey Technical Memorandum, Interstate 75 and SR 84 (Colonial Boulevard), Lee County, Florida. Financial Project ID No.: 413065-1-52-01_

Report Authors (as on title page, last names first)  
1. ACI  
3.  
2.  
4.  

Publication Date (year)  
_2017_  
Total Number of Pages in Report (count text, figures, tables, not site forms)  
_13_

Publication Information (Give series, number in series, publisher and city. For article or chapter, cite page numbers. Use the style of American Antiquity.)  
Conducted for American Consulting Professionals, LLC, and FDOT District 1, by ACI, Sarasota, P15048

Supervisors of Fieldwork (even if same as author)  
Names  
Almy, Marion

Affiliation of Fieldworkers:  
Organization  
Archaeological Consultants Inc  
City  
Sarasota

Key Words/Phrases (Don’t use county name, or common words like archaeology, structure, survey, architecture, etc.)  
1. SR 884  
3.  
5.  
7.  
2. I-75  
4.  
6.  
8.  

Survey Sponsors (corporation, government unit, organization or person directly funding fieldwork)  
Name  
Organization  
Florida Dept of Transportation - District 1  
Address/Phone/E-mail  
801 North Broadway Avenue Bartow, Florida 33831

Recorder of Log Sheet  
Lee Hutchinson  
Date Log Sheet Completed  
3-31-2017

Is this survey or project a continuation of a previous project?  
[ ] No  [ ] Yes: Previous survey #s (FMSF only)

**Mapping**

Counties (List each one in which field survey was done; attach additional sheet if necessary)  
1. Lee  
3.  
5.  
2.  
4.  
6.  

USGS 1:24,000 Map Names/Year of Latest Revision (attach additional sheet if necessary)  
1. Name  
Fort Myers SE  
Year  
1958  
4. Name  
Year  
2. Name  
Year  
5. Name  
Year  
3. Name  
Year  
6. Name  
Year

**Description of Survey Area**

Dates for Fieldwork:  
Start  
3-27-2017  
End  
3-27-2017  
Total Area Surveyed (fill in one)  
hectares  
1,280  
acres

Number of Distinct Tracts or Areas Surveyed  
1

If Corridor (fill in one for each)  
Width:  
meters  
feet  
Length:  
kilometers  
2.00  
miles

HR6E066R0107 Florida Master Site File, Division of Historical Resources, Gray Building, 500 South Bronough Street, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0250  
Phone 850-245-6440, FAX 850-245-6439, Email: SiteFile@dos.state.fl.us
Survey Log Sheet

Research and Field Methods

Types of Survey (check all that apply): ☑archaeological ☑architectural ☑historical/archival ☐underwater
☐damage assessment ☐monitoring report ☐other(describe):

Scope/Intensity/Procedures background research, historic resource reconnaissance, judgmental subsurface testing, 1 m deep, 50 cm diameter, 6.4 mm mesh screen; 34 ST at 50 m and judgmental, 0 positive

Preliminary Methods (check as many as apply to the project as a whole)
☐Florida Archives [Gray Building] ☐Library research - local/public ☐local property or tax records ☐other historic maps
☐Florida Photo Archives (Gray Building) ☐Library-special collection - nonlocal ☐newspaper files ☐soils maps or data
☐Site File property search ☐Public Lands Survey (maps at DEP) ☐literature search ☐windshield survey
☐Site File survey search ☐local informant(s) ☐Sanborn Insurance maps ☐aerial photography
☐other (describe):

Archaeological Methods (check as many as apply to the project as a whole)
☐Check here if NO archaeological methods were used.
☐surface collection, controlled ☐shovel test-other screen size ☐block excavation (at least 2x2 m)
☐surface collection, uncontrolled ☐water screen ☐soil resistivity
☐shovel test 1/4"screen ☐posthole tests ☐magnetometer
☐shovel test 1/8" screen ☐auger tests ☐side scan sonar
☐shovel test 1/16"screen ☐coring ☐pedestrian survey
☐shovel test-unscreened ☐test excavation (at least 1x2 m) ☐unknown
☐other (describe):

Historical/Architectural Methods (check as many as apply to the project as a whole)
☐Check here if NO historical/architectural methods were used.
☐building permits ☐demolition permits ☐neighbor interview ☐subdivision maps
☐commercial permits ☐exposed ground inspected ☐occupant interview ☐tax records
☐interior documentation ☐local property records ☐occupation permits ☐unknown
☐other (describe):

Survey Results (cultural resources recorded)

Site Significance Evaluated? ☑Yes ☐No

Count of Previously Recorded Sites 0 Count of Newly Recorded Sites 0

Previously Recorded Site #’s with Site File Update Forms (List site #’s without “0”. Attach additional pages if necessary.)

Newly Recorded Site #’s (Are all originals and not updates? List site #’s without “0”. Attach additional pages if necessary.)

Site Forms Used: ☐Site File Paper Form ☑Site File Electronic Recording Form

***REQUIRED: ATTACH PLOT OF SURVEY AREA ON PHOTOCOPY OF USGS 1:24,000 MAP(S)***
I-75 and SR 884 (Colonial Boulevard) Interchange
Sections 27, 28, 33 and 34 of Township 44 South, Range 25 East
USGS Fort Myers SE
Lee County