CULTURAL RESOURCE ASSESSMENT SURVEY
TECHNICAL MEMORANDUM
PROPOSED STORMWATER MANAGEMENT FACILITIES (SMF)
SR 655 (RECKER HIGHWAY) GRADE SEPARATION
OVER CSX RAILROAD
POLK COUNTY, FLORIDA

FPID No.: 436560-1-22-01

Prepared for:

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

March 2017
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FPID No.: 436560-1-22-01

Prepared for:

FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
DISTRICT ONE
801 North Broadway Avenue
Bartow, Florida 33831

Prepared by:

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March 2017
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1. Executive Summary

Archaeological Consultants, Inc. (ACI) performed a Cultural Resource Assessment Survey (CRAS) within the Area of Potential Effect (APE) for five proposed stormwater management facilities (SMF) located along Recker Highway from east of Barton Park Road to SR 600 (US 92) in Polk County in February 2017 (Figures 1 and 2). This work was conducted for the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT), District One as part of their proposed improvements to Recker Highway which includes a conceptual design of a new railroad overpass and associated improvements in order to accommodate future traffic demand in a safe and efficient manner.

The archaeological APE is defined as the area contained within each of the five SMF sites; 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).

As a result of field work, one previously recorded building was observed in SMF 2-2. This building (8PO08030) was previously recorded during the CRAS of Recker Highway (ACI 2016) and determined by the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) not to be eligible for listing in the NRHP (Parsons 2016). Four other historic resources (8PO08031-08033, -08037, and -07219) were recorded adjacent to 1-1A, 2-1, and 2-2. These were also determined not eligible for the NRHP by the SHPO. In addition, no previously unrecorded historic or prehistoric archaeological sites were found and no unrecorded historic resources were discovered within the APE. Thus, no sites listed or eligible for listing in the NRHP will be affected by this project.

2. Introduction

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.
Figure 1. Location of the Proposed SMF Sites, Polk County.

Proposed SMF Sites
SR 655 (Recker Highway) Grade Separation over CSX Railroad
Polk County, Florida
FPID No.:436560-1-22-01
Figure 2. Environmental setting and location of previously recorded cultural resources within and adjacent to the Proposed SMF Sites (USGS Auburndale).
3. **Project Description**

The SR 655 PD&E Study limits are from east of Barton Park Road to SR 600 (US 92), with intersection improvements at Thornhill Road, a distance of approximately one-half mile and 2,285 feet (ft) south of/to 1,183 ft north of the CSX railroad crossing. SR 655 is an existing two-lane facility classified by FDOT as an urban minor arterial. Existing land uses in the study area include residential, retail/office, vacant, and industrial. While the purpose and need for this project is not to add capacity, a four-lane facility for the bridge structures was evaluated in order to accommodate future widening along SR 655 and eliminate the need to reconstruct the bridge (Volkert 2017). In addition, five proposed SMF sites are being reviewed for this project (*Figures 1 and 2*).

4. **Environmental Overview**

The Recker Highway corridor is located in Sections 9 and 16 of Township 28 South, Range 25 East (United States Geological Survey [USGS] 1975), Polk County, Florida (*Figure 2*). Land use within the SMF sites and general area is a mixture of industrial, business, and residential. Soil disturbance includes utilities (gas, electric, sewer, fiber optics, etc.) and road construction (*Photos 1-3*). The project corridor is south of US 92 and east of SR 570; Lake Lena is located to the north. A full description of the environmental setting is found in the PD&E Study and is not repeated here (ACI 2016).

![Photo 1. Disturbances in SMF 2-1.](image-url)
5. Historic and Prehistoric Overviews

In-depth historic and prehistoric overviews were included in the CRAS PD&E for the study which was approved by the SHPO (Parsons 2016) and are not repeated here (FDHR Project File No. 20015-1006B: A Cultural Resource Assessment Survey SR 655 [Recker Highway] Grade Separation Over CSX Railroad Project Development & Environment Study, Polk County, Florida) (ACI 2016).
6. Archaeological and Historical Background

Prior to initiating the archaeological and historical survey, ACI reviewed the previous CRAS for Recker Highway (ACI 2016) which indicated that no NRHP-eligible or listed historic or prehistoric cultural resources had been recorded within one mile of the project APE (ACI 2016: Figure 4.1). However, nine prehistoric archaeological sites have been previously recorded within one mile of the undertaking; eight were determined not eligible for listing in the NRHP by the SHPO and one was not evaluated (Table 1). These sites were found as a result of gas line surveys in the general area. Other CRAS conducted in the general vicinity of the Recker Highway project are limited. These include an historic building survey of Auburndale (HPA 1995), two telecommunication facility surveys (Ambrosino and Jones 2001; KCI Technologies, Inc. 2006), a survey for a proposed development (Penders 2005), and a Department of Transportation survey (Austin and Mohlman 2001).

Table 1. Previously recorded archaeological sites within one mile of the project APE.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SITE #</th>
<th>SITE NAME</th>
<th>SITE TYPE</th>
<th>CULTURE</th>
<th>SHPO EVAL.</th>
<th>SURVEY (FMSF)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8PO03787</td>
<td>Auburndale</td>
<td>Single artifact</td>
<td>Prehistoric</td>
<td>Ineligible</td>
<td>Athens 1992</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8PO06140</td>
<td>JR39</td>
<td>Lithic scatter</td>
<td>Prehistoric</td>
<td>Ineligible</td>
<td>Janus Research 2000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8PO06141</td>
<td>JR40</td>
<td>Lithic scatter</td>
<td>Prehistoric</td>
<td>Ineligible</td>
<td>Janus Research 2001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8PO06142</td>
<td>JR41</td>
<td>Lithic scatter</td>
<td>Prehistoric</td>
<td>Ineligible</td>
<td>Janus Research 2000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8PO06148</td>
<td>JR47</td>
<td>Lithic scatter</td>
<td>Prehistoric</td>
<td>Ineligible</td>
<td>Janus Research 2000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8PO06150</td>
<td>JR49</td>
<td>Artifact scatter</td>
<td>Manasota, St Johns</td>
<td>Ineligible</td>
<td>Janus Research 2000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8PO06197</td>
<td>JR245</td>
<td>Lithic scatter</td>
<td>Prehistoric</td>
<td>Not evaluated</td>
<td>Janus Research 2002</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8PO06208</td>
<td>JR102</td>
<td>Lithic scatter</td>
<td>Prehistoric</td>
<td>Ineligible</td>
<td>Janus Research 2000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8PO06467</td>
<td>JR199</td>
<td>Single artifact</td>
<td>Prehistoric</td>
<td>Ineligible</td>
<td>Janus Research 2001</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Background research also included an updated Florida Master Site File (FMSF) research and NRHP listings (conducted in January 2017), a review of the appropriate USGS Quadrangle map (1975), aerial photographs (USDA 1941, 1968), and the Polk County soil survey (USDA 1990). These resources indicated that all proposed SMF sites had a low archaeological potential for site discovery; none was assigned to a moderate or high category (Table 2) primarily due to various disturbances within and adjacent to Recker Highway. Similarly, the potential for historic period archaeological sites was assessed. Prehistoric sites, if found, were expected to be small, low artifact density lithic and/or artifact (ceramics and lithics) scatterers. No homesteads, forts, battle sites, military trails, or Native American (Seminole) encampments were expected.

Background research indicated no potential for newly identified historic resources (50 years of age or older) within the project APE (Table 2). However, there is one previously recorded building within SMF 2-2 (8PO08030), three buildings (8PO08031, -08033, -08037) recorded adjacent to SMF 1-1A and 2-1, and one linear resource (8PO07219) is located adjacent to SMF 2-1 and 2-2 (Figure 2). None of these resources is considered eligible for listing in the NRHP by the SHPO (Parsons 2016). In addition, the FMSF form for a building, 8PO08030 (a Masonry Vernacular located at 129 Recker Highway) within SMF 2-2, was not updated since it was just recorded (ACI 2016).

7. 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.

The archaeological field survey included both ground surface reconnaissance and the judgmental excavation of shovel test pits. All shovel tests measured 1.6 ft inch (in) diameter and most were dug to 3.3 ft in depth. All recovered soil was screened through a 0.25 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 Figure 3.

The historical/architectural field survey consisted of a reconnaissance of the project APE to check for the presence of historic structures.

**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 (Project File Number P15100a), 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.

8. **Results and Recommendations**

**Archaeological:** Field survey resulted in the excavation of 17 shovel tests dug judgmentally within the archaeological APE (Figure 3; Table 2). As a result of this testing, no sites were found and no additional archaeological testing is recommended. The stratigraphy of the shovel tests was variable. However, the average stratigraphy consisted of 0-25 cm (0-10 in) of grey/brown sand and 20-100 cm (10-39 in) of brown sand.
Figure 3. Location of shovel tests (not to scale) within the Proposed SMF Sites.
Table 2. Archaeological and historic data.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SMF</th>
<th>ZAPs</th>
<th>Comments (i.e. soils, vegetation, drainage, previously recorded sites, etc.)</th>
<th>Shovel Tests (ST)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1-1A</td>
<td>Low</td>
<td>Prehistoric Archaeological: no previously recorded sites within or adjacent to APE; vacant lot, disturbed</td>
<td>4 ST negative</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Low</td>
<td>Historic Archaeological: no previously recorded sites within or adjacent to APE</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Low</td>
<td>Historical: no previously recorded sites within APE; historic building 8PO08033 is adjacent; it is not NRHP listed or eligible for listing</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1-1B</td>
<td>Low</td>
<td>Prehistoric Archaeological: no previously recorded sites within or adjacent to APE; vacant lot, disturbed</td>
<td>3 ST negative</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Low</td>
<td>Historic Archaeological: no previously recorded sites within or adjacent to APE</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Low</td>
<td>Historical: no previously recorded sites within or adjacent to APE</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1-1C</td>
<td>Low</td>
<td>Prehistoric Archaeological: no previously recorded sites within or adjacent to APE; adjacent to Thornhill Rd. and Recker Hwy., disturbed</td>
<td>2 ST negative</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Low</td>
<td>Historic Archaeological: no previously recorded sites within or adjacent to APE</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Low</td>
<td>Historical: no previously recorded sites within or adjacent to APE</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2-1</td>
<td>Low</td>
<td>Prehistoric Archaeological: no previously recorded sites within or adjacent to APE; area disturbed by drainages within SMF</td>
<td>3 ST negative</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Low</td>
<td>Historic Archaeological: no previously recorded sites within or adjacent to APE</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Low</td>
<td>Historical: no previously recorded sites within APE; historic buildings 8PO08031 and 8PO08037 and linear resource PO07219 are adjacent; none are NRHP listed or eligible for listing</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2-2</td>
<td>Low</td>
<td>Prehistoric Archaeological: no previously recorded sites within or adjacent to APE; construction debris found in all the shovel tests</td>
<td>5 ST negative</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Low</td>
<td>Historic Archaeological: no previously recorded sites within or adjacent to APE</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Low</td>
<td>Historical: one previously recorded building within, 8PO08030, and linear resource 8PO07219 is adjacent; neither are NRHP listed or eligible for listing</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Historical:** As a result of historic/architectural field survey, no NRHP eligible or listed historic resources were identified within the project APE. The one previously recorded resource, 8PO08030 within SMF 2-2 (Figure 2) is not NRHP listed or eligible for listing (ACI 2016). It was recently recorded and since no changes to building have occurred, the Florida Master Site File (FMSF) form for this resource was not updated. In addition, the FMSF forms for the historic resources (8PO08031, -08033, -08037, -07219) recorded adjacent to the SMF sites, were also not updated since they too were recently updated.

**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.
9. Bibliography

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Florida Division of Historical Resources (FDHR)

Historic Property Associates (HPA)

Janus Research

KCI Technologies, Inc.
2005 Section 106 Report, Site Name: Connor’s Lake, Site # FL-2948-A, Telecommunication Facility, 100 Thornhill Road, Auburndale, Fl. FDHR, Tallahassee.

Parsons, Timothy

Penders, Thomas E.

United States Department of Agriculture (USDA)
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United States Department of Agriculture (USDA)
1990 Soil Survey of Polk County. USDA, Soil Conservation Services.

United States Geological Survey (USGS)
1975 Auburndale, Florida.

Volkert, Inc.
2017 Recker Highway SMF Sites Project Description. Electronically Submitted February 23.
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)  CRAS, Proposed SMF, SR 655, Phase I
Report Title (exactly as on title page)  Cultural Resource Assessment Survey, Technical Memorandum, Proposed Stormwater Management Facilities (SMF), Recker Highway Grade Separation Over CSX Railroad PD&E Study, Polk County, Florida; FPID No.: 436560-1-22-01
Report Authors (as on title page, last names first)  1. ACI  
Publication Date (year)  2017  Total Number of Pages in Report (count text, figures, tables, not site forms)  14
Publication Information (Give series, number in series, publisher and city. For article or chapter, cite page numbers. Use the style of American Antiquity.)  ACI - P15100a

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.  
Survey Sponsors (corporation, government unit, organization or person directly funding fieldwork)
Name  FDOT, District One  Organization
Address/Phone/E-mail  801 North Broadway Avenue, Bartow, Florida 33831
Recorder of Log Sheet  Lee Hutchinson  Date Log Sheet Completed  2-27-2017
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. Polk  
2.  
USGS 1:24,000 Map Names/Year of Latest Revision (attach additional sheet if necessary)
1. Name  AUBURNDALE  Year  1977  
2. Name  Year  
3. Name  Year  

Description of Survey Area

Dates for Fieldwork:  Start  2-22-2017  End  2-22-2017  Total Area Surveyed (fill in one)  hectares  10  acres
Number of Distinct Tracts or Areas Surveyed  5
If Corridor (fill in one for each)  Width:  meters  feet  Length:  kilometers  miles
#### 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, judgmental subsurface testing (N 17), 50 x 50 cm, 1/4 inch screen, 100 cm depth (if possible)

**Preliminary Methods** (check as many as apply to the project as a whole)
- Florida Archives [Gray Building]
- Florida Photo Archives [Gray Building]
- Site File property search
- Site File survey search
- other (describe):

**Archaeological Methods** (check as many as apply to the project as a whole)
- surface collection, controlled
- surface collection, uncontrolled
- shovel test 1/4” screen
- shovel test 1/8” screen
- shovel test 1/16” screen
- shovel test unscreened
- other (describe):

**Historical/Architectural Methods** (check as many as apply to the project as a whole)
- building permits
- commercial permits
- interior documentation
- other (describe):

**Survey Results (cultural resources recorded)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Site Significance Evaluated?</th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Count of Previously Recorded Sites</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Count of Newly Recorded Sites</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Previously Recorded Site #’s with Site File Update Forms (List site #’s without “0”. Attach additional pages if necessary.) PO08030

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

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)***
Proposed SMF Sites, SR 655 Grade Separation over CSX Railroad
Sections 9 and 16 of Township 28 South, Range 25 East
USGS Auburndale
Polk County

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