CULTURAL RESOURCE ASSESSMENT SURVEY
OF PREFERRED POND SITES
SR 710 FROM US 441 TO THE L-63N CANAL
OKEECHOBEE COUNTY, FLORIDA

Financial Project No.: 419344-3-32-01
Federal Project No.: NA

Prepared for:

Federal Highway Administration
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Suite 200
Tallahassee, Florida 32303

and the:

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November 2016
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1. **Executive Summary**

Archaeological Consultants, Inc. (ACI) conducted a cultural resource assessment survey (CRAS) of five preferred pond sites located along a new SR 710 proposed alignment, from the intersection with US 441 to south of the L-63N Canal (Interceptor Creek), Okeechobee County, Florida (Figure 1). The purpose of the assessment was to locate and identify any cultural resources within the area of potential effects (APE), and to assess their significance in terms of eligibility for listing at the national level in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP).

Background research indicated that no historic or prehistoric archaeological sites or historic structures were recorded within the APE. The archaeological and historic APE is defined as the area contained within each pond site. As a result of field investigations, no prehistoric archaeological sites or historic buildings or structures were identified within the APE.

Based on the results of the CRAS, this undertaking will have no effect on resources listed, determined eligible, or potentially eligible for listing in the NRHP.

2. **Introduction**

The purpose of the survey was to locate and identify any archaeological sites and historic resources located within the APE and to assess their significance in terms of eligibility for listing in the NRHP. This work was conducted in compliance with the provision of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), as amended; The Archaeological and Historic Preservation Act (Public Law 93-291) as amended; 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 Florida Department of Transportation’s (FDOT) *Project Development and Environment (PD&E) Manual* (FDOT 2016) and complies with the standards contained in the Florida Division of Historic Resources’ (FDHR) *Cultural Resource Management Standards and Operational Manual* (FDHR 2003).
Figure 1. Location of the SR 710 preferred pond sites, Okeechobee County.
3. **Project Description**

The project is located on SR 710 in Okeechobee County, Florida. The proposed project is a new alignment that begins at the intersection with US 441 and extends south easterly to south of the L-63N Canal (Interceptor Creek), where it ties into the existing SR 710 in Okeechobee, Florida.

The new alignment of SR 710 is approximately 3.8 miles (mi) in length, and it is designated as an Urban and Rural Principal Arterial and a Strategic Intermodal System (SIS) facility. The existing SR 710 is currently classified by FDOT as an Access Management Class four facility. The proposed access classification for the new roadway extension is class three from US 441 to Taylor Creek and class two from Taylor Creek to SR 70, the remainder of the corridor would be classified as class three from SR 70 to Mosquito Creek. The design speed for the entire facility is 50 miles-per-hour (mph).

A four-lane high speed suburban typical section is proposed. The roadway will consist of two 12-foot (ft) wide travel lanes in each direction, separated by a raised 30-ft wide grassed median. This roadway section will also include 4-ft shoulders to the inside of the travel lanes and 6.5-ft (8-ft useable) shoulders adjacent to the outside travel lanes. Type E curb and gutter will be provided along the median and outside edges of the roadway along with a closed storm-water conveyance system. A continuous 5-ft wide concrete sidewalk will be provided on the south side of the roadway and a 10-ft wide shared-use path will be provided on the north side of the roadway. Appropriate left and/or right turn lanes will be provided at major intersections. This high-speed urban typical section has a 29-ft border width and is to be constructed within 160 ft minimum of right-of-way (ROW). The surrounding land uses consist primarily of large areas of rangeland, pastureland, residential developments, and rural residences (Wantman Group 2014).

4. **Environmental Overview**

The proposed undertaking is located in portions of Sections 13-16, and 24, Township 37 South, Range 35 East (Figure 2). Elevation of the general area is 20-25 ft above mean sea level (amsl).

Examination of the Okeechobee and Taylor Creek SE, Florida United States Geological Survey (USGS) quadrangle maps (USGS 1952, 1953), the *Okeechobee County Soil Survey* (United States Department of Agriculture [USDA] 1971, 2003), and a visual reconnaissance of the area revealed that the natural landscape of the survey area has somewhat been altered by development as a result of agriculture, commercial, and residential development (Photos 1 and 2). Based on a review of soil data prior to development (USDA 1971), the most common local soil types in the survey area was poorly drained soil of the broad flatwoods and open prairies (USDA 1971:3-4). The soil in the project APE is part of the Myakka-Basinger general soil association.
Figure 2. Environmental setting and the location of the previously recorded cultural resources within one mile of the SR 710 preferred pond sites, Township 37 South, Range 35 East, Sections 13-16 and 24; USGS Taylor Creek SE and Okeechobee.
5. **Prehistoric Overview**

An extensive prehistoric overview was included in the CRAS for the SR 710 PD&E Study from US 441 to CR 714 (SW Martin Avenue) in Okeechobee and Martin Counties (Janus Research 2010). Therefore, the prehistory is not repeated here.
6. **Archaeological Background and Considerations**

**Archaeological:** Prior to initiating the archaeological and historical survey for this project, ACI reviewed information at the Florida Master Site File (FMSF). This was followed by a review of previous archaeological surveys in the vicinity (ACI 2005, 2006, 2007a/b, 2010; Arbuthnot and Savage 2006; Beiter 2003; Coughlin 2010; Estabrook 1992; Janus Research 2000, 2001; PBS&J 2010) including the CRAS conducted for the project area (Janus Research 2010) the Preliminary Pond Memorandum (ACI 2013), and a technical memorandum of 17 pond sites (ACI 2015). Although several historic and prehistoric archaeological sites are recorded within one mile of the APE (Figure 2; Table 1), as a result of these surveys, no significant (NRHP eligible) prehistoric or historic archaeological sites were found within the project APE.

The research also revealed that archaeological sites in the Okeechobee Basin are quite different from those in other parts of peninsula Florida. Typically, the types of sites found within the Okeechobee Basin include earthworks, burial mounds, and habitation mounds or middens. Among the more spectacular sites are large earthworks found in the open savannah, often bordering creeks or major environmental zones. Earthwork types include circular ditches, linear embankments, and combined mound and midden embankments. However, this research identified no prehistoric archaeological resources within or near the proposed undertaking.

Prehistoric settlement data demonstrates that archaeological sites in Okeechobee County near and within the APE would most likely be located on better drained to somewhat poorly drained soils near a permanent or semi-permanent source of potable water such as seasonal depressions, sloughs, and ponds where foods such as fish, shellfish, and aquatic plants are readily accessible. The data also suggest that because of the urban setting and disturbances caused by the infrastructure, including buried cables, ditches, and other utilities, the potential for sites was very low.

**Table 1.** Previously recorded cultural resources within one mile.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Site No.</th>
<th>Site Name</th>
<th>Site Type</th>
<th>Cultural Period</th>
<th>NRHP Eligible</th>
<th>Recorder</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8OB00010</td>
<td>Okeechobee Battlefield</td>
<td>Military</td>
<td>American Historic 1821-45</td>
<td>NRHP Eligible</td>
<td>Carr 1975</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8OB00021</td>
<td>Hazelieff</td>
<td>Artifact Scatter; Historic Refuse</td>
<td>Belle Glade; American Late 19th, Early 20 Century</td>
<td>Not Evaluated</td>
<td>AHC 1987</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8OB00050</td>
<td>City Limits</td>
<td>Single Artifact</td>
<td>Unknown</td>
<td>Ineligible</td>
<td>Janus Research 1995</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8OB00269</td>
<td>Okeechobee Road</td>
<td>Linear Resource</td>
<td>American 19th Century</td>
<td>Ineligible</td>
<td>ACI 2007a, b, 2010; Janus Research 2010</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8OB00271</td>
<td>Seaboard Airline Railroad</td>
<td>Railroad</td>
<td>American 20th Century</td>
<td>NRHP Eligible</td>
<td>Janus Research 2010</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8OB00284</td>
<td>Flagler Park</td>
<td>Historic Landscape</td>
<td>American 20th Century</td>
<td>Ineligible</td>
<td>PBS&amp;J 2010</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Historic: Although no historic archaeological sites were anticipated, portions of SR 70, adjacent to the APE, have been recorded in the FMSF (Okeechobee Road, 8OB00269). As noted in Figure 2, Pond 3C is south of this linear resource (Figure 2; Table 1; ACI 2006, 2007). The FMSF form for 8OB00269 was updated in 2010 (Janus Research 2010), and the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) determined the resource was not eligible for listing in the NRHP. Therefore, no update was required during this survey.

7. Methods

Archaeological field survey methods: included both ground surface reconnaissance and judgmental subsurface shovel testing. To the extent possible, each shovel test pit measured .5 meter (m) (20 inches [in]) in diameter and was dug to a depth of 1 m (3.3 ft) unless impeded by water. Soil from each test pit was screened through a 6.3 millimeter (mm) (.25 in) mesh hardware cloth to maximize the recovery of artifacts. The location of all shovel tests was plotted on the aerials, and, following the recording of relevant data such as stratigraphic profile, all test pits were refilled.

Interviews: No interviews were conducted in relation to any of the five preferred pond sites.

Laboratory Methods: No artifacts were found, therefore no laboratory or curation methods are included.

Curation of all project related materials (field notes, photos, maps, etc.) will take place at ACI (P12087) in Sarasota, pending transfer to a FDOT designated repository. In addition, a copy of the CRAS report and Survey Log will be curated and on file at the FDHR in Tallahassee.

Unexpected Discoveries: If human burial sites such as Indian mounds, lost historic and prehistoric cemeteries, or other unmarked burials or associated artifacts were found, then 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 during survey.

8. Results and Summary

Archaeological Results: As a result of the archaeological field survey, 16 shovel test pits (TP) were placed judgmentally in the pond sites (Figures 3, 4; Table 2). None of the TPs was positive and the soil stratigraphy was variable. Sample stratigraphy consisted of: 0-30 cm (0-12 in) of grey sand, 30-80 cm (12-31 in) of light grey/tan sand, and 80-100 cm (31-39 in) of dark brown hardpan; 0-50 cm (0-20 in) of black sandy-clay muck, 50-70 cm (20-28 in) of wet grey sand, and 70-100+ cm (28-39 in) of water; and 0-35 cm (0-14 in) of very dark grey/brown loam; 35-70 cm (13-28 in) of mottled grey/brown sandy loam, and 70-100 cm (28-39 in) of mottled light grey/brown sandy loam.
**Historical Results:** As a result of field survey, including a visual reconnaissance, no historic structures were found to be located within the APE. This is in keeping with the background research.

**Summary:** As a result of background results and archaeological field survey, no prehistoric or historic sites were found within any of the five pond sites tested (APE). In addition, the proposed undertaking also will not impact that portion of SR 70 (8OB00269) previously recorded adjacent to the project APE; this resource is not considered eligible for listing in the NRHP.

**Table 2.** Archaeological data.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Pond ID</th>
<th>Acres</th>
<th>Soil Type, Elevation, Drainage, and Environmental Association</th>
<th>*ZAPs/Comments</th>
<th>Test Pits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1B</td>
<td>1.203</td>
<td>Manatee, Delray, and Okeelanta soils Nearly level, very poorly drained on marshy plains</td>
<td>Low</td>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td>2A</td>
<td>14.227</td>
<td>Immokalee fine sand Nearly level, poorly drained in broad flatwoods</td>
<td>Moderate</td>
<td>6</td>
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<tr>
<td>3B</td>
<td>4.181</td>
<td>Basinger and Pompano fine sands Nearly level, poorly drained, in sloughs and isolated depressions in the flatwoods Immokalee fine sand Nearly level, poorly drained in broad flatwoods</td>
<td>Low</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>4B</td>
<td>8.168</td>
<td>Immokalee fine sand Nearly level, poorly drained in broad flatwoods</td>
<td>Moderate</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5A</td>
<td>2.624</td>
<td>Immokalee fine sand: bade level, poorly drained in broad flatwoods</td>
<td>Low</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Zone of Archaeological Potential
Figure 3. Location of shovel tests (not to scale) within the SR 710 preferred pond sites.
Figure 4. Location of shovel tests (not to scale) within the SR 710 preferred pond sites.
9. Bibliography

Arbuthnot, Michael A. and Christopher T. Savage

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2005 Cultural Resource Assessment Research Design and Survey Methodology SR 70 PD&E Study from NE 34th Avenue to Berman Road Okeechobee County, Florida. ACI, Sarasota.
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2010 Florida Gas Transmission Phase VIII Second Addendum Report, Okeechobee County. FDHR, Tallahassee.

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1992 Cultural Resource Assessment Survey of the Proposed State Road 70 PD&E Alignment, from 17th Avenue to 34th Avenue, Okeechobee County, Florida. FDHR, Tallahassee.
Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT)

Florida Division of Historical Resources (FDHR)

Janus Research

PBS&J
   2010 Cultural Resource Assessment Survey Technical Memorandum, SR 70 at US 441 Intersection Improvement Project, Okeechobee County, Florida. FDHR, Tallahassee.

United States Geological Survey (USGS)
   1953 Taylor Creek SE, Fla., Photorevised 1972

United States Department of Agriculture (USDA)

Wantman Group, Inc.
   2014 Project Description for Pond Sites Provided to ACI, Sarasota.
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)  SR 710 Ponds, Phase I

Report Title (exactly as on title page)  Cultural Resource Assessment Survey of Preferred Pond Sites, SR 710 from US 441 to the L-63N Canal, Okeechobee County, Florida; FPID No.: 419344-3-32-01; FAP No.: NA

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

Publication Date (year)  2016  Total Number of Pages in Report (count text, figures, tables, not site forms)  15

Publication Information (Give series, number in series, publisher and city. For article or chapter, cite page numbers. Use the style of American Antiquity.)  P12087, ACI, Sarasota

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. 
2. 
3. 
4. 
5. 
6. 
7. 
8. 

Survey Sponsors (corporation, government unit, organization or person directly funding fieldwork)
Name  Wantman Group  Organization
Address/Phone/E-mail  213 South Dillard Street, Suite 210 Winter Garden, Florida 34787

Recorder of Log Sheet  Lee Hutchinson  Date Log Sheet Completed  11-2-2016

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. Okeechobee
2. 
3. 
4. 
5. 

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

Description of Survey Area

Dates for Fieldwork: Start  10-1-2016  End  10-1-2016  Total Area Surveyed (fill in one)  31 acres
Number of Distinct Tracts or Areas Surveyed  5
If Corridor (fill in one for each) Width: _______ meters _______ feet  Length: _______ kilometers _______ miles
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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, systematic and judgmental subsurface testing, 1 m deep,
50 cm diameter, 6.4 mm mesh screen; all sterile; photos taken, tech memo prepared

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)
- ☐Check here if NO historical/architectural methods were used.
- ☐building permits
- ☐commercial permits
- ☐exposed ground inspected
- ☐interior documentation
- ☐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 “8”. Attach additional pages if necessary.) n/a

Newly Recorded Site #’s (Are all originals and not updates? List site #’s without “8”. Attach additional pages if necessary.) n/a

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)***

SHPO USE ONLY

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<td>☐Contract</td>
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Type of Document:
- ☐Archaeological Survey
- ☐Historical/Architectural Survey
- ☐Marine Survey
- ☐Cell Tower CRAS
- ☐Monitoring Report
- ☐Overview
- ☐Excavation Report
- ☐Multi-Site Excavation Report
- ☐Structure Detailed Report
- ☐Library, Hist. or Archival Doc

Document Destination: Plotability:
SR 710 preferred pond sites
Township 37 South, Range 35 East, Sections 13-16 and 24
USGS Taylor Creek SE and Okeechobee
Okeechobee County

CRAS
Preferred Pond Sites
SR 710 from US 441
to the L-63N Canal
Okeechobee County
FPID No. 419344-3-32-01
Federal Project No.: NA

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