

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY AND ASSESSMENT OF TWO
MICROWAVE TOWER LOCATIONS IN HARNETT AND CUMBERLAND
COUNTIES, NORTH CAROLINA

by

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MANAGEMENT SUMMARY

An archaeological survey and assessment were conducted at two microwave tower sites in Harnett and Cumberland counties, North Carolina (No Clearinghouse numbers were available). The Cokebury Microwave Tower site is approximately 1.0 acre in extent and is located immediately southeast of the junction of NCSR 1403 and NCSR 1418 in northwest Harnett County. The Wade Microwave Tower site covers approximately 3.0 acres and is located between NCSR 1802 and the Seaboard Coast Line, ca. 1.3 miles north of Wade in northeastern Cumberland County. Both sites were assessed by pedestrian survey. One prehistoric archaeological site was identified at the Cokebury Microwave Tower site; no prehistoric or historic cultural remains were identified at the Wade Microwave Tower site. Archaeological evidence at the Cokebury Microwave Tower site consisted of a very light scatter of lithic artifacts and does not meet minimum standards to be considered significant by National Register criteria. Consequently, no further archaeological assessment is recommended.

INTRODUCTION

On February 28, 1986, archaeological surveys were conducted at the Cokebury Microwave Tower and Wade Microwave Tower sites by R. P. Stephen Davis, Jr. and H. Trawick Ward. The project was initiated at the request of the Eastern Regional Office of MCI Telecommunications Corporation, Douglasville, Georgia.

The proposed Cokebury Microwave Tower site (Figure 1) is located on a low knoll immediately southeast of the junction of NCSR 1403 and NCSR 1418 in northwest Harnett County (UTM: 17/3932930/689650; Elev: 396 ft). The 208x208-ft (ca. 1.0 acre) project area is connected to NCSR 1418 by a 125x30-ft access road easement. Constructed facilities will be confined mostly to a 75x100-ft area, enclosed by a chain-link fence, and consist of an 11x18-ft shelter, an 8x10-ft generator building, a LPG tank, a small gravel parking area, and a microwave tower. Three guy lines from the tower will extend beyond the project area to concrete anchor pads. Leveling of the tower site will necessitate limited cutting and filling.

The proposed Wade Microwave Tower site (Figure 2) is situated on a level upland surface between NCSR 1802 and the Seaboard Coast Line, ca. 1.3 miles north of Wade in northeastern Cumberland County (UTM: 17/3894870/707750; Elev: 134 ft). This project area covers approximately 3.0 acres (ca. 340 x 316-452 ft) adjacent to NCSR 1802. Construction will be confined mostly to a 85x140-ft fenced area, a 40x60-ft gravel parking area, and a 200x30-ft access road. Constructed facilities will include a 30x68-ft building, a buried 2000-gal fuel tank, a microwave tower with three guy lines extending to concrete anchor pads, and a well and septic tank located just outside the fenced

Figure 1. Map locating the Cokebury Microwave Tower project site (from Cokebury, NC 7.5-Minute Series Quadrangle).

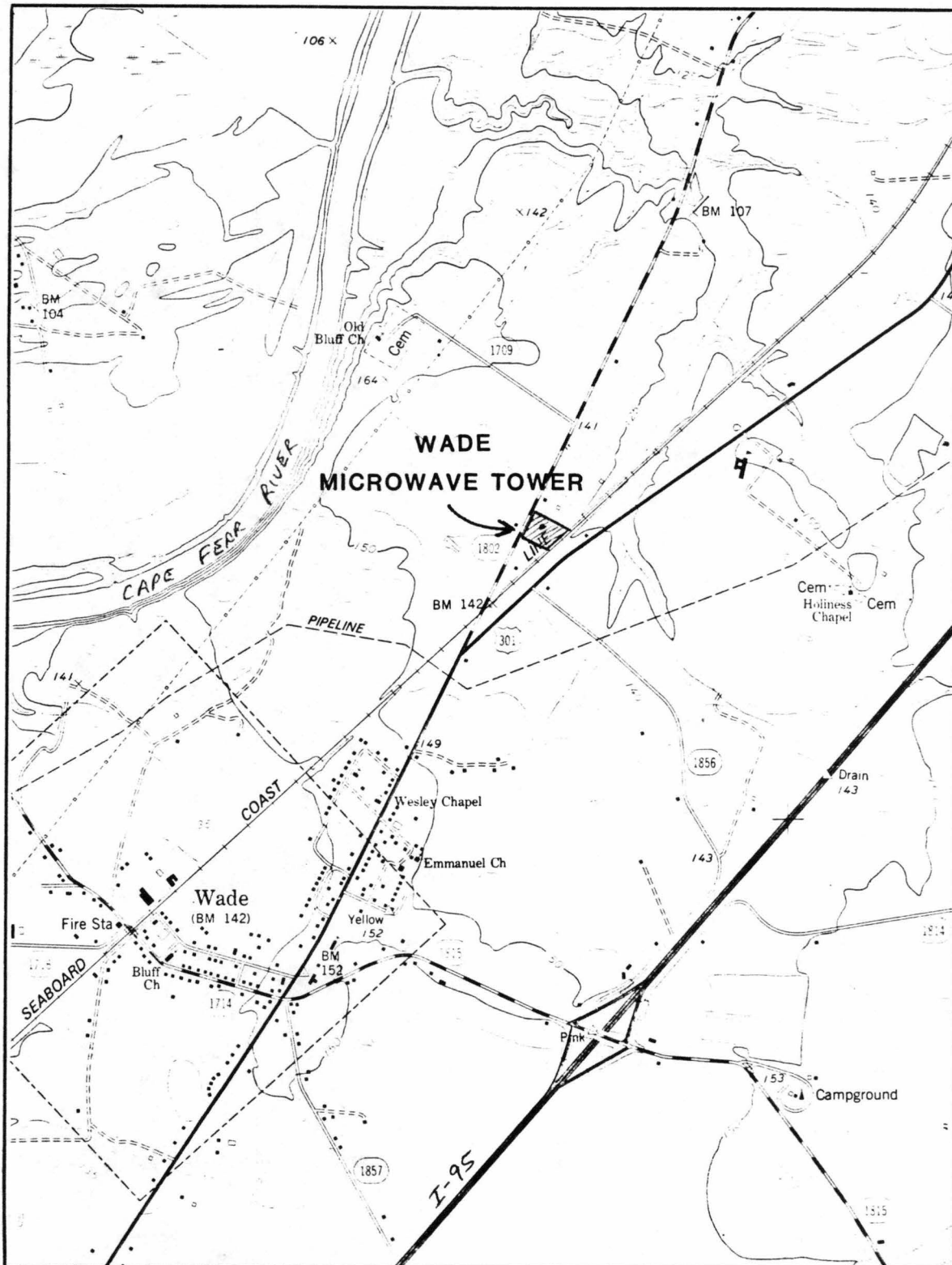


Figure 2. Map locating the Wade Microwawe Tower project site (from Wade, NC 7.5-Minute Series Quadrangle).

area.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

Cokebury Project Vicinity

Although only 41 archaeological sites have been previously recorded for Harnett County, over 800 such sites have been recorded in adjacent Wake and Chatham counties. The overwhelming majority of these were identified during surveys of bottomlands inundated by Jordan Lake on Haw River and Falls Lake on Neuse River (see Claggett and Cable 1982; McCormick 1970; Smith 1965; Wilson 1976). These investigations documented the presence of Indian peoples in the region over the last 9,000 years. Beyond the alluvial valleys of these rivers and their major tributaries, most archaeological sites represent small, disturbed camp sites and produce varying amounts of mostly nondiagnostic lithic debris (Davis and Ward 1983; Ward and Davis 1984). When temporally diagnostic specimens are found, they usually date to the Middle Archaic (4000-2000 B.C.) or Late Archaic (2000-1000 B.C.) periods with Morrow Mountain, Guilford, and Savannah River lithic assemblages predominating. Camp sites of these periods are particularly common on knolls and hilltops throughout the uplands in this region.

Wade Project Vicinity

Site files at the Research Laboratories of Anthropology, University of North Carolina, contain records for 94 archaeological sites within Cumberland County. While several of these were recorded by small cultural resource surveys within the general Fayetteville vicinity, most sites were recorded during a survey of Ft. Bragg Military Reservation in the late 1970s (Classified and unpublished). These site records document the entire cultural sequence of the area from the Paleo-Indian

to Late Prehistoric periods. Very few sites have been recorded east of the Cape Fear River near the Wade project vicinity, nor have many sites been recorded along the alluvial bottoms of the Cape Fear. This undoubtedly reflects a lack of systematic survey rather than an actual lack of sites.

SURVEY METHODS AND RESULTS

The Cokebury Microwave Tower site had been recently disked at time of survey and had excellent surface visibility (80-90%). The project site is situated on a gradual slope and is comprised of gravelly loam underlain by clay subsoil. The entire project area was carefully inspected for prehistoric and historic artifacts. One small prehistoric site (Ht42) was discovered. This site contained one quartz biface, two quartz cores, and 11 quartz flakes. These remains indicate only limited activity probably associated with the Archaic period. Given the low density of artifacts and evidence for moderate soil erosion at the site, no further archaeological assessment is recommended for this project site.

The Wade Microwave Tower site is situated in an old cabbage field and also had excellent surface visibility (80-100%) at time of survey. Topography at the site is generally level and the soil consists of a sandy loam. The entire project area was carefully inspected for archaeological remains. With the exception of a small amount of recent debris associated with a twentieth-century structure immediately to the north, no artifacts were observed. Given these results, no further archaeological assessment is recommended.

CONCLUSIONS

Archaeological survey and assessment at the Cokebury Microwave Tower and Wade Microwave Tower sites failed to identify any significant prehistoric or historic archaeological remains. It is concluded that these projects will have no effect upon significant cultural resources. Archaeological clearance without further assessment is recommended for both projects.

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