ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF THE CANDOR 115 kV TAP LINE IN MONTGOMERY COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA

by

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MANAGEMENT SUMMARY

During October 1988, H. Trawick Ward and R. P. Stephen Davis, Jr. spent three person-days surveying five miles of the proposed Candor 115 kV Tap Line corridor (Clearinghouse Number ER 88-7361) in eastern Montgomery County, between Candor and Biscoe, N.C. The project was initiated at the request of Carolina Power and Light Company and resulted in the recording of three new archaeological sites. Two of the sites contained assemblages dating primarily to the Middle Archaic period. One site consisted of a lithic scatter without diagnostic artifacts. All the sites have been severely disturbed by erosion and deflation. Because the construction of the transmission line will not adversely affect any significant archaeological resources, clearance is recommended for the project.

INTRODUCTION

At the request of Carolina Power and Light Company, H. Trawick Ward and R. P. Stephen Davis, Jr. of the Research Laboratories of Anthropology at the University of North Carolina spent three person-days, between October 6 and October 12, surveying 4.97 mi of the proposed Candor 115 kV Tap Line corridor. The proposed corridor extends from the Candor substation, just east of the town of Candor, northward to connect with the existing Cape Fear-Biscoe 115 kV Line, northeast of Biscoe in Montgomery County (Figure 1). The corridor is 100 ft wide; areas surveyed consist of all segments exhibiting any ground surface visibility, or approximately 34% of the total corridor.

The objectives of the survey were to locate and evaluate the research potential of as many archaeological sites as possible within the corridor. A "site", as defined here, refers to at least two spatially related artifacts or features that are indicative of prehistoric or historic activities. This somewhat broad definition only excludes the isolated "spot-find" which could result from an almost infinite variety of idiosyncratic or fortuituous events.

Sites were located by surface inspection, and the evaluation of a site's potential or significance was guided by criteria of the National Register which state that archaeological resources are considered significant or potentially eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places if they have "yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important to prehistory or history" (36 CFR Part 800.1). Although this guideline is vague, it seems that, minimally, a site should have spatial or depositional context sufficiently preserved to allow some level of behavioral inference beyond simple chronological placement.

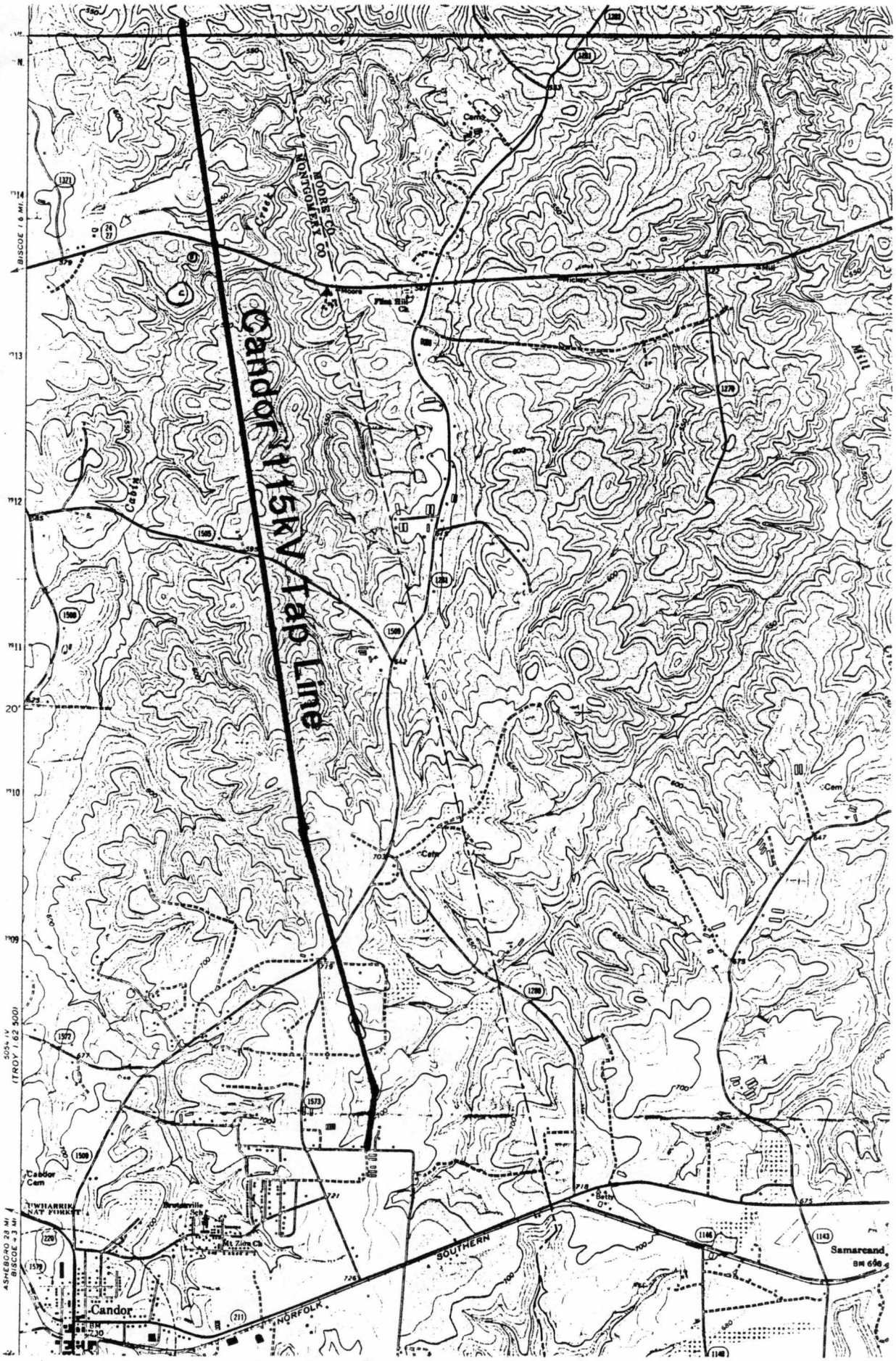

Figure 1. Map Locating the Candor 115kV Tap Line (1 in = 0.6 mi).

As a result of the survey, three new prehistoric sites were recorded. Although one contained evidence of a small Woodland component, the major occupations appear to date to the Archaic period. In addition, the precise locations of nine previously recorded sites in the Candor area were carefully examined to determine if they would be impacted by the construction of the transmission line. The ground survey and records search reveal that no significant archaeological resources will be affected by the project.

PREHISTORIC AND HISTORIC BACKGROUND

Archaeologists usually divide the archaeological cultures of North Carolina into four periods: Paleoindian, Archaic, Woodland, and Historic. The Archaic period is further broken down into three subperiods--Early, Middle, and Late--which are based on the forms and methods of manufacturing chipped-stone tools, particularily projectile points. The Woodland period is divided into several phases. Along the northern Fall Line, the Vincent, Clements, Dan River, and Gaston phases have been defined (Coe 1964). These are related to the Deep Creek, Mt. Pleasant, and Cashie phases of the northeast Coastal Plain (Phelps 1983). In the central Piedmont, the Badin, Yadkin, Uwharrie, Dan River, and Pee Dee phases have been identified (Coe 1952, 1964). The Historic period is represented in the northern piedmont by the Early, Middle, and Late Saratown phases while in the central piedmont, the Hillsboro, Mitchum, and Fredricks phases describe the archaeological remains of the historic Siouan tribes. Styles of pottery, as well as other material culture traits, provide indices for differentiating these Woodland and

Historic period cultures.

The Paleoindian period is represented by the Hardaway complex, which is characterized in its earliest form by a lanceolate projectile point with a thin concave base. This early variety evolved into a Dalton-like point with broad, shallow side notches and serrated edges. The terminal Hardaway phase is represented by a projectile point with narrow side notches and a concave recurved base. Hardaway peoples occupied central north Carolina perhaps as early as 12,000 B.C. (Coe 1964).

The Late Paleoindian and Early Archaic periods are represented respectively by the Palmer and Kirk complexes, which also are distinguished by projectile point styles. Palmer points are rather small, averaging 35 mm long and 20 mm wide. These points typically have serrated triangular blades, notched corners, and a straight ground base. Kirk specimens are larger, with some varieties averaging 100 mm long and 35 mm wide. Although blades are again triangular and serrated, the bases are straight to slightly rounded but never ground. Corner notching, characteristic of early Kirk specimens, is replaced by broad square stems in later varieties. Palmer may date as early as 10,000 B.C., while the Kirk complex appears to span the millennia between 6000 and 9000 B.C.

The beginning of the Middle Archaic is marked by the appearance of the Stanly complex, which displays the continued evolution of stemmed projectile points. During the Stanly phase, blades become wider and stems narrower, although the basic form still resembles the later Kirk types. The Stanly complex also contains the first evidence for extensive use of polished stone implements.

A continuity of projectile point styles was interrupted at the end

of the Stanly phase by the introduction of two new types, both of which appear stylistically to be unrelated to the previous sequence. The earliest type is represented by the Morrow Mountain point which has a small blade and short tapering stem. Following the Morrow Mountain phase, a long thick lanceolate point, the Guilford, was introduced. This type is wide-spread over central North Carolina but not frquently found outside the area. Stanly dates from 5000 to 6000 B.C.; the Morrow Mountain phase dates from 5000 to 4500 B.C. (Coe 1964:122-125).

The Late Achaic period began with a return to the manufacture of broad bladed, stemmed projectile points, charaterized by the Savanah River complex. During this phase, full-grooved axes and soapstone bowls made their first appearance. The Savannah River complex, which began about 4000 B.C., may have persisted in some areas of North Carolina until about 500 B.C. (Coe 1964:123-124).

The Woodland period began with the introduction of pottery and horticulture and lasted in most areas of North Carolina until European contact. The Badin and Vincent complexes represent the earliest Woodland occupations in the Piedmont. The pottery of both phases is well made, with a fine sand or non-tempered paste, and usually has a cord-marked or fabric-impressed exterior surface. Little is known about these Early Woodland cultures (ca. 500 B.C. to A.D. 500) except that horticulture became increasingly important, and small villages or hamlets probably were occupied on a semi-permanent basis.

In the survey area, the Middle and Late Woodland periods (ca. A.D. 500 to 1500) are defined by the Yadkin, Uwharrie, Dan River and Pee Dee phases. The shift from Early to Middle Woodland, though not abrupt, is most apparent in the respective ceramic traditions. The fine sand-tempered Early Woodland sherds were gradually replaced by

crushed-quartz tempered types of the Yadkin and Uwharrie phases. However, during the middle part of the Late Woodland period, ca. A.D. 1350, dramatic changes took place in the immediate vicintiy of the survey area (DePratter and Judge 1987).

People from the south, perhaps from as far away as northern Georgia, pushed into south-central North Carolina, bringing with them an entirely different culture. Not only did they introduce a totally different ceramic tradition but more importantly, they built temple mounds and elaborate ceremonial centers reminiscent of the complex Mississippian societies of the greater Southeast (Coe 1952). These Pee Dee people lived in stratified societies with warrior, priest, and chiefly classes controlling and organizing the daily lives of the common farmers. The most elaborate of their sites has been preserved in Town Creek Indian Mound State Park, located near Mt. Gilead.

The triumphant invasion of Pee Dee culture was shortlived, however, and by A.D. 1500, continuity returned to the Late Woodland period with the Caraway phase. The only Pee Dee trait to survive was a modified form of the distinctive complicated stamped pottery, but even this was blended with a more traditional Piedmont ceramic assemblage of net impressed and plain wares.

By this time, agriculture was firmly established. Corn, beans, and squash were being grown to support tribal populations that lived in established villages along the major rivers and tributaries. Hunting, however, continued to be important and would remain so as long as Native Americans occupied the region.

During the Historic period, the project area was probably occupied by Siouan-speaking Catawba and Sara Indians living in close proximity to the Iroquois-speaking Tuscarora of the Coastal Plain. Shortly after the

end of the Tuscarora War in 1714, most of the former moved into South Carolina, whereas the latter migrated to join their linguistic cousins in New York.

Several archaeological sites have been recorded in the vicinity of the transmission line corridor. Most are located just east of Candor along the Montgomery-Moore County line. All nine sites in this area are situated on hill tops or hill slopes and have been subjected to severe erosion. All were occupied during the Middle Archaic period with Guilford and Morrow Mountain components occuring most frequently. One site (31Mr55) produced a Paleoindian blade and two others (31Mr57 and 31Mg626) also contained evidence of a Late Archaic Savannah River occupation. In addition, a Kirk projectile point was recovered from 31Mg626, indicating repeated encampments at this site throughout the Archaic period. The Late Woodland period was represented by a single Caraway projectile point from 31Mg212. Although some quartz debitage was recovered from these sites, felsic raw material appears to have been favored for tool manufacture (Cooper and Patterson 1982).

John Lawson, during his epic journey from Charleston to Pamlico Sound in 1700-1701, was one of the first Europeans to explore the survey area. Lawson's keen eye and consummate literary talent provide us with a vivid description of the land and its native inhabitants. As he journeyed from South Carolina into present-day North Carolina, near the survey area, Lawson stated that the land was "thick" with Indian towns with "no barren Land being found amongst them." He spent the night with the "Esaw" and "Kadapau" Indians, who were no doubt Catawbas, and met a trader named Stewart who had heard of his coming 20 days earlier. Lawson was duly impressed that news of his journey should "fly so swiftly among these People" (Lefler 1967:49).

Some 40 years elapsed after Lawson's journey before the first permanent settlers moved into what was to become Montgomery County. By this time, the Indians had left, and except for a few overgrown fields, few traces remained of their once "thick" settlements. These early settlers were Scotch Highlanders from the Carolina coast and later Scotch Irish from Pennsylvania. They established small subsistence farms along the fertile bottoms of the Pee Dee and Little rivers where their descendents remain today (Lassiter 1976).

In 1823, a German, Dr. F. J. Krone, built a house on the west side of the Pee Dee River in what is today Morrow Mountain State Park. Dr. Krone was apparently one of the first amateur archaeologists in the state. He described extensive deposits of artifacts along the Uwharrie and Pee Dee rivers, and observed that when he first arrived:

> bands of ten or more (Indians) were frequently met with and on their way to Fayetteville, armed with bows and arrows, and ready for a reward to display their dexterity in hitting, before it came down, a piece of coin tossed in the air (Krone 1874:390).

SURVEY METHODS, CONDITIONS, AND RESULTS

The Candor 115 kV Tap Line crosses an environmental seam where the clay-capped ridges of the Piedmont blend into the relic dunes of the Sandhills region. Topographically, both areas are characterized by hills with moderate relief; however, the surface soils and vegetation are very different. In the Candor area, sandy soils support communities of longleaf pine, turkey oak, and wire grass. In contrast, the northern portion of the transmission corridor is characterized by clay and clay loam soils growing stands of mixed hardwoods and hardwood-pine forests.

The areas surrounding the transmission line corridor provide some of the best wildlife habitats in south-central North Carolina. Because

the Great Pee Dee basin is a major fly-way, migratory birds, particularly mallard and black duck, are attracted to the area in abundance each year. Bobwhite quail and morning doves are other important avian species. Mammals also enjoy a prime habitat, and the eastern cottontail, grey squirrel, beaver, muskrat, gray fox, racoon, mink, bobcat, and white tail deer are well represented (Turner 1948).

Archaeological survey of the proposed transmission line corridor was accomplished by visual inspection of all corridor sections with surface exposures sufficient to permit the identification of cultural materials. Approximately 34% (1.7 mi) of the corridor was surveyed in this manner. Specific field conditions and survey methods for the various corridor sections are described below (see Figures 2 and 3).

Segment 1

Length: 270 ft (0.05 mi).

Surface Visibility: 20%.

Location: East of SR 1573, along a level upland surface flanking the head of an intermittent tributary of Mill Creek.

Conditions: Generally poor. This section cut through an old field that was overgrown in weeds.

Comments: Nothing found.

Segment 2

Length: 250 ft (0.05 mi).

Surface Visibility: 20%.

Location: East of SR 1573, along a gently sloping upland adjacent to the head of an intermittent tributary of Mill Creek.

Conditions: Poor. This area had been bulldozed and was covered in relatively dense weeds.

Comments: Nothing found.

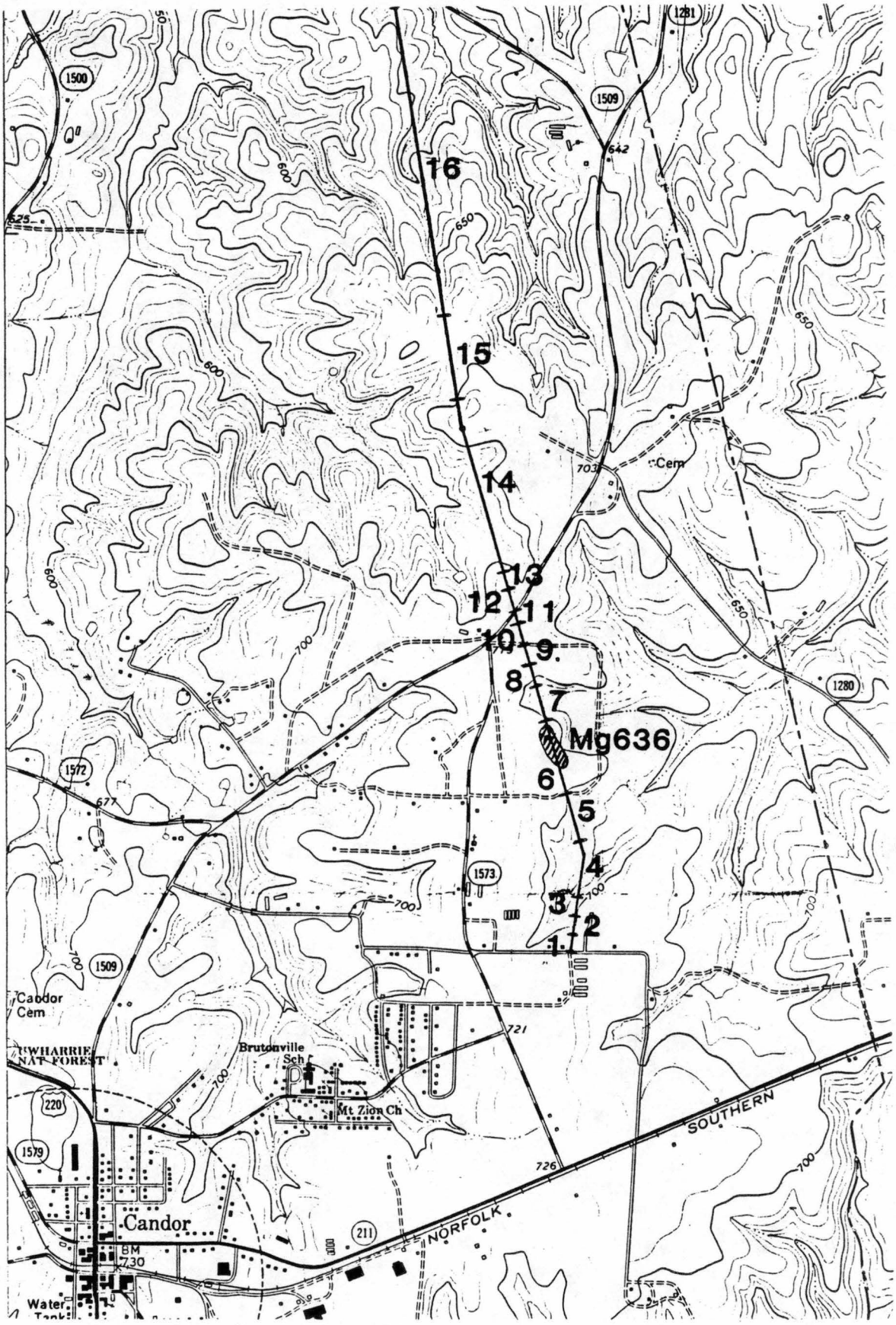

Figure 2. Map Locating Survey Segments 1-16 and Site Mg636 (1"=1000').

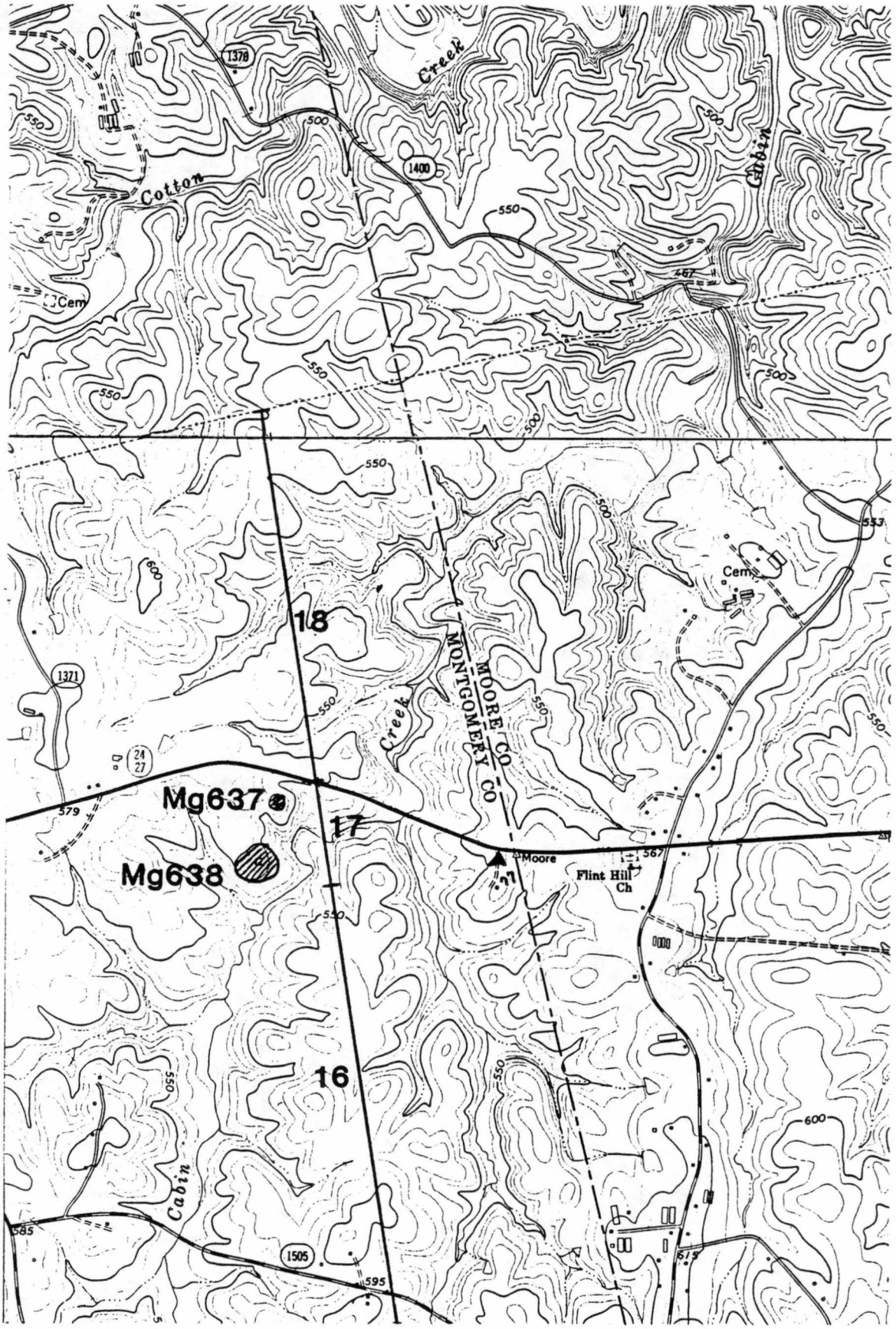

Figure 3. Map Locating Survey Segments 16-18 and Sites Mg637 and Mg638 (1"=1000').

Segment 3

Length: 240 ft (0.05 mi).

Surface Visibility: 80%.

Location: East of SR 1573, along a gently sloping upland adjacent to the head of an intermittent tributary of Mill Creek.

Conditions: Excellent. This section was located along the edge of a cultivated field.

Comments: Nothing found.

Segment 4

Length: 850 ft (0.16 mi).

Surface Visibility: 0%.

Location: East of SR 1573, crossing the gently sloping valley of a small, intermittent tributary of Mill Creek.

Conditions: This section was wooded and covered in thick honeysuckle.

Comments: This section could not be visually inspected due to adverse survey conditions.

Segment 5

Length: 630 ft (0.12 mi).

Surface Visibility: 30%.

Location: East of SR 1573, along the gently sloping valley edge of a small, intermittent tributary of Mill Creek.

Conditions: Generally poor. This section was heavily eroded and covered in weeds.

Comments: Nothing found.

Segment 6

Length: 1,050 ft (0.20 mi).

Surface Visibility: 90%.

Location: East of SR 1573, along a level upland adjacent to a small intermittent tributary of Mill Creek.

Conditions: Excellent. This section cut through an old field with only sparse weedy growth. Just west of the corridor was a cultivated tobacco field with 100% visibility. This area also was surveyed.

Comments: One prehistoric archaeological site (Mg 636) was identified (see Site Descriptions).

Segment 7

Length: 530 ft (0.10 mi).

Surface Visibility: 0%.

Location: East of SR 1573, along the moderately sloping valley edge of a small, intermittent tributary of Mill Creek.

Conditions: Heavily wooded with thick undergrowth.

Comments: This section could not be visually inspected due to adverse survey conditions.

Segment 8

Length: 270 ft (0.05 mi).

Surface Visibility: 80-100%.

Location: Southeast of the intersection of SR 1509 and SR 1573, along the gently sloping valley edge of a small, intermittent tributary of Mill Creek.

Conditions: Grassy with several patches of exposed ground.

Comments: Nothing found.

Segment 9

Length: 300 ft (0.06 mi).

Surface Visibility: 0%.

Location: East of the intersection of SR 1509 and SR 1573, along a level upland between tributary streams of Cabin Creek and Mill Creek.

Conditions: This section ran through a peach orchard with thick grass cover.

Comments: Nothing found.

Segment 10

Length: 300 ft (0.06 mi).

Surface Visibility: 100%.

Location: East of the intersection of SR 1509 and SR 1573, along a level upland between tributary streams of Cabin Creek and Mill Creek.

Conditions: Excellent. This section ran immediately adjacent to a cultivated potato field

Comments: Nothing found.

Segment 11

Length: 130 ft (0.02 mi.)

Surface Visibility: 100%.

Location: Just south of SR 1509, along a level upland between tributary streams of Cabin Creek and Mill Creek.

Conditions: Excellent. This section ran through a cultivated tobacco field.

Comments: Nothing found.

Segment 12

Length: 350 ft (0.07 mi).

Surface Visibility: 10%.

Location: Just north of SR 1509, along a level upland between tributary streams of Cabin Creek and Mill Creek.

Conditions: Poor. This section ran through an abandoned field covered with weeds.

Comments: Nothing found.

Segment 13

Length: 220 ft (0.04 mi).

Surface Visibility: 0%.

Location: North of the intersection of SR 1509 and SR 1573, along a sloping surface near the head of an intermittent tributary of Cabin Creek.

Conditions: Poor. This section crossed a corn field covered in thick Johnson grass.

Comments: This section could not be visually inspected due to adverse survey conditions.

Segment 14

Length: 2,400 ft (0.45 mi).

Surface Visibility: 0%.

Location: North of the intersection of SR 1509 and SR 1573, along the moderately-sloping valley edge of an intermittent tributary of Cabin Creek.

Conditions: Heavily forested with dense undergrowth.

Comments: This section could not be visually inspected due to adverse survey conditions.

Segment 15

Length: 980 ft (0.19 mi).

Surface Visibility: 0%.

Location: Between SR 1509 and SR 1505, along gently sloping uplands east of Cabin Creek drainage.

Conditions: An abandoned field covered in thick weeds and grass.

Comments: This section could not be visually inspected due to adverse survey conditions.

Segment 16

Length: 10,970 ft (2.08 mi).

Surface Visibility: 0%.

Location: Along a gently sloping upland ridge between Cabin Creek and an unnamed tributary of Cabin Creek. This segment crosses SR 1505.

Conditions: Heavily forested.

Comments: This section could not be visually inspected due to adverse survey conditions.

Segment 17

Length: 1,400 ft (0.27 mi).

Surface Visibility: 80-100%.

Location: Just south of NC 24, crossing Cabin Creek valley and adjacent upland edge.

Conditions: Generally excellent. This section of the corridor recently had been clearcut and burned.

Comments: Because of favorable surface-collecting conditions and the absence of surveror's stakes marking the proposed powerline right-of-way, archaeological reconnaissance was undertaken of the general area, focusing upon locations thought likely to contain sites but also including intervening areas as well. Most of the valley slopes along the corridor and within the clearcut area were moderately steep and did not contain archaeological remains. However, prehistoric archaeological sites (Mg 637 and Mg 638) were recorded on each of the two low knolls overlooking Cabin Creek that were examined (see Site Descriptions). Given these results, it is likely that similar sites exist on other knolls flanking this stream.

Segment 18

Length: 5,100 ft (0.97 mi).

Surface Visibility: 0%.

Location: Between NC 24 and the existing Cape Fear-Bisco 15kV

transmission line. This segment crosses a gently sloping upland surface dissected by two small, intermittent tributaries of Cabin Creek.

Conditions: Heavily forested.

Comments: This section could not be visually inspected due to adverse survey conditions.

SITE DESCRIPTIONS

Three prehistoric archaeological sites were recorded during the course of the Candor 115 kV Tap Line survey. These sites are described below.

Mg 636 (Figure 2)

This site is located within Survey Segment 6, within a heavily cultivated and moderately-eroded upland field adjacent to a small intermittent tributary of Mill Creek. The site consisted of a widely-dispersed scatter of mostly lithic artifacts over a 175x600-ft area. Artifacts collected during the survey include one Morrow Mountain II projectile point, one Savannah River projectile point, one biface, one side scraper, one utilized flake, two cores, 18 unmodified flakes, and two potsherds. The two cores and seven flakes were made of quartz; the remaining lithic artifacts were made of metavolcanic material. The Morrow Mountain II and Savannah River points indicate Middle Archaic and Late Archaic occupations, respectively. Both potsherds had grit temper and fabric impressed exteriors, and indicate an Early Woodland cultural component. These sherds were collected from the northern end of the site, outside the corridor.

Although the transmission line corridor crosses this site, no further assessment is recommended since: 1) the low artifact frequency

and wide spatial distribution do not suggest the presence of undisturbed cultural deposits; and 2) the type of impact resulting from transmission line construction (i.e., digging holes for power poles) is minimal.

Mg 637 (Figure 3)

This site is located within Survey Segment 17, atop a low, heavily-eroded knoll overlooking Cabin Creek. The site was characterized by a light scatter of lithic artifacts over a 200x200-ft area. All visible artifacts were collected from the site and include one retouched flake, one utilized flake, and eight unmodified flakes. One flake was made of quartz; the remaining specimens were of metavolcanic material. No culturally diagnostic artifacts were found. This site lies outside the transmission line corridor and will not be affected by the project.

Mg 638 (Figure 3)

This site also is located within Survey Segment 17, atop a low, heavily-eroded knoll overlooking Cabin Creek and just south of Mg 637. The site was defined by a moderately dense concentration of lithic artifacts over a 500x500-ft area. Again, all visible artifacts were collected, and include: three Guilford projectile points, one Savannah River projectile point, one small stemmed projectile point, five unidentifiable projectile point fragments, six bifaces, one large core, two end scrapers, four side scrapers, two retouched flakes, two utilized flakes, and 54 unmodified flakes. All specimens were made of metavolcanic material. These remains suggest that this site served as a campsite for Middle and Late Archaic peoples. As with Mg 637, this site lies outside the transmission line corridor and will not be affected by

the project. Given extensive soil erosion, however, it is unlikely that either site contains intact cultural deposits.

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Although many sites are known in Montgomery County, only three were discovered during the course of the transmission line survey. All have low research potential, and two lie outside any areas of possible impact. Clearance is therefore recommended for the project.

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