REPORT ON ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY AND EVALUATION OF THE CAMERON, MOORE COUNTY, WATER SYSTEMS IMPROVEMENT PROJECT, CH 80-C-0000-1297

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April, 1983

Management Summary

In February, 1983, a cultural resources assessment was conducted for the Cameron Water Systems Improvement Project, Moore County, North Carolina, by the Research Laboratories of Anthropology, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill. Seven specific locations were examined. Assessment consisted of an on-site inspection to determine the presence or absence of potentially significant prehistoric and historic archaeological sites. No sites were identified. Given these results and the observation that most of the project will be spatially restricted to areas of prior ground disturbance, no further assessment is warranted. It is concluded that the proposed project will not adversely impact significant cultural resources.

Introduction

On February 10, 1983, an archaeological survey of the Town of Cameron's water systems improvement project was conducted by the authors (Map 1). As requested by the Division of Archives and History, the following areas were examined to locate and assess the significance of cultural resources:

1) three stream crossings where 6-in and 8-in pipes will be laid (designated Areas A-C on Map 1);
2) a 100 ft^2 well site and 200 ft of 8-in pipe corridor (designated Area D);
3) an elevated water tank site approximately 100 x 100 ft in dimension and associated 200 ft of pipe corridor (designated Area E);
4) approximately 1200 ft of 2-in water line between McPherson St. and the Seaboard Coastline Railroad (designated Area F); and
5) approximately 2400 ft of 2-in water line along dirt roads within a trailer park just west of Cameron (designated Area G).

Survey Methods

Prior to survey, archaeological site files for Moore County (maintained by the Research Laboratories of Anthropology, UNC, Chapel Hill) were consulted to identify previously recorded sites within the project area. Although 11 sites already had been recorded within a 2-mile radius of Cameron during an archaeological survey for proposed highway construction (N.C. Dept. of Transportation n.d.), none of these sites will be impacted by the project. The most productive of these previously recorded sites, 31Mr43, was revisited. Here, we observed several rhyolite and quartz chips, but these specimens were in a badly disturbed context (as reported by the original investigators). None of these sites was considered significant relative to National Register criteria.

All designated survey areas were thoroughly inspected except for the proposed 1200-ft water line (Area F). Inspection consisted of: 1) examining the surface for prehistoric and historic archaeological remains; and 2) examining soils and surface contours to assess project site conditions (i.e., disturbed or undisturbed). Because of recent ground disturbance and soil erosion, surface visibility was sufficient in all survey areas for determining the presence or absence of archaeological

remains. The potential for buried sites was low in all areas except Areas A-C; consequently, no subsurface testing was conducted. Testing was unnecessary in Areas A-C due to their disturbed condition. In the case of Area F, a cursory inspection was sufficient to determine that this survey area had been completely altered by previous cutting and filling. Consequently, more intensive examination was not warranted.

Results

Field inspection of the Cameron Water Systems Improvement project area failed to produce any evidence of significant cultural resources. Specific assessments are detailed below.

Areas A-C: Pipe at all three stream crossings will be laid in previously deposited road ballast. Given the disturbed nature of such deposits, impact upon significant archaeological remains is unlikely.

Area D: This area is relatively undisturbed except for minor surface disturbances along a dirt road (i.e., proposed pipe corridor) and at the well site. No archaeological remains were observed. Because of the limited extent of proposed impact, no additional evaluation is warranted.

Area E: Much of the ground surface has been disturbed by bulldozing. Inspection of erosional areas failed to yield anything of archaeological significance. A plank equipment shed measuring ca. 20 x 40 ft will be demolished as a consequence of tank construction. This structure was recently moved to the site and is considered to be not significant. Only limited ground disturbance is anticipated at the proposed tank site.

Area F: This area has been severely altered by cutting and filling. The potential for archaeological remains is nil.

Area G: Excellent surface exposure exists throughout the entire area of proposed impact (i.e., along road margins). No archaeological remains were observed.

Conclusions and Recommendations

No potentially significant cultural resources were identified by the survey. Moreover, because of the disturbed condition of most survey area, there is little potential for additional, undiscovered sites. It is concluded, therefore, that the Cameron Water System Improvement Project will have no adverse effect upon any significant cultural resources. No additional evaluation is warranted.

References

N.C. Department of Transportation
n.d. Draft environmental impact statement of U.S. 1, south of Sanford to south of Vass.