

## GDOT ARCHAEOLOGICAL SHORT FORM FOR NEGATIVE FINDINGS

Phase I Archaeological Resources Survey for the Proposed Pedestrian Bridge over SR 21/Augusta  
Road, Chatham County, Georgia  
Report Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Prime Consultant: HNTB Corporation  
\_\_\_\_\_

Sub Consultant: Edwards-Pitman Environmental, Inc.  
\_\_\_\_\_

GDOT Project No.: N/A P.I. No.: 0013549  
\_\_\_\_\_

GA SHPO HP#: GP-160208-001  
\_\_\_\_\_

Draft Report Submitted on: 03 / 08 / 2016  
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### PROJECT LOCATION AND AREA OF POTENTIAL EFFECT

County(ies):  
Chatham

USGS Quadrangle(s):  
Port Wentworth (1993) 7.5' Topographic Quadrangle, UTM Zone 17N

Project Description:  
Please see attachment.

Area of Potential Effect (APE):  
Please see attachment.

**SURVEY CONDITIONS**

Soil Descriptions:  
Please see attachment.

Topography:  
The survey area is located on top of a broad landform, overlooking Black Creek, located to the southwest of the survey area.

Land Use/Vegetation/Ground Cover:  
The majority of the survey area is characterized by either residential or commercial development. This includes the Rice Hope Plantation neighborhood to the west, a newly built Publix shopping center in the northeast quadrant of the intersection, and a large fill stockpile in the southeast quadrant associated with ongoing construction. Vegetation in the undeveloped areas are characterized by a canopy of pine and oak with a sparse understory.

Survey Limitations and Disturbance(s):  
The majority of the project area was accessible for survey; however, an area within the southeastern quadrant of the intersection was impacted by a sizable earthen berm that may represent a stockpile of fill or other construction activities (see Photo 3). Other disturbances included ditches along SR 21, parking areas, and existing pavement.

Survey Methods:  
Please see attachment.

No. of STs: 31 No. of Transects: 8

- This archaeological survey included all areas of the APE and an additional 100 foot expanded survey corridor.
- This archaeology survey covers the APE only and does not require the survey of the additional 100 foot expanded corridor.

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND RESEARCH**

Previously Recorded Sites:  
Seven previously recorded archaeological sites, 9CH917, 9CH918, 9CH922, 9CH936, 9CH937, 9CH944, and 9CH1053, are located within 1 kilometer of the survey area. None of these resources are located within the current APE or ESC for this project. See attachment for a table with details regarding these seven sites.

Previous Surveys:  
Please see attachment.

Ref:  
Please see attachment.

**ATTACHMENT CHECKLIST**

- 1. Project Location Map
- 2. USGS Topographic Map
- 3. References Cited
- 4. VITA
- 5. Photograph(s)
- 6. Field Notes

**CONSULTANT INFORMATION**

Archaeological Consultant: Edwards-Pitman Environmental, Inc.

Address: 1370 Browning Road, Suite 140  
Columbia, SC 29210

Phone No.: 803-764-6883

Principal Investigator: Ryan O. Sipe

Project Archaeologist: \_\_\_\_\_

**CONSULTANT CERTIFICATION**

I, the Principal Investigator: Ryan O. Sipe do hereby certify that the Area of Potential Effect (as described on Page 1 of this form) for GDOT Project P.I. No. 0013549 has been thoroughly surveyed for archaeological resources and that no such resources were located or identified.

PI Signature: *R. Sipe*

Comments:

**REVIEW**

GDOT Archaeologist: *Rachul D Price* Date: 05 / 13 / 2016

Comments:

Draft Accepted as Final

**By agreement, because no archaeological resources were located within the project's area of potential effect, no signed concurrence from the State Historic Preservation Office is required.**

Cc: Muscogee (Creek) Nation, Muscogee (Creek) Nation National Council, Poarch Band of Creek Indians, Absentee Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma, Shawnee Tribe  
Paul Alimia, GDOT NEPA



**Attachment:**  
**Phase I Archaeological Resources Survey for the Proposed Pedestrian Bridge Over SR  
21/Augusta Road, Chatham County, Georgia**  
**P.I. No. 0013549**

**Project Description**

The proposed project would consist of the design and construction of a pedestrian bridge over State Route (SR) 21 in Port Wentworth. It will also include construction of a sidewalk up to the nearest intersection of Rice Mill Road/SR 21. The pedestrian crossing will serve the population of a growing residential neighborhood and a new school. Residents will be able to use the crossing to safely cross SR 21 to take their children to school, and access goods and services provided by Rice Hope and Rice Creek developments. The project will be constructed using a Design-Build process. Minor additional required right-of-way (ROW) is anticipated within the APE.

**Area of Potential Effect (APE)**

The APE for this project includes the footprint of the pedestrian bridge over SR 21 and the proposed sidewalk to the nearest intersection of Rice Mill Road/SR 21, as well as all drainage and utility infrastructure that will be required. The current ROW for Rice Mill Road/SR 21 is approximately 20 feet. Additional required ROW is anticipated, but this will not exceed 60 feet from the edge of pavement as demonstrated by the limits of the APE. An additional 100-foot expanded survey corridor (ESC) was also examined beyond the limits of the APE.

**Soil Descriptions**

Soil profiles in the survey area consisted of 0-15 centimeters of dark grayish brown (10YR 4/3) humic sand overlying pale brown (10YR 6/3) sand to a depth of 50 centimeters below surface. Soil types in the survey area include somewhat poorly drained Ocilla complex and poorly drained Ogeechee loamy fine sand and Pooler fine sand soils (Wilkes et al. 1974).

**Survey Methods:**

The field survey for the project was accomplished by pedestrian coverage of the proposed APE and ESC, and included visual inspection of all areas and shovel testing at 30-meter intervals. Shovel tests were placed along transects spaced no more than 30 meters apart. All excavated soil

was screened through .25 inch hardware cloth. In all, 31 shovel tests were excavated along 8 transects. Sixteen additional areas were labeled No Digs as they were severely disturbed by ditches, under pavement, or beneath a large fill stockpile.

**Previously Recorded Sites**

Based on a search of the Georgia Archaeological Site File (GASF) conducted December 18, 2015, there are no previously recorded sites within the survey area; however, seven previously recorded sites are within a 1-kilometer radius. These include Sites 9CH917, 9CH918, 9CH922, 9CH936, 9CH937, 9CH944, and 9CH1053 (Table 1). Two of these sites, 9CH917 and 9CH944, were recommended as being eligible for the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). Site 9CH917 was identified as a precontact ceramic and lithic scatter on a subtle landform overlooking Black Creek approximately 780 meters southwest of the survey area. Site 9CH944 was recorded as a precontact campsite approximately 600 meters southwest of the survey area. Both sites were recorded during Phase I survey for the New Town Center of Port Wentworth (Kratzer et al. 2000). Site 9CH1053 was the closest archaeological site to the survey area and is located approximately 30 meters south of the survey limits on the east side of SR 21 (though it is erroneously plotted in the records maintained by GASF). This site represents a historic African American Church and cemetery associated with Rice Hope Plantation that was erected in 1886. The site was recommended as ineligible for the NRHP under Criterion D; however, it is listed on the Georgia Register of Historic Places.

**Table 1. Previously Recorded Sites within 1-Kilometer of the Addendum Survey Area.**


## Previous Surveys

There are two previously conducted archaeological surveys that intersect the survey area. These include the *Cultural Resources Survey of the Rice Hope Plantation Tract, Chatham County, Georgia* conducted by Brockington and Associates in 2004 (Fletcher et al. 2004) and the *Archaeological Assessment of Project F-041-2(32), Chatham-Effingham Counties, Georgia* conducted by GDOT in 1985 (Rotenstein 1985). The Cultural Resource survey of the Rice Hope Plantation Tract was a Phase I survey of a 507-hectare tract of land between SR 21 and I-95 in Port Wentworth, Georgia. Two cultural resources were identified during this survey including Site 9CH1053, the Houston Church and cemetery, located just 30 meters south of the current survey area. The Archaeological Assessment of Project F-041-2(32) was conducted to facilitate the widening of SR 21 in 1985. This survey included an archaeological investigation of a 9.4-mile corridor that was 134 feet wide. No archaeological resources were reported as a result of this survey.

## References Cited

Fletcher, Joshua N., David Baluha, Carrie Collins, John Beaty, Rachel Tibbets, and Susannah Munson

2004 *Cultural Resources Survey of the Rice Hope Plantation Tract, Chatham County, Georgia*. Brockington and Associates, Inc., Atlanta, Georgia. GASF Report No. 2710.

Kratzer, Judson, Sidney P. Johnston, and Greg C. Smith

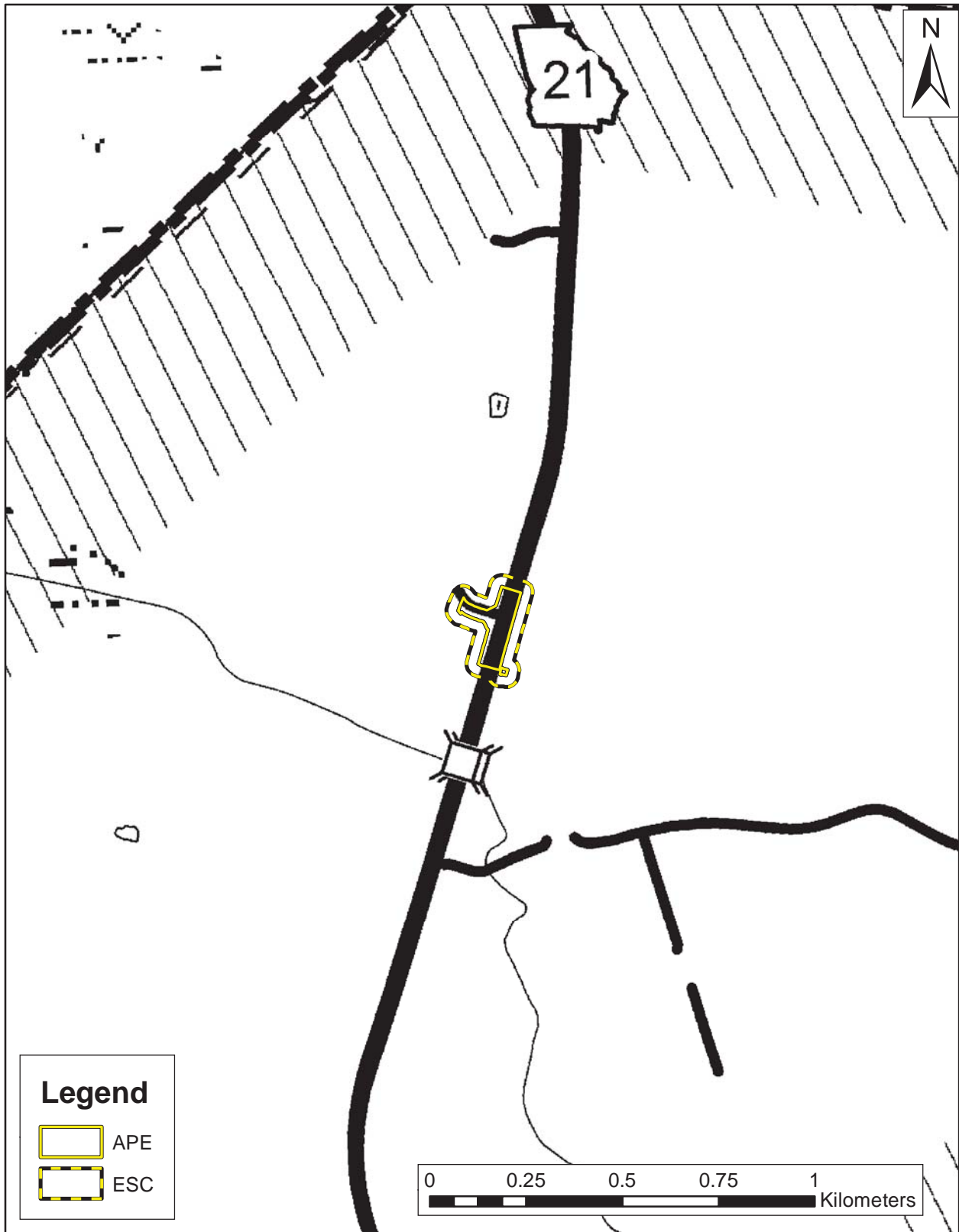
2000 *An Intensive Archaeological and Historical Cultural Resource Assessment for the New Town Center of Port Wentworth, Chatham County, Georgia*. Environmental Services, Inc., Savannah, Georgia. GASF Report No. 2355.

Rotenstein, David S.

1985 *Archaeological Assessment of Project F-041-2(32), Chatham-Effingham Counties, Georgia*. Interdepartment Correspondence, Department of Transportation, State of Georgia, Atlanta, Georgia. GASF Report No. 5122.

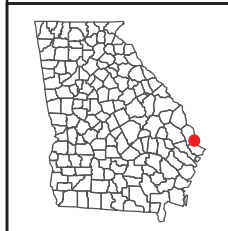
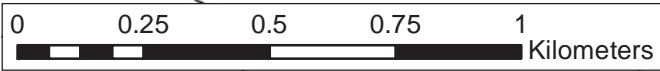
Wilkes, Robert L., J.H. Johnson, H.T. Stoner, and D.D. Bacon

1974 *Soil Survey of Bryan and Chatham Counties, Georgia*. United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Washington, D.C.



**Legend**

-  APE
-  ESC

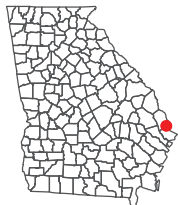
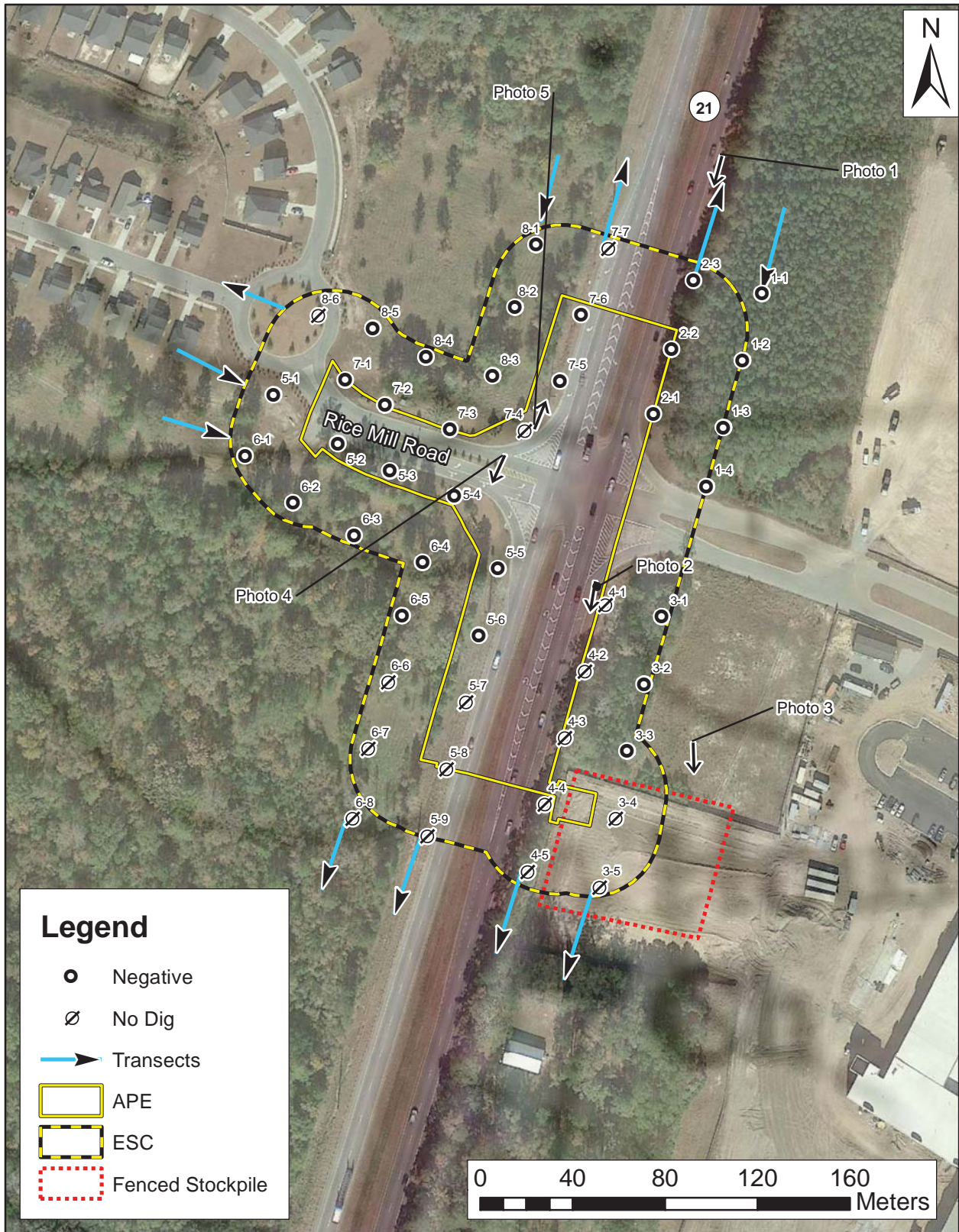


**Figure 1. Project Location Map**  
 Phase I Archaeological Survey of the  
 Proposed Pedestrian Bridge over SR 21/Augusta Road,  
 Chatham County, Georgia  
 P.I. No. 0013549



Source: 2012 GDOT County Highway Maps





**Figure 2. USGS Topographic Map/Aerial View**  
 Phase I Archaeological Survey of the  
 Proposed Pedestrian Bridge over SR 21/Augusta Road,  
 Chatham County, Georgia  
 P.I. No. 0013549





**Photo 1. View of northeastern quadrant of the survey area, facing southwest.**



**Photo 2. View of southeastern quadrant of survey area, facing southwest.**



**Photo 3. View of fenced stockpile in the southeastern portion of the survey area, facing south.**



**Photo 4. View of southwestern quadrant of the survey area, facing southwest.**



**Photo 5. View of northwest quadrant of the survey area, facing northeast.**

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## Ryan O. Sipe

<b>POSITION:</b>	Principal Investigator/Archaeologist
<b>EDUCATION:</b>	B.A. Anthropology (2002) The University of North Florida  M.A. Social Science (Archaeology Emphasis) (2013) Georgia Southern University
<b>CONTINUING EDUCATION:</b>	Current Archaeological Prospection Advances for Non-Destructive Investigations in the 21 <sup>st</sup> Century  FHWA-NHI-310110 Federal-Aid Highways – 101
<b>PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS:</b>	Registered Professional Archaeologist (RPA) Southeastern Archaeological Conference (SEAC) Archaeological Society of South Carolina (ASSC) Southern Georgia Archaeological Research Team (SOGART)

### EXPERIENCE:

Mr. Sipe serves as a Principal Investigator/Archaeologist for the firm. He has over 10 years of experience and training in cultural resource management, including archaeological survey, archaeological site assessment, archaeological mitigation, technical report writing, geographic information systems, and public outreach. Mr. Sipe has conducted many cultural resource surveys and data recovery projects throughout the Southeastern United States and has also served as a Field Director on academic field school projects. He has worked with federal, state, and private entities in preparing documents in accordance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) of 1966. While primarily interested in the late prehistoric cultures of the coastal Southeast, Mr. Sipe also has a strong background in historical research, including early contact/colonial period, plantation, and postbellum archaeology.

The following are projects Mr. Sipe has managed or has served in a supervisory capacity:

- **Phase I Archaeological Survey of the Proposed SR 223/Robinson Avenue Road Improvements, Columbia County, Georgia:** Acting as Principal Investigator for this project in Telfair County, Georgia for Edwards-Pitman Environmental, Inc.
- **Phase I Archaeological Survey of the Proposed Roundabout at SR 125 and CR 410/Brighton Road, Tift County, Georgia:** Served as Principal Investigator for the survey of an area of potential effect associated with a proposed roundabout to ease traffic congestion for Edwards-Pitman Environmental, Inc.
- **Phase I Archaeological Survey of the Proposed Bridge Replacement at SR 31 Over Turnpike Creek, Telfair County, Georgia:** Served as Principal Investigator for archaeological survey of the bridge replacement corridor for Edwards-Pitman Environmental, Inc.
- **Archaeological Survey and Limited Testing at the Lincoln Trail Site (9BN17)** Served as Field Director for Phase I Investigation and limited excavation for the project in Bryan County, Georgia for the Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Historic Preservation Division.

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*Ryan O. Sipe*

- **The Camp Lawton Archaeological Research Project:** Acted as Field Director for this Project for Georgia Southern University in Jenkins County, Georgia.
- **Archaeological Data Recovery at the Redbird Creek Village (9BN9):** Worked as Field Director for the large-scale excavation of this Late Mississippian Village in Bryan County, Georgia for Environmental Services Inc.
- **Archaeological Data Recovery and Mitigation at the Hammerhead Point Site (9BN887):** Served as Field Director for the excavation of a Late Mississippian farmstead in Bryan County, Georgia for Environmental Services, Inc.
- **Phase III Testing at 9BN909, 9BN104, and 9BN872:** Acted as Field Director for this series of Phase III excavations within the Genesis Point property in Bryan County, Georgia for Environmental Services, Inc.
- **Phase III Data Recovery and Mitigation at the Web Site:** Worked as Field Director for the mitigation of this Second Spanish Period site in St. Johns County, Florida for Environmental Services, Inc.
- **Phase II Testing at Morton Hall/Oak Grove Plantation (9CH1057):** Served as Field Director during the evaluation of this antebellum plantation site in Chatham County, Georgia for Environmental Services, Inc.
- **Phase III Data Recovery and Mitigation of the North Midden (8FL216) Site:** Acted as Field Director on this mitigation of a Middle-to-Late Archaic habitation site in Flagler County, Florida for Environmental Services, Inc.
- **Phase II Evaluation of Eight Sites Associated with the Rurill Hill Plantation:** Worked as Field Director during the evaluation of these sites associated with an antebellum plantation in Perry County, Alabama for Environmental Services, Inc.

SR 21 Ped Bridge

1/15/16

Proj area @ the intersection of SR 21 and Rice Mill Road. Rainy weather conditions and poorly drained soil. Intersection heavily developed. NE Quad is a new public shopping center and most of the APE & ESC are disturbed by the parking lot. Cleared area with fill to level out.

Transect 1 - ESC NE Quad ✓

1-1

0-20 pale bn w/ sky bn striations (neg)

20-40 pale bn Fill wet @ 40'

1-2

SAB (neg)

1-3

SAB (neg)

1-4

SAB (neg)

Transect 2 - APE + ESC NE

Disturbed by ditch

2-1

0-10 bn w gravel inclusions

10-20 pale bn fill (neg)

2-2

SA B (neg)

2-3

SAB (neg)

Southeast of Intersection Large school  
Complex - New construction, heavily  
disturbed similar to Publix parking lot  
leveled fill, large fill stockpile or  
other berm in fenced area in  
SE - No Access.

APE dist by large ditch +  
road construction

Transect 3 - ESC of SE

3-1

0-15 gy bn

20-50 pale bn

50+ wet

(neg)



3-2

SA B

(neg)

3-3

SA B

(neg)

Adjacent to berm fence

Transect 4 - APE along SE  
Disturbed

4-1 → 4-5

No Digs destroyed by  
Ditch

SW of Intersection - Rice Mill  
Neighborhood - mostly entrance

Transect 5 - starts @ Roundabout  
& extends along RM road + SR21

5-1) manicured area around Roundabout

0-10 - 94 hr hemic

10-30 94 wet

(neg)

5-2

SAB

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5-3

SAB

---

5-4 adjacent to sign

0-20 sybn w/mitch

20-50 pabe bn

50+ mt

(vey)

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5-5

SAB

(vey) ✓

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5-6 Disturbed by ditch

0-10 sy w/ grave

(vey)

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5-7 → 5-9

No Digs destroyed by  
Ditch

Transect 6 - ESC SU Quad  
Wooded Area - relatively intact

6-1

0-15 gybn (neg)

15-50 ft gybn

50+ wet

6-2

SAB

(neg)

6-3

SAB

(neg)

6-4

SAB

(neg)

6-5

low wet area

0-10 dk gy

10+ wet (neg)

6-6 → 6-8

No big wet band

NW Quadrant - entrance to  
Pine Hill Neighborhood  
Transect 7 - APE along RM road  
and SR 21

7-1) manicured area by roundabout  
0-10 sq ft hunker - sod  
10-30 ft sq (neg)  
wet

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7-2) SAB (neg)

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7-3) SAB (neg)

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7-4) No Dig - RM sign

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7-5) 0-10 sq ft w/ gravel  
dist by ditch (neg)

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7-6) SAB (neg)

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7-7) No Dig - destroyed by  
ditch

Transect 8 - Wooded Area ESC  
~~R21~~ + RM road

8-1)

0-20 gybn (veg)  
20-40 Hgt  
vet

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8-2)

SAB (veg)

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8-3)

SAB (veg)

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8-4)

0-10 dk gybn humic  
10-20  
vet 74

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8-5)

SAB (veg)

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8-6)

No Dig - roundabout