

**Historic Resource Survey Report**  
**Pedestrian Bridge over State Route 21/Augusta Road**  
**GDOT P.I. 0013549, Chatham County**  
**GP-160208-001**

**April 7, 2016**



**Prepared by HNTB Corporation**

# **DRAFT HISTORIC RESOURCE SURVEY REPORT**

## **Pedestrian Bridge over State Route 21/Augusta Road**

**GDOT P.I. 0013549, CHATHAM COUNTY**

**GP - 160208-001**

The proposed project was field surveyed for historic properties in compliance with the Georgia Environmental Policy Act (GEPA). The survey boundary and methodology were established using the *GDOT/FHWA Cultural Resources Survey Guidelines*. These guidelines were established as a result of past interaction with the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) and his staff and were agreed upon by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and the SHPO.

The proposed project would consist of the design and construction of a pedestrian bridge over State Route (SR) 21/Augusta Road in Port Wentworth and a sidewalk to the nearest intersection of Rice Mill Road and SR 21/Augusta Road; approximately 300 feet north of the pedestrian bridge (see attached Project Location Map on Page 20). The pedestrian crossing would serve the population of a growing Rice Mill Subdivision and the newly constructed Rice Creek School. Residents would be able to use the crossing to safely cross SR 21/Augusta Road to take their children to school, and access goods and services provided by a new development with Publix Grocery as an anchor on the northeast portion of the SR 21/Augusta Road and Rice Mill Road intersection. The project would be constructed using a Design-Build process. Minor additional required right-of-way is anticipated.

The area of potential effects (APE), as defined in 36 CFR 800.16(d), is the geographic area or areas within which an undertaking may directly or indirectly cause changes in the character or use of historic properties if any such properties exist. Because of the nature and scope of the undertaking, the area of potential effects (APE) is limited to the project view shed and the proposed right-of-way. No potential for indirect effects outside of the APE is anticipated as a result of implementation of the proposed project (refer to Project Location Map). No potential for indirect effects are anticipated by implementation of the proposed project.

The review of existing information on previously identified historic properties revealed that no National Register listed properties, proposed National Register nominations, National Historic Landmarks, or bridges determined eligible for inclusion in the National Register in the updated Georgia Historic Bridge Survey (GHBS) are located within the proposed project's APE.

One property 50 years old or older was identified within the proposed project's APE in the 1993 DNR Chatham County survey and on GNAHRGIS as site number 249983 (Houston Baptist Church and Cemetery). This site was field surveyed by a historian on January 18, 2016. No additional historic properties were identified as a result of the field survey. The property was originally surveyed in 2000 and again in 2004. The 2004 *Cultural Resources Survey of the Rice Hope Plantation Tract, Chatham County, Georgia* completed by Brockington and Associates, Inc. identified the church as architectural resource CH-RH-001 and cemetery archaeological site 9CH1053. Both the church and cemetery were recommended not eligible for the NRHP. The

SHPO concurred with the finding in a letter on file at the Archives and History Department in Morrow, Georgia – Box RCB 63027. The property was reevaluated due to age of the original survey.

Potential consulting parties were identified based on the nature of the undertaking. Potential consulting parties invited to comment on the undertaking in accordance with Section 12-16-4(b) of GEPA were the Coastal Regional Commission, Chatham County Commission, Chatham County/Savannah Metropolitan Planning Commission, Port Wentworth City Council, and the Houston Museum. The consulting parties were informed of the Department's efforts to identify historic properties by consulting existing information and the results of those efforts and asked to provide information on any unidentified National Register listed or eligible properties within the proposed project's APE by a Notification letter dated December 22, 2015 (see Notification in Appendix). A response was received from the Georgia SHPO by memo on February 8, 2016.

For the one property 50 years old or older identified within the APE, a Property Information Form with attached photographs has been prepared. The Criteria of Eligibility was applied to the property. The property is recommended not eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places, maintaining its original finding. A site plan sketch and photo key have also been attached to the Property Information Form.

## PROPERTY INFORMATION FORM

**Property Identification:** The Property 1 is identified in the field notes and on the Project Location Map (Page 20). This property was identified as site number 249983 in GNAHRGIS and is also known as the Houston Baptist Church and Cemetery. The 2004 *Cultural Resources Survey of the Rice Hope Plantation Tract, Chatham County, Georgia* completed by Brockington and Associates, Inc. identified the church as architectural resource CH-RH-001 and cemetery archaeological site 9CH1053.

**Location:** The property is located at 8000 Georgia Highway 21, near Port Wentworth and just south of the intersection of Rice Creek Road and Rice Hope Plantation Road on the east side of the road (refer to Project Location Map).

**Date(s) of Development:** The cemetery was previously surveyed and documented in the *Survey of Houston Church Cemetery, Port Wentworth, GA* (May 24, 2005) - produced by Savannah College of Art and Design (SCAD), Historic Preservation Department, Advanced Conservation Science (HIPR 743) for Scott Kreilick of Kreilick Conservation, LLC. The majority of information provided in this Property Information Form is from the SCAD survey and report, from the 2004 *Cultural Resources Survey of the Rice Hope Plantation Tract, Chatham County, Georgia* completed by Brockington and Associates, Inc., and from a 2000 *An Intensive Archaeological and Historical Cultural Resource Assessment for the New Town Center of Port Wentworth, Chatham County, Georgia* completed by Environmental Services, Inc.

Several additional sources were used in the preparation of this PIF including the Georgia Historic Marker on the property, the Houston Museum Facebook page, an archaeology survey in 2000, a Cultural Resources Survey in 2004, websites, articles and blogs devoted to the reconstruction efforts of the Houston Museum. The sources indicate the Houston Baptist Church and adjoining cemetery were organized in 1886 as an African-American praise house. The property is located on a parcel that was originally associated with the Richmond Oakgrove plantation, and later associated with the Hobbs Family<sup>1</sup>. Based on the organization date on the cornerstone, it is unlikely the church contributed to the original Richmond Oakgrove plantation. It is more likely that the property was conveyed to the congregation to assemble a sanctuary (Kratzer et. al. 2000). It is also noted in the Kratzer (2000) survey that the design and construction indicates the building may have been constructed c. 1935. The c. 1935 church may have replaced an earlier sanctuary at this location.

The Historic Marker (Photo 1) states the following history:

Houston Baptist Church and its adjoining cemetery were organized in 1886 under the leadership of Reverend Ulysses L. Houston, minister of First Bryan Baptist Church in Savannah. A significant religious and political leader in the African-American community, Houston attended the meeting at General Sherman's Savannah headquarters in January 1865 that resulted in Special Field Order Number 15 (the redistribution of

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<sup>1</sup> Kratzer et. al., *An Intensive Archaeological and Historical Cultural Resource Assessment for the New Town Center of Port Wentworth, Chatham County, GA* 2000 (COE – HP 010305-017) (GA Arch Site File 2355)



confiscated coastal land in forty-acre tracts to newly freed blacks). Houston also served a term in Georgia's Reconstruction legislature. Established in the tradition of earlier plantation praise houses intended to Christianize the enslaved populations of rural plantations, Houston Baptist Church served the African Americans of Rice Hope Plantation. Houston Baptist Church continued to serve the local community until the 1970s.<sup>2</sup>

In 2005, the floor collapsed during a funeral service and the church was shuttered (Photos 2-3). Then in 2007, the original structure partially collapsed after a severe storm (Photo 4) and was demolished at an unknown date, possibly in 2010 when the deed to the property was transferred to the city of Port Wentworth. The cornerstone bearing an 1886 date and the brick stairs are all that remain of the c. 1935 structure (Photo 5). A group of concerned citizens began working to rebuild the church, and according to a March 6, 2012 Savannah Morning News article, *Houston Praise House in Port Wentworth*, "... in 2010, the praise house and adjoining cemetery were deeded to the city of Port Wentworth. The reconstruction effort was undertaken through donations from businesses, labor volunteered by the Effingham County branch of Habitat for Humanity, Boy Scouts and others, and through funds raised by selling barbecue plates.... Rebuilding hit a speed bump when funds ran out last summer and the City Council didn't allocate money for the praise house in its next budget, as the project's supporters had hoped. In August 2011, the council reversed the decision and allocated \$35,000 to finish reconstructing the building."<sup>3</sup> Work on the praise house was finished in February 2012 and it now functions as a museum by appointment and for private event rentals (Photo 6).

The cemetery has approximately 163 graves. The earliest recorded burial is November 18, 1880 per the existing headstone of Ellen Sington (Photo 7). However, based on the SCAD survey and through interviews conducted by the students, there are an estimated 82 unmarked graves and earlier burials that could exist. Thorough research by the students revealed little about the cemetery's early history. There are 27 legible grave markers with burials 1966 or earlier and approximately 42 from 1967 to 2011, with an additional dozen markers that were unreadable or had fallen over at the time of this survey. The majority of the historic graves were located east of the church building. It was noted in the Savannah Morning News Article from March 6, 2012 that the last burial was 2011 and that the city had halted burials because of the number of unmarked burial sites. The most predominant surnames found in the cemetery included: Quarterman, McGowan, Carter, Thomas, Jones, Kenchlo, Gordon, Grant, Adams, Smith, Foster, Fleming, Thompson, and Simmons.

**Description:** Property 1 is an informal-plan, rural African American cemetery, associated with surrounding late 19<sup>th</sup> century, early 20<sup>th</sup> century North Port Wentworth Plantations. The 1.345 acre cemetery has approximately 163 graves with at least 82 of those are unmarked. The majority of the stones are legible with 12 being unreadable (see Photos 7-19). The most common materials of markers are cast and/or poured concrete, granite, and limestone. There are a few marble grave markers as well but are more recent in age. The marker types include, headstones, die on base, bedstead, ledger, as well as a few footstones. In the back east and

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<sup>2</sup> (Georgia Historic Marker 2007.4; Erected by the Georgia Historical Society and the North Port Wentworth Citizens Council, Inc. 25-28)

<sup>3</sup> Cooper, Constance, *Houston Praise House in Port Wentworth rebuilt*, Savannah Morning News, March 6, 2012

northeastern part of the cemetery, there are a number of older cast concrete grave markers with hand written inscriptions.

The rebuilt Houston Baptist Church – Praise House, also on the property, is a simple front gable structure with a double door entry. As noted above, the church was completely rebuilt in 2012. A small steeple was added to the structure in the reconstruction that does not appear in earlier photos. There is also an Americans with Disability Act (ADA) ramp added to the exterior for public access.

The setting of the property is wooded within the church and cemetery boundaries and the property is delineated by a newly built white wooden picket fence on the west side and by a chain link fence on the remaining sides. The cemetery in recent years has been cleared of overgrown vegetation based on the photos from 2005 on the Facebook page and in the photos available in the SCAD report. The graves predominantly face east and are located on the south and east sides of the church. Just beyond the boundary, on the south, north and east side, land has been cleared for a school that opened in August 2015. The area just to the north is a large stockpile of fill from the new school construction (see Figure 2).

**National Register Recommendation:** The property was determined **Not Eligible** for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places per the 2004 Brockington & Associates report and was concurred by the SHPO (letter is on file at the Georgia Archives and History Department in Morrow, Georgia RCB 63027). The property was reevaluated due to the age of the eligibility determination and maintains its original determination of **Not Eligible**.

**National Register Criteria and Level of Significance:** Property 1 was evaluated for eligibility for listing in the National Register using the National Register Criteria for Evaluation as outlined in 36 CFR Part 60.4. Although Ulysses L. Houston was a prominent figure in Savannah history, the contributions specific to this church and cemetery are only that it began under his leadership; however he was better known for his association with the First Bryan Baptist Church in Savannah (the oldest continuous African American Church in America where he served as pastor from 1861-1889<sup>4</sup>). There are no other known associations with individuals whose specific contributions to history can be identified and documented with this property. No associations were indicated or suggested as a result of background research on the project area. Therefore, there was no basis for evaluating the property under Criterion B.

The Houston Baptist Church Cemetery has been evaluated under Criteria A, C and D in the areas of community development, architecture and for its potential to be the principal source of important information. It was also evaluated under Criterion Consideration E for the Houston Baptist Church Praise House's significance as a reconstructed historic site.

The property does not appear to possess significance in the areas of Criteria A, C or Criteria Consideration E in the areas of community development, architecture or as a reconstructed historic property. Per a previous recommendation, the cemetery does not possess significance under Criterion D.

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<sup>4</sup> Gourley, Bruce. *Baptists and the American Civil War: May 12, 1861*. May 12, 2011  
<http://civilwarbaptists.com/thisdayinhistory/1861-may-12/> accessed 2/19/16

The cemetery was evaluated under Criteria A in the area of community development for significance as an African American cemetery associated with the decedents of slaves from rice plantations in the North Port Wentworth area. The praise house in the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century was a community center for the area and the cemetery was utilized due to its association with the church. The church building deteriorated and was abandoned in the 1970s and rebuilt in 2012. Although the cemetery remained in use until 2011, it did not appear to play a significant role in the development of the surrounding community.

The Houston Baptist Church Cemetery was also evaluated under Criterion C for its architectural significance. The church itself is not eligible under Criterion C for architecture because of being completely reconstructed in 2012. The cemetery has approximately 82 identified unmarked graves, 27 legible grave markers with burials 1966 or earlier and approximately 42 from 1967 to 2011 with an additional dozen markers that were unreadable or had fallen over. A majority of the graves are simple concrete slabs with metal plaques. A number of headstones are poured or cast concrete in simple designs, with a few having hand-written inscriptions (Photo 19). There are several government issued headstones, ledger type slabs, as well as sunken bedsteads. A few of the early to mid-20<sup>th</sup> century headstones are marble with machine created inscriptions. The cemetery is a mix of historic and modern graves with a majority of the markers being modern in age with few unique or significant architectural details. Therefore, the cemetery remains not eligible for listing in the National Register under Criterion C.

Although the property was identified as outside the APE and the Extended Survey Area for the archaeology survey for this project, it is included in the view shed APE as a historic site. However, the cemetery was evaluated under Criterion D in a previous archaeological Phase I survey for the New Town Center of Port Wentworth (Kratzer et. al 2000 and Fletcher et. al 2004). Site 9CH1053 was identified as the cemetery at Houston Baptist Church.<sup>5</sup> The site was recommended as ineligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion D in that report and is being used as the finding for this report.

Finally, the Houston Baptist Church Praise House was evaluated under Criteria Consideration E for a reconstructed site; however, it does not fulfill the consideration. Although it was reconstructed in the same location (suitable environment) and in a dignified manner, it was not part of a restoration master plan and was altered with the addition of the steeple. The Houston Baptist Church Praise House is not the last surviving property of its type as there are other existing historic praise houses in the Savannah River area. Therefore, Houston Baptist Church Praise House does not meet all three requirements under Criteria Consideration E.

**Integrity:** Property 1 has been determined to possess integrity in the area of location. There is no evidence indicating the cemetery has been moved, therefore integrity of location is intact.

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<sup>5</sup> 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, and Fletcher, Joshua N, *Cultural Resources Survey of the Rice Hope Plantation Tract, Chatham County, Georgia* completed by Brockington and Associates, Inc. GASF No. 2710

The property has been determined to not possess integrity in the areas of setting, design, materials, workmanship, feeling and association. The setting of the cemetery remains rural, though the surrounds were recently cleared. The surrounding parcels on all sides have been cleared for new construction and are visible from the property. While vegetation along the boundaries of the church parcel provides some screen, clearing for the development of the school has minimized that buffer. The cemetery does not have integrity in the areas of design and workmanship; although there are a variety of headstones, many of which are vernacular and have hand inscriptions, the majority of graves are concrete slabs with few architectural details. Finally, the rebuilt church and surrounding mostly modern cemetery are not reflective of a rural African American burial ground associated with southern coastal plantations and therefore do not possess integrity in the areas of feeling or association.

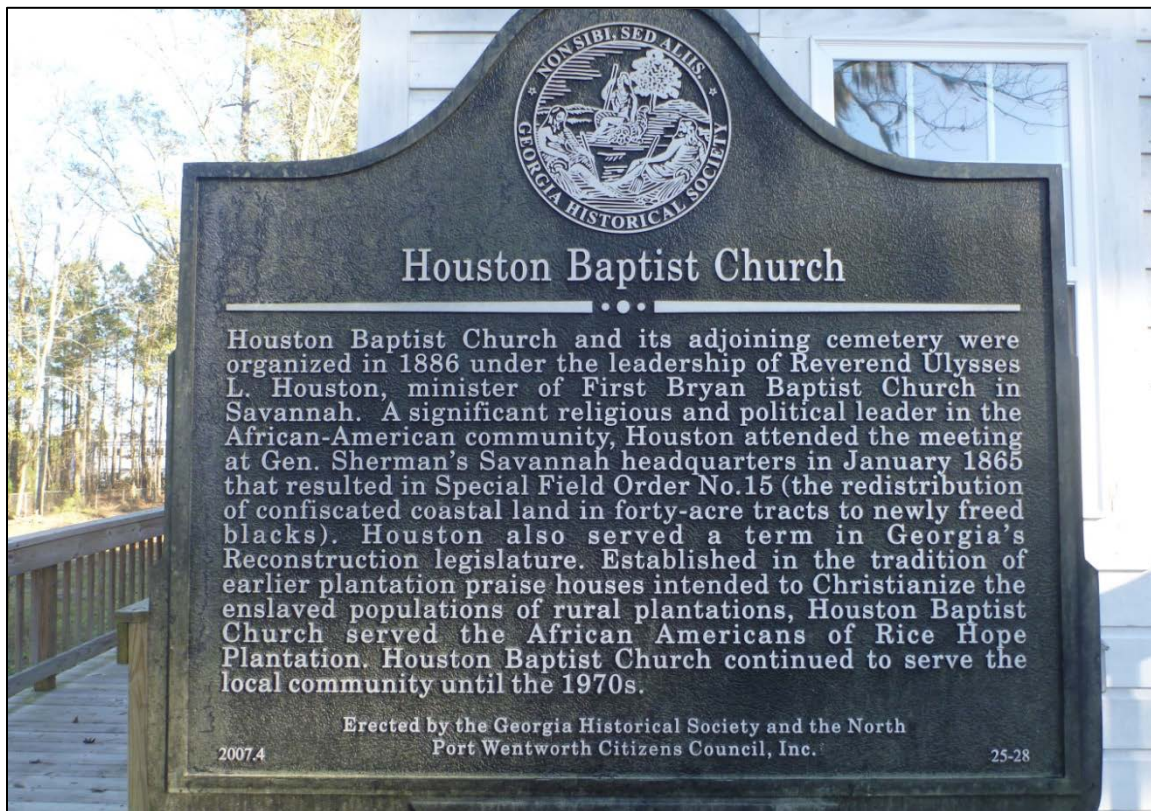
**Proposed Boundary (Justification and Description):** Not Applicable

**UTM Coordinates:** 7.5 Minute Series Topographic Map. NAD 27 Port Wentworth Quadrangle Zone 17 Easting 481477 Northing 3564552.

**Prepared:** Completed pursuant to 36 CFR Part 800.4(c) in compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act for GDOT PI# 0013549, Chatham County by:

Charlotte Weber  
Historian  
HNTB Corporation  
3715 Northside Parkway  
200 Northcreek, Suite 800  
(404) 946-5712





**Photo 1: Historic Marker on the Houston Baptist Church & Cemetery (Property 1).  
Photographer facing east.**



**Photo 2: Houston Baptist Church taken approximately 2005 prior to demolition (photo courtesy of Houston Museum Facebook page). Photographer facing east.**





**Photo 3: Houston Baptist Church taken approximately 2005 prior to demolition (photo courtesy of Houston Museum Facebook page). Photographer facing north.**



**Photo 4: Houston Baptist Church taken approximately 2007 after a storm (photo courtesy of Houston Museum Facebook page). Photographer facing southeast.**





**Photo 5: Houston Baptist Church after demolition (photo courtesy of Houston Museum Facebook page). Photographer facing east**



**Photo 6: Houston Baptist Church shortly after rebuilding effort (photo courtesy of Houston Museum Facebook page). Photographer facing east.**





**Photo 7: Houston Baptist Church Cemetery, earliest recorded gravestone - photographer facing west**



**Photo 8: Houston Baptist Church Cemetery - example gravesite - photographer facing west**





**Photo 9: Houston Baptist Church Cemetery - example headstone -photographer facing west**



**Photo 10: Houston Baptist Church Cemetery - example headstone photographer facing west**





**Photo 11: Houston Baptist Church Cemetery - example headstone. Photographer facing west**



**Photo 12: Houston Baptist Church Cemetery - example headstone photographer facing west**









**Photo 15: Houston Baptist Church Cemetery – example headstone. Photographer facing west**



**Photo 16: Houston Baptist Church Cemetery – burials. Photographer facing northwest**





**Photo 17: Houston Baptist Church Cemetery – footstones. Photographer facing west.**



**Photo 18: Houston Baptist Church Cemetery. Note the new school just beyond the tree line. Photographer facing southeast.**





**Photo 19: Houston Baptist Church Cemetery – example poured concrete headstone with handwritten inscription. Photographer facing west**





**Photo 20: Houston Baptist Church Cemetery – view of eastern edge of property.  
Photographer facing southwest**



**Photo 21: Houston Baptist Church cemetery – view of eastern edge of property.  
Photographer facing north toward proposed project site.**



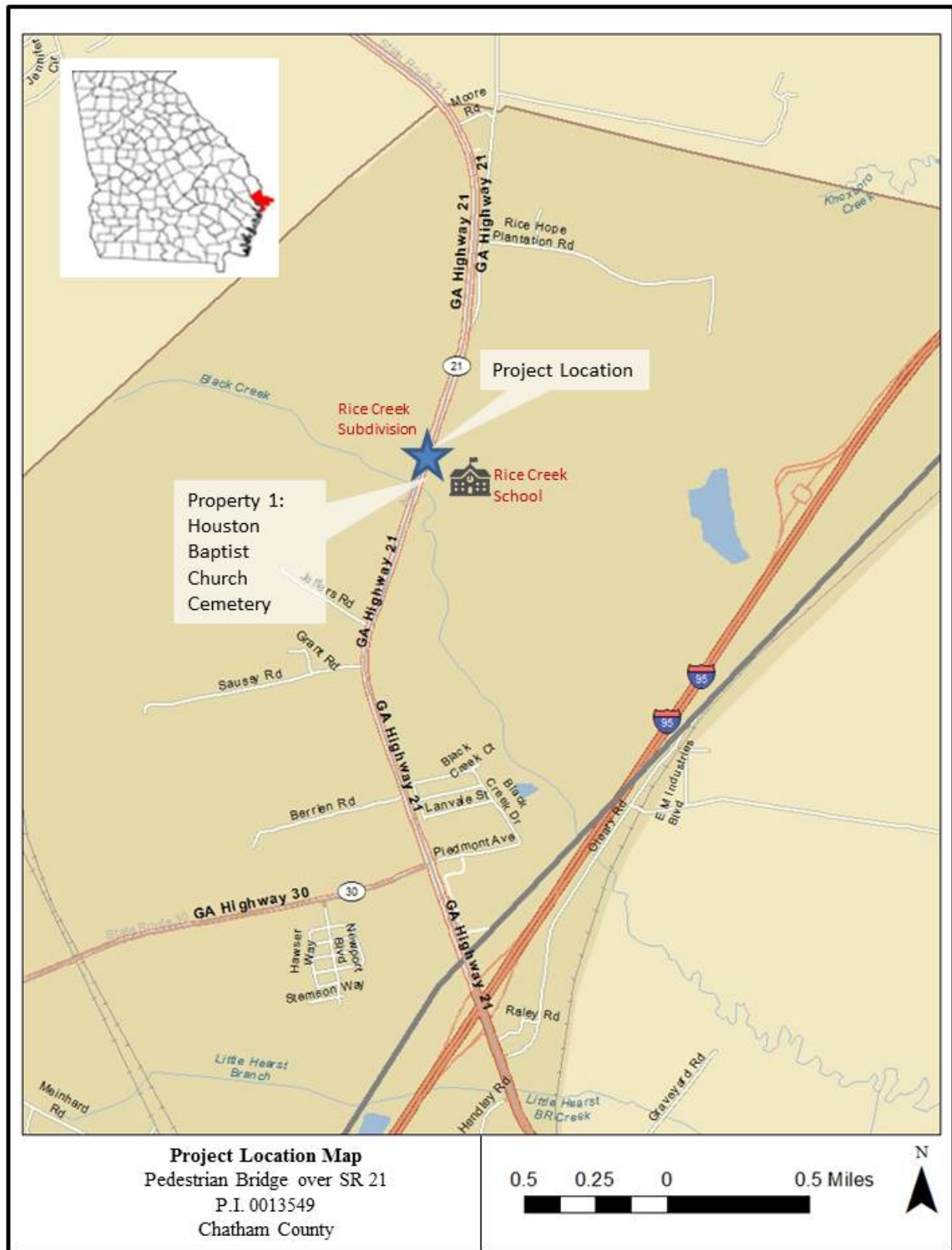


**Photo 22: Houston Baptist Church Cemetery – Right of way along SR 21/Augusta Road.  
Photographer facing south**



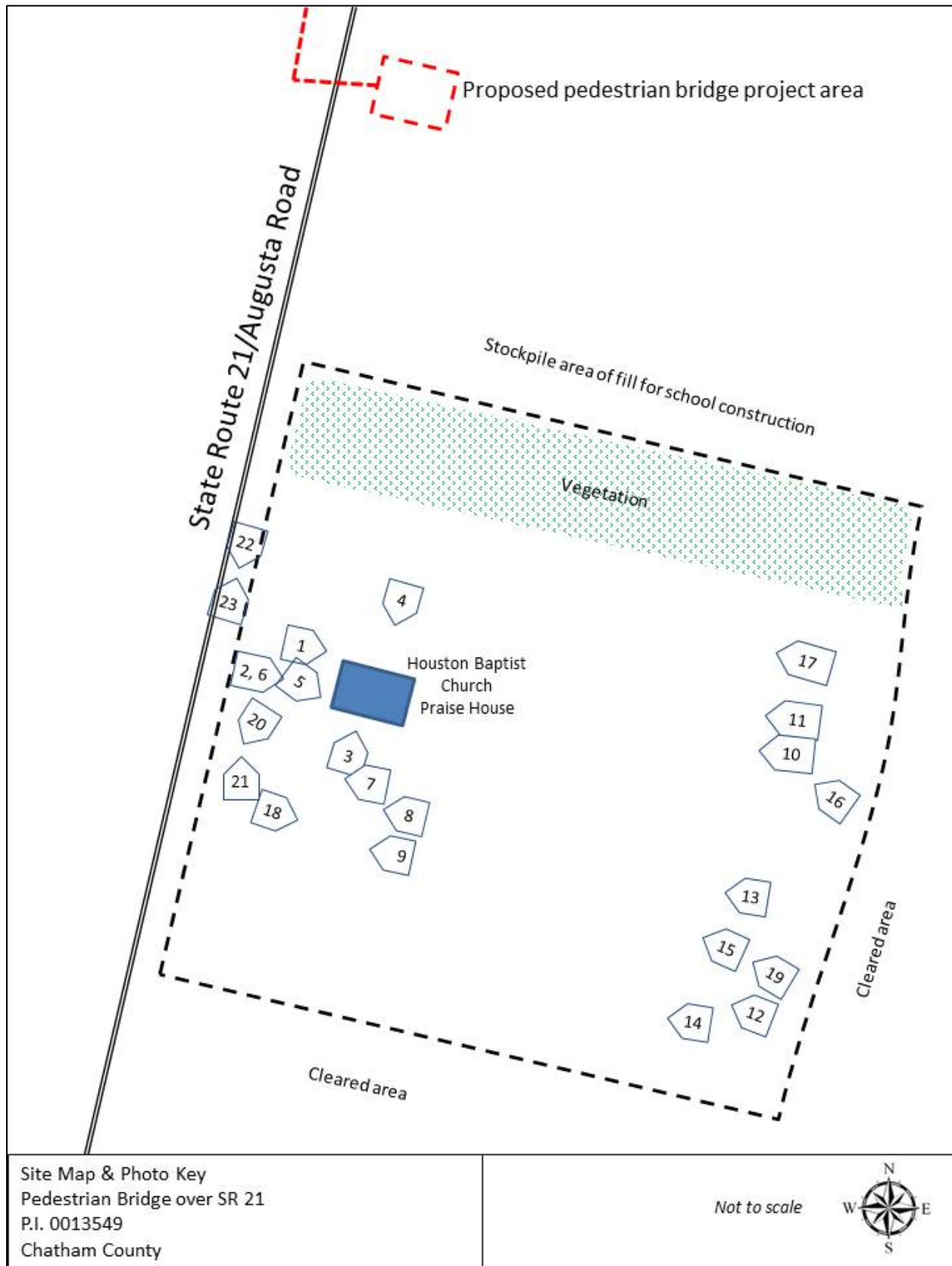
**Photo 23: Houston Baptist Church – Right-of-way along SR 21/Augusta Road.  
Photographer facing north towards project site (photo courtesy of Google Earth).**

**Figure 1: Project Location Map**





**Figure 2: Site Map and Photo Key**



**Figure 3: Map of Houston Baptist Church Cemetery**

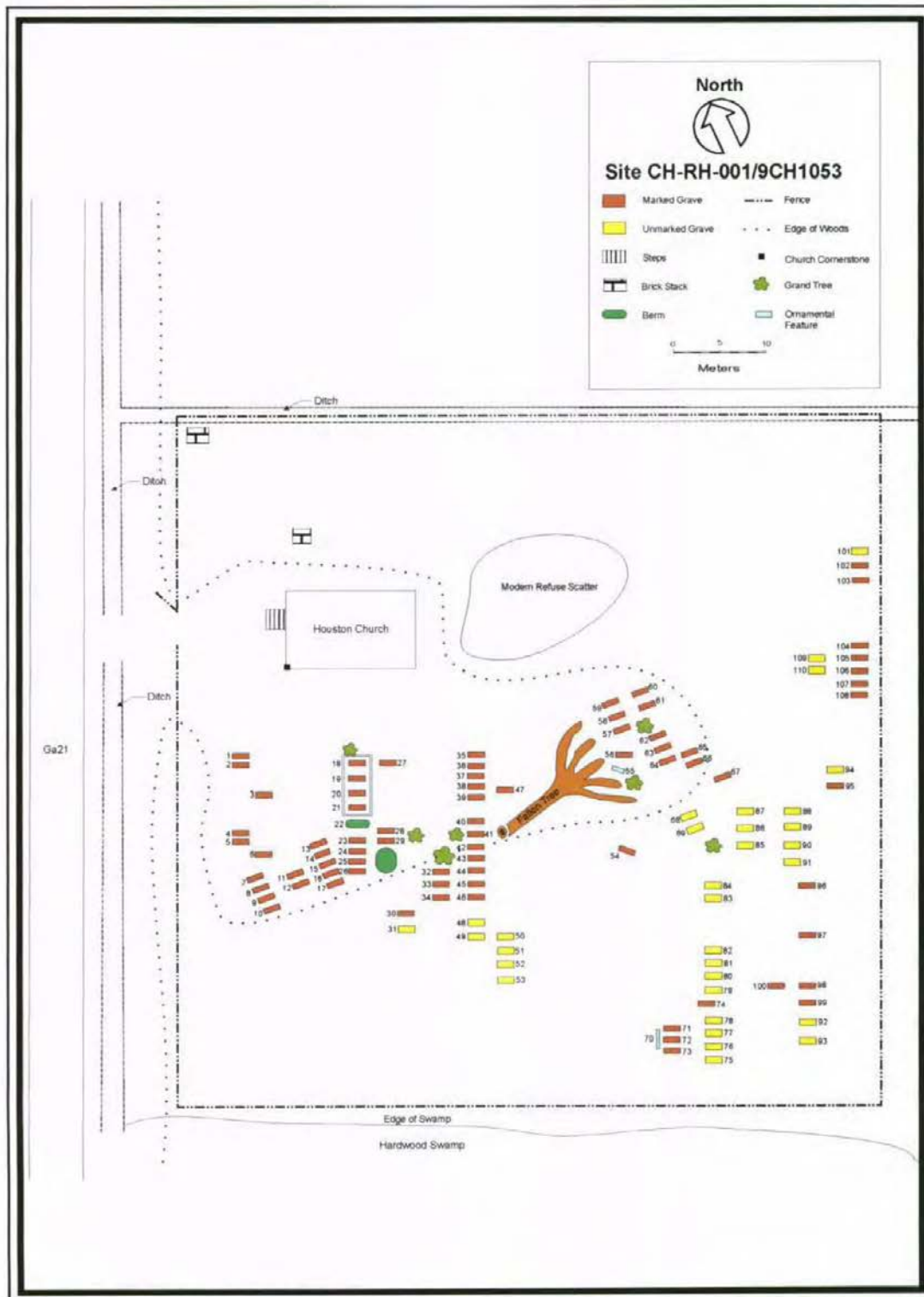


Figure 24. Plan of CH-RH-001/9CH1053.

Source: Fletcher, Joshua N, *Cultural Resources Survey of the Rice Hope Plantation Tract, Chatham County, Georgia* completed by Brockington and Associates, Inc. 2004 GASF No. 2710 (pg 77).

**APPENDIX A**  
**NOTIFICATION**  
**AND**  
**EARLY CONSULTATION CORRESPONDENCE**

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## **NOTIFICATION**

### **Initiation of GEPA Process for GDOT Project 0013549, Chatham County**

#### **SR 21 Pedestrian Bridge**

**December 22, 2015**

The Georgia Department of Transportation (Department) is in the beginning stages of project development for this proposed transportation project. In compliance with the Georgia Environmental Policy Act (GEPA) the Department has determined that because of the nature and the scope of this undertaking, the proposed project has the potential to cause effects to historic properties if any such properties exist in the project area. The Department is attempting to identify historic properties already listed in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) and any properties not already listed that would be considered eligible for listing that are located within the geographic area of potential effects (APE) of the proposed project.

The proposed project would consist of the design and construction of a pedestrian bridge over State Route (SR) 21 in Port Wentworth to also include sidewalk up to the nearest intersection of Rice Mill Road/ SR 21 (see attached location map). The pedestrian crossing would serve the population of a growing residential neighborhood and a new school. Residents would 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 would be constructed using a Design-Build process. Minor additional required right-of-way is anticipated.

Because of the nature and scope of the undertaking, the APE is limited to the proposed ROW and viewshed of the proposed project, within which all construction and ground disturbing activity would be confined. No potential for indirect effects outside of the corridor is anticipated as a result of implementation of the proposed project.

In accordance with GEPA, existing information on previously identified historic properties has been checked to determine if any are located within the APE of this undertaking. This review of existing information revealed that no properties listed in or nominated for listing in the NRHP, no National Historic Landmarks and no bridges determined eligible for inclusion in the NRHP in the updated Georgia Historic Bridge Survey (GHBS) are located within the proposed project's APE. One property 50 years old or older was identified within the proposed project's APE in the 1993 Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Chatham County Survey and on GNAHRGIS as site number 249983 (Houston Baptist Church and Cemetery).

Field surveys for both historic properties and archaeological sites will be conducted and the Criteria of Eligibility will be applied to determine if any of these sites are eligible for inclusion in the NRHP.

Please advise us of any historic or archaeological resources of which you are aware that may be located within the area of potential effect for Project 0013549, Chatham County. With your assistance, we can give these issues due consideration and integrate them into the development of the project's alignment and design.

By copy of this letter, we also are requesting information concerning historic and archaeological resources along the project corridor from the Georgia SHPO, Chatham County Commission, Chatham County/Savannah Metropolitan Planning Commission, Coastal Regional Commission, Port Wentworth City Council, and the Houston Museum. Responses regarding historic and archaeological resources would be appreciated within thirty (30) days of receipt of this letter. If you are aware of additional organizations or individuals interested in cultural resources in your area, please forward their names to the Department.

A written response to become a consulting party for this project should be directed to:

Charlotte Weber  
Historian  
HNTB Corporation  
3715 Northside Parkway  
200 Northcreek, Suite 800  
Atlanta, GA 30327

Also, the following tribal governments are invited to participate in the GEPA cultural resource identification process for this project: Absentee-Shawnee Tribe, Shawnee Tribe, Eastern Shawnee Tribe, Muscogee (Creek) Nation, Muscogee (Creek) National Council, Poarch Band of Creek Indians, and the Thlopthlocco Tribal Town. Responses to this Notification regarding tribal concerns should be addressed to the attention of Mr. Jim Pomfret, the Department's American Indian liaison at GDOT – Office of Environmental Services, One Georgia Center, 600 West Peachtree Street, NW, 16<sup>th</sup> Floor, Atlanta, GA 30308.

In accordance with GEPA, the Department will assess project effects to any identified historic properties as preliminary project plans become available, endeavor to minimize harm to all identified historic properties and produce an Assessment of Effects report. This document will be provided to all consulting parties for comment when completed.

If you have additional questions or concerns regarding cultural resources in the project area please direct them to the following individuals: historic resource concerns can be addressed to Charlotte Weber (404-946-5712 or [chweber@hntb.com](mailto:chweber@hntb.com)); archaeological resource concerns, including cemetery and other human burials, can be addressed to Jim Pomfret (404-631-1256 or [jpomfret@dot.ga.gov](mailto:jpomfret@dot.ga.gov)) of this office. Questions concerning general design or location issues may be addressed to Andrew Hoenig ([ahoenig@dot.ga.gov](mailto:ahoenig@dot.ga.gov), (404) 631-1757) of the Department's Innovative Delivery Office in Atlanta, Georgia.



**Project Location Map**  
Pedestrian Bridge over SR 21  
P.I. 0013549  
Chatham County

0.5 0.25 0 0.5 Miles





HISTORIC PRESERVATION DIVISION

MARK WILLIAMS  
COMMISSIONER

DR. DAVID CRASS  
DIVISION DIRECTOR

**MEMORANDUM**

TO: Charlotte Weber, Historian  
HNTB Corporation  
3715 Northside Parkway  
200 Northcreek, Suite 800  
Atlanta, Georgia 30327

FROM: Barbara L. Fisher *BLF*  
Environmental Review Historian  
Historic Preservation Division

RE: Receipt of Early Coordination Information

**Project Title: PI 0013549: Construct Pedestrian Bridge over  
SR 21, Port Wentworth**

**Project Number: GP-160208-001**

County: Chatham

DATE: February 8, 2016

The Historic Preservation Division has received the early coordination information required by the Georgia Environmental Policy Act. Thank you for submitting this information. We look forward to working with you in the future as this project progresses.

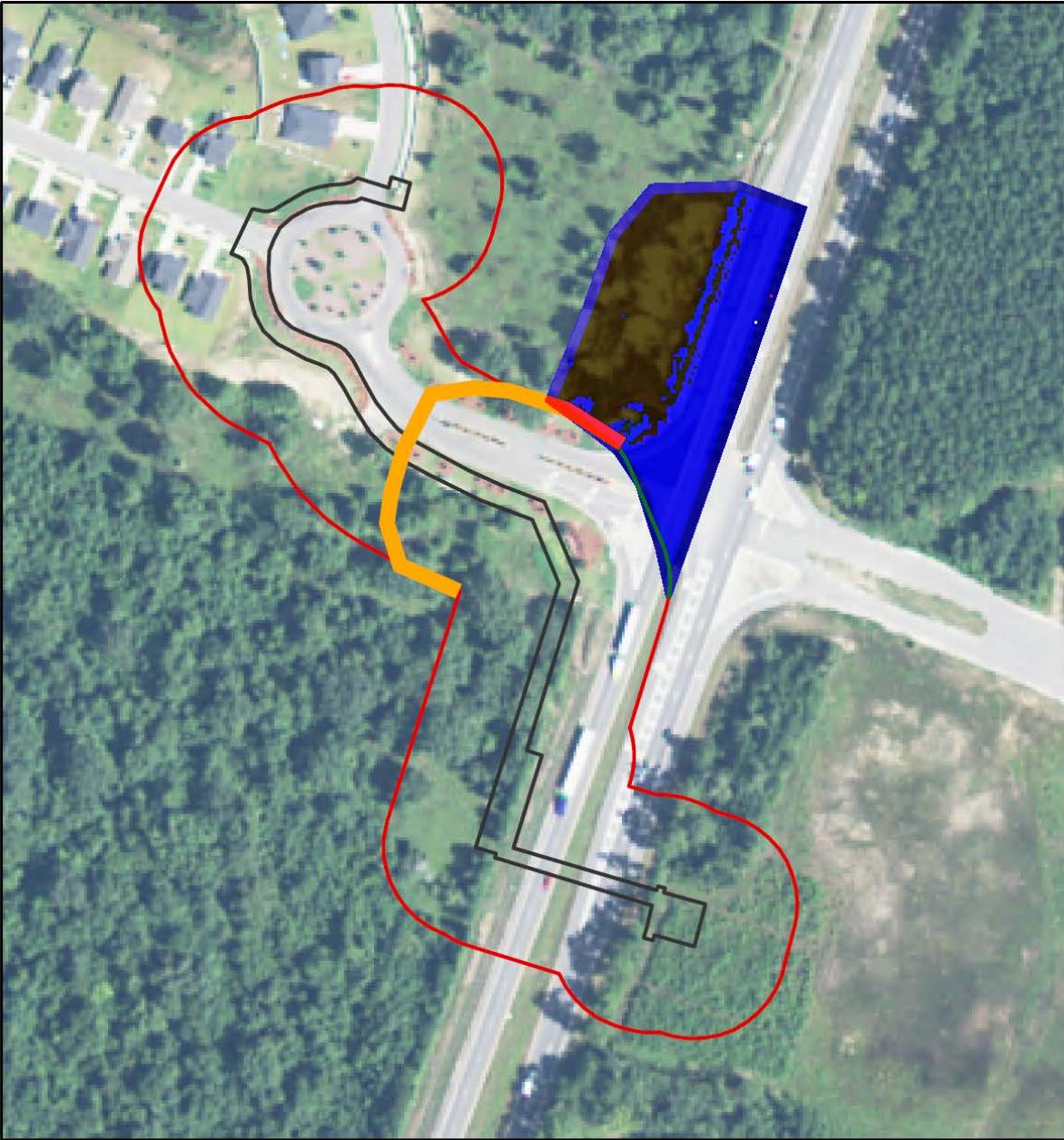
cc: Dennis Cheek, GDOT  
Terri Lotti, GDOT  
Jim Pomfret, GDOT  
Lupita McClenning, Coastal Regional Commission of Georgia



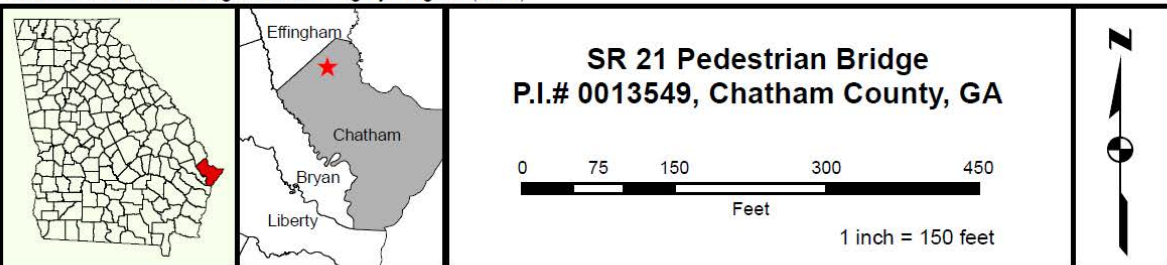
**APPENDIX B**  
**PROPOSED PLANS**

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## Survey Area Map (provided 1/13/16)



Source: USDA National Agricultural Imagery Program (2013)





**APPENDIX C**  
**CORRESPONDENCE**



# Georgia Department of Natural Resources

Lonice C. Barrett, Commissioner

## Historic Preservation Division

W. Ray Luce, Division Director and Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer  
47 Trinity Avenue, S.W., Suite 414-H, Atlanta, Georgia 30334  
Telephone (404) 656-2840 Fax (404) 657-1040 <http://www.gashpo.org>

June 14, 2004

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
Savannah District  
Attn: Regulatory Branch (Richard Morgan)  
P.O. Box 889  
Savannah, Georgia 31402-0889

RE: JPN 200307880: Rice Hope Plantation Development Tract, Port Wentworth  
Chatham County, Georgia  
HP-040102-001

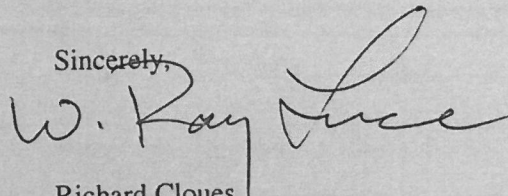
Dear Mr. Morgan:

The Historic Preservation Division (HPD) has reviewed the *Cultural Resources Survey of the Rice Hope Plantation Tract, Chatham County, Georgia* Final Report by Brockington and Associates dated April 2004. Our comments are offered to assist the Corps of Engineers (COE) in complying with the provisions of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act.

Thank you for the copies. For your information, two copies of this report shall be kept for our files, the other sent to the Georgia Archaeological Site Files at the University of Georgia-Athens for permanent retention.

Please refer to project number HP-040102-001 in future correspondence regarding this undertaking. If we may be of further assistance, please contact Serena Bellew, Environmental Review Coordinator, at (404) 651-6624.

Sincerely,



Richard Cloues  
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

RC:mcv

cc: Iris Scheff, Coastal Georgia RDC  
Dave Crampton, COE

RECEIVED

Georgia Department of Natural Resources

Beckwith

Lonice C. Barrett, Commissioner

MAY

6 2004

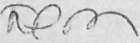
OFFICE OF  
HISTORIC PRESERVATION DIVISION

Historic Preservation Division

W. Ray Luce, Division Director and Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer  
47 Trinity Avenue, S.W., Suite 414-H, Atlanta, Georgia 30334-9006  
Telephone (404) 656-2840 Fax (404) 657-1040 <http://www.gashpo.org>

MEMORANDUM

TO: U. S. Army Corps of Engineers  
Savannah District  
Attn: Regulatory Branch (Richard Morgan)  
P. O. Box 889  
Savannah, Georgia 31402-0889

FROM: Denise P. Messick   
Environmental Review Historian  
Historic Preservation Division

RE: Finding of "No Historic Properties Affected"

PROJECT: **200307880: Rice Hope Plantation Development Tract, Port Wentworth  
HP-040102-001**

COUNTY: **Chatham County, Georgia**

DATE: April 6, 2004

The Historic Preservation Division has reviewed the information received concerning the above-mentioned project. Our comments are offered to assist federal agencies and project applicants in complying with the provisions of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act.

Based on the information submitted, HPD believes that no historic properties or archaeological resources that are listed in or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) will be affected by this undertaking. Please note that historic and/or archaeological resources may be located within the project's area of potential effect (APE), however, at this time it has been determined that they will not be impacted by the above-referenced project. Furthermore, any changes to this project as proposed will require further review by our office for compliance with the Section 106 process.

If we may be of further assistance contact me at (404) 651-6777 or Serena Bellew, Environmental Review Coordinator at (404) 651-6624. Please refer to the project number assigned above in any future correspondence regarding this project.

-DPM

cc: David Crampton, Savannah District, COE  
Joshua Fletcher, Brockington and Associates  
Stuart F. Sligh, Sligh Environmental, 49 Park of Commerce Way, Savannah, GA 31405  
Dave Edwards, Sivica Communities, 675 Mansell Road, Suite 130, Roswell, GA 30076  
Iris Scheff, Coastal Georgia RDC

**IMPORTANT: Please note HPD's new address above.**





REPLY TO  
ATTENTION OF:

Regulatory Branch  
200307880

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY

SAVANNAH DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS  
P.O. BOX 889  
SAVANNAH, GEORGIA 31402-0889

APR 06 2004

HP 040102-001  
Chatham

RECEIVED

APR 8 2004

OFFICE OF  
HISTORIC PRESERVATION DIVISION

Historic Preservation Division  
Georgia Department of Natural Resources  
Attention: Dr. Ray Luce, Director and Deputy SHPO  
47 Trinity Avenue, SW  
Suite 414-H  
Atlanta, Georgia 30334-9006

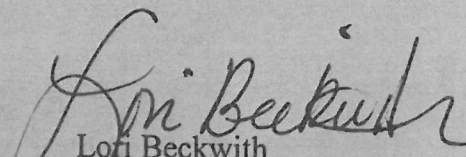
Dear Dr. Luce:

I refer to Department of the Army Permit Application No. 200307880, concerning the Rice Hope Plantation Development, Chatham County, Georgia. I also refer to the draft cultural resources survey report dated September 2003, prepared by Brockington and Associates, and to correspondence to and from your office dated December 30, 2003 and January 28, 2004, respectively.

The applicant has submitted a revised cultural resources survey report, dated February 2004, with an accompanying transmittal letter, dated February 26, 2004, responding to the agencies' review comments and request for limited additional fieldwork; copies of the revised report and transmittal letter were forwarded for your review. We have reviewed the revised report and find that between it and the comments contained in the transmittal letter, our review comments have been adequately addressed. In particular, we have reviewed the results of the additional limited controlled subsurface testing, and concur with the report's recommendations that archaeological site 9CH1052, should be considered ineligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places.

We request your comment with regard to our National Register of Historic Places eligibility recommendation, pursuant to 36 CFR 800.4. Should you concur that Site 9CH1052 is ineligible for inclusion in the National Register, the proposed permit action, or undertaking, will have no effect on historic properties (No Historic Properties Affected).

Sincerely,

  
Lori Beckwith  
Regulatory Specialist, Southern Section

# Georgia Department of Natural Resources

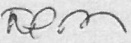
Lonice C. Barrett, Commissioner

## Historic Preservation Division

W. Ray Luce, Division Director and Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer  
47 Trinity Avenue, S.W., Suite 414-H, Atlanta, Georgia 30334-9006  
Telephone (404) 656-2840 Fax (404) 657-1040 <http://www.gashpo.org>

### MEMORANDUM

TO: U. S. Army Corps of Engineers  
Savannah District  
Attn: Regulatory Branch (Richard Morgan)  
P. O. Box 889  
Savannah, Georgia 31402-0889

FROM: Denise P. Messick   
Environmental Review Historian  
Historic Preservation Division

RE: Finding of "No Historic Properties Affected"

PROJECT: **200307880: Rice Hope Plantation Development Tract, Port Wentworth  
HP-040102-001**

COUNTY: **Chatham County, Georgia**

DATE: April 6, 2004

The Historic Preservation Division has reviewed the information received concerning the above-mentioned project. Our comments are offered to assist federal agencies and project applicants in complying with the provisions of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act.

Based on the information submitted, HPD believes that no historic properties or archaeological resources that are listed in or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) will be affected by this undertaking. Please note that historic and/or archaeological resources may be located within the project's area of potential effect (APE), however, at this time it has been determined that they will not be impacted by the above-referenced project. Furthermore, any changes to this project as proposed will require further review by our office for compliance with the Section 106 process.

If we may be of further assistance contact me at (404) 651-6777 or Serena Bellew, Environmental Review Coordinator at (404) 651-6624. Please refer to the project number assigned above in any future correspondence regarding this project.

-DPM

cc: David Crampton, Savannah District, COE  
Joshua Fletcher, Brockington and Associates  
Stuart F. Sligh, Sligh Environmental, 49 Park of Commerce Way, Savannah, GA 31405  
Dave Edwards, Sivica Communities, 675 Mansell Road, Suite 130, Roswell, GA 30076  
Iris Scheff, Coastal Georgia RDC

**IMPORTANT: Please note HPD's new address above.**



**From:** "Crampton, David B SAS" <David.B.Crampton@sas02.usace.army.mil>  
**To:** "serena\_bellew@mail.dnr.state.ga.us" <serena\_bellew@mail.dnr.state.ga.us>  
**Date:** 3/9/04 3:36 PM  
**Subject:** Chatham County, Rice Hope Plantation, #200307880, Revised Cultural Resources Survey  
**CC:** "Crosby, David E SAS" <David.E.Crosby@sas02.usace.army.mil>, "Beckwith, Loretta A SAS" <Loretta.A.Beckwith@sas02.usace.army.mil>, "Morgan, Richard W SAS" <Richard.W.Morgan@sas02.usace.army.mil>

Serena:

The revised cultural resources survey report prepared by Brockington and Associates, dated February 2004 and authored by Josh Fletcher, et al. sufficiently well addresses my main review comments concerning the original draft report. I agree that the Houston chrch and cemetery should be considered ineligible for inclusion in the National Register, as our offices have agreed on one previous occasion (Port Wentworth New Town Center cultural resources survey), a couple of years ago. The cemetery is subject to the statutes of the state of Georgia.

I further agree that the potential historic archaeological property identified as the Chisholm Caretakers house should be considered ineligible for inclusion in the National Register. It would have been good had they been able to locate a photograph of the razed structure for several reasons, such as helping to determine if it had been built from salvaged brick, its architectural style, whether the attribution of its having been built c. 1930s was correct, etc., but such data are often fortuitous, and one cannot expect such luck on a regular basis, or expend a great deal of time and effort trying to locate such data within normal time, budget and manpower constraints.

The report should have been a little more detailed (descriptive) in the types of modern refuse observed in various parts of the site. In the case of one borrow pit dump, the "modern" refuse would appear to include portions of a late 1920s early 1930s vehicle, if I make the photograph out properly.

Figure 2 indicates the areas that were surveyed and the wetlands that were not. If these were only seasonal wetlands, and are not permanently inundated, they should be surveyed, if accessible, especially as the hydorlogy of the area and the water table has fluctuated a good deal over the centuries, such that earlier prehistoric materials might in fact be present. However, I did verbally tell Josh Fletcher that I would not insist that they do so in this instance, since we have been arguing this point for several years now. It is still my view that all areas not inundated and for which it is physically possible to survey should be surveyed, and at the same level of intensity. Had it been I doing the survey, I would have inspected the vertical profiles of the borrow pits by shaving them vertically in several selected locations, either in addition to, or in lieu of some areas of shovel testing.

The revised report does not, however, address the questions I had with regard to several canals mentioned within the project area, and nearby, and whether or not these were related to the rice agriculture efforts for which the plantation is named. My anticipation is that the actual rice fields were located further riverward (east) than the tract under consideration. Still, there is mention, at least in the original report of some canals in the project tract, but no real description of these, their origin or purpose.

I will draft a letter to your office informing you that our determination is that there will be "no historic properties affected by the proposed undertaking, or the issuance of our corps' permit.

Please relay this information to the appropriate people. Thanks ---- dave crampton

# Georgia Department of Natural Resources

Lonice C. Barrett, Commissioner

## Historic Preservation Division

W. Ray Luce, Division Director and Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer  
156 Trinity Avenue, S.W., Suite 101, Atlanta, Georgia 30303-3600  
Telephone (404) 656-2840 Fax (404) 657-1040 <http://www.gashpo.org>

January 28, 2004

Commander, U. S. Army Corps of Engineers  
Savannah District  
Attn: Regulatory Branch (Richard Morgan)  
P.O. Box 889  
Savannah, Georgia 31402-0889

RE: 200307880: Rice Hope Plantation Development Tract, Port Wentworth  
Chatham County, Georgia  
HP-040102-001

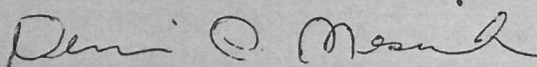
Dear Mr. Morgan:

The Historic Preservation Division (HPD) has reviewed the *Cultural Resources Survey of the Rice Hope Plantation Tract, Chatham County, Georgia* Draft Report by Brockington and Associates dated September 2003, as well as comments by the Department of the Army, Savannah District Corps of Engineers (USACE) dated December 30, 2003. Our comments are offered to assist the USACE and its applicants in complying with the provisions of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act.

Based on the information provided, HPD concurs with the comments made by the USACE. Additional comments (numbered 1 through 9) related to the archaeological investigations are provided in the enclosure. (For questions specific to archaeology, please call Joey Charles, Review Archaeologist at 404-651-6433.) As to architectural resources (buildings or structures), we will need a definition of the Area of Potential Effect (APE) for visual or non-physical effects, along with a better description of the proposed undertaking, in order to know whether resources on adjacent parcels should be evaluated. It appears there may be some small communities on nearby tracts that should to be surveyed and evaluated as to their eligibility for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places. If they are in the APE for visual or other effects, an assessment of effects should be prepared.

Please refer to project number HP-040102-001 in any future correspondence regarding this matter. If we may be of further assistance, please contact me at (404) 651-6777 or Serena Bellew, Environmental Review Coordinator, at (404) 651-6624.

Sincerely,



Denise P. Messick  
Environmental Review Historian

### Enclosure: Review Comments

cc: David Crampton, USACE, Savannah District  
Joshua N. Fletcher, Brockington and Associates  
David Odum, Sivica Communities, 675 Mansell Road, Suite 130, Roswell, GA 30076  
Joel Price, Sligh Environmental 49 Park of Commerce Way, Savannah, GA 31405  
Iris Scheff, Coastal Georgia RDC





REPLY TO  
ATTENTION OF:

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
SAVANNAH DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS  
P.O. BOX 889  
SAVANNAH, GEORGIA 31402-0889

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JAN 2 2004

OFFICE OF  
HISTORIC PRESERVATION DIVISION

30 DEC 2003

Regulatory Branch  
200307880

Historic Preservation Division  
Georgia Department of Natural Resources  
Attention: Dr. Ray Luce, Director and Deputy SHPO  
156 Trinity Avenue, SW. Suite 101  
Atlanta, Georgia 30303-3600

Dear Dr. Luce:

I refer to Department of the Army Permit Application No. 200307880, by Civica Properties, Inc., concerning the Rice Hope Plantation Development Tract, city of Port Wentworth, Chatham County, Georgia. I also refer a survey conducted for the identification of historic properties that may potentially be affected by the proposed development. The survey was conducted to assist our office in the consideration of historic properties in the processing and issuance of US Army Corps of Engineers' (USACE) permits, and compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. The results of the survey are contained in the report entitled "Cultural Resources Survey of the Rice Hope Plantation Tract, Chatham County, Georgia."

We are enclosing a copy of the referenced report, prepared by Brockington and Associates, Inc., and dated September 2003, for your review and comment. We request comments especially with regard to the adequacy of the survey, and the National Register Eligibility status of the sites/potential historic properties identified in the report.

We have reviewed the report also, and our review comments are enclosed for your information and/or use. The report identified one historic/prehistoric archaeological site (9CH1052, the Chisholm Caretaker's House) and one historic architectural property, Houston Church with an associated cemetery, designated 9CH1053. The Brockington and Associates report recommends all three properties ineligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places.

We have previously consulted with your office concerning the Houston church, but not the cemetery, in Section 106 consultations concerning the Port Wentworth New Town Center. The property was identified in a December 2000 cultural resources (historic properties) report prepared for the City of Port Wentworth by Environmental Services, Inc. Our offices concurred at that time that the existing church structure, which is abandoned and in advanced stages of deterioration, should be considered ineligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places. We continue to consider and recommend that the remains of the Houston parish church structure should be considered ineligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places.

On the basis of the information presented in the present survey report dated September 2003, and for the reasons stated therein, we concur with the recommendation that the associated Houston Church cemetery should be considered ineligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places.

We disagree with the report's recommendation that the Chisholm Caretaker's Residence should be considered ineligible for inclusion in the National Register for several reasons, stated below, and in the attached review comments. We believe limited additional subsurface controlled testing and evaluation of the site should be conducted before making a determination of eligibility for this property. The additional testing and evaluation should include additional archival and background research on the Rice Hope Plantation, the (Chisholm?) estate to which the Caretaker's house site is related, and historic documents relating to the former residence itself (i.e., photographs, verbal descriptions, etc.).

We base our recommendation that additional testing be conducted on this site for the following reasons: 1) the site (structure) is reported to be early 20<sup>th</sup> century in date, although several lines of evidence indicate that it may well be a good deal older; 2) there is no context provided against which the site can be evaluated (i.e., no description of the Chisholm property/estate to which it relates, nor the historical significance of that property; 3) there is evidence that the site has a moderate depth to it, and it is not strictly a surface and near-surface site; and, 4) there is inadequate presentation, analysis and comparison of the recovered artifacts by collection level. For these reasons we feel some additional evaluation is justified prior to making a determination of eligibility.

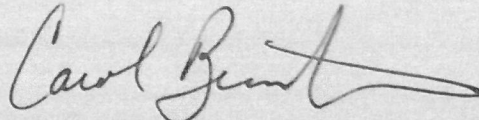
The scope of the survey would appear to be more in keeping with that of a reconnaissance level survey, rather than an intensive one conducted for Section 106 purposes. We are therefore requesting your comments concerning the adequacy of the scope of the survey.

The survey does not appear to have taken into account any areas adjacent to the periphery of the subject development tract, for the purposes of visual or other non-physical direct effects. There was some discussion of this issue during the Section 106 consultation regarding the Port Wentworth New Town Center Section 404 permit application regarding the small, unincorporated community located immediately to the south-southwest of the present project tract. Therefore we also are requesting your comments with regard to the appropriate area and scale to be included within the permit application's "area of potential effect."



If you have any questions considering this matter, please contact me at 912-652-5503, or Mr. Richard Morgan, Regulatory Branch Southern Section Project Manager, at 912-652-5139.

Sincerely,



Carol Bernstein  
Chief, Southern Section

Enclosures

Copies Furnished:

Historic Preservation Division  
Georgia Department of Natural Resources  
Attention: Dr. David Crass, State Archaeologist  
156 Trinity Avenue, SW. Suite 101  
Atlanta, Georgia 30303-3600

Sivica Communities, Inc.  
Attention: Mr. Dave Odum  
Roswell, Georgia 30076

Sligh Environmental Consultants, Inc.  
Attention: Mr Joel Price  
49 Park of Commerce Way  
Savannah, Georgia 31405

Brockington and Associates, Inc.  
Attention: Mr. Paul Brockington  
6611 Bay Circle, Suite 220  
Norcross, Georgia 30071