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AN ARCHEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF THE
WESTINGHOUSE ELECTRIC CORPORATION'S PROPOSED
NUCLEAR RECYCLING PLANT NEAR IVA, ANDERSON
COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA

by
John D. Combes

Prepared by the
INSTITUTE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND ANTHROPOLOGY
UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA
December, 1972

Introduction

The Institute of Archeology and Anthropology undertook an archeological survey of the Westinghouse Electric Corporation's proposed recycling plant site in Anderson County, located along the north side of S.C. Route 181, approximately two miles from Savannah River and 4 miles southeast of Hartwell Dam. Westinghouse in compliance with federal regulations requested that this be done in order that an Environmental Impact Statement regarding historic and archaeological places of significance could be made concerning the proposed area. The project area covers approximately 1,000 acres including the plant site itself which is 1200' x 1200' (see figure 1).

When first contacted by the Westinghouse Corporation only conjectural statements could be made regarding historic and prehistoric resources of the vicinity since no search had ever been made. The general surrounding region, however, had revealed human habitation for as far back as 8,000 years ago. In addition, there was also the possibility of historic sites being found in the area, such as 18th and 19th century buildings, trails, roads, etc., as well as paleontological sites. It was in view of this lack of data concerning these aspects of the project area that a survey was proposed.

The Survey

The survey for historic and prehistoric sites, and paleontological sites was undertaken in two phases: First, a search was made of the area on foot for the purpose of locating and recording evidence of human habitation and fossils. Second, a record search in appropriate places was instigated to determine if written records are available documenting any

site of historic significance. This search included consultation with various state and local historical societies or departments.

Field work was conducted on December 19 and 20 by members of the Institute staff under the direction of the writer. At the time of the reconnaissance the entire area was covered either by woods or other cover. The majority of the land is heavily wooded and the remaining is open, pasture type vegetation. No area in the tract had recently been plowed or cultivated, therefore all areas that were exposed by roads, and erosional cuts and sluffs were carefully examined. Wooded areas were randomly walked through and inspected for visual remains. It appears that close to 90% of the entire area was at one time under cultivation. Terrace lines are observable throughout the wooded area as are large erosional gullies most likely from the cultivation era of the 1930's.

There are at least three branches that head on the property and one major creek (Weems) which flows through it. Vertical relief encountered within the boundaries is almost 200' varying in elevation from 500' to 700' MSL. Special consideration was given the following: 1) the proposed plant site, 2) the lower terraces near the flood plain, 3) the exposure resulting from the Weems Creek channel, 4) junction areas of the various branches and Weems Creek, 5) bedrock outcrops (for evidence of possible rock shelter formations) and, 6) hill tops (a frequent location for archaic period sites throughout the Southeastern United States).

Conclusion

The detailed survey of the property recovered no archaeological, historical or paleontological sites of significance. Archaic period material is present in small quantities on some of the ridges. This

consists of items manufactured from quartz and has sometimes been referred to as the "old quartz industry". Nothing, however, at this time was found to be worthy of further investigation. The lower areas of the property have accumulated a large amount of erosional material over the past 40 or 50 years making it impossible to observe the old or ancient surfaces.

The following were contacted regarding the possibility of the area of interest containing historic resources:

The South Carolina Department of Archives and History
Coordinator Historic Services Division, Mr. Barney Slawson
Coordinator Historic Preservation Division, Mrs. Christie Fant

Anderson County Historical Society
President, Mr. William P. Kay

Pendleton District Historical and Recreational Commission
Director, Mr. Hurley Badders

Other sources consulted:

Mills Atlas of South Carolina, by Robert Mills
Robert Pearce Wilkins and John D. Keels, Jr., Columbia, 1965.

Environmental Reconnaissance Inventory of the Charleston District.
Prepared by the United States Army Corps of Engineers 1972.
(Provisional).

The Archaeological Site Files at the Institute of Archeology and Anthropology, University of South Carolina.

All of the above indicated that based on information available at this time no historic sites, events, trails or roads, etc., are located in the vicinity of the proposed Westinghouse Electric Corporation facility.

This survey found the proposed real estate to be free of archaeological remains observable on the surface and free from yet known historical resources. It is recommended that if any future development in the lower regions of the property is ever undertaken which involves earth moving the Institute of Archeology and Anthropology should be notified to inspect the areas below the present surface.

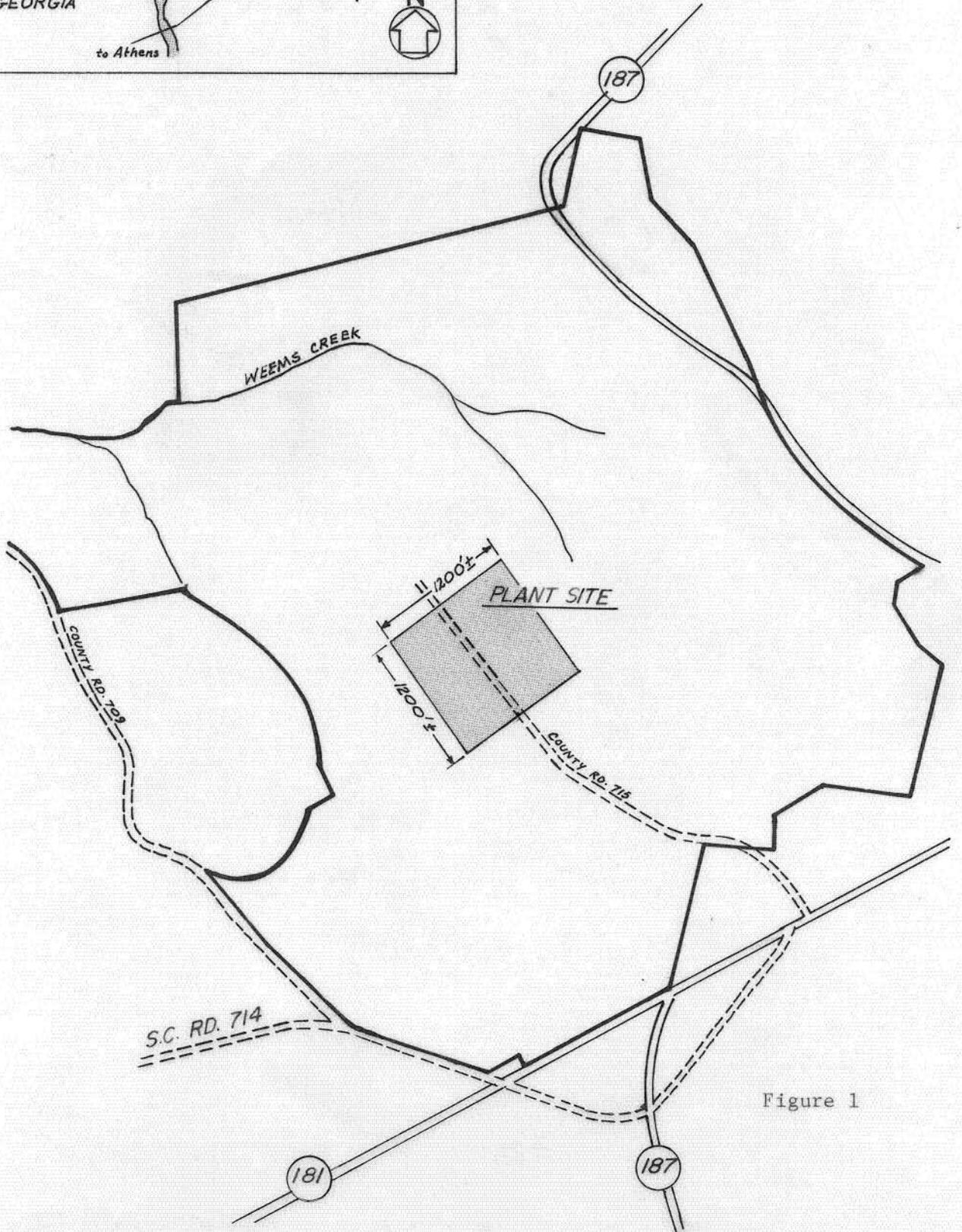
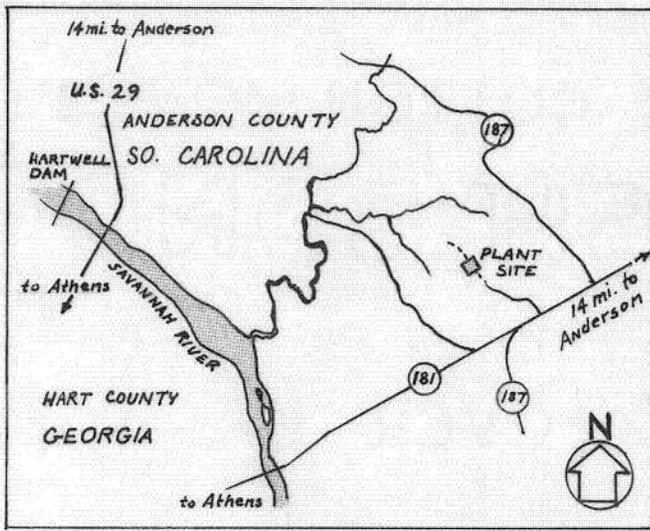


Figure 1