

4-1976

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Recommended Citation

Widmer, Randolph J., "Archeological Survey of a Proposed Record Fire Range, Fort Jackson Military Reservation, Richland County, South Carolina" (1976). *Research Manuscript Series*. Book 80.
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Keywords

Richland County, Fort Jackson, South Carolina, Archeology

Disciplines

Anthropology

Publisher

The South Carolina Institute of Archeology and Anthropology--University of South Carolina

Comments

In USC online Library catalog at: <http://www.sc.edu/library/>

ARCHEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF A PROPOSED RECORD
FIRE RANGE, FORT JACKSON MILITARY RESERVATION,
RICHLAND COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA

by

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Research Manuscript Series, No. 90

Prepared by the
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April, 1976

INTRODUCTION

On April 20, 1976 an archeological field inspection was made of a proposed 70 acre record fire range on the Fort Jackson Military Reservation, Richland County, South Carolina for the purpose of locating and evaluating cultural resources within this project. This range is located between Wildcat and Sixth Division Roads, adjacent to the south side of Dixie Road. The proposed range is situated in the Sandhills physiographic region of the upper coastal plain. These sand hills are composed of Upper Cretaceous marine deposits of the Tuscaloosa formation. The record fire range is situated on the crest and southern slope of one of these sand hills. Elevation of this hill crest is 388 feet above mean sea level and slopes south to an elevation of 300 feet where the creek bottom of Rose Creek is encountered. This creek heads approximately 0.7 miles east of the proposed rifle range location and flows west into Bynum Creek which in turn flows through a network of manmade ponds and inter-connecting streams, draining south into Mill Creek which then flows into the Congaree River south of Columbia.

THE SURVEY

Vegetation encountered at the project site consisted primarily of pine and scrub oak although a small oak-hickory "hammock" was found along the north slope of the hill crest. A dense planted pine tract was noted along the edge of Dixie Road and sweet gum and hickory were encountered along the fringes of the creek bottom at the south project boundary. The major portion of the site contained open pine and scattered scrub oak. Evidence of logging and previous clearing activities, presumably

in connection with past military operations, were very apparent. Two dirt roads transected the project area and a borrow area was noticed just south of the hill crest.

The project area had been conveniently surveyed and gridded into marked 100 foot square units. This allowed the exact location within the project area at all times and provided for a more efficient and systematic survey since the survey lines could be used avoiding recrossing already inspected areas and to maintain comprehensive coverage of all areas within the project area. Ground visibility was for the most part very good, with numerous areas of bare soil exposed. In addition, two dirt roads transected the proposed range and were closely inspected for the occurrence of cultural material. Particular attention was directed to the hill crest and the creek terrace since these areas are known to have a high probability of containing sites.

RESULTS

No archeological sites or cultural resources of archeological significance were located during the survey. A drainage ditch which probably is associated with nineteenth century agricultural activity in the area was located at the eastern project boundary at Station FF, 15+40. Two large circular depressions were also located, one just northwest of Station Z, 13+00, and one adjacent to Station Y, 9+00. The former contained empty ammunition crates, cement drainage pipe fragments, and a set of three tiered wooden steps, while the latter was empty. These depressions are interpreted as shell craters. None of the features are of archeological significance and, based on the results of the survey, the project area should be cleared of any adverse impact to cultural resources.