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by

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INTRODUCTION

On July 22, 1976 an archeological survey of a proposed sewer line and waste treatment facility located immediately southwest of the town of Ridgeway, South Carolina was performed. The project area is situated in the Piedmont province at the headwaters of Cedar Creek, a tributary of the Broad River. The sewer line system consists of two branches, one of which parallels a stream bottom, while the other rises up a ridge slope. The total length of this sewer system is approximately two miles. The sewage treatment plant site is located in a stream bottom adjacent to State Highway 30, approximately 0.6 miles south of its intersection with State Highway 34. Elevation in this area ranges from 480 feet above mean sea level in the stream bottoms to 600 feet above sea level on the ridge slope. No part of the sewer system is situated on the ridge top area, being restricted to the ridge slope and creek bottom.

SURVEY PROCEDURE

The entire sewer line right-of-way was surveyed on foot, with the exception of a small extensively developed area, to determine the presence of cultural resources. Vegetation within the project area consisted entirely of second growth woods, with a few fallow cultivated fields overgrown with weeds. The bottomland portions of the project area are devoid of trees, having been recently cut. Instead, these areas contain a dense undergrowth of vines, grasses, and brush. Visibility of the

ground surface for the purpose of locating archeological sites was poor to moderately good. Erosion of the ridge slopes was extremely severe, resulting in numerous tree falls, gullies, and washed areas which facilitated the inspection of these exposures. On the higher elevations, fallow fields, farm roads, and disturbed areas permitted relatively good surface visibility. Because of the extensive erosion of the ridges due to past agricultural activities, the entire bottomland area, including the waste treatment plant location, has been buried under the eroded material. It was, therefore, necessary to employ subsurface testing procedures to determine if cultural materials were present under this overburden. A series of post hole samples were taken for this purpose.

The initial engineering survey to determine the location of the sewer line was perfomed four years ago and many of the survey stakes had been covered by vegetation or were missing, making the project boundaries difficult to follow. Mr. C. Edgar Williams of Williams Engineering Company; Mr. Haskell Smith, Mayor of Ridgeway; and Mr. Charles Moore, a lifelong resident of Ridgeway who is intimately familiar with the local history of the region, accompanied the author to the treatment plant location to point out its boundaries. Mr. Williams then accompanied me on the longer of the two sewer line branches to be sure it was correctly followed. All exposed areas along the sewer line were inspected for the occurrence of cultural material.

SURVEY RESULTS

Collections of possible cultural material were recovered from four locations within the project limits, three of which were located along the sewer line, and one was from the waste treatment plant site area.

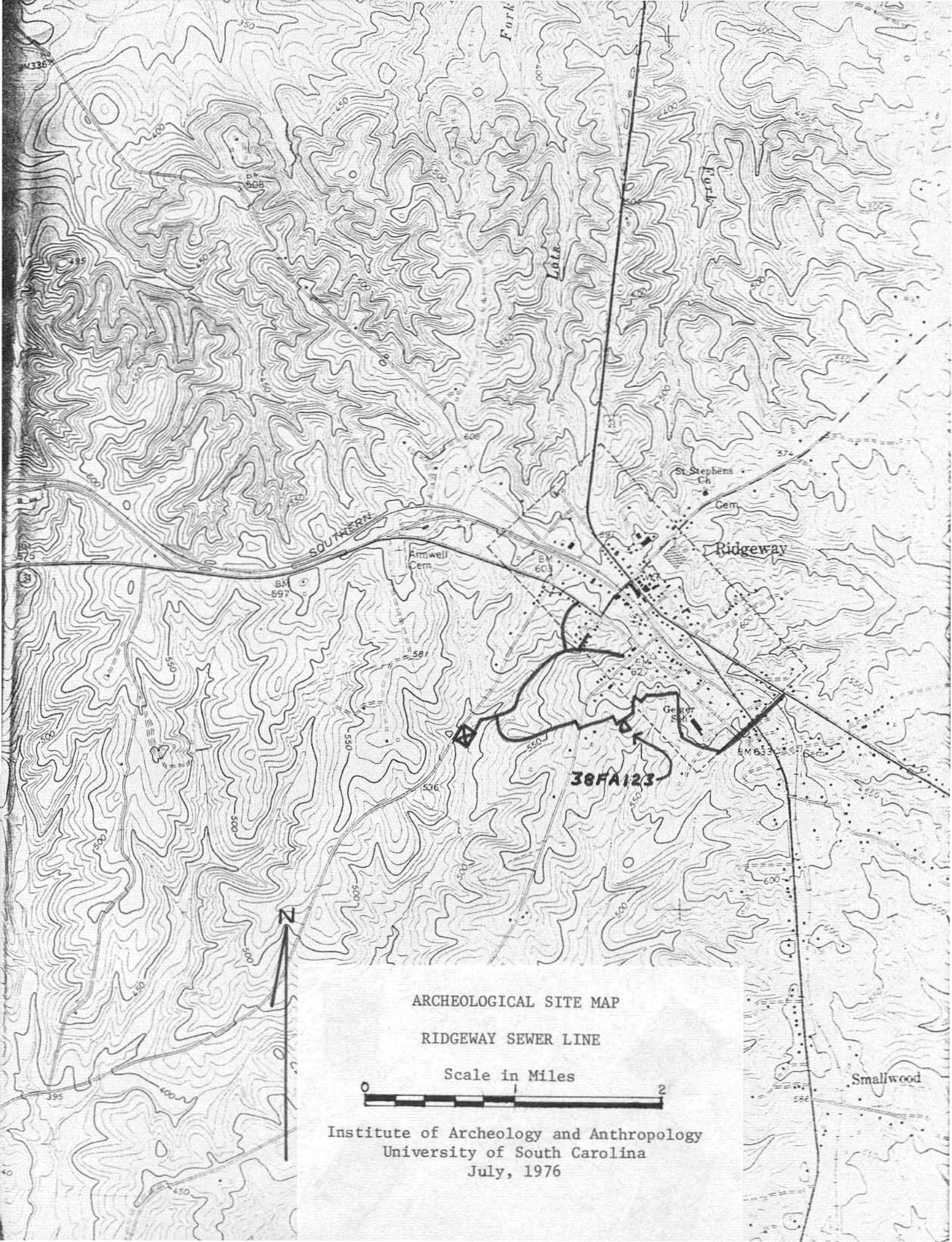
All of the material consisted of quartz lithic debris. The three collections from along the sewer line were recovered from the surface, while the collection from the waste treatment location was obtained from two post hole samples. This subsurface sample was recovered from a depth of approximately 1.5 to 2.0 feet below the site surface.

At the time of the survey, it was not possible to adequately determine whether this material was attributable to cultural or natural modification. Subsequent laboratory processing and analysis indicated that only one of the collections contained material which was cultural in origin. This site, 38FA123, is located in a fallow field situation on a broad gently sloping ridge face with an elevation of 580 to 590 feet above mean sea level. This field is located south of Third Avenue and north of the main branch of Cedar Creek at its head. The field contained a slightly sandy orange brown clay soil littered with tremendous amounts of quartz rock which is natural in this area.

Cultural material from this site consisted of one and possibly two additional small quartz thinning flakes which were removed from bifacial tools or tool preforms. These flakes are of a different type of quartz than that naturally occurring at the site, indicating that the tool from which these flakes were removed was produced in another area. This site is probably a non-habitational site visited sporadically a few times by Archaic Tradition hunters between 7000 and 2000 B.C.

Because the cultural materials are so few and those that are present at the site have been disturbed by past plowing activities, the construction of the sewer line will have no adverse impact upon the archeological resources present at this site. The archeological information available

from this site has been sufficiently recovered from the initial survey. No additional archeological investigations will, therefore, be required and it is recommended that the project area be cleared because no adverse impact to cultural resources will result.



ARCHEOLOGICAL SITE MAP

RIDGEWAY SEWER LINE

Scale in Miles

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