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## Archeological Reconnaissance of Six Road Relocation Areas in Elbert County, Georgia

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## Archeological Reconnaissance of Six Road Relocation Areas in Elbert County, Georgia

### Keywords

Excavations, Richard Russell Reservoir, Savannah River, Clark Hill Lake, Lake Hartwell, Rocky River, Elbert County, Georgia, South Carolina, Archeology

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ARCHEOLOGICAL RECONNAISSANCE OF SIX ROAD  
RELOCATION AREAS IN ELBERT COUNTY, GEORGIA

by

*Eric Poplin, John Norris,  
Claudia Wolfe, and Paul Brockington*  
*Research Manuscript Series 143*

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Prepared by the  
INSTITUTE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND ANTHROPOLOGY  
UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA  
January, 1979

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## INTRODUCTION

The Institute of Archeology and Anthropology was contracted by Patchen, Mingledorf and Associates, Inc. of Atlanta, Georgia to survey six road and bridge relocation areas in Elbert County, Georgia as a part of a larger Patchen, Mingledorf project funded by the Corps of Engineers (Fig. 1). These road relocations are necessitated by the construction of the Richard B. Russell Reservoir by the Corps of Engineers, Savannah District. The archeological reconnaissance survey was undertaken to insure compliance by the Corps of Engineers with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, and Executive Order 11593. The field work portion of the project took four days and was completed in three separate trips conducted on May 25 and 26 and June 8 and 13. The writing of the report and the analysis of the artifacts were completed at the Institute laboratory during a two week period following the completion of the field work.

The Richard B. Russell Dam, presently under construction, is located on the stretch of the Savannah River between Clark Hill and Hartwell Lakes. The power pool elevation of Russell Reservoir will be 475 feet a.s.l. The total area to be flooded is 26,650 acres, which includes a 28 mile stretch of the Savannah River, a 12 mile stretch of the Rocky River in South Carolina and a 9 mile stretch of the Beaverdam Creek in Georgia. The inundation of many small creeks will also occur, including Allen, Bond, and Crooked Creeks in South Carolina and Van, Coldwater, Pickens, and Cedar Creeks in Georgia.

The proposed Russell Reservoir area was surveyed in 1977 under a separate contract between the Institute of Archeology and Anthropology and the Corps of Engineers, Savannah District. Because of the sampling strategy used during the reservoir survey, none of the areas of road relocation were covered. Those areas not surveyed previously were specifically examined during this project. A preliminary report on certain aspects of the Russell Reservoir survey (Taylor and Smith 1978) is available for study and was consulted in addition to the detailed notes and files of the Institute of Archeology and Anthropology and the Russell Survey.

One historic site, 9EB201, was discovered in a road relocation area by the Russell Survey during the summer of 1977. 9EB201 will be directly impacted by both inundation and the proposed road relocation 2-1. One additional building was located at 9EB201 as a result of the present survey. Further work at this site has already been recommended by the Russell intensive survey. Seven sites were found as a result of the road relocation survey. Six were prehistoric campsites and 1 was an historic home site. 9EB421 is a small unidentified prehistoric lithic scatter. No further work is recommended for this site. 9EB422 is an Early Archaic site which extends over a 50 by 40 meter area of a ridge top and slope. The site yielded one diagnostic artifact, a chert Palmer point. The site has recently been clear-cut and the soil has eroded down to red clay.

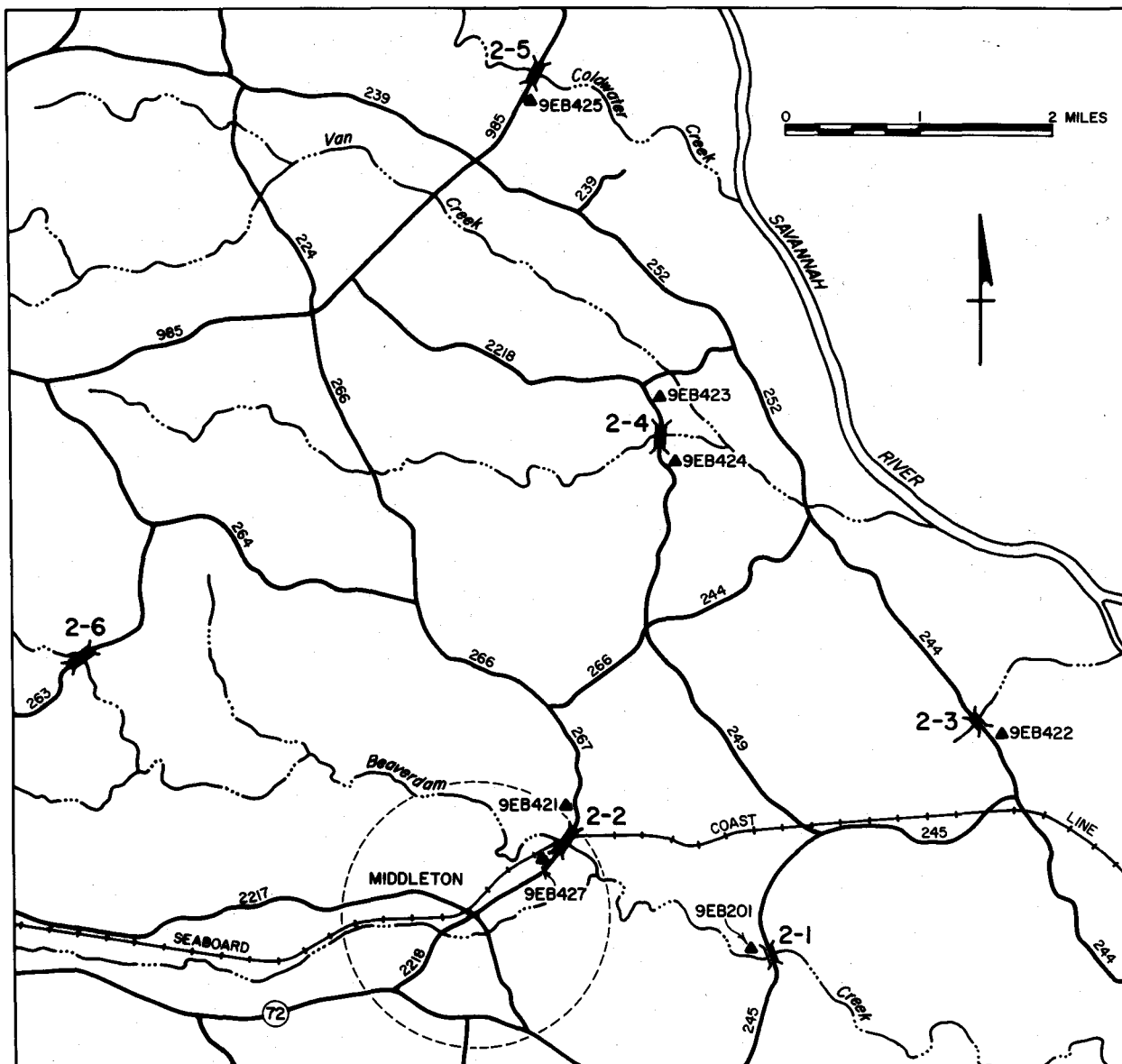


FIGURE 1: Locations of road relocations in Elbert County, Georgia.



No further work is recommended for 9EB422 because of its disrupted state. 9EB423 is a large unidentified prehistoric site located in the direct path of the road relocation 2-4. No diagnostic artifacts were found; however, there is still about 15 cm. of soil at the site containing buried artifacts. Because it is one of very few non-eroded, non-deflated sites in the Piedmont, further testing is recommended. 9EB424 is a small unidentified prehistoric lithic scatter. It has little potential for yielding information, and further work is not recommended. 9EB425 is an unidentified prehistoric lithic scatter which extends about 100 by 100 meters across a ridge nose. The portion of this site to be impacted is an extremely eroded section of the slope of the ridge; therefore, no further work is recommended unless the better preserved top of the ridge nose will also be impacted. 9EB426 is defined by an isolated occurrence of one Morrow Mountain point. No further work is suggested. The historic site located is the Grogan-Eureka House (9EB427). Both the Corps of Engineers, Savannah District and the Georgia State Historic Preservation Officer have performed basic research on the structure. Further work is recommended for this site.

## BACKGROUND HISTORY AND PREHISTORY

### Introduction

This brief summary of history and prehistory in the project area is provided for the non-archeologist who will need a historical frame of reference for the data presented in the following chapters. Specific references to regional and areal studies are included where appropriate within the cultural historical subsections presented below. General works covering the prehistory of this area of the Southeast include those by Griffin (1952, 1967), Willey (1966), Sears (1964), Wauchope (1966), and Coe (1964).

### Paleo-Indian Period

The Paleo-Indian period is usually described as extending from about 10,000 to 8,000 B.C. and represents the first well documented human occupation of North America (Willey 1966). Paleo-Indian sites are indicated by the presence of fluted hafted bifaces, as well as the remains of extinct mammals hunted by the small groups of this period. There were no Paleo-Indian sites found during this survey; however, this was not unexpected as it appears that utilization of the Piedmont during this period was at a minimum (Michie 1977). The majority of fluted points found in the Carolinas and Georgia have come from the Coastal Plain (Michie 1977; Williams and Stoltman 1965). Whether this fact is indicative of the Paleo-Indian settlement patterns or indicative of the intensity of present farming and archeological discovery techniques in the Coastal Plain, can only be answered by further study.

### Archaic Period

The Archaic period spans the 7,000 years between the Paleo-Indian and Woodland temporal occupations and is divided into three phases-- the Early, Middle and Late Archaic. It is believed that the Archaic period represents a "succession of adaptations of a non-sedentary hunting and gathering lifeway to changing post-Pleistocene environmental conditions," (House and Ballenger 1976: 23) and that "during the Archaic human groups are thought to have gradually developed a number of highly efficient cultural adaptations to specific regional environments in eastern North America" (House and Ballenger 1976: 23; see also Caldwell 1958).

Differences in styles of chipped stone hafted bifaces or projectile points form the usual basis for defining temporal divisions of the Archaic

period. Excavations by Coe (1964) of stratified sites in North Carolina have produced a projectile point type sequence for the Archaic of the Carolinas and Georgia that has been generally upheld by more recent work (House and Ballenger 1976; Goodyear 1978; Chapman 1977).

The Early Archaic, from 8,000 to 5,500 B.C. is represented by Dalton, Hardaway, Palmer, Big Sandy, and Kirk projectile points (Coe 1964). These point types are considered to be indicative of separate, successive cultural phases within the Early Archaic period. (Coe 1964). One Early Archaic site, 9EB422 at which one broken Palmer biface was found, was located during this survey.

The Middle Archaic, which spans the years 5,500 through 3,000 B.C., encompasses four cultural phases represented by four distinctive projectile point types-- Stanly, Morrow Mountain, Guilford and Halifax (Coe 1964). One Middle Archaic site, 9EB426, was found during this survey. This site is represented by an isolated find of one Morrow Mountain point. Morrow Mountain points are common in the Carolina-Georgia Piedmont, suggesting an intensified utilization of the Piedmont during the Middle Archaic (Goodyear 1978; House and Ballenger 1976).

The Late Archaic period, 3,000 through 800 B.C., includes the cultural phases Savannah River, Stallings Island and Thom's Creek-Awendaw (Coe 1964; Williams 1968). It is during the Late Archaic that atlatl weights, full grooved axes, and steatite vessels are found (Willey 1966; Sears 1964). The first appearance of pottery is also during the Late Archaic. Fiber tempered pottery (Stallings Island phase) is the oldest pottery yet found in the Southeast, and it has been dated to as early as 2500 B.C. to 2000 B.C. (Stoltman 1966, 1974; Griffin 1967). No Late Archaic sites were found during this survey.

### Woodland Period

The Woodland period, 800 B.C. to A.D. 1200, recognized over most of eastern North America, is characterized in the Savannah River Valley by the first widespread manufacture of ceramics, by burial mound construction, and by evidence of horticulture (Stoltman 1974; see also Willey 1966). The earliest mounds are in northern North America and are very simple, but between 100 B.C. and A.D. 300 their construction gradually became more complex (Griffin 1967). This florescence of mound construction throughout eastern North America is considered to be a hallmark of the Middle Woodland period (Griffin 1967). It was also during the Middle Woodland period that the first forms of gourds, squash, and pumpkin became common in archeological sites in eastern North America (Griffin 1967). Throughout the entire Woodland period the use of pottery became more widespread and its decoration became more complex. Over most of the Southeast the pottery is sand tempered, and plain, or decorated by cord, fabric, or net impressing, or by carved paddle stamping. The representative diagnostic projectile points of Middle Woodland in the Carolinas are Yadkin, Badin, and Uwharrie points

(Coe 1964). There was no evidence Woodland occupation found during this survey, except for one sand tempered plain sherd found at 9EB423. There were no additional, more specific, temporally diagnostic materials found at this site.

### Mississippian Period

The Mississippian period, from approximately A.D. 1200 through A.D. 1600, refers to the time when communities in the eastern half of the United States became dependent on agriculture, particularly of corn, beans, and squash, for their basic storable food supply (Willey 1966; Griffin 1967). It is thought that efficient Mississippian agricultural economy allowed for population growth throughout eastern North America and the development of complex societies with craft specialization, differential social status, and large public works construction projects. Early historic accounts, such as the DeSoto narratives (Varner and Varner 1951), speak of Mississippian villages with large populations and numerous houses.

No Mississippian sites were found during this survey; however, Mississippian sites are usually found in bottomland areas such as terraces and levees of larger rivers. The Savannah River Valley nearby provides these landforms, but no such terraces were included in the six road relocation project areas.

### Historic Period

Although European use of the Piedmont began in the early 1700's, settlement of the area by Europeans occurred after it was ceded from the Cherokees by the Treaty of 1773. Agricultural utilization of the major riverine bottomlands probably began before upland occupation. It was not until the early 1800's and the invention of the cotton gin that farming operations expanded over the uplands of the Piedmont (Gray 1934). Most historic sites encountered in the Russell Reservoir area date approximately from the 1830's to the early 1900's (Taylor and Smith 1978). Most of these sites are early farm houses, indicating agriculture as the predominant economic activity of the area. The present survey located one historic site, 9EB247, not recorded by the Russell Reservoir survey. This structure is being reviewed by the Georgia State Historic Preservation Officer, and work by local parties to nominate this to the National Register of Historic Places is currently underway. One historic industrial site, 9EB201, an early mill complex located and recorded during the Russell Reservoir intensive survey, will be impacted by both inundation and road relocation 2-1. This is a very significant archeological site; occupation of the site began shortly after the Revolutionary War and has continued throughout the 20th century. It is an excellent example of changing industrial technology in a rural setting.

## ENVIRONMENT

### Introduction

The environment of Elbert County, Georgia, like any other "living" area, is in a dynamic state. The changes currently taking place result partially from the large natural shifts in climate and the past and present human use of the land. The relationship between previous human occupations and the environments which existed at that time is one of the problems studied by the archeologist. Also, the present environment and the forces involved in its formation directly affect any attempt at archeological site discovery and reconstruction. The environment of Elbert County is described first as a general overview and second in relation to human land use and its effects on the archeological record.

### General Description

Elbert County lies mostly in the Upper Piedmont province of Georgia. The Piedmont can be characterized as a gently rolling plain or plateau between the Blue Ridge Mountains and the Atlantic Coastal Plain, extending from the Hudson River in New York south through the Carolinas and Georgia and then west into Alabama. The Piedmont is underlain by crystalline metamorphic rock formations, with scattered intrusions of igneous crystalline rocks, overlain by as much as 100 feet of soil and clay (Shimer 1972). The southern Piedmont (Virginia through Alabama) is often divided into two sections, upper and lower, by elevation above sea level. The Lower Piedmont ranges from 200 to 500 feet above sea level and is adjacent to the Atlantic Coastal Plain. The Upper Piedmont lies inland from the lower region, abuts the Blue Ridge to the west, and varies in elevation from 700 to 1500 feet above sea level (Trimble 1974). Elbert County ranges from 300 to 800 feet above sea level.

In the Upper Piedmont, the streams and rivers have become entrenched creating many steep and narrow ridges and ridge systems. This greatly reduces the amount of land on gentle slopes as compared to the Lower Piedmont and the Coastal Plain and adds greatly to the hazard of erosion of the Piedmont soils once they are exposed (Trimble 1974).

The climate of Elbert County, as well as this general area of the Piedmont, is characterized by long and often hot summers and short, mild winters. The average annual rainfall amounts to 123.8 centimeters and is fairly evenly distributed throughout the year. Maximum rainfall occurs during the winter and early spring. The area has a frost-free growing season of about 221 days extending from early April to late October (Lee 1976; Fuller and Hendrickson 1928). The overlapping of the frost-free growing season and time of maximum rainfall adds greatly to the potential for erosion once the land is cleared for agricultural or other purposes.

### Paleoenvironment

The environment of this portion of the Piedmont has changed considerably over the past 25,000 years. Most of the evidence of these changes has been gathered from areas adjacent to the Piedmont, but extrapolation from these data is possible. During the height of the Late Wisconsin glaciation (21,050 to 11,050 B.C.) the Piedmont of South Carolina and Georgia was forested with pines mixed with a small amount of spruce. It is thought that the forests were relatively open and the climate was drier than at present. Temperatures are conjectured to have been about 15° C lower in winter and 9° C lower in summer than today (Whitehead 1965, 1973).

Between 11,050 and 6,050 B.C., as the glaciers began to recede to the north, the forests changed from the boreal pine-spruce type to a hemlock-northern hardwood type of forest. Oak, hickory, birch, hemlock, beech, and elm were the predominate species. By 6,050 B.C. oak and hickory were the dominant species (Whitehead 1973).

Between 6,050 and 1,050 B.C. oak and hickory reached their maximum development. During this time (especially between 3550 and 1050 B.C.) the Coastal Plain of Georgia and probably portions of the Piedmont are thought to have been a savannah composed of expanses of prairie interspersed with clumps of oak trees. The climate in northwestern Georgia during this time does not appear to have been any drier than at present (Watts 1971). Since 1050 B.C. the percentage of hardwoods has gradually declined with the incidence of pines increasing at the same time.

With the rise of the northern hardwood forests between 11,050 and 6,050 B.C. available food resources began to shift from mostly faunal sources to a more balanced availability between floral and faunal resources. Paleo-botanical samples from Early Archaic (8,000 - 5,500 B.C.) levels in sites throughout the southern and eastern United States (Chapman 1975, 1977; Price and Krakker 1975; Broyles 1971) display evidence of oak and hickory nutshells. The lower incidence of such material in earlier levels could be due to the state of preservation or the recovery techniques of these levels, but is more likely linked to the rise of the hardwood forests. An increase in the amount of botanical material is evident between the Early Archaic and the Middle Archaic (5,500 - 3,000 B.C.) period and continued through the Late Archaic (3,000 - 800 B.C.) and the Woodland (800 B.C. - A.D. 1200) periods. There is evidence of great diversity in the utilization of floral species in Late Archaic sites. This trend continued during later prehistoric periods. Species used include walnut, pecan, butternut, hazelnut, and the seeds of chenopodium, grape, and marsh elder (Asch, Ford, and Asch 1972; Webb 1974; Winters 1969). These last three species were found to be more prevalent in the Illinois Valley during the Woodland times than earlier (Asch, Ford, and Asch 1972), and were probably in widespread use over eastern North America.

These plant resources did not, however, fully replace the dependence on faunal resources. Throughout the time periods listed above the types of animals available remained fairly constant but population levels probably shifted. These faunal resources include deer, raccoon, opossum, turtle, waterfowl, elk, bear, and squirrel, with the primary emphasis being on white-tailed deer, especially during the Archaic period (DeJarnette, Kurjack and Cambron 1962; Lewis and Lewis 1961; Morse 1967; Parmalee 1969; Webb 1974). These animals were available well into the Historic period, and most are still present throughout eastern North America. In addition to the terrestrial fauna listed above, a large amount of aquatic fauna (primarily fishes and mussels) was available and used especially during the Archaic (Lewis and Lewis 1961).

The Europeans who first visited the Piedmont were impressed with the clear "limpid" streams and the flora and fauna present over most of the area (Trimble 1974). The Georgia Piedmont was described as having been one of the most fertile areas of North America prior to the introduction of cotton and corn agriculture (Olmstead 1856). The environment of the Georgia Piedmont began to change very rapidly after 1750 with the coming of the early plantations and farms and the effects of this land use are still evident (Trimble 1974).

#### Present And Historic Land Use

The forests which covered Elbert County at the time of the first European visitors were populated predominately with pines, intermixed with moderate amounts of oaks, hickory, and chestnuts. In the Piedmont river bottoms, hardwoods (oak, poplar, maple, sweetgum, walnut, and beech) were more prevalent with pines representing only a small portion of the forest (Nelson 1957). Present day vegetation is represented by a number of successional stages, most of which reflect modern land use. Study of modern land use patterns and present vegetation is important because of their impact to archeological sites. Successional stages as defined by the Richard B. Russell Archeological Project conducted in Elbert County during the summer and fall of 1977 (Taylor and Smith 1978) are as follows:

- (1) "agricultural field" --areas currently under cultivation (Fig. 2)
- (2) "pastures" --areas currently used for grazing (Fig. 3)
- (3) "old field from agriculture" --areas that were recently farmed (within the last 15 years) but are now untended (Fig. 4)
- (4) "bottomland hardwoods" --forests found along the Savannah and its major tributaries (Fig. 5)
- (5) "mixed pines and hardwoods" --abandoned agricultural areas (older than 15 years) or previously logged areas which were not replanted, (Fig. 6)



FIGURE 2: Agricultural field located along bridge relocation 2-2.



FIGURE 3: A pasture located along bridge relocation 2-2. 9EB421 covers the hilltop in the right of the picture.





FIGURE 4: Agricultural old field.



FIGURE 5: A bottomland hardwood forest along Coldwater Creek near bridge relocation 2-5.



FIGURE 6: An area of mixed pines and hardwoods resulting as an aftergrowth from logging operations. 9EB422 covers the area visible in picture.



FIGURE 7: A clear-cut area along bridge relocation 2-4. 9EB424 covers slope of hill in the right of the picture.

- (6) "pine plantation" --commercially planted pines on prepared sites
- (7) "old field from clear-cut pine plantation" --these areas vary from agricultural old fields in that there is different groundcover and usually better ground surface visibility (Fig. 7).

Vegetation observed by the survey crew included oak, hickory, poplar, sweetgum, and sycamore in the creek bottoms (Type 4 above). Shortleaf pines, sweetgums, and broomsedge were observed in Types 3, 5, and 7. Type 6 is usually composed of loblolly pines with grapevines and small hardwoods as understory. Comparison of the present forests with the original shows a similarity in species but changes in abundance and location of the represented species.

Trimble (1974) assigns Elbert County to his Region III (Cotton Plantation Area) of "erosive land use" (Fig. 8). This region is characterized by a high incidence of "erosive land use" between 1795 and 1860 with a moderate continuation until around 1920. After this date an agricultural decline plus the implementation of conservation measures greatly reduced the amount of erosion. Trimble blames the high incidence of erosion on the agricultural practices employed in this part of the Piedmont. Large areas of land were cleared and planted in cotton or corn. Once soils were exhausted or washed away and the fields would no longer produce a profitable harvest, new land was cleared and the process was repeated. This pattern of agricultural exhaustion and expansion occurred most often in those areas where there were large plantations. These large-scale farming operations employed large labor forces, primarily slaves prior to 1860. Rather than have this labor force idle during the winter months, new ground was cleared in anticipation of the exhaustion of existing fields and the expansion of growing areas. These policies continued in Region III and most of the southeastern United States until the 1930's. The tenant farmers and sharecroppers who worked the land after 1865 did not own their fields and therefore exploited the land much as the plantation owners did prior to the Civil War with little regard for conservation measures. Presently, logging operations contribute to the erosion of this part of Elbert County. Large areas are often clear-cut and then bulldozed and subsoiled as preparation for replanting or natural reseeding. These practices expose the soils just as earlier farming practices did.

The effect of "erosive land use" on the archeological record has been tremendous. Not only have artifacts and features near the ground surface been disturbed by the tilling of the land, but the subsequent abandonment and increased erosion (Trimble 1974) deflates soil profiles. Archeological sites occurring in these "old fields" would be greatly disturbed by this deflation. Features which did not extend well into the subsoil would be reduced or lost altogether. Occupational levels would be compressed or removed completely with all artifacts, regardless of their cultural affiliation or time of discard, being deposited into a single layer.

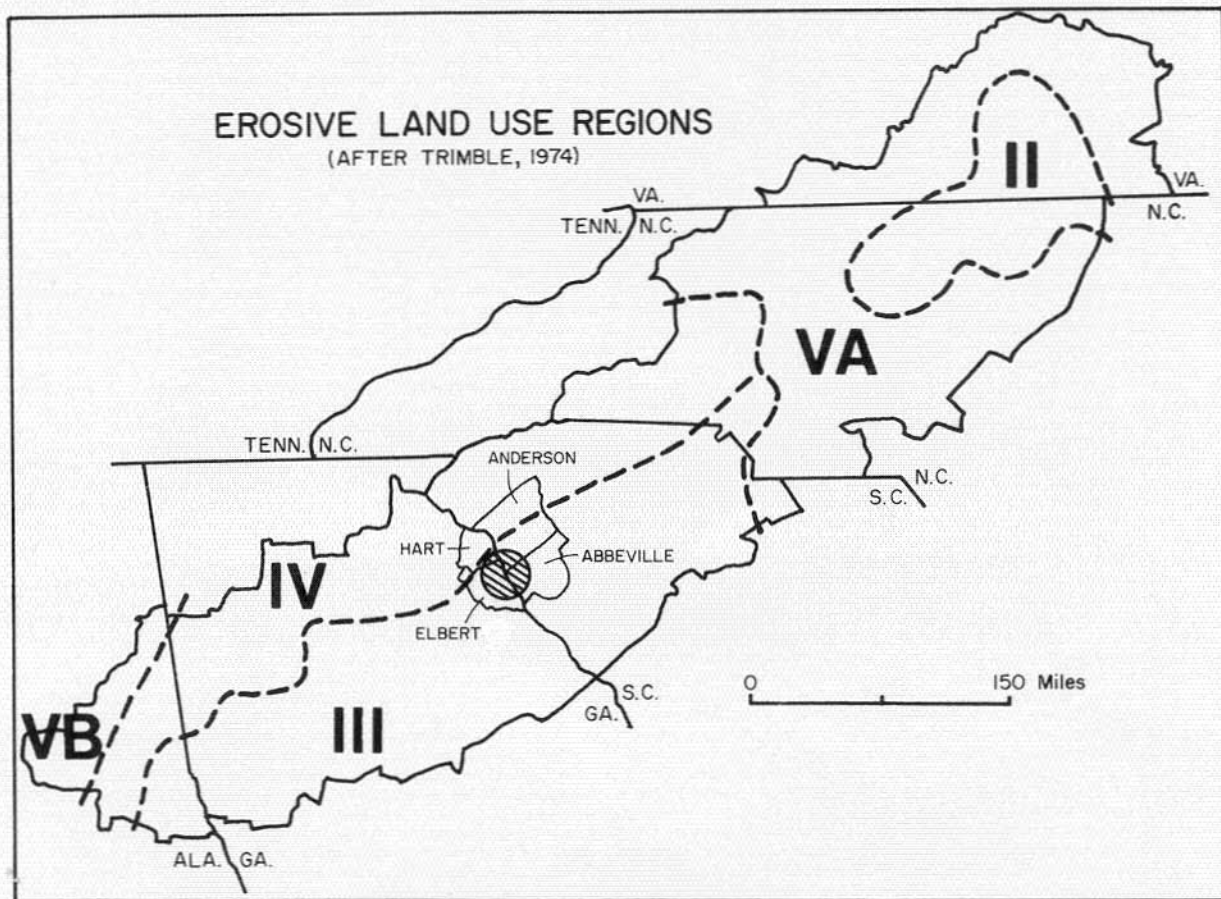


FIGURE 8: Southern states showing erosive land use regions of the Piedmont (after Trimble 1974).

Not only was soil removed from certain areas but increased deposition of the newly acquired sediments occurred in most of the Piedmont river bottoms. This deposition or aggradation not only covered once-fertile bottomland fields with poorer soils and clays but, by raising the water tables, created swamps and marshes adjacent to the rivers. This prevented the use of the floodplains for any agricultural purpose (Trimble 1974). This increased deposition could cover any archeological sites in the floodplains with much more alluvium and so, make the discovery of such sites difficult. In addition, the rising water table would create problems of preservation and hamper recovery techniques even if buried sites were discovered.

More recent land use further alters the archeological record. The most widespread and probably the most detrimental are the large-scale timbering operations presently taking place throughout eastern Elbert County. The use of heavy equipment to build access roads, to cut and handle large trees, and to transport these trees has had tremendous impact on the fragile archeological resources of the area. The clear-cutting and subsoiling not only scatters artifacts, disturbing the integrity that might have remained in the sites in these tracts, but has created the same erosional hazards prevalent before 1920.

## RECONNAISSANCE METHODS

The objective of this reconnaissance was to examine for archeological resources six proposed areas for the relocation of bridges which will be impacted by the proposed Richard B. Russell Reservoir. The research strategy was designed to determine presence or absence of archeological sites and, if present, to determine the character, extent, and significance of the sites, as well as the nature of potential impact to them from road relocation. Before field work began early maps showing the project areas were checked; no sites within or near the impact zones were indicated. In addition, no sites were listed for the areas as included or as eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. Consultation with the Georgia State Historic Preservation Officer indicated two sites within the project areas were under consideration for nomination to the National Register. These are 9EB201 and 9EB247 and are discussed in the next section.

Information from previous archeological work done in the reservoir area and the South Carolina and Georgia Piedmont in general (Taylor and Smith 1978; Goodyear 1978; House and Ballenger 1976; Hemmings 1970) indicated strong possibilities for site occurrence and was valuable for determining areas with high site potential along the proposed rights-of-way. A predictive model of site occurrence, based on the assumption that prehistoric populations occupied an area for the purpose of exploiting the resources at or near that locality was utilized.

Areas which provide the greatest number of potential exploitable resources over the longest period of time are considered to be optimal resource exploitation areas. These optimal exploitation areas are usually found in or near the floodplains of large rivers or streams. From such an area an aboriginal community could gather in season anadromous fishes, mussels, wild seeds and fruits, large and small game, as well as migratory waterfowl. These resources were potentially available from mid-winter, through spring and summer, to mid-autumn.

Thus, it would be expected that large sites probably representing spring-summer base camps, would be found in or along the major river drainages where the most abundant exploitable resources occur. Previous work (Taylor and Smith 1978; House and Ballenger 1976; Goodyear 1978), has shown that Woodland and Mississippian sites are largely confined to this riverine location. Large Archaic sites in the Piedmont region are often located in the upland areas overlooking major drainages such as the Savannah River, while more numerous, smaller Archaic sites are to be found in upland areas near smaller tributaries. It was expected that small Archaic sites would be the most common site type located in the upland areas of the bridge relocations. Early colonial land use in the Piedmont of South Carolina and Georgia was largely focused on agriculture, particularly on the bottomland soils of the major drainages. As population increased during the cotton boom of the early-mid 1800's, agriculture and settlement expanded into the upland areas (House and Ballenger 1976; Goodyear 1978). Early colonial mills were also

established along the streams and rivers. Either of these types of historical sites could be expected in the areas surveyed.

The research strategy was designed to utilize the most cost-effective methods for realizing the project goals. These methods consisted of (1) gathering information from records of previous research done in the R. B. Russell reservoir area and Piedmont in general; (2) talking to residents of the area to elicit information of possible sites and; (3) visiting each bridge relocation site for an on the ground reconnaissance survey of the areas. This field inspection consisted of a ground surface examination where possible and, in areas where ground visibility was poor due to dense vegetation, excavation of 30 cm square subsurface test pits (Fig. 9). The center line of each bridge relocation was examined in this manner, plus an area extending approximately 20 m to either side of the center line of the rights-of-way. In addition to these areas, the road cuts at each relocation site were examined for exposed artifacts. The locations of recovered artifacts were recorded and photographs and maps were made of the areas to be impacted. Analysis of artifacts collected was conducted in the laboratory at the Institute of Archeology and Anthropology. Artifacts, notes, and other data will be curated at the Institute of Archeology and Anthropology.



FIGURE 9: A view of a 30 cm test being excavated along bridge relocation 2-5.

## RESULTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

### Introduction And Significance Assessment

In this section descriptions are presented of archeological and historic sites located in the project areas. Assessments of the significance of these sites are also presented, and recommendations for their future management are included. As none of the sites in the project areas appear to exhibit unique or distinctive craftsmanship or architecture or to be related to historically significant persons or events, assessments of significance in this study are made on the basis of the potential scientific contribution of the sites to current and future historic and prehistoric research.

Current research in Piedmont archeology is concerned primarily with understanding past settlement subsistence systems. This research involves the following general questions:

- 1) What sizes and composition of human groups existed at different times?
- 2) In what microenvironments were camps, villages, and other types of sites located?
- 3) What natural resources were exploited, to what extent and with what technology through time?
- 4) What differences in subsistence strategies were exhibited during different seasons of the year?
- 5) Are there regularities or patterns present that will aid in understanding general evolutionary processes?

To address these questions, of course, it must be possible to accurately date the sites being studied. Sites with large numbers of temporally distinct artifacts or with stratigraphic sequences are thus very important.

Most sites can provide at least some information relevant to the above five questions. Although larger sites with higher artifact densities may contain more information, small, low-density sites can also be important because they may inform on important segments of the settlement-subsistence system under study. For the southeastern Piedmont the most important single criterion for significance at this stage of our knowledge is site preservation. Most archeological sites in the Piedmont have been so disturbed by natural forces and historic land use patterns that there is little chance that data representative of past activities can be recovered. As a general rule, presence of soil at an archeological site indicates strong potential for relatively undisturbed deposits, including possible architectural features, storage pits, and original patterns of artifact distribution and use.



In general, if preservation at an archeological site is good, the site is evaluated as significant and as having potential for further study. This further study, however, may vary widely in scope, from one or two days of detailed inspection to major excavations lasting several months. If possible, avoidance of impact and continued preservation is recommended for most significant sites. Their research potential is almost certain to increase as archeological methods and techniques become better developed and as new and more detailed questions are formulated.

### Site Descriptions

9EB201. This site is an historic mill community located by the Richard B. Russell Survey crew during the summer of 1977. The site extends 500 by 150 meters along the Beaverdam Creek bottoms and adjacent terraces and is located in the direct path of road relocation 2-1 over Beaverdam Creek (Fig. 1). The present reconnaissance located the remains of one additional house, destroyed in 1972 (Fig. 10). The house was built around 1900 for the director of the Pearl Mill and was later used by the Chandler family who presently own the land. 9EB201 occupies both the bottomland and the terraces overlooking Beaverdam Creek. The terraces and knolls above the bottomland are eroded down to the red saprolite. The bottomland soil is Wilkes sandy loam. The area is vegetated in hardwoods along with thick bottomland vegetation such as poison ivy, vines, and honeysuckle.

9EB201 has been the location for many historic occupations and uses (Fig. 11). It is the site of a post-Revolutionary village and later a mill that burned down shortly before the Civil War. Contemporary with the village was the Washington Road, which ran between Rosehill and Tuckers Ferry. The road ran parallel to the existing road, County route 245, and was complete with a covered bridge.

In the same area there was also a tavern. It is uncertain as to whether the tavern was located in the nearby, still standing Beverley Allen House, or whether it was in a building closer to Beaverdam Creek. Further historic research and perhaps, archeological testing will have to be done before this problem can be solved.

The only structure still standing at the site is a portion of the original Pearl Mill. The mill has two large buttresses on each bank of the creek. An examination of the creek indicated that at one time timbers spanned the entire length of the dam. The mill burned before the Civil War and was rebuilt upstream after the war was over.

9EB201 appears to be eligible for the National Register because of its potential contribution to studies of early industrial technology and organization in a rural setting. Complete documentation and detailed justification of this recommendation are presented in the report of archeological survey in the Russell Reservoir (Taylor and Smith 1978).



FIGURE 10: Remains of house located during the survey at 9EB201.

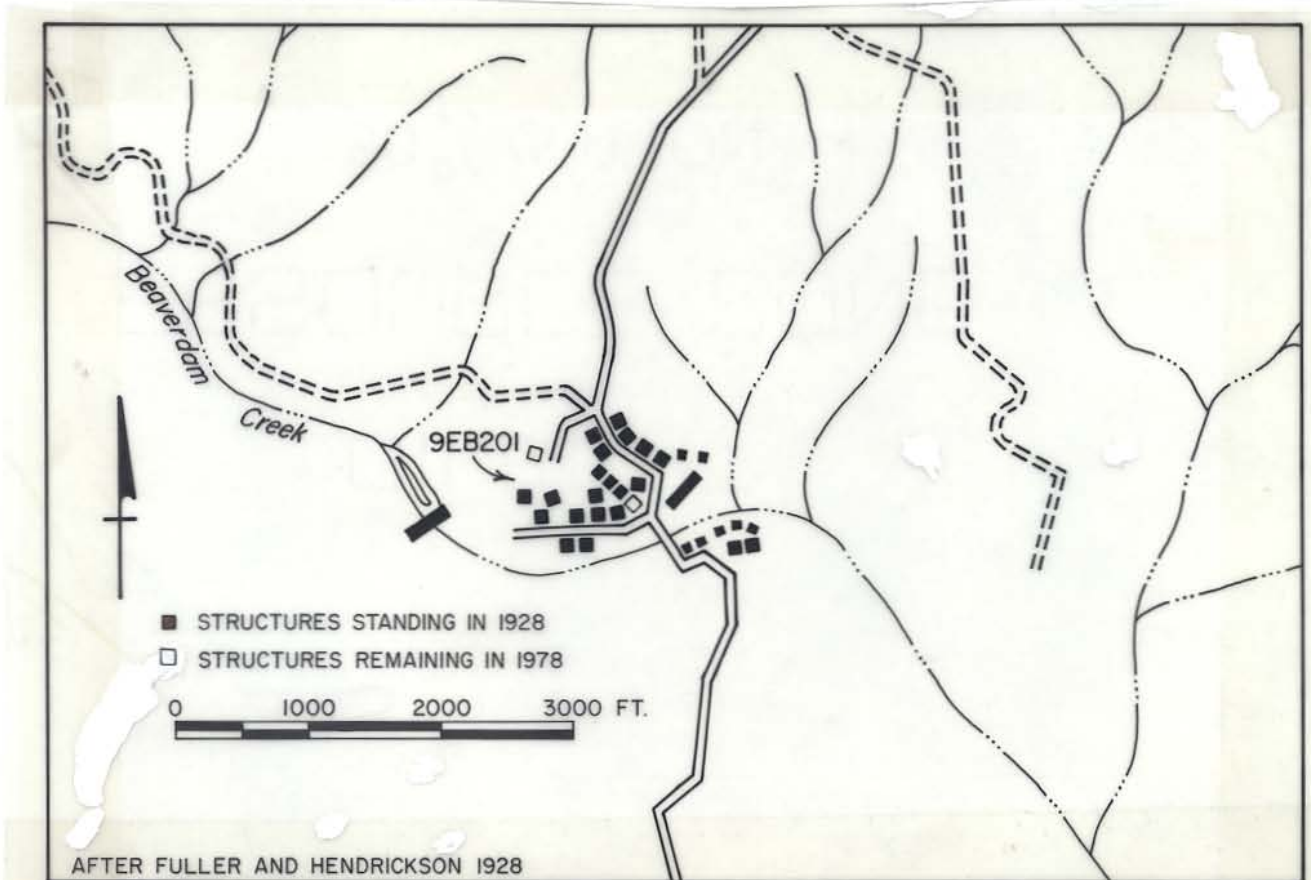


FIGURE 11: Map of area around 9EB201 showing structures standing in 1928 and those standing presently (after Fuller and Hendrickson 1928).

As destruction of the site by inundation probably cannot be avoided, it is recommended that a detailed study of the site be undertaken to recover important information. This detailed study should be accomplished, at least in part, before road relocation work begins.

9EB421. This site is a small unidentified prehistoric site located in the direct path of road relocation 2-2 (Fig. 1). It is situated on a small knoll at an elevation of 520 feet about 1/4 of a mile northwest of Beaverdam Creek (Fig. 3). The knoll and lowlying land around it are presently used as pasture; however, the area was terraced when the land was under cultivation. The soil is a brown clayey sand over a red clay which has a large amount of residual quartz in it.

An attempt was made to collect the entire surface of the site. Artifacts were sparsely scattered over a 30 by 40 meter area of the knoll. The collection consisted of one chunk and 7 flakes, all made of locally available quartz. The site probably represents a small, temporary camp or extractive station, occupied possibly during the Archaic period. The site is considered to have little potential for further study and is not recommended for additional work.

9EB422. This is an Early Archaic site located in path of the bridge and road relocation 2-3 (Fig. 1). The site is situated on a ridgetop at an elevation of 530 feet. The ridgetop is 650 meters southeast of an unnamed tributary flowing into the Savannah River, which is 1.75 miles east of the site.

Artifacts were collected from a 50 by 40 meter area along the ridgetop and slope. Quartz flakes, chunks, and bifaces were collected. The collection area was divided into three separate proveniences, assigned according to distinct elevation changes. It is uncertain as to whether these three proveniences are representative of different occupations. One Coastal Plain chert Palmer point was found at the site. The site probably represents a small camp or extractive station, or a succession of these, during the Early Archaic.

The entire site area has been subjected to recent logging operations and is forested in small pines and hardwoods (Fig. 6). The ground visibility is good; very little vegetation has taken hold since the area was clear-cut. The soil at this site has eroded completely away leaving a surface of red clay. Because of its highly disturbed state and the fact that all visible artifacts were collected, the site appears to have little potential for providing additional information. No further work is recommended.

9EB423. This is an unidentified prehistoric site, probably a small campsite, located in the direct path of road relocation 2-4 (Fig. 1). The site is situated on a ridgetop overlooking the north side of the south fork of Van Creek. The area is presently being used as a pine plantation and has been heavily impacted by logging operations and road cuts (Fig. 12).

A surface collection was made and four 30 cm square test pits were excavated at the site. Artifacts were collected from a 30 by 75 meter area. The collection consisted of one prehistoric sherd, 2 quartz biface



FIGURE 12: A view of 9EB423 looking east, showing results of logging operations.



FIGURE 13: A view of 9EB425.

fragments, and quartz and Coastal Plain chert flakes. In test pit 1 the first 7 cm of soil was a brown sandy loam; 7-20 cm was a brown sand; and below 20 cm was red clay, with quartz flakes being recovered from the upper 20 cm. There were no artifacts found in the second test pit. The soil in the second pit was 17 cm of brown sand overlying red clay. Test pit 3 contained 15 cm of brown sand overlying red clay. In test pit 3 a quartz biface and one quartz chunk were found. Test pit 4 contained only 12 cm of brown sand overlying red clay. One chert flake was recovered from this test pit.

The site was heavily disturbed by logging activities. Many portions of the ridgenose had the soil stripped completely from it. The fact that this ridgenose has soil on it at all, however, means that it could provide significant information concerning artifact distribution and possibly preserved features. This potential is rare for prehistoric sites in the Piedmont. The site is tentatively recommended as eligible for the National Register, and additional test pitting perhaps involving several one or two meter squares is advised to aid in this determination.

9EB424. This is an unidentified prehistoric site which was discovered while surveying the right-of-way of the bridge relocation 2-4 (Fig. 1). ~~The site is at an elevation of 550 feet and is situated on a~~ ridge slope overlooking Van's Creek. The site has been severely disturbed by logging activities and subsequent erosion (Fig. 7). There is no soil left; artifacts were found on top of the red clay surface. Timbering trash piles have been bulldozed into the center of the clear-cut area, and if there was soil present before this, all remnants were then removed. Quartz chunks, bifaces, and unifaces represent the prehistoric component, possibly a temporary camp and 19th century ceramics represent an historic component of uncertain function. Because of its near complete disturbance and the complete collection made, the site has little potential and is not recommended for further work.

9EB425. This is an unidentified prehistoric site that probably represents two periods of limited, temporary occupations. One slate flake and 11 quartz flakes were found on the surface. Six bifaces and biface fragments were also found, two of which have been tentatively assigned to Archaic period phases. One biface exhibits the flaking technology of a Guilford point, and the other biface fragment appears to have flaking technology characteristic of Savannah River phase knives or points. The fact that there was no pottery found also suggests an Archaic occupation.

The site is located at an elevation of 500 feet on a ridge nose overlooking the south side of Coldwater Creek in the path of relocation 2-5 (Figs. 1, 13). The area is severely eroded, although there is about 10 cm of brown sand overlying red clay in a limited area on top of the ridge. The presence of soil indicates potential for recovering significant information from this limited area at 9EB425. Excavation of several test squares in this area is recommended.



FIGURE 14: A view of 9EB426.



FIGURE 15: A view of 9EB427.

9EB426. This is a Middle Archaic site discovered in a plowed field on a broad terrace while surveying road relocation 2-2 (Fig. 1). The site occurs at an elevation of 510 feet and a distance of 2500 feet northeast of the Beaverdam Creek. All that was found at this site (Fig. 14) was one quartz Morrow Mountain point, and although the area will be disturbed by road construction, no further work is recommended.

9EB427. This site is an historic home site located in the direct path of road relocation 2-2 (Fig. 1). The structure is situated on a ridge slope on the south side of Beaverdam Creek at the elevation of 490 feet. 9EB427, known locally as the Grogan-Eureka House, is presently being considered for nomination to the National Register. The Corps of Engineers, Savannah District, has asked the Georgia State Historic Preservation Officer to review this building and to assess its eligibility. The Grogan-Eureka House is a large, three-storied frame farm house. It has fallen into disrepair and is partially obscured by vegetation (Fig. 15). Located on the northwest corner of the house is a stone lined well that extends to a depth of approximately 30 feet. No outbuildings are now apparent although they may have once existed. The site is potentially eligible for the National Register and should be researched in detail before disturbance by construction.

### Conclusions

Eight prehistoric and historic archeological sites are located in areas to be impacted by the six road relocation projects in Elbert County, Georgia. Four of these sites may be eligible for the National Register; detailed study of 9EB201, an historic mill complex, and 9EB427 an historic home site, are recommended. The Corps of Engineers, Savannah District is aware of these two sites and their possible importance. Two additional sites, both small, prehistoric camps, are recommended for further testing to determine their eligibility. Performance of such testing was not possible during this limited reconnaissance project, although it probably could be accomplished in less than 1 week of field time and 3 weeks of laboratory time, employing an archeologist and an assistant. Four sites discovered during the reconnaissance are probably not eligible for the National Register. No further work is recommended for these four sites. A summary of sites found and recommendations for them is presented in Table 1. All road relocation areas except 2-6 (Fig. 1) contained at least one archeological site; areas 2-1, 2-2, 2-4, and 2-5 should involve further consideration of cultural resources before construction begins. It is felt that field methods were of such intensity that further survey for as yet undiscovered sites is not warranted.

TABLE 1

## SUMMARY DATA ON SITES LOCATED

Site Number	Site Type	National Register Eligibility	Recommendation	Relocation Number
9EB201	Historic Mill Complex	Probably Eligible	Detailed Study	2-1
9EB421 U	Unidentified Lithic Scatter	Not Eligible	No Further Work	2-2
9EB422	Early Archaic Camp	Not Eligible	No Further Work	2-3
9EB423	Unidentified Lithic Scatter	Possibly Eligible	Test Excavations	2-4
9EB424	Unidentified Lithic Scatter	Not Eligible	No Further Work	2-4
9EB425	Middle, Late Archaic Camp	Possibly Eligible	Test Excavations	2-5
9EB426	Middle Archaic Camp	Not Eligible	No Further Work	2-2
9EB427	Historic Home	Probably Eligible	Detailed Study	2-2



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