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AN ARCHEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF THE SOUTH
CAROLINA ELECTRIC AND GAS COMPANY'S PROPOSED
CALHOUN FALLS-HART 115 KV TRANSMISSION LINE FROM
CALHOUN FALLS TO SAVANNAH RIVER

by

John D. Combes,
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Research Manuscript Series, No. 40

Prepared by the
INSTITUTE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND ANTHROPOLOGY
UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA
April, 1973

Introduction

The Institute of Archeology and Anthropology undertook an archeological survey of the South Carolina Electric and Gas Company's proposed 115,000 volt overhead transmission line from an existing sub-station in Calhoun Falls to a point south of the proposed Trotter Shoals Dam Site. The Company in compliance with federal regulations requested that this be done in order that an Environmental Impact Statement regarding historic and archeological places of significance could be made concerning the proposed area. The project is about four and one-half miles long and involves an estimated 52 acres of land, most of which is wooded.

When approached by the South Carolina Electric and Gas Company concerning this area nothing specific could be said about the existence of historic, prehistoric or paleontological sites. A search had never been made, however, knowledge of the general surrounding region pointed up the presence of human habitation for as far back as 10,000 years ago. It was in view of this lack of data regarding this project area that the survey was proposed.

The Survey

The survey for historic, prehistoric 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 April 10, 11 and 12 by members of the Institute staff under the direction of the writer. At the time of the reconnaissance the line had just been surveyed and a site line had been cut through the entire length of the right of way. Only a little more than one acre of the estimated 52 acres was cleared with the remaining being heavily wooded. Special emphasis was placed on areas that were exposed by old road cuts, road beds, erosional cuts and sluffs. Wooded areas were carefully inspected for visual remains and in many instances it was necessary to scrape off ground cover to observe the soil.

There were at least four small branches that were traversed along the line and no major streams other than Coffey Creek located near its confluence with the waters of the Clark Hill Reservoir. None of these stream crossing areas were well suited for an archeological site. Vertical relief encountered along the line of interest was almost 220 feet varying in elevation from 350 feet at the crossing point to around 570 feet MSL near the town of Calhoun Falls.

Conclusions and Recommendations

The detailed survey of the proposed overhead transmission line located 11 archeological sites on the right of way. No significant historic sites, trails or events were discovered in the area of interest nor were there any paleontological sites revealed. The sites recovered were all of the same archeological tradition - the archaic period. This type habitation site is frequently found on ridges and slopes in this part of the southeastern United States. These sites seem to cover a time span of from about 6,500 to 3,500 BC and are characterized by evidence of quartz knapping and represents a well known pattern of

forest nomadism which includes the procurement and processing of plant food as well as a significant hunting activity involving small game.

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

Long-time Calhoun Falls resident, Mr. H. L. Carlisle

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 Archeological Sites 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 South Carolina Electric and Gas Company's power transmission line.

It is recommended that these prehistoric site locations be disturbed as little as possible. Normal right of way clearing operations and the setting of poles will not damage these sites significantly. If, however, burying of any slash piles, etc., is undertaken the site locations should be avoided at all costs. Enclosed in the back cover is an overlay of the proposed line pinpointing the areas to be avoided for burying or heavy disturbance.

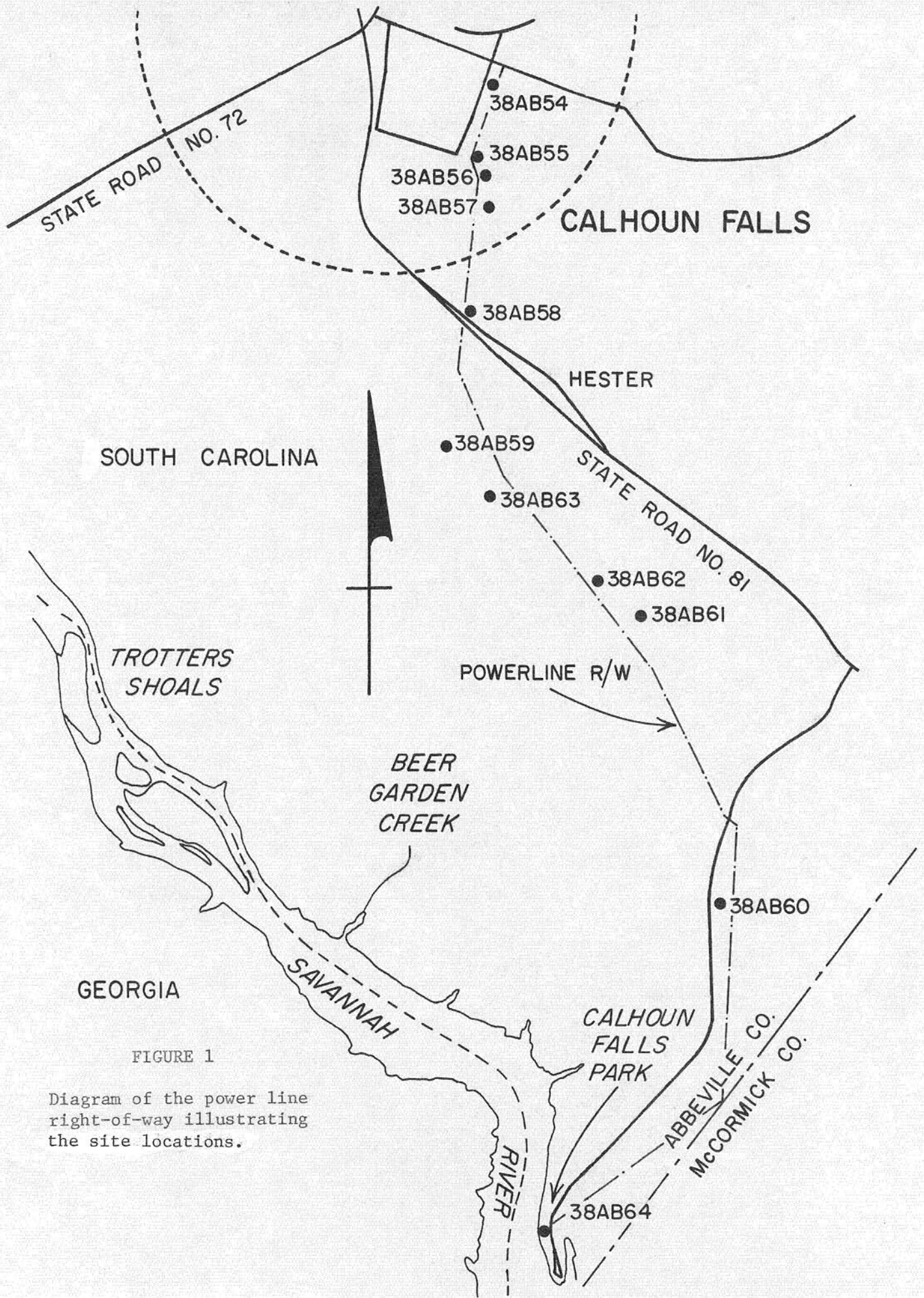


FIGURE 1

Diagram of the power line right-of-way illustrating the site locations.