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REEDY RIVER FREEWAY

by

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Prepared by the
INSTITUTE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND ANTHROPOLOGY
UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA
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INTRODUCTION

On October 1st and 2nd, 1973 the Institute of Archeology and Anthropology undertook an archeological survey of the South Carolina Department of Highway's proposed Reedy River Freeway in Greenville, South Carolina. The right-of-way starts a little north of Route 87 (Sulpher Springs Road) paralleling the Reedy River on the west side until it reaches the vicinity of South Carolina Route 183 at which time it crosses the river and proceeds Southeast to approximately Labruce and Hampton Streets (See Fig. 1). There are major interchanges proposed for three locations: (a) Route 87, (b) S.C. 253, and (c) S.C. 183. There is also a river crossing near S.C. 183 along with a river channel change and three railroad crossings. Almost 2/3 of the study area consists of undeveloped land along the flood plain of the Reedy River. The remaining 1/3 is developed land being, for the most part, an older residential area. The purpose of this survey was to inspect the area in order to locate and record any historic or prehistoric archeological sites which could be damaged or possibly destroyed by the highway construction activities, and to make recommendations for preserving sites of significant value.

This survey was conducted as a joint project sponsored by the South Carolina Department of Highways and carried out by the Institute of Archeology and Anthropology at the University of South Carolina. It was initiated to provide an Environmental Impact Statement covering the prehistoric and historic archeological resources of the area.

THE SURVEY

The method employed in gathering the information for this survey consisted of a general surface search of the entire area in the proposed right-of-way. This was accomplished by an archeological survey on foot covering the proposed area to be altered. Special attention was given to high probability areas. In general, the flood plain bordering the Reedy River in that section isn't well suited for human habitation because of the swampy nature of the region. The hillside areas included in the construction plans also provided few spaces for habitation purposes.

HISTORICAL AGENCIES CONSULTED

As a regular part of the Environmental Impact Statement preparation, the state and local historical agencies concerned with the area are normally consulted. The Highway Department has already contacted these agencies, however, the Institute did make contact with Mr. Joseph H. Earle, Jr. President of the Greenville County Historical Society and Mr. Randal Haithcock of the Appalachian Council of Governments located in Greenville. Mr. Haithcock knew only of a Victorian style house in jeopardy but it is the understanding of the Institute of Archeology and Anthropology that the Highway Department has already had communication, concerning this structure, with the office of the State Liaison Officer. The sources consulted were:

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

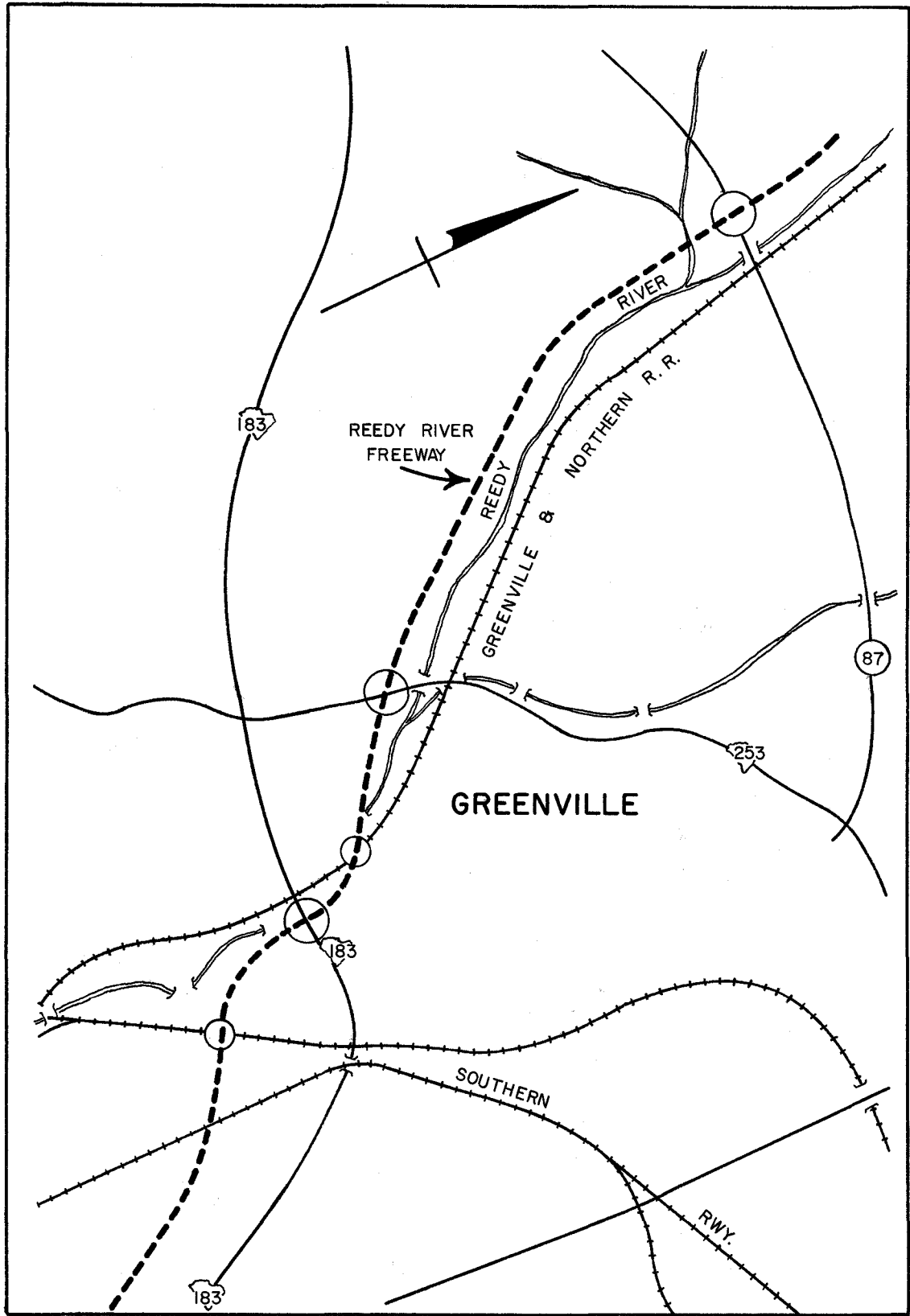
Environmental Reconnaissance Inventory of the Charleston District.
Prepared by the United States Army Corps of Engineers, 1972.
(Provisional)

The Archeological 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 right-of-way.

CONCLUSION

The information gathered by this survey indicates that the proposed right-of-way is free of any known archeological sites. A surface archeological survey may miss subsurface site locations. It is recommended that the Institute be kept informed of construction progress when the project is approved. If any material is located or uncovered during actual construction activities the Institute of Archeology and Anthropology should be notified immediately.



REEDY RIVER FREEWAY PROJECT

Figure 1