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by

Susan Jackson

Research Manuscript Series No. 80

This project has been partially funded with assistance from the National Park Service, Department of the Interior, under the provisions of the National Historic Preservation Act, through the South Carolina Department of Archives and History.

Prepared by the
INSTITUTE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND ANTHROPOLOGY
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INTRODUCTION

To meet new federal effluent and water quality standards and to expand service based on predictions of growth and development in the Belmont, Conestee and Mauldin areas of Greenville County, South Carolina, new sewage treatment facilities and sewer lines are being planned and developed. Two interceptor sewers are currently being proposed:

> ...the two projects [C450306-Lower Laurel Creek interceptor sewer and C450294-Lower Reedy River-Belmont Conestee sewer] are for the construction of two major trunk systems. Project 306 will be 11,000 L.F. of 30 inch trunkline extending from the west Mauldin Lagoon down Laurel Creek to its confluence with the Reedy River. Project 294 will be 9,100 L.F. of 24 and 30 inch trunkline from Conestee (near the confluence of Laurel Creek and Reedy River) down the Reedy River to Ashmore Bridge Road. The construction of both projects will serve to remove three existing discharges (estimated 200,000 GPD) from Laurel Creek and will provide trunk service to Conestee... (Enwright Associates,report on file,Enwright Associates, Greenville).

On August 4, 1975 Enwright Associates, engineers of the project, requested that the Institute of Archeology and Anthropology perform an archeological survey of the two sewer lines in order that the archeological resources of the area could be evaluated and proposals for mitigation of the project be set forth. Field survey was undertaken September 2-3, 1975 by Susan Jackson of the Institute.

THE AREA

The survey area lies well within the Southern Piedmont Land Resources Area of South Carolina (Corps of Engineers 1972). Generally the topography of the Piedmont consists of gently sloping to steeply sloping ridges disseeted by narrow stream valleys. Climate is moderate with an average annual

precipitation of 44-60 inches. The area included in the survey immediately south of Greenville fits well into the Piedmont description.

Laurel Creek, a small tributary of the Reedy River, flows through a very narrow, steeply sloping valley at its confluence with the river. The valley gradually widens and slope diminishes upstream to the Mauldin B sewage treatment pond, the end point of the survey. Reedy River flows through generally narrow, steeply sloping confines from the Ashmore Bridge Road to its juncture with Laurel Creek. In large, the sewer lines are to be laid on the sides of the steep ridges although they will be elevated at certain points across annually flooded bottom land and will in some cases cut through the tops of ridges.

At present most of the land in the survey is heavily wooded, with some small portion in pasture. Predictions for growth indicate however that by 1990 a large portion of the area will be developed for residential or commercial purposes. As secondary environmental impact of the installation of the sewer lines, the rate of development in the area is expected to be increased.

DOCUMENT SEARCH

Site files at the Institute of Archeology and Anthropology were checked to determine if any previously recorded archeological sites were known from the area to be surveyed or the surrounding areas. There were no sites recorded along the sewer line right-of-way, and only one, 38GR23- The McBee Methodist Church in Conestee, recorded in the immediate surrounding area.

The Greenville District map of Mills' Atlas of South Carolina (1965) prepared between 1820 and 1825, shows one site in the general area of survey, Carruth's Armory which produced guns for the War of 1812. This site, off

S.C. 107 is out side of the area of immediate impact of the proposed sewers. John Califf of the South Carolina Department of Archives and History reported no other sites in the impact area. The report of the Appalachian Regional Planning Commission also indicated that there were no sites in the sewer right of way.

THE SURVEY

The field survey of the proposed sewer lines consisted of walking over the surveyed centerline and right of way and inspecting any exposed and unwooded areas. Stream banks and eroding gullies were profiled and at selected locations, those which based on previous archeological work in the Piedmont seemed to hold the greatest promise of disclosing buried sites, small test pits were dug. As has been noted numerous times in the past, a surface survey of heavily wooded and densely covered areas is not the most effective method for evaluating either the archeological resources of an area or for evaluating the impact of a proposed project on those resources (Hemmings 1970; Hutto 1970; Bianchi 1974, 1975; Hartly 1975; Jackson 1975). In the Piedmont of South Carolina the problem is particularly critical because there is at this time little concrete knowledge of the prehistory of the area. The primary source of information about man's past in the Piedmont of this state is the Environmental Impact Survey which is invariably accomplished under less than optimum conditions. One other environmental impact statement concerning the archeological resources of the Greenville area has been prepared by the Institute of Archeology (Combes 1973). Survey of the Reedy River Freeway in 1973 revealed no archeological sites in the highway corridor.

One site was located during the present survey. The Mauldin B Site (38GR30) on the west side of the Mauldin B treatment pond (Fig. 1) was seen on the eroding side of a hill which had been cut back for the excavation of the treatment pond. Collected from this site was a large amount of quartz debitage and three quartz bifaces. Indications are that this site consists of a surface scatter on the red clay, probably originating on the top of the ridge, as the material is presently eroding to the foot of the slope. No temporally diagnostic artifacts were seen at the site, however, it is an assemblage of lithic materials typically associated with Archaic period sites in the Piedmont. This site occured at one of the few points along the sewer lines at which any hard stone, suitable for working into tools was seen. The surveyed plans for the sewer did note, however, several other outcrops along the routes that were not visible during the archeological survey because of heavy ground cover.

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Although only one archeological site was located during the survey, it is apparent that there exists the potential for locating other sites in the area after portions of the sewer route are cleared and excavation of the ditch is begun. Because of this, it is felt that the situation warrants further analysis. It is proposed that mitigation of this project take the form of five day's observation as the sewer is being excavated. This would serve as archeological testing of selected portions of the ditch and the program would not delay the construction of the sewer. It would however present the opportunity to gain badly needed information about the nature of buried sites in the Piedmont at minimum cost.

Due to the time factor, no further mitigation of this project would be involved. This program would be coordinated with the construction of the sewer. Required of the contracter, would be a time-table of construction and set of plans of the sewer. This would enable the Institute to determine in advance which areas of the sewer should be investigated. This determination would be based on previous archeological work in the Piedmont and geological consulting. The cost of the project would cover five days of on site inspection at $200 per day, bringing the total cost to $1000.

The direct value of the proposed project is that it will facilitate the retrieval of a large amount of information at a minimum of cost with no delay in the construction of the sewer. Currently, there are plans for construction of other sewer and waste disposal facilities in the area. The information gained from the proposed mitigation of the Lower Reedy River-Belmont Conestee and Lower Laurel Creek Interceptor sewers will enable the Institute to more efficiently survey and evaluate the archeological resources of this portion of the Piedmont.

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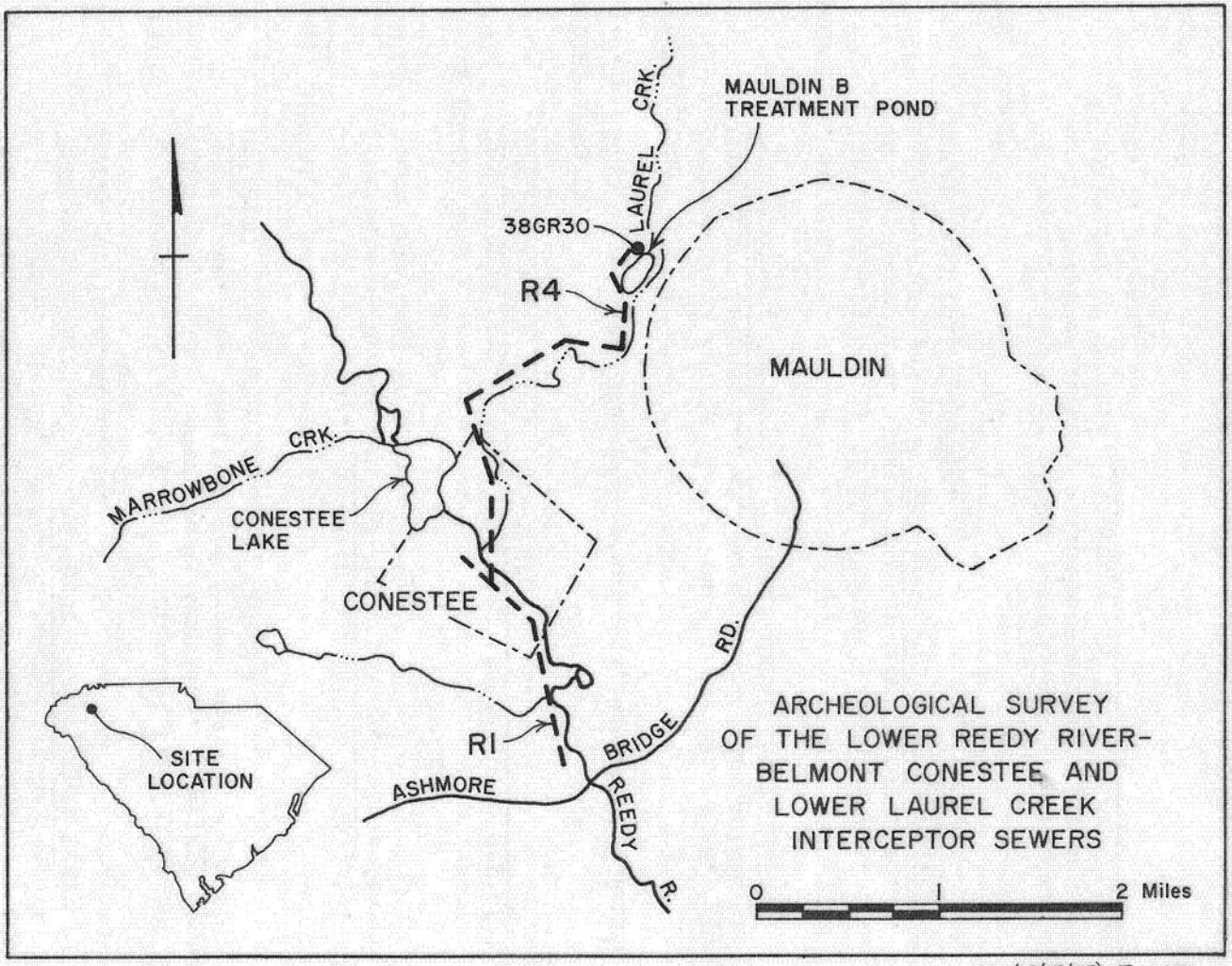

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