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Robert L. Stephenson

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AN ARCHEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF
THE COLUMBIA METROPOLITAN AIRPORT
PROPOSED PARKING FACILITIES

by

Robert L. Stephenson
Research Manuscript Series No. 92

Prepared by the
INSTITUTE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND ANTHROPOLOGY
UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA
May, 1976

AN ARCHEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF
THE COLUMBIA METROPOLITAN AIRPORT
PROPOSED PARKING FACILITIES

by Robert L. Stephenson

On May 12, 1976 I made an archeological inspection of the area to be affected by the proposed enlargement of the parking facilities at the Columbia Metropolitan Airport, Lexington County, South Carolina. This project was requested in April 1976 by representatives of Wilbur Smith and Associates.

Approximately four hours of on-the-ground inspection was accomplished. This consisted of walking over the entire area and inspecting all exposed surfaces (Figure 1). This area is almost entirely under sod but the dry weather has desicated the grass so that the ground shows through in most places. Road cuts, ditches, cut banks, eroded area, and areas near trees were especially well exposed. Areas that had been built up previously, such as around the fountain, and areas that had obviously been cut down, such as along the exit road from the terminal, were not carefully examined. These areas would be of little service in providing archeological sites or material. An especially good cut bank was exposed along the northeast edge of the area.

The site of the proposed parking area is largely sod-covered and relatively level. The soil is a tan, sand cap over a hardpan of orange, sandy-clay. In undisturbed parts of the area a humic soil has formed in the tan sand.

Abundant artifacts were noted, especially along the northeastern edge of the area, but sporadically throughout the area. Numerous non-artifact pebbles were also seen. None of the latter gave any indication of having been used by man except those that have resulted from gravel crushing

machinery. All of the artifacts noted appear to be of the Age of Plastics and are of no concern to archeological research. No specimens of the Pleistocene Period or of any prehistoric phase of the Holocene were located. One might say that these artifacts, instead, belong to the Plastic Scene.

There are, therefore no objections, on archeological or historical grounds, for the proposed Parking Facilities Improvement Project proceeding as planned.

The Institute of Archeology and Anthropology, University of South Carolina was able to undertake this survey incidental to other work and at no cost to the sponsor; Wilbur Smith and Associates. It is again, as always, a pleasure to work with this company.

May 12, 1976

PHASE II CONSTRUCTION
COLUMBIA METROPOLITAN AIRPORT

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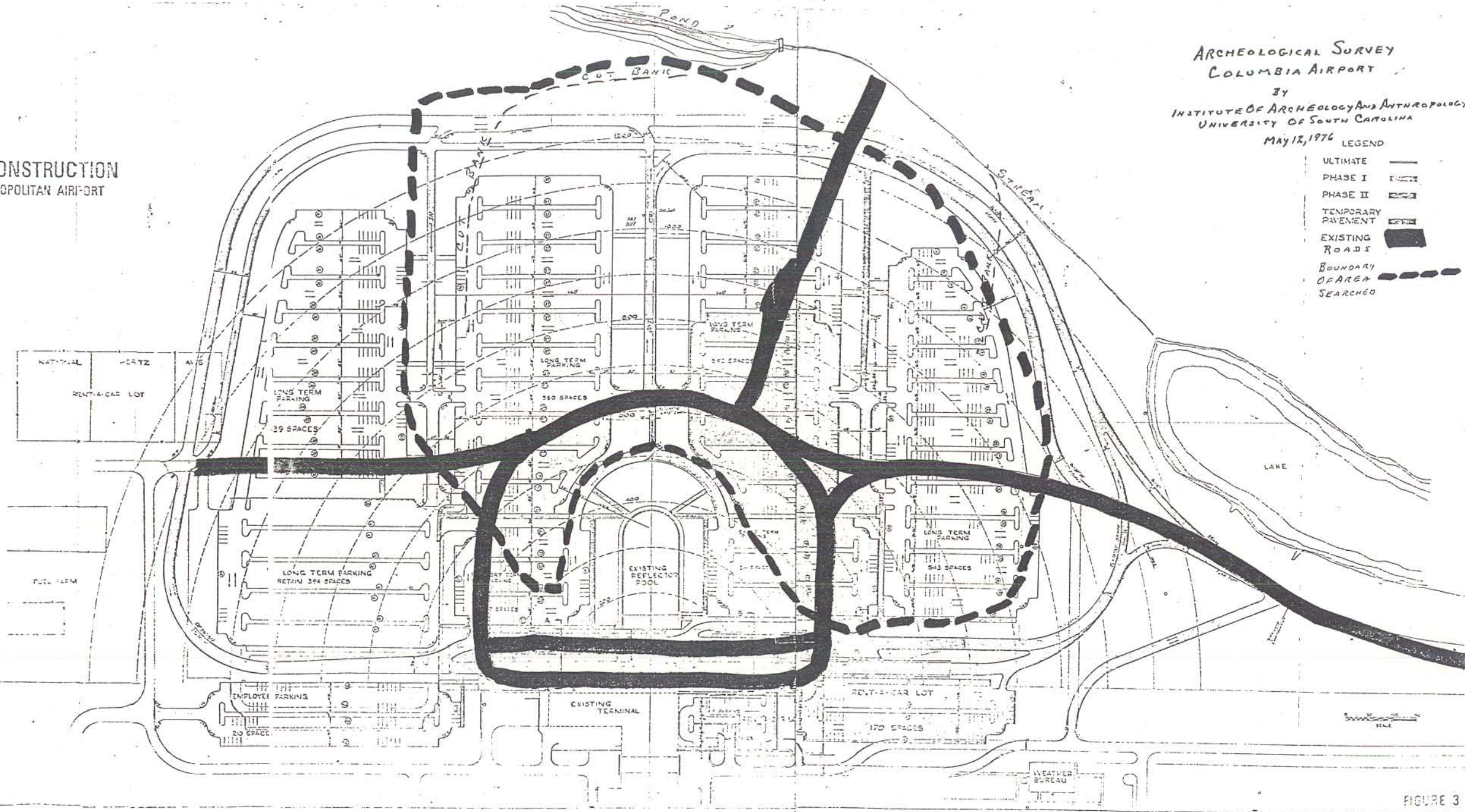


FIGURE 3