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# Archeological Survey of Duke Power Company's Proposed Bad Creek Pumped Storage Project

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ARCHEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF DUKE POWER  
COMPANY'S PROPOSED BAD CREEK PUMPED  
STORAGE PROJECT

by

John D. Combes  
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Prepared by the  
INSTITUTE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND ANTHROPOLOGY  
UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA  
October, 1973

## INTRODUCTION

On October 2 and 3, 1973 the Institute of Archeology and Anthropology undertook an archeological survey of the Duke Power Company's Proposed Bad Creek Pumped Storage Project. It is located in northwest South Carolina in the upper end of the Savannah River basin in Oconee County (see Fig. 1). The proposed Bad Creek Reservoir will be the "upper reservoir" and Lake Jocassee the "lower reservoir" for the pumped storage purposes. The reservoir at full stage will be 2,310 feet above MSL, and the surface when full will be 365 acres. Maximum draw-down will be 160 feet to the 2,150 feet elevation. There will be three earthen dams constructed: a) the main dam requiring 11,700,000 cubic yards of fill across Bad Creek, b) the west dam requiring 900,000 cubic yards of fill across West Bad Creek, and c) the east dam requiring 275,000 cubic yards of fill in a saddle on the east side. This requires, then, almost 13,000,000 cubic yards of fill material with as much as possible coming from the creek basin within the proposed impoundment. The balance will come from a borrow area west of S.C. 171.

The purpose of the survey was to inspect the proposed area for the existence of any historic or prehistoric archeological sites which could be damaged or destroyed by the construction activities of the proposed reservoir area and to make recommendations for preserving or studying sites of significance. This survey was conducted as a joint project sponsored by the Duke Power Company and carried out by the Institute of Archeology and Anthropology at the University of South Carolina and was initiated for the purpose of providing an Environmental Impact Statement regarding the historic and prehistoric resources of the area.

The likelihood of finding archeological sites in such a precipitous area is not great, however, the region is known to have been occupied and used extensively prior to European contact, by the Cherokee Nation. If an archeological site were to exist in the area of interest it would be highly significant because of the paucity of information we have at this time.

#### THE SURVEY

The method employed in gathering information for the survey was a general surface search of the proposed reservoir area and related areas including borrow pits, construction yards, etc. The dense vegetation over most of the area limited the search primarily to road beds, trails, ditches, old logging roads, streams, washes and other eroded areas. Major emphasis was placed on areas with the highest likelihood of former habitation. Access throughout the area was extremely difficult.

#### HISTORICAL AGENCIES CONSULTED

As a regular part of the Environmental Statement preparation, the state and local historical agencies normally concerned with the area were consulted for possibilities of documented historic sites in or near the project area. The office of the State Liaison Officer was consulted. Mrs. Christie Fant of that office (Historic Coordinator, Historic Preservation Division, South Carolina Department of Archives and History) reported that no sites have been recommended for the National Register of Historic Places in or near the project. Other agencies consulted include the Oconee County Historical and Recreational

Society, Inc. Mr. Herbert Morgan, President of that Society knew of no historic sites in the area.

Other 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.

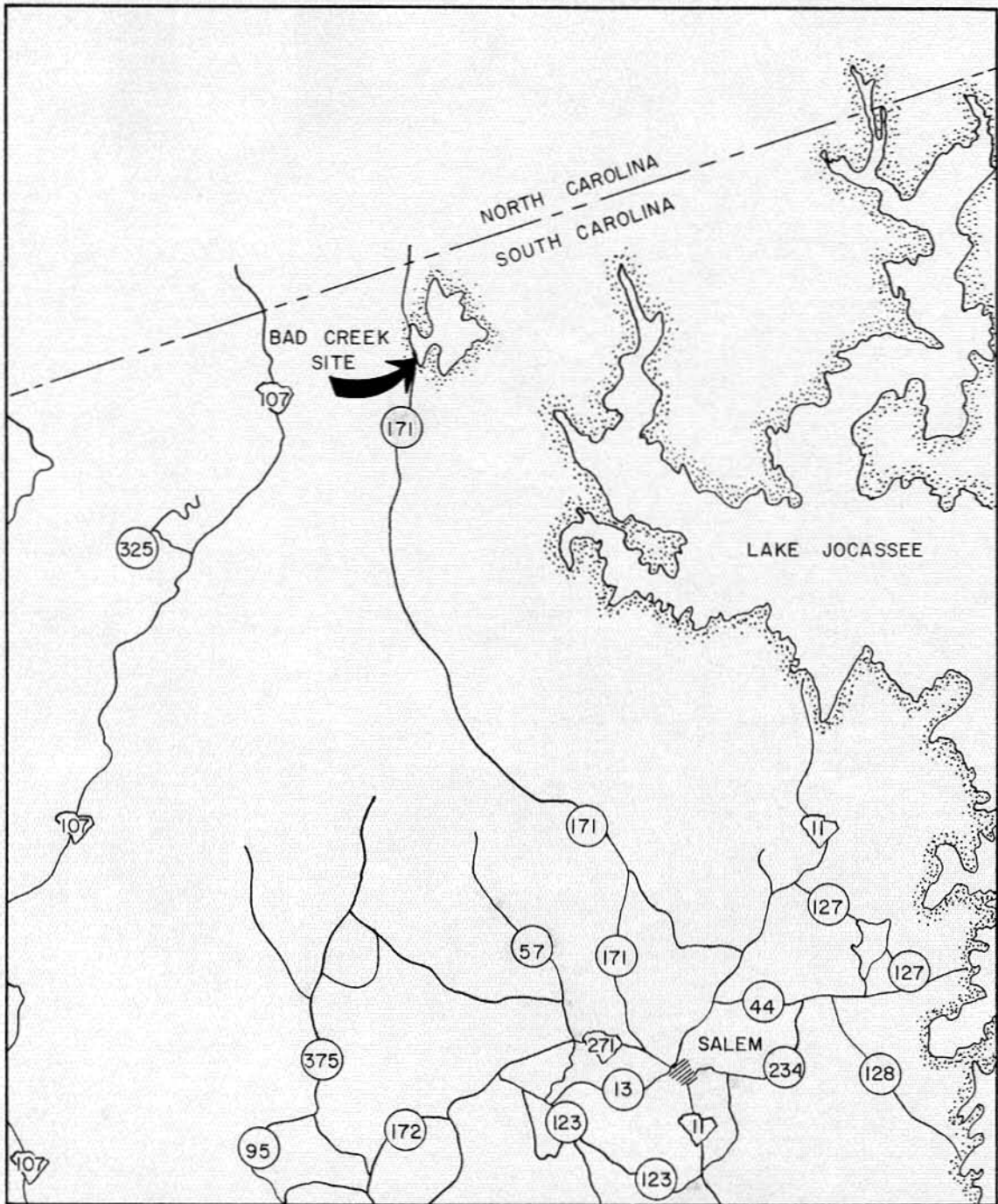
All of the above indicated that based on information available at this time no historic sites, events, trails or roads, etc. are located in the project area.

#### CONCLUSIONS

The information obtained from this survey indicates that no historical or prehistoric sites will be placed in jeopardy if the Bad Creek Project is undertaken. It is recommended, however, that the Institute be kept abreast of clearing and construction activities. Archeological sites may be revealed at the time of the clearing operations that were impossible to see during the initial survey.

#### BIBLIOGRAPHY

DYSART, BENJAMIN C.  
1973 Bad Creek Environmental Study. Clemson



**PROJECT VICINITY MAP**

**SCALE: 1" = 2 MILES**

FIGURE 1