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AN ARCHEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF A PORTION  
OF THE FAIRFOREST CREEK WATERSHED,  
UNION COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA

by •

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

In December of 1974 the Institute of Archeology and Anthropology of the University of South Carolina conducted an archeological site survey on a portion of the Fairforest Creek Watershed in Union County. This survey, performed under contract to the Soil Conservation Service of the United States Department of Agriculture, involved surface investigation of a 60-acre flood control impoundment proposed for Sugar Creek.

The purpose of this project was to locate and record any archeological sites, either prehistoric or historic, that might be destroyed or endangered by construction activity, and to make recommendations regarding the preservation or salvage of those sites.

## DESCRIPTION OF THE AREA

The survey area lies in that part of South Carolina defined as the Southern Piedmont, a foothills region between the Blue Ridge and the Fall Line with elevations ranging from 300 to 1200 feet. The climate is temperate with a 200- to 240-day growing season and an average annual precipitation of 44 to 60 inches. Habitats presently found in the region include hardwood forested uplands and interspersed grasslands, croplands, pine plantations, orchards and river bottomlands (Corps of Engineers 1902: 5, 6, and 7).

The survey area itself is comprised mostly of two types of terrain: moderate to steeply sloping ridges and the floodplain bottomland of Sugar Creek. Upland areas are covered in hardwood forests or utilized as pastureland. The Sugar Creek floodplain, where not utilized as pastureland

or cropland, is covered in native cane, briar and thick shrub-like growth. Planted pine plantations are found both in the creek bottom and the upland areas. Erosion is minimal at present.

#### BACKGROUND

Documentary research prior to field investigation did not indicate any archeological or historical sites lying within or near the proposed impoundment although the surrounding area is rich in both historic and prehistoric sites. Major sources consulted were:

Archeological site files at the Institute of Archeology  
and Anthropology, University of South Carolina, Columbia

Environmental Reconnaissance of the Charleston District.  
Prepared by the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers, Washington,  
1972.

Historic sites records of the South Carolina Department  
of Archives and History, Columbia.

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

A potentially important although unverified archeological site is mentioned in Logan's History of Upper Carolina as being on the Tyger River four miles away. This is the Blackstock Mound (38UN2) located near the site of the Revolutionary War Battle of Blackstock (38UN3).

#### THE SURVEY

The method employed for this survey was visual reconnaissance of the soil surface for cultural materials. The entire area was covered on foot with special emphasis placed on exposed areas such as fields, pastures, road cuts, road beds, erosional cuts and other cleared areas.

As much of the gentler terrain is cleared for pasturelands, a relatively thorough reconnaissance of the area was possible. In the thicketed portions of the Sugar Creek floodplain ground cover prevented close observation of the soil. Careful attention was given to the ridges and bluffs adjoining the impoundment area as possible site locations.

As a result of this survey no previously unrecorded sites were located in the impoundment area. Two sites (38UN13 and 38UN14) were located adjacent to the proposed impoundment. Both of these are out of the construction zone and should not be endangered.

#### SITE DESCRIPTIONS

38UN13 is located 100 yards west of Sugar Creek and 150 yards north of County Road 25. This eroded and deflated site occupies a prominent knoll and appears to be of about 1/4 acre in area. Occupation of this site probably occurred within the time range of 4500 to 3500 B.C. or during the Archaic Period. Artifacts collected included a large number of worked pieces of quartz, quartz cores, one chert flake and one slate Guilford project point.

38UN14 is located approximately 1/4 mile west of Sugar Creek and 150 yards north of County Road 25. It occupies a hillside terrace overlooking a considerable portion of the Sugar Creek valley and the surrounding terrain. Occupation of this site probably occurred within the time range of about 5000 B.C. to 3500 B.C. Artifacts collected included worked quartz flakes and chips and two projectile points, one Guilford and one Morrow Mountain.

## SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Although archeological and documentary evidence indicate aboriginal occupation of this general area as early as around 5000 B.C. and as late as the eighteenth century no sites were recorded within the proposed impoundment area. Thus it does not appear, on the basis of presently available information, that construction of the flood control impoundment on Sugar Creek will in any way interfere with or damage the archeological resources of South Carolina.

Since the Sugar Creek floodplain is heavily thicketed in areas, and due to the alluvial nature of the soil, the possibility exists that sites might still remain within the survey zone that will not be exposed for observation until construction activity is initiated. Should this occur the Institute of Archeology and Anthropology should be notified immediately so that it can be determined whether salvage excavation is required.

The author would like to thank Mr. Wilbur Campbell of the Soil Conservation Service for his profuse and thorough assistance with this project. Also Mr. Wilson C. White of the District S.C.S. office in Union for his kind help in the field.

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MAP OF THE  
ARCHEOLOGICAL RESOURCES  
AT THE PROPOSED SUGAR CREEK  
FLOOD CONTROL IMPOUNDMENT  
UNION COUNTY, S. C.



SCALE IN MILES

POOL ELEV. 480.0'  
TOP OF DAM ELEV. 501.5'

