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# An Archeological Survey of the Proposed Access Road, Terminal, and Parking Areas on Myrtle Beach Air Force Base, Myrtle Beach, South Carolina

## **Description**

At the request of the Horry County Airport Commission, the Institute of Archeology and Anthropology, University of South Carolina, conducted an archeological survey on the grounds of a proposed terminal building, access road, and auto parking area on land presently within the confines of the United States Air Force's Myrtle Beach, South Carolina Base. The survey was conducted on April 9, 1975, and indicated that there were no significant historic or prehistoric archeological sites in or near the areas to be affected by construction. No additional investigations of the impacted area, and no secondary mitigation recommendations or proposals are considered necessary.

## **Keywords**

Excavations, Myrtle Beach Air Force Base, Myrtle Beach, Horry County, South Carolina, Archeology

## **Disciplines**

Anthropology

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AN ARCHEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF THE PROPOSED  
ACCESS ROAD, TERMINAL, AND PARKING AREAS ON  
MYRTLE BEACH AIR FORCE BASE,  
MYRTLE BEACH, SOUTH CAROLINA

by

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Prepared by the  
INSTITUTE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND ANTHROPOLOGY  
UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA  
April, 1975

## ABSTRACT

At the request of the Horry County Airport Commission, the Institute of Archeology and Anthropology, University of South Carolina, conducted an archeological survey on the grounds of a proposed terminal building, access road, and auto parking area on land presently within the confines of the United States Air Force's Myrtle Beach, South Carolina Base. The survey was conducted on April 9, 1975, and indicated that there were no significant historic or prehistoric archeological sites in or near the areas to be affected by construction. No additional investigations of the impacted area, and no secondary mitigation recommendations or proposals are considered necessary.

## INTRODUCTION

On April 10, 1975, the Institute of Archeology and Anthropology, of the University of South Carolina conducted an archeological survey on the grounds of proposed construction activity within the United States Air Force's Myrtle Beach Base. The survey was conducted at the request of the Horry County Airport Commission, and concerned an area within the Base that was to be developed into a civilian air terminal and parking lot, and along the route of an access road from the Base perimeter to the terminal (Fig. 1).

The archeological survey was conducted by the Institute in accordance with Office of Management and Budget Circular A-95, Control Number 08-0025-5. Archeological input was requested for use in the preparation of an environmental impact statement, required on all proposed Federal

or Federally assisted development programs. Such activity is in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969.

#### THE SURVEY

The archeological survey was conducted on grounds located on the eastern side of the Myrtle Beach Air Force Base. Survey technique consisted of walking over the affected areas and visually inspecting the ground surface for indications of past cultural activity. The impacted area included a tract of land covering about five acres on the proposed site of the terminal and parking area, and a 1,500 foot strip of land approximately 100 feet wide to be developed into an access road from S.C. 707 to the terminal.

Prior to actual field investigations documentary research was undertaken to determine whether or not significant historic or prehistoric archeological resources had been previously reported in the effected area. Sources consulted in this procedure included:

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

Archeological Site Files at the Institute of  
Archeology and Anthropology, University of  
South Carolina.

Environmental Reconnaissance Inventory of the  
Charleston District. Prepared by the United  
States Army Corps of Engineers, Washington, D.C., 1972.

An Archeological Survey of Southeastern Coastal  
North Carolina, by Stanley A. South. Brunswick  
Town State Historic Site, Wilmington, North Carolina,  
1960.

This documentary research indicated that a number of prehistoric archeological sites were located along the coastline in Horry County, although

none were closer than several miles away from the impacted area. No significant historic sites were reported in the immediate area.

The results of the field survey indicate that there are no significant historic or prehistoric archeological resources within the survey area. Modern (historic) debris such as glass or metal fragments were observed over much of the survey area. The effected area has been massively disturbed by previous construction activity relating to the use of the Base. The area of the parking lot and terminal was cleared c. 1941-1942 as an approach for an east-west runway. Immediately away from this cleared area, which extended over the terminal parking lot area, were pines and scrub hardwoods to the north, east, and south.

The ground surface in the survey area was extensively disturbed by heavy equipment maneuvering, drainage ditches, and grader activity along road beds and in the runway approach area. Oyster and clam shell fragments were observed in the dirt road beds along the access road route. To the northwest of the access road, in the vicinity of a present helicopter landing area, is an old hanger. This area and the land to the north was the commercial terminal for Piedmont Airlines for about ten years after World War II (Don Cavanaugh, personnel communication).

#### CONCLUSIONS

The archeological survey conducted on Myrtle Beach Air Force Base found no significant archeological resources within the survey area. The extensively disturbed nature of the terrain, and the great distance from naturally occurring water-sources, are given as reasons for the lack of material. Oyster shell fragments, common to shell middens found

by Stanley South in this area, were not found to be associated with prehistoric materials. No prehistoric materials were, in fact, found during the surface survey. Ponds, located to the south of the survey area, and close sources of water, were artificially constructed.

#### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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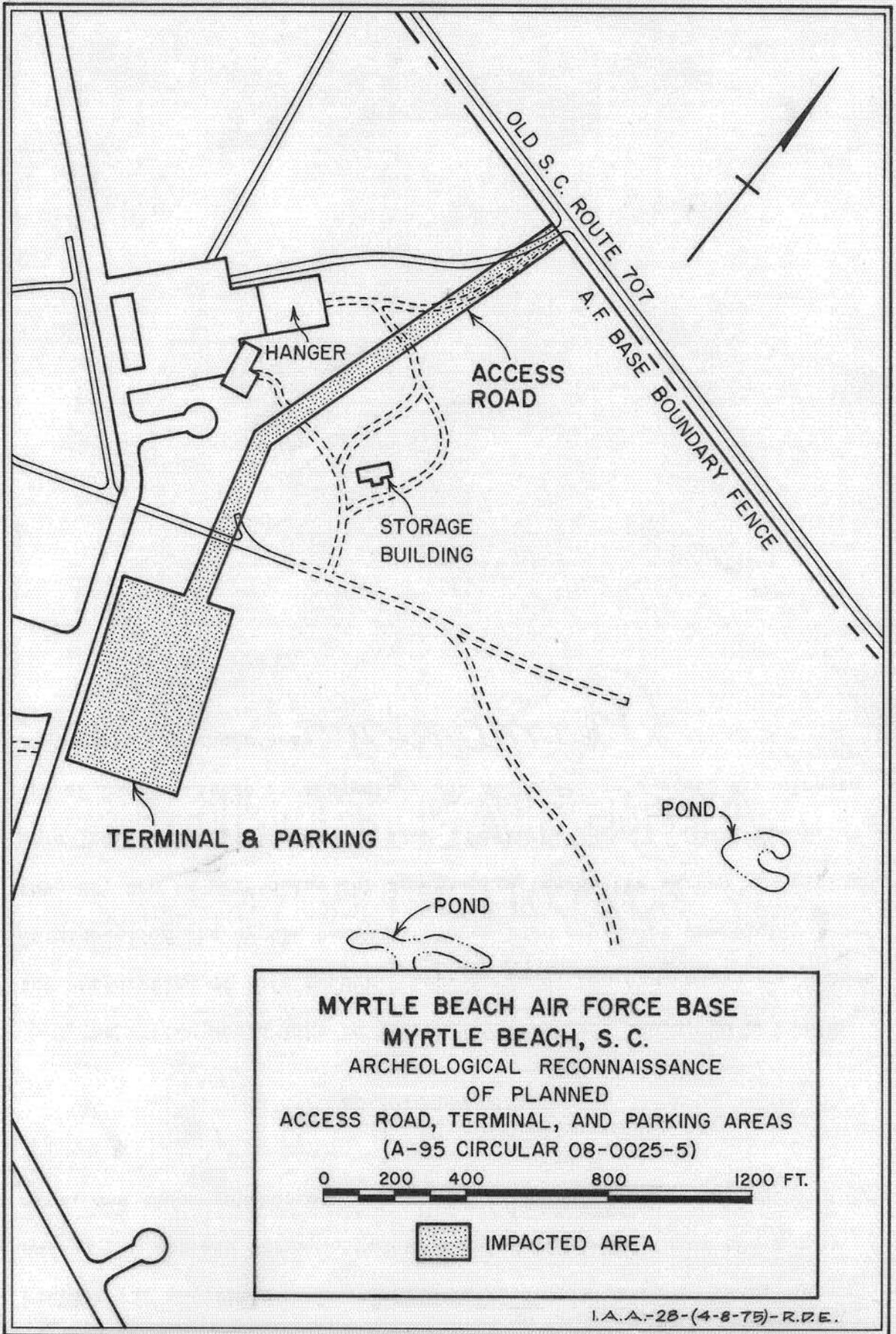


FIGURE 1