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SUMMER-GRANITEVILLE-230KV TRANSMISSION
LINE (SCE&G) : STATION 1164+90 "MOUNDS"

by

Paul E. Brockington, Jr.
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Prepared by the
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On December 2, 1976 Mr. J. H. Addison of the South Carolina Electric and Gas Company reported to the Institute the presence of several mound-like structures in the vicinity of station 1164+90 of the proposed Summer-Graniteville--230KV Transmission Line, in Saluda County, near the south shore of Lake Murray. Although construction of this transmission line has not yet begun, vegetation clearing is well underway; the clearing contractor had been the one to report the structures to Mr. Addison.

The following day Mr. James Boney of SCE&G and I visited the area. Two localities of mound concentrations were reported, but Mr. Boney and I were only able to locate one of these localities (Fig. 1). Other mounds may have been bulldozed during clearing operations. Ten low rock mounds were located east of a small road connecting two areas of clearing. These mounds were formed of football-sized and smaller granite-like rocks. The mounds were uniformly two to three feet in height, six to ten feet in diameter at the base, and spaced 20-30 feet apart. Mr. Boney and I removed rocks from portions of two of the mounds. The rocks were loosely placed in the mounds; very little dirt or soil matrix had formed or been used in the mound construction. No cultural materials were discovered. After portions of the bases of the two mounds were uncovered, we dug a small pit into each. Again, no cultural materials were found, no soil or subsoil disturbances were noticed, and no evidence of burning was apparent. Reconnaissance of the area revealed no nearby rock outcrops, although a few rocks were noticed widely scattered on the surface. The rock piles do not appear to be the result of clearing for farming in the

-1-
Figure 1: Sketch map of 38SA13 and location of rock mounds.
immediate vicinity. Although no trees in the area were recognized to be over 50-60 years old, no plow marks were noticed in the two small test pits excavated, and, further, it does not seem reasonable for someone interested in cultivation of the area to create ten small piles rather than one large one. In addition, the lack of development of a soil matrix among the rocks in each pile indicates that the piles are relatively recent. The best guess as to the origin of these rock structures is that they represent individual truckloads of rock dumped in the area. No further investigation is advised.

After checking the mounds Mr. Boney and I, while making a general reconnaissance of the area, located what appears to be an Archaic period campsite northeast of the mound area and within the area cleared for construction (Figs. 1 and 2). This site appeared as a 100 X 400 foot scatter of lithic debitage and tools on the surface of the ridge top and slope facing the old Saluda River floodplain (now Lake Murray), between stations 1150 and 1155 of the Summer-Graniteville line. Specimens recovered (quick surface grab method) include two quartz projectile points, one medium-duty quartz bifacial chopping tool, three quartz and three slate-like biface fragments, two slate-like utilized flakes, two quartz unifacial tools, four quartz chunky flakes, and four slate-like biface thinning flakes. Other waste flakes were noticed but not collected. The site has been recorded in the Institute files and has been given number 38SA13. Three black-and-white photographs were taken of the site area.

The general assemblage and projectile point morphology at 38SA13 indicate that the site represents a Middle-Late Archaic period camp. Its location along the bluff of a major Piedmont river and the relatively
Figure 2: Route of the Proposed Summer-Graniteville 230KV Line.
wide range of tools recovered during reconnaissance point to the possible
importance this site may have for the developing hypotheses of the Institute
staff concerning human settlement, subsistence, and trade networks of
the Piedmont during Archaic period times. A further trip to the site
for controlled, intensive surface collection and subsurface testing
is planned.

I wish to acknowledge the personal cooperation, interest, and
enthusiasm of Mr. James Boney. The South Carolina Electric and
Gas Company, especially Mr. J. H. Addison, is also to be commended
for its cooperation and for its policies promoting the preservation
of the State's cultural resources.