

Cultural Resources Reconnaissance Satilla Industrial Park GRAD Certification

Coffee County, Georgia

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Prepared for:

Statewide Engineering, Inc.
Douglas, Georgia

Prepared by:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Alex Sweeney', with a stylized, flowing script.

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Executive Summary

Brockington and Associates, Inc. (Brockington) conducted a cultural resources reconnaissance of the Satilla Industrial Park (approximately 143 acres) between January 5 and 6, 2026 in Coffee County, Georgia. This investigation was conducted as part of a Georgia Ready for Accelerated Development (GRAD) site program application. Our reconnaissance assessment results in the recovery of information useful for planning purposes only and is not meant as compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) or other state and federal legislation. The reconnaissance was performed to determine if cultural resources are located within the project's Area of Potential Effects (APE). The APE consists of the project tract and the project viewshed, which in some areas extends up to 0.25 mile (0.40 kilometer [km]). Brockington's cultural resources reconnaissance consisted of background research and fieldwork.

Our background research identified that a previous cultural resources reconnaissance for GRAD certification in 2015 by Kirkland and Brinkley (2015) examined the project tract and recorded one archaeological site (9CF318). Sweeney and Stallings (2017) conducted delineation and evaluation of 9CF318. Site 9CF318 was recommended not eligible for the NRHP, and additional management of this site is not warranted. (Sweeney and Stallings 2017).

Our cultural resources reconnaissance did not identify any additional archaeological sites or historic resources within the project tract. Overall, particularly in the northern portion of the tract, the likelihood of encountering additional cultural resources is low. However, if future development of the proposed GRAD tract includes any federal or state undertakings or permitting actions (e.g., U.S. Army Corps of Engineers [USACE] permits, Georgia Environmental Policy Act [GEPA] permits), then Brockington recommends conducting a full Phase I cultural resources survey of the areas of the project tract outside of 9CF318 that follows current (2018) Georgia Archaeological Standards and Guidelines for Phase I Cultural Resources Survey.

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1.0 Project Overview and Tract Description

1.1 Overview

Between January 5 and 6, 2026, Brockington and Associates, Inc. (Brockington) conducted a cultural resources reconnaissance of the Satilla Industrial Park (project tract) in Coffee County, Georgia. Figures 1.1 and 1.2 provide the project location. This investigation was conducted as part of a Georgia Ready for Accelerated Development (GRAD) site program application. Our reconnaissance assessment results in the recovery of information useful for planning purposes only and is not meant as compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) or other state and federal legislation. The reconnaissance was performed to determine if cultural resources are located within the project's Area of Potential Effects (APE). The APE consists of the project tract and the project viewshed, which in some areas extends up to 0.25 mile (0.40 kilometer [km]). Brockington's cultural resources reconnaissance consisted of background research and fieldwork. The Senior Archaeologist assigned to this project, Mr. Alex Sweeney, meets the Secretary of Interior's Standards for Archaeology per 36 CFR Part 61. Brockington conducted this work under contract with Statewide Engineering, Inc.

1.1.1 Project Tract Description

The project tract consists of four parcels located in the southern portion of Coffee County in Douglas, Georgia. The project tract is approximately 143 acres in size and is bound to the north by an unnamed branch of the Satilla River, private land to the east and south, and Brantly Boulevard and private lands to the west. Overall, the project tract has a fairly level topographic setting, as much of it contains slight upland terraces above low-lying ridges and areas with wetlands. Much of the project tract has been cleared of vegetation and currently contains wild grasses and fallow cotton fields with little to no overstory. Many areas of the project tract have been disturbed in the northern parcels, as a warehouse has been constructed within one of the parcels, and graded, plowed, and filled soils were also observed within the project tract. Other observed disturbances include buried utilities and recent grading activities.

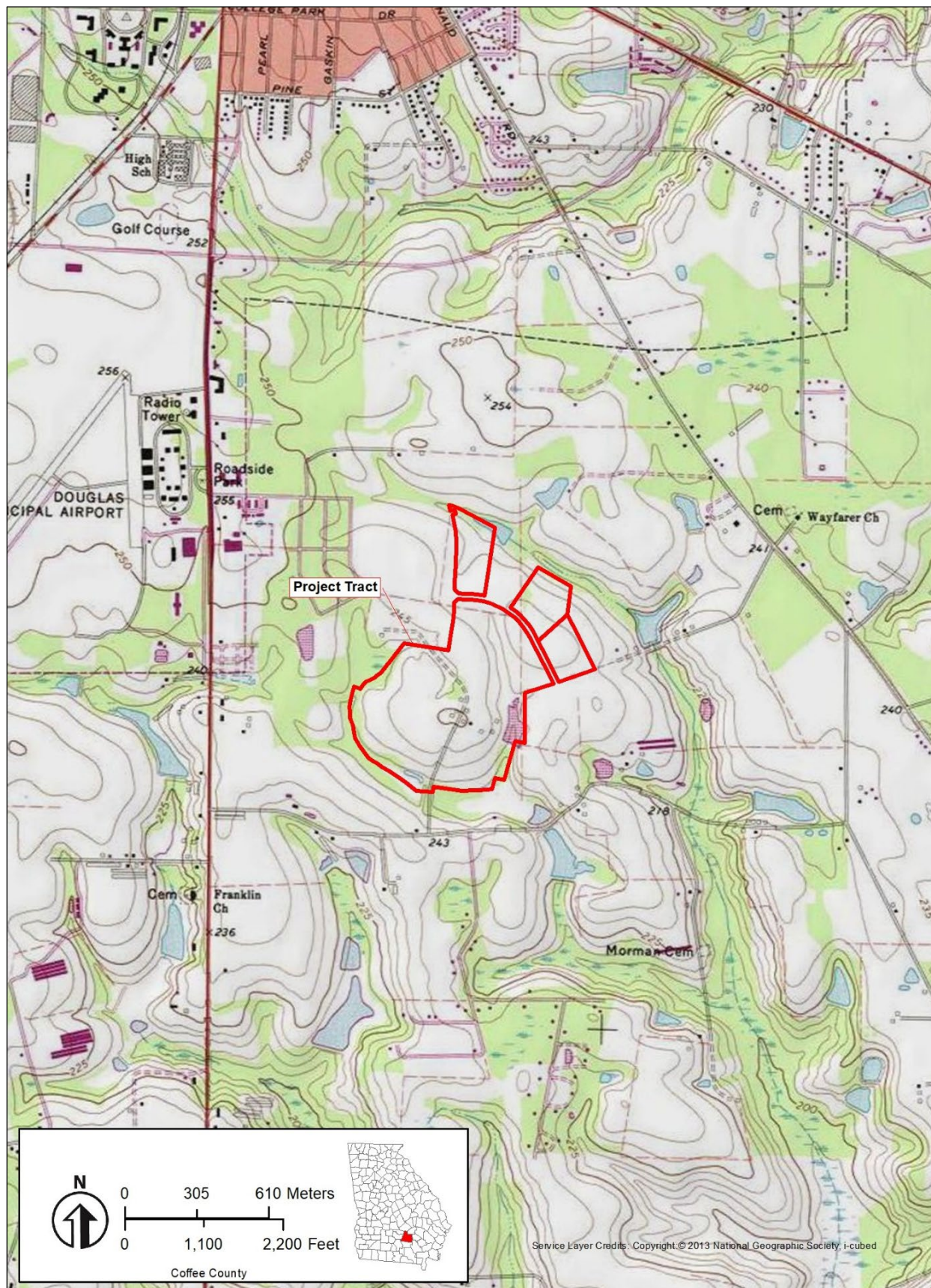


Figure 1.1 Project tract location (United States Geological Survey [USGS] 1983 Douglas South, Georgia 7.5-minute topographic quadrangle).



Figure 1.2 Aerial view of the project tract.

2.0 Background Research

Background research focused on documenting previously recorded archaeological and architectural resources within the project APE. Research was conducted at the Georgia Department of Natural Resource (DNR) Historic Preservation Division (HPD) in Atlanta, the Georgia Archaeological Site File (GASF) in Athens, and the Coffee County Tax Assessors office.

At the HPD, the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) files and Coffee County survey files were reviewed to determine if any NRHP-eligible, -nominated, or -listed resources are within the project APE. At the GASF, county files were reviewed to determine if any previously recorded archaeological sites are located within the project APE. In addition, survey reports associated with previous archaeological investigations near the project area were reviewed. Georgia's Natural, Archaeological, and Historic Resources (GNAHRGIS) database was also reviewed to determine if any previously recorded archaeological sites are located within the project APE.

2.1.1 Archaeological Sites

Background research revealed that there is one previously recorded archaeological site (9CF318) located within the project tract. Table 2.1 briefly summarizes this site; Figure 2.1 shows its location. Site 9CF318 is a twentieth-century farmstead that was initially recorded in 2015 by Southeastern Horizons, Inc. (Kirkland and Brinkley 2015). Most of the site consisted of the ruins of former buildings. Kirkland and Brinkley (2015) recommended that 9CF318 needed to be evaluated for the NRHP. In 2017, Brockington conducted additional investigations at 9CF318 (Sweeney and Stallings 2017). Site 9CF318 was recommended as not eligible for the NRHP by Sweeney and Stallings (2017) and does not warrant additional management considerations.

One additional previously recorded archaeological site (9CF319) is located within a 1.0-km radius (0.6 mile) of the project tract (see Figure 2.1; Table 2.1). Site 9CF319 is a twentieth century residence located to the west of the project tract near US Highway 441. Site 9CF319 was recommended not eligible for the NRHP (Sweeney and Stallings 2017).

Table 2.1 Previously recorded archaeological sites within 1.0 km of the project tract.

Site Number	Type	Citation	Situation	NRHP Recommendation
9CF318	20 th Century Farmstead	Kirkland and Brinkley (2015); Sweeney and Stallings (2017)	Within the project tract	Not Eligible
9CF319	20 th Century House	Kirkland and Brinkley (2015); Sweeney and Stallings (2017)	Within 1.0 km of the project tract	Not Eligible

2.1.2 Historic Resources

Background research identified no previously recorded historic resources within the project tract or within a 1.0-km radius of the project tract. Therefore, no previously recorded historic resources will be impacted by any development within the project tract.

2.1.3 Previous Investigations

A review of the GNAHRGIS database identified no previous investigations within the project tract. However, a 2015 cultural resources reconnaissance for GRAD certification was conducted by Kirkland and Brinkley (2015) which identified 9CF318. Also, Sweeney and Stallings (2017) delineated and evaluated 9CF318. In addition, the GNAHRGIS database lists three previous investigations within a 1.0-km radius of the project tract (refer to Figure 2.1). Table 2.2 briefly summarizes the previous investigations.



Figure 2.1 Location of previously recorded cultural resources and investigations within 1.0 km of the project tract.

Table 2.2 Previously recorded cultural resources and investigations within 1.0 km of the project tract.

Citation	Type of Investigation	Situation	Sites within Project Tract
Malphurs 1985	Historic Resources Assessment	Within 1.0 km of project tract	None
Pietak 2007	Archaeological Resources Survey	Within 1.0 km of project tract	None
Whitney and Dubois 2016	Archaeological Assessment	Within 1.0 km of project tract	None
Kirkland and Brinkley 2015	Cultural Resources Reconnaissance	Within project tract	9CF318
Sweeney and Stallings 2017	Cultural Resources Delineation and Evaluation	Within project tract	9CF318

Two of three previous investigations are related to Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) projects (Malphurs 1985; Pietak 2007). The remaining previous investigation was an archaeological assessment conducted for a monopole telecommunications structure (Whitney and Dubois 2016). None of these three previous investigations recorded any cultural resources within the vicinity of the project tract.

2.1.4 USDA Soils

An examination of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA 2026) soils survey identified seven soil types and water within the project tract. Table 2.3 briefly summarizes these soil types, and Figure 2.2 shows their distribution within the project tract. Leefield loamy sand is the most common soil type, covering approximately 48.0 percent of the project tract. A majority of the project tract (84.8 percent) contains soil types that are described as somewhat poorly drained or poorly drained. Moderately well-drained and well-drained soils only cover approximately 13.2 percent (18.9 acres) of the project tract.

Past settlements and agricultural use tend to favor anhydric (dry) soils more than hydric (wet) soils on fairly level terrain; therefore, most archaeological sites tend to be situated on drier, anhydric soils in flat to gently sloping areas. An examination of the recorded soil types indicates that the majority of the project tract (approximately 84.8 percent) has soils that are not favorable to contain an archaeological site.

Table 2.3 USDA soils recorded within the project tract.

Map Unit Symbol	Map Unit Name	Drainage	Soil Profile	Landforms	Acres in Project Tract	Percent of Project Tract
AoA	Albany sand, 0 to 2 percent slopes	Somewhat poorly drained	Sand over sandy loam	Flats	11.3	7.9%
CeB2	Carnegie sandy loam, 3 to 5 percent slopes	Well drained	Sandy loam over sandy clay	Hills	1.9	1.3%
CnA	Clarendon loamy sand, 0 to 2 percent slopes	Moderately well drained	Loamy sand over sandy clay loam	Flats	6.6	4.60%
KJ	Kinston and Johnston soils, 0 to 2 percent slopes, frequently flooded	Poorly drained	Sandy loam over sandy clay loam	Flood plains	2.3	1.60%
Le	Leefield loamy sand	Somewhat poorly drained	Loamy sand over sandy loam	Flats	68.6	48.0%
Pe	Pelham loamy sand, occasionally flooded	Poorly drained	Loamy sand over sandy clay loam	Drainageways, flats	39.1	27.3%
StA	Stilson loamy sand, 0 to 2 percent slopes	Moderately well drained	Loamy sand over sandy clay loam	Rises	10.4	7.3%
W	Water	N/A	N/A	N/A	2.8	1.90%
Totals					143	100.00%



Figure 2.2 USDA soils within the project tract.

3.0 Field Investigation

3.1 Archaeological Field Reconnaissance

The cultural resources field reconnaissance consisted of archaeological and architectural investigations. The archaeological investigation consisted of a general walk-over of upland portions of the tract and limited subsurface survey within the project tract. Select locations that were not covered by the previous Kirkland and Brinkley 2015 and Sweeney and Stallings 2017 investigations within the project tract were examined by surface collections and judgmentally placed shovel test excavation (Figure 3.1). The shovel tests were approximately 30-by-30 centimeters (cm) (12-by-12 inches) and were excavated into sterile subsoil. The shovel test soils were screened through 1/4-inch mesh hardware cloth. Records of the excavated shovel tests were kept in a field notebook, including information on content (e.g., presence or absence of artifacts, artifact descriptions) and context (i.e., soil color and texture descriptions, depth of definable levels, observed features). The shovel tests were backfilled upon completion. These field methods, along with the archival research, were useful for fulfilling the goal of this investigation, which is to determine the probability of archaeological sites within the project tract.

Our field reconnaissance observed that the project tract is primarily located within abandoned and fallow former cotton fields located along an upland terrace and ridgetop above several unnamed drainages of the Satilla River. Northern portions of the project tract are disturbed with grading and filled soils. An industrial warehouse building has been constructed in the northern portion of the project tract with filled soils. Another area in the northern portion of the tract contains a filled, graded, and leveled terrace which may have been constructed for a foundation location for a future building construction. Other observed disturbances include buried utilities, powerline poles, and dirt roads. Figures 3.2 through 3.9 show typical views within the project tract.

Four judgmentally placed shovel tests were excavated within portions of the project tract located outside of 9CF318. Most of these excavated shovel tests contained soil profiles that are typical of Coastal Plain soils on slightly upland areas in southeastern Georgia. The shovel test consisted of light brownish-gray sand that extended to 10 cm below ground surface (cmbgs), underlain by a brownish gray loamy sand that extended to 40 cmbgs. A brownish yellow sandy subsoil was encountered below 40 cmbgs. One shovel test exhibited disturbance in the northern portion of the project tract as mottled red, gray, reddish brown, and brown sandy clays were encountered below the surface. Figure 3.1 shows the location of the judgmentally placed shovel tests within the project tract.

Our field reconnaissance did not identify any new cultural resources within the project tract. We revisited the one previously recorded archaeological site (9CF318) within the project tract. All buildings and features that were observed during Sweeney and Stallings' (2017) investigation of 9CF318 have been razed and removed. Figures 3.10 and 3.11 show present views of this previously recorded site.

As previously mentioned in Section 2.0, Site 9CF318 is a twentieth century farmstead that has been recommended not eligible for the NRHP. No additional management considerations of Site 9CF318 are necessary.



Figure 3.1 Location of judgmentally placed shovel tests within the project tract.



Figure 3.2 Typical view of the project tract within fallow cotton field, facing northeast.



Figure 3.3 Typical view of the project tract within fallow cotton field, facing west.



Figure 3.4 Typical view of the project tract, facing south.



Figure 3.5 Typical view of the project tract facing new building, facing east.



Figure 3.6 View of disturbed area and newly constructed building, facing east.



Figure 3.7 View of project tract and buried waterline, facing southwest.



Figure 3.8 View of the project tract, facing north.



Figure 3.9 View of the disturbed filled and graded artificial terrace within the project tract, facing south.



Figure 3.10 View of 9CF318, facing east.



Figure 3.11 View of 9CF318, facing northeast.

3.2 Architectural Reconnaissance

The architectural reconnaissance consisted of driving the project APE (windshield survey) with pedestrian inspection of all buildings, structures, and objects 50 years old or older when possible. As a result of the architectural reconnaissance, no historic resources were identified within the project tract.

4.0 Summary

Between January 5 and 6, 2026, Brockington conducted a cultural resources reconnaissance of the Satilla Industrial Park. This investigation included background research and field investigations. Our background research identified that a previous cultural resources reconnaissance for GRAD certification in 2015 by Kirkland and Brinkley (2015) examined the project tract and recorded one archaeological site (9CF318). Sweeney and Stallings (2017) conducted delineation and evaluation of 9CF318. Site 9CF318 was recommended not eligible for the NRHP, and additional management of this site is not warranted. (Sweeney and Stallings 2017).

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