



St. James Parish Government

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Dale J. Hymel, Jr.
 Parish President

November 18, 2010

Ms. Laurel Rohrer
 U.S. Department of Homeland Security – FEMA
 1 Seine Court
 New Orleans, LA 70114

Re: Coastal Use Permit P101395

Dear Ms. Rohrer:

The St. James Parish Coastal Zone Management Committee has no objection to the above referenced project provided no additional structures or activities are added that are not represented in the permit application.

This letter is not to be interpreted in any manner which would create any liability on the President and Council of St. James Parish in interposing no objection thereto, and U.S. Department of Homeland Security - FEMA shall hold the President and Council free and harmless from any claims resulting therefrom. Furthermore, additional permits or assurances may be required from other state or federal agencies.

Respectfully,

Jody P. Chenier
 Director of Operations

JPC:jrl

cc: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
 Department of Natural Resources
 Department of Environmental Quality



FEMA

U.S. Department of Homeland Security
DR-1603-LA
1 Seine Court, 4th Floor
New Orleans, LA 70114
504-762-2000
504-762-2353 (Fax)

October 20, 2010

Mr. Seth Bordelon
Fish and Wildlife Biologist
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
646 Cajundome Blvd., Ste. 400
Lafayette, LA 70506

Subject: St. James Parish Government
Paulina, Louisiana
Grand Point Bourbon Subdivision Drainage Improvements
NEMIS # 1603-0221 FEMA-1603-DR-LA

Dear Mr. Bordelon:

FEMA is considering providing Hazard Mitigation Grant Program funding for the attached project in relation to Hurricanes Katrina and Rita (FEMA-1603/1607-DR-LA). Please review the following project located within the Grand Point Bourbon Subdivision in Paulina, LA, for effects to all federal trust resources. We would appreciate your comments on this project within thirty days. If we do not receive comments from you within this time period, we will assume that you have no concerns or issues with the proposed project. If appropriate, FEMA will condition funding approval or funding continuance based on the applicant's obtaining applicable permits from your office.

Please contact Laurel Rohrer, Environmental Specialist by phone at (540) 842-3300, by mail at 1 Seine Court, 4th Floor, New Orleans, LA 70114, or by email at laurel.rohrer@associates.dhs.gov with any questions.

Sincerely,

Tiffany Spann
Environmental Supervisor
FEMA 1603/1607-DR-LA

Attachments: Project Description
Project Location Map
Project Vicinity Map
Culvert Replacement Maps (2)
Wetland Map

Mr. Bordelon,

This project is to improve the drainage and reduce flooding in the Grand Point Bourbon Subdivision in Paulina, LA. Please see the scope of work below.

Damage Description:

On August 29, 2005, storm surge caused by Hurricane Katrina inundated large portions of southeast Louisiana causing extensive flood damage to structures in St. James Parish. The proposed drainage improvements will occur in and adjacent to the Grand Point Bourbon subdivision area.

The Grand Point Bourbon subdivision has one of the most severe localized flooding problems in the Parish. The original subdivision was constructed more than 25 years ago, and the increased runoff due to residential construction was not considered in the original design. The Grand Point Bourbon subdivision was constructed by a private developer before the Parish had laws requiring a drainage analysis and culvert permits that insure proper culvert size and installation. The Parish now requires developers to undertake drainage studies and submit their drainage design channel and culvert installations to the Parish's Operations Department for proper sizing and elevation grades.

The current drainage layout of the Grand Point Bourbon subdivision consists of three main drainage channels that are fed by multiple tributary channels. The channels are both open channel and conduit flow of various sizes. One of the main drainage channels flows through a culvert system with three catch basins, each 36 inches in diameter. The second main drainage channel crosses through a 36-inch culvert, to a 48-inch culvert, then to a 36-inch culvert before draining into an outlet channel. The third main drainage channel crosses through a 22-inch culvert and then flows through a 42-inch culvert before emptying into the outlet channel. In the past few years, St. James Parish has already begun replacing some of the undersized culverts in an effort to provide flood relief and minimize flood damage and road closures in and around the project area. The Parish has just completed maintenance dredging of the Parish's main drainage canal that receives and drains all the runoff water from this area and leads into Blind River and then to Lake Maurepas. This subdivision borders an existing secondary drainage channel (the Longview Canal) that receives all the subdivision's water. Under this project, the Parish proposes to replace all of the remaining undersized culverts and widen Longview Canal to eliminate future flooding in this area.

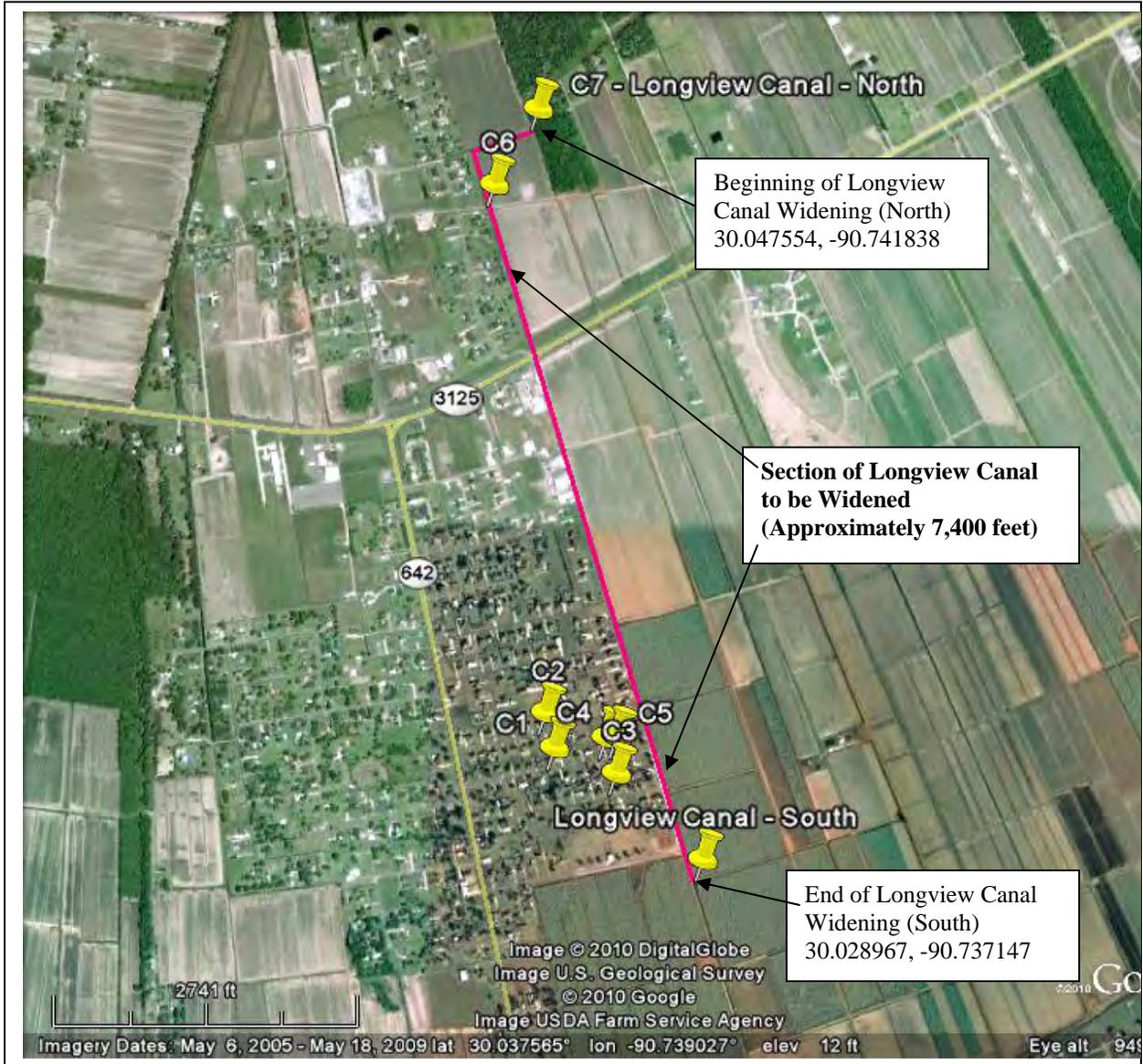
Scope of work:

The proposed scope of work includes enlargement (widening) of Longview Canal on both sides of Highway 3125 to expand its drainage capacity and increase the channel's ability to remove water. The Parish has previously dredged both this channel and the main receiving drainage channels to be able to readily accommodate the increased drainage; therefore, no additional excavation or dredging of the Longview Canal will be necessary for this project. Approximately 7,400 linear feet of Longview Canal, beginning at 30.047554, -90.741838 (north) and ending at 30.028967, -90.737147 (south), will be widened to increase its capacity and provide the proper design flow. The section of Longview Canal that will be widened is depicted on the attached Project Vicinity Map. The Parish plans to purchase an additional 30 feet of right-of-way that will be required to widen the channel by 20 feet to provide future access to the Parish for proper maintenance and grass cutting. The channel will have an 8-foot bottom and 2 to 1 side slopes. The widening of Longview Canal will provide not only a quicker means to remove the floodwater, but since the Parish recently re-dredged the primary drainage channel that leads into Blind River and Lake Maurepas, it will allow the subdivision's drainage channel to flow better without causing flooding to another area of the Parish.

The Parish also proposes to remove seven (7) existing undersized culverts within the subdivision and replace them with larger and more adequate culverts. The proposed culverts will be constructed of arched pipe (CMPA). The culvert removal and replacement will require removal of the asphalt streets over the existing culverts. The Parish will remove the old culverts install the new larger culverts, and make the necessary street repairs. The proposed project will include the redesigning of the appropriately sized culverts to handle the peak flow associated with the 25-year/24-hour rain event and protect 113 structures. The current and proposed dimensions and locations of the replacement culverts are listed in the table below and shown in the attached two Culvert Maps.

Site Name	Address	City	Latitude	Longitude	Current Dimensions (Inches)	Proposed Dimensions (Inches)
C1 - Link 188	Wendy Street at Middle Channel	Paulina	30.031729	-90.741377	49 x 33	64 x 43
C2 - Link 185	Amy Street at Middle Channel	Paulina	30.032591	-90.741634	42 x 29	64 x 43
C3 - Link 204	Maura Street at East Channel	Paulina	30.031099	-90.739614	24	64 x 43
C4 - Link 96	Wendy Street East of East Channel	Paulina	30.032006	-90.739607	15	28 x 20
C5 - Link 202	Wendy Street at East Channel	Paulina	30.031981	-90.739905	49 x 33	64 x 43
C6 - Link 252	Humble Street at Longview Canal	Paulina	30.045672	-90.743095	68	87 x 63
C7 - Link 239	Longview Canal North of Humble Street at Secondary Drainage Canal	Paulina	30.047554	-90.741838	60 x 54	87 x 63

Project Vicinity



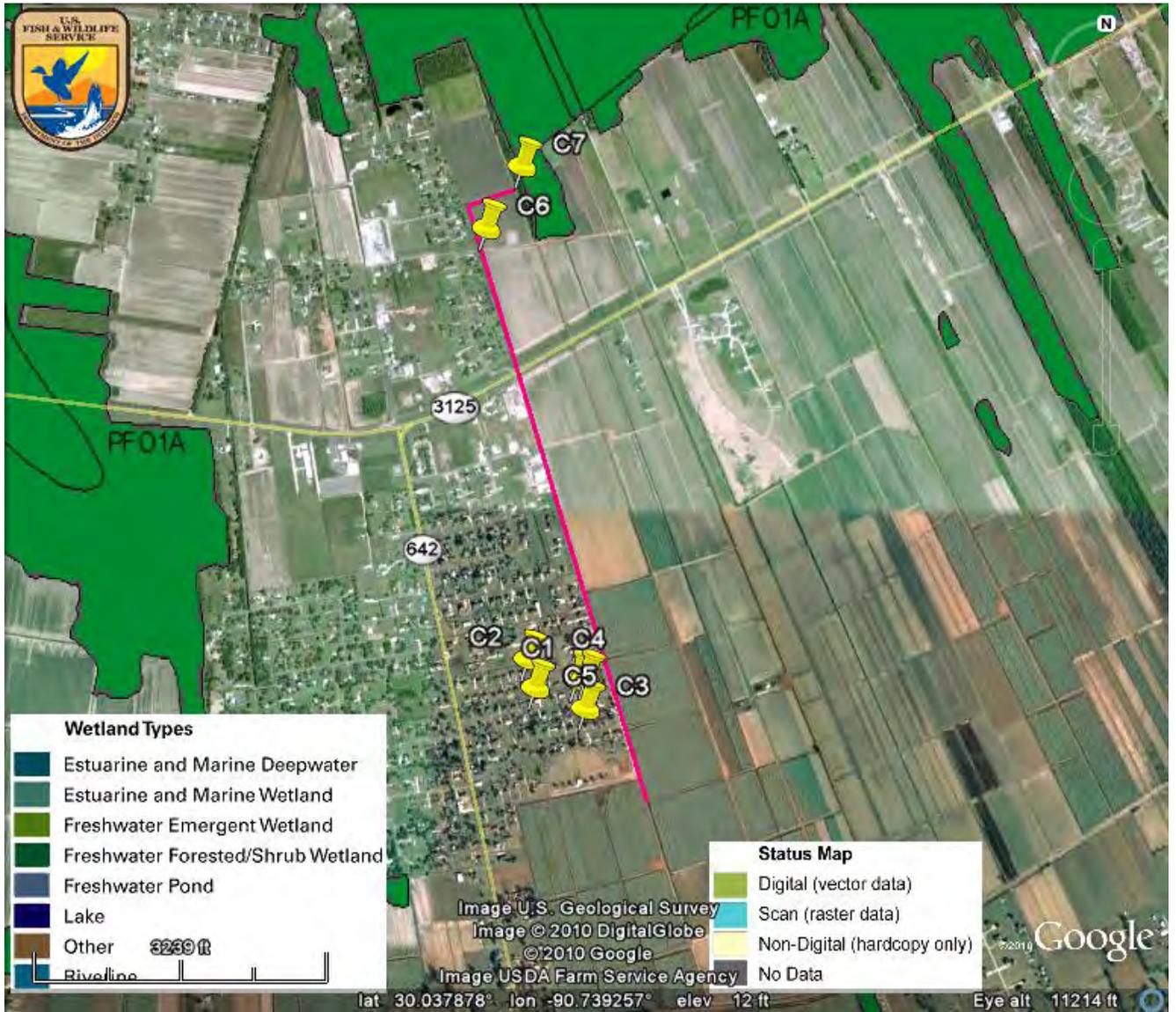
Culverts 1 through 5 (To be replaced)



Culverts 6 and 7 (To be replaced)



Wetland Map



1603-0221



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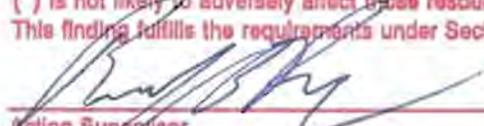
Please contact Laurel Rohrer, Environmental Specialist by phone at (540) 842-3300, by mail at 1 Seine Court, 4th Floor, New Orleans, LA 70114, or by email at laurel.rohrer@associates.dhs.gov with any questions.

Sincerely,

Tiffany Spann
Environmental Supervisor
FEMA 1603/1607-DR-LA

- Attachments:
- Project Description
 - Project Location Map
 - Project Vicinity Map
 - Culvert Replacement Maps (2)
 - Wetland Map

This project has been reviewed for effects to Federal trust resources under our jurisdiction and currently protected by the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (Act). The project, as proposed,
 Will have no effect on those resources
 Is not likely to adversely affect those resources.
This finding fulfills the requirements under Section 7(a)(2) of the Act.



Acting Supervisor
Louisiana Field Office
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

10/20/10
Date

1603-0221



BOBBY JINDAL
GOVERNOR

State of Louisiana
DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES
OFFICE OF WILDLIFE

ROBERT J. BARHAM
SECRETARY
JIMMY L. ANTHONY
ASSISTANT SECRETARY

Date November 17, 2010
Name Tiffany Spann
Company FEMA
Street Address 1 Seine Ct
City, State, Zip New Orleans, LA 70114
Project Drainage Improvements for Grand Point Bourbon Subdivision
Project ID
Invoice Number 10111702

Personnel of the Habitat Section of the Coastal & Nongame Resources Division have reviewed the preliminary data for the captioned project. After careful review of our database, no impacts to rare, threatened, or endangered species or critical habitats are anticipated for the proposed project. No state or federal parks, wildlife refuges, scenic streams, or wildlife management areas are known at the specified site within Louisiana's boundaries.

The Louisiana Natural Heritage Program (LNHP) has compiled data on rare, endangered, or otherwise significant plant and animal species, plant communities, and other natural features throughout the state of Louisiana. Heritage reports summarize the existing information known at the time of the request regarding the location in question. The quantity and quality of data collected by the LNHP are dependent on the research and observations of many individuals. In most cases, this information is not the result of comprehensive or site-specific field surveys; many natural areas in Louisiana have not been surveyed. This report does not address the occurrence of wetlands at the site in question. Heritage reports should not be considered final statements on the biological elements or areas being considered, nor should they be substituted for on-site surveys required for environmental assessments. LNHP requires that this office be acknowledged in all reports as the source of all data provided here. If at any time Heritage tracked species are encountered within the project area, please contact the LNHP Data Manager at 225-765-2643. If you have any questions, or need additional information, please call 225-765-2357.

Sincerely,

Amity Bass
for Amity Bass, Coordinator
Natural Heritage Program

Phase I Cultural Resources Survey of the Longview Canal Drainage Project in St. James Parish, Louisiana

Draft Report, Prepared by URS

May 27, 2011



FEMA

**MANAGEMENT SUMMARY:
PHASE I CULTURAL RESOURCES SURVEY OF
THE LONGVIEW CANAL DRAINAGE PROJECT
ST. JAMES PARISH, LOUISIANA**

Draft Report

May 2011

by

Mark F. Martinkovic

Prepared by

**U.S. Department of Homeland Security
FEMA - Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMTAP)
Contract #HSFEHQ-09-D-1130
1 Seine Ct.
Algiers, LA 70114**



FEMA

Abstract

At the request of St. James Parish, the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) archaeologists undertook a cultural resources survey of 5.096 acres at the Longview Canal, near Paulina, LA in order to locate, identify, delineate, and interpret any possible buried cultural resources. St. James Parish is improving the drainage system in the Grand Bourbon neighborhood adjacent to the Longview Canal and intends to widen the canal in order to increase drainage capacity. There are no standing structures within the APE. Examination of the LA Cultural Resources database revealed the presence of 16SJ12 (St. Elmo Plantation), a historic sugar house site of unknown National Register of Historic Place (NRHP) eligibility less than 50 meters west of the APE. A portion of the APE adjacent to 16SJ12 was investigated with shovel tests, auger tests, and pedestrian survey, revealing a low-density late nineteenth/early twentieth century domestic artifact scatter mixed with modern artifacts in poor archaeological context, restricted in most tests to the plow zone. The portion of the APE north of 16SJ12 was considered low probability and was investigated using pedestrian survey and systematic auger testing. There were no cultural resources discovered within the above mentioned northern APE. Based on the survey results, FEMA recommends the deposits within the APE are an NRHP ineligible domestic component of the 16SJ12 St. Elmo Plantation sugar house site. FEMA determines that this Undertaking has "No Adverse Effect to Historic Properties."

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1. Introduction

On January 19, 2011, at the request of St. James Parish, the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) archaeologists Mark Martinkovic and Pamela Pyatt, with assistance from FEMA HMGP environmental staff members Laurel Rohrer and Joseph Chauvin, undertook a cultural resources survey of 5.096 acres (2.062 hectares) at the Longview Canal, near Paulina, LA. St. James Parish had requested FEMA assistance with the drainage improvements in the Grand Bourbon subdivision and the widening of the Longview Canal (Figure 1-1). FEMA determined that no historic structures were present within the above ground APE and a finding of No Historic Properties Affected (2011 LA State Specific PA dated January 31, 2011: VIII, D). The drainage improvements within the Grand Bourbon subdivision are contained within the existing canal footprints and were cleared programmatically (2009 Statewide Programmatic Agreement dated August 17, 2009: Appendix C.I.B.). The proposed canal widening area of potential effect (APE) is 30 feet (ft) (9.14 meters [m]) in width on the east side of Longview Canal, with a length of 7400 ft (2255 m) trending south to north to meet with the St. James Parish Canal (Figure 1-2). The St. Elmo Plantation (16SJ12) sugar house is located less than 50 m west of the APE. Historic map review revealed the presence of the sugar house and four domestic structures on the 1883 Mississippi River Commission (MRC) maps. The APE adjacent to 16SJ12 was investigated with shovel tests, auger tests, and pedestrian survey, and revealed a low-density late nineteenth/early twentieth century domestic artifact scatter in poor archaeological context (modern artifacts mixed with historic artifacts), restricted in most tests to the plow zone. These remains are most likely associated with the four structures identified on the 1883 MRC map, and represent a domestic component within the greater 16SJ12 site complex, as well as modern agricultural activities. Based on the survey findings, FEMA determines the domestic component of 16SJ12 is ineligible for listing in the NRHP. The APE north of 16SJ12 was considered low probability and was investigated using pedestrian survey and systematic auger testing to Louisiana State Highway 3125 (LA-3125), and investigated using pedestrian survey only from LA-3125 to the project terminus at the St. James Parish Canal.

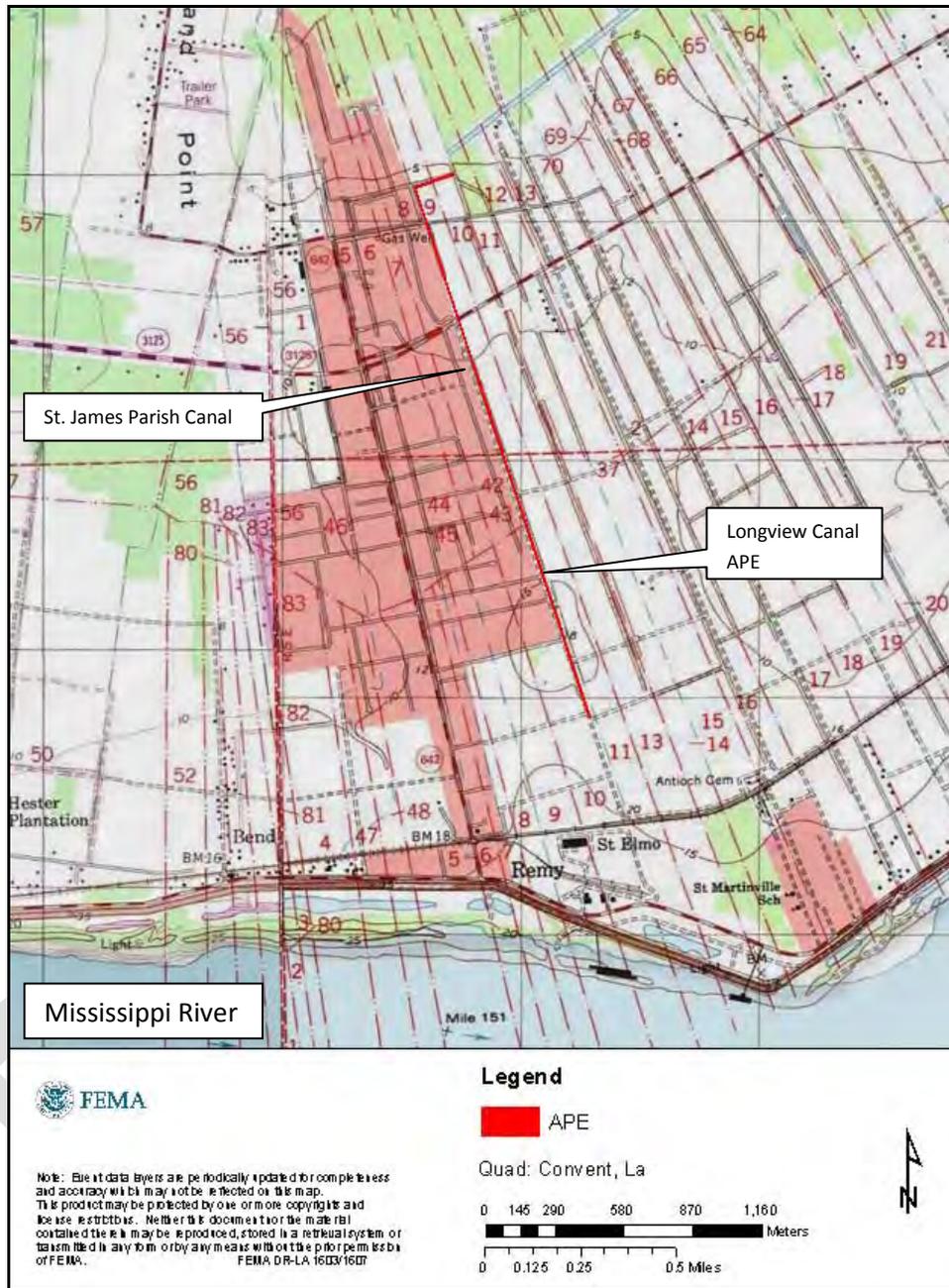


Figure 1.2 Excerpt from the 1996 digital 7.5' series USGS, Louisiana, topographic quadrangle depicting the location of the St. James Parish Drainage Improvement Project (Longview Canal) APE (in red), Grand Bourbon subdivision, and the St. James Parish Canal.

2. Environmental Setting

St. James Parish is composed of Holocene deposits of the Mississippi River meander belt and two inter-distributary basins, Lake Maurepas and Lake Pontchartrain to the north and Lac des Allemands to the south. St. James Parish is composed primarily of high, symmetrical Mississippi River levees which often exceed six ft (1.83 m) above mean sea level (AMSL) and interdistributary basin swamps and bayous. The natural levee toe is the transition between the natural levee and the backswamp (basin swamps and bayous) and averages 1.5 ft (0.46 m) AMSL. The higher river levees generally parallel the Mississippi River, while the backswamps are located further from the river, and are often below 1.5 ft (0.46 m) AMSL (Glander, et al. 1979).

The natural levees are generally part of the larger Commerce-Sharkey soil associations, and are well-suited to crops and pasture (USDA 2011). Historically, the levee vegetation consisted of mixed hardwood forest, consisting of Live Oak, American Elm, Water Oak, Hackberry, Green Ash, and Cottonwood. The natural levee environment in St. James Parish is almost completely modified by human interaction, primarily agricultural (sugar, rice, soybeans) and urban development. The levee toe is generally characterized by the Sharkey soil association and is frequently flooded, providing excellent wildlife habitat. Levee toe vegetation consists of bottomland hardwoods, such as Tupelo Gum, Bald Cypress, Sweetgum, Hackberry, and American Elm. Wildlife present in the natural levee and levee toe environments consists of deer, squirrel, raccoon, rabbit, and opossum. Finally, the backswamp is characterized by the Barbary-Sharkey soil association. The backswamp ground surface is level and almost continually flooded and is classified as a broad depressional swamp. Backswamp vegetation consists of Black willow, Bald Cypress, Tupelo Gum, and Red Maple. Common backswamp fauna includes waterfowl, wading birds, and the American Alligator (Glander, et al. 1979).

The soils located in the APE range from somewhat poorly drained in the river levee to poorly drained in the levee toe (Figure 2-3). LA-3215 serves as a general break in soil types, with Cancienne silt loam and Carville silt loam occurring south of the road (natural levee) and Gramercy silt clay occurring north of the road (levee toe). The St. James Parish Canal, where the Longview Canal terminates, is in poorly drained Schriever clay. All soils in the study area have a slope rating of 0-1% (USDA 2011). Elevations within the study area range from 15 ft (4.6 m) AMSL in the vicinity of 16SJ12 to five ft (1.52 m) AMSL north of LA-3125, and less than five ft (1.52 m) at the Longview Canal terminus with the St. James Parish Canal.

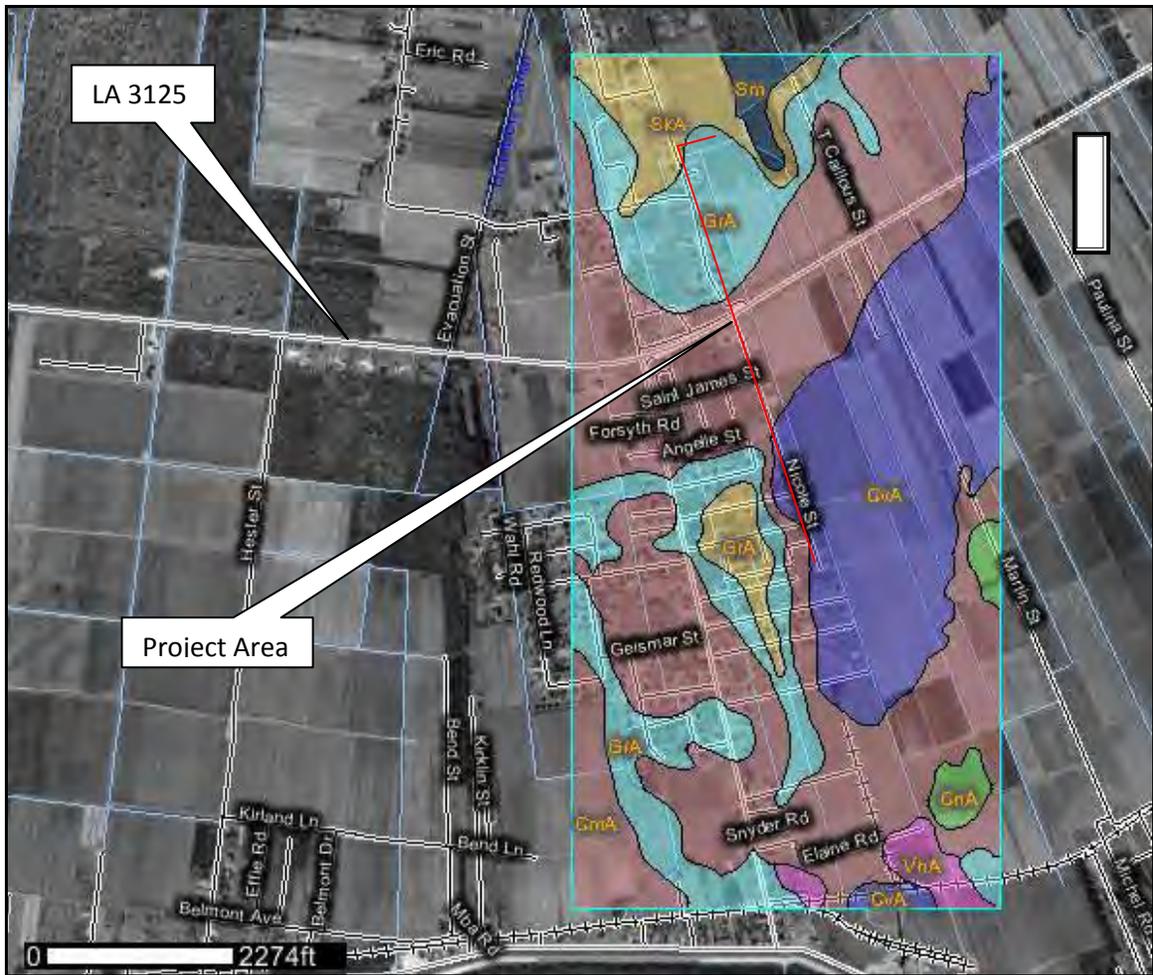


Figure 2.1 St. James Parish Drainage Project APE (red line) in association with soil types. Cancienne silt loam (CmA) is illustrated in pink, Carville silt loam (CvA) is illustrated in lavender, and Gramercy silt clay (GrA) is illustrated in light blue. Illustration from USDA Web Soil Survey.

3. Cultural History

The early cultural history of St. James Parish may be subsumed under SHPO's Management Unit #5 in *Louisiana's Comprehensive Archaeological Plan*. However, only seven archaeological components of the fourteen found throughout Management Unit #5 have been discovered in St. James Parish. Out of 70 recorded archaeological sites, one prehistoric site and 27 historic sites are of unknown cultural affiliation. The following table illustrates the sites with known cultural affiliations in St. James Parish:

Site #	Site Name	NRHP Eligibility	Components
16SJ001	Belmont Mound Site	Eligible	Archaic
16SJ050	Shell Midden	Unknown	Coles Creek
16SJ051	Jerry Haas Site	Unknown	Mississippian
16SJ021	Helvetia Plantation	Eligible	Antebellum
16SJ037	Welham Plantation	Unknown	Antebellum
16SJ049	Rapidan Plantation	Eligible	Antebellum
16SJ018	None	Ineligible	Antebellum
16SJ025	Bessie Kay Site	Unknown	Antebellum
16SJ027	Pipestem	Unknown	Antebellum
16SJ034	St. Rose Plantation	Unknown	Antebellum
16SJ014	St. Joseph Plantation	Unknown	Antebellum
16SJ011	Hester Plantation Site	Unknown	Antebellum
16SJ063	Dow-Sorr/5	Ineligible	Antebellum
16SJ023	St. James Cemetery	Cemetery	Antebellum
16SJ008	Laura/ Duparc Plantation	Unknown	Antebellum
16SJ019	Golden Grove	Ineligible	Antebellum
16SJ066	Crescent Plt. Sgr. Mill	Ineligible	Antebellum
16SJ010	Homeplace Plantation	Unknown	Antebellum
16SJ012	St. Elmo Plantation	Unknown	Antebellum
16SJ030	Colomb Plantation	Unknown	Antebellum
16SJ017	Welcome Plantation	Eligible	Antebellum
16SJ052	Vacherie Survey 87-5	Unknown	Antebellum
16SJ013	Lutcher & Moore Lumber	Unknown	Industrialization
16SJ031	Retaining Wall Site	Unknown	Industrialization
16SJ056	None	Ineligible	Industrialization
16SJ009	None	Unknown	Industrialization
16SJ022	Gaudet House Site	Unknown	Industrialization
16SJ024	Sunshine Bridge Site	Unknown	Industrialization
16SJ035	Old Courthouse Site	Ineligible	Industrialization
16SJ039	Romeville/Convent (cont)	Ineligible	Industrialization
16SJ041	Angelina Site 1	Ineligible	War and Aftermath
16SJ042	Angelina Site 2	Ineligible	War and Aftermath

Site #	Site Name	NRHP Eligibility	Components
16SJ043	Angelina Site 3	Ineligible	War and Aftermath
16SJ044	Angelina Site 4	Ineligible	War and Aftermath
16SJ045	Angeline Site 5	Ineligible	War and Aftermath
16SJ046	Angelina Site 6	Ineligible	War and Aftermath
16SJ047	Angelina Site 7	Ineligible	War and Aftermath
16SJ048	Angelina Site 8	Ineligible	War and Aftermath
16SJ005	Romeville Revetment Site	Unknown	War and Aftermath

Table 3.1 Archaeological Components in St. James Parish.

Generally, the prehistoric periods are influenced by changing Mississippi River deltas, and the influence of these changes is included in the following discussion (Smith, et al. 1983). The Mississippi River had shifted into the modern channel by the time of historic settlement (with some changes). The overwhelming majority of settlement patterns were based on the river, due to transportation, riverine resources, and the presence of elevated landforms adjacent to the river.

Paleo-Indian Stage – *ca. 10,000 to 6,000 years Before the Common Era (BCE)*

The first human occupation of the United States occurred sometime around 12,000 years ago (ca. 10,000 B.C.). The Paleo-Indian period occurred during the terminal Pleistocene era. The Pleistocene era climate was much drier and cooler than the modern era, and this climate supported a much different range of resources for the nomadic Paleo-Indian inhabitants. This period is characterized by a specialized tool kit generally thought to be associated with ‘big game’ hunting of Pleistocene megafauna. The most common example of this toolkit is the lanceolate, fluted projectile points and knives, although unfluted and incurvate points are also discovered. Artifact finds of Paleo-Indian material have been made throughout south-central Louisiana, generally on landforms associated with old courses of the Mississippi River and on higher, older terrace lands. Since the Mississippi River has occupied its modern course for only 4,500 years, it is unlikely that any of these sites will be discovered (Glander, et al. 1979). There are no recorded Paleo-Indian sites in St. James Parish (LDOA Cultural Resources Map).

Archaic Stage – *ca. 6,000 to 2,000 years BCE*

Changes in the climate, known as the Altithermal, ushered in a transition from dry, cooler conditions to a wetter and warmer climate by the end of the Archaic. The Archaic period is traditionally divided into three subdivisions or periods: Early Archaic (ca. 8000-6000 B.C.), Middle Archaic (ca. 6000-2000 B.C.), and Late Archaic (ca. 2000-500 B.C.). These periods generally correspond to climatic changes that occurred during the course of the Holocene epoch, and are recognized in the archaeological record by changes in tool technology and other aspects of material culture (Bense 1994). This change in climate also changed the resources available to the Archaic inhabitants, namely the extinction of the ‘big game’ Pleistocene megafauna. The change in the tool kit reflected a shift to smaller game hunting and a greater reliance on gathering. It is also thought that societies became less nomadic during this time. Small conical earthen mounds, often in a burial context, were constructed during the middle to late Archaic. Examples of this tool kit change include smaller, stemmed projectile points, ground stone tools, stone bowls, and wood and bone tools. Pottery vessels also entered the artifact assemblage by the late Archaic period. Archaic peoples successfully adapted to a changing climate and to

shifting resource patterns (Willey and Phillips 1958). As previously mentioned, the Mississippi River has occupied its modern course for the last 4,500 years, which only includes the terminal 500 years of the Archaic period (Glander, et al. 1979). The Belmont Mound Site (16SJ01) was recorded as a possible Archaic site, based mostly on the lack of artifacts (specifically ceramics) from the site.

Poverty Point

The Poverty Point culture is named after the northeastern Louisiana type site (16WC5) of the same name. It is a terminal Archaic culture, and may be the first chiefdom-level society recorded in the eastern United States. The site is thought to be the center of a vast trade networks extending throughout the Lower Mississippi Valley. It is characterized by the building of extensive earthworks, a microlithic tool industry, the use of steatite vessels, and baked clay balls known as “Poverty Point objects.” (Glander, et al. 1979; Yakubik 1994; Handley 2007). There are no recorded Poverty Point sites in St. James Parish (LDOA Cultural Resources Map).

Woodland Stage – 2,000 to 1,600 BCE

This period, though it contains many distinct cultures, is generally characterized by intensive plant gathering which evolved into horticulture and finally agriculture in the Mississippian era. Earthen mounds with elaborate burials were often located on the crests of natural levee ridges and most likely served as ceremonial centers. Shell middens are also known from this period, which are often rich in various animal and waterfowl bones, contribute to the body of knowledge regarding the Woodland period (Glander, et al. 1979).

Tchefuncte

Tchefuncte culture is one of the first to adapt the widespread use of pottery, often referred to as “the early ceramic period.” The tool assemblage is very similar to the Late Archaic and Poverty Point periods. Coastal adaptations of the Tchefuncte culture involve depositing dense shell middens, while inland Tchefuncte sites are classified as villages or hamlets (Handley 2007; Yakubik 1994; Phillips 1970). There are no recorded Tchefuncte sites in St. James Parish (LDOA Cultural Resources Map).

Marksville

The Marksville culture is associated with a Hopewellian culture and tradition manifested throughout the Lower Mississippi Valley. The Hopewellian culture established a wide-ranging network, often referred to as the “Hopewellian Interaction Sphere.” The Hopewell culture’s two major population centers were in Ohio and Illinois. Conical mounds, exotic grave goods such as copper ear spools, copper tubes, and galena beads, and complex mortuary practices are characteristic of the Marksville culture. There are no recorded Marksville sites in St. James Parish (LDOA Cultural Resources Map).

Coles Creek

The Late Woodland Coles Creek period is the time period that begins with the emergence of Coles Creek culture in the southern Lower Mississippi Valley and ends with establishment of the Mississippian culture (Phillips 1970). The culture is typified by small ceremonial centers with funerary mounds. The size of the mounds are variable, but they are pyramidal and flat-topped, a definite precursor to Mississippian culture. The tops of these mounds were used to house religious and ceremonial/civic structures (Brown 1984). The Shell Midden Site, (16SJ50), is a Coles Creek site located in St. James.

Mississippian Stage – 1,600 BCE to Protohistoric Period

The Mississippian period, in general, was a continuation and refinement of the Woodland lifeways described above. This period is typified by permanent agricultural settlements centered around flat-topped, pyramidal temple mounds with a hierarchical socio-political system. Maize agriculture was the primary economic focus of this culture (Glander, et al. 1979). One archaeological site, 16SJ51 (Jerry Haas Site), contains one flat-topped pyramidal mound, and is interpreted as a possible Mississippian period site.

According to LDAH records, there are no prehistoric sites recorded within the study area. The closest prehistoric site, the Belmont Mound Site (16SJ1) is located 2.3 miles west of the study area. It is interesting to note that three of the four prehistoric sites recorded in St. James Parish (16SJ01, 16SJ50, 16SJ51) are clustered within 150 m (0.1 mi) of each other, all of which are assigned to either the Woodland or Mississippian cultural periods. This suggests a long term prehistoric occupation and the possibility for other prehistoric sites in areas not disturbed by agriculture or other ground disturbing activities. Luckily, the property owner of the three sites listed above is actively preserving the sites, so their research potential is intact.

St. James Parish History

The area including and immediately surrounding what is now known as St. James Parish, located in Southeast Louisiana, was first inhabited by settlers of European descent in 1723, when missionaries included the region in a grand ecclesiastical district. Shortly thereafter, in the 1760s, Acadians in exile from Canada made their way to the region. While control of the Louisiana territories had recently been assumed by Spain, many of the Catholic Acadians were mistakenly of the understanding that Louisiana was still a French colony; regardless, the Acadians quickly populated this area of South Louisiana, and those in exile were welcomed by the Spanish government as settlers of the new territory. South Central Louisiana became known as Acadiana, and what is now St. James Parish has also been called “Cabahanoe”, “Saint James of the Acadian”, the “Post of the Acadians”, Cabanoe”, the “Coast of the Acadians”, the “Post of the Cabanoces”, the “Golden Coast”, and “Acadie.” The area was also known as the “Comte d’Acadie” or the County of Acadia.

After Louisiana gained statehood in 1803, St. James Parish was officially established in 1807 as one of the State of Louisiana’s original nineteen parishes. The seminal communities in St. James Parish include Convent (the Parish seat), Lutchet, Vacherie, and Gramercy.

Industry in St. James Parish has been primarily based in agriculture, including sugar cane, tobacco and soy beans. By 1840, there were over 800 sugar cane plantations in St. James Parish. Another enterprising plantation owner, Valcour Aime, is credited with the development of the process by which sugar cane is refined. From the 1830s on, sugar cane has been the major crop of this region. In more recent decades, the Port of South Louisiana has a multitude of commercial enterprises lining both sides of the Mississippi River (Communities Online Inc. 2011).

One of the most well-known agricultural accomplishments in St. James Parish was the development of Perique tobacco. Named for an Acadian farmer, Pierre “Perique” Chenet, Perique tobacco has been cultivated on a relatively small tract of land in St. James Parish for nearly 200 years. The descendants of Mr. Chenet still produce this tobacco in St. James Parish to this day (Rense 1970).

St. Elmo Plantation

For the purposes of this study, the two sections within Township 12 South/Range 5 East containing both St. Elmo Plantation (Section 10) and the APE (Section 11) were reviewed. In some instances additional adjacent sections (Section 6, 7, 8, 9, 12, 13) in the same Township and Range were also reviewed, in order to provide property owner associations revealed within the document review.

The first recorded owners of the study area were listed on an 1831 Plat map (Figure 3.1). The owner of Section 10 was a Madame R. Lavene. A landowner was not listed for Section 11, although the land was platted and mapped. No property improvements were listed on the map, so it remains unclear as to whether the plantation was operating at this time. Adjacent property owners (Sections 6, 7, 8) include the surname Bourgeois (the only legible first name was Edouard-Section 8). It should also be mentioned that Section 10 is generally twice the width of adjacent land sections, presumably to accommodate the size and layout of a large plantation.

An 1851 Plat map (Figure 3.2) illustrates many landowner changes. All sections within or adjacent to the study area are privately owned. Section 8 was still owned by Edouard Bourgeois, Section 9 was owned by a Joseph Poirie, Section 10 was listed as the Jean Louis Part (assumed partition), Section 11 was owned by Madame Bourgeois widow of Aman Bourgeois, and Section 13 was owned by Paul Bourgeois.

The St. Elmo Plantation is listed on Mississippi River Commission (MRC) maps dating to 1883. The owner of the plantation, Felix Damare, is the son of Jean Louis Amare, both of St. James Parish. Jean Louis Damare died on March 5, 1968. He was survived by Adele Malarcher, who unfortunately never lived long enough to witness the succession of Jean Louis, as she passed away June 24, 1875 (St. James Parish Conveyance, Book 47, p 344-48). Adele Malarcher appointed the power of attorney to her son Felix Damare on July 20, 1870 (St. James Conveyance, Book 43, p 269-70). The succession was not to occur until all children were “of age.” The succession of Jean Louis and Adele transpired February 18, 1879. All surviving children were in attendance: Felix Damare, Elvina Damare, Auguste Damare, Germain Damare, Amelie Damare, and Joseph Damare. Many tracts of land in the vicinity of St. Elmo Plantation

were granted to the heirs, but it is unsure whether St. Elmo Plantation was among them. It seems possible that Jean Louis Damare could be the owner of the Jean Louis Part (partition) in Section 10 in 1851, and it was ultimately transferred to his son Felix Damare.

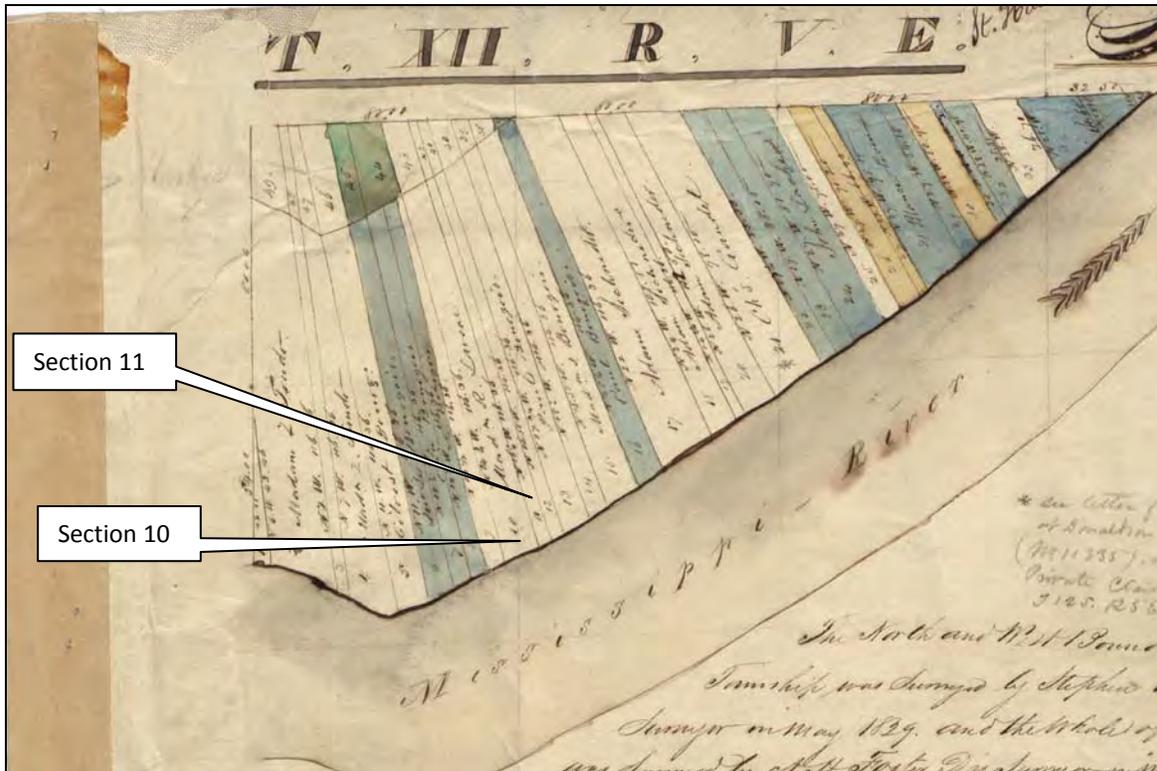


Figure 3.1 1831 plat map excerpt of the Louisiana Southeastern District, T: 12S, R: 5E. (1831 Plat Map for T:12S, R:14E [LSLO 1831]).

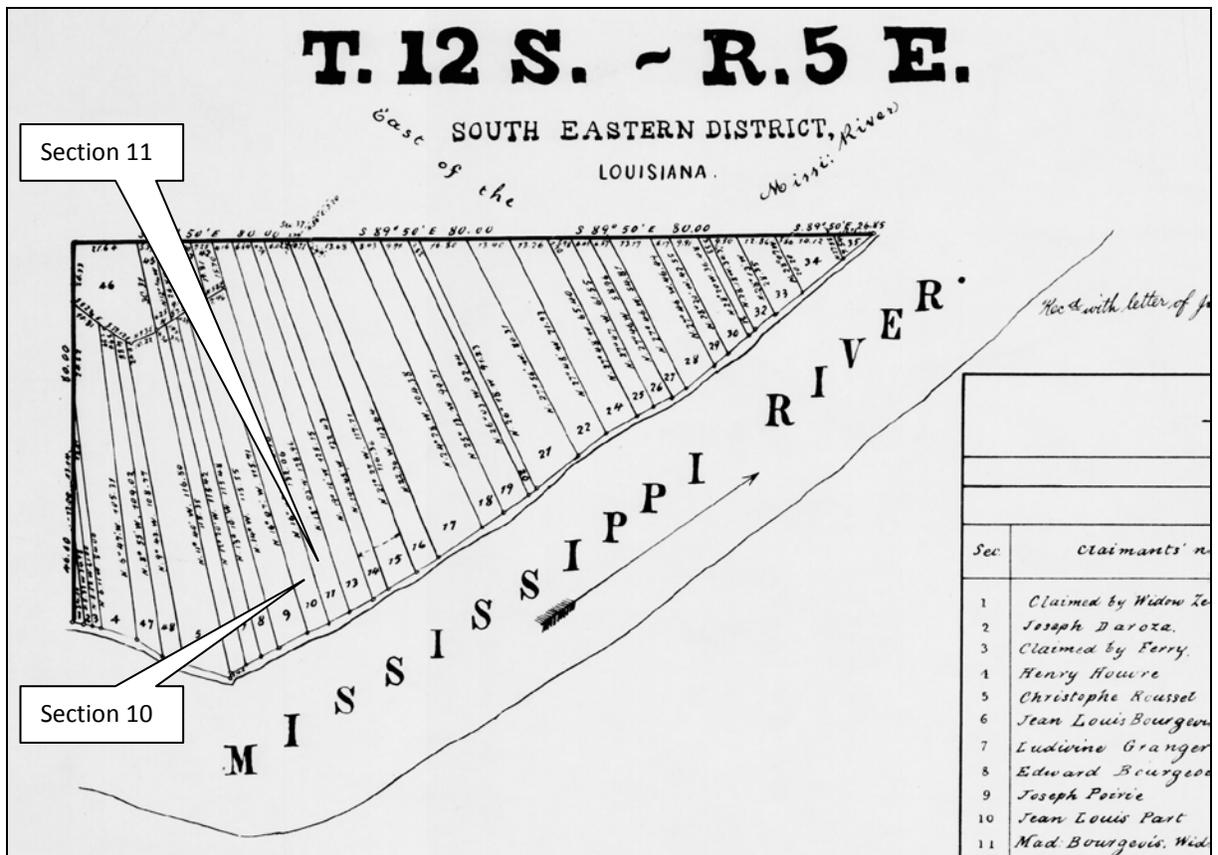


Figure 3.2 1851 plat map excerpt of the Louisiana Southeastern District, T: 12S, R: 5E. (1851 Plat Map for T:12S, R:14E [LSLO 1831]).

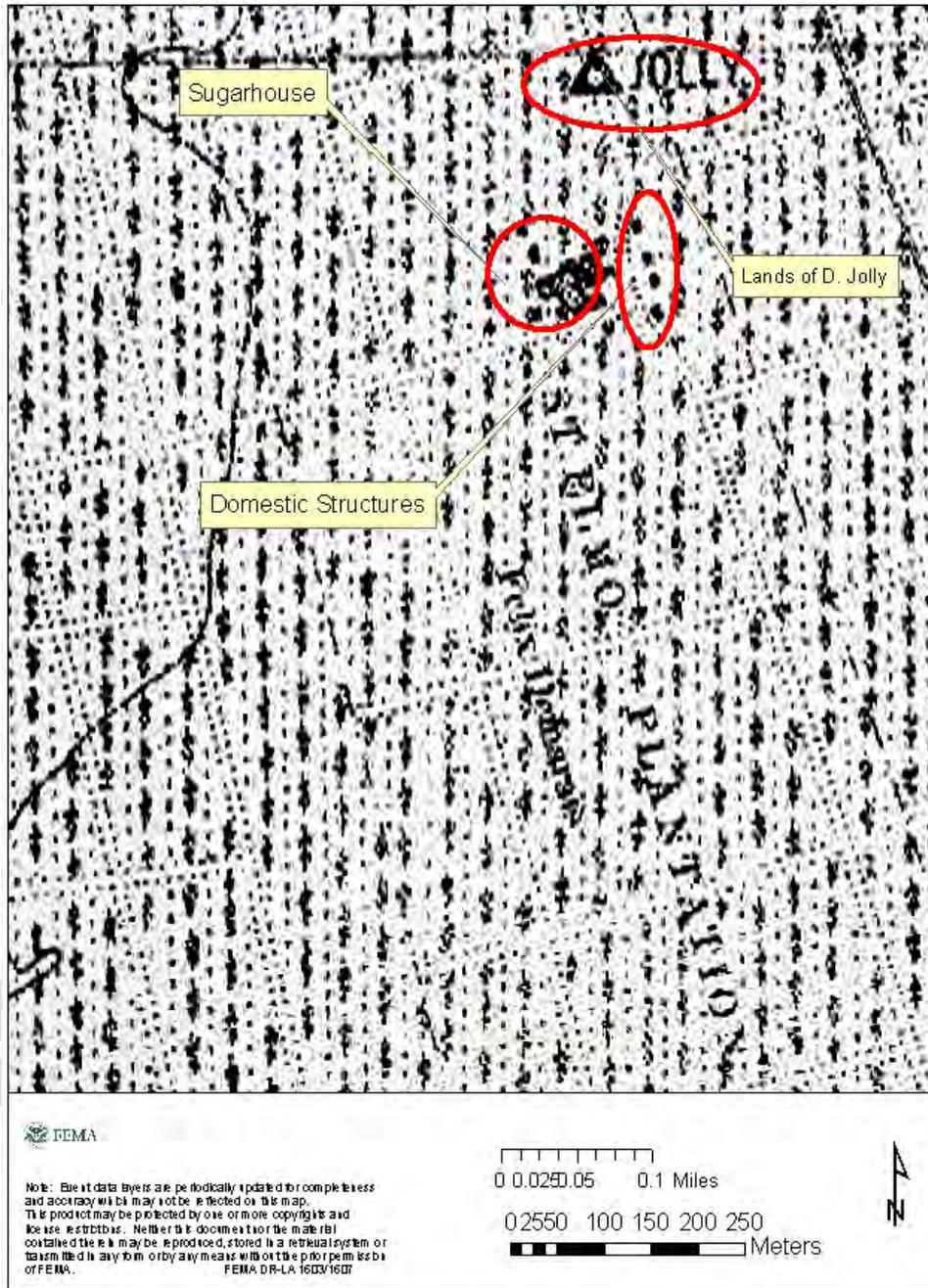


Figure 3.3 1883 Mississippi River Commission map excerpt illustrating the St. Elmo Plantation Sugarhouse and four possible domestic structures.

Apparently the Damare and Bourgeois families were familiar with each other, as Felix Damare was listed in the succession of Edouard Bourgeois (St. James Parish Conveyance, Book 39, p 278-80). Edouard was an owner of the St. Elmo Plantation (but not necessarily the original owner), as evidenced by the following Edouard Bourgeois succession excerpt:

1. A Sugar Plantation, situated in the Parish of St. James, on the left bank of the Mississippi River, at about a distance of 54 miles above the City of New Orleans, and composed of the following tracts of land, and of the dwelling house, sugar house, steam engine, and all other buildings and improvements thereon and thereunto situated and belonging.

Later in the same document, one of the land parcels is described as follows:

46/100 acres bounded above and below by tracts of land firstly and secondly described, in front by lands of the heirs of Robert Laving, and in the rear, by lands belonging to D. Jolly.

The lands described firstly and secondly in the above quote describe the sugar plantation mentioned in first quote. As the Mississippi River was the main transportation route, the front of a property is the closest to the river and the rear is further away from the river. Madame R. Laverne was listed of the owner of Section 10 in 1831, and a Robert Lavigne was listed as owning land fronting the plantation. Despite the differences in the surname spelling, both Madame R. and Robert may be related and possible the builders of St. Elmo Plantation. More compelling is the mention of the name D. Jolly, whose lands are in the rear of the plantation grounds. The 1883 MRC map lists a “Jolly” directly north of the sugar house (Figure 3.3). This location would be the rear of the St. Elmo Plantation grounds, and the presence of the name Jolly confirms that the plantation described is St. Elmo Plantation. Further verification was made by this researcher using the ArcMap program by measuring the distance via river from Section 10 to the French Quarter in New Orleans, a reliable early location for the city. Measurements ranged from 52-56 miles between Section 10 and the French Quarter, which seems reasonable given the distances involved and discrepancies in mapping.

St. Elmo Plantation was sold at auction on August 23, 1890 by Felix Damare to F. R. Poche for the sum of \$35,000. Apparently J. W. Pugh assumed ownership of the plantation and Section 10 after F. R. Poche, as evidenced by the following excerpt from the 1899 Louisiana Planter:

J. W. Pugh, of St. Elmo Plantation, has decided to rebuild his sugar which was destroyed by fire at the close of the past year. Many of the neighboring small planters were pleased to hear of this, as a factory in that vicinity is very necessary for purchasing cane.

The following auction announcement in the Times-Picayune newspaper dated August 14, 1898 describes both the condition of the St. Elmo Plantation prior to the fire:

The St. Elmo Plantation: In St. James Parish, near Convent, La, will be sold at public auction on Saturday August 18, at 12m., 325 acres cane, 75 acres corn and peas, a six-roller mill, vacuum pan, steam train, filter press, bagasse burner and 200 sugar cars.

A death announcement in the Times-Picayune dated March 19, 1911 indicates that a 17 month old child, Cecil Le Bourgeois, passed away at St. Elmo Plantation. An article in the Times-

Picayune dated October 5, 1946 indicated that the land of the former St. Elmo Plantation was bequeathed to the Convalescent Home of Charity hospital in New Orleans. This donation was made by Louise Bartles Waggner, widow of the Edward J. Thilberger. Apparently the land changed hands many times after ownership by Edouard Bourgeois and Felix Damare. The land is currently owned by Marathon Oil Company.

The preceding document review assists in deducing plantation layout (Figure 3.4). The 1883 MRC map indicates the presence of at least four structures, but it is apparent that more structures were present during the active life of the plantation. A 1941 travel guide describes a group of 28 dull red-painted frame structures were visible from the River Road, located south of the St. Elmo Plantation grounds and the APE (Federal Writers Project 1945). The big house was reported to be situated adjacent to the railroad, at the modern site of a large grain elevator (Chenier 2010).

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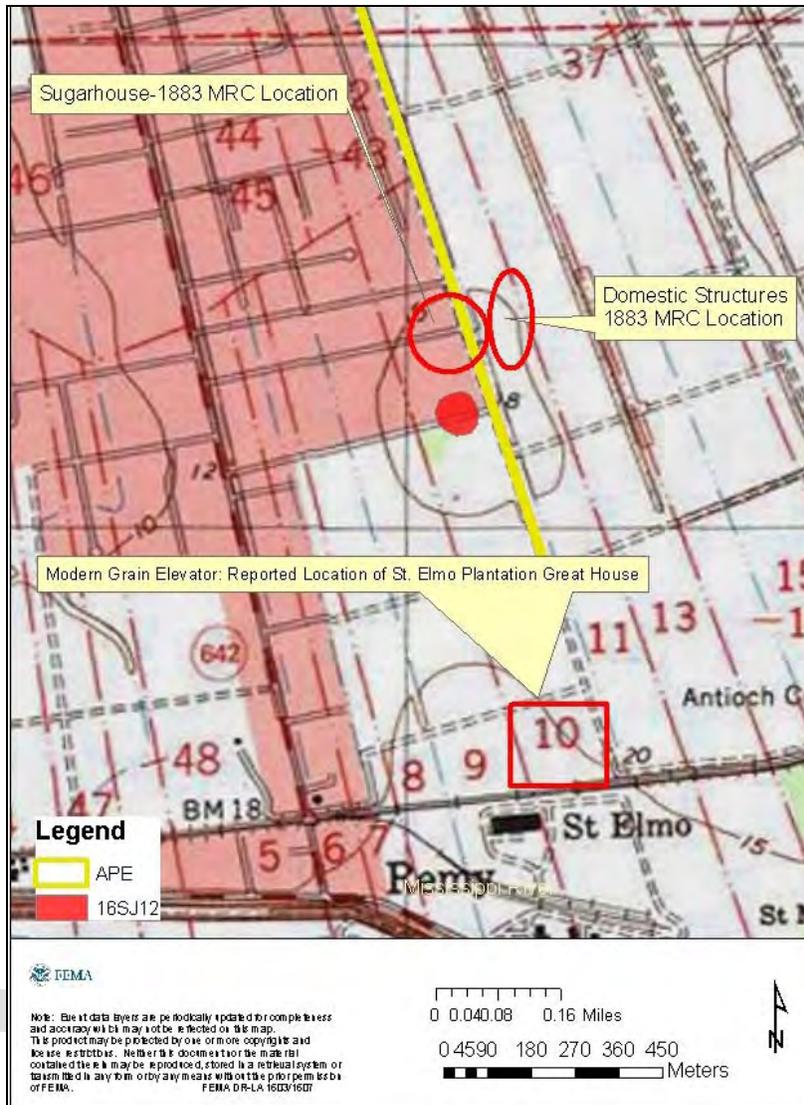


Figure 3.4 1883 Mississippi River Commission map excerpt illustrating the St. Elmo Plantation Sugarhouse, four possible domestic structures, and the reported location of the Great House.

4. Previous Research

Recorded Sites

Upon review of the LA Cultural Resources Map it was determined that one archaeological site (16SJ12) is located directly adjacent to the project and is the focus of this study (Figure 4-1). The St. Elmo Plantation (16SJ12) sugar house structure was recorded by Coastal Environments Inc. (CEI) of Baton Rouge in a report titled *An Evaluation of Cultural Resources for the Proposed Mississippi River Bridge St. James and St. John the Baptist Parishes, State of Louisiana*. The sugar house site was recorded using surface collection, with no subsurface testing, and is of unknown size. The site was recorded as the remnants of a sugar house, circa 1880, associated with St. Elmo Plantation (Glander, et al. 1979).

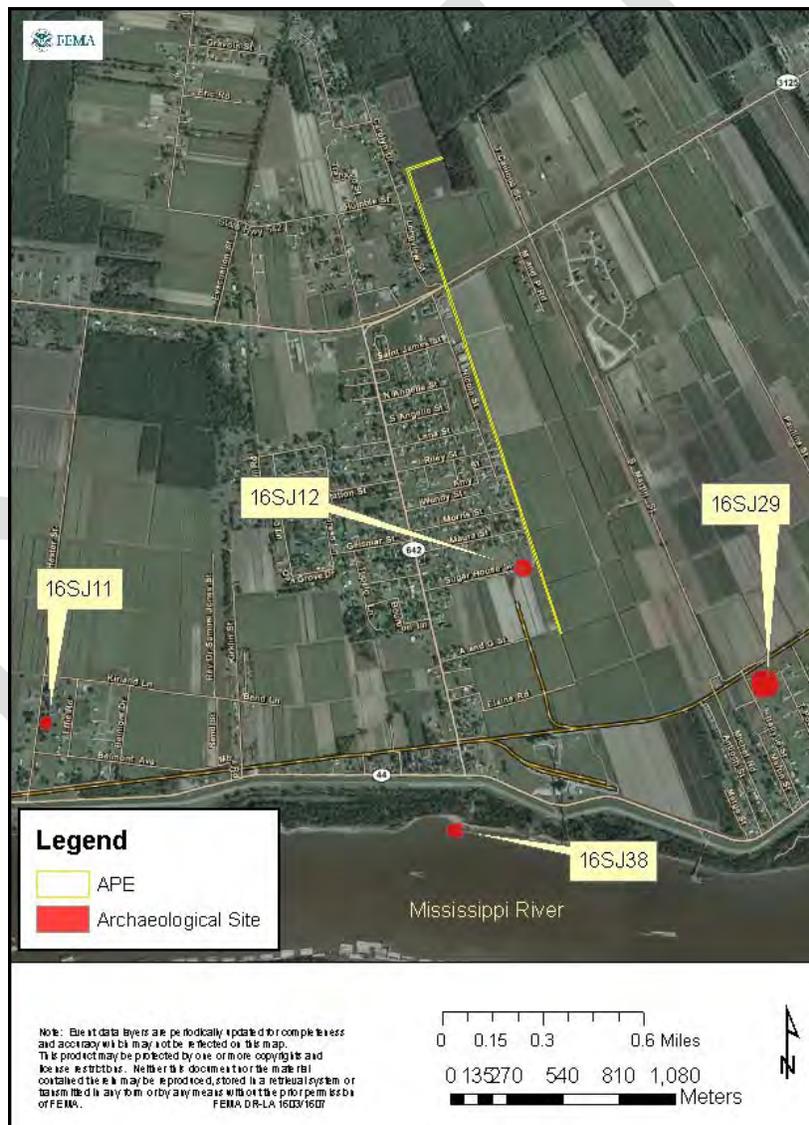


Figure 4.1 Sites adjacent to project APE.

Three other sites are located within 1.5 miles. T. Poche (16ST29) is located 3100 ft (945 m) east-southeast of the project APE. This site was recorded by Rain Barnes of Southern Archaeological Research on 20 July 1980. The site was described as a 20 m x 15 m historic scatter consisting of historic ceramics, brick fragments, glass, and metal. The site was identified in a sugar cane field using surface inspection and shovel test pits. The cultural features and affiliations for this site were listed as a historic scatter, with no discussion of ceramic types and exact temporal range for the site. The site was determined as not eligible for listing on the NRHP due to the “greatly disturbed” nature of the deposits (Barnes 1980). T. Poche may be associated with the Belleview Plantation.

The Bourbon Plantation Site (16SJ38) is located 3450 ft (1050 m) south-southwest of the project APE. The site was recorded by R. Christopher Goodwin and Associates, who defined the brick-masonry sugar house floor, a derrick platform, and shell fill. Field methods for this project included surface collection, five controlled backhoe trenches, and two stratigraphic profiles. The site was determined not eligible for listing in the NRHP, due to erosion from the Mississippi River. A discussion of the associated report is included in the previous reports section (Goodwin, et al. 1984).

The Hester Plantation Site (16SJ11) is located 1.46 mi (2350 m) east of the project APE. The site was also recorded by CEI in the above mentioned report, *An Evaluation of Cultural Resources for the Proposed Mississippi River Bridge, St. James and St. John the Baptist Parishes, State of Louisiana*. Field methods used for site identification were primarily surface inspection; no artifacts were collected from this site. The plantation home ruins were recorded on the site form. The site location is heavily disturbed, initially from sugar cane cultivation and later from a housing development which currently occupies the site (Glander, et al. 1979).

Previous Reports

After consultation of the site file project database provided by the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), two surveys were conducted within 1 mile of the project APE and one was conducted within 1.3 miles. CEI conducted an evaluation study, titled *An Evaluation of Cultural Resources for the Proposed Mississippi River Bridge St. James and St. John the Baptist Parishes, State of Louisiana*. This study conducted research for several bridge alignments, including the Paulina area. St. Elmo Plantation (16SJ12) was recorded on this project, which provided a general location and the need for future research. The Hester Plantation Site (16SJ11), an unknown NRHP eligibility 19th century plantation site, was also recorded on this survey. Both sites are discussed above in the Recorded Sites section (Glander, et al. 1979).

In 1984, R. Goodwin and Associates, Inc. conducted investigations of two plantations in the report titled *Historic Archaeology at Star and Bourbon Plantations: Miles 65.5 R and 151-L, Mississippi River*. The Bourbon Plantation (16SJ38) was the subject of archival research, pedestrian survey, and surface collection which revealed the presence of 19th and 20th century occupation. The site was reported as being seriously impacted by fluvial processes, as it is located on the batture between the Mississippi River and the modern floodwall. The site is discussed above in the Recorded Sites section (Goodwin, et al. 1984).

In 1979, Richard C. Beavers and Edward R. Chatelain conducted a cultural resource survey and assessment 1.3 miles north of the northern project APE. This study, titled *Cultural Resource Survey and Assessment of the Proposed Marathon Pipeline Co. 30" St. James to Garyville, Louisiana Pipeline, St. John the Baptist and St. James Parishes, Louisiana*. This project entailed an intensive literature search and field assessment. One historic site (unknown trinomial) and one late 19th-early 20th century tram roadbed was recorded on the project. No sites were located in the vicinity of the project area (Beavers, et al. 1979).

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5. Methods

This chapter describes the various methodologies used to complete the Phase I archaeological survey of the proposed Longview Canal Drainage Project in St. James Parish, Louisiana. It also includes information pertaining to the analysis of the recovered cultural materials and the curation of the artifacts and the associated records generated as a result of this investigation.

Background Research

The current cultural resources investigation was designed to identify and to evaluate cultural resources present with and adjacent to the APE. The background research for the project was comprehensive in nature. Historical research included a review of cartographic, archival, and archaeological records of the properties directly adjacent to St. Elmo Plantation (16SJ12). Archival research was conducted at various repositories in New Orleans, Baton Rouge, and Convent, Louisiana. Plat maps and land survey descriptions were obtained at the websites of the Bureau of Land Management, Government Land Office, and the Louisiana Office of State Lands. Historical research was conducted at the Notarial Archives in New Orleans; the New Orleans public library; the Howard Tilton Memorial Library at Jones Hall, Tulane University, New Orleans; and land conveyance records were consulted in the St. James Parish courthouse in Convent. Archival research was also conducted at the Louisiana State Historic Preservation Office, Division of Archaeology, in Baton Rouge to assess the nature and extent of cultural resources in St. James Parish.

Fieldwork

The APE for this project measured 30 ft (9.14 m) in width and 7400 ft (2255 m) in length. Due to these dimensions, a single transect of shovel and auger tests was used to test the APE from the southern terminus north to LA-3125. Field work consisted of 16 STPs at least 30 centimeters (cm.) in diameter excavated in 30 m intervals in the vicinity of 16SJ12. All STPs were confined to the APE. The tests were excavated to a minimum depth of 50 cm and into sterile subsoil. A total of eight STPs were positive for historic artifacts, so 19 additional STPs were placed at 10 m intervals to better define site boundaries and to locate and identify any subsurface deposits and/or features present. Out of these 19 additional STPs, 11 were positive for historic and modern artifacts. At the discretion of the archaeologist, eight of the 11 positive boundary STPs were also subjected to an auger test at the base of STP excavation, in order to identify any deeper deposits. An intensive surface inspection of the 16SJ12 area was conducted, in addition to the shovel test survey. The remainder of the APE north of 16SJ12 was considered low probability and was pedestrian surveyed. The APE north of LA-3125 exhibits the transition from toe slope topography to the backswamp, which contributed to the low probability assessment. All shovel tests and auger tests were excavated to sterile subsoil and soils were screened through ¼ inch mesh screen to recover any artifacts. All cultural materials were bagged and labeled according to provenience.

Laboratory Methods

All artifacts were brought to the FEMA HMGP archaeology office at 1 Seine Ct., New Orleans, LA for analysis and preparation in accordance with the Louisiana State Historic Preservation Office guidelines for curation (see Curation Statement). The artifacts were washed with plain water and a toothbrush. After washing the artifacts were air dried.

The artifacts were analyzed using Stanley South's (1977) pattern analysis system used by many historical archaeologists. South's patterns are based on functional categories, such as kitchen or architectural artifacts. South argues that culture, as a system of shared behaviors and beliefs, is patterned and material remains of the culture should also be patterned. There are a total of nine artifact classes defined by South: architecture, clothing, furniture, kitchen, personal, arms, tobacco, activities, and miscellaneous. These artifact classes allow the archaeologist to better define activity areas and specific and aid in the interpretation of an archaeological site (South 1977).

Curation

All artifacts were brought to the offices of the FEMA HMGP archaeology staff at 1 Seine Ct., New Orleans, LA for analysis, labeling, and cataloging. Following the completion of all analyses and the acceptance of the final report, all records, photographs, artifacts, and field notes will be curated with:

State of Louisiana
Department of Culture, Recreation, and Tourism
Division of Archaeology
P.O. Box 44247
Baton Rouge, LA 70804-4247

In the curation facility at:
Galvez Building, Room B-023
602 N. Fifth Street
Baton Rouge, LA 70802
(225) 342-4475

6. Results

Project Background

FEMA archaeologists visited the project area on two occasions and found evidence of historic occupation. These visits, on November 8, 2010 and December 1, 2010, established the limits of expected ground disturbance for the drainage project. The Grand Bourbon subdivision drainage improvements, all contained within existing utility trenches, was cleared programmatically, but the Longview Canal widening required further study. FEMA LA SHPO Liaison to FEMA Jason Emery accompanied the team on a site visit (December 1, 2010) and proposed that a Reconnaissance Level study of the APE in the vicinity of 16SJ12 was required. This was due in part to information provided by Jody Chenier, St. James Parish Director of Operations. Mr. Chenier reported that large amounts of mortared brick were uncovered during the facility construction of Paulina Park, located within the 16SJ12 site polygon. The heaviest concentrations of brick were reported in the southeastern portion of the park, in the vicinity of the tennis courts. Fragmentary brick was also visible in the eastern half of the agricultural fields south of Paulina Park and Sugarhouse Road. There were no obvious surface remains of these brick features currently visible in the park. It seems likely that the brick encountered during park construction was directly related to 16SJ12. The APE adjacent to 16SJ12 was in sugar cultivation at the time of the December 1, 2010 site visit, which resulted in poor surface visibility. The portion of the APE north of LA 3125, also a sugar cane field, had already been harvested and was pedestrian surveyed on December 1st, with no cultural resources encountered.

Investigations of the APE in the vicinity of 16SJ12 were initiated after sugar cane harvesting was complete. This harvesting and clearing resulted in favorable ground visibility. Fieldwork conducted on January 11th through January 12th, 2011 recovered historic materials (brick fragments, whiteware, and clear glass) in shovel testing. After discussion of the findings with Jason Emery and in accordance with LDOA Field Standards, a Phase I Survey was recommended. This phase one survey included the establishment of site boundaries with 10 m interval STPs, identification of cultural deposits within the site, and the pedestrian/auger testing survey (100 m. intervals) of the APE north of 16SJ12 to LA 3125. The above mentioned site boundary and identification fieldwork was conducted on January 19 and 20, 2011.

Shovel Testing

A total of 35 STPs were excavated in one transect during APE testing and the evaluation of 16SJ12 (Figure 6-1). Figure 6-1 depicts the location and content of the STPs. The STP transect was oriented from south-southeast to north-northwest, and was contained within the natural river levee. Shovel testing began at the southern project terminus, heading north to the reported 16SJ12 location. Although this start point was 250 m south of 16SJ12, it was quite possibly on the St. Elmo Plantation grounds, and was treated as having an elevated potential to contain buried cultural resources. Three negative STPs were excavated north of the main artifact concentration (north of the reported 16SJ12 location), at which point shovel testing was concluded.

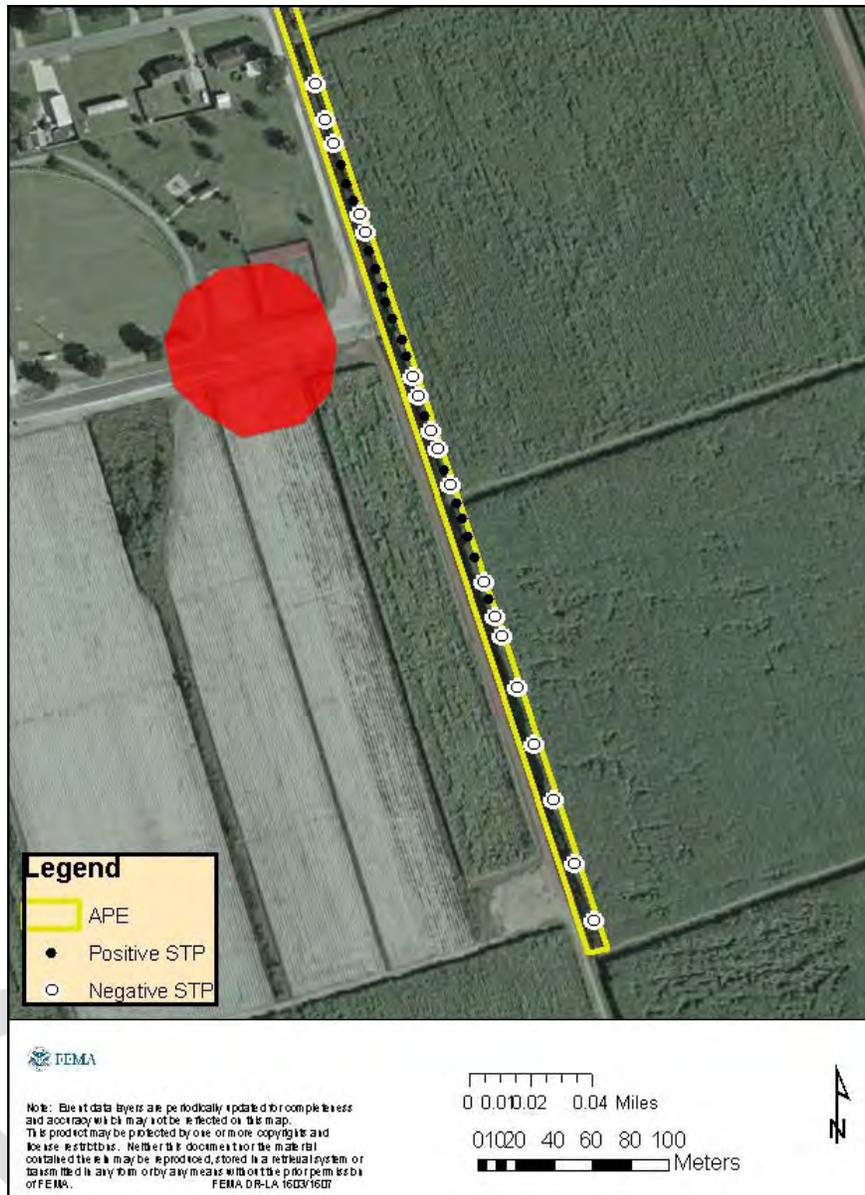


Figure 6.1 Shovel test locations in the vicinity of 16SJ12 (STPs not labeled due to scale and legibility).

Soil stratigraphy was fairly consistent within the terrace landform. Figure 6-2 illustrates a typical soil profile (STP 9) in this area. Stratum I was a 10YR 3/2 very dark grayish brown silty loam from 0-20 cm below ground surface (cmbs) transitioning to a 10YR 5/4 yellowish brown from 20-55 cmbs (Stratum II). Finally, 10YR 4/6 dark yellowish brown clay was encountered from 55-68 cmbs (Stratum III). The upper 20 centimeters is heavily disturbed plowzone, as shown in Figure 6-3.



Figure 6.2 STP 9 profile.



Figure 6.3 Photograph of STP 9 profile, facing east.

A total of 18 STPs were positive for historic materials, yielding a total of 140 artifacts (including brick). Artifact density per STP ranged from 1-8 artifacts, when excluding brick fragments. Artifacts recovered include clear glass, small amounts (n=2) of both solarized purple and white glass, mortar, brick fragments, UID nails, wire nails, undecorated whiteware, undecorated yellowware, and cut bone (n=2). Artifact collection in the majority of the shovel tests (n=15) was limited to Stratum I, although some isolated artifacts were discovered in the top of Stratum II (n=3 STPs). The discovery of artifacts in Stratum II appeared to be the result of mixing from Stratum I. Stratum I ranged from 0-30 cmbs across the site, while Stratum II ranged from 20-55 cmbs. Modern artifacts ranging from plastic, modern glass, and aluminum beverage containers were encountered but not collected.

Surface inspection of the APE in the vicinity of 16SJ12 yielded a total of 33 artifacts, very similar in appearance to the shovel test assemblage. In addition to the shovel test assemblage listed above, there were iron spikes (n=2), a metal door hinge, and milk glass.

The artifacts recovered were primarily architectural and kitchen related. The diagnostic artifacts recovered fit into the following categories: ceramics, glass, brick, and metal. The ceramic artifacts recovered include undecorated whiteware, undecorated yellowware, and banded ironstone (Figure 6-4). Plain, undecorated whiteware has a general date range of 1830 to present day, giving a mean ceramic date (MCD) of 1920.5 (Deagan 2011). Undecorated yellowware has a date range of 1830 through the present day (Deagan 2011). Banded ironstone has a date range of 1840 through the present day (Deagan 2011).



Figure 6.4 Historic ceramics recovered from 16SJ12 testing: a) plain yellowware; b) milk glass; c) banded ironstone; d and e) plain whiteware.

The glass artifacts recovered include solarized manganese, aqua glass, green glass, cobalt blue glass, and plain clear glass (Figure 6-5). As the majority of the glass recovered is plain and undecorated, this can be problematic with dating as the glass samples are of an unknown manufacturing type. Out of the entire glass assemblage, only the embossed solarized manganese glass (Figure 6-5, type a) has a distinct time range of 1875-1920, with a median date of 1897.5. (Lindsey 2011).



Figure 6.5 Glass recovered from APE adjacent to 16SJ12: a) solarized manganese; b) aqua; c) green glass; d) cobalt blue glass; and e) plain clear glass.

The brick recovered from the site appears to be locally made, with many mineral inclusions (Figure 6-6). No whole specimens were recovered, which makes exact identification of brick types problematic. No specific chronology for bricks has been developed for St. James Parish, but it is reasonable to assume common similarities in brick manufacturing exist here. Bricks were often handmade until the latter half of the nineteenth century. Many bricks were produced on local plantations until the machine manufacturing of bricks by the 1920s (Perrault, et al. 2006).



Figure 6.6 Brick fragments recovered from 16SJ12 testing.

The metal fasteners recovered from the site include an iron spike, an iron spike fragment, and a wire nail fragment (Figure 6-7). The iron spike fragments are non-diagnostic artifacts, but the wire nail fragment is diagnostic. The wire nail fragment is classified as a Type 12 Common Nail Type and dates from 1890 to the present day (Edwards 1993).

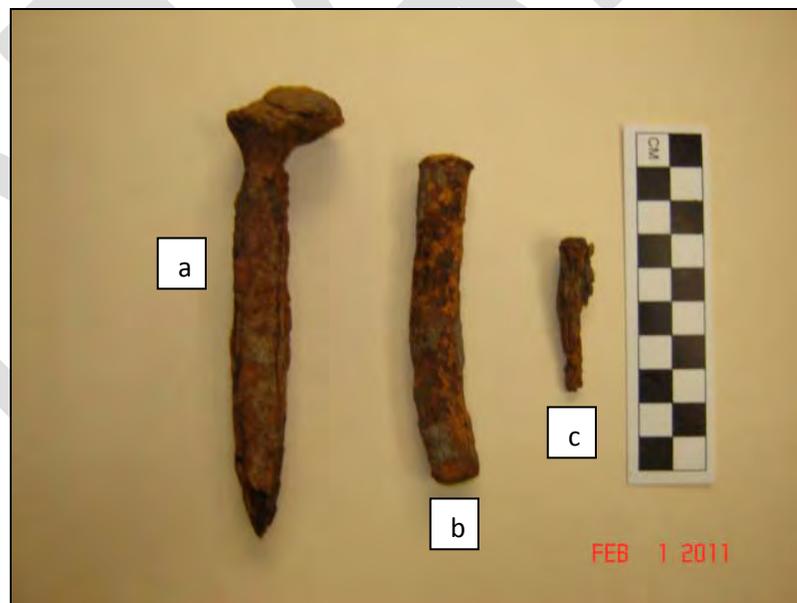


Figure 6.7 Metal artifacts recovered from 16SJ12 testing: a and b) two iron spikes and c) one wire nail fragment.

Based on the ceramic and glass artifacts recovered from the APE adjacent to 16SJ12, the embossed solarized manganese glass provides a median date of 1897.5, the undecorated whiteware provides a median date of 1920.5, the undecorated yellowware provides a median

date of 1870, and the banded ironstone provides a median date of 1885. Given the median date ranges provided by the ceramics and glass of 1870-1920.5, it appears reasonable to assume the site dates from the late 19th through early 20th centuries.

16SJ12 - St. Elmo Plantation

The positive shovel tests adjacent to 16SJ12 revealed three distinct loci (Figure 6-8). As noted above, these loci consisted mainly of domestic artifacts, primarily architectural and kitchen materials. These loci may correspond with several of the structures listed on the 1883 Mississippi River Commission map. Figure 6-9 illustrates the 1883 map features overlain on a modern USGS topographic map. The sugarhouse is accurate within 100 m of the LDOA mapped site polygon for 16SJ12. This level of accuracy provides a greater level of confidence regarding the locations of cultural features within the St. Elmo Plantation grounds. The 1883 map indicates the four structures were located less than 50 m east of the sugar house. As the 16SJ12 location is known to be within the eastern confines of Paulina Park (based on Jody Chenier interview), and the APE is located to the east of Paulina Park, it is reasonable to assume the domestic artifacts (Loci 1-3) are indeed related to the four 1883 MRC map structures. The exact function of these structures is unknown, but they are most likely housing for the sugar house workers, the agricultural workers, or possibly both. Due to the proximity to the sugar house, however, it seems likely that the structures were utilized by sugar house workers.

The proposed new site boundaries for 16SJ12 are shown in Figure 6-10. Outside the APE, the boundaries were extended to include the southeastern portion of Paulina Park, including the tennis court area where the heaviest brick concentrations were located. Also outside of the APE, the boundaries were extended to include the eastern half of the sugar cane field located to the south of Paulina Park. According to the 1883 MRC maps, both this sugar cane field and Paulina Park were inside the boundaries of St. Elmo Plantation, but the site boundaries were only extended to locations where artifacts were reported or observed. Within the APE, the boundaries were extended to include Loci 1-3. The boundaries were not extended east of the APE, as that area was not the subject of this study and was not investigated.

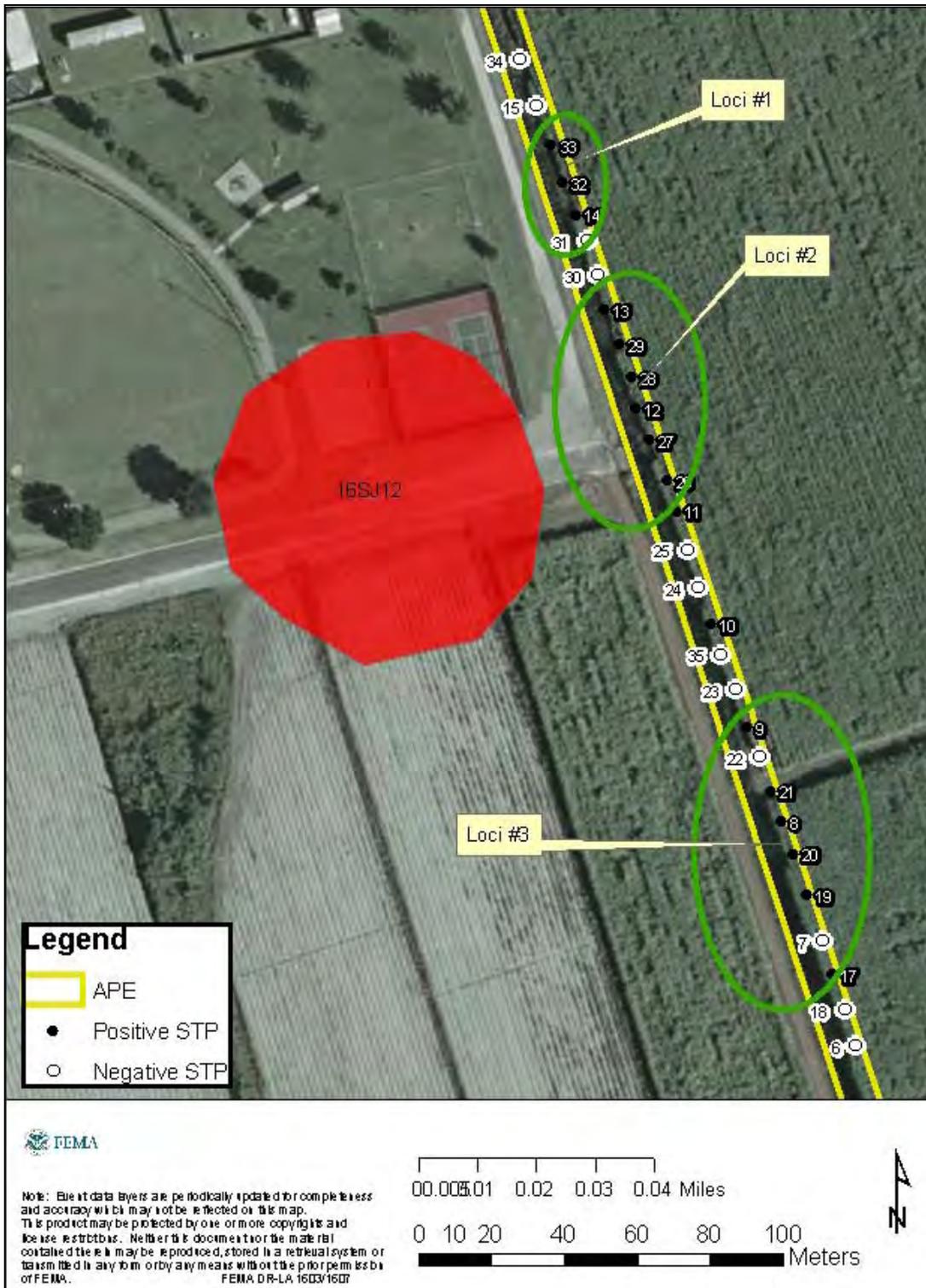


Figure 6.8 Loci 1-3, possible domestic structures, within the APE.

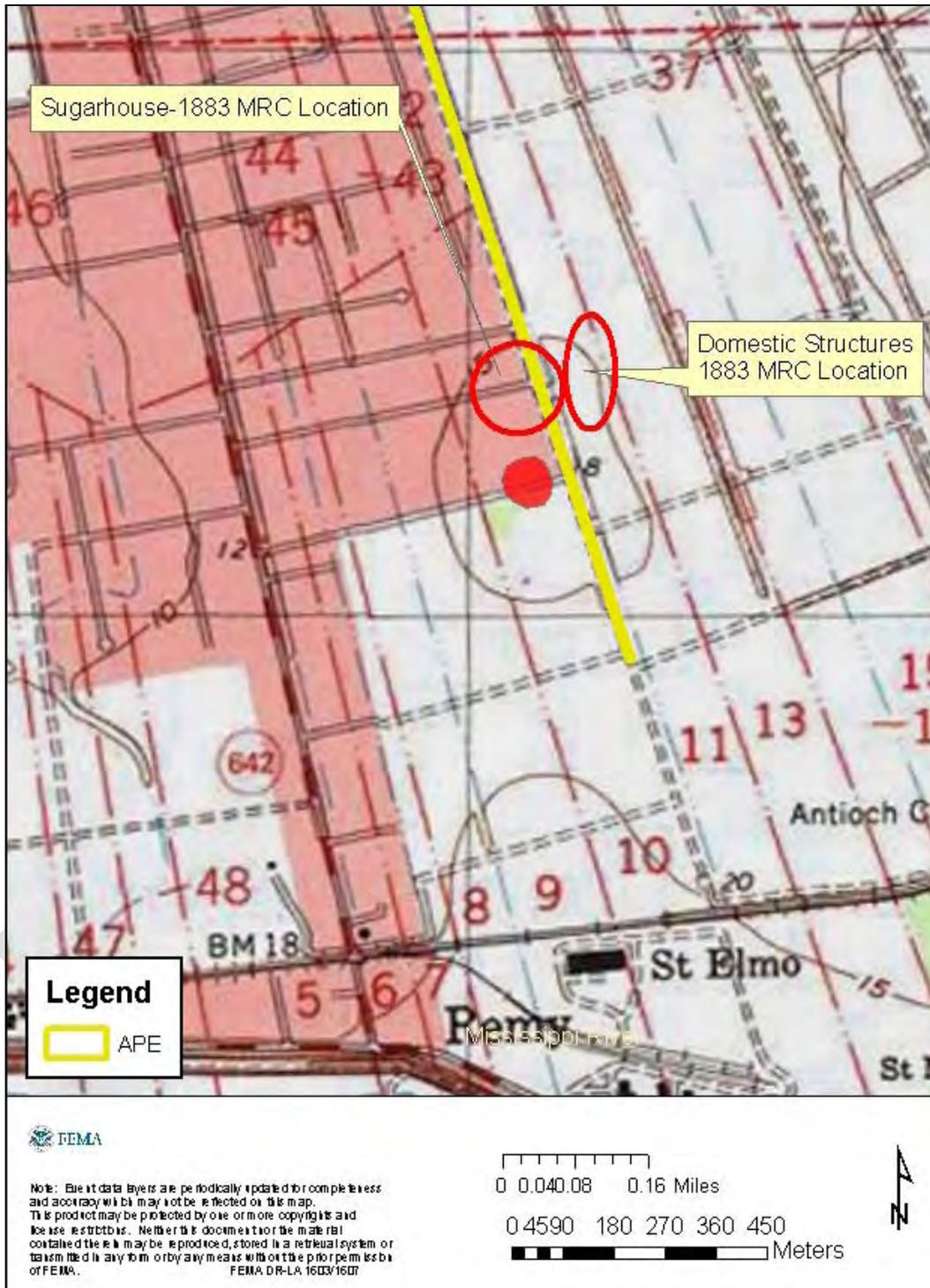


Figure 6.9 Sugar house and structure locations from 1883 MRC map overlain on modern topographic map.

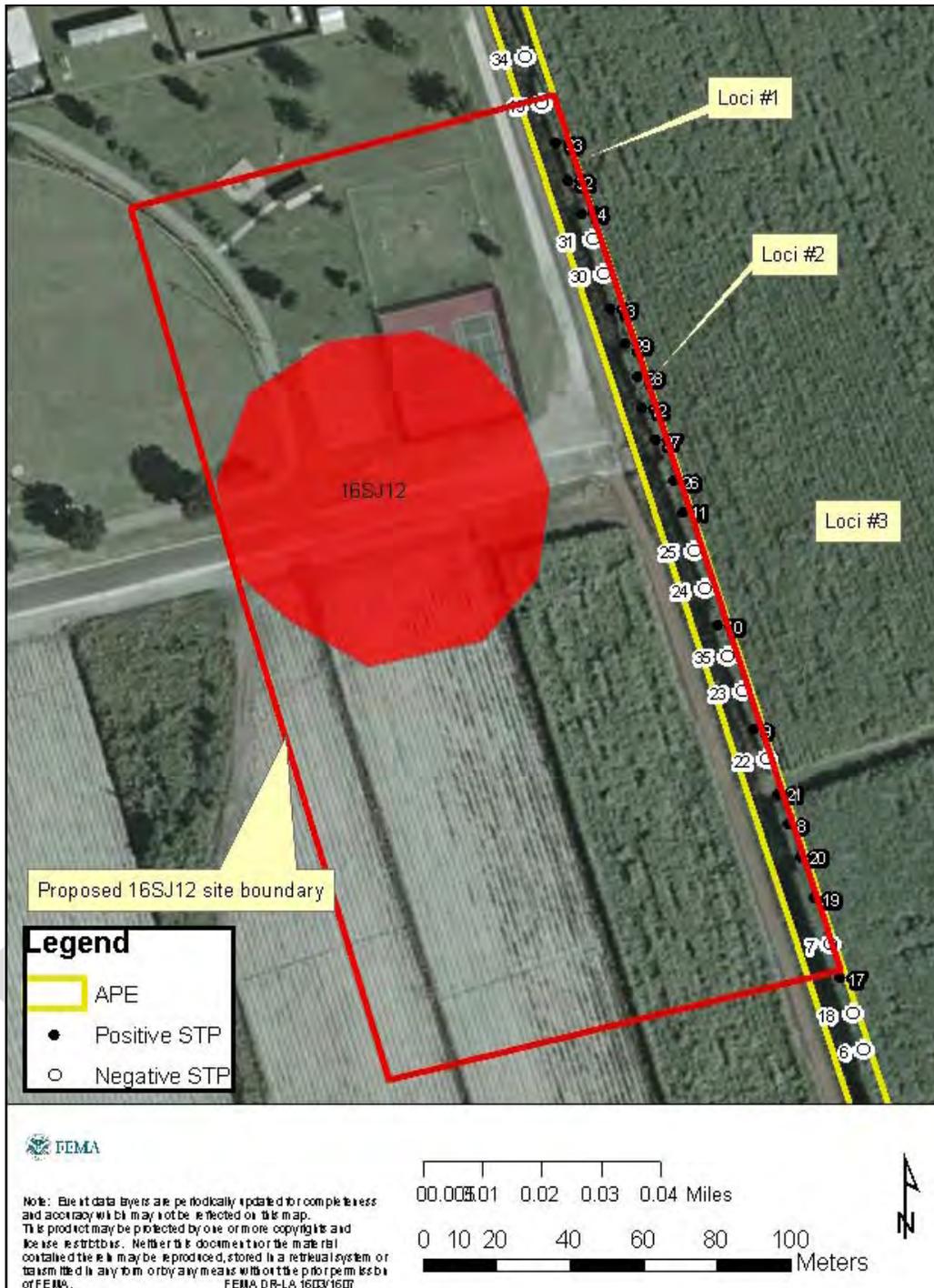


Figure 6.10 Proposed revised 16SJ12 site boundaries.

Auger Testing

A total of 12 auger tests were excavated within the APE. Auger testing began 50 m north of the 16SJ12 shovel test transect north to LA 3125 (Figure 13). Auger tests excavated from exhibited fairly consistent soil strata. Stratum I was a 10YR 3/2 very dark grayish brown silty loam from 0-20 cm below ground surface (cmbs) transitioning to a 10YR 5/4 yellowish brown from 20-55 cmbs (Stratum II). Finally, 10YR 4/6 dark yellowish brown clay was encountered from 55-68 cmbs (Stratum III). No cultural materials were recovered from the auger test transect in either surface or subsurface contexts.



Figure 6.11 Auger test locations.

VII. Recommendations

Overall, the survey of the St. James Parish Longview Canal Drainage Project APE failed to reveal subsurface cultural deposits with integrity. The fields comprising the APE have been in agricultural cultivation for over 125 years, which contributed greatly to the soil disturbance. The historic artifact assemblage (Loci 1-3) discovered on this project is most likely related to the four historic structures listed on the 1883 MRC maps, which appear to be related to the St. Elmo Plantation sugar house site. The domestic structures were likely destroyed by the construction of the Longview Canal and agricultural pursuits, which redeposited the artifacts in the adjacent field. Due to the presence of architectural and kitchen related finds, the artifact assemblage appears to be domestic in nature, and the ceramics and glass date the site to the late 19th to early 20th century. As modern artifacts were recovered in the same context as the late nineteenth through early twentieth century artifacts, it is apparent the agricultural and canal building pursuits have impacted the integrity of this site. Based on these results, FEMA recommends the deposits within the APE are an NRHP ineligible domestic component of the 16SJ12 St. Elmo Plantation sugar house site. FEMA determines that this Undertaking has “No Adverse Effect to Historic Properties.”

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Appendix I. Artifact Inventory for Project 1603-0221

STP #	Level	CMBS	Count	Artifact Type	Description
7	I	0-16 cmbs	1	Glass	glass, curved: clear, unidentified manufacturing type
7	I	0-16 cmbs	1	Glass	glass, flat: mirror
7	I	0-16 cmbs	1	Other	construction, mortar
8	I	0-15 cmbs	1	Glass	glass, curved: clear, unidentified manufacturing type
9	I	0-20 cmbs	1	Glass	glass, curved: clear, bottle base, embossed edge, unidentified manufacturing type
9	I	0-20 cmbs	2	Other	brick
9	I	0-20 cmbs	1	Other	construction, mortar
10	I	0-14 cmbs	1	Glass	glass, curved: clear, bottle base, embossed edge, unidentified manufacturing type
10	I	0-14 cmbs	1	Glass	glass, curved: clear, unidentified manufacturing type
10	I	0-14 cmbs	1	Other	brick
11	I	0-25 cmbs	1	Glass	glass, curved: clear, unidentified manufacturing type
11	I	0-25 cmbs	1	Glass	glass, curved: amber, unidentified manufacturing type
11	I	0-25 cmbs	1	Glass	glass, curved: aqua, unidentified manufacturing type
11	I	0-25 cmbs	1	Other	construction, mortar
12	I	0-17 cmbs	4	Glass	glass, curved: clear, unidentified manufacturing type
12	I	0-17 cmbs	1	Bone	bone, nonhuman
12	I	0-17 cmbs	1	Metal	metal, nail: indeterminate
12	I	0-17 cmbs	1	Metal	metal, other: unidentified
12	I	0-17 cmbs	4	Other	brick
12	I	0-17 cmbs	1	Other	oyster shell
13	I	0-12 cmbs	1	Glass	glass, curved: amber, unidentified manufacturing type
13	I	0-12 cmbs	2	Other	brick
13	I	0-12 cmbs	1	Other	construction, mortar
14	I	0-12 cmbs	1	Ceramic	ceramic, historic: whiteware, undecorated, unidentified
14	I	0-12 cmbs	1	Glass	glass, curved: clear, embossed, machine made
14	I	0-12 cmbs	1	Glass	glass, curved: clear, unidentified manufacturing type
14	I	0-12 cmbs	1	Glass	glass, curved: clear green, unidentified manufacturing type
14	I	0-12 cmbs	1	Glass	glass, curved: clear amber, unidentified manufacturing type
14	I	0-12 cmbs	2	Glass	glass, curved: clear blue, unidentified manufacturing type
14	I	0-12 cmbs	5	Other	brick
14	I	0-12 cmbs	1	Other	<i>Rangiashell</i>

STP #	Level	CMBS	Count	Artifact Type	Description
17	I	0-20 cmbs	10	Other	brick
19	I	0-21 cmbs	2	Bone	bone, nonhuman: cut
19	I	0-21 cmbs	17	Other	brick
19	I	0-21 cmbs	1	Other	charcoal
20	I	0-17 cmbs	1	Glass	glass, curved: clear, unidentified manufacturing type
STP #	Level	CMBS	Count		Description
20	I	0-17 cmbs	5	Other	brick
20	I	0-17 cmbs	1	Other	construction, mortar
21	I	0-16 cmbs	1	Glass	glass, curved: clear, unidentified manufacturing type
21	I	0-16 cmbs	4	Other	brick
21	I	0-16 cmbs	1	Other	charcoal
21	II	16-34 cmbs	1	Ceramic	ceramic, historic: whiteware, undecorated, unidentified
21	II	16-34 cmbs	1	Glass	glass, curved: clear, unidentified manufacturing type
21	II	16-34 cmbs	8	Other	brick
21	II	16-34 cmbs	3	Other	construction, mortar
23	I	0-28 cmbs	1	Glass	glass, curved: clear amber, unidentified manufacturing type
23	I	0-28 cmbs	2	Other	brick
26	I	0-32 cmbs	1	Ceramic	ceramic, historic: whiteware, undecorated, unidentified
26	I	0-32 cmbs	1	Glass	glass, curved: clear, unidentified manufacturing type
26	I	0-32 cmbs	1	Glass	glass, curved: clear blue, unidentified manufacturing type
26	I	0-32 cmbs	4	Other	brick
27	I	0-12 cmbs	1	Ceramic	ceramic, historic: whiteware, undecorated, unidentified
27	I	0-12 cmbs	4	Glass	glass, curved: clear, unidentified manufacturing type
27	I	0-12 cmbs	1	Glass	glass, curved: clear amber, unidentified manufacturing type
27	I	0-12 cmbs	3	Other	brick
27	I	0-12 cmbs	1	Other	construction, mortar
27	II	12-50 cmbs	2	Other	brick
28	I	0-17 cmbs	1	Glass	glass, curved: clear, unidentified manufacturing type
28	I	0-17 cmbs	1	Glass	glass, curved: clear amber, unidentified manufacturing type
28	I	0-17 cmbs	1	Other	brick
28	I	0-17 cmbs	1	Other	construction, mortar
29	I	0-30 cmbs	1	Glass	glass, curved: clear, unidentified manufacturing type
29	I	0-30 cmbs	1	Glass	glass, curved: olive, body, unidentified manufacturing type

STP #	Level	CMBS	Count	Artifact Type	Description
29	I	0-30 cmbs	6	Other	brick
29	I	0-30 cmbs	1	Other	construction, mortar
32	II	18-41 cmbs	1	Glass	glass, bottle base: solarized manganese, embossed, machine made
32	II	18-41 cmbs	1	Glass	glass, curved: solarized manganese, unidentified manufacturing type
32	II	18-41 cmbs	1	Glass	glass, curved: olive, body, unidentified manufacturing type
32	II	18-41 cmbs	1	Metal	metal, nail: indeterminate
32	II	18-41 cmbs	1	Other	brick
Surface Collection	near ST 8		2	Other	brick
Surface Collection	near ST 8		3	Other	construction, mortar
Surface Collection	between ST 11 and ST 12		2	Ceramic	ceramic, historic: whiteware, undecorated, unidentified
Surface Collection	between ST 11 and ST 12		2	Ceramic	ceramic, historic: whiteware, undecorated, base, plate?
Surface Collection	between ST 11 and ST 12		3	Other	brick
Surface Collection	between ST 11 and ST 12		2	Other	construction, mortar
Surface Collection	between ST 13 and ST 14		2	Ceramic	ceramic, historic: yellowware, undecorated, unidentified
Surface Collection	between ST 13 and ST 14		1	Ceramic	ceramic, historic: yellowware, undecorated, base, bowl?
Surface Collection	between ST 13 and 14		1	Ceramic	ceramic, historic: whiteware, undecorated, unidentified

STP #	Level	CMBS	Count	Artifact Type	Description
Surface Collection	between ST 13 and ST 14		2	Ceramic	ceramic, historic: ironstone, undecorated, unidentified
Surface Collection	between ST 13 and ST 14		1	Ceramic	ceramic, historic: ironstone, undecorated, plate base?
Surface Collection	between ST 13 and ST 14		1	Ceramic	ceramic, historic: ironstone, banded, bowl/serving platter rim?
Surface Collection	between ST 13 and ST 14		1	Glass	milkglass
Surface Collection	between ST 13 and ST 14		1	Glass	glass, curved: clear, unidentified manufacturing type
Surface Collection	between ST 13 and ST 14		1	Glass	glass, curved: clear blue, unidentified manufacturing type
Surface Collection	between ST 13 and ST 14		1	Glass	glass, curved: aqua,unidentified manufacturing type
Surface Collection	between ST 13 and ST 14		1	Glass	glass, curved: solarized manganese, unidentified manufacturing type
Surface Collection	between ST 13 and ST 14		1	Glass	glass, curved: solarized manganese, embossed, unidentified manufacturing type
Surface Collection	between ST 13 and ST 14		1	Other	brick
Surface Collection	between ST 13		2	Metal	metal, nail: indeterminate

	and 14				
Surface Collection	between ST 13 and ST 14		1	Metal	metal, spike
Surface Collection	between ST 13 and ST 14		1	Metal	metal, door hinge pin(?)
		TOTAL:	173		

DRAFT

APPENDIX II. SITE UPDATE FORM

A site update form will be provided upon approval of this draft report and the revised site boundaries.

DRAFT



FEMA

U.S. Department of Homeland Security
Federal Emergency Management Agency
FEMA-1603/1607-DR-LA
Louisiana Recovery Office
1 Seine Court 4th Floor
New Orleans, LA 70114

February 18, 2011

Phil Boggan
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer
Office of Culture Recreation and Tourism
Post Office Box 44247
Baton Rouge, LA 70804

RE: Submittal of draft Management Summary "*Phase I Cultural Resources Survey of the Longview Canal Drainage Project, St. James Parish, Louisiana*", as part of the Hazardous Mitigation Grant Program

Dear Mr. Boggan:

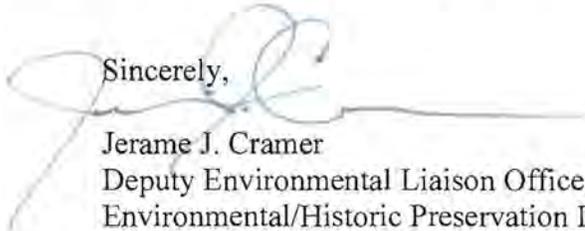
Enclosed are two (2) copies of the draft Management Summary entitled "*Management Summary: Phase I Cultural Resources Survey of the Longview Canal Drainage Project, St. James Parish, Louisiana*", prepared by URS Corporation in February, 2011 on behalf of FEMA. This management summary presents the results of a linear pedestrian survey, shovel tests, and auger tests conducted at the Longview Canal, St. James Parish, Louisiana. The work was carried out in January 2011 in conjunction with the FEMA-funded Hazard Mitigation Grant Program.

The field investigation resulted in the identification and recording of a late nineteenth to early twentieth century domestic artifact scatter intermingled with modern debris. This scatter was interpreted as an ineligible locus of previously recorded and unevaluated historic archaeological site 16SJ12 (St. Elmo Plantation) bordering the proposed project Area of Potential Effect (APE).

FEMA had a finding of "**No Adverse Effect to Historic Properties**" by the proposed widening of the Longview Canal in St. James Parish, Louisiana.

We would appreciate your concurrence and technical comments regarding this management summary report. Should you need additional information, please contact Mark Martinkovic (Archaeologist) at Mark.Martinkovic@associates.dhs.gov or 504-762-2383.

Sincerely,


Jerame J. Cramer
Deputy Environmental Liaison Officer
Environmental/Historic Preservation Department
Louisiana Recovery Office
FEMA-DR-1603-LA, FEMA-DR-1607-LA

FEB 18 2011



JAY DARDENNE
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

State of Louisiana
OFFICE OF THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR
DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE, RECREATION & TOURISM
OFFICE OF CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT

CHARLES R. DAVIS
DEPUTY SECRETARY

PAM BREAU
ASSISTANT SECRETARY

March 29, 2011

Ms. Katherine Zeringue
Environmental Liaison Officer
Federal Emergency Management Agency
FEMA Mail Center—First Floor
1 Seine Ct.
New Orleans, LA 70114

RE: Management Summary of Phase I Cultural Resources Survey Report
LA Division of Archaeology Report No. 22-3731
*Phase I Cultural Resources Survey of the Longview Canal Drainage Project
in St. James Parish, Louisiana*

Dear Ms. Zeringue:

Thank you for your letter dated, February 18, 2011, transmitting two bound copies of the above-referenced draft report, we received it on the same day. This project involved a Phase I level archaeological survey of 5.096 acres (2.06 hectares) of St. James Parish, as a means to identify cultural resources prior to the expansion of the Longview Drainage canal. We have completed our review of the document and have the following comments to offer.

Based on the information contained in your report, we agree that the archaeological deposits encountered in the Area of Potential Effects (APE), a portion of archaeological site 16SJ12 (St. Elmo Plantation), are not eligible as an historic property under 36 CFR 60.4(d). We render no opinion regarding the remainder of the archaeological site outside of the APE. Further, we agree that no historic properties will be adversely affected as a result of the proposed project. Technical comments concerning several items are included with this letter. Please address these as appropriate in the preparation of the draft report for this project and transmit two complete bound copies of the report for review and comment.

Should you have any questions concerning our comments, do not hesitate to contact Jason Emery, LA SHPO Liaison to FEMA for Archaeology at (504) 570-7292 or by email at, jason.emery@associates.dhs.gov or David Livingstone, LA SHPO Liaison to FEMA for the Built Environment at (504) 570-4499 or via email at, david.livingstone@associates.dhs.gov

Ms. Katherine Zeringue
March 29, 2011
Page 2

Sincerely,

Phil Boggan
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

PB:JE:s

cc: Mr. Jason Emery, LA SHPO Liaison to FEMA for Archaeology
Mr. David Livingstone, LA SHPO Liaison to FEMA for the Built Environment

GENERAL

1. Please use Arabic numbering for the Chapters, per the LDOA standards.
2. Please include a statement regarding the presence or absence of historic buildings within the APE. Specifically, incorporating the information regarding the standing structures would greatly increase the utility of the document for future researchers, letting them know that all categories of historic properties, as well as all National Register of Historic Places criteria had been investigated.
3. Before producing the draft report, please develop more historic context regarding St. Elmo plantation. Some things of interest would be the establishment date, and ownership—at least during the time when the Mississippi River Commission Maps show the 4 structures which appear to have been encountered archaeologically. Additionally, an understanding of how this particular plantation was organized would aid in interpreting the 1883 map (i.e. Were the four structures related to the sugar house? Were there other cabins for laborers? Where was the “great house”? etc.)
4. Please complete a Site Update Form with the expanded boundary of archaeological site 16SJ12?

PAGE SPECIFIC

1. Page 1, Introduction. Please note the year in which the field work occurred. Also, please note the staff that participated, by name. Also, please be consistent between English and Metric measurement (including both), per the Louisiana Division of Archaeology’s Reporting Standards (LDOA Standards). Finally, please include the Township, Range and Section for the survey area, or at least the portion of the survey area into which deposits from St. Elmo Plantation (16SJ12) extend.
2. Figure 1 and 2. Please enlarge these figures to a 1:24,000 scale, per LDOA Standards. This will make the project area more clear. Also, label the Mississippi River in Figure 1 and, if feasible, include it in Figure 2. Also, please provide an inset map indicating the map area in relationship to the State of Louisiana and provide the name and date of the 7.5 USGS Quad used as the background.
3. Page 4, Figure 3. Please enlarge, provide an inset and north arrow.
4. Page 6, paragraph 3. Who is LDAH?
5. Page 6, paragraph 5. We recommend that you strike the words “the largest” from before communities in St. James Parish. It makes the paragraph read better.
6. Page 6, paragraph 7, re Pierre “Perique” Chenet. Please provide a reference for this paragraph.
7. Page 7. Related to St. Elmo Plantation. A travel guide, originally published in 1941, describes the scene from River Road (or Jefferson Hwy) . “A group of 28 frame buildings (L), 63.1m., all painted a dull shade of red, belong to the St. Elmo Plantation “ (Writers’ Project 1945:533). This and other information was available via Google Books. This would be the appropriate place to address general comment #3 when moving to the development of the draft report.
8. Page 7, Figure 4. Please enlarge, provide an inset and a little bit of a larger scale to allow for reading the plantation name, the plantation owner’s name, and to get a

sense of the overall layout of St. Elmo Plantation. This current figure would be really informative as a base map for the Shovel Tests and Auger Tests.

9. Page 10, Project Background. Jason Emery's title is LA SHPO Liaison to FEMA for Archaeology. When presenting the background of information regarding data gathered through the Reconnaissance Survey, please emphasize that in addition to the discussion with Mr. Jason Emery, moving into a Phase I level of field effort to delineate encountered archaeological sites is explicitly required in the Louisiana Division of Archaeology's Field Standards. Also, there is confusion created by discussing field results in the Project Background section and in Chapter 5, Methods; please clarify.
10. Page 10, Chapter 5, Sentence 5. Please be clear as to the nature of the 19 "tests"; were they STPs or other types of tests. Also, please clarify that the delineation of the archaeological deposits occurred exclusively within the APE.
11. Page 11, Figure 6. This figure should be enlarged. There is no practical way to see the STP Locations or the lettering which denotes something. What is the difference between black and red? Assuming red to be positive, is there clustering? Can it be linked to historic maps?
12. Page 13, Figure 8. In what direction was the photo taken?
13. Page 13. What was the ubiquity of the brick? Is it counted in the total of 140 artifacts? We would recommend replacing "isolated finds" with the term "isolated artifacts." The first paragraph appears to end mid-thought. Please complete the description of the Modern material culture. Additionally, could you explicitly define the artifact analysis methodology as well as the utilization of South's Artifact Categories, if so used? Where were the positive and negative shovel tests relative to each other and which STPs received the judgmental bucket augering? Both of these questions go to the main question: where would you draw the expanded archaeological site boundary.
14. Figures 9, 10 and 12. When describing the artifacts, dispense with the use of the word "type" and do not follow the closing parenthesis with a period. This will clarify the textural description.
15. Page 16, Auger Tests. From where were the auger tests excavated?
16. Page 17, Figure 13. Please enlarge, but of less importance than enlarging Figure 6.
17. Page 18, Curation Statement. Please indicate where the artifacts collected as a result of this investigation will be deposited?

References:

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Draft

APPENDIX B

8-STEP PROCESS AND HYDRAULIC AND HYDROLOGY STUDY

**Drainage Impact Study
Grand Point/Bourbon Subdivision
St. James Parish, Louisiana**

Prepared for:

St. James Parish
P.O. Box 106
Convent, Louisiana 70723

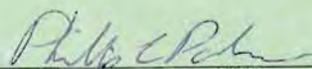
Prepared by:

GSE Associates, LLC
Engineers • Architects • Planners • Surveyors
991 Grand Caillou Road
Houma, Louisiana 70363

September 9, 2010

Project No. 531-013-GSE




Phillip L. Parker, P.E.
Civil Engineer
La. Reg. No. 29387

9-14-10
Date



GSE Project No. 531-013-GSE

September 7, 2010

Mr. Jody Chenier, Director of Operations
St. James Parish
P. O. Box 106
Convent, LA 70723

Re: Drainage Impact Study
Grand Point/Bourbon Subdivision and
Longview Canal Drainage Improvements
St. James Parish, Louisiana

Dear Mr. Chenier:

As per your request, we have prepared a hydraulic model for the Grand Point/Bourbon Subdivision and Longview Canal watershed area. The model was developed to analyze impacts relative to proposed drainage improvements along the watershed. GSE Associates, LLC (GSE) performed a survey of the drainage along Amy Street, Wendy Street, Maura Street, and drainage conveyances within Grand Point/Bourbon Subdivision that identified existing culverts and provided information on the current conveyances. Figure 1 provides information and layout of the limits of the watershed with sub-drainage areas for the watershed. The main existing drainage channels used to prepare this model can also be seen in Figure 1. Figure 2A-2E displays the current culvert inverts and types, obtained from the site survey, used to prepare the model. At this time the model addresses the proposed upgrades to the drainage structure along Amy Street, Wendy Street, Maura Street, cross drains, and discharge conveyances which can be seen in Figure 1.

The basic parameters used in the analysis included a 25-year storm event and a fixed pre-storm tail water of approximately +0.5 feet. The calculated tail water based upon the analysis affects the maximum stages and final discharge through the drainage conveyances on the east side along LA Highway 642 and west side of Grand Point/Bourbon Subdivision to the north. GSE performed a topographic survey of the drainage area to identify location, size and invert elevations of the drainage conveyances. Other parameters within the existing condition model include development densities, which affects the runoff factors, storage volumes and times of concentration. Appendix "E" is the spreadsheet used in calculating each sub-area's time of concentration based on the SCS lag method.

An analysis was made to determine maximum existing stages in the Grand Point/Bourbon Subdivision area. This analysis was used as a bench mark to make comparisons of proposed modifications. A table showing maximum stages under the present conditions is shown at the end of this write-up. The calculated peak stages in roadside drainage ditch along LA Highway 642 for a 25-year storm event range from +14.94 near Sugar House Street to +4.12' near LA Highway 3125. These peak stages under the existing conditions can cause street flooding and minor house flooding in this watershed.

Design and Analysis

The proposed improvements are replacing 7 existing culverts, whose locations and descriptions can be seen in Figure 3 and the following Table 1. In addition, the main drainage channel along the east side of the watershed will be widened its entire length from Sugar House Street, across LA 3125, to the secondary drainage channel where it empties. This length can be

seen in Figure 3. This channel should be excavated to have an 8 foot bottom with 2 to 1 side slopes. The Parish has previously dredged both this secondary and main drainage channels to be able to readily receive the increased drainage. No additional excavation shall be necessary. All culverts and ditches in the watershed area should also be cleaned, swept and properly cut to the proposed or existing flow lines. The table below displays the 25 year flood stages currently and with the proposed mitigations.

TABLE OF PEAK STAGES

Stage Location	Existing Condition (25yr/24hr event)	Proposed Modifications (25yr/24hr event)
LA 642		
@ Sugar House Street	14.72	14.71
@ Maura Street	11.68	11.63
@ Wendy Street	11.20	11.19
@ Amy Street	10.70	10.70
@ LA 3125	4.12	4.12
Cross Drain "A"		
@ Sugar House Street	12.58	12.56
@ Maura Street	11.69	11.58
@ Wendy Street	11.48	11.36
@ Amy Street	11.10	10.85
Cross Drain "B"		
@ Maura Street	12.18	11.47
@ Wendy Street	11.40	11.31
@ Amy Street	11.13	10.84
@ Nicole Lane	11.15	10.63
Eastern Drainage Conveyance		
Near Sugar House Street	13.91	12.72
Near Maura Street	13.73	12.57
Near Wendy Street	12.55	11.31
Near Nicole Lane	11.31	10.05
Near LA 3125	7.36	6.81

Conclusions and Recommendations

The proposed replacement of existing culverts as identified above in Grand Point/Bourbon Subdivision would provide a reduction in 25 year flood stage events for the drainage ditches within the watershed. The proposed modifications will have minimal impact to the stages along LA 642, but would provide significant stage reductions along the eastern drainage conveyance. The stages in the existing and proposed models can be seen in "Appendix A" and "Appendix B" respectively. The modifications would be negligible to the 25 year maximum flood stages downstream of the proposed modifications. These flows can be seen in the hydrographs in "Appendix C" and "Appendix D". (Existing condition hydrographs, and proposed condition hydrographs)

Should you have any questions concerning this analysis or should you need additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me at 991 Grand Caillou Road, Houma, Louisiana, 70363, phone number (985) 876-6380, fax number (985) 876-0621.

Sincerely,

GSE Associates, LLC



Phillip L. Parker, P.E.

cc: Mr. Clay Breaud - CSE Associates, LLC

8-STEP PROCESS

DATE: 7/29/11

PREPARED BY: Laurel A. Rohrer, Environmental Specialist

PROJECT: NEMIS 1603-0221 St. James Parish – Longview Canal Drainage Improvement Project/Grand Point Bourbon Subdivision

LOCATION: Paulina, LA

EO 11988-FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT EO 11990-WETLAND PROTECTION

STEP 1 Determine whether the proposed action is located in a wetland and/or The 100-yr floodplain (500-year floodplain for critical actions [44 CFR 9.4]), or whether it has the potential to affect or be affected by a floodplain or a wetland (see 44 CFR 9.7).

St. James Parish enrolled in the National Flood Insurance Program on 07/13/1982. The project is located within a FEMA mapped floodplain. The project area is located within zone “shaded X”, per DFIRM panel 22093C 0115C, with a preliminary date of June 10, 2009. The preliminary DFIRM will become effective on July 4, 2011.

STEP 2 Notify the public at the earliest possible time of the intent to carry out an action in a floodplain or wetland, and involve the affected and interested public in the decision making process (see 44 CFR 9.8).

A cumulative public concerning the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) Assistance in floodplain and wetland areas will be or has been published in the New Orleans Times-Picayune, Baton Rouge Advocate, Lafayette Daily Advertiser, Lake Charles American Press, Hammond Star, Monroe News-Star, Shreveport Times, and the Alexandria Daily Town Talk.

STEP 3 Identify and evaluate practicable alternatives to locating the proposed action in a floodplain or wetland (including alternative sites, actions and the "no action" option) [see 44 CFR 9.9]. If a practicable alternative exists outside the floodplain or wetland, FEMA must locate the action at the alternative site.

ALTERNATIVE 1: WIDENING AND ENLARGEMENT OF LONGVIEW CANAL AND ENLARGEMENT OF SEVEN CULVERTS WITHIN THE GRAND POINT BOURBON SUBDIVISION (Proposed Action): This alternative proposes the widening of Longview Canal on both sides of LA State Highway 3125 (north and south) to expand its drainage capacity and increase the channel's ability to remove water. The Parish has previously dredged both this channel and the main receiving drainage channels to be able to readily accommodate the increased drainage; therefore, no additional excavation or dredging of the Longview Canal would be necessary for this alternative. Approximately 7,400 linear feet (approximately 1.4 mile) of Longview Canal would be widened to increase its capacity and provide the proper design flow. The Parish would purchase an additional 30 feet of right-of-way on the east side of the Longview Canal that would be required to widen the channel by 20 feet to provide future access to the Parish for proper maintenance and grass cutting. The total land area that would be impacted is approximately three (3) acres. The channel would have an 8-foot bottom and 2 to 1 side slopes. The widening of Longview Canal would provide not only a quicker means to remove the floodwater, but since the Parish recently dredged the primary drainage channel that leads into Blind River and Lake Maurepas, it would allow the subdivision's drainage channel to flow better without causing flooding to another area of the Parish. The Parish also proposes to remove seven (7) existing undersized culverts within the subdivision and replace them with larger and more adequate culverts.

Dismissed Alternatives:

ALTERNATIVE 2: NO ACTION: Under this alternative, the homes in the Grand Point Bourbon subdivision of Paulina would continue to flood during severe storms, tropical storms, and hurricanes. Additionally, traffic delays and delays for emergency response vehicle would continue to plague the area due to future street flooding.

ALTERNATIVE 3: ELEVATION OF STREETS AND FLOODPRONE STRUCTURES WITHIN THE SUBDIVISION: This alternative would create some hardships for commuters and residents within the subdivision due to the extensive amount of work associated with raising an existing asphalt street. Approximately 45 homes and 30 detached structures would need to be elevated to eliminate flood damages. The remaining 42 residents would require some elevation of utility equipment, such as air conditioning and heating units and phone service jacks. The Parish estimates the cost of this alternative would exceed \$1 million. The cost to raise 50 homes, with 95% presently slab-on-grade, brick structures would cost over \$6.2 million. Finally, elevating the utility equipment on the remaining property would cost approximately \$100,000. Therefore, this alternative was not selected, although it would eliminate the flood risk.

STEP 4 Identify the full range or potential direct or indirect impacts associated with, the occupancy or modification of floodplains and wetlands and the potential direct and indirect support of floodplain and wetland development that could result from the proposed action (see 44 CFR 9.10).

The widening of the Longview Canal and associated culvert replacement drainage improvements will be coordinated and comply with the local floodplain administration. All required permits will be obtained and kept for permanent documentation. The proposed activities will have minimal potential to impact the floodplain.

STEP 5 Minimize the potential adverse impacts and support to or within floodplains and wetlands to be identified under step # 4, restore and preserve the natural and beneficial values served by floodplains, and preserve and enhance the natural and beneficial values served by wetlands (see 44 CFR 9.11).

ALTERNATIVE 1: WIDENING AND ENLARGEMENT OF LONGVIEW CANAL AND ENLARGEMENT OF SEVEN CULVERTS WITHIN THE GRAND POINT BOURBON SUBDIVISION (Proposed Action): This alternative proposes the widening of Longview Canal on both sides of LA State Highway 3125 (north and south) to expand its drainage capacity and increase the channel's ability to remove water. The Parish has previously dredged both this channel and the main receiving drainage channels to be able to readily accommodate the increased drainage; therefore, no additional excavation or dredging of the Longview Canal would be necessary for this alternative. Approximately 7,400 linear feet (approximately 1.4 mile) of Longview Canal would be widened to increase its capacity and provide the proper design flow. GSE Associates, LLC performed a drainage study for the project area (September 2010), which included rainfall-runoff simulation and modeling. According to Phillip L. Parker, LLC P.E., of GSE Associates, LLC, the proposed drainage the project would provide 25-year flood stage protection for the drainage ditches within the watershed. The proposed modifications will have minimal impact to the stages along Highway 642, but would provide significant stages reductions along the eastern drainage conveyance. The proposed modifications would be negligible to the 25-year maximum flood stages downstream of the proposed modifications.

STEP 6 **Reevaluate the proposed action to determine first, if it is still practicable in light of its exposure to flood hazards, the extent to which it will aggravate the hazards to others. And its potential to disrupt floodplain and wetland values and second, if alternatives preliminarily rejected at step # 3 are practicable in light of the information gained in steps # 4 and # 5. FEMA shall not act in a floodplain or wetland unless it is the only practicable location (see 44 CFR 9.9).**

The actions proposed are located in the only practicable location. There are no other practicable alternate locations outside the floodplain available.

STEP 7 **Prepare and provide the public with a finding and public explanation of any final decision that the floodplain or wetland is the only practicable alternative (see 44 CFR 9.12).**

The EA went out for public review from August 5, 2011 to August 24, 2011.

STEP 8 **Review the implementation and post-implementation phases of the proposed action to ensure that the requirements of the order are fully implemented. Oversight responsibility shall be integrated into existing processes.**

APPROVAL CONDITIONED ON REVIEWS OF IMPLEMENTATION AND POST IMPLEMENTATION PHASES TO INSURE COMPLIANCE OF THE ORDER(S).

Project has been reviewed for compliance with 44 CFR Part 9.

Draft

**APPENDIX C
PUBLIC NOTICE**

**PUBLIC NOTICE
FEMA NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY
DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT
DRAFT FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT
GRAND POINT BOURBON SUBDIVISION-LONGVIEW CANAL DRAINAGE
IMPROVEMENT PROJECT
PAULINA, ST. JAMES PARISH, LOUISIANA**

Interested parties are hereby notified that the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has prepared a draft Environmental Assessment (EA) and draft Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). The purpose of the EA and FONSI is to assess the effects on the human and natural environment from the proposed widening of approximately 7,400 linear feet of Longview Canal and the replacement of seven roadside drainage culverts within the lower portion of the Grand Point Bourbon Subdivision, Paulina, LA, a proposed action for which FEMA is considering providing funding assistance.

The draft EA evaluates a No Action Alternative and the Proposed Action stated above. The FONSI will be FEMA's finding that the proposed action will not have a significant effect on the human and natural environment, if no additional substantive information is discovered during the public review and comment period.

The Longview Canal is located immediately east of, and adjacent to, the Grand Point Bourbon Subdivision, Paulina, St. James Parish, Louisiana. The proposed action involves widening of the Longview Canal on both sides of Louisiana State Highway 3125 (north and south) to expand its drainage capacity and increase the channel's ability to remove water. The Parish plans to purchase an additional 30 feet of right-of-way on the east side of the Longview Canal that would be required to widen the channel by 20 feet to provide future access to the Parish for proper maintenance and grass cutting. The Parish also proposes to remove seven existing undersized culverts within the subdivision and replace them with larger and more adequate culverts. The Grand Point Bourbon subdivision has one of the most severe localized flooding problems in the Parish. The original subdivision was constructed more than 25 years ago, and the increased runoff due to residential construction was not considered in the original design. The Grand Point Bourbon subdivision was constructed by a private developer before the Parish had laws requiring a drainage analysis and culvert permits that insure proper culvert size and installation.

A draft EA evaluates the proposed action's potential impacts on the human and natural environment. It summarizes the purpose and need, affected environment, and potential environmental consequences associated with the proposed action and alternatives.

The draft EA and draft FONSI are available for review at the St. James Public Library (Lutcher Branch), 1879 West Main Street, Lutcher, LA 70071, from 8:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., Monday through Thursday; 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Friday; and 8:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., Saturday. The documents can be downloaded from FEMA's website at www.fema.gov/plan/ehp/envdocuments/ea-region6.shtm. The comment period will begin August 5, 2011 and ends August 24, 2011 at 4 pm. Comments may be mailed to: DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY--FEMA E/HP—Grand Point Bourbon Drainage Project 1 Seine Court, 4th Floor New Orleans, LA 70114. Comments may be emailed to: FEMA-NOMA@dhs.gov or faxed to: 504-762-2353. Verbal comments will be accepted or recorded at 504-762-2205. If no substantive comments are received, the draft EA and associated Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) will become final and this initial Public Notice will also serve as the final Public Notice for work in the floodplain in accordance with 44 CFR Part 9.12.