



September 5, 2014

Mr. Kenneth E. Stuck
Virginia Department of Transportation
Hampton Roads District
Environmental Section
1700 North Main Street, Suffolk, VA 23434

**RE: Interim Management Summary, Archaeological Survey
VDOT District Office, Norfolk IMO, and Virginia Beach TOC Lots, Cities of Suffolk,
Chesapeake, and Virginia Beach, Virginia
Project No.: N/A
UPC No.: 105891
Activity Code: 975
VDHR File No.: 2014-0856**

Dear Mr. Stuck:

Please find the enclosed interim management summary for the archaeological surveys of the properties associated with the three Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) facilities referenced above in the Cities of Suffolk, Chesapeake, and Virginia Beach, Virginia.

Thank you again for this opportunity and please let me know if we can provide additional information.

Sincerely,

Joe B. Jones
Director

enclosure

**INTERIM MANAGEMENT SUMMARY:
ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY
VDOT DISTRICT OFFICE, NORFOLK IMO, AND VIRGINIA BEACH TOC LOTS,
CITIES OF SUFFOLK, CHESAPEAKE, AND VIRGINIA BEACH, VIRGINIA**

by Elizabeth E. Bell
September 5, 2014

The William and Mary Center for Archaeological Research (WMCAR) conducted a archaeological survey of the VDOT District Office, the Norfolk Interstate Maintenance Office (IMO), and the Virginia Beach Traffic Operations Center (TOC) lots, located in the Cities of Suffolk, Chesapeake, and Virginia Beach, Virginia from August 18-27, 2014. The survey was conducted under an agreement with the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) (Project Nos.:N/A; UPC No.: 105891; Activity Code: 975). This investigation was intended to provide specific information concerning the nature and distribution of archaeological resources within the three project areas. The following interim management summary of the project includes a description of the project area, previously identified sites, survey results, and management recommendations.

The VDOT requested an archaeological survey be completed at each of the three facilities mentioned above for management planning purposes: the VDOT District Office, the Norfolk IMO, and the TOC. The VDOT District Office in the City of Suffolk consists of approximately 58 acres (23.5 ha), excluding marshland, located at 1700 Main Street (Figure 1). The property falls within the core area of the Hills Point Battlefield/Civil War Siege of Suffolk (133-5039). The IMO is located southeast of the intersection of South Military Highway (Route 13) and North Battlefield Boulevard (Route 168), and measures approximately 6 acres (2.4 ha), most of which is occupied by buildings or previously graded and paved areas (Figure 2). The TOC is located northwest of the intersection of Interstate 64 and Indian River Road (Route 407) (Figure 3). Excluding the commuter parking lot at the western end of the property, the parcel measures approximately 4.5 acres (1.8 ha), of which half is occupied by either previously graded/paved areas or buildings.

The project areas lie within the Southern Coastal Plain region of Virginia. The District Office is located on a terrace bound to the south and west by Nansemond River. The Norfolk IMO is located on level ground drained by Mildam Creek, itself a tributary of the Southern Branch of the Elizabeth River. The TOC is located on level ground approximately 1 mi. (1.6 km) south of the Eastern Branch of the Elizabeth River. The landscape in the vicinity of all three parcels consists of a mosaic of industrial and commercial development. The topography within each parcel is relatively level, and elevations range from approximately 20 ft. above mean sea level (amsl), to 30 ft amsl at the District Office (6 to 9 m). Soils in the vicinity of each parcel consist of silt and sand loams, such as the Goldsboro and Nansemond series, which are moderately well drained soils found on marine terraces (CSRL 2014).

Historical and archaeological background research relevant to the project areas included inspection of archaeological site records, archival cartographic sources, and reports of professional archaeological work relevant to the project areas stored at the Virginia Department of Historic Resources (VDHR) and the WMCAR library at the College of William & Mary. The Virginia

Cultural Resource Information System (VCRIS) provided by the VDHR was consulted for previously recorded archaeological resources within a 1.0-mi. (1.6-km) radius of the project areas. This review indicated that six previously recorded archaeological sites were located within a 1.0-mi. (1.6-km) radius of the District Office; none of which were expected to be encountered within the project area based on map projections. No previously recorded sites were located within a 1.0-mile (1.6-km) radius of the Norfolk IMO or the TOC.

A total of 198 shovel tests was excavated during the archaeological survey, 68 of which were positive for cultural material (34%). These were systematically placed at intervals of 75 ft. (23 m) or less except in areas with slope greater than 15%, and areas with obvious disturbance or standing water. All soil was screened through 1/4-inch wire mesh, and representative soil profiles were recorded. In addition, metal detector survey was conducted in areas without obvious disturbance in the District Office lot, which is located within the Hill's Point Battlefield/ Siege of Suffolk (133-5039). Unambiguously modern metal artifacts, such as bottle caps and pop-tops, were discarded; positive targets were flagged by, and later mapped and recovered by, WMCAR personnel. As a result of the survey, three previously unrecorded archaeological sites, and four archaeological locations were identified (see Figures 1-3).

District Office

The District Office parcel consists primarily of developed land with small isolated areas of grass and woods to the north and east. Waterlogged areas as well as areas with obvious disturbance and/or reported or marked underground utilities were not shovel-tested. A total of 186 shovel tests were excavated during the survey of the District Office, 70 of which were positive (38%). In addition, 42 positive metal detector targets were also recovered. As a result, three previously unrecorded archaeological sites and two archaeological locations were identified during the survey of the District Office parcel (see Figure 1).

Site 1 is a nineteenth- to twentieth-century domestic artifact scatter with evidence for Civil War military activity. The site is located immediately east of North Main Street and west of the Main Office building for the VDOT District Office. Of 47 shovel tests excavated in the vicinity of Site 1, 21 were positive (46%). In addition, three surface collection loci and 14 metal detector targets were identified within the boundaries of Site 1. Site 1 measures approximately 510 ft. north-south and 300 ft. east west (155 by 90 m). Site boundaries were determined based on the extent of positive shovel tests and metal detector targets, and disturbance related to post-occupational development.

Stratigraphy typically consists of two strata above subsoil. Stratum I consisted of a dark yellowish brown (10YR4/4) to dark brown (10YR3/3) silty loam averaging 0.5 ft. (15 cm) in thickness. Stratum II is a light olive brown (2.5Y5/4) to brown (10YR5/3) clay silt that, when present, varies in thickness between 0.3 ft. and 1.0 ft. (10 to 30 cm). Subsoil is a olive yellow (2.5G/6) to brownish yellow (10YR6/8) silty clay.

The artifact assemblage for Site 1 primarily consists of architectural, agricultural, and domestic items including a plow attachment, a horseshoe, bottle and pane glass, nail/nail fragments, brick,

mortar, and coal. Many of the metal detector targets consisted items that represent Civil War military occupations and activities, including a copper ring, a padlock, a cartridge case, and three lead bullets (two smoothbore musket, one rifle musket). The majority of the artifacts recovered were too fragmentary to be assigned a functional group. One quartzite flake was also recovered from Site 1.

The horizontal patterning of material representing Civil War military occupations and activities suggests that some degree of integrity has been maintained within the site, and that it that may have potential to contribute important information about Civil War military occupation and activities. Site 1 is located within a core section of the Hill's Point/Siege of Suffolk battleground, as defined by the American Battlefield Protection Program (ABPP). The historic map study suggests Confederate defense lines may have been present nearby. Accordingly, **Site 1 is recommended as potentially eligible for the NRHP under Criterion D because of its potential to provide important information relating to the Civil War Period (1861-1865) in the Southern Coastal Plain of Virginia; Criteria A-C are considered not applicable.**

Site 2 represents the archaeological remains of eighteenth-, nineteenth-, and twentieth-century occupation of a farmstead, as well as Civil War military occupation and activities. Located near the northeastern extent of the parcel, Site 2 is located in an open area with some wooded portions to the north and east along finger ridges overlooking the Nansemond River. The site measures approximately 850 ft. northeast-southwest by 700 ft. northwest-southeast (260 by 215 m) at maximum dimensions. A total of 76 shovel tests were excavated in the vicinity of Site 2, of which 34 were positive (45%). In addition, 28 metal detector targets were identified. Site boundaries were determined by the edge of the habitable landform (i.e. where steeper slopes descend to wetlands), the extent of post-occupational development-related disturbance on the margins of the site, and the extent of positive shovel tests and metal detector targets.

Stratigraphy at Site 2 generally consists of two stratum above subsoil. Stratum I is a very dark grayish brown (10YR3/2) to a brown (10YR4/3) silt loam plowzone up to 0.9 ft. (27 cm) below surface. Stratum II is a brown (10YR4/3) to yellowish brown (10YR5/4) clay silty sand averaging 0.7-ft.- (21-cm-) thick. Subsoil is a dark yellowish brown (10YR4/6) to yellowish brown (10YR5/4) silty clay.

A large pit feature (Feature 1) was encountered in Shovel Test H11 that is characterized by at least two strata. Stratum I is a 0.3-ft.- (9-cm-) thick layer of very dark grayish brown (10YR3/2) silt loam with a high concentration of brick and shell. Beneath it, Stratum II is a brown (10YR4/3) silt loam that continues beyond the base of excavation at 2.6 ft. (80 cm) below surface. The highest concentration of artifacts were collected from Stratum II. Diagnostic artifacts recovered from Feature 1 consist of eighteenth-century ceramics, bottle glass, and window pane fragments as well as bone, wrought nails, white clay pipe fragments (bowl and stem). Handmade brick, shell mortar, and mollusk shells were also collected.

The artifact assemblage includes diagnostic material suggesting eighteenth-, nineteenth-, and

twentieth-century activity within the site. In addition to Feature 1, likely dating to the eighteenth century, eighteenth-century diagnostic material was also found in a few additional shovel tests. Many of the metal detector targets consist of Civil War period artifacts, including six lead bullets (three rifle musket, two smoothbore musket, and one pistol), three buttons, a cartridge case, a ramrod thimble, a triggerguard, and a grommet. Nineteenth- and twentieth-century activity are each represented by diagnostic bottle and window pane glass fragments. Additional artifacts collected include kitchen and domestic artifacts, architectural materials, scrap metal, and agricultural items. Two lithic artifacts (one retouched flake and one side scraper) were also recovered from Site 2.

The identification of a deep and intact eighteenth-century feature within Site 2 indicates a potential for other intact subsurface features and a degree of archaeological integrity that indicates a potential to contribute important information regarding domestic and agricultural practices during the Settlement to Society (1607-1750) and Colony to Nation (1751-1789) periods in the Southern Coastal Plain of Virginia. In addition, Site 2 is located within a core section of the Siege of Suffolk battleground, as defined by the American Battlefield Protection Program (ABPP). The historic map study suggests Confederate defense lines were present in the vicinity of Site 2. **Given the indications that considerable integrity of subsurface deposits and features has been maintained within the site, Site 2 has the potential to provide important information about the Settlement to Society, Colony to Nation, and Civil War periods in the Southern Coastal Plain of Virginia. Site 2 is recommended as potentially eligible for the NRHP under Criterion D. Criteria A-C are not considered applicable.**

Site 3 is a small eighteenth- to early nineteenth century artifact scatter located in the northern portion of the parcel, between the paved exit road and a brick building. Of the five shovel tests were excavated within the vicinity of the site, two were positive (40%). No radial shovel tests were excavated due to proximity to existing utility lines, a building, and areas paved with asphalt. Site 3 measures approximately by 50 ft. north-south by 115 ft. east-west (15 by 35 m). Site boundaries were determined by negative shovel tests and the extent of development related disturbance.

Stratigraphy at Site 3 typically consists of two strata over sterile clay subsoil. Stratum I consists of a brown (10YR4/3) silty loam approximately 0.3-ft.-(10-cm-) thick. Stratum II is a pale brown (10YR7/3) silt continuing to a depth of approximately 1.3 ft. (40 cm) below surface. Subsoil is a sterile olive yellow (2.5Y6/6) clay.

Artifacts recovered from Site 3 consist of one Chinese porcelain sherd, one white clay pipe bowl fragment, 9.2 g of handmade brick, 2.0 g of mollusk shell, and 4.0 g of coal/cinder. The very limited extent of the subsurface artifact scatter suggests that site integrity has been substantially compromised by post-occupational development. Site 3 is unlikely to offer any research potential or contribute to the understanding of the Colony to Nation (1751-1789) or Early National (1790-1829) periods in the Southern Coastal Plain of Virginia. Consequently, in the opinion of the consultant, **Site 3 is considered not eligible for nomination to the NRHP under Criterion D; Criteria A-C are not considered applicable.**

Location 1 consists of a single cut nail fragment recovered from Shovel Test 213 located near the Engine Shop Building. Shovel Test 213 was excavated in an approved area surrounded by infrastructure elements including utilities, buildings, and paved areas. As a result, no radial shovel tests could be excavated. However, two nearby shovel tests were negative. The lack of additional material and disturbance in the immediate vicinity suggest the nail represents an isolated find, thereby constituting an archaeological location (VDHR 2011).

Location 2 is located on the edge of the marsh, near the eastern extent of the District Office parcel. A total of three twentieth-century bottle glass fragments (two green-blue, one colorless) and one twentieth-century window plate glass fragment were recovered from Shovel Test 140. The recent nature of the artifacts recovered as well as the high variation in subsoil stratigraphy in the area indicate the material was recovered from redeposited soils thereby constituting an archaeological location (VDHR 2011). **By definition, archaeological locations are considered not eligible for the NRHP under Criteria A-D.**

Interstate Maintenance Office (IMO)

The IMO survey area consisted of a mostly developed lot with several buildings and associated facilities. Shovel testing was limited by the location of utilities for the facility as well as public utilities located along South Military Highway. As a result, a total of five shovel tests was excavated at the IMO. Of these, one was positive (20%) resulting in the identification of one archaeological location (Location 3) (see Figure 2).

Location 3 consists of a single unidentified nail fragment located in the western portion of the parcel. No radials were excavated due to the proximity of utilities and the presence of infrastructure elements, such as roads and buildings. One nearby shovel test was negative and showed subsurface disturbance. The lack of additional material culture suggests the nail fragment is an isolated find, thereby constituting an archaeological location (VDHR 2011). **By definition, archaeological locations are considered not eligible for the NRHP under Criteria A-D.**

Transportation Operation Center (TOC)

The survey area at the TOC was limited by existing utility lines and a fence separating the TOC from a commuter parking lot. As a result, a total of seven shovel tests was excavated at the TOC. Of these, two were positive for cultural material (29%) resulting in the identification of one archaeological location (Location 4) (see Figure 3).

Location 4 is located south of the driveway of the TOC complex, north of the main building. It consists of two nail/nail fragments (one wire, one unidentified), 1.9 g of mollusk shell, and 1.0 gram of handmade brick from two positive shovel tests. No radial shovel tests were excavated fur to the proximity of utilities and paved areas. Four additional nearby shovel tests, three of which were excavated at half intervals, were negative. Due to the redeposited nature of the artifacts recovered, this resources constitutes an archaeological location (VDHR 2011). **By definition, archaeological locations are considered not eligible for the NRHP under Criteria A-D.**

REFERENCES CITED

California Soil Resource Lab (CSRL)

- 2014 SoilWeb: An Online Soil Survey Browser. Online database/mapping of Natural Resources Conservation Service/National Cooperative Soil Survey data. <http://casoilresource.lawr.ucdavis.edu/drupal/node/902>. Accessed through Google Earth Interface, January 2014.

U. S. Geological Survey (USGS)

- 1900 Chuckatuck, VA. 7.5-minute topographic quadrangle. USGS, Reston, Virginia.
1994a Kempsville, VA. 7.5-minute topographic quadrangle. USGS, Reston, Virginia.
1994b Norfolk South, VA. 7.5-minute topographic quadrangle. USGS, Reston, Virginia.

Virginia Department of Historic Resources (VDHR)

- 2011 *Guidelines for Conducting Historic Resources Survey in Virginia*. Revised. Virginia Department of Historic Resources, Richmond, Virginia.

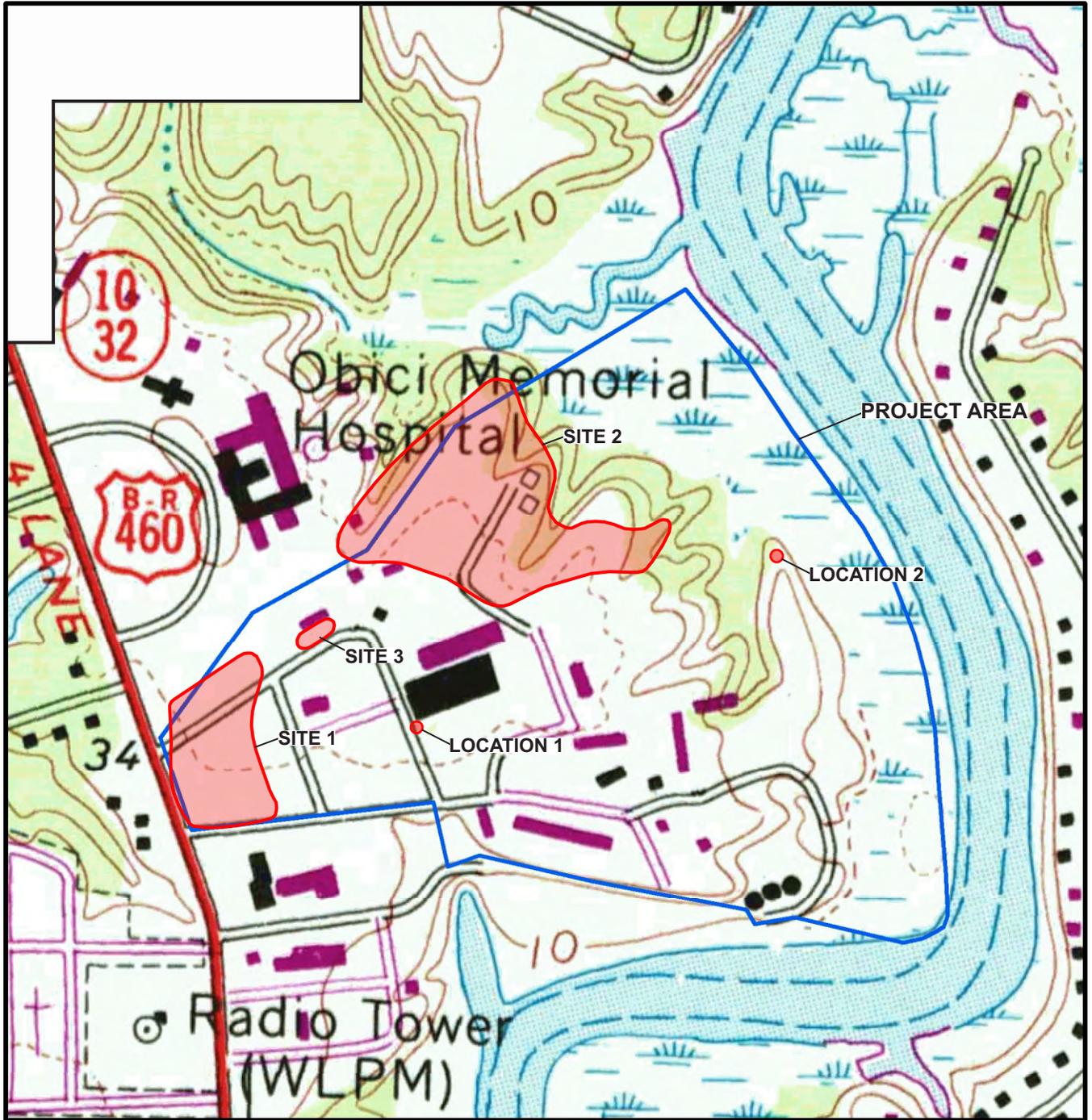


Figure 1. Archaeological resources identified during survey of the District Office (USGS 1965).

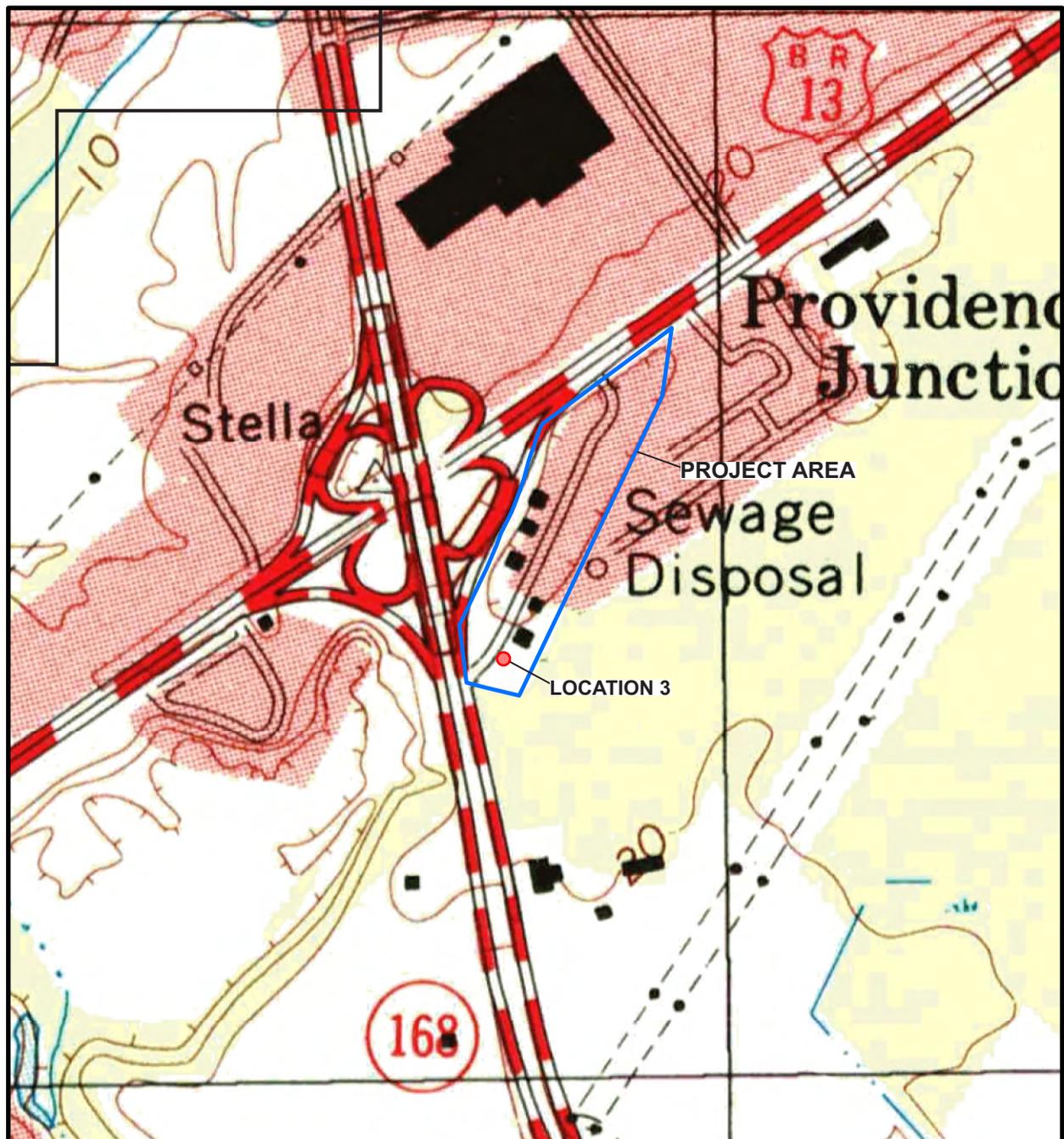


Figure 2. Archaeological resources identified during survey of the Interstate Maintenance Office (USGS 1994b).

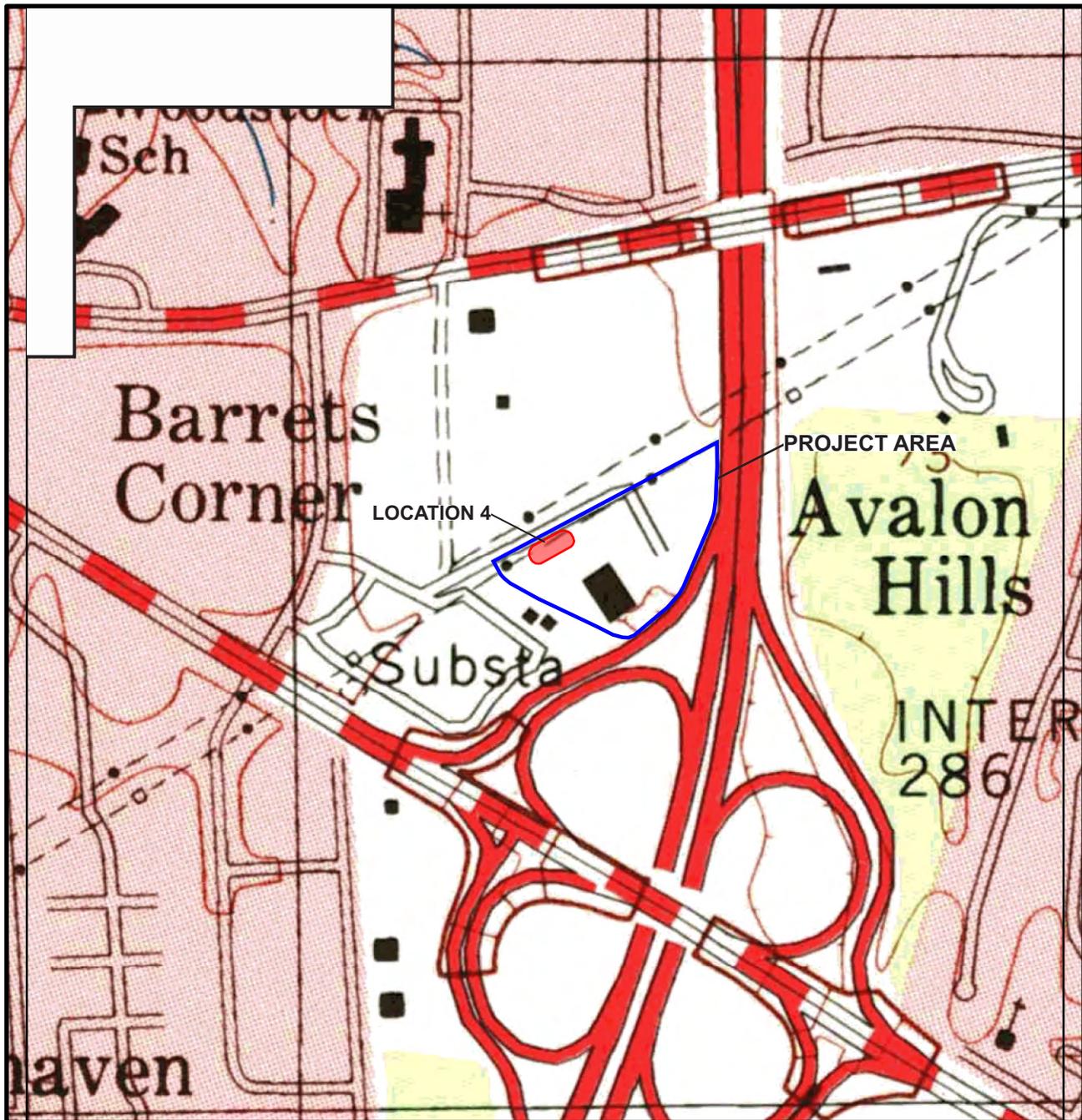


Figure 3. Archaeological resources identified during survey of the Transportation Operation Center (USGS 1994a).