CULTURAL RESOURCE ASSESSMENT SURVEY IN SUPPORT OF STATE ROAD 16 PONDS, St. JOHNS COUNTY, FLORIDA

CONSULTANT: SEARCH

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ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN: Kate Willis, MPS **PROJECT ARCHAEOLOGIST:** Matthew Mele, BA

CLIENT: Florida Department of Transportation, District 2

DATE: May 2024 **FM #:** 210447-5-32-01

SEARCH PROJECT #: 230292

This report details the results of a cultural resource assessment survey (CRAS) of three preferred pond locations and one easement/flood compensation area in St. Johns County, Florida. The Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT), District 2, is proposing to construct three stormwater ponds associated with improvements along State Road (SR) 16 in St. Johns County, Florida (**Figure 1**). This report serves as an addendum to the previous CRAS report titled *Cultural Resource Assessment Survey for State Road 16 from International Golf Parkway to I-95, St. Johns County, Florida* completed by SEARCH in 2024 (Mele et al. 2024). The total area tested for the current survey is 54.2 acres (ac). The discussions of regional precontact and postcontact history and research design remain the same due to the broad scope of these discussions and the proximity of the current area of potential effects (APE) to the area covered by the 2024 report. Therefore, these sections are not repeated in this report.

The APE defines the area within which the proposed improvements and subsequent maintenance may cause visual, audible, or atmospheric effects to historic properties. The archaeological APE defined for this project includes the proposed pond and easement/flood compensation area footprints. The architectural history APE includes the archaeological APE and was expanded to include a 100-foot (ft) buffer (Figure 2). In this document, the "APE" refers to the combined archaeological APE and architectural history APE.

The purpose of the survey was to locate, identify, and bound any archaeological resources, historic buildings structures, and potential districts within the project's APE and assess their potential for listing in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). This study was conducted to comply with Public Law 113-287 (Title 54 U.S.C.), which incorporates the provisions of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) of 1966, as amended, and the Archeological and Historic Preservation Act of 1974, as amended. The study also meets the regulations for implementing NHPA Section 106 found in 36 CFR Part 800 (*Protection of Historic Properties*). This study also complies with Chapter 267 of the Florida Statutes and Rule Chapter 1A-46, Florida Administrative Code. All work was performed in accordance with Part 2, Chapter 8 of the FDOT's Project Development & Environment (PD&E) Manual (revised July 2023) as well as the Florida Division of Historical Resources' (FDHR) recommendations for such projects as stipulated in the

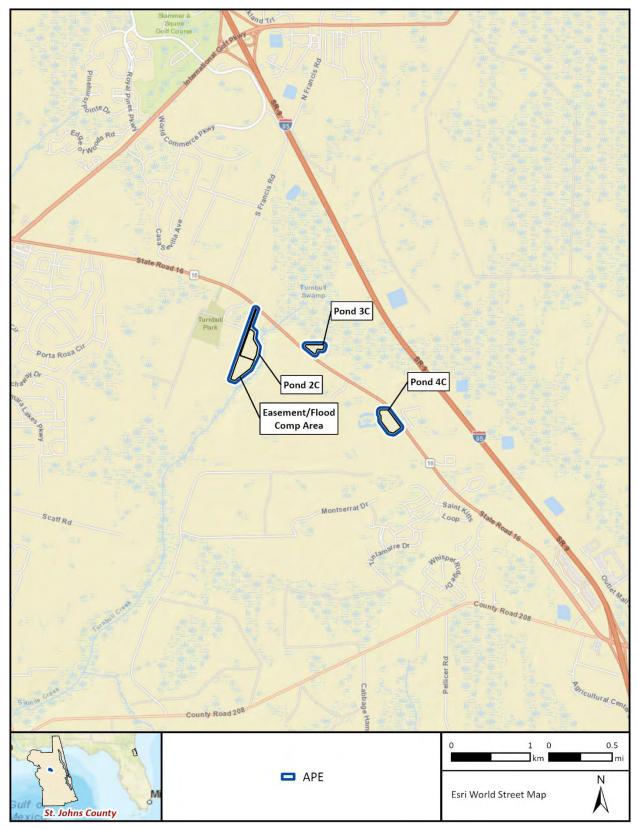


Figure 1. Location of APE within St. Johns County, Florida.

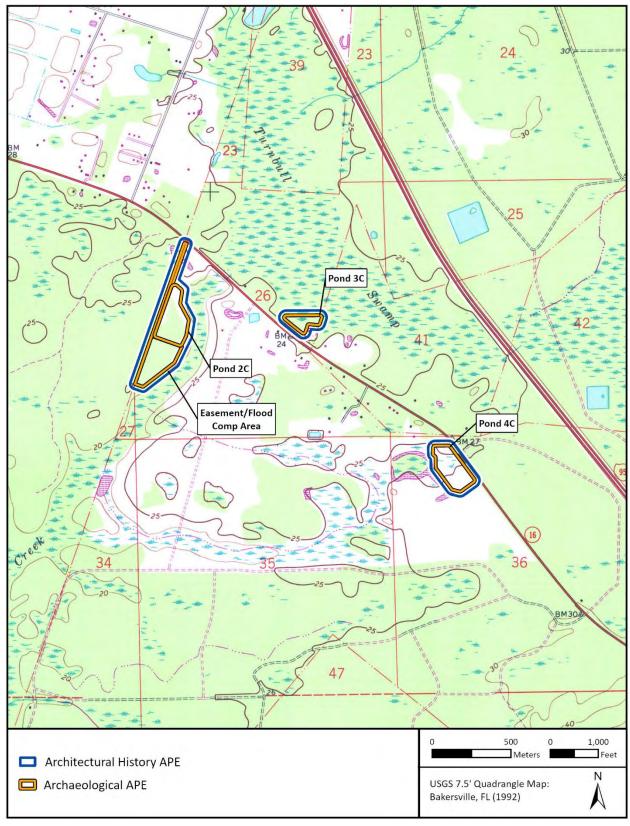


Figure 2. Topographic map of the APE.

FDHR's Cultural Resource Management Standards & Operations Manual, Module Three: Guidelines for Use by Historic Preservation Professionals. The principal investigator for this project meets the Secretary of the Interior's Standards and Guidelines for Archeology and Historic Preservation (48 FR 44716-42).

ENVIRONMENT AND MODERN CONDITIONS

The APE is in an area of mixed development, with large, wooded parcels between modern residential communities, single-family homes, and scattered commercial properties west of the City of St. Augustine in central St. Johns County. The proposed ponds are on either side of SR 16 between the intersections with Turnbull Creek Road and Turnbull Drive. Pond 2C and the associated easement/flood compensation area are on the south side of SR 16 and fall within an undeveloped parcel containing mature pine and mixed hardwoods, with developed parcels containing single-family homes to the east and west. Pond 3C is in an undeveloped parcel adjacent to the northern side of SR 16 and contains stands of mature pine and mixed hardwoods, as well as a thick undergrowth of saw palmetto and shrubs, with further undeveloped land to the north and small single-family parcels to the east. Pond 4C falls on the southern side of SR 16, in a large undeveloped parcel with tall grasses, scattered shrubs, and occasional stands of saw palmetto, and is directly east of a large, developed, suburban community. The APE is in Sections 26 and 36 of Township 6 South, Range 28 East.

According to Brooks (1981), the APE falls within the Palatka Anomalies Province, which is associated with limestone erosion, stream diversion, and silty deposits from Plio-Pleistocene estuarine and lagoonal environments. Elevations within the APE are approximately 23–26 ft above mean sea level. According to the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) online Web Soil Survey database (USDA NRCS 2023), mapped soils within the APE consist of very poorly drained Holopaw, Placid, and Winder fine sands, and poorly drained EauGallie, Pomona, and Tocoi fine sands (Figure 3).



Figure 3. Mapped soils within the APE.

FLORIDA MASTER SITE FILE REVIEW

A review of the FMSF database (updated April 2024) indicates that four previous surveys have been conducted within the APE prior to the SEARCH 2024 survey (Mele et al. 2024) for which this report serves as an addendum. FMSF Survey No. 6612 is a county-wide architectural history survey that was completed by Environmental Services, Inc. (Johnston 2001). The survey resulted in the identification of 1,133 historic resources, including one historic building (8SJ04043) within the current APE. FMSF Survey No. 14001 is a CRAS that was conducted along both sides of SR 16 from SR 13 to Tom's Road by SEARCH in 2006. No subsurface archaeological testing was conducted within the current project boundary, but one historic building (8SJ04043) was identified within the current APE during the architectural survey. FMSF Survey No. 21282 was an architectural survey of northwest St. Johns County conducted by Brockington and Associates in 2014. No cultural resources were identified within the current APE. FMSF Survey No. 24323 was a CRAS of the Grand Oaks Development conducted by Heritage Cultural Services in 2017. The archaeological portion of the survey included the excavation of 13 negative shovel tests within the current APE, including 10 within the proposed footprint of Pond 2C and three within the footprint of Pond 4C. No archaeological sites or other historic resources were identified within the current APE. Table 1 summarizes the previous surveys, which are shown in Figure 4.

Further review of the FMSF indicates that one historic building has been previously recorded within the current APE (see **Figure 4**). The building at 4125 SR 16 Southwest (8SJ04043) was documented by SEARCH in 2006 (FMSF Survey No. 14001). The building is a single-story, Frame Vernacular house constructed ca. 1938 (Laughlin and Linville 2006). It has an L-shaped plan and wood frame structure, with a gabled roof and clapboard siding. Resource 8SJ04043 was evaluated as ineligible for listing in the NRHP by the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) on April 11, 2007. More recently, survey of SR 16 indicated that 8SJ04043 is no longer extant (Mele et al. 2024).

Table 1. Previous Cultural Resource Assessment Surveys within the APE.

FMSF No.	Title	Citation
6612	Historic Properties Survey, St. Johns County, Florida	Johnston (2001)
14001	Phase 1 Cultural Resource Assessment Survey of SR 16 from SR 13 to Woodlawn Road, St. Johns County, Florida.	Laughlin and Linville (2006)
21282	"One of the most lovely spots I have ever feasted my eyes on" Northwest St. Johns County Historical Study and Architectural Survey	Gardner et al. (2014)
24323	Cultural Resource Assessment Survey of the Grand Oaks Development, St. Johns County, Florida.	Ste. Claire (2017)
TBD	Cultural Resource Assessment Survey for State Road 16 from International Golf Parkway to I-95, St. Johns County, Florida	Mele et al. (2024)

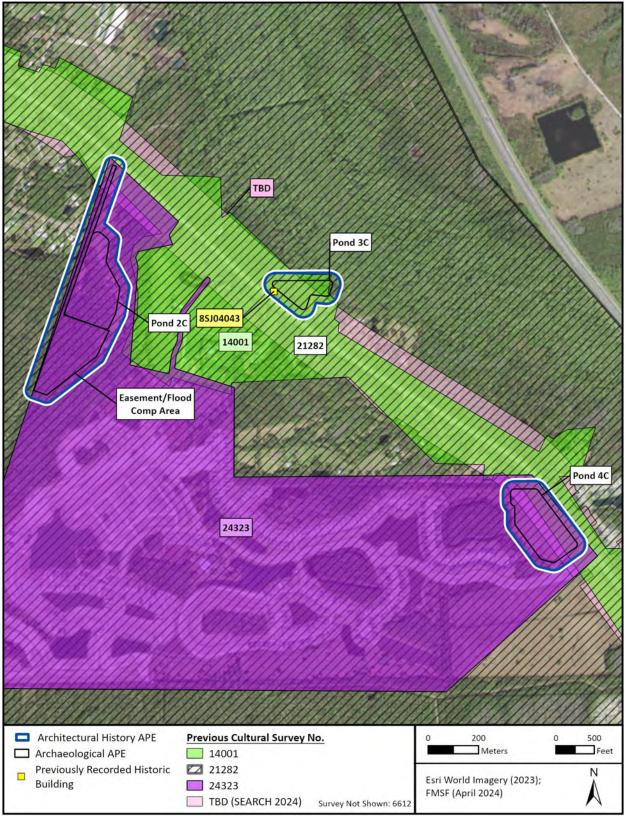


Figure 4. Previous cultural surveys and resources within the APE.

HISTORIC MAP AND AERIAL PHOTOGRAPH REVIEW

SEARCH examined historic maps and aerial photographs to identify past land use in the vicinity of the APE. The earliest maps consulted were General Land Office (GLO) survey maps. Government land surveyors created GLO maps during the nineteenth century as part of the surveying, platting, and sale of public lands. In Florida, these maps characteristically show landscape features such as vegetation, bodies of water, roads, and Spanish land grants. The level of detail in GLO maps varies; some also depict structures, Native American villages, railroads, and agricultural fields. A GLO map of Florida Township 6 South, Range 28 East shows Ponds 2C and 3C partially within land grants belonging to Antonio Huertas and G. W. Perpall, respectively. Both men received their land grants from the Spanish government in the second Spanish period and both were confirmed by the US government. A northwest-southeast road intersected Ponds 2C and 4C (Figure 5) (Florida State Library and Archive n.d.a, n.d.b; GLO 1853).

By 1890, railroads connected St. Augustine to the surrounding counties but the only development in the APE vicinity is the Huertas grant (Asher and Adams 1871; Johnson 1860; Leslie-Judge Company 1880; Norton 1890). No development was depicted within the APE by 1917 (C. S. Hammond and Company 1910; Florida State Road Department [FSRD] 1917; Rand McNally and Company 1900). By 1935, a paved road was on the present-day alignment of SR 16 within the APE (FSRD 1935).

A topographic map created in 1943 shows SR 16 labeled as Mill Creek Road / SR 48 (**Figure 6**) (US Geological Survey [USGS] 1943). Aerial photographs taken in 1952 show the land within the APE remained undeveloped (**Figure 7**) (US Department of Agriculture [USDA] 1952).

A 1960 aerial photograph shows cleared fields within the APE at Pond 2C and 3C (**Figure 8**) (USDA 1960). By 1970, SR 16 was officially labeled on the topographic map, and no other development was apparent within the APE (**Figure 9**) (USGS 1970).

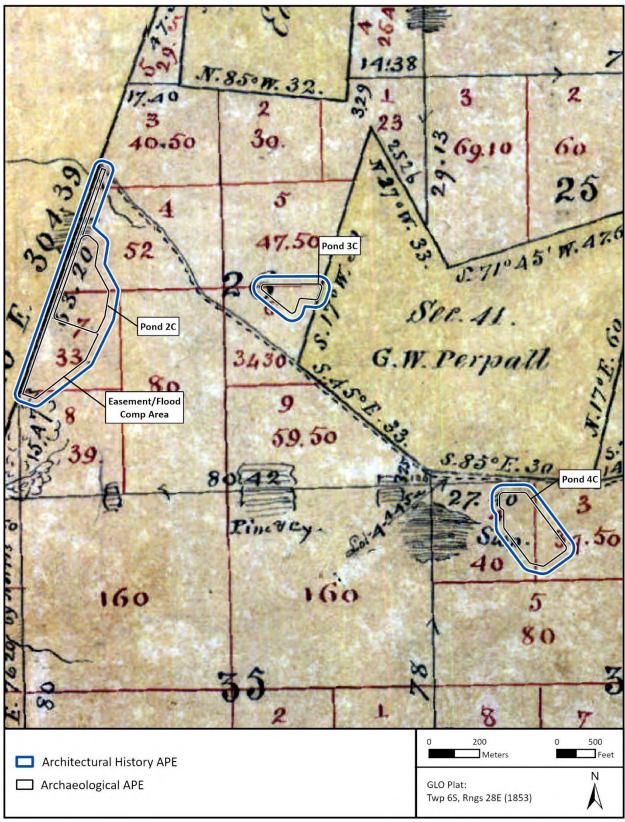


Figure 5. GLO survey map of Township 6 South, Range 28 East (GLO 1853).

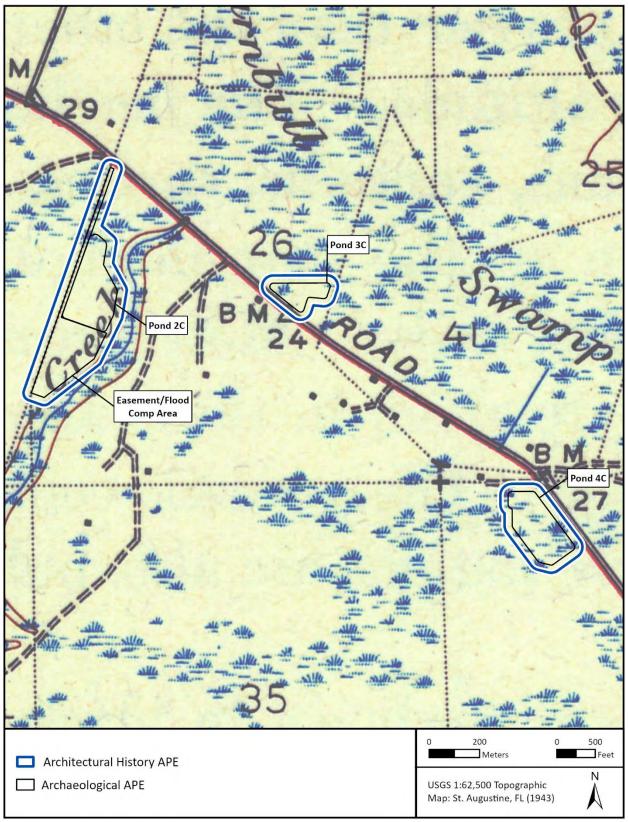


Figure 6. St. Augustine, FL USGS topographic maps (USGS 1943).

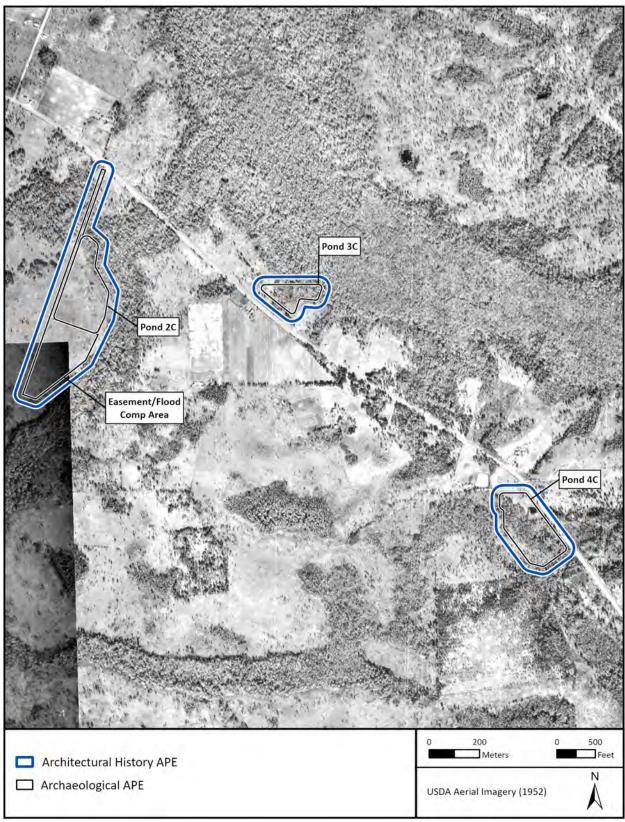


Figure 7. USDA aerial photographs of St. Johns County, FL (USDA 1952).

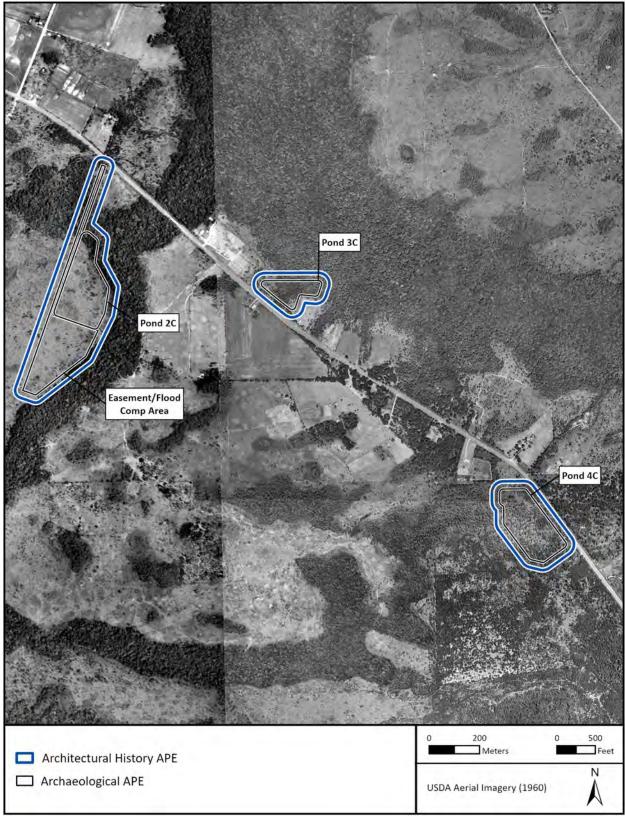


Figure 8. USDA aerial photographs of St. Johns County, FL (USDA 1960).

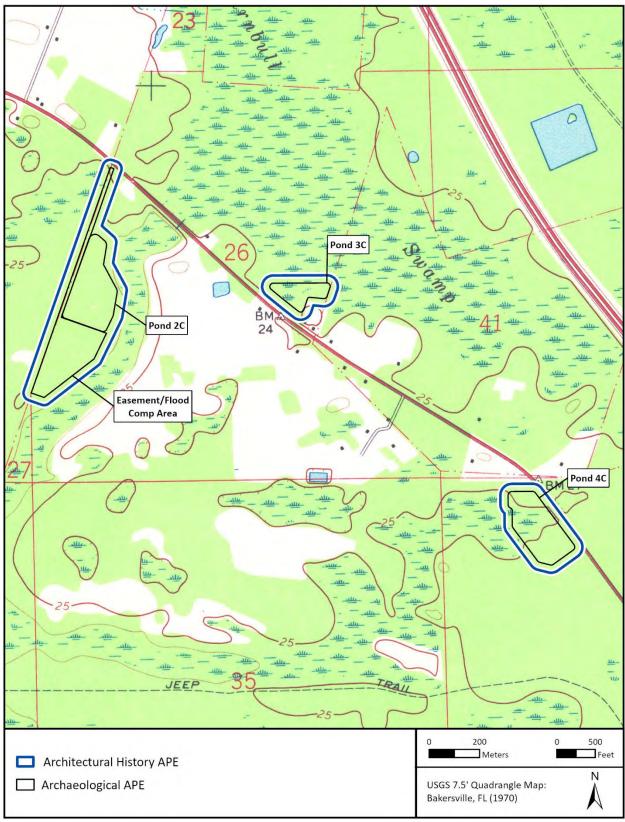


Figure 9. Bakersville, FL USGS topographic map (USGS 1970).

SURVEY METHODOLOGY

Archaeological Field Methods

The archaeological field survey consisted of systematic subsurface shovel testing according to the potential for buried archaeological sites. Areas that had been tested previously according to Module Three standards did not require additional survey. The intensity of subsurface testing was based on the presence or absence of conditions conducive to human habitation (i.e., proximity to fresh water, topography, soil drainage). Proximity to areas tested during previously conducted surveys and evidence of existing disturbance was also considered. Based on an examination of environmental variables (soil drainage, access to wetlands and marine resources, relative elevation) and the absence of any previously identified archaeological sites or occurrences nearby, the potential for archaeological sites to be present within the APE was considered low. Subsurface tests were excavated at intervals of 100 m according to the low probability for archaeological resources throughout the APE.

Shovel tests measured approximately 50 centimeters (cm) in diameter and were excavated to a minimum depth of 100 cm below surface (cmbs), subsurface conditions permitting. Excavated sediments were screened through 1/4-inch mesh hardware cloth. "No-dig" points were recorded in locations where testing was attempted but confirmed to be infeasible due to water inundation. The location of each shovel test and "no dig" point was marked on aerial photographs of the project area. Global Positioning System (GPS) coordinates were recorded for each shovel test and "no dig" location with handheld units. The cultural content, stratigraphy, and environmental setting of each shovel test was recorded.

Architectural Field Methods

In addition to a search of the FMSF for previously recorded historic buildings and structures within the APE, older US Geological Survey (USGS) quadrangle maps were reviewed for resources that were constructed prior to 1980. A pedestrian survey was completed throughout the APE. Based on the results of the Mele et al. (2024) survey, the field survey crew expected that historic building 8SJ04043 had been demolished or removed from the APE, and this was verified during the current pedestrian survey.

Procedures to Deal with Unexpected Discoveries

SEARCH has made a reasonable and good faith effort during this investigation to identify and evaluate possible locations of precontact and historic archaeological sites; however, the possibility exists that evidence of cultural resources may yet be encountered within the project limits. Should evidence of unrecorded cultural resources be discovered during construction activities, all work in that portion of the project area must stop. Evidence of cultural resources includes precontact Native American or historic pottery, stone tools, bone or shell tools, historic trash pits, and historic building foundations. Should such materials be uncovered during the

excavation of the project area, representatives of FDOT, District 2, will assist in the identification and preliminary assessment of the materials. If such evidence is found, the FDHR will be notified within two working days.

In the unlikely event that human skeletal remains or associated burial artifacts are uncovered within the project area, all work in that area must stop. The FDOT, District 2, cultural resources coordinator must be contacted. The discovery must be reported to local law enforcement, who will in turn contact the medical examiner. The medical examiner will determine whether the state archaeologist should be contacted per the requirements of Chapter 872.05, Florida Statutes.

Certified Local Government Consultation and Informant Interviews

St. Johns County is a Certified Local Government (CLG). SEARCH initiated consultation with Ms. Hali Barkley, the CLG representative for the county. On May 1, 2024, SEARCH archaeologist Matthew Mele, BA, emailed Ms. Barkley to discuss the project and to inquire whether the county might have concerns related to cultural resources associated with the project. In the email, Mr. Mele provided the project maps to Ms. Barkley for review. As of the submittal of this report, Ms. Barkley has not responded with concerns.

SURVEY RESULTS

Archaeology Survey

The APE is west of St. Augustine, Florida, in an area characterized by wooded parcels with sporadic marsh and swamp, scattered residential development, and cleared but undeveloped parcels (**Figure 10**). In total, 19 shovel tests were excavated throughout the APE and two no-dig points were marked where testing was not possible due to water inundation at the surface (**Figure 11**). Results of the archaeological testing in each location are discussed below. An FDHR survey log sheet is provided in **Attachment 1**.

Easement/Flood Compensation Area

The Easement/Flood Compensation Area comprises a 27.45 ac footprint at the western end of the APE along the south side of SR 16. This area includes the 12.4 ac footprint of Pond 2C, which falls within the northern half of the flood compensation area. Modern conditions consist of a cleared dirt road extending southward from SR 16 within the easement, leading to pine and mixed hardwood forest with dense brush throughout most of the flood compensation area (**Figure 12**). Nine shovel tests were excavated within the footprint, all of which were negative for artifacts.

A typical soil profile within Pond 2C consists of black (10YR 2/1) sandy loam from 0 to 40 cmbs (Stratum I), over gray (10YR 5/2) sand from 40 to 70 cmbs (Stratum II) (**Figure 12**). Shovel tests within Pond 2C terminated due to water inundation at a maximum depth of 70 cmbs.



Figure 10. Representative views of the APE. Top left: access road within the Easement/Flood Compensation Area, view south. Top right: environmental overview within Pond 2C, view north. Center left: environmental overview of pond 2C, view south. Center right: environmental overview of Pond 3C, view east. Bottom left: environmental overview of Pond 3C, view north. Bottom right: environmental overview within Pond 4C, view west.

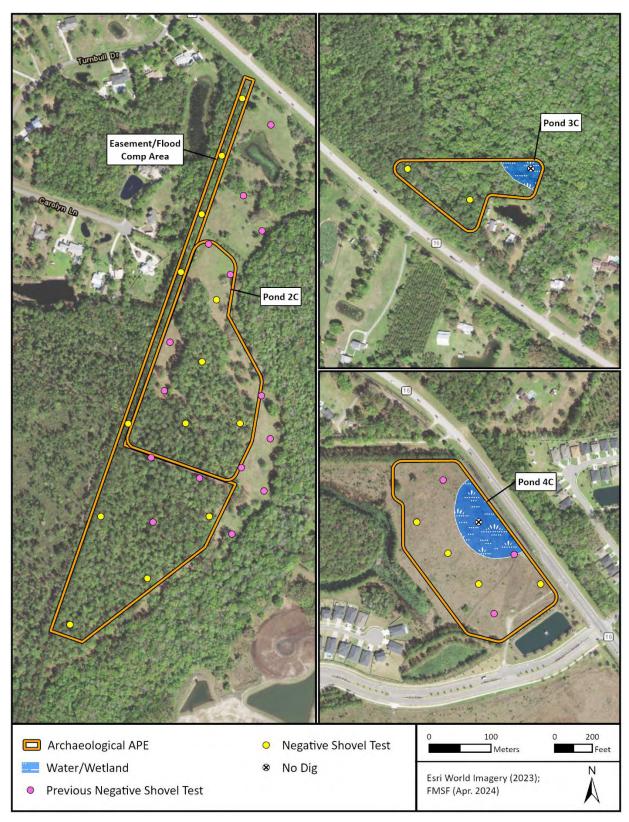


Figure 11. Results of archaeological testing within the APE.

No artifacts were observed, and no archaeological sites or occurrences were identified; no further archaeological survey is recommended for the Easement/Flood Compensation Area.



Figure 12. Representative views of the APE within the Easement/Flood Compensation Area and Pond 2C. Top left: typical soil profile within the Easement/Flood Compensation Area. Top right: environmental overview within the Easement/Flood Compensation area, view west. Bottom left: environmental overview within Pond 2C, view south. Bottom right: typical soil profile within Pond 2C.

Pond 2C

Pond 2C comprises a 12.4 ac footprint at the western end of the APE along the south side of SR 16 and falls within the footprint of the Flood Compensation Area. Modern conditions consist of pine and mixed hardwood forest with dense brush throughout most of the parcel, with cleared grassy areas to the north and east (**Figure 12**). Four shovel tests were excavated within the footprint, all of which were negative for artifacts.

A typical soil profile within Pond 2C consists of black (7.5YR 2.5/1) sandy loam from 0 to 20 cmbs (Stratum I), over gray (7.5YR 5/1) sand from 20 to 70 cmbs (Stratum II), above black (7.5YR 2.5/1) sand from 70 to 80 cmbs (Stratum III) (see **Figure 12**). Shovel tests within Pond 2C terminated due to water inundation at a maximum depth of 80 cmbs.

No artifacts were observed, and no archaeological sites or occurrences were identified; no further archaeological survey is recommended for Pond 2C.

Pond 3C

Pond 3C comprises a 4.0 ac footprint in the center of the APE along the north side of SR 16. Modern conditions consist of pine and mixed hardwood forest with moderate palmetto brush throughout the parcel, and fern groundcover in the eastern portion (**Figure 13**). Two shovel tests were excavated within the footprint, both negative for artifacts. One no-dig point was marked in the eastern portion of the pond footprint where excavation was precluded due to water inundation at the surface (see **Figure 11**).

A typical soil profile within Pond 3C consists of reddish black (7.5R 2.5/1) loam from 0 to 10 cmbs (Stratum I), over black (10YR 2/2) sandy loam from 10 to 15 cmbs (Stratum II), above dark gray (10YR 4/1) sand mottled with gray (10YR 4/3) sand from 15 to 40 cmbs (Stratum III), over dark gray (10YR 4/1) sand from 40 to 60 cmbs (Stratum IV) (**Figure 13**). Shovel tests within Pond 3C terminated due to water inundation at a maximum depth of 60 cmbs.

No artifacts were observed, and no archaeological sites or occurrences were identified; no further archaeological survey is recommended for Pond 3C.

Pond 4C

Pond 4C comprises an 11.0 ac footprint in the eastern end of the APE along the south side of SR 16. Modern conditions consist of open grassland with scattered brush and very few trees (**Figure 13**). Four shovel tests were excavated within the footprint, all of which were negative for artifacts. One no-dig point was marked in the northeastern portion of the pond footprint where excavation was precluded due to water inundation at the surface (see **Figure 11**).

A typical soil profile within Pond 4C consists of black (10YR 2/1) loam from 0 to 10 cmbs (Stratum I), over very dark grey (10YR 2/2) sand from 10 to 40 cmbs (Stratum II), above black (10YR 2/1) sand mottled with gray (10YR 5/1) sand from 40 to 80 cmbs (Stratum III), over gray (10YR 6/1) sand from 80 to 100 cmbs (Stratum IV) (**Figure 13**). Shovel tests within Pond 4C terminated due to water inundation or reaching a maximum depth of 100 cmbs.

No artifacts were observed, and no archaeological sites or occurrences were identified; no further archaeological survey is recommended for Pond 4C.









Figure 13. Representative views of the APE within Ponds 3C and 4C. Top left: typical soil profile within Pond 3C. Top right: environmental overview within Pond 3C, view east. Bottom left: environmental overview within Pond 4C, view west. Bottom right: typical soil profile within Pond 4C.

Architectural History Survey

A thorough field check of the architectural history APE was undertaken. The previously recorded historic building (8SJ04043) depicted in **Figure 4** as being within the project APE was confirmed demolished during pedestrian survey. A demolition letter is included in **Attachment 2.** No other historic resources were present within the APE.

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

This report details the results of a CRAS of three preferred pond locations and one easement/flood compensation area in St. Johns County, Florida. This report serves as an addendum to the previous CRAS report titled *Cultural Resource Assessment Survey for State Road 16 from International Golf Parkway to I-95, St. Johns County, Florida* completed by SEARCH in 2024 (Mele et al. 2024).

Archaeological survey consisted of pedestrian survey and shovel testing in portions of the APE not covered by previous Module Three–compliant cultural resource surveys, primarily FMSF Survey No. 24323, which was conducted in support of the Grand Oaks Development project (Ste. Claire 2017). As such, archaeological testing was limited to untested portions of the three proposed pond footprints and easement/floodplain compensation area. In total, 19 shovel tests were excavated throughout the APE and two no-dig points were marked where testing was not possible due to water inundation at the surface. All shovel tests were negative for artifacts and no archaeological sites or occurrences were identified. No further archaeological survey is recommended in support of the SR 16 ponds project.

No historic buildings or structures were identified within the APE. No further architectural survey is recommended.

No NRHP-listed or -eligible cultural resources were identified within the project APE. No further cultural resources work is recommended.

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ATTACHMENT 1:

FDHR SURVEY LOG SHEET

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Survey Log Sheet

Survey # (FMSF only)

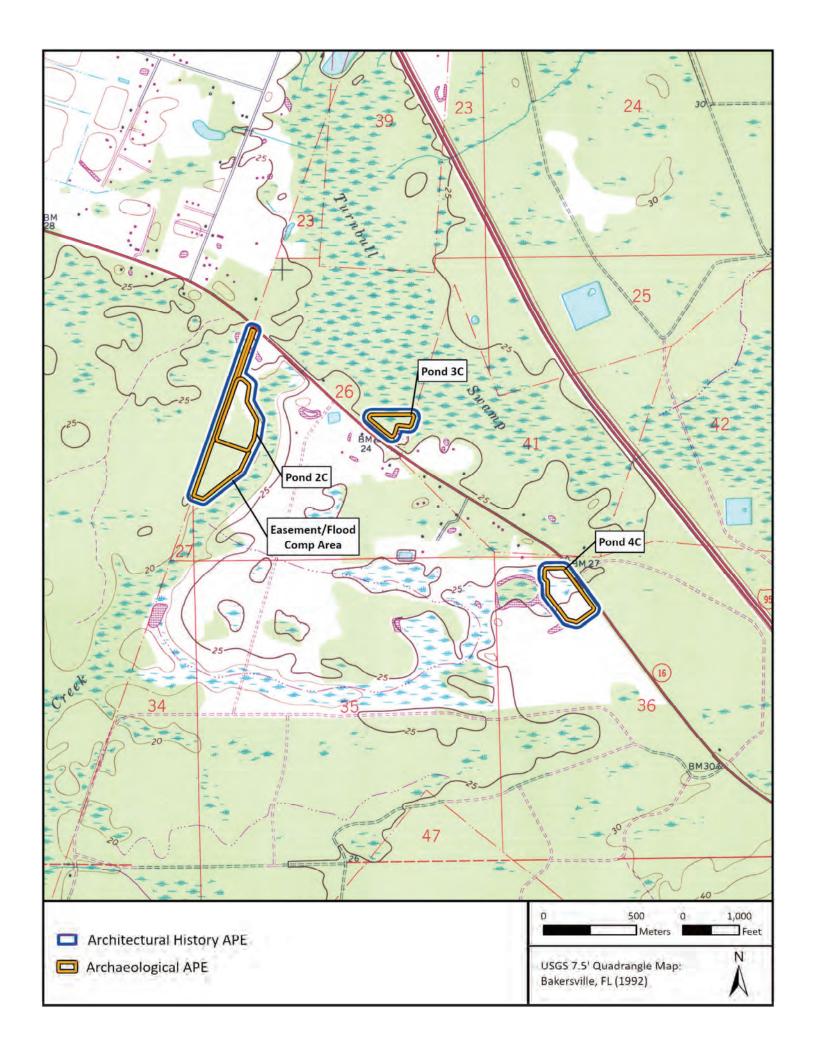
Florida Master Site File Version 5.0 3/19

Consult Guide to the Survey Log Sheet for detailed instructions.

Manuscript Information					
Survey Project (name and project phase)					
Phase I CRAS Addendum in Supp	oort of the SR 16	Ponds			
Report Title (exactly as on title page)					
Cultural Resource Assessment	Survey in Support	of State Road	16 Ponds, St.	Johns County	y, Florida
Report Authors (as on title page) 1.	Matthew Mele		3.		
2.					
Publication Year 2024 No	ımber of Pages in Repo	ort (do not include site	forms) 25		
Publication Information (Give series, number 1)	-				merican Antiquity.)
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Affiliation of Fieldworkers: Organization			Cit	y Jacksonvil	 le
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Page 2 Survey Log Sheet Survey #____

Research and Field Methods					
Types of Survey (select all that apply):	⊠archaeological	⊠architectural	☐historical/archival	□underwater	
	damage assessment	monitoring report	other(describe):		
Scope/Intensity/Procedures	<u> </u>				
Systematic shovel testing	and pedestrian su	rvev of portions	of the APE not pro	eviously covered by	
Module 3 compliant survey				1	
Preliminary Methods (select as many	, as apply to the project as a	whole)			
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surface collection, controlled	shovel test-other screen si	ze □hloci	c excavation (at least 2x2 m)	metal detector	
surface collection, un controlled	water screen		esistivity	other remote sensing	
Shovel test-1/4"screen ■ The state of t	posthole tests		netometer	pedestrian survey	
shovel test-1/8" screen	auger tests		scan sonar	□unknown	
shovel test 1/16"screen	□coring □test excavation (at least 1:		nd penetrating radar (GPR)		
	Trest excavation (at least 1)	x2 m) □LIDA	ın		
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building permits	demolition permits	□neigl	nbor interview	subdivision maps	
commercial permits	windshield survey		pant interview	☐tax records	
☐interior documentation	⊠local property records	□осси	pation permits	□unknown	
other (describe):					
Survey Results					
Resource Significance Evaluated?	□Yes ⊠No				
C ount of Previously Recorded Res	ources o	C ount of New	ly Recorded Resources	0	
List Previously Recorded Site ID#		Ipleted (attach additional	pages if necessary)		
,					
List Newly Recorded Site ID#s (attach additional pages if necessary)					
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☐ Grant Project # Type of Document: ☐ Archaeological S	Urvey Historical/Architectu	Compliance Review:		Monitoring Report	
Type of Document: □Archaeological Survey □Historical/Architectural Survey □Marine Survey □Cell Tower CRAS □Monitoring Report □Overview □Excavation Report □Multi-Site Excavation Report □Structure Detailed Report □Library, Hist. or Archival Doc					
Desktop Analysis MRA TG Other:					
Document Destination: Plottable	Projects	Plotability:			



ATTACHMENT 2:

FMSF DEMO LETTER

May 8, 2024

Eman M. Vovsi, PhD Historical Data Analyst, Florida Master Site File 500 S. Bronough St., Tallahassee, FL 32399-0250

Subject: Demolished and Misplotted Resources for the Cultural Resource Assessment

Survey (CRAS) in Support State Road 16 Ponds, St. Johns County, Florida

Dear Dr. Vovsi,

During background research it was discovered that one previously recorded resource was demolished or removed since the original forms were recorded with the FMSF (**Table 1**). Photographs of the lots as recorded for this project are enclosed at the end of this letter.

Table 1. Demolished Cultural Resources within the APE

Resource	Name/Address	Resource Type / Style	Year Built	NRHP Recommendation				
Previously Recorded								
8SJ04043	4125 SR 16	Demolished/Frame Vernacular	c. 1938	Ineligible				

If there are any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

Mary Bonatakis, BA Architectural History Specialist

Demolished Cultural Resource within the APE:



Figure 1. Resource 8SJ04043. Camera facing north.



Figure 2. Resource 8SJ04043. Camera facing east.