

# **R.S. Webb & Associates**

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July 16, 2014

Mr. Shawn Rainey  
Blue Frog Construction, LLC  
4485 Tench Road, #1410  
Suwanee, Georgia 30518

**Subject: Findings - Preliminary Civil War Features Survey  
1.0-Acre Smyrna/Oakdale Road Tract  
Cobb County, Georgia  
R.S. Webb & Associates No. 14-065-149p**

Dear Mr. Rainey:

## **BACKGROUND**

On July 8, 2014, R.S. Webb & Associates (RSWA) conducted a preliminary Civil War features survey of a 1.0-acre tract on Oakdale Road in Smyrna, Cobb County, Georgia (Figure 1). The survey included a review of Civil War era maps, and a field walkover of the study tract. The purpose of this walkover was to determine if obvious Civil War-era surface features are present in the project area. The study was conducted to comply with Cobb County Community Development Department requirements regarding the identification and treatment of Civil War sites on development projects in Cobb County.

## **RESULTS**

*Map Review:* In June 1864, Johnston's River Line, designed by Confederate army engineers, was built using slave labor. The River Line was an elaborate system of earthworks which extended approximately eight miles, from the Chattahoochee River to Atlanta Road (Scaife 1993). The River Line ran northeast-southwest just below the crest (northwest) of a prominent ridge which is the approximate course of modern Oakdale Road. A distinctive feature of the River Line is the Shoupades, which were sharp, arrow-shaped "forts" aimed in the direction of the enemy. The Shoupades, placed in strategic locations along the main line of log stockades, had artillery redans located on each side. Many Confederate rifle pits were also located on the northwest side of the River Line, between the River Line and Nickajack Creek.

On July 4, 1864, Confederate militia and calvary, commanded by Gustavus W. Smith and Lawrence (Sul) Ross, respectively, were entrenched near the Mt. Harmony Church. Their mission was to guard Turner's Ferry Road (present Veterans Memorial Parkway). Dispatched to oppose them were two regiments of Union General Francis Blair's 17<sup>th</sup> Army Corps, supported by George Stoneman's calvary. General Blair's orders were to establish a position on Nickajack Creek, near Turner's Ferry and the Chattahoochee River. General Blair successfully dislodged the Confederates after a brief skirmish. The Confederates retreated to the River Line, followed closely by their Union antagonists. The Confederates took refuge in the River Line and Federal troops took up position, as ordered, west of Nickajack Creek. The River Line was so formidable a position that General Sherman chose to avoid a major frontal assault in this area. General Blair's troops held the Confederates in their position at the River Line long enough to allow Union forces under the command of General James B. McPherson to cross the Chattahoochee River at Roswell.

*Field Survey:* The project area was walked along transects spaced 75 to 100 feet apart. No Civil War-era surface features (e.g., trenches, forts, rifle pits, etc.) were observed during the walkover.

### **CONCLUSIONS**

Based on the map review and current walkover, no extant Civil War-era surface features appear to be present in the project area. No additional work is recommended for the 1.0-acre Smyrna tract.

### **CLOSING COMMENTS**

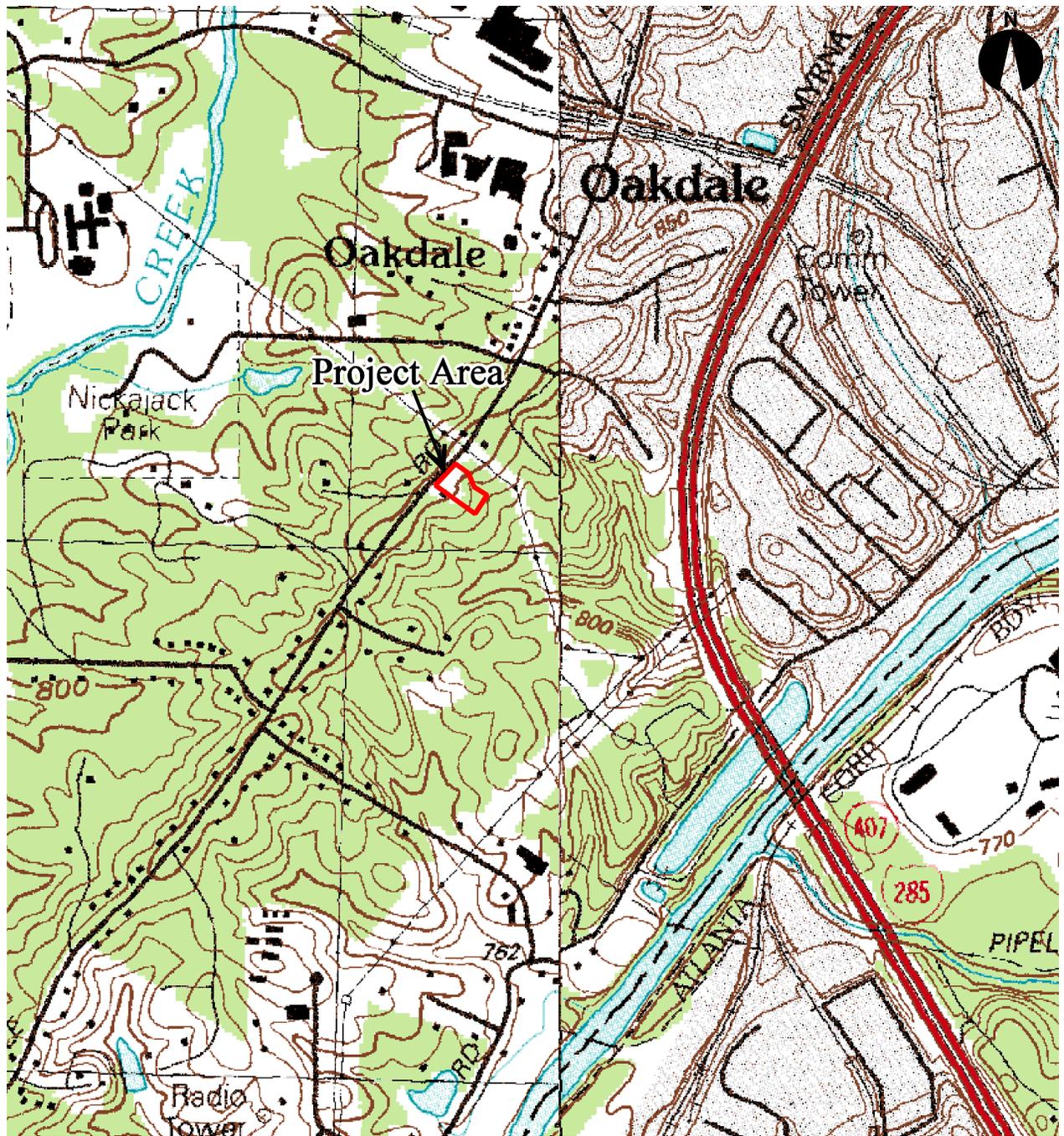
Mr. Rainey, we appreciate the opportunity to work with you on this project. If you have questions concerning our findings, please contact Mr. Steve Webb at 770-345-0706.

Sincerely,  
R.S. WEBB & ASSOCIATES



Robert S. Webb  
President and Senior Principal Archeologist

Attachment: Figure 1



Map Reference: 7.5-Minute USGS Quadrangle  
 Mableton (1992)  
 Northwest Atlanta (1993), Georgia

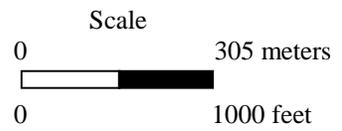


Figure 1 Project Area Location Map