

R.S. Webb & Associates

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October 14, 2019

Mr. Grant Grimes
Beazer Homes
6455 Shiloh Road, Suite A
Alpharetta, Georgia 30005

**Subject: Letter of Findings - Level 1 Archeological Study
Pebblebrook Road at Buckner Road Tract (Parcel 17054200010)
Cobb County, Georgia
R.S. Webb & Associates No. 19-837-001**

Dear Mr. Grimes:

BACKGROUND

On October 8 and 10, 2019, R.S. Webb & Associates, a professional cultural resources management firm, conducted a Level 1 archeological study of the above-referenced 3.9 hectares (12.7-acre) development tract in Cobb County, Georgia. In anticipation of annexation of the project area into the City of Smyrna, the City requested that a Level 1 archeological survey be conducted for the project tract. The purpose of this study is to determine if potentially important archeological resources or historic structures/resources are located within the project area, with particular attention given to Civil War-era features such as breastworks and rifle pits. The project area is located west-southwest of the intersection of Pebblebrook Road/Buckner Road (Figure 1).

METHODS

Literature Review: The literature and records search included a review of the Georgia Archeological Site File (GASF) and a search of the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) files, Cobb County historic resources survey/identified properties records, Georgia's Natural, Archeological, and Historical Resources Geographic Information System (GNAHRGIS) online database, and relevant Civil War-era maps [e.g., Civil War Sites Advisory Commission (CWSAC) field maps 1993; Cobb County Board of Commissioners 1992; Davis *et al.* 1983; Scaife 1993].

Level I Field Survey: A combination of surface inspection, selectively placed screened shovel tests, and landscape scanning was used to search for Civil War features and other archeological resources; survey transects are illustrated in Figure 2. As landforms were walked, exposed surfaces were inspected for artifacts, domestic/agrarian surface features, earthworks, and other surface indications of archeological resources. Screened shovel tests were excavated to sample high probability landforms. Areas exhibiting moderate to steep slope and/or severe disturbance were walked but not shovel tested. Shovel testing involved the hand excavation of 30-centimeter (cm)-diameter pits down to subsoil. Shovel test soils were passed through 0.64-cm hardware cloth and the retained material examined for artifacts. Landscapes were scanned from the survey transects for visible surface features indicative of historic sites (e.g., structures/structure remains, chimney stands, military earthworks, historic ornamental vegetation, etc.). Standing structures were photographed and generally assessed for age and condition. Current land use patterns and levels of disturbance were also noted.

RESULTS

Literature Search

NRHP-listed Properties: HPD records indicate that there are no NRHP-listed historic properties located within 1.6 kilometers (km) (1.0 mile) of the project area.

Historic Structures: HPD's Cobb County structure survey records and the GNAHRGIS database indicate that there are no recorded structures within 1.6 km of the project area.

Archeological Sites: GASF records indicate that there are 19 recorded archeological sites located within a 1.6 km radius of the project area. The closest of these is located approximately 395 meters (m) east of the project area.

Civil War Background and Resources in or near the Project Area: Following the Battle of Kennesaw Mountain (June 27, 1864), the Confederate army planned to make a stand on the east side of the Chattahoochee River in Cobb County. A delaying action was fought at Smyrna Campground on July 4, 1864 and the previously prepared Chattahoochee River Line, located within 0.75 mile east of the project area, was occupied the following day. The Union armies, in pursuit, occupied high ground north and west of the River Line during the period July 5-8, 1864 according to maps of the Atlanta campaign (Davis *et al.* 1983; Scaife 1993). The days' action was characterized by dueling artillery and a feinted infantry attack on the Confederate position, but the episode ended when the Confederates finally retreated across the river into Atlanta on July 8.

The *Historic Location of Civil War Earthworks* map (Cobb County Board of Commissioners 1992) shows the approximate locations of Union army earthworks known to have been located immediately north and west of the project area, and some distance further to the south (Figure 1). While trench locations on this modern map can vary some, they are reasonably accurate and based on late 19th century mapping of the Atlanta campaign (Davis *et al.* 1983). In some contrast, the CWSAC field maps (1993) estimate Union trench works (associated with Smith's Brigade of Logan's 15th Corps, Army of the Tennessee) being located partially within the project area (Figure 1).

Historic Aerial Photography Review: Aerials from 1942 show that a house was located north of the bend in Buckner Road, within the project area (Figure 1). The area immediately south of the house was wooded and the remainder of the tract was in cultivation with heavy contour terracing. Aerial photographs taken in 1960 show that the occupational loci shifted southward and another house, a circa 1950s dwelling, was present. Nineteen-sixty aerials depict the project area as being cultivated or in pasture, except for the 1950s house location and possibly the location of the earlier house.

Aerial photography showing the project area while still under cultivation or in pasture (1942, 1955, 1960, 1968 and 1972) indicate no signatures typical of Civil War earthworks being present. Contour terracing is evident, but the orientations of these terraces are not consistent with possible trench orientations shown on the CWSAC maps.

Level 1 Field Survey

Archeological Survey: The project area consists of a broad ridge crest and associated gentle south-trending side slopes that have been significantly disturbed through late 19th or early 20th-century cultivation, erosion, and contour terracing, as well as later residential construction disturbances.

Most of the project area is wooded, with open area around the middle 20th century house complex (Figure 3). Areas with the highest probability of containing archeological sites were surveyed along 11 transects (Figure 2). Forty-seven screened shovel tests were excavated, revealing profiles of 3 to 20 cm (1 to 8 inches) of loam, loamy sand, gravelly loamy sand, clay loam or sandy clay loam plowzone over clay, sandy clay, rocky clay or clayey sand subsoil.

One archeological resource, Site 1, was recorded during the current field survey.

Archeological Site 1: This prehistoric lithic scatter is located on a gentle prominent ridge spur along Buckner Road in the southern part of the project area; the site is within the yard area associated with the 1950s house complex (Figures 2 and 4). The closest water sources are intermittent to low-order tributaries of Nickajack Creek within 60 m northeast and west-southwest of the site. The site covers an area of approximately 90 by 30 m northeast-southwest, based on the extent of a surface collection in the yard area and the excavation of one positive and 14 negative shovel tests in the site vicinity. At the time of the survey, surface visibility in the yard area was approximately 10 to 20 percent; surface visibility was negligible elsewhere.

Site-area shovel test profiles exhibited 5 to 16 cm of grayish-brown, loamy sand, gravelly loamy sand or sandy clay loam plowzone, over reddish-yellow clay, sandy clay or rocky clay subsoil. At two locations graded subsoil clay was encountered at the surface. One artifact was recovered from the 10-cm plowzone at Shovel Test T1/ST1.5. No soil anomalies typical of archeological features or midden deposits were noted/sampled during shovel testing.

Site 1 produced seven prehistoric artifacts from a surface collection between and around Shovel Tests T1/ST2 and T1/ST3 (n=6) and from Shovel Test T1/ST 1.5 (n=1). These items include quartz shatter (n=1), flake fragments (quartz, n=2; Ridge and Valley chert, n=1), thinning flakes (quartz, n=1; Ridge and Valley chert, n=1) and a failed quartz Kirk corner-notched, resharpened projectile point/knife. The projectile point dates to the Early Archaic period (approximately 8,500 to 9,500 Before Present) and exhibits distal blade and hafting element damage (Figure 4 inset). The recovered artifacts indicate that limited/transient lithic reduction of locally available quartz and non-local (northwest Georgia) Ridge and Valley chert took place at this location along with hunting/cutting/piercing activities during at least the Kirk Phase of the Early Archaic period.

Site 1 and the surrounding area have been severely disturbed by previous land-clearing activities, contour terracing, long-term cultivation, severe erosion and middle 20th century house construction/grading. This low density artifact scatter is confined to the surface and plowzone, and because the site exhibits low artifact density and severe disturbance, it is unlikely that this resource retains additional significant archeological data. Site 1 is recommended ineligible for the NRHP under all criteria, especially Criterion (d), and no further investigation is warranted for the site.

Civil War Resources: The project area was systematically walked to determine if obvious Civil War earthworks are present within the project area. Based on map review, it appears possible that known earthworks were constructed within the project area; therefore, effort focused on searching for well-defined earthworks as well as possible smaller military features such as rifle pits or expediently constructed advance lines. No such smaller earthworks were observed within the study tract. Aerial photographs taken in 1942 indicate extensive cultivation of the project area with heavy terracing of

the western portion of the tract. Aerial photographs taken in 1960 show that the southeastern part of the project area was sparsely wooded, while the remainder of the tract was either cultivated or in pasture. If smaller military features such as rifle pits were present at one time, they were likely destroyed by early to middle 20th century terracing/cultivation or possibly by late 20th or early 21st century land use practices.

Historic Structures: There are two standing structures located within the project area, including a circa 1954 ranch house and a circa 1964 detached garage building (Figures 1 and 2). Aerial photographs indicate that a dwelling was formerly present on the property, just northeast of the current ranch house/garage complex (Figure 1). Salvaged bricks and stones have been stacked at the location of the former dwelling (Figure 2).

CONCLUSIONS

No Civil War-era, or pre-1950s historic archeological sites or features were observed or recorded within the project area during the current Level 1 archeological survey. One Early Archaic lithic scatter, Site 1, was recorded in the yard area of the two-structure middle 20th century complex. This archeological resource has been severely disturbed by historic land use practices, most recently by construction related to the middle 20th century complex. The site is considered ineligible for the NRHP. No historic artifacts were found in association with the middle 20th century house complex. Given the current findings, no additional archeological work is recommended for the Pebblebrook Road-Buckner Road development site.

CLOSING COMMENTS

Mr. Grimes, thank you for the opportunity to work with Beazer Homes on this project. If you have any questions concerning our findings, please contact Mr. Steve Webb at (770) 345-0706.

Sincerely,
R.S. WEBB & ASSOCIATES



Robert S. (Steve) Webb
President and Senior Principal Archeologist

Attachments: Figures 1-4

REFERENCES

Civil War Sites Advisory Commission

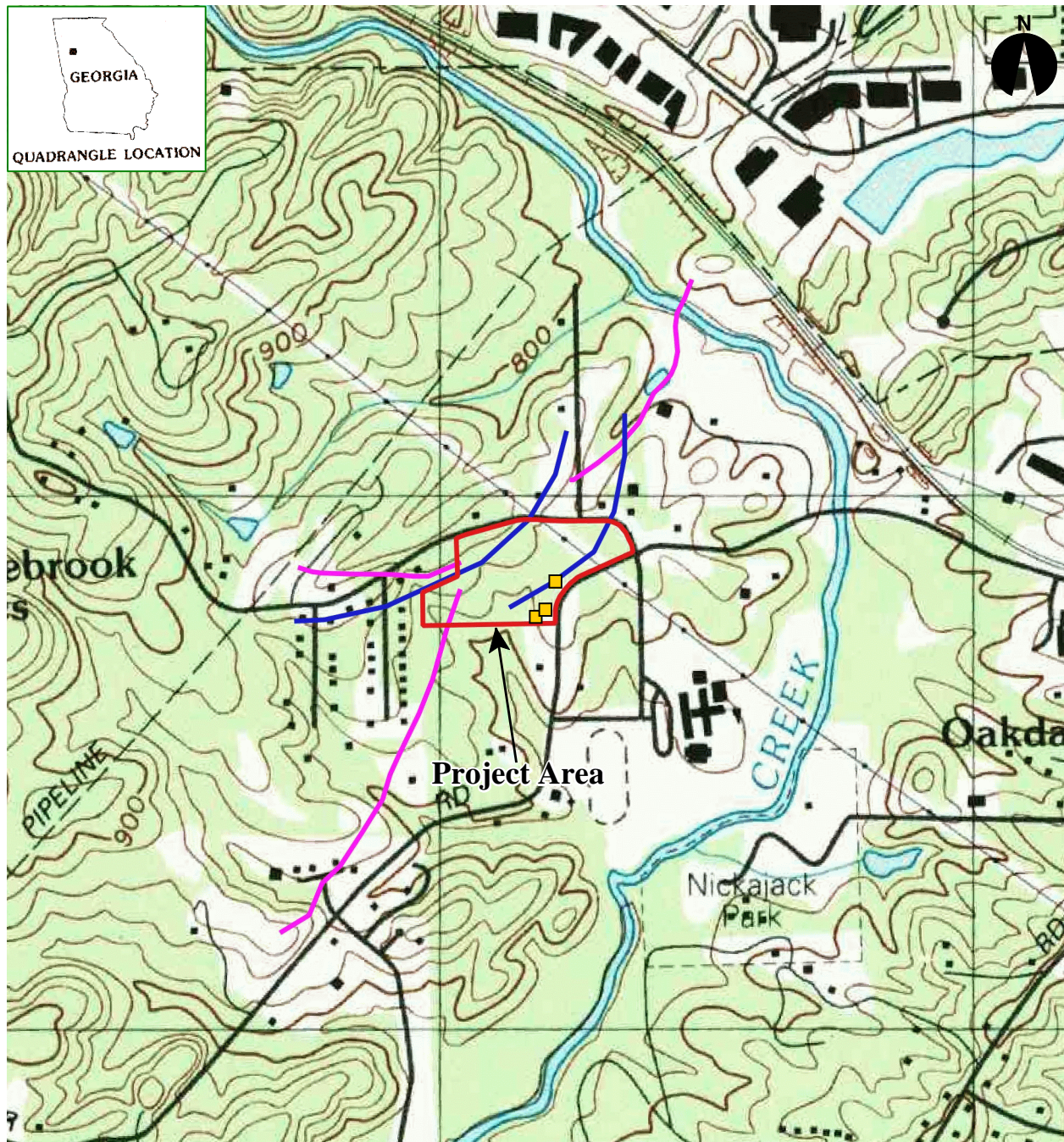
1993 Study Area USGS Quadrangle Maps. Civil War Sites Advisory Commission Report on the Nation's Civil War Battlefields. National Park Service, Washington D.C.

Cobb County Planning Department

1992 *Historic Location of Civil War Earthworks* (map). Cobb County Planning Department, Marietta, Georgia.

Davis, G.B., L. J. Perry and J. W. Kirkley, compiled by C. D. Cowles
1983 *Atlas to Accompany the Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies*. Reprint
of the 1891-1895 edition. The Fairfax Press, New York.

Scaife, W.R.
1993 *The Campaign for Atlanta*. Published by the Author. Atlanta, Georgia.



- Structure on Historic Maps and Aerial Photographs
- Approximate Location of Union Civil War Trench (Civil War Site Advisory Commission 1993)
- Approximate Location of Union Civil War Trench (Cobb County Board of Commissioners 1992)

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

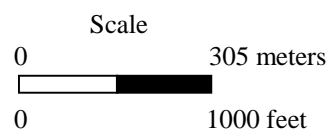
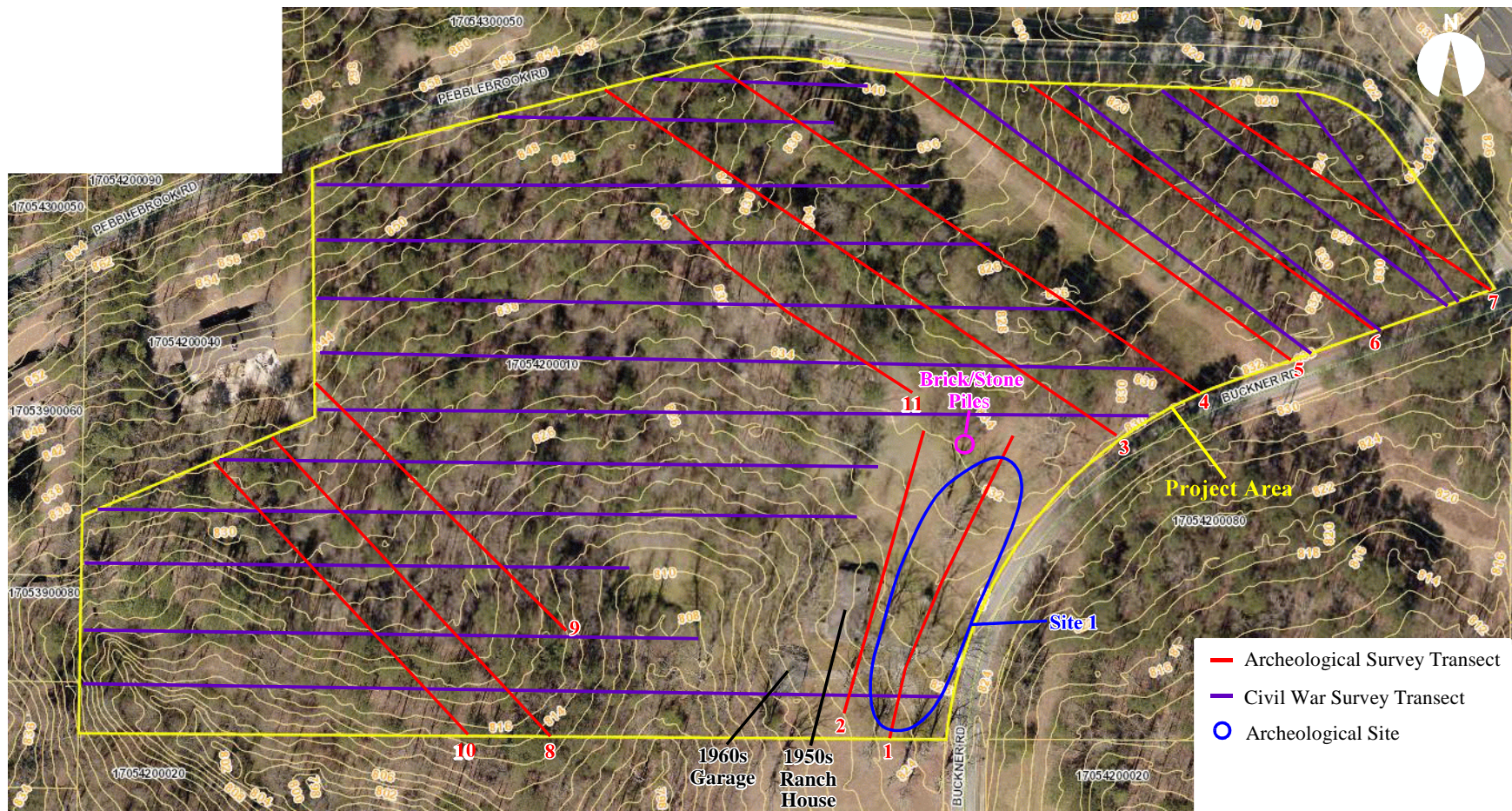


Figure 1 Location Map Showing Project Area, Civil War Features, and Historic Structures



Map Reference: qPublic.net (2019)

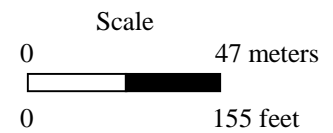


Figure 2 Survey Coverage and Cultural Resources Location Map



Transect 1, Shovel Test 1, Middle 20th Century Structure Complex, Facing North-Northeast

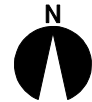
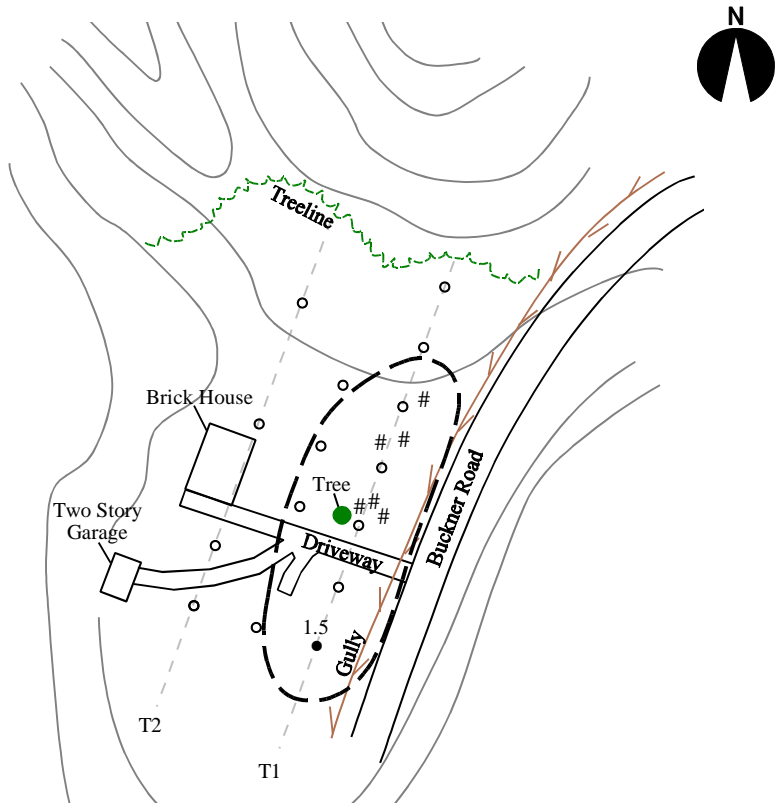
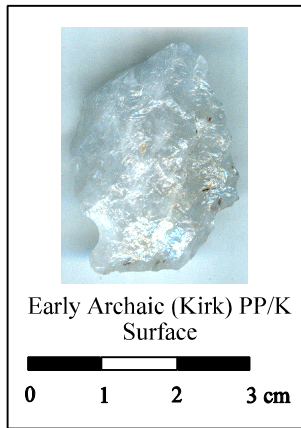


Transect 8, Shovel Test 1, Typical Wooded Area, Facing East

Figure 3 Selected Views of Project Area



Facing Southwest



- Site Limits
- Positive Shovel Test
- # Surface Collection
- Negative Shovel Test

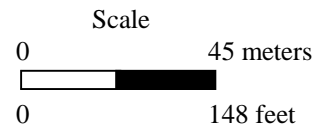


Figure 4 Site 1, Photo, Selected Artifact and Sketch Map