

# **CULTURAL RESOURCES ASSESSMENT**

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Cultural Resources Survey of the Project Bluefire Location  
Itawamba County, Mississippi

July 2009

Report Prepared by  
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Report prepared for  
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Privately Funded Development

On July 4 and 5, 2009, I conducted a cultural resources survey of approximately 38 acres of upland and floodplain in the Tombigbee River drainage in Itawamba County, Mississippi (fig. 1). Two man days were spent on the fieldwork. Ground cover varied (figs. 2-5) with generally poor ground visibility. East-west transects spaced 40 paces (approximately 30 m) apart were walked, shovel testing at 40 pace intervals. All shovel test dirt was passed through ¼ inch screen.

Nine CRM surveys have been conducted within ¾ of a mile of the survey area: 78-058 Atkinson, CRS of the proposed Fulton Port and industrial park; 81-030 Hyatt, CRS of Fulton industrial access road; 81-102 Thorne, CRS of two proposed borrow pit locations, Itawamba County, 30 acres; 82-009 Seckinger, CRS of proposed MS RR relocation corridor between Smithville and Fulton; 87-208 Elliott, CRS of proposed additions to the wastewater treatment facility of the town of Fulton, 13 acres; 91-266 Lauro, CRS of a 4 acre tract, Anderlin Rd Elderlin Rd Elderly, L.P., Itawamba Co, 4 acres; 09-269 Alvey, Phase I CRS of proposed Spring St. Improvements, 25 acres; 96-026 Thorne, CRS of a portion of a proposed ROW, 6 acres; and 98-177 Johnson, CRS of water transmission line of proposed power plant in Fulton, 15 acres. There are eight recorded archaeological sites within ¾ of a mile of the survey area (22It611, 612, 613, 614, 615, 616, 617, 618). None of these sites will be impacted by the project. One standing structure is located in the extreme southern edge of the survey area (fig. 5). This metal commercial building does not show on the Beans Ferry quad and therefore post dates the 1960 aerial photographs used in making that map. It is not considered significant. Two new sites were discovered.

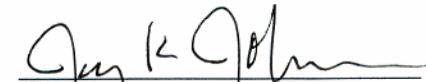
Fulton 1  
22It709  
Figures 6-8  
Section 1, T10S, R8E  
UTM Zone 16, 369815E, 3790390N  
Soil Type: Savannah loam, SbB

The location of this historic house site is marked by a chimney fall and roofing tin (fig. 7). A nearby pit may be the remains of a cistern although there is no evidence of a lining (fig. 8). A bottle dump containing mostly mid 20<sup>th</sup> century artifacts (screw top bottles, steel, tab top beer cans, instant coffee jars, and soft drink bottles) was located. Two rows of five shovel tests running north-south on either side of the chimney falls and spaced 10 paces (about 8 meters) apart produced brick fragments and nothing else. The house structure shows on the Beans Ferry quad sheet as a closed rectangle, indicating that it was occupied in 1960, the date for the aerial photographs upon which the map was based. This site appears to date to the 20<sup>th</sup> century. It is not considered to be significant.

Fulton 2  
22It710  
Figures 6, 9  
Section 1, T10S, R8E  
UTM Zone 16, 369815E, 3790390N  
Soil Type: Savannah loam, SbB

The site is located on a low bluff overlooking the Tombigbee floodplain. Following a positive shovel test, lines of shovel tests space 10 paces apart were extended in each of the cardinal directions and continued until two negative shovel tests were dug. Thirteen shovel tests were dug. Only three produced artifacts. This included two flakes with single faceted platforms, lacking cortex and one piece of thermal shatter. The flakes and thermal shatter were made from heat treated Tuscaloosa gravel. This site is not considered significant.

Neither of the two sites that were found can be considered eligible for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places. Nothing else was found. Therefore, I recommend that the surveyed area be considered cleared of significant cultural resources.



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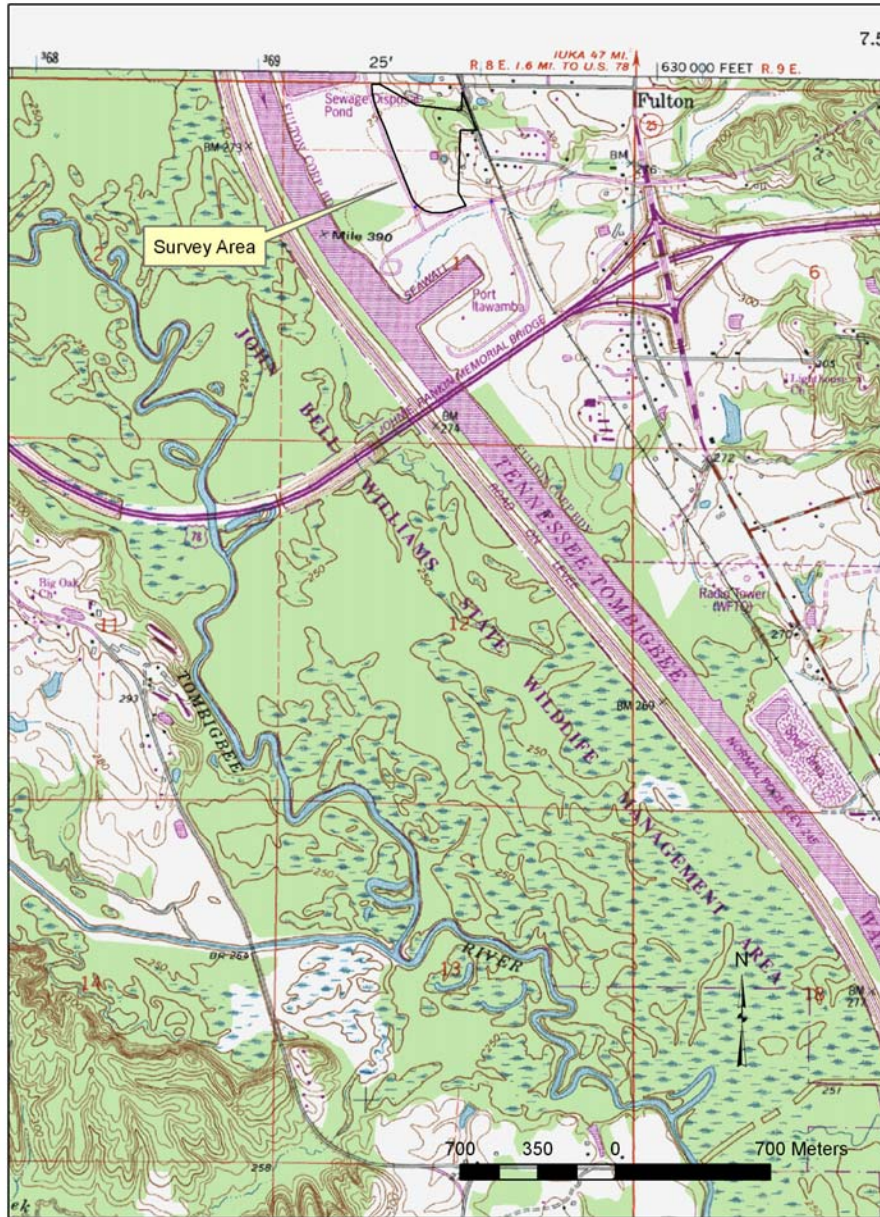


Figure 1. Bluefire survey area, Sec. 1, T10S, R8E, Beans Ferry Quad.





Figure 2. Flood plain tree cover in the northern two thirds of the survey area, view to the east.



Figure 3. Upland tree cover, view to the east.





Figure 4. Flood plain ground cover in the southern third of the survey area, view to the west.



Figure 5. Standing structure, southern end of the survey area, view to the northeast.



Figure 6. Locations of 22It709 and 22It710..





Figure 7. Roofing tin and chimney fall, 22It709, view to the northwest..



Figure 8. Possible cistern, 22It709, view to the west.





Figure 9. 22It710, view to the east.



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July 22, 2009

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RE: Cultural Resources Survey of the Project Bluefire Location, MDAH Project Log  
#07-041-09, Itawamba County

Dear Walt:

We have reviewed the cultural resources survey report by Dr. Jay K. Johnson, Archaeologist, received on June 8, 2009, for the above referenced undertaking, pursuant to our responsibilities under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and 36 CFR Part 800. After review, we concur that sites 22It709 and 22It710 are ineligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places, and concur that no other known cultural resources listed in or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places are likely to be affected. Therefore, we have no concerns with the proposed undertaking.

There remains the possibility that unrecorded cultural resources may be encountered during the project. Should this occur, we would appreciate your contacting this office immediately in order that we may offer appropriate comments under 36 CFR 800.13.

Please provide a copy of this letter to Dr. Johnson. If you need further information, please let us know.

Sincerely,

  
Jim Woodrick  
Review and Compliance Officer

FOR: H.T. Holmes  
State Historic Preservation Officer

c: Clearinghouse for Federal Programs