

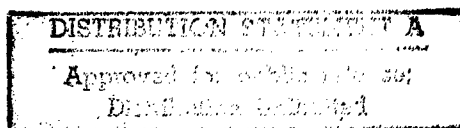
COESAM/PDER-98-010

**Phase I Historic Resources Survey Along  
Luxapalila Creek  
And At The Remains Of A Historic Mill (22LO948),  
Lowndes County, Mississippi**

Contract No. DACA01-97-D-0002  
Delivery Order No. 11



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**Brockington and Associates, Inc.**

**Atlanta Memphis Charleston**

**1998**

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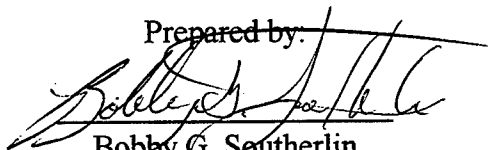
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Prepared for

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Contract No. DACA01-97-D-0002  
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Prepared by.



Bobby G. Southerlin  
Principal Investigator

Bruce Harvey

and

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Brockington and Associates, Inc.  
Atlanta Memphis Charleston

1998

## **Executive Summary**

The remains of a dam, presumably associated with a mill complex, were recently discovered along Luxapalila Creek in Lowndes County, Mississippi. The remains were found while the Luxapalila was undergoing a low-water phase because of dry weather and down stream dredging. To comply with National Historic Preservation Act (as amended) requirements concerning the recording and evaluation of significant and potentially significant historic properties, the US Army Corps of Engineers, Mobile District contracted Brockington and Associates, Inc. to conduct a Phase I Historic Resources Survey of the mill site, 22LO948. Additionally, to prevent future unanticipated discoveries of historic resources in the creek channel the survey included an examination of approximately 8.0 km (5.0 miles) along the Luxapalila River channel between Waterworks Road (Mississippi Highway 50) and Dry Branch.

The mill (22LO948) was originally constructed as a water powered mill, probably during the 1840s, and functioned as a grist mill and saw mill until about 1870. The mill passed through several property owners, including groups of investors who were not millers or millwrights. The mill was in operation until the late nineteenth century; by this time it could no longer compete economically with more efficient steam operated mills. Background research also included a review of the archaeological site file records in Jackson. A list was compiled of all archaeological sites located within 0.8 km (0.5 miles) of Luxapalila Creek, from the Tombigbee confluence to the Alabama state line. Thirty-eight archaeological sites were identified along the study corridor. Although previous investigators recommended additional work to determine the significance of archaeological deposits at several sites, none of the sites were recommended eligible for the NRHP.

The field survey examined an approximately five mile long stretch of the Luxapalila Creek channel to determine if additional historic resources were eroding into the creek. The survey area began at Dry Branch (just downstream from Steens, Alabama) and continued to Waterworks Road (State Road 50). No historic resources were identified during the channel survey.

The ruins at 22LO948 are primarily associated with the mill dam and possibly the pen stock for a turbine or tub wheel. The dam construction is that of a wood crib dam, also called a Brush Dam, and is one of the more economic ways to construct a dam, especially in an area where the practice of "making do" is prevalent. Although we were able to compile specific data about the mill formerly at this location, the mill remains have been severely disturbed by time and the flood waters of the Luxapalila. Due to its poor integrity, site 22LO948 is recommended ineligible for the NRHP.

## Acknowledgments

This project could not have been completed without the input and aide of a number of individuals. First, the authors would like to thank the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Mobile District) for funding this investigation; Mr. Ernie Seckinger served as the Corps' Technical Point of Contact and provided valuable assistance and guidance in this undertaking.

The authors would like to especially thank Mr. James Ebersol and his charming wife Mary Ann. The Ebersols have owned the property where the remains of the mill are located since 1946. We thank them for their kindness and courtesy. Also, we wish to express our appreciation to Mr. Edward Sciple, owner and operator of Sciple's Mill near Dekalb, Mississippi for his time and comments about milling.

A very special thanks goes out to Dr. Gregory Jeane (Geography Department, Samford University in Birmingham). Dr. Jeane freely offered his expertise, reference material, and comments about the mill site on Luxapalila Creek. Representatives of the Mississippi Department of Archives and History were also very helpful on this project. We owe a special thanks to Mr. Jack Elliott; he shared the information in his files and pointed us toward archival sources most likely to be helpful. Mr. John Connaway, who originally identified the site, also provided information about the site and region. The authors also appreciate the assistance of Mr. Keith Baca and Mr. Doug Sims at the Mississippi Department of Archives and History, Historic Preservation Division, for their help in reviewing the archaeological site files.

Field investigations were conducted by Ms. Lacey Hicks and Mr. Joseph Sanders; Mr. Bobby Southerlin served as Field Director. Archival research was conducted by Mr. Bruce Harvey. Mr. David Diener was the project photographer and also prepared all report graphics. Ms. Alison Sluss was in charge of report production. Mr. Jeffrey Gardner provided editorial assistance.

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## **Chapter 1. Introduction**

The remains of a dam, presumably associated with a mill complex, were recently discovered along Luxapalila Creek in Lowndes County, Mississippi. The remains were found while the Luxapalila was undergoing a low-water phase because of dry weather and downstream dredging. The site was initially reported to Douglas Sims with the Mississippi Department of Archives and History (MDAH) by Bubba Hubbard of the Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks (MDWFP) as a possible fishweir. John Connaway and Doug Sims (MDAH) investigated the site on 3-4 September 1997. Jack Elliott (also with MDAH) assisted Connaway and Sims in assessing the site. Because of its potential historic significance, the site was reported the site to Erie Seckinger with the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Mobile District. Although the site was initially believed to be the remains of a nineteenth century fish weir (Figure 1), subsequent examinations revealed that it is the remains of a nineteenth century mill dam.

To comply with National Historic Preservation Act (as amended) requirements concerning the recording and evaluation of significant and potentially significant historic properties on lands under their jurisdiction, the US Army Corps of Engineers, Mobile District determined that a Phase I historic resources was needed. As part of an indefinite delivery order contract with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Mobile District (USACE, Mobile), Brockington and Associates, Inc. conducted a Phase I survey along Luxapalila Creek. The survey area included the historic mill remains (22LO948) and approximately 5.0 miles (8.0 km) along the Luxapalila River channel, between Waterworks Road (Mississippi Highway 50) and Dry Branch. The channel survey was conducted to prevent future unanticipated discoveries of historic resources that would present potential obstructions to channel dredging and improvements.

### **Project Overview**

The project area is located along Luxapalila Creek near the City of Columbus in Lowndes County, Mississippi (Figure 2). The ruins under investigation are adjacent to Luxapalila Creek, approximately 1.0 mile (1.6 km) upstream from the Mississippi Highway 50 (Waterworks Road) bridge, and just east of the farmers' co-op store on Mississippi Highway 12 (Military Road).

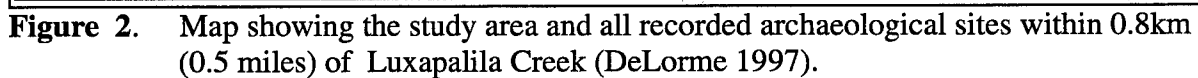
This investigation was directed by a series of specific tasks outlined in the Scope of Work. Specifically, tasks conducted were:

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### ***Phase I Historic Resources Survey Along Luxapalila Creek***



**Figure 1.** Remains of 22LO948 initially thought to be a historic fish weir.



## 3

- (1) *Literature and archival research.* Conduct background research to provide a context for past land use patterns in the region, to outline property ownership, and to identify previously recorded historic resources in the area;
- (2) *Phase I historic resources field survey at 22LO948.* Produce detailed maps and photographs of the dam and adjacent banks of the creek. Conduct limited subsurface excavations;
- (3) *Creek Channel Survey.* Conduct a survey of the channel and banks of Luxapalila Creek from Mississippi Highway 12 (Waterworks Road) upstream for approximately 5.0 miles (8.0 km) to Dry Branch was conducted.
- (4) *Locate historic resources on project maps.* Update project topographic maps to illustrate the locations of any cultural resources identified during the archival search and the field survey;
- (5) *NRHP evaluations.* Provide an evaluation of the research potential of 22LO948 and any other archaeological sites identified during the field survey in terms of National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) criteria;
- (6) *Management recommendations.* Make recommendation for the mill and any other archaeological sites identified to aid the Corps to fulfill all NHPA requirements

### **National Register Of Historic Places Evaluation**

The primary goal of this investigation was to provide the USACE and State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) with sufficient data to determine whether the remains of the mill dam (22LO948) are eligible for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). To be eligible, an archaeological site or standing structure must have integrity and must be shown to be significant under one or more of four basic criteria for evaluation (National Historic Preservation Act 1966, as amended; National Park Service 1991:2):

- a. Are associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history;
- b. Are associated with the lives of persons significant in our past;
- c. Embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, or that represent the work of a master, or that possess

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### ***Phase I Historic Resources Survey Along Luxapalila Creek***

- c. Embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, or that represent the work of a master, or that possess high artistic values, or that represent a significant and distinguished entity whose components may lack individual distinction;
- d. Have yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Archaeological sites are generally evaluated relative to Criterion d; however, some sites, particularly those representing historic period occupation or use, can be considered eligible if they can be shown to be "associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history" (Criterion a), or are found to be "associated with the lives of persons significant in our past" (Criterion b).

According to the U.S. Department of the Interior's guidelines for applying the National Register criteria (NPS 1991:21), the key to applying Criterion d to archaeological sites is in determining the "information potential" of the cultural property. In order for an archaeological site to be considered eligible for the NRHP under Criterion d, that site:

- (1) must have, or have had, information to contribute to our understanding of human history or prehistory, and
- (2) the information must be considered important (NPS 1991:21).

The first of these requirements can be defined as research potential. The NPS provides clarification for this statement by adding that a site should be considered eligible for the NRHP if that site:

has been used as a source of data **and** contains more, as yet unretrieved data (NPS 1991:21; emphasis added).

It has been impossible to develop a completely objective set of attributes which allow definition of NRHP eligible or ineligible archaeological sites. For example, the attributes suggested by Glassow (1977) for determining site significance have received mixed reviews. Glassow's intent in delineating integrity, clarity, artifact frequency, and artifact diversity as key attributes, was to eliminate (to some extent) subjectiveness in the evaluation process. When a site is recommended ineligible for the NRHP solely because it scores low for one of Glassow's attributes, his approach has been misunderstood. That is, when these site attributes are evaluated without considering the regional data base and future research needs (i.e., without considering the site's potential to contribute to theoretical and substantive knowledge [Butler

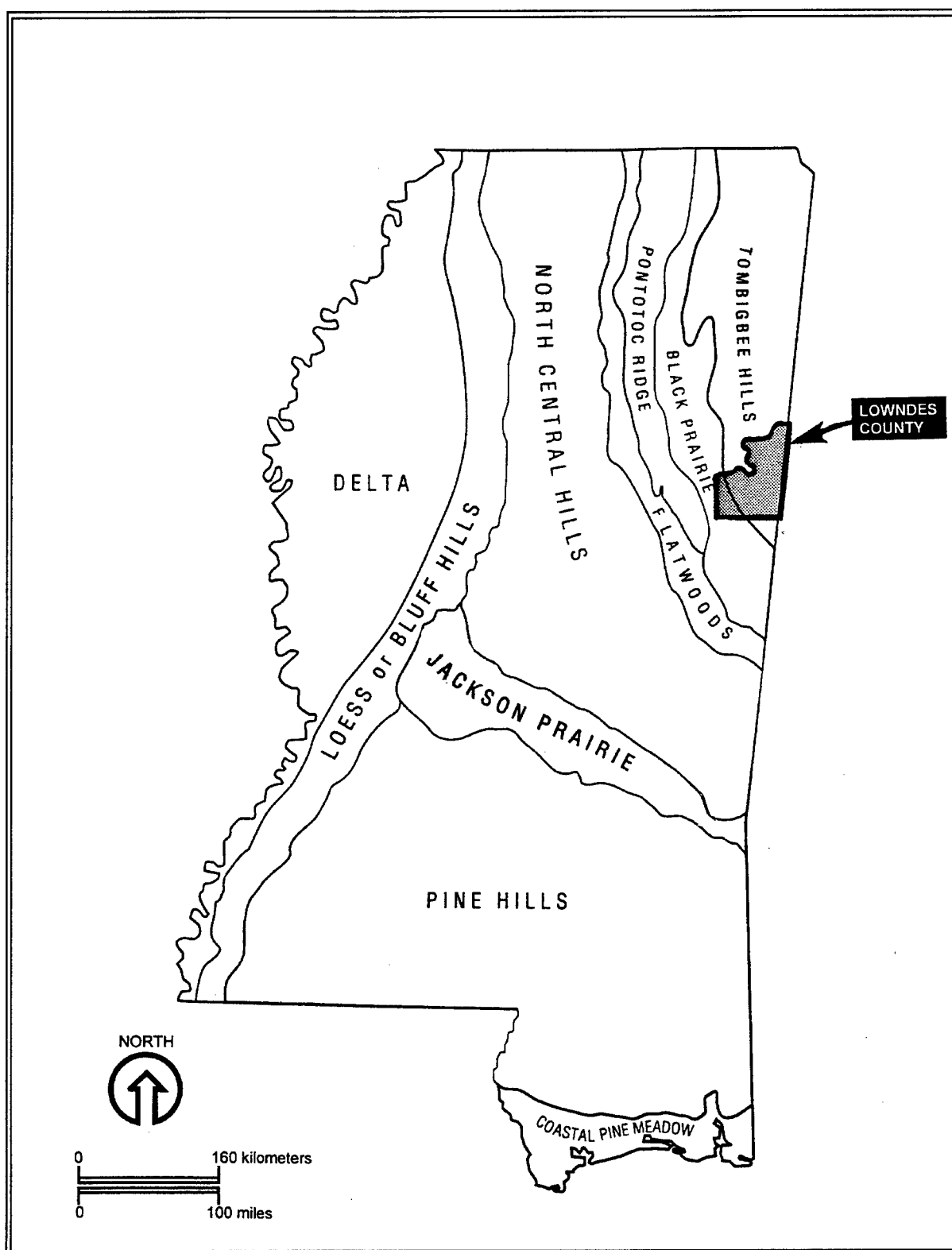
1987]), the approach has been misused. The crux of Glassow's arguments, as interpreted here, is that research potential within a given site type will be related to the individual site's relative integrity, clarity, artifact frequency, and artifact diversity. The key point in determining site significance hinges on site integrity; site integrity determines whether or not any further significance criteria are applied.

Arguments for site significance have focused on discussions of site significance in terms of research potential (Barnes et al. 1980; Butler 1987; Klinger and Raab 1980; Raab and Klinger 1977,1979; Sharrock and Grayson 1979). Raab and Klinger (1977) indicate that archaeological significance is best determined by problem-oriented research designs, rather than by monetary value, unique characteristics, *and* National Register criteria. They feel National Register criteria are so broad and nonspecific that they provide little useful guidance in determining site significance. However, Barnes et al. (1980) state that Raab and Klinger's argument for problem-oriented research can be accommodated within the existing National Register criteria. Barnes et al. (1980:551) feel that NRHP criteria are necessarily broad, so as to encompass the great diversity of archaeological sites already known to the archaeological profession, and cover situations which will arise in the future."

The research-oriented focus in determining site significance is echoed by Butler (1987:821-826) when he states that sites should be evaluated based on their ability to contribute to our "theoretical and substantive knowledge" (Butler 1987:821-26). Regardless of exact terminology, there is consensus among cultural resource managers in the private and public sectors that each site type must be evaluated with full awareness of regional research needs, and relative to similar sites in the region. Thus, individuals conducting the research have the responsibility (and flexibility) to determine regional research themes applicable to determining significance of individual sites. However, determination of the condition of a site (i.e., the site's integrity) is a key factor in determining the ability of a site to contribute useful research data. Integrity is divided into seven separate qualities: location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. If these qualities are diminished, and a historic property no longer retains the identity or character for which it is judged significant, then that resource is not eligible for the NRHP due to loss of integrity (NPS 1991:44).

## **Regional and Local Environmental Setting**

Lowndes County, located in northeastern Mississippi, lies in two physiographic regions: the Tombigbee Hills (also called the Fall Line Hills) and the Black Prairie Belt (Figure 3). In general, the Tombigbee River is the dividing line between the two regions (Lewis 1975). The project area, east of the Tombigbee River, lies on a Pleistocene terrace in the Tombigbee Hills



**Figure 3.** Physiographic regions of Mississippi (after Atkinson et al. 1980:8).

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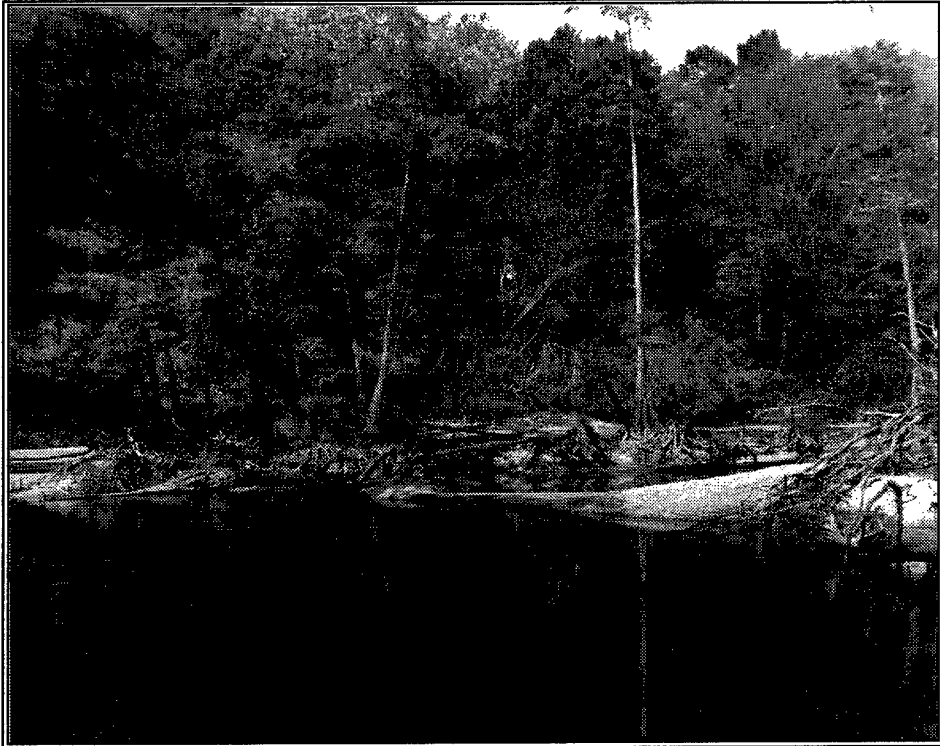
region. This region is typified by hilly terrain that has been extensively modified by the Tombigbee River. Elevations in the Tombigbee Hills reach as high as 440 feet above sea level. The Black Prairie Belt, west of the Tombigbee River, is an area of gently rolling hills with elevations ranging between 200 and 260 feet above sea level (Brent 1979).

Lowndes County is underlain by Cretaceous sediments. The major geologic formations consist of the Tuscaloosa, Eutaw-McShan, Mooreville, and Demopolis. Drainage in the county varies depending upon the relative elevation. Figures 4 and 5 show the setting of Luxapalila Creek in the area of the 22LO948.

The region along Luxapalila Creek is generally a low, swampy area cut by occasional terrace ridges, with sandy soils (Lewis 1975); this is especially true for the area upstream from the town of Steens. In the project area, the predominant soil is of the Nugent-Jena association (Brent 1979). These soils are well to excessively drained sands and sandy loams. A typical soil profile would reflect 5-10 inches of dark brown loamy sand overlying dark yellowish brown sand. Subsoil in these soil series is a strongly acidic yellowish brown loam. Lewis (1975) indicates that gravel quarries are common along the creek floodplain between Columbus and Steens.

Forests in the Tombigbee Hills part of Lowndes County are dominated by a pine-hardwood forest. The mixed pine-hardwood forest usually includes butternut, mockernut, pignut, hickories, white oak, post oak, northern and southern red oak, loblolly and short-leaf pine (Doster and Weaver 1981). Pines tend to thrive where there has been a disturbance such as fire or cultivation, but they are usually replaced by hardwoods over time. Cypress trees are common in wetland areas, and several are growing through the ruins of 22LO948.

The climate of the region is mild to warm. Lowndes County has long, hot summers, and cool, fairly short winters. The average daily temperature during summer is between 65 and 78°F. Average temperature during the winter is 46°F. The average yearly precipitation is around 50 inches (Brent 1979).



**Figure 4.** Luxapalila Creek, facing downstream from 22LO948.



**Figure 5.** Luxapalila Creek, looking upstream from 22LO948.

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***Phase I Historic Resources Survey Along Luxapalila Creek***

## **Chapter 2. Archival Research Methods and Results**

### **Archival Research Methods**

The archival research for this study was done in Columbus, Starkville, and Jackson, Mississippi. Research to determine the landowners in the area of the dam was done in the tax and deed records at the Lowndes County courthouse in Columbus. The Police Board records at the Lowndes County Library county archives collection were used to try and determine where and when Luxapalila Creek was dammed. Research was also done using the map collections of the Lowndes County Library (which holds the county archives) and Mississippi University for Women in Columbus.

Research in Starkville consisted of checking reports at the Cobb Institute of Archaeology at Mississippi State University and searching Special Collections at the university's main library. Information was also found at the northeast Mississippi office of the Mississippi Department of Archives and History in Starkville. The map collection and the vertical files at Mississippi Archives and History in Jackson were also utilized. Local residents in the Columbus area were also interviewed.

The archival research also included a review of the archaeological site files records located at the Mississippi Department of Archives and History, Historic Preservation Division, in Jackson, Mississippi. We compiled a list of all archaeological sites located within 0.5 miles (0.8 km) of Luxapalila Creek, from the Tombigbee confluence on up to the Alabama state line. Most of the data on the archaeological sites along Luxapalila Creek are from brief "Letter Reports," and only limited data is presented.

### **Archival And Background Research Results**

The prehistoric and historic cultural history of the region has been presented in detail elsewhere (Bense 1983; Doster and Weaver 1981; Futato 1989; Jenkins and Krause 1986; Southerlin et al. 1997; Weaver and Doster 1981). The following discussions focus more specifically on data more relevant to northeast Mississippi in general, and Luxapalila Creek in particular.

## **Previous Archaeological Investigations Along Luxapalila Creek**

A review of the Mississippi archaeological site files was conducted to compile a list of all archaeological sites located within 0.8 km (0.5 miles) of Luxapalila Creek (Table 1). The site file review identified 38 archaeological sites within 0.8 km (0.5 miles) of the creek channel. The site file review included areas beyond the area targeted for field survey, extending upstream from the mouth of Luxapalila Creek at the Tombigbee River to the Mississippi/Alabama state line. By the time Luxapalila Creek reaches the state line it is a narrow drainage surrounded by a low lying swampy floodplain.

The first cultural investigations of the Tombigbee River and its tributaries were conducted by Moore (1901), although he only traveled north as far as the city of Columbus. Swanton (1922, 1931, and 1939) conducted ethnographic studies in the area. Swanton describes the two primary Native American groups in the area, the Choctaw and the Chickasaw, as adhering to cultural patterns closely resembling those practiced by the Creek tribes to the east (Swanton 1979:818). During the first half of the 20th century archaeological investigations focused on the Tombigbee and Tennessee Rivers (Caldwell and Lewis 1973), with little work being conducted along tributaries such as Luxapalila Creek. Increased interest in these areas began in the 1970s, in association with the Tennessee-Tombigbee Waterway (Caldwell and Lewis 1973) and the majority of archaeological work in the Tombigbee drainage has been conducted since that time (Lewis 1975).

Caldwell and Lewis (1973) conducted an archaeological survey of the Tennessee-Tombigbee Waterway that included parts of Tishomingo, Itawamba, Monroe, Lowndes, and Noxubee counties in northeastern Mississippi. The portion in Lowndes County identified two sites, 22LO531 and 22LO533, located at the mouth of Luxapalila Creek. The authors utilized background research, interviews with local informants, and field survey (surface only) to catalog archaeological sites in the proposed route of the waterway. Cultural materials from each site were analyzed, and recommendations for further archaeological work were made. Site 22LO531 was described as being secondarily affected by the construction of the waterway and was recommended for testing and possible extensive excavation. No information was found indicating that additional work was done at 22LO531.

In 1975, Sheila Lewis surveyed proposed dredging and spoil areas along approximately 18 miles (30 km) of Luxapalila Creek in Lowndes County, Mississippi and Lamar County, Alabama; the lower portion of the creek (approximately 2 miles [3.2 km]) was not surveyed because channelization had been done in this area (Lewis 1975). Lewis (1975) used background research and field survey (surface only). A specific project boundary was not defined by Lewis (1975), but it seems that fields and farm roads adjacent to the creek were a primary focus. Lewis (1975) recorded 16 archaeological sites during the survey, all of which were recommended ineligible for the NRHP. Only three sites (22LO585, 22LO590, and 22LO591)

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### ***Phase I Historic Resources Survey Along Luxapalila Creek***

**Table 1. Recorded Archaeological Sites within 0.5 miles (0.8 km) of Luxapalilia Creek (Beginning at the Confluence With the Tombigbee River and Proceeding Upstream).**

| Site Number              | Site Nature                           | Temporal Affiliations                                               | Comments                                                            | NRHP Eligibility                                  |
|--------------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|
| 22-LO-531                | Village                               | Late Archaic; Late Gulf Formational; Middle Woodland; Mississippian | Relatively undisturbed with exception of road cut                   | Potentially eligible (Caldwell & Lewis 1973)      |
| 22-LO-533                | Village                               | Early Archaic; Middle-Late Woodland                                 | Sparse pottery and lithic scatter                                   | Potentially eligible (Brookes & Connaway 1977)    |
| 22-LO-535                | Unknown                               | Archaic; Middle-Late Woodland                                       | Ceramic and lithic scatter                                          | Unknown ((Brookes & Connaway 1977)                |
| 22-LO-601                | Possible campsite                     | Unknown Prehistoric                                                 | Disturbed                                                           | Unknown                                           |
| 22-LO-905                | Unknown                               | Unknown prehistoric                                                 | Approximately 50% disturbed; artifact only on surface               | Ineligible (Lauro 1993)                           |
| 22-LO-629<br>Ellis Site  | Campsite; possible mound              | Middle Archaic; Late Woodland; Mississippian                        | Artifacts primarily of local gravel                                 | Unknown (Brookes & Connaway 1977;USACE 1992)      |
| 22-LO-665                | Campsite                              | Unknown prehistoric                                                 | Lithic scatter                                                      | Unknown                                           |
| 22-LO-906                | Unknown                               | Unknown prehistoric                                                 | Approximately 75% disturbed; low artifact density                   | Ineligible (Lauro 1993)                           |
| Luxapalila Dam           | Remains of mill dam                   | Historic (20th century)                                             | Concrete structural remains; removed from channel                   | Ineligible(Southerlin et al. 1997)                |
| 22-LO-876                | Unknown                               | Probably Middle-Late Archaic                                        | No diagnostics recovered; approximately 10% disturbed               | Potentially eligible (O'Hear 1988)                |
| 22-LO-596                | Unknown                               | Middle Archaic                                                      | Very disturbed by modern construction and erosion                   | Ineligible (Lewis 1975; O'Hear 1988; USAEDM 1982) |
| 22-LO-726<br>Mullen site | Campsite                              | Middle-Late Archaic                                                 | Site in yard of private residence; artifacts made from local gravel | Unknown (Brookes & Connaway 1977)                 |
| 22-LO-837                | Unknown                               | Unknown prehistoric                                                 | Site 100% disturbed by cultivation                                  | Ineligible                                        |
| 22-LO-948**              | Walthall/Gaston Mill (remains of dam) | Historic (19 <sup>th</sup> century)                                 | Ssite disturbed by flood waters and erosion                         | Ineligible (this report - Southerlin et al. 1998) |
| 22-LO-758                | Single occupation habitation site     | Gulf Formational                                                    | 20% disturbed                                                       | Unknown                                           |
| 22-LO-662                | campsite                              | Unknown prehistoric                                                 | portion of site destroyed by gravel pit                             | Unknown                                           |
| 22-LO-938                | Projectile point                      | Middle-Late Archaic                                                 | Presumed destroyed by construction                                  | Ineligible (Gray 1994)                            |

***Phase I Historic Resources Survey Along Luxapalila Creek***

**Table 1. Recorded Archaeological Sites ... (continued).**

| <b>Site Number</b> | <b>Site Nature</b>  | <b>Temporal Affiliation</b>               | <b>Comments</b>                                                                  | <b>NRHP Eligibility</b>                        |
|--------------------|---------------------|-------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------|
| 22-LO-663          | Campsite            | Unknown                                   | Later survey could not relocate                                                  | Unknown (Gray 1994)                            |
| 22-LO-593          | Unknown             | Early Archaic; Middle-Late Woodland       | Ceramic and lithic scatter in soybean field away from creek                      | Unknown (Lewis 1975)                           |
| 22-LO-590          | Unknown             | Middle-Late Woodland; Mississippian       | Ceramic and lithic scatter in soybean field away from creek                      | Unknown (Lewis 1975)                           |
| 22-LO-594          | Unknown             | Middle Archaic; Historic                  | Prehistoric component has been disturbed by a gravel pit and a historic cemetery | Unknown (Lewis 1975)                           |
| 22-LO-588          | Unknown             | Unknown prehistoric                       | Portion of the site has been eroded away by the creek                            | Unknown (Lewis 1975)                           |
| 22-LO-589          | Unknown             | Middle-Late Woodland; Mississippian       | Ceramic and lithic scatter in soybean field away from creek                      | Unknown (Lewis 1975)                           |
| 22-LO-587          | Probable campsite   | Middle-Late Woodland; Mississippian       | Site disturbed by road; artifacts mainly on surface                              | Ineligible (Lauro 1989; Lewis 1975)            |
| 22-LO-586          | Probable campsite   | Late Woodland; Mississippian              | Artifacts confined to plow zone                                                  | Ineligible (Lewis 1975)                        |
| 22-LO-595          | Unknown             | Archaic; Middle-Late Woodland             | Site disturbed by gravel pit                                                     | Unknown (Lewis 1975)                           |
| 22-LO-657          | Campsite            | L. Arch.; L. Gulf Form.; Mid.-L. Woodland | Ceramic and lithic scatter                                                       | Unknown (Brookes & Connaway)                   |
| 22-LO-585          | Probable campsite   | Middle Archaic                            | Artifacts confined to plow zone                                                  | Potentially eligible (USAEDM 1982; Lewis 1975) |
| 22-LO-592          | Unknown             | Unknown prehistoric                       | Lithic scatter; possibly under fill now                                          | Potentially eligible (Lewis 1975; USAEDM 1982) |
| 22-LO-591          | Unknown             | Unknown prehistoric (Archaic?)            | Lithic scatter; possibly under fill now                                          | Potentially eligible (Lewis 1975; USAEDM 1982) |
| 22-LO-584          | Series of campsites | Middle Archaic                            | Site size not determined, but appears to be extensively disturbed                | Unknown (Lewis 1975)                           |
| 22-LO-583          | Unknown             | Archaic                                   | Lithic scatter                                                                   | Unknown (Lewis 1975)                           |
| 22-LO-599          | (no form)           | Unknown                                   | Unknown                                                                          | Unknown                                        |

***Phase I Historic Resources Survey Along Luxapalila Creek***

**Table 1. Recorded Archaeological Sites ... (continued).**

| <b>Site Number</b> | <b>Site Nature</b> | <b>Temporal Affiliation</b> | <b>Comments</b>                  | <b>NRHP Eligibility</b>                              |
|--------------------|--------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------|
| 22-LO-659          | Campsite           | Unknown prehistoric         | Sparse lithic scatter            | Unknown                                              |
| 22-LO-642          | Campsite           | Archaic                     | Sparse lithic scatter            | Unknown                                              |
| 22-LO-887          | Unknown            | Woodland                    | Site approximately 75% disturbed | Ineligible                                           |
| 22-LO-598          | Unknown            | unknown                     | Extensively disturbed            | Potentially eligible<br>(Lewis 1975;<br>USAEDM 1982) |

Only three sites (22LO585, 22LO590, and 22LO591) were located immediately adjacent to the creek channel, but these sites are upstream of Dry Branch, thus outside the study area for this investigation. Four sites (22LO589, 22LO590, 22LO593, and 22LO596) are within 0.5 miles (0.8 km) of the creek channel along the area surveyed in this investigation. Site 22LO596 (and 22LO595) was reported to have been impacted from recent development to such a degree that "further investigation of those sites appears to be useless" (Lewis 1975:41). Sites 22LO589, 22LO590, and 22LO593 were in soy bean fields and "any recommendation concerning them could only be made after an additional assessment" (Lewis 1975:41).

The number of archaeological sites found by Lewis (1975) was much lower than anticipated; expectations were based upon data from previous surveys of the Tombigbee River. However, the Luxapalila Creek survey area is composed mostly of low landforms subject to frequent flooding, especially on the left bank. Also, much of the soil in the project area is sandy and has little organic material. All of the sites recorded during the survey were located on well defined terraces or bluffs consisting of loamy sand soils. The author concludes that (with the exception of certain areas) there is a general lack of archaeological sites in the immediate vicinity of the Luxapalila. Furthermore, based on Lewis's (1975) research, it seems that few significant archaeological sites are expected along Luxapalila Creek.

Brookes and Connaway (1977) conducted an archaeological survey of portions of Lowndes County, Mississippi. The survey was concentrated on lands in the county which were previously unsurveyed, those which fell under the state antiquity laws, and those which were under cultivation (or otherwise cleared). Also, an attempt was made to sample all types of physiography in the county. A secondary goal of the survey was to gather information on the settlement patterns of Early Archaic people (8,000-5,000 B.C.) in order to supplement excavations at the Hester Site in Monroe County. The survey utilized local informant interviews

and field survey (surface only) of high probability areas. The survey recorded 80 archaeological sites; 54 were reported by informants and 20 were in high probability areas. Two sites (22LO629 and 22LO726) identified by Brookes and Connaway (1977) are within 0.5 miles (0.8 km) of the creek channel. Both of these sites are associated with prehistoric occupations, but assessment of the sites' integrity was not made.

In addition to the relatively extensive surveys mentioned above, there have been several small construction projects in the area which required archaeological surveys. These archaeological surveys are documented in relatively brief (letter) reports. Staff archaeologists from the Mississippi State Highway Department conducted an archaeological reconnaissance of a proposed realignment of U.S. Highway 82 in Lowndes County (Hyatt 1982). The proposed realignment was approximately 2.14 miles long and 300 feet wide. Reconnaissance methods consisted of background research and field survey consisting of surface inspection and limited shovel testing. No archaeological sites were found, but monitoring of construction by Department archaeologists was recommended for the area around Magby Creek.

O'Hear (1988) surveyed three borrow areas in Lowndes County north of Columbus. The borrow areas totaled approximately 165 acres. The survey methods included background research and surface inspection of the borrow areas augmented by judgmental shovel tests. The survey identified one previously recorded site (22LO596) and two previously unrecorded sites (22LO876 and 22LO877) in the project area. Site 22LO596 and 22LO876 are within 0.5 mile (0.8 km) of our channel survey area. These two sites are small Archaic period sites that may have been associated with prehistoric collection of gravel chert. Site 22LO877 is a small Middle Woodland period site seriously disturbed by plowing. All three sites were recommended ineligible for the NRHP.

Lauro (1989) conducted an archaeological survey of a 20.6 hectare (51 acres) farm adjacent to Yellow Creek, a tributary creek to the Luxapalila. The 51 acre tract is within 0.5 miles (0.8 km) of our channel survey area. The survey consisted of pedestrian surface inspection and judgmental shovel testing of the farm tract. The survey identified one archaeological site (22LO887), a Woodland period site recommended not eligible for the NRHP.

Lauro (1990) reports on an archaeological survey of the Columbus Special Appropriation Site in Columbus. The project area was composed of a 6 mile by 100 foot corridor. Survey methodology included shovel tests excavated every 75 to 100 feet in the corridor. The survey identified no archaeological sites.

Lauro (1993) discusses a cultural resources survey of a three mile by 100 foot corridor in the flood plain of Luxapalila Creek. The project methodology included background research and field survey composed of shovel testing at 20 foot intervals. Background research identified

two archaeological sites (22LO601 and 22LO629) in the vicinity of, but not within, Lauro's project area. Lauro's (1990) field survey identified two archaeological sites (22LO905 and 22LO906), both of which are within 0.8 km (0.8 miles) of our creek channel survey area. Neither site contained diagnostic materials and both were recommended ineligible for the NRHP.

Gray (1994) conducted a cultural resources survey of the proposed relocation of Mississippi Highway 12 near Columbus. The proposed relocation corridor measured 3.7 miles (5.9 km) long by 200 feet (61 m) wide. Project methods included background research and field survey consisting of shovel tests at 65 ft (20 m) intervals. Background research identified one previously recorded site (22LO663) within the corridor. Field survey did not relocate 22LO663 but did identify an unrecorded site (22LO938); both these sites are within 0.8 km (0.5 miles) of our creek channel survey area. Site 22LO938 was composed of a single Pickwick projectile point which dates to the Middle/Late Archaic period. The site had been seriously disturbed by prior construction and was recommended ineligible for the NRHP.

Southerlin et al. (1997) evaluated the remains of a late nineteenth/early twentieth century concrete dam in the creek channel, just downstream from Highway 50 (Waterworks Road). This dam may have been associated with a lumber yard, diverting logs floating from upstream to the adjacent lumber yard. The dam had poor integrity and no associated features or buildings were located. The site was recommended ineligible for the NRHP.

Additional reports documenting investigations above mile 2.1 along Luxapalila Creek include USACE (1992), USAEDM (1982) and Winn (1977). These studies briefly discuss identified archaeological sites 22LO629, 22LO585, 22LO591, 22LO592, 22LO596, and 22LO598. Site 22LO629 was not to be impacted by project activities (USACE 1992). Site 22LO596 was described as heavily disturbed and not requiring additional work; the remaining sites were outside the area of impact and would only require additional work if they would be effected by proposed construction.

### **Summary of Regional Prehistoric Cultural Chronology**

Archaeological projects in the region have resulted in the compilation of a preliminary cultural chronology of the Luxapalila Creek area. The following chronology (Table 2) is summarized from Futato (1989), Jenkins and Kraus (1986), and McGahey (1973).

Brookes and Connaway (1977) suggest that the Early Archaic occupation of Lowndes County was brief and limited in nature. O'Hear (1988) noted a similarity in Archaic Period site location based on topography. The Archaic sites discussed by O'Hear (1988) are located on

small knolls with sandy loamy soil. Lewis (1975) further explores the topographic limitations to site location along Luxapalila Creek and points out that the majority of the area east of the Tombigbee is low and swampy. In addition, the Tombigbee floods in approximate 5 year cycles; flooding along the Luxapalila follows this same pattern (Brent 1975). However, a number of small terraces are present, particularly on the right bank of the creek. Few areas of high relief are present on the south side of the creek. These terraces have sandy loamy soils, as opposed to the "mushy" sand soils present in the creek floodplain (Lewis 1975). In her survey along the length of Luxapalila Creek, Lewis (1975) recorded 16 sites, all of which were situated on the loamy sand terraces and bluff edges.

Another determining factor in Archaic site location along Luxapalila Creek is the presence of natural lithic resources. North of the city of Columbus, Luxapalila Creek has extensive gravel beds (O'Hear 1988). O'Hear (1988) suggests that, as decortification flakes are the most common artifact recovered on Archaic sites along the creek, that gravel chert exploitation was the primary activity conducted at these sites. Today there are numerous gravel pits along Luxapalila Creek between Steens and Columbus.

McGahey (1973) speculates that there was a decline in the prehistoric population during the Late Woodland and Mississippian Periods, suggesting that settlement may have shifted to areas better suited to agriculture than those along the Luxapalila. O'Hear (1988) believes that prehistoric occupants of the area focused on high bluffs and terraces, primarily along the Tombigbee River and its tributaries, and in the uplands near the Mississippi-Alabama state line. Based on the archaeological site density utilized by O'Hear, he surmises that the area along Luxapalila Creek was not intensively exploited by prehistoric inhabitants, despite well-documented site frequencies in neighboring counties.

The McGahey (1973) view that Native American populations declined during the late prehistoric period in the Luxapalila Creek area is born out by the site distribution and density along the creek. Archaeological sites summarized in Table 1 above identify at least 44 separate temporal components at the 38 archaeological sites identified along the length of the creek. Mississippian and historic components account for only 14 percent (n=6 incidents) of these components. Two of the historic components are the remains of a dam investigated by Southerlin et al. (1997) and site 22LO948, Walthall's Mill, the subject of this investigation. Gulf Formational and Woodland components account for 29 percent (n=13 incidents) of the total components identified.

Fifty-seven percent (n=25 incidents) of the prehistoric components are Archaic. Each of the three Archaic subperiods (Early, Middle, and Late) are represented. The abundance of chert gravel along the creek probably attracted the Archaic peoples; the majority of the Archaic archaeological sites have been described as campsites, suggestive of short term occupation.

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### *Phase I Historic Resources Survey Along Luxapalila Creek*

**Table 2.** Summary of Prehistoric Chronology for the Upper Tombigbee River Region.

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**Paleoindian**

(12,000 to 8000 BC)

Earliest documented presence of humans in the Southeast; one Clovis point known to have been recovered along Luxapalila Creek (Lewis 1975); mobile hunting and gathering settlement and subsistence strategies; tool kit includes fluted and unfluted lanceolate points and unifacial tools.

**Early Archaic**

(8000 to 6000 BC)

Period marked by adaptation to early Holocene environment; characterized by unifacial tools and notched projectile points; mobile settlement and subsistence patterns, but based on seasonal rounds

**Middle Archaic**

(6000 to 3000 BC)

Time of decreased mobility; associated with increased population; appearance of midden mounds in Upper Tombigbee region; tool kit includes large, broad-stemmed in projectile points.

**Late Archaic**

(3000 to 800 BC)

Continuing trend of localized adaptation, but shows evidence of interregional trade; diverse settlement types, toolkit includes smaller stemmed projectile points and fiber tempered (Wheeler) ceramics.

**Gulf Formational/Early Woodland**

(800 to 250 BC)

Increasing number of sites; technological advances in ceramic technology (fiber tempered to sand tempered Alexander pottery); similar stone tool technology to the Late Archaic; increased efficiency and productivity of in food processing and storage.

**Middle Woodland**

(250 BC to AD 600)

Continued population growth and increased cultural complexity; increase in site size; appearance of large earthen mounds; emergence of agriculture; ceramics include plain and fabric impressed vessels.

**Late Woodland**

(AD 600 to 1050)

End of Hopewellian interaction; region along Tombigbee near Columbus becomes depopulated; characterized by small triangular projectile points and plain and cord marked pottery.

**Mississippian**

(AD 1050 to 1500)

Increased religious and social complexity; large fortified villages and flat topped mounds; primary settlement along major floodplains; characterized by small triangular points and shell tempered ceramics; wide range of vessel types

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***Phase I Historic Resources Survey Along Luxapalila Creek***

If these sites are procurement stations rather than habitation sites, the artifact assemblages would be expected to contain primarily expedient tools and/or tool production debitage. However, a number of the Archaic sites contained nutting stones and varying amounts of fire cracked rock.

### **Historic Development in Lowndes County**

Archival research was also directed at collecting historic data for the region as well as data specific to our project area. The context includes the collection of data about the development of business and industry in Lowndes County, as well as gathering data specific to the project area. As the period of interest is during the nineteenth century, our discussion focuses on this time period.

Americans made early attempts to settle the area surrounding Columbus, Mississippi. In 1801, a cotton gin was built on the west side of the Tombigbee River near the present site of Amory, Mississippi, in an effort to convert the war-like Chickasaws into peaceful farmers. The later town of Cotton Gin Port took its name from this gin. As interest in the area increased, the Americans began building more roads, including the Gaines Trace which was opened in 1811-1812. This connected the Tennessee River to the Tombigbee River at Cotton Gin Port. The Gaines Trace, like the Natchez Trace, opened the door to vast numbers of American settlers.

These various pioneer roads increased contact between white settlers and Native Americans, who had retreated to their restricted lands in Alabama and Mississippi. As one historian (Roberts 1969:163) has noted, "the movement of squatters into the territory produced the tensions that prompted the Creek Indians to resort to acts of violence, [and] the men who led military forces to crush these Indians were men who knew the value to be derived from Creek lands." Tensions reached a critical point by 1813, when a series of attacks and counterattacks blossomed into a war throughout the Mississippi Territory. The war was brought to a formal, and violent, end in 1814 with Andrew Jackson's victory at Horseshoe Bend on the Tallapoosa River in Alabama. This, along with Jackson's later victory over the British at the Battle of New Orleans at the conclusion of the War of 1812, ended English attempts to unite the Indians against the Americans. Although fighting continued sporadically until the end of that year, the battle ultimately resulted in the opening of eastern Mississippi to American settlement.

While traveling through the Alabama and Mississippi territories with his armies, Jackson saw the need for yet another road. Jackson's Military Road, surveyed and constructed between 1816 and 1820, ran from Madisonville, Louisiana, to a point about 21 miles north of Muscle Shoals, Alabama. The route south of Columbus was soon abandoned, and the military road joined the Robinson Road to Jackson west of the Tombigbee at Columbus. The military road crossed the Tombigbee River at present-day Columbus; the current street by that name (Old

Military Road/ Mississippi Highway 12) roughly follows the route of Jackson's Military Road. The presence of the road helped open the region to settlement east of the Tombigbee in the early nineteenth century. The military road north of Columbus was at least four feet wide and may have been 20 feet wide in some places, wide enough for wagons and carriages. Most other roads were just paths, marked by blazes on trees and passable only by people walking or on horseback. Americans could only cross the Indian lands west of the Tombigbee River by horse or foot. They could not take wagons through; in fact, there were no paths wide enough for a wagon.

The principal areas of settlement in Mississippi through the 1820s were in the southwestern and south central areas of the state; most of the rest of the state was still in the hands of various Native American groups. Monroe County, in the northeastern section of the state, was the chief exception. During the 1820s there were few roads between the two parts of Mississippi.

Within the study area, the existing historic roads were existing Indian paths which had been widened by travelers. These roads included a road from the Choctaw Agency to Nash's Ferry on the Tombigbee, southeast of Columbus; the Cotton Road, which ran from Moore's Bluff west to the plantations on the prairie; Lindsay Ferry Road, which crossed the county from east to west; a road from Columbus to Pickensville, Alabama; and a road from Columbus to Tuscaloosa, which probably followed the old War Path (Wood 1959:14). River and creek crossings were at ferries and fords.

The first white settler in what was to become Columbus may have been Thomas Thomas (or Thomas Moore), who opened a store there in 1817. Within a short time, Spirus Roach built a tavern nearby. The area was at first known as Possum Town, but was named Columbus in 1821; it was incorporated in 1822 (Brieger 1980:314). Gibbs (1878, as cited in Lipscomb 1909:50) believed the earliest settler in the study area may have been a man named Mhoon, who lived five miles northeast of Columbus on the military road before or during 1817. Silas McBee settled on the Luxapalila at the mouth of a creek in 1817 and purchased seed from Mhoon, who was already in the county. The 1821 township plat for Township 18 Range 18 West shows the Military Road which comes from the north and goes to the ferry at Columbus; the town of Columbus is not shown on the map. The "Looksookpalila" is shown, as is McBees Creek, which was named for Silas McBee.

The project tract, on the Luxapalila River northeast of Columbus, was the site of an early manufacturing enterprise, most likely a saw and/or grist mill. As such, it raises questions about the nature of the consumer economy in Lowndes County in the antebellum era. Communities such as Columbus, which were centers of transportation and commerce for a surrounding frontier region, saw a mix of home manufactured goods and imported goods. It was an uneven mix, though, as these communities tended to prize self-sufficiency and limited contact with

outside market and credit forces. The following section provides a brief overview of the economy of the Columbus area during the nineteenth century, while the next section gives a more intensive history of the project tract in the context of Columbus' economy.

Accessible raw material formed the basis of the local economy, and Lowndes County contained merchantable timber, excellent brick clay, and a good supply of lime rock. Artesian wells provide water, and there are several mineral springs. Water power was used early in the development of the county to provide power for grist and saw mills; water power, however, soon gave way to steam power. Lime kilns and brickmaking were common industries during the 1800s. In the early twentieth century, lumber, cotton goods, bricks, staves, and spokes were important manufactures (Wood 1959:2). None of these products could be developed profitably, however, until transportation networks allowed them to be brought efficiently to markets. Columbus grew as its leaders were able to command a regional transportation center; the town acted as a junction of overland, river, and rail traffic through the middle and late nineteenth century. These lines of transportation brought people, goods, and ideas to and from the village, stimulating its growth.

Columbus was within Monroe County when it was organized in 1821. Monroe County included all of the 1816 Chickasaw cession except a small strip on the northern edge. Lipscomb (1909:18) states that John Halbert, who came to the area in 1817, may have been the first man to start a farm in present-day Lowndes County. Most of the area was second class agricultural land, although there was one fertile area north and east of Columbus. The best farmland was on the western side of the Tombigbee and was not yet open for settlement by Americans; it still belonged to the Choctaws (Lipscomb 1909:17, 20).

The population of the study area increased rapidly following the division and sale of Chickasaw and Choctaw lands in 1816. Native Americans, having previously established individual farmsteads west of the Tombigbee, had proven the land to be good for cultivating a variety of staple crops and, in some instances, cotton. White settlers arriving at the expanding towns along the east side of the river (Columbus, Nashville, Pickensville) were eager to appropriate this land for themselves.

Columbus began as one or two buildings and a ferry crossing on the Tombigbee River. By the early 1820s Columbus and Cotton Gin Port were established as river ports and became the major commercial centers in the region (Hambacher 1983:128). Other river ports soon came into existence at ferry crossings and/or steamboat landings. In addition to the businesses, shops, and factories in the towns, mills and cotton gins were being built in outlying areas. The development of a system of roads, ferries, and bridges was necessary to connect the outlying farms and plantations to the river ports.

On 10 February 1821 the Senate and House of Representatives of Mississippi appointed commissioners to lay out the town lots of Columbus in the southwest quarter of the 16th section, township 18, range 18 West and to "apply with impartiality the proceeds arising from the rents of said lots and lands to the purpose of education and no other" (Lipscomb 1909:21). Columbus was divided into about 225 lots with approximately 15 north/south streets and 15 east/west streets; the military road ran at an angle across those streets. Main Street ran from the ferry on the Tombigbee east to a bridge over the Luxapalila River on a road to Pickens and Fayette counties, Alabama. This bridge was probably near present-day Probst Park, but may have been farther north on the creek.

One resident described businesses in Columbus in 1822. He mentioned Raser's Hotel, a log blacksmith shop, a small tailor shop, Adams' store, carpenters' shops, Kewen's store, a retail whiskey shop, Barry's tavern, a two story house with Barry's shop in the lower story and a masonic lodge on the second floor, Dowsing's tavern, and the Franklin Academy, a school which was also the meeting house for all the religious denominations in Columbus at that time (Lipscomb 1909). One of the earliest stores in Lowndes County was that of Gideon Lincecum, whom Wood (1959:16) describes as a, "self educated physician, botanist, zoologist, explorer, organizer, correspondent of Charles Darwin, contributor to the Smithsonian Institution, etc." Lincecum came to Lowndes County from Georgia in 1818. He planted his first crop in May 1819 and opened his store the same year:

He cut down six acres of cane, burnt it off on May 5, 1819, planted corn on May 6 with a sharp stick. He hacked off the cane sprouts but did no other cultivation. The coons and bears got a good deal of the crop but he harvested 150 bushels which he floated down [from three miles upstream] to the site of Columbus on a raft. He bought a stock of goods from a man named Caldwell, just arrived by boat from Tuscaloosa, and built and operated the first store 1819-20 (Wood 1959:16).

Lowndes County grew rapidly during the 1830s. From just over 3,000 inhabitants in 1830, the County had expanded to 14,513 by 1840. By 1860, Lowndes County had 23,625 residents, which included 15,934 slaves (*Biographical and Historical Memoirs of Mississippi* 1891:229-230). J.F.H. Claiborne, who chronicled the life of the early Mississippi Territory settler and war hero General Sam Dale in the middle of the nineteenth century, referred to this population growth in Monroe County (now in Alabama) and the difficulties it created in the 1820s: "The influx of immigrants was incessant," he wrote, "and, of course, they came destitute of provisions, and hundreds of them without means. The supply in the country was very small, and wholly inadequate to the demand" (Claiborne 1976:168-169).

This dire situation changed quickly with improved trade connections and the establishment of new farms, stores, and mills in the 1830s. Reuben Davis, writing his memoirs

in 1889, noted about Columbus in the antebellum era that "I have never known a place of its size more handsomely built up, or with a more patrician and elegant society" (Davis 1889:97). Joseph Cobb, in his memoirs of 1851, waxed more eloquent regarding Columbus, "From yonder eminence on the Tuscaloosa Road, the traveler beholds with delight, not unmixed with some wonder, the miniature panorama of a Mahometan city, rising suddenly to the vision in the interior of a country not famed for its improvements, with domes, and spires, and cupolas, looming in the distance, to gigantic proportions, and dazzling the eye with their glittering summits" (Cobb 1851: 26-27).

In the era before railroads and riverboats allowed for the easier mass shipment of manufactured goods such as building supplies, textiles, and processed grains, local mills were essential for a community's survival and growth. Many landowners proposed mills in the 1830s and 1840s on Luxapalila Creek. Moore's saw and grist mill on the Luxapalila was among the earliest. John Davis and Thomas Townsend applied for permission to dam the Luxapalila and build a mill on Townsend's land. That mill was south of the study site in section 14, T18, R18W. At the same time, John Potter also applied to dam the Luxapalila. His mill was to be in section 15, near Townsend's land (Lowndes County Police Court Minutes 1830/04 - 1843/08:24, 26). Other mills included that of Joseph Perkins, who ground corn by horse-power, Jimmy Vaughn's water powered mill on Cooper's Creek, Hawkins' Mill on Yellow Creek, and Givins' Mill on the Buttahatchie (Lipscomb 1909).

Cotton gins were established in Lowndes County as the production of cotton increased. Steam power was available from the 1830s but was not used in cotton gins in the study area until after the Civil War. Hambacher (1983:137) states, "Documentary and archaeological data for [Lowndes County] indicate that cotton gins and other light industrial facilities tended to be associated with plantations and large farms during the pre-Civil War period." Before the war farmers built gins as part of their farm complexes, but small gins were expensive to operate. They required frequent outlays of cash for repairs and parts and were only used once a year. It soon became apparent that using one of the larger gin houses was more cost effective than owning one's own gin, and after the Civil War ginning was done primarily by the larger, centralized gin houses (Burkett and Poe 1908:219-220; Hambacher 1983:122-123).

Those who built grist and saw mills on the rivers and creeks were always subject to being flooded and potentially having their mills destroyed. Bridges over the creeks were frequently washed out. An entry in the Police Court Minutes from March 1845 gives an indication of the procedure by which a new bridge would be constructed:

Ordered by the Board that Eli Abbott, Jas. J. Moon, Wm. Hemphill, Saml. L. Williford & Wm. E. Ervin be appointed commissioners to receive proposals for building a bridge

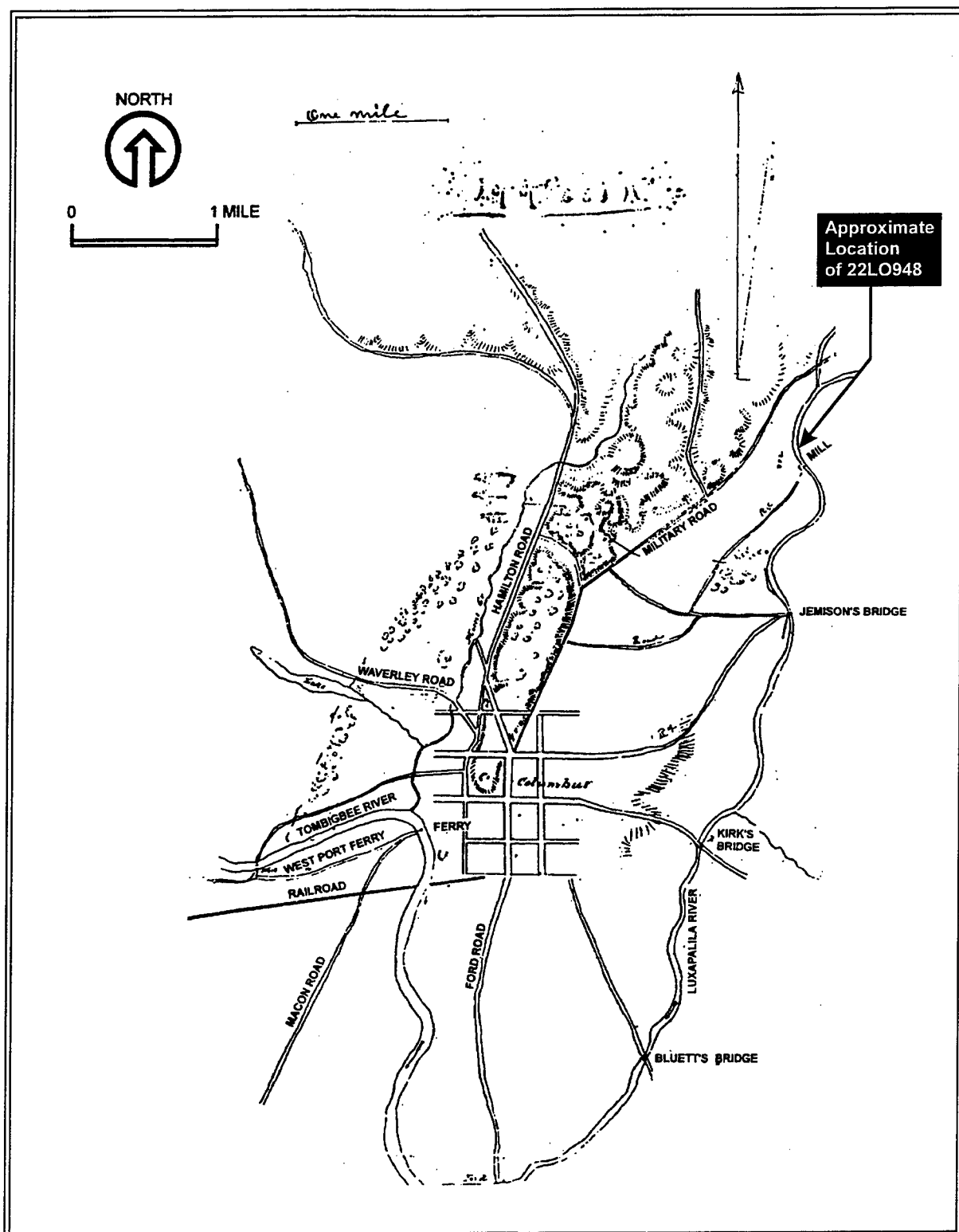
across Looksapalilah river near Moon's old mills in place of the one built by Jno. M. Kirk, now washed away... (Lowndes County Police Court Minutes March Term 1845).

Jemison contracted to build the bridge for \$1,250 in cash and \$1,250 with interest one year later. Jemison indicated that without that bridge his mills were cut off from market. He stated in a letter to the Police Court that he would keep the bridge in good repair for 10 years, but the 10-year guarantee only included damage from ordinary storms and did not include damage from tornadoes, fire, insurrection, civil war, or "the acts of evil disposed persons" (Lowndes County Police Court Minutes July Term 1845). A Civil War-era map (Figure 6) shows three bridges across the Luxapalila: Jemison's Bridge on the Upper Tuscaloosa Road, Kirk's Bridge on the Tuscaloosa Road, and Bluett's Bridge on a road going southeast from Columbus. This same map shows a mill in the approximate location of 22LO948, approximately one mile north of Jemison's Mill.

Mills and bridges demonstrated the close interrelationship between industry and transportation. Columbus was poised to take advantage of this relationship as the commercial transportation potential of the Tombigbee River began to be exploited during the early nineteenth century. Keelboats, flatboats, and rafts carried cotton and other products from inland plantations to market in Mobile. These vessels were in regular use on the upper Tombigbee, as far north as Columbus and Cotton Gin Port, before 1820. Use of even these low draft vessels was dependent on seasonal water levels. For a period of five to eight months, beginning in the early summer and lasting through the fall, water levels were usually inadequate for passage.

The development of steam power allowed shipping of heavy cargo both down- and upstream. In 1822, the first sidewheel steamboat, the *Cotton Plant*, arrived in Columbus; by 1823, this ship was advertising regular, probably seasonal, runs between Mobile and Columbus. During the 1830s, sternwheelers came into regular use. By that time the steamboats, also called packets, were operating on regular schedules, often making one round trip between Columbus and Mobile each week (Doster and Weaver 1981:68). Columbus became a major shipping center due to its crossroads position on both land and river routes. When less than ideal water levels were present, smaller boats and wagons were often reloaded with goods to be transported additional distances upriver beyond Columbus, to Hamilton, Aberdeen, and Cotton Gin Port.

Attempts to expand Mobile's overland commercial reach into the Alabama and Mississippi backcountry began during the late 1840s with the organization of the Mobile and Ohio Railroad Company. Construction required a period of nearly 13 years, but the Mobile and Ohio Railroad, connecting Mobile and Columbus, Kentucky (on the Mississippi River), was completed in 1861. A short steamboat connection on the Ohio River to Cairo, Illinois allowed commerce (via the Illinois Central Railroad) between Mobile and Chicago (Doster and Weaver 1981:97). Unfortunately, the line was badly damaged during the Civil War and it declined with



**Figure 6.** Circa 1864 map of Columbus, showing bridges, roads, and mills (National Archives RG109:10).

the economic fortunes of Mobile during Reconstruction; it went into receivership in 1874 (Doyle 1990:76).

The Mobile and Ohio Railroad was built through eastern Mississippi, roughly paralleling the Tombigbee River; however, the main line was always more than 10 miles from the river to avoid crossing major tributary streams. The citizens of Columbus defeated a measure to bring a railroad to Columbus by denying the Mobile and Ohio Railroad a right-of-way through the town. They said a railroad would, "mar the landscape and bring undesirable people" (Brieger 1980:314). In 1854, the railroad was built through Artesia (west of the Tombigbee) instead of through Columbus and Artesia became one of the main stops. An 1880 timetable for the Mobile and Ohio includes a note that a first class supper could be had in Artesia (Lowndes County Department of Archives and History 1981:257). The leaders of Columbus quickly changed their minds, though, and a spur line from Artesia was built in 1861 (Wood 1959).

The "great days of steamboating on the Upper Tombigbee River" were between 1839 and 1859 (Doster and Weaver 1981:68). According to Jordan (1987:18) cotton prices had stabilized during the 1850s (8 to 10¢ per pound) and production was at its peak (over 5,000,000 bales from southern Alabama in the 1850s). River traffic increased dramatically as cotton, the primary product of upriver plantations, was shipped downriver, while food items (coffee, salt, sugar), agricultural supplies, and other necessities such as building materials were brought upriver. In addition, steamboats also often carried imported goods (furnishings, clothing) ordered for the wealthy cotton producers. Typical cargo on a river boat might include stock for the general stores, machinery for the mills, marble mantels, pianos, and scenic wallpaper (Clements n.d.:4). Commercial developments like these portended great changes for Columbus, along with the rest of the South, when self-sufficiency gave way to a dependence on outside markets for daily supplies.

By the early 1850s, despite improvements in steamboats and attempts to improve the Tombigbee River channel (and its tributaries), plantation production had outgrown the carrying capacity of river transport. Steamboats attempting the passage up the Tombigbee became progressively larger in order to carry more cargo (compare the 72-ton sidewheeler *Cotton Plant* which passed between Mobile and Columbus in the early 1820s with the 215-ton *Forest Monarch* which sunk after hitting a snag near Pickensville [Doster and Weaver 1981:67-70]). The use of steamboats declined during the mid- to late nineteenth century. The last steamboats on the Tombigbee owned by companies based in Columbus were the *City of Columbus* (1897-1900), which wrecked under the west end of the bridge across the river at Columbus, and the *Vienna* (1898-1907), which wrecked on a shoal (Wood 1959:13).

As steamboat shipping declined and railway shipping increased, more businessmen moved into Lowndes County. The census of manufactures for 1860 lists mills, stores, and shops

in business during the previous 12 months (1 June 1859 - 31 May 1860). Forty-nine establishments are listed for Columbus and six for West Point. West Point had three blacksmith shops, a tin shop, a tanyard/boot shop, and one steam powered grist mill. Blacksmith (n=7) and blacksmith/wood shops (n=2) were the most common types of businesses in Columbus. Shops using hides and/or leather were also numerous, such as tanyards, shoe and boot shops, and saddle and harness shops. There were carpentry shops and shops which manufactured wagons and carriages, cabinets, wool hats and blankets, candy, and tin items. There were two printing presses, three brickmakers, a stonecutter, two tailors, and a foundry (U.S. Census of Manufactures 1860).

By 1870, the number of businesses in Lowndes County had increased from 55 (in 1860) to 81. There were 63 establishments in Columbus, five in West Point, five in Artesia, three in Crawfordville, three in Mayhew and Tibbee combined, and two in Clinton. In this census of manufacturing, saw mills and grist mills are listed separately, although they may have been at the same location. This accounts for some of the increase in the total number of businesses listed, but there are also some businesses which had been established since the 1860 census was taken. In addition to the foundry listed in 1860, there was a steam powered plant which produced pig iron, and a bloomery, which used the pig iron as a raw material. The foundry also made ploughs, and a new shop which manufactured plough stocks was in business. Two gunsmiths and two furniture makers had opened shops in Columbus; however, the furniture makers may have been described as cabinet makers or carpenters in the 1860 census. The Columbus Gas Company was in existence in 1870, along with two more tinsmiths, but there were fewer blacksmiths listed. There was a tannery in Mayhew or Tibbee, a publisher in West Point, and a woolen mill in Artesia. The woolen mill may be the same enterprise as the maker of wool hats and blankets listed in the 1860 census, with a different address. Crawfordville had two steam powered gristmills and a bootmaker and Clinton had a steam powered sawmill and a water powered gristmill. All of the towns had some type of gristmill (U.S. Census of Manufactures 1870).

Columbus continued to grow during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Among the businesses depicted in the Lowndes County Department of Archives and History's (1981) pictorial history are livery stables, hotels, stores and shops, foundries, a steam laundry, factories, an ice company, cotton mills and manufacturing companies, a cotton oil mill, the water works, the power company, and several lumber companies. The first oil well in Lowndes County was drilled at Billups in 1921.

Wood (1959:10) reports that during the early twentieth century the town of Steens, northeast of Columbus had, "large shipments of lumber, logs, cotton seed and fertilizers. It also has a cotton gin." Mayhew, Penn, and Artesia shipped hay, bees and honey, and lumber and logs. Bent Oak and McCrary had cotton gins, and McCrary had a sawmill. McIntyre and

Billups shipped gravel and logs. In the early twentieth century, Interstate Lumber Company was located along Luxapalila Creek at what is now Waterworks Road (Sanborn 1926).

### **Project Specific Historical Overview**

A fairly clear chain of title for the project tract exists, extending from to its original grant. This record of deeds, along with additional public records, reveals a story of acquisition and investments, of hopes to create industry and profit in the wilderness; Table 3 presents the chain of title in outline form. As noted in the historical overview of the project area, Columbus was a lone outpost of American influence amid lands still occupied by Native Americans. Columbus, however, was a trading and transportation center with roads to the other American settlements in the "old southwest" of Alabama, Mississippi, Tennessee, and Louisiana. The town grew quickly throughout the early and middle years of the nineteenth century. Optimistic residents of Columbus built grand and elegant houses during these antebellum years, many of which still remain. Men and women interested in profiting from this growth had many opportunities.

Mason Cummings and Hugh Rogers were the first owners of record of the project tract. According to records of patents in Lowndes County, Cummings purchased land in the southwest quarter of Section 2, where the project tract lies, in 1825 and again in 1832, while Hugh Rogers bought 40 acres in the western half of the southeast quarter in 1833 (Lowndes County Deed Book [LCDB] 12:82). Rogers seems to have been a small farmer, while Cummings appears to have been a man of more substantial means. Both men appear in the Lowndes County Tax Rolls throughout the early 1830s, both with property along the "Looksapalila [sic]." Cummings in particular was increasing his wealth during the 1830s; from six slaves in 1830, Cummings owned as many as twenty slaves by 1834, which put him on a level with substantial planters and plantation owners in the South. Rogers, however, never owned more than three slaves that could be connected to his property along the Luxapalila River (Lowndes County Tax Rolls [LCTR]).

Like most investors who bought their land early in Mississippi, Cummings sold his land quickly. Rapid turnover of the land was a trademark not just of settlers in Mississippi but throughout the United States, particularly the frontier areas in the early nineteenth century. Cummings sold his land in Section 2 to William McKellar, who had apparently only recently come to the area. McKellar bought Cummings' land in the southwest and southeast quarters of Section 2, which included a 40-acre parcel in the southeast corner of the southeast quarter of the section. The purchase, however, excluded an eight-acre tract within that parcel; the tract contained "the premises now occupied by Dicy Nail" (LCDB 5:148). Nail may have been the widow or other relation of Benjamin Nail, who was the original patent-holder of an eighty-acre tract in the east half of the southeast quarter of Section 2 (LCDB 12:82). A map of the property

**Table 3. Chain of Title Summary for 22LO948.**

| <b>Date</b> | <b>Owner Name</b>                                                                                                           | <b>Location</b>                              | <b>Reference</b> |
|-------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|------------------|
| 1/24/1825   | Mason Cummings                                                                                                              | E1/2 of SW1/4, Section 2                     | LCDB 12:82       |
| 1/19/1833   | Hugh Rogers                                                                                                                 | NW1/4 of SE1/4, Section 2                    | LCDB 12:82       |
| 4/30/1833   | Mason Cummings                                                                                                              | SW1/4 of SE1/4, Section 2                    | LCDB 12:82       |
| 2/26/1835   | Mason Cummings et ux. to William McKellar                                                                                   | SW1/4, and SW1/4 of SE1/4 of Sect 2          | LCDB 5:148       |
| 2/26/1835   | William McKellar to William Dowsing and Sanford White                                                                       | SW1/4, and SW1/4 of SE1/4 of Sect 2          | LCDB 4:276       |
| 12/22/1835  | William McKellar et ux. to Roscow Cole, Madison Walthall, Orasmus Nash, Armstrong Hodges, William Winston, William McKellar | SW1/4 and W1/2 of SE1/4 of Sect. 2           | LCDB 5:152       |
| 3/8/1836    | Armstrong Hodges et ux. to William Dowsing                                                                                  | SW1/4 and part of W1/2 of SE1/4 of Section 2 | LCDB 7:444       |
| 3/18/1836   | Mason Cummings to James Edmonson                                                                                            | SW1/4 of SE1/4 of Section 2                  | LCDB 5:333       |
| 6/10/1837   | O.L. Nash et al. to Madison Walthall                                                                                        | SW1/4, W1/2 of SE1/4, Sect. 2                | LCDB 8:282       |
| 11/2/1837   | Madison Walthall to Robert D. Haden and Ovid P. Brown                                                                       | SW1/4, W1/2 of SE1/4, Sect. 2                | LCDB 9:41        |
| 12/28/1847  | Oscar Bledsoe to Madison Walthall                                                                                           | SW1/4 of W1/2 of SE1/4, Sect. 2              | LCDB 23:425      |
| 12/26/1848  | William Leigh & John W. Peters                                                                                              | Section 2, along Lux. River                  | LCDB 24:242      |
| 11/28/1851  | Elihu B. Gaston                                                                                                             | Section 2, along Lux. River                  | LCDB 26:620      |
| pre-1863    | John Sciple                                                                                                                 | Section 2, along Lux. River                  | LCDB 33:300      |
| 1/31/1863   | Alfred Cox                                                                                                                  | Section 2, along Lux. River                  | LCDB 33:300      |
| 8/8/1865    | H.E. Cox                                                                                                                    | SE 1/4, SW 1/4, Section 2                    | LCDB 33:581      |
| 4/3/1873    | C.M. Ottley & Cornelia Benoit                                                                                               | SE 1/4, Section 2, along Lux. River          | LCDB 43:501      |
| 10/19/1875  | Covington M. Ottley                                                                                                         | SE 1/4, Section 2, along Lux. River          | LCDB 51:83       |
| pre-1903    | William N. Ottley et al.                                                                                                    |                                              | LCDB 85:104      |
| 11/23/1903  | H.B. Flautt                                                                                                                 | SE 1/4, Section 2, along Lux. River          | LCDB 85:104      |
| 3/1/1907    | J.M. Brock                                                                                                                  | SE 1/4, Section 2, along Lux. River          | LCDB 92:40       |
| 12/1/1911   | A.A. Breast                                                                                                                 | SW 1/4, SE 1/4, Section 2                    | LCDB 92:229      |
| 1/8/1914    | T.E. Redus                                                                                                                  | 30 acres along Military Road                 | LCPB 98:514      |
| 1/7/1922    | L.G. Ellis and W.G. Johnston                                                                                                |                                              | LCPB 195:201     |
| 11/18/1946  | James W. and Mary Ann Ebersole                                                                                              | 26 acres along Military Road                 | LCPB 195:201     |

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***Phase I Historic Resources Survey Along Luxapalila Creek***

shows a house, presumably Nail's, northwest of the project area on the other side of the Military Road (Figure 7). It is significant that this map also shows a slough (spelled "slue" on the map) cutting across a meander of the Luxapalila; a mill site is shown at the downstream end of the slough. The deed, however, makes no reference to the slough or the mill site. McKellar's deed did, however, allow "us and each of us [presumably Cummings and his wife and Nail] to remain in quiet and peaceable possession of the premises aforesaid" until December of 1835, some ten months from the time of the deed (LCDB 5:148).

It seems unlikely that McKellar sought the property for a residence only. McKellar bought the property on credit, with two promissory notes totalling \$3500 to Cummings. In a separate deed signed the same day, McKellar signed the property over to William Dowsing and Sanford White who acted as trustees for Cummings, who was a third party to the deed. If McKellar should default on the promissory notes, Dowsing and White were empowered to sell the property at public auction, and turn the proceeds over to Cummings. In the meantime, however, McKellar was also allowed "to remain in quiet and peaceable possession" of the land and to use it while paying off the debt (LCDB 4:276).

McKellar apparently was successful in repaying the debt. Later that year, in December 1835, he sold the land to a partnership which consisted of: himself; Roscow Cole, who was a native of New York; Orasmus Nash; Armstrong Hodges; William Winston; and Madison Walthall, a resident of Richmond, Virginia (LCDB 5:152). The partnership was legally formed on the same day (LCDB 7:416). The partnership purchased several tracts of land in the general area, and intended to divide the proceeds so that Cole, Walthall, Nash, and Hodges each had a one-fifth interest, while McKellar and Winston each had a one-tenth share (LCDB 5:152). In addition to the tract that McKellar had purchased from Cummings, the partnership also bought Hugh Rogers' tract in Sections 2 and 3. The purpose of the partnership, according to their articles of agreement, was "among others...to put in operation a saw mill now in progress on the McKellar tract & to prosecute the cutting of lumber for the benefit of the concern & to improve the springs on the Rogers Tract as the copartners may deem proper" (LCDB 7:416). The 1835 plat (see Figure 7), which accompanied the deed from Cummings to McKellar, shows two locations for springs, one feeding directly into the Luxapalila and another into the slue between the meanders of the Luxapalila. Rogers' springs were probably those which fed into the slue on a forty-acre tract in the southeast quarter of section two (LCDB 5:150).

The nature of the saw mill operation which the partnership created is unknown. It was not necessarily a water powered mill; many small sawmills in the eighteenth and early nineteenth century used either two handed saws or horse powered saws (Moore 1967:9-12). The records of the Lowndes County Police Board, which was responsible for authorizing new dams, do not indicate any requests from any of the partners during the 1830s. Many other water powered saw mills were authorized during the early 1830s, however, and the partners' site seems

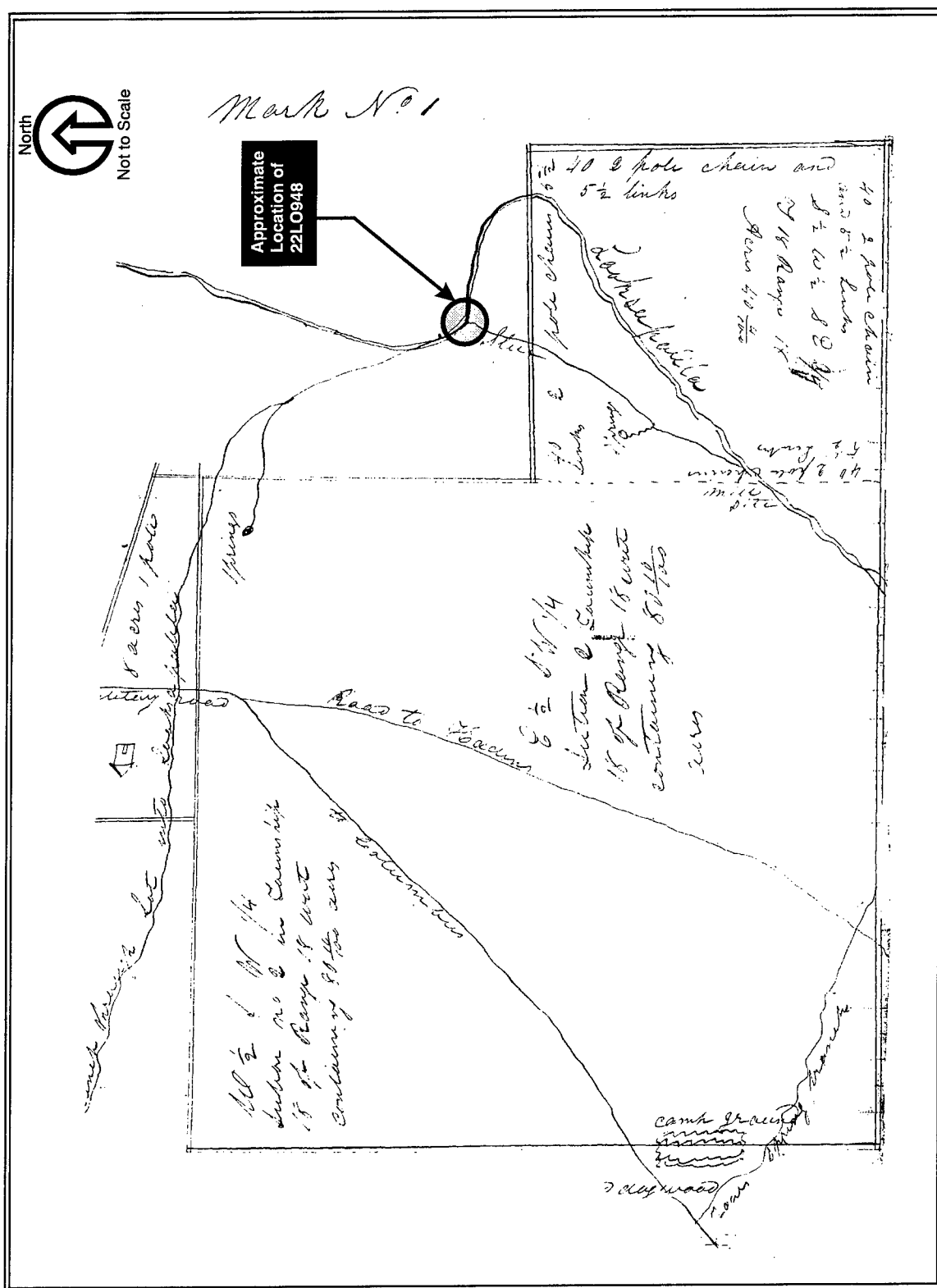


Figure 7. 1835 plat showing the study area (LCDB 5:150).

already to have had some water-control mechanisms in place. If it was a water powered saw mill, it was most likely the one indicated on the 1835 plat, which shows a mill site slightly south of the current project tract (LCDB 5:150).

The partnership did not last long. In March of 1836, less than three months after the partnership was formed, Armstrong Hodges sold his one-tenth interest, with the agreement of the rest of the partners, to William Dowsing (LCDB 7:444). McKellar may also have sold out his portion to the partners, though documentation of this was not found. Two years later, in June 1837, Madison Walthall bought out the shares of his partners and title to the land for \$20,000, along with five dollars to the wife of each partner; McKellar was not a party to the deed (LCDB 8:282). Walthall seems to have planned to use the land primarily to provide collateral for another business. During the mid-1830s, Walthall helped to create, and was the president of, the Real Estate Banking Company in Columbus (Lipscomb 1909:152). In November 1837, five months after he bought the land along the Luxapalila and other tracts from the partnership, Walthall signed the land over to Ovid P. Brown and Robert D. Haden, who served as trustees for the Bank (LCDB 9:41). Walthall gave a promissory note to the Bank for \$6,000 as payment for 60 shares of stock in the Bank. Given that, "considerable risk and responsibility is incurred by said Banking Company," Walthall signed over the deeds to the land formerly owned by the partnership to Haden and Brown, as trustees for the Bank, for them to sell if Walthall defaulted on his note (LCDB 9:42).

The urgency of the situation became clearer in the context of the Panic of 1837. A number of small banks like the Real Estate Banking Company had been set up throughout the nation. They were particularly active in the frontier territories and states like Alabama and Mississippi where the fever of land speculation ran especially high. Banks with shaky reserves issued paper notes which were highly volatile in their worth. As one historian (Schlesinger 1953:217) has observed, "The proportion of paper to specie lengthened, gambling in banks, internal improvements and public banks grew more frenzied, and the economic structure became increasingly speculative and unsound." The federal government issued the Specie Circular in 1836, which required that federal lands be paid for in specie (gold or silver, not paper money). This tightening of the money supply was augmented by prominent New York and London bank failures. This, and the redistribution of specie from federal banks to state banks combined to send the economy into a tailspin.

The effect of the depression on Mississippi was profound. Crops brought little money and land prices fell precipitately. Courts began foreclosing on farms; while planters hastened to sell off or smuggle their property out of state. The migration from Mississippi to Texas began in earnest; demographic evidence suggests that, "the vast majority of white residents who migrated to the state during the 1830s fled before the depression ended" (Bond 1995:64). Banks,

which were already viewed with some suspicion in Mississippi, failed throughout the state. Walthall clearly was trying to salvage his bank by putting up his land as collateral.

Walthall's attempt to save his bank seems to have been unsuccessful. He remained in the area, even serving as a trustee of the new Mississippi Female College in 1838 and as the overseer of the Military Road between Black Creek and Columbus in 1843 (Minutes of the Board of Police [MBP]:671; Lipscomb 1909:8). However, Walthall's former partner, William McKellar reappeared and purchased two lots in the southeast and southwest quarters of Section 2 in 1840 and 1843 (LCDB 17:219; 20:972). It is unclear if McKellar's purchases included the project tract. The specifics of the next few transactions are likewise unclear. Walthall acquired property in the southeast and southwest quarters of section two in 1847 from Oscar Bledsoe, an attorney in northern Mississippi in the early 1840s (Owen 1899), in December 1847 (LCDB 23:425). His wife Elizabeth Walthall bought another parcel or interest in the same quarters in October 1848 (LCDB 24:141).

It is unclear precisely when Walthall reacquired the project tract. In December 1848, however, they sold the property to William Leigh and John W. Peters (LCDB 24:242). The deed refers to "the mill known as Walthall Mill," but provides no other information on the nature of the mill, whether it was water or hand powered, whether it was a saw or grist mill. This deed actually conveyed the final one-fifth interest in the property; the other four-fifths had already been sold to Leigh and Peters a month earlier by Joseph Walthall, as trustee, and Madison and Elizabeth Walthall. Despite their previous civic activity in Lowndes County, the Walthalls apparently left Mississippi shortly after selling this property, perhaps as early as 1850. In 1856, Madison Walthall was named as a co-defendant, with James Richardson, in a lawsuit filed by Peter Smith of Lowndes County (Final Records of Court Cases). Walthall, according to the suit, was once a resident of Lowndes County but was at the time a resident of Sacramento City, California. With the California Gold Rush of 1849, the Walthalls' choice of a new frontier is not surprising.

William Leigh first appeared in the Lowndes County tax rolls in 1845. In 1850, Leigh was on record as owning the northeast part of the southwest quarter and the northwest part of the southeast quarter of Section 2 (LCTR 1850). This put him in ownership of the section of the Luxapalila River where, according to the 1835 plat (Figure 7), a slue [sic] was diverted from the river which led to a mill site south of the project tract. On New Year's Day 1849, Leigh, Peters, and William Reynolds petitioned the Lowndes County Police Board for permission to build a dam and abutment to be used for, "a grist and saw mill...about three miles northeast of Columbus on the Looksapallilah [sic] Creek" (MPB:65). A jury met at the site of the proposed mill in the spring of 1849, and issued its report in May. The jury reported that "the water in the forebay of said mills may be raised to the height of seven feet without damage to any persons"

(MPB:100). Leigh and his partners created their dam and mill manufacturing schedule for the 1850 census identified William Leigh as the owner of a water powered grist mill with \$10,000 of invested capital. Leigh's was one of nine grist mills that the census recorded in Lowndes County in 1850, and was one of only two grist mills which were not part of a combined saw and grist mill operation. His mill was also moderate in terms of output; his 1700 bushels produced in 1850 fell between a low of 150 bushels produced by Robert Littleton's combined saw and grist mill, which used water power, and the 3500 bushels produced by William Saunders' steam powered saw and grist mill.

There is nothing in the census records to indicate failure on Leigh's part; his mill was a thriving operation, according to these documents. He, however, removed himself from the business shortly after getting started. Leigh apparently had bought out his partners, and in late 1851 he sold an undisclosed number of acres "on the River Luxapalila & whereon is situated the Mill known as Walthals [sic]" to Elihu B. Gaston (LCDB 26:620). Leigh must have moved from Lowndes County as his name did not appear in the tax rolls thenceforward. Gaston, however, appeared regularly throughout the 1850s. In 1853 he was recorded as owning the west half of the southeast quarter of section two. The manufacturing schedule of the 1860 census recorded him as operating a water powered saw and grist mill. The mill, however, still focused on milling corn and wheat. His mill featured only one saw but three pairs of "rocks," presumably mill stones. His output by 1860 was 1500 bushels of meal and 30,000 pounds of flour, along with 2,000 feet of lumber (Census 1860). He had also increased his wealth during the 1850s; the tax rolls for 1853 show him with five slaves, in 1857 he had nine slaves, and in 1859 he had eleven (LCTR).

While Gaston seemed to have done well with his mill, the end was nearing for water powered mills on the eve of the Civil War. Of the ten mills in Lowndes County in 1850, six were powered by water, three were powered by steam, and one used horse power. By 1860, there were still three steam mills and six water powered mills. When considering the surrounding counties, the number of mills increases to allow for meaningful comparisons. Information on saw and grist mills was collected for Lowndes, Itawamba, Chickasaw, Oktibbeha, Noxubee, and Monroe counties. In this region of northeastern Mississippi there were twenty steam powered mills, while there were twenty one water powered mills. Beyond the numbers of mills, however, the output of the two forms of power shows the important differences. Sixteen steam mills reported their lumber output, with an average of 353,763 feet per mill. By comparison, the eleven water powered mills averaged only 88,455 feet of lumber per mill. Within these averages lies another comparison: the largest output for a water powered mill was 200,000 feet of lumber, while the steam powered mill with the largest output generated 1,600,000 feet of lumber. Water powered mills simply could not compete; steam mills required

a greater capital investment, but not widely so. Water mills were generally capitalized at under \$4000, while steam mills were generally capitalized at \$10,000 or more.

By 1870, of the 21 mills in Lowndes County, only six used water power, the rest were powered by steam engines. Only seven of the mills in the county produced lumber, the most essential building supply in the area and none of these produced lumber in the quantities of the antebellum mills. This suggests that housing starts seem to have been very low in Lowndes County.

Gaston held onto the mill through the onset of the Civil War, but sold it to John Sciple sometime between 1860 and 1863 (LCDB 33:300); we are unsure if John Sciple is a relative of Edward Sciple, the owner of a still operating mill near DeKalb, Mississippi. John Sciple owned a steam powered grist mill in Noxubee County in 1860, when he produced 45,000 bushels of meal. He may have hoped to expand his operations with a mill in Lowndes County, but it seems likely that the Civil War interfered with his plans. Sciple turned around and sold the property to Alfred Cox (LCDB 33:300). At this point the property was described as being "on the Luxapalila wherein is situated the Mill known as the Gaston Mill." The mill was clearly still standing, for the deed also included "two yoke of oxen[,] one carry log, one wagon[,] a lot of Stock Hogs, smith tools and all tools belonging to the mill and all the fixtures thereunto belonging" (LCDB 33:300).

It is unlikely that the mill continued to operate after the 1860s. Several factors, already mentioned, suggest the difficulty in maintaining a water powered grist and saw mill after the Civil War. By the time that the economy rebounded to the extent that larger supplies of wood were needed in northeastern Mississippi, water powered mills were taken over by steam engines. In addition, Columbus was connected to several railroad lines, giving the city and its occupants access to low-cost building supplies and foodstuffs which were manufactured elsewhere. The deed records, in conjunction with census records, reflect this same pattern. Unlike the manufacturing schedules for the 1850 and 1860 censuses, none of the owners of the project tract showed up as owners or operators of mills in Lowndes County. In addition, descriptions of the mill property in the late nineteenth century continued to refer to it as being "situated on the Luxapalila whereon was situated the Mill known as the Gaston Mill" (LCDB 51:83; 85:104; 92:40); this became a stock descriptive phrase. When the property was sold in December of 1914, the deed made no mention of a mill. By this time it seems likely that nothing above the water level remained to indicate this pioneer dam and mill site.

## **Types of Water Powered Mills**

Five major water powered mills were introduced to America from Europe (Jeane 1974). In order of decreasing efficiency these mill types are: turbine, overshot, breast, undershot, and horizontal (tub). While all were powered by water, the gearing systems varied considerably. The following discussion of mill types is summarized from Jeane (1974).

The horizontal mill (or tub mill) is the oldest mill type and, because of its simplicity and ease to construct, was well suited to frontier and pioneer situations. Buildings were small, made of log or framed with siding, and had wood shakes on the roof. The mill house might be located directly over the stream with the waterwheel located directly in the streambed, or it might be located adjacent to the stream with a flume for directing water onto the wheel.

The undershot mill derived its energy from the impact of running water on the paddles of the wheel, which was placed vertically alongside the mill. Standing mills of this type in Alabama are one- or two-story frame structures. Although the wheels of undershot mills were sometimes placed in the stream itself, the more common arrangement was to impound water behind a mill dam and divert water to the wheels through a race. Undershot mills seem to have been best suited for streams with slight gradients or a great volume of water.

The breast mill is a modification to the undershot mill, with the water striking just below or above the axle. With this mill type, water was always directed to the mill by a race. The breast mill seems to have been a common substitute for the undershot if a small or moderate head of water were available.

Overshot mills were the most common mill type in both Europe and America until the introduction of the turbine in the early nineteenth century. The power results from the gravitational effect of the free-falling water striking the wheel. Although brick was sometimes used, the mill buildings were usually of frame construction and stood two- to three-stories high. The mill layout varied considerably, but was always associated with a dam and pond and race. Proximity of the mill to the dam and pond varied enormously. This mill type was the most common in the eastern U.S. until displaced by the turbine.

The modern turbine was introduced in America in the mid nineteenth century and is essentially a more complex version of the horizontal/tub mill. This represented a significant change in milling technology and efficiency. By 1880, the majority of mills in the US were turbine operated. Mill site requirements were similar to that of an overshot mill. As older mills were refurbished, wheels were often replaced with turbines and gear systems were updated.

## **Mill Dam Construction Methods**

Newton (1986:159) states that the basic concept of a mill in the Gulf South includes four main features: a building, a dam, a wheel or turbine, and a situation (setting). The building usually takes the shape of a shotgun house, with the mill works inside. Newton (1986:161) indicates that the minimal physical requirements for the dam include a fall of at least six feet and a stable foundation protected from flooding. The most common site for a small mill was a small tight meander of an upland stream with an incised channel. The incised channel provided for a restricted channel-like storage pond. Newton (1986:162) states:

The tight meander provided the opportunity to cut a diversified channel across the neck of the meander. Such a channel permitted excess water to leave the millpond and exit below the mill dam. The mill site, thus protected from normal high water, could survive all but the most severe floods. This tight meander seems to have been one of the most important locational factors for small, upland mills on the gentle slopes of the Gulf South.

Evans (1850:207) indicates that there are several points to be attained and dangers to be guarded against in building mill dams: (1) Construct them so that the water tumbling over them cannot undermine their foundations at the lower side, and (2) Construct them so that heavy logs (or large pieces of ice) floating downstream cannot catch on them and will slide easily over. "If the bottom be of sand or clay, make a foundation of the trunks of long trees, laid close together on the bottom of the creek, with their butt ends downstream, as low and as close as possible, across the whole tumbling space" (Evans 1850:207).

Ruins of the mill site at 22LO948 are associated with the remains of a wood dam. For this reason, much of our research focused on wood dam construction techniques during the nineteenth century, especially in settings similar to that on Luxapalila Creek. Such dams tend to have several common features, but the manner of their construction is dependent on the setting, local raw materials, and available funding. Key features of wood mill dams often include:

- 1) Apron - a protective covering located on the downstream side of a dam that prevents the dam from being undercut by water falling over the dam; the impact of the falling water hits the apron instead of the soft bottom;
- 2) Abutments on each side of the dam, anchoring the structure; and
- 3) Frame construction work, sometimes constructed with plank outer covering, often using "fill" material such as timbers, brush, stone, gravel, soil, and even hay.

Different construction techniques and materials are used depending on local circumstances. Several different types of dams include: *Stone* (rip-rap, boulder wing, stone with wood covering, stone apron, stone and plank); *Stone and Timber* (stone and timber, brush, stone and gravel, pile and boulder, overhung apron, pile and boulder); and *Timber* (frame, hollow frame, crib, plank, plank crib (with stone or gravel interior), log, log and plank, pile and frame, pile and brush, double crib, light frame) (Leffel 1881). The mill dam at 22LO948 used wood as its main construction material and was probably a variation of the *Timber dam* (probably a pile and brush type).

In areas where the creek bottom does not have a solid stone base (as is the case at 22LO948), wood dams may be the preferred option. In such situations, foundation sills are constructed from the trunks of long trees stretching from bank to bank, laid close together on the bottom of the creek (Evans 1850; Leffel 1881).

According to Leffel (1881:44-45):

...it is a matter of economy to the mill owner to use all the different resources available at his command without any disproportionate tax upon either; and by availing himself of all the favorable conditions presented, he can generally make a strong and reliable dam without employing to any great extent, the skilled labor of the carpenter. A dam of this composite character (Brush, Stone, and Gravel), including logs, brush, stone, gravel, sand, loam and even clay in its materials ... can in many places be made more cheaply than any which we have yet described... Especial care must be taken in putting the 'filling' of a dam of this description - for which purpose gravel, sand and loam are used - to close up thoroughly all the spaces and arpitures between the rocks and among the brush and logs. If these are not completely filled, the water may find its way into the interior of the dam and it will be almost impossible to repair the mischief when discovered.

A brush dam is basically a wood frame (crib), which can be filled or braced to create a durable structure. It requires a considerable amount of timber. An outer layer of planks usually binds the timbers of the frame together. The empty space within the frame is then filled with gravel, brush, or clay, to give weight and solidify the cribwork. Craik (1877) even notes the use of facines, small bundles of wood tied together. The facines were placed in courses like shingles, each course overlapping another. Abutments should be at either end of the dam, built in a similar manner to the dam, but filled with stone and gravel.

Cobb (1851:185-186) describes a mill dam in antebellum Nuxubee County (just south of Lowndes County):

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*Phase I Historic Resources Survey Along Luxapalila Creek*

At the distance of a few paces only from his humble dwelling, stood Mr. Pomroy's saw and grist-mill, a low one-story building, on the edge of a steep dam formed of trunks of trees and large rocks, over which the water roared and dashed like a cataract, filling the woods around with a continuous sound not unpleasant to the ear on a still summer evening, and gently relieving the sombre silence of the scene. The building was the only framed tenement in the country, and had been erected several years before by an enterprising old Dutchman....

Construction of the dam may have been conducted in several ways. Because of the problem of working in a stream bed, a diversionary channel was often used to divert the flow of water around the construction area. Alternatively, on creeks with relatively low discharge, the dam could be constructed while leaving an opening in the middle of the dam for water to pour through, with this section being blocked last. And finally, dams were sometimes constructed while being protected by a protective coffer dam, located up and downstream of the work site.

## **Chapter 3. Archaeological Survey Methods And Results**

### **Archaeological Field Survey**

Our field survey consisted of two main tasks: (1) a survey of approximately 5 miles (8.0 km) within the creek channel and (2) a detailed site specific survey of the mill dam remains. The creek channel survey consisted of a canoe trip down the creek looking for sites within the creek channel or eroding into the creek from the adjacent banks. The mill site survey included documenting the site area by: (1) making a general reconnaissance of the site by walking the site area and noting surface artifacts and general site conditions; (2) excavating shovel tests on the creek banks next to the remains of the dam; (3) and site documentation by detailed maps and photographs of the site and its surrounding area. The results of field survey identified several loci, the locations of the different loci were overlain on a detailed site map produced by land surveyors (Browning, Inc. of Jackson) under a separate delivery order.

### **Luxapalila Creek Channel Survey**

The Luxapalila Creek channel survey (see Figure 2) was conducted during a low water level period, on 22 October 1997. A two-person canoe was used, as portions of the creek were known to be extremely shallow. Using aerial photographs acquired from the Lowndes County Tax Assessor's Office in Columbus we tried to put the canoe in as close to the confluence of Dry Branch and Luxapalila Creek as possible. We were able to work our way to within a couple of hundred yards of Luxapalila Creek, by following flagging tape marking the proposed relocation corridor of Mississippi Highway 12. The relocation corridor crosses Luxapalila Creek just downstream from Dry Branch.

We put in at the relocation corridor and paddled upstream to Dry Branch, located on the right (west) bank of Luxapalila Creek. The creek bank in this area was quite low, only a few feet above the present creek water level. We then proceeded down stream, keeping a close watch on the creek channel for evidence of the remains of fish weirs or mill dams. Additionally, we examined the river banks for eroding artifacts and features. At several points, the creek bank was elevated about 6-9 m (20-30 ft) above the creek surface.

The lowered water table exposed several sand and gravel bars between Dry Branch and the Walthall/Gaston Mill site (22LO948). At three different times we had to land the canoe and

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### ***Phase I Historic Resources Survey Along Luxapalila Creek***

carry it along sand/gravel bars because the creek channel narrowed to such a degree that limbs and logs obstructed our passage. Additionally, at one point the channel was only a few inches deep and we actually scooted along the creek bottom. No historic resources were noted between Dry Branch and the mill dam remains.

Proceeding downstream from the Walthall/Gaston Mill site (22LO948), no additional channel obstructions were encountered. At the downstream terminus of the project area, within view of Mississippi Highway 50 (Waterworks Road), the remains of a bridge support were noted on the left bank (Figure 8). Continued erosion may eventually undercut this structure, causing it to topple into the creek.

Across from the bridge pier, the Columbus waterworks has a platform erected with a large pipe extending down into the creek (Figure 9). This was used to draw water from a deep pool in the creek. The city waterworks no longer uses this as a source of drinking water for Columbus.

Although the creek channel survey provided a picturesque view of the Luxapalila, no archaeological sites were identified adjacent to or within the creek channel. The water level was at such a low level that it would have been virtually impossible to have missed remains of fish weirs or mill dams.

### **Phase I Survey of the Walthall/Gaston Mill Site (22LO948)**

Our initial assessment of the site area began by making a walkover of the site, noting field conditions and the likelihood of intact remains associated with the dam. The initial walkover was followed by the excavation of screened shovel tests in order to collect representative artifacts from the site. Shovel tests measured approximately 30 cm (12 inches) in diameter and were excavated to a minimum depth of 60 cm (24 inches). The soil from the shovel tests was screened through 0.64 cm (0.25 inch) hardware cloth. Records of each shovel test were kept in field notebooks, including information on content (i.e., presence or absence of artifacts, artifact descriptions) and context (i.e., soil color and texture descriptions, depth of definable levels, observed features). Distinct locational information describing transect, shovel test, and surface collection numbers was recorded on each artifact collection bag. Shovel tests were supplemented by surface inspection of the area. Sketch maps were produced in the field, locating each shovel test and noting the relative location of the creek banks and the dam.

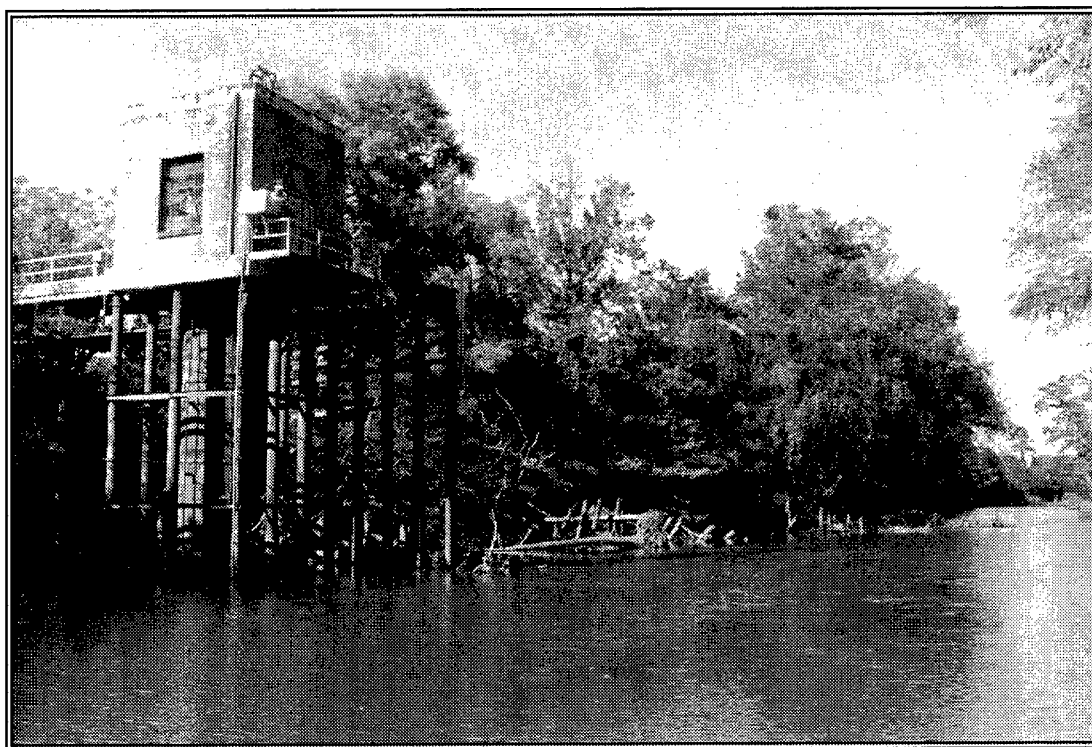
A key part of our work was to make a detailed drawing of the structural remains and adjacent areas on the creek banks. A transit was used to map in the site area. This included

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### ***Phase I Historic Resources Survey Along Luxapalila Creek***



**Figure 8.** View of bridge abutment on left (east) bank of Luxapalila Creek.



**Figure 9.** View of water intake structure on right (west) bank of Luxapalila Creek.

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***Phase I Historic Resources Survey Along Luxapalila Creek***

plotting the area where shovel tests were excavated as well as the different loci associated with the mill complex. The different loci were then plotted on a detailed topographic map prepared by land surveyors working under a separate delivery order. Extensive photographic documentation of the site was conducted. Black and white prints and color slides were taken using a 35 mm format. Additional prints were made using medium (2.25 by 2.25 in) and large (4 by 5 in) formats.

Nine loci were identified at the site with evidence of intact or displaced remains associated with the mill or the mill dam. Figure 10 shows the setting of 22LO948. Each of the loci are discussed in detail below.

Locus 1 is located on the right bank of the creek. The site was first identified by the remains at this locus. A series of upright posts were noted by Mr. John Connaway, who initially thought they were associated with a historic fish weir. Two roughly parallel lines of posts, or pilings, extending about 2-3 ft above the ground surface are the most obvious features at this locus. The area between these posts is sand, but the exterior portions have an abundance of small stakes. Figures 11 and 12 show details of the Locus 1 area.

Loci 2 and 3 are associated with numerous wooden stakes protruding from the right creek bank; Locus 3 is slightly farther downstream than Locus 2. There is no evidence of a retaining wall along either bank. The presence of the additional staves along the creek bank beyond this locus indicates that much of the knoll-like landform is artificial. Figure 13 shows the small stakes at this locus.

Locus 4 consists of several displaced timbers that appear to have formed elements of a structure, rather than portions of the basic dam framework. Figure 14 shows the beams at Locus 4. This locus is located in a short slough on the west side of the knoll on the right bank of the creek. The timbers have peg holes, slots, and joints that indicate a complex framework using mortise and tenon and half-lap joints. Two of the timbers are still connected at a mortise and tenon joint. Figures 15 - 17 show details of the beams. Overall, the context of the timbers at this locus is poor. The most significant aspect of the timbers is that they retain several detailed elements of construction techniques. Whether these represent the remains of the dam or mill itself could not be determined. Dr. Greg Jeane thought that the beams with the mortice and tenon joints might be associated with the penstock for a turbine. The heavy weight would have to be supported by a substantial base. The lay out of the setting suggests that the mill would have probably had a head of only 4-5 ft, making it likely that a shallow penstock was used for a turbine or tubmill. Dr. Jeane indicated that the timbers had elements which he is not familiar with, but stressed that heavy timbers were often recycled from barns, buildings, and structures.



**Figure 10.** Plan map of 22LO948 showing the different loci.

*Phase I Historic Resources Survey Along Luxapalila Creek*



Figure 11. View of Locus 1 remains.



Figure 12. Detail of Locus 1 remains.



Figure 13. View of Locus 2.



Figure 14. View of wood beams at Locus 4.



**Figure 15.** Detailed view of wood beam at Locus 4.



**Figure 16.** View of construction joints on beams at Locus 4.



**Figure 17.** Detail of other beam joint at Locus 4.

Locus 5 is a single large wood beam in an area with dense cypress roots and wooden stakes. The stakes are part of the brush dam "fill," and the wood beam is probably part of the framework. However, the beam is in a disturbed context not associated with its original position.

Locus 6 is associated with a wooden beam with approximately 10 wood planks nailed to one side. The beam and planks are lying in a pool of water and appear to be displaced from any original context. This structural element probably represents the remains of a retaining wall for the "brush dam."

The most conspicuous aspect of Locus 7 consists of a series of large (approximately 2.5 ft [0.75 m] diameter) wooden beams lying perpendicular to the slough or race on the right bank of the creek; limited excavation at this locus identified three of these large beams in a semi-stacked arrangement. Additional features include a cluster of wooden stakes and two areas of parallel planks on end. One beam is 36 ft (11.0 m) long and has a "V" cut on one end. This arrangement of large beams appears to be in its original position. Figures 18-20 show details of this locus.

Locus 8 consists of two roughly parallel wooden beams along the northwestern edge of the slue, abutting the embankment (Figure 21). The beams are approximately 16 ft (5 m) long. A series of planks appear to be attached (nailed?) to the underside of one of the beams. In front (to the north) of the beams is a small concentration of wooden stakes apparently associated with the dam "fill." The beams appear to be in their original position. These also are probably foundation sill elements.

Locus 9 is a peninsula-like projection extending for nearly 100 ft (30.5 m) from the left bank of the creek. This projection is entirely man-made and represents a sizeable portion of the remains of the mill "brush dam." Several cypress trees are growing from the ruins. There are two key elements of this locus. The first element consists of several large round beams (approximately 1.0 ft [30 cm] in diameter) lying parallel to the ground surface (Figure 22). The second element is numerous wooden stakes, many of which are now held in place by the cypress roots.

Only three metal artifacts were noted from the site. A rusted iron mallet head was found between Loci 1 and 8. Similar mallets were used to repair and shape mill stones. Two iron objects, probably machinery parts, were the only other artifacts noted besides the wood structural remains. Mr. Edward Sciple, owner and operator of Sciple's Mill, a water powered mill near Dekalb, Mississippi, indicated that the two iron objects might be part of a cotton press. Both the objects are about three feet long and are heavy gauge iron.



**Figure 18.** View of foundation sills at Locus 7.



**Figure 19.** View of details of foundation sill at Locus 7.



Figure 20. End view of foundation sills at Locus 7.



**Figure 21.** View of foundation sill at Locus 8.

## **Chapter 4. Summary and Recommendations**

### **Results of the Creek Survey**

Thirty-eight archaeological sites are recorded along Luxapalila Creek in Lowndes County, Mississippi. All but two of the sites are associated with prehistoric occupations. The two historic sites are 22LO948 (this report) and a late nineteenth/early twentieth century ruin of a concrete dam surveyed near waterworks road discussed by Southerlin et al. (1997). The concrete dam ruins have since been moved and a series of stone drop structures have been constructed along that portion of the creek .

No evidence of any new sites or previously recorded archaeological sites was noted while we conducted the creek channel survey. Most of the sites recorded within 0.8 km (0.5 miles) of the creek channel are set slightly back from the creek banks. None of the 38 sites identified were definitively recommended eligible for the NRHP; most were ineligible for the NRHP or their eligibility status was not clearly defined.

### **Results of Phase I Survey at the Walthall/Gaston Mill Site (22LO948)**

#### **Property History and Ownership**

This part of Mississippi was opened to American settlers during the second half of the early nineteenth century, after Choctaw and Chickasaw land cessations in 1816. Columbus grew from an isolated community to an industrious city in less than 50 years. An important part of the early industrial growth of Columbus was provided by mills, especially grist and saw mills. The earliest ownership record found of the property where 22LO948 is located dates from 1825, when the property was deeded to Mason Cummings. Within 10 years, however, the property was the focus of several investment partnerships, and by 1840 a mill was in operation at the site. The first reference of the mill by name is in 1848 when "Walthalls Mill" is mentioned in county records.

"Walthall's Mill" appears to been a successful operation by 1850, but it exchanged hands among several owners within the next decade. By 1863 the mill is mentioned in a land deed as "Gaston Mill" and the mill appears to have ceased operation by 1870. There may not have been visible remains of the mill since the late nineteenth century; only during periods of very low water are the remains visible today. The present owner, Mr. James Ebersol, has owned the

property since 1946 and was unaware of a mill having been on his property (Ebersol, personal communication 1997).

By the mid-nineteenth century water powered mills were being replaced by steam powered mills because of their greater efficiency and output. By the late nineteenth century water powered mills were becoming obsolete; in 1880 there were more steam powered mills in Lowndes County than there were water powered mills.

### **Mill Dam Construction**

The remains of the mill dam at 22LO948 includes several structural loci, all indicating that the dam had been originally constructed of wood. Two factors played important roles in the dam construction: location and construction costs. This area along Luxapalila Creek has gravel bars and soft unconsolidated stone formations. In settings where the creek has a soft floor, wood is a useful building material. Lowndes County had plenty of wood for building and also had operating saw mills to shape the lumber. Good building stone is unavailable locally, and was probably too expensive to transport to the building site. The availability of large amounts of timber and wood, combined with the frontier practice of "*making do*" seem to have played a role in the development of plans by local investors and operators to construct a mill and dam at this particular bend in Luxapalila Creek – making good use of available resources and "*making do*." The construction seems to indicate an approach following general guidelines presented by millwright guide books, but "*making do*" with available resources (Gregory Jeane, personal communication 1998).

Phase I survey at 22LO948 included photographic documentation, site mapping, and limited exploratory excavations. The photographic documentation focused on recording the general setting and specific details of the remains of the dam. Site mapping focused on detailed mapping of several loci associated with structural remains and the placement of the loci on the detailed topographic map provided by the USACE, Mobile District. The limited excavations focused on trying to determine the extent and/or presence of any remaining intact and potentially significant archaeological deposits or structural remains.

### **National Register of Historic Places Recommendations**

As indicated earlier in this report, architectural and archaeological resources evaluated for the NRHP must demonstrate good integrity. Integrity is divided into seven separate qualities: *location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association*. If these qualities are

diminished , and a historic property no longer no longer retains the identity or character for which it is judged significant, then that resource is not eligible for the NRHP due to loss of integrity (NPS 1991:44).

The *location* of the mill dam is relatively unchanged, although a significant portion has been washed away. Portions of the brush work and foundation sills remain in place at 22LO948. However, the mortise and tenon beams that were parts of a probable penstock for a tub wheel or turbine are clearly displaced from their original position.

The *design* of the original site lay out could not be reliably reconstructed, either by the historic documentation review or by trying to reconstruct the site plan using the remaining structural elements. The *setting* of the site has also significantly changed. The creek itself no longer has the same flow as during the time the mill was in operation; recent channelization downstream from the site has altered the gradient, thus the water level is lower than during the nineteenth century. Additionally, numerous floods have modified the landscape, resulting in an undetermined degree of erosion in the mill dam area.

The *materials* also lack a high degree of integrity. While aspects of the brush dam and mortise and tenon beams are present, in their present condition these do not constitute significant material aspects of the site. Similarly, the present condition of the site does not allow for an accurate evaluation of *workmanship*.

The site does not display a *feeling* of the historic use of the area. The dam is in poor condition and no associated features such as the mill, possible bridge, outbuildings, or miller's house were identified. It is unlikely that additional archaeological investigations will generate substantive information about the site, thus it lacks *association* with research realms that can contribute to the understanding of the historic development of the region.

## Summary

In this Phase I investigation we documented details of the local history and archaeology of Lowndes County as it is related to 22LO948 and Luxapalila Creek. An archaeological survey of the Luxapalila Creek channel failed to identify additional historic properties, either eroding from the adjacent banks or in the channel itself. Background research compiled considerable property ownership data for the property. However, detailed plans showing structural characteristics and site layout were not found, with the exception of a very general 1835 plat showing a "slue" and "mill." While there are a number elements of the mill dam site remaining, the overall integrity has deteriorated to such a degree that the site is recommended ineligible for

the NRHP Although there are fairly extensive structural ruins of the mill dam at 22LO948 we noted no evidence of intact remains associated with the mill itself. Furthermore, the mill dam has been severely disturbed by time and the floodwaters of the Luxapalila. Thus, due to the poor condition and lack of integrity, we recommend 22LO948 ineligible for the NRHP and no additional work is recommended at the site.

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United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE)

1992 *Historic Resources Assessment of Proposed Project Changes, Luxapalila Creek Flood Control Project, Lamar County, Alabama and Lowndes County, Mississippi*. Report prepared by the US Army Corps of Engineers, Mobile District, Mobile AL.

United States Army Engineer District Mobile (USAEDM)

1982 *An Examination of the Luxapalila Creek Major Flood Control Study Area for Cultural Resources, Lowndes County, Mississippi*. Report prepared by the US Army Engineers District, Mobile, Mobile, AL.

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1977 *Survey of the Tombigbee River, Luxapalila Creek Segment, Lamar County, Alabama*. Report submitted to the National Park Service, Atlanta by the University of Southern Mississippi, Hattiesburg, MS.

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## **Appendix A:**

### **Resumes Of Key Project Personnel**

**Bobby G. Southerlin**

Brockington and Associates, Inc.  
5980 Unity Drive, Suite A  
Norcross, Georgia 30071  
770-662-5807, fax 770-662-5824  
Brocking1@aol.com

**Professional Position**

Archaeologist and Vice President

**Areas of Specialization**

Mississippian Settlement Patterns in the Etowah River Valley  
Archaeology of Southeastern Coastal Plain  
Material Culture Replication (lithics and ceramics)  
Vertebrate Faunal Analysis

**Education**

M.A. in Anthropology, University of Georgia, 1993.  
B.A. in Anthropology, University of South Carolina, 1988.

**Professional Memberships**

Georgia Council of Professional Archaeologists  
Society for Georgia Archaeology  
Society for American Archaeology  
Archaeological Society of South Carolina  
Southeastern Archaeological Conference

**Experience** (detailed listing of projects and reports available on request)

**Cultural Resource Surveys (Phase I) and Archaeological Site Testing (Phase II)**

Utility Corridors for ANR Pipeline Company (Detroit), Georgia Power Company (Atlanta), Duke Power Company (Charlotte), Oglethorpe Power Corporation, and Transco (Houston).

Transportation Corridors for the Georgia and South Carolina Departments of Transportation.

Development Tracts for Consolidated Government of the City of Columbus/Muscogee County (Georgia), Macon County (North Carolina), U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Savannah and Mobile Districts), South Carolina Electric and Gas Company (Columbia), and various private developers (Georgia and South Carolina).

### **Archaeological Data Recovery (Phase III)**

Three prehistoric sites (38HR243, 38HR254, and 38HR258) in Horry County, South Carolina for Tidewater Plantation and Golf Club (Myrtle Beach, S.C.).

Two Prehistoric sites (38LX50 and 38LX141) in Lexington County, South Carolina for the South Carolina Department of Transportation.

The Callawassie Burial Mound and Village site (38BU19) in Beaufort County, South Carolina.

Two prehistoric sites (9FL203 and 9FL206) in Floyd County, Georgia for the Georgia Department of Transportation.

### **Federal Energy Regulatory Commission Related Investigations**

Georgia Power Company (Flint River Hydroelectric Project).

South Carolina Electric and Gas Company (Riverside Park Tract of the Stephens Creek Hydroelectric Project).

## **Bruce G. Harvey**

Brockington and Associates, Inc.  
1051 Johnnie Dodds Blvd., Suite F  
Mt. Pleasant, SC 29464  
803-881-3128 Fax 803-849-1776  
Brocking2@aol.com

**Professional Position:** Senior Historian

**Areas of Specialization:** American Architecture  
Victorian America  
American Intellectual History

**Education:** Ph.D. in U.S. History Candidate, Vanderbilt University, Nashville, TN.  
M.A. in Applied History, University of South Carolina, Columbia, SC, 1988.  
B.A. in History, Allegheny College, Meadville, PA, 1985.

**Professional Memberships:** Vernacular Architecture Forum  
Society of Architectural Historians  
American Historical Association  
American Association for State and Local History

### **Relevant Experience:**

Senior Historian and Project Manager for the architectural history of Beaufort County, South Carolina, (in-progress), for the Town of Beaufort.

Senior Historian and Project Manager for a Sumter County preservation planning project, Sumter, South Carolina. (In-progress), for the Sumter County Historical Society.

Senior Historian for an architectural and historical survey of Jasper County, South Carolina, for the Low Country Council of Governments.

Senior Historian for a cultural resource management plan for Maxwell Air Force Base, Alabama, for the Mobile District, Corps of Engineers.

Senior Historian for an architectural survey and building maintenance plan at Maxwell Air Force Base, Alabama for the Mobile District, Corps of Engineers.

Senior Historian for a historic resources survey at the Fleet Industrial Supply Center, Duval County, Florida, for the Mobile District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Senior Historian for the cultural overview volume of a historic preservation plan for Fort Rucker, Alabama, for the Mobile District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Senior Historian for a cultural resources assessment of two proposed pipeline corridors, from Bethune to Florence, South Carolina, for the South Carolina Pipeline Corporation.

**DAWN M. REID**

Brockington and Associates, Inc.  
5980 Unity Drive, Suite A  
Norcross, Georgia 30071  
770-662-5807, fax 770-662-5824  
brocking1@aol.com

**Professional Position**

Archaeologist

**Areas of Specialization**

Prehistoric Lithic Technology and Replication  
Groundstone Replication  
Zooarchaeology  
Palynology and Sediment Particle Analysis

**Education**

B.S. in Anthropology, University of California, Riverside, 1992.  
Currently enrolled at University of Georgia, Athens, Geography Graduate Program

**Professional Memberships**

Society for California Archaeology  
Society for Georgia Archaeology  
Society for American Archaeology  
Southeastern Archaeological Conference

**Experience (detailed listing of projects available on request)**

**Non-Archaeological:**

1985 - 1991      Regional Training Instructor, Great Western Bank, Real Estate  
Division

**Archaeological (1989 - present)**

**Cultural Resource Surveys (Phase I) and Archaeological Site Testing (Phase II)**

Utility Corridors and site testing for ANR Pipeline Company (Detroit); Georgia  
Power Company (Atlanta); Duke Power Company (Charlotte); Oglethorpe  
Power Company; City of Dublin, Georgia; Bartow County, Georgia.

Transportation Corridors and site testing for Georgia and South Carolina Departments of Transportation.

Development Tracts for the City of Columbus, Georgia; U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Savannah and Mobile Districts); South Carolina Electric and Gas Company; Georgia Department of Transportation; and various private developers.

**Archaeological Data Recovery (Phase III)**

Historic and Prehistoric sites for the University of California; City of Mission Viejo, California; California State University; City of Irvine, California; Orange County, California; Georgia and South Carolina Departments of Transportation; and various private developers including Tidewater Plantation, Myrtle Beach, SC. and Callawassie Residential Developers, Callawassie, SC.

**Reports Authored** (detailed listing available on request)

**Papers Presented**

1996 Dawn Reid

*A Mississippian Kitchen: A Feature Cluster at 9FL206.* Paper presented at the Society for American Archaeology Conference, New Orleans, Louisiana.

1995 Dawn Reid

*Caching Behavior in Northwest Georgia During the Middle Woodland Period.* Paper presented at the Southeastern Archaeological Conference, Knoxville Tennessee.

1993 Dawn M. Reid, and Mari A. Pritchard-Parker

*Metate Roughening, A Replicative Study: Pecking vs. Pounding,* presented by senior author at Society for California Archaeology meetings, April 1992 and published in "Proceedings of the Society of California Archaeology" Vol. 6, 1993.

## **Appendix B:**

### **Mississippi State Historic Preservation Office Review Comments**



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
MOBILE DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS  
P. O. BOX 2288  
MOBILE, ALABAMA 36628-0001

July 31, 1998

08-027-48  
AUG 05 1998

REPLY TO  
ATTENTION OF:

Environmental Resources Planning Section  
Planning and Environmental Division

Mr. Elbert Hilliard  
Mississippi State Historic  
Preservation Officer  
ATTN: Mr. Roger Walker  
Interagency Coordinator  
Department of Archives and History  
Post Office Box 571  
Jackson, Mississippi 39205-0571

Dear Mr. Hilliard:

Enclosed you will find two copies of the draft report *Phase I Historic Resources Survey Along Luxapapila Creek and at the Remains of an Historic Mill (22Lo948), Lowndes County, Mississippi* for your information, review, and concurrence.

If you concur with the findings of this report, please sign in the space afforded below and return this letter to us within thirty days of your receipt. Any review comments you may have would be appreciated. By copy of this letter, I am forwarding a copy of the draft to Mr. Jack Elliott of your Northeast Mississippi office. Mr. Elliott was helpful in the organization of this study.

We greatly appreciate your continued cooperation in the management of historic resources under the jurisdiction of the Mobile District. If you have further questions concerning the plan, please do not hesitate to call Mr. Ernie Seckinger at (205) 694-4107.

Sincerely,

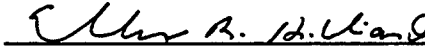


Susan Ivester Rees  
Acting Chief, Environment and  
Resources Branch

Copy Furnished:

Mr. Jack Elliott  
Drawer AR  
Missississippi, Mississippi 39762

CONCURRENCE:

 8-10-1998  
Elbert Hilliard (Date)  
Mississippi State Historic Preservation Officer