

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

CONSULTANT:	SEARCH 700 N. 9th Avenue, Pensacola, Florida 32501
PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR, ARCHAEOLOGY:	Brittany Ricketts, MA, RPA
CLIENT:	Florida Department of Transportation District 2
DATE:	May 2025
FM NO. #:	210447-5-32-01
SEARCH PROJECT #:	230292

This report details the results of a cultural resource assessment survey (CRAS) addendum of proposed pond locations in St. Johns County, Florida. The Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) District 2 is proposing to construct stormwater ponds associated with improvements along State Road (SR) 16 in St. Johns County, Florida (**Figure 1**). This report is an addendum to the previous CRAS report titled *Cultural Resource Assessment Survey for State Road 16 from International Golf Parkway to I-95, St. Johns County, Florida* (Mele et al. 2024; FMSF No. TBD) and an addendum report titled *Cultural Resource Assessment Survey in Support of State Road 16 Ponds, St. Johns County, Florida* (Mele 2024, FMSF No. 29403) completed by SEARCH in January and May of 2024.

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

Four ponds and one new easement are included in the APE: Pond 2C, Pond 3C, Pond 4C, Pond 5C, and one new easement area (herein referred to as Easement). Pond 2C, Pond 3C, and Pond 4C were previously surveyed in 2024 (Mele 2024); review of current project plans indicates that these pond footprints have not changed significantly since that survey and the original study remains sufficient. Therefore, the current field effort was limited to those locations within the APE that have not yet been subjected to archaeological or architectural history survey (Pond 5C and Easement). The total area of the project is 43.1 acres (ac), and the total acreage surveyed by the current project is 12.7 ac. The discussions of regional precontact and postcontact history, historic map and aerial review, research design, and laboratory methods provided in the 2024 reports apply to the current CRAS and are not repeated in this addendum.

The work was conducted to comply with Public Law 113-287 (Title 54 USC), which incorporates the provisions of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) of 1966, as amended, including Section 106 (54 U.S.C. § 306108), and the Archaeological and Historic Preservation Act of 1974, as amended, 36 CFR Part 800 (Protection of Historic Properties), and all laws, regulations, and guidelines promulgated by the State of Florida governing cultural resources work, in particular Chapters 267.031(1) and 267.12, Florida Statutes and 1A-46, Florida Administrative Code. All work was performed in accordance with Part 2, Chapter 8, of the FDOT's Project Development & Environment (PD&E) Manual (revised July 2024) and the Florida Division of Historical Resources' (FDHR) recommendations for such projects, as stipulated in the FDHR's *Cultural Resource Management Standards & Operations Manual, Module Three: Guidelines for Use by Historic Preservation Professionals* (2002). The work was performed by professionals who meet the qualifications established in the *Secretary of the Interior's Standards and Guidelines* (48 FR 44716, 29 September 1983).

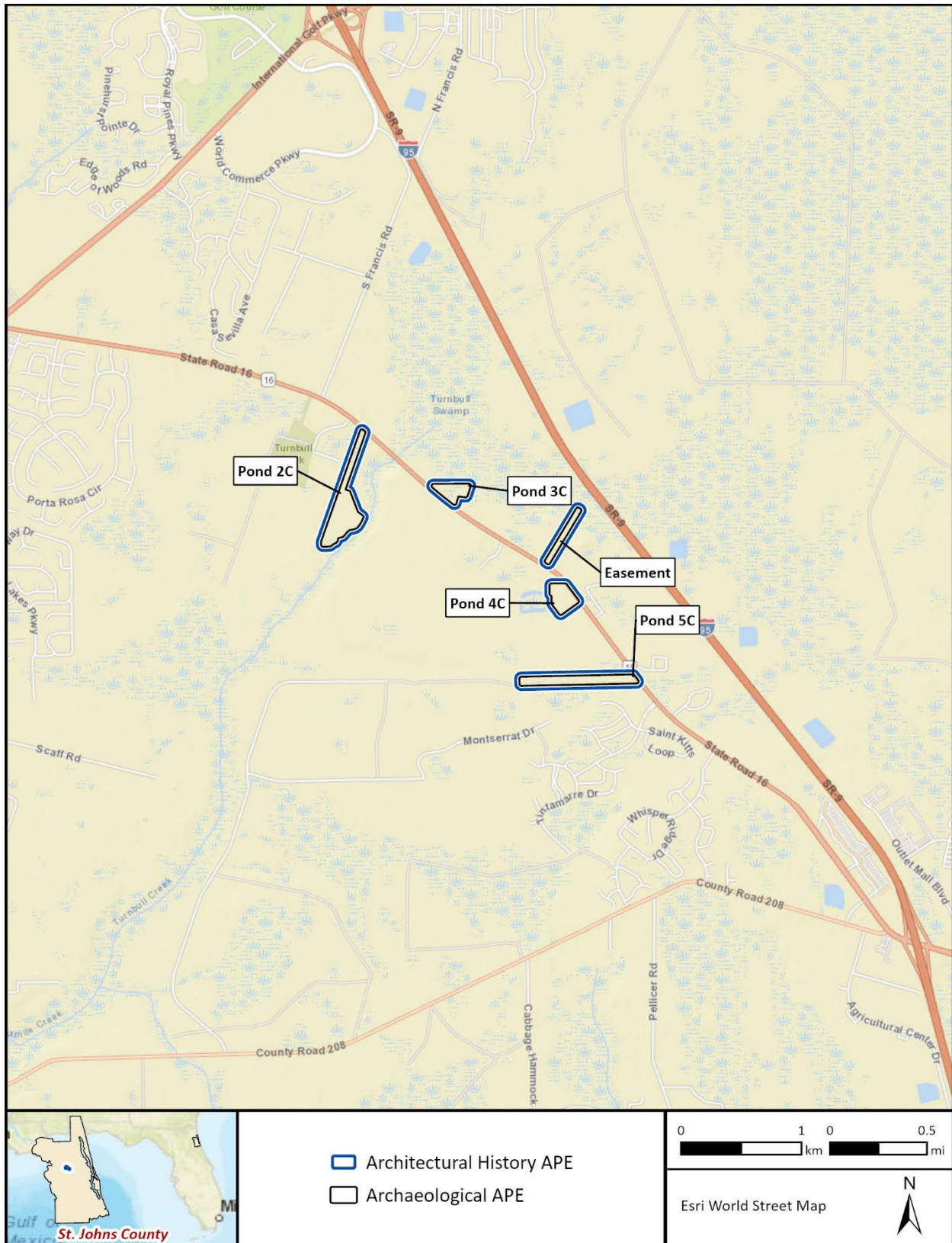


Figure 1. Location of the APE in St. Johns County, Florida.



Figure 2. Aerial view of the APE.

ENVIRONMENT AND MODERN CONDITIONS

The APE is in an area of mixed development, with large, wooded parcels between modern residential communities, single-family homes, and scattered commercial properties west of the City of St. Augustine in central St. Johns County. The proposed ponds are on either side of SR 16 between its intersections with Turnbull Creek Road and Turnbull Drive.

The easement is in an undeveloped parcel adjacent to the northern side of SR 16 and contains stands of mature pine and mixed hardwoods, as well as a thick undergrowth of saw palmetto and shrubs, with further undeveloped land to the north and small single-family parcels to the east. Pond 5C falls on the southern side of SR 16, in a large, predominately undeveloped parcel with an access road bordered by tall grasses, scattered shrubs, and occasional stands of saw palmetto. It is directly north of a large, developed, suburban community. The APE is in Sections 26 and 36 of Township 6 South, Range 28 East.

According to Brooks (1981), the APE falls within the Palatka Anomalies Province, which is associated with limestone erosion, stream diversion, and silty deposits from Plio-Pleistocene estuarine and lagoonal environments. Elevations within the APE are approximately 23–26 ft above mean sea level. According to the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) online Web Soil Survey database (USDA NRCS 2025), mapped soils within the APE consist of very poorly drained fine sands and muck and poorly drained fine sands (**Figure 3**).

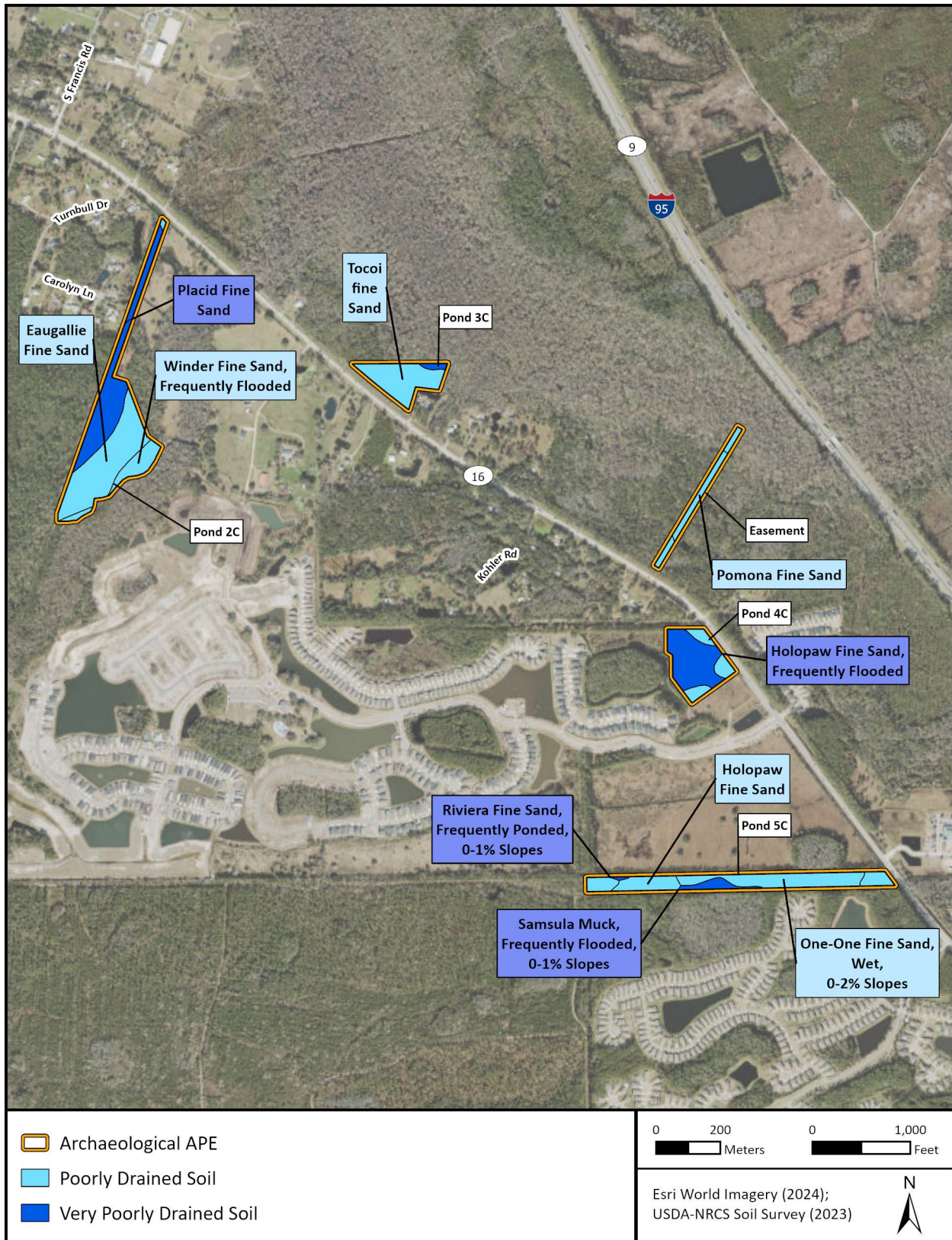


Figure 3. Mapped soils within the APE.

FLORIDA MASTER SITE FILE REVIEW

SEARCH reviewed the Florida Master Site File (FMSF) data, updated January 2025, to identify previously recorded cultural surveys within the APE. The FMSF review indicates that eight previous surveys have been conducted within the APE (**Table 1; Figure 4**). The most pertinent to the current project are FMSF Survey Nos. 6563, 24323, and 29403; these cover most of the APE and are discussed in greater detail below.

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

FMSF No.	Title	Citation
*6563	<i>A Cultural Resources Assessment Survey of the Ridge Tract, A Planned Unit Development in St. Johns County, Florida</i>	Johnston (2001)
10260	<i>A Cultural Resource Reconnaissance Survey of the Calvary Baptist Church Parcel St. Johns County, Florida</i>	Hendryx and Sipe (2004)
10426	<i>A Cultural Resource Reconnaissance Survey of the Alterra Group, 16 Development LLC Parcel, St Johns County, Florida</i>	Hendryx and Sipe (2004)
*14001	<i>Phase 1 Cultural Resource Assessment Survey of SR 16 from SR 13 to Woodlawn Road, St. Johns County, Florida.</i>	Laughlin and Linville (2006)
*21282	<i>"One of the most lovely spots I have ever feasted my eyes on" Northwest St. Johns County Historical Study and Architectural Survey</i>	Gardner et al. (2014)
*24323	<i>Cultural Resource Assessment Survey of the Grand Oaks Development, St. Johns County, Florida.</i>	Ste. Claire (2017)
*TBD	<i>Cultural Resource Assessment Survey for State Road 16 from International Golf Parkway to I-95, St. Johns County, Florida</i>	Mele et al. (2024)
*29403	<i>Cultural Resource Assessment Survey in Support of State Road 16 Ponds, St. Johns County, Florida</i>	Mele, Matthew (2024)

**Surveys overlapping the footprints of the untested Pond 5C and Easement.*

FMSF Survey No. 6563 is a CRAS for housing development conducted by Florida Archaeological Services in 2001. The archaeological portion of the survey did not include the excavation of shovel tests within the current APE of Pond 5C. No archaeological sites or other historic resources were identified within the current APE.

FMSF Survey No. 24323 is a CRAS of the Grand Oaks Development conducted by Heritage Cultural Services in 2017. The archaeological portion of the survey included the excavation of 13 negative shovel tests within the current APE, including 10 within the proposed footprint of Pond 2C and three within the footprint of Pond 4C. No archaeological sites or other historic resources were identified within the current APE.

SEARCH conducted a Ponds Addendum CRAS in 2024 (FMSF Survey No. 29403), which surveyed three of the five locations encompassed in this study. The archaeological portion of the survey included the excavation of 19 negative shovel tests within the current APE, including 13 within the proposed footprint of Pond 2C, two within the footprint of Pond 3C, and four within the footprint of Pond 4C. No archaeological sites or other historic resources were identified within the current APE.

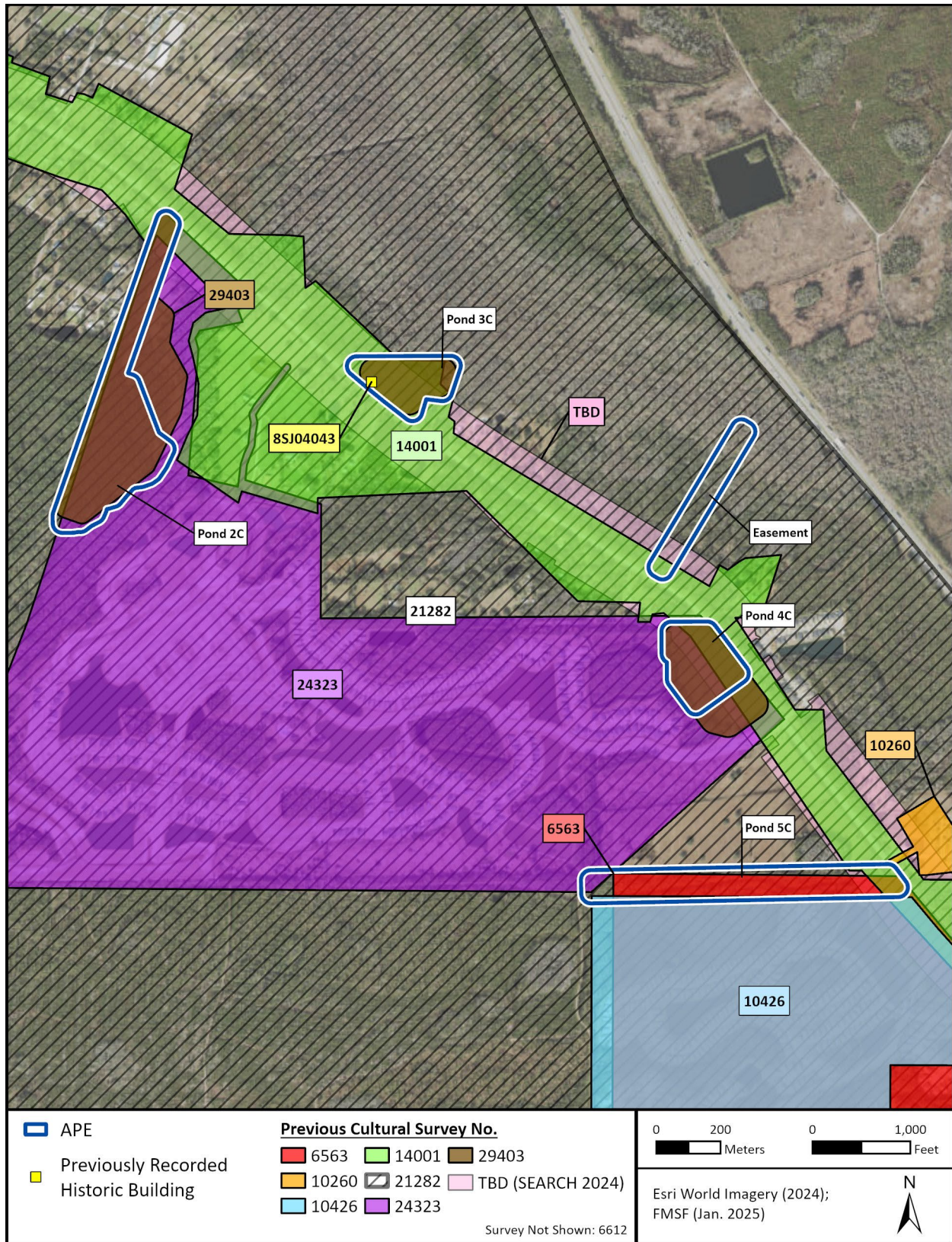


Figure 4. Previous cultural surveys and resources within the APE.

SURVEY METHODS

Archaeological Field Methods

The archaeological field survey consisted of systematic subsurface shovel testing according to the potential for buried archaeological sites. Areas that have been tested previously according to Module Three standards did not require additional survey. The intensity of subsurface testing was based on the presence or absence of conditions conducive to human habitation (i.e., proximity to fresh water, topography, and soil drainage). Proximity to areas tested during previously conducted surveys and evidence of existing disturbance was considered. Based on an examination of environmental variables (soil drainage, access to wetlands, and relative elevation) and the absence of any previously identified archaeological sites or occurrences nearby, the potential for archaeological sites to be present within the APE was considered low. Subsurface tests were excavated at intervals of 100 meters (m; 328ft), according to the low probability for archaeological resources throughout the APE.

Shovel tests measured approximately 50 centimeters (cm; 20 inches [in]) in diameter and were excavated to a minimum depth of 100 cm below surface (cmbs; 39 inbs), subsurface conditions permitting. Excavated sediments were screened through 1/4-inch mesh hardware cloth. “No-dig” points were recorded in locations where testing was attempted but confirmed to be infeasible due to water inundation. The location of each shovel test and no-dig point was marked on aerial photographs of the project area. Global Positioning System (GPS) coordinates were recorded for each shovel test and no-dig location with handheld units. The cultural content, stratigraphy, and environmental setting of each shovel test were recorded.

Architectural Field Methods

The architectural field survey, including visual examination of the project APE, confirmed the absence of historic-aged buildings or structures; therefore, no further architectural history work was necessary.

Certified Local Government Consultation

St. Johns County is a Certified Local Government (CLG). SEARCH initiated consultation with Ms. Hali Barkley, the CLG representative for the county. On February 18, 2025, SEARCH archaeologist Brittany Ricketts, MA, emailed Ms. Barkley to discuss the project and to inquire whether the county might have concerns related to cultural resources associated with the project. In the email, Mrs. Ricketts provided the project maps to Ms. Barkley for review. As of the submittal of this report, Ms. Barkley has not responded with any concerns.

Procedures to Deal with Unexpected Discoveries

Every reasonable effort has been made during this investigation to identify and evaluate possible locations of precontact and postcontact archaeological sites; however, it is possible that evidence of cultural resources may yet be encountered within the project limits. Should any evidence of unrecorded cultural resources be discovered during construction activities, all work in that portion of the project area must stop. Evidence of cultural resources includes aboriginal or historic pottery, precontact stone tools, bone or shell tools, historic trash pits, and historic building foundations. Should questionable materials be uncovered during the excavation of the project area, representatives of FDOT District 2 will assist in the identification and preliminary assessment of the materials. If such evidence is found, the FDHR will be notified within two working days.

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

RESULTS

Archaeological Survey Results

The APE is west of St. Augustine, Florida, in an area characterized by wooded parcels with sporadic marsh and swamp, scattered residential development, and cleared but undeveloped parcels (**Figure 5** and **Figure 6**). Twelve shovel tests were excavated within untested portions of the APE, and three no-dig points were marked where testing was not possible due to water inundation at the surface (**Figure 7**). Results of archaeological testing in each location are discussed below. An FDHR survey log sheet is provided in **Attachment 1**.

Easement

The Easement consists of a 1.89 ac footprint in the middle of the APE along the north side of SR 16 (see **Figure 6**). Modern conditions consist of pine and mixed hardwood forest with dense brush throughout most of the Easement; a non-historic canal runs parallel along the north side of the Easement (see **Figure 6**). Three shovel tests were excavated within the footprint, all of which were negative for artifacts. Two no-dig points were marked in the central portion of the Easement footprint where excavation was precluded due to inundated soils.

A typical soil profile within the Easement consisted of dark (10YR 4/1) sandy loam from 0 to 28 cmbs (Stratum I), over very dark gray (10YR 3/1) sandy loam from 28 to 75 cmbs (Stratum II) over brown (10YR 4/3) sand from 75 to 90 cmbs (**Figure 8**). Shovel tests within the Easement



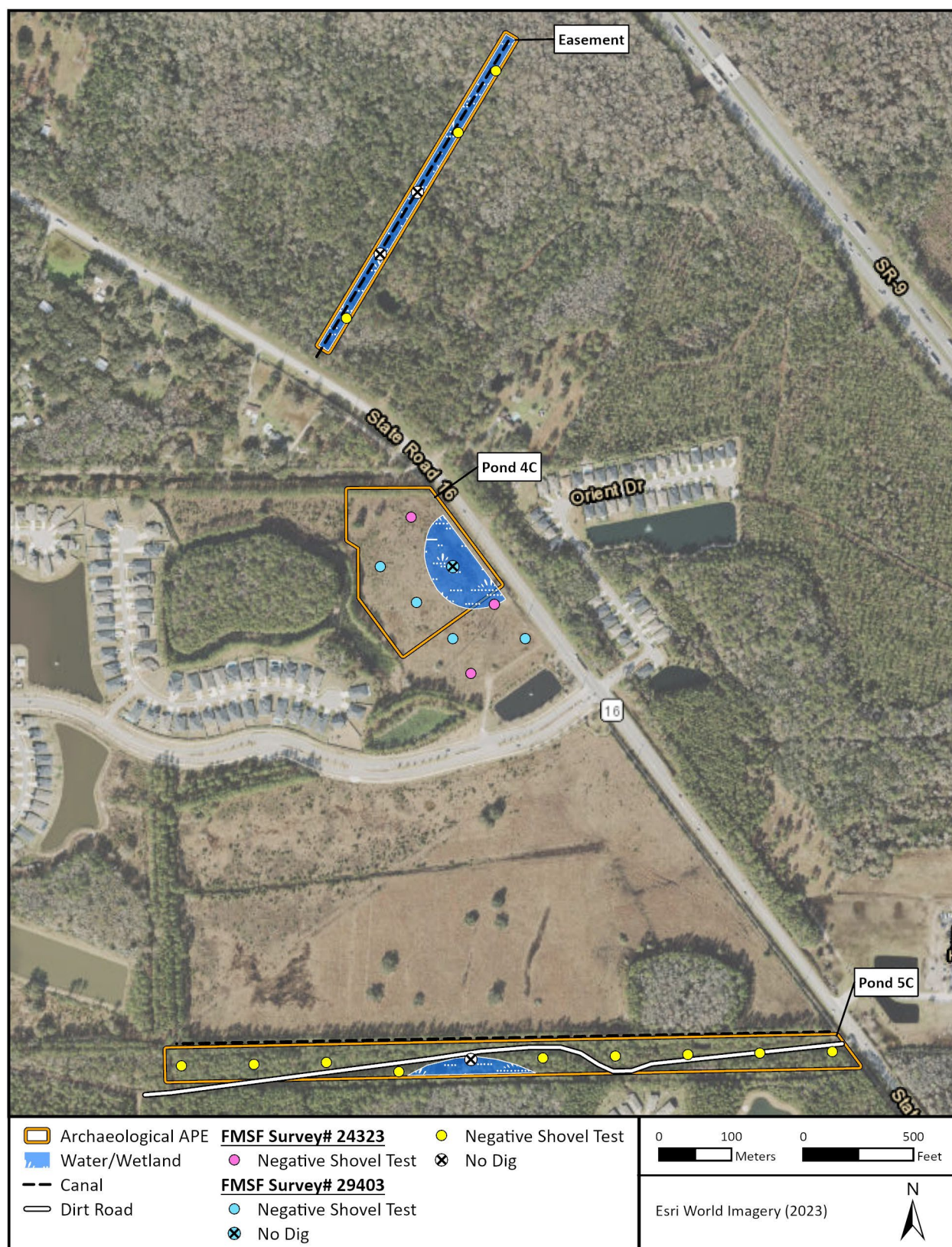


Figure 6. Results of archaeological survey within APE, part 2 of 2.



Figure 7. Representative views of the APE. Top left: canal within easement, view east. Top right: view of canal within easement, view west. Middle left: environmental overview within easement, view north. Middle right: environmental overview within Pond 5C, view north. Bottom right: wetland north of access road in Pond 5C, view north. Bottom left: access road within Pond 5C, view west.

terminated due to water inundation at a maximum depth of 90 cmbs. No artifacts were observed, and no archaeological sites or occurrences were identified. No further archaeological survey is recommended for the Easement.

Pond 5C

Pond 5C consists of a 9.9 ac footprint in the southern end of the APE along the south side of SR 16. Modern conditions consist of a dirt road extending westward from SR 16 within the pond bordered by pine and mixed hardwood forest with dense brush and a canal along the roadway (see **Figure 7**). Nine shovel tests were excavated within the footprint, all of which were negative for artifacts. One no-dig point was marked in the central portion of the pond footprint, where excavation was precluded due to water inundation at the surface (see **Figure 6**).

A typical soil profile within Pond 5C consists of dark (10YR 4/1) sandy loam from 0 to 28 cmbs (Stratum I), over very dark gray (10YR 3/1) sandy loam from 28 to 75 cmbs (Stratum II), over brown (10YR 4/3) sand from 75 to 90 cmbs (see **Figure 8**). Shovel tests within the Pond 5C easement terminated due to water inundation at a maximum depth of 90 cmbs. No artifacts were observed, and no archaeological sites or occurrences were identified; no further archaeological survey is recommended for Pond 5C.



Figure 8. Typical shovel test profiles. Left: typical shovel test profile in Easement. Right: typical shovel test profile Pond 5C, with water inundation at 100 cm.

Architectural Survey Results

The architectural field survey, including visual examination of the project APE, confirmed the absence of historic-aged buildings or structures. No further architectural history is recommended.

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

This report details the results of a CRAS of preferred pond locations and easement/flood compensation areas in St. Johns County, Florida. This report is an addendum to the previous CRAS report titled *Cultural Resource Assessment Survey for State Road 16 from International Golf Parkway to I-95, St. Johns County, Florida*, which was completed by SEARCH in January 2024 (Mele et al. 2024, FMSF No. TBD) and an addendum report titled *Cultural Resource Assessment Survey in Support of State Road 16 Ponds, St. Johns County, Florida* (Mele 2024, FMSF No. 29403), which was completed in May of 2024.

Archaeological survey consisted of pedestrian survey and shovel testing in portions of the APE not covered by previous Module Three—compliant cultural resource surveys, primarily FMSF Survey No. 29403, which was conducted in support of the SR 16 Ponds (Mele 2024). As such, archaeological testing was limited to untested portions of the APE, which included the Easement and Pond 5C. Twelve shovel tests were excavated throughout the APE, and three no-dig points were marked where testing was not possible due to standing water. All shovel tests were negative for artifacts, and no archaeological sites or occurrences were identified. No further archaeological survey is recommended in support of the SR 16 ponds project.

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

No National Register of Historic Places (NRHP)-listed or -eligible cultural resources were identified within the project APE. The project will result in No Historic Properties Affected, and no further cultural resources work is recommended.

REFERENCES CITED

Brooks, H.K.

- 1981 *Guide to the Physiographic Divisions of Florida*. Florida Cooperative Extension Service. University of Florida, Gainesville.

Department of the Interior

- 1983 *Archaeology and Historic Preservation; Secretary of the Interior's Standards and Guidelines (48 FR 44716-42)*. National Park Service, Interior.

Florida Division of Historical Resources (FDHR)

- 2002 *Cultural Resources Management Standards & Operational Manual, Module Three: Guidelines for Use By Historic Preservation Professionals*. Florida Division of Historical Resources, Tallahassee.

Gardner, Jeffery, Sheldon Owens, and Charles F. Philipe

- 2014 *"One of the most lovely spots I have ever feasted my eyes on" Northwest St. Johns County Historical and Architectural Survey*. FMSF Survey No. 11282. On file, Florida Division of Historical Resources, Tallahassee.

Hendryx, Greg S., and Ryan O. Sipe

- 2004 *A Cultural Resource Reconnaissance Survey of the Calvary Baptist Church Parcel St. Johns County, Florida*. FMSF Survey No. 10260, submitted by Environmental Services, Inc. On file, Florida Division of Historical Resources, Tallahassee.

Johnston, Sidney

- 2001 *Historic Properties Survey, St. Johns County, Florida*. FMSF Survey No. 6612, submitted by Environmental Services, Inc. On file, Florida Division of Historical Resources, Tallahassee.

Laughlin, Eleanor, and Nicholas Linville

- 2006 *Phase 1 Cultural Resource Assessment Survey of SR 16 from SR 13 to Woodlawn Road, St. Johns County, Florida*. FMSF Survey No. 14001. On file, Florida Division of Historical Resources, Tallahassee.

Mele, Matthew, Alyssa Costas, and Ashley Parham

- 2024 *Cultural Resource Assessment Survey for State Road 16 from International Golf parkway to I-95, St. Johns County, Florida*. FMSF Survey No. TBD. On file, Florida Division of Historical Resources, Tallahassee.

Mele, Matthew

- 2024 *Cultural Resource Assessment Survey in Support of State Road 16 Ponds, St. Johns County, Florida*. FMSF Survey No. 29403. On file, Florida Division of Historical Resources, Tallahassee.

Ste. Claire, Dana

2017 *Cultural Resource Assessment Survey of the Grand Oaks Development, St. Johns County, Florida*. FMSF Survey No. 24323. On File, Florida Division of Historical Resources, Tallahassee.

US Department of Agriculture (USDA) National Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)

2025 Web Soil Survey. Electronic resource, websoilsurvey.nrcs.usda.gov/app/, accessed January 16, 2025.

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ATTACHMENT 1

FDHR SURVEY LOG SHEET

Ent D (FMSF only) _____



Survey Log Sheet

Florida Master Site File
Version 4.1 1/07

Survey # (FMSF only) _____

Consult *Guide to the Survey Log Sheet* for detailed instructions.

Identification and Bibliographic Information

Survey Project (name and project phase) CRAS Addendum in Support of the SR 16 Ponds

Report Title (exactly as on title page) CULTURAL RESOURCE ASSESSMENT SURVEY ADDENDUM IN SUPPORT OF STATE ROAD 16 PONDS

Report Authors (as on title page, last names first) 1. Ricketts, Brittany 3. _____
2. _____ 4. _____

Publication Date (year) 2025 Total Number of Pages in Report (count text, figures, tables, not site forms) 21

Publication Information (Give series, number in series, publisher and city. For article or chapter, cite page numbers. Use the style of *American Antiquity*.)

FM# 210447-5-32-01, SEARCH project no. 230292 on file at SEARCH, Newberry

Supervisors of Fieldwork (even if same as author) Names Smith, Dylan

Affiliation of Fieldworkers: Organization Southeastern Archaeological Research City Pensacola

Key Words/Phrases (Don't use county name, or common words like *archaeology, structure, survey, architecture, etc.*)

1. SR 16 3. Grand Oaks 5. _____ 7. _____
2. Ponds 4. _____ 6. _____ 8. _____

Survey Sponsors (corporation, government unit, organization or person directly funding fieldwork)

Name _____ Organization Florida Dept of Transportation - District 2

Address/Phone/E-mail 1109 South Marion Avenue Lake City FL 32025

Recorder of Log Sheet Ricketts, Brittany Date Log Sheet Completed 3-6-2025

Is this survey or project a continuation of a previous project? ☐ No ☒ Yes: Previous survey #s (FMSF only) TBD

Mapping

Counties (List each one in which field survey was done; attach additional sheet if necessary)

1. St. Johns 3. _____ ☐ 5. _____ ☐
2. _____ ☐ 4. _____ ☐ 6. _____ ☐

USGS 1:24,000 Map Names/Year of Latest Revision (attach additional sheet if necessary)

1. Name BAKERSVILLE Year 2021 4. Name _____ ☐ Year _____
2. Name _____ Year _____ 5. Name _____ ☐ Year _____
3. Name _____ Year _____ 6. Name _____ ☐ Year _____

Description of Survey Area

Dates for Fieldwork: Start 2-14-2025 End 2-14-2025 Total Area Surveyed (fill in one) _____ hectares 12.2 acres

Number of Distinct Tracts or Areas Surveyed 2

If Corridor (fill in one for each) Width: _____ meters _____ feet Length: _____ kilometers 0.00 miles

Research and Field Methods

Types of Survey (check all that apply): ☒ archaeological ☒ architectural ☒ historical/archival ☐ underwater
☐ damage assessment ☐ monitoring report ☐ other(describe): _____

Scope/Intensity/Procedures Systematic shovel testing and pedestrian survey of portions of the APE not previously covered by Module 3 compliant survey, recording of all pre-1980 resources

Preliminary Methods (check as many as apply to the project as a whole)

☐ Florida Archives (Gray Building) ☐ library research- *local public* ☒ local property or tax records ☒ other historic maps
☐ Florida Photo Archives (Gray Building) ☐ library-special collection - *nonlocal* ☐ newspaper files ☒ soils maps or data
☒ Site File property search ☐ Public Lands Survey (maps at DEP) ☐ literature search ☐ windshield survey
☒ Site File survey search ☐ local informant(s) ☐ Sanborn Insurance maps ☒ aerial photography
☐ other (describe): _____

Archaeological Methods (check as many as apply to the project as a whole)

☐ Check here if **NO** archaeological methods were used.
☐ surface collection, controlled ☐ shovel test-other screen size ☐ block excavation (at least 2x2 m)
☐ surface collection, uncontrolled ☐ water screen ☐ soil resistivity
☒ shovel test-1/4" screen ☐ posthole tests ☐ magnetometer
☐ shovel test-1/8" screen ☐ auger tests ☐ side scan sonar
☐ shovel test 1/16" screen ☐ coring ☐ pedestrian survey
☐ shovel test-unscreened ☐ test excavation (at least 1x2 m) ☐ unknown
☐ other (describe): _____

Historical/Architectural Methods (check as many as apply to the project as a whole)

☐ Check here if **NO** historical/architectural methods were used.
☐ building permits ☐ demolition permits ☐ neighbor interview ☐ subdivision maps
☐ commercial permits ☐ exposed ground inspected ☐ occupant interview ☐ tax records
☐ interior documentation ☒ local property records ☐ occupation permits ☐ unknown
☐ other (describe): _____

Survey Results (cultural resources recorded)

Site Significance Evaluated? ☐ Yes ☒ No

Count of Previously Recorded Sites 0 Count of Newly Recorded Sites 0

Previously Recorded Site #'s with Site File Update Forms (List site #'s without "8". Attach additional pages if necessary.) _____

Newly Recorded Site #'s (Are all originals and not updates? List site #'s without "8". Attach additional pages if necessary.) _____

Site Forms Used: ☐ Site File Paper Form ☒ Site File Electronic Recording Form

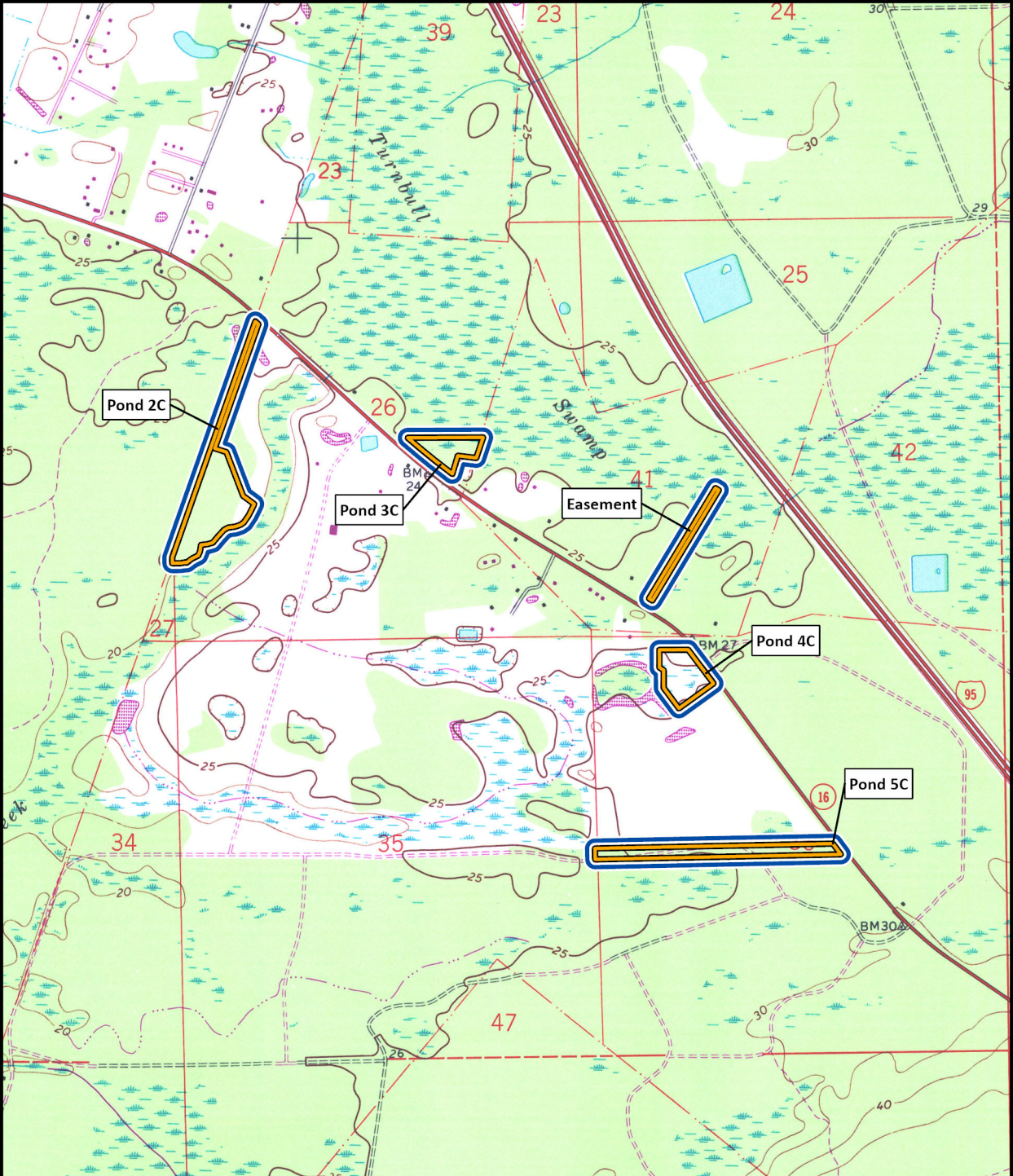
*****REQUIRED: ATTACH PLOT OF SURVEY AREA ON PHOTOCOPY OF USGS 1:24,000 MAP(S)*****

SHPO USE ONLY

SHPO USE ONLY

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Origin of Report: ☐ 872 ☐ CARL ☐ UW ☐ 1A32 # _____ ☐ Academic ☐ Contract ☐ Avocational
☐ Grant Project # _____ ☐ Compliance Review: CRAT # _____
Type of Document: ☐ Archaeological Survey ☐ Historical/Architectural Survey ☐ Marine Survey ☐ Cell Tower CRAS ☐ Monitoring Report
☐ Overview ☐ Excavation Report ☐ Multi-Site Excavation Report ☐ Structure Detailed Report ☐ Library, Hist. or Archival Doc
☐ MPS ☐ MRA ☐ TG ☐ Other: _____
Document Destination: _____ Plotability: _____



 Architectural History APE

 Archaeological APE

0 500 0 1,000
Meters Feet

USGS 7.5' Quadrangle Map:
Bakersville, FL (1992)

