



Florida Department of Transportation

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GOVERNOR

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Tallahassee, FL 32399-0450

JARED W. PERDUE, P.E.
SECRETARY

August 7, 2024

Alissa S. Lotane
Director and State Historic Preservation Officer
Florida Division of Historical Resources
Florida Department of State
R. A. Gray Building
500 South Bronough Street
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0250

RE: Section 106 Stipulation VII Submission
SR 35 (US 301) FROM CR 470 TO SR 44
Sumter County
FM # 430132-1-32-01

Dear Ms. Lotane,

Dear Ms. Lotane,

Enclosed please find one copy of the report titled Cultural Resource Assessment Survey Addendum for State Road 35 (US 301) Improvements from County Road 470 to Florida's Turnpike, Sumter County, Florida. This report presents the findings of a CRAS addendum conducted in support of the proposed improvements to State Road (SR) 35 in Sumter County, Florida. The Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT), District 5, is proposing roadway improvements to SR 35 from County Road (CR) 470 to Florida's Turnpike. The improvements consist of widening the existing facility to a divided four-lane typical section, resurfacing, the addition of multiuse trails, and safety enhancements. In addition, the project proposes a new section of roadway corridor, beginning at CR 525E and ending at East Warm Springs Avenue (referred to as the Warm Springs Alignment), as well as the construction of 24 stormwater management ponds along the SR 35 corridor. This project serves as an addendum to the SEARCH 2017 survey titled Cultural Resource Assessment Survey of US 301 (SR 35) from CR 470 West to SR 44, Sumter County, Florida (Fish et al. 2017; FMSF Survey No. 24186).

The current project encompasses existing and proposed new right-of-way including the pond sites and the Warm Springs Alignment (formerly referred to as the "Truck Route"). The project footprint totals approximately 10.8 kilometers (km) (6.7 miles [mi]) of roadway corridor and 33.9 hectares (ha) (83.7 acres [ac]) for stormwater management ponds. The current survey covers 25 proposed ponds and floodplain compensation (FPC) areas, the 0.33 km (0.21 mi) Warm Springs Alignment, and approximately 0.42 km (0.26 mi) of the SR 35 corridor not covered by the previous survey. One of the 25 pond sites included as part of the CRAS, Pond 3, was removed from project consideration after the field survey was completed. However, because an archaeological site was documented in Pond 3 it is still discussed in the report as a matter of record. This project is state and federally funded.

The project archaeological area of potential effects (APE) was defined to include the portions of the existing and proposed SR 35 right-of-way (including the Warm Springs Alignment) not covered by the previous survey. The archaeological APE also includes the construction footprints for the proposed ponds. The architectural history APE includes the existing and proposed right-of-way and was extended to the back or side property lines of parcels adjacent to the right-of-way or no more than 100 meters (330 feet) from the right-of-way line. For the ponds, the architectural history APE extends 30.5 meters (100 feet) from the edge of the pond footprints.

This CRAS was conducted in accordance with the requirements set forth in Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, found in 36 CFR Part 800 (Protection of Historic Properties). The studies also comply with Chapter 267 of the Florida Statutes and Rule Chapter 1A-46, Florida Administrative Code and Section 267.12, Florida Statutes, Chapter 1A-32. All work was performed in accordance with Part 2, Chapter 8 of FDOT's Project Development and Environment (PD&E) Manual (revised July 2023), FDOT's Cultural Resources Management Handbook, and the standards stipulated in the Florida Division of Historical Resources' (FDHR) Cultural Resource Management Standards & Operations Manual, Module Three: Guidelines for Use by Historic Preservation Professionals. The Principal Investigator for this project meets the Secretary of the Interior's Standards and Guidelines for Archeology and Historic Preservation (48 FR 44716-42). This study also complies with Public Law 113-287 (Title 54 U.S.C.), which incorporates the provisions of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, and the Archeological and Historic Preservation Act of 1974, as amended.

The archaeological survey consisted of pedestrian survey and shovel testing within the APE. A total of 144 shovel tests were excavated, 21 of which were positive for artifacts resulting in the documentation of two new archaeological sites (8SM01417 and 8SM01433), two previously recorded sites (8SM00933 and 8SM01023), and one archaeological occurrence (AO) (AO-1). Archaeological occurrences are by definition ineligible for listing in the NRHP; therefore, no further work for AO-1 is recommended.

Site 8SM01417 (Tolson Lithic Site #2) is a low-density precontact artifact scatter identified within the proposed Warm Springs Alignment and eastern portion of FPC 23. Based on the paucity of artifacts, lack of diagnostic material, and the absence of cultural features, 8SM01417 lacks significant research potential to contribute to the archaeological record of the region. As a result, site 8SM01417 is recommended ineligible for listing in the NRHP. No further work is recommended.

Site 8SM01433 (Shady Brook Lithic Scatter 2) is a low-density precontact lithic scatter identified within Pond 2. No diagnostic artifacts were recovered from the site and no cultural features were encountered. The results of the CRAS indicate that 8SM01433 lacks significant research potential to contribute to the archaeological record of the region due to the paucity of artifacts, lack of diagnostic material, and the absence of cultural features. As such, 8SM01433 is recommended ineligible for listing in the NRHP. No further work is recommended.

Previously recorded site 8SM00933 (Shady Brook) was recorded during the US 301 PD&E CRAS as a large precontact artifact scatter with a minor postcontact component. The site extends along SR 35 approximately 1.1 km (0.7 mi) north of the intersection of SR 35 and CR 470 and overlaps the majority of the current Pond 1 footprint. The current survey documented three positive shovel tests excavated in the slightly expanded footprint of Pond 1. The site was evaluated as eligible for the NRHP by the SHPO in July 2017. The findings of the PD&E CRAS concluded that avoidance of the site by the US 301

improvements project was not possible, and therefore, mitigation of project related effects through archaeological data recovery was recommended. FDOT memorialized a commitment to mitigate project related effects through archaeological data recovery in a memorandum of agreement (MOA) executed on 11 January 2019. As of the submittal of this report, Phase III archaeological data recovery is scheduled for the Shady Brook site after right-of way-acquisition and prior to roadway construction according to the stipulations of the MOA. Because of the very minor degree of the site expansion (567 square meters [6104 square feet]), revisions to the MOA and data recovery plan are not recommended.

Previously recorded site 8SM01023 (Shady Brook Hammock Site) was documented during the US 301 PD&E CRAS as a moderate density precontact artifact scatter with Archaic and Mississippian cultural components. As a result of the current investigation, the site was expanded into the footprint of Pond 3. As Pond 3 has been removed from project consideration, 8SM01023 will not be impacted. SHPO previously determined there was insufficient information to provide an NRHP eligibility recommendation. Based on the results of the present investigation, there is still insufficient information for an NRHP assessment of 8SM01023. If future work were to be proposed within the limits of 8SM01023 further work is recommended to better inform an NRHP assessment of the site.

Fifty-two resources were identified during the architectural history survey. The previously recorded resources include one resource group (8SM00795) and 38 buildings (8SM00803-8SM00815, 8SM00817-8SM00823, 8SM00887-8SM00901, 8SM00905-8SM00907). All previously recorded resources were recorded within the last 10 years, evaluated by SHPO as ineligible, and did not undergo any major changes that warranted recordation. As such, all previously recorded resources were not evaluated as a part of the current survey. All newly recorded resources, 13 buildings (8SM01434-8SM01446), are recommended ineligible for listing in the NRHP. No previously recorded or newly identified historic districts were documented within the APE.

Field survey revealed that five additional previously recorded historic resources (8SM00578, 8SM00902-8SM00904, 8SM00796) are no longer extant. A demolition letter for these five resources is included as an appendix to the report.

Other than 8SM00933, the District recommends that the project will result in No Historic Properties Affected.

I respectfully request your concurrence with the findings of the enclosed report.

Sincerely,

Electronically signed by Catherine Owen on August 7, 2024

The Florida Division of Historical Resources finds the attached documentation contains sufficient information and concurs with the recommendations and findings provided in this letter for SHPO/FDHR Project File Number 2024-4884.

SHPO/FDHR Comments

Just minor recommendations: Since 8SM1433 could not be fully delineated due to the project boundaries by default it is considered insufficient information, but based on the information provided the project will have no adverse effects on the site. I concur with the assessment of 8SM1023 and 8SM933, however, since 8SM933 is already under a MOA to mitigate adverse effects and Phase III scheduled in the future, we would consider this project to have a conditional no adverse effect. Also, some of the shovel tests dimensions in the pictures appear to be questionable. Overall, project looks good to go.

No signature image on file for Stewart, Benjamin

August 28, 2024

Signed

Date

Alissa S. Lotane, Director

State Historic Preservation Officer

Florida Division of Historical Resources

cc: Lindsay Rothrock, Cultural & Historical Resource Specialist
FDOT Office of Environmental Management

Submitted Documents

- [43013213201-CE2-D5-430132-1_SR_35-CR_470_to_SR_44_CRAS_Addendum_SEARCH_Final-2024-0807.pdf](#) (Cultural Resource Assessment Survey (CRAS) Addendum)
430132-1_SR 35-CR 470 to SR 44 CRAS Addendum_SEARCH_Final
- [43013213201-CE2-D5-430132-1_SR_35-CR_470_to_SR_44_CRAS_Addendum_SEARCH_Final_\(2\)-2024-0807.zip](#) (Cultural Resource Assessment Survey (CRAS) Addendum)
430132-1_SR 35-CR 470 to SR 44 CRAS Addendum_SEARCH_Final (2)