

REPORT DOCUMENTATION PAGE



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A CULTURAL RESOURCES SURVEY OF THE
 ITEM 1-1, FOWLKES, SOUTH FORK FORKED DEER RIVER
 DYER COUNTY, TENNESSEE BERM REPAIR PROJECT
 WEST TENNESSEE TRIBUTARIES PROJECT
 A NEGATIVE FINDING REPORT

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
 Memphis District

DTIC QUALITY INSPECTED 4

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 Staff Archeologist

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December 1989

ABSTRACT

On 5 December 89, an intensive cultural resources survey was conducted by the Environmental Analysis Branch of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Memphis District, along a portion of the South Fork Forked Deer River in Dyer County, Tennessee. A literature search and a pedestrian survey failed to locate any archeological, historical or architectural sites within the proposed project area. Thus, it is concluded that the proposed work will not have any impact on cultural resources.

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MAPS

Map 1

Location Map

Introduction

An intensive cultural resources survey was conducted on 5 December 89. The length and width of the new portion of the proposed borrow areas was walked over and shovel test units dug where required. The literature search indicated no sites in the proposed area.

Study Area and Project Description

The Memphis District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is proposing to conduct repairs at three locations in Dyer County, Tennessee. All repairs are along the South Fork Forked Deer River. This area was originally surveyed by Jolley in 1985. No cultural resources were found. New project plans expand the borrow areas. Area 1 was expanded approximately 20 meters; Area 2 approximately 75 meters, and Area 3 approximately 15 meters north (Map 1).

Environmental Setting

The project area is located in the eastern lower Mississippi alluvial valley (Fisk 1944). The eastern lowland is the active flood plain of the Mississippi River and is characterized by alternating ridges and depressions of little relief. The ridges are the natural levees and the lowlands are abandoned channels formed by the continuous meandering river and its tributaries.

The project right-of-way is under cultivation. However, the levee area was overed with trees and bushes. Here could be found green ash (Fratiaus penneslyvanica var subintegeriana) red maple (Acer rubrum), and American elm (Ulmus americana). Common private (Ligustrum amurense), rue anemone (Anemonella thalictorides), Japanese honeysuckle (Lonicera japonica), panic grass (Panicum sp.) and aster (Aster sp.).

Various species of fauna were observed. Avifauna observed in the area include Carolina chickadee (Parus carolinensis), American crow (Corvus brachyrhynchus), common flicker (Calaptes auratus), downy woodpecker (Picoides pubescens).

American robin (Turdus migratorius), blue jay (Cyanocitta cristata), northern junco (Junco lyemalis) and horned lark (Eremophila alpestris).

Mammal signs observed in the area included raccoon (Procyon lotor), Virginia opossum (Didelphis virginiana), white-tailed deer (Odocoileus virginianus), eastern cottontail (Sylvilagus florida), fox squirrel (Sciurus niger), gray squirrel (Sciurus carolinensis).

Results of the Records Search

In-house records and reports were consulted but indicated that no prehistoric or historic cultural remains were recorded within the proposed project area.

Survey Methodology and Results

The entire right-of-way was under cultivation. Sufficient rain had fallen since cultivation to make perfect survey conditions. The visibility was 100%. From the landward edge of the old right-of-way transects, 10 meters apart were walked to the edge of the new right-of-way. No non-modern cultural materials or indicators were found.

Recommendations

Based on an infield cultural resources survey and a background literature search, no evidence of prehistoric, historic or architectural resources exists within the direct impact zone of the proposed project area. It is, therefore, concluded that the proposed project will not have any impact on cultural resources.

The survey methodology used does not eliminate the possibility of encountering deeply buried sites. Therefore, it is recommended that any site encountered during construction be protected from further damage until its significance can be determined by the Environmental Analysis Branch, Memphis District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, in conjunction with the Tennessee Historic Preservation.

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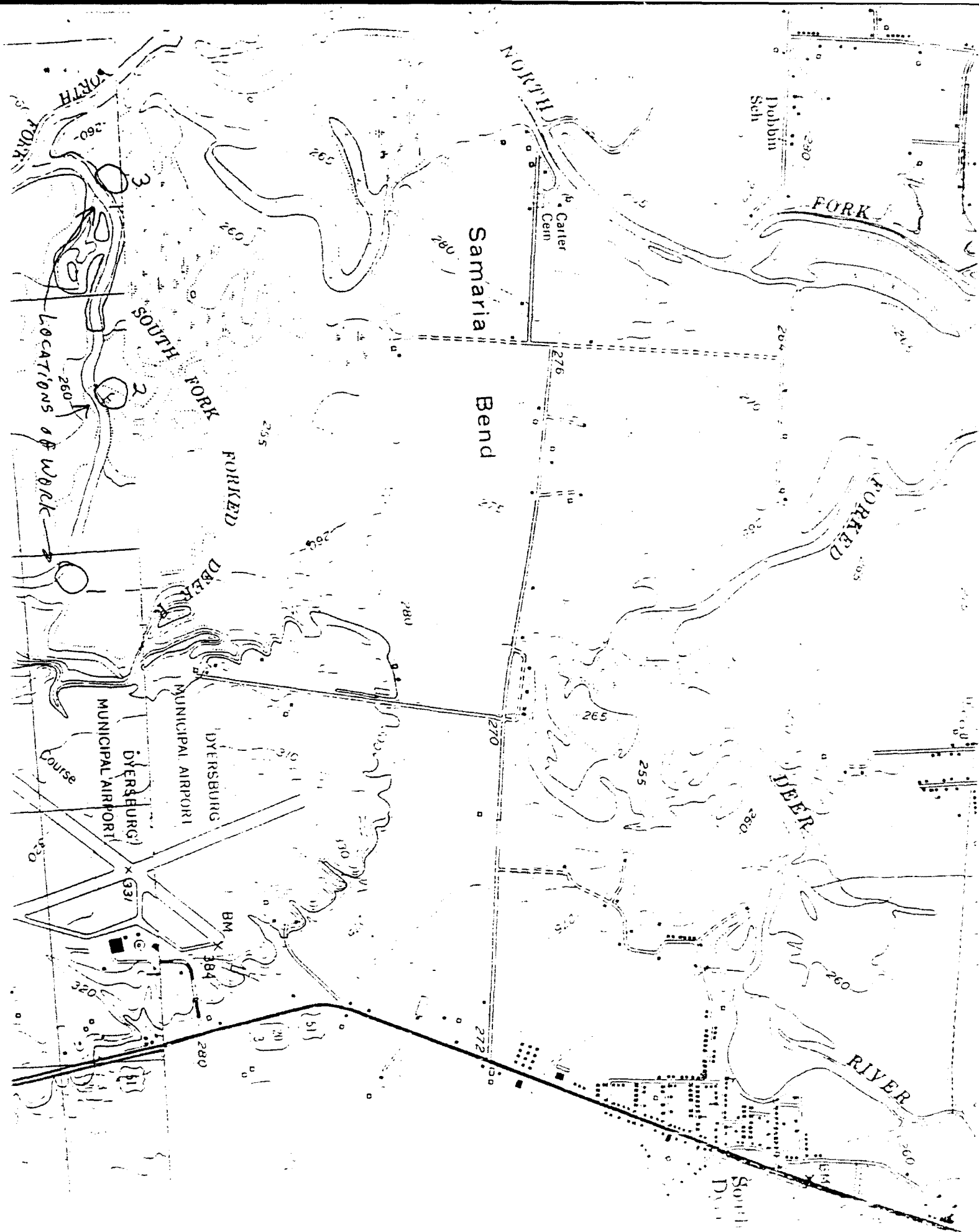
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Map 1