

ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELD REPORT  
SCDOT ENVIRONMENTAL SECTION



**TITLE:** Cultural Resources Survey for SC 72 (Saluda Road) and S-329 (McCandless Road) Intersection Improvement, Chester County, South Carolina (Second Addendum - Additional Research)

**DATES OF RESEARCH:** 10-1-18; 12-12-18; 1-15-19 **ARCHAEOLOGIST:** Bill Jurgelski; Tracy Martin

**COUNTY:** Chester

**ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN:**

**PIN:** P027980

**PROJECT:** SC 72 and S-329 Intersection Improvement

**DESCRIPTION:** This report describes efforts by South Carolina Department of Transportation (SCDOT) archaeologists and consultants to locate and record an unmarked grave (Archaeological Site # 38CS420/Above-Ground Resource # 0303) and historic home site (38CS417) on the NW side of SC 72 (Saluda Rd.) NE of the town of Chester, in Chester County, SC (**Figure 1**). The possible presence of the grave and home site was reported to SCDOT right of way (ROW) agents by a landowner who owned land that was being acquired in order to make improvements to the intersection of SC 72 (Saluda Road) and S-329 (McCandless Road). The proposed improvements include adding a left turn lane to the northwest-bound lane of McCandless Rd at the SC 72 and S-329 intersection and a left turn lane to the southwest-bound lane of Saluda Rd at this intersection. Prior to the landowner notification SCDOT conducted two previous cultural resources investigations in conjunction with this project. An October 2016 survey covered areas that were initially projected to be impacted by the project, and resulted in the documentation of three above-ground resources, but no archaeological sites. Two of the above-ground resources, sites 0293 and 0294, were assessed as eligible for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP), but it was determined that these resources would not be adversely affected by the proposed undertaking (Jurgelski and Kelly 2016). Subsequent to the 2016 survey, SCDOT revised the plans for the project in response to landowner objections to the initial alignment. The revised alignment extended the project APE to the northeast and southwest of the initially proposed alignment. In June 2018, SCDOT archaeologists conducted a second cultural resources survey covering the portions of the new alignment that had not been examined in the initial survey. Two non-NRHP-eligible above-ground resources were recorded during this second survey, but no archaeological sites were documented (Martin and Jurgelski 2018). In September 2018, SCDOT right of way agents were told by a landowner, Ms. Margaret Hausman, that her Great-Great Uncle was buried in an unmarked grave on the NW side of SC 72 on land that would be impacted by the proposed project near the northeast end of the revised alignment. As a result, Ms. Hausman was reluctant to sell the land. Ms. Hausman's home and the surrounding landscape had been recorded as an NRHP-eligible above-ground resource (site # 0294), during the initial SCDOT cultural resources survey of the SC 72 and S-329 intersection project area, and the land on which the purported grave was located was part of the same legal land parcel. SCDOT archaeologists were informed of Ms. Hausman's account and asked to investigate. This report describes the results of that investigation, and comprises a second addendum to the 2016 survey report. Both the 2016 and 2018 survey reports are appended to this document. A report compiled by New South Associates describing the results of a December 2018 GPR survey and January 2019 backhoe testing at the unmarked grave location (Lowry et al. 2019) is also appended to this report. **Figure 2** shows the 2016 and 2018 survey areas, and the area that was the focus of the current investigation.

**LOCATION:** The area that is the focus of this report is located approximately 2000 feet (635 meters) northeast of the intersection of SC 72 (Saluda Rd) and S-329 (McCandless Rd), approximately 2.5 miles northeast of the town of Chester, SC.

**USGS QUADRANGLE:** Chester

**DATE:** 1983

**SCALE:** 7.5'

**APE Centroid:**

**UTM:** WGS 84

**ZONE:** 17

**EASTING:** 483665.48

**NORTHING:** 3843371.28

**ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING:** The project area is in a suburban/rural area in the Piedmont region of South Carolina. Local topography consists of gently sloping terrain. The majority of the area that was the focus of this study consists of roadside margin and forest fringe. A power line corridor runs parallel to the road through the project area.

**NEAREST RIVER/STREAM AND DISTANCE:** The project area is located approximately .5 miles south of Rocky Creek.

**SOIL TYPE:** Two soil types are present in the area that was examined for this study. Wilkes sandy loam, 6 – 15 percent slopes is present in the northeastern portion of the project location, while Vance sandy loam, 2 – 6 percent slopes, is present in the southeastern portion of the project location.

**REFERENCE FOR SOILS INFORMATION:** Soil Survey Staff, Natural Resources Conservation Service, United States Department of Agriculture. Web Soil Survey. Available online at <http://websoilsurvey.sc.egov.usda.gov/>. Accessed [3/3/2020].

**GROUND SURFACE VISIBILITY:** 1-25%  X  26-50% \_\_\_\_ 51-75% \_\_ 76-100% \_\_\_\_

**CURRENT VEGETATION:** Vegetation in the area that was examined for this study consists primarily of roadside weeds and brambles. A grassy pasture is located in the SW quadrant of the area that was examined, and a medium-aged hardwood forest is located in the NW quadrant.

**BACKGROUND INVESTIGATION:** Background investigation for this follow-up study consisted of telephone (on 9-24-18) and in-person (on 10-1-18) interviews with the landowner who reported the presence of the unmarked grave, Ms. Margaret Hausman, and with Ms. Erin Culp, a friend of Ms. Hausman's who was also knowledgeable about the history of the project location. Historical maps and aerial photographs were also examined.

Based on the interviews with Ms. Hausman and Ms. Culp the following background information about the unmarked grave location was obtained:

*The individual buried in the grave is William McCandless, who was Ms. Hausman's Great Great Uncle. McCandless emigrated from Ireland around 1820 and settled in Chester County. He died in 1881. His house [no longer standing] was located on a rise approximately 50 yards northeast of the grave [based on the interview – the actual distance is around 200 meters/218 yards].*

*The house was a log "stagecoach house" [presumably a stagecoach stop]. The house predated William McCandless' arrival [he didn't build it] and subsequent to his death stood, unoccupied, until the 1940s, when it was demolished at the request of the highway department because it was in danger of toppling into the road [this appears to have been in the wake of road construction that brought the road closer to the house or perhaps involved the excavation of a road cut adjacent to the house]. A well was located near the house.*

*The location of the grave was based on long-standing family tradition. There was never a marker, but at one time there were a few white stones [probably quartz rocks] clustered in the vicinity. A large cedar tree and some cactus [prickly pear?] plants were also present at the location and a wire enclosure may have been present [no trace of a wire enclosure was found during the subsequent investigation but prickly pear plants were noted near the grave location and numerous cedar roots were uncovered during backhoe testing at the location]. Both Ms. Housman and Ms. Culp thought that only a single grave was present. Apparently there is a marker for William McCandless in a cemetery in Chester but it was put there as a memorial by the family and doesn't mark an actual interment.*

In addition to providing background information, Ms. Culp had visited the suspected grave location and marked where she believed the grave to be situated, using traditional dowsing techniques to pinpoint the spot. The location marked by Ms. Culp turned out to be very close to the actual location of the grave, as eventually defined by GPR and backhoe trenching.

An examination of maps and aerial photographs of the project area did not yield definitive results. However, a 1941 aerial photograph showed an anomaly at the approximate grave location that may represent a tree or enclosure, and a second anomaly near the reported house location that that may represent a structure (**Figure 3**).

## **ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY:**

The archaeological survey work for this investigation consisted of an initial reconnaissance conducted by SCDOT archaeologists on 10-1-18 designed to verify elements of the oral history interviews and assess the likelihood that a grave was present in the stipulated location; a GPR study conducted by New South Associates on 12-12-18 of the purported grave location designed to detect the grave using ground penetrating radar, and backhoe stripping conducted by New South Associates with the assistance of SCDOT archaeologists on 1-15-19 with the goal of ground truthing anomalies recorded during the GPR survey and locating the grave, if present.

Field methods during the 10-1-18 SCDOT reconnaissance consisted of a pedestrian examination of the area where the William McCandless house was purported to be located and limited shovel test pit excavation in the portion of the house site that extended into the SC 72 and S-329 project area. No shovel testing was conducted outside of the project area, but surface features found outside the project area that were believed to be associated with the house site were documented. STPs averaged about 30 centimeters in diameter and were excavated until sterile subsoil was encountered or further excavation was impractical due to the presence of rocks or large roots. The fill from the STPs was screened through 0.25-inch mesh hardware cloth to facilitate the recovery of any artifacts that might be present.

The 10-1-18 reconnaissance also included a pedestrian examination of the area around the purported grave location to locate any displaced markers, grave depressions, enclosure remnants, or ornamental vegetation that might indicate that a grave was present. Limited probing using a steel probe was also conducted in order to determine if any areas of soft/disturbed soil could be detected that might be indicative of a grave.

Field methods employed during the 12-12-18 GPR survey and the 1-15-19 backhoe stripping/ground truthing excavations are discussed in the report compiled by New South Associates that is appended to this document.

## **ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY RESULTS:**

The archaeological reconnaissance conducted in the area suggested by Ms. Margaret Hausman and Ms. Erin Culp to be the location of William McCandless' home resulted in the identification of a badly disturbed historic house site (38CS417). Visible features suggestive of house remains included a substantial rubble pile that is likely the partial remnants of a collapsed or demolished chimney, possibly intermixed with rubble displaced from power line or roadway excavation; a possible stone alignment that may be the remnants of a wall or foundation; a few scattered bricks and shaped or cut stones that may comprise displaced foundation or chimney remains, and a partially backfilled stone lined well located approximately 30 meters to the northwest of the rubble pile/house location. In addition, yucca plants that may comprise remnant domestic vegetation were noted growing in the area to the north of the rubble pile (**Figures 4 – 7**). A total of four shovel test pits were excavated at approximately 10-meter intervals in a single transect to the southwest of the rubble pile. The shovel test pits were typically shallow, averaging about 25 centimeters in depth, with soils consisting of dark yellowish-brown (10YR 4/4) compact sandy loam overlying very compact yellowish-red (5YR 5/6) to dark yellowish-brown (10YR 4/6) sandy clay. One (1) shovel test yielded (1) artifact, a single cut nail fragment. In general, the site location appears to have been heavily disturbed by road and power line construction, and erosion/deflation (**Figure 8**).

Shovel test pits were not excavated outside the SC 72 and S-329 project area, therefore testing was not conducted to define the site boundaries to the northwest and northeast. Site limits in these directions were defined based on topography and the presence of surface features, most notably the partially filled stone lined well. SC 72 (Saluda Road) is presumed to constitute the southeastern boundary of the site.

Reconnaissance of the William McCandless grave site (38CS420/0303) on 10-1-18 consisted of a surface inspection and limited probing (**Figure 9**). The probing was inconclusive but did detect an extremely soft area where the probe encountered little resistance up to its handle (about three feet) (**Figure 10**). This soft area apparently corresponded to the former location of a large cedar tree, as suggested by the oral history interviews and affirmed during the subsequent backhoe trenching. The surface inspection of the grave location also revealed several prickly pear plants, apparently corresponding to the cactuses referred to in the oral history interviews. No surface depressions, marker remnants, or the any remnants of rock or wire enclosures were found.

The GPR survey on 12-12-18 and subsequent backhoe trenching/ground truthing on 1-15-19 resulted in the discovery of a well-defined rectangular feature that is presumed to be the grave of William McCandless, as suggested in the oral history interviews (**Figure 11**). In keeping with current SHPO policy the grave was assigned both an above-ground resource number (0303) and an archaeological site number (38CS420). Full details of regarding the GPR study and subsequent backhoe trench excavation can be found in the New South Associates cultural resources report appended to the current document.

**ARCHITECTURAL SURVEY:** None conducted during the current study.

**ARCHITECTURAL SURVEY RESULTS:** Above ground resource # 0303 was assigned to the unmarked grave documented during this study. Per current SHPO policy this resource number was assigned to the grave concurrently with archaeological site # 38CS420.

**REMARKS AND RECOMMENDATIONS:** The follow-up cultural resources investigations conducted to confirm a landowner's report that an unmarked grave was present on land slated to be obtained as new right of way for the proposed improvements to the intersection of SC 72 (Saluda Road) and S-329 (McCandless Road) in Chester County resulted in the identification of the archaeological remains of one historic home site (38CS417) and one grave site (assigned above-ground resource # 0303 and archaeological site # 38CS420).

Archaeological site 38CS417 is located at the northeastern end of the SC 72 and S-329 project area, with the majority of the site located outside of the project area. For this reason, testing to precisely define the boundaries of the site was not conducted, and as an individual resource the NRHP status of the site as a whole should be considered unevaluated. However, the portion of the site that extends into the SC 72 and S-329 project area, which was denoted by a single positive shovel test yielding one nail fragment found in a disturbed (power line corridor/road margin) context does not have qualities that would contribute to the eligibility of the site under any of the NRHP criteria. Therefore, this portion of the site is recommended as not eligible for the NRHP.

Archaeological site 38CS420 (above-ground resource # 0303) is not known to be associated with any notable historical events (NRHP Criterion A), and, while the individual presumably buried in the grave, William McCandless, may have been locally prominent, his prominence does not appear to have risen to the level that would make his final resting place eligible under NRHP Criterion B. There are no monuments, funerary art, or designed landscapes associated with the site that would make it eligible under NRHP Criterion C, and as a single grave reportedly dating to the 1880s the site is not likely to yield substantial important historical information that would make it eligible under National Register Criterion D. Therefore, site 38CS420/0303 is recommended not eligible for the NRHP. However, as a grave, the site is protected from disturbance or desecration by South Carolina State Law, e.g. South Carolina Code of Laws Section 16-17-600.

Although site 38CS420/0303 and the portion of site 38CS417 that extends into the SC 72 and S-329 project area are recommended as not individually eligible, per SHPO guidance both sites will be incorporated as contributing resources into the expanded boundaries of previously recorded site 0294, the McCandless House and associated landscape, which was recommended NRHP eligible under Criteria A and C when it was recorded during the initial SCDOT survey of the SC 72 and S-329 project area as then defined (see attached SCDOT survey report dated 11-18-16) (**Figure 12**). Therefore, project impacts to the newly recorded sites as contributing elements of site 0294 must be considered.

In order to avoid impacts to the McCandless grave, SCDOT engineers revised the limits of the SC 72 and S-329 intersection improvement project so that right of way acquisition in the grave vicinity would be avoided, and established a protective buffer around the grave to avoid construction-related impacts (**Figure 13**).

Project impacts to site 38CS417 are limited to a small portion of the southwestern portion of the site that has already been heavily disturbed by road and power line construction.

The effects of the project to the newly expanded portion of site 0294 outside the limits of newly recorded sites 38CS420/0303 and 38CS417 are also limited to the already disturbed roadside margin. As such, the project will not diminish the character, feel, setting, or association of the site.

Taking all this into account, it is therefore recommended that the proposed project will have no effect on the historic resources documented in this report.

**SIGNATURE:** \_\_\_\_\_ **DATE:** \_\_\_\_\_

## References Cited

Jurgelski, Bill and David Kelly

2016 Cultural Resources Survey – SC 72 (Saluda Rd) and S-329 (McCandless Rd) Intersection Improvement, Chester County, South Carolina. South Carolina Department of Transportation, Columbia, South Carolina.

Lowry, Sarah, Maeve Herrick and David Amrine

2019 Ground Penetrating Radar Survey and Testing for the Possible William McCandless Unmarked Grave Site (38CS420/0303). New South Associates Technical Report 2940, New South Associates, Stone Mountain, Georgia.

Martin, Tracy and Bill Jurgelski

2018 Cultural Resources Survey – SC 72 (Saluda Rd) and S-329 (McCandless Rd) Intersection Improvement, Chester County, South Carolina (Revised Alignment). South Carolina Department of Transportation, Columbia, South Carolina.

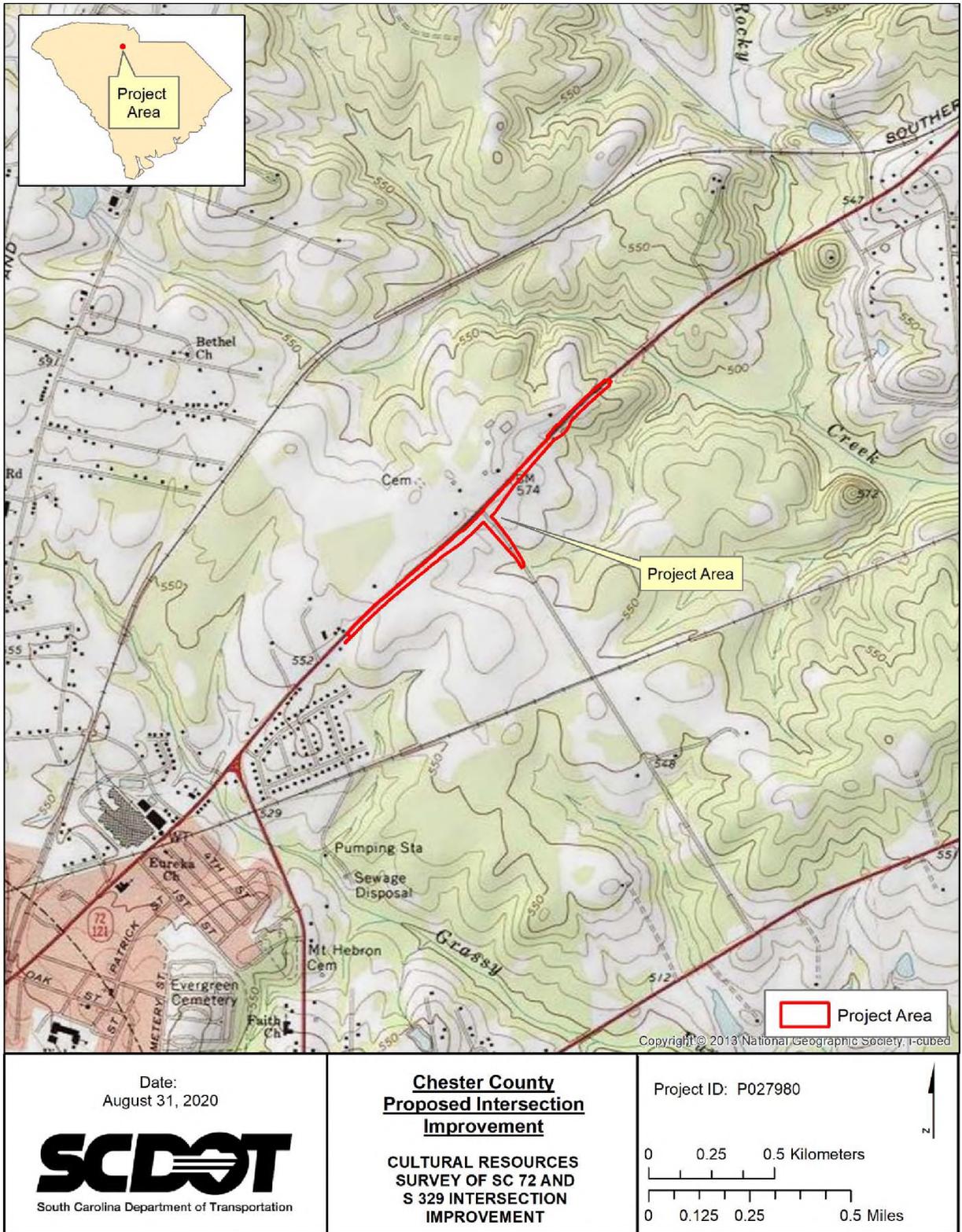


Figure 1. Project Area, 1983 Chester, SC, 7.5' USGS Quadrangle (USGS 1991).

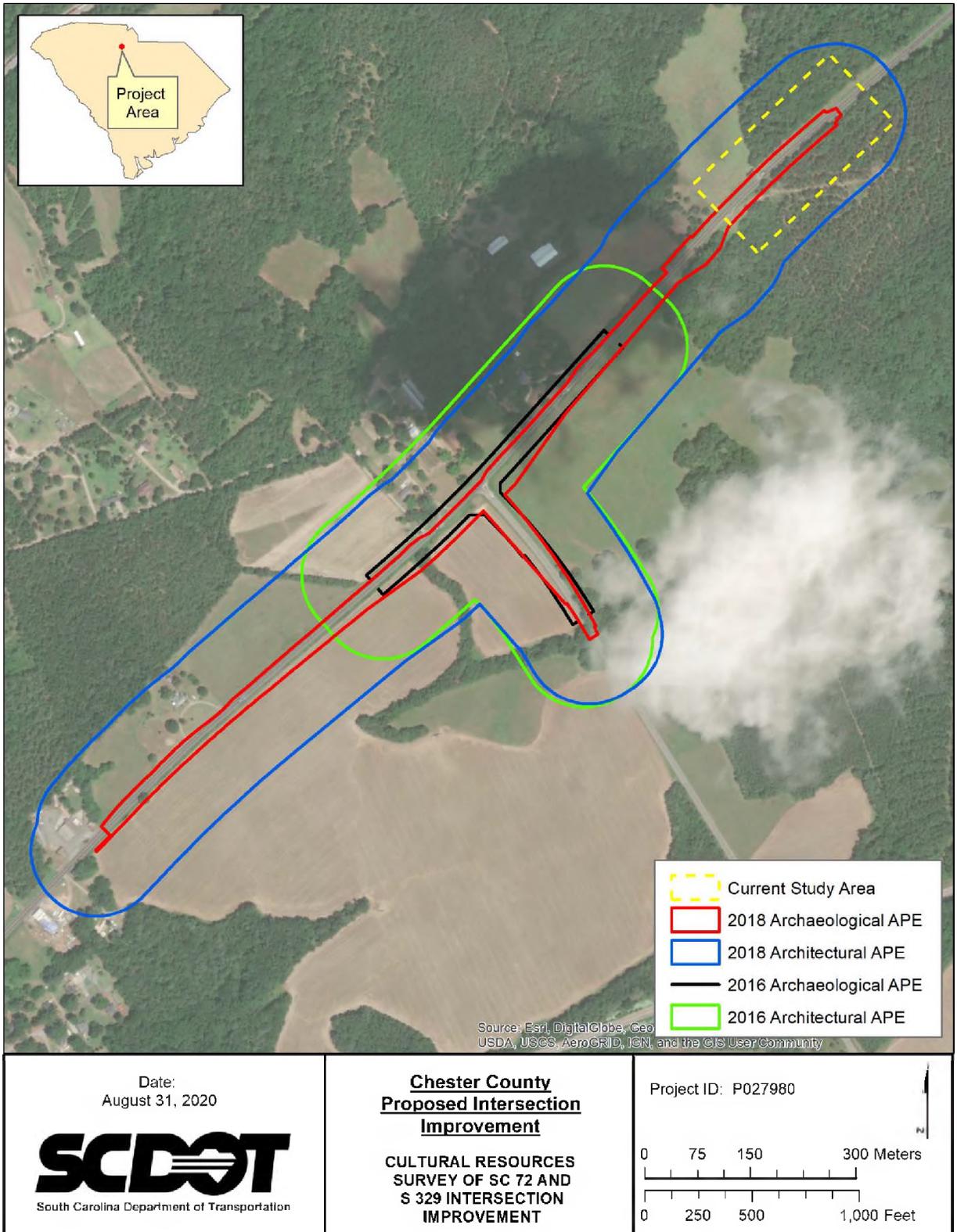


Figure 2. Intersection Improvement Plans for SC 72 and S-329.



Figure 3. 1941 Aerial Photograph of Study Area. Arrows indicate anomalies that may represent the locations of the grave (lower arrow) and house site (upper arrow) documented during this investigation. Source: Courtesy of the University of South Carolina Map Library.



Figure 4. Site 38CS417 Probable House Location – View NE.



Figure 5. Site 38CS417 Rubble Pile– View N.



Figure 6. Site 38CS417 Yucca Plants – View S.



Figure 7. Site 38CS417 Stone Lined Well – View W.

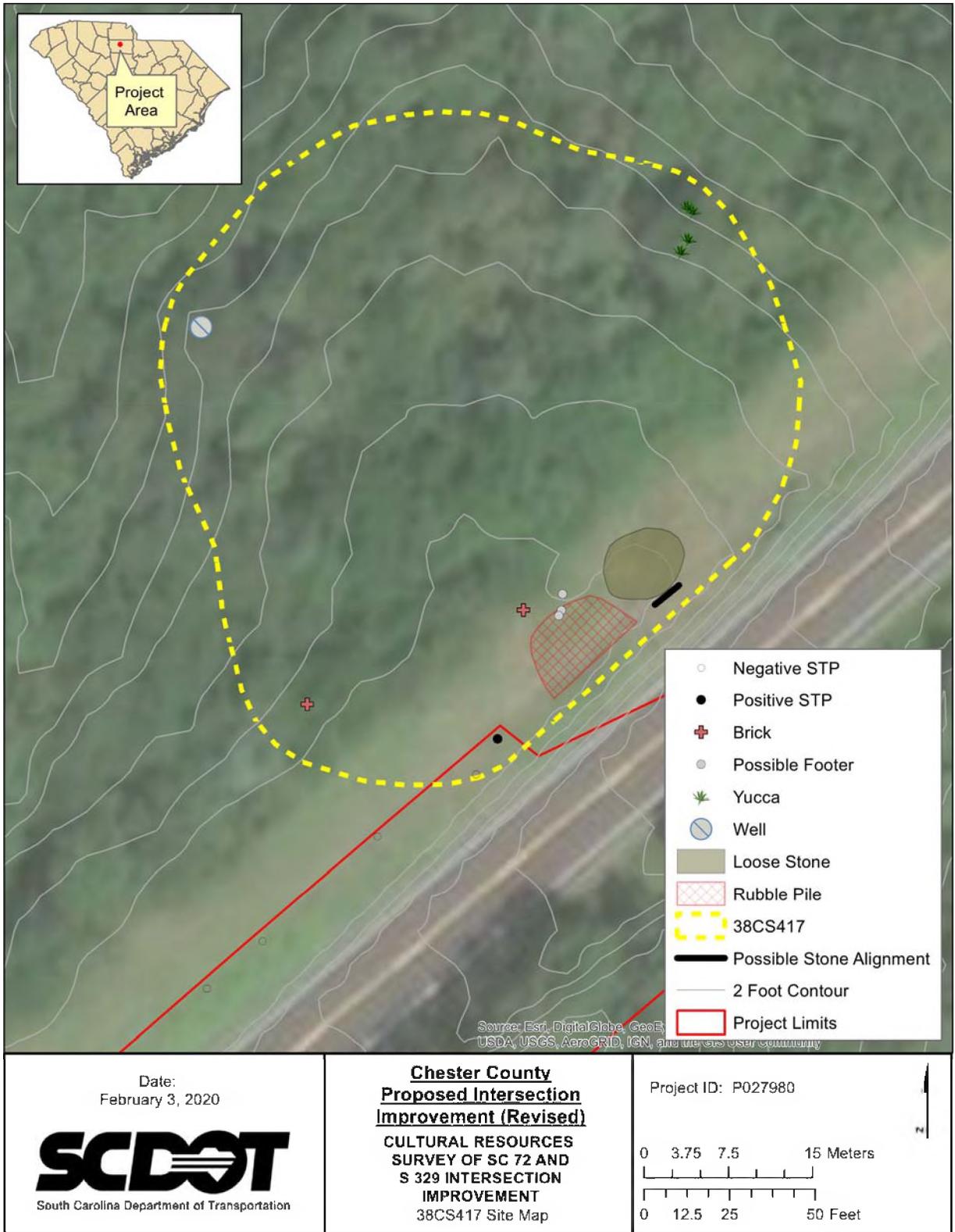


Figure 8. Site 38CS417 Site Map Showing Project Limits, Shovel Test Pit Locations, and Locations of Documented Surface Features.



Figure 9. Location of Site 38CS420/0303



Figure 10. Probing at Site 38CS420/0303



Figure 11. Site 38CS420/0303 – Grave Uncovered during Backhoe Excavation/Ground Truthing.

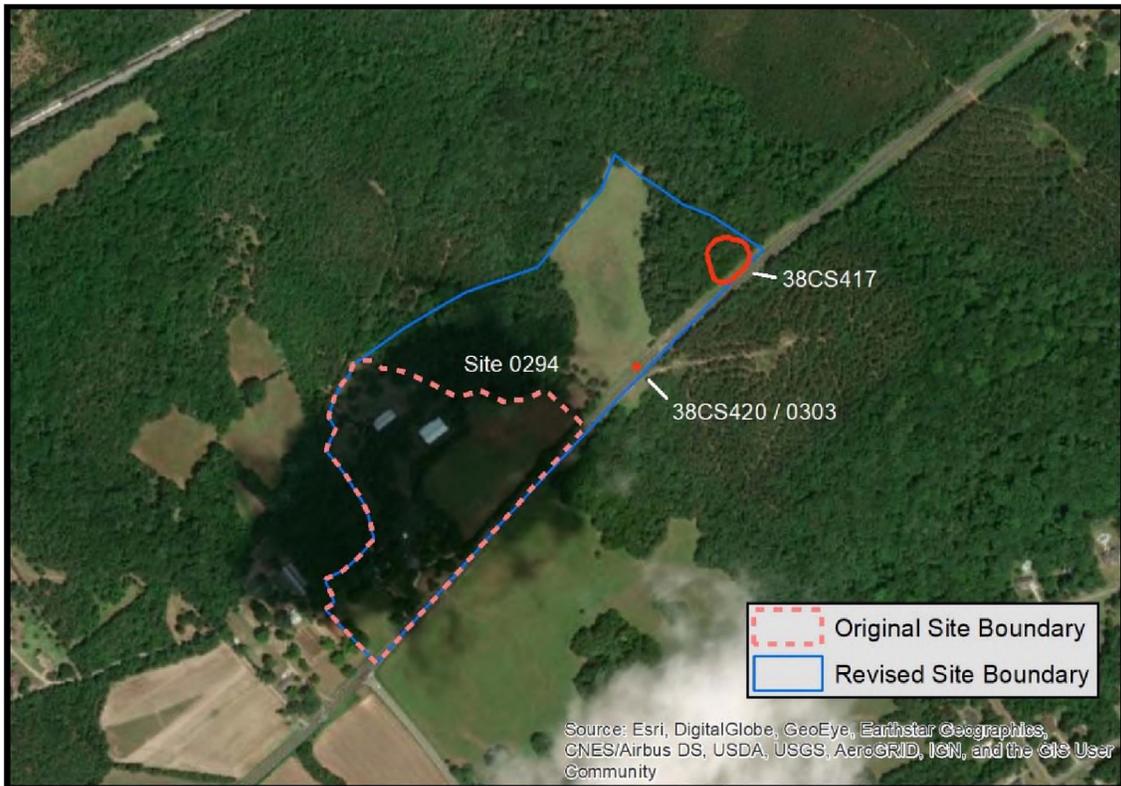


Figure 12. Original and Expanded Boundaries of Site 0294.

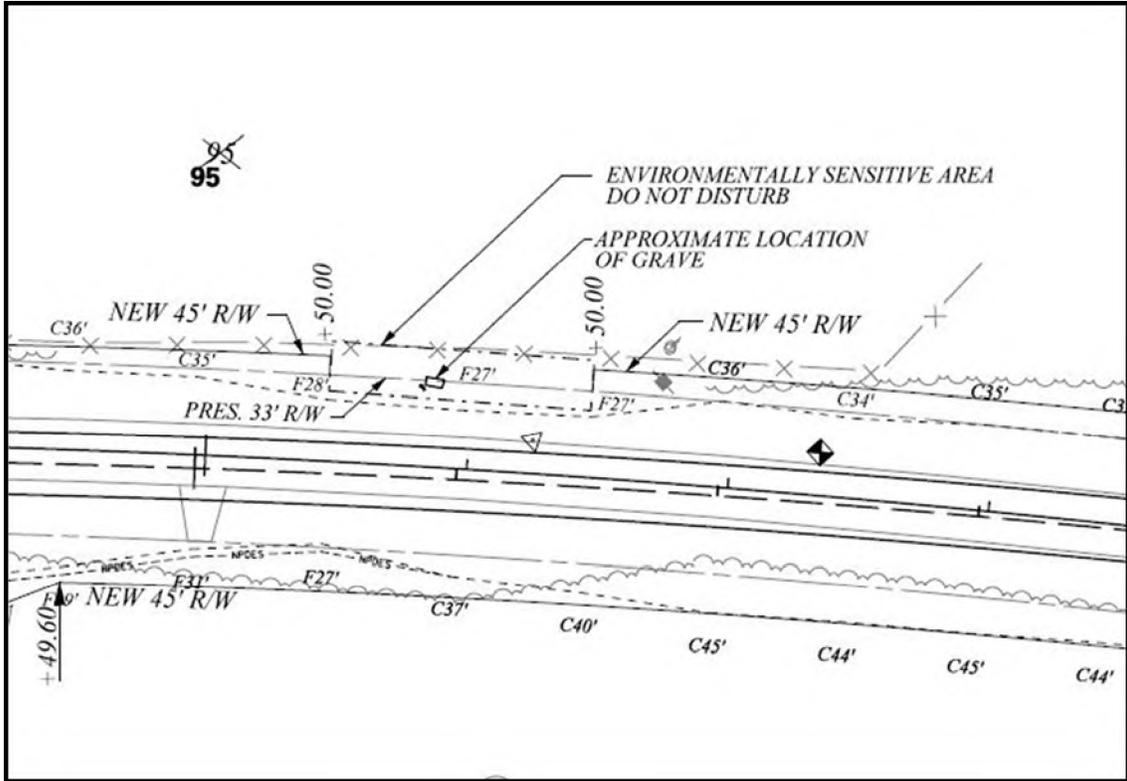


Figure 13. SCDOT Construction Plans Showing Provisions Made to Protect Site 38CS420/0303.