



FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Kurt S. Browning

Secretary of State

DIVISION OF HISTORICAL RESOURCES

Mr. Robert Austin, Ph.D.
Southeastern Archaeological Research, Inc.
315 NW 138th Terrace
Jonesville, Florida 32669

January 23, 2008

Re: DHR No.: 2007-8619-B / Received by DHR: November 26, 2007
Additional Information Received: January 8 and 18, 2008
A Cultural Resources Assessment Survey of the Texaco Tracts, Manatee County, Florida

Dear Dr. Austin:

Our office received and reviewed the above referenced survey report in accordance with Chapters 267, 373, and 380.06, *Florida Statutes*, for assessment of possible adverse impact to cultural resources (any prehistoric or historic district, site, building, structure, or object) listed, or eligible for listing, in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) or otherwise of historical, architectural, or archaeological value.

In June through August 2007, Southeastern Archaeological Research, Inc. (SEARCH) conducted an archaeological and historical Phase I survey of the Texaco Tracts on behalf of Mosaic Fertilizer, Inc. SEARCH identified six previously unrecorded archaeological sites (8MA1513 – 8MA1518), six previously unrecorded historic structures (8MA1506 – 8MA1511), and one previously unrecorded resource group (8MA1512) within the project area during the investigation.

SEARCH determined that 8MA1517, an Early Archaic archaeological site, 8MA1513, a Woodland/Manasota archaeological site, and 8MA1514 – 8MA1516, indeterminate prehistoric archaeological sites, do not appear to be eligible for listing in the NRHP based on low density, lack of features or cultural strata, and low research potential. SEARCH determined that 8MA1506 – 8MA1508, frame vernacular structures, do not appear to be eligible for listing in the NRHP based on loss of integrity and lack of significant historical associations.

SEARCH determined that 8MA1509, the 655 Duette Road-Dip Vat, appears to be individually eligible for listing on the NRHP under Criteria A and C and also contributes to the potentially eligible 655 Duette Resource Group (8MA1512). SEARCH determined that historic archaeological site 8MA1518 and historic structures 8MA1510 and 8MA1511 do not appear individually eligible for listing on the NRHP, but contribute to the 655 Duette Road Resource Group (8MA1512). SEARCH determined that the 655 Duette Resource Group (8MA1512) is considered potentially eligible for listing in the NRHP under Criterion D for research potential regarding landscape and settlement patterns of historic ranching in Florida and association with the NRHP-eligible cattle dip vat (8MA1509).

500 S. Bronough Street • Tallahassee, FL 32399-0250 • <http://www.flheritage.com>

Director's Office
(850) 245-6300 • FAX: 245-6436

Archaeological Research
(850) 245-6444 • FAX: 245-6452

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(850) 245-6333 • FAX: 245-6437

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South Florida Regional Office
(561) 416-2115 • FAX: 416-2149

North Florida Regional Office
(850) 245-6445 • FAX: 825-6435

Central Florida Regional Office
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SEARCH determined that the proposed phosphate mining is likely to affect potentially eligible historic resources 8MA1512 and 8MA1509. SEARCH recommends additional photographic documentation and historical research to make unequivocal eligibility determinations for these resources.

Based on the information provided, our agency finds the submitted report complete and sufficient in accordance with Chapter 1A-46, *Florida Administrative Code*.

Our office concurs with the determinations for Sites 8MA1506 – 8MA1508 and 8MA1513 – 8MA1517. Our office also concurs that Sites 8MA1510, 8MA1511, and 8MA1518 are ineligible for listing in the NRHP on an individual basis.

However, our office does not concur that the cattle dip vat (8MA1509) or the 655 Duette Resource Group (8MA1512) are potentially eligible for listing on the NRHP.

While 8MA1509 retains a significant degree of integrity, cattle dipping vats are common in Florida. The vat within the project area is not one of the first dipping vats, nor is it unique enough to be considered representative of the governmental tick eradication program (Criterion A). Furthermore, it is not architecturally distinctive, nor does it embody a type of construction (Criterion C).

Since the cattle dipping vat (8MA1509) is not potentially eligible for listing in the NRHP, the resource group's (8MA1512) potential to provide contextual information for interpreting the vat is not significant. Also, most of the resources in 8MA1512 are in ruinous condition; this lack of integrity impairs the group's research potential in the area of mid-twentieth century cattle ranching settlement patterns.

Therefore, it is the opinion of this agency that the proposed development is unlikely to affect cultural resources. Our office recommends no further investigation of the subject parcel.

For any questions concerning our comments, please contact April Westerman, Historic Preservationist, by electronic mail at amwesterman@dos.state.fl.us, or by phone at (850) 245-6333. We appreciate your continued interest in protecting Florida's historic properties.

Sincerely,



Frederick P. Gaske, Director, and
State Historic Preservation Officer