



Historic Context of Rural Industry Sites in the Sand Hills Region of Georgia, South Carolina, and North Carolina

Project #09-436

Background:

Under Section 110 of the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, the DoD is required to identify, evaluate, and manage archaeological sites eligible for the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). As many archaeological surveys were completed on Sand Hill DoD installations in the early 1990s, the significance of historic sites were often overlooked or under-recorded in favor of pre-contact Native American occupation sites. As the significance of historic sites becomes more prevalent in archaeological research, it is important to take a closer look at many of these previously identified sites to ensure the DoD is serving its stewardship duties to these resources.

The Sand Hills is a small region between the Piedmont and Coastal Plain of Georgia, South Carolina, and North Carolina. The unique ecology and soil types present in the Sand Hills provide suitable conditions for rural populations to pursue certain types of small-scale industry. Rural industry sites, including water powered mills and turpentine collection sites, have been the subject of more focused studies on the installations participating in this project. The completed studies provide a large information base to compile a historic context to look at these sites on a regional level and their impact on commercial, agricultural, and economic life ways.



Courtesy of the Fort Gordon U.S Army Signal Center Archives

Objective:

The four primary goals of this project are to (1) provide a history of the physical and technological development of rural industry sites, (2) identify the typical location and/or probability of finding these sites on the individual installations, (3) determine what research topics and criteria

should be used to evaluate the significance of these sites, and (4) present recommendations and tools for using the results of this study in public outreach opportunities.

Summary of Approach:

The development of a historic context initially involved collecting survey and Geographic Information System (GIS) data from the six Sand Hill installations involved in the project: Fort Benning, Robins Air Force Base, Fort Gordon, Fort Jackson, Shaw Air Force Base, and Fort Bragg. The installations included in this project are mostly, if not completely, surveyed at the Phase I level, providing a good look at what rural industry sites have been identified across the region. The combination of the survey data and historic research provided a typical description of features present on these rural industry sites and guidelines for assessing their NRHP eligibility.

Benefit:

Thus study provides a historic context that will assist in the identification, evaluation, and management of rural industry sites in compliance with Section 106 and 110 parameters. Regionally, the creation of a historic context and evaluation criteria will assist the Sand Hills DoD installations in addressing site eligibility and their stewardship responsibilities. Nationally, the evaluation and management plan portions of this study can serve as a model of how to deal with these types of sites for DoD installations in other regions.

Accomplishments:

This project created a regional historic context which described the history and site features of the individual industry types as well as a discussion about their presence and likelihood of being present at the individual installations, was created through this project. Specific tools synthesizing the project, including a poster and pamphlets, were developed and handed out to the participating installations to use for public outreach.

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