

YAZOO BACKWATER AREA REFORMULATION

APPENDIX 15
CULTURAL RESOURCES

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1	A CULTURAL RESOURCES SURVEY OF THE YAZOO AREA PUMP PROJECT, ISSAQUENA COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI, BY KATE HUCKABAY YARBROUGH, 20 JULY 1981

YAZOO BACKWATER AREA REFORMULATION

APPENDIX 15 CULTURAL RESOURCES

1. Cultural resource investigations are required as per Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, and the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969. The intent of these studies is to identify, evaluate, and protect/manage cultural resources that possess significance. Resources that may be identified within the Yazoo Backwater Area Reformulation study area include prehistoric archeological sites, historic farmsteads, cemeteries, standing structures, places associated with important events and traditional cultural properties, etc.

2. The study area is situated within five Mississippi counties (Humphreys, Issaquena, Sharkey, Warren, and Washington) and the portion of one Louisiana parish (Madison) that is located east of the Mississippi River (see Plate 1, Appendix 4). Recorded cultural resource data for all of the counties/parish are included in this study.

3. All alternatives were considered in the cultural resources literature and records review. The review was conducted in June 2005 and involved the examination of holdings housed at the Mississippi Department of Archives and History—the archeological site cards, the standing structure forms, the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP), and other pertinent documents and maps; e.g., soil survey data, cultural resource reports, local histories, U.S. Geological Survey topographic maps, and aerial photography. In addition, the Louisiana Division of Archaeology was consulted regarding the portion of Madison Parish located east of the Mississippi River.

4. A literature and records review was conducted to ascertain whether any previously recorded or known prehistoric and historic cultural resources are located in or adjacent to the study area and determine what types of cultural resources might be expected in the study area. The results of the literature review are presented in Table 15-1.

TABLE 15-1
ARCHEOLOGICAL SITES RECORDED WITHIN THE STUDY AREA
JUNE 2005

County/Parish	Total Number of Recorded Archeological Sites	Total Number of Recorded Archeological Studies	Total Number of Sites Eligible for Inclusion in the National Register
Humphreys	81	18	52
Issaquena	67	22	25
Sharkey	149	25	30
Warren	1	0	22
Washington	199	21	54
Yazoo	87	7	38
Madison Parish, LA	11	4	30
TOTAL	595	93	251

5. Approximately 595 archeological sites have been recorded within the study area. These sites are listed by county/parish (Table 15-1). A total of 93 NRHP eligible properties have been listed within the study area. There have been 251 cultural resource surveys conducted within the study area. The proposed pump structure site location has previously been subjected to a cultural resources survey (Yarbrough, 1981), and no significant cultural resources were identified (see Attachment 1).
6. All of the project alternatives include some reforestation of presently cultivated areas. These areas will be acquired as easements from willing landowners. In all cases, the easements will be limited to property located below the 100.3-foot Steele Bayou structure gage, but will primarily be below elevation 91.0 feet, NGVD (equivalent to 100-year project flood stage). The types of property desirable for acquisition for reforestation are typically situated in the lowest elevations of the study area and are frequently inundated. This low-lying, frequently flooded, geomorphic trait of the lower Yazoo Basin predates the prehistoric occupation of the area. This physical feature has had a direct effect on human settlement and land use patterning for the region diachronically. Therefore, this trait will be integral to understanding and predicting the settlement and land use history for the study area. This key factor will be taken into account when the surveys are conducted to identify cultural resources for the selected alternative.
7. Once the project's final alternative is selected, an intensive cultural resource survey will be conducted over the property contained within the selected alternative and its Area of Potential Effect (APE) to identify all cultural resources. Survey methods will include remote-sensing technologies; e.g., satellite and low aerial imagery, as well as conventional ground truthing methods; e.g., soil coring, hand excavation, etc.
8. All identified resources will then be evaluated for their NRHP significance. If NRHP eligible properties are determined to be within the project areas rights-of-way or APE, the effects of the project to the resources will be assessed. Efforts will be taken to either preserve the significant resources in place or mitigate appropriately for any adverse effects created by the undertaking.
9. The existing cultural resource data and newly generated data, as a result of the surveys, will be integrated into a Geographic Information System for analysis. This will allow for effective management decisions to be made throughout the life of the project, as well as serve as an important research tool for future studies.
10. Furthermore, should any cultural resources be discovered during implementation of the proposed undertaking, work shall cease in that area until an archeologist can assess the situation and initiate proper consultation under provisions outlined under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended (16 USC 470).