

Cultural Resources Survey of the Proposed Craft Center Boardwalk,  
Madison County, Mississippi  
SEAC-02708

June 2015

Report Prepared by  
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Report prepared for  
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NPS Permitting

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On June 7, 2015, I conducted a cultural resources survey of the proposed 247.3ft (75.4m) boardwalk connecting a parking lot on the Natchez Trace Parkway with the Mississippi Craft Center on Rice Road in Ridgeland, Mississippi (fig. 1). The section of the Natchez Trace in the immediate vicinity of the survey area was nominated to the National Register of Historic Places in 1976 (Appendix 1). The survey area amounts to 0.11 acres (452 square meters). Approximately two hours were spent on the fieldwork portion of the project. Seven previous cultural resources surveys have been conducted within one mile of the survey area (Table 1; fig. 2). There are seven recorded archaeological sites located within one mile of the project area (Table 2; fig. 3). None of these sites will be impacted by the proposed development. Had any artifacts been found, they would have been curated at the Southeastern Archeology Center in Tallahassee, Florida.

### **Background**

The survey area falls in the South Central Hills physiographic zone not far from the boundaries of the North Central Hills and the Jackson Prairie physiographic zones. Although some of the names have changed, these zones were well described by Lowe (1915) in one of the early bulletins of the Mississippi State Geological Survey. While the uplands in both the North Central Hills and the South Central Hills were covered in pine forests, the two regions differ in that hardwoods, most often oaks, are frequently mixed in with the pines of the northern zone (Lowe 1915:211). Floodplains in the North Central Hills were forested in gum trees, white, water and willow oaks, beech, poplar, and ash (Lowe 1915:212). Water and willow oaks, gums, sweet bay, tulip, and short leaf pine grow on the floodplains of the South Central Hills (Lowe 1915:253). The upland of the western portion of the Jackson Prairie was forested in hardwoods with patches of prairie grasses. The bottoms were mostly hardwoods.

Henry Collins (1932) of the Smithsonian Institute conducted one of the earliest professional excavations in Mississippi at the Deasonville Site (22Yz527), located in Yazoo County, less than 30 miles from the survey area. This excavation is significant for several reasons. It was the first professional training opportunity for his two local assistants, James Ford and Moreau Chambers, both of whom went on to make important contributions to southeastern archaeology. Field techniques used at the site included surface collections, stripping the plowzone using a mule drawn scraper, and detailed mapping of exposed structural remains. The artifacts, particularly the ceramics, were described in sufficient detail that they could be assigned to modern types and varieties. Ford (1936) used the Deasonville ceramics in defining one of the earliest comprehensive ceramic sequences for Mississippi and Louisiana. Although substantially revised, that typology was fundamental to the baseline survey of the Lower Mississippi Valley published 15 years later (Phillips, Ford, and Griffin 1951). The ceramic sequence detailed in that report was further elaborated using the type variety system by Phillips (1970).

In 1987 Moore published a summary of a 1982 cultural resources literature review that focused on the Pearl River drainage from Ross Barnett Reservoir to the Gulf of Mexico. At that time, only 39 sites had been recorded within a two mile corridor centering on the river and extending for the entire length of the study area (Moore 1987:194). Although Chambers had included portions of the Pearl River drainage in his reconnaissance level research conducted during the 1930s under the auspices of the Mississippi Department of Archives and History, he conducted no significant excavations in the region. Rands (1959) conducted a pre-inundation survey and limited excavations in the Ross Barnett Reservoir just to the north of Jackson. In that work he documented a Poverty Point period occupation at the Wills site (22Hi512).

Although there have been a number of CRM projects focused on the Pearl River drainage area during the subsequent decades, the only long term, research oriented project to date focused on the Mississippian period settlement surrounding the Pevey site (22Lw510), a relatively large mound center located on a terrace of the Pearl River in Lawrence County, Mississippi. This research was conducted by faculty and students from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and is reported by Livingood (2010) in the book derived from his dissertation. In that work he reports on excavations in two Mississippian mound sites and a Mississippian hamlet as well as the discovery five more Mississippian hamlets. This settlement focused on the terrace soils of the Pearl River floodplain. Significantly, Livingood (2010) used the Phillips (1970) typology with relatively little modification in dealing with the ceramics from his project, indicating that there are substantial similarities between the lower Yazoo Basin where the material that Phillips dealt with was derived and the middle Pearl River ceramics.

European settlers began to move into North Mississippi in small numbers during the early 17<sup>th</sup> century. This portion of the state was ceded by the Choctaw in 1820 and the state capital was moved to Jackson in 1822 (Sanders 1907a:950). Jackson remained the focus of American settlement in the region for the following decades.

Many of the cities of north Mississippi were founded during the 1840s. Settlement was focused by two factors early on, large tracks of arable land and routes of transportation. Early on, the major mode of transportation was by river boat so that there were early towns along the major rivers, the Tombigbee River in the east (Ward 2011) and the Yazoo, Tallahatchie, Sunflower, and Mississippi Rivers to the west (Owens 1990). Overland travel was by means of traces which started out as native trails (Myer 1928) that were heavily used by early settlers. The Natchez Trace is the best known example in Mississippi and opening this route for European travel was a primary concern of the territorial government of Mississippi. The treaties of Chickasaw Bluffs with the Chickasaw and Fort Adams with the Choctaw, both in 1801, had as their primary objective, opening the route of the Natchez Trace through the Indian Territory that made up the northern two thirds of the state at that time. An 1806 Congressional appropriation began the development of the road. Congress provided addition funds in 1815 in recognition of the need to keep the Trace open and in repair as a military route (Rowland 1907:566-568). The Natchez Trace is clearly marked on the 1821 GLO land map which also shows the location of Brashear's field an apparent Euro-American homestead (fig. 4). There is little correspondence between roads on the 1908 USGS 15 minute Jackson quad and the route of the Trace (fig. 5). The Natchez Trace Parkway was established in 1938 and work was begun on the Trace. By 1963, the property in the vicinity of the survey area had been purchased and the roadway had been completed. However, it had to be shifted to higher ground just to the northeast of the survey area to accommodate the flood pool of the newly established Ross Barnett Reservoir (fig. 6).

One of the most significant battles of the early years of the Civil War was fought at Shiloh (Foote 1958:340-348) and, while this was located on the Tennessee River a few miles to the north of Corinth, Mississippi, repercussions of that major Confederate defeat were felt throughout the Midsouth. Following that battle, Union forces captured major cities located in the North Central Hills. Corinth and Holly Springs, for example, were important because they were located on major rail lines. However, the occupation forces at most of these cities were relatively small, allowing Forrest's raiders to range throughout the area, threatening Union supply lines during the remainder of the war (Foote 1963). Likewise, there were, of course, battles for the major cities in the Yazoo Basin but a major focus of Union activities in this region

was an attempt to move Union gunboats from the Mississippi River via the Yazoo Pass into the upper Yazoo Basin in order to attack Vicksburg on its relatively unprotected northwestern flank (Foote 1963:201-206). Vicksburg figured into the two Union occupations of Jackson. The first occurred in May 1863 when Grant took Jackson with relatively little Confederate resistance, thereby controlling a major rail hub. After a brief occupation, Grant continued the Union advance on Vicksburg leaving Sherman to burn the town and destroy the railroad (Foote 1963:361-363). The siege of Jackson followed the fall of Vicksburg in July of the same year. This time the Confederate forces led by Johnston had erected a series of trenches in order to defend the northern, western, and southern approaches to the city. There followed a few days of Union bombardment after which Johnston engineered a night time retreat across the Pearl River to the east. Jackson was burned for a second time (Foote 1963:619-621).

Reconstruction in north Mississippi followed patterns similar to those found throughout the South with the gradual rebound of the agricultural economy based on tenant farming and share cropping rather than slavery. This period is not very well studied in terms of archaeology (Adams 1980; Orser 1988; Reinberger 2003; Wendt 2014). Two of these studies focus on former plantations in North Mississippi (Adams 1980 and Wendt 2014).

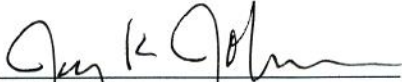
Madison County was established in 1828 and named after President James Madison. It included a portion of Yazoo County located to the east of the Big Black River (Rowland 1907a:159). The principal town is and was Canton, the county seat. It, along with Madison Station and Ridgeland were located on the Illinois Central line just north of Jackson. At the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century Madison Station and Ridgeland had populations of little more than 300. The county was known as a center for the production of peaches, strawberries and vegetables at that time.

### **Fieldwork**

The proposed boardwalk begins at the west end of a paved walkway that provides access to a section of the sunken road associated with the Natchez Trace and connects to a side walk leading to the Craft Center. Although the old trace is clearly evident to the east of the boardwalk, there is little topographic indication of it in the survey area. The entire length of the survey area is grown up in hardwoods with a few pines (fig. 7). Prior to the shovel testing, survey personnel from Headwaters Inc. used a GPS unit with sub-meter accuracy to record and flag shovel test locations at 20m intervals along the survey route (fig. 8). Shovel tests were dug at these locations following NPS guidelines (Table 3). No artifacts were found.

### **Recommendations**

Nothing was found in the shovel tests. Therefore I recommend that the surveyed area be considered cleared of significant cultural resources.



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662 915-7339 (working hours)

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1907b *Encyclopedia of Mississippi History: Comprising Sketches of Towns, Events, Institutions and Persons, Vol. 2*. S.A. Brant, Madison, Wis.

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Table 1 Previous cultural resources surveys conducted within one mile of the survey area.

MDAH Report	Title	Author
89-108	CRS of Old Canton Road Bridge	Scott, S., Scott & Associates
97-137	Section 106 clearance of the Ridgeland Multi-Use Trail, Natchez Trace Parkway	Brewer, D., NPS
99-040	CRS of Craft Center in Madison (5 acres)	Lauro, J.
01-270	CRS of Proposed 25 Acre Tract of Land	Lauro, J.
02-275	CRS of Craft Center in Madison (5 acres)	Brookes, S.
10-0756	City of Ridgeland request to install water fountains along existing multi-use path (1 acre)	Williams, D.
14-0433	Phase I CRS of proposed MS Craft Center parking improvements, (1 acre)	Lauro, J.

Table 2 Previously recorded cultural resources located within one mile of the survey area.

ASMIS #	MDAH #	Eligibility	Description
NATR00096	Md504	Ineligible	Possible Woodland mound, completely destroyed
NATR00578	Md602	Unknown	Late Archaic, Woodland, Mississippian
NATR00579	Md603	Unknown	Late Archaic, Woodland, Historic
NATR00580	Md604	Unknown	Late Archaic, Woodland
NATR00581	Md605	Unknown	Woodland?
NATR00636	Md510	Unknown	Unknown aboriginal, midden
No number	Md768	Eligible	Paleo Indian, Middle and Late Woodland, Mississippian

Table 3 Descriptions and GPS locations of shovel test, NAD 83.

STP	Easting	Northing	Depth (cm)	Zone Description
1	773698	3591164	0-19	7.5YR 6/1 silt loam, poorly developed humus
			19-49	7.5YR 7/4 silty clay loam, subsoil
			49-54	7.5YR 7/4 with 7.5YR 7/2 mottling, clay loam
2	773714	3591178	0-10	7.5YR 5/2 silt loam, poorly developed humus
			10-42	7.5YR 5/2 with 7.5YR 7/2 mottling, silt loam
			42-52	7.5YR 8/4 silt loam, abrupt horizontal boundary
3	773722	3591192	0-10	7.5YR 5/4 silty loam, humus
			10-29	7.5YR 5/3 silty loam
			29-51	7.5YR 2/2 with 7.5YR 7/6 mottling, silty clay loam

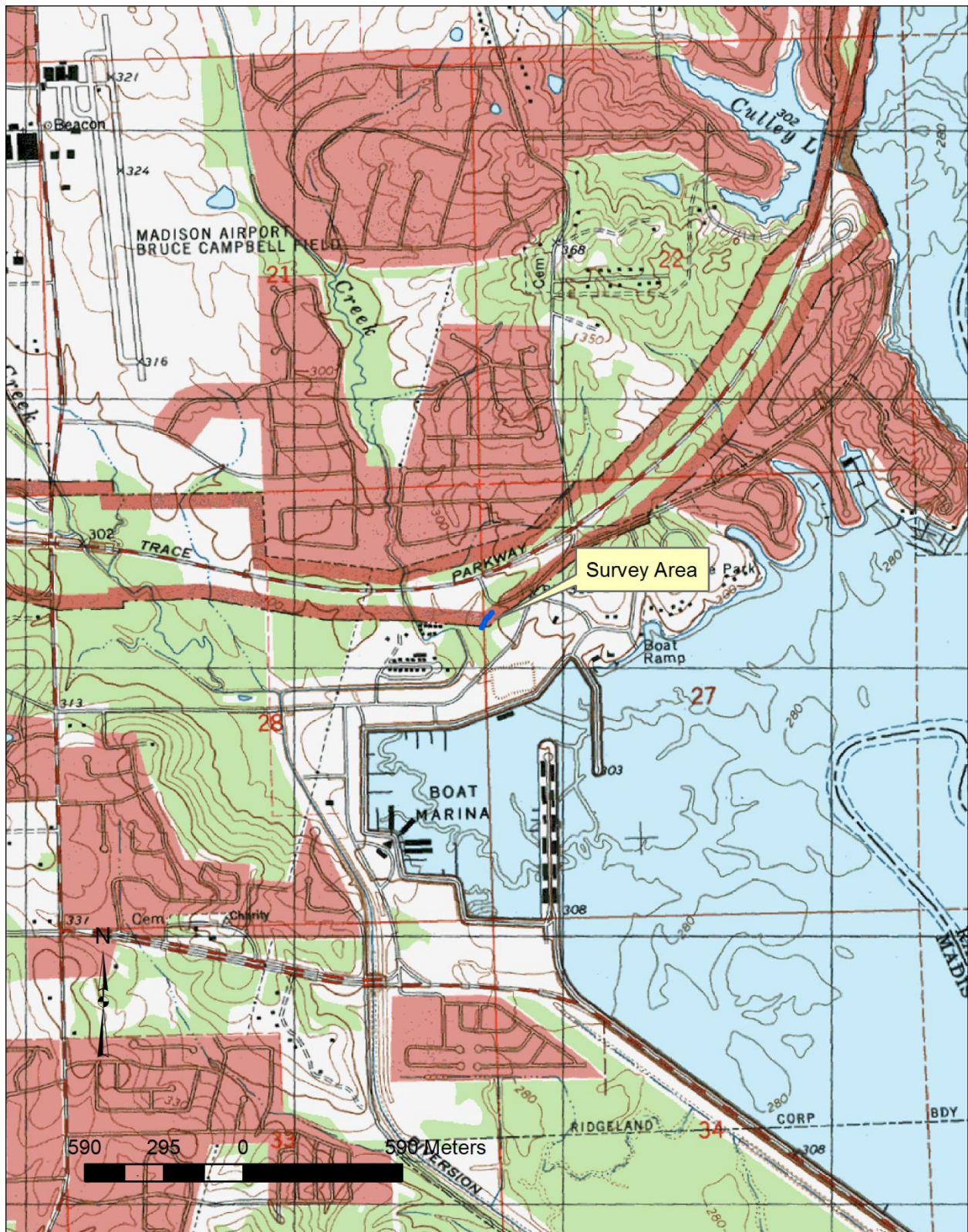


Figure 1 Survey area, Secs. 27, 28, T7N, R2E, 1998, 7.5 minute Madison quad.

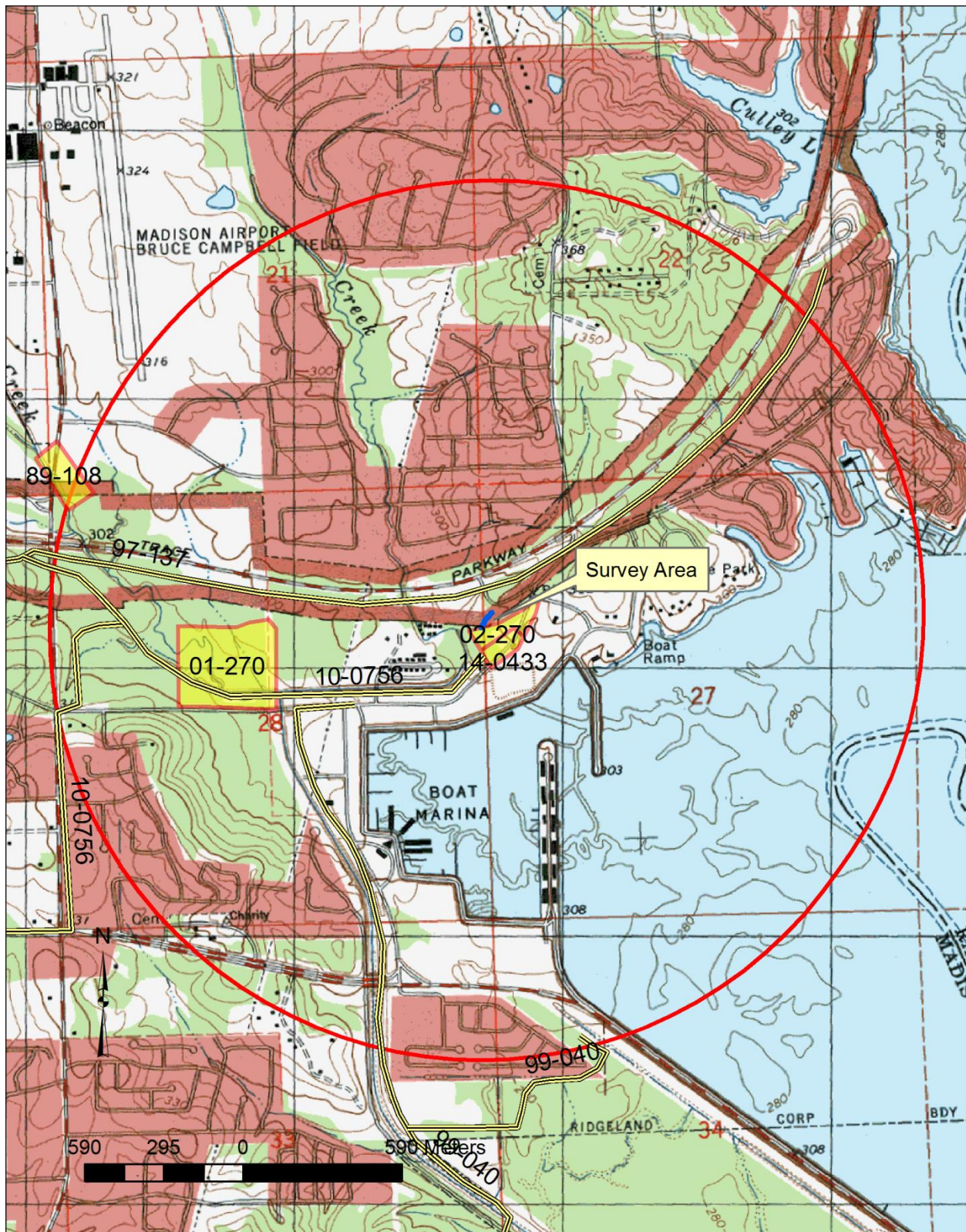


Figure 2 Previous cultural resources surveys located within one mile of the survey area.

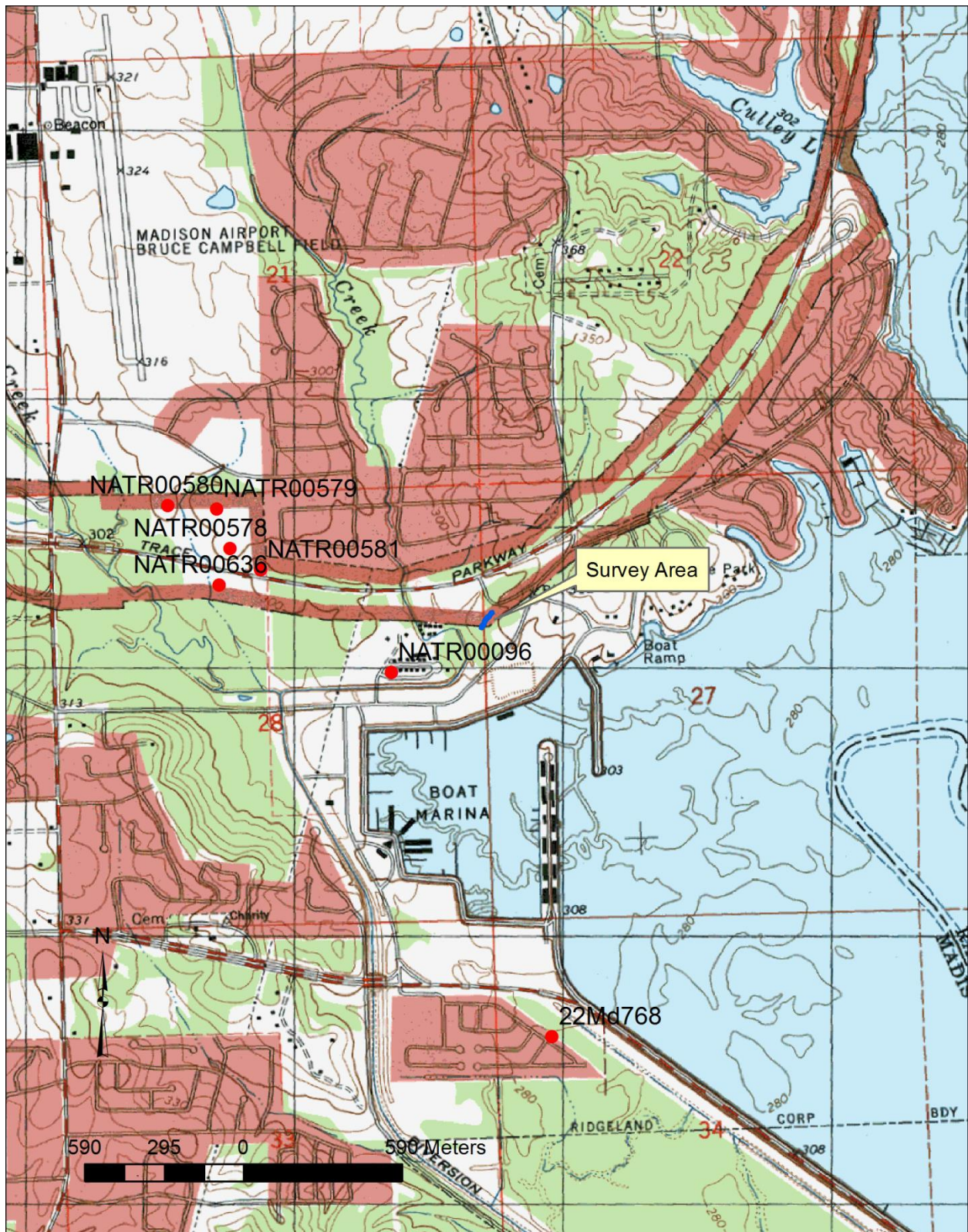


Figure 3 Previously recorded archaeological sites located within one mile of the survey area.



Figure 4 Survey area, 1821 GLO map showing Natchez Trace and Brashear's fields.

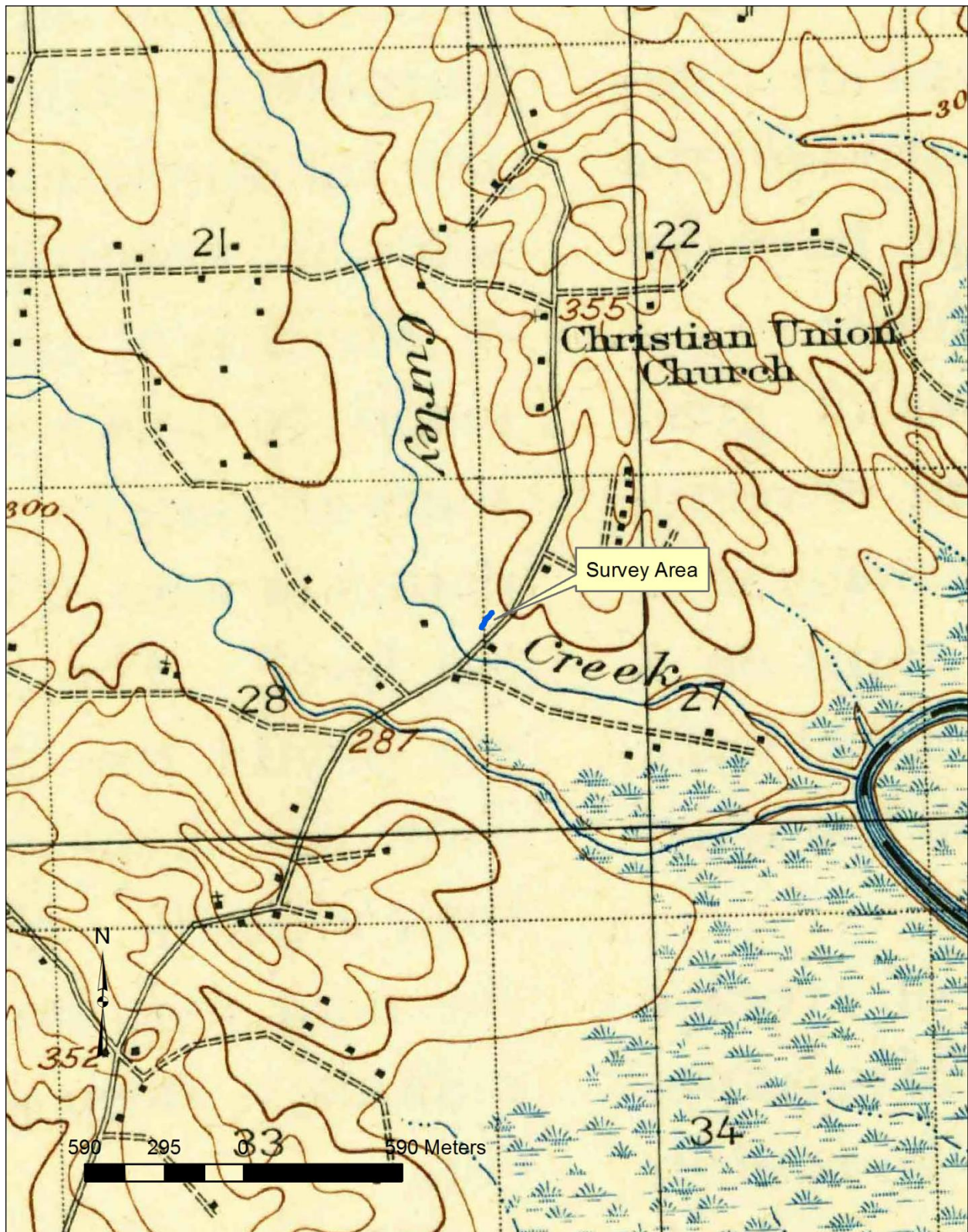


Figure 5 Survey area, 1908, 15 minute Jackson quad.

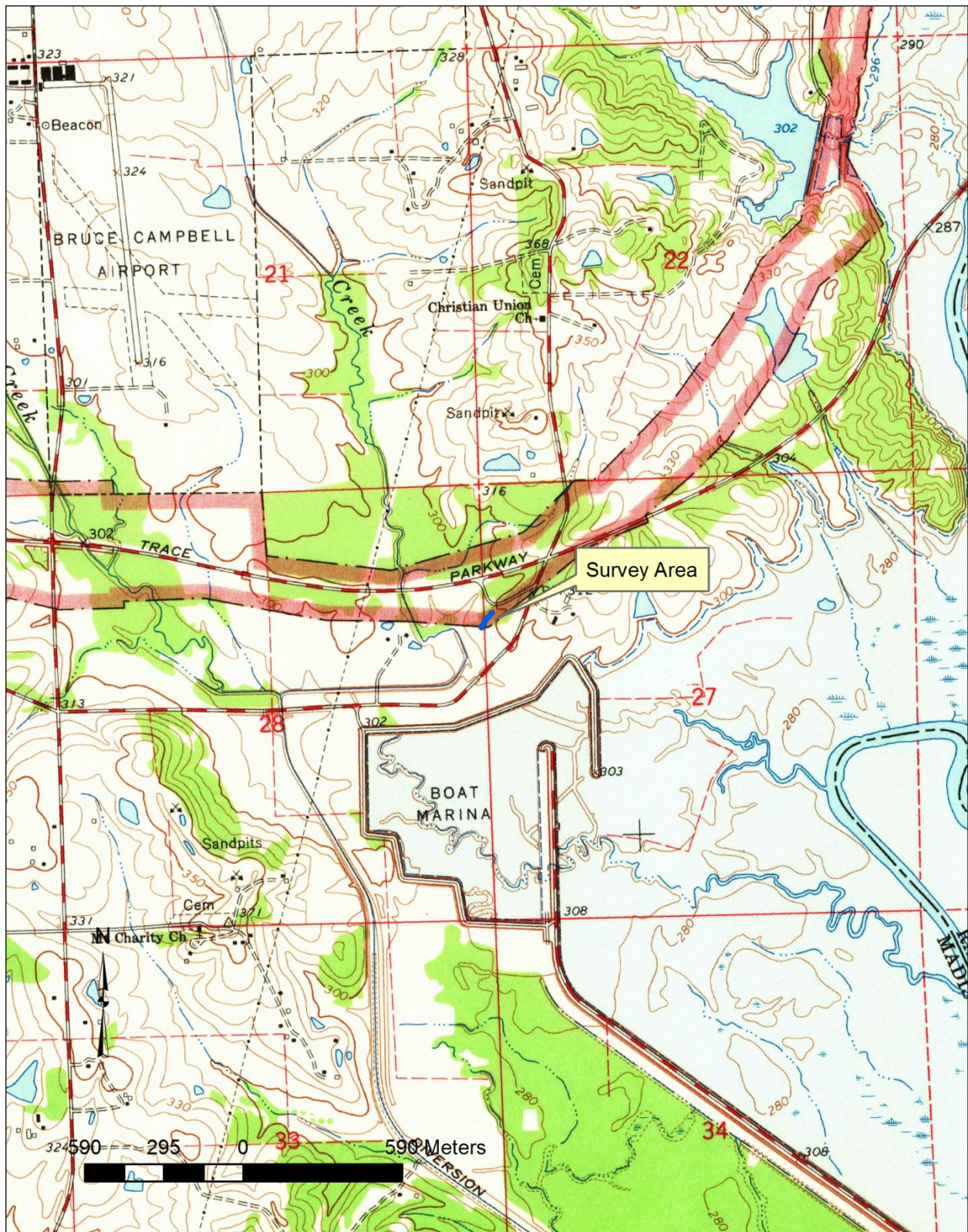


Figure 6 Survey area, 1963, 7.5 minute Madison quad.



Figure 7 Survey area, view to the southwest.

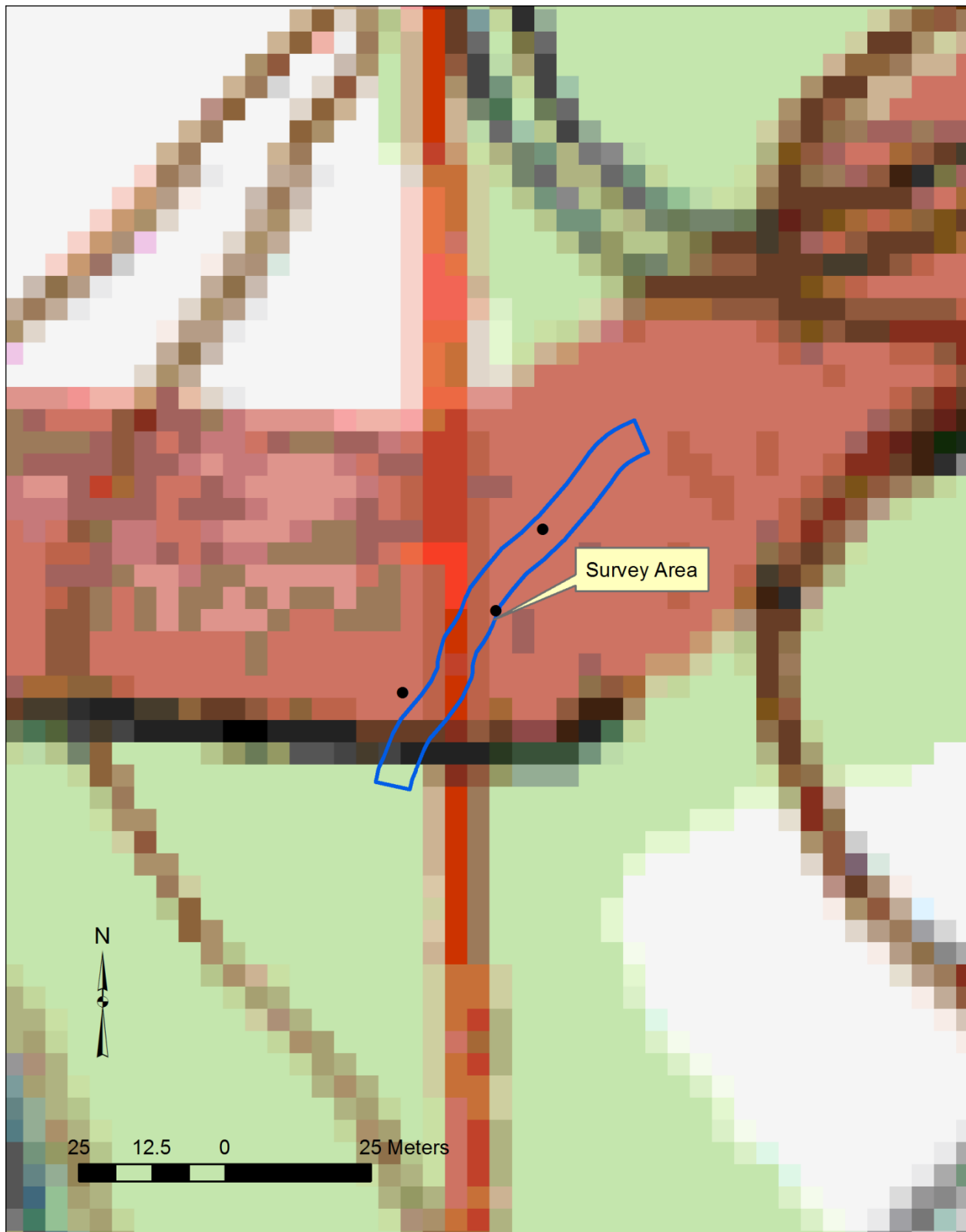


Figure 8 Survey area, black dots showing GPS locations of shovel tests.

## **Appendix 1**

PH 366889

## DATA SHEET

Form 10-306  
(Oct. 1972)UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICENATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM  
FOR FEDERAL PROPERTIES

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE:

Mississippi

COUNTY:

Madison

FOR NPS USE ONLY

ENTRY DATE

NOV 7 1976

## 1. NAME

COMMON:

Old Natchez Trace (No. 170-30)

AND/OR HISTORIC:

Path to Choctaw Nation, Chickasaw Trace, Natchez Trace

## 2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:

P. O. Box 438 - Natchez Trace Parkway, milepost #104.6

CITY OR TOWN:

Ridgeland

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:

3

STATE:

Mississippi 39157

CODE

28

COUNTY:

Madison

## 3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY  
(Check One)

OWNERSHIP

STATUS

ACCESSIBLE  
TO THE PUBLIC

- ☐ District ☐ Building  
☒ Site ☐ Structure  
☐ Object

- ☒ Public  
☐ Private  
☐ Both

Public Acquisition:

- ☐ In Process  
☐ Being Considered

- ☐ Occupied  
☒ Unoccupied  
☐ Preservation work  
in progress

- Yes:  
☐ Restricted  
☒ Unrestricted  
☐ No

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- ☐ Agricultural ☐ Government ☒ Park ☐ Transportation ☐ Comments  
☐ Commercial ☐ Industrial ☐ Private Residence ☐ Other (Specify)  
☐ Educational ☐ Military ☐ Religious  
☐ Entertainment ☐ Museum ☐ Scientific

## 4. AGENCY

U. S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, Natchez Trace Parkway

REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS: (If applicable)

Southeast

STREET AND NUMBER:

3401 Whipple Avenue

CITY OR TOWN:

Atlanta

STATE:

Georgia 30344

CODE

13

## 5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:

Chancery Clerk's Office

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:

Canton

STATE:

Mississippi 39046

CODE

28

## 6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:

Natchez Trace Parkway Survey, United States Government Printing Office

DATE OF SURVEY: 1941

☒ Federal☐ State☐ County☐ Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

Library of Congress

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:

Washington

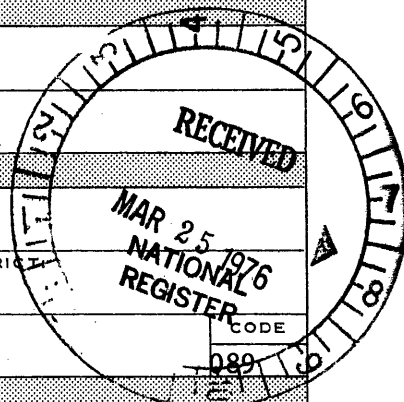
STATE:

District of Columbia

CODE

001

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Missis-  
sippiCOUNTY:  
Madison

ENTRY NUMBER

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

# 7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

(Check One)

☐ Excellent

☐ Good

☒ Fair

☐ Deteriorated

☐ Ruins

☐ Unexposed

(Check One)

☒ Altered

☐ Unaltered

(Check One)

☐ Moved

☒ Original Site

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

There are two locations of the Old Trace at this site. One is very badly grown up with pine trees and undergrowth and it has high banks. The other portion is very wide. The trail is smooth and is used by visitors. This section is near the parking lot and this is an interpretive stop on the parkway. Just north of the cleared trail it is grown up with underbrush. Turner Brashers operated an inn near here beginning in 1806 and this is also interpreted as part of the Old Trace story.

Recommended treatment: Preservation

Preliminary cost estimate for above: \$500.00

Photograph enclosed

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

## 8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |  |                                       |  |                                       |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 18th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century  | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century |                                       |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |  |   |  |  |
|--|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal                | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Education   | <input type="checkbox"/> Political                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric               | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering            | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy       | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry               | <input type="checkbox"/> Science                   | _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture               | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention              | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture                 | _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture              | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian       | _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art                       | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature             | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater                   | _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Military               | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music                  |  |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation              |   |  |  |

### STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Near this section of the Old Trace and some 300 yards south on the Old Trace was the stand or inn that Turner Brashears opened in late 1806 for travelers. Brashears, of Bladensburg, Maryland, was a trader to the Choctaw before 1792 and during the Spanish rule. Because of his knowledge of the Choctaw Nation and language, he was consulted by Spanish and American authorities. The exact site is presently unknown and is not on the parkway. Like so many, Brashears took advantage of the Trace traffic, and his story is also a part of the Old Trace.

When Europeans began to explore the Old Southwest, they found a network of trails which showed a marked tendency to follow watershed divides, avoiding wherever possible stream crossings and swamps. Several of these trails, though individually unimportant, led southwesterly from Nashville, Tennessee, to Natchez, Mississippi.

One such trail was the Chickasaw Trace which ran from Nashville to about Tupelo, Mississippi, to the Chickasaw Nation. There it intersected another trail which connected to the Choctaw and Natchez Tribes and which appears on French maps of the 1730's. The southern part of the trail appears on British maps of the 1770's as the "Path to the Choctaw Nation." These trails often shifted with the weather and population as towns sprang up nearby.

Explorers and traders traveled over these trails and they let it be known that they connected Natchez and Nashville. In 1785 a small scow from Pittsburgh loaded with flour landed at Spanish Natchez. This was the beginning of the Natchez Trace as the Boatmen's Trail. From this humble beginning, western products began to flow down the Mississippi to Natchez and New Orleans. The effect on the western economy was enormous. This was the major outlet of trade for them.

In 1798 the Mississippi Territory was formed and traffic increased so much there was a demand to improve the road. By 1810 about 8-10,000 people were using the road. It was also important to have a good line of communication between the Federal Government and the capital of the Mississippi Territory.

In 1801 President Thomas Jefferson authorized improvement on the Natchez Trace and work began in that year and ended in 1807. Postal service also began on the Old Natchez Trace in 1800 and continued until the 1830's. Stands or inns, such as Mount Locust, sprang up along the Trace until 50 were located between Natchez and Nashville.

(Continued)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

# 9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Phelps, Dawson A. "The Trace in Alabama." Alabama Review, vol. VII. (January 1949). 22-41.

. "The Natchez Trace in Tennessee History." Tennessee Historical Quarterly, vol. XIII. (September 1954). 195-203.

. "The Natchez Trace: Indian Trail to Parkway." Tennessee Historical Quarterly, vol. XXI. (September 1962). 203-18.

# 10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY				O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES				
CORNER	LATITUDE		LONGITUDE		LATITUDE		LONGITUDE		
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	°	'	"	°	'	"	32°	25'	30"
NE	°	'	"	°	'	"	90°	05'	18"
SE	°	'	"	°	'	"			
SW	°	'	"	°	'	"			

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: .41 acre, Class VI

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

# 11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: William E. Cox, Assistant Chief Park Interpreter		DATE: 09/09/74
BUSINESS ADDRESS: Natchez Trace Parkway		
STREET AND NUMBER: R. R. 1, NT-143		PHONE: (601) 842-1572
CITY OR TOWN: Tupelo	STATE Mississippi 38801	CODE 28

# 12. CERTIFICATION OF NOMINATION

# NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

State Liaison Officer recommendation:

☐ Yes

☐ No

☒ None

Elton R. Hilliard  
State Liaison Officer Signature

In compliance with Executive Order 11593, I hereby nominate this property to the National Register, certifying that the State Liaison Officer has been allowed 90 days in which to present the nomination to the State Review Board and to evaluate its significance. The recommended level of significance is ☐ National ☐ State ☒ Local

Dennis J. Drabell 3/23/76  
Federal Representative Signature Date

for the Deputy Assistant Secretary  
Title

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

Clay L. Rogers  
Acting Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date 11/7/76

ATTEST:

Wm. H. Minter  
Keeper of The National Register

Date 11/1/76

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
Mississippi	
COUNTY	
Madison	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	NOV 7 1976

(Number all entries)

Item 8. Significance

In 1812 the United States declared war on England. Gen. Andrew Jackson's Tennessee Militia was ordered down the Natchez Trace to protect New Orleans from a threatened ~~Spanish~~ <sup>British</sup> invasion. This invasion never materialized, and he and his men returned over the Trace to their homes. It was on this march that Jackson won the sobriquet "Old Hickory." The Natchez Trace Parkway was created in 1938 to memorialize the Old Natchez Trace,

Significance: 1st order

Item 10 Geographical Data

UTM Reference Old Natchez Trace (170-36)

15/773770/3591000

