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**Florida
Power**
CORPORATION

Janaury 27, 1984

Mr. Fred P. Gaske
Historic Sites Specialist
Division of Archives,
History and Records Management
The Capitol
Tallahassee, Florida 32301

Subject: Central Florida-Kathleen (500 kV) Transmission Line
Archaeological Excavations at Site 8Sm23

Dear Mr. Gaske:

In accordance with General Condition XIII of the Central Florida-Kathleen (500 kV) Transmission Line Certification and W. W. Vierday's letter of March 29, 1983, Florida Power Corporation has completed archaeological fieldwork and preliminary data analysis of a 20 foot wide corridor across the site required for equipment access and of a portion of the site indavertantly disturbed by tree clearing equipment.

Piper Archaeological Research, Inc. has prepared a Management Summary of their Mitigative Excavations. This report is enclosed for your review. If you have any questions about this report, please call me at (813) 866-5166.

Sincerely,

David K. Voigts, Ph.D.
Manager
Environmental Affairs

DKV/gr

cc: Karen Anthony, FDER

MITIGATIVE EXCAVATIONS AT 8-SM-23,
A PREHISTORIC SITE LOCATED WITHIN THE CENTRAL
FLORIDA-KATHLEEN 500kV TRANSMISSION LINE RIGHT-OF-WAY,
SUMTER COUNTY, FLORIDA

Management Summary

Florida Power Corporation contracted with Piper Archaeological Research, Inc. for a limited mitigative excavation of a 20 foot wide roadway corridor cross-cutting archaeological site 8-Sm-23, located within the Central Florida-Kathleen 500kV transmission line right-of-way (S00672#001). The site, along with six other prehistoric sites, was located during the reconnaissance survey as required by Special Condition XIII of the Central Florida-Kathleen 500 kV Transmission Line Certification (stipulated by the "Transmission Line Siting Act" and implemented under Chapter 17-17 Part II Florida Administrative Code Section 17-17.58(2)(e)). In the summary report of that survey, the authors recommended that only 8-Sm-23 be considered potentially eligible for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places (NR) (Piper, Piper and Hardin 1982:10-11). They further recommend that the site be preserved if feasible, and if not, that limited test excavations should be conducted. The Florida Division of Archives, History and Records Management (DAHRM) concurred with the author's recommendations (Percy 1983a). Subsequently, Florida Power Corporation advised the DAHRM that it planned to arrange for professional archaeological excavation of a 20 foot wide corridor in the only portion of site 8-Sm-23 that was scheduled to be disturbed by project activities (Percy 1983a:2, Percy 1983b).

Responding to an authorization to proceed from FPC, mitigation of the 20 foot wide road corridor was begun with the generation of a site topographic map and excavation of the first level of a 1 x 2 m test unit (EU 2, Figure 1). The archaeological work was then suspended at the request of the landowner to FPC. Artifacts observed during the excavation of unit EU 2 were no longer present when the archaeologists were asked to return 6 1/2 months later. During suspension of work, the trees in the central portion of the archaeological site had been inadvertently uprooted and several areas of the shallow site had been surface graded (the hatched areas in Figure 1). This necessitated an additional archaeological investigation to recover the remaining data that was no longer protected by the root mat and overburden.

The field methodology employed was outlined in the "Proposal for Limited Archaeological Excavations at 8-Sm-23..." submitted to Florida Power Corporation in September 1982. As specified in that proposal, the portion of the proposed roadway likely to contain archaeological information was carefully stripped by a small backhoe monitored by an archaeologist (Figure 1). During this operation, subsurface soil features were investigated to determine whether they were formed by cultural or natural processes. In addition, a deep test pit was excavated by the backhoe with all matrix screened through 1/4 inch mesh to recover cultural material.

In order to interpret more accurately the data recovered from the mitigation of the roadway, general site comparative data was needed. This was accomplished by the hand excavation of five 1 x 1 m excavation units nearer the center of the site in addition to the completion of EU 2. The matrix from these units was screened through 1/4 inch

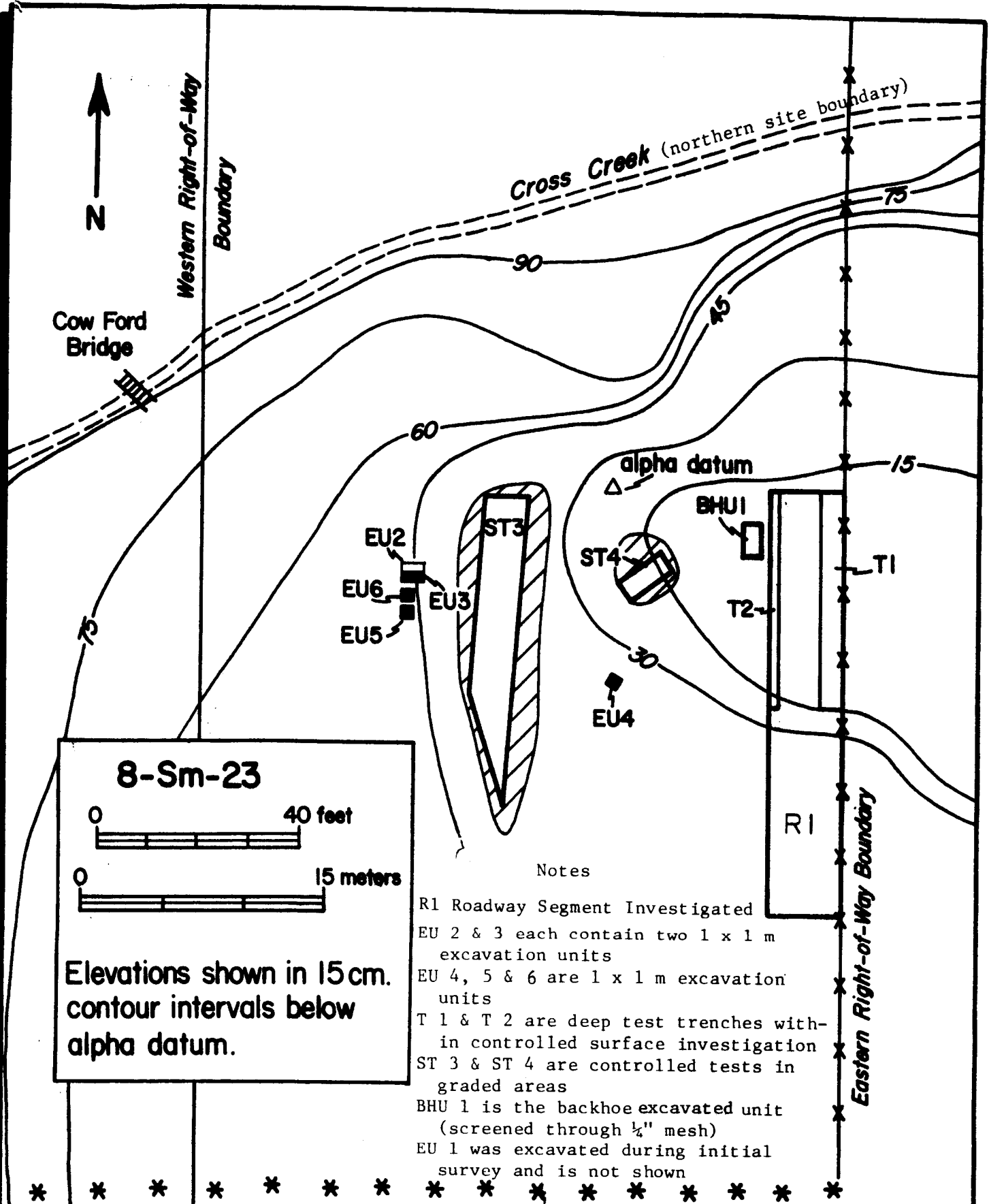


Figure 1: Mitigative Excavations Site Plan. Hatched areas represent accidental grading of site. Asterisks denote on-site flagging marking southern boundary of site.

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St. Petersburg, Florida

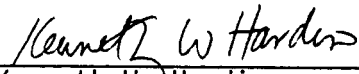
mesh. The mitigation of the roadway and the controlled unit excavation in parts of the remainder of the site were completed satisfactorily, and the information needed to describe the site was obtained.

The site is comprised of a shallow, very dense cultural deposit in the western half of the site, with only scattered lithic artifacts evident in the area of the proposed roadway. The area of the roadway contained sparse lithic cultural material to a depth of 30 cm below surface. No cultural subsurface features were encountered in the roadway. The cultural deposit in the area of EU 2, 3, 5, and 6, ie. outside the proposed roadway, consisted of a midden-like layer, 0-18 cm in depth, containing a dense concentration of lithic and ceramic artifacts as well as preserved floral and faunal remains. The culturally diagnostic artifacts included both sand tempered and limestone tempered thin-walled ceramic sherds and basally notched and corner notched projectile points. Beneath the midden-like deposit, scattered lithic and ceramic artifacts were recovered to a depth of 30 cm below surface. The analyses of the floral and faunal remains and the prehistoric artifacts from the controlled units and the sparse lithic artifacts from the roadway area are in progress and will be reported upon further in the final report.

The mitigative excavations at 8-Sm-23 verified that the site would contribute significantly to knowledge of regional prehistory and that it is eligible for nomination to the NR. The excavations also sufficiently tested the area of the proposed 20 foot wide roadway to insure that no adverse impact to significant cultural resources will result from the construction of the roadway in that portion of the site (Figure 1).

As discussed above, an additional archaeological investigation utilizing the same field methodology was undertaken in the areas that had been graded and the trees uprooted. Artifacts were recovered and mapped and samples were taken for analysis. The results describing this portion of the site will be included in the summary report in preparation.

We concur with Florida Power's recommendation that a protective fence or barrier be erected around site 8-Sm-23 (exclusive of the 20 foot wide road corridor) to protect the shallow, but significant cultural deposit from heavy machinery traffic. On December 17, 1983, red flagging tape was systematically placed along the southern border of the site by the archaeologists to indicate the proper location for the southern portion of the proposed fence (Figure 1).



Kenneth W. Hardin
Senior Archaeologist
Piper Archeological Research, Inc.

REFERENCES CITED

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1983a Letter to Mr. W. W. Vierday, Florida Power Corporation, St. Petersburg, Florida from George W. Percy, Chief, Bureau of Historic Preservation. April 11, 1983. On file Florida Power Corporation, St. Petersburg, Florida.

Percy, George W.

1983b Letter to Mr. John F. Adams, Chief, Regulatory Division, U. S. Army Corps of Engineers, Jacksonville, Florida from George W. Percy, Chief, Bureau of Historic Preservation. May 20, 1983. On file U. S. Army Corps of Engineers, Jacksonville, Florida.

Piper Archaeological Research, Inc.

1982 Proposal for Limited Archaeological Excavations at 8-Sm-23, a Prehistoric Site Located within the Central Florida-Kathleen 500 kV Transmission Line Right-of-Way, Sumter County, Florida. Proposal on file, Piper Archaeological Research Inc., St. Petersburg, Florida and Florida Power Corporation, St. Petersburg, Florida.

Piper, Harry M.

1983 Letter to Dr. David Voigts, Manager, Environmental and Licensing Affairs, Florida Power Corporation, St. Petersburg, Florida from Harry M. Piper, President, Piper Archaeological Research, Inc. June 6, 1983. On file Florida Power Corporation, St. Petersburg, Florida.

Piper, Harry M., Jacquelyn G. Piper and Kenneth W. Hardin

1982 Archaeological Survey of the Central Florida-Kathleen 500 kV Transmission Line Right-of-Way, Sumter and Polk Counties, Florida. Ms. on file, Piper Archaeological Research, Inc. St. Petersburg, Florida and Florida Power Corporation, St. Petersburg, Florida.