Contract Publication Series 15-094

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY FOR THE RECONSTRUCTION OF A SECTION OF KY 40 IN MARTIN COUNTY, KENTUCKY (ITEM NO. 12-192.00)

by
Richard L. Herndon, RPA,
and Brian G. DelCastello, RPA

Prepared for

KENTUCKY TRANSPORTATION CABINET

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ABSTRACT

On April 13 and 27, 2015, Cultural Resource Analysts, Inc., personnel completed an archaeological survey of the proposed reconstruction of a section of KY 40 near the junction of KY 40 and KY 2031 in Beauty, Martin County, Kentucky (Item Number 12-192.00). The survey was conducted at the request of David Waldner on behalf of the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet. The proposed new right-of-way, which was approximately 213 m (700 ft) long, occurred along the northern and southern sides of KY 40 and the western side of the KY 40 and KY 2031 junction. All together, the project area encompassed approximately .6 ha (1.6 acres). The purpose of the reconstruction is to improve safety and traffic operation associated with the junction. A records review indicated that the project area had not been surveyed prior to fieldwork and that no previously recorded sites were present. The entire project was surveyed using a combination of pedestrian survey and screened shovel testing. Limited bucket augering was also used to assess the potential for buried deposits along nearby Buck Creek. Other than the presence of a church, most of the properties within the project area consisted of existing or abandoned residential properties. No archaeological sites were recorded as a result of this survey. No archaeological sites listed in or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places will be affected by the proposed construction activities. Therefore, archaeological clearance is recommended.

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I. INTRODUCTION

On April 13 and 27, 2015, Cultural Resource Analysts, Inc. (CRA), personnel completed an archaeological survey for the proposed reconstruction of a section of KY 40 near the junction of KY 40 and KY 2031 in Beauty, Martin County, Kentucky (Item Number 12-192.00) (Figure 1). The survey was conducted at the request of David Waldner on behalf of the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet (KYTC). The proposed new right-of-way, which was approximately 213 m (700 ft) long, occurred along the northern and southern sides of KY 40 and the western side of the KY 40 and KY 2031 junction. All together, the project area encompassed approximately .6 ha (1.6 acres).

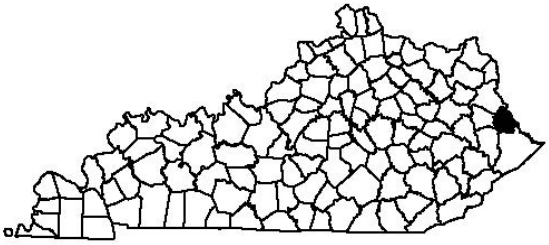

Figure 1. Map of Kentucky showing the location of Martin County.

The fieldwork was completed by Brian G. DelCastello, Robbie D. Grenda, and Richard L. Herndon in 24 work hours. Field methods included pedestrian survey supplemented with systematic screened shovel testing and limited bucket augering. Office of State Archaeology (OSA) Geographic Information Systems (GIS) data requested by CRA on April 2, 2015, was returned on April 8, 2015. The results were researched by Heather Barras of CRA at the OSA on April 8, 2015. The OSA project registration number is FY15-8406.

Project Description

The project consists of an archaeological survey for the reconstruction of a section of KY 40 near the junction of KY 40 and KY 2031 in Beauty, Martin County, Kentucky (Figure 2). Substandard geometrics of the curve located near the junction of KY 2031 and deficiencies in the nearby culvert over Buck Creek contribute to safety issues with this section of KY 40. To improve safety, a relocated alignment, construction of a new bridge and/or culvert, and a reconstructed intersection with KY 2031 is needed.

More specifically and as shown in Figure 3, the east-west extent of the proposed project begins approximately 75 m (246 ft) west of the existing junction of KY 40 and KY 2031 and extends east along KY 40 for a distance of approximately 150 m (492 ft). The project area also extends north along KY 2031 approximately 75 m (246 ft) from the junction.

Purpose of Study

The study was conducted to comply with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. This transportation project is federally funded and is, therefore, considered an undertaking subject to 106 review.

The purpose of this assessment was to locate, describe, evaluate, and make appropriate recommendations for the future treatment of any historic properties or sites that may be affected by the project. For the purposes of this assessment, a site was defined as "any location where human behavior has resulted in the deposition of artifacts, or other evidence of purposive behavior at least 50 years of age" (Sanders 2006:2). Cultural deposits less than 50 years of age were not considered sites in accordance with *Archeology and Historic Preservation: Secretary of the Interior's Standards and Guidelines* (National Park Service 1983).

A description of the project area, the field methods used, and the results of this investigation follow. The investigation is intended to conform to the *Specifications for Conducting Fieldwork and Preparing Cultural Resource Assessment Reports* (Sanders 2006).

Summary of Findings

Prior to conducting the field research, a records review was conducted at OSA. The review indicated that no archaeological sites

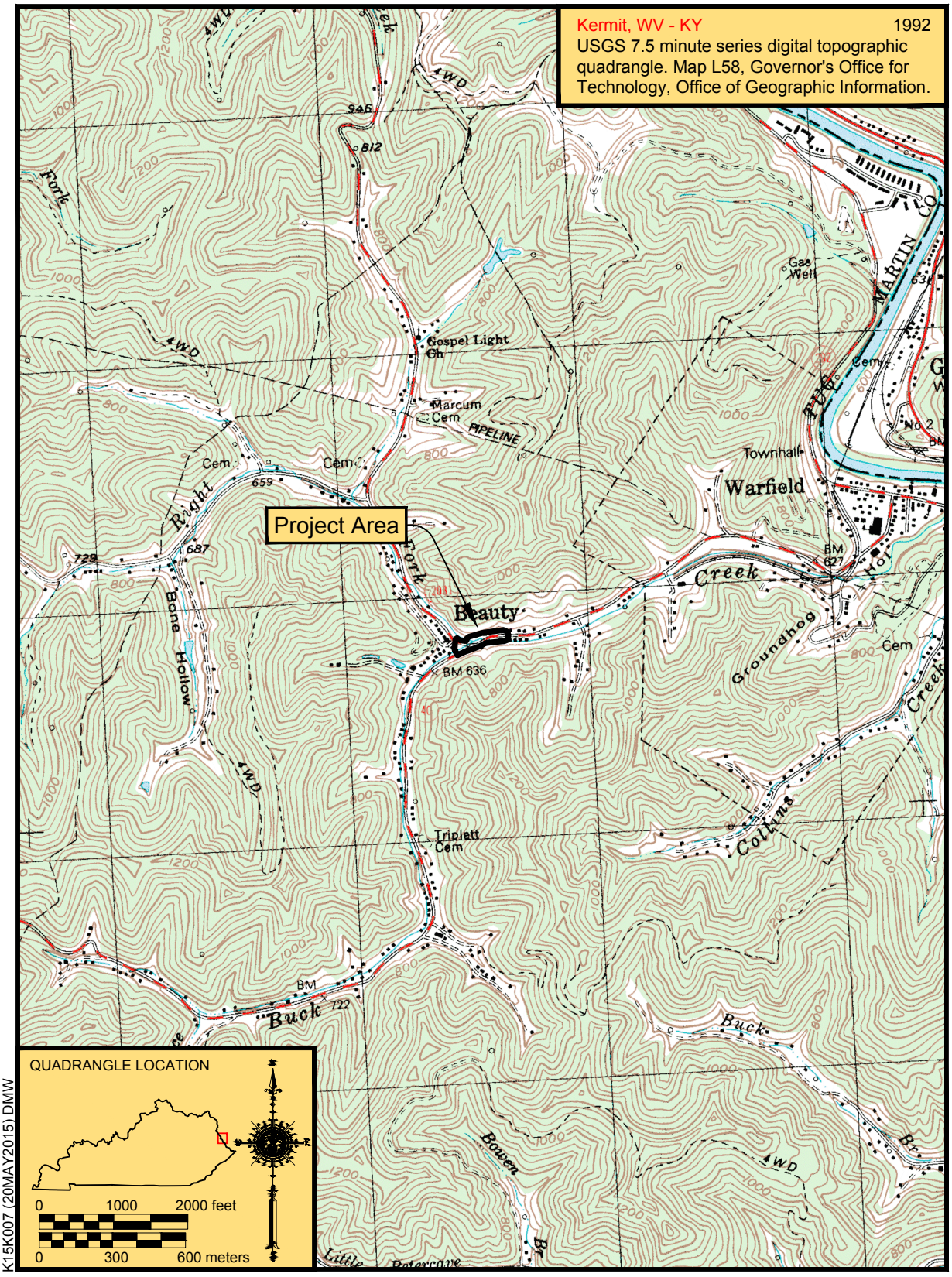

Figure 2. Project area on topographic quadrangle.

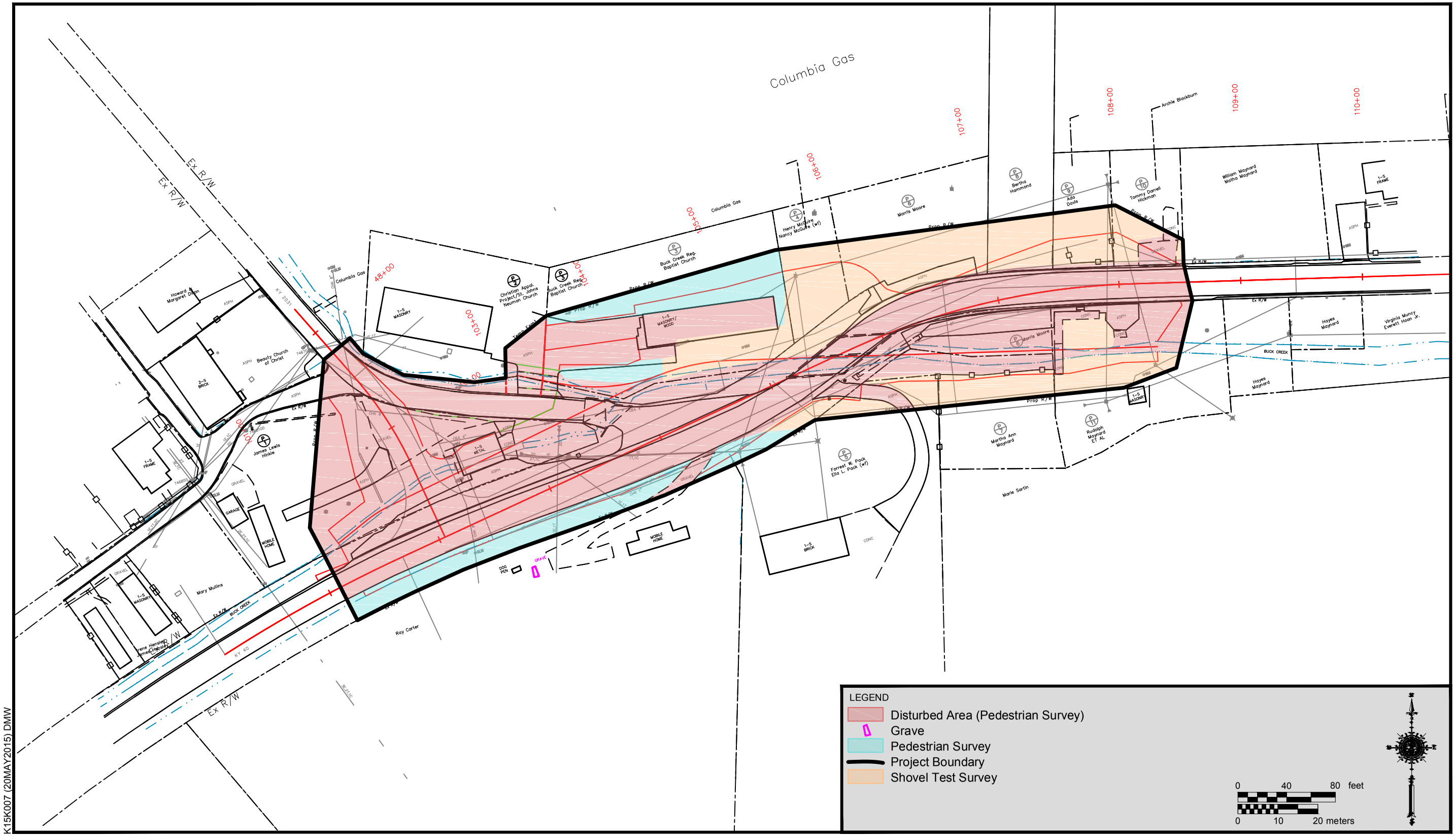

Figure 3. Project area plan map.

or investigations had been documented within the project area. No archaeological sites were recorded during this survey. No archaeological sites listed in or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) will be affected by the proposed construction, and archaeological clearance is recommended.

II. DESCRIPTION OF THE PROJECT AREA

The project area is in the town of Beauty in and immediately adjacent to the KY 40 and KY 2031 junction (see Figures 2 and 3). It is .6 ha in size. Average elevation in the project area was 189 m (620 ft) above mean sea level (AMSL). This area paralleled Buck Creek in a narrow valley bordered by ridgetops to the north and south. Buck Creek is a tributary of Tug Fork which eventually drains into the Big Sandy River.

Ground surface visibility within most portions of the project area was obscured by manicured lawns (Figure 4), secondary growth (Figure 5), and leaf litter. Other portions had been disturbed by gas lines, parking lots (Figure 6), the construction of buildings (Figures 7 and 8), and in-filling with gravel (Figure 9).

A single soil complex was identified within the current project area. The Udorthents-Urban land complex (0 to 12 percent slopes), was identified within the project area. This complex is composed of Udorthents and Urban land soils. When combined, these soils represent extensively modified soils that could not be mapped individually due to the complex nature of the local topography.

The Udorthents consist of fill material composed of soil and rock that has been altered, and in many cases, removed, from its original location, because of "road construction and building site development (Blanford and Moore 2005:70). These soils typically occur along highways, roads, streams, and other heavily-influenced locations. Urban soils are also heavily influenced by human activities. These soils are typically identified at residences, industrial and commercial locations, cemeteries, schools, landfills, and other permanent structures (Blanford and Moore 2005:70).

Figure 4. General overview showing manicured lawns in and around the junction, facing west.

Figure 5. General overview of the project area south of KY 40 showing secondary growth, facing east.

Figure 6. Parking lot associated with a thrift store and church north of KY 40, facing northeast.

Figure 7. Modern metal building at western end of project area, facing southeast.

Figure 8. Modern church, facing west.

Figure 9. Overview of disturbed portion of project with gravel, facing northwest.

Sediments observed in shovel probes largely conformed to the above soil description. Most probes revealed crushed rock and debris that had been brought into the project area as fill. Much of this fill was compact and difficult to shovel test. Fill was generally documented to a depth of 30 to 40 cm below ground surface (bgs). This was especially the case for shovel probes north of KY 40 on the east end of the project area. Less compact fill was noted over the remaining portions of the project area.

For example, the soil profile for one of the deeper shovel tests near the southeast corner of the church was composed entirely of very dark greyish brown (10YR 3/2) loamy sand fill from ground surface to 55 cm bgs. A bucket auger was then used to further investigate the depth of fill as it became too deep for shovel testing. The results of the bucket auger showed the fill to extend to a depth of at least 64 cm bgs before augering was stopped due to a large rock or brick. Soil color and texture did not change from that already noted. Modern artifacts were recovered throughout the fill and included Styrofoam, bottle glass, and a radiator belt.

Lastly, numerous locations of former standing structures were present in the project area that had been demolished sometime previous to the fieldwork. This was particularly the case for the vacant lots located north of KY 40 at the east end of the project area. No evidence of the presence of the former structures was identified archaeologically except for cinder and, in one case, a concrete pad. Also at the east end, but south of KY 40, was the remains of a raised cinder block and concrete pad connected to a concrete bridge that spanned Buck Creek. Building debris in the form of roofing shingles and plywood fragments were present in this area, but nothing older than 50 years in age was noted in shovel tests or on the ground surface (Figure 10).

Figure 10. Remains of a raised cinder block and concrete walk-way spanning Buck Creek, facing east.

III. RESULTS OF THE FILE AND RECORDS SEARCH AND SURVEY PREDICTIONS

Previous Research in Martin County

Prior to initiating fieldwork, a search of records maintained by the NRHP (available online at: http://nrhp.focus.nps.gov/natreghome.do?searchtype=natreghome) and the OSA (FY15_8406) was conducted to: 1) determine if the project area had been previously surveyed for archaeological resources; 2) identify any previously recorded archaeological sites that were situated within the project area; 3) provide information concerning what archaeological resources could be expected within the project area; and 4) provide a context for any archaeological resources recovered within the project area.

The OSA and NRHP file searches were conducted April 8, 2015. The work at OSA consisted of a review of professional survey reports and records of archaeological sites for an area encompassing a 2 km radius of the project footprint. To further characterize the archaeological resources in the general area, the OSA archaeological site database for the county was reviewed and synthesized. The review of professional survey reports and archaeological site data in the county provided basic information on the types of archaeological resources that were likely to occur within the project area and the landforms that were most likely to contain these resources. The results are discussed below.

Previous Archaeological Investigations

Heather D. Barras

OSA records revealed that five previous professional archaeological surveys were conducted within a 2 km radius of the project area. Two archaeological sites have been

recorded in this area also. The 2 km radius included areas within the Kermit quadrangle.

In February 1987, Calvert W. McIlhany conducted an archaeological survey of approximately 62 ha (154 acres) for a proposed coal mine project in Martin County, Kentucky (McIlhany 1987). The project area was investigated by both pedestrian survey and shovel testing. This survey was conducted at the request of Mason, Barrows, and Feamster, Inc., on behalf of the Lester Mounts Coal Company (Permit Application Number 880-0061). No sites or historic properties were located as a result of the survey. No sites listed in, or eligible for inclusion in, the NRHP were affected by the proposed mining activity, and archaeological clearance was recommended.

In June 2005, McGraw, Inc., personnel conducted an archaeological survey of 11 ha (27 acres) of a proposed coal mining operation at the request of American Engineering, LLC, on behalf of Eastern Coal Energies, Inc. (Permit Application Number 880-5171) (McGraw 2005). The project area was investigated by both pedestrian survey and screened shovel testing. No sites or historic properties were located as a result of the survey. No sites listed in, or eligible for inclusion in, the NRHP were affected by the proposed mining activity, and archaeological clearance was recommended.

On August 29, 2006, CRA personnel completed an archaeological survey of a proposed coal mine refuse fill area in Martin County, Kentucky (Hand 2006). The project area was investigated by both pedestrian survey and screened shovel testing. The survey was conducted at the request of Keith Spears of Summit Engineering, Inc., on behalf of Eastern Coal Energies, Inc. (Permit Application Number 880-9003). The entire surface area consisted of 18 ha (44 acres). No sites or historic properties were located as a result of the survey. No sites listed in, or eligible for inclusion in, the NRHP were affected by the proposed mining activity, and archaeological clearance was recommended.

Between February and October 2008, GAI Consultants, Inc., personnel conducted an archaeological survey of the proposed Ranger Kentucky Pipeline Project, consisting of the removal and replacement of an existing gas transmission line in Floyd, Martin, and Pike Counties, Kentucky (Dugas 2009). The survey was conducted at the request of the EQT Production Company. The project area consisted of 67.70 km (42.07 mi) and was investigated by pedestrian survey supplemented with screened shovel testing. Two archaeological sites (15Mt27 and 15Mt28) were documented during the survey. Site 15Mt27 was located within the 2 km radius of the current project.

Site 15Mt27, the Big Elk Creek Rockshelter, has both prehistoric and historic components. The prehistoric component is represented by a single bifacial thinning flake and the historic component is represented by historic inscriptions upon the walls. The site was considered ineligible for NRHP listing (Dugas 2009).

On January 18, 2010, CRA personnel conducted an archaeological survey of the proposed Tug Valley Wastewater Treatment Plant and Sanitary Sewer project near the city of Warfield in Martin County, Kentucky (Case and Herndon 2009). The survey was completed at the request of Libby Ratcliff of the Big Sandy Area Development District, Inc., on behalf of the Martin County Utility Board. A gravity sewer main corridor approximately 5,023 m (13,200 ft) long, a force main approximately 10,290 m (33,760 ft) long, a 1 ha (3 acre) wastewater treatment plant, and six 232 sq m (2,500 sq ft) duplex sewage lift stations were investigated with intensive pedestrian survey supplemented with screened shovel testing. One previously undocumented archaeological site (15Mt29) was identified during the survey. Site 15Mt29 is a historic farm/residence represented by a historic well. The site was considered ineligible for NRHP inclusion, and no further work was recommended. Site 15Mt29 was not located within the 2 km radius of the current project area.

Site 15Mt4 was located within the 2 km radius of the current project area. Site 15Mt4

did not have an associated report and the site form could not be found in the OSA records.

Archaeological Site Data

According to available data, a total of 27 archaeological sites have been recorded in Martin County, Kentucky prior to the current archaeological investigations (Table 1). The data indicates that historic farms/residences are the most numerous archaeological site type identified in the county. Other site types identified throughout the county consist of cemeteries and open habitation without mounds among other site types.

Temporal periods recorded for sites in Martin County consisted of predominantly Historic (n = 21; 61.76 percent), followed by Indeterminate Prehistoric (n = 6; 17.65 percent), and Archaic (n = 3; 8.82 percent). The remaining components consisted of Woodland and Late Prehistoric.

Most sites recorded in Warren County are situated on floodplains (n = 13; 48.15 percent), followed by four sites each of Dissected Uplands and Terraces and three sites in each of Hillside and Other.

Table 1. Summary of Selected Information for Previously Recorded Sites in Martin County. Data Obtained from OSA and May Contain Coding Errors.

Site Type:	N	%
Historic Farm/Residence	11	40.74
Cemetery	5	18.52
Open Habitation without Mounds	4	14.81
Undetermined	3	11.11
Rockshelter	2	7.41
Earth Mound	1	3.7
Other	1	3.7
Total	27	100
Time Periods Represented	N	%
Historic	21	61.76
Indeterminate Prehistoric	6	17.65
Archaic	3	8.82
Woodland	2	5.88
Late Prehistoric	2	5.88
Total	34*	100
Landform	N	%
Floodplain	13	48.15
Dissected Uplands	4	14.81
Terrace	4	14.81
Hillside	3	11.11
Other	3	11.11
Total	27	100

**One site may represent more than one time period.*

The landform locations of sites in Martin County were examined to determine the likelihood of encountering sites within the project area. The current project area is located entirely within floodplains and lower hillslopes, and as such, is likely to contain historic farm/residences, open habitation without mounds, and undetermined archaeological sites. The presence of historic sites is expected given the location of the project area at the former community of Himlerville, Kentucky.

Map Data

In addition to the OSA file search, a review of the available maps was initiated to assist with identifying potential historic properties (i.e., structures) or historic archaeological site locations within the proposed project area. The following maps were reviewed during the current investigations:

1891 Warfield, Kentucky, 30-minute topographic quadrangle (United State Geological Survey [USGS]);

1917 Naugatuck, West Virginia–Kentucky 15-minute series topographic quadrangle map (USGS);

1926 Naugatuck, West Virginia–Kentucky 15-minute series topographic quadrangle map (USGS);

1928 Naugatuck, West Virginia–Kentucky 15-minute series topographic quadrangle map (USGS);

1937 General Highway Map of Martin County, Kentucky (Kentucky Department of Highways [KDOH]);

1952 General Highway Map of Martin County, Kentucky (Kentucky State Highway Department [KSHD]).

The earliest map consulted as part of the current investigations was the 1891 Warfield, Kentucky 30-minute topographic quadrangle (USGS 1891). This map did not depict any structures within or adjacent of the current project area.

The first map that shows the location of standing structures within or adjacent to the project area is the 1917 Naugatuck, West Virginia–Kentucky 15-minute series topographic quadrangle map (USGS 1917) (Figure 11). The data for this map was collected from a survey conducted in 1910 and later updated in 1915. This map depicts a series of structures along Buck Creek and appears to represent a portion of the historic community of Himlerville, Kentucky (see archival section below). Based on slight variations in the geo-referencing process, it appears that two individual structures were present. The first structure (MS 1) is situated in the eastern portion of the project area along the southern edge of what is now KY 40. It is the only structure along this stretch of the road.

The second structure (MS 2) is located directly west of the intersection of KY 40 and KY 2031 within the triangular-shaped parcel. Unfortunately, the scale of the map prevents the determination of the precise location of the building. It is unclear whether this structure is located north or south of Buck Creek. Based on the modern topographic map, it is likely this structure is actually situated north of the waterway along the floodplain. This structure appears to be situated just to the west of the project area.

The 1926 and 1928 Naugatuck, West Virginia–Kentucky 15-minute series topographic quadrangle maps (USGS 1926, 1928) show no change in the layout of these structures. A closer look at the legend shows that these two maps were reissued from the 1917 topographic map mentioned above and do not include any new data.

The next maps examined were the Martin County Highway maps (KDOH 1937; KSHD 1952). These maps depict numerous structures within and adjacent to the project area. Given the coarseness of the scale, however, it is difficult to get a clear determination of the number and, in some cases, types of structures within and adjacent to the project area. The 1937 map (KDOH 1937) portrays numerous structures, including a school and possible church, in the vicinity of the project area along the north side of KY 40. Based on the scale of the buildings and their placement along the highway, these structures may or may not be situated within the project area.

The 1952 highway map (KSHD 1952) details the location of numerous mid-twentieth century structures (labeled as dwellings other than farm on the map) built during the intervening 15 years. A map inset on this smaller scale highway map depicts a series of approximately 12 structures along this stretch of KY 40 and KY 2031. These buildings include a single small business at the far northwestern portion of the project area near the current location of the thrift store. The church and other small business identified along the eastern edge of KY 2031 appears to be situated to the north-northwest outside the project area.

The 1954 Kermit, Kentucky-West Virginia 7.5-minute topographic quadrangle provides some clarification concerning the location of the various structures depicted on the 1952 highway map (Figure 12). Based on the geo-referencing of this map, it appears that approximately nine structures, including a single unoccupied structure south of KY 40, was present within the project area. This unoccupied structure appears to correlate to MS 1. MS 2 is still shown as well on the west end of the project area. In addition to these, seven more structures are evident. MS 3–MS 6 and MS 8–MS 10 are the locations of former structures that have since been demolished. As will be discussed below, MS 7 still exists.

Archival Data on Himlerville

Given the uniqueness of the Beauty community, formerly named Himlerville, a short archival section was added to the report. Hungarian immigrants comprised the majority of the inhabitants and workers in Himlerville at this time, contributing a cultural distinctiveness to this community different from other coal towns in eastern Kentucky. It is hoped that the archival information presented below will help to better contextualize the map data just presented

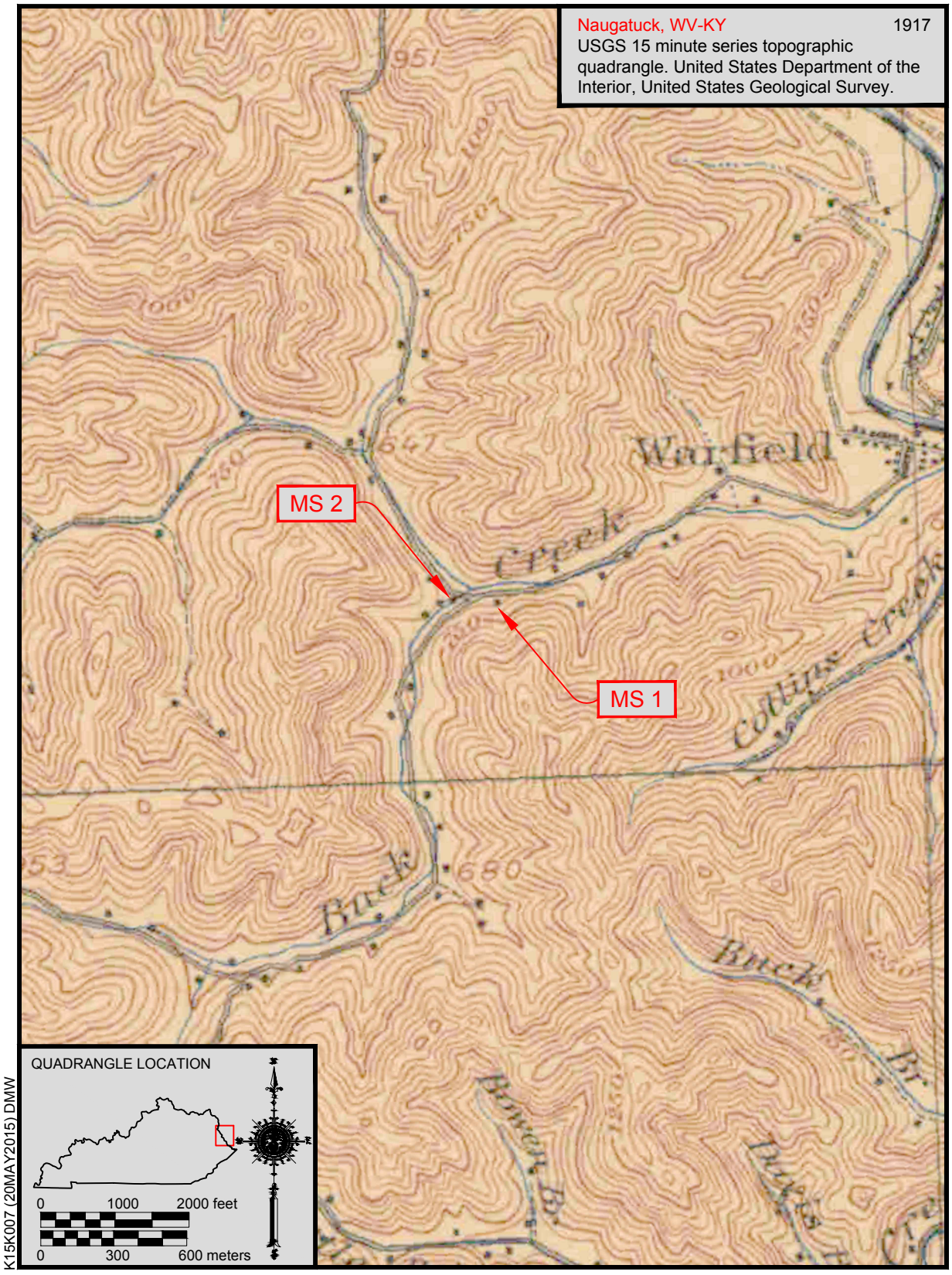

Figure 11. Map structures on historic 15' topographic quadrangle.

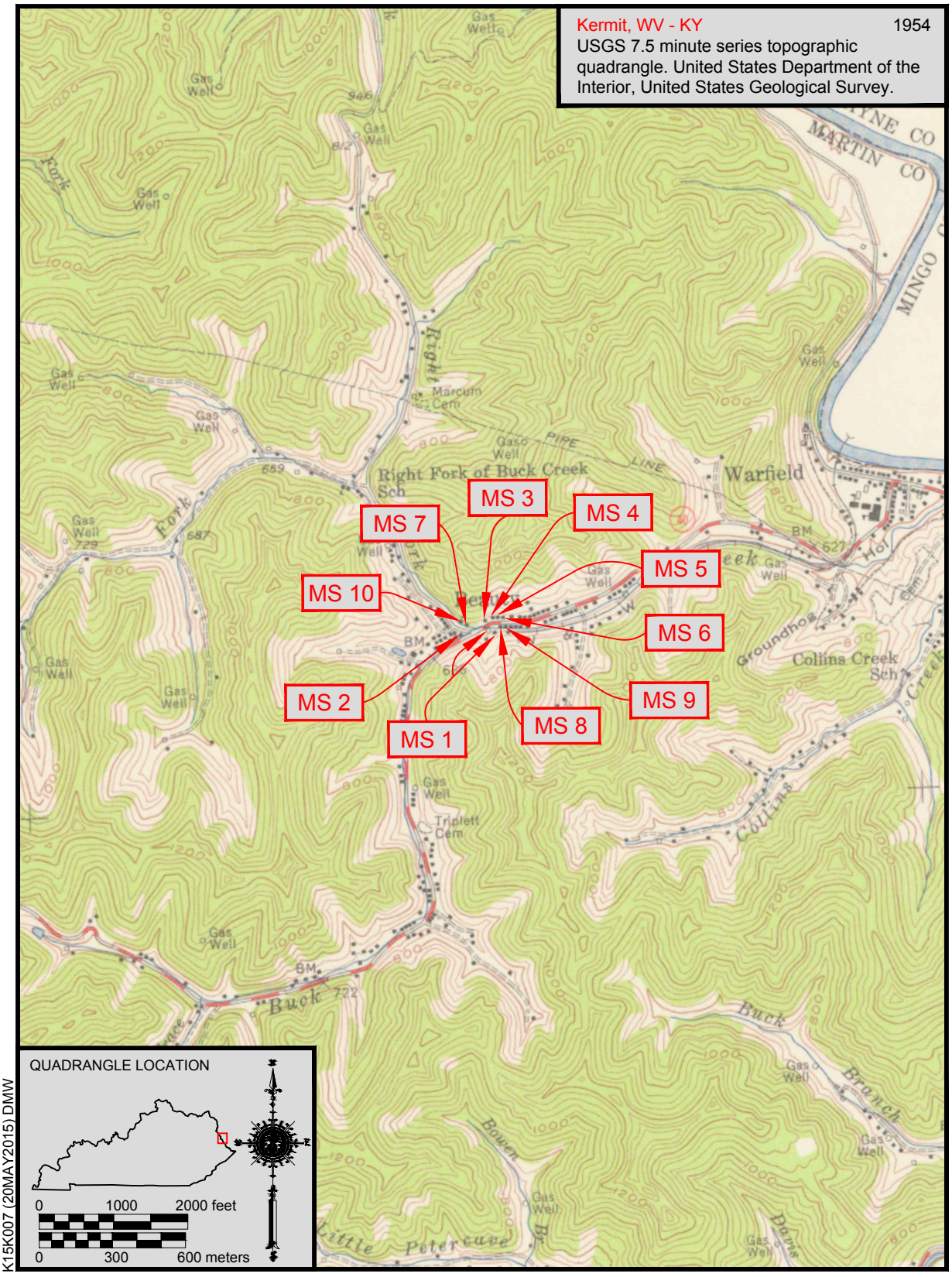

Figure 12. Map structures on historic 7.5' topographic quadrangle.

while providing a history for a small, early-twentieth-century coal town. It also should demonstrate the low potential for intact archaeological sites to be present.

In general, the rural and mountainous setting of this county impeded its ability to attract economic and industrial growth. For example, in 1880 the total population of the county was just 3,057 people. In the next 10 years, the population increased only slightly to 4,209 inhabitants. By 1910, the total population of Martin County had increased to 7,291 residents and to only 7,654 inhabitants by 1920. In 1930, the population was 8,584 (United States Bureau of the Census, 1880–1930, Washington, D.C.).

In the 1910s and 1920s, it was likely the coal industry that contributed to the population growth noted in the census records above. Coal, the lifeblood of the county's economy, was first mined in the late nineteenth century at Warfield. In 1917, Martin Himler, a Hungarian immigrant and owner of Magyar Banyaszlap, a Hungarian newspaper, began the mining operation. Himlerville was established as a coal town, and the Hungarian residents were all stock owners of the Himler Coal Company (Cantrell 1992:433). The town became incorporated in 1922. The town eventually grew to include approximately 1,000 people, most of whom were Hungarian immigrants (Torok 2004).

In order to accommodate a growing community, Himler constructed a supporting infrastructure to provide basic services for the workers and their families. A two-story building, which housed the company store on the first floor and the coal company headquarters on the second floor, was likely one of the first structures built in the community. This building was placed on the west side of the intersection of two roads that correlate with modern day KY 40 and KY 2031. Based on aerial maps from 2004–2014 and a local informant (Mr. Hinkle), this building was standing until 2010 when it was demolished. This building may be MS 2 shown on the 1917 topographic map noted above. This interpretation, however, is tentative as the data on this map was based on 1910 and 1915 survey information. It is possible that Himler began construction of the company store before the coal mine operation began in 1917. Alternatively, MS 2 may not be associated with the company store and predates Himlerville.

Other buildings that Himler constructed for his growing community included a theatre/opera house, school, bank, Catholic church, ice cream parlor, bakery, powerhouse, round house for locomotive maintenance, community building, and newspaper office (Torok 2004). The bank building was located on the east side of the intersection and is still standing today. Currently the building is being used as a thrift store (see Figure 6). MS 7 on the 1954 topographic map is likely the bank. Just northwest of the bank was the Catholic Church (MS 10), which is no longer standing, but is also shown on the 1954 map.

Numerous residential structures were also associated with Himlerville. Based on the personal memories (and photographic collection) of Helen Piros (Tarkany) who lived in Himlerville in the 1920s, residential buildings lined both sides of the intersection (http://www.himlerhouse.org/helen-piros-tarkany.html). Photos show houses present along modern KY 2031 on the east side of the road north of the Catholic church and north of the company store and several other corporate structures. One of these structures was a wooden two-story building that may have been housing for unmarried male miners. Residences are also shown along modern KY 40 on the north and south sides of the road. All the above residences were outside the project area and, except for those located on the west side of KY 2031, are no longer standing.

In or adjacent to the project area were numerous other residences based on Helen's photographs. On the east end of the project footprint were two rows of residences located north of Buck Creek. Between these two rows of houses is the rough location of modern KY 40. The western most of these houses were likely within the project area, as were several

company buildings that look to have served a non-residential function.

In the summer of 1928, a catastrophic flood largely destroyed Himlerville. Helen's photographic collection clearly shows the devastation that was incurred on the community with most structures having been washed away or destroyed. The company store, bank, church, and other buildings along modern KY 2031 survived the flooding, but most of the residences along modern KY 40 were completed destroyed, including most of those located within the project area. Even those not totally washed away during the flood were likely torn down anyway due to the damage. MS 3–9 on the 1954 map are likely rebuilt structures and do not represent original Himlerville buildings.

The flood essentially ended the town of Himlerville, and by 1930, the population was recorded as being just 371 inhabitants (United States Bureau of the Census, 1930, Washington, D.C.). According to Torok (2004), many of the Hungarian miners left soon after the flood and began working at other mines in Kentucky and West Virginia. Himler's company (and town) was sold in the late 1920s, and the town was renamed Beauty in an attempt to improve the town's appearance and overall condition (Cantrell 1992:433; Kleber 1992:613).

Survey Predictions

Considering the known distribution of sites in the county, the available information on site types recorded, and the nature of the present project area, certain predictions were possible regarding the kinds of sites that might be encountered within the project area. Historic farmsteads and houses were the primary site type expected with the possibility of prehistoric sites. Most archaeological sites were expected to be located in floodplain settings.

IV. FIELD METHODS

Before the start of fieldwork landowner permission was required. The KYTC provided contact information for all the landowners and permissions were received. Mapping and shape-files were provided by KYTC before fieldwork began. Shape-files were uploaded to a Magellan Global Positioning System (GPS), which was taken into the field to help find the project area and record the results of the fieldwork.

The entire project area was subjected to intensive pedestrian survey and shovel testing (see Figure 3). Pedestrian walkover was conducted by walking parallel transects along natural contours. Steep sideslopes were inspected for natural benches and overhangs. Dirt roads and all exposed areas were walked and visually examined for indications of cultural material and features.

In all cases, shovel tests measured not less than 35 cm in diameter and extended well into subsoil. All fill removed from tests was screened through .25 inch mesh hardware cloth, and the sidewalls and bottoms were examined for cultural material and features.

One bucket auger test was also completed. In this case, bucket augering was employed in order to excavate a former shovel test deeper (Shovel Test B1). It was hoped that the results of the bucket auger would help in determining the depth of the fill at this location and the potential for deeply buried deposits. A hand-operated bucket auger with a 4-inch opening was used. Sediments were removed in approximately 10 cm levels. All soil was screened through .25 inch mesh hardware cloth. The presence of charcoal and general soil characteristics (texture, Munsell colors, etc.) were recorded by individual level, and all recovered artifacts were bagged and saved by level. Later these artifacts were determined to be modern and discarded. The bucket auger was only to excavate from the base of the shovel test at 55 cm bgs for another 23 cm. At 78 cm bgs the bucket auger hit a large rock or brick that prohibited further augering. Based on the results of the augering, the fill was documented as extending to as deep as 78 cm bgs.

V. RESULTS AND CONCLUSIONS

Note that a principal investigator or field archaeologist cannot grant clearance to a project. Although the decision to grant or withhold clearance is based, at least in part, on the recommendations made by the field investigator, clearance may be obtained only through an administrative decision made by the lead federal agency in consultation with the State Historic Preservation Office (the KHC).

The records search revealed no previously recorded archaeological sites or historic properties within the project area, and no archaeological sites or historic properties were identified as a result of this investigation. This is likely due to the 1928 flood that may have largely washed away most archaeological evidence of Himlerville within the project area. Because no sites listed in, or eligible for, the NRHP will be affected by the proposed construction, cultural resource clearance is recommended.

If any previously unrecorded archaeological materials are encountered during construction activities, the KHC should be notified immediately at (502) 564-6662. Furthermore, if human skeletal material is discovered, construction activities should cease and the KHC, the local coroner, and the local law enforcement agency must be notified, as described in KRS 72.020.

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