APPENDIX A
Statement of Site Significance
Provided by
Alexander Archaeological Consultants, Inc.

40HA524 Site Significance

The Archaic Period

The significance of Site 40HA524 lies in its unique potential to reveal clues pertaining to prehistoric cultural adaptations in the Tennessee River valley. This is particularly true for the Archaic period (8000 - 700 BC), during which prehistoric occupations were seasonal and the remains left behind in the archaeological record by these small bands of foragers are fugitive in nature. Prior to the construction of the Tellico Dam, a number of Archaic sites were investigated along the Little Tennessee River including Rose Island (40MR44; Chapman 1975), Bacon Bend (Site 40MR25; Chapman 1981), and the Patrick Site (Site 40MR40; Schroedl 1978).

Within the immediate vicinity of Site 40HA524, the corpus of archaeologically known and investigated sites is much smaller. Council (1989) describes the discovery of two hearths at Site 40HA102, dating to the Late Archaic period. This site lies a few kilometers upstream in a similar geomorphological setting to 40HA524, but the remainder of the Archaic occupation went unexcavated and has now been buried by subsequent construction. Evidence of another Archaic occupation was uncovered at Site 40HA210, .5 km upstream from Site 40HA524 (Honerkamp 1984). Again, full exploration of the site was beyond the purview of the contract and the prehistoric occupations have either been destroyed or are now inaccessible.

Downstream of Site 40HA524, at Coolidge Park, a Middle Archaic occupation was discovered at Site 40HA447 and another at the nearby Site 40HA446 which spans the Early through Late Archaic periods (Alexander et al. 2000). Both sites have been adversely impacted by the construction of the John Ross Bridge as well as later park construction, and neither revealed significant information concerning Archaic lifeways.

Of greater importance to our understanding of Archaic period occupations in the Chattanooga vicinity, comes from excavations on Moccasin Bend. There, McCollough and Bass (1983) discovered the only known architectural remains in the area. They excavated a Late Archaic semi-subterranean structure and the associated features and postholes at Site 40HA140. One of the features hinted at a complex network of trade existing at the time, linking Chattanooga with the source of high quality Dover chert to the west of Nashville, as well with central eastern Alabama where outcrops of greenstone were utilized in prehistoric times. Fragments of steatite vessels were also recovered, indicating ties with a swath of Appalachian piedmont stretching from western Georgia northeastward to North Carolina.

While the sites above have provided glimpses of Archaic period life in the Tennessee River valley, fundamental gaps in our understanding of the Archaic inhabitants of the region remain. The occupations along the river levee appear to have been specialized activity sites, complementing other seasonal camps in the uplands (Chapman 1975; Walling et al. 2000), which, with their large storage pits and extensive middens, were occupied for other purposes. To date, there is insufficient data to determine what brought the Archaic peoples to the river. We would expect to find netsinkers, carved stones used to weigh down fish nets within the water, similar to those recorded by Chapman along the Little Tennessee River (1975). Further excavation, especially the recovery of faunal and floral remains, will allow us to address the question of site function.

Evidence of trade from Moccasin Bend raises the possibility that Chattanooga served as the hub of a widespread trade network in the Archaic period. In terms of steatite, greenstone, and high quality Dover chert, Chattanooga was centrally located and further investigation of Site 40HA524 will allow us to test the area's role in Archaic exchange.

The Woodland Period

The succeeding Woodland period in southeastern archaeology dates from 700 BC to ca. AD 1000. In upper East Tennessee and the Southern Appalachian Highlands, the Early Woodland Swannanoa phase is characterized by distinctive, well made, grit tempered ceramics (Lafferty 1981). Ceramics of this phase appear to have been rather crudely imitated by indigenous Late Archaic groups between Knoxville and the mouth of the Hiwassee River. The resulting Watts Bar ceramic series was short lived and, to date, has not been recovered as far south as the Chattanooga area. Rather, local terminal Archaic/Early Woodland populations appear to have directly adopted the later limestone tempered Long Branch ceramics without the transitional sand/quartzite tempered ceramics seen further to the northeast.

Local adoption of ceramics took place at least 100 years after similar developments in northeast Tennessee, raising the question "why?" Was the Chattanooga area a cultural backwater during the transitional Terminal Archaic/Early Woodland period? Or, had the people living here so successfully adapted to the environment that there was no need to adopt pottery?

A second research question for the Woodland period comes from an increasingly widespread network of trade partners, known archaeologically as the Hopewellian Interaction Sphere. Locally, this interaction has manifested itself in a complex mortuary system including burial mounds such as those excavated downstream on Moccasin Bend (McCollough and Bass 1983; Moore 1915) and in northwestern Georgia at the Tunachunnhee site (Jefferies 1976). Associated with the burials in the mounds are exotic artifacts such as copper pan pipes, mica, copper ear spools and gorgets, as well as sharks teeth.

While the artifacts from the Moccasin Bend mounds are not as exotic, there remains the fact that there are burial mounds at all. Why were they constructed on Moccasin Bend during the Middle/Late Woodland and not upstream in association with the contemporaneous 40HA524? Were these two sites occupied by people with different belief systems, or was Moccasin Bend especially sacred?

A final research question involving the Woodland period occupation of Site 40HA524 deals with changes in subsistence adaptations. The transition from Archaic to Woodland has traditionally been marked by 1) technological innovations in pottery and 2) increased cultivation and domestication of plants. The Tennessee River valley has provided some of the earliest dates of domesticated plants in the Southeast. Chenopodium, a productive seed-bearing plant which thrived in the disturbed soils surround prehistoric sites, has been dated to ca. 2000 BP at Russell Cave in extreme northeastern Alabama (Smith 1984), and maize, dating to A.D. 175, was recovered from the Icehouse Bottom site (Chapman and Crites 1987).

Phase II investigations indicate that the inhabitants of Site 40HA524 were exploiting naturally occurring mast, particularly hickory nuts and walnuts. A nutting stone dating either to the Late Archaic or the Early Woodland period was discovered in Test Unit 12. Clues of early cultigens were also discovered, notably two maygrass seeds from a Woodland context in Test Unit 11. Further investigation of the site, with a focus on recovering paleobotanical remains, will shed light on the increasing reliance placed on cultivars such as maygrass, but also hawthorn, and marsh elder. Such a focus may also help substantiate claims that the prehistoric occupants of the Middle Tennessee River valley were quick to adopt domesticated varieties such as maize,

chenopodium, and sunflowers, particularly as populations grew in the Woodland period and traditional gathering and hunting adaptations were stressed.

Opposite Site 40HA524, on Maclellan Island, Honerkamp (1998) reports a Woodland period shell midden. Very little shell was recovered from excavations at Site 40HA524, suggesting the possibility that its inhabitants were exploiting Maclellan Island for its mussels and perhaps their preliminary processing.

The Mississippian Period

While the Mississippian farmstead located at Site 40HA524 would have been damaged by historic plowing, there remains the potential to discover intact sub-plow zone deposits such as features, post molds, and burials. This is likely the case due to the fill that was brought to the site prior to the construction of Fehn's restaurant which helped minimize the impact below the surface.

One of the potential areas of interest for Site 40HA524 would be the ability to compare mortuary patterns with those from larger and better documented mounded Mississippian sites. The religious and craft specialists who occupied the latter were supported by the agricultural output of smaller satellite villages and hamlets such as 40HA524, 40HA210 to the immediate east (Council and Honerkamp 1990), and 40HA102 on the south shore of the river (Council 1989). Currently, our understanding of Mississippian society is biased towards the mounded sites, mainly because they have long been known to house elite interments accompanied by the exotic grave goods sought by looters.

Investigation of a non-mounded Mississippian hamlet like Site 40HA524 will also allow testing of Council's (1989) hypothesis regarding gender inequality in Mississippian society. Based upon a disproportionate number of female burials at Site 40HA102, Council argues that the men of the village had higher social status than the women and were therefore buried elsewhere, presumably at mounded regional centers such as Citico.

By far, the greatest importance of Site 40HA524 lies in its access to a deeply stratified archaeological site which has demonstrated occupation beginning in the Early Archaic and continuing through the Mississippian period. Phase III Data Recovery from such a site is virtually unknown along the Tennessee River in Southeastern Tennessee. The lower component of the site is well documented with radiocarbon dates from deep cores undertaken by Archaeological Research Laboratories. In the principal area of the site, the early component dates to approximately 6200 cal BP. Undisturbed contexts such as this represent an invaluable opportunity for archaeologists.

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Tennessee Valley Authority, 400 West Summit Hill Drive, Knoxville, Tennessee 37902-1499

June 5, 2008

Mr. Don Klima
Director, Office of Federal Agency Programs
Advisory Council on Historic Preservation
1100 Pennsylvania Ave., NW, Suite 803
Washington, DC 20004

Dear Mr. Klima:

TVA, MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT AND SCOPE OF WORK FOR DATA RECOVERY OF 40HA524, DEFOORS CONDOS, PROPOSED 26A PERMIT, HAMILTON COUNTY, TENNESSEE

The Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) is reviewing a 26a permit request from Defoor Brothers Development (Developer) for a the placement of fill on a 2.5-acre tract on Nickajack Reservoir in Hamilton County, Tennessee (Tennessee River Mile 464.5R). The Developer intends to construct a residential structure.

TVA determined, in consultation with the Tennessee State Historic Preservation Officer (TN SHPO) and federally recognized Indian tribes, that site 40HA524 meets the criteria of eligibility for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. In addition, it was determined that the project, as proposed, would adversely affect this historic property. TVA worked with the Developer to find alternatives to the site plan that would avoid or minimize adverse effects to the site. (See enclosed alternatives.) After careful consideration of these options, the Developer has determined that the site cannot be avoided and has decided to proceed with the project as previously planned.

Pursuant to 36 CFR Part 800.6 of the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation's (Council) regulations, TVA is notifying the Council of the adverse effect findings for the proposed project. Documentation pursuant to 36 CFR 800 Part 800.11(e) is enclosed for your review. TVA has consulted with TN SHPO and TN SHPO agrees that a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) will address and resolve adverse effects to historic properties located within the area of potential effect. Pursuant to 36 CFR Part 800.6(c), TVA proposes to enter into an MOA with the TN SHPO. The Developer will be an invited signatory to the MOA. TVA is inviting the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians, United Keetoowah Band, Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma, Chickasaw Nation, Muscogee (Creek) Nation of Oklahoma, Thlopthlocco Tribal Town, Kialegee Tribal Town, Alabama-Quassarte Tribal Town, Alabama-Coushatta Tribe, Eastern Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma, Shawnee Tribe, Absentee Shawnee of Oklahoma, Seminole Indian Tribe, Seminole Nation of Oklahoma, Jena Band of Choctaw Indians, and the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma to be concurring parties to this MOA.

The draft MOA is enclosed. Please advise if the Council wishes to participate in the consultation to resolve the adverse effects for this project.

Should you have comments or questions, please contact Erin Pritchard at (865) 632-2463 or email at eepritchard@tva.gov.

Sincerely,

Original signed by Thomas O. Maher

Thomas O. Maher, Ph.D.
Manager
Cultural Resources

EEP:IKS
Enclosures
cc: Daniel C. Fisher, PSC 1E-C
EDMS, WT 11D-K

Tennessee Valley Authority, 400 West Summit Hill Drive, Knoxville, Tennessee 37902-1499

June 9, 2008

(Name)
Address
Address
Address
Address

Dear _____:

TVA, MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT AND SCOPE OF WORK FOR DATA RECOVERY OF 40HA524, DEFOORS CONDOS, PROPOSED 26A PERMIT, HAMILTON COUNTY, TENNESSEE

The Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) is reviewing a 26a permit request from Defoor Brothers Development (Developer) for a the placement of fill on a 2.5-acre private property tract on Nickajack Reservoir in Hamilton County, Tennessee (Tennessee River Mile 464.5R). The Developer intends to construct a condominium on the private property. I have enclosed previous correspondence regarding this project that was sent on April 4, 2006 and December 7, 2006 on the enclosed compact disc (CD).

TVA determined, in consultation with the Tennessee State Historic Preservation Officer (TN SHPO), that site 40HA524 meets the criteria of eligibility for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. In addition, TVA determined that the project, as proposed, would adversely affect this historic property. TVA worked with the Developer to find alternatives to the site plan that would avoid or minimize adverse effects to the site. After careful consideration of these options, the Developer determined that the site cannot be avoided and will proceed with the project as previously planned.

Pursuant to 36 CFR Part 800.6(c), TVA proposes to enter into a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with the TN SHPO to mitigate the effects of this undertaking. A draft MOA is on the enclosed CD for your review. TVA is inviting the following federally recognized Indian tribes to be concurring parties to the MOA: Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians, United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee Indians in Oklahoma, Cherokee Nation, The Chickasaw Nation, Muscogee (Creek) Nation of Oklahoma, Thlopthlocco Tribal Town, Kialegee Tribal Town, Alabama-Quassarte Tribal Town, Alabama-Coushatta Tribe of Texas, Eastern Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma, Shawnee Tribe, Absentee Shawnee of Oklahoma, Seminole Tribe of Florida, Jena Band of Choctaw Indians, and the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma.

TVA has prepared a draft scope of work (SOW) for Phase III data recovery of the site. In response to this draft SOW, the Developer has submitted a proposal for the projected excavation (on the enclosed CD). Please provide any comments you may have on the proposed mitigation.

Pursuant to 36 CFR Part 800.6 of the Advisory Council's regulations, TVA is notifying the Council of the adverse effect findings for the proposed project. Documentation pursuant to 36 CFR 800 Part 800.11(e) is also on the enclosed CD for your review.

TVA is seeking your comments on the draft MOA and SOW to mitigate adverse effects. If you have any questions regarding this undertaking, please contact me at 865.632.6461 or by email at pbezzell@tva.gov.

Sincerely,

Pat Bernard Ezzell

Pat Bernard Ezzell
Historian/Native American Liaison
Cultural Resources

EEP:IKS
Enclosure
cc: EDMS, WT 11D-K

TENNESSEE HISTORICAL COMMISSION
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND CONSERVATION
2941 LEBANON ROAD
NASHVILLE, TN 37243-0442
(615) 532-1550

June 19, 2008

Dr. Thomas Maher
Tennessee Valley Authority
400 W. Summit Hill Drive
WT 11D - Cultural Resources
Knoxville, Tennessee 37902

RE: TVA, DRAFT MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT, DEFOOR BROTHERS CONDOS/ TRM 464.5R, CHATTANOOGA, HAMILTON COUNTY,

Dear Dr. Maher:

At your request, our office has reviewed the above-referenced draft memorandum of agreement and associated scope of work for data recovery at site 40HA524 in accordance with regulations codified at 36 CFR 800 (Federal Register, December 12, 2000, 77698-77739). We have suggested a few minor editorial changes to the agreement and have forwarded these requests to you via email correspondence. We concur with the proposed strategy in the preliminary scope of work. The included Data Recovery Proposal adequately addresses the scope of work.

Questions and comments may be directed to Jennifer M. Barnett (615) 741-1588, ext. 17.

Your cooperation is appreciated.

Sincerely,

E. Patrick McIntyre, Jr.
Executive Director and
State Historic Preservation Officer

EPM/jmb

Jena Band of Choctaw Indians

P. O. Box 14 • Jena, Louisiana 71342-0014 • Phone: 318-992-2717 • Fax: 318-992-8244

July 3, 2008

TENNESSEE VALLEY AUTHORITY
400 WEST SUMMIT HILL DRIVE
KNOXVILLE, TN 37902-1499

RE: TVA, MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT AND SCOPE OF WORK FOR DATA RECOVERY OF 40HA524, DEFOORS CONDOS, PROPOSED 26A PERMIT, HAMILTON COUNTY, TENNESSEE.

To Whom It May Concern:

Reference is made to your letter dated June 9, 2008, concerning the above-proposed project.

After thorough review of the documents submitted, it has been determined that there will be no significant impact in regards to the Jena Band of Choctaw Indians.

Should you have any questions, please feel free to call me.

Sincerely,

Lillie McCormick

Lillie McCormick
Environmental Director
Jena Band of Choctaw Indians
Ph: 318-992-8258
Fax: 318-992-8244
lmccormickjbc@centurytel.net