

April 1, 2025



5050 Northshore Lane  
North Little Rock, Arkansas 72118

**ATTN:** Mr. Wallie Sprick, AIA  
Principal | Executive Vice President/COO

**RE:** Statement of Findings  
Cultural Resources Literature & Records Search  
6310 South Highway 215  
Charleston, Arkansas  
MCE Project Number: 25-9610

Dear Mr. Sprick:

We are submitting herewith this Statement of Findings relevant to the available Cultural Resources Literature and Records Search (a.k.a., a “Desktop Study”) of the subject property located at 6310 South Highway 215 in Charleston, Arkansas.

This Statement of Findings includes information on the project site, personnel involved, the methodology of the study, as well as the findings. The goal of this study was to identify any previously discovered cultural resources within the proposed tract and to develop a sense of the unknown or unrecorded cultural resources that could be expected to exist within the subject property.

## **1.0 Summary of Findings**

- There are no previously recorded archaeological sites mapped on the subject property.
  - Four (4) archaeological sites are mapped within a 1.24-mile (2 km) radius of the subject property.
- There are no records that indicate that the subject property has ever been culturally investigated.
  - Three (3) identified cultural resource investigations have occurred within a 1.24-mile radius of the subject property.
- There are no previously recorded historic properties mapped on the subject property.
  - There are no listed historic properties mapped within a 1.24-mile radius of the subject property.

## **2.0 Subject Property Description**

The subject property is understood to encompass just over 800 acres located on the east side of Highway 215 near Charleston, Arkansas. The subject property is comprised of multiple parcels with an approximate property center located at the following latitude and longitude: 36.404862°N and -94.026710°W. The property may be described as being within Section 6 of T8N R28W, and Section 1 of T8N R29W, utilizing the Public Land Survey System (PLSS).

The topographic setting of the site may be described as being on the southern slope of a linear ridge with an overall slope from the north down to the south. The topographic features of the surrounding area are dominated by local drainage features. The property exhibits elevations ranging from 570 to 730 feet above mean sea level.

The vegetation on-site includes mature trees, shrubs, and grasses.

The surface geology of the subject property is the Hartshorne Sandstone Formation of Pennsylvanian Age. In-situ sandstone rock outcrops at the surface in many locations across the subject property.

Portions of the property have been developed and include one (1) single-family residence, as well as approximately six (6) ancillary structures. One (1) primary gravel driveway is understood to exist to connect the residence to Highway 215, while unimproved roadways/paths were observed to connect throughout the remainder of the property.

### **3.0 Personnel**

Mr. Andrew Saatkamp, Registered Professional Archaeologist (RPA) with the Commonwealth Heritage Group, LLC d/b/a Chronicle Heritage was retained to conduct this Desktop Study.

### **4.0 Methodology & Findings**

The subject property and immediate surrounding area were screened for records related to previously recorded archaeological sites, previously conducted archaeological investigations, and historic property designation.

#### **4.1 Previously Recorded Archaeological Sites**

The subject property and the surrounding 1.24-mile radius (2 km) were compared against database records from the Arkansas Archaeological Survey (ARAS). Database records from ARAS indicate that there are no previously recorded archaeological sites mapped on the subject property. The ARAS records do indicate that there four (4) sites are mapped within a 1.24-mile radius of the subject property. Mr. Saatkamp noted that the sites were located near the outer edge of the applicable search radius.

#### **4.2 Previously Conducted Archaeological Investigations**

The subject property and the surrounding 1.24-mile radius (2 km) were compared against database records from the Automated Management of Archeological Site Data in Arkansas (AMASDA). Database records from AMASDA indicate that the subject property had not been previously investigated. The AMASDA records do indicate that there were three (3) cultural resource investigations conducted within a 1.24-mile radius of the subject property.

- AMASDA 684 – Ozark Gas Transmission System Survey
- AMASDA 928 – Ozark Gas Lateral Gas System, Annual Report No. 1
- AMASDA 1004 – Ozark Gas Pipeline – Second Assessment

#### **4.3 Historic Property Designation**

The subject property and the surrounding 1.24-mile radius (2 km) were compared against database records from the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program (AHPP). Additionally, the subject property and the surrounding area were compared against database records from the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP).

Database records from AHPP indicate that there are no previously recorded historic properties mapped on the subject property. Furthermore, the AHPP records indicate that there no previously recorded historic properties mapped within a 1.24-mile radius of the subject property. The nearest AHPP-listed property is the Bircham House (FR0009), located approximately 2.17 miles (3.5 km) north of the subject property.

Database records from NRHP indicate that there are no NRHP listed properties on the subject property. Franklin County, Arkansas does have twenty-one (21) listed properties with the nearest listed property being the Charleston Historic District (NRHP #08000462), located approximately seven (7) miles to the south.

### **5.0 Disclaimers, Conclusions, & Closing Comments**

#### **5.1 Disclaimers**

This desktop study did not include any field work. Rather, the intent of the desktop study is to provide background research to be utilized during project planning. In the event a field investigation becomes authorized, the information presented herein may be utilized in that investigation provided there has not been a lengthy amount of time between this desktop study and any subsequent investigations.

## 5.2 Conclusions

There are no known archaeological sites within the subject property. It is the opinion of Mr. Saatkamp that this condition is likely due to “to the area being quite rural and having little cultural resource management conducted in it.” However, a few previously conducted archaeological investigations are recorded as having taken place near the subject property with several sites identified in this report. **It is the recommendation of this Desktop Study that on-site archaeological work should occur to determine what, if any, cultural resources are present within the subject property.**

## 5.3 Closing Comments

We appreciate the opportunity to provide this service to you. If there are any questions regarding this Desktop Study, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Respectfully Submitted,  
**McClelland Consulting Engineers, Inc.**



**Cody L. Traywick, P.G.**  
Geotechnical Supervisor | Project Manager



**William M. Hopkins, E.I.**  
Geotechnical Specialist

**Enclosures:** Cultural Resources Literature & Records Search of an 800-acre Tract, Franklin County, Arkansas; Project No. 25-PC-05264; March 2024

**CULTURAL RESOURCES LITERATURE AND RECORDS SEARCH  
OF AN 800-AC. TRACT,  
FRANKLIN COUNTY, ARKANSAS**

*Prepared for:*

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Little Rock, Arkansas 72223**

*Prepared by:*

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Author**

**MARCH 2024**

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## ***INTRODUCTION***

At the request of ECCI, Commonwealth Heritage Group, LLC d/b/a Chronicle Heritage conducted a cultural resources literature and records search (a.k.a., a “desktop” study) of an approximately 800-ac. tract in Franklin County, Arkansas. The goal of a desktop study is to identify all known cultural resources within the proposed tract and to develop a sense of the unknown/unrecorded cultural resources that can be expected to exist within the proposed tract.

A desktop study includes conducting a standard Phase I cultural resources background research; no fieldwork is required. The information provided is intended to assist project managers in planning the proposed undertaking. In the event that a standard Phase I cultural resources field survey becomes necessary, the information from the desktop study may be recycled (assuming there is not a lengthy time of duration between the two studies).

## ***STUDY LOCATION***

The study area is an 800-ac., roughly rectangular tract located in southwestern Franklin County, south of the community of Mill Creek and south of Mill Creek Mountain. The terrain is hilly, with elevations ranging from 600 to 700-ft. above mean sea level (amsl). It appears to be fairly clear of trees. The proposed tract can be found on the Mulberry 7.5-min. quad (Figures 1 and 2). Under the township-range system, the proposed tract is within Section 6 of T8N R28W, and Section 1 of T8N R29W.

## ***ARKANSAS ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY RECORDS***

### ***PREVIOUSLY RECORDED ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES***

An online review of the Arkansas Archaeological Survey (ARAS) site database revealed that there are no previously recorded archaeological sites mapped within the proposed tract. There are four sites mapped within 2 km of the proposed tract, all of which are located near the outer edge of the search radius (Table 1).

**Table 1. Sites mapped within 2 km of the proposed tract.**

<b>Site</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>NRHP</b>	<b>Recorded</b>
3FR65	Historic structure foundation	Not eligible	1980
3FR82	Undifferentiated Prehistoric isolated find	Not eligible	1980
3FR90	Late 19 <sup>th</sup> to mid 20 <sup>th</sup> -century historic farmstead	Undetermined	1981
3FR735	Middle Archaic-Woodland lithic scatter	Undetermined	2020

KEY: NRHP=National Register of Historic Places.

### ***PREVIOUS INVESTIGATIONS***

According to the Automated Management of Archeological Site Data in Arkansas (AMASDA) database, the proposed 800-ac. tract has not been previously investigated. Three cultural resource investigations have occurred within a 2 km radius of the proposed tract.

### ***OZARK GAS TRANSMISSION SYSTEM SURVEY (AMASDA 684)***

In 1980, personnel from Archeological Research Associates surveyed 269 km of proposed gas transmission line from Bonanza (Sebastian County) to Searcy (White County). During the fieldwork, 61 sites were recorded in or near the right-of-way; 14 sites were recommended for additional work (Swidler and Shelley 1980).

***OZARK GAS LATERAL GAS SYSTEM, ANNUAL REPORT No. 1 (AMASDA 928)***

In 1982, personnel from Heartfield, Price, and Greene conducted a survey of approximately 40.3-mi. of proposed pipelines, along with areas for an office complex and three compressor station sites. Five archeological sites were documented: two prehistoric (3PP111 and 3L099) and three historic (3PP128, 3J0129, and 3J0133) sites. No additional archeological research was recommended (Heartfield and Madden 1982).

***OZARK GAS PIPELINE-SECOND ASSESSMENT (AMASDA 1004)***

In 1981, personnel from Archeological Research Associates surveyed 167-mi. of rerouted pipeline corridors through several counties in Arkansas. Thirty-one sites were identified and inspected; 11 were revisited sites, and 20 were newly identified (Moore 1981).

***AHPP PROPERTIES***

A review of the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program (AHPP) map viewer reveals no previously recorded properties within the proposed 800-ac. tract.

There are no listed historic properties mapped within a 2 km radius of the proposed tract. The nearest listed property is the Bircham House (FR0009), located about 3.5 km north.

***NRHP LISTINGS***

The NRHP was reviewed with respect to this undertaking, and importantly, there are no NRHP listed properties within the proposed 800-ac. tract. There are currently 21 listed properties in Franklin County, Arkansas. The majority of these are located in Altus and Ozark, both of which are roughly 20 km to the northeast. The nearest listed property is the Charleston Historic District (NRHP #08000462), located about 11 km to the south.

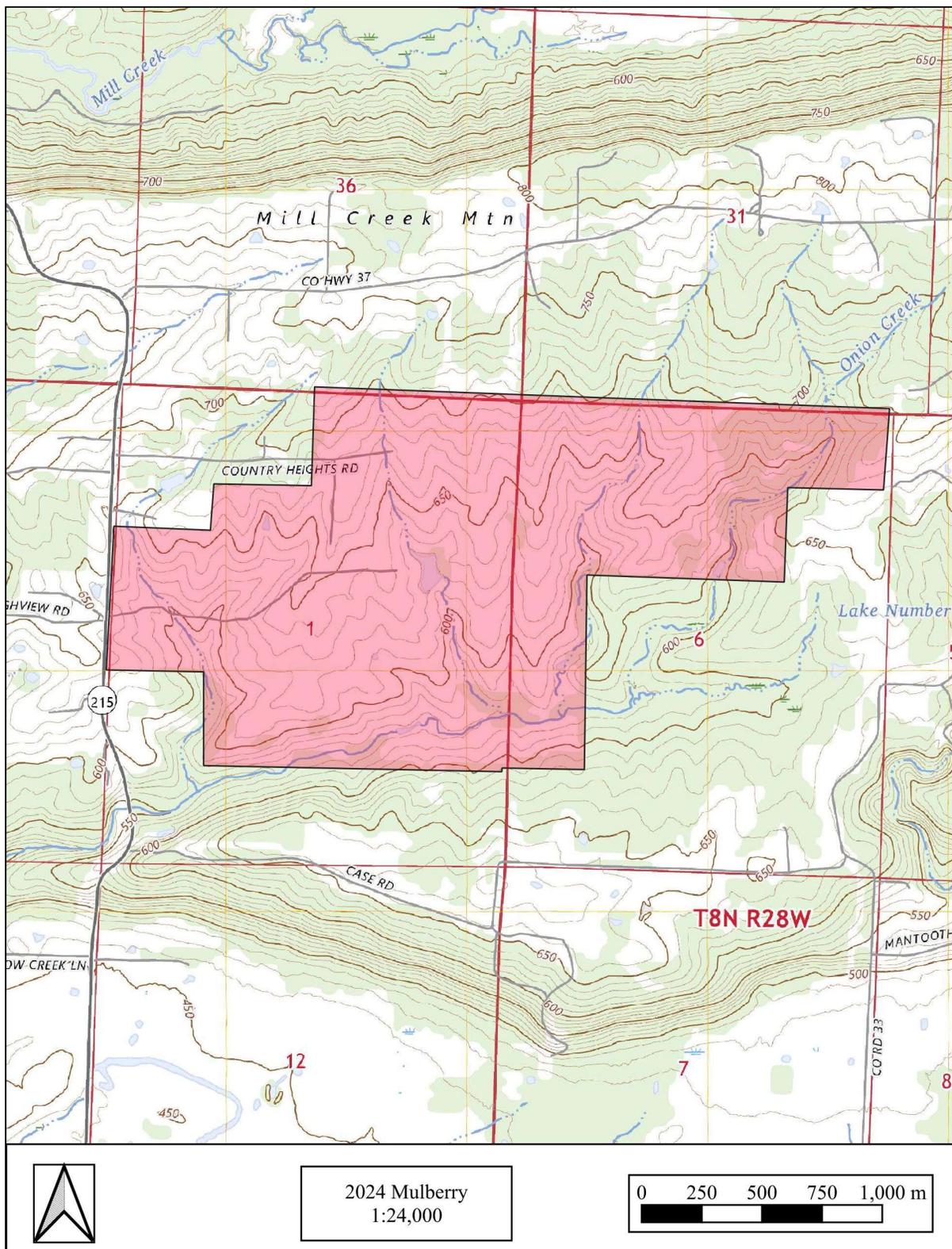


Figure 1. The proposed tract (base map: 2024 Mulberry 7.5-min. quad).

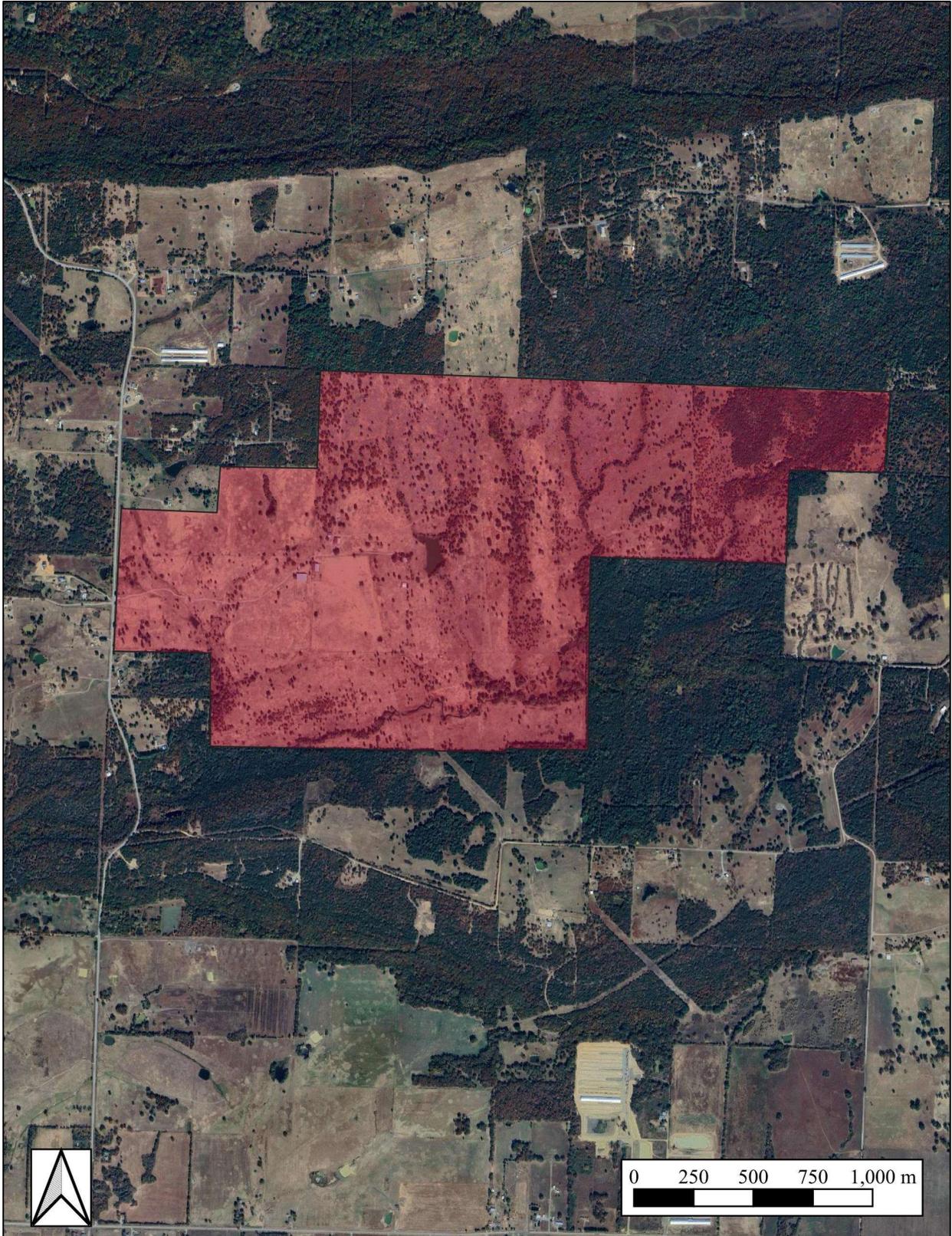


Figure 2. Aerial image of the proposed tract (image courtesy of Google Earth 10/23/2024).

## ***CARTOGRAPHIC REVIEW***

Several archival maps were consulted to see if any cultural features were present within the proposed 800-ac. tract.

### ***GLO PLAT***

The earliest detailed maps of the study area are the 1828 General Land Office (GLO) plat maps for T8N R28W and T8N R29W (Figure 3). No cultural features are shown within the proposed tract on either plat. There are some named streams and a field is shown to the southwest, but not near the proposed tract.

### ***1890 FORT SMITH 1:250000***

The 1890 Fort Smith 1:250000 map shows the proposed tract as undeveloped (Figure 4). A road is shown running through the western part of the proposed tract, but this may be incorrect due to projection issues.

### ***1906 LAVACA 15-MIN. QUAD***

The 1906 Lavaca 15-min. quad shows the area similar to the 1890 map. However, the road shown within the proposed tract on the earlier map is now depicted outside the western boundary (Figure 5).

### ***1936 FRANKLIN COUNTY HIGHWAY MAP***

The 1936 Franklin County Highway shows at least two structures within the proposed tract (Figure 6). These structures are along the county just outside the western boundary. The surrounding area also has numerous structures.

### ***1947 LAVACA 15-MIN. QUAD***

The 1947 Lavaca 15-min. quad shows the tract much as it did in 1936 (Figure 7). A road or trail is shown along the southern boundary. No structures are present except the two along the road to the west. A powerline runs through the western third of the proposed tract.

### ***1988 MULBERRY 7.5-MIN. QUAD***

The 1988 Mulberry 7.5-min. quad shows the proposed tract much as it did in 1947 (Figure 8). The only obvious major change is the appearance of two gas wells in the proposed tract, one in the western part and one in the eastern part.

## ***GOOGLE EARTH IMAGERY***

Google Earth images from 1985 to the present show that the proposed tract was mostly wooded until about 2001. A structure or complex appeared in the western third of the proposed tract in 2006.

## ***CONCLUSIONS***

There are no known archaeological sites within the 800-ac. proposed tract. This lack of cultural resources is likely due to the area being quite rural and having little cultural resource management conducted in it. However, a few projects are recorded as having taken place within or near the proposed tract. Archaeological work should occur to determine what, if any, cultural resources are present.





Figure 4. The proposed tract on a portion of the 1890 Fort Smith 1:250000. map.

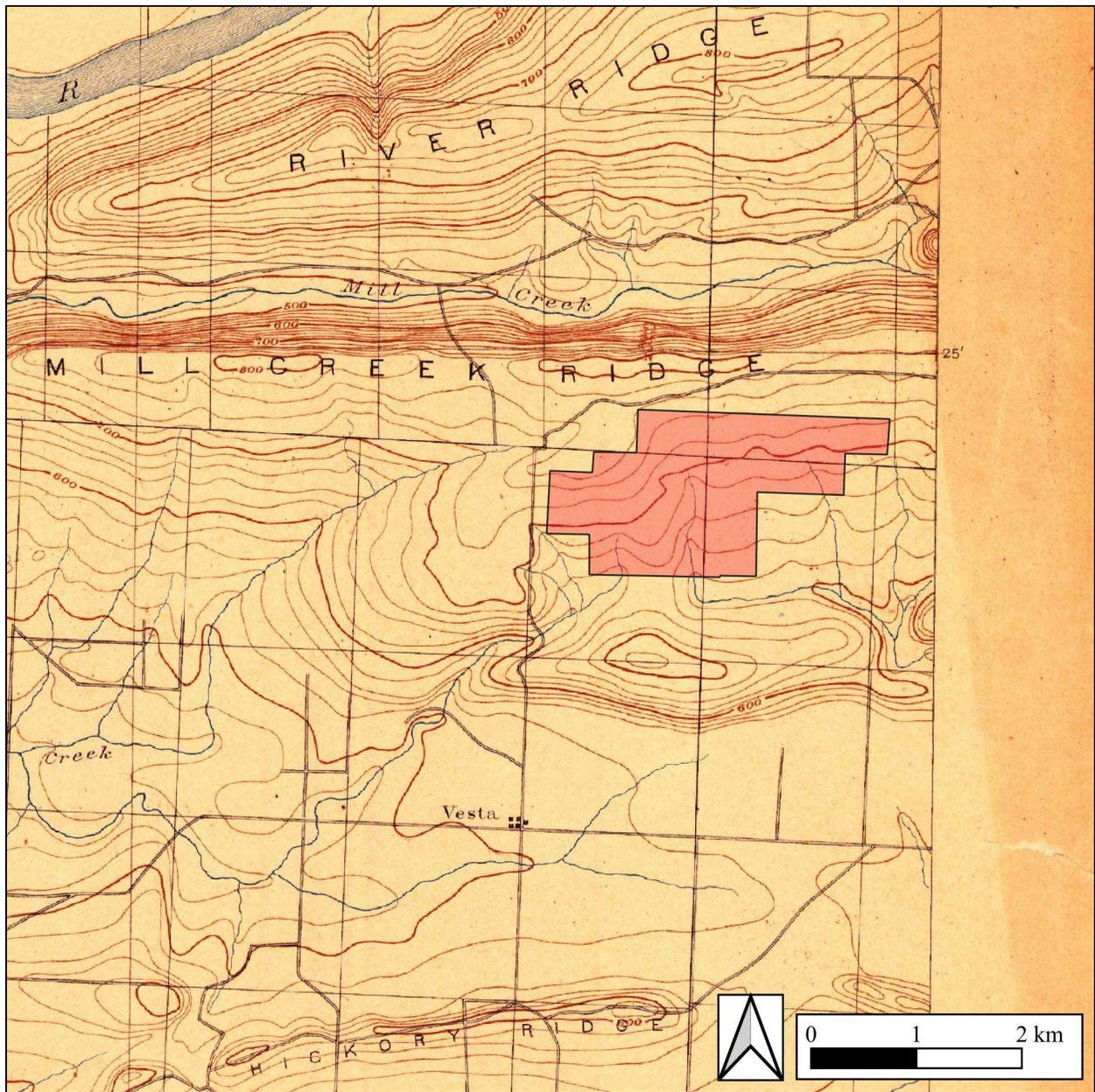


Figure 5. The proposed tract on a portion of the 1906 Lavaca 15-min. quad.

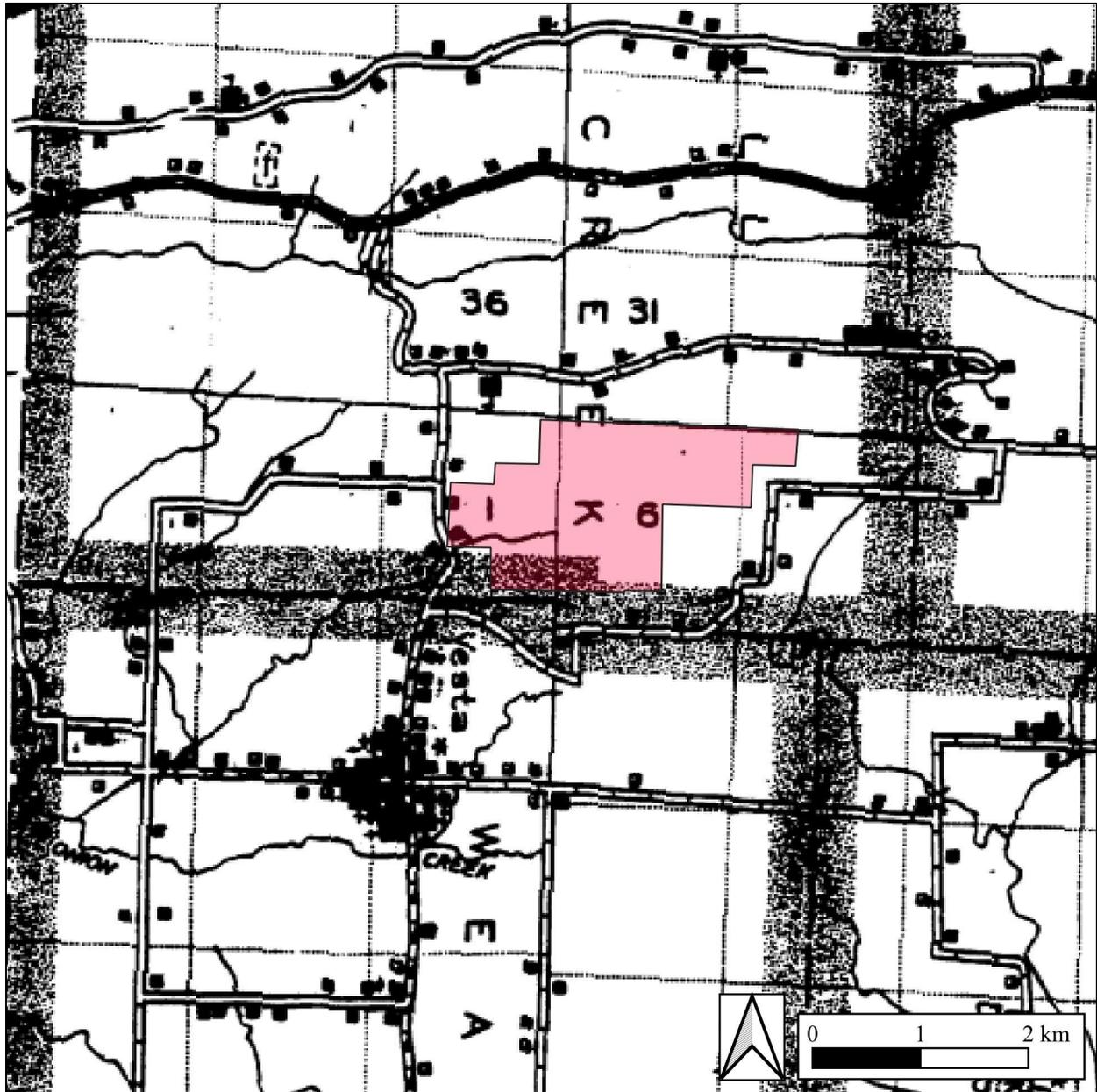


Figure 6. The proposed tract on a portion of the 1936 Franklin County Highway Map.

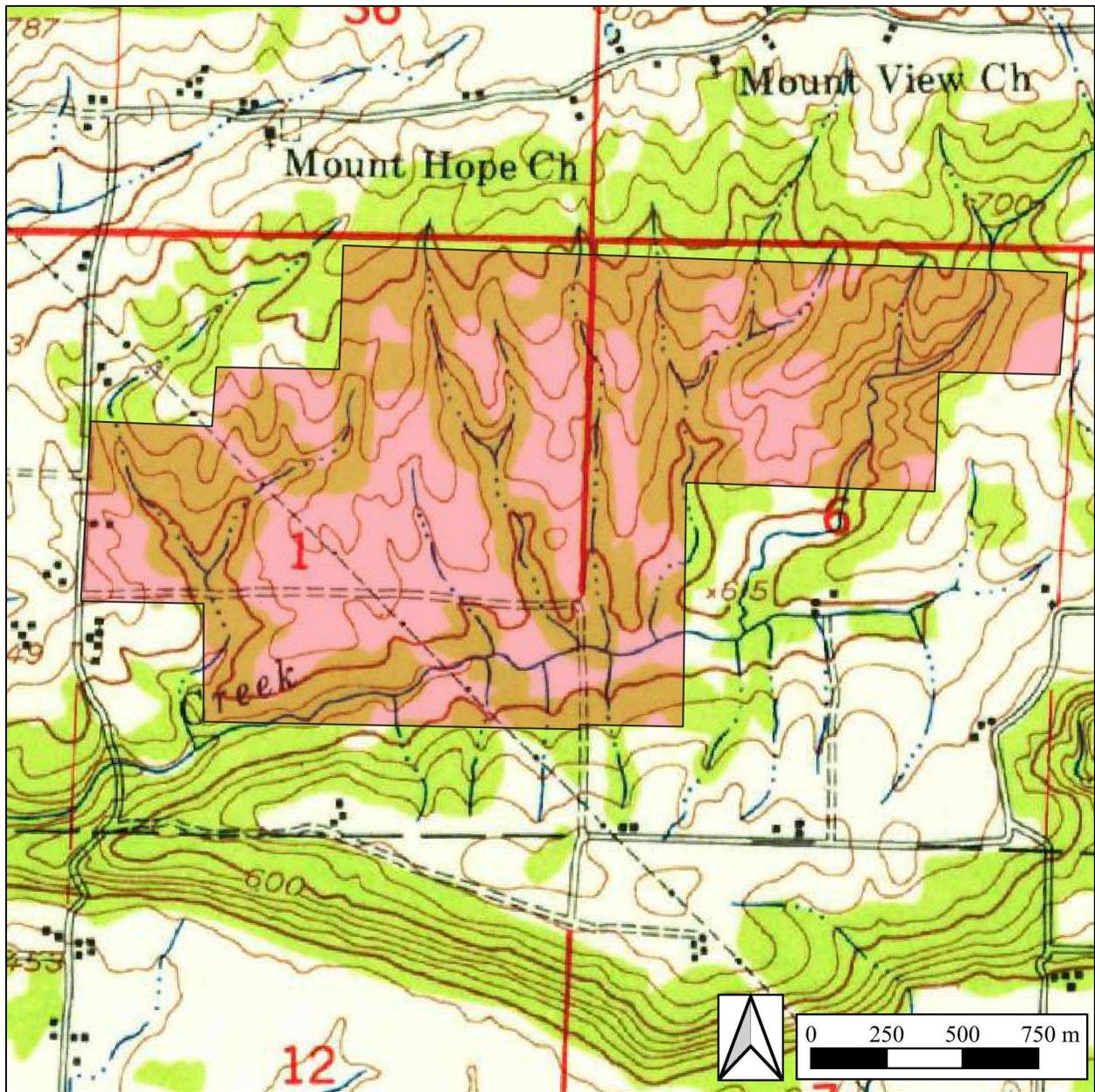


Figure 7. The proposed tract on a portion of the 1947 Lavaca 15-min. quad.

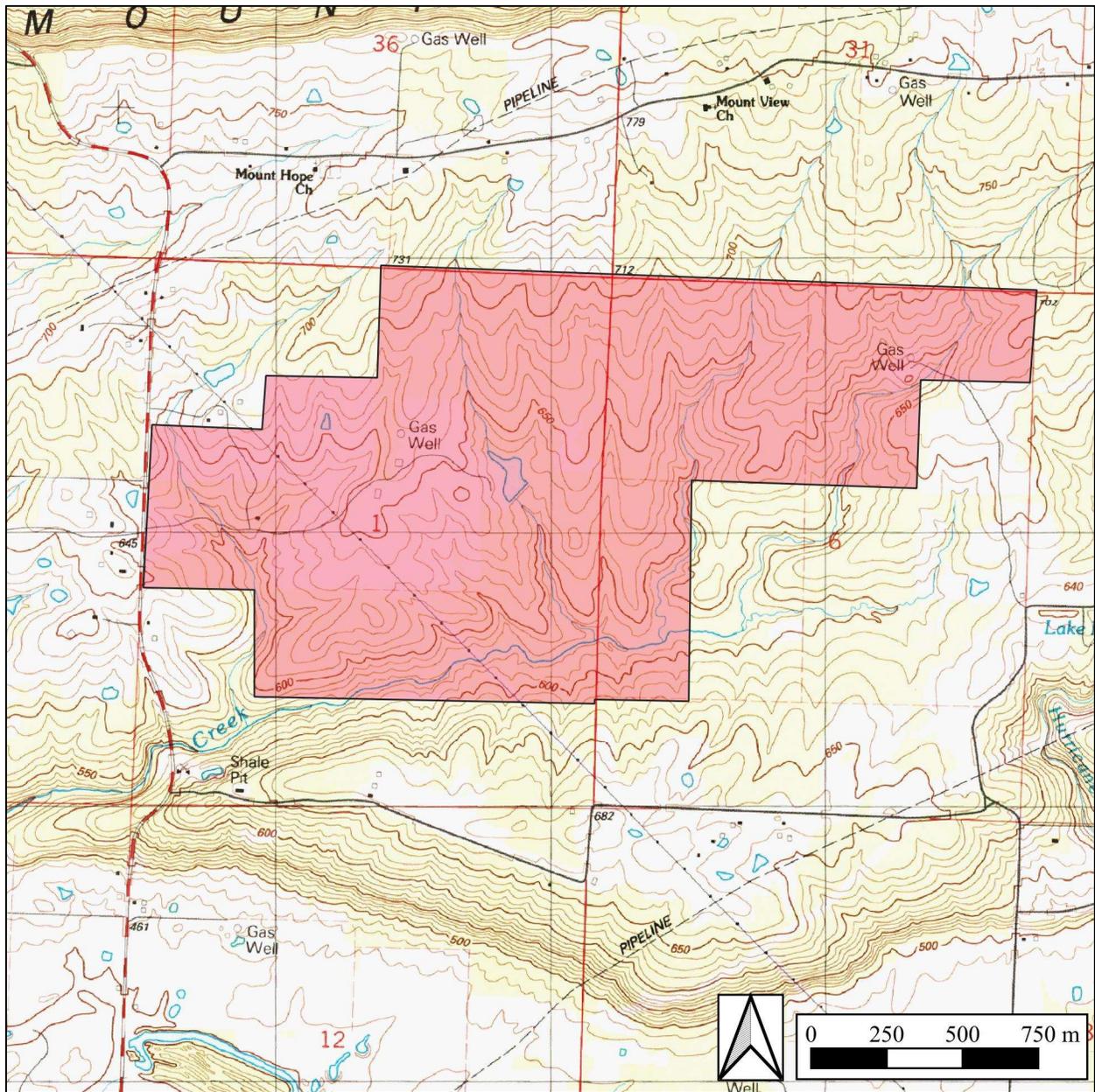


Figure 8. The proposed tract on a portion of the 1988 Mulberry 7.5-min. quad.

### ***REFERENCES CITED***

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1982 *Ozark Gas Lateral Gas System, Annual Report No. 1*. Submitted to Ozark Gas Pipeline Corporation and Delhi Gas Pipeline Corporation, Dallas, Texas. AMASDA #928.

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