



# ECS Southwest, LLP

Cultural Resources Archival review

REDI Manufacturing Center Tract  
Homan, Miller County, Arkansas

For: AR-TX REDI  
2900 Saint Michael Drive  
5<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Texarkana, Texas

ECS Project No. 51:2106-B

March 23, 2021





March 22, 2021

Mr. Rob Sitterley  
AR-TX REDI  
2900 Saint Michael Drive  
5<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Texarkana, Texas

ECS Project No. 51:2106-B

Subject: Cultural Resources Archival Review  
REDI Manufacturing Center Tract  
Homan, Miller County, Arkansas

Dear Ms. Sitterley:

ECS Southwest, LLP (ECS) is pleased to provide this Cultural Resources Archival Review for the above referenced property.

Please refer to the attached report and feel free to contact Craig Hiatt if you have any questions or comments. ECS appreciates the opportunity to provide you with our environmental services. Please feel free to contact us regarding the results of the review. As always, thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

**ECS SOUTHWEST, LLP**

Roger S. Willis II, M.S.  
Environmental Senior Project Manager

Craig W. Hiatt, M.S.  
Director of Environmental Services

Attachments:

Cultural Resources Archival Review

Attachment 1:

Cultural Resources Archival Review



Environmental Services, Inc.

March 12, 2021

Craig William Hiatt  
Subsidiary Director of Environmental Science  
ECS Southwest, LLP  
14050 Summit Drive, Suite 101  
Austin, Texas 78728

**Re: Cultural Resources Archival Review  
REDI Manufacturing Center Tract  
Homan, Miller County, Arkansas**

**Horizon Project No.: H445-21069.001AR**

Dear Craig,

Horizon Environmental Services, Inc. (Horizon) has completed a desktop archival review for known cultural resources for the proposed REDI Manufacturing Center project. One documented cultural resource site is located within the boundaries of the Property. Based on the physiographic setting of the Property on the broad, relatively flat floodplain of the Red River, it is Horizon's opinion that there exists a high potential for undocumented prehistoric archeological resources within the boundaries of the Property. Based on the presence of historic-age structures within the Property boundaries on historical aerial photographs and topographic maps, it is Horizon's opinion that there exists a high potential for historic-age architectural and/or archeological resources within the boundaries of the Property.

## **CULTURAL RESOURCES ARCHIVAL REVIEW RESULTS**

### **Database Review**

Archival research conducted on the Arkansas Archeological Survey's (AAS) online *Automated Management of Archeological Site Data in Arkansas* (AMASDA) restricted-access database indicates the presence of two previously recorded archeological sites within an approximately 1.0-mile radius of the Property. These documented cultural resources and their distances from the Property are summarized in Table 1 and shown on Figure 1 below. One previously recorded archeological site, 3MI438, is located within the boundaries of the Property. Site 3MI438 consists of a historic-age trash dump dating from the late 19th to early 20th centuries. The site is officially of undetermined eligibility for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) but was recommended as ineligible by the original site recorders.



Examination of historical US Geological Survey (USGS) topographic maps dating from 1952 to the present and aerial photographs dating from 1970 to the present indicate that several standing structures of potentially historic age (i.e., 50 years of age or older) are located within the boundaries of the Property. Historical USGS maps dating from 1952 onwards depict multiple structures within the western portion of the Property off of County Road (CR) 64 and several intersecting driveways south of Homan. It is not known if these structures are still standing, though several remain visible on modern aerial imagery. Historical land use within the Property appears to have been predominantly agricultural.

Based on the AMASDA database, one prior cultural resources survey has been conducted within the limits of the Property. This prior survey was conducted in 2010 by PBS&J, Inc. for American Electric Power. This project was a linear survey that traversed the Property from northeast to southwest. The majority of the Property has not been previously surveyed for cultural resources.

### **Probability Assessment**

Prehistoric archeological sites are commonly found in upland areas and on alluvial terraces near stream/river channels or drainages. Based on the physiographic setting of the Property on the broad, relatively flat floodplain of the Red River, it is Horizon's opinion that there exists a high potential for undocumented prehistoric archeological resources within the boundaries of the Property.

Based on the presence of historic-age structures within the Property boundaries on historical aerial photographs and topographic maps, it is Horizon's opinion that there exists a high potential for historic-age architectural and/or archeological resources within the boundaries of the Property.

### **Governing Regulations**

Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) of 1966, as amended, requires federal agencies to take into consideration the effects of their actions (funding or permitting) on historic properties. Historic properties include prehistoric archeological sites and historic-era structures, engineering features, and sites that are listed on, considered eligible for listing on, or have the potential for being eligible for listing on the NRHP, including previously unidentified properties. For example, if the development of the Property requires the usage of Nationwide Permits (NWP) issued by the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) or coordination with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for floodplain modifications or if the project is receiving funding from the US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), these federal agencies may require a cultural resources survey of any portions of the Property that fall within their jurisdiction.



Specific to NWP, General Condition 20(c) of the 2017 NWPs requires non-federal permittees to notify the USACE under the Pre-Construction Notification (PCN) procedures if a proposed project subject to Section 404 jurisdiction may have the potential to cause effects to any historic properties. In order to make this determination, the USACE may require a cultural resources survey in the immediate vicinity of any Section 404 regulated activity if at least a moderate potential for the occurrence of historic or prehistoric properties exists.

Additionally, General Condition 21 of the 2017 NWPs requires persons conducting an activity authorized by NWP to stop work and immediately notify the USACE if a previously unknown prehistoric or historic property (remains or artifacts) is discovered during the construction process.

In the event that the undertaking does not require any federal permitting/funding and it is not located on publicly owned land, cultural resources are not afforded protection under the regulations of Section 106 of the NHPA. However, unmarked burial sites (both prehistoric and historic-era) are still protected in the state of Arkansas.

### **Recommendations**

Based on the assessed high potential for undocumented prehistoric and high potential for historic-era architectural and/or archeological resources on the Property, it is Horizon's opinion that a formal cultural resources survey of the portions of the Property within any federal agency's jurisdiction would be warranted to comply with Section 106 of the NHPA if the development of the Property would require the usage of any federal permits or funding.

If no federal permitting or coordination is required for the undertaking and the undertaking is located entirely on privately owned land, field personnel should still be made aware that human burials are protected within the state of Arkansas. Specifically, if any human remains or grave objects are encountered at any point during development, maintenance, or ongoing use of the Property, all work at the location of the inadvertent discovery should cease immediately. Following the cessation of activity, the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program (AHPP) (and possibly also the county coroner) should be notified immediately and a qualified archeologist should be contacted to assess the find.

Please feel free to contact me at (512) 328-2430 or at [jowens@horizon-esi.com](mailto:jowens@horizon-esi.com) if you have any questions or require additional information.



Environmental Services, Inc.

Sincerely,

Jesse Owens  
Cultural Resources Director  
Horizon Environmental Services, Inc.

**References**

National Environmental Title Research (NETR)

2021 Historic Aerials by NETR Online. <<http://www.historicaerials.com>>. Accessed March 10, 2021.

Arkansas Archeological Survey (AAS)

2021 Automated Management of Archeological Site Data in Arkansas (AMASDA). <<http://archeology.uark.edu/amasdaonline/index.html?>>. Accessed March 10, 2021.

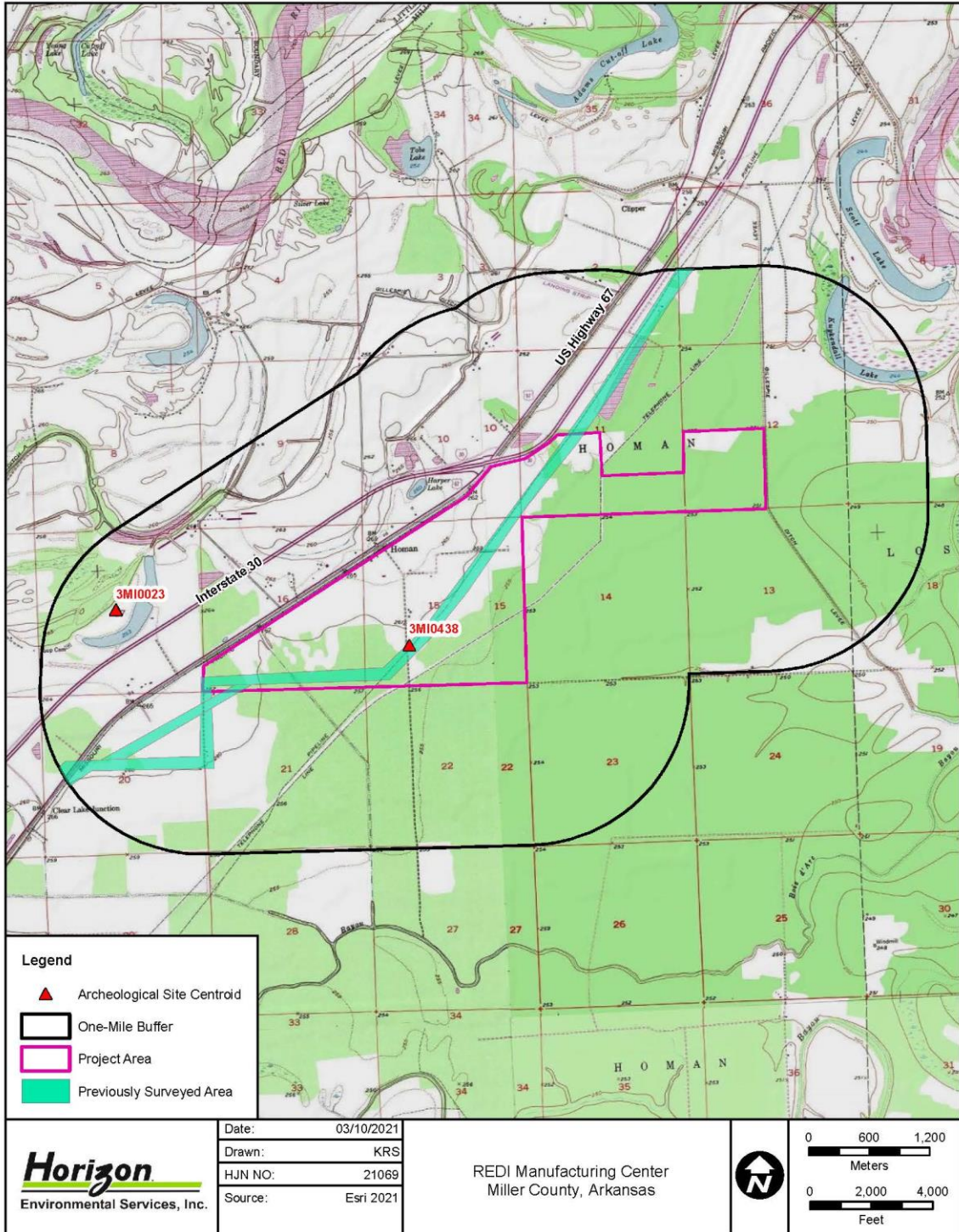
**Table 1. Previously Documented Cultural Resources within 1.0 Mile of Property**

Site No./Name	Site Type	NRHP Eligibility Status <sup>1</sup>	Distance/Direction from Property	Potential to be Impacted by Project?
<b><i>Archeological Sites</i></b>				
3MI23	Aboriginal campsite (Fourche Maline to Caddo); possible historic-age or protohistoric aboriginal village site (undetermined historic)	Undetermined	0.6 mile northwest	No
3MI438	Historic-age trash dump (late 19th to early 20th centuries)	Recommended ineligible	Within Property	Yes

<sup>1</sup> *Determined eligible/ineligible* = Site determined eligible/ineligible by SHPO  
*Recommended eligible/ineligible* = Site recommended as eligible/ineligible by site recorder and/or sponsoring agency but eligibility has not been determined by SHPO  
*Undetermined* = Eligibility not assessed or no information available

NRHP National Register of Historic Places

SHPO State Historic Preservation Office



**Figure 1. Location of Property, Known Cultural Resources, and Prior Surveys**



**ATTACHMENT A:**

**Consultation Letter from Arkansas Historic Preservation Program (AHPP)**



**Asa Hutchinson**  
Governor  
**Stacy Hurst**  
Secretary

March 4, 2021

Mr. JD Lowery  
Manager – Community and Economic Development  
Electric Cooperatives of Arkansas  
One Cooperative Way  
Little Rock, AR 72209

RE: Miller County – General  
Technical Assistance – Site Certification  
AHPP Tracking Number 107389

Dear Mr. Lowery:

The staff of the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program (AHPP) reviewed the records for archeological, architectural, and other historic resources within or proximal to the approximately 1,525-acre tract in portions of Sections 10, 11, 12, 15, and 16 in Township 14 South, Range 27 West, Miller County, Arkansas. As described, this is a non-federal request for technical assistance to support site certification designation at the Southwest Arkansas REDI Manufacturing Center through partnership with the Electric Cooperatives of Arkansas.

There is one archeological site documented within the tract. The property was documented in 2009 as a scant late nineteenth to early twentieth century artifact scatter. The site is undetermined for National Register eligibility although there is nothing in the site form documentation to indicate significance. There is a record of one previous cultural resource investigation that corresponds with a portion of the tract. In 2010, American Electric Power sponsored a survey of a corridor through the western part of the tract for the proposed Turk to Southeast Texarkana 138-kV Transmission Line (AMASDA 6081). There is no record of any other formal investigation within the tract.

If you have any questions, please contact Eric Mills of my staff at 501-324-9784 or email [eric.mills@arkansas.gov](mailto:eric.mills@arkansas.gov). Please refer to the AHPP Tracking Number listed above in all correspondence.

Sincerely,

/s/ Eric Mills for

Scott Kaufman  
Director, AHPP

cc: Dr. Melissa Zabecki, Arkansas Archeological Survey



17 May 2021

**CULTURAL RESOURCES DESKTOP REVIEW AND  
FIELD RECONNAISSANCE**

**Project Name:** .....REDI Manufacturing Center, ca. 1,350 Acres  
**Project Type:** .....Preliminary Cultural Resource Assessment  
**County:** .....Miller, AR  
**Legal description:** .....Sections 10, 11, 12, 15, 16, T14S R27W  
**USGS Quadrangles:** ..... Fulton, Ark, Homan, Ark 1951 7.5 min

Regional Economic Development, Inc. (REDI) of Arkansas and Texas contracted Panamerican Consultants to conduct a cultural resources review and preliminary archaeological field reconnaissance of a large parcel at Homan, Arkansas (Figures 1 and 2). The subject tract is located southwest of Fulton in a low-lying section near the confluence of the Red and Little rivers. The project footprint encompasses approximately 1,350 acres. The purpose of the review was to provide a consideration of existing properties of possible cultural and historical significance. A literature and records search of cultural resource data available within the project area was undertaken, and fieldwork was performed between May 12–14, 2021.

**Arkansas Archeological Survey (AAS) records check**

AMASDA file research provided information on a single previously recorded site (3MI438) located within the project area boundaries (Figure 3). It is a low-density historic scatter documented in 2009 during survey of the transmission line corridor that runs through the tract. Site boundaries were defined by the distribution of three positive shovel tests that yielded a bolt, a piece of milk glass, and a hand-wrought nail. The site was considered to be the result of late nineteenth–early twentieth century refuse/debris disposal and was not considered eligible for listing in the NRHP (a house, no longer standing, is shown to the north on the 1951 USGS quadrangle).

The General Land Office (GLO) map layer on the AMASDA site shows an early cultural feature within the project area (Figures 3 and 4). The area that would eventually become Homan is developed as “Moorehead Wright’s plantation” by the time the 1842 GLO plat sheet was made. No other roads, paths, or cultural features are shown within the project area boundaries. The eastern and southeastern margins of the plantation correspond very closely to the 260-foot amsl topographic contour.

**Arkansas Historic Preservation Program (AHPP) records check**

The AHPP GIS viewer was consulted with respect to this undertaking. No properties are shown within the area of interest.

**Field Reconnaissance**

A field reconnaissance of the project area was conducted May 12–14, 2021. The first location examined was previously recorded site 3MI438 (Figures 5 and 6). Four shovel tests (S1–4) were excavated here in close proximity to the positive tests recorded in 2009 (Figure 2). With the exception of two small fragments of clear, modern bottle glass, no artifacts were found at this location. The site is mapped on the southern edge of a terrace of Rilla silt loam, 0–1 percent slopes. The soil profile was brown (10YR 4/4) mottled silt loam from the surface to 35 cm below surface, underlain by yellowish brown (10YR 6/3) mottled slightly sandy silt to ca. 50 cm. No evidence of organic staining or midden deposits related to intensive occupation was



observed. Our assessment of the site corresponds to that offered previously: a low-density historic debris scatter that is not eligible for listing in the NRHP and requires no further investigation.

Subsurface testing at an additional twelve generalized geographic locations distributed across the parcel was requested as part of the field assessment. These mapped locations were numbered G1–12. All of the locations falling on areas below the 260-foot amsl contour line (G2, 4, 5, 6, 10, 11, and 12) were found to be within fully or partially inundated portions of the project area and were not amenable to shovel testing (Figure 13). Some of these lower-lying portions of the tract were accessed on foot and on a four-wheeler (kindly provided by Skipper Davis), but the northeastern portion of the project area was too flooded to traverse. These areas are all underlain by Bossier clay floodplain soil and were dominated by water tolerant vegetation types and marsh fowl such as cattle egrets, great egrets, white ibises, red-winged blackbirds, and yellow-headed blackbirds. The location of tests excavated on the higher ground (above the 260-foot contour line) on the Rilla silt loam soils (G1, 3, 7, 8, and 9) are shown on Figure 2. Surface visibility was extremely poor across the acreage, but exposures along fence lines, livestock paths, and knoll tops were examined in numerous locations (Figures 6 and 7). All of the excavated shovel tests were negative and revealed profiles similar to that described for site 3MI438.

Surface artifacts (FR1, 2, and 3) were documented in a ca. 15,000 m<sup>2</sup> area in the central–northwestern portion of the parcel (Figures 2, 8–11). Three foundation remnants (fire brick, concrete, and steel elements) were observed here, and the livestock manager conveyed that this had been the former location of a sawmill. Diagnostic bricks from the Evans & Howard Fire Brick Company and Laclede (St. Louis, MO ca. 1857–1930) are probably from the sawmill boiler, and date the structural remnants to around the turn of the century. No structure appears in this location on the 1951 USGS quadrangle.

### **Conclusions**

Although systematic survey of the REDI Miller County parcel was not accomplished, it seems apparent that cultural remains within the project area are restricted to the high ground in the central–northwestern portion of the tract. An early clearing of the bottomland hardwood is shown here as a plantation site as early as 1842, and the town of Homan was later established in the same area. A number of abandoned utility buildings related to the interests of H.L. Day & Sons, along with the former Homan General Store, are located immediately across the rail line to the northwest of the parcel (Figure 12). Remains of what may have been a sawmill dating to the late nineteenth century are present just southeast of the rail line. No evidence of prehistoric landuse or occupation was observed during the field inspection.

Respectfully submitted,



Mitchell R. Childress, RPA

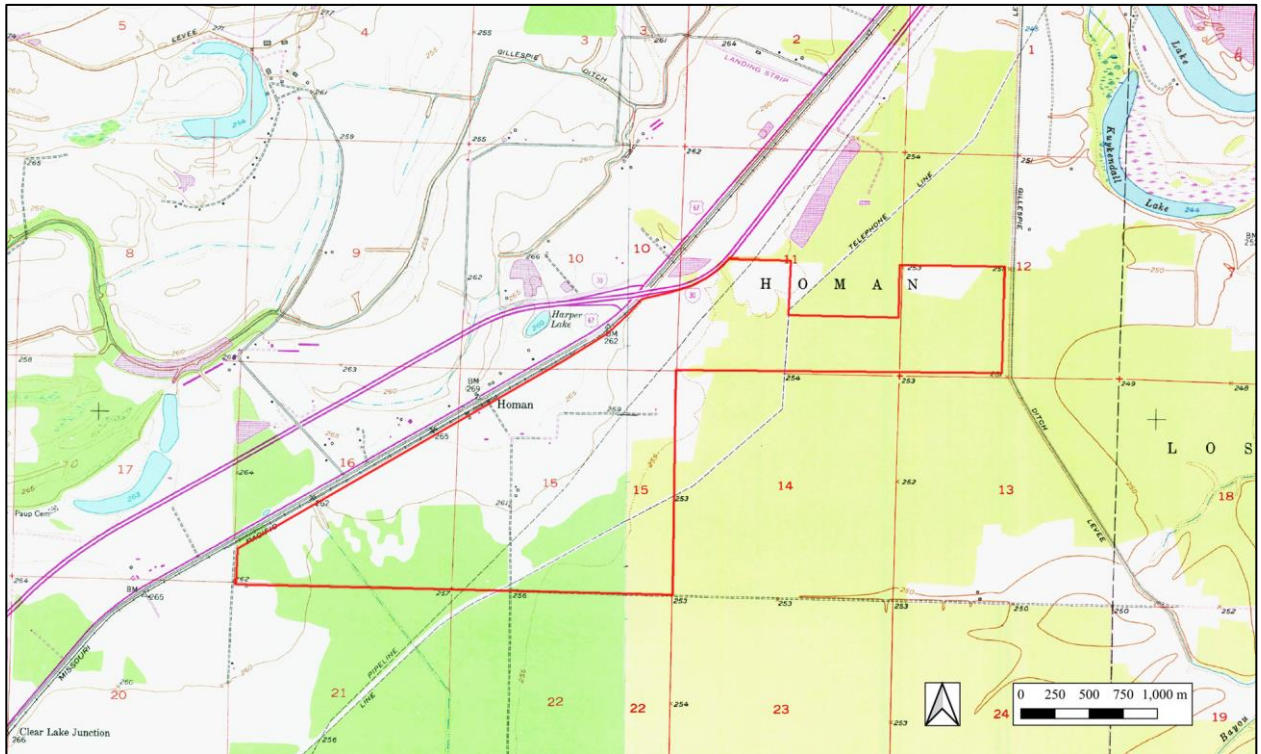


Figure 1. REDI, Miller County AR project area (base map: Fulton, AR, Homan, AR 1951 7.5-min. quads).

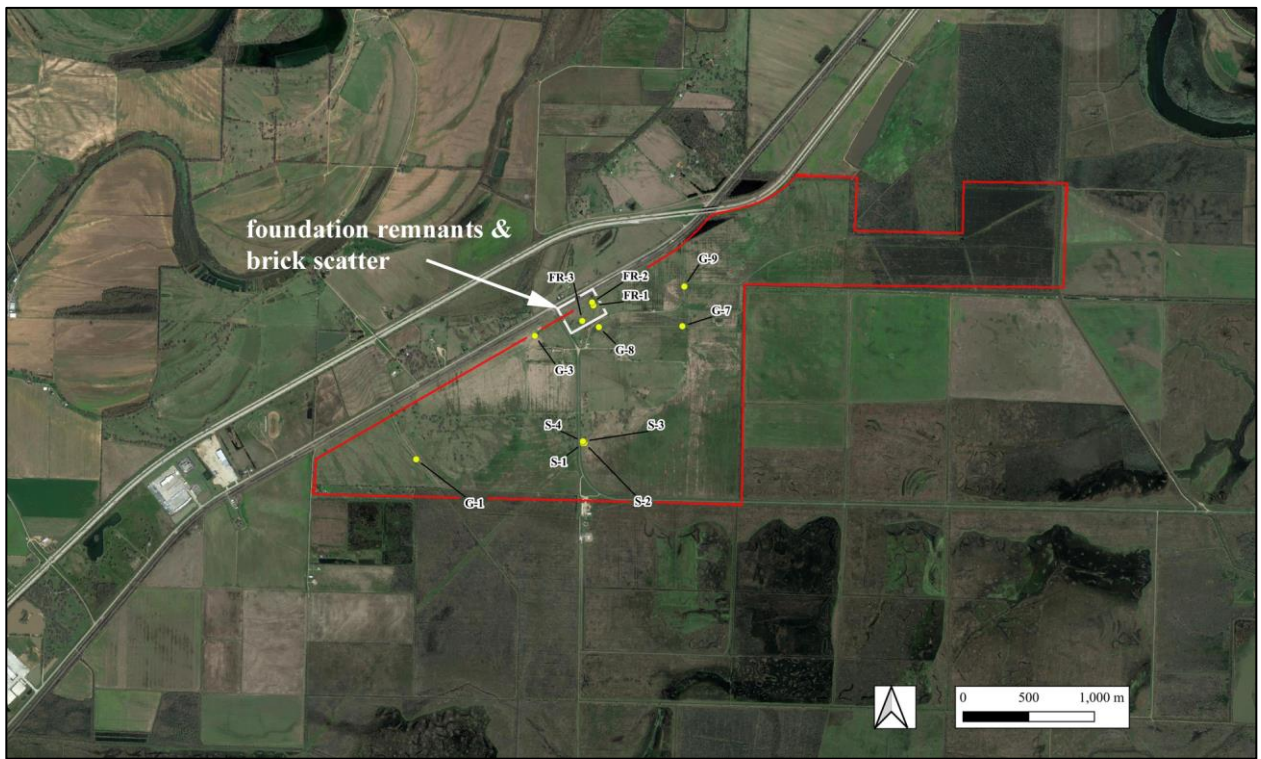


Figure 2. Satellite image of REDI Miller Co AR project area showing shovel tests and surface finds.

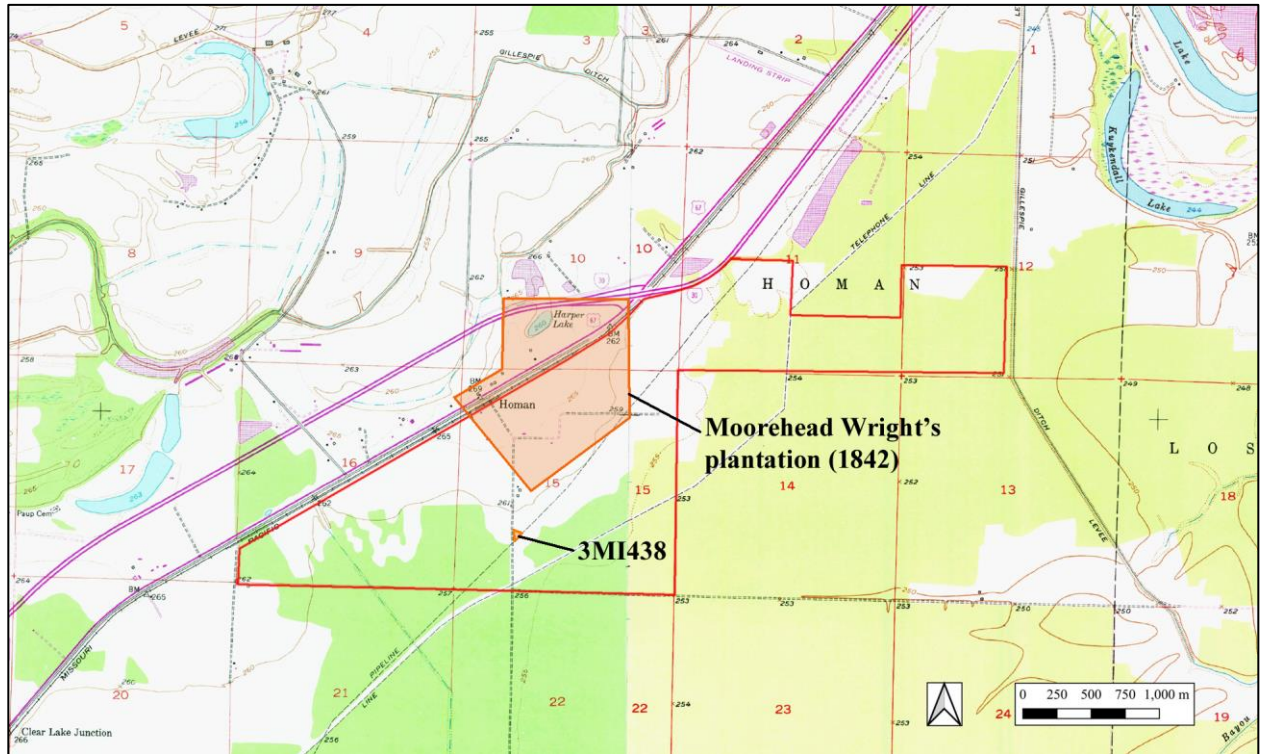


Figure 3. Previously recorded sites in the REDI, Miller County AR project area.

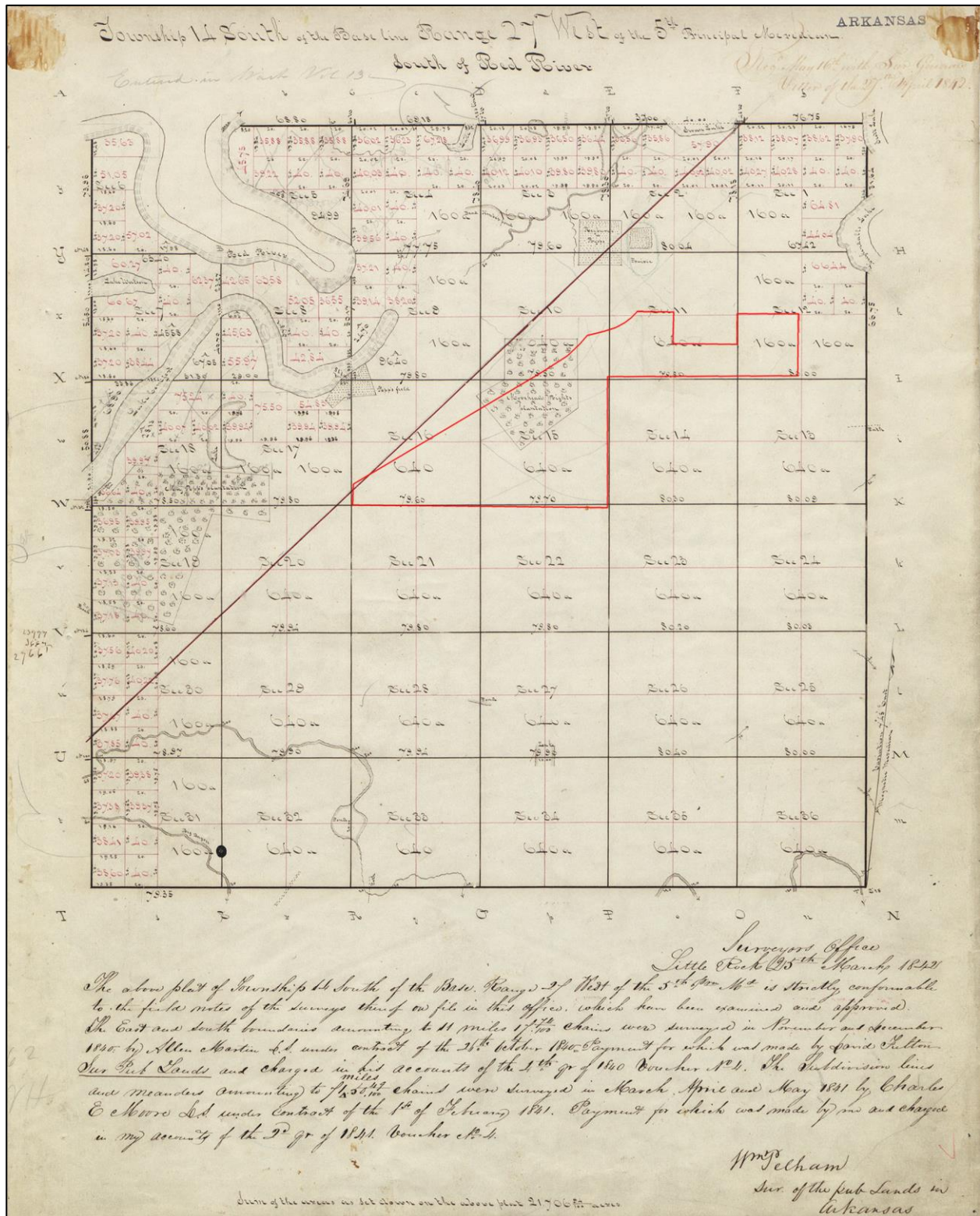


Figure 4. REDI Miller Co AR project area on the 1842 General Land Office plat sheet.



Figure 5. Site 3MI438, view northeast (DSCN1833).



Figure 6. Shovel testing at 3MI438, view north (DSCN1835).





**Figure 7. Topographic prominence at ST-G3, view north-northeast (DSCN1861).**



**Figure 8. Foundation remnant 1, view southwest (DSCN1844).**



**Figure 9. Foundation remnant 2, view southwest (DSCN1845).**



**Figure 10. Foundation remnant 2 detail (DSCN1846).**



**Figure 11. Foundation remnant 3, view southwest (DSCN1851).**



**Figure 12. H.L. Day & Sons building complex, view west-northwest (DSCN1853).**



**Figure 13. Inundated bottom land and egrets in the southern portion of the tract, view north-northwest (DSCN1831).**