Phase Ib Archaeological Research for the Mahler Property, City of Montevallo, Shelby County, Alabama

Report Prepared for
Alabama Historical Commission
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Montgomery, AL 36104
and the
City of Montevallo
541 Main Street
Montevallo, AL 35115

Perry Hall-Mahler Farm, February 2017

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Abstract

The Alabama Historical Commission (AHC) and the City of Montevallo, Alabama contracted the University of South Alabama's Center for Archaeological Studies (USA-CAS) to conduct Phase Ib archaeological research of the Mahler property in the City of Montevallo, Shelby County, Alabama. The Mahler property is at 2679 Montevallo Road (Alabama Highway 119) northeast of Montevallo in the southwest corner of Shelby County. This property was first known as Perry Hall, an antebellum plantation owned by Sion Jacob Perry. In 1946 the house and 167 acres were purchased by the Mahler family and it became known as Mahler Farm. In 1976 Perry Hall-Mahler Farm was listed on the Alabama Register of Landmarks and Heritage. In 2013 the Mahler property was donated to the City of Montevallo by Elizabeth "Betty" Mahler, with the request that the property be developed into a public park to be called Shoal Creek Park.

Phase Ib field investigations by USA-CAS included pedestrian survey and excavation of shovel tests. These investigations are a supplemental assessment to a 2015 cultural resources survey by the Office of Archaeological Research (OAR) at The University of Alabama**.** Phase Ib fieldwork was conducted on February 24 and 25, 2017 by USA-CAS staff archaeologists and numerous volunteers. Seventy shovel tests were excavated at 10.0-meter (32.8-foot) intervals in three locations on the Mahler property. Archaeological sites were identified in each of the shovel tested areas. 1SH714 (Perry Hall-Mahler Farm House Site) covers the yard around the ca. 1834 house, where a moderate amount of historic-period artifacts and a few prehistoric artifacts were recovered from shovel tests. 1SH715 (possible Slave Quarters site) was identified west of Shoal Creek and early to mid-1800s artifacts and prehistoric artifacts were found in shovel tests. 1SH716 (Shoal Creek Site #1) covers the terrace overlooking Shoal Creek behind the ca. 1834 house and consists primarily of prehistoric lithics, such as flake debitage and a few chipped stone tool fragments. Each of the three sites is considered potentially eligible for nomination for inclusion to the NRHP based on Criterion D; the site has yielded and has the potential to yield information important to prehistory and/or history. It is recommended that the sites be avoided by any construction for development of Shoal Creek Park. If avoidance is not an option, Phase II archaeological testing is recommended to determine NRHP status at each site. A fourth area was examined by pedestrian survey and four prehistoric flakes were found on the ground surface, but due to time constraints this location was not shovel tested.

In 2015 a Historic Structures Report of the extant 1834 house and four outbuildings that no longer stand was conducted by Schneider Historic Preservation, LLC, and Christy/Cobb Consulting Engineers, Inc. (Schneider and Cobb 2015). This study documented the ca. 1834 house, two animal barns, a hay barn, equipment shed, pump house, and a small cemetery on the Mahler property. Four of the five outbuildings have since been demolished. The Historic Structures Report does not provide recommendations as to the potential eligibility of the Perry Hall-Mahler Farmhouse for nomination to the NRHP.

Acknowledgements

We are grateful to State Archaeologist Stacye Hathorn, Senior Archaeologist Eric Snipes, and Contracts and Grants Specialist Tryon McLaney of the Alabama Historical Commission for theirs assistance with this Phase Ib archaeological research assessment. We also thank Montevallo Mayor Hollie Cost, City Clerk Herman Lehman, and the Mayor's assistant Lydia Godwin for their help. Montevallo resident Terry Arnold shared his vast knowledge of local history and Mahler Farm with us, as did Jim Day, Carey Heatherly, Dee Woodham, and Philip Busby.

Phase I fieldwork was completed by USA-CAS staff archaeologists Traci Cunningham, Anne Dorland, and Bonnie Gums (Field Supervisor), assisted by USA-CAS volunteer Lori Sawyer, under the direction of USA-CAS director Dr. Gregory A Waselkov, who served as Principal Investigator. Local volunteers included City of Montevallo Mayor Hollie Cost, her husband Andy Cost and her parents Sherrie and Joe Campbell, City Clerk Herman Lehman, and the Mayor's assistant Lydia Godwin. University of Montevallo professors, staff, and students included Joel Bullock (Library Cataloging Assistant and Drawing instructor), Dr. Jim Day (Professor of History), Carey Heatherly (Reference Librarian and Archivist) and his daughter Eva Heatherly, graduate student Heather Bishop Calvert, and History majors Gracie Sproull and Sara Walley, Other volunteers were Terry and Sarah Arnold, Philip Busby and his sons Lane Busby and Tucker Busby, Blake Forrest Lovett, Phillip Jackson, and Dee Woodham (Shoal Creek Park Foundation).

USA-CAS laboratory work was conducted by volunteer Lee Swetman, student assistant Campbell Walker, Traci Cunningham, and Bonnie Gums. Lucinda Freeman created the report maps and Sarah Mattics produced the artifact photographs. CAS director Dr. Gregory A. Waselkov served as Principal Investigator and provided editorial assistance.

Shovel testing teams at 1SH715

Friday surviving volunteers Sarah Arnold, Anne Dorland, Terry Arnold, Traci Cunningham, Lori Sawyer, Eva Heatherly, and Carey Heatherly

Saturday surviving volunteers Anne Dorland, Joel Bullock and best friend Stella, Traci Cunningham, Heather Bishop Calvert, Lori Sawyer, and Lydia Godwin

CHAPTER 1: The Mahler Property Phase Ib Archaeological Research Project

The Alabama Historical Commission and the City of Montevallo, Alabama contracted the University of South Alabama's Center for Archaeological Studies (USA-CAS) to conduct ~~a~~ Phase Ib archaeological research of the Mahler property in the City of Montevallo, Shelby County, Alabama. The Mahler property is located in Township 22 South, Range 3 West, Section 15 as shown on the Montevallo and Alabaster, Alabama USGS 7.5' series topographic quadrangles and an aerial photograph (Figures 1 and 2). The Mahler property is at 2679 Montevallo Road (Alabama Highway 119), about 1.0 mile northeast of Montevallo in the southwest corner of Shelby County. The ca. 1834 house on the northwest side of Montevallo Road is the only main building that still stands on the Mahler property, and is surrounded by grasslands, pastures, and woodlands along Shoal Creek (Figure 3).

This property was first known as Perry Hall, an antebellum plantation owned by Sion Jacob Perry and the home of his wife Sarah and 11 children. In 1946 167 acres of Perry land was purchased by the Mahler family, the ca. 1834 house was renovated**,** and it became known as Mahler Farm (Figure 4). In 1976 Perry Hall (then known as Shoal Creek Farm, Inc.) was listed on the Alabama Register of Landmarks and Heritage. In 2013 the Mahler property was donated to the City of Montevallo by Elizabeth "Betty" Mahler, with the request that the property be developed into a public park to be called Shoal Creek Park. The non-profit corporation Shoal Creek Park Foundation was established in late 2015 to oversee park development.

Phase Ib field investigations by USA-CAS included pedestrian survey and excavation of 70 shovel tests on the Mahler property. These investigations are a supplemental assessment to a 2016 cultural resources survey by the Office of Archaeological Research (OAR) at The University of Alabama (Thompson 2015). The lead agency for this Phase Ib archaeological research project is the National Park Service (NPS), US Department of the Interior, in compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) of 1966, amended in 2006**.** The 2017 Phase Ib investigations were conducted in compliance with Alabama Historical Commission (AHC) guidelines for evaluation of any significant archaeological sites or structures in terms of criteria for eligibility to the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) (USDI 1991).

- **Criterion A**: A property is associated with a specific event in American prehistory or history, or pattern of events that make a significant contribution to the development of a community, a state, or the nation.
- **Criterion B:** A property is associated with a significant individual within a historical context.
- **Criterion C**: A property is significant for its physical design or construction including distinctive architectural characteristics of type, period, or method of construction.
- **Criterion D**: A property has yielded, or has the potential to yield, information important to prehistory or history.

Phase Ib fieldwork was conducted on February 24 and 25, 2017 by USA-CAS staff archaeologists Traci Cunningham, Anne Dorland, and Bonnie Gums, assisted by Lori Sawyer, under the direction of USA-CAS director Dr. Gregory A Waselkov, who served as Principal Investigator. Numerous local volunteers helped, including City of Montevallo Mayor Hollie Cost, her husband Andy Cost and her parents Sherrie and Joe Campbell, City Clerk Herman Lehman, and the Mayor's assistant Lydia Godwin. University of Montevallo professors, staff, and students included Joel Bullock (Library Cataloging Assistant and Drawing instructor), Dr. Jim Day (Professor of History), Carey Heatherly (Reference Librarian and Archivist) and his daughter Eva Heathery, graduate student Heather Bishop Calvert, and History majors Gracie Sproull and Sara Walley, Other volunteers were Terry and Sarah Arnold, Philip Busby and his sons Lane Busby and Tucker Busby, Blake Forrest Lovett, Phillip Jackson, and Dee Woodham (Shoal Creek Park Foundation).

Seventy shovel tests were excavated at 10.0-meter (32.8-foot) intervals in three locations on the Mahler property during this Phase Ib archaeological survey and research. Three new archaeological sites were identified in each of the shovel tested areas. 1SH714 (Perry Hall-Mahler Farm House Site) covers the yard around the ca. 1834 house. A moderate amount of historic-period artifacts and a few prehistoric artifacts were recovered from shovel tests. 1SH715 (possible Slave Quarters site) was identified west of Shoal Creek and early to mid-1800s artifacts and prehistoric artifacts were found in shovel tests. 1SH716 (Shoal Creek Site #1) covers the terrace overlooking Shoal Creek behind the ca. 1834 house and consists of prehistoric lithics, such as flake debitage and a few chipped stone tool fragments. A fourth area was examined by pedestrian survey and four prehistoric flakes were found on the ground surface, but due to time constraints this location was not shovel tested.

A Historic Structures Report conducted in 2015 by Schneider Historic Preservation, LLC and Christy/Cobb Consulting Engineers, Inc. documented the ca. 1834 house, two animal barns, a hay barn, equipment shed, pump house, and a small cemetery on the Mahler property (Schneider and Cobb 2015).

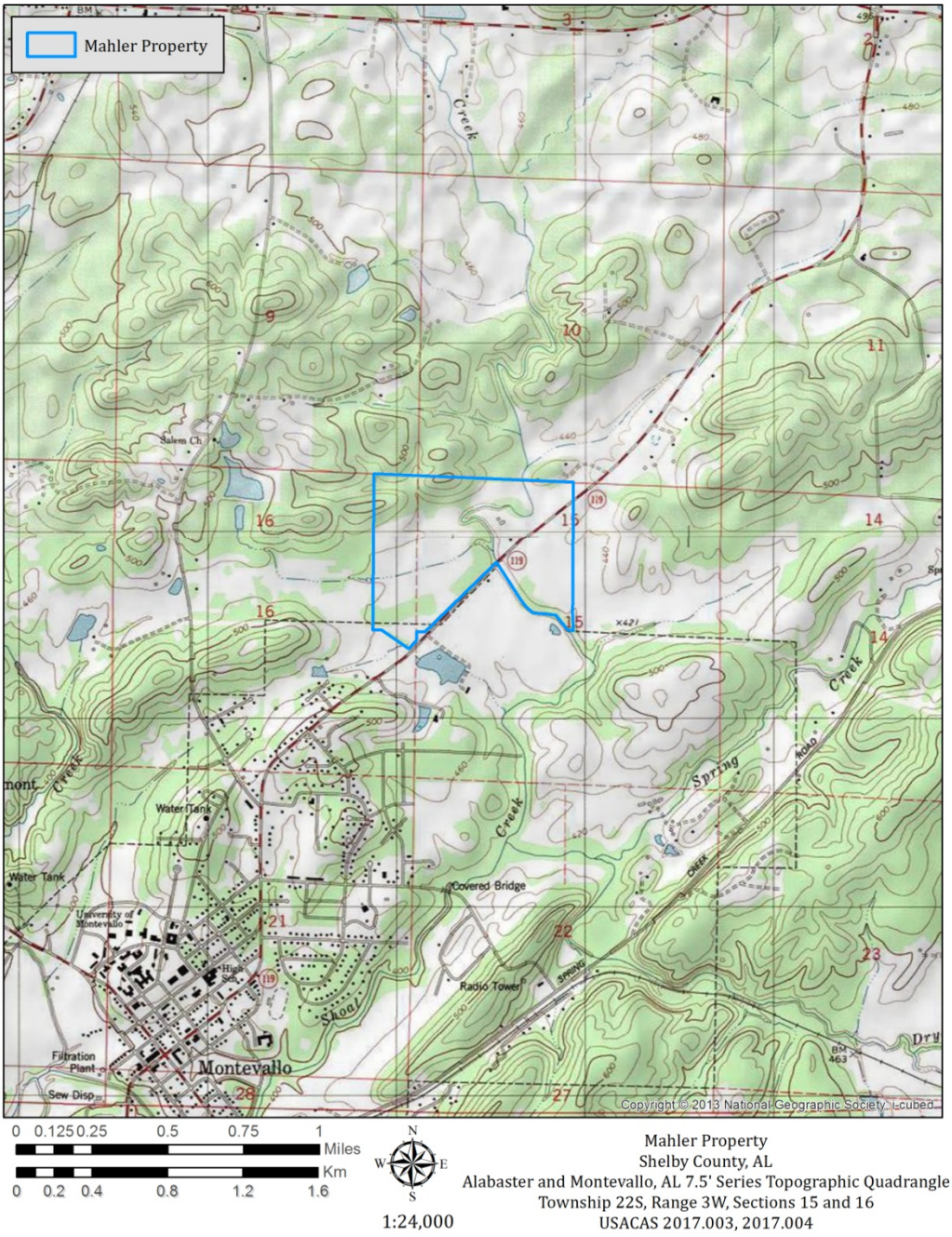

Figure 1. Mahler 167-acre property shown on USGS Montevallo and Alabaster, Ala., 7.5' series topographic quadrangles.

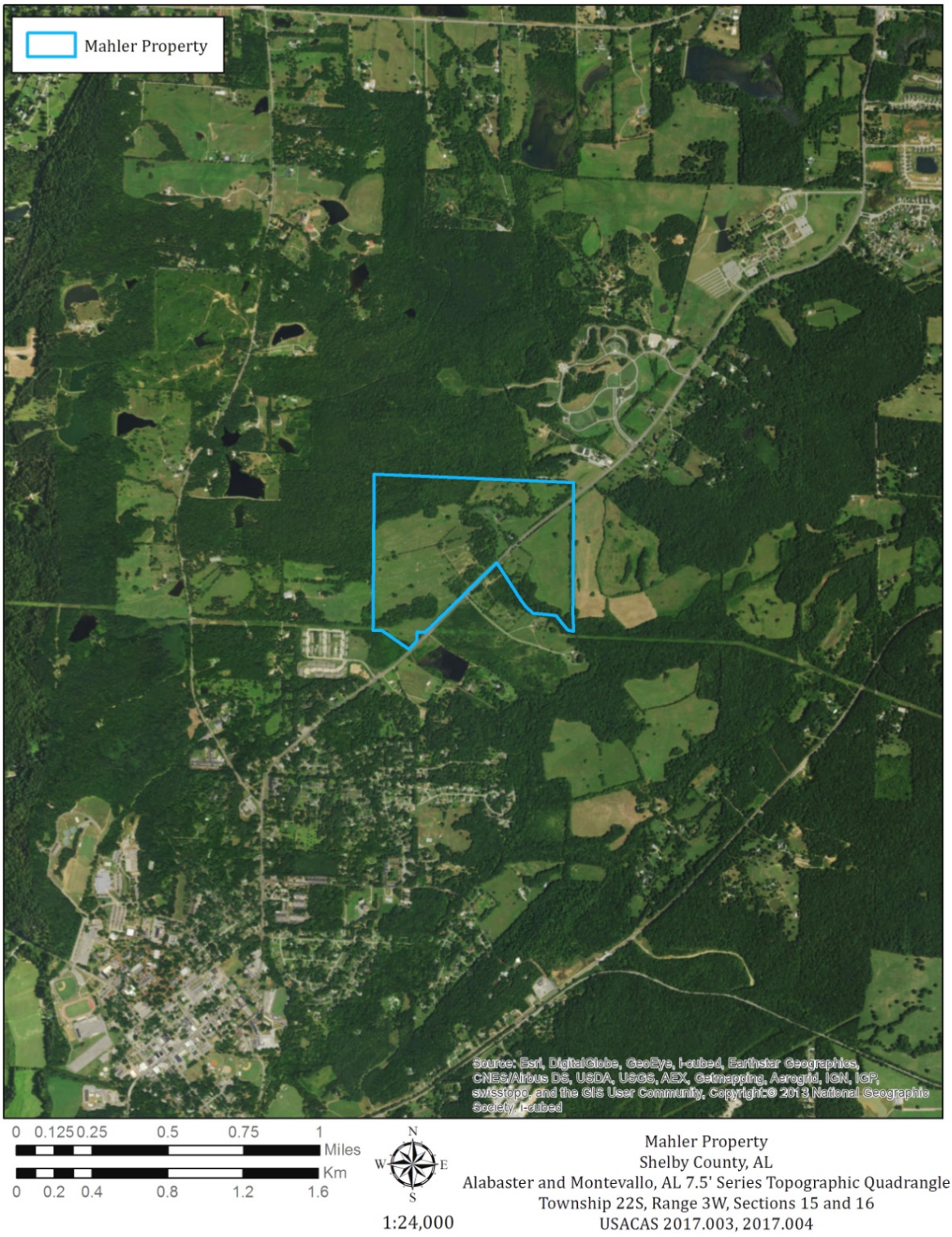

Figure 2. Mahler 167-acre property location on an aerial photograph.

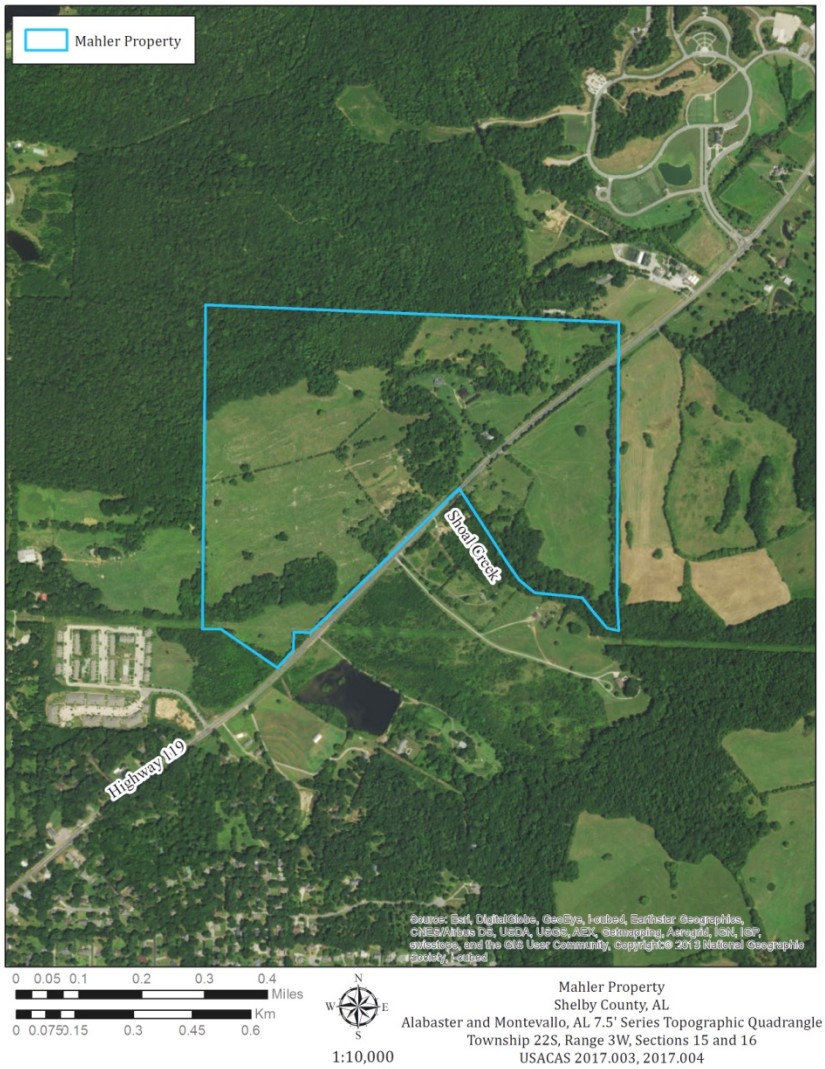

Figure 3. Mahler 167-acre property and surrounding features on an aerial photograph.

Figure 4. Ca. 1946 photographs of Perry Hall (Janice Mahler Family Scrapbooks, Milner Archives and Special Collections, University of Montevallo).

Proposed Development of Shoal Creek Park

The 167-acre Mahler property was donated in 2013 by Elizabeth "Betty" Mahler to the City of Montevallo for use as a city park to be named Shoal Creek Park. In late 2015 the non-profit corporation Shoal Creek Park Foundation was established to oversee park development. Most of the park will remain in its natural state with existing and proposed hiking trails with scenic views of Shoal Creek. A gravel parking lot for 50 vehicles has been constructed about 175.0 feet (50.0 meters) from the historic house. A pavilion, restroom facilities and signage for the hiking trails are planned, with ideas for recreational and educational uses to be developed, and the historic house will be refurbished for public use.

Environmental Setting and Mahler Property Description

The Mahler property is located in the Cahaba Valley district of the Alabama Valley and Ridge physiographic region, part of the larger Appalachian Highlands, which is characterized by nearly level or gently sloping landforms of sandstone ridges and fertile limestone valleys. The Cahaba River is nearly 200.0 miles long with it headwaters near Birmingham in Shelby County. It flows south-southwest and joins the Alabama River in Dallas County. Cahaba Valley soils include gravel, sand, and clay, with chert and sandstone outcropping on the ridges. **S**hoal Creek and its relatively wide floodplain meanders roughly north-south and enters Little Cahaba River about 5.0 miles southwest of Montevallo. Other creeks in the vicinity include Spring Creek and Dry Creek to the east, Mayberry and Little Mayberry creeks to the west, and Davis Creek to the northwest. The Cahaba River Valley is about 10.0 miles to the west.

The Mahler property is located at 2679 Montevallo Road (*aka* State Highway 119) about 1.0 mile northeast of the City of Montevallo (Figure 4). Montevallo Road is a main north-south road that connects the towns and rural communities in southwestern Shelby County, northeastern Chilton County and eastern Bibb County. Much of this region of central Alabama is rural and is mostly forests and pasture land. The metropolitan sprawl of the City of Birmingham (population around 212,000) is less than 10.0 miles to the north. Attractions in the Montevallo area include the University of Montevallo, a liberal arts college with 3,000 students; an educational institution called American Village; and the 480-acre Alabama National Cemetery established in 2009. Cahaba River Wildlife Management Area is 5.0 miles north-northwest and Talladega National Forest is 16.0 miles southwest.

The 167-acre Mahler property is mostly open pasture land with woods in the northwest corner and along Shoal Creek, which cuts through the east half of the property. Most of the Mahler property, about 132.0 acres including the Perry Hall-Mahler Farm House, lies northwest of Montevallo Road with about 35.0 acres of pasture to the southeast of the highway. The ca. 1834 Perry Hall-Mahler Farm house is near the center of the east half of the property. Four outbuildings (including two animal barns, an equipment shed, and a pump house) once stood a short distance north and northwest of the house on the terrace overlooking Shoal Creek (Schneider and Cobb 2015). A small cemetery with one marked gravestone and other unmarked possible gravestones lies in the extreme northeast corner of the Mahler property.

Figure 5. Façade of the ca. 1834 house on the Mahler property.

Figure 6. Back of the ca. 1834 house showing the rear addition and garage.

Topography on the Mahler property consists of flat to gently sloping landforms including Shoal Creek floodplain with slightly higher terraces above the creek. Shoal Creek flows through the east half of the Mahler property and an unnamed tributary of cuts through the center of the west half of the property. Today a log footbridge cut from an American chestnut tree crosses Shoal Creek just west of the house (Figures 9 and 10). According to Elizabeth "Betty" Mahler, this old log bridge was originally where the ca. 1947 bridge for Montevallo Road over Shoal Creek is now, and the log bridge was moved after the Mahlers bought the farm in 1946 to its current location (Arnold 2015:17).

Figure 7. View to the northwest of Shoal Creek on the Mahler property.

Figure 8. View to the northeast of exposed rocks along Shoal Creek on the Mahler property.

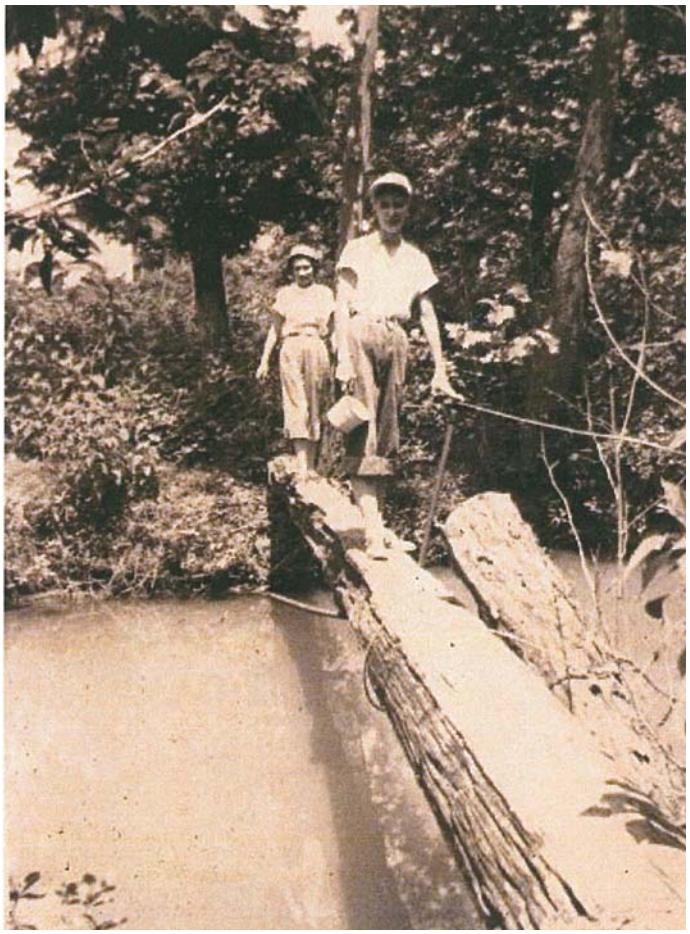

Figure 9. Post-1946 photograph of the log bridge over Shoal Creek (Janice Mahler Family Scrapbooks, Milner Archives and Special Collections, University of Montevallo).

Figure 10. Archaeology volunteers Lori Sawyer and Terry Arnold at the old log bridge over Shoal Creek, March 2017.

Elevation on the Mahler property is about 420.0 feet (128.0 meters) above mean sea level, reaching 500.0 feet (152.0 meters) above mean sea level on two ridges in the northwest corner of the property. Soils on the Mahler property are primarily part of the Tupelo-Dewey complex, and include Tupelo loam and Dewey clay loam (Stevens 1984; USDA 2017). Soil located on the three archaeological sites is Tupelo loam, which is very deep, somewhat poorly drained, frequently flooded soil found on low stream terraces and upland flats of the Cahaba Valley district. Tupelo loam is primarily used for pasture and hay cultivation, and in some areas corn, soybeans, sorghum, and other grains can be grown. On the ridges in the northwest corner of the Mahler property are soils from the Townley-Sunlight complex.

Figure 11. View to the north-northeast of terrace south of Shoal Creek and behind the ca. 1834 house on the Mahler property.

Figure 12. View to the south of the floodplain on the west side of Shoal Creek on the Mahler property.

CHAPTER 2: Background Research

This research involved a review of nearby archaeological sites and a historic structures report for the Mahler property, an examination of relevant historic maps, documentation of historic properties in the vicinity, and a review of written histories of the Mahler property and the families who lived there.

Known Archaeological Sites in the Vicinity of the Mahler Property

A search of the Alabama State Site File (ASSF 2017) conducted by Bonnie Gums on February 23, 2017 indicated there were no previously recorded archaeological sites in the Mahler property. Thirteen archaeological sites, 1SH506, 1SH507, 1SH508, 1SH509, 1SH510, 1SH511, 1SH512, 1SH513, 1SH521, 1SH570, 1SH571, 1SH573, and 1SH634, are located within a 1.0-mile (1.6-km) radius of the Mahler property (ASSF 2017). Ten of these sites are located to the north along or near Shoal Creek and its unnamed tributaries and two sites are to the northeast along another unnamed tributary of Shoal Creek near Montevallo Road (State Highway 119). Seven sites date to the prehistoric period, four are from the historic period and two sites have both prehistoric and historic components.

Table 1. Archaeological sites within a 1.0-mile (1.6-km) radius of the Mahler property.

Site	Cultural Component	Description	NRHP
1SH506	Unknown prehistoric	Sparse lithic scatter	No
1SH507	Unknown prehistoric	Dense lithic scatter	Yes
1SH508	Unknown prehistoric	Sparse lithic scatter	No
1SH509	Unknown prehistoric	Sparse lithic scatter	No
1SH510	Unknown prehistoric	Sparse lithic scatter	No
1SH511	Unknown prehistoric	Sparse lithic scatter	No
1SH512	Historic	Structural remains of a mill in Shoal Creek	Yes
1SH513	Unknown prehistoric,19th-20th century	Lithic scatter and remains of two farmhouses	No
1SH521	19th-20th century	Structural remains of a farmhouse	No
1SH570	Late Woodland to Mississippian	Dense lithic scatter	Yes
1SH571	19th-20th century	Farmhouse site	Yes

1SH573	Unknown prehistoric, 19th century	Sparse lithic scatter and farmhouse site	No
1SH634	20th century	Refuse dump	No

Sites 1SH506 through 1SH513 were recorded by MACTEC in 2005 during an environmental assessment for a proposed Department of Veterans Affairs National Cemetery, now known as Alabama National Cemetery (MACTEC 2006). All of these sites were revisited in 2007 by USA-CAS during a cultural resource assessment of a 472-acre alternative tract for the National Cemetery (Stieber 2007), and Phase II testing was conducted at 1SH513 in 2008 by USA-CAS (Potts 2008).

1SH506 was originally recorded as a sparse scatter of prehistoric lithics of unknown cultural affiliation on a terrace above Shoal Creek (ASSF 2017). Artifacts recovered from the surface and shovel tests included one oolitic limestone flakes and two chert flakes. No additional artifacts were recovered on the surface or in shovel tests during the 2007 revisit (Stieber 2007). Based on the paucity of artifacts, 1SH506 is not considered eligible for the NRHP and no further work was recommended at site 1SH506 (Stieber 2007:10).

1SH507 was originally recorded as a dense scatter of prehistoric lithics of unknown cultural affiliation on a terrace north of Shoal Creek (ASSF 2017). Artifacts recovered from the surface and shovel tests included a broken biface, a chert scraper, 99 flakes of agate, chert jasper, oolitic limestone, and quartz. During the 2007 revisit, 19 of 35 shovel tests yielded artifacts including two broken bifaces, a ground sandstone fragment, 42 flakes, and 4 pieces of shatter (Stieber 2007). Lithic materials consist of chert, Fort Payne chert, and quartz. Based on subsurface integrity and high density of artifacts, 1SH507 is considered potentially eligible for the NRHP and Phase II testing was recommended (Stieber 2007:12-13).

1SH508 was originally recorded as a sparse scatter of prehistoric lithics of unknown cultural affiliation on a terrace west of Shoal Creek (ASSF 2017). Artifacts recovered from the surface and shovel tests included one chert biface and four chert flakes. During the 2007 revisit, only five of 23 shovel tests yielded artifacts including 12 chert flakes. Based on the paucity of artifacts and lack of diagnostics, 1SH508 is not considered potentially eligible for the NRHP and no further work was recommended (Stieber 2007:16).

1SH509 was originally recorded as a sparse scatter of prehistoric lithics of unknown cultural affiliation on a terrace west of Shoal Creek (ASSF 2017). Artifacts recovered from the

surface and shovel tests included four chert flakes. During the 2007 revisit, only five of 13 shovel tests yielded artifacts, including five flakes. Based on the paucity of artifacts and lack of diagnostics, 1SH509 is not considered potentially eligible for the NRHP and no further work was recommended (Stieber 2007:18-19).

1SH510 was originally recorded as a sparse scatter of prehistoric lithics of unknown cultural affiliation on a terrace south of Shoal Creek (ASSF 2017). Artifacts recovered from the surface and shovel tests included one chert flake and two oolitic limestone flakes. During the 2007 revisit, no artifacts were recovered from seven shovel tests. Based on the lack of artifacts, 1SH510 is not considered potentially eligible for the NRHP and no further work was recommended (Stieber 2007:21-22).

1SH511 was originally recorded as a sparse scatter of prehistoric lithics of unknown cultural affiliation on a terrace south of Shoal Creek (ASSF 2017). Artifacts recovered from the surface and shovel tests included 10 chert flakes. During the 2007 revisit, only one of nine shovel tests yielded a chert flake. Based on the paucity of artifacts, 1SH511 is not considered potentially eligible for the NRHP and no further work was recommended (Stieber 2007:25).

1SH512 was recorded as a historic-period mill with structural remains on both sides of Shoal Creek (ASSF 2017). An earthenware pot was found on the surface but no artifacts were recovered from three shovel tests. During the 2007 revisit, two bricks were found in Shoal Creek, but no artifacts were recovered from five shovel tests. The structural remains consist of wood cribbing in Shoal Creek and a stone wall running perpendicular to Shoal Creek from the creek to a dirt road. There are several outbuildings in the near vicinity of the mill, as well as a house on top of a ridge. It is not yet determined whether these structures are associated with the mill. Site 1SH512 is considered potentially eligible for the NRHP and Phase II testing was recommended if the site cannot be avoided during development of the cemetery (Stieber 2007:27-28).

1SH513 was recorded as a historic-period site with two farm houses and two outbuildings along an unnamed dirt road north of Shoal Creek (ASSF 2017). The structures were dated to the mid to late nineteenth century, but there was no mention of artifacts from site. During the 2007 revisit, Structure 1 was a partially collapsed house and Structure 2 was still standing. Five of the 12 shovel tests excavated around Structure 1 yielded artifacts including three clear and aqua glass fragments, two pieces of tar roofing shingle, and an electrical plug prong. None of the five shovel tests excavated around Structure 2 yielded artifacts. Based on the partially intact

structures, 1SH513 was considered potentially eligible for the NRHP and Phase II testing was recommended if the site cannot be avoided during development of the cemetery (Stieber 2007:27-28). Phase II testing conducted in 2008 by USA-CAS consisted of excavation of 248 shovel tests, two test units, and a pit feature, and historical research and documentation of the structural remains at the site (Potts 2008). It was determined**,** based on results of Phase II archaeological testing and structure documentation**,** that the site is not considered potentially eligible for the NRHP and no further work was recommended. (Potts 2008:29).

1SH521 was described as an intact brick foundation and a well from a late nineteenth-century farm (ASSF 2017). The site was revisited in 2009 by Brandon Thompson of OAR during a survey for two proposed parking lots at American Village. Historic-period artifacts, including whiteware, windowpane glass, brick fragments, and a nail, were recovered from three of six shovel tests. Based on the paucity of artifacts, 1SH521 is not considered potentially eligible for the NRHP and no further work was recommended (Thompson 2009a).

Sites 1SH570, 1SH571, and 1SH573 were recorded by USA-CAS during an additional survey for the proposed National Cemetery (Stieber 2007). 1SH570 was described as a large and dense scatter of prehistoric lithics along an unnamed tributary of Shoal Creek (ASSF 2017). Artifacts were recovered from 27 of the 48 shovel tests and included one chert Madison point dating from the Late Woodland to Mississippi period (AD 500-1550) and 61 flakes. Fifty-eight flakes and pieces of shatter were found on the surface of a dirt road that cuts through the site. Based on subsurface integrity, the large number of artifacts, and the diagnostic Madison point, 1SH570 is considered potentially eligible for the NRHP and Phase II testing is recommended at site 1SH570 if the site cannot be avoided during development of the cemetery (Stieber 2007:39).

1SH571 was described as an artifact scatter and historic structure site including possible brick chimney remains along an unnamed tributary of Shoal Creek (ASSF 2017). Artifacts including ceramics, bottle glass, and a nail were recovered from five of the 14 shovel tests. Based on structural remains and diagnostic historic-period artifacts, 1SH571 is considered potentially eligible for the NRHP and Phase II testing is recommended at this site 1SH571 (Stieber 2007:43).

1SH573 was described as an artifact scatter of prehistoric flakes and historic-period artifacts along an unnamed tributary of Shoal Creek (ASSF 2017). Artifacts including five flakes, one whiteware sherd, and a nail were recovered from four of the 13 shovel tests. Based on

the lack of subsurface integrity and the paucity of artifacts, 1SH573 is not considered eligible for the NRHP and no further work is recommended (Stieber 2007:47).

Site 1SH634 was identified in 2009 by Brandon Thompson of OAR during a survey of a proposed landscape buffer at American Village. It was described as a historic-period refuse scatter consisting of glass and wire nail fragments from the early twentieth century recovered from the surface and two of the four shovel tests. Based on the paucity of artifacts and lack of diagnostics, 1SH634 is not considered potentially eligible for the NRHP and no further work was recommended (Thompson 2009b).

Previous Cultural Resources Survey on the Mahler Property

In September 2015, a cultural resources survey of part of the Maher property was conducted by OAR at the University of Alabama, under the direction of OAR Director Matthew Gage (Thompson 2015). Survey Area 1 consisted of 12.0 acres northwest of Montevallo Road that is nearly surrounded by Shoal Creek and contains the ca. 1834 house and four outbuildings (since demolished), as well as pasture with tree lines and woods along the creek. Survey Area 2 consisted of 32.5 acres of pasture with tree lines southeast of Montevallo Road.

Eight-four shovel tests were excavated at 30.0-meter intervals to depths of about 25.0 cm in the two survey areas, and no artifacts were recovered. Soil stratigraphy in shovel tests was described as "extremely disturbed and shallow subsurface environment, and all were negative for cultural material recovery" (Thompson 2015:17). OAR documented the ca. 1834 house and ca. 1947 outbuildings on the Mahler property and a ca. 1947 bridge on Montevallo Road over Shoal Creek. Neither the Perry Hall-Mahler Farm complex or the bridge was considered potentially eligible for nomination to the NRHP (Thompson 2015:iii).

Historic Structures Report

An architectural study of the ca. 1834 house and outbuildings on the Mahler property was completed in 2015 by Schneider Historic Preservation, LLC, and Christy/Cobb Consulting Engineers, Inc. (Schneider and Cobb 2015). This study documented the house, two animal barns, a hay barn, equipment shed, pump house, and a small cemetery on the Mahler property. This report provides a historical context using US federal census records, land records and property deeds, a Perry family history written in 1973 (de Shazo 1973), a Mahler family history written in 2015 (Arnold 2015), and Ancestry.com.

Physical descriptions of the buildings and the landscape of the Mahler property are provided, including architectural details and floor plans, types of construction materials, and the developmental history of renovations to the ca. 1834 house. Also provided is an assessment of the current condition of the house and recommendations for general maintenance and restoration in compliance with federal standards. The five outbuildings are briefly described and shown in photographs. These outbuildings have since been demolished since they were considered unstable and dangerous. This historic structures report does not provide recommendations as to the potential eligibility of the Perry Hall-Mahler Farm house for nomination to the NRHP.

Historic Map Research

A search of the Historic Maps Archives, early USGS topographic quadrangles (1937-present), and historical aerial photographs maintained by the University of Alabama (Alabama Maps 2017), disclosed no previously existing structures other than ca. 1834 house located on the Mahler property.

The 1837 map of Alabama by John La Tourrette shows great detail for such an early map and includes towns, roads, houses, mills, ironworks, stores, rivers, creeks and other landscape features (Alabama Maps 2017). The La Tourrette map shows the road that became Montevallo Road**,** and later Alabama Highway 119, leading north from the town of Montevallo. Perry Hall is not shown, as are other houses along this road and other roads, although the general consensus is it was built around 1834 (Figure 13). The 1917 soil map for Shelby County and the 1937 County Highway map both show the house first known as Perry Hall (Figures 15 and 16).

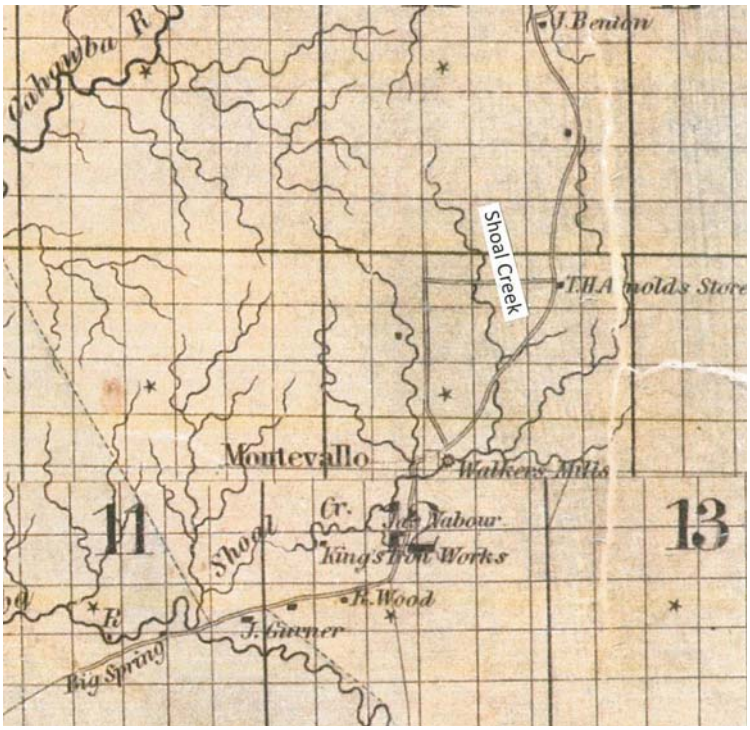

Figure 13. Portion of the 1837 map of Alabama by John La Tourrette showing Montevallo Road (later Alabama Highway 119) leading north out of the town of Montevallo (Alabama Maps 2017).

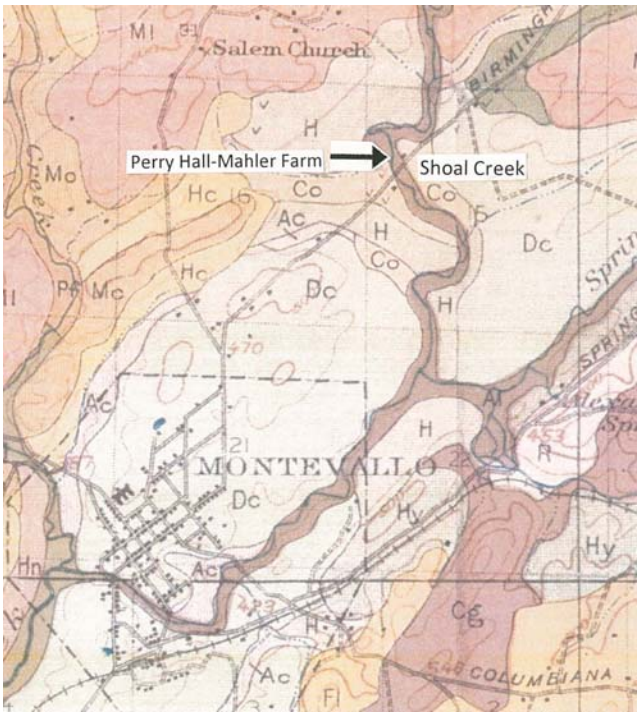

Figure 14. Portion of the 1917 soil survey map of Shelby County showing the house at Perry Hall-Mahler Farm on Montevallo Road (later Alabama Highway 119) (Alabama Maps 2017).

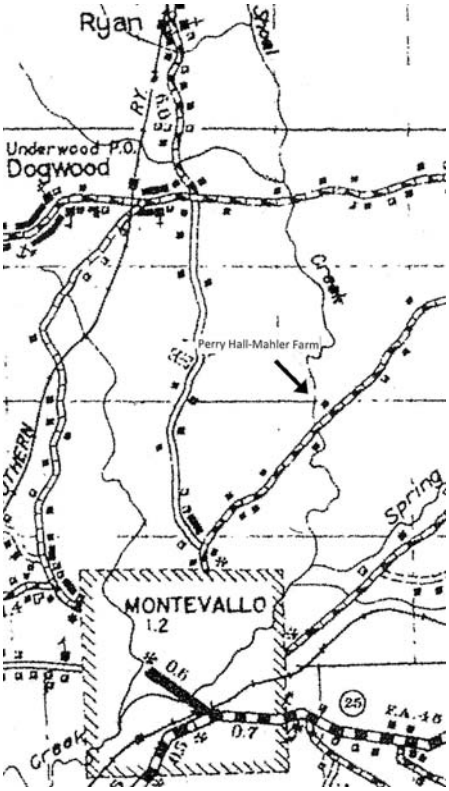

Figure 15. Portion of the 1937 Shelby County Highway Map showing the house at Perry Hall-Mahler Farm on Montevallo Road (later Alabama Highway 119) (Alabama Maps 2017).

Historic Properties Research

A search of the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) and the National Historical Landmarks Program (NHL), maintained by the National Park Service (NPS 2017a; 2017b), revealed no NRHP or NHL properties within a 1.0-mile (1.6-km) radius of the Mahler property. A search of the Alabama Register of Landmarks and Heritage (ARLH) list provided by the Alabama Historical Commission (2017) shows that the ca. 1834 Perry Hall farmhouse was listed in 1976, but no ARLH properties are within 1.0 mile (1.6 km) of the Mahler property.

Brief History of Perry Hall

The history of the Sion Jacob Perry family and their plantation in Shelby County was first documented in 1973 by Thomas E. de Shazo, much of which is based on an undated letter written by Mary Davis, daughter of Sion Jacob Perry III. Other written sources include a 2014 paper titled "Perry Hall to Shoal Creek Farm: A Brief History of One of Montevallo's Oldest Farmsteads" by University of Montevallo history student Forrest Blake Lovett. David Schneider and Lowell Christy present a good summary of the Perry and Mahler families in their 2015

Historic Structures Report. Using these sources, a brief summary of the Perry family is presented here.

Perry Hall. The town that became Montevallo was first known as Wilson's Hill around 1815, and by 1826 the name was officially changed to Montevallo. It is generally said that the two-story Perry Hall was built around 1834 on the 800 acres the Sion Jacob Perry had purchased in 1824. By 1840 Sion Jacob and his wife Sarah had 10 children. The land was used to grow cotton, and the farm had orchards, vineyards, vegetable gardens, poultry, dairy cows, and hogs (de Shazo 1973:4). Based on US Federal censuses, the Perry family had 12 slaves in 1850 and 16 slaves in 1860 (Schneider and Cobb 2015:6-7). Sarah Perry died in 1854 and Scion Jacob Perry died in 1880. The farm remained in the family and was turned into rental property in the early 1900s. In 1946 the remaining 167 acres were sold to the Mahler family, who renovated the old house and farmed the land for nearly half a century.

Montevallo resident Terry G. Arnold wrote an eloquent history of the Mahler family after interviewing the last family member Elizabeth "Betty" Mahler in December 2014 and January 2015. Betty Mahler died in October 2015. Mr. Arnold's work is presented with his permission in the following chapter.

CHAPTER 3: Mahler Family: 20th-century Pioneers by Terry G. Arnold

In late summer of 1945, John August Mahler and his family were doing fine and their prospects for the future looked bright. Japan had just surrendered, and the war was over. Amid universal celebration, he and his wife Elizabeth had more reason than most for rejoicing. Their son, John Datzman (Johnny), had been drafted into the army in 1944 after graduating from Fairfield High School in Alabama and had thus become part of the massive planning for the invasion of the Japanese homeland. U.S. losses already suffered in taking the tiny Pacific Islands pointed to unprecedented casualties on the Japanese mainland islands. Now, with Japan's surrender, these casualties would never occur, and Johnny had been assigned to occupation duty in Korea as part of the American efforts to bolster a caretaker government there. His two-year enlistment would be finished, and he would be home in 1946. John and Elizabeth's two daughters, Elizabeth and Janice, had also graduated from Fairfield High School during the war, and both were employed at the Fairfield works of U.S. Steel.

Johnny Mahler as draftee and in Korea

John worked at U.S. Steel as a shearman, a skilled production position, operating and managing the machinery that took coils of strip steel, slitting and end-shearing them into sheets, the basic building material for the manufacture of the ships, tanks, trucks, and guns of war. With the end of the war, such production would be replaced by automobiles, washing machines, refrigerators and all the rest of consumer manufacture which had essentially ceased during the years of war. Filling the pent-up demand for these peacetime goods assured John's job for the immediate post-war period. But John wanted a farm. Daughter Elizabeth remembers her father saying about this time that if he was to ever have a farm it would have to be now. The Mahler family had spent pleasant summers on Elizabeth's parents' farm in central Indiana, and John found he loved farming and working on a farm. Forty-seven years old, he admitted he wasn't getting any younger. Daughters Elizabeth and Janice were independent now. Johnny would be able to help with a farm when he got home. It was now or never.

John August's parents, John Mahler and Marie Lauer, were German immigrants.[1] John August was born April 22, 1899, in Forest Park, Illinois, part of Metropolitan Chicago. As a boy, John worked with his father and his Uncle Gene in their construction business. Daughter Elizabeth tells of a time when Uncle Gene and her father John were working together on the roof of a house. Uncle Gene slipped and began sliding down the steep slope of the roof. John, just below him, buried his shingling hatchet right through the roof, anchoring it in the same way that an alpine climber uses an ice axe to arrest a slide in ice and snow. With the hatchet as anchor, John was able to stop Uncle Gene's slide toward the brink of the two story roof. Thereafter the grateful Uncle was quick to admit, "That kid saved my life."

John August Mahler as WWI army enlistee

John's mother had hoped that he would become a Lutheran minister. Instead, he joined the army as a teenager toward the end of WWI, but with the war ending in 1918 he never saw hostile action against the country his parents had emigrated from 25 years earlier.

By the early 1920s, he had graduated from college and was teaching at Calumet Township public schools near Gary, Indiana. There he met and on January 26, 1923, married fellow teacher Elizabeth Datzman. Together they made their home in Gary. Their three children, Elizabeth A. (Betty), Janice M. (Jan)., and John D. (Johnny) were born in the 1920s.

[1] The elder John Mahler, age 24, had arrived at Ellis Island, NY, on August 2, 1892, aboard the Elbe from Bremen, Germany. Granddaughter Elizabeth said that her grandfather's sister was married and living in the Chicago area and that the sister's husband Gene had promised a job to her grandfather in his construction business so he sailed to America first, traveled to Chicago, got the construction job with Gene, and then sent for Marie. Marie Lauer Mahler arrived in New York from London on the ship Majestic on September 15, 1892.

Mahler Family in 1936

By about 1936, John was Principal of the school, and it would have appeared likely that the Mahler family were permanent residents of Gary. Betty remembers her father saying that he knew he would never get rich teaching, but then he would have also realized that teaching jobs were at least more dependable than most jobs during the great depression of the 1930s. [2]

In 1939, John Mahler quit his job in education and moved his family to Fairfield, Alabama, taking a job at the U.S. Steel rolling-mill facility there. His previous teaching and administrative experience helped little in his new mechanically-complex and physically-demanding work. Nonetheless, by rising to the skilled steel-production job of shearer during the war, he demonstrated an unusual innate general ability and the flexibility of mind and the strength of body to embrace and master new skills completely different from what he had done earlier.

Now, in 1945, as he hoped and planned to become a farmer in middle-age, his earlier successful but disparate occupations at least hinted that even this radical change might be successful. Also, John knew he had another source for help and even instruction. Elizabeth had grown up on a farm at Fowler, Benton County, Indiana. Benton County was and still is almost completely agricultural, which testifies to the deep fertile prairie soils that make the area part of the great midwestern-American corn belt. Elizabeth knew a lot about farming from her growing up experience in Indiana, and she loved the farming life.

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[2] Then came world-changing events in Europe that would soon affect the Mahler family too. Across the Atlantic, Nazi Germany was establishing the third Reich. It refortified the Rhineland in 1936 in violation of the Treaty of Versailles, and in succeeding years overran Austria and Czechoslovakia. In 1939, Great Britain declared war after Germany invaded Poland. The United States became more and more an important supplier of war materiel for the island nation. With their newly-developed and rapidly-perfected blitzkrieg tactics, the Nazis demonstrated that modern warfare must include mechanized armies, for which steel was indispensable. Thus, some of the best and highest paying jobs were in the steel industry as war production expanded in America.

John began to look for a farm, searching from his Fairfield home. After finding an old run-down place just north of Montevallo, he showed it to Elizabeth. Betty recalls that Elizabeth asked John if he thought he could make a farm of the place, and, when he said that he could do it, she agreed that they should buy it. Sometime in late summer or early fall of 1946, they bought the old place and began the work of making it into a farm and a home. They commuted for a time from Fairfield. Elizabeth would have seen the stark contrast between the level, productive farms of her childhood and this eroded, worn-out place. Here, the soils in the flatter portions were thin, the topsoil largely missing, and the underlying dolomitic limestone bedrock exposed at places along the creek and in gullied areas of the fields. The hillsides were badly eroded and largely denuded of all vegetation, the result of the early 19th-century slave-based economy, which attempted to increase cotton production by clearing and cultivating ever more land, finally clearing even the steeper slopes that had been always protected by the virgin forest. Unprotected, the topsoil had washed first into Shoal Creek, then into the Cahaba River, and ultimately into Mobile Bay and the Gulf of Mexico. Such land-consuming cultivation had ceased only when the resulting gullies made further row-crop cultivation impractical and unprofitable. In

Kitchen, Well, and Privy 1946

1946, fences on the old place were largely down or nonexistent. Farm buildings were tumble-down. The only animals were a couple of horses pastured there by neighbors Peddie and Calvin Bearden . A sagging building at the rear of the house had served as kitchen. An open well along with a primitive windlass and bucket provided drinking water. There were no sanitary facilities, only a primitive privy. Alabama 119, the road in front of the house, was unpaved. Preparation for paving the road was underway, making the road impassable in wet weather. For many months, there would be no vehicle access south to Montevallo via Alabama 119, as a new concrete bridge across the creek was being built. No electric service was available.

The house had been built by slave labor in 1834 as the residence of Scion Jacob Perry III and his wife Sarah McLeroy. It became home for them and their eleven children and the

management center for his 800 acre cotton plantation. The house was named Perry Hall. Over a century later, when John and Elizabeth Mahler bought it and a 167-acre remnant of the Perry farm, Perry Hall showed a patrician graciousness in name only. The house, like the land itself, was worn out and in a state of decrepitude.

House as purchased by Mahlers 1946

Before the days of governmental incentives for preserving historic old buildings, John Mahler made the decision to salvage the house even as he worked to build a viable farm. When he finished the major work, four or five years later, the house foot print and the house's hewn structural-timber bones were just about the only things that remained the same. Betty Mahler, in talking about her father, said that she didn't know just where he got the self confidence and knowledge to do all the things that he did. He just did them. To make a viable farmstead, John would also have to build the fences and farm buildings, obtain the necessary agricultural equipment and animals, and acquire the expertise for operating the equipment and managing the farm.

To make the house livable, it would have to be completely rebuilt. The weathered siding would have to be replaced. All the house exterior trim for the walls, windows, and roof would have to be rebuilt, and the roof structure at the gable ends reconstructed so as to provide a roof overhang for the gabled ends. The windows and exterior doors, the house roofing, and the front porch had to be replaced or rebuilt. The ancient kitchen structure in rear would have to be rebuilt and repurposed. A garage was needed. The pillar foundations of the house would have to be replaced with modern continuous perimeter foundations. The two house chimneys and their fireplaces and hearths required rebuilding work. John determined that he would install

central heating, which in turn required the construction of a basement for a furnace and coal storage as well as the installation of pipes and radiators for sending the heat throughout the house. A kitchen and bathrooms had to be added inside the house, along with the hot and cold water plumbing to supply them and a septic system to receive and treat the wastes. A pressure water supply would have to be developed and pump installed in the old open well or in a new well. Since the house had originally provided living space for 11 children and in later years had been divided into at least two rental units, much of the interior space had to be redesigned and reconstructed. Two narrow staircases had to be replaced with a single, architecturally appropriate staircase. The entire house had to be wired for electricity, and an electrical power distribution line would have to be run from Montevallo.

As daunting as the tasks ahead clearly were, Elizabeth had confidence in John and was a full partner in this 20th century pioneering. Accustomed to all the features of her previous Fairfield and Gary houses, she agreed to come to the tumbledown house that had none of the amenities of modern 1946 America.

Betty told several stories showing how Elizabeth's farm knowledge helped in shaping her responses to the inevitable problems of farm and house building. The roofer, for example, completed the removal of the old roof on a Friday and planned to return the following Monday, since he didn't work on weekends. Elizabeth and John had not yet completely moved from Fairfield and so returned there for the weekend. Upon returning to Montevallo, they found that rain had completely soaked the roofless house. Elizabeth said that they were lucky though since they were able to find some matches that had not been wet through and so could light a fire for drying. Another time Elizabeth was alone at the place with only one helper, Germany. A brush fire somehow got started on the place, and Germany told Elizabeth that there was nothing they could do about the fire without help. Elizabeth told him that the two of them could do something and would do something. And they did, putting out the fire.

The following photos are from Jan's photo albums. They picture and describe the energetic and creative years of house and farm building.

In the photo on the left, John is nailing the very end of the new gable end eave extension, fastening the fascia board on the front of the house. A short man, he is working at the limit of his reach on the highest part of the house and is swinging across his body since he is left handed. All of this indicates that he is a good carpenter and fearless of heights. Johnny seems to be steadying his end of the fascia with one foot resting in the temporarily empty second story window opening. Johnny started college at Auburn in 1947 and so was able to help full time for a number of months after being discharged from the army. Jan's photos show that scaffolding stayed in place for four or five years. Scaffolding material is clearly used lumber, perhaps gleaned in wrecking derelict buildings on the place. Some of the bracing may be old siding that has been taken down from the house. The house exterior is covered with some kind of plastic or building paper to keep out the weather. In a comment, Jan said that "the inside walls are outside." The photo below shows all of the front at about the same time. The old front porch has been removed, showing the entrance door side-lights and transom lights. These are probably original with the 1834 house. John had a new front door made of the indigenous cedar by a man who built church pews, according to Betty. She said that

her father made the other exterior doors himself. The chimneys seem to have been reworked, and scaffolding has clearly been raised to access both chimneys.

In the photo on the left, the scaffolding on the front of the house has been removed, and Johnny is adding water to the concrete mixer as he prepares to mix concrete for the floor of the new front porch. In the right photo, Betty is using a heavy tamper to consolidate the concrete. Though she has her trousers rolled up, her shoes and blouse and her hair show that this clearly is not her regular work. Betty and Jan stayed in Fairfield during the week and came home on the weekend during these early months, riding the taxi (a commuter bus line from Montevallo to Birmingham). Jan wrote that when they came home for their first Thanksgiving, Highway 119 was impassable because of the mud from road construction associated with the paving of the highway. Since no one at home knew they were coming, they got off the bus on Salem Road, walked cross country and crossed the creek to surprise everybody.

In the photo, John is checking out the tamping work that Betty has been doing. From Betty's posture, leaning over with hands resting just above her knees, she may have done all she can that day with the heavy tamper. The tamped concrete is on the left of the image, and concrete yet to be consolidated is on the right. Through the empty front door opening are materials that appear to be stacked bundles of shingles for the new roofing. Since Jan is the photographer, she doesn't show in the photographs, even though she is clearly part of the work, too. Note John's hat and the knee hole in his trousers. He is not only overseer and designer for the work underway, but an active participant in the heavy labor as well.

Here is the same area perhaps a week later and the same father and daughter, but now the floor and step are placed, the concrete has set, and Betty's smile seems to say that she is glad that there'll be no tamping today.

Scaffolding support for porch construction is set on the new floor, and framing for the new front porch is seen overhead. Betty said that though John certainly did not do all the labor in building the place, he did a lot of it and that he designed and planned the new porch as well as the new staircase and other new interior construction additions and modifications.

Elizabeth is seen here standing at the rear of the house at about the same time as the photo above. The old kitchen is behind her. No construction has started in this area yet. Behind her, there is a ladder to the roof as well as new radiators for the house, which have not yet been installed.

The first winter was also a time of fence building. Although the fences on the place were very poor or missing, there was a plentiful supply of eastern red cedar, which, because of the extreme rot resistance of the red aromatic heart wood, makes very good fence posts. On the left, Johnny is using an axe to cut a piece of the cedar. His swing blurs the image. The line of posts shows the location of the new fence. In the background is a kind of cut-off saw that John and Johnny built together. John may have also designed this saw. Just below the saw table is an air-cooled engine, and the blur of the saw blade shows that it is running. Johnny is using the axe rather than the running cut-off saw. In the right photo, John and Johnny are using a cross-cut saw, apparently to cut the cedar to post lengths. Since in both photos the new saw is not being used, it may have been that this was one of John's creations that didn't work out just as he planned. In the photo to the right, the front porch is under construction. Scaffolding is in place on the gable ends to be used in the installation of siding.

The plentiful supply of cedar also evidently allowed some of it to be sold for fence posts. Here Peddie Bearden is using his new truck to carry off a load of cedar cut to fence post length.

Though even the largest logs could be fairly easily split into fence posts, John soon realized that they would have a much higher value selling them for use in making moth- and insect-repellent chests. The post war brought with it a surge of new marriages and home formations and, with it, an increased market for the cedar chest or hope chest. John sold a portion of his cedar to the Lane Cedar chest company in Virginia. Jan's photos show the harvesting and shipping of the trees. The sale of the trees for the high valued use of chest construction provided a significant early cash income from the farm.

In the photos above Lewis Sullen and Spot Jemison display their double-bit felling axes and two man cross-cut saw, which were the tools for timber harvesting in this time before the general use of the gasoline-powered chain saw. In the photo to the right, a large cedar has been cut through with the two-man cross-cut saw, the tree is falling, and Spot is trying to extract his saw to prevent the tree from damaging it. Lewis's end of the saw is vacant. He has evidently retreated to a safer place as the behemoth begins its fall.

Jan's photo gives a good illustration of a technique for loading timber on a truck before specialized motorized harvesting machinery was available. The chain around the log being loaded has one end fixed at the truck bed while the other end goes over the load to a singletree harnessed to a draft horse or mule. As the mule moves away from the

truck, the log rolls up the ramp to the top of the load. Johnny is using a cant hook to unload the cedar logs at the Aldridge rail siding for transloading to a train bound for the buyer, Lane Cedar Chests in Virginia.

In the photo above, Johnny is building a pig house. He is building it on skids so he can work on it at a convenient location near the house, but will later move it to where the pigs are. Building on skids also would help in muck control since the building could be moved when it got messy. Note that the corners of the pig house are mitered, a rather fancy technique for constructing a pig house. Behind Johnny's pig house, the old kitchen wing has been rebuilt and a new roof installed. The garage has not yet been built.

The right image above shows John building yet another animal building on skids. This was probably after Johnny left for Auburn.

A chicken house gets some occupants even before it is finished. Jan is feeding the chickens. On the right, the pig house Jan and Betty are in the process of painting, clearly labeled.

James and his horse Ada plow a vegetable garden near the house. Betty said they had been avid gardeners in the early years, but they scaled down the vegetable gardening after a few years to a few things like peppers and tomatoes in the flower beds.

John was particularly proud of his pigs. Jan wrote that with this litter "Dad is in pig heaven while feeding these specimens in more ways than one. This is Rosie's first litter. She had eleven, and both Dad and Rosie are very proud." With a newly acquired tractor, John also planted corn and oats, even renting an additional space from Peddie for a while. Betty said that the corn was not a big success.

Elizabeth is seen here on the new tractor. John and Elizabeth seem equally proud of it.

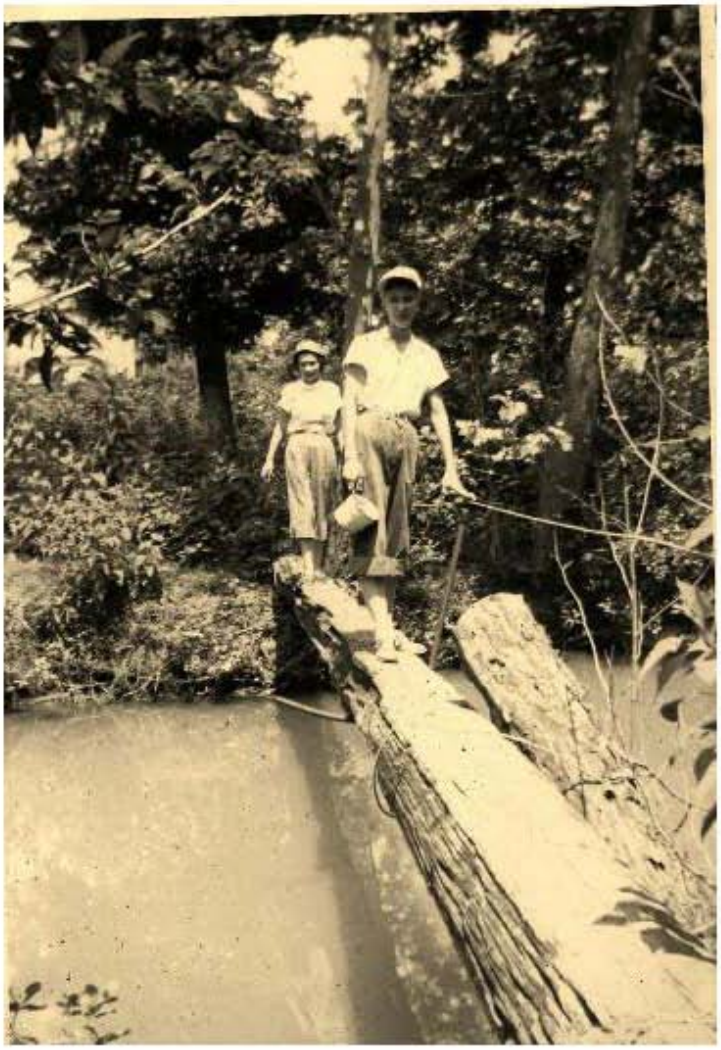
As hard as Elizabeth and John, Johnny, Betty and Jan worked, there was time for other things. Shoal Creek, which winds through the place, became a great swimming hole, for the Mahlers and for others who visited them. Jan and Betty invited fellow office workers from Fairfield, and relatives from Indiana came to work on the place and to hike and swim in the creek. Jan adds a note to this photograph in her picture album: "Mom floats up and down the creek in her inner tube singing 'Zip-a-dee-do-dah, zip-a dee- day, My oh my what a wonderful day.'"

The little pig that John and Elizabeth are feeding with a bottle was named Kolinsky by Elizabeth. He was a runt and was not getting enough from his mother so Elizabeth and John decided to bottle-feed him. The old kitchen is in the background with the new garage to the left. There is new siding and a new concrete porch surface.
Betty tells of how the family got out of the pig business. Betty and a friend were headed to the old cemetery area on the north edge of the property. As they crossed through a pig pen on their way, her father appeared and told them to walk at once and very slowly to the fence and get out of the pig area. There was an aggressive boar in the field that Betty didn't know about. She said that her father got rid of the boar the next day.

In the photo on the left, Elizabeth is ready to pick blackberries. When there were physically capable visitors, there would be long hikes across country. Usually included would be a hike into the gullied, eroded hillside that Jan called "the badlands." From an overlook Jan wrote that they could see the horseshoe shape of Shoal Creek as it made a 180 degree reversal of course through the property.

Jan, Betty, Johnny and Elizabeth are shown taking part in a trip to the mission Stravern church. John is absent. Betty said though he was raised a Lutheran, John went with Elizabeth to a Catholic church until she was born, and after that he baby-sat.

In this photo,Elizabeth wears the big hat. Johnny is behind her right shoulder, Jan stands next to him, and Betty is just in front of Jan.



In this photo, visitors heading out for a day of hiking and blackberry picking cross the creek over the ancient footlog. House is in the background.[3]

[3] Betty said that when her family first moved to Montevallo and the present concrete bridge was under construction, this footlog was located at the bridge site and that there was a time while the bridge was still unfinished that the footlog or fording were the only options in travelling the Highway 119 road. She said that the footlog was very old when they came, and she thinks it may date back to the time of the early Perrys, indicating that the footlog may date to 19th-century days when vehicles forded and only walkers could cross without getting wet. The footlog is still in service in 2015. It was hewn from a very carefully-chosen ancient American Chestnut tree, a species now extinct. After the Mahlers began the construction of the farm, the footlog was moved to its present location near the house, allowing walking access to the portion of the farm on the right side of Shoal Creek. The top of the ancient log is hewed more or less flat to provide a walking surface. The parallel cable and supporting pipes provide the suggestion of a handrail.

Mahler Home Spring 1951

The house appears completed in this photo. The Mahlers have worked for about 5 years, while at the same time building and operating the farm. John's design for the porch is architecturally at home and makes a gracious complement to the original box shape of the house. The exterior dimensions of the house are the same. Almost everything else is new. Old Perry Hall has been transformed into The Mahler Home.

Johnny graduated from Auburn in March, 1951. After graduation he worked for a time off the farm, including working in sales for Westinghouse.

Betty and Jan also continued to work at the Fairfield works, commuting each day from home.

Elizabeth and John are shown in their completed home, perhaps relaxing after a day's work on the farm. As the photo shows, the interior walls of the house are plastered and painted. New hardwood flooring has been installed. The fireplace, its new brick hearth, and mantle are ready for service.

Elizabeth at home doing needle work.

John sits at his desk in the new house with his usual pipe. Shown are new radiators, windows, and plain pull-down shades for window treatment. John had finally built and now lived on the farm he had hoped for in 1945.

As the years went by, Betty, Jan, and Johnny came to live and work at home as John and Elizabeth got older. Johnny took over more and more of the farm activities, and under his direction the farm became a beef cattle and hay operation. By the time I came to live just north of the Mahler homestead in 1968, Johnny was doing nearly all the field work himself. Even as a new rural dweller and wannabe farmer, I quickly came to recognize and admire the skills that he showed in operating the farm. Before the days of detailed satellite based forecasts and television radar images, he seemed to never get his hay wet. Time after time I saw him bale his hay and have it under a roof while others were caught with windrows of rained-on hay. When I recently told Betty of my memories of Johnny baling and storing perfectly cured hay, she smiled and said that he was good at it but he

sure worried a lot. He also had a hay bale loader that picked up the small square-ended bales as the tractor and loader traveled down the rows of baled hay and delivered them to the wagon for carrying off the field. Thus, he was able to do this normally backbreaking work single-handed. He also had a hydraulic bucket on the front of the old tricycle Farmall tractor, perhaps the same tractor shown earlier in this account that John bought in the late 1940s. A bucket on a low stability tricycle tractor is a rare configuration, but Johnny made it work. He used the bucket to stack the hay and muck out the barns.

I first met Johnny when I stopped to talk as he mended fences along the highway. A lot of the fence line along the right of way of Highway 119 goes through areas of very shallow soils with bedrock at or near the surface, making it extremely difficult to construct a strong fence. Johnny used creative techniques, using cedar trees growing on the line of the fence after being planted by birds perching on the fence after making a meal of cedar berries. He also used braces to support the fence posts in rocky areas, sort of like the flying buttresses of a European cathedral. It was a rare thing indeed for a cow to get through Johnny's fence.

Neighbor Doug Morris tells this story of Johnny's fence-maintenance dedication and focus. Doug groused that for years when there were animals out anywhere between Nix Hill and Moores Crossroad the Montevallo police would automatically call him, even though there were others in this stretch who also kept horses and cows. They didn't call Johnny, perhaps because his cows almost never got out. On one particular night, it was after midnight when Montevallo police woke him, reporting a cow on the road. When Doug dressed and walked down the highway row, he found that the cow was Johnny's. Being a good neighbor, he drove the cow ahead of him down to the Mahler place, a distance of about 3/4 mile, and into the house drive. The cow was now off the road. When Johnny answered the late-night knock and was told of the situation, together they drove the cow through the gate near the house into a fenced area, safely securing the animal for the night. Johnny told Doug that he thought he knew just where the cow got out, and Doug said that since Johnny had a good idea where the fence was down he was sure that it wouldn't take him long in the morning to find the hole and fix the fence. "Oh no, it'll have to be fixed tonight," Johnny said. So Doug got into Johnny's truck, and they drove across the pasture toward the creek. Doug was uneasy driving across the untracked pasture in the darkness, for he knew that Johnny's field was full of rock outcrops and probably holes too, but Johnny showed that darkness and light were alike to one as familiar with the land as he was and they arrived safely at the suspected breach in the fence. Sure enough, there was the dead tree that Johnny had spotted earlier in one of his regular fence-maintenance circuits. The tree had since fallen across the fence, flattening it just as he had feared it would. Together they cut the tree off the broken fence and put up a strand of barbed wire to close the hole. "That'll hold till morning," said Doug hopefully. "Oh, no, I must put up all the wire," said Johnny. And they did just that, returning finally to the house before daybreak. After thanking Doug, Johnny went back into the house and Doug walked back home. With Johnny's laser focus on fence repair, he didn't see in the darkness of the night that Doug had no car.

As Betty, Jan, and Johnny assumed more of the duties of the farm and household, Jan became the cook, not particularly because she liked to cook, but because the other two particularly didn't like to cook. With a deadpan face Betty said that you know Jan expected me to do the dishes too.

John died in October of 1984. Elizabeth died a little over a year later in January of 1986. These yankee transplants from Indiana had taken the faded and tattered relic of an old southern house and moribund farm and rebuilt them into a unique homestead. Respecting the history of the house, they let it stand while completely redesigning and reconstructing it for their needs. The resulting homestead became their lifelong home. It stands a testament to their creativity, energy, and practical building skills.

Jan died in June, 2008.

Johnny died in August, 2013.

As the oldest child, Betty said she never expected to be the last survivor of the family. She said that she and Johnny had never discussed what was to be done with the homestead. Now with limited mobility herself, she realized that she couldn't stay at the homeplace alone. Thursday, August 8, 2013, returning from the burial service for Johnny, she went by Montevallo City Hall, called Mayor Hollie Cost out of a meeting, and told her that she wanted to explore the possibility of giving some land to the city.

On November 22, 2013, Betty signed a deed giving all properties included in the Mahler farm to the City of Montevallo. Covenants made a part of the deed specify that a major portion of the land, "shall be retained by Grantee for the purpose of establishing a city park to be enjoyed by Grantee's citizens,with said park to be named 'Shoal Creek Park.'" The covenants also specify that "Grantee shall preserve the old Mahler home place which is situated upon the premises, for the purpose of enjoyment and usage by the Grantee and its citizens. "

Betty had given a gift of extraordinary generosity.

Because of her gift, the creek that inspired Elizabeth to sing Zip-a-Dee-Doo-Dah may also inspire in Montevallo's citizens the same joy of life.

Because of her gift, many people may hike the same gullied hillside of the badlands and look down on the horseshoe bend of Shoal Creek as Jan loved to do.

Because of her gift, the Mahler homestead may be a place where children can come to a working farm, perhaps even feeding a runt pig like Elizabeth and John fed Kolinsky.

Because of her gift, the Mahler home may be used by the people of Montevallo as a residence from a past time, not primarily as a Civil War antebellum home of the old south, but as a WWI postbellum residence reflecting the energy and creativity of an extraordinary 20th century pioneer family from Indiana.

In the backyard of the Mahler home, there is a small statue of St. Francis of Assisi, the patron saint of animals and the environment. There is a bird in his hands and a look of blessing on his face. The figure was perhaps a house-warming gift given to Betty's mother Elizabeth long ago by her Indiana sisters. The face and habit are roughened by 70 years of exposure. Lichens, moss and mold provide additional and appropriate vestments.

Because of Betty's gift creating Shoal Creek Park, the spirit of St. Francis can continue to bless the animals and protect the environment of the Mahler home place.

CHAPTER 4: Phase Ib Archaeological Survey

Field and Laboratory Methods

Three areas of the Mahler property north of State Highway 119 were chosen for the Phase Ib shovel testing: (1) the yard around the ca. 1834 Perry Hall-Mahler Farm house; (2) a level area on the west side of Shoal Creek, possibly the location of slave quarters during the early years of Perry Hall; and (3) the terrace behind the house along Shoal Creek.; and a fourth area, a small bare spot where an equipment shed once stood, was also examined with a pedestrian walkover, but was not shovel tested due to time constraints (Figure 16).

The Phase Ib shovel test survey was designed to intensively examine the yard around the ca. 1834 Perry Hall-Mahler Farm house to identify possible historic-period deposits, middens, and features, such as buried structural remains. The physiographic characteristics of the Mahler property along Shoal Creek and the presence of numerous prehistoric archaeological sites nearby indicate that prehistoric sites could also be found on the Mahler property. Because of the high probability a site might be found, shovel tests were excavated at 10.0-meter intervals. Shovel tests were dug with a round-point shovel into subsoil at various depths below surface. Excavated soil was screened through ¼-inch hardware cloth. Soil profiles were measured and recorded using the *Munsell Soil Color Charts* (1994). Soil from shovel tests was subsequently backfilled. Pedestrian survey was conducted wherever the ground surface was visible.

Laboratory work involved processing and inventory of collected artifacts from Phase Ib shovel tests and surface collections, interpretations of field investigations, and preparation of this report providing results and recommendations. Site forms were completed and site numbers 1SH714, 1SH715, and 1SH716 were assigned by the Alabama State Site File (Appendix A).

Results of Phase Ib Archaeological Research

On February 24 and 25, 2017 USA-CAS staff members Traci Cunningham, Anne Dorland, and Bonnie Gums (Field Supervisor), assisted by USA-CAS volunteer Lori Sawyer and numerous local volunteers conducted a Phase Ib archaeological shovel test survey of three areas of the Mahler property. There was little surface visibility in most of the surveyed areas due to grassy yards and pasture with dense ground vegetation (Figures 17 and 18). Surface visibility was nearly 100 percent in two bare areas on the terrace above Shoal Creek where an animal barn and equipment shed once stood; both outbuildings were demolished in 2016 (Figure 19).

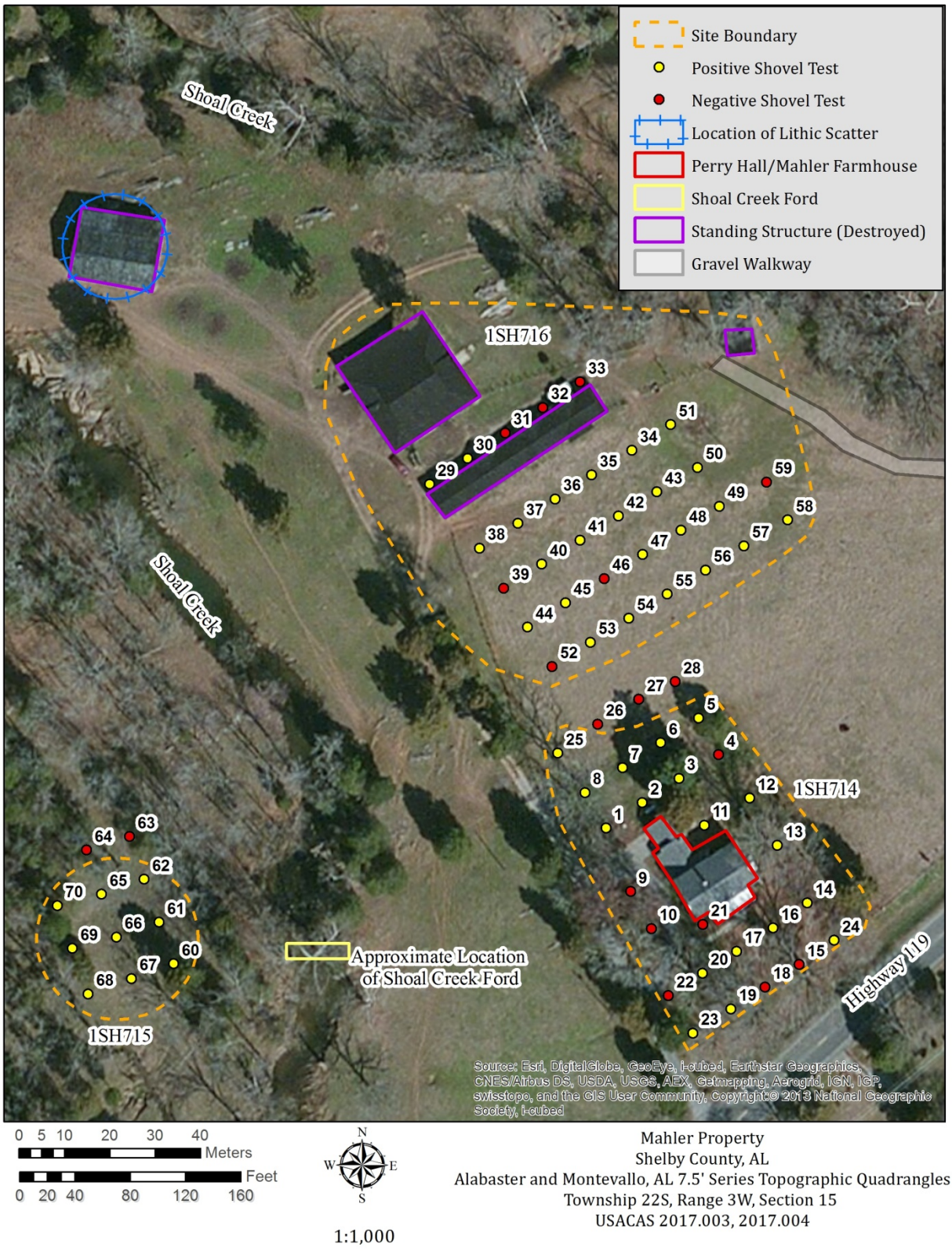


Figure 16. Phase Ib project map showing archaeological sites 1SH714, 1SH715, and 1SH716 and a lithic scatter Mahler property north of State Highway 119.

Figure 17. Surface visibility on site 1SH714 in the front yard of the ca. 1834 house along Montevallo Road on the Mahler property.

Figure 18. Surface visibility on site 1SH715 on the west side of Shoal Creek on the Mahler property.

Figure 19. Surface visibility at site 1SH716 on the terrace behind the ca. 1834 house on the Mahler property.

Seventy shovel tests were excavated at 10.0-meter (32.8-foot) intervals in three locations on the Mahler property (see Figure 16; Figure 20). Archaeological sites 1SH714, 1SH715, and 1SH716 were identified in each of the three shovel tested areas. 1SH714 (Perry Hall-Mahler Farm House site) covers the yard around the ca. 1834 house. In addition to a moderate amount of historic-period artifacts a few prehistoric artifacts were also recovered from shovel tests. 1SH715 (possible Slave Quarters site) was identified on the level area west of Shoal Creek, and early to mid-1800s artifact and prehistoric artifacts were found in shovel tests at this site. 1SH716 (Shoal Creek Site #1) covers the large higher terrace overlooking Shoal Creek and behind the ca. 1834 house. This site consists of prehistoric lithics, such as flake debitage from the production of stone tools and a few chipped stone tool fragments. A fourth area was examined by pedestrian survey and four prehistoric flakes were found on the ground surface, but due to time constraints this location was not shovel tested.

Figure 20. Shovel testing crew.

Site 1SH714 (Perry Hall-Mahler Farm House Site)

The Perry Hall-Mahler Farm House site consists of the front, back, and side yards around the historic house on the Mahler property. To the north and west is pasture, to the south is a ditch along Montevallo Road, and on the west side is a driveway. The site measures about 55.0 by 70.0 meters (180.0 by 230.0 feet) in size and covers the entire fenced yard around the house. OAR did not excavate shovel tests around the house during their 2015 cultural resources survey (Thompson 2015; Figure 2).

Twenty-eight shovel tests were excavated in the open grassy yards, 18 of which contained historic-period artifacts (Figures 21-23). Eight pieces of prehistoric worked stone were recovered from six shovel tests. In general, soil stratigraphy in shovel tests at 1SH714 consisted a dark brown humus layer of sandy clay loam (10YR 3/3) of a very dark brown sandy loam topsoil (10YR 2/2) overlying strong brown sandy clay loam subsoil (7.5YR 4/6**)** (Figure 24). Artifacts were recovered to depths of about 30.0 cm.

Figure 21. Anne Dorland and Terry and Sarah Arnold shovel testing in the front yard of the ca. 1834 house at site 1SH714.

Figure 22. Shovel testing in the front yard of the ca. 1834 house at site 1SH714.

Figure23. Excavation of Shovel Test 1 in the backyard of the ca. 1834 house at site 1SH714.

Figure 24. Shovel Test 1 excavated at site 1SH714.

Table 2. Representative sample of soil stratigraphy in shovel tests at 1SH714.

Shovel Test	Depth (cm)	Description
1 Backyard	0-5 5-21 21-31 31-41+	10YR 3/3, dark brown humus layer of sandy clay loam 10YR 2/2, very dark brown sandy clay loam topsoil 10YR 4/3 brown sandy clay topsoil 7.5 YR 4/6, strong brown sandy clay loam subsoil Historic artifacts
3 Backyard	0-4 4-12 12-25 25-35+	10YR 3/3, dark brown humus layer of sandy clay loam 10YR 2/2, very dark brown sandy clay loam topsoil 10YR 4/3 brown sandy clay topsoil 7.5 YR 4/6, strong brown sandy clay loam subsoil Historic artifacts
9 West Yard	0-5 5-20 20-30+	10YR 3/3, dark brown humus layer of sandy clay loam 10YR 2/2, very dark brown sandy clay loam topsoil 7.5 YR 4/6, strong brown sandy clay loam subsoil No recovery
12 East Yard	0-5 5-21 21-30 30-35+	10YR 3/3, dark brown humus layer of sandy clay loam 10YR 2/2, very dark brown sandy clay loam topsoil 10YR 4.3 brown sandy clay topsoil 7.5 YR 4/6, strong brown sandy clay loam subsoil Historic artifacts
22 Front Yard	0-4 4-12 12-25+	10YR 3/3, dark brown humus layer of sandy clay loam 10YR 2/2, very dark brown sandy clay loam topsoil 7.5 YR 4/6, strong brown sandy clay loam subsoil No recovery

Table 3. Prehistoric artifacts from shovel tests at 1SH714.

S	Shovel Test	Description	t.	Wt. (g)
	1	Flake, white quartz		1.9
	8	Flake, white quartz Flake, yellow quartz		0.2 1.8
2	12	Biface midsection, white quartz Chunk/shatter, white quartz		1.5 0.3
4	14	Flake, white quartz		0.3
5	15	Chunk/shatter, Coastal Plain chert		1.6
7	17	Flake, Fort Payne chert		0.3

A large amount of historic artifacts relating to the Perry Hall-Mahler Farm and a few prehistoric artifacts were recovered from shovel tests at 1SH714 (Figure 25; Tables 3 and 4).

Eight pieces of prehistoric worked stone recovered from six shovel tests include one biface midsection (Figure 26a), five flakes, and two pieces of chert chunks or shatter. Identified raw materials consist of white and yellow quartz, Fort Payne chert, and Coastal Plain chert. It is possible that the few prehistoric lithics found at this site may be associated with the larger lithic scatter at 1SH716 on the terrace just north of this site.

Table 4. Historic artifacts from shovel tests at 1SH714.

S	Shovel Test	Description	t.	t. (g)
	1	Ceramics, 11 whiteware and 1 yellowware		
		Bottle and container glass, 2 olive green, 2 aqua, 21 clear, 2 amber, 1	2	3.0
		red, and 1 milk glass	9	4.2
		Clear lamp globe glass		
		Clear windowpane glass		
		Wire nails		.5
		Corroded nails		
		Possible iron knife blade fragment		.3
		Iron strapping		
		Brass piece, possible clock part		3.4
		Metal threaded bottle cap		
		Unidentified bone		4.4
				2.4
				7.5
				.0
				.6
				.2
	2	Ceramics, 14 whiteware, and 2 stoneware		
		Bottle and container glass, 2 olive green, 11 aqua, 32 clear, 6 amber, 3	6	4.1
		milk glass, 2 amethyst, 1 yellow, 1 cobalt blue, and 1 red	9	3.4
		Clear windowpane glass		
		Aqua windowpane glass		
		Square cut nails	9	8.7
		Wire nails		
		Corroded nails	3	0.3
		Iron fence staple		
		Brass shoe eyelet		2.2
		Shell button		
		Brass bullet casing	6	2.3
		Unidentified lead		
		Brick fragments		4.4

		Gray roof slate Coal		.9 .6 .6 .8 .3 9.4 .2 .3
	3	Ceramics, 1 whiteware and 1 Jackfield Bottle glass, 3 aqua, 2 clear, and 1 amber Square cut nails Wire nail Corroded nail Marine shell		.0 .5 .8 .2 .6 .3
	5	Bottle glass, clear Square cut nail		.9 .9
	6	Brick fragments		10.9
	7	Ceramics, 2 whiteware Bottle glass, 6 clear and 2 cobalt Clear windowpane glass Wire nail Corroded nails		2.4 .0 .3 .4 .9
	8	Ceramics, 8 whiteware, 2 porcelain and 4 stoneware Bottle glass, 3 aqua, 4 clear, and 2 amber Wire nail Corroded nails Brick fragments Pig tusk Peach pit	4	8.6 2.3 .6 3.1

				5.7 .1 .2
1	11	Ceramics, 1 whiteware and 1 stoneware Bottle glass, 1 clear Clear windowpane glass Wire nails Corroded nails Whole brick Brick fragments	1	.6 .7 .1 1.0 1.2 480.0 7.1
2	12	Ceramics, 3 whiteware and 1 stoneware Bottle glass, 3 clear and 2 amber Clear windowpane glass Brick bits		0.7 0.0 .6 .6
3	13	Bottle glass, 1 olive green Clear windowpane glass Bird bone Seeds or nuts shells Hard black rubber Coal		.4 .4 .2 .1 .8 .4
4	14	Ceramics, 3 whiteware Bottle and container glass, 3 amber, 1 clear, and 1 cobalt Iron grommet or eyelet Iron loop Square cut nails Brick bit		.7 .2 .0 .3 .6 .0

6	16	Ceramics, 2 whiteware Square cut nails Wire nail		.8 .7 .5
7	17	Ceramics , 1 whiteware Bottle glass, 1 clear Clear windowpane glass Square cut nail		.6 3.9 .3 .6
9	19	Ceramic, 1 whiteware Bottle glass, 2 aqua		.8 .4
0	20	Ceramics, 2 whiteware Jar glass, 6 clear Aqua windowpane glass Black plastic		.4 4.8 .4 .4
3	23	Ceramic, 1 stoneware		4.9
4	24	Ceramic, 2 whiteware Porcelain doll head fragment Bottle glass, 1 amber Clear lamp globe glass Brick bits		.5 .2 .4 .3 .6
5	25	Bottle glass, 1 clear		.3

Figure 25. Positive and negative shovel tests at site 1SH714 around the ca. 1834 Perry Hall-Mahler Farmhouse.

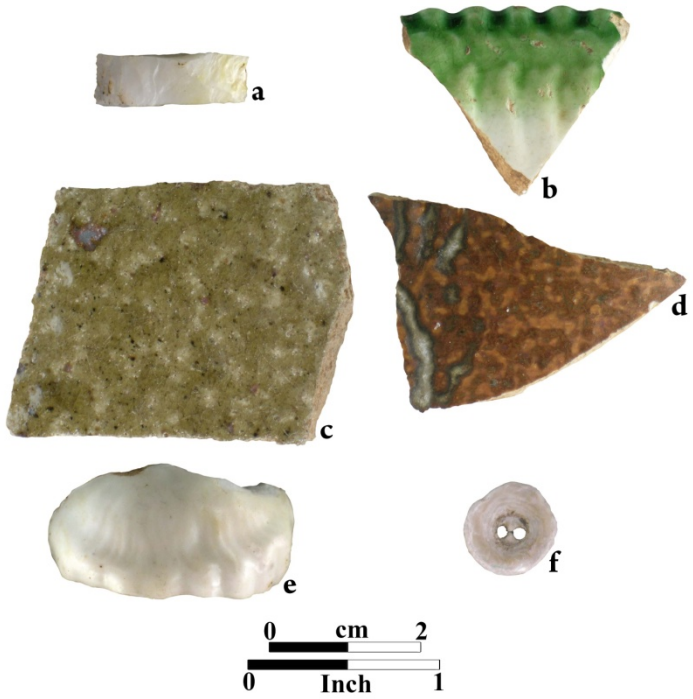


Figure 26. Artifacts from shovel tests at site 1SH714 (a) biface midsection of white quartz; (b) green beaded and hanging fern design on a plate rim; (c) alkaline-glazed stoneware sherd; (d) brown-slipped stoneware sherd; (porcelain doll head fragment; (f) shell button (actual size).

Historic artifacts were recovered from 18 of the 28 shovel tests excavated around the ca. 1834 house (Figure 26). Shovel Tests 1 and 2 near the rear of the house addition and garage contained the most materials suggesting that artifact middens and features are present in this part of the backyard. Fewer artifacts were found in shovel tests in the front yard. Ceramics (n=64) and bottle and container (n=135) were most common, followed by structural materials. Most of the 51 whiteware sherds are plain, but the few decorated examples include blue, red, brown, and mulberry transfer prints, blue and green edge-decorated wares (Figure 26b), and painted floral and banded designs. Of the nine stoneware sherds, four have alkaline glazes typically used in north Alabama potteries (Figure 26c) (Brackner 2006). Two brown-slipped (Figure 26d) and one Bristol- slipped stoneware sherds are also present. Most of the recovered ceramics date from the late 1800s into the early 1900s. Other artifacts include a porcelain doll head fragment (Figure 26e), a shell button (Figure 26f), two shoe or boot eyelets, and a few pieces of clear lamp globe glass.

Most of the bottle and container glass were small nondiagnostic pieces of various colors such as olive green, aqua, clear, amber, amethyst, cobalt blue, red, yellow, and milk glass. Four

pieces of olive green bottle glass are from the early to mid-1800s. Fragments of at least two glass canning jars are present. Structural materials include mostly nails, windowpane glass, and brick fragments. The nail assemblage includes 15 square cut nails from the 1800s, 14 wire or round nails, and 38 corroded and unidentifiable nails.

Based on this Phase Ib survey, site 1SH714 is considered potentially eligible for nomination for inclusion to the NRHP based on Criterion D; the site has yielded and has the potential to yield information important to history and prehistory. It is recommended that this site be avoided by any construction for development of Shoal Creek Park. If avoidance is not an option, Phase II archaeological testing is recommended to determine NRHP status.

Site 1SH715 (Slave Quarters Site)

Terry Arnold, long-time local resident and historian pointed out this location to us and suggested this may be where the Perry family slaves lived. It has been documented in the US Federal censuses that the Perry family had 12 slaves in 1850 and 16 slaves in 1860 (Schneider and Cobb 2015:6-7). According to Thomas de Shazo (1973:4) "Quarters for slaves were comfortably built and well located" and he remembers the buildings still standing into the 20th century. Mr. Arnold presented several convincing ideas and observations on the location of slave quarters based on geographical features:

- It is immediately across Shoal Creek from the house, a distance probably no more than a couple hundred feet, providing both proximity and separation.
- There is a good ford location linking the site and the immediate house grounds. A constructed or worn old road bed leading to the ford also leads directly to the site (Figures 27 and 33).
- The location is level, may be above most floods, and appears to be rock free, making it suitable for building and cultivation.
- There is a cache of stones along a portion of the east edge of the level area. Those visible appear to have been chosen or shaped with relatively flat, rectilinear surfaces as foundation stones would require. Present location of the stones would have been a logical disposition site for a later farmer clearing rocks out of a field to be cultivated. Also their present location, if they are indeed foundation stones, might give clues to a structure's original location since no farmer moves stones any further than necessary.
- There is presently a good spring, issuing suddenly from the ground probably not more than 300 feet from the stones. Although with the loss of topsoil and incised erosion of adjacent watercourses, the spring may now be ephemeral, it seems likely that in the early

to middle 19th century it would have been a dependable source of potable water (Figures 27 and 33).

We chose to shovel test this location based on Mr. Arnold's suggestions. Eleven shovel tests in three transects were excavated in the flat open grassy area on the western shore of Shoal Creek**.** A small tributary of Shoal Creek is the south boundary of this location, and open wooded areas lie to the west and southwest (Figures 28-31). The site area that was shovel tested measures about 35.0 by 35.0 meters (115.0 by 115.0 feet) and the site could extend into the woods to the west and southwest. This location was not part of the 2015 cultural resources survey by OAR (Thompson 2015: Figure 2).

Figure 27. Old ford across Shoal Creek (left) and spring on west side of Shoal Creek (right) (photographs by Terry Arnold).

In general, soils in the floodplain of Shoal Creek consisted of thicker topsoil than at the other two sites west of the creek. Soil stratigraphy in shovel tests at 1SH715 consisted of a humus layer of dark brown sandy clay loam (10YR 3/3) overlying strong brown sandy clay loam topsoil (7.5YR 4/6), followed by yellowish brown sandy clay loam subsoil (10YR 5/6**)** (Figure 32; Table 4). Artifacts were recovered to depths of about 75.0 cm.

Figure 28. Site 1SH715 in a flat open area in the floodplain west of Shoal Creek.

Figure 29. Shoal Creek on the west side of site 1SH715.

Figure 30. Shovel testing at site 1SH715.

Figure 31. Shovel testing at site 1SH715.

Figure 32. Shovel Test 60 excavated at site 1SH715.

Table 5. Representative sample of soil stratigraphy in shovel tests at 1SH715.

Shovel Test	Depth (cm)	Description
60	0-8 8-50 50+	10YR 3/3, dark brown humus layer of sandy clay loam 7.5 YR 4/6,strong brown sandy clay loam topsoil 10YR 5/6, yellowish brown sandy clay loam Prehistoric and historic artifacts
66	0-5 5-58 58+	10YR 3/3, dark brown humus layer of sandy clay loam 7.5 YR 4/6, strong brown sandy clay loam topsoil 10YR 5/6, yellowish brown sandy clay loam Prehistoric artifacts
67	0-12 12-59 59+	10YR 3/3, dark brown humus layer of sandy clay loam 7.5 YR 4/6, strong brown sandy clay loam topsoil 10YR 5/6, yellowish brown sandy clay loam Prehistoric artifacts
68	0-10 10-45 45-64+	10YR 3/3, dark brown humus layer of sandy clay loam 7.5 YR 4/6, strong brown sandy clay loam topsoil 10YR 5/6, yellowish brown sandy clay loam subsoil Prehistoric and historic artifacts

Table 6. Prehistoric and historic artifacts from shovel tests at 1SH715.

S	Shovel Test	Description	t.	V t. (g)
	60	Madison point, brown chert Flake, Bangor chert Flake, off-white chert Flake, light gray chert Chert chunk/shatter Unidentified flat iron		2 .49 0 .50 1 .87 0 .39 1 .77 0 .52
	61	Sand-tempered plain sherd Flake, yellow quartz Flake, Bangor chert Flake, dark red chert Flake, Coastal Plain chert Square cut nail, 8d Aqua flat glass		1 .23 4 .36 0 .20 0 .23 0 .32 4 .28 1 .48
	62	Flake, Citronelle Gravel Square cut nail Clear flat glass		0 .52 1 .94 2

				.03
	63	Flake, Coastal Plain chert		0 .31
	65	Olive green bottle glass Clear flat glass Square cut nails, 1=4d		0 .54 0 .18 9 .12
	66	Flakes, Bangor chert		0 .70
	67	Flakes, Bangor chert Ground sandstone fragment Clear glass		0 .98 6 2.51 0 .54
	68	Flake, Fort Payne chert Flake pink chert Chert chunk/shatter Porcelain, base from child's toy tea set Salt-glazed stoneware Square cut nail		0 .63 0 .28 2 2.69 0 .77 1 .89 1 4.33
	69	Ground greenstone celt or axe fragment Amethyst bottle glass		7 .35 3 .15
0	70	Clear bottle glass		0 .33

Figure 33. Positive and negative shovel tests at site 1SH715, with approximate locations of a ford across Shoal Creek and a springhead.

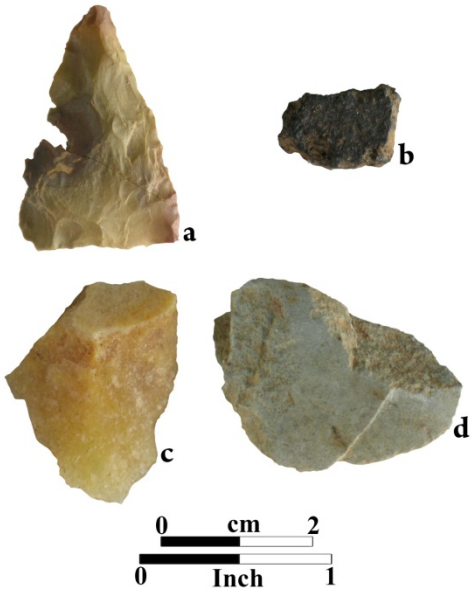


Figure 34. Prehistoric artifacts from shovel tests at site 1SH715: (a) Madison point; (b) sand-tempered pottery sherd; (c) yellow quartz flake; (d) fragment of a groundstone axe or celt (actual size).

Figure 35. Square cut nails from shovel tests at site 1SH715 (actual size).

Fifteen prehistoric flakes, a Late Woodland-Mississippian Madison point (AD 500-1550), a groundstone axe or celt fragment, a ground piece of sandstone, two pieces of chert, and one sand-tempered pottery sherd from the Woodland period (100 BC-AD 1150) were recovered from eight shovel tests at this site (Figure 34; Table 5). Identified lithic raw materials include white and yellow quartz, Bangor chert, Fort Payne chert, Coastal Plain chert, and Citronelle gravel.

Eight of the 11 shovel tests contained historic-period artifacts (Table 5). A few of the historic artifacts including one salt-glazed stoneware sherd, one piece of olive green bottle glass, and seven square cut nails could well date to the antebellum period or post-Civil War era (Figure 35; Table 5). One small piece of porcelain may be from the base of a cup from a child's toy tea set. Other nondiagnostic artifacts such as clear and aqua bottle glass cannot be clearly dated. The presence of square cut nails may represent slave quarters, wooden shacks or cabins held together with nails. It has been well document both historically and archaeologically that slave quarters tended to be small wooden buildings located a significant distance away from the family plantation home (i.e., Vlach 1993).

These shovel tests at 1SH715 were done in the last few hours of our second day of fieldwork and unfortunately we were unable to expand the shovel test survey into the woods to the west and southwest to determine the extent of the site. It is recommended that additional shovel testing at 10.0-meter intervals be completed to determine site limits. Any additional historic-period artifacts may help to confirm that this location was slave quarters. Additional prehistoric artifacts may further define the prehistoric time frame and nature of occupations.

The presence of one pottery sherd at 1SH715 is significant since none were found at the large prehistoric site**,** 1SH716**,** located about 60.0 meters (200.0 feet) to the northeast and across Shoal Creek. Additionally most of the other known prehistoric sites to the north along Shoal Creek and its tributaries are mostly lithic scatter, without pottery. A Late Woodland-Mississippian Madison point (AD 500-1550) was found at one of these sites, 1SH570, the largest site documented.

Based on this Phase Ib survey, site 1SH715 is considered potentially eligible for nomination for inclusion to the NRHP based on Criterion D; the site has yielded and has the potential to yield information important to prehistory and history. It is recommended that this site be avoided by any construction for development of Shoal Creek Park. If avoidance is not an option, Phase II archaeological testing is recommended to determine NRHP status.

Site 1SH716 (Shoal Creek Site #1)

This large site was identified in shovel tests in a pasture and in a large bare area where ananimal barn was demolished in 2016 (see Figure 16). The site is on relatively broad and high terrace south of Shoal Creek, about 100.0 feet (30.5 meters) north-northwest of the ca. 1834 house (Figure 36). The site measures about 70.0 by 70.0 meters (230.0 by 230.0 feet) and covers the entire terrace. The bare area in the northwest edge of the site is about 15.0 by 15.0 meters (50.0 by 50.0 feet) with 100 percent visibility (Figure 37). OAR excavated about seven shovel tests at 30.0-meter intervals in this vicinity, but no artifacts were recovered (Thompson 2015: Figure 2).

Figure 36. View to the west-northwest of the terrace at site 1SH716.

Figure 37. View to the west of the bare area on the northwest edge of site 1SH716 where an animal barn once stood.

Thirty-one shovel tests were excavated in five east-west transects in the pasture on the terrace (Figures 38 and 39). In general, soil stratigraphy in shovel tests at 1SH716 consisted of a humus layer of dark brown sandy clay loam (10YR 3/3) overlying strong brown sandy clay loam topsoil (7.5YR 4/6), followed by yellowish brown sandy clay loam subsoil (10YR 5/6) (Figure 40; Table 6).

Figure 38. Shovel testing the pasture on the terrace at site 1SH716.

Figure 39. Montevallo Mayor Hollie Cost and University of Montevallo History Professor Jim Day shovel testing the pasture on the terrace at site 1SH716.

Figure 40. Shovel Test 37 excavated at site 1SH716.

Table 7. Representative sample of soil stratigraphy in shovel tests at 1SH716.

Shovel Test	Depth (cm)	Description
35	0-8	10YR 3/3, dark brown humus layer of sandy clay loam
	8-30	7.5 YR 4/6, strong brown sandy clay loam topsoil
	30-40+	10YR 5/6, very dark brown sandy clay loam subsoil
		Prehistoric artifacts
37	0-2	10YR 3/3, dark brown humus layer of sandy clay loam
	2-10	7.5 YR 4/6, strong brown sandy clay loam topsoil
	10-40+	10YR 5/6, very dark brown sandy clay loam subsoil
		Prehistoric artifacts
43	0-8	10YR 3/3, dark brown humus layer of sandy clay loam
	8-20	7.5 YR 4/6, strong brown sandy clay loam topsoil
	20-40+	10YR 5/6, very dark brown sandy clay loam subsoil
		Prehistoric artifacts
45	0-8	10YR 3/3, dark brown humus layer of sandy clay loam
	8-24	7.5 YR 4/6, strong brown sandy clay loam topsoil
	24-32+	10YR 5/6, very dark brown sandy clay loam subsoil
		Prehistoric and historic artifacts
48	0-5	10YR 3/3, dark brown humus layer of sandy clay loam
	5-10	7.5 YR 4/6, strong brown sandy clay loam topsoil
	10-20+	10YR 5/6, very dark brown sandy clay loam subsoil
		Prehistoric artifacts
54	0-5	10YR 3/3, dark brown humus layer of sandy clay loam
	5-17	7.5 YR 4/6, strong brown sandy clay loam topsoil
	17-34+	10YR 5/6, very dark brown sandy clay loam subsoil
		Prehistoric and historic artifacts

Table 8. Prehistoric artifacts from surface collections and shovel tests (ST) at 1SH716.

S	Provenience	Description	t.	V t. (g)
	Surface in bare	Base of a stemmed point, light gray chert		3
	area, former barn	Flake, white quartz		.19
		Flakes, pink quartz		2
		Flakes, yellow quartz		.69
		Flakes, white chert		2
		Flakes, gray chert		.38
		Flake, pink chert		7
		Chunk/shatter, pink chert		.20
		Chunk/shatter gray chert		1
		Chunk/shatter, gray chert		.24
		Cobble, white quartz		1
				0.28
				3
				.00
				8
				.67
				7
				.50
				2

				7.308 8.2
	Surface in bare area, former pump house	Flake, yellow quartz Flake white chert Flake, reddish chert		1 .96 0 .98 2 .92
	ST 30	Flake, white quartz		0 .45
6	ST 34	Flakes, white quartz Flakes, pink quartz Flake, yellow quartz Flake, Bangor chert Flake, sandstone Chunk/shatter, low quality chert		4 .62 0 .46 0 .41 0 .45 4 .95 2 .80
	St 35	Flake, white quartz Flake, sandstone		0 .31 4 .33
	ST 36	Flakes, white quartz Flakes, pink quartz Flake, yellow quartz Flake, Bangor chert Flake, gray-white chert		0 .48 1 .02 0 .13 0 .30 0 .37
	ST 37	Flake, yellow quartz		2 .08
	ST 38	Flake, yellow quartz Flake, Fort Payne chert		1 .08 3 .17
0	ST 40	Flake, Coastal Plain chert		0 .74
1	ST 41	Flake, white quartz Flake, pink chert Flake, Agate		1 .15 1 .00 1 .00
	ST 42	Flakes, white quartz		0

2		Flake, pink quartz Flake, yellow quartz Flake, pink chert		.78 0 .87 0 .52 0 .72
3	ST 43	Flakes, white quartz Flakes, yellow quartz Flake, yellow, red, tan chert Flake light gray chert Flake, gray and dark gray chert		5 .02 1 .40 0 .24 0 .58 8 .58
4	ST 44	Base of stemmed projectile point/knife, yellow quartz Flake, white chert Quartz crystal		5 .92 0 .28 2 .32
5	ST 45	Flakes, white quartz Flake, yellow quartz Flake, yellow, red chert Flake light gray chert Chunk/shatter, white quartz		0 .44 0 .20 0 .58 0 .24 1 .61
6	ST 47	Flake, white quartz		3 .61
7	ST 48	Flake, brown chert Flake, red chert		0 .13 0 .09
8	ST 49	Flake, white quartz Flake, pink quartz		0 .22 0 .43
9	ST 50	Biface midsection, pink quartz Flake, white quartz Flake, pink quartz Flakes, yellow quartz Flake, Bangor chert Flake, Fort Payne chert Flake, Coastal Plain chert Flake, red and white chert Chunk/shatter, white quartz		2 .93 0 .32 0 .68 0 .92 0

		Chunk/shatter, agate Unidentified rock, possibly ground		.30 0 .22 0 .81 1 .32 1 .52 1 .38 3 5.85
0	ST 51	Flake, white quartz Flake, pink quartz Flake, Tallahatta sandstone Flake, Fort Payne chert Flake, pink and white chert Chunk/shatter, off-white chert Chunk/shatter, pink quartz		0 .65 0 .43 0 .42 0 .38 0 .74 1 .15 2 .30
1	ST 53	Flake, yellow quart Flake, dark gray chert Flake, pinkish chert		0 .18 0 .40 0 .39
2	ST 54	Flake, white quartz Flake, pink quartz Flake, yellow quartz Flake, tan chert Flake, Gray chert Flake, pinkish-tan chert		0 .21 0 .30 1 .04 1 .30 0 .25 2 .78
3	ST 55	Flake, pink quartz Flake, pink gravel		0 .13 1 .62
4	ST 56	Flakes, white quartz Flake, pink quartz Flake, yellow quartz		0 .55 0

		Flake, dark red chert Flakes, white and gray chert		.90 0 .47 0 .15 0 .35
5	ST 57	Biface fragment, gray and white chert Flakes, Bangor chert Flake, Fort Payne chert Chunk/shatter, white quartz		4 .22 0 .30 0 .57 1 .74
6	ST 58	Flakes, white quartz Flake, pink quartz Flakes, yellow quartz Flake, Bangor chert Flake white and light gray chert Flake pinkish chert Flakes, light and medium gray chert		1 .78 0 .98 0 .90 0 .72 0 .13 0 .33 7 .78

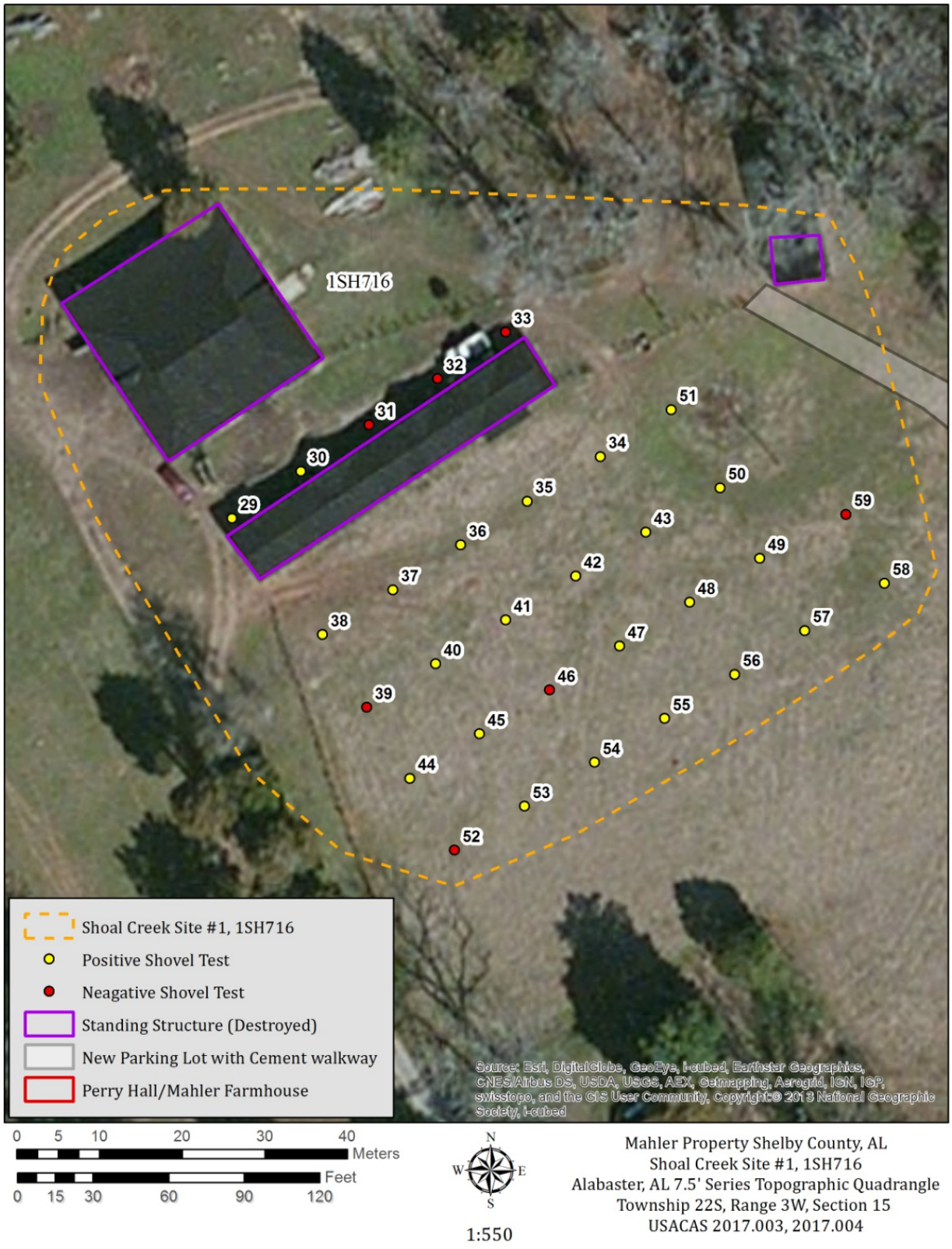


Figure 41. Positive and negative shovel tests at site 1SH716.

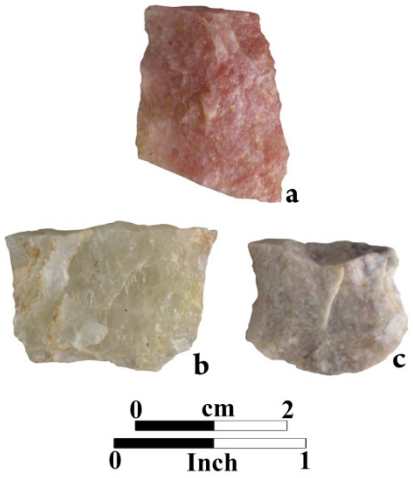


Figure 42. Prehistoric worked stone from surface collections and shovel tests at site 1SH716: (a) pink quartz biface midsection; (b) base of a stemmed projectile point/knife of yellow quartz: (c) base of a stemmed point made from a light gray chert (actual size).

Four chipped stone tool fragments, 106 prehistoric flakes, and eight pieces of chert were recovered from 23 shovel tests at this site (Figure 41; Table 7). The tools included a pink quartz biface midsection, two bases of a stemmed projectile point/knife of yellow quartz**,** and a white and gray chert biface fragment (Figure 42). The number of flakes per shovel test ranged from 1 to 14. Identified lithic raw materials include white, pink, and yellow quartz, Bangor chert, Fort Payne chert, Coastal Plain chert, and Tallahatta sandstone. A small number of historic artifacts relating to Perry Hall-Mahler Farm were found in a few shovel tests.

Based on this Phase Ib survey, the prehistoric component at 1SH716 is considered potentially eligible for nomination for inclusion to the NRHP based on Criterion D; the site has yielded and has the potential to yield information important to prehistory. It is recommended that this site be avoided by any construction for development of Shoal Creek Park. If avoidance is not an option, Phase II archaeological testing is recommended to determine NRHP status.

Lithic Scatter

Four flakes were found in the small bare area, less than 15.0 by 15.0 meters (49.0 by 49.0 feet), with 100 percent ground surface visibility where an equipment shed was demolished in 2016 (see Figure 16). This location is on a narrow finger-like terrace within a meander of Shoal Creek, about 450.0 feet (137.0 meters) northwest of the ca. 1834 house.

Due to time constraints, shovel testing could not be completed around this bare area to determine if this lithic scatter is part of 1SH716, the large site about 40.0 meters (130.0 feet) to the southeast**,** or is a separate site. OAR excavated seven shovel tests at 30.0-meter intervals in this vicinity, but no artifacts were recovered (Thompson 2015: Figure 2). It is recommended that shovel testing at 10.0-meter intervals be conducted on the narrow terrace surrounded by Shoal Creek to determine the presence or absence of prehistoric artifacts. If additional artifacts are found, this location should either be added to site 1SH716 or given a new site number.

Figure 43. Survey crew inspecting the exposed bare area for artifacts at the former location of an equipment shed where four flakes were collected from the surface.

Collections Curation

Artifacts, maps, field notes, photographs, and other records of this Phase Ib archaeological research of the Mahler property are curated at the University of South Alabama's Center for Archaeological Studies, in accordance with state and federal rules and regulations for curation.

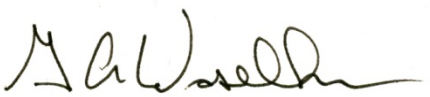
Phase Ib Shovel Test Survey Interpretations and Recommendations

In summary, three new archaeological sites, 1SH714, 1SH715, and 1SH716, were identified and recorded during this Phase Ib archaeological research on the Mahler property. Four flakes were found on the bare surface where an equipment shed once stood, but due to time constraints, shovel testing was not done in this vicinity to determine if this lithic scatter is part of

1SH716 or a separate site. Each of the three sites is considered potentially eligible for nomination for inclusion to the NRHP based on Criterion D; the site has yielded and has the potential to yield information important to prehistory and/or history. It is recommended that the sites be avoided by any construction for development of Shoal Creek Park. If avoidance is not an option, Phase II archaeological testing is recommended to determine NRHP status at each site.

The ca. 1834 house first known as Perry Hall and later Mahler Farm still stands along Montevallo Road. Although the house was extensively renovated after the Mahlers bought the farm in 1946, the house could still be potentially eligible for nomination for the NRHP. No structures over 50 years of age stand in the three locations shovel tested during this Phase Ib archaeological research project.

These recommendations should be considered provisional until accepted or modified by the Alabama Historical Commission or other relevant oversight agencies. If any significant prehistoric or historic remains are encountered during any phase of construction activity, those offices should be contacted immediately. The client should provide the appropriate local, state, and federal agencies with copies of this report, if required for permit applications.



Gregory A. Waselkov, PhD, Principal Investigator
Director, Center for Archaeological Studies

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Appendix A:
Alabama State Site File Forms for Sites 1SH714, 1SH715, and 1SH716

Site: SH714 Retrieve Site

Site Name: PERRY HALL-MAHLER FARM HOUSE

Location and Size

Easting:	514605	Northing:	3664943	Elevation:	120	
Township:	22S	Range:	03W	Section:	15	
	NW	1/4 of	NW	1/4 of	SE	1/4
Major Axis:	60	Minor Axis:	55	Max Depth:	35	

Location and Size

Preservation State: CONSTRUCTION

Immediate Destruction Pending: N Looting/Vandalism: N % Destroyed: 5

National Register Status: YES?

Archaeological Information

Level of Investigation: INTENSIVE
Excavation Status: SHOVEL TEST
Topographic Association: TERRACE
Physiographic District: CAHABA VALLEY
Physiographic Section: VALLEY
Nearest Water Source: SECOND

Direction To: W Distance To: 30 At Confluence: N

Drainage Basin: CAHABA
Ground Cover: GRASSLAND
Soil Type: TUPELO
Soil Texture Class: LOAM
County Soil Survey: null
Degree of Disturbance: UPPER

Characteristics

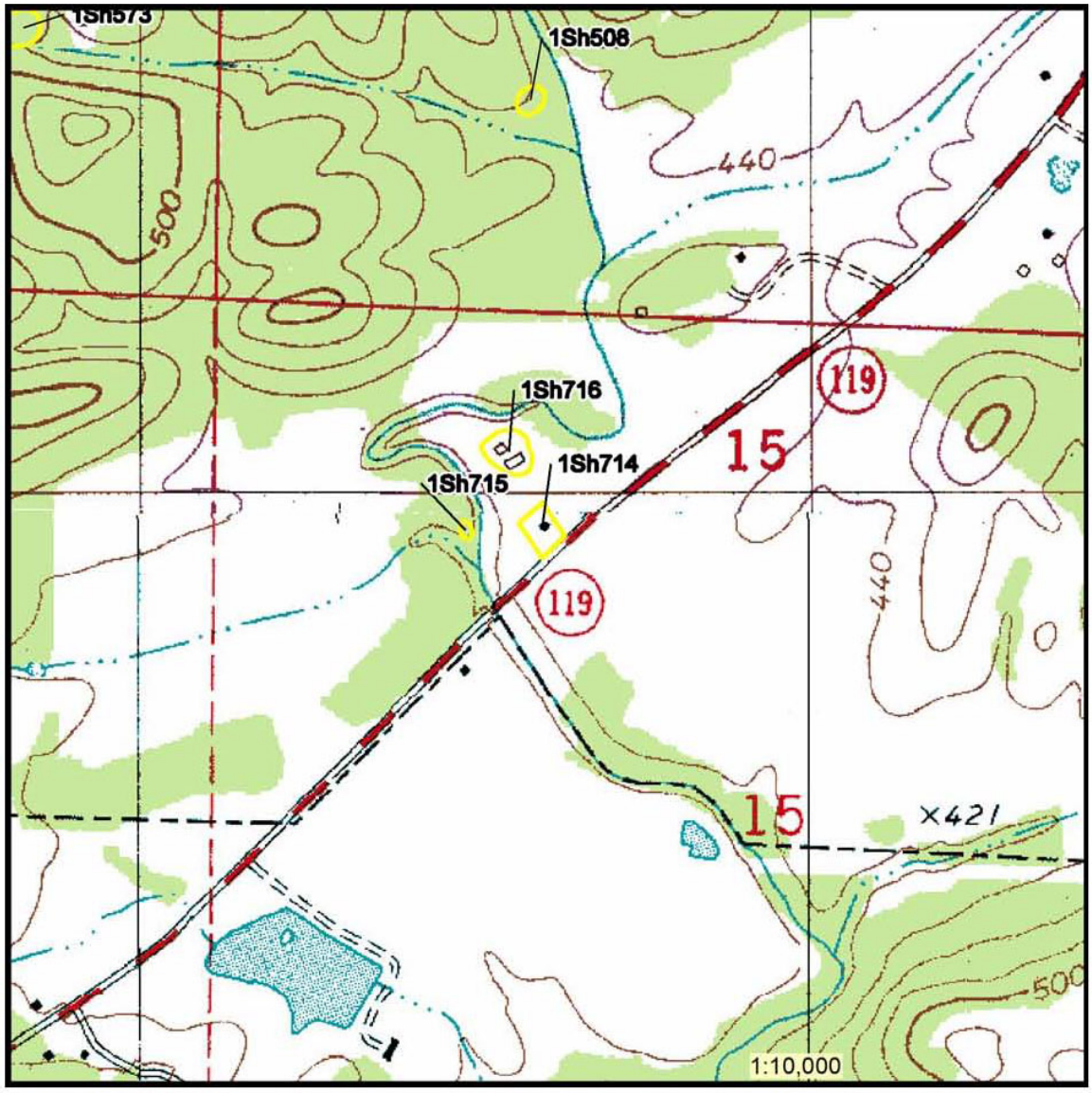
☐ Human Remains	☐ Stone Mound(s)
☑ Features	☐ Weir
☐ Petroglyph/Pictrograph	☐ Quarry
☐ Rockshelter	☐ Standing Historic Structure
☐ Cave	☑ Historic Structure Site
☑ Artifact Scatter	☐ Historic Cemetery
☑ Midden	☐ Still
☐ Shell Midden	☐ Mill
☐ Single Earthen Mound	☐ Engineering
☐ Multiple Earthen Mound	☐ Other

Components

UNKNOWN PREHISTORIC AND CA. 1834 TO 2013 EUROAMERICAN AND AMERICAN

Comments

THE PERRY HALL-MAHLER FARM SITE WAS IDENTIFIED DURING A PHASE IB SHOVEL TEST SURVEY ON THE MAHLER PROPERTY, WHICH WAS DONATED IN 2013 BY ELIZABETH MAHLER TO THE CITY OF MONTEVALLO FOR USE AS A PUBLIC CITY PARK TO BE NAMED SHOAL CREEK PARK. THE PURPOSE OF THIS SURVEY WAS TO IDENTIFY THE PRESENCE OR ABSENCE OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES FOR THE PURPOSE OF PARK DEVELOPMENT. TWENTY-EIGHT SHOVEL TESTS WERE EXCAVATED IN THE GRASS YARD AROUND THE EXTANT CA. 1834 HOUSE, FIRST KNOWN AS PERRY HALL (CA. 1834-1946) AND LATER MAHLER FARM (1946-2013). SIXTEEN OF THE 28 SHOVEL TESTS CONTAINED HISTORIC-PERIOD ARTIFACTS. FOUR PREHISTORIC FLAKES AND A BIFACE FRAGMENT WERE RECOVERED FROM FOUR SHOVEL TESTS. PERRY HALL WAS ESTABLISHED BY THE PERRY FAMILY AROUND 1834 AND STAYED IN THAT FAMILY UNTIL 1946 WHEN THE MAHLER FAMILY BOUGHT 167 ACRES OF THE ORIGINAL PERRY LAND GRANT AND RENOVATED THE CA. 1834 HOUSE.



USGS 7.5' Topographic Map: MONTEVALLO

Record Type: ☑ Clear ☐ Master ☐ Synonym

Form Status: ☐ Final ☐ Verified ☑ New

Form Completion: ☐ Final ☐ Map Search ☐ Literature Search

Sponsor Type: STA | Sponsored By: Montevallo, Alabama

Recorder Type: ACA | Recorded By: University of South Alab

Date Submitted: 2017-03-21 | Date Revised: 2017-03-23

Top of Page

Site: SH715 Retrieve Site

Site Name: SLAVE QUARTERS

Location and Size

Easting: 514647 Northing: 3664937 Elevation: 120

Township: 22S Range: 03W Section: 15

NW 1/4 of NE 1/4 of SW 1/4

Major Axis: 35 Minor Axis: 35 Max Depth: 50

Location and Size

Preservation State: UNMODIFIED

Immediate Destruction Pending: N Looting/Vandalism: N % Destroyed: 0

National Register Status: YES?

Archaeological Information

Level of Investigation: RECONNAISSANCE

Excavation Status: SHOVEL TEST

Topographic Association: TERRACE

Physiographic District: CAHABA VALLEY

Physiographic Section: VALLEY

Nearest Water Source: SECOND

Direction To: E Distance To: 10 At Confluence: N

Drainage Basin: CAHABA

Ground Cover: GRASSLAND

Soil Type: TUPELO

Soil Texture Class: LOAM

County Soil Survey: null

Degree of Disturbance: UPPER

Characteristics

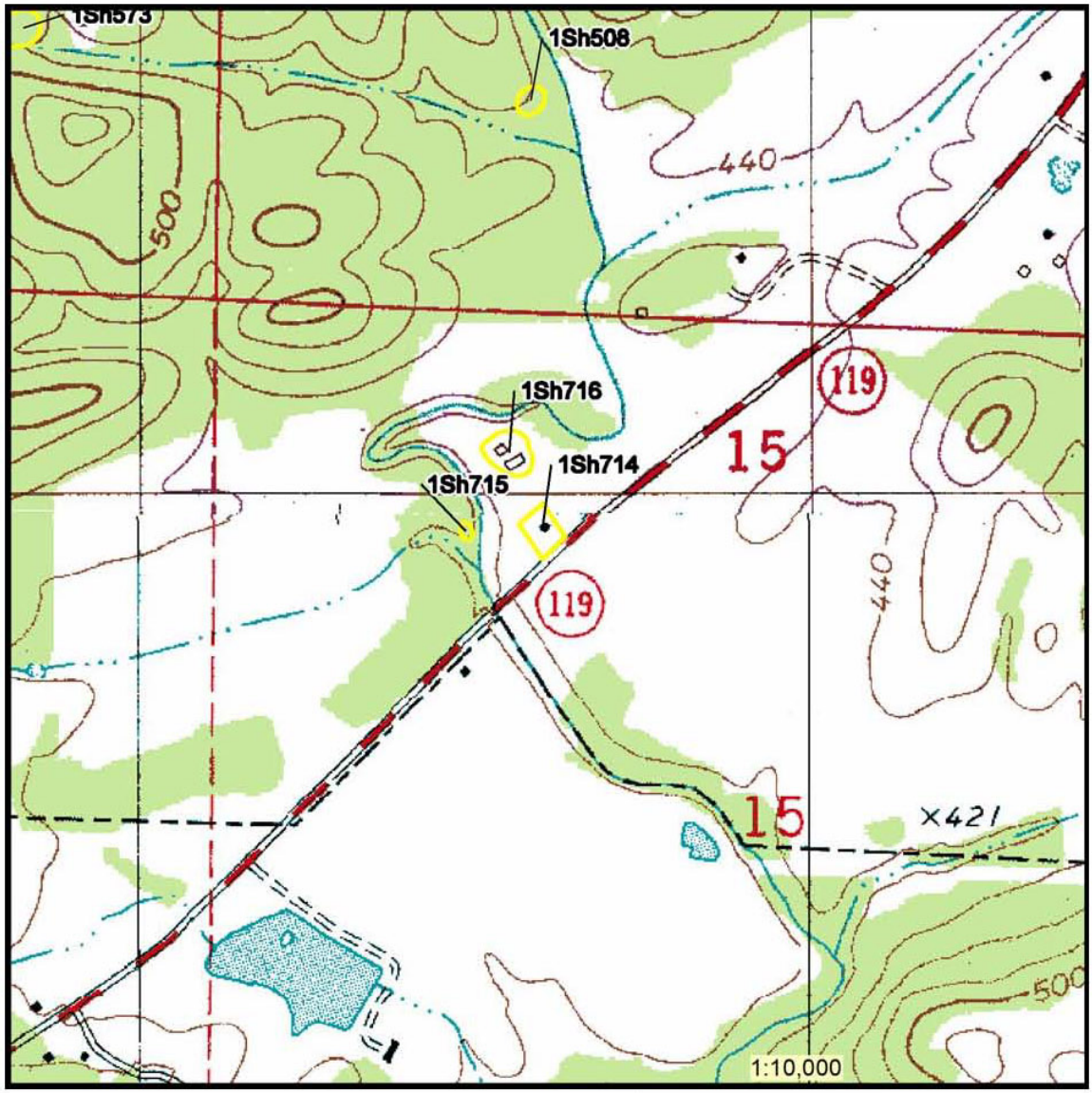
☐ Human Remains	☐ Stone Mound(s)
☐ Features	☐ Weir
☐ Petroglyph/Pictrograph	☐ Quarry
☐ Rockshelter	☐ Standing Historic Structure
☐ Cave	☑ Historic Structure Site
☑ Artifact Scatter	☐ Historic Cemetery
☑ Midden	☐ Still
☐ Shell Midden	☐ Mill
☐ Single Earthen Mound	☐ Engineering
☐ Multiple Earthen Mound	☐ Other

Components

WOODLAND, LATE WOODLAND-MISSISSIPPI AND CA. 1834 TO MID-1800S AFRICAN-AMERICAN

Comments

THE POSSIBLE SLAVE QUARTERS SITE WAS IDENTIFIED DURING A PHASE IB SHOVEL TEST SURVEY ON THE MAHLER PROPERTY, WHICH WAS DONATED IN 2013 BY ELIZABETH MAHLER TO THE CITY OF MONTEVALLO FOR USE AS A CITY PARK TO BE NAMED SHOAL CREEK PARK. THE PURPOSE OF THIS SURVEY WAS TO IDENTIFY THE PRESENCE OR ABSENCE OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES FOR THE PURPOSE OF PARK DEVELOPMENT. ELEVEN SHOVEL TESTS WERE EXCAVATED IN THE OPEN GRASSY AREA ON THE WEST SIDE OF SHOAL CREEK ACROSS FROM THE EXTANT CA. 1834 HOUSE, FIRST KNOWN AS PERRY HALL (CA. 1834-1946) AND LATER MAHLER FARM (1946-2013). NINE OF THE 16 SHOVEL TESTS CONTAINED HISTORIC-PERIOD ARTIFACTS, INCLUDING SQUARE CUT NAILS AND OLIVE GREEN BOTTLE GLASS. FOURTEEN FLAKES, A LATE WOODLAND-MISSISSIPPIAN MADISON POINT, A GROUNDSTONE AXE OR CELT FRAGMENT, A GROUND PIECE OF SANDSTONE, AND ONE WOODLAND SAND-TEMPERED SHERD WERE RECOVERED FROM SEVEN SHOVEL TESTS. PERRY HALL WAS ESTABLISHED BY THE PERRY FAMILY AROUND 1834 AND THE FAMILY DID OWN SLAVES. BASED ON GEOGRAPHICAL FEATURES, A LIFE-LONG LOCAL RESIDENT AND HISTORIAN BELIEVES THIS WAS THE LOCATION OF SLAVE QUARTERS.



USGS 7.5' Topographic Map: MONTEVALLO

Record Type: ☑ Clear ☐ Master ☐ Synonym

Form Status: ☐ Final ☐ Verified ☑ New

Form Completion: ☐ Final ☐ Map Search ☐ Literature Search

Sponsor Type: STA Sponsored By: Montevallo, Alabama

Recorder Type: ACA Recorded By: University of South Alab

Date Submitted: 2017-03-21 Date Revised: 2017-03-23

Top of Page

Site: SH716 Retrieve Site

Site Name: SHOAL CREEK SITE#1

Location and Size

Easting: 514549 Northing: 3665056 Elevation: 120

Township: 22S Range: 03W Section: 15

NW 1/4 of NE 1/4 of SE 1/4

Major Axis: 70 Minor Axis: 70 Max Depth: 30

Location and Size

Preservation State: UNMODIFIED

Immediate Destruction Pending: N Looting/Vandalism: N % Destroyed: 0

National Register Status: YES?

Archaeological Information

Level of Investigation: INTENSIVE

Excavation Status: SURFACE & SHOVEL

Topographic Association: TERRACE

Physiographic District: CAHABA VALLEY

Physiographic Section: VALLEY

Nearest Water Source: SECOND

Direction To: E Distance To: 10 At Confluence: N

Drainage Basin: CAHABA

Ground Cover: GRASSLAND

Soil Type: TUPELO

Soil Texture Class: LOAM

County Soil Survey: null

Degree of Disturbance: UPPER

Characteristics

☐ Human Remains	☐ Stone Mound(s)
☐ Features	☐ Weir
☐ Petroglyph/Pictrograph	☐ Quarry
☐ Rockshelter	☐ Standing Historic Structure
☐ Cave	☑ Historic Structure Site
☑ Artifact Scatter	☐ Historic Cemetery
☑ Midden	☐ Still
☐ Shell Midden	☐ Mill
☐ Single Earthen Mound	☐ Engineering
☐ Multiple Earthen Mound	☐ Other

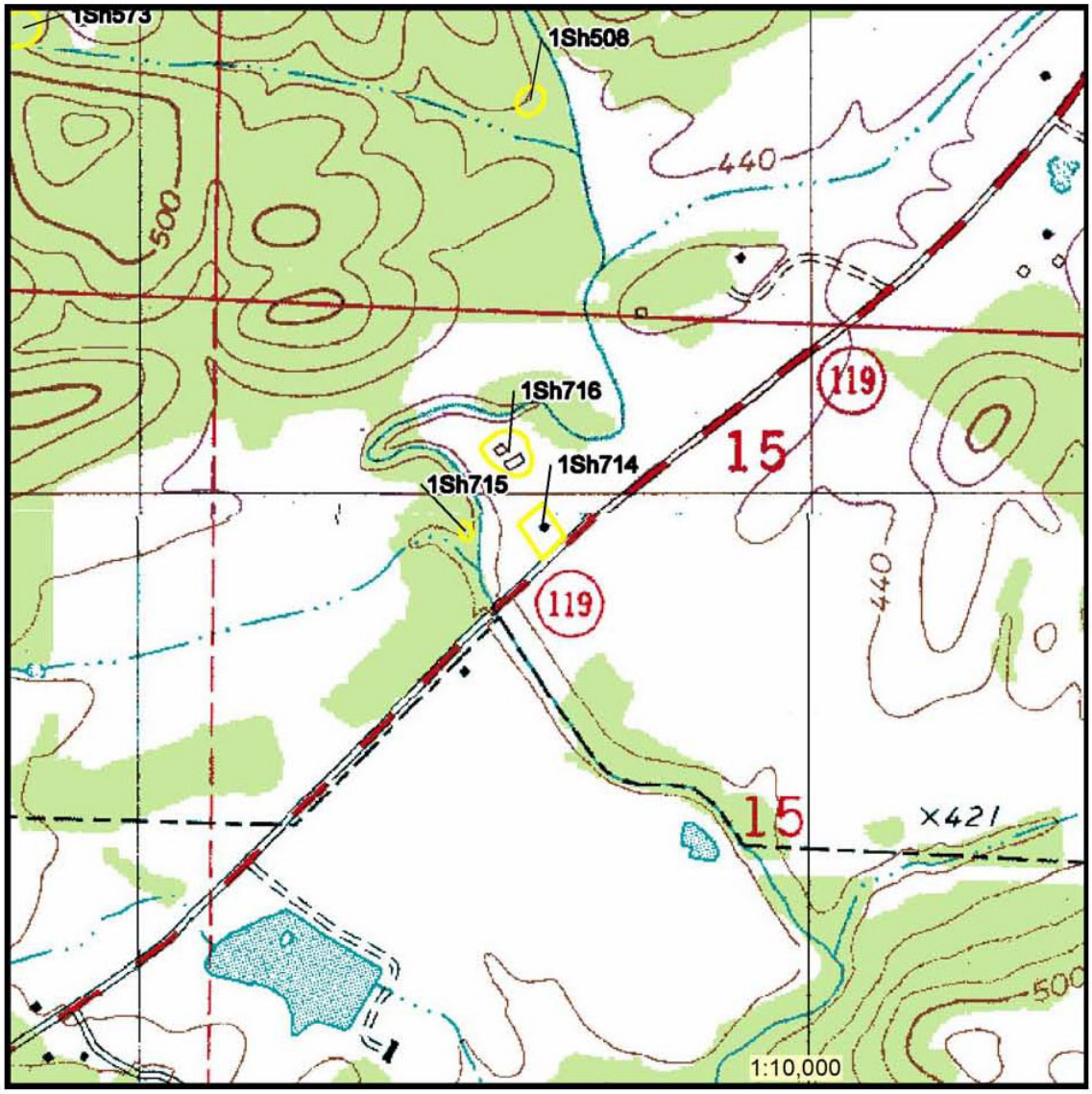
Components

ARCHAIC? AND CA. 1834 TO 2013 EUROAMERICN AND AMERICAN

Comments

THE SHOAL CREEK SITE #1 WAS IDENTIFIED DURING A PHASE IB SHOVEL TEST SURVEY ON THE MAHLER PROPERTY, WHICH WAS DONATED IN 2013 BY ELIZABETH MAHLER TO THE CITY OF MONTEVALLO FOR USE AS A CITY PARK TO BE NAMED SHOAL CREEK PARK. THE PURPOSE OF THIS SURVEY WAS TO IDENTIFY THE PRESENCE OR ABSENCE OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES FOR THE PURPOSE OF PARK DEVELOPMENT. THIRTY-ONE SHOVEL TESTS WERE EXCAVATED IN THE PASTURE ON A TERRACE ABOVE SHOAL CREEK BEHIND THE EXTANT CA. 1834 HOUSE, FIRST KNOWN AS PERRY HALL (CA. 183401946) AND LATER MAHLER FARM (1946-2013). TWENTY-FOUR OF THE 31 SHOVEL TESTS CONTAINED PREHISTORIC FLAKES AND A FEW STONE TOOL FRAGMENTS. TEN FLAKES AND A BIFACE STEM

FRAGMENT WERE FOUND ON THE BARE SURFACE AREA WHERE A BARN ONCE STOOD. A FEW HISTORIC-PERIOD ARTIFACTS RELATING TO PERRY HALL AND THE LATER MAHLER FARM WERE ALSO RECOVERED FROM THE SURFACE AND FROM SOME TESTS.



USGS 7.5' Topographic Map: ALABASTER

Record Type: ☑ Clear ☐ Master ☐ Synonym

Form Status: ☐ Final ☐ Verified ☑ New

Form Completion: ☐ Final ☐ Map Search ☐ Literature Search

Sponsor Type: STA Sponsored By: Montevallo, Alabama

Recorder Type: ACA Recorded By: University of South Alab

Date Submitted: 2017-03-21 Date Revised: 2017-03-23

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