An Archaeological Assessment of

THE POWER'S HOUSE (Site 9FU561)

Morgan Falls Park, Sandy Springs,

Fulton County, Georgia

NEW SOUTH ASSOCIATES

PROVIDING PERSPECTIVES ON THE PAST

An Archaeological Assessment of the Power's House Site (9FU561), Morgan Falls Park, Sandy Springs

Fulton County, Georgia

Report submitted to:

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I. INTRODUCTION

This report presents the results of an archaeological assessment of the Power's House Site, also known as the Adair Cottage, an archaeological ruin (9FU561) located within the boundaries of the City of Sandy Spring's Morgan Falls Overlook Park. The site was outside the study area of both a 2005 environmental assessment (EA) and the Georgia Power Relicensing Project, thus was not included in the findings of these reports.

The home site was exposed when the City of Sandy Springs did preparatory clearing for the Morgan Falls Overlook Park. Its presence has sparked interest in the Sandy Springs community regarding the age and association of this site, as well as potential values that the chimney and house site, if preserved, could bring to the park. The Sandy Springs Conservancy (SSC) has a long-standing interest in the Morgan Falls area. As early as 1999, many saw the potential for a riverside park on what was an overgrown and abandoned county parcel. By 2003, SSC had created a park master plan for the site and later secured grants for a small event pavilion, a canoe/kayak dock, and a trail system for the bluff. In late 2005, Fulton County transferred the parcel to the new City as a park. The City enlarged SSC's original park plan and moved forward with implementation. As a service to the City and the community, The SSC commissioned the Lord Aeck & Sargent Historical and Architectural Study and this report. The report reviews the results of several studies of the site conducted since its identification and present the findings of the archaeological survey of the site.

In April 2009, shortly after the City of Sandy Spring's exposure of the site within the park's development, the house ruin was visited by National Park Service (NPS) personnel including Tommy Jones, NPS Southeast Regional Office Architectural Historian; Rick Slade, Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area (CHAT) Chief of Science and Resource Management; and Allyson Read, CHAT Biologist, along with Blake Dettwiler, Sandy Springs Assistant Director for Land Development. The NPS report of this site visit (NPS 2009) was the first to document the age and historical associations of the site and provided recommendations for further study. The NPS study reported (2009):

> The purpose of the meeting was to document and assess historic resources located on the site, including a stacked-stone chimney believed to be a remnant from the William H. Power House. Upon investigation it was determined the remains of an entire house are located on the site. In addition to the standing stacked-stone chimney, there is a second stacked-stone chimney that has collapsed to the top of the fire box and a large quantity of remnant building materials including remains of wooden sills, wood siding, asphalt and wood-shingle roofing, wiring, water and plumbing waste lines, and a large, flat stone that may have been a porch stoop. Nearby is a partially filled well and a long set of poured-concrete steps leading to the road with planters on each side. The character of the two chimneys and extant building materials suggest the presence of a mid-nineteenth-century wood-framed dwelling that was altered and occupied into the mid-twentieth century if not later.

Preliminary historical research conducted by the NPS determined that the site was the home of William Power (1819-1883). The NPS research indicated that Power owned this property until his death in 1883. The NPS report also identified a road trace leading to a possible ferry crossing of the Chattahoochee River and identified this site as the location shown on Plate LX-1 of *Atlas to Accompany the Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies* (Gov't. Printing Office 1891-95) as "Powers Ferry and Ford".

The NPS advocated additional studies and treatment on the basis of their site visit. Specifically, the NPS (2009) recommended the following:

- Complete an Archeological and Cultural Landscape Assessment of the site

The site presents a great opportunity to investigate and document what was probably one of the earlier homes along the river, perhaps contemporaneous with the two log houses built by William Power's brothers. A complete archeological assessment of the site should be completed as soon as possible. Although the house itself no longer exists, its ruins contain enough information to document the floor plan and details of construction. Additionally, the surrounding cultural landscape should be considered during any investigation. Emphasis should be placed on documentation of the road trace and other remnant site features, and any patterns of historical land manipulation, development, and use that can be discerned in the extant landscape.

- Stabilize and Preserve Stacked-stone Chimneys

As the most prominent features surviving on the site, the two chimneys should be stabilized and preserved. The south chimney, which was apparently altered by replacement of the top of its shaft with brick, is already mostly collapsed. This chimney would best be left as ruins. The remains should be stabilized by (1) not removing any more stone, and (2) resecuring loose stones that remain in place and (3) reinstating the lintel over the fire box if feasible. The eastern chimney remains complete and every effort should be made to preserve it in situ. The ground has eroded considerably on what was the eastern end of the house, allowing the chimney to slowly shift out of plumb. Without stabilization, it will eventually collapse. As soon as possible, the chimney should be braced on the east side with non-invasive supports, perhaps in a manner similar to what is being done to stabilize the buildings at Hyde Farm. (Note: There are similar conditions at the Stafford slave quarters on Cumberland Island and the National Park Service has installed bracing to prevent collapse of those chimneys. The Service is also exploring the idea of "ghosting" the outline of the lost houses, similar to what was done for the home of Benjamin Franklin in Philadelphia, and using that as a means to stabilize the chimneys.) The chimneys should be repointed, replicating as far as possible the original materials and craftsmanship. Deconstruction and reconstruction of the chimney should be avoided as these procedures would eliminate most evidence of the craftsmanship even if the stones could be re-laid in their original positions. It might be possible to correct some or all of the tilt of the chimney after the stonework has been stabilized and repointed.

• Preserve Remnant Landscape Features and Characteristics

The historic road trace, well, concrete stairs, and any additional site features discovered during subsequent investigations should be well documented with photographs and mapping. These features should be preserved in place until a plan is completed to inform future use and interpretation of the site, and a determination is made as to individual features' significance as cultural resources. Clues provided by existing site features are especially important in during documentation of the historical development of the cultural landscape and will be helpful in completion of the archeological assessment by identifying general areas for potential site investigation.

• Complete Historical Documentation

Several generations of descendants of William Power have been identified through the research of Todd Frary and some of these family members most likely remain in the Atlanta metropolitan area. Oral histories and/or interviews should be conducted with descendants to gather information pertinent to this site and other Power family sites. A complete chain of title should also be completed for the property. Thorough historical documentation will enhance interpretive opportunities for the site, including the development of interpretive talks, site brochures, and wayside information panels.

This report presents the results of the Archaeological and Cultural Landscape Assessment recommended by the NPS. Chain-of-title research, one element of the historical documentation study, has been completed and presented in Lord Aeck and Sargent's (LAS) memo on the significance of the site and its architecture (Pyburn and Bennett 2009).

The results of New South Associates' archaeological assessment and the work completed by the NPS and LAS indicate that the portions of house ruin date to the second quarter of the nineteenth century, or possibly earlier, and are the location of the William Power's House and ford/ferry. The chain-of-title indicates that the property containing the site, fractional land lot 83 of the 17th District, was obtained by Joseph Power at an unknown date. In 1839, Joseph Power deeded the lot, with an existing house, by gift to his son William Power. William Power occupied the site until his death in 1883, farming portions of the property and presumably operating the ferry crossing of the Chattahoochee. Power died intestate and his widow Sarah Power and their nine children occupied the property. His children deeded the property to William H. Power, a son, in 1885. The Powers' tenure on this site came to a close in 1902 when William H. Power deeded his land to the S. Morgan Smith Company and the Atlanta Water and Electric Company. These deeds coincide with the construction of the Morgan Falls Dam and hydroelectric plant in 1904 and the flooding of the Chattahoochee River for the Morgan Falls Reservoir, also known as Bull Sluice Lake. The structure was subsequently occupied by Forrest Adair, an organizer of the Atlanta Water and Electric Power Company, who retained the house at 9FU561 for use as a river retreat (Pyburn and Bennett 2009:6).

The house ruin is believed to possess architectural features that were present in 1839 when the property was deeded to William Power. Architecturally, the house has been added to over time, likely starting as a double pen or hall and parlor house and developing into an ell-shaped structure

with two stacked stone fireplaces, one situated along the south side (the current chimney fall) and the second on the east (the current standing chimney). The standing stone chimney is believed to be part of the original house site with a construction date in the 1830s. Mortar analysis indicates that the chimneys were built in different events/stages. However, both the stones and mortar used in each chimney indicate that they were likely built prior to the Civil War. The site landscape suggests that the house was placed as the tip of the ridge nose to enjoy views and breezes from the Chattahoochee River, as well as to monitor the operations of the ferry. Access to the house site along the ridge nose was flanked on either side by support buildings, which historically would have included barns, the well, and smokehouses, and which included garages and other structures in the twentieth century. The archaeological survey identified a paving block pathway leading to the entry stone step at the end of the ell addition, suggesting that this became the main entry to the house following construction of the ell. A second pathway leading to a flattened platform on the rear corner of the house likely leads to the location of the house's privy. Later piers and plumbing fixtures on the backside of the house indicate the change in sanitary facilities in the twentieth century.

This report presents the findings of the archaeological and cultural landscape assessment. Chapter II discusses the site's cultural landscape including information on the site's importance in a regional setting as ford and ferry crossing of the Chattahoochee, as well as a description of the landscape of the site itself, noting extant cultural features and land use zones on and adjacent to the ridge nose. Site plans and regional mapping developed in GIS are used to illustrate this analysis. Chapter III discusses the site's architecture and the results of archaeological investigations of architectural features and compositional analysis of the mortar contained in the two chimneys at the site. Finally, Chapter IV presents a consideration of this study's recommendations for potential incorporation of the site into the Morgan Falls Park Plan, as well as recommendations for further research.

The Sandy Springs Conservancy gives special thanks to Morning Washburn whose sense of stewardship and knowledge of community led her to recognize the historic nature of the homesite and call it to our attention. Special thanks too to Sandy Springs Councilwoman Karen Meinzen McEnerny who was the first on the Council to understand the value of the chimney and advocate for its preservation in situ. Completion of this report was accomplished with the assistance and cooperation of a number of individuals. Linda Bain, Executive Director of the Sandy Springs Conservancy, and Stan Jones with the Sandy Springs Council of Neighborhoods were instrumental in providing New South Associates with information about the site and in defining the project's objectives. Kimberly Brigance of Heritage Sandy Springs provided guidance on archaeological methods, as well as resources and information on the site and comparable resources in the area. Jack Pyburn and Glen Bennett of LAS shared their research on the site's history and architecture. Sandy Springs Councilwoman Dianne Fries visited the site and shared her thoughts on the preservation of the ruin within the Morgan Falls Park. Keith Seramur conducted the mortar analysis. Whit Alexander of Lose & Associates provided CADD files showing the park plans and topography that allowed New South Associates to link and develop geospatial information on the site's cultural features. Blake Dettwiler, Sandy Springs Assistant Director for Land Development coordinated field efforts with the city's construction efforts in the area and provided access and coordination.

At New South Associates, Justin Byrnes and Michael McCaffery served as the field crew under the direction of Archaeologist Matthew Tankersley, Justin Arrington completed the artifact analysis, Jennifer Wilson served as Editor for the report, and Tom Quinn prepared graphics and illustrations. The assistance of everyone in accomplishing this study is greatly appreciated.

II. CULTURAL LANDSCAPE

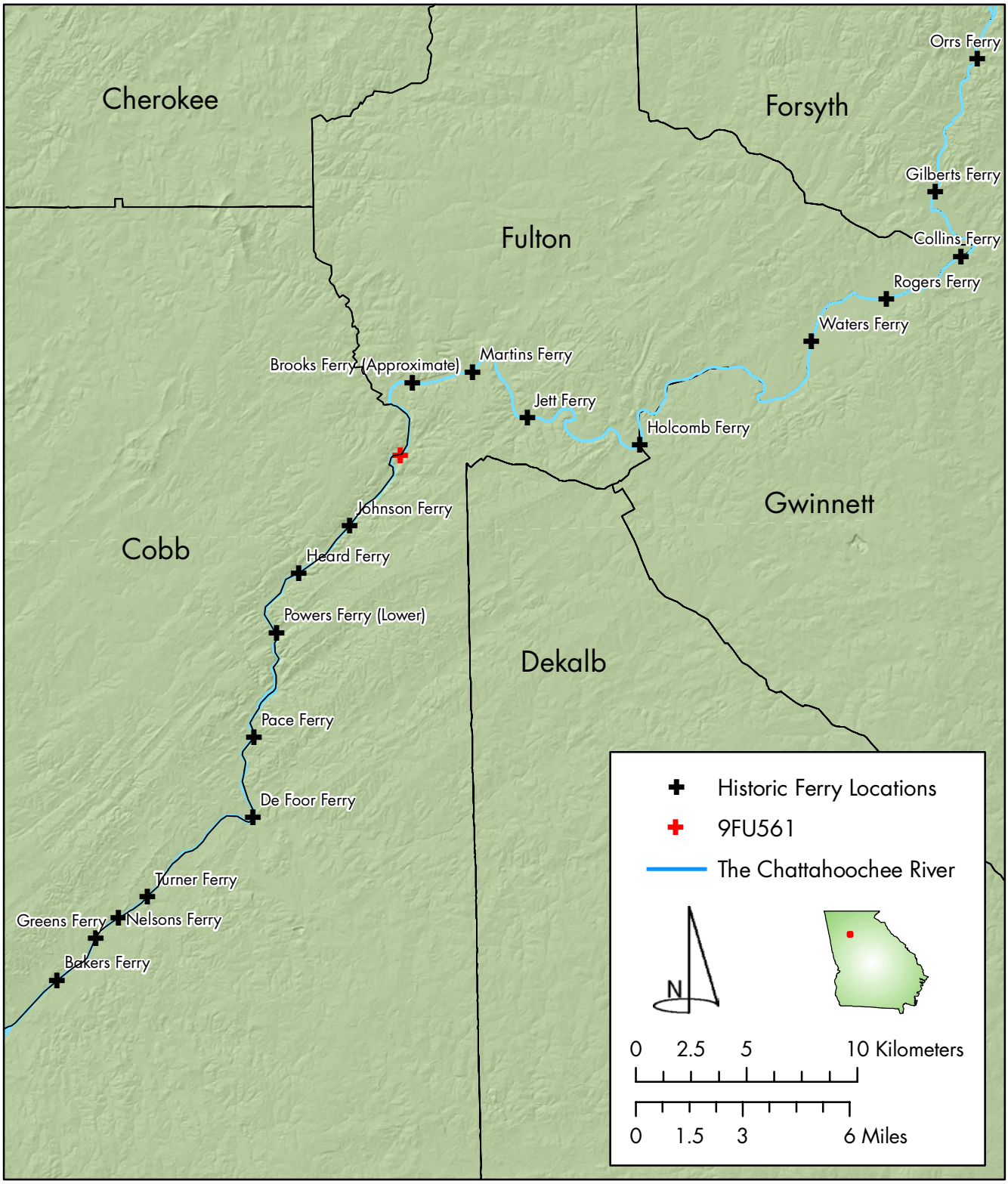
REGIONAL LANDSCAPE

The Chattahoochee, unlike the waters south of the Fall Line, was not an ideal means of transportation for the settlers of North Fulton County. Its falls and shoals proved to be a hindrance to long distance movement of boats up and down the river. Prior to the introduction of railroads in the 1840s, the horse and wagon served as the primary means of conveyance, making fords across the river important nodes of historic period development. As traffic at these natural fords increased, enterprising individuals began a number of ferry services along the river to usher travelers and goods from one bank to the other for a small fee (Figure 1). One of the earliest ferries operating the in region was Brooks Ferry at the Shallow Ford near the city of Roswell in 1824 (Gerdes et. al 2007). James Power later established a ferry approximately seven miles downstream from the project area as early as 1831, and the newly established Cobb County government officially sanctioned his ferry in December of 1835 (Hemperly 1968). It is believed Joseph Power, brother of James, established the ferry at site 9FU561 around the same time. Georgia surveyor Marion R. Hemperly (1968) identified the ferries established by Joseph and James Power as Upper and Lower Power's Ferry, respectively. These are the two ferries depicted on the Civil War era maps (Figure 2).

Land records indicate Joseph Power purchased the lot that the site occupies sometime prior to 1839, and the Power family remained on the property through the turn of the century. Upper Power's Ferry was likely not a primary route for travelers and regional commerce. Burke's Ferry at Shallow Ford to the north and Johnson Ferry to the south were considered major transportation arteries of the era (Hemperly 1968). Even though it is clearly marked on Federal maps from the Civil War Period, Union forces preferred the crossings at Pace's Ferry and Heard's Ferry during their march to Atlanta (Garrett 1954). Further evidence indicating that Upper Power's Ferry was less traveled is an 1864 Federal sketch map featuring a hand written notation indicating the crossing at 9FU561 was "bad." (Pyburn and Bennett 2009:8). It is likely the ferry served local traffic connecting the Power family properties on either side of the river (Hemperly 1968), as well as other neighbors in the area.

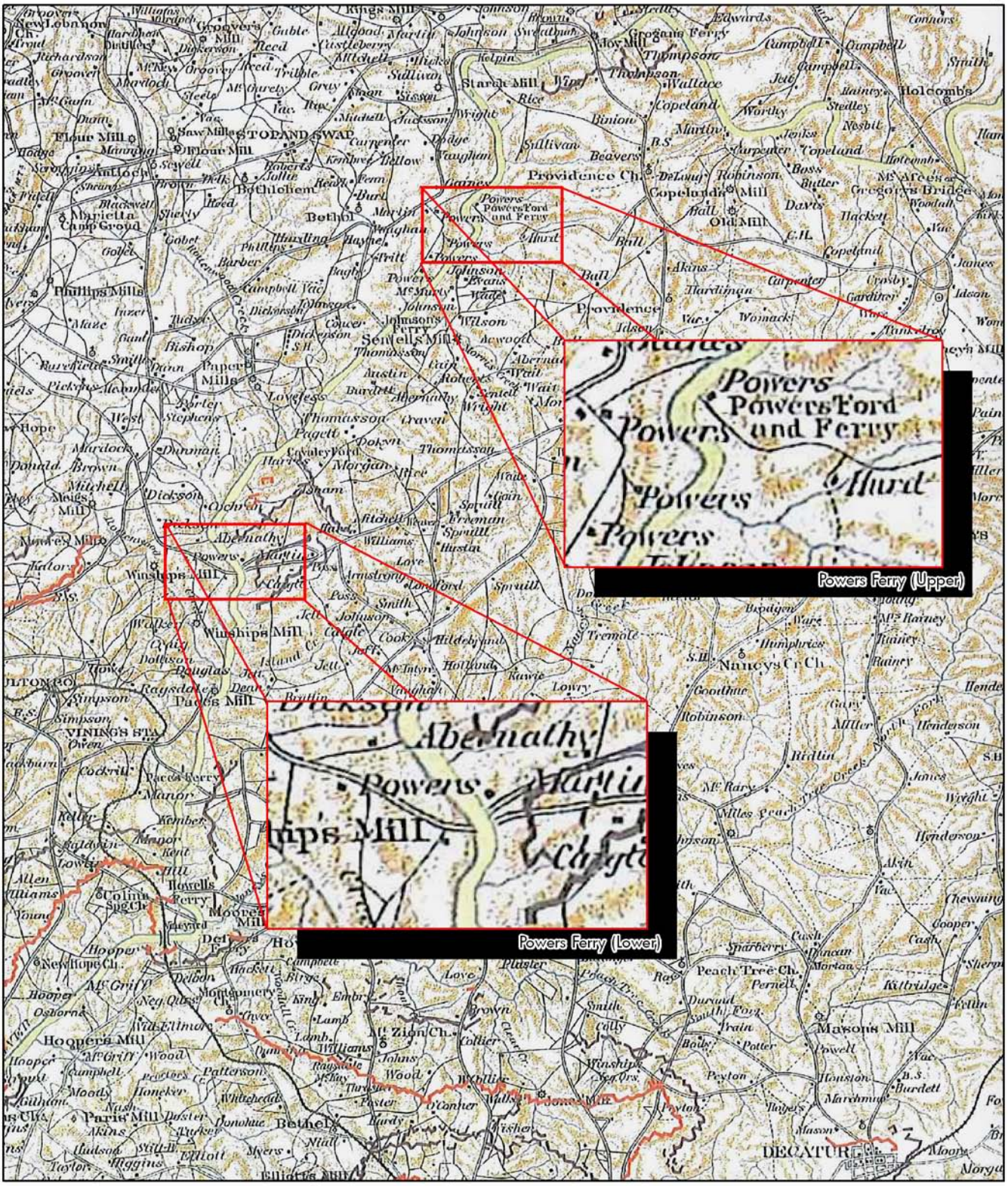
A review of historic maps by Marion R. Hemperly suggested Joseph Power's ferry operated as late as 1872. Maps featured roads terminating on either side of Chattahoochee, and the Powers family owned property on the east and west banks during the 1870s. By 1888, the road leading west from the river into Cobb County no longer appears on maps, so it is assumed ferry service terminated sometime between 1872 and 1888 (Hemperly 1968). It is likely ferry service dropped off after the death of William Power in 1885.

Figure 1.
Historic Ferry Locations Along the Chattahoochee River in Fulton County



Source: U.S. Board on Geographic Names (2009)

Figure 2.
Powers' Ferries on a Civil War Period Map



Source: Atlas to Accompany the Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies; Washington: Government Printing Office, Plate LX-1 (1891-95)

SITE LANDSCAPE

Many features of the historic landscape have been obscured by the construction of the dam and reservoir. Morgan Falls Dam was constructed between 1901 and 1903. While the filling of the Chattahoochee floodplain has inundated activity areas, like agricultural fields, an old road cut leading to the river from the south remains evident. The road cut is located east of the site and suggests it is a remnant of the approach to the Upper Power's Ferry. Though it was not verified during the current study, a complimentary roadbed existed on the Cobb County side of the river as late as 1872 (Hemperly 1968) and New South Associates' archaeologists were informed that traces of the road to this crossing can be seen on the west side of the river. Whereas portions of the ferry road have been obscured by construction, it likely connected to Morgan Falls Road at the current entrance to the park. The situation of the house provided an excellent vantage point to observe the ferry crossing.

The site consisted of remains of a house and its associated yard measuring approximately 60 meters (200 ft.) north to south and 30 meters (100 ft.) east to west, occupying the entire ridge nose. At the time fieldwork was conducted, the site was populated by bamboo that had gone through successive periods of clearing. Ground visibility was less than 50 percent due to recent bamboo growth and dense building debris within the footprint of the house.

The house had been razed, with a single standing chimney and the fall of a second chimney remaining. The house featured standing structural members as late as 2004, based on photographs taken by Georgia Power, but no standing structural components, other than the chimney, remained at the onset of the archaeological examination. Foundational elements like stone and concrete piers were evident in the midden of house debris composed of the remains of wooden sills and siding, floor joists and roof rafters, asphalt and wood-shingle roofing, wiring, water and plumbing waste lines. The debris found in the house's collapse and on the surface of the yard indicated it was occupied well into the twentieth century.

The structure appeared to occupy the northern limits of the landform bordered by steep slope on the north, east, and west sides. Level ground to the south was reserved for the yard and approach to the house from Morgan Falls Road and the ferry road. A number of features were noted in the yard area south of the chimneys and structural remains. A well approximately one meter (3.3 ft.) in diameter was located approximately 23 meters (75 ft.) south of the chimney fall. The well contained refuse including a modern electrical junction box. A poured concrete pad featuring a wall composed of cement block and stone running the length of it eastern edge was located 40 meters (135 ft.) south of the chimney fall oriented to the eastern edge of the landform (Figure 3). A corresponding graded or leveled area was found on western limits of the ridge across from the

Figure 3.
Yard Features

A. Well

B. Stairs

C. Concrete Pad

concrete pad. Automotive-related refuse was observed around the concrete pad and adjacent to the leveled ground suggesting these areas were used for parking during the twentieth century. An additional twentieth-century feature consisted of formed concrete stairs extending from the ridgeline down toward the eastern shoreline line of Bull Sluice Lake, terminating at a level area surrounded in stone. The stairs began 15 meters (50 ft.) south of the chimney fall, extending toward the eastern shoreline for 12 meters (40 ft.).

The structural remains of the house contained several intact architectural features. Several foundation piers of various materials were observed on the periphery of the concentration of building debris. A line of concrete blocks was noted along the south edge of the house. The blocks likely supported a porch and were spaced approximately 2.5 meters apart (8 ft.). Additionally, a large stone was situated in the center of the south edge of the building debris and likely served as the entrance or stoop to the porch. Other foundation features consisted of stone piers observed on the northeastern limits the dense building debris. These piers were comprised of rough-hewn gneiss stones bonded in modern Portland-like cement (Figure 4A). The stones of these piers were not weathered to the degree of the stones found in the chimney and chimney fall. This suggests that they were introduced later. These piers were clustered in an "L" shape and roughly measured 45 centimeters square (18 inches) in plan. Other stone piers were noted along the northern limits of the building debris field but were obscured by dense midden. The northern edge of the building also featured a collection of twentieth-century water and sewer utilities. These utilities were situated toward the center of the northern edge of the structure. The northwestern quadrant of the building debris contained a formed concrete footing or foundation whose extent is obscured by the overburden (Figure 4).

A second rectangular feature comprised of modern machine made brick was noted approximate three meters (10 ft.) west of the dense debris field. The enclosed space measured approximately 1x0.5 meters (3x2 ft.). Its size and shape suggests a planting box or some other landscaping feature, but its function remains unclear. The rectangular modern brick feature was separated from the bulk of the architectural debris by a path defined by bricks turned on their end, creating a saw tooth boarder. The brick lined path followed the edge of the building intermittently, likely disturbed in areas by the razing of the structure. The path terminated to the north as it veered to the west away from the northwestern limits of the house fall. A leveled section past this area may have been the location of the Powers House privy. A second path composed of hexagonal concrete paving stones was uncovered in shovel probe tests extending south from the southern stoop stone at the building's entrance approximately 10 meters (33 ft.).

Shovel testing in the front yard of the house revealed shallow soils and an eroded surface. No nineteenth-century artifacts were recovered. It is likely that nineteenth-century refuse from the house would have been thrown down the site slopes and, hence, would have accumulated under what is now the lake. This pattern of refuse disposal has been defined through work on other rural sites of the region as the “Piedmont Pattern” (Drucker 1984).

Figure 4.
Twentieth-Century Architectural Features

A. Piers Along the Northeast Corner, View North

B. Modern Sewer Utilities

C. Formed Concrete Feature in the Northwest Corner

Other features on the site with the potential to contain artifacts associated with the Powers occupation would be the well and privy. The well is an open, earthen shaft, with an associated electrical junction box, suggesting that it may have been used into the twentieth century. It appears unlikely to contain significant refuse deposits. The location of the house privy was not identified, although as noted above, the presence of a pathway may indicate the privy's location on a leveled landform behind the house.

III. SITE ARCHITECTURE AND ARCHAEOLOGY

ARCHITECTURE

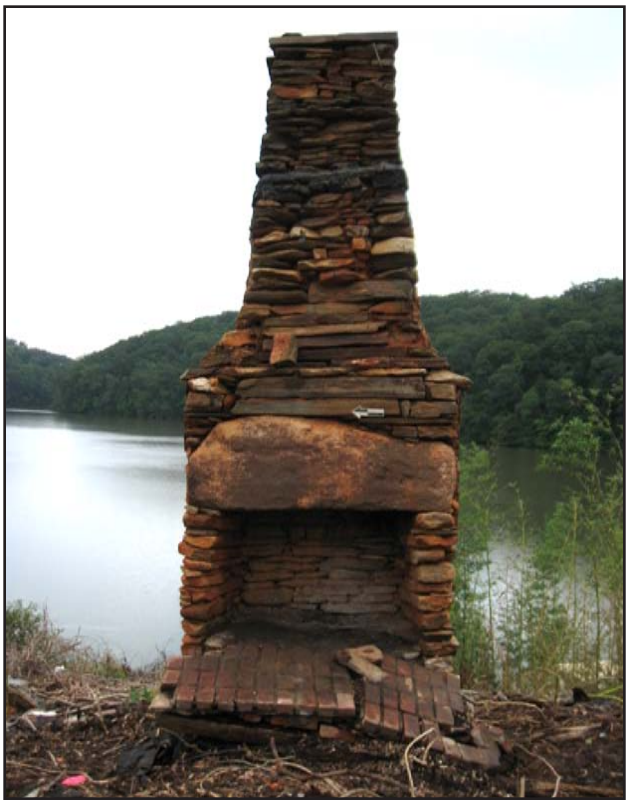
The standing chimney and chimney fall provided the most dramatic intact features associated with the house site (Figure 5). Both chimneys were comprised of uncut, natural faced schist and gneiss stone of various size collected from local sources and organized into irregular courses. The stones of each chimney were bonded in a coarse clay mortar containing varying degrees lime. The uncut, irregularly coursed stones and the coarse clay mortar suggested these masonry features are the earliest architectural components of the house. The chimney on the eastern edge of the debris field remained upright while the second chimney located in the southwestern quadrant of the house ruin had toppled, leaving a portion of the base and firebox intact.

Both chimneys exhibited impact from twentieth-century occupation of the house. Among the scatter of stones comprising the southern chimney fall, a cap of modern brick was noted and was likely added as a twentieth-century repair or extension. Likewise, the standing chimney featured a line of modern concrete and industrial sealant running vertically along its south and north profile representing the points where walls joined with the rock face. Additionally, modern roofing mastic is evident where the roof attached to the chimney on the upper half of its western face. The horizontal orientation of the line of mastic suggests a sloping roofline rather than a gabled end to eastern roof of the house.

The standing chimney measured approximately 1.8 meters (6 ft.) north to south and one meter (3.3 ft.) east to west in plan. It was approximately five meters (16.5 ft.) high, measured along the eastern face from the ground surface to the capstones. The entire masonry structure featured a slight cant toward the east, a likely result of settling after construction. The settling of the chimney occurred prior to the twentieth century, which is evident in the plumb nature of the line of modern concrete and sealant running its profile. The stonework was formed of a matrix of rocks of various sizes and shapes organized into rough courses. Larger stones were shimmed with smaller ones and bonded with a mortar composed primarily of local red clay. A single large slab of stone set on its narrow side served as the mantle above the firebox that measured 1.38 meters (4.5 ft.) wide, 0.6 meters (2 ft.) deep, and 0.8 meters (2.6 ft.) high (Figure 6). The chimney was documented with photographs and measured drawings, and a sample of mortar was taken for comparative analysis.

The firebox of the chimney fall to the south was the only intact element of the second chimney. A large mantle stone similar to that of the standing chimney was noted in the rubble north of the remains of the firebox while the majority of the chimney stone was located to the south and west. The modern brick cap rested directly south of the firebox remains. The rubble of the fall obscured the former form of the south chimney, and it was initially proposed that the chimney featured a double firebox, with an opening to the south and north. However, only the one large mantle stone

Figure 5.
The Standing Chimney and Chimney Fall



A. The Standing Chimney, View East

B. The Chimney Fall, View East

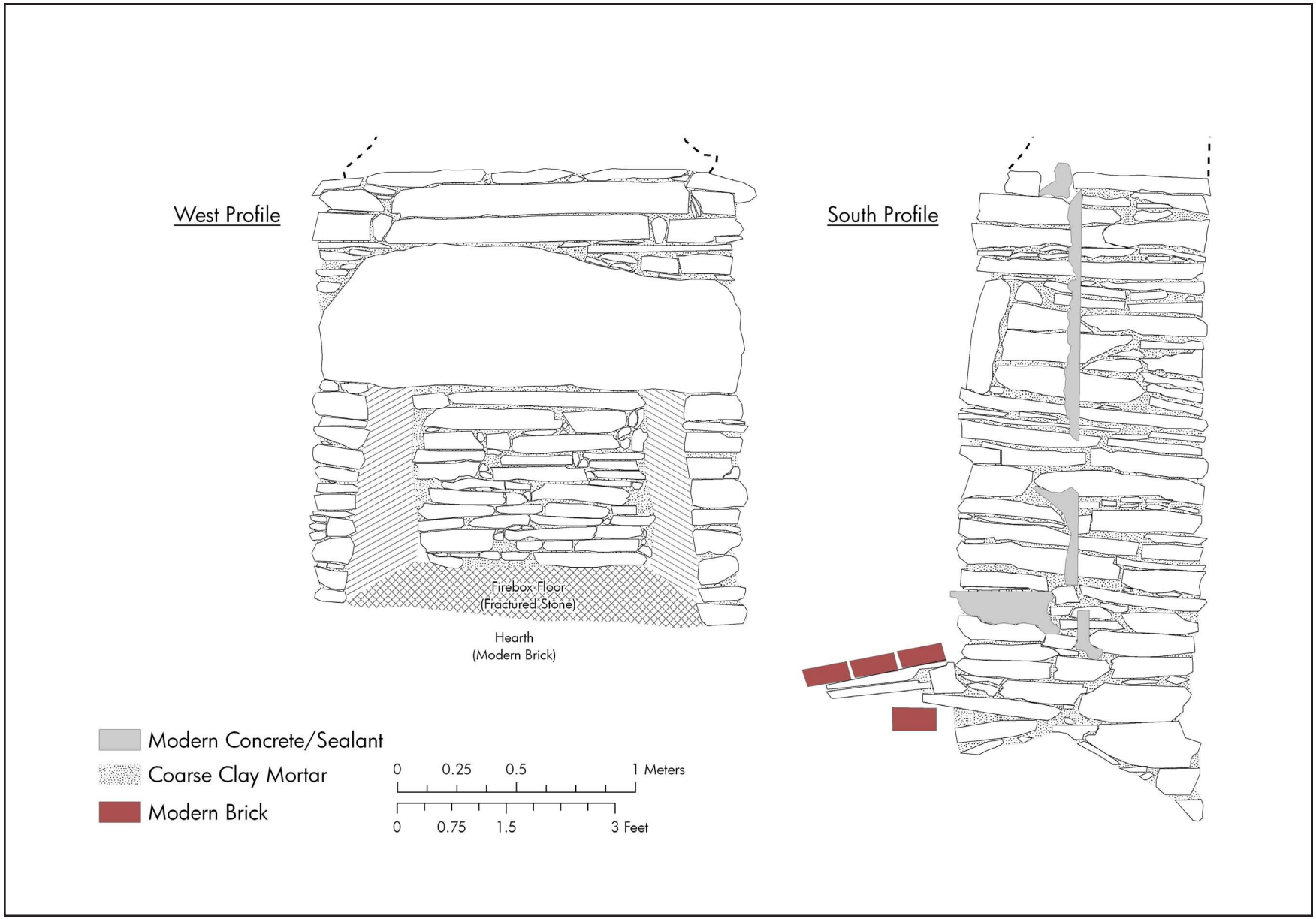


Figure 6.
Profile Sections of the Standing Chimney

was identified in the rubble, to the north. Aside from the modern brick cap, the chimney fall contained stones similar to those observed in the standing chimney. The chimney was documented with photographs and measured drawings of the remains of the firebox were drawn after the excavation of test units placed on the east and west profile. Additionally, a sample of mortar was taken for comparative analysis.

MORTAR ANALYSIS

Mortar samples were drawn from both the fallen chimney and standing chimney. These samples were sent to geologist Keith C. Seramur, P.G. for petrologic and chemical analysis. The mineral composition of each sample was determined using polarized light microscopy for petrology of thin sections. Additionally, both samples were subjected to inductively coupled plasma (ICP) chemical analysis to determine the make up of each mortar type on an elemental level. The entire analysis can be found in Appendix B at the end of this report. A brief summary is provided below.

The petrologic and chemical tests revealed a number of differences in the content of each mortar sample. No lime cement was observed during microscopic analysis of the prepared thin sections of mortar from the standing chimney, while lime cement binder was noted throughout the fallen chimney Sample. Charcoal fragments were also observed in the fallen chimney sample and absent in the standing chimney. Acid reactivity tests further supported the presence of lime cement in the fallen chimney and none in the standing chimney. Elemental analysis found elevated levels of calcium and magnesium, components of lime cement, in the mortar from the fallen chimney and higher levels of iron and aluminum, components of local red clay, in the standing chimney.

While the geologic analysis of the chimney mortars does not provide evidence as to the age of each chimney, the comparative data allows for inferences to be made. The absence of lime cement in the standing chimney and the presence of lime and charcoal in the fallen chimney indicated two distinct periods of construction on the site. The construction of the standing chimney relied heavily on stonework, requiring a tight fit between stones and relying less on cement in its clay mortar. Reliance on masonry without significant cementing and the use of local clays suggests a frontier context where building materials, like prepared lime, were not readily available. Conversely, the fallen chimney relied heavily on mortar containing slaked, or burned, lime as a bonding agent. The availability of lime producing aggregate, which is not found from natural sources locally, suggests a later historic context where people and goods moved regularly through the region. Additionally, the fact that aggregate was burned to extract lime implies refined or prepared lime was not a widely distributed commodity, indicating it may predate the Civil War. Therefore, based on the comparative evidence the standing chimney was the first to be constructed and the chimney fall was a subsequent addition to the property.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATION

The archaeological investigation of the house involved a combination of shovel probe tests, test unit excavation, and steel probe survey. Shovel test probes were excavated on a grid pattern at 5- and 10-meter intervals in the yard and adjacent to the building collapse to ascertain potential artifact deposits and activity area associated with domestic life at the house. Larger test units were excavated next to the remains of the firebox of the southern chimney fall to isolate a builders' trench of the masonry structure. Artifacts recovered from the builders' trench context could potentially identify the date the chimney was constructed. The steel probe survey involved testing soil resistance along grid lines in portions of the site that may have contained the privy. Privies were

often filled with domestic trash after their useful life and provide archaeologists with numerous diagnostic artifacts. A steel probe was inserted into the soil at a regular 0.5-meter (1.6-foot) interval, and areas containing soft or disturbed soil were then investigated with a shovel test probe.

Shovel test probes consisted of pits excavated to culturally sterile subsoil, and the fill from each test pit is screened through 0.25-inch hardware cloth for artifact recovery. Each pit was excavated to a maximum diameter of 0.3 meters (1 ft.). However, the constraints produced by the dense root mat of bamboo covering landform necessitated smaller openings at some grid locations. Shovel test probes were excavated along a single line at a 10-meter interval in the yard south to assess the degree of soil erosion and to identify potential activity areas or artifact concentrations. Additional probe excavations were placed at a 5-meter interval in areas immediate to the collapsed structure. Twenty-five shovel test probes were excavated.

The soil profile revealed in the pits excavated in the yard and adjacent to the house possessed a high degree of erosion featuring very little soil over culturally sterile clay subsoil. Artifacts noted in excavated probe pits were sparse, and material obviously resulting from twentieth-century activity were noted and not collected. A majority of the items recovered from the yard consisted of copper cartridges from firearms, nail fragments, leather and rubber shoe parts, and non-diagnostic historic period ceramics. A complete catalog of artifacts can be found in Appendix A.

Two test units were excavated on east and west sides of firebox remains of the chimney fall. Unit 1 measured one meter (3.3 ft.) north to south, along the firebox wall, extending 0.75 meters (2.5 ft.) to the west. Unit 2 was situated along the western edge of the intact portion of the chimney fall firebox. It measured 0.75 meters (2.1 ft.) north to south and 0.5 meters (1.6 ft.) east to west. The overburden of collapsed building material was removed to the ground surface prior to excavation of both units. This entailed removal of roofing material, ceiling rafter, flooring, and floor joist before uncovering soil, and in the case of Unit 2, a water heater was removed to gain access to the ground immediate to the firebox. The depth of debris associated with the house measured approximately 0.5 meters (1.6 ft.) before encountering soil. A fill excavated after removal of the detritus was screen through 0.25-inch hardware cloth for artifact recovery.

The clearing the house fall debris from Unit 1 revealed dry-stacked stone piers abutting the chimney fall's firebox (Figure 7). The soil around the pier and next to the chimney did not present evidence of the presence of a builders' trench. When the fill was removed to culturally sterile subsoil, the western profile of the unit revealed a thin stratum of soil underlining the stones of the chimney. Artifact content of the soils around the stacked stone pier and adjacent to the firebox contained a number of objects likely deposited by loss between the floorboards of the house. These artifacts included two 1893 pennies, a child's train toy composed of metal and plastic, a glass marble, a shell button, and various nail fragments. One artifact that was not the result of loss, but rather deposited during the construction of the pier, was a single fragment of historic ceramic plotted in the soil next to the pier. The ceramic had a stippled transfer print decoration, brown in color. This type of ceramic surface treatment began production around 1828 and was popular during the 1870s (Miller et. al 2002). Later patterns of brown stippled transfer printed ceramics were garish

Figure 7.
Views of Unit 1

A. Unit 1, Exposed Pier

B. Unit 1 at Culturally Sterile Subsoil

in nature, but the fragment recovery from Unit 1 was subdued in its pattern suggesting an earlier example of the decoration. Lab analysis revealed the brown transfer print pattern adorns a ceramic type commonly referred to as "Ironstone." Ironstone is a white-bodied ceramic fired at a high temperature to produce a glassy texture in its paste. Ironstone began production in 1842 and is produced today (Miller et. al 2002). The size of the ceramic fragment appears too large to be lost between floorboards, so its deposition appears to date the pier's construction. The ceramic find suggests that the fallen chimney was constructed in the mid-nineteenth century. If the firebox and its associated pier represent a second phase of construction to expand an earlier structure, as the mortar analysis suggests, then the existing structure would have been constructed in the first half of the 1800s. Historical records that indicate a house was built on the property by Joseph Power prior to 1839. Based on the contrasting compositions of the mortars and the artifacts recovered, the masonry of the chimney fall was likely assembled as an extension of an existing house in the 1850s.

Excavation of the fill of Unit 2 began after the removal of a water heater that was situated against the western side of the firebox. Additionally, an associated water pipe was noted on the northern edge of the unit after the bulk of building debris was removed. Very little soil was exposed in the unit with over half of the unit surface comprised of stones from the hearth and stones supporting the water heater (Figure 8). The hearth stones noted along the eastern edge of Unit 2 were comprised of the weathered schist and gneiss stones found remainder of the chimney fall, but the stones observed under the location of the water heater were congruent with the stone piers bonded in modern concrete located in the northeastern portion of the building. The soils excavated from the unit contained plastic sheet fragments likely associated with the impact of the water pipe's installation. Removal of the stones supporting the water heater revealed the chimney stone stepped out an additional 0.15 meters (0.5 ft.) further than the distance observed prior to excavation. No visible builder's trench was identified upon reaching culturally sterile subsoil. One single ceramic fragment was recovered from fill adjacent to the support stones of the water heater. The single ceramic cataloged from Unit 2 featured a polychromatic decal surface treatment. Decal decoration on ceramics began in the 1890s, and their use persisted well into the twentieth century. It is likely the ceramic recovered from Unit 2 resulted from the installation of the water heater and its support stones.

SUMMARY

The limited archaeological examination of the structural remains at 9FU561, the Power's House Site, has provided some clarity into the site's significance and antiquity but also presents new questions. The house's occupation into the twentieth century has resulted in the formation of a site whose complexity is not fully realized. Expanded excavation within the house's footprint is required to answer many of the questions, but some answers can be gleaned from the information collected thus far.

The artifacts recovered from excavation of Units 1 and 2 around the chimney fall indicate it was likely constructed in mid-nineteenth century. The higher degree of mixing and chemical sophistication of bonding agents in the mortar suggests the chimney fall was constructed sometime

Figure 8.
Views of Unit 2

A. Unit 2, Water Heater Support Stones

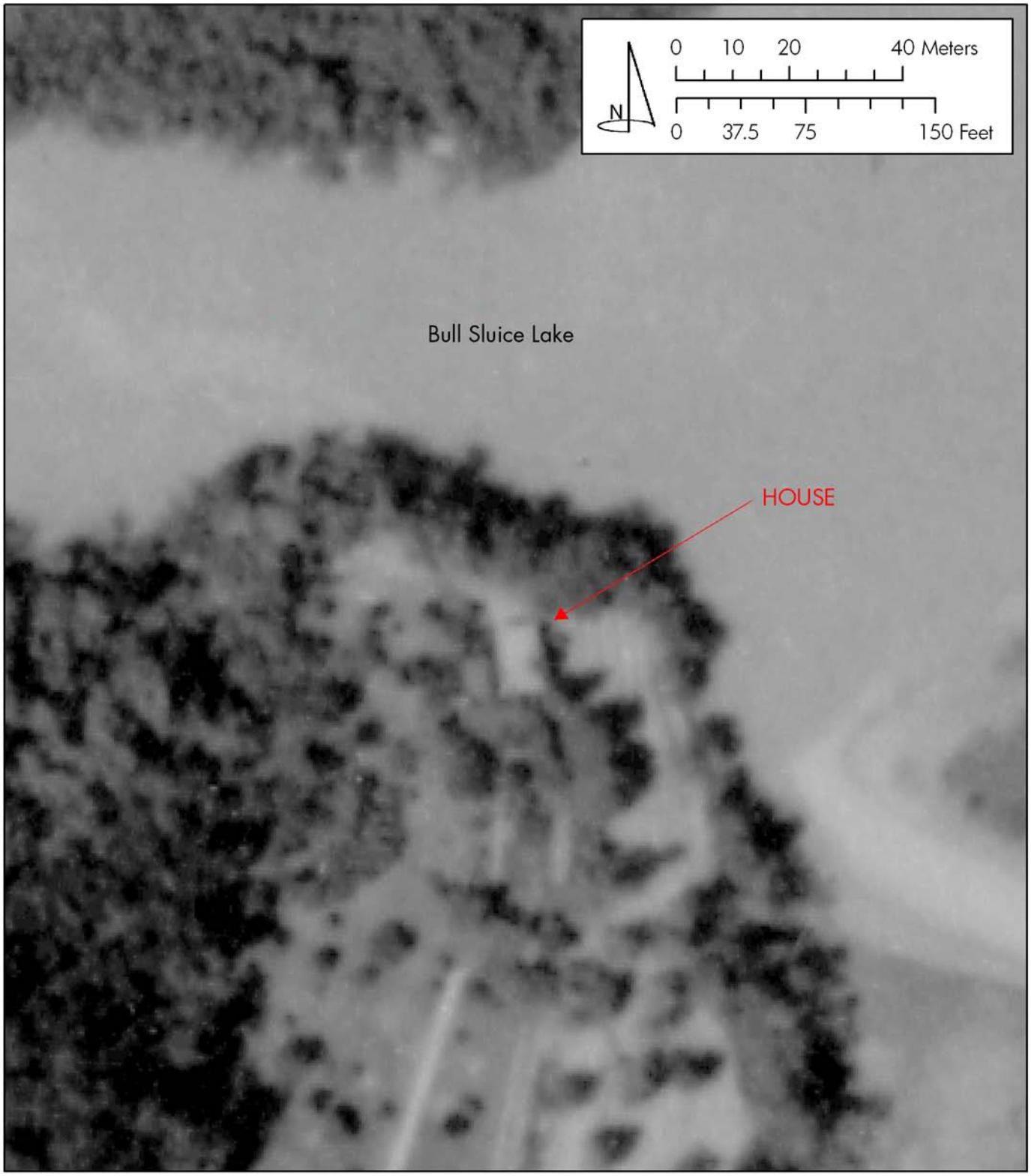
B. Unit 2 at Culturally Sterile Subsoil

after the standing chimney, representing the evolution of the Power's House during the nineteenth century. When the Power family owned the property and operated a ferry connecting kin living on either side of the river, the small house originally built by Joseph Powers was expanded, possibly to accommodate his son's growing family prior to the Civil War.

While it is unclear what form Joseph Power's first house took when he constructed it in the 1830s, it was likely a small double pen or hall and parlor house featuring the end chimney bonded in a poorly mixed clay mortar, which stands today at 9FU561. Over time, the house was likely expanded to accommodate a wing perpendicular to the first structure and a second chimney was constructed using highly mixed lime cement mortar. This building progression is similar to the stages of construction documented in the Powers' cabin at Hyde Farm across the river.

The property probably remained this way until the turn of the century when Forrest Adair took over the land in 1902. Adair's ownership of the property potentially accounts for the house's rectangular footprint observed in aerial photography from 1938 (Figure 9). Adair may have brought modern utilities to the house and expanded the gabled-ell structure to a larger pyramidal cottage or similar house, featuring an enclosed porch. A transformation such as this would require a new roof and potentially new cladding on the exterior. However, foundational and masonry components, like stone piers and chimneys, would likely remain intact. A new roofline would account for the mastic observed on the standing chimney as well as the brick cap in the debris from the chimney fall.

Figure 9.
The House at 9FU561 in 1938



Source: Aerial Photography, Fulton County, University of Georgia Map Library (1938)

IV. RECOMMENDATIONS AND INTERPRETATIONS

Archaeological and historical studies conducted to date provide information on the age and features of the Power's House Site for the City of Sandy Springs and the Sandy Springs Conservancy's consideration in the implementation and development of the Morgan Falls Park. The Power's House site offers the City of Sandy Springs physical features that can be used within a park setting to address a number of topics with educational and heritage values. This chapter presents the interpretive aspects and potential of the site and recommendations for the incorporation of each into the Morgan Falls Park plans. This discussion is organized by interpretive themes. Finally, the chapter includes recommendations for future documentation of the site.

POTENTIAL INTERPRETIVE THEMES AND VALUES

As part of the preservation of the elements of the site and the incorporation of site features into the Morgan Falls Park plans, there are a number of interpretive themes that could be addressed. This section provides synopses of several of the more significant themes that could be addressed at the site, as well as site features and interpretive approaches for each. These are offered as information only, and formal design of park features, interpretive signage, educational curricula, brochures, and/or other public materials would need to be developed based on the City of Sandy Spring's wishes and directives.

TRANSPORTATION

Sandy Springs, and indeed metropolitan Atlanta as a whole, owes much of its history to the cities' role in regional transportation. The importance of Hartsfield Airport in making Atlanta the hub of the Sun Belt is well known and Atlanta's origins as Terminus along the railroads is remembered by some, yet, the importance of fords and ferry crossings of major rivers is less well known and recognized. Ferry crossings connect sites of the present to Georgia's Native American past, as these were the points on prehistoric trails used by Native Americans to travel from one village to the next, and these same trails became the roads the settlers used in moving into north Georgia. The presence of Upper Power's Ford and Ferry crossing at the site provides a location that can be used to tell the story of early transportation systems; the importance of river crossings to what are now north Atlanta communities including Sandy Springs; the use of roads and crossings in the Battle of Atlanta; and the role of transportation in the development of the Atlanta region. Regional place names, including Johnson's Ferry, Shallowford, and Power's Ferry, can be used to further illustrate to visitors and students the importance of river crossings in the development of Sandy Springs and the surrounding area. Interpretation of this theme would be facilitated by maintenance and clearing of the road trace next to the site as an interpretive feature. This theme could also be passively interpreted through signage but is best expressed through the extant road trace.

BUILDING MATERIALS AND ENGINEERING

The Power's House site offers an excellent resource for the presentation of engineering and construction. The standing chimney speaks to a time when the only building materials available for construction were those that were on or near the building site. The use of locally collected sandstones and schists bonded with a mortar made from Georgia red clay illustrates a very different period from today, when Atlanta based stores like the Home Depot offer finished building products and fixtures from around the word. Although constructed of local stones and clay, this chimney was so well built that is survived even with a slight slant away from the vertical line of the house, as can be shown from the mortar caulk lines on the chimney's side. The fact that the chimney remains standing to this day speaks to the engineering incorporated into its construction and the builder's knowledge of materials and construction principles to build a chimney that would outlive site features made of concrete and other modern materials. The engineering and architecture of this feature has been lauded by architects Jack Pyburn and Glen Bennett (2009).

Although this theme can be passively interpreted through photographs and descriptions, the chimney itself conveys the greatest weight and meaning as related to the skill shown in its engineering and survival. If restored/stabilized, the engineering of the restoration could also be brought into this theme.

ARCHITIECTURE

The site ruin offers excellent potential to discuss house plans and architectural styles in early Georgia. While the architectural evolution and dimensions of the Power's House have not yet been fully resolved, there is sufficient information to indicate that this house began as a double pen or hall and parlor structure with end chimney and was expanded with an ell addition and then later enclosed by Forest Adair as a rectangular pyramidal cottage. Site building features could be used to inform the public about Georgia's nineteenth-century architecture, living space, room sizes and dimensions, and other aspects that could be presented in comparative contexts.

Interpretation of this theme could best be accomplished in an active format using all remaining architectural features as a puzzle that expresses the house form. The archaeological excavations indicate that the house piers are intact, and therefore, with the clearing of the collapsed building debris and limited excavations, building piers could be exposed that would allow the house form to be visually expressed on the ground. Alternatively, structural skeletons ("ghosts") could be constructed that would express the interpreted height, width, and layout of the house and its changes over time.

INFRASTRUCTURE

The combination of the archaeological components of the Power's House site with its location provides an excellent setting to inform the public and area school children about the importance of infrastructure and changes in infrastructure systems over time. The site itself contains features that express the conditions of early nineteenth-century life in the well and privy area, while the house also reflects twentieth-century improvements with the addition of plumbing. The site's location

adjacent to Morgan Falls provides the opportunity to address energy and the development of hydroelectric power. Finally, the site's current use as a public park can address urban planning and the need for open space in more densely populated modern areas.

Interpretation of this theme can be conducted in either active or passive formats. Site elements that could be incorporated into landscape interpretation include the well, whose location could be indicated by distinctive paving, and the privy, the location of which would require verification. Discussion of the Morgan Falls hydroelectric plant and Sandy Spring's park programs could be presented through signage. Development of this theme would also speak to the evolution of the use of this location over time.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Power's House site offers the City of Sandy Springs an exceptional set of historic resources with great value in displaying, conveying, and interpreting the heritage of Sandy Springs. These resources could be used to remind citizens that Sandy Springs, while a new city, has an old heart.

Further research would be useful in developing the history of the site and in better understanding its architecture. First, photographs of the Power's House site have not yet been identified and would be tremendous resource for understanding and conveying the building's design. Georgia Power has a collection of 27 photographs taken in 2004, housed in the Corporate Archives as Accession Number 2005.124.015. New South Associates was not able to get access to view this collection in the time available for this report, however, photographs that have been scanned and shared by others are difficult to interpret as by 2004 the structure was collapsing and was covered in wisteria and bamboo. Historic photographs may exist in personal collections and should be sought and, if identified, scanned and used to better interpret the building's plan and design.

Exposure of the house piers would allow for a more detailed analysis of the site's architecture and could be accomplished by removing the collapsed building debris from the site, possibly with some limited excavation. Extant piers suggest that unweathered stones bonded in modern concrete were used for twentieth-century additions while weathered schist was used in the original construction. Hence, exposing and identifying all piers and the stones used should allow the house plans and additions to be better defined.

A possible area of the house privy (or privies) was identified by this survey but the privy itself was not found. The site's privy is the best location for artifacts dating from the Power's occupation of the site. Identification, excavation, and analysis could provide materials for interpretive exhibits on the Power family, as well as for the analysis of nineteenth-century lifeways. Further work on archaeological features such as the privy could possibly be accomplished as a community history project, comparable to the work being done by the Gwinnett Chapter of the Georgia Archaeological Society at Fort Daniels (www.thegars.org). Heritage Sandy Springs is a potential partner for the City of Sandy Springs for such archaeological recovery.

CONCLUSION

The City of Sandy Springs has discovered a highly significant historic resource within the Morgan Falls Park. All historic sites' have a past, but few have a future. We hope the Power's House Site will prove the exception and will be used to teach the citizens and students of Sandy Springs about the heritage of the region.

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