

**CULTURAL RESOURCE ASSESSMENT SURVEY FOR THE
POINCIANA BOULEVARD WIDENING FROM
PLEASANT HILL ROAD TO TRAFALGAR BOULEVARD,
OSCEOLA COUNTY, FLORIDA**

**COUNTY No. OS-200-11503-DG
SEARCH PROJECT No. T20119**

PREPARED FOR

**CONSOR ENGINEERS LLC
AND
OSCEOLA COUNTY, FLORIDA**

BY

SEARCH

DECEMBER 2020

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JESSICA FISH, JESSICA BARNETT, AND ALLEN KENT

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jessica P. Fish', written over a horizontal line.

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report presents the findings of a Phase I cultural resource assessment survey (CRAS) conducted in support of improvements to Poinciana Boulevard in Osceola County, Florida. Osceola County is proposing to widen Poinciana Boulevard from Pleasant Hill Road northward to Trafalgar Boulevard, a distance of 5.9 miles (9.5 kilometers). The project also includes the construction of 10 possible retention ponds. This project is funded by the county.

To encompass all potential improvements, the Area of Potential Effects (APE) was defined to include the existing right-of-way from approximately 760 feet (231.6 meters) east of Pleasant Hill Road to approximately 200 feet (61 meters) south of Trafalgar Boulevard. This APE was extended to the back or side property lines of parcels adjacent to the right-of-way, or a distance of no more than 328 feet (100 meters) from the right-of-way line. For the ponds, the APE was defined as the pond footprints in addition to a 100-foot (30.5-meter) buffer. The archaeological survey was conducted within the existing right-of-way and the pond footprints. The historic structure survey was conducted within the entire APE.

The archaeological survey included the excavation of 140 shovel tests within the Poinciana Boulevard corridor and ponds, all of which were negative for cultural material. Due to significant subsurface disturbance (buried utilities), existing pavement, and standing water, a total of 161 “no-dig” points were employed to document the pedestrian survey of areas that were not feasible to test. No artifacts were recovered, and no archaeological sites or occurrences were identified within the APE. No further archaeological survey is recommended in support of the proposed Poinciana Boulevard improvements.

No previously recorded historic resources are located within the project area. Furthermore, no structures of historic (pre-1976) age are located within the Poinciana Boulevard APE; as such, no architectural history survey was conducted.

Given the results of the CRAS, it is the opinion of SEARCH that the proposed Poinciana Boulevard widening project will have no effect on cultural resources listed or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). No further work is recommended.

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INTRODUCTION

This report presents the findings of a Phase I cultural resource assessment survey (CRAS) conducted in support of improvements to Poinciana Boulevard in Osceola County, Florida (**Figure 1**). Osceola County is proposing to widen Poinciana Boulevard from Pleasant Hill Road northward to Trafalgar Boulevard, a distance of 5.9 miles (9.5 kilometers). The project also includes the construction of 10 possible retention ponds.

The project Area of Potential Effects (APE) was developed to consider any visual, audible, and atmospheric effects that the project may have on historic properties. The APE was defined to include the existing right-of-way from approximately 760 feet (231.6 meters) east of Pleasant Hill Road to 200 feet (61 meters) south of Trafalgar Boulevard (**Figure 2**). This APE was extended to the back or side property lines of parcels adjacent to the right-of-way, or a distance of no more than 328 feet (100 meters) from the right-of-way line. For the ponds, the APE was defined as the pond footprints in addition to a 100-foot (30.5-meter) buffer. The archaeological survey was conducted within the existing right-of-way and the pond footprints. The historic structure survey was conducted within the entire APE.

The purpose of the survey was to locate, identify, and bound any archaeological resources, historic structures, and potential districts within the project's APE and assess their potential for listing in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). This study was conducted to comply with Chapter 267 of the Florida Statutes and Rule Chapter 1A-46, Florida Administrative Code. All work was performed in accordance with Part 2, Chapter 8 of the Florida Department of Transportation's (FDOT) Project Development & Environment (PD&E) Manual (revised July 2020), as well as the Florida Division of Historical Resources' (FDHR) recommendations for such projects, as stipulated in the FDHR's *Cultural Resource Management Standards & Operations Manual, Module Three: Guidelines for Use by Historic Preservation Professionals*. The Principal Investigator for this project meets the Secretary of the Interior's *Standards and Guidelines for Archeology and Historic Preservation* (48 FR 44716-42).

This study complies with Public Law 113-287 (Title 54 U.S.C.), which incorporates the provisions of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) of 1966, as amended, and the Archeological and Historic Preservation Act of 1979, as amended. The study also complies with the regulations for implementing NHPA Section 106 found in 36 CFR Part 800 (*Protection of Historic Properties*).

Jessica Fish, MSt, RPA, served as the Principal Investigator of Archaeology for this project, and Mikel Travisano, MS, served as Principal Investigator of Architectural History. The report was written by Ms. Fish, Jessica Barnett, MS, RPA, and Allen Kent, PhD. The fieldwork was conducted by Sarah Bennett, MA; Bryce Gottschalk, BA; Catherine Gould, MA; Ms. Barnett; Kyle Marotz, BA; and Matthew Mele, BS. Melissa Dye, MA, RPA, conducted the quality-control review, and Rasha Slepov, BS, edited and produced the document.

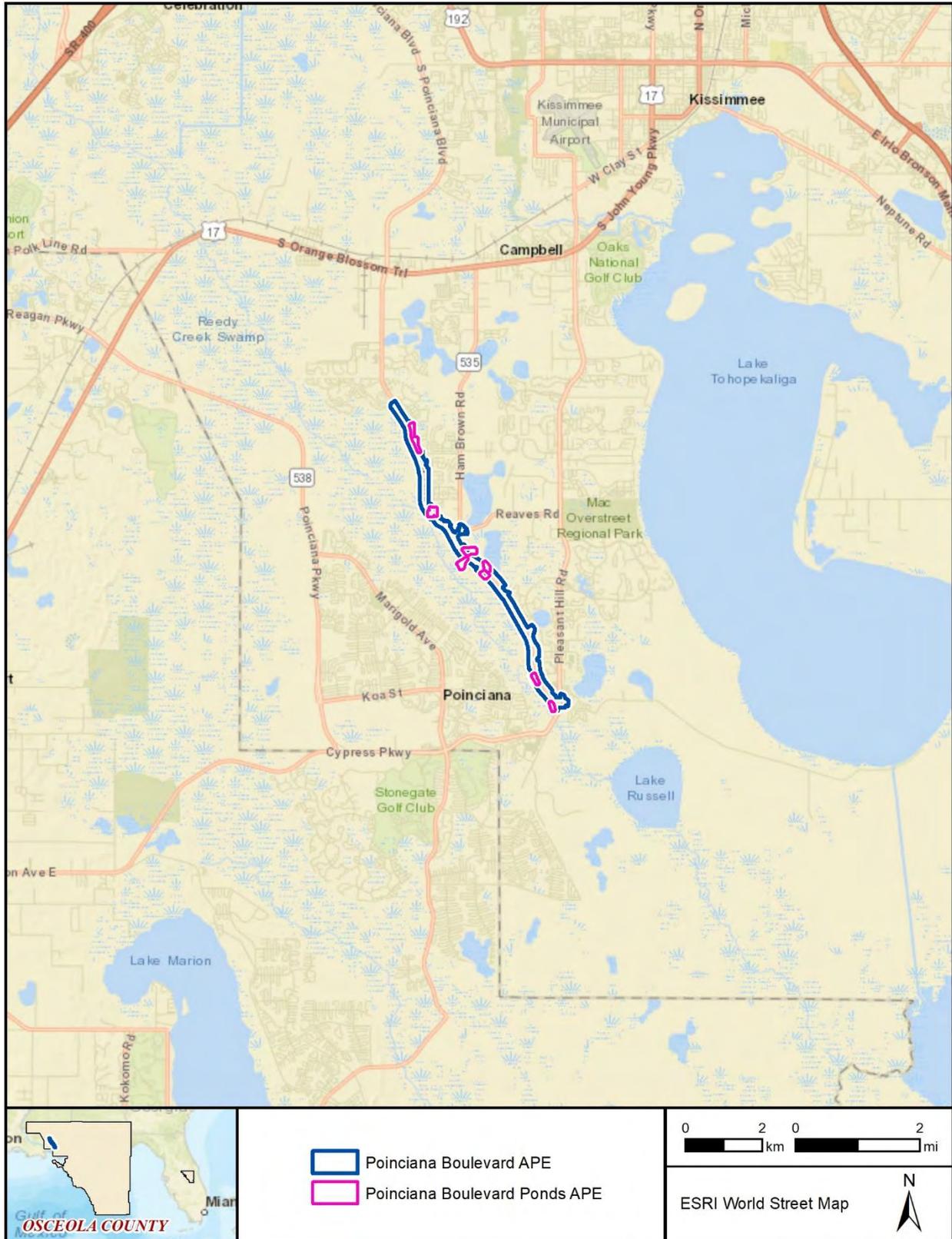


Figure 1. The Poinciana Boulevard project location in Osceola County, Florida.

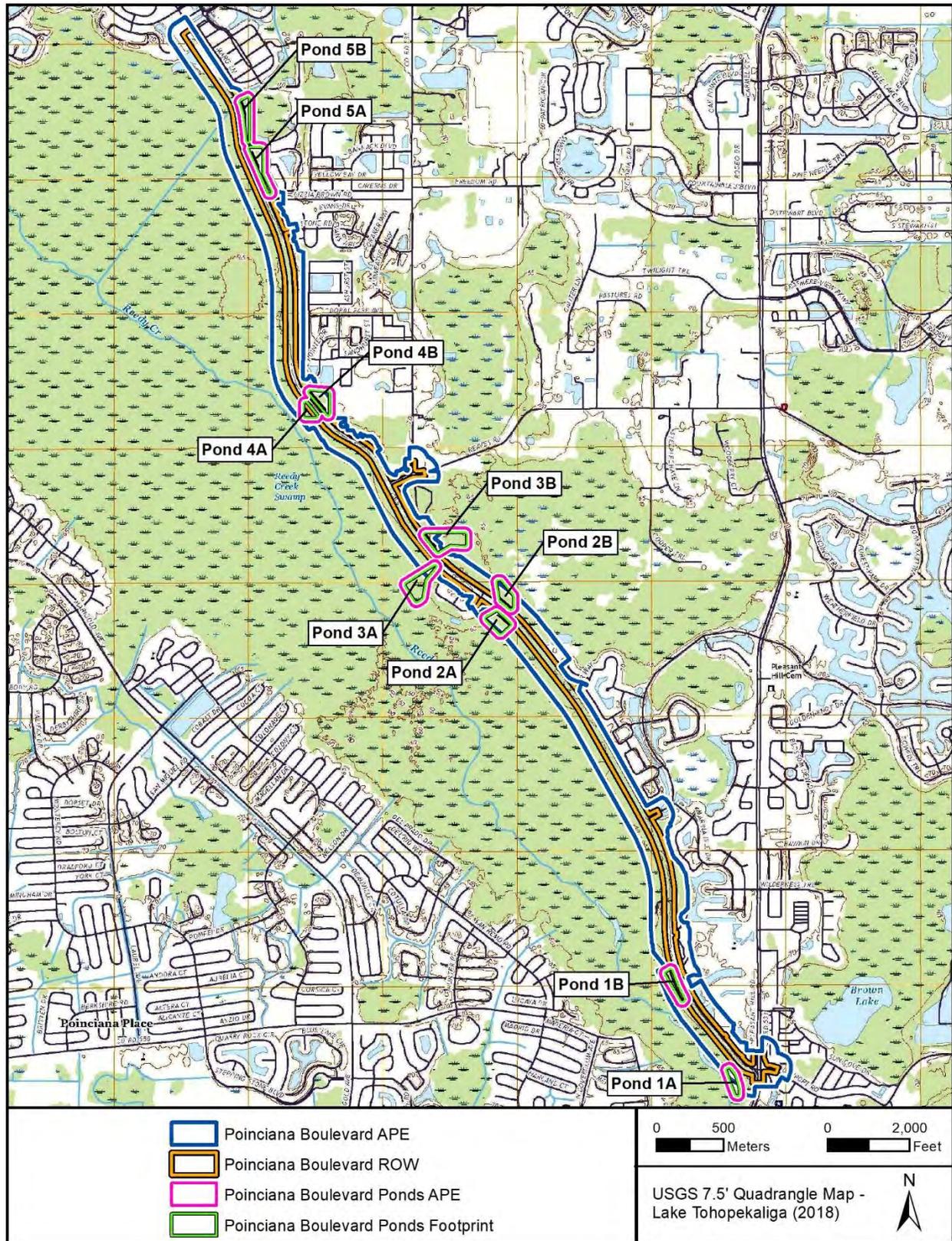


Figure 2. The Poinciana Boulevard APE, Osceola County, Florida.

PROJECT LOCATION AND ENVIRONMENT

LOCATION AND MODERN CONDITIONS

The segment of Poinciana Boulevard within the current APE is an approximately 5.9-mile (9.5-kilometer) long corridor located near the community of Poinciana in western Osceola County, Florida. Housing developments and commercial businesses line the east side of the corridor, while Lake Marion Creek Wildlife Management Area abuts the west side. Ten proposed retention ponds are scattered along the length of Poinciana Boulevard; together, the pond footprints encompass 46.01 acres (Table 1).

Table 1. Soil Drainage in the Poinciana Boulevard APE.

Name	Drainage	Acreage
Poinciana Boulevard	Primarily poorly or very poorly drained; small pockets of somewhat poorly drained or moderately well drained soils	187
Pond 1A	Very poorly drained	2.64
Pond 1B	Poorly drained and very poorly drained	3.23
Pond 2A	Somewhat poorly drained and poorly drained	4.78
Pond 2B	Somewhat poorly drained and poorly drained	4.51
Pond 3A	Somewhat poorly drained to very poorly drained	6.74
Pond 3B	Somewhat poorly drained and poorly drained; small sliver of moderately well drained soils at the south end	8.51
Pond 4A	Poorly drained and very poorly drained	2.10
Pond 4B	Poorly drained and very poorly drained	4.55
Pond 5A	Poorly drained	4.95
Pond 5B	Poorly drained and very poorly drained	4.00

The APE falls within Sections 14, 23, 25, 26, and 36 of Township 26 South, Range 28 East; Section 31 of Township 26 South, Range 29 East; and Sections 6, 7, and 8 of Township 27 South, Range 29 East. Beginning east of Pleasant Hill Road, the project corridor follows Poinciana Boulevard northward, terminating approximately 200 feet (61 meters) south of Trafalgar Boulevard. The relatively flat terrain crossed by the corridor consists of elevations ranging from 65 to 140 feet (19.8 to 42.7 meters) above mean sea level (amsl). Geologically, the Poinciana Boulevard APE is part of the Kissimmee Valley physiographic province (Brooks 1981), which is part of the larger Eastern Flatwoods District. This region consists of seasonally flooded lowlands with river swamps and grassland prairies. Soils within the APE are primarily poorly drained Basinger, Myakka, and Immokalee fine sands (see Table 1; Figures 3 and 4). The length of the corridor runs roughly parallel to Reedy Creek, intersecting the creek near the intersection of Poinciana Boulevard and Pleasant Hill Road.

PALEOENVIRONMENT

Between 18,000 to 12,000 years before present (BP), Florida was a much cooler and drier place than it is today. Melting of the continental ice sheets led to a major global rise in sea level

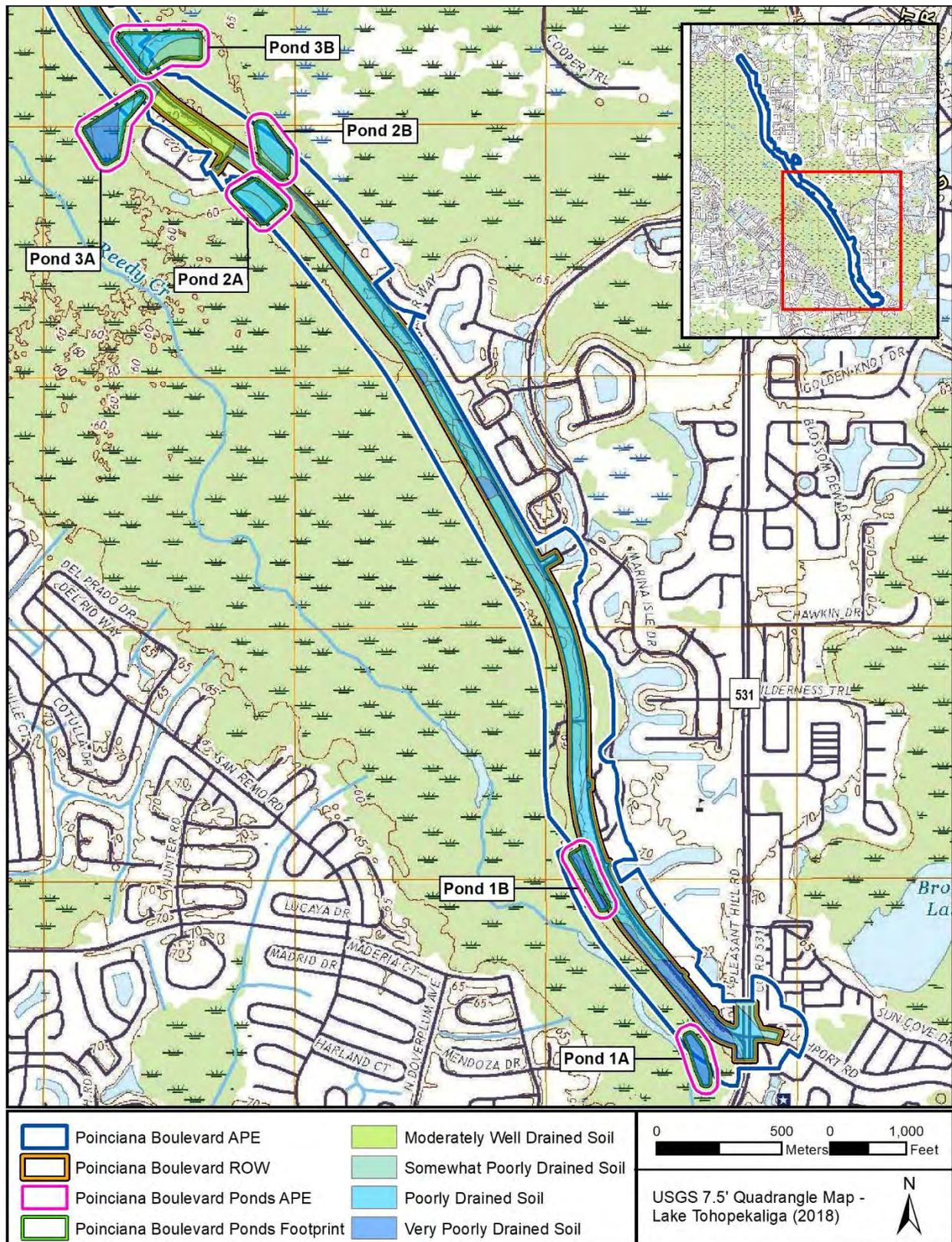


Figure 3. Soil drainage within the Poinciana Boulevard APE, map 1 of 2.

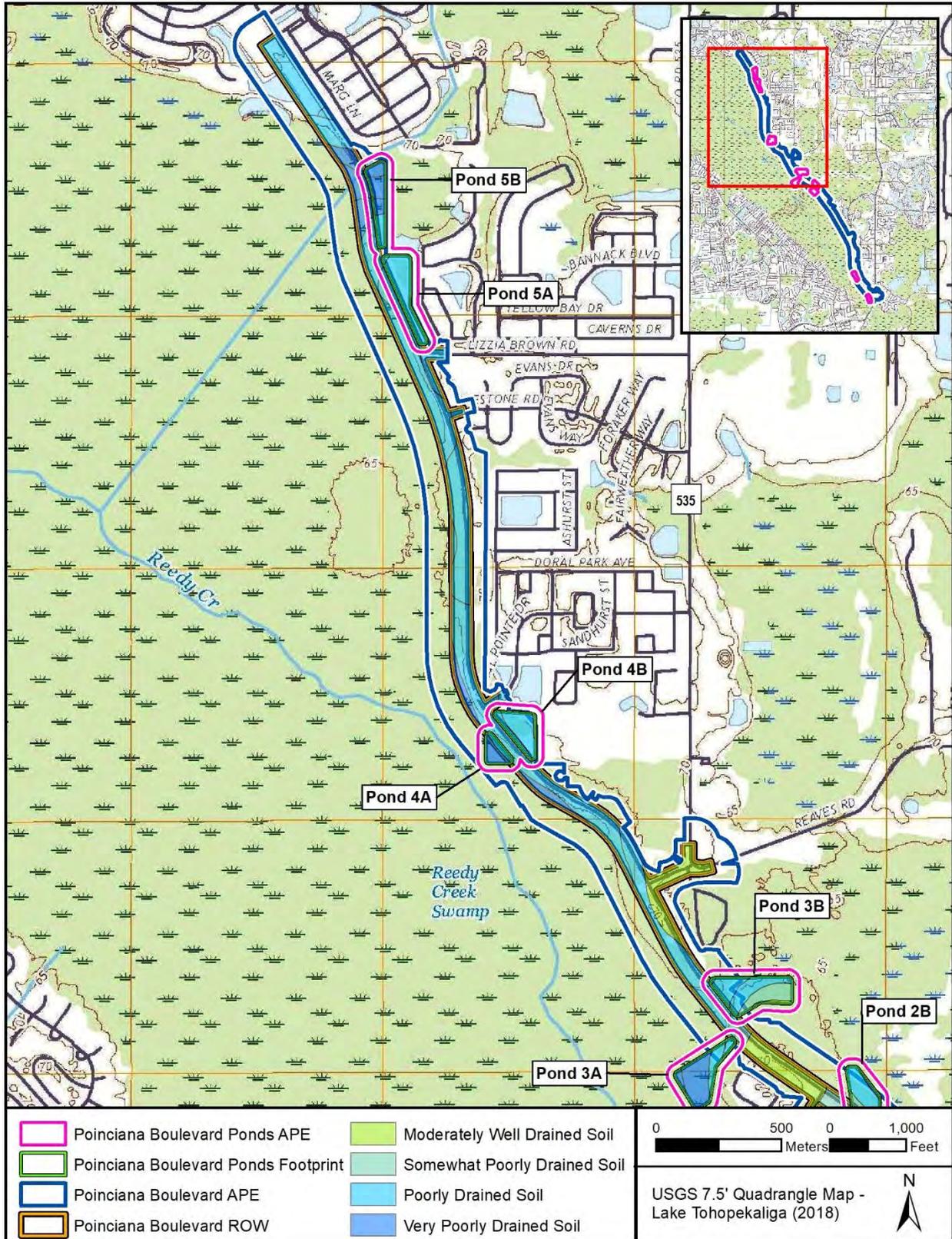


Figure 4. Soil drainage within the Poinciana Boulevard APE, map 2 of 2.

(summarized for long time scales by Rohling et al. 1998) that started from a low stand of -120 meters at 18,000 BP. The rise was slow while glacial conditions prevailed at high latitudes but became very rapid in the latest Pleistocene and earliest Holocene. It became warmer and wetter rather rapidly during the next three millennia. By about 9000 BP, a warmer and drier climate began to prevail. These changes were more drastic in northern Florida and southern Georgia than in southern Florida, where the “peninsular effect” and a more tropically influenced climate tempered the effects of the continental glaciers that were melting far to the north (Watts 1969, 1971, 1975, 1980). Sea levels, though higher, were still much lower than at present; surface water was limited, and extensive grasslands probably existed, which may have attracted mammoth, bison, and other large grazing mammals. By 6000–5000 BP, the climate had changed to one of increased precipitation and surface water flow. By the late Holocene, ca. 4000 BP, the climate, water levels, and plant communities of Florida attained essentially modern conditions. These have been relatively stable with only minor fluctuations during the past 4,000 years.

HISTORIC OVERVIEW

NATIVE AMERICAN CULTURE HISTORY

The Native American prehistoric period of east-central Florida is characterized by a four-part chronology spanning more than 12,000 years, with each period based on distinct cultural and technological characteristics recognized by archaeologists. A fifth Native American period also is recognized beginning with the advent of European contact. From oldest to most recent, the five temporal Native American periods are Paleoindian, Archaic, Woodland, Mississippian, and Contact/Mission (protohistoric/historic); however, it is not until the Middle to Late Archaic Mount Taylor period (about 6,000 years ago) that the region witnessed intensive occupation.

Paleoindian Period (12,000–8000 BC)

The traditional model for the peopling of the New World argues that Asian populations migrated to North America over the Beringia land bridge that formerly linked Siberia and Alaska, some 12,000 years ago. However, data are mounting in support of migrations that date to before 12,000 years ago. Moreover, there is a growing body of research and empirical evidence to indicate connections between the Clovis culture in eastern North America and the Solutrean culture of southwest Europe. Data in support of the Solutrean migrations consist of the early radiocarbon dates in the eastern United States with progressively younger dates in the western United States and technological similarities between the stone tools of the Clovis and Solutrean cultures (Bradley and Stanford 2004). Regardless of the direction of migrations or precise timing of the first occupations of the New World, there is no definitive evidence that Florida was inhabited by humans prior to about 10,000 years ago. Although limited, radiocarbon dates from Paleoindian sites in western Florida date to between 10,000 and 7500 BC (Clausen et al. 1979; Cockrell and Murphy 1978; Dunbar et al. 1988). The conventional view of Paleoindian existence

in Florida is that the Paleoindians were nomadic hunters and gatherers who entered into an environment quite different than that of the present.

Excavations at the Harney Flats site in Hillsborough County have altered this view, and many archaeologists believe that Paleoindian people in Florida were not as far wandering, living part of the year in habitation sites that were located near critical resources such as fresh water. The climate during the Paleoindian period was cooler than at present and the land drier, with coastal sea levels and the inland water table much lower than at present (Carbone 1983; Watts and Hansen 1988). The paucity of potable water sources is thought by some archaeologists to have played a crucial role in the distribution of Paleoindian bands across the landscape. They hypothesize that human groups frequented sinkholes and springs to collect water and exploit the flora and fauna that also were attracted to these locations (Dunbar 1991; Milanich 1994; Webb et al. 1984). Further, many of these freshwater sources were located in areas of exposed Tertiary-age limestone that had become silicified, providing the Paleoindians with a raw material source (chert) for tool manufacture. Thus, it is thought that permanent freshwater sources (sinkholes and springs) along with locations of high-quality chert were primary factors influencing Paleoindian settlement patterns in Florida.

Material culture of the Paleoindian period consists of a limited number of temporally diagnostic projectile points, primarily the Clovis, Suwannee, and Simpson types. Formal unifacial tools, most notably end- and side-scrapers, also are common in Paleoindian assemblages along with blade tools, utilized flakes, and, occasionally, bola stones. Florida's rivers have produced aspects of Paleoindian material culture not recoverable in most other regions of North America, notably tools of bone and ivory. Among these are various pins and points as well as foreshafts, which are believed to have been employed in attaching projectile points to spears, allowing for new points to be "reloaded" into the spear shaft (Milanich 1994:49).

Archaic Period (8000–500 BC)

Around 8000 BC, the environment and physiography of Florida underwent some pronounced changes due to climatic amelioration. These changes were interconnected and include a gradual warming trend, a rise in sea levels, a reduction in the width of peninsular Florida, and the spread of oak-dominated forests and hammocks throughout much of Florida (Milanich 1994; Smith 1986). Concomitant with these environmental changes were alterations in native subsistence strategies, which became more diverse due to the emergence of new plant, animal, and aquatic regimes. Also occurring at this time was a significant increase in population numbers and density, with native groups developing regional habitat-specific adaptations and material assemblages (Milanich 1994; Smith 1986:10). As conditions became wetter, coastal, riparian, and lacustrine adaptations became increasingly more common. The Archaic period is typically divided into the Early, Middle, and Late subperiods by archaeologists.

Early Archaic (8000–6000 BC)

The early Holocene era was marked by changes in the climate, which began to approach that of today, although the change was gradual and took several thousand years. Sea levels also began

to rise, inundating land that was previously exposed and gradually reducing the landmass of the state. The shift toward a warmer, less arid climate resulted in changes in the types and distributions of plants and animals. For example, many of the large Pleistocene mammals hunted by Paleoindians, such as mastodon, ground sloth, camelids, and glyptodont, became extinct by 8000 BC. As a result, the subsistence and settlement strategies of the people occupying Florida also changed, becoming more diverse and including new plant and animal species. This change in environment and human adaptation is referred to as the Archaic period, which lasted from 8000 BC to about 3000 BC.

In many ways, the Early Archaic period can be viewed as a time of transition from adaptation to the environment of the terminal Pleistocene to the more modern environment that began to establish itself around 6,000 to 7,000 years ago. Consequently, there is a certain amount of continuity in settlement patterns and technology with the preceding Paleoindian cultures. Many Early Archaic sites are found in similar locales, such as near permanent water sources in the karst region of the state. In addition, the Early Archaic stone technology is very similar to that of the Paleoindian period, particularly the use of large, unifacial scrapers, bifacial cores, and a dependence on high-quality siliceous stone for tool making. One obvious difference between the Paleoindian and Early Archaic is the shift from lanceolate-shaped projectile points like the Suwannee and Simpson forms to smaller side-notched and stemmed projectile points/knives such as Bolen and Kirk (cf. Bullen 1975; Milanich 1994). The technological shift from large, lanceolate-shaped bifaces to smaller, side-notched projectiles occurred throughout the Southeast during the Pleistocene-Holocene transition, and it is often assumed that the cause for this shift was the disappearance of the large Pleistocene mammals and a greater emphasis on smaller mammals (e.g., deer) for food.

Middle Archaic (6000–3000 BC)

Further environmental changes in the Mid-Holocene coincide with the development of lifeways characteristic of the Middle Archaic. Evidence for this period is found throughout the Florida peninsula and is registered by the appearance of stemmed, triangular-bladed projectile points. Changing technology, subsistence, settlement, and mobility strategies, as well as social elaboration, emerged at this time. Projectile point types such as the Newnan, Hillsborough, Marion, Hardee, Sumter, Alachua, and Putnam are common (Smith and Bond 1984:53–55). Lithic technology, apart from the bifaces mentioned above, consists of informal modified and utilized flake tools. Where preservation allows, bone and shell tools also are found, notably in coastal and riverine shell middens, but also in submerged contexts in rivers and lakes. In rare instances, wood artifacts, textiles, and cordage are sometimes preserved, typically in submerged, anaerobic environments (Purdy 1994).

As life became more settled during the Archaic period, an array of site types evolved that included residential bases, short-term settlements, specialized procurement camps, mounds, and cemeteries (Aten 1999; Endonino 2007; Milanich 1994:75–85). For the first time, shell middens and mounds appeared along the St. Johns River and the Atlantic and Gulf Coasts, beginning some time at or around 4200 BC and coinciding with the beginning of the Mount Taylor tradition along

the St. Johns River and Atlantic Coast of Florida (McGee and Wheeler 1994). It should be noted, however, that several recent radiocarbon assays have pushed the start of Mount Taylor back a millennium to 5300 BC (Randall 2007). Subsistence can be characterized as broad spectrum or generalized foraging, taking advantage of a wide variety of terrestrial and aquatic food resources. Freshwater and marine aquatic resources figured prominently in the subsistence practices of Middle Archaic peoples, and once established, this pattern lasted for several millennia (Austin et al. 2002; McGee and Wheeler 1994; Russo et al. 1992). Figuring prominently into the diet of Middle Archaic hunter-gatherers are freshwater fishes, such as largemouth bass, bowfin, sunfishes, and gar, and several species of turtle. During this period, shellfish enter into the diet and include freshwater snails and several species of mussel. Along the Atlantic and Gulf Coasts, marine shellfish also were collected and consumed, notably oyster and coquina clams. Once the use of these resources became established, they persisted throughout the duration of the pre-Columbian historical sequence. A variety of plants, nuts, and fruits were eaten (Newsom 1994).

Late Archaic (3000–500 BC)

Increased sedentism and more circumscribed territories continued into the Late Archaic period, as environmental and climatic conditions approached those of today. According to Milanich (1994:86), most of the changes during the Late Archaic are related to demography and not new lifeways. New stemmed and corner-notched projectile point types also were produced during this time and include the Culbreath, Clay, Lafayette, and Levy (Bullen 1975). A major technological innovation of the Late Archaic was the development of fired-clay pottery around 2100 BC. Referred to as Orange pottery by archaeologists, this early ceramic ware was tempered with plant fibers (Spanish moss) (Bullen 1972; Griffin 1945). Orange fiber-tempered ceramics were first described by Jeffries Wyman (1875) and Clarence Moore (1893). During a span of approximately 600 years, plain, incised, and punctated types were produced and are now known to be contemporaneous (Sassaman 2003a), undermining the previous chronology established by Bullen (1972). With regard to vessel form, pots were both hand molded and coiled and are both thick and thin walled and basin shaped. People belonging to the Orange culture lived along the St. Johns River in Florida, but fiber-tempered pottery can be found along the Atlantic Coast between southern South Carolina and southeast Florida. While fiber-tempered pottery is found throughout Florida, it is concentrated in the eastern and central portions of the state.

There has been a growing recognition in recent years that St. Johns pottery, with its characteristic spiculate-tempered paste and chalky feel, has its origins in the Late Archaic and, in fact, is slightly older than Orange pottery. St. Johns pottery has been dated to 2200 BC at Tick Island (Jenks 2006) and also has been found in association with Late Archaic-aged radiocarbon dates (1400 BC) from the southeast coast of Florida (Russo and Heide 2002). St. Johns Plain and Incised pottery has been found in secure stratigraphic context below the ridges at Poverty Point in Louisiana, where it was an exotic trade item. Radiocarbon dates were taken above and below a sherd of St. Johns Incised that returned dates of approximately 1040 BC and 1160 BC (Hays and Weinstein 2004:159). Along the St. Johns River and throughout much of east and central Florida, St. Johns pottery was the dominant ware from nearly the inception of pottery making until the arrival of Europeans with only minor stylistic and technological variation.

Woodland and Mississippian Periods (500 BC–AD 1565)

St. Johns Culture

St. Johns culture is first identified and characterized by chalky pottery produced between 500 BC and AD 1565; increased population and settlement numbers compared to the Archaic period; construction of sand burial mounds; continued economic dependence on aquatic resources; and greater emphasis on plant cultivation (Goggin 1952:40; Milanich 1994:243–274; Sassaman 2003b). While St. Johns ceramics are found across the peninsula, the St. Johns River drainage in central and northeastern Florida was the core area of the St. Johns culture. In eastern and central Florida, the St. Johns culture grew directly out of the preceding Orange culture. The pottery types bearing their names were essentially contemporary, though speculate-tempered St. Johns wares persist throughout prehistory. Within the St. Johns period, there are two major subdivisions (I and II).

St. Johns I

The St. Johns I period is divided into three subperiods (I, Ia, and Ib) on the basis of observable changes in material culture, most notably ceramics (Goggin 1952:40; Milanich 1994:247). People of the St. Johns I culture (500 BC–AD 100) were foragers who relied primarily on hunting, fishing, and wild-plant collecting. During this time, the resources found near freshwater wetlands, swamps, and the coastal zones were typically the most heavily exploited. St. Johns I sites are typically shell middens along the St. Johns and coastal zones. Other sites containing St. Johns Plain and Incised pottery also are found around the interior lakes in central Florida, some of which appear to be long-term habitation sites containing midden accumulations.

At St. Johns Ia sites (AD 100–500), St. Johns Plain and Incised pottery continued to be produced, and a red-painted St. Johns variant called Dunns Creek Red also was made. Exotic Hopewellian artifacts also occur in burial mounds. Weeden Island pottery (primarily a Gulf Coast type) has been recovered from late St. Johns Ia sites, apparently acquired as a trade ware. The St. Johns Ib period (AD 500–750) is similar to the Ia period, with the carryover of St. Johns Plain and Incised wares and Dunns Creek Red, but Weeden Island pottery becomes more common. However, the majority of everyday ceramics are plain. As the St. Johns culture progressed, sand mounds continued to be constructed, becoming larger through time.

St. Johns II

The St. Johns II period is further divided into three subperiods (IIa, IIb, and IIc). As populations grew, the number and size of mounds and villages increased. The emergence of check stamping marks the beginning of the St. Johns II period around AD 750 and, along with plain pottery, dominates the assemblages throughout the period. During St. Johns IIa (AD 750–1050), incised and punctated wares, possibly a reflection of Gulf Coast influences, occur with some frequency in mounds and middens. Late Weeden Island pottery continued to be traded into the St. Johns region and is recovered in sand burial mounds.

The St. Johns II culture reached its apex in terms of social, political, and ceremonial complexity during the St. Johns IIb period (AD 1050–1513). Classic Mississippian traits such as the construction of large truncated mounds and the presence of Southern Cult burial paraphernalia in association with perceived elite burials are evident (Milanich 1994; Smith 1986) indicate influence from northwest Florida. Some sand burial mounds were quite large and ceremonially complex, including truncated pyramidal mounds with ramps or causeways leading up to their summits (Milanich 1994:269–270). The rise in the number of St. Johns village and mound sites implies greater cultural complexity compared to that of the earlier St. Johns I period (Milanich 1994:267–274; Miller 1991). Shell and bone ornaments, worked copper, and other exotic materials and artifacts occur with some frequency in burial mounds (Goggin 1952; Milanich 1994).

In addition to the exploitation of aquatic resources for subsistence, it has been suggested that there was an increased dependence on horticulture during St. Johns II times (Goggin 1952; Milanich 1994:263–264). In fact, sixteenth-century French and Spanish documents allege that beans, squash, and maize were heavily cultivated by the Timucua of northern Florida (Bennett 1964, 1968, 1975; Lawson 1992), although direct evidence of prehistoric horticulture is lacking for the east and central region.

Contact Period

St. Johns IIc (AD 1513–1565) represents the protohistoric period and is characterized by the introduction of European artifacts. Prior to the founding of St. Augustine by Pedro Menéndez de Avilés in 1565, the Spaniards made several forays into Florida, beginning with Juan Ponce de León in 1513 (Davis 1935). Except for the natives' intermittent exposure to European goods and diseases, St. Johns IIc seems to represent a continuation of the earlier St. Johns II period. Items such as glass beads, European pottery, hawk's bells, mirrors, metal hoes, axes, and chisels have been recovered in association with St. Johns IIc burials. Other metals such as copper, silver, and gold also were acquired and reworked by native artisans.

In order to convert the local natives to Christianity, the Spanish established a series of Franciscan missions between St. Augustine and Tallahassee as well as in south Florida along both coasts and the St. Johns River. Cattle ranches were established as a way of supporting the missions and the colonists in St. Augustine.

The native groups living in the project vicinity at the time of Spanish contact were known as the Mayacas and Jororos, named for the larger villages in the region and their chiefs. These groups subsisted primarily by hunting animals; collecting locally available root, nuts, fruits, and tubers; and fishing (Milanich 1995:68). Mayaca and Jororo peoples lived in an area defined by the areas directly and indirectly under their control, broadly described as the area extending from the southern end of Lake George to the Atlantic Coast, and from Orlando eastward to Cape Canaveral (Hann 1993:112). The Mayacas and Jororos spoke Mayacan, a language distinct from Timucuan, and appear to have been tied linguistically and politically to the Ais and other peoples of south-central Florida.

Spanish records document four large Jororo villages in the central lakes region: Jororo, Atissimi, Atoyquime, and Piaja. The Spanish established missions in the largest of these villages. Efforts to missionize the Jororos were not successful. In 1696, Friar Luis Sanchez was killed along with a local chief and two boys who had been converted to Christianity at the mission at Atoyquime (Hann 1996:244). The Spanish retaliated and captured the natives involved, but many of the Jororos had already left the area and moved to the St. Augustine area (Hann 1993:130–131).

Little is known about the material culture of the Mayaca and Jororo peoples. They were similar to the Ais in several respects, but shared the St. Johns ceramic assemblage of their northern Timucuan-speaking neighbors (Hann 1993:118–119). There was some contact with the Spanish mission system in the late seventeenth century, but most Spanish artifacts have been recovered from burial contexts. None of the village sites identified in the Spanish documents have been identified, and there are no known and recorded Mayaca and Jororo village sites.

After the destruction of the mission system by the British in 1702, central and north Florida were essentially abandoned, as the few remaining natives fled to St. Augustine for safety (Milanich 1995). Warfare and disease decimated the native Florida populations. Groups of Creek natives began to move south into an unpopulated central Florida from Georgia and Alabama after being pushed off their ancestral lands by European pressure and inter-Creek warfare. These people settled in Spanish Florida and utilized some of the feral cattle abandoned by the Spanish 50 years before. They later became known as the Seminole.

POST-CONTACT HISTORY

Early Exploration, 1513–1565

This historic context presents an overview of Osceola County from the early period of European contact to recent times. Florida served as an important stage for early European explorations of North America. Juan Ponce de León left Puerto Rico on March 3, 1513, and landed either north of Cape Canaveral (Brevard County) (Milanich 1995) or south of the Cape near modern-day Melbourne Beach (Brevard County) on April 2, 1513 (Gannon 1996). Either landing spot puts Ponce de León east of present-day Osceola County. Despite the fact that the area had already been occupied and inhabited for thousands of years by indigenous groups, Ponce de León claimed Florida for Spain. Ponce de León called this land *La Florida*, since it was sighted during the Feast of Flowers (*Pascua Florida*) (Milanich 1995). Ponce de León was followed by Pánfilo de Narváez in 1528. Narváez landed near Tampa Bay and trekked into the interior of Florida, reaching the Apalachee region of west Florida in several months. He died later in the year when his fleet of ships sank en route to Mexico. Two survivors, Cabeza de Vaca and his companion, Estevan, began their 10-year trek from northwestern Florida across southern North America, representing the first contact of Europeans with many indigenous groups of the Southeast and Southwest (Clayton et al. 1995).

Cabeza de Vaca's account of his journey influenced subsequent explorers, particularly Hernando de Soto. In 1539, the de Soto expedition entered the peninsula near Bradenton (Manatee County), Florida, and traveled northward through the peninsula, though it is unlikely they traveled as far east as Osceola County. After some time traveling north, de Soto turned westward, going as far as Tallahassee, then turned north into what is now Georgia (Carswell 1991). First Spanish contact with many natives of central Florida, including the Ais and Mayaca of present-day Osceola County, may have happened in the 1560s with the arrival of Pedro Menéndez de Avilés and the first permanent Spanish settlements at St. Augustine. Menéndez's travels served to secure the territory for Spain and to ward off French interests in the peninsula. His attempts to rid the area of French influence and establish coastal settlements also took him inland to the lands of central Florida (Lyon 1996).

First Spanish Period, 1565–1763

Early Spanish settlements in Florida were concentrated on the coasts and in the northern half of the peninsula. Menéndez had been ordered by the crown to implement a massive missionizing effort among the natives. He petitioned the Jesuit Order for missionaries, and they arrived in St. Augustine in June 1566 (Thomas 1990). The Jesuits focused their missionizing efforts on the native villages around St. Augustine, along the lower St. Johns River, and among the Guales and Oristas who lived farther north. A few missions were established in central Florida during the early seventeenth century, but were soon abandoned (Deagan 1978; Milanich 1995). A line of missions was established linking St. Augustine on the east coast to the Apalachee province in the panhandle. However, this focus on the northern and coastal regions meant little Spanish activity in the early period in present-day Osceola County (Wickman 1999).

By the 1690s, the Spanish actively sought to set up missions among the Jororo natives, who the Spanish combined in their writings with the Mayaca, as both spoke a similar language. The Spanish traveled down the St. Johns River into Mayaca territory (Seminole and Lake Counties, and possibly Osceola County) and then further south to the Jororo (Orange and Osceola Counties). This area was so far from established Spanish settlements that the Spaniards called the Mayaca and Jororo region *la rinconada*, meaning "a corner or nook, a place away from major activities" (Milanich 1995:63-64). The Spanish showed little interest in the area until the late 1600s, particularly after the decline of native populations in other parts of the territory.

British Colonial Period, 1763–1784

The English, who had settled in Charleston, South Carolina, began pushing for more territory and influenced the natives to overthrow the Spanish in Florida (Tebeau 1981). In response, the Spanish began building a stone fort in St. Augustine, forcing Apalachee natives to provide labor for its construction (Paisley 1989). During the ever-shifting alliances between Native American groups and various colonial groups, the Spanish began courting Creeks to settle in the once-thriving Apalachee region. Many accepted the invitation after the British defeated the Creeks in the Yamasee War of 1715 (Paisley 1989).

The Spanish mission system caused a drastic decline in the Native American populations in Florida. Their numbers dropped significantly due to war and disease, and this allowed the Creek from Georgia and the Carolinas to migrate into the area. In 1765, these migrating natives were referred to with the Spanish term *cimarrón*, meaning “wild” or “runaway,” in the field notes accompanying de Brahm’s 1765 map of Florida. The *cimarrón* natives moved into wild, unsettled territories (Fairbanks 1975). The name “Seminole” is thought to have derived from this reference (Fernald and Purdum 1992).

The British continued to vie for Florida, but not until the Seven Years’ War with Spain and England on opposing sides did the British realize their dream. At the end of the war in 1763, the British traded their recent conquest of Havana to Spain for the Florida peninsula. The new acquisition was divided along the Apalachicola River into East and West Florida. Present-day Osceola County was part of East Florida, whose capital was at St. Augustine (Wright 1975).

Second Spanish Period, 1784–1821

The American colonies declared their independence from British rule in 1776. Georgia and South Carolina required their citizens to take a strict oath of loyalty to the cause of the American colonies, thus forcing many British loyalists to seek shelter in British Florida (Wright 1975). In 1783, the Treaty of Paris ended the American Revolution and returned Florida to Spain. In the early decades of the nineteenth century, the United States was increasing pressure on Spain to surrender its claim to Florida. Rising conflict often involved the British, Native Americans of the region, as well as runaway slaves who had found refuge in Florida. Andrew Jackson’s invasion of Florida in 1818 highlighted Spain’s weak control over the region and led to the transfer of the territory to the United States several years later. During the First Seminole War, Jackson marched into Pensacola and across the Florida panhandle. Though the move was criticized by many in the United States, it led to Spain’s cession of Florida to the United States in 1821. Jackson’s move also drove the Seminole deeper into the interior of Florida, including places like Osceola County (Coker and Parker 1996).

American Territorial Period, 1821–1845

Orange County was created in 1824 as the eleventh county in a massive reorganizing of the Florida territory. Initially known as Mosquito County, it was created from St. Johns County and covered a broad territory, including parts of present-day Osceola, Brevard, Flagler, Indian River, Lake, Marion, Martin, Palm Beach, Seminole, and Volusia Counties (Drayton 1827; Porter et al. 2009). Much of what is now Osceola County lay within the boundaries of the Seminole Reservation that the United States had established by the Treaty of Moultrie Creek in 1823. The treaty restricted the Seminole to just over 4.0 million acres of land in the center of the state (Mahon 1985). The treaty was unpopular with the Seminole because they believed the land was not suited for cultivation. Subsequent treaties were equally unpopular. This dissatisfaction led to the Second Seminole War (1835–1842). During this conflict, several forts were established in the region (Mahon 1985; Roberts 1988).

Following the Second Seminole War, the US government attempted to encourage settlement by passing the Armed Occupation Act in 1842. The act made available for homesteading 200,000 acres of land that was once the Seminole Reservation. Homesteads of 160 acres were awarded to any head of a family or single man, 18 years of age or older, who would agree to cultivate at least 5.0 acres, build a dwelling, and defend the land for five years. The Homestead Acts of 1866 and 1876 provided further incentives to settlers (Tebeau 1981). A cattleman from Georgia named Aaron Jernigan was among the early pioneers who ventured into present-day central Florida. Well-versed in fighting territorial battles with Native Americans from his time in Georgia, Jernigan set out to conquer this new land in Florida. He first traveled to Tallahassee and then moved to the central portion of the state where he built a stockade near Lake Holden and a small settlement emerged around it. The settlement was known as Jernigan and later became present-day Orlando (Bacon 1975).

Early Statehood and Civil War, 1845–1865

Florida gained admission to the Union as the twenty-seventh state in March 1845 (Schafer 1996). Soon after, Mosquito County was renamed Orange County by an act of the new legislature. In 1856, the county seat was moved from the village of Enterprise to Orlando. The population in the county was miniscule at the time of statehood; however, it would continue to increase during the next few decades, reaching nearly 1,000 by the start of the Civil War. The population of Orange County, inclusive of present-day Osceola, remained sparse, and conditions were frontier-like for decades to come. County infrastructure was so poor that, until 1872, convicted criminals had to be jailed in Ocala (Marion County) because Orange County had no such facility. The dominant economic activity of the area remained cattle ranching until after the Civil War (Blackman 1927). Perhaps the first settler in the vicinity of present-day Kissimmee, Jimmie Yates, arrived in the 1850s (Crow 1987:24).

Florida seceded from the United States and joined the Confederacy in January 1861. Most of Florida's involvement in the Civil War (1861–1865) was relegated to the coastal regions, where Union forces raided and occupied Florida coastal communities at will. Though Orange County did send men to join the Confederate Army as soldiers, no major battles were fought in and around this central county of the state (Bacon 1975).

Late Nineteenth Century, 1865–1900

Settlement in much of Orange County, particularly the area that is now Osceola County, remained sparse in the post-Civil War years. A breakthrough came in 1881 that would lead the former trading post of Kissimmee—later the seat of Osceola County—to arise as a regional center for commerce and transportation. In that year, Hamilton Disston, a wealthy Philadelphia industrialist, purchased 4.0 million acres of Florida land for \$1 million. He planned extensive drainage projects that reached southward into the Everglades. Disston established his headquarters, dubbed Kissimmee City, on the northern shore of Lake Tohopekaliga, one of the region's largest lakes that connected with the Kissimmee River (Grunwald 2006:81-88). Disston's

goal was to dredge the Kissimmee River southward to the Lake Okeechobee region. A simultaneous dredging project would push up the Caloosahatchee River out of Fort Myers in southwest Florida and unite with Lake Okeechobee. In doing so, lands adjacent to the rivers would be drained for agricultural development and a continuous waterway from Kissimmee to Fort Myers and, ultimately, the Gulf of Mexico would be achieved (Dovell 1952:598, 610, 613; Gannon 1993:65; Reeves 1989:92). Suddenly, the once-quiet cattle country was busy with new activity. By 1883, four steamships operated out of Kissimmee City, which was linked with Lake Okeechobee, Fort Myers, and the Gulf of Mexico via Disston's canals (Dovell 1952:598, 610, 613; Gannon 1993:65; Reeves 1989:92).

Once these lands were drained, Disston began work on various agricultural ventures in this same area. The main focus was on sugar cultivation and milling; in 1885, Disston bought a half-interest in an existing sugar plantation on East Lake Tohopekaliga, investing to expand the acreage of sugar cane from 20 to 1,800 and build a massive sugar mill, said to have been the largest in the country when it was first established (Crow 1987:25; Robinson and Fisk 2002). The St. Cloud Sugar Plantation, reorganized as the Florida Sugar Manufacturing Company, tripled its acreage by 1890 and was valued at \$1 million. Disston also experimented with rice cultivation on the newly drained lands, though it was much less successful and, therefore, short-lived as a venture (Crow 1987:25; Knetsch 2018:12).

Disston's sugar plantation also was instrumental in bringing rail service to Kissimmee and St. Cloud, allowing the settlements to blossom (Dovell 1952:598, 610, 613; Gannon 1993:65; Reeves 1989:92). The South Florida Railroad reached Kissimmee in the 1880s. Henry B. Plant, a wealthy entrepreneur who, like Disston, had grand plans for Florida, spearheaded the development of the railroad. Plant sought to unite Sanford (Seminole County) with Tampa and numerous points in between, including the rising town of Kissimmee. Working from both ends of the line with two crews of more than 1,000 men each, Plant completed the railroad in a little over seven months. The line was completed in 1884. All along the lines, new towns were born (Brown 1991:16-17; Dovell 1952:615; Johnson 1966:123-131). A spur from Kissimmee to St. Cloud (and then around East Lake Tohopekaliga to Narcoossee) was then built between 1886 and 1889, named the Sugar Belt Railway (*Osceola News-Gazette* 2018). The railroads focused most of the area's growth to the Lake Tohopekaliga area, leaving the areas not touched by the railroad thinly settled (Norton 1892:73).

The success of railroad and drainage projects raised the status and prosperity of Kissimmee and the surrounding areas, influencing a call among the population to break from Orange County. Brevard County also contributed lands to the formation of the new county. The State Legislature passed the act creating the Osceola County in 1887 (Morris 1995:185–186; Reeves 1989:92). Kissimmee was selected as the county seat. Osceola County was 850,942 acres in size (The Record Company 1935). Though he helped create massive growth in the area, Disston's sugar venture was destroyed by the Panic of 1893 and other financial crises during this era. Disston died in 1896, and the sugar mill was dismantled—shipped out of the area by the railroad spur built to connect it with the markets—by 1901 (*Osceola News-Gazette* 2018; Robinson and Fisk 2002).

Early Twentieth Century, 1900–1945

Osceola was a vast cattle country where, for many decades, cattlemen had ranged their herds on the open range. Fences to confine cattle to certain tracts of land became more common in the early twentieth century. The cattle fever tick was one reason that fences became more common. In the 1910s and 1920s, federal, state, and local officials in Osceola County and across the state were engaged in a full-fledged war against the fever tick, a cattle parasite that negatively impacted the quality of Florida beef cattle. Cattlemen were required to keep closer tabs on their cattle to ensure that they were treated every two weeks. Like their counterparts in other states, cattle owners were faced with new expenses that arose from the need for materials, fencing, and labor to comply with the eradication program. The state paid three cents per cow that was dipped, but many small-time cattlemen were unable to meet the rising operational costs and thereby were forced to withdraw from the business altogether (Akerman 1976:237-242). The cattle industry ultimately was successful against the cattle tick by the 1930s, although outbreaks were not unknown in later decades. The thriving industry supported Osceola County through the 1930s and 1940s. A large stockyard in Kissimmee in this period that shipped out some 6,000 cattle each year signified the importance of the industry (Florida Department of Agriculture 1927:49-50).

In the 1930s, cattle, timber, and naval stores were the most important industries in Osceola County, while other types of agriculture were beginning to spread. Timber interests were taking advantage of the county's large stands of virgin yellow pine; timber was processed into crates and other products at several mills throughout the county. The naval stores industry also relied on the county's abundant pine forests. Aside from cattle, agriculture was not extensive, although in recent years, truck farming, citrus growing, and poultry and livestock raising had increased (The Record Company 1935).

At the start of World War II in 1941, the population of Osceola County was slightly over 10,000. The main highways of the county were paved, but the vast majority of roads were unpaved (The Record Company 1935). World War II (1941–1945) left a noticeable mark on Osceola County, as many local men and women served between 1941 and 1945. Kissimmee Army Air Field opened in 1943 to serve as a training base for pilots. Located to the west of town, the airfield was the site of much activity during the war years. Nearly 2,000 men trained at the air field, which was deactivated in 1945 (Osceola County Centennial Book Committee 1987:71-73).

Postwar and Beyond, 1945–Present

The most significant change in the history of Osceola County since World War II has been population growth and development. In the 20 years after the war, the county seat of Kissimmee was still described as the cow capital of the State of Florida. In 1960, there were only 19,000 residents in the county (Mormino 2005). Planned communities were particularly popular in Florida in the postwar years; Poinciana, a planned community that spans Osceola and Polk Counties, was first plotted in the early 1960s. The General Development Corporation bought

nearly 50,000 acres of farmland near Reedy Creek, and after a number of company changes, the first homes built under the ownership of the Gulf American Land Corporation beginning in 1972. The community was marketed as a planned retirement development based around a golf course and country club. The development again changed hands in the 1980s, with Avatar Holdings taking the reins, though the area saw little growth through the 1990s, totaling less than 10,000 residents. The population then skyrocketed in the early twenty-first century, with more than 50,000 people living in Poinciana by 2010, and the area became a general housing community as opposed to retirement only (Tutas 2007; US Census Bureau 2010).

The development of Walt Disney World, the entrance for which was 10 miles (16.1 kilometers) away from Kissimmee, was completed in 1971. A service economy quickly arose in Kissimmee and the surrounding area to serve the crowds of tourists who visited the theme park. Motels, hotels, fast food establishments, and new roads appeared, bringing new jobs and businesses to the county. Occupations changed to the point that only a few hundred residents were involved in agriculture in recent years (Mormino 2005). Coupled with the construction of Interstate 4 (I-4), I-75, and the Florida Turnpike, Osceola County has experienced extensive growth and development in recent decades (Reeves 1989:93).

BACKGROUND RESEARCH

FLORIDA MASTER SITE FILE REVIEW

Florida Master Site File (FMSF) data from July 2020 were reviewed to identify any previously recorded cultural resources within the APE. The FMSF review indicates that 10 cultural resource surveys have been conducted within the Poinciana Boulevard APE (Table 2). Of these, the most relevant to the current project are FMSF Survey Nos. 13615 and 17026. FMSF Survey No. 13615 was a corridor survey conducted by SEARCH in 2006 along Poinciana Boulevard, ending just within the northern portion of the current APE. FMSF Survey No. 17026 was a large tract survey conducted within the Lake Marion Wildlife Management Area. Neither study included substantial testing or architectural history survey within the APE.

Table 2. Previous Cultural Resource Surveys within the Poinciana Boulevard APE.

FMSF No.	Title	Year	Reference
4234	Cultural Resource Assessment Survey of a Portion of County Road 531 West of Lake Tohopekaliga, Osceola County, Florida	1995	Janus Research
7181	Cultural Resources Survey and Assessment, Trafalgar Project, Osceola County, Florida	2002	SouthArc Inc.
9285	Cultural Resource Survey and Assessment, Poinciana RV-Mini Storage Facility, Osceola County, Florida	2003	SouthArc Inc.
9754	Cultural Resource Survey and Assessment, Bellalago-West Master Planned Community, Osceola County, Florida	2004	SouthArc Inc.
13179	Cultural Resource Survey and Assessment, Lizzie Brown Development, Osceola County, Florida	2006	SouthArc Inc.

Table 2. Previous Cultural Resource Surveys within the Poinciana Boulevard APE.

FMSF No.	Title	Year	Reference
13573	Phase I Survey of the Lowe's of Poinciana Project Area in Osceola County, Florida	2006	Panamerican Consultants Inc.
13615	Cultural Resource Assessment Survey of Poinciana Boulevard from US 17/92 to 1400 Feet South of Crescent Lakes Way, Osceola County, Florida	2006	SEARCH
17026	A Phase I Cultural Resource Survey of the Catfish Point, Johnson Island, Lake Marion Creek, and Upper Reedy Creek Management Areas, Osceola and Polk Counties, Florida	2009	Archaeological and Historical Conservancy Inc.
23097	Cultural Resource Assessment Survey, Overstreet Property, Osceola County, Florida	2016	Archaeological Consultants Inc.
26805	Cultural Resource Assessment, Green Lakes Farm Property, Osceola County, Florida	2019	Archaeological Consultants Inc.

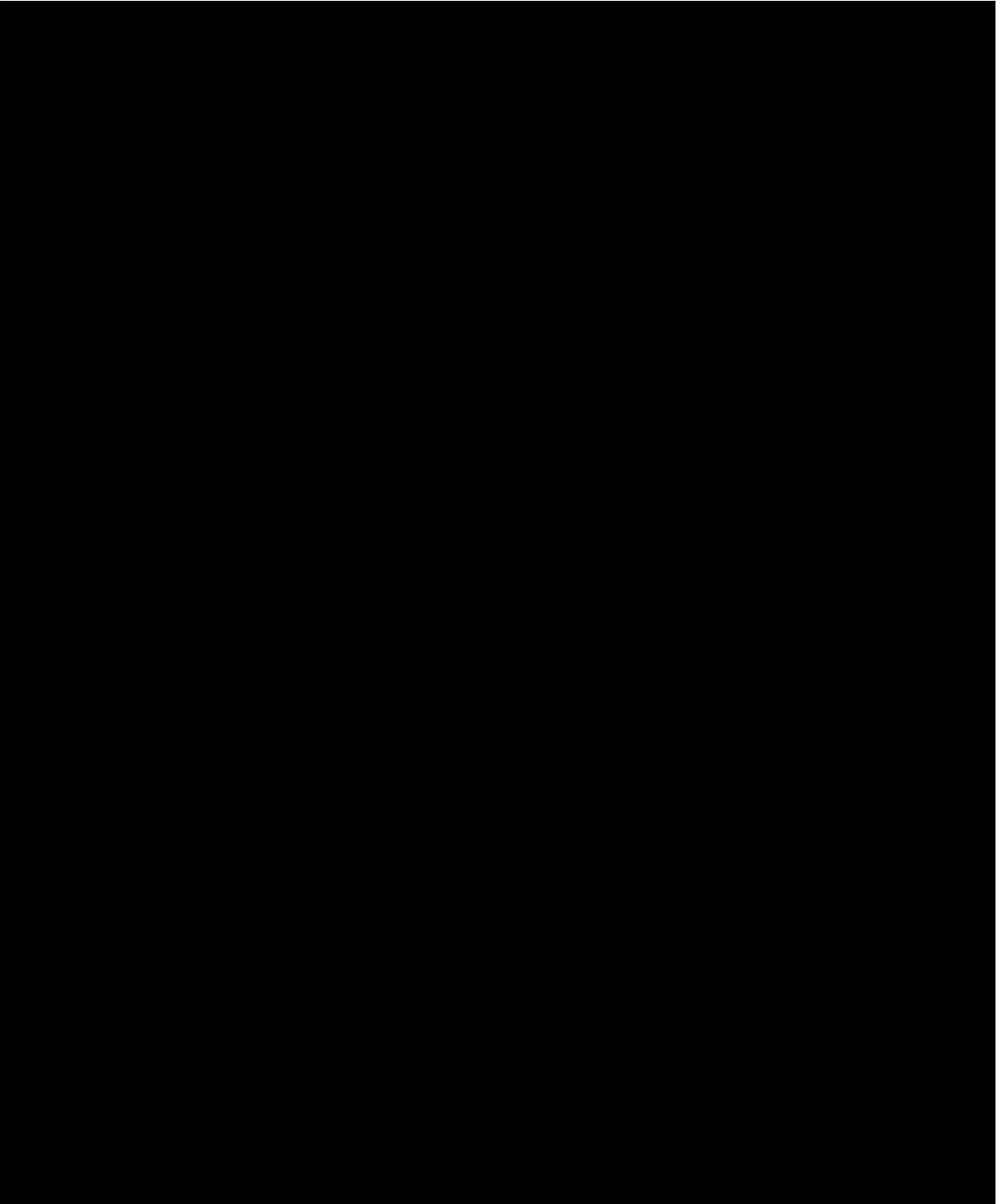
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

HISTORIC MAP AND AERIAL PHOTOGRAPH REVIEW

Historic maps and aerial photographs were examined in order to identify past land use in the vicinity of the Poinciana Boulevard APE. The earliest maps consulted were General Land Office (GLO) survey maps. The GLO maps were created by government land surveyors during the nineteenth century as part of the surveying, platting, and sale of public lands and characteristically show landscape features such as vegetation, bodies of water, roads, and other



features. GLO maps of Florida Township 26 South, Ranges 28 and 29 East and Township 27 South, Ranges 28 and 29 East created in the 1840s show few signs of development within the APE. One small trail is illustrated crossing through the south-central portion of the APE in Section 31 of Township 26 South, Range 29 East and Section 6 of Township 27 South, Range 29 East. The APE appears to follow the east side of (and often crosses onto) a large swamp or marsh. No other features of note are illustrated (**Figure 6**) (GLO 1844, 1848, 1849a, 1849b).

An 1890 map of Osceola County illustrates Reedy Creek following a route that likely accounts for the large area of swampland evident on the GLO maps. A railroad connects Kissimmee with Campbell and continues into Polk County and a north-south roadway runs along the western bank of Lake Tohopekaliga, though they are depicted north and east of the APE, respectively (Norton 1890). By 1917, the road on the west side of the lake followed a path more similar to present-day Pleasant Hill Road/County Road (CR) 531; the current iteration of this road only intersects the very southern end of the APE. Another roadway traveling south from Campbell and connecting with this first road also is illustrated, though it is unclear if it would have crossed through the APE (Florida State Road Department [FSRD] 1917). Though neither of these roads is evident on the 1926 state road map, a 1935 highway map of the county illustrates both, with present-day CR 531 shown as a second-class, paved road (FSRD 1926, 1935).

Aerial photographs from the 1940s show that both of these transportation lines did cross into the APE boundaries. The southbound road from Campbell passes into the north-central portion of the APE, turns east-northeast out of the APE, and eventually travels east to connect with today's CR 531. The latter passes north-south through the far southern portion of the APE; another road connects with this highway within the APE and travels eastward and away from the current project boundaries. No roadway is evident running through the length of the APE. Though development is apparent on the east side of the APE, particularly groves and farmsteads, none of these clearly cross into the APE, much of which is covered by the swampland associated with Reedy Creek (**Figure 7**) (US Department of Agriculture [USDA] 1944).

A topographic map from 1954 confirms these features and offers few additional features. The southbound road from Campbell crosses through the APE as described above, and the highway in the southern portion is labeled SR 531; however, after the highway passes into the APE, it is illustrated as a "light duty" as opposed to "medium duty" road. The eastbound road branching off from the end of SR 531 also is illustrated within the APE. Groves are illustrated on the east side of the APE, though again, none appear to cross into the current project boundaries. The swampland is labeled as Reedy Creek Swamp and does overlap significant portions of the APE (**Figure 8**) (US Geological Survey [USGS] 1954). No changes are readily apparent on a 1973 updated topographic map; by this point, no road traveling through the APE in the manner of present-day Poinciana Boulevard had been constructed (**Figure 9**) (USGS 1973).

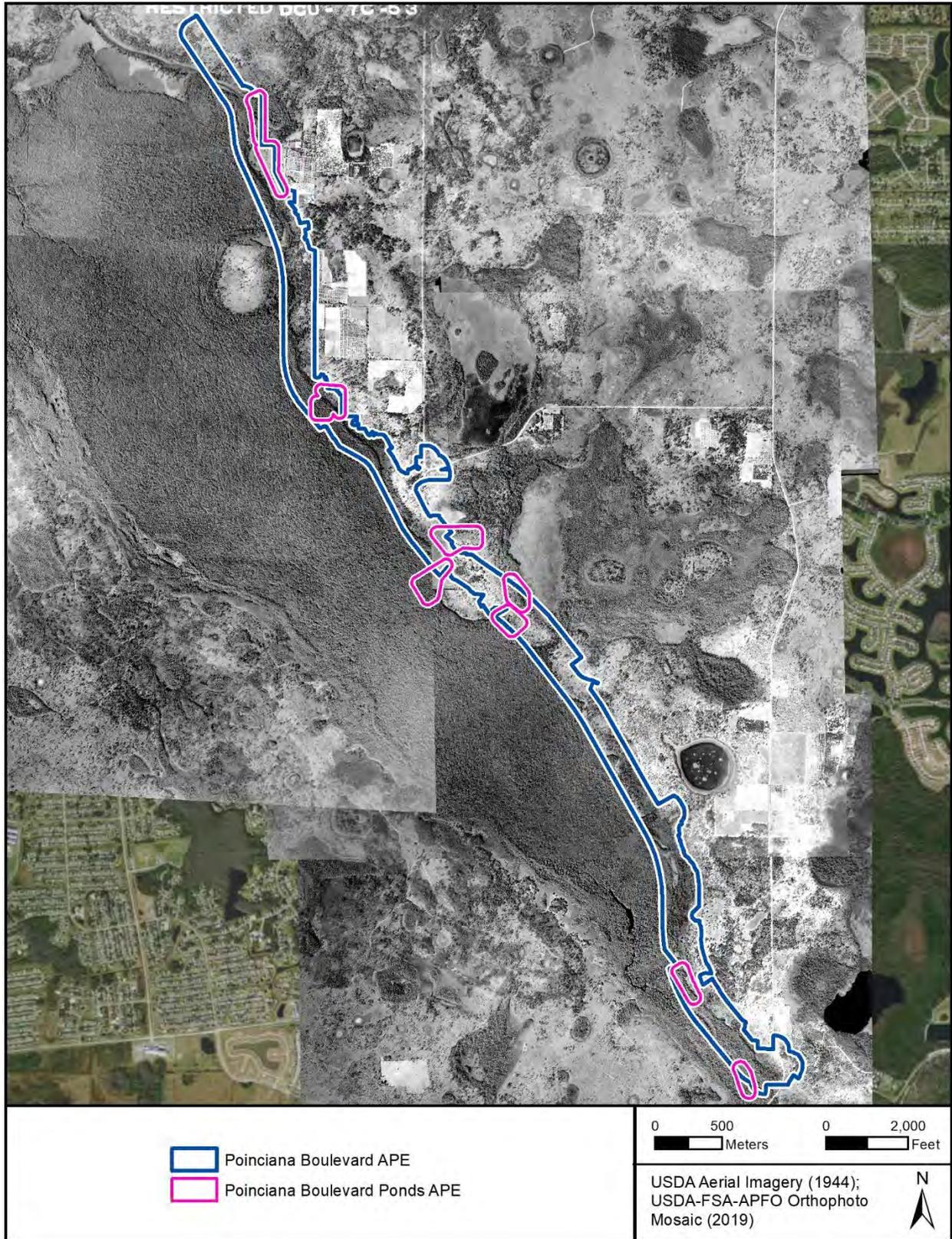


Figure 7. 1944 USDA aerial photographs of Osceola County, Florida.

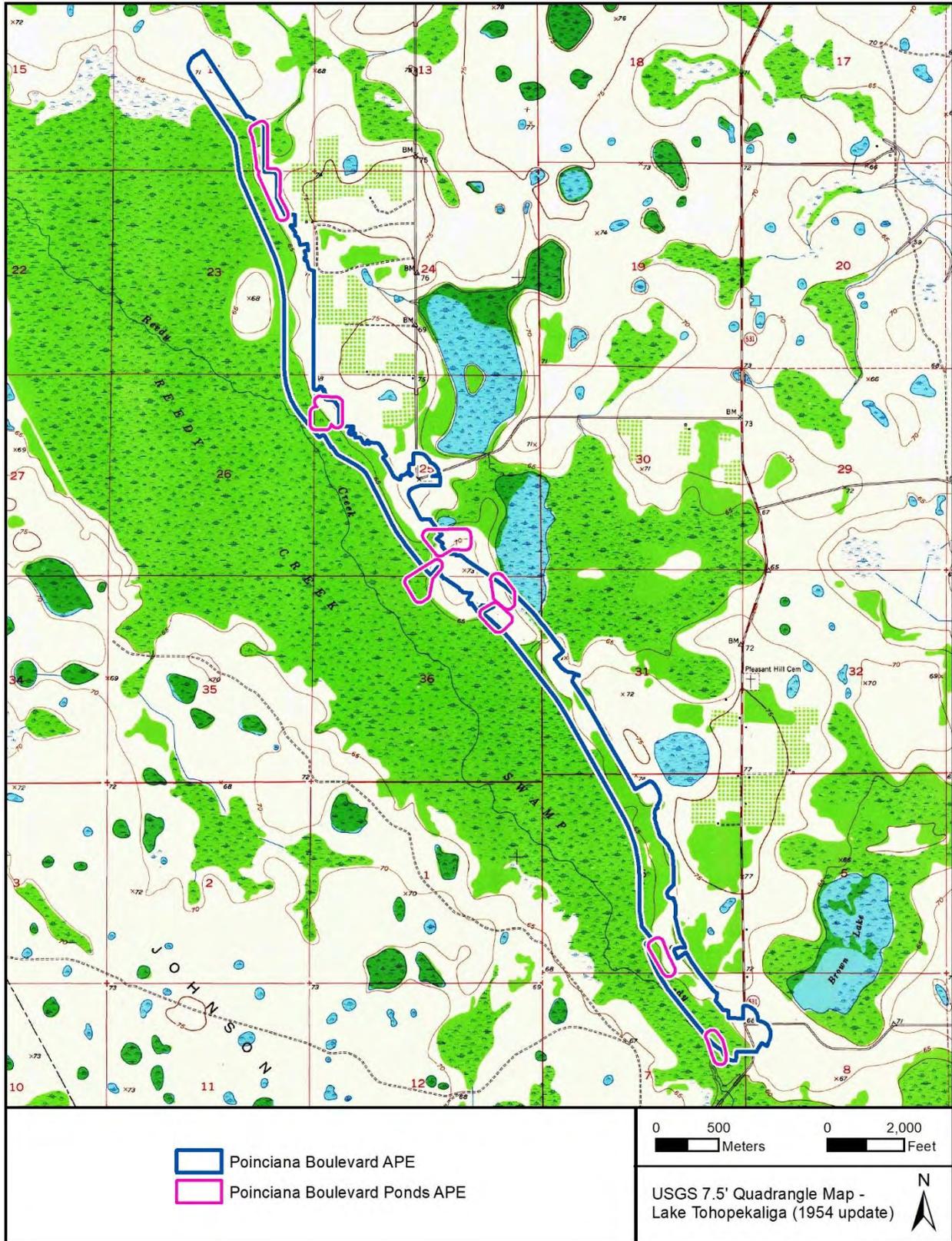


Figure 8. 1954 USGS topographic map of Lake Tohopekaliga, Florida.

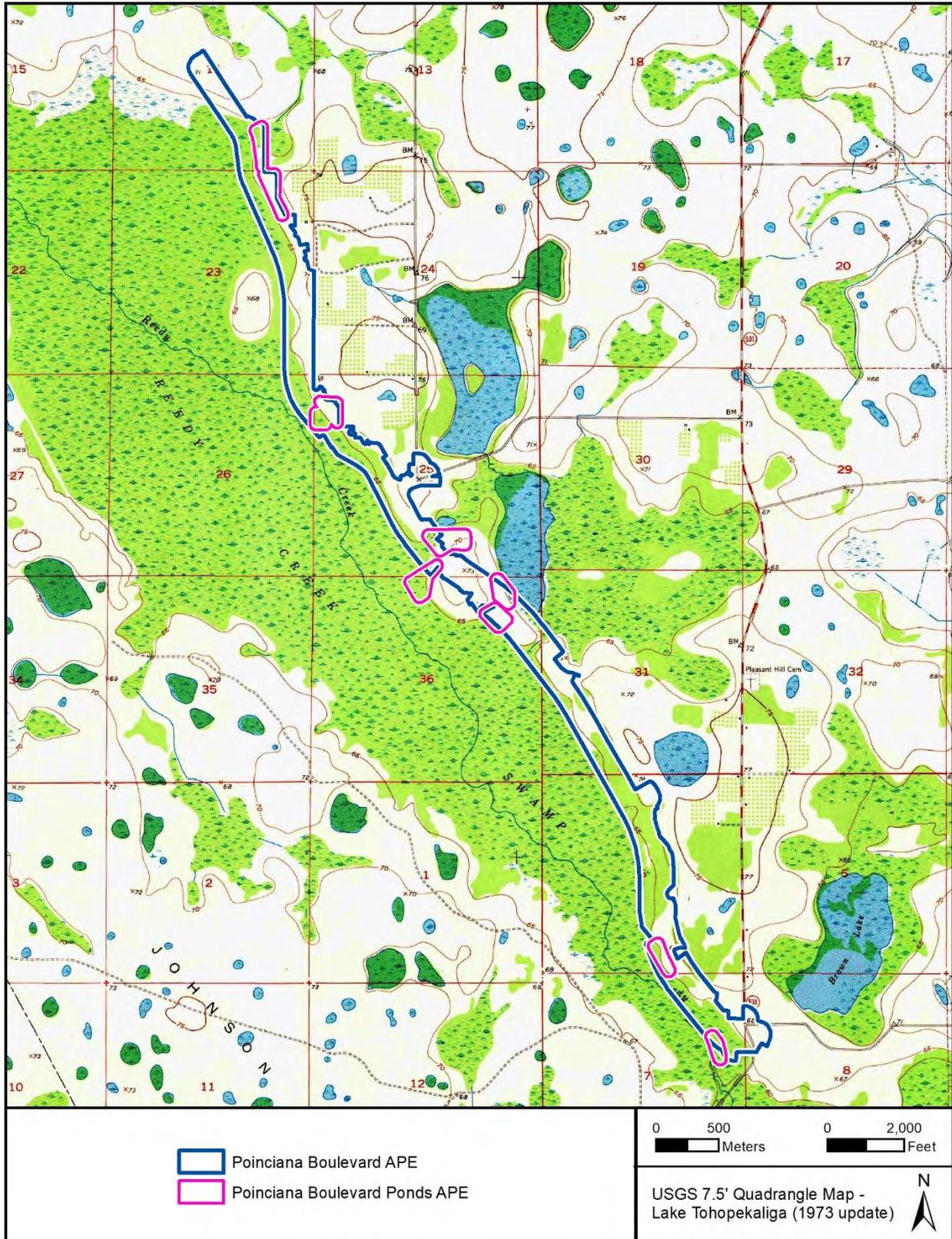


Figure 9. 1973 USGS topographic map of Lake Tohopekaliga, Florida.

RESEARCH DESIGN

PROJECT GOALS

A research design is a plan to coordinate the cultural resource investigation from inception to the completion of the project. This plan should minimally account for three things: (1) it should make explicit the goals and intentions of the research; (2) it should define the sequence of events to be undertaken in pursuit of the research goals; and (3) it should provide a basis for evaluating the findings and conclusions drawn from the investigation.

The goal of this CRAS was to locate and document evidence of historic or prehistoric occupation or use within the APE (archaeological or historic sites, historic structures, or archaeological occurrences [isolated artifact finds]), and to evaluate these for their potential eligibility for listing in the NRHP. The research strategy was composed of background investigation, a historical document search, and field survey. The background investigation involved a perusal of relevant archaeological literature, producing a summary of previous archaeological work undertaken near the project area. The FMSF was checked for previously recorded sites within the project corridor, which provided an indication of prehistoric settlement and land-use patterns for the region. Current soil surveys, vegetation maps, and relevant literature were consulted to provide a description of the physiographic and geological region of which the project area is a part. These data were used in combination to develop expectations regarding the types of archaeological sites that may be present and their likely locations (site probability areas).

The historical document search involved a review of primary and secondary historic sources as well as a review of the FMSF for any previously recorded historic structures. The original township plat maps, early aerial photographs, and other relevant sources were checked for information pertaining to the existence of historic structures, sites of historic events, and historically occupied or noted aboriginal settlements within the project limits.

NRHP CRITERIA

Cultural resources identified within the project APE were evaluated according to the criteria for listing in the NRHP. As defined by the National Park Service (NPS), the quality of significance in American history, architecture, archaeology, engineering, and culture is present in districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects that possess integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association, and:

- A. that are associated with events or activities that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history; or
- B. that are associated with the lives of persons significant in our past; or

- C. that embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, or that represent the work of a master, or that possess high artistic values, or that represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction; or
- D. that have yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

NRHP-eligible districts must possess a significant concentration, linkage, or continuity of sites, buildings, structures, or objects united historically or aesthetically by plan or physical development. NRHP-eligible districts and buildings must also possess historic significance, historic integrity, and historical context.

CULTURAL RESOURCE POTENTIAL

Based on an examination of environmental variables (soil drainage, access to wetlands and marine resources, relative elevation), as well as the results of previously conducted surveys, the potential for prehistoric archaeological sites to be present within the project APE was considered to range from low to high. Although numerous prehistoric sites have been recorded within the project, these are located in areas of somewhat poorly drained soils or better. As such, these areas are considered to have high probability for prehistoric archaeological sites. The remainder of the APE was assessed with low probability given the poorly or very poorly drained soils and the negative results of previous surveys. In addition, significant subsurface disturbance was anticipated within the existing Poinciana Boulevard right-of-way due to modern development and buried utility installation. The Poinciana Boulevard APE was judged to have a low potential for historic-period archaeological sites and historic structures based on the results of the historic map review.

SURVEY METHODS

Archaeological Field Methods

The Phase I field survey consisted of subsurface shovel testing within the APE at varying intervals according to the low to high potential for the presence of buried archaeological sites. In areas of somewhat poorly drained or moderately well drained soils, shovel testing was conducting at 25-meter (high probability) intervals. High probability intervals were also utilized within 100 meters of previously recorded archaeological sites. The remainder of the APE was tested at 100-meter (low probability) intervals, or judgmentally if buried utilities prevented excavation. If no shovel testing was safely possible, a “no-dig” point was used to document the pedestrian inspection and attempted shovel test. The entire archaeological APE was visually examined via pedestrian survey for the presence of exposed artifacts and aboveground features (e.g., structural remains and prehistoric mounds).

The potential for archaeological sites to be present within the pond footprints was evaluated based on an examination of environmental variables (i.e., soil drainage, relative elevation, proximity to water or wetland resources), as well as the presence of disturbance due to buried utilities and modern development.

Shovel tests measured approximately 50 centimeters (19.7 inches) in diameter and were excavated to a minimum depth of 100 centimeters below surface (cmbs) (39.4 inches), subsurface conditions permitting. All excavated sediments were screened through 6.4-millimeter (1/4-inch) mesh hardware cloth. “No-dig” points were recorded in locations where testing was attempted, but confirmed to be infeasible due to buried utilities or disturbances. The location of each shovel test and “no-dig” point was marked on aerial photographs of the project area (**Appendix A**). Global Positioning System (GPS) coordinates were recorded for each shovel test and “no-dig” location with handheld units that used Wide Area Augmentation System (WAAS). The cultural content, stratigraphy, and environmental setting of each shovel test were recorded.

Architectural Field Methods

In addition to a search of the FMSF for any previously recorded historic structures within the APE, older USGS quadrangle maps and USDA aerial photographs were reviewed for structures that were constructed prior to 1976. Additionally, review of the property appraiser’s database indicates that there are no unrecorded structures of historic (pre-1976) age within the APE. A thorough field check of the project area was undertaken. No historic-aged buildings are located within the proposed project area.

Laboratory Methods

No artifacts were recovered as a result of this survey; therefore, no laboratory analysis was required.

Curation

The original maps and field notes are presently housed at the Newberry, Florida, office of SEARCH. The original maps and field notes will be turned over to the FDOT, District 5, upon project completion; copies will be retained by SEARCH.

Informant Interviews

On November 17, 2020, SEARCH archaeologist Jessica Fish, MSt, RPA, contacted the Osceola County Historical Society for any information regarding cultural resource concerns in the vicinity of the Poinciana Boulevard widening project. As of submission of this report, the historical society has not responded.

Certified Local Government Consultation

No Certified Local Government (CLG) exists for Osceola County or the City of Kissimmee. As such, no CLG consultation was conducted.

Procedures to Deal with Unexpected Discoveries

Every reasonable effort has been made during this investigation to identify and evaluate possible locations of prehistoric and historic archaeological sites; however, the possibility exists that evidence of cultural resources may yet be encountered within the project limits. Should evidence of unrecorded cultural resources be discovered during construction activities, all work in that portion of the project area must stop. Evidence of cultural resources includes aboriginal or historic pottery, prehistoric stone tools, bone or shell tools, historic trash pits, and historic building foundations. If such evidence is found, the FDHR will be notified within two working days. In the unlikely event that human skeletal remains or associated burial artifacts are uncovered within the project area, all work in that area must stop. The discovery must be reported to local law enforcement, who will in turn contact the medical examiner. The medical examiner will determine whether or not the State Archaeologist should be contacted per the requirements of Chapter 872.05, Florida Statutes.

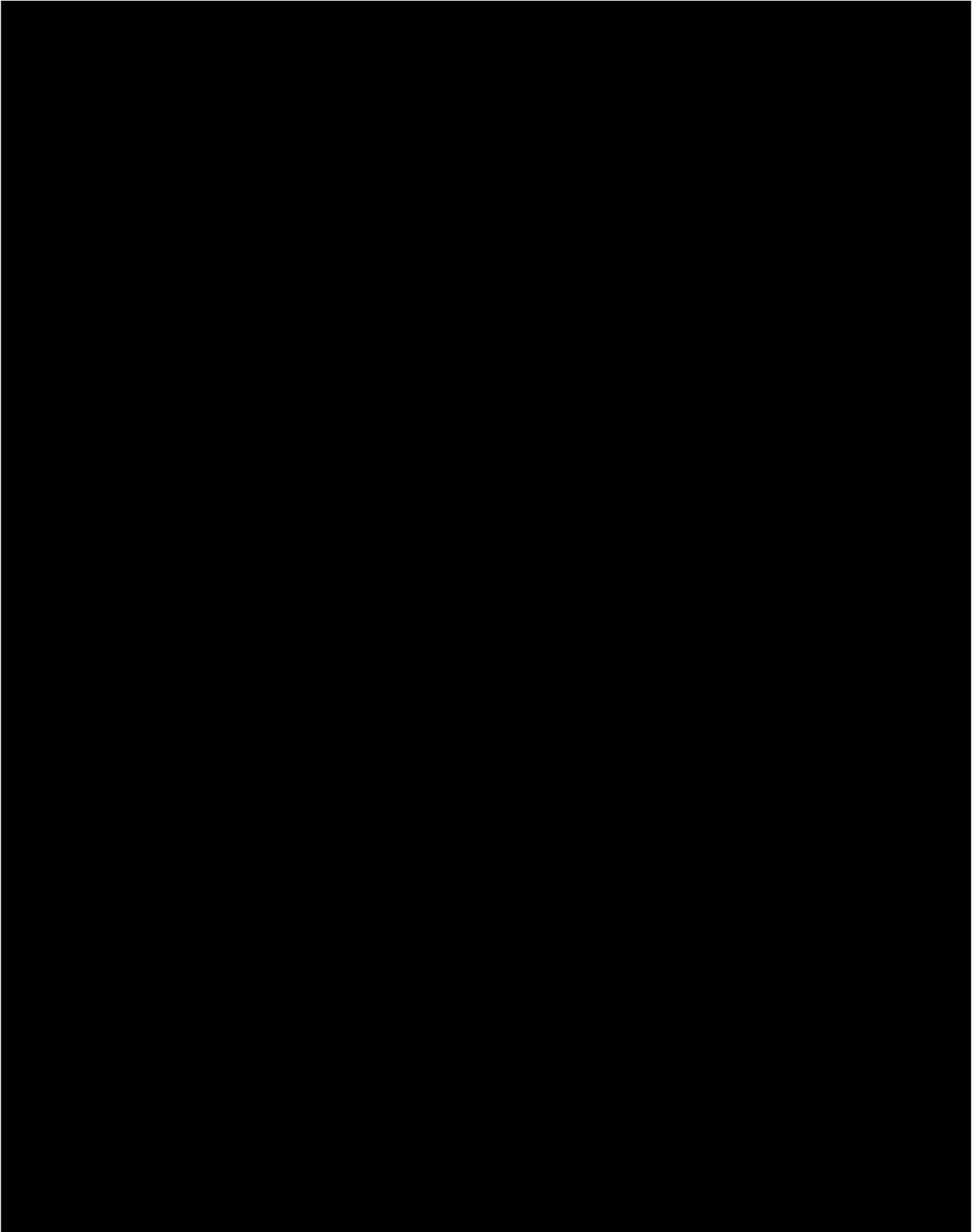
RESULTS

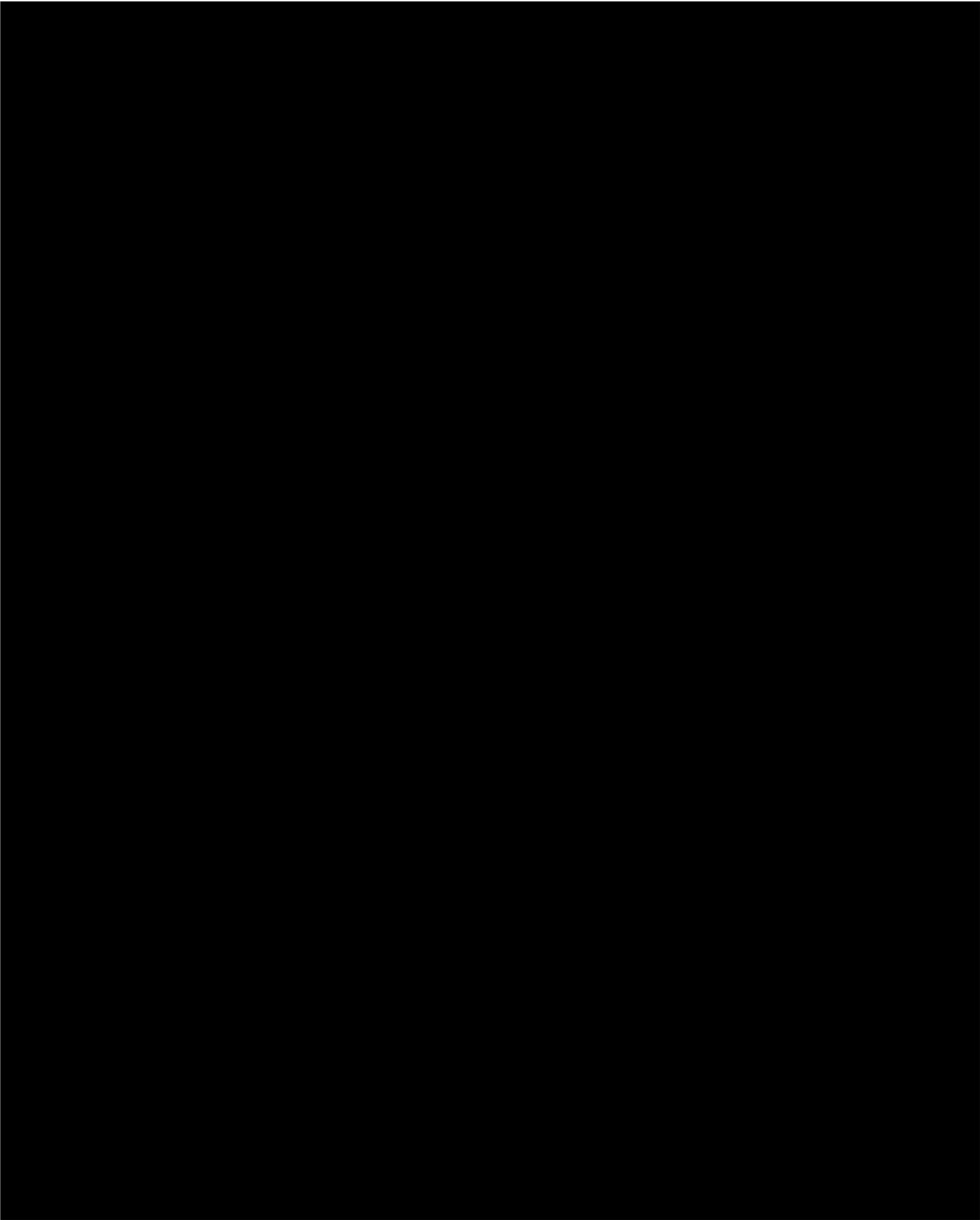
ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCES

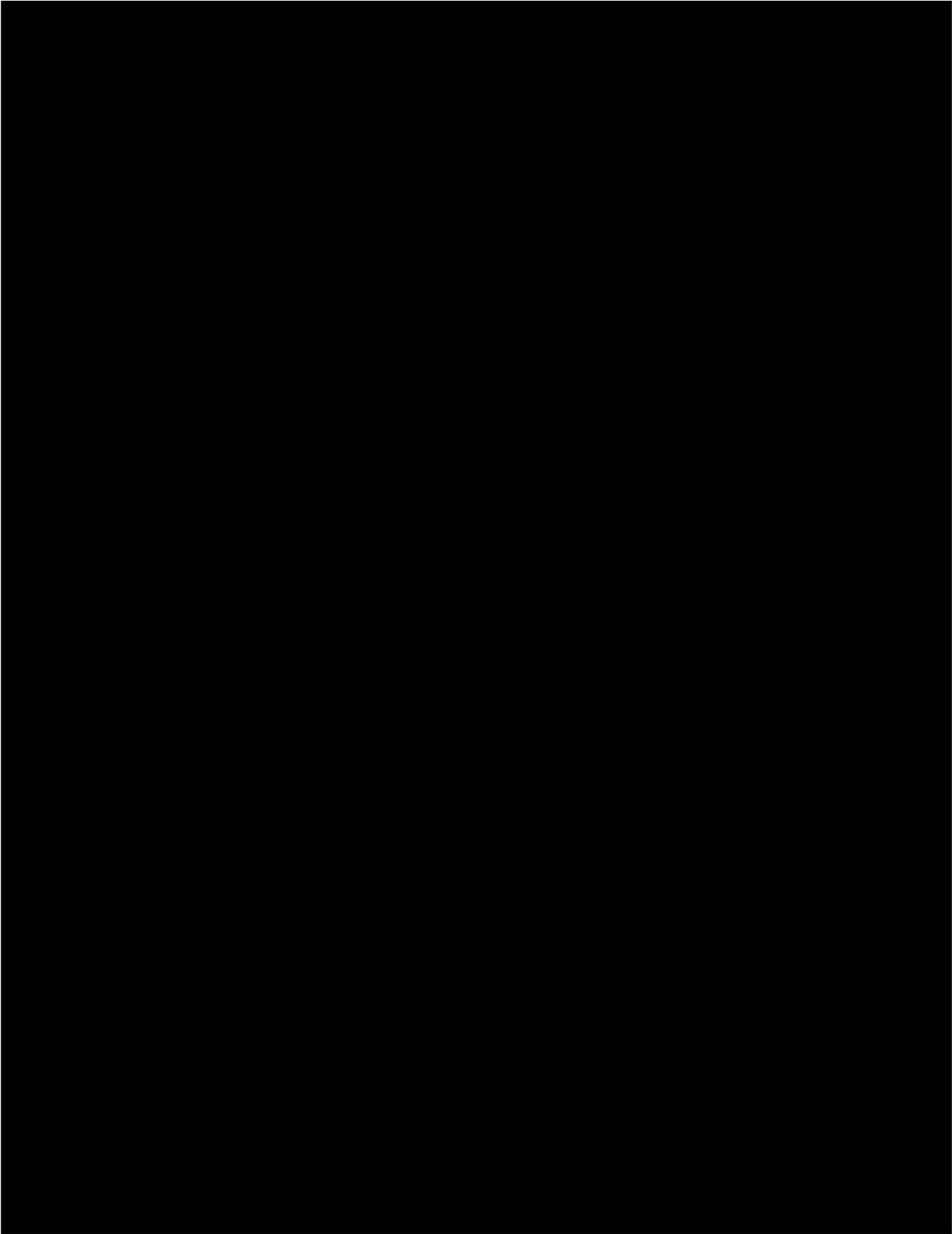
The Poinciana Boulevard archaeological APE is located in a moderately developed area of Osceola County. The proposed widening will be conducted within the existing right-of-way, which contains several buried utilities related to modern development along the west side of the roadway. Modern construction along the west side of the roadway is comparatively sparse, although soils are generally poorly drained and swampy.

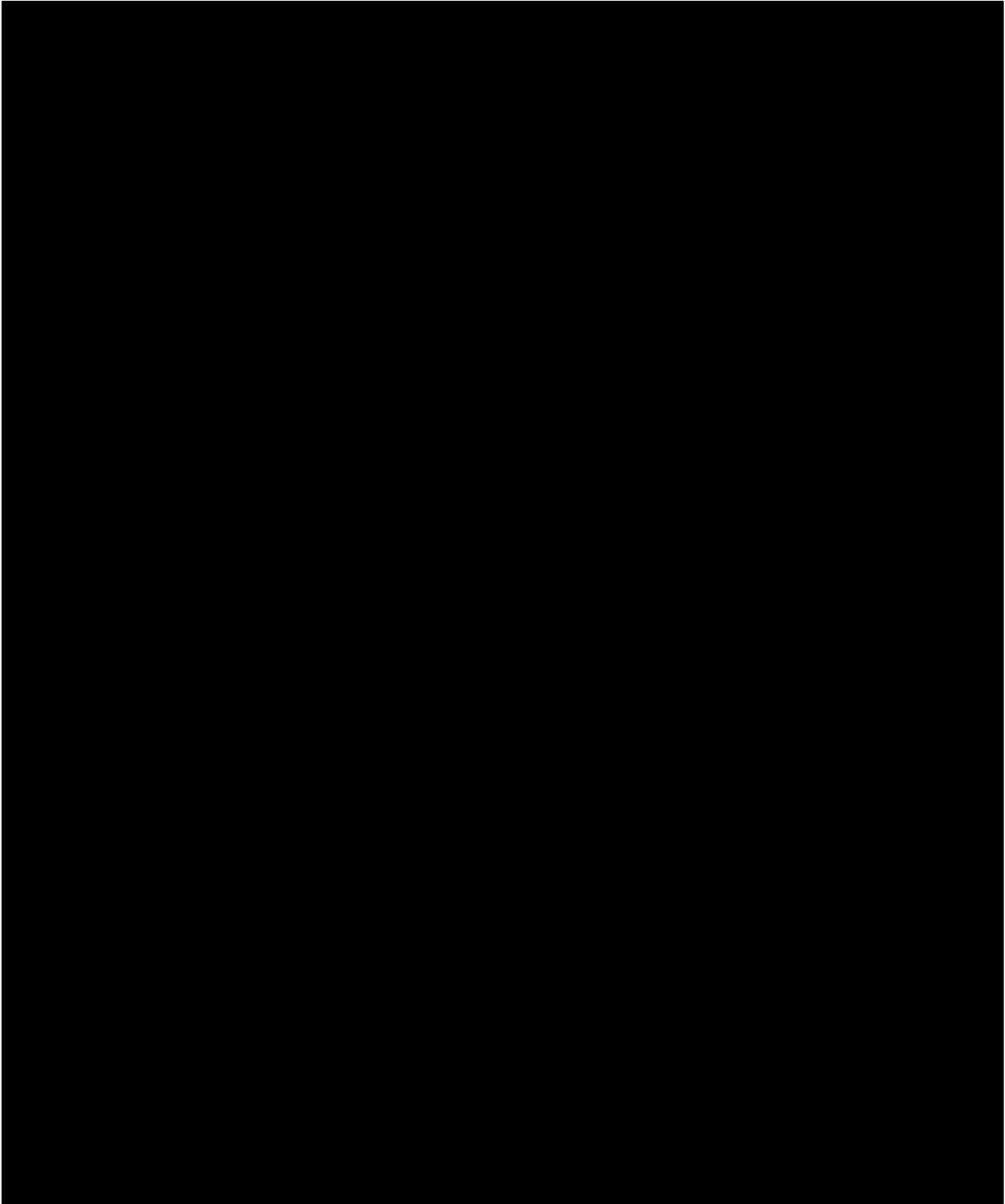


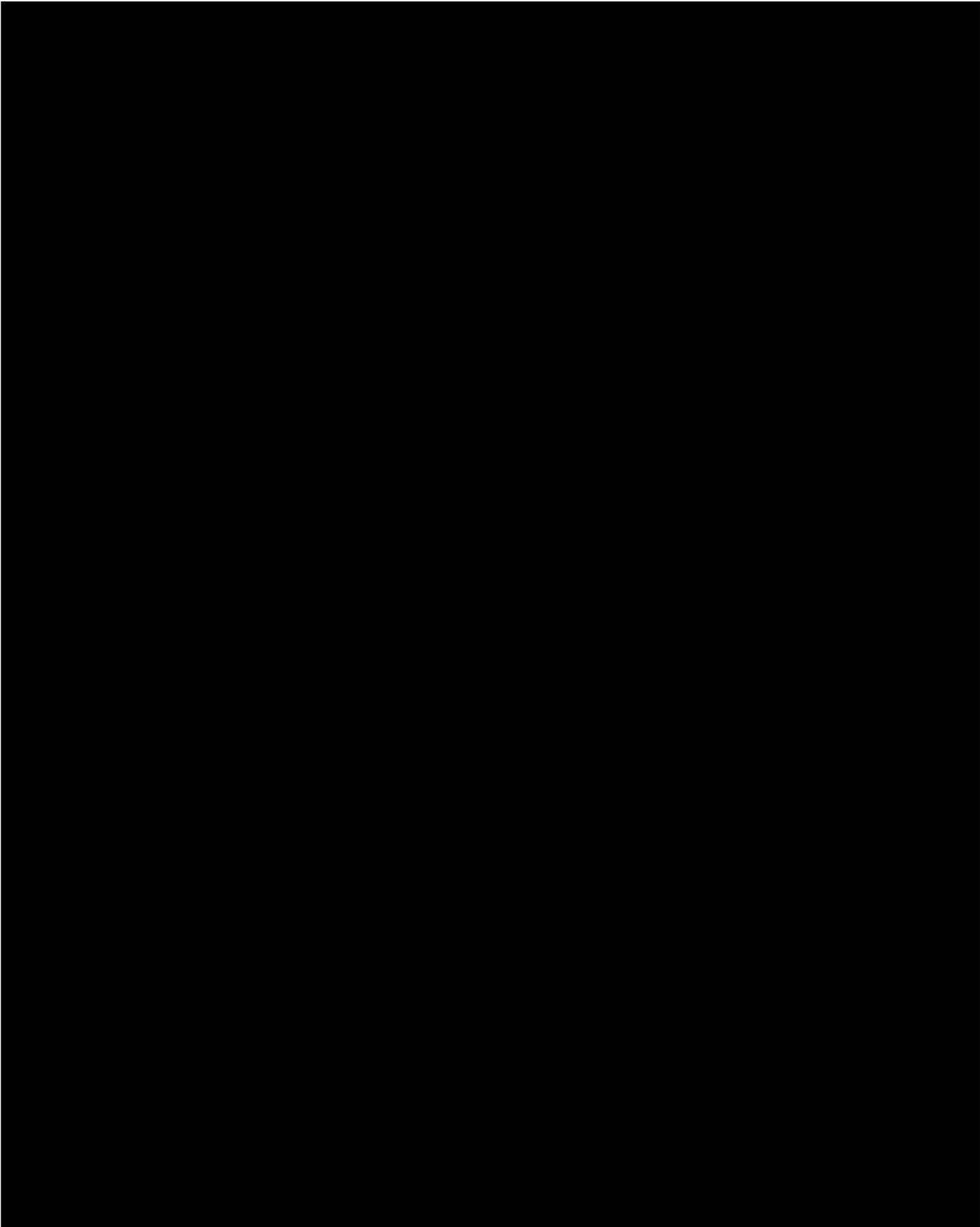
A total of 140 shovel tests were excavated within the Poinciana Boulevard archaeological APE, of which none were positive for cultural material (**Figures 10-20**). In some areas of the APE, modern

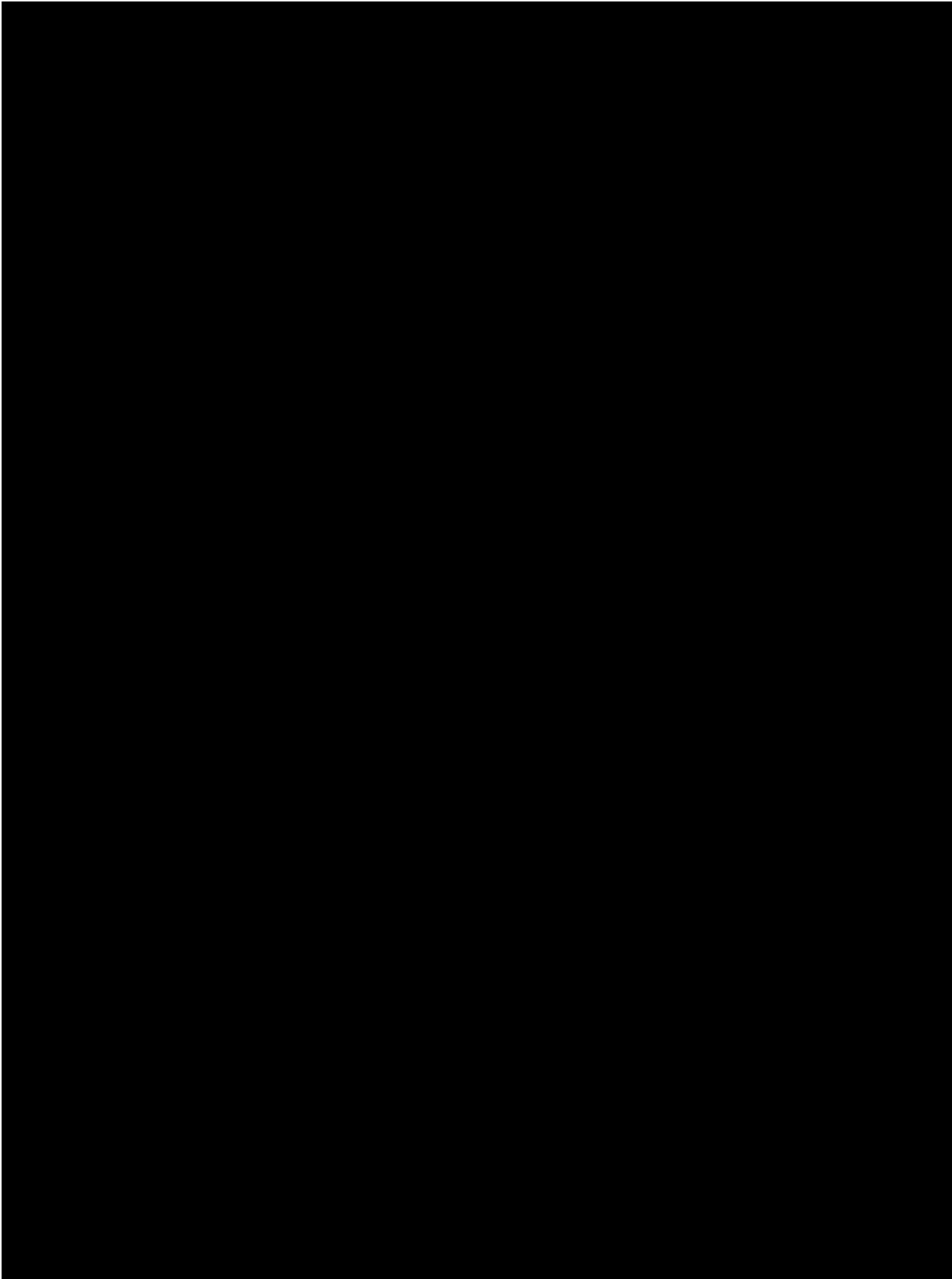


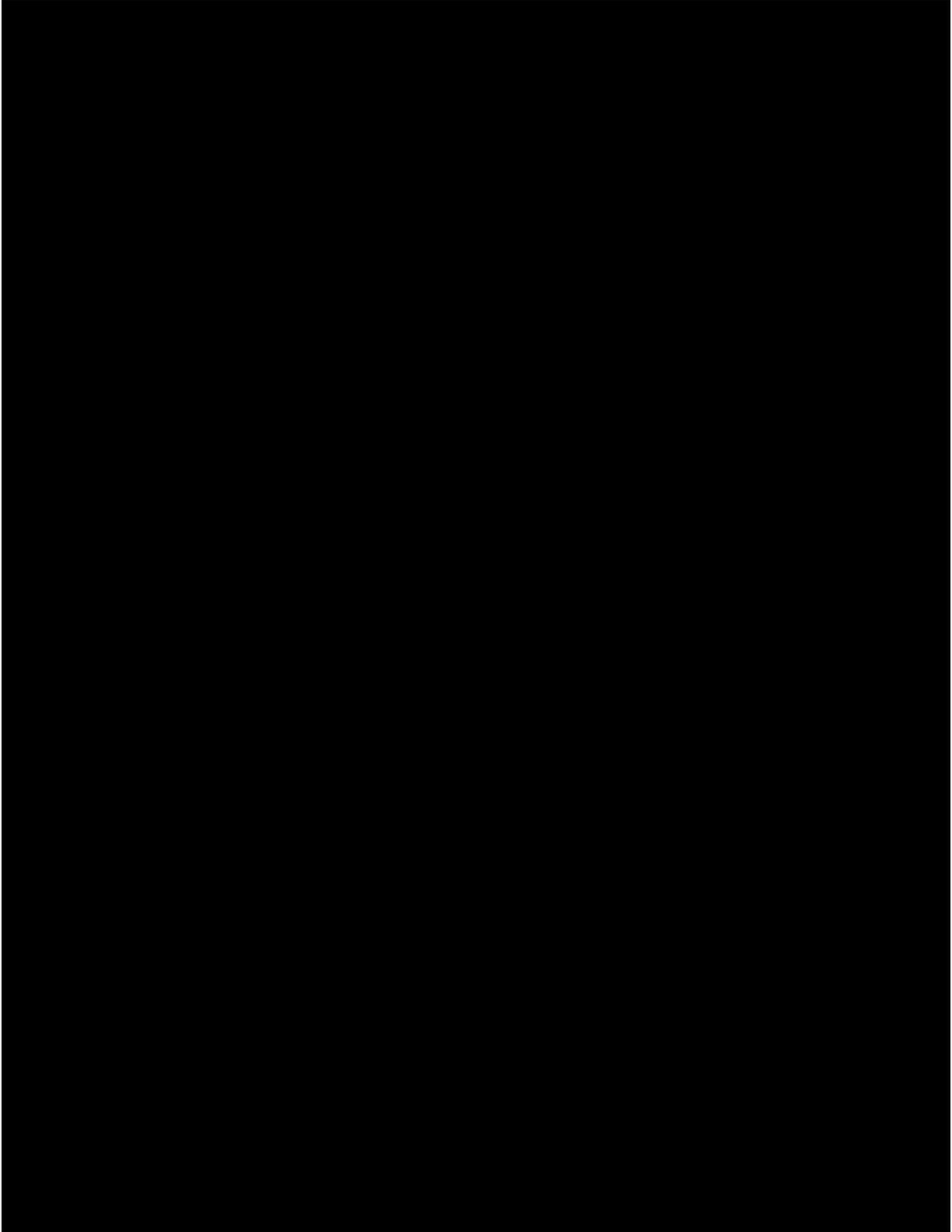


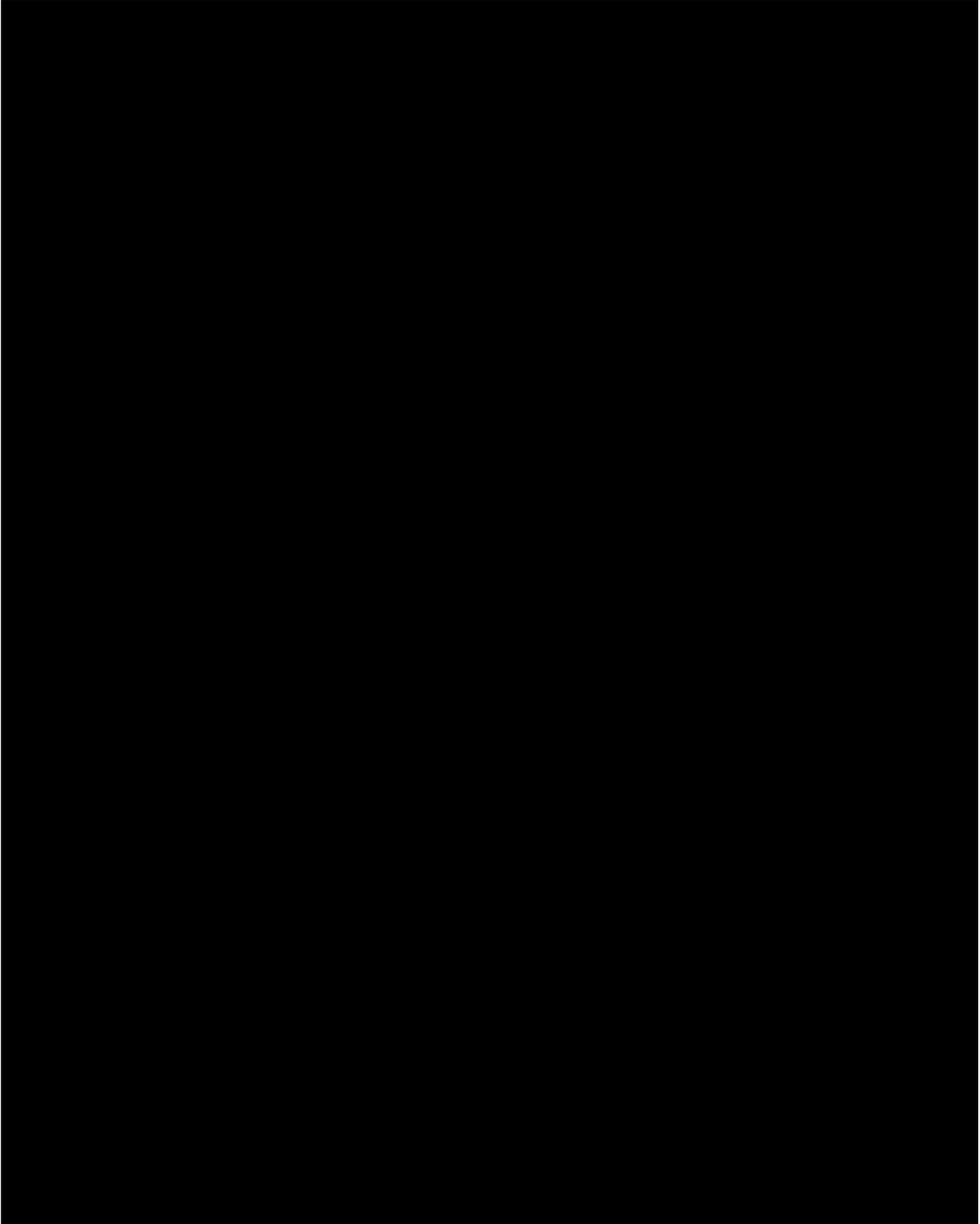


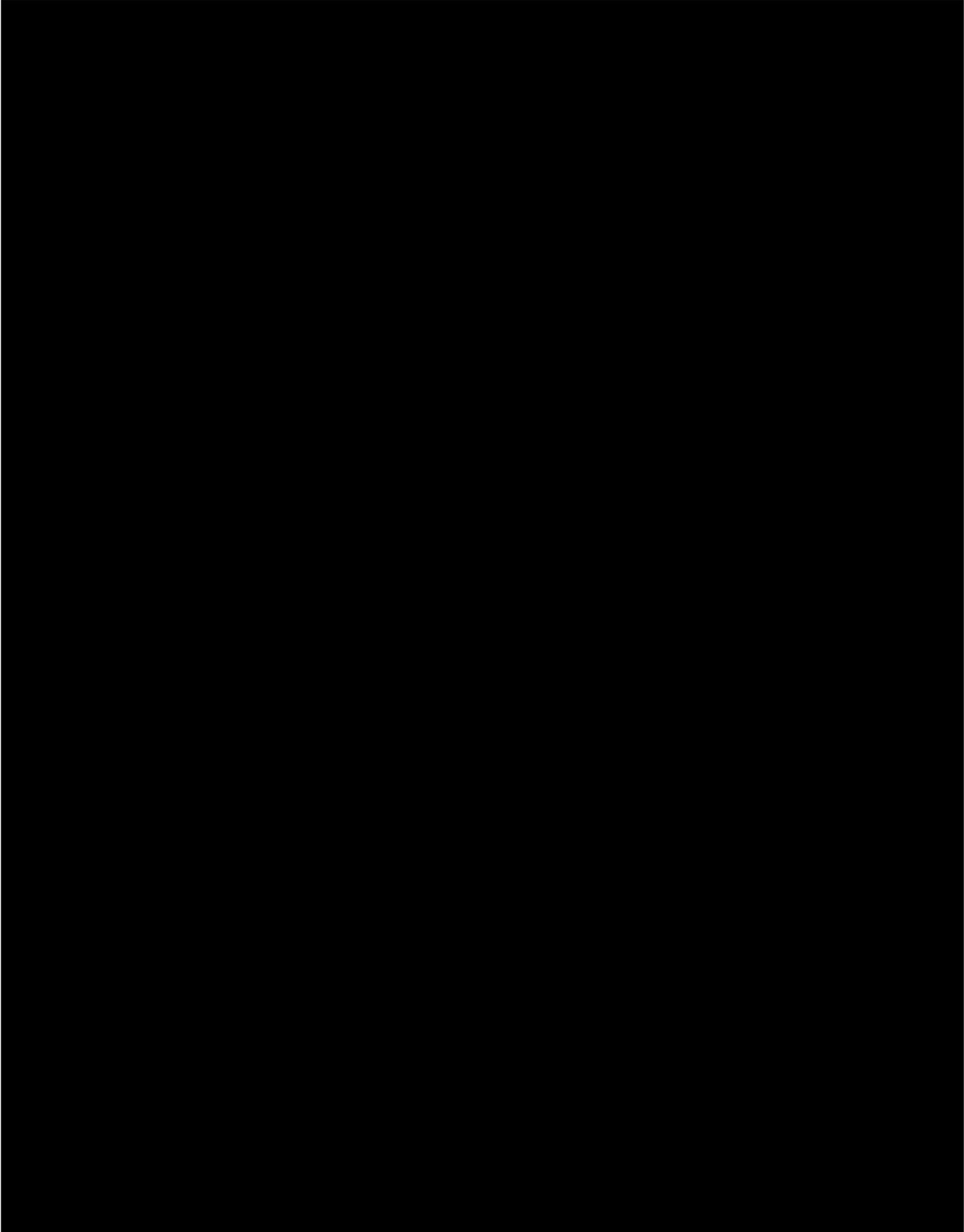


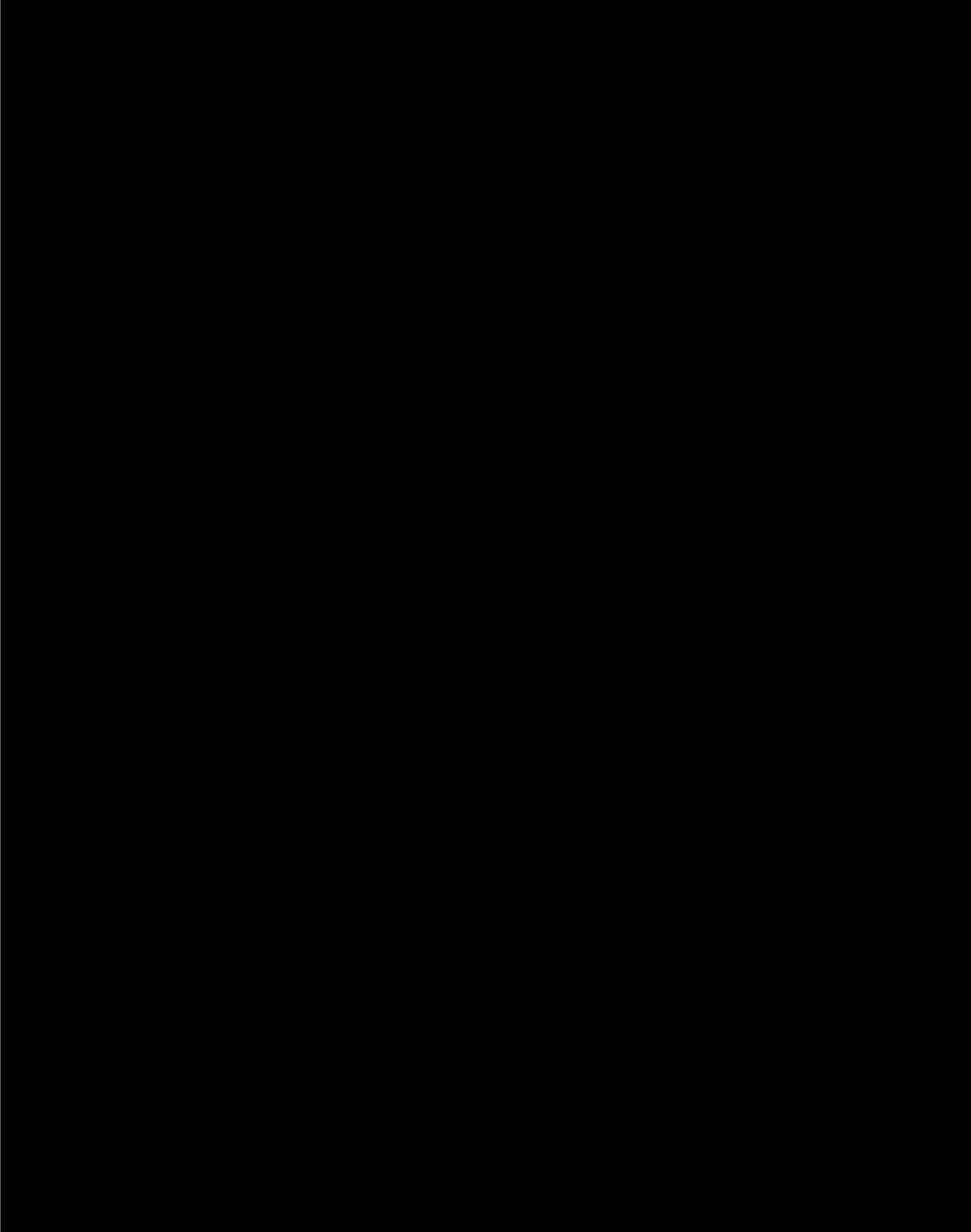


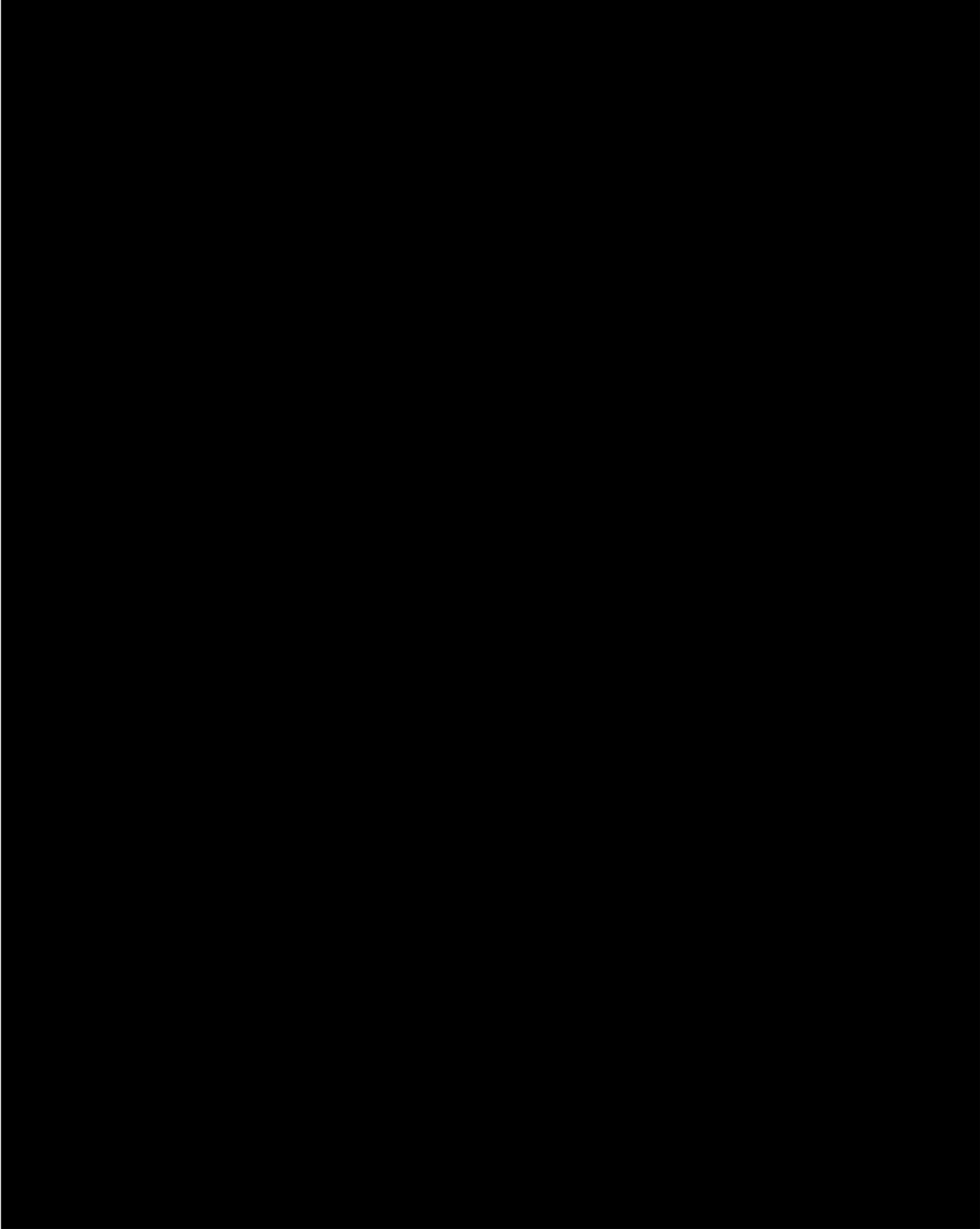












disturbance or standing water prevented the excavation of shovel tests; in these areas, 161 “no-dig” points were employed to document the pedestrian survey. More information regarding archaeological tests of each pond and the corridor is provided below. An FDHR survey log sheet is provided in **Appendix B**. All shovel testing within the Poinciana Boulevard archaeological APE was negative for cultural material. No archaeological sites or archaeological occurrences were recorded, and no further archaeological work is recommended.

Poinciana Boulevard

Archaeological testing was conducted along 5.9 miles (9.5 kilometers) of the Poinciana Boulevard right-of-way, beginning just east of the intersection with Pleasant Hill Road and continuing northwards to a point just south of the Trafalgar Boulevard intersection. The east side of the corridor is heavily developed with several modern residential developments and associated utilities (**Figure 21**). The west side of the APE is entirely undeveloped and bordered by land owned by the South Florida Water Management District, with the exception of a single small residential development (see **Figure 21**).



Figure 21. Conditions in the Poinciana Boulevard corridor. Top left: Utilities and drainages, view northeast. Top right: Cypress swamp on west side of corridor, view west. Bottom left: Raised road on east side of road, view north. Bottom right: Utilities, drainage, and sidewalks in the Poinciana Boulevard corridor, view south.

Archaeological probability in the Poinciana Boulevard right-of-way ranged from low to high based on the variation in soil drainage, proximity to previously recorded sites, and relative elevation. “No-dig” points were utilized to document the pedestrian survey of areas that contained buried utilities, standing water, or existing pavement (see **Figure 21**). A total of 115 shovel tests were excavated within the Poinciana Boulevard right-of-way, all of which were negative for cultural material (see **Figures 10-20**). A total of 161 “no-dig” points were employed to illustrate the pedestrian survey. [REDACTED]

Soil stratigraphy varied due to soil drainage and the level of modern disturbance. In very wet areas of the archaeological APE, the soil profile typically consisted of dark gray sand from 0 to 20 cmbs (0 to 7.9 inches; Stratum I) and gray sand from 20 to 40 cmbs (7.9 to 15.7 inches; Stratum I) before crews encountered the water table (**Figure 22**). In drier parts of the APE, the soil profile generally consisted of light gray sand from 0 to 20 cmbs (0 to 7.9 inches; Stratum I), yellowish-brown sand from 20 to 50 cmbs (7.9 to 19.7 inches; Stratum II), and pale brown sand from 50 to at least 100 cmbs (19.7 to 39.4 inches; Stratum III) (see **Figure 22**). Generally, saturation of Stratum III increased with depth due to the proximity of the water table.



Figure 22. Natural soil stratigraphy in the Poinciana Boulevard corridor. Left: saturated soils; right: drier soil conditions.

No archaeological sites or archaeological occurrences were recorded in the Poinciana Boulevard corridor, and no further archaeological work is recommended.

Pond 1A

Pond 1A is a 2.64-acre pond located along the south side of Poinciana Boulevard. Pedestrian inspection of the pond verified a heavily forested and swampy environment in relative proximity to Reedy Creek (Figure 23). Soils in the pond footprint are reported as very poorly drained.



Figure 23. Conditions in Pond 1A, view southwest.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

No shovel tests were able to be excavated due to standing water. No further archaeological work is recommended for Pond 1A.

Pond 1B

Pond 1B is located along the west side of Poinciana Boulevard, immediately across from Liberty High School access road. The 3.23-acre pond is heavily forested (Figure 24).



[REDACTED]

A total of two shovel tests were excavated within the pond footprint, both of which were negative for cultural material (see **Figure 11**). Soil stratigraphy consisted of black wet sand from 0 to 20 cmbs (0 to 7.9 inches; Stratum I) and very dark gray wet sand from 20 to 40 cmbs (7.9 to 15.7 inches; Stratum II). The water table was encountered at 40 cmbs (15.7 inches). No archaeological sites or archaeological occurrences were recorded, and no further archaeological work is recommended for Pond 1B.

Pond 2A

Pond 2A is situated on the south side of Poinciana Boulevard, immediately south of a small residential development and across the road from Pond 2B. The pond encompasses approximately 4.78 acres and is heavily wooded (**Figure 25**). Soils in the pond are somewhat poorly drained and poorly drained and were evaluated as having low to moderate archaeological probability. Soils are generally better drained closer to the roadway. A total of four shovel tests were excavated within the Pond 2A footprint, all of which were negative for cultural material (see **Figure 14**). Soil stratigraphy in the pond consisted of very dark gray sand from 0 to 45 cmbs (0 to 17.7 inches; Stratum I) and light gray sand until at least 55 cmbs (21.7 inches; Stratum II). The water table was reached at approximately 55 cmbs (21.7 inches). No archaeological sites or archaeological occurrences were recorded in Pond 2A, and no further archaeological work is recommended.



Figure 25. Conditions in Pond 2A, view north.

Pond 2B

Pond 2B is a 4.51-acre pond situated on the north side of Poinciana Boulevard in a forested area across from a small residential development (**Figure 26**). Soils are classified as somewhat poorly drained and poorly drained, with the better drained soils located closer to the existing roadway. Based on these variables, Pond 2B was assessed with low to moderate potential for archaeological sites.



Figure 26. Conditions in Pond 2B, view north.

Four shovel tests were excavated within the boundaries of Pond 2B, all of which were negative for cultural material (see **Figure 14**). One “no-dig” point was taken at the southern end of the pond where no dry location could be identified to excavate a shovel test. A typical soil profile in Pond 2B consisted of very dark gray wet sand from 0 to 25 cmbs (0 to 9.8 inches; Stratum I) and grayish sand from 25 to at least 45 cmbs (9.8 to 17.7 inches; Stratum II). Excavation halted when crews encountered the water table. No archaeological sites or archaeological occurrences were recorded in Pond 2B, and no further archaeological work is recommended.

Pond 3A

Pond 3A encompasses 6.74 acres and is located on the west side of Poinciana Boulevard. Although the pond is forested, it wraps around a small residential community located southeast of the pond footprint (**Figure 27**). Soils in Pond 3A were somewhat poorly drained to very poorly drained, with better drained soils located closer to the small rise on which the residential development is located. Based on the review of environmental variables, Pond 3A was assessed with low to moderate probability for archaeological resources.



Figure 27. Conditions in Pond 3A, view southwest.

Two shovel tests were excavated in better drained soils at the east end of the pond footprint, both of which were negative for cultural material (see **Figure 15**). Due to inundated soils, the western half of the pond footprint could only be subjected to a pedestrian survey and surface inspection. Soil stratigraphy in Pond 3A consisted of dark gray sand and humic soils from 0 to 15 cmbs (0 to 5.9 inches; Stratum I) and grayish-brown wet sand over 15 cmbs (5.9 inches; Stratum II). No shovel testing was possible beyond 60 cmbs (23.6 inches) due to inundated soils. No archaeological sites or archaeological occurrences were record, and no further archaeological work is recommended for Pond 3A.

Pond 3B

Pond 3B is an 8.51-acre pond located on the east side of Poinciana Boulevard, just north of Pond 3A. The pond footprint is entirely forested (**Figure 28**). [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]



Figure 28. Conditions in Pond 3B, view south.

Four shovel tests were excavated within the Pond 3B footprint, both of which were negative for cultural material (see **Figure 15**). Only one shovel test was able to be excavated to a depth greater than 25 cmbs (9.8 inches); this shovel test reached a depth of 60 cmbs (23.6 inches), at which point the shovel test flooded. Stratigraphy in Pond 3B consisted of a thick humic layer approximately 15 cmbs in depth (5.9 inches; Stratum I) underlain with grayish-brown wet sand from 15 to 60 cmbs (5.9 to 23.6 inches; Stratum II). No archaeological sites or archaeological occurrences were recorded in Pond 3B, and no further archaeological work is recommended.

Pond 4A

Pond 4A is a heavily forested pond located along the west side of Poinciana Boulevard (**Figure 29**). The pond includes approximately 2.1 acres. Review of soil maps indicated that soils in this pond footprint were poorly to very poorly drained; as such, the pond was assessed with low probability for archaeological resources. The field visit confirmed that the pond was saturated; as such, archaeological survey was limited to a pedestrian survey and surface inspection. No archaeological sites or archaeological occurrences were recorded, and no further archaeological work is recommended for Pond 4A.



Figure 29. Conditions in Pond 4A, view west.

Pond 4B

Pond 4B is situated on the east side of Poinciana Boulevard, immediately south of Doral Pointe Road and across Poinciana Boulevard from Pond 4A. The pond encompasses approximately 4.55 acres and is forested (**Figure 30**). Soils in the pond footprint range from poorly drained to

very poorly drained; as such, the site was assessed with low probability for archaeological deposits. Two shovel tests were excavated within the pond footprint, both of which were negative for cultural material (see **Figure 16**). Excavation halted at 70 cmbs (27.6 inches) when the water table was encountered. The typical soil profile in Pond 4B consisted of gray sand and organic debris from 0 to 20 cmbs (0 to 7.9 inches; Stratum I), dark gray sand from 20 to 45 cmbs (7.9 to 17.7 inches; Stratum II), light gray sand from 45 to 60 cmbs (17.7 to 23.6 inches; Stratum III); and white sand over 60 cmbs (23.6 inches; Stratum IV). No archaeological sites or archaeological occurrences were recorded in Pond 4B, and no further work is recommended.



Figure 30. Conditions in Pond 4B, view east.

Pond 5A

Pond 5A is situated along the east side of Poinciana Boulevard, immediately north of Lizzia Brown Road. The pond includes approximately 4.95 acres and is entirely forested (**Figure 31**). The pond is bound to the west and south by existing roads, to the east by a residential neighborhood, and to the north by an existing retention pond.



Figure 31. Conditions in Pond 5A, view north.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] A total of five shovel tests were excavated within the Pond 5A footprint, all of which were negative (see **Figure 19**). No shovel test was excavated deeper than 60 cmbs (23.6 inches) due to inundation. Soil stratigraphy in Pond 5A consisted of dark gray sand from 0 to 20 cmbs (0 to 7.9 inches; Stratum I), gray sand or very dark gray sand

from 20 to 45 cmbs (7.9 to 17.7 inches; Stratum II), and pale brown west sand over 45 cmbs (17.7 inches; Stratum III). No archaeological sites or archaeological occurrences were recorded, and no further work is recommended for Pond 5A.

Pond 5B

Pond 5B is a narrow, triangular pond encompassing approximately 4.0 acres along the east side of Poinciana Boulevard (**Figure 32**). The pond is entirely forested and located east of a large residential development. Soils in the pond footprint range from poorly drained to very poorly drained; however, due to the presence of a previously recorded site (8OS01906) within 328 feet (100 meters), the pond was assessed with low to high probability for archaeological deposits.



Figure 32. Conditions in Pond 5B, view south.

The field visit revealed that the north end of the pond was saturated (see **Figure 21**); as such, no testing was possible at the northern end of the pond footprint where archaeological probability was considered to be highest. Two shovel tests were excavated in the southern half of the pond footprint, both of which were negative for cultural material. Soils consists of black, wet sand and were inundated by 35 cmbs (13.8 inches). No archaeological sites or archaeological occurrences were recorded, and no further archaeological work is recommended for Pond 5B.

ARCHITECTURAL RESOURCES

No structures of historic age (pre-1976) are located within the Poinciana Boulevard APE; as such, no architectural history survey was conducted.

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

This report presents the findings of a Phase I CRAS conducted in support of improvements to Poinciana Boulevard in Osceola County, Florida. Osceola County is proposing the widening of Poinciana Boulevard from Pleasant Hill Road to Trafalgar Boulevard, a distance of approximately 5.9 miles (9.5 kilometers). The project also includes the construction of 10 possible retention ponds.

The APE was defined to include the existing right-of-way from approximately 760 feet (231.6 meters) east of Pleasant Hill Road to approximately 200 feet (61 meters) south of Trafalgar Boulevard. This APE was extended to the back or side property lines of parcels adjacent to the right-of-way, or a distance of no more than 328 feet (100 meters) from the right-of-way line. For the ponds, the APE was defined as the pond footprints in addition to a 100-foot (30.5-meter) buffer. The archaeological survey was conducted within the existing right-of-way and the pond footprints. The historic structure survey was conducted within the entire APE.

The archaeological survey included the excavation of 140 shovel tests within the Poinciana Boulevard corridor and ponds, all of which were negative for cultural material. Due to significant subsurface disturbance (buried utilities), existing pavement, and standing water, a total of 161 “no-dig” points were employed to document the pedestrian survey of areas that were not feasible to test. No artifacts were recovered, and no archaeological sites or occurrences were identified within the APE. No further archaeological survey is recommended in support of the proposed Poinciana Boulevard improvements.

No previously recorded historic resources or pre-1976 structures are located within the Poinciana Boulevard APE; as such, no architectural history survey was conducted.

It is the opinion of SEARCH that the proposed Poinciana Boulevard improvements will have no effect on cultural resources listed or eligible for listing in the NRHP. No further work is recommended.

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APPENDIX A.

MARKED FIELD MAPS

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APPENDIX B.

FDHR SURVEY LOG SHEET

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Research and Field Methods

Types of Survey (select all that apply): archaeological architectural historical/archival underwater
damage assessment monitoring report other(describe): _____

Scope/Intensity/Procedures

Testing at 25-, 50-, and 100-meter intervals. Recording structures built prior to 1976.

Preliminary Methods (select as many as apply to the project as a whole)

Florida Archives (Gray Building) library research- local public local property or tax records other historic maps LIDAR
Florida Photo Archives (Gray Building) library-special collection newspaper files soils maps or data other remote sensing
Site File property search Public Lands Survey (maps at DEP) literature search windshield survey
Site File survey search local informant(s) Sanborn Insurance maps aerial photography
other (describe): _____

Archaeological Methods (select as many as apply to the project as a whole)

Check here if NO archaeological methods were used.
surface collection, controlled shovel test-other screen size block excavation (at least 2x2 m) metal detector
surface collection, uncontrolled water screen soil resistivity other remote sensing
shovel test-1/4"screen posthole tests magnetometer pedestrian survey
shovel test-1/8" screen auger tests side scan sonar unknown
shovel test 1/16"screen coring ground penetrating radar (GPR)
shovel test-unscreened test excavation (at least 1x2 m) LIDAR
other (describe): _____

Historical/Architectural Methods (select as many as apply to the project as a whole)

Check here if NO historical/architectural methods were used.
building permits demolition permits neighbor interview subdivision maps
commercial permits windshield survey occupant interview tax records
interior documentation ocal property records occupation permits unknown
other (describe): pedestrian survey

Survey Results

Resource Significance Evaluated? Yes No

Count of Previously Recorded Resources 0 Count of Newly Recorded Resources 0

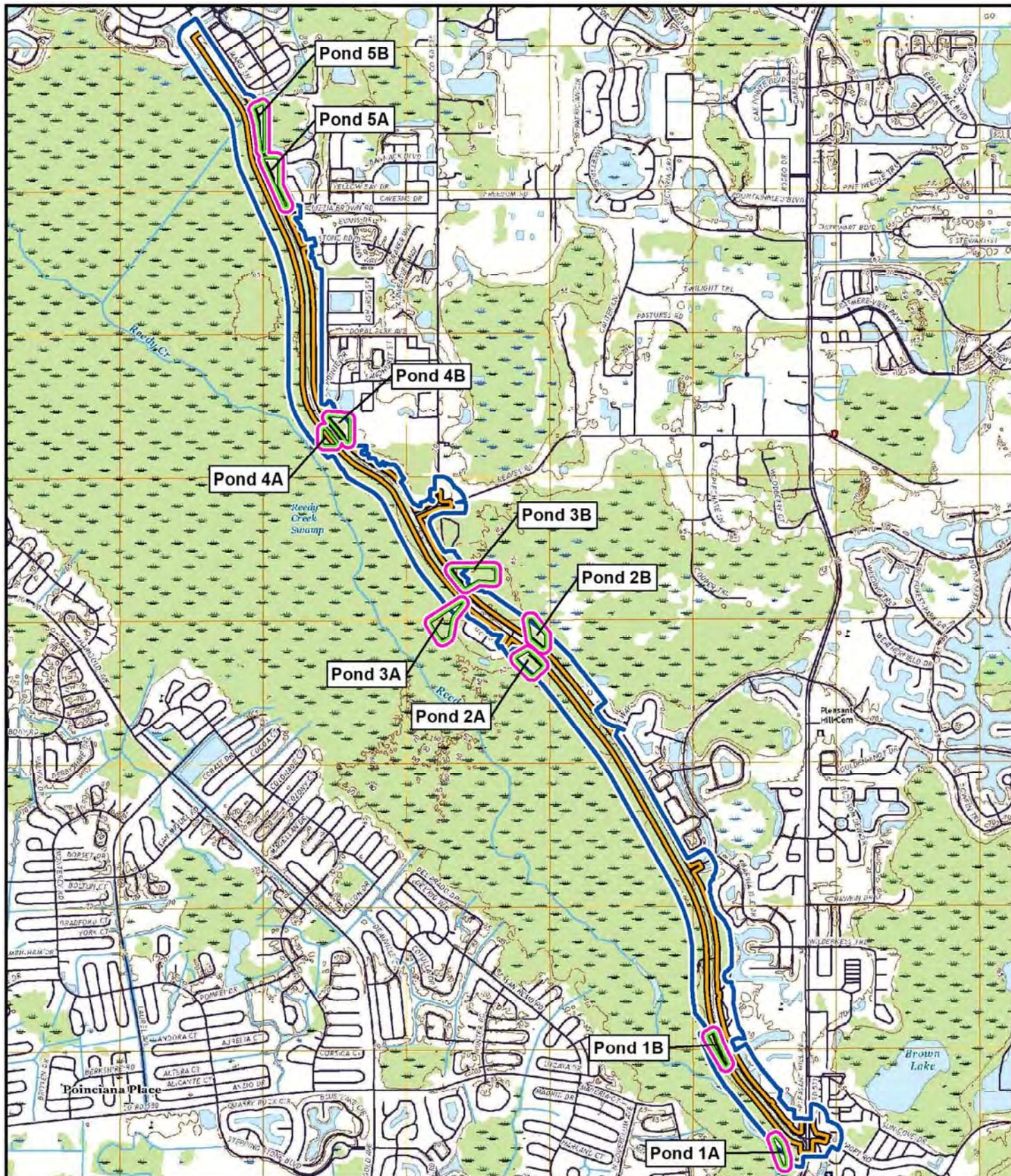
List Previously Recorded Site ID#s with Site File Forms Completed (attach additional pages if necessary)

List Newly Recorded Site ID#s (attach additional pages if necessary)

Site Forms Used: Site File Paper Forms Site File PDF Forms

REQUIRED: Attach Map of Survey or Project Area Boundary

SHPO USE ONLY SHPO USE ONLY SHPO USE ONLY
Origin of Report: 872 Public Lands UW 1A32 # _____ Academic Contract Avocational
Grant Project # _____ Compliance Review: CRAT # _____
Type of Document: Archaeological Survey Historical/Architectural Survey Marine Survey Cell Tower CRAS Monitoring Report
Overview Excavation Report Multi-Site Excavation Report Structure Detailed Report Library, Hist. or Archival Doc
Desktop Analysis MPS MRA TG Other: _____
Document Destination: Plottable Projects Plotability: _____



- Poinciana Boulevard APE
- Poinciana Boulevard ROW
- Poinciana Boulevard Ponds APE
- Poinciana Boulevard Ponds Footprint

0 500 0 2,000
 Meters Feet

USGS 7.5' Quadrangle Map -
 Lake Tohopekaliga (2018)

