



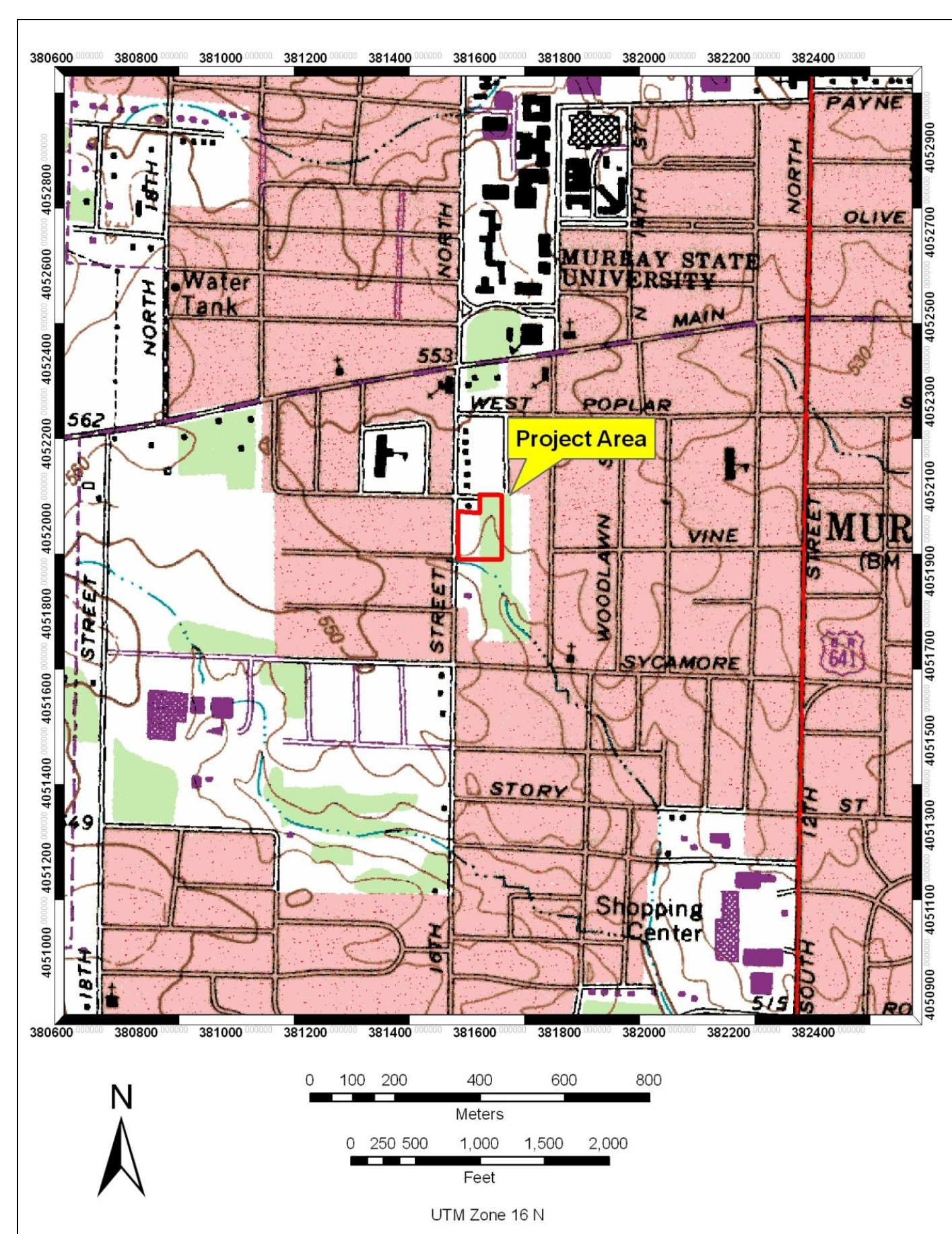
Archaeological Survey of 3 Acres in the City of Murray

Presented at Murray State University Scholars Week, April 19-23, 2008.



Introduction

The Public Archaeology class at MSU conducted a archaeological survey of a 3 acre tract of land located just south of Fire Station #2 on S. 16th Street on October 25, 2008. The City of Murray plans to construct a new fire station here with the aid of federal grant money. The purpose of this study was threefold: (1) to determine if the proposed project area contained cultural resources that would be adversely impacted by the proposed construction; (2) assess National Register of Historic Places eligibility for any cultural resources found; and (3) to train archaeology students in the Public Archaeology class, a Service Learning course at Murray State University, in modern cultural resource management.



Location of Project Area

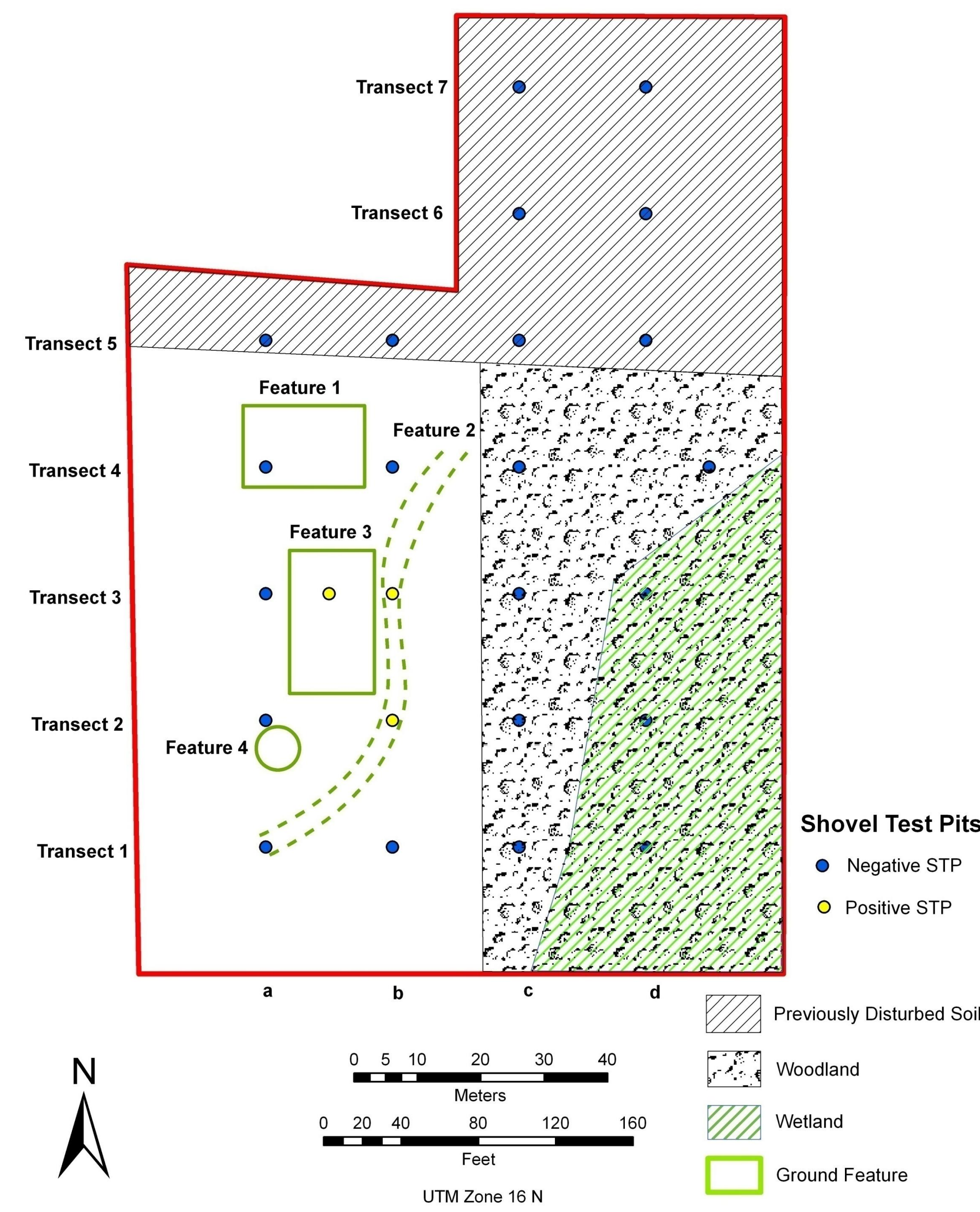
Cultural Resource Management

It is required by the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 that any federally owned lands, or federally funded or permitted projects must be surveyed before any construction can begin in order to determine if any cultural resources, such as archaeological sites, are present. The City of Murray is planning to apply for a grant from the United States Department of Agriculture to build a new fire station on this tract of land; because of this an archaeological survey had to be performed to look for any cultural resources.

ARC 350-80: Public Archaeology:

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SURVEY RESULTS



Features

- **Feature 1** is located on transect 4 and is roughly 20 meters square. From local residents, we learned that a tool shed had once been on the site in this same location
- **Feature 2** is a chert gravel layer approximately 15-20 cm deep by 2-3 meters wide and continues from the northwest part of the site along the woodline and curves around feature 4. This feature is likely a historic road or drive, because there are no old growth trees in a 4-5 meter swath where the feature meets the woodline.
- **Feature 3** is a rectangular shaped depression roughly 20 x 15 meters. located on transect 3.
- **Feature 4** is a clump of trees located on transect 2 which contained cinder block fragments and some brick, as well as modern trash. This area was most likely a dumping site.

Artifacts	Qty:	Description	Date	Provenience
Ceramics	2	Plain whiteware	1820-Present	Surface near T4d
Brick	1		Modern	Surface near T3b
Concrete	2		Modern	Surface near T4b
Mortar	--		Modern	Surface near T3b
Aggregate Materials	4	Historic concrete	Modern	Surface near T4a
Oxidized Soil	--	Rusted metal in soil	--	T4a, zone II



Feature #1, remains of wooden barn



Feature #2, shallow depression



Feature #4, clump of trees

Field Methods

The fire station tract is grassed along S. 16th St. and wooded to the east. Since ground visibility did not exceed 50%, the State Historic Preservation Office required shovel test pits to be excavated at 20 meter intervals across the entire tract. The Public Archaeology class surveyed seven (7) transects oriented East-West. Wetlands and previously disturbed areas were not tested. An additional shovel test was placed between tests a and b on Transect 3 in order to test inside the depression (Feature #2, Figure 7). Shovel tests consisted of 30 centimeter diameter pits excavated to at least 10 centimeters into the subsoil. A standard shovel test form was completed by the crew describing the size and depth of each shovel test, artifacts recovered, and soil color and texture.



Conclusion

Based on the analysis of materials recovered, aerial photography, and interviews with local residents, it is believed that the rectangular structure (#1) represents a wooden tool shed which existed on the site in the early 1960s. The gravel road (#2), depression (#3), and pile of cinder blocks (#4) are most likely associated with construction of the fire station in 1964. Because these features are less than 50 years old, they **do not constitute a historic property** as defined by the Commonwealth of Kentucky and are therefore **ineligible** for the National Register of Historic Places.

Acknowledgements: we thank Matt Mattingly for the opportunity to do this project, Chris Lamm for aerial photography, Tom Kind for his encouragement and financial support, and Lewis Perry for allowing us to interview him.