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Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area

Sope Creek Cultural Landscape Report

Cultural Resources
Southeast Region

Sope Creek

Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area

Cultural Landscape Report

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Beth Wheeler Byrd

National Park Service

Southeast Regional Office

Cultural Resources Division



Cultural Resources Division
Southeast Regional Office
National Park Service
100 Alabama Street, SW
Atlanta, Georgia 30303
(404) 507-5847

Chattahoochee River NRA
1978 Island Ford Parkway
Sandy Springs, Georgia 30350

http://www.cr.nps.gov/chat

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Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area
Sope Creek

Cultural Landscape Report

Approved by: _____ 12/11/09
Superintendent, Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area — Date

Recommended by: _____ 12/23/09
Chief, Cultural Resources Division, Southeast Regional Office — Date

Recommended by: _____ 12/29/09
Deputy Regional Director, Southeast Region — Date

Approved by: _____ 1-6-10
Regional Director, Southeast Region — Date

Cultural Landscape Report

Sope Creek
Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area

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Introduction

Management Summary

The Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area (NRA) preserves and protects a 48 mile stretch of the Chattahoochee River corridor and the associated resources for the benefit and enjoyment of the public. Congress established the section of river between Buford Dam and Peachtree Creek as Chattahoochee River NRA in 1978 with the support of President Jimmy Carter.[1] The park includes several large, separated units connected by the linear corridor of the river. Sope Creek is located in Cobb County, Georgia as part of the Cochran Shoals unit of Chattahoochee River NRA and one of many cultural resources in the park.

The Sope Creek cultural landscape begins downstream from Paper Mill Road and includes the historic ruins of Marietta Paper Mill and landscape features associated with early water-powered industry. Most of the extant ruins date to the late 1860s, built to replace the original mill destroyed by Union troops during the 1864 Atlanta Campaign. Sope Creek witnessed prehistoric occupation, early industry, Civil War action, and later manufacturing success before the mill was abandoned in 1902. Today two mill foundations of the Marietta Manufacturing Company remain among the ruins of adjacent outbuildings. The original road bed, retaining walls, dam, and raceway piers survive along the length of the creek. The site is open to the public and managed by the National Park Service.

The *Chattahoochee River NRA Historic Resource Study* identified Marietta Paper Mill as a potential cultural landscape to be managed by the park.[2] Cultural landscapes are defined as geographical areas, including both cultural and natural resources and the wildlife or domestic animals therein, associated with a historical event, activity, or person, or that exhibits other cultural or aesthetic values.[3] This Cultural Landscape Report (CLR) for the Sope Creek site documents changes to the cultural landscape and provides treatment recommendations based on the significance and integrity of the resource and the needs of contemporary park management.

The CLR provides a thorough history of landscape changes, documents existing conditions, and evaluates historic significance and integrity with criteria used by the National Register of Historic Places. The evolution of the landscape and the character-defining features are analyzed to make treatment recommendations in accordance with National Park Service (NPS) policy, park management, and the *Secretary of Interior's Standards for Cultural Landscapes*. Treatment recommendations provide guidance for the preservation and rehabilitation of the cultural landscape to address park visitation, erosion control, vegetation management, and the stabilization of historic structures and archeological sites of Sope Creek.

Historical Summary

Sope Creek (also recorded in historic documents as *Soap* Creek or *Soaps'* Creek) was likely named for a Cherokee man who remained in the area after local tribes were removed by European settlers. In the 1836 national census, Old Sope had a cabin with plantings of apple and peach trees near "Sharp Mountain Creek." Oral history suggests local boys enjoyed visiting Old Sope to learn Cherokee words and listen to stories.[4] The spelling of the creek may have been *Sope*, in honor of the remaining Cherokee, however the 1832 land lottery map listed

1. Enabling Legislation (PL95-344, HR 8336, 1978), General Management Plan, National Park Service, 2009, p. 14.
2. Marti Gerdes and others. *Chattahoochee River NRA Historic Resource Study*, National Park Service, 2007, p. 106.
3. Page, Robert R., Gilbert, Cathy A., Dolan, Susan A. *A Guide to Cultural Landscape Reports: Contents, Process, and Techniques*, p. 12.
4. Sarah Blackwell Gober Temple, *The First 100 Years: A Short History of Cobb County in Georgia*. Agee Publishers, Athens, GA, 1935. p. 516.

the feature as *Soaps'* Creek.[5] Official Civil War maps and accounts during the Atlanta Campaign continued using the name *Soap* Creek, either a possible misspelling, or a local description of the picturesque, bubbling whitewater resembling soap suds. Other speculation on the historic origin of *Soap* Creek points to the one-time presence of soap stones in the stream. The *Sope* Creek spelling was restored as the area developed in twentieth century. The park and surrounding place names use Sope Creek today and this spelling appears throughout this CLR.

The Chattahoochee River corridor was used by several prehistoric groups as early as 10,000 years ago. Nomadic Paleo-Indian and Archaic groups hunted in the surrounding forests and fished in the river, while later cultures in the Woodland period began farming. Cherokee and Creek Indians inhabited the area during the colonial period and the Chattahoochee River served as a boundary and neutral hunting ground used seasonally by both groups.

European settlement reached the Piedmont in the early nineteenth century. Georgia developed as a colony, then as part of the fledging United States. Settlers expanded agriculture westward with land grants and land lotteries, displacing native inhabitants. Small farms and railroads delineated the area and as early as the 1830s industry began in Cobb County along Sope Creek.

The Marietta Paper Mill incorporated in 1859 and produced newsprint and paper products until Union troops advanced south and burned the mill. General Sherman led troops across the Chattahoochee River, crossing near Sope Creek, to attack the Confederate defenses of Atlanta. After the war, agriculture and manufacturing returned to the area as part of Reconstruction. The Marietta Paper Mill was rebuilt in 1865 and expanded in 1888 with the addition of a pulp mill. The industrial period along Sope Creek ended in 1902 due to a fire, though shifting markets, outdated technology, and modern transportation further deterred the owners from rebuilding the mills.

5. Soaps Creek is marked on Union maps including *Schofield Crossing the Chattahooche* [sic] July 1864. Library of Congress, http://www.loc.gov (accessed October 14, 2008). Land lottery maps use Soap and Soaps Creek.

The modern history of Sope Creek includes the escalating threat of suburban development from an expanding Atlanta. The growth of neighborhoods in the 1960s and subsequent pressure on existing infrastructure prompted the review of the Sope Creek ruins as a historic resource. The site was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1973 and established as part of the Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area in 1978. In the early 1980s, the National Park Service stabilized the structural ruins of the main mill buildings. Today the NPS continues to administer the cultural and natural resources of Sope Creek.

Study Boundary

Sope Creek flows from its headwaters in Marietta southeasterly over 12 miles to join the Chattahoochee River. The creek traverses the north end of the Cochran Shoals unit of the park. Located in Cobb County, the Sope Creek cultural landscape is 7 miles east of Marietta, Georgia, and 15 miles north of the City of Atlanta. The paper mill ruins occupy the site 1.8 miles above the confluence of the creek and the Chattahoochee River. The creek meets the river on the western riverbank downstream from the Johnson Ferry Road Bridge. The ruins of the historic Marietta Paper Mill, associated outbuildings, and archeological



FIGURE 1. Chattahoochee River NRA location map.

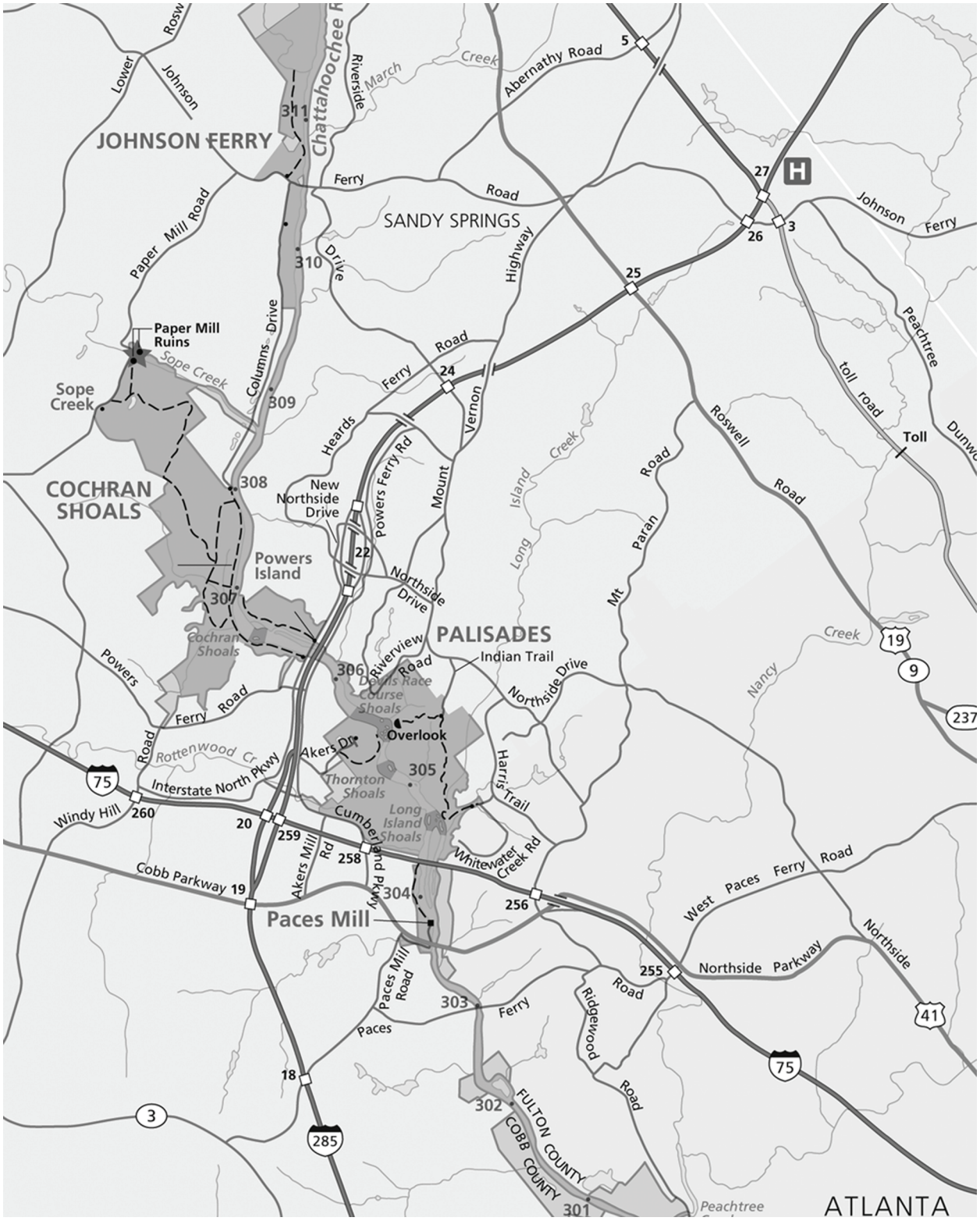


FIGURE 2. Sope Creek location within Cochran Shoals unit of CHAT NRA.

resources are located on both sides of Sope Creek. The industrial complex is a destination for visitors enjoying trails at Cochran Shoals. Beyond park boundaries are the Atlanta Country Club golf course and suburban neighborhoods.

This CLR focuses on the area immediately adjacent to the creek. The boundaries of the Sope Creek cultural landscape correspond with park boundaries to the east and north, and encompass the ruins and archeological sites on the western creek bank. The

south boundary ends downstream from Caney Branch and the west boundary parallels the creek beyond the pulp mill site. The National Register historic district designated in 1973 has boundaries that extend beyond NPS property to include several nineteenth and twentieth-century resources located on private property. The National Register district forms a rectangle roughly 1,820 acres with the creek bisecting the length of the area. Information about the location and extent of the historic district is classified due to the sensitivity of archeological findings. The cultural landscape documented in this report is within the National Register district and limited by NPS boundaries. (See Figure 3) The NPS Cochran Shoals unit extends to the west of Sope Creek, well beyond the clustered industrial site.

Scope of Work and Methodology

The major park resources documenting Sope Creek include the recent *Historic Resource Study* (2007), a *General Management Plan* (2009), and *A Cultural Resource Inventory: Archeological Sites* (1980). The site is well-documented in secondary sources including local newspapers and land use studies, though primary documentation is limited. Many land and business records burned during the Union army occupation in 1864. Prehistoric and archeological information for Chattahoochee River NRA is partial and restricted, though Sope Creek is included in surveys and site reports.

Research at the park and Southeast Regional Office (SERO) provided aerial photography, historic maps, interpretation, and site plans. CLR research extended to secondary sources located in local libraries and archives providing information on local history, ecology, and geography.[6] Sources at the Robert C. Williams Paper Museum at the Georgia Institute of Technology offered valuable information about the process and manufacture of paper in the nineteenth century.

The existing conditions of Sope Creek were documented in March and April 2008 during site visits with park staff. Global Positioning System (GPS) mapping in December 2008 provided data for feature locations and was added to park Geographical Information Systems (GIS) maps. Aerial photography provided information on vegetative cover and surrounding development.[7] The GIS data was added to existing park data and exported to AutoCAD for map production. Other field work included documentary photography and conditions assessment.

This CLR addresses significant features of the Sope Creek site and changes to the landscape since its prehistoric settlement and industrial development, together identifying the evolution of the site. Understanding both the change and continuity of the cultural landscape provides the CLR with a basis to recommend comprehensive treatment for the extant landscape features remaining from the period of significance.

Summary of Findings

The Sope Creek cultural landscape remains a significant local resource. The extant ruins represent the industrial history along a tributary of the Chattahoochee River and the site remains associated with early prehistoric use and the Atlanta Campaign. The period of significance (1855-1902) focuses on the manufacturing era of Sope Creek and the Civil War. The creek and historic ruins remain the primary landscape features.

The integrity of the cultural landscape preserves the aspects of location, materials, design, workmanship, and association related to the prehistoric, industrial, and Civil War history. The deteriorating structures convey the historic era of water-power manufacturing on Sope Creek. This CLR recommends preservation treatment with specific rehabilitation of key landscape features.

6. Historical research was conducted at Cobb County library, Georgia State University library, the *Hargrett Room* at the University of Georgia library, and the *Mead Education Center* at the Robert C. Williams Paper Museum at Georgia Institute of Technology.

7. Site visit December 9, 2008 with Desmond Lee, CHAT NRA Biotech.

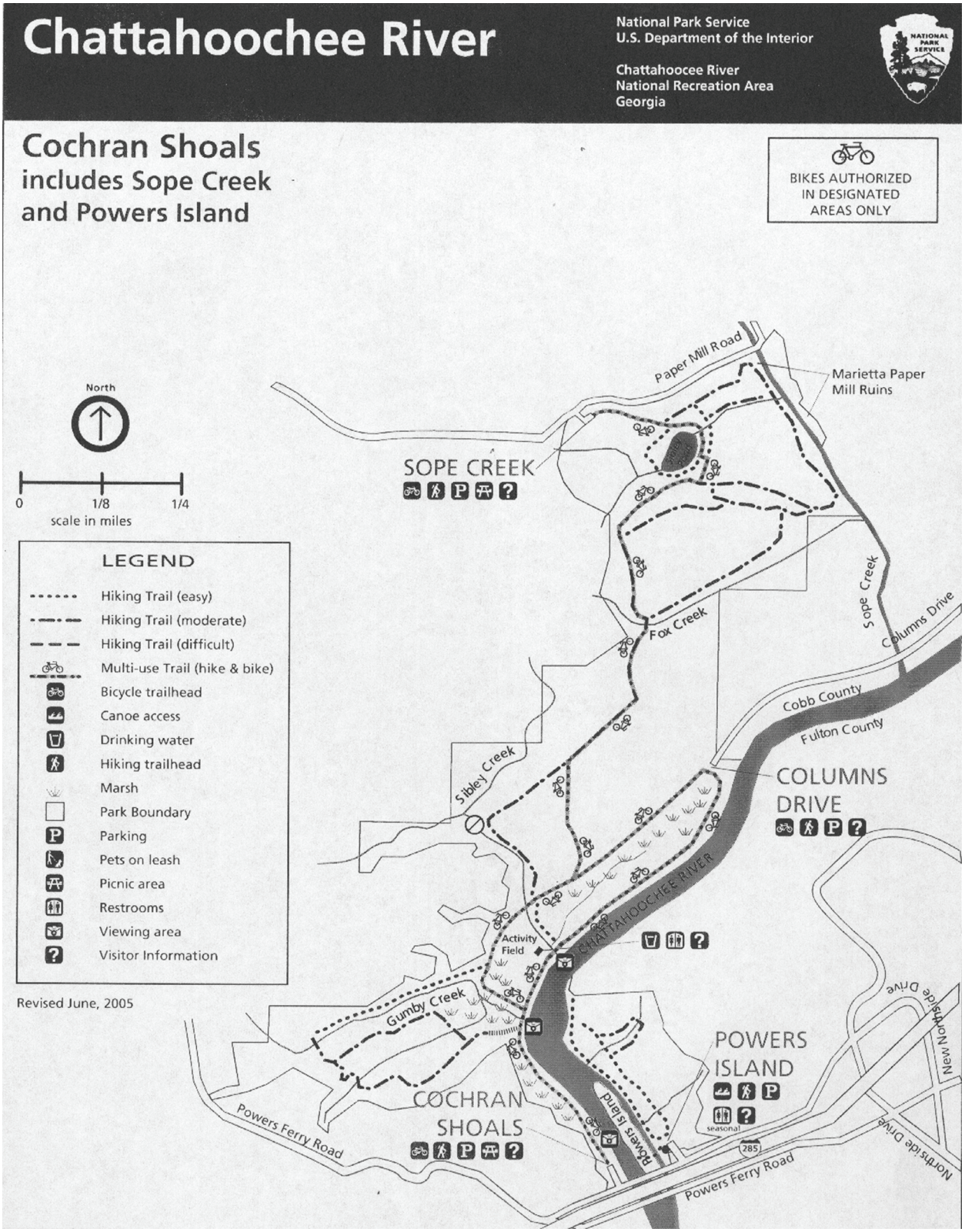


FIGURE 3. Sope Creek cultural landscape at north end of Cochran Shoals unit.

Site History

Geologic History

The Brevard lineament runs from south central Alabama to north central North Carolina. This geological fault line "locks" the Chattahoochee River in place, unlike other rivers that change course over time with natural erosion. The resulting river channel on the Piedmont plateau is one of the oldest and most stable in the nation and the narrowest in Georgia.[1] The Chattahoochee River flows southwest through Georgia, beginning in the mountains at the Tennessee border. Brasstown Bald, the highest peak in Georgia, is located near the headwaters. The Chattahoochee River NRA includes the stretch of river between Buford Dam at Lake Sidney Lanier, a man-made reservoir, and Peachtree Creek in Atlanta. The river continues flowing south of the park and turns south-southwestward where it forms the state line between Alabama and Georgia. The Chattahoochee joins the Flint River to form the Apalachicola River, which empties into the Gulf of Mexico.

Sope Creek is a tributary that joins the Chattahoochee River five river-miles north of Peachtree Creek. The tributary flows south-southeast twelve miles to join the river between Johnson's Ferry and Power's Ferry. The creek drops almost 300 feet along the length of the watercourse. The topography adjacent to the paper mills is particularly steep.

The rugged terrain surrounding Sope Creek formed from metamorphic granite gneisses, schists, amphibolites, quartzites, and igneous inclusions. Steep slopes on both banks of the creek preserve the natural terrain and prevented interested owners from developing the land in the twentieth century. The localized topography characterized by rock outcroppings and upland ridges resulted from the same geologic shift that created Sope Creek and the Chattahoochee River.

Prehistory

The Chattahoochee River played an important role in prehistoric settlement patterns, trade, transportation, and food gathering. Archeologists uncovered artifacts and features from successive prehistoric groups defined by ceramic type, tool technology, and agriculture. The diversity of temperate oak-hickory-pine forests and historical fauna sustained early inhabitants of the region. The Chattahoochee River today has extant rock-shelters, fish weirs, and occupation sites, numbering over 200 archeological sites within the park boundaries. The archeology suggests Sope Creek rock shelters were used as temporary hunting camps.[2] Due to the limited excavations within the park and sensitive location of such sites, the CLR relies on broader culture patterns to describe the early inhabitants of Sope Creek.

Early Inhabitants

The prehistoric occupation of Piedmont Georgia began between 10,000 and 8,000 BCE. Paleo-Indians traversed the region as nomadic hunters and gatherers, traveling in small bands and hunting large mammals.[3] There is little archeological evidence revealing the extent of Paleo-Indians in the Chattahoochee River valley though fluted spear points, or Clovis points, were identified in Massachusetts, Pennsylvania, Virginia, and at Ocmulgee National Monument in Macon, Georgia.[4]

The beginnings of pottery production, changes in stone tool shape, and local hunting patterns

1. GMP, p.14, Patricia O'Grady and Charles B. Poe. *Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area, Georgia Cultural Resource Inventory: Archeological Sites Final Report 1980*. Tallahassee, FL: Southeastern Archeological Center, NPS, 1980. p. 64.
2. Everett E. Bronski, Jr. *Sope Creek Manufacturing Complex: Archeological Survey of Cobb-Fulton Counties*. Atlanta, Georgia: Georgia Institute of Technology, March 1978. p.5. Hardy, SEAC report.
3. Southeast Archeological Center (SEAC), Southeastern Prehistory, Paleo-Indian Period. http://www.cr.nps.gov/seac/outline/02-paleoindian, accessed August 11, 2008.

differentiated the groups succeeding the Paleo-Indians. Southeastern Indians during the Archaic period (8,000 BCE- 1,000 BCE) developed more complex organization and supported larger populations. The extinction of large mammals left an abundance of water fowl and deer to be hunted with the atlatl, a tool developed to add leverage to spear throwing. Archaic Indians camped near water sources, including the Chattahoochee River and Sope Creek, meanwhile trade increased the spread of non-native plants and the production and range of pottery.

The Woodland period (1,000 BCE- 900 AD) included more efficient hunting and gathering techniques and the early cultivation of crops in river floodplains. The Woodland inhabitants near the Chattahoochee River began producing ceramics and built more permanent villages. The complexity of pottery temper and decoration increased with the establishment of sedentary towns during this period.

The Mississippian period (900 AD- 1500 AD) marked a flourishing culture that relied primarily on subsistence agriculture. Mound complexes near Etowah and Ocmulgee survive from this era and indicate the central and organized political structure necessary to build the series of massive, earthen features. Mississippians in Piedmont Georgia depended on corn crops to sustain a large population and created distinctive ceramic types that defined the prehistoric context.[5] The decline of the Mississippian mound-building culture began in the thirteenth century, well before the arrival of European explorers. The spread of disease by Hernando De Soto and his expedition caused the final collapse of the Late Mississippian civilization.[6] The Lamar population relocated to the Chattahoochee River falls in 1650 from the Mississippian settlement on the Ocmulgee River.[7]

The Sope Creek cultural landscape includes prehistoric occupation sites, rock shelters, and lithic scatters. The mobility of early nomadic tribes, later industrial and residential development, and looting compromised the integrity of the early period landscape, though evidence remains of the hunting, camping and occupation of Archaic and Woodland inhabitants and later cultures. Archeology in the twentieth century helped to reconstruct the chronology and culture left by prehistoric inhabitants of the Chattahoochee River and Sope Creek.



FIGURE 4. Watercolor representation of Mississippian village. From Ocmulgee NM Handbook #24, 1961. (NPS image)

Creeks and Cherokees

The Creek, or Muskogee, originally inhabiting middle Georgia descended from the Mississippian culture that stretched throughout the state. The eastern tribes of the Creek centered on the Chattahoochee River and near Augusta, Georgia while others occupied the Coosa and Tallapoosa Rivers in Alabama. The Creek occupation of the Chattahoochee River valley coincided with European exploration and colonial settlement. The historic Creek Nation, organized among over thirty tribes, remained cohesive, despite removal to Oklahoma.[8] The Muscogee (Creek) Nation is a recognized tribe to this day.

The Cherokee, associated with the Iroquois language group, lived in the Appalachian Mountains and migrated south toward the Chattahoochee River in the early seventeenth century.[9] The expansion of Cherokee territory reinforced the central political structure of the group, yet led to a series of violent land disputes with the Creek nation.[10] The predecessors of modern Creek tribes

4. O'Grady and Poe, p. 52. The OCMU CLR identifies Clovis points as distinctive early American stone weapon/tool named for the High Plains site in which the points were first located. New Deal archeology at Ocmulgee unearthed a Clovis point west of the Earth lodge in 1935.
5. Gerdes et al., p. 8.
6. Ibid., p. 9.
7. The Lamar culture is thought to be a direct descendent of the Mississippians.
8. James R. Swanton. *The Indians of the Southeastern United States*, Smithsonian Institute, Bureau of American Ethnology, Bulletin 137, Washington, D.C., 1979, p. 110.
9. Swanton, p. 135.

fought the Cherokee at Slaughter Gap for control of Blood Mountain and later in present-day Cherokee County at the site of Ball Ground, only to lose the contested land. The Creek defeat at Ball Ground left the northwest bank of the Chattahoochee River in Cherokee possession and the southeast bank occupied by the Creek. The river then served as a boundary with a parallel corridor of land on each side used for hunting and fishing by both groups.[11] Due to their proximity, the Creeks and Cherokees had an intensive cultural exchange. The shared buffer helps explain why few permanent settlements from the early historic period survive in the current park boundaries.

Two settlements did exist, Suwannee, settled by Shawnee Indians in the eighteenth century in present-day Gwinnett County, and Standing Peachtree, a local landmark at the mouth of Peachtree Creek. Sandtown, or Buzzard Roost, near present-day Ben Hill, was also a prominent village. Standing Peachtree occupied land with an earthen mound on each side of the river. The village was a significant trading site and likely a border town along the territory shared by the Creek and Cherokee. Standing Peachtree offered its name to local streets and place names when Atlanta became a modern city. The village may have been named for peach trees that grew in the area or for a tall pine or "pitch tree" providing resin.[12]

During the prehistoric era, the Sope Creek landscape was used for hunting, fishing, gathering, and seasonal camping. The rugged topography, diverse flora and fauna, and accessibility to water offered a succession of groups the natural resources necessary to live off of the land into the historic period.

European Arrival

Cherokee and Creek Indians, each part of the broader Southeast Indian culture, occupied the Chattahoochee River valley when Hernando De Soto and his Spanish explorers reached the interior.[13] De Soto wrote extensively of the villages and towns encountered in Georgia and documented his historic route. The expedition brought disease to the tribes and after De Soto returned to the Florida peninsula, the native population was left decimated. A century later when British and French explorers visited the Chattahoochee River, the inhabitants were vastly different.

The introduction of European goods through intermarriage and trade quickly blurred the cultural divisions between early European settlers and the native Creek and Cherokee. Trading posts, or factories, constructed by the English lured the Creek to stay in newly settled areas and maintain trade. These government factories provided tools, looms, and livestock to local tribes and protection to white settlers. Trade networks survived into the nineteenth century as Creek tribes exploited the rivalry between early British and French traders to their advantage, despite losing claim to their own land.[14] The frontier population grew as Creek, Cherokee, and European settlers shared the landscape.

Creek War

By the end of the American Revolution, white settlers began moving south and west into Piedmont Georgia in increasing numbers. The intermittent wars between European countries as well as the fighting caused by Indian alliances escalated tensions between settlers and Creeks on the frontier.[15] In 1813-1814, the Creek War took place after increasing pressure to confiscate land spread across Georgia and Alabama. The warring Creeks known as "Red Sticks" lost a major battle on the Tallapoosa River against a coalition of Cherokee, Federal soldiers, and loyal Creeks led by Andrew Jackson.[16] Horseshoe Bend National Military Park preserves the 1814 battle site today. While the major fighting of the Creek War occurred in Alabama, the Creek territory still included portions of the Chattahoochee River valley.

The site of Standing Peachtree became a fort to supply Federal forces during the Creek War. A treaty

10. Gerdes et al., p. 9.
11. O'Grady and Poe, p. 59. The Creeks disputed this claim at various times. The HRS also describes the fighting between the Creek and Cherokee in greater detail. p. 9-15.
12. HSR, p. 10. O'Grady and Poe, p. 58-60.
13. O'Grady and Poe, p. 56.
14. Ibid., p. 12.
15. Lenard E. Brown. *Historic Resource Study Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area and the Chattahoochee River Corridor.* NPS, Southeast Regional Office, November 1980, p. 3.
16. Gerdes et al., p. 12.

in 1821 ceded all land east of the Chattahoochee River to the State of Georgia, including the village. The 1821 treaty ceded land to the Flint River and Line Creek. The Treaty of Washington in 1826 ceded most of the remainder of the state west of the Chattahoochee. After 1828, the Creek were gone from Georgia and what is now Cobb County was open to white settlement, several years before the demise of the Cherokee. Both tribes were removed from Alabama and Georgia in 1838. The Creek and Cherokee retained land west of the river including Sope Creek until boundaries were later redefined by additional treaties in the 1830s.[17]

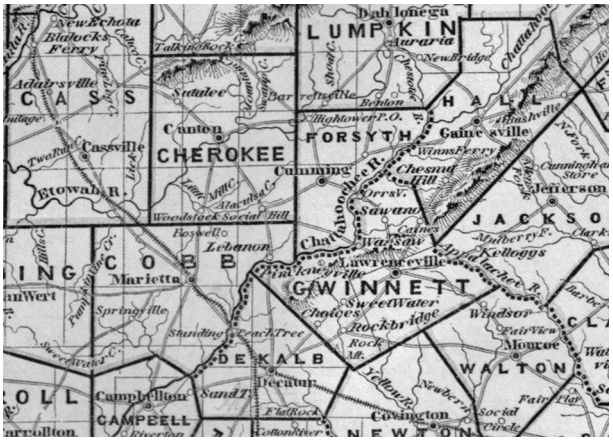


FIGURE 5. Detail from a 1842 map of Georgia. (Courtesy of the Tommy H. Jones collection)

Cherokee Removal

Efforts to remove the Cherokee began in earnest when gold was discovered near Dahlonega, Georgia, in 1829. In 1835, a Cherokee minority signed the Treaty of New Echota with the Federal government, ceding all lands and compelling the majority to move westward. The Trail of Tears was a mass exodus to Oklahoma. Few Cherokee remained in the area and hold-outs stayed in the high elevations of the mountains of western North Carolina to avoid the forced removal.[18] As noted earlier, the Cherokee Old Sope is thought to have stayed near the Chattahoochee River, lending his name to the creek close by.

The state surveyed the Cherokee territory in 1831 for a land lottery held the following year. Cherokee County, Georgia, officially formed on December 26, 1831, from land west of and adjacent to the Chattahoochee River.[19] Cobb County was established from part of Cherokee County in 1833, named for Judge Thomas W. Cobb.[20] The new county included Sope Creek, which begins in Marietta, the county seat.

Settlement

White settlers arrived in Cobb County initially attracted to gold in nearby Dahlonega and still-profitable trade with local tribes. Early inhabitants farmed the cheap, arable land meanwhile displacing the few remaining Cherokee. Land squatters made what money they could and continued westward until the subsequent land lottery opened the county for permanent settlement.[21] They raised corn and subsistence crops on the floodplains of the Chattahoochee River and constructed temporary thatch homes later replaced by more substantial log houses. The land use patterns of isolated farmsteads consisted of a main house, outbuildings, a garden, and fenced fields surrounded by woodlots. The pattern also influenced the Cherokee living in the area.[22] After the 1832 land lottery, the population grew rapidly and Cobb County supported a scattered network of small farms operated and owned by individual families.

Marietta incorporated as a city in 1852 with a county population well over ten thousand.[23] In the 1850 census, 1,918 families lived in Cobb County; a population of 11,571 free citizens and 2,272 slaves.[24] Early land records were destroyed during the Civil War, though some land lottery records survive along with other records dating back to 1866.

Transportation

The Chattahoochee River provided a major water source in the nineteenth century and dictated other routes of transportation throughout the region. The

17. Brown, p. 7.
18. O'Grady and Poe, p. 60.
19. Bronski, p. 6.
20. Rev. George White. *Historical Collections of Georgia*. New York: Pudney and Russell Publishers, 1854. p. 400.
21. Gerdes et al., p.26.
22. Darlene M. Roth. "Architecture, Archeology, and Landscapes." Marietta, Georgia: Cobb County Historic Commission, 1988. p. 14-16.
23. O'Grady and Poe, p. 60. The 1845 census estimated over 10,000 people lived in Cobb County before the city was incorporated.
24. White, p. 400.



FIGURE 6. Montgomery ferry crossing circa 1900. *Vanishing Georgia Collection* (COB 603).

river was navigable to the Fall Line around Columbus, Georgia and points northward utilized ferries to connect horse trails and footpaths over the natural obstacle. Ferrying, necessary to cross the river without bridges, replaced the use of isolated fords and became a localized industry for the steadily-growing population. By the time Cobb County was established, over twelve ferries crossed the Chattahoochee, including Power's ferry south of Sope Creek. The ease of ferryboat operation and the high cost of bridge construction sustained ferry crossing well into the twentieth century.[25] Ferry crossings dictated the routes of main roads throughout the Piedmont.

Before the Civil War, the south necessitated a transportation system beyond river and road systems. The construction of the Western & Atlantic (W&A) railroad connected Chattanooga, Tennessee, with Terminus, meanwhile dictating the location of small towns throughout northwest Georgia.[26] By 1838, over fifty miles of railroad tracks were under construction and the railroad crossed the Chattahoochee River at Montgomery's ferry. The rail line promoted the growth of Marietta and eventually several manufacturing mills relocated to the Cobb County seat to take advantage of access to the railroad.

In the nineteenth century, a wooden covered bridge was built to connect the road over Sope Creek leading to Marietta. Today a modern bridge replaces the original covered bridge, which burned, in the same location. A road parallel to Sope Creek provided access to the paper mill.

Industry 1831-1864

The economic changes instigated during the American Revolution led to the expansion of manufacturing in the new states. Industry reached Piedmont Georgia in the 1830s as the population grew and agriculture prospered.[27] The construction of railroads, success of local farms, and development in Marietta prompted the use of tributary streams for industry. The abundance of shoals and waterfalls on creeks feeding into the Chattahoochee River allowed the region to build saw mills, paper mills, grist mills and textile mills well before the Civil War.[28] Local mills made the Chattahoochee River the focus of industrial development in north Georgia and a lucrative business location. The growth of industry and rugged topography set the stage for the harnessing of water power along Sope Creek.

According to oral history, the first industry at Sope Creek was a peach brandy distillery. Andrew Edmonson and Bostick Sessions operated a still in the mid-nineteenth century which produced the "finest product in the area." The distillery, located on the west bank of Sope Creek near the extant pulp mill foundation, once included stone walls, several mash tubs, and copper worms. The peach brandy product sold for 33 1/2 to 40 cents.[29]

> They used to make some of the best peach brandy out at Sope Creek that anyone ever wanted to taste. When Mr. Land was a young boy his father lived a mile from the mills on a hill near Marietta. He used to tell about putting the sacks of peaches across his saddle bow to carry them to the still to be made into

25. Gerdes et al., p. 21.
26. In 1843, the town at the end of the W&A rail line, Terminus was renamed Marthasville in honor of the daughter of Gov. Wilson Lumpkin. The city was renamed Atlanta in 1845 though the capital of Georgia remained Milledgeville. Atlanta became the capital in 1868.
27. By 1839 Roswell Factory was established and operating.
28. Gerdes et al., p. 27.
29. Wilbur G. Kurtz "The Picturesque Passage of the Chattahoochee River, by Federal Army of the Ohio" in *The Constitution Magazine*, October 26, 1930, p. 10. Quoted in Bronski, p.7. Brown, p. 41.



FIGURE 7. Covered bridge over Sope Creek. *Vanishing Georgia Collection* (COB 601).

> brandy. That was when people had plenty of good peaches and everybody had brandy at home.[30]

During the Civil War, the Union cavalry burned buildings along Sope Creek and the still was destroyed. Archeologists identified a possible location of a distillery north of the Paper Mill Road as well as an associated house site.[31]

The first documented commercial industry along Sope Creek was a flour mill operated by Edward Denmead. The grist mill, built in 1853, produced 125 barrels of "excellent quality" flour daily. The building stood three stories high, 40 by 50 feet, with four runs of stone.[32] The Denmead mill appears on a modern historic resource map 200 yards upstream from the Sope Creek paper mill.[33]

30. Aston Chapman. "Making Paper on Soap Creek" in *The Atlanta Journal*, May 28, 1933, p. 10
31. Bronski, p. 7. The location near Paper Mill Road bridge is based on conjecture from local reminiscences. A SEAC site report notes standing chimneys on the west bank of Sope Creek inland from the industrial site.
32. White p. 400-404. In 1853, the Denmead grist mill was worth $15,000. (Charles-Gray) Brown, p. 41
33. The ruins of the Denmead flour mill contribute to the National Register historic district but are not part of the Sope Creek cultural landscape. The mill ruins lie north of the NPS park boundary.

Marietta Paper Company

The Marietta Paper Company mills mark the height of industry on Sope Creek and the centerpiece of the cultural landscape. On December 19, 1859, local investors incorporated the Marietta Paper Company, though operations began prior to forming the corporation. The original stockholders included Andrew "Scofe" Edmonson, Bostick Sessions (both attributed with operating the nearby distillery), William Phillips, a Civil War general, James L. Byrd, an Englishman, Isaac Sewell, Napoleon B. Greene, John R. Winters, and Moses B. Whitmore, brother-in-law to Edmonson, Thomas L. Waterman, and Colonel Fall.[34] Sewell, Greene, and Winters arrived in Cobb County before 1835 and all the owners and investors were prominent businessmen in Marietta. The demand for paper combined with the natural advantages of Sope Creek made the location ideal for industrial papermaking.

The manufacturing of paper in the nineteenth century required labor, specialized machinery, and a consistent flow of water to produce power. Prior to

34. *Acts Passed by the General Assembly of the State of Georgia*. Milledgeville, GA. P. 243-245.

the technology used at Sope Creek, papermaking methods progressed from hand-made techniques dating to ancient times in Asia and Europe. The first American paper mill, operated by William Rittenhouse and William Bradford, opened in Philadelphia in 1690 along the Wissahickon Creek.[35] Limited manufacturing and printing in the then-British colonies relied heavily on imported paper from England.[36] Though papermaking eventually spread through the colonies similar to other industries, the number of printing businesses grew faster than the number of paper mills. The value of English imports and scarcity of raw material left the colonial paper industry slow to prosper.

By 1810, over 200 paper mills operated in the United States. At the time, cotton and linen rags were scarce and paper makers experimented with other raw materials including fibers from bagasse (sugar cane stalks), straw, cornstalks, and wood.[37] Paper production was standardized by the time the Sope Creek paper mill opened. Cotton and linen rags were routinely processed and later wood pulp was introduced to the papermaking process. The Marietta Paper Mill on Sope Creek was the second paper mill to operate in Georgia.[38]

Siting and Production on Sope Creek. Operations at Marietta Paper Company were a multi-step process. Paper manufacture occurred in a sequence of rooms at the main mill, while various outbuildings served specialized functions. The Marietta Paper Mill created pulp for papermaking by sorting, cutting, and washing cotton and linen rags. Work began with hand-separated rags and basic fiber processing. Most often women collected the raw materials, sorted the pieces for cleanliness

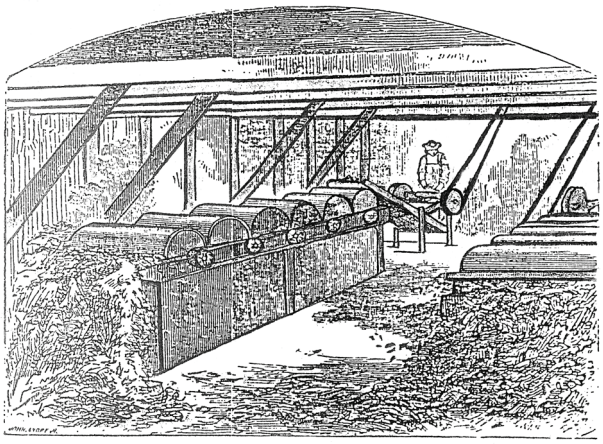

DUSTING ROOM.

FIGURE 9. Drawing of the rag dusting room, CHAT archives.

and quality and removed buttons and hooks. The rags were thrashed to loosen dirt and cut into two to four inch strips by hand or (later) machine. The northern two rooms of the paper mill provided space for sorting and cutting.

The rags received a final dusting and were dumped into a breaking engine with water to further separate the fibers.[39] The pieces were rolled in a mineral lime and stored for up to three months to rot and further break down the fibers.[40] The rotted rags were then added to a boiling kettle with caustic soda or slaked lime and heated and agitated to remove the remaining dirt and color. The water and alkali mixture steamed for hours to reach thirty pounds

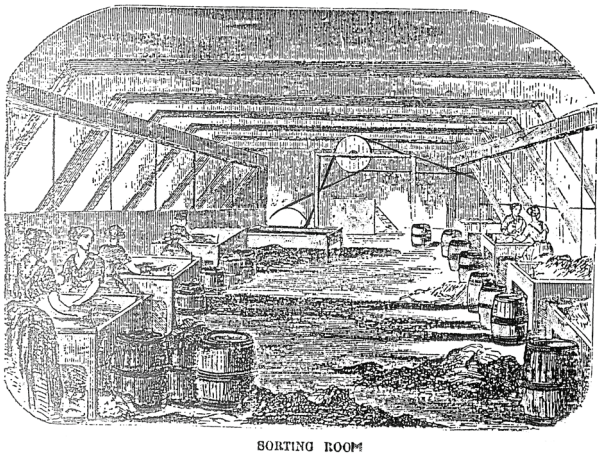

SORTING ROOM

FIGURE 8. Drawing of rag sorting room, CHAT archives.

35. Suttermeister, p. 12.
36. A printing press in Cambridge, Massachusetts produced fewer than 1,000 books before 1700. Ibid., p. 13.
37. Robert C. Williams Paper Museum exhibit and Dard Hunter.
38. The first paper mill in Georgia opened on the Oconee River at Scull Shoals in 1810. The Oconee River mill also operated as a grist mill and saw mill before closing in 1814. Following the Sope Creek mill, the Banning Mill in Whitesburg, Georgia added paper production in the 1880s. The Banning Mill survived the Union army occupation by avoiding detection and continued much-needed paper production for the south throughout the Civil War. Banning Mill, after many improvements and updates, finally closed in 1971. Robert C. Williams Paper museum exhibit and www.scullshoals.org and www.historicbanningmills.com/history.
39. The "stamper" or breaking engine operated like a modern washing machine. Fresh water was added to the rag fibers, agitated, then removed, with more fresh water added until the water was only slightly discolored and rag fibers separated.
40. Robert C. Williams Paper Museum exhibit.

per square inch (psi) pressure.[41] A pulp lifter sorted the fibers and prevented tangling while a "deknotter" further separated the pulp fibers by shaking.[42] The center rooms of the mill housed the washing and grounding areas and the rotting rags were likely stored at an outbuilding near the mill.

In the southern-most room, the prepared pulp was loaded into a head box, or hopper, to feed the papermaking machine. The Marietta Paper Mill had a Jordan engine to mix the pulp and a Fourdrinier papermaking machine to produce the finished paper product.[43] The machines coordinated and synchronized the final steps into a mechanical process, molding, rolling, and pressing the wet rag pulp into dry manufactured paper. The adjacent waterwheel transferred the hydropower from Sope Creek to the mechanical system that powered the Fourdrinier machine.

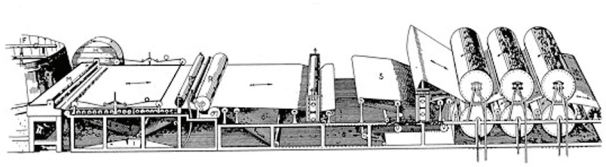


FIGURE 10. Fourdrinier papermaking machine.

The upper stories of the mill were originally used to hang paper for drying. At some point during manufacture at Marietta Paper Mill, additional cylinder machines were added to mechanically dry and finish the paper.[44] Adjacent to the main paper mill building, outbuildings offered space for functions related to papermaking, including a boiler room, storage room, oil room and office.

41. Suttermeister, p. 25
42. A pulp lifter rotated scoops of rag pulp, similar to a ferris wheel, separating the fibers and dividing the pulp into manageable sections. The deknotter was a flat, brass table with thin slits to allow water to drain. The pulp was spread on the deknotter to remove finely tangled fibers. Robert C. Williams Paper Museum exhibit.
43. A trade journal in 1888 listed three 600 pound machines, three 1,000 pound machines, one Jordan engine and an 84 inch Fourdrinier that ran on water and steam. *Lockwood's Directory of the Paper and Stationary Trades*. 24th edition. Howard Lockwood Publishing Company, New York, 1888-89. p. 48, 384.
44. Robert C. Williams Paper Museum exhibit. Lockwood's Directory lists a cylinder dryer at Marietta Paper Mill by 1898.

The upstream dam and raceway harnessed the flow of Sope Creek and funneled the water along the west elevation of the paper mill. The mill was set back to maximize and direct the flow of water onto a waterwheel that powered the machinery. The waterwheel transferred the force of 20 feet of elevation change at the shoals and created nearly 75 horsepower. A listing of industries on local creeks and tributaries measured the Sope Creek paper mill as flowing 3,720 cubic square feet per minute during paper production.[45] The water exited the waterwheel box into a wash pool at the base of Caney Branch. The wash pool also received the used water from rag washing and bleaching.

The 2007 *Historic Resource Study* for Chattahoochee River characterizes typical Piedmont mills as including a dam on a secondary watercourse, a waterwheel, a mill pond or wash pool, a flume or sluice, and associated outbuildings. The dam was located upstream from the shoals, providing the difference in elevation needed to turn the waterwheel.[46] The adjacent buildings were separated from the main mill for safety and improved work conditions. A small oil room supplied fuel and other buildings provided storage for work materials and products, office space, and additional machinery. The Marietta Paper Company mill on the east bank of Sope Creek represents a typical industrial complex in Piedmont Georgia.

Paper Products. The Marietta Paper Company produced fine papers including tissue paper, printing paper, writing paper, newsprint, and wrapping paper from the raw materials of cotton lint, linens, woolen rags, and later wood pulp. The paper mill allocated the type of product by the raw material.[47] Local lore suggests the company made stock for Confederate currency and bonds at the beginning of the Civil War. After the war, paper twine was produced at the Sope Creek mill, the first production of this product in the South.[48]

Due to the threats of northern invasion, several newspapers relocated to Atlanta during the Civil

45. R.T. Nesbitt, editor. *Georgia Her Resources and Possibilities*. Atlanta, Georgia: Franklin Printing and Publishing Company, 1896. p.138-149.
46. Gerdes et al., p. 28-29.
47. Judge J.J. Daniell recalled the preference for linen as a raw material to provide the base for book paper. (March 28, 1972)
48. Temple, p. 404

War. Local Atlanta papers continued daily printing, supplemented by editions from Knoxville, Chattanooga and Memphis, Tennessee. Newspapers likely used the products of the Marietta Paper Company before Atlanta was occupied and paper became a scarce resource. Newspaper publishers used a variety of paper types during the war, including book paper, white commercial paper, rough stock, manila, brown wrapping paper, and wallpaper.[49] An account in the *Marietta Journal* describes the extent and process of paper production on Sope Creek in 1870:

> We paid a visit to this fine Mill, while on a little fishing excursion, last Saturday. It was situated on Soaps' [sic] Creek, a large stream of water, seven miles from this place, and about one half mile above where its water empties into the Chattahoochee. We were shown all through this Mill, by the gentlemanly Superintendent, Mr J. H. Land, and saw with a curious eye all its workings, from where it first went in as a soiled tattered rag and came out the beautiful sheet of snowy white paper. This Mill is in excellent condition, has splendid machinery, all in good running order. Employed at this Mill are about twenty operatives. Many beautiful and industrious young ladies are among the number.—They incessantly work day and night and turn out an immense amount of paper. It is flourishing circumstances, receiving a large and liberal patronage.[50]



FIGURE 11. Marietta Paper Manufacturing Company ream wrapper. (Courtesy of the Robert C. Williams Paper Museum)

49. William Key, *The Battle of Atlanta and the Georgia Campaign*. p 15.
50. "Marietta Paper Mill" in *Marietta Journal*, June 10, 1870.

Jefferson Land. Jefferson Howard Land (1842-1926), an employee of the Marietta Paper Company worked at the mill over his entire lifetime and oversaw the shift from rag to wood pulp in paper manufacture. Jefferson Land began at age twelve as an apprentice to James Byrd at the Marietta Paper Mill and gained a basic education. Born in Marthasville in 1842 before the city was renamed Atlanta, Jefferson Land moved to Columbus during the Civil War to work at a different paper mill. Land returned to rebuild the Sope Creek mill after the war from local stone and with the help of unskilled labor. He eventually became superintendent and claimed to have developed a method for extracting turpentine out of slash pine to produce paper from wood pulp.[51] In an interview with his wife after his death, Mrs. Land described Jefferson as the "pioneer paper maker of the south."[52]

Civil War in Georgia 1864-1865

The Civil War altered the southern landscape and by 1864, both armies reached Georgia prepared for a major campaign. After the Battle of Chattanooga and a winter in camp, Union troops commanded by Major General William Tecumseh Sherman moved toward Atlanta pursuing Confederate General Joseph E. Johnston's Army of Tennessee. The Federal army pushed southward following the rail line to engage the Confederates at Resaca, New Hope Church, Pickett's Mill, and Dallas before finally confronting a dug-in defense at Kennesaw Mountain. After a solid defeat at Kennesaw, the Union army regrouped and crossed the Chattahoochee River at Sope Creek on July 8, 1864. Once the Union army crossed the river, the only natural obstacle between themselves and the enemy was removed. The Atlanta Campaign, encompassing the skirmishes and battles between Chattanooga and Atlanta, is viewed by historians as the beginning of the end of the Confederacy.[53] The action near Sope Creek was significant in the progress of the Union assault during the campaign.

51. Chapman article. Brown, p. 42. The production of paper pulp from pine is credited to Dr. Charles Herty.
52. Land passed away in 1926 at age of 84. Chapman article, Ibid.
53. Wiley, Bell. "Forward" in *The Road Past Kennesaw* by Richard M. McMurray. Washington, D.C.: Office of Publications, National Park Service, 1972. p.. i.

The Atlanta Campaign

Major General Sherman resupplied his troops in Chattanooga and kept a careful watch on the Western & Atlanta (W&A) Railroad. The objective of the Union army became the Confederate army and City of Atlanta, a major supply center. Sherman ordered troops to follow the W&A line through north Georgia, taking the railroad and dividing the supplies and spirit of the south.[54] The Federal troops traversed a territory sparsely populated with small farms, scattered forests, minor waterways, and few roads. After heavy fighting in Tennessee, Confederate General Joe Johnston delayed making a substantial attack and retreated south, frustrating President Jefferson Davis and allowing the U.S. army to press deeper into Georgia.

Battle of Kennesaw Mountain

The Confederates withdrew to Kennesaw Mountain on June 13 after heavy skirmishing at Pine Mountain, Lost Mountain, Gilgal Church, and Mud Creek. Rain delayed Union troop movement for three weeks in June prior to the battle; the Rebels fortified the high ground with artillery and abatis to prepare for a major fight. The Battle of Kennesaw Mountain, fought on June 27, 1864 resulted in a straightforward victory for the Confederate army.[55] An early attack at Kolb farm drove the southern army back and the next day Sherman launched a frontal attack. The Federal troops hoped to surprise the enemy, yet the Confederates sharply repulsed the assault between Pigeon Hill and Little Kennesaw Mountain. After the victory, the Confederate army withdrew to a skirmish line on the western bank of the Chattahoochee River. The river crossing then became the next link in the chain of events of the Atlanta Campaign.[56]

Crossing the Chattahoochee River

On July 2, 1864, General Johnston repositioned his Confederate army from Kennesaw Mountain to Smyrna campground four miles south along the railroad. The Confederate line defended the Methodist revival site to prevent a Union advance.[57] Fighting occurred over the next few days as Johnston fortified a position on the west bank of the Chattahoochee River. Troops skirmished near Nickajack Creek, but advancing Union men found the Confederate "river line" impenetrable. General Francis Shoup designed a defense of earthen and log fortifications, meanwhile Sherman reorganized and set out to outflank the dug-in Rebels.

Sherman decided to feint an attack while moving troops toward Roswell. He sent cavalry led by Brigadier General Kenner Garrard sixteen miles upstream to deceive the enemy. Garrard raced ahead and finding the Sope Creek bridge previously burned by retreating Confederates, destroyed the paper mills and nearby buildings.[58] The orders to cross the river arrived on July 8, 1864, and General Cox's division moved out, following the road to the ruined site of the Marietta Paper Mill and on to the mouth of Sope Creek. The troops crossed to the east bank of the river near a ford by Sope Creek.[59]

General Joseph Schofield filled the center ranks of the Union line at Sope Creek and became the first to cross the Chattahoochee River. Men chosen for their height from the brigade of Brig. General Robert A. Cameron forded the river.

> These 60 [men] waded in, in single file, carrying arms and ammunition above their heads, walking on a sort of fish-dam, the sort of which was over five feet under water part of the way. A few slipped and fell in, but were quickly helped up and on…As soon as we reached the south bank of the Chattahoochee we deployed as skirmishers…The rest of the brigade followed in the pontoons which rapidly slipped into the creek that emptied into the river at that point.[60]

The 23rd Corps crossed the river on July 8 at Isham's Ford using the existing fishing weirs and the footings of an earlier bridge.[61] After Schofield's

54. Dennis Kelly. "Kennesaw Mountain and the Atlanta Campaign: A Tour Guide." Kennesaw Mountain Historical Association, Inc. Marietta, GA, 1990. p. 3, 13.
55. The Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield Park preserves this landscape as a unit of the National Park Service.
56. Kelly, p. 0.
57. Castel, 330.
58. Shelby Foote. *The Civil War: A Narrative Red River to Appomattox*. Volume 3. New York: Random House, Inc. 1974. p. 403-405.
59. United States. War Department. *The War of the Rebellion: A Compilation of the Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies*. Series 1. Volume 38. Part 2. Washington D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1891. p. 683-685.
60. Capt. George Redway, Company I, 103rd Ohio in *Echoes of Battle: The Atlanta Campaign.* Huntington, WV: Blue Acorn Press, 1991. p. 200.



FIGURE 13. General J. Schofield.

Corps of the Army of the Ohio established a bridgehead, the remainder crossed in canvas pontoon boats. They found the mouth of Sope Creek only lightly defended by Confederate cavalry with one artillery piece.[62] Meanwhile, the majority of the Federal army crossed upriver near Roswell and navigated south to join Schofield's men. The Union troops met with little resistance once the main army crossed and put the last obstacle before Atlanta behind them.[63]

Industry during the Civil War

Even before Gen. Kenner Garrard's cavalry burned the mill, the production of paper at Marietta Paper Mill stopped in 1863. The conscription of Confederate soldiers left the mill without workers. An Atlanta paper published a letter explaining the details:

> 1863. Editor of Intelligencer:
>
> I have on hand a few bundles of paper, which I will ship you, and this will be the last for some time; for when we shall resume again I cannot tell. My hands volunteered in the Home Guard, to protect the country against raids, and are now called out to guard stores and prepare the defences [sic] of your city, I understand. . ..Shorthanded, we have done the best we could, and now all hands are taken, of course we are obliged to stop. I do not exactly comprehend how it is that the Government agents insist upon the absolute necessity for the Government to have paper, and yet refuse us our hands.[64]

The direct and indirect wartime impacts to Sope Creek include the burning of the Marietta Paper Mill and the passage of the Union army near the mouth of the creek. The cavalry under command of General Kenner Garrard burned the paper mill, machine shop, distillery, and grist mill on July 5, 1864. Besides the obvious destruction of local infrastructure and an otherwise brief occupation of Union troops near the industrial site, little is known of the impact to the natural landscape. The ruin of the paper mill buildings ended profitable industry only temporarily, but local farms were foraged and ruined throughout the area. With Sope Creek lying between the major battles of Kennesaw Mountain and Atlanta, the crossing underscored the rapidity of the campaign and the objective of Federal troops to disable the Southern cause.

Battle of Atlanta

Once the Union army crossed the Chattahoochee, President Davis relieved General Johnston of his command. General John Bell Hood replaced Johnston as commander of the Army of Tennessee on July 17 and was charged to defend the railroad city of Atlanta and not surrender.[65] By July 20, the Union army had resupplied and was ready to fight at Peachtree Creek. Two days later, the Battle of Atlanta took place and while the Confederate army suffered major casualties, the city did not fall for several more weeks. The action at Sope Creek proved to be a key maneuver in crossing the Chattahoochee River and ultimately, a small movement that allowed the Union army to capture Atlanta. The railroad led the armies to the city and

61. The crossing was denoted as Isham's Ford and Phillips Ferry in official records (see OR) The CHAT HSR also notes Heard's Ferry operated at this location after the war. Castel, p. 336-339.
62. Castel, p. 336.
63. Temple, p. 336. The bridge replaced the previous trestle bridge destroyed by the retreating Confederate army.
64. A. S. Edmonston, letter to the editor, "The Marietta Paper Mills." *Daily Intelligencer,* Atlanta, Georgia, September 13, 1863.
65. Foote, p. 420.



FIGURE 12. Plate LX from the *Atlas to Accompany the Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies*. Historic Resource Study, NPS, 2007.

the river did not stop the advance of Sherman and his army. The Marietta Paper Mill suffered the same fate as industrial, commercial, farm, and residential buildings across Georgia.

Reconstruction 1865-1905

After the war ended, the rebuilt paper mill returned to operation and contributed to a successful industrial comeback.[66] With the railroads repaired, Atlanta and Marietta expanded and the southern plantation economy shifted in size and diversity.[67] Farmers reduced the acreage of land tracts and rented lots to tenant farmers to grow cotton, corn, wheat and oats.[68] By 1870, mills operated throughout Georgia in Savannah, Atlanta, Athens, Conyers, Newnan, and along Sope Creek.[69] Oakley Mills, further north along Sope Creek and Kennesaw Flour Mills in Marietta reopened in 1869.[70]

Marietta Paper Manufacturing Company

The paper mill was rebuilt in 1865 and operated until November 7, 1870 when the building burned again and was rebuilt.[71] The twice-rebuilt mill continued producing paper products with moderate success until the stockholders went bankrupt and sold the mill during the economic panic of 1873. James R. Brown of Cherokee County bought the business on November 4, 1873 at auction with additional investors Joseph E. Brown, the wartime governor, Saxon A. Anderson, Enoch Faw, A.S. Edmonston and C.D. Phillips, original stockholders, and H.M. Hammett. The new stockholders incorporated the following year and renamed the company Marietta Paper Manufacturing Company. They purchased new machinery and intended to add a cotton mill along Sope Creek adjacent to the existing paper mill.[72] Saxon Anderson managed the daily operations of the paper mill and made improvements, while Jefferson Land acted as the mill superintendent.[73] The 1880 Georgia census lists 8 employees at the Sope Creek paper mill producing an annual product worth $25,500.[74]

Wood pulp replaced rag pulp in the nineteenth century as the primary component of paper. The construction of a wood pulp mill in 1888 on the west bank of Sope Creek expanded Marietta Paper Manufacturing Company. The two-story mill processed wood pulp for paper, and the addition of paper-twine production, in 1889, increased total output.[75] The new business, also called Marietta Pulp Company, produced book paper, newspaper, wrapping paper, paper twine, and blotting paper from rags and wood pulp.[76] The business sold newsprint at fourteen cents per pound, making a profit of four cents per pound.[77] The production and sale of paper twine balls became the first instance south of Richmond that twine was produced.[78]

The west bank pulp mill occupied a similar arrangement as the earlier paper mill on the east side of the creek. A quarter-mile upstream, the L-shaped pulp mill sat on the floodplain parallel to the shore with a waterwheel along the east façade. Outbuildings for related pulp-production functions were clustered north and west of the main pulp mill. The wood pulp was processed with machinery

66. "Marietta Paper Mills" in *Marietta Journal* September 18, 1868.
67. Henry Martyn Flint. *The Railroads of the United States: Their History and Statistics Comprising*. Philadelphia: John E. Potter publisher, Harvard University Press, 1868. p. 347.
68. Roth, p. 13.
69. Weeks, p. 336-337.
70. Temple, p. 404-405.
71. Bronski, p. 11. *Marietta Journal*, November 25, 1870.
72. The cotton mill was never built. Temple, p. 405. "Cobb County Factories Wealth" in *Marietta Journal*, January 16, 1874.
73. Brown, p. 43. *Marietta Journal*, November 7, 1873.
74. U.S. Bureau of the Census, 1880 census of Georgia, Stat. of Manufactures, 10th, vol. 2, Manufacturing. GPO: Washington, D.C. 1880, p. 208. Cindy Bowden thinks up to 200 people worked at the mill at the beginning (check with her for more references).
75. Dard Hunter. *Papermaking: The History and Technique of an Ancient Craft.* New York: Alfred A. Knopf, Inc. 1943. p.535. Hunter, a renowned paper historian and artist, suggests that Sope Creek was the first mill to produce paper twine. Paper twine may have been produced before 1873.
76. During this time, Jefferson Land went to a Massachusetts factory to learn the process of paper twine manufacture, but was not admitted. To compete with the product imported from the north, Land developed a method of making paper twine on his own. Paper was cut from thin strips of pine and twisted uniformly while wet. Small glass tubing helped force the paper twine into coils in tin cans. (AJ article 3/12/39) Blotting paper produced at Sope Creek was the first made south of Richmond. Temple, p. 405.

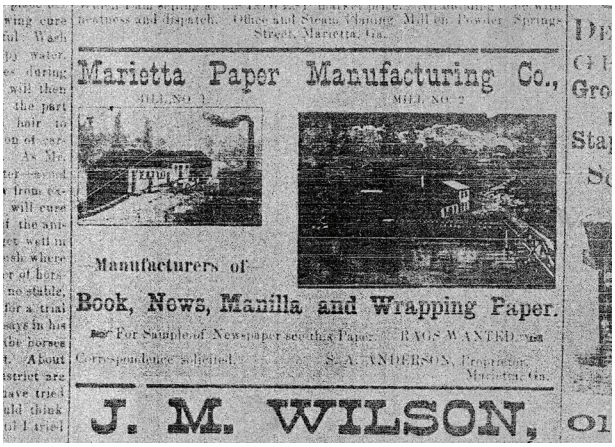

Marietta Paper Manufacturing Co.,
MILL NO. 1
MILL NO. 2
Manufacturers of
Book, News, Manilla and Wrapping Paper.
For Sample of Newspaper see this Paper. RAGS WANTED.
Correspondence solicited. S. A. ANDERSON, Proprietor.
Marietta, Ga.
J. M. WILSON,

FIGURE 14. Paper product advertisement in *Marietta Daily Journal.* June 28, 1888. Saxe Anderson.

powered by the waterwheel, while a machine shop, oil room and annex were located nearby.

Saxon Anderson purchased and renovated the Kennesaw Flouring Mill next to the railroad in Marietta in 1894 to expand the Marietta Paper Manufacturing Company. Anderson moved machinery from Sope Creek to the Marietta mill to process and finish paper. The pulp, still produced along Sope Creek, was transported to the Marietta mill at the W&A depot, which opened in March 1895. [79] The company expanded later that same year and bought a mill in Atlanta to increase paper production.[80] The capacity reached 10,000 pounds of white print paper.[81] The distance from the railroad and Marietta made business along Sope Creek less profitable.

The 1880 federal census showed little discrepancy between the capitol invested and total production value of the mills in Cobb County. Maps by the Sanborn Fire Insurance Company of the county and Marietta span from 1895 to 1905, and while detailing Laurel (Ivy) Mill and Roswell Mill, the maps do not include the site plan or layout of the mills at Sope Creek.[82] This may indicate Sope

77. Lyman Horace Weeks. *A History of Paper-Manufacturing in the United States: 1690-1916*. Burt Franklin, New York, 1916. Reprinted 1969. p. 336-337.
78. Temple, p. 405. *Marietta Journal*, June 28, 1888.
79. Aston Chapman, "Making Paper on Soap Creek" in *The Atlanta Journal*, May 28, 1933. Brown, p. 44. Temple, p. 405.
80. Weeks, 336-337.
81. The Lockwood directory lists the machinery, output, and type of paper and pulp production of mills in the United States. *Lockwood's Directory of the Paper and Stationary Trades*. Howard Lockwood Publishing Company, New York, 1888-89.

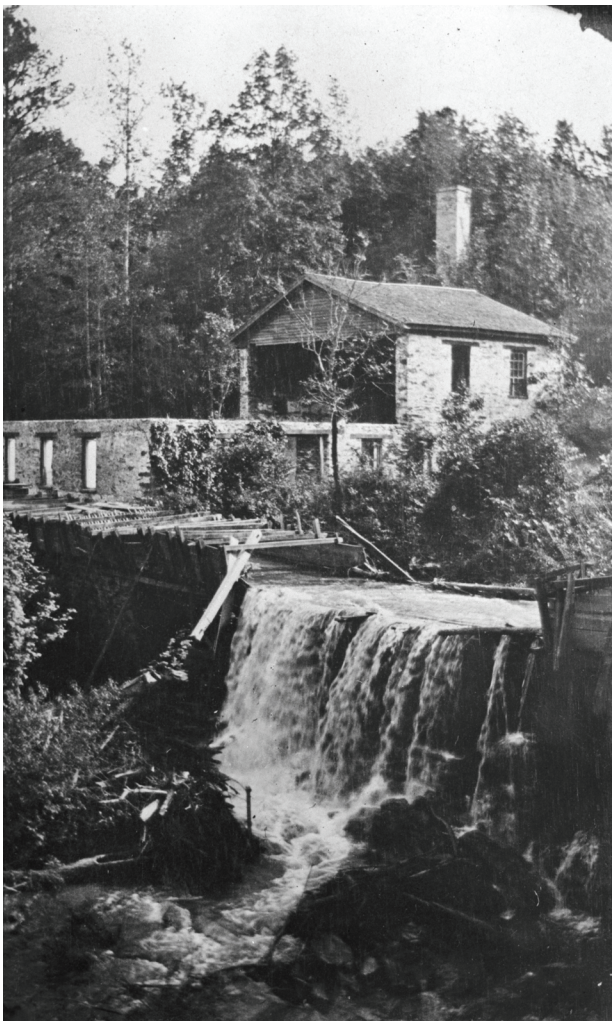


FIGURE 15. 1907 pulp mill with flume in foreground. *Vanishing Georgia Collection* (COB 516).

Creek's declining significance to the industrial production of the area.

A fire damaged the mill in 1902 and Marietta Paper Manufacture Company on Sope Creek closed permanently.[83] The development of steam power eliminated reliance on water power and made industry on the creek obsolete. Meanwhile, the production of paper transitioned fully to wood pulp and moved to other urban centers like Savannah. The abandoned Sope Creek mills soon deteriorated and in 1905, the *Marietta Journal* published a notice warning against trespassing.[84] The site was abandoned until the 1970s. The ruins became a

82. Sanborn Fire Insurance maps for Georgia Towns and Cities (1884-1922) http://dlg.galileo.usg.edu/sanborn/
83. *Lockwood's*, 1905, 1906.
84. "Trespassing, hunting, or fishing forbidden" in *Marietta Journal*, January 19, 1905.



FIGURE 16. HABS Photograph. August 6, 1936 by Harold Bush-Brown. GA, 34-185, 1-1.

popular site for picnickers and in 1922, an upstream dam was built to provide electric power.[85]

With the change in raw materials and transportation and an increased dependence on steam and electrical power, the water-powered paper mill was obsolete by the turn of the century. Pulp wood remains the established raw material of modern paper production, though with increased efficiency. Larger paper factories specializing in wood pulp production and papermaking replaced small water-powered mills in the twentieth century.

HABS

The wooden covered bridge spanning Sope Creek in Cobb County survived into the last half of the twentieth century. The Historic American Building Survey (HABS) documented the covered bridge upstream from the mill in 1936. Located along Paper Mill Road, the bridge dated to the late nineteenth century and was photographed by Harold Bush-Brown, who later became a prominent Atlanta architect.[86] In 1963, the bridge received steel supports to reinforce the span, but was destroyed by fire in 1964.[87] Arson was suspected.

Twentieth-century Development

In the mid-twentieth century, suburban growth redefined Atlanta and Marietta. The increased availability of automobiles and better roads allowed Atlantans to move further from downtown and commute to work. In 1952, Atlanta annexed a large area that brought the city limits to the river's edge,

85. The concrete footers from the 1922 dam remained extant and contribute to the 1973 National Register nomination. The power house and dam are outside of the scope of the CLR.

86. HABS GA-185, 1936. Harold Bush-Brown was the state District Officer for the Historic American Building Survey in the 1930s and the director of the School of Architecture at Georgia Tech from 1925 until 1956.

87. John Sibley owned th eproperty when Georgia Tech students found the covered bridge burned on Easter morning 1964. Coram, Robert. "Sope Creek Covered Span Destroyed by Easter Blaze" in *The Atlanta Journal*, March 30, 1964. Also Gerdes et al., p.21-22.

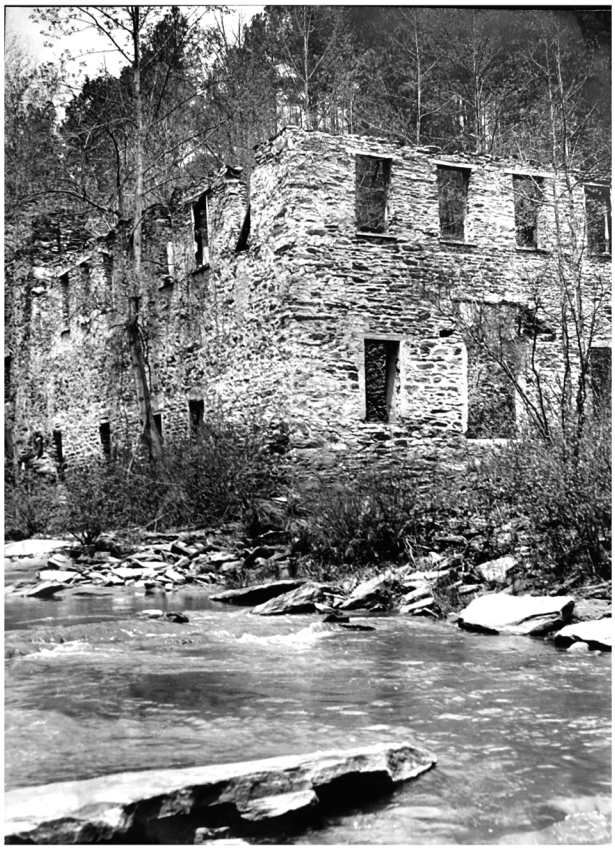


FIGURE 17. Historic photograph of ruins, date unknown. (Courtesy of the Marietta Museum of History)

while reopening of the Bell Bomber plant near Marietta brought hundreds of new jobs to the county. Racial tensions and "white flight" prevented the city from annexing any more territory, but with the interrelated economic, social, and land use changes, rural landowners in east Cobb County began to develop their property into residential neighborhoods.[88]

The steep topography surrounding the paper and pulp mills prevented immediate development along Sope Creek, yet the creek remained a popular picnic site. Locals collected prehistoric relics on the unprotected property. As the neighborhoods multiplied, residents pilfered the ruins for landscaping and building materials. In the late 1960s, John Sibley sold the Sope Creek tract to developers, Cousins Properties and Fred Brown, Inc. intending to subdivide it for residential development.

The Chattahoochee River became the primary water supply for the City of Atlanta in the early 1890s, providing two-thirds of the metropolitan

88. Gerdes et al. p.63.



FIGURE 18. Historic photograph of ruins, date unknown. (Courtesy of the Marietta Museum of History)

population with its residential, commercial and industrial water supply.[89] The Army Corps of Engineers constructed Buford Dam in 1957, creating Lake Sidney Lanier and eliminated the periodic floods that plagued the river, while also supporting a trout fishery. The proposed construction of a Cobb-Fulton County sewer line in 1970 prompted the first Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) of the Sope Creek landscape. The sewer location changed as a result of the EIS findings and was completed in 1975. The new line improved water quality and minimally impacted the historic industrial site.

Without any formal national or local historic designation, suburban development threatened the Sope Creek site in the twentieth century and eventually prompted an exploration of the ruins. In 1964, a local referendum mandated the creation of county parks and interest in the natural and historic resources in Cobb County widened. A comprehensive local survey found the Civil War history to be the most intact and the most significant historic theme county-wide.

A National Register nomination in 1973 elevated the status of the paper mill ruins and the landscape surrounding the creek. The Sope Creek Ruins were listed as a historic district of nineteenth-century industrial significance. The presence of prehistoric archeological sites was also noted. The National Register nomination helped justify the inclusion of the cultural resource in the concurrent proposal for

89. Water Resources Management plan, 2000. p. 1. Brown, p.48



FIGURE 19. Historic photograph of Caney Branch looking east, date unknown. (Courtesy of the Marietta Museum of History) Note the vegetation growing on the abandoned mill.

a national park. The designation also brought the local significance of Sope Creek to the foreground.

The Establishment of the Park

The Chattahoochee River and its watershed were increasingly threatened during the twentieth century and, coinciding with the congressional initiative to establish recreation areas, received additional attention. The National Park Service identified both the endangered natural resources of Sope Creek and historic significance of the ruins, and Congress included the site when establishing the park. Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area became a unit of the park service in 1978, after previous attempts by Congressman Andrew Young and Senators Sam Nunn and Herman Talmadge to pass legislation.

The National Park Service undertook stabilization of the Sope Creek ruins in 1984. After four years of study and documentation, the stabilization began with removal of tree roots from the foundation and continued with surrounding vegetation that threatened the structures. The second phase of the project included repointing mortar walls and reinforcing door and window lintels on the main



FIGURE 20. Replaced lintel on pulp mill ruins, 2009. (NPS photo)

mills. The deteriorated portions of the mill were rebuilt with masonry that matched the original material.[90] In 2007, mortar repairs took place on the pulp mill annex following tree damage from a storm. Modern improvements were also added to make the Sope Creek site accessible and safe including the addition of a stone culvert, entrance gate, trail signs, and wooden barriers.

On December 9, 1999, legislation passed to expand the authorized boundary of the park.[91] The bill designated a 2,000 foot-wide buffer (closely matching the 100 year floodplain) adjacent to each bank of the river for resource protection. The expansion occurred after land use changes adversely impacted the recreation area.[92] The legislation resulted in part because of a shift within the park from water-based activities to land-based activities.[93] Today the park preserves the Sope Creek paper mill ruins as a cultural resource within the Cochran Shoals unit, a passive recreation area.

Historic Landscape Conditions

The landscape of Sope Creek evolved from a site utilized by prehistoric inhabitants to one sparsely-

90. Judy Forte. "Stabilization of the Sope Creek Manufacturing Complex" in *Third Annual Chattahoochee River Research/Resource Management Conference.* Dunwoody, Georgia: National Park Service, October 26, 1984. p. 14.
91. Pub. L. 106-154, Sec.1, 106 Stat.1736
92. GMP/EIS, 2004, p. 11.
93. Ibid.

populated by white settlers. After a period of successful industry in the nineteenth century, the landscape became an oasis of preserved park land amid surrounding residential development.

Early inhabitants used the creek and river for hunting, gathering and campgrounds with little change to the natural environment. Features such as the rock outcrops were used seasonally by nomadic groups. As Cherokee, Creek, and eventually European inhabitants began settling small farms in the Chattahoochee River valley, the landscape, particularly the virgin forests, experienced increasing consequences.

The landscape became a local industrial corridor for water-powered mills before the Civil War, causing the land use and character to change significantly. Due to the threat of fire during mill operation and industrial work conditions, it is likely that the area near the buildings was cleared of vegetation during the historic period, though no evidence or documentation survives. It is also likely that the manufacturing landscape had no related cultural or ornamental plantings.

The Civil War interrupted the period of manufacture at Sope Creek and brought the Union army to the mouth of the creek to advance across the river toward Atlanta. The destruction of the mill buildings in 1864 impacted the industrial landscape, but no constructed earthworks or battle action occurred at the site. Industry resumed during Reconstruction and the mills continued to harness the power of Sope Creek, utilizing the floodplains and steep slopes and polluting the wash water downstream.

The views, once natural and undisturbed, became part of the context of the industrial landscape. The relationship of the creek and the buildings, constructed and reconstructed, came to define the landscape. After the second fire and a shift in technology, investors abandoned the mills. The cultural landscape entered a period of neglect and local residents used the ruins for picnicking as natural vegetation encroached.

Today the landscape is used for passive recreation, reflecting the prehistoric environment and preserving the ruins of the the significant industrial period. Since the historic period, the second-growth forest has matured and the buildings have deteriorated.

Existing Conditions

The existing conditions chapter of the cultural landscape report documents the extant landscape characteristics and features of Sope Creek. The narrative text, site map, and contemporary photographs of the current conditions provide baseline information used to assess the integrity and historic significance of the landscape. The conditions recorded in this report provide an inventory useful in future research and continuing park projects.

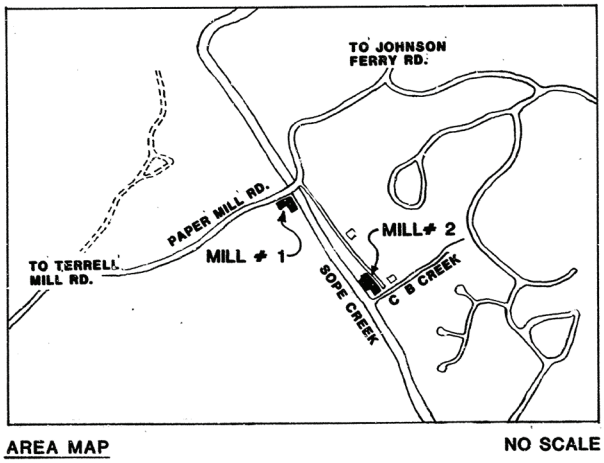


FIGURE 21. 1982 site map of Sope Creek paper mills.

Location

The historic manufacturing site straddles Sope Creek with ruins on each side of the stream. The main paper mill is located on the east side of the creek a quarter-mile south of the Paper Mill Road Bridge. The main pulp mill ruins on the west bank are immediately south of the bridge and accessible via hiking trails from a nearby NPS parking area. The trails around each mill ruin range from clearly delineated primary paths to heavily eroded secondary paths. Scattered stones and roots cover the grade and under-story vegetation grows around the cleared areas near the buildings. The drainage from Paper Mill Road flows south of the road and north of the pulp mill to meet Sope Creek.

The cultural landscape occupies the northernmost portion of the Cochran Shoals unit of Chattahoochee River NRA. The park includes Cochran Shoals and other large, discontinuous units along a 48-mile linear corridor between Buford Dam and Peachtree Creek. The landscape is located south of Paper Mill Road in the 17th district of Cobb County.[1]

Topography

The steep banks of Sope Creek formed as natural features concurrently with the Brevard lineament and weathered with subsequent erosion. Presently, the terrain of the cultural landscape includes a shallow floodplain, slopes ranging from 2 to 25 percent, and limited uplands.[2] The topography of Sope Creek forms a rocky gorge with the central creek bisecting the cultural landscape. The secondary stream, Caney Branch and all other drainage flows into the creek and on to the Chattahoochee River.

During construction in the nineteenth century, the outbuildings, mill foundations and retaining walls



FIGURE 22. Steep topography on the west bank of Sope Creek, December 2008. (NPS image)

1. Roth, p. 88.
2. Kunkle and Vana-Miller, 2000, p. 17. The soils along Sope Creek are from the Cartecay-Toccoa association and are characterized as being poorly drained.

were set into the natural topography. The mill took advantage of the shoals and declining creek elevation to create hydropower. Upstream dams and raceways sustained the elevation of the water, funneling a portion of the creek over the waterwheel to turn the machinery inside the mill. The topography limited mill construction to the narrow floodplain and steep slope adjacent to the shore, while maximizing the water power needed for profitable production. Today the topography remains an important landscape feature and reveals steep natural slopes, an altered grade around the buildings and road, and the remnants of the paper mill dam and raceway.

On the west bank, Paper Mill Road, a county road, is graded into the slope and diverts surface flow near the pulp mill ruins. The drainage from the road flows between stones of a retaining wall and joins Sope Creek north of the waterwheel foundation. The 1888 pulp mill occupies the length of the floodplain on the west bank with other outbuildings on steeper slopes upstream and to the west. The paper mill office on the east bank sits on a bluff opposite of Caney Branch.

Spatial Organization

The spatial organization of the mill ruins forms two off-set complexes on opposite sides of Sope Creek. The off-set arrangement on either side of the creek allowed for maximum, yet simultaneous, efficiency in harnessing water power. The relationship of the industrial landscape to the water reflects the specific requirements of hydropower. The main mills necessitated close proximity to the creek, occupying a linear area on the floodplain and slope parallel to the shore. The sluice extends upstream to man-made dams, channeling water to the waterwheel. The linear building layout, road trace, mill ruins and clustered spatial organization survive to convey the workspace, while the topography articulates the boundaries of the landscape.



FIGURE 23. View of the raceway piers and Sope Creek, revealing spatial organization, April 2008. NPS photo.

The mills oriented lengthwise along the creek had outbuildings clustered near each primary structure. The outbuildings provided space for ancillary functions such as office space, storage for oil, boiler equipment, and paper products, all separated for safety and accessibility. While topography and function dictated the location of the other structures, the threat of fire added to the need for detachment. The east bank mill burned twice during its history, a common problem in historic paper mills with an abundance of combustible paper. The spatial organization between the various mill and outbuildings is intact, though less formalized with encroaching vegetation and pedestrian trails.

Land Use

The cultural landscape of Sope Creek preserves the historic mill ruins in a picturesque setting designated for passive recreation. Once occupied in the prehistoric era and along the path of the Union army during the Civil War, the landscape was the location of nineteenth-century industrial paper production. The land use today interprets the site of the Marietta Paper Company ruins within the Chattahoochee River NRA. The natural features of the Cochran Shoals unit are also significant and the terrain preserves an area for recreation and reflection among the ravines and rocky shoals. The building foundations are accessible by foot trails, highlighting the historic ruins and leading to the edge of the creek. The site is otherwise undeveloped. The park unit exists as a natural resource amid the suburban development stretching between Atlanta and Marietta. The pocket of protected green space borders the Atlanta Country Club golf course to the south.

Circulation

The circulation of the Sope Creek landscape reflects historic transportation during the nineteenth century as well as the modern park routes through the Cochran Shoals unit.

Historic road bed. The road bed leading into the mill complex along the east bank of Sope Creek remains as a historic landscape feature. The road was cut and filled into the slope and within the cultural landscape leads a quarter-mile south from Paper Mill Road to the original Marietta Paper Mill.[3] The road remains generally level as the creek flows south and the shoreline elevation gradually drops. A retaining wall supports the historic road, paralleling the east bank and veering slightly east closer to the mill to allow the raceway to channel water from the creek. The park presently maintains the road bed to the paper mill as a walking trail. No evidence suggests that the road bed was paved historically.

Paper Mill Road. Paper Mill Road is a historic route two-lane asphalt road crossing Sope Creek at the north end of the cultural landscape. An intermittent drainage ditch parallels the south side of the road. The Paper Mill Road Bridge has concrete curbs and steel guardrails beyond the paved superstructure. A chain-link fence marks the northeast embankment at road level, preventing vehicles from driving down the steep slope. The original stone support piers from the historic covered bridge exist on the east side of the creek. Additional tapered, concrete piers support the current bridge structure. The piers are built into the watercourse and rest on boulders in the creek. Sewer and utility pipes are suspended below the bridge deck. To the south of Paper Mill Road, a small gravel pull-off serves as a parking lot and trail head. A NPS gate and sign mark the trail leading to the main paper mill.

Trails. The trail system through Cochran Shoals unit includes access to the historic ruins along Sope Creek. The foot trails and bike paths date to the NPS management of the site and direct visitors through the cultural landscape, creating modern circulation patterns between and around the ruins. The trails are well-maintained.



FIGURE 24. Paper MIll Road Bridge, looking east, April 2008. NPS photo.

3. The road continues north beyond the NPS property.



FIGURE 27. Paper mill and boiler room ruins separated by trail, April 2008. NPS photo.

Buildings and Structures

East Bank

Storage Building. South along the historic road, a stone ruin survives east of the trail. The ruin includes portions of four walls of a rectangular field stone building (61' x 28.7'). The door or window openings on the storage building does not survive; however quartz quoins are evident on the west façade indicating a possible entrance. This building, separated from the main complex, was likely used for the storage of unprocessed rags or finished paper products. A large portion of the west façade, facing the road, is missing. The north, east, and south elevations remain a full story in height, with the east façade built into the slope. Repairs have been made to the building, though large structural cracks in the north and south walls remain.



FIGURE 25. Trail along historic road bed. East bank of Sope Creek looking south, December 2008. NPS photo.

Main Paper Mill. The main paper mill is a five-room ruin with portions of the interior and exterior walls surviving over 40 feet in height along with evidence of a gable roof. The field stone mill was reconstructed several times in the nineteenth century and rehabilitated in the 1980s. The walls and stone foundation of the Marietta Paper Mill (215' x 33.3') convey the massive size of the mill. The west façade parallels the creek bank, set slightly back to accommodate the waterwheel. The mill was



FIGURE 26. Storage building on east bank of Sope Creek, looking northeast. NPS photo, 2008.



FIGURE 29. Boiler room, rounded wall in rear and retaining wall in foreground. Note overgrown vegetation, December 2008, NPS photo.



FIGURE 28. Southwest corner of paper mill ruins, 2008. NPS photo.

built into the slope with the first floor on grade with the trail at the east façade. Window and doorways survive with splayed window openings on each elevation. Arched doorways remain between the first floor rooms. Modern wood barriers prevent visitors from accessing the interior of the paper mill.

The linear arrangement of the rooms reveals the division of space and the step-by-step process of papermaking. From north to south, each room varied in size corresponding to function. The pulp progressed from the north end sorting room to smaller rag cutting rooms, to a larger washer room where pulp was ground, to the final and largest, machinery room. The waterwheel on the west façade of the mill connected to the machinery in the southernmost room of the mill and all byproducts were dumped into the wash pool created by Caney Branch.

Boiler Room. East of the main paper mill, the stone foundation of a retaining wall and building ruin remain intact. Likely a boiler room, the structure is centered directly across from the rag-cutting room of the paper mill. The fieldstone ruin stands almost a full story above grade although sections of the walls and retaining wall have collasped. A rounded, windowless wall serves as the south façade, indicating its use as a boiler room (9.1' x 24.2'). The retaining wall parallels the main mill to the north of the structure and extends south of the boiler room before tapering into rubble (approximately 68'). The building and wall are heavily overgrown with vegetation during the summer months.

Oil Room. A stone foundation, stone stairs, and unidentifiable rubble lie east of the paper mill, almost fifty feet from the southeast corner of the paper mill. The outbuilding forms a roughly rectangular shape (32.2' x 21.4') with over a third of the building footprint covered in scattered stone rubble and vegetation. The building is unrecognizable in the summer months due to thick vines and underbrush. This building was identified as an oil room on the 1980 Historic Resource Study map.



FIGURE 30. Oil room rubble and foundation, December 2008. NPS photo.



FIGURE 31. Office near paper mill, April 2009. NPS photo.

Caney Branch Walls and Office. Caney Branch borders the south façade of the main paper mill and provided a wash pool and dump site during the period of significance. The secondary stream joins the east bank of Sope Creek and divides the paper mill complex. The north portion of the paper mill ruins includes the mill, boiler room, oil room, raceway, dam, and storage building. South of Caney Branch, a retaining wall survives built into the southern bank and an office and additional wall remain on the elevated bluff. A bridge appears to have crossed the stream and remains as scattered, loose stones near the narrowest portion of the watercourse. The office and retaining wall, each constructed of stone, on the southwestern bluff overlook the stream and Sope Creek. The office foundation (22' x 16') includes four intact elevations with the north and south corners standing almost six feet tall. The building is overgrown during the summer. The retaining wall (19.9') forms an obtuse angle on the bluff. A stacked stone wall (approximately 25') just east of the office helps retain the natural gorge on the south bank of Caney Branch. The Caney Branch wall is overgrown with vines.



FIGURE 32. Retaining wall along Caney Branch, April 2009. NPS photo.



FIGURE 33. Raceway piers on east bank of Sope Creek, looking south, 2009. NPS photo.

Mill Raceway. The stone pylons along the east bank of Sope Creek remain from the sluice that once channeled water to the paper mill waterwheel. The evenly-spaced, battered field stone piers remain in various conditions, despite the loss of the elevated wooden raceway. Twenty piers survive on the floodplain in a linear row north of the paper mill. Eight additional piers survive adjacent to the paper mill. Water diverted from Sope Creek at the dam, accelerated as it funneled along the sluice toward the mill waterwheel. The stone piers gradually heighten, sustaining the water on the raceway to compensate for the drop in elevation along the creek.



FIGURE 34. Retaining wall photo, 2008. Showing both in relationship to one another

Dam and Retaining Walls. An historic road bed follows the east bank of Sope Creek. Two parallel retaining walls support the level road bed and join the paper mill raceway. The longer stone wall begins at Paper Mill Road and continues the length of the road bed to the raceway piers. The dry-laid stacked stone wall angles around the natural topography near Paper Mill Road, jutting out along the shoreline and turning back in to continue in a relatively straight path for a quarter of a mile. The wall is washed out in several places due to storm run-off and tree falls. Pines grow along the top of the wall.

Beyond the storage building, approximately midway down the road bed, a shorter, parallel wall begins and follows the retaining wall to the mill raceway. The second wall is located on a lower elevation and acts as a retaining wall and access wall for the raceway. A stone abutment is part of the wall and appears to be the last remaining portion of the paper mill dam on the east bank.

West Bank

Dam. The paper mill dam (15' by 20') on the west bank of Sope Creek is a solid ruin composed of loose field stone and little remaining mortar. The dam forming a solid stone rectangle, is covered with vegetation and sits slightly away from a passing pedestrian trail. The dam ruin is the only remnant of the paper mill complex on the west bank and aligns with the stone abutment on the east bank that is part of the lower retaining wall. No evidence of the paper mill dam survives in the middle of the creek.

Pulp Mill. The main pulp mill ruins (118' x 61.7') on the west bank of Sope Creek form an L-shape with field stone walls and red clay mortar. The longest façade fronts the creek and rises a full story over the foundation. The interior southwest corner remains the tallest portion of the mill, though evidence of a second story remains in the northwest corner and along the western façade. The floors, interior walls, and architectural details of the pulp mill are missing. Stabilization in the 1980s replaced the existing door and windows lintels with pressure-



FIGURE 35. East elevation of pulp mill ruins, 2009. NPS photo.



FIGURE 36. Water wheel foundation of pulp mill, April 2009. NPS photo.



FIGURE 37. Retaining wall related to the pulp mill sluice, 2009. Note notch in center of wall. NPS photo.

treated timbers. Splayed window openings on the first floor reveal the finished spaces of the building. The second floor openings are defined today by the vertical stone walls, though no evidence of the roof remains. Stone piers connect to the foundation walls and form additional supports in the center of the building. Stone walls extend east and south from the exterior of the mill, indicating the adjacent waterwheel system. Wooden barriers prevent visitors from entering the ruins from the slope on the north and west elevations.

Waterwheel foundation. Intermitted ruins on the east façade of the pulp mill survive outlining the former waterwheel system (12' x 51.2'). The foundations of the wheel box and waterwheel platform were built into the slope and adjoin the northeast corner of the pulp mill. An angled wall extends from the midpoint of the pulp mill east façade over a full story. The substantial angled addition has no masonry openings and channeled water back toward the creek after use. The position of the waterwheel mirrors the arrangement on the east bank paper mill.

Retaining walls. West of the pulp mill, obscured by the grade, a separate retaining wall (34.4') exists. The stone wall is nestled into the L-shape of the pulp mill footprint and terraced into the slope. The flood exposed additional height to the wall and it stands over 6' tall. The structure is covered with leaf litter and debris. Additional investigation may reveal this wall to extend further to the west.

A retaining wall, not visibly attached to the mill, is located north of the pulp mill. The dry-laid field stone wall (26.2') is oriented north to south and located in the drainage outlet for areas northwest of the mill, including run-off from Paper Mill Road. The wall is related to the pulp mill sluice and a notch is formed on top of the wall. Water seeps through the stacked stones and the rubble is overgrown with vegetation.

A major flood in September 2009 revealed a retaining wall parallel to and partially obscured by Paper Mill Road. The wall is almost 20' in length though the ends remain overgrown and portions were washed out due to the excessive rain in September 2009. The stone wall was completely overgrown during initial site visits, but after the flood was evident just below the modern roadbed. A small stone ruin immediately adjacent to this retaining wall was also uncovered and likely relates to the downstream wall and sluice.

Unidentified Building. An outbuilding foundation (14' x 7') sits north of the small drainage outlet below Paper Mill Road and beyond the northeast



FIGURE 38. Unidentified building on west bank near pulp mill retaining wall, 2008. NPS photo.



FIGURE 39. Annex west of pulp mill, 2009. NPS photo.

corner of the pulp mill. The stone ruin remains as the last standing corner (southwest) of a larger structure. The severely deteriorated building is unidentified and surrounded by scattered stone rubble.

Annex. A large stone foundation west of the pulp mill remains built into the slope. The remains of the annex (28.8' x 30' x 30.2' x 35.7') rest at grade on the west elevation and rise almost ten feet on the east façade. The outbuilding forms a skewed rectangle with the northeast corner meeting at an acute angle. There are no doors or window openings in the annex ruin. The southwest corner joins at two different heights, possibly indicating a later addition or alteration. Secondary pedestrian paths circumscribe the building and sassafras grows in the interior of the foundation in the summer months. Repairs were made to the annex mortar in 2007 following tree damage.



FIGURE 40. Oil room or furnace chimney upslope from pulp mill, 2008. NPS photo.

Oil Room/Furnace. A small outbuilding upslope from the pulp mill and annex survives as a stone rubble foundation. The small structure is approximately six feet square and was likely used as a furnace room or an oil storeroom. The rubble feature is overgrown in the summer months, but is evident as a low-lying foundation in the winter.

Additional buildings. Historic industrial buildings survive beyond the boundaries of the cultural landscape. A machine shop remains upstream from Paper Mill Road on the west bank and a 1922 dam lies further north in the center of Sope Creek. The National Register nomination includes the significance of these sites in the historic district, but they are located on private property.

Natural Systems

Sope Creek is the primary feature of the cultural landscape and the source for nineteenth-century industry. The ecosystem of upland pines, oak-hickory forests, rock outcrops, shoals and floodplains surrounding the creek contribute to the picturesque and natural scenery. The Caney Branch tributary and seasonal drainage outlets also empty into the main watercourse.

The creation of Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area preserved the natural resources and scenic qualities of Sope Creek in addition to the historical significance. Natural systems of the site remain unchanged from the historic period, including rock shelters, drainage patterns, and the ecosystem of Sope Creek.



FIGURE 41. Sope Creek looking south, April 2009. NPS photo.



FIGURE 42. View from Paper Mill Road Bridge of pulp mill, 2008.



FIGURE 43. View of paper mill from west bank, 2009.

Vistas and Views

The historic views of Sope Creek remain intact at each mill location. The paper mill and pulp mill overlook the creek despite mature trees that obscure portions of the view. The close spatial relationship between the buildings and watercourse remains unchanged. Little physical or documentary evidence exists as to how the surrounding landscape was managed during the operation of Marietta Paper Mill and Marietta Paper Manufacturing Company; however the National Park Service currently maintains the area around each structure as a natural resource. While vegetation may obstruct broader views to and from the mills, the forests and slopes buffer the cultural landscape from views of incompatible development bordering the park and allow a visual connection to the creek. The pulp mill is visible from Paper Mill Road.

The steep gorges and historic ruins provided a picturesque scene enjoyed by visitors since the early 1900s. Sope Creek stretches almost fifty feet wide within the cultural landscape and offers sandy shoals and rock outcrops to enjoy the natural scenery and reflect. The view of the creek from the paper and pulp mills should be considered an important characteristic of the cultural landscape. The view of the historic ruins within a scenic natural area makes Sope Creek cultural landscape a significant resource for Chattahoochee River NRA.

Archeology

The Southeastern Archeological Center (SEAC) inventoried the archeological sites at the park in 2006. Staff from Tallahassee conducted site condition assessments, located unrecorded cultural resources, and updated the Archeological Sites Management Information System (ASMIS) database. The Sope Creek sites were in good condition and at least one previously recorded sub-site was found to be outside of park boundaries.

The industrial archeology component (NPS CHAT-31) includes the mill ruins, outbuildings, and landscape features of Marietta Paper Mill. The state survey recognized the mill ruins (9CO-93) in a preliminary survey and listed the site on the National Register of Historic Places in 1973. The 2006 condition assessment report stated the Sope Creek paper mill had eight sub-sites, including the paper mill (CHAT-31.01), the pulp mill (CHAT-31.02), the paper mill dam on the west bank (CHAT-31.03), a second dam on private property (CHAT-31.04), the stone retaining wall (CHAT-31.05), the raceway stone pylons (CHAT-31.06), an office (CHAT-31.07), and an oil room (CHAT-31.08).

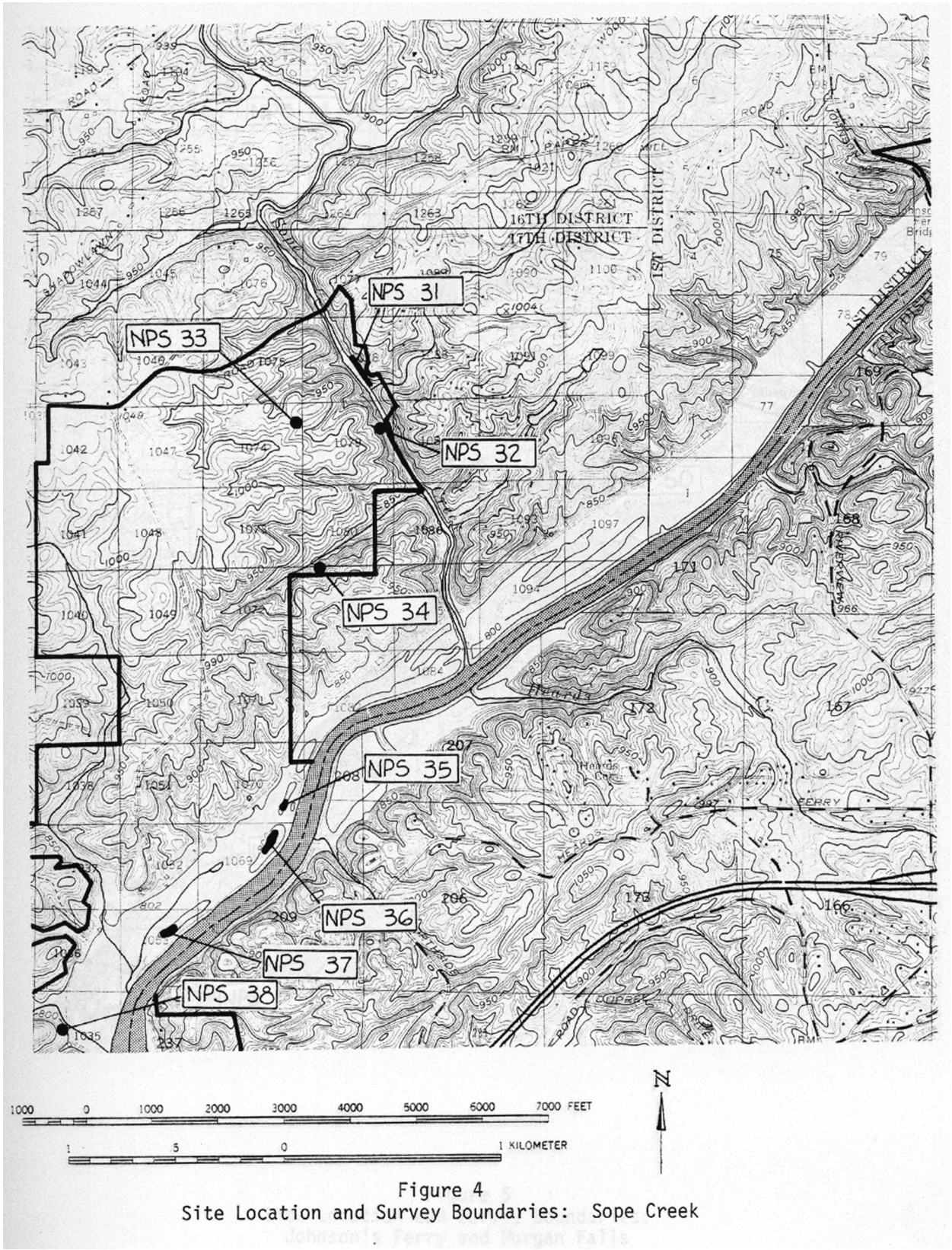


Figure 4
Site Location and Survey Boundaries: Sope Creek

FIGURE 44. Map from O'Grady and Poe, Chattahoochee River NRA Cultural Resources Inventory: Archeological Sites Final Report, 1980.

Outbuildings on the west bank were not individually identified by the survey.

A prehistoric lithic scatter (NPS-CHAT-32) located on the west bank of Sope Creek likely corresponds with an earlier identified state site (9CO-88). The 1980 survey described the prehistoric site as a surface feature and in 2006, granite and mica schist were found eroding down the hillside. The lithic scatter supports evidence that the most intense occupation of the Chattahoochee River valley and Sope Creek took place during the Woodland era. The landscape retains the potential to yield prehistoric archeological information. The location of the prehistoric site is classified as part of the National Register historic district.

Adjacent to the Sope Creek landscape, other related archeological sites exist. A domestic hearth and chimney (NPS CHAT-33), possibly associated with the paper mill, is within Cochran Shoals unit to the west of the creek. Described in a 1980 survey, the fireplace tapers to the rear and the chimney stands 4.7m (15.42 feet) high. A U-shaped iron lintel survived in the opening of the firebox during the initial survey. When CHAT-33 was examined in 2006, two possible sub-sites were identified for further study. A standing chimney and a potential collapsed chimney may represent a manager's house and a kitchen or other outbuilding.[4]

A depression with burned soil (NPS CHAT-34) may be the site of a historic distillery.[5] The survey found sewer line disturbances in portions of the landscape near "a 12 to 14m diameter depression located north of the Chattahoochee…Vegetation was mature and unburned; however, the soil within the depression appears to be burned to a depth of 15cm."[6] The 2006 survey did not assess the site and noted that the distillery may not be on NPS property. The NPS CHAT-34 site is located on Fox Creek and is not included in the Sope Creek cultural landscape.

Small-scale Features

Small-scale features at Sope Creek are minor elements and do not contribute to the historic landscape. A modern stone culvert was constructed to cross a seasonal drainage outlet along the trail on the east bank road. The culvert has rough hewn stone with mortar joints and covers a metal pipe. The culvert was added by the NPS, likely a consequence of new drainage patterns from development on adjacent private property on the above slope.



FIGURE 45. Modern culvert on east bank of Sope Creek. NPS photo, 2008.



FIGURE 46. Wooden barriers on north elevation of pulp mill. NPS photo, 2008.

Modern trail signs provide information in selected locations throughout the landscape. Interpretative signs are located at the east bank trail head, the paper mill, and the slope above the pulp mill. A metal gate next to Paper Mill Road at the east bank trail head restricts vehicle access to the paper mill. Wood barriers prevent visitors from accessing the interior of the mill foundations. All small-scale features within the Sope Creek Ruins landscape are modern and do not contribute to the historic landscape.

4. Hardy, p. 3.
5. O'Grady and Poe, p.25-26.
6. Ibid., p. 77.

Vegetation

The existing vegetation at Sope Creek is maintained as a natural resource. The temperate plant community supports white and red oaks, yellow poplars, beech, river birch, sycamore, red maple, dogwood, ironwood, hornbeam, holly, ash, sourwood, black gum, magnolia, hickory, and loblolly pine. Mature oaks, poplar and loblolly remain the oldest trees along the creek. Exotic vegetation includes the Princess tree (*Paulownia tomentosa*) which is a persistent concern near and within the ruins. The ruins also support poison ivy (*Toxicodendron radicans*) and additional invasive vines.

There is little information about vegetation during the historic period associated with the paper and pulp mills. It is likely that an area around the buildings was cleared of vegetation due to the threat of fire and the necessity of general workspace and circulation. Steep topography may have prevented clear-cutting of a large area. After the site was abandoned in 1902, the forest likely returned to a natural state similar to the current landscape. Despite the historic changes to the Sope Creek area including fire, agriculture, industry and development, the natural environment otherwise reflects southern Piedmont ecology.[7] The existing vegetation provides a visual buffer from adjacent incompatible development and allows visitors to enjoy the scenery on the banks of Sope Creek.

7. Bronski, p. 29.

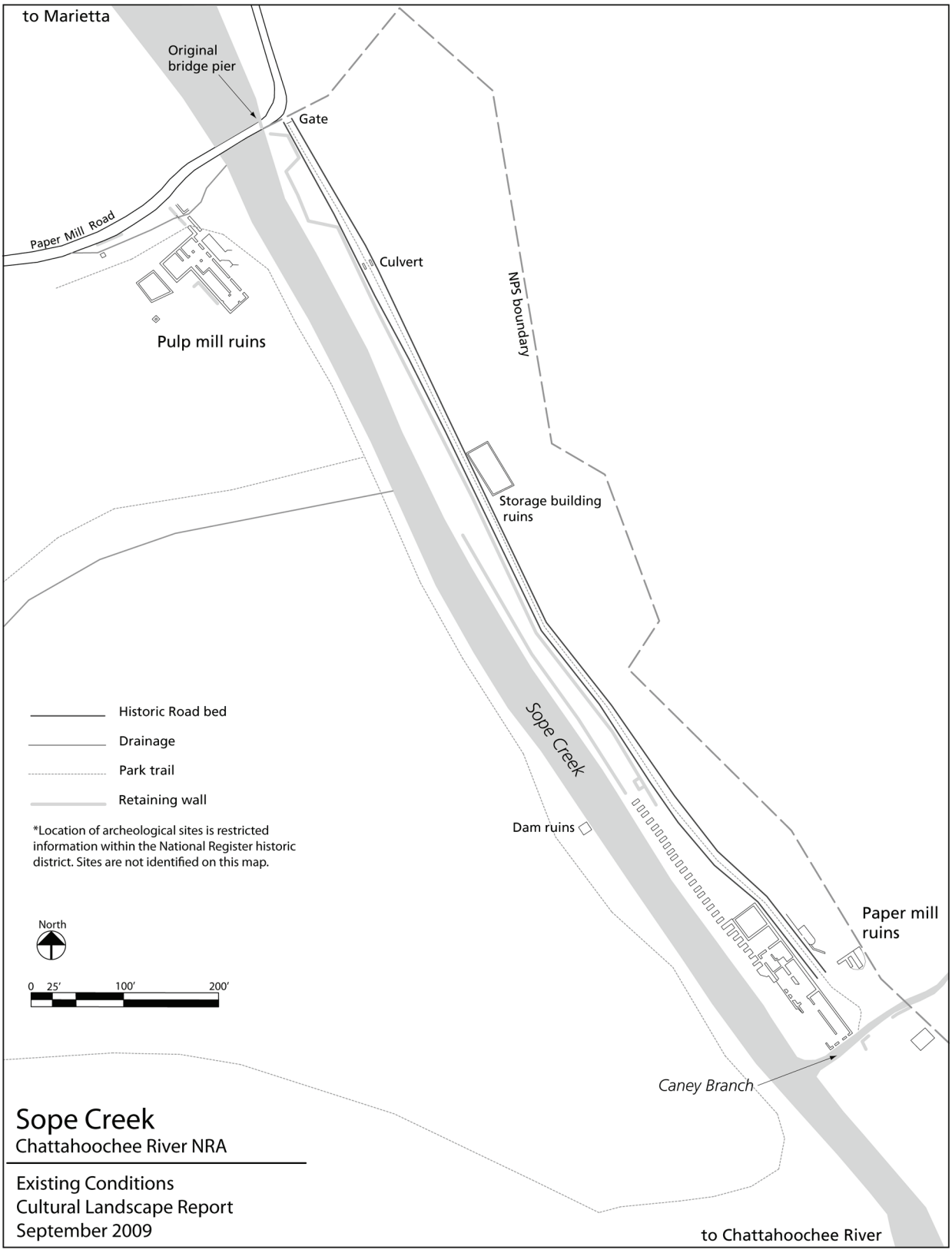


FIGURE 47. Sope Creek site plan. Existing Conditions, 2009.

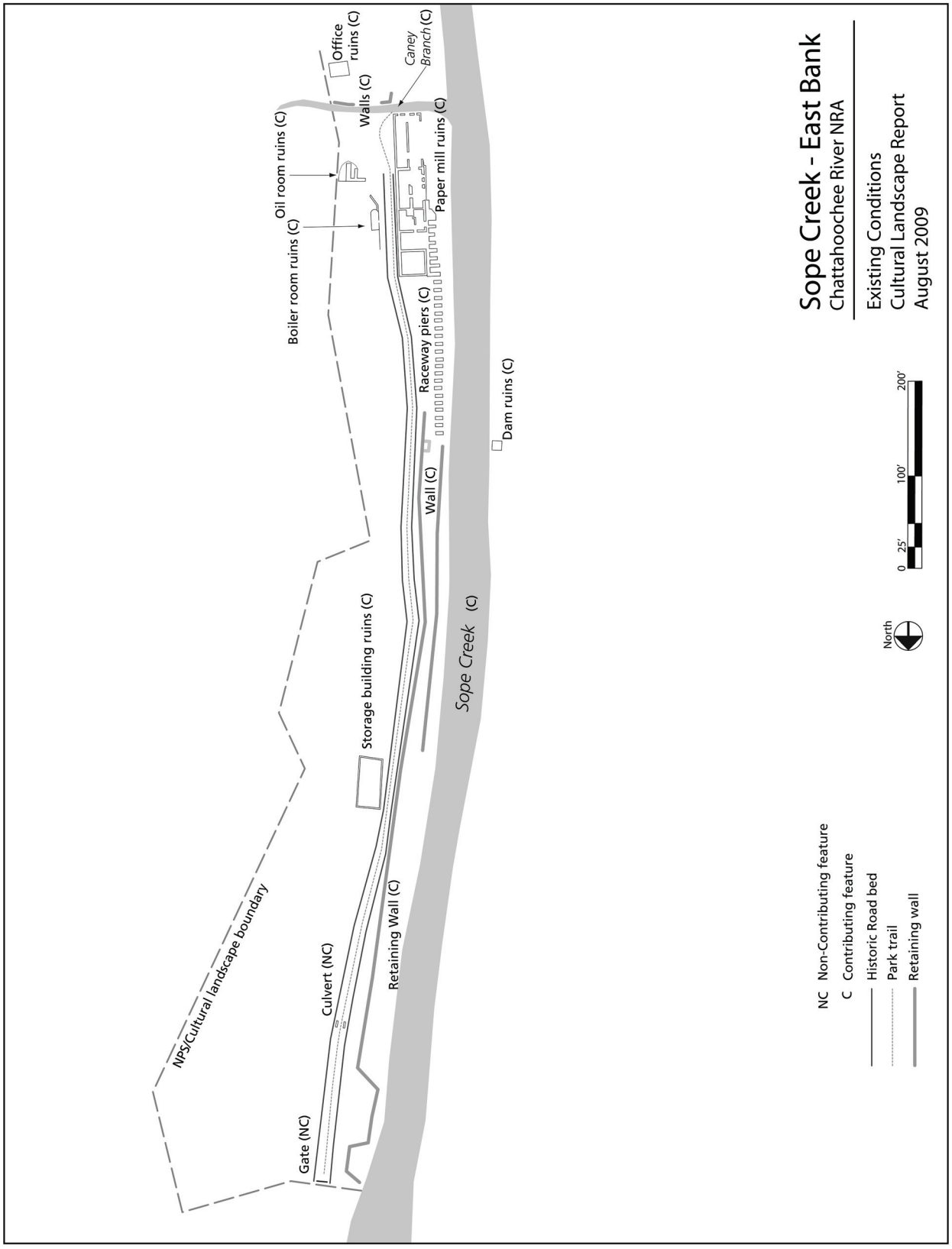


FIGURE 48. Sope Creek east bank. Existing Conditions, 2009.

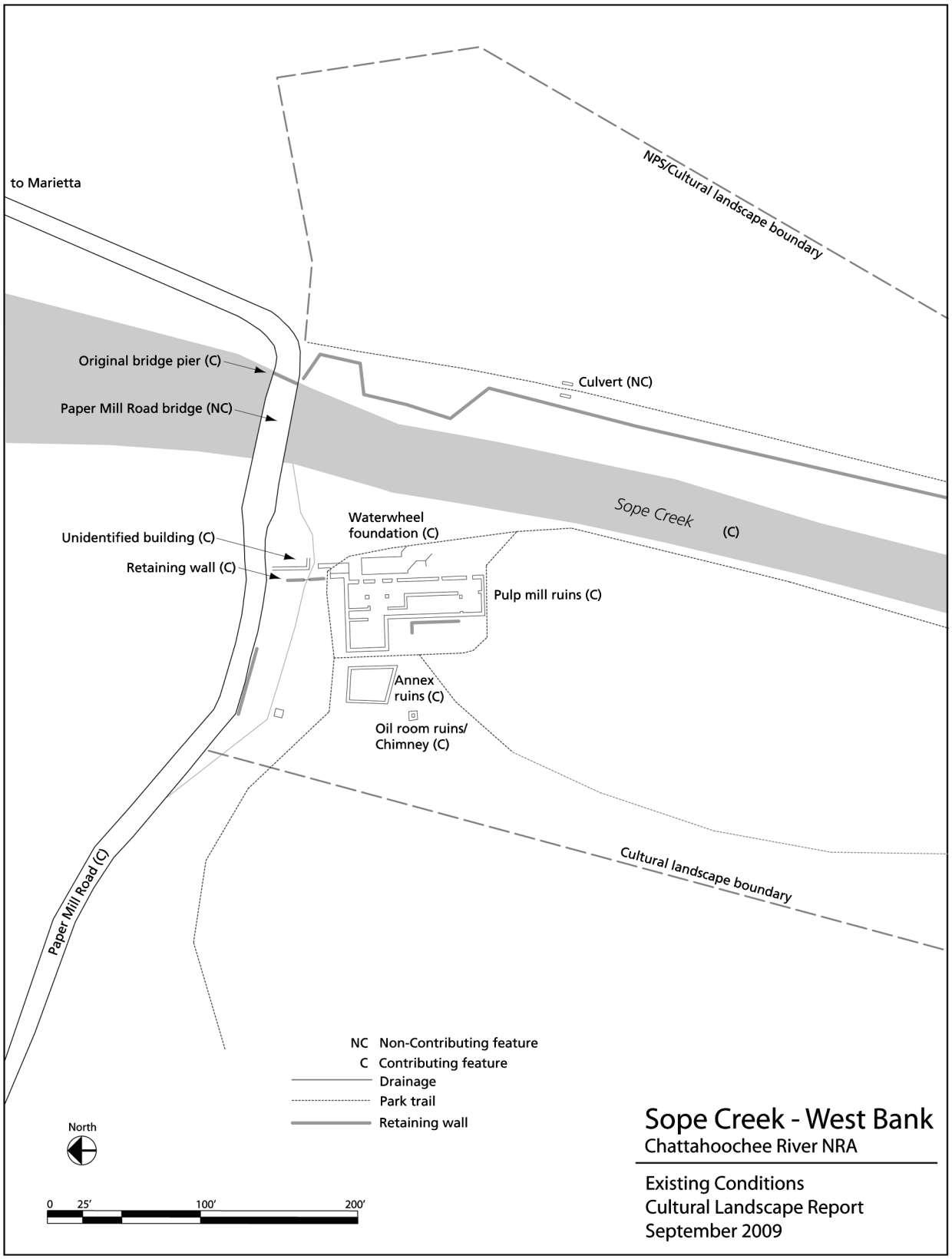


FIGURE 49. Sope Creek west bank. Existing Conditions, 2009.

Analysis

This analysis compares the findings of the site history with the existing conditions of Sope Creek to identify which landscape characteristics and associated features are extant and convey historical significance. This section covers an evaluation of significance using National Register criteria and assesses the integrity of each characteristic within the context of the overall landscape.

The national significance of the Chattahoochee River as a political boundary, military objective, and environmental resource overshadows the local significance of Sope Creek; however the importance of the smaller creeks, streams, and tributaries contribute to the land use patterns and historic context of Piedmont Georgia. A 1988 Cobb County cultural resource survey found the Sope Creek industrial site to have local industrial importance as well as Civil War significance. The inclusion of the Sope Creek cultural landscape within the larger Chattahoochee River NRA recognized its contribution to the history and natural environment of the broader river valley.

National Register Significance

The Sope Creek Ruins were added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1973 for the prehistoric, military, architectural and industrial significance to the local history of the Chattahoochee River valley. The ruins and landscape convey the importance of industry on a secondary stream of the Chattahoochee River (Criteria A) and preserve the location of strategic Civil War action during the Atlanta Campaign (Criteria A). The landscape includes evidence of prehistoric occupation (Criteria D) and each mill represents a typical nineteenth-century industrial complex in Piedmont Georgia (Criteria C). National Register information about the Sope Creek Ruins historic district is restricted due to the sensitive location of archeological sites. The period of significance spans from 1855 to 1902 and covers the industrial era along Sope Creek.

The Sope Creek historic district extends well-beyond park boundaries and includes contributing resources on private property. The cultural landscape addressed in this CLR represents a only portion of the larger National Register district and includes the industrial ruins of the historic Marietta Paper Mill, pulp mill, and a picturesque natural setting on National Park Service property. The site retains integrity of location, materials, design, workmanship, and association.

The Sope Creek Ruins represent typical nineteenth-century industry in Piedmont Georgia on tributaries in the Chattahoochee River valley. The masonry construction, spatial organization, and relationship to the creek express the architecture and technology typical of hydro-powered manufacturers. The secondary streams of the Chattahoochee River were narrow enough and steep enough to create fast-moving and easily exploitable water power. The architectural significance of the Sope Creek ruins lies in the sum of the many buildings that together express the multi-step process of paper manufacture. The paper and pulp mill complexes each represent a single significant entity with multiple components. The outbuildings, retaining walls, and water-related structures each contribute to an extensive complex which combined several functions to produce paper products from pulp.

The 1973 National Register nomination indicates the possibility of archeological resources in the Sope Creek landscape. After the site became property of the National Park Service in 1978, archeologists found evidence of prehistoric occupation. Later surveys revealed the locations of rock shelters and lithic scatters. The confirmation of archeological resources demonstrates the varied use of the river valley and tributaries by a sequence of prehistoric groups. The landscape still has the potential to yield significant archeological information and the period of significance should be extended to cover the prehistoric era.

During the Civil War, the Atlanta Campaign brought the two armies south from Chattanooga through the

cultural landscape. The Federal army crossed over the creek and forded the Chattahoochee River near the mouth of Sope Creek. Troops led by Gen. Kenner Garrard used the natural topography, the river ford, and extant fish weirs to successfully cross and challenge the Confederate defenses of Atlanta. The strategic crossing of Sope Creek, in part, and the Chattahoochee River left the Rebel army with no natural obstacle before the advancing enemy. The Union army burned the Marietta Paper Mills to damage Southern infrastructure and industry before crossing the creek, but the company rebuilt the structures at the same location just after the war. While no major battle action occurred within the cultural landscape, the Civil War association remains intact.

The existing nomination addresses the picturesque quality of the Sope Creek gorge. The natural area preserves the scenery of the cultural landscape and contributes to the historic setting and views. The 1973 National Register nomination noted the scenic landscape as "one of the few undisturbed rock gorges of a Chattahoochee River tributary" and recommended preserving Sope Creek and conducting archeology. The National Park Service investigated the potential prehistoric sites and continues to protect the historic and natural significance of the site.

Landscape Characteristics

The landscape characteristics of Sope Creek contribute to historic significance, including land use, buildings and structures, topography, natural systems, archeological sites, spatial organization, vegetation, and circulation. Together the landscape characteristics express the use of Sope Creek for early hunting and campgrounds, a source of industrial power, a local target for the Union army, a scenic gorge and secondary stream feeding into the Chattahoochee River and a place for passive recreation. The defining characteristics illustrate the history of the landscape along the creek from the prehistoric period to the end of the industrial era. The small-scale features within the cultural landscape are not character-defining and do not contribute to the historic period.



FIGURE 50. Paper mill on east bank with Sope Creek in foreground, December 2008. NPS photo.

Topography

The geology created by the Brevard lineament resulted in a change of elevation along the creek which was later utilized by nineteenth-century industry. The steep slopes on either side of Sope Creek retain significance for the rock shelters once used by prehistoric hunters in addition to the hillsides which support the mill ruins. The natural terrain provided shelter and hunting grounds before industrial buildings were cut into the slopes and constructed on the Sope Creek floodplain. The river crossing during the Civil War also conformed to the steep topography and local drainage patterns. The topography of the cultural landscape prevented early suburban development, but by the 1960s sprawl had reached the Sope Creek area. The creation of the park preserved the natural terrain and manipulated areas around the manufacturing buildings. The topography retains integrity from the period of significance since the grade of the historic road bed and around the main buildings survives.

Spatial Organization

The spatial organization of the Sope Creek cultural landscape is a primary characteristic that reveals the history and use of the tributary during the nineteenth century. The clustered and off-set mill complexes on either side of the creek relate the water-power process used to manufacture paper and pulp. The relationship between the mills and the creek survives as an important characteristic of hydro-powered industry. Topography dictated mill

construction on the narrow floodplain and steep slopes. To maximize efficiency, the mills aligned with the creek in a linear form, while an upstream dam and raceway funneled water to the mill.

A cluster of outbuildings supported additional functions of paper and pulp production on each side of the creek. Buildings were separated due to the threat of fire and each building provided a specific function. The result was two off-set mill complexes with circulation around the outbuildings and access to the main road (Paper Mill Road). The spatial organization has integrity of location, design, feeling, setting, materials and association.

Land Use

The cultural landscape of Sope Creek preserves the historic mill ruins in a picturesque setting designated for passive recreation. Occupied continuously since the prehistoric era, the land use has shifted from hunting and gathering to an industrial complex to the current park use. The history of varied land uses are reflected in the preservation of the ruins amid the natural terrain. As one of the few remaining undeveloped recreational spaces in Cobb County, the Sope Creek cultural landscape retains integrity.

Circulation

The circulation in the landscape preserves the route to the paper mill along the east bank of the creek and Paper Mill Road which crosses Sope Creek. Though a modern pedestrian trail system provides visitors access to the mill ruins, only the road system remains from the historic period and contributes to the character of the site. The historic road bed was filled and cut into the slope and today serves as a walking trail to the paper mill. The historic road retains integrity of location, setting, association, design, workmanship, feeling, and materials. The east bank trail begins at the gate and follows the historic road bed south to Caney Branch. Paper Mill Road on the north boundary of the landscape dates to the nineteenth century, though a covered bridge once spanning the creek was destroyed by fire in 1964. A concrete superstructure replaced the original bridge and the county road was paved with asphalt. The integrity of location and association remain, though the modernized road has diminished integrity of setting, feeling, design, materials, and workmanship. The trail system is part of the larger Cochran Shoals recreation area network and includes bike routes and hiking trails to the south and west of the cultural landscape. The trail system is an improvement of the Chattahoochee River NRA and a non-contributing element to the historic landscape. No information on the pedestrian circulation or workspace surrounding the mill buildings survives.

Buildings and Structures

The Sope Creek landscape contains two main mills and several outbuildings in various states of ruin. The structures contribute to the period of significance (1855-1902) and retain integrity of location, materials, workmanship, and association. Each structure remains in its original location and is constructed of field stone, conveying the architecture and technology of nineteenth-century industry. The park stabilized the main mill ruins in the 1980s, preserving the workmanship of the original buildings. Wooden lintels added for support partially compromise the character of the ruins, but the massive mills and retaining walls demonstrate the skill and ability of the original construction. The industrial and Civil War association is intact.

The mills surviving along Sope Creek convey the spatial organization of a typical Piedmont Georgia complex. The ruined buildings have diminished integrity of design due to the loss of the roof and interior walls. The condition of the buildings varies from structure to structure, ranging from rubble piles to stabilized foundations and walls.

Natural Systems

The natural systems of the Sope Creek landscape include the creek itself, Caney Branch tributary and steep gorges created by both. These landscape features convey the original characteristics that predisposed the area for industrial development. The steep slopes prevented the area from being farmed (historically) and deterred twentieth-century suburban development. Natural rock shelters once used by prehistoric inhabitants survive with integrity of location, association, material, setting, and feeling. The narrow floodplain on either side of the creek provided enough land to build linear industrial complexes to take advantage of the drop in elevation and creek shoals. The adjoining

Caney Branch provided a wash pool for the Marietta Paper Mill. The natural features of the Sope Creek Ruins cultural landscape preserve the scenic tributary today. The drainage patterns of the landscape, rock shelters used in the prehistoric area and steep topography retain integrity.

Archeology Sites

The archeological sites of the cultural landscape as well as associated sites in the Cochran Shoals unit and larger Chattahoochee River NRA contribute to the prehistory of the earliest inhabitants of the region. The sites retain location, association, material, and setting. The Sope Creek Ruins cultural landscape has the potential to yield archeological information not only about the prehistoric era, but the Civil War era and early industrial use along the creek. The archeology surveys since the 1980s located sites that are character-defining features and all archeological sites retain integrity.

Small-scale Features

A stone culvert is located on the trail leading to the east bank mill complex. This modern feature includes a drainpipe and does not contribute to the cultural landscape. Other modern features include trail signs, a metal gate, and wooden barriers to prevent visitors from impacting the ruins.

Vegetation

Vegetation also characterizes the setting of Sope Creek. Although historic evidence of plantings and vegetation around the mill buildings is inconclusive, the natural oak-hickory forest of the cultural landscape is intact and a representative part of southern ecology in Piedmont Georgia. Although fire, industry, and development historically altered vegetation around Sope Creek, today the natural setting supports sweetgum, alders, maples, poplar, oak, and loblolly. The ruins are overgrown with vines and underbrush during the summer months. The vegetation provides a crucial buffer from incompatible development near the Sope Creek Ruins landscape and contributes to the passive recreation of Chattahoochee River NRA.

Assessment of Integrity

The aspects of integrity evaluated as part of the National Register criteria include location, materials, setting, design, workmanship, association, and feeling. These distinct qualities considered together convey the historic significance of a landscape. The aspects of integrity address the physical elements of the landscape as well as the expression and connection of time and place.

Location

Integrity of location remains intact for the Sope Creek ruins and associated landscape features. Based on a comparison of the historic and existing conditions, the location of Sope Creek, as well as building footprints, archeological sites, and other mill features remains unchanged. The major components of the landscape retain integrity from the industrial period. The outbuildings, raceway piers, and scattered rubble reveal the extent of the industrial complex and today convey the boundaries of the immediate workspace. The historic road bed remains in place adapted into a modern a pedestrian trail. The natural topography, although manipulated around the buildings, remains intact for the length of Sope Creek through the cultural landscape.

Materials

The physical elements of the landscape retain integrity and convey the significant industry along Sope Creek. The structural remains of the paper and pulp mill buildings preserve the stone construction typical of nineteenth-century industrial buildings. The materials used in construction remain intact in the ruins and scattered in rubble near the mills. The original siting of the complex parallel to Sope Creek also expresses the historic architecture and configuration. The stabilization in the 1980s preserved the field stone building fabric, despite the introduction of modern wood lintels.

Setting

The Sope Creek landscape has diminished integrity of setting due to the changes in the physical environment since the period of significance. The natural setting was drastically altered during the



FIGURE 51. Field stone used as a building material. Photo of pulp mill interior, April 2008. NPS photo.

industrial era and since the closing of the Sope Creek paper mills, vegetation has regrown and the buildings deteriorated. The vegetation near Sope Creek provides a visual buffer from incompatible land use today. The setting of the cultural landscape contains steep topography and natural drainage patterns that remain unchanged, but little context for the historic paper and pulp mills.

Design

The Sope Creek landscape possesses integrity of design. The layout of the industrial site, the relationship to Sope Creek, and the remaining architecture convey early paper and pulp production in Piedmont Georgia. The typical layout of a nineteenth-century mill on a secondary creek included clustered outbuildings next to a massive main mill, an upstream dam, raceway, and waterwheel. The spatial organization of the complexes helps convey the design of the overall landscape and articulates the necessity of the creek in providing hydropower. The waterwheel is missing from both mills, but the ruins retain their waterwheel foundations, location and relationship to the creek and other buildings. The mill ruins express the field stone construction and functional design of the industrial buildings.

Workmanship

The integrity of workmanship remains at the Sope Creek ruin, but is slightly diminished due to the deterioration of the structures. The existing stone walls, raceway piers, and retaining wall convey the skill and materials used in building the industrial complex, though vandalism, improper maintenance, and exposure have impacted the site. Stabilization in the 1980s replaced stone and mortar in-kind and the workmanship of the original mills remains. The

workmanship of the historic road bed is retained in the cut grade and supporting retaining wall.

Association

The association with Cobb County industrial history remains in the landscape. As a cultural resource of Chattahoochee River NRA, the significance of early hydropower industry is tangible at the site in the mill ruins, raceway piers, dam, and outbuildings. The association with prehistoric-era groups is less evident in the landscape. The wooded slopes and rock outcrops convey the natural features once used as shelter, but only surface and subsurface sites remain.The association with the Civil War is preserved. The landscape characteristics such as topography, natural systems, and archeology convey the integrity of association.

Feeling

Integrity of feeling identifies the expression of an aesthetic or historic sense of a particular period or time. The steep gorge and rocky banks of Sope Creek create a picturesque landscape with vistas and views highlighting the creek, yet the industrial buildings remain in ruins enveloped within a second-growth forest. The management of the cultural landscape allows visitors to encounter the abandoned mill buildings along pedestrian trails and discover the details of the natural scenery on their own terms, though the feeling of a nineteenth-century industrial landscape is compromised. The deteriorated condition of the structures, the loss of the Sope Creek covered bridge, and the regrowth of the forest diminishes the integrity of feeling, at least in terms of historic resources.

Summary

The Sope Creek cultural landscape retains the location, material, design, workmanship, and association aspects of integrity. The period of significance is preserved in the ruins and due to the excessive development of the surrounding area; the site is a rare example of local history. The aspects of integrity combine to convey not only the industrial importance of the Marietta Paper and Pulp Mill companies, but the natural scenery, Civil War association, and prehistoric significance.

Treatment

The treatment recommendations for this Cultural Landscape Report articulate a preservation strategy for long-term management of the cultural landscape based on research, inventory, and analysis. The significance of the site, particularly the historic features remaining in the existing landscape, dictates the appropriate preservation treatment. The recommendations for Sope Creek consider the historic integrity while balancing current park management, accessibility, and interpretation. The treatment recommendations provide guidance on how to best manage the Sope Creek landscape as a cultural resource integrated into a natural resource.

All recommendations conform to National Park Service policy, including the National Park Service Management Policies, and Director's Order No. 28: *Cultural Resource Management Guidelines*, and the *Secretary of Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Cultural Landscapes*. The *Secretary of Interior's Standards* outline four types of treatment that range by level of physical intervention and include specific guidelines.

Preservation is the act or process of applying measures necessary to sustain the existing form, integrity, and materials of a historic property. Work, including preliminary measures to protect and stabilize the property, generally focuses upon the on-going maintenance and repair of historic materials and features rather than extensive replacement and new construction. New exterior additions are not within the scope of this treatment; however, the limited and sensitive upgrading of mechanical, electrical, and plumbing systems and other code-required work to make properties functional is appropriate within a preservation project.

Rehabilitation is the act or process of making possible a compatible use for a property through repair, alterations, and additions while preserving those portions or features, which convey its historical, cultural, or architectural values.

Restoration is the act or process of accurately depicting the form, features, and character of a property as it appeared at a particular period of time by means of the removal of features from other historic periods in its history and reconstruction of missing features from the restoration period. The limited and sensitive upgrading of mechanical, electrical, and plumbing systems and other code-required work to make properties functional is appropriate within a restoration project.

Reconstruction is the act or process of depicting, by means of new construction the form, features, and detailing of a non-surviving site, landscape, building, structure, or object for the purpose of replicating its appearance as a specific period of time and in its historic location.

The Sope Creek CLR recommends preservation as the overall treatment approach for the cultural landscape. The site requires regular maintenance due to its primary use for passive recreation and in order to preserve the structures on the site. The Sope Creek landscape is in fair condition as heavy visitation, minor vandalism, poor drainage, and encroaching vegetation threaten the site. Constant vigilance can minimize potential impacts, while preservation will maintain the current conditions and historic character of the landscape. Preservation as a treatment strategy takes into account the existing integrity of the historic site as well as the needs of current park staff and visitors.

A major flood event in September 2009 created additional landscape issues at Sope Creek. Excessive rain fell over the Atlanta area, causing streams, creeks, and the river to flood. The accumulated waterflow washed out portions of the east bank retaining wall and eroded trails and drainage routes associated with Sope Creek. Area roads flooded and bacteria from a sewage spill overflowed in the river, reaching unsafe levels. The recent flood damaged the historic landscape and neccessitates additional rehabilitation treatment for impacted features. Specific recommendations for preserving and



FIGURE 52. Wooden barriers preventing unsafe access at the paper mill, April 2008. NPS photo.

rehabilitating landscape features are explained below.

Recommendations

Buildings and Structures

The buildings and structures in the Sope Creek landscape should be preserved and stabilized. Visitors, vegetation, weather and maintenance all impact the ruins. The rehabilitation of specific structures within the cultural landscape would provide a safe visitor experience and prevent further deterioration.

- Remove immediate threats, such as downed trees and monitor structural ruins for further deterioration. Clear woody trees and shrubs from the fieldstone ruins at least annually and examine structures after major storms and periods of high visitation. Keep all vegetation at least two feet from structural remains for safety and access.



FIGURE 53. Major crack on storage building south elevation, 2009. NPS photo.

- Document the outbuildings surrounding the paper and pulp mill with architectural drawings and photography. The paper mill complex has no information on the boiler room, office, oil room, or Caney Branch retaining walls. The oil room and unidentified building near the pulp mill should be documented. Additional raceway ruins near Paper Mill Road were uncovered after the September 2009 flood. These features should be thoroughly documented before vegetation returns.

- Stabilize the storage building on the east bank of Sope Creek. Severe cracks in the north and south elevations threaten the integrity of the ruin.

- Complete Historic Structure Reports (HSR) or architectural condition assessments before any major stabilization or repair project. Include archeological surveys and investigations when necessary and Section 106 compliance for all undertakings affecting cultural resources.

- Maintain the wooden barriers on each mill building to deter access from unsafe heights.

- Reattach or replace warning signs near mill structures to provide a safety message to visitors.

Flood Damage

Uncontrolled runoff, more than rising water levels, damaged Sope Creek resources. Runoff from the Atlanta Country Club golf course created deep



FIGURE 54. Unattached warning sign near pulp mills ruins, April 2008. NPS photo.

ditches that compounded the velocity of the water flowing downslope. The resulting waterflow breeched the historic road bed and east retaining wall in several places. A small intermittent stream on the south side of Paper Mill Road became a secondary drainage and loosened stone rubble on ruins near the pulp mill. The level of Sope Creek rose during and after the series of storms, but the mill buildings were high enough to avoid direct flooding.

- Large coping stones at one time stabilized the east bank wall. The stones should be replaced where available, though many are lost to pilfering in the 1930s for local landscaping material.

- Rehabilitate the compromised portions of the east bank retaining wall south of the Paper Mill Bridge Road loosened by the flood.

- Repair destabilized ruins near pulp mill ruins. Floodwater from the intermittent drainage along Paper Mill Road dislodged several stones in the retaining wall and unidentified building.



FIGURE 55. Paper Mill Road drainage to south exposed by flooding. September 2009. NPS photo.



FIGURE 56. Eroded portion of east bank retaining wall after September 2009 flood. NPS photo.

- Monitor Paper Mill Road drainage and repair. The road was undermined by floodwater on the south side, which exposed an undocumented wall and stone ruin.

- Repair the road bed and trail on the east bank and divert runoff that can damage the slope in the future.

- The east bank culvert proved undersized for the flood and water spilled over each side of the modern feature. Regular clearing is necessary and the culvert should be replaced with a larger size drainage pipe.

Vegetation

Encroaching vegetation remains a continual threat to the historic ruins at Sope Creek. The mixed hardwood forest and pine uplands grow



FIGURE 57. Compromised culvert on east bank. September 2009. NPS photo.



FIGURE 58. Encroaching vegetation on paper mill ruins, April 2008. NPS photo.

immediately adjacent to the walls and ruins, meanwhile undergrowth competes for space within the open foundations. The vegetation should remain managed as a natural resource except in the immediate area around the designated ruins.

In December 2008 during the course of the CLR project, the park completed a hazardous tree removal contract. The successful removal of small to medium trees and vines reveals that such maintenance should become a regular part of managing the Sope Creek landscape. The striking visual difference between the April and December site visits suggests an annual schedule of vegetation removal, if not biannual, would prevent futher deterioration of the ruins.

- Clear the structural ruins of all vegetation. Historic ruins should have two to three feet of cleared space surrounding the extant walls and buildings. The raceway piers should be cleared to allow a visual connection between the paper mill and creek.

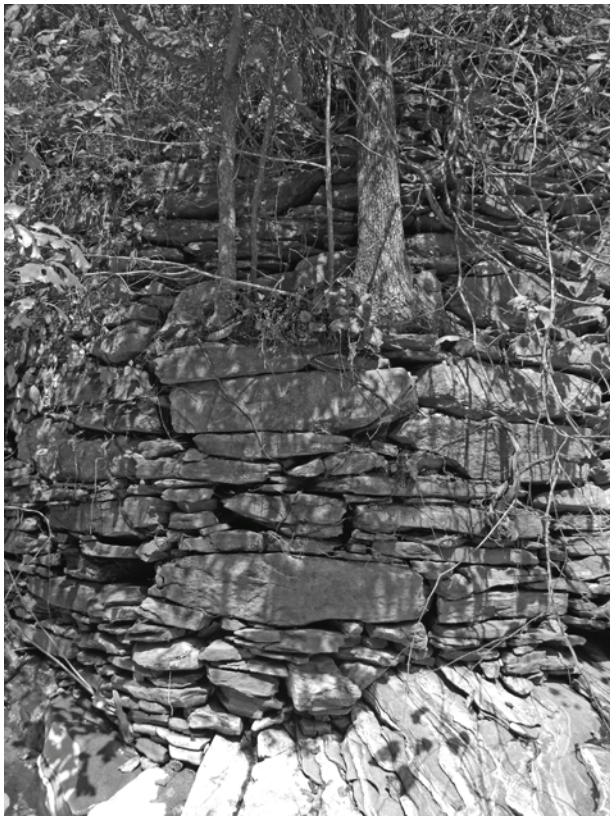


FIGURE 59. Mature vegetation growing on retaining wall. September 2009. NPS photo.

- Remove all trees threatening the stability of the historic roadbed and retaining wall on the east bank of Sope Creek. Hardwood root systems and established pines compromise the structural integrity of the retaining wall.

- Identify, remove, and monitor all exotic and invasive vegetation from the cultural landscape. Princess tree (*Paulownia tomentosa*), in particular, is present on the east bank ruins.

Archeology

Archeological sites at Sope Creek are well-maintained under a cover of leaf litter or stabilized as building ruins. Regular condition assessments should continue and any violation to the Archeological Resource Protection Act (ARPA) should be reported as necessary. Considering evidence uncovered in archeological surveys after 1973, the National Register nomination period of significance should be extended to include the prehistoric era.

- Any ground disturbance resulting from building repair or construction should be monitored by a trained or professional archeologist.

- Complete Section 106 compliance for any park project, including archeology when applicable.

- Monitor archeological sites for damage from visitors and document change in condition.

Natural Systems

- Do not alter the natural features of the site, particularly Sope Creek, Caney Branch, and the shoals within the cultural landscape.

- Monitor water quality and regularly remove debris and trash at outlets that empty into Sope Creek.

Vistas and Views

- Preserve the view of Sope Creek from the paper mill ruins to highlight the spatial relationship between the creek and historic industry. Clear vegetation from the east bank of Sope Creek near the raceway piers.

- Maintain a view of pulp mill ruins from Paper Mill Road Bridge with vegetation removal and limited signage.

- Retain a buffer of natural vegetation along the park boundary to prevent incompatible views of neighboring development.

Circulation

The primary trail system of Cochran Shoals leads visitors to the slope above the pulp mill annex. A series of informal footpaths created over the years continue downslope and through the west bank of the cultural landscape. A maintained trail continues on the east bank of Sope Creek despite not having a designated connection across the Paper Mill Road Bridge. Trail maintenance should include not only the designated system at Cochran Shoals, but also the secondary trails around the pulp mill complex.

- Preserve trails and monitor for erosion. Identify and remove any rubble or loose stones to prevent hazards along the trails. The 2009 flood eroded the steeper sections of the trail on the west bank.



FIGURE 61. Potential for erosion on south edge of pulp mill annex, April 2009. NPS photo.

- Detour trails away from building foundations and retaining walls, if erosion problems occur. Erosion can accelerate structural deterioration or impact subsurface archeological information.The trail around the pulp mill annex edges the building foundation.

- Maintain established secondary trails. Unauthorized trails can disturb native vegetation and archeological sites. New trails also spread exotic vegetation and accelerate soil erosion. Clearly delineated trails (as much as possible) around the mill ruins will preserve the cultural landscape.

- Provide access to the Paper Mill landscape on either side of Caney Branch. A small bridge can reconnect the divided landscape, but no evidence of the original bridge exists and efforts should be made to avoid any uninformed reconstruction.

Currently, the site receives heavy visitation at the pulp mill, while substantially less visitors make it to the paper mill. Working with Cobb County on all external transportation planning will help the park to increase accessibility to the east bank section of the CHAT Cochran Shoals unit. Pedestrian access over Sope Creek should ideally be separated from vehicular traffic to provide a safe crossing.

- Provide separated access on Paper Mill Road Bridge over Sope Creek to allow for pedestrian traffic. Since the road is not managed by the



FIGURE 60. Loose rubble between pulp mill and annex, possibly the result of vandalism, April 2009. Rubble in trail should be removed. NPS photo.

NPS, initiate proposals to include alternative pedestrian access into any Department of Transportation long-range plan.

- Preserve original stone bridge pier and portions of the east bank retaining wall in any projects affecting the Paper Mill Road Bridge.

- Rehabilitate sections of the east bank trail washed out during the 2009 flood. Explore adding culverts, replacing portions of the trail, and wall stabilization to reestablish the historic road bed and provide access to the paper mill site.

Documentation

The National Register nomination for the Sope Creek Ruins was completed in 1973. Landscape features undocumented at that time also contribute to the significance of the site and should be added to the existing nomination. A Cultural Landscapes Inventory (CLI) completed concurrently with this report addresses the eligible landscape characteristics. Other park documentation should be updated to reflect the research of this CLR.

- Update the National Register nomination for the Sope Creek Ruins to include landscape characteristics such as spatial organization, natural systems, views and topography. Certification of the CLI determines the eligibility of the cultural landscape for nomination.

- Document additional outbuildings at the paper and pulp complexes with architectural drawings to record the existing ruins. Further research should be undertaken to identify the exact functions of the paper and pulp mill outbuildings.

- Update the List of Classified Structures (LCS) data for the Sope Creek Ruins to accurately reflect building use and condition. The LCS currently includes the east and west mill

complexes each as single entry, though the east bank retaining wall (CHAT 04) and flume piers (CHAT 03) are identified as separate structures. Each structure identified in the CLR should be entered as an individual LCS entry with pertinent information.

- Continue CLI and LCS condition updates and include ruins exposed by the flood on Paper Mill Road.

Interpretation

The Sope Creek ruins retain a significant portion of local nineteenth-century history and provide an educational opportunity for modern park visitors. Wayside exhibits at the pulp mill complex would help interpret the existing industrial ruins as well as direct visitors to the undervisited paper mill complex.

- Respect the established use of the park for passive recreation with limited interpretation. Interpret the industrial history of the Marietta Paper Mills, while providing opportunities for personal reflection and appreciating natural resources. The placement, size, and material of any new wayside should be mindful of the natural and historic site. Brochures also provide an interpretive alternative to convey information without adding modern features to the site.

- By designating trails, circulation through the complex can provide interpretation. Consider using the paper mill trail to guide visitors through the step-by-step process of industrial papermaking.

- Explore partnerships with local groups to benefit on-site interpretation and educational programs. The Robert C. Williams Paper Museum at Georgia Tech is a potential partner in understanding the process of papermaking.

Paper Mill Road Bridge Drainage

A key issue of the CHAT General Management Plan is the protection of cultural and natural resources, including water quality. Water quality within the park can be adversely affected by runoff from impervious surfaces on adjacent developed areas.[1]



FIGURE 62. East wall needs repair.

The northeast corner of the Sope Creek cultural landscape is a specific example of this issue and one that also threatens the integrity of the historic retaining wall and original stone bridge pier. The recent flood brought attention to numerous areas in the park effected by runoff.

The construction of a neighboring driveway created a new pattern of storm drainage that severely damaged the historic retaining wall. The residence built on a steep slope above the bridge has caused water to accelerate down the driveway directly toward the confluence of the road, bridge, and historic wall. Approximately one-third of the wall has been destroyed or severely damaged as a direct result of construction activities, while another third has been adversely affected by shifting, vegetation growth, flood water turbulence, natural erosion and settlement. Vibrations from construction and regular heavy traffic on the adjacent bridge also impact the wall.

The park has diligently worked with Cobb County and the Department of Transportation to manage this storm water issue. All efforts to rehabilitate the historic retaining wall and protect the graded topography should be made as water quality concerns are addressed. The 2009 flood exacerbated the underlying erosion problem on the east bank and caused additional damage to the retaining wall (see Figure 56).

- Repair the east bank retaining wall. (PMIS #94439)Reinforce the eroded and damaged

1. CHAT GMP, p. v.

portions of the wall and undertake necessary compliance and archeology. Document the historic construction methods and rehabilitate damaged sections using the *Secretary of Interior's Standards*.

- Clear all established vegetation from east bank retaining wall to prevent future damage from root growth and tree falls. This includes small diameter hardwoods and mature pines.

- Stay involved in proposed development and construction projects that may impact the bridge or adjacent lands.

Erosion

Erosion on the west bank near the pulp mill structures potentially threatens the historic resource. Monitoring the trails, drainage outlets and ruins will ensure that areas susceptible to damage are promptly treated.

- Monitor historic ruins in outlet south of Paper Mill Road Bridge and treat areas of heavy visitation. If signs of erosion occur, rope off the area until stabilization or revegetation takes place.

- Monitor Caney Branch for change in water levels. Although the foundation appears to be set on bedrock, the paper mill may possibly be undermined by the creek.

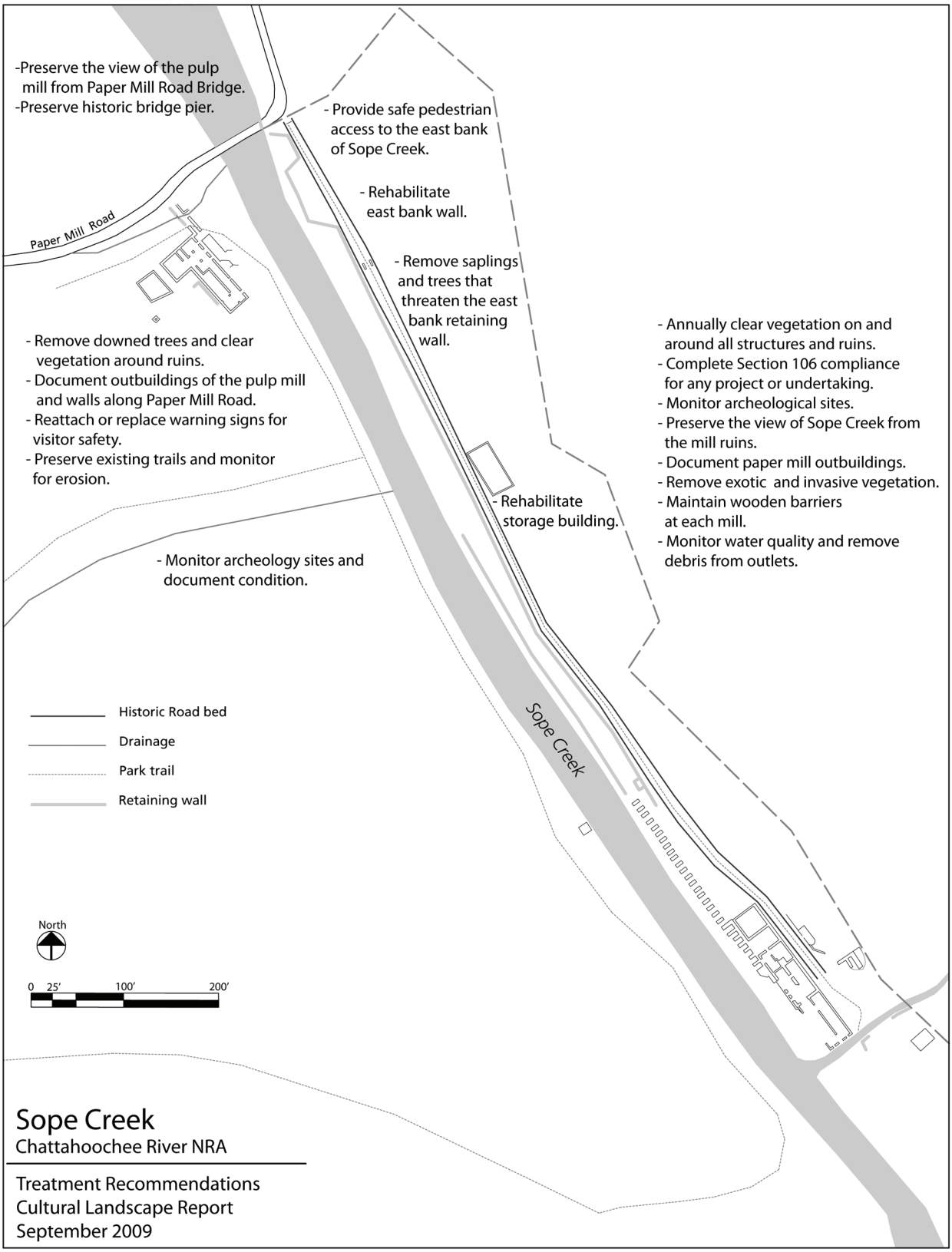


FIGURE 63. Treatment map, 2009.

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