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Elizabeth R. Peabody Portfolio Project: Archaeological Background and Current Research Methodology of the Burns Site (8BR85) *by Elizabeth Peabody*

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"The History of Archaeological Investigation and the Current Research Methodology of the 2017
Cape Canaveral Archaeological Mitigation Project (CCAMP) at the Burn's Site (8BR85)"

By:

Elizabeth R. Peabody

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ANG4949: Internship with the Office of Experiential Learning

Complete Portfolio Project

Previous Archaeological Research and Methodology at Site 8BR85, The Burn's Site

The Burn's Site, also known as Burns Mound and Burnham's Grove (8BR85), is a multicomponent archaeological site on Cape Canaveral Air Force Station (CCAFS) that is situated on a sand ridge along the Banana River. It is "located within the SE 1/4 of the SE 1/4 of Section 26 in Township 23 South and Range 37 East of the Cape Canaveral Quadrangle Map (USGS 1987)" (Penders 2015:18). The site consists of 3 components, the Burns Mound (BR85), the Burnham Family Cemetery (BR2352), and the Wilson Brothers Cemetery (BR2353) and includes prehistoric (Malabar period) and historic (late 19th Century-early 20th Century) contexts (Figure 1).

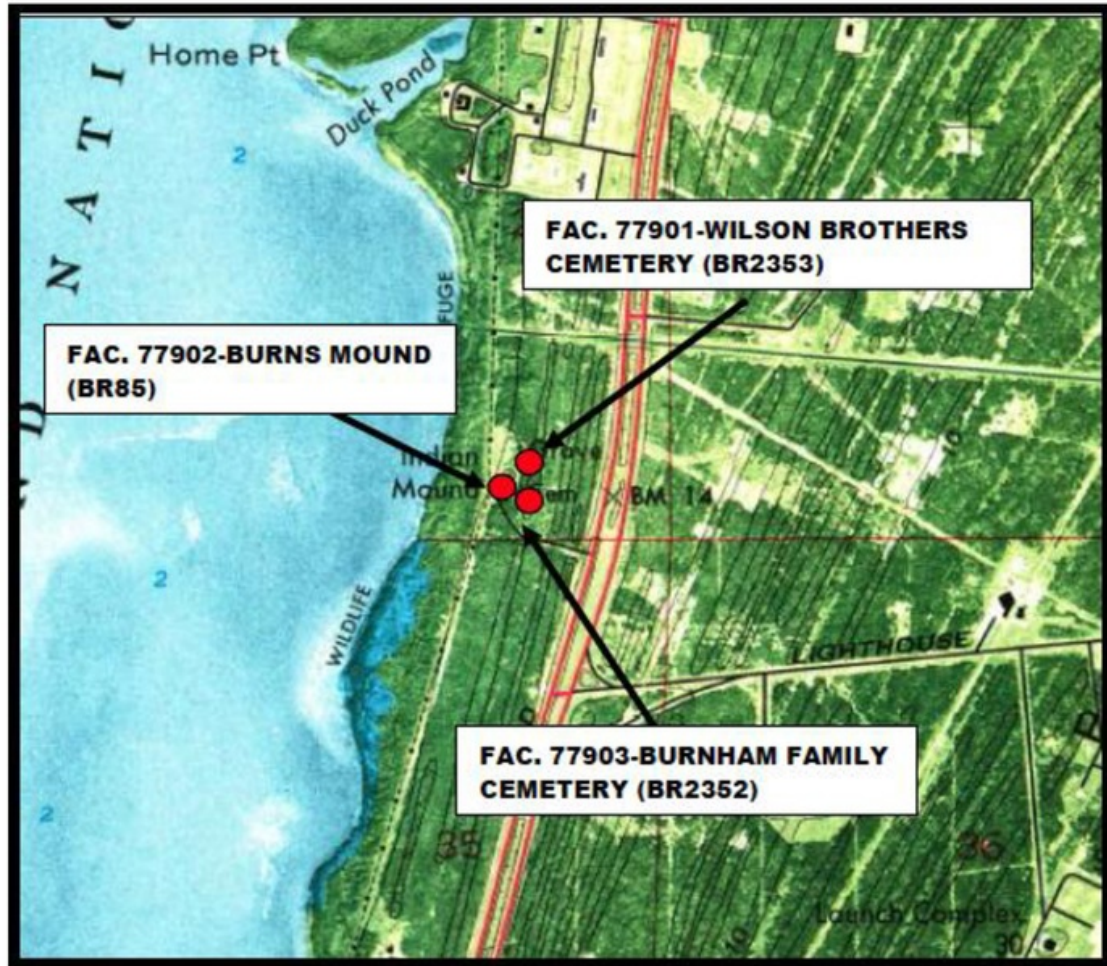
The Burn's Site has had a long history of archaeological survey and investigation, yet discrepancies and limited focus abound in the archaeological documentation. The earliest information on the site is provided by Irving Rouse (1951:192-94) who states that the site was first brought to attention by a journalist named J.S. Adams from the *New York World* in 1869. Adams reported to have found a mound 6.1 meters (m) (20 feet [ft]) high and 27.43m (90 ft.) wide, and met a man named Sir Francis Sykes who had a large collection of ceramic and humans remains from the site.

In 1884 J. Francis Le Baron visited the site and confirmed finding the mound, but stated it was only 2.44m (8 ft.) high and 15.25m (50 ft.) in diameter. This estimate is much smaller than what Adams reported in 1869. Le Baron conducted surface exploration, but no reported collection or excavation.

The first academic exploration of the site was done in 1931 by G.M. Stirling while employed by the Harvard Peabody Museum. Concentrating solely on the mound, Stirling did not

actually excavate the site, but he did conduct surface collection of faunal bones and ceramic sherds (Rouse 1951:192).

Figure 1: Map of the Burns Site (8BR85)



Source: Penders 2015:19

George Woodbury conducted the first documented archaeological excavation of Burns Mound, which he called "Mound 2A" in 1933-34 and claimed to have completely excavated (Rouse 1951:192). Together with Stirling, Woodbury did publish a preliminary report on his findings, which attributes the site to the Surruque Indians and claimed that the mound stood at

3.96m (13ft) high and 24.08m (79ft) in diameter at the time. Also included in his report is his uncovering of the mound stratigraphy. He classified the stratigraphy into two burial layers and one habitation debris layer (Rouse 1951:192-193). Layer 1 is a thick deposit with many burials, shells, potsherds, and other artifacts. Layer 2 is comprised of the sand mound, although it also contains burials. And Layer 3 is a horizontal deposit of refuse and habitations debris deposited before the mound's construction and contains material remains but no burials.

Woodbury collected a total of 52 skeletons, which were determined to be indistinguishable from others in the region, that were oriented with their heads toward the center of the mound, as well as animal remains and artifacts that he sent to the U.S. National Museum (Rouse 1951:194). The material remains collected included St. John's Plain, St. John's Check Stamped, Saint John's Simple Stamped, Dunns Creek Red, and Glades Plain ceramic sherds, as well as a few traded ceramic sherds from South and West Florida, a stone celt, notched stone weight, *Busycon* gouges and pick axes, and a silver pendent of Native American design. Woodbury did not record whether the artifacts he found were grave goods or if they came from refuse layers.

Following Woodbury's excavations, A.T. Anderson excavated the 8BR85 mound in 1947 to investigate reports of human remains on the site. He did uncover human remains during his survey, as well as ceramic sherds, but did not expand the focus of his research beyond this.

Willey's excavations of the Burns Mound and Fuller Mound Group in 1954 are what first illuminated the limitations of Woodbury's work. In his report, he states that the mound measured only 3.95m (12ft) high and 23.9m (78.5ft) in diameter before excavation. Furthermore, he claims Woodbury only excavated only half of the "total bulk of the mound, cutting down to the mound

base in excavated portions" (Willey 1954:82). He does not state what was done to backfill the mound following excavation however.

After Willey, the mound was not investigated again until graduate student George A. Long's pedestrian field exploration of Indian and Historic sites near Kennedy Space Center in 1966 (Long 1967). Working off of previous research, local accounts from grove owners, fishermen, and amateur archaeologists, Long did not conduct any excavation but he did attempt to record X/Y coordinates of sites using units NASA and the U.S.AF use in their Basic Information Guides, and conduct some surface collection. His collection included *Busycon* shell tools, hammers, gauges, and columellas as well as St. John's Plain, St. John's Check Stamped, and Belle Glade Plain ceramic sherds (Long 1967:48). Most importantly, Long reported on the high level of disturbance at the site, stating that a "bulldozer reportedly plowed through the mound in recent years and shell was removed from the midden [after which] Tex Williams reshaped the mound and erected posts and cables around it" (Long 1967:47-48).

The limiting of project focus to the mound marked all archaeological investigation of the Burn's Site until its excavation in 1982 by Richard Levy with Resource Analysts, Inc (RAI). In September and October of 1982, Levy and RAI conducted an archaeological survey of Cape Canaveral Air Force Station in Brevard County that covered an area of 15,800 acres (6,394 hectares). Using a methodology that included archival documents, local informants, pedestrian shovel tests, remote sensing, windshield survey, and surface exposures, the project surveyed 26 known sites, including 8BR85, and six new sites (Levy 1984:i).

Using the Florida Power and Light Company (FPL) transmission line that was constructed on the site between Willey's visit in 1954 and Long's in 1966 as an access route, Levy's team covered a 1/4 mile (402.34m) wide swath following the Banana River Coast (Levy

1984:60). Using a sampling strategy that followed existing linear features such as skid strip shoulders, road shoulders, wave guides, and canal drainage routes, as transect lines 30 m (98ft) apart, Levy conducted shovel probes, divots, and scrapes placed at 30 m (98ft) intervals (Levy 1984:60-62). All probe shovel tests were screened through 1/4 inch mesh and all artifacts were collected. Surface collection was also conducted in 30m (98.43ft) blocks.

A total of 26 shovel test pits were conducted at the Burn's Mound, which recovered St. John's Plain, St. John's Check Stamped, St. John's Cord Marked, Glade's Check Stamped, and Glades Plain ceramic sherds, as well as two olive jars and the faunal remains of deer, small mammals, turtle, fish, and birds (Levy 1984:97). Unfortunately a map of the shovel tests' exact placements was not provided. Overall, Levy's team estimated that the total area of the site was 33.67 ha (83 acres) and that the "midden extended 360 m northward and 270 m to the south of [datum point on 1st power pole south of burial mound] and varied between 50 and 150 m in width" (Levy 1984:98).

In addition to the Burn's Mound, this survey area was the first include the area around the mound as well as the Burnham Family and Wilson Brothers cemeteries. Levy divided the site into three main areas; Area 1 consists of the large, open, grassy area by the powerline and is the largest of the three. This area is also the most disturbed, evidenced by bulldozer piles by the tree line and the elevated surface down the middle of the corridor (Levy 1984:110). The area contains both prehistoric artifacts dating to the Malabar II period and historic artifacts dating to 1900-1920 on the surface and in test pits, with little stratigraphic difference to the mound area. They also claim to have found a rubbish mound 2m (6.56ft) west of the Wilson's graves that could be a chimney, but limited probing showed bottlenecks and ceramics dating to the 1870s-1890s instead

of chimney debris. No in-situ structural remains from the Burnham and Wilson family homesteads were found.

Area 2 runs north to south along a road feature 106m (347.77ft) east of the powerline and is east-northeast of the Wilson Graves in a forested area. In this area is a depression that Levy speculated was a privy or shallow well, which was surrounded by an "abundance of surface artifacts" and was possibly used as a dump (Levy 1984:112). Shovel tests revealed that artifacts occurred until 50cm (19.69 in) below surface, and Levy offers that it could have been the Burnham House's backyard although no structural features were found.

Area 3 is located E of the FPL and SE of the Burnham Family Cemetery in a heavy forested area. No structural or cultural features were found, although shovel tests did reveal a 50m (164ft) by 30m (98.4ft) dump dating to 1900-1940 and a similar stratigraphy to Area 2 near the Wilson Cemetery but fewer artifacts (Levy 1984:112).

By the end of their investigations, the RAI team concluded that prehistoric and historic remains were coextensive except along the Eastern margin of the site. There, the prehistoric contexts end just inside the present tree line while historic remains extend 300m (984ft) east from the bank of the Banana River. None of the Burnham or Wilson homestead structures remained standing, and altogether 157 artifacts from shovel tests and surface survey were collected (Levy 1984:112). Levy also notes that many artifacts were observed but not collected; however at no point does he precisely list or differentiate which artifacts were not collected. They also concluded that more extensive investigation of the site's midden was needed and that the site was also eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places (NHRP).

From December 1992 to February 1993 a team from New South Associates (NSA) conducted a historic properties survey that covered 578 ha (1,430 ac) bordering the Banana River

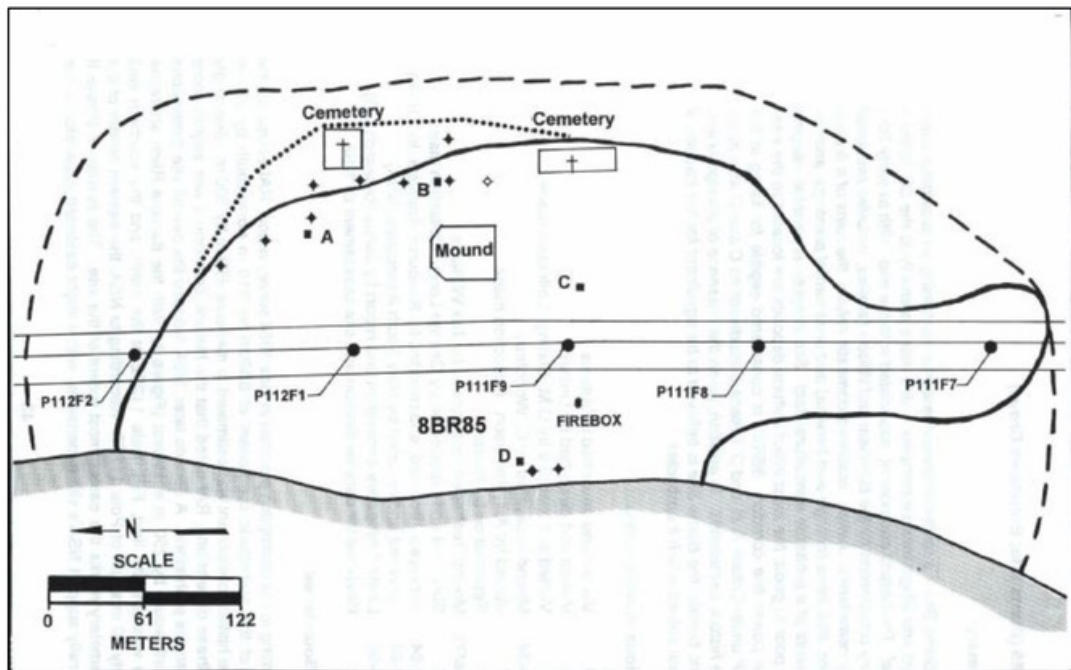
and included previously known historic and prehistoric sites including 8BR85 (Cantley et al 1993:142). Their methodology consisted of the use of archival documentation, pedestrian survey, and shovel tests. Transects were cut 25m (82ft) apart, perpendicular to the FPL, along which screened shovel tests were conducted. Unfortunately their report does not mention intervening distance between shovel tests or shovel test size. Like the 1984 RAI project, their survey area included both the Burns Mound as well as both Cemeteries located in 8BR85, which they divided into the same three Areas as Levy in 1984.

In Area 1, the NSA team did confirm the existence of the midden west of the Wilson Cemetery, and also claim that it is a chimney though they did not find any archaeological evidence of such and do not explain why they label it a chimney (Cantley et al 1993:144). They also confirmed the existence of the dump found in Area 2, but there is no documentation on the exact artifacts NSA discovered there. The dump in Area 3 was also confirmed, and its materials dated to 1900-1940 but again no description or listing of artifacts was provided (Cantley et al 1993:145). It is mentioned that the prehistoric material remains recovered included St. John's Plain, St. John's Series, St. John's Check Stamped, and Glades Plain ceramic sherds, while the historic remains included amethyst bottle shards and ceramics. However, at no point is it stated where exactly on the site these artifacts were located, nor whether they were recovered during surface collection or shovel testing.

Overall, NSA concurred with the 1984 evaluation on the date-range of the artifacts as well as its meeting all five criteria necessary for NRHP eligibility. However, they found discrepancies in the size of the site as their inspection of Transects 127-144 indicated the site is 720m (2362.2ft) N/S by 250m (820.21ft) E/W (Cantley et al. 1993:146).

The Burn's Site was investigated again in 1994-95 by the CRM company Janus Research in conjunction with Florida Light and Power to determine if the replacement of FPL transmission line poles would impact culturally and historically significant resources (Bellomo 1996: 102-107). Altogether, 19 known archaeological sites were investigated with a focus on sampling midden and non-midden deposits at each new pole location using screen shovel tests and hand excavation. Out of five 1m (3.38ft) x 1m shovel test units (8BR85A-E) that were placed on the FPL corridor at the Burns Site, only one of the pits was sterile (8BR85E) (Figure 2).

Figure 2: Map of Janus Research Archaeological Survey



Source: Bellomo 1996:47

The other four yielded a mix of prehistoric and historic material remains, including shells, ceramics, and faunal remains. Prehistoric ceramics included St. John's Plain, Sandy St. John's, St. John's Check Stamped, and Sand-Tempered Plain sherds. Historic remains included metal, glass, earthenware ceramics, and Ginger Beer bottles, which dated the finds to 1820-1930

(Bellomo 1996:107). All material remains were determined to be redeposited midden contents from the FPL transmission line's original construction (Bellomo 1996:107). At the conclusion of their survey, Janus determined that the level of disturbance at the site was too great to meet NRHP listing eligibility for the historic component of the site, but the prehistoric component was potentially eligible since it "retains integrity in its deeper midden deposits, and was occupied over an extended period of time by one or more aboriginal groups" (Bellomo 1996:107, 147).

The only Phase II excavation that occurred at 8BR85 since the 1930s was conducted in 1999 by J. Deming, in affiliation with Archaeological Consultants, Inc. (ACI). ACI's investigation included evaluation of 16 previously identified sites for their NRHP eligibility and to obtain more exact site boundaries using GPS equipment (Deming 1999:i). Altogether, 12 shovel test pits and four excavation units focusing on both prehistoric and historic components were placed throughout the site and surface collection was conducted at the Banana River and the FPL transmission line corridor (Deming 1999:45-6). Of the test pits two were placed near the Banana River shoreline while the remaining 10 were placed northeast of the burial mound. Ten of the shovel tests positively revealed prehistoric remains such as St. John's Plain, St. John's Check Stamped, Glades Plain, St. John's series, and St. John's Simple Stamped ceramic sherds, faunal bones, and shell tools, as well as historical features and debris such as glass and metal (Deming 1999:45).

Unlike previous archaeological surveys, the ACI project was able to find evidence of several historic features. A shovel test placed at the midden discovered west of the Wilson Cemetery in 1984 revealed that this feature is likely a push pile, and not a chimney fall as the RAI and NSA reports claimed. A previously unrecorded brick and mortar firebox with iron bars and cement lintel that may have been used during molasses processing and an old agricultural

field were also discovered in the hammock zone of the southwest quadrant of the site (Deming 1999:46).

In addition to these shovel tests, Phase II investigation included four 1m x 1m (3.28ft x 3.28ft) excavation units placed throughout the site. Unit A, located north of the burial mound and southwest of the Wilson Family Cemetery, yielded a dense coquina midden which included prehistoric ceramics and faunal remains as well as historic debris in a single layer (Deming 1999:46). Unit B, located 25m (82.02ft) east of the burial mound included some shell fragments, prehistoric ceramics, faunal remains, and a single piece of barbed wire. Unit C, placed south of the burial mound, northeast of the entrance road, and east of the FPL transmission line in a wooded area, yielded the fewest cultural remains with only a few fragments of prehistoric ceramic and faunal remains (Deming 1999:47). Lastly, Unit D was placed in the hammock zone of the SW quadrant. A shallow coquina midden, extending only 50cm (19.69in) below the surface, was revealed and many prehistoric ceramics and faunal remains were recovered. ACI determined that the faunal assemblage shows a preference for bony fish, turtles, and mammals (Deming 1999:49). Interestingly, no historic cultural remains were recovered at all, leading ACI to state that this midden is the only one that remains undisturbed (Deming 1999:48). All other units showed a discontinuous midden deposit with varying degrees of integrity, and the overall cultural layer was determined to be 0-110cm (0-3.61ft) below surface (Deming 1999:45).

In concluding, they concur with previous studies that the prehistoric assemblages date to the Malabar II period, but they disagree somewhat with previous site size estimates (Deming 1999:49). They determine site size to be mostly consistent with RAI's investigation, but expanded the Eastern boundary, giving the site a total size of 600m (1968.5ft) N/S by 250m (820.21ft) E/W (Deming 1999:45). They also state that the results of Phase II testing show that

the prehistoric component is able to provide significant information on prehistoric environmental adaptation, chronology, settlement and subsistence practices, and mortuary behavior, while the historic components can provide significant information on subsistence economy and technology on late 19th-early 20th Century homesteads (Deming 1999:50-51). Thus, both the prehistoric and components of the site are eligible for NRHP listing.

As it stands today, the burial mound at the Burns Site is surrounded by a chain link fence enclosing an area of 4272.4 square m (1.06ac) and is believed to possibly be a sacred site (Penders 2015:23). It is currently considered to meet all five criteria for NRHP eligibility and has become an official repatriation area to prehistoric Native American remains found at CCAFS (Penders 2015:23). Repatriation Area 1 is adjacent to the southeast corner of the mound and Repatriation Area 2 to the west of the mound, both marked with PVC pipe.

The Burnham Family Cemetery currently comprises 2077.25 sq. m (.51ac), also enclosed with a chain link fence. It contains multiple generations of the Burnham family, with a total of eight graves and is considered eligible for NRHP listing due to being a component of the first permanent Anglo-American homestead on Cape Canaveral (Penders 2015:25). The Wilson Family Cemetery is also enclosed by a chain link fence, but is much smaller than the Burnham Cemetery. Containing only one memorial marker and two graves, it encompasses an area of 372.2 sq. m (.09ac) (Penders 2015:18). It is also currently considered eligible for NRHP listing.

While many archaeological investigations have been conducted at 8BR85 for over 60 years, discrepancies and questions remain in abundance. Previous fieldwork did not adequately test the site due to limited foci, resource constraints, and lack of compliance with Florida Division of Historic Resources (FDHR) legislation. In addition, nearly all fieldwork conducted at 8BR85 was Cultural Resource Management (CRM) and not research oriented. Further, a lot of

information from previous fieldwork is missing or lost and some artifact collections have also been lost. Both cemeteries have still received little attention to date and a general census or recording of headstone descriptions have yet to be done.

Current Archaeological Research and Methodology at the Burns Site

The Cape Canaveral Archaeological Mitigation Project (CCAMP) conducted a comprehensive grid survey and Phase I survey of site 8BR85 from January 2017 to April 2017 that included both the mound and the cemeteries. As a joint project between the Cultural Resources Management Program of the 45th Space Wing and the University of Central Florida (UCF), 10 undergraduate interns and one graduate intern conducted the Phase I survey under the direction of Thomas E. Penders, Cultural Resource Manager for CCAFS, Dr. Sarah B. Barber of UCF, and Dr. Neil Duncan of UCF. The CCAMP archaeological field technician team consisted of two crews. Crew 1, led by graduate student Elizabeth R. Peabody, consisted of undergraduate interns Alexis Russell, Jesann Gonzalez, Maria Meza, and Victoria Priola. Crew 2, led by undergraduate student Alexandra (Sandy) Kulenguski, consisted of undergraduate interns Juliana Snowden, Yasmin Jobarah, and Lucas Pettinati.

One of the main goals of the CCAMP is to address some of the shortcomings of previous archaeological investigations, such as their limited foci, the inconsistency with site boundaries, and lack of census and description of cemeteries. CCAMP also aims to identify previously unidentified archaeological resources within the project area, determine more precise site boundaries, and determine the site's current eligibility for NRHP listing. In general, the CCAMP project attempts to answer questions on prehistoric chronology/cultural history, environmental change and adaptation, subsistence and settlement patterns, belief systems, mortuary behavior,

material culture, sociopolitical organization, protohistoric changes, early settlement, and historic period land uses and development.

In order to achieve these goals, the CCAMP's methodology included archaeological reconnaissance survey, Phase I archaeological survey, cemetery documentation survey, and mapping of the entire site using GPS and ArcGIS technology. Focusing on the areas surrounding the burial mound rather than the mound itself, pedestrian surveys were conducted along five transect lines (T1-5) placed in 25m (82.02ft) intervals to both the east and west of the FPL transmission corridor. 50cm x 50cm shovel test pits were then placed at 20m (65.62ft) intervals along each transect, starting the Banana River. Two judgment shovel tests were placed in the burial mound area, and one judgment shovel test was placed between T1 and T2 west of the FPL. It should be noted that the transects are not true straight, as they were cut by Base Environmental Contractors of CCAFS and were ordered to avoid and circumvent protected habitats such as intact maritime hammocks, mangroves, and Florida scrub jay nests. Transect line and shovel test placement was decided based on research into archival documentation and previous archaeological investigations at the site.

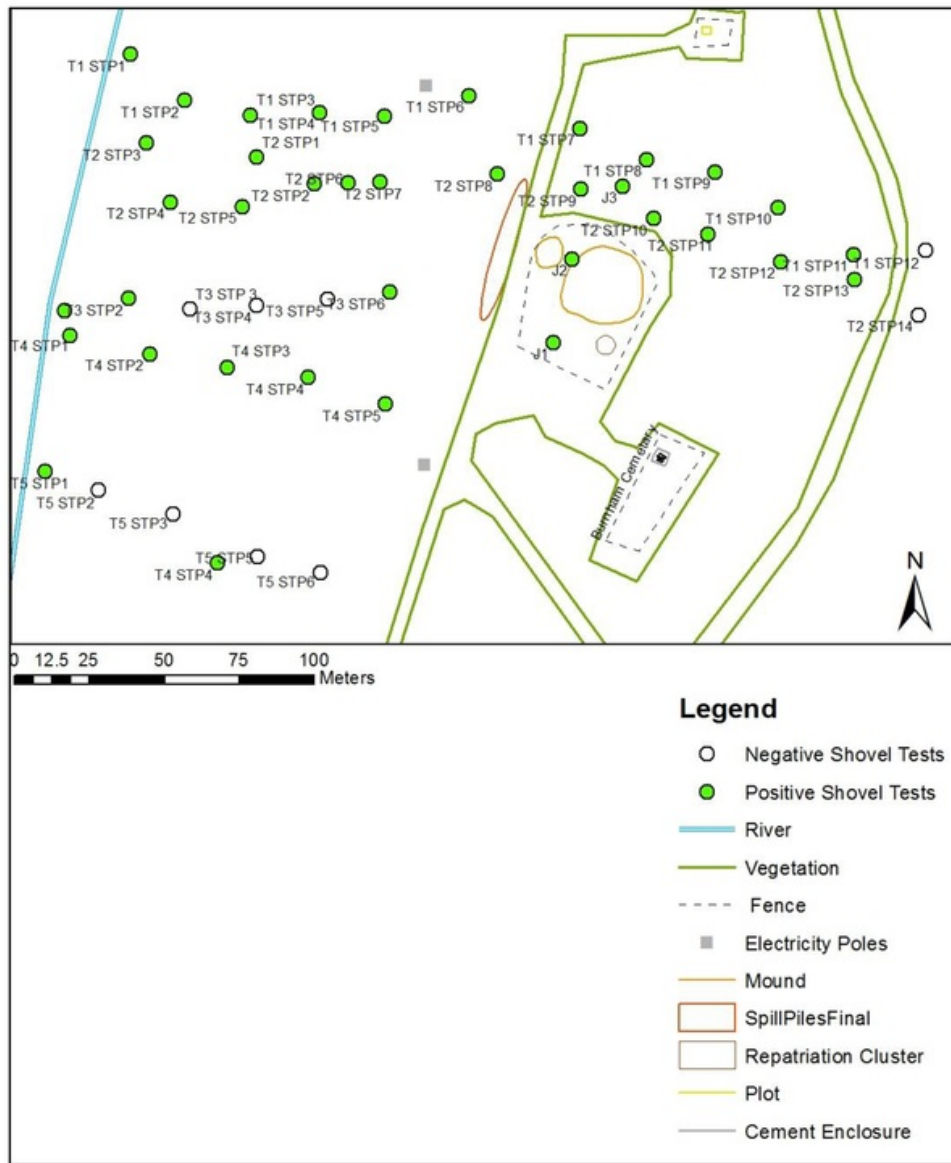
In total, 41 shovel tests and three judgment shovel tests were excavated at 8BR85. Thirty-five of these shovel tests were positive for cultural remains while nine of the shovel tests were negative. The standard depth of shovel tests was 100cm (3ft) below surface, based on previous investigations determination of the cultural layer as being 0-100cm below the surface. All shovel tests were dry screened through 1/4 inch mesh, and all artifacts were recorded and collected. Surface collections were conducted along each transect and at the Banana River shoreline. Site boundary determinations were made by excavating STP's east and west of the FPL transmission line every 20m (66ft) until two consecutive sterile shovel tests were documented.

Extensive digital mapping of the site was conducted by undergraduate interns Jesann Gonzalez and Victoria Priola, including all shovel test pit (STP) locations, both positive and negative (Figure 3). Other areas and features that were recorded included the Burnham and Wilson cemeteries, all known mounds, and spill piles. To ensure as much precision as possible in such a heavily vegetated area, a Topcon Total Station, Trimble Data Collector GPS with Zephyr Antenna, and handheld Garmin Hiking GPS device were utilized and selected on an individual bases according to environmental conditions (Gonzalez 2017:3-5). The Topcon Total Station is the most accurate of the devises for elevation points and precise coordinates, but was only able to be used in clearings and areas of high visibility. The data collected from the Total Station was based on an imaginary grid and thus instead of geographically accurate data it contained data that provided spatial relevance. All topography data was collected using the Topcon Total Station.

In areas where the Topcon Total Station could not be used, the mobile Trimble GPS was utilized and any errors corrected with Pathfinder software once downloaded. In areas too inaccessible to use the Topcon Total Station and where vegetation was too heavy for the Trimble GPS to obtain satellite recognition, the handheld Garmin Hiking GPS was utilized. Both the Trimble and Garmin devices produced data on a coordinate grid, providing geographical coordinates relative to the location on a broader map.

In order to spatially adjust data from all three devices to coincide within the same plane, the location of the Total Station, the fenced enclosure for the Wilson Cemetery, the enclosure for the Burns Cemetery, and the enclosure for the Burial Mound were used as focal points. These points were selected for their fixedness and their ease of reach regardless of device used.

Figure 3: Map of Burns Site (8BR85) and CCAMP Archaeological Survey



Source: Jesann Gonzalez 2017

Once data was collected and processed, Triangular Irregular Network (TIN) files were created to produce models and final products within ArcGIS software. This mapping aimed to clarify the inconsistencies in conflicting site boundaries left by past projects, provide precise

locations of excavations conducted by the CCAMP, provide information on how the features of the site are spatially related, aid in the design of future research conducted in the area, and prevent unnecessary work for future archaeological projects at the Burn's Site (Gonzalez 2017:6).

Undergraduate intern Maria Meza conducted a survey investigation at the Burnham Cemetery and Yasmin Jobarah performed a survey of at the Wilson Cemetery. Methodology included archival research, detailed mapping of the cemeteries, general census and recording of the cemeteries' occupants, and detailed descriptions of graves and headstone markings. For both cemeteries, official Florida Master Site File (FMSF) Historic Cemetery Forms were used to document individual graves. These forms were used since they allow an effective way to describe and assess graves individually as well as discuss trends within the cemetery. Any artifacts discovered on the ground surface during these surveys was recorded and left *in situ*. At the Burnham Cemetery, a datum point was placed at the concrete enclosure around the Thompson family graves, and each feature's location mapped and recorded. Grave marker documentation included information on the graves' dimensions, the epitaph inscribed on the grave marker, the inscription's condition, the grave markers' condition, coping, the material the marker was made of, grave goods, and any maker's marks.

It should be noted that fieldwork was delayed a total of 16 times to inclement weather, discovery of unexpected human remains in Judgment Test 2 which required consultation with the Federally recognized tribes as required by the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) regulations, and the site's location within the toxic vapor corridor of Fuel Storage Area 1, which requires closure of accessing the site during hazardous operations.

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