

# Memorandum



Date: March 16, 2015

To: Randy Root, Justin Bailey, John Fulmer, Brian Weis

From: Mark Latham

Subject: Results of Cultural Resources background research for Cimarron Remediation project, Logan County, Oklahoma

On March 11, 2015 I conducted a file search of the proposed Cimarron Remediation project at the Oklahoma Archaeological Survey (OAS) in Norman, Oklahoma. The background investigation was undertaken to find any archeological sites or previous investigations within a one-mile radius or study area around the current project. The search found no archaeological sites within the one-mile study area. The research did find that portions of three cultural resources surveys had been conducted within the study area. Two of the previously surveyed projects were linear Oklahoma Department of Transportation (ODOT) road improvement undertakings. In 1999, a survey of the widening for SH74 was conducted. Even though the SH74 investigation recorded a number of archaeological sites, none were within the study area. Archaeologist Chris Cojeen conducted the survey for ODOT in January of 1999; however the OAS did not have the reference on file.

The second ODOT cultural resources survey was on a segment of SH33, located to the southwest of the current project. The eastern end of this one-mile long ODOT project extends into the study area. One site was found during the 2010 ODOT survey along SH33, but the site (34LG91) was outside the study area. The 2010 cultural resources survey, conducted by staff at ODOT Cultural Resources Program, included pedestrian survey transects supplemented with shovel testing (O'Shea 2010).

A large block survey was conducted in 1999 by OAS staff archaeologists, for the NACS, in a tornado damaged area just north of the Cimarron River in portions of the SW1/4 of Section 2 and the NW1/4 of Section 11, T16N-R4W. Dr. Marjorie Duncan led the survey of the area that included portions of the river terraces and adjacent uplands, but no archaeological sites were identified. The OAS staff could not find the reference to this report in their files.

In addition to the OAS file search, the available online National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) records and historic maps were reviewed. A review of the online NRHP database found none within or near the study area. Available historic maps were reviewed that typically depicted buildings and other cultural features to assist in identifying the potential of historic archaeological sites within the project and study areas. The earliest available map was the 1873 General Land Office (GLO) survey map, which showed no roads, houses, or other cultural features in the project and study areas.

The 1892 and 1895 Kingfisher USGS topographic maps (1:125,000) were the next available map that typically depicts houses and other cultural features. A house was depicted on the bluff

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overlooking the Cimarron River in the area that now contains modern buildings and other structures within the current project area. Two houses were depicted on the 1895 topographic map along the base of the upland slopes in the eastern portions of the project area. Based on the age of the maps and the location, it is likely that these two houses were dugouts. Often the early homesteaders (nineteenth century) in the area excavated dugouts into the slopes overlooking streams and rivers. It is likely that there were three late nineteenth century homestead sites within the project area. The earlier house site on the bluff was likely destroyed or severely damaged by the modern construction as depicted on the 1970 USGS Crescent topographic map and recent aerial photographs. The two possible dugout sites may have been submerged or severely damaged by the reservoirs shown on the aerial photographs of the project area.

The 1940 and 1952 Logan County Highway maps show a number of houses in the study area, but none within the project area. All of these mid-twentieth century houses within the study area were along the section line roads and state highways.

Based on the background research and topographic location, the project area is considered to have a high potential of containing archaeological sites. However, the modern construction activities likely impacted the integrity or destroyed most of the areas likely to have significant cultural resources.

MAL