
National Park Service
Cultural Landscapes Inventory
2009



Sope Creek Ruins
Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area

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Inventory Summary

The Cultural Landscapes Inventory Overview:

CLI General Information:

Purpose and Goals of the CLI

The Cultural Landscapes Inventory (CLI) is an evaluated inventory of all significant landscapes in units of the national park system in which the National Park Service has, or plans to acquire any enforceable legal interest. Landscapes documented through the CLI are those that individually meet criteria set forth in the National Register of Historic Places such as historic sites, historic designed landscapes, and historic vernacular landscapes or those that are contributing elements of properties that meet the criteria. In addition, landscapes that are managed as cultural resources because of law, policy, or decisions reached through the park planning process even though they do not meet the National Register criteria, are also included in the CLI.

The CLI serves three major purposes. First, it provides the means to describe cultural landscapes on an individual or collective basis at the park, regional, or service-wide level. Secondly, it provides a platform to share information about cultural landscapes across programmatic areas and concerns and to integrate related data about these resources into park management. Thirdly, it provides an analytical tool to judge accomplishment and accountability.

The legislative, regulatory, and policy direction for conducting the CLI include:

National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (16 USC 470h-2(a)(1)). Each Federal agency shall establish...a preservation program for the identification, evaluation, and nomination to the National Register of Historic Places...of historic properties...

Executive Order 13287: Preserve America, 2003. Sec. 3(a)...Each agency with real property management responsibilities shall prepare an assessment of the current status of its inventory of historic properties required by section 110(a)(2) of the NHPA...No later than September 30, 2004, each covered agency shall complete a report of the assessment and make it available to the Chairman of the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation and the Secretary of the Interior... (c) Each agency with real property management responsibilities shall, by September 30, 2005, and every third year thereafter, prepare a report on its progress in identifying... historic properties in its ownership and make the report available to the Council and the Secretary...

The Secretary of the Interior's Standards and Guidelines for Federal Agency Historic Preservation Programs Pursuant to the National Historic Preservation Act, 1998. Standard 2: An agency provides for the timely identification and evaluation of historic properties under agency jurisdiction or control and/or subject to effect by agency actions (Sec. 110 (a)(2)(A))

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Management Policies 2006. 5.1.3.1 Inventories: The Park Service will (1) maintain and expand the following inventories...about cultural resources in units of the national park system...Cultural Landscape Inventory of historic designed landscapes, historic vernacular landscapes,... and historic sites... *ural Resource Management Guideline, 1997, Release No. 5, page 22 issued pursuant to Director's Order #28.* As cultural resources are identified and evaluated, they should also be listed in the appropriate Service-wide inventories of cultural resources.

Responding to the Call to Action:

The year 2016 marks the 100th anniversary of the National Park Service. A five-year action plan entitled, “*A Call to Action: Preparing for a Second Century of Stewardship and Engagement*” charts a path toward that second century vision by asking Service employees and partners to commit to concrete actions that advance the agency’s mission. The heart of the plan includes four broad themes supported by specific goals and measurable actions. These themes are: Connecting People to Parks, Advancing the NPS Education Mission, Preserving America’s Special Places, and Enhancing Professional and Organizational Excellence. The Cultural Landscape Inventory relates to three of these themes:

Connect People to Parks. Help communities protect what is special to them, highlight their history, and retain or rebuild their economic and environmental sustainability.

Advance the Education Mission. Strengthen the National Park Service’s role as an educational force based on core American values, historical and scientific scholarship, and unbiased translation of the complexities of the American experience.

Preserve America’s Special Places. Be a leader in extending the benefits of conservation across physical, social, political, and international boundaries in partnership with others.

The national CLI effort directly relates to #3, Preserve America’s Special Places, and specifically to Action #28, “Park Pulse.” Each CLI documents the existing condition of park resources and identifies impacts, threats, and measures to improve condition. This information can be used to improve park priority setting and communicate complex park condition information to the public.

Responding to the Cultural Resources Challenge:

The Cultural Resources Challenge (CRC) is a NPS strategic plan that identifies our most critical priorities. The primary objective is to “*Achieve a standard of excellence for the stewardship of the resources that form the historical and cultural foundations of the nation, commit at all levels to a common set of goals, and articulate a common vision for the next century.*” The CLI contributes to the fulfillment of all five goals of the CRC:

- 1) *Provide leadership support, and advocacy for the stewardship, protection, interpretation, and management of the nation’s heritage through scholarly research, science and effective management;*
- 2) *Recommit to the spirit and letter of the landmark legislation underpinning the NPS*

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- 3) *Connect all Americans to their heritage resources in a manner that resonates with their lives, legacies, and dreams, and tells the stories that make up America's diverse national identity;*
- 4) *Integrate the values of heritage stewardship into major initiatives and issues such as renewable energy, climate change, community assistance and revitalization, and sustainability, while cultivating excellence in science and technical preservation as a foundation for resource protection, management, and rehabilitation; and*
- 5) *Attract, support, and retain a highly skilled and diverse workforce, and support the development of leadership and expertise within the National Park Service.*

Scope of the CLI

CLI data is gathered from existing secondary sources found in park libraries, archives and at NPS regional offices and centers, as well as through on-site reconnaissance. The baseline information describes the historical development and significance of the landscape, placing it in the context of the landscape's overall significance. Documentation and analysis of the existing landscape identifies character-defining characteristics and features, and allows for an evaluation of the landscape's overall integrity and an assessment of the landscape's overall condition. The CLI also provides an illustrative site plan that indicates major features within the inventory unit and generates spatial data for Geographic Information Systems (GIS). The CLI also identifies stabilization needs to prevent further deterioration of the landscape and provides data for the Facility Management Software System

Inventory Unit Description:

The Sope Creek Ruins cultural landscape is located in the northern portion of the Cochran Shoals unit of Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area along Sope Creek, a tributary of the Chattahoochee River. The site lies between Marietta, Georgia to the northwest (7 mi.) and the City of Atlanta to the southeast (15 mi.). The cultural landscape straddles Sope Creek and includes the ruins of two nineteenth-century mills as well as various outbuildings, retaining walls, an historic road bed, rugged natural topography, and prehistoric resources. The cultural landscape is significant to the history of local industry and for the prehistoric occupation and Civil War association.

The landscape begins south of the Paper Mill Road Bridge and forms an approximate rectangle bisected lengthwise by the creek. The south boundary of the landscape intersects the creek just below the Caney Branch tributary. While the north and east NPS property lines bound the site, to the west the cultural landscape parallels the creek beyond the pulp mill. The park unit preserves the natural scenery of Sope Creek, despite a golf course and residential development adjacent to the site.

The component landscape includes the footings of the original Sope Creek covered bridge still extant on the east bank. The nineteenth-century bridge burned in 1964 and was replaced by the current steel bridge structure of Paper Mill Road. South of the bridge, a foot trail follows an historic road bed on the east creek bank. The trail continues south over a modern culvert to the main paper mill with a historic retaining wall supporting the filled slope. Along the trail, the ruins of a fieldstone storage building survive. Almost a quarter of a mile from the bridge, the trail ends at the ruins of the main mill. The mill foundation and exterior walls reveal the five-room shotgun arrangement paralleling the creek. Raceway piers survive along the length of the sluice from the upstream dam to the creek-side location of the waterwheel. Several outbuildings are intact, including a boiler room, oil house, and office clustered to the east of the paper mill. The office sits on the bluff opposite of Caney Branch. All of the buildings are field stone construction in various states of ruin with partial walls and rubble debris. The stream that provided wash water, Caney Branch, meets Sope Creek perpendicularly along the southern façade of the paper mill. The grouping of mill buildings, raceway piers, dam and retaining walls are all associated with the nineteenth-century paper production of Marietta Paper

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Company. The mill setting includes a natural oak-hickory forest with pines abundant along the historic road bed. The east bank of Sope Creek slopes steeply down to a narrow floodplain.

The west bank of Sope Creek includes the remains of the pulp mill and related outbuildings. The stone base for a waterwheel survives on the floodplain just below the Paper Mill Road Bridge. The mill foundation rises to the west, paralleling the creek, similar to the east bank paper mill. The pulp mill has portions of the exterior walls surviving almost two stories tall. An unidentified building foundation, likely an annex, sits to the west of the main mill with one corner forming an acute angle. The small foundation of a possible oil room or chimney is located upslope from the mill. Rubble and sections of retaining walls and corners also exist to the north, east, and west of the pulp mill foundation. The natural drainage of the area is diverted from Paper Mill Road to an outlet just north of the main pulp mill building. The cluster of mill structures remains intact and receives frequent visitation. Footpaths wind between the pulp mill buildings leading from the slope above.

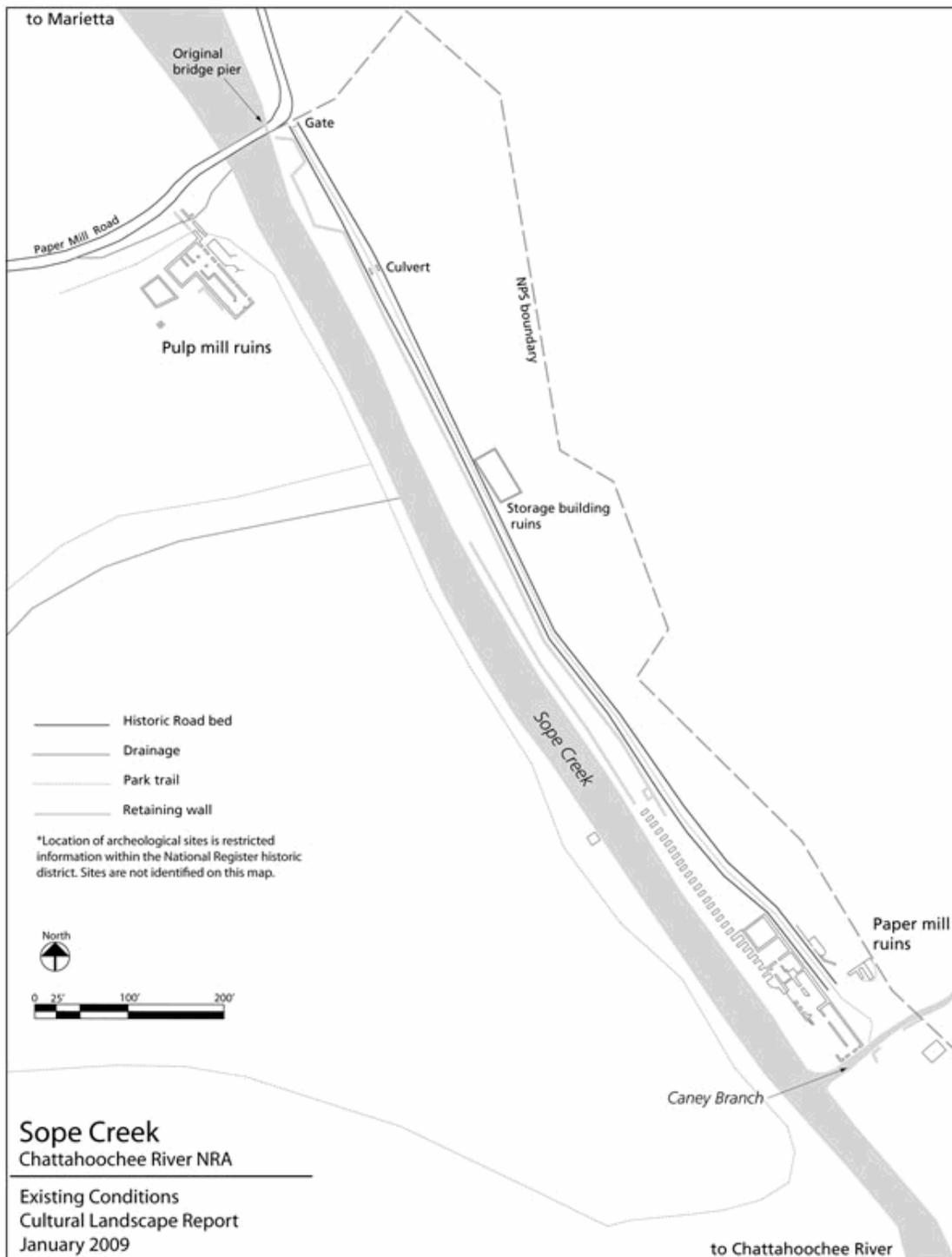
The natural features of the Sope Creek landscape provided the necessary waterpower for industry and prevented development in the twentieth century. The topography dictated the siting and layout of the mills and the same rugged slopes preserved the isolated industrial landscape in the 1960s when suburban development transformed the county. Sope Creek (as a secondary watercourse) was accessible to nineteenth-century markets and offered the ideal conditions to create and harness energy. The shoals and sharp decrease in elevation were enhanced by man-made dams above the pulp and paper mills. The diversity of flora and fauna surrounding the mills provided food for prehistoric hunters and gatherers and today preserves a scenic landscape for passive recreation.

The human history of the cultural landscape began with occupation during the prehistoric era. Archeology uncovered remnants of the Woodland period in the Cochran Shoals unit, though earlier Paleo-Indian and Archaic evidence survives in Piedmont Georgia. A sequence of cultures hunted, gathered, and used rock outcrops in the Chattahoochee River valley and along Sope Creek. During the historic era, the Creek began occupying the river valley, but as Cherokee moved south from western Carolina, the two groups fought over disputed land. Eventually, the river corridor became a shared buffer used by both the Creek and the Cherokee. White settlers displaced native groups in the nineteenth century with the Trail of Tears, treaties, and county land lotteries. Georgians settled the area in the 1830s and early industry began along Sope Creek soon thereafter. A peach brandy distillery operated nearby and in 1853 a flour mill was built by Edward Denmead on the creek.

The first documented commercial enterprise was Marietta Paper Mill, incorporated in 1859. The mill produced paper and paper products until the Union army burned the buildings in 1864. The Federal army crossed the river at Sope Creek on July 8, 1864 heading south to end the Atlanta Campaign. The Civil War halted operation at the mill, but it was rebuilt and reopened in 1866 and continued production during Reconstruction. The Marietta Manufacturing Company expanded in 1888 when a pulp mill was added to process wood for paper production. The mills operated until 1902, despite another fire and sale to a different owner. After the mills were abandoned, the site became a popular picnic spot in the 1930s. When threatened by suburban development in the 1960s, Sope Creek ruins were studied as a cultural resource. The ruins were later included in the park designation of the Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area.

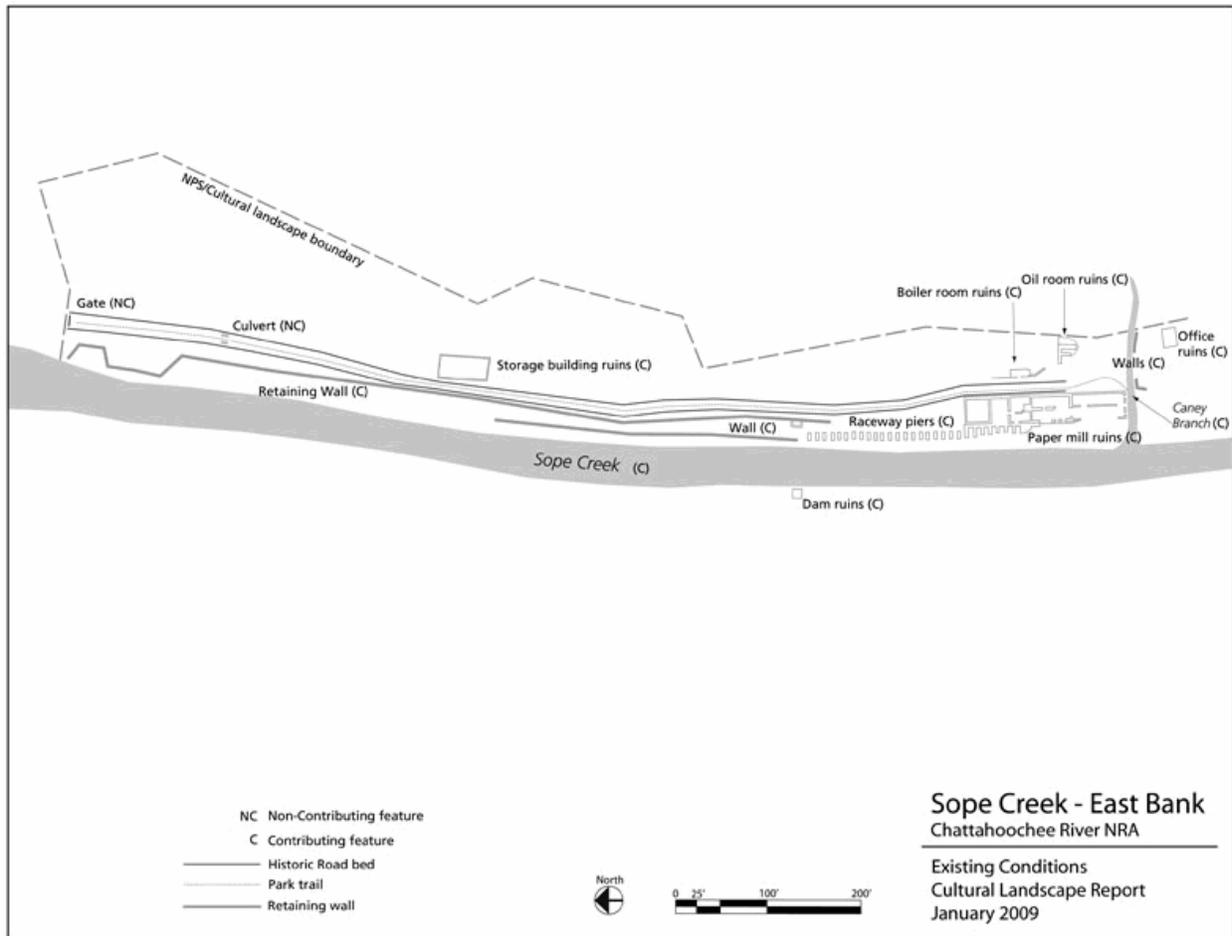
In 1973, the Sope Creek Ruins were added to the National Register of Historic Places for prehistoric, military, and industrial significance on the local level. The National Register historic district expands well beyond the current NPS boundaries and includes features outside of the scope of the cultural landscape. The period of significance of the nomination, 1855 to 1902 spans the era of industrial use along Sope Creek. The prehistoric period should be added to the nomination to include the archeological remains uncovered after 1973. The integrity of the landscape remains intact. Despite the ruinous buildings, the spatial organization, topography, and natural features convey the integrity of location, materials, setting, design, feeling, and association.

Site Plan



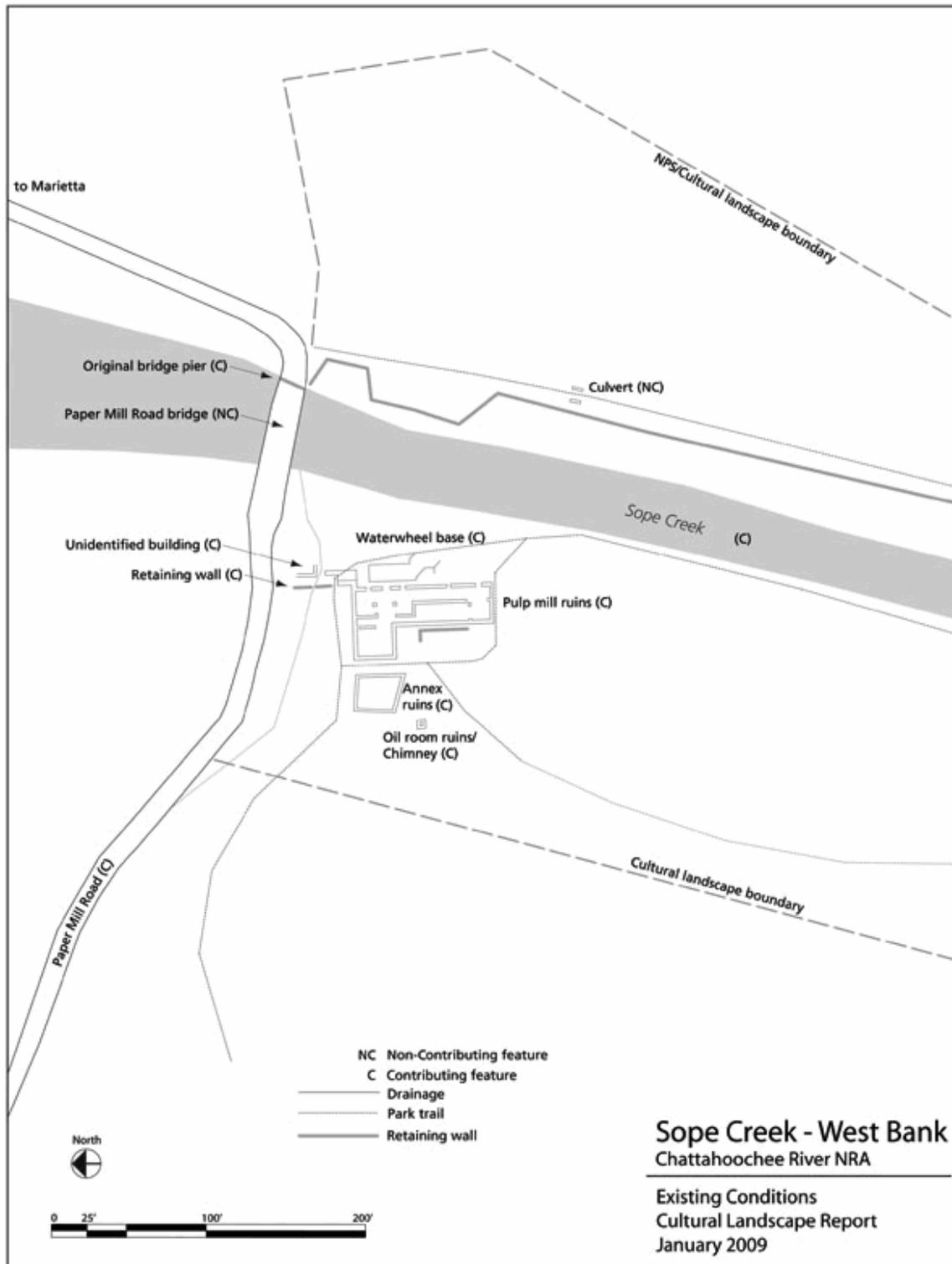
Sope Creek CLI Site Plan, 2009.

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Sope Creek Paper Mill Ruins/East Bank, 2009.

Sope Creek Ruins
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Sope Creek Pulp Mill Ruins/West Bank, 2009.

Property Level and CLI Numbers

Inventory Unit Name:	Sope Creek Ruins
Property Level:	Landscape
CLI Identification Number:	550155
Parent Landscape:	550155

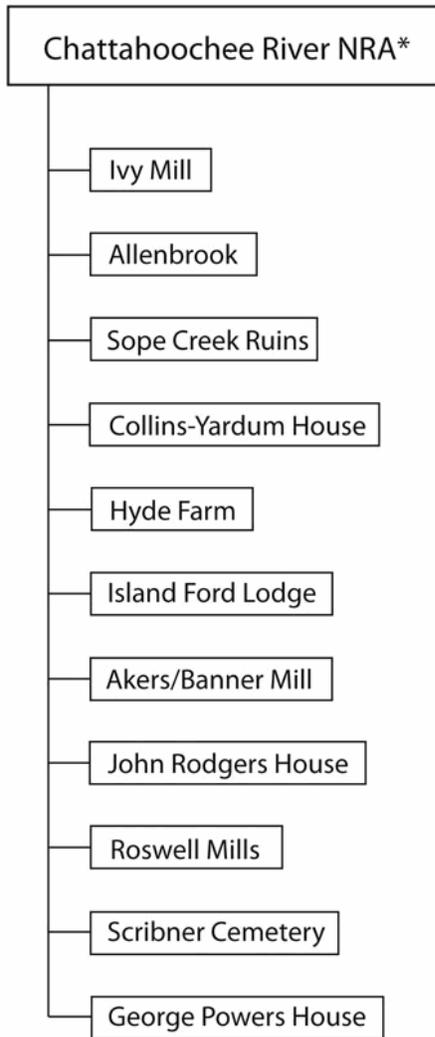
Park Information

Park Name and Alpha Code:	Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area -CHAT
Park Organization Code:	5340
Park Administrative Unit:	Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area

CLI Hierarchy Description

The 2007 Historic Resource Study identified several cultural landscapes within Chattahoochee River NRA, none of which have previously been examined. The CLI hierarchy notes all of the landscapes included in the study as well as Hyde Farm whose full acquisition is expected in early 2010. With further research, more cultural landscapes may be identified in the park boundaries.

Sope Creek Ruins
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* Draft CHAT NRA landscapes. These landscapes were identified in the 2007 Historic Resource Study.

CHAT Cultural Landscapes Inventory Hierarchy, 2009.

Concurrence Status

Inventory Status: Incomplete

Completion Status Explanatory Narrative:

A Cultural Landscape Report and Cultural Landscapes Inventory (CLI) were completed concurrently by Beth Wheeler. A site visit in April and December 2008 included existing condition photography, GIS mapping, and conditions assessment. Archival research at SERO, CHAT, and local repositories was conducted in 2008. The park contact is Rick Slade.

Concurrence Status:

Park Superintendent Concurrence:	Yes
Park Superintendent Date of Concurrence:	09/24/2009
National Register Concurrence:	Eligible -- SHPO Consensus Determination
Date of Concurrence Determination:	08/26/2009

National Register Concurrence Narrative:

Signed by Karen Anderson-Cordova at GA-SHPO.

Concurrence Graphic Information:



United States Department of the Interior



NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
Southeast Regional Office
Atlanta Federal Center
1924 Building
100 Alabama St., SW.
Atlanta, Georgia 30303

IN REPLY REFER TO:
H22 (SERO-CRD)

11 August 2009

Karen Anderson-Cordova
Historic Preservation Division
Department of Natural Resources
34 Peachtree Street NW, Suite 1600
Atlanta, GA 30303

Dear Ms. Anderson-Cordova:

Enclosed please find a copy of the Cultural Landscape Inventory (CLI) for Sope Creek Ruins at Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area in Cobb County, Georgia.

The CLI is an evaluated list of landscape properties in the National Park System considered eligible for the National Register of Historic Places or that contribute to an existing historic property. In order for CLI data to become certified, National Park Service regulations require concurrence from the SHPO on the eligibility of these properties. We are requesting your review of the Sope Creek Ruins CLI and ask that you sign and return the enclosed concurrence form.

Sope Creek Ruins was listed on the National Register in 1973, as part of the Marietta Paper Mills historic property. Based on our research, we suggest that the period of significance be expanded from the present 1855 – 1902 to include the prehistoric rock shelters and lithic scatters within the district. Additionally, the nomination should be updated to include the spatial organization and layout of the paper and pulp mills and address the relationship between the mills, outbuildings, topography, and creek. A more detailed account of the contributing landscape features should also be added.

With concurrence from your office, the findings become certified in the CLI database. Your concurrence also gives us justification to submit proper additional documentation to you at a



Letter to the SHPO

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future date. If you have any questions about these documents, please contact David Hasty, CLI Coordinator, Southeast Region (SER), at (404) 562-3117 extension 630 or by e-mail at david_hasty@nps.gov. The concurrence form can be returned by fax at (404) 562-3202, or mailed to the address above.

We greatly appreciate your office's assistance with the project.

Sincerely,



Dan Scheidt
Chief, Cultural Resource Division
Southeast Region

Enclosures

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CHRIS CLARK
COMMISSIONER

W. RAY LUCE
DIRECTOR

August 26, 2009

Dan Scheidt
Chief, Cultural Resource Division
National Park Service
Southeast Regional Office
Atlanta Federal Center, 1924 Building
100 Alabama Street, SW
Atlanta, Georgia 30303
Attn: David Hasty, david_hasty@nps.gov

**RE: CRNRA: Cultural Landscape Inventory (CLI), Sope Creek Ruins, Marietta Paper Mill
Cobb County, Georgia
FP-090812-001**

Dear Mr. Scheidt:

The Historic Preservation Division (HPD) has reviewed the submitted report *National Park Service Cultural Landscapes Inventory, Sope Creek Ruins, Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area*, dated 2009. Our comments are offered to assist the National Park Service (NPS) in complying with the provisions of Section 110 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended (NHPA).

Based on the information contained in the report, HPD concurs with the NPS' findings regarding the Cultural Landscape Inventory of the Sope Creek Ruins, which is listed in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). HPD concurs that the landscape features identified in the report are potentially contributing features to this important historic property and the expansion of the period of significance to include the prehistoric resources is appropriate.

Please refer to project number **FP-090812-001** in any future correspondence regarding this review. If we may be of further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact Jackie Tyson, Environmental Review Historian, at (404) 651-6777, or Elizabeth Shirk, Environmental Review Coordinator, at (404) 651-6624.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Karen Anderson-Cordova".

Karen Anderson-Cordova
Manager, Planning & Local Assistance Unit

KAC:jnt

cc: Le'Var Rice, ARC
Daryl Barksdale, Cobb Landmarks & Historical Society

34 PEACHTREE STREET, NW | SUITE 1600 | ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30303-2337
404.636.2840 | FAX 404.637.1368 | WWW.GASHPO.ORG

SHPO Signature of Concurrence



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
Southeast Regional Office
Atlanta Federal Center
1924 Building
100 Alabama St., S.W.
Atlanta, Georgia 30303



H22(SERO-CRD)

11 August 2009

Memorandum

To: Superintendent, Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area

From: Chief, Cultural Resource Division, Southeast Region 

Subject: Sope Creek Ruins Cultural Landscape Inventory

We are pleased to transmit the Sope Creek Ruins Cultural Landscape Inventory (CLI) for the park's review. The CLI is an evaluated list of landscape properties in the National Park System eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places (NR) or that contribute to an existing nomination. This CLI was produced using data from the 2009 Cultural Landscape Report (CLR) by Beth Wheeler.

In order for the CLI to be certified and counted in PMDS under CHAT's goal Ia7 and the systemwide goal Ib2B, the Georgia Historic Preservation Division (GA-SHPO) needs to concur on the eligibility of the identified cultural landscape features to the existing nomination. Sope Creek Ruins was listed on the National Register in 1973 as part of the Marietta Paper Mills nomination. Based on our research, we suggest that the period of significance be expanded from the present 1855 – 1902 to include the prehistoric rock shelters and lithic scatters within the district. Additionally, the nomination should be updated to include the spatial organization and layout of the paper and pulp mills and address the relationship between the mills, outbuildings, topography, and creek. A more detailed account of the contributing landscape features should also be added. David Hasty, CLI Coordinator for the Southeast Region, will send a request to TN-SHPO for concurrence on the CLI findings.

Approval by the park superintendent is also needed for certification. If the findings of the CLI are agreed upon – especially regarding condition assessment and management category – please sign the attached approval form and return it to our office to the attention of David Hasty via mail, e-mail (david_hasty@nps.gov), or fax (404.562.3202). However, if you have comments or changes to any part of the CLI, please send those to David Hasty instead. We will incorporate them into the inventory, and send the updated version back to you for further review and signature.

Enclosures



Letter to the Superintendent

Sope Creek Ruins
Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area

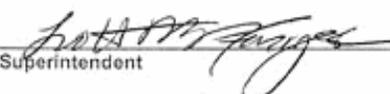
CULTURAL LANDSCAPE INVENTORY
CONDITION ASSESSMENT CONCURRENCE SHEET - 11 August 2009

Park Information
Park: Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area
State: Georgia
Counties: Cobb

Cultural Landscape Condition

Inventory Name	CLI Id #	Condition
Sope Creek Ruins	550155	Fair

Cultural Landscape Management Category
Must Be Preserved and Maintained 11 August 2009

Park Superintendent Concurrence
Concur Do Not Concur
 08/24/09
Superintendent Date

Superintendent Signature of Concurrence

Geographic Information & Location Map

Inventory Unit Boundary Description:

The Sope Creek cultural landscape is located within the boundaries of the Cochran Shoals unit of Chattahoochee River NRA. The northern and eastern boundaries of the site match the northern and eastern NPS property lines. The southern boundary crosses Sope Creek just south of Caney Branch. The western boundary of the cultural landscape parallels Sope Creek beyond the pulp mill ruins. The Sope Creek cultural landscape forms a roughly rectangular shape bisected by the creek with an irregular eastern boundary.

The entire site is also within the larger National Register historic district. The Sope Creek Ruins cultural landscape is completely encompassed by the National Register district, which forms a roughly rectangular shape covering 1,820 acres. The large historic district is oriented with the creek and begins upstream at the sharp turn in the creek and continues south for almost $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile, ending above the confluence with the Chattahoochee River.

State and County:

State: GA

County: Cobb County

Size (Acres): 25.00

Boundary Coordinates:

Source: USGS Map 1
Type of Point: Area
Latitude: -78.4371092130
Longitude: 33.9409611060

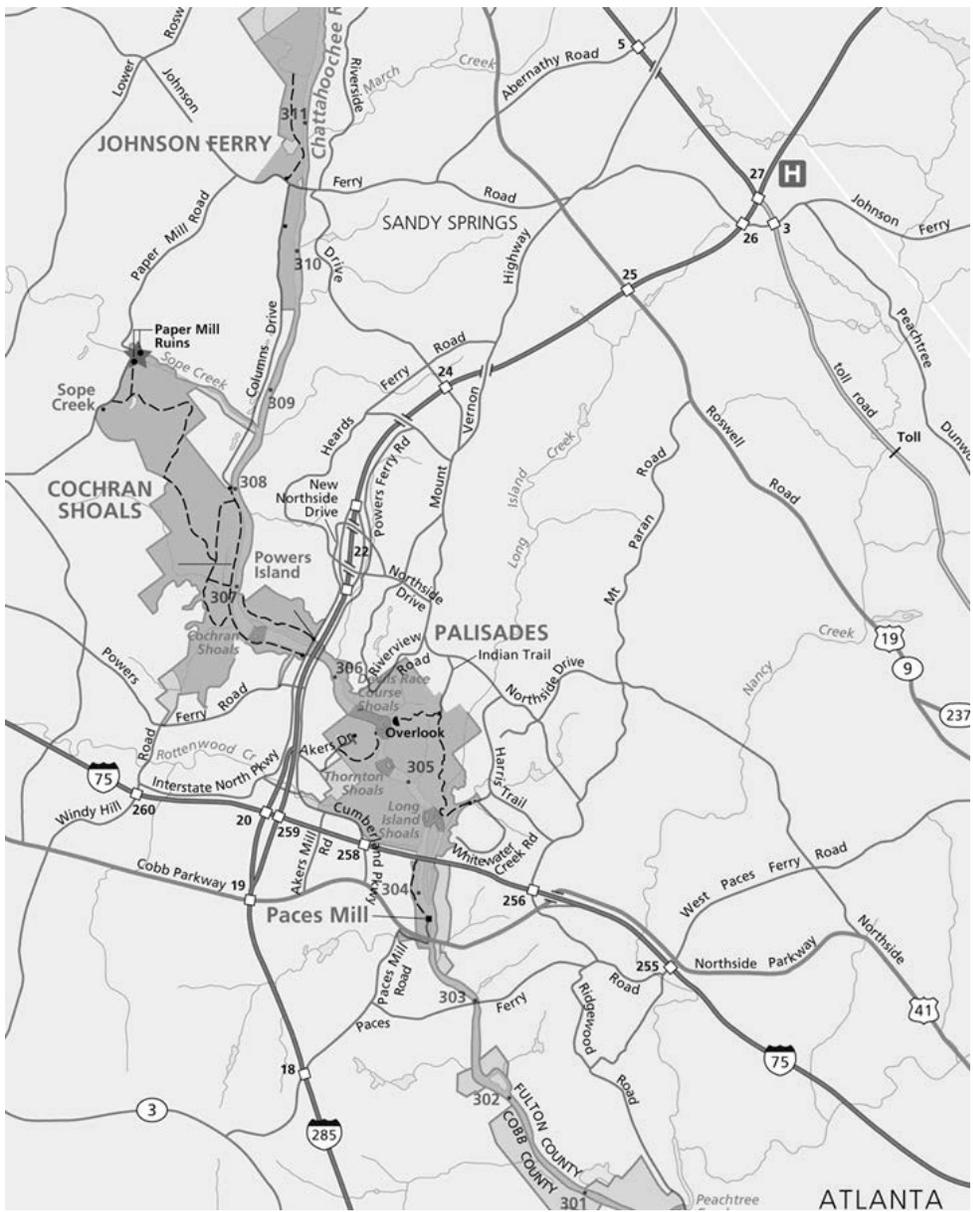
Source: USGS Map 1
Type of Point: Area
Latitude: -78.4344315766
Longitude: 33.9375515070

Source: USGS Map 1
Type of Point: Area
Latitude: -78.4380097005
Longitude: 33.9405110490

Sope Creek Ruins
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Source: USGS Map 1
Type of Point: Area
Latitude: -78.4358555039
Longitude: 33.9369591130

Location Map:



Regional Context:

Type of Context: Cultural

Description:

The Sope Creek site was inhabited by a sequence of prehistoric tribes associated with the Chattahoochee River valley. Archeology located evidence of Woodland period occupation within the cultural landscape. Historically, Cherokee and Creek Indians hunted and farmed in the area and the creek was named after a Cherokee, Old Sope who remained after the removal of tribes to the west. White settlers farmed near Sope Creek when Cobb County was founded in 1832 and industry began a few years later. Sope Creek provided water-power for industry for over fifty years. Existing mills were damaged during Sherman's 1864 advance, but the Marietta Paper Company rebuilt the main paper mill and later expanded. Suburban development sprawling around Atlanta in the 1960s threatened the site and the park was established in 1978.

Type of Context: Physiographic

Description:

The Brevard Lineament formed as a geographical fault line resulting in the Sope Creek terrain and the Chattahoochee River valley. The rugged topography surrounding the Sope Creek ruins contains granite gneisses, schists, quartzites, and igneous inclusions. The shoals provided ideal waterpower for nineteenth-century industry and the steep slopes prevented suburban development in the 1960s. The landscape of Sope Creek supports diverse flora and fauna with temperate oak-hickory forests and pines on the upland ridges.

Type of Context: Political

Description:

Sope Creek lies in the Sixth Congressional District in the State of Georgia.

Management Unit: CHAT

Tract Numbers: 103-31, portion of 103-20

GIS File Description:

Management Information

General Management Information

Management Category: Must be Preserved and Maintained

Management Category Date: 04/27/1973

Management Category Explanatory Narrative:

The Sope Creek Ruins were listed on the National Register of Historic Places for the significant prehistory, industrial, architectural and military history at the local level. The prehistoric component of the site, although classified, mandates the preservation of this cultural landscape. The Sope Creek Ruins should also be preserved to convey the significant nineteenth-century history.

Maintenance Location Code: 49054

NPS Legal Interest:

Type of Interest: Fee Simple

Public Access:

Type of Access: Unrestricted

Adjacent Lands Information

Do Adjacent Lands Contribute? Yes

Adjacent Lands Description:

The land surrounding Sope Creek cultural landscape does not detract from the historic ruins and picturesque scenery. The adjacent golf course and residential development are not visible from the ruins due to vegetative screening and steep topography. The Cochran Shoals unit of CHAT continues to the west of the cultural landscape and contributes to the natural resources and scenery of the park. The National Register historic district extends well beyond the boundaries of the cultural landscape and includes historic resources related to the industrial period outside of NPS property. The designation of the historic district surrounding the inventory unit further contributes to the significance of the adjacent land.

National Register Information

Existing National Register Status

National Register Landscape Documentation:

Entered Inadequately Documented

National Register Explanatory Narrative:

In 1973, the Sope Creek Ruins were listed on the National Register for their prehistoric, military, architectural and industrial significance. The historic district encompasses 1,820 acres of land presently owned by the National Park Service and private owners. The period of significance is 1855-1902, though the nomination denotes the definite indication of prehistoric archeological sites within the district at the time of nomination. 1922 was added as a significant year to include the construction of an electric dam at the north end of the district (outside of the cultural landscape boundary).

The nomination details the structural remains of the Sope Creek site, leaving the cultural landscape inadequately documented. The listing should be updated to include the spatial organization and layout of the paper and pulp mills and address the relationship between the mills, outbuildings, topography, and creek. A more detailed account of the contributing landscape features should be added. The period of significance should be extended to include the prehistoric period as subsequent surveys located rock shelters and lithic scatters.

Existing NRIS Information:

Other Names: Marietta Paper Mills

Primary Certification Date: 04/27/1973

National Register Eligibility

National Register Concurrence: Eligible -- SHPO Consensus Determination

Contributing/Individual: Individual

National Register Classification: District

Significance Level: Local

Significance Criteria: A - Associated with events significant to broad patterns of our history

Significance Criteria: C - Embodies distinctive construction, work of master, or high artistic values

Significance Criteria: D - Has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important to prehistory or history

Area of Significance:

Area of Significance Category:	Industry
Area of Significance Category:	Architecture
Area of Significance Category:	Archeology
Area of Significance Category:	Military

Statement of Significance:

The Sope Creek Ruins are significant to the local prehistoric, military, architectural and industrial history of the Chattahoochee River valley. The landscape preserves the industrial ruins within a picturesque natural setting. The paper and pulp mills retain integrity of location, materials, setting, design, feeling and association meanwhile conveying the importance of water-powered industry on a secondary stream of the Chattahoochee River (Criteria A) and representing a typical nineteenth-century mill complex in Piedmont Georgia (C) (1855-1902). Sope Creek provided the location of a strategic Civil War crossing during the Atlanta Campaign (A) and yields the potential to uncover archeological information of prehistoric cultures (D). After the site became property of the National Park Service in 1978, archeologists located evidence of prehistoric occupation. Surveys revealed the locations of rock outcrops and lithic scatters.

The industry on Sope Creek began in the nineteenth century and utilized waterpower for manufacture. The Marietta Paper Mill incorporated in 1859 and became the Marietta Manufacturing Company in 1873. Destroyed by fire during the Civil War and accidentally burned in 1870, the rebuilt paper mill buildings represent the distinct functions needed for 19th century industrial papermaking. The pulp mill was added in 1888 and paper was produced from linen and cotton rags and wood pulp. The company closed in 1902, ending the period of significance and manufacturing on Sope Creek. The architecture of the mill complexes represents the layout, siting, and building construction of Piedmont Georgia manufacturing sites at the time.

Significant industrial buildings within the NPS cultural landscape include ruins on the east and west bank. The east bank ruins of the main paper mill, storage building, office, boiler room, oil room, retaining wall, dam, and raceway piers all date to the period of significance. Contributing structures on the west bank include the main pulp mill, waterwheel base, small furnace or oil room, retaining walls, an annex, and remnants of a small machine room or storage building. In addition to contributing buildings, an original pier from the nineteenth-century wooden bridge over Sope Creek survives on the eastern bank as part of the current bridge structure. Structures within the National Register historic district, but outside of scope of the cultural landscape include, Denmead's flour mill ruins, an electrical power house and dam, and bridge pillars; all upstream.

Undocumented landscape features also contribute to the significance of the Sope Creek site. The steep natural topography provided an ideal site for water-powered industry and dictated the organization of the mill complexes. The main mills paralleled the creek and utilized upstream dams and raceways to funnel water onto the waterwheel. The clustered (and slightly staggered) paper and pulp mills on each bank reveal the hydropower technology and stone building construction of nineteenth-century manufacturing. The setting is intact and the adjacent NPS property is undeveloped. The spatial relationship between the creek and historic industry remains the most significant landscape characteristic.

During the Civil War, the Union army advanced toward Atlanta, crossed over Sope Creek near the mill and forged the Chattahoochee River near the creek outlet. Although a key Federal maneuver, little change occurred in the landscape. The Marietta Paper Mill buildings burned on July 5, 1864 as the Union cavalry passed. Troops led by Gen. Kenner Garrard used the natural topography, the river ford, and extant fish weirs to successfully cross the river and challenge the Confederate defenses of Atlanta three days later. The strategic crossing of Sope Creek and the Chattahoochee left the Rebel army with no natural obstacle between themselves and the advancing enemy. The Civil War association remains intact at the Sope Creek landscape.

The picturesque quality of the Sope Creek gorge also remains a more intangible characteristic of the cultural landscape. The undisturbed area of the park preserves the natural scenery and contributes to the historic setting and views. The scenic landscape is noted as “one of the few remaining undisturbed rock gorges of a Chattahoochee River tributary.”

Chronology & Physical History

Cultural Landscape Type and Use

Cultural Landscape Type: Historic Site
Designed
Vernacular

Other Use/Function

Manufacturing Facility (Mill) - Other

Leisure-Passive (Park)

Other Type of Use or Function

Historic

Current

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Current and Historic Names:

Name	Type of Name
Sope Creek Ruins	Current
Marietta Paper Mill	Historic
Marietta Manufacturing Company	Historic

Chronology:

Year	Event	Annotation
CE 1832	Land Transfer	Cherokee County subdivided into 10 counties, including Cobb County. Sope Creek and the county seat, Marietta, are located in Cobb County.
CE 1835	Land Transfer	Treaty of New Echota, Federal government negotiates with small faction of Cherokee and ends land holdings.
CE 1852	Established	Marietta incorporated as a city on January 11, 1852.
CE 1853	Built	Edward Denmead builds a flour mill on the east bank of Sope Creek.
CE 1859	Established	Marietta Paper Mills incorporated.
CE 1864	Military Operation	Atlanta Campaign of the Civil War approaches the Chattahoochee River. Part of the Union army crosses the river at Sope Creek and the paper mill and other buildings are burned by Gen. Kenner Garrard's cavalry.
CE 1870	Destroyed	Marietta Paper mill burned.
CE 1873	Purchased/Sold	Mills on Sope Creek sold.
CE 1888 - 1889	Built	Wood pulp mill built on west bank of Sope Creek.
CE 1902	Abandoned	Paper mill closed due to fire damage.

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CE 1922	Built	Electric power dam constructed upstream from Marietta Paper Mill.
CE 1930	Excavated	Sope Creek popularized as a picturesque picnic spot. Some relic hunting occurs.
CE 1936	Preserved	HABS documentation of wooden covered bridge over Sope Creek.
CE 1963	Altered	Steel support beams added to Paper Mill Road covered bridge for additional support.
CE 1964	Destroyed	Paper Mill Road bridge burned the night before Easter. Arson suspected.
CE 1973	Preserved	Sope Creek Ruins added to the National Register of Historic Places.
CE 1978	Established	Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area established. Sope Creek included in the land authorization.
CE 1982	Rehabilitated	Sope Creek Ruins stabilized by the National Park Service.
CE 2006	Retained	SEAC assesses archeological resources at CHAT NRA, including Sope Creek.
CE 2007	Rehabilitated	Pulp mill annex repaired after damage from tree.

Physical History:

Prehistory-1840

The Chattahoochee River played an important role in food gathering, trade, transportation, and settlement patterns during the prehistoric era. Sope Creek, as part of the river corridor, was occupied by a succession of native inhabitants. Nomadic Paleo-Indians traversed the area as early as ten thousand years ago, evidenced by fluted Clovis spear-points uncovered at Ocmulgee in Macon. The diversity of flora and fauna along the water course sustained Archaic hunters and gatherers until Woodland cultures began early agriculture on the floodplains. Mississippian descendents resided in the area until the historic period. Archeologists discovered evidence of prehistoric rock shelters and lithic scatters at Sope Creek.

Creeks and Cherokee occupied the Chattahoochee River valley in the sixteenth and seventeenth century. They fought over land in north Georgia and eventually reached an agreement to use the Chattahoochee River as a shared buffer for hunting and fishing. Few settlements remain from this period, though Standing Peachtree, a town and later Federal fort, lent its name to landmarks throughout modern Atlanta. The Trail of Tears and a series of one-sided land treaties removed the Cherokee from Georgia. Cobb County was established from a portion of Cherokee County in 1833.

The arrival of Europeans changed the Piedmont landscape. Explorers and white colonists ushered in a period of agriculture and industry, settling Piedmont Georgia and developing the river and land. Ferrying offered access across the Chattahoochee River and became a necessary, yet successful business. The settlers displaced the last Creek and Cherokee, though one Cherokee named Old Sope remained. His name became associated with the creek.

1840- 1864

The natural features of Sope Creek made water-powered manufacturing profitable before the Civil War. Early industry along the secondary watercourse included a local distillery and flour mill. The distillery produced peach brandy in the 1840s and Edward Denmead opened his grist mill on the east bank of Sope Creek (north of the cultural landscape) in 1853.

Marietta Paper Mill incorporated in 1859 and soon marked the height of industry on Sope Creek. Local investors owned the company and the paper mill produced newsprint and paper products. The mill complex on the east bank included the main mill, dam, raceway, and associated outbuildings. Water was funneled from the upstream dam through the raceway to power a mechanical waterwheel. The Marietta Paper Mill used a multi-step process to transform cotton and linen rags into pulp for paper. Rags were sorted, washed and cut, then thrashed to remove loose dirt. A breaking engine mixed the rags with water to separate the fibers. The pieces were stored with mineral lime to break-down the remaining fibers then added to a caustic boil for final cleaning. A pulp lifter sorted the fibers and a deknotted-tool separated the pulp. The watery pulp was loaded into a papermaking machine and rolled into a finished product. The waterwheel powered the machinery in the southernmost room of the mill. Sheets were dried in the upper stories until a cylinder dryer was purchased in later years. An oil room, boiler room, office, and storage room added workspace in nearby buildings for related functions of the Marietta Paper Company. The paper mill complex was

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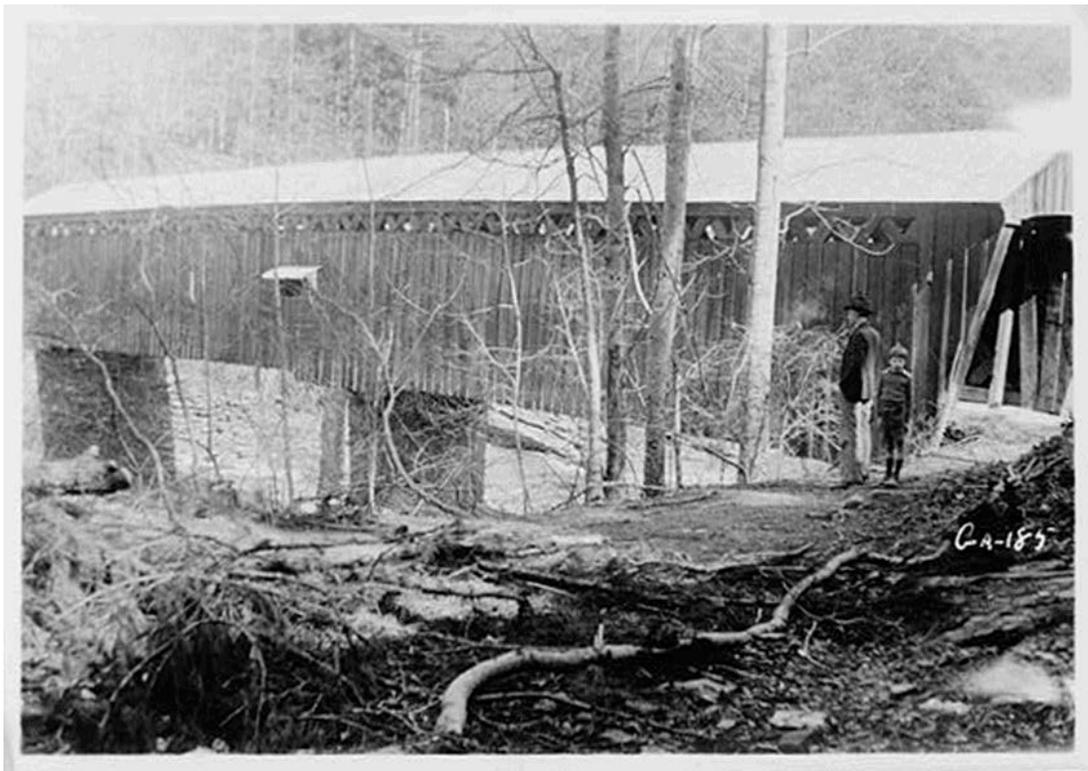
typical of nineteenth-century manufacturing in Piedmont Georgia. The stone building construction, linear layout along the creek, and water-powered technology convey not only the historic era, but the natural characteristics of Sope Creek.

The paper mill operated until July 5, 1864 when General Kenner Garrard burned the buildings as part the Union advance during the Civil War. The Atlanta Campaign began in Chattanooga, TN with skirmishes and fighting along the Western and Atlantic rail line and included the Battle of Kennesaw Mountain and Atlanta as the Federal army moved south. As Gen. William T. Sherman advanced, his army inflicted destruction on the southern landscape, destroying buildings including those along Sope Creek. Federal troops crossed the Chattahoochee River at Sope Creek three days later. The crossing removed the last natural obstacle between the Union army and Atlanta.

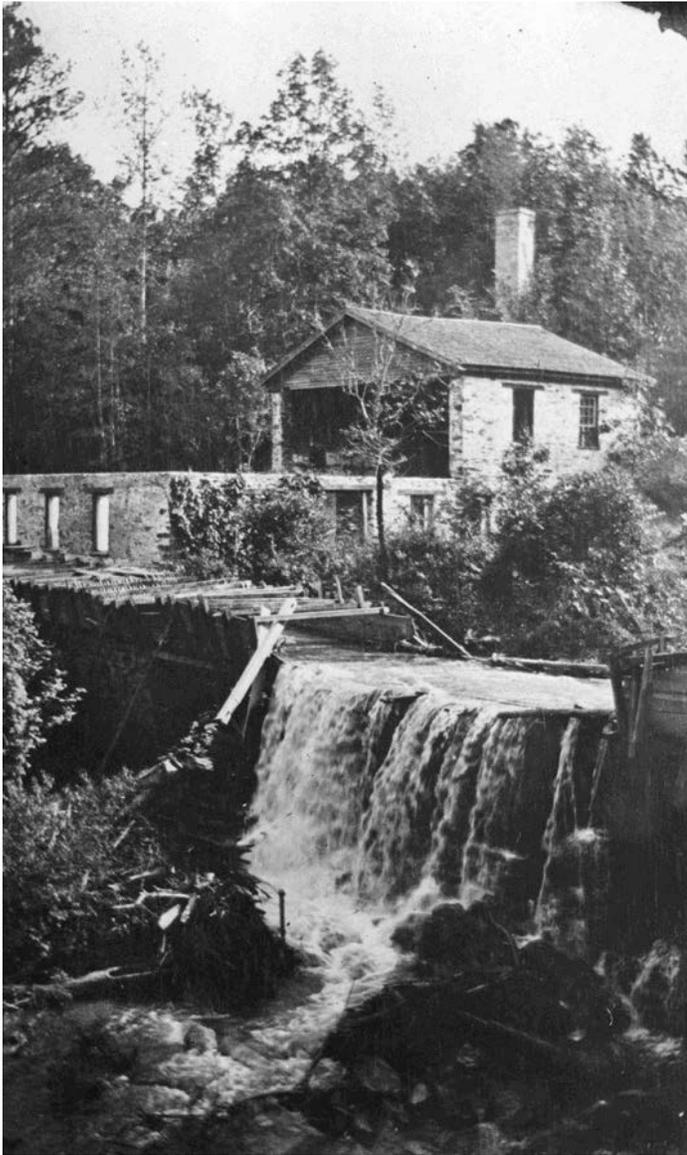
1865-1902

After the Civil War, Marietta Paper Company rebuilt the mill and paper production continued. In 1866, the mill reopened to process newspaper, book paper, wrapping paper, and blotting paper. The southern economy also shifted during Reconstruction and tenant farming replaced large monoculture plantations. In 1870, the paper mill burned and was again rebuilt. Recovery was slow and the company was sold during the economic panic of 1873. New investors renamed the company Marietta Paper Manufacturing Company and expanded production. In 1888, the company built a pulp mill on the west bank of Sope Creek, upstream from the existing paper mill. The pulp mill complex expanded the following year to include the production of paper twine. During the 1890s, the success of the railroad and growth of Marietta began diverting the success of the Sope Creek mills. Saxon Anderson, the owner, purchased space at the depot on Marietta Square and moved machinery from the creek location to be closer to the railroad. New technology, modern transportation, and shifting markets brought about the decline of water-powered industry along Sope Creek.

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HABS photograph of Sope Creek covered bridge, 1936. By Harold Bush-Brown. Vanishing Georgia Collection.



1907 pulp mill.

1902- Present

The mills on Sope Creek closed in 1902 and wood pulp production moved to other urban centers. A posting in the Marietta Journal warned visitors against trespassing in 1905; however locals enjoyed picnicking on Sope Creek as late as the 1930s. The landscape remained abandoned until speculators in the 1960s eyed the area for suburban development. Cousins Properties and Fred Brown, Inc. bought the Sope Creek landscape from John Sibley at the time.

The twentieth century also marked the documentation and preservation of the Sope Creek cultural landscape. The wooden covered bridge spanning Sope Creek was photographed in 1936 as part of

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the Historic American Building Survey (HABS) by Harold Bush-Brown. He later became a prominent Atlanta architect. The ruins were added to the National Register in 1973 and water and sewer projects prompted environmental assessments in the 1970s. The historic significance of the Sope Creek Ruins justified inclusion in a concurrent proposal for a national park.

The Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area became a unit of the National Park Service in 1978. The new park included the Sope Creek cultural landscape, other recreation areas and a buffer along each side of a 48-mile stretch of the Chattahoochee River from Buford Dam to Peachtree Creek. The park preserved the recreational opportunities of the river as well as the natural and cultural resources distinctive of the Chattahoochee River valley.

The NPS management of Sope Creek included stabilization of the ruins in 1984. Staff completed existing drawings of the main mills. Repair of mortar joints and replacement of wood lintels reinforced the structures. A hazardous tree removal in December 2008 mitigated many threats of root damage.

Analysis & Evaluation of Integrity

Analysis and Evaluation of Integrity Narrative Summary:

Significant landscape characteristics of Sope Creek include buildings and structures, topography, natural systems, archeological sites, spatial organization, vegetation, and circulation. 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. 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, and a scenic gorge and secondary stream feeding into the Chattahoochee River.

The buildings and structures built between 1859 and 1889 have slowly deteriorated in the twentieth century. The current ruins convey the spatial organization and location of the paper and pulp mill complexes though without integrity of workmanship. The built features retain association with the industrial history of Sope Creek and convey the technology and process of hydro-powered paper manufacture. The condition of the buildings and structures varies between rubble piles and stabilized foundations and walls.

The topography and natural systems influenced the site layout and land use of Sope Creek. The geological formation created a gorge with steep slopes that prevented the area from being farmed (historically) and from suburban development in the twentieth century. 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 Civil War crossings also conformed to the steep topography and drainage patterns. The Union army crossed upstream from the paper mill and used a ford and fish weirs on the Chattahoochee River to advance toward Atlanta. The natural features of the Sope Creek Ruins cultural landscape preserve the scenic tributary today.

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.

The spatial organization of the Sope Creek cultural landscape is a primary landscape 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 reveal the efficiency of water-powered industry and process used to manufacture paper and pulp. The arrangement of buildings clustered along the creek compliment the topography and historic circulation, while the linear organization (dam, raceway, waterwheel/mill) illustrates the process in which water power was utilized. The separate but related outbuildings signify the threat of fire, but also the specialized, ancillary functions needed to produce paper products. The spatial organization has integrity of location, design, feeling, setting, materials, and association.

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The circulation of 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 trail system provides pedestrian access to the mill ruins, only the road system remains from the historic period and contributes to the character of the site. 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. The vegetation provides a crucial buffer from incompatible development near the Sope Creek Ruins landscape.

The seven distinct aspects of integrity together address the physical elements of the landscape that remain from the period of significance. The cultural landscape retains integrity of location, setting, materials, design, feeling, and association. The integrity of workmanship is diminished due to the deterioration of the structures. The integrity of the Sope Creek Ruins conveys the significance of the early industrial site. The cultural landscape additionally retains aspects of the prehistoric landscape and a local association with the Civil War.

Location

The integrity of the site remains in the location of the mill buildings, historic road bed, landscape features, and drainage patterns. The ruins reveal the extent of the workspace and the natural topography remains intact along the length of Sope Creek through the component landscape. The location conveys the importance of Sope Creek in the manufacture of paper and pulp and addresses the necessary connection between the water and the production of paper. The spatial organization of the mill complexes

Materials

The integrity of materials survives in the mill and outbuilding ruins, preserving the stone construction typical of nineteenth-century manufacturing buildings. The 1984 stabilization preserved the field stone building fabric and replicated the original mortar.

Setting

Although the land use has changed since the period of significance, the historic setting remains intact with elements of the natural environment and paper mill ruins coexisting. The topography and natural systems express the historic setting more than other landscape characteristics and the rocky shoals remain unchanged. Vegetation buffers incompatible development adjacent to the site and conveys the prehistoric setting

Design

The Sope Creek Ruins landscape possesses integrity of design illustrated in the clustered paper and mills and the spatial organization of each complex. The layout of the industrial site, the relationship to the creek and the remaining architecture convey early paper and pulp production in Piedmont Georgia.

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The spatial organization of the remaining ruins expresses the stone construction and functional design of the industrial buildings. The original siting adjacent to Sope Creek and linear orientation also convey the integrated connection of the mill and the flow of Sope Creek.

Association

The association with prehistoric cultures, water-powered industry, and the Civil War remains intact at Sope Creek. The mill ruins, raceway piers, dam, and outbuildings convey the historic period of significance. While the wooded slopes and rocky outcrops associated with prehistoric occupation remain, the same landscape characteristics dictated the location of the Union army crossing in 1864 and prevented suburban development in the twentieth century.

Feeling

The integrity of feeling identifies the historic sense of a particular period or time. The steep banks and scenic creek preserve the views of ruins amid a picturesque terrain.

The deteriorated condition of the structures allows the ruins to evoke the feeling of the historic era. The building remains, raceway, and creek-side location allow visitors to reflect on the industry that once thrived on Sope Creek and envision the operation and process of harnessing water-power.

Summary

The aspects of integrity combine to express the historic significance of the Marietta Paper and Pulp Company, the natural scenery, Civil War, and prehistoric era. Due to the excessive suburban development in the surrounding area, the cultural landscape is particularly important as a rare example of a site associated with several periods of local history.

Aspects of Integrity:	Location
	Setting
	Materials
	Design
	Feeling
	Association

Landscape Characteristic:

Vegetation

The temperate oak-hickory forest remains intact along Sope Creek and survives as a landscape feature conveying the setting of the prehistoric era and location of the historic paper mill. Although fire, industry, and development historically altered the vegetation of the Sope Creek cultural landscape, today the natural setting supports sweetgum, alders, maples, poplar, oak, and loblolly. The ecology of the Southern Piedmont is intact along Sope Creek and contributes to the passive recreation of Chattahoochee River NRA. 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. The

manufacturing landscape did not likely have related or ornamental plantings. Today the forest screens the cultural landscape from incompatible development beyond NPS property, including suburban development. The ruins are overgrown with vines and underbrush during the summer months.

Natural Systems and Features

The natural systems of the Sope Creek landscape include the creek, Caney Branch tributary and steep gorges on each bank. These landscape features convey the original characteristics that predisposed the area for industrial development. The Caney Branch water course adjoining Sope Creek also contributes to the paper mill complex for its historic use as a wash pool. The drainage patterns of the landscape, rock shelters used in the prehistoric area and steep topography retain integrity.

Character-defining Features:

Feature:	Sope Creek
Feature Identification Number:	136606
Type of Feature Contribution:	Contributing
Feature:	Caney Branch
Feature Identification Number:	136608
Type of Feature Contribution:	Contributing

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:



Sope Creek with paper mill ruins on right bank, 2008.

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 natural rock shelters once used by prehistoric hunters in addition to the historic mill ruins built into the grade. The topography prevented early suburban development, but by the 1960s sprawl had reached the Sope Creek area. The topography retains integrity from the period of significance since the grading on the historic road bed and around the main buildings survives.

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:



Slope leading down to west bank Pulp Mill, 2009. Sope Creek in background.

Circulation

The circulation through the Sope Creek Ruins landscape includes elements of the historic road system as well as modern routes for visitors. A road bed paralleling the east bank once provided access to the paper mill and was filled and cut into the slope. The historic road bed today serves as a pedestrian trail to the site with a retaining wall to the east. The road bed shows no evidence of paving or other surface improvements. 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. A covered bridge once spanned the creek but was destroyed by fire in 1964. A concrete superstructure replaced the original bridge on Paper Mill Road 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. Paper Mill Road still connects the Sope Creek area to Marietta, the county seat and railroad depot. This route was used to transport paper products during the industrial era.

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. Near the historic mills, secondary paths created by visitors surround most of the buildings. The informal trails wind through the ruins and connect to the formal trail system that adjoins the slope above the annex.

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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.

Character-defining Features:

Feature: Historic Road Bed

Feature Identification Number: 136610

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Paper Mill Road

Feature Identification Number: 136612

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Trail System

Feature Identification Number: 136614

Type of Feature Contribution: Non contributing – compatible

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:



Historic road bed on east bank, looking south. The road bed is now used as a hiking trail.



Paper Mill Road and bridge, northern landscape boundary, looking east, 2008.

Spatial Organization

The spatial organization of the Sope Creek landscape conveys the industrial history of the site. The relationship between the mills and the creek survives as an important characteristic of hydro-powered industry in the nineteenth-century. 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).

Small Scale Features

A stone culvert is located on the trail leading to the east bank mill complex. This modern feature includes an aluminum drainpipe and does not contribute to the cultural landscape. The culvert was added by the NPS, likely a consequence of new drainage patterns from development on adjacent private property on the above slope.

Modern trail signs provide information in selected locations throughout the landscape. 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 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 non-contributing.

Character-defining Features:

Feature: Culvert

Feature Identification Number: 136500

Type of Feature Contribution: Non contributing – compatible

Feature: Gate

Feature Identification Number: 136502

Type of Feature Contribution: Non contributing – compatible

Feature: Signs

Feature Identification Number: 136504

Type of Feature Contribution: Non contributing – compatible

Feature: Barriers

Feature Identification Number: 136506

Type of Feature Contribution: Non contributing – compatible

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:



Modern stone culvert, east bank of Sope Creek, 2008.



Gate and trail head, northeast corner of cultural landscape, looking south, 2008.

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 a hunting and gathering ground 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 green spaces in Cobb County, the Sope Creek cultural landscape retains integrity.

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, association, materials, feeling and setting. Each structure is constructed of field stone, conveying the architecture and technology of nineteenth-century industry. The mills survive along Sope Creek in their original location and setting and convey the historic era of hydropower manufacturing and the architectural components of a Piedmont Georgia complex. The ruinous buildings have diminished integrity of workmanship and design due to the loss of the roof and interior walls. Wooden lintels, added to the pulp mill foundation in the 1980s, compromised the workmanship of the ruin.

The paper mill buildings at Sope Creek were constructed beginning sometime before 1859 and rebuilt several times over the next thirty years. The paper mill was rebuilt in 1865 with unskilled labor after destruction during the Civil War and again 1870 after a fire. The pulp mill complex on the west bank was added in 1888 and expanded in 1889. The National Park Service stabilized the primary mill buildings in 1984, however many outbuildings remain in ruinous condition.

The paper mill ruins on the east bank include the main mill, a boiler room, an oil room, two retaining walls on Caney Branch, an office, two retaining walls paralleling the creek, raceway piers, and a storage building.

-A stone pier of the historic covered bridge remains under the new Paper Mill Road Bridge superstructure in good condition.

-The main paper mill (215' x 33.3') survives over two stories in height with the attached waterwheel base partially intact. The extant mill walls indicate a gable roof and five-room shotgun layout. The building has integrity of location, association, materials, feeling and setting.

-A boiler room (9.1' x 24.2') is located directly across the trail/road bed east of the paper mill. The boiler room has a rounded wall on the south façade and a retaining wall (68.5') extending north and south of the building. The structure is heavily overgrown in the summer months, but remains in good condition.

-To the south of the boiler room, an oil room (32.2' x 21.4') survives as a large pile of rubble with remnants of stairs. The oil room is completely overgrown during the summer months and has no integrity of design, workmanship, or feeling. The oil room is not maintained or cleared.

To the south of paper mill, Caney Branch joins Sope Creek. The wash pool created at this confluence separates the buildings and structures to the south that are part of the paper mill complex. A stacked stone wall built into the gorge of Caney Branch (approx. 25') acts as a retaining wall. The wall is overgrown with vines. The bluff above the tributary includes the paper mill office (22' x 16') and an angled wall (19.9'). The office includes all four corners of the original field stone foundation and retains integrity of location, association, materials, and setting.

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North of the paper mill, the historic road bed extends to Paper Mill Road. The Sope Creek Road retaining wall follows the length of the road (1/4 mile) with abutments at the southern end and an angled extension at the northern end. The retaining wall is washed out in several places due to storm runoff and tree falls. At a lower elevation, the wall is paralleled by a related retaining wall for the southern third of its length. These walls together support the road bed and were likely associated with the raceway. The race way piers (16.7' x ranging from 3-4') also survive as 24 tapered stone pylons that once supported the wooden sluice used to funnel water to the mill. The piers are in various conditions ranging from good to poor and parallel the creek in a linear row north of the paper mill. Along the length of the road bed leading to the Sope Creek Paper Mill, a storage building (61' x 28.7') remains with almost three full facades to the east of the trail. The storage building has no door or window opening, but is missing the west façade which faces the road/trail. The building has integrity of location, association, setting, feeling, and material/

On the west bank, the ruins of the pulp mill, waterwheel base, retaining walls, annex, oil room, and unidentified building all remain.

-The L-shaped pulp mill (118' x 61.7') survives in the original location with a foundation and walls of field stone rising over a full story on the east façade. The lintels of the pulp mill were stabilized in the 1980s by NPS staff and wooden barriers prevent visitors from entering the ruins from the north slope.

-The waterwheel base (12' x 51.2') is adjacent to the pulp mill on the east façade. The stone foundation includes a distinct "box" indicating where the wheel was positioned and retains integrity of location, association, design, feeling, setting, and materials.

-A retaining wall (34.4') supports the west slope adjacent to the pulp mill foundation (in the L-shape). The wall is built into the slope and covered in leaf litter and vegetative growth.

-A retaining wall to the north of the pulp mill foundation (26.2') parallels the creek. Due to the drainage pattern of Paper Mill Road on the slope above, the retaining wall has water seeping through the stones. The retaining wall has a notch of stones absent on the top, possibly suggesting the wall supported a raceway or machinery.

-A pulp mill annex (28.8' x 30' x 30.2' x 35.7') sits immediately west of the pulp mill and forms an irregular rectangle. The south east corner is an acute angle, though each side of the annex foundation is solid stone construction. Repairs were made to the mortar in 2007 following tree damage.

-On the slope above the annex and pulp mill, an oil room or furnace (6' x 6') resides as a square foundation. The low-lying structure is covered in leaf litter and vegetation yet retains integrity of location, association, setting, and material.

-An unidentified building corner (Building #1) (14' x 7') remains northeast of the pulp mill near the creek edge. Only the corner remains of a much larger structure and integrity of workmanship, design and feeling are diminished.

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Further downstream on the west bank, the dam for the paper mill survives directly opposite the stone abutment on the east bank. This dam (15' x 20') remains without mortar though the stacked stone is intact.

The clustered industrial complexes on each bank of Sope Creek retain their original location and association with the manufacturing era of Piedmont Georgia. The ruinous condition of the structures creates a feeling of the historic era and conveys the local materials. The Marietta Paper Mill setting remains surrounded by vegetation and centered on Sope Creek.

Character-defining Features:

Feature: Sope Creek Paper Mill Raceway
Feature Identification Number: 136512
Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing
IDLCS Number: 91873

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LCS Structure Name: Sope Creek Mill Flume Piers (East Bank)

LCS Structure Number: CHAT03

Feature: Sope Creek Paper Mill

Feature Identification Number: 136534

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

IDLCS Number: 91871

LCS Structure Name: Sope Creek Ruins (East Bank)

LCS Structure Number: CHAT01

Feature: Sope Creek Pulp Mill

Feature Identification Number: 136536

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

IDLCS Number: 91872

LCS Structure Name: Sope Creek Ruins (West Bank)

LCS Structure Number: CHAT02

Feature: Sope Creek East Bank Retaining Wall #1

Feature Identification Number: 136538

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

IDLCS Number: 91874

LCS Structure Name: Sope Creek Mill Ruin Road Wall

LCS Structure Number: CHAT03a

Feature: Sope Creek Pulp Mill Retaining Wall

Feature Identification Number: 136540

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Sope Creek Pulp Mill Oil Room

Feature Identification Number: 136542

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Sope Creek Paper Mill Storage Building

Feature Identification Number: 136544

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

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Feature: Sope Creek Paper Mill Boiler Room
Feature Identification Number: 136546
Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Sope Creek Pulp Mill Building #1
Feature Identification Number: 136548
Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Sope Creek Paper Mill Storage Building
Feature Identification Number: 136550
Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Sope Creek Paper Mill Boiler Room
Feature Identification Number: 136552
Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Sope Creek Paper Mill Oil Room
Feature Identification Number: 136554
Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Sope Creek Paper Mill Office
Feature Identification Number: 136556
Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Caney Branch Retaining Wall
Feature Identification Number: 136558
Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Sope Creek Paper Mill Dam
Feature Identification Number: 136560
Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Sope Creek Pulp Mill Annex
Feature Identification Number: 136562
Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Sope Creek Ruins
Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area

Feature: Sope Creek Pulp Mill Waterwheel Box

Feature Identification Number: 136564

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Sope Creek East Bank Retaining Wall #2

Feature Identification Number: 136570

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Caney Branch Retaining Wall #2

Feature Identification Number: 136572

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Sope Creek bridge pier

Feature Identification Number: 136578

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:



West bank retaining wall, north of pulp mill.

Sope Creek Ruins
Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area



Sope Creek paper mill.



Raceway piers on east bank. Sope Creek in background.

Sope Creek Ruins
Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area



Retaining wall and pulp mill ruins.

Sope Creek Ruins
Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area



Sope Creek Pulp Mill Annex, 2008.



Sope Creek Paper Mill Boiler Room, 2009.

Condition

Condition Assessment and Impacts

Condition Assessment: Fair

Assessment Date: 08/01/2009

Condition Assessment Explanatory Narrative:

Given the relative stability of the landscape, reassessment will occur by FY 17 after FMSS and GIS mapping is completed

The Sope Creek ruins are in fair condition. The overgrown vegetation previously noted during spring and summer site visits was removed in December 2008. The structural ruins of the mill buildings are stabilized and well-defined trails surround the accessible portions of the site. However, vandalism and erosion pose a threat from visitor use, and some of the ancillary buildings have collapsed or are in a ruinous state.

Impacts

Type of Impact: Erosion

External or Internal: Both Internal and External

Impact Description: The trails leading to the Sope Creek site are well-maintained, however the steep slopes used frequently by visitors show potential signs of erosion. The south façade of the pulp mill and the slope above the west bank ruins are the most threatened, though NPS staff maintains the slope regularly. Loose rubble from the structures can leave uneven footing in periphery areas of the site and should be monitored.

Type of Impact: Structural Deterioration

External or Internal: Internal

Impact Description: The pulp and paper mills of Sope Creek Ruins were stabilized in 1984 however; several outbuildings and retaining walls are in need of repair. The buildings accompanying the main mills are in various states of ruin and the east bank oil room remains as a pile of rubble.

Type of Impact: Deferred Maintenance

External or Internal:	Internal
Impact Description:	Despite a major removal of vegetation in December 2008, the ruins should be regularly maintained. The clearing of hazardous trees was the first removal in several years. Deteriorated signs at the site should be removed or replaced.
Type of Impact:	Vandalism/Theft/Arson
External or Internal:	Internal
Impact Description:	Vandalism poses a threat to the structures since Cochran Shoals has no on-site manager. Loose rubble removed from the structures was identified during a site visit.
Type of Impact:	Vegetation/Invasive Plants
External or Internal:	Internal
Impact Description:	The vegetation along Sope Creek is managed as a natural resource. Invasive plants, including poison ivy and Princess tree, grow inside and around the building ruins. Vegetation encroaches on the historic ruins during the summer months, but dies back in the winter.

Treatment

Treatment

Approved Treatment Document: Cultural Landscape Report

Approved Treatment Document Explanatory Narrative:

This CLI was written concurrently with the Cultural Landscape Report for the Sope Creek site. All treatment recommendations in the CLR apply to the CLI.

Bibliography and Supplemental Information

Bibliography

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Citation Title: Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), Sope Creek Drainage Area, Cobb County, Georgia
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Citation Title: Atlanta and Environs: A Chronicle of It`s People and Events
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Citation Publisher: University of Georgia Press
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Citation Title: The Southeastern Indians
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