

MEMORANDUM

To: Scott Shelton, P.E. – Gresham, Smith and Partners
From: Susan Thomas, AICP, Edwards-Pitman, Environmental, Inc.
CC: file GSP1011
Date: May 6, 2011
Re: Environmental Screening Report – Proposed Lee Road Extension, Douglas County

Edwards-Pitman Environmental, Inc. (EPEI) has completed environmental screenings for the proposed Lee Road Extension project in Douglas County, Georgia. The proposed project would extend Lee Road from its current intersection with State Route (SR) 92 / Fairburn Road in a southwesterly direction to Bomar Road. There is a small existing portion of this extension that ends in a cul-de-sac that would be removed and extended on new location as a four-lane divided urban section with a raised median. The section would have a multiuse trail on the south side of the roadway and a sidewalk on the north side. The existing Bomar Road would “T” into the proposed Lee Road Extension and the four-lane roadway would taper down to a two-lane rural section and tie into Bomar Road.

The environmental screening extended further south to the intersection of Bomar Road and Pope Road. The total project corridor included in the environmental screening is approximately 1.9 miles. The new location portion of the proposed project is characterized by large wooded parcels and rural properties. SR 92/Fairburn Road located at the east end of the proposed project is characterized by scattered mid- to late twentieth century residential properties and modern commercial development. The western end of the proposed project consists of dense late twentieth century residential developments.

EPEI staff specialists conducted field surveys and research for the screening. Field surveys focused on the identification of visible constraints that should be considered during the development of the proposed project concept. The environmental survey included identification of historical and archeological resources, underground storage tank (UST) locations, natural features, and Section 4(f) resources that could be affected by the proposed alignment provided by Gresham, Smith and Partners. In addition to field reconnaissance, available documentation from the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP), the Georgia Department of Natural Resources (DNR), and Environmental Data Resources (EDR) was reviewed to obtain additional information related to cultural resources and federal and state protected species.

Historic Resources

The proposed project was field surveyed for historic properties in compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 and amendments thereto. The survey boundary and methodology were established using the *GDOT/FHWA Cultural Resource Survey Guidelines*. These guidelines were established as a

result of past interaction with the Georgia State Historic Preservation Officer (GASHPO) and his staff, and were agreed upon by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and the GASHPO.

Existing information on previously identified historic properties was consulted to determine if any are located within the area of potential effects (APE) of the proposed project. The review of existing information on previously identified historic properties revealed that no National Register listed properties, proposed National Register nominations, National Historic Landmarks, or bridges determined eligible for inclusion in the National Register in the updated Georgia Historic Bridge Survey (GHBS) were identified within the proposed project's APE. The review of existing information also revealed that no properties 50 years old or older were identified within the proposed project's APE in the 1998 Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Douglas County Survey. However, nine properties not identified in the GADNR survey were identified within the proposed project's APE during the historic resources survey. These nine properties are described in the following table and the location of these properties is depicted on the attached Figure 1.

Name of Resource	Date of Construction	Type and/or Style	Location	National Register Recommendation
Resource 1	1960	Linear Ranch	2705 Highway 92	Not Eligible
Resource 2	ca. 1940 to 1960	7 houses of various recognized and unrecognized types	2553 Highway 92	Not Eligible
Resource 3	1942	Unrecognized Type/Style	2631 Highway 92	Not Eligible
Resource 4	1941	Unrecognized Type/Style	2825 Bomar Road	Not Eligible
Resource 5	1961	Ranch	2946 Bomar Road	Not Eligible
Resource 6	1952	Ranch	2956 Bomar Road	Not Eligible
Resource 7	1960	Unrecognized Type/Style	2931 Bomar Road	Not Eligible
Resource 8	1956	Ranch	2941 Bomar Road	Not Eligible
Resource 9	1950	Unrecognized Type/Style	2942 Pope Road	Not Eligible

The Criteria for Evaluation were applied to each property and a recommendation regarding National Register eligibility has been made. Of the nine properties 50 years old or older that were surveyed and

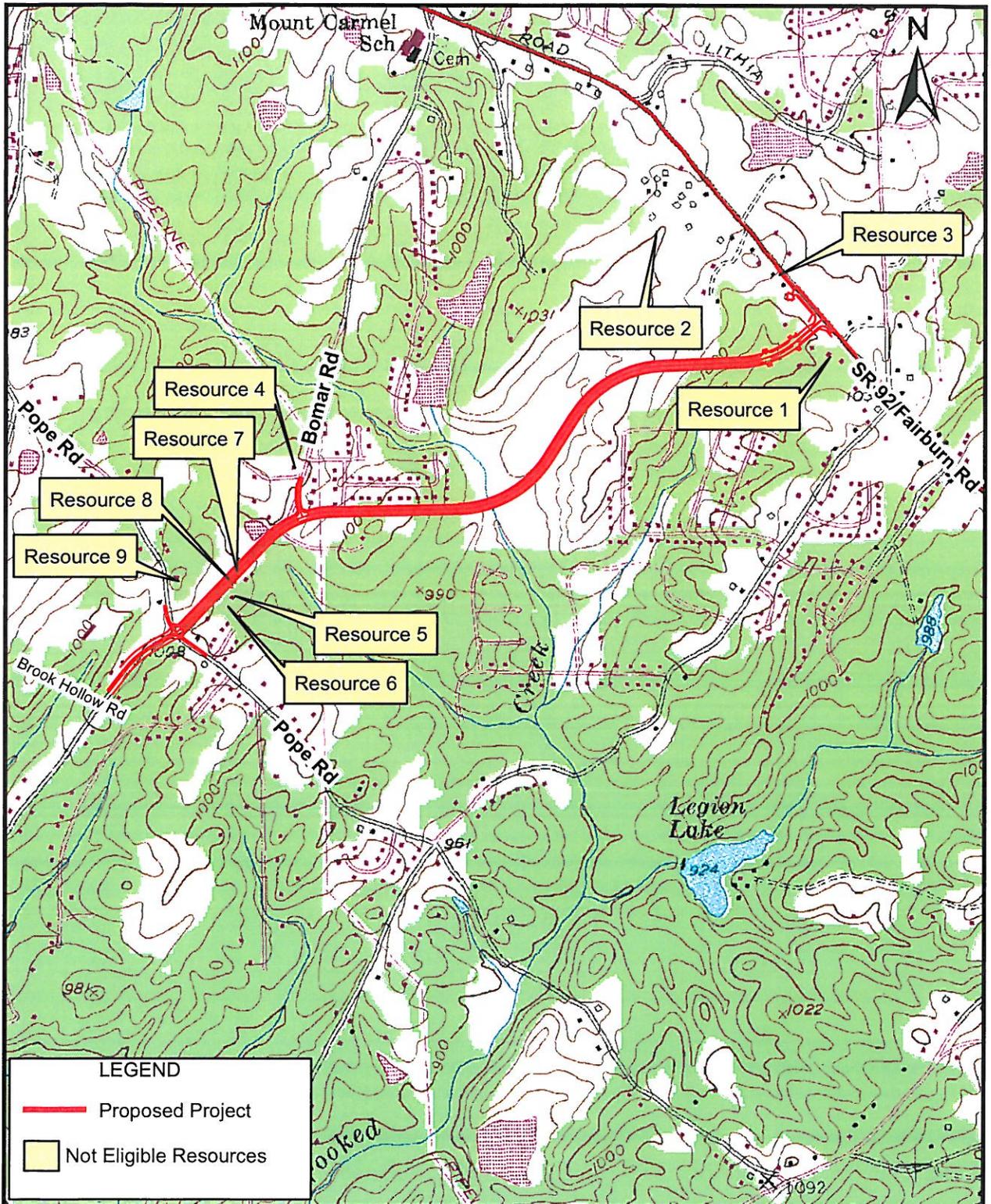


Figure 1
Project Location and Historic Resources Map

Lee Road Extension from SR 92 to Bomar Road



Source: Cambelton, GA Quadrangle
 USGS 7.5' Series (Topographic)



to which the Criteria for Evaluation were applied, none have been recommended eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places. These recommendations are to be considered preliminary as they have not been reviewed or approved by either the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) or the SHPO.

Archeological Resources

During January 2011, a Phase I archaeological survey was conducted to locate and evaluate archaeological sites within the APE of the proposed undertaking, so that potential effects to any resources identified could be evaluated in accordance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. An additional 100-foot extended survey corridor was examined to accommodate potential future design changes.

A review of the Georgia Archaeological Site Files (GASF) at the University of Georgia (UGA) in Athens showed that no previously recorded sites are located within a one-kilometer radius of the project area. One previous survey has been conducted in the vicinity of the proposed project. The previous survey was conducted for a series of 10 traffic signal design areas in Douglas County (Silliman 2004), including the intersection of SR 92 and existing Lee Road, which is the eastern terminus of the proposed project.

The project corridor is entirely located on the Cambellton, Georgia (1999) 7.5' United States Geological Survey (USGS) quadrangle. The project is situated mostly in the uplands on ridges and side slopes, with alluvial settings at the one major stream crossing over Crooked Creek.

As a result of these survey efforts, no archaeological resources were found.

Underground Storage Tanks and Hazardous Materials

Field observations were conducted for obvious or potential underground storage tank (UST) or hazardous waste sites within the study area. No sites were identified.

Natural Features/Waters of the US and State

The proposed project is located in the Middle Chattahoochee River Drainage Basin. A portion of the proposed project area crosses Crooked Creek. Crooked Creek flows south to join with Anneewakee Creek at Turnipseed Lake. Anneewakee Creek flows into the Chattahoochee River approximately eight-kilometers south of the project area. The Chattahoochee flows southwest and then south through several impoundments, before joining with the Flint River at Lake Seminole to form the Apalachicola River. The Apalachicola River empties into the Gulf of Mexico at Apalachicola Bay in Florida.

The project area was surveyed for the presence of jurisdictional waters of the US, including wetlands and streams, as required by the provisions of Executive Order 11990 and subsequent federal regulations. All areas adjacent to

the project area that displayed one or more wetland characteristics were surveyed in accordance with the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) 1987 Corps Wetlands Delineation Manual and regulatory guidance and policy. Field surveys were conducted during January 2011. A total of seven waters of the US and State waters were identified. These include five streams, one wetland, and one open water. There are three open waters that are located at the western terminus of the project that will need to be reviewed by the Georgia Environmental Protection Division (EPD) to determine if they require a state 25-foot buffer. Three other non-buffered state waters will need to be confirmed by the EPD. These waters are shown on Figures 2a, 2b, and 2c. A description of each water feature is provided below.

Waters of the US and State Waters

Stream 1 is an intermittent stream and is a buffered state water that flows from north to south near the eastern terminus of the proposed project. Stream 1 is approximately 3-5 feet wide and had approximately 2-4 inches of flowing water at the time of survey.

Stream 2 is an intermittent stream and is a buffered state water that flows for a considerable distance along the north side of the proposed project. Stream 2 is approximately 3-5 feet wide and had approximately 3-5 inches of flowing water at the time of survey.

Stream 3 is an intermittent stream and is a buffered state water that flows for a short distance within the center of the proposed project. Stream 3 is approximately 2-3 feet wide and had approximately 2 inches of flowing water at the time of survey.

Wetland 4 is a medium quality forested wetland adjacent the central portion of the proposed project area. This wetland was inundated with approximately 1 inch of water at the time of survey.

Stream 5 is a perennial stream (Crooked Creek) and is a buffered state water that flows north to south across the central portion of the proposed project area. The stream is partially impounded by beavers. The beaver dam is within the proposed project area. Stream 5 is approximately 10-20 feet wide and had approximately 1-3 feet of flowing water at the time of survey.

Stream 6 is a perennial stream (tributary to Crooked Creek) and is a buffered state water that flows west to east near the western portion of the proposed project area. The stream flows out of pipe that empties Open Water 7. Stream 6 is approximately 5-8 feet wide and had approximately .5 to 1 foot of flowing water at the time of survey.

Open water 7 is a man-made pond and is a buffered state water located west of the proposed alignment near the western terminus of the proposed project. The open water is fed by a perennial stream.



Douglas County

Figure 2a
Waters of US and State Waters
 Lee Road Extension from SR 92 to Bomar Road

Source: Cambellton, GA Quadrangle
 USGS 7.5' Series (Topographic)



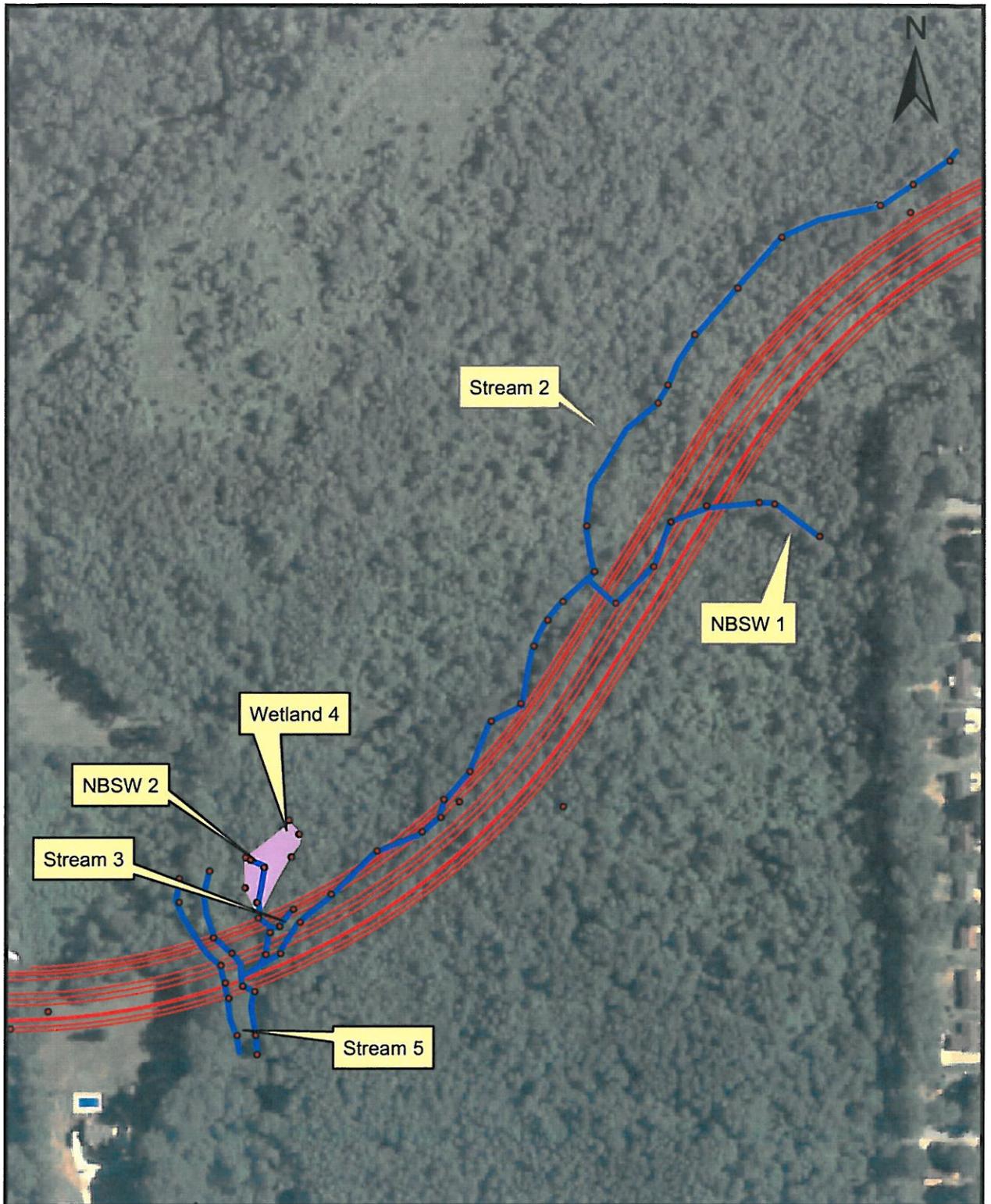
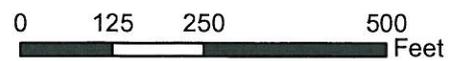
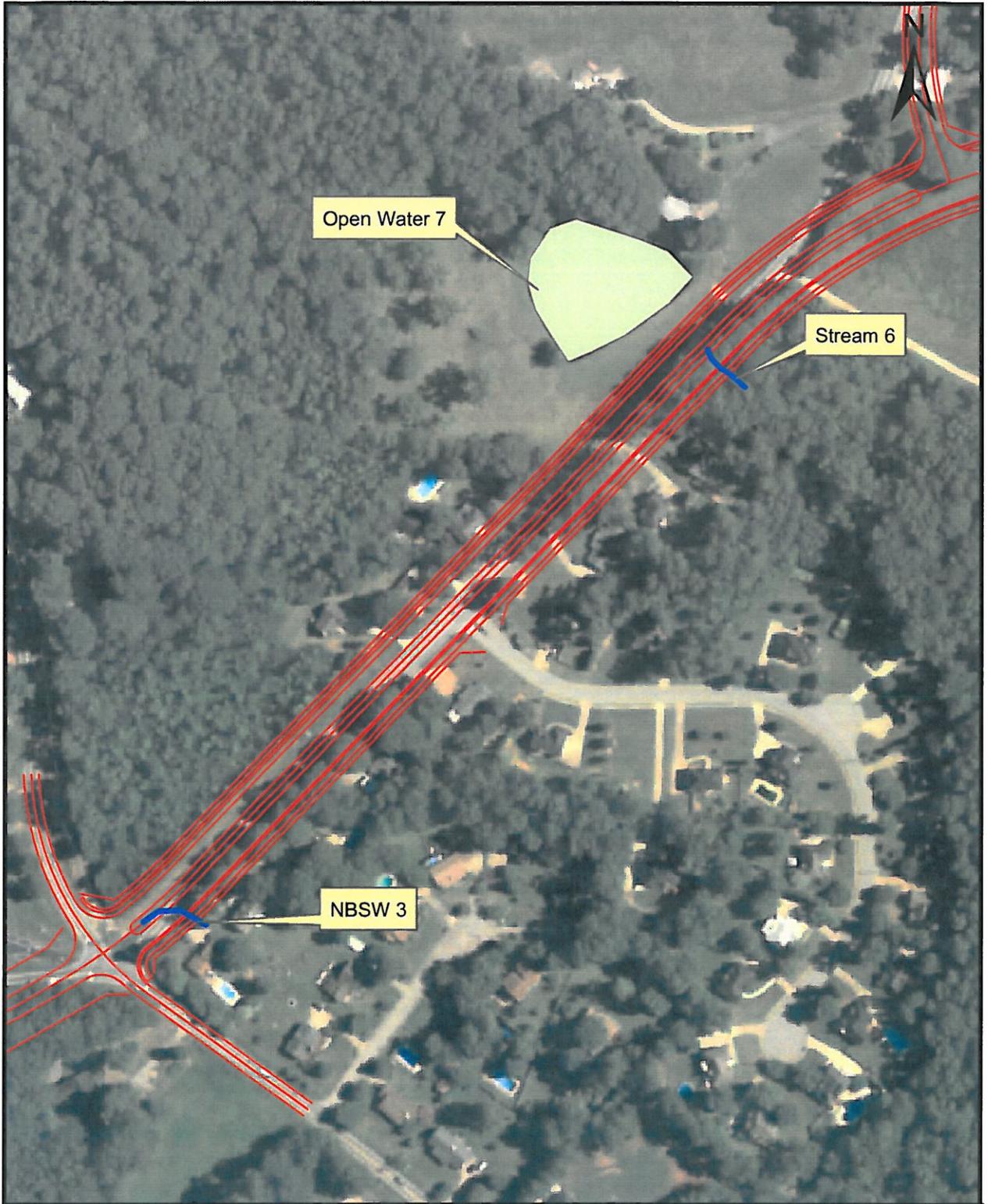


Figure 2b
Waters of US and State Waters
 Lee Road Extension from SR 92 to Bomar Road

Source: Cambellton, GA Quadrangle
 USGS 7.5' Series (Topographic)

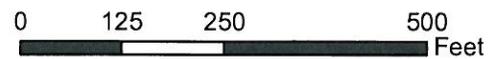




Douglas County

Figure 2c
Waters of US and State Waters
Lee Road Extension from SR 92 to Bomar Road

Source: Cambellton, GA Quadrangle
USGS 7.5' Series (Topographic)



Non-buffered state waters

There are three open waters that are located at the western terminus of the proposed project that will need to be reviewed by the EPD to determine if they require a buffer. In addition, there are three other non-buffered state waters (NBSW) that will need to be confirmed by the EPD.

Federal and State Protected Species

The Threatened and Endangered Species and Habitat listing provided by the US Fish and Wildlife Service (May 2004) for Douglas County was reviewed. The following federally protected species were listed for Douglas County:

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| • Pool Sprite (<i>Amphianthus pusillus</i>) | Federally Threatened |
| • Pink Ladyslipper (<i>Cypripedium acaule</i>) | State Unusual |
| • Yellow Ladyslipper (<i>Cypripedium pariflorum</i>) | State Rare |
| • Bay Starvine (<i>Schisandra glabra</i>) | State Threatened |
| • Barren Strawberry (<i>Waldsteinia lobata</i>) | State Threatened |

Of the five mentioned species, only habitat for the bay starvine occurs within the project area. The floodplain around the perennial Stream 5 should be surveyed to determine if the species is present. The best survey season is from late spring to middle summer.

No migratory bird species were identified during field surveys.

Section 4(f) Resources

Section 4(f) rules apply to federally-funded transportation projects. The law protects public parks and recreation areas, wildlife and waterfowl refuges, and significant historic sites (resources either listed or determined eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Resources).

Actions of the DOT may use land from these resources only if these two criteria are met: (1) it must be demonstrated that there is no feasible and prudent alternative to the use of the land; and (2) the project includes all possible planning to minimize harm.

No Section 4(f) resources were identified within the limits of the proposed project. However, a final determination will be contingent on approval of the historic resources findings, previously presented, by the GDOT and SHPO.