



July 10, 2018

Connie Le  
UCOR URS  
East Tennessee Technology Park  
Department of Energy  
Oak Ridge, Tennessee 37830

RE: Historic Architectural Resource Survey of the Proposed Environmental Management Disposal Facility (EMDF) within the Oak Ridge Reservation in Roane County, Tennessee  
CRA Project Number: T18GU01  
Contract Publication Series: 18-181

Dear Ms. Le,

The following letter report provides the requested historic architectural survey for the above referenced project. The information was prepared at the request of UCOR on behalf of the United States Department of Energy (DOE). The field documentation was performed between April 23 and May 3 2018 by Julia K.C. Gruhot, J. Howard Beverly, Thomas H. McAlpine Jr., and Karen Clark of Cultural Resource Analysts, Inc. (CRA); the letter report was prepared by architectural historian Sarah J. Reynolds of CRA. Archaeological investigations were conducted for this project by CRA and published in a separate report titled Phase I Archaeological Survey of Proposed Environmental Management Disposal Facility in Central Bear Creek Valley, Roane County, Tennessee (Gruhot and Faberson 2018).

The proposed project consists of an Environmental Management Disposal Facility (EMDF) that will be built to accommodate waste generated under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) to clean up the DOE's Oak Ridge Reservation. The types of waste that would be disposed at the EMDF include low-level radioactive waste, Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) hazardous waste, and mixed low-level/hazardous waste. The waste would consist of demolition debris and soil. In addition to the disposal facility, the EMDF project site will include areas to accommodate a landfill wastewater treatment system, storm water retention basins, a soil borrow site, and rerouting of both an existing Haul Road and Bear Creek Road.

The project area is located within the Oak Ridge Reservation in central Bear Creek Valley, Roane County, Tennessee. It is situated approximately 11.2 mi northeast of Kingston, 4.0 mi southwest of the modern community of Oak Ridge, and lies on either side of Bear Creek Road. The project area consists of approximately 145 acres, which primarily consists of mixed secondary growth forest with terraces, sideslope, and ridgeline landforms (Figures 3 and 4). The area of potential effects (APE) for the proposed project includes the direct project area and the indirect APE, defined by UCOR as the area up to the nearest highest topographic point surrounding the footprint to the north, east, and west and from the nearest highest topographic point from the ridge immediately south of Bear Creek Road to the south, in order to account for the potential visual effects of the proposed facility (Figures 1 and 2).

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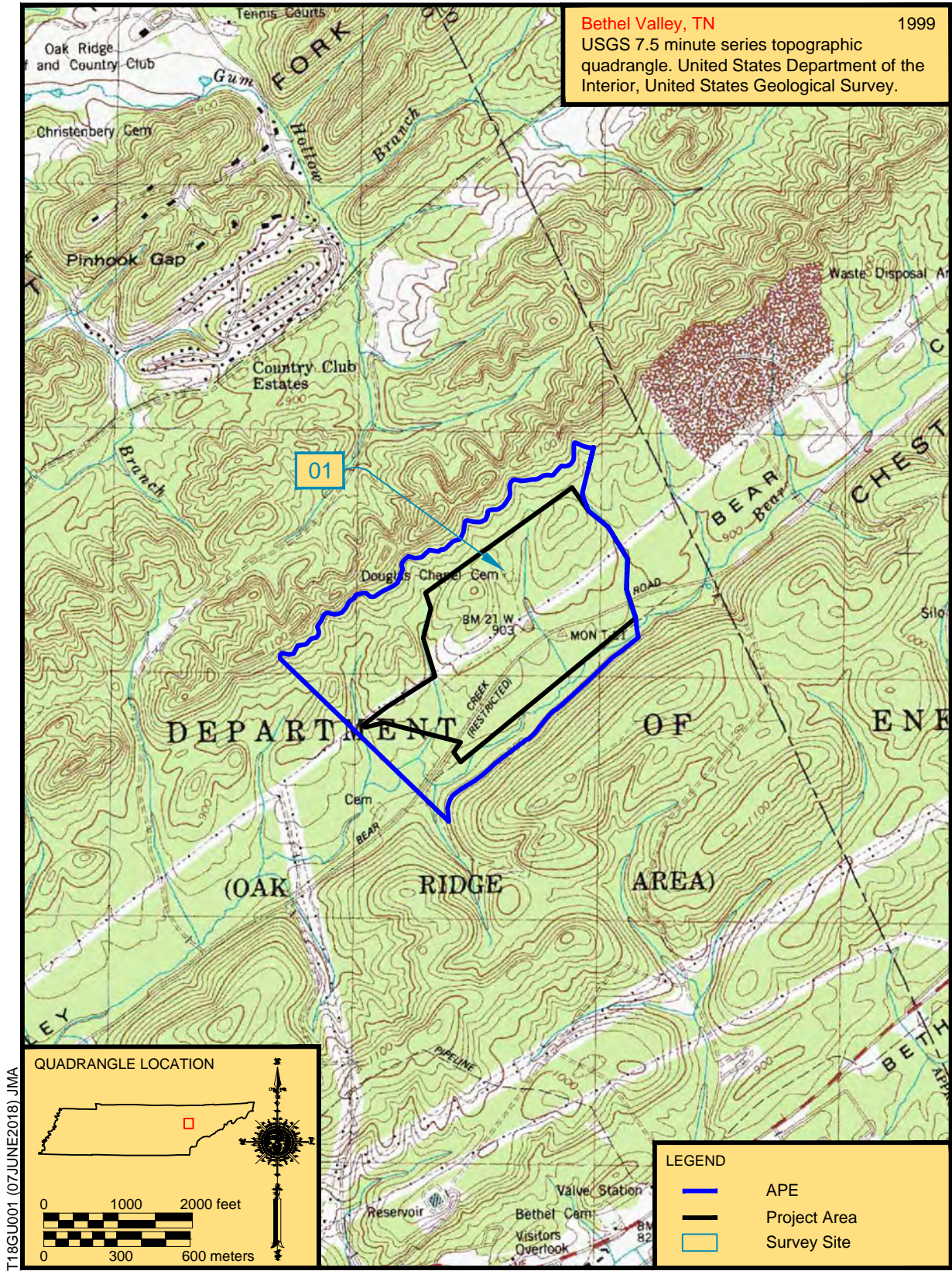


Figure 1. Topographic map depicting the APE, project area, and location of surveyed sites.



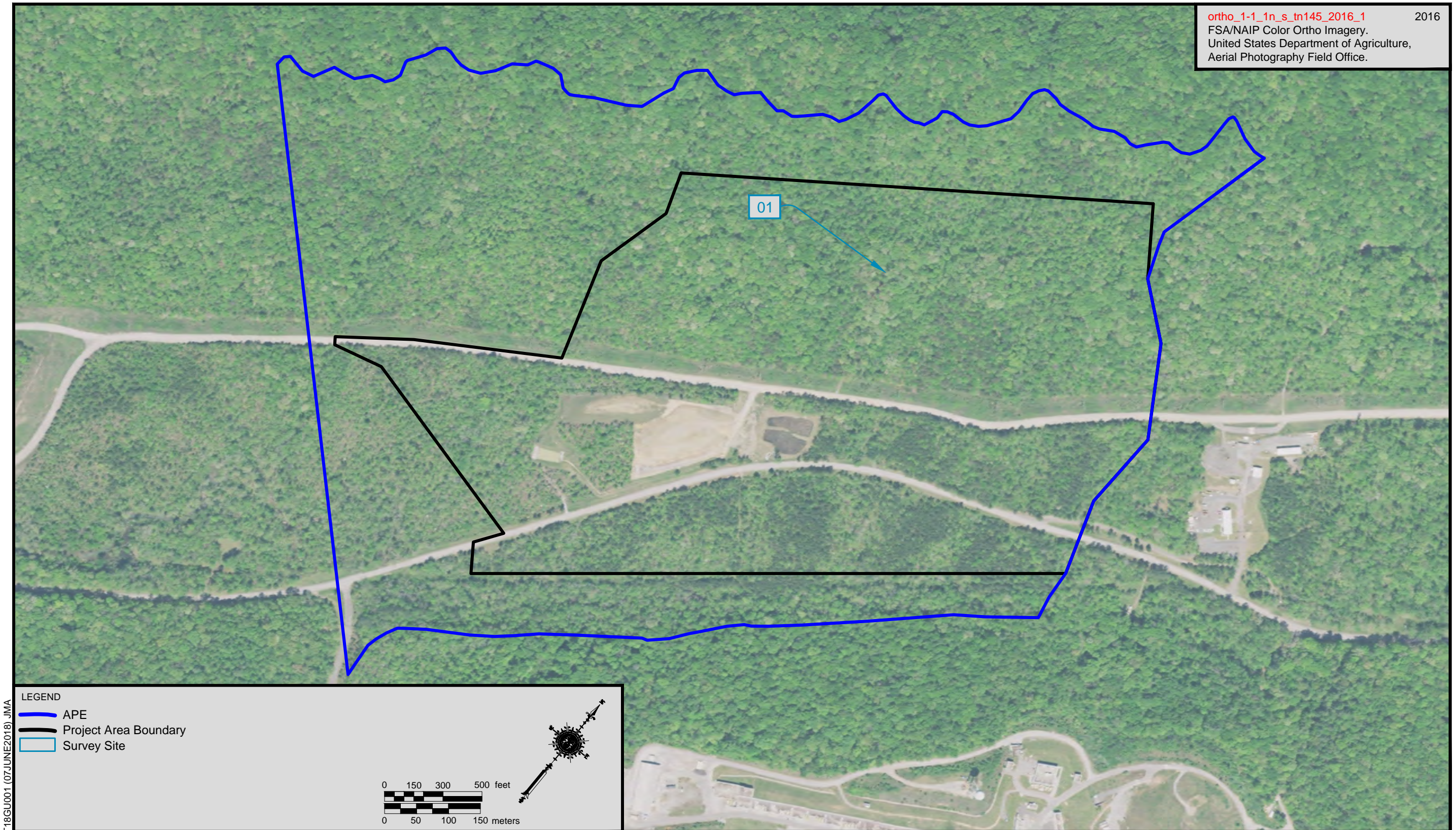


Figure 2. Aerial photograph depicting the APE, project area, and location of surveyed sites.





Figure 3. Overview of vegetated slope located north of haul road in project area, looking east.



Figure 4. Overview of vegetation and drainage (ephemeral stream) located north of haul road in project area, looking south.

A review of the online Tennessee Historical Commission (THC) Viewer indicated no previously identified resources located in or within an approximately 1-mi radius review area of the proposed project area (Figure 5). The records review continued at the offices of the THC (State Historic Preservation Office [SHPO]) with a review of a digital map containing a database of previously identified resources in Roane and Anderson Counties, in the proximity of the proposed project, by Peggy Nickell, Historic Preservation Specialist for the THC. The digital database indicated no previously identified resources. Paper copies of 7.5-minute series topographic quadrangle maps in the files of the THC that include an approximately 1-mi radius review area of the proposed project area were also examined during the records review. The paper copies of the topographic quadrangle maps at the THC indicate the locations of previously identified resources; the 1953 Bethel Valley, Tennessee topographic quadrangle map (Figure 6) and the 1968 Bethel Valley, Tennessee topographic quadrangle map (Figure 7) were reviewed. No previously surveyed resources are located on the 1953 or 1968 Bethel Valley topographic quadrangle maps within the proposed project's 1-mi radius review area. However, two previously surveyed resources are located just outside the 1-mi radius review area and include the New Bethel Baptist Church, situated south-southeast of the project area, and the X-10 Reactor, situated southwest of the project area. Both of these properties are listed in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) and are located on the Oak Ridge Reservation.

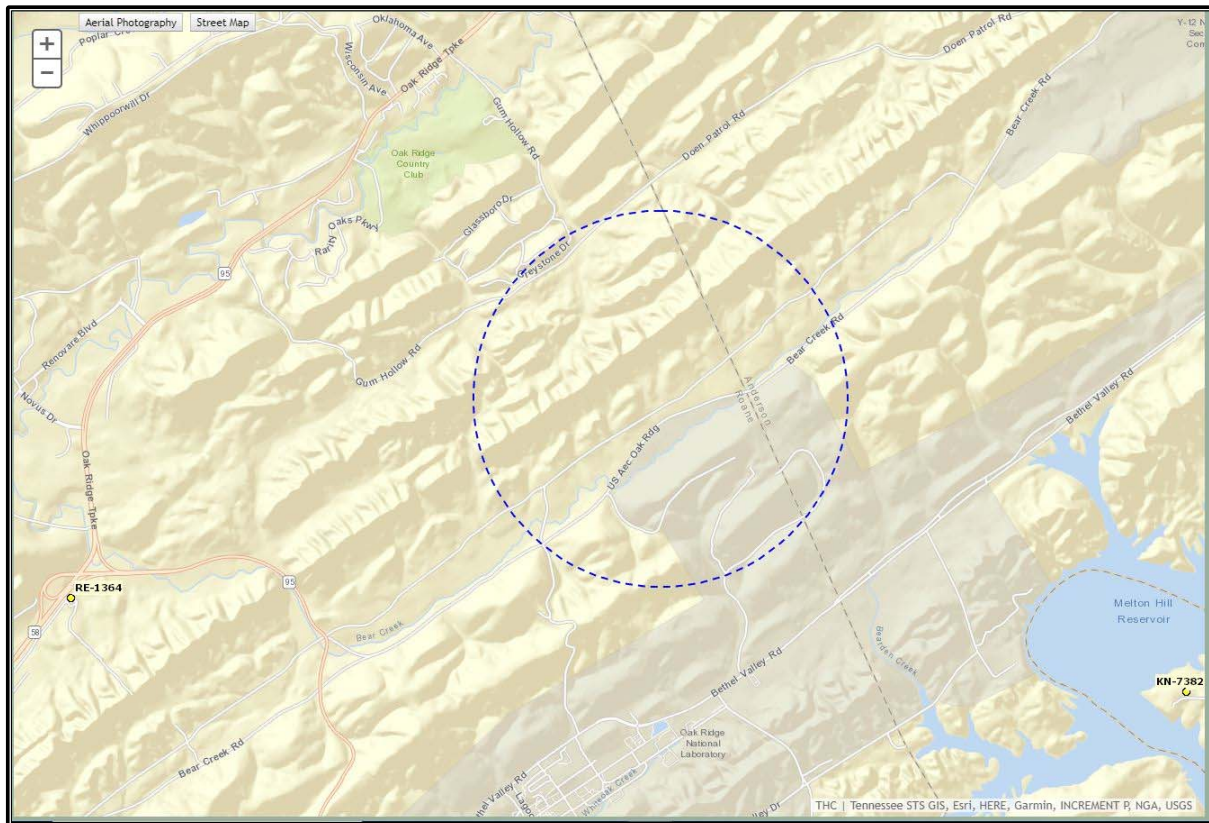


Figure 5. Map from online THC Viewer showing approximate 1-mi radius and no previously identified resources.





Figure 6. Portion of the 1953 Bethel Valley, Tennessee 7.5-minute series topographic quadrangle map showing previously surveyed sites near the 1-mi review area.

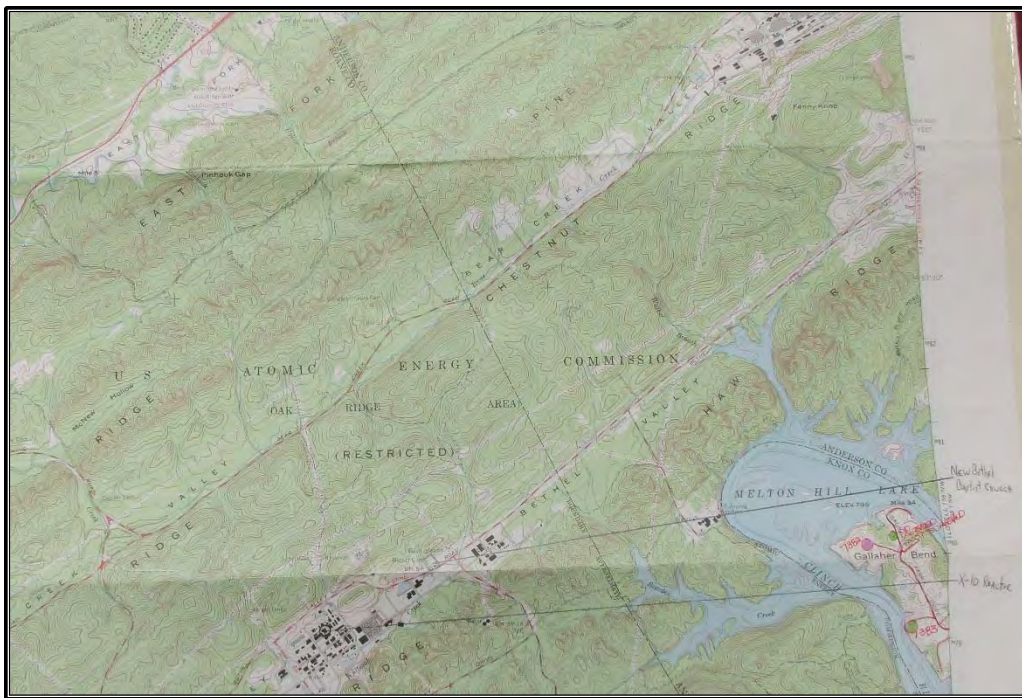


Figure 7. 1968 Bethel Valley, Tennessee 7.5-minute series topographic quadrangle map showing previously surveyed sites near the 1-mi review area.

During the field survey, CRA individually recorded one historic architectural resource within the APE (Site 01, Douglas Chapel Cemetery). A description of the resource, photographs, and a determination of eligibility can be found below.

## Site 01

**Photographs:** Figures 8–15

**Map:** Figures 1 and 2

**Quad:** Bethel Valley, Tennessee 1999

**Latitude:** 35.957931°

**Longitude:** -84.309613°

**Property Address:**

North of Bear Creek Road,  
Oak Ridge Reservation  
U.S. Department of Energy  
Roane County, Tennessee 37830

**Construction Date:** circa 1875–1880

**Description:** Site 01 consists of the Douglas Chapel Cemetery located along the north side of Bear Creek Road and north of a gravel haul road that runs parallel to Bear Creek Road on the Oak Ridge Reservation. The cemetery is situated approximately .42 mi southwest of the Anderson County line and approximately .12 mi northwest of the haul road. It is set within a forested area just south of Pine Ridge and is enclosed by a wood-post and wire fence that remains partially intact (Figures 8 and 9).

The cemetery is first depicted on the 1941 Bethel Valley 7.5-minute series topographic quadrangle map (USGS 1941). The earliest interment in the cemetery dates to 1880; however, there are unmarked burials for which the date is unknown. Thus, current evidence suggests that the cemetery likely dates to circa 1875–1880. Douglas Chapel was historically associated with the cemetery, but is no longer extant. It is likely that Douglas Chapel and the cemetery served the Bear Creek Valley community in the late nineteenth century until the first few decades of the twentieth century. The Douglas Chapel and cemetery became a part of the Oak Ridge Reservation when the U.S. War Department purchased approximately 56,000 acres in 1943 for the Manhattan Project. All inhabitants of the land purchased by the government were forced to move and all structures were later demolished. Thus, the associated church no longer remains (Johnson and Jackson 1981).

The Douglas Chapel Cemetery is comprised of 15 interments. Of these 15 interments, 4 were marked with formal headstones that consisted of rounded, stone tablets with machine engraved lettering and minimal decoration. Eight burials were marked with informal fieldstones (Figure 10) and the remaining three burials were unmarked depressions (Figure 11). The earliest marked interment dates to 1880 and marks the burial of Ida Hickman (1879–1880) (Figure 12). Other stone tablet headstones mark the burials of Sarah Hickman (1844–1894) (Figure 13) and T.G. Turpen (1858–1905), a mason as indicated by the masonic square and compass at the top of the stone (Figure 14). The fourth tablet marker was illegible due to weathering of the stone (Figure 15).

**NRHP Evaluation:** Not Eligible. Criteria Consideration D states that cemeteries are eligible for listing in the NRHP only if they contain graves of persons of transcendent importance or are distinguished by age, distinctive design features, or association with historic events. Research indicated that no persons of transcendent importance are interred in the cemetery, nor were any associations between persons interred in the cemetery and significant historic events revealed.



Figure 8. Site 01. Overview of Douglas Chapel Cemetery, looking southeast from northwestern-most portion of cemetery.



Figure 9. Site 01. View of fence in northwest corner of Douglas Chapel Cemetery, looking southeast.



Figure 10. Site 01. View of burial marked with fieldstones located in the central portion of Douglas Chapel Cemetery, looking east.



Figure 11. Site 01. View of burial marked by depression located in the southeast portion of Douglas Chapel Cemetery, looking east.



Figure 12. Site 01. View of Ida Hickman marker located in the southwest portion of Douglas Chapel Cemetery, looking west.



Figure 13. Site 01. View of Sarah Hickman marker located in the central portion of Douglas Chapel Cemetery, looking east.

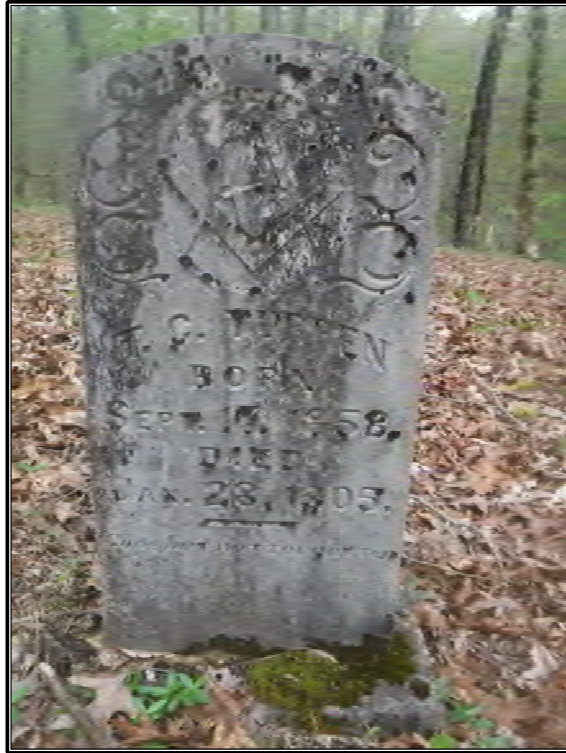


Figure 14. Site 01. View of T.G. Turpen marker located in the central portion of the Douglas Chapel Cemetery, looking east.



Figure 15. Site 01. View of illegible tablet marker located in the south-central portion of Douglas Chapel Cemetery, looking east.

According to the archival record, Sarah Hickman and her husband, Isaiah, lived nearby and were farmers. No other information was revealed concerning T.G. Turpen. While most of the burials belong to unknown persons, they likely were former residents of the area, who were part of an agrarian community prior to the establishment of the Oak Ridge Reservation. Further research did not indicate any significant contributions by any of the individuals associated with the marked burials on a local, regional, or national level that would qualify them as persons of transcendent importance.

The grave markers located in the cemetery exhibit a common form with common iconography, which is found on headstones throughout the region and nation. The cemetery exhibits no notable landscape features that distinguish it from other rural cemeteries of the same small size. The cemetery dates to the late nineteenth century, when the area was well settled and, as such, this period is not particularly early in the context of Roane County. Thus, the Douglas Chapel Cemetery is not distinguished by age. Therefore, the Douglas Chapel Cemetery, is not eligible for listing in the NRHP under Criterion A, B, C, or Criteria Consideration D.

Determination of Effect: N/A.

In summary, CRA completed a historic architectural resource survey for the proposed EMDF within the Oak Ridge Reservation in Roane County, Tennessee. One previously undocumented historic architectural resource was individually documented for the proposed project. CRA recommends that Site 01 is not eligible for inclusion in the NRHP under Criterion A, B, C, or Criteria Consideration D. The proposed EMDF project will avoid the Douglas Chapel Cemetery (Site 01) and preserve it in-situ. Thus, in final evaluation, CRA recommends the proposed project will result in a No Historic Properties Affected determination.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

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## Bibliography

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