

# Cultural Resources Survey of the Westinghouse Electric Company's Columbia Fuel Fabrication Facility

Richland County, South Carolina

Final Report

April 2022

**Prepared for:**

Westinghouse Electric Company, LLC  
Columbia, SC

**Prepared by:**

Larry James, RPA #988323  
Field Director/Archaeologist

Lannie E. Kittrell, MHP  
Architectural Historian

and

David Baluha, RPA #17120  
Geophysical Specialist

Under the direction of



Eric C. Poplin, Ph.D., RPA #12994  
Principal Investigator

**Brockington and Associates, Inc.**

Atlanta • Charleston • Savannah

## Abstract

Brockington conducted a cultural resources survey of Westinghouse Electric Company, LLC's (WEC) Columbia Fuel Fabrication Facility (CFFF) near Hopkins in Richland County, South Carolina, July-November 2021. WEC sponsored the survey to determine if there are any historic properties (sites, buildings, structures, objects, districts, etc. that are listed on or eligible for the National Register of Historic Places [NRHP]) within the CFFF that could be affected by the operation of the facility.

The cultural resources survey of the CFFF included background research; archaeological, architectural, and geophysical field investigations; and the assessment of the NRHP eligibility of identified resources. Background research involved reviewing the nearby listings of the NRHP-eligible properties and creating a historic context for the CFFF using historic map and land records to determine if any identifiable settlements or facilities lie within or near the CFFF. Archaeological investigations were guided by a research design (Poplin 2021) that presented a model categorizing areas of site potential within accessible portions of the 1,151-acre property. An architectural survey included a review of the project area and the plant itself to identify all aboveground resources 45 years of age or older. Lastly, Brockington conducted a geophysical survey of the Denley Cemetery (SHPO Site No. 8119/38RD1518) that included Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR), detailed mapping, and collection of inscriptions and information concerning all markers.

During the survey, five archaeological sites (38RD1512-38RD1516), three farm-related sites (a cattle facility- SHPO Site No. 8120, a Butler building - SHPO Site No. 8690, and a former tractor shed - SHPO Site No. 8691), the Denley Cemetery (SHPO Site No. 8119/38RD1518), and the CFFF facility (SHPO Site No. 8689) were recorded. Additionally, an unnamed canal and dike (SHPO Site No. 3577) was re-assessed. Brockington recommends 38RD1512-38RD1516, SHPO Site No. 8119 /38RD1518 (Denley Cemetery), and SHPO Site Nos. 3577, 8120, and 8689-8691 not eligible for the NRHP. With the exception of the Denley Cemetery (SHPO Site No. 8119 /38RD1518), these resources warrant no further management consideration. South Carolina statutes protect cemeteries from

desecration and offer descendants opportunities to visit burying grounds with appropriate coordination with the property owner.

## Acknowledgments

The authors would like to thank Ray Bates and Nancy Parr at Westinghouse for their assistance during this project. Christopher Judge (USC Lancaster) provided valuable background information concerning cultural resources near the CFFF. Charles Philips conducted the background research for the project. The archaeological field crew included Scott Kitchens, Jimmy Lefebvre, Kieya Kelly, and Rebecca Stewart under the direction of Larry James. Tess Kaiser assisted Dave Baluha during the geophysical survey of the Denley Cemetery. Jeff Sherard and Grant Sherwood conducted the artifact processing and analysis. Leigh Koszarsky prepared the graphics for this document. Eric Poplin provided editorial and management assistance. Meagan Brady and Whitney Gray produced the report.

# 1.0 Introduction

In July-November 2021, Brockington and Associates (Brockington) conducted a cultural resources survey of the Columbia Fuel Fabrication Facility (CFFF) near Hopkins in Richland County, South Carolina. The CFFF is owned and operated by Westinghouse Electric Company, LLC (WEC). Currently, the US Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) is completing an environmental impact statement (EIS) for the relicensing of the facility. This federal undertaking requires compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (as amended) and its implementation under 36 CFR 800 to determine if there are historic properties (cultural resources that are or may be eligible for the National Register of Historic Places [NRHP]) within the CFFF that may be affected by the continued operation of the CFFF under its NRC-issued license. Figure 1.1 displays the location of the CFFF and nearby cultural resources on the US Geological Survey (USGS) 1972 *Fort Jackson South, SC* and *Sailors Lake, SC* quadrangles.

The CFFF occupies approximately 1,151 acres in three separate TMS parcels in lower Richland County (R18600-01-01, R18600-01-02, and R15600-01-01). The majority of the CFFF (TMS Parcels R18600-01-01 and R18600-01-02) fronts on Bluff Road with the northeastern portion on uplands above the Congaree River flood plain adjacent to Mill Creek, a major tributary of the river. The southwestern portion lies in the flood plain with Mill Creek meandering through the facility lands. A small parcel (TMS R15600-01-01) lies on the bank of the Congaree River to the southwest. Private undeveloped lands bound the property to the east and west. Figure 1.2 presents a view of the CFFF on a modern aerial.

The cultural resources survey of the CFFF included background research; archaeological, architectural, and geophysical field investigations; and the assessment of the NRHP eligibility of identified resources. Background research involved reviewing the listings of nearby NRHP-eligible properties and other cultural resources and creating a historic context for the CFFF using historic map and land records to determine if any identifiable former settlements or facilities lie within or near the CFFF. Archaeological investigations were guided by a research

design (Poplin 2021) that presented a model categorizing areas of site potential within the accessible portions of the 1,151-acre property. Architectural survey examined the CFFF and associated buildings and structures. Lastly, documentation of the Denley Cemetery (SHPO Site No. 8119/38RD1518) was accomplished using Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR), detailed mapping, and collection of inscriptions and information concerning all markers. The survey examined only property owned by WEC.

During the survey, five archaeological sites (38RD1512-38RD1516), three farm-related sites (a cattle facility- SHPO Site No. 8120, a Butler building - SHPO Site No. 8690, and a former tractor shed - SHPO Site No. 8691), the Denley Cemetery (SHPO Site No. 8119/38RD1518), and the CFFF facility (SHPO Site No. 8689) were recorded. Additionally, an unnamed canal and dike (SHPO Site No. 3577) was re-assessed. Table 1.1 presents a summary of the identified cultural resources on the CFFF.

This technical report contains five chapters (Chapters 1-5) and four appendices (Appendices A-D). Chapter 2 presents the methods of investigation. Chapter 3 describes the environmental and cultural setting. Chapter 4 provides the results of the field investigations. Chapter 5 contains the management recommendations and summary. The three appendices are A (Artifact Catalog), B (SC Statewide Survey cards), and C (SHPO Correspondence). Results of the geophysical investigation and documentation of the Denley Cemetery appear in Appendix D.

**Remaining Pages are Protected**