

NOTIFICATION

Initiation of Section 106 Process for

GDOT Project CSSTP-0007-00(680), DeKalb County

P.I. # 0007680

December 13, 2005

The Georgia Department of Transportation is in the beginning stages of project development for this proposed transportation project. In compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, the Department has determined that because of the nature and the scope of this undertaking, the proposed project has the potential to cause effects to historic properties if any such properties exist in the project area. The Department is attempting to identify historic properties already listed in the National Register of Historic Places and any properties not already listed that would be considered eligible for listing that are located within the geographic area of potential effects (APE) of the proposed project.

The proposed project would consist of the construction of five-foot sidewalks and ADA wheelchair ramps along both sides of Covington Highway from Margarett Drive to Panola Road in DeKalb County, Georgia (see Figure1). The existing roadway has four 12-foot travel lanes with a flush center turn lane and eight-foot urban shoulders including curb and gutter. The proposed typical section includes upgrading the existing eight-foot shoulder to a twelve-foot wide shoulder including a two-foot stamped concrete strip and five-foot sidewalk on both sides. Drainage improvements would also be constructed as necessary. The newly constructed sidewalks would provide the continuous ADA path and the existing curb and gutter would be maintained. The total length of the proposed project along Covington Highway is approximately 4.41 miles.

Because of the nature and scope of the undertaking, the APE is limited to the proposed right-of-way of the proposed project, within which all construction and ground disturbing activity would be confined, and includes all properties within the project view shed (refer to attached location map). No potential for indirect effects is anticipated by implementation of the proposed project.

Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act requires the Federal Highway Administration and the Georgia Department of Transportation, in consultation with the Georgia State Historic Preservation Officer, to identify potential consulting parties and to invite them to participate in the Section 106 process. This Notification letter is one of several methods the Department uses to encourage public participation in this process and it serves as your invitation to participate as a consulting party in the Section 106 process for this project.

A written request to become a consulting party for cultural resources for this project should be directed to:

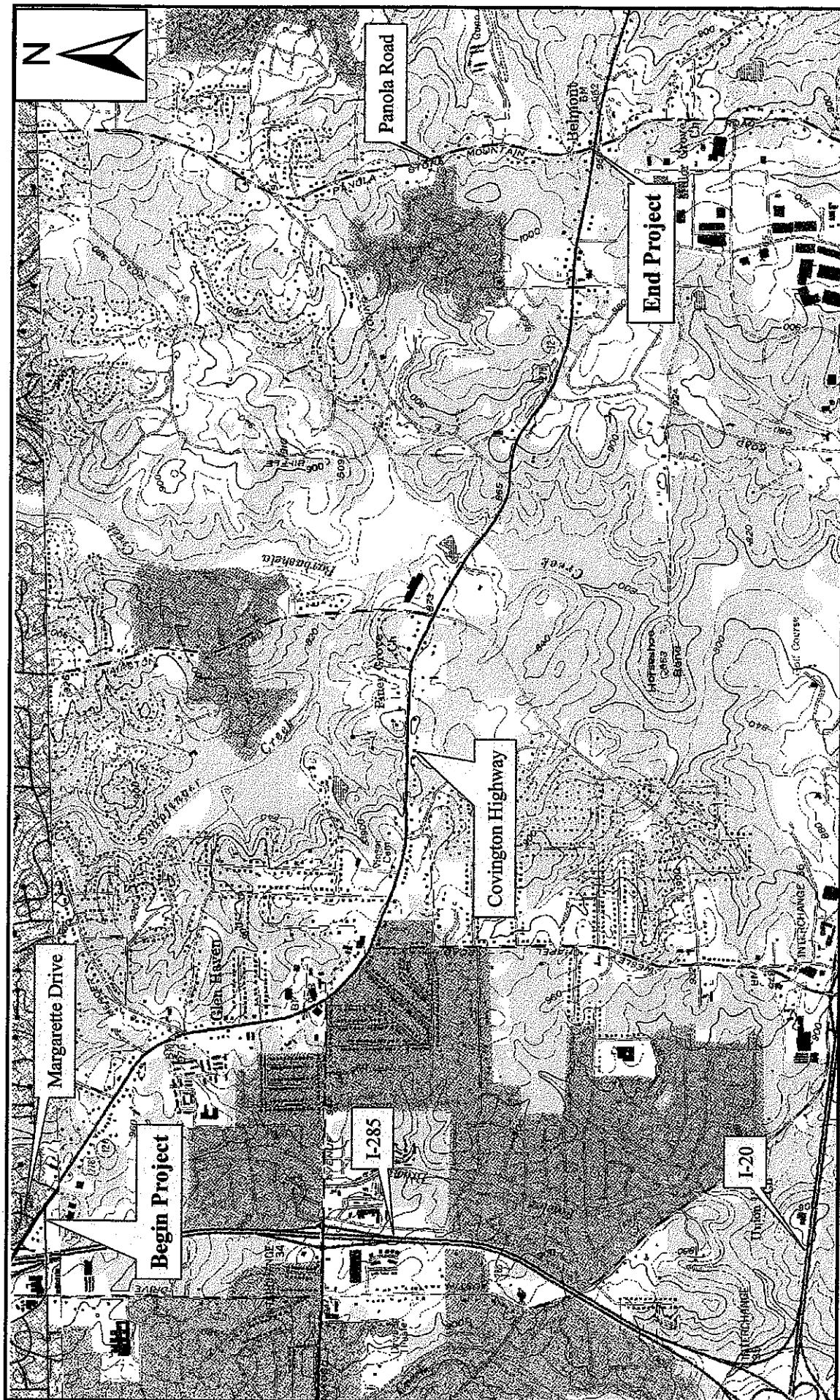


Figure 1

Project Location

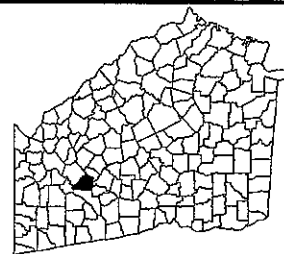
GDOT Project CSSTP-0007-00(680), DeKalb County

P.L. No. 0007680

Covington Highway/US 278/SR 12 Sidewalks
from Margarette Drive to Panola Road - Phase 2

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

0 1,250 2,500 Feet





Edwards-Pitman Environmental, Inc.
1250 Winchester Parkway
Suite 200
Smyrna, Georgia 30080

Attn: Leslie H. Brown

Responses would be appreciated within thirty (30) days of receipt of this Notification letter. Please refer to the project identification number (**P.I. 0007680**) in your response. The potential consulting parties identified and invited to participate in the Section 106 process for this project are the Atlanta Regional Commission, the Georgia SHPO, the DeKalb County Historic Preservation Commission, and the DeKalb County Board of Commissioners. If you are aware of other organizations or individuals interested in cultural resources in the project area not already identified, please forward their names to the Department.

Also, on behalf of the Federal Highway Administration Georgia Division (FHWA), in keeping with a government-to-government relationship and in compliance with 36CFR800, the following tribal governments are invited to participate in the Section 106 process for this project: Chickasaw Nation, Muscogee (Creek) Nation, Poarch Band of Creek Indians, Seminole Nation of Florida, Thlopthlocco Tribal Town, and the United Keetoowah Band of Indians. Responses to this Notification regarding tribal concerns should be addressed to the attention of Mr. Eric Duff, the Department's Native American liaison, at the above address.

Existing information on previously identified historic properties has been checked to determine if any are located within the APE of this undertaking. This review of existing information revealed that no properties listed in or nominated for listing in the National Register, no National Historic Landmarks and no bridges determined eligible for inclusion in the National Register in the updated Georgia Historic Bridge Survey (GHBS) are located within the proposed project's APE. Five properties 50 years old or older were identified within the proposed project's APE in the 1997 (ongoing) Georgia Department of Natural Resources (GADNR) DeKalb County survey. These survey sites are 18944, 18954, 18956, 18957, and 19026.

Because a Georgia Department of Natural Resources (GADNR) DeKalb County survey is ongoing, the proposed project will be field surveyed for both historic properties and archaeological sites. The Criteria of Eligibility will be applied to any identified properties in consultation with the GASHPO and other consulting parties to determine if any of those properties are eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places.

Consulting parties are also invited to provide information concerning any historic or archaeological properties already listed in the National Register or that could be eligible for listing in the National Register that are not identified in this Notification letter. In accordance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, the Department will assess project effects to any identified historic properties as preliminary project plans become available, endeavor to minimize harm to all identified historic properties and produce an Assessment of



Effects report. This document will be provided to all consulting parties for comment when completed.

Individuals and organizations that do not wish to become a consulting party, but would still like to comment on the proposed project will also have that opportunity throughout the plan development process. Historic resource concerns can be addressed to Leslie Brown (770-333-9484 or lbrown@edwards-pitman.com) of Edwards-Pitman Environmental, Inc.; archaeological resource concerns, including cemetery and other human burials, can be addressed to Eric Anthony Duff (404-699-4437 or eric.duff@dot.state.ga.us) of the Department's Office of Environment/Location. Questions concerning general design or location issues may be addressed to Beth Ann Marks (770-263-9118 or BMarks@lpagroup.com).