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CH2MHILL

**DOCKET**
**09-AFC-10**
DATE JUL 16 2010
RECD. JUL 16 2010

July 16, 2010

Mr. John Kessler
Siting Project Manager
California Energy Commission
1516 Ninth Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

Subject: Rice Solar Energy Project (09-AFC-10)
Supplementary Information Items #7-11, Additional Information Regarding the Archaeological Features at Rice Army Airfield

Dear Mr. Kessler:

Attached please find one hardcopy of Rice Solar Energy, LLC's Supplementary Information Items #7-11, Additional Information Regarding the Archaeological Features at Rice Army Airfield for the Rice Solar Energy Project (09-AFC-10).

If you have any questions about this matter, please contact me at (916) 286-0278 or Sarah Madams at (916) 286-0249.

Sincerely,

CH2M HILL

Douglas M. Davy, Ph.D.
AFC Project Manager

cc: POS List
Project File

# Rice Solar Energy Project

## CEC Docket #09-AFC-10

| | |
|---|---|
| SUBMITTED TO: | California Energy Commission |
| SUBMITTED BY: | Rice Solar Energy, LLC |
| WITH TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE | CH2M HILL |
| DATE: | July 16, 2010 |
| TOPIC: | Supplementary Information Items #7-11, Additional Information Regarding the Archaeological Features at Rice Army Airfield |

The attached information is provided as Supplementary Information Items (SII) #7-11 and is submitted in support of RSE's Application for Certification (AFC) for the Rice Solar Energy Project (RSEP) (09-AFC-10). This information is in response to 5 topics of interest to the CEC Staff regarding the Rice Army Airfield.

### Features Associations

*SII-7 Determination of associations between the concrete foundation features and the pits/ trenches/dumps/refuse scatters.*

**Information**: All of the refuse scatters and artifacts fell within the tight 1942-1944 range of the Army occupation of the airfield and were very homogenous in materials. Thus, identifying temporal relationships between specific concrete features and specific refuse features is not feasible. Some of the pits and other features appear to be spatially associated with concrete features and can be associated, but many of the pit and trench features appear to be related to general base infrastructure (roads and taxiways) and not tied to any one concrete foundation. Likewise, the dumps and refuse scatters seem to be more associated with infrastructure or are isolated dumping episodes and not directly associated with any concrete foundation. Many of the refuse dumps are in isolated areas away from locations of the former camp and administration buildings.

### Rock and Wood-lined Pits

*SII-8 Probing and/or conducting limited testing of the rock and wood-lined pits & trenches to determine presence of subsurface artifacts;*

**Information**: The rock- and wood-lined pits and trenches appear to be related to drainage or sewer systems. For example, the wood-line pits all appear to be connected to underground drainage systems. It is likely that the rock-lined pits were used for gray-water disposal and percolation in or near the tent camp areas.

Based on field inventory and conditions, further probing or testing of features would be unlikely to yield subsurface artifacts. The rock-lined pits contained very large rocks and were very large in size. Removing the rocks to the extent that it would be feasible to determine whether or not the pits were established on top of refuse deposits would be a

very large undertaking, probably requiring mechanized equipment and would be unlikely to contain significant amounts or types of subsurface artifacts. Several of the wood-lined pits are significantly deeper than could be safely entered by personnel to see if refuse was deposited in them without using shoring or mechanized trenching that would also destroy the features.

Based on the evidence of looting on many of the trash piles, the artifact types and proportions that would be found in these features, if they are present, would be unlikely to be substantially different from what was recorded during surface surveys.

## Artifact Inventories

*SII-9* *Conduct artifact inventories for a 10-15% sample of the 98 artifact concentrations; Particular attention should be given to those concentrations associated with the concrete slabs/foundations features.*

**Information**: Attachment SII9-1 contains draft feature forms filled out for 23 percent (34) of 167 concentrations and features at Rice Army Airfield. This includes 4 of the 39 artifact concentrations at Rice Army Airfield (10 percent), with an emphasis on features within the RSEP heliostat circle. This is a good sampling of the features present on site. Only two of the concrete structures are represented, as photograph and information about these was provided previously in Supplemental Information Item #5. The feature forms contain information from field survey notes that was not previously included in the DPR-523 site form for Rice Army Airfield about artifact quantity and type.

## Artifact Date Range

*SII-10* *Determination of in-field historic artifact date ranges using a selected sample of artifacts from Rice AAF; particular attention should be given to any artifacts appearing to pre-date or post-date the World War II era.*

**Information**: Artifact date ranges were recorded during site recordation. Field personnel were aware of the earlier use of the area for an airfield for Rice, and the later private use of the airfield in the 1950s, and they looked for artifacts or features that may pre- or post-date the Rice Army Airfield. Artifacts found within the site were all from the Army use of the airfield between 1942 and 1944. Army c-ration cans and other military type items were found in every concentration and refuse scatter. Nothing was found that pre- or post-dates WWII other than contemporary cans (such as pull-top cans) that are probably associated with looters and that were found on occasion surrounding disturbed refuse pits.

## Feature Mapping

*SII-11* *Determination of areas covered by the features and artifact concentrations; mapping features and concentrations w/reference to GIS-generated polygons instead of point dots where necessary.*

**Information**: Every feature was recorded using a Trimble GeoXT GPS unit. All features were mapped as GIS polygons or lines, rather than as points, including concrete foundations, rock-lined pits, trenches, and rock piles. In many cases the features are so small that a point shows up on a map better than a polygon to show relationships between features, especially for features smaller than 5 x 5 meters. Figure 1, attached, shows the locations of all of the Rice Army Airfield features and artifact concentrations.

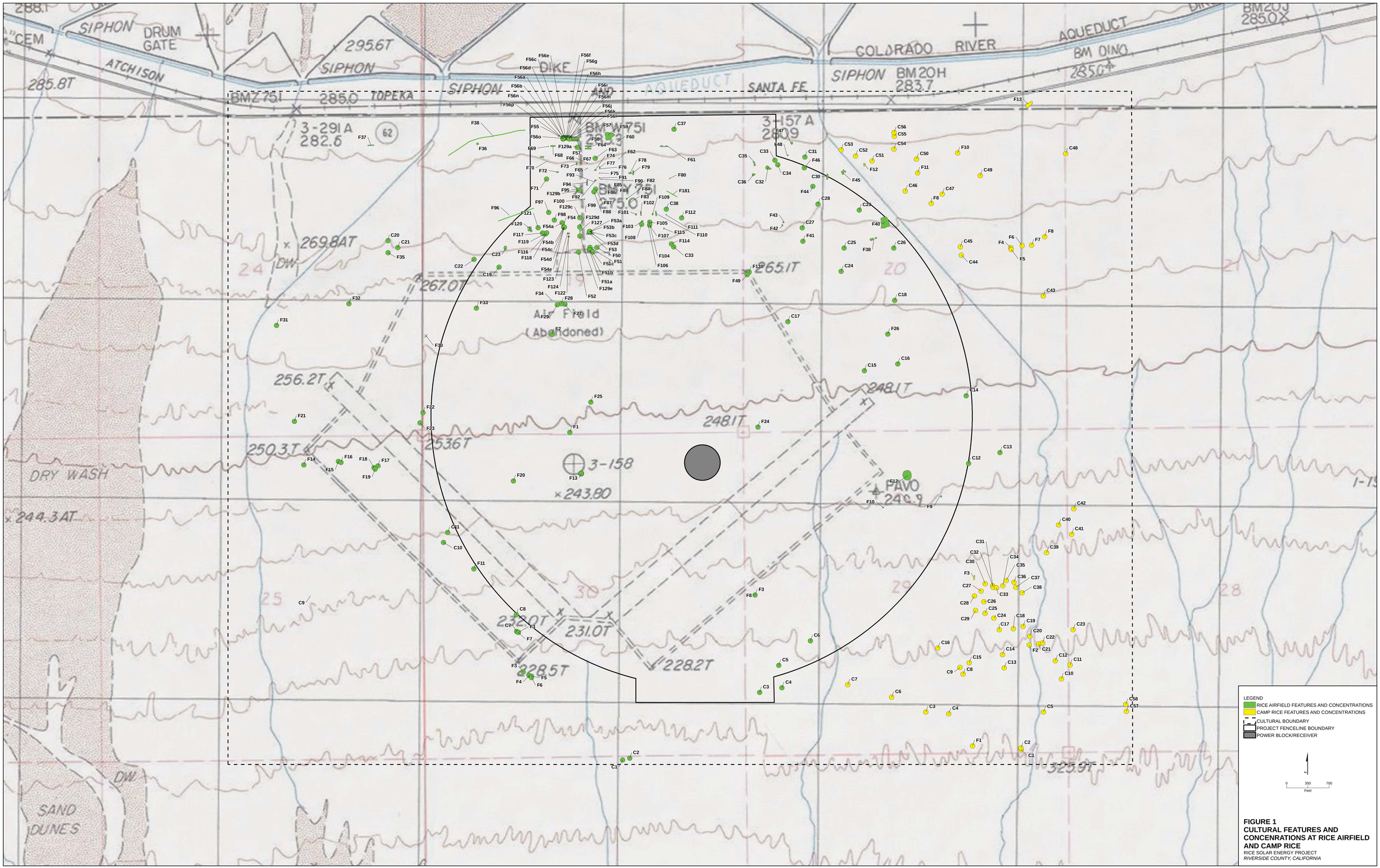


**FIGURE 1**
**CULTURAL FEATURES AND CONCENRATIONS AT RICE AIRFIELD AND CAMP RICE**
RICE SOLAR ENERGY PROJECT
*RIVERSIDE COUNTY, CALIFORNIA*

Attachment SII9-1

# Rice Army Airfield Feature Forms

**C-1 (Concentration 1)**

**Photo description:** Overview of C-1, view to the south. Photo #0478.

**Description of Artifact Concentration:** This concentration is a single-episode dump of approximately 40 cans or can lids with some associated metal strapping. No other class of artifacts was noted. The cans are all Army c-ration cans, which held foods (solids and liquids) of various types. The cans were manufactured using modern techniques with crimped double-end seams and locked-side seams. The cans are all found within an area covering no more than 8 feet in diameter. This concentration is located south of the airfield and away from any features.

**Date of Artifacts:** The presence of Army c-ration cans dates this scatter to 1942–1944.

**Potential for Sub-Surface Artifacts/Features:** The artifacts are partially buried under a sheet of sand and sediments, so there is a small potential for additional buried materials, but the number and types of materials would be very similar to the surface collection.

**Associations with Features:** None, this can scatter is located more than 1,700 feet south of the southern end of the runways and is not associated with any features.

**Interpretations:** This can concentration likely represents a single-episode can and debris dump by Army personnel during training exercises at either the Rice Army Airfield or Camp Rice.

**C-11 (Concentration 11)**

**Photo description:** Overview of C-11, view to the northeast. Photo #0551.

**Description of Artifact Concentration:** This concentration contains a large number of historic debris contained within a 5-meter diameter area. It appears to be in a possible large, shallow pit due to several low mounds of dirt nearby. It is unclear if the mounds of dirt are historic or if they represent looters pits looking for abandoned Army materials. Artifacts found within the pit include 10 round 5-gallon fuel cans, 2 square 5-gallon fuel cans, 2 55-gallon drums, 14 one-gallon paint cans, numerous #10 food cans, coffee cans, Army c-ration cans and beverage cans. The debris also includes sections of stove pipe, a galvanized bucket, a military ammunition box lid, ceramic insulator fragments, clear glass bottle and jar fragments, and ½" steel cable. The debris also includes aluminum pull top beer cans. This concentration is located beside the western runway, between the runway and the taxiway.

**Date of Artifacts:** The presence of Army c-ration cans indicate a date of this concentration of 1942–1944.

**Potential for Sub-Surface Artifacts/Features:** The cans in this concentration are partially buried under a sheet of sand and sediments. The remains the potential for further buried cultural materials, but it is unlikely the number or types of buried materials would differ substantially from that noted on the surface.

**Associations with Features:** This concentration is associated with the western runway.

**Interpretations:** The presence of modern aluminum, pull top beer cans and the back dirt piles around the concentration indicate that this area has been disturbed by looters in the modern era. The concentration appears to be a small dump of Army related materials from the operation of the airfield.

**C-21 (Concentration 21)**

**Photo description:** Overview of C-21, view to the west. Photo #0615.

**Description of Artifact Concentration:** This concentration is located in an area of braided washes on the west side of the Airfield. The concentration is partially buried from erosional processes. The concentration contains approximately 20 cans and some clear glass jar fragments in a 20' diameter area. The cans include hole-in-top, matchstick filler soldered condensed milk cans, Army c-ration food cans, an external friction can lid. The clear glass includes jar fragments and a bottle finish.

**Date of Artifacts:** The presence of Army c-ration cans indicate a date of this concentration of 1942–1944.

**Potential for Sub-Surface Artifacts/Features:** The cans in this concentration are partially buried under a sheet of sand and sediments. The remains the potential for further buried cultural materials, but it is unlikely the number or types of buried materials would differ substantially from that noted on the surface.

**Associations with Features:** This concentration is not associated with any other concentrations or features.

**Interpretations:** This concentration likely represents a single episode debris dump by Army personnel from either Camp Rice or the Rice Army Airfield during training operations.

**C-31 (Concentration 31)**

**Photo description:** Overview of C-31, view to the southwest. Photo #0663.

**Description of Artifact Concentration:** This concentration is located in an area of braided washes on the east side of the Airfield, between the Airfield and Camp Rice in an area where the flood flow has broken through the protective barrier. The concentration is partially buried from erosional processes. The concentration contains approximately 80 cans and some clear glass fragments in a 15' diameter area. The artifacts include 4 hole-in-top, matchstick filler soldered condensed milk cans, 30 Army c-ration food cans, 12 #10 food cans, 2 coffee cans, external friction can lids, numerous rusted and crushed cans that could not be identified, and clear glass jar fragments.

**Date of Artifacts:** The presence of Army c-ration cans indicate a date of this concentration of 1942–1944.

**Potential for Sub-Surface Artifacts/Features:** The cans in this concentration are partially buried under a sheet of sand and sediments. The remains have the potential for further buried cultural materials, but it is unlikely the number or types of buried materials would differ substantially from that noted on the surface.

**Associations with Features:** This concentration is not associated with any other concentrations or features.

**Interpretations:** This concentration likely represents a single-episode debris dump by Army personnel from either Camp Rice or the Rice Army Airfield during training operations. The area between Camp Rice and the Rice Army Airfield appears to be the preferred area for dumping debris, but it is not possible to identify which installation the material originated from, nor tie this concentration of artifact to any surrounding feature.

*Recorded by: A. Fergusson, CH2M HILL *Date: 9/16/09 ☒ Continuation ☐ Update

**F-1 (Feature 1)**

**Photo description:** View north of feature. Abutment is in forground. Photo #0484.

**Description of Feature:** This feature consists of a capped well casing, an adjacent 6”x12” buried wooden abutment, and an excavated area and backdirt pile. The excavation took place in the modern era, likely by looters looking for buried WWII Army artifacts. Associated artifacts include modern cans and glass, with undateable steel cable, steel bands, and lumber fragments. It is unclear whether or not this well casing and abutment date to WWII, there is not enough datable artifacts to clearly date or associate this with the Rice Army Airfield.

**Date of Feature:** Undetermined, there are no diagnostic artifacts or features.

**Potential for Sub-Surface Artifacts/Features:** There are likely no remaining intact subsurface artifacts or features due to the apparently recent excavation of the area.

**Associations:** This feature does not seem to be associated with any of the other features recorded during this effort. The feature is at least 600 feet from any other known artifact or feature. It is located near the dirt road that runs N/S through the middle of the airfield, and this is located very near the center of the airfield area.

**Interpretations:** This is a capped well casing and excavated area with a partially buried wooden abutment. The excavated area was likely dug in the modern era due to the presence of modern debris and hard edges in the dirt, likely the result of looters. This feature cannot be dated or associated with any other feature of the Airfield due to the lack of diagnostic materials.

**F-2 (Feature 2)**

**Photo description:** View southwest of feature. Potential arrow is in forground. Photo #0485.

**Description of Feature:** This feature consists of a large stone "X" that likely served as an aerial marker to indicate the runway is closed and not available for aircraft landing. It measures 12 meters across, made from single course of locally obtained basalt rocks. NE end has an arrow point. The feature is oriented NE/SW and NW/SE and is not located on one of the two major runways but on one of the smaller east/west taxiways. A single-hinged lid tobacco tin (Prince Albert) was found in the area. It is likely this was constructed well after WWII and would be associated with the 1950s private operation of the airfield since this was the last known use of the airfield. A similar stone feature is located on the western end of the same taxiway (F30).

**Date of Feature:** Undetermined, but almost certainly post dates the Army occupation of the airfield, and likely even post-dates the 1950s private use of the airfield due to the location on the taxiway which would have been used during WWII and was likely used during later uses of the taxiway.

**Potential for Sub-Surface Artifacts/Features:** There is likely no remaining intact subsurface artifacts or features due to the location on one of the oiled or paved taxiways. There is a light sheet of sand or sediments covering the taxiway, but the potential for datable artifacts or buried cultural material is almost non-existent.

**Associations:** This feature does not seem to be associated with any of the other features recorded during this effort. The feature is located on the southern-most taxiway that runs east/west near the northern portion of the airfield.

**Interpretations:** This feature is most likely an aerial marker indicating that the runway/airfield is closed to landings due to the location on the southernmost taxiway and the size. The marker was likely installed after the 1950s private use of the airfield, but the exact date is unknown. It most certainly was not there during the Army use of the airfield in WWII.

**F-3 (Feature 3)**

**Photo description:** View west of Feature 3, small mound of stones. Photo 0493.

**Description of Feature:** This feature consists of a small pile of baseball sized rocks measuring 60 cm x 210 cm. There are a few larger rocks in proximity, but this pile of rocks is clearly man-made. The only artifact found in association was a Coca-Cola bottle. The function of these rock piles is unknown, but the rocks this size are not naturally occurring in this area. The rocks must have been carried in from naturally occurring basalt fields to the west (within 0.25 mile). The feature is located just south of the western taxiway, but not directly associated with any of the runways, taxiways, or parking aprons.

**Date of Feature:** The date of this feature is unknown, but the presence of the Coca-Cola bottle in association with it may indicate a date of 1942-1944 – during the Army occupation of the airfield.

**Potential for Sub-Surface Artifacts/Features:** The rocks have been partially buried under a shallow sheet of sand and sediments, but it is unlikely that there would be any subsurface artifacts or features.

**Associations:** This rock pile is similar to several others found in the general vicinity. Features F4, F5, and F6 are located approximately 125 feet to the east.

**Interpretations:** This feature is a rock pile of unknown function and not in direct association with any of the major airfield features known.

**F-4 (Feature 4)**

**Photo description:** View south of Feature 4, small mound of stones. Photo #0494.

**Description of Feature:** This feature consists of a small teardrop shaped rock pile of baseball-sized rocks measuring 2 m x 3.5 m. The function of these rock piles is unknown, but the rocks this size are not naturally occurring in this area. The rocks must have been carried in from naturally occurring basalt fields to the west (within 0.25 mile). The feature is located just south of the western taxiway, but not directly associated with any of the runways, taxiways, or parking aprons.

**Date of Feature:** The date of this feature is unknown.

**Potential for Sub-Surface Artifacts/Features:** The rocks have been partially buried under a shallow sheet of sand and sediments, but it is unlikely that there would be any subsurface artifacts or features.

**Associations:** This rock pile is similar to several others found in the general vicinity. Feature F3 is located approximately 125 feet to the west and F5 and F6 are within 45 feet.

**Interpretations:** This feature is a rock pile of unknown function and not in direct association with any of the major airfield features known.

**F-5 (Feature 5) and F-6 (Feature 6)**

**Photo description:** View south of Features 5 and 6, small mounds of stones. Photo #0495.

**Description of Feature:** These two feature are located in such close proximity (25 feet apart) and are so similar that they are both discussed on this one form. F5 consists of a small rock pile of baseball-sized rocks measuring 2 m x 1.5 m. F-6 consists of a small rock pile of baseball-sized rocks measuring 2.5 m x 1.6 m. Both are approximately 40 cm high. The function of these rock piles is unknown, but rocks of this size are not naturally occurring in this location. The rocks must have been carried in from naturally occurring basalt fields to the west (within 0.25 mile). These features are located just south of the western taxiway, but not directly associated with any of the runways, taxiways, or parking aprons.

**Date of Feature:** The date of these features is unknown.

**Potential for Sub-Surface Artifacts/Features:** The rocks have been partially buried under a shallow sheet of sand and sediments, but it is unlikely that there would be any subsurface artifacts or features.

**Associations:** These rock piles are similar to several others found in the general vicinity. Feature F3 is located approximately 125 feet to the west and F4 is within 45 feet.

**Interpretations:** These features are rock piles of unknown function and not in direct association with any of the major airfield features known.

*Recorded by: A. Fergusson, CH2M HILL *Date: 9/16/09 ☒ Continuation ☐ Update

**F-7 (Feature 7)**

**Photo description:** View north of Feature 7, small mound of stones. Photo 0527.

**Description of Feature:** This feature consists of a small rock pile of baseball- to softball-sized rocks measuring 2 m x 3 m x .45 m high. The function of these rock piles is unknown, but rocks of this size are not naturally occurring in this location. The rocks must have been carried in from naturally occurring basalt fields to the west (within 0.25 mile). The feature is located just north of the southern end of the western taxiway between the taxiway and the runway, but not directly associated with any of the runways, taxiways, or parking aprons.

**Date of Feature:** The date of this feature is unknown.

**Potential for Sub-Surface Artifacts/Features:** The rocks have been partially buried under a shallow sheet of sand and sediments, but it is unlikely that there would be any subsurface artifacts or features.

**Associations:** This rock pile is similar to several others found in the general vicinity. Features F3, F4, F5 and F6 are within 700 feet to the south. A burned debris dump (C-36) is located 40 feet to the west, but there is no clear association between this feature and the burned debris as there are no artifacts around this feature.

**Interpretations:** This feature is a rock pile of unknown function and not in direct association with any of the major airfield features known.

*Recorded by: A. Fergusson, CH2M HILL *Date: 9/16/09 ☒ Continuation ☐ Update

**F-8 (Feature 8)**

**Photo description:** View to the north of Feature 8, emplacement. Photo #0530.

**Description of Feature:** This feature is defined as an emplacement measuring 12 meters x 14 meters with earthen embankments about 40 cm high. There is an opening or an entrance to the SE corner. Overall, the emplacement is approximately 1 meter deep. This emplacement is located within the parking aprons of the eastern runway/taxiway. There were no artifacts found in association with this feature.

**Date of Feature:** The date of this feature is unknown due to the lack of diagnostic artifacts, but it is assumed to be an emplacement which places the date between 1942 and 1944, during the Army occupation of the airfield.

**Potential for Sub-Surface Artifacts/Features:** There is a low probability of buried subsurface material in this emplacement. There were no surface artifacts found in the area, and while there is a possibility of finding small artifacts that may have been dropped and buried in the earthen floor of the feature, there is little potential for finding any features or artifacts that would substantially increase our knowledge of the airfield.

**Associations:** There are no artifacts or artifact concentrations in association with this feature. The feature is directly associated with the parking aprons of the airfield, and likely housed security personnel or even anti-aircraft weaponry to protect the airfield.

**Interpretations:** This feature has been interpreted as an emplacement, a semi-subterranean location to house Army security personnel and/or anti-aircraft weapons that would have served as security for the airfield.

*Recorded by: A. Fergusson, CH2M HILL *Date: 9/16/09 ☒ Continuation ☐ Update

**F-9 (Feature 9)**

**Photo description:** View to the east of Feature 9, emplacement. Photo #0546.

**Description of Feature:** This feature is an earthen pit or an emplacement measuring 8 meters x 8 meters with earthen berms approximately 30 cm high. There is an entrance break in the berms to the west. Overall pit is approximately 1 meter deep, but through infill and erosion, the sides are much shallower and the walls are smaller then they were. The feature is located east of the northern end of the eastern runway. There are no artifacts or artifact concentrations in association with this feature.

**Date of Feature:** The date of this feature is unknown due to the lack of diagnostic artifacts, but it is assumed to be an emplacement, which places the date between 1942 and 1944, during the Army occupation of the airfield.

**Potential for Sub-Surface Artifacts/Features:** There is a low probability of buried subsurface material in this emplacement. There were no surface artifacts found in the area, and while there is a possibility of finding small artifacts that may have been dropped and buried in the earthen floor of the feature, there is little potential for finding any features or artifacts that would substantially increase our knowledge of the airfield.

**Associations:** This feature is not associated with any artifacts or artifact concentrations. The feature is most directly associated with the end of the eastern runway, being located just east of the northern end of the runway and outside of the taxiways.

**Interpretations:** This feature has been interpreted as an emplacement, a semi-subterranean location to house Army security personnel and/or anti-aircraft weapons that would have served as security for the airfield.

**F-10 (Feature 10)**

**Photo description:** View east of Feature 10, pit with associated cans. Photo #0547.

**Description of Feature:** This feature is a small earthen pit measuring 5 x 5 meters and approximately 60 cm deep. Inside the pit is a 5-gallon paint bucket, and outside is a 1-gallon fuel can and a section of a fuel hose.

**Date of Feature:** The artifacts found around the feature are not by themselves diagnostic. However, these same fuel and paint cans have been found at other locations across the site in direct association with diagnostic materials that would date the cans to 1942 – 1944, the period of Army occupation of the airfield.

**Potential for Sub-Surface Artifacts/Features:** There is moderate potential for uncovering buried cultural matieral within this pit. The partially buried 5-gallon bucket within the pit indicate the active erosion filling in the pit. While the potential for buried deposits remains, the types of the deposits are likely to be similar to other deposits found around the site which consist of mainly WWII-era food ration cans and industrial type deposits expected in an airfield.

**Associations:** This pit is located between a couple of parking aprons, but in an undeveloped area outside of the taxiways and parking aprons. There are no other features or artifact scatters in direct association with this feature.

**Interpretations:** This feature is a relatively shallow earthen pit with a couple of cans in association. The function of the pit remains unknown, but it could have been used as a refuse dump for materials consumed near the parking aprons.

*Recorded by: A. Fergusson, CH2M HILL *Date: 9/16/09 ☒ Continuation ☐ Update

**F-11 (Feature 11)**

**Photo description:** Overview of Feature 11, view to the southwest. Photo #0549.

**Description of Feature:** This feature is a rock feature measuring 2.2 meters wide by 14 meters long. It is made of locally available basalt rocks aligned one course deep. It is located between the western runway and the taxiway. The function of this feature is unknown.

**Date of Feature:** There are no diagnostic artifacts near this feature, and it is not directly associated with any of the airfield features. The date of this feature is unknown.

**Potential for Sub-Surface Artifacts/Features:** There is a low potential for buried cultural material in this feature. There is a lack of any surface artifacts and the feature does not seem to be directly associated with any other feature or artifact in the area. The rocks are partially buried with Aeolian sands, but there remains a low potential for buried materials.

**Associations:** The feature does not appear to be directly related to any other features or artifacts.

**Interpretations:** The function of this feature remains unknown.

**F-12 (Feature 12)**

**Photo description:** Overview of Feature 12, view to the southeast. Photo #0553

**Description of Feature:** This feature is a large mound of dirt located off of the eastern taxiway. It is accessed off of the taxiway that leads to the northernmost parking apron on the eastern side of the airfield. The dirt mound is 6 meters high. It has been partially excavated in several locations, in two locations it appears that cuts have been made with heavy equipment. ATV trails cross over the mound in several locations. The mound is surrounded by modern debris and no historical debris or direct associations with other historical features.

**Date of Feature:** The exact date of this feature remains unknown.

**Potential for Sub-Surface Artifacts/Features:** Several attempts have been made to excavate into this mound, likely by amateurs or looters. There are no surfact artifacts or features indicating the age or association with the airfield. There remains a low likelyhood that this mound contains any significant buried cultural materials.

**Associations:** This feature is associated with the taxiways, being located just off of the northern end and access by a road from the taxiway.

**Interpretations:** This feature has been interpreted by some to be a firing butt for testing aircraft guns, but the exact nature and function of this mound remains unknown.

*Recorded by: A. Fergusson, CH2M HILL *Date: 9/16/09 ☒ Continuation ☐ Update

**F-13 (Feature 13)**

**Photo description:** Overview of Feature 13, view to the north. Photo #0557

**Description of Feature:** This features consists of a small concrete slab measuring 59" x 59" with four anchor bolts 10" high. The concrete slab is surrounded by a 30 meter diameter ring of basalt rocks making a large stone circle around the concrete. The feature is located very near the center of the airfield. The concrete likely supported an airfield feature, possibly a windsock or a flagpole. There are a few artifacts in the area including a few c-ration cans, some glass fragments, and some small segments of 1" x 6" lumber.

**Date of Feature:** The feature itself in not diagnostic, but the cans found in association indicate a date of 1942-1944.

**Potential for Sub-Surface Artifacts/Features:** There is a very low potential for buried cultural material in this location. There are few surface artifacts and this location was away from the main activity of the airfield.

**Associations:** This feature is located by itself near the center of the airfield and is not associated with anything other than the airfield as a whole.

**Interpretations:** This feature likely supported an airfield feature such as a windsock, siren, or flagpole. The ring of rocks may have served to make it more visible from the air, or to keep personnel out of the center.

**F-14 (Feature 14)**

**Photo description:** Overview of Feature 14, view to the north. Photo #0558

**Description of Feature:** This feature is a pit measuring 5 m x 5m with rocks lining the exterior surface of the pit. The pit is only 30 cm deep, and given the color and vegetation change in the soils, it may have originally been a little deeper. The pit is located near the northern parking aprons on the west side of the airfield. The area appears to have been used in multiple dumping episodes, likely from clearing the runways of rock. Associated artifacts include amber glass bottle fragments and a D-cell battery

**Date of Feature:** There were no diagnostic artifacts associated with the feature, but it very likely dates to 1942-1944.

**Potential for Sub-Surface Artifacts/Features:** There is a moderate potential for buried cultural materials in this feature. The pit has clearly had some infill from erosion. The potential for buried cultural materials that is substantially different from the materials gathered in other areas of the site is very low. The materials observed across the site remain remarkably homogeneous in date and variety.

**Associations:** The pit is not directly associated with any other feature but is located relatively close to some parking aprons.

**Interpretations:** The function of this pit remains unknown.

**F-15 (Feature 15)**

**Photo description:** Overview of Feature 15, view to the north. Photo #0559.

**Description of Feature:** This feature is an 8-meter-diameter debris dump pile/pit. The pit and banks are filled with burned debris including fragments of metal, glass, and cans. Also noted were batteries, fuses, aluminum aircraft parts, hinges, and an antenna. The pit is located between the western taxiway and runway, near the northern end.

**Date of Feature:** From the few identifiable cans noted, the debris likely dates to 1942 – 1944.

**Potential for Sub-Surface Artifacts/Features:** There is a high potential for buried cultural deposits in this feature. The buried deposits would likely be very similar in composition and age as the fragments noted on the surface. It is unknown how deep this pit may be, but the presence of obviously burned materials on the surface suggest the buried deposits would also be burned.

**Associations:** The pit is associated with the runways and the taxiway on the west side of the airfield, and it is located within 50 feet of Feature 16, another possible burned debris dump.

**Interpretations:** This feature was clearly a pit where refuse was dumped and then burned. The amount of burned metal and cans on the surface indicate that a decent amount of material was burned here. This pit was likely associated with the WWII Army occupation of the airfield.

**F-16 (Feature 16)**

**Photo description:** Overview of Feature 16, view to the north. Photo #0560.

**Description of Feature:** This feature is shallow pit with a 55 gallon-drum partially buried near the center. There is burned debris located around the edges along with steel cables and a Coca-Cola bottle. The pit is located between the western taxiway and runway, near the northern end.

**Date of Feature:** From the few identifiable cans noted, the debris likely dates to 1942–1944.

**Potential for Sub-Surface Artifacts/Features:** There is a high potential for buried cultural deposits in this feature. The buried deposits would likely be very similar in composition and age as the fragments noted on the surface. It is unknown how deep this pit may be, but the presence of obviously burned materials on the surface suggests that any buried deposits would also be burned.

**Associations:** The pit is associated with the runways and the taxiway on the west side of the airfield, and it is located within 50 feet of Feature 15, another possible burned debris dump.

**Interpretations:** This feature was clearly a pit where refuse was dumped and then burned. The amount of burned metal and cans on the surface indicate that a decent amount of material was burned here. This pit was likely associated with the WWII Army occupation of the airfield.

**F-17 (Feature 17)**

**Photo description:** Overview of Feature 17, view to the west. Photo #0564

**Description of Feature:** This feature is an earthen pit filled with burned debris. This pit is located just off of the western edge of the western runway. Artifacts noted in the pit include hole-in-top cans measuring 2 15/16" x 3 14/16", glass jars, miscellaneous metal fragments, and modern aluminum cans. The hole-in-top cans were manufactured between 1917 and 1929 according to the can measurements. The pit measures 1.5 m x 1.5 m and 30 cm deep.

**Date of Feature:** The hole-in-top cans were manufactured between 1917 and 1929, while the aluminum pull top cans were manufactured after 1964.

**Potential for Sub-Surface Artifacts/Features:** There is a low potential for buried cultural materials in this pit. The presence of later, almost modern era cans around the pit and the way the historic debris seems to be thrown up around the sides of the pit suggest that this put has been excavated by looters looking for abandoned Army debris. The degree of disturbance from the excavations have likely removed or destroyed any potential for intact cultural deposits.

**Associations:** The pit is located just off of the western runway and is closely associated with two other pits (F-18 and F-19) located 75 feet to the southwest.

**Interpretations:** This pit seems to represent a refuse pit from around WWII, however it also appears that the pit has been excavated and looted in the modern era.

**F-18 (Feature 18)**

**Photo description:** Overview of Feature 18, view to the east. Photo #0563.

**Description of Feature:** This feature is an earthen pit filled with burned debris. This pit is located just off of the western edge of the western runway. Artifacts noted in the pit include glass jars and bottles, miscellaneous metal fragments, and at least one c-cell battery. The pit measures 1.5 m x 1.5 m and nearly 1 m deep due to recent excavations that disturbed the deposits.

**Date of Feature:** The artifacts date the feature to WWII, or more specifically to 1942-1944.

**Potential for Sub-Surface Artifacts/Features:** There is a low potential for buried cultural materials in this pit. The presence of later, almost modern era cans around the pit and the way the historic debris seems to be thrown up around the sides of the pit suggest that this pit has been excavated by looters looking for abandoned Army debris. The degree of disturbance from the excavations have likely removed or destroyed any potential for intact cultural deposits.

**Associations:** The pit is located just off of the western runway and is closely associated with two other pits (F-17 and F-19).

**Interpretations:** This pit seems to represent a refuse pit from around WWII, however it also appears that the pit has been excavated and looted in the modern era.

**F-19 (Feature 19)**

**Photo description:** Overview of Feature 19, view to the east. Photo #0562.

**Description of Feature:** This feature is an earthen pit filled with burned debris. This pit is located just off of the western edge of the western runway. Artifacts noted in the pit include glass jars and bottles, miscellaneous metal fragments, and battery fragments. The pit measures 2.0 m x 1.5 m and nearly 1.0 m deep due to recent excavations that disturbed the deposits.

**Date of Feature:** The artifacts date the feature to WWII, or more specifically to 1942-1944.

**Potential for Sub-Surface Artifacts/Features:** There is a low potential for buried cultural materials in this pit. The presence of later, almost modern era cans around the pit and the way the historic debris seems to be thrown up around the sides of the pit suggest that this pit has been excavated by looters looking for abandoned Army debris. The degree of disturbance from the excavations have likely removed or destroyed any potential for intact cultural deposits.

**Associations:** The pit is located just off of the western runway and is closely associated with two other pits (F-17 and F-18).

**Interpretations:** This pit seems to represent a refuse pit from around WWII, however it also appears that the pit has been excavated and looted in the modern era.

**F-20 (Feature 20)**

**Photo description:** Overview of Feature 20, view to the west. Photo #0565.

**Description of Feature:** This feature is a stone alignment, or even a low wall measuring 2.4 m long 60 cm high, and 30 cm wide. It is made with a single course of stacked basalt rocks. It is located in between the two runways and is not associated with any other feature or artifact.

**Date of Feature:** The date is undetermined due to the lack of diagnostic artifacts or features.

**Potential for Sub-Surface Artifacts/Features:** Very low due to the lack of artifacts or subsurface type features in the area.

**Associations:** None

**Interpretations:** This feature is an isolated, small stone alignment lacking any association with any other feature or artifact. The purpose or function of this feature remains unknown.

**F-30 (Feature 30)**

**Photo description:** Overview of Feature 30, view to the south. Photo #603.

**Description of Feature:** This feature consists of a large stone "X" that likely served as an aerial marker to indicate the runway is closed and not available for aircraft landing. It measures 24 meters across, made from single course of locally obtained basalt rocks. NE end has an arrow point. The feature is oriented NE/SW and NW/SE and is not located on one of the two major runways but on one of the smaller east/west taxiways. It is likely this was constructed well after WWII and would be associated with the 1950s private operation of the airfield since this was the last known use of the airfield. A similar stone feature is located on the same taxiway (F2).

**Date of Feature:** Undetermined, but almost certainly post-dates the Army occupation of the airfield, and likely even post-dates the 1950s private use of the airfield due to the location on the taxiway which would have been used during WWII and later.

**Potential for Sub-Surface Artifacts/Features:** There is likely no remaining intact subsurface artifacts or features due to the location on one of the oiled or paved taxiways. There is a light sheet of sand or sediments covering the taxiway, but the potential for datable artifacts or buried cultural material is almost non-existent.

**Associations:** This feature does not seem to be associated with any of the other features recorded during this effort. The feature is located on the southern-most taxiway that runs east/west near the northern portion of the airfield.

**Interpretations:** This feature is most likely an aerial marker indicating that the runway/airfield is closed to landings due to the location on the taxiway and the size. The marker was likely installed after the 1950s private use of the airfield, but the exact date is unknown. It very likely was not present during the Army use of the airfield in WWII

*Recorded by: A. Fergusson, CH2M HILL *Date: 9/16/09 ☒ Continuation ☐ Update

**F-40 (Feature 40)**

**Photo description:** Overview of Feature 40, view to the west. Photo #639.

**Description of Feature:** This feature consists of an area containing at least 10 individual dump areas in a 40 m x 40 m area. Each of the individual dump areas contains burned debris and charcoal and the deposits are thrown up on the edges as if the area has been looted recently. Identifiable artifacts include burned fragments of metal, melted glass bottles and bottle fragments, lumber and wood fragments, and c-ration cans. The feature is located between the Rice Army Airfield and Camp Rice and is bisected by a road that connects the two former Army installations.

**Date of Feature:** The feature likely dates to 1942-1944 due to the presence of Army C-ration cans.

**Potential for Sub-Surface Artifacts/Features:** Many, if not all of the areas have been looted. There remains a moderate likelihood that there are intact subsurface deposits, however it is unlikely that any undisturbed deposits would contain anything not already inventoried on the surface.

**Associations:** This feature is most closely associated with the road that connects Camp Rice to the Rice Army Airfield.

**Interpretations:** This area was very likely a dump area. It is impossible to say which installation contributed to the dump, or if both Camp Rice and the Rice Army Airfield used this area as a dump. But the size of the feature and the extensive burning of the debris indicate the consistent use of this area to both dump regular refuse and burn the deposits. The area has also been heavily looted as evidenced by the numerous recently dug pits located throughout the feature.

**F-50 (Feature 50)**

**Photo description:** Overview of Feature 50, view to the northwest. Photo #684.

**Description of Feature:** This feature is a wood-lined septic pit. The pit measures 8' x 8' square and is approximately 15' deep. The pit is lined with 6" x 6" posts supporting 2" x 12" planks. Near the top is a 6" diameter pipe entering from both the east and th west. Asphalt shingle sheeting material can be seen near the top on some of the wood, possibly from a cover that once covered the pit. The woodwork is 2" below the modern ground surface, and the pit contains various modern debris including cans and a tire.

**Date of Feature:** This feature almost certainly dates to 1942-1944.

**Potential for Sub-Surface Artifacts/Features:** There is very little chance this pit contains buried deposits, it was a part of the septic system.

**Associations:** This pit is located just north of the large concrete apron and east of F-64.

**Interpretations:** This is a septic pit and served as part of the overall septic and drainage system for the Rice Army Airfield.

**F-60 (Feature 60)**

**Photo description:** Overview of Feature 60, view to the south. Photo #0711.

**Description of Feature:** This feature is a concrete foundation located just a few inches above ground level measuring 8' x 15' 10". The concrete contains numerous large bolts and nuts along with conduit. This was very likely the foundation for the generator that provided power to the airfield.

**Date of Feature:** This feature almost certainly dates to 1942-1944.

**Potential for Sub-Surface Artifacts/Features:** There is very little chance this foundation or the area around it contains buried deposits. There are no surface artifacts in this area and this was part of the industrial, heavy equipment portion of the base.

**Associations:** This foundation is located in the northeast portion of the camp/administration area of the Rice Army Airfield. It is most closely associated with the charcoal dump to the NW (F59). There are no other features or artifact scatters in this immediate area.

**Interpretations:** This foundation was very likely the generator foundation that supplied power to the base. It is located away from the rest of the buildings at the NE corner of the administrative area of the base, likely to have it close enough to be accessible, but away from the day to day operations.

**F-70 (Feature 70)**

**Photo description:** Overview of Feature 70, view to the east. Photo #0729.

**Description of Feature:** This feature is a concrete foundation located near the northwest corner of the administration area. The slab is built just a few inches above ground level and measures 20' x 60'x 3". The concrete foundation was poured in two steps. First a border our outside foundation wall was poured approximately 4" thick and set with numerous large anchor bolts. Then the rest of the floor was poured. The anchor bolts were attached to the building that once sat on this foundation.

**Date of Feature:** This feature almost certainly dates to 1942-1944.

**Potential for Sub-Surface Artifacts/Features:** There is very little chance this foundation or the area around it contains buried deposits. There are no surface artifacts in this area.

**Associations:** This foundation is located in the northwest portion of the administration area of the Rice Army Airfield. It is most closely associated with a 'loop' road that runs diagonally from the NW corner SE to connect back into the main road. There are no other features or artifact scatters in this immediate area, although other building foundations are in the general area.

**Interpretations:** This foundation once supported a building that was later torn down.

**F-80 (Feature 80)**

**Photo description:** Overview of Feature 80, view to the south. Photo #0740.

**Description of Feature:** This feature is a pit containing a debris scatter. This pit is either rock lined, or the rocks the surround the border of the pit were excavated from within the pit. The pit measures approximately 3 meters in diameter. The debris scatter contains burned trash remains including miscellaneous metal fragments, #10 tin cans, Army c-ration cans, a 55-gallon drum, and numerous fragments of green, amber, and clear glass, many of which were melted. The pit is located in the northeastern portion of the Rice Army Airfield.

**Date of Feature:** The artifacts in this pit indicate a date range concurrent with the Army occupation of this area between 1942 and 1944.

**Potential for Sub-Surface Artifacts/Features:** There is a high probability that this pit contains further cultural material. However, the burned nature of the debris on the surface indicates this was a trash pit that was frequently burned, so any buried cultural resources would be heavily burned and possibly disturbed from looting.

**Associations:** This feature is not associated with any other feature or artifact scatter.

**Interpretations:** This feature is a trash pit that was used to burn refuse.

**F-90 (Feature 90)**

**Photo description:** Overview of Feature 90, view to the east. Photo #0750.

**Description of Feature:** This feature is a rock alignment, possibly part of a trench. On the western end there is a column made from 1" x 10" lumber to make a 10" square column or box sticking up vertically from the alignment. The alignment measures 1.5 meters wide and is 5 meters long. The alignment is located in the northeastern quarter of the Rice Army Airfield camp/administrative area, near the remains of a north/south road.

**Date of Feature:** There are no diagnostic artifacts or features, but the location strongly suggests the feature is associated with the Army occupation of this area between 1942 and 1944.

**Potential for Sub-Surface Artifacts/Features:** There is a low probability that this alignment contains further cultural material. The alignment may be covering a buried pipe or other feature, but the rocks are more likely associated with the tradition of using rock to delineate areas around the airfield or as unit insignia.

**Associations:** This feature is located to the east of, and near what would have likely been the entrance to F-92.

**Interpretations:** This feature's function in not determined at this time.

**F-100 (Feature 100)**

**Photo description:** Overview of Feature 100, view to the north. Photo #0760.

**Description of Feature:** This feature is being interpreted as a sign base. It consists of two concrete features measuring 10' x 4' with an 18" gap or trough through the middle. It is very similar to F-99 except there are two of them. The exact function is unknown. The feature is located near the center of the camp/administration area, on the east side of the main road running north/south through the Rice Army Airfield.

**Date of Feature:** This feature almost certainly dates to the Army occupation of this area between 1942 and 1944.

**Potential for Sub-Surface Artifacts/Features:** There is a low probability that there are any subsurface deposits around this feature. The nature of the feature is unknown, but the concrete is substantial and no doubt was poured in place, leaving little chance of buried materials.

**Associations:** This feature is not associated with any other feature or artifact scatter, but is located near the center of the admin area.

**Interpretations:** This feature is being interpreted as a sign base, but the exact function is unknown at this time.

*Recorded by: A. Fergusson, CH2M HILL *Date: 9/16/09 ☒ Continuation ☐ Update

**F-110 (Feature 110)**

**Photo description:** Overview of Feature 110, view to the north. Photo #0770.

**Description of Feature:** This feature is a large, rock-lined or rock-covered pit. The feature measures 80' x 20' and the rocks are at ground level. The pit appears to be part of the overall septic or drainage system and F113 appears to connect to this feature. This feature is located near the eastern boundary of the southeastern quarter of the admin area of the airfield. There are no diagnostic artifacts in association with this feature, although a few non-diagnostic cans are in the rocks.

**Date of Feature:** This feature almost certainly dates to the Army occupation of this area between 1942 and 1944.

**Potential for Sub-Surface Artifacts/Features:** There is a low to moderate probability that there are any subsurface deposits in or around this feature. The nature of the feature is unknown, but the rocks are substantial enough and possibly deep enough, that this would not have been an area that would accumulate substantial subsurface deposits to help identify the feature or further contribute to the knowledge of life on the base.

**Associations:** This feature is associated with Feature 113 and appears to be part of the overall septic or drainage system.

**Interpretations:** The exact function is unknown at this time. The Phase I Environmental Site Assessment interprets these rock-lined pits as grey-water disposal percolation pits.

**F-120 (Feature 120)**

**Photo description:** Overview of Feature 120, view to the northeast. Photo #0785.

**Description of Feature:** This feature is a large rock alignment of pathways, delineated areas and rock-encircled vegetation. Overall, the rock alignments cover an area measuring 90' x 70'. There are no artifacts in this area. There is evidence of some disturbance from ATV use, but the rock alignments are largely intact. The alignment is located on the southwestern quarter of the admin area, just outside of the area of the most activity.

**Date of Feature:** This feature almost certainly dates to the Army occupation of this area between 1942 and 1944.

**Potential for Sub-Surface Artifacts/Features:** There is a low probability that there are any subsurface deposits in or around this feature. The nature of the feature is unknown, but the rock alignment area seems to be undisturbed desert terrain and does not appear to have been the location of any tents or other activities.

**Associations:** This feature is associated with F-117, but appears to be isolated and away from most base activities.

**Interpretations:** The exact function is unknown at this time.