ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE TESTING AND NATIONAL REGISTER ASSESSMENT OF 38BK2177 BERKELEY COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA

CHICORA RESEARCH CONTRIBUTION 497

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE TESTING AND NATIONAL REGISTER ASSESSMENT OF 38BK2177 BERKELEY COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA

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ABSTRACT

Site 38BK2177 was initially identified during Chicora Foundation's 2008 intensive archaeological survey of the Huggins Tract, located north of Thomas Island in Berkeley County, South Carolina. At the time, the survey site was assessed as potentially eligible. Recently, our client, Mr. John Avinger, requested that the site be further evaluated for its National Register eligibility.

The site was originally found when shovel testing produced prehistoric and historic (seemingly eighteenth to nineteenth century) artifacts. At the time, close interval testing was performed at 50-foot intervals and a brief look to find possible structures on historic maps was attempted.

The current archaeological testing consisted of shovel testing the site area, which measured approximately 400 feet north to south by 100 feet east to west, at 25-foot intervals. In addition, four 3-foot units were excavated – two toward the northern portion of the site and two toward the southern portion. The units were placed in areas of higher density of artifacts.

A more detailed title research was planned as part of this testing phase, however, once the archaeological testing was performed and a higher density of artifacts was collected and analyzed, we felt that the title research was not necessary.

What was originally identified as an eighteenth century and middle Woodland settlement, now appears to be a mid- nineteenth to early twentieth century and late Archaic to Mississippian scatter. What looked like colono ware during the original survey, once a larger collection became available, is now recognized as prehistoric, notably Pee Dee. The Pee Dee sherds were burnished in much the same manner as the historic colono ware.

The historic component of this site, which looks to be a possible tenant structure, did not produce the quantity or quality of remains needed to answer research questions about low-country tenancy. While some larger prehistoric sherds were found, this component of the site also failed to produce the density of remains to address significant research questions. In addition, all the prehistoric remains were found in the upper Ap horizon of soil, indicating significant disturbance through cultivation.

As a result, we recommend this site not eligible for the National Register of Historic Places and recommend no further management activities, pending the review and concurrence of the State Historic Preservation Office.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

LIST OF FIGURES

LIST OF TABLES

INTRODUCTION

Development of the Project

Archaeological site 38BK2177 was initially identified in February 2008 on the southern portion of what was known as the Huggins Tract, located in southern Berkeley County, north of Thomas Island (Figure 1). The site was situated about 1,700 feet east of Clements Ferry Road (S-33). The UTM coordinates, obtained at the north end of the site, were 600582E 3638691N (NAD27 datum). The site was found in a wooded area surrounded by marsh to the west, south, and east and wetland to the north. The soils at the site were described as the somewhat poorly drained Wahee loam, however actual soils appeared to be better drained. The elevation was about 5 feet AMSL.

The site was originally identified through subsurface shovel testing to be a Middle Woodland and eighteenth century scatter. Surface visibility precluded the collection of any surface artifacts, but shovel testing at 50-foot intervals produced 25 artifacts in 11 positive tests (31% positive).

Artifacts included a historic component of what appeared to be colono ware (small sherds

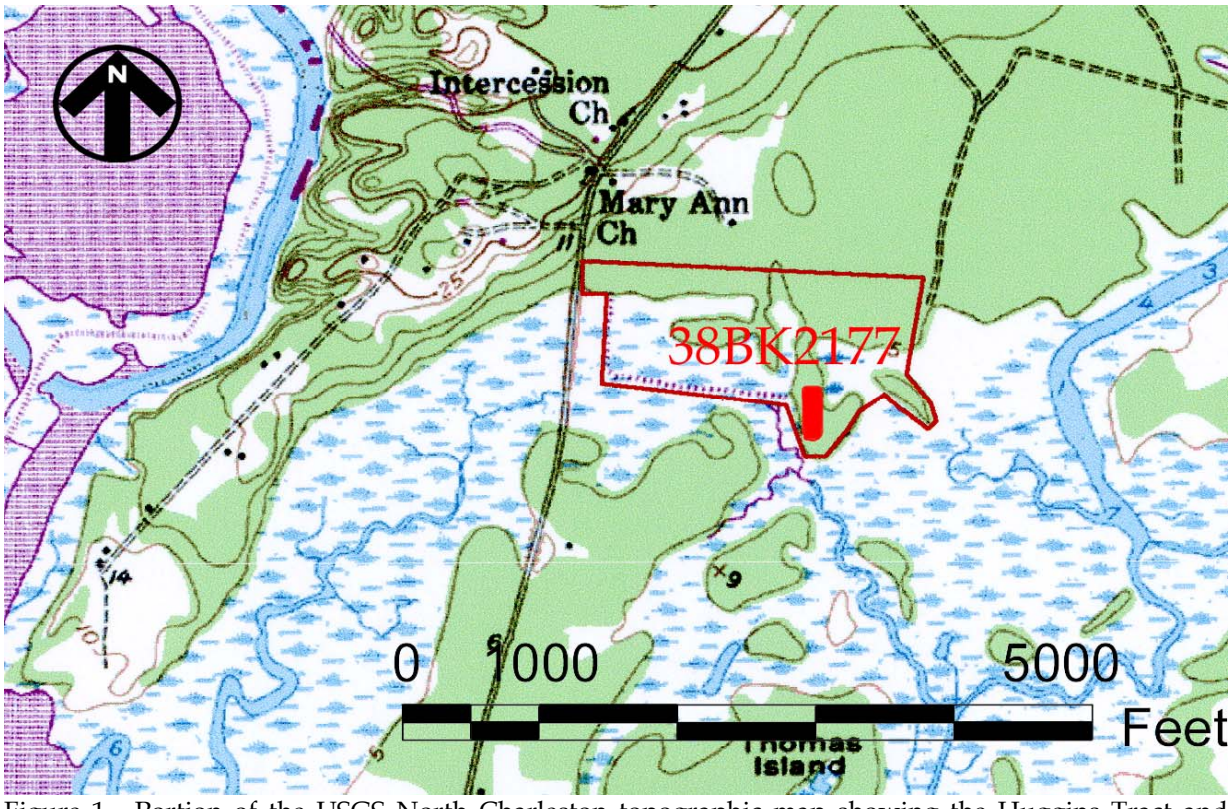

Figure 1. Portion of the USGS North Charleston topographic map showing the Huggins Tract and 38BK2177.

only), Albany stoneware, a hand wrought nail, window glass, and a pipe stem. The prehistoric assemblage was smaller and was identified as Deptford fabric impressed sherds. Shell was found in almost every test, however no distinct concentrations were found. Brick was found in only one test.

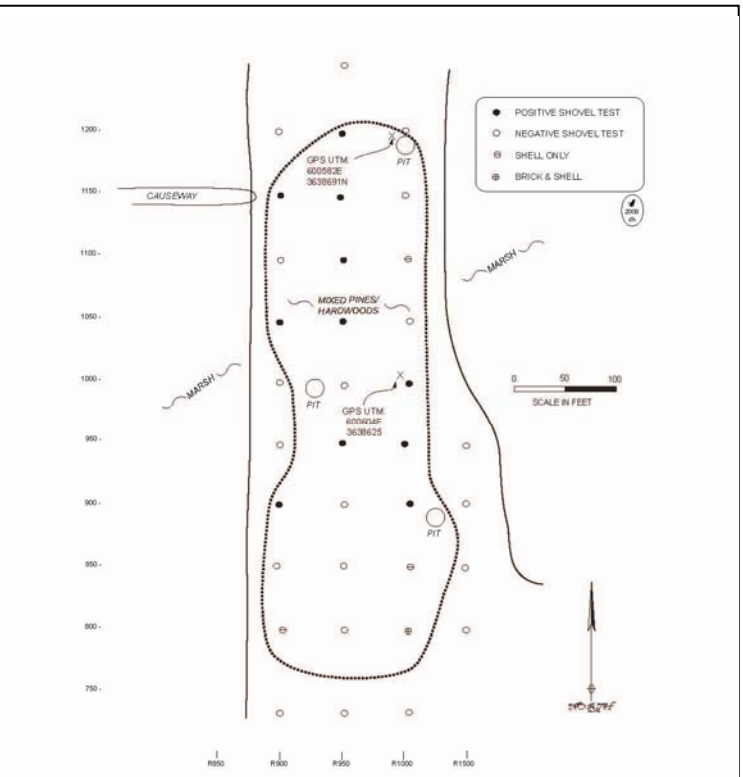

Figure 2. Sketch map of 38BK2177 as originally recorded.

Historic research was limited to historic maps in the collection at Chicora Foundation. These include the 1825 Mills' *Atlas*, the 1900-1962 *Map of Berkeley and Parts of Charleston and Dorchester Counties*, the 1929 map of *Charleston County, South Carolina with Portions of Adjacent Counties Showing State and County Roads*, and the 1951 *General Highway and Transportation Map of Berkeley County*. None of these maps showed any structures in the project area. The Kollack map failed to identify an owner for this area, suggesting either an absence of plats or the sale of plantation land in the postbellum to freedmen.

Although artifact density was sparse, several data sets were represented (Kitchen, Architecture, and Tobacco), which appeared to have the potential to provide information about early slave life on Daniel Island. As a result, 38BK2177 was recommended potentially eligible for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places. A letter dated April 8, 2008 from Ms. Frances Knight at the State Historic Preservation Office concurred that the eligibility was inconclusive.

In May 2008, the client, Mr. John Avinger, decided that the additional testing was necessary to resolve the eligibility issue of the site. Our proposal involved combining close interval testing at "25-foot intervals or closer," "small test units," and "a detailed title search" in order to obtain additional information (Trinkley and Southerland 2008). The field investigations were carried out from June 16-17, 2008. Laboratory processing was conducted at Chicora's laboratories from June 18-19. As previously mentioned, due to the lack of significant historic remains found in the field, we opted to not perform any addition title research on the property.

The Natural Setting

Physiography

Berkeley County is situated in the lower Atlantic Coastal Plain of South Carolina. Containing about 1,100 square miles, it is bordered by Georgetown County to the northeast, Charleston County to the southeast and southwest, Dorchester County to the west, Orangeburg County to the northwest, and Clarendon and Williamsburg counties to the north.

The topography of the county is

Figure 3. View of dense understory in the project area.

characterized by subtle undulations characteristic of beach ridge plains. The elevations range from sea level to approximately 105 feet above mean sea level (AMSL). The elevation in the project area ranges from about 5 to 10 feet AMSL.

Berkeley is drained by three significant river systems: the Santee, Wando, and Cooper rivers. The Santee has a large freshwater discharge and forms the northern boundary with neighboring Georgetown County. The Wando is a coastal river and is dominated by tidal action. The Cooper River, which flows through the center of the County, was also originally a tidal river, but has been modified by a large volume of fresh water diverted from the Santee through Lakes Marion and Moultrie. In addition, there are a number of broad, low gradient interior drainages that are present either as extensions of tidal streams or flooded bays and swales (Long 1980).

Geology and Soils

As previously mentioned, Berkeley County is made up of one broad physiographic area, often called the lower Atlantic Coastal Plain or the Atlantic Coast Flatwoods (Long 1980). The surface soils are almost entirely sedimentary and were transported into the area from other places. The geology of Berkeley County is characteristic of the region with sands, clays, gravels, and phosphates covering the surface dating to the

Figure 4. View of wet areas on the project tract.

Pleistocene (Long 1980).

A total of six soil series were found in the project area. Only a small section of the property to the northwest contains moderately well drained (Goldsboro) or somewhat excessively drained (Cainhoy) soils. The remainder of the tract has somewhat poorly drained (Lenoir and Wahee), poorly drained (Meggett) and very poorly drained (Capers Association) soils. The soils at site 38BK2177 resemble the Wahee Series.

The Wahee Series has an A horizon of very dark gray (10YR3/1) loam to a depth of 0.2 foot over a dark gray (10YR4/1) loam to 0.4 foot in depth. The subsoil is a light yellowish brown (10YR6/4) silty clay loam to 0.8 foot in depth.

Climate

Berkeley County has a subtropical climate, characterized by warm summers, mild winters, and adequate precipitation fairly evenly spread throughout the year. Except in the summer, when maritime tropical air controls the climate of the area, the daily weather patterns are controlled by west to east moving pressure systems and associated fronts.

Yearly precipitation averages 47 inches, but ranges from 39 to 55 inches (Long 1980). The growing season, from April to September, receives an average of 31 inches or about 66% of the yearly total. The average length of the freeze-free growing season is approximately 260 days, although frosts can occur as early as October 26 and as late as April 15 (Long 1980).

Mills remarked in 1826 that Carolina was similar to European climates, lying at a similar latitude. He noted that:

> in comparing the climate of South Carolina, with similar climates in Europe, we find it lying under the same atmospheric influences with Aix, Rochelle, Montpelier, Lyons, Bordeaux, and other parts of France; with Milan, Turin, Padua, Mantua, and other parts of Italy (Mills 1972[1826]).

The coastal region is a moderately high risk zone for tropical storms, with 169 hurricanes being documented from 1686 to 1972 (0.59 per year) (Mathews et al. 1980). One of the most devastating in the eighteenth century was the hurricane of September 15, 1752. One report listed 92 people drowned, although the death toll, especially among the African American slaves, was likely much higher. The storm also had considerable long-term effects. Calhoun notes:

> the destruction of trees was severe; one plantation owner's loss was assessed at $50,000 and many of those trees which survived were "heart-shaken," and unfit for use. Crops were even more damaged as the storm followed a severe drought. It was necessary to enact laws to regulate the exportation and sale of corn, "Peafe," and small rice, so that "the poor may be able to purchase Provisions at a moderate Price" (Calhoun 1983).

Floristics

Speaking of the coastal plain, Braun observed that:

> the vegetation of this region is in part warm temperate-subtropical, in part distinctively coastal plain, and in part temperate deciduous. It is made up of widely different forest communities – coniferous, mixed coniferous and hardwood, deciduous hardwood, and mixed deciduous and broad-leaved evergreen hardwood -- interrupted here and there by swamps, bogs, and prairies. The

large number of unlike communities is related to the diverse environmental conditions of the region (Braun 1950).

Indeed, an examination of the region around Berkeley County reveals tremendous diversity. One detailed study revealed a mosaic including the oak-hickory-pine forest common to upland areas, oak-gum-bald cypress forest typical of southern floodplains, pine forests found in mesic to xeric upland sites, mesophytic broadleaved forests on more mesic slope sites, old rice fields, and a variety of swamp forests such as the tupelo-cypress, low hardwood, and ridge hardwoods (Federal Power Commission 1977). All of these forest types have different dominants and different understory vegetation (see Barry 1980).

Although a survey map of the project area shows definite areas of high land and wet land, in the field, even the high land generally produced wet soils. Vegetation was uniform throughout the property, consisting of mixed pines and hardwoods with a dense understory of briars and palmettos. Salt marsh borders the southern boundary of the tract.

Figure 5. View of salt marsh looking toward the project tract.

As discussed in the assessment and section below, an aerial photograph of the project area reveals that the site area was cultivated within the last 60 years. The vegetation on the site today is less than a decade old, suggesting episodes of clear cutting and reforestation.

Prehistoric and Historic Background

Generalized Prehistoric Context

The Paleoindian period, lasting from 12,000 to 8,000 B.C., is evidenced by basally thinned, side-notched projectile points; fluted, lanceolate projectile points; side scrapers; end scrapers; and drills (Coe 1964; Michie 1977; Williams 1965). The Paleoindian occupation, while widespread, does not appear to have been intensive. Artifacts are most frequently found along major river drainages, which Michie interprets to support the concept of an economy "oriented towards the exploitation of now extinct mega-fauna" (Michie 1977:124).

Unfortunately, little is known about Paleoindian subsistence strategies, settlement systems, or social organization. Generally, archaeologists agree that the Paleoindian groups were at a band level of society (see Service 1966), were nomadic, and were both hunters and foragers. While population density, based on the isolated finds, is thought to have been low, Walthall suggests that toward the end of the period, "there was an increase in population density and in territoriality and that a number of new resource areas were beginning to be exploited" (Walthall 1980:30).

The Archaic period, which dates from

8000 to 2000 B.C., does not form a sharp break with the Paleoindian period, but is a slow transition characterized by a modern climate and an increase in the diversity of material culture. Associated with this is a reliance on a broad spectrum of small mammals, although the white tailed deer was likely the most commonly exploited mammal. The chronology established by Coe (1964) for the North Carolina Piedmont may be applied with little modification to the South Carolina coastal plain and piedmont. Archaic period assemblages, exemplified by corner-notched and broad-stem projectile points, are fairly common, perhaps because the swamps and drainages offered especially attractive ecotones.

In the Coastal Plain of the South Carolina there is an increase in the quantity of Early Archaic remains, probably associated with an increase in population and associated increase in the intensity of occupation. While Hardaway and

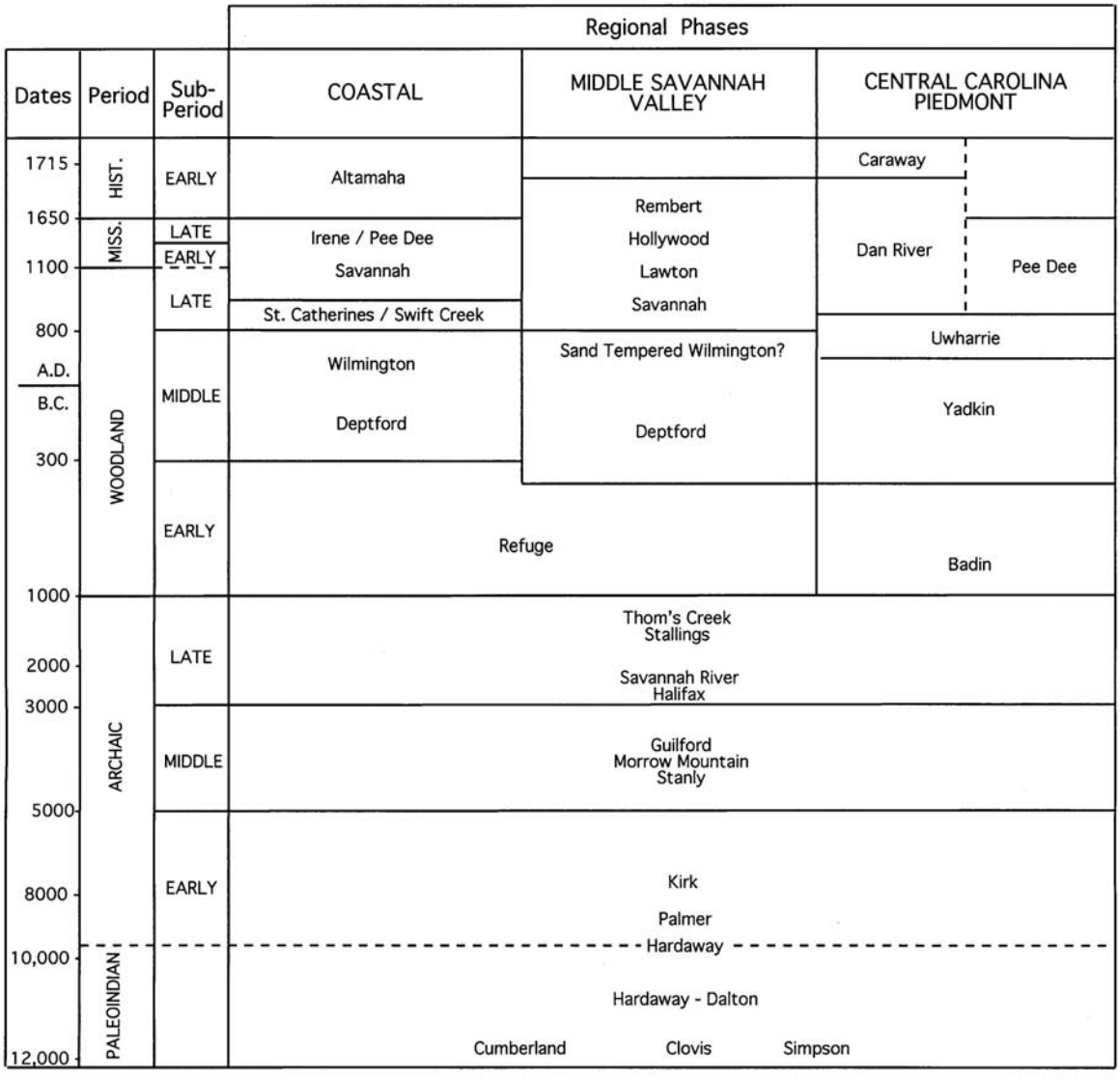

Figure 6. Generalized cultural sequence for South Carolina.

Dalton points are typically found as isolated specimens along riverine environments, remains from the following Palmer phase are not only more common, but are also found in both riverine and interriverine settings. Kirks are likewise common in the coastal plain (Goodyear et al. 1979).

The two primary Middle Archaic phases found in the coastal plain are the Morrow Mountain and Guilford (the Stanly and Halifax complexes identified by Coe are rarely encountered). Our best information on the Middle Woodland comes from sites investigated west of the Appalachian Mountains, such as the work in the Little Tennessee River Valley. The work at Middle Archaic river valley sites, with their evidence of a diverse floral and faunal subsistence base, seems to stand in stark contrast to Caldwell's Middle Archaic "Old Quartz Industry" of Georgia and South Carolina, where axes, choppers, and ground and polished stone tools are very rare.

The Late Archaic is characterized by the appearance of large, square stemmed Savannah River projectile points (Coe 1964). These people continued the intensive exploitation of the uplands much like earlier Archaic groups. The bulk of our data for this period, however, comes from work in the Uwharrie region of North Carolina.

The Woodland period begins by definition with the introduction of fired clay pottery about 2000 B.C. along the South Carolina coast (the introduction of pottery, and hence the beginning of the Woodland period, occurs much later in the Piedmont of South Carolina). It should be noted that many researchers call the period from about 2500 to 1000 B.C. the Late Archaic because of a perceived continuation of the Archaic lifestyle in spite of the manufacture of pottery. Regardless of terminology, the period from 2500 to 1000 B.C. is well documented on the South Carolina coast and is characterized by Stallings (fiber-tempered) pottery (see Figure 6 for a synopsis of Woodland phases and pottery designations). The subsistence economy during this early period was based primarily on deer hunting and fishing, with supplemental inclusions of small mammals, birds, reptiles, and shellfish.

Like the Stallings settlement pattern, Thom's Creek sites are found in a variety of environmental zones and take on several forms. Thom's Creek sites are found throughout the South Carolina Coastal Zone, Coastal Plain, and up to the Fall Line. The sites are found into the North Carolina Coastal Plain, but do not appear to extend southward into Georgia.

In the Coastal Plain drainage of the Savannah River there is a change of settlement, and probably subsistence, away from the riverine focus found in the Stallings Phase (Hanson 1982:13; Stoltman 1974:235-236). Thom's Creek sites are more commonly found in the upland areas and lack evidence of intensive shellfish collection. In the Coastal Zone large, irregular shell middens, small, sparse shell middens; and large "shell rings" are found in the Thom's Creek settlement system.

The Deptford phase, which dates from 1100 B.C. to A.D. 600, is best characterized by fine to coarse sandy paste pottery with a check stamped surface treatment. The Deptford settlement pattern involves both coastal and inland sites.

Inland, sites such as 38AK228-W, 38LX5, 38RD60, and 38BM40 indicate the presence of an extensive Deptford occupation on the Fall Line and the Coastal Plain, although sandy, acidic soils preclude statements on the subsistence base (Anderson 1979; Ryan 1972; Trinkley 1980b). These interior or upland Deptford sites, however, are strongly associated with the swamp terrace edge, and this environment is productive not only in nut masts, but also in large mammals such as deer. Perhaps the best data concerning Deptford "base camps" comes from the Lewis-West site (38AK228-W), where evidence of abundant food remains, storage pit features, elaborate material culture, mortuary behavior, and craft specialization has been reported (Sassaman et al. 1990:96-98).

Throughout much of the Coastal Zone and Coastal Plain north of Charleston, a somewhat different cultural manifestation is observed, related to the "Northern Tradition" (e.g., Caldwell 1958). This recently identified assemblage has been termed Deep Creek and was first identified from northern North Carolina sites (Phelps 1983). The Deep Creek assemblage is characterized by pottery with medium to coarse sand inclusions and surface treatments of cord marking, fabric impressing, simple stamping, and net impressing. Much of this material has been previously designated as the Middle Woodland "Cape Fear" pottery originally typed by South (1976). The Deep Creek wares date from about 1000 B.C. to A.D. 1 in North Carolina, but may date later in South Carolina. The Deep Creek settlement and subsistence systems are poorly known, but appear to be very similar to those identified with the Deptford phase.

The Deep Creek assemblage strongly resembles Deptford both typologically and temporally. It appears this northern tradition of cord and fabric impressions was introduced and gradually accepted by indigenous South Carolina populations. During this time some groups continued making only the older carved paddle-stamped pottery, while others mixed the two styles, and still others (and later all) made exclusively cord and fabric stamped wares.

The Middle Woodland in South Carolina is characterized by a pattern of settlement mobility and short-term occupation. On the southern coast it is associated with the Wilmington phase, while on the northern coast it is recognized by the presence of Hanover, McClellanville or Santee, and Mount Pleasant assemblages. The best data concerning Middle Woodland Coastal Zone assemblages comes from Phelps' (1983:32-33) work in North Carolina. Associated items include a small variety of the Roanoke Large Triangular points (Coe 1964:110-111), sandstone abraders, shell pendants, polished stone gorgets, celts, and woven marsh mats. Significantly, both primary inhumations and cremations are found.

On the Coastal Plain of South Carolina, researchers are finding evidence of a Middle Woodland Yadkin assemblage, best known from Coe's work at the Doerschuk site in North Carolina (Coe 1964:25-26). Yadkin pottery is characterized by a crushed quartz temper and cord marked, fabric impressed, and linear check stamped surface treatments. The Yadkin ceramics are associated with medium-sized triangular points, although Oliver (1981) suggests that a continuation of the Piedmont Stemmed Tradition to at least A.D. 300 coexisted with this Triangular Tradition. The Yadkin series in South Carolina was first observed by Ward (1978, 1983) from the White's Creek drainage in Marlboro County, South Carolina. Since then, a large Yadkin village has been identified by DePratter at the Dunlap site (38DA66) in Darlington County, South Carolina (Chester DePratter, personal communication 1985) and Blanton et al. (1986) have excavated a small Yadkin site (38SU83) in Sumter County, South Carolina. Research at 38FL249 on the Roche Carolina tract in northern Florence County revealed an assemblage including Badin, Yadkin, and Wilmington wares (Trinkley et al. 1993:85-102). Anderson et al. (1982:299-302) offer additional typological assessments of the Yadkin wares in South Carolina.

Over the years the suggestion that Cape Fear might be replaced by such types as Deep Creek and Mount Pleasant has raised considerable controversy. Taylor, for example, rejects the use of the North Carolina types in favor of those developed by Anderson et al. (1982) from their work at Mattassee Lake in Berkeley County (Taylor 1984:80). Cable (1991) is even less generous in his denouncement of ceramic constructs developed nearly a decade ago, also favoring adoption of the Mattassee Lake typology and chronology. This construct, recognizing five phases (Deptford I - III, McClellanville, and Santee I), uses a type variety system.

Regardless of terminology, these Middle Woodland Coastal Plain and Coastal Zone phases continue the Early Woodland Deptford pattern of mobility. While sites are found all along the coast

and inland to the Fall Line, shell midden sites evidence sparse shell and artifacts. Gone are the abundant shell tools, worked bone items, and clay balls. Recent investigations at Coastal Zone sites such as 38BU747 and 38BU1214, however, have provided some evidence of worked bone and shell items at Deptford phase middens (see Trinkley 1990).

In many respects the South Carolina Late Woodland may be characterized as a continuation of previous Middle Woodland cultural assemblages. While outside the Carolinas there were major cultural changes, such as the continued development and elaboration of agriculture, the Carolina groups settled into a lifeway not appreciably different from that observed for the previous 500 to 700 years (cf. Sassaman et al. 1990:14-15). This situation would remain unchanged until the development of the South Appalachian Mississippian complex (see Ferguson 1971).

The South Appalachian Mississippian Period (ca. A.D. 1100 to 1640) is the most elaborate level of culture attained by the native inhabitants and is followed by cultural disintegration brought about largely by European disease. The period is characterized by complicated stamped pottery, complex social organization, agriculture, and the construction of temple mounds and ceremonial centers. The earliest phases include the Savannah and Pee Dee (A.D. 1200 to 1550).

Historic Overview

The English established the first permanent settlement in what is today South Carolina in 1670 on the west bank of the Ashley River. Like other European powers, the English were lured to the New World for reasons other than the acquisition of land and promotion of agriculture. The Lord Proprietors, who owned the colony until 1719-1720, intended to discover a staple crop whose marketing would provide great wealth through the mercantile system.

By 1680 the settlers of Albemarle Point had moved their village across the bay to the tip of the peninsula formed by the Ashley and Cooper rivers. This new settlement at Oyster Point would become modern day Charleston. The move provided not only a more healthful climate and an area of better defense, but:

> [t]he cituation of this Town is so convenient for public Commerce that it rather seems to be the design of some skillful Artist than the accidental position of nature (Mathews 1954:153).

The early settlers of the Carolina colony came from other mainland colonies, England, and the European continent. But the future of Carolina was largely directed by the large number of colonists from the English West Indies. This Caribbean connection has been discussed by Waterhouse (1975), who argues that the Caribbean immigrants were largely from old families of economic and political prominence, which formed the Barbados elite. Waterhouse observes that while elsewhere in the American colonies the early settled families were displaced from their established positions of power and economic superiority by newcomers, this did not occur in South Carolina. In Carolina,

> a relatively large proportion of those who, in the middle of the eighteenth century, were among the wealthier inhabitants, were descended from those families who had arrived in the colony during the first twenty years of its settlement (Waterhouse 1975).

This immigration turned out to be a significant factor in the stability and longevity of South Carolina's colonial elite. It also firmly established the foundations of slavery and cash crop plantations.

Many of these Barbadian immigrants settled in the Goose Creek area, southeast of the survey corridor, forming one of the most influential political and economic groups in the colony (Stoney 1938). The "Goose Creek Men"

included individuals such as Maurice Mathews, James Moore, and John Boone. They favored increased Indian slavery, trade with the pirates or privateers that sailed the Carolina coast, and generally ignored the efforts of the Lords Proprietors to control the Colony's economic and political future. While the political power of the Goose Creek faction peaked in the 1720s, it continued to evidence considerable economic power well into the late 1740s (see Morgan 1980; Sirmans 1966).

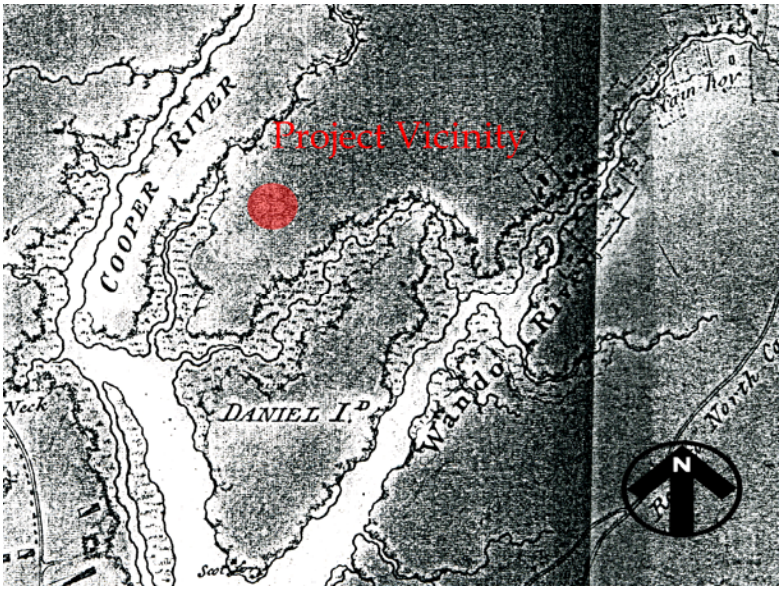

Figure 7. Portion of *A Sketch of the Environs of Charlestown in South Carolina* of 1780 showing the project vicinity.

Early agricultural experiments, which involved olives, grapes, silkworms, and oranges, were less than successful. While the Indian trade was profitable to many of the Carolina colonies, it did not provide the Proprietors with the wealth they were expecting from the new colony. This trade was also limited since the Indian population was so dramatically reduced by European disease, the sale of alcohol, and slavery.

Cattle raising was also an easy way to exploit the region's land and resources, offering a relatively secure return for very little capital investment. Few slaves were necessary to manage the herd. The mild climate of the low country made winter forage more abundant and winter shelters unnecessary. The salt marshes on the coast, useless for other purposes, provided excellent grazing and eliminated the need to provide salt licks. More interior swamps found similar vegetation and provided a constant water supply (Coon 1972; Dunbar 1961). Production of cattle, hogs, and sheep quickly outstripped local consumption and by the early eighteenth century, beef and pork were principal exports of the Colony to the West Indies (Ver Steeg 1975). This allowed the ties between Carolina and the Caribbean to remain strong and provided essential provisions to the large scale, single crop plantations.

Rice and indigo both competed for the attention of Carolina planters. Although introduced at least by the 1690s, rice did not become a significant staple crop until the early eighteenth century. At that time, it not only provided the Proprietors with the economic base that the mercantile system required, but it formed the basis of South Carolina's plantation system – slavery.

South Carolina's economic development during the pre-Revolutionary War period involved a complex web of interactions between slaves, planters, and merchants. By 1710, slaves were starting to be concentrated on a few, large slave-holding plantations. By the close of the eighteenth century some South Carolina plantations had a ratio of slaves to whites that was 27:1 (Morgan 1977). And by the end of the century, over half of eastern South Carolina's white population held slaves. With slavery came, to many, unbelievable wealth. Coclanis notes that:

> on the eve of the American Revolution, the white population of the low country was by far the

richest single group in British North America. With the area's wealth based largely on the expropriation by whites of the golden rice and blue dye produced by black slaves, the Carolina low country had by 1774 reached a level of aggregate wealth greater than that in many parts of the world today. The evolution of Charleston, the center of the low-country civilization, reflected not only the growing wealth of the area but also its spirit and soul (Coclanis 1989).

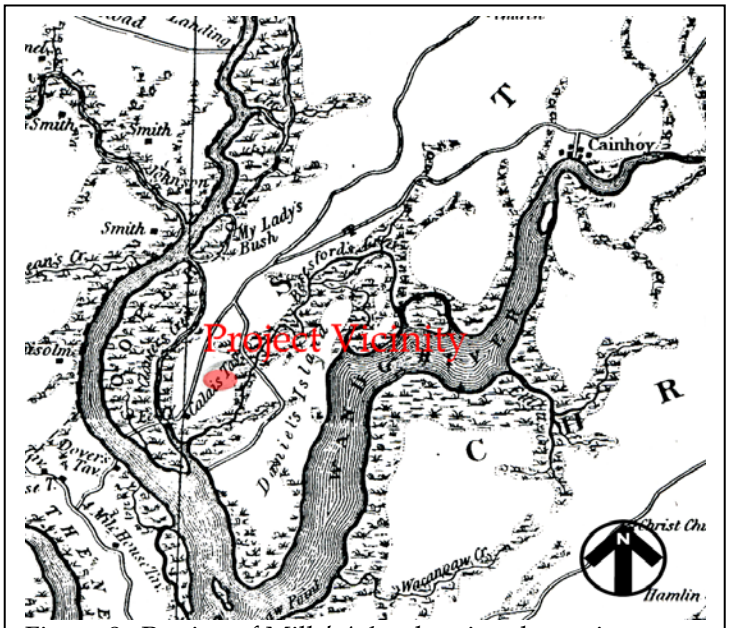

Figure 8. Portion of Mills' *Atlas* showing the project area.

An early Revolutionary era map – *A Sketch of the Environs of Charlestown in South Carolina* -- shows the project area, however no settlements are shown in the vicinity (Figure 7). The closest settlement is Cainhoy to the northeast.

Only certain areas of the low country, however, were suitable for rice production. During the early years, rice was grown as an upland crop, in small fields adjacent to freshwater streams where water could be easily impounded and applied to the crop. By the early 1700s, planters found that upland swamps, such as those in the Goose Creek area, were even better suited for rice, although the soils were quickly exhausted (Meriwether 1940; Sellers 1934). These upland swamps, distinct from well-drained uplands, remained the focus of Carolina rice agriculture during the entire Colonial period.

Hewat, writing in 1779, describes the process of upland swamp rice cultivation:

> after the planter has obtained his tract of land, and built a house upon it, he then begins to clear his field of that load of wood with which the land is covered. Having cleared his field, he next surrounds it with a wooded fence, to exclude all hogs, sheep, and cattle from it. This field he plants with rice . . . year after year, until the lands are exhausted, or yield not a crop sufficient to answer his expectations. Then it is forsaken, and a fresh spot of land is cleared and planted, which is also treated in like manner, and in succession forsaken and neglected (Hewat 1836).

This rather simplistic commentary failed to observe the engineering feat that upland swamp rice cultivation really was. Clearing, which alone was a monumental undertaking, was followed by the construction of dams, dikes, and trenches. By one estimate, a 500 acre rice field required 60 miles of dikes and ditches (Gunn 1976). Fields were carefully leveled to ensure that they could be completely covered by water. Rice was planted during two periods – March 10 to April 10 and June 1 to June 10 – avoiding may since vast migrations of "rice birds" passed through the state during that period and could destroy a crop. Rice was harvested in late August.

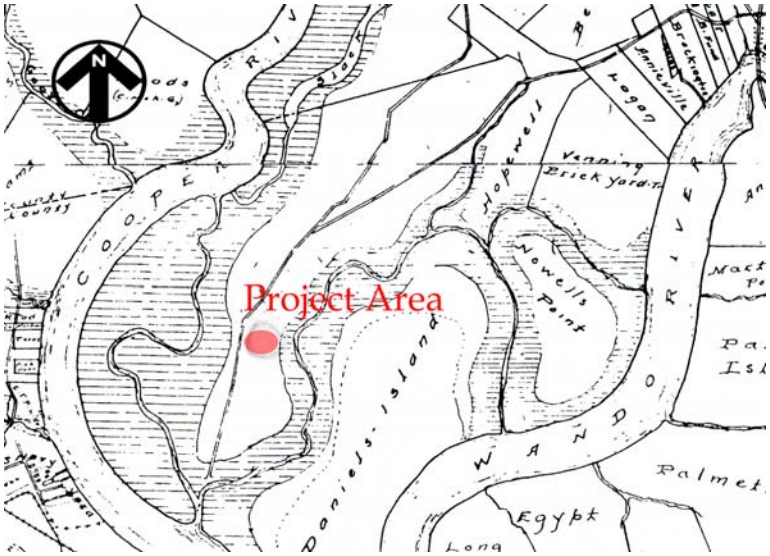

Figure 9. Portion of the 1900-1962 *Map of Berkeley and Parts of Charleston and Dorchester Counties* showing the project area.

By 1730 the majority of the population of the colony, both rural and urban, was black (Wood 1974). By 1850, 46% of Charleston District's population (which included today's Berkeley County) consisted of African-American slaves (DeBow 1854), although Hilliard (1984) indicates that more than 60% of the Charleston slaveholders by 1860 owned fewer than 10 slaves. Regardless, there remained vast plantations where the owner's wealth was achieved by the labor of black slaves.

During the eighteenth century, the profits to be gained from rice were extraordinary, ranging from 12% to nearly 28% net return on the investment, well exceeding other cash crops such as tobacco or indigo (see Coclanis 1989). Charleston was the mecca around which the economic, political, and social world of Carolina revolved. Charleston provided the essential opportunity for conspicuous consumption, a mechanism that allowed the display of wealth accumulated from the plantation system.

By the end of the eighteenth century and the beginning of the nineteenth century, the rate of return on rice had been reduced, at best, to about 2% and many years the rate of return was a staggering –3% to –7%. In 1859, just before the start of the Civil War, the return is reported to have been –28%. As Coclanis observes:

> the economy of the South Carolina low country collapsed in the nineteenth century. Collapse did not some suddenly – many feel, for example, that the area's "golden age" lasted until about 1820 – but come it did nonetheless. By the late nineteenth century it was clear that the forces responsible for the area's earlier dynamism had been routed, the dark victory of

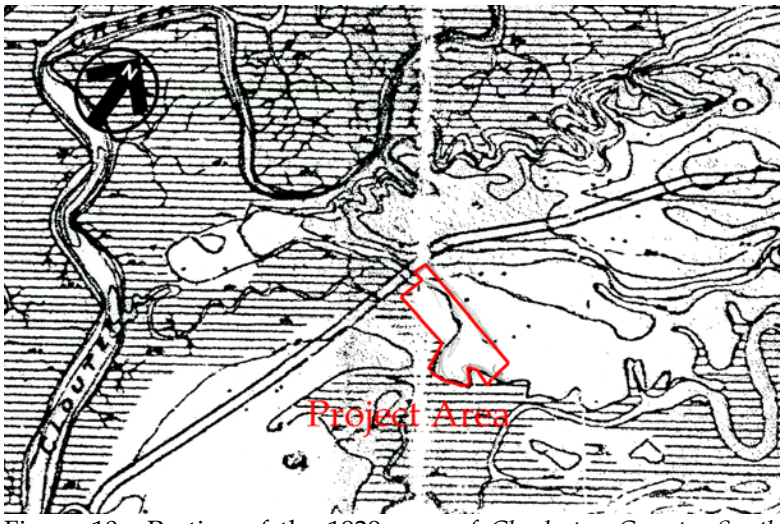

Figure 10. Portion of the 1929 map of *Charleston County, South Carolina with Portions of Adjacent Counties Showing State and County Roads* showing the project area.

economic stagnation virtually complete (Coclanis 1989).

It was the demise of these areas that facilitated the growth of the town of Summerville in 1831, located southwest of the survey corridor. The town of Summerville was established when the railroad company laid out 300 acres of town lots for sale (Charleston Courier 8/20/1831). Summerville was mainly settled by planters from the area who built houses and summer settlements there. Mills' *Atlas,* showing the Charleston District (which contained the current project area) in 1825, fails to show any settlements in the project area (Figure 8).

By 1832, Summerville had grown to the extent that the area was referred to as an "Old Summerville" and a "New Summerville" when the S.C. Canal and Railroad Company began building a railroad line (Walker 1941). Growth in the general area prompted the creation of new counties such as Colleton County in 1800 and Dorchester County in 1897. The area of Charleston District that contained the project corridor became Berkeley County in 1882.

In 1888, the D.W. Taylor Company owned 25,000 acres, mostly in Berkeley County, and a ten-mile long rail line, the Summerville and St. John's Railroad. Taylor had mills in Summerville and at the upper end of its holdings (Fetters 1990:31). By 1909, the firm had cut over most of its land, and the rail line was purchased by Prettyman Lumber Company, which began in Summerville by J. Frank Prettyman in 1902. By 1910, Prettyman was cutting 40,000 feet of lumber daily. The railroad eventually extended as far as Cross, where it connected with the Atlantic Coast Line (Fetters 1990:31-32).

The 1900 to 1962 *Map of Berkeley and Parts of Charleston and Dorchester Counties* fails to show who owned the portion of property that contains the project area (Figure 9).

The 1929 map of *Charleston County South Carolina with Portions of Adjacent Counties Showing State and County Roads* shows five structures near the project tract (Figure 10). None of these structures, however, were located during the current survey – it appears that three of the structures may have been located on the higher ground on the property just to the north of the project tract (and may represent structures identified by Trinkley 1985).

The 1951 *General Highway and Transportation Map of Berkeley County* fails to show any settlements in the project area (Figure 11). The majority of structures appear to be located to the north along S-33, although one structure is near the project area to the south.

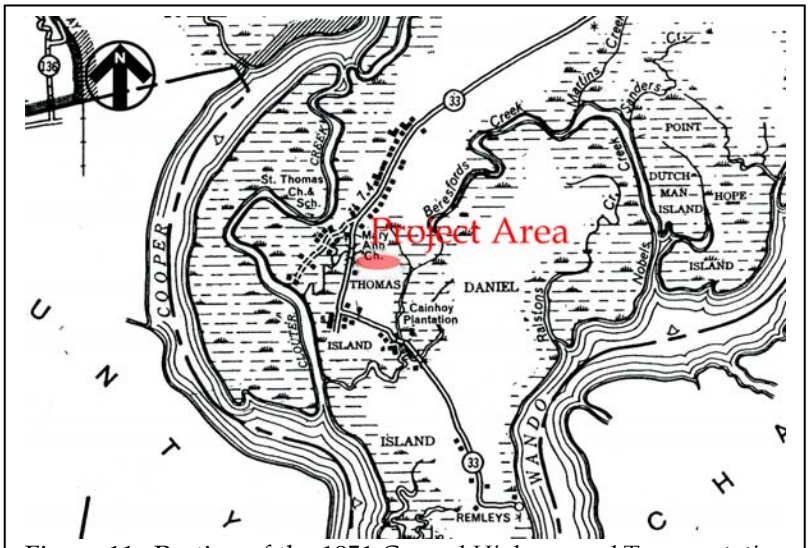

Figure 11. Portion of the 1951 *General Highway and Transportation Map of Berkeley County* showing the project area.

Curation

An updated archaeological site form for 38BK2177 has been filed with the South Carolina Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology (SCIAA). The field notes and artifacts resulting from these investigations will be curated at that institution. The collections have been cleaned as

necessary. No conservation treatments have been conducted. All original records and duplicate copies were provided to the curatorial facility on pH neutral alkaline buffered paper. The photographic materials consist only of a digital format, which are not archival. These prints will be retained by Chicora for 60 days.

ASSESSMENT ACTIVITIES

Archaeological Activities

To investigate this site, we conducted shovel testing at 25-foot intervals over the entire site area, which measured approximately 400 feet north-south by 100 feet east-west. Boundaries of the site were essentially determined by marsh, which bounded this peninsula on the west, north, and east. Testing to the south ended when two consecutive negative tests were encountered.

The shovel test grid was numbered using a modified Chicago grid system. A 0R0 point is located off site and each grid point is designated as fee north and right (or east) of this arbitrary 0R0 point. Thus, grid point 1000R950 would be located 1,000 feet to the north and 950 feet to the right or east. Using this system, the grid extended from N775 to N1200 and from R900 to R1000. The site grid is oriented magnetic north-south.

All shovel tests were approximately 1.0 foot square and were excavated to the subsoil, which ranged from 0.8 to 1.5 feet in depth. All fill was screened through ¼-inch mesh.

In addition to the 78 shovel tests, we also excavated four 3-foot units – two toward the northern tip of the site and two toward the southern portion. These units were excavated by natural level and all fill was screened through ¼-inch mesh. The goal of these units was the collection of larger artifact samples, as well as attempting to identify possible features.

Results of Archaeological Studies

Shovel Tests

After adding the 78 shovel tests to the site area, which was originally tested at 50-foot

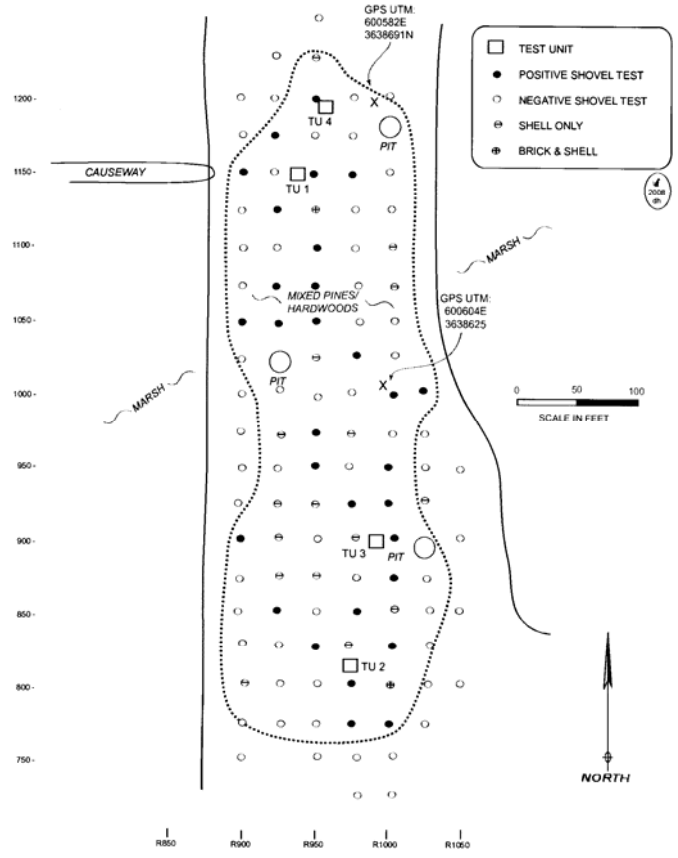

Figure 12. Sketch map of 38BK2177 showing additional testing.

intervals, a total of 110 shovel tests were excavated in the site area. Of these shovel tests, 30 were positive (27%) producing artifacts. An additional two shovel tests produced brick and shell and 16 shovel tests produced only light shell. We found no uniform dispersion of remains. Four shovel tests produced five or more artifacts, however, these seem erratic and do not appear to be centrally placed to surrounding positive shovel tests. In addition, there do not appear to be any distinct clusters of either historic or prehistoric areas. Both components are dispersed throughout the site area.

grayish brown (10YR4/2) sand to approximately 1.0 foot in depth. The subsoil was generally a light yellowish brown (10YR6/4) sand that extended from 1.1 to 1.5 feet in depth. Some shovel tests exhibited a stiff red (2.5YR4/6) clay at the base.

Shovel testing produced a total of 69 artifacts from the 30 positive tests (27 artifacts from the 11 positive tests excavated during the Phase I survey and 42 artifacts from the 19 additional positive tests performed during the Phase II testing). The site was extended by 25-feet to the east and to the south creating a site area of

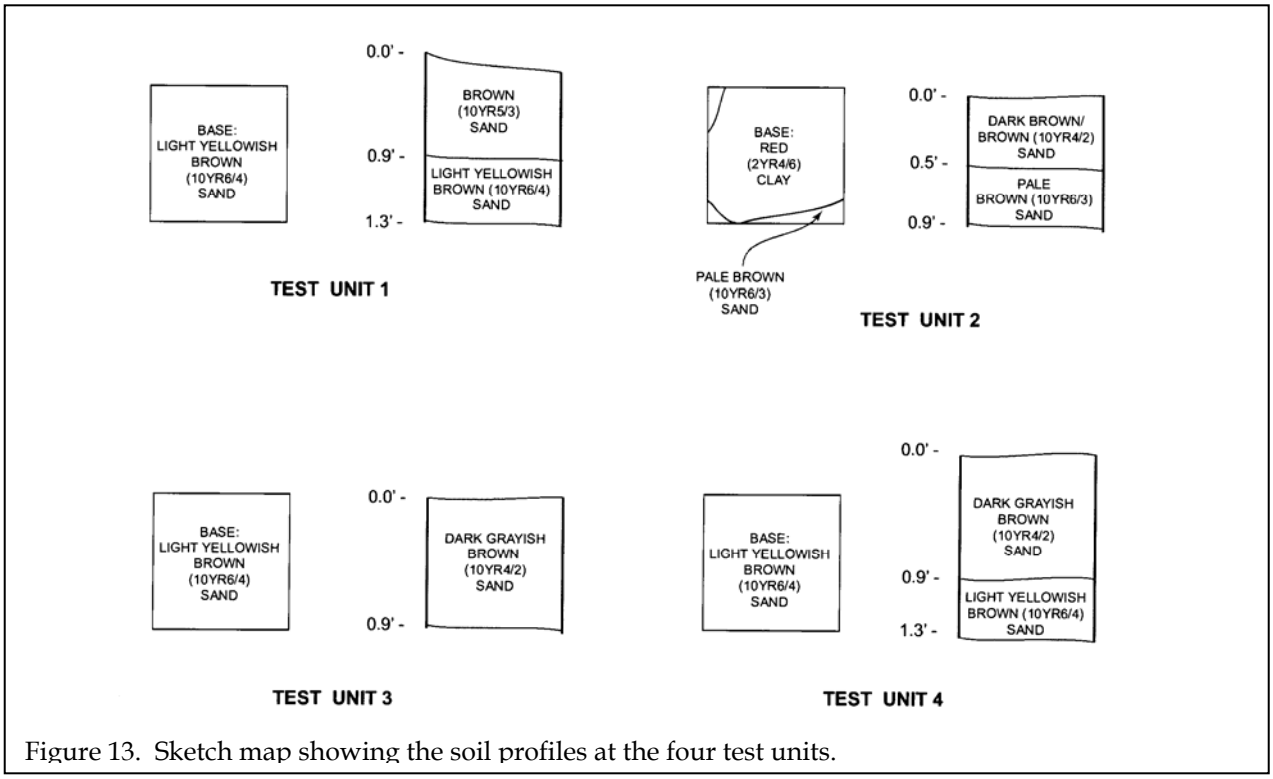

Figure 13. Sketch map showing the soil profiles at the four test units.

The Berkeley County Soil Survey (Long 1980) describes this area as having soils representative of the somewhat poorly drained Wahee Series, which has an A horizon of very dark gray (10YR3/1) loam to a depth of 0.2 foot over a dark gray (10YR4/1) loam to 0.4 foot in depth. The subsoil is generally a light yellowish brown (10YR6/4) silty clay loam to 0.8 foot in depth. The soils at 38BK2177, however, were better drained, consisting of an A horizon of dark

425 feet north-south by 125 feet east-west.

Test Units

Four test units were excavated, each 3-feet square (Figure 13). Each test unit was placed in an area where shovel testing produced multiple artifacts in a single test. All four units produced both prehistoric and historic remains.

Test Unit 1, placed near 1150R950,

Table 1.
Artifacts from 38BK2177

	775 R975	775 R1000	800 R975	825 R950	825 R1000	850 R925	850 R975	875 R1000	900 R900	900 R1000	925 R975	925 R1000	950 R950	950 R1000	975 R950	1000 R1000	1000 R1025	1025 R975	1050 R900	1050 R925	1050 R950	1075 R925	1075 R950	1100 R950	1125 R925	1150 R900	1150 R950	1150 R975	1175 R925	1200 R950	TU1	TU2	TU3	TU4	TOTAL
Kitchen Group																																		**41**
Stoneware, Albany																													1					
Stoneware, brown salt glazed																																	1	
Whiteware, undecorated																														1				
Tortoiseshell ware																															1			
Glass, clear			1		1		1										5										1	2		14	2	1	5	
Glass, green																									1									
Glass, manganese																														1				
Glass, brown																															1			
Skillet fragment, iron																														1				
Architecture Group																																		**20**
Window glass																									1	2			1					
Nail, handwrought													1																					
Nail, wire																														1	1			
Nail, unidentifiable fragment			5						1	1									1		1											3	1	
Tobacco Group																																		**1**
Pipestem, kaolin																										1								
Clothing Group																																		**1**
Button, iron																														1				
Activities Group																																		**14**
UID iron												1			1							1							2	1	4	3	1	
Other																																		**5**
Ethnobotanical material																								3					1					
Slate fragment																														1				
Prehistoric																																		**112**
Sherd, small	1	4		1	1	1		3		2	1			2	1	2				3		2	2				1			26	20	19	6	
Sherd, Stallings																								1										
Sherd, Deptford, fabric impressed																											2							
Sherd, Deptford, check stamp																		1												1	1			
Sherd, Deptford, cord marked																														3	2	1		
Sherd, Pee Dee, complicated stamp							1																							1				
TOTAL																																		**194**

Figure 14. View of the base of Test Unit 2.

produced the largest number of remains of all the units with 52 specimens recovered. The profile was generally consistent with shovel tests, however the A horizon was a brown (10YR5/3) sand, which extended to about 0.9 foot in depth over a light yellowish brown (10YR6/4) sand.

Artifacts were confined entirely to the upper A horizon and contained primarily prehistoric sherds (60% of the total). The historic component accounted for the other 40% of the total. While brick and shell were both represented, each were in minor amounts totaling less than one pound.

Test Unit 2 was placed near 800R975, where six artifacts were found, mostly nail fragments. A total of 32 specimens were recovered with 72% of the artifacts representing the prehistoric component and 28% representing the historic. Brick and shell were both found, but each totaling less than one pound.

The profile of this unit consisted of an A horizon of dark grayish brown (10YR4/2) sand to a depth of 0.5 foot over a pale brown (10YR6/3), which extended to 0.9 feet before it turned into a red (2.5YR4/6) clay (Figure 14). All artifacts were found in the upper A horizon.

Test Unit 3 is located near 900R1000, which contained both prehistoric and historic remains. A total of 27 artifacts were recovered with 74% representing prehistoric and 26% historic. No shell or brick was found in this

Figure 15. Working at 38BK2177.

unit.

The profile was typical of shovel test profiles with an A horizon of dark grayish brown (10YR4/2) sand to a depth of 0.9 foot over a light yellowish brown (10YR6/4) sand. All artifacts were found in the A horizon.

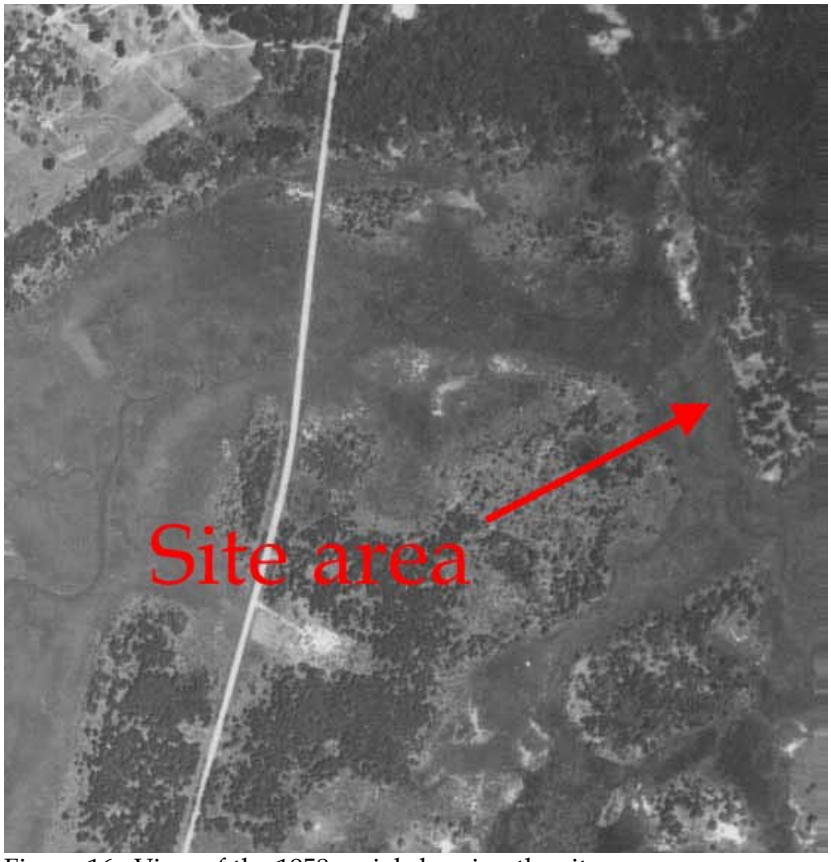

Figure 16. View of the 1958 aerial showing the site area.

Test Unit 4 was placed near shovel test 1200R950, which produced five artifacts, one of the higher density tests. The unit, however, produced only 14 artifacts with 57% representing historic and 43% representing prehistoric remains. No shell or brick was found in this unit.

The profile of this unit was identical to Test Unit 3, producing an A horizon of dark grayish brown (10YR4/2) sand to 0.9 foot in depth over a light yellowish brown (10YR6/4) sand. All artifacts were found in the A horizon.

Artifacts

The investigations at 38BK2177 produced 194 artifacts representing prehistoric (n=112 or 58% of the total assemblage), historic (n=77 or 40% of the total assemblage), and unknown (n=5 or 2% of the total assemblage) (Table 1).

Although the prehistoric assemblage is the largest, only 14 sherds or 13% of this component, were large enough (i.e., over 1-inch) to be identified. The other 88% consisted of small sherds. The identifiable pottery dated from the Late Archaic to the Mississippian periods and consisted of Stallings, Deptford, and Pee Dee sherds.

The historic component produced artifacts from the Kitchen (53%), Architecture (26%), Tobacco (1%), and Clothing (1%) groups. Another 18% of the total consists of unidentifiable pieces of iron, which could not be accurately attributed to a group, but will be included in the Activities Group.

In the Kitchen Group, only four pieces of ceramics were found (10% of the Kitchen Group). Of these, only a single piece of undecorated whiteware was diagnostic, generally giving a date range from 1813 to 1900. Whitewares, however, have been produced post 1900, so it is difficult to assign a specific date to the site from the ceramics. Glass, which is also hard to attribute a date, makes up 88% of the Kitchen Group total. The single piece of manganese glass may date as early as the late nineteenth century (Jones and Sullivan 1985:13).

Figure 17. View of the 1963 aerial showing 38BK2177.

No artifacts from the Architecture Group help resolve the issue of dating the site. One handwrought nail was found that could date from the end of the eighteenth into the nineteenth century. Two wire nails were also found that were used as the norm after 1880 (Howard 1989:54-55).

Little can be learned from the kaolin pipestem and iron button (which was badly corroded). Kaolin pipes were made into the last half of the nineteenth century, however, this stem is very small and not much else can be attained.

Although almost impossible to provide a truly accurate date, a time ranging from the mid-nineteenth to early twentieth century seems plausible for this structure. A 1958 aerial photograph of the area shows the site as being sparsely wooded (indicating previous cultivation) and a road heading southeast to the northern tip of the site area (Figure 16). No obvious structure was visible and no earlier aerials were available. The next available aerial, dated 1963, shows the entire site area as densely wooded (Figure 17).

CONCLUSIONS

General Findings

The archaeological investigations reveal that site 38BK2177 is relatively scattered with no distinct clusters of either prehistoric or historic artifacts. The use of 25-foot intervals did a good job of identifying trash densities, since the site was contained by marsh on three sides.

Original examination of the site in February 2008 identified what then seemed to be an eighteenth century settlement with what appeared to be Colono ware, a slave-made pottery, comprising part of the collection. The additional shovel testing and excavation of test units produced larger pieces of identifiable sherds. What looked to be small sherds of Colono ware were actually the Mississippian Pee Dee pottery.

The site produced a larger prehistoric component with 58% of the artifact total. Only 13% of these artifacts, however, were diagnostic and no artifacts appeared to come from the intact subsoil. No features such as post holes, hearths, or pits were found.

The historic component produced artifacts that appear to be from a nineteenth to twentieth century tenant site. No features that appear to be wells or privies were found during excavation. While five artifact groups were represented, the artifacts are common and do little to provide meaningful information about low-country tenant sites.

It is unclear whether the large pits found in and around the site area are related to the inhabitants. No artifacts were found in the pits and subsoil was found at the bottom, leading us to believe that they are not wells or privies. They may be test pits for finding something for mining, possibly clay since many tests produced the stiff red clay.

Assessment of National Register Eligibility

National Register Bulletin 36 (Little et al. 2000) provides a framework for the evaluation of archaeological site eligibility for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places. When the archaeological site is being evaluated under Criterion D, information potential, it must meet two basic requirements:

- The property must have, or have had, information that can contribute to our understanding of human history of any time period, and

- The information must be considered important.

There are five primary steps in a Criterion D evaluation.

1. Identify the property's data set(s) or categories of archaeological, historical, or ecological information.
2. Identify the historic context(s), that is, the appropriate historical and archaeological framework in which to evaluate the property.
3. Identify the important research question(s) that the property's data sets can be expected to address.
4. Taking archaeological integrity into consideration, evaluate the data sets in terms of their potential and known ability to answer research questions.
5. Identify the important

> information that an archaeological study of the property has yielded or is likely to yield.

The first step has been completed and the results are provided in the previous sections. The archaeological data sets include a range of groups representative of a tenant site, however density is sparse. The artifacts that were found are common and do not provide any additional information on low-country tenancy. The prehistoric component, while making up the majority of the collection, provided few identifiable specimens.

Some data sets – such as food remains – are largely absent. No bone was found and only a few ethnobotanical materials were found, but it is unclear to which component they belong. In addition, while shell was found in the site, no clusters were found that may be indicative of a midden.

The excavation of larger units failed to produce any features such as post holes or wall trenches.

While limited research has been performed for the site with no mention of any historic structures, we do not feel that additional research would provide a unique context for the tenant site. For the prehistoric component, the lack of bone and clusters of shell, indicative of a midden, fails to give a context to the site.

The data sets failed to address any significant questions on tenancy or prehistoric lifeways. No evidence of intact architectural remains were found for either component.

Turning to the issue of integrity, there are indications of intensive disturbance. The earliest aerial photograph that was found, dated 1958, shows sparse vegetation, indicative of cultivation in previous years. The vegetation today continues to document land disturbing activities on the site. No distinct clusters of artifacts were found – in fact, positive shovel tests are scattered throughout the area. For the prehistoric component, no specimens were found in the intact subsoil.

Finally, when we attempt to evaluate the important information that 38BK2177 might provide, we find that the artifact collection is not unique and not able to address significant questions on tenancy or prehistoric lifeways. While it would be possible to shovel test at extremely close intervals (e.g. 5-10 feet) in an effort to find an intact midden or well, the first two phases of testing give us little reason to spend that amount of effort for an uncertain outcome.

Consequently, while work at this site did little to address significant research questions, it may be important to quickly address the issue of rising water levels. This site appeared to be an island with marsh on three sides and wetland on the north side, however early aerials clearly show a road to this site. Future coastal research should be aware of the impact of the rising water levels on sites.

We recommend 38BK2177 not eligible for inclusion on the National Register. Pending the review and concurrence of the State Historic Preservation Office, we recommend no additional management activities at the site.

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