

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE TESTING AND  
NATIONAL REGISTER ASSESSMENT OF 38FL344,  
FLORENCE COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA**



**CHICORA RESEARCH CONTRIBUTION 400**

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ASSESSMENT OF 38FL344, FLORENCE COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA**

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**Chicora Research Contribution 400**

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## ABSTRACT

Site 38FL344 was initially identified during Chicora Foundation's 1997 intensive archaeological survey of the Project Indigo tract south of Timmonsville in western Florence County. At the time of the survey the site, outside the impact area, was to be green spaced and it was assessed as potentially eligible. Recently, the tract owner, Honda of South Carolina, requested through our client, HSMM, that the site be further evaluated for its National Register eligibility.

The site was originally found as a partially standing wood frame "tenant" house. Refuse was found scattered in the associated yard areas and an oral history informant was located who had lived in the structure. The site, not shown on available 1914 map but present by the late 1930s, was evaluated as providing the opportunity to study early twentieth century tenant lifeways. In particular, the combination of a standing structure and an oral informant were thought to provide compelling lines of research.

Since that original survey nearly seven years ago the structure has collapsed and can no longer provide detailed room-level architectural documentation. The oral informant, however, was relocated and an interview provided some information on the structure, as well as lifeways on the farm. We found that the informant's memory of the structure covers only the period from 1968 through 1971 - although his memory covers the period from 1935 on.

Archaeological testing consisted of shovel testing the site area, 120 feet east-west by 240 feet north-south, at 20-foot intervals. In addition, two 2-foot units were excavated - one in the rear yard and another in the front area near a trash pile. The structure ruins were also

better measured and a few architectural observations were noted.

The oral information is consistent with what is known concerning tenancy in South Carolina. It also consistent with the observations made of the structure and at the site area.

While this structure was occupied into the 1980s, the archaeological remains recovered today overwhelmingly date from the mid to late twentieth century. This is probably accounted for by improving consumer power (greater access), coupled with the improving availability of mass produced products.

The relatively late date of the materials recovered, the collapse of the structure, and the ability of the informant to provide only generalized early information, all reduce the research potential of this site. We do not believe that the site has the ability to address significant research questions that are focused on early to mid-twentieth century structures - not very late structures such as 38FL344. As a result, we recommend this site not eligible for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places and recommend no further management activities at the site - pending the review and concurrence of the State Historic Preservation Office.



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## INTRODUCTION

### Development of the Project

Archaeological site 38FL344 was initially identified in 1997 on the western edge of what was known at that time as the Project Indigo tract in western Florence County, south of Timmons ville (Figure 1). The site was situated about 1,700 feet east-southeast of the junction of S-214 and S-38, on the south side of S-214. The UTM coordinates, obtained by locating the site on the USGS map, were 598530E 3773820N. The site was found in a wooded area surrounded on three sides by fallow fields (Figure 2). The soils

were identified as Coxville loamy fine sands and the elevation was about 130 feet above mean sea level (AMSL).

The site was found to consist of a standing (although badly dilapidated) structure and abundant yard trash. Surface visibility precluded any meaningful surface collection, although three undecorated whitewares and one window glass fragment were recovered (Trinkley 1997).

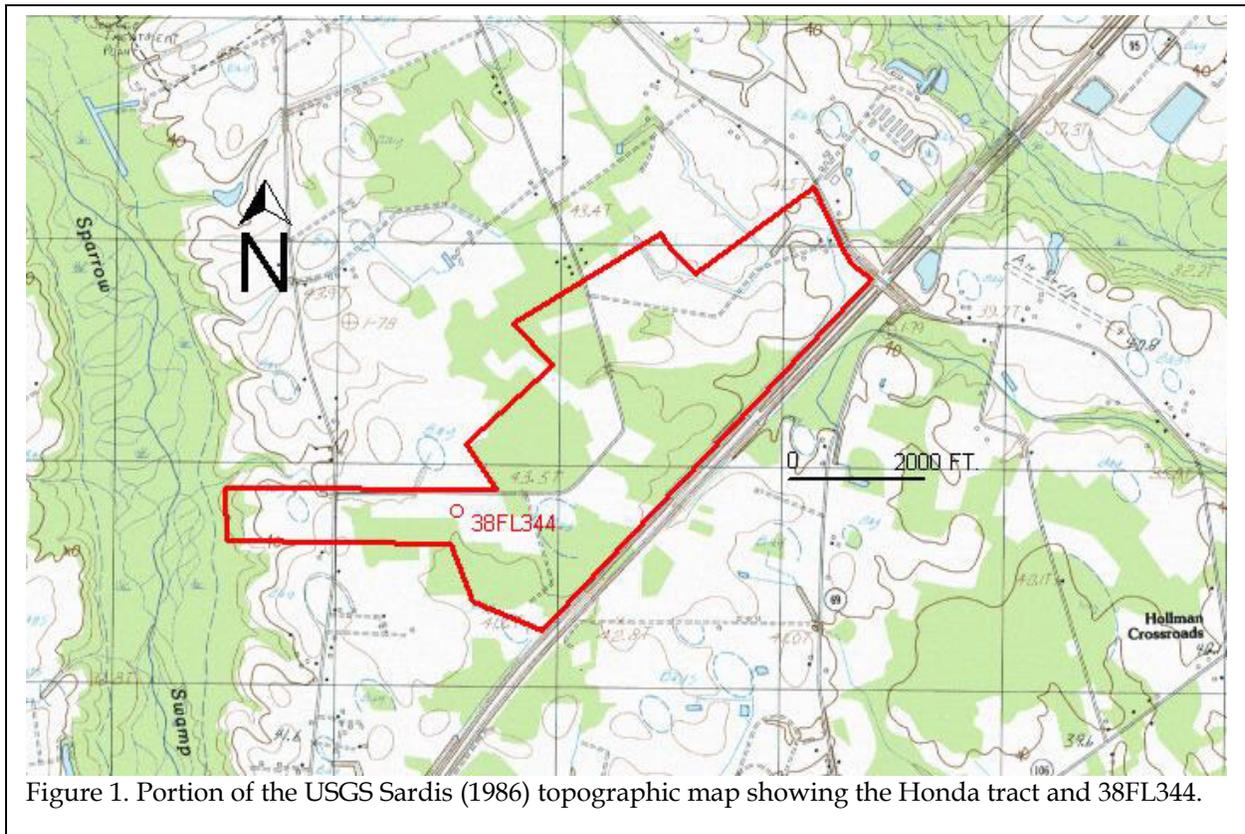


Figure 1. Portion of the USGS Sardis (1986) topographic map showing the Honda tract and 38FL344.

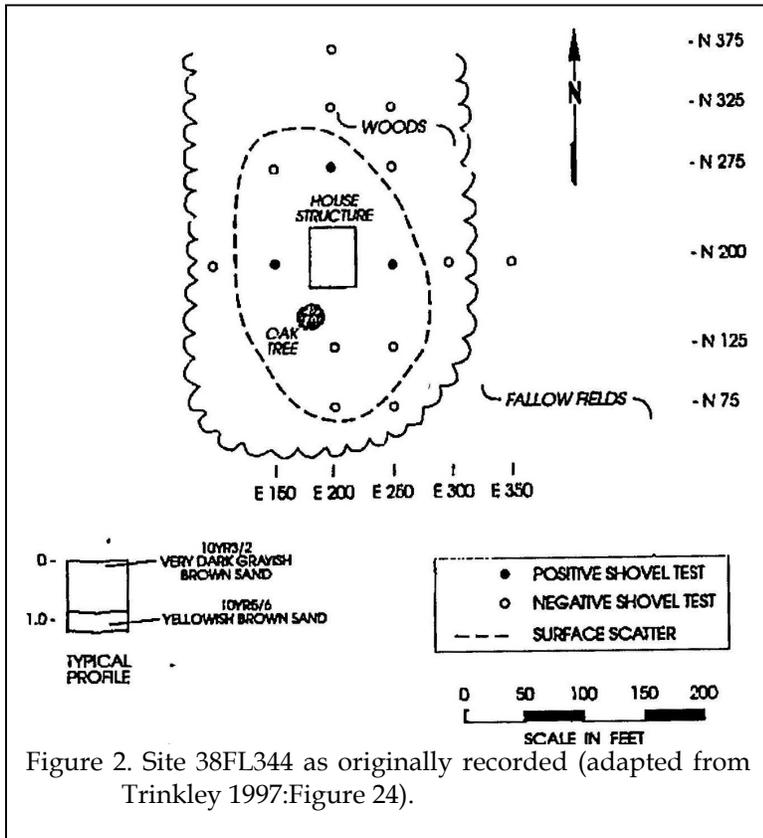


Figure 2. Site 38FL344 as originally recorded (adapted from Trinkley 1997:Figure 24).

Shovel testing consisted of 15 tests at 50 foot intervals (Figure 2). Three of the tests (those closest to the house) produced artifacts - two yielded only brick and the third produced a glass and a nail fragment. Soil profiles revealed

about 0.8 foot of very dark grayish brown (10YR3/2) sand loam overlying a yellowish brown (10YR5/6) sand clay subsoil. While not consistent with Coxville soils, these profiles were typical of nearby better drained Norfolk soils.

Historical research was limited to identifying the site on the 1940 edition of the Florence West 15' topographic map (Figure 3) and noting that it was not present on the early 1913 soil survey of the region. Coupled with this Son James visited the site and provided brief oral informant information, explaining that he had lived in the structure for several years.

The site evaluation remarked that a number of data sets were present, including archaeological remains (although limited because of poor surface visibility and limited testing), oral history information, identification of the structure on at least one map, and recognizable (although dilapidated) architectural remains. We noted at the time that, taken together, these data sets had the potential to address a range of questions. Those questions - as valid today as they were in 1997 - include identifying the material basis of tenancy (and comparing that basis with both higher and lower status occupations), identifying the subsistence remains typically associated with tenancy, exploring the nature of the refuse patterns associated with tenant sites, and examining the different artifact patterns. As a result, 38FL344 was recommended potentially eligible for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places. Since the site was outside the proposed construction footprint, green spacing was recommended.

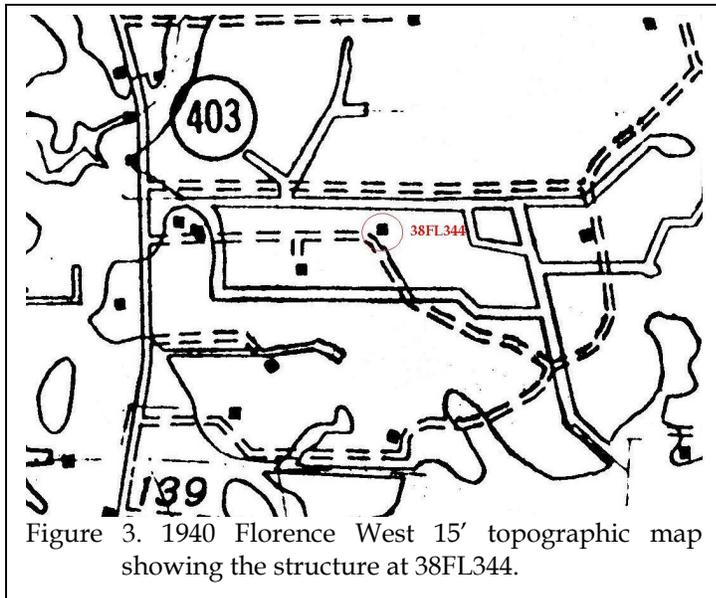


Figure 3. 1940 Florence West 15' topographic map showing the structure at 38FL344.

As the need for additional space at Honda's Timmons ville facilities have

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INTRODUCTION

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expanded, we were asked to prepare a testing plan for this site, which we did in a December 19, 2003 letter to HSMM. Our proposal involved combining close interval shovel testing with one or two small test units to explore the archaeological deposits, as well as determining if the oral informant could still be located. Since we had recently visited the site, we knew that the structure had collapsed and that detailed architectural recordation was no longer possible.

Our proposal to Honda was approved on December 30 and the field investigations were scheduled for the middle of February 2004. The field work and oral history research was conducted by Ms. Nicole Southerland, Mr. Tom Covington, and the author on February 10-11, 2004. A total of 48 person hours were devoted to the work. Laboratory processing was conducted at Chicora's Columbia laboratories from February 12-13.

**Research Orientation**

**Generalized Historic Context**

Florence was created as a county that same year - 1888 - carved out of neighboring Marion, Darlington, and Marlboro counties.

The creation of Florence County in 1888 began what King (1981) calls an era of "boasterism," loudly proclaiming the benefits of Florence. One example is the advertisement of Florence County at the 1895 Atlanta Cotton Exposition:

. . . situated as she is, the great railroad center of eastern South Carolina, surrounded by lands which produce corn, wheat, rye, oats, tobacco, rice, sugarcane, cotton, potatoes, onion, and vegetables of all kinds, apples, pears, peaches, plums, grapes, berries, melons in profusion, whose forests contain most of the woods of commerce, with water power and easy access to fuel for

manufacturing, Florence County presents an inviting field for investment and immigration (quoted in King 1981:168).

This advertisement is interesting since it begins the promotion of tobacco in Florence County, as well as encouraged immigration.

Tobacco was a growing concern during this period, with the first tobacco growers association formed in 1895. Tobacco was referred to "Our Nicotiana Tobacum - Pearl of the Pee Dee." That same year there were 139 tobacco growers, with most planting around 5 acres and the largest planting only 40 acres (King 1981:170). By the mid-1890s the average profit on an acre of tobacco was \$150 to \$200 an acre, well over the \$10 an acre provided by cotton.

Acreage increased from about 1200 acres in 1891 to over 4400 acres just a year later, in 1892. Pee Dee tobacco production grew at an even more fantastic rate in the first decade of the twentieth century, with the acreage increasing from 25,000 to 98,000 acres. Table 1 indicates that Florence participated in the gradual recovery of cotton after the Civil War, only to evidence the decline in 1930 resulting from the boll weevil and the depression. While acreage continued to drop into 1940, production increased, largely as the result of improved farming techniques and efforts to eradicate the boll weevil.

Table 1.  
Cotton and Tobacco in Florence County from 1900 through 1940

Year	Cotton		Tobacco	
	Acres	Bales	Acres	Lbs.
1900	37,966	17,707	3,961	2,995,410
1910	56,590	36,062	5,052	4,362,338
1920	59,768	38,797	17,060	11,991,883
1930	31,253	11,259	25,201	19,221,611
1940	27,717	17,501	24,614	22,693,991

Tobacco, in contrast, held strong. Acreage increased every year through 1930, as did the yield. In 1940, as a result of government programs, the acreage dropped slightly, although yield continued to increase.

Coupled with the increased planting of tobacco were efforts to bring tobacco markets to South Carolina. The first tobacco warehouse auction in South Carolina was organized by Frank Rodgers in 1890 at his Florence Tobacco Manufacturing and Warehouse Company. Even this first auction was a social event, with 300 persons attending. Other businessmen and investors followed this lead and a number of warehouses were established in the Pee Dee<sup>1</sup>. These warehouses were visible indications of prosperity and progress and often the buildings were financed by joint stock companies composed of local citizens hoping to cash in on this new wealth. One such warehouse in Florence was described:

It is a handsome structure, having a floor space 60 by 100 feet, and this is lighted by twenty large ground glass skylights. In front is a two-story brick structure, 40 by 50 feet in size, containing the offices. It has large sliding doors on all sides and is equipped with the latest improved trucks, etc. (*The State*, August 30, 1895).

Farmers brought their tobacco to these warehouses from mid-July through September. The tobacco was weighed and stacked in long rows on the floor for sale, with the auctions being memorable social events, often compared to fairs. When the auctions were over, the buildings continued to be a focal point in the community, being used for political rallies, tobacco exhibits, and social events.

During the second decade of the twentieth century Timmonsville already had a

Table 2.  
Systems of Tenure

	Share-Cropping	Share Renting	Cash Renting
Landlord furnishes:	Land Housing Fuel Tools Work stock Seed Half of fertilizer Feed for stock	Land Housing Fuel ¼ or 1/3 of fertilizer	Land Housing Fuel
Tenant furnishes:	Labor Half of fertilizer	Labor Work stock Feed for stock Tools Seed ¾ or 2/3 of fertilizer	Labor Work stock Feed for stock Tools Seed Fertilizer
Landlord receives:	½ of crop	¼ or 1/3 of crop	Fixed amount in cash or lint cotton
Tenant receives:	½ of crop	¾ or 2/3 of crop	Entire crop less fixed amount

timber mill (W.M. Timmons), a grist mill (J.B. Harper), an electric utility (Timmonsville Lumber and Power Company), and a bakery (J.C. Wilson) (Watson 1916). By the 1930s, the community had not only cotton markets, but nine tobacco markets, as well as a bottling plant, ice plant, a number of commercial establishments, several automobile dealerships, a planning mill, a cannery, and an active railway depot.

The last decade of the nineteenth century marked the culmination of 30 years of effort to remove blacks for the political process

<sup>1</sup> At the height of bright leaf production there were 77 markets in 29 towns across South Carolina.

and to re-assert white supremacy. The 1895 South Carolina Constitutional Convention almost totally disenfranchised blacks and the Federal government's retreat from its duty to protect the freedom of black citizens was symbolized by the 1896 Supreme Court decision of *Plessy v. Ferguson* that established the doctrine of "separate but equal." The Ku Klux Klan remained active in Florence County well into the 1920s, with the 1923 Confederate Veteran's Reunion in 1923 marking the climax of their activity (King 1981:331).

Being unable to vote in elections, an increasing number of Florence County blacks "voted with their feet," leaving Florence and South Carolina for the north. This exodus spurred many to encourage immigration into the region, in order to replenish the work force. In spite of this, by 1923 upwards of 100 blacks a month were leaving Florence.

In the most simple of terms, two types of tenancy existed in the South – sharecropping and renting. Sharecropping required the tenant to pay the landlord part of the crop produced, while renting required the tenant to pay a fixed rent in either crops or money. While similar, there were basic differences, perhaps the most significant of which was that the sharecropper was simply a wage laborer who received his portion of the crop from the plantation owner, while the renter paid his rent to the landlord.

Further distinctions can be made between sharecropping, share-renting, and cash-renting (see Table 2). With sharecropping the tenant supplied the labor and one-half of the necessary fertilizer, while the landlord supplied everything else, including the land, housing, tools, work animals, feed, and seed. At harvest the crop would be divided, usually equally. In share-renting the landlord supplied the land, housing, and either one-quarter or one-third of the fertilizer, while the tenant supplied everything else necessary, including the animals, feed, seed, and tools. At harvest the crop was divided equal to the portion of fertilizer each party provided. Finally, with

cash-renting the landlord supplied the land and the housing, while the tenant supplied everything else. The owner received a fixed rent per acre in cash.

Agee et al. provide some general information on agricultural activities during the early twentieth century, observing that:

Farms operated by tenants are usually devoted mainly to the production of cotton, corn, and tobacco. The ordinary yield of cotton on such farms is a little over one-half bale per acre, while that of corn is about 16 bushels. These yields could easily be increased, as is demonstrated by the better farmers, who obtain 1 bale to 2 bales of cotton and 40 to 60 bushels of corn per acre. . . . About 65 per cent of the farms are operated by tenants. . . . The ordinary yield of tobacco in the county is somewhat over 800 pounds per acre. The price has averaged about 14 cents per pound (Agee et al. 1916:9).

By the late 1920s the boll weevil was reaching Florence County and one newspaper editorial reported that the weevil had "put a stop to the lazy man's crop," and that now planting took "brains, money, hard work, and poison to raise cotton hereabouts these days" (quoted in King 1981:338).

Florence County is within the Atlantic Coastal Plain of the Cotton Region, while further to the west (and encompassing most of the South Carolina) was the Black Belt (Woofter 1936). The Atlantic Coastal Plain was characterized by medium sized plantations, while the Black Belt was the heart of the South's oldest Southern cotton plantations. As a consequence of these historical differences the two regions developed distinctively different forms of tenancy.

There was little difference in owner wealth between the two areas and the difference in net income per average plantation (\$5,343 compared to \$3,087) is partially the result of the smaller average plantation size in the Black Belt. There was considerable difference in the net income of tenants in the two areas. In the Atlantic Coastal Plain croppers averaged \$255 and share-renters averaged \$426 a year. The tenants in the Black Belt fared far worse, averaging \$127 for croppers and \$106 for share-renters. In addition, the tenancy rates varied from about 60% in the Atlantic Coastal Plain to 74% in the Black Belt. The Atlantic Coastal Plain tenancy system, however, had a high percentage of wage tenants (10.7%) than did the Black Belt (1.8%).

Florence County was in most respects typical of these findings. The tenancy rate in 1930 was about 66%, slightly higher than the region, but below that typical of the Black Belt. On the other hand, wage renters comprised fully a quarter of the tenants. Florence had nearly equal numbers of white and black tenants - 1927 white tenants (51.6%) and 1807 black tenants (48.4%) in 1930. Yet the white tenants farmed 101,185 acres compared to the blacks' 63,047 acres, suggesting a disproportionate distribution of agricultural wealth.

Relatively little mid-twentieth century tract specific history was developed - the Project Indigo tract was found to consist of 10 different parcels, although two accounted for about 60% of the total acreage during the 1930s and 1940s. The sizes ranged from under an acre to slightly over 200 acres.

### Research Questions

The Inner Coastal Plain has received relatively little archaeological attention. For example, the only major surveys conducted in the Florence County area are the 1984 investigation of 2700 acre Santee Cooper Pee Dee Electrical Generating Station (Taylor 1984), the 1,400 acre Roche Carolina facility (Trinkley and Adams 1992) and the investigation of

several tracts for the Honda facility (Trinkley 1997a, 1997b, 1997c). As a result, there is relatively little historical archaeology from this region, the most notable exception again being the recent investigations at the Roche Carolina tract (Trinkley et al. 1993). There are, however, a few studies from other areas that are essential to the formulation of a research context.

Excavations at a manager's site (38BK397), situated on Daniels Island in Berkeley County on the Lower Coastal Plain, revealed an occupation from about 1899 through about 1907 (Brockington et al. 1985). The site, while plowed, appeared to be relatively intact and offered the opportunity to explore yard proxemics utilizing the research of the Richland/Chambers project (Raab 1983; Jurney et al. 1983) where evidence of yard cleaning, accumulation of debris in specific areas, and activity area differentiation was possible. Adams (1980), from excavations at the late nineteenth century Waverly Plantation, also found evidence of patterning, with a very low artifact distribution near structures. The surface data from 38BK397 failed to reveal any recognizable patterns, although the excavated data revealed what the authors term a "diffusion-from-the-center" pattern, with the density decreasing as collection units become more distant from the structure (Brockington et al. 1985:228). The highest artifact density is encountered under the house, with moderately dense deposits found in the near back and side yards.

Similar analysis of yard trash associated with a late nineteenth-early twentieth century tenant site in Horry County (38HR131), also situated on the Lower Coastal Plain, revealed somewhat similar patterns of trash disposal (Trinkley and Caballero 1983a). Concentrations were found on either side of the house, with a specific trash dump identified in the rear far yard of the structure. Since the structure was standing at the time of the work it was not possible to examine under the house or porch for artifact density. Work by McBride (1984) also found that late nineteenth and early twentieth

century low status sites in Barton, Mississippi tended to have refuse scattered in the near yard, declining in density in the far yard areas (typically 30 feet or so).

Although not a major theme of their research Zierden et al. (1986) explored several additional tenant assemblages on Daniels Island in the Lower Coastal Plain. One of the more interesting discoveries was that at both sites the percentage ratio of container glass to utilitarian ceramics was between 23% and 26% to about 3%, compared to earlier nineteenth century ratios of 2 - 4% to 9 - 18%, clearly distinguishing the sites from both planter and slave (Zierden et al. 1986:7-13). Curiously, this same preponderance of glass was found at piedmont tenant sites by Trinkley and Caballero (1983b), where the shift away from coarse earthenwares was explained by the decline in glass prices during the last several decades of the nineteenth century and the early twentieth century.

Of the few tenant sites explored in the vicinity is 38SU81 (Trinkley et al. 1985). Here test excavations revealed a dense late nineteenth and early twentieth century settlement (pre-dating 1924, when the site is documented to have been abandoned). The excavated assemblage revealed 77.8% of the collection was kitchen related, with only 10.7% being architectural. Activity related artifacts account for an additional 10.0% of the assemblage. Glassware accounted for 49.3% of the Kitchen Artifact Group and 38.3% of the total assemblage, while ceramics accounts for only 24.1% of the Kitchen Group or 18.4% of the total assemblage. It's not clear whether the difference between the proportion of ceramics and glass at this site compared to the Daniel Island research is affected by its geographic location, social status, or perhaps temporal span. Nevertheless, it does reveal the exceptional amount of research that is still necessary at these sites. Flatwares accounted for 92.3% of the identifiable whitewares, with hollowwares accounting for 4.6% of the collection.

Kennedy et al. (1991) explored the difference between two structures on Hilton Head Island in Beaufort County, South Carolina (38BU966 and 38BU967) - one belonging to a small African American land owner and the other associated with a black who was probably a cash-renter. Both dated from the last decade of the nineteenth century into the first decade of the twentieth century. Not surprisingly, they found recognizable differences in the artifact assemblage of the two sites, with the owner site evidencing more ceramic sets, a larger minimum number of individual ceramics, a greater diversity of ceramic forms and types, and an overall higher artifact frequency. Perhaps of more interest is that both sites exhibited a low incidence of hollow vessels (such as bowls) in favor of plates. This seems to suggest that these black farmers were forsaking the one-pot stews so common in slavery -- indicative of a basic change in foodways. Examination of the floral and faunal remains is less convincing, with the floral remains indicating primarily domesticates, while the faunal remains suggesting a diet of both domesticates (primarily pig) and wild animals (Kennedy et al. 1991:126). Tin cans, indicative of processed foods, are nearly absent. This may be the result of Hilton Head's isolation during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.

While not specifically dealing with tenancy, two reports are worthy of special mention because of their comparative value. One is the research conducted at the freedmen site of Mitchelville (38BU805) on Hilton Head Island (Trinkley 1986), which provides a baseline for immediate post slavery freedmen settlement, subsistence, status, and artifact pattern studies. Spanning the period from about 1863 through about 1890, the site offers a unique view of how slaves were transformed into wage earners, owners, or tenants. Another equally significant, albeit brief, study is that of the Midway slave settlement in Georgetown County (also on the Lower Coastal Plain of South Carolina). At this site Smith (1986) examined a small sample of slave settlement occupied from at least the last decade before the Civil War until

about 1890. Consequently, the site spans almost equal periods of slavery and freedom, offering an assemblage somewhat akin to Mitchelville, but not organized around an "urban" concept. The Millwood data, in fact, may be similar to the work gang system used by plantation owners immediately after the Civil War. While not emphasizing the transitional nature of the collection, Smith (1986:53) does observe that the resulting artifact pattern "appears to be unusual."

From Florence County, research at 38FL240 provided an opportunity to explore the transition from slavery to tenancy at an interior settlement. In comparison with low country slave sites, the Gibson Plantation shows no improvement -- the artifacts are sparse and the assemblage is impoverished; the dwelling investigated is even more cramped than those on the coast; the diet reflects the same monotonous regimen of pork probably supplemented with corn meal. Since there seems to be good evidence that the effects of slavery were at least slightly ameliorated by the wealth and success of the master, it seems likely that slavery was even more overpowering at interior plantations since wealth was concentrated on the coast. The study also suggested that the diet of the freedmen on the plantation did not dramatically improve and, in fact, it appeared to get more monotonous, with less diversity in the foods present. There still was little opportunity, even in freedom, to supplement the diet with the range of wild plant and animal foods present near the site. While the diversity and quantity of artifacts slowly increased, what was most noticeable is how many of the artifacts of slavery seem to quickly drop out of the assemblage as the freedmen turned their backs on them.

Consequently, edged and annular wares are a small percentage of the assemblage, bowls are quickly replaced by plates, more elaborate clothing and personal items are found. Other signs of freedom include a greater effect on the landscape and a gradually increasing diversity in housing forms and features. One of the most interesting features is the low incidence of

tobacco related items on the sites, even when the effects of cigarettes and chewing tobacco are factored in. It is suggested that tobacco might also have been strongly associated with slavery and may be another symbol of the past rejected by the freedmen.

While conducted in the piedmont, rather than the coastal plain, the efforts by Joseph et al. (1991) at the Finch Farm (38SP101) in Spartanburg County, South Carolina are also worthy of brief mention. Excavations at the main house, as well as at two structures found little distinction in artifact assemblages. They observe that the owner distinguished himself from his tenants through architecture and the settlement plan, with the material culture perhaps being of little consequence since he did not regularly interact with his social contemporaries. They, as others, noticed that cheaper production "made the bottle and jar ubiquitous artifacts of little value," but also remark that these items, not being burnable and capable of quickly encompassing yards, were hauled to "non-productive locations" for dumping (Joseph et al. 1991:258-259).

From this previous research comes a series of obvious concerns over identifying the material basis of tenancy (and comparing that basis with both higher and lower status occupations), identifying the subsistence remains typically associated with tenancy, exploring the nature of the refuse patterns associated with tenant sites, and examining the different artifact patterns. There has been relatively little attention devoted to exploring the shift from slavery to tenancy, probably because the overlap is great and our analytical precision is rather ineffectual at this level. Likewise, there has been relatively little effort to translate the studies into an understanding of what life as a tenant was like (beyond the information available in historical accounts).

While many of the studies cited date from the 1980s, archaeological exploration of tenancy has had an uneven history, being plagued by waves of interest and activity, only

to then be ignored. The unevenness of the research interest and support has likely caused many researchers to stop short of a full commitment of time and resources. Consequently, at least in the Inner Coastal Plain of South Carolina, we are still in a data acquisition phase which is essential prior to any significant theoretical breakthroughs can be claimed.

The research at tenant sites has also helped us better understand the limitations of conventional compliance methodology. For example, the limited research has revealed that cruciform shovel testing, even at close intervals, may fail to accurately determine site boundaries, leaving sites open to damage even once green spaced. Studies have found that controlled surface collection produces a very different pattern than controlled excavations, with the surface collection over-selecting for kitchen related items (primarily ceramics and glass), while under-selecting for architectural materials (such as nails). Curiously, the other artifact groups are very proportionally very similar, suggesting that they are not greatly affected by collection strategy.

Finally, investigations have illustrated the need for additional research on late historic sites in South Carolina - there are few assemblages suitable for comparative studies. Even a cursory review of compliance literature will reveal a relatively large number of "tenant" sites being recommended as not eligible for inclusion on the National Register. There is certainly no shortage of research questions, especially for tenant sites which can be clearly tied to one discrete plantation, or which reveal clearly documented temporal spans, or for which there are oral informants.

### **The Natural Setting**

#### **Physiography**

Florence County is situated in the Inner and Middle Coastal Plain of South Carolina and is bounded to the north by Marlboro and Dillon

counties, to the west by Darlington, Lee and Sumter counties, and the Lynches River, to the south by Clarendon and Williamsburg counties and to the east by the Pee Dee River, which separates it from Marion County. The land primarily consists of gently rolling hills with elevations ranging from about 20 feet above mean sea level in parts of the river floodplains to a high of about 150 feet above sea level in the Florence-Timmonsville area. Most of the county has an elevation between 70 and 150 feet above sea level (Pitts 1974:109).

The county is drained by the Pee Dee river system which flows in a southeasterly direction and forms somewhat of a dendritic drainage pattern. It includes Lynches River, which merges with the Pee Dee in the southeastern corner of the county, as well as smaller streams such as Claussen Creek, Jeffries Creek, and Muddy Creek. In the project area, Sparrow Swamp to the west and Lake Swamp to the east both drain southeastwardly to the Lynches River, which in turn empties into the Pee Dee at the southern edge of the county. The headwaters of a small unnamed tributary flowing into Lake Swamp are located in the northeastern portion of the original survey tract.

The Honda tract is situated in the western portion of Florence County -- an area which is generally characterized by low, flatlands interspersed with small drainages, a few larger swamps, and numerous small bays.

The only natural border for the tract is a small section of Sparrow Swamp, on the parcel's western edge. Elsewhere boundaries are entirely arbitrary constructs - primarily private landholdings, although the southeastern boundary is I-95 and a portion of the eastern boundary is S-83.

The topography tends to be flat with a range of elevation between 40 and 45 feet above sea level. The eastern half of the tract tends to drain to the southeast, following an old drainage which has recently been partially channelized by

the County. The rest of the tract has a barely noticeable dip to the south.

Often described as flatwoods, this area is characterized by broad flat areas, which consist of a few low ridges and bay depressions. The most common depressions in the Coastal Plain are Carolina bays, usually marshy and oval in shape (Richards 1959:45-46). Water depth varies from shallow lakes to areas with a preponderance of peat and herbaceous species (Barry 1980:131-13). Edmond Ruffin, a mid-nineteenth century observer, commented that these features provided good pasturage for cattle (Mathew 1992:210). Soils in such areas are generally poorly drained loamy sands and the typical vegetation is usually mesic or swampy, often characterized by bay trees.

### Geology and Soils

The geology is characteristic of the Coastal Plain. The parent materials of the soils are marine or fluvial deposits which consist of varying amounts of sands, silts, and clays. There are four primary geologic formations deposited at different periods during alternating transgression and recession of the ocean: the Duplin Marl Formation underlies parts of the southern and western portions of the county; the Black Creek Formation is found in the northern portion of the county. The Black Creek Formation directly underlies the Pee Dee Formation and is Upper Cretaceous in age. It is described as fossiliferous, pyritic, lignitic white to gray, fine to medium-grained phosphatic sands, and blue-gray to black pyritic, plastic, or brittle clays (Park 1980).

Overlying all of these formations is a relatively thin mantle of undifferentiated light-colored sands and gravels with clay layers of Plio-Pleistocene age. The Pleistocene deposits include the Brandywine terrace (215 to 270 feet MSL), the Coharie terrace (170 to 215 feet MSL), the Sunderland terrace (100 to 170 feet MSL), the Penholoway terrace (42 to 70 feet MSL), the Talbot terrace (25 to 42 feet MSL), and the

Pamlico terrace (less than 25 feet MSL) (Pitts 1974:109-110).

The project area contains seven soil series including Coxville, Duplin, Goldsboro, Lynchburg, Norfolk, Rains, and Varina soils. Of these, Coxville and Rains are poorly drained, while the Lynchburg soils are somewhat poorly drained. These soils have seasonal high water tables ranging from 0 to 2.0 feet below the surface. Taken together they account for about 75% of the Honda tract. These soils are most commonly associated with the wooded tracts, but may be incorporated into cultivated fields if drainage ditches are present (and numerous ditches were present on the original survey parcel).

The Duplin and Goldsboro soils are moderately well drained while the Norfolk and Varina soils are well drained. These soils have seasonal high water tables ranging from 1.5 to 6 feet below the ground surface and together account for about 25% of the soils in the Honda parcel. Most of these better drained soils are found where fields have been opened for cultivation, such as on the eastern and western edges of the study area.

### Climate

The general climate of the Florence county area is characterized by mild humid conditions. This climate is influenced by the warm Gulf Stream, as well as by the Appalachian mountains which block the coldest air masses. Other factors include latitude, elevation, distance from the ocean, and location with respect to the average tracts of migratory cyclones. Day to day weather is controlled primarily by the movement of pressure systems across the nation. However, during the summer months there are few complete exchanges of air masses because tropical maritime air persists for extended periods (Pitts 1974:108).

The average annual precipitation in the Florence area is 44.5 inches and is unevenly distributed throughout the year, with 28.9

inches occurring from April through October which is the primary growing season (Pitts 1974:108).

The climate, according to Mills (1972:625 [1826]), "taking the whole year round, is pleasant". The annual average temperature in Florence is 63.2°F, and the average monthly temperature ranges from 44.8°F in January to 80.3°F in July. Frozen precipitation occurs only



Figure 4. View of the site area looking south from the dirt road.

one to three times a year during the winter season. The abundant supply of warm, moist and relatively unstable air produces frequent scattered showers and thunderstorms in the summer. Severe weather usually means violent thunderstorms, tornadoes, and hurricanes. The tropical storm season is in late summer and early fall, although storms may occur as early as May or as late as October (NOAA 1977). Heavy rains and high winds occur with tropical storms about once every six years. Storms of hurricane intensity are much more infrequent. Notable droughts have occurred twice in modern times; in 1925 and 1954. Typically a serious drought may occur once every fifty years. Less severe dry periods have occurred more often, normally in late spring or in autumn (Pitts 1974:109).

## Vegetation

There are two major categories of plant communities, based primarily on topographic location, which exist in the project area. The first category consists of upland vegetation. Supported here are a mixture of coniferous and deciduous forests dominated by pines and broadleaf taxa such as upland oaks, sweetgum, hickories, and various understory species.

Incorporated may be small upland depressions and drainages, which contain more hydric species.

Portions of the upland area were found to contain pine forest, typically found on soils of low fertility, high acidity, and excessive drainage. Most often these area have been subjected to extensive disturbance, including repeated logging operations, and the pine represent an early stage of

revegetation. A few areas of hardwood forest exist in the project area, where oaks, maple, sweetgum, black gum, and mockernut hickory are prevalent. More common, however are mixed forests, containing both pines and hardwoods.

Lowland forests, which account for the second category, are located on the floodplain of Sparrow Swamp. This floodplain is about 20 feet lower in elevation and is defined by a gradual slope. These floodplain soils are forested with bald cypress, gum, sycamore, water hickory, lowland oaks, soft maples, willows, and other herbaceous species.

Today, about a third of the Florence's uplands have been cleared for cultivation. On

the survey tract, approximately 50% of the land was in fallow fields or active cultivation during the 1997 study. The remainder of the area consisted primarily of coniferous and deciduous trees including pines, oaks, sweetgums, and hickories. In addition, the wooded areas consisted of a very thick understory of plants including various shrubs, vines, and herbaceous species. Most common are blackberry (particularly along field edges), muscadine, and poison ivy.

We found that the vegetation at 38FL344 was dominated by second growth scrub that had taken over yard areas (even as early as the 1997 study). Today these scrub is expanding outward into the adjacent fields that are no longer being cultivated. To the rear of the house is an area of mixed pine and hardwood, with evidence of logging perhaps 30 to 40 years ago (at which time pines upwards of 18 to 20-inches in diameter were removed).

### **Curation**

An updated archaeological site form for 38FL344 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 under site number 38FL344. 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 color prints and, not being archival, these have been retained by Chicora.

## ASSESSMENT ACTIVITIES

### Oral History

An initial step in the assessment process was attempting to locate Son James, an African American farmer who visited during the initial 1997 survey and who lived in the structure at 38FL344. Lacking contact information we began calling individuals listed in the Timmonsville phone book, locating Mr. Johnny James, Sr. We met with Mr. James the following day and spoke with him about his life in the area for several hours.

Mr. James was born in 1925 and has vivid memories, even as a child, of the "Hoover Days," leading up to the Great Depression. He was born on Young's Farm (part of the Honda tract) and stayed there until 1930, when his parents moved to Garner's Mill Pond, where they lived through 1932. In 1933 the family moved to the White Farm and in 1935 moved to Walter Brooks' farm, where they stayed for only a year. Mr. James has clear memories of the operations on Brooks' farm, suggesting that by age 10 he was playing an active role in the farming activities. When asked why the family stayed at this particular farm for such a short period, he explained that it was because of Mr. Brooks' accounting practices, "You would borrow \$300 and at the end of the year you'd be told you owed \$700 - there was no way and you knew it, but without a piece of paper you could never prove it." As a result, Mr. James said tenants showed their anger by "moving on," voting with their feet.

In 1936 his family moved to the White's farm again, staying there for 3 years. He specifically remembered that during this period there was a commissary operating on the farm.

In 1939 he moved to the Herbert Morris farm, where he stayed for 9 years. He had very favorable memories of Mr. Morris, noting that he was an honest man and that there was never a year when he owed more than \$300.

It was during his work at the Morris farm that he married his wife from the Sparrow Swamp area in 1943. During the 1940s Mr. James was in the military and it wasn't until 1961 that he moved back to the Young's farm. It was also about that time that tractors were finally being used in Florence County. By this time there were no longer any commissaries on the plantations - everyone went into Timmonsville.

Mr. James explained that during the 1930s through 1960s Timmonsville was a very busy and prosperous community. He has specific memories of the bottling plant, the various automobile dealers, stores such as B.C. Moore, the town's nine tobacco warehouses, a cannery operated first by Patterson & Young and later by the vocational school, as well as a number of groceries. He also recalls that the railroad would bring in box cars full of bagged fertilizer - and that one of the jobs he would have would be to go to town with one or two other men and unload this fertilizer for the farm he was working on. There was also a gin in Timmonsville on Market Street (this building, while boarded up, is still standing).

He was also able to provide some information about African American burial practices and cemeteries. The earliest white undertakers he remembers is the firm of Hamm and Platt, who also buried blacks "early on." Later there were at least two black funeral

homes – Bowman and Howard, and McCoat. He explained that all of the blacks he knew – including most of his family – were buried at “Sally Hill,” although this graveyard is never used anymore and is just about forgotten.

The “visit day” was Saturday afternoon, when Timmons ville was always crowded; during tobacco season from about July through October, however, the streets were “shoulder to shoulder, there were so many people.” He remembers the 9pm curfew in Timmons ville, explaining that the Civil Defense siren would be used to clear the streets, with police then beginning a sweep of the town, telling people to go home. Those still around after 9pm would be arrested.

Mr. James moved into the structure at 38FL344 in 1968, living there until 1971. It was around this time that rural electrification was actually arriving to the laborers in this part of Florence County. It was also during this period that he stopped being a sharecropper and shifted to day labor.

When asked about this shift, he explained that it was entirely about money. Throughout his years of sharecropping, it was a “good year” when he made \$300. Most years, he explained, he went into debt, often deeply – so it would take several good years to even begin to climb out of the hole that sharecropping put you in. Sharecropping in Florence County was consistent with the pattern reported elsewhere in the State, with the cropper receiving half of the crop – after all debts were taken out.

Most years as a sharecropper Mr. James would plant about 3 acres of tobacco, 10 acres of cotton, and 2 acres of peppers or similar truck crops.

His shift to day labor provided a steady wage of \$5 a day for his work, while his wife received \$3 a day. Children might also be paid around \$3 a day, although some were paid as little as \$2.50 a day or \$10 a week to cut tobacco. This provided a combined income of about \$40 a

week or around \$1,000 a year. While this was far better than sharecropping, it still provided only a precarious living into the 1970s. He explained that he worked with his two sons, operating three tractors. Mr. James afterwards began working for the County, operating heavy equipment doing road maintenance. He retired from the county about 9 years later.

Mr. James recalled that before he moved into the structure at 38FL344 it was occupied by a Dave Wilson. After he left Willie Taylor, who is now dead, lived it in for several years.

Mr. James, having lived in the area all his life (excepting his military tour) reports that while there was “lots of work” during the 1960s, the community made “no progress.” By the 1970s he explained that the town was failing – stores were closing and business was getting scarce. He attributes some of this decline to government programs reducing tobacco production, but he commented that the stagnation was primarily the result of “no progress.” This sounds circular, but I believe his point was that Timmons ville failed to have leadership or vision and that the community failed to expand, provide opportunities, or reasons for the young to stay. He indicates that from the late 1960s through the 1970s there was a steady out migration from this part of Florence County and that even today there is little in Timmons ville to attract the young to stay there.

Turning again to the structure at 38FL344 he had clear memories of its layout. Just as today, the house was situated in a little area between two fields. He remembers the large oak in the rear yard. In the front yard was a chicken coup. In the rear yard, about 100 feet from the house, was a barn that was used to store cotton. The tractors, however, would be returned to the owner’s barns each night. To the side of the barn was a privy.

Mr. James explained that there was no trash pick-up, so that all debris was piled in the yard and periodically burned. Those items that don’t burn, like cans and glass jars, would

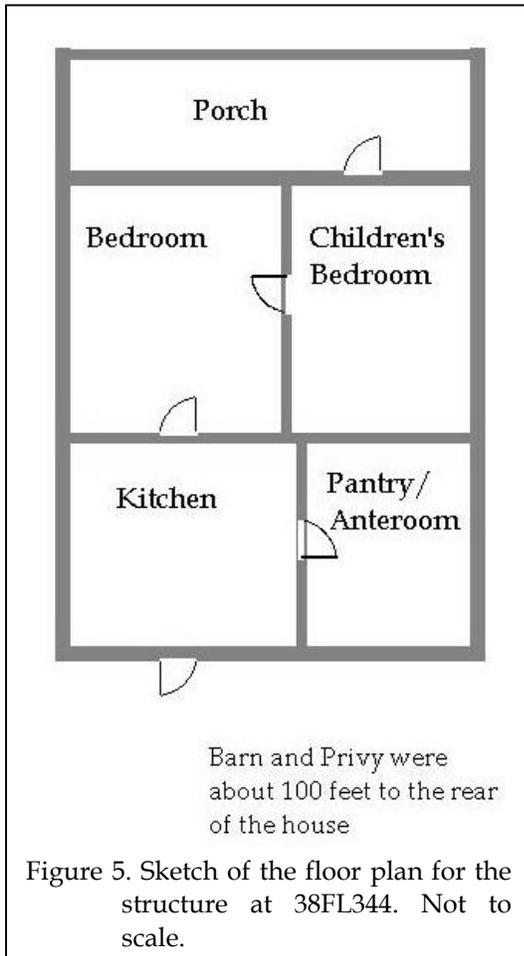


Figure 5. Sketch of the floor plan for the structure at 38FL344. Not to scale.

accumulate. When the pile got too large he said a hole would be dug, the debris pushed into the hole, and a new pile begun. He was also very specific that the trash was piled “on the edge of the fields.”

The house was one story, lacking any sort of attic or garret. There were four rooms, two on the front and two at the rear, with no hallway. There was a full-façade front porch. Entrance was off-center at the front of the structure into one room. This room provided access to the adjacent front room, which had a door opening into the rear kitchen. From this kitchen you could access the rear door with only steps leading into the rear yard, or into the other rear

room, which he called an anteroom or pantry.

The front entry room was used by Mr. James as a bedroom for his three children. The adjacent front room was a bedroom for he and his wife. The house was dilapidated when Mr. James lived in it. Perhaps his most vivid memory was of the cracks between the floor boards. While uncertain, he believes the house was constructed in the mid-1920s. He was adamant that there were no “add-ons” or extensions, briefly talking about another house he lived in that did have a rear “ell.”

### Architectural Observations

The structure at 38FL344 is in ruins (Figure 6), with only very generalized architectural details still recognizable. The structure is estimated to have measured 28 feet in width (east-west) by 40 feet in length (north-south), including a front porch that extends across the entire façade. The house was oriented N12°E.

While the outer edges of the sill, where visible, were set on concrete blocks or mixes of blocks and fired brick, the central joist was supported by log piers. This suggests that as the wood piers rotted, they were replaced by more modern materials.



Figure 6. View of collapsed structure, looking west.



Figure 7. View of central rough hewn sill, joist with circular saw marks and log pier, looking to the southwest.

We found that there was a 9½" x 6½" rough hewn girder or sill extending entirely around the perimeter and bisecting the house



Figure 8. Roofing materials. View to the north.

north-south. This suggests that these heavy timbers were salvaged from a previous structure and reused at 38FL344.

Extending from each side to the middle sill were 8¼" x 1½" joints evidencing circular saw cuts and placed between 1' 9½" and 2' 1⅝"

on center. The flooring consisted of 1" pine boards about 6⅝" in width. All nails were wire and the few items of hardware identified were all consistent with an early to mid-twentieth century construction episode.

The roof reveals two repair episodes. The original roof was covered in cut wood shingles, attached with wire nails. Over these were individual cut (but not tabbed) asphalt shingles. Over the asphalt roofing was tin roofing.

The architectural items, as previously mentioned, suggest the reuse of large timbers from a previous structure, with the foundation set on wood blocks. Other wood framing clearly reveals circular saw marks and the earliest roofing was cut wood shingles. Taken together, these features suggest an early twentieth century construction date for the structure, perhaps ca. 1920. This is consistent with the available mapping and the oral history.

### Archaeological Activities

To investigate this site we conducted shovel testing at 20-foot intervals, laying in a grid measuring 120 feet east-west by 240 feet north-south. While not quite as wide as originally projected (150 feet), this encompasses an additional 40 feet to the south. This grid was based on the topographic and natural features that we identified, including the house ruins, three distinct trash piles, a small ruin in the front yard, ditches on either side of the structure, the fields to the east and west, and the report of a barn about 100 feet to the rear of the house.



Figure 9. Logging damage to the rear (south) of 38FL344.

Shovel testing did not extend further to the south since our survey revealed extensive logging damage in this area, with ruts up to 1.5 feet in depth, and evidence that massive (2-foot in diameter) pines had been removed, probably sometime in the 1980s.

The shovel test grid was laid out using pin flags and the grid was numbered using a modified Chicago grid system. A 0R0 point is located off site and each grid point is designated as feet north and right (or east) of this arbitrary 0R0 point. Thus, grid point 100R500 would be located 100 feet to the north and 500 feet to the right or east. Using this system the grid extended from N100 to N340 and from R380 to R500. The site grid is oriented magnetic north-south.

All shovel tests were approximately 1-foot square and were excavated to the subsoil. All fill was screened through ¼ -inch mesh.

In addition to the resulting 91 shovel tests, we also excavated two 2-foot units, one at the rear of the site and one in the front yard near a trash dump. These units are identified by their southeast corner using the site grid. The southern unit is located at 120R420 and the northern unit is situated at 300R460. 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 opening slightly larger units for soil profile information.

### Results of Archaeological Studies

#### Shovel Tests

Forty-seven of the 90 shovel tests (52.2%) were positive, although some of these produced very few remains and may be the



Figure 10. Shovel testing at 38FL344.

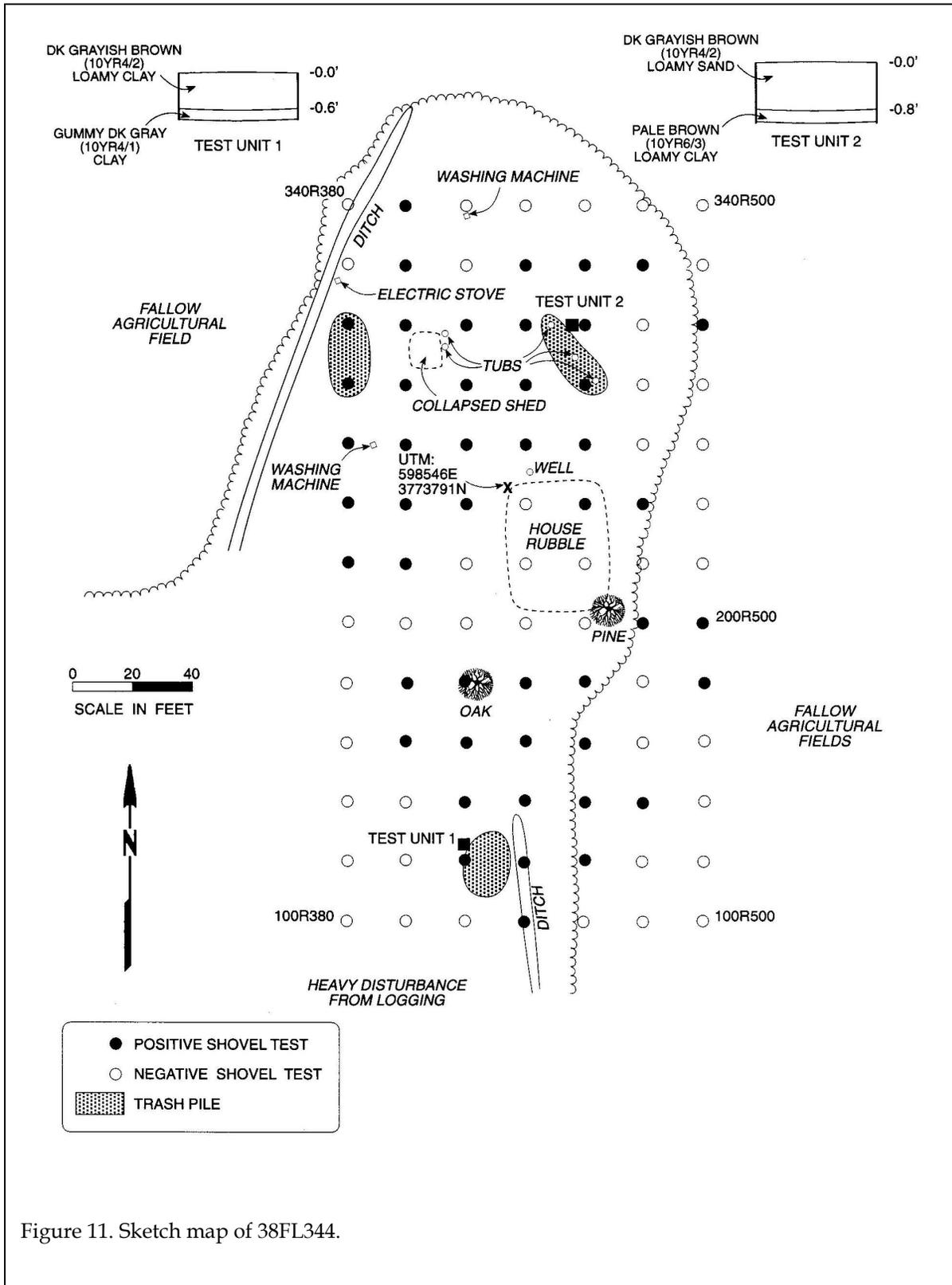


Figure 11. Sketch map of 38FL344.

result of plow spread. Regardless, we found a relatively uniform dispersion of remains from about the N320 line south to the N120 line with little material further to the north or south. Likewise, we found that the site appears to extend into the agricultural fields to the southeast of the site, perhaps where the tree line has been pushed toward the structure to open more land, and to extend to the northwest, toward the ditch that seems to reflect a site boundary.

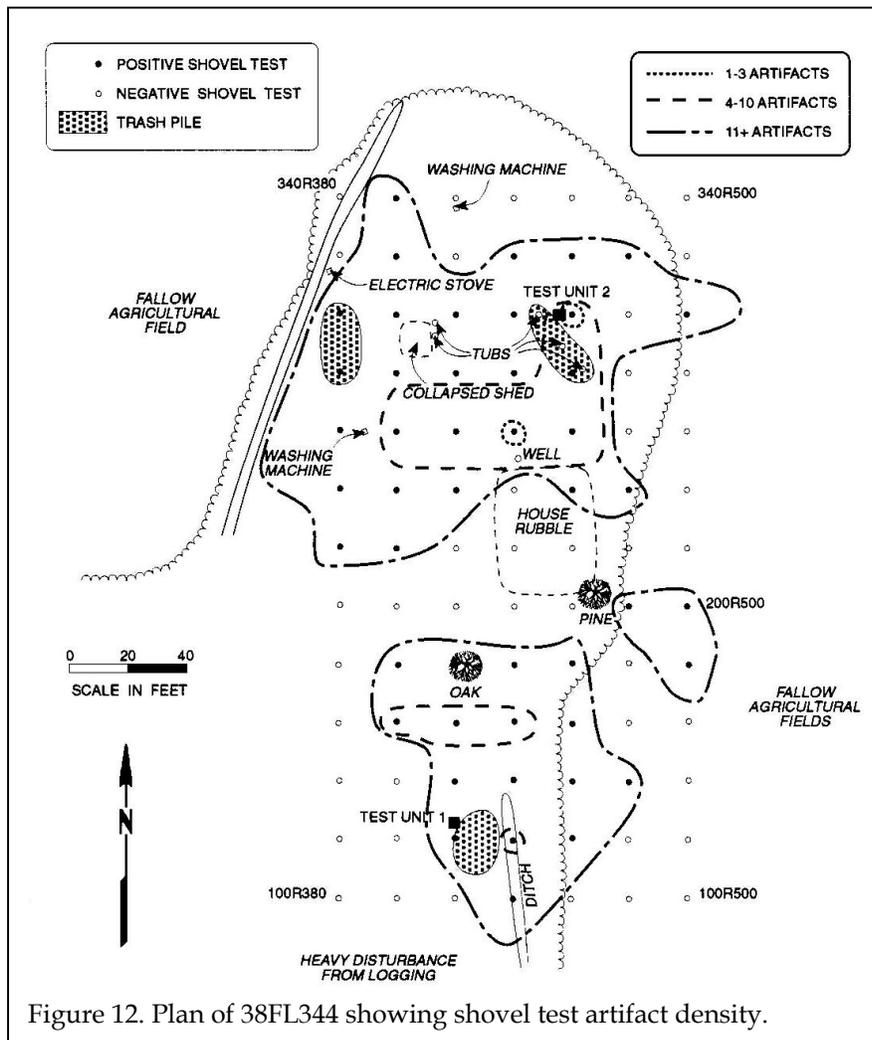
structure, with a very small third area at the southeast of the structure in the adjacent agricultural field.

The two larger - and denser - deposits appear to reflect front and rear yard trash disposal areas, with one discrete trash pile in the rear yard and two - one to the east and another to the west - in the front yard. Both areas have secondary cores of denser remains, but when these particularly dense areas are examined, each is comprised almost exclusively of glass fragments.

The shovel tests in the front yard reveal soil profiles reflective of reduced, wet soils. Generally we found a dark grayish brown (10YR4/2) loamy clay about 0.5 foot in depth overlying a gummy dark gray (10YR4/1) clay subsoil. In general shovel testing stopped at or slightly below this clay layer. These soils are clearly Coxville fine sandy loams.

To the rear of the structure we found somewhat better drained soils, with profiles of dark grayish brown (10YR4/2) loamy sand about 0.6 foot in depth over a pale brown (10YR6/3) loamy clay. These profiles more closely resemble the Norfolk loamy sands.

The shovel tests failed to identify a barn or evidence of occupation beyond about 100 feet south of the house. In fact, artifact density declines dramatically to the south. The failure to recover evidence of the barn (and privy) reported by our oral informant may be the result



While the shovel tests don't provide perfect coverage, they do suggest that the site is elongated north-south, while confined east and west by agricultural activities. When artifact density is examined, we see two distinct disposal areas to the north and south of the

of the very intensive logging damage at the south edge of the site.

### Test Units

Two test units were excavated, each 2-foot square. Test Unit 1, placed at 120R420, produced rather sparse remains, in spite of its location near a large trash pile. The profile, however, was consistent with the shovel tests in



Figure 13. Test Unit 1, view to the east.

this area, revealing 0.6 foot of dark grayish brown (10YR4/2) loamy sand over a pale brown (10YR6/3) loamy clay. Artifacts were confined entirely to the upper A or Ap horizon. This unit was excavated in this area since the adjacent shovel test produced a lens of brick rubble – this rubble was not found in the test unit.

Test Unit 2 was placed in the front yard, in an area where artifact density was high in shovel tests and there was a diffuse scatter of trash. This unit paralleled the profiles of nearby shovel tests, revealing a dark grayish brown (10YR4/2) loamy clay about 0.5 foot in depth overlying a gummy dark gray (10YR4/1) clay subsoil. Again artifacts were found only in the upper A horizon (excepting a few small items that were likely in root holes or on the soil

interface). Artifacts were far more abundant in this unit, likely the result of the very dense trash pile nearby.

Neither test unit suggests that the trash was associated with a pit or that there had been intensive burning (i.e., there was no melted glass, charred wood, or lenses of charcoal).

### Artifacts

The investigations at 38FL344 produced 393 artifacts, most (225 or 57.2%) coming from Test Unit 2. Of the collection, most of the materials (295, or 75.1%) have been placed in the Kitchen Artifact Group and consist of such items as ceramics and bottle glass. Some of the items are easily recognizable, such as the pull tabs from aluminum cans, soda bottles, or the stainless steel fork. Other remains are perhaps less recognizable, representing fragments of various glass containers, including canning jars and condiment bottle fragments.

The ceramics are limited to whitewares and the remains present reveal considerable variation in styles and motifs, including undecorated, decalcomania, tinted glaze, and



Figure 14. Test Unit 2, view to the east.

**ASSESSMENT ACTIVITIES**

polychrome hand painted.

Identifiable bottle fragments are uncommon, although one Sun Crest soda bottle was recovered. This was a popular fruit flavored drink begun in the 1950s and Jetter (1987:69) notes that the brand name was a production label for a variety of companies - one in Florence.

(1954), and a range of major appliances (1978). It is likely that this "cap" is off one of these items.

The collection of artifacts reveals a pattern that is typical for impermanent, and impoverished, tenant sites. Table 3 lists a number of previously investigated tenant sites spanning the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, as well as both Coastal Plain and

	38FL344 <sup>1</sup>	38SU81 <sup>2</sup>	38SP101D <sup>3</sup>	38HR127 <sup>4</sup>	38HR131 <sup>5</sup>	Lynch <sup>6</sup>	Nichols <sup>7</sup>	Stine <sup>8</sup>	Range
Kitchen	75.1	77.8	72.3	78.7	79.9	85.8	78.1	80.2	72.3 - 85.8
Architecture	17.8	10.7	22.1	18.1	3.6	3.1	14.4	12.3	3.1 - 22.1
Furniture	-	0.3	-	-	1.2	-	0.1	0.7	0 - 1.2
Arms	-	1.2	-	-	-	2.4	0.9	1.0	0 - 2.4
Clothing	0.2	-	1.5	0.7	6.5	-	0.6	0.9	0 - 6.5
Personal	-	-	0.3	0.5	-	-	0.7	0.2	0 - 0.7
Tobacco	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
Activities	6.9	10.0	3.8	2.0	8.8	7.9	5.3	4.6	2.0 - 10.0
Standing Architecture	✓	✗	✗	✗	✓	✗	✓	✓	
<sup>1</sup> This report			<sup>4</sup> Trinkley and Caballero 1983a			<sup>7</sup> Stine 1989			
<sup>2</sup> Trinkley et al. 1985			<sup>5</sup> Trinkley and Calallero 1983a			<sup>8</sup> Stine 1989			
<sup>3</sup> Trinkley and Caballero 1983b			<sup>6</sup> Joseph et al. 1981						

Architectural remains are less common, in spite of the nearby collapsed structure, accounting for 70 specimens and 17.8% of the total assemblage. These remains, not unexpectedly, are primarily nails (43) and window glass (20), with small numbers of other hardware or related items.

The only clothing item is a single brass grommet, possibly from a boot given its size.

In the other category are a range of materials that don't conveniently fit into any of the other categories. The aluminum foil might be a kitchen related item, although it does have other functions and is therefore included in the "other" category. One unusual item was a metal cap embossed "Crosley." Powel Crosley was an American enterprenur who first manufactured refrigerators (the earliest brand was the "Shelvador," marketed in 1933), followed by a number of subcompact cars (from 1939-1952), tube radios (1920-1956), a portable television

Piedmont settings in South and North Carolina. These sites also exhibit both standing architecture, as well as an absence of architecture. All reveal very similar findings, with the collection dominated by kitchen items coupled with relatively low architectural remains. A range (which has been previously examined by Joseph et al. 1991:171-175) is offered for the sites. Joseph and his colleagues distinguish the tenant pattern - shown above in Table 3 - from more stable agricultural farmsteads such as the Finch and Webb farms. These findings also suggest that what Drucker and her colleagues proposed as a Piedmont Tenant or Yeoman pattern (Drucker et al. 1984) is actually the same as the farmstead pattern proposed by Joseph.

By way of explanation, the dominance of kitchen items is affected not only by the impermanence of tenant structures (and hence the relatively low architectural contribution), but also by the prevelance of inexpensive glassware during the early twentieth century. At

most tenant sites glass artifacts will easily outnumber the ceramics – and it is no different at 38FL344 where 14 ceramics are found with 270 glass specimens (197 of which were clear glass). Furniture, arms, clothing, and personal items comprise various proportions of the overall assemblage, but are never more than about 7% and are usually far less.

There is one category that seems never to be found on twentieth century tenant sites – tobacco items. This is likely due to the rise of cigarettes over other forms of tobacco, especially pipes. Although the first practical cigarette making machine was available in the 1880s, rolling tobacco with its obvious tin cans, continued to dominate until 1919. In that year the sale of cigarettes surpasses rolling tobacco for the first time and cigarettes, which leave almost no archaeological evidence achieved ascendancy.

The Activities Group, while admittedly

Table 4.  
Mean Ceramic Date for 38FL344

Ceramic	Date Range	Mean Date (xi)	(fi)	fi x xi
Whiteware, poly hand painted	1826-1870	1848	1	1848
Whiteware, poly decalomania	1901-1950	1926	1	1926
Whiteware, tinted glaze	1911-1970	1941	3	5823
Whiteware, undecorated	1825-1970	1898	9	17082
Total			14	26679
Mean Ceramic Date	1905.6			

a hodge-podge of various items that don't easily fit elsewhere, has long been taken to provide some indication of farm-related activities with its subcategories of stable, barn, and hardware. At tenant sites the activities related artifacts may range as low as 2%, but typically these items account for 5 to 10% of the total assemblage.

The collection from 38FL344 is an excellent match for the Tenant Pattern, consistent with the oral history collected for the site. It shows the site to be consistent with other resources of this type.

We have found that efforts to date the ceramics at tenant sites provides little useful information. Even the whiteware dates proposed by Bartovics (1978) and Orser et al. (1982) appear to date site too early when compared to other artifacts or the oral histories. For example, the mean date for 38FL344 is an implausible 1906 (Table 4) – nearly 40 to perhaps 50 years earlier than it should be.

Other artifacts provide a more realistic, even if imprecise, date. For example, the previously mentioned Crosley cap is suggestive of a 1920 through ca. 1970 range. The Suncrest soda bottle dates to the 1950s (Jeter 1987). Aluminum foil became available in 1929, although it wasn't until the price of aluminum dropped in the late 1930s and early 1940s that the foil was widely available ("Packaging History, [http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/body\\_ae206](http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/body_ae206)). The stay-on aluminum tab was invented in 1974 ("Time Line of Soft Drink History – Introduction to Pop", <http://inventors.about.com/library/weekly/as091699.htm>).

The one utensil found at the site, a fork, is marked on the reverse, "KPKO STAINLESS STEEL JAPAN." This is the Nihon K.P.K. Industry Company, Ltd. that was founded in 1985 and that specializes in the application of gold coloring to stainless steel (<http://www.export-japan.com/marketing/higashiosak/nihon.html>). The item recovered from 38FL344 does have a gold wash still adhering to the various decorative elements. A final datable item, the light bulb base and foot found at the site, is of modern construction and would post-date 1934 (Woodhead et al. 1984). Finally, the absence of manganese glass on the site suggests a post-WWI date (Jones and Sullivan 1985). Several bottles were identified at the site with applied painted labels – a technique that did not begin until the early 1930s (and continues today). However, the Coca-Cola bottles found on the site with painted labels post-date 1965 (Jetter 1987:30).

ASSESSMENT ACTIVITIES

Table 5.  
Artifacts Recovered from 38FL344

	100 R440	120 R420	120 R440	120 R460	140 R420	140 R440	140 R460	140 R480	160 R400	160 R420	160 R440	160 R460	180 R400	180 R420
<b>Kitchen Group</b>														
Whiteware, undecorated														
Whiteware, decal print														
Whiteware, tinted														
Whiteware, hand paint														
Glass, clear	1	1	5		2	1	1		5	6	5			
Glass, brown														
Glass, aqua														1
Glass, light green														
Glass, green														
Glass, yellow														
Glass, blue														
Glass, light blue														
Glass, soda bottle														1*
Glass, soda bottle fragment**														
Glass, milk														
Glass, tinted milk														
Glass, melted														
Jar insulator														
Tin can														
Soda pop top fragments														
Lids, metal														
Fork														
<b>Architecture Group</b>														
Wire cut nail					1					2				1
UID nail									1					
Window glass										2	1			
Door hinge														
Electrical Insulator									1					
Staple, iron				1										
Asbestos														
Light bulb fragment														
<b>Clothing Group</b>														
Brass Grommet														
<b>Other</b>														
Crowley Cap														
Coal														
UID metal												1		
UID copper														
UID iron														
Aluminum foil														
Wire fragments														
Rod, iron								1						
Sewer pipe														
Bone														
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>

\*: Sun Crest Soda Bottle  
\*\*: Contains an applied color label

ARCHAEOLOGICAL TESTING 38FL344

Table 5.  
Artifacts Recovered from 38FL344, cont.

	180 R440	180 R460	180 R500	200 R480	200 R500	220 R380	220 R400	240 R380	240 R400	240 R420	240 R460	240 R480	260 R380	260 R400
<b>Kitchen Group</b>														
Whiteware, undecorated									1	1				
Whiteware, decal print														
Whiteware, tinted														
Whiteware, hand paint														
Glass, clear		1	2	1	1				1				1	6
Glass, brown														
Glass, aqua														
Glass, light green														
Glass, green														
Glass, yellow														
Glass, blue														
Glass, light blue														
Glass, soda bottle														
Glass, soda bottle fragment**							1							
Glass, milk														
Glass, tinted milk														
Glass, melted														
Jar insulator														
Tin can														
Soda pop top fragments														
Lids, metal														
Fork														
<b>Architecture Group</b>														
Wire cut nail												1		1
UID nail													2	1
Window glass	2					2			1					
Door hinge														
Electrical Insulator														
Staple, iron														
Asbestos														
Light bulb fragment														
<b>Clothing Group</b>														
Brass Grommet														
<b>Other</b>														
Crowley Cap														
Coal														
UID metal														1
UID copper														
UID iron								1						
Aluminum foil														
Wire fragments														
Rod, iron														
Sewer pipe											1			
Bone														
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>9</b>
*: Sun Crest Soda Bottle														
**: Contains an applied color label														

ASSESSMENT ACTIVITIES

Table 5.  
Artifacts Recovered from 38FL344, cont.

	260 R420	260 R440	260 R460	280 R380	280 R400	280 R420	280 R440	280 R460	300 R380	300 R400	300 R420	300 R440	300 R460	300 R500
<b>Kitchen Group</b>														
Whiteware, undecorated		2									1		1	
Whiteware, decal print		1												
Whiteware, tinted					1				1					
Whiteware, hand paint														
Glass, clear	2	5	2	1		2	2	3	1	2		1	20	1
Glass, brown			1											
Glass, aqua														1
Glass, light green				1										2
Glass, green														
Glass, yellow														1
Glass, blue														
Glass, light blue														
Glass, soda bottle														
Glass, soda bottle fragment**										1				
Glass, milk						1			1			1	1	
Glass, tinted milk								2						
Glass, melted														
Jar insulator														
Tin can														1
Soda pop top fragments														
Lids, metal														
Fork														
<b>Architecture Group</b>														
Wire cut nail		2		1			1							3
UID nail		1	1		1			1			2			
Window glass													1	1
Door hinge													1	
Electrical Insulator														
Staple, iron														
Asbestos														
Light bulb fragment														
<b>Clothing Group</b>														
Brass Grommet														
<b>Other</b>														
Crowley Cap														
Coal	2													
UID metal			1											
UID copper								1						
UID iron													2	
Aluminum foil														
Wire fragments														
Rod, iron														
Sewer pipe														
Bone														
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>2</b>

\*: Sun Crest Soda Bottle

\*\*: Contains an applied color label

Table 5.  
Artifacts Recovered from 38FL344, cont.

	320 R400	320 R440	320 R460	320 R480	340 R400	Surface	Test Unit 1	Test Unit 2	TOTAL
<b>Kitchen Group</b>									
Whiteware, undecorated								3	9
Whiteware, decal print									1
Whiteware, tinted								1	3
Whiteware, hand paint								1	1
Glass, clear	1	1		1	1		4	107	197
Glass, brown							1	4	6
Glass, aqua			1					2	5
Glass, light green									3
Glass, green								2	2
Glass, yellow								2	3
Glass, blue								1	1
Glass, light blue								12	12
Glass, soda bottle									1
Glass, soda bottle fragment**								6	8
Glass, milk						1		10	15
Glass, tinted milk									2
Glass, melted								15	15
Jar insulator			1						1
Tin can								5	6
Soda pop top fragments								2	2
Lids, metal								1	1
Fork								1	1
<b>Architecture Group</b>									
Wire cut nail								16	29
UID nail								4	14
Window glass							1	9	20
Door hinge									1
Electrical Insulator									1
Staple, iron									1
Asbestos								2	2
Light bulb fragment								2	2
<b>Clothing Group</b>									
Brass Grommet								1	1
<b>Other</b>									
Crowley Cap								1	1
Coal									2
UID metal									3
UID copper									1
UID iron								1	4
Aluminum foil								2	2
Wire fragments								4	4
Rod, iron									1
Sewer pipe									1
Bone								8	8
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>225</b>	<b>393</b>

\*: Sun Crest Soda Bottle

\*\* : Contains an applied color label

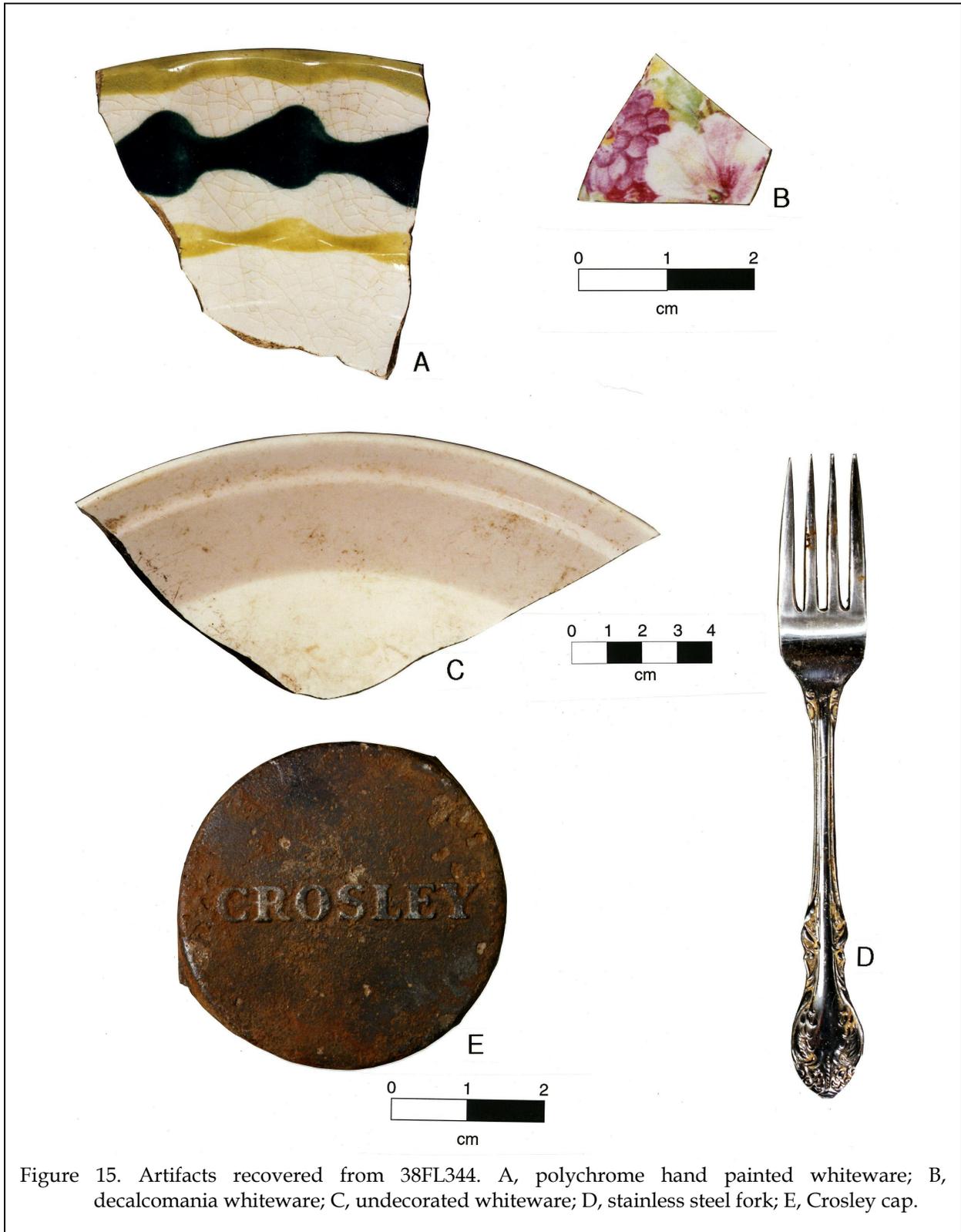


Figure 15. Artifacts recovered from 38FL344. A, polychrome hand painted whiteware; B, decalcomania whiteware; C, undecorated whiteware; D, stainless steel fork; E, Crosley cap.

Consequently, we have artifacts with dates after ca. 1920 and as late as 1985. All of these are consistent with both the oral history and also with the map information available for this site.

The archaeological collection contains very few "other" data sets. For example, small fragments of animal bone were recovered from only one provenience - Test Unit 2. And no provenience yielded carbonized food remains. Tin cans, which can be used to quantify certain types of food remains are present, but are badly fragmented. Likewise, glass containers are present, but these all appear to be relatively modern, perhaps dating from the 1960s on.

## CONCLUSIONS

### General Findings

This study identified an oral informant associated with the house and this individual was able to provide details on the house construction and layout, as well as activity areas in the yard and general lifeways of tenants in Florence County. His familiarity with the house, however, was focused on its very late history, from about 1968 to 1971. He suggests that the house was built in the 1920s and continued to be lived in through the 1980s. Information on lifeways in Florence County, while very useful for the development of a local history, provides relatively little information directly applicable to this structure.

The informant was able to provide basic room reconstructions, revealing that the house had four rooms and the main entry was off center, accessing a front room that was used for the children's bedroom. Off the side was the parent's bedroom, while to the rear of the structure was a kitchen and a pantry. This simple room arrangement reveals what Joseph and his colleagues call a reflection of an "informal, communal lifestyle" (Joseph et al. 1991:206). Indeed, the house reflects no division of space that many of us are familiar with - noseating area, no special area for sewing or reading, no area for group activities, and no area where dining is separated from food preparation activities.

Architectural documentation was hampered by the structure's complete collapse since the site was initially recorded in 1997. We were able to identify dimensions and some construction details, such as the use of a rough hewn sill that was possibly salvaged from an

earlier structure, as well as the use (and probable replacement) of log piers. We found that most timbers in the structure evidenced circular saw cuts and that only wire nails were used in the construction. We were able to document that the structure went through a series of roof repairs. If we assume that the lifespan of the wood shingles was ca. 25 years, that the asphalt shingles were used for 30 years, and the metal roofing was used until the structure's abandonment, then we account for its ca. 1920 through ca. 1990 use.

The archaeological investigations reveal that the site is relatively well circumscribed by the wooded area in which it is found. The use of shovel tests at 20-foot intervals did a good job of identifying yard areas and trash densities. The work, however, failed to identify the barn and privy reportedly to the rear of the structure, perhaps because of heavy logging disturbance in this area.

Two major trash deposits were identified - one to the rear of the house and another in the front yard extending westward to a ditch line. Joseph and his colleagues define four trash disposal practices on rural farmsteads (and presumably tenant sites) - the discard of trash in near yard areas (South's Brunswick Pattern), the disposal of trash downslope (typical of the Piedmont), accumulation of sheet middens in far rear yards, and the burning of trash with resulting piles of burnt and melted materials (Joseph et al. 1991:168-169).

We are able to identify the burning of trash through oral history and the presence of large piles with some evidence of burning (small amounts of melted glass). There is also pretty

clear evidence of accumulation near the structure's front and rear entrances.

We lack, however, any indication of downslope deposition, since of course in the Coastal Plain there is really no topographic relief. This pattern, however, may include the use of ditches, swamps, or Carolina bays as alternatives for gullies and ravines – an issue which has not yet been explored.

We also found that the concept of rear yard sheet middens might be expanded and redefined to include far yard sheet middens, since we found broad scatters of yard trash in both the front and rear yards of the structure. In addition, one could argue that these deposits are, technically, not sheet midden since we found little indication of organic build-up, one of the defining characteristics of any “midden.” Regardless, there are broad expanses of trash areas in the front and rear yards.

Moreover, the study reveals that yard areas were extensively used for farm-related activities. For example at 38FL344 the front yard was the location of the chicken coop, while the rear yard was the location of both a barn and privy. Given the used of yard space, it is reasonable that these activity areas will see the deposition of a broad range of household refuse.

Regardless, the most pronounced refuse disposal practice was the piling – and subsequent burning – of trash in the yard areas. Our informant emphasized that these piles were always on the sides of the yard – next to the fields. It would be useful to explore this concept with other tenant sites in South Carolina.

Another issue that is worthy of further research is the tendency for tenants to simply haul dead or unusable items to the edge of the yard. At 38FL344 this involved an electric stove and two washing machines – each hauled to the far edge of the yard and abandoned, but no two placed in the same general area.

When we look at the artifacts present at 38FL344 we see an assemblage that is a perfect match for the tenant pattern – reflecting large quantities of kitchen related items, relatively low architectural remains, relatively common activity related remains, and otherwise low proportions of furniture, arms, personal, and clothing items.

The artifacts also reveal that while mean ceramic dating provides relatively little useful data, an examination of the individual artifacts provides a far more realistic date range for the site. In the case of 38FL344 we found artifacts clearly dating from the 1920s through 1980s – exactly reflecting the date ranges indicated by the oral informant and projected by the map research.

Throughout this research the poverty of Florence's tenant farmers remains clear. We see it in the \$300 (\$3,800 in 2002\$) that a tenant farmer might make in a good year – or the \$600 (\$7,700 in 2002\$) that a farmer might lose in a bad year. We see it in the \$5 a day (\$23 in 2002\$) wages paid in 1970 (down from the \$8 a day paid in 1880 -- \$140 in 2002\$). We see it in the substandard housing, with its absence of architectural detailing, division of space, poor construction, and absence of screens. We see it in the absence of sanitation such as indoor plumbing and the late arrival of electrical service.

The poverty of the tenant farmers is reflected in their frequent moves from one farm to another; and in the very limited range of personal, clothing, and furniture items found archaeologically. We see it in the range of artifacts that are present – most reflecting local sources where prices were controlled by the farmer or town merchants.

And while guarded, we can read between the lines of our informant and hear it in the distrust African Americans had of white farmers and the dissatisfaction with the housing provided. We can also see it in how quickly African Americans either left the state for other

opportunities in the North or sought out other jobs – either with the military or in the case of our informant, with a government agency.

### 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 in 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 archeological, historical, or ecological information.
2. Identify the historic context(s), that is, the appropriate historical and archeological 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 archeological 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 archeological 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 **historical data sets** incorporate primarily the oral history can be identified for the site. We do have an informant, but he can contribute information only for the very late period of the site – post 1970. While useful for the development of local history, this late information is outside the typical 50-year age of National Register properties.

The **architectural data sets** have been severely compromised by the collapse of the structure. What information that the structure can provide has been collected as a result of this evaluation study. Architectural data from the barn are absent, probably affected by subsequent logging activities.

The **archaeological data sets** are more complete, taken in the context of an impoverished tenant site. They include the range of artifacts expected on such a site – with kitchen remains dominating the collection. Unfortunately these data sets are reflective of primarily post-1950 materials – we found relatively few clearly early materials. In fact, what we see is that the early materials are swamped by later additions – so that early tenant remains, while certainly present, cannot be easily distinguished from those dating after 1950.

Some data sets – such as food remains – are largely absent. Bone was found in only one provenience. There is no indication that ethnobotanical food remains will be recovered. Similarly, features – whether architectural (such as the barn or privy) or archaeological (such as the pits supposedly used to bury trash) – were not identified in spite of close interval shovel testing. The features that are identified for the site, such as the three trash pits, are all reflective of more recent occupation and can provide no information on the activities at the site from ca. 1920 through 1940.

Previous research has also briefly outlined the **context** of this tenant site, both on the plantation and also from the perspective of tenancy in Florence County. A number of research questions have been identified, focusing on trash disposal practices, the refinement of artifact patterning, the exploration of socio-economic status, and the comparison of tenancy in different agricultural sections or regions of the state.

The **data sets at 38FL344 may address a range of questions** posed by the contexts, **although virtually all of the questions deal with the site's post-1950 occupations.** If we turn to questions with greater time depth, site 38FL344 seems limited in its ability to make significant contributions – the oral information lacks the time depth, the architectural remains are in ruins, and the older archaeological remains have been swamped by more recent, mass produced consumer materials.

Turning to the **issue of integrity**, there seems to be little question that the data sets reflecting the more recent deposits at the site – such as the trash piles – are in good condition. So, too, are the scattered remains, such as the electric stove and two washing machines. Unfortunately, we failed to identify any trash deposits – or discrete archaeological features – reflective of a ca. 1920-1940 time period at the site. Efforts to explore the barn or privy have been stymied by the intense damage caused by logging.

Finally, when we attempt to evaluate the **important information** that 38FL344 might provide, we again are forced to recognize that the site is best able to address research issues from ca. 1960 through 1980 – a period when we are inclined to believe that historical research may be better suited to the task. Research questions for the pre-1940 period cannot be reasonably addressed since we were unable to identify oral history, architectural remains, or distinct archaeological deposits from that time.

Consequently, while the current research has contributed to the overall refinement of tenant research, we recommend 38FL344 as 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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