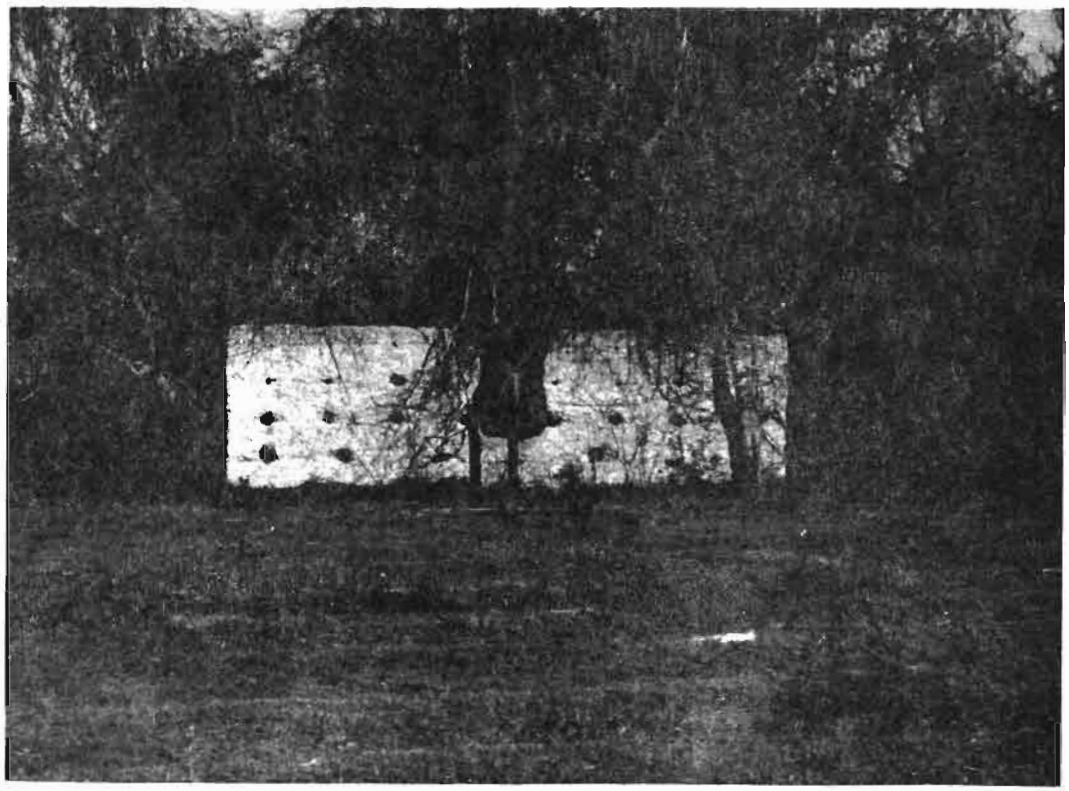
ARCHAEOLOGICAL TESTING OF SIX SITES ON HILTON HEAD ISLAND, BEAUFORT COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA



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ARCHAEOLOGICAL TESTING OF SIX SITES ON HILTON HEAD ISLAND, BEAUFORT COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA

RESEARCH SERIES 13

Prepared For:
The Town of Hilton Head Island, S.C.
P. Carlton Knoll Interests, Inc.
and the
S.C. Department of Archives and History

Chicora Foundation, Inc.
P.O. Box 8664
Columbia, South Carolina 29202

June 1988

I'm a-rollin'.
I'm a-rollin'.
I'm a-rollin' through this unfriendly world.
I'm a rollin'.
I'm a rollin' through this unfriendly world.

Oh, Fatha, won't you help me?
Oh, Fatha, won't you help me to pray?
Oh, Fatha, won't you help me?
Won't you help me in the service of the Lord?

I'm a-rollin'.
I'm a-rollin'.
I'm a-rollin' through this unfriendly world.
I'm a-rollin'.
I'm a-rollin' through this unfriendly world.

--part of a Black spiritual, from Daise, Reminiscences of Sea Island Heritage

ABSTRACT

This study discusses archaeological testing conducted at six archaeological sites on Hilton Head Island, Beaufort County, South Carolina in January 1988 for the Town of Hilton Head Island and the S.C. Department of Archives and History as part of a National Park Service Historic Preservation Grant. This testing was intended to assist in determination of site significance and was directed toward delimiting site boundaries, determining site depths, and documenting site integrity. Both intensive auger testing and shovel tests were used at the sites.

The sites included Jenkins Island (38BU871) and Fairfield (38BU1166) plantations, the slave row associated with Cotton Hope Plantation (38BU96), a standing industrial structure associated with Cotton Hope Plantation (38BU90), a prehistoric shell midden (38BU832), and a site containing both prehistoric and historic components (38BU830). In addition, architectural documentation was collected on the standing structure at 38BU90.

As a result of these investigations, all of the sites are recommended as eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places. Nominations for the Jenkins Island, Fairfield, and Cotton Hope plantations should be prepared immediately.

Appended to this report are the results of preliminary historical research for the Seabrook Plantation and an intensive archaeological survey of the Seabrook Plantation property, known as the BB North tract. This research has been included because of its direct relevance to the overall goals of the grant research. This compliance research, sponsored by P. Carlton Knoll Interests, Inc. in fulfillment of historic preservation compliance requirements established by the S.C. State Historic Preservation Office, identified five sites on the survey tract. Three of the identified sites, 38BU323/1149, 38BU821, and 38BU337 are recommended as eligible for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places.

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This work was partially funded by a National Park Service Historic Preservation Matching Grant administered by the S.C. Department of Archives and History, and the Town of Hilton Head Island. I wish to thank both agencies, and specifically Patricia Cridlebaugh, Susan McGahee, Jolilda Abdul-Ghani, and Tom Brechko for their interest, cooperation, and consideration during the course of this work. In addition, Michael Taylor, Director of The Environmental and Historical Museum of Hilton Head Island, contributed both time and energy to ensure the success of this project.

I wish to also thank Mona Grunden and Elizabeth Pinckney, who assisted in the field work, for their patience and diligence. The laboratory analysis and curation were ably handled by Debi Hacker. These individuals are to be thanked for their professionalism and interest in this project. In addition, Colin Brooker, who conducted the architectural study, did so under severe field conditions. I thank him for his interest and willingness to work with us on this study.

A number of local individuals assisted in various ways. In particular, I want to thank the various land owners who provided access to properties, including Thomas Barnwell, Jr., John Kamp, Carlton Knoll, Bert Newman, Bill Peacher, Paul Sims and Hugh White. Without the cooperation of the landowners within our study area, we would know virtually nothing about the heritage of the island. Their concern and cooperation allowed us access to six significant sites which contain information which enhances our understanding of the Island's history. With their assistance we will also be able to preserve the Island's cultural heritage so that all people may enjoy it.

The intensive survey of the BB North or Seabrook Plantation tract was funded entirely by P. Carlton Knoll Interests, Inc. in order to comply with historic preservation requirements of the S.C. Coastal and the S.C. State Historic Preservation Office.

I also wish to thank a number of my colleagues for their assistance during this work. Patricia Cridlebaugh, Debi Hacker, and Jack Wilson, Jr. have reviewed and offered valuable comments on a draft of this report.

INTRODUCTION

Background

These investigations were conducted by Dr. Michael Trinkley of Chicora Foundation, Inc. for the Town of Hilton Head Island and P. Carlton Knoll Interests, Inc. The work was partially funded by a $4300 National Park Service Historic Preservation Planning Grant administered by the S.C. Department of Archives and History, matched by $4300 in funds from the Town. Additional funding in the amount of $500 was provided by Chicora to ensure the necessary professional curation of the field notes and artifacts. The BB North or Seabrook Plantation tract survey (Appendix 2), independent of the grant project, was funded by P. Carlton Knoll Interests, Inc. in the amount of $8200.

The project involved limited archaeological testing at six sites in order to determine site boundaries, cultural periods, and site integrity. The work funded by this grant follows a reconnaissance level survey by Chicora of limited areas of Hilton Head Island for the Town in 1986 (Trinkley 1987). The 1986 research recorded an additional 91 archaeological sites on the island, increasing the island's cultural resource inventory to 134 sites. The sites selected by the Town in 1988 for additional study include two loci of the Cotton Hope Plantation (38BU90 and 38BU96), the Talbot site (38BU830), a prehistoric midden (38BU832), Jenkins Island Plantation (38BU871), and Fairfield Plantation (38BU1166). Chicora was to provide archaeological documentation sufficient to allow descriptions of archaeological significance should the sites be determined Register eligible and targeted for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places. No historical or archival work was funded for any of the six sites, although limited archival research was funded for an additional site (Seabrook Plantation, 38BU323/337/1149). The Town of Hilton Head Island and the S.C. State Historic Preservation Office agreed that Seabrook Plantation would not receive any field investigations during this project as development was not anticipated for several years. Land use plans changed within the year and the additional work for P. Carlton Knoll Interests, Inc. at Seabrook included more detailed archival research combined with an intensive archaeological survey meeting compliance standards.

The limited background work involved in this project was begun in mid-December 1987 and continued intermittently during the month of February 1988. The field work for the Town of Hilton Head Island was conducted from January 4 through 15, 1988 by Ms. Mona Grunden and the author. Laboratory studies,

including washing, cataloging, and the analysis of the collections, were conducted by Ms. Debi Hacker from February 8 through 12, 1988. Conservation was conducted in Chicora's laboratories during the months of January and February 1988. The archival research and field survey of the Seabrook Plantation were conducted by Ms. Elizabeth Pinckney, Ms. Mona Grunden, and the author from May 2 through 6, 1988. Laboratory studies were conducted by Ms. Debi Hacker from May 7 through 9 at Chicora laboratories in Columbia. Conservation treatments of Seabrook materials are on-going.

Goals

The goals of this study were four-fold. First, to conduct sufficient subsurface testing to determine if the six sites (38BU90, 38BU96, 38BU830, 38BU832, 38BU871, and 38BU1166) were eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places; second, if the sites were eligible, to document site attributes such as boundaries and integrity; and third, to gather preliminary archival information concerning the Seabrook Plantation. These goals were rather broadly defined in the Town's Request for Proposals, dated September 8, 1987. The fourth goal, the intensive survey of the Seabrook Plantation tract coupled with additional archival research, was detailed in a proposal from Chicora to P. Carlton Knoll Interests, Inc., dated January 21, 1988. This survey is intended to be sufficient to satisfy the historic preservation requirements of the S.C. State Historic Preservation Office.

The sites selected for this investigation had been previously identified as potentially significant during Chicora's reconnaissance survey of Hilton Head Island conducted in 1986 (Trinkley 1987). In addition, several of the sites have been known for a number of years, although none have received any intensive professional attention. The Cultural Data Inventory, prepared by John Rahenkamp & Associates (1986) emphasized the need for the listing of cultural resources in the South Carolina Coastal Council's 1982 Special Area Management Plan to be updated. The archaeological investigations conducted by Chicora for the Town of Hilton Head Island are part of the Town's long range land management planning process. The survey of the Seabrook Plantation tract is part of the continuing goal to record and assess the National Register eligibility of archaeological sites prior to development.

The original reconnaissance survey (Trinkley 1987), and these additional investigations, are intended to identify the significant archaeological and historical resources of the Island so that they may be more effectively preserved for future generations. While features such as beaches and nature preserves are more often thought of as contributing to the well-being and enjoyment of the Island's residents and visitors, the cultural

heritage of Hilton Head Island is equally important. Archaeological and historical sites are non-renewable aspects of the Island's environment. Just as development must be sensitive to wetlands because they are fragile and contribute to the public good, so too must development recognize the fragility and contribution that archaeological sites make to our understanding of the past.

Although no archival research was funded for the four historic sites at which archaeological testing was conducted, some limited information has been collected, largely through the use of secondary sources. Archival research for Seabrook Plantation includes both limited reliance on primary sources and examination of readily available secondary sources.

The archaeological testing was conducted by a crew of two over a period of three weeks. The methodology involved the use of either systematic auger tests or shovel test sampling, depending on the size of the site, the extent of vegetation, and owner's permission restrictions. These techniques were intended to allow maximum data recovery while minimizing the disturbance to the site. Accurate site boundaries, information on site depth and midden constituents, and evidence of site integrity were obtained at each site investigated. In addition, the extensive testing also served to refine information on temporal affiliations and site components. Photographs were taken of each site to document its current condition.

This study also evaluates each site for their potential eligibility for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places. It is generally accepted that "the significance of an archaeological site is based on the potential of the site to contribute to the scientific or humanistic understanding of the past" (Bense et al. 1986:60). Site significance in this study was evaluated on the basis of five archaeological properties: site integrity, site clarity, artifactual variety, artifactual quantity, and environmental context (Glassow 1977). While this approach was attempted during our 1986 reconnaissance survey (Trinkley 1987), based on survey data alone, the incorporation of subsurface testing data greatly improves our ability to evaluate these archaeological properties.

As a result of this work, Chicora recommends all six sites as eligible for inclusion in the National Register. The three plantations studied during this research (Cotton Hope, Fairfield, and Jenkins Island), are particularly worthy of preservation.

Curation

Updated archaeological site forms have been filed with the S.C. Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology and the S.C. State Historic Preservation Office. In addition, copies have been

provided the Town of Hilton Head Island and The Environmental and Historical Museum of Hilton Head Island.

The field notes, photographic materials, and artifacts resulting from the study for the Town have been curated at The Environmental and Historical Museum of Hilton Head Island as Accession Number 1988.3. The artifacts are cataloged as ARCH-504 through ARCH-667 (using a lot provenance system). The collections from the Seabrook survey have also been curated at The Environmental and Historical Museum, as Accession Number 1988.4. These artifacts are cataloged as ARCH-668 through ARCH-793. All original records were provided to the Museum in archival condition and will be maintained by that institution in perpetuity. The artifacts have been cleaned and/or conserved as necessary or are in the process of conservation and further information on conservation practices may be found in the "Site Investigations and Findings" section of this report.

NATURAL SETTING

Physiographic Province

Hilton Head is a sea island located between Port Royal Sound to the north and Daufuskie Island to the south. The island is separated from Daufuskie by Calibogue Sound and from the mainland by a narrow band of tidal marsh and Skull Creek. Between Hilton Head Island and the mainland are several smaller islands, including Pinckney and Jenkins islands. Hilton Head is about 11.5 miles (18.5 kilometers) in length and has a maximum width of 6.8 miles (10.9 kilometers), yielding 19,460 acres (7,876 hectares) of highland and 2400 acres (971 hectares) of marsh (Figure 1).

Hilton Head is situated in the Sea Island section of South Carolina's Coastal Plain province. The coastal plain consists of the unconsolidated sands, clays, and soft limestones found from the fall line eastward to the Atlantic Ocean, an area of more than 20,000 square miles or about two-thirds of the State (Cooke 1936:1-3). Elevations range from just above sea level on the coast and up to 21 feet (6.4 meters) at the top of the highest beach ridges on the island, to about 600 feet mean sea level (MSL) adjacent to the Piedmont province. The coastal plain is drained by three large through-flowing rivers -- the Pee Dee, Santee, and Savannah -- as well as by numerous smaller rivers and streams. On Hilton Head Island, there are two major drainages, Broad Creek which flows almost due west into Calibogue Sound, and Jarvis Creek which empties into Mackay Creek just north of Broad Creek.

From Bull Bay southward, the coast is atypical of the northern coastline. The area is characterized by low-lying, sandy islands bordered by salt marsh. Brown (1975) classes these islands as either Beach Ridge or Transgressive, with the Transgressive barrier islands being straight, thin pockets of sand which are rapidly retreating landward with erosion rates of up to 1600 feet (492 meters) since 1939. The Beach Ridge barrier islands, however, are more common and consist of islands such as Kiawah and Hilton Head. They are characterized by a bulbous updrift (or northern) end.

Kana (1984) discusses the coastal processes which result in the formation of barrier islands, noting that the barrier island system includes tidal inlets at each end of the barrier with the central part of the island tending to be arcuate in shape while the ends of the island tend to be broken. Hilton Head has the typical central bulge caused by sand wrapping around the tidal

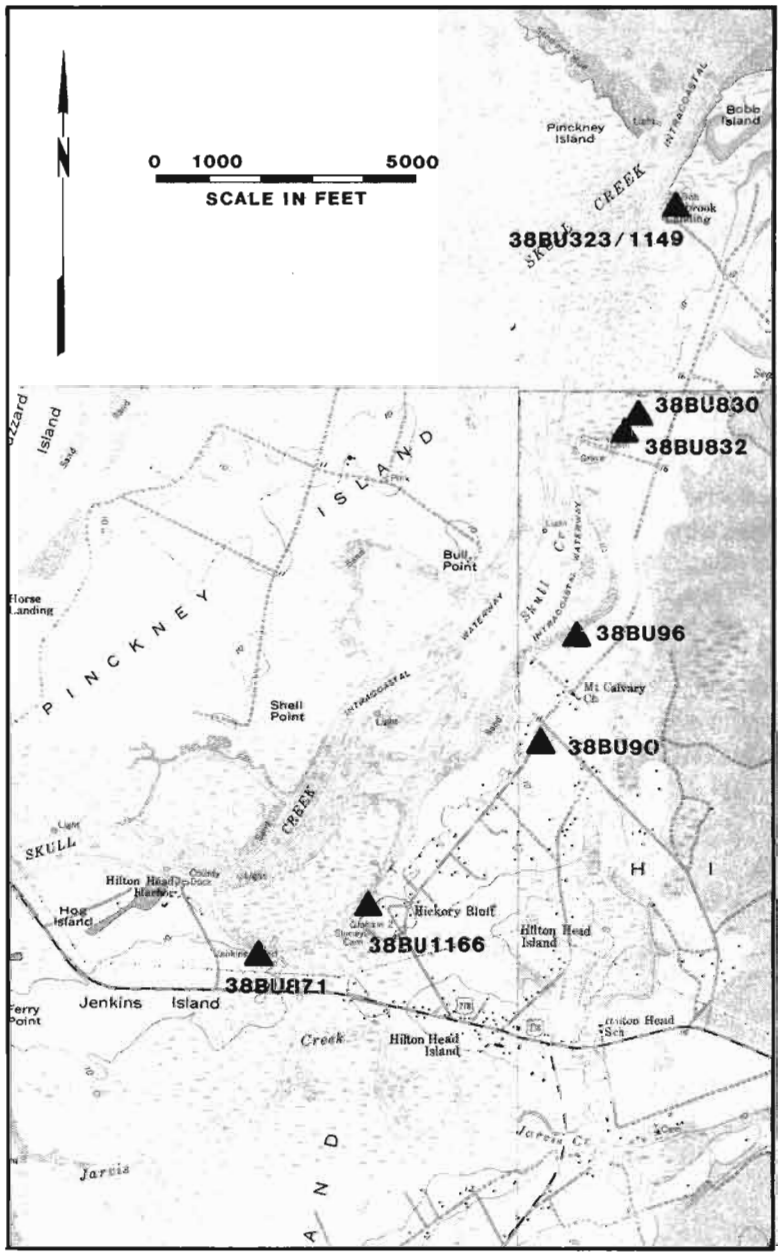


Figure 1. Hilton Head Island, showing studied sites.

delta and then depositing midway down the island. Further, the south end has an accreting spit where sand is building out the shoreline. The central part of the island, however, has experienced a 25-year erosion trend averaging 3 to 10 feet (0.9 to 3 meters) a year (Kana 1984:11-12; see also U.S. Army Corps of Engineers 1971). More recent work by Kana et al. (1986) reaffirms considerable shoreline reorientation.

Hilton Head Island, however, is also a different shape than most of the other islands since it has a Pleistocene core with a Holocene beach ridge fringe. To understand fully the significance of this situation, it is important to realize that technically the sea islands and the barrier islands are different from a historical perspective. The classic sea islands of colonial and antebellum fame (such as James, St. Helena, and Sapelo islands) are erosional remnants of coastal sand bodies deposited during the Pleistocene high sea level stands. They are crudely elongate, parallel to the present day shoreline, and rectangular in outline. Their topography is characterized by gentle slopes, and poorly defined ridges and swales. Maximum elevations typically range from 5 to 35 feet (1.5 to 10.7 meters) MSL. Typical barrier islands include Pawleys, Kiawah, and Hunting islands. There are, in addition, marsh islands, such as Morris and St. Phillips islands, composed of isolated or widely spaced Holocene sand ridges surrounded by Holocene salt marsh (Mathews et al. 1980).

Some islands, such as Hilton Head, Daufuskie, and St. Catherines, however, have an oceanward fringe of beach dune ridges which were constructed during the Holocene high sea level stands (Mathews et al. 1980:65-71; Ziegler 1959). Ziegler (1959:Figure 6) suggests that Hilton Head Island is composed of several sea or erosion remnant islands, joined together by recent Holocene deposits.

Soils

Within the Sea Islands section of South Carolina the soils are Holocene and Pleistocene in age and were formed from materials that were deposited during the various stages of coastal submergence. The formation of soils in the study area is affected by this parent material (primarily sands and clays), the temperate climate (to be discussed later), the various soil organisms, topography, and time.

The mainland soils are Pleistocene in age and tend to have more distinct horizon development and diversity than the younger soils of the Sea Islands. Sandy to loamy soils predominate in the level to gently sloping mainland areas. The island soils are less diverse and less well developed, frequently lacking a well-defined B horizon. Organic matter is low and the soils tend to be acidic. The Holocene deposits typical of barrier islands and

found as a fringe on some sea islands, consist almost entirely of quartz sand which exhibits little organic matter. Tidal marsh soils are Holocene in age and consist of fine sands, clay, and organic matter deposited over older Pleistocene sands. The soils are frequently covered by up to 2 feet (0.6 meter) of salt water during high tide. These organic soils usually have two distinct layers. The top few inches are subject to aeration as well as leaching and therefore are a dark brown color. The lower levels, however, consist of reduced compounds resulting from decomposition of organic compounds and are black. The pH of these marsh soils is neutral to slightly alkaline (Mathews et al. 1980:39-44).

Both of the prehistoric sites (38BU830 and 38BU832) are found on Seabrook soils, as is the Fairfield Plantation (38BU1166). The Jenkins Island Plantation (38BU871) and the slave row of Cotton Hope Plantation (38BU96), are found on Wando Series soils. The Seabrook Plantation site (38BU323/1149) is situated on the well to moderately well drained Seabrook and Bertie series soils. Both the Seabrook and Wando soils are rapidly permeable and are composed of thick sandy coastal plain sediments found in upland areas. The Seabrook soils, however, are moderately well drained with a water table within 2 to 4 feet (0.6 to 1.2 meters) of the surface for about four months of the year, while the Wando soils are excessively drained and the water table is at least 6 feet (1.8 meters) below the surface throughout the year. The Bertie soils, while moderately well drained, have a water table with 2.5 feet of the surface during the winter and fall. The standing tabby structure (38BU90) associated with Cotton Hope Plantation is situated on Coosaw soils. These tend to be somewhat poorly drained sands and loams found on broad upland areas. The water table is found with 1 or 2 feet (0.3 to 0.6 meter) of the ground surface during the late winter and early spring seasons.

Significantly, 38BU90, situated on the least favorable soils, is the only site that is not domestic. Both the prehistoric middens and the historic plantation sites (even the associated slave rows) are found on moderately well drained to excessively drained soil.

Geology

The coastal region is covered with sands, and clays derived from the Appalachian Mountains and which are organized into coastal, fluvial, and aeolian deposits. These deposits were transported to the coast during the Quaternary period and were deposited on bedrock of the Mesozoic Era and Tertiary period. These sedimentary bedrock formations are only occasionally exposed on the coast, although they frequently outcrop along the fall line (Mathews et al. 1980:2). The bedrock in the Beaufort area is below a level of 1640 feet (504 meters) (Smith 1933:21).

The Pleistocene sediments are organized into topographically distinct, but lithologically similar terraces parallel to the coast. The terraces have elevations ranging from 215 feet (65.5 meters) down to sea level. These terraces, representing previous sea floors, were apparently formed at high stands of the fluctuating, although falling, Atlantic Ocean and consist chiefly of sand and clay (Cooke 1936; Smith 1933:29). More recently, research by Colquhoun (1969) has refined the theory of formation processes, suggesting a more complex origin involving both erosional and depositional processes operating during marine transgressions and regression.

Cooke (1936) found that most of Hilton Head is part of the Pamplico terrace and formation, with a sea level about 25 feet (7.7 meters) above the present sea level. Portions of the island represent a recent terrace, formed during the past 10,000 years. Colquhoun (1969), however, suggests that Hilton Head is more complex, representing the Princess Anne and Silver Bluff Pleistocene terraces with corresponding sea levels of from 20 to 3 feet (6.2 to 0.9 meters) above the present level.

Another aspect of Sea Island geology to be considered in these discussions is the fluctuation of sea level during the late Pleistocene and Holocene epochs. Prior to 15,000 B.C. there is evidence that a warming trend resulted in the gradual increase in Pleistocene sea levels (DePratter and Howard 1980). Recent work by Colquhoun et al. (1980) clearly indicates that there were a number of fluctuations during the Holocene. There data suggest that as the first Stallings phase sites along the South Carolina coast were occupied about 2100 B.C. the sea level was about 3.9 feet (1.2 meters) lower than present. However, by 1600 B.C., when a number of Thom's Creek shell rings were occupied, the sea level had fallen to a level of about 7.2 feet (2.2. meters) lower than present levels. By the end of the Thom's Creek phase, about 900 B.C., the sea level had risen to a level 2.6 feet (0.8 meter) lower than present, but over 4.5 feet (1.4 meters) higher than when the shell rings were first occupied. Quitmeyer (1985b) does not believe that the lower sea levels at 2100 B.C. would have greatly altered the estuarine environment, although drops of 10 feet (3 meters) would have reduced available tidal resources.

Data from the nineteenth and twentieth centuries suggest that the level is continuing to rise. Kurtz and Wagner (1957:8) report a 0.8 foot (0.2 meter) rise in Charleston, South Carolina sea levels from 1833 to 1903. Between 1940 and 1950 a sea level rise of 0.34 feet (0.1 meter) was again recorded at Charleston. These data, however, do not distinguish between sea level rise and land surface submergence.

Biophysical Environment

Hilton Head Island today exhibits four major ecosystems: the

coastal marine ecosystem where land has unobstructed access to ocean, the maritime ecosystem which consists of the upland forest area of the island, the estuarine ecosystem of deep water tidal habitats, and the palustrine ecosystem which consists of essentially fresh water, non-tidal wetlands (Sandifer et al. 1980:7-9).

The coastal marine ecosystem consists of that area from the dunes extending seaward to the level of extreme low spring tide so that there are both intertidal and subtidal components. Salinity consistently exceeds 30 ppt. This ecosystem shelters a number of food resources, such as sea turtles, resident and migrational species of fish, marine and pelagic birds, and several sea mammals, including dolphins, whales, and the manatee. While many of these resources are occasionally found in the archaeological record, there is little indication that the beach strand was a significant ecosystem during the prehistoric period. Even during the nineteenth century this zone provided little to interest the inhabitants of Hilton Head. McKee (1903:166), in his history of the 144th Regiment, does describe the "capture" of a 200 pound (91 kilogram) turtle which brought $5.00 on the Hilton Head market.

Mathews et al. (1980:155) note that the most significant ecosystem on Hilton Head Island is the maritime forest community. This maritime ecosystem is defined most simply as all upland areas located on barrier islands, limited on the ocean side by tidal marshes. On sea islands the distinction between the maritime forest community and an upland ecosystem (essentially found on the mainland) becomes blurred. Sandifer et al. (1980:108-109) define four subsystems, including the sand spits and bars, dunes, transition shrub, and maritime forest. Of these, only the maritime forest subsystem is likely to have been significant to either the prehistoric or historic occupants and only it will be further discussed. While this subsystem is frequently characterized by the dominance of live oak and the presence of salt spray, these are less noticeable on the sea islands than they are on the narrower barrier islands (Sandifer et al. 1980:120).

The barrier islands may contain communities of oak-pine, oak-palmetto-pine, oak-magnolia, palmetto, or low oak woods. The sea islands, being more mesic or xeric, tend to evidence old field communities, pine-mixed hardwoods communities, pine forest communities, or mixed hardwood communities (Sandifer et al. 1980:120-121, 437).

Several areas of Hilton Head evidence upland mesic hardwoods, also known as "oak-hickory forests" (Braun 1950). These forests contain significant quantities of mockernut hickory as well as pignut hickory, both economically significant to the aboriginal inhabitants. Other areas are more likely to be

classified as Braun's (1950:284-289) pine or pine-oak forest communities. Wenger (1968) notes that the presence of loblolly and shortleaf pines is common on coastal plain sites where they are a significant sub-climax aspect of the plan succession toward a hardwood climax. Longleaf pine forests were likewise a common sight (Croker 1979).

Mills, discussing Beaufort District in the early nineteenth century, states,

> [b]esides a fine growth of pine, we have the cypress, red cedar, and live oak . . . white oak, red oak, and several other oaks, hickory, plum, palmetto, magnolia, poplar, beech, birch, ash, dogwood, black mulberry, etc. Of fruit trees we have the orange, sweet and sour, peach, nectarine, fig, cherry (Mills 1826:377).

He also cautions, however, "[s]ome parts of the district are beginning already to experience a want of timber, even for common purposes" (Mills 1826:383) and suggests that at least 25% of a plantation's acreage should be reserved for woods.

A mid-nineteenth century map shows areas of the island as "cultivated," "old fields," "swamp ground," "thick woods Pine tree and live oak," "pines, live oaks and few other kind," and "very thick woods" (National Archives RG77, Map I52), giving a clear impression of the diversity caused by over a century of intensive agriculture. The "swamp ground" forest is clearly indicative of the bottomland forests to be discussed with the palustrine ecosystem. Other trees mentioned on the map show the mingling of needle evergreen and broadleaf evergreen species. Pine was apparently a common species. A description of the island, based on a visit from March through May 1863, states,

> [t]he characteristic trees are the live oak . . . . Besides these, are the pine, the red and white oak, the cedar, the bay, the gum, the maple, and the ash. The soil is luxuriant with an undergrowth of impenetrable vines (Anonymous 1863:294-295).

This and other accounts (Eldridge 1893:69) suggest that the vegetation on Hilton Head was already intensively affected by farming and logging as early as the nineteenth century.

The estuarine ecosystem in the Hilton Head vicinity includes those areas of deep-water tidal habitats and adjacent tidal wetlands. Salinity may range from 0.5 ppt at the head of an estuary to 30 ppt where it comes in contact with the ocean. Estuarine systems are influenced by ocean tides, precipitation, fresh water runoff from the upland areas, evaporation, and wind. The tidal range for Hilton Head is 6.6 to 7.8 feet (2.0 to 2.4 meters), indicative of an area swept by moderately strong tidal

currents. The system may be subdivided into two major components: subtidal and intertidal (Sandifer et al. 1980:158-159). These estuarine systems are extremely important to our understanding of both prehistoric and historic occupation because they naturally contain such high biomass (Thompson 1972:9). The estuarine area contributes vascular flora used for basket making, mammals, birds, fish (over 107 species), shellfish, crabs, and shrimp.

The last environment to be briefly discussed is the freshwater palustrine ecosystem, which includes all wetland systems, such as swamps, bays, savannahs, pocusins and creeks, where the salinities measure less than 0.5 ppt. The palustrine ecosystem is diverse, although not well studied (Sandifer et al. 1980:295). A number of forest types are found in the palustrine areas, which attract a variety of terrestrial mammals. Also found are wading birds and reptiles.

Climate

Depending upon whose authority may be trusted, the nineteenth century Beaufort climate was "one of the healthiest" (Mills 1826:377), or it had "malaria arising from the Southern swamps" (Copp 1911:94). Linehan felt that "[m]alaria was the greatest curse of the sea coast, as all know who served there and who feel its evil affects to this day" (Linehan 1895:211). Forten wrote that "yellow fever prevailed to an alarming extent, and that, indeed the manufacture of coffins was the only business that was at all flourishing at present" (Forten 1864:588).

The major climatic controls of the area are the latitude, elevation, distance from the ocean, and location with respect to the average tracks of migratory cyclones. Hilton Head's latitude of about 32°N places it on the edge of the balmy subtropical climate typical of Florida. As a result there are relatively short, mild winters and long, warm, humid summers. The large amount of nearby warm ocean water surface produces a marine climate, which tends to moderate both the cold and hot weather. The Appalachian Mountains, about 220 miles to the northwest, block shallow cold air masses from the northwest, moderating them before they reach the sea islands. Distance from the ocean is also significant because of the sea breeze phenomenon, which normally begins before noon and continues until late afternoon (Landers 1970:2-3; Mathews et al. 1980:46).

Maximum daily temperatures in the summer tend to be near or above 90°F (32°C) and the minimum daily temperatures tend to be about 68°F (20°C). The summer water temperatures average 83°F (28°C). The abundant supply of warm, moist and relatively unstable air produces frequent scattered showers and thunderstorms in the summer. Winter has average daily maximum and minimum temperatures of 63°F (17°C) and 38°F (3°C)

respectively. The average winter water temperature is 53°F (12°C). Precipitation is in the forms of rain associated with fronts and cyclones; snow is uncommon (Janiskee and Bell 1980:1-2).

The average yearly precipitation is 49.4 inches (125.6 centimeters), with 34 inches (86.5 centimeters) occurring from April through October, the growing season for most sea island crops. Hilton Head has approximately 285 frost free days (Janiskee and Bell 1980:1; Landers 1970).

While the temperatures on the Sea Islands are not extreme, the relative humidity is frequently high enough to produce muggy conditions in the summer and dank conditions in the winter. Relative humidity ranges from about 63-89% in the summer to 58-83% in the winter. The highest relative humidity occurs in the morning and as the temperature increases, the humidity tends to decline (Landers 1970:11; Mathews et al. 1980:46).

Along the Sea Islands severe weather usually means tropical storms and hurricanes; tornados are infrequent and waterspouts tend to remain over the ocean. The tropical storm season is in late summer and early fall, although they may occur as early as May or as late as October. The coastal area 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. 1980:56).

PREHISTORIC AND HISTORIC OVERVIEW

Previous Archaeology

There is sufficient coastal research to develop a sequence of occupation and at least some information on how the prehistoric occupants in the Hilton Head area lived. This section is intended to provide only a brief review of the temporal periods as defined by broad changes in cultural adaptations through time. Several previously published archaeological studies are available for the Beaufort area to provide additional background, including Brooks et al. (1982), DePratter (1979), and Trinkley (1981, 1986). A considerable amount of work has been conducted in the Beaufort area and these works should be consulted for broad overviews. A previous Chicora Foundation study on Hilton Head Island (Trinkley 1987) provides information on previous archaeological studies conducted on the island. That study should be consulted for information specific to the Island.

The Paleo-Indian 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 1968). The Paleo-Indian 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).

Waring (1961) reported the discovery of three Paleo-Indian points in the vicinity of Bluffton in 1961 and Michie (1977:105) reports that two additional points have been found on Daws Island, also in Beaufort County. Although there has been considerable natural and artificial resculpturing of the Hilton Head area, it is possible that early Paleo-Indian remains may be found on the Pleistocene portions of the island. Sea level during much of this period is expected to have been as much as 65 feet (20 meters) lower than present, so many sites may be inundated (Flint 1971).

Unfortunately, little is known about Paleo-Indian subsistence strategies, settlement systems, or social organization. Generally, archaeologists agree that the Paleo-Indian 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 Paleo-Indian period, but is a slow transition characterized by a modern climate and an increase in the diversity of material culture. The chronology established by Coe (1964) for the North Carolina Piedmont may be applied with little modification to the South Carolina coast. Archaic period assemblages, exemplified by corner-notched and broad-stem projectile points, are rare in the Sea Island region, although the sea level is anticipated to have been within 13 feet (4 meters) of its present stand by the beginning of the succeeding Woodland period (Lepionka et al. 1983:10). Brooks and Scurry note that,

> Archaic period sites, when contrasted with the subsequent Woodland period, are typically small, relatively few in number and contain low densities of archaeological material. This data may indicate that the inter-riverine zone was utilized by Archaic populations characterized by small group size, high mobility, and wide ranging exploitative patterns (Brooks and Scurry 1978:44).

Alternatively, the general sparsity of Archaic sites in the coastal zone may be the result of a more attractive environment inland adjacent to the floodplain swamps and major drainages. Of course, this is not necessarily an alternative explanation, since coastal Archaic sites may represent only a small segment in the total settlement system.

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) and Thom's Creek series pottery (see Figure 2 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. Various calculations of the probable yield of deer, fish, and other food sources identified from shell ring sites indicate that sedentary life was not only possible, but probable. Recent work at sites characterized by fiber-tempered pottery on the southern

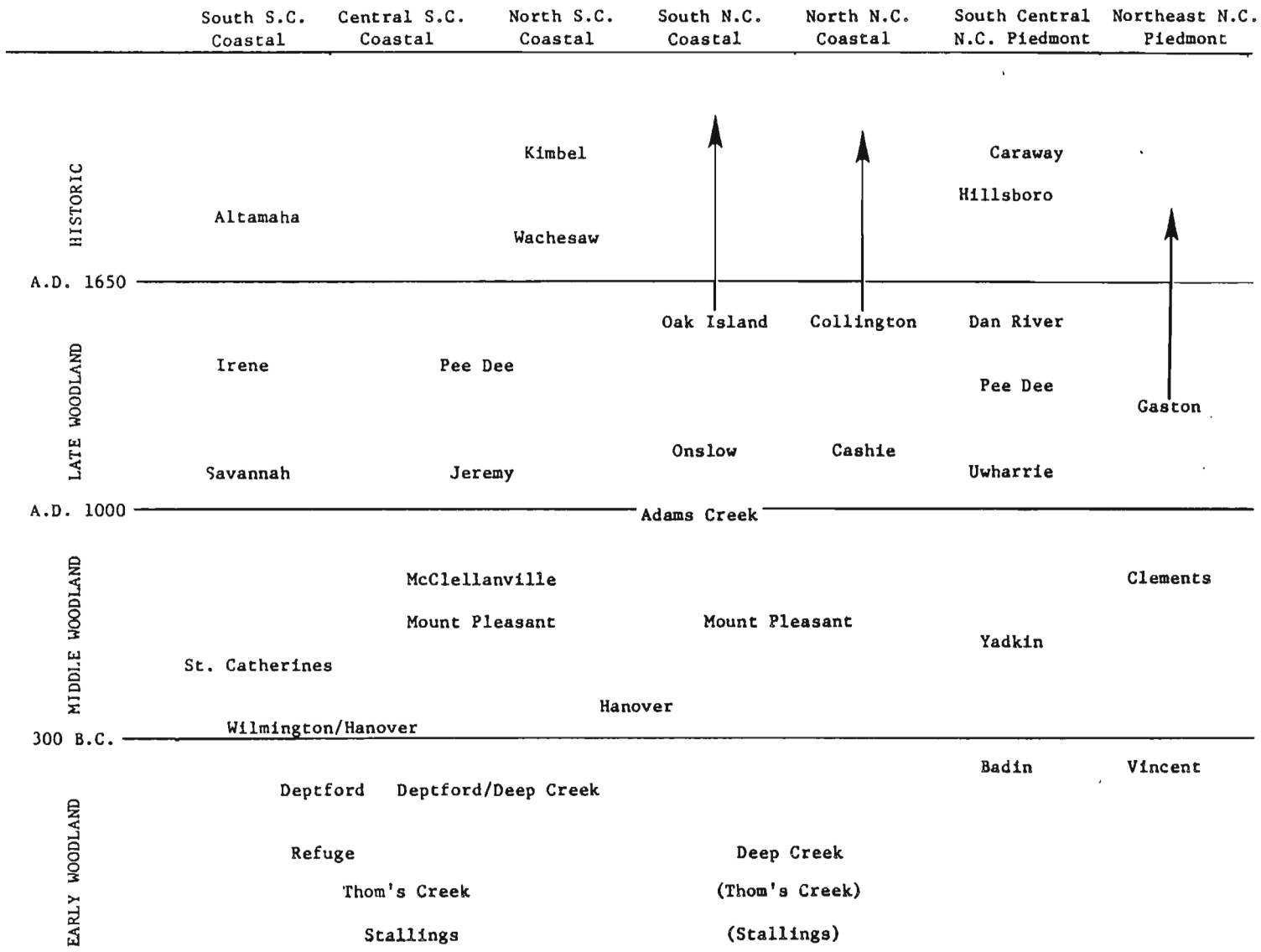


Figure 2. Chronology of the Woodland and Protohistoric periods in the Carolinas.

Georgia coast has led Quitmeyer to note that there was,

> a specialized economy heavily dependent on marine resources. Marine invertebrates, primarily oyster, were the most significant of the zoological resources. Marine vertebrates, primarily drum, accounted for other important aspects of the diet. To a lesser extent sea catfishes (Ariidae) and mullet were part of the diet. Terrestrial animals, like deer, represented only an occasional resource (Quitmeyer 1985a:90).

Toward the end of the Thom's Creek phase there is evidence of sea level change and a number of small, non-shell midden sites are found. Apparently the rising sea level drowned the tidal marshes (and sites) on which the Thom's Creek people relied.

The succeeding Refuge phase, which dates from about 1100 to 500 B.C., suggests fragmentation caused by the environmental changes (Lepionka et al. 1983; Williams 1968). Sites are generally small and some coastal sites evidence no shellfish collection at all (Trinkley 1982). Peterson (1971:153) characterizes Refuge as a degeneration of the preceding Thom's Creek series and a bridge to the succeeding Deptford culture.

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. The coastal sites, which always appear to be situated adjacent to tidal creeks, evidence a diffuse subsistence system and are frequently small, lack shell, and are situated on the edge of swamp terraces. This "dual distribution" has suggested to Milanich (1971:194) a transhumant subsistence pattern. While such may be the case, it has yet to be documented on the coast. The Pinckney Island midden (38BU67), north of Hilton Head, evidences a reliance on shellfish and was occupied in the late winter (Trinkley 1981). The Minim Island midden (38GE46), on the coast of Georgetown County, indicates a greater reliance on fish, but was also apparently occupied in the fall or winter (Drucker and Jackson 1984).

The Middle Woodland Period (ca. 300 B.C. to A.D. 1000) is characterized by the use of sand burial mounds and ossuaries along the Georgia, South Carolina, and North Carolina coasts (Brooks et al. 1982; Thomas and Larsen 1979; Wilson 1982). Middle Woodland coastal plain sites continue the Early Woodland Deptford pattern of mobility. While sites are found all along the coast and inland to the fall line, sites are characterized by sparse shell and few artifacts. Gone are the abundant shell tools, worked bone items, and clay balls of the earlier period. In many respects the South Carolina Late Woodland Period (ca. A.D. 1000 to 1650 in some areas of the coast) 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. This situation would remain unchanged until the development of the South Appalachian Mississippian complex.

The Middle and Late Woodland Period occupations in South Carolina are characterized by a pattern of settlement mobility and short-term occupation. On the southern coast they are associated with the Wilmington and St. Catherines phases, which date from about A.D. 500 to at least A.D. 1150, although there is evidence that the St. Catherines pottery continued to be produced much later in time (Trinkley 1981). The tenacity of this simple lifestyle suggests that the Guale intrusion was relatively minor in many areas, or at least co-existed with the native inhabitants whose lifestyles were generally unchanged (Trinkley 1981). In addition, there are small quantities of pottery which resemble the more northern Middle Woodland Mount Pleasant Series (Phelps 1984:41-44; Trinkley 1983) which were classified as "Untyped" by Trinkley (1981) at the Pinckney Island midden.

The South Appalachian Mississippian Period (ca. 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 Irene (A.D. 1200 to 1550). Sometime after the arrival of Europeans on the Georgia coast in A.D. 1519, the Irene phase is replaced by the Altamaha phase. The ceramics associated with this period were made,

> at least through the end of the Spanish Mission period in the 1680s, when the various Guale groups were either relocated to the St. Augustine vicinity or dispersed by the English (DePratter and Howard 1980:31).

The history of the numerous small coastal Indian tribes is poorly known. As Mooney noted, the coastal tribes,

> were of but small importance politically; no sustained mission work was ever attempted among them, and there were but few literary men to take an interest in them. War, pestilence, whiskey and systematic slave hunts had nearly exterminated the aboriginal occupants of the Carolinas before anybody had thought them of sufficient importance to ask who they were, how they lived, or what were their beliefs and opinions (Mooney 1894:6).

Considerable ethnohistoric data has been collected on the Muskhogean Georgia Guale Indians by Jones (1978, 1981). This group extended from the Salilla River in southern Georgia northward to the North Edisto River in South Carolina (Jones 1981:215). Jones suggests that the Guale may have been divided into chiefdoms, with two, the Orista and the Escaumacu-Ahoya, being found in South Carolina (Jones 1978:203). During the period from 1526 to 1586, Jones places the Escaumacu-Ahoya in the vicinity of the Broad River in Beaufort County, while the Orista are placed on the Beaufort River, north of Parris Island. By the late seventeenth century the principal town of the Orista appears to have been moved to Edisto Island, about 30 miles to the north (Jones 1978:203).

Waddell considers Orista a variant of Edisto (Waddell 1980:126-168) and places them on Edisto Island by 1666. Prior to that time they were situated in the Port Royal/Santa Elena area. The Escamacu are noted to also have lived in the Port Royal area, between the Broad and Savannah rivers (Waddell 1980:3, 168-198). Nearby were the Yoya, Touppa, Mayon, Stalame, and Kussah (Waddell 1980:3). Many of these tribes (such as the Kussah and Edisto) shifted northward as a result of the Escamacu War (1576-1579) when the Spanish sent out major expeditions. Waddell believes that the Escamacu War "probably left the area between the Broad and the Savannah rivers deserted" (Waddell 1980:3). He notes that in 1684,

> the Proprietors decided to clear their title to the coast between the Savannah and the Stono rivers . . ., so they had eight separate cessions and one general cession made to give them a paper claim to all of this territory. The Witcheaught (previously unknown), St. Helena (Escamacu), Wimbee, Combahee, Kussah, Ashepoo, Edisto, and Stono surrendered all their claims (Waddell 1980:4).

Historical Overview

Aboriginal groups and culture persisted in the low country into the eighteenth century, although their population declined from at least 1750 individuals in A.D. 1562 to about 660 in A.D. 1682 (Waddell 1980:8-13). It is therefore difficult to separate discussions of Native Americans from the period of early Spanish, English, and French exploration and settlement (A.D. 1521-1670).

The conflict between the various powers (particularly the English and Spanish) resulted in the Indian populations being alternately wooed and then attacked with the ultimate result being cultural disintegration and fragmentation. While the Guale were present on the South Carolina coast into the middle seventeenth century, they were probably destroyed by the early eighteenth century. Both Jones (1978) and Waddell (1980) provide

information on nearby Indian towns. Covington (1968:10) discusses the presence of Indian villages in 1685 on Hilton Head Island, where they were seeking the protection of the nearby Scottish colony of Stuarts Town at Port Royal from the Spanish. In 1696 Dickinson (Andrews and Andrews 1981:74-75) reported the presence of palmetto "wigwams" perhaps on the southern tip of Hilton Head Island. Apparently Yemassee groups were found in the Beaufort area until the 1715 Yemassee War (Covington 1968:12).

The Spanish Period

The first Spanish explorations in the Carolina low country were conducted in the 1520s under the direction of Lucas Vasquez de Ayllon. Quattlebaum notes that,

> Ayllon's captain, Gordillo, spent many months exploring the Atlantic coast . . . . Unfortunately we have little record of the extent of this expedition (Quattlebaum 1956:7).

One of the few areas explored by Gordillo which can be identified with any certainty is Santa Elena (St. Helena). Apparently Port Royal Sound was entered and land fall made at Santa Elena on Santa Elena's Day, August 18, 1520. "Cape Santa Elena," according to Quattlebaum (1956:8) was probably Hilton Head (Hoffman 1984:423).

Gordillo's accounts spurred Ayllon to seek a royal commission both to explore further the land and to establish a settlement in the land called Chicora (Quattlebaum 1956:12-17). In July 1526 Ayllon set sail for Chicora with a fleet of six vessels and has been thought to have established the settlement of San Miguel del Galdape in the vicinity of Winyah Bay (Quattlebaum 1956:23). Hoffman (1984:425) has more recently suggested that the settlement was at the mouth of the Santee River (Ayllon's Jordan River). Ferguson (n.d.:1) has suggested that San Miguel was established at Santa Elena in the Port Royal area. Regardless, the colony was abandoned in the winter of 1526 with the survivors reaching Hispaniola in 1527 (Quattlebaum 1956:27).

The French, in response to increasing Spanish activity in the New World, undertook a settlement in the land of Chicora in 1562. Charlesfort was established in May 1562 under the direction of Jean Ribaut. This settlement fared no better than the earlier Spanish fort of San Miguel and was abandoned within the year (Quattlebaum 1956:42-56). Ribaut was convinced that his settlement was on the Jordan River in the vicinity of Ayllon's Chicora (Hoffman 1984:432). Recent historical and archaeological studies suggest that Charlesfort may have been situated on Port Royal Island in the vicinity of the Town of Port Royal (South 1982a). The deserted Charlesfort was burned by the Spanish in

1564 (South 1982a:1-2). A year later France's second attempt to establish their claim in the New World was thwarted by the Spanish destruction of the French Fort Caroline on the St. John's River. The massacre at Fort Caroline ended French colonization attempts on the southeast Atlantic coast.

To protect against any future French intrusion such as Charlesfort, the Spanish proceeded to establish a major outpost in the Beaufort area. The town of Santa Elena was built in 1566, a year after a fort was built in St. Augustine. Three sequential forts were constructed at Santa Elena: Fort San Salvador (1566-1570), Fort San Felipe (1570-1576), and Fort San Marcos (1577-1587). In spite of Indian hostilities and periodic burning of the town and forts, the Spanish maintained this settlement until 1587 when it was finally abandoned (South 1979, 1982a, 1982b). Spanish influence, however, continued through a chain of missions spreading up the Atlantic coast from St. Augustine into Georgia. That mission activity, however, declined noticeably during the eighteenth century, primarily because of 1702 and 1704 attacks on St. Augustine and outlying missions by South Carolina Governor James Moore (Deagan 1983:25-26, 40).

The British Proprietory Periods

British influence in the New World began in the fifteenth century with the Cabot voyages, but the southern coast did not attract serious attention until King Charles II granted Carolina to the Lords Proprietors in 1663. In August 1663 William Hilton sailed from Barbados to explore the Carolina territory, spending a great deal of time in the Port Royal area (Holmgren 1959). Hilton viewed the headland, which now bears his name, noting,

> [t]he lands are laden with large, tall trees, oaks, walnuts, and bayes, except facing the sea it is most pines, tall and good. The land generally, except where the Pines grow, is good soyl covered with black mold . . . . The Indians plant in the worst land because they cannot cut down the timber in the best, and yet have plenty of corn, pompions, water-mellons, musk-mellons (William Hilton 1664; quoted in Holmgren 1959:35).

Almost chosen for the first English colony in South Carolina, Hilton Head Island was passed over by Sir John Yeamans in favor of the more protected Charles Town site on the west bank of the Ashley River in 1670 (Clowse 1971:23-24; Holmgren 1959:39). 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 Lords Proprietors, who owned the colony until 1719-1720, intended to discover a staple crop whose marketing would provide great wealth through the mercantile system, which was designed to profit the mother country by providing raw materials unavailable in England (Clowse 1971). Charleston was

settled by English citizens, including a number from Barbados, and by French Huguenot refugees. Black slaves were brought directly from Africa and by way of the Indies.

The Charleston settlement was moved from the mouth of the Ashley River to the junction of the Ashley and Cooper rivers in 1680, but the colony was a thorough disappointment to the Proprietors. It failed to grow as expected, did not return the anticipated profit, and failed to evidence workable local government (Ferris 1968:124-125). The early economy was based almost exclusively on Indian trade, navel stores, lumber, and cattle. Rice began emerging as a money crop in the late seventeenth century, but did not markedly improve the economic wellbeing of the colony until the eighteenth century (Clowse 1971).

Meanwhile, Scottish Covenanters under Lord Cardross established Stuart's Town on Scot's Island (Port Royal) in 1684, where it existed for four years until destroyed by the Spanish. It was not until 1698 that the area was again occupied by the English. Both John Stuart and Major Robert Daniell took possession of lands on St. Helena and Port Royal islands, and on August 16, 1698, Hilton Head was included as part of a 4800 acre barony granted to John Bayley (Holmgren 1959:42). The town of Beaufort was founded in 1711 although it was not immediately settled. While most of the Beaufort Indian groups were persuaded to move to Polawana Island in 1712, the Yemassee, part of the Creek Confederacy, revolted in 1715. By 1718 the Yemassee were defeated and forced southward to Spanish protection. Consequently, the Beaufort area, known as St. Helena Parish, Granville County, was for the first time safe from both the Spanish and the Indians. On December 10, 1717, Colonel John Barnwell claimed a grant of 500 acres on the northwest corner of Hilton Head (Royal Grants, v.39,p.225). About the same time, Alexander Trench, as agent for John Bayley, son and heir of Landgrave John Bayley, began to dispose of the 48,000 acre inheritance. Holmgren notes that Trench "must have been his own best customer," for he begins to either acquire title or use much of the Bayley property (Holmgren 1959:46-47). Hilton Head eventually became known as "Trench's Island" in the mid to late eighteenth century.

In 1728 a survey of the Port Royal area was conducted by Captain John Gascoigne and Lieutenant James Cook. Gascoigne's 1729 map ("A True Copy of A Draught of the Harbour of Port Royal") based on this survey identifies "Hilton Head Island," while Francis Swaine, using the same survey, identifies Hilton Head as "Trench Island" on his 1729 "Port Royal" map. By 1777 J.F.W. Des Barres produced a map entitled, "Port Royal in South Carolina," still using the 1728 Gascoigne-Cook survey, which identifies Hilton Head as "Trench's Island" (Cumming 1974).

The British Colonial Period

Although peace marked the Carolina colony, the Proprietors continued to have disputes with the populace, primarily over the colony's economic stagnation and deterioration. In 1727 the colony's government virtually broke down when the Council and the Commons were unable to agree on legislation to provide more bills of credit (Clowse 1971:238). This, coupled with the disastrous depression of 1728, brought the colony to the brink of mob violence. Clowse notes that the "initial step toward aiding South Carolina came when the proprietors were eliminated" in 1729 (Clowse 1971:241).

While South Carolina's economic woes were far from solved by this transfer, the Crown's Board of Trade began taking steps to alleviate many of the problems. A new naval store law was passed in 1729 with possible advantages accruing to South Carolina. In 1730 the Parliament opened Carolina rice trade with markets in Spain and Portugal. The Board of Trade also dealt with the problem of the colony's financial solvency (Clowse 1971:245-247). Clowse notes that these changes, coupled with new land policies, "allowed the colony to go into an era of unprecedented expansion" (Clowse 1971:249). South Carolina's position was buttressed by the settlement of Georgia in 1733.

By 1730 the colony's population had risen to about 30,000 individuals, 20,000 of whom were black slaves (Clowse 1971:Table 1). The majority of these slaves were used in South Carolina's expanding rice industry. In the 1730 harvest year 48,155 barrels of rice were reported, up 15,771 barrels or 68% from the previous year (Clowse 1971:Table 3). Although rice was grown in the Beaufort area it did not become a major crop until after the Revolutionary War and it was never a significant crop on Hilton Head (Hilliard 1975). Elsewhere, however, rice monoculture shaped the social, political, and economic systems which produced and perpetuated the coastal plantation system prior to the rise of cotton culture.

Although indigo was known in the Carolina colony as early as 1669 and was being planted the following year, it was not until the 1740s that it became a major cash crop (Honeycutt 1949). While indigo was difficult to process, its success was partially due to it being complementary to rice. Honeycutt notes that planters were "able to 'dovetail' the work season of the two crops so that a single gang of slaves could cultivate both staples" (Honeycutt 1949:18). Indigo continued to be the main cash crop of South Carolina until the Revolutionary War fatally disrupted the industry.

A decade prior to the Revolutionary War, James Cook produced "A Draught of Port Royal Harbour in South Carolina" (1766) which identified 25 families on Hilton Head Island. This is

significant in understanding the Colonial ownership of the island, since most property records were destroyed either in 1864 (by the Civil War) or in 1883 (by a fire).

Scholars have estimated that at the end of the colonial period, over half of eastern South Carolina's white population held slaves, although few held a very large number. Hilliard (1984:36-37) indicates that more than 60% of the Charleston slaveholders by 1860 owned fewer than 10 slaves, while the average number of slaves per slaveholding was less than five. In Beaufort, however, the average number of slaves per slaveholding was greater than 20 and slaves accounted for over 70% of the Beaufort population by 1860 (Hilliard 1984:34).

The Revolutionary War brought considerable economic hardship to the planters. During the war the British occupied Charleston for over two and one-half years (1780-1782) and a post was established in Beaufort to coordinate forays into the inland waterways (Federal Writer's Project 1938:7). Holmgren (1959:55-59) notes only that skirmishes took place on Hilton Head between the island's Whigs and Tories from neighboring Daufuskie Island. During one skirmish, the Talbird house, on Skull Creek, was burned. The removal of the royal bounties on rice, indigo, and naval stores caused considerable economic chaos with the eventual "restructuring of the state's agricultural and commercial base" (Brockington et al. 1985:34).

The Antebellum Period

While freed of Britain and her mercantilism, the new United States found its economy thoroughly disrupted. There was no longer a bounty on indigo, and in fact Britain encouraged competition from the British and French West Indies and India "to embarrass her former colonies" (Honeycutt 1949:44). As a consequence the economy shifted to tidewater rice production and cotton agriculture. Lepionka notes that "long staple cotton of the Sea Islands was of far higher value than the common variety (60 cents a pound compared to 15 cents a pound in the late 1830s) and this became the major cash crop of the coastal islands" (Lepionka et al. 1983:20). It was cotton, in the Beaufort area, that brought a full establishment of the plantation economy. Lepionka concisely states,

> [t]he cities of Charleston and Savannah and numerous smaller towns such as Beaufort and Georgetown were supported in their considerable splendor on this wealth . . . . An aristocratic planter class was created, but was based on the essential labor of black slavery without which the plantation economy could not function. Consequently, the demographic pattern of a black majority first established in colonial times was reinforced (Lepionka et al. 1983:21).

Mills, in 1826, provides a thorough commentary on the Beaufort District noting that,

> Beaufort is admirably situated for commerce, possessing one of the finest ports and spacious harbors in the world . . . . There is no district in the state, either better watered, of more extended navigation, or possessing a larger portion of rich land, than Beaufort: more than one half of the territory is rich swamp land, capable of being improved so as to yield abundantly (Mills 1826:367).

Describing the Beaufort islands, Mills comments that they were "beautiful to the eye, rich in production, and withal salubrious" (Mills 1826:372; Figure 3). Land prices ranged from $60 an acre for the best, $30 for "second quality," and as low as 25 cents for the "inferior" lands. Grain and sugarcane were cultivated in small quantities for home use while,

> [t]he principal attention of the planter is . . . devoted to the cultivation of cotton and rice, especially the former. The sea islands, or salt water lands, yield cotton of the finest staple, which commands the highest price in market; it has been no uncommon circumstance for such cotton to bring $1 a pound. In favorable seasons, or particular spots, nearly 300 weight has been raised from an acre, and an active field hand can cultivate upwards of four acres, exclusive of one acre and half of corn and ground provisions (Mills 1826:368).

The emphasis of Beaufort District's agriculture can be easily observed by reference to Hilliard (1984). During the antebellum period Beaufort's wheat production remained below one bushel per capita and less than 15 bushels per square mile. Corn production fell 20 to 30 bushels per capita in 1840, although corn production remained about 250 bushels per square mile for most of the district throughout the period. Less than 10,000 pounds of tobacco were grown in the District in 1860 and less than 100 hogsheads of sugar cane were produced. Sweet potatoes were the largest non-cash crop grown.

Reference to the 1860 Beaufort agricultural census reveals that of the 891,228 acres of farmland, 274,015 (30.7%) were improved. In contrast, only 28% of the State's total farmland was improved, and only 17% of the neighboring Colleton District's farm land was improved. Even in wealthy Charleston District only 17.8% of the farm land was improved (Kennedy 1864:128-129). The cash value of Beaufort farms was $9,900,652, while the state average by county was only $4,655,083. The value of Beaufort farms was greater than any other district in the state for that

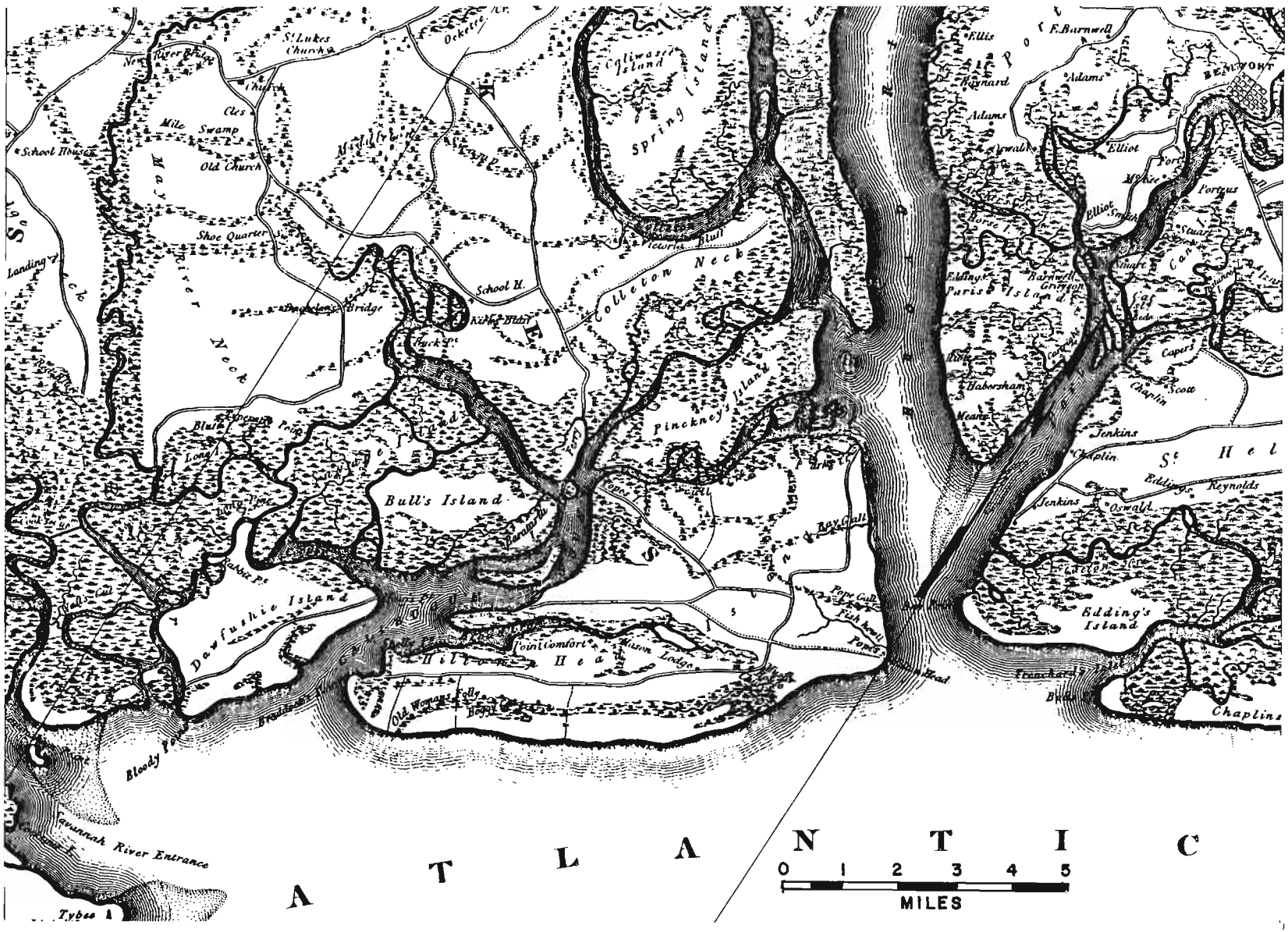


Figure 3. A portion of the Beaufort District in 1825 (from Mills' Atlas of 1825).

year, and only Georgetown listed a greater cash value of farming implements and machinery (reflecting the more specialized equipment needed for rice production in the latter area).

This record of wealth and prosperity is tempered by the realization that it was based on the racial imbalance typical of Southern slavery. In 1820 there were 32,199 people enumerated in Beaufort District, 84.9% of whom were black (Mills 1826:372). While the 1850 population had risen to 38,805, the racial breakdown had changed little, with 84.7% being black (83.2% were slaves). Thus, while the statewide ratio of free white to black slave was 1:1.4, the Beaufort ratio was 1:5.4 (DeBow 1853:338).

Hilton Head Island fell to Union forces on November 7, 1861 and was occupied by the Expeditionary Corps under the direction of General T.W. Sherman. Beaufort, deserted by the Confederate troops and the white towns people, was occupied by the Union forces several weeks later. Hilton Head became the Headquarters for the Department of the South and served as the staging area for a variety of military campaigns. As a result, the island is rich in military sites dating from 1861 through 1867, when the Department of the South was transferred to Charleston. A brief sketch of this period, generally accurate, is offered by Holmgren (1959), while a similarly popular account is provided by Carse (1981). As a result of the Island's early fall to Union forces, all of the plantations fell to military occupation, a large number of blacks flocked to the island, and a "Department of Experiments" was born. An excellent account of the "Port Royal Experiment" is provided by Rose (1964), while the land policies on St. Helena are explored by McGuire (1985). Recently, Trinkley (1986) has examined the freedmen village of Mitchelville on Hilton Head Island. One result of the Mitchelville work was to document how little is actually known about the black heritage on Hilton Head and the sea island's postbellum history. Even the social research spearheaded by the University of North Carolina's Institute for Research in Social Science at Chapel Hill in the early twentieth century (e.g. Johnson 1969) failed to record much of the activities on Hilton Head.

Rose clearly reveals the failures of the "Port Royal Experiment," noting that Northerners felt that "in granting the franchise the national obligation to the freedmen had been fulfilled" (Rose 1964:389). Money and Northern support for the freedmen quickly dried up after the war, leaving most blacks with little beyond their small plots of land (obtained from the previous slave plantations) which they carefully guarded, for "they well understood the basis of their security" (Rose 1964:396). The black yeomanry, however, was largely disfranchised by the 1895 South Carolina constitutional convention. Rose notes that Sea Island blacks became, as a result, increasingly self-governing with the Baptist church being the greatest force in their lives. While the "secular law was

the 'unjust' law, the church law was the 'just' law" (Rose 1964:407). This sense of community, churches, and order (seen at Mitchelville), may represent one of the strongest aspects of black heritage on the sea islands.

Secondary sources such as Holmgren (1959) and Peeples (1970) provide antebellum accounts of the island which emphasize the genealogy and land ownership of the period. Holmgren (1959) reproduces a map "compiled by the Hilton Head Company in 1958 from old surveys, maps and other available sources of information" which purports to show Hilton Head "before 1861," while Peeples (1970) provides a similar map titled, "Ante Bellum Hilton Head Island - Reconstructed from Ancient Authorities-19th C." Both maps are largely correct and indicate that by the Civil War the island's 26 plantations were owned by 15 prominent families -- the Baynards, Chaplins, Draytons, Elliots, Ficklings, Gardners, Grahams, Jenkins, Kirks, Lawtons, Mathews, Seabrooks, Scotts, Stoneys, and Stuarts (Holmgren 1959:67). One aspect of the military occupation of the island was the creation of a series of maps (by the War Department, the Coast and Geodetic Survey, and the Tax Commission) which show in varying degrees of accuracy and detail the various late antebellum plantations. This is fortunate since most of the antebellum records for Hilton Head were destroyed. These various maps are discussed in detail by Trinkley (1987:31-34).

Claims filed by Hilton Head plantation owners after the fall of the island to federal forces provide an interesting view of island lifeways. One of the more complete was filed by Samuel G. Lawton of Calibogia or "Lawton's" plantation. The claim lists a dwelling house of six rooms, kitchen, corn house 22x50 feet, stable 25x30 feet, gin house 35x40 feet, servant's house, store room, smoke house and boat house, two good barns 25x40 feet, two old barns, 16 negro houses, and one blacksmith shop, with a total value of $4000. Lawton also lost 45 bales of picked cotton, 15 bales still in the fields, 1400 bushels of corn, 18,000 pounds of fodder, 300 bushels of peas, 1000 bushels of potatoes, $100 worth of poultry, $200 worth of provisions in the smoke house, four horses valued at $150 each, three horses valued at $200 each, four mules valued at $150 each, two mules valued at $200 each, 12 oxen valued at $30 each, 140 head of cows, 80 head of sheep, and 46 hogs. Additional items included "plantation utensils," two wagons, two tilt carts, one timer cart, three ox carts, one old buggy, one new McCarthy gin, new running rear, harness, saddles, bridles, medicines, carpenter's tools and smith's tools valued at $150, a "14-oard boat" valued at $500, an "8-oard boat" valued at $300, a "4-oard boat" valued at $100, a sail boat valued at $150, and a cypress flat valued at $250 (Abstract of Property in the State of South Carolina Lost by the Citizens thereof from the War, SCHS, File 34/309/1-2). The wealth on Hilton Head was tremendous, although the 1860 census records only four adult white males living on the island, three of which were overseers

and one a "planter."

By the late 1890s much of the island had been bought by Northerners and Holmgren (1959:118ff) again provides a relatively accurate account. Rather matter-of-factly, she states that,

> Thorne and Loomis [both Northerners] also began buying land from any Negroes willing to sell, and by 1936 there were only 300 Negroes on the island instead of the 3,000 of forty years before (Holmgren 1959:123).

Studied Plantations

Although this project did not involve primary archival or historical research, it is appropriate to briefly discuss the studied plantations. The bulk of these discussions are based on the previous research conducted by Holmgren (1959). Some additional research has been conducted by Chicora for previous projects on Hilton Head Island (e.g., Trinkley 1986, 1987). The discussion of Seabrook Plantation is intended to suggest sources worthy of additional attention.

Cotton Hope Plantation

The Pope family apparently arrived on Hilton Head in the late eighteenth century and Holmgren (1959:130) notes that James, son of William and Sarah Pope, was born in 1786. In addition to Cotton Hope the Popes, at various times, owned Coggins Point, Point Comfort, Leamington, and Piney Woods plantations, as well as a number of tracts off Hilton Head. Cotton Hope, also called Skull Creek Plantation, was owned by William E. Pope, also called Squire Pope. Holmgren remarks that the plantation "boasted a fine house whose tabby wall foundations still stand not far from the road to Seabrook Landing" (Holmgren 1959:131), apparently a reference to the tabby structure at 39BU90, which we now know was not the main house, but only an out building.

The estate of William Pope made a claim for a "plantation," 201 slaves, 11 bales of cotton from the 1860 crop valued at $1650, three bales from that same crop which were not packed valued at $300, 100 bales from the 1861 crop valued at $15,000, 3000 bushels of corn valued at $3000, 15,000 oranges valued at $750, 18,000 sheets of peas, potatoes, rice, 150 head of turkeys, 150 fowls, 50 head of geese, and 20 guinea fowls. Livestock included 15 horses, 10 mules, 100 cows, 60 sheep, and 100 hogs. The furniture in the Cotton Hope Plantation house was valued at $1000. Also claimed was a library of books valued at $2000, a flat valued at $150, five wagons and seven carts, one small flat valued at $100, one "10-oard boat" valued at $700, two "8-oard boats" valued at $1200, four "5-oard boats" valued at $1500, and three boats valued at $450 (Abstract of Property in the State of South Carolina lost by the Citizens thereof from the War, SCHS,

File 34/309/1-2).

The plantation is described by a Union soldier in the early 1860s,

> the plantation of "Squire Pope," as the negroes called him, was a lovely place indeed. The fine old southern mansion was situated in a large grove of live oak trees, with ample grounds neatly fenced. Large groves of orange trees, whose fragrance filled the air and gave evidence of the home of contentment and wealth, but the occupants had fled and left their household goods to the mercy of the soldiers. Two spacious libraries were in the house, filled with books. Heavy plate glass mirrors and fine oil paintings adorned the walls, which, together with the rich furniture, made the place seem too good to be destroyed by the ruthless hand of war (Cadwell 1875:29-30).

Captain A.P. Ketchum, with the Freedmen's Bureau, indicated that in 1867 Cotton Hope consisted of 1250 acres, 400 of which were cultivated, 150 acres were cleared but uncultivated, and 700 acres were in woodlands. The only structures reported were "quarters," probably a reference to the slave quarters. Why the main house was not listed is unknown (Monthly Report of Lands, South Carolina, June 1867, SCDAH). In July 1867 Ketchum listed the population of the plantation at 216 (Monthly Report of Lands, South Carolina, July 1867, SCDAH).

The 1862 "Preliminary Chart of Calibogue Sound and Skull Creek" (Figure 4) shows a diffuse occupation broken into four loci. The first locus, found adjacent to Skull Creek at the north edge of the plantation, consists of a slave row. Seven structures are shown as a single row, with an eighth structure somewhat further inland. The second locus, to the south, but also adjacent to the creek, appears to consist of eight additional domestic structures (probably a slave row), although the arrangement is unusual. The third locus represent the main house and a technical nucleus of support structures. This map does not illustrate any gardens or orchard associated with the site, although they apparently existed. The final locus, located inland, may be a second slave row. It is evidenced by 11 structures arranged as a double row.

Cotton Hope, abandoned by the Popes, was purchased by the federal government through tax sales and was redeemed in 1887 by John E. Woodward (son and heir of Eliza, who was the daughter of Sarah Lavinia and William Pope). Woodward apparently sold portions of Cotton Hope in small plots to various black farmers and in several larger plots to Roy Rainey.

Today the various portions of Cotton Hope Plantation are

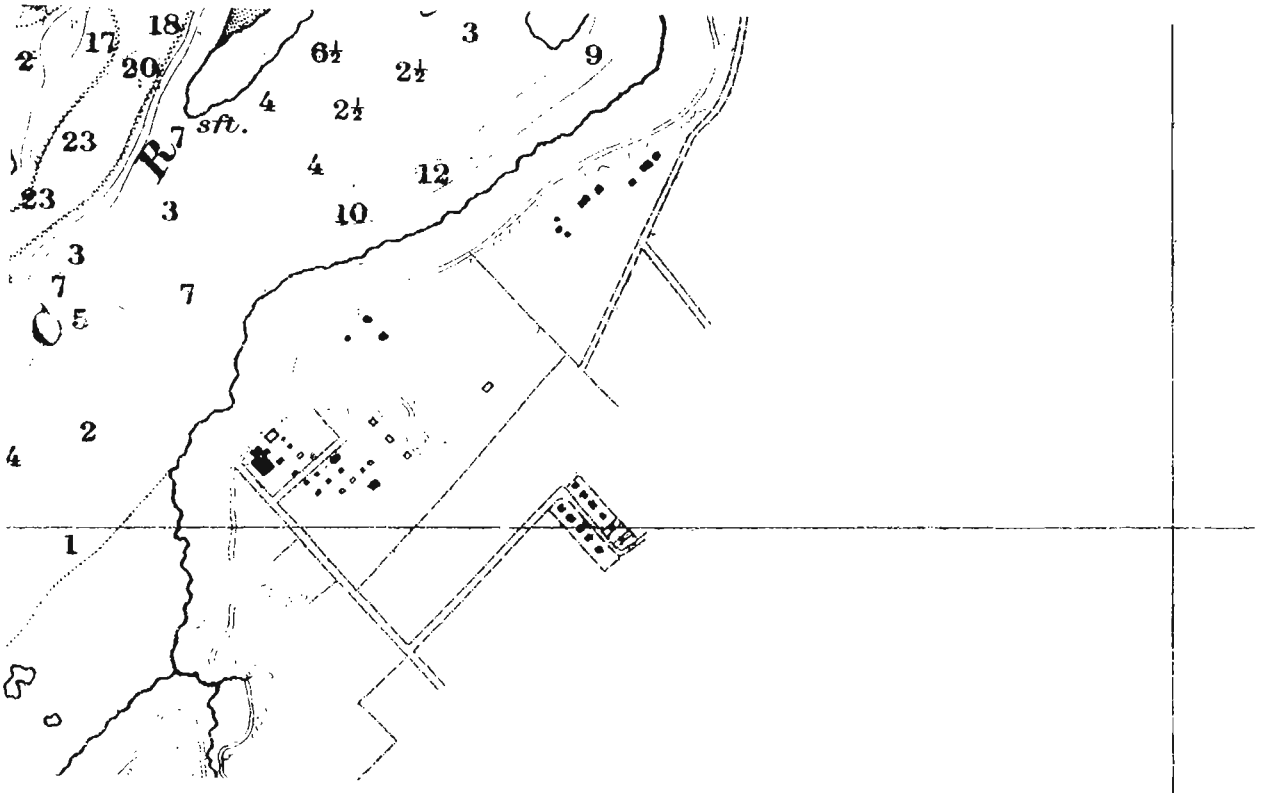


Figure 4. Cotton Hope Plantation in 1862.

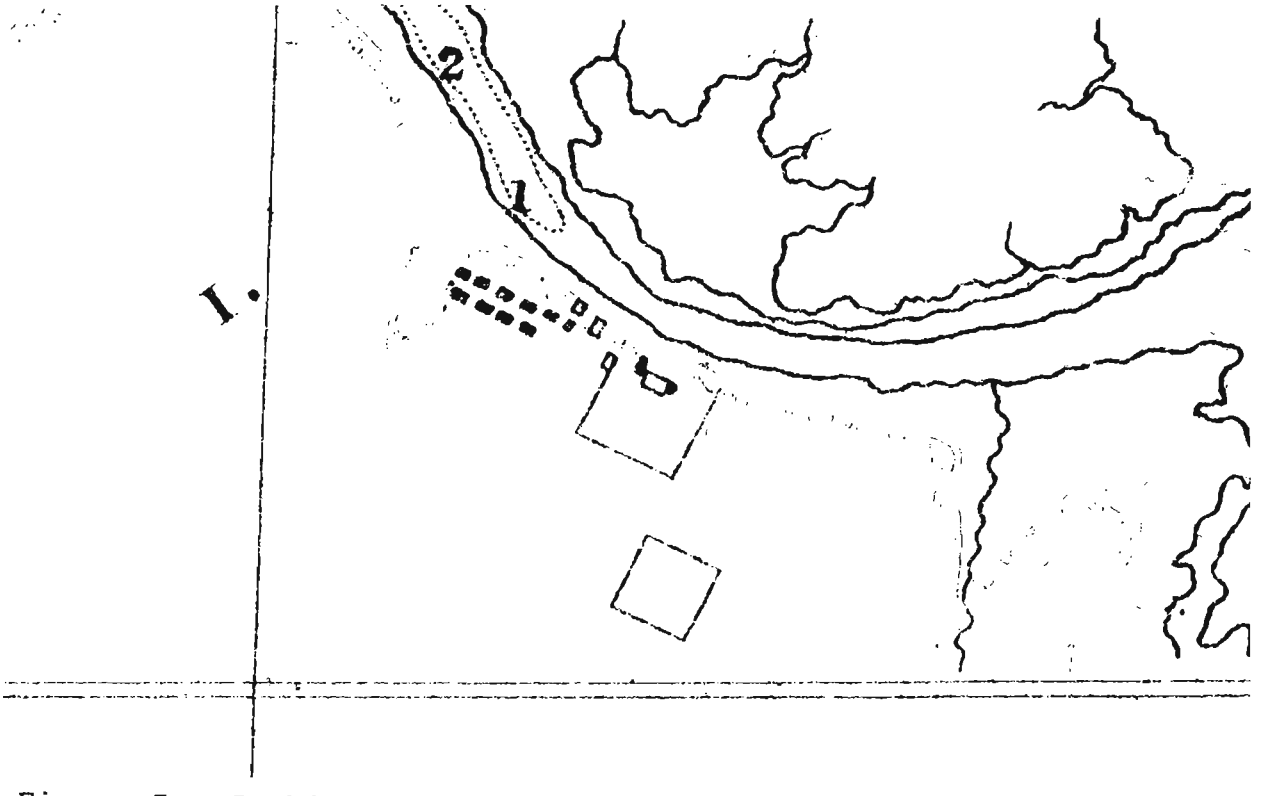


Figure 5. Jenkins Island Plantation in 1862.

found on Tax Map 3, Parcels 59A and 70 (Locus 1), Parcel 64B (Locus 2), Parcels 1, 2, 2A, 2G, and 5 (Locus 3), and Parcels 18, 19, 19A-D (Locus 4). In addition, the standing tabby structure thought to be associated with this plantation is found on Parcel 16. Site numbers assigned to the various plantation loci include 38BU62 (Locus 1), 38BU90 (standing tabby structure), and 38BU96 (Locus 2). Locus 3, representing the main administrative nucleus and "big house" has been largely destroyed, although portions of the site are extant and are recorded as 38BU834. Locus 4 has not been recorded, although it should be intact.

Jenkins Island Plantation

Very little information is currently available concerning this plantation complex. Holmgren (1959:129) notes that the property was originally in the Barley grant and was bought by John Gascoigne in June 1729. Jenkins Island was called John's Island on a 1777 map, although by 1861 it was apparently owned by Jenkins. Holmgren laments that, "nothing else has been found to indicate owners prior to 1900" (Holmgren 1959:129).

Although a number of sources briefly mention the stationing of troops on Jenkins Island or at the plantation (e.g., Bedel 1880:524; Tourtelotte 1910:42,44), no accounts of the plantation have been found during this brief review. Ketchum indicates that the plantation consisted of only 500 acres, 300 of which were under cultivation, with 100 acres of woodland and an additional 100 acres cleared. The only buildings indicated for the plantation are "quarters," although 130 occupants are listed in July 1867 (Monthly Report of Lands, South Carolina, July 1867, SCDAH).

The 1862 Coast and Geodetic Survey map shows the plantation consisting of a double row of slave structures (nine buildings), four barns or support structures, and what appears to be a main house, although it may represent an overseer's dwelling (Figure 5).

Fairfield or Stoneys Plantation

Holmgren (1959) notes that the Stoneys were early residents of Hilton Head Island, owning at one time or another Fairfield, Shipyard or Brickyard, Possum Point, and Otter Hole plantations. Apparently, Fairfield Plantation was owned by Col. Joseph Stoney at the time of the Civil War. Bedel (1880:524) mentions that federal troops were stationed at or on the plantation, although no description was offered. More extensive research using regimental histories might uncover information on the plantation or its appearance in the early 1860s. The plantation was used by the American Missionary Association for at least two schools, called Hope School and Fairfield School. There are a series of letters from E. Wright, Hannah Fitts, Sarah Fowler, and Luther

Fowler to the American Missionary Association, dating from late 1865 though 1867, although none have been examined as part of this project. The plantation, in 1867, is known to have consisted of a "mansion, quarters & school house" and to have contained 350 acres of cultivated land, 500 acres of wooded land, and an additional 150 acres of cleared land. The population is listed as 150 individuals (Monthly Report of Lands, South Carolina, July 1867, SCDAH). Holmgren briefly discusses the transfer of the property after the Civil War. Apparently portions of the plantation continued to be planted in cotton into the early 1930s (Holmgren 1959:133).

The 1862 Coast and Geodetic Survey map (Figure 6) shows a major, although tightly nucleated plantation settlement consisting of a main house, orchards, slave row, and associated support structures. This entire site is recorded as 38BU1166 and is located on Tax Map 7, Parcels 6A, 190, 190A, 190B, 189, 189B, 189C, 189D, 189E, 189F, 188, and 187. The plantation slave row appears to be situated primarily on Parcels 188 and 187 and the slave row occupation overlies the prehistoric deposits of 38BU63.

Seabrook Plantation

A detailed understanding of Seabrook Plantation is not yet available and this work has been hampered by the destruction of most early Beaufort land records during the Civil War and an 1884 fire which destroyed many of the early postbellum records. Some records have been located in Charleston and it is probable that additional research in Savannah will produce further information. Problems have been encountered in attempting to reconcile the contradictions in the available secondary sources (Lowcountry Council of Governments 1979:84; Holmgren 1959:132; Peeples 1970:9-10) since none provide citations. Briefly, Holmgren (1959:132) indicates that William Seabrook (Sr.) consolidated the 1600 acre plantation from smaller, Colonial period plantations sometime in the early antebellum. Specifically she mentions the Fylers, Currels, Talbirds or Talbots, and Wallises or Wallaces. The Lowcountry Council of Governments (1979:84), apparently using Peeples unpublished research, indicates that the 1600 acre plantation was purchased by William Seabrook from Mrs. Thomas Henry Barksdale in 1832. Finally, Peeples (1970:9) provides a more detailed account, suggesting that Thomas Henry Barksdale owned a 2600 acre Scull (Skull) Creek Plantation. After Barksdale's death, his widow was forced to auction off this plantation to settle legal claims by other heirs against the estate. It was at this time, according to Peeples (1970; personal communication 1988), that William Seabrook purchased 1600 acres. The remainder became the 1000 acre Cotton Hope Plantation. Included in the 1000 acres of Cotton Hope were "the tabby ruins ... originally Barksdale's Scull Creek House" (Peeples 1970:10) known as 38BU90 (this research, however, demonstrates that 38BU90 was probably not a domestic structure

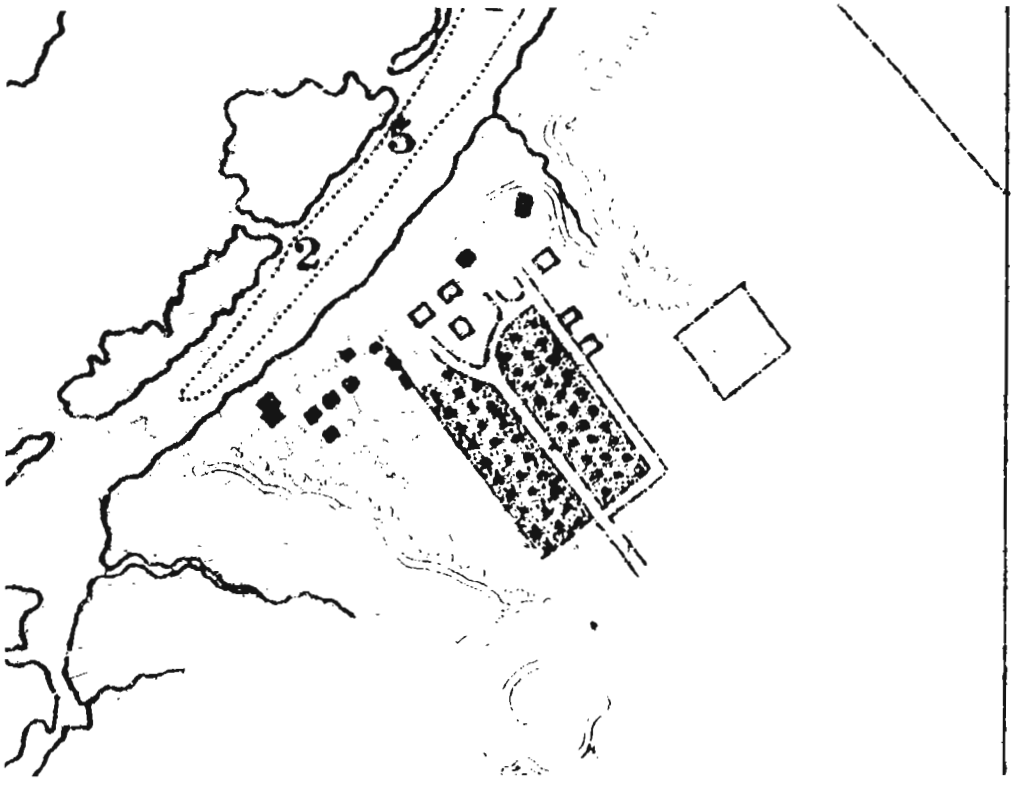


Figure 6. Fairfield Plantation in 1862.

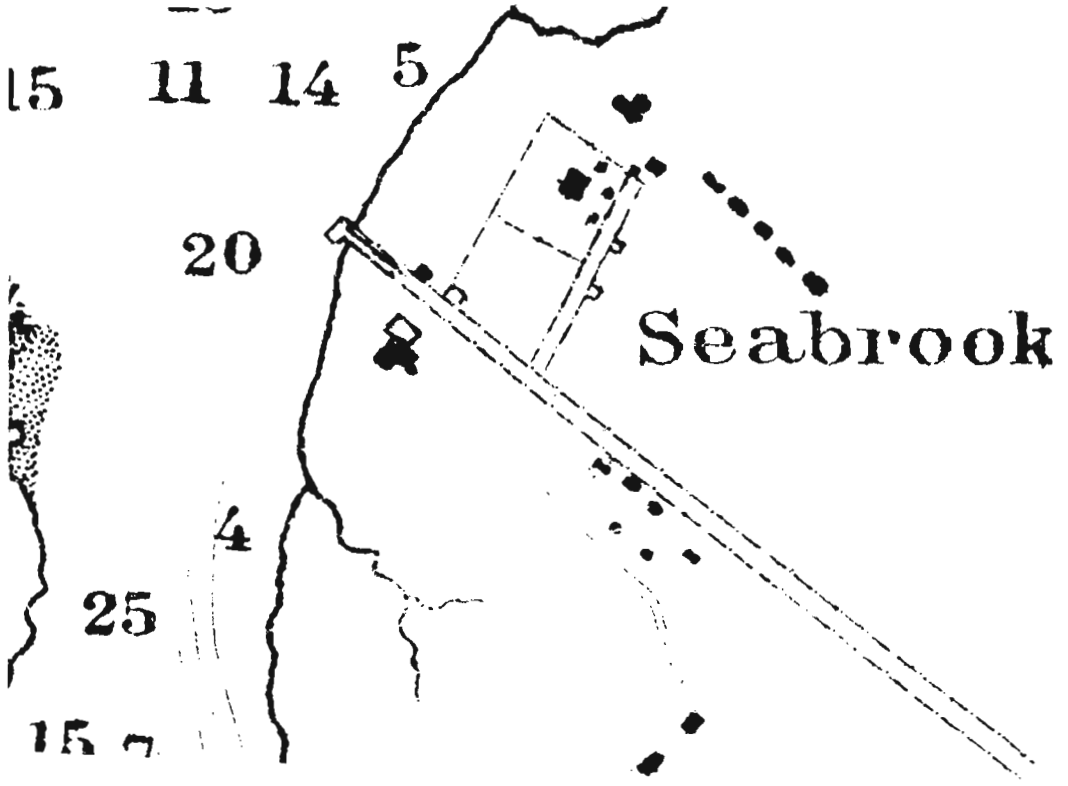


Figure 7. Seabrook Plantation in 1862.

and was probably not the Barksdale-Pope house). Peeples indicates that proof of this transaction is contained in the Alexander J. Lawton papers at the South Caroliniana Library. Regrettably, it has not been possible to completely settle this difference.

Although the Lawton Family papers have not been thoroughly examined, they do make reference to the Scull Creek Plantation. In fact, Lawton, as Administrator for Thomas Henry Barksdale's estate, on February 24, 1839, paid $20 to "George Edwards for hire of his servant one month to guard Scull Creek Plantation." This same payment is elsewhere referenced as the "Hire of Hector to take charge of Scull Creek Plantation" (South Carolina Library, Alexander J. Lawton Estate Accounts, 1821-1864). Lawton entered into at least two agreements with Peter Broughton, in April 1835 and December 1835, to "take charge of the plantation of said Estate [Estate of Thomas H. Barksdale] at Scull Creek" through 1836 (South Caroliniana Library, Lawton Family Papers).

Barksdale's will can not be located in either Charleston or Beaufort, although two legal cases involving the Barksdale estate provide some information. The first case, George Edwards et al. v. Martha S. Barksdale (Thomas Henry's widow) et al. and Henry Bona v. Martha S. Barksdale et al. (2 Hill, Eq. 184), indicates that Thomas H. Barksdale was a minor when his father, George died around 1798. George Barksdale's will provided that his estate should pass to his daughter and son, although in the case of their death, or if they fail "to have issue," the estate would go to George Edwards. George Barksdale's daughter died in 1808, but Thomas Henry came of age and the estate was surrendered to him. When he died intestate in 1832, however, he left no children. George Edwards contested Martha S. Barksdale's inheritance of some aspects. Henry Bona claimed that he was more closely related to George Barksdale then the others and that the estate should go to him, rather than to the others. The court ruled, in 1835, that most of the claims by Edwards, Bona, et al. should be dropped, although the next of kin arguments were sent back to the circuit court for a ruling.

The second case, involving the same parties as the first, but entitled George Edwards et al. v. Martha S. Barksdale (2 Hill, Eq. 416), was heard in 1836. The court ruled that all of the plaintiffs were legitimate next of kin and should be included in the provisions of the estate settlement.

Barksdale's Inventory and Appraisement was not conducted until the court cases were settled (post dating March 1, 1836). The inventory describes "The Plantation at Scull Creek, on which the Dwelling House Stands, Containing 2600 Acres, valued at 10,200." The acreage appears to have been altered and the 600 acre figure appears to be correct. Finally, the collection contains "A List of property of Est. Thomas H. Barksdale,

appraised and divided by Wm. Pope, Senr., James B. Sealy, & Wm. E. Baynard, Esq. on 18 March 1836 between Mrs. M.S. Barksdale, widow, and the next of kin agreeably to an order of the Court of Equity." The next of kin (which would have included Thomas B. Bona, George Edwards, Mary Holbrook, Mrs. Coe, and Mrs. Kirk) received "The plantation at Scull Creek with Dwelling House of 600 acres" (South Caroliniana Library, Lawton Family Papers). Significantly, the 600 acre figure is again used for this plantation. It seems clear that where ever this plantation was located, it remained in the Barksdale family through 1836 and perhaps as late as 1839. Since William Seabrook died in 1836, it was not possible for him to have purchased his plantation from Barksdale widow, Martha, in 1832. It seems that the Scull Creek Plantation of Barksdale may have no significance in understanding the Seabrook tract.

A deed, dated May 23, 1833, has been located in Charleston documenting the sale of 590 acres to William Seabrook by Joseph Wallace for $8000. The description indicates that the property was "on the island of Hilton Head ... bounded on the north by Scull Creek on the west by lands of Henry Talbird on the east by lands of Mrs. Phoebe Elliott and the south by lands of William Pope" (Charleston RMC DB Q10, p. 74). Phoebe (or Phebe) Elliott was the wife or William Elliott and the land referenced was Myrtle Bank Plantation. William Pope was "Squire Pope" and the land to the south of Seabrook's purchase would have been Cotton Hope. This deed indicates that Seabrook's initial (and perhaps only) purchase on Hilton Head, while relatively minor, was situated between Cotton Hope and Myrtle Bank. It also indicates that at the time Seabrook made his purchase, Pope had already acquired Cotton Hope. While it is possible that Seabrook acquired additional lands bordering his 590 acre plantation from Fyler, Currel, or Talbird, no record of any such transactions could be located in either Beaufort or Charleston.

Equally confusing is the conveyance of the Hilton Head property at William Seabrook's death in 1836. William's will, proved November 23, 1836 specifies,

> Item I give devise and bequeath unto my Dear Wife Elizabeth Emma Seabrook, her heirs and afsigns forever my plantation on Hilton Head purchased by me of the Revd. Mr. Wallace (Charleston Probate Court, Will Bk. 41, p. 536.

In addition, Seabrook provided that his wife should have the use of his "Mansion House and Residence" and whatever fields she can plant during her natural life, after which time they would revert to his estate.

Although William Seabrook was an extraordinary wealthy man for his time, with a personal estate worth $376,916, the

inventory of his estate fails to even mention the Hilton Head property (Charleston County Probate Court, Inventory Bk. H, p. 237). Its absence may be related to the property's location in Beaufort, rather than Charleston District, although normally the inventories include all personal property owned by an individual at the time of one's death. The inventories do not, however, list real estate. This suggests that the Hilton Head plantation was considered a very minor tract and may have been unoccupied at Seabrook's death. It is clear from his estate papers that his main residence was on John's Island (Seabrook is listed in the 1830 census in St. Johns Parish), although his Edisto Island plantation was a significant economic factor. The Hilton Head tract seems to have been little more than an investment.

Seabrook's wife, Elizabeth Emma, is shown in the St. John's Parish Census reports of 1840 and 1850. In 1840 she was shown with herself and five children in the family, as well as 36 slaves. In addition, the Estate of William Seabrook is also listed with one free person of color and 230 slaves (National Archives 1967). By 1850, Emma is listed, along with her son, John, who is listed as a "planter" (National Archives 1964). It seems that Emma continued to live on the Johns Island plantation, perhaps with her son managing her affairs as she grew older. There is no record of her ownership or operation of the Hilton Head plantation. Nor is there any record of the sale of this plantation.

By the 1850 Census, James B. Seabrook (second cousin to William) is shown as a planter in St. Lukes Parish of Beaufort with $8000 of real estate (National Archives 1964). Prior to this time James was listed in St. Johns Colleton with 95 slaves (National Archives 1967). This suggests that he acquired the plantation from Emma Seabrook sometime between 1840 and 1850. The 1850 Agricultural Schedules show James B. Seabrook with two plantations in St. Lukes Parish. One is listed as 1950 acres, valued at $20,000, while the other is listed as having only 210 acres (probably more since no figure is shown under the category of "unimproved land" and the property is valued at $8,000) (S.C. Department of Archives Microcopy 2, Roll 1, pp. 309-310). It is impossible from these records to determine which of the two tracts is "Seabrooks Plantation" on Hilton Head. The one not on Hilton Head was apparently in the Bluffton area.

The 1860 Census lists only one plantation for James B. Seabrook in St. Lukes Parish (S.C. Department of Archives Microcopy 2, Roll 3, pp. 281-282). The tract, consisting of 600 acres improved lands and 560 acres of unimproved lands, is valued at $15,000 and contained $1,300 worth of plantation implements. The property, in terms of output and general size is more similar to the larger 1850 plantation. It is shown as having $5,300 of livestock, including 15 horses, 5 asses or mules, 40 milk cows, 14 oxen, 13 cattle, 32 sheep, and 15 swine. The plantation

produced 1800 pounds of corn, 500 pounds of rice (which was one of the largest quantities for the area), 52 bales of cotton, 120 pounds of wool, 500 pounds of peas and beans, 15 bushels of irish potatoes, 2000 bushels sweet potatoes, 500 pounds of butter, 20 tons of hay, 60 pounds of beeswax, and 400 pounds of honey. The plantation slaughtered $600 worth of animals the previous year. In addition, Seabrook lists orchard products valued at $100.

If the larger plantation from the 1850 census is the same tract of land as tabulated in the 1860 census (which would indicate that either Emma or James Seabrook purchased considerable additional lands), then it is useful to examine the ten year trend. The milk cow herd declines from the 1850 level of 80 to 40, the 120 head of cattle in 1850 is down to 13 head in 1860, the sheep herd is reduced from 60 to 32, and the 102 swine reported in 1850 is down to only 15 in 1860. The decline in livestock numbers, however, is not reflected in the value placed on the animals. In 1850 the livestock value was $3,740, while it increased to $5,300 in 1860. The value of animals slaughtered remained constant at $600. Curiously, wool production remains constant and butter production increase from 100 pounds in 1850 to 500 pounds in 1860. While the emphasis on livestock declined from 1850 to 1860, the cotton production increased from 32 bales to 52 bales and rice cultivation was reported in 1860. There is an indication that Seabrook began moving away from livestock toward the cash economy of cotton and rice. The slave population of Seabrook fell from 118 in 1850 to 107 in 1860 (although presumably the 1850 figure reports on two plantations, while the 1860 figure reports on only one) (National Archives 1967).

James B. Seabrook's occupation of the Hilton Head plantation is further supported by the Joseph Baynard Seabrook Bible in the Charleston Museum collections (specimen 34.43). Pasted inside the front cover of the Bible is a handwritten note, signed by E.B. Seabrook and dated November 22, 1872,

> This book was the family Bible of my grandfather, Joseph Baynard Seabrook, of Edisto Island, whose name is printed on the cover. After the death of my grandfather, it passed into the hands of his youngest son, James B. Seabrook, who subsequently removed to Hilton Island - During the recent war, after the fall of Fort Walker on Broad River, the book was found by the Federal Soldiers on my uncle's parlor table (transcription in SC Historical Society Collection, File 30-04).

In spite of this, the 1860 census, which lists individuals by smaller enumeration districts than previously, does not list Seabrook among the 11 whites who were found on the island. Of the 11, only one male was listed as a planter, while three others were listed as overseers.

The property was described by several Union soldiers shortly after Hilton Head fell in November 1861:

> [w]e mistook the whitewashed huts of the negroes for tents . . . that night we spent in Mr. Seabrook's store, after using the portion of the afternoon that remained to us after our arrival in endeavors to secure some of the cattle, pigs, and poultry (Nichols 1886:66)

> [t]he groves of orange trees at Seabrook's plantation were very fragrant, and the ripe fruit was quickly disposed of as contraband of war (Cadwell 1875:29)

> they [the Union forces] reached Seabrooks Landing on Mackey's [actually Skull] Creek at about 2 PM. At this point the retreating force had embarked in steamers for Charleston. Here we found fifteen loads of quartermaster's and commissary's supplies and a few small arms. The negroes were jubilant and anxious to sell sweet potatoes and other eatables which had cost them nothing (Walkley 1905:29; see also Eldrige 1893:67 who describes a similar scene at Seabrooks Landing).

This plantation became a significant focal point of activities on Hilton Head. The main house was used as the military headquarters of various regiments stationed to guard the Skull Creek "frontier" against Confederate intrusion (Culp 1885:97) and eventually Fort Mitchell (38BU1167) was built just to the south of the plantation "to guard against the ravages anticipated from the ram Atlanta" (Bedel 1880:525).

By 1863 the plantation was the location of machine shops and a shipyard used by the Quartermaster's Corps. A period newspaper account revealed,

> that there are comparatively few persons in the Department who are aware that on the banks of Skull creek, near Seabrook's Landing, are machine shops, and ship and boat-yards, already second in importance to none south of the Potomac, all the recent growth of a few months. They have sprung up as it were in a single night, under the experienced and vigorous administration of Mr. John H. Mors, Superintending Engineer of the Quarter's Department, under Lt. Col. J.J. Elwell. . . . The necessity has long been held for a properly organized and effective machine shop and ship yard, wherein the repairs to the engines and hulls of the large fleet of transports in government service in the quarter could be expeditiously and thoroughly accomplished . . . . The present location was selected as a proper one for the new machine shop and ship yard, as affording the best facilities for the kind of

> service just at present demanded . . . . The machine shop is a building put up for temporary purposes about forty feet square, on the edge of the Creek's bank, and is already supplied with all the more important and requisite machinery necessary for the present wants of the service. It has a small steam engine, which supplies the motive power for the entire establishment . . . . Adjoining the machine shop is the Blacksmith's shop, with its forges and blasts, and near it is the Boilermaker's yard where new boilers may be constructed or old ones repaired . . . . Near the machine shop is the shipyard, where ordinary repairs to the hulls of vessels can be made (New South, October 24, 1863, p. 3).

Although the Seabrook machine shops were reported to "exhibit all the energy and vigor of older establishments" and were "as full of promise for the future was the most sanguine could desire" (New South, October 24, 1863, p. 3), by November 1865 a letter was sent to the War Department in Washington requesting information on the deposition of the machinery and materials at the "government machine shops on Hilton Head." The remnants of the Seabrook machine shops were directed to be sold at a local public auction barely two years after their construction (National Archives, Quartermaster's Consolidated File, RG 92, Box 402).

Seabrook Plantation was also the location of a school for the freedmen operated by the American Missionary Association. Both Charlotte M. Keith and Annie R. Wilkens taught at the school and lived in the plantation house at least in 1866 and 1867. Their letters are in the American Missionary Association files, but have not yet been carefully examined. One letter from Annie Wilkens comments on arriving at the "dirty" Seabrook house on January 19, 1867 (AMA, H-6354), while E. Wright in February 1867 remarks that repairs at Seabrook had been made for the "comfort of the teachers" (AMA, H-6404).

Captain A.P. Ketchum indicates that the machine shops were functional by March 1867, at which time the plantation consisted of "Mansion, Barns & Quarters, Machine Shop." The 1050 acre plantation consisted on 350 acres of cultivated land, 400 acres of woodland, and 300 acres of cleared lands (Monthly Report of Lands, South Carolina, March 1867, SCDAH). The population of Seabrook was listed as 374 individuals in July 1867 (Monthly Report of Lands, South Carolina, July 1867, SCDAH).

The 1862 draft Coast and Geodetic Survey map (Figure 7) clearly shows Seabrook Plantation, revealing the road to the dock, the configuration of the dock, four nearby structures (possibly industrial or storage related), the main house, nine associated structures (possibly house servant quarters, kitchen,

smoke house, and so forth), a slave row of five structures (possibly of double pen construction), and six additional structures (possibly representing a second slave row). Portions of this tightly nucleated plantation complex are also shown on a South Carolina District Tax Map for Hilton Head Island, dated 1869 (Figure 8). While the exact placement of the structures is frequently different between the two maps, the structural arrangements are clearly very similar (e.g., a series of four structures south of the "landing road," two additional structures closer to the marsh on the south side of the "landing road," the rows of structures east of the main house area, and the probable main house complex area). The 1869 map also appears to show the 40-foot square machine shop to have been constructed adjacent to the creek at the landing.

In addition to these maps the January 25, 1862 edition of Frank Leslie's Illustrated Newspaper published an engraving of Seabrook Plantation (Figure 9). The early date suggests that the artist's engraving should, if accurate, closely resemble the Coast and Geodetic Map. Comparison of the two show agreements in a number of key points. Both illustrate a "T" shaped dock with two barns to the south of the "landing road." To the north of the "landing road" is the main house complex, with a enclosing fence which runs south to the road, shown on both the map and the engraving. The slave row, shown on the 1862 map as located east of the main house complex, is (correctly) not visible in the engraving. This suggests that the artist refrained from illustrating concepts (such as slave housing) that were not actually visible from his perspective.

Like other property owners in the rebellious states, Seabrook failed to pay federal taxes on his Hilton Head property and the plantation was confiscated by the United States Government. The property was eventually purchased by the Government. Isabel DeSaussure compiled an "Abstract of Property in the State of South Carolina lost by the Citizens thereof from the War," apparently from claims made to the federal government after the Civil War. This volume lists Seabrook's claims for a "Dwelling House & Lot, Furniture" valued at $3000 which probably represents a house in Bluffton, 1600 acres of land with no assigned value, 89 slaves, 80 head of cattle, 75 hogs, 15 horses and mules, 90 bales of Sea Island cotton, one "10-oard boat," one "6-oard boat," 34 oars, one flat, two wagons, six carts, and one carriage (South Carolina Historical Society, File 34/309/1-2).

James B. Seabrook lacked the necessary money to redeem the plantation after the Civil War, but the tract was purchased in 1872 for James by attorney R.C. McIntire, apparently with the understanding that it would be paid for over time (Beaufort RMC DB 7, p. 433). In 1873 James Seabrook, still unable to raise the necessary funds, deeded the plantation to McIntire (Beaufort RMC DB 7, p. 448). The property was not divided into smaller plots

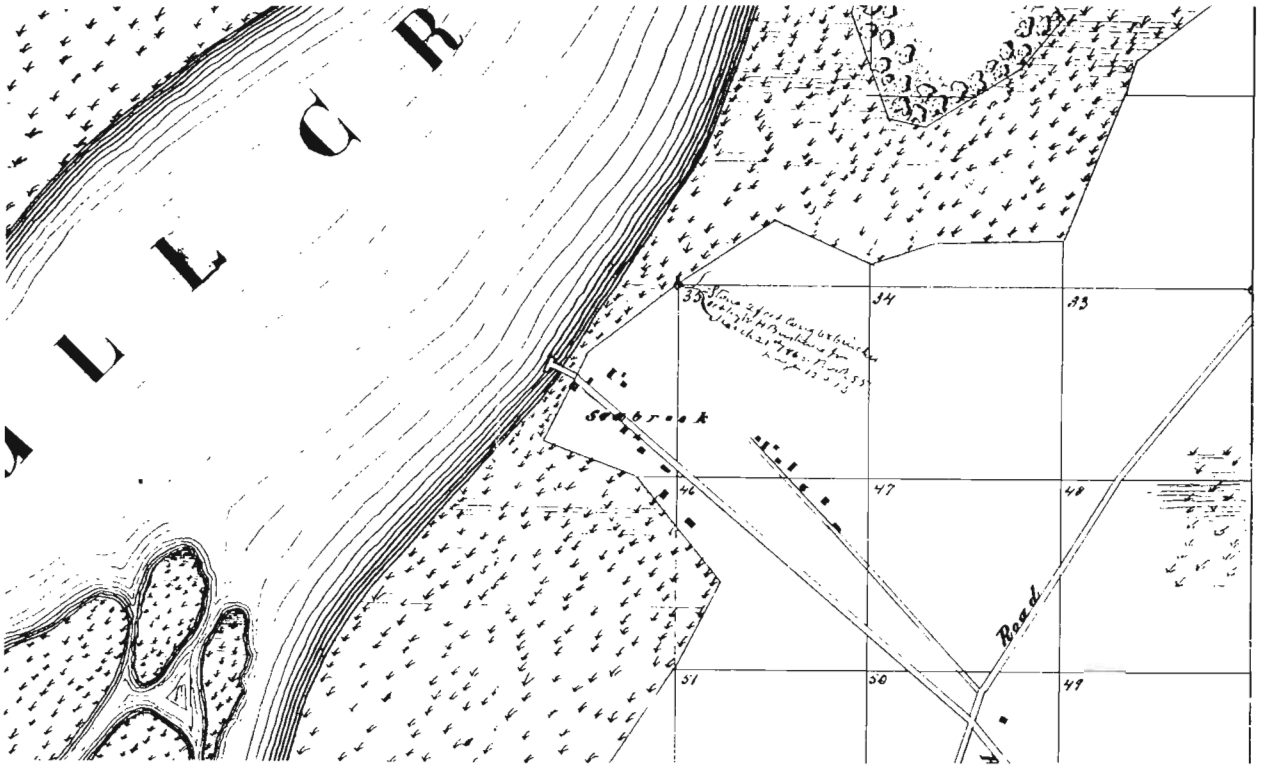


Figure 8. Seabrook Plantation in 1869.

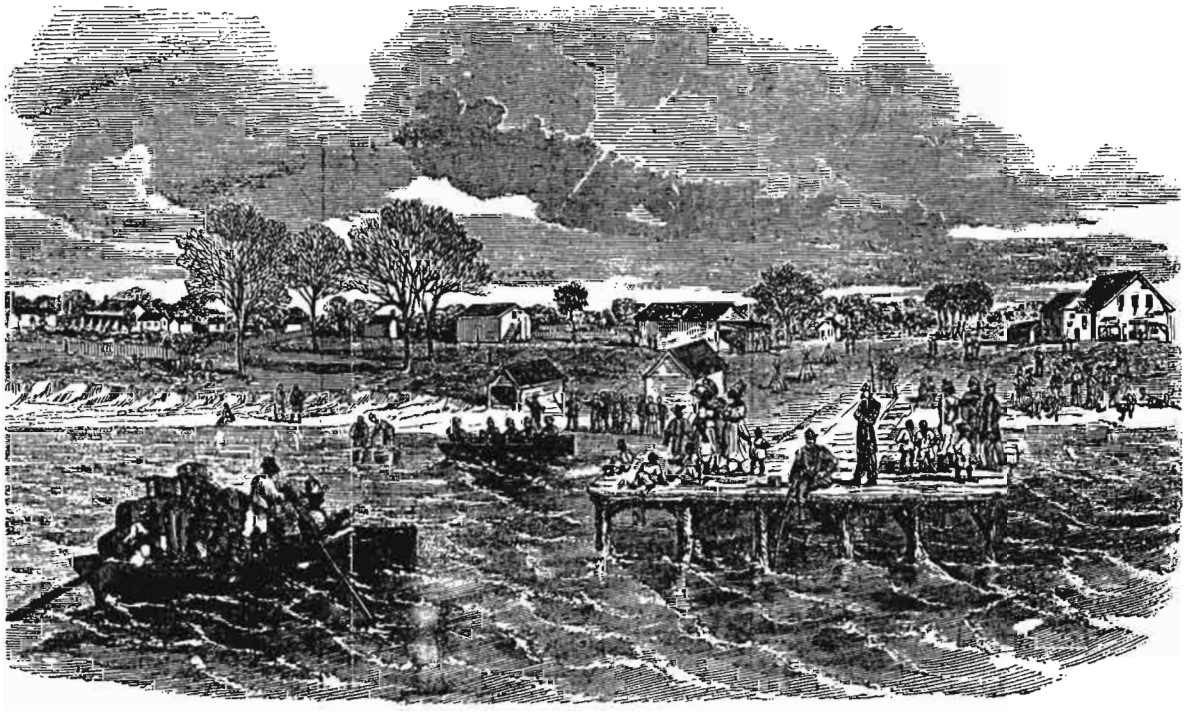


Figure 9. Engraving of Seabrook Plantation in 1862 (from Frank Leslie's Illustrated Newspaper, January 25, 1862).

for Blacks and was passed down largely intact to the twentieth century. McIntire is not listed in the 1880 agricultural census and no significant research has been conducted on the property in the late nineteenth or early twentieth centuries. The 1944 Fort Fremont 15' topographic map (based on a field survey conducted in 1912 and checked using 1939 aerial photographs) shows the tract with two structures, neither of which appear to be in the correct location for the main house. One structure may represent a standing slave cabin, while the other possibly represents a larger farm building.

This brief historical discussion clearly reveals that additional historical research is needed for the property. It may be impossible to develop a complete, or clear, chain of title for the property given the loss of most Beaufort County records. Continued research using locally available sources and expanding into Savannah archives, however, may help determine the increase from 590 acres at William Seabrook's purchase to the 1050 acres at the time of the confiscation. This research may also assist in placing the plantation in a firmer economic framework. Further research also needs to document postbellum activities on the plantation.

Today Seabrook Plantation is largely contained within the western half of the tract of land known as BB North (Tax Map 1A, Parcel 49). This site has been recorded as 38BU323/1149, although sites 38BU822 and 38BU337 are be loci related to either the plantation or military occupations. In addition, site 38BU823, situated on property shown by Tax Map 1A, Parcel 35, probably represents the two structures adjacent to the marsh south of the plantation complex.

SITE INVESTIGATIONS AND FINDINGS

Introduction

The purpose of this work was, first, to review the previous work conducted at the six study sites; second, to conduct subsurface archaeological testing at the study sites sufficient for an assessment of the sites' eligibility for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places; and third, to document the eligibility assessments using recognized criteria. The six sites finally incorporated into this study include portions of Cotton Hope Plantation (38BU90 and 38BU96), Talbot site (38BU830), 38BU832, Jenkins Island Plantation (38BU871), and Fairfield Plantation (38BU1166). The intensive survey of the Seabrook Plantation is discussed in Appendix 2 of this study. Three of these sites (38BU90, 38BU830, and 38BU832) are relatively small sites, while the others represent larger plantation complexes. Site conditions ranged from open fields (in the case of 38BU90, 38BU96, 38BU830, and 38BU832) to dense woods (38BU871).

Chicora originally offered a detailed scope outlining the field methods to be employed. Access to all of the sites selected by the Town of Hilton Head Island could not be obtained and several substitutions occurred during the field work. The field methodology was changed as necessary to incorporate these substitutions, although some delays in the progress of the field work resulted. The field methods will be specifically discussed for each of the investigated sites. Another change in the project scope occurred when the Town requested that an architectural evaluation be undertaken of the standing tabby structure at 38BU90. Mr. Colin Brooker, an architect with extensive experience with tabby construction was retained by Chicora to examine the structure and his report is included in this study as Appendix 1.

At each site examined Chicora took several black and white photographs and color slides suitable for National Register nominations. These photographic materials are curated with the field notes from this project. In addition, at each site notations were made to allow the site forms, filed at the South Carolina Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology, to be updated. This involved completing new forms for each site revisited.

The research design used throughout this project was essentially explorative, that is, it was directed toward answering certain fundamental questions such as, does the site possess integrity, what is the range of artifacts present, and

what can an archaeological study reveal concerning the site's occupants? While portions of this research were guided by the need to determine site eligibility, other aspects were oriented toward obtaining specific research information, such as architectural data on a probable non-domestic tabby structure (at 38BU90) and obtaining additional information on what appears to be a small, discrete Middle Woodland shell midden (at 38BU832).

The archaeological field work was conducted from January 4 through January 15, 1988 by the author and Ms. Mona Grunden. A total of 149.5 person hours of field work was conducted for this project, with 10.5 person hours lost to poor weather. A total of 29.5 person hours involved administrative time, principally waiting for access to sites or obtaining the necessary mapping for each site. Only 120 person hours were actually spent engaged in the archaeological research discussed in this report.

Laboratory and Analysis Methods

The cleaning and cataloging of artifacts was conducted at the Chicora laboratories in Columbia during January and February, 1988. All artifacts except brass and lead specimens were wet cleaned. Brass and lead were dry brushed and evaluated for further conservation. Brass items, if they exhibited active bronze disease, were subjected to electrolytic reduction in a sodium carbonate solution with up to 4.5 volts for periods of up to 72 hours. Hand cleaning with soft brass brushes or fine-grade bronze wool followed the electrolysis. Afterwards, the surface chlorides were removed with deionized water baths and the items were dried in an acetone bath. The conserved cuprous items were coated with a 20% solution of Incralac in toluene. Ferrous objects were treated in one of two ways. After the mechanical removal of gross encrustations the artifact was tested for sound metal by the use of a magnet. Items lacking sound metal were subjected to multiple baths of deionized water to remove chlorides. The baths were continued until a conductivity meter indicated a level of chlorides no greater than 1.0 ppm. These items were eventually given a micro-crystalline wax coat, not only to seal out moisture, but also to provide some additional strength. Items which contained sound metal were subjected to electrolytic reduction in a bath of sodium carbonate solution in currents no greater than 5 volts for a period of 5 to 20 days. When all visible corrosion was removed, the artifacts were wire brushed and placed in a series of deionized water soaks, identical to those described above, for the removal of chlorides. When the artifacts tested free of chlorides (at a level less than 0.1 ppm), they were air dried and a series of phosphoric (10%) and tannic (20%) acid solutions were applied. The artifacts were oven dried at a temperature of 200°F (93°C) for 20 minutes, then dipped in a molten micro-crystalline wax solution and then placed back in a heated oven for 5 minutes to allow the excess wax to drip off.

As previously discussed, the materials have been accepted for curation by The Environmental and Historical Museum of Hilton Head Island and have been cataloged using that institution's accessioning practices. Specimens were packed in plastic bags and boxed. Insect control is maintained through the use of vapona, which is not allowed to come into direct contact with the specimens.

Analysis of the collections followed professionally accepted standards with a level of intensity suitable to the quantity of the remains. Prehistoric ceramics were classified using common coastal South Carolina types (DePratter 1979; Trinkley 1983). The temporal, cultural, and typological classifications of the historic remains follow Noel Hume (1970), Miller (1980), Price (1979), and South (1977).

Cotton Hope Plantation, 38BU90 and 38BU96

38BU90

This site was first recorded in 1973 when it was described as a tabby structure of two story construction and given site boundaries of 100 feet square (SCIAA 38BU90 site files). The next recorded visit was during the 1986 survey by Chicora (Trinkley 1987; cf. Lepionka 1982). During that visit the site was estimated to extend over an area of about 150 feet square. Both surveys stressed the need for further testing and measured drawings, although neither survey could identify either the nature of the building or its probable temporal or spatial associations.

The site is situated in a pasture east of Squire Pope Road and south-southwest of the Gum Tree and Squire Pope intersection (Beaufort County Tax Map 3, Parcel 16). The area is characterized by a broad, level interior plain having an elevation of about 12 feet (3.7 meters) MSL. There is a small, natural drainage about 200 feet (60 meters) to the northeast and Skull Creek is about 1500 feet (460 meters) to the northwest. The soils in the site area are the somewhat poorly drained Coosaw series soils. Discussions with the property owner reveal that in the early twentieth century the building was roofed with corrugated tin and used as an animal shed. During the past 20 years a number of individuals have visited the site and removed pieces of tabby without permission (Thomas Barnwell, personal communication 1988). While the structure is still used by cows as a windbreak, it is no longer roofed.

Based on the 1986 survey the site was recommended as eligible for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places, since the structure was well preserved and was thought to date to an eighteenth century plantation occupation in the area. In addition, the structure was thought to represent the

foundation ruins of the two-story clapboard Cotton Hope Plantation house (Lowcountry Council of Governments 1979:88).

The site was examined on January 4-6, 1988 by a crew of two. A total of 32.5 person hours were required for this work, excluding the architectural evaluation by Brooker (Appendix 1).

A grid, oriented E19°30'N, was established at the site with an iron rebar placed 60 feet (18.5 meters) from the southeast corner of the tabby structure (Figure 10). This grid orientation closely approximates the orientation of the structure. A series of grid points were established around the structure at 50 foot (15 meter) intervals, 50 feet (15 meters) to the grid north and grid east, 100 feet (30 meters) to the grid west (toward Squire Pope Road), and 100 feet (30 meters) to the grid south. These tests points were numbered sequentially from south to north and west to east. Several points fell on Squire Pope Road and were not flagged, although they were assigned numbers. A total of 22 points were laid out at the site. This grid was based entirely on topography since there was no surface evidence of occupation.

A mechanical auger with a 10-inch (0.3 meter) bit 3-feet (0.9 meter) in length was used to obtain a sample from each established point. All soil was screened through 1/4-inch mesh and all cultural material was collected (including shell debris) from each auger test. Information was collected from each unit on soil stratigraphy and soil colors were collected from representative tests. All auger tests were backfilled.

Stratigraphy around the tabby structure is uniform and consists of up to 0.8 foot of dark gray-brown sand overlying a light gray fine sand. There was no evidence of previous disturbance, other than cultivation, nor was evidence of subsurface features recovered as a result of this work. The upper humic soil zone, interpreted to represent an old plowzone around the structure, contains locally abundant shell, but very few artifacts. Shell density ranges from a low of 0.5 gram (excluding tests with an absence of shell) to a high of 365 grams. Shell density tends to be highest at the southwest corner of the site, where it co-occurs with brick and mortar rubble. The original site dimensions of 100 to 150 feet (30 to 45 meters) appear to be reasonable, although the distribution of specimens is so diffuse that accurate boundary judgements are difficult.

Prehistoric artifacts include five Refuge Simple Stamped sherds, three Deptford Cord Marked sherds, two Deptford Plain sherds, and a single used rhyolite flake. These remains are indicative of an occupation during the Early Woodland period, about 1000-500 B.C. The historic remains include four undecorated whiteware ceramics, one machine cut nail, one UID nail, one fragment of "black" glass, one aqua glass fragment, and one UID metal fragment. In addition, five wire nails, probably

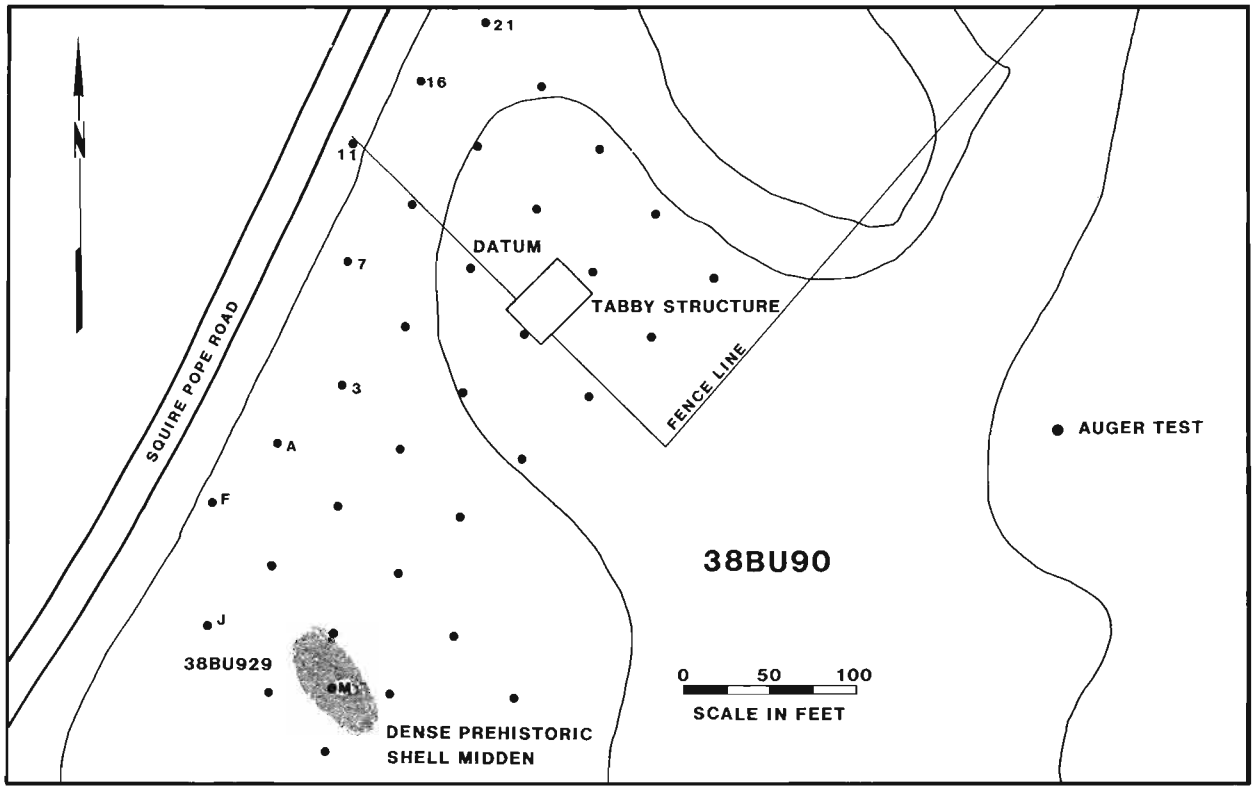


Figure 10. Site 38BU90.

Figure 11. South elevation of the tabby structure at 38BU90.

dating from the structure's use as an animal shelter, were recovered. The bricks found at the site are largely fragmentary, but suggest hand made bricks typical of the antebellum period (the size is about 4 inches in width by 2-3/4 inches in height). The other historic remains are suggestive of a mid-nineteenth century date, although the sparsity of remains strongly suggests that the structure did not function as a domestic site. In fact, there is absolutely no archaeological evidence to support the speculation that this foundation represents the Cotton Hope Plantation house.

A detailed architectural examination, undertaken by Colin Brooker, is presented as Appendix 1 in this report. Lacking archaeological excavation at the structure, Brooker was unable to conclusively determine a function for the structure, although he is inclined toward a non-domestic use since there is no clear evidence for chimneys. The relatively rough construction techniques are suggestive of the second quarter of the nineteenth century.

An examination of the fallow field to the south of the 38BU90 auger tests revealed a slight rise and abundant shells. While this shell midden was thought to be prehistoric, additional auger tests (given letter designations) were laid out. These tests failed to reveal any aboriginal material, although an additional three historic specimens (a panel bottle fragment, a fragment of metal, and a hand wrought nail) were recovered. Curiously, the nail was recovered from Auger Test M, placed in the center of the densest section of the midden. Based on the spatial discontinuity of artifacts, the midden has been assigned a new site number, 38BU929. This site may represent the source of the shell for the tabby structure about 200 feet (60 meters) distant and may originally have been an Early Woodland midden (there are Early Woodland sherds incorporated in the structure). The extensive plowing, coupled with "mining," may be responsible for the admixture of historic remains in the midden remnants.

38BU96

This site, first recorded in 1973, was identified as a "Wilmington and early 19th century" occupation in a plowed field with abundant oyster shells (SCIAA 38BU96 site files). Originally the site was estimated to measure about 300 feet (90 meters) in diameter. Subsequent visits made by Chicora in 1986 determined that the site represented a relatively intact portion of a nineteenth century plantation, with admixture of prehistoric materials. The site is situated just inside the Hilton Head Plantation Skull Creek gate, adjacent to the marsh (Beaufort County Tax Map 3, Parcel 64B).

The site is situated on a broad, relatively high (16 feet or 5 meters MSL), terrace overlooking Skull Creek. Adjacent to the

creek there is an area of hardwoods where there has been only limited disturbance (Figure 12). Further inland there is evidence of previous cultivation and pines had been planted in the area about 10 years ago. The soils in the site area are the deep, well drained Wando series.

Based on the 1986 Chicora survey this site, recognized as part of the Cotton Hope Plantation, was evaluated as eligible for inclusion on the National Register, although additional work to determine site boundaries and integrity was recommended. The southern edge of the site was extensively disturbed by the 1987 construction of the Hilton Head Plantation Melrose docking facilities. Regrettably, no archaeological investigations were conducted prior to that work.

Additional archaeological testing at 38BU96 was conducted by Chicora on January 11-12, 1988. A total of 15 person hours were devoted to this study which was oriented toward determining site integrity, establishing site boundaries, and evaluating the disturbance caused by the Melrose dock. A series of 53 shovel tests, each 1-foot (0.3 meter) square, were excavated at the site, with all fill screened through 1/4-inch mesh. All tests were immediately backfilled. The first two lines, which were established 50 feet apart and parallel to the marsh bank edge, were designed to establish the density of remains adjacent to the bank and the site's northern and southern limits. Three additional transects were established at right angles to the bank to determine the limits of the site inland (Figure 13). Each shovel test was placed 30 feet (9 meters) apart.

Two generalized stratigraphic profiles have been identified at this site. In the area of hardwood vegetation there was a 0.8 foot (0.2 meter) zone of dark brown humic soil overlying a leach zone of brown sandy loam. The subsoil was a yellow to light brown sand found about 1.0 to 1.3 feet (0.3 to 0.4 meter) below the surface. There was no evidence of any significant disturbance in this area. Further to the south, in the portion of the site characterized by planted pines, the shovel tests revealed a brown sandy Ap horizon up to 1.1 foot (0.3 meter) overlying a light tan to yellow sandy B horizon. This portion of the site has been plowed and was probably further damaged by the planting of pines. The shovel tests revealed one probable feature -- in situ articulated brick in shovel test 36 at the southern end of the site. In addition, a remnant road bed, in areas up to 2.0 feet (0.6 meter) below the current ground level, was identified. This road appears to be the one extending from the southwest to the northeast on the 1862 map (Figure 4).

The artifacts recovered from the 1988 investigations at 38BU96 are shown in Table 1. The Kitchen Artifact Group is predominant, accounting for over 72% of the artifacts. The Architecture Artifact Group accounts for an additional 22% of the

Figure 12. Site 38BU96, view to the south.

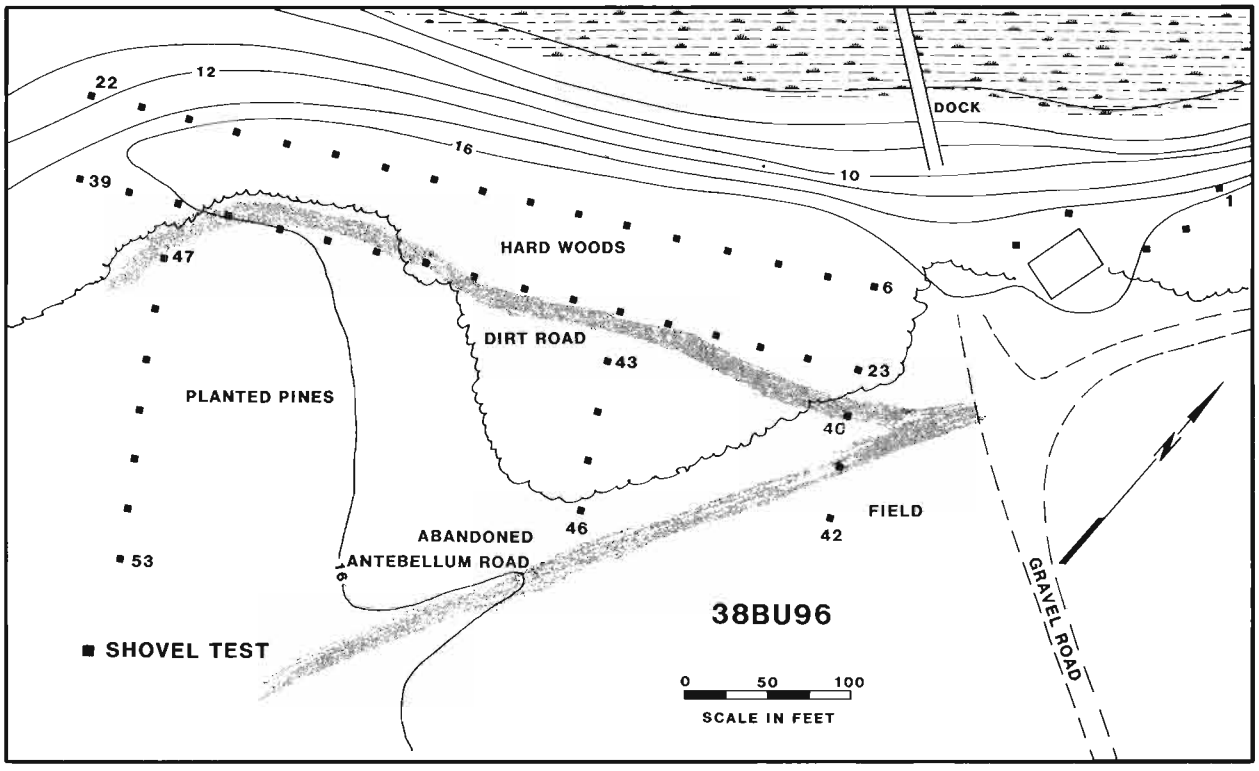


Figure 13. Plan view of site 38BU96.

	Shovel Tests		Surface
Kitchen			
Ceramics	47		45
Colon ware	23		11
Black glass	8		3
Other glass	4		4
Iron container fragments	2		
	84	72.4%	63
Architecture			
Nails, machine cut	17		
Window glass	8		
	25	21.6%	
Clothing			
Button, white metal	1		
	1	0.9%	
Personal			
Pocket knife			1
			1
Tobacco			
Kaolin pipe stems	4		1
	4	3.4%	1
Activities			
Strap metal	1		
UID metal	1		
	2	1.7%	
TOTALS	116		65
Prehistoric Pottery			
Thom's Creek Simple Stamped	1		
Deptford Plain	8		
Deptford Check Stamped	2		
Deptford Cord Marked	2		
Deptford Simple Stamped	1		
Hanover Cord Marked	1		
Mount Pleasant Cord Marked	1		
Irene Plain	1		1
UID	12		1
TOTALS	29		2

Table 1. Artifacts recovered from 38BU96.

specimens. The pattern analysis of artifacts recovered from this site closely resembles the Revised Carolina Artifact Pattern (Garrow 1982) where 70.9 to 84.2% of the remains belong to the Kitchen Group and 11.8 to 24.8% belong to the Architecture Group. In addition to these artifacts, 289 animal bones have been recovered from the 1/4-inch dry screening, over 260 recovered from Shovel Test 7.

Table 2 provides a more detailed listing of the temporally sensitive ceramics and reveals a Mean Ceramic Date of about 1810,

ceramic	mean date	number	product
White salt glazed stoneware	1753	1	1753
Canton porcelain	1815	1	1815
Delft	1750	2	3500
Lead glazed slipware	1733	3	5199
Creamware, undecorated	1791	5	8955
annular	1798	2	3596
Pearlware, undecorated	1805	5	9025
annular	1805	2	3610
edged	1805	7	12635
blue hp	1800	2	3600
poly hp	1805	1	1805
Whiteware, undecorated	1860	7	13020
annular	1865.5	2	3730
blue tp	1872.5	2	3745
poly hp	1848	1	1848
		43	77836

77836 ÷ 43 = 1810.1

hp = hand painted
tp = transfer printed

Table 2. Mean ceramic date of 38BU96 excavated ceramics.

although the material suggests occupation into at least the last quarter of the eighteenth century. The prehistoric remains reveal occupation throughout the Woodland, although the bulk of the collection dates to the Early Woodland.

The historic collection from 38BU96 reveals a low status occupation very similar to what would be expected from a slave row. This assessment is supported by the abundance of undecorated, edge decorated, or annular wares, the abundance of colono wares, and the sparsity of more expensive transfer printed or hand painted wares. The spatial arrangement is similar to

what would be expected at a slave row. The characterization of 38BU96 as a late eighteenth century slave row which continued into the mid-nineteenth century is consistent with the 1862 map. There is no evidence of postbellum occupation at the site, although it is likely that occupation continued through the late 1860s.

Talbot, 38BU830

This site was first identified by Cridlebaugh (1986) as part of a brief reconnaissance for the Town of Hilton Head Island intended to document the need for additional archaeological investigations prior to development. At the site of this initial survey the site was found bulldozed adjacent to the bluff. Cridlebaugh noted that

> remains consist of a 10x12 ft concentration of structural rubble, a 2x2 ft concentration of brick rubble, and brick fragments, cement mixed with crushed oyster shell, and rusted tin cans. . . . The site apparently dates to the twentieth century . . . . [and] lacks integrity (Cridlebaugh 1986:3).

Additional survey by Chicora in 1986 revealed that the "cement" mentioned by Cridlebaugh was still present, although it actually represented tabby remains. The disturbance discussed by Cridlebaugh was evident and appeared to be extensive. Materials at the site included a possible hinge fragment and a possible cast iron pan fragment. Several tabby fragments were collected as representative samples (SCIAA 38BU830 site file). Based on the presence of the tabby and proximity to the Talbot or Talbird Plantation, the site was evaluated as potentially eligible, although additional investigations were recommended to determine site boundaries, integrity, and function.

The site, on a pronounced bluff at 15 feet (4.6 meters) MSL overlooking the Skull Creek marsh, is situated on the well drained sandy Seabrook soils. Although the site area has been extensively damaged by development activities, previous vegetation was primarily live oak and palmetto. Today most of the site is situated in a cleared field (Figure 14). A total of 15 person hours were devoted to further work at the site from January 6 through 8, 1988. The site, based on surface indications, was thought to be largely confined to Parcel 41 on Beaufort County Tax Map 1B. As a result, subsurface investigations, consisting of auger tests, were confined to this area.

A permanent grid was established by driving a 1/2-inch rebar flush with ground at the northeast corner of the lot, adjacent to the bluff edge. This rebar datum is situated 128.25 feet (39.5 meters) N46°W of the concrete property monument adjacent to Old

Figure 14. Site 38BU830, view to the northwest.

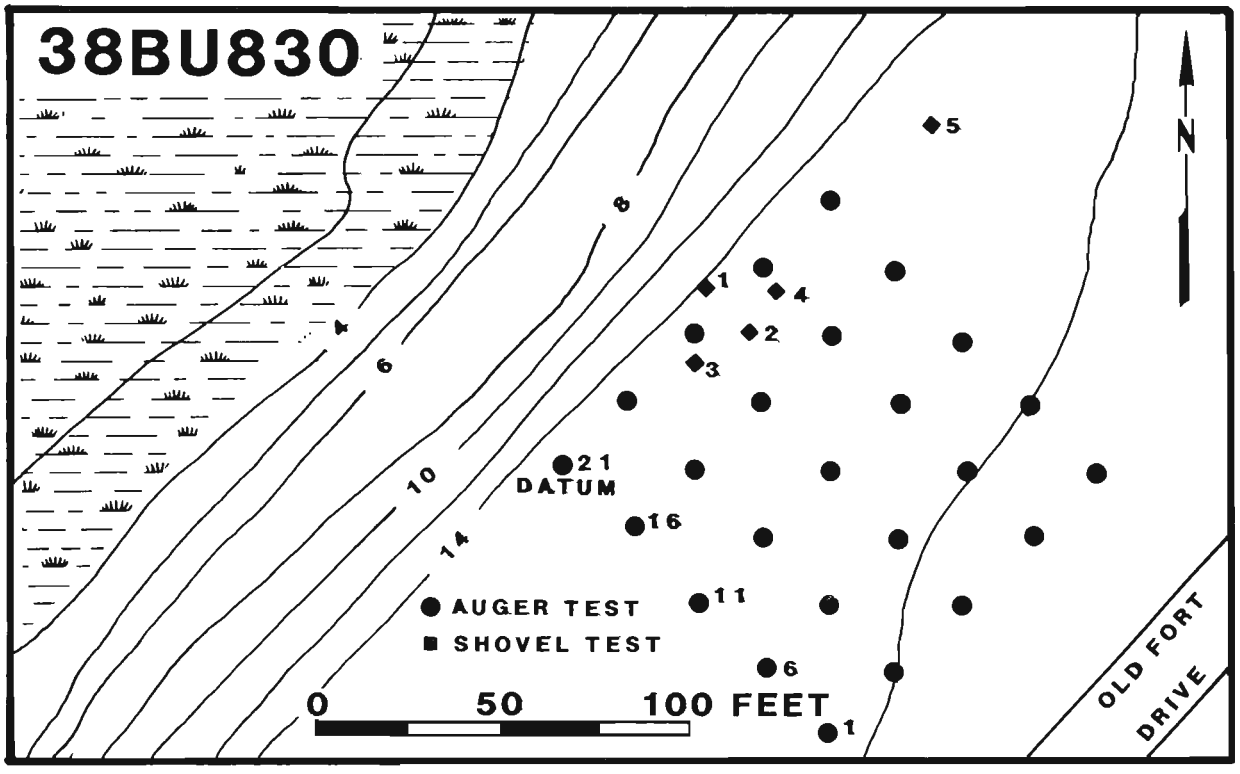


Figure 15. Plan view of 38BU830.

Fort Drive. The site grid was oriented N45°E and points were laid out at 25 foot (7.7 meter) intervals, 100 feet (30 meters) to the northeast and 100 feet (30 meters) to the southeast from the site datum. The resulting grid, contained entirely within Parcel 41, measured 100 feet square and used a series of 25 grid points. The brick rubble visible on the surface appeared to be concentrated along the northwestern most line (adjacent to the bluff) and, in particular, between tests 23 and 24.

A mechanical auger with a 10-inch (0.3 meter) bit 3 feet (0.9 meter) in length was used to obtain a sample from each grid point. All soil was screened through 1/4-inch mesh and all cultural material (including shell) was retained. Information was collected from representative cores on stratigraphy and soil colors. All auger tests were backfilled at the completion of each day's work. In addition to the auger tests, a series of five shovel tests were excavated to investigate certain, specific site features not incorporated into the auger tests. Soil from these shovel tests was also screened through 1/4-inch mesh.

The stratigraphy in the open field area consisted of a brown humic sand Ap zone about 0.9 foot (0.3 meter) in depth, overlying a light tan to dark yellow subsoil. Auger Tests 1-15, situated in the area of extensive clearing and grubbing, clearly revealed a disturbed soil profile and it appears that this area may also have been plowed. Closer to the woodsline of the bluff the deep disturbance diminishes, although there is evidence of surface disturbance. The soil profile is somewhat more complex, with a humic A horizon about 0.2 foot (0.06 meter) overlying a dark brown humic sand zone which varies in depth from 0.6 to 0.9 foot (0.1 to 0.3 meter). This, in turn, overlies the yellow sand subsoil.

The most abundant artifact from the site is oyster shell, with densities of up to 6735 grams. No unit contained less than 45 grams of shell and the site average was 1067 grams. Brick rubble was identified at only one locus -- Auger Test 23. The only other artifacts recovered from the tests are seven St. Catherines Cord Marked sherds and two UID sherds from six auger tests. Because no historic period artifacts were identified in the auger tests, four shovel tests were placed in the area of dense brick and mortar rubble. While each test revealed abundant rubble, no artifacts were recovered. A fifth shovel test was excavated to the north of the site, in the center of a small mound. This feature, originally thought to be the remains of an additional structure, was found to be a shell midden and several additional St. Catherines Cord Marked sherds were recovered.

The Talbot site represents a multicomponent site first occupied during the Middle to Late Woodland St. Catherines Period, about A.D. 1000. During this period the site may have served as a shellfishing station and dense midden deposits formed

along the shore. Some of these middens are particularly dense and appear to be exhibit exceptional integrity. The middens may represent individual "house" middens, although sufficient work has not been conducted to allow adequate interpretations. Sometime in the nineteenth century the site was again occupied. These studies, however, have failed to identify any evidence of domestic refuse or architectural remains which have preserved integrity. The structure or structures which were located on the bluff edge have been seriously damaged by clearing. The few remains which are left suggest a very low status occupation, probably by freedmen in the early postbellum period.

38BU832

Site 38BU832 is situated about 350 feet north of Santa Maria Drive at the edge of the Skull Creek marsh (Figure 16), and at the time of the 1986 Chicora survey (Trinkley 1987), appeared to represent a Middle Woodland shell midden, although only one sherd (tentatively identified as Wilmington Cord Marked) was recovered from the surface. Based on the presence of surface shell exposure, the site was estimated to measure about 225 feet along the marsh (roughly east-west) and about 80 feet inland (north-south). A retaining wall had been build along the marsh edge, so there was no exposure of the midden to determine depth or provide additional information on extent. The midden was noted to extend west, across a small slough, into a Black cemetery (recorded as 38BU35). Based on this original survey the site was recommended as potentially eligible for the National Register and it was noted that "the site evidences abundant shell and is in a wooded area, so site integrity is expected to be high" (Trinkley 1986:67).

The site was examined during this survey on January 8-10, 1988 by a crew of two. A total of 10 person hours were required for this work.

A grid, oriented N5°W, was established at the site with a 1/2-inch rebar datum placed at the west edge of the site against the concrete retaining wall (Figure 17). Auger test points were begun 50 feet east of this datum and were laid out at 50 foot intervals east-west for a distance of 200 feet and at 25 foot intervals north-south for a distance of 100 feet. The resulting rectangle, measuring 200 by 100 feet, contained 25 auger test points and was oriented to the marsh edge where there was abundant shell. Although the midden was thought to continue west, into the cemetery, no testing was conducted in that area. Although the cemetery will be preserved from any development activity, it is likely that its use has damaged the integrity of the prehistoric remains.

A mechanical auger with a 10-inch bit 3-feet in length was used to obtain a sample from each established point. All soil

Figure 16. Site 38BU832, view to the southwest.

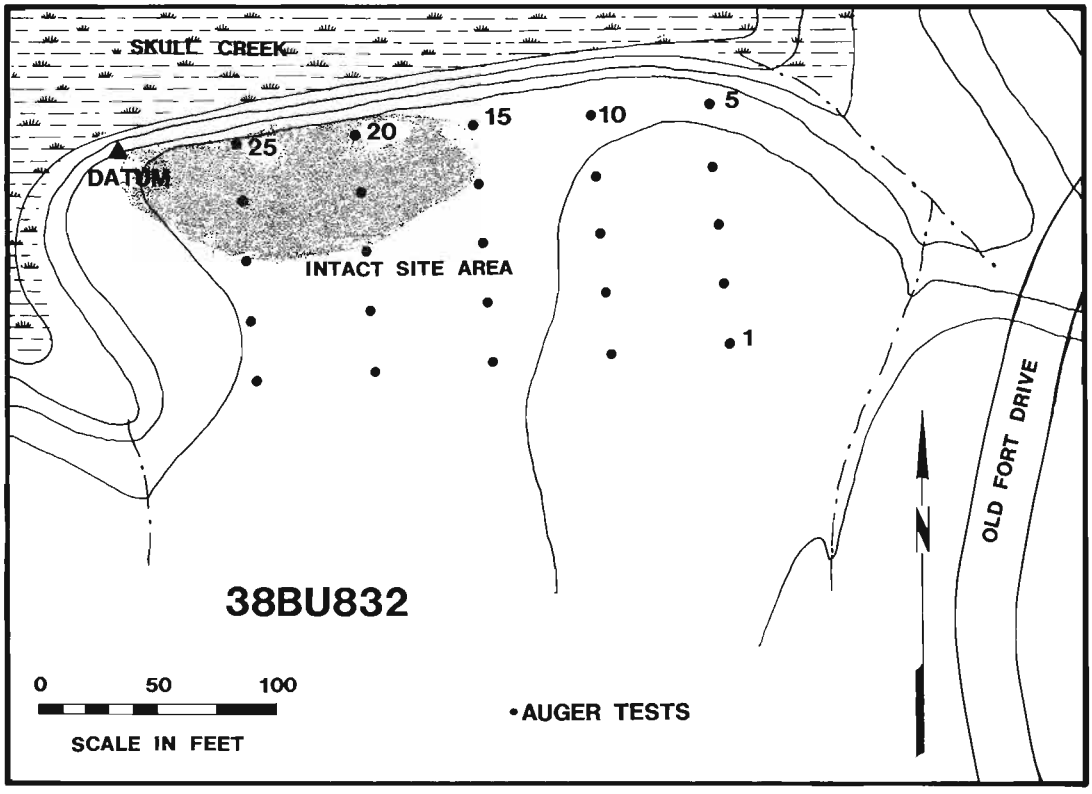


Figure 17. Plan view of 38BU832.

was screened through 1/4-inch mesh and all cultural material was collected (including shell debris). Information was collected from each unit on soil stratigraphy and soil colors were collected from representative tests. All auger tests were backfilled.

Stratigraphy varies considerably throughout the site area, primarily as a result of grading probably associated with the construction of the concrete retaining wall adjacent to the Skull Creek marsh. In areas of intact, well preserved midden, such as are found at the northwest edge of the site, there dense shell midden from the current ground surface to a depth of 0.9 foot. This midden is composed almost entirely of oyster shells with small quantities of clam. The soil matrix is dark black sandy laom. Underlying the midden a transition zone of mixed oyster shell and brown soil which gradually grades into a yellow sand. This profile is thought to represent the site prior to disturbance. The undisturbed site area extends from Auger Test 25 southeast to Auger Test 14 and incorporates approximately one-quarter of the site area.

The tests revealed considerable disturbance in the northeast quarter of the site, where there is evidence that the midden has been completely stripped away leaving a tan soil overlying the yellow B horizon sands. There is also evidence of extensive filling in the southwest corner of the site, with up to 0.4 foot (12 centimeters) of fill overlying either shell midden or tan sand.

Shell weights in the dense midden area, range from 39 pounds (14.4 kilograms) in Auger Test 14 to 9 pounds (3.4 kilograms) in Auger Test 24. Elsewhere on the site the shell midden is less dense, with shell weights ranging from 0 to 6 pounds (2.2 kilograms). Density falls quickly to the south; it seems likely that the auger test grid as established defines the original site area (excluding the cemetery portion) of 200 feet (62 meters) east-west by 100 feet (31 meters) north-south.

The auger tests yielded only four prehistoric sherds, including two Deptford Plain, one Mount Pleasant Cord Marked, and one St. Catherines Cord Marked. All were recovered from the area of intact midden found at the northwest corner of the site. These remains are indicative of occupation during the period from about 500 B.C. to A.D. 1000. The midden consists almost entirely of oyster shell with no evidence of animal bone and little evidence of other shellfish.

This site appears to represent a Middle Woodland camp, perhaps occupied seasonally. Although there is a tendency to suggest that it was exclusively oriented toward the collection of shellfish, the data collection techniques and sampling strategy were not developed to provide accurate indicators of subsistence.

Nor was the auger testing procedure intended to provide specific information on the presence of subsurface features (which are often difficult to identify in a unit smaller than 5-foot square. The presence of intact midden, however, suggests that subsurface features may be present in the one area of the site.

Somewhat similar sites were investigated in 1980-1981 on Victoria Bluff and Pinckney Island (Trinkley 1981). This previous work provided indications of seasonal settlement and a limited subsistence base. In addition, ceramics were found to be very sparse at these sites; only 3600 sherds were identified from the excavation of about 3700 cubic feet at 38BU67. Since these excavations considerable refinement of collection techniques has occurred. Many researchers (e.g., Reitz 1984; Quitmyer 1985) have suggested that where collection strategies are geared toward the collection of small faunal remains, fish will be found to make a significant contribution to the diet of coastal Indian groups. There has been no recent attempt on Hilton Head to explore this type of Middle Woodland shell midden site.

Jenkins Plantations, 38BU871

The Jenkins Plantation, 38BU871, was first identified during Chicora's 1986 reconnaissance survey of Hilton Head Island. An extensive shell midden was found eroding from the bank on Jenkins Island along a tributary to Skull Creek. The site, which is situated on property identified as Parcels 1 and 38 on Beaufort County Tax Map 6, was estimated to extend about 1500 feet (460 meters) along the shoreline. Materials recovered included abundant nineteenth century remains, as well as a small quantity of Middle Woodland Wilmington pottery. The site was evaluated as requiring additional work to determine eligibility for inclusion on the National Register.

The site, situated on a 3 to 6 foot (0.9 to 1.8 meter) bluff is vegetated with hardwoods and covered with dense understory vines. Site elevations range from 10 to 17 feet (3 to 5 meters) MSL. In general terms, the site is bounded by marsh to the north, U.S. 278 to the south, a Black cemetery (38BU141) to the east, and a paved county road to the west.

The site was examined on January 13-14 by a crew of two for a total of 18 person hours. Because the site was estimated to be very large and the dense vegetation precluded establishing an accurate grid system or the easy use of a mechanical auger, a series of 46 1-foot square (0.3 meter) shovel tests were excavated at the site in seven north-south transects (Figure 18). These tests were at 30 foot (9 meter) intervals and the transects were 200 feet (61 meters) apart. Each test was excavated to sterile subsoil and all fill was screened through 1/4-inch (0.625 centimeter) mesh. Stratigraphy at the site is relatively simple and consists of a dark brown loamy sand up to a foot (0.3 meter) in thickness overlying a leach zone of tan sand about 0.3 foot (9

centimeters) thick. The subsoil is a yellow, unconsolidated sand. All cultural remains were retained, except for brick, shell, and mortar which were simply noted in the field and discarded. Each shovel test was backfilled.

In addition to the shovel tests, intensive collections were also made of the beach area where the site has been eroding into the tidal creek. Three distinct areas were identified (Figure 18). Area 1 (Figure 19) appears to be slightly more recent and is characterized by dense shell, abundant brick, and numerous artifacts. This area is estimated to be 150 feet (46 meters) in length and about 20 feet (6 meters) in width. Area 2 is similar in content and is found adjacent to the highest bluff on the site. This erosional area extends about 100 feet (30 meters) along the beach. There is evidence of considerable midden material still intact in the bluff profile. Area 3 is small, measuring about 40 by 20 feet, and may represent the remains of a single structure.

The artifacts recovered from the different beach loci and the shovel tests are tabulated in Table 3 below. While the surface collections are not amenable to pattern analysis study and the shovel tests represent too small and mixed a collection, the overall appearance of the collection is clearly domestic. In addition, the absence of Colono ware from the vicinity of Area 1, coupled with the presence of the dressed stone, suggests that this is the locus of the main house. This is supported by an examination of the shovel tests which reveal high status ceramics, such as Canton porcelains, in this area. Area 2 contains abundant Colono ware and may represent either a portion of the slave row or a kitchen midden area (suggested by the quantity of bottle glass). Finally, Area 3 probably represents the western edge of the slave row. The shovel tests, of course, represent a mixing of all of these different loci. The archaeological data obtained from this site closely resemble the expectations based on the 1862 map of the plantation complex.

Table 4 illustrates the mean ceramic date calculations for this site, broken down by Beach Areas 1, 2, and 3 and the combined shovel tests. The shovel tests and Area 2 produced small quantities of eighteenth century wares, while Area 1 produced the included tinted glazed whiteware as well as a small collection of semi-porcelain (for which there is no reliable mean date, although it probably represents material from the second half of the nineteenth century). The collections suggest that there was occupation in this area perhaps as early as the mid-eighteenth century. While plantation occupation peaked in the early to mid-nineteenth century, some occupation, probably by freedmen, continued into the late nineteenth or perhaps early twentieth century.

The shovel tests at Jenkins Plantation reveal that the site

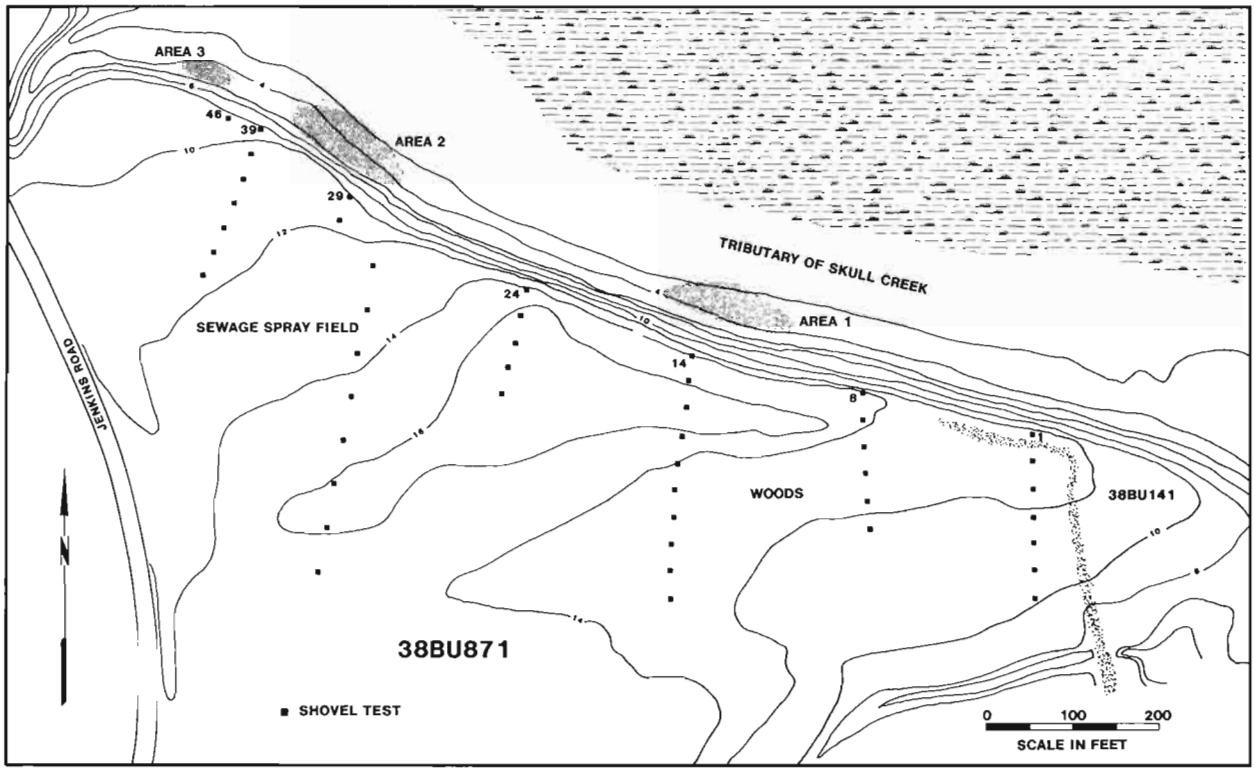


Figure 18. Plan view of 38BU871.

Figure 19. 38BU871, Beach Area 1, looking west.

	Area 1	Area 2	Area 3	Shovel Tests
Kitchen				
Ceramics	109	61	7	25
Bottle glass	123	114	5	18
Colono ware	-	18	4	3
Kettle frag	-	-	-	1
Container frag	-	-	-	1
Architecture				
Tabby brick	2	-	-	-
Dressed stone	1	-	-	1
Cut nails	-	-	-	24
Window glass	-	-	-	16
Arms				
Gun flint	-	1	-	-
Personal				
Doll	1	-	-	-
Harmonica reed	1	-	-	-
Slate frag	-	-	-	1
Tobacco				
Kaolin pipe	-	1	-	1
Activities				
Copper frags	2	-	-	-
Bolt	-	1	-	-
UID iron	-	-	-	4
Staple	-	-	-	1

Table 3. Artifacts recovered from 38BU871.

	Mean Date	Area 1 #	Area 2 #	Area 3 #	ST #
Canton porcelain	1815				2 3630
Lead glazed slipware	1733		5 8665		3 5199
Creamware, undec	1791				5 8955
Pearlware, undec	1805	1 1805	2 3610		5 9025
edged	1805	1 1805			
mocha	1843				1 1843
blue tp	1818	3 5454	4 7272		
blue hp	1800		1 1800		1 1800
Whiteware, undec	1860	45 83700	17 31620	2 3720	2 3720
edged	1853	1 1853	4 7412	1 1853	
annular	1866	2 3732	7 13062		1 1866
blue tp	1848	1 1848		1 1848	
non-blue tp	1886	1 1886		1 1886	
tinted	1941	1 1941			
Yellow ware	1853	8 14824	1 1853		
		64 118848	41 75294	5 9307	20 36038

Area 1 118848 ÷ 64 = 1857.0
Area 2 75294 ÷ 41 = 1836.4
Area 3 9307 ÷ 5 = 1861.4
ST 36038 ÷ 20 = 1801.9

ST = shovel test
tp = transfer printed
hp = hand painted

Table 4. Mean ceramic dates for 38BU871.

incorporates an area approximately 1000 feet (300 meters) along the marsh edge (northwest-southeast) and 500 feet (150 meters) inland from the marsh at the center of the site. The boundary to the north is the erosional bluff and to the west the boundary is a natural slough or creek. The eastern boundary is the Black cemetery, although since this area was not shovel tested the original plantation boundary may have extended another 300 feet (90 meters) to a small tidal creek. The southern boundary is variable and is based on the absence of material in several successive shovel tests. It is clear that there has been severe erosion along the marsh bluff, primarily caused by natural forces combined with the operation of a nearby marina. The effects on the plantation, while worthy of concern, have not destroyed the site's integrity.

Fairfield Plantation, 38BU1166

Fairfield Plantation, also known as Stoney's Plantation, is situated northwest of Squire Pope Road, adjacent to Skull Creek, about 2000 feet northeast of U.S. 278. The property is owned by a number of Black landowners and is found on Beaufort County Tax Map 7, Parcels 3, 4D, 4G, 6A, 188, 189C, 189D, 190A, and 190B. At the west end of the site is Stoney Cemetery, 38BU841.

Consequently, the site is characterized by a variety of ground covers, including fallow fields, active cultivation, small house and trailer lots, second growth, and hardwood forest (Figure 20). Elevations in the site area range from 13 to 14 feet (4 to 4.3 meters) MSL and there is a 4 to 6 foot (1.2 to 1.8 meter) bluff overlooking the Skull Creek marsh (Figure 21). To the northeast of the site area, and forming a natural boundary, there is a tidal slough. To the southwest, and incorporated into the site there is an Irene Phase shell midden known as Green's Shell Enclosure (38BU63).

When the site was first visited during the 1986 survey (Trinkley 1987), it was noted to be eroding from the bank overlooking Skull Creek, but was evaluated to be an "intact 19th century plantation - it has not been developed and the area is still relatively undisturbed" (SCIAA 38BU1166 site files) and the site was recommended as potentially eligible for inclusion on the National Register, although additional archival and archaeological research was recommended to support this determination. Since that time the site has changed very little, although there are clear indications that portions of the site are going to be sold and developed in the near future.

Investigations at this site were conducted on January 15 and 16 and a total of 14.5 person hours were devoted to the work. Regrettably, this is the least well investigated site since it was not possible for the Town to obtain permission from all property owners to conduct the site tests. As a result, there is no uniform site grid or shovel test pattern and our study was entirely opportunistic. This work does, however, provide a much clearer understanding of the site, its boundaries, and its integrity. In addition, this work involved a more detailed beach collection and assessment of collection loci than was done during the 1986 survey.

These investigations incorporated 10 shovel tests, each 1 foot (0.3 meter) square and screened through 1/4-inch (0.625 centimeter) mesh, and collection from two beach areas and three inland areas. While no intact subsurface features were encountered during the testing, the soil profiles reveal little more than plow damage to a maximum depth of 0.9 foot (0.3 meter). The inland surface collections identified two area of tabby rubble. One is possibly disturbed, while the other is in situ and represents a tabby fire place with external measurements of 6.5 feet (2 meters) by 4.0 feet (1.2 meters). A shovel test east of this feature revealed in situ brick and it is likely that this structure is undisturbed and may represent either a slave house or a flanking structure to the main house.

The field survey and shovel tests, compared to the 1862 map, suggest that the slave row was situated in the vicinity of the Irene site, 38BU63. Although this study was too cursory to allow

Figure 20. View of 38BU1166 from Squire Pope Road.

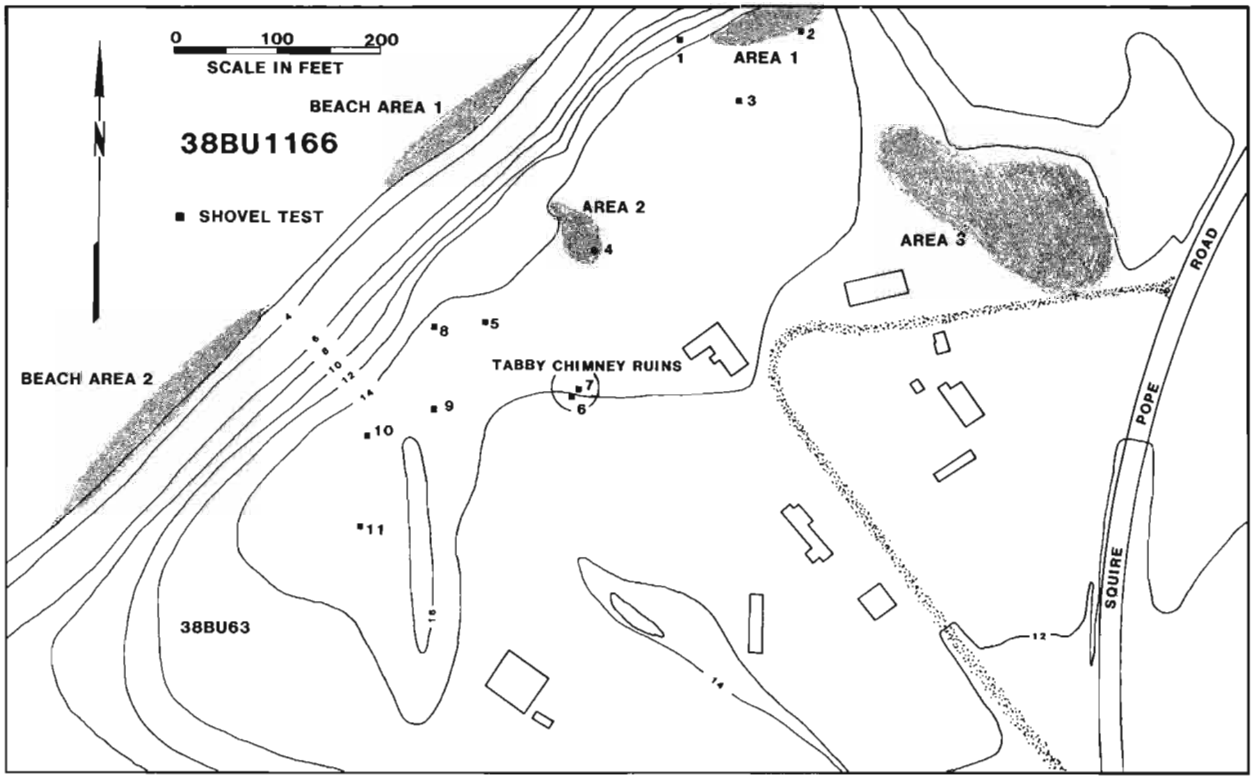


Figure 21. Plan view of 38BU1166.

a detailed examination, the co-occurrence of these sites may suggest that the "enclosure" aspect of the Irene site was a result of nineteenth century modification. Additional archaeological investigations are needed to determine if the ridge associated with the Irene site is aboriginal, or was created either to segregate the slave row from the rest of the plantation complex or perhaps to allow for easier collection of shell for the production of mortar or tabby.

The collections from the site are shown as Table 5. While these data are not suitable for a pattern analysis, they are strongly suggestive of a domestic occupation and are typical to what would be expected at a major plantation such as Fairfield.

	Beach		Surface			
	1	2	1	2	3	ST
Kitchen						
Ceramics	3	25	2	1	3	20
Bottle glass	6	25	1	3	2	12
Colono ware		2				1
Kettle frag						1
Container frag						1
Architecture						
Cut nails				1		21
Wire nails						2
Window glass						6
Arms						
Lead bullet						1
Clothing						
Button						1
Activities						
Hoe		1				
Brass gas jet		1				
Copper sheet		1				
UID iron						1

Table 5. Artifacts recovered from 38BU1166.

The mean ceramic date of 1835 for the combined collection is shown in Table 6. Although the site was used as a freedmen's

school and there were at least 150 Blacks at the site during the later years of the Civil War, there seems to be little archaeological indication of this occupation in the study area. Additional investigations should emphasize the identification of the freedmen occupation areas.

	Mean Date	#	Product
Creamware, undec	1791	1	1791
Pearlware, undec	1805	4	7220
edged	1805	3	5415
blue tp	1818	12	21816
poly hp	1805	1	1805
Whiteware, undec	1860	9	16740
annular	1866	2	3732
blue tp	1848	5	9240
tinted	1941	1	1941
Yellow ware	1853	2	3706
		40	73406

$$73406 \div 40 = 1835.2$$

Table 6. Mean ceramic date for 38BU1166.

SITE SIGNIFICANCE AND RECOMMENDATIONS

This section of the report, in conjunction with the previous discussions, fulfills the goals of this additional testing to assess the eligibility of the site for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places. The examined sites were evaluated in terms of Glassow's (1977) five archaeological properties: site integrity, site clarity, artifactual variety, artifactual quantity, and site environmental context. Integrity refers to the degree of preservation or potential to identify in situ remains. Integrity also relates to the site's condition and likelihood that midden and features will be recovered. As such, integrity is perhaps the most significant single feature of an archaeological site. The additional investigations conducted by Chicora at these sites has allowed judgements to be formed on site integrity in each case. Clarity indicates how well strata or subsurface features may be distinguished. In very few cases has it been possible to determine clarity based on this limited additional study. While clarity is a positive site aspect for ease and accuracy of site interpretation, it should not be considered an essential element of site significance determinations. Variety refers to the quantitative variability in the archaeological remains found at a site. This aspect has only been briefly considered since all of the investigated sites appear to have the variety expected for the type of site being investigated. Quantity refers to the frequency or density of the artifacts and/or features. While this is the easiest to quantify, it is the most difficult to interpret since the quantity of artifacts is closely tied to temporal period, site exposure, and survey technique. Some types of sites, such as Middle Woodland shell middens, typically have a low density of artifacts. This low density, however, does not reduce their importance in the Middle Woodland settlement and subsistence systems. Finally, environmental context is useful when sites are found in a variety of ecological zones. In this study, all of the sites are found in very similar ecological areas and this property is not of significance.

Also considered in the determination of historic site significance are the expected availability of archival resources and the presence of architectural features. In addition, because of the extensive development taking place both on Hilton Head and on nearby sea islands, redundancy of data is not considered to be a significant concern. More significant is that an undetermined number of island resources have already been destroyed and those that remain are vested with even greater significance.

Cotton Hope Plantation, 38BU90 and 38BU96

Sites 38BU90 and 38BU96 are loci of Cotton Hope Plantation. Locus 38BU90 represents a standing tabby structure of probable industrial or storage function. The integrity of this site is high since there are standing remains in generally good condition. There has been disturbance to the archaeological remains caused by the use of the structure as a cattle shed, but there has been little agricultural disturbance. It is likely that archaeological investigations around this structure would result in recovering significant information concerning the structure's function and place in the plantation system. The architectural features are unique on the island and are very rare in the region. Thus, while the archaeological remains at the site are not numerous, 38BU90 has great significance. This site is considered eligible for inclusion in the National Register at a state level of significance. While future development impact to the archaeological remains may be mitigated through excavation, the tabby structure itself should be considered for preservation in place. This recommendation is based on the very limited number of standing tabby ruins in the Beaufort area and on the probable non-domestic function of the structure. Preservation of this structure, as outlined by Brooker in Appendix 1, will require immediate attention to its stabilization and preservation.

Locus 38BU96 represents an undeveloped, large domestic scatter associated with the Cotton Hope Plantation. This site is attributed to the plantation's nineteenth century slave row on the basis of archival documentation (such as the 1862 map) and on the basis of the archaeological remains recovered. Site integrity, particularly in the hardwood fringe adjacent to the marsh, appears to be very high and one shovel test produced in situ architectural remains. Variety at this site is high, as is the quantity of materials recovered. The presence of clearly in situ remains below the ground surface suggests that site clarity is likewise high. This site has the potential to contribute significant information on Black slave lifeways of the nineteenth century on Hilton Head Island. Site 38BU96 is recommended as eligible for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places. This site represents one of the better preserved slave sites on Hilton Head Island and should be nominated to the National Register as quickly as possible. In addition, immediate steps should be taken to ensure its continued preservation.

Talbot, 38BU830

This site represents a multicomponent Middle to Late Woodland shell midden and postbellum domestic site. The archaeological testing was originally directed toward the historic component of this site which was thought to represent a plantation complex. As a result of these investigations the

historic remains at the site was identified as a probable freedman's house site. Remains, however, are very sparse and variety is low. Of greatest concern, the site has been found to lack integrity. As a result, the historic component cannot be considered significant. This is unfortunate since isolated freemen housing was once an important settlement pattern on Hilton Head Island. The 1880 census for Hilton Head indicates that 179 of the 182 respondents were renting land for a fixed money rental. These 179 renters, mostly Blacks, account for 2187 of the 2282 acres in the agricultural census and the average farm size was 12.2 acres (S.C. Department of Archives Microcopy 2, Roll 8). Sites of this type which exhibit integrity should be sought for additional study.

The prehistoric component at this site, however, exhibits integrity, partially because it covers a much larger area and has proportionally suffered less damage from recent clearing and grubbing. The site evidences several discrete shell middens typical of Middle to Late Woodland St. Catherines sites and there seem to be few other pottery types present at the site. This suggests that the site may have excellent clarity and may be able to provide clear settlement and subsistence information on a single prehistoric phase. This site is, therefore, recommended as eligible for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places. Unfortunately, the parcels on which this site is situated have been sold, so it may be impossible to preserve the site or gain access to it for additional research.

38BU832

The archaeological testing conducted at site 38BU832 revealed the presence of a Middle Woodland shell midden which originally covered an area of about 0.5 acre (0.2 hectare) adjacent to the Skull Creek marsh (and extending westward into a cemetery area). The site, however, has been damaged, probably by the construction of a retaining wall to retard erosion. This damage consists of fill placed on top of midden in several areas, and of greater concern, the removal of shell midden. The tests also revealed that there is a portion of the site, covering an area of at least 100 by 50 feet, or 0.1 acre (31 by 15 meters or .04 hectare), which is intact. Midden in this area is very dense and is found to a depth of 0.9 foot (0.3 meter). Artifact density is not great, but is comparable to that found at other, similar sites. Like other sites, this occupation spans a considerable period of time

This site has the potential to yield significant information on a variety of research topics, most particularly those topics dealing with subsistence reconstruction and seasonality. Although it may be difficult to distinguish different temporal occupations, previous archaeological studies have suggested that subsistence and settlement from the Deptford phase through the

St. Catherines phase was very similar.

Chicora has previously recommended this site as eligible for inclusion in the National Register in spite of the damage. Our recommendations for additional work at the site, however, clearly recognizes that the damage has affected both the types of research which can take place at the site and also the level of mitigation required. We believe that all additional work at the site should be limited to the area of intact midden in the northwest corner of the site. Research should be oriented toward (1) recovery of a representative sample of midden remains suitable for subsistence, dietary, and seasonality studies, (2) identification of potential features through large unit excavations, and (3) examination of several distinct areas of the midden to determine spatial variability. The S.C. State Historic Preservation Officer has concurred with this eligibility assessment and additional archaeological studies at the site are pending.

Jenkins Island Plantation, 38BU871

This site represents a large plantation complex covering about 11 acres (4.5 hectares) on Jenkins Island adjacent to a tributary of Skull Creek. Recovered remains, coupled with the limited archival research conducted as part of this project, indicate the presence of both a high status plantation dwelling and a low status slave row.

The research has revealed evidence of erosion which has damaged some portions of the site. In addition, there appears to be evidence of cultivation over much of the site area. In spite of these factors, the site integrity seems reasonably high. The shovel tests failed to indicate mixing (such as would result from cultivation) deeper than 0.8 to 1.0 foot (0.2 to 0.3 meter) and the artifact density is relatively high. There is evidence of dense midden inland from the erosional bank.

This site is recommended as eligible for inclusion on the National Register. This site, perhaps even more than the others investigated by this project, requires additional archival research. Very few references to this plantation were encountered in the historical accounts examined and the plantation may have been a rather minor holding with a resident overseer or driver. Its location on Jenkins Island makes it somewhat different from the large and more impressive Hilton Head Island holdings. As a result, the investigation of this plantation may provide a useful contrast to the others recommended for additional investigation on Hilton Head. Archaeological research on the plantation can contribute information to our knowledge of slave lifeways. As additional archival research may indicate the presence of an overseer, further archaeological studies may provide insight into the

lifestyles of people of this class as well.

Fairfield Plantation, 38BU1166

Fairfield, or Stoney, Plantation is a large nineteenth century plantation on Skull Creek. This site covers an area of about 4.4 acres (1.8 hectares) and incorporates a portion of Green's Shell Enclosure (38BU63). The site exhibits a variety of ground cover situations, including hardwoods, plowed and fallow field, and house lots. This site received fairly minimal attention during this study, because of time constraints and the inability of the Town of Hilton Head to obtain permission for the study from all of the involved property owners.

Work at the site involved the excavation of a small number of shovel tests, collection along the eroding marsh edge, and the examination of several exposed surface areas. Although this work has not been as intensive as other sites received, it has been possible to obtain additional information on the site and better understand its site boundaries. Disturbance is limited to the areas of erosion probably caused by the operation of the Atlantic Intracoastal Water Way and the relatively minor effects of cultivation. The shovel tests revealed that there are area of the site which have dense artifactual remains. Even those areas which are today house lots appear to have received very minimal damage. There is a strong likelihood that subsurface remains will be found at this site. In addition, the surface survey relocated an intact tabby chimney which may be part of the site's slave row. Site integrity, variety, and quantity are all judged to be high.

This site is recommended as eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places. Steps should be taken as quickly as possible to ensure the stabilization and preservation of the tabby chimney footing and also to nominate the site to the National Register. This site is worthy of protection from development pressure and the Town should pursue means for the preservation of this site in place. The Fairfield Plantation is at least partially overlapping with Green's Shell Enclosure (38BU63) which is currently listed on the National Register.

Future Planning

If the Town wishes to preserve the limited and very fragile archaeological and historical resources of the Island, it is necessary to take bold and immediate steps.

First, it must be realized that historic preservation is not incompatible with development, any more than protecting the natural environment is incompatible. Planners, developers, and town officials work on a daily basis to ensure that wetlands, trees, and air quality are protected and enhanced. It should be

no different with archaeological resources, except that archaeological resources are non-renewable. Unlike trees, archaeological sites cannot be transplanted or propagated. It must be realized by all parties that archaeological sites are as significant a part of the environment of Hilton Head as other, more obvious resources such as trees, birds, and beaches.

Second, the Town must realistically face the impact of development on archaeological and historical resources and make clear plans to preserve these resources while respecting individual property rights. The section of the Land Management Ordinance dealing with cultural resources should be advanced in a timely fashion.

Third, the Town must develop a working mechanism to ensure that all development permits are reviewed for their impact on archaeological sites. The previous archaeological research, and any conducted by the Town in the future, will be meaningless unless it is thoroughly integrated into the planning process. There are too few archaeological resources left on the Island to allow development to proceed without adequate regard for the cultural resources. The Town should forge a strong relationship with both the S.C. State Historic Preservation Office and the S.C. Coastal Council so that all three parties may be aware of the potential impact of all proposed development on the Island's archaeological resources.

Fourth, the Town must ensure that its Black citizens, many of whom represent the descendants of the Islands early slave population, are integrated into the planning process, particularly for sites of special meaning to the Black community.

Fifth, the Town should begin to integrate the historic and archaeological resources of the island into its promotional activities. This will help the Island's citizens, as well as seasonal visitors, become more aware of the Island's rich history and why that history is worth preserving. Of particular usefulness would be brochures and pamphlets, coupled with historic tours and more visible use of historic markers and plaques. The Town should work to ensure that historic resources on the Island are available to all people on a reasonable basis, while ensuring the protection of sites from vandals, treasure hunters, and relic seekers.

Sixth, the known archaeological resources on the island should be prioritized, based on known or suspected archaeological integrity, uniqueness, and other features. Those of the highest priority should be nominated to the National Register and should be carefully monitored by the Town.

Seventh, the Town should request a historic preservation grant from the S.C. Department of Archives and History to conduct

preliminary historical research on a number of the still intact plantation complexes. While the historic resources are not necessarily endangered, having a more detailed historical base will allow better archaeological and preservation decision making and will benefit the preservation efforts.

The Town of Hilton Head Island is in a unique position to help protect the cultural and historical resources of the island. The work previously done to record archaeological sites (Trinkley 1986) and to further examine several of those sites (herein) provides a framework far superior to other municipalities in South Carolina. Continuing with a strong commitment to the Island's cultural resources will benefit all of the citizens and help to preserve the Island's past for future generations.

APPENDIX 1. ARCHITECTURAL REPORT ON THE TABBY STRUCTURE AT 38BU90

Colin Brooker

Description

Located off Squire Pope Road, Hilton Head Island, SC, site 38BU90 is occupied by a rectangular tabby structure measuring 40.0 feet by 28.0 feet overall, with its long axis oriented N65°W. The building is defined by tabby walls 1.5 foot thick with a maximum height of 8.3 feet above the present ground level.

The tabby evidences considerable surface erosion, wall sections have in-part collapsed, and all original timbers are lost. This description is, therefore, based upon an examination of fragmentary materials. Information concerning missing timber elements is derived from impressions left during the tabby casting process (Figure 22).

Aside from minor dimensional variations, north and south elevations are identical, each organized in a three bay composition with a central door flanked to either side by window openings. East and west elevations almost match one another, a single window opening piercing their otherwise blank facades.

As far as can be judged, on exterior wall faces, window openings were originally 2.9 feet wide by 4.38 feet high. All windows were once splayed internally to give an internal opening width of 3.6 to 3.7 feet and were spanned by double timber lintels of unequal dimension, the inner lintel measuring 0.2 foot deep by 1.1 feet wide in section. The outer lintel measured 0.2 foot deep by 0.3 foot wide in section. No evidence survives for window hardware or fixings; therefore, it is not clear if openings were glazed or protected by means of timber shutters.

Door openings are rebated, having an outer width of 5.2 feet reduced to 5.0 foot on the building's interior face. Original door height is uncertain but indications exist to show these features were probably surmounted by timber lintels set at the bottom of the uppermost tabby pour level.

No evidence is visible for load bearing internal wall partitions, suggesting that if single story, the structure's roof was pitched, timber trusses perhaps being used to achieve the long (minimum 28 foot) structural span involved.

The tabby appears of indifferent quality, exhibiting poor

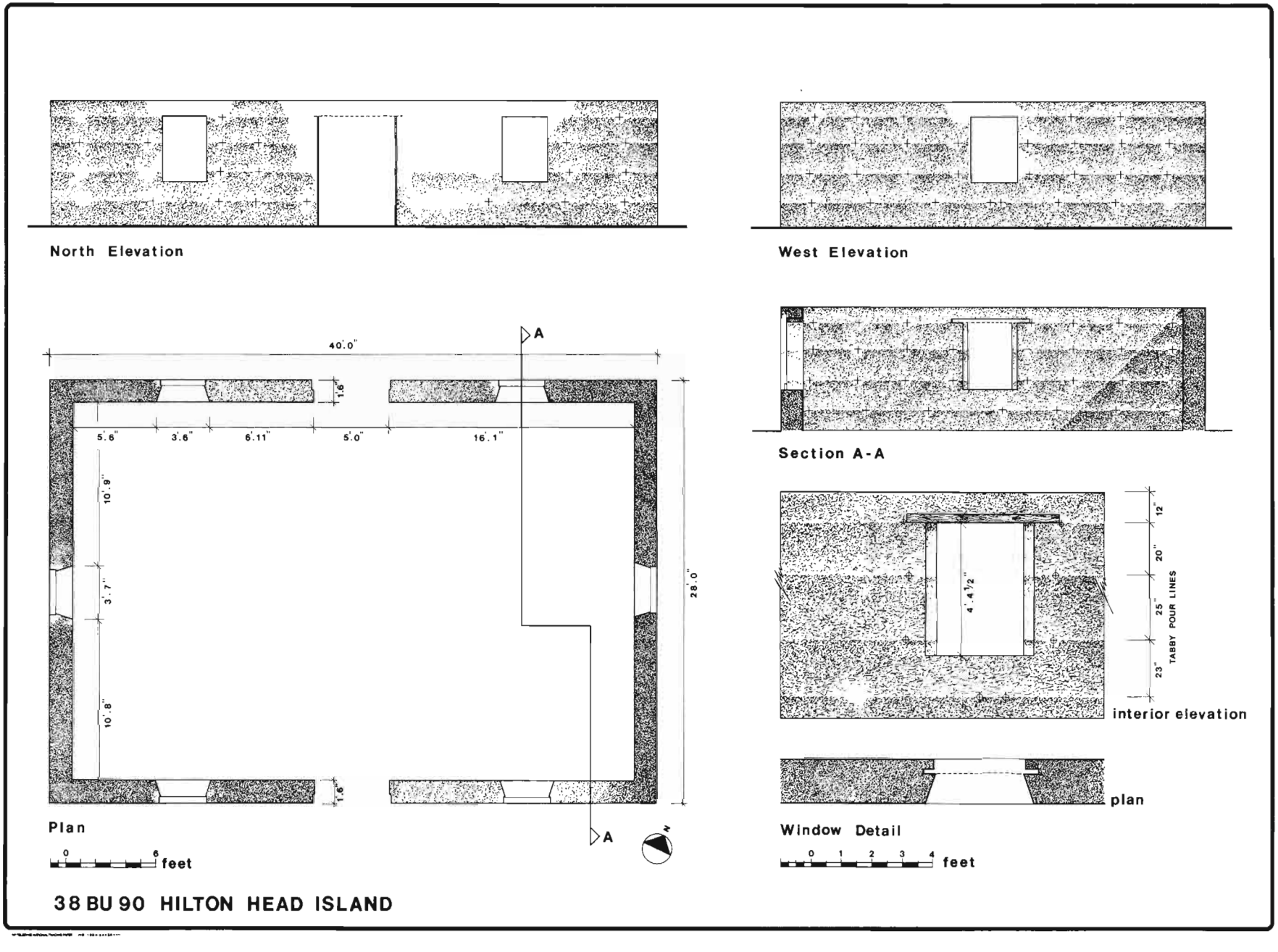


Figure 22. Elevations of the tabby structure at 38BU90.

compaction and uneven casting levels. Pottery inclusions indicate oyster shell was quarried from prehistoric middens, while impressions show that at least three sets of formwork were employed during construction. Five life levels are visible, the uppermost 1 foot high, while the remainder range with considerable individual variation between 1.7 and 2.1 feet in height. All inner and outer forms seem to have been separated by wooden dowels ("pins") measuring between 0.1 and 0.2 foot in diameter, positioned approximately 2.3 feet on center, except for the lowest visible pour level where dowels are generally more widely spaced (between 2.8 and 3.0 feet).

Discussion

Site 38BU90 presents few structural or construction elements indicative of function or date. Interpretation based on architectural criteria is complicated by uncertainties regarding original sectional and plan configuration. While lack of transverse beam or joist seatings at the uppermost wall level suggests that the building was single story, the possibility that the 1.5 feet thick walls originally supported a timber framed superstructure cannot be entirely excluded. Again, while no evidence is at present visible for chimneys, a plan form organized about a central stack dividing interior space into two or more distinct units (rather than a single undifferentiated cell) is typologically feasible considering elevational treatment. Debris accumulated within the building's interior and the structure's current use as an open cattle shed with attendant soil compaction prevents any resolution of this point.

Seen against local tabby building traditions, only one feature, the splayed window openings, appears distinctive. The only parallel known by the author comes from the initial phase of the Sams House on Dataw Island (ca. 1780?) (Sams House Measured Drawings, on file, SCDAH). However, it would be pressing the analogy to assume any close formal, functional, or status associated relationships between the two buildings. First, the respective floor plans are entirely dissimilar with, for example, 38BU90 showing absolutely no evidence for external end chimneys, present at Dataw (windows centrally placed on 38BU90's east and west elevations almost certainly preclude a similar end chimney plan, commonplace among local late eighteenth-early nineteenth century houses). Second, the outer walls to the Sams House (now in ruins) were of tabby, two stories high, which cannot have been the case, given structural evidence, at 38BU90. Nevertheless, atypical attention given to opening detail may indicate domestic use for the Hilton Head Island structure, in which case, affinities should be sought either among local tabby dwellings or, alternatively, agricultural outbuildings accommodating some type of processing as opposed to storage function.

Assuming 38BU90 was indeed one story high, then elevational

treatment does not suggest formal analogies with three-bay facade arrangements common among early nineteenth century double slave dwellings from the Georgia Sea Islands. Such structures are usually provided with chimneys (often centrally placed), usually occur in groups, and, when compared with the 38BU90 structure, are somewhat narrower in plan.

Among comparable tabby examples, published documentation is incomplete, and while double slave houses at Hampton Point, St. Simon's Island, Georgia, show typological similarities, without full assessment of dimensional data from a range of sites, 38BU90 cannot be identified as the component of an otherwise unknown slave settlement. In addition, the archaeological investigations failed to identify any evidence of low status domestic activity in the site vicinity.

Concerning construction date, nothing can be said with certainty. The roughly executed tabby possibly indicates fabrication during the second quarter of the nineteenth century, when, among local secondary buildings qualitative standards apparently declined (see Brooker 1980). Use of round dowels rather than rectangular timber formwork "pins" is unusual, the practice only becoming widespread after Thomas Spalding's account of tabby construction was published by the influential Southern Agriculturalist in 1830. In this account he advocated the use of metal dowels (see Kelso 1979:62, Figure 26 for reproductions of Spalding's diagrams). Timber dowels are, however, reported from mid-eighteenth century fortifications at Wormslow Plantation, in Chatham County, Georgia (Kelso 1979:87) and this constructional detail must therefore be regarded as an unreliable temporal indicator.

Conclusion

Functional and temporal uncertainties presented here underline the isolated position 38BU90 occupies with respect to the corpus of Beaufort County's known tabby structures. From an architectural stance, analytical interpretation is largely dependant on questions surrounding the presence or absence of a chimney, questions that can only be answered by archaeological investigation. A central chimney would tend to confirm domestic use; lack of this feature would imply seasonal occupation, suggesting an agricultural function housed in a tabby building without direct local parallel.

Irrespective of any conjectural future findings, 38BU90 is significant, meeting the criteria for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places and, as such, deserves protection. I strongly recommend that intervention aimed at preventing further mechanical damage be initiated and visible tabby surfaces be patched or otherwise conserved using suitable soft, lime-based mortar mixes.

APPENDIX 2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF THE BB NORTH OR SEABROOK PLANTATION TRACT

Introduction

This investigation was conducted by Dr. Michael Trinkley of Chicora Foundation, Inc. for Mr. P. Carlton Knoll, developer of the 43 acre BB North or Seabrook tract. This tract is situated on Hilton Head Plantation, adjacent to Skull Creek, on Hilton Head Island in Beaufort County. The tract is bounded to the west by Skull Creek, to the north by a marsh tributary of Skull Creek, to the east by previously developed lands, and to the south by both marsh and the Tailbird tract, currently being developed. The property is roughly bisected by a dirt road which leads to Seabrook Landing, shown on the 1956 USGS Parris Island, SC topographic map. A portion of the property, largely unidentified prior to these investigations, was known to have been used as a dump for spoil material from other construction projects on Hilton Head Plantation.

The development plans for the Seabrook tract are not currently complete, although the property is expected to be developed for single family dwellings, with accompanying water, sewer, power, and road construction activities. This development activity has the potential for damaging or destroying archaeological sites and this intensive archaeological survey was conducted in order to allow the developer to obtain S.C. Coastal Council certification. This summary is intended to provide a synopsis of the preliminary archival research and the archaeological survey of the tract sufficient to allow the S.C. State Historic Preservation Office to determine the eligibility of sites for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places.

The Seabrook tract is situated on Skull Creek, about 3.5 miles northeast of U.S. 278 on the Hilton Head Plantation. It is shown on the USGS topographic map as "Seabrook Landing" and encompasses a total of 43 acres (Figure 1). The property is bounded to the west by Skull Creek and to the north and south by extensive tidal marshes. Inland, toward the east, there is previously developed property. Vegetation includes a fringe of hardwoods (oaks and palmettos) around the marsh, a number of pecan trees in several localized areas, and two sections of planted pines. The pecans probably represent intentional cultivation efforts, although they may be second generation trees since they exhibit no order in their occurrence. The pines are planted in an old field inland from the western marsh edge and are also found in the spoil area discussed below. All of the

vegetation appears to have been established within the last 100 years.

The site's physical appearance and integrity has been affected by use as a spoil area where dredge fill from other development projects has been deposited. These investigations identified spoil covering an area of approximately 10 acres in the southwest central portion of the tract. This spoil area includes a section of active use totalling about 1.4 acres which is evidenced by spoil piles and a much larger area where the soil has been graded and pines have been planted. Fill in the graded area varies from 1.0 to 4.0 feet in depth. Based on our shovel test data, there is a strong possibility that topsoilhas been removed from the spoil area. Definite conclusions are difficult because the spoil has significantly altered the natural soil profile. No clear A or Ap horizon could be detected over most of the fill area.

Elevations on the Seabrook tract vary from about 6 feet MSL adjacent to the marsh to about 9 feet inland. The spoil area has elevations ranging from 9 to 11 feet, reflecting the large volume of spoil which has been added.

Soils in the project area are primarily the moderately well drained Seabrook and Bertie Series, although there is a small quantity of poorly drained Williman soils found as a remnant drainage which has been incorporated into a ditch system on the southwestern edge of the property and also found on a northeastern extension of the property. Both of the less well drained areas exhibit black to dark gray fine sand A horizons up to 1.5 feet in depth. At the time of this survey the soils were moist and a water table was identified in several tests at depths of about 1.3 feet. The water table is often at or near the surface of these soils (Stuck 1980:176). The Seabrook and Bertie soils evidenced deep, sandy profiles, with up to a foot of A or Ap horizon brown sand overlying a yellow sand B or C horizon. Cultural remains were consistently found in the A (or Ap) horizon or in an associated midden above the C horizon. In only one test (in the spoil area, under 4 feet of fill) was an artifact identified in the C horizon soil. Given the extensive disturbance in this area it is unlikely that this single artifact is indicative of deeply buried cultural remains.

The ditch network at the Seabrook tract represents both antebellum and recent drainage activity. The northwest-southeast tending ditch on the northern edge of the property probably represent a plantation activity, based on the number of size of trees growing on its accompanying dike and in the banks. Likewise, the ditch which originates at the marsh on the southern edge of the property and runs east and northeast is probably part of the original plantation drainage system. In fact, it may have separated the main house area from the cultivated fields and

animal pens. The ditch, also on the southern edge of the property, which runs southeasterly, is a recent addition, probably dug within the past 20 years. A portion of a plantation dike is found on the northwestern edge, adjacent to the marsh, and is the location of the USGS "Bob" marker.

The property evidences considerable erosion along the Skull Creek face and a number of archaeological sites have been identified through sightings of remains on the beach. Michael Taylor (personal communication 1988) indicates that erosion in this area of the island is unpredictable, being associated with both boat traffic on the Atlantic Intracoastal Water Way and the various winter storm tides. In the 1970s a number of intact bottles were recovered from the eroding marsh grass at Seabrook Landing. Based on comparisons between modern and historic maps, 20 to 50 feet of the site may have eroded since the mid-1800s.

Field Methods

The initially proposed field techniques (detailed in Chicora's proposal submitted to and reviewed by the State Historic Preservation Office) involved two phases of subsurface survey. The first phase was to be conducted where well drained soils are found adjacent to the poorly drained Williman soils and adjacent to the marsh edge. In these areas shovel tests were to be placed at 50 foot intervals with all soil screened through 1/4-inch mesh. Notes would be retained on stratigraphy and the tests would be immediately backfilled. If archaeological remains were encountered, the spacing of the tests would be decreased to no greater than 25 feet in order to determine site boundaries, site integrity, and temporal periods represented.

The second phase was to involve those areas interior from the marsh edge where shovel tests would be placed along lines perpendicular to the shore at intervals no greater than 100 feet. These tests would also be screened through 1/4-inch mesh. The primary purpose of this second phase was to determine loci within the plantation complex. As in Phase 1, when cultural materials were encountered, the sampling interval was to be decreased to 25 feet for additional refinement.

All shovel tests would measure 1-foot square and would be excavated to sterile yellow B horizon sand. All cultural remains, except brick, shell, mortar, and coal, would be retained. Samples of the other material would be retained. The information required for S.C. Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology site forms would be collected in the field. Photographs would also be taken, if warranted in the opinion of the field investigator.

These plans were put into effect, with minor exceptions. Prior to Phase 1 a portion of a day was spent relocating previously recorded sites and accurately locating these sites on

the development base map. During Phase 1 it was discovered that intensive testing in and adjacent to areas of Williman soil was unproductive. These soils were noticeably low and wet causing difficulty in screening. We increased our sampling scheme to intervals of 100 feet which allowed us to emphasize those areas of the plantation more suitable to prehistoric and historic settlement. During Phase 2 we discovered that artifact density was sufficiently great in the plantation area that our interval was increased from 25 feet to 50 feet throughout. This system allowed excellent coverage of the plantation area.

What amounted to a third phase of investigations was added to explore in greater detail the large area of fill on the tract. A total of 30 shovel tests (21 of which were screened) were excavated to document the extent of fill and its depth. In addition, the work was designed to identify a second slave row thought to be situated on the north edge of the property. As previously discussed, the fill area was found to cover 10 acres and fill varied from about 1 foot to 4 feet in depth. Prior to the disposal of this spoil the original topsoil or A horizon appears to have been removed.

A total of 208 shovel tests were excavated throughout the survey tract, including 30 in the fill area and 20 along the north edge of the tract. The remaining 158 were placed around the western and southern edge of the fill in the area of the plantation occupation. The shovel tests revealed variable stratigraphy which will be discussed on a site-specific basis. In those areas of well drained soils which did not exhibit cultural remains the stratigraphy typically consisted of a brown sandy A horizon up to 0.9 foot in depth overlying an indistinct leach zone up to 0.3 foot in depth. Below the light brown to tan sand leach zone was yellow to very light brown sand. Natural concretions are typical in the subsoil and were often found in the tests. Areas of poorly drained Williman soils exhibited a black to dark gray surface soil overlying a light gray sand found about a foot below the surface. These soils were consistently moist.

In addition to these shovel tests, the marsh and beach areas, the ditch banks, and the dirt roads were thoroughly examined, although large surface collections were not made at any locus. This study emphasized site evaluation with minimal disturbance to the archaeological remains.

Results

This project resulted in the revisiting and shovel testing of four previously recorded sites (38BU337, 38BU821, 38BU822, and 38BU323/1149), and the identification of two additional sites (38BU939 and 38BU940; only the former is actually within the survey area) (Figure 23). One site, 38BU323/1149, was found to

consist of a number of loci and to have agricultural features which were not specifically recorded by number. Another site, 38BU337, was found to represent a locus of 38BU323/1149, but the original numbering was retained for simplicity. Sites forms for each site (including those previously recorded) have been submitted to the S.C. Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology.

Site 38BU821 was originally recorded during the 1986 reconnaissance survey of Hilton Head Island (Trinkley 1987) and was described as two small loci of shell midden eroding into the marsh. Although no artifacts were recovered, additional study was recommended to determine cultural affiliation and site boundaries. Upon re-examination only one significant erosional area could be identified and a series of 18 shovel tests were excavated to determine areal extent of the site. Nine of these tests produced a total of 21 artifacts and seven revealed dense shell midden. This midden, up to 1.2 feet in depth, contains primarily oyster, although small quantities of clam, mussel, and whelk were observed.

Artifacts at the site reveal Early through Late Woodland occupation (ca. 500 B.C. through A.D. 1200). Materials include five Deptford Cord Marked, two unidentified (UID) Deptford sherds, two Mount Pleasant Cord Marked, one Mount Pleasant Fabric Impressed, one Mount Pleasant UID sherd, one St. Catherines Cord Marked, two Savannah Check Stamped, one Savannah Complicated Stamped, two UID sherds, two fragments of daub, and two cut nails (probably from nearby 38BU323/1149). The assemblage reveals mixing of site components, although the shovel tests did not demonstrate post-deposition disturbance (excepting erosion).

The site covers an area about 350 feet by 150 feet, with a site core of about 150 by 150 feet based on shell midden density. The site is on a natural peninsula of heavy hardwood vegetation and natural site boundaries are found to the north, northwest, and east. The boundary to the south was established by the absence of cultural material and rapidly diminishing amounts of shell. The site appears intact except for minor erosion along the north-facing marsh frontage and a probable plantation ditch which has been cut along the site's southern boundary. This ditch, however, has exposed a shell pit, measuring about 2.5 feet in width and about 1.5 feet in depth. Soils are the well drained Seabrook sands.

The intact deposits of dense shell, the relative abundance of pottery for coastal sites of this type, and the evidence that subsurface features will be present, all argue for the significance of this site. While a number of sites of this type have been recorded on Hilton Head or nearby islands, only a small handful have been professionally investigated. At the present time we have little information on how these sites fit into the larger framework of Woodland Period settlement or subsistence

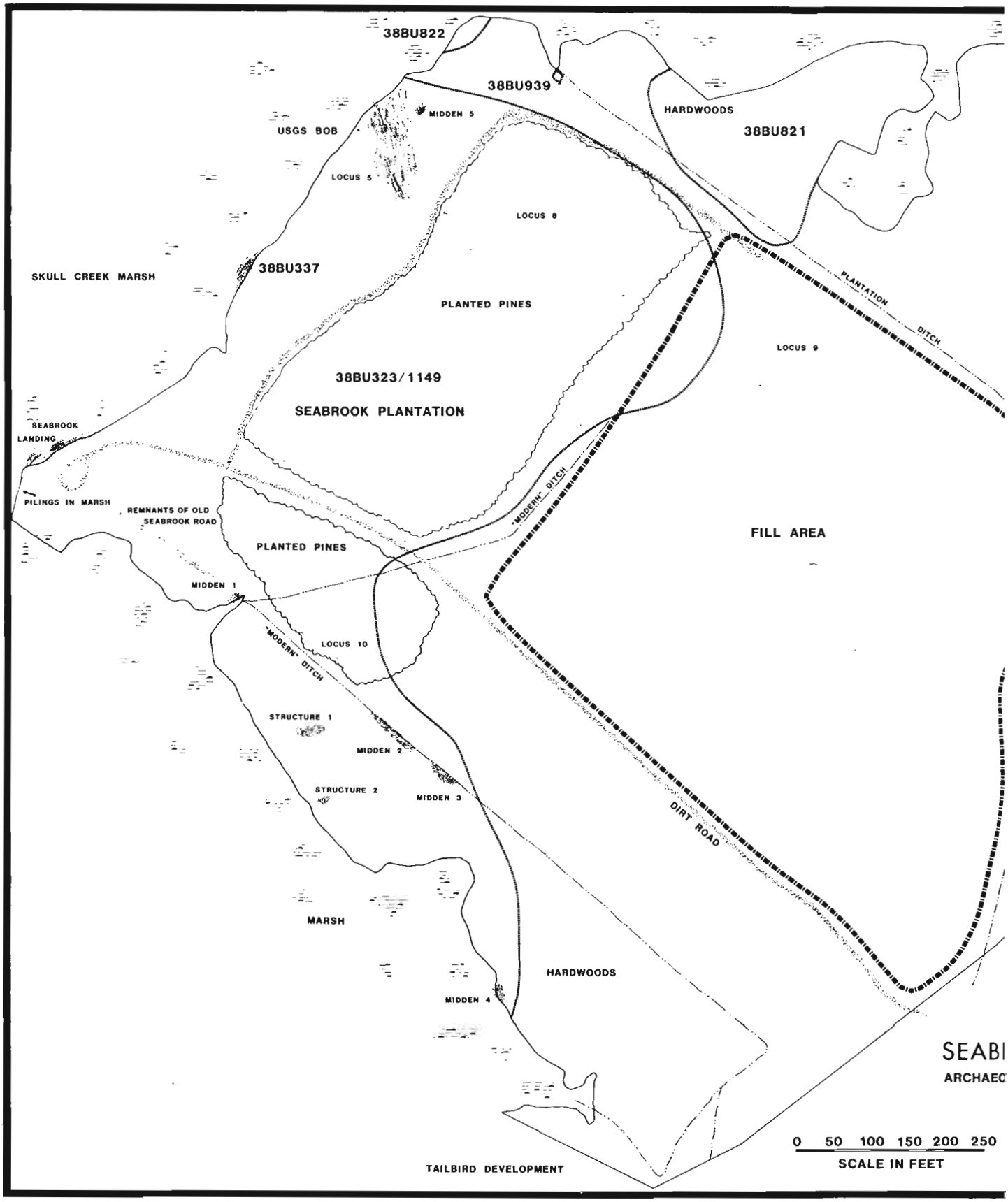
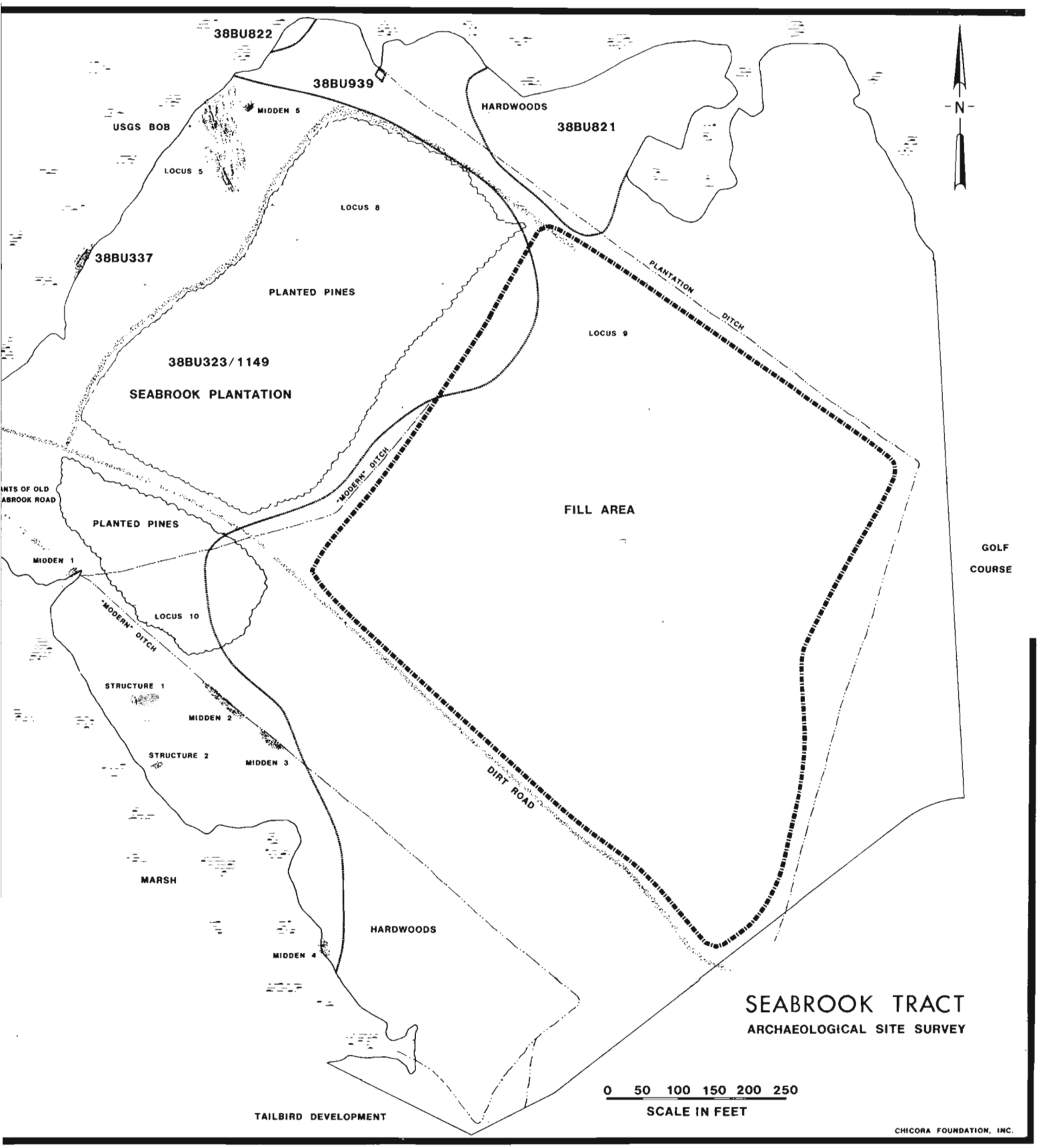


Figure 23. BB North or the Seabrook survey tract.



BB North or the Seabrook survey tract.

patterns. Most of the previous coastal research has emphasized reconnaissance surveys which fail to provide the necessary temporal, subsistence, and intra-site patterning data. It is my opinion that this site is eligible for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places.

Since the site covers a relatively large area of prime marsh frontage, it is unlikely that avoidance is a feasible alternative. If satisfactory green spacing or protective easements are not possible, excavation of the site should be conducted. The research design for the site should emphasize obtaining a valid sample of all site areas while ensuring that complete subsistence data is gathered.

Site 38BU822 was also recorded during the 1986 reconnaissance survey of the island (Trinkley 1987) and was identified as a small shell midden which might represent a Civil War military sentry post. A small quantity of mid-nineteenth century bottle glass was collected from the site, which was found isolated on a point of high ground overlooking a tidal creek on the north edge of the property. Additional work was recommended for this site since neither boundaries nor site integrity could be determined during the survey.

Additional studies, including the placement of four shovel tests, revealed that the site covers an area about 50 feet along the bank and no more than 25 feet inland. Although there is evidence of considerable erosion at high tides, this site was probably never much larger than seen at present. The shovel tests yielded only a single sherd, identified as St. Catherines and no additional historic materials were observed on the beach. Vegetation is primarily oak and the soils are the well drained Seabrook Series.

The site appears to represent a small, mixed deposit of both prehistoric and historic remains with very little integrity. Although both prehistoric and historic sites of this type are potentially significant cultural resources capable of telling us much about past lifeways, better preserved sites are found elsewhere on the survey tract. As a result, this site is evaluated to be not eligible for inclusion on the National Register and no further investigations are recommended.

Site 38BU323/1149 may also be referred to as Seabrook Plantation. The site was first recorded as 38BU323 by Michie (1980) and was described simply as an eroded occupational area having both prehistoric and historic remains. During the 1986 reconnaissance survey of the island for the Town of Hilton Head Island, Chicora revisited the site and recognized it as the location of Seabrook Plantation, noting that it represented "one of the few remaining undeveloped plantation tracts; the site is also the location of a major Hilton Head Island landing and a

major Union outpost with a ship repair facility" (SCIAA 38BU323 site form, on file). The site was identified as potentially eligible for inclusion on the National Register, although both archival research and additional survey was thought to be necessary to establish the site's eligibility. Site number 38BU1149 has been erroneously applied to the site by the Lowcountry Council of Governments (1979:84). Rather than attempt to correct the site numbering problem, both numbers are cross referenced to indicate this site.

This site is well documented and is known, based on period maps, to be situated on the survey "peninsula." This archaeological survey, as previously discussed, was oriented toward determining site boundaries, assessing site integrity, and revealing specific plantation loci. All three goals were approached using intensive shovel testing at an interval of 50 feet. Over 150 shovel tests were excavated in the plantation area and the final boundaries were largely established on the basis of these tests. Most shovel tests revealed A or Ap horizon soil up to 1.0 foot overlying yellow sand, with moderate quantities of shell, brick, and mortar found. In addition, coal was locally abundant, probably scattered from the military shipyard activities. Several tests revealed locally dense shell midden and one test revealed probable in situ architectural remains.

The plantation is situated in areas of hardwood vegetation and planted pines, although there is compelling evidence that the bulk of the site was at one time cleared. The soils are almost exclusively the well drained Seabrook Series, although some occupation apparently took place on the less well drained Williman soils. The site boundaries begin at the northern point of the tract, immediately west of 38BU822, and extend southeast to encompass the large field of planted pines west of the fill area. The fill is not included in the site boundaries, although it seems likely that the original occupation extended into this area. The site boundary extends south-southwest, along the edge of the poorly drained Williman soils to the southwestern edge of the fill, where the boundary turns southeast and extends to the southern edge of the property. The total site area is approximately 700 by 900 feet or about 14 acres. Within that area, however, are several clear loci.

The various surface collections have previously identified the beach or landing as an area of dense cultural remains (Figure 24). Michael Taylor (personal communication 1988) reports that several years ago numbers of intact bottles were recovered from the eroding marsh grass and beach face. It appears that 20 to 50 feet of the site has eroded since the mid-nineteenth century. This extensive erosion makes green spacing of this portion of the site less than desirable. The beach area shows evidence of the ship repair facilities, including extensive timber systems and a

Figure 24. Seabrook Landing, view to the southwest.

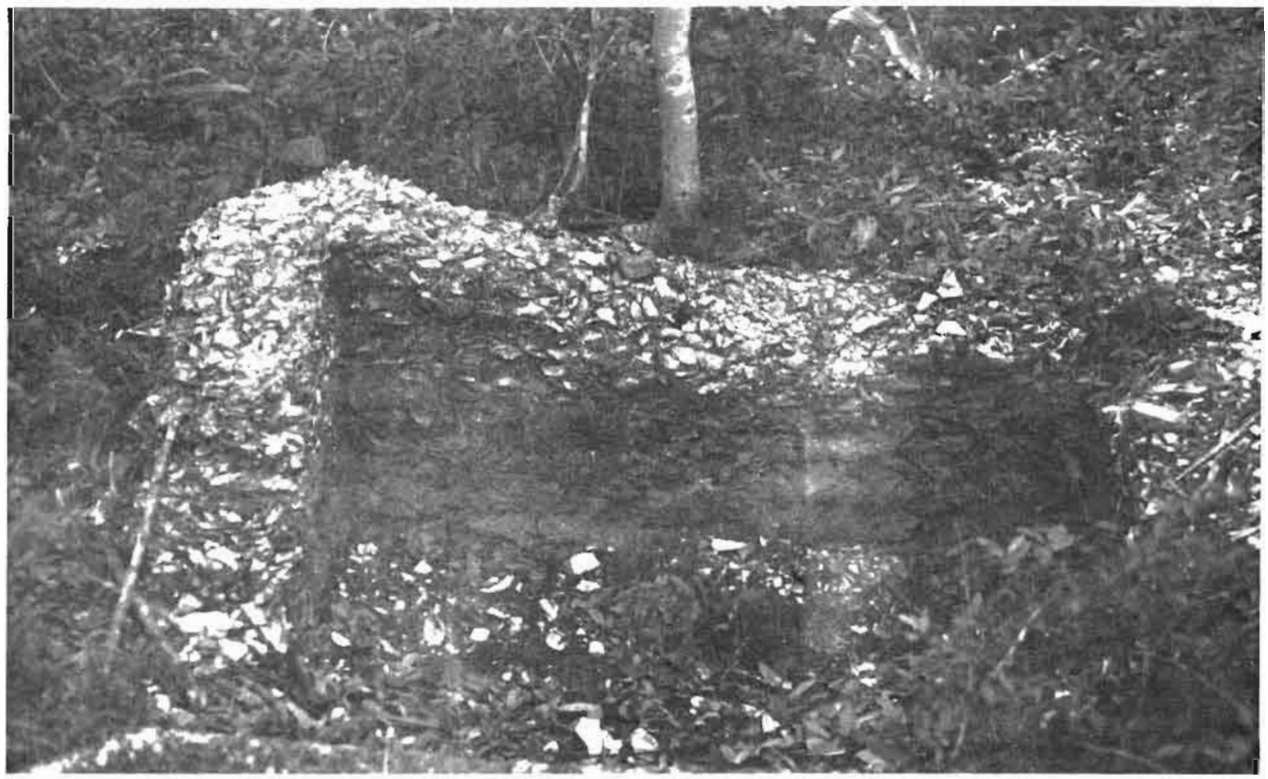


Figure 25. Remains of Structure 1 at 38BU323/114.

series of successive docks. Some of these features were plotted during this survey. In addition, the erosion has cut into at least two areas of structural remains, most notably 38BU337. While this was given a site number by Michie (1980), it is now recognized as part of the larger Seabrook plantation complex. The locus represents the erosional remains of a tabby structure, now found completely on the beach associated with abundant brick. Regrettably, this tabby has been too damaged for architectural evaluation or recovery. Additional architectural remains (primarily bricks) are found at the landing and probably represent a destroyed shoreline structure.

A series of five above ground middens have been found on the Seabrook Plantation site. Midden 1 is situated about 300 feet inland from the landing and 50 feet north of the southern marsh edge. The midden consists of abundant shell and coal fragments and may be associated with the military occupation of the site. Middens 2 and 3 have been cut through by a modern drainage ditch running parallel to the southern property edge. These latter two middens are probably associated with the southern slave row shown on the 1862 map. Structural remains may be found under the spoil from this ditch. Midden 4 is situated adjacent to the marsh at the southern edge of the site. It is tentatively identified as a military sentry post, although it may represent a freedmen's camp. Although the site has been recently damaged by vandals, it is more worthy of investigation than 38BU822. Finally, Midden 5 is found inland from the marsh on the northern boundary of the site. This locus consists of a small area of disintegrating tabby and a pile of soil and brick rubble. Several shovel tests in the immediate area failed to identify additional subsurface remains, but the above ground remains are unusual.

Four broad areas of the site were initially designated as SS5, SS8, SS9, and SS10 during the field work. These designations are still useful to indicate specific site areas. SS5, situated immediately west of Midden 5 on the north edge of the property, is a small prehistoric period concentration that has been only imperfectly defined. SS8 represents the central site area which was planted in pines about 20 years ago. This area represents the main house area and possibly a kitchen structure. SS9 is the designation given the fill area adjacent to the site boundary where the northern slave row should have been identified. As previously discussed, intensive shovel tests (two 100 foot lines 50 feet apart with tests at 20 foot intervals) failed to recover any convincing evidence of the slave row. Fill up to 4 feet in depth was encountered and removed for each test. It appears that the site was destroyed as topsoil was removed prior to the spoil deposition. SS10 is located southeast of the landing and south of SS8 and the fill area. This area represents the southern slave row and possible support structures. Shovel tests revealed evidence of in situ architectural remains and at least one additional concentration

of architectural remains.

The shovel tests in Locus SS10 also identified the remains of two tabby chimneys, identified as Structures 1 and 2. Both are in good condition, although Structure 2 has an oak tree growing in it which needs to be removed. Both chimney footings are oriented approximately N45°W and measure about 6 feet in length on the exterior, with fire boxes about 4 feet in length and about 2 to 4 feet in depth. Their height above grade varies from 0.2 to about 1.5 feet. Structure 1 (Figure 25) is associated with a series of five shell middens to the south and southeast within a distance of 35 feet. Each midden is from 6 to 8 feet in diameter and up to about 1.5 feet above grade.

Analysis of the collections from Seabrook have combined similar loci to create larger and more reliable samples. The artifact pattern from loci SS8 and SS9 is shown in Table 7. These areas (primarily SS8) should represent the main house area. The analysis indicates that Kitchen Artifacts dominate the collection, accounting for 69.7% of the total, while Architectural Artifacts account for 21.6% of the total. This collection does not clearly fit any previously defined pattern, although it is similar to both the Revised Carolina Artifact (Garrow 1982) and the Carolina Slave Artifact Pattern (Garrow 1982). Because of the relatively high percentages of Furniture, Tobacco, and Activities artifacts, the pattern tends toward the Revised Carolina Artifact Pattern. Additional work at the site is necessary to evaluate this assessment and determine why the architectural remains are not more common (alternately, the quantity of kitchen remains may be inflated by the possible associated kitchen structure).

The collections from SS10 (Figure 8) also fail to neatly correspond to any previously established patterns, including the Georgia Slave Artifact Pattern (Singleton 1980). The remains, however, are similar to the trends observed at Mitchelville, a freedmen's village on Hilton Head (Trinkley 1986). Additional work in this area will also be required to more fully understand the observed patterns.

While neither collection fits previously defined patterns, the Seabrook Plantation is unusual in the intensity of Civil War and possibly postbellum occupation. It seems likely that the remains of the relatively sporadic antebellum occupation at Seabrook Plantation was quickly swamped by the intensive military and freedmen occupation during the Civil War. Although the antebellum slave population barely topped 100 prior to the Civil War, over 300 freedmen lived on the plantation during the late 1860s. In one sense, this mixing of occupations represents the greatest challenge to research at Seabrook. Such research, however, is essential to better understand the BLack social and economic response to freedom.

The mean ceramic dates (South 1977) are detailed for the two areas in Table 9. The main house area (SS8) yields a mean ceramic date of 1814.9, while the southern slave row (SS10) yields a date of 1851.9. The relatively early date for the main house area is somewhat unexpected and suggests that a plantation settlement existed prior to William Seabrook's purchase of the land in 1833. The early date also suggests that there was, at best, limited occupation of the plantation by high status whites in the nineteenth century. This conclusion is supported by a number of historic sources, such as the census data and observations by the American Missionary Association teachers on the rustic, even primitive, "mansions" found on Hilton Head Island. The mean ceramic date for the SS10 area is consistent with its use from the early nineteenth century through the military occupation on the island.

In summary, the Seabrook Plantation site appears to represent significant archaeological and architectural remains dating from the early through mid-nineteenth century. There is a great deal of historic documentation for the plantation, given the sad condition of Beaufort County records. The archaeological remains reveal intact midden and architectural features indicative of good site integrity. The only area of the site not amenable to further investigations is the northern slave row which appears to have been destroyed by grading and fill activities. The site's long and varied history makes this plantation one of the more important sites on Hilton Head. The site is recommended as eligible for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places at a national level of significance (largely because of the importance of the site to the military and because it served as a major housing area for freedmen during the war years).

As previously discussed, green spacing is not the preferred alternative for those portions of the site subject to continued erosion. This erosion will not only continue to damage the site, but will probably encourage eventual land owners to install sea walls. The proximity to deep water may also create an additional demand for dock facilities. Other areas of the site may be suitable for green spacing or protection through easements. Such an approach, however, must be closely monitored since site vandalism has already occurred at the chimney footings and shell middens. Excavations at specific loci within the site may be the preferred mitigation alternative. Such excavations have the potential for exploring questions concerning both the plantation itself and the freedmen occupation of the site. In addition, the potential exists for the recovery of abundant plantation period subsistence remains. Excavations at Seabrook would represent the first professional investigation of a Hilton Head Plantation and might represent the first published plantation investigations in Beaufort County.

Kitchen			
Ceramics	52		
Bottle glass	95		
Colono ware	12		
Utensil handle	1		
Kettle frag	1		
		161	69.7%
Architecture			
Cut nails	38		
UID nails	1		
Window glass	11		
		50	21.6%
Furniture			
Chimney glass	1		
Tack	1		
		2	0.9%
Arms			
Gun flint spall	1		
		1	0.4%
Clothing			
Button	1		
		1	0.4%
Personal			
Brass winding key	1		
		1	0.4%
Tobacco			
Kaolin pipe stem/ bowl	10		
		10	4.3%
Activities			
UID iron	2		
Brass nail	1		
Melted lead	1		
Spike	1		
		5	2.2%
TOTAL		231	

Table 7. Artifact pattern analysis for loci SS8 and SS9.

Kitchen			
Ceramics	8		
Bottle glass	36		
Colono ware	2		
Container frag	2		
Kettle frags	2		
		51	36.7%
Architecture			
Cut nails	43		
UID nails	1		
Window glass	28		
		72	51.8%
Arms			
.32 shell	1		
		1	0.7%
Clothing			
Buttons	3		
		3	2.2%
Tobacco			
Kaolin pipe stem/ bowl	2		
		2	1.4%
Activities			
UID iron	2		
Brass strap	1		
Wire	1		
Strap metal	1		
Spike	1		
		10	7.2%
TOTAL		139	

Table 8. Artifact pattern analysis for locus SS10.

Ceramic	Mean Date	Quantity SS8	Quantity SS10*	Product SS8	Product SS10
Lead glazed slipware	1733	1	-	1733	-
Creamware, undec.	1791	4	-	7164	-
Pearlware, undec.	1805	16	-	28880	-
edged	1805	2	-	3610	-
annular	1805	-	1	-	1805
blue hp	1800	2	-	3600	-
blue tp	1818	7	1	12726	1818
Whiteware, undec.	1860	4	8	7440	14880
edged	1853	1	-	1853	-
annular	1866	-	1	-	1866
blue tp	1848	1	-	1848	-
non-blue tp	1851	1	1	1851	1851
Yellow ware	1853	2	2	3706	3706
		41	14	74411	25926

74411 ÷ 41 = 1814.9

25926 ÷ 14 = 1851.9

*including collections from the landing and Middens 1-4
tp = transfer printed
hp = hand painted

Table 9. Mean ceramic dates for Seabrook Plantation.

Site 38BU337 is briefly discussed in the above section on Plantation since it represents a locus within the plantation complex. Although the site has been extensively damaged by erosion it is classified as eligible since it must be considered within the context of the larger Seabrook Plantation.

Site 38BU939 is a single, small shell midden exposed in a ditch bank at the north edge of the tract. A series of three shovel tests placed around the site failed to identify either shell or cultural remains adjacent to the midden. The site size is placed at 10 by 20 feet and it appears that the bulk of the site was destroyed by the ditch excavation. No artifacts were collected from the site and its temporal period is unknown. It is spatially distinct from both the prehistoric shell midden (38BU821) situated to the east and the prehistoric/historic mixed midden (38BU822) located to the west.

This site is recommended as not eligible given its small size, the absence of cultural remains, and the likelihood that any data it might contribute would be better obtained from a more intact site. No further work is recommended at this site.

Summary of Site Significance and Conclusions

It is generally accepted that "the significance of an archaeological site is based on the potential of the site to contribute to the scientific or humanistic understanding of the past" (Bense et al. 1986:60). If a site exhibits integrity (i.e., it is likely that the site has not been extensively disturbed by development, erosion, agriculture, etc.) it is likely that it may address at least some research questions and contribute information, but to be eligible the contribution should be significant. As a result of this study, sites 38BU821, 38BU323/1149, and 38BU337 (as part of 38BU323/1149) are judged to be eligible for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places, with Seabrook Plantation (38BU323/1149) recommended as eligible at a national level of significance.

Seabrook Plantation was a working plantation at least by the 1840s, although the archaeological evidence strongly suggests that it may have been active during the late eighteenth century. Although Seabrook was a profitable tract, it was probably not the main residence of its owners. At the time of the Civil War the plantation not only had a main house and a slave row, but also a number of additional structures, including a store. The plantation saw use as headquarters for a number of regiments, sentry posts, and eventually as a ship repair facilities for the Quartermaster's Corps. It was also used by the American Missionary Association as a freedmen's school and was occupied by blacks at least until 1873. After that the property's history is currently obscured in postbellum land acquisitions. Research at the site may concentrate on the antebellum plantation activities, freedmen occupation, military use of the tract, and the ship repair facilities. Specific attention should be paid to the tabby features, which may require architectural documentation in addition to archaeological excavation. Avoidance of some plantation areas, through green spacing or preservation easements may be a viable alternative to excavation.

The prehistoric site, 38BU821, represents a large and well preserved shell midden. Like many other coastal shell middens occupational evidence of several temporal periods was recovered. In spite of this mixing the site has the potential to contribute information on prehistoric settlement and subsistence patterns. This site is recommended as eligible for inclusion on the National Register at a state level of significance.

In spite of the intensity of this survey, archaeological remains may be encountered during development activities. Construction crews should be advised to report any concentrations of brick rubble, obvious artifacts (such as bottles or ceramics), or concentrations of shell to the project planner, who should report the find to the S.C. State Historic Preservation Office or

the developer's archaeologist. No construction should take place in the vicinity of such late discoveries until they have been examined by an archaeologist.

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