MANAGEMENT SUMMARY OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL DATA RECOVERY AT 38CH1542, MULLET HALL, JOHNS ISLAND, CHARLESTON COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA

Chicora Research Contribution 576

MANAGEMENT SUMMARY OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL DATA RECOVERY AT 38CH1542, MULLET HALL PLANTATION, JOHNS ISLAND, CHARLESTON COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA

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Introduction

Previous Archaeological Investigations

Initial investigations, consisting of a reconnaissance level investigation, were conducted in 1994 (Adams and Trinkley 1994). A series of 29 shovel tests were excavated, helping to define a site thought to measure about 850 feet east-west by 150 feet north-south. Artifacts collected during the reconnaissance dated from the mid-nineteenth to twentieth century at the eastern portion and late eighteenth to twentieth century at the western portion (Adams and Trinkley 1994:30-31). The archaeological site was correlated with two slave settlements identified on nineteenth century maps of the plantation and was recommended as potentially significant (Adams and Trinkley 1994:30).

During the subsequent intensive survey, 190 shovel tests were conducted at 50-foot intervals, with 95 containing cultural remains, including both prehistoric and historic materials. All of the artifacts were found in the plowzone. Prehistoric remains were a minority, including only small sherds (i.e., under 1-inch in diameter), a chert flake, and a chert projectile point fragment. None of the artifacts were diagnostic, although the pottery is indicative a Woodland or Mississippian occupation.

The historic assemblage contained six different data sets – Kitchen (83.7%), Architecture (10%), Furniture (0.3%), Tobacco (2.0%), Clothing (1.4%), and Activities (2.6%) groups. This pattern closely resembled the Carolina Slave Artifact Pattern, typically associated with eighteenth century slave settlements where the structures are ground fast (i.e., of wall trench construction). We commented that this seemed unusual given the abundance of nineteenth century specimens. While tempting to use the tenant occupation as an explanation, the Yeoman pattern would slightly ameliorate the abundance of kitchen items, not further emphasize these materials at the cost of architectural remains. Since this pattern had been seen at several of the Mullet Hall sites, we commented that it might be a pattern worthy of further exploration.

Chicora recommended as eligible for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places and the State Historic Preservation Office concurred with this opinion.

Brief Historical Synthesis

Mullet Hall did not produce an abundance of early historic documentation. Further complicating explanations, the original study tract was historically made up of four plantations: Mullet Hall, "Home Place," Rosebank, and The Oaks. Site 38CH1542, however, was situated on Mullet Hall.

The earliest documented owner is Thomas Mullet, a London merchant. Much earlier – in 1735 – we can document the marriage of Nicholas Mullet to Mary Brown. The relationship of Nicolas and Mary Mullet, if any, to Thomas Mullet is unknown. By March 1793, Thomas Mullet authorized the sale of his Johns Island property and in 1794 the plantation was sold to James Legare.

The Legare family has a long history on Johns Island; it was Thomas Legare (17321801) who was the father of three men whose families were associated with Mullet Hall Plantation: James Legare (1762-1830), Thomas Legare (17661842), and Solomon Legare (1770-1799). James Legare

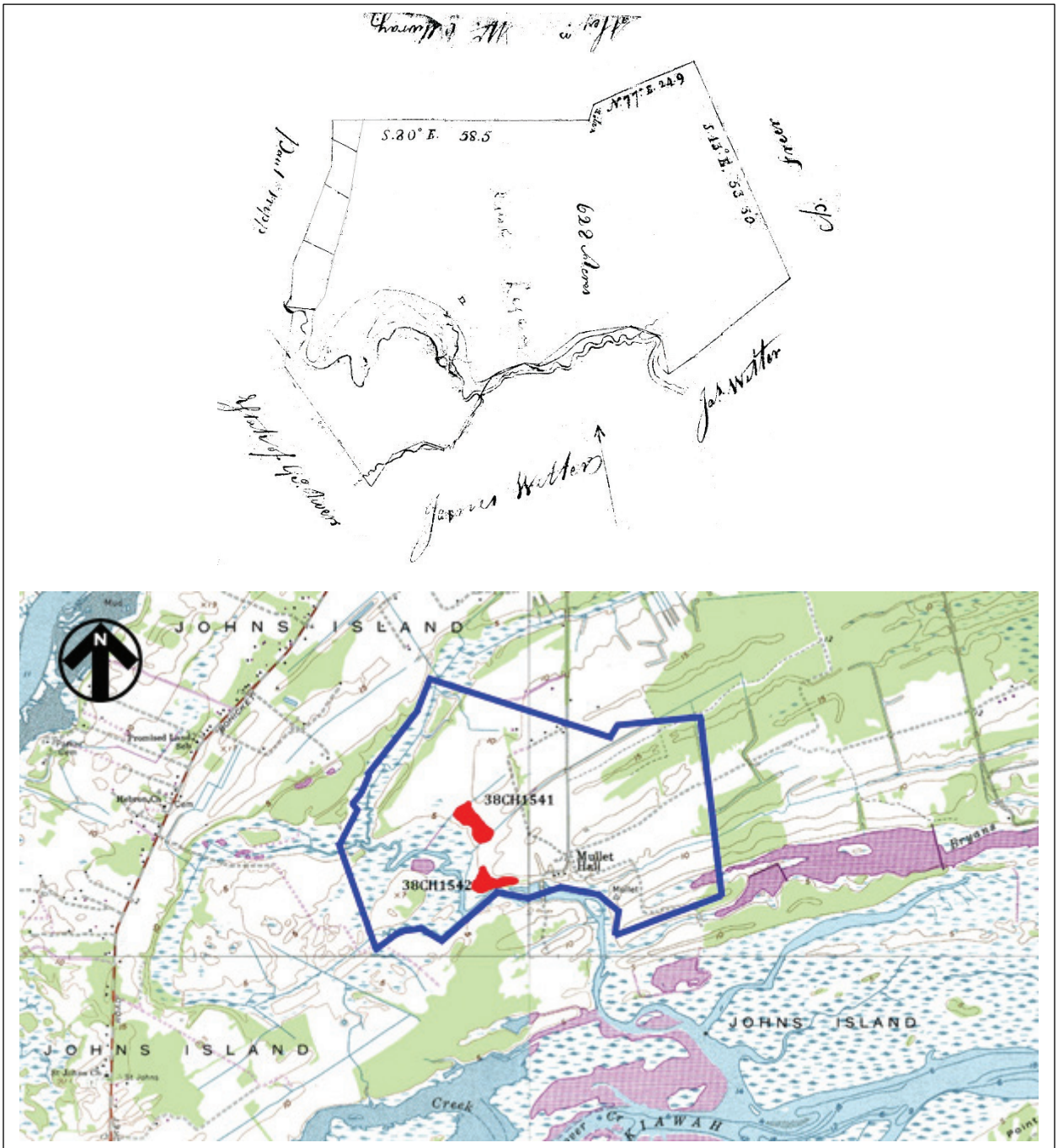

Figure 1. Undated plat of Thomas Mullet's Johns Island property conveyed to James Legare (McCrady Plat 4608) at the top; below is a modern topographic map (Wadmalaw Island, Legareville, Rockville, and Kiawah Island) showing the Mullet Hall property in blue. Sites are shown in red.

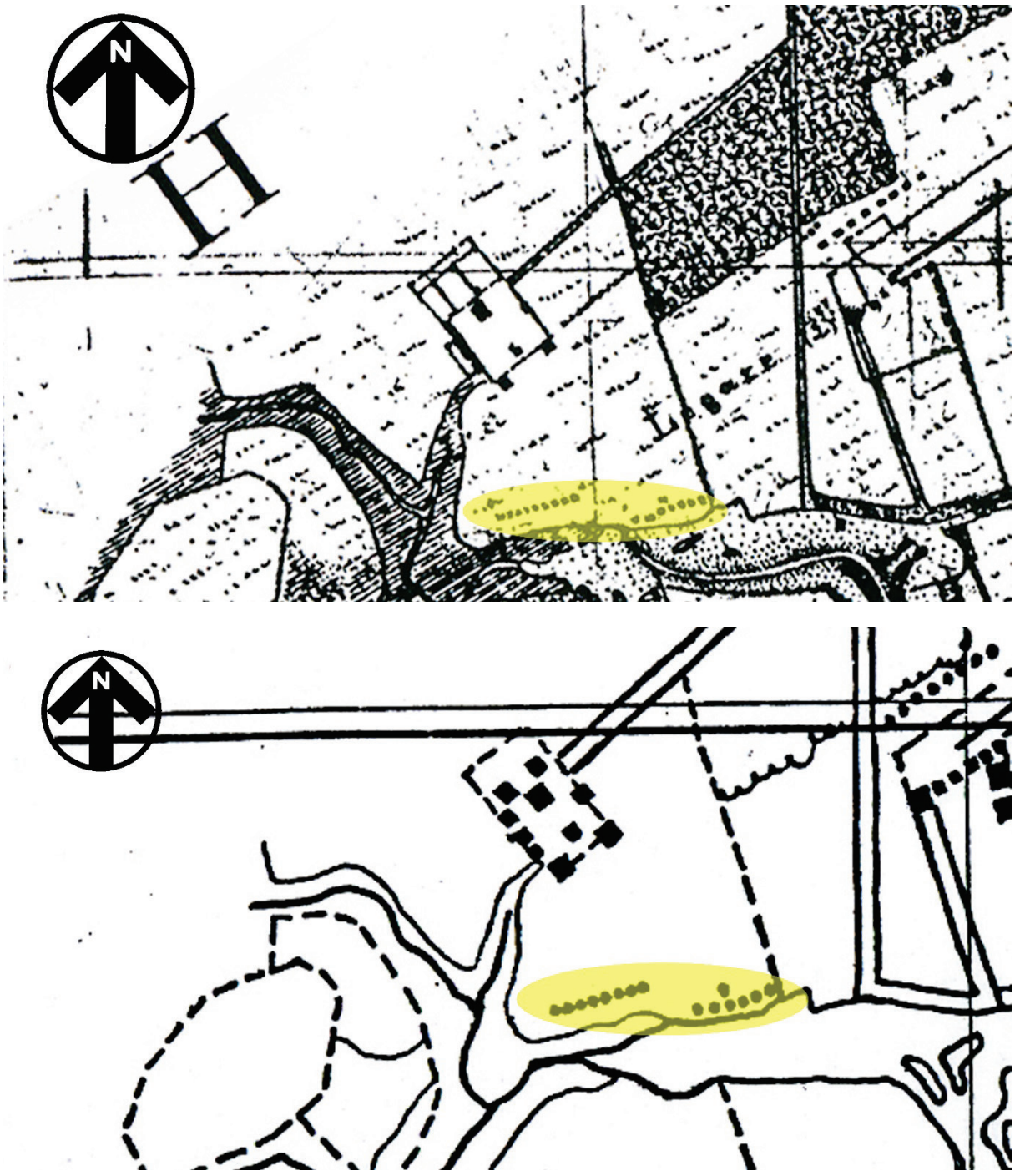

Figure 2. Coast Survey Chart T-491 prepared in 1854 at the top. Below is a tracing of T-491 prepared in 1863. The slave settlement at 38CH1542 is highlighted in yellow.

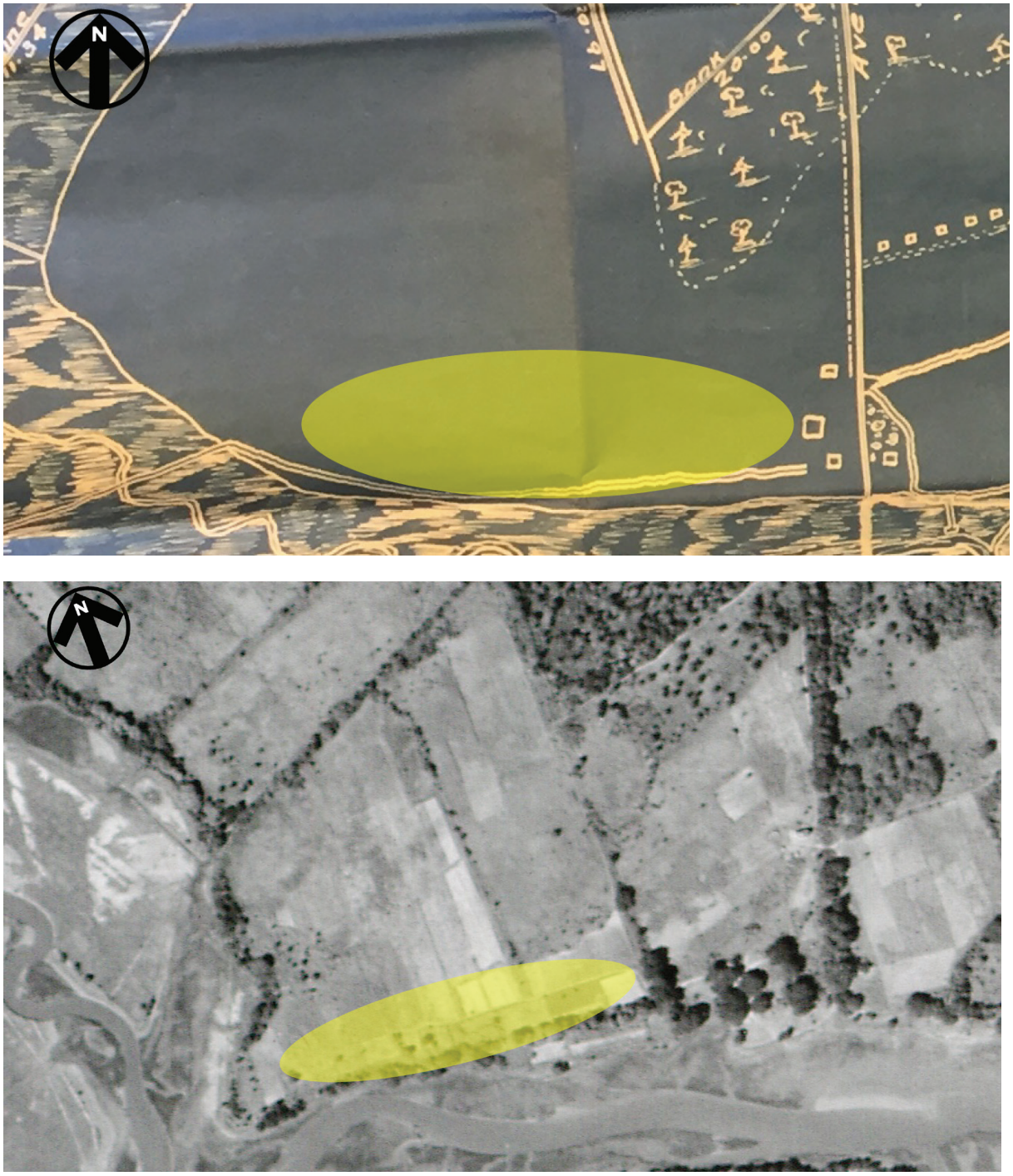

Figure 3. 1929 unrecorded plat of Mullet Hall at top. Below is a 1939 aerial photo. The slave settlement at 38CH1542 is no longer present, but the general area is highlighted in yellow.

occupied the Mullet tract and adjoining properties; Thomas Legare acquired land to the north. Solomon Legare's granddaughter married James Legare's son, and as his widow, she managed Mullet Hall from 1850 to 1868.

When James Legare wrote his will in June 1828, he bequeathed Mullet Hall to two of his children. At his death in 1830, James C. W. Legare (1806-1850) inherited the west half of Mullet Hall Plantation, just over 600 acres including his parents' "Settlement and Mansion House". Whether he occupied the residence immediately is not certain, but after his 1833 marriage to his cousin Lydia Ball Bryan (1816-1868), they settled at Mullet Hall.

James C. W. Legare planted Mullet Hall until his death in late 1850. The appraisal of his personal estate made in January 1851 details a large operation: 126 slaves, 22 gins, five plows, 11 oxen, and two mules. There was evidently no ginned cotton on the premises, but foodstuffs and feed included fodder, peas, corn, rice, seed potatoes, and cow potatoes. The inventory of household goods indicates a residence of four bedchambers, equipped for year-around occupancy. Although we have no plats for this tract, we believe that Legare continued to occupy the settlement shown on the Mullet plat (identified archaeologically as38CH1541). In 1860, his wife, Lydia B. Legare, held 110 slaves on Johns Island, all of them on Mullet Hall.

Lydia Legare died in 1868 and her youngest son, Francis Y. Legare (1850-1905), took over Mullet Hall, managing the plantation and his father's estate.

By 1880, F. Y. Legare owned one farm (Mullet Hall) and rented additional acreage – either on "Home Place" (the east half of the original Mullet Hall), or Rosebank. His own land, 596 acres, was worth $5,000, comprising 155 acres improved, 160 pasture, 120 woods and forest, and 161 acres of fallow or "old field" land. There were implements and equipment worth about $1,000, and he had spent $1,300 on buildings and repairs. The land he rented was 135 acres: 35 acres improved, 50 in woods and forest, and 50 acres fallow, worth altogether $1,800. Production on the two tracts was dissimilar. He had spent only $20 to fertilize the rented tract, but $200 on his own land, where he paid $195 in laborers' (all African-Americans) wages for fifty weeks. The rented land produced crops worth $700: 100 bushels of corn on 15 acres, seven bales cotton on 15 acres, 70-bushels sweet potatoes on 10 acres. At his own Mullet Hall, he made $4,500 in crops: 200- bushels corn on 30 acres, 150-bushels oats on three acres, 42-bales cotton on 64 acres, and 200- bushels sweet potatoes on 10 acres. Legare held little livestock: four horses, two mules, 18 cows, and eight chickens.

The state business directory for 1905 shows Francis Y. Legare with a general store and gristmill near the Mullet Hall post office. The Legares traditionally relied on the Charleston firm of Dill, Ball Company for credit and cash advances. Upon the death of Francis Y. Legare in New York, "where he had temporarily gone for his health for a few weeks," his widow Kate turned to the Dill, Ball Company. This company became inexorably intertwined with Mullet Hall. When Francis Yonge Legare (1890-1955) reached adulthood in 1911, the Estate of Francis Y. Legare, Sr., was closed.

Nevertheless, debts mounted and in July 1923, Mullet Hall was sold at public auction to the Dill, Ball Company for $10,000.

The slave settlements are shown in the 1854 and 1863 plats (Figure 2), but have disappeared by 1929. The 1939 aerial, however, still shows individual agricultural plots that were likely associated with different structures existing into the postbellum.

Memorandum of Agreement

A Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) was approved by the State Historic Preservation Office (signed August 17, 2015), the Corps of Engineers (signed September 3, 2015), and Kiawah River Plantation Holdings (signed August 6, 2015) in partial fulfillment of Permit Number SAC-2008-

0l605-2IG.

A Data Recovery Plan for 38CH1542 was prepared by Chicora Foundation and was submitted to the signatory parties on October 3, 2016. The plan was approved by the State Historic Preservation Office on December 13, 2016 and the Corps by the end of December.

Project Goals and Objectives

Research Questions

Site 38CH1542 was determined eligible for its historic data; the prehistoric remains appeared inconsequential, consisting of only small sherds, and a projectile point tip that was not diagnostic.

A fundamental research question involved a better understanding of Johns Island historic settlement. In spite of exceptional development, there is a dearth of detailed archaeological investigations for the immediate area. Using the resources of the SC Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology and the South Caroliniana Library, we found only one investigated site on Wadmalaw Island (38CH1422), and no sites on Seabrook Island. On Johns Island there has been only minor research at Fenwick Hall (38CH84), and limited data recovery at 38CH2048 and 38CH1244. The Charleston Museum has conducted the bulk of the work on James Island at 38CH857, 38CH851, 38CH465, and 38CH464. Some investigation has also been conducted at the McLeod Plantation (38CH679-3), as well as work at 38CH2105 and 38CH1511. On the mainland, we could find investigations at only Dixie Plantation, Bolton (38CH2017) and Wappoo (38CH1199/1200). Kiawah has received extensive investigations by Chicora at the Vanderhorst settlement (38CH127), Shoolbred "New Settlement" (38CH129), Stanyarn Plantation (38CH122), and Shoolbred's "Old Settlement" (38CH123).

A careful review of these studies reveals that we are far from the point of redundancy at plantation settlements in the area. A tremendous amount of variability exists. We have previously noted that even at 38CH1542 we have found a pattern that does not immediately make sense given what we know about the site. Another research question involved the occupational time span. While the ceramics suggested a late antebellum to postbellum occupation, we failed to identify any eighteenth century slave settlement associated with Mullet Hall, so the question remained if there might be earlier materials which perhaps were not clearly recognized, given the abundance of later materials.

Moreover, we view the investigations at 38CH1541 and 38CH1542 only the initial phase of research since the Mullet Hall property consists of three distinct plantations found in close proximity to one another.

Looking at previous archaeological work, we have identified five primary research concerns at 38CH1542: architecture, landscape, dietary studies, artifacts and status, and refuse disposal.

In terms of architectural investigations, 13 of the 28 structures we identified in background work consist of slave structures. Area slave houses have dimensions ranging from about 64 to 345 square feet. Only five possible kitchens have been encountered. Eight main houses have been documented at some level. We hope to be able to identify structures through artifact concentrations and open sufficient ground to obtain additional architectural data.

Relatively few of the previous projects in the region have been able to examine the plantation landscape. Often only a small portion of the plantation has been available for investigation, precluding any study of plantation organization or layout. The best efforts include the work by The Charleston Museum at their Dill Sanctuary sites and by Chicora on Kiawah Island. However, the sample is so small that it precludes any meaningful commentary, except to note that by studying

plantation arrangement it is possible to approximate the owner's worldview. For example, at Vanderhorst Plantation, the main house is oriented toward the water, with shell paths that, even without formal gardens, created a social space.

Dietary studies is another significant research concern. While faunal and, generally, floral studies are common components of data recovery reports, pollen and phytolith studies are not the norm.

Artifacts and status is another research area. Beaman (2001) has developed the Carolina Elite Pattern, a rural compliment to Zierden's urban Townhouse Pattern observed in Charleston, South Carolina (Grimes and Zierden 1988). This may provide assistance in distinguishing between the planters on the several islands.

While it seems unlikely that an owner's wealth would automatically extend to his enslaved African Americans, the same question regarding identifiable differences among slaves by region is also worth considering. Are those slaves working on more prosperous islands treated more generously by their owners? Conversely, where there is greater economic pressure, do the slaves suffer as a result?

We also notice that often a single slave structure is examined and this does not allow intrasite comparisons. Samples may not need to be especially large, but it seems useful to obtain samples from multiple houses, as long as the architecture appears similar. Comparison of ceramics, personal items, clothing, and other artifacts may help establish differences between individual slaves, allowing a wider variety of lifeways to be studied. Such work may also help identify slave overseers (perhaps based on the presence of more activity artifacts) or healers (perhaps based on the presence of crystals, mirror fragments, or beads).

It seems unreasonable to continue to explore colono typology, given the excellent studies currently available. This does not preclude, however, the need to compare collections to the available typologies to ascertain the extent of variation. What is also reasonable, we believe, is to examine where the colono occurs, in what frequency, and in what shapes and forms.

Planned Analyses and Curation

All of the collections from 38CH1542 have been transferred to Columbia. All of these have been washed and rough sorted. Analysis has begun on the collections and about 25% of the materials have been examined.

The artifacts from 38CH1542 account for approximately 17 cubic feet. They are being processed according to the requirements of the South Carolina Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology and are curated with that institution. Conservation of selected objects will be performed by Ms. Kate Singley with Conservation Anthropologica in Decatur, Georgia.

All original and duplicate records have been provided to the curatorial facility on pH neutral, alkaline-buffered paper. Photographic materials have been provided as tiff images on archival gold DVDs meeting the preservation standards of the National Register of Historic Places.

Analysis of the collections will follow professionally accepted standards with a level of intensity suitable to the quantity and quality of the remains. The temporal, cultural, and typological classifications of the historic remains will follow such authors as Cushion (1976), Godden (1964, 1985), Miller (1980, 1991a, 1991b, 1991c), Noël Hume (1978), Norman-Wilcox (1965), Peirce (1988), Price (1970), South (1977), and Walton (1976). Glass artifacts will be identified using sources such as Jones (1986), Jones and Sullivan (1985), McKearin and McKearin (1972), McNally (1982), Smith (1981), Vose (1975), and Warren (1970). Additional resources, for example for porcelains and Colono wares, will be used as necessary.

The analysis system will use South's (1977) functional groups as an effort to subdivide historic assemblages into groups that could reflect behavioral categories. The functional categories of Kitchen, Architecture, Furniture, Personal, Clothing, Arms, Tobacco, and Activities provide not only the range necessary for describing and characterizing most collections, but also allow typically consistent comparison with other collections.

Another important analytical technique we anticipate using in this study is the minimum vessel count. It is, of course, a prerequisite to the application of Miller's cost indices. The applicability of this approach, however, will depend on the materials found and their context. Although no cross mend analyses will be conducted on the glass artifacts, these materials will be similarly examined to define minimum number of vessel counts, with the number of vessel bases in a given assemblage being used to define the MNV.

Two methods will be used to determine the occupation span. The first method is South's (1977) bracketing technique. Since South's method only uses ceramic types to determine approximate period of occupation, Salwen and Bridges (1977) argue that ceramic types that have high counts are poorly represented in the ceramic assemblage. Because of this valid complaint, a second method to be used is a ceramic probability contribution chart (Bartovics 1981).

Faunal remains will be collected and submitted to Dr. Homes Hogue (Department of Anthropology, Ball State University, Muncie, Indiana) for analysis. The ethnobotanical remains collected through flotation will be examined in-house.

If we identify sealed contexts that appear especially appropriate for the examination of either pollen and phytolith remains, samples will be collection for submission to Paleo Research Laboratory in Golden, Colorado.

We anticipate U.S. Heritage in Chicago, Illinois will conduct mortar analyses. The bricks will be further examined by the National Brick Research Center at Clemson University. Some soil samples will be examined for macronutrients, salt content, and particle size by A&L Eastern Laboratories.

Field Methods

Site Grid

The client's surveyors, Thomas and Hutton, established a skeleton site grid at 50-foot intervals for horizontal control. We used a modified Chicago grid system. Such a system assumes an off-site 0R0 point and the southeast corner of each unit designates the feet north and right (or east) of this arbitrary 0R0 point. Hence, the southeast corner of unit 10R50 would be 10 feet north and 50 feet right, or east, of the 0R0 point.

The surveyors' grid is tied into the South Carolina State Plane Coordinate system so it can be easily reconstructed and so excavations at different sites could be correlated, if necessary. Thus, our point 600R1600 is also N290900 E2269500.

Vertical control at the site uses one of several data established by Thomas and Hutton. These are in feet tied into the North American Vertical Datum of 1988 (NAVD 88). All elevations were taken in relation to this point, allowing widely separated areas of the site to be precisely compared (as well as comparing one site to another).

Using the 50-foot interval, we further gridded the site into 20-foot blocks for the first phase of investigation at the site.

Further Testing

Our initial investigations at Mullet Hall used shovel testing, combined with 3-foot units at one site. Both were excavated by natural strata (although not all shovel tests penetrated the B-horizon because of depth). In neither shovel tests nor test units were we able to ascertain stratigraphy not associated with plowing.

Although the site was shovel tested at 50-foot intervals during the previous survey, during the intervening years it has become impossible to reconstruct the original grid. This made it difficult, if not impossible, to cost-effectively conduct block excavations. In addition, the shovel tested site was estimated to be about 1200 by 500 feet, spread along the creek edge. The available mapping, however, suggests the site may be about 1,500 feet in length.

As a result, we determined the best approach would be to further explore the site area, not only ensuring that we covered the entire shore of the creek, but also that we used a method that would ensure we obtained the best information possible to guide block excavations.

For the next phase of investigations, we chose to conduct auger testing to determine the close interval spatial distribution of key artifacts in order to indicate possible structural locations. We have decades of experience using this technique with numerous reports demonstrating that it can successfully indicate structural or occupational areas. In addition to Chicora's work, the same technique has been used by the National Park Service, with its outstanding record of archaeological protection and investigation.

In 1999 at Magnolia Plantation, archaeologist Dr. Bennie Keel excavated 1,206 auger tests over the 18-acre plantation and was able to ascertain a variety of structures. Keel commented, "the comprehensive auger testing program provides an understanding of the distribution of archaeological remains at the park." He goes on to specify the use of 25-foot intervals, based not only on this project, but also on his work

at the Charles Pinckney site in Charleston County (Keel 1999).

In 2000, National Park Service Archaeologists Christina E. Miller and Susan E. Wood again used auger testing, this time at the 42-acre Oakland Plantation. A total of 1,660 auger tests were excavated. A significant conclusion in their report was that, "the auger testing program has proved to be an efficient and comprehensive method for recovering archaeological baseline data."

In both cases auger testing did precisely what the researchers wanted it to do – predict structure locations for additional research. Moreover, it achieves this goal in a timely and cost-effective manner. Auger testing is consistent in size (we used a 1-foot diameter bit) and depth – far more so than shovel testing which is affected by crew experience and stamina.

An interval of 20 feet was used based on Chicora's own work at various plantation sites, as well as the work by NPS. A total of 655 auger tests were opened, with all screened through ¼-inch mesh. The tests yielded 1,152 historic artifacts. Materials were transferred to Chicora's Columbia lab where they were cleaned and analyzed, allowing the data to be incorporated into a Surfer map using a Kriging gridding method. This method produces visually appealing maps from irregularly spaced data. Kriging attempts to express trends suggested in your data, so that, for example, high points might be connected along a ridge rather than isolated by bull's-eye type contours. In particular, kriging gives the best linear unbiased prediction of intermediate values.

The resulting map is shown in Figure 4. It is of particular interest since it illustrates a linear series of artifact concentrations parallel to the shore – identical to the arrangement of structures illustrated by historic maps (see Figure 2). While not all of the structures are equally visible, the grid map illustrates the location of at least eight in the western line (consistent with the historic plans) and five in the eastern two rows (where there should be seven. While the association is not perfect, it did provide ample evidence to permit excavations focusing on structural locations.

We also plotted architectural artifacts alone (consisting of window glass and nails). This plot revealed that there the two concentrations (general artifacts and architectural remains) are essentially identical. This suggests that refuse was discarded around the structures.

Another plot was created for faunal remains. This density map (Figure 5) is of limited use since only 42 fragments of bone were recovered from the auger tests. Nevertheless, the map reveals that some of these co-occur with structural and artifactual remains, while a few appear as outliers. No much should be made of these outliers since they represent, at most, two fragments of bone. It is unlikely that they represent any significant trash pile not associated with the structures themselves.

Excavations

The minimal excavation unit was a 5 by 5 foot unit, although typically 10 by 10 foot units were used for horizontal control. Chicora has adopted engineering measurements (feet and tenths of feet) for consistency in its work, especially on European sites where structural measurements are most often in feet.

The data recovery plan specified that 1,000 square feet would be manually excavated, with all fill screened through ¼-inch mesh. We were able to excavate 2,050 square feet – more than doubling the original estimate.

The excavations comprise nine "blocks," with each ranging from as little as 50 square feet (a single 5x10 unit) to as much as 500 square feet (a series of five 10x10 units).

The excavations were by natural soil zones, although we found that most of the site had been extensively plowed, resulting in a plowzone overlying a sterile subsoil. There were occasional plow scars and plow ridges, although generally

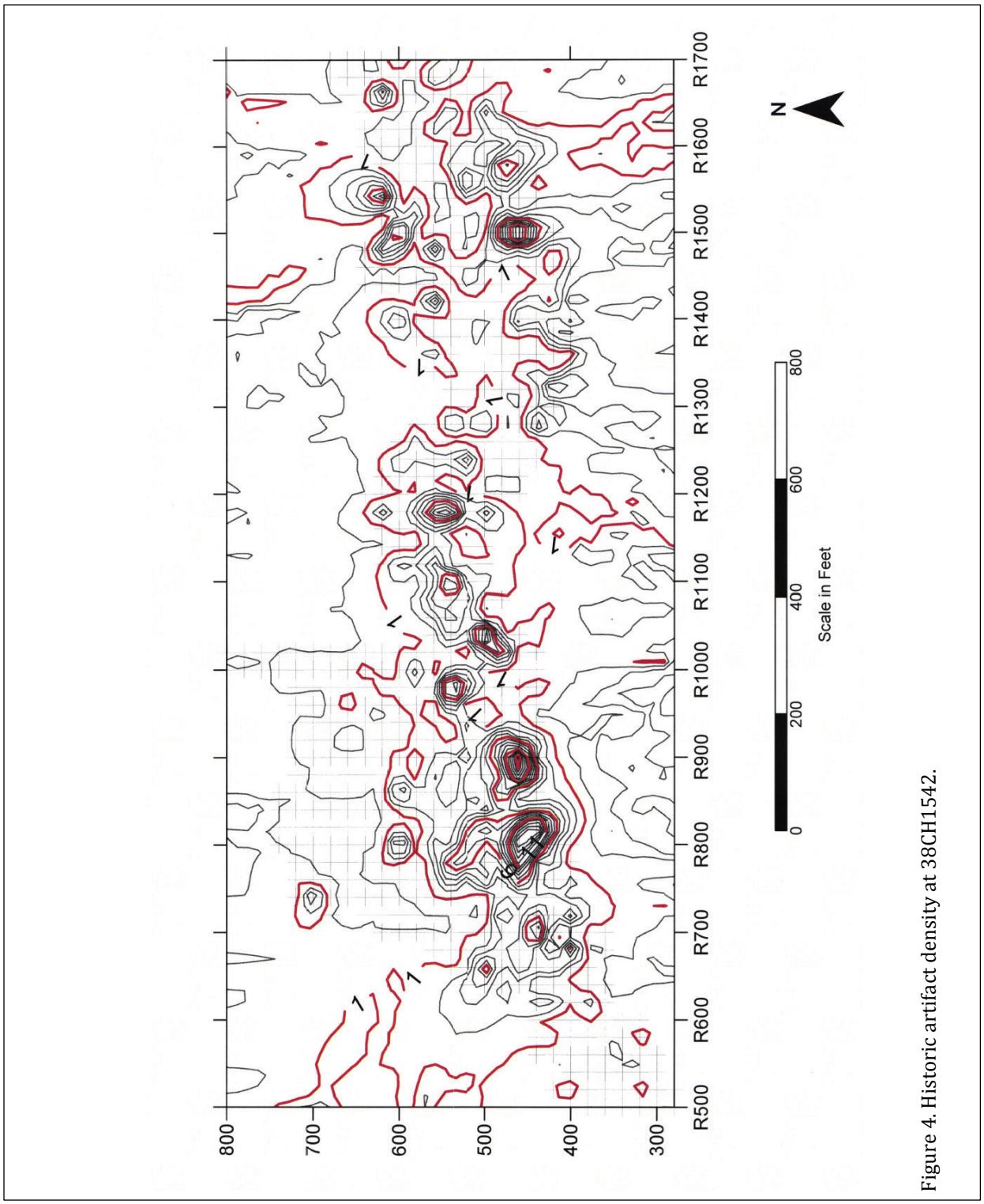

Figure 4. Historic artifact density at 38CH1542.

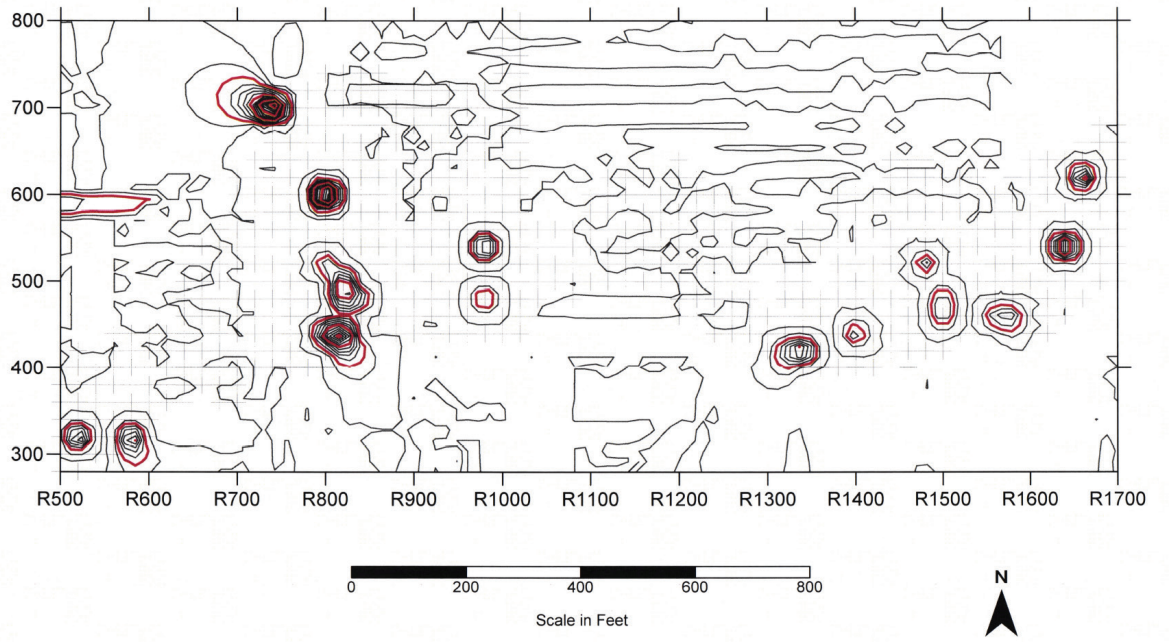

Figure 5. Faunal density at 38CH1542.

these were removed with the upper plowzone level. Flat shoveling was often necessary to better reveal features, given the density of plowing. The plowzone ranged from a dark brown (10YR3/3) sand to a brown (10YR4/3) sand. The subsoil was typically a brownish yellow (10YR6/8 to 10YR6/6) sand.

There was one area (Block G) where plowing had not occurred. There we found a black (7.7YR2.5/1) loamy sand that graded into a mottled brown (7.5YR4/4). The subsoil in this area was heavily mottled light brownish gray (10YR6/2) and yellow (10YR7/8) – probably the result of abundant pedestrian traffic and yard activities.

Excavation was by hand with all fill dry-screened through ¼-inch mesh using both mechanical and hand sifters.

A one-quart soil sample was collected from each provenience for soil chemistry needs. We also collected pollen and phytolith samples from identifiable structures or discrete midden areas.

Munsell soil color notations were made during the course of excavations, typically on moist soils freshly exposed. All materials except brick, mortar, and shell were retained by provenience. The brick, mortar, and shell from the screens were collected, weighed, and discarded in the field. These brick and mortar weights provide information on total brick weight and assist in evaluating construction details. It can also be used as an indicator of salvage or possible reuse of brick. The shell weights may provide clues on the utilization of shellfish as a dietary resource.

Each unit was troweled at the top of subsoil and digitally photographed. Units were drawn at a scale of 1-inch to 2-feet. Profiles were drawn at an exaggerated vertical scale of 1-inch to 1-foot, with a horizontal scale of 1-inch to 2-feet.

Features encountered during the excavations were plotted and photographed.

Figure 6. Excavations at 38CH1542. Top photo showing screening auger tests. Lower photo shows block excavations.

Features were designated by consecutive numbers (beginning with Feature 1). Features, or samples of redundant features, were bisected to provide profiles. All feature fill was screened through ¼-inch mesh, with samples, typically about 5 gallons in volume, also screened through ⅛-inch mesh. Samples retained minimally included a soil sample and flotation samples.

Post holes were consecutively numbered by excavation area (not by unit as is the common method).

As a result of these excavations, a total of 1,732 person hours were spent in the field and, as discussed, a total of 2,050 square feet of primary excavation were opened and 2,311 ft^3 of soil and rubble were moved. The investigations produced 484 pounds of shell and 1,860 pounds of brick and mortar rubble.

The field crew consisted of Andrew Hyder, Kyndra Beatty, Lincoln Caldwell, Rachael Hutchison, Kyle Mayer, Katrina Newburn, and Marly Richison. Laboratory processing is being conducted by Debi Hacker. The principal investigator and field director, Michael Trinkley, was on-site throughout the project.

Summary of Results

Auger Testing

As illustrated in the previous discussions, the auger testing, coupled with the Surfer mapping, was successful in identifying core areas and directing additional block excavation.

The auger testing incorporated the entire shoreline, essentially 1,200 feet. The difference between the historic maps and the site may suggest that the access road across the marsh has changed location, although this road appears to remain consistent through several hundred years of mapping. In addition, we did extend the grid an additional 140 feet east without identifying any further artifact concentrations. We did discover that a previous landowner, Sidi Limehouse had affected the eastern edge of the site. The creation of the causeway (which is not historic) and other activities at the site edge may have resulted in some loss in this area.

The auger testing also revealed a good correlation between historic artifact concentrations and faunal remains. This suggests that faunal remains were treated as household trash and not deposited in any special location.

Auger testing also revealed a very low density of prehistoric remains with only 212 items recovered across the site. Five hundred and seventy nine of the auger tests produced no prehistoric remains, 49 produced a single sherd, 25 produced two sherds, and 19 auger tests produced three or more. Most of these are under 1-inch and size and are considered residual.

Block Excavations

The 2,050 square feet of excavation represent about 0.4% of the total site area (estimated to be about 400 by 1,200 feet). While a relatively low percentage, it is nevertheless twice what was originally proposed. The excavations were also concentrated in those areas revealed to represent the densest site areas through auger testing.

Only one of the block excavations was located in a small wooded area that had not been subjected to plowing. As a result, this area produced in situ remains of a brick fireplace associated with dense domestic refuse dating from the late antebellum through about 1920. It was not, however, possible to identify the size of the structure since trees precluded exposure of the structure to the east. In addition, we were unable to identify corner piers associated with the chimney façade, suggesting that wood piers or very shallow brick piers were used. The recovery of such ephemeral architectural remains is often impossible.

This structure did, however, yield several F.Y. Legare tokens (typically 1¢ or 5¢) intended to be used at the Legare store on the postbellum plantation. Their discovery may suggest the low value assigned to these tokens. We saw no comparable evidence that other monies were treated with similar disregard.

Another interesting structural remain was encountered in Block A (450-460RT780, 465R790), which had been plowed, where a fragment of a wall trench structure was encountered. This feature, measuring about 8 feet in length included a portion of the southwest corner. Other excavations in the block, however, failed to reveal other sections of the trench. The architectural feature is of interest since wall trenches tend to be associated with eighteenth

Figure 7. Block G (450-480R1500). Upper photo shows the block excavated, the lower photo shows the fireplace looking west.

Figure 8. Block A (450-460RT780, 465R790). Upper photo shows the wall trench looking west. The lower photo shows the south half of the wall trench removed, looking north.

century African American settlements and there is little indication of 38CH1542 being earlier than about 1810-1820. The wall trench was about a foot in width and included at least one post hole at its northern end.

The other block excavations, while not producing clearly defined architectural features, did allow the collection of sizable artifact assemblages from a variety of structures.

Features

Four features were identified during the investigations.

Feature 1 is the firebox centered at 469.5R1495. The arms measure about 2.5 feet in length, while the back measures 5 feet. The fireplace throat measures 3.8 feet. It was shallowly laid with a builder's trench around the interior and exterior of the brick walls. Remnants of the hearth reveal that the structure itself was raised only a few inches above the surrounding grade.

Feature 2 is the partial wall trench at 464R456 and measuring 8.4 feet in length, up to 1.5 feet in width, and from 0.2 to 0.5 foot in depth. The presence of several deeper areas suggests that the wall trench contained at least some post holes.

Feature 3 was centered at 469R881 and consisted of a rubble-filled pit. It was found at the base of the plowzone in the northwest corner of 460R890 (Block C) and only the exposed portion was excavated. The portion of the pit exposed was 5 feet in length and 3.8 feet in width. The interior depth was 1.25 feet. The upper portion of the feature contained 348 pounds of brick rubble, but this formed a lens or zone less than a 0.5 foot in depth. Below was lensed fill, suggesting multiple filling episodes or that the feature had been allowed to remain open for a short time. The feature was intruded by plowscars, so it does pre-exist the plowing of the site.

The final feature, Feature 4 (also Burial 1), is centered at 609.8R799 and consists of an oval of black (10YR2/1) sand and shell measuring about 3.5 by 3.2 feet in diameter. It is intruded by multiple plow scars. This feature has not yet been removed since it is thought to represent a prehistoric Native American burial and was reported as a late discovery under the MOA (on February 14, 2017). The site has been cleared by the Charleston County Coroner and the recovery of the remains has been approved by the State Historic Preservation Office (email dated February 15, 2017). We are, however, still waiting approval from the Corps to allow removal of the remains.

It is likely that this burial is associated with a small farmstead or other seasonal round and that the individual died during the period of occupation. A single post hole is found in this same block and may represent remnants of a structure. The size of the pit is consistent with a fully flexed burial and this burial form is found through the Late Woodland and into the subsequent Mississippian. We have no similar Johns Island burials except the report of a family interment (three adults and one child) disturbed by a drainage ditch and found interesting primarily for the beads associated with the scattered remains (Polhemus 1972). Sadly, there is little literature suitable for comparison, making this encounter especially significant.

Research Topics

We have previously identified several research goals.

One of these goals dealt with architectural remains. The very intensive plowing of this site made it impossible to define architectural features as distinctly as we hoped. The one partial nineteenth century structure, however, will provide information on construction features and techniques, even if dimensions are elusive. Of equal, if not greater interest, is the presence of a wall trench structure at a nineteenth century settlement (assuming analysis does not reveal a heretofore-unrecognized eighteenth century component).

The issue of plantation landscape may be affected by plowing, but we are confident that a

Figure 9. Excavation at 38CH1542. Upper photo shows unit excavation using mechanical sifter. Lower photo shows troweling unit for photography and plotting.

Figure 10. Features. At the top is Feature 3 excavated, looking west. Below is Feature 4 (Burial 1) at the time of discovery with plow scars being removed, looking north.

majority of the structures can be identified at least through artifact concentrations. The layout seen on the period maps appears to be reasonably accurate and this is useful since it increases our confidence level regarding these Coast Survey maps. The issue of the site being several hundred feet shorter today than it was historically remains incompletely answered, although we believe the best explanation – which we are further pursuing – is that modern impacts removed a portion of the site at its east end.

Dietary studies will, frankly, be difficult given the low density of faunal remains present. Of course it will be possible to obtain species lists and some observations regarding biomass and dietary contributions – although we will certainly not have the sample size desired by zooarchaeologists. The condition of the bone at the site – in spite of plowing and its sparsity – is good. This suggests that plowing alone cannot be the reason that faunal remains are sparse. Better explanations may include either disposal in areas – such as the marsh – that are not accessible today or that relatively little bone-in meat was used by these African Americans. This may suggests limited opportunities for hunting or fishing and the faunal studies may be able to address this issue. Although relatively few features were found, several are worth careful examination of floral, pollen, and phytolith remains.

The final major research goal – examination of artifacts and status is possible given the success in identifying a variety of structures and out opportunity to sample a number of them. Colono is relatively uncommon at this site (especially when compared to 38CH1541), but this is to be expected given that 38CH1542 is primarily late antebellum through about 1920.

Summary

Pending the removal of Feature 4 (Burial 1), which is located in an area of dense water-front development, it is my professional opinion that the data recovery plan for 38CH1542 has been fully complied with and no additional investigations appear necessary.

It is possible that unusual concentrations or types of archaeological remains may be encountered in the area during construction. As always, the developer's contractors should be advised to report any discoveries of concentrations of artifacts (such as bottles, ceramics, or projectile points) or brick rubble to the project engineer, who should in turn report the material to the State Historic Preservation Office, or Chicora Foundation (the process of dealing with late discoveries is discussed in 36CFR800.13(b)(3)). No further land altering activities should take place in the vicinity of these discoveries until they have been examined by an archaeologist and, if necessary, have been processed according to 36CFR800.13(b)(3).

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