

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF THE PROPOSED  
TEA FARM PARK, CHARLESTON COUNTY,  
SOUTH CAROLINA**



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CHARLESTON COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA

RESEARCH SERIES 26

Natalie Adams  
Michael Trinkley

Submitted To:  
Mr. Jay Thrower  
Charleston County Parks and Recreation Department  
Charleston, South Carolina



CHICORA FOUNDATION, INC.  
P.O. Box 8664 • 861 ARBUTUS DRIVE  
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(803) 787-6910

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The present is the funeral of the past, and  
now the living sepulchur of life.

--John Clare

## ABSTRACT

This study represents a preliminary historical and intensive archaeological survey of the 643 acre Tea Farm Park tract. The primary purpose of this investigation was to identify and assess the archaeological remains present in the proposed development, although secondary goals were to examine the relationship between prehistoric and historic settlement patterns and soil types, to explore the relationship between changing economy and historic settlement location, and to explore the cultural heritage interpretive potential of the proposed park.

As a result of this work six archaeological sites were identified, primarily through the use of systematic shovel testing. Data on potential high probability areas, useful for future archaeological surveys, is generated by this study and the historical findings are compared to the very limited previous research on similar sites in the state.

Of the identified archaeological sites, five are historic sites and one is a prehistoric site. The prehistoric site represents an unknown Woodland occupation. This site does not appear to be eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places. The historic sites consist of five late nineteenth/early twentieth century tenant or farm houses, and one site related to Laurel Hill Plantation. The five late sites do not appear to be eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places. The plantation site is recommended as eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places. The preferred alternative is avoidance of the site through green spacing or preservation easements. If this is not possible, data recovery is recommended.

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The staffs of the Historic Charleston Foundation and the search room at the South Carolina Department of Archives and History were particularly helpful in providing copies of documents on very short notice. Without their assistance the preliminary historical research conducted for this study would have required more time and would not be as complete as it is. Keith Derting, South Carolina Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology, assisted in searching that institution's site files and assigned numbers to the identified sites. Mr. Lee Tippett, Staff Archaeologist with the South Carolina State Historic Preservation Office, graciously reviewed the draft report, offering numerous helpful comments.

Many thanks to Debi Hacker who produced the computer graphics. We also wish to acknowledge the skill and dedication of Ms. Mona Grunden and Ms. Darwin Ramsey-Styer, who participated in the field work. Obviously, much of this work should be credited to these individuals.



## INTRODUCTION

### Background

This investigation of the proposed Tea Farm Park was conducted by Ms. Natalie Adams of Chicora Foundation, Inc. for the Charleston County Parks and Recreation Commission. The 643 acre tract is bordered to the north by Caw Caw Swamp, to the east by swampland which feeds into the Wallace River, to the south by U.S. Highway 17, and to the west by undeveloped land owned by a logging company (Figure 1). The property is more fully described in a deed to the Charleston County Parks and Recreation Commission dated July 31st, 1985.

Within the tract is a network of dirt logging roads. The major roads run south to north along the eastern boundary, the western boundary, through the center of the tract, and east-west along the northern edge. Other smaller, overgrown roads are also found within the property. Two drainage easements running north-south are located in the eastern and central portion of the tract. Also found within the tract is a fresh water reserve in the north western area, and there are a system of rice dikes located in the northern swamplands.

The property is intended to be developed by the Charleston County Parks and Recreation Commission as a recreation area. Planned improvements consist of trails, picnic shelters, parking lots, recreational vehicle and tent campgrounds, visitors center, manager's residence, gate house, challenge course, equestrian center, a fishing lagoon, observation towers, aqua center, and recreation areas. The proposed work would require clearing, grubbing, filling, and grading for any road construction. Construction activities will include the placement of water and sewer lines, underground utilities, and disturbance caused by the building of park support buildings.

The proposed project was reviewed by the South Carolina State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) and an intensive archaeological survey was recommended. Chicora was requested to submit a proposal for such a survey by Mr. J.E. Thrower (letter to Dr. Michael Trinkley from Mr. J.E. Thrower, dated December 4, 1990). A proposal, dated March 29, 1991 was submitted to Mr. Thrower of the Charleston County Park and Recreation Commission and the SHPO for review. An agreement for the study was signed by Charleston County Park and Recreation Commission on July 22, 1991.

This study is intended to provide a synopsis of the archaeological survey of the Tea Farm Park tract. The project

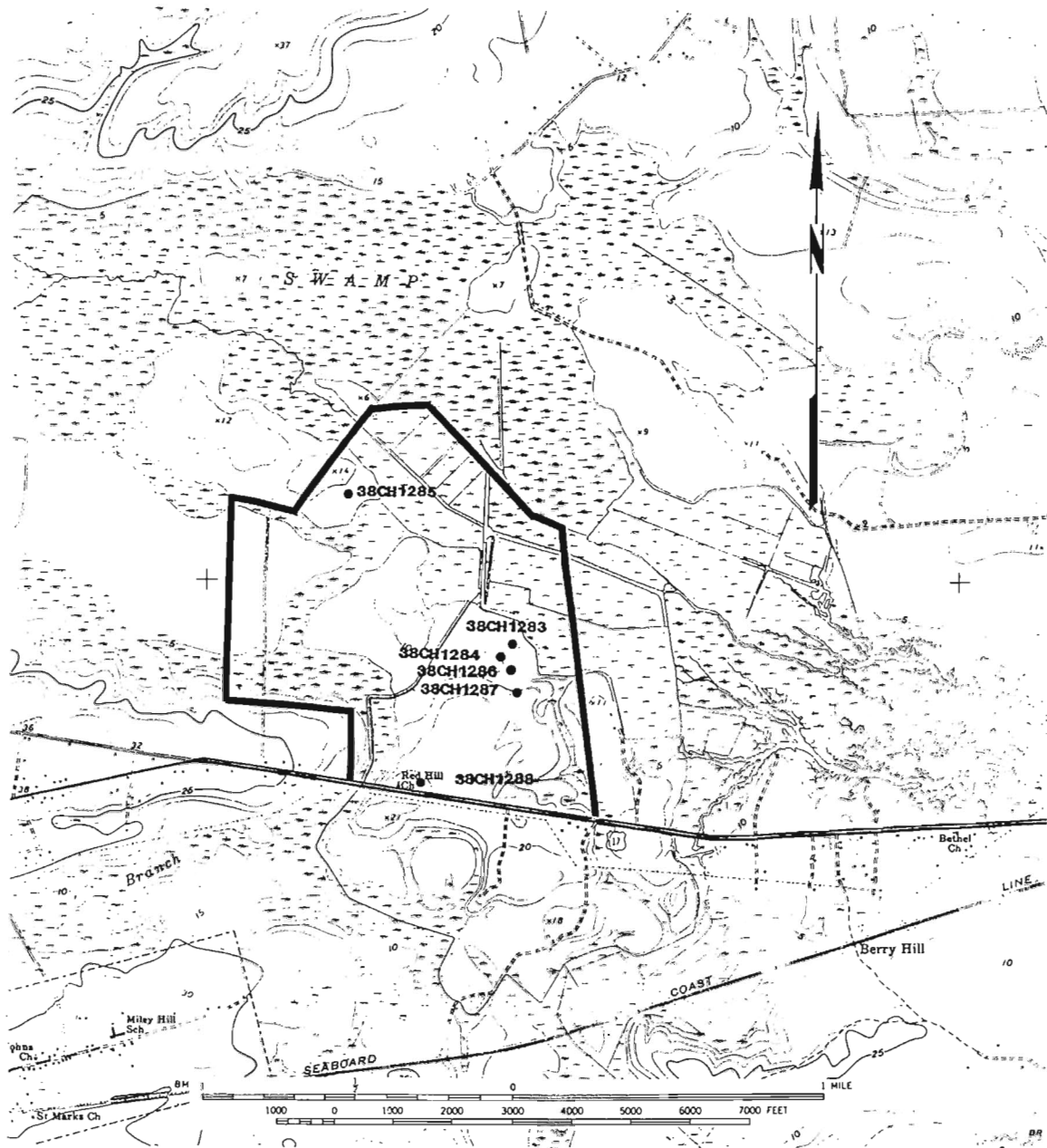


Figure 1. Location of Tea Farm tract and sites, USGS Ravenel Quad.

included three person days of archival research, conducted by Dr. Michael Trinkley, Ms. Debi Hacker, and Ms. Natalie Adams at the South Carolina Department of Archives and History, the South Carolina Historical Society, and the Charleston County Register of Mesne Conveyances. In addition, secondary sources were consulted, as well as the statewide archaeological site files held by the South Carolina Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology. The field investigations were conducted on July 25-26 and July 29-August 2, 1991 by Ms. Natalie Adams, Ms. Mona Grunden, and Ms. Darwin Ramsey-Styer. This field work involved 112 person hours. Laboratory and report production were conducted at Chicora's laboratories in Columbia, S.C. August, 1991.

### Goals

The primary goals of this study were, first, to identify the archaeological resources of the Tea Farm Park tract and, second to assess the ability of these sites to contribute significant archaeological, historical, or anthropological data. The second aspect essentially involves the site's eligibility for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places, although Chicora Foundation only provides an opinion of National Register eligibility and the final determination is made by the lead compliance agency in consultation with the State Historic Preservation Officer at the South Carolina Department of Archives and History.

The secondary goals were, first, to examine the relationship between site location, soil type, and topography, expanding the previous work by Brooks and Scurry (1978) and Scurry and Brooks (1980) in the Charleston area, and Trinkley (1987, 1989) on Hilton Head and Daufuskie Islands; second, to explore historic land use over time; and third, to explore the cultural heritage interpretive potential of the proposed park. Clearly, this property had once functioned as a rice plantation (evidenced by the presence of rice dikes), and it was thought that the change in staple crop production (ie. rice to cotton) could have affected the location of the settlements of the plantation labor force as well as the location of support buildings. This second goal is very important since little plantation archaeology has been performed in this area of Charleston County. The third goal, however, is of equal importance since only through interpretation of professional archaeological findings is the goal of "public" archaeology truly achieved.

### Curation

Archaeological site forms have been filed with the South Carolina Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology. In addition, archival copies of the site forms have been provided to The Charleston Museum.

The field notes, photographic materials, and artifacts resulting from these investigations have been curated at The Charleston Museum as Accession Number 1991.67. The artifacts are catalogued as ARL 41802 through ARL 41824. The artifacts have been cleaned and/or conserved as necessary or are in the process of conservation. Further information on conservation practices may be found in the Research Strategy and Methods section of this report. All original records and duplicate copies were provided to the Museum in archival condition and will be maintained by that institution in perpetuity.

## NATURAL SETTING

Charleston County is situated in the central lower coastal plain of South Carolina and is bounded on the east by about 75 miles of irregular Atlantic Ocean shoreline and marsh, barrier, and sea islands. The mainland topography consists of subtle undulations in the landscape characteristic of ridge and bay topography of beach ridge plains. Elevations in the county range from sea level to about 70 feet mean sea level (MSL) (Mathews et al. 1980:133).

The County is drained by four primarily coastal (saltwater) river systems and three rivers with significant freshwater discharges (the Santee, Cooper, and South Edisto Rivers). Because of the low topography, however, many broad, low gradient interior drains (such as the Wallace River on the north side of the Stono River east of the survey tract) are present as either extensions of tidal streams and rivers or flooded bays and swales. There are many diverse wetland communities influenced by inundation and river flow. Upland vegetation in the County is primarily pine or mixed hardwood and pine, and only about 4.9% of the county is currently cultivated (while about 7.5% of the total land area is urbanized).

The Tea Farm Park tract is located about 15 miles south of Charleston on U.S. Highway 17, near the town of Ravenel. The tract is bordered to the south by U.S. Highway 17, to the west by property owned by a logging company, to the east by swampland that feeds into the Wallace River, and to the north by Caw Caw Swamp.

### Climate

The climate of Charleston County is subtropical, with long, hot, and humid summers, and mild winters (Hilliard 1984:13; Kronberg 1971:72; Landers 1970). The humidity ranges from a low of about 45% to a high of 92%, with a yearly average of 75%. Summer temperatures range in the high nineties, although a high of 104 degrees has been recorded for Charleston. The average growing season is 266 days, with the average annual rainfall of 49.1 inches well distributed throughout the year. This mild climate, as Hilliard (1984:13) notes, is largely responsible for the presence of many Southern crops, such as cotton and sugar cane.

This environment, in spite of its potential agricultural productivity, was often seen as hostile, unhealthy, and even deadly to both blacks and whites alike. Joyner (1984:35-37) provides a brief review of nineteenth century observers, all of whom argue that the Low Country's "marsh miasma" was responsible for considerable sickness and death. Visitors frequently mentioned the

stagnate air, noxious marsh gas, and abundant mosquitoes. Postell (1970:140-150) indicates that on one South Carolina rice plantation the 1859 figures show that there were 15 days lost from work per slave, compared to a southern mean of 12 days per slave. The Kollock Plantation, on Ossabaw Island, Georgia has a morbidity rate of 19.3 per 100 slaves and a Florida plantation averaged 21.3 days lost per slave in 1841.

Postell (1970:74-75) also notes that malaria and the various autumnal fevers were so chronic that there were only rarely mentioned in plantation records, although frequent remedies for "chills and fevers" found in planters' manuals testify to malaria's presence. Robert Pringle wrote in September 1739:

We have been Afflicted in this Town for these Two Months past with a great Sickness & Mortality by a Malignant Fever [apparently Yellow Fever], which has Carried off a great many People, but as the Season comes in now Pretty Cool, hope will be more healthful & that it will Please God to put a Stop to it (Edgar 1972:135).

In addition, the same climate that promoted the growth of rice, also made its preservation problematic. Pringle wrote in July 1742:

Rice at this time is never so Good in Quality as in the Cold Season by Reason it Growes Flowery & the Wevil & Worm is apt to gett into it. The Best time to Ship off Rice here, & when it is most plenty & best in Quality, is from the Month of November till the month of May, after which month it is Generally scarce, high in price, & not Good (Edgar 1972:391).

Many other provisions, such as butter and even rum, also failed to withstand the hot Carolina climate according to Pringle (Edgar 1972:685, 694). Some items were even more troublesome, as Pringle noted in an April letter:

Your Cocoa & Blubber still Remains on hand unsold, & as our hott Season now begins to Come in, the Blubber won't keep, so must be Oblidg'd to expose it to Publik Venue. Pray never send any more of it (Edgar 1972:676).

Hilliard also points out that "any description of climate in the South, however brief, would be incomplete without reference to conditions that are often identified with the region" (Hilliard 1984:16). Most notable is the tropical hurricane, which occurs in the late summer and fall. This was the period critical to cane, cotton, and rice growers. Hilliard notes,

[t]he capricious nature of hurricanes precluded a given area's being hit every year, but no one could predict

what areas were susceptible in any given year, and in some years several struck one area or another (Hilliard 1984:18).

This view was stated in the nineteenth century by Ramsay,

[i]n such a case between the dread of pestilence in the city, of common fever in the country, and of an unexpected hurricane on the island, the inhabitants...are at the close of every warm season in a painful state of anxiety, not knowing what course to pursue, not what is best to be done (Ramsay, quoted in Calhoun 1983:2).

From 1670 to 1860 there were 10 major hurricanes, occurring at intervals ranging from two to 52 years (Mathews et al. 1980:54).

### Geology and Soils

The geology of the county is characteristic of the coastal plain, with unconsolidated, water-laid beds of sands and clays up to 20 feet in thickness overlying thick beds of soft marl (Miller 1971).

The broad Coastal Plain may be further subdivided on the basis of similar surface configuration, soils, drainage, and geology. These smaller divisions have greater significance for the types of crops which may be grown and hence, for human interaction with the natural environment. The Charleston area is situated in the Atlantic Coast Flatwoods region. This is a flat, coastal strip that Hilliard notes "was seldom well enough drained for most crops" (Hilliard 1984:11). Rice, of course, was grown on the inland swamps or river floodplains in the tidal zone and small amounts of cotton were grown on the sea islands. Other crops, such as wheat, corn, peas, beans, and oats were less common.

Herein lies a paradox. The Charleston coast has a climate that is excellent for agriculture--adequate rainfall, a summer growing season capable of producing two crops, and a mild winter season which supports crops such as cabbage, Irish potatoes, and peas. Yet the soils have generally low fertility and are poorly drained. Henderson and Smith note,

[t]he favorable climate permits successful production of a variety of crops, even though many of the soils are inherently of low productivity. This fact tends to lessen the significance of soil differences and increase the importance of good soil management (Henderson and Smith 1957:596).

The Tea Farm Park tract is characterized by seventeen soil types. Seven of these, which include 221 acres or 34%, are poorly drained, and consist of Bayboro sandy clay loam, Dawhoo loamy fine

sand, Rutlege loamy fine sand, Rutlege-Pamlico complex, St. Johns fine sand, Santee loam, and Wadmalaw fine sandy loam. Moderately drained soils, which include 186 acres or 29% of the tract, consist of Edisto loamy fine sand, Leon fine sand, Yonges loamy fine sand, and Stono fine sandy loam. Well drained soils, which include 66 acres or 10% of the tract, consist of Chipley loamy fine sand, Hockley loamy fine sand, Lakeland sand, Orangeburg loamy fine sand, Wagram loamy fine sand, and Wicksburg loamy fine sand. The remainder of the property is inundated (see Figure 11 for location of well drained soils).

The survey tract is characterized by elevations ranging from about 5 to 20 feet MSL, with the bulk of the property at or below 10 feet MSL. There is a gradual slope toward Caw Caw Swamp on the northern edge of the tract. The topography is gently rolling with numerous low, swampy areas concentrated primarily in the western portion of the tract.

### Florestics

The project area is situated in the Atlantic Coast Flatwoods region. Cypress, blackgum, and tupelo were historically abundant on the poorly drained swamplands, while sweetgum, white oak, water oak, ash, and occasionally loblolly pine were found on the better drained alluvial river bottom areas. These same hardwoods competed with loblolly pine on the poorly drained flatwoods and on dry ridges longleaf pine was a common special (Ellerbe 1974:18). Kuchler (1964:111) broadly defines the area's potential natural vegetation as an oak-hickory-pine forest characterized by medium tall to tall forests of broadleaf deciduous and needleleaf evergreen trees.

Both subclimax and climax maritime forest communities exist in the areas bordering the salt marsh and are dominated by salt-tolerant, evergreen species. The subclimax maritime forest consists of loblolly pine and cabbage palmetto. The dominant understory species is yaupon holly, although wax myrtle and southern red cedar are also present. Small quantities of black oak, live oak, and sweetgum may also be present. The climax maritime forest is typically dominated by large live oaks. Associated species include the cabbage palmetto, hackberry, and yaupon holly.

Hardwood forest is usually found inland from the effects of the salt marsh spray, on higher ground where salt content is reduced. The hardwood forest contains sweetgum, cabbage palmetto, black oak, post oak, and southern red oak. A few pines (remnants from the preceding subclimax maritime forest) or magnolias may also be present.

The low saltmarsh is dominated by cordgrass (Spartina alterniflora) and is flooded twice daily. The high salt marsh,



being higher in elevation and further away from the tidal creek, is characterized by Juncas. Watts (1979:n.p.) would characterize the vegetation and climate after 7600 B.C. as being "rather similar to the present," and "essentially like the present" after 4000 B.C. One significant aspect of these palynological studies is that hickory is consistently a minor species, representing 5% or less of the recovered fossil pollen. Even today the two most common hickories -- mockernut and pignut -- are not very common. Fowells (1965:116) states that mockernut hickory can grow on sandy soil with pines and live oak, but it is best suited to moist, bottomland hardwood forest, while the pignut hickory is only a minor component in a limited number of forests (Fowells 1965:125). The relatively abundant bitternut hickory is likewise found on the richer, overflow bottoms of the coastal plain (Fowell 1965:112).

The presence and diversity of hickories is significant because of their suspected contribution to prehistoric diets (Harris and Sheldon 1982; Trinkley 1976, 1986a). It is probable that some prehistoric sites were located specifically to take advantage of the relatively uncommon stands of hickory trees, regardless of the soil drainage characteristics. Such a settlement pattern would help to explain the small number of prehistoric site locations which Brooks and Scurry (1978) found on poorly drained soils.

## BACKGROUND RESEARCH

### Prehistoric Archaeology

There is sufficient coastal research to develop a sequence of occupation and at least some information on how the prehistoric occupants of the Charleston county are lived. This section is intended to provide only a brief review of the temporal periods. Several previously published archaeological studies are available for the Charleston area to provide additional background, including Anderson and Logan (1981), and Trinkley (1980). Charleston area research includes work by Brooks and Scurry (1978) at the Amoco property, Scurry and Brooks (1980) at Belleview Plantation. Excavations in the Charleston area include work at the Thom's Creek Lighthouse Point Shell Ring (38CH12) (Trinkley 1980) and the Thom's Creek Sol Legare midden (38CH779) (Trinkley 1984).

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 drill (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). No Paleo-Indian projectile points, however, have been recovered from the Charleston County area (Michie 1977).

Sea level during much of this period is expected to have been as much as 65 feet 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 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 are rare in the Sea Island region, although the sea level is anticipated to have been within 13 feet 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. The 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 of 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 200 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 the terminology, the period from 2500 to 1000 B.C. is well documented on the South Carolina coast and is characterized by Stallings and Thom's Creek pottery.

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.

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 increasing sea level drowned the tidal marsh (and sites) on which the Thom's Creek people relied.

The succeeding Refuge phase, which dates from about 1100 to 500 B.C., evidences the 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 BC. to A.D. 600, is 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 are always situated adjacent to tidal creeks, evidence a diffuse subsistence system and are frequently small. The inland sites are also 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, north of Hilton Head, evidences a reliance on shellfish and was occupied in the late winter (Trinkley 1981c). The Minum Island midden, on the coast in Georgetown County, indicates a greater reliance on fish and was apparently occupied in the fall or winter (Drucker and Jackson 1984; Espenshade and Brockington 1989).

The Middle Woodland occupations in South Carolina are characterized by a pattern of settlement mobility and short term occupation. On the northern coast it is associated with the Hanover and Mount Pleasant phases, which date from about 100 B.C. to as late as A.D. 900. This period 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, shell midden sites evidence sparse shell and few artifacts. Gone are the abundant shell tools, worked bone items, and clay balls.

In many respects the South Carolina Late Woodland may be characterized as a continuation of previous Middle Woodland cultural assemblages. While outside the Carolinas there were major cultural changes, such as the continued development and elaboration 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 South Appalachian Mississippian is the most elaborate level of culture attained by the Native American 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, Irene, and Pee Dee (A.D. 1200 to 1650). A synopsis of Woodland phases and pottery designations has been provided in Figure 2.

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

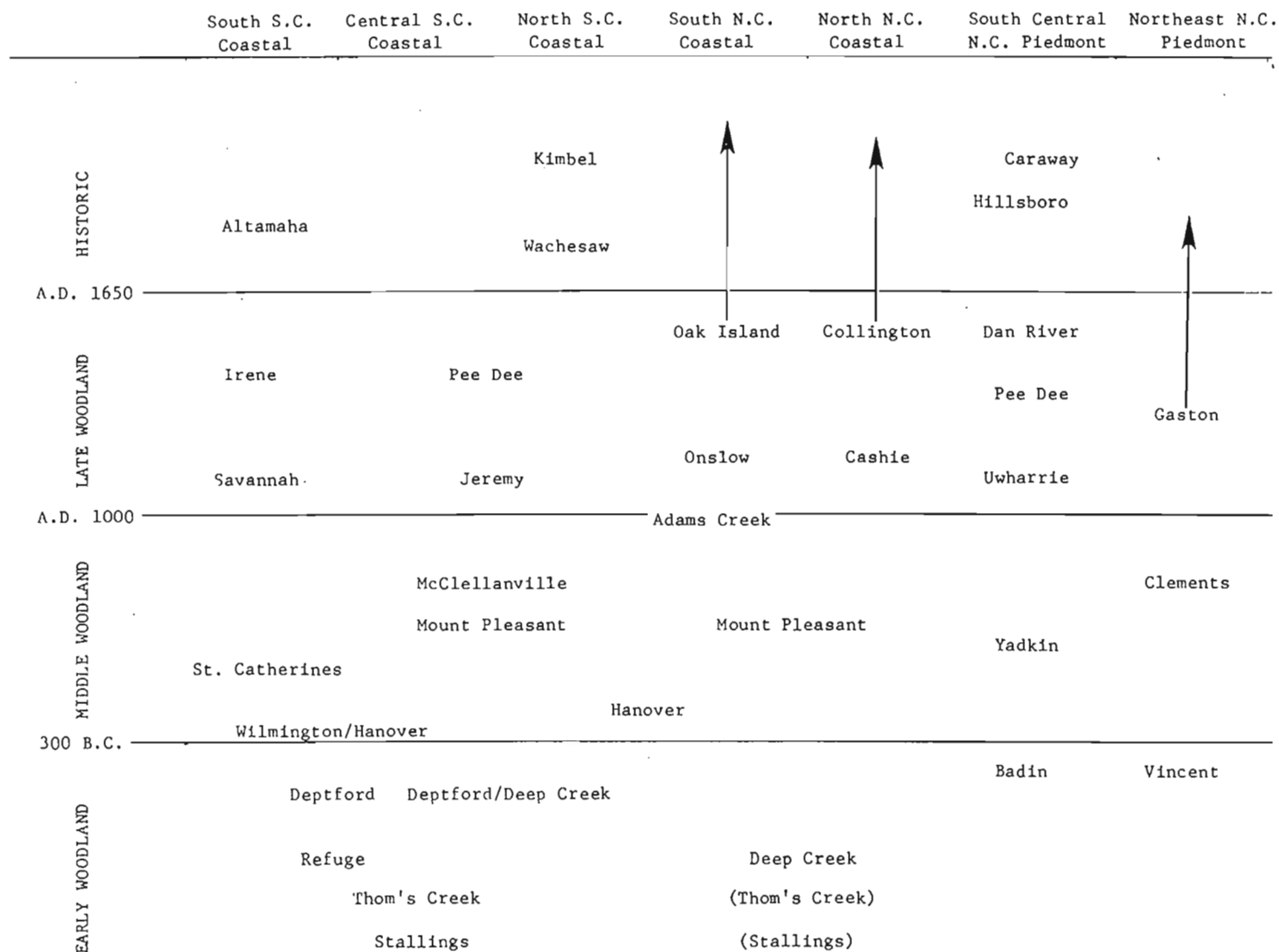


Figure 2. Chronology of the Woodland and Protohistoric periods in the Carolinas.

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 any body had thought them of sufficient importance to ask who they were, how they lived, or what were their beliefs and opinions (Mooney 1894:6).

In truth, our knowledge of these groups has also been limited because too few scholars have taken an active interest in the primary sources and there has been too little desire to evaluate critically the early research by Mooney (1894) and Swanton (1952).

### Historic Synopsis

In the past several years a variety of historical summaries for the Charleston area have appeared. All were prepared by thoroughly trained historians, although the purposes and orientations were distinct. Friedlander (in Wheaton et al. 1983:17-41) views the low country historical development from St. Stephens Parish, north of Charleston, in present day Berkeley County. Calhoun (in Zierden and Calhoun 1984:26-54) view the historical development of the Charleston area from Charleston and emphasizes the development of the urban city. Scardaville (in Brockington et al. 1985:30-78) emphasizes the agricultural history of the region, particularly for the postbellum period. Rather than attempt to recreate a historical summary, we will offer a very brief synthesis of these three sources, emphasizing those areas which may be of particular importance to this study.

### English Settlement

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

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

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

Early settlers came from the English West Indies, other mainland colonies, England, and the European continent. It has been argued that those from the English West Indies were the most critical to the future of the colony, as they brought with them a strong agrarian concept, involving both staple crops and slave labor (Sirmans 1966).

Early agriculture experiments which involved olives, grapes, silkworms, and oranges were less than successful. While the Indian trade was profitable to many of the Carolina colonists, it did not provide the proprietors with the wealth they were expecting from the new colony. Consequently, the cultivation of cotton, rice, tobacco, and flax were stressed as these were staple crops whose marketing the proprietors could easily monopolize.

### Economic Development

Although introduced at least by the 1690s, rice did not become a significant staple crop until the early eighteenth century. At that time it not only provided the proprietors with an economic base the merchantile system required, but it was also to form the basis of South Carolina's plantation system (Carpenter 1973). Overproduction soon followed, with a severe decline in prices during the 1740s. This economic down swing encouraged planters to diversify and indigo was introduced (Honeycutt 1949:33). Indigo complemented rice production since they were grown in mutually exclusive areas. Both, however, were labor intensive and encouraged the large scale introduction of slaves.

South Carolina's economic development during the pre-Revolutionary War period involved a complex web of interactions between slaves, planters, and merchants. By 1710 slaves outnumbered free people in South Carolina and by the 1730s slaves were beginning to be concentrated on a few, large slave-holding plantations. By the close of the eighteenth century some South Carolina plantations had a ratio of slaves to whites that was 27:1 (Morgan 1977). This imbalance between the races, particularly on remote plantations, may have lead to greater "freedom" and mobility (Friedlander in Wheaton et al. 1983:34). By the antebellum period this trend was less extreme.

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 very large numbers. Hilliard (1984:37) indicates that more than 60% of the Charleston slaveholders by 1860 owned fewer than 10 slaves.

From another perspective Zierden and Calhoun note that,

Charleston was the economic, institutional and social center of the surrounding region. The necessity of transacting business in Charleston drew planters eager to

transform their crops into cash or goods...it [was] virtually imperative for a planter interested in society to reside in Charleston at least occasionally (Zierden and Calhoun 1984:36).

They argue that Charleston provided an opportunity for conspicuous consumption, a mechanism which allowed the display of wealth accumulated from the plantation system (with this mechanism continuing through the antebellum period). Scardaville (in Brockington et al. 1985:45) notes that the plantation system which brought prosperity through the export of staple crops also "made the colony...highly vulnerable to outside market and political forces."

The most obvious example of this is the economic hardship brought on by the American Revolution. Not only was the Charleston area the scene of many military actions, but Charleston itself was occupied by the British for over 2-1/2 years between 1780 and 1782. The removal of 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).

#### Antebellum Charleston and Cotton Production

One means of "restructuring" was the emergence of cotton as the principal cash crop. Although "upland" cotton was available as early as 1733, its ascendancy was ensured by the industrial revolution, the invention of the cotton gin in 1794, and the availability of slave labor. While "Sea Island" cotton was already being efficiently cleaned, the spread of cotton was primarily in the South Carolina interior. Consequently, Charleston benefitted primarily though its role as a commercial center.

Cotton provided about 20 years of unparalleled economic success for South Carolina. During this period South Carolina monopolized cotton production with a number of planters growing wealthy (Mason 1976). The price of cotton fell in 1819 and remained low through the 1820s, primarily because of competition from planters in Alabama and Mississippi. Friedlander, in Wheaton et al. (1983:28-29) notes that cotton production in the inland coastal parishes fell by 25% in the years from 1821 to 1839, although national production increase by 123%. Production improved dramatically in the 1840s in spite of depressed prices and in the 1850s the price of cotton rose.

The Charleston area did not participate directly in the agricultural activity of the state. Scardaville (in Brockington et al. 1985:35) notes that "the Charleston area, as a result of a large urban market and a far-reaching trade and commercial network, had carved out its own niche in the state's economic system." Zierden and Calhoun remark that,



[c]ountry merchants, planters, and strangers "on a visit of pleasure" flocked to Charleston. Planters continued to establish residences in Charleston throughout the antebellum era and "great" planters began to spend increasing amount of time in Charleston (Zierden and Calhoun 1984:44).

In spite of this appearance of grandeur, Charleston's dependence on cotton and ties to an international market created an economy vulnerable to fluctuation over which the merchants and planters had no control.

An examination of the agricultural schedules for the Charleston area in 1850 and 1860 provides evidence for this economic slump. Scardaville (in Brockington et al. 1985:39-40) notes that produce, farm, and livestock values for Christ Church Parish were below what would be expected. Rice was no longer an economically significant crop, although ranching and livestock production were emphasized as a substitute.

One result of these economic misfortunes was a decline in slave population, although slavery remained an essential institution. The Christ Church families owned an average of 17.1 slaves in 1860 compared to an average of 37.4 held by St. Thomas and St. Denis families (Brockington et al. 1985:42).

An appropriate summary is provided by Zierden and Calhoun,

[t]he economic decline of Charleston occurred as the city was growing increasingly defensive of its "peculiar institution." The city sullenly withdrew into itself, eschewing the present and glorifying its past. The great fire of 1861 devastated much of downtown Charleston. The War between the States...set the seal on a social and economic era (Zierden and Calhoun 1984:54).

#### Postbellum Period

After the Civil War Charleston and the surrounding countryside lay in waste. Plantation houses were destroyed, the city was in near ruins, the agricultural base of slavery was destroyed, and the economic system was in chaos. Rebuilding after the war involved two primary tasks: forging a new relationship between white land owners and black freedmen, and creating a new economic order through credit merchants. These changes in the Charleston area are described in detail by Scardaville (in Brockington et al. 1985:53-78) and will not be discussed in this summary. Other, more general, sources include Williamson (1975) and Goldenwieser and Truesdell (1924).

## The Tea Farm Tract

The Tea Farm tract title search was complicated both by this portion of current Charleston County previously being part of Colleton County, the destruction of Colleton County records during the Civil War, a variety of rather poorly prepared plats, and the changing plantation names and boundaries in this part of Charleston County.

Fortunately, research at the South Carolina Historical Society identified an obscure collection of American Tea Growing Company legal papers in the Edward McCrady, Jr. collection (28/336/3). These included extensive title search notes, documents, and correspondence by William Henry Parker and T.W. Bacot (Charleston attorneys), probably in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries (ca. 1890 to 1910).

Bacot, drawing heavily on Parker's earlier work, notes that,

the records of Colleton County were destroyed by fire at Columbia at the time of the capture of that city by General Sherman. That part of the chains of title, therefore, which antedates 1865 has necessarily been made up from deeds in possession, recitals of these to other deeds, and, in some cases, from mere notes and memoranda (sometimes unsigned) found among the papers of former owners (South Carolina Historical Society 28/336/3).

Had these notes not been found it would probably have been impossible to extend the chain of the title past about 1880.

The problems relating to the changing plantation boundaries and names has been at least partially overcome through detailed cartographic comparisons and scalings. While problems remains with exact boundaries, this research has been successful at generally delineating core tracts.

The Tea Farm tract was originally part of the rather extensive Holly Grove or Stanyarne tract. Bacot notes that,

this property was owned by the Stanyarne family, probably as far back as the latter portion of the 18th Century, but the earliest Deed which we find on record and have been able to examine, is the following, which passed the property out of the heirs and representatives of Jas. Stanyarne (South Carolina Historical Society 28/336/3).

This deed, dated February 6, 1823, reveals that the heirs of James Stanyarne sold the property as a result of an equity suit at public auction to Paul Mazyck. The tract was described as,

all that tract of land called Stanyarne Hall, late the

residence of Jas. Stanyarne, and also that other called Laurel Hill, with all the several tracts purchased at different times by the said Jas. Stanyarne and thereto annexed, making together one plantation consisting of 1182 A., more or less, and bounded N. by estate of Jno. Wilson and land of estate of Hugh Rutledge, Eastwardly on estate of Wm. Chisolm, Southwardly on estate of said Wm. Chisolm Road leading to Jacksonboro, and Benj. Seabrook, and West on Jos. Seabrook (Charleston County RMC, DB P9, p. 207).

The earlier history of the two tracts, Stanyarne Hall and Laurel Hill, is briefly mentioned on a undated plat "copied from Purcell's papers" (South Carolina Department of Archives and History, McCrady Plat 6425). This plat indicates that Stanyarne Hall was "originally granted to Col. Robert Gibbs . . . May 29, 1704," while the Laurel Hill tract was granted to "Thos. Elliott . . . June 27, 1711."

The Stanyarne family, while poorly documented, appears to have been an early force in South Carolina. James and John were brothers and both appear to have accumulated tremendous wealth during the late eighteenth century. John Stanyarne at his death, for example, owned over 5000 acres on Kiawah Island, Johns Island, St. Helena Island, and in Charleston (Charleston County Wills 1771-1774, pp. 286-305). His brother James owned not only property in Colleton District, but had also purchased 1200 acres of the Oketee or Devils Elbow Barony from Sir John Colleton prior to 1777 (Smith 1988:89).

The Stanyarnes were also at least small players in the colonial politics of South Carolina. In the context of pirate or privateer trade, James Stanyarne sided with the "Goose Creek Men," a powerful circle of Barbadian immigrants centered in the Goose Creek area who opposed any restriction on Charleston's thriving trade with freebooters. John, on the other hand, was a staunch supporter of the Lords Proprietors and their attempts to end privateering (Sirmans 1966:41-42).

The earliest plat identified for the area dates to 1816 (South Carolina Department of Archives and History, McCrady Plat 6424). Although it shows Stanyarne's tract only as property bordering the Hugh Rutledge plantation to the south, it clearly reveals the extent of Stanyarne's investment in the Wallace Creek area. The undated plat with the notation "copied from Purcell's papers" shows a dividing line drawn between Stanyarne's property and that of Hugh Rutledge as the result of a 1791 court case, decided in Rutledge's favor (South Carolina Department of Archives and History, McCrady Plat 6425). This notation pushes Stanyarne's ownership to at least the last decade of the eighteenth century. In addition this plat shows the location of "Stanyarne Settlement" on the Stanyarne Hall tract (Figure 3).

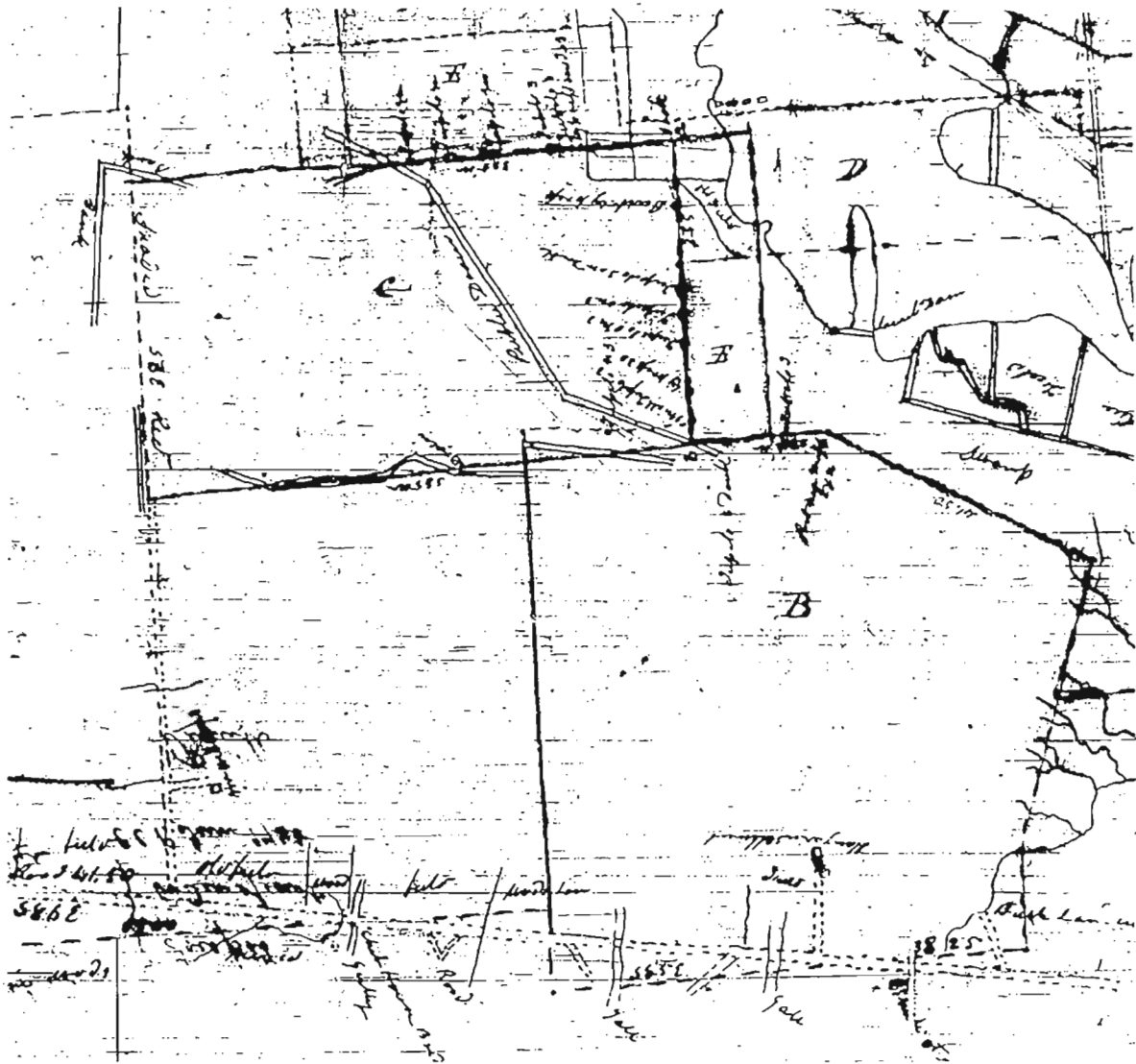


Figure 3. Undated plat of properties owned by James Stanyarne and Hugh Rutledge.

Based on the time period and the activities of his neighbors, it is also likely that Stanyarne's investment in the tract was directly tied to rice production.

The 1835 will of Paul Mazyck indicates that the property purchased from the heirs of Stanyarne should be sold at public auction (Charleston County Will Book H, p. 121). Although no deed was found, either during these investigations or by Bacot's much earlier research, the property was apparently transferred to William Mazyck prior to his death in 1845.

William Mazyck's 1843 will directs his executors to sell "my plantation on Stono formerly the property of Mr. James Stanyarne" (Charleston Will Book I, p. 446). An unrecorded agreement for sale was identified by Bacot between Alexander and William Mazyck, the heirs of William Mazyck, and Edward C. Perroneau, dated June 6, 1849. It stated, in part,

Messrs. William and Alexander Mazyck, Executors, will sell to Mr. Edw. C. Perroneau on the 1st day of January next the plantation in St. Pauls Parish known as Stanyarne Hall belonging to the estate of William Mazyck, deceased with all the other lands adjoining or near thereto which belong to the said estate (South Carolina Historical Society 28/336/3).

The sale apparently was completed, since in June 1851 Perroneau placed a mortgage on the property with R.L. North. Although Perroneau continued to hold the plantation through the Civil War, by 1867 he placed another mortgage on the property with W. St. James Mazyck (Charleston RMC Mortgage Book A, p. 410). This mortgage references the sale of the property from the Mazyck heirs to Perroneau (South Carolina Historical Society 28/336/3),

all that plantation in St. Paul's Parish, Colleton District, described in conveyance by Master to Paul Mazyck, Feb. 6, 1823, RMC O., Charleston County, Book P 9, page 207. as "all that plantation called Stanyarne Hall, late residence of Jas. Stanyarne, and also that other plantation called Laurel Hill, with all the several tracts purchased at different times, from Jas. Stanyarne and thereto annexed, making altogether one plantation of 1182 A. more or less (South Carolina Historical Society 28/336/3).

About 1865 a plat was made of Stanyarne and adjacent property. While only an "office copy" survives, it contains the notation, "copied from a plat in possession of Mr. E.C. Perroneau" (South Carolina Department of Archives and History, McCrady Plat 5087). This plat is very similar to the undated plat "copied from Purcell's notes," and both are probably taken from a mid-eighteenth century plat which no longer survives.

The 1865 plat, a portion of which is reproduced here as Figure 4, shows the "Farr Settlement" south of the Jacksonboro Road, the Hugh Rutledge "old settlement" to the northeast of Stanyarne, and "Coat's Old Settlement" to the southwest of Stanyarne. While these three settlements are off the survey tract, the 1865 plat also shows the location of what appears to be a slave settlement with an associated cluster of perhaps support structures on Laurel Hill Plantation. This settlement consisted of a single row of eight structures oriented north-south and a second loosely clustered complex of five structures slightly to the east. Stanyarne's settlement is not shown on the 1865 plat. However, since this was a copy, perhaps of a copy, it is difficult to know what was retained, what was added, and what was dropped. Regardless, the shapes and boundaries of Laurel Hill and Stanyarne Hall are clearly shown.

Perroneau placed a second mortgage against the property with E.H. Frost (South Carolina Historical Society 28/336/3). Unfortunately, he seems to have been unable to repay Frost and in 1873 was sued for foreclosure of the mortgage. The complaint revealed that there were additional mortgages on the property, besides that of Frost, and that at least one other individual had already received a judgement against Perroneau. The court ordered the sale of the property in 1873 (South Carolina Historical Society 28/336/3).

The property was sold by J.K. Terry (sheriff) to Edward B. Fishbane in January 28, 1874 (South Carolina Historical Society 28/336/3) who, in turn, sold the property to T.D. Jervey in February 1882 (Charleston County RMC DB O, p. 627).

Perhaps relating to this sale, a plat was prepared in 1882 showing a number of the tracts in the area (Charleston County RMC, McCrady Plat 832), including what is by this time called Holly Grove, but which represents the old Stanyarne and Laurel Hill plantations (as well as additional tracts also originally held by Stanyarne. Although this plat (Figure 5) shows no structures on Holly Grove, it does indicate a "church lot" bordering the Jacksonboro Road.

Jervey's executors sold the tract to Maria F. Jervey in 1894 (South Carolina Historical Society 28/336/3; Colleton County RMC DB 15, p. 387). Jervey held the property for only a few years before selling it to the American Tea Growing Company (Colleton County RMC DB 21, p. 10).

Tea production in South Carolina dates back to the late 1700s and early 1800s when Andre Michaux planted tea on his Ashley River plantation (38CH1022; see Joyce 1988). In the mid-1800s there was an attempt to encourage tea production by the U.S. Patent Office, although this effort was even less successful than Michaux's. In 1848 Dr. Junius Smith established the Golden Grove in the mountains

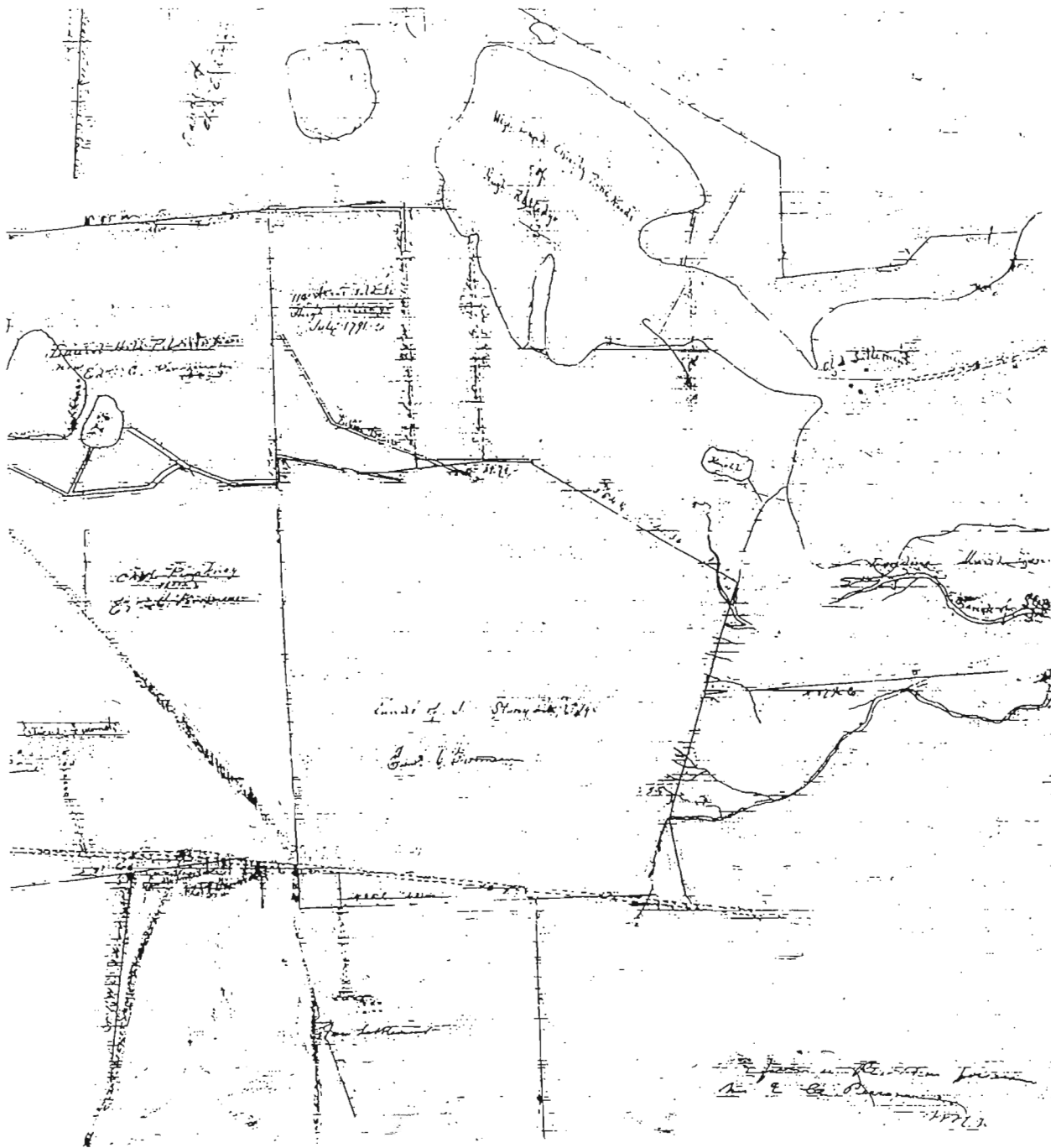


Figure 4. 1865 plat of Stanyarne and adjacent property.

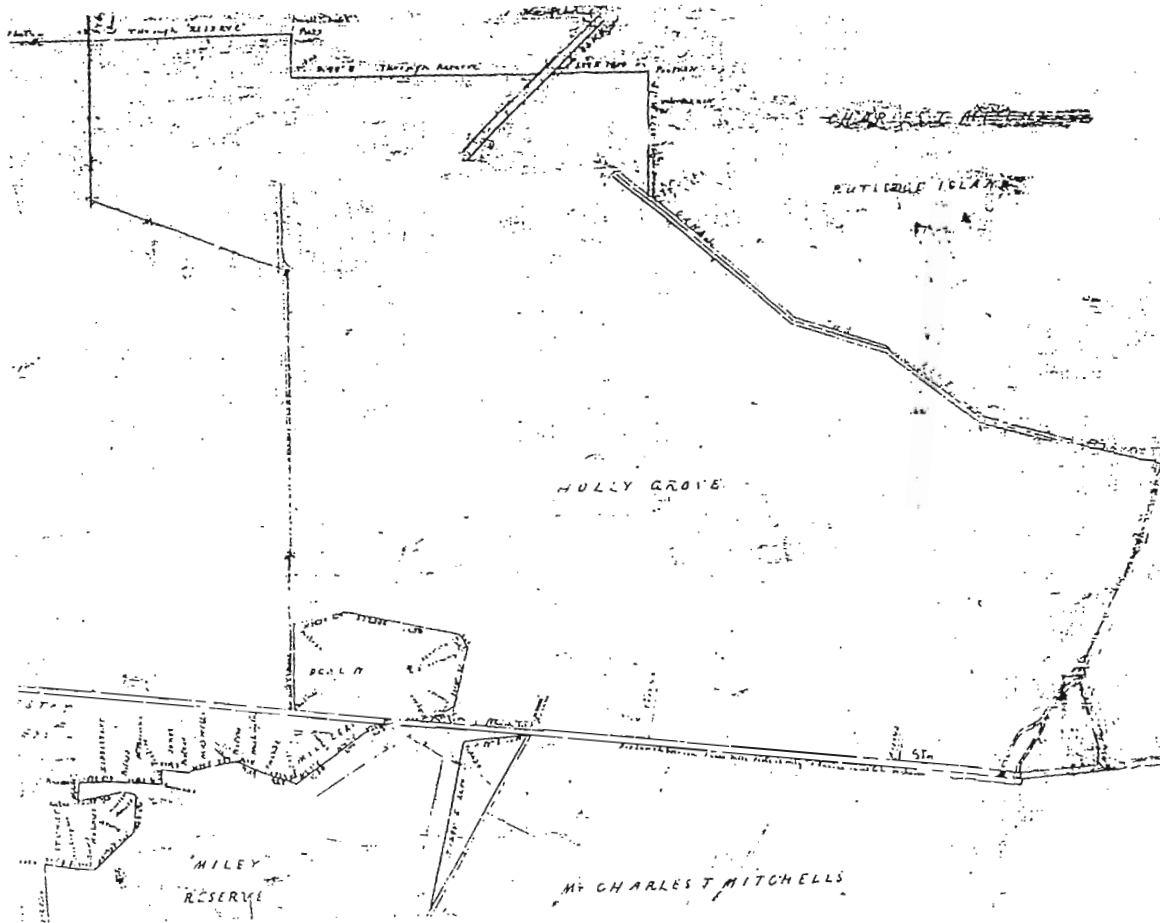


Figure 5. 1882 plat of Holly Grove Plantation.



near Greenville, South Carolina, using tea plants imported from India. When Smith died in the early 1850s the venture collapsed, although it is reported that some tea plants can still be found in the area.

In 1881 Congress appropriated the sum of \$10,000 for an experimental tea farm about 30 miles west of Charleston, in Summerville. It operated, with tremendous government subsidies, for seven years until sold to Dr. Charles Shepard, who established the Pinehurst Tea Plantation. He planted up to 90 acres of tea until his death in 1915 and the plantation was known as the most successful tea farm in North American, producing about 12,000 pounds of tea a year (New York Times, December 26, 1987).

In 1964 the Thomas J. Lipton Company established an experimental tea farm on Wadmalaw Island. In 1974 Lipton sold the enterprise to Barclay Hill and Mack Fleming, who began producing American Classic Tea, and who are still operating today.

It is in the midst of these rather inconsistent efforts of tea production that the American Tea Growing Company was chartered on February 13, 1901. Although it is possible to establish a rather sketchy history of tea production in South Carolina, this particular company operated for about 13 years, leaving very little evidence of its activities.

In 1914 the American Tea Growing Company sold the property (by this time encompassing 5442.56 acres, including Stanyarne's original 1182 acres), to B.M. Baruch (Charleston County RMC DB Y-25, p. 652). Eventually acquired by the South Carolina National Bank of Charleston (Charleston County Auditor Book P, p. 47), the property was sold in 1937 to R.L. McLeod and M.L. McLeod, partners in R.L. McLeod & Son (Charleston County RMC DB K-39, p. 502). The tract was acquired by McLeod & Son for timber harvesting and a plat, dated 1934, was produced, apparently anticipating the 1937 sale (Charleston County PB F, p. 58).

The main tract shown on this plat (Figure 6) is "Tea Farm," apparently the nucleus of the earlier American Tea Growing Company operations. By 1934 the only real remaining evidence of this enterprise is "Tea Farm Avenue," a series of six structures on the eastern edge of the tract, and a seven acre field. All of these structures, and the "Tea Farm Avenue" are just off the survey tract.

Immediately after the 1937 sale McLeod & Son drew up a document stipulating how the tract would be divided, providing that Lionel K. Legge would receive 4/14ths of the property, based on his financial contribution to the purchase price (Charleston County RMC DB K-39, p. 711). In 1940 Lionel K. Legge took possession of his share, consisting of the 1119.04 acre Tea Farm tract, shown as Tract 1 on Figure 6).

The 1920 and 1944 Ravenels topographic sheets (Figure 7), reveal little activity on the parcel. The structures originally constructed by the American Tea Growing Company about 1901 continue to be shown and, interestingly, the area of Hugh Rutledge's plantation in the late eighteenth century is shown as the "Tyler Tea Farm," suggesting that the experimentation with tea production in this part of Charleston County was more widespread than might be expected.

In 1950 Legge sold his tract to Robert L. McLeod, Jr. of Missouri (Charleston County RMC DB Q-51, p. 399). During this period of earlier McLeod & Son and probably continuing into the 1950s there is evidence of intermittent logging.

In 1972 McLeod sold the tract to Donald T. Rutledge (Charleston County RMC DB L-100, p. 186), who held the tract until its 1985 sale to the Charleston County Park and Recreation District (Charleston County RMC DB B-147, p. 632).

The history of the Laurel Hill and Stanyarne tracts are only superficially understood as a result of this historical investigation. While additional information could likely be found through a more intensive investigation, Figure 8 provides some general information regarding eighteenth and nineteenth century settlements in the project area.

Two of these settlements are of particular concern. The first is Stanyarne's, situated on Stanyarne Hall. Based on this analysis, the main plantation settlement, probably representing Stanyarne's principal focus of activities was immediately to the east of the Charleston County Parks tract. This is an important site and its location should be noted for future planning consideration.

The only slave settlement identified from the historical research appears to have been on neighboring Laurel Hill. A relatively small portion of this settlement appears to be within the Charleston County Parks tract. The main slave settlement is situated immediately to the west of the tract and, like Stanyarne's settlement, should be noted for future planning review.

This isolated slave settlement pattern may not be uncommon in this part of Charleston County and may be related to the requirements of rice production. The Hugh Rutledge plantation to the north of Stanyarne illustrates a similar remote location for the slaves, compared to a more central location for the main settlement.

In the case of Stanyarne, it appears that the main settlement was situated in close proximity to the Jacksonboro Road, which was a major coastal highway, providing transportation into Charleston. The slave settlement, however, was situated on the edge of the high ground known as Laurel Hill, adjacent to the rice fields. It seems

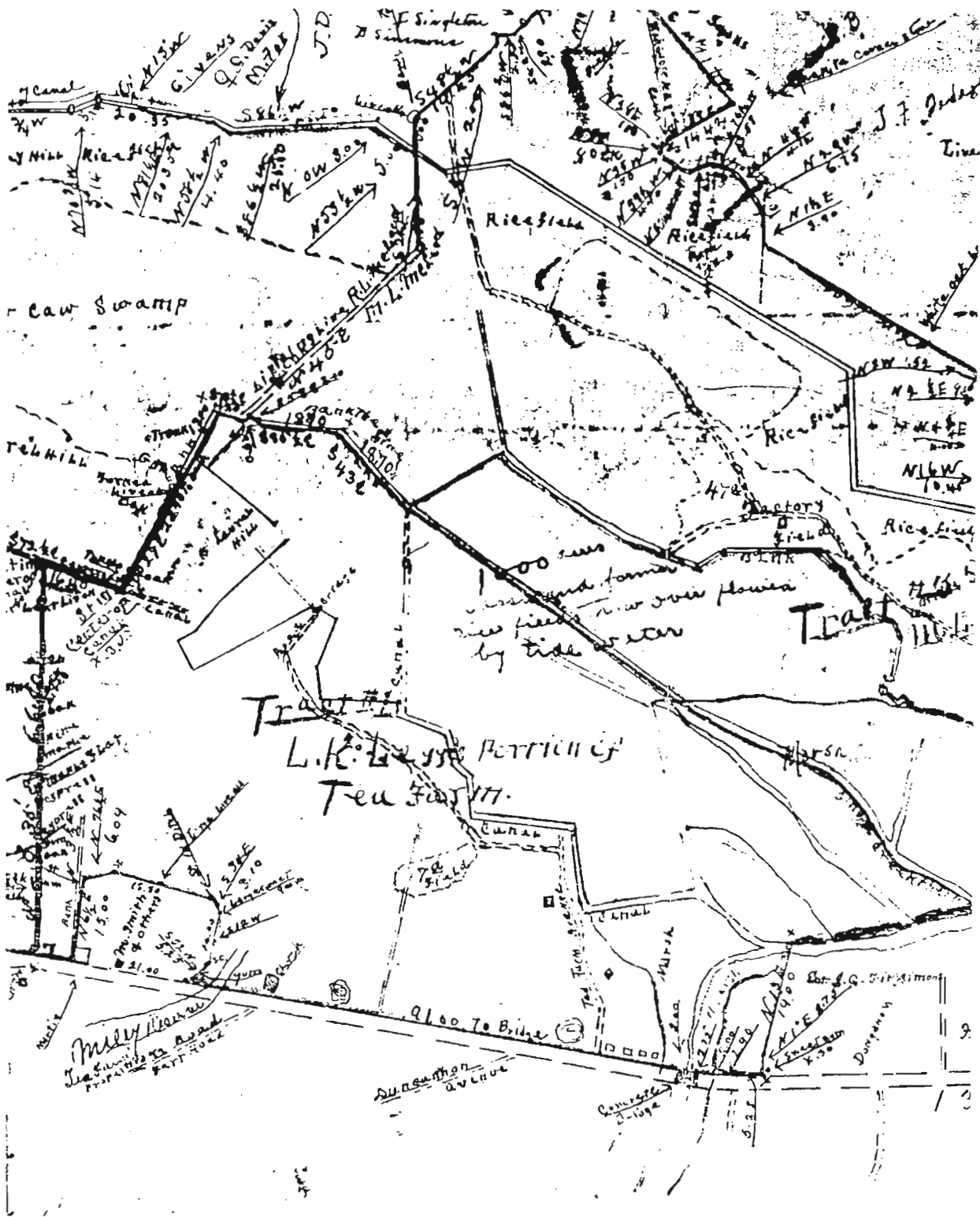


Figure 6. 1934 plat of project area.

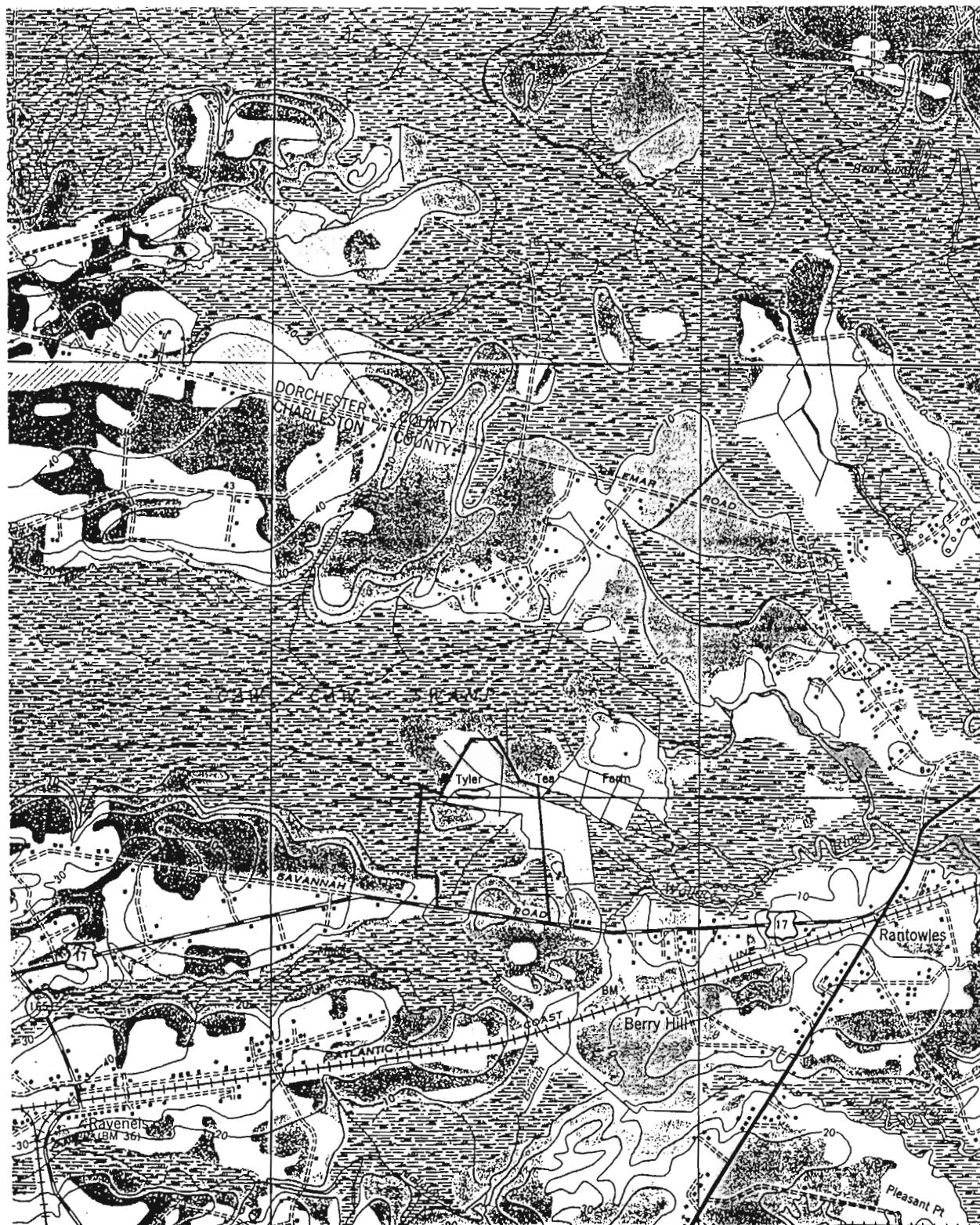


Figure 7. 1944 USGS Ravenel Quadrangle.

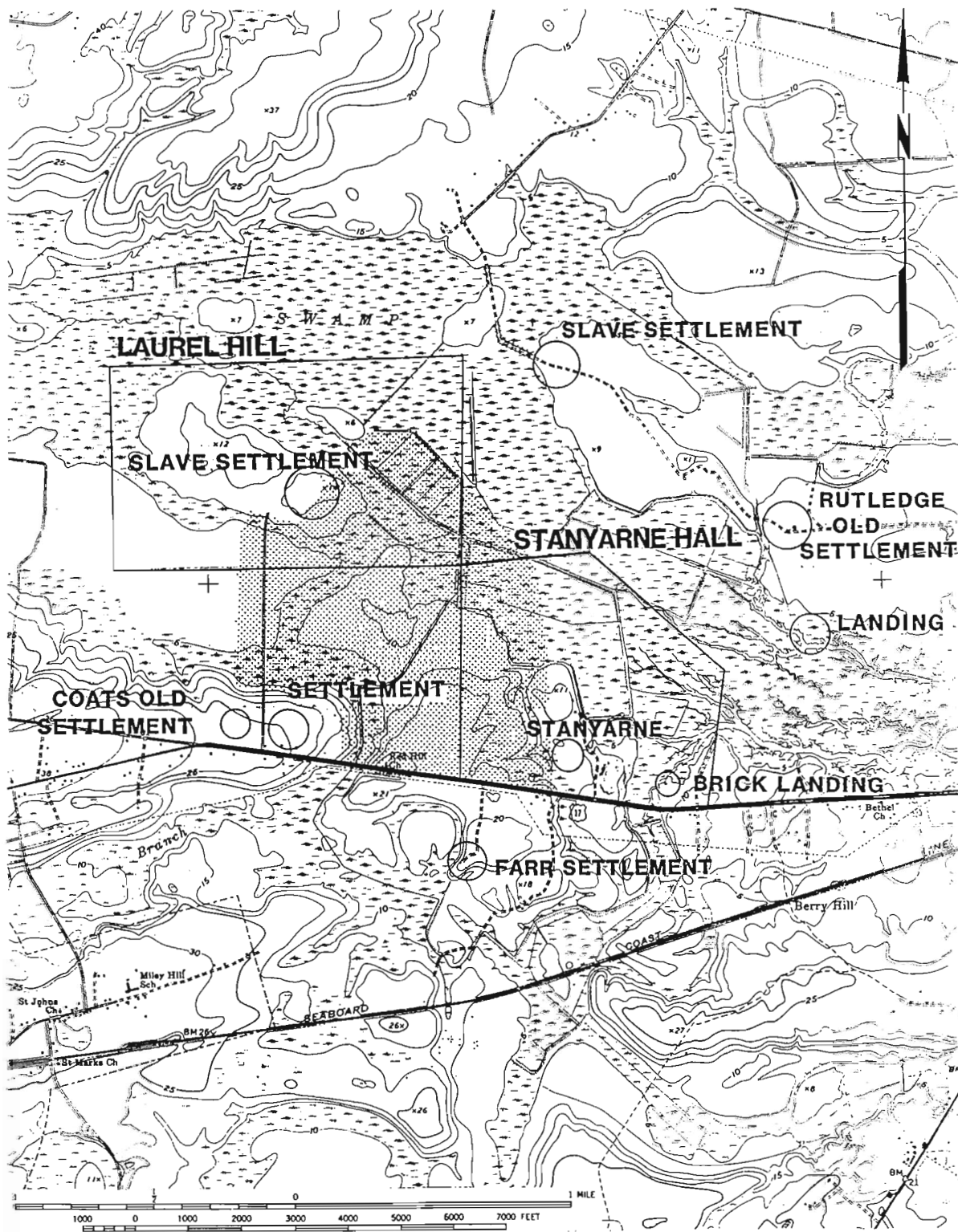


Figure 8. Location of historic properties in project area.

likely that these plantations continued to be used for rice production well into the nineteenth century.

### Rice Agriculture

It is appropriate at this point to discuss the history of rice cultivation and technology, since the Tea Farm tract once operated as a rice plantation and contains a diking system and several water control devices. Several accounts have been written which explain the process of banking, ditching, and draining land slotted for rice cultivation. Most notable of these are Doar (1936) and Hilliard (1975).

The major areas of rice production in South Carolina were Winyah Bay, the mouth of the Santee, around Charleston, the Edisto-Ashepoo, the Combahee, and Savannah Rivers. Only certain areas of these rivers could meet the critical demands of rice growing; specifically, the area between tidal salt flats and the freshwater swamps found above the tidal zone. If fields were located too close to the ocean, salt water encroachment would destroy the rice. If fields were too far upriver, the diminished tidal effect would not allow sufficient water action to flood and drain the fields. As a result, only spotty areas of the lowcountry rivers could be used for tidal rice cultivation (Hilliard 1975: 62-64).

During the early years of rice cultivation, it was grown as an upland crop. At first rice was grown in small fields adjacent to freshwater streams where water could easily be impounded and applied to the fields. By 1700, planters realized that the upland swamps were better suited to the cultivation of rice (Meriweather 1940:4). Rice agriculture was focussed on these upland swamps during the colonial period (Sellers 1934:48). However, after repeated cultivation, they were prone to exhaustion. Also, although moist, during drought water had to be brought in by artificial means. To do this, freshwater reserves were built above the rice fields and used to irrigate the crops (Meriweather 1940:4). These reserves, however, were also at the mercy of drought.

As interest in rice growing increased during the eighteenth century, planters became successful at using tidal action to flood rice fields. Tidal rice growing was much more efficient because the water could more easily be controlled. In the upland swamps water control was ineffective on the freshwater streams. Prolonged drought limited the available floodwater, and heavy rains upstream often broke dams and washed out fields, therefore there was the problem of too much or too little water. Also, upland rice cultivation was exhausting to the soil whereas at tidal sites the fields were constantly being renourished by the alluvial material from the river. As a result, inland and upland swamp rice growing was abandoned and tidal rice cultivation was almost exclusively

used (Hilliard 1975:58; Lees 1980:50).

By the mid-nineteenth century, tidal rice agriculture had been underway for nearly a century. By this time a number of written accounts detailing the process of swamp clearing and rice growing had appeared in various agricultural journals. The quantity of labor needed for this process was enormous because of the large amount of earth that had to be moved. Relatively small areas required months to reclaim and the improvement process took years on most plantations, with new fields begin cleared and cultivated when the labor force was available (Hilliard 1975:58-59).

When the site was chosen, the area was measured and areas of proposed embankments were marked off. A ditch and embankment was made to encircle the area. The purpose for this was, first, to keep out water to facilitate work, and second, to provide a firm base for a permanent embankment. The ditch was then filled and elevated to form the permanent embankment. Small channels were temporarily bridged and trunks installed. Then individual fields were laid out by building "cross" or "check" banks which were used to contain or keep out water within individual fields. These banks were slightly lower than the outer embankment. Smaller channels were cut across the fields to aid water movement when the fields were drained (Figure 9). The process of clearing, diking, and draining was a slow one and often took years and sometimes decades to bring a plantation up to its capacity. Also, this system of water control devices required continual cleaning and repair (Hilliard 1975:59-60).

If possible, fields were located next to an estuary, but as plantations expanded, land further away was used. In these cases access canals with floodgates were built. The trunks and gates which had to be installed were ingenious devices. The trunk was capable of automatic operation during both drainage and flooding. It extended through the outer bank connecting the field with the estuary and was installed with its base at the same level as low tide. At both ends of the trunk were gates that could be locked open or closed or could be suspended so as to operate as a one way valve. As fields were flooded, the outermost gate was locked open, and the inner gates were left to operate automatically. During high tide, the water pressure from inside the truck would force the inner gate to open and allow water to enter the field. As the tide lowered, pressure on the field side of the trunk closed the inner gate which prevented water from leaving the rice field. By simply reversing the process, the fields could be drained (Hilliard 1975:60).

According to David Doar (1936:10), a floodgate was constructed by banking the head of the canal an area ten or fifteen feet longer than the proposed gate. All the water was removed an the base leveled off. Heavy logs were then laid crosswise about five feet apart, and mud was packed between them. A plank floor about 2

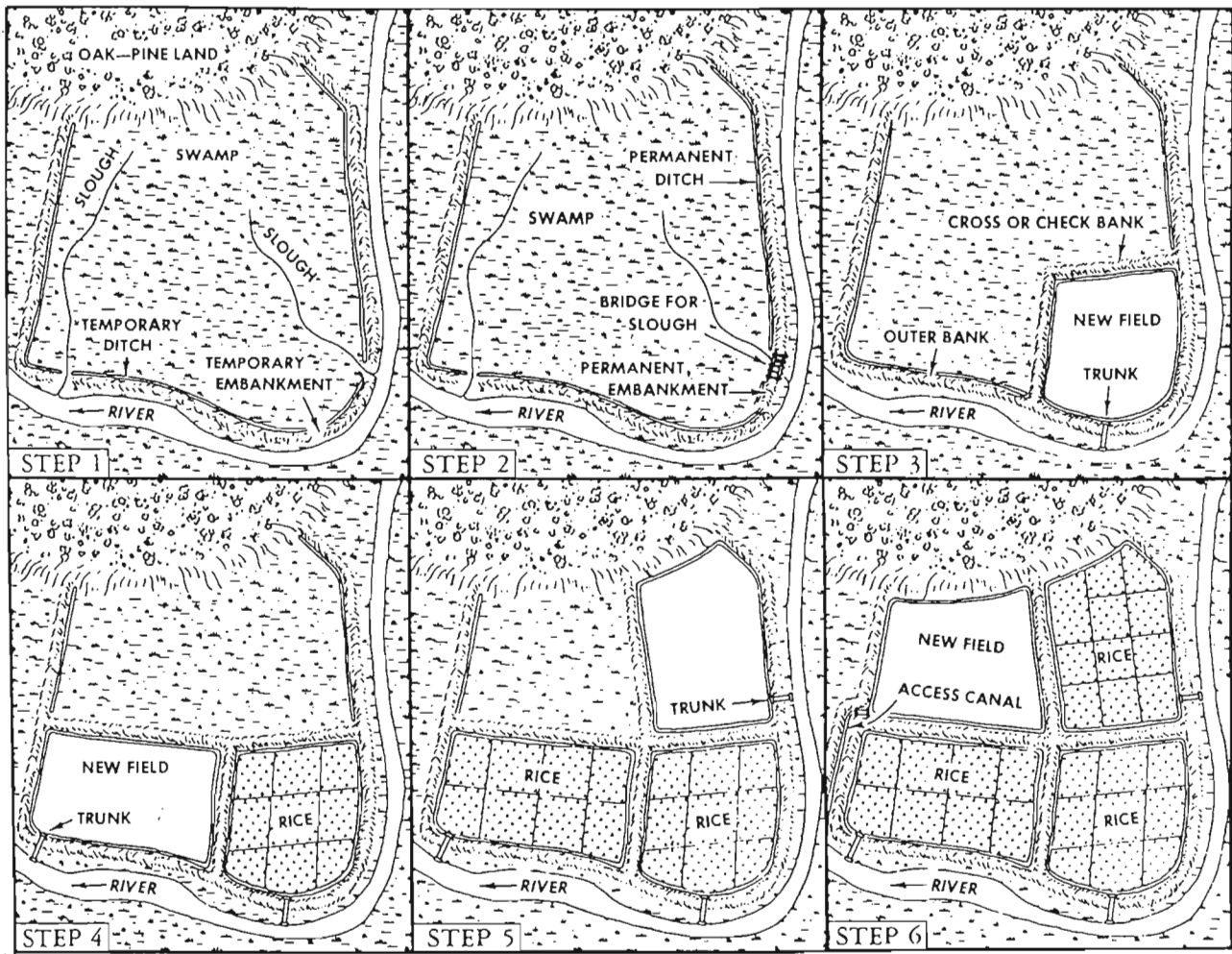


Figure 9. Sequential views of a hypothetical rice plantation (from Hilliard 1975:Figure 1).



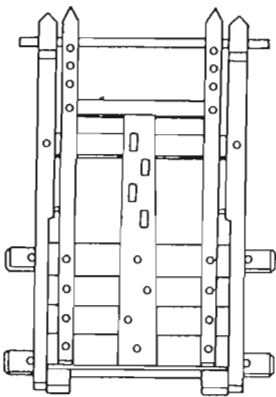
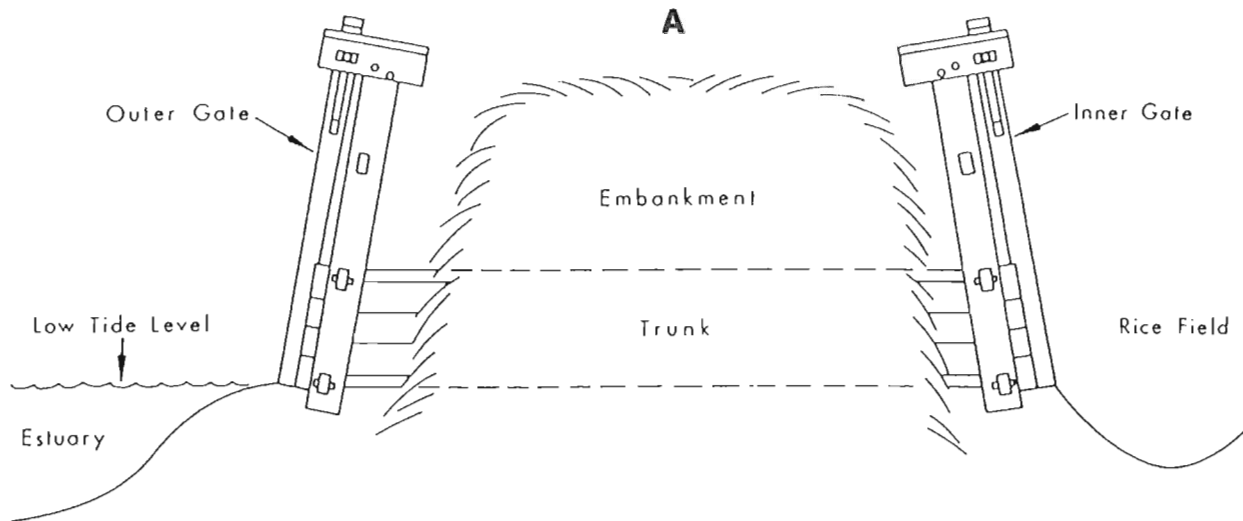
inches thick was laid over them and spiked. Then planks were driven upright into the last logs on each side to prevent leakage. On the plank floor and on either side, large squared sills were laid which measured the whole length of the gate. Large posts about fifteen feet high were mortised into these sills on both sides. Cross pieces connecting the posts at the top were attached and planking was put on these to retain the mud from the banks. A floor sill was laid across the bottom, to act as a shutting piece for the door. The doors were then hung from the top center. Doar states that generally there was only one door, but when the gates were large and used for flooding and draining (generally from the outer banks), there were two doors.

Trunks had two sides with planking on top and bottom, and generally were six to eight feet tall and twenty or thirty feet long to extend through the bank. Doors were hung from the top which had cross arms midway which the doors were lifted or let down with a lever. To open the door, it was pried open at the cross arm and the gate was lifted. As water rushed in, the inside gate was forced open (Doar 1936:11)(Figure 10).

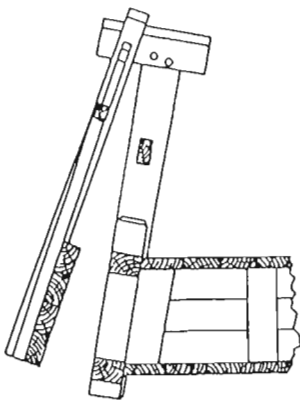
Six areas shown on the Tea Farm master plan development map as containing water control devices were photographed. Area labeled as "main trunk" contained two recently built wooden control gates (treated with creosote) on either side of the causeway. North of this is another area labelled "major trunk". Here, we noted no intact water control devices. Visibility, however, was poor, so a device may be present, but was not discovered during our investigation. Just south of the causeway which crosses the large fresh water reserve was an area labelled "flash board riser". Observed here was granite boulders lining ditches to either side of the east end of the causeway. On the western-most portion of the tract, an "old trunk" was noted. No water control devices were found in this area, and it may be that it has been removed at some point. North of the "old trunk" was noted a "major trunk". Noted here was no intact water control device, but several pieces of lumber were found just off the bank of a small rice field. Further north, in an area labelled as "control gate with flash board riser", a corrugated culvert was found on the north side of a dike.

While antebellum water control structures may be present, either in areas not visited or as underwater archaeological remains, all of those identified during this survey appear to be of recent age. Based on the current park plan it seems unlikely that any marsh excavations will take place which might affect underwater (or tidal) archaeological remains. While no historical water control structures were noted, this park site does offer tremendous interpretive potential. This aspect of our study will be discussed in detail in the and Conclusions section of this report.

The current investigations conducted by Chicora Foundation did not include any underwater archaeological investigations. Based on



**B**



**C**



Figure 10. Details of a) embankment and b) trunk (from Hilliard 1975:Figure 2), and c) photo of main trunk from Tea Farm.

the extensive evidence of fairly recent modifications and alterations to the existing dike structures, it seems likely that there has been extensive disturbance to areas below water.

## RESEARCH STRATEGY AND METHODS

### Introduction

As was previously indicated, the primary goals of this survey are to identify, record, and assess the significance of archaeological sites within the 643 acre Tea Farm Park tract. Secondary goals include an examination of the soils, drainage, and site locations, an examination of changing land use, as well as an exploration of the cultural heritage interpretive potential of the proposed park. No major analytical hypotheses were created prior to the field work and data analysis, although certain expectations regarding the secondary goals will be outline in these discussions. The research design proposed for this study is, as discussed by Goodyear et al. (1979:2), fundamentally exploratory and explicative.

The previous discussions regarding soils and drainage lead to the conclusion that prehistoric sites will be found in areas of moderately to well drained soils. Further, the bulk of the site components will be Middle to Late Woodland, since the high sea level stands during these periods are thought to have restricted the dispersion of resources such as large mammals and forest products. Finally, sites are expected to be small and exhibit low artifact diversity since the use of extractive sites is brief, the sites represent a narrow range of activities, and group size was small (Brooks and Scurry 1978). Previous research has also clearly exhibited a non-random pattern to prehistoric site settlement. Even when vast areas of well drained soils are available for settlement, the sites tend to be found clustered around small tidal inlets and marsh areas (see Scurry and Brooks 1980:77 for Charleston County data, Trinkley 1987 for Beaufort County data). Based on these data, prehistoric sites at Tea Farm were expected to occur on the better drained Orangeburg, Chipley, and Hockley, soils but not anticipated on the more poorly drained types. Prehistoric sites, however, were not expected inland, away from marsh or tidal creeks. This situation was anticipated because of the "edge effect" where a variety of resources are brought into close proximity.

Turning to historic site locations, previous research has suggested that the main house or major plantation complex will be situated in areas of "high ground and deep water," which incorporated the positive attribute of well drained soils and immediate access to water transport (Hartley 1984; South and Hartley 1980). Alternatively, the main plantation complex may have been located to take advantage of main roads. As plantation crops

and owners changed during the colonial and antebellum periods, it is possible that settlement areas might also change location. Additionally, it might be impossible to locate the plantation complex in an area which was healthful, centrally located, and adjacent to a deep water access. In such cases compromises on the ideal would be made, but the weight given to each the various attributes is unclear. While the health and well-being of the owner's slave chattel was of considerable concern, slave rows were not commonly situated on the best land, and in some cases were located on very poorly drained soils (Singleton 1980; Zierden and Calhoun 1983).

### Archival Research

This study incorporated a review of the site files at the South Carolina Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology. In addition, archival and historical research was conducted at the South Carolina Department of Archives and History, the Charleston County Register of Mesne Conveyances, and the Charleston Historical Society.

### Field Survey

The initially proposed field techniques (discussed in Chicora's proposal submitted to the South Carolina State Historic Preservation Office) involved the placement of shovel tests at 100 foot intervals along transects at 100 foot intervals in areas of high archaeological potential, such as well drained soils adjacent to wetlands. In areas of moderate soil drainage and greater distance from water sources, shovel tests would be spaced at 200 foot intervals with transects every 200 feet. In areas of very poor soil drainage more limited survey would be conducted using available trails, roads, and open areas for visual examination, as well as limited shovel testing to verify the expectation of low archaeological probability. Non-systematic shovel testing would be conducted as appropriate to verify soil conditions. All soil would be screened through 1/4 inch mesh, with each test numbered sequentially by transect. Each shovel test would be measured about 1 foot square and would normally be taken to a depth of at least 1 foot. All cultural remains would be collected, except for shell, mortar, and brick, which would be qualitatively noted in the field and discarded. Notes would be maintained for profiles at any sites encountered.

If evidence of an archaeological site was identified, the testing interval would be decreased to 50 feet in order to more accurately establish boundaries. At all sites Chicora would establish site boundaries, collect sufficient information to complete site forms, and would assess and justify site eligibility for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places.

Although Chicora Foundation did not proposed to conduct

underwater archaeological examination of the rice field area, we did propose to examine accessible water control devices. This examination would include brief notations regarding materials, construction as apparent at the time of the survey, and photographic documentation.

The archaeological survey was conducted without significant variation from the initially proposed field methods. One small area, measuring approximately 600 by 600 feet located in a moderate probability area near the western portion of the tract, was only visually examined as it contained standing water after two days of moderately heavy rains. In the opinion of the investigators, the likelihood of this area containing archaeological sites was low since soils in the area are classified as poorly drained Yonges loamy fine sands.

A total of 349 shovel tests in 66 transects were excavated in the corridor.

#### Laboratory and Analysis Methods

The cleaning and analysis of artifacts was conducted in Columbia at the Chicora Foundation laboratories in August, 1991. These materials will be catalogued and accessioned for curation at the Charleston Museum, the closest regional repository. Site forms have been filed with the South Carolina Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology. Field notes and photographic materials have been prepared for curation using archival standards and will be transferred to the Charleston Museum as soon as the project is complete.

A small number of ferrous objects were recovered, of which only one evidenced sound metal. This item will be subject 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 is removed, the artifact will be wire brushed and placed in a series of deionized water soaks for the removal of chlorides. When the artifact tests free of chlorides (at a level less than 0.1 ppm), it will be air dried and a series of phosphoric (10%) and tannic (20%) acid solutions will be applied. The artifacts will be air dried for 24 hours, dewatered in acetone baths, and coated with a 10% solution of acryloid B-72 in toluene.

As previously discussed, the materials have been accepted for curation by The Charleston Museum as Accession Number 1991.67 and have been catalogued using that institution's accessioning practices (ARL 41802 through ARL 41824). Specimens were packed in plastic bags and boxed. All material will be delivered to the curatorial facility at the completion of the conservation treatments.

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

## IDENTIFIED SITES AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The shovel tests and pedestrian survey identified six sites within the Tea Farm Park tract: 38CH1283, 38CH1284, 38CH1285, 38CH1286, 38CH1287, and 38CH1288 (Figure 11).

### 38CH1283

Site 38CH1283 is situated about 400 feet from the marsh in the northeast portion of the tract. Thirteen shovel tests (two of which were positive) were placed in cardinal directions from the first positive test at 25 foot intervals. These tests indicate that the site is approximately 25 by 75 feet in size. Ground visibility was very poor, therefore no surface collection was made. The central UTM coordinates are E575700 N3627860 and the soils are classified as well drained Orangeburg loamy fine sands. Soil profiles indicated that the A horizon was 0.5 feet in depth (Munsell Color 7.5YR3/2). Subsoil exhibited a Munsell Color of 7.5YR4/4. Artifacts recovered consist of two whiteware sherds and two pieces of amethyst glass. Also, one shovel test revealed a moderate amount of brick rubble.

38CH1283 has been heavily disturbed by logging activities and there is no evidence for intact architectural or archaeological features. In addition, the sparse amount of artifacts suggest a late nineteenth/early twentieth century occupation. This site is recommended as not eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places. No additional work is recommended.

### 38CH1284

Site 38CH1284 is located in and south of a dirt road, approximately 300 feet south of 38CH1283. The site was first recognized by surface remains in the adjacent dirt road. Eight shovel tests were excavated at 25 foot intervals in cardinal directions from the center of the surface finds. Two of these yielded artifactual remains. These tests, along with the surface collection, indicate that the site is approximately 50 by 50 feet in extent.

The central UTM coordinates are E575740 N3627800 and the soils are classified as moderately well drained Chipley loamy fine sands. Soil profiles indicated that the A horizon was 0.8 feet in depth (Munsell Color 7.5YR3/2). Subsoil exhibited a Munsell Color of 7.5YR5/2). Artifacts recovered consist of four whiteware sherds, one porcelain sherd, and one piece of clear bottle glass. A very small amount of brick rubble was noted in the two positive shovel



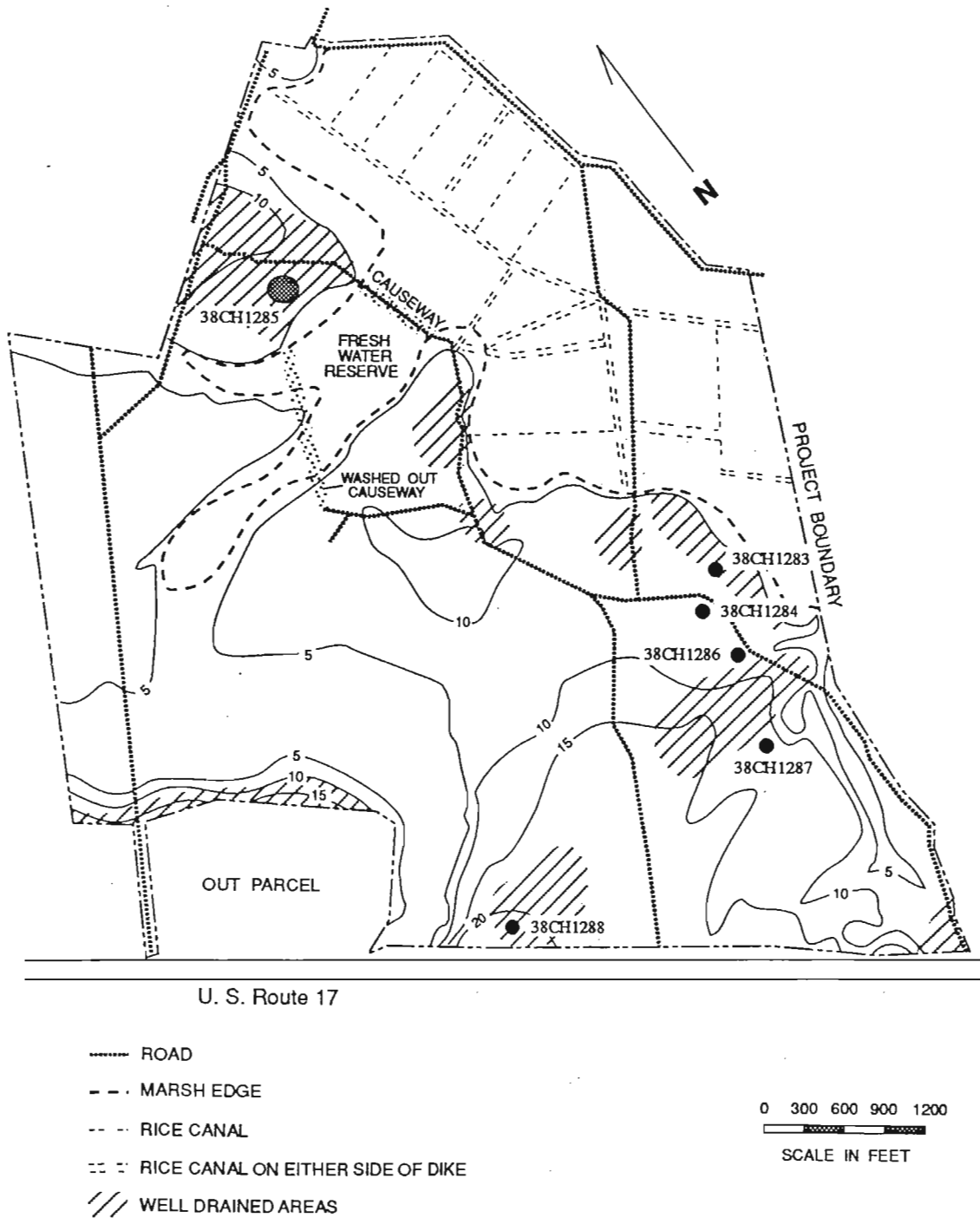


Figure 11. Location of cultural and natural features at the Tea Farm tract

tests.

38CH1284 has also been heavily disturbed by logging activities as well as ditching. This site appears to represent a twentieth century occupation. The site exhibits no integrity and is therefore recommended as not eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places. No additional work is recommended.

### 38CH1285

Site 38CH1285 is located near a marsh impoundment across a causeway from the major portion of the survey tract, on the south side of a dirt road (Figures 12 and 13). This site was roughly defined in our 100 foot interval shovel test survey of the area. Subsequently, 35 shovel tests were excavated at 25-foot intervals in cardinal directions from the site's posited center-point. Nineteen of the 35 tests (57%) yielded either artifacts or light to moderate amounts of brick and mortar rubble. These tests indicate that the site is approximately 200 by 250 feet in size.

The central UTM coordinates are E574990 N3628680 and the soils are classified as moderately well drained Chipley loamy fine sands. Soil profiles indicated that the A horizon was 0.5 feet in depth (Munsell Color 10YR4/2). Subsoil exhibited a Munsell Color 10YR6/4. Artifacts recovered consist of one piece of yellow combed slipware, five pieces of colonoware, five unidentified nails, one iron buckle, two pipestems (5/64 and 6/64 inch bore diameters) and two pieces of bottle glass.

The presence of colonoware and yellow combed slipware which has a mean ceramic date of 1733 (South 1977) suggests a low status site. The 1865 plat (Figure 4) shows a cluster of buildings in this area adjacent to a row of structures which probably represent slave dwellings. The clustered buildings likely represent support structures. Although relatively few artifacts were recovered during shovel testing, the site appears to exhibit some integrity. It has been clear cut at some point, but does not seem to have been a focus of logging activities.

Site 38CH1285 has the potential of yielding information about the function of structures associated with a relatively small and isolated slave settlement. These kinds of sites have received relatively little attention (excepting 38BU96 at Cotton Hope Plantation, see Trinkley 1990) and are an important ingredient to a fuller understanding of plantation complexes. This site is recommended as eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places.

Green spacing is recognized as an appropriate, and often cost effective, mitigation measure for archaeological site conservation. Such green spacing, however, must insure the permanent protection and integrity of the archaeological data. The following

recommendations are offered if green spacing is to be considered. These provisions, however, are subject to the review and approval of the State Historic Preservation Office.

1. The boundaries of the site area must be staked and flagged in such a way to clearly indicate the site location during all stages of construction activity. The flagged boundaries of the site must be indicated on the registered plat of the property and on the master development plan of the tract.

2. The area must be cleared by hand. No heavy equipment may be used and all cut vegetation must be removed from the site area.

3. The area must continue to be clearly defined during all phases of construction. No equipment will be allowed in this area, or be allowed to use the area as a turn-around. The area will not be used to stockpile supplies or be otherwise disturbed. All personnel, including contractor's personnel, should be strictly forbidden from entering the area.

4. Any landscaping in the area which must be conducted by hand and ground disturbance must be limited to the upper 0.2 foot of soil. Above ground mounds of brick or shell may not be graded or otherwise displaced. No utilities, including sprinkler lines or shallow electrical cables will be placed through the area.

5. A historic easement or protective covenant protecting the area set aside in green spacing must be developed by the owner of record and this protection must be in perpetuity.

6. Appropriate security must be provided to ensure that no one digs or otherwise disturbs the site.

If green spacing can not be done, then data recovery excavation of the site is recommended.

#### 38CH1286

Site 38CH1286 is situated to the west of a dirt road which runs through the eastern portion of the tract. Five shovel tests, excavated at 25 foot intervals along the road edge, yielded no subsurface remains. A surface collection was made from the dirt road area. Also noted were light amounts of brick rubble scattered in a pushed area. Approximately 100 feet to the north was an area of pushed concrete and a pile of roofing tin. Four additional judgemental tests were excavated near the pile of concrete. No subsurface remains were found. The surface remains suggest that the

site measures approximately 100 by 200 feet.

The central UTM coordinates are E575760 N3627640 and the soils are classified as moderately well drained Hockley loamy fine sand. Soil profiles indicated that the A horizon was 0.5 feet in depth (Munsell Color 10YR4/2). Subsoils exhibited a Munsell Color of 10YR6/4. Artifacts consist of one blue edged whiteware and two plain whiteware sherds collected from the road area.

This site appears to have been deliberately razed. No artifacts were recovered in shovel tests and no intact features were noted. Based on artifacts and associated building materials, the site appears to be less than 50 years old. This site is recommended as not eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places. No additional work is recommended.

#### 38CH1287

Site 38CH1287 is located in the middle of a wooded area approximately 600 feet from the tract's central dirt road. Thirteen shovel tests (nine of which were positive) were excavated at 25 foot intervals in cardinal directions from the first test. These tests suggest the site measures approximately 100 by 150 feet. Ground visibility was poor, therefore no surface collection could be made.

The central UTM coordinates are E575740 N3627680 and the soils are moderately drained Hockley loamy fine sands. Soil profiles indicated that the A horizon was 0.4 in depth (Munsell Color 10YR4/2). Subsoils exhibited a Munsell Color of 10YR6/4. Artifacts consist of two square nails, one piece of light olive green glass, and one whiteware sherd. Light brick rubble was noted in six of the shovel tests. The site appears to represent a late nineteenth/twentieth century occupation.

This area has been heavily disturbed by ditching and probably by logging as well. No intact archaeological features were encountered. This site is recommended as not eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places.

#### 38CH1288

Site 38CH1288 is located approximately 300 feet from U.S. Highway 17 and 800 feet from the tract's central dirt road in what appears to be a logging station area. This site is approximately 50 by 50 feet in size based on surface remains. The central UTM coordinates are E575260 N3627140 and the soils are classified as moderately well drained Chipley loamy fine sand.

Subsoil was exposed in a 200 by 200 foot area and a drainage ditch bordered on the north and eastern boundary of the logging station. Surface visibility was good, allowing three grit-tempered

fabric impressed sherds to be observed. Six shovel tests adjacent to this area failed to yield any associated artifacts. Due to the badly disturbed nature of the site, 38CH1288 is recommended as not

Table 1.

Historic Artifacts from Tea Farm

	38CH1283	38CH1284	38CH1285	38CH1286	38CH1287
<u>Kitchen Group</u>					
Ceramics	2	5	1	3	1
Colonoware			5		
Bottle glass	2	1	2		1
<u>Architecture Group</u>					
Nails			5		2
<u>Clothing Group</u>					
Buckle			1		
<u>Tobacco Group</u>					
Pipestems			2		



Figure 12. South view of site 38CH1285 from dirt road.

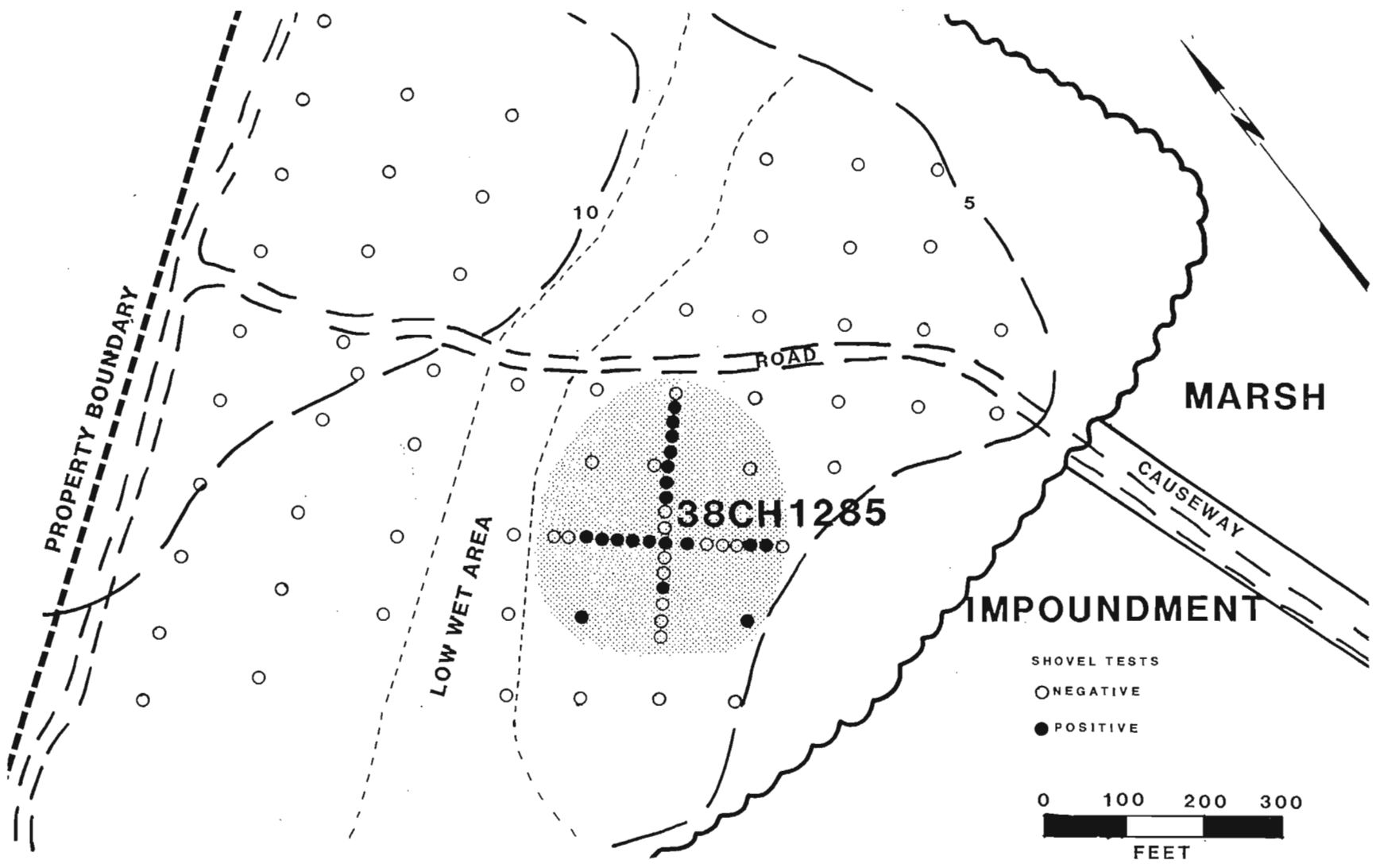


Figure 13. Site 38CH1285.

eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places. No additional work is recommended.

### Isolated Artifacts

In addition to these site, two isolated artifacts were discovered on the causeways of the rice dikes. These include one yellow combed slipware sherd located on the causeway crossing over an impounded area near site 38CH1285, and one plain creamware sherd located on a causeway heading north from the area slotted to become a "challenge course". Both artifacts may possibly be related to activities at 38CH1285 since they are contemporaneous with its occupation.

## CONCLUSIONS

The previously stated secondary goals of this study were, first, to examine the relationship between site location, soil type, topography, second, to explore changing historic land use, and third, to explore the cultural heritage interpretive potential of the proposed park. The completed study provides some input into both areas.

It was anticipated that the prehistoric sites would be found in areas of moderately well drained soils, while few, if any sites would be found in the areas of poor soil drainage and low topography. The one prehistoric site identified was located on a small inland ridge in an area of well drained soils. This site was located adjacent to a small marsh inlet.

It may be questioned whether the soil drainage today can be extended back in time to a period of lower sea levels. Although sea levels may have an effect on the water table, Edminster and Reeve note that the "ability of soils to transmit water has primary importance in the drainage of...lands" (Edminster and Reeve 1957:380). The permeability of most soils is not likely to be altered by sea level changes. Consequently, areas which are poorly drained today were probably equally poorly drained prehistorically. Overall, the prehistoric site patterning predicted by studies such as Scurry and Brooks (1980) and Trinkley (1987a, 1987b) has been consistently documented. Although certain aspects of the predictive model might be intuitively predicted (such as sites will be located on better drained soils), the benefit of this well tested model is that it can now be used to allow more effective budgeting of time and effort in coastal surveys from Charleston south to Beaufort.

Turning to the historic settlement expectations, it is observed that this tract offered no area of access to any deep water. However, lower yet well drained areas adjacent to the rice fields were found on the tract, which are normally associated with lower status occupations. It was here that a historic site was found. This site, located on well drained Chipley soils, appears to represent support structures associated with a relatively small, isolated slave settlement. While the identification of this site gives input into the secondary research question, it has the potential to yield information about how these types of sites functioned within plantation complexes.

Four late nineteenth/early twentieth century sites were also found within the survey tract. These sites were located on well and moderately well drained Orangeburg, Chipley, and Hockley soils



just inland from the rice fields. These sites are clustered together, although sites 38CH1286 and 38CH1287 are separated from 38CH1283 and 38CH1284 by a slough. These sites are probably tenant or farm houses related to the cultivation of tea in the twentieth century.

Interestingly, while the area of site 38CH1285 would have been prime residential property in the twentieth century, apparently it was not a convenient or desired place to live. All post-bellum occupation of the tract is concentrated in the northeastern portion of the property. This may be due to the fact that it was closer to the main road, to work areas or represents a kin-based settlement.

As a result of the archaeological survey of the Tea Farm Park tract, six sites (38CH1283, 38CH1284, 38CH1285, 38CH1286, 38CH1287, and 38CH1288) were discovered. Of these sites, only 38CH1285 is recommended as eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places. This site has the potential to yield significant information about small eighteenth century low status settlements.

No further work is recommended by Chicora Foundation for sites 38CH1283, 38CH1284, 38CH1286, 38CH1287, and 38CH1288.

The archaeological survey of the Tea Farm tract has provided a basic planning document for the cultural resources of the property. As such it is suitable for compliance with various state and federal compliance regulations.

Beyond this rather limited function, the Tea Farm survey provides a foundation for the development of a conceptual interpretative program. Aimed at explaining major themes of Charleston County history to those participating in park activities, it expands the function of the park from purely "recreation," to explicative and educational. Even at a passive level the Tea Farm park has the potential to excite the public about the history and heritage of Charleston County.

In a period of limited funding and budgetary shortfalls, it is particularly important to recognize the importance of heritage-based tourism, and the importance of educating the public concerning South Carolina's heritage.

A study by Southern Living found that historic sites were the first priority when its readers go touring. And a survey by the National Tour Association of travelers over the age of 50 revealed that 52% favor touring to historic sites, over beaches or other warm weather destinations. Tourism is anticipated to be the number one industry by the year 2000 and it is a \$313 billion dollar industry. In South Carolina "cultural activities" (including museums, historical sites, libraries, arts, and festivals) generates nearly \$160 million dollars annually.

The Longwoods study, contracted for by the South Carolina Department of Parks, Recreation, and Tourism, clearly reveals that South Carolina is under-marketing its cultural heritage and calls on the State to position itself as offering more than simply "fun, sun, and sand." The Tea Farm park has the potential to *do just that*.

There are three main heritage themes that the park can easily address and integrate at a variety of levels. Each of these has had a tremendous impact on the history of Charleston County and can be interpreted to the public (including both adults and children) through techniques including signage, special activities, and brief, popular publications. They can be integrated at both a passive and an active level. The three themes are:

1. rice production in colonial and antebellum South Carolina,
2. plantation life, with a concentration on the life of African-Americans, and
3. alternative economic enterprises in the postbellum, especially the attempts to introduce tea cultivation.

Rice production can be interpreted as part of the agricultural and economic history of South Carolina. It can be integrated into the broader theme of slavery. And it can be approached from the perspective of the industrial and engineering features necessary for rice cultivation to be successful. The Tea Farm park is well situated to take advantage of each approach. An integrated passive approach would involve signage along trails which incorporate the rice fields, water control structures, and slave settlement area. A more active approach would involve "living history," where the hydraulics of rice irrigation are explained, using the available water control structures; planting small beds of rice so that visitors could actually see what rice under cultivation looks like; and incorporating Charleston basket weavers into the park, emphasizing that the heritage of this industry traces its roots through rice plantations back to Africa.

This last concept picks up a thread of the second interpretative theme -- the life of African-Americans at low country rice plantations. Signage can explain that "plantations" were more than "big houses with white columns." That plantation life involved the daily toil of thousands of Black slaves, who actually produced the wealth of the plantation. It can be integrated into the production of rice, the housing that slaves had, the food they ate (most often rice at these plantations). It can tell the story of importing African-American slaves from particular parts of Africa because of their experience in rice production. This, in turn, ties into the heritage of sweet grass

basket making and the use of these baskets to winnow rice. It is possible to integrate archaeological materials into displays at the park, telling to story of eighteenth and nineteenth daily slave life. This approach emphasizes the cultural diversity of the low country and has the potential to recognize the African-American contribution to South Carolina.

The final theme is that of tea production -- an area of very little previous research and virtually no public interpretation. This theme also provides Charleston County with the opportunity to highlight a unique business enterprise still be conducted in the County -- the production of American Classic Tea. It may be possible to obtain some corporate sponsorship of displays or other participation. This theme allows interpretation to take on greater time depth -- tea cultivation, for example, is not presented in isolation, but is shown as a continuum of the efforts to re-establish the agricultural productivity after the civil war. It can be used to explore the variations on tenant farming, emphasizing that not everyone in South Carolina planted cotton.

This offers only a brief view of how the Tea Farm park can become more than just "sun, fun, and sand." It can meet all of the planned recreational goals and still incorporate cultural heritage issues. By embracing this approach, Charleston County can maximize its investment in the park, *and can maximize the park's return to the citizens of Charleston County.*

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PO Box 8664 • 861 Arbutus Drive  
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