

**AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY
OF WADMACON ISLAND,
GEORGETOWN COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA :
SEARCHING FOR THE ELUSIVE
SEWEE INDIANS**



CHICORA FOUNDATION RESEARCH SERIES 14

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RESEARCH SERIES 14

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No one reads or writes history in a fit of total absentmindedness, though a fair amount of history has been written by people whose minds seem in part to have been on other things.

--G.R. Elton

ABSTRACT

An archaeological survey of Wadmacon Island, funded in part by a National Park Service Survey and Planning grant and a grant from the Charleston Evening Post Foundation, was conducted by Chicora in April 1988. The purpose of this work was two fold: first, to look for the seventeenth century Sewee Indian village thought by historians to be on Wadmacon Island, and second, to examine the types of archaeological resources typical of this previously unexplored area of the Santee River. The archaeological survey identified 26 previously unrecorded archaeological sites in the vicinity of the island, although none of the sites can be associated with the protohistoric or historic Sewee Indians. This report suggests future avenues of research to identify evidence of the Sewee in South Carolina.

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Finally, I want to thank Ms. Ramona Grunden for her assistance in the field and untiring enthusiasm. Ms. Debi Hacker conducted the analysis, cataloging, and preliminary curation procedures for the collection -- I thank her for her professionalism and friendship. And last, but not least, I want to thank my co-author for his interest and support of this project. We have benefited greatly from his expertise in ethnohistorical studies.

MBT

INTRODUCTION

Background and Research Goals

Chicora requested and received funds in 1987 from the S.C. Department of Archives and History, and the Post and Courier Foundation to conduct a reconnaissance level archaeological survey of Wadmacon Island, situated about 6.0 miles (9.6 kilometers) north of the U.S. 17/701 bridge over the Santee River in Georgetown County, South Carolina (Figure 1). The general purposes of this work were first, to identify and assess archaeological resources on the island, and second, to examine the possibility that a late seventeenth century Sewee Indian village had been located on the island.

As will be discussed in more detail later in this report, little archaeological research has been conducted in this area of South Carolina's lower coastal plain. The examination of this example of the relatively low and swampy islands typical of the Santee River provides additional information on aboriginal settlement patterns. The occurrence of Woodland Period sites on Wadmacon Island reveals that while better drained sites were chosen for the larger, and probably more permanent, occupations, resources present on Santee Swamp islands such as Wadmacon were attractive and an integral aspect of the subsistence round. The survey of Wadmacon Island provides information on the location of sites on swamp islands, their probable function, and their temporal periods.

This archaeological survey was conducted on Wadmacon Island, rather than other islands, for reasons related to its posited association with the Sewee Indians. While this topic will also be discussed in further detail in a following section, it is appropriate to provide some brief rationale for the choice of Wadmacon. Research by Wesley White (1975:102-110) and Gene Waddell (1980:276, 290-291, 318-319) suggests that this island is the location of a late seventeenth century Sewee village known as "Mockand." Identification of this village would be a major step toward a more thorough understanding of the historic Sewee Indian tribe. While there are at least two other Sewee villages reported in the historic literature, occasional research by Chicora over the past several years has failed to provide any clear site locations. Mockand, based on its association with a specific island in the Santee River, was thought to represent the most easily located village site.

Ethnohistoric research in South Carolina, regrettably, has seriously lagged behind that in the neighboring states of North

Carolina and Georgia. Fairbanks suggested that "South Carolina for long was more interested in [historic] ancestors than in artifacts" and Indian ancestors (Fairbanks 1971:42). This failure to appreciate the need for a clearer understanding of the state's first inhabitants is reflected in the ironic comments by Lt. Governor William Bull, Jr., made in 1770,

I cannot quit the Indians without mentioning an observation that has often raised my wonder. That in this province, settled in 1670 (since the birth of many a man now alive) then swarming with tribes of Indians, there remains now, except the few Catawba's, nothing of them but their names, within three hundred miles of our sea coast; no traces of their emigrating or incorporating into other nations, nor any accounting for their extinction by war or pestilence equal to the effect (Bull, quoted in Waddell 1980:frontispiece).

Bull should well have realized that it was the policies of the South Carolina government and traders which led to the disappearance of the original inhabitants of the Carolina colony. In particular, during the early eighteenth century a feeling developed that the only "good Indian" was a "profitably transported" Indian. The English found it both a practical and profitable solution to the Indian question to ship them to the ready slave markets of the West Indies and the Northern colonies (see Gregorie 1926; Milling 1969). Mooney forcefully states that the small Indian tribes found along the Carolina coast,

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, whisky and systematic slave hunts had nearly exterminated the aboriginal occupants of the Carolinas before anybody had thought them of sufficient importance to ask who they were, how they lived, or what were their beliefs and opinions (Mooney 1894:6).

As a result, there are few sources for ethnohistorians and archaeologists to examine in their efforts to locate and examine the archaeological sites of South Carolina's coastal tribes. In spite of over 20 years of professional archaeological research along the coast, we have failed to positively identify a single historic period Indian settlement. The reasons for this failure are numerous, including our preoccupation with cultural resource management rather than intensive research on a few selected issues, the small size of coastal tribes coupled with their rapid disintegration, and the extensive and rapid development of the coastal region. But perhaps the most significant stumbling block to research on the historic Indian groups has been our failure to ask the right questions, or at times to ask any questions whatsoever. As R.G. Collingwood has remarked,

Scissors-and-paste historians study periods; they collect all the extant testimony about a certain limited group of events, and hope in vain that something will come of it. Scientific historians study problems: they ask questions, and if they are good historians they ask questions which they see their way to answering (Collingwood, quoted in Fischer 1970:3).

One of the primary purposes of this study is to begin a fresh examination of the Sewee "problem" and offer a reasoned, cohesive research framework for future, additional study. In the process, we hope to not only ask some questions, such as what changes occurred in the location of the Sewee through time, what part did interaction with other Indian and European groups play in the movement of the Sewee, and what archaeological assemblages may be associated with the Sewee, but also to suggest how these questions may be answered through future research.

The Natural Setting

Wadmacon Island is formed by the waters of the Santee River and Wadmacon Creek, and is situated about 6.0 miles (9.6 kilometers) upriver or northwest of the U.S. 17/701 bridge between Charleston and Georgetown counties (Figure 1). Wadmacon is a large, low-lying swampy island with a fringe of high ground rarely exceeding 8 feet (2.5 meters) mean sea level. Its southeastern boundary is marked by an unnamed creek and Goat Island, while the northwestern boundary is less clearly formed by a small intermittent, unnamed creek flowing from Wadmacon Creek southerly to the Santee River.

The 5300 acre (2146 hectare) island has been logged at least twice in the past 100 years and is today covered with second growth hardwoods and pines. A few small areas are in second growth herbaceous vegetation, but except for the network of dirt roads on the island there are no areas of cleared ground. The potential natural vegetation of the island is thought to be the Southern Floodplain Forest (Kuchler 1964:113), characterized by a dense, medium tall to tall forest of broadleaf deciduous and evergreen trees and shrubs and needleleaf deciduous trees. The dominants would have included tupelo, oak, and bald cypress. The island's topography, however, suggests that while this forest would have been found throughout the entire interior area, there would have been small areas of Oak-Hickory-Pine Forest on the higher elevations around the edge of the island. These fringe locations would have been dominated by hickories, pines, oaks, dogwoods, and sweetgums. Although the island has been logged, these forest types continue to be found and there is a strong dichotomy between the low elevation vegetation and the higher elevation vegetation.

Braun (1950) would characterize the vegetation of the

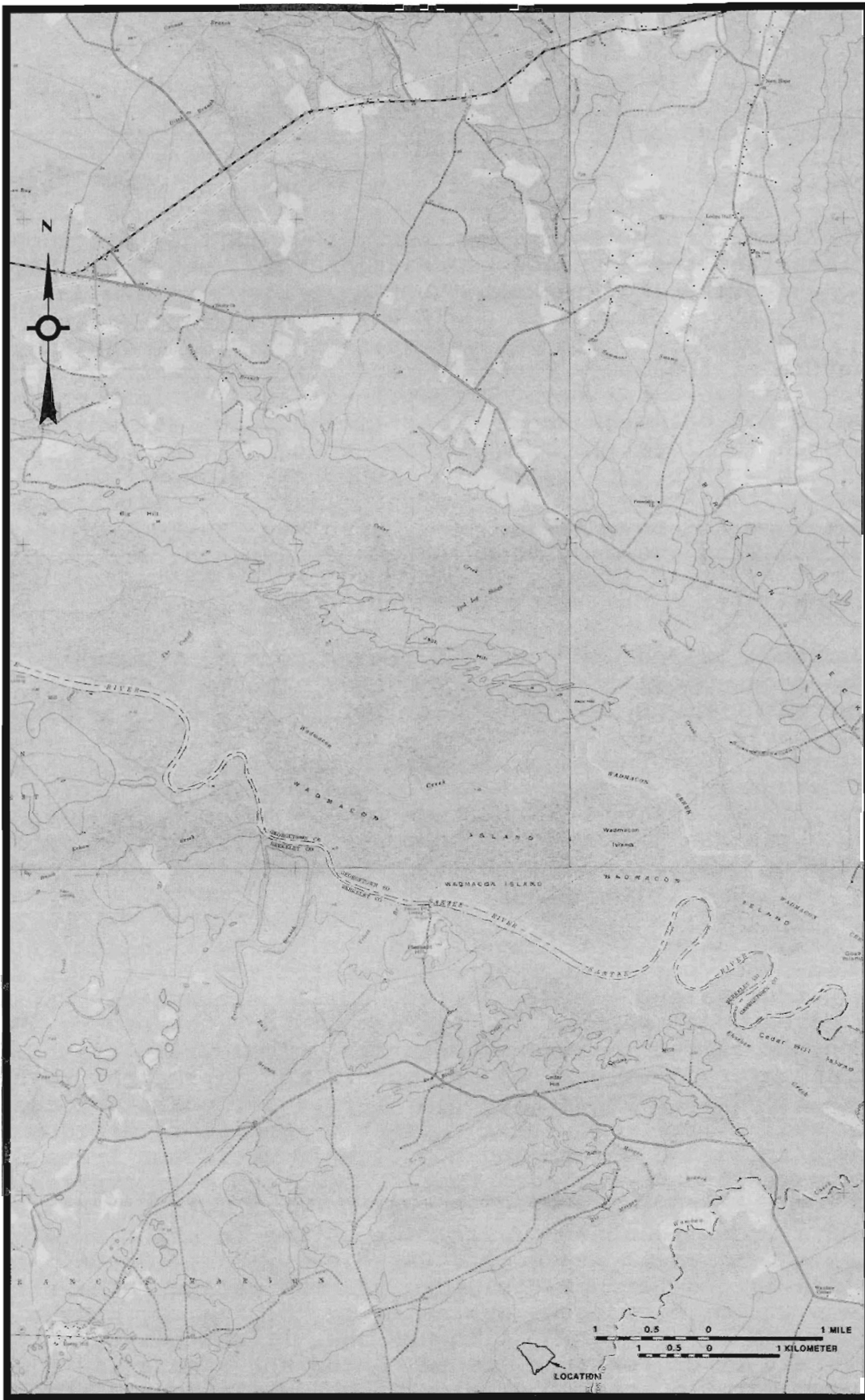


Figure 1. Portions of the Cedar Creek, Honey Hill, Kilsock Bay, and Santee USGS topographic maps, showing Wadmacon Island.

Wadmacon Island region as a bottomland forest with areas of ridge bottoms interspersed in the swamp bottom forests of cypress and tupelo. The ridge bottoms,

although elevated but a few feet above the surrounding bottoms and almost imperceptible to the eye, are free of water most of the year; their soil is better drained and better aerated. Here are found some of the finest bottomland forests. Sweet gum is, as on the lower land, the predominant tree; with it are oaks . . . , shagbark hickory, and pecan. . . . These ridges are (or were originally) covered by dense stands of cane (Braun 1950:295).

Braun (1950:295) goes on to note that the succession in the river bottom forests is toward mixed bottomland forests with less hydric species as excessive local deposition continues. It seems likely that one effect of European occupation and agricultural practices (coupled with bottomland clear cutting) would have been the dramatic replacement of hydric species with mesophytic mixed hardwoods (see Trimble 1974).

Clearly, the Wadmacon Island area would have been attractive for a variety of animals during the prehistoric and protohistoric periods. Of particular consequence, Mahan et al. conclude that the coastal plain hardwood swamps have "the highest carrying capacity for deer of all coastal plain environments" (Mahan et al. 1975:66). Other species of aboriginal economic significance which were likely to be found in the swamps include turkey, raccoon, squirrel, and waterfowl.

Soils on Wadmacon Island are classified as Chastain silty clay loams (Stuckey 1982). These are poorly drained, nearly level soils typically found on broad inland flood plains. The surface layer is generally a brown silty clay loam up to 0.3 foot (9 centimeters) overlying a subsoil of gray silty clay. In the late winter and spring these soils are frequently flooded to a depth of 1 foot (0.3 meter) and the water table is frequently within a foot (0.3 meter) of the surface. In actual practice, however, there are small areas of better drained soil which are not shown on the soil survey of the island. These higher, better drained soils are probably the Wahee and Eulonia series. Both are found on elevations higher than the Chastain soils and are somewhat poorly to moderately well drained loamy or sandy soils. In the case of Wadmacon Island, topography, rather than soils, is expected to be the dominant factor affecting site locations.

The climate in Georgetown County is temperate and the yearly rainfall of 52 inches (130 centimeters) is well distributed throughout the year. The growing season is at least 226 days long. The winter temperatures average 49°F (9°C), while the summer temperatures average 79°F (26°C). Relative humidity

ranges up to a daytime average about 85%, although summer humidity levels frequently can be classified as unpleasant (Stuckey 1982:2).

Today Wadmacon Island is used by the Wadmacon Island Hunt Club and access to the island is closely regulated. There are two bridges onto the island, one of recent concrete construction to replace an older wooden structure. While a few dirt roads have been cut through the island, largely on the higher ridges, much of the island is impenetrable during the summer and the roads are often impassible after heavy rains. Cattle are kept on the island, but they range through the woods and no pasturage is provided. The only major changes the island has seen since the eighteenth century are periodic logging during the twentieth century and the change in water levels brought about by the Army Corps' Rediversion project. The latter change seems to have resulted in more common flooding of the island and may, in time, create erosion along the shores.

Previous Research

Since this region of South Carolina has not been the focus of large scale development and has been the scene oof only one federally funded project, little archaeological attention has been devoted to the area. The only archaeological research which has taken place on Wadmacon Island was a transmission line survey undertaken in 1978 by Gilbert Commonwealth for Santee-Cooper (Anderson et al. 1980). This survey crossed Wadmacon Island, although no sites on the island were recorded. In addition, limited cultural resource surveys have been conducted by the Forest Service in the Francis Marion National Forest, to the southwest of Wadmacon Island. This work is summarized by Anderson and Logan (1981) and this source should be consulted for a useful archaeological overview of the area. Finally, archaeological research has been conducted as a result of the Army Corps of Engineers' Santee-Cooper Rediversion which may be generally applicable to the area (e.g., Anderson et al. 1982).

This previous work has served to illustrate how little is known about this area of South Carolina's lower coastal plain. Although major cultural historical and cultural ecology research questions have been incorporated in all of the previous studies, there remain significant unanswered questions regarding pottery taxonomy and typology, and coastal settlement systems. This study clearly illustrates how difficult accurate pottery classification remains for this region, as well as how vague current site predictive models are. Although the coastal zone of South Carolina, excepting perhaps from the Pee Dee River to the North Carolina line, has been studied in some detail, the interior regions of the lower coastal plain have received only occasional attention. In spite of these problems, it is possible to provide a generalized synthesis of South Carolina coastal

archaeology.

The Paleo-Indian period, lasting from 12,000 to 8,000 B.C., is evidenced by basally thinned, side-notched projectile points; fluted, lanceolate projectile points; side scrapers; end scrapers; and drills (Coe 1964; Michie 1977; Williams 1968). The Paleo-Indian occupation, while widespread, does not appear to have been intensive. Artifacts are most frequently found along major river drainages, which Michie interprets to support the concept of an economy "oriented towards the exploitation of now extinct mega-fauna" (Michie 1977:124). Sea level during much of this period is thought to have been as much as 65 feet (20 meters) lower than present; therefore many sites may be inundated (Flint 1971).

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

The Archaic period, which dates from 8000 to 2000 B.C., does not form a sharp break with the Paleo-Indian period, but is a slow transition characterized by a modern climate and an increase in the diversity of material culture. The chronology established by Coe (1964) for the North Carolina Piedmont may be applied with little modification to the South Carolina coast. Archaic period assemblages, characterized by corner-notched and broad stemmed projectile points, seem to be rare in the Sea Island region, although the sea level is anticipated to have been within 13 feet (4 meters) of its present stand by the beginning of the succeeding Woodland period (Lepionka et al. 1983:10). Brooks and Scurry note that,

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

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

coastal Archaic sites may represent only a small segment in the total settlement system. Anderson (personal communication 1978) has also suggested that the rarity of Archaic sites in the lower coastal plain may be related to investigator bias.

The Woodland period begins by definition with the introduction of fired clay pottery about 2000 B.C. along the South Carolina coast (the introduction of pottery, and hence the beginning of the Woodland period, occurs much later in the Piedmont of South Carolina). It should be noted that many researchers call the period from about 2500 to 1000 B.C. the Late Archaic because of a perceived continuation of the Archaic lifestyle in spite of the manufacture of pottery. Regardless of terminology, the period from 2500 to 1000 B.C. is well documented on the South Carolina coast and is characterized by Stallings (fiber-tempered) and Thom's Creek series pottery, baked clay balls, shell tools, and worked bones items (see Figure 2 for a synopsis of Woodland phases and pottery designations).

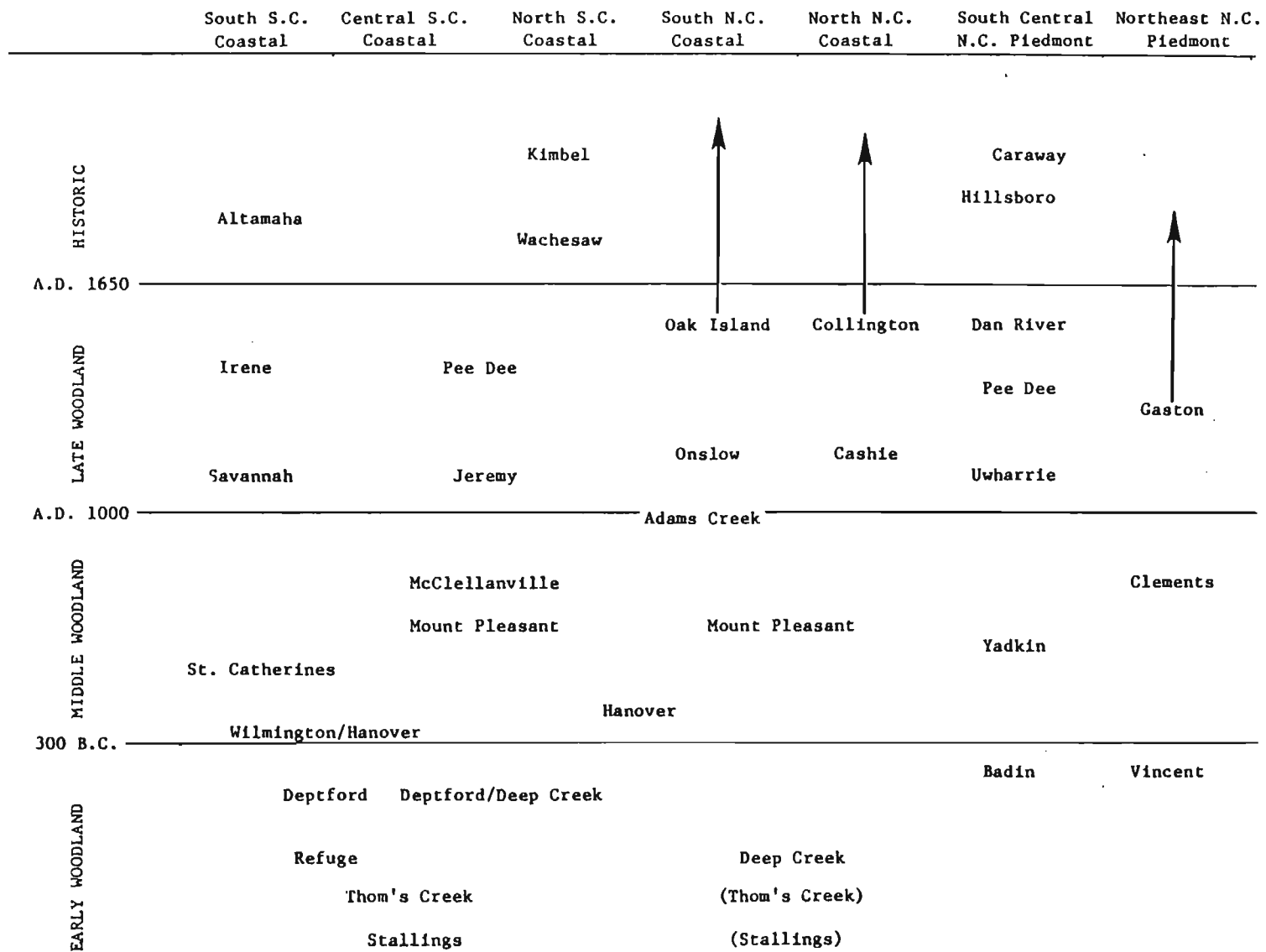
The subsistence economy during this early period was based primarily on deer hunting and fishing, with supplemental inclusions of small mammals, birds, reptiles, and shellfish. Various calculations of the probable yield of deer, fish, and other food sources identified from shell ring sites indicate that sedentary life was not only possible, but probable. Recent work at sites characterized by fiber-tempered pottery on the southern Georgia coast has led Quitmeyer to note that there was,

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

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

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

The Deptford phase, which dates from 1100 B.C. to A.D. 600, is best characterized by fine to coarse sandy paste pottery with



6

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

a check stamped surface treatment. The Deptford settlement pattern involves both coastal and inland sites. The coastal sites, which always appear to be situated adjacent to tidal creeks, evidence a diffuse subsistence system and are frequently small. 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, at least partially because inland sites lack good preservation and are difficult to excavate.

For many years virtually all cord marked, fabric impressed, or net impressed pottery, regardless of other attributes, was lumped in South's (1960) Cape Fear series. This practice was unfortunate since it blurred not only typological distinctions, but also cultural differences. Phelps, based on work in North Carolina, has been able to separate ceramics previously termed "Cape Fear" into two series: the Early Woodland Deep Creek and the Middle Woodland Mount Pleasant.

The Deep Creek series (Phelps 1981, 1983) is characterized by a paste with inclusions ranging in size from fine to coarse sand with occasional large quartz pebbles (with some resemblance to the Yadkin series paste). The surface treatments include cord marking, fabric impressing, simple stamping, and net impressing. Because of the time frame (1000 B.C. to A.D. 1 in North Carolina and up to A.D. 200 in South Carolina) the Deep Creek series is occasionally associated with fiber tempered Stallings or steatite tempered Marcy Creek pottery in North Carolina or Deptford pottery in South Carolina. As Phelps (1983:31-32) notes, very little is known of the Deep Creek settlement system or subsistence base during the Early Woodland, except by analogy. It is believed to be similar to that known for Thom's Creek and Deptford.

The Middle and Late Woodland occupations in South Carolina are characterized by a pattern of settlement mobility and short-term occupation. The Middle Woodland period (ca. 300 B.C. to A.D. 1000) is characterized by the use of sand burial mounds and ossuaries along the Georgia, South Carolina, and North Carolina coasts (Brooks et al. 1982; Thomas and Larsen 1979; Wilson 1982). Middle Woodland coastal plain sites continue the Early Woodland Deptford pattern of mobility. While sites are found all along the coast and inland to the fall line, sites are characterized by sparse shell and few artifacts. Gone are the abundant shell tools, worked bone items, and clay balls. In many respects the South Carolina Late Woodland period (ca. A.D. 1000 to 1650 in some areas of the coast) may be characterized as a continuation of previous Middle Woodland cultural assemblages. While outside the Carolinas there were major cultural changes, such as the continued development and elaboration of agriculture, the Carolina groups settled into a lifeway not appreciably different

from that observed for the previous 500 to 700 years. This situation would remain unchanged until the development of the South Appalachian Mississippian complex.

The Mount Pleasant series, which dates from about A.D. 200 to 1000 in South Carolina, is most frequently characterized by a sandy paste with quantities of pebble inclusions (Phelps 1984:41-44). The paste, however, is variable and a significant percentage of the series has a fine sandy paste with few or no inclusions. Surface treatments include fabric impressed, cord marked, net impressed, and plain. The Mount Pleasant series is typologically similar (perhaps identical) to the South Carolina Santee and McClellanville series (see Trinkley 1981).

Frequently found with the Mount Pleasant pottery (Phelps 1983:22) is Hanover, originally defined by South (1960). This pottery is characterized almost solely by its sherd temper, which may make up 30 to 40% of the paste. The surface treatments known for Hanover include cord marked, fabric impressed, net impressed, and plain. Loftfield's (1976) Carteret series is identical to the Hanover types. The pottery dates from 200 B.C. to about A.D. 700 and is found from the central North Carolina coast southward, declining in abundance in the Charleston.

The South Appalachian Mississippian period (ca. 1100 to 1640) is the most elaborate level of culture attained by the native inhabitants and is followed by cultural disintegration brought about largely by European disease. The period is characterized by complicated stamped pottery, complex social organization, agriculture, and the construction of temple mounds and ceremonial centers. The earliest phases include the Savannah and Pee Dee (A.D. 1200 to 1550). Sometime after the arrival of Europeans on the South Carolina coast in the sixteenth century, the Pee Dee phase is replaced by pottery expected to be more crudely stamped and gradually becoming plain burnished. At the present time there have been no type descriptions offered for any late protohistoric wares in South Carolina other than the Kimbel series (Trinkley et al. 1983:77-80). Although the work by Wilson (1983, 1985) deals primarily with the North Carolina Piedmont Siouan groups, these studies may have direct applicability to the South Carolina coast. It is likely that this late pottery was plain and closely resembled the Catawba, Colono, or Kimbel series. All of these wares are characterized by a very fine sandy paste and plain, burnished surface finishes. Complicated stamped treatments are expected to be present in small quantities and to be typified by large and relatively crude motifs. Because of the rapid acculturation of the small coastal groups, we expect their pottery to quickly have been replaced by European ceramics and utensils.

BRIEF HISTORY OF THE SEWEE INDIANS

Our knowledge of the Sewee, like that of other small coastal groups, is limited because the groups were quickly acculturated and destroyed. But, our knowledge is also hindered because too few scholars have taken an active interest in the primary sources and there has been too little desire to critically evaluate the early Sewee research by Mooney (1894) and Swanton (1952). This is partially corrected by our discussions in a following section.

Mooney (1894:78-79, 84) briefly recounts the primary historical sources for the Sewee and Etiwan Indians and places them in the Siouan linguistic stock. The reasoning for this placement, which would be repeated by Swanton (1952:98), Milling (1969:203), and South (1972:3), was simply (if not convincingly) stated by Mooney,

[n]othing is known of their linguistic affinities, but their alliances and final incorporation were with the Catawba (Mooney 1894:78).

Since the Catawba were known to be Siouan, the Sewee must also have been Siouan. Waddell rather charitably observes,

[t]here is no implication of an alliance, but if anything, the opposite. Since the Sewee did not incorporate with the Catawba, Mooney's assumption of a linguistic relationship is unsubstantiated (Waddell 1980:297).

The extensive historic documents are detailed by Waddell (1980:286-297) and White (1975) and this section will only briefly summarize these sources. The Sewee apparently resided in the Bull's Bay area until 1670-1680 when they moved inland to the Wando River (Waddell 1980:289; White 1979:83-87). By the late 1690s the Sewee had moved to Mockand, thought by Waddell (1980:276, 318-319) and White (1975) to be a variation of Wadmacon. That area, in turn, was deserted by 1698, possibly to escape a smallpox epidemic (Waddell 1980:291; White 1975:110). Another Sewee town is thought to have been located at Jeremy's Point (38CH3) (White 1975:125), but that area was deserted by 1701, as was Lawson's Avendaugh-bough. By 1715 the Sewee had found their way to the French settlements about 40 miles northwest of Charleston on the Santee River. In 1716 the Sewees turned on the Frenchmen, apparently as part of the more general Yemassee uprising (1715-1717). The French captured 22 men, and 40 women and children, all of whom were probably sold into slavery (Waddell 1980:297). Consequently, from an estimated

population of 800 in 1600 (Swanton 1952:99) the more-or-less sedentary Sewee had been reduced to 62 individuals in only 116 years.

This brief review fails to relate the often repeated story of the Sewee who attempted to eliminate the "middle man" and sell furs directly to the King by sailing into the sunrise. Lawson first heard this story from an Indian trader in 1701, so we may suppose that it occurred within the last decade of the seventeenth century. As Lawson recounts, the Sewees were,

sarce out of Sight, when there arose a Tempest, which it's supos'd carry'd one Part of these Indian merchants, by Way of the other World, whilst the others were taken up at Sea by an English Ship, and sold for Slaves to the Islands. The Remainder are better satisfy'd with their Imbecilities in such an Undertaking, nothing affronting them more, than to rehearse their Voyage to England (Lefler 1967:19).

Although Milling (1940:208) notes that, "we are . . . indebted to Lawson for the only account of an event which amounted to a national tragedy for the Sewee people," Lawson provides an equally useful comment on Sewee acculturation when he describes a fire drive,

[als we went up the [Santee] River, we heard a great Noise, as if two Parties were engag'd against each other, seeming exactly like small Shot. When we approach'd nearer the Place, we found it to be some Sewee Indians firing the Canes Swamps, which drives out the Game, then taking their particular Stands, kill great Quantities of both Bear, Deer, Turkies, and what wild Creatures the Parts afford (Lefler 1967:17).

It seems likely that fire drives, which were very destructive of the natural ecological balance, were the result of increased desire by the native groups to acquire European goods through the fur trade. Gregorie reports that in 1699 the Carolina province shipped over 64,000 deer hides to England. This number fell to slightly over 22,000 the following year, perhaps because of rapid depopulation of the native game (Gregorie 1926:72).

The tribes to the north of the Santee River (Winyah, Waccamaw, and Cape Fear) are generally believed to be Siouan (Swanton 1952), although this too is based on poor circumstantial evidence. Recent osteological analysis adds support to the assumption that the southern North Carolina coastal plain groups were "Siouan" (Wilson 1982; see also Pollitzer 1971). The tribes to the south of Bull's Bay are strongly associated with the Muskogean linguistic family (Swanton 1952). These people were frequently termed the Cusabo, although there is controversy

regarding the meaning of this term. There is some evidence to support the idea that the Cusabo were a confederation united by the pressures of the Guale and Spanish to the south (Bull 1969:9-10). Gregorie (1925:13) suggests that the term Cusabo might have been applied indiscriminately to neighboring Indians, while Jones (1978) has suggested that the Cusabo may be a "watered-down" version of the Guale.

The Sewee, then, appear as a buffer between groups of more firmly documented Muskogean and Siouan linguistic (and perhaps cultural) affiliation. There are some tentative suggestions in the historic documents that the Sewee were associated with the Cusabo tribes to the south. Gregorie (1925:12) notes that a 1707 act regulated trade with the Indians, "except those commonly called 'casabes, viz: Santees, Ittavans, Sewees'," and quotes Rivers as saying, "the Santees, Sewas, and Etiwans were commonly called Casabees." Bull (1969:10) notes that in 1670 the English colonists visited a Sewee village on Bulls Bay where "they picked the chief of the Kiawah," a tribe of Cusabo affiliation. While the archaeological implications of Baker's (1974) Cofitachique chiefdom have yet to be convincingly studied, it appears that the Sewee are somehow related, along with the Kiawah, to the Muskogean chiefdom of Cofitachique (Baker 1974:37).

Besides the now destroyed Jeremy's Point village (38CH3) in McClellanville and the villages at Mockand and Avendaugh-bough, the other frequently mentioned Sewee village is the "Sewe Indian Fort" shown on Moll's 1715 map. Gregorie (1925) and McIver (1960:2) have located this site on Boone Hall Creek. McIver goes so far as to remark,

Moll's map of 1715 shows "Sewe Indian Fort" on a branch of the Wando River called Wampancheonee. This is the creek on which Boone Hall is located. The fort was on the west bank of the creek, on the plantation "Palmetto Grove," once the home of the late Dr. E. Royall. The remains of the fort may still be seen (McIver 1960:2).

Waddell (1980:323) notes that Wampancheoone (a variation of Wampancheonee) is now called Horlbeck Creek. He, however, realizes that the 1715 Moll map is actually based on the Thornton-Morden map of ca. 1695, which was copied in turn from the slightly earlier Mathews map (Waddell 1980:290, 296). He suggests that based on the ca. 1685 Mathews map,

"Sewee Indian Fort" is marked on the S side of the Wando R., on (or near) the W side of Toomer Crk. at 32 55N 79 48W (Waddell:290).

Recent work at Palmetto Grove has demonstrated that the supposed site of the Sewee Fort is actually a much earlier shell midden and no evidence of the Sewee village has been found in the

Palmetto Grove vicinity (Trinkley 1987). The Toomer Creek location is worthy of an intensive survey in the hopes of locating the seventeenth century Sewee occupation.

As previously mentioned, we expect these seventeenth and early eighteenth century Sewee sites to exhibit primarily plain or burnished pottery with a fine paste, small quantities of complicated stamped pottery also with a fine paste, and a number of European trade goods, including both utilitarian and personal items. The coastal groups were exposed to "directed contact" (Spicer 1961:521) with the English and culture change probably proceeded at a rapid pace. Because of this extraordinary rate of acculturation among the coastal Indian tribes, it may be difficult to distinguish discrete aboriginal sites from the late seventeenth and early eighteenth centuries.

These issues are discussed in further detail in the section on Sewee ethnohistory.

SURVEY OF WADMACON ISLAND

Survey Methodology

As previously discussed, the survey of Wadmacon Island was conducted both to explore the site types found in the Santee Swamp area and also in the hope of locating the Sewee village, Mockand, thought to be on the island. The survey of Wadmacon Island is best classified as a "reconnaissance" study. Such a study is developed according to professional judgement regarding the possible location of archaeological and historical sites. It is based on knowledge of the area, topography, soils, hydrology, and other relevant factors. In the case of Wadmacon Island, we had little advance knowledge of area, although we knew the topography was low, the soils were poorly drained, and the island had no springs or water sources other than the surrounding rivers and creeks.

The initial survey methodology included a "peripheral edge survey" of the entire island by boat. It was thought that this approach would allow the entire bank area or periphery of the island exposed by the Santee River and Wadmacon Creek to be quickly examined. We anticipated that while shell middens would not be found this far up the Santee River, it was possible that we would observe other eroding cultural materials. In addition, the survey would allow high bank areas to be spotted and marked for more intensive survey by foot. This survey was to examine 21.6 linear miles of bank edge and was expected to locate the bulk of the sites on the island since previous coastal experience has suggested that archaeological sites will be situated within 100 feet of the bank edge.

The second stage of the original research design was to involve a pedestrian survey of high probability areas, based on the earlier boat survey, reference to aerial photographs and topographic maps, and the use of the existing road network on the island. Shovel testing was to be incorporated into this phase since the island is heavily wooded. The entire survey, at a projected survey sampling fraction of 0.06%, was expected to require two field weeks, or 20 person days.

In practice we discovered that this methodology was overly idealistic and portions simply could not be implemented within the available time frame. While the survey was designed to take place during the winter, when vegetation is reduced, this could not be arranged and the survey took place from April 4 through April 15. Even this early in the season vegetation was extremely heavy and made survey very difficult. In addition, we lost two

and a half days to heavy rain, which made the island impassible. The actual field time was reduced to 120 person hours, with the remaining 40 person hours spent at the Georgetown and Charleston RMC offices conducting historical research on the island.

The "peripheral edge survey" was abandoned since the vegetation was so thick on the banks that visibility was significantly reduced. It was possible, after the completion of the survey to spend a day boating the edge of the island. This yielded no areas of clear high archaeological potential which had not already been examined.

The pedestrian survey, while not having information from the bank edge survey to serve as a guide, was greatly assisted by information from the Wadmacon Hunt Club members who were able to point out areas of high ground and areas where pottery was occasionally found. The pedestrian survey emphasized the existing road network on the island and a total of 13.3 linear miles were intensively examined. This road system allowed the investigation of the Santee River edge, about half of the Wadmacon Creek edge, and a number of interior island transects. We discovered that the road system was largely built on ridges, so that most of the better drained and higher elevations were crossed. It appears that this survey methodology has succeeded in examining the bulk of the high probability areas on the island. This approach also allowed us to examine some of the less well drained areas on the interior of the island and revealed that the island is somewhat saucer shaped, with a fringe of high ground around the edges and low ground on the interior.

Shovel testing was not used uniformly in the survey since the road system allowed excellent surface visibility and the ridges were rarely more than 25 feet in width. Several sites were shovel tested, using one foot units and screening all soil through 1/4-inch (0.6 centimeter) mesh. These tests failed to yield artifacts, confirming our expectations that the sites are all small and exhibit a low artifact density. The heavy vegetation on the island also served to limit the usefulness of shovel testing since it would have taken more time to create sight lines through the woods than the shovel testing would have required.

Although it is difficult to fully evaluate the effectiveness of this survey, we feel that it has examined all of the areas of high archaeological potential on the island. In particular, the pedestrian survey using the road system is an integral aspect of the Wadmacon survey. Figure 3 outlines all of the areas examined on Wadmacon Island and illustrates site locations.

Late in the island survey, when it was clear that no Sewee village would be identified on Wadmacon Island, we expanded the survey to cover limited areas adjacent to the island in

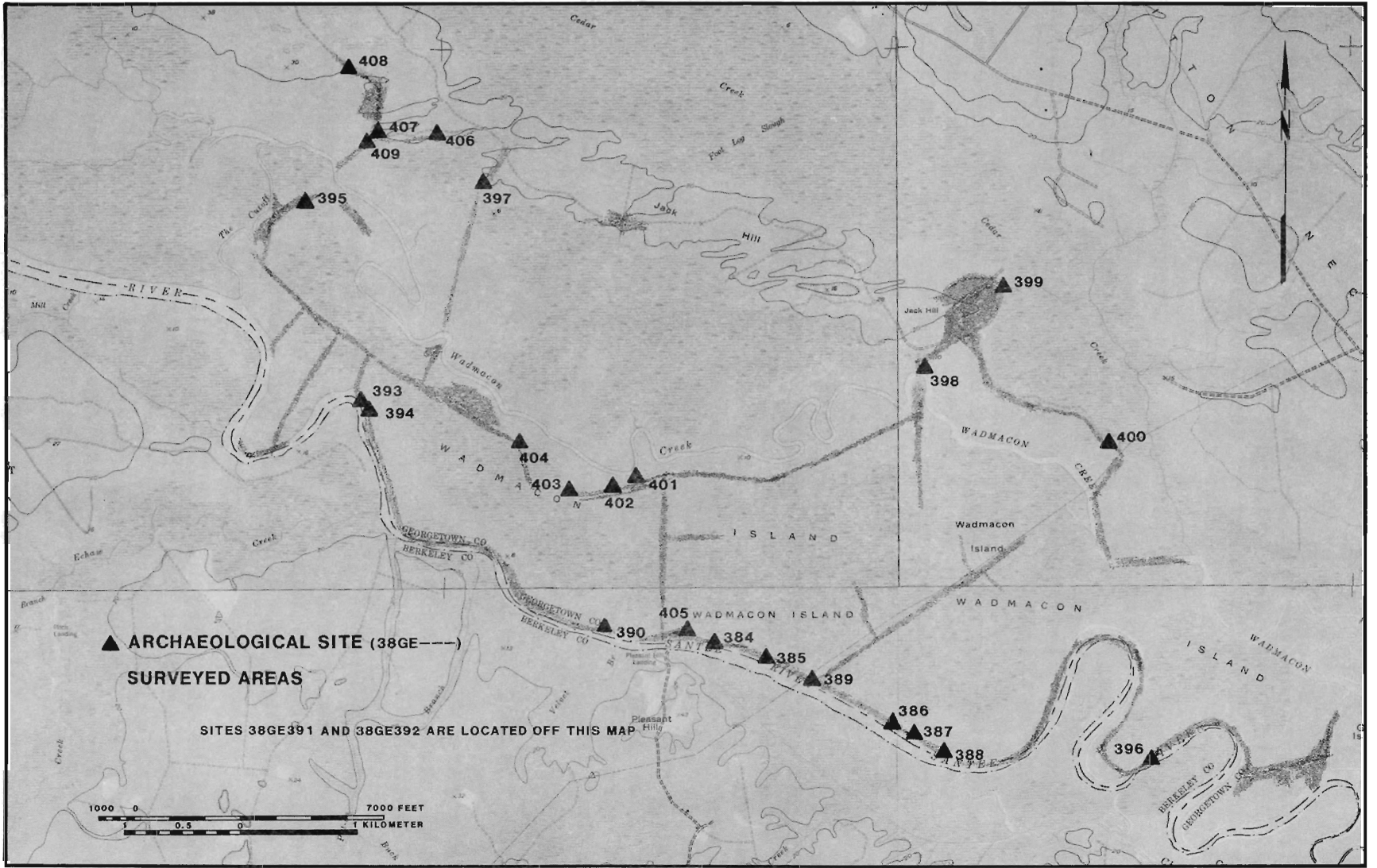


Figure 3. Survey areas and recorded sites.

Georgetown County. Our purpose was to examine those areas of highest archaeological probability in the hope of finding some evidence of the Sewee village. This work was entirely judgmental, based on the topographic maps and, to some extent, reports of sites from hunt club members. These surveys were assisted by recent clear cutting which provided excellent surface visibility and the survey tracts are identified on Figure 3.

At each site located during this survey information necessary for the completion of S.C. Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology site survey forms was collected. Site locations were recorded on 7.5' USGS topographic maps. Site forms for all sites have been completed and have been filed with the S.C. Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology, the S.C. Department of Archives and History, and the curatorial facility. All sites were assessed as eligible, not eligible, or possibly eligible and requiring additional investigation. Photographs, in both black and white print film and color slides, were taken on selected sites.

The cleaning and cataloging of artifacts was conducted at the Chicora laboratories in Columbia during May and June 1988. All artifacts except brass and lead specimens were wet cleaned. Brass and lead were dry brushed and evaluated for further conservation needs. Brass items, if they exhibited active bronze disease, were subjected to electrolytic reduction in a sodium carbonate solution with up to 4.5 volts for periods of up to 24 hours. Hand cleaning with soft brass brushes or xxxx-grade steel wool followed the electrolysis. Afterwards the surface chlorides were removed with deionized water baths and the items were dried in an acetone bath. The conserved cuprous items were coated with a 20% solution of Incralac in toluene. Ferrous objects requiring conservation were treated in one or two ways. After the mechanical removal of gross encrustations the artifact was tested for sound metal. Items lacking sound metal were subjected to multiple baths of deionized water to remove chlorides. These objects were eventually given a microcrystalline wax coat, not only to seal out moisture, but also to provide some additional strength. Items of sound metal were subjected to electrolytic reduction in a bath of sodium carbonate in currents no greater than 5 volts for periods of up to 30 days. When all visible corrosion was removed, the artifacts were wire brushed and placed in a series of deionized water soaks to complete the removal of chlorides. When artifacts tested free of chlorides they were air dried and a series of phosphoric (10%) and tannic (20%) acid solutions were applied. The artifacts were then oven dried at a temperature of 200°F (93°C) for 20 minutes and either dipped in a molten micro-crystalline wax solution or coated with a 5% B-72 solution in toluene (after cooling). If wax was used the artifacts were returned to the oven for 5 minutes to allow the excess wax to drip off.

The field notes, photographic materials, and artifacts resulting from this study have been curated at The Charleston Museum as Accession Number 1988.30. The artifacts are cataloged as ARL-39225 through ARL-39270 (using a lot provenience system). All original records, and duplicates, were provided to the Museum in archival condition and will be maintained by that institution in perpetuity.

Identified Sites

A series of 25 archaeological sites, 16 of which are on Wadmacon Island, were recorded during this work. Additional information on each site can be found on the appropriate site forms and this section is intended only to provide a generalized overview of the individual sites.

38GE384 (UTM E638160 N3679380)

This site is found eroding from the Santee River Road on Wadmacon Island. The site is on a sandy rise which runs parallel to the Santee River and is vegetated in hardwoods and second growth. Two nonsystematic shovel tests failed to yield evidence of in situ remains and the site is estimated to measure about 160 feet (50 meters) by 30 feet (10 meters). Recovered materials include one orthoquartzite flake and three small sherds, probably representing an Early Woodland Deptford occupation. This site is judged not eligible based on the absence of site integrity.

38GE385 (UTM E638580-638600 N3679280-3679310)

This site, which consists of two small loci, is found in the Santee River Road, on a sandy ridge which runs parallel to the river. The combined site size is about 100 feet (30 meters) in diameter and the vegetation consists of hardwoods and a dense understory of herbaceous plants. Locus 1 (designated WI 2 during the survey) yielded one Deptford Check Stamped sherd and two unidentified sherds. Locus 2 (designated WI 3), however, produced two white salt glazed stoneware ceramics and 98 sherds. This relatively small collection of aboriginal material is one of the more interesting assemblages from the island. The pottery has a fine micaceous paste and either a heavy, crude complicated stamped or smoothed surface treatment. The pottery is similar to some of the late protohistoric wares from North Carolina and is very similar to the Kimbel series identified from Wachesaw Landing (Trinkley et al. 1983:79-80). The association of this material with the white saltglazed stoneware may be fortuitous, although the Kimball Series is thought to date from the last half of the seventeenth century and the first quarter of the eighteenth century. A series of three shovel tests placed in the floodplain to the south of the site failed to yield cultural materials. Additional testing at this site may yield evidence of site integrity and, as a consequence, this site is judged to be

potentially eligible for inclusion on the National Register.

38GE386 (UTM E639520-639650 N3678720-3678800)

This site, which consists of two loci, is a sparse scatter of prehistoric remains found in the Santee River Road on Wadmacon Island. The site measures about 1600 feet (500 meters) by 60 feet (20 meters) and is in an area of moderate hardwood vegetation. Like the other sites described, 38GE386 is situated on a narrow ridge paralleling the Santee River with low land to the interior. The materials recovered from this site include one Yadkin orthoquartzite projectile point fragment, two Deptford UID sherds, one McClellanville unidentified (UID) sherd, and one unidentifiable sherd. These remains date from the late Early Woodland through the Middle Woodland periods. This site is recommended as not eligible since it appears to lack integrity and is a very small, sparse scatter.

38GE387 (UTM E640820 N3678700)

Exposed by the Santee River Road and a small borrow pit on Wadmacon Island, this site measures about 60 feet (20 meters) in diameter and is found on a small ridge adjacent to the Santee River. Vegetation is less dense than elsewhere, partially because this area has been exposed by borrow activities. Recovered from the site are two Canton porcelain ceramics and two eroded prehistoric sherds. The historic remains date from the nineteenth century, while the prehistoric remains may represent a Middle Woodland time period. This site, while representing one of the few areas on the island where historic materials are present, does not appear to be an intact site or one which could yield additional information. It is evaluated, therefore, as not eligible.

38GE388 (UTM E641140 N3678500)

This site is a very sparse mixture of both prehistoric and historic materials found bisected by the Santee River Road on Wadmacon Island. Like other sites on the island it is situated on a narrow ridge adjacent to the Santee River and bounded by low swamp to the north. Site size is estimated, based on the surface collections, to be about 120 feet (40 meters) along the road and 60 feet (20 meters) north-south. Recovered materials include a single white saltglazed ceramic from the mid-eighteenth century and three eroded sherds, probably representing the McClellanville series of Middle Woodland period. Because of the sparse remains (in spite of the good surface collection conditions) this site is recommended as not eligible.

38GE389 (UTM E639050 N3679060)

38GE389 represents a sparse scatter of material found only

within the Santee River Road cut and it evidences little site integrity. The narrow island ridge, parallel to the Santee River, has been bisected by the road so that there is little area left undisturbed. Materials, including five eroded Deptford sherds, were found in an area of about 60 feet (20 meters) along the road by 30 feet (10 meters) southwest-northeast. Inland from the site there is a dense low swampy area and the site is within 50 feet (15 meters) of the river. This site is recommended as not eligible for inclusion on the National Register.

38GE390 (UTM E637300 N3679460)

This site, bisected by the Santee River Road on Wadmacon Island, measures about 100 feet (30 meters) by 50 feet (15 meters) and is situated on a narrow ridge which runs parallel to the Santee River. The ridge, however, is situated further inland from the river than at other sites, with the distance estimated to be about 500 feet (150 meters). A small quantity of remains were exposed by the road cut, including one anvil stone, one orthoquartzite biface fragment, and one orthoquartzite flake. These remains, unfortunately, do not allow the assignment of a temporal period, although the anvil (probably used in knapping) suggests that primary lithic production took place at the site. Because of the unusual assemblage and the site's different topographic location, we believe that this site should receive additional surface collecting.

38GE391 (UTM E630800 N3685530)

This site, situated in Dawhoo Field north of Dawhoo Lake about 3 miles north of Wadmacon Island in Georgetown County, consists of a dense scatter of historic and prehistoric remains. The site has recently been clear cut and replanted in pines providing excellent exposure and surface visibility. Regrettably, this may also have seriously damaged the site's integrity. Based on the surface collections the site measures about 240 feet (75 meters) by 160 feet (50 meters).

Surface collections at this site have yielded a domestic assemblage from the mid-eighteenth century (see Tables 1 and 2), which probably represent a plantation settlement. There are both high and low status ceramics (e.g., white saltglazed stoneware, Astbury, porcelain, and Colono ware) included in the collection. In addition to the dense surface exposure of artifacts, at least two brick concentrations were identified.

Prehistoric remains from the site include one Thom's Creek Incised sherds, two Deptford Check Stamped sherds, four Deep Creek Cord Marked sherds, 11 Deep Creek Fabric Impressed sherds, one Deep Creek Net Impressed sherd, 30 Deep Creek Plain sherds, one Pee Dee Complicated Stamped sherd, 107 small sherds (<1/2-inch in diameter), seven UID sherds, 132 plain sherds not

currently identifiable (these may represent McClellanville or crude Colono sherds), one baked clay object fragment, five rhyolitic flakes, one orthoquartzite flake, and one orthoquartzite biface fragment. These remains date from the Early Woodland through the South Appalachian Mississippian time periods, although there appears to be a dense occupation during the late Early Woodland period.

Current archival research has failed to identify this plantation, although further research should be possible using both the Georgetown and Charleston records. The plantation appears to have been active during the eighteenth century and possibly failed after the Revolutionary War with the loss of the bounty on indigo and related economic depression. This site also requires additional archaeological studies to more firmly establish site boundaries and to evaluate site integrity.

Kitchen Artifact Group	
Ceramics	136
Colono ware	45
Glass	26
Kettle frags	2
Utensil frag	<u>1</u>
	210
Architecture Artifact Group	
Brass nail	<u>1</u>
	1
Tobacco Artifact Group	
Kaolin pipe stems	30
Kaolin pipe bowls	<u>9</u>
	39
Total	
	250

Table 1. Historic artifacts recovered from 38GE391.

Ceramic	Number	Mean Date	Product
Delft	15	1720	25800
Creamware, undec.	13	1791	23283
sponge dec.	1	1798	1798
White saltglazed stoneware	22	1758	38676
White SGSW, scratch blue	2	1760	3520
White SGSW, molded	4	1753	7012
Westerwald	5	1738	8690
N. Devon Gravel Tempered	2	1713	3426
Astbury	1	1738	1738
English porcelain	<u>18</u>	1770	<u>31850</u>
	83		145803

$$145803 \div 83 = 1756.7$$

Table 2. Mean ceramic date for 38GE391.

38GE392 (UTM E651200 N3671500)

This site was not visited during this study, but was precisely located for us by Mr. Robert Lambert on the Santee River about 2 miles south of the U.S. 17/701 bridge. The site is reported to consist of a dense midden with large quantities of Deptford pottery eroding out. The sherds donated by Mr. Lambert were all very large and this is sufficient reason to believe that this may be a very significant site worthy of a detailed evaluation. Items donated include four Deptford Check Stamped sherds, two Deptford Cord Marked sherds, and one burnt ceramic (possibly slipware or clear lead glaze earthenware).

38GE393 (UTM E635170 N3681560)

This site is bisected by the Santee River Road which closely parallels the Santee River on Wadmacon Island. Remains are very sparse and include two baked clay object fragments and eight eroded sherds. While it is difficult to evaluate this assemblage, the materials probably represent an Early Woodland time period. The site is estimated to cover an area about 60 feet (20 meters) in diameter. Two shovel tests were excavated adjacent to the road to a depth of 2.5 feet with the fill screened through 1/4-inch (0.6 centimeter) mesh. No artifacts were recovered. This site is recommended as not eligible.

38GE394 (UTM E635230 N3681400)

This site represents an isolated find of a single "black" glass wine bottle fragment in the Santee River Road on Wadmacon Island. In spite of a careful examination of the surrounding area, which exhibited excellent surface visibility, no additional artifacts were recovered. This isolated find is not eligible for inclusion on the National Register, but has been assigned a site number for accessioning purposes.

38GE395 (UTM E634630 N3683150)

This site is found bisected by the north branch of Wadmacon Road in the middle of the island on a small silt-clay ridge. The site, which measures about 60 feet (20 meters) by 30 feet (10 meters) is surrounded by hardwood swamp. Cultural material recovered from the site is very sparse and there is no evidence of site integrity. This site has not been identified in any of the historic research conducted for Wadmacon Island. Recovered were one kaolin pipe stem and one edged pearlware. The site is recommended as not eligible for the National Register.

38GE396 (UTM E641860 N3678420)

38GE396 is one of the densest sites on Wadmacon Island and is bisected by the Santee River Road adjacent to the Santee River

on a silt-clay ridge. Inland from the ridge is the common hardwood swamp. The site is estimated to measure 130 feet (40 meters) by 50 feet (15 meters). Items recovered include three Deptford Plain sherds, one McClellanville Simple Stamped sherd, one Pee Dee Complicated Stamped sherd, 11 small sherds (<1/2-inch in diameter), nine orthoquartzite flakes, two chert flakes, and one quartzite biface fragment. This assemblage dates from the Early Woodland through the South Appalachian Mississippian periods. Given the quantity of material present at this site additional investigations to determine site integrity are recommended.

38GE397 (UTM E636200 N3683340)

This multicomponent site is situated on Jack Hill, known locally as "Stuart's Neck," and is bisected by Jayroe Road. Materials were observed eroding from the road and associated road cuts on the edge of a sandy ridge which slopes into the hardwood swamp to the north of Wadmacon Island. The site area is in planted pines, so it is probable that the site has been damaged to some extent by the associated management techniques. Soils in this area are Lakeland fine sands and the site elevation is about 20 feet (6 meters) above mean sea level. The site, based on the surface collections, extends about 100 feet (30 meters) along the road and 50 feet (15 meters) to the sides.

Recovered materials include 32 small prehistoric sherds (probably Deptford or Deep Creek accounts for the bulk of these specimens), one handwrought nail, 13 black bottle glass, two clear bottle glass, four light green glass, 1 delft ceramic, four Westerwald stoneware fragments, five lead glazed slipware ceramics, one North Devon Gravel Tempered ceramic, three kaolin pipe bowl fragments, and four kaolin pipe stem fragments. This collection is representative of an eighteenth century domestic site overlying a probable Early Woodland occupation. Additional investigations are warranted at this site to determine site integrity and boundaries. Archival research should provide additional information on the historic period occupation in this area of Georgetown County.

38GE398 (UTM E639960-620060 N3681680-3681820)

This site, also known as Boone Plantation, represents a major eighteenth century plantation. The site is situated on a high bluff overlooking Wadmacon Creek to the south. Vegetation is live oak and dense scrub, with a portion of the site included in a recently clear cut and replanted pine plantation. Soils are Lakeland fine sands and the bluff is at an elevation of at least 10 feet (3 meters) above mean sea level. Two loci were recorded during this survey. One (designed WI 17), measuring about 500 feet (150 meters) by 325 feet (100 meters), represents the main plantation complex and includes an intact structural foundation.

This foundation measures 41.6 by 37 feet (12.8 by 11.4 meters) and is composed of handmade brick with shell mortar laid in a 13 inch (0.3 meter) wall of English common bond. A series of 14 shovel tests were placed bisecting this locus north-south and east-west to determine approximate boundaries and to examine soil profiles. All tests were screened through 1/4-inch (0.6 centimeter) mesh. The other locus (designated WI 18) is thought to represent the remains of the slave row and measures 500 feet (150 meters) by 160 feet (50 meters). This site locus has been damaged by timber activities.

The main plantation locus, used today as a cleared camp site by the Wadmacon Hunt Club, has also been used as a saw mill and was the location of a late nineteenth-early twentieth structure used by the saw mill tender. This "modern" structure was torn down, although some evidence of it was found in the surface collection activities. The plantation is shown on a 1789 plat (Georgetown County RMC, Plat Book A, page 10).

The collections recovered from the site and the mean ceramic date for the plantation are detailed in Tables 3 and 4. The site is recommended as eligible for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places. This is one of the most significant sites recorded during this study.

	WI 17	WI 18
Kitchen Artifact Group		
Ceramics	84	6
Glass	<u>29</u>	<u>5</u>
	111	11
Architecture Artifact Group		
Nails	6	
Window glass	6	1
Roofing nail	1	
Roofing material	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>
	14	1
Arms Artifact Group		
Lead shot	<u>1</u>	
	1	
Tobacco Artifact Group		
Kaolin pipe stems	<u>8</u>	<u>1</u>
	8	1

Table 3. Artifacts recovered from 38GE398.

Ceramic	Number	Mean Date	Product
Delft	3	1720	5120
English porcelain	6	1770	10620
Whieldon	3	1755	5265
Creamware, undecorated	24	1791	42984
Pearlware, undecorated	12	1805	21660
green edged	2	1805	3610
blue hand painted	3	1800	5400
Astbury	1	1738	1738
Whiteware, undecorated	7	1860	13020
blue edged	1	1853	1853
annular	1	1866	1866
White saltglazed stoneware	3	1758	5274
White SGSTW, molded	<u>2</u>	1753	<u>3506</u>
	68		121916

$$121916 \div 68 = 1792.9$$

$$\text{excluding the whitewares: } 105177 \div 59 = 1782.7$$

Table 4. Mean ceramic date for 38GE398, main plantation complex.

38GE399 (UTM E640630 N3682420)

This site is situated on a northeast facing sand ridge overlooking the hardwood swamp of Toby Creek on the east end of Jack's Hill north of Wadmacon Island. The area has been clear cut and there is excellent surface visibility. Based on the surface collections, this site is estimated to measure about 100 feet (30 meters) in diameter. The soils are Lakeland fine sands and the elevation is at least 10 feet (3 meters) above mean sea level. Recovered from the site are eight Deep Creek Plain sherds, 13 Deep Creek Fabric Impressed sherds, 15 small (<1/2-inch in diameter) sherds, three orthoquartzite flakes, and one quartz cobble hammerstone. This site represents a small Early Woodland camp site which was oriented toward the hardwood swamp ecosystem. Recent timber operations, however, have caused serious damage to the site, greatly diminishing site integrity. As a result, this site is considered not eligible for the National Register.

38GE400 (UTM E641520 N3681100)

This site is situated on a sandy ridge bisected by a timber road which runs generally southeast from Jack Hill to a powerline easement. The topography steeply slopes northward, away from the site, toward the Toby Creek (also called Cedar Creek) swamp. This site is found on excessively well drained Lakeland soil, at an elevation of 10 feet (3 meters) above mean sea level. The area was recently clear cut and replanted in pines, which has caused considerable site damage. Recovered were three Deep Creek UID sherds, three baked clay fragments, one calcined bone fragment,

and one kaolin pipe stem fragment. This site is recommended as not eligible based on the damage caused by road construction and the timber activities.

38GE401 (UTM E637480 N3680740)

This site is situated on a ridge parallel to Wadmacon Creek bisected by Wadmacon Road on the island. This is one of the higher and better drained areas on the island and the soils appear to be sand rather than silt-clay. Artifacts recovered include one Deptford Check Stamped sherd, one Deptford Plain sherd, two Deptford Simple Stamped sherds, seven McClellanville Plain sherds, two McClellanville Simple Stamped sherds, 15 small sherds (<1/2-inch in diameter), and one chert flake. This is another one of the few relatively dense concentrations of prehistoric remains on Wadmacon Island. Site dimensions are estimated to be 250 feet (75 meters) by 60 feet (20 meters). Additional work is recommended at this site to determine site integrity and eligibility for inclusion on the National Register.

38GE402 (UTM E637260 N3680770)

38GE402, which is bisected by Wadmacon Road on Wadmacon Island, is situated on a sandy ridge overlooking the creek to the north. Vegetation is primarily hardwoods with a hardwood swamp bordering the site to the south. The site is thought to measure about 50 feet (15 meters) by 30 feet (10 meters). Surface collection conditions were good, although only two artifacts (an unidentifiable sherd and a brick fragment) were located. No further work is recommended at this site, which does not appear to have sufficient site integrity to be eligible for the National Register.

38GE403 (UTM E636960 N3680790)

This site is situated on a narrow ridge parallel to Wadmacon Creek which has been bisected by Wadmacon Road. The site, which measures 50 feet (15 meters) in diameter, represents a thin scatter of prehistoric materials exposed by road erosion and no additional materials were encountered in three shovel tests placed adjacent to the road and screened through 1/4-inch mesh. Materials recovered from the surface include one Deptford Check Stamped sherd, one Deptford Plain sherd, and one UID sherd. This site does not appear to be eligible for inclusion on the National Register.

38GE404 (UTM E636440 N3681160)

38GE404 is a thin scatter of historic remains found on a relatively high ridge parallel to Wadmacon Creek and bisected by the Wadmacon Road. Site vegetation is hardwood with a low swamp occurring inland. Materials, consisting of four black bottle

glass fragments and a fragment of lead, were found scattered over an area about 30 feet (10 meters) in diameter. Although the area exhibits excellent surface visibility, no additional remains were identified. The site appears to lack integrity and demonstrates very little diversity. The site function, while unknown, was apparently very limited. Consequently, this site does not appear to be eligible for inclusion in the National Register.

38GE405 (UTM E637940 N3679460)

This site is a small scatter of prehistoric remains on Wadmacon Island which has been bisected by the Santee River Road. The site is situated on a silt-clay ridge which parallels the Santee River and inland there is a hardwood swamp. The ridge is about 80 feet in width, but the site is estimated to measure only 50 feet (15 meters) by 160 feet (50 meters). Recovered were three Deptford Plain sherds, one Deptford Simple Stamped sherd, and five small (<1/2-inch in diameter) sherds. This site, which lacks evidence of site integrity and which exhibits a low artifact variety, is probably not eligible for inclusion in the National Register.

38GE406 (UTM E635840 N3684690)

This site, which is thought to measure about 160 feet (50 meters) by 60 feet (20 meters), is found in a roadbed on a high, sandy ridge overlooking a low swamp to the south. The area is in mixed hardwoods and pine plantation. The soils are Lakeland sands and the elevation is 20 feet (6 meters) above mean sea level. The prehistoric remains include seven small (<1/2-inch in diameter) sherds and one possible Deptford Incised sherd. Historic materials include one black bottle glass fragment, four clear bottle glass fragments, one lead glazed slipware ceramic, one undecorated whiteware, and one blue transfer printed whiteware ceramic. This site requires additional investigation to assess significance, site integrity, temporal periods represented, and site function.

38GE407 (UTM E635320 N3688780)

This site is situated on a ridge of high sandy ground bounded on three sides by the lowland hardwood swamps associated with Wadmacon Creek on the southeastern end of Big Hill. The soils are Lakeland fine sands and the site elevation is at least 20 feet (6 meters) above mean sea level. The site is estimated to measure 60 feet (20 meters) by 100 feet (30 meters) and the vegetation is planted pine. Recovered items include one delft ceramic, one UID stoneware, and four undecorated creamware ceramics. Although the site evidences little integrity, additional survey is recommended since the recovered remains are relatively early. It is likely, however, that the cultivation of pine on the site has caused considerable damage.

38GE408 (UTM E635050 N3684320)

38GE408 is situated on two major sand knolls bisected by a logging road at the southeast end of Big Hill. Cultural material was found scattered over an area adjacent to the road for a distance of 500 feet (150 meters). The distance perpendicular to the road is minimally estimated at 60 feet (20 meters), although limited survey was conducted at this site. The area has been recently logged and there is still a considerable quantity of dead wood on the ground. Of considerable importance is the recovery of abundant (90 fragments) calcined bone scattered along the ridge. This bone may reflect a series of disturbed cremation deposits.

Cultural materials recovered include one Refuge Plain sherd, one Thom's Creek Reed Punctate sherd, two Deep Creek Plain sherds, one Deep Creek Cord Marked sherd, nine small (<1/2-inch in diameter) sherds, seven baked clay object fragments, one orthoquartzite biface fragment, one chert flake, and one pitted cobble. In addition, a single black bottle glass fragment was recovered from this area.

This site should receive additional investigations to identify boundaries, determine site integrity, and evaluate it for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places.

38GE409 (UTM E635200 N3683600)

This site, also known as the Sandy Hole site, is situated on the southeast end of Big Hill on a sandy rise overlooking a swamp area to the northeast. Abundant prehistoric remains were encountered in the road and around a recently excavated borrow pit adjacent to the road. The site is estimated to have originally covered an area about 160 feet (50 meters) in diameter, but has been extensively damaged by the borrow pit. The soil from this borrow pit was used as fill around a recently placed aluminum culvert where the road crosses a wetland area. Recovered material includes 14 McClellanville Plain sherds, three McClellanville Simple Stamped sherds, one Deep Creek Fabric Impressed sherd, seven small (<1/2-inch in diameter) sherds, and two baked clay object fragments. While this site represents a dense scatter of Early and Middle Woodland material, it has been damaged by the excavation of the borrow pit. Additional work at this site will be necessary to document the extent of that damage, the site boundaries, and the presence of intact site areas.

A BRIEF CONSIDERATION OF SEWEE ETHNOHISTORY

This overview of the Sewee Indians as they appear in the English records related to the colony of South Carolina covers only the years from 1670 until 1716. These 46 years span the time from the founding of the English colony to the end of the Yemassee War when the Sewee ceased to exist as an identifiable group. The two sources that provide the basis of this overview are Waddell (1980) and White (1975).

Apparently the Sewee were among the first groups to encounter the English colonists who arrived off the South Carolina coast in March of 1670 (Waddell 1980:287-288; White 1975:30-31, 35). White (1975:31) places the location of the Sewee village visited by the colonists on Bull's Bay. During the first seven years of the colony's history the Sewee came to have a close association with John Boone (Waddell 1980:289). Boone apparently spoke the language of these Indians, serving as an interpreter and intermediary for them on two occasions when the Grand Council of South Carolina had dealings with the Sewee (once in 1675 and again in 1677).

By 1680 the Sewee had moved from Bull's Bay to a reservation on the Wando River about three miles from its mouth (Waddell 1980:289; White 1975:87). The Sewee, Wando, and Sampa Indians each had a village along a five mile stretch of the river. The map drawn by Maurice Mathews ca. 1685 shows a "Sewee Indian Fort" on the south side of the Wando River, on or near the west side of Toomer Creek (Waddell 1980:290), which would appear to indicate that the Sewee were still on the Wando River at this time. However, the same map by Mathews has "Sewee" written on the inland side of Bull's Bay, which Waddell interprets to "designate the area for several miles around" (Waddell 1980:290). Although this might refer to a Sewee presence in the area of Bull's Bay at this time, it may be that the term is used by Mathews to indicate a region which took its name from the former inhabitants of the bay.

Waddell (1980:290) notes the continued close association of the Sewee with the Boone family, as the Sewee fort identified by Mathews appears to be in the vicinity of land on the Wando River owned by Major John Boone. In 1690 a "Boon," identified by Waddell as Major John Boone, faced a court martial because he was accused of instigating a number of "Sirvee" (Sewee) Indians to spread false rumors of "grande ships" (possibly enemy war ships?) being sighted nearby (Waddell 1980:290).

The close association of Major John Boone and the Sewees

continues until 1698, when a warrant was recorded that stated, "Maj. John Boone has a warrant out of the Secretaries office for 500: hundred Acres of land where the Sewee Indians lived upon Same called by the Indian Mockand & Dated the 11th: of March 1697/8" (Salley and Olsberg 1973:581-582 in Waddell 1980:291; White 1975:107). Both Waddell (1980:276, 291) and White (1975:107) identify Mockand with Wadmacon Island, which lies in the Santee River some 15 miles upstream from the river's mouth and which is the subject of this study. Apparently, the connection is found in the similar pronunciation for "Mockand" and "macon," although neither Waddell nor White state the reasons for the association of Mockand and Wadmacon Island. Another connection of Wadmacon Island with the Boone family is that in 1789, John and Robert Boon[e] owned 4490 acres of land on the north bank of Wadmacon Creek opposite the island, and 226 acres of land on the island (Georgetown County RMC, Plat Book A, page 61; Figure 4).

The next appearance of the Sewee in the English ethnohistorical record occurs in January of 1701. During the early part of that month John Lawson (Lefler 1967) spent a short period of time along the lower Santee River while on his way from Charleston to North Carolina (Waddell 1980:291-295; White 1975:125). Apparently a group of Sewee Indians were encountered at some point on the Santee River between seven and fifteen miles upstream from the river's mouth (Waddell 1980:291). While traveling from one French Huguenot settlement to another in this section of the Santee River, Lawson and his party encountered a number of Sewee Indians, and hired a Sewee Indian guide while staying the night at Monsieur Eugee's (Huger's) plantation (Waddell 1980:294-295).

In 1715 Governor Johnson lists the Sewees as having one village with a population of 57 men, women, and children located some 60 miles northeast of Charleston (Waddell 1980:296; White 1975:141-142). Taken literally, this would place the Sewee on the Black River, some 20 miles beyond the Santee (Waddell 1980:297), or on the Sampit River near Georgetown (White 1975:142). The alternative offered by Waddell (1980:297), which states that the 60 miles covered the distance along the coast and then up the Santee River, or the distance that one would have to actually travel to reach the Sewee, is probably the correct interpretation. This location is consistent with the Sewee being found in the vicinity of the French Huguenot settlements along the Santee River at this point in time.

Corroborating this Santee River/French Huguenot location is a letter written by Claudius Phillipe de Richebourg dated February 12, 1716 (Waddell 1980:297; White 1975:147) briefly describing the Sewee participation in the Yamassee War. The letter states that,

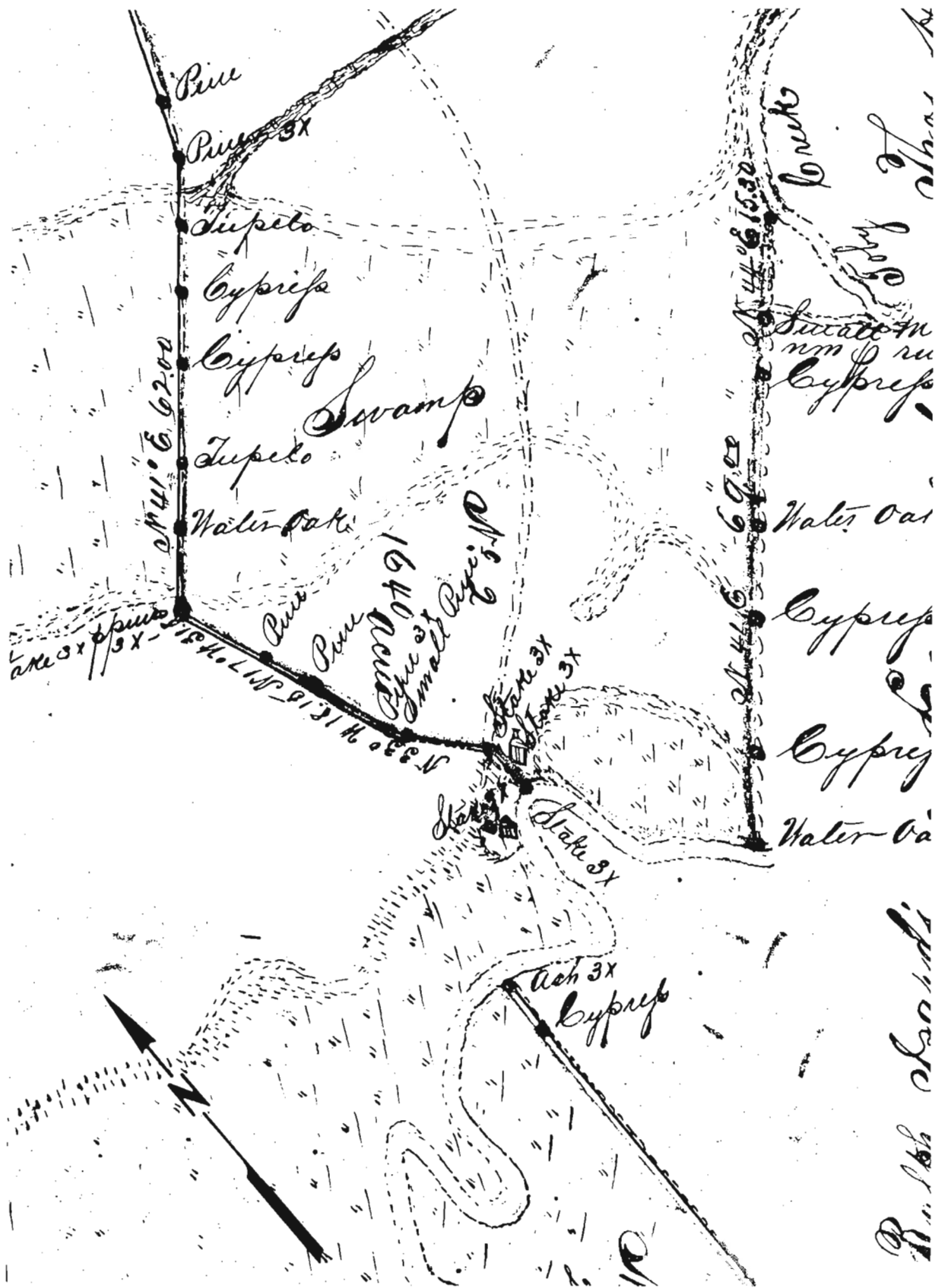


Figure 4. 1789 plat of Boone's plantation.

the Sewe indians who were amongst us and did seem to be our friends have proved themselves to be our enemy by burning a plantation and Killing negroes in our Settlement and by a plott to fall upon us and cut our throat; butt we have prevented them and took of them two and twenty men, and forty weemen and children prisoners.

This marked the end of the Sewee as a cohesive Indian group, and Governor Johnson was able to write in 1720 that the Yamassee War had resulted in "utterly extirpating some little tribes as the . . . Seawees" (Waddell 1980:297; White 1975:148).

Considering the history of the Sewee Indians briefly outlined in this study, three general locales can be identified where they may have resided between 1670 and 1716. From before 1670 until the late 1670s, the Sewee apparently lived in the vicinity of Bull's Bay immediately south of the Sewee River. While residents of Bull's Bay, the Sewee began their long acquaintance with Mr. (later Major) John Boone. By 1680 the Sewee had moved to the Wando River where they had a village. Whether this village housed all of the Sewee, or only a portion with the rest staying at Bull's Bay, is unknown at this time. While residents on the Wando River, the Sewee of 1685 are again connected with Major John Boone, who owned land adjacent to the Sewee Indian Fort on this river. How long the Sewee were resident on the Wando River is unclear at this time. The court-martial of Major John Boone in 1690 implies that the Sewee were still resident on the Wando at that time.

After this date no mention of the Sewee Indians themselves occurs until 1697 when Major John Boone drew a warrant for 500 acres of land at the former Sewee village of Mockand. Although both Waddell (1980:291) and White (1975:107) are quite sure that Mockand is located on Wadmacon Island, the association of the two is not clearly documented. It is worthy of note that on many early plats of Wadmacon Island and Wadmacon Creek, the spelling is "Wadbacon," which certainly calls into question the linguistic similarity of Wadmacon and Mockand. Also, it has yet to be demonstrated that the 500 acres of land warranted to Major John Boone in 1697 is part of the Wadmacon Creek/Island property owned by John and Robert Boone in 1789, or even some other parcel of land in the vicinity. The possibility exists that Major Boone's 500 acres of land identified with the Sewee village Mockand is located on the Wando River, where Major John Boone had considerable land holdings (Salley and Olsberg 1973:466), or even in the Bull's Bay area, where John Boone, Jr. had a warrant for 500 acres of land in 1705 (White 1975:131). Finally, the relationship of John and Robert Boone in 1789 to Major John Boone is not clear.

Despite the question surrounding the association of Mockand

and Wadmacon Island, the Sewee apparently were settled in the vicinity of the French Huguenot plantations along the Santee River by 1701. Whether this settlement consisted of a single village that gradually dispersed through time, or whether it was a dispersed settlement from the beginning is not clear. The group of Indians that John Lawson encountered on the Santee River in 1701 could have come from either a single village, or from a more dispersed settlement. The implication in the Claudius Phillipe de Richebourg letter of 1715 is that the Sewee settlement at this time was dispersed, although the question still remains equivocal. Certainly, however, the Sewee were resident on the lower Santee River from around 1701 until their destruction during the Yamassee War.

It is obvious from this discussion that the entire question of Sewee settlement patterns during the period from 1670 until 1716 has to be re-examined in greater detail than has previously been done. The 1670 homeland of the Sewee appears to be somewhere in the Bull's Bay region, although no sites as yet have been positively identified with the Sewee of this time period. The possibility exists that there were more than two Sewee settlements during the 1680s -- one on the Wando River and the other in the Bull's Bay area. Some Sewee did live on the Wando during the 1680s and for an unknown time into the 1690s. The location of Major John Boone's 1698 Mockand is important. If this site is situated in the vicinity of the Wando River, then the Sewee lived there until the late 1690s before moving to the lower Santee River. Instead, if the village is located in the Bull's Bay region, then tentative support is given to there being two groups of Sewees during the 1680s -- one resident on the Wando and the other on Bull's Bay. An alternative to the Bull's Bay interpretation of Mockand is that there is only one group of Sewee who moved from the Wando River to the bay sometime during the 1690s before moving to the Santee River. Finally, if Mockand is located on the Santee River in the vicinity of Wadmacon Island or Wadmacon Creek, then the Sewee would have moved directly from the Wando River (and perhaps Bull's Bay) during the 1690s to the lower Santee before moving elsewhere in the vicinity of the French Huguenot plantations on the Santee.

To determine which, if any, of these scenarios approximates reality will require additional archaeological and historical research. The land holdings and relationships of the various Boones beginning with Major John Boone and ending with Robert and John Boone of 1789 will have to be more thoroughly documented. Also, the relationship of Mockand with Wadmacon Island and other locales has to be substantiated or rejected through more historical research.

Archaeological research has to be concentrated in those areas along the Santee River in the vicinity of Wadmacon Island that have not as yet been investigated. This may or may not

locate Mockand, but it should at least determine possible Sewee habitations that post-date 1701. Obviously, other archaeological research has to be conducted in areas on Bull's Bay and along the Wando River to identify Sewee sites of the 1670s and 1680s. A major problem that has to be overcome through archaeological research is the identification of material culture that can be associated with the Sewee through time. If the basic settlement patterns and material culture of the Sewee Indians through time cannot be identified, then the more substantial questions concerning the lifestyles of the Sewee and other Indian groups resident on the South Carolina coast during the contact period can never be properly addressed.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Site Significance

The bulk of the sites surveyed during this study have been classified as not eligible for inclusion on the National Register since they appear to lack clear evidence of site integrity. Most of the sites on Wadmacon Island appear to represent small, sparse occupations of a very limited duration. These sites, while important to a clearer understanding of aboriginal settlement and subsistence systems in the Santee River area, do not appear to be able to yield sufficient information, with sufficient integrity, to consider them worthy of additional research. Put in a different way, the research potential at many of these sites has probably been exhausted through surface collection and recordation. Many of the sites off Wadmacon Island are also considered not eligible for inclusion on the National Register since they have received heavy impacts from logging and mechanical site preparation.

Several sites, as discussed in a preceding section, are probably eligible for the National Register and are worthy of additional research. In particular, the Boone Plantation site (38GE398), is of considerable importance to an understanding of the region's seventeenth and eighteenth century historical development. Prehistoric site 38GE392 appears to be a major Early Woodland shell midden with strong similarities to the Minim Island site (38GE46). Its research potential should be carefully evaluated. On Wadmacon Island sites such as 38GE385 suggest the potential for learning more about protohistoric settlements in the area.

Although the Sewee village of Mockand was not identified during this survey, it has been possible to eliminate Wadmacon Island from consideration as the location for the settlement. Site 38GE385 suggests that while the Sewee were not living on the island, they may have been periodically visiting, perhaps for specialized resources.

In addition, the identification of numerous, small Woodland period sites on the low, swampy island demonstrates that the island's resources were attractive to Early and Middle Woodland people, particularly during the Deptford/Deep Creek phase. While this research has not been able to comment on the probability of a transhumant settlement pattern, it seems likely that the island was periodically used for hunting and possibly the collection of plant foods (such as nut masts). These islands may also provide a sought-after resource not found elsewhere in the coastal region.

Small, swampy islands have frequently been ignored in studies of archaeological site locations and densities. This survey reveals that such areas may be an important aspect of the total aboriginal settlement and subsistence system. Further research may identify examples of these small sites that possess sufficient integrity to make their excavation a valid research goal.

Further Research

This report alludes to several research topics which require further studies. First, the Sewee question is far from satisfactorily answered. Although Mockand was not located on Wadmacon Island, it may still be located in the immediate vicinity. Since most of the better locations in Georgetown have been examined, it is reasonable to turn our attention to the Charleston County side of the Santee River, particularly the French Huguenot settlement of Jamestown. Perhaps the most significant area is the plantation of Daniel Huger, Wattahan, where Lawson hired a Sewee Indian guide. This plantation is located on the Francis Marion Forest about a mile north of Hampton State Park. Anderson and Logan (1981:115) recognized the importance of this site, recommending that it be further evaluated and nominated to the National Register. In addition, they recommended that the effects of the Corps' Rediversion Project on the site be carefully monitored. Unfortunately, this site has not yet received the additional attention it deserves.

As previously discussed, even if Mockand is not discovered in the French Huguenot area, it should be possible to identify historic period Sewee remains. Of particular importance will be the pottery, although trade goods may also be encountered.

In addition, further research is needed to locate Sewee villages thought to be situated in the Bull's Bay and Toomer Creek areas of Charleston County. While previous research has failed to shed any light on possible Sewee sites, there never has been an integrated, intensive effort. Nor has there been an effort to identify aspects of material culture associated with particular Indian groups in this region. This work will require considerably greater attention to ceramic typology and historical research.

Prior to any additional field research it is essential that the historical sources be carefully examined to answer the questions raised regarding the location of Boone property and the relationship of the various Boones encountered in this study. A more detailed examination of the French Huguenot records may also be of assistance. Finally, the sites previously identified by the Forest Service in the Francis Marion National Forest, such as Wattahan, should be examined for any evidence of Sewee occupation.

The second area of potential research concerns the

relationship of Woodland period sites on Wadmacon to larger, perhaps more stable occupations both on the interior of the coastal plain and in the estuarine region. This research must be coupled with a more careful and thoughtful analysis of pottery typology for this region. Many of the sherds collected from this survey could not be readily identified based on the limited typological research conducted in the region. A greater emphasis on material culture analysis is required from sites in the region.

In spite of the many questions not answered, or reformulated, by this survey, we must conclude that it has been a success. The study has taken the first step to identifying the location of Mockand by eliminating the one place commonly associated with the village and recommending new directions. We hope that this reformulation of the Sewee question will be a useful tool for future research. This study has also demonstrated the presence of small, limited activity sites on swamp islands such as Wadmacon. Future research can be directed toward more clearly identifying the function of these sites and identifying sites with evidence of integrity and in situ remains.

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