

CHICORA

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SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- South Carolina Historical markers cost about \$1,700, but the aluminum they contain is worth only \$27 as scrap.
- We've identified thefts of these markers in Texas, Michigan, Tennessee, and Georgia. The problem is even found in Canada.
- There is no state law covering their theft in South Carolina — unlike Texas, where the markers are state property and the theft is a felony.

CHICORA INVESTIGATES MAJOR DEVELOPMENT IN CLARENDON COUNTY

Not since the creation of Lakes Marion and Moultrie has archaeology had the opportunity to study so large a tract in Clarendon County.

Beach Lake Properties in Charleston, SC has retained Chicora to conduct a reconnaissance level study of the 4,000 acre Cantey Bay property in southern Clarendon County, near the town of St. Paul and bordering Lake Marion to the south.

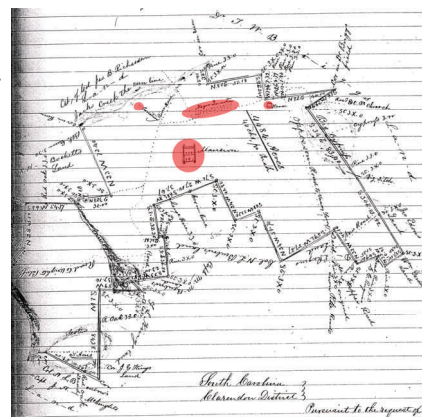
The development is already being widely talked about in Manning as a major economic boost to the area. The property today is still dominated by farming and at the time of our study many of the fields were in win-

ter wheat.

The historical research for the property was conducted by Chicora's colleague Sarah Fick of Charleston. Much of the tract has historically been known as the Smythe Plantation and it was the residence of various members of the Lawson and Ragin families for most of the antebellum.

We have been able to document at least one plantation settlement on the property, even finding photographs of the structure as it was in the late 19th century.

We are also fortunate that the SC Public Service Authority



1860 plat of the Clarendon tract, showing a slave settlement, main settlement, the planter's cemetery, and another, unidentified, structure.

produced very detailed maps showing much of the property prior to the flooding of Lake Marion. These maps provide a

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CHICORA STAFF ATTENDS DIGITAL PHOTO WORKSHOP

Chicora staff member Nicole Southerland recently attended the 40-hour Digital and Film Photography Workshop hosted by Eagle Crime Scenes, Inc. of Florida. The workshop – rated one of the best in the country – trains law enforcement to effectively document crime scenes with both digital and film cameras.

Practical exercises require the students to document a range of evidence – from blood spatter to tool marks – on a variety of surfaces. Special attention is provided to close-up and macrophotography, as well as appropriate lighting techniques, even at night. Training was received in the unique process of painting with light – using a



portable light source to illuminate a nighttime scene through multiple exposures. The class

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NO WAY TO TREAT AN HISTORIC SITE

The State of Pennsylvania decided, with little fanfare to bury the wall remnants of Fort Pitt a few months shy of its 250th anniversary. For those not aware, Fort Pitt, names for the prime minister who led England to its victory in the Seven Years' War (1755-1763), was the biggest and most expensive fortress on the frontier. It was constructed after British troops drove the French from

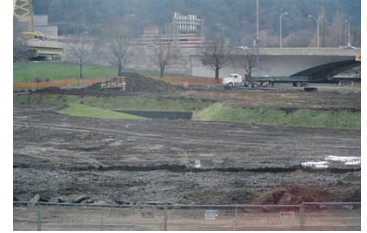
the western frontier in 1758 and it stood as a massive show of force to both the French and Indians alike that England ruled the new continent.

Now, like so much of our history, is has been deemed old and in the way. Situated in Point State Park, it was buried under grading to make way for a large public gathering space. It seems that few

in state government were concerned – appeals to the governor, the Riverlife Task Force, the director of the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, and a Boston-area landscape design consultant were all ignored.

In the place of history is now a wide lawn for stage events. The Riverlife Task Force devised the plan as part of its

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Historic Fort Pitt has been covered over with construction debris by the State of Pennsylvania just months shy of its 250th anniversary.

ELDERHOSTEL LEARNS ABOUT FORENSIC ANTHRO

CSI and other forensic-oriented shows are very popular. Fox's show, *Bones* even brought to TV the forensic anthropologist Dr. Temperance Brennan (played by Emily Deschanel) who works at the "Jefferson."

Experts are noticing what is called the "CSI effect," where the public, intrigued by the shows, science, and wizardry, begin to expect unrealistic results from real science.

Regardless, this interest is good news for forensic anthropology and archaeology, disciplines that have long lived in the shadow of finger prints, blood splatter, and gunshot residue.

Debi Hacker was recently invited to provide a program on forensic anthropology and archaeology to the Sheppard Center – an interfaith senior

center or elderhostel operated here in Columbia.

Chicora has been providing programs to the group for several years as part of our public outreach program, bringing archaeology and anthropology to the public.

This program explored a range of real world physical anthropology . Participants looked at examples to see how age and sex could be determined from human remains. Debi demonstrated common measurements used to determine these attributes, as well as stature.

The group also explored ancestry differences evident in bones, comparing skulls of an African American ancestry with those of Euro-American ancestry.

The group was especially



interested in skeletal indications of disease and injury. Debi provided examples of lipping on vertebra, as well as bone remodeling resulting from an untreated infection – proving the life wasn't all that good in the "old days."

To learn more about Chicora's adult programs, call Debi at 803-787-6910 or email her at Hacker@chicora.org.

"It is up to me, the forensic anthropologist, to catch their [the bones]mute cries and whispers, and to interpret them for the living, as long as I am able."

— William Maples



In the upper left photo a participant examines a human femer. In the lower right photo Debi explains real life forensic anthropology to elderhostel participants.

MUSINGS FROM THE DIRECTOR

Within a few weeks Chicora will “go live” with its new website. But this is only after several months of design, editing, adding, changing, and reconfiguring. It turned out to be more of a project than I at first thought it would be — but it is nearly done.

Those who have relied on the substance of our web site won't be disappointed. There

are a lot of additions. For example, all of our classroom curricula are now available for downloading online. We have also added a very large number of our *Research Contributions*, about a fifth of all published. In addition, we have also included a number of our *Research Series*.

Many of the pages have been redesigned to include addi-

tional information. All of the links have been checked to make certain they aren't broken.

Those more interested in the appearance of the site may also found the changes pleasing to the eye.

So, in the next couple of weeks, take a look at our web site, www.chicora.org.



CLARENDON STUDY . . . CONT. FROM PG. 1

rare glimpse of tenancy in this part of South Carolina, identifying all of the structures associated with each farm.

The archaeological reconnaissance included both pedestrian survey and shovel testing in limited areas. We found three cemeteries and six domestic sites in the study tract.

We also were able to develop a model of where additional sites would be found on the property and used the historic research to pinpoint additional areas where more survey would be needed.

Combining a variety of archaeological techniques we will be able to maximize the recovery of the plantation's history, while minimizing the

costs to our client.

In our next *Chicora Research* we'll describe sorgham mills — a type of site that was once common in South Carolina, but which is rarely seen today.



View of the Smythe plantation in the late 19th century.

HISTORIC SITE . . . CONT. FROM PG. 2

efforts to “beautify the riverbanks.” Apparently history isn't beautiful — it is an inconvenience. Even the Heinz History Center's President felt that the imposing symbol of colonial power was “at cross-purposes with a public park.” A more historically sensitive view was provided by the crew chief of the 1953 excavation of the site, Richard Lang, who noted, “The plan to bury the bastion is an abysmal idea, a historical

sacrilege. Pittsburgh is throwing away its roots

The state claimed that its burial scheme would preserve the site intact. Observers during the process, however, noted that asphalt and concrete construction debris were used for burial, with the debris then hammered and pulverized with a track hoe.

Even landscape architects, writing to the *Landscape Architect and Specifier News*,

were using terms such as “absolutely appalling,” “outrageous blind stab in the eye of history,” and “plowed under.” There was uniform agreement that the plan was poorly conceived and ignored the value of the historic site. In fact, something irreplaceable was replaced for a generic grassed park.

Pennsylvania failed miserably in its trust to protect and preserve the past for the future. Shame on them.

**Pennsylvania's
historic
preservation
efforts . . .
“absolutely
appalling,”
“outrageous
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eye of history”**

We're on the web

www.chicora.org

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Chicora Foundation is public, non-profit research foundation with 25 years of experience. We operate under a broad heritage preservation umbrella, conducting archaeological and historical research, providing a broad range of public education programs, and offering technical preservation for museums, libraries, and archives.

Our web site, at www.chicora.org, provides a great deal of additional information about our work and includes lists of all available publications.

If you have questions, please contact us and we'll be happy to provide additional information.

P R E S E R V I N G T H E P A S T F O R T H E F U T U R E

SECESSIONVILLE MARKER RECOVERED

Sadly, historic markers are a valuable commodity. The markers — which today cost about \$1,700 — are being stolen for the \$27 of aluminum they contain.

In March the Secessionville marker from Charleston County, erected by Chicora a decade ago, was stolen. A police report was filed, but there was little hope of its recovery. Local residents raised money for its replacement.

In mid-April we were contacted by Andrea Kee with Parks Auto Salvage in Ravenel, SC. She had an individ-

ual come into to sell the Secessionville marker as scrap — getting \$26.70 for the 89 pounds of aluminum. She knew the sign had to belong to someone and tracked us down.

Although it wasn't possible to positively identify the individual who sold the sign, we are happy that it was recovered. We are most happy, however, that Parks Auto Salvage took the time and effort help preserve South Carolina history.

The sign is back up, but this should be a lesson for all historical organizations — these signs are a target for



scum interested in making a few quick dollars.

It also points out that the signs and posts are in need of redesign, making them harder to steal. And we need a law requiring all businesses to do what Parks did — get identification.

Bruce Parks and Andrea Kee of Parks Auto Salvage in Ravenel, SC, with the stolen Secessionville historical marker they assisted in recovering. We also thank Deputy Midgett with the Charleston County Sheriff's Department for his assistance.