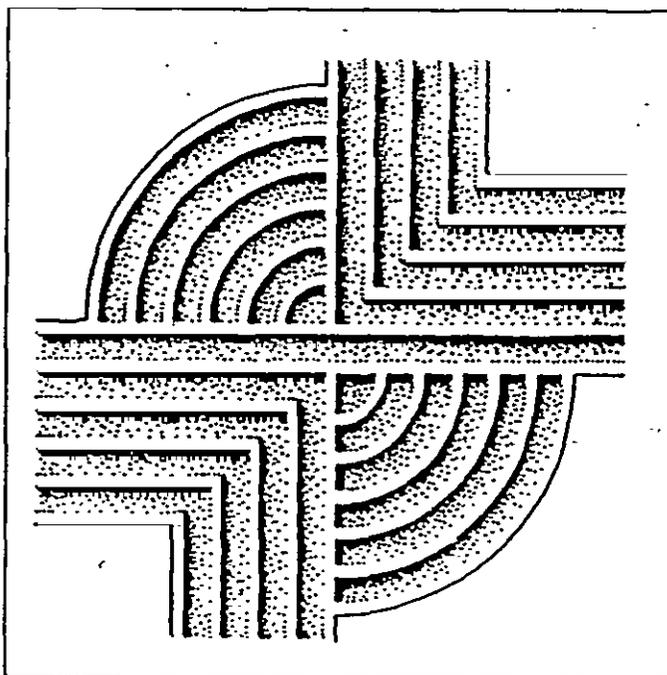


**MANAGEMENT SUMMARY OF THE PHASE II  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY AT WALLING GROVE  
PLANTATION, CHARLESTON COUNTY, SOUTH  
CAROLINA**



**RESEARCH CONTRIBUTION 70**

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MANAGEMENT SUMMARY OF THE PHASE II ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY AT  
WALLING GROVE PLANTATION, CHARLESTON COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA

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Chicora Research Contribution 70



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## Introduction

This investigation was conducted by Ms. Natalie Adams of Chicora Foundation, Inc. for Mr. Kerry Brown, developer of the 390 acre Walling Grove Plantation tract. This property is situated at the north end of Ladys Island in Beaufort County, South Carolina. The tract is bounded to the north by the Coosaw River, to the east by another tract of land, and to the west by Johnsons or Broomfield Creek. Bisecting the triangular-shaped tract is Walling Grove Road (Figure 1).

Within the development boundaries are four tracts slated for immediate development. This study involves a survey of these four areas which include two areas termed Block C (north and south), one area termed Block A, and one area where planned improvements consist of the construction of a boat dock; not the entire plantation. In addition, approximately 1400 feet of a planned roadway from Old Plantation Drive to the proposed boat dock was also surveyed. The boundaries of the four Phase II parcels are shown on Figure 1. The Block C tract includes 16 planned lots and includes approximately 22 acres. The Block A tract includes 2 planned lots and incorporates approximately 5 acres. The tract of land slated for a boat dock is approximately 2 acres, while the road encompasses approximately 1.6 acres.

The proposed road will require clearing, grubbing, filling, and paving. The development will also require the placement of water lines, storm drainage, and other utilities. The development of the lots will result in considerable land alteration and potential damage to archaeological and historical resources which may exist in the project area.

This summary is intended to provide a synopsis of the preliminary archival research and the archaeological survey of the Phase II tract; it is not intended to be a final report. The 31 acre Phase II tract and its survey will be more fully discussed in the final report.

Based on discussions with the developer it was determined that the scope of this study would involve about two days of archival research in Columbia and Charleston, up to three days of field survey, and five days for the preparation of the final report. An agreement between Chicora Foundation and Walling Grove Plantation was developed and finalized on August 1, 1991.

The historical research is still ongoing and will be presented in fuller detail in the final report. The field work, conducted by Ms. Natalie Adams and Ms. Mona Grunden, required a total of 40

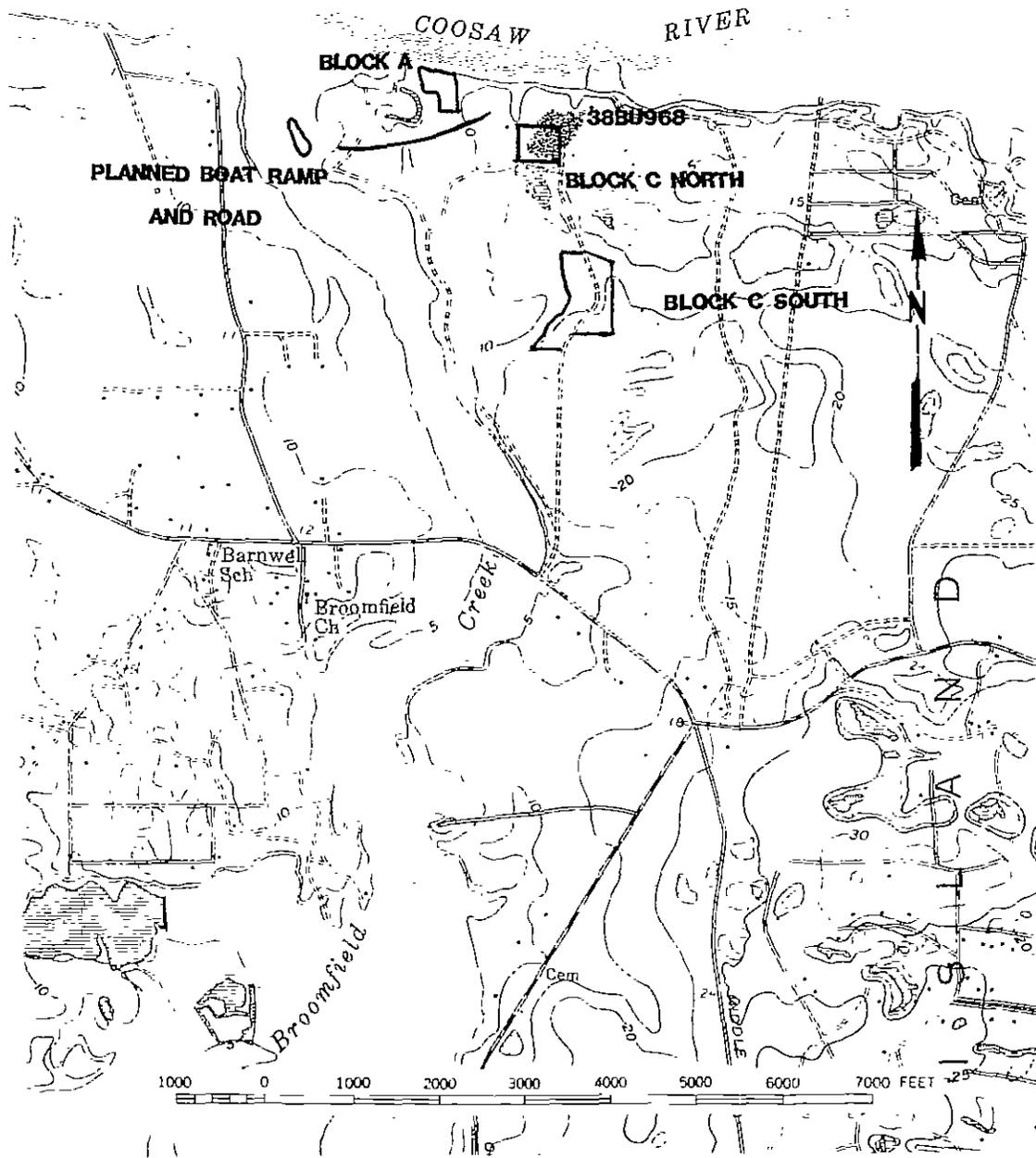


Figure 1. A portion of the Beaufort USGS topographic map showing the Walling Grove Plantation tract.

person hours over the period from Wednesday, August 7 through Friday, August 9, 1991.

Arrangements have been made to curate the collections from these investigations at The Environmental and Historical Museum of Hilton Head Island as Accession Number 1991.4. All field records will be provided to the institution on pH neutral, alkaline buffered paper and the photographic materials will be processed to archival permanence. Additional information on the processing and conservation of the artifacts may be found in a following section of this management summary. All materials will be curated in perpetuity.

### Effective Environment

Beaufort County is situated in the Lower Coastal Plain of South Carolina and is bounded to the south and southeast by the Atlantic Ocean, to the east by St. Helena Sound, to the north and northeast by the Combahee River, to the west by Jasper and Colleton counties and portions of the New and Broad rivers. The mainland primarily consists of nearly level lowlands and low ridges. Elevations range from about sea level to slightly over 100 feet above mean sea level (MSL) (Mathews et al. 1980:134-135).

The county is drained by four primarily coastal or saltwater river systems (the May, New, Broad-Pocotaligo-Coosawhatchie, and Broad rivers) and one river with a significant freshwater discharge (the Combahee River), which plays a significant role in historic rice cultivation. Because of the low topography, however, many low gradient interior drainages (such as Johnson Creek) are present as either extensions of tidal streams and rivers or flooded bays and swales. There are many diverse wetland communities influenced by tidal inundation and river flow. Upland vegetation is primarily pine or mixed hardwoods and pine, and only 15% of the county is currently cultivated (while about 5% of the total land area is urbanized) (Mathews et al. 1980:135).

The geology of the county is characteristic of the coastal plain, with unconsolidated, water-laid beds of sands and clays up to 20 feet in thickness overlying thick beds of soft marl (Stuck 1980:3). The Walling Grove Plantation area is characterized by four soil types: Coosaw, Seabrook, Wando, and Williman. The Block C (southern portion) Phase II tract, however, consists primarily of somewhat poorly drained Coosaw loamy fine sands and poorly drained Williman loamy fine sands; the Block C (northern portion) Phase II tract consists of excessively drained Wando fine sand; the Block A Phase II tract consists of poorly drained Williman loamy fine sands; and the planned boat landing area also contains poorly drained Williman loamy fine sands. (Stuck 1980:Maps 39 and 40).

While the Wando and Seabrook soils are typically very well drained, with water tables at least two feet below the surface, the

Williman and Coosaw soils are wet and have a water table at or near the surface for about half the year. The typical Wando soil profile consists of dark brown fine sand A or Ap horizon 0.8 foot in depth overlying a brown to yellow sandy C horizon. The Williman Series soils generally exhibit a gray loamy sand A horizon up to 2.1 feet in depth overlying a light brownish-gray B horizon (Stuck 1980).

The Block C (southern portion) Phase II tract is characterized by elevations ranging from 10 feet MSL adjacent to freshwater sloughs and ponds to 15 feet MSL in the southern third of the area. Walling Grove road bisects the tract into east and west halves. The vegetation includes both open and overgrown hardwood forests, and young, dense planted pine forest. The Block C (northern portion) Phase II tract is gently rolling, with elevations ranging from 10 to 14 feet MSL. It is bounded to the south by a small pond, to the east by Walling Grove Road, to the north by Old Plantation Road, and to the west by a large drainage ditch. The vegetation consists of open field with occasional hardwood trees. The Block A Phase II tract is characterized by elevations ranging from 5 to 10 feet MSL. It is bounded to the north by the Coosaw River, to the east by lots of the Phase I development tract, to the south and west by wetlands. The vegetation consists of mixed hardwood/pine forest with a light understory of vegetation. The tract of land slotted for boat dock construction is a relatively flat area with elevations ranging from 5 to 8 feet MSL. It is bounded to the north, east and south by marshland, and to the west by Johnston's or Broomfield Creek. In addition, the eastern boundary contains two washed out causeways. Vegetation consists of spartina grass in the northern most portion of the tract, and mixed hardwood/pine in the remainder of the property.

### Background Research

Several previous published archaeological studies are available for the Beaufort area to provide background, including several publications on the archaeology of nearby Hilton Head and Daufuskie Islands (Trinkley 1986, 1987, 1988, 1989a). Only one previous published archaeological investigation has been identified for Ladys Island (Bianchi 1974), although it is not within the project area. Chicora Foundation has previously surveyed portions of the Walling Grove Plantation development (see Trinkley 1989b)

Previous prehistoric work in the area has revealed relatively small, shell and nonshell middens found almost exclusively adjacent to tidal creeks. Few sites have been found in the interior, away from marsh habitats. Most sites, based on this previous work, are found on excessively to moderately well drained soils, although a few are consistently found in areas which are poorly drained (which suggests that factors other than drainage may occasionally have determined aboriginal settlement location).

Work by South and Hartley (1980) suggests that major historic site complexes will be found on high ground adjacent to a deep water access. Plantation main houses tend to be located on the highest and best drained soils, while slave settlements may be found on intermediate or even poorly drained soils. Sites such as kilns will be located near the necessary raw materials (clay, wood) and where the finished products may be easily transported. Healthful conditions and drainage are not usually significant considerations.

Based on previous studies and the presented data on the soils and drainage typical of the Walling Grove tract, there were few areas judged to exhibit a high probability for archaeological remains. The only area of high probability for either prehistoric or historic occupation included the northern portion of the Block C of the Phase II tract, which is characterized by relatively high elevations, well drained soils, and proximity to water. In addition, this tract is immediately adjacent to a previously identified historic site (38BU968). Also, the area slotted for boat dock construction which contains deep water access was also believed to have high archaeological potential, especially since historical research suggests an eighteenth century settlement located somewhere in this area. Work by South and Hartley (1980) has shown that plantation sites are normally located in high ground/deep water access areas. Areas of moderate archaeological probability included all the marsh frontage, especially those areas around small sloughs or freshwater ponds. Such an area is found on the Block A Phase II tract. Areas of low archaeological probability include the more inland areas, particularly in the southern portion of the Block C Phase II tract.

Summaries of Beaufort area history are presented by Dabbs (1983), Johnson (1969), Trinkley (1986, 1987, 1988, 1989a), and Woofter (1930), while sources such as Pearson (1906) and Botume (1968) provide additional primary source documentation for the area. McGuire (1985) provides a detailed account of land ownership in the postbellum period. These sources should be consulted for additional information general to Beaufort District.

Beaufort County, because of its two major losses of court documents, is a difficult area in which to do research. The current project has been able to extend the title search back only to 1865, although additional research in Charleston may be able to extend this into the early nineteenth century. These discussions are preliminary as copies of the archival data have not yet been obtained from the examined repositories.

The earliest reference to ownership of Walling Grove comes from the 1825 Mills Atlas, which shows the tract, with a settlement, owned by "Fickling." The 1820 population census identifies several Ficklings for Beaufort County, although the 1830 census reveals only Joseph and Sarah Fickling residing in St.

Helena Parish, which incorporates Ladys Island. The 1824 tax returns of Joseph and Sarah Fickling have been located (S.C. Department of Archives and History 0015 052 1824 2046-2047). Joseph Fickling of St. Helena reported 500 acres (probably the Ladys Island plantation), as well as lots valued at \$1600 in Beaufort, goods valued at \$1500, and 38 slaves. Sarah also reports 460 acres of land, lots valued at \$1250, and 49 slaves. These returns suggest that Fickling and his wife were moderately successful, owning both plantation and town property. Apparently Sarah Fickling had acquired property (plantation, town lots, and slaves) in her own name, or was in possession of the property before her marriage.

Joseph Fickling is not listed in the 1840 census, while Sarah continues to be listed through 1850. Although the 1850 census lists Sarah Fickling, the agricultural census for the same year lists her plantation as containing 460 acres. It appears that after Joseph Fickling's death sometime between 1830 and 1840, the Ladys Island plantation was sold or devised by will and Sarah continued to plant only her own plantation elsewhere in St. Helena Parish.

While the ownership of the plantation is unclear from after 1830 to 1861, the tract was confiscated by the United States government after the Beaufort area was occupied by Federal troops in November 1861. The United States Tax Commission sold the property, known as St. Queuten, to Joseph Reed on March 10, 1863, describing the tract as "bounded northerly by Coosaw River, southerly by Woodlawn, easterly by the Edward Cuthbert Place westerly by the John Johnson Place, containing five hundred and thirty acres more or less" (Beaufort County RMC, DB 7, p. 201). The 1882 report by Secretary of the Treasury Charles J. Fogler to the United States Senate lists St. Queuten as containing 530 acres and being valued at \$2120. It confirms that the property was sold to Joseph Reed for \$505, although the original owner of the property is listed as "not given" (Senate Documents, v. 4, n. 82, p. 11).

Joseph Reed, who also purchased adjacent Walnut Hill, Cuthbert (or Pleasant Point School Farm), and Johnson School Farm, attempted to operate the plantations using freedmen labor. While at first successful, by 1875 Reed was being sued by his overseer, James G. Cole, for six year's back pay and by George Waterhouse for unpaid bills. The complaint by Waterhouse is of particular interest since it provides a copy of the ledger listing Cole's purchases for Reed over the two years in question. The Court found in favor of Waterhouse and Cole during the October 1875 term and ordered that Reed's plantations be sold to pay for the debts (Beaufort County Judgement Rolls 1170 and 1171).

"St. Quinten" was sold by the Sheriff of Beaufort County to James G. Cole (Reed's overseer) on March 9, 1876 (Beaufort County RMC DB 10, pp. 79-80). Cole also purchased Reed's other properties and continued to farm the properties until his death. In 1904

Cole's heirs, Larinia B. Cole, Annie B. Haggett, and John Cole Anderson sold "St. Quintans," along with the other Reed property, to F.W. Scheper (Beaufort County DB 26, p. 46). By this time St. Queunten contained 500 acres, with 30 acres being listed as a parcel of Johnsons School Farm.

Scheper retained the property only two months, selling all of the tracts to W. F. Sanders in 1905 (Beaufort County RMC, DB 26, p. 156). Sanders, in turn, sold the tracts to Joab Mauldin of Hampton, South Carolina in 1906 (Beaufort County RMC, DB26, p. 515). The property was acquired by Leonora M. Dowling as the heir of Joab Mauldin sometime before 1920 (no instrument to record this transfer has been identified; see however, Beaufort County RMC DB 53, p. 546). The property was passed to Louis Dowling in 1934 (Beaufort County RMC DB 53, p. 546). After this point St. Queunten was divided north-south into two tracts, with the western most tract (which is today Walling Grove) devised from Louise Dowling (Anderson) to G.G. Dowling in 1938 (Beaufort County RMC DB 61, p. 402).

In 1949 G.G. Dowling sold his section of St. Queunten to Bert H. Walling (Beaufort County DB 69, p. 117). Walling entered into an agreement with Emil H. Klatt to raise dogs on the property. The arrangement, however, failed and Klatt sued Walling in 1962 for dissolution of the partnership and settlement of various claims. The property was sold by the court to Walling in 1963 (Beaufort County RMC DB 117, p. 3). Two years later, in 1965, Walling sold the property to Ladys Island Resort, Inc. (Beaufort County RMC, DB 132, p. 244). In 1967 Ladys Island Resort, Inc. was sued by Cartinental Corporation (Beaufort County Judgement Roll 13389) and the property was sold by Harry M. Lightsey, as Special Referee, to Doris B. and Edwin S. Brock that same year (Beaufort County RMC DB 149, p. 232). In 1988 the remnant of St. Queunten Plantation was purchased from the Brocks by the current owners, Walling Grove Development Company, Inc. (Beaufort County RMC, DB 508, p. 398).

The name "St. Queunten" was originally used for the tract today known as "Brickyard." A Memorial for a 500 acre plantation laid out to Henry Quintyne in 1706 has been located (Memorials, vol. 1, pp. 354-355), as well as a later plat for 710 acres in the name of William Bull which shows "Quintyne Point," "Quintynes Creek," and "Quintynes Landing" (Colonial Plats, vol. 5, p. 167). The name was later transferred to the area to the east of Brickyard Plantation.

Besides the Beaufort District map in Mills Atlas, the only nineteenth century map of St. Queunten Plantation is the Coast and Geodetic Survey Chart 55, "Coast of South Carolina and Georgia From Hunting Island to Ossabaw Island Including Port Royal Sound and Savannah River," which was published in 1873. This map, at a scale of 1:80,000, is based on topographic surveys conducted from 1852 through 1872. It shows the main house and a double slave row of

nine structures oriented parallel to the marsh. The 1912 15-minute Beaufort topographic quadrangle continues to show the main house, although aerial photographs taken in 1939 by the United States Department of Agriculture show the structure in ruins (aerial CDU-3-103).

This brief historical reconstruction suggests that the plantation was in existence at least by 1820 and was owned at that time by Joseph Fickling. Upon Fickling's death in the 1830s the plantation was devised or sold and little is known about it until 1861 when the property was confiscated by the United States Government. The plantation was purchased by a northerner, James Reed, in 1863. He apparently operated this plantation, as well as adjacent tracts, using freedmen labor and an overseer until 1875. Available mapping provides information on the location of a main house and the presence of a slave row. Reed's operation failed and the property was purchased by his overseer, James G. Cole, who continued to farm the tract until his death in the late eighteenth or early twentieth century. The main house was standing, although probably in deteriorating condition, into the twentieth century.

#### Field Methods

The initially proposed field techniques involved an intensive survey of the of the Phase II development area with shovel tests located every 100 feet with transects spaced every 100 feet. This emphasis on shovel testing is required by the tract's extensive woods coverage, which was anticipated to severely restrict surface visibility.

Should sites be identified by the shovel testing, further tests would be used to obtain data on site boundaries, artifact quantity and diversity, site integrity, and temporal affiliation. The information required for completion of South Carolina Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology site forms would be collected and photographs would be taken, if warranted in the opinion of the Principal Investigator.

All soil would be screened through 1/4-inch mesh, with each test numbered sequentially. Each test would measure about 1 foot square and would normally be taken to a depth of at least 1 foot. All cultural remains would be collected, except for shell, mortar, and brick, which would be qualitatively noted and discarded. Notes would be maintained for soil profiles.

These plans were put into effect, with little variation. Shovel testing intervals in the vicinity site locations were reduced to 25 feet in several transects to determine boundaries, while elsewhere 100 foot transects were typically used. A total of 157 shovel tests in 18 transects were excavated.

Surface survey was conducted only in the area of the

identified archaeological site, with roads, cleared ground, erosional areas, and a recent ditch examined for evidence of features and artifacts. Elsewhere the ground cover prevented any significant surface collecting.

### Laboratory Analysis

The cleaning of artifacts was conducted in Beaufort on August 12, 1991. Cataloging is currently underway and is using the format established by The Environmental and Historical Museum of Hilton Head Island. The collections will be curated under Accession Number 1991.4. Artifact conservation has begun on ferrous artifacts as required by professional curation practices.

Analysis of the collections will follow professionally accepted standards with a level of intensity suitable to the quantity and quality of the remains. Prehistoric ceramics will be classified using common coastal South Carolina types (Trinkley 1983). The temporal, cultural, and typological classification of the historic remains will follow Noel Hume (1969), Miller (1980), Price (1979), and South (1977).

### Results

In spite of the extensive coverage of the four Phase II tracts and planned roadway, only one archaeological site (38BU968) was identified, on the northern portion of the Block C Phase II tract. In addition, one isolated prehistoric sherd was located approximately 1000 feet from Old Plantation road, along the centerline of the planned road. Most of the survey area contained no evidence of prehistoric or historic remains because of the distance to water and the poorly drained soils.

Site 38BU968, which was originally identified by Trinkley (1989b), is situated at the end of Walling Grove Road, about 400 feet south the Coosaw River at the eastern corner of the north Phase I tract. In addition to this area, our current investigation expanded the site boundaries to include the northern portion of the Block C Phase II area (Figure 2). The site, as originally identified, represents the remains of St. Queunten Plantation and consists of at least four loci. The site is situated on excessively drained Wando soils at an elevation of about 11 to 13 feet MSL. Site boundaries have been established based on the shovel tests and surface indications, and the site is thought to encompass an area 700 feet east-west by 700 feet north-south. Central UTM coordinates are E532600 N3595300. This work, however, probably does not identify the entire boundaries of the site which appears to extend to the west in the area of Locus D, as well as to the west of Walling Grove Road, opposite the northern Block C Phase II tract.

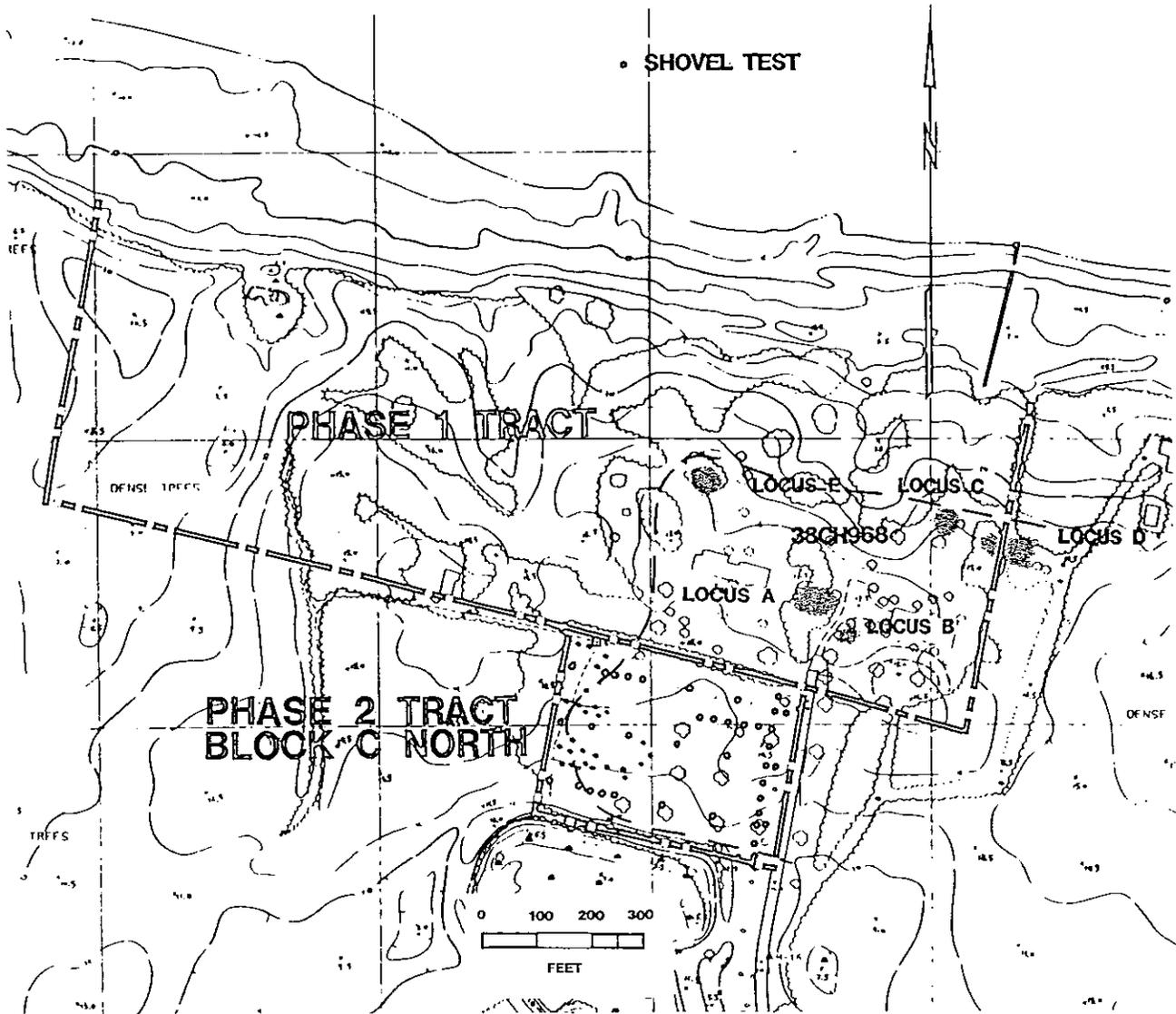


Figure 2. Location of site 38BU968 in the Phase I and Phase II development areas.

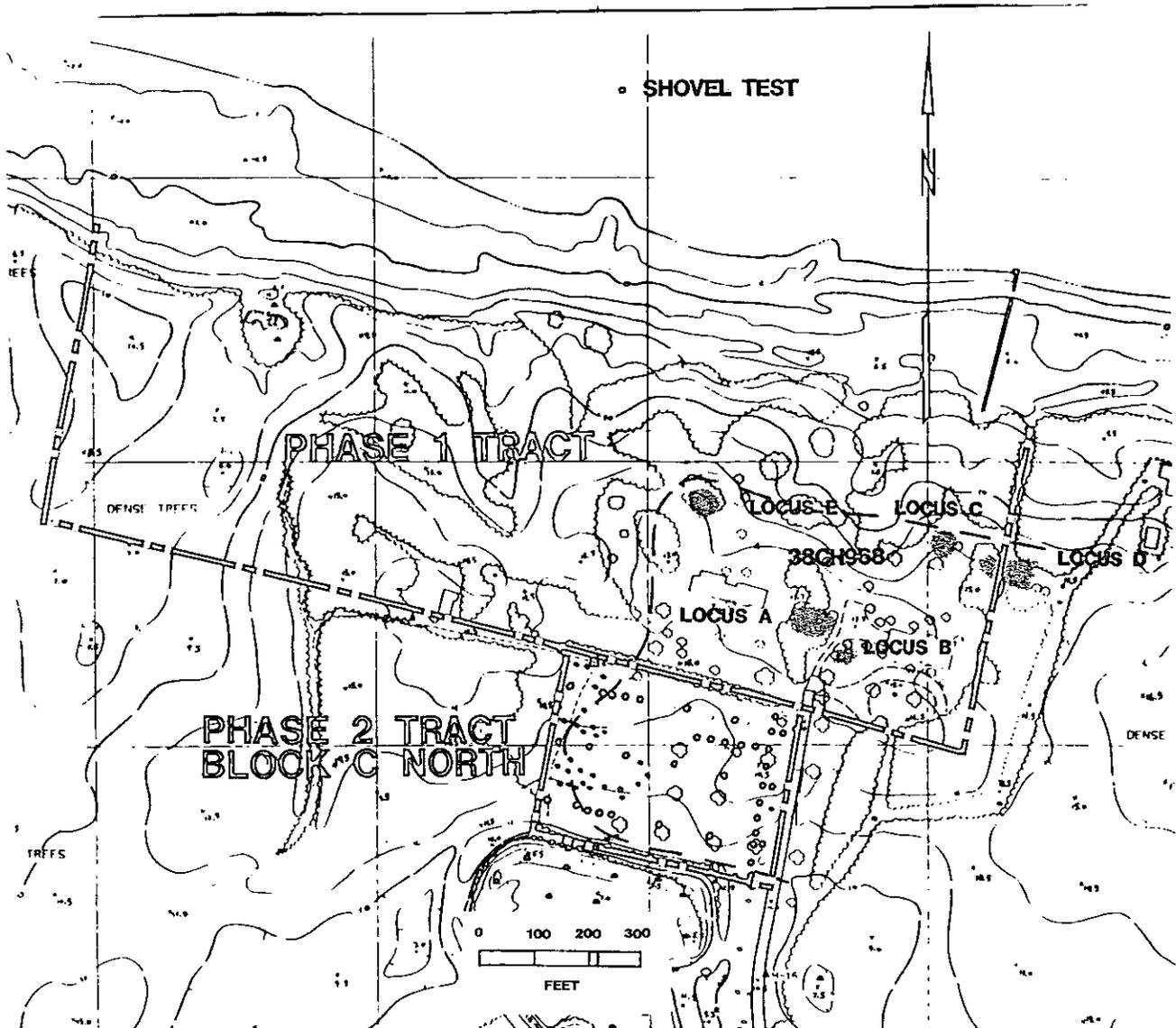


Figure 2. Location of site 38BU968 in the Phase I and Phase II development areas.

In 1989 (Trinkley 1989b) four site loci were identified within the site boundaries. Locus A represent the St. Quintens main house with above ground remains consisting of tabby supports for the two end chimneys. Locus B is the posited kitchen structure. Artifacts recovered include some architectural remains, although Kitchen Group artifacts dominated the collection. Locus C represents the remains of a partially standing tabby structure and the below ground remains of a second, probably very similar, structure. Based on the construction techniques, these structures are thought to have been built in the 1840s. Their design appears to be utilitarian rather than domestic. Recovered artifacts suggest, however, that they were used as dwellings in the postbellum. Locus D represents the plantation slave row. Remains recovered include primarily kitchen artifacts, including colono ware ceramics.

Artifacts recovered in the most recent investigations consisted of 19, primarily higher status, ceramics yielding a mean ceramic date (South 1977) of 1831.6 (Table 1). Also found were five unidentifiable square cut nail fragments, one piece of window glass, two pieces of unidentified flat iron, and four bottle glass fragments. One feature was encountered during shovel testing which appears to represent a robbed out architectural feature. A pocket of moderate to heavy mortar with some brick fragments was encountered at 1.5 feet below ground surface.

A total of 38 shovel tests were dug in the site area with 25 of them yielding artifacts and or shell, mortar, and brick.

Table 1.  
Mean Ceramic Date for 38BU968 Block C North Phase II tract.

Ceramic	Mean Date		
	(xi)	(fi)	fi x xi
Creamware, hand painted	1805	1	1805
undecorated	1791	3	5373
Pearlware, blue trans print	1818	5	9090
undecorated	1805	1	1805
Whiteware, blue trans print	1848	1	1848
undecorated	1860	8	14880
Total		19	34801

$$\text{Mean Ceramic Date} = 19/34801 = 1831.6$$

Since the artifact count was low, catagorizing the artifacts using South's (1977) pattern analysis was deemed not useful. The mean ceramic date from this area of the site is roughly 15 years later than the date Trinkley (1989b) obtained in previous investigations, and low artifact count may also contribute to this discrepancy although it is possible that this portion of the

plantation was not occupied until a later date.

The originally defined site 38BU968 exhibited excellent integrity throughout most of the site and was, therefore, recommended as eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places. Since the northern Block C Phase II tract contains a portion of this site, it is automatically eligible as well, as a contributing portion. While no surface features are visible, it is clear that this area does have some integrity since a feature was discovered during shovel testing.

#### Site Significance and Recommendations

Site 38BU968 appears to be a late eighteenth through late nineteenth century plantation, with at least four discrete activity areas currently defined. There are standing architectural remains, intact subsurface remains, and dense artifact concentrations. The bulk of the site appears to exhibit a high degree of integrity.

Known as St. Queunten Plantation, this site was probably a middling status plantation most active in the antebellum, but clearly continuing during the postbellum. Very few Beaufort area plantations have been professionally excavated, and outside of the work by Chicora Foundation on Daufuskie Island (Trinkley 1989) and Hilton Head Island (Trinkley 1990), none of this work has been published. Therefore, this plantation offers the potential to answer significant questions regarding plantation organization, economics of the plantation, slavery, and plantation architecture.

This site is judged to be eligible for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places. As such, development activity should be mitigated either through a carefully developed plan of green spacing or through data recovery. If data recovery is the chosen alternative, we recommend that at least a week of additional historical research on the plantation be conducted, including intensive efforts to complete the chain of title into the eighteenth century, a more detailed examination of antebellum and postbellum census records.

While ideally archaeological investigations should explore the plantation complex as a whole, rather than simply individual areas, the originally defined site 38BU968 has been green spaced. If the section of the site extending into the northern portion of Block C Phase II can not be green spaced, excavation will be required. We recommend that further testing be conducted to identify concentrations of artifacts and architectural remains. This could be accomplished by establishing a close interval grid (25 feet) over the tract and excavating tests along the grid with a power auger. As features and artifact concentrations are identified, block excavations should be opened to sufficiently understand the function of the features. Based on our survey, we believe the work should not take more than three weeks.

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