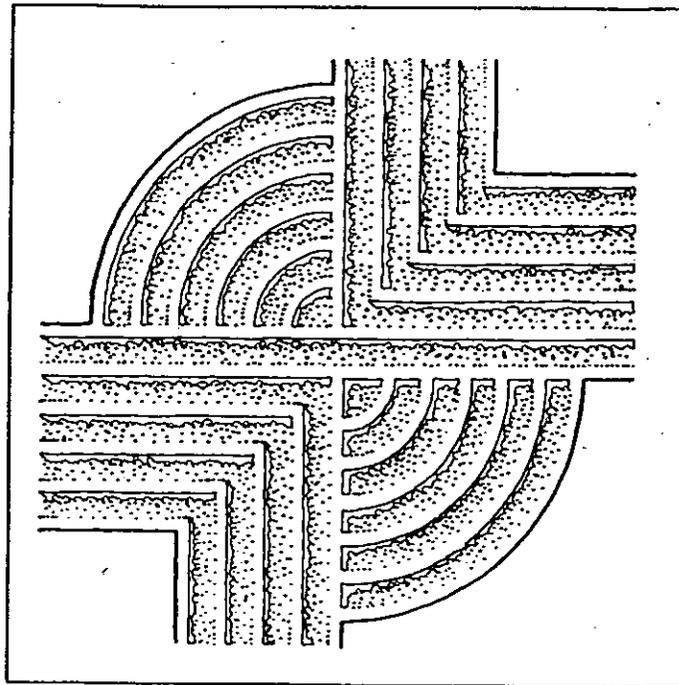


MANAGEMENT SUMMARY OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL
EXCAVATIONS 38FL240 AND 38FL249, GIBSON
PLANTATION TRACT, FLORENCE COUNTY,
SOUTH CAROLINA



RESEARCH CONTRIBUTION 106

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**MANAGEMENT SUMMARY OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATIONS
AT 38FL240 AND 38FL249, GIBSON PLANTATION TRACT,
FLORENCE COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA**

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Chicora Research Contribution 106

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Introduction

Florence County is situated in the Inner Coastal Plain of South Carolina and is bounded to the north by Marlboro and Dillon Counties, to the west by Darlington, Lee, Sumter Counties and Lynchess River, to the south by Clarendon and Williamsburg County and to the east by the Pee Dee River, which separates it from Marion County. The land primarily consists of gently rolling hills with elevations ranging from about 20 feet above mean sea level in parts of the river floodplains to a high of about 150 feet above sea level in the Florence-Timmonsville area. Most of the county has an elevation between 70 and 150 feet above sea level (Pitts 1974:109).

38FL240 and 38FL249 are both located on the proposed Roche Carolina, Inc. pharmaceutical plant tract just east of Florence on the edge of the Pee Dee River swamp. The tract is bordered to the north and east by the swamps of the Pee Dee River, and to the south by the Seaboard Coast Line Railroad. The western boundary is irregular, conforming to several roads and a Carolina Power and Light easement (Figure 1).

The vegetation at both 38FL240 and 38FL249 consists primarily of coniferous and deciduous trees including pines, oaks, sweetgums, and hickories. In addition, the wooded area consisted of a very thick understory of plants including blackberry (particularly along field edges), muscadine, wild and domesticated flowers, and various shrubs, vines, and herbaceous species. Only the southern boundary of 38FL240 and Locus 2 of 38FL249 were located in fallow fields.

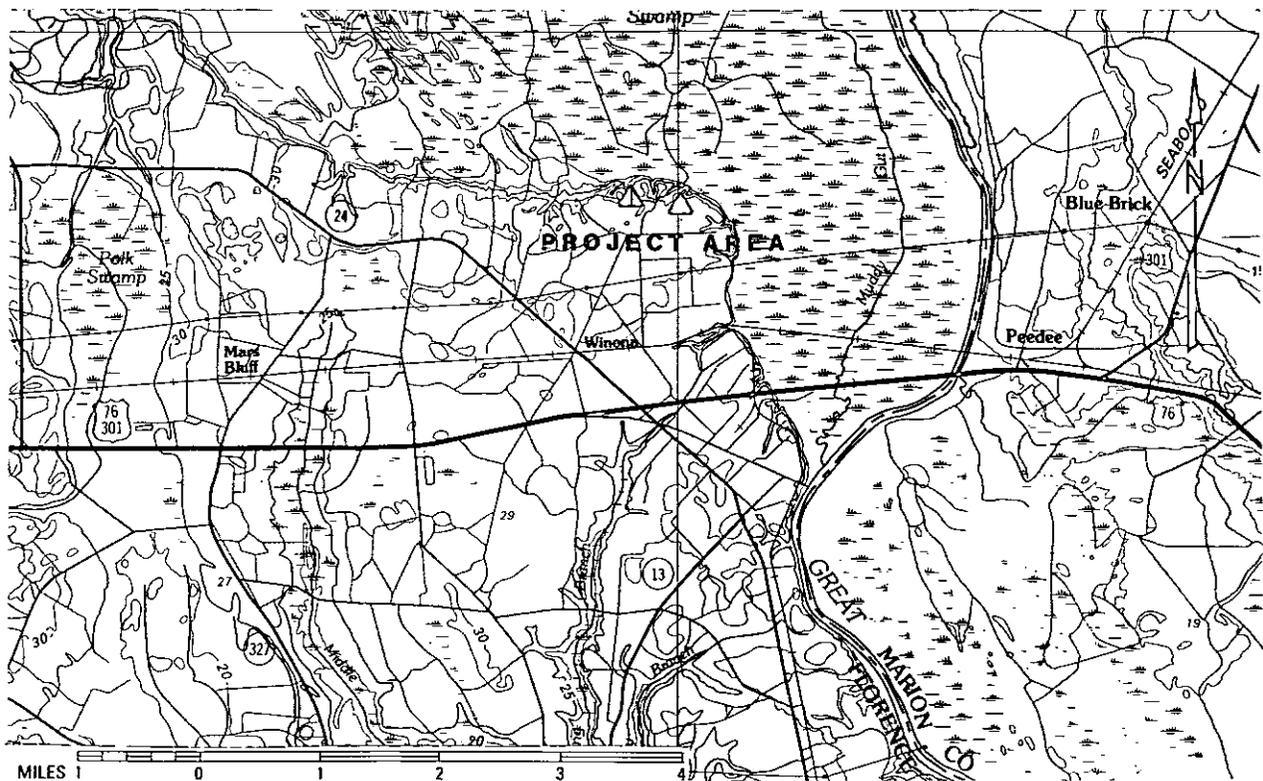


Figure 1. Location of 38FL240 and 38FL249 on the 1986 Pee Dee Quadrangle Map.

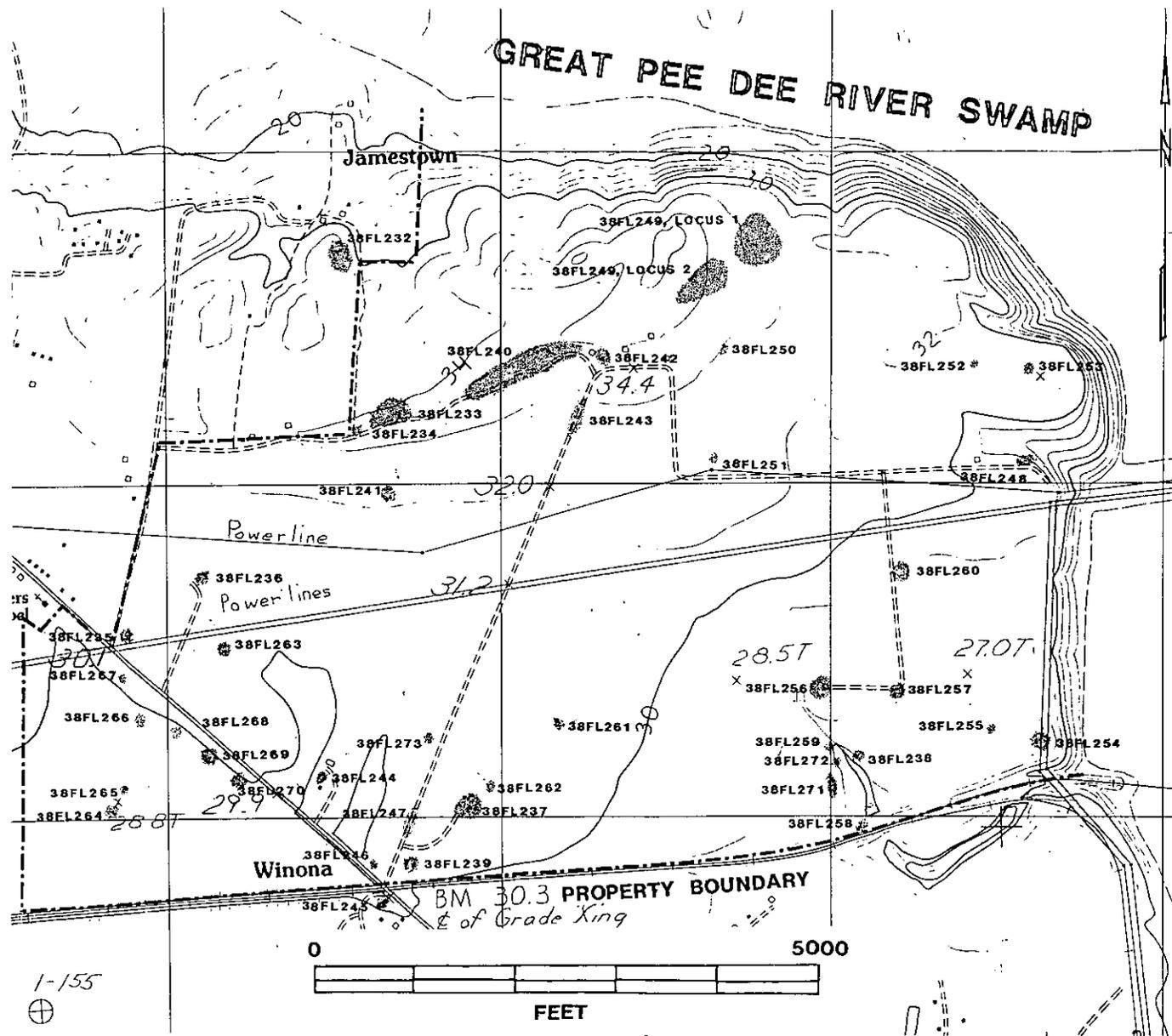


Figure 2. Location of 38FL240 and 38FL249 on the Roche Carolina tract.

At 38FL240 soils consist of excessively well drained Lakeland sands. Generally, the surface layer is a very dark grayish-brown sand about 0.6 foot thick overlying subsoils which extend for about 80 inches. These subsoils are primarily a yellowish-brown sand (Pitts 1974:27). At 38FL249 soils consist of both well drained Lucy sands and well drained Sunsweet loamy fine sands. The surface layer of Lucy sands is grayish-brown about 0.9 foot thick overlying a pale brown loamy sand subsoil (Pitts 1974:28). The surface layer of Sunsweet soils consist of dark grayish-brown loamy fine sand about 0.6 foot thick overlying a pale brown loamy fine sand about 0.3 foot thick. The subsoil layer is 3.7 foot thick and ranges from reddish brown to brown in color (Pitts 1974:39).

The topography in the Gibson Plantation tract tends to be flat with a range of elevation between 80 and 110 feet above sea level. The lower areas of the tract are located south of S.C. 24 and in the southern portion of the tract north of S.C. 24. This area is relatively level. The property rises gently in the northern area. The highest elevations are found along the northern boundary of the property, where narrow ridges run parallel to the swamp. These ridges are periodically cut by perpendicularly running drainages. It is on these ridges where both 38FL240 and 38FL249 occur. 38FL240 is found at an elevation of 110 feet MSL and 38FL249 is found at an elevation of 104 feet MSL.

Roche Carolina, Inc. is proposing to construct a major pharmaceutical research and manufacturing facility on approximately 200 acres of the property, with the remainder as a buffer offering future expansion capability. Consequently, plans call for water and sewer lines, additional power company transmission lines, widening of currently existing public roadways, and construction of the industrial site (with associated buildings, parking, roads, and landscaping). Related to this will be a variety of ground disturbing activities, including clearing, grubbing, filling, and grading, as well as excavation for underground utilities. The South Carolina State Historic Preservation Office (SC SHPO) recommended that the project area receive an intensive archaeological survey in a letter to the Pee Dee Regional Council of Governments. Chicora Foundation was requested to conduct this survey and as a result 42 sites were identified. Of these sites, five were recommended eligible which included two standing structures, one cemetery (located off of the tract), and 38FL240 and 38FL249 which are two archaeological sites (Trinkley and Adams 1992).

Based on Chicora's study, all five sites were determined by the SC SHPO as eligible for inclusion on the National Register. A Memorandum of Agreement between the SC SHPO and the Pee Dee Regional Council of Governments was developed and signed.

Chicora Foundation was requested by Mr. Phil Goff of the Pee Dee Regional Council of Governments and Mr. Harry Kocienckie of Roche Carolina, Inc. to prepare a technical and budgetary proposal for data recovery at 38FL240 and 38FL249. A proposal for those investigations was submitted by Chicora on September 22, 1992 and revised on October 16, 1992. The revised proposal was accepted on December 7, 1992.

This management summary has been prepared immediately upon completion of the fieldwork at 38FL240 and 38FL249 and does not contain detailed information on artifact analysis, or any detailed field evaluations. It is intended solely to provide a brief descriptive statement of the work conducted by Chicora and allow the SC SHPO to verify that the proposed work has actually been accomplished.

Archaeological investigations were begun at 38FL240 and 38FL249 by a crew of five (including the principal investigator) on February 1, 1993 and were continued through March 19, 1993. A total of 491 person hours were spent in the field at 38FL240 and an additional 42.5 person hours were spent on laboratory analysis and field processing. At 38FL249, 677 person hours were spent in the field and an additional 85.5 person hours were spent on laboratory analysis and field

processing. As a result of this work 1,825 square feet were excavated at 38FL240 and 2,000 square feet were excavated at 38FL249. This resulted in the excavation of 1,431 cubic feet of soil at 38FL240 and 2364.2 cubic feet of soil at 38FL249 all dry screened through quarter inch mesh. At 38FL240, Structure 1 contained 191 pounds of brick, Structure 2 contained 1,528 pounds, and Structure 3 contained 481 pounds of brick for a total of 2,223 pounds.

The proposed investigations at 38FL240 were to include the examination of three structures with above ground remains identified during the survey. At least 400 square feet were to be excavated at each structure with an additional 100 square feet of yard area explored, for a total of 1500 square feet at the site. This was accomplished with an additional 325 square feet excavated.

The proposed investigations at 38FL249 were to include the excavation of eight dispersed 10-foot units at Locus 1. An additional four units would be excavated, with the placement based on the findings of the first eight units. In addition, four 10-foot units were to be excavated at Locus 2. These excavations were to total 1,600 square feet. This was accomplished with an additional 400 square feet excavated.

Excavations at 38FL240

Each structure area was tied into the baseline established along the dirt field road. At Structure 2 on this baseline a metal capped rebar stamped "38FL240 AE 10.00" was established. All site elevations are tied into this vertical control. Horizontal control has been established at each structure using a grid oriented with the chimney remains. Each structure, therefore, has an independent grid, although each has been tied into the baseline (Figure 3). Structure 1 is oriented N14°E; Structure 2 is oriented N13°E; and Structure 3 is oriented N9°E, indicating some displacement of structures along the original row through replacement and abandonment.

The excavations throughout the site used natural stratigraphic zones. Zone 1 consisted of a dark brown (7.5YR3/2) loamy sand. In some areas of the site, the brown loamy sand graded into a slightly lighter brown (7.5YR4/4) loamy sand. In these instances they were divided into Zones 1A and 1B. Zone 1 varied in depth from about 0.4 to 1.1 feet and overlaid a brownish yellow (10YR6/6) subsoil. Excavations at all three structures indicated that the ridge which the site occupies was once under cultivation, apparently before the houses were constructed.

Both Zone 1A and 1B soils were dry screened through $\frac{1}{4}$ -inch mesh using mechanical sifters. Units were trowelled at the base of Zone 1, photographed in b/w and color slide, and plotted. Field notes were prepared on pH neutral, alkaline buffered paper and photographic materials are being processed to archival standards. We anticipate that all original field notes, with archival copies, will be curated at the South Carolina Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology or other suitable repository. All specimens will be evaluated for conservation needs and will be treated prior to curation.

Excavations at Structure 1 consist of two 10 by 10 foot units, four 5 by 10 foot units, and six 5 by 5 foot units, totalling 550 square feet. Above ground remains consisted of a double chimney with hearths opening roughly east and west. These excavations uncovered three foundation piers. Based on the locations of these piers, the east bay of the structure appears to be about 15 feet wide and 14 to 20 feet in length. The west bay is probably a mirror image. Zone 1A artifacts appear to be more recent than Zone 1B artifacts. Whereas wire nails predominate Zone 1A, Zone 1B contains more machine cut nails. This distinction may reflect the transition from slave settlement in the late antebellum to tenant site in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.

Yard excavations indicated that the east side contained relatively dense remains which became

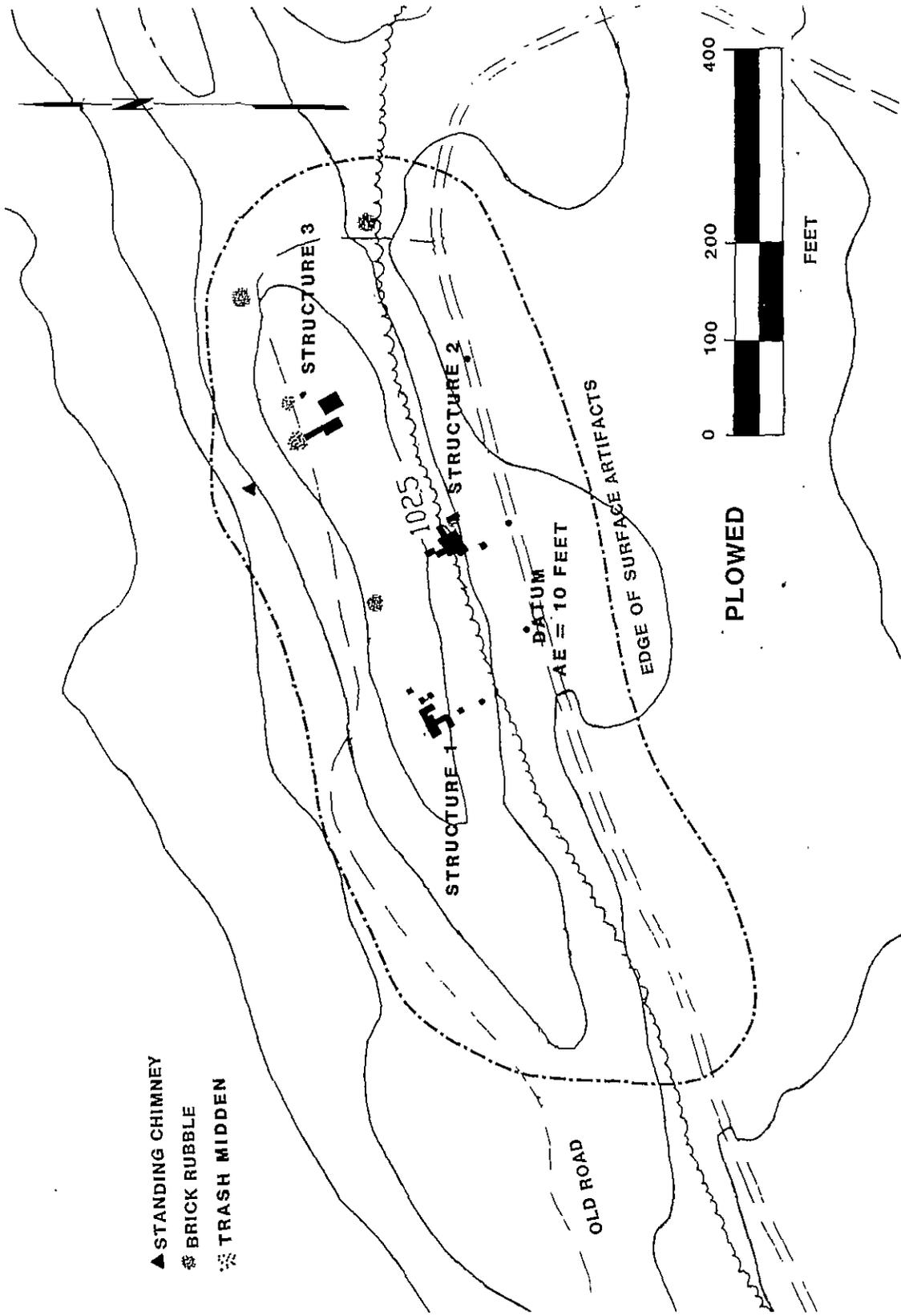


Figure 3. 38FL240 excavations.

much sparser about 30 feet away from the house. Remains were also dense south of the house, downslope. This may be due to erosion, however Zone 1 did not appear to be much deeper. Based on historic maps, another row of structures was located closer to the plowed fields, and these remains may be associated with those other, possibly earlier houses.

Structure 2 excavations consist of four 10 by 10 foot units, four 5 by 10 foot units, and two 5 by 5 foot units, totalling 650 square feet. No above ground remains exist, although a firebox was located during the initial survey and a 5 by 10 foot test unit had been placed to expose a portion of the feature.

Data recovery excavations concentrated on determining the size of the structure, its construction date, and the location of yard trash or associated middens. These excavations discovered that Structure 2 represents a single pen house with the firebox opening to the east. A foundation pier was located south of the firebox, suggesting that the structure was about eight feet wide. No matching pier was found to the north and no piers could be identified to the east. Based on the one pier remain found, as well as the piers found at other structures, it appears that all were shallowly placed. In the east yard area of the structure a large "feature" was located containing brown sand. Upon excavation it was discovered that the feature gradually slopes up to the north. It appears to represent a sharp drop that gradually was filled or leveled by erosion from uphill.

Excavations at Structure 3 consisted of four 10 by 10 foot units, four 5 by 10 foot units, and two 5 by 5 foot units, totalling 650 square feet. Above ground remains consist of a chimney firebox and chimney fall, brick piers, foundation beams, and framing. This above ground information revealed that the house was a double pen central chimney structure measuring 24 feet east-west by 12 feet north-south with a porch on the south side measuring about seven feet deep and a lean-to addition on the north measuring about eight feet deep. A trash dump was noted about 30 feet northwest of the structure across an old road bed. This dump was surface collected in five foot units in a 20 foot by 25 foot area with remains noted and discarded. A second, smaller dump was identified about 40 feet north of the structure, also on the far side of the road, but was not further examined.

Since many structural details available above ground, only 100 square feet was excavated underneath the house. The additional 550 square feet was placed in various yard areas, including in the area of the trash dump. One feature was located in these units. The portion exposed measured 35 feet east-west by 80 feet north-south, was rectangular in shape and had a maximum depth of 0.7 feet. The north half of the feature was excavated revealing an artifact and soil content similar to Zone 1 excavations except that the soils were somewhat swirled. The base of the feature undulated considerably. Based on the rectangular shape and the undulating base, this feature may represent a "hog wallow" in a penned area near the house.

Excavations at 38FL249

Each unit was tied into a series of control points following the field road bisecting the site. Vertical control was maintained through the use of an assumed elevation (A.E.) of 10.00 feet located at the southern-most point of the baseline, at the intersection of the remnant road and the field road. All site elevations are tied into this vertical control. Horizontal control of the individual units was maintained using a magnetic north grid (Figure 4).

The excavations throughout the site used a combination of arbitrary and natural stratigraphic zones. Zone 1 consisted of a dark brown (7.5YR3/2) loamy sand which had been plowed in some areas and is found at a maximum depth of 0.9 feet. It produced primarily prehistoric ceramics, some lithics, and some historic remains, particularly around the tenant house remains located in the central portion of the site. Zone 2 consisted of a brown (7.5YR4/4) mottled sand which grades into a

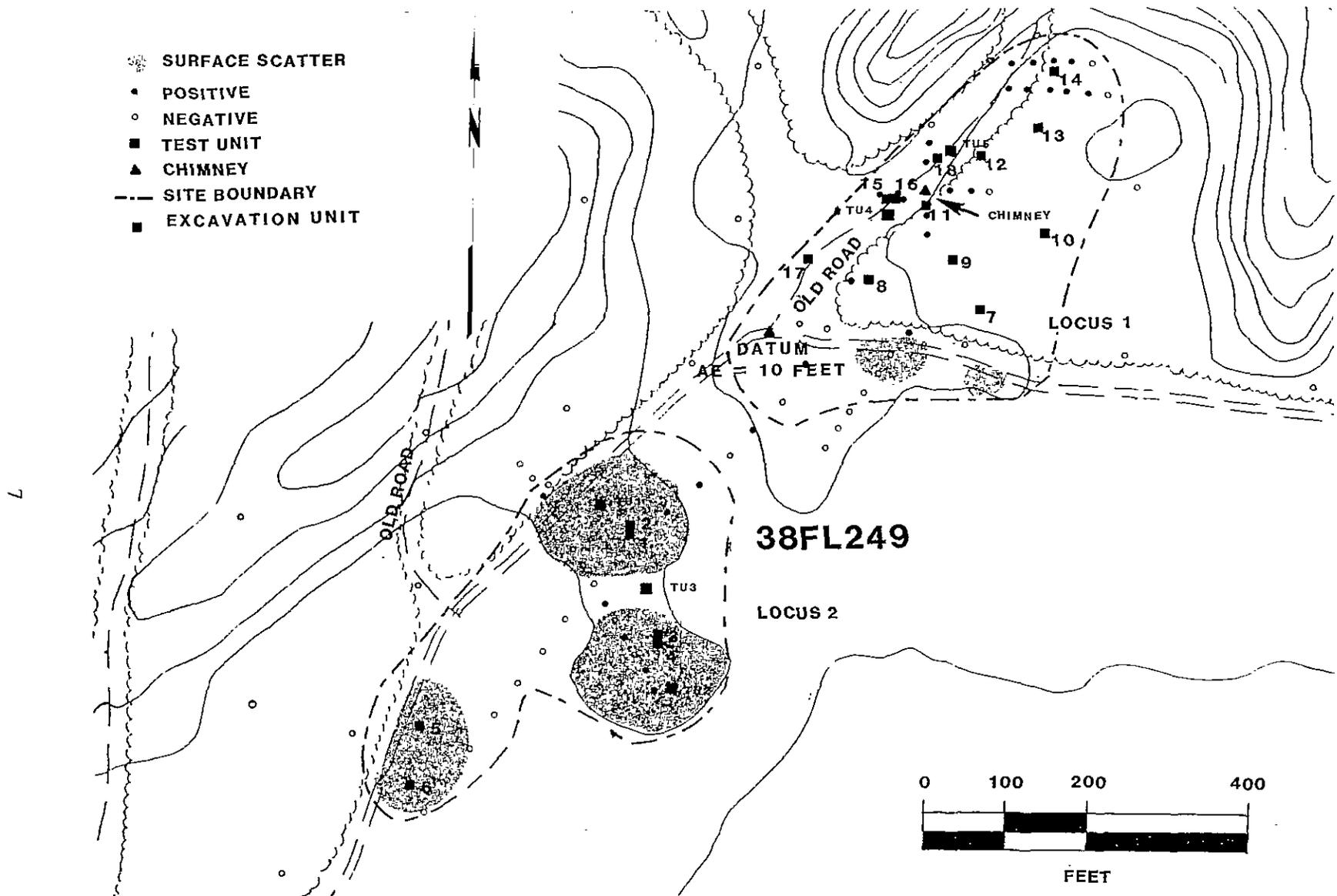


Figure 4. Excavations at 38FL249.

yellowish brown (10YR5/4) sand called Zone 3. Zone 2 contained both prehistoric pottery (primarily Yadkin and Badin) and lithics. Zone 2 varies from 0.8 to 1.2 feet deep. Zone 3 grades into a light yellowish brown (10YR6/4) sand. There is a reddish yellow (5YR6/6) fine sand clay representing percolation lines in some areas. This zone produced almost exclusively lithics. Zone 3 varies from 1.0 to 1.3 feet. Zones 2 and 3 were excavated in arbitrary levels no greater than 0.5 feet.

All soils were dry screened through $\frac{1}{4}$ -inch mesh using mechanical sifters. The soils, especially at the lower levels of Zone 2, were quite wet and screening was very time consuming. An exception in screening techniques was made in Excavation Units 15, 16, 17, and 18 where large quantities of small remains were encountered. As a result, Zones 2 and 3 were water screened through $\frac{1}{8}$ -inch mesh after having been processed through the $\frac{1}{4}$ -inch mesh. This resulted in exceptional recovery of very small fragments of calcined animal bone, charred hickory and walnut fragments, and very small thinning flakes. Because the fragments were "imbedded" in soil balls, it appears that very few items $\frac{1}{8}$ -inch and over were lost during the $\frac{1}{4}$ -inch screening. Units were trowelled at the base of excavations, photographed in b/w and color slide, and plotted.

Field notes were prepared on pH neutral, alkaline buffered paper and photographic materials are being processed to archival standards. All original field notes, with archival copies, will be curated at the South Carolina Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology or some similar repository. All specimens will be evaluated for conservation needs and will be treated prior to curation.

Six units were excavated in the plowed area of 38FL249, identified as Locus 2. Two units were placed on each of the three knolls in the field. Stratigraphy here consisted of a dark brown (7.5YR3/2) sandy plowzone level which ranged from 0.4 to 0.6 feet in depth. Below the plowzone was brownish yellow (10YR7/6) subsoil. The quantity of artifacts recovered was very low; probably the result of continued plowing and collection by locals. In fact, one individual was encountered collecting the field during our work and foot prints were observed after weekends, indicating that others were visiting the site. Most of the artifacts consisted of lithic debitage with a few pieces of prehistoric ceramics and historic remains. Based on these remains, it appears that this portion of the site was most used during the Archaic Period.

Eight excavation units were placed randomly in Locus 1 of the site to give adequate coverage of various areas of the site. Vegetation at Locus 1 was extremely thick, and clearing the vegetation to these units took 56 person hours. While no features were encountered in these excavations, some information was obtained on stratigraphy and artifact density across the site. Table 1 presents information on stratigraphy at all excavations in Locus 1. In EUs 7-11 artifact density was relatively low in all levels, however, the upper levels of Zone 3 continued to produce a number of artifacts, declining considerably near the base of the zone. Excavation units 12-14 produced much higher quantities of artifacts. All were located within 100 feet of the landform edge where the small intermittent creek begins. The base of Zone 2 or the upper portions of Zone 3 contained few artifacts.

While EUs 12-14 produced more artifacts than other areas of the site, the test units excavated during the survey had produced a large amount of artifacts, a wider range of lithic debitage with a significant amount of calcined bone and bits of charcoal. Based on those findings, the additional units were placed to better investigate this area. All four units produced large quantities of small remains. In fact, during the excavation of Zone 2 in EU 15, it was decided that the remains should be water screened through $\frac{1}{8}$ -inch mesh after having been processed through $\frac{1}{4}$ -inch mesh. As previously discussed, we believe that the use of $\frac{1}{4}$ -inch mesh did not reduce the quantity and quality of the collection since the soils were damp enough so that the vast majority of materials remained in the screen.

With relatively large quantities of charcoal recovered in good context, a radiocarbon date will

be obtained from Zone 2.

Table 1.
Stratigraphic depths at Locus 1, EUs 7 through 18
(depths in feet)

7	0.3	0.4	1.7
8	0.8	0.5	1.0
9	0.6	0.7	1.3
10	0.4	1.6	0.5
11	0.5	0.7	0.6
12	0.8	1.0	.
13	0.6	0.9	.
14	0.7	0.5	0.6
15	0.6	1.0	.
16	0.8	0.8	.
17	0.8	0.5	.
18	0.6	0.6	.

Prehistoric artifacts produced a wide temporal range of diagnostic materials including Thelma (Late Woodland) and Caraway (South Appalachian Mississippian) through Palmer (Early Archaic) projectile points. Pottery consisted primarily of Yadkin and Badin, with a moderate amount of Hanover, and small amounts of Savannah and Stallings.

Educational Component

Coupled with the research undertaken at these two sites was an educational program, Searching for the Past, Archaeology in Education, conducted by Chicora Foundation under auspices of Roche Carolina, Inc. This involved the development of curricula materials for use by teachers, extensive media attention on the heritage of the Pee Dee area, and school tours of the site. Over a five week period over 1,000 school kids, from grade three to twelve, toured the site, seeing real archaeology and learning how archaeologists reconstruct the past. In addition to the school kids, over 150 adults, including teachers, toured the site. Over 100 curricula guides have been distributed to schools and individuals throughout the state.

The excavations were covered by two commercial television stations, WBTW (Channel 13 - CBS) and WPDE (Channel 15 - ABC). In addition, the Sumter ETV station, WJPM (Channel 33) produced a 10-minute segment on the excavations, with another segment to be aired on what archaeologists do in the lab.

While it is difficult to quantify the impact of the program, some estimates can be made. For example recent Arbitron ratings for the two commercial television stations suggest that upwards of 230,000 total households in the Pee Dee area were exposed to the educational program, not counting those who saw the much longer ETV program. The 1,000+ school kids evidence more than a one-time exposure since it is likely that they will remember the event and the curricula materials are designed to foster a continued interest in heritage issues. The curricula materials provided to nearly 75 teachers and schools will have an estimated useful life of 4 years (an estimate of the time teachers tend to use

"new" materials before looking for replacements). With each teacher having social studies or history classes four times a day and each class having an average size of 30 kids, this translates into the exposure of 36,000 kids to heritage preservation.

In retrospect this represents one of the most aggressive, carefully developed, and successful heritage-based educational programs ever undertaken in South Carolina. Chicora Foundation has been invited to participate in a national conference on historic site interpretation, using the Roche Carolina project as an example of how archaeological research can be successfully interpreted to the public. This underscores the significance of this project, since it demonstrates that "compliance" or "public" archaeology can, in fact, be made truly public.

Interpretations

These excavations have explored the remains of a slave/tenant village (38FL240) as well as the remains of a prehistoric occupation dating from the Early Archaic to the Late Woodland periods (38FL249).

The excavations at 38FL240 revealed a mid-nineteenth through mid-twentieth century slave/tenant village with both nineteenth and twentieth century architectural features. One single pen structure (Structure 2) was excavated which appears to date to the nineteenth century, based on the presence of early bricks and a large amount of machine cut nails. This structure is small, measuring only about eight feet wide and having an unknown length.

Two double pen structures were also investigated which probably date to the turn of the century. The east bay of Structure 1 is 15 feet wide and 14 to 20 feet in length. Structure 3 measures 12 feet wide and 24 feet in length with a porch attachment on one side and a lean-to extension on the other. While similar in configuration to Structure 1, the differing sizes indicate that these houses were not built using a formal plan. Since wooden beams are still present at Structure 3, it appears that this house may have been the last one standing and probably the last one occupied. This is corroborated by the presence of a relatively dense surface trash midden located to the north which was not found at Structure 1. The structure does exhibit, however, re-use of earlier materials and includes both hand-made and machine-made bricks, as well as sawn and hewn timber.

Excavations at 38FL249 recovered artifacts dating from the Early Archaic to the Late Woodland Periods. Locus 1 excavations contained relatively deep deposits while Locus 2 excavations indicated that plowing had truncated the site, leaving only plow zone materials. At Locus 1, the stratigraphy indicated that Zone 1 soils contained tenant and Woodland Period artifacts. Portions of the site evidenced plowing. Zone 2 soils contained primarily Woodland period remains, along with some Archaic Period diagnostic artifacts particularly in the lower levels. Zone 3 soils (where present) contained almost exclusively Archaic Period remains. Excavation units nearest the intermittent stream contained the densest amount of remains as well as the widest variety of cultural materials. A large amount of charred nut fragments, calcined bone, and very small lithic debitage were recovered here.

No subsurface features were encountered in the excavations at 38FL249 despite the fact that artifacts were dense and included both ethnobotanical and faunal remains. In addition, a moderate quantity of fire cracked rock was encountered. It is probable that features once existed, but have been leached out over the years. Site 38LX5, of the same general time period and found on equally sandy soils, exhibited similar characteristics. Tested by Anderson (1979) using small excavation units, no features were encountered. Anderson concluded that the "absence of evidence for structures . . . coupled with the infrequent occurrence of hearths, points to a relatively uncomplicated use of the site" (Anderson 1979:124). Subsequent work by Trinkley (1980) at 38LX5 indicated that the site was more complicated than originally believed. Five Deptford Phase pits were encountered in a 20 by 60

foot block excavation. All of these features were leached out, with little staining, and would not have been totally unrecognizable if the excavation units were smaller (see Trinkley 1980:28-29).

The use of ten foot squares at 38FL240 may not have been adequate to allow recognition of features. Nonetheless, the site appears to have been intensively occupied based on the quantity and variety of artifacts encountered.

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