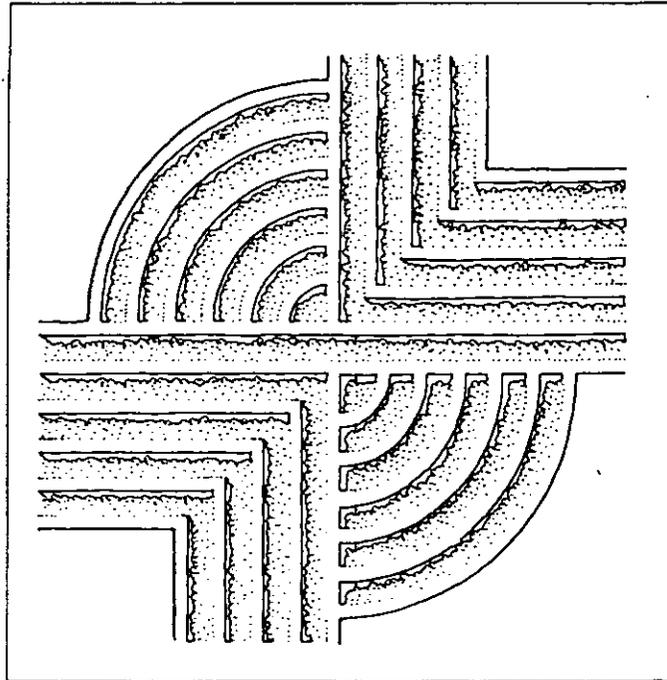


ARCHAEOLOGICAL RECONNAISSANCE OF THE 50 ACRE
SANTÉE-COOPER INDIAN CREEK SWITCHING STATION,
CHESTERFIELD COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA



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Introduction

Chicora Foundation was requested to submit a budgetary proposal for an archaeological reconnaissance level survey of the 50 acre Santee-Cooper Indian Creek switching station tract in Chesterfield County. Specifically, the study was to address:

- whether or not cultural resources are likely to exist in the project area, and
- how deep disturbances in the area are and the likelihood that they may have affected cultural resources, if present.

Chicora Foundation provided Sabine & Waters with a budgetary proposal and a brief outline of the tasks involved in a reconnaissance level study on October 25, 1993. The proposed work would consist of:

- a review of the S.C. Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology site files;
- coordination with the S.C. State Historic Preservation Office for any National Register sites or previous architectural surveys in the immediate area;
- a professional assessment addressing the likelihood of identifying archaeological or historical sites in the project area, based on a review of previously recorded sites, a review of pertinent twentieth century county road maps, and our profession experience in the project area; and
- one field day to examine areas with good surface visibility (e.g. road cuts and plowed fields) as well as areas with high archaeological probability, such as knolls and well drained areas.

This proposal was accepted by Sabine & Waters on October 26, 1993. Ms. Natalie Adams examined the site files of the S.C. Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology. A project map area map was faxed to the S.C. Historic Preservation Office on October 26, requesting information on National Register sites and previous architectural surveys. A verbal response from Dr. Tracy Powers indicated that no National Register properties are located in the project area. No response has yet been received.

The field investigations were undertaken by Ms. Natalie Adams on October, 27 1993. The laboratory processing of the resulting collections, curation preparations, and report production have taken place at Chicora Foundation's laboratories in Columbia on October 28 and 29, 1993.

It is important to clearly indicate that this study involves only a reconnaissance level

investigation of the 50 acre tract. No intensive investigation has been undertaken by Chicora Foundation and the methodology of this reconnaissance investigation was designed and implemented to address specific questions posed by Sabine & Waters. More generally, it was designed to allow an assessment of the likelihood that ground disturbing activities in the project area might impact unrecorded archaeological resources.

Project Area

The project area is located approximately two miles south of the town of Chesterfield. The property is bounded to the east by S-13-224, to the south by S-13-77, and to the north and west by privately owned property (Figure 1). A powerline bisects the property essentially into east and west halves. This line turns east at the northern end of the property and ends at a Santee-Cooper substation. A dirt road follows the line north from S-13-77 for approximately 300 feet and then turns northwest where it ends at a turnaround. This turnaround is located just west of the property boundary.

The project area is situated in the Sand Hills region. The topography in the area is rolling with elevation dropping significantly in the northern two-thirds of the tract. Elevations range from 310 to 370 feet above mean sea level (MSL).

Chesterfield County is drained through four systems. An area along the eastern edge is drained by tributaries directly into the Pee Dee River. The northeastern and east-central section is drained by Thompsons Creek and its tributaries into the Pee Dee. The central and south-central portion is drained by Big Black Creek, and the western boundary of the county is drained into Lynches River (Latimer et al. 1915:5-6). A spring head occurs in the northwestern corner of the project area, which flows into Indian Creek. However, Cow Branch is the nearest named creek.

Soils in the survey area consist of Norfolk sandy loam. These soils are gray loamy sand changing at about five inches into pale yellow sand. They are generally found along stream slopes or on knolls and ridges (Latimer et al. 1915:15).

Mills (1976:497 [1825]) remarked that

A large proportion of this district presents pine barren sand hills, not worth cultivation, except when intersected by streams; where a little good soil is found. Along the northern boundary the lands incline towards the clayey and stony kind, and present a rolling surface. The river lands are of a rich soil, as also those bordering the creeks, in proportion to their extent.

Chesterfield County's climate is characterized by long, hot summers and short, cool winters. The average annual temperature is 60.9°F. High temperatures average 89.7°F in the summer, but rarely exceed 100°F. Rainfall averages 47.39 inches yearly. July is the wettest month with an average of 4.97 inches. The driest month is November, with an average of

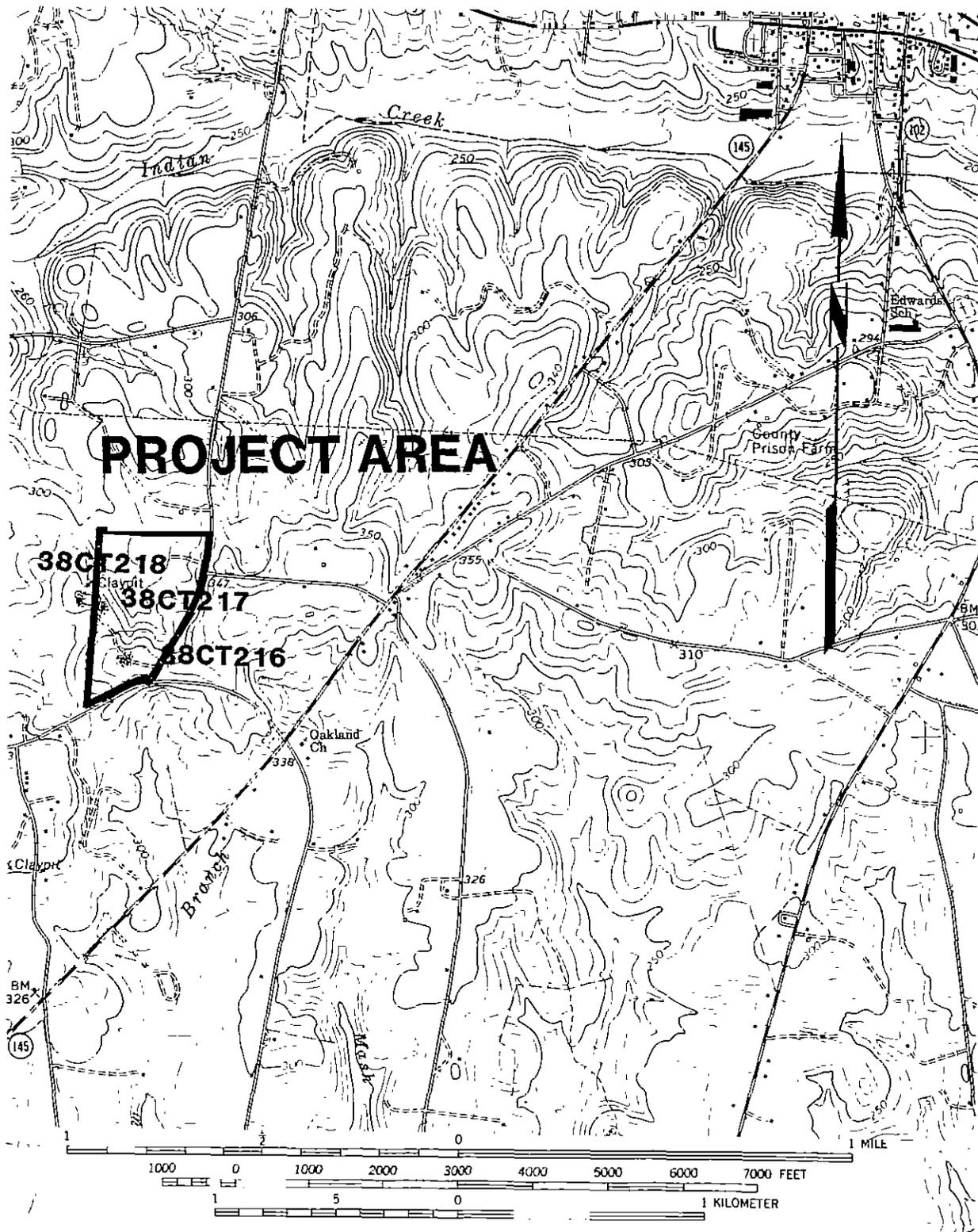


Figure 2. Location of project area and sites on the 1968 Chesterfield USGS topographic map.

2.70 inches (Epperson 1971).

Vegetation in the Sandhills is characterized by xerophytic type flora. According to Barry (1980:103) "a walk through the most xeric stages of the fall line sandhills would probably be very boring as well as very hot during the summer". The area would consist of an open canopy of tall longleaf pines overtopping a number of turkey oaks and a few Margaret's oaks or scrubby post oaks, bluejack oaks, blackgums, and persimmons. In slightly moister areas, scrub oak predominates over turkey oak. However, longleaf pine is still the dominant gymnosperm. In some areas, moisture conditions become more mesic. Most of these areas have undergone cultivation and have become severely eroded. Loblolly pine dominates, replacing longleaf pine in nearly all cases (Barry 1980).

Vegetation in the project area consisted primarily of pine and oak with a light understory of vegetation. In the northern portion of the tract where the elevation drops, the understory is much thicker and several wetland species exist.

Although not as agriculturally productive as other parts of the state, wildlife is abundant. The Pee Dee basin is a major fly-way and migratory birds, particularly mallard and black duck, are attracted to the region in great numbers. Mills (1972:626) observed that: The shad and herring, in season, are caught in great abundance in this district; as also the sturgeon. The indigenous fish are trout, bream, perch, cat-fish, &c. The game are deer, wild turkeys, ducks, wild pigeons, geese, besides the common birds of the country.

Brief Prehistoric and Historic Synopsis

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). The Paleo-Indian occupation, while widespread, does not appear to have been intensive. Points usually associated with this period include the Clovis and several variants, Suwannee, Simpson, and Dalton (Goodyear et al. 1989:36-38).

At least six Paleo-Indian points have been found in the Chesterfield County area, clustered along the Pee Dee and Lynches Rivers (Goodyear et al. 1989:33). This pattern of artifacts found along major river drainages has been interpreted by Michie to support the concept of an economy "oriented towards the exploitation of now extinct mega-fauna" (Michie 1977:124).

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, 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 Chesterfield County area. Archaic period assemblages, characterized by corner-notched, side-notched, and broad stemmed projectile points, are common in the vicinity, although they rarely are found in good, well-preserved contexts.

The Woodland period begins, by definition, with the introduction of fired clay pottery about 2000 B.C. along the South Carolina coast and much later in the Carolina Piedmont, about 500 B.C. 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 2000 to 500 B.C. was a period of tremendous change.

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 some coastal sites indicate that sedentary life was not only possible, but probable. Further inland it seems likely that many Native American groups continued the previous established patterns of band mobility. These frequent moves would allow the groups to take advantage of various seasonal resources, such as shad and sturgeon in the spring, nut masts in the fall, and turkeys during the winter.

The South Appalachian Mississippian period, from about A.D. 1100 to A.D. 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 coastal phases are named the Savannah and Irene (known as Pee Dee further inland) (A.D. 1200 to 1550).

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

were of but small importance politically; no sustained mission work was ever attempted among them, and there were but few literary men to take an interest in them. War, pestilence, whiskey and systematic slave hunts had nearly exterminated the aboriginal occupants of the Carolinas before 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).

The Pedee are first mentioned in 1711 when they formed a small part of Colonel John Barnwell's force against the Tuscarora in North Carolina (Milling 1969:118). Mooney (1894:76-77) notes that their village, in 1715, was situated on the east bank of the Pee Dee, probably in the vicinity of Marion County. A military map dating from 1715 shows the Pedees to be about 38 miles down river from the "Saraus" (Saras) and about 80 miles up river from the Atlantic Ocean. This would place the Pedee very close to their location shown by DeBrahm on his 1757 map.

By 1716 the Pedees were in a region called Saukey (thought by Swanton to be what is today Socatee) which was mentioned as a possible trading post or "factory" site (McDowell 1955:80). Several months later, however, the Indian Trade Commissioners abandoned Saukey in favor of Uauenee (or Great Bluff, today known as Yauhannah). It was observed that:

1st, its Vicinity to our English Plantations, will afford us News from thence, at all Times, by Land, within three or four Days, at most; whereas Saukey (the appointed Place) is much more remote; 2ndly, that Saukey being only covered by the Pedea's, is exposed to the Insults of the Charraws; 3rdly, that (besides the Interest it will be to us, in obliging the Wackamaws, a People of greater Consequence then the Pedees, by such a Settlement), Uauenee being contiguous to the Wackamaws, the most populous of those two Nations; so on the other Hand, 'tis the best seated for a general Consourse and frequent (McDowell 1955:111).

This passage, while ambiguous, suggests that Saukey was situated further north, perhaps along the Pee Dee River. But it is unlikely that it was at Socatee as suggested by Swanton.

During the early eighteenth century there was constant warfare between the southern and northern Indian groups, with a tremendous loss of life. An account in the British Public Records Office states:

Before the end of the said year [1716] we recovered the Charokees and Northward Indians after several Slaughters and Blood Sheddings, which has lessened their numbers and utterly Extirpating some little tribes as the Congarees, Santees, Seawees, Pedees, Waxhaws and some Corsaboys, so that by Warr, Pestilence and Civill Warr amongst themselves, the Charokess may be computed reduced to about 10,000 souls & the Northern Indians to about 2500 Souls (quoted in Mills 1972:223-224 [1825]).

While it is possible that the Pedee suffered a severe reduction in population, it is clear from the historic accounts that some of their number survived. In February 1717 a Pedee, Tom West, came to Charleston to arrange a peace between the English and the Charraw (McDowell 1955:160, 176). Apparently the peace was not formed, or at least was short lived (McDowell 1955:209). Late in 1717 the Pedee appealed to the English not to

move the trading post from Uauenee to the Black River (McDowell 1955:208).

At least as early as the 1740s some of the Pedee had joined with the Catawba in an uneasy confederation (Mooney 1894:77), while the remaining Pedee were classified as "Settlement Indians," living among the English (McDowell 1958:85, 166). Mooney reports that the Settlement Pedee joined in a variety of Anglo activities, even keeping black slaves (Mooney 1894:77). In 1752 the Catawba wrote Governor James Glen:

There are a great many Pedee Indians living in the Settlements that we want to come and settle amongst us. We desire you to send for them and advise them to this, and give them this String of Wampum in Token that we want them to settle here, and will always live like Brothers with them. The Northern Indians want them all to settle with us, for as they are now at Peace they may be hunting in the Woods or straggling about killed by some of them except they join us and make but one Nation, which will be a great Addition of Strength to us (McDowell 1958:362).

While many of the remaining Pedee apparently joined the Catawba, it did not provide total protection. As late as 1753 the Northern Indians took at least one Pedee Indian slave during a "visit" to the Catawba area (McDowell 1958:388). In 1755 a Settlement Pedee was killed by the Notchee and Cherokee (Mooney 1894:77, 84).

De Brahm's "Map of South Carolina and a Part of Georgia," dated 1757 shows the "Peadea Indian Old Town" situated in Marlboro County. By the time of Mouzon's "An Accurate Map of North and South Carolina" in 1775 no further evidence of the Pedee was shown.

The last mention of the Pedee comes from Ramsay's History of South Carolina:

Persons now living remember that there were about thirty Indians, a remnant of the Pedee and Cape Fear tribes that lived in the Parishes of St. Stephens and St. Johns. King John was their chief. There was another man among the same tribe who was called Prince. Governor Lyttelton give him a Commission of Captain General and Commander-in-Chief of the two tribes, which superseded Johnny. The latter took umbrage at the promotion of the former and attempted to kill him. There were some shots exchanged, but no mischief was done. All this remnant of these ancient tribes are now extinct except for one woman of a half-breed (Ramsay 1808:Appendix II).

Swanton was able to determine little more than this about the Pedee, observing that no words survived. In spite of this, he attributed the Pedee to the Siouan linguistic stock, probably on the basis of their frequent identification with other, supposedly Siouan, groups.

No archaeological sites attributable to the Pedee have been identified and Swanton

observed, "no village names are known apart from the tribal name, which was sometimes applied to specific settlements" (Swanton 1952:97). The presumed protohistoric remains in this region are essentially identical (at least in a gross sense) to those found elsewhere. They include small, triangular projectile points, often crudely made; complicated stamped pottery with motifs ranging from finely applied to crudely stamped; and diminutive ground stone celts. Protohistoric to historic Pedee villages, when found, are likely to be evidenced by a significant quantity of trade goods, including glass beads, copper bangles, guns or gun parts, tobacco pipes, iron hatchets and knives, and similar items.

At the present, however, there is virtually nothing known of the Pedee Indians and their villages remain lost. The Pedee settlement which should be most easily identified based on period maps has received no professional attention, although there is some evidence that it has been looted by relic hunters.

The early history of Chesterfield County was only briefly presented by Mills (1972:496 [1825]):

This district was originally settled by emigrants from Virginia and Pennsylvania, about the year 1745. At that time it formed a part of Craven county, afterwards of Cheraw precincts; and now constitutes in itself an independent judicial district.

The Cheraw district was originally part of Craven County in 1682. In 1731 the township of Queensborough was laid out at the confluence of the Pee Dee and Little Pee Dee Rivers to entice settlement in that region. However, settlers were slow in coming.

Welsh began settling the area in the late 1730s and other immigrants, including Scots, Irish, Germans, French, and English, soon followed. In addition, settlers from Virginia and Pennsylvania moved into the area.

While subsistence based, farmers discovered that cane brakes were perfect for raising livestock. As more land was cleared, other economic sources such as lumber developed. During the colonial period the major crops were wheat, corn, and indigo.

In the 1760s colonists attempted to bring law and order to the area. Colonists complained that they were too far from existing courts and magistrates for them to be of any use. Frustrated by their unheard cries for assistance, they began taking matters into their own hands. These "regulators" allowed only writs and warrants to be served which had been given their consent.

During the American Revolution a number of skirmishes took place in the Up Country. British Major McArthur was stationed at Cheraw, where a number of encounters took place between he and Colonel Powell of the Continental Army. Unaccustomed to the warm subtropical climate, many of the British fell ill and died. McArthur was forced to

withdraw to Lynches Creek, about two miles from Jefferson, to recuperate and received reinforcements. Other than these developments, very little war related activities took place in Chesterfield County (Gregg 1867).

After the war, the Cheraw district grew rapidly and in 1785 the district was divided into three counties: Marlborough, Chesterfield, and Darlington. Improvements were then made in the transportation system creating more roads and public ferries. By 1820 the population of the county consisted of 4,412 white and 2,333 black inhabitants (White 1972).

In 1826 the town of Chesterfield became the county seat. At this time the town consisted of 12 houses, two stores, and a new courthouse. Mills Atlas (1965 [1826]) shows the project area as containing no subscribers at that time. Most are situated along the major creeks which probably accurately depicts the settlement pattern in the area at that time (Figure 2).

Between 1820 and 1856 South Carolina saw an increase in manufacturing and business. In the late 1820s Gold was discovered near Miller's Store (now Jefferson). Although some increases occurred, generally South Carolina remained a state based on subsistence farming and one crop cotton staple (Wallace 1951).

Few Chesterfield County citizens owned slaves, making the residents more like their North Carolina neighbors. Although against secession, the county sent five companies of infantry, as well as supplies, for the Confederate cause. Chesterfield County did not see much action until the last days of the war during Sherman's return from his "March to the Sea". In March of 1865 Union forces reached Chesterfield. After a skirmish with Confederate troops, a number of public buildings were burned.

After they reached Cheraw, they located a large number of Confederate military supplies sent up from Charleston. Sherman inventories 24 cannons, 2000 muskets, 3600 barrels of gunpowder, and "other things" (Glatthaar 1985). Unfortunately, a careless soldier caused many of the supplies to be lost in an explosion that also killed several men and wounded many more.

The arrival of the railroad can be attributed to the eventual recovery of the county. In the 1880s lines were built connecting Chesterfield County to important towns including Salisbury, North Carolina and Camden, South Carolina.

During reconstruction and into 1900, small subsistence farming continued. Those larger farmers who had been dependent on slaves turned to sharecropping and tenant farming. The early 1900s brought improvements to the county, although by in large the area was still impoverished. Cotton was still the staple crop although farmers began experimenting with growing melons, grapes, and other fruits. Chesterfield County shipped 30,000 bales of cotton in 1925 and had become the states largest peach producer.

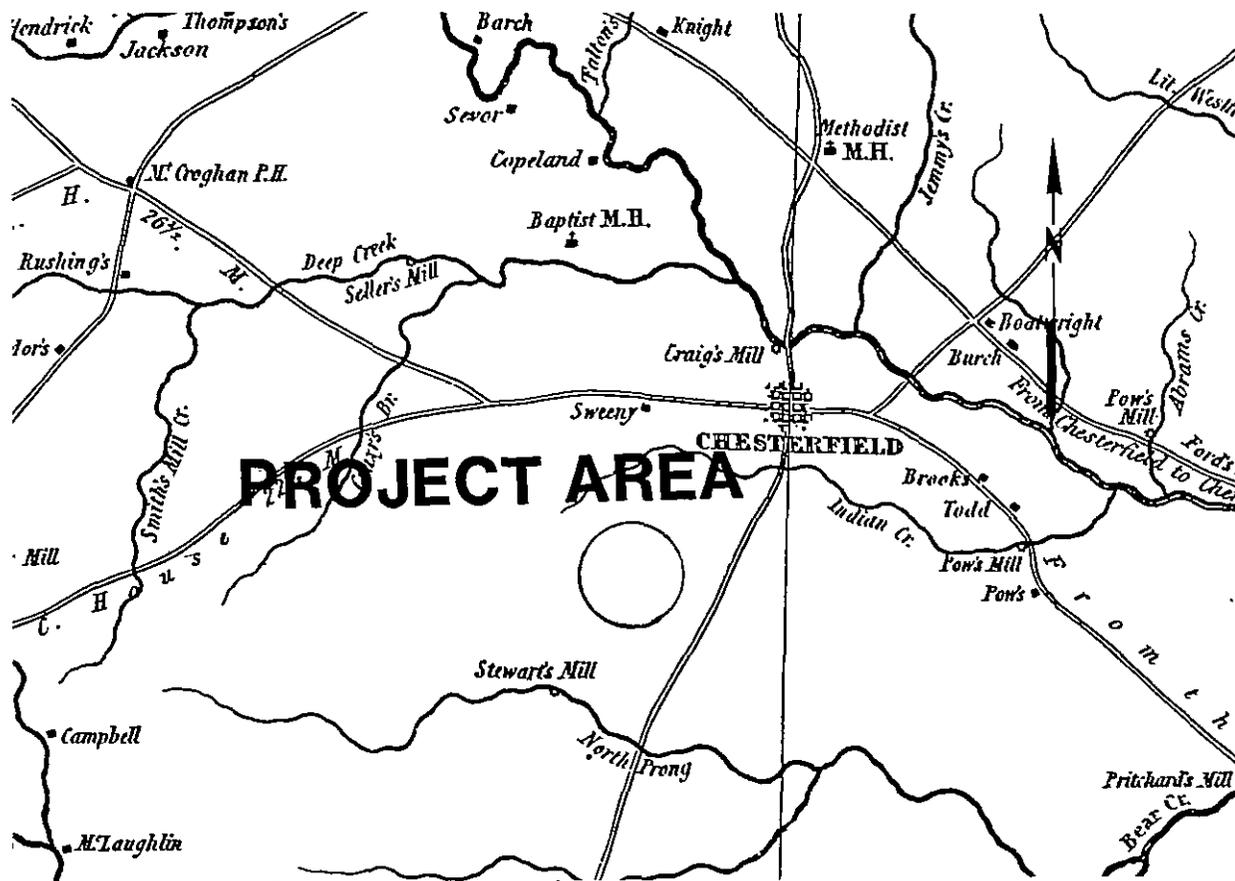


Figure 2. Mills Atlas (1968 [1826]) showing the project area.

A major shift in agriculture occurred over the next several decades. By 1940 the tractor was widely used. Low cotton yields forced a conversion to soybean production in the 1960s. By the 1970s, poultry and eggs had replaced cotton as the leading income for the county. Agriculture remains an important part of the economy, although industry is beginning to offset its importance. Chesterfield has become one of the largest wood pulp producing counties in the state.

Field Methods

The initially proposed field techniques involved reconnaissance level work, including examining areas with good surface visibility, such as dirt roads and bare spots. In addition shovel tests would be used to determine erosion, disturbance, and verify soil conditions.

Should sites be identified during surface collection or 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 field investigator.

All soils from the shovel tests would be screened through ¼-inch mesh, with each test numbered sequentially. Each test would measure about 1 foot square and would normally be taken to a depth of 1 foot. All cultural remains would be collected, except for brick and mortar, which would be quantitatively noted in the field and discarded. Notes would be maintained for profiles at any sites encountered.

The actual field methods did not deviate significantly from those initially proposed. A total of 19 shovel tests were excavated at varying intervals to investigate site areas and verify soil conditions. This investigation represents only a reconnaissance level investigation. The level of subsurface investigations was sufficient to examine soil stratigraphy, likelihood of erosion, and the nature of site deposition and formation.

For the purpose of this investigation, a site was defined as any area exhibiting two or more artifacts within 20 feet of each other on the surface. Artifacts which were separated by greater distances would be classified as isolated finds.

Laboratory Analysis

The cleaning and analysis of artifacts was conducted in Columbia at the Chicora Foundation laboratories. It is anticipated that these materials will be catalogued and accessioned for curation at the South Carolina Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology. Field notes have been prepared for curation using archival standards and will be transferred to the South Carolina Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology as soon as the project is complete.

Analysis of the collections followed professionally accepted standards with a level of intensity suitable to the quantity and quality of the remains.

Results

As a result of the reconnaissance survey of the Indian Creek switching station tract, three archaeological sites were discovered. Of those three, only two occur within the property boundaries. All of these sites represent late 20th century deposits.

While reconnaissance level surveys are not intended to address the question of National Register eligibility, investigation of the sites was sufficient to make observations on site importance.

38CT216 is located in a dirt road and powerline cut in the southern portion of the study area. The site is a twentieth century domestic scatter measuring approximately 220 feet north/south and 250 feet east/west based on surface remains. Two above ground features were noted including a brick rubble pile in the western portion of the site area and one

trash dump in the eastern portion of the site area.

Surface visibility across most of the site was excellent. However, the eastern and western edges occurred in a wooded area with thick leaf clutter. A collection was made in the area with good visibility, and an additional 14 shovel tests were excavated to examine subsurface remains and determine integrity and site boundaries. Of those 14 tests, only one was positive. This test yielded the corner of a lawn chair. This chair was noted and not collected. Surface artifacts collected consist of 17 artifacts including one cobalt blue bottle glass, three clear bottle glass, one aqua bottle glass, three milk glass, two jar liner glass, one undecorated whiteware, one decalcomania whiteware, one green stamped whiteware, three cream colored whitewares, and one decalcomania cream colored whiteware.

Soil profiles indicate that part of the site is badly eroded where there are no trees protecting it. Wooded areas have been disturbed through logging activities and no intact Ap horizon was noted. Where Ap horizon occurs profiles consist of 0.6 feet of gray sand overlying pale-yellow loamy sand. The central UTM coordinates are E580460 N3841180 and the soils are Norfolk sandy loam.

The site has been displaced by logging and clear cutting, and the materials probably are not more than 50 years old. It is unlikely that the site can contribute information important in prehistory or history.

38CT217 is located in and adjacent to an old road bed on the western edge of the property. The site appears to represent a twentieth century trash dump measuring approximately 50 by 50 feet in size based on surface remains.

Surface visibility in the road area was good while the adjacent wooded areas were covered with leaf clutter. A collection was made in the road area and an additional five shovel tests were excavated to examine subsurface remains, and to determine integrity and site boundaries. Of those five tests none yielded remains. Surface artifacts collected consist of seven items. They include two aqua blue bottle glass, four undecorated whitewares, and one unidentified stoneware. Items observed, but not collected, include enamelled tinwares and a washtub.

Soil profiles indicate that the area has been disturbed either by logging or cultivation. Soil profiles consist of 0.6 feet of gray sand overlying pale-yellow loamy sand. The central UTM coordinates are E580560 N3841400 and the soils are Norfolk sandy loam.

The materials are sparse and are not clearly associated with a domestic structure. It is unlikely that the site can contribute information important in prehistory or history.

38CH218 is located in a turnaround adjacent to a clay pit just west of the property boundary. This area is a modern trash dump measuring approximately 50 by 50 feet. Since the site is off the survey tract and contained primarily large surface items, no collection was made and no shovel testing was attempted. These items include industrial washing machines,

an old TV, clothes, and concrete steps, among a number of other items.

The central UTM coordinates are E580600 N3841440 and the soils are Norfolk sandy loam. The materials at the site are modern and are not clearly associated with any nearby domestic or industrial use.

Summary and Recommendations

As a result of the archaeological reconnaissance of the study area, three sites (38CT216, 38CT217, and 38CT218) were located. Of these sites, two (38CT216 and 38CT217) actually occurred within the boundaries of the study area. Based on this limited study, none of the sites identified during this investigation **appear** to be eligible for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places although reconnaissance level studies are not intended to determine site eligibility.

This study has achieved the goals established in the scope of work. Three sites were located, however all appear to be either disturbed or insignificant. These sites were found in an area which exhibited the highest potential for containing archaeological remains. While sites may be found in the lower probability areas during more intensive survey it is unlikely.

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