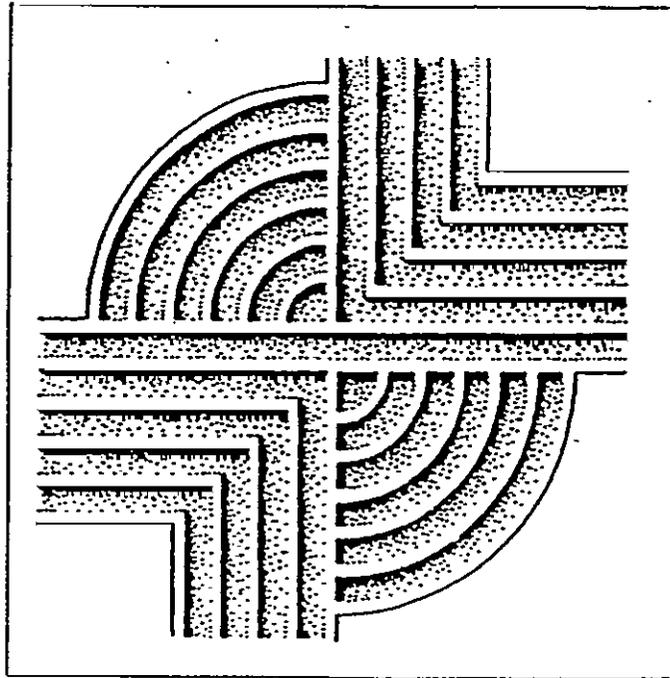


INTENSIVE SURVEY OF THE BLUFFTON TO HILTON HEAD ISLAND TRANSMISSION LINE, BEAUFORT COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA



RESEARCH CONTRIBUTION 160

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**INTENSIVE SURVEY OF THE BLUFFTON TO HILTON HEAD ISLAND
TRANSMISSION LINE, BEAUFORT COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA**

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ABSTRACT

This study presents the results of an intensive archaeological survey of approximately two miles of transmission line right of way situated adjacent to U.S. 278 within an existing transmission line right of way running from Bluffton to Hilton Head. The primary purpose of this investigation is to identify and assess the archaeological remains present in the proposed project area.

As a result of this work two sites were revisited (38BU67 and 38BU168). These sites consist of two prehistoric shell middens situated on Pinckney Island adjacent to Skull Creek and MacKay respectively. Portions of both sites have been examined by the South Carolina Department of Highways and Public Transportation (see Trinkley 1981). Based on this previous work, the sites are recommended as eligible for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places. No new sites were identified along the right of way.

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INTRODUCTION

Introduction

This investigation was conducted by Ms. Natalie Adams of Chicora Foundation, Inc. for Mr. Ken Smoak of Sabine & Waters. The proposed two mile transmission line project area is situated northwest of Hilton Head Island along an existing transmission line right of way running from the marshes of Goat Island to Pinckney Island to the marshes of Jenkins Island (Figure 1). The existing right of way varies in width from 50 to 150 feet. The proposed line will be placed inside of this right of way primarily along its northern edge.

The corridor is intersected by US Hwy 278 which has caused major land alteration in that portion of the corridor. In addition, the corridor is intersected by MacKayCreek and Skull Creek where varying amounts of erosion have taken place. Activities which have the potential to damage or destroy the archaeological remains in the project area include the drilling of an underground pipeline for electrical cables and the placement of manholes at a maximum interval of 2500 feet. This project is being conducted by Santee Cooper to avoid long term power outages in the event of a hurricane. The current above ground line is the only power line to the island and would likely be damaged in very high winds.

Chicora received a request for a budgetary proposal by Mr. Ken Smoak of Sabine & Waters. A proposal was submitted on October 17, 1994. This proposal was accepted on November 22, 1994.

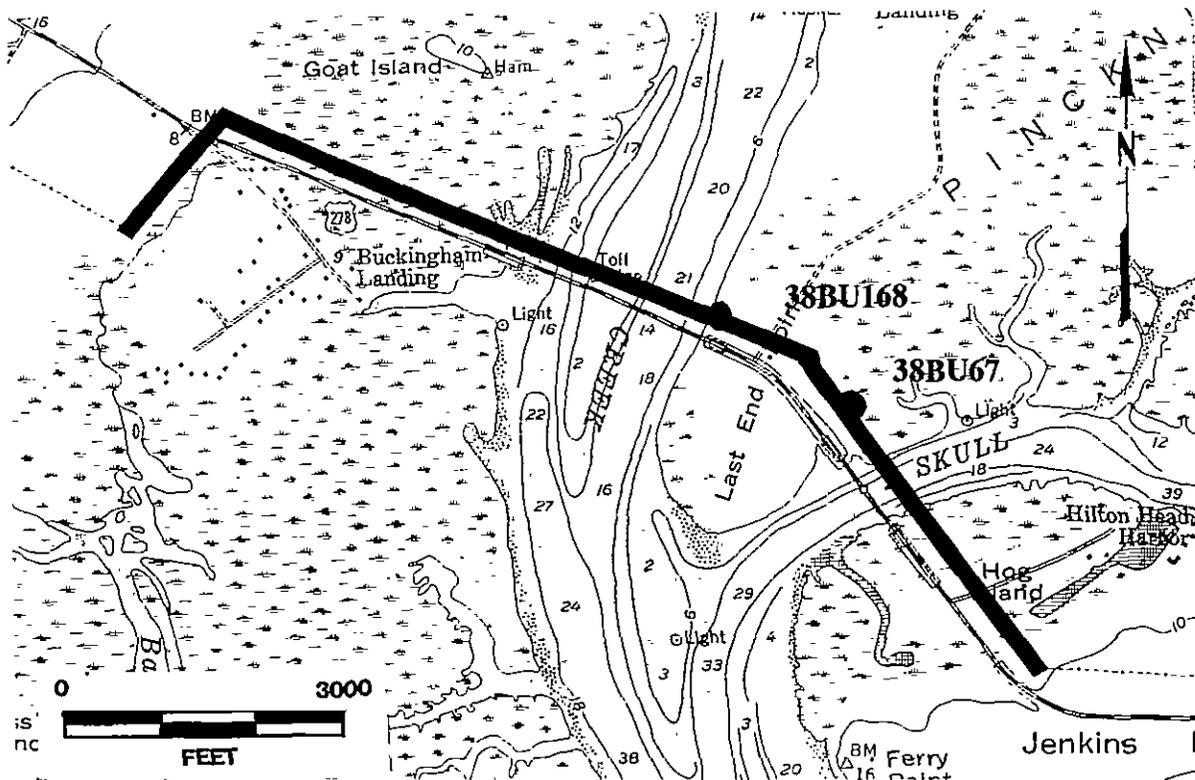


Figure 1. Location of the project area on the Bluffton quadrangle map.

This study is intended to provide a detailed explanation of the archaeological survey of the right of way and the findings. The statewide archaeological site files held by the South Carolina Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology were examined for information pertinent to the project area. In addition, the South Carolina Department of Archives & History was consulted about National Register properties in the area. No National Register properties were found to be located in or around the project area (Dr. Tracy Powers, personal communication 1994). The field investigations were conducted on November 28, 1994.

Project Area

As previously indicated, the project area begins on the marshes of Goat Island, crosses Pinckney Island, and ends on the marshes of Jenkins Island. The project area is situated in Beaufort County. Beaufort County is situated in southeastern South Carolina and lies within the Lower Coastal Plain physiographic province. The county 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, and the west by Jasper and Colleton counties and portions of the New and Broad rivers. Elevations range from about sea level to slightly over 100 feet above mean sea level (MSL)(Mathews et al. 1980:134-135). Elevations in the project area range from about sea level to about eight feet above mean sea level (MSL).

Vegetation in the project area consisted primarily of those species associated with the estuarine ecosystem. On Pinckney Island, vegetation consisted primarily of weedy grasses. Soils along the right of way consist of moderately well drained Bertie loamy fine sand, very poorly drained Bohicket Association, very poorly drained Capers Association, somewhat poorly drained Coosaw loamy fine sand, and somewhat poorly drained Yemassee loamy fine sand.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Previous Archaeological Investigations

Previous archaeological investigations in the Hilton Head area include a reconnaissance level study of the Hilton Head Island by Trinkley (1987) and a survey level study of Pinckney Island by Drucker and Anthony (1980). In addition, testing studies on Pinckney Island include work at 38BU66, 38BU166, and 38BU167 by Charles (1984); work at 38BU93, 38BU180, 38BU181, 38BU205, 38BU213, and 38BU193 by Braley (1982); and work at 38BU67, 38BU168, and 38BU347 by Trinkley (1981).

In addition, a number of sites in the Hilton Head area have been subject to data recovery. These include several plantation studies (e.g. Adams and Trinkley 1991; Trinkley 1987; Trinkley 1990b) as well as prehistoric shell midden excavations (e.g. Espenshade et al. 1994; Kennedy and Espenshade 1991; 1992; Trinkley 1990c; 1991; Trinkley et al. 1992). These reports should be consulted for overviews on archaeology in the Hilton Head area.

Previously recorded sites within the proposed project area include 38BU67 and 38BU168. Portions of both sites were investigated by the South Carolina Department of Highways and Public Transportation as a part of the US Hwy 278 widening plan (Trinkley 1981).

Work over two field seasons at 38BU67 excavated 3425 square feet of the site within the area to be impacted by U.S. 278 from two to four traffic lanes and the replacement of the swing span bridge over Skull Creek to a fixed span bridge with clearance for AIWW vessels. Features were abundant and cultural remains were found to a depth of up to 2.31 feet below surface, suggesting that the site had been intensively occupied over a long period (Trinkley 1981:31-34).

At 38BU168, 675 square feet of the site were excavated within the highway right of way. Only one feature was found and the most abundant pottery was St. Catherine's. This suggested that the site represented "the early formation stage of a linear shell midden" (Trinkley 1981:72).

Prehistoric Synopsis

Several previously published archaeological studies are available for the Beaufort area that provide additional background, including Brooks et al. (1982), DePratter (1979), and Trinkley (1981, 1986, 1990c). A considerable amount of archaeology has been conducted in the Beaufort area and these works should be consulted for broad overviews.

The Paleoindian period, lasting from 12,000 to 8,000 B.C., is evidenced by basally thinned, side-notched projectile points; fluted, lanceolate projectile points; side scrapers; end scrapers; and drills (Coe 1964; Michie 1977; Williams 1968). The Paleoindian occupation, while widespread, does not appear to have been intensive. Artifacts are most frequently found along major river drainages, which Michie interprets to support the concept of an economy "oriented towards the exploitation of now extinct mega-fauna" (Michie 1977:124).

The Archaic period, which dates from 8000 to 2000 B.C., does not form a sharp break with the Paleoindian period, but is a slow transition characterized by a modern climate and an increase in the diversity of material culture. The chronology established by Coe (1964) for the North Carolina Piedmont may be applied with little modification to the South Carolina coast. Archaic period assemblages, characterized by corner-notched and broad stemmed projectile points, are rare in the Sea Island region, although the sea level is anticipated to have been within 13 feet

of its present stand by the beginning of the succeeding Woodland period (Lepionka et al. 1983: 10).

The Woodland period begins, by definition, with the introduction of fired clay pottery about 2000 B.C. along the South Carolina coast. 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 the terminology, the period from 2500 to 1000 B.C. is well documented on the South Carolina coast and is characterized by Stallings (fiber-tempered) and Thom's Creek (sand or non-tempered) series pottery.

The subsistence economy during this early period on the coast of South Carolina was based primarily on deer hunting and fishing, with supplemental inclusions of small mammals, birds, reptiles, and shellfish. Various calculations of the probably yield of deer, fish, and other food sources identified from shell ring sites indicate that sedentary life was not only possible, but probable.

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

The succeeding Refuge phase, which dates from about 1100 to 500 B.C., suggests fragmentation caused by the environmental changes (Lepionka et al. 1983; Williams 1968). Sites are generally small and some coastal sites evidence no shellfish collection at all (Trinkley 1992). Peterson (1971: 153) characterizes Refuge as a degeneration of the preceding Thom's Creek series and a bridge to the succeeding Deptford culture.

The Deptford phase, which dates from 1100 B.C. to A.D. 600, is best characterized by fine to coarse sandy paste pottery with a check stamped surface treatment. Also present are quantities of cord marked, simple stamped, and occasional fabric impressed pottery. During this period there is a blending of the Deptford ceramic tradition of the lower Savannah, with the Deep Creek tradition found further north along the South Carolina coast and extending into North Carolina (Trinkley 1983).

The Middle Woodland period (ca. 300 B.C. to A.D. 1000) is characterized by the use of sand burial mounds and ossuaries along the Georgia, South Carolina, and North Carolina coasts (Brooks et al. 1982; Thomas and Larsen 1979; Wilson 1982). Middle Woodland coastal plain sites continue the Early Woodland Deptford pattern of mobility. While sites are found all along the coast and inland to the fall line, sites are characterized by sparse shell and few artifacts. Gone are the abundant shell tools, worked bone items, and clay balls. In many respects the South Carolina Late Woodland period (ca. A.D. 1000 to 1650) in some areas of the coast may be characterized as a continuum of the previous Middle Woodland cultural assemblage.

The Middle and Late Woodland occupations in South Carolina are characterized by a pattern of settlement mobility and short-term occupations. On the southern coast they are associated with the Wilmington and St. Catherines phases, which date from about A.D. 500 to at least A.D. 1150, although there is evidence that the St. Catherines pottery continued to be produced much later in time (Trinkley 1981).

The South Appalachian Mississippian period ca. A.D. 1100 to 1640) is the most elaborate level of culture attained by the native inhabitants and is followed by cultural disintegration brought about largely by European disease. The period is characterized by complicated stamped pottery, complex social organization, agriculture, and the construction of temple mounds and ceremonial centers. The earliest coastal phases are named Savannah and Irene (A.D. 1200 to 1550). Sometime after the arrival of Europeans on the Georgia coast in A.D. 1519, the Irene phase is replaced by the Altamaha phase. Altamaha pottery tends to be heavily grit tempered, the complicated stamped motifs tend to be rectilinear and poorly applied, and check stamping occurs as a minority ware.

Considerable ethnohistoric data has been collected on the Muskogean Georgia Guale Indians by Jones (1978, 1981). This group extended from the Salila River in southern Georgia northward to suggest that the Guale may have been divided into chiefdoms, with two, the Orista and the Escaumacu-Ahoya, being found in South

Carolina (Jones 1978:203). During the period from 1526 to 1586, Jones places the Escaumacu-Ahoya in the vicinity of the Broad River in Beaufort County, while the Orista are placed on the Beaufort River, north of Parris Island. By the late seventeenth century the principle town of the Orista appears to have been moved to Edisto Island, about 30 miles to the north (Jones 1978:203).

The historic Yemassee Indians of the seventeenth and early eighteenth centuries pose special problems to historians and archaeologists alike. They are found on the South Carolina coast from only 1685 through 1716 and they appear to represent an amalgamation of a number of different groups (Chester DePratter, personal communication 1990). The history of the Yemassee is briefly recounted by Milling (1969:98-112, 135-164). Recent investigations by Bill Green (1991) and Chester DePratter have suggested that historic Yemassee ceramics, rectilinear stamped and grit tempered, may be a gradual progression from the earlier Altamaha pottery. Since the Yemassee represent a number of different groups, it is also possible that additional archaeological investigations will identify several different "types" of Yemassee pottery reflecting differences in the groups which made up the Yemassee.

Historic Synopsis

The earliest European settlement in South Carolina consisted of French and Spanish outposts in the sixteenth century. The first attempted permanent settlement of the Carolinas was by Lucks Viscose de Ayllon in 1526. This settlement (Santa Elena) was begun in 1520 and by the winter of 1526 the colony was abandoned (Quattlebaum 1956:27).

The southern coast did not attract serious British attention until King Charles II granted Carolina to the Lords Proprietors in 1663. In August 1663 William Hilton sailed from Barbados to explore the Carolina territory, spending a great deal of time in the Port Royal area (Holmgren 1959). Almost chosen for the first English colony in South Carolina, Hilton Head Island was passed over by Sir John Yeamans in favor of the more protected Charles Town site on the west bank of the Ashley River in 1670 (Clowse 1971:23-24; Holmgren 1959:39). The early economy was based almost exclusively on Indian trade, naval stores, lumber, and cattle. Rice began emerging as a money crop in the late seventeenth century, but did not markedly improved the economic well being of the colony until the eighteenth century (Clowse 1971).

Meanwhile, Scottish Covenanters under Lord Cardross established Stuart's Town on Scot's Island (Port Royal) in 1684, where it existed for four years until destroyed by the Spanish. It was not until 1698 that the area was again occupied by the English. The town of Beaufort was founded in 1711 although it was not immediately settled.

While most of the Beaufort Indian groups were persuaded to move to Polawana Island in 1712, the Yemassee, part of the Creek Confederacy, revolted in 1715. By 1718 the Yemassee were defeated and forced southward to Spanish protection (Milling 1969). Consequently, the Beaufort area, known as St. Helena Parish, Granville County, was for the first time relatively safe from both the Spanish and the Indians. The Yemassee, however, continued occasional raids into South Carolina, such as the 1728 destruction of the Passage Fort at Bloody Point on Daufuske Island (Starr 1984:16). In the same year the Spanish hold and the remnant Indian groups made peace with the English. The results for the Beaufort area, however, were mixed. While there was a semblance of peace, frontier settlements were largely deserted, population growth was slow, and the Indian trade was diverted from Beaufort to Savannah.

Although peace marked the Carolina colony, the Proprietors continued to have disputes with the populace, primarily over the colony's economic stagnation and deterioration. In 1727 the colony's government virtually broke down when the Council and the Commons were unable to agree on legislation to provide more bills of credit (Clowse 1971:238). This, coupled with the disastrous depression of 1728, brought the colony to the brick of mob violence. Clowse notes that the "initial step toward aiding South Carolina came when the proprietors were eliminated" in 1729 (Clowse 1971:241).

While South Carolina's economic woes were far from solved by this transfer, the Crown's Board of Trade began taking steps to remedy many of the problems. A new naval store law was passed in 1729 with possible advantages accruing to South Carolina. In 1730 the Parliament opened Carolina rice trade with markets in Spain and Portugal. The Board of Trade also dealt with the problem of the colony's financial solvency (Clowse 1971:245-247).

By 1730 the colony's population had risen to about 30,000 individuals, 20,000 of whom were black slaves (Clowse 1971:Table 1). The majority of these slaves were used in South Carolina's expanding rice industry. Although rice was grown in the Beaufort area, it did not become a major crop until after the Revolutionary War. Rice was never a significant crop on the Beaufort Sea Islands, where ranch farming was favored because of its economic returns and favorable climate (Star 1984:26-27). It was not until the 1740s that indigo became a major cash crop (Huneycutt 1949). Indigo continued to be the main cash crop of South Carolina until the Revolutionary War fatally disrupted the industry.

During the war the British occupied Charleston for over two and one-half years (1780-1782). A post was established in Beaufort to coordinate forays into the inland waterways after Prevost's retreat from the battle of Stono Ferry (Federal Writer's Project 1938:7; Rowland 1978:288). British earthworks were established around Port Royal and on Ladys Island (Rowland 1978:290). At the end of the Revolution, the removal of the royal bounties on rice, indigo, and naval stores caused considerable economic chaos with the eventual "restructuring of the state's agricultural and commercial base" (Brockington et al. 1985:34).

While freed of Britain and her mercantilism, the new United States found its economy thoroughly disrupted. There was no longer a bounty on indigo, and in fact, Britain encouraged competition from the British and French West Indies, and India "to embarrass her former colonies" (Huneycutt 1949:44). As a consequence the economy shifted to tidewater rice production and cotton agriculture. It was cotton, the Beaufort area, that brought a full establishment of the plantation economy.

Pinckney Island, under the ownership of Charles Coatesworth Pinckney, consisted of a long-staple sea island cotton plantation from the late eighteenth through the late nineteenth centuries. General Pinckney's accounts provide insight into the diversified economic base which necessarily characterized sea island plantations. Drucker and Anthony (1980) found that "subsistence activities encouraged by Pinckney included drum fishing, cultivation of Irish and sweet potatoes, corn, slips, oats and possibly sugar cane" (Drucker and Anthony 1980:35).

Reference to the 1860 Beaufort District agricultural census reveals that of the 891,228 acres of farmland, 274,0115 (30.7%) were improved. In contrast, only 28% of the State's total farmland was improved, and only 17% of the neighboring Colleton District's farm land was improved. Even in wealthy Charleston District only 17.8% of farm land was improved (Kennedy 1864:128-129). The total cash value of Beaufort farms was \$9,900,652, while the state average by county was only \$4,655,083. The value of Beaufort farms was greater than any other district in the state for that year, and only Georgetown listed a greater cash value of farming implements and machinery (reflecting the more specialized equipment needed for rice production).

Hilton Head Island fell to Union forces on November 7, 1861 and was occupied by the Expeditionary Corps under the direction of General T.W. Sherman. Hilton Head became the headquarters for the Department of the South and served as a staging area for a number of military campaigns. As a result of the island's early occupation by Union forces, all of the plantations fell to military occupation, and a large number of blacks flocked to the island, and a "Department of Experiments" was born. An excellent account of the "Port Royal Experiment" is provided by Rose (1964), while the land policies on St. Helena are explored by McGuire (1985). This land policy study shows that blacks slowly came to own a large proportion of the available land. Certificates of possession were eventually issued for a number of sea island plantations (McGuire 1982:36). During the postbellum period previous owners slowly came forward to reclaim, or redeem, and confiscated by the Federal government. By the 1890s a program was established to provide owners unsuccessful at either restoration or redemption with token compensations (McGuire 1982:77).

During the late nineteenth century most of the sea island plantations continued as rural, isolated agrarian communities. The new plantation owners attempted to forge an economic relationship with the free black laborers and found a multitude of problems, including the need to pay higher wages, increasing problems with the cotton boll weevil, and decreasing fertility.

Woofter (1930) provides information on the agricultural practices of the St. Helena blacks in the early twentieth century, noting that the population was largely stable, with most blacks remain in the vicinity of their parents' "home" plantations (Woofter 1930:265). While islands, such as St. Helena, which were large and easily accessible began to change more rapidly during this period, the smaller, more isolated islands maintained very clear connections with the past which have been repeatedly documented through oral histories.

FIELD METHODS

Methods

The initially proposed field techniques for this intensive level survey involved the placement of a single transect through the corridor centerline at 100 or 200 foot intervals based on variables such as topography and drainage. The minimal definition of a site in this study was two or more artifacts within a 25 foot area.

Should sites be identified by surface collection and/or shovel testing, further tests would be used to help obtain additional data on site boundaries, artifact quantity and diversity, site integrity, and temporal affiliation. This information is required to determine site eligibility and is necessary for completion of the South Carolina Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology site forms. 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 at least one foot. All cultural remains would be collected, except for shell, mortar, and brick, which would be quantitatively noted in the field and discarded. Notes would be maintained for profiles at any sites encountered.

Once in the field, it was discovered that a very large portion of the right of way was in marsh (see Figure 1). Portions of this area were subject to brief reconnaissance to determine if remains had eroded onto marsh surfaces near high ground, but no shovel testing was performed on the marsh surfaces. In addition, the portion of the project area in the Pinckney Island National Wildlife Refuge was subjected only to pedestrian survey since shovel testing would require either an Archaeological Resource Protection Act (ARPA) permit or a Department of Interior, Fish and Wildlife "Special Purpose" permit. In consultation with the South Carolina State Historic Preservation Office, no subsurface survey was decided to be necessary since the island had been previously surveyed (Drucker and Anthony 1980) and portions of the two sites known to exist within the right of way had been subjected to excavation (Trinkley 1981). The SC SHPO believed that this previous work would provide adequate information for an assessment of eligibility for the National Register of Historic Places (Mr. Lee Tippett, personal communication 1994).

As a result of the archaeological survey of the Bluffton-Hilton Head Island transmission line right of way, seven shovel tests were placed at the east end of the corridor on Jenkins Island at 200 foot intervals. The soils were either poorly drained or consisted of modern fill overlying poorly drained soils.

Curation

It is anticipated that the field notes and artifacts will be 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.

RESULTS

As a result of the archaeological survey of the Bluffton-Hilton Head Island transmission line right of way, two previously recorded sites (38BU67 and 38BU168) were revisited and no new sites were encountered.

Site **38BU67** is located on Pinckney Island adjacent to Skull Creek in the vicinity of Santee-Cooper's station 205. The central UTM coordinates are N3565520 E520400 and the soils are somewhat poorly drained Yemassee loamy fine sand. The site measures approximately 200 feet north-south by 75 feet east-west, based on previous work by Drucker and Anthony (1980) and Trinkley (1981).

The site was originally recommended as eligible for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places by Trinkley (1976). As a part of the widening of U.S. 278, Trinkley (1981) performed excavations in that portion of the site which was to be destroyed by the road work. He found shell middens to a depth of up to 1.5 feet with a non-midden zone extending as deep as 2.3 feet below surface. Features were abundant and artifacts were found representing the Early through Middle Woodland period. In addition, this site has produced well preserved skeletal material in association with the Middle Woodland midden (see Dr. Ted Rathbun's brief analysis in Trinkley 1981:93-94). Not only is this finding very rare, but today it would likely invoke the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA).

During the current investigations, the pedestrian survey revealed that although clearing and grubbing activities had damaged the site, mounds of shell were still clearly visible (Figure 2). Investigations further north, outside of the right of way also exhibited intact mounds of shell.



Figure 2. Exposed shell mound at 38BU67, view to the east.

Since the site exhibits clear integrity with distinct mounds of shell and previous work has shown that the site contains abundant features, 38BU67 can likely address research questions related to how the different Native American groups used the site. These questions could include:

- What is the intra-site patterning at 38BU67? To understand the complete nature of the patterning and its meaning the site can be auger/shovel tested at close intervals and a topographic relief map can be created. Once topographic maps are created and temporal affiliation are determined, changing site patterning can be determined. Given the integrity of the site, the issue of intra-site patterning can be addressed.
- What is a settlement at a micro-community level composed of? What is the distribution of artifacts and features in and around individual middens? Are they patterned within a temporal period? Do they change over time? In other words, is an individual Deptford midden different than an individual Savannah midden?
- What is the variation in the pottery of one type? For instance, are the sherds from two different Deptford middens similar or different? This question can address issues of ethnic, social, or kin groups as expressed through pottery.
- Do subsistence strategies change through time? Since faunal and ethnobotanical remains have been previously found at the site, it is possible that changes in subsistence strategies can be plotted.

While these questions are not exhaustive, they are important questions that the site has the potential to address. As a result of the sites' ability to address significant research question, we concur with the original recommendation that the site is eligible for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places.

Site 38CH168 is located on Pinckney Island adjacent to MacKay Creek, near Santee-Cooper's station 194. The central UTM coordinates are N3565670 E520130 and the soils are moderately well drained Bertie loamy fine sand. The site originally measured approximately 200 feet north-south by 300 feet east-west, before US Hwy. 278 was widened (38BU167 site form). In 1980, Trinkley (1981) placed units in a 40 foot by 240 foot area that would be impacted by road widening activities. This suggests that the remaining site area measures 160 feet by 300 feet. During the current study, the site was examined through pedestrian survey. Areas of plowed shell were visible, particularly in the vicinity of a transmission tower and a relatively thin (0.5 feet) shell midden was seen just north of the right of way eroding into MacKayCreek.

Trinkley originally recommended the site as potentially eligible for inclusion on the National Register in 1979. Drucker (1980) revisited the site, although it was not included in her study area. No shovel testing was attempted and the site was again recommended as potentially eligible. Subsequently, the site was further tested to determine if there were intact subsurface remains (Trinkley 1981) when U.S. 278 was to be widened. Although much of the site had been thoroughly plowed, one unit located an intact midden zone. In addition, one shell pit feature was encountered.

Based on the discovery of intact deposits, the site was excavated. These excavations recovered primarily St. Catherine's pottery. In addition, some faunal and floral remains were recovered. Trinkley (1981:72) concluded that the site "represents the early formation stage of a linear shell midden." One shell heap was encountered along the creek bank with an adjacent feature and activity area.

It is likely that the portion of the site to be impacted by the project contains some intact remains as well as subsurface features. Since the site appears to represent the early formation stage of a site like 38BU67, excavations here could provide a base-line for interpreting 38BU67. Questions which could be addressed include:

- Is the site patterning at 38BU168 (St. Catherine's phase site) similar to the patterning of St. Catherine's phase material at 38BU67?
- How does the patterning of the St. Catherine's material at 38BU168 compare to the other components at 38BU67?
- Why was this area only used during the St. Catherine's period? Do the shellfish (or other ecofacts) suggest an environmental reason for only brief use of the site?
- How does the pottery compare to the St. Catherine's pottery at 38BU67? Does it appear, based on cordage studies, that the two sites were occupied by the same social group?

While additional questions could be posed, the ones listed above illustrate that the site can contribute significant information to our understanding of the St. Catherine's phase. As a result, we concur with Trinkley's (1981) belief that the site is eligible for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places.

CONCLUSIONS

As a result of the survey of the 2 mile Bluffton to Hilton Head Island transmission line, two sites (38BU67 and 38BU168) were revisited and no new sites were encountered. Both of the sites are recommended as eligible for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places, consistent with previous findings by the S.C. State Historic Preservation Office. These sites may be either avoided or subjected to data recovery.

Based on the nature of the project, which consists of the placement of underground electrical cables, it may be impossible to avoid the sites. If avoidance is impossible, the impacts can be mitigated through data recovery, or the excavation, analysis, proper curation of recovered remains, and publication of findings. The level of effort at each site should be sufficient to address the research questions previously raised, as well as a range of more detailed questions not currently proposed.

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