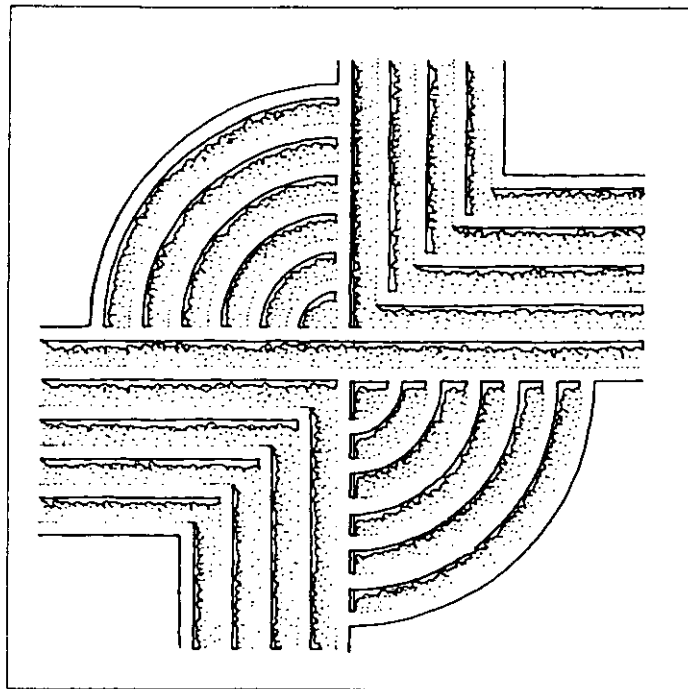


MANAGEMENT SUMMARY OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL
DATA RECOVERY AT FREEPORT PLANTATION (38BU584),
DAUFUSKIE ISLAND, BEAUFORT COUNTY,
SOUTH CAROLINA



CHICORA FOUNDATION RESEARCH CONTRIBUTION 165

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**MANAGEMENT SUMMARY OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL
DATA RECOVERY AT FREEPORT PLANTATION (38BU584)
DAUFUSKIE ISLAND, BEAUFORT COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA**

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Chicora Research Contribution 165

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ABSTRACT

This study is a management summary for the excavations at 38BU584, also known as Freeport Plantation. It has been prepared upon the completion of the fieldwork at 38BU584 and does not contain detailed information on artifact analyses or any detailed site evaluation. It is intended solely to provide a brief statement of the work conducted by Chicora Foundation and to allow the SC SHPO to verify that the proposed work has actually been accomplished.

A total of 1274 auger tests were excavated on a grid pattern at 20 foot intervals across the site. The goal was to provide information on artifact concentrations and structure areas. Based on the results of these tests, two prehistoric areas and six historic areas were examined. A total of 2100 square feet was examined through hand excavation.

The prehistoric investigations examined two Savannah/Irene concentrations and uncovered a portion of a structure, measuring approximately 14 by 14 feet, as well as a large trash pit containing Savannah and some Irene pottery, oyster, clam, ribbed mussel, animal bone, and wood charcoal.

The historic investigations examined a plantation kitchen, a possible main house yard area, a small middling status domestic structure, two outbuildings with paved brick floors, and one trash midden. These remains all dated to the late eighteenth through mid nineteenth century.

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INTRODUCTION

Introduction

These investigations were conducted by Dr. Michael Trinkley and Ms. Natalie Adams of Chicora Foundation, Inc. for Mr. Benny Jones of International Paper Realty Corporation between February 13, 1995 through April 5, 1995. The site is situated in Beaufort County on the northeast shore of Daufuskie Island, adjacent to Calibogue Sound (Figures 1 and 2).

The site was originally recorded in 1982 by Mr. Jim Michie during a reconnaissance level survey of the island. It was reported as a "plantation settlement" (Michie 1983). In addition to what was probably a pedestrian survey, some testing was conducted, although those field notes can no longer be found by the S.C. Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology.

Chicora Foundation was requested by International Paper Realty Corporation to prepare a technical and budgetary proposal. This proposal for data recovery was submitted on August 12, 1994 which would complete International Paper's responsibilities for the site under a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between International Paper and the South Carolina State Historic Preservation Office signed in May of 1985.

This management summary has been prepared upon the completion of the fieldwork at 38BU584 and does not contain detailed information on artifact analyses or any detailed site evaluation. It is intended solely to provide a brief statement of the work conducted by Chicora and to allow the SC SHPO to verify that the proposed work has actually been accomplished.

The archaeological investigations were begun at 38BU584 by a crew of five on February 13, 1995 and continued through April 5, 1995. Before excavations began, the site was auger tested at 20 foot intervals to provide detailed information on intra-site patterning. A total of 1274 tests were excavated and a field density map was created. Based on concentrations of artifacts, brick, and shell, a metal detector survey was performed to locate possible historic structural areas. The placement of excavation units was based on a combination of shovel testing, the metal detector survey, and hand probing.

A total of 1335 person hours were spent in the field with an additional 105.5 person hours spent on laboratory analysis and field processing. As a result of this work, 2100 square feet were opened and 2480 cubic feet of soil was moved in primary excavations. A total of 5306 pounds of shell and 1062 pounds of architectural brick, mortar, and slag were recovered. Soils were screened through ¼ inch mesh except where shell midden was encountered or during the excavation of feature soils. In these instances ⅛ inch mesh was used.

The proposed investigations at 38BU584 consisted of close interval auger test survey to identify site components, distribution of artifacts, and intra-site spatial patterning. To further refine and complement this study, areas with historic remains were subjected to a metal detector survey to isolate specific structure areas. Based on this information, along with information obtained by hand probing, excavation units would be placed.

For the prehistoric component, the goal of the survey was to identify any areas with a "pure" Savannah component. After these were identified one or two block excavations were to be used to examine the Savannah phase at 38BU584.

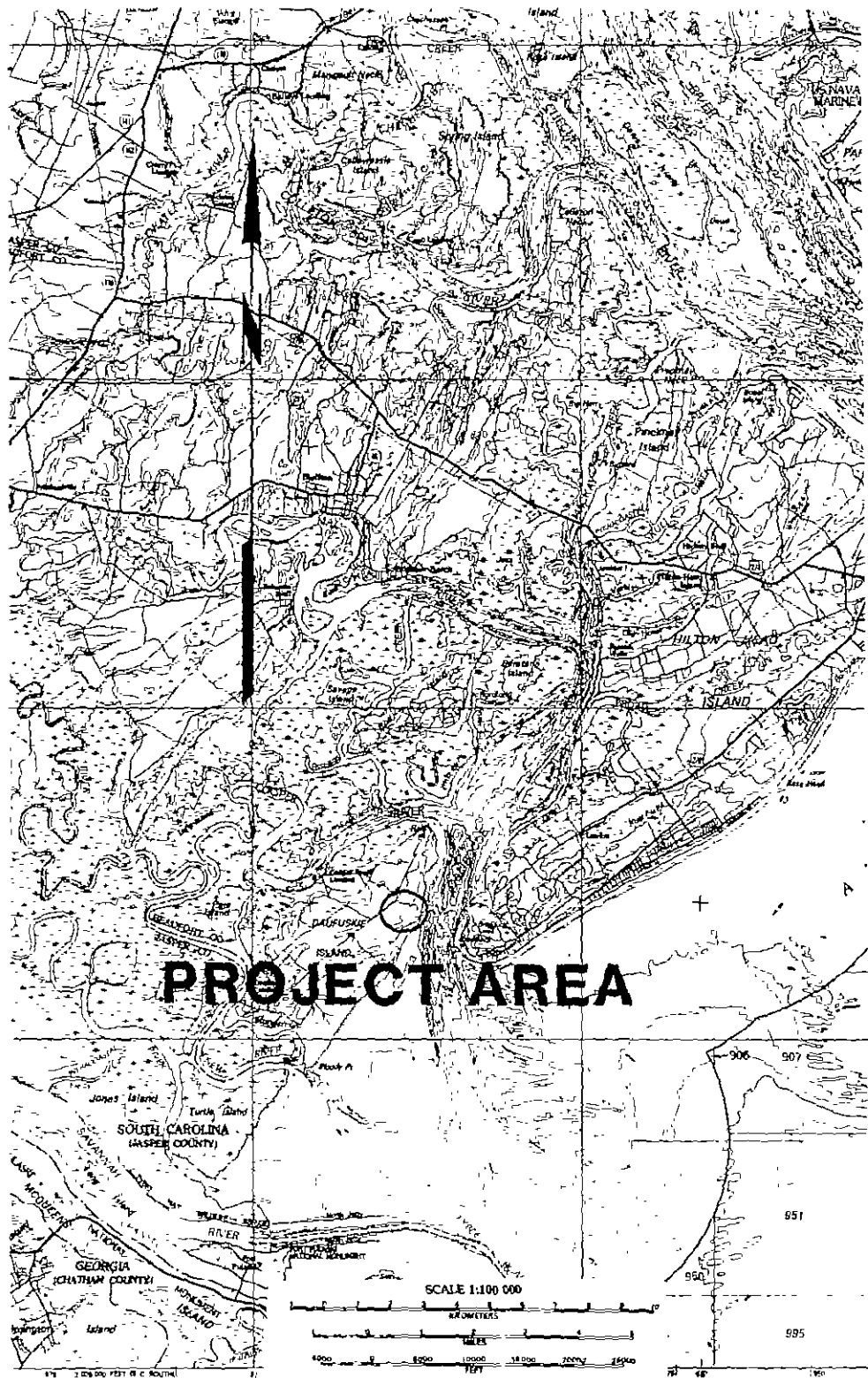


Figure 1. Location of project area on the Beaufort 1:100,000 scale topographic map.

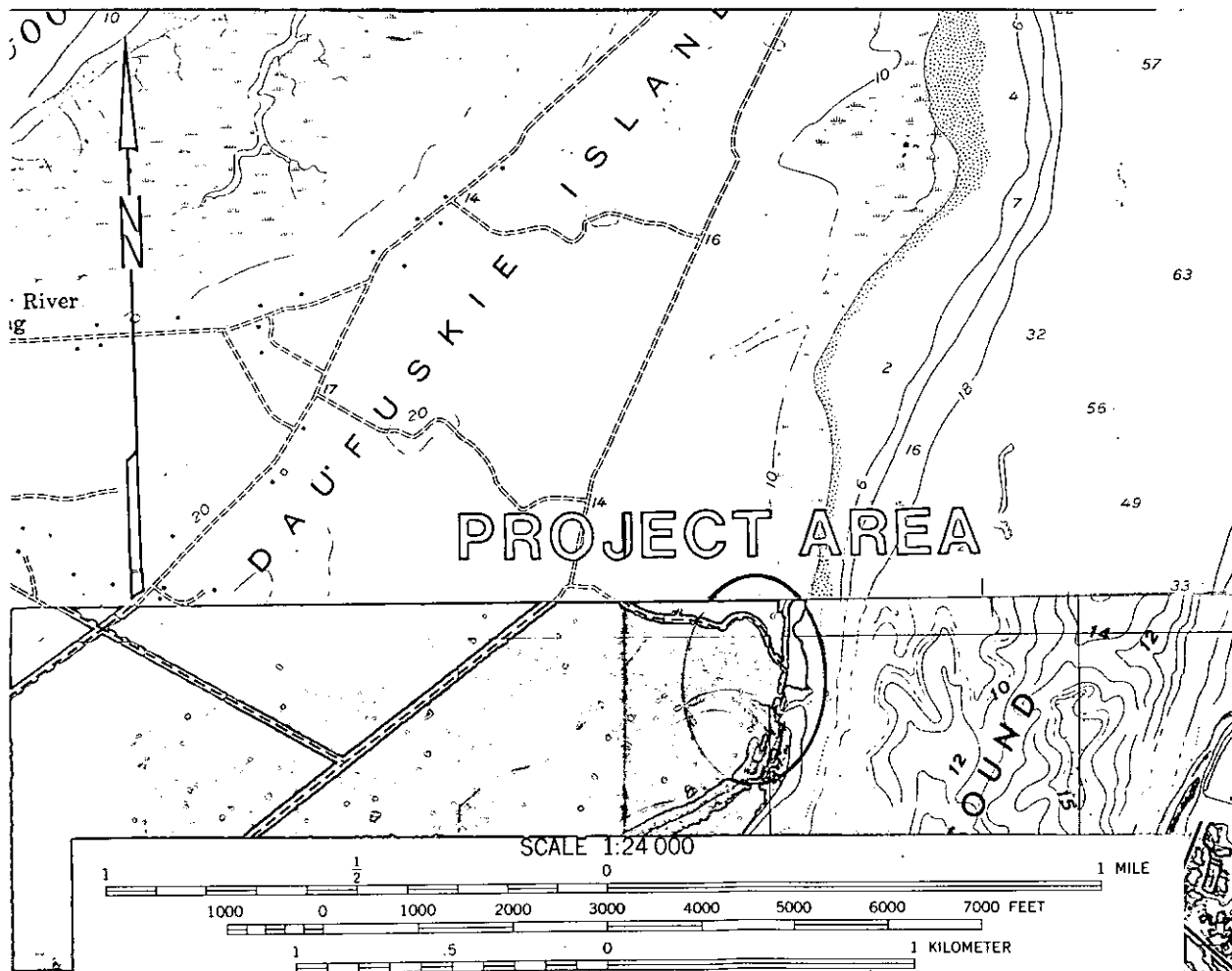


Figure 2. Location of the project area on the North Tybee 1:24,000 scale topographic map.

Proposed investigations at the historic component were to investigate the plantation layout and the relationship of the main house, slave row, outbuildings, and landscape features.

The work conducted by Chicora Foundation at 38BU584 met the requirements stipulated by the MOA and this management summary will initiate the consultation process with the SC SHPO.

Previous Investigations

As previously stated, the site was originally recorded in 1982 by Mr. Jim Michie during a reconnaissance level survey of the island. It was reported as a "plantation settlement" (Michie 1983). In addition to what was probably a pedestrian survey, some testing was conducted, although those field notes can no longer be found by the S.C. Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology.

Also, more extensive testing was conducted by Dr. Larry Lepionka sometime between 1982 and 1985, but these investigations have not been published and no further information regarding the methodology or findings are available.

In 1988 Chicora Foundation was retained to re-survey the site. That work incorporated 51 auger tests in the site area originally defined by Michie (1983). Tests were tied into the S.C. State Plane Coordinate System and were conducted at 50 foot intervals. Designed to investigate a 325 by 400 foot area, the work failed to identify clear boundaries to the west, south, or north and was hampered by very dense vegetation. Access was limited and, in an effort to establish some boundaries, shovel testing supplemented the auger survey. As a result of this limited work, tentative boundaries were established with the site measuring about 900 feet north-south and 700 feet east-west (see Trinkley 1989). This included an area about 2.4 times larger than the originally reported site area.

Materials recovered during this 1988 work included a range of prehistoric pottery, dating from the Middle Woodland through Mississippian periods, with a clear concentration during the Savannah Phase at about A.D. 1200. Historic remains included eighteenth and nineteenth century materials, although the density of these items was not great.

The property was again examined in August of 1994 in anticipation of preparing a proposal for data recovery. It had been recently bush hogged, allowing easy access to all parts of the tract. At that time it became clear that the site covered a much larger area than even suggested by the 1988 survey work and was approximately 700 feet east-west by 1800 feet north-south.

Since parts of the site have never been investigated it was difficult to outline all of the potential research issues which the site might be able to address. However, it was fairly clear that the site contained intact late prehistoric shell midden and had a high potential for prehistoric features. It was also clear that the site is the location of Freeport Plantation with the potential for remains of the main house, outbuildings, and slave row. The make-up and conditions of the historic component were more difficult to gauge than the prehistoric remains, although the presence of surface scatters suggested that some intact remains might be present.

At the simplest level, research on the Savannah phase assemblage was to be explorative, seeking to identify and collect information necessary to place the site within a local and regional context. There has been good research along the northern Georgia coast, identifying Savannah I and II phases (see, for example, DePratter 1991). Along the Middle Savannah River drainage, studies such as that by Sassaman et al. (1990) have explored the changes found in the Savannah phase in more interior contexts. In this area, however, relatively little work has been accomplished on these late middens and this site offers the potential to conduct initial investigations, setting or forming the stage for later research.

The investigations were to focus on obtaining the comparative information necessary to integrate this site into the overall discussions regarding shell middens along the lower coast. This will include exploring the site type, the number of discrete middens present, the size of those middens, their relationship to one another, the formation process, the range of artifacts present, and the distribution of those artifacts. Floral, vertebrate faunal, and shellfish remains will be systematically collected and examined for information on dietary and seasonality patterns. After Savannah phase locations were identified at the site, one or two block excavations were proposed to be opened.

Research at the plantation complex was to focus on identification of the slave settlement in order to better understand the lifeways of the Freeport slaves including issues of diet, housing, possessions, medical care, refuse disposal, and landscape features. Both the main house complex and the slave row would be compared to other Daufuskie Island plantations and other main land plantations in terms of architecture, landscape alteration, personal possessions, diet, and planter/slave relationship. Excavations would be placed to investigate these aspects of plantation life.

EXCAVATIONS AT 38BU584

Survey and Metal Detection

A total of 1274 auger tests were placed across the site in a 700 by 1800 foot area, and the soils were screened through ¼ inch mesh. Profile drawings were taken in order to help identify areas of midden and potential features. Shell and brick was weighed and discarded in the field. These tests revealed that the bulk of prehistoric remains were concentrated in the southern area of the site. The auger tests identified six large concentrations and several smaller ones (Figure 3). Of these larger concentrations, none contained a "purely" Savannah component. However, one contained almost exclusively Savannah and Irene pottery. Another concentration of prehistoric artifacts was identified in the northern portion of the site (Figure 4). Although, not exclusively Savannah, one test in that area yielded 19 fragments of animal bone and it was believed that it might yield good vertebrate faunal data.

For the historic component, two dense historic concentrations were found in the southern portion of the site, with several other smaller concentrations (Figure 5). One of the dense historic concentrations contained an large quantity of animal bone. All of these concentrations were metal detected to locate nail scatters. Only the two dense concentrations contained nail scatters.

In the north central portion of the site, one dense historic concentration was located as well as one which was smaller and more sparse. In addition, one auger test immediately fell on top of an intact architectural feature, identifying a third area of interest. The metal detector was used to investigate these three areas as well as isolated artifact occurrences and areas adjacent to the marshes of Calibogue Sound. All three areas identified as potential structure areas yielded evidence of nail scatters. In addition, a small shell midden adjacent to the marsh, which fell between two auger tests yielded a scatter of metal artifacts (Figure 4).

Of the historic areas identified on the Freeport Plantation tract, the two dense concentrations in the south, the three structural areas in the north central portion of the tract, and the shell midden adjacent to Calibogue Sound were investigated.

Excavations

The work at 38BU584 involved the excavation of 2100 square feet, including one 5 by 5 foot unit, four 5 by 10 foot units, and 18 ten by 10 foot units, and one ten foot unit with 25 square feet blocked out (because of a tree). All of these units were excavated in 5 foot quadrants (or divisions) and the soils were screened through ¼ inch mesh. Shell midden soils were screened through ⅛ inch mesh as was feature fill. Table 1 provides information on the square footage examined at the various areas and their posited function.

The site grid was oriented N22°30'E which was the grid orientation used during the 1988 survey of the site. Elevations at the site were tied into a S.C. Geodetic Survey vertical datum at 7.02 above mean sea level (MSL). Horizontal control was maintained at the site with a rebar placed at 400R500.

Units were excavated in natural stratigraphic zones. Zone 1 consisted of very dark grayish brown (10YR3/2) sand ranging from 0.4 to 1.5 feet in depth and containing historic and/or prehistoric materials. When dense shell midden was encountered, it was designated at Zone 1b. Shell midden ranged from 0.2 to 0.8 feet in thickness. Dense midden was relatively rare at the site, perhaps due the site having been plowed in the early 20th

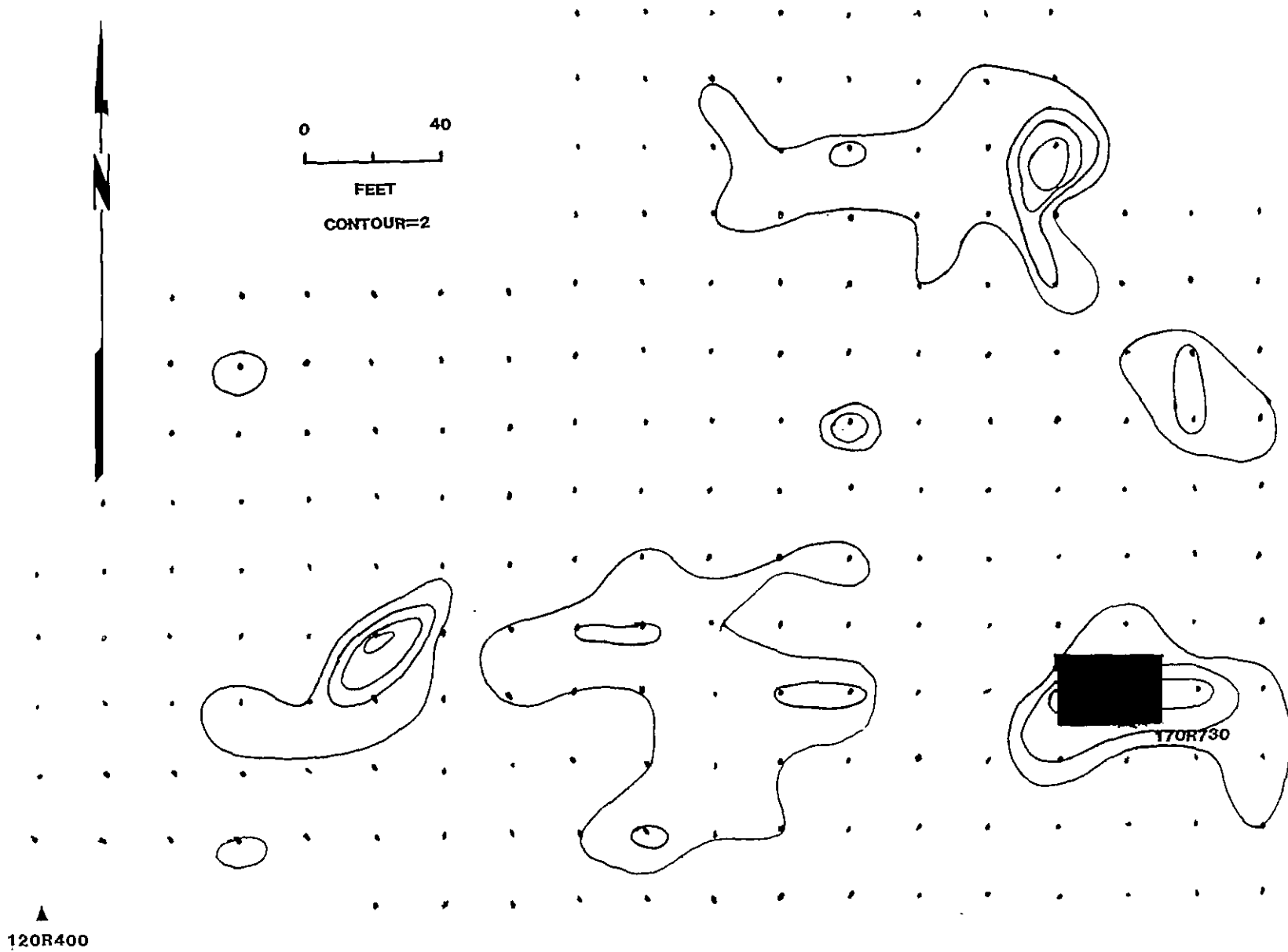


Figure 3. Prehistoric concentrations and excavation units in the southern portion of 38BU584.

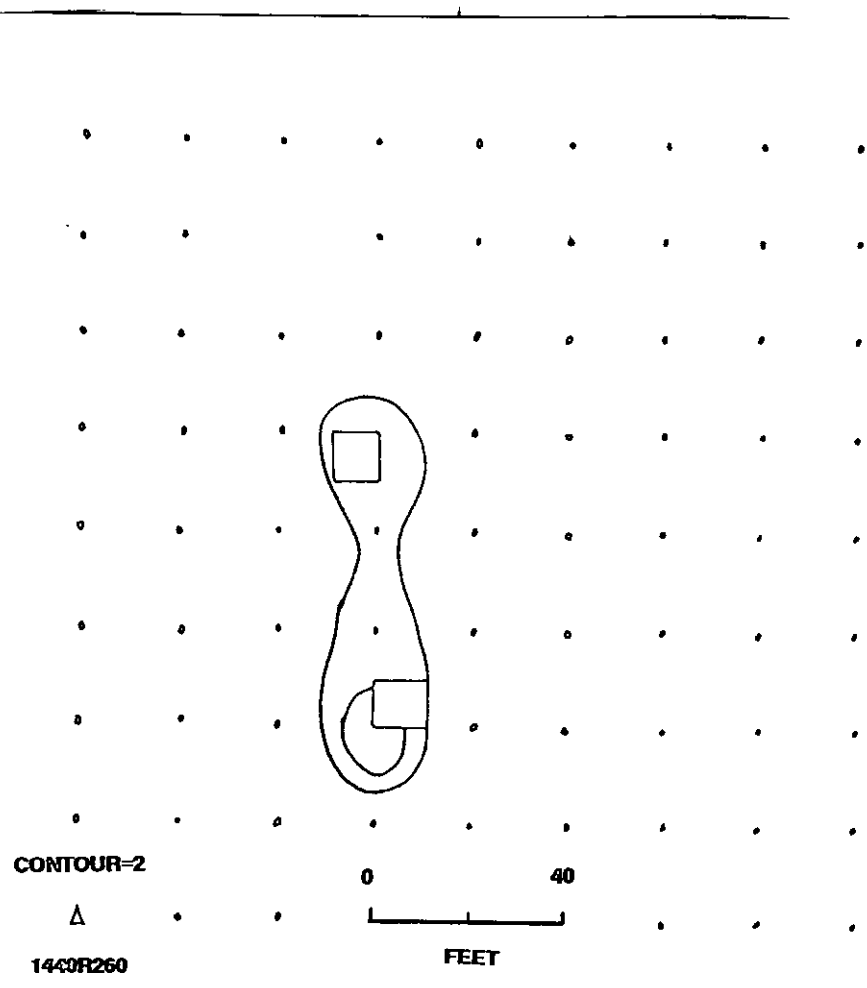


Figure 4. Prehistoric concentrations and excavation units in the northern portion of 38BU584.

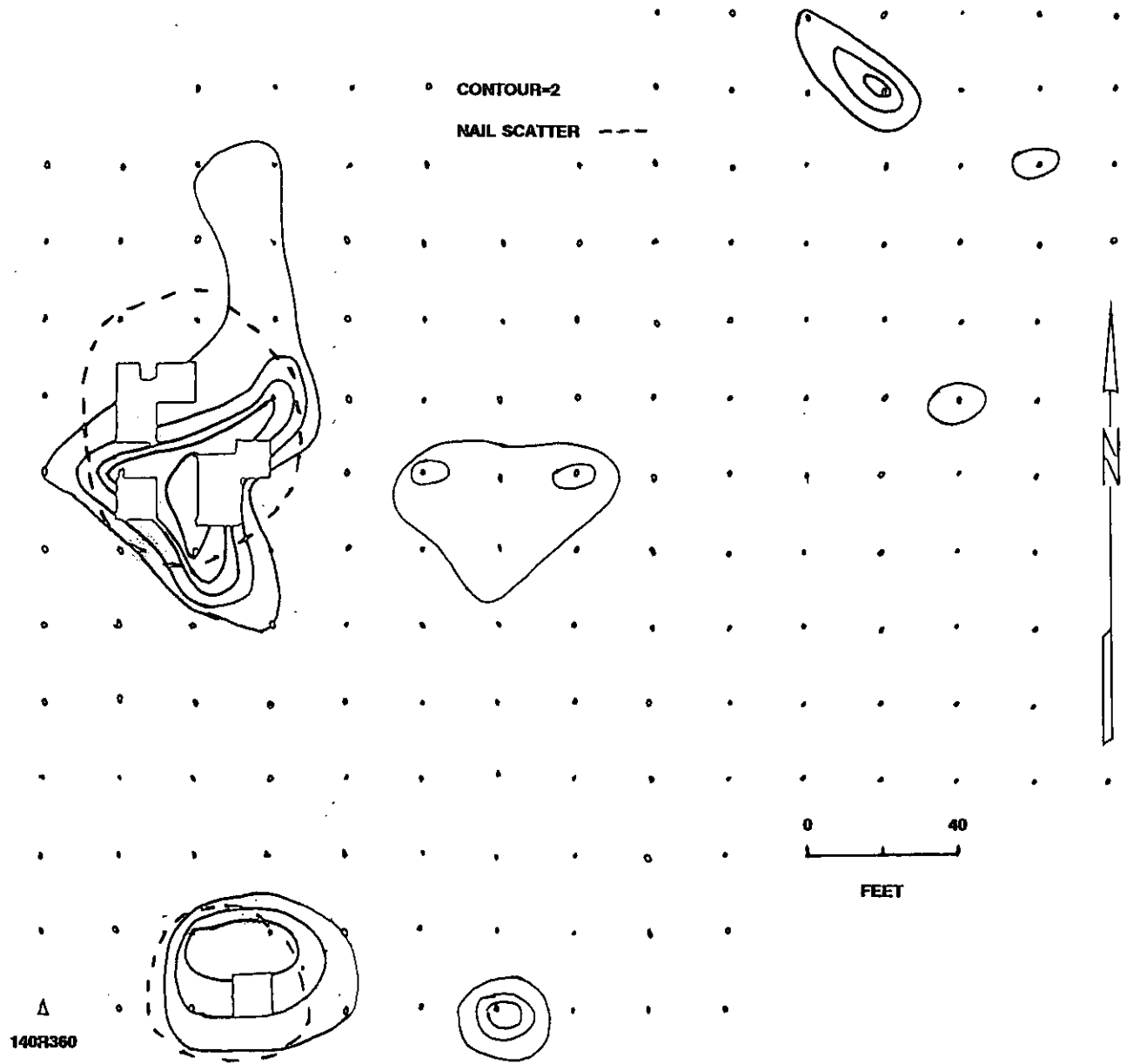


Figure 5. Historic concentrations, excavation units, and nail scatters in the southern portion of 38BU584.

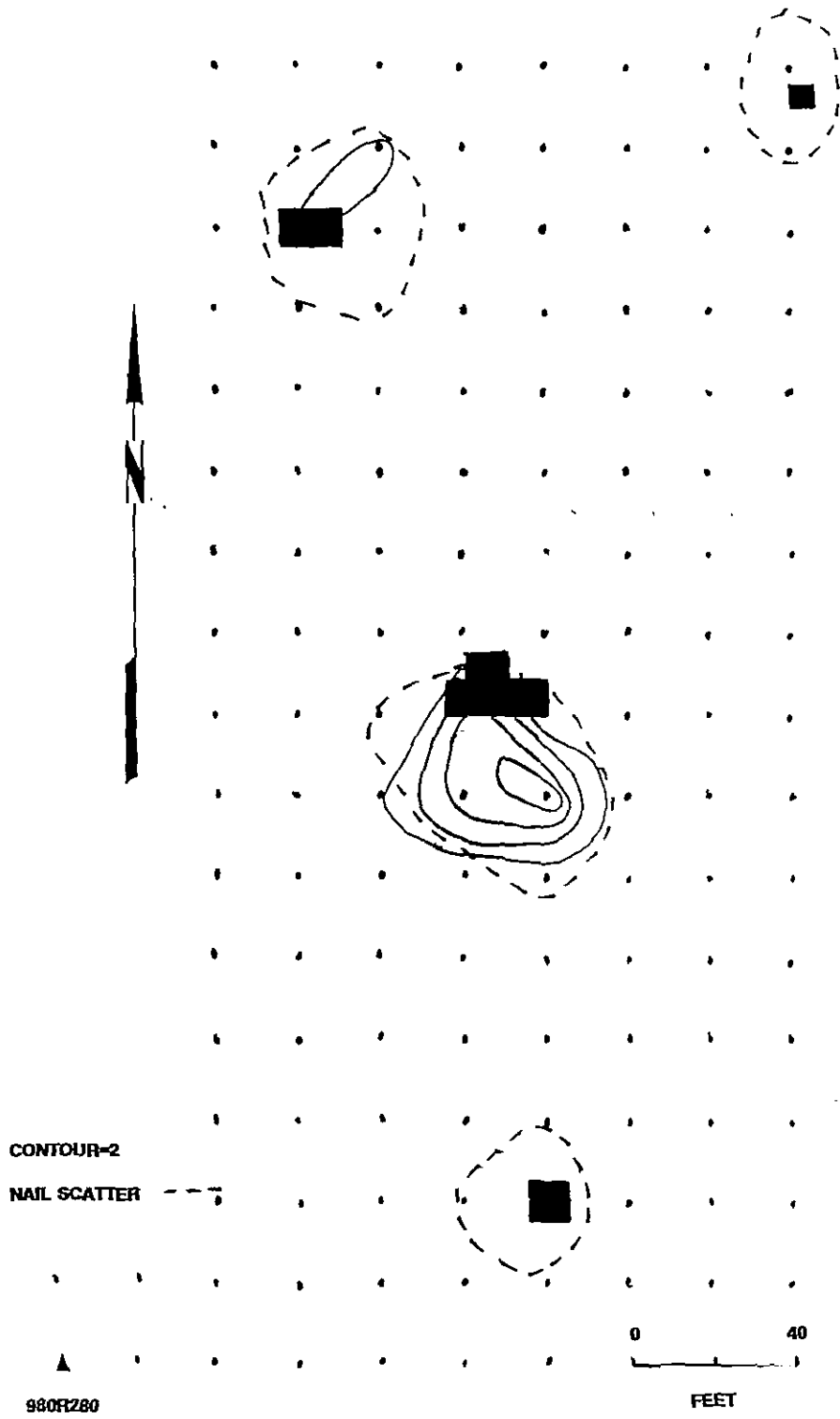


Figure 6. Historic concentrations, excavation units, and nail scatters in the north central portion of 38BU584.

Table 1.
Excavations at 38BU584

Component	Square Feet Excavated
Savannah/Irene	600
Savannah/Irene	200
Possible main house yard	100
Plantation kitchen	625
Domestic structure	150
Outbuilding 1	100
Outbuilding 2	300
Historic trash midden	25
Total	2100

century (Trinkley 1988). In the vicinity of the plantation kitchen, there were Zone 2 soils which consisted of dark brown (10YR3/3) sand and containing sometimes exclusively prehistoric remains. Although only the historic remains in this area were being investigated, Zone 2 soils had to be removed to be able to identify historic features. In two cases, approximately 25% of the Zone 2 soils in an excavation unit were screened to verify the absence of historic remains before the remaining Zone 2 soils were discarded. In one unit (280R410) Zone 2 soils were not removed since the area represented the interior of a chimney firebox and no posts which could not be identified at the base of Zone 1 were anticipated. In addition, Zone 2 was not removed in this unit to help keep the chimney remains stable since the excavation of this zone would have left the bottom of the massive chimney base pedestalled approximately 0.4 ft above the base of excavations.

Shell columns at the site were 2.25 by 2.25 feet in size, representing approximately 5% of a 10 foot unit. Columns were screened through 1/8 inch mesh with the soil and shell weighed before screening and the shell weighed after screening to get a soil to shell ratio. Generally, at least one five gallon bucket of shell was sorted by species.

Pollen samples were obtained from midden contexts as well as from general feature soils where it is most likely that the soils had not been disturbed.

Features were profiled and drawn and were also screened through 1/8 inch mesh. Clams were collected from feature contexts for seasonality information as was a sample of oyster shell. In larger prehistoric features, a subset of the shell was collected in bulk and the surrounding matrix soil was collected to obtain information on parasitic snails which have been found to aid in interpreting season of site occupation. Flotation samples (five gallons of soil) were obtained from all feature contexts for processing in the Chicora laboratories in Columbia.

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 Hilton Head Island museum.

INTERPRETATIONS AND CONCLUSIONS

Prehistoric Areas

170-180R710-730 Excavations

A block excavation was opened in the 170-180R710-730 area of 38BU584 and consisted of six 10 foot square units (Figures 3 and 7). These excavations uncovered a portion of a roughly square Savannah/Irene structure measuring approximately 14 by 14 feet. No central hearth or any other interior hearth was identified and only one piece of daub was recovered. The absence of an interior hearth and structural daub suggests that the structure may have been occupied during the warmer months of the year. A shell midden, about 10 feet in diameter, was also located in the block excavations overlying the northern portion of the structure. Two small shell pit features (Feature 1 and 2) were identified in this area as well. Just east of the structure was a large trash pit feature (Feature 3) containing primarily Savannah pottery and flecks of charcoal and some animal bone (Figure 8). The feature was excavated in two levels. Level 1 consisted of a shell-less black (10YR2.5/1) to very dark grayish brown (10YR3/2) soil. It contained primarily Savannah phase pottery, but also contained Irene phase pottery, some of which exhibited incised rims. Level 2 consisted of a shell deposit with the same color black to very dark grayish brown soil. Pottery in this zone was exclusively Savannah. Shell within level 2 was primarily oyster, with some clam and ribbed mussel.

Wood charcoal was collected from all features and the post holes associated with the structure. Radiocarbon dates, particularly from the structure and Feature 3, will aid in understanding their relationship to one another.

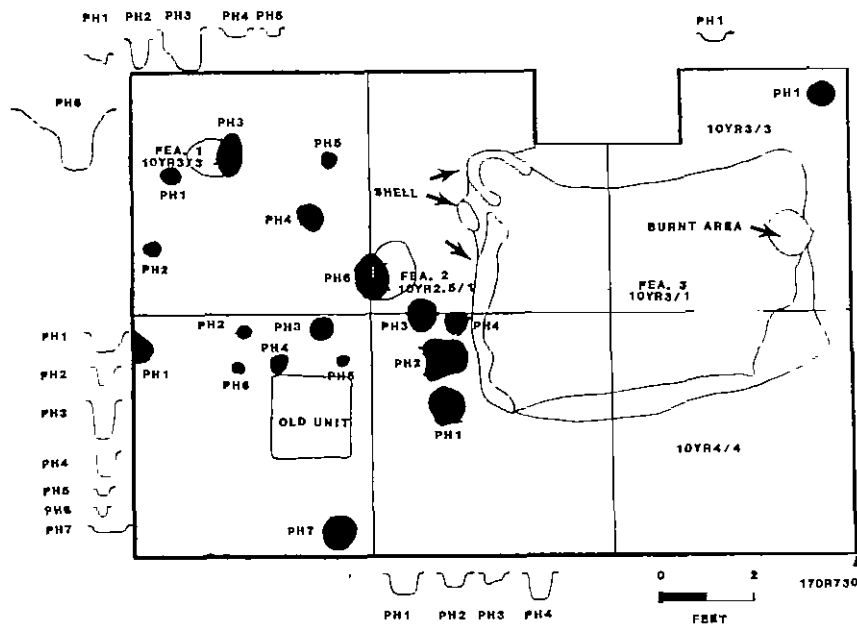


Figure 7. Excavations at 170-180R710-730.

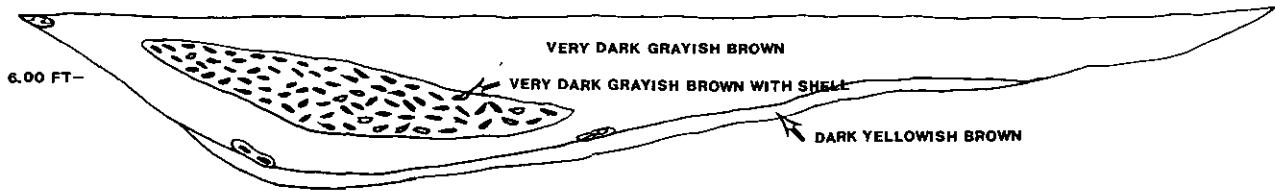


Figure 8. Bisected view of Feature 3, view to the north.

1480R330 and 1530R320

A second prehistoric area was investigated in the northern portion of the site and consisted of two 10 foot units (Figure 4). This area was of interest because it was isolated, it was believed to contain primarily Savannah and Irene phase pottery, and one auger test yielded 19 fragments of animal bone. Although it was believed that this area might contain evidence of a small, short term prehistoric structure, only one post hole and no features were identified. Prehistoric pottery in the excavations consisted primarily of Irene Complicated Stamped and the quantity of animal bone was disappointing.

Historic Areas

Possible main house yard

A concentration of historic materials was identified along the cart path bordering the 15th fairway which defined the southern boundary of the development tract (Figure 5). The concentration was relatively small, and one ten foot square was excavated in the middle of the identified nail scatter. Artifacts included creamwares, pearlwares, whitewares, bottle glass, wrought nails, cuts nails, and a relatively large quantity of window glass. These artifacts suggest a long occupation span dating from the late 18th century to the mid nineteenth century. This area of the site yielded the largest quantity of window glass found at the site and, therefore, may represent the remains of a main plantation house. Although nails were relatively sparse, the house may have been primarily peg construction if it was built in the 18th century. In addition, nails and architectural items may have been robbed from the house after it was abandoned, since manufactured goods were difficult to obtain on

Daufuskie Island.

No additional excavation was performed in this area, since if the remains are associated with a main house yard area, architectural features are now buried under the 15th fairway.

Plantation kitchen

A total of 625 square feet was excavated in a dense concentration of historic materials located approximately 140 feet north of the posited main house yard area. The concentration of artifacts identified in the auger tests and the associated nail scatter measured about 50 feet east-west by 70 feet north-south (Figure 5). A large quantity of animal bone was also located during the testing and no dense concentrations of brick were identified.

Excavations uncovered portions of a structure posited to be approximately 26 by 22 feet in size (Figure 9). A five foot porch may have been present on the north and west facade. If the structure configuration is interpreted correctly, then the structure is roughly located in the center of the nail scatter. However, this interpretation of size and configuration is based on little substantial evidence and should be taken with caution. At the south end is a large chimney base measuring approximately 9 feet wide and 6 feet deep, made of a conglomeration of tabby mortar, brick fragments, and some sort of ferrous slag. The hearth interior (Feature 4) contained primarily burnt sand and charcoal. The structure was raised up on wooden posts or piers.

West of the structure area, parallel to the structure was a drainage ditch (Feature 5). Excavations on top of the ditch and in the ditch fill yielded a large quantity of animal bone, suggesting that the ditch was commonly used as a trash receptacle. Artifacts consisted primarily of creamwares, pearlwares, bottle glass, and wrought nails. No cut nails were identified at this structure.

As suggested by the survey, animal bone was found to be abundant throughout this area of the site. A large quantity of turtle bone was identified, as well as drum fish, gar, and larger mammals such as deer or cow. Field impressions suggested that the diet at the site consisted primarily of wild game. No butchers marks were identified on larger mammal bones.

Domestic Structure

A total of 150 square feet were excavated at 1255R365-370 in an area of very sparse historic material identified during auger testing. Subsequent metal detecting in the area identified a light nail scatter measuring approximately 40 by 40 feet in size (Figure 5). Excavation units were placed in an area of brick rubble and shell located at 1250R360.

These excavations (Figure 10) uncovered the remains of a small brick chimney base measuring approximately 6 feet by 3 feet in size. The eastern arm of the chimney was missing. Three posts were identified in front of the hearth area. All posts contained a large quantity of rubble and artifacts which suggests that the structure was razed. That the structure was torn down and the area used as a trash pile is suggested by the presence of shell midden on top of the building, indicating that the plantation complex was still being occupied after the structure no longer stood.

Ceramics consisted primarily of handpainted and edged pearlwares and whitewares, similar to the pearlwares and whitewares found at the kitchen. One very temporally sensitive artifact, consisting of an 1831 coin, was found in general excavations. The assemblage was domestic and was larger than anticipated since auger testing did not suggest the remains would be very dense.

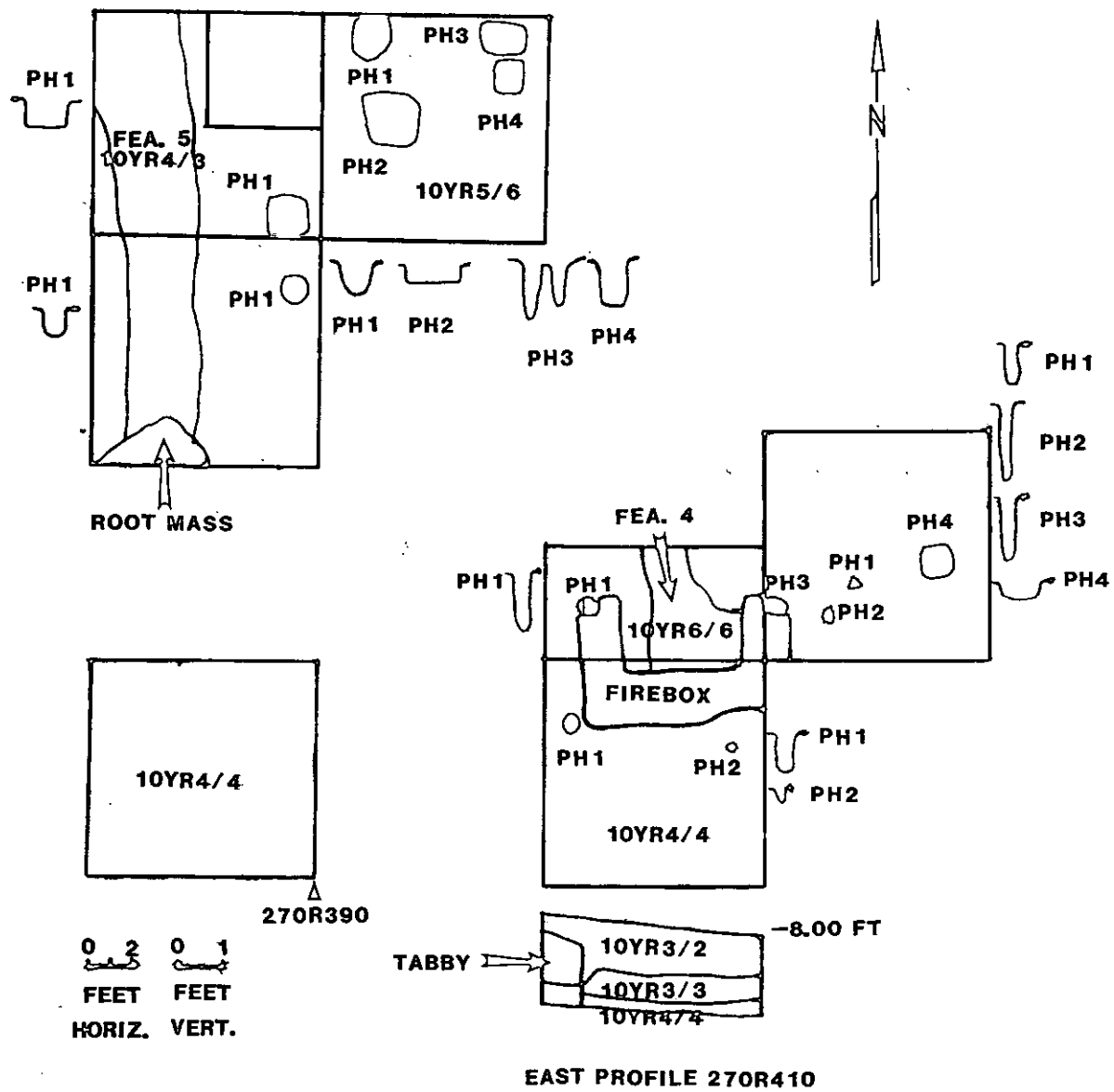


Figure 9. Excavations at the plantation kitchen.

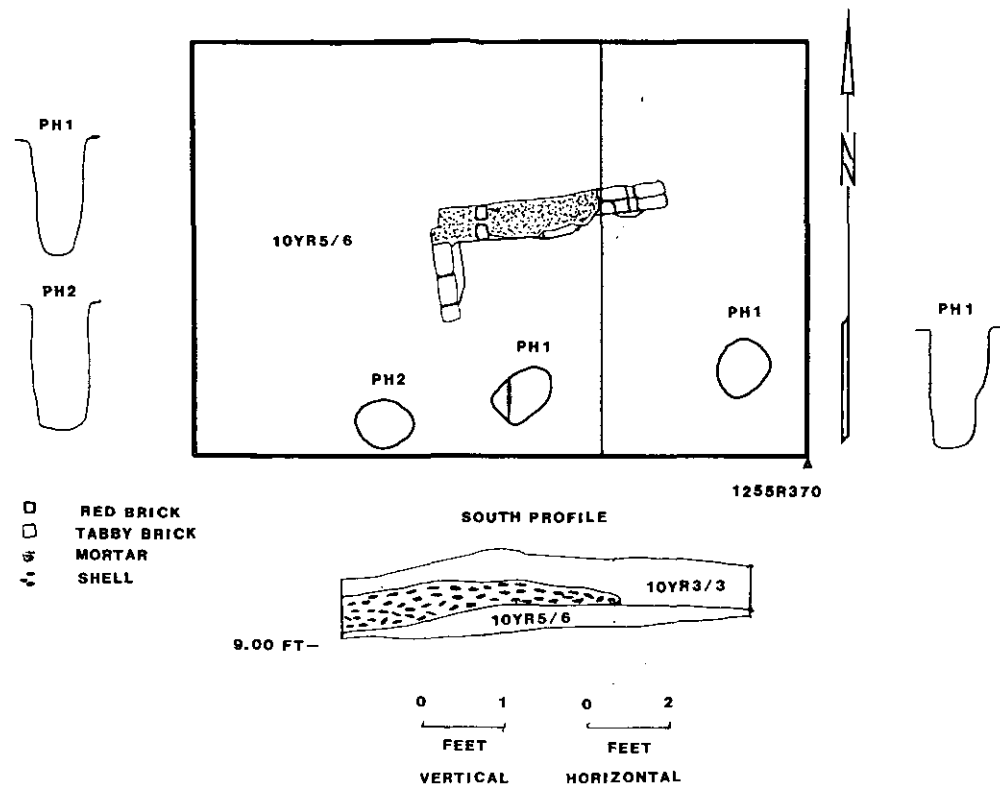


Figure 10. Excavations at the domestic structure.

Shell Midden

A small historic shell midden (approximately 10 feet in diameter) was identified by surface examination and metal detection approximately 100 feet east of the domestic structure, and may be associated with it (Figure 5). A nail scatter, measuring approximately 30 feet north-south by 20 feet east-west, was identified. One five foot unit was placed in the center of the midden. The shell was found to be only about 0.4 feet thick and artifacts were sparse. The artifacts that were present consisted of whitewares, cut nails, and an iron spoon bowl. Although nails were present in the midden, they are more likely associated with the discarding of old lumber than with a structure located in the immediate area.

Outbuilding 1

One 10 foot square (1015R405) was placed in an area where an intact structural feature was identified during the auger testing. Metal detecting in the area identified a nail scatter approximately 40 feet north-south by 30 feet east-west. Excavations at the 10 foot unit uncovered a portion of a dry laid brick floor constructed of whole and fragmentary tabby brick and fragmentary red brick (Figure 11). There was also one example of yellow brick in the general excavations, although it was fragmentary. Yellow bricks known as *Dutch clinkers* are

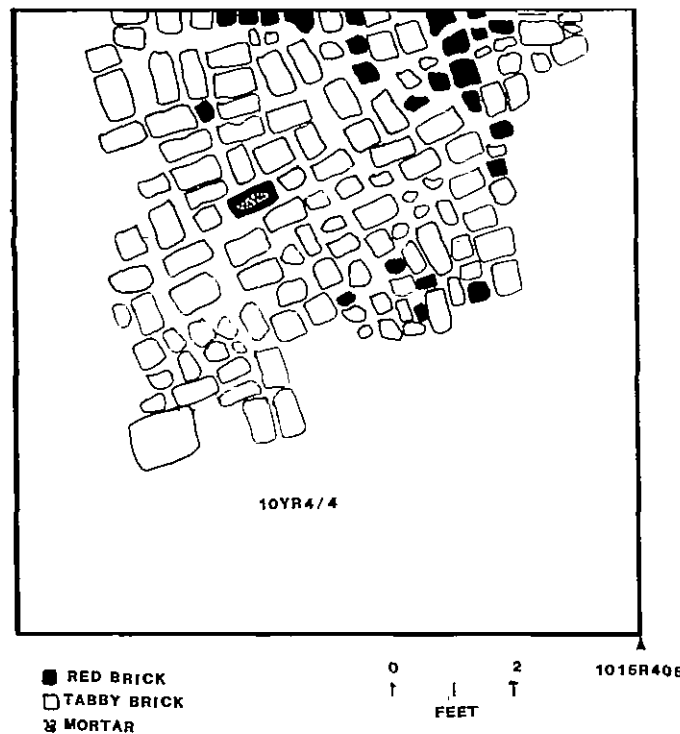


Figure 11. Excavations at outbuilding #1.

described as hard yellow bricks used to pave floors and hearths (Lounsbury 1994:48). However, the example from 38BU584 was soft and may not be this type of brick.

Artifacts were very sparse and consisted primarily of a few cut nails and some whiteware. A controlled metal detector survey was performed in the immediate area in order to locate metal artifacts which might provide information on the function of the structure. Seven "hits", using the all metals mode, were located and investigated. This survey yielded nails, a hoe blade, and a spoon bowl. None of these provide functional information regarding the structure. However, the presence of a paved floor indicates that the planter wanted whatever was stored inside kept dry.

Outbuilding #2

A total of 300 square feet was excavated at a second outbuilding, including two 10 foot units and two 5 by 10 foot units. Exposed was all that appeared to be remaining of a brick floor. This floor contained a number of whole or nearly whole tabby bricks and some red brick rubble, and was dry laid (Figure 12).

During the initial auger testing of this area, a relatively large quantity of historic artifacts were recovered. Subsequent metal detecting indicated a moderately dense scatter of nails or other metals in a 50 by 50 foot area. Based on this information, the structure was originally believed to be domestic.

Excavations in the northern area of the historic scatter yielded a large quantity of brown salt glazed stonewares which make up an estimated 70% of the ceramic collection. This stoneware, consisting primarily of jugs, was concentrated in the immediate area of the remnant brick floor. This suggests that the building was being used to store liquids and may have functioned as a dairy. However, there was also a large quantity of

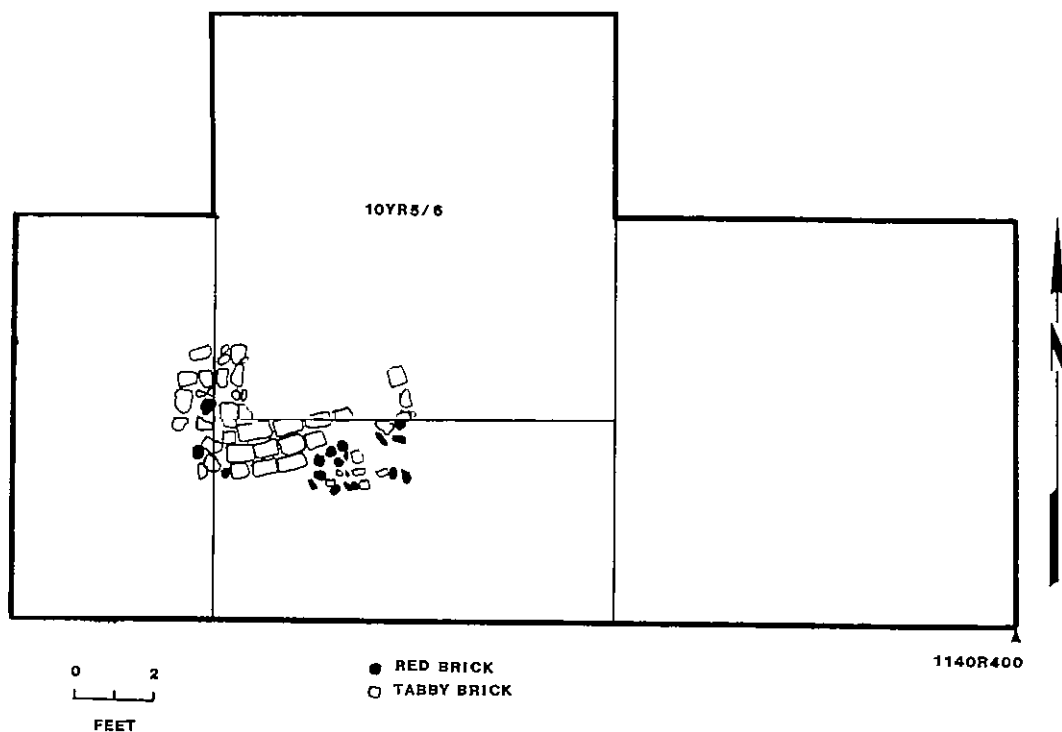


Figure 12. Excavations at outbuilding #2.

domestic artifacts. It is possible that two structures existed side by side in this area -- one consisting of a domestic structure and another consisting of a dairy.

Summary and Conclusions

Two prehistoric and six historic areas of 38BU584 were investigated. The prehistoric excavations focussed on the Savannah/Irene component of the site and uncovered a portion of a squarish structure measuring approximately 14 by 14 feet in size. Just east of this structure was a large trash pit containing primarily oyster, clam, ribbed mussel, Savannah, and Irene pottery. Wood charcoal and some animal bone was also present. The lack of daub and a central hearth suggests that the structure may have been occupied during the warmer months. The second prehistoric area, located in the northern portion of the site, yielded primarily Irene phase pottery. No features, except one post, were encountered.

The historic component of 38BU584 was concentrated in two areas of the site. The first area, located in the southern portion of the site, yielded evidence for a plantation kitchen and the possible remains of a main house. Assuming that those remain represent a main house, the kitchen was located approximately 150 feet north of the house. This is not unusually far since the kitchen at Stoney/Baynard plantation on Hilton Head Island is located approximately 300 feet from the main house (Adams and Trinkley 1991). At Vanderhorst Plantation on Kiawah Island the kitchen was located within 50 feet of the main house (Trinkley 1993).

Separated from the southern complex by approximately 700 feet was another cluster of structures consisting of two outbuildings, one domestic structure, and a trash midden. The domestic structure may be associated with either an overseer or a specialized slave. Both of the outbuildings contained dry laid brick floors

indicating that whatever was kept in those buildings needed to be kept dry or away from the actual ground surface. The trash midden located in this area is probably associated with the adjacent domestic structure.

No evidence was found for a slave settlement at 38BU584 nor was any evidence found for a freedmen's settlement, which according to oral history was located at 38BU584. It is very common at plantation sites to find the main house complex and the slave row separated by some geographical feature or barrier. There are sloughs located both to the south and north of 38BU584 which may have served as such a barrier. Although no sites have ever been recorded in these areas it is possible that they once existed. National Register eligibility determinations by the SC SHPO were based solely on the reconnaissance level survey performed by Michie (1983). The extent of Lepionka's subsequent work is unknown, and Chicora's 1988 survey (Trinkley 1988:65) was limited to the relocation of previously identified sites and determination of site boundaries. As a result a large part of the Haig Point tract has never really been intensively surveyed for additional archaeological sites.

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