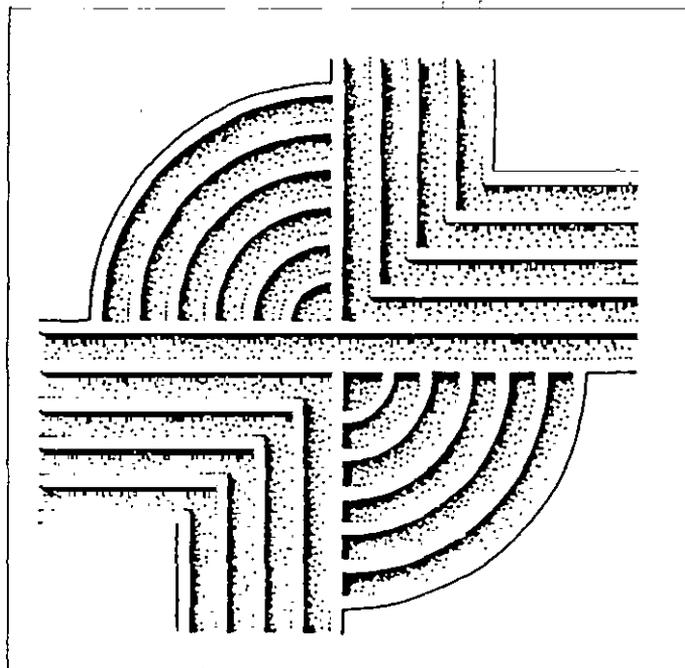


**ADDITIONAL ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF
LOCUS F, 38BU968, WALLING GROVE PLANTATION,
BEAUFORT COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA**



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BEAUFORT COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA**

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ABSTRACT

This study reports on an intensive archaeological survey of a portion of Walling Grove Plantation, 38BU968, called Locus F. Situated south of Plantation Road West and west of Walling Grove Road on the north end of Lady's Island in Beaufort County. This area was first encountered in 1991 and was identified as part of the National Register eligible Walling Grove Plantation site. The original survey, however, recognized that this particular locus was poorly defined. Since then the development has grown up around the locus and questions arose regarding this area's integrity and ability to address significant research questions.

Dr. Wayne Beam, with Beam, Shannon & Driggers and representing the developers of Walling Grove, requested that Chicora Foundation evaluate this locus. Today Locus F is found in a grassed field bordered by crepe myrtles. There are sparse oaks and pine, and the area is being subdivided into four lots.

The investigations at this site consisted of the excavation of 47 shovel tests, spaced 25 feet apart and on transects which were also primarily 25 feet apart. These tests, focused in the area originally identified as Locus F, were used to obtain clear site boundaries and also to evaluate artifact density and diversity.

Only nine of the shovel tests were positive and these were used to identify the site boundaries, revealing that 38BU968 extends southward about 150 feet south of Old Plantation Road and upwards of 110 feet west of Walling Grove Road. This site area is confined to the northeast corner of one of the four lots anticipated in the area. Furthermore, the shovel tests reveal that artifact density in this area is very low and the recovered artifacts are highly fragmented. It may be that landscaping in this area has impacted the site, further dispersing materials.

Regardless, this investigation reveals that the data sets currently present at Locus F are not able to address significant research questions appropriate for deposits and loci elsewhere on the site. Consequently, no further management activities are recommended for the survey area.

There is, of course, the possibility that additional resources will be identified during construction. Crews should be made aware that if pottery, arrowheads, concentrations of bricks, or the presence of bones are found in the project area, ground disturbing work should be suspended until the finds can be assessed by either the project archaeologist or the State Historic Preservation Office.

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ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

I want to thank Dr. Wayne Beam for his interest in resolving the questions surrounding Locus F and support throughout the project. We appreciate his continued confidence in Chicora Foundation.

Mr. Keith Derting, at the S.C. Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology assisted us with site recordation. We thank him for his speedy and thorough work. Ms. Sharon Pekrul was responsible for assisting us with curation at the S.C. Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology, and again we offer our sincere appreciation for her time and

efforts. Finally, Mr. Niels Taylor helped us devise a reasonable approach to the survey and we appreciate his patience and support.

The field crew for this project included the author and Ms. Kerri Barile. I appreciate her hard work and efforts to ensure that the site was well researched and recorded. I also appreciate the efforts of Ms. Debi Hacker, who was responsible for the analysis and cataloging of the resulting collections, as well as for the maps and other project graphics.

INTRODUCTION

Background

The Walling Grove Plantation tract is situated on the north end of Lady's Island (Figure 1) and is dominated by the Coosaw River to the north and Broomfield Creek (previously known as Johnsons Creek) to the west. Topography on the tract tends to be flat, with the western part characterized by a gradual slope to the saltwater marshes of Broomfield Creek. The northern edge of the tract has slightly higher elevations.

In 1989 Chicora Foundation was retained to conduct an intensive archaeological survey of the first phase of a planned development at the north end of Lady's Island (Trinkley 1989). Although the development was named Walling Grove, historical research and archaeological survey revealed the presence of St. Queunten's Plantation (38BU968) on the survey tract. The plantation, which included both standing tabby ruins and extensive below ground remains was recommended eligible for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places and eventually a memorandum of agreement (MOA) between what was then known as the South Carolina Coastal Council (today the Office of Ocean and Coastal Resources Management or OCRM) and the developers was entered into.

In 1991 we were again contacted with the request to survey the second phase of development activities at Walling Grove (Adams and Trinkley 1991), including a tract known as Block C North, encompassing about 22 acres and including 16 lots, situated southwest of the intersection of Walling Grove Road and Old Plantation Road. This survey found that the St. Queunten's Plantation archaeological site extended south beyond the original survey boundary, into the Phase II development anticipated for Block C North (Figure 2).

A series of 38 shovel tests were excavated

and 25 (66%) were positive. Nineteen dateable ceramics were recovered, yielding a mean ceramic date of 1831.6 (Adams and Trinkley 1991: Table 1). The recovered materials included a range of late eighteenth century and early nineteenth century artifacts, including both kitchen and architectural remains. The shovel testing also found what was described as "a robbed out architectural feature," consisting of dense mortar and brick fragments about 1.5 feet below the ground surface. The remains were thought to encompass much of an area measuring about 450 feet east-west by 150 feet north-south.

Based on the number of positive shovel tests and the presence of a probable feature, the report described the extension of the plantation as exhibiting excellent clarity and having a high degree of integrity (Adams and Trinkley 1991:48). Since the previous portions of 38BU968 had been found eligible and were covered under the MOA, this new section of the plantation site was also subsumed into the extant agreement. Green spacing was recommended for Locus F, as it had been for the main portion of the site to the north of Old Plantation Drive.

In early September, Chicora Foundation was contacted by Dr. Wayne Beam regarding Locus F since the development was in the process of seeking permits to develop four lots including this portion of 38BU968. The State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) had previously indicated that development could proceed only if the resources identified as Locus F were not considered to be contributing to the research potential of 38BU968.

During a series of discussions with Dr. Beam and Mr. Niels Taylor, archaeologist with the State Historic Preservation Office, an agreement was developed to conduct additional intensive survey in the vicinity of the four lots to determine if the site was still intact and if the data sets

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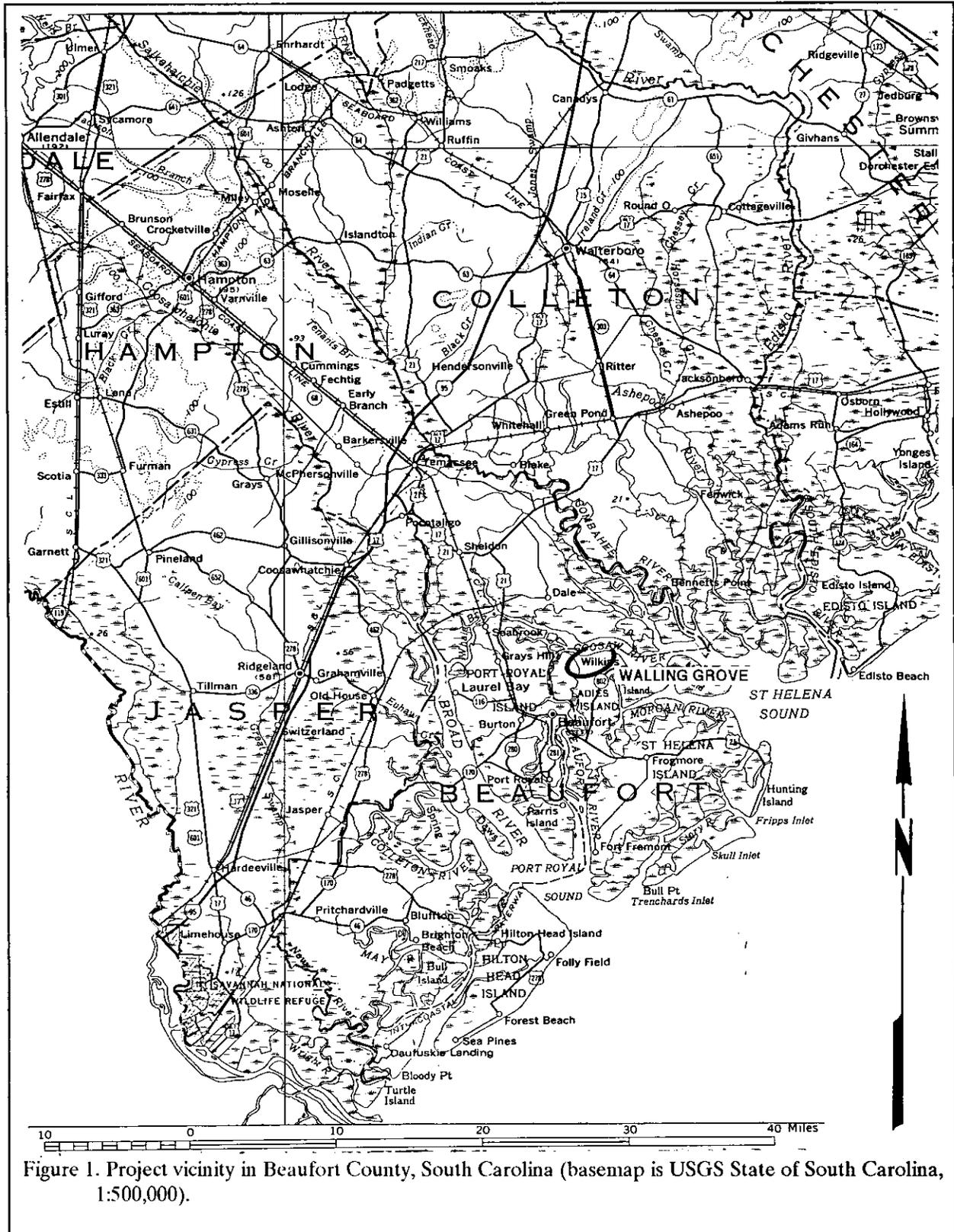


Figure 1. Project vicinity in Beaufort County, South Carolina (basemap is USGS State of South Carolina, 1:500,000).

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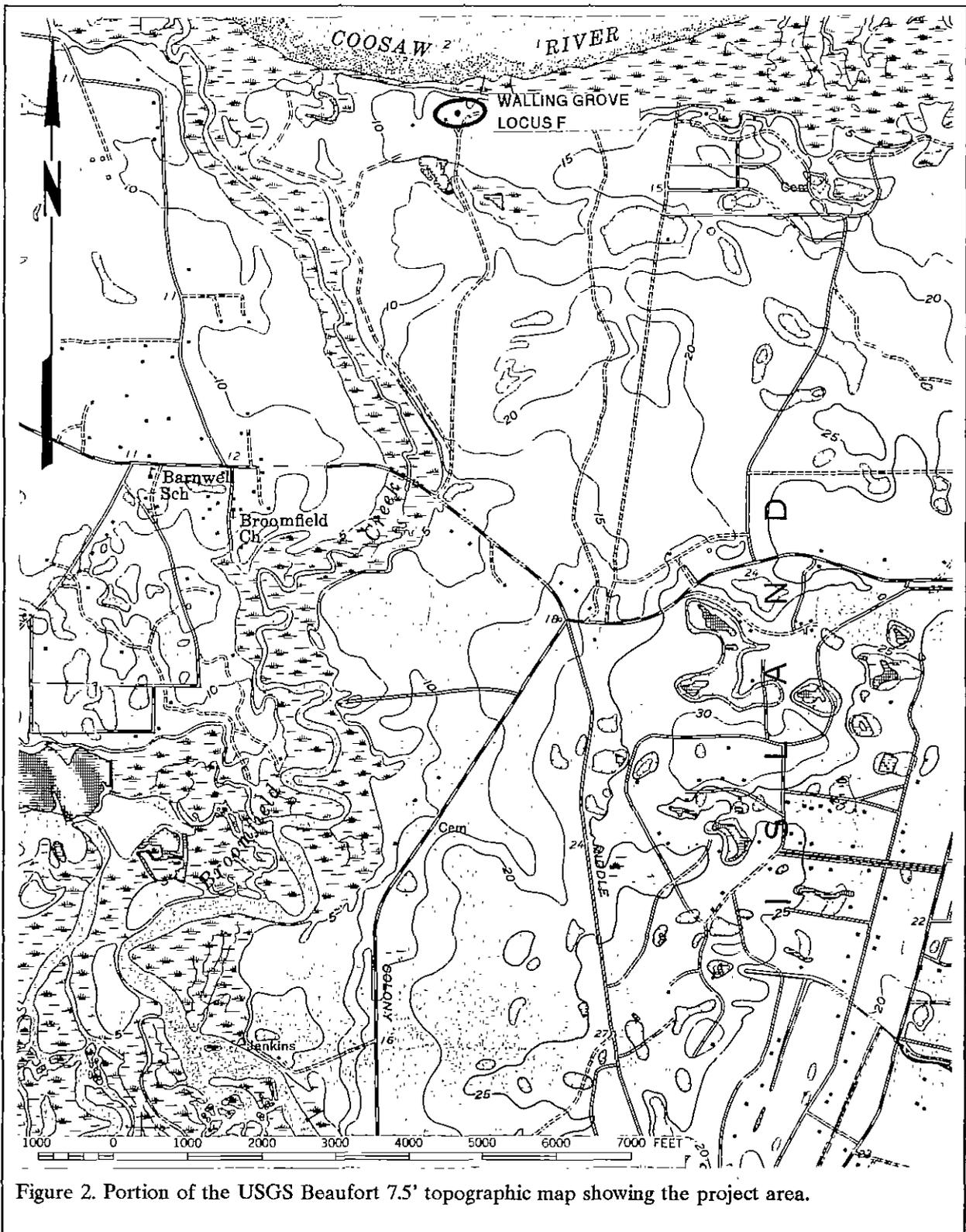


Figure 2. Portion of the USGS Beaufort 7.5' topographic map showing the project area.

present were still thought to contribute to the eligibility of the site. Mr. Taylor had noted during a previous site visit that landscaping along the road edge had changed the topography of the lots and may have affected the integrity of Locus F. In addition, he pointed out that the original survey of this area had been conducted prior to his office's new guidelines, as well as the publication of *National Register Bulletin* 36 (Townsend et al. 1993).

Dr. Beam requested that Chicora Foundation coordinate with the SHPO and develop a survey approach that would collect the necessary information for a new evaluation. A proposal for this work was submitted to Dr. Beam on September 12 and was approved September 26.

The survey was conducted on October 1, 1997. The author served as the field director for the project and was assisted by Ms. Kerri Barile. A total of 12 person hours were spent on site conducting the assessment.

The analysis and cataloging of the collections was conducted by Ms. Debi Hacker at Chicora's Columbia laboratories on October 2. During this work all materials were evaluated for conservation needs. No materials were found which warranted conservation treatments. Additional information concerning curation is available at the end of this section.

Goals and Methods

Like virtually all surveys, the primary goals of this study were, first, to identify the archaeological resources of the survey area and, second, to assess the ability of those resources to contribute significant archaeological, historical, or anthropological data.

Of course, we knew from our previous investigations that 38BU968 was situated in the survey tract, but we were not sure of its current condition. Nor were the boundaries of the site precisely known, since the earlier work had "lumped" the locus with 38BU968 in order to minimize the administrative work for the developer (i.e., by doing so the site was already covered by an

existing MOA and no further development delays would be encountered). As a result, the first goal — of identifying remains present on the tract — was an important issue.

The second aspect of the research essentially involves the site's eligibility for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places, although Chicora Foundation only provides an opinion of National Register eligibility and the final determination is made by the lead compliance agency in consultation with the State Historic Preservation Officer at the South Carolina Department of Archives and History.

Under normal circumstances, the State Historic Preservation Office typically requires shovel testing at 100 foot intervals along transects spaced 100 feet apart as an element of normal site identification procedures. When sites are found, the shovel testing interval is typically reduced. Since the general area of 38BU968 was already documented, we felt that it was appropriate to begin with a close interval survey. Consequently, we proposed to use shovel tests at 50 foot intervals on transects spaced 50 feet apart.

All shovel tests would be about 1-foot square and would be excavated to subsoil, typically 1.0 to 1.5 feet in depth. All fill would be screened through ¼-inch mesh with the tests backfilled immediately afterwards. All materials recovered from shovel testing, except brick and mortar which were to be noted and discarded in the field, would be bagged. Shovel tests would be sequentially numbered by transect.

We also anticipated retaining notes on representative shovel tests. Photographs of the site area would be taken if they might reveal significant information about the site or its current condition. At the conclusion of the work a revised site form would be completed and submitted to the South Carolina Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology.

Once identified, the portion of 38BU968 in the survey tract was to be evaluated for its contribution to the National Register eligibility of

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the entire site. This assessment process would follow that outlined by Townsend et al. (1993) in *National Register Bulletin* 36. This evaluative process involves five steps, forming a clearly defined, explicit rationale for either the site's eligibility or lack of eligibility (or, as in this case, whether a particular component is a contributing resource to the site's overall eligibility). Briefly, these steps are:

- identification of the site's data sets or categories of archaeological information such as artifacts, subsistence remains, architectural remains, or sub-surface features;
- identification of the historic context applicable to the site, providing a framework for the evaluative process;
- identification of the important research questions the site *might* be able to address, given the data sets and the context;
- evaluation of the site's archaeological integrity to ensure that the data sets are sufficiently well preserved to address the research questions; and
- identification of "important" research questions among all of those which might be asked and answered at the site.

Taking each of these steps individually, the first is simply to determine what is present at the site — for example, are features present, what types of artifacts are present, from what period does the site date? This represents the collection of basic, and essential, information concerning the site and the types of research contributions it can offer. Obviously there is no reason to propose research on eighteenth century plantation development if only early twentieth century ceramics are present. Nor is it perhaps appropriate to explore questions

focused on subsistence if no faunal materials are present in the collection. This first step is typically addressed through the survey investigations, often with supporting documentation provided by historic research.

Next, it is important to understand the historic context of the site — what is the history of the project area and of the specific locality? Research questions must be posed with an understanding of this context and the context helps to direct the focus of research. The development of a historic context can be a lengthy process. The context for this site has been largely developed in previous studies and the reader is referred to either Trinkley (1989) or Adams and Trinkley (1991) for this historic background.

Associated with the development of the context is the formation of research questions *applicable to the site, its context, and its data sets*. Often this research will grow out of previous projects in the area. While analysis and publication have not been completed, the archaeological data recovery at Locus A of St. Queunten's Plantation has helped frame research questions specific to this plantation. Topics include an interest in the architectural development of low country plantations, the nature of the economic activity taking place on Lady's Island (an area recognized as having limited agricultural wealth), the spatial layout of plantation buildings on the landscape, and the distribution of yard refuse associated with the plantation.

Next it is essential to compare the data sets with the research questions — the information necessary to address the research questions must be present at the site, else posing the question is meaningless in the evaluative process. Focusing on small projects, it may be more appropriate to concentrate on only one or perhaps two research questions and devote the energy necessary to fully explore them, then to propose a range of questions which can be only superficially explored with the data sets or resources available.

Finally, Townsend et al. recognize that not all research questions are of equal importance and

that only those of fairly high value should be considered in the evaluation of National Register eligibility. Of all the steps this may be the most difficult to address. Some research questions proposed may seem pedestrian. Our society has viewed history as great events happening to great individuals. Many view architectural significance with the same jaundiced eye — significance being equated with white columns and famous architects. And certainly if the available archaeological studies of low country plantations are examined, there is a similar bias toward big plantations with relatively grand lifeways. Curiously, we know much less about the common planter, the yeoman farmer, or the tenant — and their probably more vernacular architecture — than we do about the famous or the high style. Some historians have referred to the common man as the "invisible person." Others have offered some understanding using the concept of the "marginal man." It is consequently important to understand that significance of archaeological research questions is not judged from the perspective of the wealth, or power, or prestige of the historic persons involved. It is judged from the perspective of what the research can tell us about the past that traditional historical research cannot.

This approach, of course, has been developed for use documenting eligibility of sites actually being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places where the evaluation process must stand alone, with relatively little reference to other documentation where only, typically, one discrete site is being considered. In the case of survey evaluations some modifications of the approach seem reasonable, if not actually essential. Regardless, the approach advocated by Townsend et al. encourages researchers to carefully consider, and justify, their recommendations regarding National Register eligibility.

Curation

A revised archaeological site form for Locus F has been filed with the South Carolina Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology. The field notes and artifacts resulting from these investigations will be curated with that institution using their proveniencing system which consists of

site number-site provenience number-artifact number.

All original records and duplicate copies were provided to the institution on pH neutral, alkaline buffered permanent paper. The artifacts are housed in ziplock bags with pH neutral, alkaline buffered tags. Photographic materials, which consist only of color prints, are not archivally stable and have therefore been retained in Chicora's project files.

SURVEY AND RESULTS

Findings

Upon arrival at the site we noticed that there was some evidence of landscape alterations. In particular, we observed a pronounced ditch about 10 feet south of Old Plantation Drive running east-west at the north edge of the locus. A slight berm parallels the ditch about 25 feet to the south. Beyond the ditch is a row of crepe myrtle trees (Figure 3) which appears to identify the area where the road-side modifications cease. A similar ditch and berm was also found running west of Walling Grove Plantation Road on the east side of the locus (Figure 4). Throughout the middle of the tract it appeared that the trees were setting on slight "pedestals," with the ground level depressed upwards of about 0.5 to 0.8 foot. This suggested that some earth movement may have taken place in the vicinity of Locus F, although the extent was unclear.

Given these possible alterations, we chose to reduce our shovel testing interval even further, with tests at 25-foot intervals along transects spaced every 25 feet. We felt that this closer interval would be likely to provide better data on the site, although we recognized that if the site was as large as originally reported it would be impossible to cover the entire area at this interval.

Consequently, our Transect 1 was laid in to parallel Old Plantation Drive, running about 30 feet south of the road. Numbering began with Shovel Test 1 at the east end of the transect about 25 feet west of the road edge and continued to Shovel Test 10 at the west end, covering a span of 225 feet. In a similar fashion Transects 2, 3, and 4 were laid in at 25-foot intervals.

The shovel tests revealed a very light scatter of historic materials at the east edge of the survey tract in these initial transects (Figure 5). Since there seemed to be no materials further west than Shovel Test 3 (the only exception being the

recovery of a single artifact in Transect 4, Shovel Test 10), Transect 5 was laid in with only five shovel tests and again we found that the distribution of artifacts was entirely within these limits.

Transect 6 was laid to the south of Transect 5, Shovel Test 1, in order to determine if the southern edge of the site had been identified. The presence of two negative shovel tests suggests that Locus F does not extend beyond Transect 5.

The boundaries of the site, based on these shovel tests, are thought to incorporate an area measuring about 110 feet east-west by 150 feet north-south. This western edge seems to correspond with the core edge previously identified north of Old Plantation Drive. The eastern boundary of the site still remains unknown since no survey efforts have been extended in that direction south of Old Plantation Drive.

The shovel tests in the site area reveal a dark brown (10YR4/3) sandy loam A horizon ranging in depth from 0.7 to 1.1 foot overlying a brown (10YR5/3) sand subsoil. Nowhere in the site area did we encounter A horizon soils to a depth reported from the 1991 survey. In fact, only one of the shovel tests (Transect 4, Shovel Test 6) produced A horizon soils to a depth of 1.4 feet. In general, the A horizon averaged about a foot in depth. Soil profiles, however, did not reveal any clear evidence of disturbance or mixing.

As previously mentioned, of the 47 shovel tests excavated in this area, only 10 produced artifacts (and only nine were in what we consider to be the site area). Others produced very sparse shell or occasional small (i.e., under ½-inch in diameter) brick fragments. These, however, cannot conclusively be viewed as originating in Locus F since the area was heavily plowed prior to development.

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Figure 3. View of the Locus F area from Old Plantation Drive looking to the southwest.



Figure 4. View of Locus F from Walling Grove Plantation Road, looking to the west.

SURVEY AND RESULTS

In each case artifacts were found exclusively in the A horizon soils, although every shovel test was excavated at least 0.2 to 0.3 foot into the underlying subsoil.

The artifacts recovered are itemized in Table 1 and are certainly suggestive of those previously reported, although no creamwares were recovered during this study. Again, kitchen and architectural remains dominate the collection, although a single arms artifact was encountered fairly far removed from the core of Locus F. These items, while not suitable for mean ceramic dating, are consistent with a late eighteenth or early nineteenth century time frame.

What is perhaps most remarkable about the collection, however, is how small the individual ceramics are. Most are barely over ¼-inch in diameter and represent the smallest possible "slivers." The glass fragments are not quite as fragmented, but still represent very small specimens. As might be expected, the nails are the most intact of the materials recovered. The single animal bone fragment is calcined, perhaps assisting in its preservation.

None of the tests yielded anything which could remotely be described as "concentrations" of building debris. Nothing resembling robbed architectural features were identified. In each case the A horizon soils terminated evenly on the subsoil.

Evaluation of Locus F

The data sets for Locus F are limited to small numbers of highly fragmented artifacts such

	Pearlware blue tp	Whiteware blue edge	White porcelain	Glass		Nail fragment	UID lead	Musket ball	Animal bone
				aqua	brown				
T1 ST1						1			
T1 ST2		1				4	1		
T3 ST2									1
T3 ST3	1								
T3 ST7				1					
T4 ST1						1			
T4 ST2						2			
T4 ST3	1								
T4 ST10								1	
T5 ST1			1						
T5 ST5					1				
Totals	2	1	1	1	1	8	1	1	1

as ceramics, glass, and nails, very minor quantities of shell (probably subsistence related since there was no adhering mortar), and occasional small fragments of fired brick. A single calcined animal bone suggests that faunal remains are likewise not well preserved. There was no evidence of the subsurface features previously reported for the site. In addition, no deep soils were encountered in this survey.

The historic context for the site suggests that the main settlement was situated north of Old Plantation Drive (a modern road) and that the slave settlement is largely situated to the east, off the Walling Grove development. The area of Locus F has always been thought rather curious, since any structural remains in this area would be in the main access yard of the house (assuming that the house was oriented as much to the roadways of Lady's Island as it was to the Coosaw River). This assumption is buttressed by several historic accounts which reveal the extensive use of the road system during at least the antebellum period. Structures in such yard areas, based on the limited work conducted at eighteenth and nineteenth century low county plantations, would seem to be unusual.

The historic context also contributes to a number of the research questions posed for the plantation, including the evidence it can offer of how the reduced economic viability of Lady's

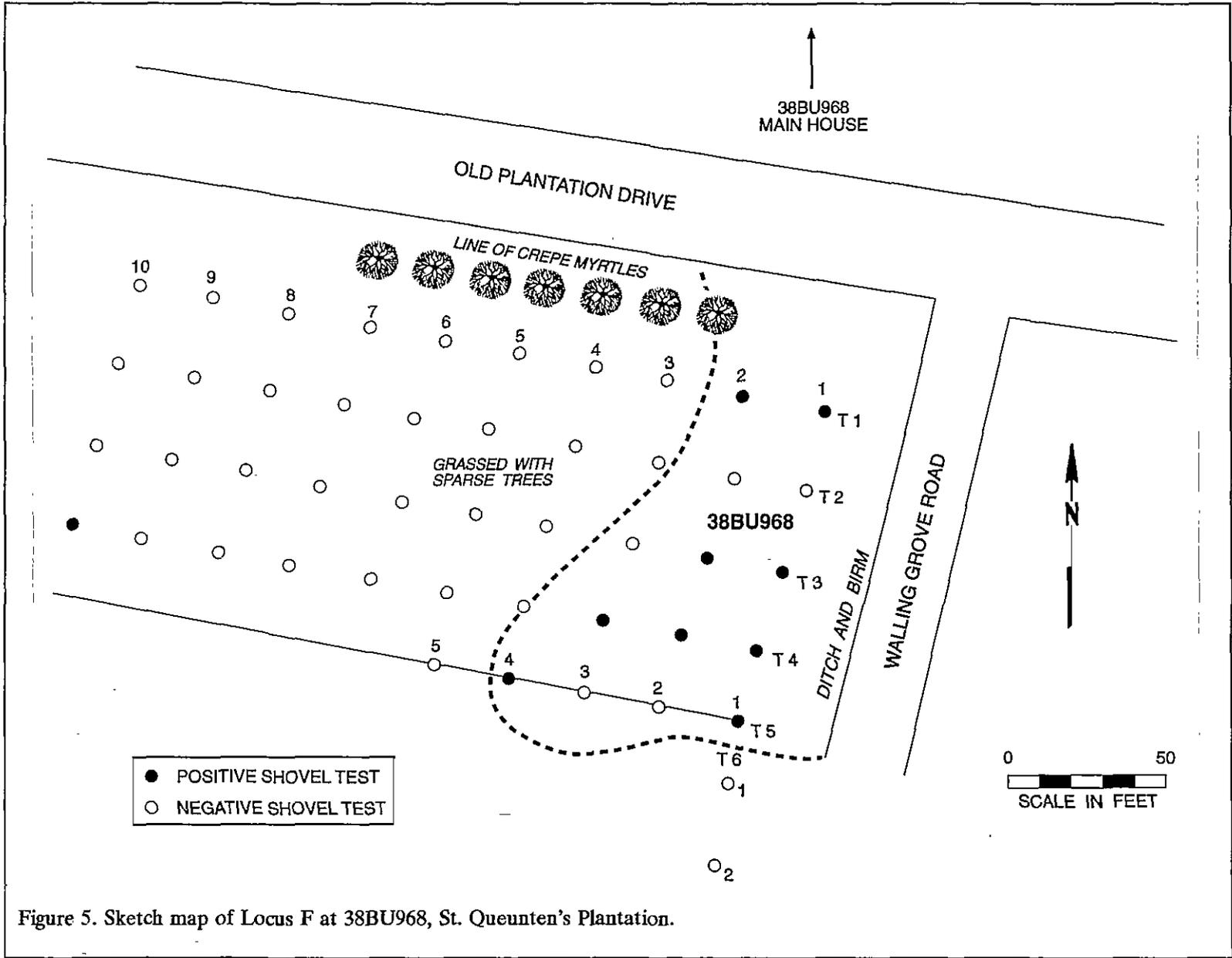


Figure 5. Sketch map of Locus F at 38BU968, St. Queunten's Plantation.

Island plantations might have affected the material culture and architecture of owners and slaves. We still know very little about the evolution of plantation architecture during the period from about 1780 through 1820. This seems to be a period of exceptional change in many areas, but there is also evidence that the sea islands were so isolated that change occurred slowly and sporadically. This focus is especially important since it helps to expand our understanding of the natural variability of plantation economics along the South Carolina coast.

In addition, St. Queunten's is also recognized as being able to contribute to our understanding of the plantation landscape and the dispersion of refuse across the yard areas of the main house. A sizeable proportion of the research conducted at the main house has focused on this issue. When the outer reaches of the plantation yard are considered, the research begins even more interesting.

While there are many important research questions which could be address, it is essential to evaluate these questions in terms of the data sets and integrity of Locus F. None of the questions raised can likely be addressed by the very sparse collection of materials present at this locus. There is not, for example, evidence of architectural remains suitable to help us understand what types of structures were present in the far yard approaching the main settlement. The scatter of nails and few bricks *may* represent structures, or they *may* only reflect plow dispersion from the main house. There are no features that suggest intact architectural remains. Nor is there a particularly complete archaeological assemblage — for example there is no evidence of window glass or architectural hardware.

In a similar fashion, even the ceramics and glass fragments may represent materials drug to this vicinity by plowing or other post-deposition activities. The items are found infrequently and provide no real insight concerning refuse disposal. There is a near absence of faunal remains, even though the planation kitchen (Locus B) is found to the northeast.

It may be that some or all of Locus F was subjected to landscaping activities since the initial survey in 1991. It would otherwise be difficult to reconcile the differences in numbers of positive tests, the dispersion of positive tests, and the differences in quantities of materials recovered. We did not, however, find clear evidence of any disturbances to the general area.

This study suggests that Locus F lacks the ability to address significant research questions and therefore does not contribute to the eligibility of the St. Queunten's Plantation (38BU968). Based on our tests, we do not recommend any additional management activities on the site.

As always, it is possible that in spite of this intensive survey, additional archaeological remains may be encountered during construction. If concentrations of pottery, ceramics, arrowheads, bottles, or other remains are identified, all work in the site area should cease until the site can be assessed by either Chicora Foundation or the State Historic Preservation Office. The contractor should be notified to be alert to the possibility of additional archaeological remains.

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