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Project: Testing of 38LU301 on the Powers South Property

Project Sponsor: Mr. Ross Deaver, Froehling & Robertson, Inc. (F&R)

Project Location: Laurens County, SC (Figure 1)

Field Personnel: Nicole Southerland and
Dennis Forest

Date of Testing: December 14-16, 2011

Objective: To determine eligibility of site 38LU301, which was recommended potentially eligible by Mr. Kenneth Styer of the S.C. Department of Highways and Public Transportation in 1992 (Styer 1992).

Background: When F&R initially requested a proposal to determine the eligibility of 38LU301, Chicora Foundation reviewed the original documentation and site file, then proposed performing historic research, an architectural assessment of the standing structure, shovel testing at 100-foot intervals followed by testing at 25-foot intervals in areas with dense remains, and ground penetrating radar (GPR).

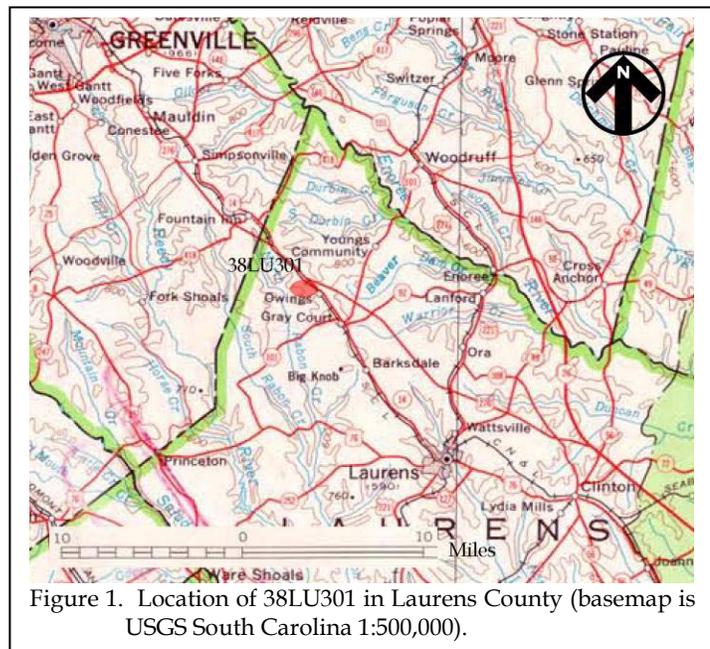


Figure 1. Location of 38LU301 in Laurens County (basemap is USGS South Carolina 1:500,000).

The historical research, including title research, was designed to determine what pre-existing information was available concerning the property, including maps, plats, population and agricultural census data, and other information that would provide a historic context for the site. While Styer provided historic research for some sites in the 1992 study, 38LU301 was not included.

The architectural assessment was proposed since there was conflicting information in the original documentation.

The shovel testing was proposed to examine the archaeological remains that might be associated with the various loci as originally defined.

The GPR work was intended to determine whether a cemetery exists since the original documentation indicated that oral history identified a cemetery, but no boundaries were provided.

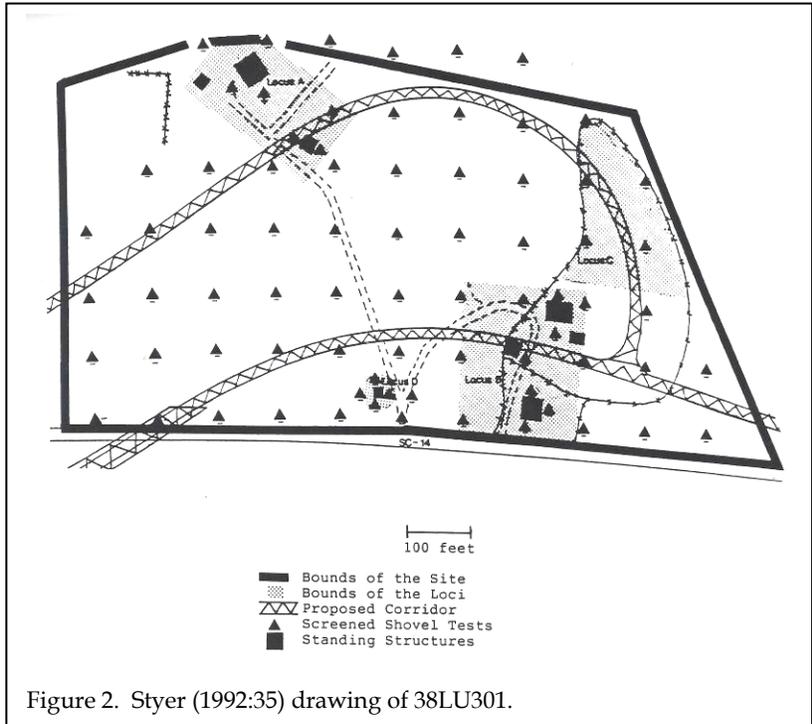


Figure 2. Styer (1992:35) drawing of 38LU301.

F&R, in consultation with their client, decided that they only desired a proposal for the shovel testing, opting out of any additional historic research, architectural evaluation, or an attempt to locate the boundaries of the cemetery. Consequently, this study only reports on the finding of the shovel testing within 38LU301.

Site Description: Styer (1992) estimated 38LU301 to be 700 by 1,100 feet in size and reported the presence of four loci (A-D) (Figure 2). He performed shovel testing at 100-foot intervals, with exception of lawn areas, where a surface collection was performed. Although more than 100 feet separate each of the loci (with the exception of Locus B and C), with negative shovel tests between each area, Styer (1992) decided to combine the four small areas into one large site.

Locus A was the Power House (the structure that is still standing). He reports that the house was built in 1835 and contained two outbuildings – a concrete block structure (still standing) and a tobacco barn (now gone). He said the concrete structure was “built around a brick lined well” (Styer 1992:34). Styer collected 27 historic artifacts from this Loci including, but not limited to, undecorated whiteware, clear glass, wire nails, and window glass (1992:39-40).

Locus B was the Bagwell “tenant house,” reported to have been built in 1896. Outbuildings included a concrete pump house, a concrete storage shed, a wood barn, and a small animal pen. Styer (1992:34) claims that the barn and pen were “evidence of the tenants’ responsibility for the bulk of the agricultural duties on the Powers farm at the turn of the century.” Shovel testing failed to produce any artifacts and only five artifacts were collected from the surface of this Loci including undecorated whiteware, painted whiteware, and clear glass.

Locus C was shown to Styer by the Power family; they reported it to be a cemetery that predated their ownership of the property. No commercial grave stones were found, but Styer (1992:34) observed several “quartz stones,” which could have been used as grave markers. His shovel testing failed to produce any artifacts.

Locus D was described as a tenant farm house. Shovel testing failed to produce any artifacts and the only artifact collected from this area was a prehistoric point found on the surface.

Styer (1992:40-41) goes on to comment on the scant number of artifacts, saying they “did little to temporally define” the site and even saying the site produced “few impressive artifacts.” Despite this, Styer (1992:41) still felt as though the site was “relevant to the heritage of a family important to local history.” He suggested that effective oral history may supplement the archaeology and stated 38LU301 was potentially eligible for the National Register.

In September 2011, the property surrounding 38LU301 was examined as part of a Cultural Resources Identification Survey (CRIS) by S&ME, Inc., with the purpose of assessing the tract’s potential for containing significant cultural resources (Carta and Jones 2011). Since 38LU301 was already determined potentially eligible for the National Register of Historic Places, no work was performed at the site. S&ME recommended “avoiding ground disturbing activities within the boundaries of the site . . . [and if ground disturbance] cannot be avoided, then Phase II evaluative testing should take place to determine the site’s final NRHP status” (Carta and Jones 2011:4).

	38LU301 Pattern	Revised Carolina Artifact Pattern ¹	Georgia Slave Artifact Pattern ²	Carolina Slave Artifact Pattern ¹	Yeoman Pattern ³
Kitchen Group	72.0	51.8 - 65.0	20.0 - 25.8	70.9 - 84.2	40.0 - 61.2
Architectural Group	22.0	25.2 - 31.4	67.9 - 73.2	11.8 - 24.8	35.8 - 56.3
Furniture Group	-	0.2 - 0.6	0.0 - 0.1	0.1	0.4
Arms Group	-	0.1 - 0.3	0.0 - 0.2	0.1 - 0.3	-
Tobacco Group	-	1.9 - 13.9	0.3 - 9.7	2.4 - 5.4	-
Clothing Group	0.3	0.6 - 5.4	0.3 - 1.7	0.3 - 0.8	1.8
Personal Group	-	0.2 - 0.5	0.1 - 0.2	0.1	0.4
Activities Group	5.0	0.9 - 1.7	0.2 - 0.4	0.2 - 0.9	1.8

¹ Garrow 1982
² Singleton 1980
³ Drucker et al. 1984

Table 2. Pattern analysis comparison.

clearly reflect any specific known pattern. This is almost certainly the result of the small sample size and the combination of the various loci into one site.

Locus A

Locus A (Figure 4) accounts for 54% of the total artifact assemblage at 38LU301. This Locus contains a standing structure reported to be built in 1835, but determined not eligible for the National Register according to ArchSite (no further, detailed analysis was conducted as part of this study). The area around the structure is open and grassed with red clay generally at the surface. The area to the east of the house is a dense pine and hardwood forest. To the south and west are fallow fields. A small surface collection was found at the edge of the field to the south.

One 2' x 2' test unit (shown as 225R580 in Table 1) was excavated from this Locus. The soil profile was a very dark grayish brown (10YR3/2) clay loam extending to 0.6 foot in depth over a yellowish red (5YR4/6) clay that was dug to 0.7 foot in depth. There was no dark yellowish brown layer typical of the other Cecil soils in the area, showing erosion of this layer and redeposition of soil caused by the second growth pine and hardwood forest. A total of 36 artifacts were found in this Test Unit, all similar to the artifacts found in the shovel tests in this Locus.

Artifacts from the Kitchen Group were the most prominent within Locus A, accounting for 62% of the Locus A artifact assemblage. Undecorated whiteware (dating from 1813 to 1900 and later) was the most common ceramic, but annular (1831-1900) and black transfer print (1826-1875) whiteware and brown stoneware were also found. Glass

dominated the Kitchen Group with clear glass accounting for 65% of the Kitchen Group. Much of the glass appeared to be relatively modern - possibly associated with the house that has recently been turned into a hunting lodge.

The Architecture Group (29% of the Locus A assemblage) produced both machine cut and wire nails. Machine cut nails were generally in use from 1825 to 1890 and are still being using today for various masonry purposes (Howard 1989:55). Wire nails started being produced after 1870 (Howard 1989:55).

The Activities Group accounts for 8% of the Locus A assemblage, but produced mostly unidentifiable iron. The Clothing Group (0.6%) contained a fragment of

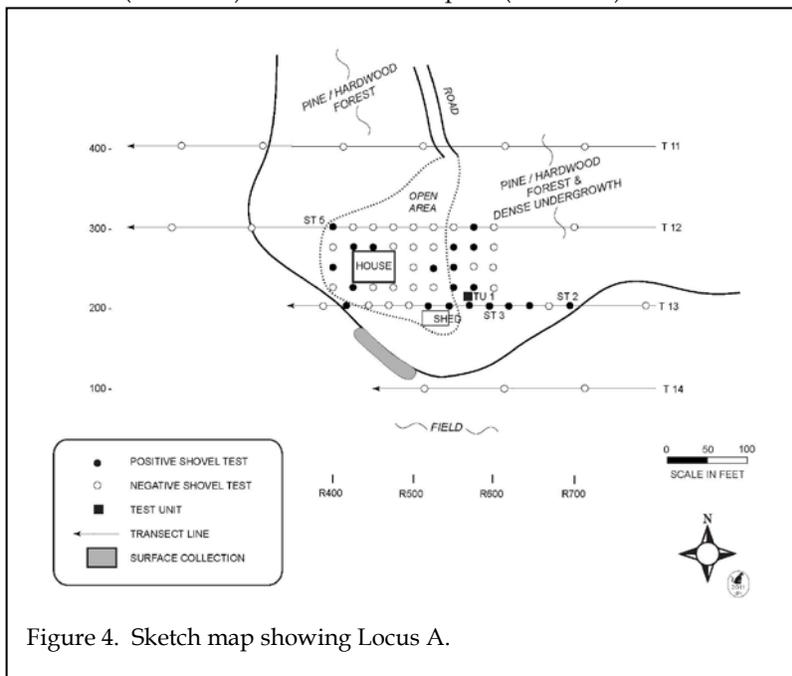


Figure 4. Sketch map showing Locus A.

a button.

Only the three types of whiteware are diagnostic for the site, giving a mean ceramic date (MCD) of 1860, however given only 15 specimens and the long amount of time that whiteware was being produced, this may not be accurate.

Styer's (1992) collection produced equally ambiguous results. Undecorated whiteware, porcelain, and earthenware were the only ceramics found. The glass was all clear and his one nail was wire. Although some other

artifacts were found, such as a spike, lead fragment, window glass, and belt buckle, these do little to help date the site. They do, however, suggest similar diversity of kitchen, architectural, and clothing items.



Figure 5. Standing structure shown in Locus A.

Locus B

Locus B (Figure 6) accounts for 8% of the total 38LU301 artifact assemblage. This Locus had a standing house as of the 1992 survey, but has since been torn down and removed. A dilapidated barn and shed are still partly standing. The Locus is open, but starting to get undergrowth to the east, but has turned into a mixed pine and hardwood forest to the west. Dense undergrowth is taking over much of the area.

Testing in Locus B was difficult given the massive amount of very modern trash. Asbestos tiles, plastic piping, asphalt shingles, ball-

point pins, toothbrushes, vinyl records and other types of trash are scattered throughout this Locus. A total of 25 artifacts were collected that appeared to predate the modern trash, however glass was difficult to assess. Only two groups – Kitchen and Architecture – are represented.

The Test Unit (1185R330 as shown on Table 1) produced only six artifacts. The soil profile was a very dark brown (7.5YR2.5/3) sandy loam to a depth of 0.1 foot over a yellowish red (5YR4/6) loamy clay that extended to 0.4 foot where it turned into clay.

The Kitchen Group accounts for 64% of the artifacts in Locus B. Undecorated whiteware (n=3) was the only ceramic found, giving the site a MCD of 1860 – even though the house was reported to have been built in 1896. Glass makes up the remainder of the group.

The Architecture Group accounts for the remaining 36%. Window glass and nails (including one machine cut and one wire) are the only artifacts for this group.

Styer's (1992) artifact assemblage was similar, producing whiteware and clear glass for a total of five artifacts.

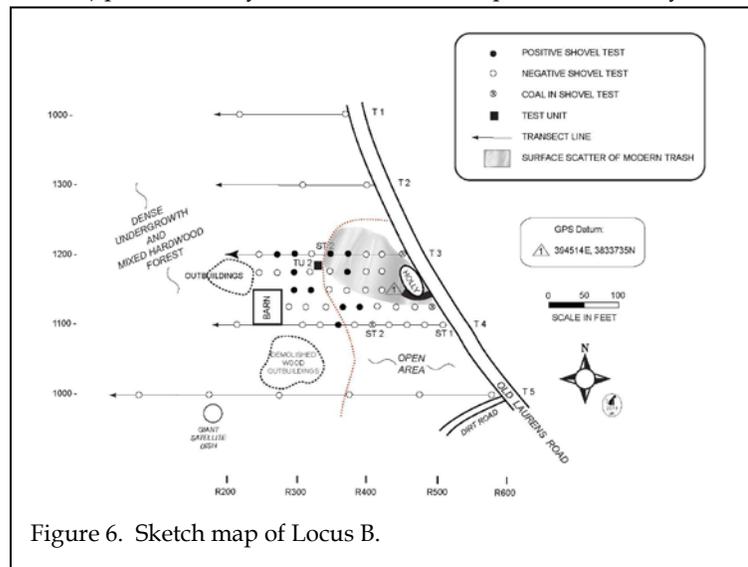


Figure 6. Sketch map of Locus B.

Locus C

No artifacts were found in Locus C – the reported cemetery. The area is extremely dense with a mixed pine and hardwood forest and various understory species, making movement within the area difficult. No obvious grave depressions or commercial grave stones were observed.

Styer (1992) identified this area as a cemetery based on the oral history of the Power family, who owned the property in 1991. They reported to him that they knew this was a cemetery and had always been fenced off to prevent planting (Styer 1992:34, 40). Styer (see Figure 2) shows the cemetery to be approximately 150 by 250 feet in size.



Figure 7. Gravestone socket next to the concrete block building.

It should be noted that a commercial gravestone socket/base was seen next to the concrete building in Locus A (Figure 7). Although displaced from the cemetery, this artifact is strongly suggestive of a cemetery in the immediate area. Since no GPR study was performed, the originally defined Locus C should be greenspaced with, minimally, a 25-foot buffer as specified by the SHPO.

Locus D

Locus D (Figure 8) accounts for 6% of the entire 38LU301 artifact assemblage. A ruinous house is found in this area amongst a mixed pine and hardwood forest and extremely dense undergrowth (Figure 9).

A 2' x 2' test unit (900R690 in Table 1) was placed near the only positive shovel test in this Locus. The soil profile was a dark yellowish brown (10YR4/4) loamy sand to 0.3 foot in depth over a strong brown (7.5YR4/4) loamy clay to 1.0 foot in depth. Below this was a strong brown (7.5YR4/6) clay that extended to 1.2 feet in depth. While 17 artifacts were recovered from this unit, 12 (65%) were clear glass.

Only Kitchen Group related artifacts were found in this area, producing only 18 artifacts. A whiteware cup and one other small piece of whiteware were found. Clear glass accounts for 67% of this Locus' assemblage. Subsurface artifacts were rare. Dating this Locus is problematic given only two diagnostic artifacts were recovered, both with a MCD of 1860. It is unlikely this structure dates that early.

Styer (1992) also failed to identify any positive shovel tests, instead only finding a single prehistoric biface in the nearby dirt road.

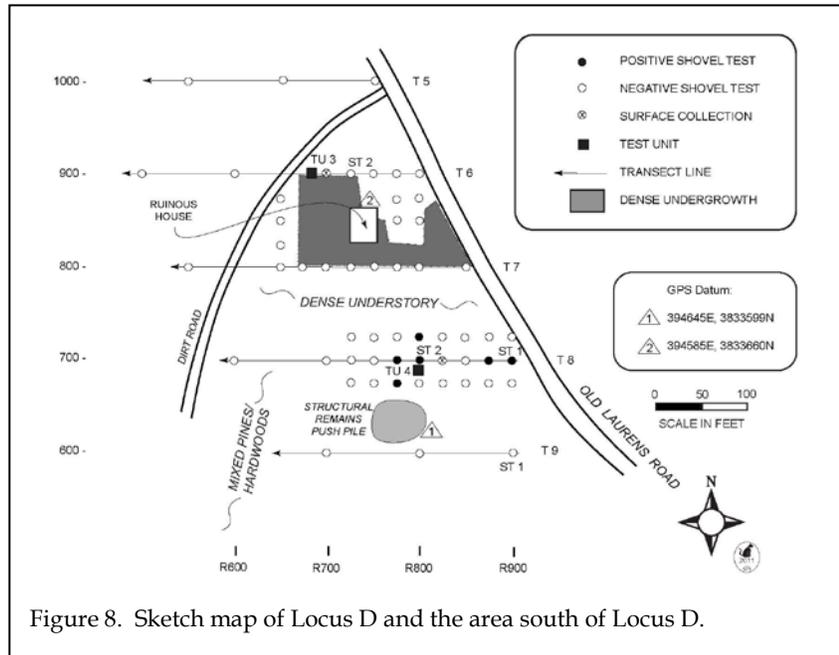


Figure 8. Sketch map of Locus D and the area south of Locus D.



Figure 9. View of a portion of the ruinous structure in Locus D.

Area South of Locus D

During testing, we located the bull-dozed remains of another structure (Figure 10) just south of Locus D, accounting for 32% of the total 38LU301 artifact assemblage. It is located in a mixed pine and hardwood forest. This is likely one of several tenant structures identified on the property based on mid-twentieth century mapping.

A 2' x 2' test unit (685R800 shown on Table 1) was placed in this area. The soil profile was a dark yellowish brown (10YR3/4) loam over a yellowish red (5YR4/6) loamy clay to 0.5 foot in depth. The

yellowish red (5YR5/8) clay subsoil was encountered and dug to 0.8 foot in depth. While 23 artifacts were found, over half (52%) were tin can fragments that appear to come from the same can. The other artifacts were typical of those found elsewhere in the area.

Shovel testing produced more ceramic from this area, than any of the other loci. The only diagnostic ceramic, however, was again whiteware. The Kitchen Group accounts for 85% of this area's assemblage. Clear glass dominates the Kitchen Group, accounting for nearly half of its artifacts. In addition, some tin can fragments were also collected.

The Architecture Group accounts for 11% of the assemblage. Wire nails were the most common artifact from this group, however a door hinge was also recovered.

The Activities Group accounts for 3% of the total assemblage, including a marble and a tin tube of some sort of paste.

This is also the only area that produced any subsurface prehistoric remains. A single small, unidentifiable sherd was recovered.

Analysis: Styer (1992) describes 38LU301 as producing "few impressive artifacts" and even goes on to say that the artifacts do "little to temporally define" the site; however, in his justification for eligibility he states that the "site demonstrates integrity, density and clarity" (Styer 1992:41). Nevertheless, such statements were common during the early 1990s.

The current archaeological testing shows a site that has had numerous land-altering activities including cultivation, razing, and bulldozing. All of these activities – taking place since the site was identified in 1992 – have damaged the site's integrity and to some degree have clouded the clarity



Figure 10. View of structure remains in the area south of Locus D.

of the site. While the site did produce a relatively large number of artifacts, the most commonly found artifact was clear glass, accounting for 41% of the entire assemblage. At Locus A, B, and D, the MCD of the given diagnostic artifacts is 1860, but each of the three structures clearly date to different times. A refined date might be possible with a larger assemblage (and one that incorporates a wider variety of whiteware patterns).

It is difficult – and often dangerous – to evaluate historic sites in the absence of detailed historic research and a meaningful historic context. We also lack detailed architectural evaluations of the standing – or recently standing – structures on the site. Nevertheless, the archaeological deposits fail to suggest the ability to address significant research questions. We recommend Locus A, B, D, and the area south of D as not eligible.

Locus C is reported to be a cemetery based on oral history. The presence of a commercial base supports this oral history. Consequently, Locus C remains potentially eligible under Criterion D, information potential. Recent investigations by Chicora at a family cemetery in nearby Lexington County (Trinkley et al. 2011) reveal that bone, wood, and coffin hardware all have the potential for preservation even in a clay soil. Consequently, Locus C must remain protected, extending the boundary by 25 feet as stipulated by the SHPO in a July memo concerning cemetery boundaries (State Historic Preservation Office 2006). Moreover, under the S.C. Code of Laws, Section 16-17-600 et seq., it is unlawful to destroy or damage human remains.

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