



CHICORA FOUNDATION, INC.

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P.O. Box 8664
861 ARBUTUS DRIVE
COLUMBIA, S.C. 29202
803-787-6910

November 20, 2018

Joseph L.V. Johnson, Esq,
Saint-Amand, Thompson & Mathis, LLC
210 S. Limestone Street, Suite 1
Gaffney, SC 29340-3014

Re: Fort Thicketty, Archaeology Survey of Proposed Gravel Parking Area

Dear Joe,

I apologize for the delay since your authorization email of 10/31. I hoped to get there several times, but we got into a rainy cycle and it wasn't until this past Friday, November 16 that I was able to visit the site with my associate, Ms. Debi Hacker.

The project involved an examination of a cleared field to the west of S-11-584 in southwestern Cherokee County, SC. (Figures 1 and 2). You have explained to me that this area is near the posited location of the Revolutionary War Fort Thicketty (thought to be to the south). Your organization hopes to place gravel on the field for eventual use as a parking area and prior to this, wish to be assured that significant archaeological remains will not be affected.

We first examined the nature of the soils in this area, finding that the proposed parking area is composed primarily of eroded Cecil sandy loams. The area to the south, where the fort is thought to be, consists of Cecil clay loam, 10 to 15 percent slopes, severely eroded. The 1934 South Carolina Erosion Survey by M.W. Lowry with the Soil Conservation Service characterized this area as having "moderate sheet erosion - occasional gullies." Trimble's 1974 *Man-Induced Soil Erosion on the Southern Piedmont 1700-1970* reports that this area of the South Carolina piedmont suffered 7 to 9-inches of erosion, primarily during the postbellum when cotton was widely planted.

This is an area that sadly is not within the boundaries of either the 1907 Gaffney 15' topographic map or the 1949 Spartanburg 15' map.

Examining old aerial images, we have not extended our research past 1994, but we suspect this area was likely cultivated in the past. Certainly, it would be useful to conduct a more thorough land use history.

In any event, by 2008 the area was heavily wooded. By 2011, these woods had been clear-cut and it appears that the proposed parking field may have been at the intersection of multiple skid trails and may have been an equipment yard. Research by the U.S.D.A., Forest Service, has found that logging will result in the erosion of about a third a ton of soil per acre, per year. This increases dramatically in areas of more intensive equipment operation to nearly 10 tons of soil per area, per year. By 2012, the wood debris had been bulldozed into windrows and by 2013, the logged area had been replanted. In 2015, the proposed parking area was no longer discernable as different from the other areas of reforestation. By April 2017, however, the parking area appears to have been again cleared, and likely bulldozed. It remains essentially in this condition until our visit on November 16, 2018.



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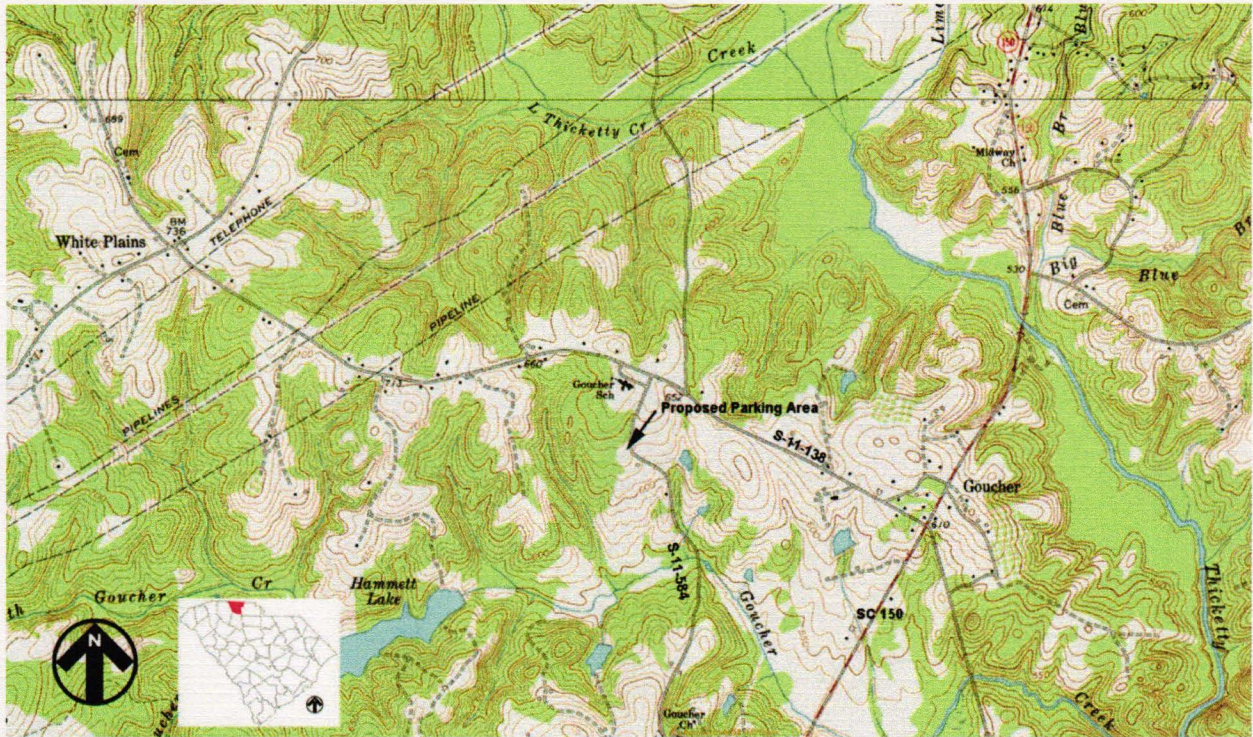


Figure 1. Portion of the Gaffney 1971 and Pacolet Mills 1969 topographic maps showing the vicinity of the work.

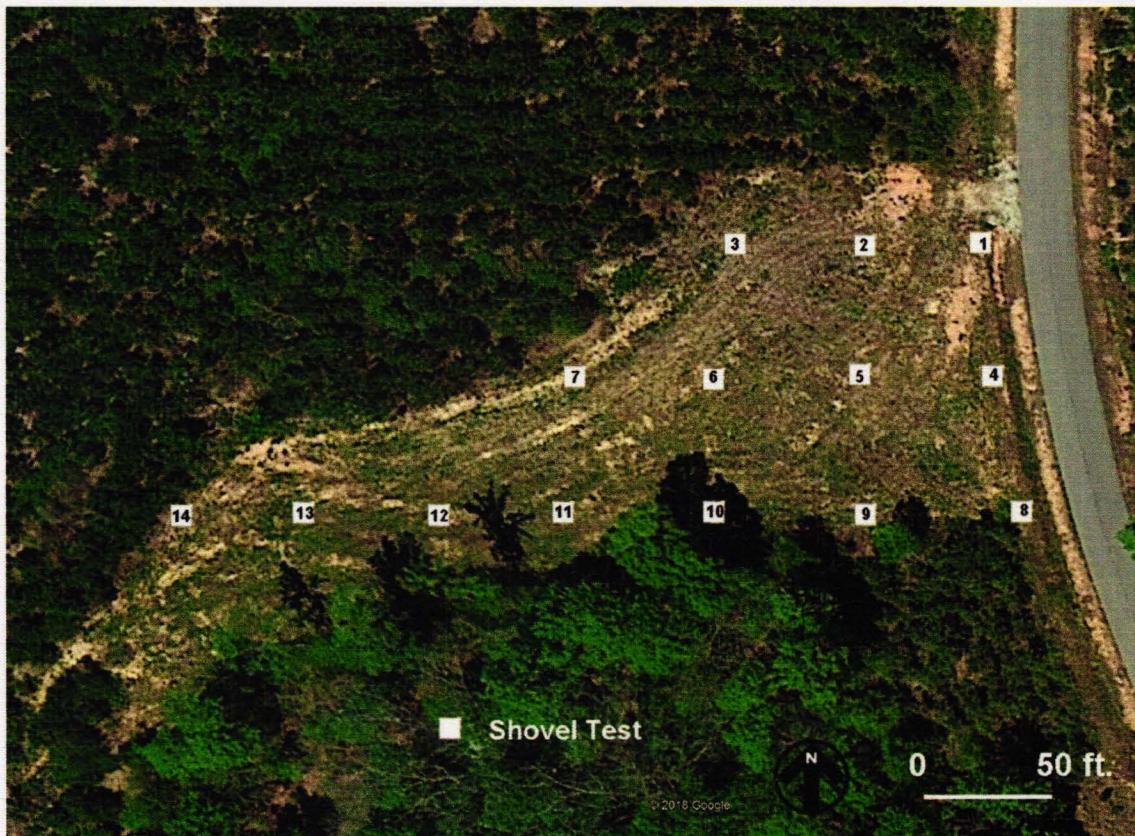


Figure 2. Aerial image (2018) of the investigated field showing shovel tests.

These data suggest that it would be unlikely to identify either prehistoric or historic materials in the field because of the extensive historic erosion and the relatively recent logging activities.

The field was open with good surface visibility. Only a few areas of grass were encountered. As a result, it was possible to conduct a pedestrian survey, looking for any materials that might be on the surface. None was found.

As proposed, a series of three east-west transect lines, each spaced 50-feet apart, were laid in. Along these lines shovel tests were excavated at 50-foot intervals. These shovel tests were approximately 1-foot square and were excavated to the subsoil. The tests were screened through ¼-inch mesh for the recovery of any artifacts that might be present. None was recovered.



Figure 3. Survey area from the road looking west.

A typical soil profile in the field reveals about 0.1 to 0.2 foot of dark-brown (10YR4/2) sand loam overlying a yellowish-red (5YR5/6) sandy clay subsoil. It is worth noting that the 1962 *Cherokee County, South Carolina Soil Survey* identified a typical Cecil soil as exhibiting up to 0.5 foot of Ap (plowed) horizon. It appears that in the study area most of this plowzone soil has disappeared. In fact, in some areas, we were able to identify no A or Ap horizon, finding only a clay or sandy clay subsoil. Many of the soils exhibited very gravelly horizons. Abundant wood was included in most of the shovel tests. All of this is consistent with previous erosion and the known logging activity.

Based on this information, it appears exceedingly unlikely that any cultural materials are present in the field being proposed for parking. It remains possible that materials will be found during construction. If so, we recommend that work be suspended until the discovery can be reported to Chicora for evaluation.

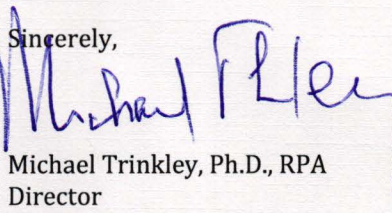
Joseph L.V. Johnson, Esq.
November 20, 1018
page 4

The investigation of this parking area should not be taken as negative evidence concerning the potential for material from Fort Thicketty surviving. As I am sure the representatives of the SC Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology advised you (I recall you said they had visited the area and done some limited metal detection?), a variety of factors will affect what may be present where Fort Thicketty was originally. These factors include the length of time Fort Thicketty was present; the intensity of its occupation; the type(s) of fortifications present; and land use activities (plowing and logging, as well as more immediate efforts to erase the fort).

I am not clear to what depth the historic resources have examined. If you are looking for a professional historian to see what documents might be surviving, I would recommend Dr. Fritz Hamer, at the South Carolina Confederate Relic Room and Military Museum, (803) 737-8095. Fritz has worked at the State Museum as History Curator and the South Caroliniana Library, prior to being hired at the Military Museum as their chief historian. I think that having as much history as possible would be a major advantage prior to tackling a ground survey.

Ultimately, however, you will likely want to begin examining the search area. Winter is clearly the test time to do this; but I would first explore aerial photography to see if you can determine what has occurred on the property. It would be immensely helpful to know, for example, if the area has been plowed during the early twentieth century.

I appreciate the opportunity to provide this work for you and hope that it helps set your mind at ease about the next phase of your planned work. As discussed, I am enclosing my invoice the work.

Sincerely,

Michael Trinkley, Ph.D., RPA
Director

Enclosure



Invoice

Chicora Foundation, Inc.
 PO Box 8664 • 861 Arbutus Drive
 Columbia, SC 29202-8664
 803-787-6910
 Fax: 803-787-6910
 Email: info@chicora.org

Invoice Number: 18-361

Date: November 20, 2018

Terms: Net, 30 days. A late payment charge of 1.5% per month will be added to any balance remaining 30 days after billing.

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To: Joseph L.V. Johnson, Esq, Saint-Amand, Thompson & Mathis, LLC 210 S. Limestone Street, Suite 1 Gaffney, SC 29340-3014	Ship to (if different address): SAME
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Professional Services, Fort Thicketty, Shovel Testing Proposed Parking					
Indiv/Task	#	Unit/Cost		Total	
Field Investigations					
PI	1	8 hrs	@ 50.00	400.00	
Crew	1	8 hrs	@ 24.00	192.00	
Mileage		205 mi.	@ 0.545	111.73	
Per diem	2	1 days	@ 27.00	54.00	
Supplies				10.00	
Telephone/Fax/Postage				10.00	
				Subtotal	777.73
Report Production					
PI	1	5 hrs	@ 50.00	250.00	
Printing				20.00	
				Subtotal	270.00
Subtotal					1047.73
Administrative Overhead			0.28		293.36
Total					\$1,341.09

SUBTOTAL	1341.09
TOTAL DUE	\$1,341.09

THANK YOU FOR SELECTING CHICORA!