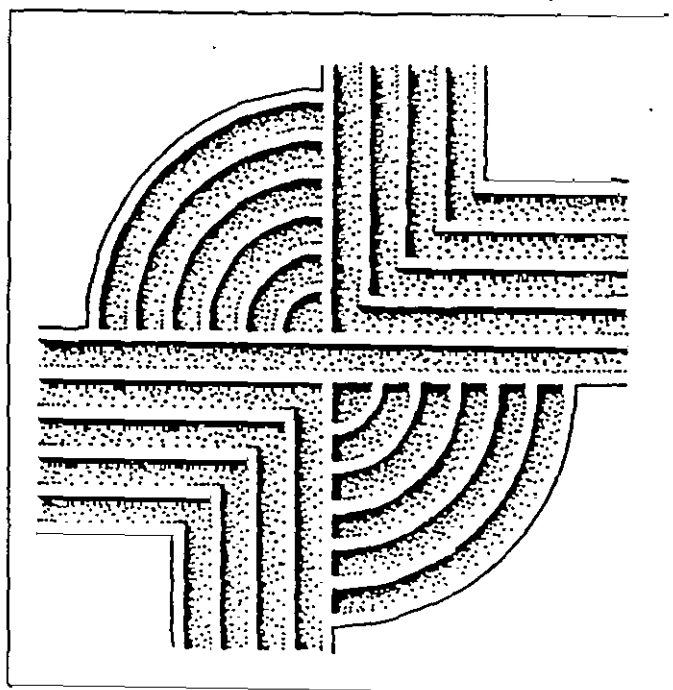


ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL
DOCUMENTATION OF A PORTION OF
PINDER HILL PLANTATION, KERSHAW COUNTY,
SOUTH CAROLINA



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ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL DOCUMENTATION
OF A PORTION OF PINDER HILL PLANTATION,
KERSHAW COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA

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ABSTRACT

This study reports on documentary research conducted for approximately 364 acres of what has been known as Pinder Hill Plantation in Kershaw County. Situated south of I-20 and east of U.S. 601, the tract is found at the extreme west central edge of Pinder Hill, which extended across Gillies Ditch to the Wateree River. The purpose of this work was to evaluate the potential for the recovery of archaeological and historical sites on the survey tract.

The investigation included contacting the South Carolina Department of Archives and History with a request for any National Register sites in the project area, as well as for information on any previous architectural surveys which may have been conducted in the general vicinity. They reported that there are no previously recorded sites in the immediate project area, although Kershaw County has not received an adequate survey. We also reviewed the site files of the South Carolina Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology, which has two archaeological sites in the immediate area recorded (38KE204 and 38KE205 to the south).

Our work also included the collection of a chain of title for the project tract. This was completed to at least 1751, with a reference which takes the property back to a royal grant. The title search was supplemented by a quick overview of primary documentation available for the tract, as well as examination of common secondary historical sources.

To further evaluate the potential for historical and archaeological sites, a number of maps and plats were examined for the area. Projected site locations were identified and are recorded for the tract. In addition, available aerial photographs were also examined to document the prevalent land use activities.

No prehistoric sites are known for the project area, but may exist, based on the location of several mound complexes and at least one proto-historic/historic Indian village in the vicinity. In

addition, evaluation of topography and soils supports the contention that there is a high potential for Native American sites in the project area — most especially along the eastern bluff overlooking Gillies Ditch.

Based on these studies we have identified several potentially significant historical and archaeological sites, including a summer home for one of Camden's leading early nineteenth century merchants and planters, as well as perhaps as many as two African-American slave settlements. If these sites exhibit integrity it is likely that they are potentially eligible for inclusion on the National Register. Few such sites have been found in the interior of South Carolina and there are a large number of potentially significant research questions which the sites could address.

In addition, there are a number of postbellum and early twentieth century sites found scattered across the tract. Although more numerous, we cannot discount their potential significance at this level of background research — similar sites have been found eligible for inclusion on the National Register elsewhere in South Carolina.

Although we are not familiar with the nature of the projected development, or the federal, state, or municipal permits which may be necessary, we strongly recommend additional historical research, coupled with an intensive archaeological survey for at least those portions of the tract on which there is a potential for ground disturbing activities.

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I want to thank Mr. Nelson Lindsay for his interest in the heritage of the project area and concern that economic development go hand-in-hand with preservation of what has made Kershaw County such a fine place to live..

Mr. Keith Derting, at the S.C. Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology assisted us identifying previously recorded sites. We thank him for his speedy and thorough work. The staffs of the Kershaw County Clerk of Court and Probate Court were very cordial and

assisted us in our efforts to obtain title and will data from their offices. Likewise, the staff of the South Caroliniana Library helped us locate essential sources and provided map copies. As always, the staff at the Thomas Cooper Map Repository was not only very interested in our work, but went out of their way to be of assistance.

Finally, I want to thank Ms. Kerri Barile for her assistance acquiring plats and conducting the title search and Ms. Debi Hacker for her graphic art skills.

INTRODUCTION

Background

In late January 1999, Mr. Nelson Lindsay of the Kershaw County Economic Development Office contacted Chicora Foundation requesting that we conduct a review of the historic background associated with a 364 acre tract just south of I-20 and adjacent to U.S. 601 west of the Wateree River. Efforts to develop this tract are in a very early stage and there was an interest in determining the potential for historic and prehistoric resources on the tract which might affect those development plans.

Specifically we were asked to spend several days looking at the historic documents associated with the tract, review the files of both the S.C. Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology (SCIAA) and the S.C. State Historic Preservation Office (SC SHPO), and offer recommendations regarding the potential for the identification of significant sites. This level of research was designed to provide a generalized overview of the tract. It would evaluate the historic documents and estimate the potential for the presence of historic archaeological sites in the study area. It would also gauge the potential for the recovery of prehistoric archaeological sites on the tract, based on topography, soils, distance to water, and other pertinent factors, including the types of sites found in the immediate area. Finally, the study would culminate in recommendations concerning any additional work for the project area, including recommendations on the advisability of field survey.

No field investigations were conducted as a part of this research. Consequently, our evaluations of probable site locations are based entirely on the historic documents, including plats, maps, and aerial photographs. While we believe the data are accurate, without field investigations we can only estimate site locations. Moreover, it is impossible to determine that additional sites do not exist in other areas.

These investigations were conducted intermittently from February 1 through February 4, with the report prepared on February 5 and 6, 1999. The historic research was largely conducted by Ms. Kerri Barile, with the background investigations at SCIAA conducted by Mr. Todd Hejlik.

The Project Area

The project tract is situated in south central Kershaw County, just beyond the Fall and Sand Hills in the Coastal Plain (Figure 1). The project tract consists of about 364 acres south of I-20 and east of U.S. 601, about 7 miles southwest of Camden (Figure 2).

The Coastal Plain has rolling topography, with elevations ranging from about 150 feet above mean sea level (AMSL) to 200 feet AMSL. In the adjacent floodplains and lowlands slopes range from 0 to 2% with elevations typically less than 150 feet AMSL. On the study tract the elevations range from about 140 feet in the eastern edge of the property adjacent to the swamps of Gillies Ditch up to about 300 feet at the northwestern edge. The eastern third of the tract is relatively steeply sloping toward the lowlands, while the central portion of the property, through which McCord Ferry Road runs, is relatively level.

While no field investigations were conducted, the aerial photographs reveal that much of the property has historically been cultivated and that it was converted to woodlands sometime between 1974 (Mitchell 1989:Map 55 [flown in 1974]) and 1994 (SCDNR false infrared NAPP aerials). Today almost the entire acreage is forested, primarily in tracts of pine or pine and mixed hardwoods. Further to the east, in the Wateree floodplains, there are still large cultivated parcels, but these are not in the study boundaries.

The study tract includes at least eight soil series, seven of which are moderately well drained to

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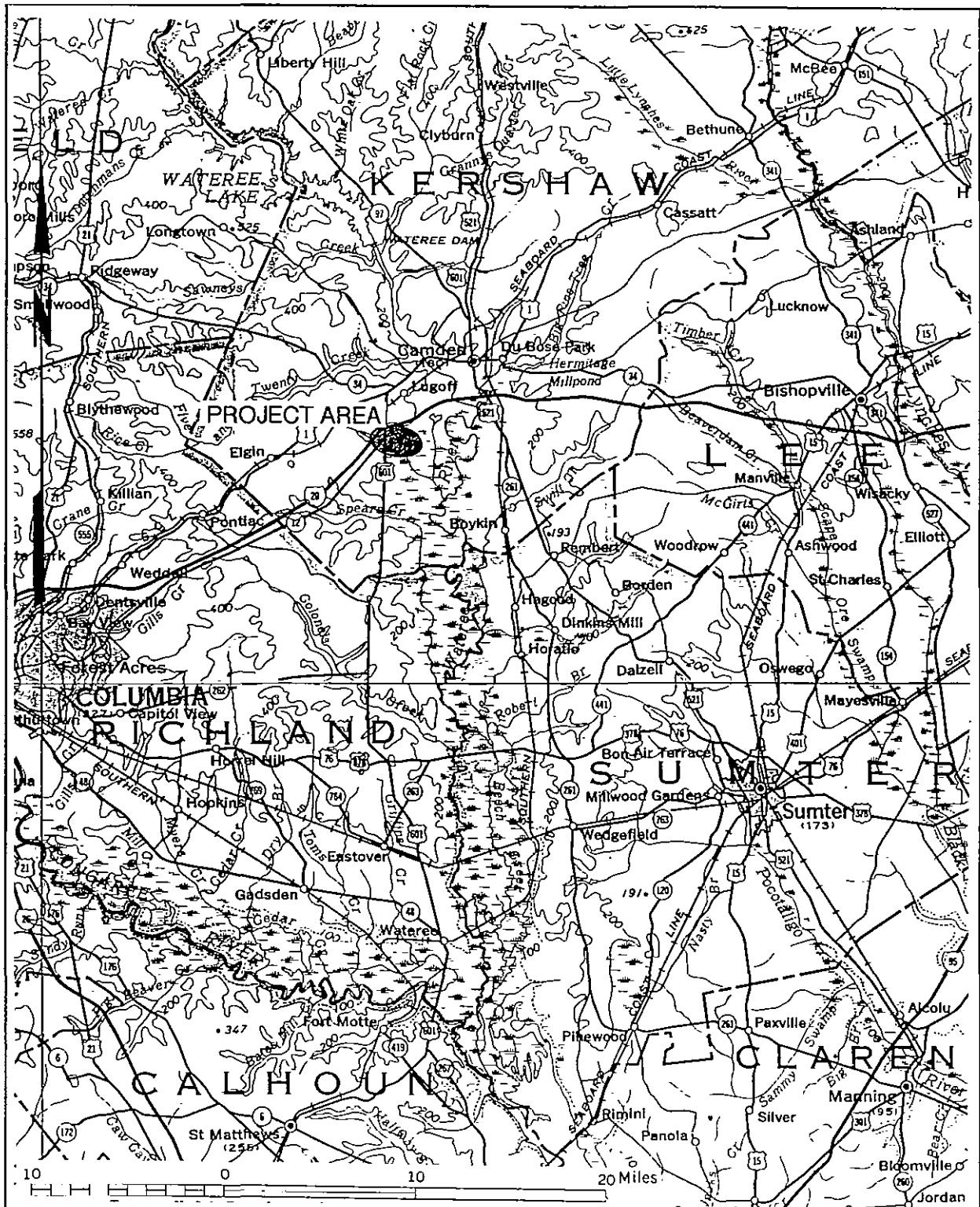


Figure 1. Project area in south central Kershaw County (base map is USGS State of South Carolina 1:500,000).

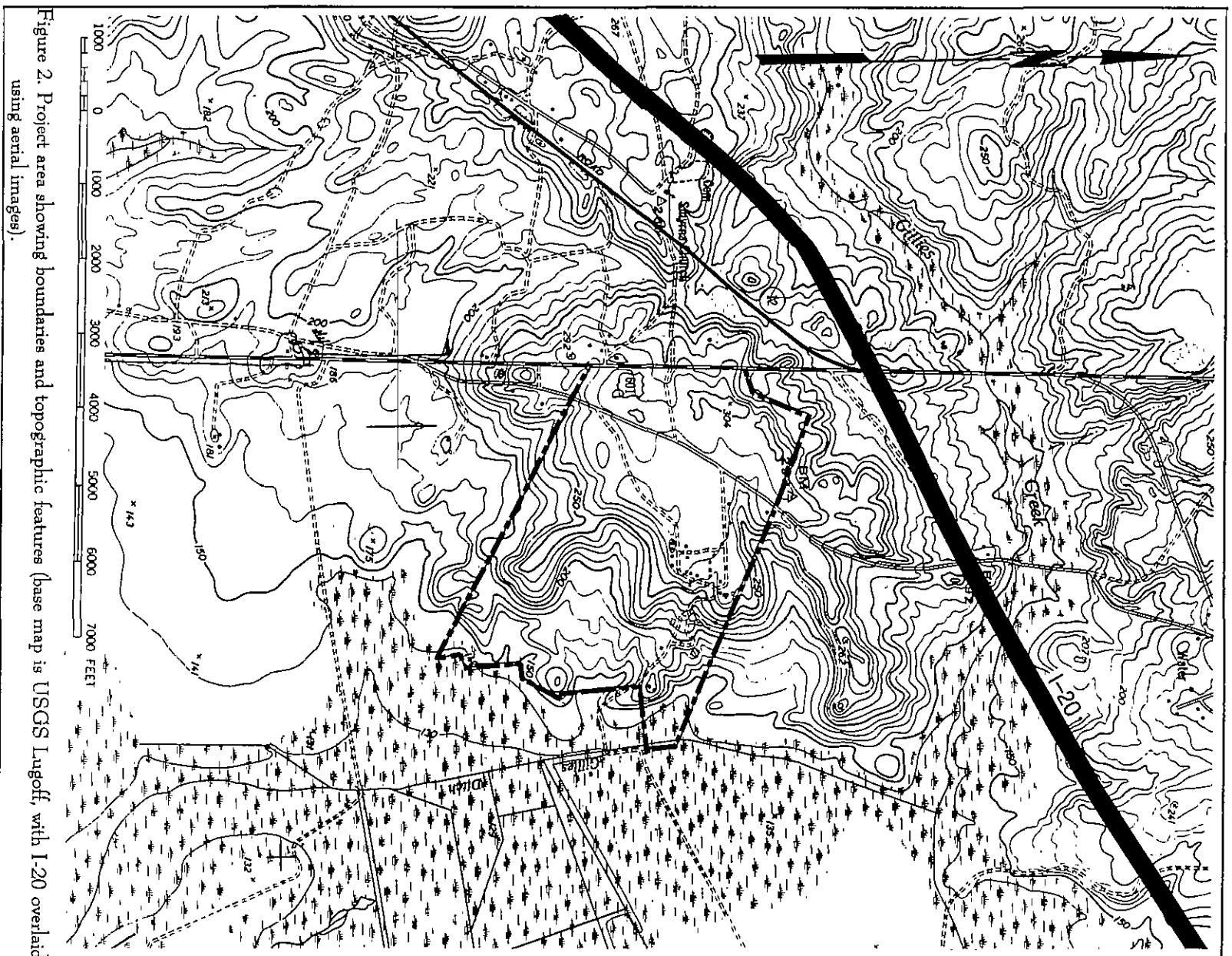
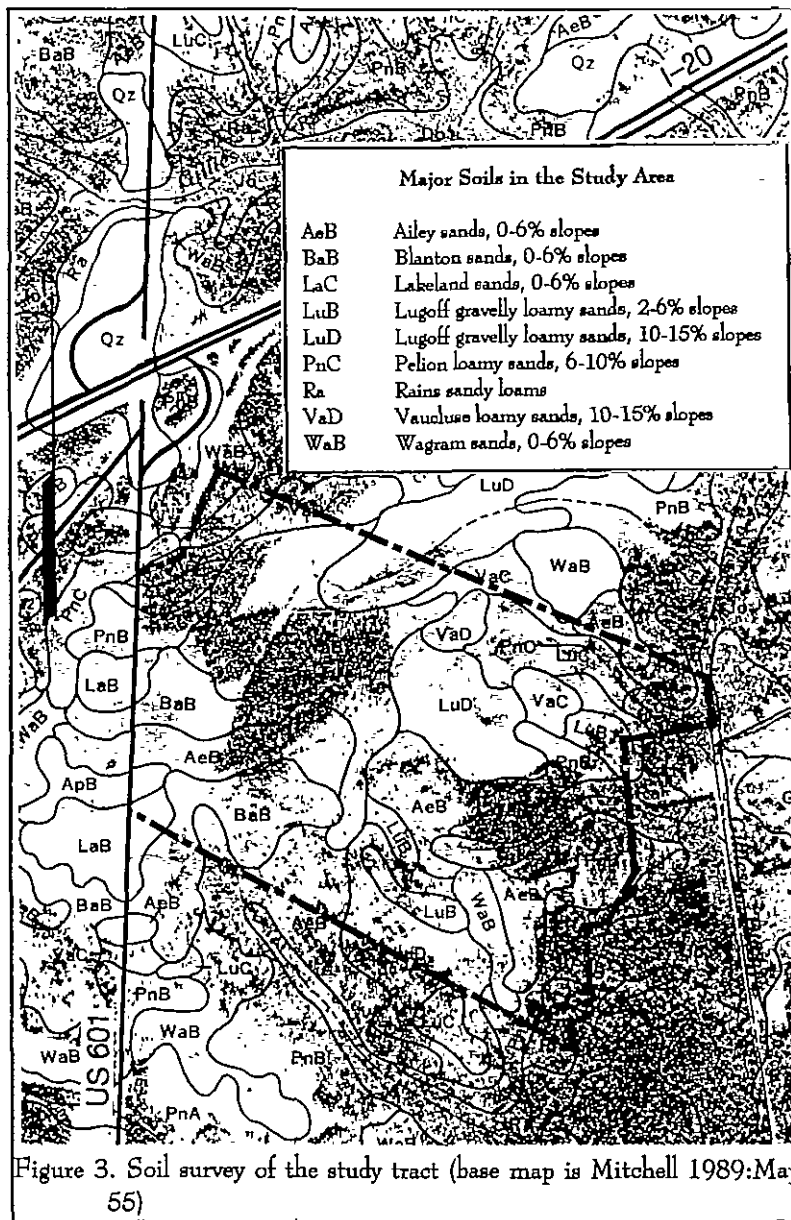


Figure 2. Project area showing boundaries and topographic features (base map is USGS Lugoff, with 1:20 overlaid using aerial images).



Of the well drained soils, most have a brown sandy AP horizon, although the Blanton soils have grayish surface soils. Most also have brownish subsoils, although the Blanton soils exhibit a brownish-yellow sand. Erosion on most of these soils is limited, although there is concern with soil blowing on the Wagram sands.

In general, the natural conditions of the property suggest a site where prehistoric sites might be found adjacent to the lowlands and historic sites might be found in the uplands, typically adjacent to roads. There are no issues surrounding the extant environment which would indicate damage to archaeological sites which might be present.

excessively well drained, with only one (Rains sandy loam) being classified as poorly drained. The better drained soils include Ailey sands, Blanton sands, Lakeland sands, Lugoff gravelly loamy sands, and Wagram sands — all of which are found on relatively level soils, with no more than a 6% slope. In contrast, the Pelion loamy sands and Vaulose loamy sands, while well drained, are found at elevations ranging from 10 to 15%, typically on the side slopes overlooking the wet lowlands.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORIC DOCUMENTATION

Previous Investigations

On January 28 we faxed Dr. Tracy Power at the South Carolina Department of Archives and History, requesting that he check the master topographic maps at his office to locate any National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) buildings, districts, structures, sites, or objects in the study area. In addition, we requested the results of any structures surveys which may have been completed in the area. In a telephone conversation of January 29 he informed us that there were no National Register site in the immediate project area.

Of course, there are National Register sites in this general area, including of course the Mulberry Plantation House, nominated in 1980 along with three outbuildings and 59.7 acres of surrounding land. The site was nominated both as an outstanding example of Federal architecture and also because of its close association with the Chesnut family (National Register criteria B and C). In addition there are the Mulberry Mounds (38KE12, also known as Chesnut, Taylor, and McDowell) and the Adamson (38KE11) Mounds, as well as several sites inside the City of Camden. These sites, however, are all relatively far removed from the project tract.

There is no county-wide architectural survey and Dr. Power reports that little is known concerning historic or architectural sites outside the City of Camden. This is particularly unfortunate since there continues to be considerable economic development in the general region and many sites are no doubt being lost.

The study tract is not situated in any of the five areas of specific concern (Wateree Archaeological District, Boykins Mill, Wateree Canal, Battle of Camden site, or Liberty Hill) identified in the 1977 update of the *Land Development Plan Update, Kershaw County, South Carolina*. In fact, this document indicates

that the project area is in a "commercial zone" (Santee-Wateree Regional Council 1977:Figures 11 and 12).

There is little more known concerning prehistoric sites in this area. There are a number of historic plats or maps of the Camden area which reveal the locations of Native American settlements. For example, there is the Indian Town (Anonymous 1992:10) shown on a variety of early maps. Kirkland and Kennedy note that:

On Cook and Mouzon's map of 1771, an "Indian Town" is represented in the fork of Big and Little Pine Tree Creeks, adjacent to Camden on the east, just where the Camden Cotton Mill is situated. This spot also is indicated as "Indian Camp," upon the plat of a large tract of land conveyed in 1796 by John Kershaw to Duncan McRae and Zachery Cantey (Kirkland and Kennedy 1905:1:40).

The Camden Cotton Mill became the Heritage Cotton Mill, situated on the south side of the Old Bishopville Road. The Camden South USGS topographic map reveals that the Heritage Mills are still located in this area, although the City of Camden has almost covered the area.

Other historic Indian towns are suggested by John Stuart's *Map of South Carolina and A Part of Georgia*, published in 1780, which illustrates an "Indian Town belonging to the Catawba Nation now reduced to 80 Fighting Men," close to the head waters of Sanders Creek above Camden and the Blanding Map of the Camden area, which shows an Indian village at the junction of Town Creek and the Wateree River. There has not, however, been any real effort to identify any of these historic villages. In fact, Blanding illustrates two additional villages north of Camden, both of which are

today under the waters of Wateree Lake.

An examination of the archaeological site files at the South Carolina Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology (SCIAA) reveals that no sites are recorded within the survey tract. To the south, however, are two recorded sites. Site 38KE204 is situated at the southwest corner of U.S. 601 and McCord Ferry Road. The site consists of a scatter of brick rubble, representing piers, pieces of tin roofing, and other surface remains. It likely represented a general store/gas station and living quarters for the proprietor. Site 38KE205 was situated at the west edge of U.S. 601 and included a range of historic remains, including some which may have been nineteenth century (Trinkley and Adams 1992b:9-10). Both sites were identified during a survey of a proposed power line corridor for Santee Cooper. As a result, a relatively narrow corridor was examined and relatively little information concerning the overall settlement density or site types can be extrapolated from this research.

Shifting from the topic of previous investigations in the immediate project area to studies that are capable of helping project site locations, relatively few intensive surveys have been conducted in Kershaw County. In fact Derting et. al (1991) reveal only 10 surveys (seven of which are associated with highway projects) that have identified 10 sites.

There are, however, several major studies in similar areas of the Upper Coastal Plain. One major study was the 1984 survey of the 2700 acre Santee Cooper Pee Dee Electrical Generating Station, which is located in a very similar environmental context in Florence County (Taylor 1984). The Santee Cooper study identified 103 cultural resources, including 38 prehistoric sites, 33 historic sites, and 32 standing structures. Chicora Foundation has also surveyed about 1400 acres for Roche Carolina, also in Florence County overlooking the swamps of the Pee Dee River (Trinkley and Adams 1992a). This tract is also in a nearly identical environmental zone and 42 archaeological sites were identified. Most recently, an intensive survey of the 400 acre tract previously considered by Honda Motors at the intersection of I-95 at its Pee Dee River crossing identified 30 archaeological sites and seven architectural sites

(Trinkley 1997).

In all of these studies the most intensively used environmental zones are consistently the bluff edge and along minor tributaries. Upland areas were only lightly used, primarily by Woodland Period groups. For historic settlement, the various studies have found that eighteenth century sites were located either on the bluff edge, or along major roads. In the nineteenth century the bluff edge was abandoned and settlements were almost exclusively "road-oriented," although they may be set back from the road as much as 300 feet. By the early twentieth century the settlement pattern is less defined, with tenant sites occurring in a variety of locations.

Historic Overview of the Camden Area

Although four counties, Berkeley, Craven, Colleton, and Granville, were created by the Carolina Proprietors between 1682 and 1685, the Anglican parishes, established in 1706, became the local unit of political administration. Still, the coastal area maintained the reins of power and the Back County was largely unrepresented. In addition, with the settlement of the Yamassee War of 1715, many Native American groups were forced from the region, allowing a more aggressive settlement policy (Wallace 1951). From about 1715 to 1727 there was a period of tremendous lust for land, with the accompanying fraud so common to period politics. In 1730 Governor Robert Johnson began a policy of frontier settlement, hinged on the creation of 11 townships intended to increase the number of small, white farmers. This increased settlement would provide protection from South Carolina's enemies from within (as the African American slaves were viewed) and from without (including both the Spanish and the Native Americans).

With the creation of Georgia, only nine of the proposed 11 townships were actually established. One of these was to be "on the River Watery," and called Fredricksburgh Township (Kirkland and Kennedy 1905:9-10). Laid out with the Wateree River on one side, it was to be six miles square and contain 60,000 acres. An area 12 miles square was to surround the township, being reserved for those settling within the township. Each resident was to receive a town lot and

50 acres for each member of their family. The Royal Council employed James St. Julien for £500 to survey the township in 1733.

The Township focused on the area around Pine Tree Creek. Kirkland and Kennedy (1905:I:13) note that the original grand plat for Fredricksburgh no longer survives and only three town lots were apparently ever laid out, suggesting a less than successful beginning. Most of the land appears to have been sold as large tracts. This practice continued well into the 1750s when a number of Quakers came into the region, settling primarily along the river.

St. Mark's Parish was established in the area from the Congaree River northward to the Lynches River in 1757. One of the earliest records of settlement in the area is the establishment of Joseph Kershaw's store at Pine Tree Creek, with a small village growing up around the store. There is no mention of Camden until 1768 when the Assembly established a Circuit Court at Camden in the Camden District. The first court was held at "Mr. Kershaw's brew house" in Camden in 1773 (Wittkowsky and Moseley 1923:8).

Curiously, as late as 1773-5, neither the Mouzon or Cook maps show much activity on the outskirts of Camden (Figure 4). No settlement is found in the study tract and the closest is that of Martin, probably James Martin (d. 1786), to the north.

During the American Revolution Camden was the scene of much turmoil. The City was occupied by British forces from June 1780 through May 1781. Two battles, both horrific defeats for the American forces, took place in the area. The Battle of Camden, in August 1780, took place about 8 miles north of town and Nathanael Gates was decisively defeated by Lord Cornwallis. At Hobkirk Hill in April 1781 the Americans, under Horatio Greene, were defeated by the British forces under Lord Rawdon. Although a victory for the British, the situation afterwards was so untenable that they withdrew from Camden a short time later. Wallace notes that many of the loyalist families that left Camden with Lord Rawdon "perished miserably in the huts of 'Rawdowntown' outside of Charleston" (Wallace 1951:316).

After the American Revolution and into the early nineteenth century Camden and the surrounding plantations slipped into a relatively prosperous peace. Camden was visited by Washington during his 1791 Southern tour and the town had been incorporated only a few months before Washington's arrival. Although called "a very pretty Town" by North Carolinian James Iredell, Washington characterized it as only as:

a small place with appearances of some new buildings. It was much injured by the British whilst in their possession (Lipscomb 1993:71).

While in Camden, Washington dined at one of the finest houses in town — the home of John Chesnut on the corner of Fair and King Streets (now moved to 1413 Mill Street) and later toured the nearby battlefields and their still extant skirmish lines.

The architecture of Camden was further reviewed by Robert Gilmor during his trip through the county in the first decade of the nineteenth century. He noted that:

Camden is a small pretty village, made beautiful by the handsome houses of Col. Chesnut & his son, with one or two others, all which are built in the New York style, with piazzas & painted white with red roofs (Teal 1997:n.p.).

By the 1820s the Kershaw District had been created and Mills notes that the Quakers had largely deserted the Camden area, primarily as a response to slavery (Mills 1972:586 [1826]). Cotton was the staple, although corn, wheat, and rye were being raised for home consumption. Camden was also a center for milling both before and after the American Revolution (Mills 1972:588 [1826]). The influence of cotton can be seen in the increase of slavery in the district. In 1800 there were 4,606 whites in the district with 2,530 African American slaves. By 1820 the white population had grown to only 5,628, while the number of slaves had increased to 6,692. This increase in slave population would not only increase, but the white population would begin to decline toward the Civil War.

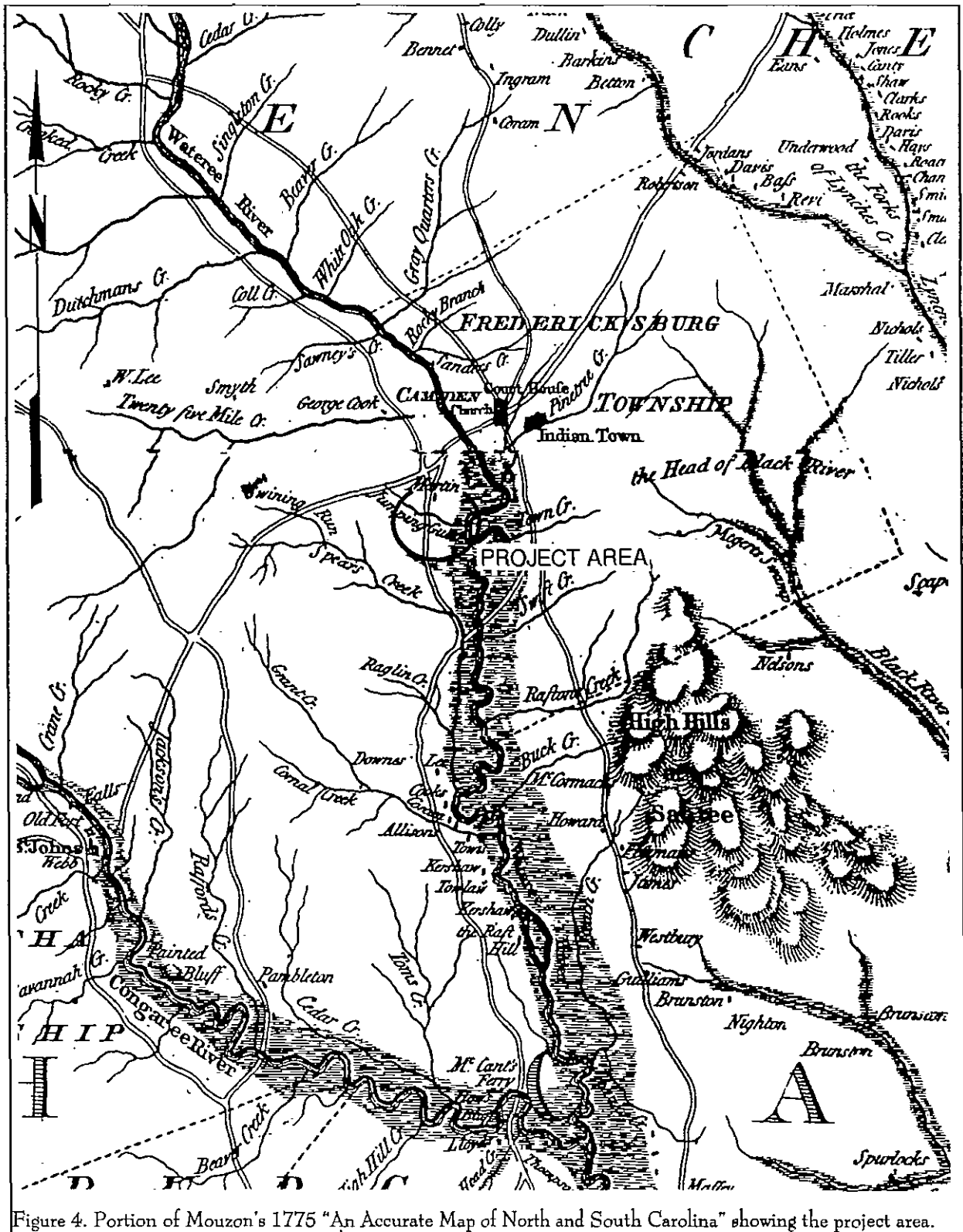


Figure 4. Portion of Mouzon's 1775 "An Accurate Map of North and South Carolina" showing the project area.

In 1850, for example, there were 9,578 slaves, but only 4,681 whites (DeBow 1854:302; Mills 1972:589 [1826]).

Camden had recovered from the Revolution and Mills reported that it was the center of the cotton trade for this region of South Carolina (Mills 1972:590[1826]).

Kershaw's first railroad did not arrive until 1846, with the opening of a branch line connecting Camden with the main line that ran from Charleston to Columbia. Prior to this Camden's mercantile interests were promoted by hauling cotton on the river to either Charleston or Georgetown. A steamboat line between Camden and Charleston was begun in 1835. While not really successful because of the fluctuating water levels, it was continued intermittently into the early 1900s (Wittkowsky and Moseley 1923:12).

Camden was largely quiet during the Civil War and it wasn't until Sherman's march that the local inhabitants experienced war first-hand. A detachment entered Camden February 24, 1865 and burned a number of buildings. Union troops again came through on April 18, and the town was finally occupied by a Federal garrison of the 25th Ohio Volunteers on June 14 under Captain C. W. Ferguson (Kirkland and Kennedy 1905:I:34-35). Civil authorities took control of the city on November 1, 1865, although troops were not removed until March 1866.

After the Civil War plantation houses were destroyed, portions of Camden were burned, the agricultural base of slavery was destroyed, and the economic system was in chaos. Rebuilding after the war involved two primary tasks: forging a new relationship between white land owners and black freedmen, and creating a new economic order through credit merchants. General sources discussing the changes in South Carolina include Williamson (1975) and Zuczek (1996).

South Carolina's reconstruction was made harder than necessary by a ruling class that refused to accept the demise not only of the Confederacy, but also of slavery. Foner notes that the South Carolina and Mississippi legislatures further antagonized the Radicals

in Congress with the enactment of the first, and most severe, of the so-called Black Codes toward the end of 1865. He observes that:

South Carolina's Code was in some respects even more discriminatory [than Mississippi's], although it contained provisions, such as prohibiting the expulsion of aged freedmen from plantations, designed to reinvigorate paternalism and clothe it with the force of law. It did not forbid blacks to rent land, but barred them from following any occupation other than farmer or servant except by paying an annual tax ranging from \$10 to \$100 (a severe blow to the free black community of Charleston and to former slave artisans). The law required blacks to sign annual contracts and included elaborate provisions regulating relations between "servants" and their "masters," including labor from sunup to sundown and a ban on leaving the plantation, or entertaining guests upon it, without permission of the employer. A vagrancy law applied to unemployed blacks, "persons who lead idle or disorderly lives," and even traveling circuses, fortune tellers, and thespians (Foner 1988:199-200).

Curiously these, and similar, laws were not developed by extreme secessionists. Rather, South Carolina's Black Code was articulated by conservative Whig Unionists, like Benjamin Perry. Although some in the state described the efforts as "madness" which would never be accepted by the Radical Congress, more were obsessed by the idea that blacks would never work unless forced to do so. They were also alarmed by the increasing militancy of their former "servants."

As Congress considered a variety of measures to ensure reconstruction, violence raged over many areas of South Carolina, including the Kershaw District

(Zuczek 1996:53). Two "reconstruction" acts were passed in March 1867 over Johnson's veto. Congress carved the South into five military districts. Many ex-Confederates were at least temporarily barred from voting or holding office, new governments were created, and blacks were given the right to vote. Finally, only after ratification of the Fourteenth Amendment would Southern states finally be readmitted to the Union. South Carolina began to realize the results of defeat in war.

The milling industry which had a long history in the Camden area at least partially revitalized after the Civil War. By 1884 there were 43 flour and grist mills reported in Kershaw County, along with 16 lumber mills and six turpentine refineries. Of the grist and flour mills about two-thirds were water powered and a third were steam powered (Anonymous 1884). By 1915 the number of mills had been reduced to three, although two cotton mills were situated in Camden — the Hermitage Cotton Mills with over 16,000 spindles and the Pine Creek Manufacturing Company with nearly 19,000. The Hermitage produced sheetings, while Pine Tree manufactured print cloths (Watson 1916:Table 1).

While some industry came to the Camden area after the Civil War, at least partially encouraged by the Seaboard Air Line which was completed in 1899, agriculture was still the primary occupation in the region. In 1915 there was one cotton seed oil mill in Camden and the cotton crop had steadily increased from 21,527 bales in 1910 to 30,652 bales in 1914 (Watson 1916:79).

By the early 1920s Wittkowsky and Moseley commented that farm tenancy in the county was "one of the worst, if not the worst, economic and social evils" (Wittkowsky and Moseley 1923:31). In Kershaw County 67.1% of the farms were worked by tenants (including both renters and sharecroppers), compared to a state average of only 64.5%. Farm mortgages were high and relatively little of the land (only 47.8%) was improved — described as "entirely too little for our county" (Wittkowsky and Moseley 1923:48).

Moreover, the reliance on cotton was strangling economic development, encouraging tenancy,

and promoting the waste of the land. They also warned that the cotton kingdom was focusing attention away from subsistence crops, so that only a small proportion of the food and feed necessary for the county was actually produced in surrounding farms (Wittkowsky and Moseley 1923:50). They also warned of the coming of the boll weevil and that cotton production had already fallen from 40,000 bales in 1920 to only 13,000 bales in 1921.

Camden is situated in what was called the "Black Belt," the area of oldest plantations. During the 1930s this area had very large proportions of both tenants and blacks. One of the best studies of tenancy in this region was that by T.J. Woofter (1936). In 1930 73% of the farmers in the Black Belt were tenants (compared to 60% in the adjacent Atlantic Coastal Plain and 63% in the Piedmont). Nearly half of the plantation were almost exclusively operated by African American tenants or were operated by both whites and blacks. Only 2.7% of the plantations were operated only by whites. Mixed tenancy was also most common (representing 75.7% of the tenants), followed by croppers (representing 13.4%). While the net income of the plantation owner in the Black Belt was a meager \$1,462, the tenants' net incomes were only \$127 for croppers and \$106 for shares. Tenancy cast a very long shadow over all of South Carolina — including Kershaw County. Although the literature is filled with tenancy studies those by Goldenweiser and Truesdell (1924), Johnson et al. (1935), Poe (1934) provide an excellent overview.

Historic Documentation of the Study Tract

The study tract today consists of three tax map parcels:

The first is TMS 324-08, which includes 223.28 acres, only 46.5 acres of which are included in the study tract. The remaining 176.78 acres are situated to the north and east of the study tract.

The second is TMS 338-23, which includes 458.74 acres, with about half or 267.87 acres, included in the study tract. The remaining 190.87 acres are found to the east

of the study tract.

The third parcel is TMS 338-69. All 50 acres of this parcel are included in the study tract.

These three tracts are shown overlaid on the USGS topographic map for the project area in Figure 5. The first two parcels have been most recently owned by Pinder Hill Association (Canal Trading Company, Conway, South Carolina), while the third is owned by Kershaw County, being purchased from the Pinder Hill Association in 1995 (Kershaw County Clerk of Court, DB 371, pg. 96).

Our history of the Pinder Hill tract begins about 1751 when the tract was apparently purchased by Duncan McRae (also spelled McRa) from James Mickie. Mickie, in turn, is reported to have acquired the property from a royal grant (will of Duncan McRae, Kershaw County probate Court Will Book 1, page 1). Although we have been unable to identify a James Mickie thus far, Kirkland and Kennedy (1905:I:390) do mention that the Mickle family acquired property in the immediate area from royal grants.¹ Additional research at the S.C. Department of Archives and History would likely be able to resolve this issue.

Regardless, it is clear that McRae held the property throughout the late colonial and early antebellum periods (until his death in 1824). Immigrating from Scotland after his birth in 1754, he may have been in Camden as early as 1789 when he married Mary, eldest daughter of John Chesnut. We also know that as early as 1782 he was a trading partner in a firm with John Chesnut and John Adamson (Kirkland and Kennedy 1905:I:387-388). It may be, however, that this early association with Chesnut was from the Chesterfield area, where he was apparently serving as a Justice and that it wasn't until he married Chesnut's daughter that he looked toward Camden as home.

¹ Kirkland and Kennedy (1905:I:Diagram 9) illustrate the location of a number of early grants west and south of Camden along the Wateree. Either there is an earlier owner than Mickie or his property did not extend east to the Wateree River.

In addition to the property on the Wateree, McRae also owned a mill on Big Pine Tree Creek which operated until it burned in 1811. The following year he apparently opened a second mill on Little Pine Tree Creek (Kirkland and Kennedy 1905:I:388).

Mills' *Atlas* of the county reveals the location of the Mulberry Mounds (shown as *I Mound* on the map). The settlement for "D. McRas" is shown at the edge of the Wateree, above Town Creek on the opposite side (Figure 6). We know from other research that the overseer's house was situated on the river (Kershaw County Clerk of Court, DB Q, pg. 106-107). Since no main house has been identified in the records, it seems likely that during Duncan's ownership he lived primarily in Camden and came out to his plantation only on day trips.

His original will, dated 1821, indicates that his wife would receive the Camden home (along with its "carriages and carriage horses plate kitchen and household furniture" and 10 slaves). He also observed that he had begun the construction of "a summer retreat for my family," and that this "Settlement and buildings" would be set aside for the use of his wife. Situated west of McCord Ferry Road, it seems likely that it was being erected on a high, dry sandy spot safe from mosquitoes and the disease that seemed to strike Camden. By his death in 1824 a codicil indicates that the residence "near McCords ferry road" was completed. Based on the available historic evidence it is likely that this settlement may have been in the northwest quadrant of the study tract (Kershaw County Clerk of Court, DB Q, pg. 106-107).

The inventory of Duncan McRae's estate reveals that he owned 160 African Americans, representing a very large estate for this part of South Carolina and testifying to his wealth and success on his Wateree Plantation.² In addition, the document reveals something of the activities which must have been taking place on his property. There are two slaves listed as "crippled," indicating the severity of plantation life.

² As near as we can determine, this inventory covers only the Camden estate. It is likely that a different inventory would have been prepared for his Georgetown land and slaves.

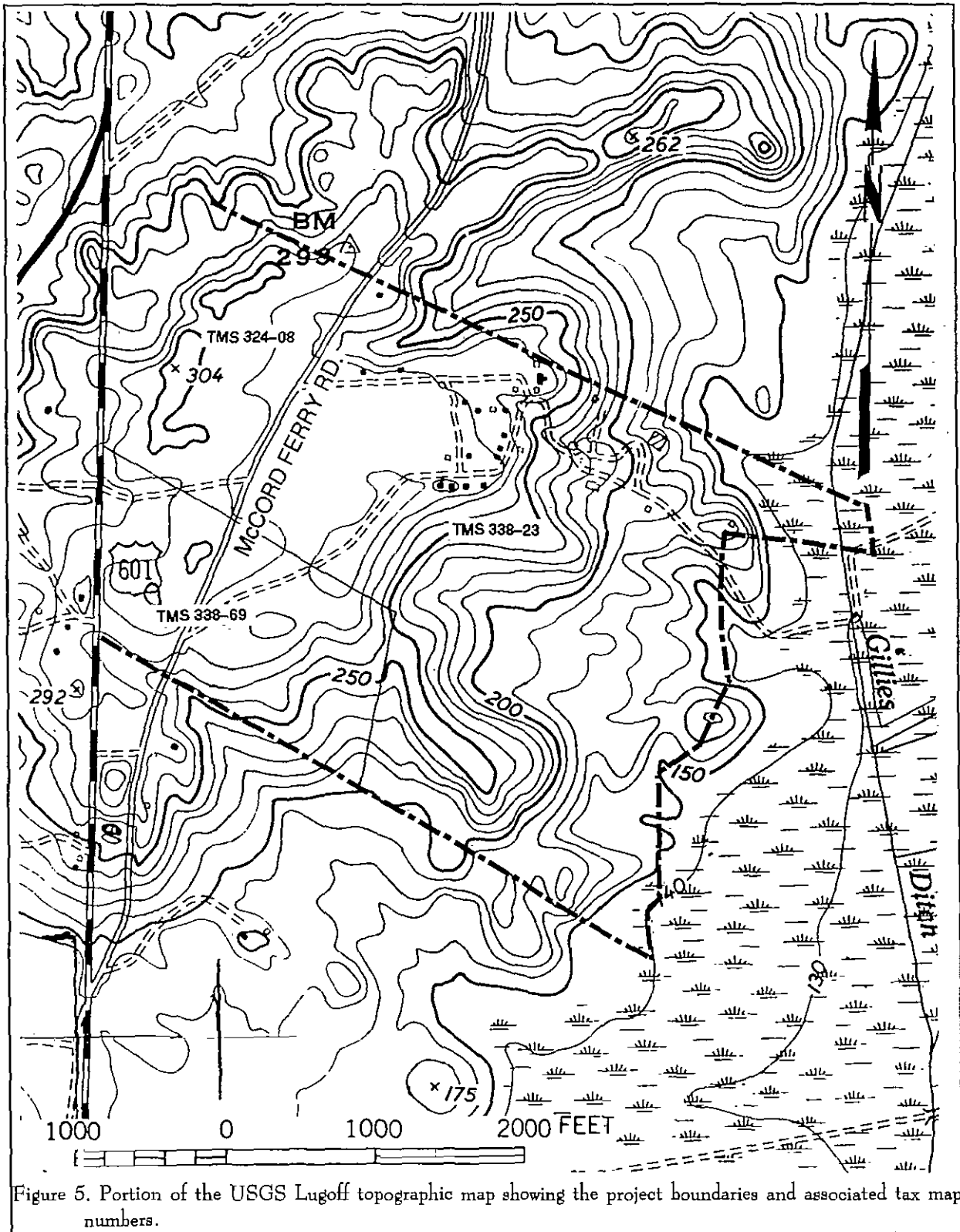


Figure 5. Portion of the USGS Lugoff topographic map showing the project boundaries and associated tax map numbers.

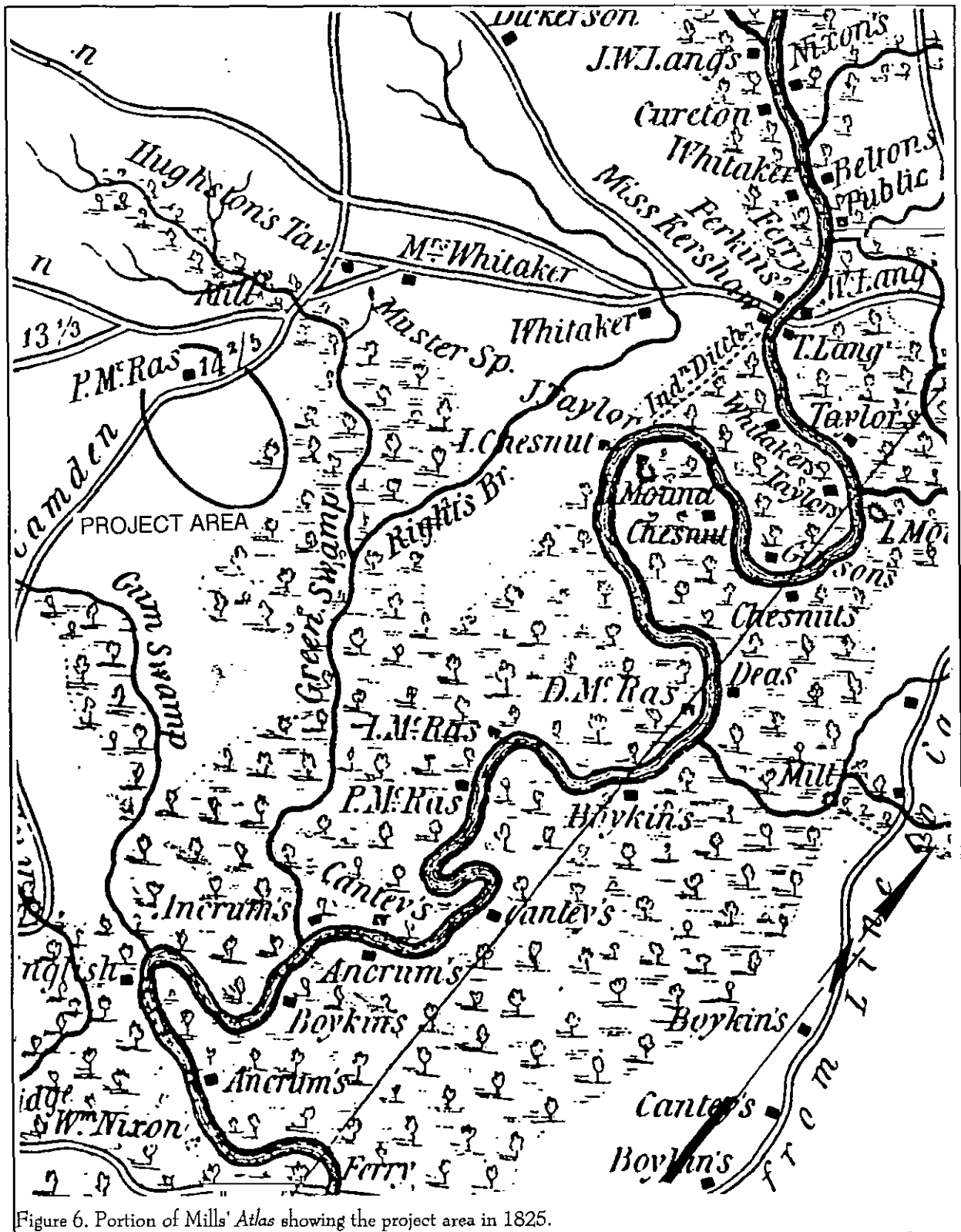


Figure 6. Portion of Mills' Atlas showing the project area in 1825.

There are also 11 individuals with the prefix, "old" such as "Old Sandy" or "Old Nancy," which likely indicated that they were far past "prime" and of relatively little financial value. Cripples and aged individuals account for about 8% of the total plantation population.

More interesting are several African Americans whose names indicate their occupations, such as "Shoemaker Joe," "Carpenter Harry," and "Wagoner Moses." Also present in the listing was a blacksmith, a bricklayer, and a second carpenter. Clearly McRae's slave population represented a well-rounded assortment of skills. Also interesting are the several slaves with the prefix, "Guinea," likely indicating that they were Africans from that part of Africa. Prior to the American Revolution only about 2.6% of the slaves originated in Guinea. Perhaps they were found in such large numbers on McRae's plantation since they had some familiarity with rice cultivation.

In 1855 a marriage deed between Isabella Scota McCrae and her husband, John McRae (a cousin), placed the study tract lands in her husband's hands, with her brother John acting as a trustee.

The property remained in the McRae family until 1882, when Colin McRae, Isabella Scota McRae, and John McRae (the replacement executors for the will of Duncan McRae) sold a number of different tracts totaling over 1,500 acres (once all belonging to the original estate) to Samuel Logan Lang (Kershaw County Clerk of Court, DB GG, pg. 548).

The sale did not actually remove the property from the McRae line since Lang was actually a grand-nephew (the grandson of Thomas and Mary Lang and Mary was a sister of Duncan McRae). Unfortunately, it seems that Lang was less able to manage the property than previous owners and by 1894 the parcel as sold off through two sheriff sales.

What has been called tract 3, encompassing 547 acres, was sold in March 1894 to the Canadian-American Mortgage Trust Company (Kershaw County Clerk of Court, DB SS, pg. 302). This represents the upper or northern half of the study tract (as well as additional lands not involved in this study). Just a few months later, in May, Tracts 4 and 5, totaling 549

acres, were sold in a sheriff's sale to the Scottish-American Mortgage Company (Kershaw County Clerk of Court, DB SS, pg. 295). This property represented the southern portion of McRae's property. From this point in 1894 until the mid-twentieth century the property remained as part of two parcels under different ownership.

The Canadian-American Mortgage Company held the northern portion of the plantation until 1911, when it was sold to E.C. Villepigue. From Villepigue the land passed through B.B. Clark and in 1922 was purchased by H.H. Simms (Kershaw County Clerk of Court, DB AV, pg. 129). Simms held the property for about 20 years, selling it in 1942 to the Blaney Lumber Company (Kershaw County Clerk of Court, DB CX, pg. 76). It is likely that the property was being farmed for most of its history, at least until it entered lumber and timber company hands.

In 1955, likely after the wood was cut from the property, Blaney Lumber sold the tract to E.T. Bowen (Kershaw County Clerk of Court, DB EX, pg. 107). Bowen held the property for not quite a year before selling it to Williams Furniture Corp., the predecessor by merger to Georgia-Pacific (Kershaw County Clerk of Court, DB EX, pg. 410). Williams Furniture Company is often found as holder of swamp and timber lands.

Returning to the second tract, acquired in 1894 by the Scottish-American Mortgage Company, we find that the ownership is similar, at least in the sense that it went through a number of hands, most of whom probably never farmed the property and saw it only as an investment.

The Scottish-American Mortgage Company sold the 549 acre tract in 1906 to Henry Savage and George T. Little (Kershaw County Clerk of Court, DB NNN, pg. 792). This deed references the southern portion of the tract as number 5, while Tract 4 was reported to be to the southeast. Unfortunately this is not a map or plat which clearly reveals the location of these different parcels. Nevertheless, we are certain that the study tract was a portion of this larger parcel.

Savage and Little sold the land a year and half

later to Frank P. Wiley (Kershaw County Clerk of Court, DB PPP, pg. 176). Wiley held the land far longer, suggesting that at the least he was renting or leasing it, if he wasn't actively farming it himself. In 1923 he sold the parcel to John Wiley (Kershaw County Clerk of Court, DB BG, pg. 482). Wiley subsequently sold the property to W.B. Boyle Company and, in 1956, Williams Furniture Company purchased this tract as well (Kershaw County Clerk of Court, DB EX, pg. 574).

These parcels, therefore, are united again under the ownership of Williams Furniture Corporation in 1956 and continued to be held by Georgia-Pacific. In 1986, however, they were sold to the Pinder Hill Associates (Kershaw County Clerk of Court, DB IY, pg. 1589). This transfer included eight tracts with 1,361.82 acres. An accompanying plat (Kershaw County Clerk of Court, PB 37, pg. 2028) reveals that while the study tract is certainly included in the transfer, by this time there is little interest in any structures or history — the tract is simply shown as acreage with a few limited roads. Even an earlier, 1963 plat of the general area made by Williams Furniture Company fails to reveal any details concerning the property, except to reveal that the "McRae Estate Road" was still in use. This road is referenced in the 1824 will of Duncan McRae:

it is my will and direction that forty feet of the land for the whole line between by sons John and Powells plantations shall be common to both plantations for a way out from the river to the main road (Kershaw County Probate Court, Will Book 1, pg. 1).

Curiously, this road seems to be shown on relatively few maps, perhaps indicating that it was difficult to detect unless one was familiar with the property. Regardless, it is an important feature of the historic landscape.

One of the earliest maps of the parcel which actually shows any structures is the 1919 Kershaw County Soil Map (Figure 7). This reveals several landscape features which are of critical importance to our investigation.

First and perhaps foremost, there is a very clearly defined plantation settlement in the northern half of the tract. Included are a row of six structures on the north side and an additional three on the south side of a road which leads to a nucleated settlement of four structures. This appears to represent the remains of an antebellum plantation settlement, including the slave row and the main house complex.

Second, the map reveals a possible second row to the south, consisting of four structures to the north of the road, with perhaps one structure to the south.

Finally, there are a large number of additional structures scattered throughout the property, but especially in the southeastern corner. These are likely postbellum tenant occupations, representing the dispersion of settlement as the labor base changed. A careful inspection of the map reveals that there are at least 20 additional structures scattered across the Pinder Hill landscape.

By 1938, when the property was still in private hands and likely being farmed, the Hagood 15' topographic map reveals some major changes from the earlier 1919 view (Figure 8). We notice, for example, that the large number of tenant houses, found in 1919 plan, are now largely gone. With the coming of the Great Depression and various federal programs to reduce the number of tenants, especially in the South, it appears that many of the families left Pinder Hill. This suggests that many of the archaeological manifestations of these early tenant houses will have very restricted dates and will likely not include a range of modern materials that makes the study of many tenant occupations so troubling.

In addition, there is evidence that while the probable slave row and main settlement in the northern portion of the tract had fallen into disuse, there was enough remaining to continue to see, and understand, the landscape features. There are still four structures north of the road and the main settlement consists of at least two buildings. In addition, there are three "new" structures clustered in the southwest corner of two dirt access roads. On the remainder of the property there are at least six additional buildings.

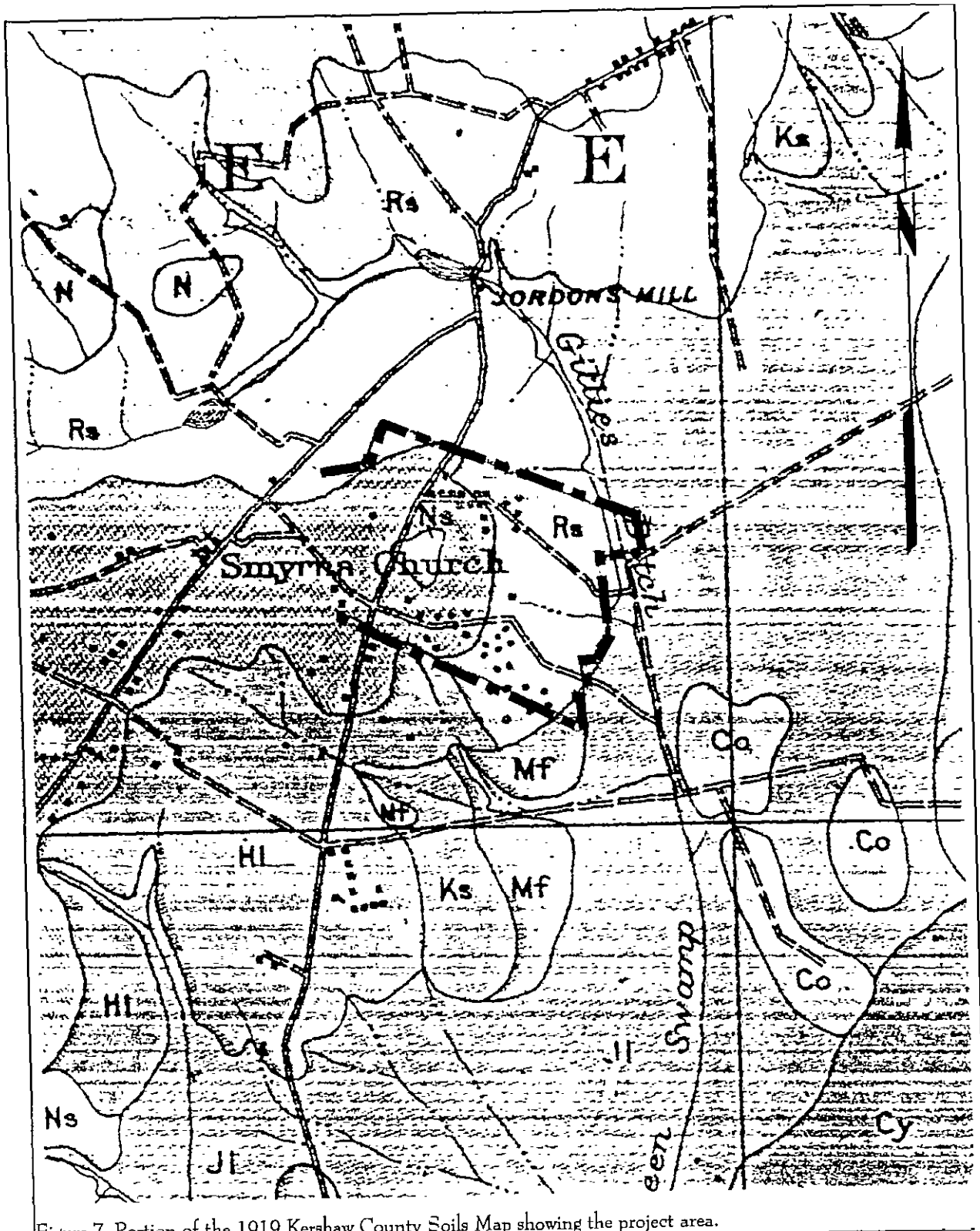


Figure 7. Portion of the 1919 Kershaw County Soils Map showing the project area.

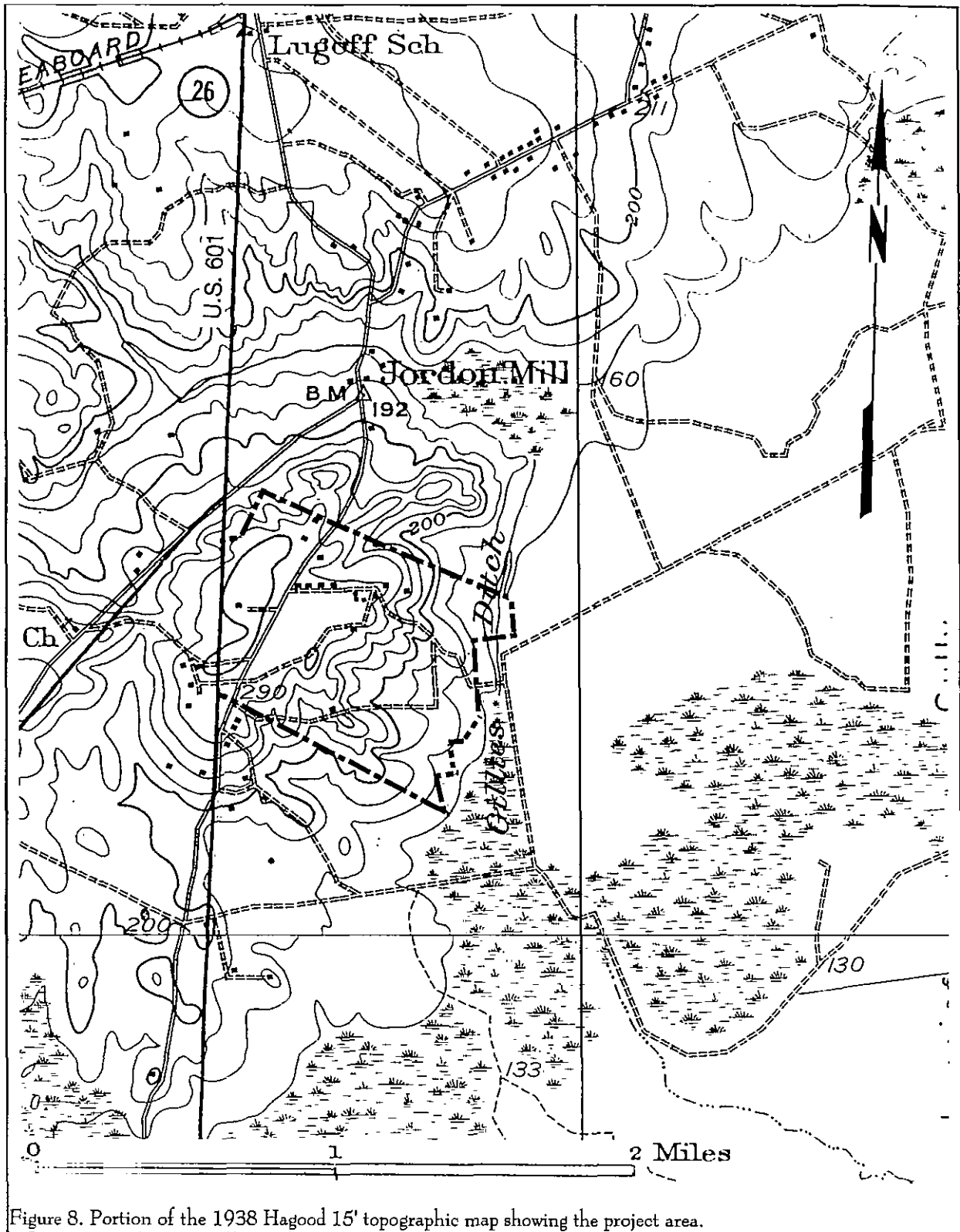


Figure 8. Portion of the 1938 Hagood 15' topographic map showing the project area.

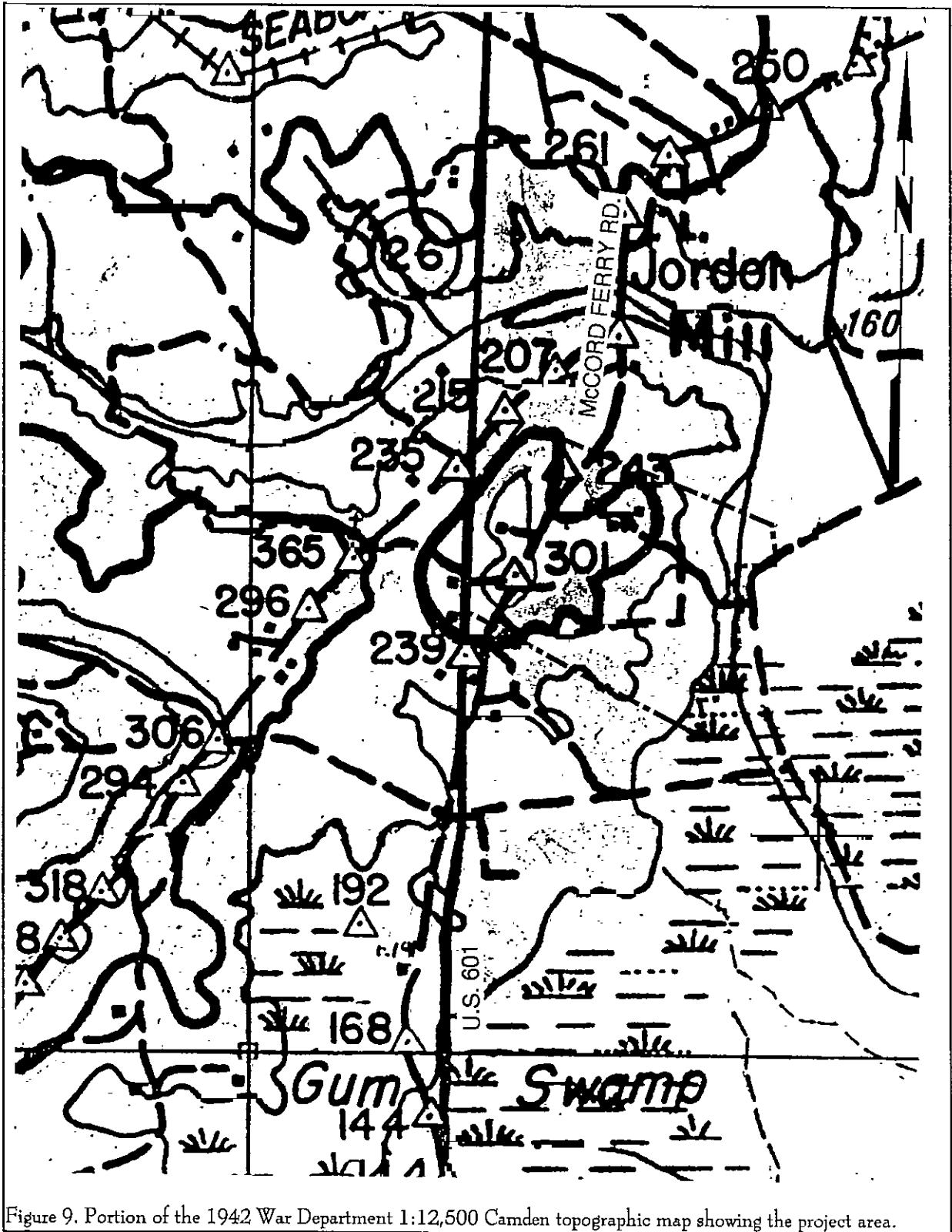


Figure 9. Portion of the 1942 War Department 1:12,500 Camden topographic map showing the project area.

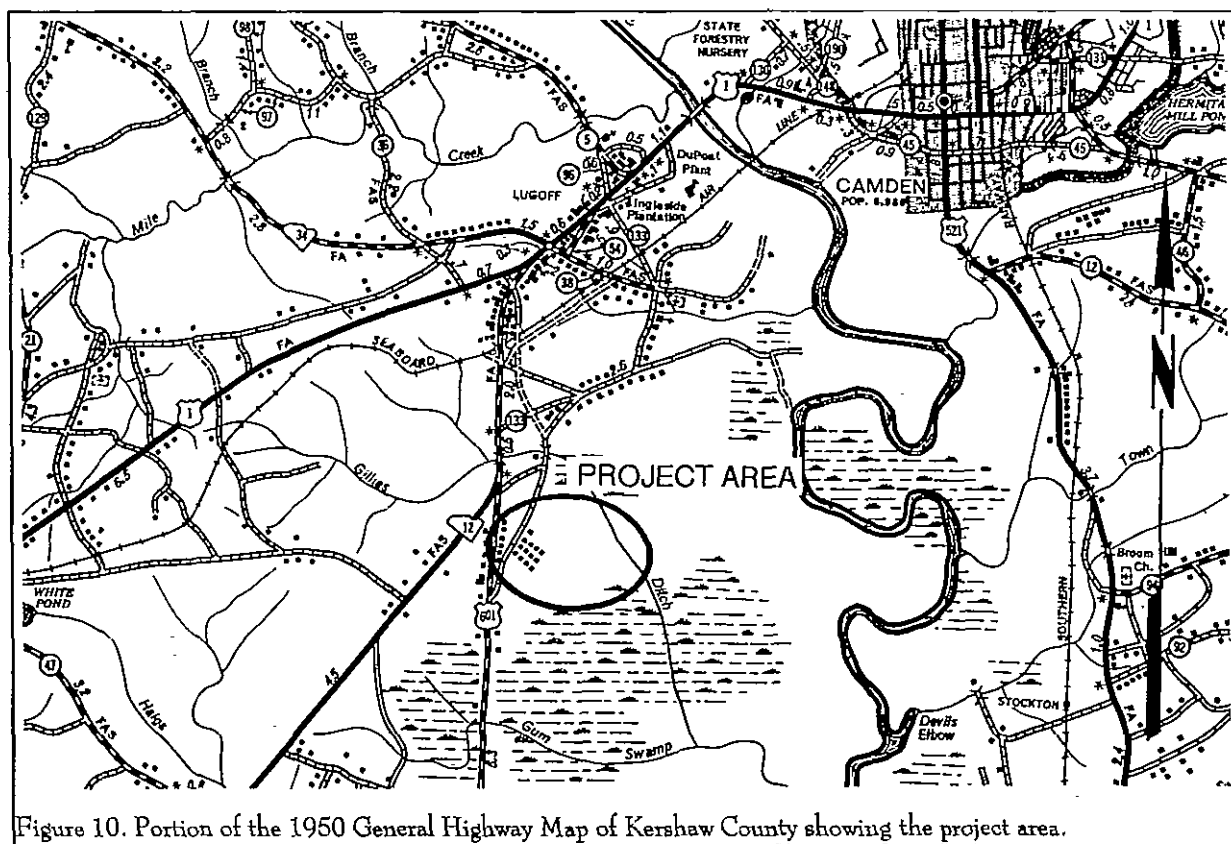


Figure 10. Portion of the 1950 General Highway Map of Kershaw County showing the project area.

Only four years later the War Department's Camden topographic map (Figure 9) reveals additional changes. The main settlement seems to still be present, although there seems to be only one additional structure on the property. This map, however, must be cautiously interpreted. When we look at the available aerial photographs for the property it appears that the War Department dramatically "simplified" the landscape, leaving off most of the buildings.

The first aerial photograph of the tract, taken in 1938 (USDA, ASCS, Kershaw County, PE 10-9), reveals a setting that is almost identical to the 1938 topographic map. By 1949 the agricultural lands were still the same, with the bulk of the tract open and cultivated. The number of structures is likewise almost exactly the same.

The 1950 General Highway Map for Kershaw County (Figure 10) provides a mid-century glimpse of the property, although it is depicted in an unusual

manner. Adjacent to McCord Ferry Road the map shows a block of 12 structures. This is at odds with every previous map, and the earlier aerial photographs, so we can only explain it as an unusual way to portray the structures that the cartographer found on the interior of the tract, away from the road.

By 1964 there were significant changes in the property. Although the cleared fields around the main settlement were still being maintained, virtually all of the other fields had been converted to pine forests — a telling indicator of ownership and economic goals (USDA, ASCS, Kershaw County, PE 4EE-188). By 1975 the aerial photographs of the tract (USDA, ASCS, Kershaw County, 45056 175-108), reveal even fewer open tracts and no buildings are visible (although they may be present under the canopy).

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Administrative Findings

Based on a review of the management documents present at the S.C. Department of Archives and History and the S.C. Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology, we find that **virtually nothing is currently known concerning the project tract**. This, however, is not to be construed as meaning that there are likely no sites on the property. As will be discussed below, this is far from the truth. **What this finding means is that so little research has been done in this particular part of South Carolina that there is no previously developed cultural resource management documentation.**

Prehistoric Sites

There are no maps that can be used to project the locations of prehistoric sites. Of course, there are a number of historic maps for the project area that illustrate sites recognized at the time the maps were being produced, including protohistoric and historic villages in the Camden area and along the Wateree, as well as mound sites primarily on the river bottoms.

In comparison to other areas, it seems that Camden has a higher than average number Native American sites. This most likely is due to the area's proximity to Cofitacheque, a well known and major chiefdom in the Carolinas. We know, for example, that surrounding the mound groups there were typically large numbers of hamlets. These hamlets supported the priests and ruling classes that typically lived at the mound sites, both with labor and also with agricultural produce. **This suggests that the potential for Native American sites in the project area is high.**

When the topography of the project area is examined, we find relatively well defined bluffs overlooking several drainages, but most especially Betty Neck Swamp to the east. **This topography is typical of previous survey areas that have produced Native**

American remains. To the west the property terminates at U.S. 601, which runs north-south along a well defined ridge in the project area. **In such areas it is generally less likely (although not impossible) to recover Native American sites.** The central and eastern sandy ridge and terrace edge are commonly associated with Archaic period occupations and at least some of these occupations may be deeply buried (see, for example, the recent investigations at 38RD1082 [Trinkley 1997b]). **This suggests that much of the upland portion of the tract may exhibit a relatively high potential for the recovery of prehistoric sites.**

If the soils information is also integrated into this evaluation, it appears that significant portions of the study tract are associated with well drained, sandy soils. **These sandy soils are much more likely to exhibit Native American remains than lower, less well drained soils.** Consequently, we are more concerned with those portions of the tract that are cultivated than with those that are in woods.

Finally, when we also integrate the land use history that has been documented from the examination of aerial photographs and maps, it appears that the study tract has remained very stable for long periods of time. That is, those portions in cultivation have been consistently cultivated and those portions in swamp bottomland or other woods have been wooded. **This long-term cultivation may have affected site integrity, although this cannot be determined without field investigations.**

In sum, the study tract appears to exhibit a moderately high potential for Native American sites, based on the history of the area, the topography and the nature of the soils. While the land use history indicates heavy cultivation, the impact of this cannot be determined at this time. It would be a mistake to assume that cultivation has automatically damaged or destroyed Native American sites — the extraordinary remains found at the nearby Mulberry Mounds reveals

that cultivation is not necessary destructive.

Consequently, there is more than adequate justification for recommending that the study tract be examined for Native American remains. If, for whatever reason, a survey of the entire tract is not feasible, we strongly recommend that the eastern half be explored, since it is that area which looks most likely to contain prehistoric sites. Ideally this survey will be conducted after the planted pines have been burned over, reducing ground litter and, most especially, the associated herbaceous vegetation.

Historic Sites

These investigations have revealed that the project tract is part of a colonial grant which continued to see intensive occupation at least up to the Civil War. This, of course, is not all that uncommon — much of the area surrounding Camden consisted of large plantation landholdings, especially along the major drainages. However, in this case it appears that the project tract is situated in the core of this plantation development.

Figure 11 projects the location of major antebellum plantation development. Specifically it reveals the anticipated general area of the plantation's main settlement and the plantation's slave row. There may, of course, be additional antebellum structures (for example, we have suggested that a second slave row may be situated further south), but these two probable sites are fairly well documented by the historic records.

The main settlement is likely to contain some type of larger plantation house ruins. These may have been used by the owners of the tract or may have been reserved for the overseer. Associated structures are likely to include a kitchen, storehouses, and other plantation outbuildings. For example, Duncan McRae's inventory reveals that he had a blacksmith, suggesting that a forge will likely be somewhere in the main settlement area.

This main settlement, of course, provides information concerning the lifeways of Camden's wealthy. We already know something of McRae's wealth and status in Camden and it is clear that he was one of

the town's more prominent merchants. We would expect his plantation to reflect that status. Unfortunately, we have very little data on which to base such ideas — and it is for that reason the plantation is thought to be so potentially significant.

In addition, the slave settlement may have the potential to provide us with information on the lives of Camden's African American slaves. There has not been an investigation of a slave settlement in this part of South Carolina, so this settlement should be considered very important.

Both of these antebellum sites, if the historic documentation is correct and they are located on the project area and if the sites are in reasonably good condition, are likely to be potentially eligible for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places.

We have also identified additional maps which suggest that the tract continued to be intensively occupied even after the Civil War. While the antebellum settlements continued to be maintained, and used, a range of additional buildings were put up, probably representing the dramatic increase in the number of freed African Americans. This proliferation of houses reveals a change in the plantation labor system. No longer are the settlements nucleated. Now they are more widely spread out so that each freedman can more easily reach the plot for which he is responsible. Figure 12 projects the location of major nineteenth century freedmen sites. Of greatest interest is the sudden development of a range of structures in the southern half of the tract.

Just as archaeologists and historians have not had the opportunity to explore antebellum sites in this part of South Carolina, postbellum sites are equally unknown. Where they are found, such as along the coast, they are often continuously occupied from the Civil War through the twentieth century. What makes the Pinder Hill postbellum sites so unusual is that at least some appear to have been used for only a short period time, perhaps from only 1870 through the 1890s.

At least some of these postbellum sites are also

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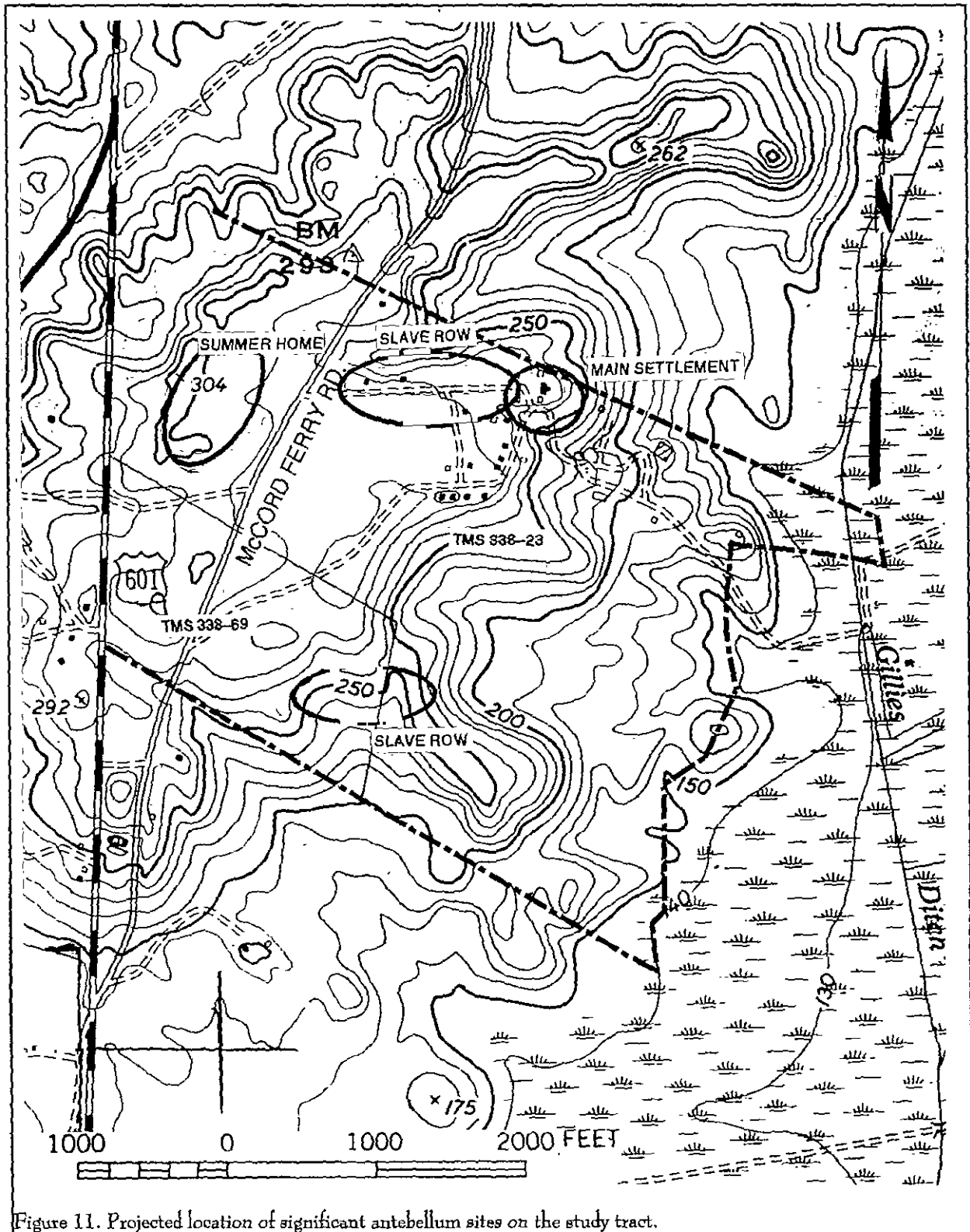


Figure 11. Projected location of significant antebellum sites on the study tract.

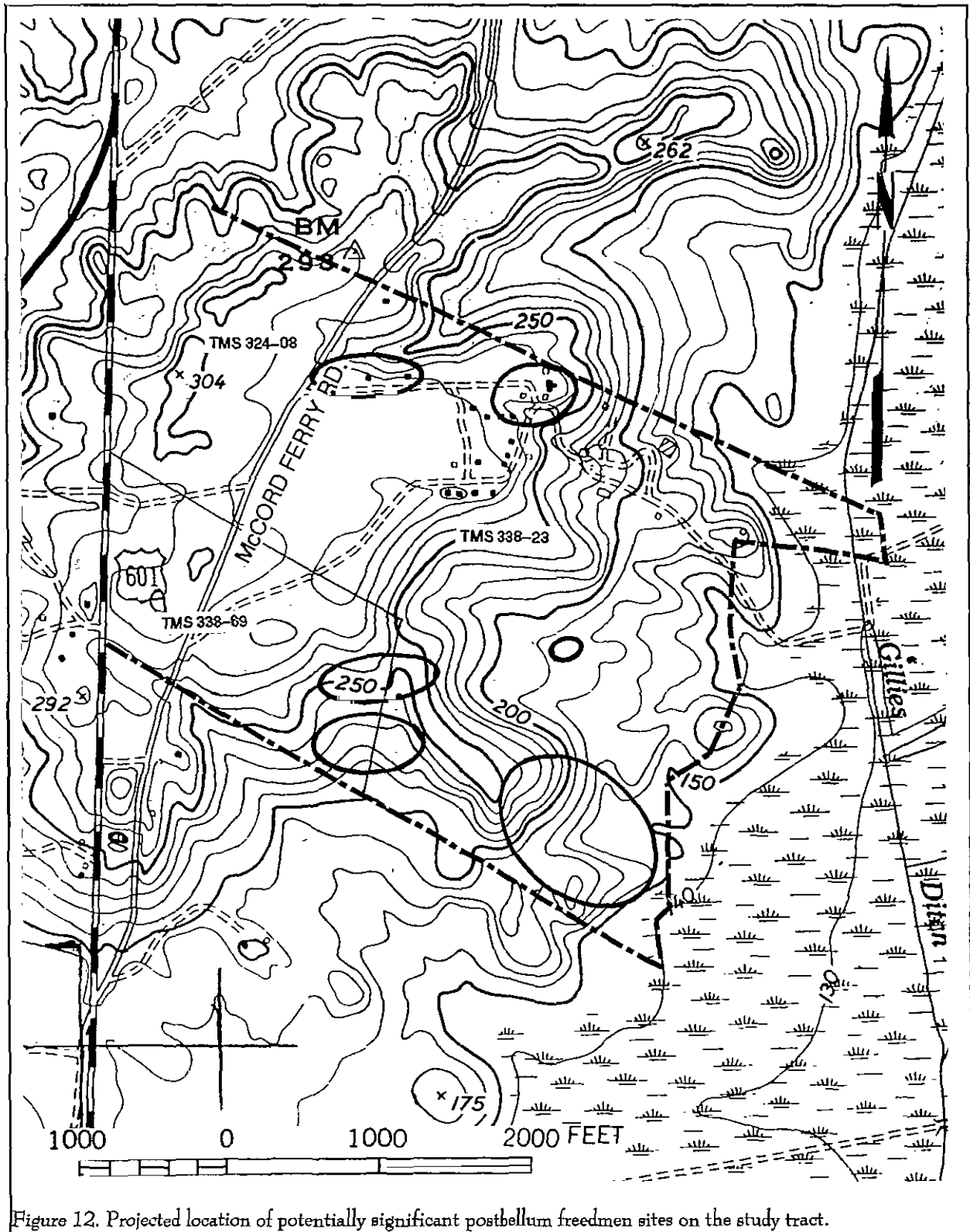


Figure 12. Projected location of potentially significant postbellum freedmen sites on the study tract.

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likely to be considered potentially eligible for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places. Since there appear to be a number of similar sites on the same tract, it is unlikely that all would have this level of significance. But this can be determined only through additional work.

Finally, twentieth century maps reveal that the dispersed tenant sites of the nineteenth century were dramatically reduced in numbers by the Great Depression. By the 1940s on, it appears that the number of workers on Pinder Hill had declined. Although settlements continue to be dispersed, they are much less common than projected for the 1870-1890 period. This is revealed by Figure 13.

The eligibility of these late sites is most problematical. They may, or may not, be potentially eligible for inclusion on the National Register, depending on their condition and the findings of additional historical research.

In sum, the available information reveals that the study tract contains a number of historic sites, including the core of an antebellum plantation (slave row and main settlement), a large collection of freedmen (freed slave) dwellings, and an early twentieth century assemblage. Many of these sites may likely eligible for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places. In other words, it is likely that at least some of these sites would be considered significant to the history of either Kershaw County or perhaps even South Carolina. Certainly some of the sites have considerable importance to our understanding of African American history.

Based on this there is strong rationale for recommending that the entire tract be intensively surveyed to identify these historic remains and assess their potential for inclusion on the National Register.

In spite of the seeming detail of the current historical research there are yet additional sources which may offer important historical information. For example, we have not explored any of the potential data sources for the antebellum period, such as agricultural or slave schedules, federal census records, or local archival collections for documents concerning the

McRaes or Langs. This research also failed to make use of the Camden Archives, which may contain yet additional information on the families and their activities on the Mulberry property, especially during the postbellum and early twentieth century. Records of the South Carolina Historical Society may also reveal additional materials. Early colonial material in the S.C. Department of Archives and History is also available and early plats may reveal additional information concerning historic settlement.

Consequently, depending on the intensity required, there are at least two to three weeks of additional historical research possible for the study tract. This is not to say that this much time is necessary, but is only meant to indicate that a broad range of additional documentation remains unexamined.

Furthermore, it is likely that there are individuals in the community who could contribute additional oral history concerning the study tract and its owners. These would include both members of the white and black communities, since it is essential for both to be represented in any historical synthesis of the tract.

Summary of Recommendations

This study was initially begun in an effort to provide the prospective developer with a greater degree of confidence concerning the tract and any cultural resource involvement. Although we have found out a great deal concerning the tract, it seems unlikely that this knowledge will increase the comfort level of any anticipating development of the tract. There are a great many historic resources potentially on the property and many of these resources should be considered significant.

This is not, however, to say that the tract should not be developed. Rather, we intend it to be a caution that additional work should be undertaken.

Lacking information on any federal, state, county, or municipal permits which may be necessary, we cannot comment on the probable requirement to conduct additional study. It is, however, possible that

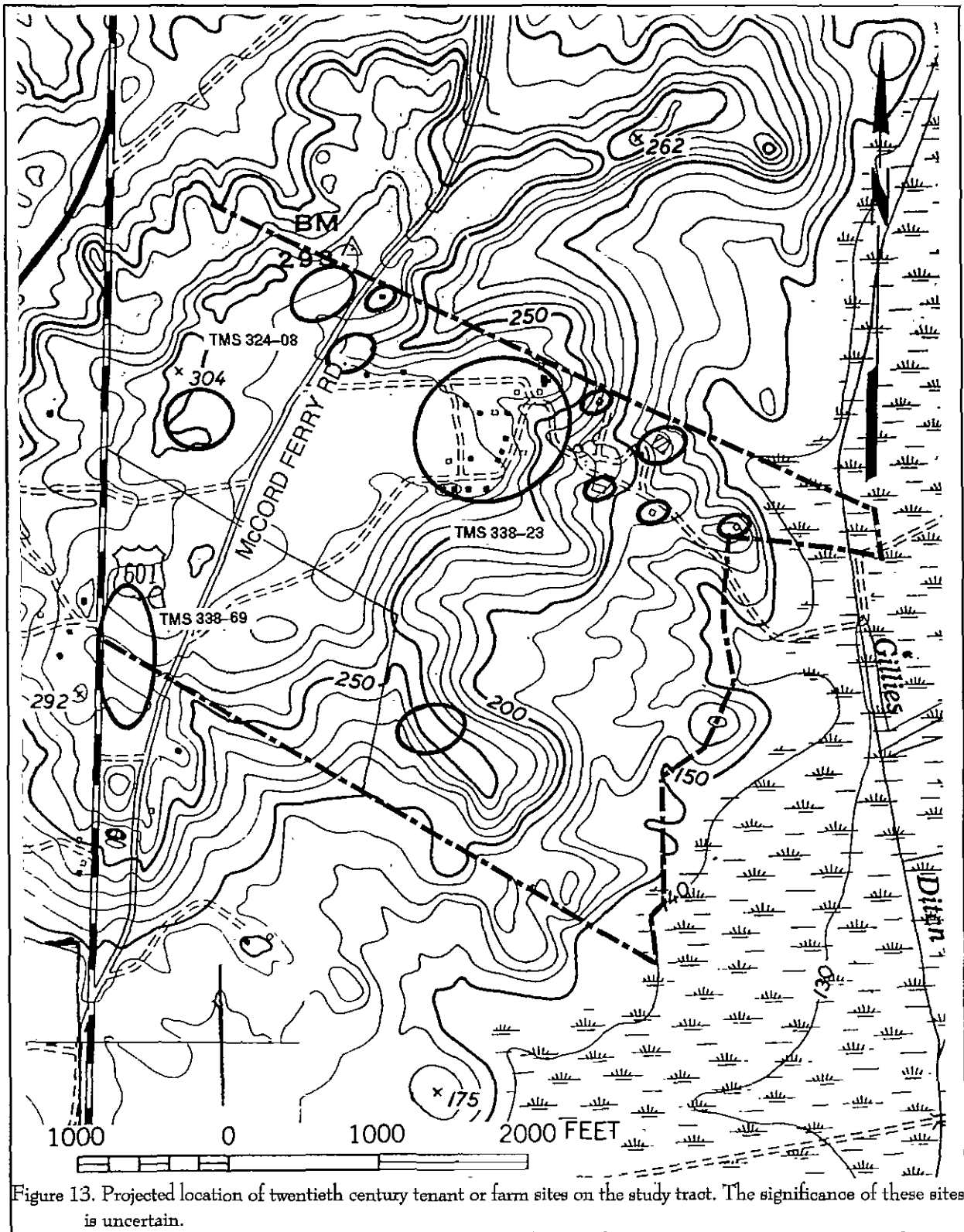


Figure 13. Projected location of twentieth century tenant or farm sites on the study tract. The significance of these sites is uncertain.

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anyone developing the property without additional study will needlessly expose themselves to critical public scrutiny.

As a result, the prospective company and the Kershaw County Development Office should consider additional investigations on the study tract.

Although additional historic research is possible — and is recommended — it should be preceded by a field investigation of the tract. While we believe that the intensity of such an investigation should be high and should cover the entire tract, we also realize that it will likely be dictated by the legal requirements to perform the study, based on permits which the new company may anticipate needing. In other words, if a state or federal permit is anticipated, it is likely that an intensive survey will be required by the permitting and/or reviewing agencies. On the other hand, if no such permits are required, and the company is interested in only exploring those areas most likely to contain significant sites (perhaps to help them plan to avoid the sites), then a less intensive examination may suffice.

Although relatively few companies have first hand experience integrating archaeological studies into development activities, there is a fear that archaeology will cause extensive delays. This is typically only the case when cultural resource issues have not been integrated early in the planning process. The new owners should be assured that most archaeological projects are conducted in weeks, not years, and are quickly and completely written up so that scheduled activities are not delayed. We would not want the owners to think that the identification of a National Register eligible archaeological site would prevent them from using their property — that is simply not the case.

Although cultural resource studies do have real costs, as a non-profit organization contributions for specific projects to Chicora Foundation may be tax deductible. This may help offer an additional incentive to conduct further investigations.

At a minimal level, this study suggests that additional historic research should be undertaken and field investigations should be conducted to identify the actual sites on the property and assess

their potential for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places. If the sites are not appropriate for inclusion on the National Register then no additional investigations (regardless of regulatory involvement) would be appropriate. If National Register eligible sites are found on the project tract, it may be possible to simply green space them — leaving them undisturbed as parks or wooded areas. Otherwise it may be appropriate to conduct excavations of the remains, collecting the important information and allowing development to take place.

Chicora Foundation representatives would be happy to discuss the implications of additional survey as well as the associated costs and time frames.

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