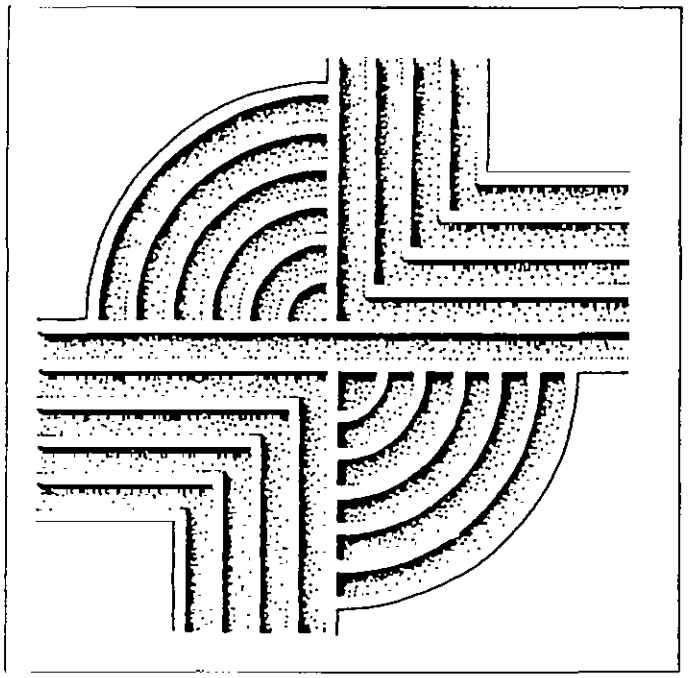
AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF THE 55 ACRE SECURITY CAPITAL TRACT, MOUNT PLEASANT, CHARLESTON COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA



CHICORA RESEARCH CONTRIBUTION 203

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF THE 55 ACRE SECURITY CAPITAL TRACT, CHARLESTON COUNTY, MOUNT PLEASANT, SOUTH CAROLINA

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Chicora Research Contribution 203

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ABSTRACT

This study presents the results of an intensive archaeological survey of 55 acres located northwest of the intersection of Mathis Ferry Road and von Kolnitz Road in Charleston County, Mount Pleasant, South Carolina. The purpose of this investigations is to locate any archaeological sites which may exist within the survey tract and evaluate them for their eligibility for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places.

Examination of the site files housed at the South Carolina Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology indicated that there were no sites within the survey tract. An inquiry was made to the South Carolina Department of Archives and History for any previous architectural surveys or the presence of an National Register properties, sites, districts, or objects.

The intensive archaeological survey of the 55 acre Security Capital tract failed to identify any archaeological sites or standing structures within the project area.

The survey, although hindered by a substantial growth of oak and pine understory, was able to access the majority of the property via survey lines cut by Southstar Surveying, Inc., of Mount Pleasant, South Carolina. The majority of the survey was conducted using their transects. The remainder was surveyed by compass using the dot plot map provided to the Chicora Foundation by Mr. Elliotte Quinn of Southstar Surveying, Inc. As a result, any future work by contractors should be especially alert for unrecorded archaeological remains, such as concentrations of bricks, historic ceramics, pottery, or arrowheads, and immediately report any of their discoveries to either their project archaeologist or the State Historic Preservation Office.

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INTRODUCTION

This survey was conducted by Mr. William B. Barr of Chicora Foundation, Inc. for Mr. Ken Smoak of Sabine and Waters. The project area is located in northwest Charleston County, along the northeast edge of the town of Mount Pleasant, South Carolina (Figure 1). The survey tract is bordered to the northeast by the Mark Clark Expressway (I-526) and to the southeast by the northern drainage of Shem Creek. The southwest boundary of the property is bordered by Von Kolntz Road and the northwest boundary by Mathis Ferry Road. A ten acre section in the south central portion of the survey tract, which includes the owner's residence and a large pond, was not included in this study.

Topography in the project area consists of gentle to moderately sloping terrain along with dense vegetation numerous fallen trees (Figure 3). A gradual slope east to a low lying marsh land associated with the Shem Creek drainage. A number of drainage ditches have been excavated throughout the survey tract in an effort to drain these areas (Figure 4). The vast majority of the survey tract was covered in dense 5 to 7 year old oak understory and farm pine. Both surface and lateral visibility in the tract was severely limited in these areas. Although a small area of ground in the northwest portion of the survey tract contained open ground, surface visibility in this section was limited as well.

The project area is currently proposed for a small housing development. As a result, we anticipate potential disturbance from clearing and grubbing, grading, construction of utilities and a road system, as well as construction of individual houses. This work has the potential to seriously damage any archaeological remains which may exist on the property. The current owner's property was excluded from the survey at the request of the company anticipating the purchase of the land.

This study was initiated to provide a detailed explanation of possible archaeological resources within the 55 acre tract. Chicora received a request for a budgetary proposal for an intensive survey on October 14, 1996. Our proposal, dated October 14, 1996, was accepted on November 18, 1996.

Ms. Rachel Brinson-Marrs examined the site files of the South Carolina Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology and no sites have been previously identified on the tract. A project area map was faxed to Dr. Tracy Powers of the S.C. Historic Preservation Office on November 19, 1996, with a request for information on any previous architectural surveys or the presence of any National Register sites, districts, properties, or objects in the project area. We were informed that no previously identified cultural resources had been discovered with the project boundaries.

The field investigations were undertaken by Chicora Research Archaeologist Mr. William B. Barr and archaeologist technician John D. Hamer on December 12-13, 1996. The report preparation took place at Chicora Foundation's offices in Columbia on December 19, 1996.

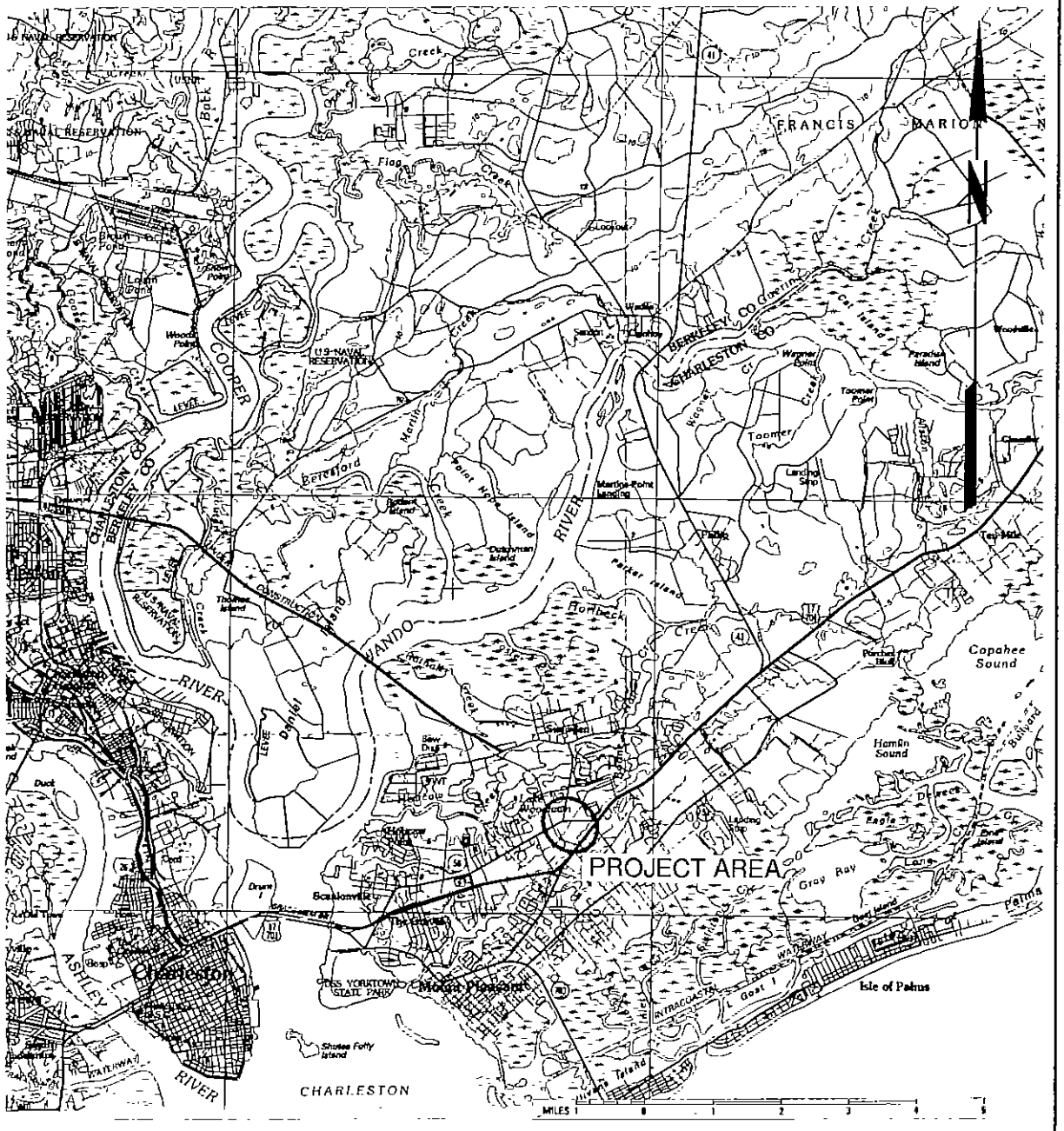

Figure 1. Location of the project area on the USGS 1:100,000 James Island, S.C. topographic map.

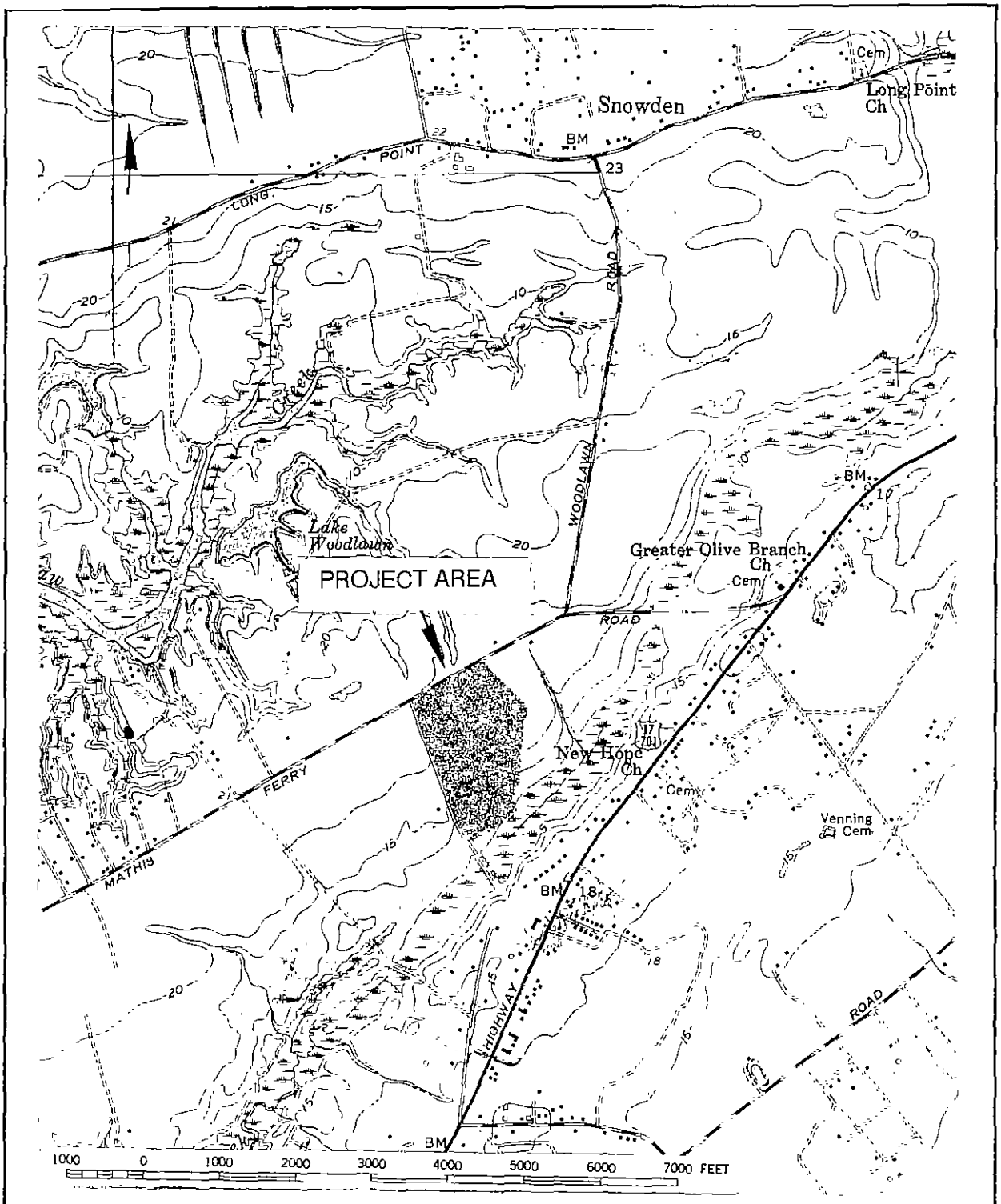

Figure 2. Location of the project area on the 1959 Fort Moultrie 7.5' USGS topographic map.

Figure 3. General view of vegetation and debris on northern portion of survey tract, looking to the west.

Figure 4. General view of drainage ditch and vegetation on southern portion of the survey tract, looking to the north.

NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

Charleston County is situated in the lower Atlantic Coastal Plain of South Carolina and is bounded to the east by the Atlantic Ocean and a series of marsh, barrier, and sea islands. It is bounded to the southwest by Colleton County, to the west by Dorchester County, to the northwest by Berkeley County, and to the northeast by Georgetown County. The mainland topography, which consists of subtle ridge and bay undulations, is characteristic of beach ridge plains.

Seven major drainages are found in Charleston County. Four of these, the Wando, Ashley, Stono, and North Edisto, are dominated by tidal flows and are saline. The Wando forms a portion of the County's interior boundary northeast of Charleston, while the Ashley flows west of the peninsular city of Charleston. The three with significant freshwater flow are the Santee, which forms the northern boundary of the County; the South Edisto, which forms the southern boundary; and the Cooper, which bisects the County.

Because of the low topography, many broad, low gradient interior drains are present as either extensions of the tidal rivers or as flooded bays and swales. Extensions include Hobcaw, Rathall, Foster, Horlbeck, Boone Hall, Wagner, Toomer, and Allton Creeks which flow west, north, or northeast into the Wando (see Figure 1).

The Charleston County area contains three major ecosystems: the maritime forest ecosystem which consists of the upland forest areas, the estuarine ecosystem of deep water tidal habitats, and the palustrine ecosystems which consist of essentially fresh water, non-tidal wetlands (Sandifer et al. 1980:7-9). The maritime forest ecosystem has been found to consist of five principal forest types, including the Oak-Pine forests, the Mixed Oak Hardwood forests, the Palmetto forests, the Oak thickets, and other miscellaneous wooded areas (such as salt marsh thickets and wax myrtle thickets). In some areas of Oak-Pine forests palmetto becomes an important sub-dominant. Typically, these forests are dominated by laurel oak and pine (primarily loblolly with minor amounts of longleaf pine). Hickory is present, although uncommon. Other trees found are the sweet gum and magnolia. The miscellaneous wooded areas include wax myrtle thickets found in low areas behind the dune fields. Mills in the early nineteenth century, remarked that:

> South Carolina is rich in native and exotic productions; the varieties of its soil, climate, and geological positions, afford plants of rare, valuable, and medicinal qualities; fruits of a luscious, refreshing, and nourishing nature; vines and shrubs of exquisite beauty, fragrence, and luxuriance, and forest trees of noble growth, in great variety (Mills 1972 [1826]:66).

Elevations in the county range from sea level along the coast to about 70 feet above mean sea level (AMSL) in the interior (Miller 1971:74). The project area is characterized by elevations ranging from 5 to 21 feet above mean sea level (AMSL). There is a slight to moderate rolling topography throughout the area, but in general elevations drop from the northwest to the southeast.

The soils in Charleston County are characterized by unconsolidated sedimentary deposits of very recent age, primarily Pleistocene and Holocene. They are found lying uncomfortably on more ancient crystalline rocks which are rarely exposed by nature (Cooke 1936; Miller 1971:74). The soils formed from these Holocene and Pleistocene deposits were typically laid down in various stages of coastal submergence. Soil formation is affected by the parent material (primarily sands and clays), the temperate climate,

the various soil organisms, the flat topography of the area, and time. Mills describes the soils as being poor for cultivation. He states:

> [t]here is a number of what are called savannahs, bays, and cypress ponds in the flat parts of the country. The first are a kind of meadow, without a tree or a shrub, delightfully green, and having generally a good looking soil; yet afterall this spacious appearance, the planters deem them not worth cultivating or enclosing (Mills 1972 [1826]:744)

The soils in the project area are part of the Kiawah-Seabrook-Dawhoo association. This association is characterized by well drained to very poorly drained sandy soils. The soils in the project area range from somewhat poorly drained to excessively to well drained loamy fine sands, forming alternating southwest-northeast bands across the tract. These provide evidence of the remnant ridge and trough topography characteristic of the region.

Somewhat poorly drained Kiawah loamy sands dominates the northern portion of the tract, adjacent to Mathis Ferry Road. To the south is a band of moderately well drained Seabrook loamy sands as the topography slightly increases elevation. A band of well drained Wando loamy sands is found in the central portion of the survey. At the southern edge of the study area is a small "island" of Seabrook soils, wedged between the Wando soils to the north and the very poorly drained Stono fine sandy loams to the south, along the edge of the powerline corridor (Miller 1971:Map 45).

The Wando soils are characterized by an Ap horizon of dark brown (10YR4/3) sand about 1.0 in depth overlying a C horizon of brown (7.5YR5/4) sand. These soils are very dry, very well drained, and very deep. In contrast, the Stono soils have an A1 (or possibly Ap) horizon of black (10YR2/1) sandy loam about 0.8 to 0.9 foot in depth overlying an A2 horizon, also of black loamy sand, to a depth of about 1.5 feet. There is no appreciable change until the B21tg horizon, where the soil color changes to a very dark gray (10YR3/1). The Stono soils have a frequent high water table and can be cultivated only through extensive ditching and drainage.

In contrast to the vegetation found today, aerial photos show that in the early 1970s approximately 38 acres or 69% of the property was cleared, probably for cultivation. At the time of the Mark Clark survey (Trinkley and Tippett 1980) the project area was often planted in tomatoes and other truck crops.

BACKGROUND RESEARCH

Previous Archeology

A tremendous amount of archaeological research has been performed in Charleston County. These investigations range from prehistoric shell midden sites (Edwards 1965, Trinkley 1981) to historic period shipyards, military fortifications, and urban development (South 1975, Lewis 1982, Zierden 1987, Barr 1996b, Trinkley 1996b). A large amount of this work has been conducted at the survey level and consists of work associated with highway projects (Trinkley 1980, 1982; Roberts 1986). Other projects consist of power transmission line surveys (Wood 1977), and cultural resource management studies (Wise 1987). Presently there are over 1,550 sites recorded in the county. This is in sharp contrast to counties like Sumter where there are approximately 190 sites recorded.

Of primary interest to the current survey are investigations related to the construction of the Mark Clark Expressway (I-526) conducted in 1978 by the South Carolina Department of Highways and Public Transportation (Trinkley 1978b; Trinkley and Tippet 1980) and the resulting investigations from that survey (Brockington et al. 1985). As a results of these investigations 53 sites were located. Of these 53, three sites, 38CH330, 38CH332, and 38CH397, were recommended for further testing. These were small scatters of late nineteenth or early twentieth century artifacts typical of what might be termed "tenant" sites. Although all three of these sites were investigated in 1984, only two, 38CH330 and 38CH332, are of particular relevance to the current study.

Testing was conducted in 1984 at two (38CH330 and 38CH332) of the 53 sites where cultural materials were recovered during the initial Mark Clark Expressway corridor study (Trinkley and Tippet 1980).[1] These sites lie approximately 2 miles north of the project area. Site 38CH330 represents a late nineteenth to early twentieth century artifact scatter. Although 23 five-foot square units were excavated, only 434 artifacts were recovered (Brockington et al. 1985:106). The limits of the site "could not be established . . . [and] no clear patterns indicating areas of occupation, use, or discard could be identified (Brockington et al. 1985:106). Site 38CH332 is representative of a late nineteenth to mid-twentieth century historic scatter. Although a number of five-foot square units were excavated, the vast majority of artifacts recovered from these investigations were associated with a barn and fence lines associated with cattle operations conducted at the site in the mid-1950s (Brockington et al. 1985:139).

Archaeological investigations were conducted in 1992 by Chicora Foundation at the Seaside Farms tract in Mount Pleasant (Trinkley 1996b). Located approximately 1.5 miles east of the current survey, these investigations found a total of six sites, three prehistoric (38CH1466, 38CH1474, and 38CH1475) and three historic (38CH1471, 38CH1473, and 38CH1477) (Trinkley 1996b:1). Although only the historic sites are covered in these investigations, they document a clear pattern of land use by small independent farmers within the parish over time.

Not only do the results of these investigations reveal the "relative poverty of Christ Church [Parish] throughout its history" (Trinkley 1996b:95), they also document the development of truck farming as a viable commercial enterprise for the residents of Mount Pleasant.

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[1]At the time of the investigations, these areas were still being used for truck farming operations. The fields were specifically being planted in cucumbers (Brockington et al. 1985:97, 129).

The presence of these sites so near the present survey location would indicate the possibility of cultural resources being present in the 55 acre Security Capital tract. It would seem reasonable to suggest that prehistoric and historic period sites (i.e., nineteenth and twentieth century sites), will be found in similar settings, at least in southeastern Charleston County.

Prehistoric Synopsis

The Paleoindian period, lasting from 12,000 to 8,000 B.C., is evidenced by basally thinned, side notched projectile points, fluted lanceolate projectile points, side scrapers, end scrapers, and drills (Coe 1964; Michie 1977; Williams 1968). The Paleoindian occupation, while widespread, does not appear to have been intensive. Artifacts are most frequently found along major river drainages, which Michie interprets to support the concept of an economy "oriented towards the exploitation of now extinct mega-fauna" (Michie 1977:124).

The Archaic period, which dates from 8000 to about 1000 B.C., does not form a sharp break with the Paleoindian period, but is a slow transition characterized by a modern climate and an increase in the diversity of material culture. Associated with this is a reliance on a broad spectrum of small mammals, although the white tailed deer was likely the most commonly exploited animal. The chronology established by Coe (1964) for the North Carolina Piedmont may be applied with relatively little modification to the South Carolina coastal plain and Piedmont. Archaic period assemblages, characterized by corner-notched and broad stemmed projectile points, are fairly common, perhaps because the swamps and drainages offered especially attractive ecotones.

The two primary Middle Archaic phases found in the coastal plain are the Morrow Mountain and Guilford (the Stanley and Halifax complexes, identified by Coe are rarely encountered). Our best information on the Middle Woodland comes from sites investigated west of the Appalachian Mountains, such as the work in the Little Tennessee River Valley. The work at Middle Archaic river valley sites, with their evidence of a diverse floral and faunal subsistence base, seems to stand in stark contrast to Caldwell's Middle Archaic "Old Quartz Industry" of Georgia and South Carolina where axes, choppers, and ground and polished stone tools are very rare. Recent work by Gunn and Wilson (1993) identified a Middle Woodland site in Chesterfield County on an upland margin which appears to have been occupied during the fall of the year.

The Late Archaic is characterized by the appearance of large, square stemmed Savannah River projectile points (Coe 1964). These people continued the intensive exploitation of the uplands much like earlier Archaic groups. The bulk of our information for this period, however, comes from work in the Uwharrie region of North Carolina.

To some the Woodland period begins, by definition, with the introduction of fired clay pottery about 2000 B.C. along the South Carolina coast (the introduction of pottery, and hence the beginning of the Woodland period, occurs much later in the Piedmont of South Carolina). To others, the period from about 2500 to 1000 B.C. falls into the Late Archaic because of a perceived continuation of the Archaic lifestyle in spite of the manufacture of pottery. Regardless of the terminology, the period from 2500 to 1000 B.C. is well documented on the South Carolina coast and is characterized by Stallings (fiber-tempered) pottery (see Figure 5 for a synopsis of Woodland phases and pottery designations). The subsistence economy during this early period on the coast of South Carolina was based primarily on deer hunting, fishing, and shellfish collection, with supplemental inclusions of small mammals, birds, and reptiles.

Like the Stallings settlement pattern, Thom's Creek sites are found in a variety of environmental zones and take on several forms. Thom's Creek sites are found throughout the South Carolina Coastal Zone, Coastal Plain, and up to the Fall Line. The sites are found into the North Carolina Coastal Plain, but do not appear to extend southward into Georgia.

In the Coastal Plain drainage of the Savannah River there is a change of settlement,

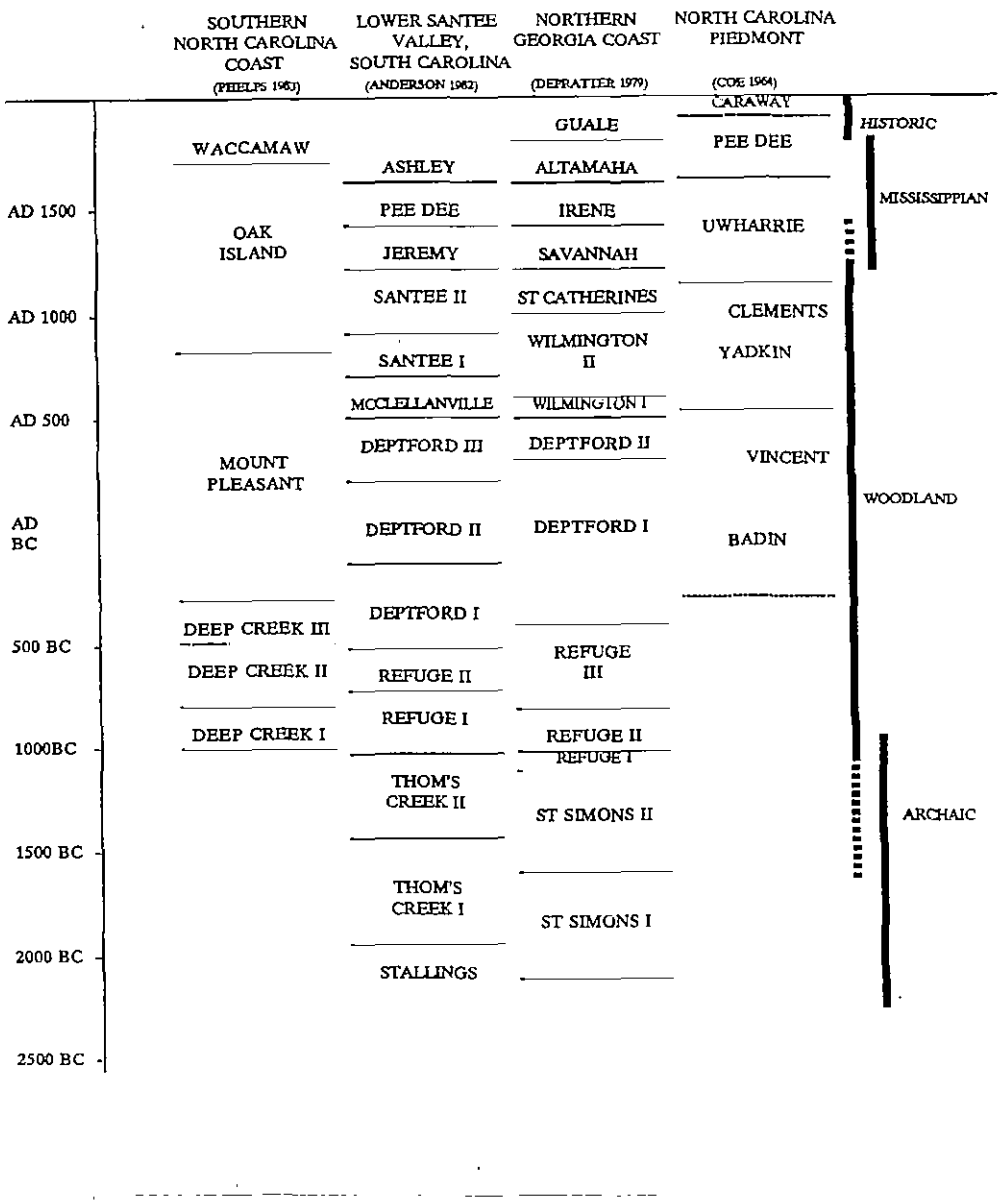

Figure 5. Woodland Period phases in the South Carolina locality.

and probably subsistence, away from the riverine focus found in the Stalling Phase (Hanson 1982:13; Stoltman 1974:235-236). Thom's Creek sites are more commonly found in the upland areas and lack evidence of intensive shellfish collection. In the Coastal Zone large, irregular shell middens; small sparse shell midden; and large "shell rings" are found in the Thom's Creek settlement system.

The Deptford phase, which dates from 1100 B.C. to A.D. 600, is best characterized by fine to coarse sandy paste pottery with a checked stamped surface treatment. The Deptford settlement pattern involves both coastal and inland sites.

Inland sites, such as 38AK228-W, 38LX5, 38RD60, and 38BM40 indicate the presence of an extensive Deptford occupation on the Fall Line and the Coastal Plain, although sandy, acidic soils preclude statements on the subsistence base (Trinkley 1978a, 1980). These interior or upland Deptford sites, however are strongly associated with the swamp terrace edge, and this environment is productive not only in nut masts, but also in large mammals such as deer. Perhaps the best data concerning Deptford "base camps" comes from the Lewis-West site (38AK228-W), where evidence of abundant food remains, storage pit features, elaborate material culture, mortuary behavior, and craft specialization has been reported (Sassaman et al. 1990:96-98)

Throughout much of the Coastal Zone and Coastal Plain north of Charleston, a somewhat different cultural manifestation is observed, related to the "Northern Tradition" (e.g., Caldwell 1958). This recently identified assemblage has been termed Deep Creek and was first identified from northern North Carolina sites (Phelps 1983). The Deep Creek assemblage is characterized by pottery with medium to coarse sand inclusions and surface treatments of cord marking, fabric impressing, simple stamping, and net impressing. Much of this material has been previously designated as the Middle Woodland "Cape Fear" pottery originally typed by South (1960). The Deep Creek wares date from about 1000 B.C. to A.D. 1 in North Carolina, but may date later in South Carolina. The Deep Creek settlement and subsistence systems are poorly known, but appear to be very similar to those identified with the Deptford phase.

The Deep Creek assemblage strongly resembles Deptford both typologically and temporally. It appears this northern tradition of cord and fabric impressions was introduced and gradually accepted by indigenous South Carolina populations. During this time some groups continued making only the older carved paddle-stamped pottery, while others mixed the two styles, and still others (and later all) made exclusively cord and fabric stamped wares.

The Middle Woodland in South Carolina is characterized by a pattern of settlement mobility and short-term occupations. On the southern coast they are associated with the Wilmington phase, while on the northern coast it is recognized by the presence of Hanover, McClellanville or Santee, and Mount Pleasant assemblages. The best data concerning Middle Woodland Coastal Zone assemblages comes from Phelps' (1983:32-33) work in North Carolina. Associated items include a small variety of the Roanoke Large Triangular points (Coe 1964:110-111), sandstone gorgets, celts, and woven marsh mats. Significantly, both primary inhumations and cremations are found.

On the Coastal Plain of South Carolina, researchers are finding evidence of a Middle Woodland Yadkin assemblage, best known from Coe's work at the Doerschuk site in North Carolina (Coe 1964:25-26). Yadkin pottery is characterized by a crushed quartz temper and cord marked, fabric impressed, and linear check stamped surface treatments. The Yadkin ceramics are associated with medium-sized triangular points, although Oliver (1981) suggests that a continuation of the Piedmont Stemmed Tradition to at least A.D. 300 coexisted with this Triangular Tradition. The Yadkin series in South Carolina was first observed by Ward (1978, 1983) from the White's Creek drainage in Marlboro County, South Carolina. Since then, a large Yadkin village has been identified by DePratter at the Dunlap site (38DA66) in Darlington County, South Carolina (Chester DePratter, personal communication 1985) and Blanton et al. (1986) have excavated a small Yadkin site (38SU83) in Sumter County, South

Carolina. Anderson et al. (1982:299-302) offer additional assessments of the Yadkin wares in South Carolina.

These Middle Woodland Coastal Plain and Coastal Zone phases continue the Early Woodland Deptford pattern of mobility. While sites are found all along the coast and inland to the Fall Line, shell midden sites evidence sparse shell and artifacts. Gone are the abundant shell tools, worked bone items, and clay balls. Recent investigations at Coastal Zone sites such as 38BU747 and 38BU1214, however, have provided some evidence of worked bone and shell items at Deptford phase middens (see Trinkley 1990).

In many respects the South Carolina Late Woodland may be characterized as a continuation of previous Middle Woodland cultural assemblages. While outside the Carolinas there were major cultural changes, such as the continued development and elaboration of agriculture, the Carolina groups settled into a lifeway not appreciably different from that observed for the previous 500 to 700 years (cf. Sassaman et al. 1990:14-15). This situation would remain unchanged until the development of the South Appalachian Mississippian complex (see Ferguson 1971).

The South Appalachian Mississippian period (ca. A.D. 1100 to 1640) is the most elaborate level of culture attained by the native inhabitants and is followed by cultural disintegration brought about largely by European disease. The period is characterized by complicated stamped pottery, complex social organization, agriculture, and the construction of temple mounds and ceremonial centers. The earliest phases are include the Savannah and the Pee Dee (A.D. 1200 to 1550)

Historic Synopsis

The English established the first permanent settlement in what is today South Carolina in 1670 on the banks of the Ashley River. Like other European powers, the English were lured to the New World for reasons other than the acquisition of land and promotion of agriculture. The Lord Proprietors, who owned the colony until 1719-1720, intended to discover a staple crop whose marketing would provide great wealth through the mercantile system.

By 1680, the settlers of Albemarle Point had moved their village across the bay to the tip of the peninsula formed by the Ashley and Cooper rivers. This new settlement at Oyster Point would become modern-day Charleston. The move provided not only a more healthful climate and an area of better defense, but:

> [t]he cituation of this Town is so convenient for public Commerce that it rather seems to be the design of some skillful Artist than the accidental position of nature (Mathews 1954:153).

The earliest settlers came from the English West Indies, other mainland colonies, England, and the European continent. It has been argued that those from the English West Indies were the most critical to the future of the colony, as they brought with them a strong agrarian concept, involving both staple crops and, especially, slave labor (Sirmans 1966).

Early agricultural experiments which involved olives, grapes, silkworms, and oranges were less than successful. Ironically, it was often the climate which precluded successful results. While the Indian trade was profitable to many of the Carolina colonists, it did not provide the proprietors with the wealth they were expecting from the new colony. While ranching offered quick, and relatively easy, cash, the proprietors resisted such efforts, realizing that the profits they would reap were far smaller than possible from the mercantile system. Consequently, the cultivation of cotton, rice, tobacco, and flax were stressed as these were staple crops whose marketing the proprietors could easily monopolize.

Although four counties, Berkeley, Craven, Colleton, and Granville, were created by the Proprietors between 1682 and 1685, the Anglican parishes, established in 1706, became the local unit of political administration. Christ Church, situated

immediately east of Charleston and confined by the sea shore on one side and the Wando River on the other, was closely aligned with Charleston throughout its history. While Charleston County was created toward the end of the colonial period in 1768, the division of Christ Church remained a significant social, as well as political, unit into the late nineteenth century (see Gregorie 1961 for further information on the social and religious influence of the parish).

South Carolina's economic development during the pre-Revolutionary War period involved a complex web of interactions between slaves, planters, and merchants. By 1710 slaves outnumbered free people in South Carolina. While Christ Church Parish was sparsely populated, it, too, was dominated by African American slaves. By the 1730s slaves were beginning to be concentrated on a few, large slave-holding plantations. At the close of the eighteenth century some South Carolina planters had a ratio of slaves to whites that was 27:1 (Morgan 1977). Although over half of eastern South Carolina's white population held slaves, few held very large numbers. The Charleston area had a slave population greater than 50% of the total population by 1790. This imbalance between the races, particularly on remote plantations, may have lead to greater "freedom" and mobility (Friedlander in Wheaton et al. 1983:34).[2] By the antebellum period this trend was less extreme.

Christ Church was the scene of relatively little economic development during the late colonial period. Zierden and Calhoun note that:

> Charleston was the economic, institutional and social center of the surrounding region. The necessity of transacting business in Charleston drew planters eager to transform their crops into cash or goods . . . it [was] virtually imperative for a planter interested in society to reside in Charleston at least occasionally (Zierden and Calhoun 1984:36).

They argue that Charleston provided an opportunity for conspicuous consumption, a mechanism which allowed the display of wealth accumulated from the plantation system (with this mechanism continuing through the antebellum period). Scardaville (in Brockington et al. 1985:45) notes that the plantation system which brought prosperity through the export of staple crops also "made the colony . . . highly vulnerable to outside market and political forces.

The most obvious example is the economic hardship brought on by the American Revolution. Not only was the Charleston area the scene of many military actions, but Charleston itself was occupied by the British for over 2 years between 1780 and 1782. The loss of royal bounties on naval stores, rice, and indigo caused considerable economic chaos with the eventual "restructuring of the state's agricultural and commercial base" (Brockington et al. 1985:34).

One means of restructuring was the emergence of cotton as the principal cash crop. Although "upland" cotton was available as early as 1733, its ascendancy was ensured by the industrial revolution, the invention of the cotton gin in 1794, and the availability of slave labor. While "Sea Island" cotton was already being efficiently cleaned, the spread of cotton was primarily in the South Carolina interior. Consequently, Charleston benefited primarily through its role as a commercial center.

While the wealthiest farms were those on the sea islands producing cotton (such as Edisto Island where the value of the average plantation was over $44,000), plantations in Christ Church (as well as other inland, non-cotton producing areas) had an average value of around $7,300. Christ Church Parish grew only 1.7% of the districts cotton, although it formed 10.1% of the improved acreage. An examination of the agricultural schedules for the Charleston area in 1850 and 1860 provides evidence for this economic slump.

[2]Recent studies at Strawberry Ferry in Berkeley County, South Carolina have found that slaves had an immense amount of freedom, contrary to law, to travel alone, in groups, and by horseback. (see Barr 1996a).

Scardaville (in Brockington et al. 1985:39-40) notes that produce, farm, and livestock values for Christ Church Parish were below what would be expected and outputs of many crops had decreased over time. But most significantly, rice was no longer an economically significant crop, production dropping by over 81% from 1850 to 1860.

The Christ Church Parish response to the reduction in rice was a shift to ranching and livestock production as a substitute. Between 1850 and 1860 the value of livestock increased by 120%, corn increased by 44%, and wool production increased by 126% (Scardaville in Brockington et al. 1985:41). It seems clear that Christ Church was engaged in a gradual shift from monocropping to truck farming. Its unique location at the door step of Mount Pleasant and Charleston allowed Christ Church to focus its agricultural pursuits on the needs of an expanding urban market.

An appropriate summary is provided by Zierden and Calhoun:

> [t]he economic decline of Charleston occurred as the city was growing increasingly defensive of its "peculiar institution." The city sullenly withdrew into itself, eschewing the present and glorifying its past. The great fire of 1861 devastated much of downtown Charleston. The War between the States . . . set the seal on a social and economic era (Zierden and Calhoun 1984:54).

While the fortifications and numerous battles fought around John's, James, and Folly islands during the Civil War are well known, the other defenses of Charleston are perhaps less understood. One author has suggested that, "it is doubtful if any city in the Confederacy had more or stronger defenses than those around Charleston" (Burton 1971:132). In Christ Church Parish, about five miles north of Mount Pleasant, the Confederate forces built a line running from the headwaters of the Wando River to the Atlantic Ocean marshes. It was terminated at the "sea shore" end with a major fortification.

It was not until 1865, at the very end of the war, that this line was "tested". A Union assault on Bull's Bay was begun on February 13, although weather, poor planning, and shallow water prevented the landing until February 17, when the troops were put ashore at Graham's Creek near Buck Hall Plantation, several miles northeast of the line. It was that same day that Confederate forces retreated from Charleston and the assault on Bull's Bay accomplished little other than preventing the Confederate troops from marching north to Georgetown (Burton 1971:316).

After the Civil War Charleston and the surrounding countryside lay in waste. Plantation houses were destroyed, the city was in near ruins, 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 Goldenwieser and Truesdale (1924).

Beginning shortly after the Civil War, truck farming became one of the primary agricultural activities of Christ Church farmers. The combination of soil fertility, climate, and proximity gave truck farming an edge in the effort to supply Charleston with produce. As early as 1873 it was noted:

> the cultivation of garden produce for export in the neighborhood of Charleston, was not pursued as an occupation previously to the years 1865 or 1866. [Recently,] there are a large class of farmers & planters in St. Andrew's and Christ Church Parishes . . . who, in connection with a crop of Sea Island cotton, grow vegetable for export (Charleston Chamber of Commerce 1873:32-33).

By the 1890s, the importance of truck farming to Christ Church Parish was recognized by the State Board of Agriculture and the Charleston

Chamber of Commerce (Brockington et al. 1985:69). A number of factors were considered by these boosters in their push to expand this industry. These included ease of transportation, climate, availability of fertilizer and market conditions (Brockington et al. 1985:70-71). The average size of these farming operations "ranged between 22 and 25 acres, with several containing as much as 50 to 60 acres (Brockington et al. 1985:72). Although there was a drop in production values between the turn of the century and World War II, as can be seen from the Brockington et al. (1985) study, a number of truck farming operations in Mount Pleasant continued to produce vegetables into the late twentieth century.

FIELD METHODS

The initially proposed field investigations involved essentially two techniques. We intended to conduct a visual inspection of plowed fields evidencing good surface visibility with opportunistic shovel tests to verify surface indications and soil conditions. We would also excavate shovel tests at 100 foot intervals in those areas where visible inspection was not possible. Given the size of the survey tract, we anticipated treating the entire project as a high probability area for archaeological resources and did not anticipate conducting any tests at 200 foot intervals.

Should sites be identified either by shovel testing or surface inspection, further tests would be used to obtain data on site boundaries, artifact quantity and diversity, site integrity, and temporal affiliation. The information required for completion of South Carolina Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology site forms would be collected and photographs would be taken, if warranted by the field director. For this survey, an archaeological site was defined as three or more artifacts within a 200 foot area. Modern garbage (dating to the past fifty years) would be disregarded unless associated with earlier remains.

All soil would be screened through ¼-inch mesh, with each test numbered sequentially. Each test would measure about 1 foot square and would normally be taken to subsoil. All cultural remains would be collected, except for shell, mortar, and brick, and would be quantitatively noted in the field and discarded. Note would be maintained for profiles at any sites encountered.

These field methods were put into effect with only minor deviations (Figure 8). We found the project tract to be heavily overgrown with planted pine and herbaceous vegetation (see, for example, Figure 3). There were also a large number of downed pines, which further hindered mobility. Fortunately, access to the majority of the property was provided via survey lines cut by Southstar Surveying, Inc., of Mount Pleasant, South Carolina. The majority of the survey was conducted using their transects. While these transects provided open tunnels allowing shoveling testing, visibility was still very limited and it is possible that standing remains as close as 25 feet away might not have been visible. Areas which lacked cut transects, were examined by compass using the map provided to Chicora Foundation by Mr. Elliotte Quinn of Southstar Surveying, Inc. In these areas we cut our own transects.

The survey tract also provided no areas of cleared ground, so no pedestrian survey was conducted. The entire project area was subjected to shovel testing.

In addition, we found several areas, primarily on the southern edge of the tract, which contained standing water or water within the first several inches of shovel tests (see, for example, Figure 4). These areas were evaluated to have a low potential for prehistoric or historic occupation and shovel testing was terminated or reduced to 200-foot intervals.

Field notes have been prepared for curation using archival standards and will be transferred to the South Carolina Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology as soon as the project is complete.

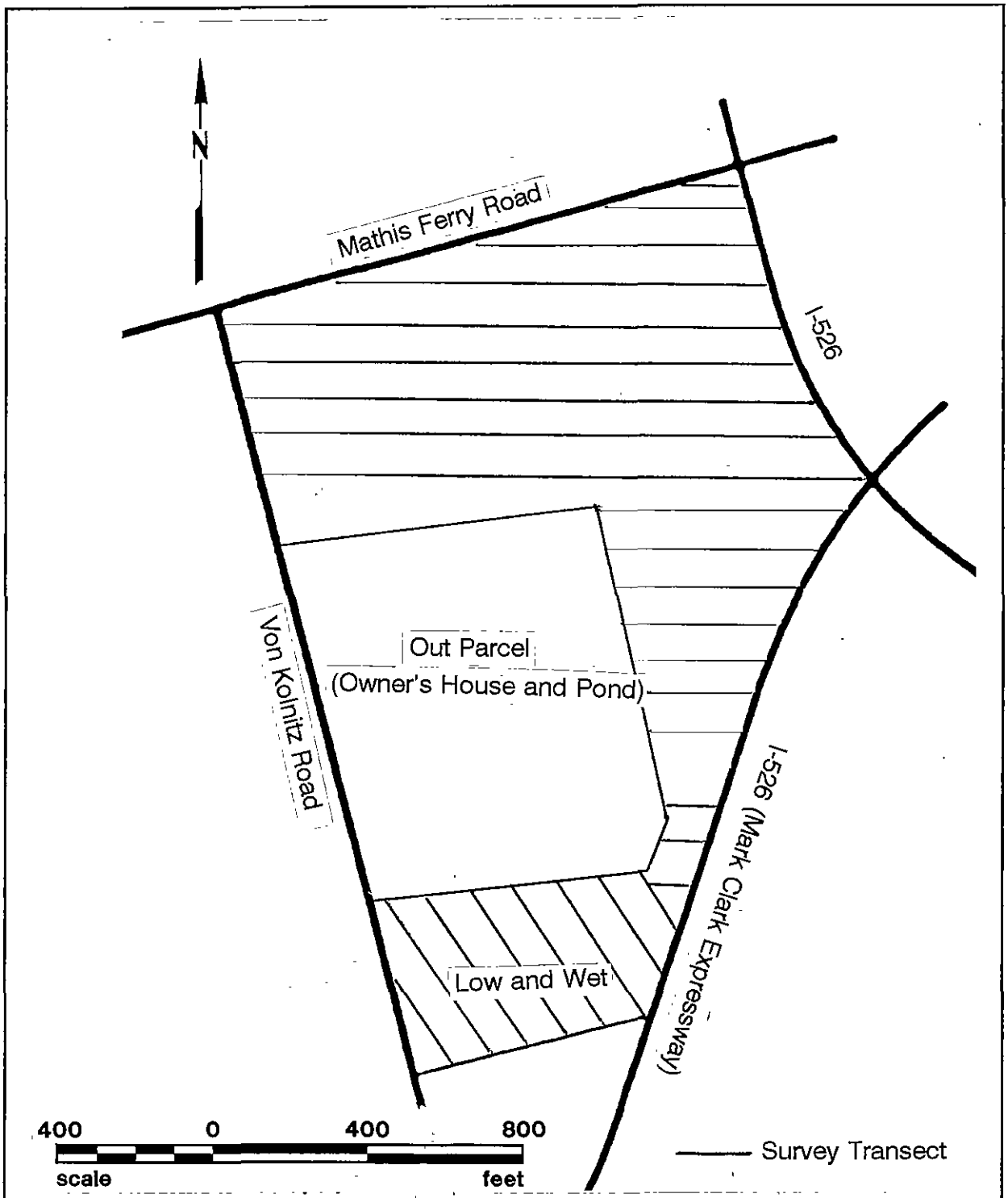

Figure 6. Sketch map showing Security Capital survey tract with transects.

RESULTS AND CONCLUSIONS

No cultural resources were encountered in the project area. Topographically, the survey area was found to be gently sloping to the east and south. The southern portion of the tract, just north of the Shem Creek drainage, contained standing water and a marsh-like environments.

It was anticipated that some prehistoric occupation of the tract might be expected in the form of small lithic scatters, particularly on slight knolls. Although such landforms were found, they are apparently situated too far away from food resources or the Shem Creek drainage was too small to attract occupation. In either case, no sites were found associated with these small knolls.

Historic occupation was undoubtedly limited by the steep slopes and absence of nearby water. As seen in the **Historical Background** section Christ Church Parish contained no industrial base. The residents of the parish were small farmers with generally small numbers of slaves and small acreages. After the Civil War agricultural activities focused on truck farming. Although some portions of the survey tract were likely too wet and low-lying to be easily cultivated, we also identified no historic settlements in the immediate area.

Of equal importance to our understanding of occupation in the survey area is the evidence we encountered of significant overall turbation of the soil. The eastern section of the survey tract was very disturbed. The large number of downed trees (some 3-feet in diameter) and the presence of 5 to 7 year old farm pines, as well as the general disruption in the topography, would suggest logging operations, perhaps associated with Hurricane Hugo damage (see Figure 3). This area was heavily wooded according to aerial photos from the 1970s. The central portion of the survey tract was clear at the time of the aerial photos and there is evidence of soil mixing as well as plow scars. As well, large sections of the central portion of the survey tract contained black plastic visqueen on the surface. Black visqueen is often used in farming operations where vegetables are being grown in the late fall and early spring. The soils in this area Seabrook soils. Normally the soils in the this series are a very dark grayish brown (10YR3/2). Although some soils are similar in color (dark grayish brown, 10YR4/2) the majority of shovel tests in this area contained soils that were dark yellowish brown (10YR4/6). These soil colors continued to be in evidence from Transect 9 (in the northern third of the study area) to the southern edge of the survey tract.

Numerous drainage ditches, approximately 6 feet wide and 3 feet deep, have been excavated throughout the survey tract (see Figure 4). Good drainage in this area continues to be a problem even today. It is suspected that these drainages are related to farming operations conducted on the tract in the past.

While we see no reason to conduct any further investigations in the project area, it is possible that archaeological remains may be encountered during any future clear cutting or landscaping activities. Construction crews should be advised to report any discoveries of concentrations of artifacts (such as bottles, ceramics, or projectile points) or brick rubble to the project engineer, who should in turn report the material to the South Carolina State Historic Preservation Office or to the client's archaeologist. No construction should take place in the vicinity of these late discoveries until they have been examined by an archaeologist.

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