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Project: Stono View Subdivision

Project Sponsor: Horner, Eelman & Gearhart Engineering Consultants

Agency and Permit Number: None given

Project Location: Johns Island in Charleston County, South Carolina (Figure 1).

Field Personnel: Julie Poppell and Nicole Southerland

Date of Survey: March 10, 2005



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

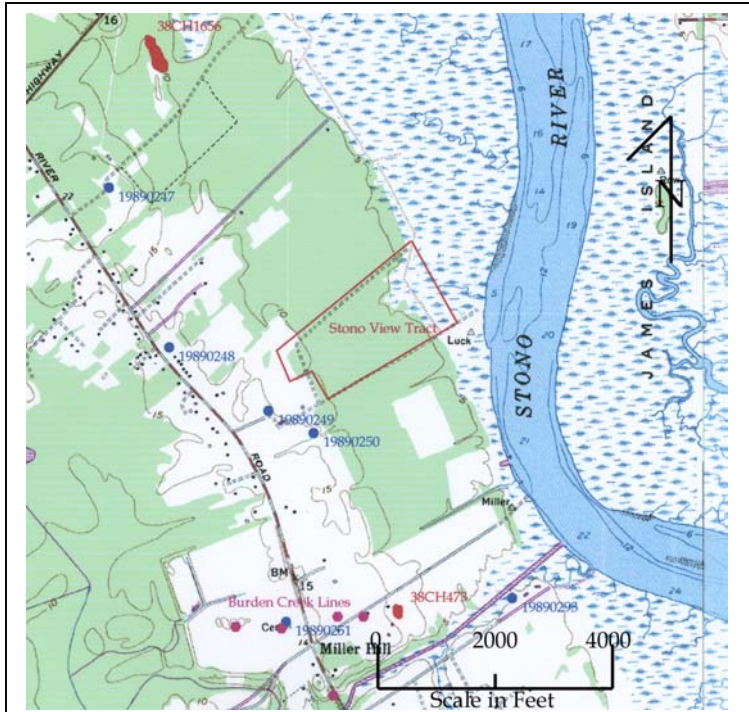


Figure 2. Project area with previously identified archaeological (red), architectural sites (blue), and Earthworks (pink) (basemap is USGS Legareville 7.5').

Objective: To obtain initial historic research that will assist in better understanding of the types of historic sites present on the tract; to evaluate land use activities and their potential affects on possible archaeological sites; and to identify the areas of the tract that have the highest probability of producing archaeological and/or historical sites.

Survey Description: Johns Island is still a relatively rural, sparsely populated area. The most current topography map (see Figure 2), which was revised in 1971, shows structures contained to River Road. There is, however, a development immediately south of the project area in which we found no indication of an archaeological survey for the property.

The 128.61 acre property is located between River Road (S-54) and the Stono River (Figure 2). A dirt road is the southern boundary of the

property. Of the total acreage, 57.65 acres are saltwater marsh, 9.2 acres are fresh water wetlands, and 61.04 acres are high ground. The majority of the property is wooded, with areas of mixed pines and hardwoods and areas of purely hardwoods and thick understory vegetation composing the forests. A nineteenth century dike is located in the eastern portion of the tract.

The Charleston County Soil Survey (Miller 1971) shows eight different soils found on the tract (Figure 3). The eastern portion of the tract is tidal marsh, which is generally covered by 6 to 24 inches of salt water during high tide. Working west from the marsh is Capers silty clay loam, which is located on the tidal flats. This area is very poorly drained and is covered by 2 to 6 inches of seawater once or more each month.

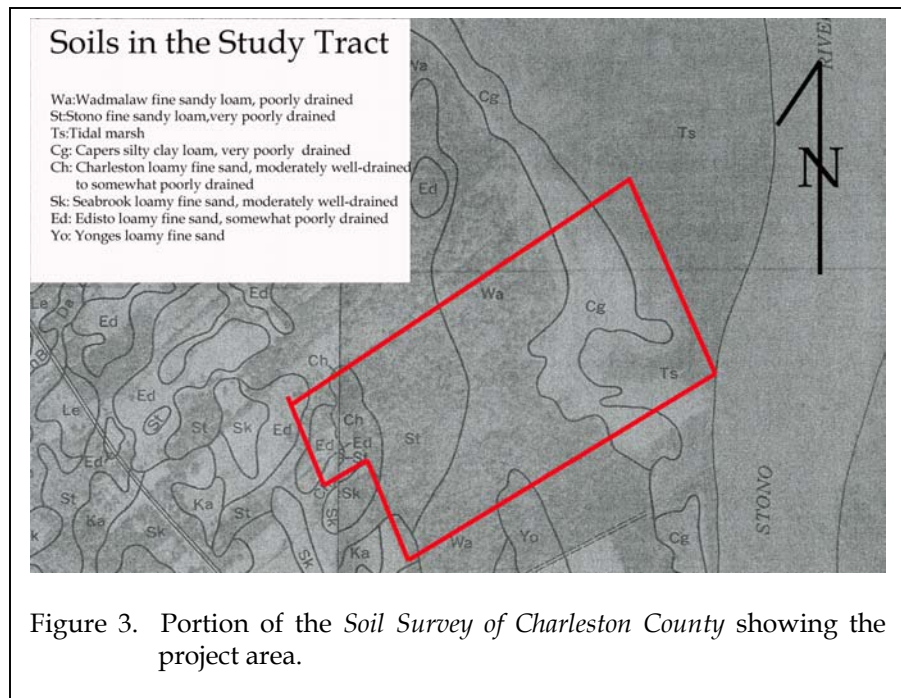


Figure 3. Portion of the Soil Survey of Charleston County showing the project area.



Figure 4. Portion of Mills' Atlas showing the project area.

West of the tidal area is the poorly drained Wadmalaw fine sandy loam and the very poorly drained Stono fine sandy loam. These two soils make up the majority of the land within the project area. The remaining four soils are found in small amounts in the western corner of the tract. These soils include the moderately well-drained to somewhat poorly drained Charleston loamy fine sands, the moderately well drained Seabrook loamy fine sand, the somewhat poorly drained Edisto loamy fine sand, and the poorly drained Yonges loamy fine sand.

A background investigation of historic maps was performed to see if any structures or sites are located in or around the project area. These maps include:

1. 1823 Charleston Harbor
2. Johnson's *Defences of Charleston*
3. Mills' Atlas of 1825 (Figure 4)
4. 1858 Preliminary Chart, Charleston Harbor (Figure 5)
5. Gilmore's 1863 *Defences of Charleston*
6. 1890 *Map of the Defenses of Charleston Harbor from 1863-65* by John Johnson (Figure 6)
7. 15 minute Legareville Quadrangle from 1919 (Figure 7)
8. *Property Map of Charleston County, South Carolina from 1932-1934* by JT. Killock, Inc. (Figure 8)
9. *General Highway and Transportation Map of Charleston County from 1942* (Figure 9)

In addition, the S.C. Department of Archives and History GIS and the site files at the S.C.

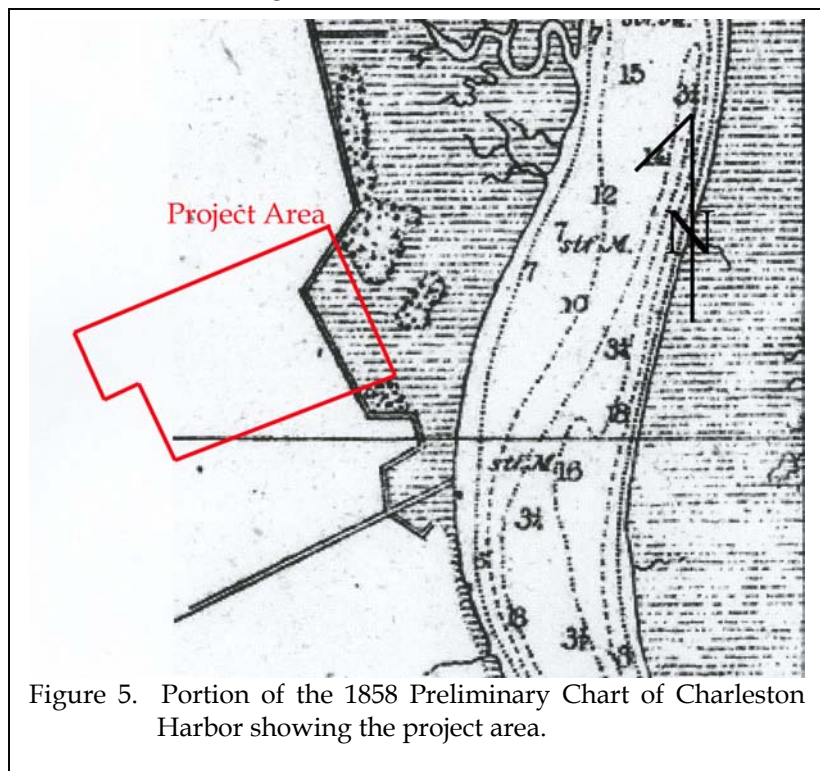


Figure 5. Portion of the 1858 Preliminary Chart of Charleston Harbor showing the project area.

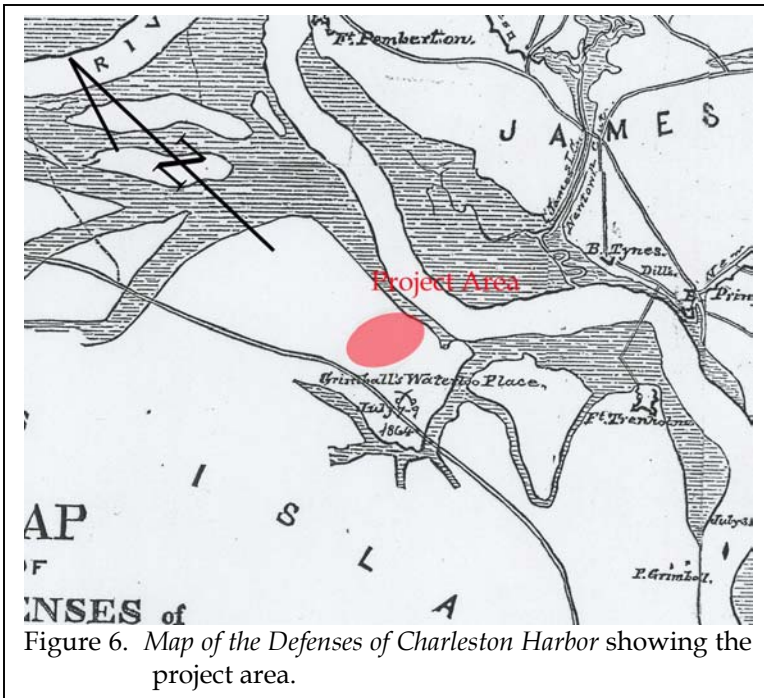


Figure 6. Map of the Defenses of Charleston Harbor showing the project area.

Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology were consulted to check for any previously identified sites or structures in the project area.

Results: The background check at the S.C. Department of Archives and History GIS revealed no structures within the tract boundaries (see Figure 2). However, six sites, 19890247-19890251 and 19890293, were located within a 1.0 mile APE (all identified from a survey of James Island and Johns Island by Fick et al. 1989). Site 19890247 is Seven Oaks; site 19890248 is an unidentified structure; site 19890249 is a structure; site 19890250 is a structure; site 19890251 is Exchange Plantation Cemetery; and site 19890293 is the Gibbes House Ruins (Burden House Ruins). Very little

information was provided on the GIS, but 19890247 (Seven Oaks) was recommended eligible and 19890293 (Gibbes House Ruins/Burden House Ruins) was recommended potentially eligible. The remaining sites were all recommended not eligible.

The S.C. Department of Archives and History GIS also revealed that the Burden Creek Lines, used in the Siege of Charleston, are located within the 1.0 mile APE (see Figure 2). These lines were used by Union forces in a battle referred to as the Battle of Burdens Causeway or Bloody Bridge, which lasted from July 9 to 10, 1864.

Confederate forces attacked in a southward direction across the open fields north of Burdens Creek and may likely have crossed the project area on the way toward the battle grounds. Although Confederate forces were outnumbered by the Federal forces, the more experienced and better armed Confederate troops succeeded in driving back the Federal troops (Jordan and Stringfellow 1998:148).

The battle is briefly described in E. Milby Burton's *The Siege of Charleston 1861-1865* where it was known to Confederate troops as "Waterloo" and by the Union troops as "Bloody Bridge" (Burton 1970:294). The

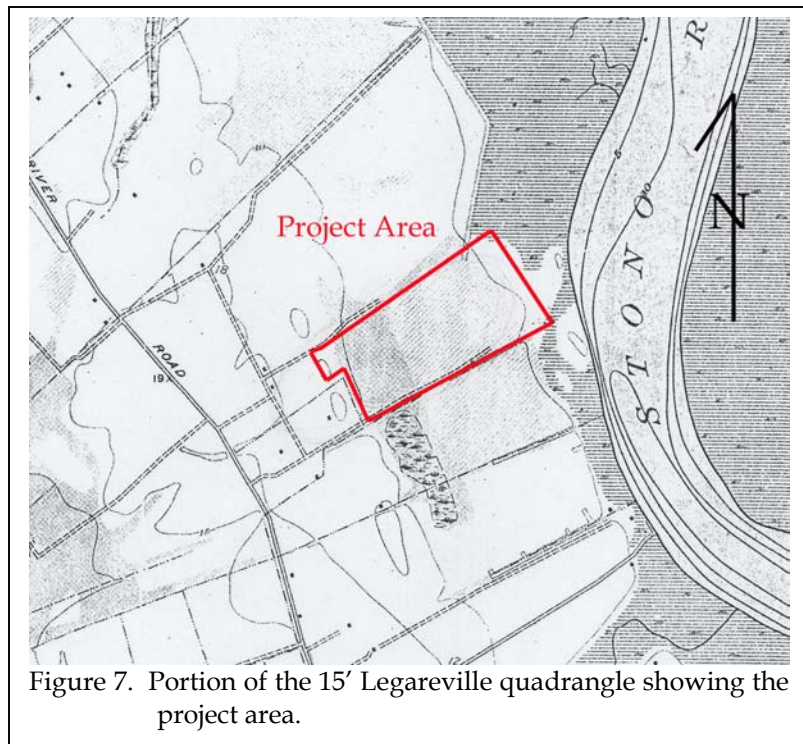


Figure 7. Portion of the 15' Legareville quadrangle showing the project area.

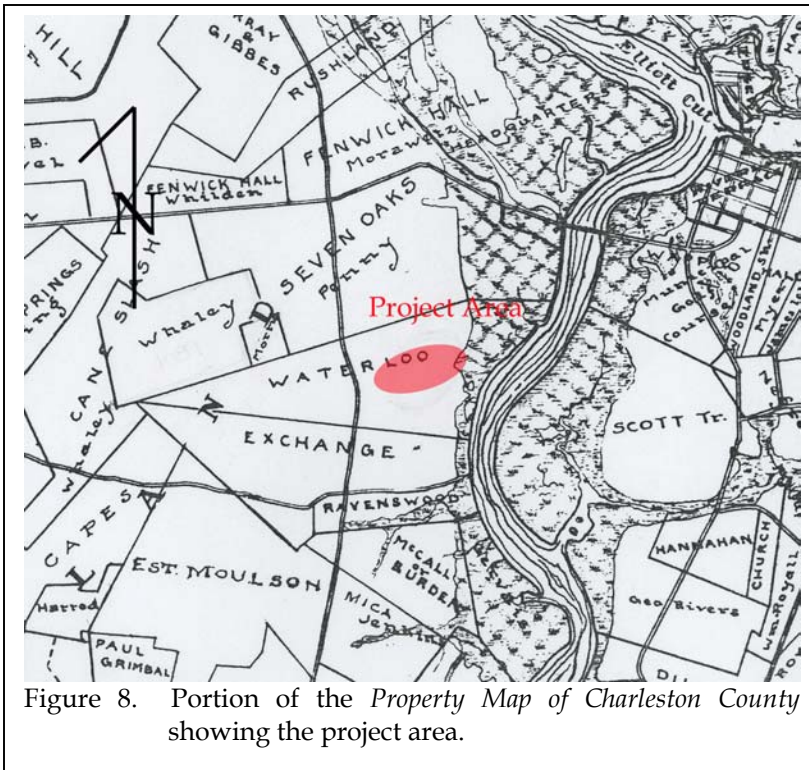


Figure 8. Portion of the *Property Map of Charleston County* showing the project area.

Confederate troops, headed by Colonel George P. Harrison, Jr. were successful in forcing the Union, or Federal troops, back across Burden's Creek. In most accounts of the battle, the smoke from the artillery of the Federal troops was described as being "so thick that it was impossible to see a man at five paces" (Burton 1970:293).

Several accounts of the battle have also been recorded through reports from the men who were engaged in the battle (reported in Dyer's *Compendium*, Part 2 (Campaigns etc.)). These accounts, however may be somewhat skewed. For example, in a letter from Colonel George P. Harrison, Jr., Thirty-second Georgia Infantry

Regiment to Captain T. Henry Johnston, Assistant Adjutant-General (dated July 10, 1864), the Federal troops were described in a more ceding tone - withdrawing in the "cover of night" and "leaving considerable quartermaster, commissary, and ordnance stores" (OR65:255-256).

However, in a report from John P. Hatch, Brigadier General, U.S. Volunteers to Captain W. L. M. Burger, Assistant Adjutant-General, General Hatch describes his troops as accomplishing their objective in the battle, so "the whole command was withdrawn" (OR65:85). However, most of the records appear to be accurate in the descriptions of the surrounding area including position of troops and detail of the atmosphere, which in all accounts was described as being so smoky/foggy that it was difficult to see very far. The various accounts describe the topography as open fields, comment on the bridge, and make occasional comments on field entrenchments.

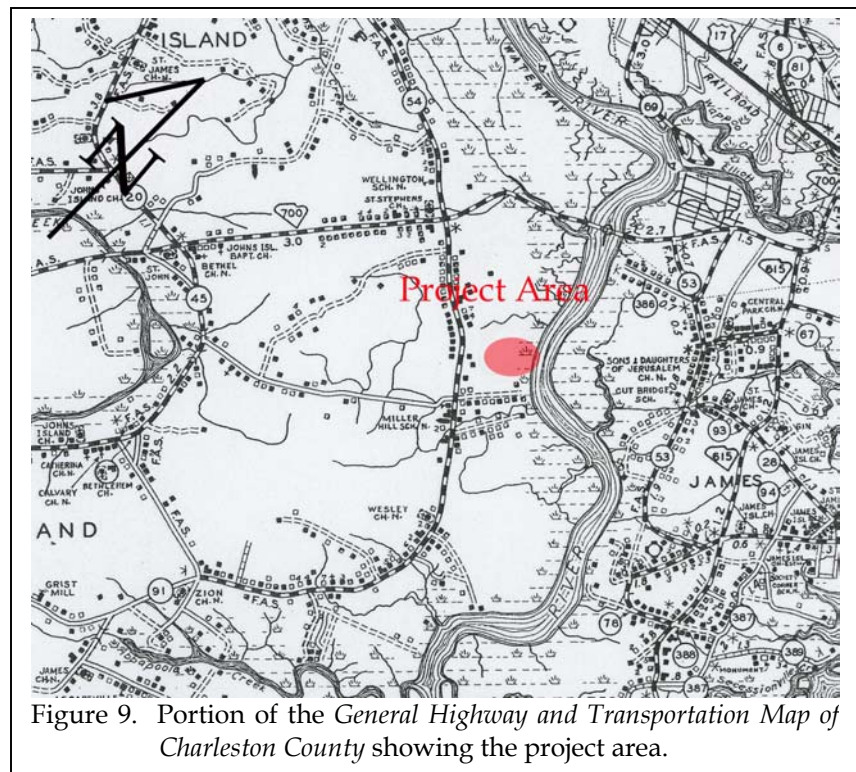


Figure 9. Portion of the *General Highway and Transportation Map of Charleston County* showing the project area.

Investigations at the S.C. Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology reveal only two sites (38CH473 and 38CH1656) within the APE, both about 1.0 mile from the project area (see Figure 2). Site 38CH473, also known as "Ettar," is a seventeenth to nineteenth century homesite that was first recorded in 1980. No eligibility status has been given for the site.

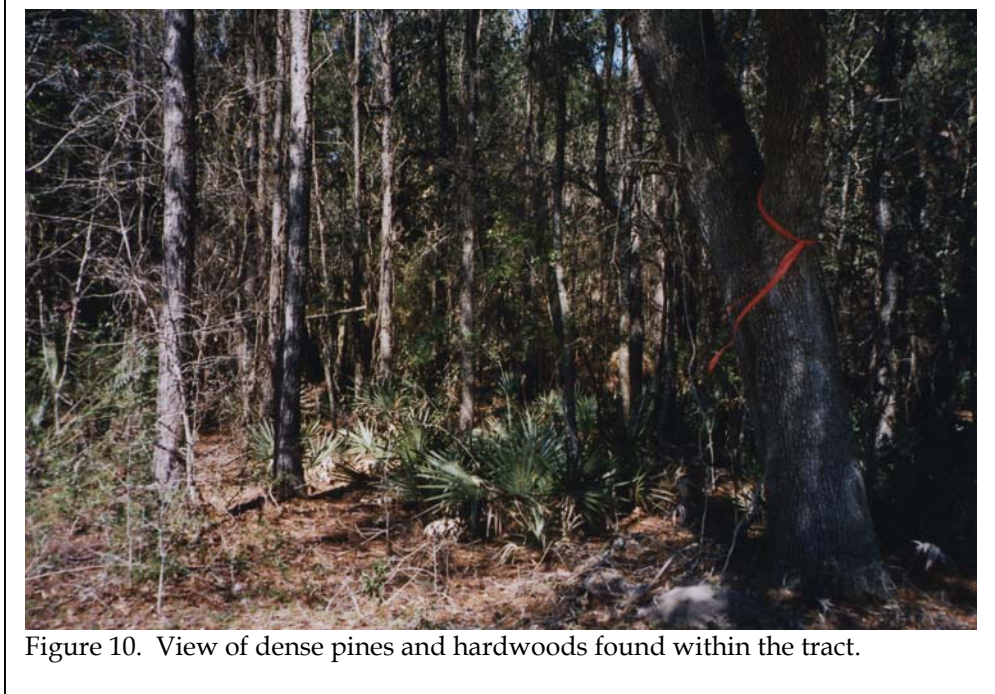


Figure 10. View of dense pines and hardwoods found within the tract.

Site 38CH1656 or the "Kerr Site" is a Mississippian site recorded in 1997 and recommended potentially eligible for the National Register of Historic Places.

Examination of the historic maps reveals no structures in the project area. The 1825 Mills' *Atlas* does show several settlements in the area, including Reynolds, Wilkins, Milne, and Waterloo (see Figure 4). Map numbers 2, 4, and 5 show a dike in the eastern portion of the property. The 1932-1934 *Property Map of Charleston County, South Carolina* shows the project area is part of the property known as Waterloo (see Figure 8). According to one source, the property of Waterloo, which was about 1,000 acres in 1860,

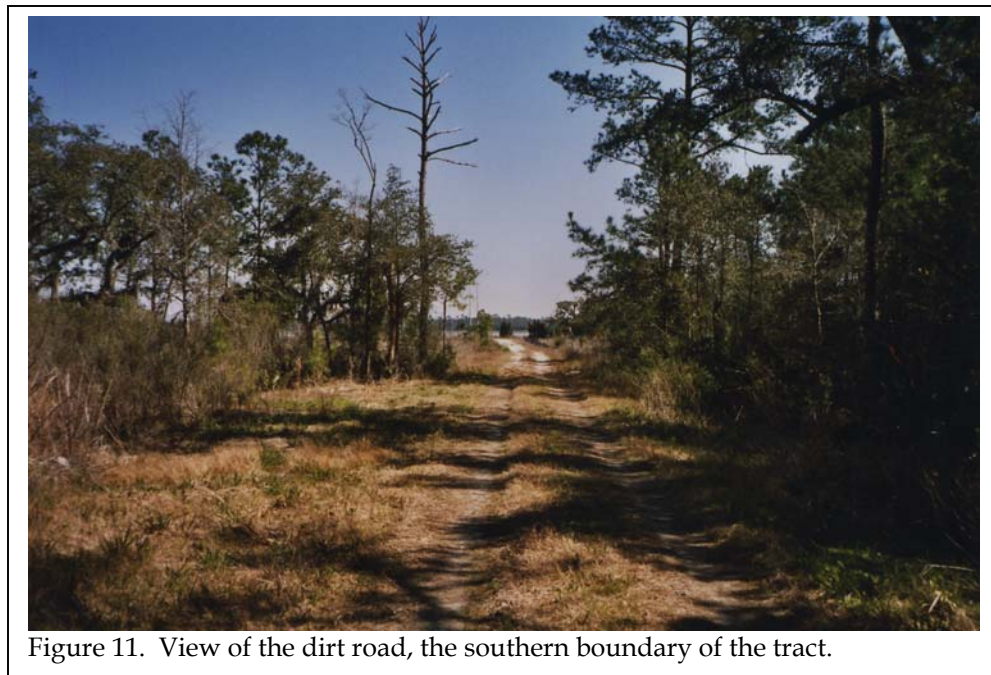


Figure 11. View of the dirt road, the southern boundary of the tract.

belonged to Isaac P. Grimball (Jordan and Stringfellow 1998:249). At that time, Grimball owned 75 slaves and 21 slave houses. Between 1880 and 1895, Grimball leased the land to the freedman Frank Hymes (Jordan and Stringfellow 1998:270), but by 1908, the Waterloo property was owned by Robert McFadden (McCrary plat 1002).



Figure 12. View of brick piles in the eastern portion of the tract.

The pedestrian survey, which involved walking the tract and observing the visible ground surface for sites, revealed very little surface visibility (Figure 10). The southern boundary of the project tract is a dirt road that provided 100% surface visibility, but no artifacts were found along this narrow corridor (Figure 11). The tract was also observed for above ground resources, such as earthworks or structures, but only the

dike in the eastern portion of the tract was found. Some brick piles were found at the eastern portion of the tract, however, none appeared to be intact or in situ and no artifacts were observed on the ground surface (Figure 12).

Summary: Although dense vegetation covered almost the entire tract and the soils are poorly drained, this tract has a high potential for research and may produce historic sites. It is possible that the Confederate forces from the Civil War in 1864 were on or near the property on their way to the Battle of Burden Creek and the late nineteenth century owner, Isaac P. Grimbball was described as having a small slave population, whose settlements may be in the more poorly drained areas of the property. Further work is needed on this property to make sure no resources will be affected by development.

Such a survey must incorporate not only shovel testing, but also a metal detector survey of at least those areas with minimal vegetation suitable for such work. Additional historical research is also appropriate and might productively focus on the examination of regimental histories for a better understanding of the battle and a title and plat research to better document the plantation setting.

As a final comment, it will also be critical to involve public outreach or notification since there is a strong possibility of a negative public perception toward development in the battlefield vicinity.

Sources:

Burton, E. Milby

1970 *The Siege of Charleston, 1861-1865*. University of South Carolina Press, Columbia.

Fick, Sarah, David Schneider, and Robert P. Stockton

1989 *James Island and Johns Island Historic Survey*. Preservation Consultants, Inc., Charleston, South Carolina.

Jordan, Laylon Wayne and Elizabeth H. Stringfellow

1998 *A Place Called St. John's: The Story of John's, Edisto, Wadmalaw, Kiawah, and Seabrook Islands of South Carolina*. The Reprint Company, Spartanburg, South Carolina.

Miller, E.N., Jr.

1971 *Soil Survey of Charleston County, South Carolina.* U.S. Department of Agriculture, Soil Conservation Service, Washington, D.C.