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Memo

To: Ms. Haley A. .Arteaga, DHEC; Judson Goff, Red Bay Environmental; Ms. Keely Lewis, SC SHPO; Ms. Elizabeth Johnson, Deputy SHPO

From: Michael Trinkley, Ph.D., RPA

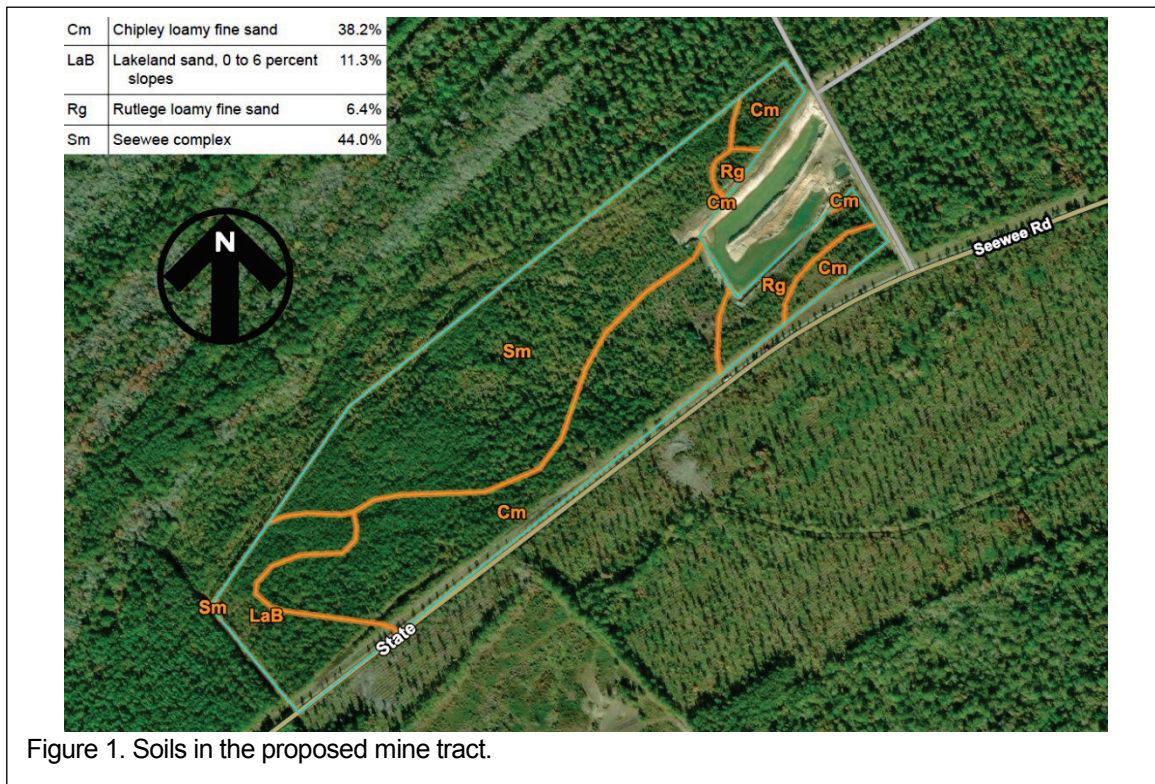
CC:

Date: August 23, 2019

Re: Reconnaissance Survey of Proposed Mining Pit, Southern Mine-King Tract

On August 13, Ms. Lewis requested a reconnaissance survey of the proposed mine parcel in an email. Apparently, the only specification requested and not already available in Chicora’s earlier report (Trinkley and Southerland 2008) is the inclusion of some reconnaissance-level shovel testing. This report will briefly report on the results conducted on August 20 and 21 by the author and Mr. Andrew Hyder.

This mine parcel consists of approximately 59 acres north of Seewee Road. The tract today is very heavily wooded, with 0% ground visibility and is situated in the northwest corner of the much larger King Tract. Since the mine permit involves only these 59 acres, this was the only area examined. Figure 1



shows the soils identified for the parcel and it becomes clear that the majority of the parcel consists of somewhat poorly drained to moderately well drained acidic Seewee soils. The typical profile typically contains about 0.9 foot of grayish-brown (10YR4/2) soil overlying a brown (10YR5/3) loamy sand to about 1.8 foot. Seasonal high water table occurs in the upper two feet and these soils are characterized as having frequent flooding (Miller 1971:27, 56, 64). Almost as common, and occurring on the south half of the tract closest to Seewee Road are Chipley loamy fine sands. These soils are also moderately well drained to somewhat poorly drained. They have an A horizon of very dark gray (10YR3/1) to a depth of 0.5 foot, overlying a C horizon of yellowish-brown (10YR5/4) sand. In these soils the water table may be as deep as 5 feet (Miller 1971:10, 54). The Lakeland soils, much less common, occur only at the western end of the parcel and are characterized as deep, sandy, and excessively drained. The A horizon is typically 0.8 foot in depth and consists of a very dark grayish-brown (10YR3/2) sand overlying a C horizon of dark yellowish-brown (10YR4/4) sand (Miller 1971:17). Finally, the Rutlege soils are found at the opposite end of the parcel, mostly adjacent to the existing borrow pit. These are poorly to very poorly drained sands with an A horizon of 0.9 foot of black 10YR2/1) loamy fine sand grading into a very dark brown (10YR2/2) sand. These soils have very frequent flooding and high water tables (Miller 1971:24, 56, 64).

Figure 2 illustrates the density of the vegetation that has grown up since clear cutting in 2008. This consists of small pines and mixed hardwoods, along with abundant herbaceous vegetation.



Figure 2. Vegetation encountered in the mining tract.

Previous Investigations

A reconnaissance-level investigation was conducted by Chicora staff on December 3-7, 2007 of what was then a parcel of approximately 1,354 acres (see Figure 3). At that time detailed archival research was conducted, identifying the parcel as consisting of three plantations, Andersonville, Rose Hill, and Bruggerman (from southwest to northeast).

At the time of the original survey, the proposed mine permit area had been clear cut, opening what has been shown in the USGS topographic map as a field and resulting in generally good surface visibility (identified at the time as 50% or better; see Figure 5). A distinctive characteristic of this was the creation of mounded topography (seen best in the lower photograph of Figure 5). We also commented that where logging had taken place the soils appeared compacted; moreover, there had been considerable loss of the upper soil horizons and we noted the “considerable disturbance” (Trinkley and Southerland 2008:25).

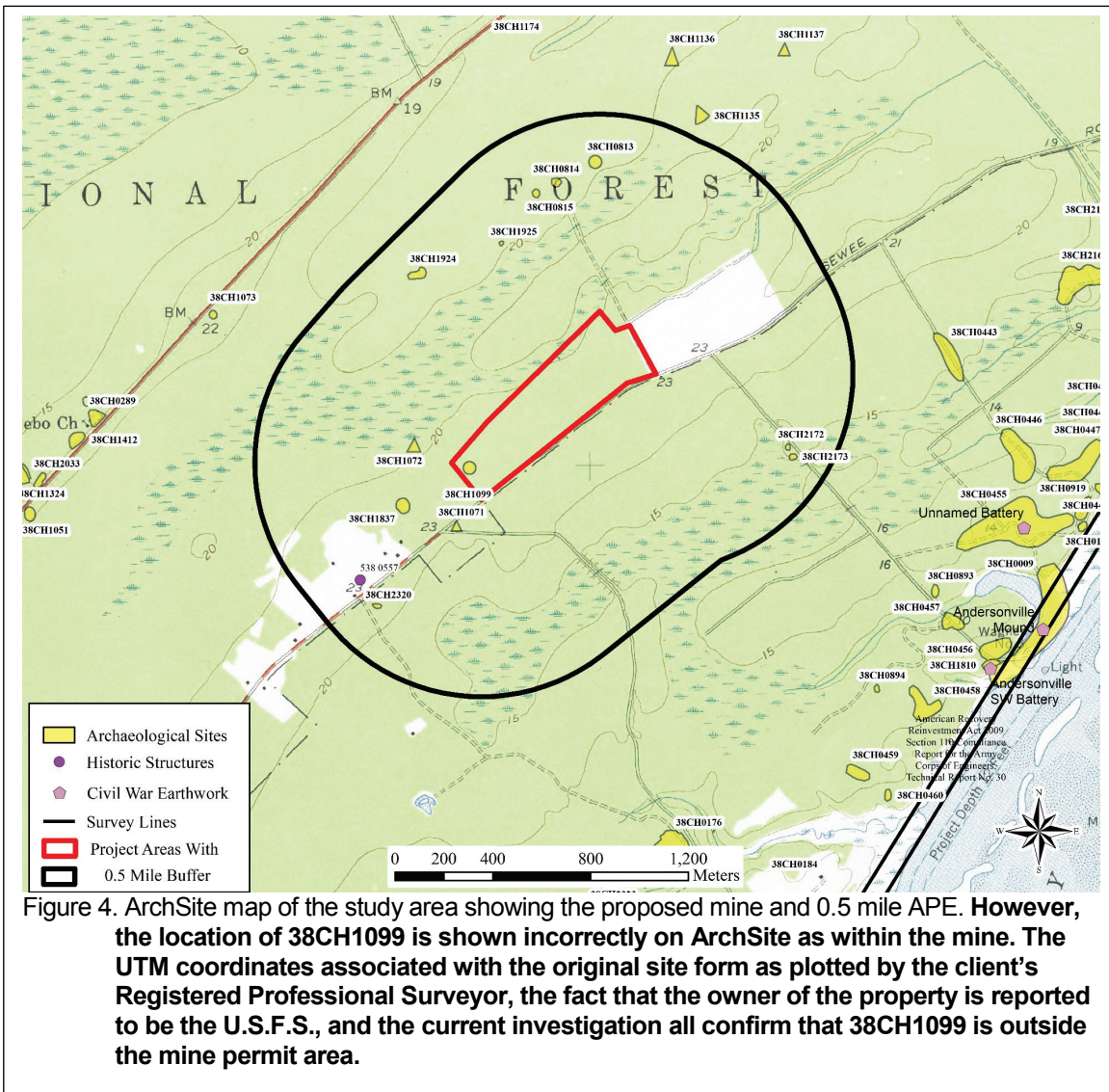


Table 1.
Identified Sites within 0.5 mile of the proposed mine

Site Number	Type	Site Form Eval
38CH813	Prehistoric Camp	Probably Not Significant
38CH814	19th Century Historic	Not Eligible
38CH815	Prehistoric Camp	Not Eligible
38CH1071	20th Century House	Not Eligible
38CH1072	tar kiln	Not Eligible
38CH1099	slave house	Possibly Eligible
38CH1837	Prehistoric & Historic	Additional Work Needed
38CH1924	Prehistoric & Historic	Not Eligible
38CH1925	Prehistoric Scatter	Not Eligible
38CH2172	Prehistoric Midden	Additional Work Needed
38CH2173	Prehistoric Midden	Additional Work Needed
38CH2320	Historic	Not Eligible



Figure 5. Photographs of the logged mine permit area in 2007, showing extensive disturbance and open soil from recently conducted clear cutting. Note also the ridge and valley topography in the top photograph. Compare to Figure 2.

In some areas of the tract, shovel testing was conducted, primarily where archival research suggested sites might be identified and several were, in fact, found.

One need go back no further than 1989 to find the permit area was under heavy cultivation, being converted to silviculture between 1990 and 1994. Consequently, some of the damage found during the pedestrian survey of the logged field now being investigated may have originated with its cultivation.

As a result of the reconnaissance, we made several recommendations. One was that sufficient archival and archaeological evidence had been recovered to suggest an intensive survey was appropriate. We also recommended that no further logging take place on the property until that survey was conducted. We do not know if the second recommendation was followed. However, it is now clear that our primary recommendation has been misconstrued.

The purpose of attempting to ascertain areas of high and moderate probability was intended to help guide such a survey on a very large tract. It did not intend to imply that even low probability areas – based on all of the research available – must receive the same level of study. Apparently, that understanding has been lost in the succeeding 11 years.

In summary, the proposed mine permit area was examined through a pedestrian survey in 2007 when the area exhibited about 50% surface visibility. As a result of this work, we found considerable disturbance from logging, recommended that no additional logging take place, and found no evidence of prehistoric or historic remains in this particular field.

Archival Research

Although the initial reconnaissance survey recommended more detailed research, the research provided a very clear picture of the property's history and included research at the S.C. Department of Archives and History and the Charleston County Register of Mesne Conveyance (Trinkley and Southerland 018:13-22). In particular, the northwest corner of the 1,354 acre tract was part of the early antebellum Anderson Plantation.

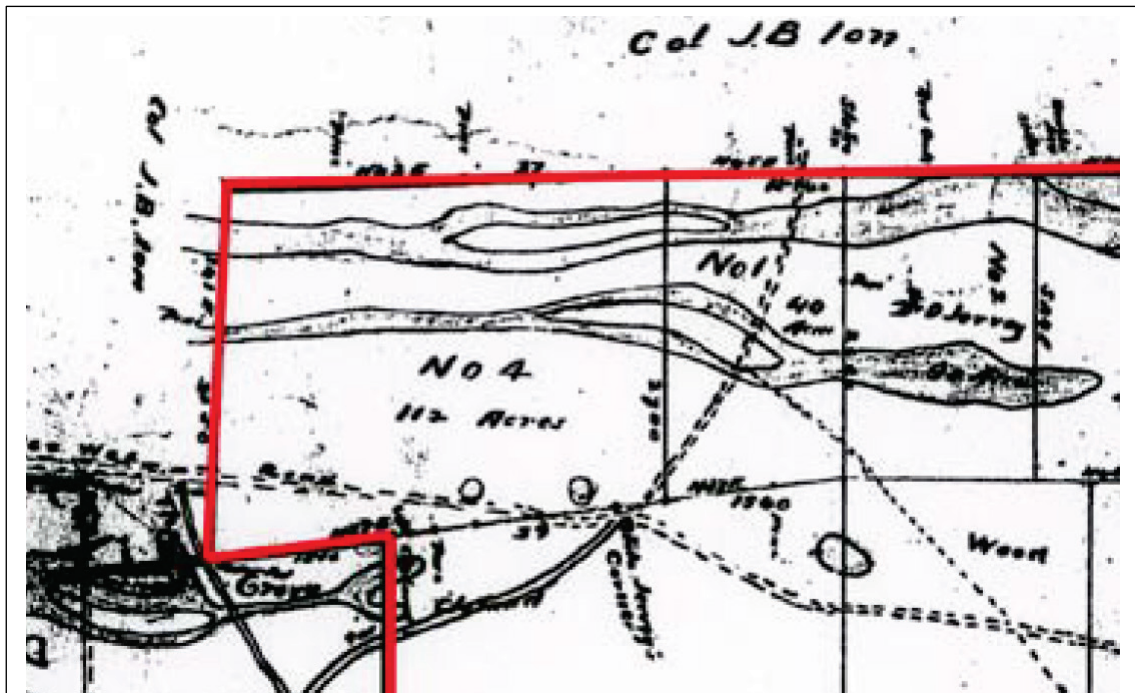


Figure 6. Portion of McCrady Plat 857, dated 1854, showing Seewee Road and the study tract as a cultivated field.

That research included an 1854 plat showing the plantations (Trinkley and Southerland 2008:Figure 12), a portion of which is reproduced here as Figure 6. No archaeologist should dismiss the extent of damage that can result from over 150 years of near continuous cultivation. In fact, this area was one of the few developed portions of the plantation, based on the 1860 agricultural census. However, of primary importance, the plat fails to show any evidence of occupation in this field area.

The previous Chicora report reveals how the plantation passed initially to James Anderson's wife, Mary, and from there to his three sons. Ultimately, the plantation was held by one of these sons, James. It arrived in the hands of Samuel B. King, Jr. and William A. King in 1905.

As a result of the previous research, we developed a map (Trinkley and Southerland 2008:19) identifying sites thought to be present, based on the archival research (reproduced here as Figure 7). Unfortunately,

some of the largest plantation sites, such as Andersonville, are situated outside of the study tract and have already been impacted by unregulated development (although based at least on aerial imagery, they have not been entirely destroyed).

Current Investigations

With the requirement for additional reconnaissance level investigation, the only further activity that could be undertaken is limited excavation of shovel tests.

Concern had been expressed that site 38CH1099 might extend eastward. This seemed unlikely given that the additional examination of this site (Jones and Poplin 1991) actually pushed the intact portion of the site further to the west, away from the study tract. In addition, all of the investigations associated with 38CH1099 reference Clayfield Plantation – not Andersonville Plantation.

Nevertheless, we chose to focus considerable attention along the western edge of the proposed borrow pit to eliminate concerns that 38CH1099 might extend over the historic property line. A series of 5

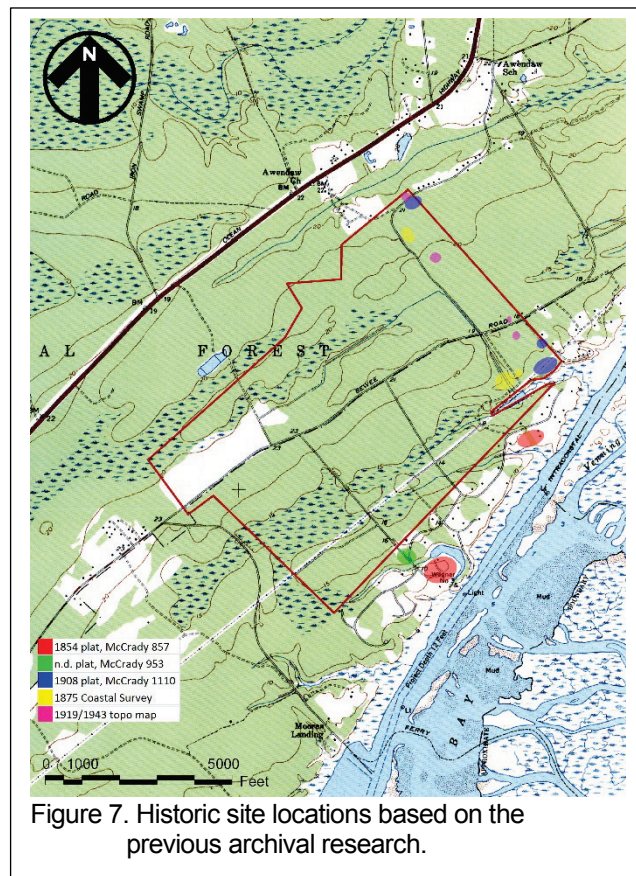


Figure 7. Historic site locations based on the previous archival research.

transects were excavated at 100 foot intervals, with shovel tests on the transects, also at 100 foot intervals. Another southeast-northwest transect was placed 500 feet to the east, again with shovel tests at 100 foot intervals. Finally, a seventh transect was placed bisecting the property southwest-northeast to investigate soil conditions and search for any evidence of archaeological sites elsewhere on the property (Figure 8). While not every portion of the property was examined, these 59 shovel tests explore much of the property. Moreover, we note that the 59 shovel tests exceed one per acre and are substantially more than the one test every 5 acres demanded for a CRIS study.

All shovel tests were screened through ¼-inch mesh and the tests were backfilled. Notes were maintained on representative tests and photographs were also taken of some tests. Since the SHPO expressed concern that there might be buried prehistoric remains, the shovel tests were taken into the yellow sand C horizon on a routine basis.

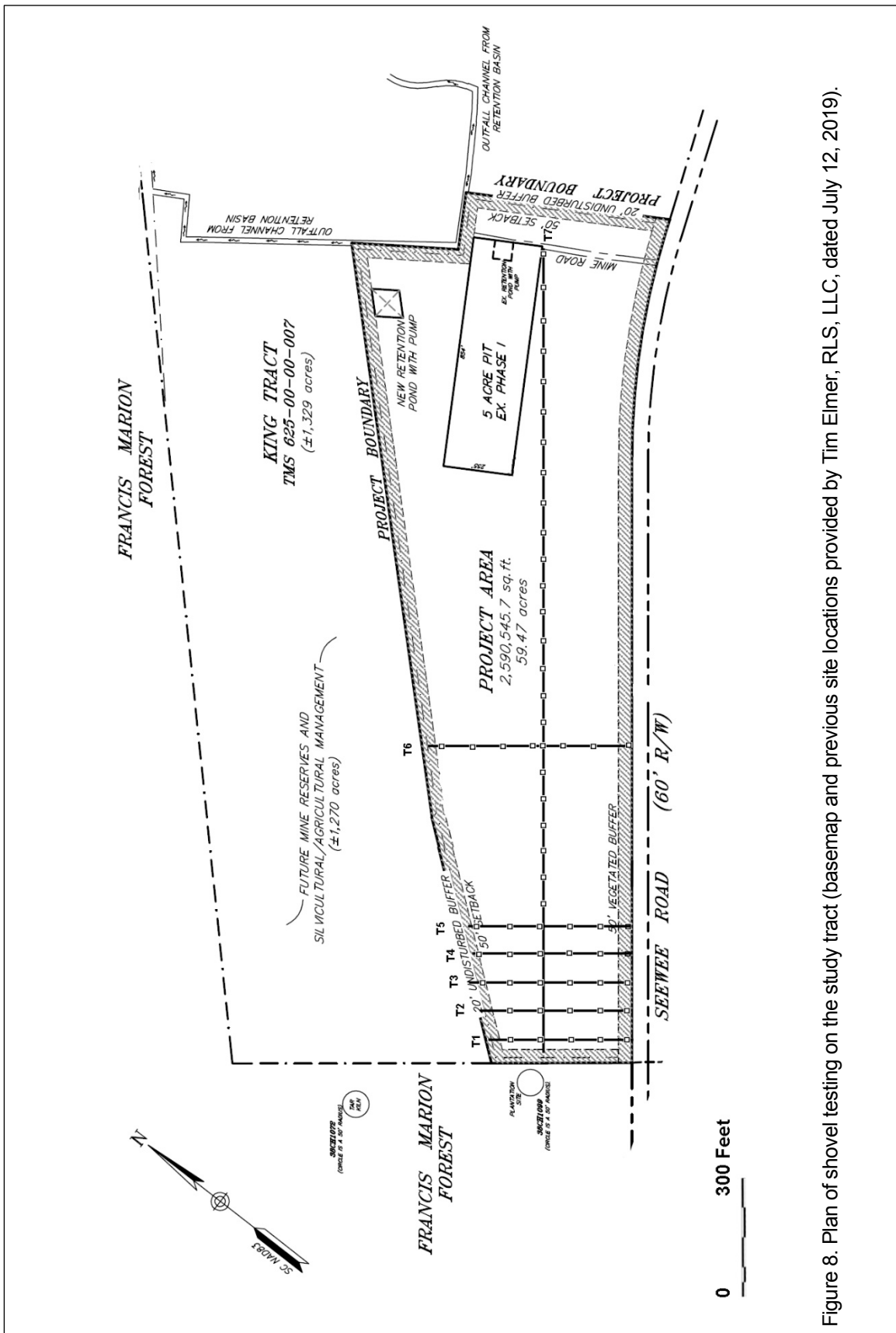


Figure 8. Plan of shovel testing on the study tract (basemap and previous site locations provided by Tim Elmer, RLS, LLC, dated July 12, 2019).



Figure 9. Photographs of representative shovel tests.

In general, we found that the soil profiles for the majority of the four transects at the western edge of the property and throughout much of the transect running southwest-northeast, exhibited truncated A horizons, often only 0.2 to 0.3 foot in depth over the yellow sand C horizon.

Of even greater interest is that we consistently found throughout the tract, a series of hills and troughs, identical to those found in 2008. These are characteristic of aggressive silvicultural activity, where the soils are mounded prior to planting pines, to promote drainage and reduce mortality. This also results in very thin soils in the troughs, while there is much deeper (although artificially mounded) A horizons on either side of the trough.



Figure 10. Mound and trough topography found during this survey (compare with Figure 4, top). The machete is in the trough, with the mound in the background.

None of these shovel tests produced either prehistoric or historic (or even modern) artifacts.

Conclusions

This review of the previously gathered archival documents failed to identify any historic sites and therefore necessitates no revision to our previous conclusions regarding the locations of probable eighteenth and nineteenth century sites (expressed by Figure 7).

The field investigations failed to encounter any cultural remains on the study tract, in spite of shovel testing that exceeds the requirements for a CRIS study mandated by the SHPO for other types and uses of property.

We recommend no additional investigations of the 59 acre permit area. It is nevertheless possible that archaeological remains will be encountered in the area during excavation. As always, the contractors 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 State

Historic Preservation Office, or Chicora Foundation (the process of dealing with such discoveries is discussed in 36CFR800.13(b)(3)). No further land altering activities should take place in the vicinity of these discoveries until they have been examined by an archaeologist and, if necessary, have been processed according to 36CFR800.13(b)(3).

Our recommendations for the remainder of the tract remain consistent with those from 2008, although we clearly need to emphasize that our recommendation for an intensive survey should take into consideration our efforts to establish high and low probability areas on the parcel (Trinkley and Southerland 2008:Figure 20) and it was never intended to have high intensity survey techniques applied rotely to areas that exhibit a low potential for archaeological remains.

Sourced Cited

Jones, David C. and Eric C. Poplin

1991 *Cultural Resource Evaluation of Five Sites on the Wambaw Ranger Distict, Francis Marion National Forest, South Carolina*. Brockington and Associates, Atlanta, Ga.

Miller, E.N., Jr.

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