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Exploratory Archeology at Ninety-Six (38GN1-5)

Stanley South

University of South Carolina - Columbia, stansouth@sc.edu

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EXPLORATORY ARCHEOLOGY AT NINETY-SIX
(38GN1-5)

by

Stanley South

RMS 6

Prepared by the
INSTITUTE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND ANTHROPOLOGY
UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA
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TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. INTRODUCTION	Page 1
2. ACKNOWLEDGMENTS	3
3. GOUDY'S TRADING POST SITE 1751 AND FORTY NINETY SIX 1759-61 (38GN1)	5
4. HOLMES' FORT 1780 (38GN2)	11
5. THE STAR FORT 1780-81 (38GN3)	17
Exploration of Kosciusko's Mine	18
6. THE SITE OF THE TOWN OF NINETY SIX (38GN4)	21
7. THE STOCKADE FORT AROUND NINETY SIX 1780 (38GN5)	27
Summary	33
8. COMMENTS ON EXPLANATORY EXHIBITS FOR INTERPRETATION OF NINETY SIX AND ARCHEOLOGICAL RESEARCH	34
Goudy's Trading Post and Fort Ninety Six (38GN1)	34
Holmes' Fort (38GN2)	35
The Star Fort and Greene's Siegeworks (38GN3)	37
Kosciusko's Mine	38
The 1853 Graveyard	40
Site of the Ruins of the Town of Ninety Six (38GN4)	40
Site of the Town Palisade of Ninety Six (38GN5)	41
Lee's Parallels	43
The Ruins of the Town of Cambridge	44
9. HISTORIC SITE DEVELOPMENT	45
A Tour of Ninety Six	45
Our Responsibility	48

LIST OF FIGURES

Figure		Page
1	Archeological Plan of Excavations at Ninety Six . .	Jacket
2	View of the Palisade of Fort Ninety Six	9
3	View of a slot Trench at the Holmes' Fort Site . .	
4	Eighteenth Century Artifact Types from Goudy's Trading Post and Fort Ninety Six	12
5	Artifact Types from the Holmes' Fort Site	15
6	Entrance to South Mine Dug by Count Kosciusko in 1780	20
7	View of the Inside of the South Mine	20
8	Artifact Types from Ninety Six and Tallassee . . .	25
9	View of the Ditch and Embankment Around Ninety Six	29
10	View of the South Stockade Ditch	29
11	Profile of the Defensive Ditch Connecting the Star Fort with the Town Palisade for Ninety Six, During Excavation	31
12	Profile of the Defensive Ditch Connecting the Star Fort with the Town Palisade for Ninety Six, Excavated	31

INTRODUCTION

A four week exploratory archeology search for architectural features on the site of Ninety Six, in Greenwood County, South Carolina, was undertaken between May 4 and May 28, 1970. The project was sponsored by the Star Fort Historical Commission through the Institute of Archeology and Anthropology at the University of South Carolina. It was planned in two periods of field work, the May project, and an October-November project. This report is a summary of the field work carried out in the four week May project. The final report on both units of the 1970 project will be prepared in 1971, and will include a summary of the historical background of the events and individuals connected with the site, something that this present report does not include except in a general summary fashion. Mr. W. Bruce Ezell, manager of the Ninety Six project for the Star Fort Historical Commission, has made available a wealth of documentary resources, which will be utilized in a cited manner in the later report.

The approach to the project was to spend one week in an attempt to locate and follow the fortification ditches and palisade ditches around the town of Ninety Six. A second week was to be spent in working in the area of the Star Fort, surveying its position, related features, exploring the tunnel, etc. The third week was to concentrate on the area thought to be Goudy's Trading Post and the site of Fort Ninety Six during the French and Indian War period.

The fourth week was reserved for the assumed site of Holmes' Fort, where an effort to locate the site through fortification or palisade ditches was to be undertaken.

The crew consisted of the archeologist, crew chief, field assistant, and one to two paid laborers. From two to six laborers were furnished by the Greenwood County Prison, so the number varied from day to day, with the average crew totaling four for the entire project.

Of the seven fortifications known to have been on the Ninety Six site, five were located in the present project. The Star Fort has been visible for almost two centuries, and was not archeologically examined in this study. The seventh fort, Williamson's Fort of 1775, was not searched for, and can only be identified by discovery of a forty-foot deep well dug on the site during the three days it was besieged by Royalist forces. The discovery of architectural features as seen archeologically in the ground was the goal of this project. The results of this work can be seen in the archeological base map of the site seen in Figure 1 of this report. The discovery of the features to allow this map to be drawn was the primary goal of this project.

The Star Fort Historical Commission sponsored the four week field work of the project, with the Institute of Archeology and Anthropology supplying the remaining time necessary to complete the report. This includes two weeks of the Director's time, six weeks of the archeologist's time for research and writing the report, and a laboratory and research staff of three people full-time for one week.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

A prime mover for the Ninety Six project has been Mr. W. Bruce Ezell, and it is Bruce with whom we have had the most contact. He has supplied us with documentary sources for an understanding of the background of events connected with the site, and has been most helpful throughout the project. He was especially helpful in furnishing a trailer space and camping area for the archeological expedition, having to face considerable opposition in this regard, which was resolved only after weeks of efforts and persuasion. It has been a pleasure working with Bruce in our mutual admiration and love for a great historic site, and we are looking forward to a continuation of this pleasant joint effort.

I would like to thank Randy Luther, the crew chief on the project, for his boundless energy and competent leadership and interest throughout the dig. Thanks are also due Richard Polhemus, a field assistant who was on hand for a part of the project, and who saw the artifacts through the laboratory and cataloging operation. I am grateful to Dick for allowing me to illustrate the iron object in Figure 8. I would like to express appreciation to James Allen and David South for their competent help as members of the crew.

I would like to thank Maryjane Rhett for help in research on the Ninety Six project, and for assistance in many ways, and Betty Williams and Carleen Regal for typing the manuscript and proofreading.

Thanks are also due Gordon Brown, photographer for the Institute, for taking the photographs of the artifacts, and for preparation of the figures for the report.

The administrative direction of the project was successfully handled by Dr. Robert L. Stephenson, Director of the Institute, who worked closely with Mr. W. Bruce Ezell, the Star Fort Historical Commission, and its director, Dr. B. M. Grier.

GOUDY'S TRADING POST SITE 1751 (38GN1), AND FORT NINETY SIX 1759-61

A number of exploratory slot trenches were cut in the area thought to have been the site of Robert Goudy's Trading Post of 1751 (See inset on master map, Fig. 1). These slot trenches were cut in an attempt to locate the three stockades known to have been on the site in 1759 and 1761. From reference pipe Number 17, just south of the Hamilton "Great Survey" line of 1751 (still to be seen as a property line fence and mound), a straight line was established running a distance of 1500 feet to a pipe, Goudy's Reference Point Number 1, and an additional one hundred feet to Reference Point Number 2 (Fig. 1). The slot trenches in this area were measured from these reference points. The reason this area was chosen for examination was the fact that an open cellar hole could be seen near Reference Point Number 2, with stones around the edge, giving the impression that it was stone-lined cellar. No examination of this cellar was undertaken in this exploratory study since the location of the palisade ditches from the forts would provide evidence needed to establish whether the cellar and site was indeed that of Robert Goudy's Trading Post and homesite begun about 1751.

Three palisade ditches were found by the slot trench method in the five days devoted to this site. One of these was eighty feet long, running east and west, a short distance north of the open cellar hole (Fig. 2). It was intruded on by another palisade ditch, and gave rise to speculation that it represented the 1759 ditch for

Fort Ninety Six built by Governor Lyttelton. The intrusive ditch may represent Moultrie's new fort of 1761, or an enlargement he is known to have made to the already existing Fort Ninety Six. The original 1759 Fort Ninety Six was ninety feet square, and was built around Robert Goudy's barn. It is interesting to note that the intrusive palisade is in a ninety degree relationship to the west edge of a small cellar hole found to the north of this palisade. This alignment would tend to place the small cellar (GN1-5) at the same time period as the intrusive palisade, probably in 1761, in which case the cellar would likely to be one dug beneath one of the storage magazines known to have been built by Moultrie to supply the forces protecting the frontier.

The third palisade ditch was followed by slot trenches a distance of sixty feet, and had two slight angles. This ditch may represent either the new stockade or the repair built by Moultrie onto the original Fort Ninety Six. All three palisade ditches are apparently relating to a high knoll north of the open cellar hole, on which the smaller, filled cellar hole is located. This orientation would imply that this high ground was the area on which the three forts were positioned, pointing to the fact that the open cellar hole may represent that for Goudy's house. This would seem to be most likely since a stone-lined cellar would not be a usual feature beneath a barn, but was a frequently found feature in eighteenth century houses. Goudy's house was burned by the Cherokee Indians in an attack on Fort Ninety Six (the ninety foot fort around his barn), and this open cellar hole may represent this burned house of 1760. However, Goudy also

lived on the site after the 1760 burning of his house, and we might assume he built a new one, and this open cellar may represent his new house. Archeology carried out on this open cellar hole may help to answer some of these questions raised here.

Unfortunately, none of the palisade ditches found was complete enough to allow a conjectural outline of the size of the forts represented by these ditches, and this interpretation will have to await further excavation on this site.

The one week project at the Fort Ninety Six and Goudy's Trading Post Site was designed to find architectural data, in the form of palisade ditches, for the presence of stockade forts on the site, and to locate artifacts that would reveal whether the site was occupied during the 1760's and 1770's. As was mentioned above, the first trench (GN1-2) crossed two palisade ditches and a small filled cellar hole (GN1-5). The long exploratory trench revealed fragments of eighteenth century white salt-glazed stoneware, animal bone fragments, a fragment of creamware of the 1770's, and a wrought nail. A twelve gauge shotgun shell base with "REVELATION W.A." was probably dropped by a hunter. This first trench, therefore, provided enough eighteenth century clues to indicate the validity of the tradition that the site was that of Goudy's Trading Post, and Fort Ninety Six of 1759 and 1761.

This was supported also by the contents of the slot trenches throughout the remainder of the site (GN1-3). White salt-glazed stoneware, creamware, wine bottle fragments, wrought nails, a glass

tumbler fragment, blue-and-gray salt-glazed stoneware and delft fragments from the 1750's through 1770's, clearly indicate the period of Goudy's occupation of the site. Only one fragment of white earthenware of the nineteenth century was recovered, along with a bolt from a plow, which could have dropped onto the site at any time during its period of cultivation after the eighteenth century. An Archaic Period projectile point several thousand years old, and a triangular arrowhead of a much more recent time were also found in these slot trenches. Of particular interest in regard to the site of Fort Ninety Six and its military role was the recovery of a 70 caliber lead musket ball, of the type used by Robert Goudy, and the defenders of Fort Ninety Six in the Indian attack of 1760.

During the cleaning of the eighty-foot long palisade ditch for photographing and recording its outline (Fig. 2), a fragment of delft, white salt-glazed stoneware, and a wrought nail were recovered from the contents of this ditch (GN1-4). During a similar cleaning of the small twelve foot square cellar hole (GN1-5), it became apparent that it had been filled at an early date, with bone fragments, hearth ashes containing wrought nails, and other eighteenth century objects being recovered from the top of this hole at its junction with the bottom of the plowed soil zone. A large staple, a brass button, delft, white salt-glazed stoneware, brown-and-gray stoneware, and a black glazed earthenware, along with wine bottle fragments were also found in this cellar hole (Fig. 4). These



Figure 2

View of the east end of the palisade thought to be a part of the ninety foot square Fort Ninety Six built around Robert Goudy's barn by Governor Lyttelton in 1759.

Figure 3

View of slot trench being cut on the site of Holmes' Fort of 1780. Through removing the plowed soil in slots like these, any ditches excavated into the subsoil at an earlier time can be revealed.

clues provide an interesting introduction to what we may expect to recover from this fine eighteenth century deposit when more thorough archeology is carried out on this site. The fact that creamware is missing from the fragments from this cellar might indicate that this hole was filled before the 1770's, in which case it would clearly represent the French and Indian War period at Goudy's Trading Post and Fort Ninety Six.

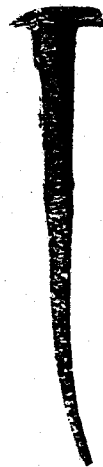
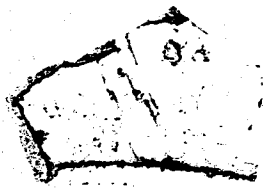
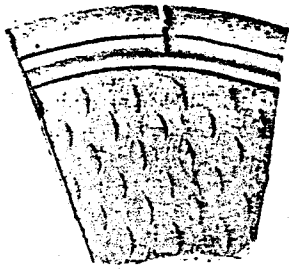
HOLMES' FORT - 1780 (38GN2)

In 1780, Lt. Col. John Harris Cruger built a stockaded fort on the hill above the town of Ninety Six, on land owned by Holmes. This stockaded fort also had a more formal fortification ditch and parapet protecting two blockhouses inside. It was besieged by Harry Lee in June 1781, while General Nathaniel Greene was concentrating on the Star Fort. Lee cut parallel approaches to the fort, and these allowed him to overlook and control the stream below the fort, thus preventing water from being obtained for Holmes' Fort or the Star Fort. A primary function of Holmes' Fort had been to protect the water supply. Once Lee controlled the water supply, the Star Fort was supplied by naked Negroes who crawled from the Star Fort at night to the stream, unseen by Lee's sentries. In an assault on the fort on June 18, 1781, Lee took the works after the defenders had withdrawn into the town of Ninety Six by means of the Covered Way or Caponier connecting the town with Holmes' Fort.

Slot trenches were cut in the area thought to be a good site for locating the fort ditches, and a ditch was found and thought to be a palisade (Fig. 3). However, after several slot trenches were cut following this feature it was sectioned and found to be a series of three closely spaced, deep plow scars appearing as a single ditch (GN2-2). With this discovery a long

Figure 4

- a. Eighteenth century ceramic types from the plowed soil zone at GN1
 - white salt-glazed stoneware (38GN1-2-4)
 - creamware (38GN1-3-14)
 - blue-and-gray stoneware (38GN1-3-7)
- b. Eighteenth century artifact types from the small cellar hole (GN1-5) at Robert Goudy's Trading Post and Fort Ninety Six
 - iron staple (38GN1-5-19)
 - wrought nail (38GN1-5-9)
 - wrought nail (38GN1-5-11)
 - musket ball (from plowed soil zone, 38GN1-3-22)
 - brass button (38GN1-5-21)
- c. Eighteenth century ceramic types from the small cellar hole at Robert Goudy's Trading Post and Fort Ninety Six
 - black-glazed earthenware (38GN1-5-6)
 - white salt-glazed stoneware (38GN1-5-1)
 - delft (38GN1-5-3)
 - brown salt-glazed stoneware (38GN1-5-5)



slot trench was cut to the north of the original area, and this trench touched the edge of what proved to be a large ditch, from seven to eleven feet wide. This discovery was made on the last day of the exploratory project, so emphasis was concentrated on finding at least one angle of this ditch. This was done, and from the resulting drawing (Fig. 1), it appears that the ditch is at least one hundred and twenty feet long on one side. Further work in this area should reveal the entire dry ditch outline now that the fort site has been discovered. A depression in the face of the hillside below this fort site appears to be the remains of the Covered Way or Caponier connecting Holmes' Fort with the town of Ninety Six. This feature should be easily located through archeology in the next project on the site.

The surface collection from the site (GN2-1), and the slot trenches cut in the area of the deep plow scar (GN2-2), and the contents of the plow scar itself (GN2-3), as well as the slot trenches cut across the area of the fort ditch (GN2-4), all represent disturbed plowed soil deposits. Artifacts from these areas include horseshoe fragments, a ceiling hook, tobacco pipe stem fragments, late eighteenth century type wine bottle fragments, the base of a blown glass tumbler, cut nails and a few brick bat fragments, as well as several Savannah River Archaic Period projectile point fragments. The objects of value for dating purposes would be coins or ceramic fragments recovered from the site. One coin,

apparently a badly worn half-penny, was found but no identification could be seen. Ceramic types include creamware, banded pearlware, polychrome-painted pearlware, blue-painted pearlware, blue and green-edged pearlware, polychrome-sponged ware, faded blue transfer-printed ware, Oriental porcelain, unglazed red stoneware (Wedgwood's Jasperware), brown salt-glazed stoneware, and only a piece or two of ironstone. This collection is typical of English ware, the period from the 1780's to the 1850's, with only a few pieces extending as late as the 1850's (Fig. 5). It is significant that no white salt-glazed stoneware and delft, or other types seen at Goudy's Trading Post Site and the site of Fort Ninety Six, were present on the Holmes' Fort Site, clearly indicating that this site was not occupied at the earlier period. Of particular interest is a fragment of what appears to be an American made piece of alkaline-glazed ware (clay and ashes), fired to stoneware hardness. Also of unique interest is a fragment of Oriental porcelain that appears to have been used as a flint with a strike-a-light steel. Experiments with such pieces of porcelain against steel have been found to produce a respectable spark, and gives rise to the speculation that upon occasion porcelain sherds could have been used as substitute flint, either for guns or for striking fire (Fig. 5).

The most important artifacts to come from the site (as is the case with any site), are not those from the plowed soil zone, but from a more isolated provenience. In the process of cleaning off the fortification ditch for determining its edge for shooting with the transit, several artifacts were recovered from the ditch fill

Figure 5

a. Ceramic types from the plowed soil zone at Holmes' Fort Site

blue-edged pearlware (38GN2-4-39)
green-sponged ware (38GN2-4-40)
blue transfer-printed ware (38GN2-4-56)

b. Ceramic types from the plowed soil zone at Holmes' Fort Site

banded pearlware (38GN2-2-38)
creamware (38GN2-2-36)
green-edged ware (38GN2-2-46)
blue transfer-printed ware (38GN2-2-41)

c. Ceramic types from the surface at Holmes' Fort Site

Oriental porcelain apparently used to strike steel
for making fire (38GN2-1-5)
unglazed, sprigged, red stoneware (Wedgwood's Jasper-
ware, 38GN2-1-3)
blue-painted pearlware (38GN2-1-32)
polychrome-painted pearlware (38GN2-1-30)

d. Artifacts from the contents of the ditch around Holmes' Fort (38GN2-5)

Mexican minted half real piece of Charles III, dated
1773 (38GN2-5-13)
amber strike-a-light flint (38GN2-5-12)
blue-edged ware (38GN2-5-4)
green-glazed anthropomorphic pipe thought to have been
made by Gottfried Aust, a Moravian potter at Bethabara,
North Carolina, from 1755 to 1771, and at Salem, North
Carolina, from 1771 to 1788 (38GN2-5-6)



itself (GN2-5). These included bone fragments, wrought horseshoe nails, brown salt-glazed stoneware, a fragment of blue-edged pearlware, an amber strike-a-light flint, and a green-glazed anthropomorphic pipe bowl fragment (Fig. 5). This latter object is of particular interest in that it appears to be identical to those made by Gottfried Aust, the Moravian potter at the town of Bethabara, North Carolina, who was making this type pipe from 1755 until 1771 on that site. Later he no doubt made the same type at Salem, North Carolina, where he moved in 1771, and where he worked until 1788. Also in the ditch fill was a Spanish coin of Charles III, dated 1773, minted in Mexico (Fig. 5d).

Time was not available to excavate a profile section of this ditch, but judging from its width of from seven to eleven feet, it would seem that its depth would be several feet, and a ditch of this size might contain a number of interesting artifacts when archaeologically examined.

THE STAR FORT - 1780-81 (38GN3)

The most famous feature at the Ninety Six Site is the Star Fort built late in 1780 and in the early months of 1781, and ordered to be built by Lt. Henry Haldane who was an experienced engineer. This formal fortification was in the shape of an eight pointed star, with one point being open, and serving as an entrance-way. It was this feature that was besieged by General Nathaniel Greene from May 22 to June 19, 1781. It was described as being a parapet with dry ditch, having a fraise, which was a palisade placed in a horizontal position around the ramparts of the fort. During the siege a traverse was thrown up inside the star, probably as a defense against sharpshooters stationed in a forty foot high Maham Tower built of logs and gabions. It may have also been thrown up to protect against a possible explosion of a part of the works by means of a tunnel dug by Count Kosciusko. During the siege, water was to become an important factor for the Royal Provincials from New Jersey and New York who were inside the Star Fort, and an attempt to dig a well was made to a depth of forty feet, but no water was obtained. The crater for this well can still be seen on the site at the east point of the star.

Nathaniel Greene's parallels were pushed close to the star under the direction of Kosciusko, and two approach trenches mentioned by Greene were dug to hold men of the attacking force. Two trenches, one fifty-five and one sixty-five feet long, are seen to the north of

the star at a distance of fifteen and twenty-five feet from the edge of the ditch and are thought to be the approach trenches mentioned by Greene (Fig. 1).

Greene assaulted the Star Fort on June 18, 1781, but was not able to take the fort. He lost about forty men in the attempt, and these were buried in the approach trenches. Archeology on the site should reveal a number of details of historical and archeological interest.

Dr. William Edwards conducted some work at the Ninety Six Site at various times from 1961 through 1965, and the position of the exploratory trenches cut by him are seen in the area of the Star Fort in Figure 1. The information from this work is not available, and any results of this study are not known. No excavation at the Star Fort Site was carried out in the present study, but the transit was used to plot the position of various features for the map seen in Figure 1.

Exploration of Kosciusko's Mine

A measurement of the mine shaft dug by Kosciusko in May and June of 1781 was undertaken in the present study, and the results are seen in the plan and profile drawings in Figure 1. Over 125 feet of the mine is standing open as an east mine and south mine, with some thirty-five feet of approach trench collapsed. The mine is presently from three to four feet high, with cleavage lines along the wall indicating that it was originally somewhat deeper, just how much is not known. Excavation within the mine would answer this question. A family of rats is living in the east mine, with only a

frog occupying the south mine shaft. The marks of the original tools used by Kosciusko's men are to be seen, along with names of children who have ventured into the mine at different times through the almost two centuries it has stood open. A significant historic feature such as this requires special treatment and interpretation in order to insure that it will survive the next two hundred years as well as it has the past two hundred (Fig. 6 and 7).

Figure 6

Entrance to south mine dug by Count Kosciusko in 1780.

Figure 7

David South and Randy Luther inside the south mine.



THE SITE OF THE TOWN OF NINETY SIX (38GN4)

The town of Ninety Six developed just north of the south line of the "Great Survey" of Hamilton, made in 1751. This tract was eighteen miles square, and was the boundary between the land of Robert Goudy and the town of Ninety Six. It is likely that as settlers began wanting to take up land near Goudy he directed them to do so off of his tract, beyond the boundary of the "Great Survey". This is speculation, of course, but it would help to explain just why the town was begun just where it was. It is not known just when the town of Ninety Six came to be settled, but it is thought that it was likely in the 1760's, since the fortifications for the area were built at Goudy's place in 1759 and 1761. However, the 1761 reference for Moultrie's new stockade at Ninety Six could have had reference to a stockade around the site north of Goudy's land where an infant settlement could well have been begun by that time. With the attack of the Indians at Goudy's in 1760, however, and no mention of a settlement nearby stockaded or not stockaded, we can safely assume that the houses known as Ninety Six in the 1770's and 1780, were built no earlier than the 1760's. Once they were built, and public buildings were erected, these public structures, such as a jail and courthouse, would have had to have been on property other than Goudy's. The courthouse and jail were built by 1775, for they were mentioned during an encounter between Americans and Royalists, November 19-21, 1775. A visitor to the town in 1780 described

it as having twelve dwelling houses, a courthouse and a jail. The map made in 1909 from earlier maps of the site going back to 1822, which was published in 1958, shows thirteen structures besides the jail and courthouse. These have been superimposed onto the master plan of the Ninety Six Site in Figure 1, where the 1958 map is also reproduced for comparison with the existing features on the site today.

Long trenches near the Charleston Road were cut parallel with it (in the area indicated for the houses on the map), in an effort to cross any cellar holes that may have been in the area (GN4-2,3,4,5,8). In GN4-3 trench a disturbance was seen that appeared to be a cellar. However, this was never adequately defined due to extremely dry weather which prevented the outline from being clearly revealed during the excavation period. Further work needs to be done here to reveal this feature. This feature may prove to be the cellar of the courthouse.

In trench GN4-5 a disturbance containing stones and mixed soil was seen as a possible cellar outline, but was in an area opened by Dr. William Edwards in the 1961 and 1962 seasons, and was brick hard and dry, preventing adequate examination in this project. It is reported that a pike head was found at this possible cellar hole site during the 1961-62 season, along with a bayonet. The pike head, however, is missing from the Ninety Six collection of artifacts.

Depressions to the west of the area on which the town site was located were examined (GN4-6 and 7), and found to be tree stump hole depressions from large trees (Fig. 1). However, in trench GN4-7 it was found that the plowed soil zone lay over a deeper deposit untouched

by the plow in recent years. This situation resulted from erosion from the field to the east toward this lower ground. Several handfuls of sherds were found here in the top plowed soil zone, all of which were primarily two major ceramic types; pale creamware and pearlware. Blue-painted pearlware, blue-edged pearlware, faded blue transfer-printed ware, polychrome-painted pearlware and brown stoneware were represented. Also present were two sherds of lead-glazed red earthenware, which appeared to be identical to some made by Gottfried Aust of Bethabara, North Carolina, but could perhaps have come from another potter making a very similar ware.

Slag or clinkers from a blast fire were also found here, along with fragments of wrought iron, providing clues to a possible blacksmith operation in the general area. Fragments of an iron pot, bone fragments, a glass tumbler fragment, brick bats, a tobacco pipe stem and wine bottle fragments all testify to the area being used as a garbage dump. The absence of the rich cream-colored English creamware typical of the 1770's, and the presence of relatively large amounts of very pale creamware, along with the pearlware, all point toward the 1780's and 1790's for the accumulation of this material.

In the south end of trench GN4-7, a small pit 0.3 feet deep was found to contain brick fragments, creamware, slag fragments, wrought nails, pearlware, bone fragments and two fragments of the chisel-cut tool blade fragments (Fig. 8). This feature (GN4-7C) is apparently of the same time period as the deposit from the general area, and contains some of the same indications for a blacksmith operation nearby. One

fragment of lead-glazed earthenware is identical to that made by Gottfried Aust in Bethabara, North Carolina, and would seem to indicate that more than anthropomorphic pipes were being shipped down the Colonial roads to South Carolina. In fact, references among the Moravians indicate that pottery from Bethabara was shipped to Charleston, and as far as Petersburg, Virginia, so it is not surprising to find a piece or two at Ninety Six. The town had direct connections with Charleston as well as North Carolina by means of the paths and roads such as the Charleston Road seen on the site today as a gash on the landscape, often approaching six feet in depth. The Aust-like pottery could also have come from another potter from the same German tradition as Aust, an entirely likely alternative.

Fragments of tools were found that may have been cut by a blacksmith under Cruger's direction in the process of shaping spears for use in the defense of the Star Fort. We know such spears were ordered made for this purpose, and they may well have been made by the blacksmith from old agricultural tools, after which the left-over fragments were discarded. Similar pieces of metal have been found on the site of Tallassee of the Little Tennessee River near Fort Loudoun in association with pearlware and other English ceramic types of the 1820's, as well as Overhill Cherokee pottery.* A further study of this interesting artifact type is planned (Fig. 8).

The series of slot trenches near the Charleston Road produced surprisingly little material from the plowed soil zone from the occupation of the area in the eighteenth century. Two or three pieces of

*Excavated in 1956 by James H. Polhemus.

Figure 8

- a. Polychrome painted pearlware fragments from the west area of the town site of Ninety Six

(38GN4-7A-18)

(38GN4-7A-14)

(38GN4-7A-22)

- b. Ceramic types from the west area of Ninety Six

creamware (38GN4-7A-48)

polychrome painted pearlware (38GN4-7A-29)

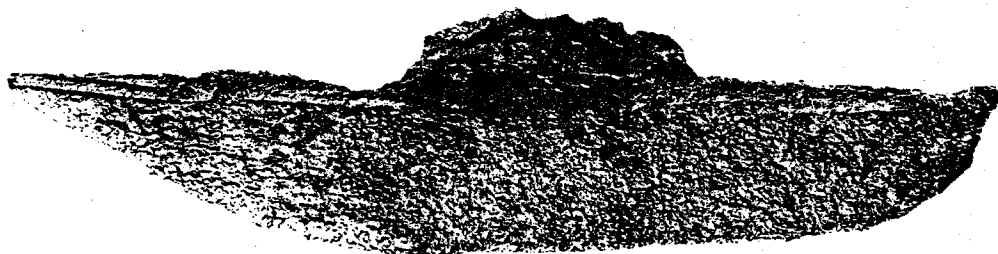
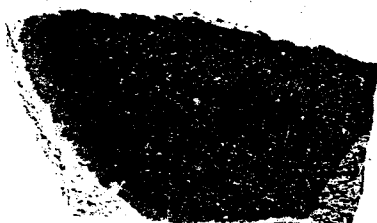
faded blue transfer-printed ware (38GN4-7A-13)

faded blue transfer-printed ware (38GN4-7A-12)

- c. brown salt-glazed stoneware from the west area of Ninety Six (38GN4-7A-32)
lead glazed earthenware fragment from feature 7C, thought to have been made by Gottfried Aust of Bethabara and Salem, North Carolina, from 1755-1788 (38GN4-7C-8)

- d. two cut fragments of tool blades from feature 7C (38GN4-7C-4 and 23)

- e. cut fragments of tool blades from Tallassee on the Little Tennessee River near Fort Loudoun, excavated by James H. Polhemus



case bottles, often used to hold gin, a piece of transfer-printed pearlware, one fragment of white salt-glazed stoneware and a few wrought nails are all that was found in these slots cut across the area where the most material might have been expected. Further archeology may help answer why the area inside the town is so relatively clean of artifacts.

In the excavation seasons of 1962, '63, '64 and '65, Dr. William Edwards worked on trench "J" over the site of the jail (Fig. 1). This trench apparently revealed a cellar hole filled with bricks, but as far as is known, the bottom was not reached. No records on this excavation are available. Archeology on the site will reveal the necessary details on this historic structure. In the seasons of 1961 and 1962, trench "I" near the Charleston Road was opened by Dr. William Edwards, and as far as is known, nothing was found except the pike head and bayonet mentioned earlier, which were found in an offset trench to the west from trench "I". Comprehensive archeology in the area where the houses of Ninety Six are thought to have been located should reveal considerable evidence for a more thorough interpretation of the town site of the 1760's to late eighteenth century, when the town was abandoned in favor of the new town of Cambridge.

THE STOCKADE FORT AROUND NINETY SIX - 1780 (38GN5)

General Greene reported that Ninety Six was surrounded by "picketts", meaning a stockade, with a ditch around the whole, with a bank the height of a common parapet. Blockhouses were also reported to have been built by Cruger, flanking the town. How many of these there were besides the two known to have been in Holmes' Fort is not known. However, a nineteenth century property map indicates a "redoubt" site just north of the intersection of the Charleston Road with the road that junctions with the road to Augusta (Fig. 1). This site is on high ground today, and is an excellent position from which to view the road leading toward Augusta, as well as the Island Ford Road going north from the town of Ninety Six. For these reasons excavation should be carried out in this area to reveal any architectural data relative to a blockhouse or redoubt structure that may have been north of this intersection.

Another good potential site for a blockhouse is seen in Figure 1 at the extreme southeastern corner of the town, beside the Charleston Road. Also, at the junction of the Island Ford Road with an old access road to the Star Fort is an excellent site for a defensive blockhouse. This is on high ground overlooking the junction of these roads, and bricks in the area give a clue that some sort of structure may have once stood on this site. Archeology on these potential and suspected blockhouse sites should help answer the questions regarding their location at these positions.

On each side of the county access road leading to the Star Fort area of the site, near the toe of the high ground, a ditch and embankment can be seen. At first it was not known whether this represented an original fortification ditch or a drainage or contour ditch, but its position in relation to the fortification map of Ninety Six clearly indicates that it is the "Ditch around the whole, and a Bank raised near the Height of a common Parapet" mentioned by Nathaniel Greene (Fig. 1 and 9). A profile of this ditch is seen in Figure 1, revealing a slight depression inside the ditch which may represent the position of the palisade. A square (GN5-5) was excavated in order to reveal any palisade ditch that may have accompanied this ditch, but it was not located. More work needs to be done on this feature in order to determine the correct relationship between the visible ditch and embankment and the palisade accompanying it.

In the area to the south of the town of Ninety Six itself a series of slot trenches were cut in an effort to locate the palisade ditch thought to have been in that area. Trenches GN4-2 and GN4-4 were extended in this southerly direction with this palisade in mind, but no sign of it was found. Trench GN5-7 was cut with the same goal in mind, which also revealed nothing. However, when a slot was cut at the head of a gulley extending into the high ground of the site, a ditch was seen. Other slot trenches were cut which revealed this palisade ditch (Fig. 1 and 10). When trenches GN5-13 and 14 were cut, however, the ditch was not present. The interpretation of this was that the highest point of ground in this area had eroded more, allowing

Figure 9

View looking south along the ditch and embankment dug by Cruger in 1780 as a fortification around the town of Ninety Six (38GN5-5).

Figure 10

View of area GN5-9, 10 and 11 after the slot trenches were connected to reveal a section of the south stockade ditch dug by Cruger's men in 1780.



the plow to cut deeper into the subsoil, eventually erasing the evidence for the palisade along this crest of high ground paralleling the Charleston Road.

In the area just south of the Star Fort, a long slot trench was cut in an attempt to cross a fortification ditch thought to have been extending off the entrance to the star toward the southeast corner of the town, as the maps indicated. No ditch was found in the original cut of this trench and work was then carried out elsewhere. On returning to this problem and extending the trench toward the west a few more feet, the ditch was discovered. A profile of the ditch was cut along the edge of the county access road (Fig. 1, 11 and 12), and a series of slots were cut to follow it in plan. The ditch was three and one-half feet deep, and three to five feet wide at the top, with a bottom width of two feet. This ditch extended for one hundred yards where it appears to intersect with either a larger ditch, or a small cellar hole (Fig. 1). Trench GN5-28 revealed a crossing of palisade ditches, or rather an intersection of two right angle palisades. The right angle formed by this smaller ditch apparently forms the northeast corner for the town, and represents the square stockade around the town which was built by Cruger in 1780, before Haldane ordered the construction of the Star Fort.

The larger ditch connecting this town stockade with the Star Fort probably is a defensive parapet ditch, with an embankment on the inside. On the map (Fig. 1) it is shown as "Caponier Ditch or Defensive Parapet Ditch", and it may have served as a Covered Way or

Figure 11

Richard Polhemus at profile of the defensive ditch connecting the Star Fort with the town palisade for Ninety Six (38GN5-2). Note the bottom of the ditch still in plan, unexcavated.

Figure 12

Randy Luther at profile of the defensive ditch connecting the Star Fort with the town palisade for Ninety Six, after the entire ditch outline was shown in profile (38GN5-2).

Caponier from the town to the Star Fort, but more excavation of the ditch itself will be necessary before its function can be safely conjectured. A companion ditch to this was cut on the north side of the mouth of the Star Fort, which is still standing open at its northwestern end, where it takes on the appearance of an access road to the Star Fort off the Island Ford Road. The slight depression of the ditch is still visible (Fig. 1), and can be seen in the GN5-3 profile drawing. The fill of this ditch is so much like the red subsoil that it was very difficult to determine the outline of the ditch excavation. This reveals that it was apparently intentionally backfilled with red subsoil type clay, probably at an early date, perhaps by Cruger's men, who labored to destroy the military works, and made an effort to "level" the star and adjoining works. Their effort at leveling the star was not very successful, since it is standing several feet high today, and its ditch is still open. Cruger no doubt had reason to completely backfill some of his ditches. Archeology will discover some answers to these questions.

With the discovery of the palisade in slot GN5-32 and 33, representing a palisade wall across the northern part of town, information not shown on any map of the site is available. We now know that this palisade was probably built by Cruger as a first defense of the town of Ninety Six, along with flanking blockhouses, but when Lieutenant Haldane arrived late in 1780 and ordered the Star Fort constructed, it was necessary to cut ditches connecting the star with the town. This later fortification ditch was probably designed in

involves sifting several thousand cubic feet of soil. All of this is necessarily an expensive project, but a necessary one if the goal is to open the original ditch and install proper drain lines, rebuild the protective parapets, cover them with sod to prevent erosion so that the visitor can obtain a comprehensive view of the complex nature of the site at Ninety Six and its original relationship to the town of Ninety Six.

Again, the Star Fort Historical Commission would have to have made the decision to become involved in such an undertaking before any archeology is begun on the ditches. In other words, the archeologist must know before he begins whether such a plan is to be carried out, or whether the whole thing is to be backfilled. The time has come, therefore, for decisions in the form of master site planning and development, research and interpretation to be made by the Star Fort Historical Commission. To proceed without a Commission decision on such long range plans is the expensive way to approach the problem.

The town palisade itself is apparently a relatively small palisade ditch, and the uncovering and recording of this feature is less time consuming than the major fortification ditch connecting the Star Fort with this town palisade. However, more exploratory trenches must be cut in order to determine exactly its position on the west side, and most of the north and east sides. Such a slotting project would take two weeks, with the complete uncovering of the entire line another two months. After this is done, new palisade poles could be placed in the original ditch, as has been done on a number of sites elsewhere, and a most impressive explanatory-interpretive exhibit would be the result.

The search for the various blockhouses would require a month, with more time required if ruins such as powder magazines beneath these were discovered. A further examination of the open fortification ditch and embankment along the northwest face of the town should be made, with the determination as to whether it was palisaded being a prime question to be answered.

The search for the Caponier or Covered Way ditch, which was ten to twelve feet wide, would require at least a week of digging time, and once it was located by this means, it could require several months to remove the contents and replace the parapet on each side of the ditch as was the case originally. This double parapet would have to be covered with sod, and drains installed at periodic intervals to prevent serious erosion, but once this was done, a constant maintenance would be required to keep it maintained and properly trimmed and landscaped.

Lee's Parallels

From the documents we know that somewhere to the northeast of the site of Holmes' Fort were Lee's parallels cut so that they overlooked the Covered Way and the stream. Once these were located through archeology and opened and sodded, this would be an integral part of the explanatory exhibit program.

The Ruins of the Town of Cambridge

To the west of the area of Holmes' Fort lay the town of Cambridge, and although one is now seriously considering the examination of these in an archeological manner due to the overshadowing importance of the other ruins in the area, these ruins would be the center of attraction if they were located anywhere besides the vicinity of historic Ninety Six. In the future, therefore, as the site develops, it is entirely likely that planning will include the exposure of the cellars and other features of the town of Cambridge, and these archeological ruins left open for viewing by the history minded public, much as the ruins of Jamestown in Virginia, and Brunswick Town in North Carolina, and Fort Frederica in Georgia have been excavated and left standing open as reminders of our heritage.

HISTORIC SITE DEVELOPMENT

A Tour of Ninety Six

We can envision the site of Ninety Six as it is developed in the years to come as a place of outstanding interest to all generations of history aware Americans. Parents with their children leave their car at the parking lot in Savage's old field and tour the visitor center museum where the exciting panorama of history unfolds through artifacts and documents, through sight and sound, as the historic site they are about to visit is introduced. The introduction over, the group stands for a moment before the large window in the lobby which reveals a dramatic view of the parapet mounds of Holmes' Fort, with the palisade of the town of Ninety Six in the background. They perhaps walk past a well which they are told by means of a field exhibit, was dug in November 1775, inside Williamson's Fort which was a temporary affair. They move on to a more substantial work, the interpreted ruin of Holmes' Fort, and they enter the opening where the original gate once stood. Perhaps they will see a stockade around the area as well as the protective ditch and parapet mound. After reading the field exhibit on the site, the parents follow the children's excited cries as they run down the Covered Way ditch toward the stream at the bottom of the hill, and across a small bridge and through the palisade wall into the town of Ninety Six. The open cellar ruin of the brick jail is seen near the entrance, with stabilized walls standing a few feet above the level of

the ground, to prevent accidents, and to protect the ruin itself. Interpretive field exhibits here guide the group to the depression of the Charleston Road, where they see other open cellar ruins, and a drawing of how the town must have appeared when the houses were standing. The children find the east corner of the palisade and follow inside a parapet ditch toward the Star Fort, where they visit the remaining earthworks, left very much as it has survived through the centuries, and here they see a field exhibit showing how the fort looked in all its glory. Another exhibit to the north of the star explains Greene's siegeworks, but the highlight of the visit to this area is the view of the mine dug by Kosciusko, here steps lead down to where you can see into the actual tunnel dug two hundred years ago, and they remember the diorama in the visitor center museum that showed the Americans digging this tunnel in an attempt to reach beneath the fort.

Leaving here they walk past the graveyard of those who died in the battle, and follow a depression into the Island Ford Road, then down a path near a ditch and embankment that has remained intact for hundreds of years, a ditch so shallow that a few plowings would have destroyed it, but yet it remains today! On the walkway bridge across a road leading to the Star Fort parking lot they stop for a moment and watch cars pass beneath them on their way to see the Star Fort. Some people cannot make the entire trip by foot, and prefer to visit the Star Fort by car. They walk back up the Covered Way, and before going to the parking lot, they stop by the mound and ditch of Lee's Parallels to see the exhibit telling about the capture of the fort by Lee's men on June 18, 1781.

They buy refreshments at the visitor center, and then back to the car for the ride to the site of the trading post they have learned is located a short drive south of the site of Ninety Six. They drive beneath the bridge they stood on a short time before, and past the Star Fort, and then down a quiet road through fields and trees, then along a great depression which the signs tell them is the two hundred year old Charleston Road. As they approach the top of a pleasant hill, the children cry out in surprise and excitement as they see on the lower hill below them yet another palisade wall, that of Fort Ninety Six at Goudy's Trading Post. They park in the parking lot and get out to view the ruins of cellars. Here they see not only a single palisade fort, but parts of two or more forts with exhibits pointing out that these were additions made at various times to protect against the Cherokee Indians. In a small exhibit pavilion they learn about an Indian attack that occurred here, and about a scalp being run up with the British flag to the top of the flag pole, and about the bones of Indians being fed to the dogs of the colonists. While the parents rest in the shade of the roof of the exhibit pavilion, the children run along the nature trail which goes to a small stream where they see the stones placed there when the Charleston Road was in use as a help for wagons trying to get across the ford. While they are gone, the parents talk with the guide who is on hand to answer questions. They had seen a similar guide at the town of Ninety Six and at the Star Fort, but they had been busy talking with another group so they had not talked with them. Now they found that the guide was a great help with some of the questions that

had come up on the tour. When the children returned, they drove back to the top of the hill where they could look down on the site of Fort Ninety Six, and here they stopped to eat their picnic lunch at tables in the shade of the trees.

Our Responsibility

Somewhere between our projection into the future and the site of Ninety Six we see today, the dream meets reality. Our responsibility to the future lies in first having a dream worthy of our striving, and reaching for its conversion to reality through the most competent means at our disposal. We must take care not to spoil the dream in our eagerness to bring its fuzzy edges too quickly into the sharp focus of reality. For to do so is to warp our understanding of history through the creation of distorted images that do a disservice to the past as well as the future. We must constantly, in our role as stewards of the past, be aware of this responsibility. All our efforts should be directed toward achieving the greatest degree of accuracy in our historical and archeological research, to insure the closest correlation between the reality of the past and our explanatory exhibits. These parapets and palisades, cabins and ruins, are the bridges leading the minds of men to a greater appreciation of our heritage. We must not fail in our role as historical engineers shaping the attitudes and understanding of generations yet unborn. For it is only through what we do today in developing our historic sites that the future can know the past through them. If we, in our enthusiasm, and in the name of history and "restoration", damage, destroy and distort the clues that have

survived, rather than competently interpreting them, we have burned the bridges behind us, and the future can no longer build on the true evidence, but must forever depend on our interpretation. We, the researchers and developers of historic sites, are the only ones who have the opportunity of observing the maximum amount of historical and archeological evidence. Once the pages in the earth have been revealed through archeology, there is never another chance for those pages to be read, for the archeological process itself is a destructive force, erasing as it reveals. There is no second chance!

We should guard against first-impulse planning and development; against the log-cabin syndrome, where the countryside is stripped of all log cabins, to be planted in a cluster like pseudo-historical mushroom towns springing up over night, regardless of the historical focus or archeological merit a site might otherwise possess. In our enthusiasm we may go so far as to use California redwood in our "restorations", implying trade routes and resources undreamed of by our forebearers. Yet the minds of children and unsuspecting adults are shaped by such distortions that are springing full-blown as creations of our own age rather than anchored in the past through research and archeology.

Let us guard against the pitfalls of creating "instant history" insufficiently rooted in the rich humus of our heritage of people, their things, and the historic sites that were the stage for their drama. Rather, as we engineer our explanatory exhibits in the form of parapets and palisades, ruins and cabins, restorations and reconstructions

on historic sites, we should be constantly aware of our role as creators of historical images to become burned into the minds of men. If our efforts to interpret history on historic sites are insufficiently supported by research and archeology, and we find that the palisade we built must be taken down in favor of a more accurate presentation, the damage has already been done by false images carried away by all those who viewed the bastard child.

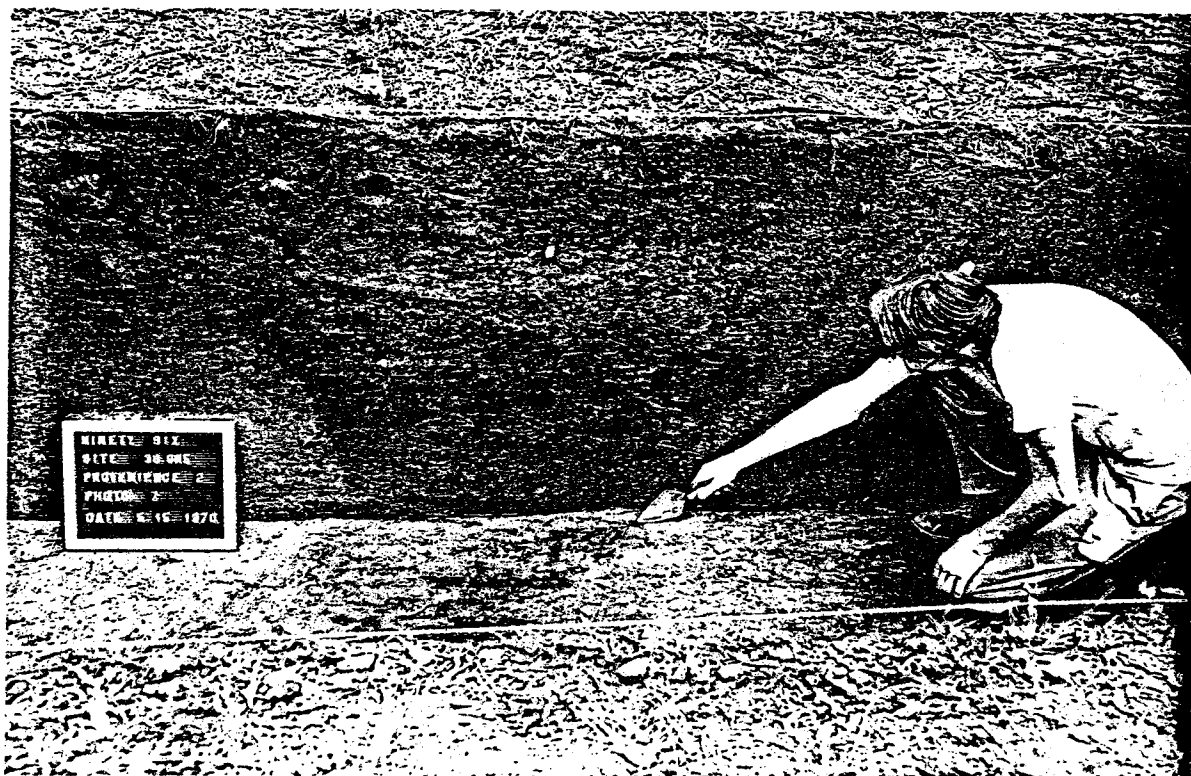
Therefore, we should look closely at our responsibility. These are not games we are playing with history! Our involvement in the past is our investment in the future!

the manner it was in order to cover the left flank of the Star Fort, as well as providing an additional buffer for the protection of the town. Inside this area, but outside the older town stockade, was probably the area used by some of Cruger's Royal Provincials for an encampment.

No effort was made to locate the west palisade for the town, and future projects will have this as one of the goals, as well as determining the position of the covered way extending from the town to Holmes' Fort. No contents of the ditches were recovered since only plan and profile cuts were made.

Summary

This four week project was designed as an archeological search for architectural features associated with the Ninety Six Site, including seven fortification structures. One of these, the Star Fort, was already clearly visible, but of the remaining six forts, only Williamson's Fort, erected in three hours on the morning of November 19, 1775, was not found. However, future work may locate the 40 foot deep well that was dug in the three days following, during the siege of that temporary fort. The plan map of the features discovered in this project is seen in Figure 1, which was the primary goal of this exploratory project. Future projects, the next scheduled for October 5 through November 25, 1970, will emphasize various aspects of this most significant historic site. The following section will discuss the various alternatives for site development through archeology, and explanatory exhibits for on-site interpretation.



COMMENTS ON EXPLANATORY EXHIBITS FOR INTERPRETATION
OF NINETY SIX AND ARCHEOLOGICAL RESEARCH

Goudy's Trading Post and Fort Ninety Six (38GN1)

Until more archeological work is done at the site of Goudy's Trading Post and Fort Ninety Six Site, no interpretation for the visiting public should be undertaken. The open cellar hole will require at least one to two month's excavation, and the small cellar hole, containing good eighteenth century artifacts, will require at least a week and probably more to excavate, depending on the discoveries made during excavation and on the size and quality of the excavation team.

The further exploration of the palisade ditches for the three forts should be handled by using machinery to strip off the top layer of the entire area of the site, after which the area will need to be wet down by water pumped from a nearby stream using gasoline driven pumps. A large crew will then be necessary to hand schnitt the area stripped by machine, and the outline of the ditches revealed and plotted. During the process other features, such as cellar holes, may be discovered and will need to be excavated. A three month period of excavation should be planned for this site before any more work is carried out. Before any work is carried out, however, the Star Fort Historical Commission should be in possession of the property. No work at Goudy's site is planned for the October-November 1970 project.

Depending on the nature of the further archeological discoveries, the interpretation of the Goudy's Trading Post Site and Fort Ninety Six

can await these developments. However, we can foresee the possibility of placing treated posts in the original palisade post positions as an explanatory exhibit on the site. This development would seem to be a long time in the future, however, after a permanent visitor reception center has been developed and personnel is on hand to protect and help interpret the site to visiting public. This site, then, would be the last to be developed for interpretation, at which time the length of the Charleston Road between Ninety Six and Goudy's place should be included in the interpretive plan.

Holmes' Fort (38GN2)

Since the site of Holmes' Fort is already in the hands of the Star Fort Historical Commission, or is soon to be, archeology on this site can begin in the October-November season. However, it should not be begun unless it can be developed within a short time after the archeology is completed. The vision here is to make test samples of the area known to have been the interior of the fort. When these are completed, and depending on what is recovered in the way of artifacts in these test squares, machinery can be brought onto the site by the archeologist and the plowed soil stripped from the fort site. Water, pumped by gasoline driven pumps from nearby sources, must be used to keep the ground wet, at which time the crew will schnitt off the area and reveal the outline of the fortification ditch. In this process it may be necessary to cut some trees along the edge of the field provided it is found that the historic ditch extends beneath these. Once the entire ditch is revealed, aerial type photographs will be taken of the

dark outlines revealed beneath the plowed soil. The outlines, ditches, postholes, etc. will be plotted onto a master map of Holmes' Fort, and only after this is done will the contents of the filled ditches be removed, profiles plotted and photographed, and artifacts found in situ photographed and recorded. This process will take some time, and ideally, the entire project goal in October-November would be concentrated on this effort. This should not be undertaken, however, unless plans for shaping the parapet accompanying the ditches, sodding to prevent erosion, etc., and engineering the fort into an explanatory exhibit for visitation by the public in the near future can be carried out. Of course, the fort does not have to be treated in this manner at all, and archeology can be carried out and then the whole thing back-filled and decisions on what to do in terms of development and interpretation made later, but this would almost double the cost of the project.

The archeological project at Holmes' Fort should not be undertaken until a Commission decision has been made as to the future development of that area of the site. If, for instance, agreement has been made with a farmer to grow grain on the site next year, then archeology should not be done at all until such restrictions on the archeological and developmental program are eliminated and the Commission is committed to development of the site for the archeological and historical value it can produce as well as the future interpretive value to the visiting public. For this reason, it would seem that a meeting of the Star Fort Historical Commission to discuss a plan of long-range

research and development program in close cooperation with the Parks, Recreation and Tourism Department's representatives, and representatives of the Institute of Archeology and Anthropology should be called as soon as possible to outline an approach for this long-range plan.

If a palisade ditch is also found at the Holmes' Fort site, then this might well need to be considered for replacement with new posts as part of this explanatory exhibit on the site.

If the weather will allow it, the process described in the above paragraphs, with the exception of any developmental work such as parapet building, stockade replacing, etc., could be accomplished in the October-November excavation project. If weather or size of crew does not permit it, then the completion of the archeology at Holmes' Fort would have to await the next project in the spring of 1971, when it could be completed and perhaps the stabilization and reconstruction begun at that time.

The Star Fort and Greene's Siegeworks (38GN3)

The Star Fort and Greene's works, surprising as it may seem at first, do not present an urgent need for excavation. It might seem to be a first need, but since the works are visible, and are worthy of viewing as they now exist, the visitor can enjoy them without archeology first having been done. For this reason, it might be best to wait until a later project to thoroughly investigate these features, and allow the visitor to see the work as it progresses through several seasons of work. The mine of Kosciusko should be taken care of sooner than anything else, for vandals could, in an instant, destroy what is now one of the most

fascinating and unique remains from the period of the American Revolution surviving anywhere.

Two months of archeology is necessary for the interior of the fort with more perhaps being necessary if the well dug by Cruger is re-excavated. Work should not begin on the Star Fort until this block of two month's time and ample funds for labor, machinery, equipment, etc. is available.

Greene's siegeworks should not be undertaken unless at least a month is available for exploring this series of saps. If Greene's dead are found in this process, as much as two additional months may be required to reveal this data. One month for Kosciusko's mine should be reserved, with more time probably necessary as new discoveries are made. These estimates for time involved do not include stabilization and reconstruction and development of these works. The exterior ditches and the parapets of the Star Fort itself should have no less than two months of examination, during which time evidence for the fraise, the original ditch and parapet shape, artifacts and other clues for interpretation of this historic feature will be sought.

Kosciusko's Mine

Excavation of the collapsed area of the original mine should be done archeologically, as well as the area inside both mines. Once this is carried out, plans for protection and interpretation should begin immediately. The present suggestion for the treatment of this project is to build a walkway below ground level in the area of the collapsed mine, crossing the face of both the east and the south mines.

Small recessed lights spotted in the length of the mines would allow the visitor to see into the openings, and a plastic window over the face of the opening would prevent the visitor from throwing things into the mine, or gaining access. A roof over the entire area, with a drain in the bottom of the sunken walkway would be necessary to protect the area from too much water from storms.

The trees above the area of the tunnels that might cause damage could be removed after careful analysis by archeologist and developers as to which ones should be cut. This should be done to prevent roots from penetrating the mines and carrying erosion-causing water into the openings and causing cave-in, such as already has occurred in places.

None of these plans can possibly be carried into execution effectively until strong protective barriers are placed at the access roads to the site, and until there is a permanent manager with maintenance crew on hand to protect and keep up the site. For these reasons the area of the Star Fort is not recommended for archeological research and development until the site has been developed far beyond its present level, with funds however, constantly kept earmarked for this project once the site has reached the level allowing this excavation to be carried out to best advantage.

The 1853 Graveyard

One month's time should be reserved for an exploratory look at the 1853 graveyard shown to the west of the Star Fort. If burials of the Royal Provincials are found, it may take another two months of excavation to properly deal with these features. This is a possibility based on the interpretation that the graveyard shown on the 1853 map was that used by Cruger to bury his dead. However, another alternative is also present, and that is that Greene may have had approach trenches in this area west of the Star Fort, which were used to bury his forty or more dead Americans. This would possibly have erased any such approach trenches, resulting in their not being shown on the maps of the site. This is an interesting possibility in view of several references to Greene's having so positioned his approaches so that his artillery was able to enfilade the star with a cross-fire, a situation that would be possible if he had approaches toward the Star Fort from the direction of the Island Ford Road. Only archeology in this area between the Island Ford Road and the star can answer this interesting question.

Site of the Ruins of the Town of Ninety Six (38GN4)

A one month exploratory look at the area between the Charleston Road and the east palisade wall of the town of Ninety Six should be taken. The cellar holes, garbage dumps, and other features found in this search will then require more time to thoroughly excavate, depending on the size and nature of the ruins. For example, in 1958 I visited the site of Brunswick Town in North Carolina, and outlined a

ten year project of excavation, which was completed in 1968. This is not to say that ten years of full excavation are required for the town of Ninety Six, but it does mean that the excavation of the ruins of an entire town is not something that can be accomplished in a single season of work. One ruin usually requires at least one month of examination, and very often more, depending on the nature of the features encountered.

The jail site, already known to have a cellar filled with bricks, will take at least a month of excavation to examine, and very likely will require two to three, depending on the nature of the deposit and the number of significant artifacts recovered in the process.

Site of the Town Palisade of Ninety Six (38GN5)

In order to properly explore and interpret the palisade around the town of Ninety Six, along with the deeper and larger defensive ditches between the town palisade and the Star Fort, the entire area over the ditch line will need to be stripped of its overburden of plowed soil. This can best be done by a front loader under the watchful eye of the archeologist. However, in the area of these ditches there are pine trees that must be removed by chain saw crews, or rather pulpwood cutters, and the trees and tops removed from the site. The stumps remaining must then be removed by a backhoe, and the holes filled in. When this is done, a front loader or grader can then be brought to the site to strip away the overburden to reveal the ditch outline for plotting and photography. Once this is done, the contents must be archeologically excavated, which, on a ditch one hundred yards long,

involves sifting several thousand cubic feet of soil. All of this is necessarily an expensive project, but a necessary one if the goal is to open the original ditch and install proper drain lines, rebuild the protective parapets, cover them with sod to prevent erosion so that the visitor can obtain a comprehensive view of the complex nature of the site at Ninety Six and its original relationship to the town of Ninety Six.

Again, the Star Fort Historical Commission would have to have made the decision to become involved in such an undertaking before any archeology is begun on the ditches. In other words, the archeologist must know before he begins whether such a plan is to be carried out, or whether the whole thing is to be backfilled. The time has come, therefore, for decisions in the form of master site planning and development, research and interpretation to be made by the Star Fort Historical Commission. To proceed without a Commission decision on such long range plans is the expensive way to approach the problem.

The town palisade itself is apparently a relatively small palisade ditch, and the uncovering and recording of this feature is less time consuming than the major fortification ditch connecting the Star Fort with this town palisade. However, more exploratory trenches must be cut in order to determine exactly its position on the west side, and most of the north and east sides. Such a slotting project would take two weeks, with the complete uncovering of the entire line another two months. After this is done, new palisade poles could be placed in the original ditch, as has been done on a number of sites elsewhere, and a most impressive explanatory-interpretive exhibit would be the result.

The search for the various blockhouses would require a month, with more time required if ruins such as powder magazines beneath these were discovered. A further examination of the open fortification ditch and embankment along the northwest face of the town should be made, with the determination as to whether it was palisaded being a prime question to be answered.

The search for the Caponier or Covered Way ditch, which was ten to twelve feet wide, would require at least a week of digging time, and once it was located by this means, it could require several months to remove the contents and replace the parapet on each side of the ditch as was the case originally. This double parapet would have to be covered with sod, and drains installed at periodic intervals to prevent serious erosion, but once this was done, a constant maintenance would be required to keep it maintained and properly trimmed and landscaped.

Lee's Parallels

From the documents we know that somewhere to the northeast of the site of Holmes' Fort were Lee's parallels cut so that they overlooked the Covered Way and the stream. Once these were located through archeology and opened and sodded, this would be an integral part of the explanatory exhibit program.

The Ruins of the Town of Cambridge

To the west of the area of Holmes' Fort lay the town of Cambridge, and although one is now seriously considering the examination of these in an archeological manner due to the overshadowing importance of the other ruins in the area, these ruins would be the center of attraction if they were located anywhere besides the vicinity of historic Ninety Six. In the future, therefore, as the site develops, it is entirely likely that planning will include the exposure of the cellars and other features of the town of Cambridge, and these archeological ruins left open for viewing by the history minded public, much as the ruins of Jamestown in Virginia, and Brunswick Town in North Carolina, and Fort Frederica in Georgia have been excavated and left standing open as reminders of our heritage.

HISTORIC SITE DEVELOPMENT

A Tour of Ninety Six

We can envision the site of Ninety Six as it is developed in the years to come as a place of outstanding interest to all generations of history aware Americans. Parents with their children leave their car at the parking lot in Savage's old field and tour the visitor center museum where the exciting panorama of history unfolds through artifacts and documents, through sight and sound, as the historic site they are about to visit is introduced. The introduction over, the group stands for a moment before the large window in the lobby which reveals a dramatic view of the parapet mounds of Holmes' Fort, with the palisade of the town of Ninety Six in the background. They perhaps walk past a well which they are told by means of a field exhibit, was dug in November 1775, inside Williamson's Fort which was a temporary affair. They move on to a more substantial work, the interpreted ruin of Holmes' Fort, and they enter the opening where the original gate once stood. Perhaps they will see a stockade around the area as well as the protective ditch and parapet mound. After reading the field exhibit on the site, the parents follow the children's excited cries as they run down the Covered Way ditch toward the stream at the bottom of the hill, and across a small bridge and through the palisade wall into the town of Ninety Six. The open cellar ruin of the brick jail is seen near the entrance, with stabilized walls standing a few feet above the level of

the ground, to prevent accidents, and to protect the ruin itself.

Interpretive field exhibits here guide the group to the depression of the Charleston Road, where they see other open cellar ruins, and a drawing of how the town must have appeared when the houses were standing. The children find the east corner of the palisade and follow inside a parapet ditch toward the Star Fort, where they visit the remaining earthworks, left very much as it has survived through the centuries, and here they see a field exhibit showing how the fort looked in all its glory. Another exhibit to the north of the star explains Greene's siegeworks, but the highlight of the visit to this area is the view of the mine dug by Kosciusko, here steps lead down to where you can see into the actual tunnel dug two hundred years ago, and they remember the diorama in the visitor center museum that showed the Americans digging this tunnel in an attempt to reach beneath the fort.

Leaving here they walk past the graveyard of those who died in the battle, and follow a depression into the Island Ford Road, then down a path near a ditch and embankment that has remained intact for hundreds of years, a ditch so shallow that a few plowings would have destroyed it, but yet it remains today! On the walkway bridge across a road leading to the Star Fort parking lot they stop for a moment and watch cars pass beneath them on their way to see the Star Fort. Some people cannot make the entire trip by foot, and prefer to visit the Star Fort by car. They walk back up the Covered Way, and before going to the parking lot, they stop by the mound and ditch of Lee's Parallels to see the exhibit telling about the capture of the fort by Lee's men on June 18, 1781.

They buy refreshments at the visitor center, and then back to the car for the ride to the site of the trading post they have learned is located a short drive south of the site of Ninety Six. They drive beneath the bridge they stood on a short time before, and past the Star Fort, and then down a quiet road through fields and trees, then along a great depression which the signs tell them is the two hundred year old Charleston Road. As they approach the top of a pleasant hill, the children cry out in surprise and excitement as they see on the lower hill below them yet another palisade wall, that of Fort Ninety Six at Goudy's Trading Post. They park in the parking lot and get out to view the ruins of cellars. Here they see not only a single palisade fort, but parts of two or more forts with exhibits pointing out that these were additions made at various times to protect against the Cherokee Indians. In a small exhibit pavilion they learn about an Indian attack that occurred here, and about a scalp being run up with the British flag to the top of the flag pole, and about the bones of Indians being fed to the dogs of the colonists. While the parents rest in the shade of the roof of the exhibit pavilion, the children run along the nature trail which goes to a small stream where they see the stones placed there when the Charleston Road was in use as a help for wagons trying to get across the ford. While they are gone, the parents talk with the guide who is on hand to answer questions. They had seen a similar guide at the town of Ninety Six and at the Star Fort, but they had been busy talking with another group so they had not talked with them. Now they found that the guide was a great help with some of the questions that

had come up on the tour. When the children returned, they drove back to the top of the hill where they could look down on the site of Fort Ninety Six, and here they stopped to eat their picnic lunch at tables in the shade of the trees.

Our Responsibility

Somewhere between our projection into the future and the site of Ninety Six we see today, the dream meets reality. Our responsibility to the future lies in first having a dream worthy of our striving, and reaching for its conversion to reality through the most competent means at our disposal. We must take care not to spoil the dream in our eagerness to bring its fuzzy edges too quickly into the sharp focus of reality. For to do so is to warp our understanding of history through the creation of distorted images that do a disservice to the past as well as the future. We must constantly, in our role as stewards of the past, be aware of this responsibility. All our efforts should be directed toward achieving the greatest degree of accuracy in our historical and archeological research, to insure the closest correlation between the reality of the past and our explanatory exhibits. These parapets and palisades, cabins and ruins, are the bridges leading the minds of men to a greater appreciation of our heritage. We must not fail in our role as historical engineers shaping the attitudes and understanding of generations yet unborn. For it is only through what we do today in developing our historic sites that the future can know the past through them. If we, in our enthusiasm, and in the name of history and "restoration", damage, destroy and distort the clues that have

survived, rather than competently interpreting them, we have burned the bridges behind us, and the future can no longer build on the true evidence, but must forever depend on our interpretation. We, the researchers and developers of historic sites, are the only ones who have the opportunity of observing the maximum amount of historical and archeological evidence. Once the pages in the earth have been revealed through archeology, there is never another chance for those pages to be read, for the archeological process itself is a destructive force, erasing as it reveals. There is no second chance!

We should guard against first-impulse planning and development; against the log-cabin syndrome, where the countryside is stripped of all log cabins, to be planted in a cluster like pseudo-historical mushroom towns springing up over night, regardless of the historical focus or archeological merit a site might otherwise possess. In our enthusiasm we may go so far as to use California redwood in our "restorations", implying trade routes and resources undreamed of by our forebearers. Yet the minds of children and unsuspecting adults are shaped by such distortions that are springing full-blown as creations of our own age rather than anchored in the past through research and archeology.

Let us guard against the pitfalls of creating "instant history" insufficiently rooted in the rich humus of our heritage of people, their things, and the historic sites that were the stage for their drama. Rather, as we engineer our explanatory exhibits in the form of parapets and palisades, ruins and cabins, restorations and reconstructions

on historic sites, we should be constantly aware of our role as creators of historical images to become burned into the minds of men. If our efforts to interpret history on historic sites are insufficiently supported by research and archeology, and we find that the palisade we built must be taken down in favor of a more accurate presentation, the damage has already been done by false images carried away by all those who viewed the bastard child.

Therefore, we should look closely at our responsibility. These are not games we are playing with history! Our involvement in the past is our investment in the future!