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# An Archeological Survey of the Area of a Proposed Industrial Park Located on the Byrd Trust Lands in Florence County, South Carolina

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# An Archeological Survey of the Area of a Proposed Industrial Park Located on the Byrd Trust Lands in Florence County, South Carolina

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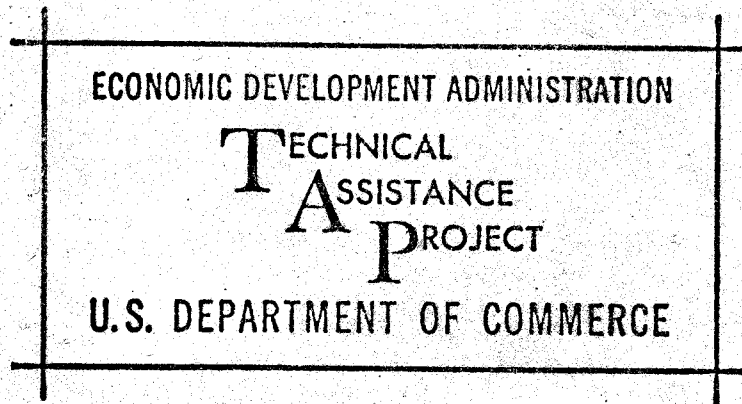
AN ARCHEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF THE AREA OF A PROPOSED  
INDUSTRIAL PARK LOCATED ON THE BYRD TRUST LANDS  
IN FLORENCE COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA

by

Stanley South  
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Prepared by the  
INSTITUTE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND ANTHROPOLOGY  
UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA  
May, 1973

## INTRODUCTION

By contract with the Economic Development Administration, U. S. Department of Commerce, the Institute of Archeology and Anthropology at the University of South Carolina undertook a survey of the area proposed to be developed as an industrial park near the City of Florence, South Carolina, in order to assist the City in understanding the archeological impact of the project. This area is located around the interchange of U. S. I-20 and I-95, east of Florence, and involves 3,450 acres of rural Byrd Trust Lands planned to be converted to residential, commercial and industrial land uses during the next twenty-five years. The survey was designed to locate any archeological sites in the area that would become inaccessible after the development of the property. Of particular interest were sewer and water service lines presently being installed in the area to serve the needs of the development.

The lands involved in the survey lie to the west of the junction of Beaverdam Creek and Jefferies Creek (Fig. 1). The area is easily divided into quadrants based on the intersection of the two interstate highways. Large fields in the northeast and southwest quadrants allowed the survey to locate several sites of archeological interest, with woods, the General Electric Plant and a large borrow pit limiting the number of sites located in the northwest and southeast quadrants.

The survey was conducted in three days on the project site by this writer assisted by Miss Susan Jackson of the Institute staff. Laboratory processing and analyses of the specimens and records, drafting of the map, and preparation of the report has occupied a total of six additional days. A total of nine days was thus spent on this project. The field

procedure involved was walking the area of the fields, roads and construction areas wherever the ground was exposed in order to locate evidence of previous occupation by Indians or others. Both Indian and nineteenth century occupation sites were located and recorded. The seventeen sites are shown on the map in Figure 1, and a summary of the occupational evidence is presented in the following listing for each of the sites.

#### THE ARCHEOLOGICAL SITES

- 38FL18 Archaic Period scraper and chips, nineteenth century ceramics
- 38FL19 Indian sand-tempered, cord-marked and plain pottery, felsite and slate chips, nineteenth century ironstone
- 38FL20 Indian sand-tempered pottery, chipped-stone projectile point fragment, nineteenth century ironstone
- 38FL21 Indian sand-tempered, check-stamped pottery, ironstone, procelain, whiteware, and other nineteenth century ceramics
- 38FL22 Ironstone and other twentieth century objects
- 38FL23 Deptford Check-Stamped pottery, slate and quartz chips
- 38FL24 Indian sand-tempered, cord-marked sherd and chips
- 38FL25 Twentieth century ironstone, whiteware, nineteenth century padlock
- 38FL26 Archaic Period Indian projectile point
- 38FL27 Quartzite hammerstone
- 38FL28 Triangular Indian arrowhead, nineteenth century whiteware
- 38FL29 Archaic Period projectile point (Guilford), chipped-stone blade, slate and felsite chips, Indian plain, cord-marked and check-stamped pottery, nineteenth century ironstone
- 38FL30 Cord-marked and fabric-impressed Indian pottery
- 38FL31 Archaic Period projectile point (Morrow Mountain), quartz, slate and felsite chips, check-stamped pottery
- 38FL32 Plain Indian pottery, nineteenth century ceramics
- 38FL33 Base of projectile point, quartzite projectile point fragment
- 38FL34 Nineteenth century blue-edged whiteware

## INTERPRETATION

From this listing of the objects represented in this group of sites, it is apparent that the area was occupied by various groups of people during the past six thousand years. The Morrow Mountain projectile point (Site 38FL31) is the earliest evidence for man in the area, with later occupations during the Guilford (38FL29) and Savannah River Archaic Periods, from three to five thousand years ago (Coe 1964: 121). During pottery making times Indians of the Deptford Phase, from 600 B. C. to 700 A. D., and those of the succeeding Wilmington Phase, from around 700 to 1,000 A. D. (Milanich 1971: x, 149), occupied the area. No evidence for the use of the area by Indians making complicated stamped pottery (after ca. 1,000 A. D.) was found. Indians during this period apparently preferred a different ecological environment than that offered by the area of this survey.

The presence of nineteenth and early twentieth century ceramics on most of the sites in the area clearly indicates the period when this area was first used extensively during historic times. There was no evidence for major structures representing plantation houses or affluent landowners found in the survey. Such evidence would be in the form of masonry foundations or cellar holes, and none of these were located. The ceramics representing the nineteenth century occupation of the area, therefore, appear to have come from tenant houses once located at various points along the edge of the huge fields seen in the area today. Such structures are still standing on Sites 38FL22, 25 and 28.

From the map in Figure 1, it can be seen that the sites are located at the point in the fields where the tree-line thrusts into the field, or

on the ground between these points. Where the trees extend into the field there is sloping ground, making cultivation impractical, so the farmers have avoided plowing these drainage areas. Some of these areas have spring heads with good flows of water, others are merely damp and marshy, possibly reflecting open springs in past millenia. Fine springs are located just over the edge of the high ground of the field at Sites 38FL21 and 30, and there may well be others adjacent to other sites that were not discovered in this survey. The location of Indian sites and nineteenth century sites in the vicinity of these spring heads and not so much in the center of the open high-ground area, clearly indicates that the water flowing from these drainage areas was a factor in the selection of these sites for occupation. No Indian sites were found in the open fields away from these sources of water, suggesting that the ecological environment of these drainage areas was attractive to Indians for a period of several thousand years, being sources of water as well as areas likely to attract various kinds of animals of use to the Indians. The fact that no large Indian village sites were located anywhere in the project area, and that all those sites that were located were small and covered an area no greater than a hundred yards across, indicates that the groups of people involved were small in numbers and/or that the sites were occupied for a short period of time.

Although seventeen sites representing Indian occupation during a period of five or six thousand years were found during this survey, this is generally what we might expect to find, and only one site is seen to need further archeological work. Site 38FL30 is of particular interest. It contained twenty-three sand-tempered cord-marked Indian sherds, and three Deptford check-stamped sherds, with quartz, slate and felsite chips.

These were distributed in an area less than one hundred feet across, and except for the Deptford sherds, may represent a single house site. Excavation in this one hundred foot area might reveal evidence in the subsoil in the form of postholes, pits or other features associated with the occupation represented by these sherds.

Site 38FL30, which is physically located in the industrial site area, should be excavated by a three-day expedition with a crew of four, designed to explore the possibility that the site represents one or two individual houses. A single day may well reveal the fact that no structural evidence is remaining, but if structural evidence is found, a minimum of three days would be required to reveal and record the data. If burials and midden pits in abundance were found, a total of five days would then be required to investigate the site. Appropriate laboratory, research, and writing time would be required to complete a report of this work. Although current utility construction is not affecting Site 38FL30, it is strongly recommended that this site be given archeological attention before further development of that portion of the area is undertaken.

In conducting this survey, Mr. Gene Waddell, Director of the Florence Museum, was consulted as to his experience with locating sites in the area, and his evaluation of the potential is consistent with the evidence reported here. Mrs. James W. Fant, Coordinator, Historic Preservation Division of the South Carolina Archives Department, representing the State Liaison Officer for the National Register of Historic Places, was also consulted as to the possibility of historic houses and other documented values in the survey area. She reported that no such sites were in the area of the survey. Also consulted was Dr. G. Wayne King, President of the Florence County Historical Society who also reported in the negative. We wish to



thank these people for their cooperation.

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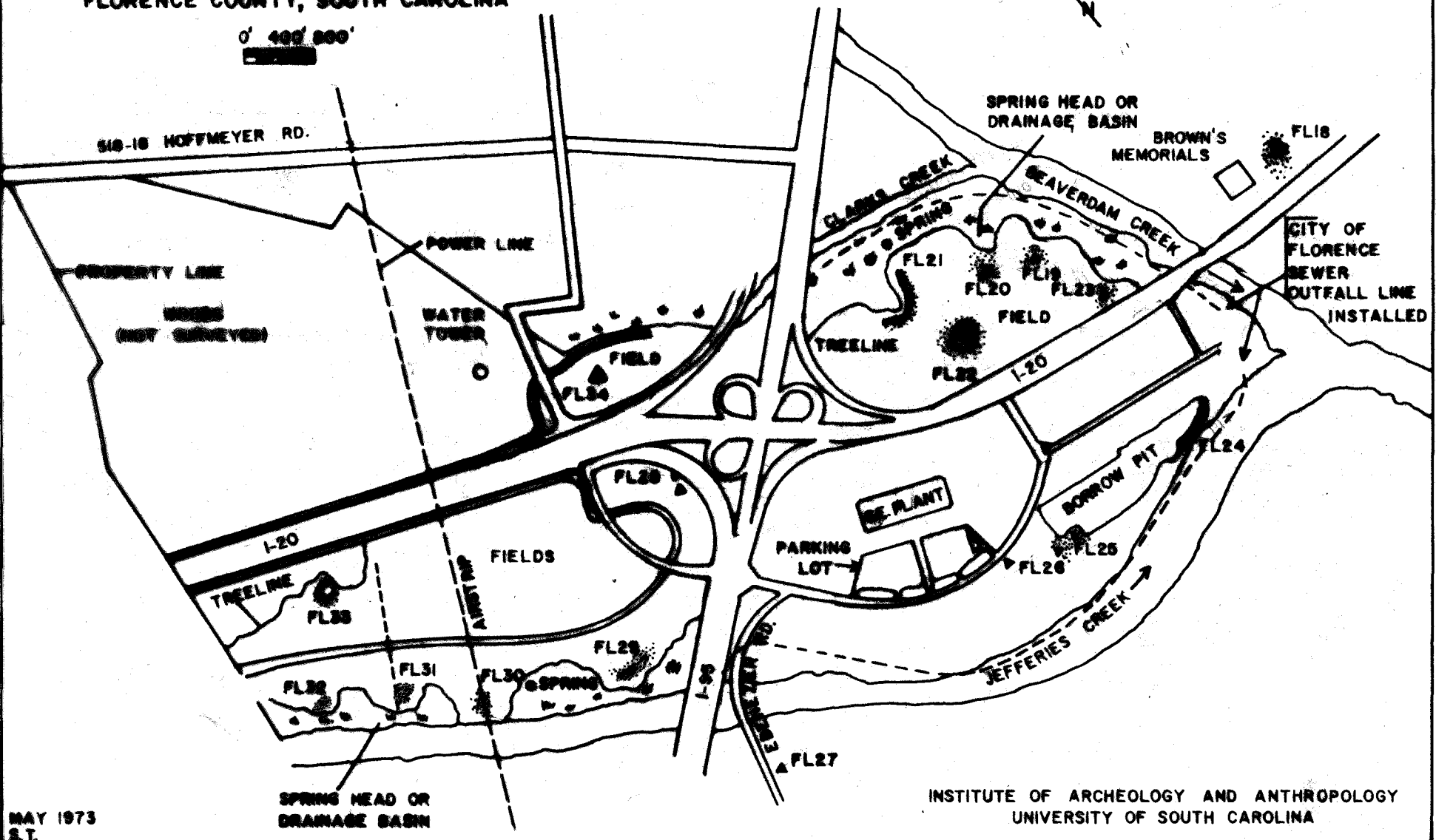
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ARCHEOLOGICAL SITES  
 IN THE AREA OF THE PROPOSED  
 FLORENCE INDUSTRIAL PARK  
 FLORENCE COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA

0' 400' 800'



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 S.T.

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 UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA

FIG. 1