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# Horse Range Swamp Watershed Survey

**Description**

Archaeological survey was conducted by the Institute of Archeology and Anthropology, University of South Carolina during the first week of December, 1972 in the Horse Range Swamp Watershed District, located in eastern Orangeburg County, South Carolina. A stream channel improvement program sponsored by local organizations--the Horse Range Swamp Conservation District and the Orangeburg Soil and Water Conservation District--is scheduled to begin early in January, 1973. Archaeological survey revealed a sparse distribution of Archaic and Early Woodland sites in the area. No sites were found in the path of the proposed construction. Thus, survey results indicate that there is little possibility that stream channel improvement will destroy any significant archaeological sites.

**Keywords**

Excavations, Orangeburg County, Horse Range Swamp Watershed, South Carolina, Archeology

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HORSE RANGE SWAMP  
WATERSHED SURVEY

by

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January, 1973

## ABSTRACT

Archaeological survey was conducted by the Institute of Archeology and Anthropology, University of South Carolina during the first week of December, 1972 in the Horse Range Swamp Watershed District, located in eastern Orangeburg County, South Carolina. A stream channel improvement program sponsored by local organizations--the Horse Range Swamp Conservation District and the Orangeburg Soil and Water Conservation District--is scheduled to begin early in January, 1973. Archaeological survey revealed a sparse distribution of Archaic and Early Woodland sites in the area. No sites were found in the path of the proposed construction. Thus, survey results indicate that there is little possibility that stream channel improvement will destroy any significant archaeological sites.

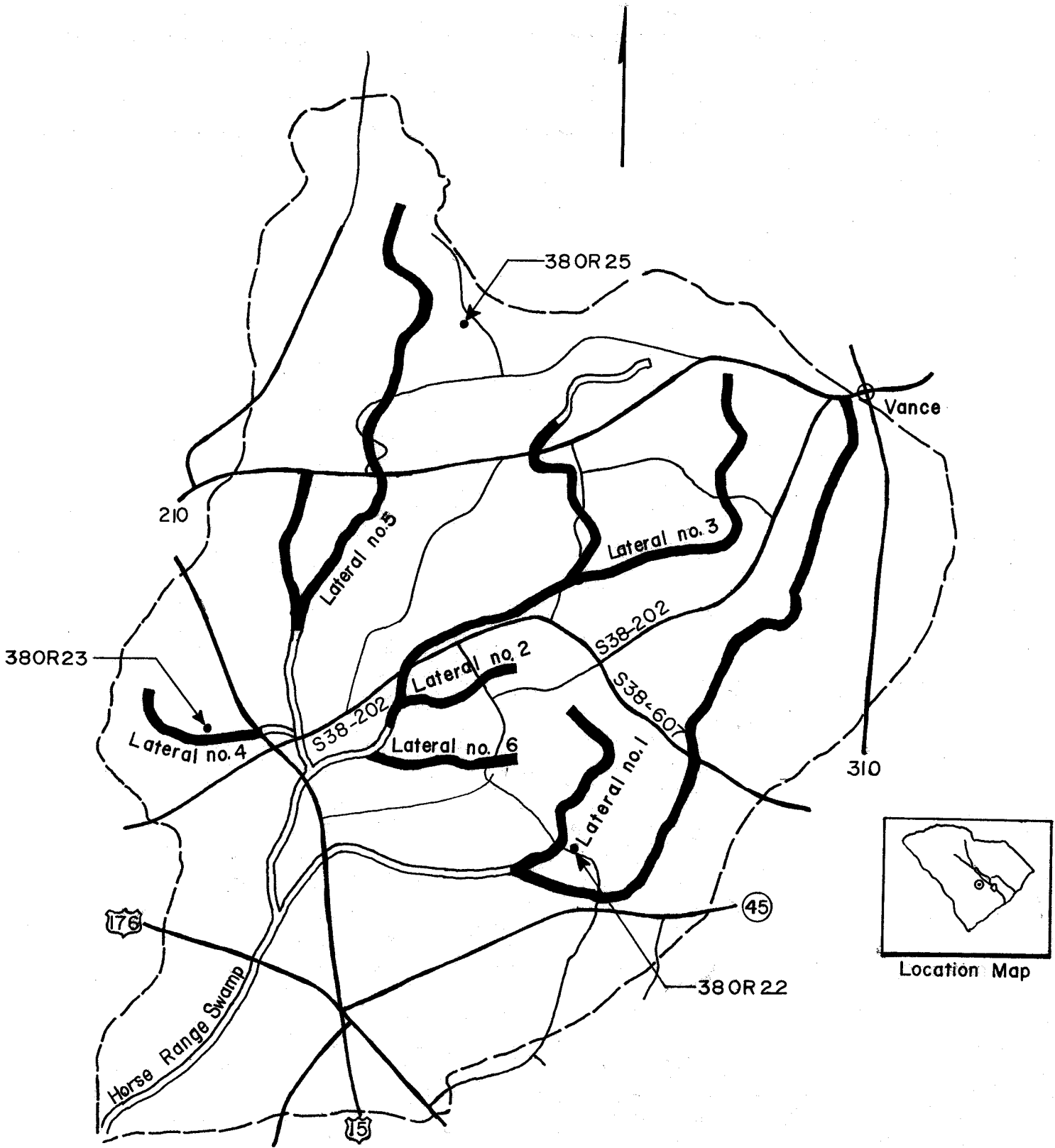
## INTRODUCTION

The primary purpose of the Horse Range Swamp survey was to locate and record any prehistoric sites that might be destroyed by the stream channel improvement program in the Watershed District to be carried out under the auspices of the United States Department of Agriculture. A secondary goal involved obtaining information concerning coastal settlement patterns of the inhabitants of South Carolina during prehistoric times.

The project proposes conservation land treatment over the Horse Range Swamp Watershed and will involve the widening of approximately 25 miles of stream channels in order to alleviate the problems of flooding and poor drainage on agricultural lands (Map 1). None of the channels planned for excavation are those with perennial flow; areas which have been previously enlarged by man, those where no drains exist, and natural drainage ways will be included in the program. Approximately 45 acres of cropland and 169 acres of mixed hardwoods and pines will be used for channels, spoil, and maintenance travel roads (United States Department of Agriculture, October, 1972).

The Watershed District is composed of two environmental zones: a northern region of flat, open land and wooded forests and a smaller area of swampland in the southern part. The survey was carried westward outside the District to Four Hole Swamp and the confluence of the North and South Forks of the Edisto River which are predominately swamp environments. A total of eight sites was located, four within the District and four outside in the southern portion of the county. The majority of the

# HORSE RANGE SWAMP WATERSHED



MAP NO. 1

sites were multicomponent and contained Early and Middle Woodland ceramic and lithic material. Two of these sites produced limited evidence of Archaic settlements provided by diagnostic projectile point types. In general, the Horse Range Swamp Watershed District seems to have been an area of low life-support qualities for prehistoric populations due mainly to poor drainage conditions which result in a lack of reliable water resources. For this reason, the stream channel improvement project will very unlikely destroy any prehistoric sites. However, any artifactual material discovered during construction work should be reported to the Institute of Archeology and Anthropology. Additional surface collection is recommended for most of the sites, and one site--38OR28--should be tested to determine the depth and nature of the deposit.

## NATURAL ENVIRONMENT OF THE SURVEY AREA

The Horse Range Swamp Watershed, located 22 miles east of Orangeburg and approximately 3 miles from Lake Marion, is part of the Edisto River basin which flows into the Atlantic Ocean near Charleston, South Carolina. The soils are identified as a Goldsboro-Norfolk-Lynchburg Association, Varying from sandy loams to loamy sands (Land Resource Map of South Carolina, 1966). While potentially productive for farming by modern methods, the Watershed area was generally not suitable for agricultural use by the Indians due to the poor drainage conditions and infertility of the soil in the natural state.

The two environmental zones of the Watershed District are closely correlated to the number of sites found during the survey. The northern region, above U.S. 176, is nearly level and has very poor drainage. The present stream channels contain no water except for the days immediately following a rainfall. Thus, surface water resources are usually limited. Considering the sparse number of sites located in the survey, this factor may have been a determinant in prehistoric subsistence and settlement patterns. Forests are primarily with pines and hardwoods: loblolly and longleaf pines, gum, oak, yellow poplar, and red maple. Wildlife habitats include open land and edge-type, with the latter type prevailing along the wooded drains proposed for improvement. Typical species of wild life include: grey squirrel, hermit thrush, killdeer, blackbird, meadowlark, bobwhite, red fox, rabbit, black snake, and pine lizard (United States Department of Agriculture, October, 1972). In consideration of the water and biotic resources, this area seems to be one



of low life-support qualities, although it was evidently utilized by aboriginal inhabitants for hunting and gathering during sporadic visits.

The southern part of the Watershed District is a wooded swampland of mature oak, gum, and elm trees. The wildlife habitat, which is reported to be diminishing, supports the species deer, wild turkey, wood duck, barred owl, and alligator (United States Department of Agriculture, October, 1972). Most of the streams of this part of the Watershed are well-drained and free-flowing (United States Geological Survey, Eutawville, SIC., 1943). The southern section of the county has the same type of swampland environment. Since water resources were more abundant, this area probably offered a richer environment for exploitation by pre-historic people.

## SURVEY PROCEDURE

The primary method employed for gathering data was surface collection. Initially, the stream channels and adjacent fields were inspected for possible occupational sites, but very little was found. Vegetative growth along the channels prevented surface collecting, and some parts of the channels were nearly inaccessible due to dense growth. Four sites were located on the outer channels of Horse Range Swamp, but none were found in the central section of the District. This seems to be related to the paucity of natural channels in the interior of the District. Road cuts in the area were also examined, and several sites were located on small sandy bluffs beside the roads.

The survey was later extended outside the Watershed District to Four Hole Swamp and the confluence of the North and South branches of the Edisto River in the order to get a better sample of prehistoric settlements. Four more sites of very similar content were located, three on sandy bluffs beside roads and one on a bulldozed area at the point of convergence of the forks of the Edisto River. This area was not as completely surveyed as the Watershed District, but the same amount of artifactual material was collected. Perhaps this differential in quantity of material is indicative of the intensity of occupation of the two areas. Further surface collection needs to be done before more conclusive statements can be made concerning settlement patterns in this section of South Carolina, but the present data seem to point to the swamp-land as a more favorable environment for exploitation and occupation by prehistoric people.

## SITE DESCRIPTIONS

Altogether eight sites were located and recorded during the survey. The material collected consists of pottery, flakes, stone tools, and some historic material that was sparsely distributed on each site. The following is a brief description of the setting and material gathered from sites recorded during the survey\*:

### 38OR21

The first site was located on the northeastern boundary of the Watershed District, approximately 1.5 miles from Lake Marion. Situated in the western corner of a field, this site overlooks a creek which flows into the lake (United States Geological Survey, Eutawville, South Carolina, 1943). The area of occupation is very small and sparse, and there is a presence of erosion. One nineteenth century wine bottle fragment and one plain, sand-tempered sherd were found. Further surface collection is recommended.

### 38OR22

One worked flake was found in a plowed field beside stream Lateral #1. The field is approximately 150 yards x 100 yards and is bordered on three sides by pine woods. The channel was densely overgrown, and no water was present. There are no recommendations.

### 38OR23

38OR23 is situated on the western side of the Watershed District in

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\*The historical material was identified with the assistance of Richard Polhemus.

a plowed field 100 yards from stream Lateral #4. Artifactual material, which included stone tools, ceramics, and some historic material was scattered on a small rise at the eastern end of the field.

Lithic material includes:

24 flakes of chalcedony, quartz, and sandstone, 6 of which are worked

2 Morrow Mountain II projectile points (Coe, 1964: Fig. 34)

1 nutting stone

1 hammerstone

The majority of pottery found on this site is tempered with coarse sand; there is a small percentage of fine sand-tempered sherds and two fiber-tempered sherds. Paste color varies from buff to dark grey, and surface colors consist of light tones of red, tan, brown, and light grey. Rim profiles are straight to slightly flaring. Sixty-two percent of the body sherds are plain; check-stamped and cord-marked sherds are present. The check-stamped sherds are similar to the Deptford Linear check-stamped type (Sears and Griffin, 1950).

The historic material consists of a small number of nineteenth century stoneware and earthenware fragments, one wine bottle fragment, and one brick fragment.

A representative sample of material from this site was obtained.

#### 38OR24

This site is located on a small, sandy ridge beside S.C. 92, approximately one mile from Wadboo Swamp (United States Geological Survey Bowman, South Carolina, 1921). The area of occupation extends about 25 to 30 feet along the top of the ridge beside a large pasture. One flake

and two Deptford Check Stamped sherds were collected (Sears and Griffin, 1950). More surface collection should be done on this site.

#### 38OR25

38OR25 is situated on a sandy knoll beside a dirt road, near the natural terminus of channel Lateral #5. The area of occupation which measured approximately 300 feet x 100 feet, was covered with tall weeds that made collection difficult. A sparse distribution of flakes of chalcedony and thick sherds tempered with coarse sand was observed. The pottery is characterized by straight rims, surface colors of light orange and tan on the surface and cores. The majority of the sherds were plain, but three have been identified as Dunlap Fabric-Marked (Wauchope, 1966: Fig. 204; Jennings and Fairbanks, 1940: 7). Further surface collection is suggested.

#### 38OR26

A short distance down the highway from 38OR24, another site of similar nature was located. Approximately .5 mile from St. Stephens' Church, 38OR26 is covered with the asphalt spray resulting from road construction. Two plain, coarse sand-tempered body sherds were found on a small, sandy knoll on the side of the road. Continued surface collection is recommended.

#### 38OR27

This site was located south of the Branchville City Limits, on U.S. 21. Like three of the sites found previously, 38OR27 is situated on a sandy knoll beside the road; the ground was overgrown with weeds and a small branch of the Edisto River runs close by (U.S.G.S. Lodge, S.C.,

1921). Seven flakes, all of chalcedony except for one of quartz, were collected; three are worked. One nineteenth century fragment of brown earthenware was also found. More surface collection is suggested.

380R28

The last site was located on a flat grassy area near the confluence of the North and South Forks of the Edisto River (Map 2). Several small houses and trailers border the site on the northern and eastern sides. The area of collection had been bulldozed and extends approximately 150 yards x 100 yards. The occupation area may be up to twice as large as the collection area.

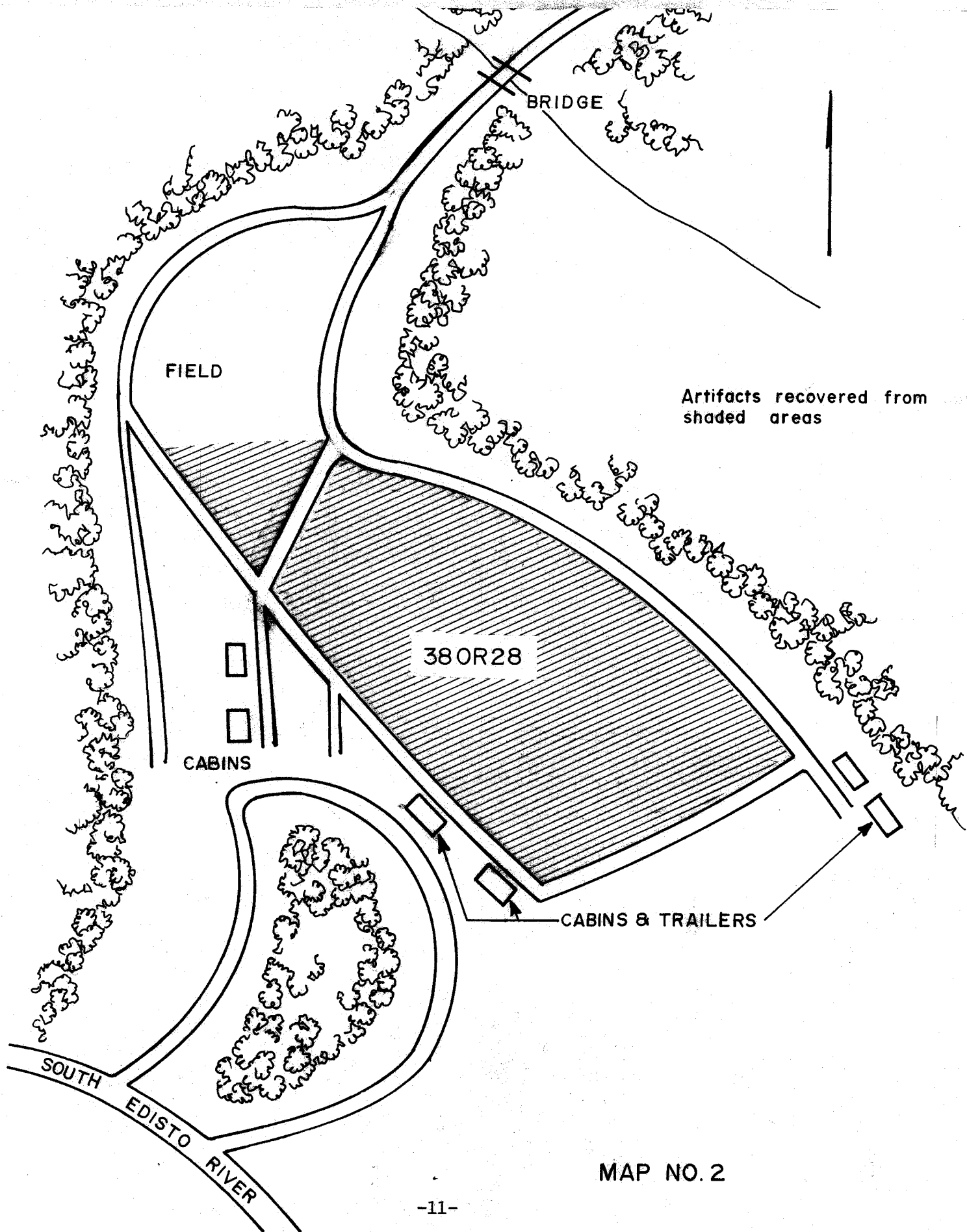
Lithic material consists of 45 flakes, predominately chalcedony with some patination, and three projectile points:

1 basal portion of a Savannah River point (Coe, 1964: Fig. 37),

1 Taylor point (The Chesopian, Vol. 4, No. 5 & 6, 1966),

1 small corner-notched point similar to points found by Leland Ferguson on his survey of the Savannah River Basin in 1971.

The ceramics of the site are similar to that of 380R23. Tempering ranges from fine to very coarse sand, and there are three fiber-tempered sherds. Surface colors vary from light tones of tan, orange, and light grey to reddish-brown and medium grey. Paste color is usually the same as the surface color, but twenty-two percent have dark grey cores. The rim profiles are straight. Seventy-five percent of the pottery is plain; simple stamp sherds include one cord-mark and Mossy Oak and Deptford Simple Stamp (Sears and Griffin, 1950). Several sherds with rectilinear punctation fit the type description of Thom's Creek Punctate (Griffin, 1945). Two sherds with circular punctations were not definitely identified but are similar in paste and color to the other Woodland pottery found on the site.



MAP NO. 2

The historic material consists of two plain fragments of white pearlware, dating between the 1790's and the 1830's; one white earthenware fragment and one piece of brown, salt-glazed stoneware, both dating in the nineteenth century.

38OR28 should be tested.



## SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

The earliest evidence of human occupation in the survey area is provided by the Taylor point found at 38OR28. This point dates from the Early Archaic, about 8000-9000 B.C. (The Chesopian, 1966). The Middle Archaic period is represented by the Morrow Mountain II points found at 38OR23 dating about 4000 B.C. (Coe, 1964: 121).

The Savannah River point from 38OR28 belongs to the Late Archaic period. The fiber-tempered sherds found on two of the sites are identified as Stallings Island Plain (Sears and Griffin, 1950). This complex of ceramics tempered with organic material is in part ancestral to the granular-tempered pottery that was collected on the majority of the sites. In general, the pottery from the Horse Range Creek survey constitutes an Early Woodland complex composed of simple stamped, fabric-impressed, and punctated pottery types. Cord-marked sherds may indicate a Middle Woodland occupation. The small, corner-notched point that was found at the last site may be associated with the Early or Middle Woodland cultural period. This point is very similar to points found in the Savannah River Basin by Leland Ferguson in 1971 that were associated with cord-marked and simple stamped pottery.

The size and content of the sites reflect small settlements that were occupied seasonally for exploitation of the plant and animal resources in the survey area. Because the Watershed area was so unreceptive to intensive human occupation, the prehistoric inhabitants apparently utilized it for primarily hunting and gathering for short periods of time in the course of movements in the coastal plains.

38OR28 indicates that the swampland was a more hospitable area for settlement and was occupied more extensively.

It is recommended that further survey work involving surface collection be done in the area, particularly near the swamp and branches of the Edisto. 38OR28 should be tested for stratigraphy and subsurface features.

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