

Fall 1984

The Camden Jail and Market Site: A Report on Preliminary Investigations

Kenneth E. Lewis

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The Camden Jail and Market Site: A Report on Preliminary Investigations

Keywords

Excavations, Kershaw County, Camden Jail and Market Site, Camden, South Carolina, Archeology

Disciplines

Anthropology

Publisher

The South Carolina Institute of Archeology and Anthropology—University of South Carolina

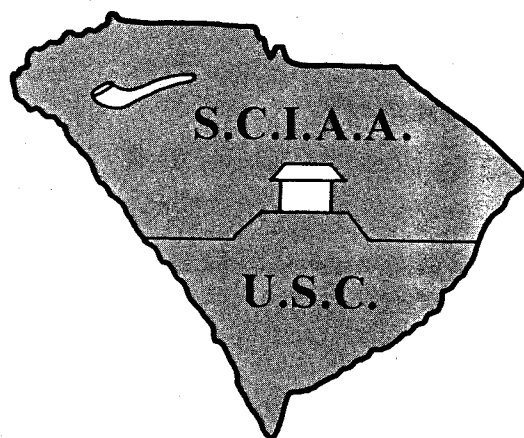
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SOUTH CAROLINA INSTITUTE OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND ANTHROPOLOGY

NOTEBOOK

THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA • COLUMBIA, S.C.



A quarterly journal of reports and activities of mutual interest to the individuals and organizations within the framework of the Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology at the University of South Carolina and for the information of friends and associates of the Institute.

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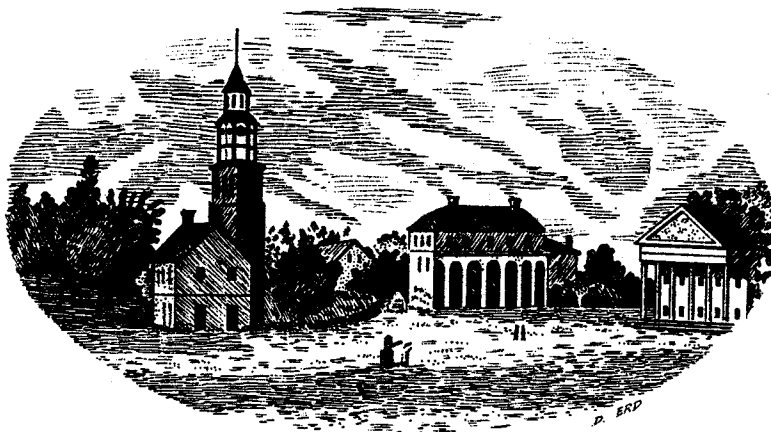
by Kenneth E. Lewis 1

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THE CAMDEN JAIL AND MARKET SITE:
A REPORT ON PRELIMINARY INVESTIGATIONS

by

Kenneth E. Lewis



This project was funded with the assistance of a matching grant from the U. S. Department of the Interior, Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service, administered by the South Carolina Department of Archives and History, under provisions of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966.

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

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

I wish to thank the following individuals and organizations for their contributions to the Camden Jail and Market project. First, thanks are due Hope Cooper, Director of Historic Camden, for informing us that historical remains had been uncovered by construction work at the Jail and Market site. Her alertness and concern for preserving this significant historical site is appreciated. During the fieldwork, I was assisted by Donald Sutherland of the South Carolina Department of Archives and History and Michael A. Harmon of the Institute of Archeology and Anthropology.

The analysis of the Camden Jail and Market site materials was conducted at the Institute of Archeology and Anthropology of the University of South Carolina and was funded with the assistance of a matching survey and planning grant from the U. S. Department of the Interior, Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service, administered by the South Carolina Department of Archives and History, under provisions of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966. Robert L. Stephenson, Director of the Institute of Archeology and Anthropology, provided encouragement and support for the project and Stanley South was, as always, a constant source of information and inspiration.

In Camden several individuals were of particular help. Maxcy Chappell, owner of Camden Tractor Sales, provided much information about the modern history of the site. His dealership occupied this property for nearly two decades, during which time the present structure was erected. Mr. Chappell's observations concerning the presence of archeological remains at the site were particularly helpful in our interpretation of the excavated feature. His interest in and concern for the historical significance of the site are appreciated. Jim Fox, manager of the Dilmar Oil Company, the site's present occupant, permitted access to the property for mapping. I am grateful for his cooperation as well as his interest in our work.

I wish also to thank the staffs of the Camden Archives, the offices of the Clerk of Court and Probate Judge in the Kershaw County Courthouse in Camden, the South Caroliniana Library of the University of South Carolina, and the South Carolina Archives in Columbia for their assistance in the documentary research on the Camden Jail and Market site.

The manuscript was benefited from the work of several others on its way to becoming a finished report. Darby Erd contributed the illustrations and the photographic plates are the work of Gordon Brown. Kenn Pinson was responsible for editing and Kathy Ward typed the final draft.

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

<u>CG</u>	<u>Camden Gazette</u>
<u>CGCE</u>	<u>City Gazette and Commercial Examiner</u> [Charleston]
<u>CJ</u>	<u>Camden Journal</u>
CP	Cornwallis Papers
GP/PCC	Nathanael Greene Papers, Papers of the Continental Congress
<u>KCG</u>	<u>Kershaw County Gazette</u>
KCRCCC	Kershaw County, Records of the Clerk of Court, Conveyances
KCRPJW	Kershaw County, Records of the Probate Judge, Wills
KDRMFCTP	Kershaw District, Records of the Magistrates and Freeholders Court, Trial Papers
KP	Thomas J. Kirkland Papers
RB	Record Book of the Town of Camden, South Carolina, 1865-1896
<u>SCCG</u>	<u>Southern Chronical and Camden Gazette</u>
<u>SCG</u>	<u>South Carolina Gazette</u> [Charleston]
SCRCHAJ	South Carolina, Records of the Commons House of Assembly, Journals
SCRGAGJP	South Carolina, Records of the General Assembly, Grand Jury Presentments
SCRGAP	South Carolina, Records of the General Assembly, Petitions
SCS	South Carolina Statutes

INTRODUCTION

In November 1977 the Institute of Archeology and Anthropology at the University of South Carolina was notified by Mrs. Hope Cooper, Director of Historic Camden, that construction work at the proposed site of a gasoline station on the southeast corner of Broad and King Streets in Camden, South Carolina had uncovered evidence of early historic artifacts and evidence of structural foundations. Because this site (Fig. 1) lay within the area of the eighteenth century town of Camden and was the traditional location of the district jail and city market, a preliminary archeological examination of the excavated area was made. The investigations involved collecting surface artifacts uncovered by the excavations and preparing and mapping profiles of the exposed archeological remains. On the basis of this examination, a site number (38KE41) was assigned to this area. Construction work had stopped in the meantime because the intended use of the property was found to be in violation of a city zoning ordinance and, following the archeological work, the holes were refilled. The site was subsequently paved with gravel for use as a parking lot, thus averting immediate further disturbance of the buried archeological remains.

This report will describe and analyze the archeological evidence recovered in these investigations and attempt to determine the condition and extent of the remains encountered at the Jail and Market site. Through the use of documentary and comparative archeological evidence, data from the site will be analyzed in order to ascertain the relationship between the archeological remains and previous known occupations of the site. The results of this work should provide not only an understanding of the site's relationship to these past settlements, but also a more detailed knowledge of the settlement's form and composition.

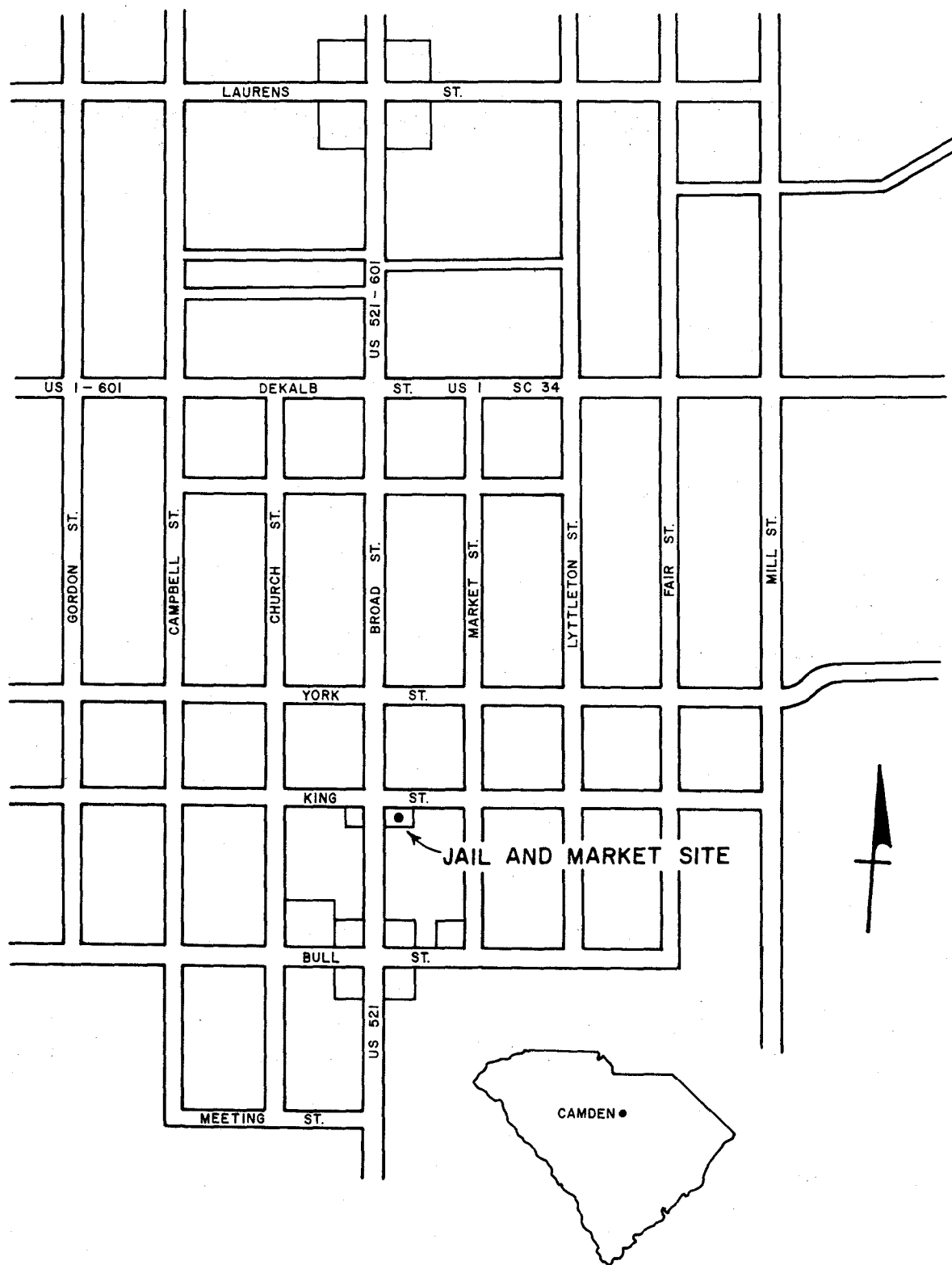


FIGURE 1: Locator map of the Jail and Market site in Camden, South Carolina.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND OF THE CAMDEN JAIL AND MARKET SITE

The Jail and Market site is situated on Lot 25, a tract measuring 132x198 feet at the southeast corner of Broad and King Streets in Camden. Because this lot appears on the earliest map of Camden, the Heard plat drawn in the early 1770s (Fig. 2), it is likely that historic occupations reflected in the archeological record will be those associated with this parcel of land. The documentary historical background of Lot 25 should permit us to ascertain the nature of past occupations there as well as providing basic data, both general and specific, useful in the analysis of the archeological evidence recovered from the site.

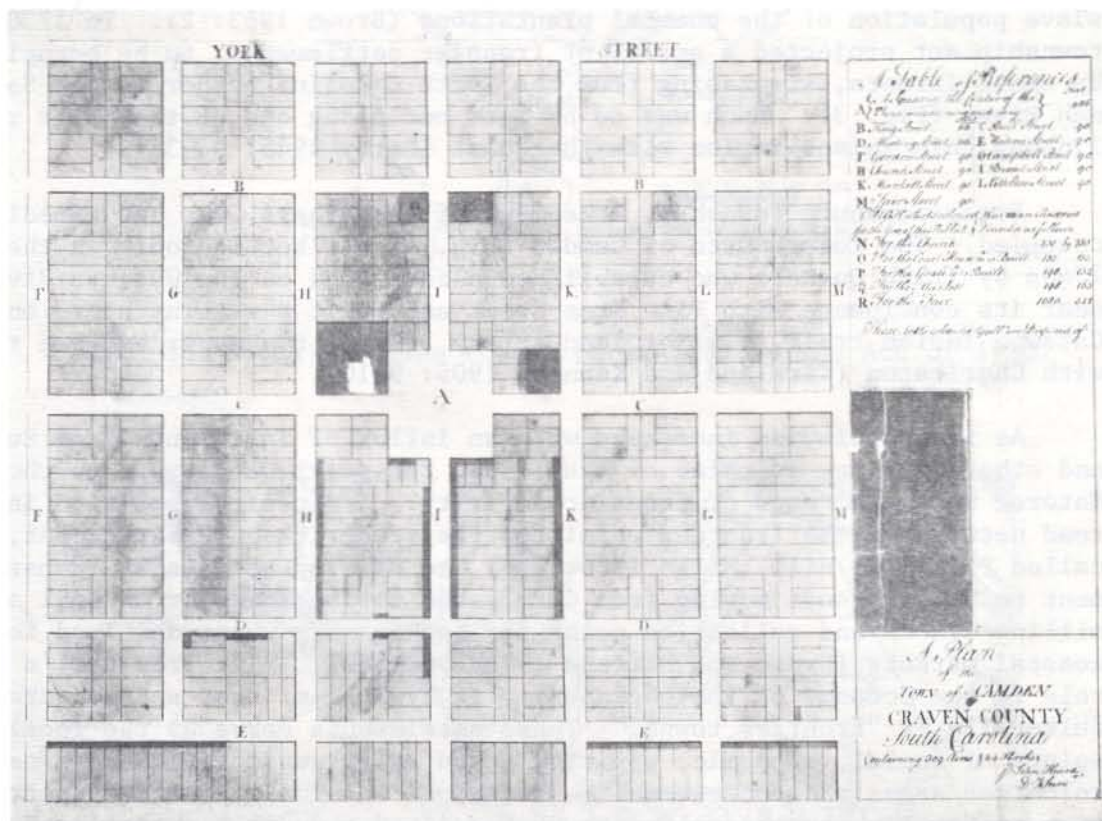


FIGURE 2: The Heard plan of Camden shows the location of the district jail at the southeast corner of Broad and King Streets and the lots reserved for the courthouse and market (SCS/1798/no. 1792).

Camden lies on the Wateree River at the Fall Line, a transition zone separating the Piedmont and Coastal Plain provinces and marked topographically by the deepening of river valleys as the rivers enter the Coastal Plain (Petty 1943: 4-5). Because of its inland location, Camden did not participate directly in the early development of colonial South Carolina. First settled as a province by Great Britain in 1670, the colony was largely confined to the Atlantic coast through the first half century of its existence. Charleston, its capitol, had arisen as a major southern

port, providing a direct link to the homeland as well as to other British colonies in the New World. It served as the focus of the coastal plantation economy as well as the nucleus of the far-flung southeastern Indian trade (Sellers 1934: 5; Crane 1929: 108).

As the eighteenth century progressed, the threats of Indian hostilities and Spanish encroachment diminished, removing the major obstacles to the settlement of the interior. The inefficient proprietary government of the colony was replaced by a royal administration in 1719, integrating the colony more closely within the rapidly expanding and increasingly centralized politico-economic system of Great Britain (John 1962: 371-372). Interior settlement was seen as a means of strengthening British control over the backcountry and increasing the production of raw export materials as well as a means to attract new immigrants to counterbalance the rising slave population of the coastal plantations (Brown 1963: 2). In 1730 a township act projected a series of frontier settlements, to be occupied by small farmers, stretching from the North Carolina border to the Savannah River (Fig. 3). Each was to be laid out along one of the major rivers linking this inland region with the coast (Petty 1943: 34-35).

Fredericksburg Township, like many of the others, was not immediately occupied. The future site of Camden (Fig. 4) was settled only in the 1740s by Irish Quakers who established plantations on the Wateree River near its confluence with Pine Tree Creek and built a meeting house on the Catawba Indian trail, a major land artery linking the upper Wateree region with Charleston (Kirkland and Kennedy 1905: 9-10).

As its population increased with an influx of immigrants from Europe and other American colonies of the 1750s, the small settlement on the Wateree became a focus of frontier activity. Its central position in the road network of the frontier permitted the Fredericksburg settlement, now called Pine Tree Hill (Mills 1826: 586), to develop as a major transshipment point for goods moving from Charleston to the interior as well as a milling center and collection point for backcountry wheat destined for coastal markets (Ernst and Merrens 1973: 561-562). Pine Tree Hill's key role in the economy of the backcountry is typical of that assumed cross-culturally by "frontier towns." These settlements serve as the focal points of social, economic, political, and religious activities in newly colonized areas and constitute the principal termini of the transportation system linking the colony to the homeland through a centralized entrepot such as Charleston (Casagrande, et al. 1964: 312).

Crucial to the success of the Pine Tree Hill settlement was the establishment in 1758 of a store and mill by Joseph Kershaw, an agent for the Charleston firm of Ancrum, Lance, and Loocock. Within the following decade the company had expanded its activities at Camden and had become the dominant firm on the South Carolina frontier, with subsidiary stores on the Congaree and Pee Dee Rivers and an area of business extending well into neighboring North Carolina (Schulz 1976: 94-95). In the 1760s Pine Tree Hill grew as an inland center for break-in-bulk and small-scale industrial activities (such as brewing and brick and pottery-making), surpassing other contemporary frontier settlements in the province (Schulz 1972: 23; Mills 1826: 589).

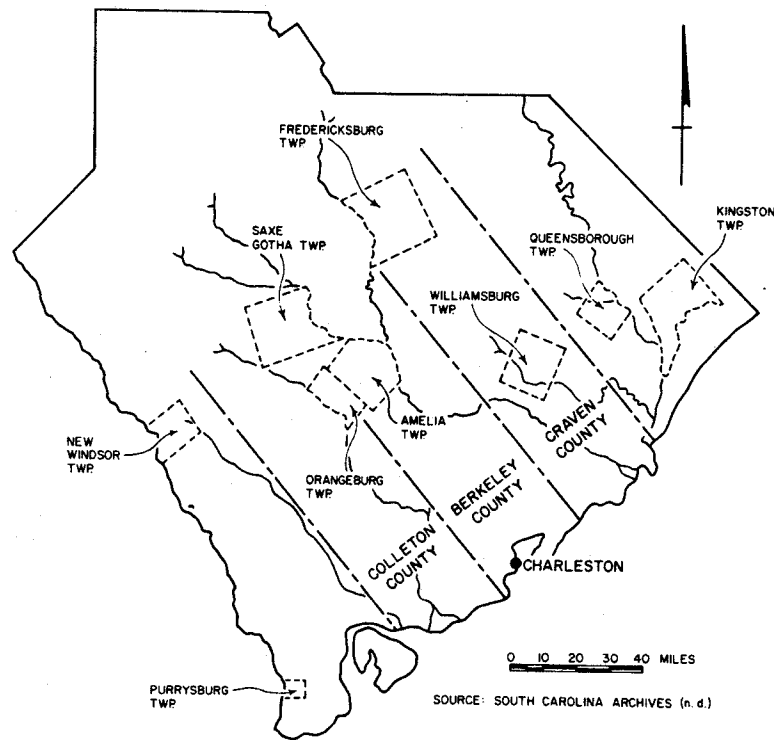


FIGURE 3: South Carolina townships created by the Act of 1730.

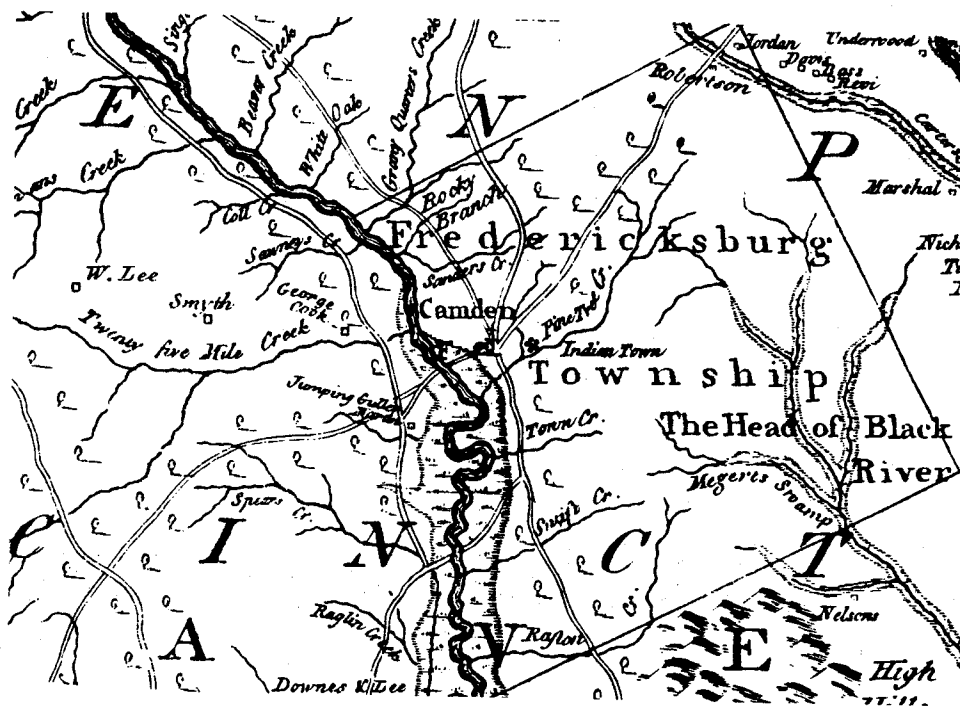


FIGURE 4: The location of Camden in Fredericksburg Township in the 1770s. (Cook 1773)

The settlement's prominent role in the colonial economy and its central position in the trade and communications network of the frontier led to its being selected as the seat of Camden District, one of the seven new judicial districts (Fig. 5) created by the Circuit Court Act of 1769 for the purpose of administering the law in the interior (Brown 1963: 98). With its new political role, Pine Tree lost its old name and became Camden (Kirkland and Kennedy 1905: 94-95). Funds were appropriated to erect a courthouse and jail in each district in April and construction of these buildings in Camden was completed the following year (Kirkland and Kennedy 1905: 12). The work on both structures was contracted to Joseph Kershaw and his associates William Ancrum, Aaron Loocock, and John Chesnut (Brown 1963: 105). The locations of these two buildings is illustrated on the Heard plat (Fig. 2). It shows the district jail on Lot 25 and the courthouse directly opposite it on Lot 1.

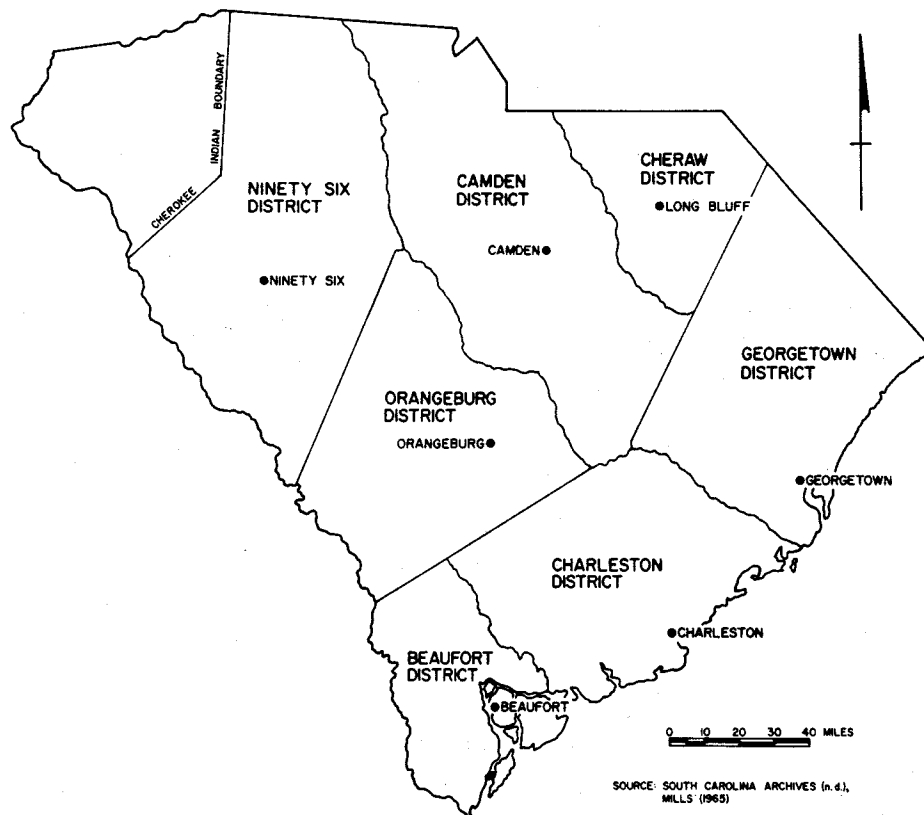


FIGURE 5: South Carolina Circuit Court Districts of 1769.

The jail at Camden is likely to have been constructed to a standard plan adopted by the legislature on April 7, 1770. The plan specified that it and other inland jails be built of wood if brick could not be obtained (SCRCHAJ, Nov. 28, 1769, Sept. 8, 1770: 305). Unfortunately no copies of this plan have been located; however, a comparison of documents relating to the district jails at Georgetown, Orangeburg, and Ninety Six and a comparable structure, the Charleston workhouse, has led Holschlag, et al. (1978: 14-22) to believe that all of the jails were rectangular in

plan, with a cellar (or dungeon), three full stories, and a garret, covered by a hipped roof. The second story contained cells and the garret was an open prison room. Both these floors had grated windows and presumably were reached by a stairway placed in a central hallway. The buildings were heated by fireplaces attached to two or four chimneys. The only descriptions of the first Camden jail consist of a reference by Andrew Jackson (Spence 1926: 3) to the second floor cells and a newspaper account mentioning an insecure, probably wooden wall surrounding the jail shortly after its construction (SCG, May 31, 1773).

Little else is known about the Camden jail except that it was used to confine both prisoners and slaves (SCG, Nov. 28, 1775). In 1779 the courthouse was destroyed by fire and an unsuccessful attempt was made to burn the jail. The arsonist was subsequently confined there to await trial (Account of Joseph Kershaw/KP/Box 4).

The following year witnessed the invasion of the Southern colonies by the British Army and the occupation of Camden as a supply base and strong point in the regional defense system. A successful major engagement, the Battle of Camden, was fought with an invading American army near the town in August 1780, and during the fall of that year, permanent fortifications were erected to defend Camden from further attack. The latter consisted of a series of redoubts occupying the high ground in the vicinity of the settlement (Lewis 1976: 38) and a stockade wall surrounding its built-up area (Rawdon to Cornwallis, Nov. 27, 1780/CP/5/30/11/4: 216). The northernmost redoubt was built around the jail. It contained a six-pound gun mounted on a platform to allow it to fire over the parapet (Ingraham 1781). The absence of settlement in the vicinity of the jail redoubt allowed it clear field of fire (Mathis 1819). The layout of this fortification is illustrated in the Greene map of Camden, drawn in 1781 (GP/PCC/155/II: 161). It shows a rectangular earthwork with a bastion along its northern face (Fig. 6). The jail building appears as a rectangular building with its long axis oriented in an east-west direction. It lay in the eastern part of the enclosure and the gun platform was placed in the redoubt's northwest angle. In addition to an earthen wall, the redoubt was surrounded by a moat and an oval abatis. During the British occupation the jail was used to confine military prisoners, among them Andrew Jackson, who was imprisoned there in the spring of 1781 (Spence 1926: 3). In May 1781, following a costly and indecisive battle with an American army commanded by Nathaniel Greene at nearby Hobkirk Hill, the British garrison at Camden was evacuated and most of the town's buildings, including the jail, were burned (Ingraham 1781; Greene to Continental Congress, May 14, 1781/GP/PCC/155/II: 59).

Following the war, the state of South Carolina re-established the court system and appropriated funds for restoring courthouses and jails destroyed in the Revolution. Joseph Kershaw was appointed commissioner to oversee the rebuilding of these structures in Camden District, a task scheduled for completion in the fall of 1784 (McCormick 1975: 81). Although the courthouse was not finished until 1788 (Kirkland and Kennedy 1926: 254), a petition by the District Sheriff to the General Assembly for repairs to the jail suggests that the structure was in use before this time (Henry Hunter, Memorial, Jan. 23, 1788/SCRGAP/1788: 34).

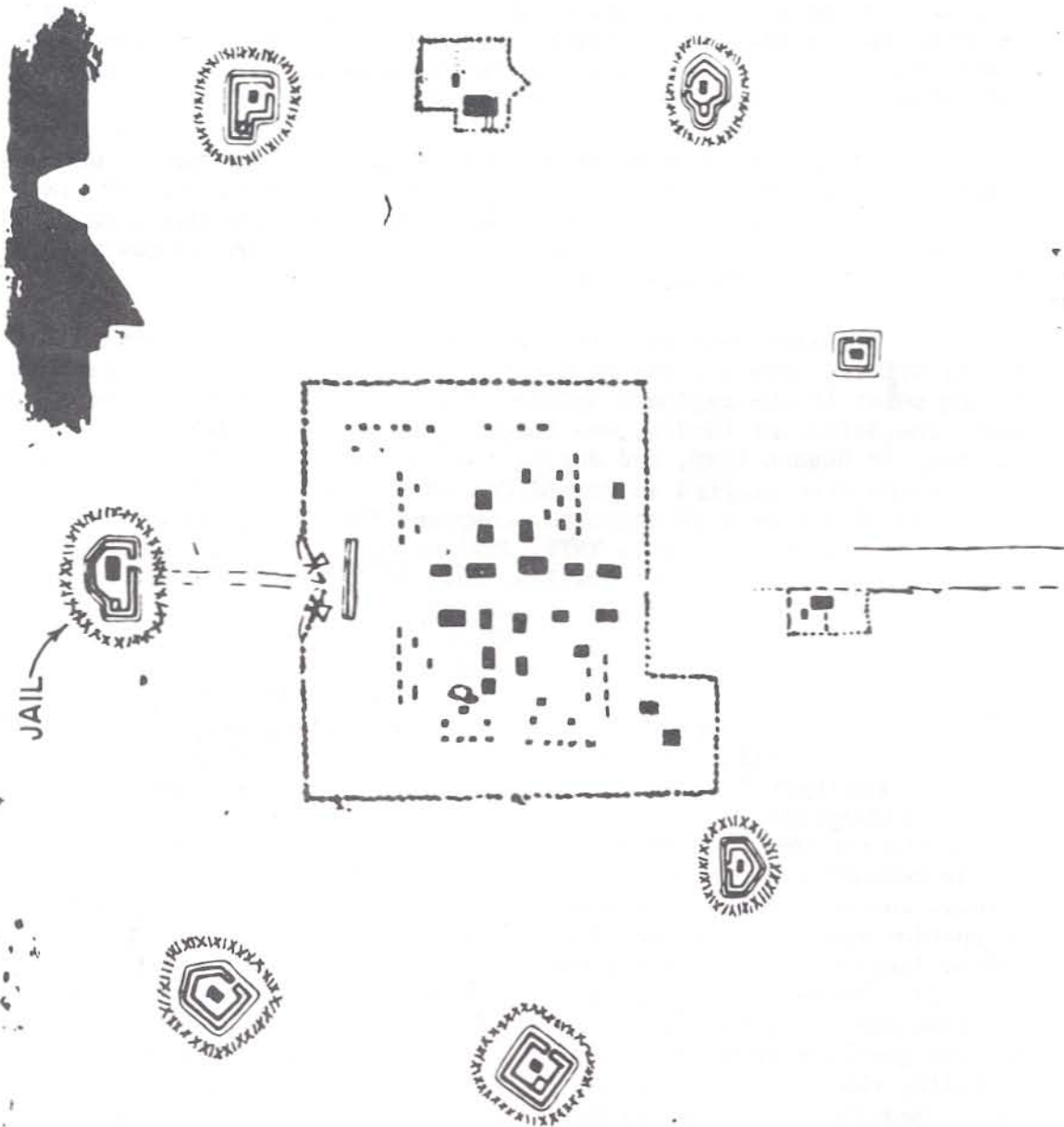


FIGURE 6: The Greene map of Camden in 1781 showing the British fortifications. The jail redoubt is the northernmost work on this plan. (GP/PCC/155/II: 161)

Unfortunately no descriptions of the second Camden jail exist.

The new jail had apparently fallen into disrepair by late 1792 when a grand jury found it "very inadequate in point of strength & that in its present state it is impossible to secure some culprits..." (Camden District Grand Jury, Nov. 21, 1792/SCRGAPJP). Thirteen years later the jail was again in "ruinous" condition, "having lately been greatly injured by lightning" (Kershaw District Grand Jury, April 1805/SCRGAPJP).

Early on the morning of October 23, 1812 a fire broke out in the roof of the jail and was quickly spread to adjacent buildings by a strong north-east wind. The great fire of 1812 nearly destroyed the entire block east of Broad Street between King and Bull Streets (CGCE, Oct. 27, 1812: James Kershaw Diary, Oct. 24, 1812). One of the structures destroyed in the fire was the town market on the northwest corner of the intersection of Bull and Market Streets (Kirkland and Kennedy 1905: 19). Lot 39 was reserved for a market on the Heard plat of Camden (Fig. 2) and a market building had existed on this site as early as 1791 (James Kershaw to Richard Lloyd Champion, May 19, 1791/KCRCCC/B: 107).

After the Revolution, settlement in Camden had expanded from the area of the palisaded town between Bull and Meeting Streets northward to King Street (Fig. 7). The jail, which had lain separate from the town in 1781, was, by the early nineteenth century, situated at the northern end of a heavily built-up area along either side of Bull Street (Sarah Thompson Alexander, letter, ca. 1850/KP/Box 2; KCG, July 15, 1886).^{*} The destruction caused by the 1812 fire, combined with the draining of the lands north of York Street and a desire to abandon the lower, wetter lands occupied by the original town, appears to have accelerated the northward movement of settlement (Schulz 1972: 56).

^{*}The intersection of Broad and King Streets was the center of the town's business district and the site of its largest concentration of substantial buildings during the first three decades of the nineteenth century (Schulz 1972: 55). A large tavern and hotel occupying the northwest corner (SCCG, Sept. 4, 1822) contained a double row of balconies (Elizabeth Rogers, Petition, 1828/SCRGAP: 20). It was known as the "Eagle and Harp" in 1822 and "Goodman's Hotel" six years later (Kirkland and Kennedy 1926: 45; CJ, Feb. 16, 1828). Two hotels lay just south of the courthouse. The largest, known by various names, was built before 1820 and is very likely the three-story structure shown on the 1836 Camden bank note illustrated in Figure 8 (Kirkland and Kennedy 1926: 44-45). On the northeast corner of the intersection stood the "Nixon Hotel," a four-story brick structure built in 1804 (Kirkland and Kennedy 1926: 44; SCCG, Mar. 12, 1823). Another brick building, the "Eagle Tavern," was situated adjacent to it (CG, Dec. 16, 1816). Office buildings appear to have been located near the market on the southeast corner. Two Camden lawyers, Henry G. Nixon and William B. Hart, advertised their practices there in the 1820s (SCCG, Jan. 1, 1823). All of the buildings north of King Street on both sides of Broad were destroyed in the massive 1829 fire.

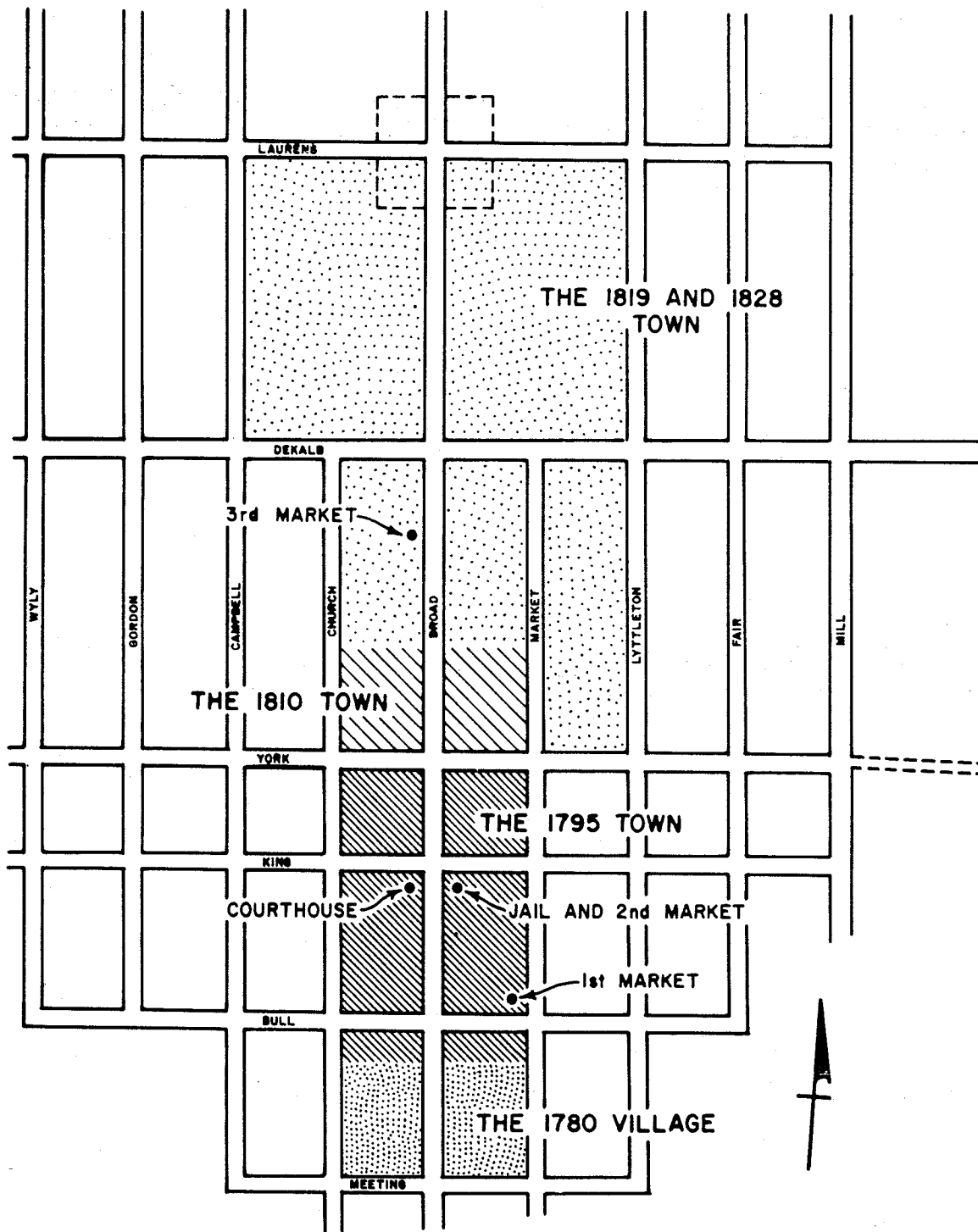


FIGURE 7: The growth of Camden, 1780-1830. (Schulz 1972: 89)

Because the growth of Camden had placed the earlier market site on the periphery of the settlement, a group of Camden citizens petitioned to have the market removed to the jail lot, which lay in the center of the town's business district, and requested the new jail be placed elsewhere (Petition, Nov. 12, 1812/SCRGAP: 69). An act of the General Assembly authorized the construction there of a market and the removal of the jail to a new location (Cooper 1839/V/2023).

The new market building was completed by 1816 when the Camden Gazette's first issue (Apr. 6, 1816) described it as "an elegant brick market and library room." In 1822 and 1823 a lottery was proposed to raise funds for a market tower (SCCG, Sept. 4, 1822-May 21, 1823), which was constructed before 1826 (Kirkland and Kennedy 1905: 19). The Indian weathervane, which has rested atop all subsequent market towers in Camden, was first placed on this structure in that year (Alexander and Corbett 1888: 29).

An engraving showing the intersection of Broad and King Streets looking south appeared on a Camden Bank note issued in 1836 (Alexander and Corbett 1888:6; Kirkland and Kennedy 1905: 19). In it the market may be seen on the left and the courthouse on the right (Fig. 8). The market was a two and one-half story brick structure with a gable roof, the long axis of which was oriented in a north-south direction. A chimney was located at each end in the center of the wall and, on the northern end, a door was placed on both sides of it on the first floor and a window to each side on the second. The tower was situated on the east side of the market near its southern end and faced Broad Street. It was of brick construction with a frame steeple. The base of the entrance arched over the sidewalk to form a covered entryway (Merony, interview, Apr. 1, 1901/KP/Box 3). The presence of the arched entrance, and a similar overall form to a later Camden market tower erected in the 1850s (Fig. 9), suggests that both towers were built according to a common pattern.

In addition to its obvious function, the Camden market also served other purposes. Its upper story was used as a town hall, theater, and Sunday school, as well as a library (Kirkland and Kennedy 1905: 20; Capers, interview, July 11, 1901/KP/Box 3). The market yard also served as a place of punishment for criminals, as witnessed by a slave's sentence to be flogged there for burglary in 1815 (KDRMFCTP, July 10, 1815/KP/Box 1). The market tower was also used for ceremonial flag raisings conducted at formal July 4th celebrations in Camden prior to the Civil War (Thomas Kirkland, "The glorious fourth." undated ms./KP/Box 4).

A great fire on November 23, 1829 destroyed the two blocks on either side of Broad Street between King and York Streets and both the market and courthouse were slightly damaged in the conflagration (CJ, Nov. 28, 1829). Although the buildings survived, the business district around them had disappeared. The block above King Street was partially rebuilt following the fire, but newer construction had moved the main built-up area of town northward nearer DeKalb Street (Fig. 7). An important factor in this settlement shift was the coming of the railroad. The South Carolina Railroad reached Camden in 1848 and situated its depot on the east side of town away from the old business district (Teal 1961: 21; Kirkland and

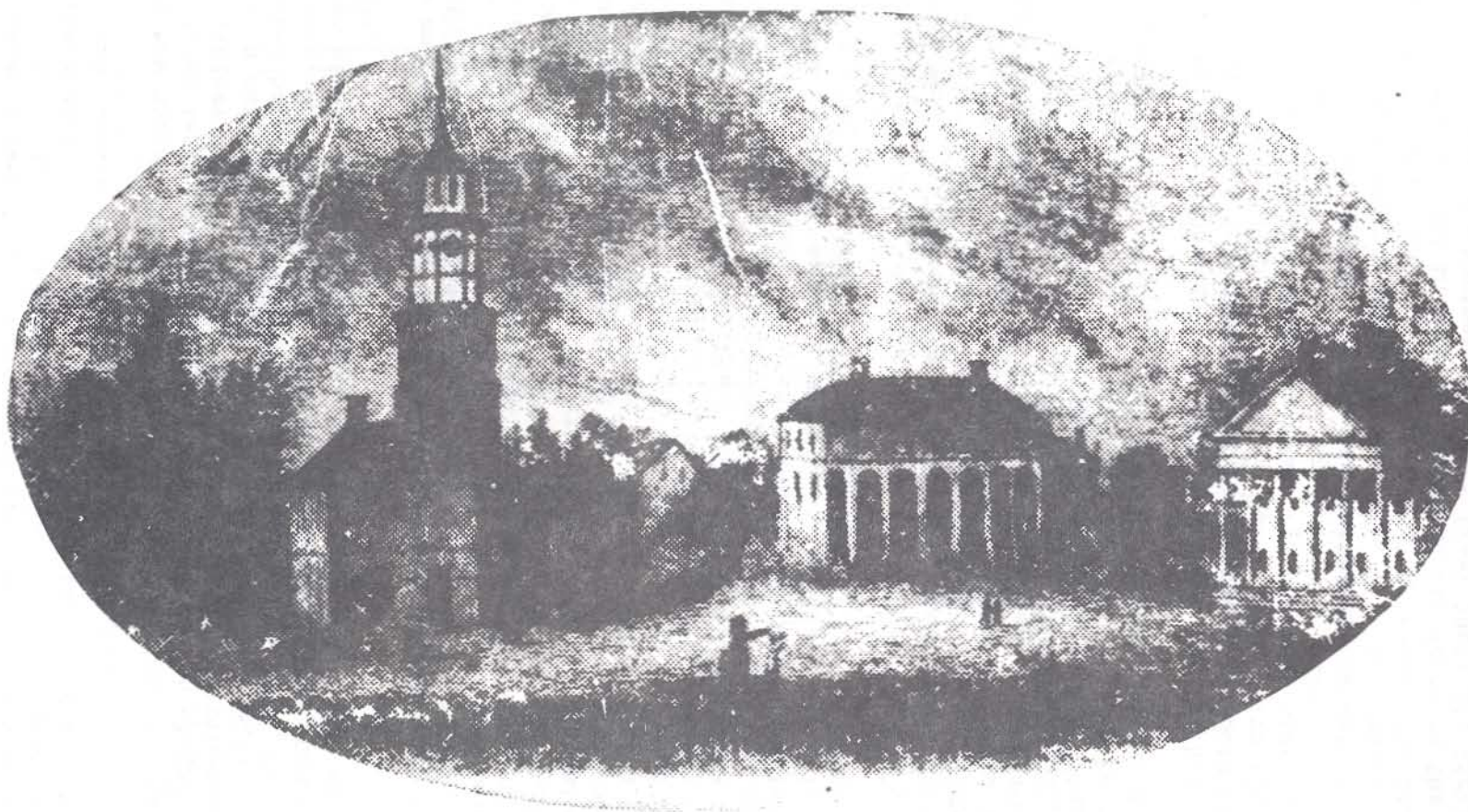


FIGURE 8: Engraved scene on an 1836 Camden Bank note showing the second Camden market and the district courthouse at the intersection of Broad and King Streets. The view is toward the southwest. (Kirkland and Kennedy 1905: 20)

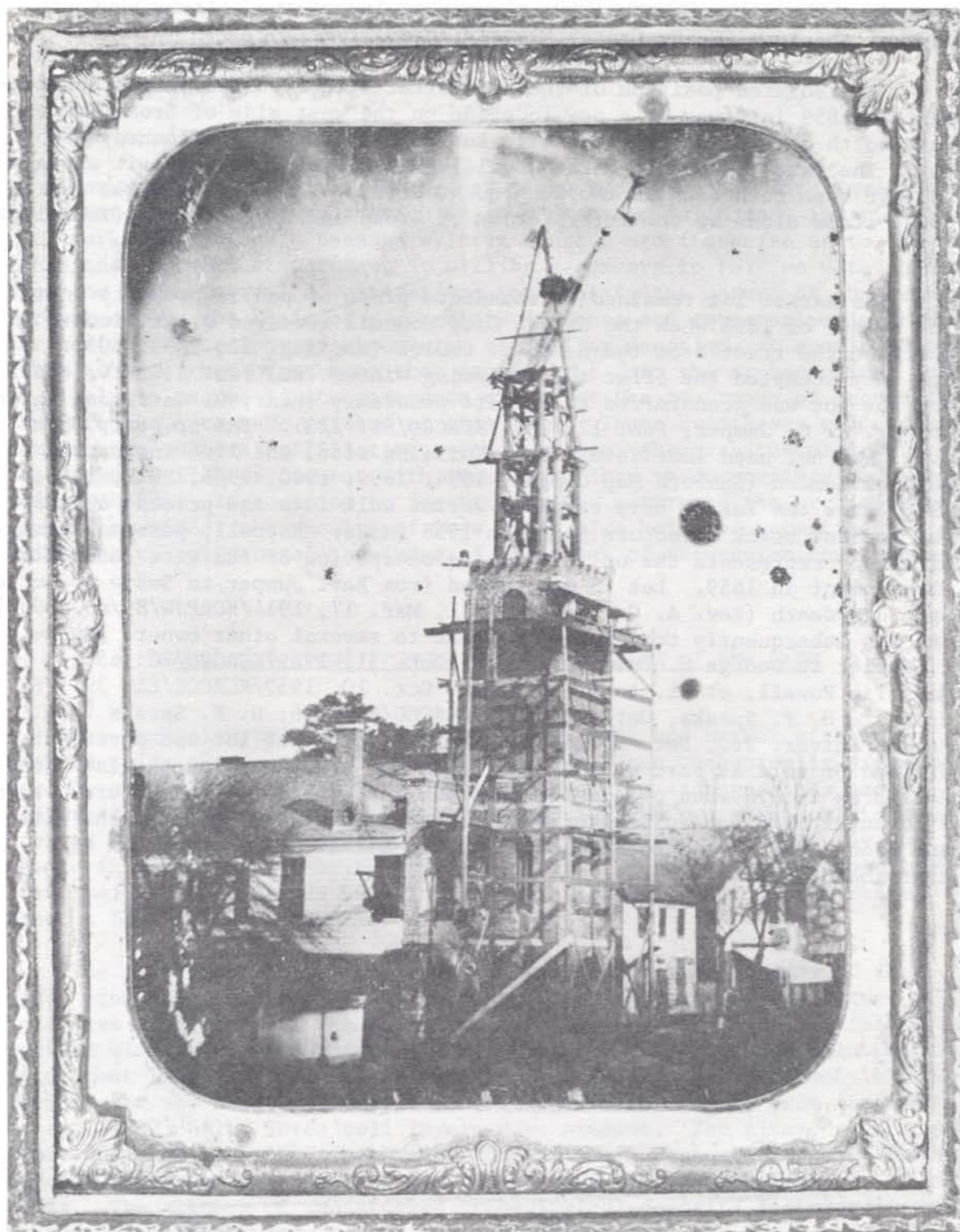


FIGURE 9: The third Camden market near the intersection of Broad and Rutledge Streets under construction in the 1850s. The Indian weathervane, first placed on the second market tower, is being hoisted into position. (Photo courtesy Kershaw County Historical Society)

Kennedy 1926: 41). By the 1840s the market lay at the extreme southern edge of the town (C. R. Cantey, letter, n.d./KP/Box 4).

The isolated position of the old market site resulted in its abandonment in 1859 in favor of a new location on the west side of Broad Street just north of its intersection with Rutledge (Kirkland and Kennedy 1905: 21). The fate of the old market building is unknown; however, it appears to have been torn down in the subsequent decade. In July 1873 the courthouse stood alone at the intersection of Broad and King Streets (Teal 1961: 23).

The market lot remained an abandoned piece of public property until the summer of 1893 when the Camden City Council received a petition to purchase the tract from the A. M. E. Church (RB, Aug. 12, 1893: 603). The city accepted the offer the following winter (RB, Feb. 1, 1894: 606) and the lot was transferred to private ownership (Henry G. Carrison, Mayor to Rev. A. C. Jumper, Feb. 17, 1894/KCRCCC/SS: 225). The property, however, was not used immediately as a building site, and fire insurance maps of Camden (Sanborn Map Company 1894, 1899, 1900, 1905, 1912, 1923, 1930) show the lot to have remained vacant well into the present century. The present brick structure built in 1958 (Maxcy Chappell, personal communication) represents the only intensive occupation of the site since its abandonment in 1859. Lot 25 was passed from Rev. Jumper to Susie J. Butler upon his death (Rev. A. C. Jumper, Will, Mar. 17, 1914/KCRPJW/85/no. 2953) and was subsequently transferred by sale to several other owners (Susie J. Butler to George W. Powell, et al., Oct. 11, 1921/KCRCCC/BC: 656; Magnolia Powell, et al. to E. J. Brown, Oct. 10, 1953/KCRCCC/EL: 397; E. J. Brown to H. F. Speaks, Oct. 20, 1954/KCRCCC/EW: 376; H. F. Speaks to C. Marion Shiver, Jr., Dec. 3, 1958/KCRCCC/FX: 88). The lot was never subdivided or sold as part of a larger tract and today retains the same boundaries as it did when originally laid out in the eighteenth century. From 1958 until 1977 Camden Tractor Sales maintained a dealership on the site and since 1978 it has been occupied by the Dilmar Oil Company, an oil distributorship.

ARCHEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATIONS AT THE CAMDEN JAIL AND MARKET SITE

Introduction

Documentary evidence indicates that the archeological site investigated is situated on the lot upon which the two district jails and, later, the city market had stood. Because written sources are imprecise as to the exact locations of these structures, it will be necessary to rely on data obtained from the archeological investigations to identify the nature of the remains uncovered. On the basis of documentary evidence and comparative information derived from contemporary structures of similar function, it should be possible to construct hypotheses that predict the form the archeological record is likely to assume if it represents either of the two types of occupations that are known to have existed at this site. These hypotheses will seek to compare the cultural affiliation, temporal span, the architectural form of the archeological settlement with those described in documentary and comparative sources. In addition to identifying the nature of the architectural remains examined, the results of this study also hold the potential for contributing to our general knowledge of the types of structures they represent.

Methodological Framework and Condition of the Site

The archeological investigations at the Jail and Market site were limited to an examination of two pits that had been mechanically excavated for the purpose of installing underground gasoline storage tanks and the disturbed areas around them (Figs. 10, 11). Of the two pits, only one exhibited evidence of disturbed archeological deposits. This pit lay just to the north of the modern brick structure (Fig. 12) and measured about 16x5 feet. A tank had already been installed in this pit and its top rested about 4 feet below the present surface.

The profile of both pits revealed the natural stratigraphy of the site, providing information that would aid in interpreting the nature of intrusive archeological remains. The sequence of soil layers exhibited a profile similar to that observed during the excavation in the main Camden settlement (Lewis 1976: 68) and appeared to represent stratigraphy characteristic of the Marlboro sandy loam soils prevalent in the area (Latimer, et al., 1922: 48). Three soil layers were present. The first, a dark grey sandy loam, extended 0.7 foot below the surface. Because of the recent use of this area as a parking lot, no modern humus had developed on top of this layer. The absence of undisturbed archeological deposits in Layer 1 suggested that this layer was a plow zone. At the time the modern building was constructed much of this area was in use as a garden (Maxcy Chappell, personal communication), and Layer 1 appeared to represent the result of this shallow cultivation. Layer 1, underlain by a 0.5 foot thick layer of pale brown sandy loam, extended to a depth of 1.2 feet where it graded into a red sandy clay. The latter, about 1.2 feet in thickness, lies above a

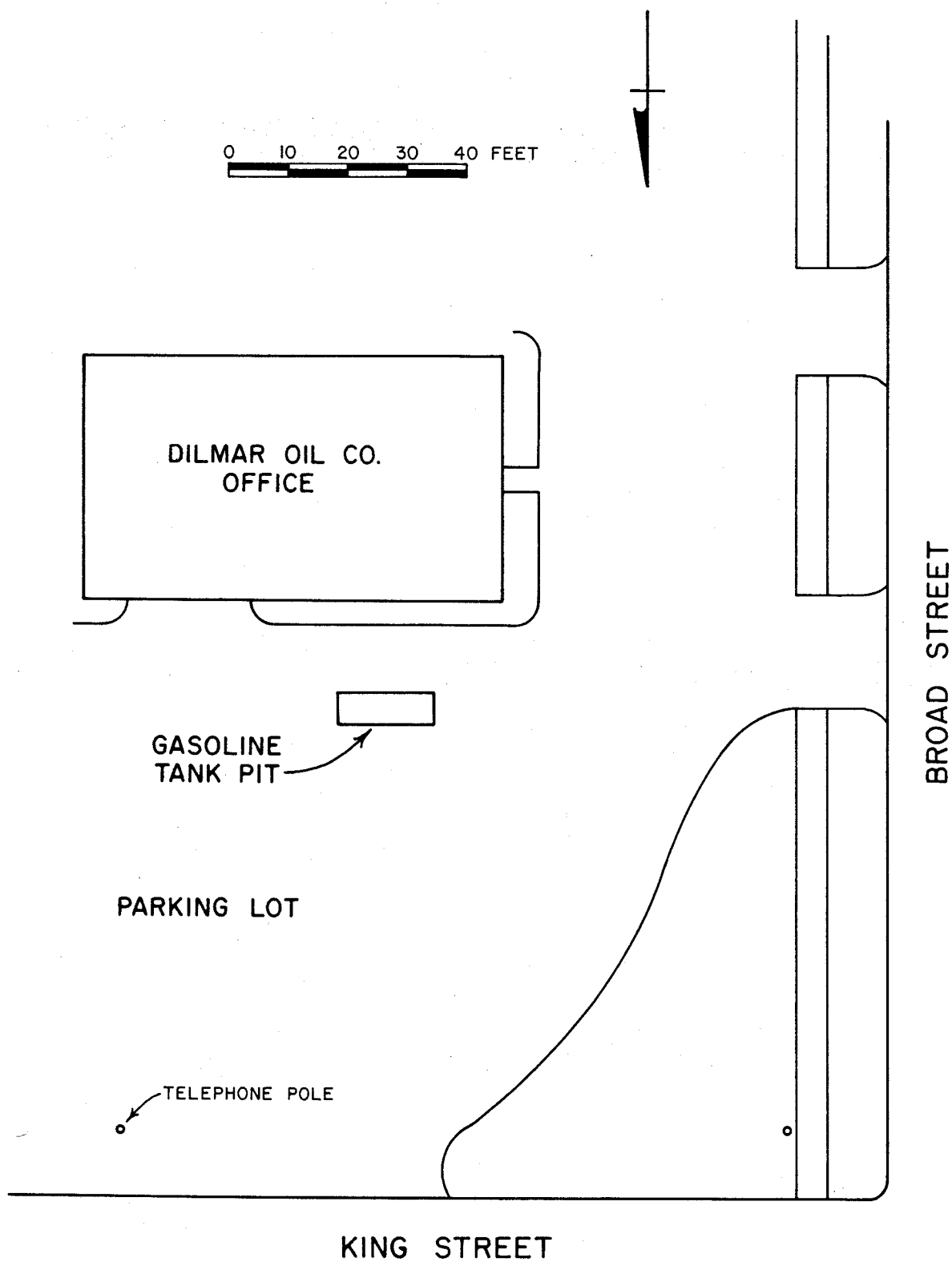


FIGURE 10: Map of the Camden Jail and Market site showing the locations of the construction pits and other modern features.



FIGURE 11: The Jail and Market site at the time of the archeological investigations. Dirt piles near the modern structure mark the locations of the excavations. The view is toward the southeast.



FIGURE 12: The gasoline storage tank pit where the architectural profiles were revealed. This view, prior to investigations, is to the southeast.

red and pale yellow mottled sandy clay which occurs approximately 2.4 feet below the surface.

Evidence of structural remains were visible in the south and east profiles of the pit. The west profile was buried and could not be examined and the north profile contained no remains. The depth of the storage tank top lays at least a foot below the base of the stratigraphic profile, permitting the latter to be examined in its entirety. Both profiles were cleaned by trowel, mapped, and photographed.

Several mounds of excavated earth lay adjacent to the excavated pits. Recent rains had eroded artifacts from this loose material as well as from the disturbed surface of the site. Because the original provenience of these artifacts was uncertain, a general surface collection was made treating the site as a single unit presumably representing all of its past occupations.

Archeological investigations at the Jail and Market site produced two separate but complementary types of evidence. The stratigraphic profiles revealed in the walls of the pit could provide architectural information about the disturbed structure there. The structure's form and condition can reflect the aspects of its function as well as its developmental history. The surface collection of artifacts, on the other hand, is likely to represent the entire past occupation of the site and should reflect its temporal range and the cultural affiliation of its inhabitants. On the basis of these archeological data, it should be possible to examine a number of questions regarding the nature of the past settlement uncovered at the Jail and Market site.

Examining the Archeological Record

Introduction

The goal of the preliminary archeological investigations conducted at site 38KE41 was to identify the past occupations revealed by the construction work. In order to do so, three hypotheses may be examined. Each deals with a particular aspect of the two historical occupations likely to be reflected by the available types of archeological evidence. Because of the "salvage" nature of these investigations, it will not be possible to explore many aspects of the archeological record that might have been addressed in a problem-oriented excavation. These include some areas that are particularly appropriate to the major problems considered in this report. Given the extent of the excavations and the amount of materials recovered, however, the available information is felt adequate to examine the following hypotheses regarding the past occupations at the Jail and Market site.

The Cultural Affiliation of the Site

Documentary evidence indicates that the Jail and Market site formed part of a settlement occupied by British colonial peoples and their descen-

dents during and after the eighteenth century. As such, the site should reflect the material culture characteristic of settlements occupied by similar groups on the Southern frontier. As a backcountry settlement, Camden's ethnic composition contrasted markedly with that of other parts of the province having economies dominated by plantation agriculture.* The absence of an overwhelming African majority, such as was characteristic of the South Carolina lowcountry, would have resulted in the production of an archeological record reflecting almost exclusively the British tradition of the town's inhabitants.

The economic system of which South Carolina was a part restricted colonial trade in favor of home industries. Exchange here, as in most areas brought under the domination of the expanding European states, was characterized by a "vertical specialization" involving the movement of raw materials from the colonial "periphery" to the "core" state and the movement of manufactured goods and services in the opposite direction (Gould 1972: 235-236). As a result, the archeological record generated by colonial settlements should reflect an abundance of products produced in the homeland. Great Britain continued to play a major role in supplying industrial goods to its former North American colonies well into the nineteenth century and the occurrence of these artifacts together with American-made products is characteristic of post-colonial settlements in the United States.

Perhaps the class of artifact that best reflects ethnicity is ceramics, an item recovered in quantity in the excavations at Hampton plantation. Ceramics are especially useful in archeological studies because their composition and method of manufacture lend them to wide variation in form (Shepard 1956: 334) and their fragile nature seems to insure a continual deposition in the archeological record.

By the mid-eighteenth century Great Britain was undergoing a rapid change in manufacturing technology characterized by rapid innovation and increasing industrialization (Clow and Clow 1958: 328-329). This not only resulted in the proliferation of British goods, including ceramics, but also enhanced the ability of these products to compete with those of other European countries on the international market. Industrialization in ceramic manufacturing even led to the decline of some foreign industries, most notably French faience (Haggar 1968: 165).

The commercial expansion of Great Britain in the eighteenth century brought an increase in the amount of foreign goods shipped through British ports (Darby 1973: 381). Although the re-export of foreign ceramics, for the most part Oriental porcelains (Noël Hume 1970: 257), was also carried out by other European states, it was Great Britain that came to dominate this trade in the eighteenth century (Mudge 1962: 7-8). These together

*In Camden District as a whole, the Negro population remained a minority until the third decade of the nineteenth century, well after the close of the colonial period. The black population of the coastal districts, in contrast, accounted for as much as three-quarters of the total population well before the first census was taken in 1790 (Petty 1943: 73).

with large quantities of German and Flemish stonewares were re-exported into Britain's North American colonies (Noël Hume 1970: 141). The extensive nature of British trade coupled with the importation of selected foreign goods into her colonies is likely to have resulted in the use of these foreign wares as an integral part of British ceramic material culture.

Following independence, British ceramics continued to dominate the American market and did so for most of the nineteenth century (Laidacker 1954/ I: 67; Fontana and Greenleaf 1962: 93), although French porcelains had begun to be imported prior to 1850 (Wood 1951: 25) and the American pottery industry was slowly expanding. French *faïence* Rouen *faïence* also appears to have been popular briefly during the American Revolution (Noël Hume 1970: 142).

It is likely that the archeological record generated by a British colonial settlement will be characterized by imported artifacts that reflect both the industrialization of English ceramic manufacturing in the eighteenth century as well as the re-exportation of foreign ceramics within the British colonial system. British ceramics are also expected to dominate American settlements of the nineteenth century.

The first test implication for the site's cultural affiliation predicts that the Old World ceramics representing the colonial period occupation at the Jail and Market site will be of British or British colonial origin and that contemporary wares of competing colonial powers, namely France and Spain, will not be present. Subsequent occupations should also be characterized by British ceramics and may include some later American or foreign wares.

Secondly, the eighteenth century revolution in the British ceramics industry resulted in a dramatic increase in technological innovation and a proliferation in the variety of ceramics manufactured. This diversity should be reflected in a great number of ceramic types present in the archeological record at the Jail and Market site.

Thirdly, evidence for the re-exportation of foreign ceramics should be present in the assemblage of artifacts from the site. These ceramics should consist primarily of European Westerwald stonewares and oriental porcelains. A comparison of the collections from several British colonial American sites (Lewis 1976: 79) suggests that the Westerwald stonewares will normally comprise less than 6% of the total Old World ceramics by count and that the oriental porcelains may account for up to 20% of the specimens.

Ceramics also appear to offer the best evidence for the presence or absence of persons of African ancestry in eighteenth century British colonial American settlements. Ferguson (1980) has recently proposed that *Colono* ceramics, a type found exclusively in colonial and early post-colonial European archeological contexts, represent a ware manufactured predominantly by Negro potters following West African ceramic traditions. The association of high ratios of *Colono* pottery with predominantly black populations appears to be evidenced by the relatively high occurrence (over 30%) of this ware relative to European types on extensively sampled plantation sites in South Carolina (Lees and Kimery-Lees 1979: 10; Drucker and Anthony 1979:

2; Lewis and Hardesty 1979: 32; Carrillo 1980: 71). On non-plantation domestic sites the occurrence of Colono ware is much lower (less than 3%) or it is non-existent (South 1977: 175; Lewis 1976: 139, 1978: 61), while on entire plantation sites this ware accounts for half or more of all the ceramics recovered. Based on these data, it would appear that the occurrence of Colono pottery is capable of revealing the presence of a large slave population archeologically. Consequently a fourth test implication is that a low frequency of the ceramics recovered from this site will be Colono ware.

With regard to the first test implication, 121, or 81%, of the 149 identifiable historic ceramics from the Jail and Market site are of British origin. Of the remainder, only one sherd manufactured by another competing European colonial power is present. It is a specimen of French debased Rouen faience, a type likely to have been imported and deposited during the Revolutionary War years. One American colonial sherd, representing locally-manufactured Carolina cream-colored earthenware, was also found together with 24 British or American post-colonial ceramic artifacts.

The occurrence of 13 distinct types of British ceramics reflects the diversity of wares expected at the site of a British colonial settlement (Appendix A). Both earthenwares and stonewares are present, representing serving as well as storage vessels. The variety of types in so small a collection illustrates the proliferation of ceramic technology characteristic of the British potteries in the second half of the eighteenth century and reveals the diversity of ceramic types expected on a British colonial site.

Re-exported ceramics are present in the archeological materials. These consist of three specimens of oriental procelain, or 2% of the total ceramic collection, and fall within the predicted limits for British colonial sites.

Finally, the absence of a substantial African population is reflected in the low occurrence of Colono ceramics. The less than 1% frequency of Colono ware at the Jail and Market site is comparable to that at the site of contemporary South Carolina frontier settlements inhabited chiefly by European colonists (Holschlag and Rodeffer 1977: 49; Holschlag, et al. 1978: 147; Lewis 1976: 134, 1977: 87, 1978: 116).

In summary, archeological evidence supports the hypothesis that the site was occupied by British settlers and their descendents during the Colonial and post-colonial periods. Ceramic data reveal the complexity the British pottery industry had achieved and the monopoly it held over the American colonial market, even after independence, as well as the near absence of the alternative ceramics industry normally associated with slave plantations in colonial South Carolina.

The Temporal Position of the Site

The first known settlement of the Jail and Market site in historic times took place about 1770 when construction of the first Camden district jail commenced. Thereafter, the site was occupied until 1859. It is anticipated that archeological evidence will reflect an occupation largely confined to this period, yet also contain occasional discard of more recent

date that accumulated as a result of the site's proximity to the City of Camden and its recent resettlement.

Because the jail and market occupations required different buildings to house the activities associated with their respective functions, archeological remains of these occupations are unlikely to be coterminous, although they may overlap. For this reason, a restricted archeological sample such as that employed here, as opposed to a representative or total sample of the site's entire occupied area, could easily obtain material representative of a restricted portion of the site's occupation than of its total range. This bias is likely to make the use of statistical techniques that assume the existence of a sample equally representative of a settlement's entire output inaccurate with regard to this site as a whole. Consequently, the dating of the Jail and Market site must also rely heavily on a qualitative analysis of the archeological materials.

Several classes of artifacts are useful in establishing the occupational spans of historic sites. Ceramics, because of their peculiar qualities of variation, are particularly well-suited to reflecting temporal change. This is especially true regarding eighteenth century British ceramics, for not only did the industrialization of ceramic manufacture result in the production of numerous morphologically-distinct types, but the rapid innovation that accompanied industrialization generated types with relatively limited and well-documented temporal ranges. The presence of a class of artifacts possessing these characteristics permits the calculation of a reasonably accurate chronological range for an archeological occupation. It is also possible to derive a mean date for the occupation represented in the archeological sample on the basis of these artifacts (South 1972). Other types of artifacts with more general temporal ranges may also be employed to establish the time of a site's occupation. While these will yield less precise dates than those based on ceramics, the period of occupation indicated should encompass a portion or all of the chronological span revealed by ceramic artifacts.

An estimate of the minimum range of occupation for the entire jail and market settlement may be ascertained by comparing the ranges of the European ceramic types recovered in the archeological investigations. The terminus post quem, or date after which the earliest objects found their way into the ground, and the terminus ante quem, or the date before which the archeological materials were deposited, must be determined on the basis of a mixed deposit containing material that accumulated from the beginning to the end of the occupation. In order to establish a minimum chronological range for a mixed occupation, the latest terminus post quem may be estimated by determining the closing date of the use range of the earliest ceramic type. The earliest terminus ante quem, on the other hand, may be estimated by the beginning date of the use range of type introduced latest. A comparison of the date ranges of the ceramic types at the Jail and Market site (Fig. 13) reveals that the site was occupied at least as early as 1775 and its termination date was no earlier than the 1830s. The absence of many typical early and mid-eighteenth century ceramic types supports the terminus post quem; however, the occurrence of varieties used throughout the nineteenth century, such as yellow wares, brown stoneware bottles, and annular, painted, and transfer-printed whitewares, suggests a later terminus

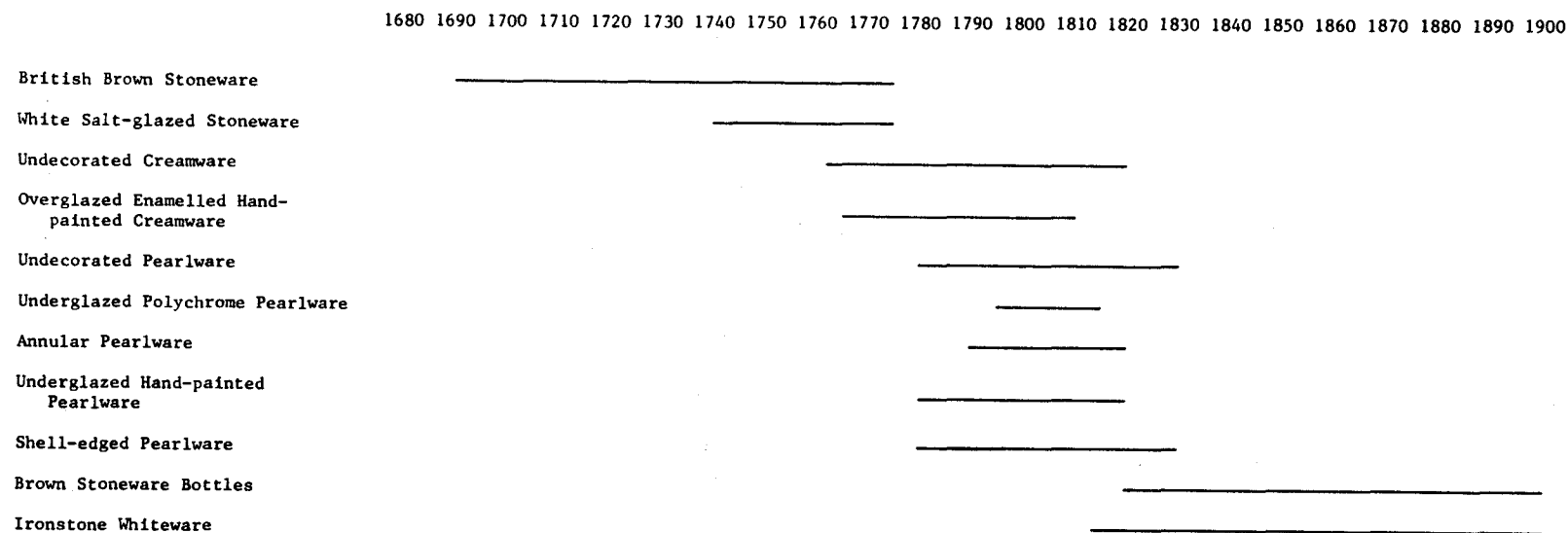


FIGURE 13: Comparison of temporal ranges of ceramic artifact types recovered at the Jail and Market site.

ante quem.

A median date for that part of the occupation represented by the archeological sample may be estimated by using the South (1972) formula, which derives a mean ceramic date based on the frequencies of occurrence of datable ceramic types recovered from an archeological context. Based on a total of 185 datable sherds, a mean ceramic date of 1808 may be calculated (Appendix B). This date falls six years short of the estimated 1814 median date of the historic time range of the site's entire occupation, suggesting that the portion of the site sampled was occupied most intensively during the earlier part of the settlement's existence.

The chronological span of this occupation may also be shown by an examination of those artifacts whose date ranges are known. A list of such artifacts appears in Table 1. These artifacts reveal that deposition took place from the late eighteenth century until the present, with the bulk of it occurring before the second half of the nineteenth century.

TABLE 1
TEMPORAL RANGES OF SELECTED NON-CERAMIC ARTIFACTS
FROM THE JAIL AND MARKET SITE

<u>Artifact</u>	<u>Approximate Date Range</u>	<u>Source</u>
Hammer-headed cut nails	1800-1825	Mercer (1923: 6-7)
Dark green bottle glass with pontil mark	-1857	Lorrain (1968: 40)
Dark green bottle glass with tooled lip	1830-1920	Jones (1971a: 9)
Dark green bottle glass with Ricketts mold	1821-1900	Jones (1971b: 67)
Manganese bottle glass	1880-1914	Jones (1971a: 11)
Machine-made bottle glass	1903-	Lorrain (1968: 43)
Window glass, 1.3 mm	-1845	Walker (1971: 78)
Window glass, 1.9-2.3 mm	1845-	Walker (1971: 78)
Whiteware, marked "Alfred Meakin, Ltd./England"	1891-	Godden (1964: 425-426)

The archeological data indicate that the portion of the site sampled was occupied during the last quarter of the eighteenth century and the first half of the nineteenth. A scattering of more recent artifacts, however, attests to the site's proximity to subsequent settlement in Camden and its recent resettlement. The temporal range of settlement corresponds to that obtained from documentary sources and supports the assumption that the material remains uncovered represent the jail and market occupations. The chronological range suggested by the archeological evidence, however, does not permit the structural remains to either of the two periods. Rather, the data suggest that the area investigated was occupied most heavily near the close of the jail period and less intensively thereafter.

Form and Function at the Jail and Market Site

On the basis of archeological evidence it has been possible to demonstrate that the portion of the Jail and Market site examined conforms to the temporal range of the settlement's occupation. Because this span is so broad, however, it is impossible to identify the structural remains associated with the sample relying solely upon the dating of portable artifacts. An identification of the occupation must depend instead on an analysis of other archeological evidence directly related to the settlement function.

Two general types of evidence may be explored in the investigation of function on historic sites. The first involves an analysis of artifacts with regard to functionally-meaningful classes of data (see Lewis 1976: 118-122). Because of the differing rates of archeological output associated with activities linked to specialized functions, analyses attempting to identify such activities on the basis of small samples have yielded less than satisfactory results (Lewis 1979: 56). A simple differentiation between areas devoted to domestic and non-domestic activity has been more successful in identifying intra-site activity variation and overall settlement function (Lewis 1976: 122, 1979: 58). The accuracy of these results, however, is affected by the size of the sample as well as the method of collection.

The archeological collection from the Jail and Market site is small and consists almost entirely of ceramics, bottle glass, and other domestic artifacts. While representative of these items, the collection is nearly devoid of architectural artifacts which normally constitute a sizable portion of any site containing structural remains (e.g. South 1977: 123, 147). This suggests that the collection obtained from the Jail and Market site is biased in terms of overall content and, therefore, incapable of providing accurate information regarding past settlement function.

The second type of archeological data capable of revealing function is architecture, evidence of which was uncovered in the storage tank pit profiles at the Jail and Market site. Although only a portion of a structure was exposed, a comparison of the archeological remains uncovered with the form, size, and layout of contemporary buildings of functions identical to those of the Camden jails and market may permit us to draw at least tentative conclusions about the occupation of this structure.

Two archeological implications may be set forth regarding each of the two hypothesized occupations of the structure. If the archeological structure were the original jail, or probably the second as well, it would have been built along the lines of similar contemporary structures. The first jail in particular is likely to have been constructed according to the common plan of 1770. Secondly, because both Camden jails were destroyed by fire, extensive evidence of burning should be associated with their architectural remains.

On the other hand, if the ruins are those of the market building, the following conditions are likely to prevail. First, its form and layout should be similar to those of contemporary markets in South Carolina. Secondly, there is no record of the Camden market having been destroyed by fire. Following its abandonment in 1859 it presumably was torn down. Consequently, no evidence of a conflagration is to be expected in the archeological remains of the market structure.

The principal archeological implication for the site's use as a jail is that the structure would be morphologically similar to other colonial jail buildings. Documentary sources show these structures to have been rectangular in shape with a cellar, two full stories, and a garrett under a hipped roof. Their common floor plan appears to have been two rooms divided by a central hallway. Only one of the colonial jails in South Carolina has been investigated archeologically. The jail at Ninety Six (38GN4-J) was completely excavated in 1975 under the direction of Michael J. Rodeffer. His work revealed a structure, the plan of which conformed to that indicated by documentary sources (Holschlag, et al. 1978: 69). Information obtained from the investigations at the Ninety Six jail can provide useful data for the identification of similar structures.

Archeological investigations at the Ninety Six jail revealed several characteristics about the size and form of its cellar (Fig. 14). If the structural remains uncovered at Camden are those of the jail, it is likely that they will exhibit the following attributes. If exterior walls are present, they should be 2.5 bricks (2.0 feet) thick, laid in Flemish bond. If interior walls are present, they should be 2 bricks (1.6 feet)* thick. The interior walls should lie parallel to one another forming a passageway about 8.0 feet wide and should intersect the exterior wall at a right angle. Single interior walls may also be present. They are likely to be the same thickness as the parallel walls and intersect them at right angles, subdividing the larger rooms (Fig. 14). If they abut the exterior walls, they should intersect the chimney bases at the center of each end wall.

The destruction of both jails by fire would be reflected archeologically by the presence of ash, charcoal, and burned materials in association with the structural remains. If left undisturbed, they may form deposits covering the in situ architectural evidence. In addition, artifacts modified by their exposure to heat and flames are likely to be found among the artifacts recovered from the Jail and Market site.

*These thicknesses are calculated on the basis of a standard English brick of the eighteenth century measuring 9x4.5x2.25 inches (Noël Hume 1969: 124).

The archeological implications of a market require that the structural remains reflect characteristics common to contemporary buildings of this function. A comparison of two such structures, the 1842 Georgetown market and the 1859 Camden market (Fig. 15A, B), as well as the 1836 engraving of the earlier Camden market (Fig. 8) on this site, reveals a number of shared attributes. All were, or are, two story buildings of brick, at least through the first story, with gabled roofs. Each consisted of a rectangular structure with an attached brick tower. The latter was usually located at one end of the market building and extended over the sidewalk forming an archway. The long axis of the early Camden market, however, paralleled the street, and the tower was situated on the side of the building near one end.

Because the market was essentially a large hall, substantial interior partitions were not included on the ground floor. Rather, the foundation, which was erected in a footing trench at ground level instead of a cellar, usually consisted of a single exterior wall 2.5 or 3 bricks thick.

The smaller square foundation of the tower is likely to have been of similar construction although the walls would have been more massive to support the taller structure. Because the tower of the Camden market was constructed adjacent to Broad Street, however, it almost certainly lies outside the area of the current excavations.

Because the site was not leveled after the market occupation, structural remains from this building may remain virtually intact below the plow zone. The size of the market building was such that a pit no larger than that excavated here would expose no more than a small portion of it. The profiles of this pit would reveal only the exterior wall, and it should reflect the building's destruction by razing or decay rather than fire.

An examination of the two pit profiles at the Jail and Market site reveals a complex stratigraphic sequence imposed on the natural soil profile described earlier (Fig. 16A, B). The sequence is contained in a nearly flat-bottomed pit, the base of which extends across the entire south wall and most of the east wall. The bottom of this pit lies about 3.0 feet below the present surface and extends 0.6 foot beneath the top of the red and yellow mottled sandy clay that forms the bottom layer of the natural soil sequence. The top 0.6 foot of both east and south profiles has been disturbed by plowing, confining the intact stratigraphy to the remaining 2.4 feet remaining in the profiles.

The major element of the stratigraphic column is 1.0 foot thick layer of dark tan sand containing charcoal flecks at the western end of the south profile. A reddish-brown mottled sand containing brick rubble underlies it in the south profile and the southern end of the east profile. In places the reddish-brown sand is sandwiched between two thin layers of black ash and charcoal. In the east profile this layer is terminated by a vertical column 2.6 feet wide that contains a dark tan sand filled with brickbats. Two smaller pits filled with dark grey sand containing brick rubble and charcoal extend into the top of this column to a depth of 1.4 feet.

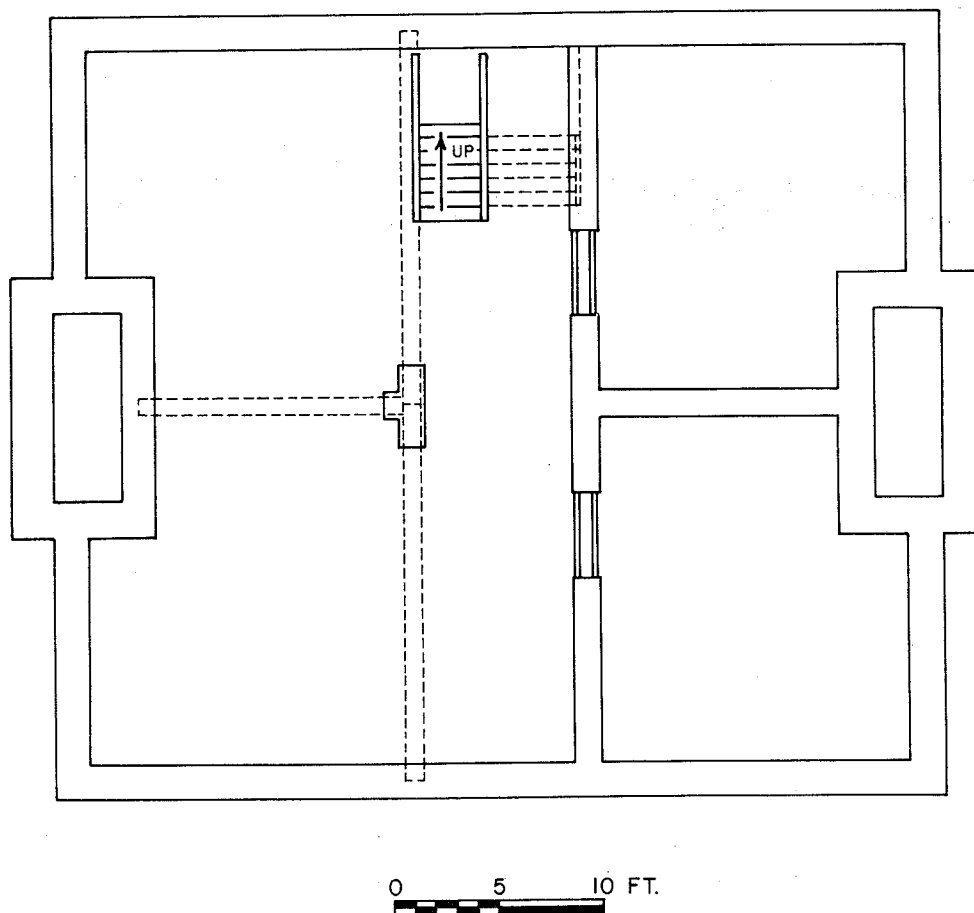


FIGURE 14: Plan of the cellar of the colonial jail at Ninety Six, South Carolina. (Holschlag, et al. 1978: 70)

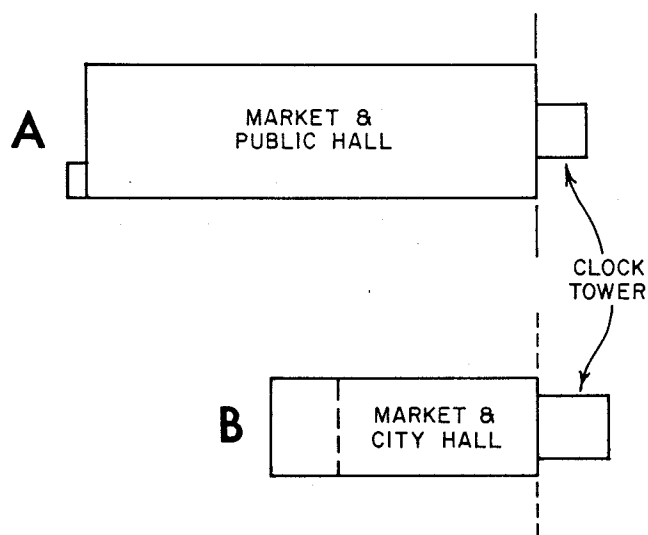
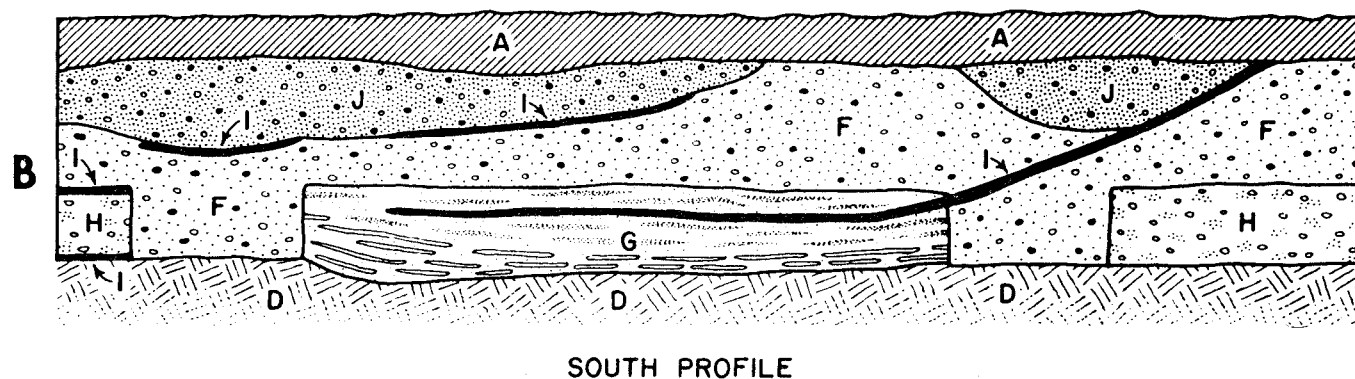
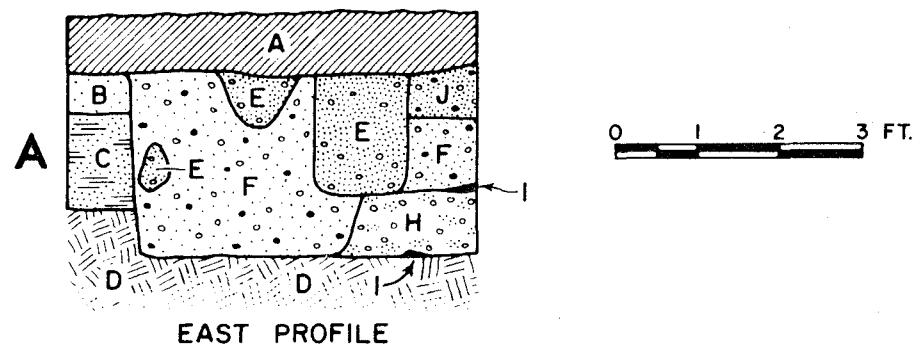












FIGURE 15: Plans of the 1842 Georgetown market and the 1859 Camden market. (Sanborn Map Company 1889, 1899)



- | | |
|--|--|
|  A-DARK GREY SANDY LOAM |  F-DARK TAN SAND CONTAINING BRICK RUBBLE AND CHARCOAL |
|  B-PALE BROWN SANDY LOAM |  G-DARK AND LIGHT TAN STRATIFIED SAND WITH LENSES OF WHITE SAND |
|  C-RED SANDY CLAY |  H-REDDISH BROWN MOTTLED SAND WITH BRICKBATS |
|  D-RED AND PALE YELLOW MOTTLED SANDY CLAY |  I-BLACK ASH AND CHARCOAL |
|  E-DARK GREY FILL WITH BRICKBATS, ETC. |  J-DARK BROWN SAND WITH BRICK AND CHARCOAL |

FIGURES 16A, B: Profiles of the storage tank pit.

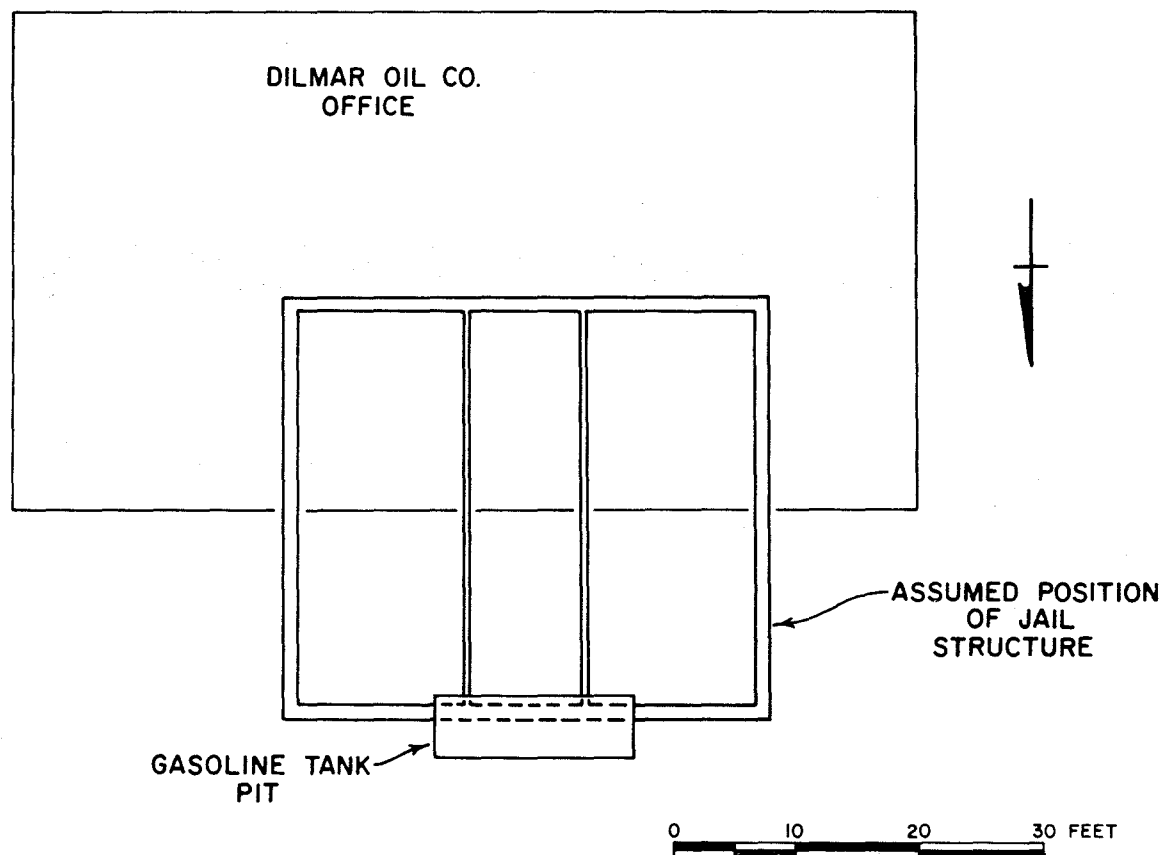


FIGURE 17: Projected plan of the Camden jail foundations, indicating the portion believed to have been intersected by the storage tank pit and the relationship of the archeological structure to the modern building.

In the south profile two similar vertical-walled features are present, extending from the base of the dark tan sand and rubble layer to the base of the profile. These columns are 2.1 and 1.9 feet in width and lie 7.9 feet apart. The space between them dips slightly below the normally flat profile base and appears to have been filled with a stratified deposit of dark and light tan water-borne sand containing lenses of white sand. A thin layer of ash and charcoal is present near the top of this layer. The stratified sand underlies the dark tan sand and rubble layer and extends to the top of the vertical-walled features. Both of these features contain the dark tan sand and rubble with a somewhat denser concentration of charcoal. The dark tan sand extends upward to the base of the plow zone in the right half of the south profile, but elsewhere in both profiles it is overlain by thick lenses of dark brown sand containing charcoal and brick rubble, including many larger brickbats. This layer is separated from the dark tan sand in several places by a thin sporadic layer of black ash and charcoal.

On the basis of this stratigraphic information, it appears that the structural remains present consist of the footings of three intersecting

brick walls set directly on the surface of a flat-bottomed pit excavated at least 2.3 feet below the original surface. These are represented by the three vertical features resting directly on the clay subsoil. The two footings in the south profile represent a pair of parallel internal walls resting on the cellar floor, while the footing visible in the east profile is that of an exterior wall erected at the edge of the cellar excavation.

The building containing these walls was destroyed by fire, after which a layer of soil and burned debris accumulated in the cellar around the base of the walls. The presence of water-borne deposits in the area between the parallel walls may indicate that this portion of the ruin did not fill in the same manner as the rest of the cellar or that it was deliberately reopened after the fire, perhaps as a consequence of salvage activities, and then allowed to refill naturally with eroded deposits.

Later, the remaining brick appears to have been removed from the wall footings. The resulting robber's trenches, as well as the cellar depression from which they were excavated, were then filled in with available soil containing debris from the burned structure. Deposits with a higher concentration of rubble were then laid down to help level the site. The two pits visible in the east profile were excavated sometime after this filling had taken place.

The robbers' trenches discerned in the two profiles would have been wide enough to encompass the walls themselves and the extra space that would have been required to loosen and remove the brick. If we assume that several inches of soil were removed on either side of the wall by the brick robbers, then the width of the original wall may be estimated to have been as much as 0.5 foot less than that of the cavity visible in the profile. When this amount is subtracted from the 2.6 foot width of the exterior wall and the 2.0 foot width of the parallel interior walls, thicknesses of 2.5 bricks for the former and 2 bricks for the latter are indicated.

The intersection of the two parallel walls spaced 8.0 feet apart with an exterior cellar wall 2.5 bricks thick reveals a plan nearly identical to that found in the Ninety Six jail if the center section of its front or rear had been exposed (Fig. 17). This similarity of size and form strongly suggests a structure of identical function.

Extensive evidence of fire further supports the identification of these structural remains as those of one of the Camden jails. Burned ceramics and other artifacts among the materials collected from the vicinity of the excavation attest further to the association of fire with the building's occupation. Although no later structures appear to have intruded upon these ruins, the careful refilling of the brick robbers' trenches and the open cellar hole suggest that the site was deliberately prepared for a subsequent occupation. Such modification would have been extremely likely in the case of the Camden jails, the sites of which were re-used almost immediately, but not for the market site, which was left vacant after the abandonment of this structure.

In summary, architectural evidence obtained from the archeological investigations has revealed evidence of a structure sharing many formal attributes with the Ninety Six jail, and presumably, colonial South Carolina jails in general. Its method of destruction is identical to the fate of the Camden jails and the subsequent treatment of its ruins would have been likely in the case of either building in order to prepare the site for subsequent occupation. This evidence supports the hypothesis that the material remains encountered in the construction work are those of one of the Camden jails. Conversely, it substantially weakens the alternative argument that the archeological remains represent the Camden market.

Summary

The archeological evidence from the Jail and Market site suggests strongly that the archeological remains encountered in the excavations represent one of the two Camden District jails that occupied the site between 1771 and 1812. An analysis of artifacts from the site clearly identifies a British colonial and post-colonial occupation occurring in the last quarter of the eighteenth century and the first half of the nineteenth, the same period as documents indicate the jails and the subsequent Camden market existed. Architectural evidence, however, revealed a plan conforming to expectations for late eighteenth century jails in South Carolina rather than contemporary market buildings, clearly identifying the nature of the archeological structure.

This conclusion, while based on compelling evidence, must still be considered tentative because of the limited information available from the restricted excavations. Many questions crucial to the accurate identification of the past settlement remain unanswered because the requisite types of archeological data have not yet been obtained. Thus, while the results of the investigations appear to have identified a structure known from documentary sources to have occupied this site, they have also revealed the necessity for further study in order to fully address more detailed questions relating to this past settlement.

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Archeological investigations conducted at the Jail and Market site in Camden were carried out in order to salvage material evidence disturbed as a result of modern construction work. Documentary sources indicate that two district jails and the town market sequentially occupied this site between 1771 and 1859. Thereafter it has lain vacant until modern times. The goal of the archeological investigations was to identify which of these two structures was represented by the material remains.

Because the excavations at the site revealed both portable artifacts and structural remains, it has been possible to investigate questions relating to the form and function of the past settlement using both types of archeological evidence. Chronologically sensitive artifacts were employed to define the time of the site's occupation and to verify the ethnicity of its inhabitants. Analysis revealed evidence of a settlement conforming to that described in written sources but could not determine which of the structures was represented archeologically. Architectural evidence, however, permitted comparison with the expected layouts of contemporary jails and markets in colonial and antebellum South Carolina, and indicated that the structure encountered in the excavations is likely to have been one of the jails. Because of the restricted nature of the data base available for these investigations, the identification of the jail must remain a tentative conclusion. Its verification must await the completion of archeological work designed specifically to define the function of this structure.

With regard to the condition of the structural remains and the site in general, the archeological investigations have revealed that no substantial disturbance has taken place here since the site was abandoned and all archeological features extending below the shallow plow zone are likely to have remained intact. Although brick and perhaps other reusable artifacts were removed from the structure investigated, other sealed deposits associated with its occupation appear undisturbed. If, as anticipated, this structure was similar in size to the Ninety Six jail, a portion of its remains lie beneath the modern structure now occupying the site. Because this building was constructed on the surface and required no grading (Maxcy Cappell, personal communication), however, it is unlikely to have greatly disturbed the buried archeological remains over which it was built. The condition of other archeological structures on the site is unknown, but the degree to which remains associated with the investigated structure have remained intact suggests that other archeological features may lie in a similar state of preservation.

Although not containing intact cultural features like the undisturbed layers beneath it, the plow zone should produce a substantial number of artifacts relating to the historic occupations of this site. If, as studies of other plowed sites have indicated (Lewis 1976), the overall patterning of artifact distribution remains intact in plowed sites, then this layer is capable of yielding a substantial amount of information about the identity and spatial layout of past activities at the Jail and Market site.

At present the site is occupied by a wholesale oil distributing company. The parking area where the excavations were conducted has been covered with gravel and the archeological remains appear to be protected from further disturbance if the site's current use remains unchanged.

With regard to the site's future, three alternative plans may be followed. The first is to let the site remain as it is provided that no further construction, destructive land use, or other modification is carried out that would disturb the subsurface archeological deposits and feature there. This alternative would preserve the remains for future investigation, but would permit no information about the historic structures there to be obtained.

In addition, continued private ownership of the site guarantees no long term protection for it. As the construction work that necessitated the recent archeological investigations shows, a change in occupancy or ownership could easily endanger the archeological remains. Good fortune has permitted this record of the past to survive until the present. It can hardly be relied upon to provide indefinite protection.

A second alternative is to convert the property permanently to a use that would guarantee its preservation. This might involve the development of the property as a park or other area of non-destructive public use through agreement, lease, or purchase by the City of Camden or a public agency. This plan, like the first, does not provide for the investigation of the archeological resources at the site; however, it will allow their protection until such a time as their excavation becomes desirable and feasible.

A third alternate plan for the Jail and Market site involves its development as a historical resource in order to provide additional information about its past settlement for interpretive public exhibits as well as research purposes. This plan is essentially an extension of the second alternative, emphasizing the investigation of the archeological remains preserved here. Ideally such work would proceed from an intensive survey of the site as a whole to the investigation of individual structures and other functionally-significant units. Structural remains and other in situ evidence uncovered during this work might be conserved and marked or otherwise identified in order to serve as on-site exhibits, while portable artifacts recovered would be useful additions to museum exhibits and research collections.

In addition to its value as an exhibit, the Jail and Market site presents an opportunity to study the archeological remains of two specialized activities of the colonial and antebellum periods. Because the archeological patterning associated with the sites of markets and jails is not well known, information obtained at this site should be invaluable not only in the investigation of this particular settlement, but also for comparative purposes in the study of others in which such buildings and the activities associated with them were present. In this sense the value of the Jail and Market site transcends its significance as an individual entity within a single community to achieve a wider role representing a type of activity throughout the context of a larger region.

Modern

APPENDIX B

DERIVATION OF MEAN CERAMIC DATE

The mean ceramic date formula was developed as a technique by which to determine a mean date of manufacture for British ceramics found in an archaeological context. It is based on the assumption that a ceramic type's popularity will form a unimodal curve through time reaching a peak between the time of its introduction and that of its discontinuance. The median date is represented by the peak in popularity. Utilizing Ivor Noël Hume's A Guide to Artifacts of Colonial America (1970) as a source for the median dates for the use span of each ceramic type, the mean date (Y) for a group of ceramics present at a particular site is calculated by the following formula:

$$Y = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^n x_i f_i}{\sum_{i=1}^n f_i}$$

$$\sum_{i=1}^n f_i$$

where: X_i = the median date of use

f_i = the frequency of each ceramic type

n = the number of ceramic types in the sample

The calculation of a mean ceramic date for the Jail and Market site sample is accomplished as follows:

Ceramic Type Description	Type Median Date (x_i)	Sherd Count (f_i)	Product ($x_i \cdot f_i$)
Debased Rouen faience	1788	1	1788
Overglazed enamelled hand- painted creamware	1788	1	1788
Undecorated creamware	1791	62	111042
Transfer-printed pearlware	1818	13	23634
Underglazed polychrome pearlware	1805	3	5415
Annular pearlware	1805	3	5415
Underglazed blue hand- painted pearlware	1800	7	12600
Shell-edged pearlware	1805	5	9025
Undecorated pearlware	1805	21	37905
Ironstone-whiteware	1860	24	44640
British brown stoneware	1733	2	3466
Brown stoneware bottles	1860	1	1860
White salt-glazed stoneware plates	1758	<u>2</u>	<u>3516</u>
Totals		145	262094

$$Y = \frac{262094}{145} = 1807.5448 = 1808$$

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