

12-2000

Santa Elena Designated as National Landmark

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Publication Info

Published in *Legacy*, Volume 5, Issue 2, 2000, pages 28-28.

<http://www.cas.sc.edu/sciaa/>

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Figure 4: One of the 28 backhoe test trenches dug to define the limits of the cemetery. The features with light, subsoil fill are graves; Building 856 is to the right. (SCIAA photo)

represented by World War I USMC artifacts, including uniform buttons, web equipment hardware, rifle and pistol cartridges, and architectural debris (Figure 5). A posthole, foundation rubble, and iron pipes from a 1918 latrine/bathroom building were found just beyond the northeast edge of the cemetery.

Although this work was a departure from our long-time involvement in

research at Santa Elena, it turned out to be an interesting project. Our work on this cemetery will allow it to be preserved and protected from disturbance. A final report on this project will be completed in Spring, 2001.

Field crew for this project consisted of Chester DePratter, James Legg, Kris Asher, John Kirby, Lisa Hudgins, and Rebecca Barrera. Transit work was done by Stanley South and Chester DePratter; Lisa Hudgins produced the final site map. The laboratory crew consisted of James Legg, Kris Asher, John Kirby, Erica Bruchko, and Frank Talbot. The backhoe was provided by Patterson Construction Company and was operated by Kenny

Bennett. Work on the site was funded by a grant from the U. S. Marine Corps.



Figure 5: World War I USMC artifacts from the West Wing Extension occupation. Items include an unfired .30'06 cartridge, a blank .30'06 cartridge, a .30 caliber rifle bullet, an unfired .45 caliber automatic pistol cartridge, a Springfield .30'06 5-round clip, a web equipment strap end, a bootlace tip, and USMC uniform buttons. (SCIAA photo)

SANTA ELENA DESIGNATED AS NATIONAL LANDMARK By Chester DePratter



Save America's Treasures 2000 Logo

In January 2001, Santa Elena will be officially designated a National Historic Landmark by Secretary of the Interior Bruce Babbitt. The new designation covering 67 acres includes the remnants of Charlesfort and the town of Santa Elena and its two known forts. Dr. Mark Barnes, Senior Archeologist, National Register Programs Division, National Park Service, began work on this nomination more than a decade ago and finally achieved success through dogged persistence.

Also, the site recently was designated an official Save America's Treasures site. Save America's Treasures is a partnership between the National Trust for Historic Preservation and the White House Millennium Council.

Plans are currently being made for a May, 2001, ceremony on the Charlesfort/Santa Elena site to celebrate these two important listings. For information concerning this event, contact Chester DePratter at SCIAA.

Save America's Treasures is a White House Millennium Council initiative created by President and Mrs. Clinton as part of the National Millennium Commemoration and was established February 2, 1998. It is a national effort focused on "protecting America's threatened cultural treasures..., including significant documents, works of art, maps, journals, and historic structures that document and illuminate the history and culture of the United States."