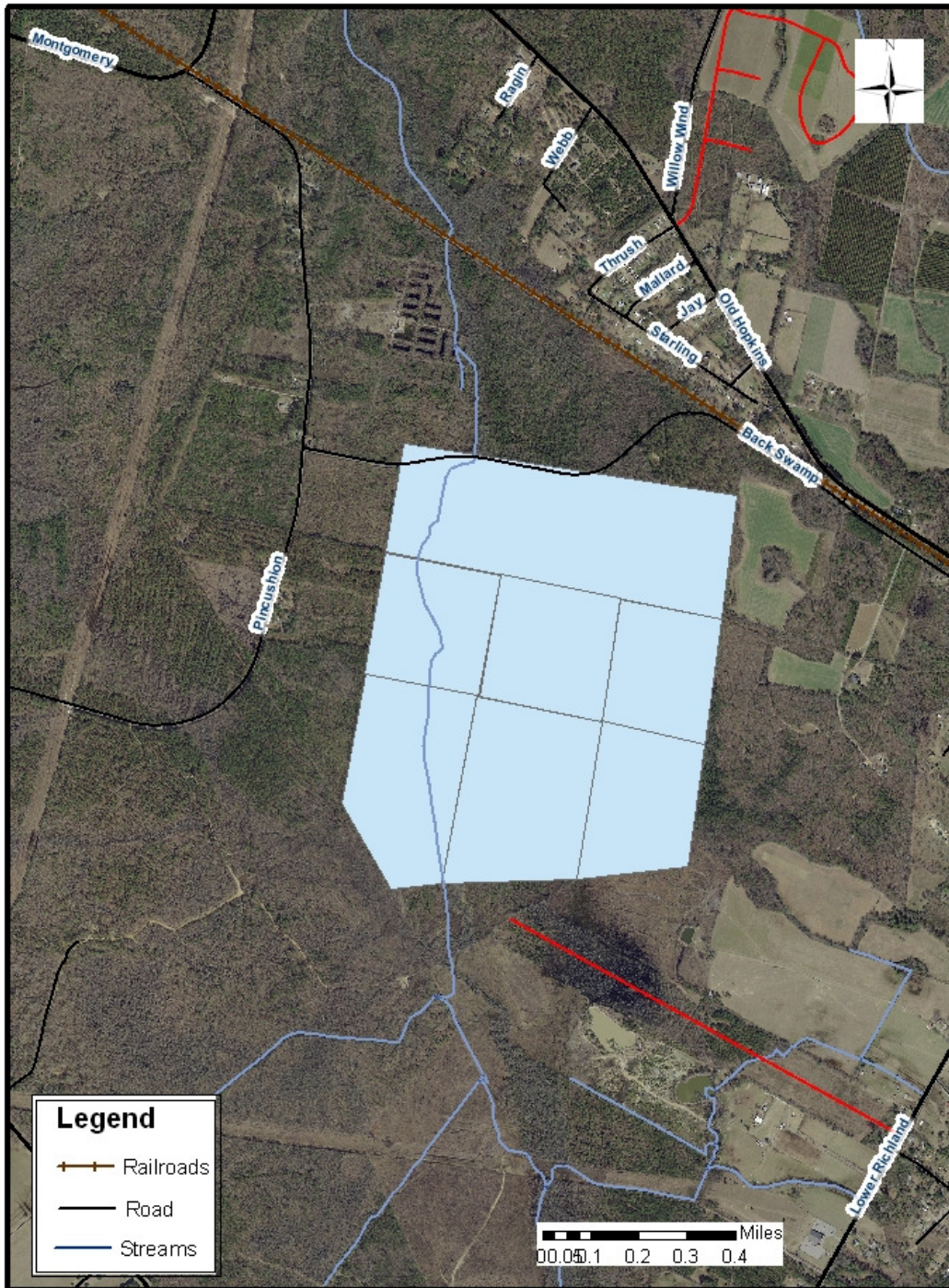


B. The Back Swamp Tract

Back Swamp Tract, Richland County, South Carolina



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Historic Appearance

The Back Swamp tract comprised approximately 380 acres located a mile and a half west of the town of Hopkins. The tract was originally part of the larger Back Swamp Plantation owned by James Hopkins. Not surprisingly, the original South Carolina Land Commission survey plats designate the property as swamp land. Much of the northern part of this tract had already been cultivated as rice fields at the time of the Land Commission survey.

The survey plats show the Back Swamp Creek running from north to south through the western half of the tract on its way to Cedar Creek. The tract was bordered on the north and east by the remainder of the James Hopkins' plantation, on the west by the land of Paul Chappell, and on the south by the Myers estate. The original survey plats indicate a slave cemetery located in the northeast corner of the tract.

Parcels Purchased by African Americans

The Back Swamp tract contained 377.55 acres and seven original parcels. Although one parcel was sold, none of the land was ever deeded, indicating that any land purchases were forfeited.

Current Appearance

Although the Back Swamp Creek still exists, it would seem that the land has lost much of its swampy characteristics, as aerial photographs show dirt roads and grass fields with scattered forest along the creek bed.

Back Swamp Road skirts the northern border of the tract, and current property lines bear no relation to the partitions of the South Carolina Land Commission. The slave cemetery indicated in the original Land Commission survey is currently located on the property of Theodore Jenkins.