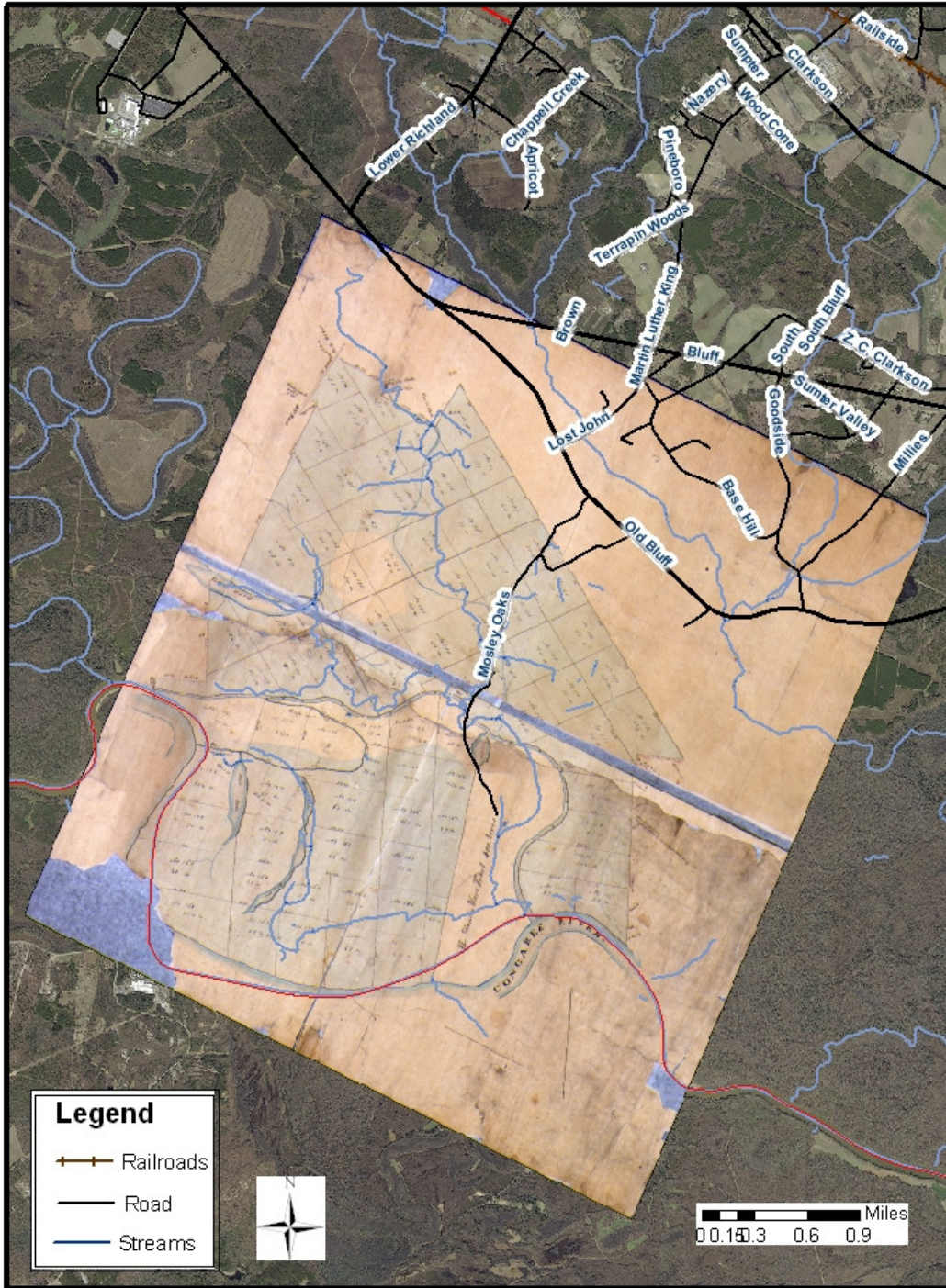


## **G. The O'Hanlon Tract**

# O'Hanlon Tract, Richland County, South Carolina



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## Historic Appearance

The O'Hanlon tract comprised approximately 5,165 acres. The tract was located at a bend in the Congaree River just past the point where Raeford's Creek (today Mill Creek) enters. It was the largest of the Land Commission tracts in Lower Richland County, extending from the Congaree River to near the present day Old Bluff Road, a distance of over two miles. Unlike the other tracts, O'Hanlon was situated at a significant distance from both the railroads and from the other tracts, perhaps explaining its relative lack of success in sustaining the permanent inhabitation of families. This low-lying area would have largely been floodplain, and numerous creeks and small ponds are shown on the original survey plats.

## Parcels Purchased by African Americans

The O'Hanlon tract contains 5,164.5 original acres divided into at least 170 original parcels. Land was purchased from the South Carolina Land Commission between January 1870 and May 1887. Though there were about seventy-eight original purchasers; only fifteen of those completed making payments and secured a deed for their land.

## Current Appearance

Although eighty-four individuals attempted to purchase land in the O'Hanlon tract, only four deeds were ever received, and today any significant trace of the lots they once owned has been all but erased. Currently the land is primarily divided into several large parcels of land owned by the Clarkson Family Trust, the Mill Creek ASC General Partnership, the Little Clayton PTRN ASC, and William Thomas Koon. Highly fragmented records make it impossible to determine exactly when the land passed from the purchasers from the Land Commission into the hands of these current property holders, but it is safe to say that the majority of the land was consolidated by the mid-twentieth century.