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ARCHEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATION OF
SOUTH CAROLINA HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT'S PROPOSED
CONNECTOR FROM PORT ROYAL TO LADIES ISLAND

by

Travis L. Bianchi
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Prepared by the
INSTITUTE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND ANTHROPOLOGY
UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA
April, 1974

INTRODUCTION

On April 11, 1974 the Institute of Archeology and Anthropology conducted an archeological site survey of the route proposed by the South Carolina Highway Department for the Port Royal - Ladies Island Connector, Alternate A. The South Carolina Highway Department in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act requested this survey in order to obtain an Environmental Impact Statement regarding archeological resources that might be situated in the path of proposed highway or bridge construction.

The proposed connector will be approximately three miles long including a bridge span of 4000 feet over the Beaufort River and adjacent marsh. The remaining 2.2 miles include high ground of five to fifteen feet of elevation on both the Port Royal and Ladies Island sides of the river.

THE SURVEY

The survey area lies in close proximity to salt marshes, salt creeks, and the Beaufort River and crosses several areas of high ground that may have been suitable for utilization by a prehistoric population exploiting the nearby riverine and estuarine environments. Examination of site records at the Institute of Archeology and Anthropology revealed a number of prehistoric sites in the vicinity. However, the archeological survey of the area failed to reveal any previously unrecorded prehistoric sites or any evidence of activity by prehistoric inhabitants of the area.

The Beaufort - Port Royal area is rich in sites of historical importance and several of these such as Fort Frederick, Fort Lyttleton, and Stuart Town are located in the vicinity of the proposed connector. Documentary research and surveillance of the area determined that none of these lie in the right-of-way of the proposed Port Royal - Ladies Island connector nor in such proximity that they would be endangered by bridge or highway construction. The archeological survey of the area revealed no previously unrecorded historic sites considered to be significantly important to warrant further investigation or preservation. Documentary research involved examination of the following:

Archeological Site Files at the Institute of Archeology and Anthropology, University of South Carolina, Columbia.

Environmental Reconnaissance Inventory of the Charleston District. Prepared by the United States Army Corps of Engineers, Washington, D.C., 1972.

Mills Atlas of South Carolina by Robert Mills, Robert Pearce Wilkins and John D. Keels, Jr. Columbia, 1965.

Also consulted were:

Mrs. Christie Fant, Coordinator
Historic Preservation Division
South Carolina Department of Archives and History
Columbia, South Carolina, representing the State
Historic Preservation Officer.

Captain Charles N. Barnum, President
Beaufort County Historical Society
Beaufort, South Carolina.

One previously unrecorded historic site was located on the west or Port Royal side of the Beaufort River at the terminus of the proposed bridge (the accompanying map [Fig. 1] illustrates the location of

this site). This site, 38BU109, consists of the ruins of a brick factory and appears to date from the nineteenth or early twentieth century. It is the opinion of the Institute of Archeology and Anthropology that this site warrants neither further investigation or preservation.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Due to the tremendously thick growth of underbrush and ground cover along much of the survey route examination of the soil surface was extremely difficult. It was necessary to do a considerable amount of scrape shoveling to sufficiently reveal enough soil surface for adequate examination. Consequently the possibility exists that there may be archeological remains undetected by this survey.

As a result of this consideration the Institute of Archeology and Anthropology requests that it be notified when clearing and earth moving operations begin along the route of the proposed connector so that the route may be examined under conditions more conducive to observation of the soil surface. This second survey would involve walking the connector route and visually inspecting the ground for archeological remains.

CONCLUSIONS

As a result of this archeological site survey it appears that there are no significant archeological sites endangered by presently planned construction activity along the route of The Port Royal - Ladies

Island Connector, Alternate A. The Institute of Archeology and Anthropology requests that it be notified once construction begins so that the area may be reexamined once earth moving operations are underway.

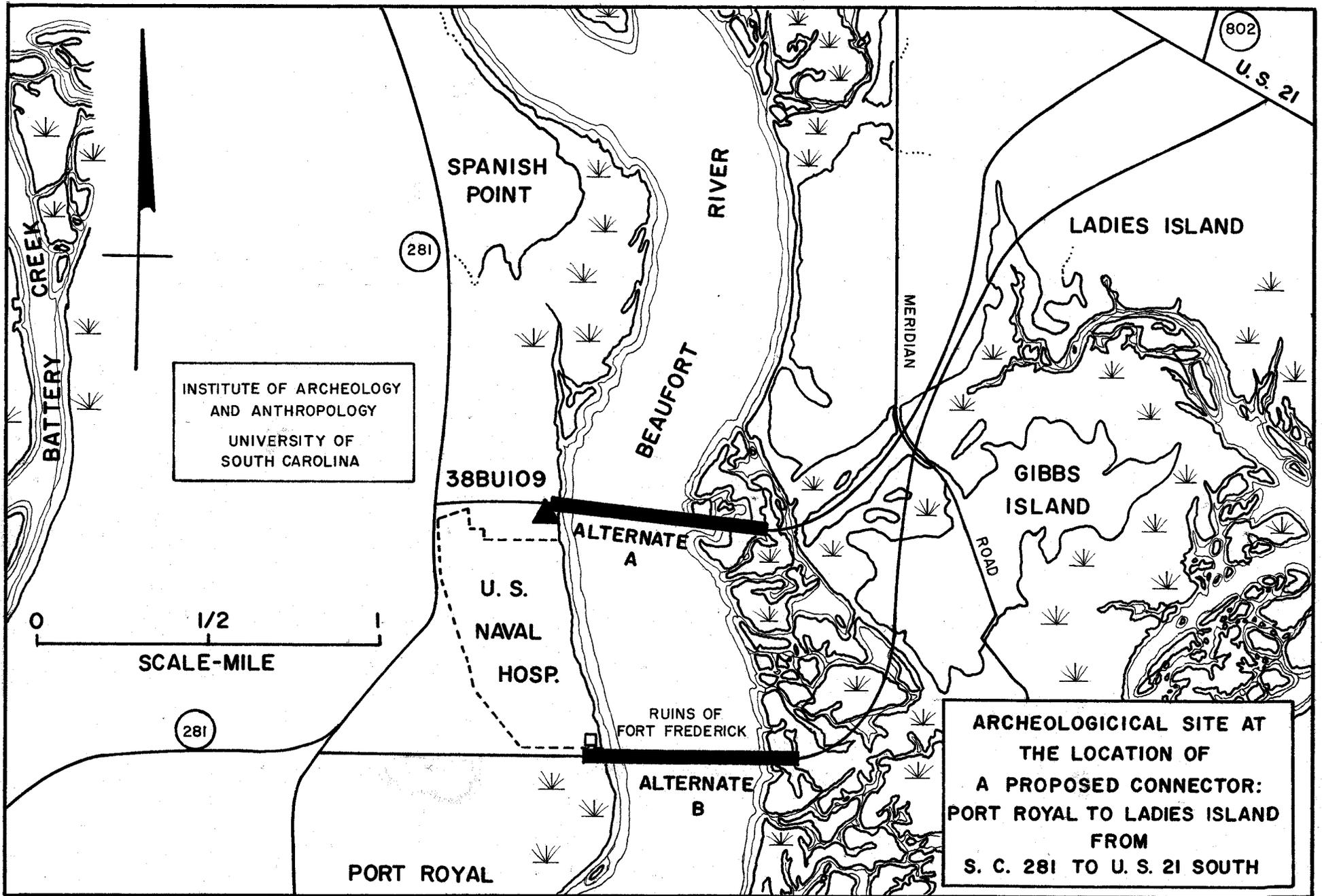
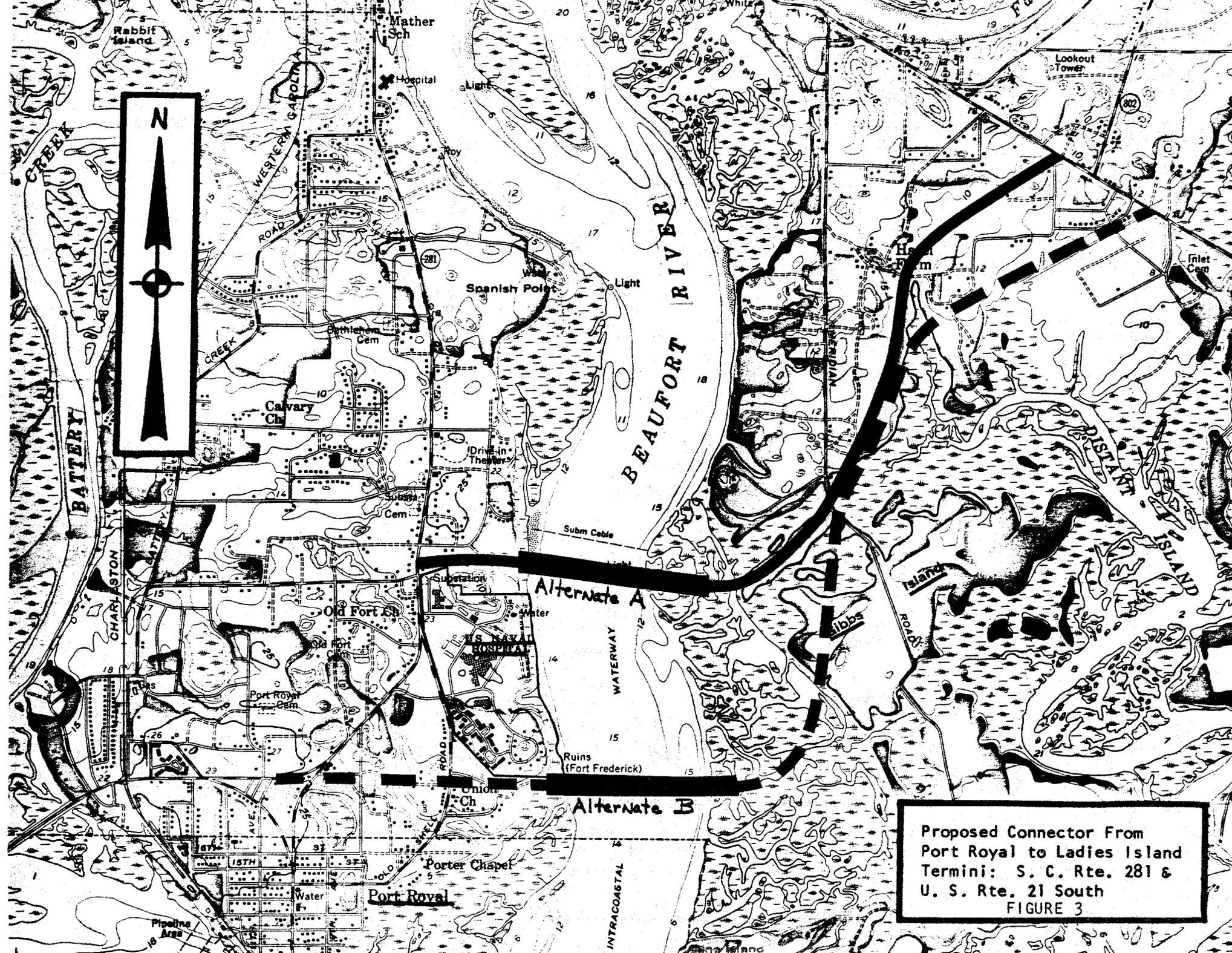


FIGURE 1



Proposed Connector From
Port Royal to Ladies Island
Termini: S. C. Rte. 281 &
U. S. Rte. 21 South
FIGURE 3