1985

Notebook - January-March 1985

South Carolina Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology--University of South Carolina

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A quarterly journal of reports and activities of mutual interest to the individuals and organizations within the framework of the South Carolina 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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KENN PINSON, EDITOR
SOUTH CAROLINA INSTITUTE OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND ANTHROPOLOGY

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The University of South Carolina offers equal opportunity in its employment, admissions, and educational activities, in accordance with Title IX, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and other civil rights laws.
In this issue of the Notebook, Ralph Wilbanks and Katherine Singley Dannenburg update small watercraft research in South Carolina. Ralph, who is now employed in Charleston, initiated this study with his report in the Notebook (12[3 & 4]: 17-28, 1980) on four canoes: The Kizer-Judy Canoe, the Ferguson Canoe, the Cut Dam Canoe, and the Chessey Creek Canoe. The progress of the Chessey Creek Canoe is reported here by Ralph. Kate, married and living in Maryland, reports the techniques involved in conserving the canoe. The canoe is on exhibit at Charles Towne Landing.

In October 1984, the South Carolina Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology contracted with Edward D. Stone and Associates for archaeological research on the Wachesaw and Richmond Hill plantations on the Waccamaw River near Murrells Inlet. A state tour was planned for two cold days, January 23-24, 1985, sponsored by the S. C. Institute. The trip included a tour of the excavations in progress, a tour of the Rice Museum, the Pawley's Island Hammock Shop, and the Brookgreen Gardens.

Kimberly Grimes, a USC anthropology graduate student, reports on "shotgun" homes on Wheeler Hill.

A limited edition of 500 color prints of a shell gorget painting by Darby Erd, who is now employed with the S. C. State Museum Commission, is available from the S. C. Institute. Costs are $20.00 for an unsigned print, numbered; and $30.00 for a signed print, numbered. If you wish to buy a print, please send a check payable to the S. C. Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology.

The Department of Anthropology at the University of South Carolina is pleased to announce the publication of a new research series entitled South Carolina Research in Anthropology. In this first issue, Kenneth Sassaman, pursuing a doctorate degree at the University of Massachusetts-Amherst, unravels the geoarchaeological aspects of site formation processes at the Mulberry site in the Wateree River Valley near Camden, South Carolina. It is available from the Department for $5.00 ("Stratigraphic Description and Interpretation of the Mulberry Mound [38KE12], Kershaw County, South Carolina"; 71 pages, 22 illustrations, 1984).

In 1973, the S. C. Institute published an index to the Notebook, compiling five years of the journal's entries. The last pages of this issue serve as an index from 1974 to 1984, volumes 6 through 16. It is organized by subject and author.

There have been conflicts in printing schedules that have offset editorial production of the Notebook. Several contractual obligations had to be fulfilled in 1984 before the Notebook's production. In 1985, we hope to resume quarterly productions of the journal. We are sorry for the inconvenience to librarians and to the readers at large.
SMALL WATERCRAFT RESEARCH PROJECT UPDATE

by

Ralph L. Wilbanks and Katherine Singley Dannenburg

Recovery of the Chessey Creek Canoe, 38CN83

The first article in a series on small watercraft research in South Carolina conducted by the South Carolina Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology appeared in Volume 12, Nos. 3 and 4 of The Notebook 1980. This, the second article in the series, concerns the recovery and conservation of one of the canoes mentioned, the Chessey Creek Canoe, 38CN83.

The Chessey Creek canoe has a remaining centerline length of 12 feet, 11 1/2 inches, and is made of cypress (Fig. 1). Though part of the gunwale is missing, and the canoe generally has been weakened by exposure to the weather, the overall condition is fair but is certainly considered a good exhibit item. On March 9, 1982, Alan B. Albright, Chris Craft and Ralph L.

Figure 1: Chessey Creek Canoe on exhibit at Charles Towne Landing.
Wilbanks, all of the S.C. Institute staff, went to the site of the canoe in Colleton County, South Carolina, to remove the canoe from a dredge spoil pile where it had remained for approximately 20 years after being pulled out of the water by a dragline.

The canoe was filled with dirt and a mass of roots from years of exposure. The area around the canoe, covered by typical swampy environment and undergrowth, was cleared with axes and a bush ax to allow room to operate. The roots and dirt were then very carefully removed from the inside of the canoe by hand.

The canoe lay on the south side of a small canal. The south side was almost impenetrable due to the undergrowth; the north bank had a dirt road the entire length of the canal. The north bank was used as a staging area.

The basic theory of recovery of the Chessey Creek canoe was to launch the S.C. Institute's 17-foot johnboat, with seats removed, from the north bank, paddle over to the canoe, drag and johnboat as close to the canoe as possible, pick the canoe up and place it in the boat, then paddle back across the canal, recover the johnboat, and secure the canoe in the johnboat for travel to Charles Towne Landing.

The idea basically worked very well. We had prepared several ways to lift the canoe into the johnboat but eventually used the simplest of these. We picked it up by hand and placed it in the boat. Once on the other bank, we had a small problem recovering the johnboat due to the weight of the canoe and the johnboat. To solve this problem, we dragged the boat out of the water with the aid of a rope attached to a truck. We had picked a spot along the canal near a large oak tree.

Once the johnboat was under the tree, we riged the canoe with ropes and slings and placed the rope over a large tree limb, attached it to the truck and raised the canoe out of the johnboat. We then put the johnboat on the trailer and lowered the canoe back into it and secured the canoe and boat for travel. Upon arrival at Charles Towne Landing in Charleston, S.C., the canoe was removed from the johnboat with the aid of a small front-end loader and placed on timbers to keep it off the damp ground. Conservation of the canoe began the next morning.

Conservation of the Chessey Creek Canoe

The canoe first was sprayed with an insecticide, a water-based mixture of Lindane (hexachlorocyclohexane) and Dursban (0,0-diethyl 0,3,5,6 trichloro-2-pyridyl phosphorothioate), applied by a local exterminator (Fig. 2). Although damage by insects did not seem recent, the treatment was a precaution against the chance of introducing pests into the display area at Charles Towne Landing.

Three months later the canoe was cleaned with a soft paint brush and a shop vacuum, taking care not to disrupt any weakened surfaces. Small roots, which had taken hold in the deteriorating tree rings during burial
and exposure, were removed from the six radial surfaces of the canoe by using dental picks and tweezers.

Following cleaning, the canoe was consolidated with 3% and 5% solutions of Butvar 98 (polyvinyl butyral) in ethyl alcohol. The resin was applied in four brush applications. In the first application the more dilute solution of 3% butvar was used to encourage the penetration of the resin into the wood. This initial coating was followed by three applications of 5% butvar. Additionally, the porosity and the fragility of the radial surfaces required more resin to be injected into those areas by using a large bulb syringe and hypodermic. About eight gallons of resin solution were used to consolidate the canoe.

Butvar has been used to consolidate other dry wooden objects with large surface areas (Barclay 1981). In this kind of application, lasting two to three days, its primary advantage is its safety for the operator, who may be working in a poorly ventilated area. Ethyl alcohol is far less toxic than toluene or acetone used to make solutions of other resins. In this application butvar demonstrated good penetration, resulting in a strengthened and aesthetically pleasing wood that was not glossy or greatly darkened.

Fragments of the canoe were reattached where possible using either Duco Cement or CM Bond 3 (polyvinyl acetate emulsion). Additionally, a dough made of butvar, jute flock, and kaolin was used to tack down some splintered surfaces. The dough also was used to partially gap-fill one side of the canoe. The patches of dough were colored with pigments in 5% butvar to blend into the surrounding wood.

The cleaning and consolidation of the canoe were relatively straightforward and quick. Had the canoe been totally waterlogged, the conservation treatment would have been lengthy, more complicated, and much more expensive. The canoe probably would have been placed in a trough and tented with polyethylene sheeting. A solution of polyethylene glycol (PEG), a water soluble wax, would have been sprayed daily on the canoe. The PEG gradually would have penetrated the wood and bounded chemically. The wax's purpose would be to impart dimensional stability by preventing the irreversible checking and warping associated with uncontrolled drying. The daily spraying in this saturated environment would have continued for about a year. Then, the canoe would have been "seasoned" by drying and reducing the humidity in the tent very slowly for another twelve to eighteen months. Daily monitoring of the relative humidity in the tent would have been necessary throughout this second stage.
For the canoe at Charles Towne Landing, achieving dimensional stabilization was not critical. Already irreversible damage had occurred, because the wood had been subjected to repeated cycles of wetting, drying, and freezing during exposure in the swamp. Instead, the aim of the treatment was to give the canoe enough mechanical strength for displaying and handling by consolidating the existing checks, cracks, and powdery radial surfaces.

Although treating this piece of essentially dry wood was, by comparison to conserving wet wood, much easier and faster, some thought had to be given in planning the treatment. The large-scale application of consolidant affected the choice of resin and solvent, as well as the method of application. Also, the solution had to be compatible with the insecticide already present in the wood. Even the material used to gap-fill losses had to be compatible with the wood. A comparatively simple conservation treatment, then, can have hidden complications which must be reviewed before work can begin.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The Chessey Creek Canoe is now on exhibit at the Interpretive Center in Charles Towne Landing. Thanks to Earl Marvin of Walterboro, South Carolina, who brought this canoe to our attention, and Bink Sanders of Ritter, South Carolina, who donated the canoe for exhibit at Charles Towne Landing.

ENDNOTES

1 H & T Exterminators, Charleston, S.C.

2 Butvar 98 in powder form is available from Conservation Materials, Sparks, Nevada, 89431.

3 CM Bond 3 is available from Conservation Materials, Sparks, Nevada, 89431.

4 "BJK dough" is used widely as a reversible yet strong gap-filler for archaeological ceramics and wood. For an application in the conservation of ceramics, see an article by Emily Goldberg in The Notebook 14(1 & 2), 1982.
BARCLAY, R.

GOLDBERG, EMILY

WILBANKS, RALPH
A SITE HISTORY OF 1927, 1919 PICKENS STREET

by

Kimberly Grimes

People passing by a shotgun house would probably pay little attention to its raison d'être. One of the cheapest house forms to construct, by the 1870s throughout the United States, "shotguns" were being commonly constructed as cheap rentals. They are associated with those on the lowest end of the economic scale with both whites and blacks living in them in the past and today. Shotguns today dot the landscape; however, in the past decade, their numbers have begun to dwindle, especially with the rapid development of southern cities. Other forms of cheap construction replace the shotgun form with consideration given mainly to economic factors and not the social, cultural factors housing involves. Shotgun houses are an important part of the Afro-American heritage; they should be studied, documented and preserved to show that the United States is a result of a melange of influences from numerous societies and not just northern European ones.

John Valch traced the origin of the shotgun house from Western Africa to Haiti to New Orleans. The links, however, were not so simple and direct.

The story behind the shotgun involves long migrations, the conduct of the Atlantic slave trade, the rise of free black communities, the development of vernacular (folk) and popular traditions in architecture and the expansion of growth of American industrial needs (Vlach 1976: 47).

Whether Vlach's route is correct or not is not a point of contention here. Assuming that Vlach is correct about West African houses sharing a similar form to shotguns in the New World, I want to expand upon the idea of Afro-American origin. If this house type were carried over in the minds of black people, one would suppose that numerous slaves coming into the New World by various routes would build houses like they built for years in their native land. Even when a group of people are forced to live in an alien environment, dominated by an alien elite, acculturation of their ways would be neither quick nor all encompassing. People will reproduce that which they have learned from their culture especially if adaptable to the new environment.

Ferguson (1985) has demonstrated how slaves' pattern of foodways and their ceramic wares "formed part of a material, symbolic system that helped establish meaning and create attitudes" for slaves. He calls it "cultural resistance" following Marxian ideas that in a society where a common ideology among its members is not shared, conflicts and resistance exist (between those in control of the mode of production and those who are not). Through their material culture, slaves resisted "white ways" and this should be represented not only in foodways and wares but in other aspects of material culture such as architecture. The Euro-American Georgian
architecture reflects the Euro-American ideas of the time emphasizing the individual, one's place in the hierarchy of the society and formality, and rigidness (Deetz 1977). African foodways and wares of the time reflect community and collectiveness, not hierarchy and segmentation (Ferguson 1985). Their architecture should reflect these ideas, also.

Shotgun houses emphasize collectiveness, community; they encourage physical closeness with their simple plan: rectangular, three of more small rooms all directly connected and generally, one-storied. The arrangement forces one inside to be in immediate contact with others in the house or to go out on to the street or porch (Vlach 1978: 123). I suggest that the shotgun house plan is another example of cultural resistance of blacks. Evidence in support of this suggestion will come from studying slave architecture. In the plantation study in South Carolina, the Yaughan-Curriboo study, slave structures did "resemble the typical shotgun pattern" (Wheaton et al. 1983: 206). Further research will lend support or discredit this idea.

Even if shotgun houses can be proven to not be of African origin and an example of cultural resistance, they still remain important in the cultural heritage of Americans. The houses represent vernacular (folk) architecture, adopted by whites and blacks; they became a popular building practice especially in the late 19th century. They have long been associated with mill, railroad and river towns (Judge 1983). "Every architectural tradition is also a tradition of attitudes towards nature and a tradition of social arrangement" (Glassie 1984: 18). Shotguns with their emphasis on community demonstrate a tradition followed by those of a lower economic status in the United States and crosscut segregation lines which were so pronounced in this country (and still are). They should be documented and studied because of the socioeconomic information they contain.

At 1927 and 1929 Pickens Street exist two shotgun houses (block #1 lot #4, City of Columbia, South Carolina). They conform to the "typical" shotgun form: twice as long as wide (42' x 21'), four small rooms directly connected, gabled roof, street-facing facade, horizontal weatherboards on exterior, open foundation (1' wide x 2' high piers of brick) and front and back doors on the shorter sides of the building (Fig. 1). A person could shoot a shotgun in the front door, have the bullet pass through the house, exit out the back and never have touched anything inside, one theory as to how the houses got their name (Judge 1983). The basic floorplan (Fig. 2) reveals that the rooms are slightly larger (13' 8" x 13' 5") than the ones Vlach (1977) documented in New Orleans and Haiti (12' x 14' and 12' x 12'). They are, however, the same size as the shotgun house documented in 1983 on 2320 Read Street, Columbia (which does not exist today), with its rooms measuring 13' 8" x 13' 4" (Judge 1983). The height (floor to ceiling) of all shotguns mentioned is a consistent 12 feet (Fig. 3).

A modification to both 1927 and 1929 Pickens Street is the addition of a small room and hall in the rear (Fig. 4). The room is a bathroom which was probably added in the early 20th century when city reforms extended town water and sewage hookups to lower-class neighborhoods. The Sanborn map of 1919 confirms the existence of the additions on the two houses. They were probably added sometime between 1904 and 1910.
Figure 1. Shotgun house, its gabled roof and street-facing facade.

Figure 2. Basic floorplan of shotgun house at 1927 Pickens Street.
The two houses appear to have existed as far back as 1899 with the Columbia City Directory of 1899 showing 1927 Pickens was vacant and 1929 Pickens was occupied by a couple. The exact date of construction of the houses is unknown, although architectural evidence and the development of the neighborhood suggest late 1880s or early 1890s as their beginning date. Another house, not of the shotgun form, appears in the rear of the lot on the 1919 Sanborn map. No listing in the city directory of residents residing there until 1918.

Ownership deeds for the lot extend back to 1904 when the lot was purchased for 750 dollars by Charles H. Carder from B. P. McMaster. When McMaster bought the land is uncertain. Lack of documentation could indicate it was purchased before the Civil War (all records for before the war were destroyed). The property changed hands only three times since then, in 1910, 1924, and 1964. Between 1904 and 1910, the property value escalated—purchased for three-and-a-half times more than in 1904. In 1924, due to nonpayment of taxes the land was auctioned, sold to the highest bidder for 200 dollars less the original purchase. Since 1924, the land remained in the hands of the McNulty family. Placed in a trust for William McNulty's family in 1939, ownership changed one more time in 1964 upon the termination of the trust after a 10-year extension. The present owner is Mrs. Eliza McNulty Dickson and her family. Mrs. Dickson is uncertain as to what she will do with the property in the future (Richland County Courthouse Register of Mesne Conveyance Deed Books).
The property has had few owners but many different renters. Except for the past two decades and during World War II, renters changed almost every year. Renters' occupations were blue-collar jobs: employees for Southern Railroads, draymen, domestics, porters, truck drivers, cooks, auto mechanic, machine operator, construction workers, attendant State Hospital, etc., occupations in which one's pay places he/she on the lower end of the economic scale. All occupants, except one, were black.

Interestingly, it was during the time of the white occupant (1907, 1908) that the property values more than tripled. This probably reflects an upgrading of the houses and possibly the neighborhood (poor whites were still considered higher on the social scale than poor blacks, and property values reinforced this inequality). The time coincides with the time of city reforms; the additions provided indoor plumbing. 1929 Pickens Street remained vacant during this time which could indicate a demand of higher rents for the house and the time lag involved for those who could afford to move in. Further research in sewer/water hookups, building permits and neighborhood occupants during the early 20th century will provide evidence to support or discredit the suggestion.

The houses of 1927, 1929 Pickens Street are part of our material culture reflecting the attitudes, values and beliefs of certain members in our society. Many people passed through the houses; some leaving with faint memories, others with a significant part of their lives spent there. While the inhabitants left their mark on the places, at the same time one's physical environment discourages or reinforces one's behaviors (a two-way street). In researching any site, the site must be viewed as more than "a unit of analysis;" it represents human life.

Shotgun houses in Columbia are disappearing. A good example of how recently a whole community can be eliminated is Wheeler Hill. The shotgun house, 2320 Read Street, is gone; 1927, 1929 Pickens' houses are condemned along with the two neighboring shotguns. While the importance of documenting these houses is obvious, restoration has been questioned. As substandard housing, who would want to live in them? Preserving/restoring the shell of the house, the porch and the inside layout and changing whatever needs changing in order to produce standard housing is an alternative. The shotgun and all it represents as a part of our society will continue to encourage community interaction—a tremendous value to a society whose members do not even know their neighbors, and alienation has such negative consequences. Restoration will provide many new homes. In New Orleans, numerous restored shotguns fill the neighborhoods; none substandard housing.

Columbia needs to consider the state of shotgun houses left in the city today immediately before there is no choice as to preservation or restoration, because none exist.

Acknowledgments

I wish to express my gratitude to my colleagues, Christopher Judge and David W. Babson, whose knowledge and field experience aided me greatly.
Also, a thanks to my dear friend who taught me that education is primarily an association with people and learning is intimately involved in the sharing of ideas with those interested in similar phenomena.

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Wheaton, Thomas, Amy Friedlander and Patrick Garrow  
WACHESAW ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELD TRIP

by

Kenn Pinson

On January 23-24, 1985, the S.C. Institute sponsored a two-day state tour of archaeological excavations on the Wachesaw Plantation property near Murrells Inlet, South Carolina. The area is scheduled for development by Edward Stone and Associates. The excavations, directed by James Michie, have uncovered prehistoric, protohistoric, and historic components on the property.

The first stop on the itinerary was a tour of the Rice Museum in Georgetown, where the Brown's Ferry Vessel will be exhibited after it undergoes conservation in the S.C. Institute's laboratory. The model of the vessel by Richard Steffy is displayed in the museum.

Rice culture in the low country is featured in the museum through the creation of expert diaramas, models and paintings, showing step by step the process by which tidal rice fields were reclaimed. Mrs. Rita Rodwell, chairwoman for the Georgetown Historic Commission, was a gracious hostess for the entourage.

Patricia Cridlebaugh, who investigated the area of Wachesaw Landing, spoke to the group about the discovery of Late Mississippian occupations and burials. The aboriginal occupations were characterized by numerous postmolds, refuse pits, ceramics, floral and faunal remains, and lithics, in addition to 17th century trade items in the form of beads. A large chimney foundation made from a combination of tabby brick and clay brick, was discovered associated with European ceramics, hand-wrought nails, bottle glass, window pane fragment and other material that suggest an occupation between 1730 to 1740.

Jim Michie, who investigated the Wachesaw and Richmond Hill plantation areas, discovered a multicomponent, stratified site, with dates from the Early Archaic through the Woodland periods. He also found evidence of slave cabins, overseers houses, and the homes of planters.
Figure 2. Patricia Criddlebaugh explains the post holes and refuse pits of the Mississippian occupation at the Kimbel house on Wachesaw Plantation.

Figure 3. James Michie shows the ruins of a planter's house at Richmond Hill.
After touring the excavations, the group was entertained at the Litchfield Inn by representatives from the Edward D. Stone Company with talks and illustrations about development of the area.

Before heading back to Columbia on January 24, the group toured Brookgreen Gardens, hosted by Gurdon Tarbox, director of the gardens, who knows the history of the waccamaw area extensively.

Figure 4. Gurdon Tarbox tours the group through the Brookgreen Gardens.

The manifest included the following people:

Lucille Adams
Walter Ahearn
Dot Alford
Dennis Allen
David Babson
John Beth
Dick Brooks
Gordon Brown
Horace Byrnes
Elizabeth Crosscope

Keith Derting
Mary Duval
Tom Dyer
Darby Erd
Terry Ferguson
James Fitch
Joan Gero
Barbara Gipson
Al Goodyear
Stuart Greeter

Glen Hanson
Reese Hart
Mrs. Reese Hart
Ron Jernigan
A. H. Lachicotte
Larry Leptonka
Tom Mathews
William L. McDowell
Betty McDowell
Bob Morgan
Bob Pasquill
Kenn Pinson
Bruce Rippeteau
Rita Rodwell
Ardis Savory
Stan South

Bob Stephenson
Pat Stephenson
Anne Tarbox
Gurdon Tarbox
Jeanne Thomas
Ellie Traub

Steven Traub
Anne Weaver
Ruth Wetmore
John Wilkinson
Elizabeth Wooten
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Fort Loudoun Cannon, The (No author)

Gunflints; On Distinguishing Between French and English Spall-type T. M. Hamilton

Gunspalls; The Geology of K. O. Emery

Hartwell Reservoir, South Carolina and Georgia; Appraisal of the Archaeological Resources of National Park Service

Kershaw House Site in Camden, South Carolina; A Functional Study of the Kenneth E. Lewis

Kilns and Cemetery at Paris Mountain State Park; Charcoal John Combes

Late Archaic-Early Woodland Adaptive Change Along the Middle Savannah River: A Proposed Study; The Analysis of Glen T. Hanson

Mount Saint Helens' Nineteenth Century Eruptions; A Note on Robert L. Stephenson

Mulberry Mound Site Burials; Preliminary Analysis of the Jack Carter and Lee Chickering

Mulberry Plantation; Excavation History at the A. R. Kelly

Mulberry Pottery; Study of the Joseph R. Caldwell

Mulberry Site; Analysis of the George Stuart

Mulberry Site and Excavations; Description of the George Stuart


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