A Proposed Study of the Archeology and History of the Otarre Development Company Property

Albert C. Goodyear

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A PROPOSED STUDY OF THE ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORY OF THE OTARRE DEVELOPMENT COMPANY PROPERTY

by

Albert C. Goodyear
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Prepared by the
INSTITUTE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND ANTHROPOLOGY
UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA
September, 1976
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CHAPTER I
INTRODUCTION

Through the study of artifacts and other surviving remains, archeology seeks to study the form and existence of past human culture. Using scientific and historic methods, archeology as anthropology is able to reconstruct past cultures and their lifeways. The Otarre Development Company property, like much of the South Carolina landscape, contains archeological evidence that potentially can tell the story of how other cultures existed in this environmental setting and what their societies were like. By studying the surviving physical evidence, archeology, throughout the world, is able to link modern society to the past and provide a long range perspective on where man has come from and where he is going. Archeology shares the belief with other historical sciences that in order to understand what we are today we must understand what we were yesterday.

Because of its unusual ecological setting, the property area of the Otarre Development Company exhibits dense quantities of prehistoric Indian and early colonial cultural remains. The area around Congaree Creek as it approaches the Congaree River bears evidence of concentrated human occupation spanning nearly 12,000 years, reflecting nearly every form of aboriginal population that is known to have existed in the Southeastern United States.

Archeological and historical investigations in the Otarre property up to this point have been sporadic and disconnected. Previous research has been accomplished by the Archeological Society of South Carolina, Inc., consisting of volunteer amateur and professional archeologists; The South Carolina Department of Archives and History whose historians have performed some archival research on the early colonial history of the Congaree Creek related to environmental impact by highway construction; The Institute of Archeology and Anthropology of the University of South Carolina which has performed environmental impact studies in three strips spanning the property related to the construction of the Columbia Southeastern Beltway; and the Department of Anthropology of the University of South Carolina which sponsored an archeological field methods class there in the summer of 1976. All of these organizations and people have contributed something toward the understanding of the archeology and history of the property area. Much of this information, however, is incomplete, inaccessible or uninterpreted in its present form. There has been no comprehensive, systematic approach to the study of this complex and fascinating locality. What is needed at this point, is a master site survey accompanied by an interpretive report in order that the full archeological and historical value of this locality may be appreciated.

While our own society must grow and realize its social and economic needs, it must also grow wisely and responsibly, being careful to record information about our own history as a people of this State and region of the United States, and about the history of America's first occupants -- the American Indian. It hardly needs to be said that modern construction
destroys archeological resources. Archeological remains are fragile records of unique events that happened during a particular time at a particular place. Accordingly, archeological resources are non-renewable such events and their results cannot be replicated or replaced. If these resources are destroyed without careful archeological recording, we are forever cut off from that portion of our country's past.

From what we now know of the Congaree River Valley, there were other "developments" which used and occupied the landscape before the Otarre Development Company. Some of the early occupants merely built small camps and villages; others constructed simple shrines and cemeteries for their dead; still other groups built forts and trading posts as part of a growing frontier. Each of these people and their "developments" quietly came and went, with the last one leaving vestiges of its occupation on top of, or along side of, the previous ones. They rarely destroyed the earlier remains but added to the ever more complicated and fascinating record of human existence in the Valley. The Otarre Development Company and the soon to follow related developments will be the first cultural occupation of the Valley that effectively erases all physical evidence of the former 12,000 years of human occupation.

Therefore, the Otarre Development Company, in conjunction and cooperation with the Institute of Archeology and Anthropology, has a significant opportunity to work together to record and learn about the cultural history of this unusual historic locality and to preserve this information for our own benefit and enjoyment as well as that of generations to come.

From what is now known about the archeological remains of the Otarre property, there is reason to believe that prehistoric Indians lived in this part of the Congaree River Valley continuously since about 10,000 years before Christ. Some of the largest and most complex sites of South Carolina have been recorded both in and around the Otarre property. Much of this heavy concentration or prehistoric and historic settlement can be explained by the Congaree River Valley environment.

Within this area there are many types of micro-environments that can only be found in a river valley setting. Economically, a high diversity in environmental types usually provides a greater number of humanly usable resources. Geographically, the upper Congaree Valley is located at a point where two major physiographic units, the Piedmont Uplands and the Atlantic Coastal Plain, merge in an area known as the Fall Line. The Fall Line area would provide the best location for resident peoples who wished to obtain natural resources from both physiographic zones. This geographic situation, bisected by a biotically rich river valley, constitutes an unusually rich environment. A glance at a modern map reveals that numerous contemporary cities have been built where major rivers leave the Piedmont and flow into the Coastal Plain. In South Carolina, for example, Columbia, Camden and Cheraw are located on just such a spot. Modern cities from Alabama to Virginia are situated on the fall line - river valley niche. A fall line - river valley, such
as the Broad or the Congaree provided a useful crossing or fording location for early colonists and the Fall Line also marks the last point up river to which water shipment of goods was feasible. The historian Jones (1971) reports that the confluence of the Broad and Saluda Rivers which merge on the Fall Line to form the Congaree River, was a major factor influencing the location of Columbia.

The Otarre property (Fig. 1) as it extends from the sandy uplands on the west to the channel of the Congaree River on the east, contains many of the micro-environments which were apparently important to both Indian and early colonial occupants. Limited surveys performed by the Institute of Archeology and Anthropology and the Archeological Society of South Carolina, Inc. have revealed sites in apparent functional association with these habitats. The sand hills which overlook the floodplain in the extreme western portion of the property, are very dry and support a more xeric type of vegetation. Primitive Indian agriculture was not likely practiced in this area due to the dry nature of the sandy soils. Several springs and creeks issue from the sand hills along the banks of which can be found dense quantities of aboriginal artifacts suggesting occupations related to temporary camps or habitations. Occasionally isolated stone knives and projectile points can be found in the sand hills suggesting deer hunting activities.

Proceeding eastward (Fig. 1), the property becomes a flat floodplain of alluvial origin. Prehistoric sites are known to occur on the floodplain proper in a variety of environmental situations. Some sites are closely associated with swamps and creeks leading across the floodplain to the Congaree River. Others occur on terraces which are also adjacent to aquatic environments. Finally, sites of late prehistoric age can be found on the margins of the Congaree River itself indicating exploitation of that environment and its related resources. The fact that cultural materials can be found lying on the bluffs adjacent to the Congaree River is very significant since it indicates that the river has been geographically stable at least since those remains were deposited. One site has been located within the flood deposited layers of the bluff thereby sealing it from erosion (Ackerly 1976). There is also a certain group of sites, of late prehistoric age, that are located in the immediate vicinity of Congaree Creek and the Congaree River that are suggestive of agriculturally-based hamlets. It is likely that Indian groups were occupying the margins of the Congaree Creek - Congaree River area in order to exploit flood-deposited sandy alluvium which would be easy to till using primitive hand-held implements. The primary man-land relationship in the Congaree River Valley today is agriculture.

Although we do not as yet fully understand many of these archeological-environmental associations, our preliminary findings are enough to provide functionally plausible culture-ecological hypotheses (Goodyear 1975; Ackerly 1976).
FIGURE 1: Prehistoric and Historic Sites in the Otarre Development Company Property.
CHAPTER II
PREHISTORY AND HISTORY IN THE OTARRE DEVELOPMENT COMPANY PROPERTY AREA

Limited explorations and, in some cases minor excavations, have taken place over the past few years in the Congaree Creek - Congaree River locality. Members of the Archeological Society of South Carolina, Inc., a joint amateur and professional society whose goals are to preserve and study the archeology of South Carolina, have mapped and tested several sites in the Valley. Recently, the Institute of Archeology and Anthropolgy has made surveys in portions of the locality in connection with Environmental Impact Statement related studies. Based upon data recorded by these survey activities, coupled with what is generally known about this region of the State, the broad outlines of the area's culture history are beginning to emerge. In order that the currently known archeological record of this area might be illuminated in light of broader trends, certain key sites will be discussed as they relate to regional culture history.

*Paleo-Indian Period*

The Paleo-Indian period refers to the time of the earliest known aboriginal inhabitants of South Carolina and the United States, dating from approximately 10,000 to 8,000 B.C. Indian occupations of this period are recognized by their infrequent but highly diagnostic style of stone projectile points (Fig. 2). These points which are referred to as "fluted" points, have been dated by the radiocarbon method from 9,000 to 8,000 B.C. from sites in the Southwestern United States (Haynes 1971, Fig. 6).

Certain sites on the Otarre property have produced a surprising number of fluted points and other early lanceolate points. A study performed by a student at the University of South Carolina, Mr. James L. Michie, documented the presence of these points from the Taylor Site (38LX1) and the Manning Site (38LX50) (Fig. 1). The Manning Site, which is undoubtedly the largest site within the Otarre property area, has produced several Paleo-Indian points and probable related tools, and, given its large size and great depth, very likely contains undisturbed strata related to this occupation.

In many parts of the United States Paleo-Indian tools identical to the points and scrapers pictured in Figure 2 have been found associated with butchering scenes of now extinct Pleistocene megafauna such as mammoths, sloths, horse and camel (Martin 1967). In the study by Michie (n.d.) on the geographical distribution of Paleo-Indian points within the State, it was discovered that the greatest number have been found in the larger river drainages. The Congaree Creek - Congaree River locality, in particular, had produced a large number of Paleo-Indian points, primarily from the Manning and Taylor Sites. Following the hypothesis of Williams and Stoltman (1965), Michie has reasoned that the Paleo-Indians
FIGURE 2: Culture-Historically Diagnostic Stone Artifacts from the Congaree Creek Locality: **Top Row** -- Fluted Point (unknown provenience), Dalton Points, Palmer Points and Scraping Tools; **Second Row** -- Middle Archaic Kirk, Morrow Mountain and Guilford Points; **Third Row** -- Late Archaic Savannah River Point, Banner Stone and Slate Gorget Fragments; **Fourth Row** -- Late Prehistoric Arrow Points.
were congregating in the river valleys in order to kill Pleistocene megafauna. The analysis by Michie, like that by Williams and Stoltman, revealed a spatial correlation between finds of Pleistocene fossils and Paleo-Indian points in the major river valleys. Whether the Paleo-Indian hunters of the Southeast were really hunting the large now-extinct beasts of the late Pleistocene can only be determined by finding man-made stone tools in association with bones of these animals. Deposits where such an association might occur certainly exist in the Otarre property area in the swamps where such animals could have been trapped, killed, and subsequently preserved in the wet organic sediments. Given the numerous finds of both Paleo-Indian tools and fossil megafauna in this locality, the Congaree Creek - Congaree River area offers an ideal situation to make such a discovery.

**Early Archaic Period**

After the end of the Pleistocene climatic period, at about 8,000 B.C., the climate warmed changing the environment to the modern conditions. Geologists refer to the modern period as the Recent or Holocene. Beginning with the transition to the Holocene and lasting until about 6,000 B.C., is the Early Archaic period. Cultures of this period used distinctive technologies which had many elements in common with the former Paleo-Indian technologies from which they evolved, but differed in the form of stone tools manufactured (Fig. 2). The new point styles, that allow archeologists to recognize the presence of Early Archaic peoples, were notched and serrated, the latter suggesting cutting functions for these tools.

The earliest of the new point forms is called the Dalton. These are often serrated and tend to show evidence of resharpening the blade edges suggesting they were used as butchering tools. This style of point is widespread, between 8,000 and 7,000 B.C., throughout the Southeastern United States and has been recognized as the identifying artifact of the Dalton culture complex (Morse 1973; Goodyear 1974; Michie 1973). In the Otarre property, two sites have produced extensive Dalton culture remains. One portion of the Manning Site was excavated in 1973 by James Michie and members of the Archeological Society of South Carolina, Inc. in a search for former living areas attributable to the Dalton culture. This excavation unfortunately failed to locate the desired Dalton layers, but an earlier attempt to excavate a Dalton camp had been successful. In 1970 Michie (1971) and associates from the Archeological Society excavated an extensive area of the Taylor Site with excellent results. Intact occupational patterns were located with hearths still preserved. Some of the hearths had different styles of projectile points associated with them so that it was possible to make a cultural identification of activity areas. By carefully mapping the exact vertical and horizontal location of each tool it is possible to delineate patterns of artifacts that can be interpreted in terms of structures and special use areas of a site. This approach has been used with Early Archaic sites elsewhere in the Southeast (Goodyear 1974).
Soon after the Dalton culture came another phase of cultural development characterized by a side-notched point that came into great popularity. These distinctive points are known to archeologists as Palmer points (Fig. 2). Such points are also found in association with the characteristic scraping tools made from flint and quartz flakes (Fig. 2). The Palmer points are even more widely distributed than the earlier Dalton complex indicating that population was increasing rapidly with the onset of the modern climatic period. Palmer phase sites are found in nearly every environmental setting in South Carolina suggesting that new ways of exploiting the environment were becoming known.

In the vicinity of Congaree Creek several sites have produced examples of the Palmer point and the associated Early Archaic flake tools. Figure 1 shows 38LX1, 38LX50, 38LX96, 38LX97, and 38LX19 all of which have yielded examples of the Palmer phase artifacts. From the limited survey data available, sites of the Early Archaic period do not appear to be present in the sandy uplands to the west. This could reflect our incomplete knowledge of Early Archaic settlement distributions or it could reflect an aspect of the settlement-subsistence systems of these early people. Early Archaic sites do not seem to occur east of Old State Road (Fig. 1). Again, this may only reflect our incomplete knowledge or, conversely, a special locational preference for terrace sites located on the floodplain near creeks and swamps. The possibility of buried sites on the floodplain is very real, since the Congaree River doubtlessly has undergone major flooding and depositing episodes over the past 10,000 years. A subsurface site testing program will be recommended for the survey portion of the Otarre property study which will systematically investigate this possibility.

### Middle Archaic Period

Between 6,000 and 3,000 B.C. the distinct lanceolate and side-notched point styles characterizing the Paleo-Indian and Early Archaic groups were abandoned. Points that can generally be described as "stemmed" began to be manufactured (Fig. 2). Stemmed points from this period have been recovered throughout the Eastern United States and are referred to by archeologists in the Southeast as Kirk, Morrow Mountain, and Guilford (Coe 1964). Unfortunately we know little else about these people and their lifeways except that they were hunters and gatherers similar to the people before them. In the Otarre property area, nearly every site on the floodplain has produced examples of Middle Archaic projectile points. It is also during this period that sites bearing stemmed points begin to appear with regularity in the sandy uplands surrounding the valley floodplain. The geographical expansion of sites dating from the Middle Archaic time level suggests that a significant population increase may have occurred or that perhaps there was some type of reduction in the customary first-choice resources these groups were normally exploiting. The possibility of the latter is increased by an established climatic shift at about this time which paleo-climatologists refer to as the climatic optimum. In many portions of North America this was a time of hotter, drier climate. There is debate among scientists regarding the nature and extent of this period in the Southeast.
(Olafson 1971; Watts 1971), for although climatic variation undoubtedly occurred throughout the Holocene, the severity of these variations is not known. Very few studies of paleo-environmental reconstruction have been done for the Southeastern United States. The wetlands in the Congaree Valley appear to be ideal for obtaining data on this important problem since pollen grains and other floral remains are known to be well preserved in these boggy areas.

Late Archaic-Early Woodland Period

From about 3,000 B.C. to 500 B.C., the traditional Archaic mode of life underwent major change. Across the Southeastern United States, especially in riverine and coastal areas, groups of people began to intensively exploit wild resources drawn from special riparian and marine micro-environments. Extensive and deep refuse middens began to appear, formed in large part by fresh and salt water shellfish and other terrestrial and marine fauna. Some archeologists believe that such midden sites may represent year-round occupancy of a village, a situation made possible by the creation of abundant aquatic resources. It is known from geological studies that sea level had been rising up to this time. It is evident that sea level rose to such an extent that rivers and coastal bays were increasing their water levels making possible many of the aquatic habitats containing natural resources for hunting, fishing, and food collecting.

Certain artifacts begin to appear about this time which allow archeologists to effectively recognize and date Late Archaic sites. A large pointed tool, known as the Savannah River point, is commonly found associated with these habitation sites (Fig. 2). These tools are probably hafted knives. They were made from platy argillaceous rocks since such raw material seems to have occurred in the size needed for these implements (Fig. 2). Specially selected rocks were smoothed and drilled for hafting, probably for use as atlatl weights or balances for spear throwing sticks. Ground stone objects became common during this time and some appear to be ornaments such as ground slate gorgets with certain rocks chosen for aesthetic reasons (Fig. 2).

The invention of pottery also took place at this time along with the change in settlement and subsistence practices. In fact, the Atlantic Coast area of South Carolina has produced what appears to be the earliest examples of pottery in North America (Stoltman 1972). The earliest pottery is recognized by the hollow depressions in the paste due to the firing out of vegetable temper. Accordingly, this ware is referred to as fiber tempered. Fiber tempered pottery seems to be restricted to the south Atlantic Coast and rivers of the Coastal Plain. There is an almost equally early pottery which occurs in the Fall Line area, as well as Coastal Plain sector, known as Thom's Creek ware. This pottery was discovered and named for the large site located on Thom's Creek immediately south of the Otarre Development Company property (Phelps 1968). Figure 3 displays examples of the various types of Late Archaic-Early Woodland ceramics.
FIGURE 3: Culture-Historically Diagnostic Ceramic Types from the Coastal Plain of South Carolina: **Top Row** -- Fiber-temper Ware; **Second Row** -- Thom's Creek Punctated and Deptford Linear Check Stamped; **Third Row** -- Deptford Check Stamped and Hanover Fabric Marked; **Fourth Row** -- South Appalachian Mississippian sherds from the Chicora Ware Group.
Middle and Late Woodland Period

Although sites containing examples of the very early pottery are seemingly sparse in the Congaree Creek - Congaree River locality, a great number of sites are present that date to a period of post 500 B.C. Sites dating from 500 B.C. to about 500 A.D. are characterized by a particular checked stamp pottery referred to as Deptford ware (Fig. 3). Deptford sites, like the Manning Site (38LX50) are quite common on the terraces within the floodplain, and they can be found regularly near springs and creeks in the sandy uplands. The site of 38LX5 on the extreme western edge of the Otaree property is particularly noteworthy in this regard. 38LX5 is predominantly comprised of Late Archaic and Middle Woodland artifacts such as Savannah River points and Deptford Linear Checked Stamp sherds. Owing to the dense clusters of Deptford sherds and lithic chipping debris, 38LX5 is strongly suggestive of a village or habitation site. Excavations of a site like 38LX5 would result in a significant advance in our knowledge of what a Deptford phase habitation site was like and would give us some idea of the subsistence practices of these people. In this latter connection, the fact that a probable habitation camp was located in the sandy uplands is particularly intriguing.

From approximately A.D. 600 to A.D. 1400 there was a gradual evolution in the economic, demographic and political complexity of aboriginal societies. This trend, which has been documented in nearly every area throughout the Southeast, culminated in what is referred to by archaeologists as the Mississippian pattern. The basic ingredients of these archeological cultures were increasing reliance on agriculture, chiefly maize, beans, and squash; the adoption of the bow and arrow; and the construction of earthen temple mounds and ceremonial centers. During the culmination of Late Woodland times in the Congaree Valley area around A.D. 1,000 to A.D. 1400, the Indians were located in large villages and farming the fertile floodplains near the river. Archeologists are able to identify these sites by the presence of complicated stamped pottery (Fig. 3) and small arrowheads of a triangular form (Fig. 2).

Sites of the Late Woodland period, locally referred to as the South Appalachian Mississippian (Ferguson 1971), appear to be concentrated around both sides of the Congaree River. The sites of 38LX104, 38LX30, 38LX68, and 38LX69 (Fig. 1) are located near each other where Congaree Creek approaches the Congaree River. Given the simple means of cultivation available to these people, it is a likely hypothesis that they were settling near the Congaree River channel in order to farm the light sandy loams deposited on the river margins during seasonal floods. A detailed study of the soils and alluvial history of the Congaree River floodplain in conjunction with a study of late prehistoric site distributions could help determine probable agricultural land-use patterns. The largest South Appalachian Mississippian site known from previous surveys, 38LX68, appears to be a village with deep refuse accumulations (Fig. 1). This site has been designated as eligible for the National Register of Historic Places since it probably represents a reasonably
complete village. No other Late Woodland sites are found away from the Congaree River area except occasional small sites, bearing small triangular arrowheads, probably representing hunting sites.

The Late Woodland Indians that archeologists refer to as South Appalachian Mississippian lasted in the Congaree Valley until the 1400's or later. Undoubtedly some of these Indians were the ancestors of historic tribes found living in the Congaree - Santee River region in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries by early Spanish and English explorers. The early history surrounding the tribes encountered in the central portion of South Carolina in the 1500's, 1600's, and 1700's is vague and confusing. Swanton (1946: 124) mentions the existence of the "Congaree" Indians which were said to exist on and near the Congaree River. Swanton reports that the traveler John Lawson found them in 1701 south of the confluence of the Congaree and Wateree Rivers and reported them to be under the control of a "queen." Swanton (1946) writes that in 1716 a war was fought between the English and the Congaree and Santee Indians resulting in the defeat of the two tribes. More than half of the Congaree and Santee were taken prisoner and sent to the West Indies as slaves. According to Swanton, the remaining Indians were dispersed and incorporated into other Indian groups such as the Catawba. There are numerous historical accounts that Indians were living in, or visiting, the Congaree Creek area as late as the 1700's. The Cherokee, for example, were frequenting this locality for purposes of trading deer skins to the early English trade factories. The sites that would best elucidate the later prehistoric - early historic Indian occupation of the Congaree Creek area would be 38LX68, 38LX69, and 38LX30 (Fig. 1). These sites have produced late prehistoric ceramic fragments as well as early English colonial artifacts.

Early Historic Period

Although it is known that the aboriginal occupation of the Otarre property spanned nearly 12,000 years, it is the last 250 years which have been most publicized. Recent attention has centered around the location of Fort Congaree, the first fort constructed in the Congaree River Valley by English colonials. While interest in locating the fort has always been present, field and documentary research activity has increased due to the possible impact of the Columbia Southeastern Beltway.

In 1974, William L. McDowell, Jr., of the South Carolina Department of Archives and History prepared a brief summary of the early history surrounding the fort which served as a statement of significance necessary for nomination of the area suspected to contain the fort to the National Register of Historic Places. The following information is summarized from McDowell's statement on probable location and historic significance.

In 1717 the colonial General Assembly of South Carolina decreed that a frontier fort should be constructed at the area of the "Congarees" which referred to the locality where the Congaree Creek joins the Congaree River. After one unsuccessful attempt, the fort was built in 1718. The purpose
of this fort was to protect trading interests ongoing at that time with the Cherokee who resided in the upcountry. In 1722 the fort was reduced as a garrison and turned over to the local settlers since conflict with the Cherokee and Catawba tribes had been eliminated. During and after this period of time, the fort served both a military and trading factory function.

The precise on-the-ground location of the original fort-factory has never been determined archeologically. Thus far, the most systematic search procedures have relied upon statements contained in documents and maps. The archival research of McDowell indicated that the location, based on early maps and property descriptions, must have been on the west bank of the Congaree River between there and a prominent elbow in Congaree Creek. On the basis of his archival research, McDowell concluded that this area was the most likely location of the old fort. Referring to Figure 1, this area is designated as 38LX30 based on remains attributable to late prehistoric Indians and early colonial habitation refuse.

In 1974 members of the Archeological Society of South Carolina, Inc. and the Institute staff conducted field tests on the north and south sides of the elbow in Congaree Creek. These areas are designated as 38LX30 and 38LX69 in the site locator map of Figure 1. These field activities included small test pits and a few motor grader cuts across the fields. Numerous late prehistoric Indian artifacts and late eighteenth century English artifacts were recovered as a result of these tests. This fieldwork failed to recover architectural features or other sorts of evidence required to verify the location of a fort. The fieldwork, however, was very modest in scope and it is not surprising that evidence of a structure as subtle as the old fort was not found. More extensive excavations would stand a better chance of revealing the fort if its remains were durable enough to be preserved archeologically.

With the establishment of a fort and trading factory, people soon began to congregate and settle in the Congaree Creek area. In 1733 the Governor of South Carolina ordered that a township be marked off in the Congaree area (Meriwether 1940: 53). This township and parish of Saxe Gotha, as it was to be named, is shown on the DeBrahm map of 1757 (Fig. 4). Thus, Saxe Gotha was the first town in the area around Columbia, South Carolina. Throughout the first half of the 1700's, numerous lots were surveyed for incoming settlers (Meriwether 1940: 52). Additional military features were constructed in the town in 1749 including a palisade wall and barracks due to the presence of strange Indians observed in the area. DeBrahm's map of 1757, a photograph of which is provided in Figure 4, shows this fort between Congaree Creek and Congaree River just south of the Saxe Gotha township.

There is an excellent chance that the physical remains of the town of Saxe Gotha are still intact and amenable to archeological investigations. A water color map of the Saxe Gotha township is still in existence which shows lot lines of the various occupants (Fig. 5). Some of the environmental features indicated on this map can still be seen today. Figure 6 shows the location of Saxe Gotha in the Otarre Development Company property as it exists today. It can be seen from Figure 6...
FIGURE 4: Portion of DeBrahm's Map of 1757 Indicating Location of Saxe Gotha Parish and Township.

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FIGURE 5: The Guignard and Bynum Map of 1809 Showing Property Lines in the Town of Saxe Gotha.
FIGURE 6: Overlay Drawing of the Approximate Location of Saxe Gotha Town in Otarre Development Company Property. Location Determined from Guignard and Bynum Map of 1809.
that very little modern construction or development has taken place where the old community must have been. The clay mining pits to the west seem to have destroyed some of the extreme western portion of the town, but the area that was probably most inhabited was around Old State Road and the terrace between there and the Congaree River. Old State Road, in fact, from all map indications appears today to be located very nearly as it was in the 1700's.

Many artifacts which date to the middle and late 1700's have been found in the area where Saxe Gotha is located, particularly in fields bordering Congaree Creek. Artifacts such as bricks, gunflints, wine bottle glass, creamware, delft, and kaolin pipe stems have been found in abundance at sites 38LX30, 38LX69, and 38LX68 (Fig. 7). It is possible to date the pipe stems and ceramics through formulae developed in historical archeology. In the summer of 1976, Dr. Leland G. Ferguson of the Institute taught a field school on the northeastern end of the Manning Site for the Department of Anthropology at the University of South Carolina. His work revealed colonial ceramics which are known to date from the early 1700's (Fig. 7). The Manning Site is located on the southwestern edge of the Saxe Gotha township map (Fig. 6).

Test excavations in the area around Congaree Creek have indicated that layers of archeological debris related to the eighteenth century occupation of the floodplain lie about a foot below the surface in some areas. Such a finding is most encouraging since it indicates that much of the Saxe Gotha ruin may lie underneath the silt deposited by nineteenth and twentieth century floods which are known to have completely inundated the valley floodplain. If most of the old town is covered by a mantle of silt, archeology would indeed be highly productive here since house foundations, refuse pits, cellars, and wells would have been protected from modern plowing.

Beyond the interesting history of development in this portion of the Congaree Valley, most of which pertains to the early colonial settlement in the 1700's, there seems to have been little occupation from the 1800's onward. On February 15, 1865, a skirmish was fought between the advanced sections of Sherman's Union Army and the Confederate forces defending Columbia. The Confederates erected earthworks around the contemporary bridge where Old State Road crosses Congaree Creek. These earthworks are still standing and have a site designation of 38LX83 (Fig. 1). Anderson (1974) has made a field and document investigation of the history surrounding these earthworks and the battle that was fought there. These earthworks, forming a tangible remnant of the Civil War as it happened in one part of South Carolina, have great potential for development as an interpretive park particularly in the relatively pristine ecological setting of the Congaree Creek.
FIGURE 7: Artifacts Representative of Eighteenth and Early Nineteenth Century Colonial Occupation in South Carolina.
CHAPTER III

IMPORTANCE OF A SITE INVENTORY

From the foregoing brief overview of what is known of the archeological resources in the Congaree Creek - Congaree River area, it should be apparent that the Otarre Development Company property contains rich and exciting resources. Some of this information has been acquired through historic documents available for the study area. Most of the archeological data about specific sites in the area have come from previous surveys and excavations of interested amateur archeologists and from surveys performed by the Institute of Archeology and Anthropology in connection with environmental impact studies. While some data are available from these various activities, unfortunately there has been no coordinated plan or systematic treatment of this locality as a whole. Information accumulated thus far has been of a piecemeal nature, serving primarily to suggest what great potential the area has for studies in prehistory, history, and human ecology. Large sections of the property area have never been walked over and there is the high probability that a significant number of sites are buried underneath flood alluvium resulting from nineteenth and twentieth century floods. At this point a systematic survey and site evaluation of the Otarre property is needed in order that the full value of its cultural resources might be known. Such a survey leading to an interpretive report of the property would have at least five primary values:

1. First, from the perspective of history, archeology, and State and National heritage, the area is eminently deserving of such study. As documented in this proposal, the Congaree Creek area is unusual, if not unique, in its display of cultural resources that represent the whole time-range of human existence in this part of South Carolina.

2. For the Otarre Development Company and future businesses that follow, such a survey and report would provide a master blueprint which specifies the locations of sites and their significance. A master inventory and evaluation would be of great value to businesses as it would facilitate their building to avoid undesirable and in some cases illegal destruction of archeological remains.

3. There is a need to identify and evaluate all sites in the property that are eligible for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places. Such sites need to be identified and protected for study and enjoyment of future generations. The presence of highly significant sites such as those placed on the Register often enhances the value of property as well.

4. A comprehensive survey and interpretive study would aid in the development and sale of the property by bringing out information which could be incorporated into the overall promotion of the land. This would allow businesses, including Otarre, to develop the property along themes such as history, archeology, and ecology. For example, State
supported parks and recreation areas could be constructed with interpretive themes giving the whole Otarre Development a flavor of Indians and colonial America. Saxe Gotha could be our Colonial Williamsburg.

5. Finally, based on the joint cooperation of several scholars and businesses supporting a successful survey and interpretive study, such a venture would stand as a national model of innovative development and provide immeasurable public relations and positive advertising for the Otarre Development Company and its related firms.
CHAPTER IV

SPECIFIC SURVEY OBJECTIVES

Intensive Ground Survey for Prehistoric Sites

This would entail a thorough on-the-ground inspection of the entire property area performing specific data collecting procedures for each site encountered. This survey would cover large areas that have never been field examined plus revisiting already verified sites for needed data. The greater portion of the survey would be directed toward documenting early and late prehistoric sites that have not previously been recorded and attempting to discover patterns in the distribution of sites through time over the environment. The intensive field survey would include:

a) an evaluation of each site as to physical condition, e.g., plowed, in forest, in swamp, buried, stratified, presence of features;

b) relative dating of each site and attempt to assign a cultural phase or series of phases;

c) assessment of activities represented at each site through functional analysis of artifacts and through micro-environmental associations;

d) statistical sampling of intrasite patterns in a manner amenable to computer mapping.

Field Determination of the Archaeological Integrity of Old Saxe Gotha and Related Colonial Settlements

This study would involve an intensive examination of the fields now present where the Guignard and Bynum map of 1809 indicated the presence of house lots and other surface features (see Fig. 5). If the nineteenth and twentieth century floods have covered the former town with silt, there should be an unparalleled opportunity to study an intact and well preserved colonial town. Once certain information is acquired through this preliminary survey, it is likely that other grants sponsored by the federal government could be obtained in order to comprehensively excavate the town. The Saxe Gotha survey should include:

a) systematic coverage of the field systems indicated from old maps to contain the surveyed town; mapping and sampling of all surface remains and attempt to relate them to functional structures;

b) determination, through systematic or random sampling methods, if the town has been buried through floods, where subsurface features are located, and their degree of preservation;

c) dating of all loci recovered from the surface and subsurface using pipe stem and the South ceramic dating formulae;

d) preliminary document search attempting to locate the types and quality of written information pertaining to Saxe Gotha.
Investigation of Historical Relationships Between Late Prehistoric and Early Historic Indians of the Congaree Creek Locality

The historic and cultural relationships between the late prehistoric Indian groups, such as the South Appalachian Mississippian, and the early historic tribes recorded for the area such as the Cherokee, Catawba, and Congaree, are vague and confusing. From what is now known archeologically, the early colonial sites are located on top of or adjacent to the late prehistoric South Appalachian Mississippian sites. The area where Congaree Creek bends to join with the Congaree River has at least three large sites with late prehistoric Indian and early colonial remains. DeBrahm's map (see Fig. 4) shows the Cherokee path to run through the southwestern section of the town of Saxe Gotha. Whether the South Appalachian Mississippian Indian groups died off, moved out of the valley, or merely represent the archeological ancestors of historically described groups is unknown. Archeological data need to be collected that would illuminate possible historical and ethnic continuities between the fully prehistoric Indians and the ones described by early colonials. This survey and study should concentrate on the following:

a) search for Indian village sites bearing artifacts of both South Appalachian Mississippian and European origins, particularly goods that may have been traded;

b) perform surface and subsurface sampling procedures that will allow spatial definition of intrasite occupational areas on sites 38LX30, 38LX68, and 38LX69 in order to determine loci of late prehistoric and early historic Indians and their spatial relationships to colonial activities.

Pilot Study of the Alluvial History of Congaree River as it Affected Land Surfaces in the Congaree Creek Locality

Like all alluvially deposited soils, the sediments of the Congaree River Valley tend to be impermanent and subject to rapid deposition and erosion. Due to dramatic floods former land surfaces and their archeological sites can often be buried under several feet of sterile overburden. Conversely, sites can also be destroyed. When deposition occurs, archeology is often in an advantageous position since many kinds of artifacts such as those made of wood, vegetable material, and bone are preserved. Furthermore, sites that are deeply buried will not have been damaged by plowing. Using the limited data on site distribution, it appears that some areas on the floodplain have sites at the surface while other areas do not. For example, the zone between Old State Road and the Congaree River does not appear to produce prehistoric sites. We have established, however, that prehistoric artifacts can be found in situ in the bluffs along the west bank of Congaree River (Ackerly 1976) indicating stability in the lateral movement of the river to the west. Thus, there is a good chance that prehistoric sites several hundred years old may lie buried between Old State Road and the river since floods would have covered this area rather than washed it away.

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A study such as this would also be important to contemporary land developers in the Valley since such data could potentially inform on the flood history of the Congaree River for the past 15 or 20,000 years. The Congaree Valley has been unstable for the past two hundred years in particular due to excessive runoff and erosion from the overcutting of forests in the Piedmont. Some of the thick deposits of sand resulting from nineteenth and twentieth century floods have been observed along the western bank of the Congaree Creek over the prehistoric Indian site of 38LX112 (Ackerly 1976).

By working with a geologist who can map and interpret soil types by origin, it should be possible to determine where buried sites might be located and to predict, using diagnostic soil horizons, where site-bearing Holocene land surfaces lie. This method has been used to some extent by members of the Institute's staff in the Savannah River Valley in Augusta, Georgia (Ferguson and Widmer 1976). Without knowledge of the subsurface stratigraphy over the entire floodplain, there is a significant chance that important and well preserved sites would be missed.

The pilot study of the Congaree River Valley alluvial history would include:

a) determination, by an alluvial geologist, of the distribution of late Pleistocene and Holocene land surfaces that might potentially contain buried sites;

b) subsurface sampling, searching for archeological sites on appropriate land surfaces;

c) attempt to relate changes in alluvial history of the Congaree River to broader climatic and environmental changes.

Pilot Study in Paleo-Environmental Reconstruction

While the general climate and environment we observe today has been much the same for the past 10,000 years, there have been some fluctuations and subtle long-term changes in the biota. In primitive societies, such as those occupying the Otarre property area for the past several thousand years, even small changes in the environment can produce dramatic effects. For example, within those societies which relied to a large extent on agriculture for subsistence, droughts or the lack of river floods to moisten and enrich fields may have forced occupants to lean more heavily upon hunted and gathered foods. Significant increases and decreases in the natural productivity of the Congaree Valley due to concomitant changes in the weather may have also had counterparts in the fluctuations of human population densities in the Valley.

Many of the present day swamps which can be observed throughout the floodplain may represent old creek channels formerly connected to the Congaree River. These wetlands, much like the famed Carolina Bays of the interior Coastal Plain, should have served as pollen traps. It is
in such permanently moist contexts that pollen grains and other normally unpreserved plant and animal remains can be found. Situations such as these provide the optimum situation for studying past environments since many of the former biota can be directly identified as to species. Dr. Donald Colquhoun of the University of South Carolina's Department of Geology has visited two sites located on the edge of a swamp (Fig. 1, 38LX96 and 38LX97). He is of the opinion that there is an excellent chance that paleo-environmental data may be buried there.

The pilot study in paleo-environmental reconstruction should include:

a) a series of backhoe trenches along known sites such as 38LX96, 38LX97, and 38LX64 on the edges of swamps to examine profiles for evidence of archeological and biostratigraphic data;

b) removal of soil samples in vertical columns or by natural stratigraphy for pollen and macrofossil remains;

c) collection of carbonaceous materials suitable for radiocarbon dating of biostratigraphic horizons.
The survey including all field work should last 25 weeks. This amount of time should allow the intensive examination of the four survey objectives just discussed. Nine months will be required in order to analyze the data and create an interpretive report. At the end of 15 months, a comprehensive report will be submitted to Otarre Development Company of which 25 copies will be provided. This report will contain at a minimum the following information:

1. A detailed map listing all surface and subsurface archeological sites located in the Otarre property. This map or series of maps will be of sufficient detail to allow the location to be determined in the field.

2. An evaluation and definition of each site, where possible, specifying its size, age, prehistoric and/or historic cultural affiliation, and the types of activities that transpired there (e.g., trading post, fort, hunting site, village).

3. An evaluation of each site regarding its potential for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places; for preservation for future scientific research; and for sites in environmental settings that might lend themselves to park and recreational areas.

4. Provide a study describing the alluvial history of this section of the Congaree Valley identifying areas with evidence of flooding and/or stability.

5. Sufficient data and historical interpretations to allow the Otarre property area to be developed along such themes as prehistoric Indian culture, early colonial life, and man's long-term ecological adaptation to the Congaree River Valley.

In addition to the report and the above contents, staff members at the Institute would be pleased to provide slide presentations regarding the archeology and history of the Otarre property and otherwise provide information that the Otarre Development Company might need for purposes of promotion and advertising.
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**BUDGET**

### A. Salaries and Wages

1. Archeologist for 15 months @ $16,000 (provided) $ 0
2. Three field assistants for 25 weeks @ $7,000/year 10,500
3. One lab assistant for 1 year @ $7,000/year 7,000
4. One typist for 5 months @ $6,000/year 2,500
5. One illustrator for 2 months @ $9,000/year 1,500
6. Fringe benefits for permanent employees at 12.95% of salaries 2,784
7. Hospital coverage at $21.70 per man month (37 mos.) 803
8. Indirect University costs at 52% of on-campus salaries 5,720
9. Indirect University costs at 25% of field salaries 2,625

Sub-total of Salaries and Wages $33,432

### B. Travel

1. Travel to and from study area at 25 miles per day for 25 weeks @ 14¢ per mile $ 437
2. Travel to and from professional meetings 400

Sub-total of Travel $ 837

### C. Technical Services

1. Sedimentological analysis $ 2,000
2. Pollen and macrofossil analysis 1,000
3. 15 radiocarbon dates at $100 per sample 1,500
4. 5 days of backhoe time at $200 per day 1,000

Sub-total of Technical Services $ 5,500

### D. Operating Costs

1. Field and lab supplies, including photographic $ 1,400
2. Report preparation and publication 1,200
3. Xeroxing of records 131

Sub-total of Operating Costs $ 2,731

**TOTAL** $42,500