12-1998

Willtown: Past and Present

Drew Ruddy
Beatty provided bottom contours using a fathometer. A site map is being prepared by engineer Elbert Hodges. Small samples of artifacts were taken to coordinate current site dynamics with those noted in 1969-70. Artifacts in both the SCIAA collection as well as private collections have been photographed, and an analysis is being prepared. In addition to his assistance as a diver, Steve Howard has done much computer work to prepare photographs for the published report.

Ironically, Willtown, the original county seat of Colleton County, is now in Charleston County. In keeping with Colleton County's historical roots, a display of Willtown artifacts has been established and can now be viewed in the Colleton County Museum in Walterboro.

As the Willtown underwater report nears completion, we would welcome any additional data which may be provided by hobby divers who may have dived the site.

In early 1999, we hope to distribute our finished report, 30 years after those first dives and about 300 years after the birth of the colonial town.

Carl Naylor, Joe Beatty, and Lynn Harris mapping underwater topography of riverbed with depth sounder on the Edisto River near Willtown Bluff. (SCIAA photo)