

CULTURAL RESOURCES ASSESSMENT OF THE CAMP HALL
TRACT MODIFICATION
BERKELEY COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA

FINAL REPORT

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

On July 11, 2008, Brockington and Associates, Inc., conducted a cultural resources assessment of the 3,500-acre northern portion of MeadWestvaco's Camp Hall Tract. This assessment is a modification of a previous investigation, conducted by Brockington and Associates, Inc., in February 2007, of the 3,380-acre southern portion of Camp Hall (Philips 2007). Information in Philips 2007 was not duplicated in this assessment. For a complete assessment of the Camp Hall Tract, the reader should consult both this report and Philips (2007). Figure 1 shows the location of the project tract and previously recorded historic resources within one mile. This assessment provides partial compliance with federal and state regulations concerning the management of cultural resources in the Coastal Zone of South Carolina as administered by the Regulatory Program of the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) and the South Carolina Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management (OCRM). These agencies consider the effects of permitted activities on sites, buildings, structures, objects, districts, or landscapes that are eligible for or listed on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). Both OCRM and USACE will likely require an intensive survey of the tract prior to permitting.

We conducted background research and field inspections that generated the information employed to assess the potential for the development of the Camp Hall Tract to affect significant cultural resources. We reviewed the records pertaining to previous cultural resources studies in the immediate project area at the South Carolina Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology (SCIAA) and South Carolina Department of Archives and History (SCDAH) in Columbia. We reviewed historic plats and maps of the tract and region in the Charleston County Public Library's South Carolina Room and at the South Carolina Historical Society, both in Charleston. Additionally, we reviewed deeds and plats at the Charleston County Register of Mesne Conveyance (RMC) Office in Charleston and the Berkeley County RMC Office in Moncks Corner. Finally we reviewed the MeadWestvaco Property Acquisition Files in the MeadWestvaco office on Maple Street in Summerville. We compared soil types and conditions

in the project tract with similar conditions in nearby tracts. The purpose of this research was to identify potential historic or prehistoric sites and buildings and to develop contexts that would assist in evaluating cultural resources in the project tract.

While no previous systematic cultural resources studies have been conducted on this tract, in addition to the Philips (2007) reconnaissance, one other systematic study was conducted on adjoining or nearby tracts (Fick 1989). Based on previous research in the immediate area and the current assessment, we believe that, with the exception of the land along SC Route 47, the tract has low potential to contain significant Pre-Contact- or Post-Contact-era archaeological sites.

2.0 PROJECT TRACT BACKGROUND

The project tract is located in Berkeley County, approximately 3.0 miles northeast of the town of Ridgeville. The project tract is bordered by two public roads: SC Route 47 to the east and SC Route 309 (Fish Road) to the north. Fish Road directly abuts the project tract, forming nearly half of the northern boundary, and SC Route 47 traverses a small portion of the eastern boundary (see Figure 1). Additionally, SC Route 27 connects with Fish Road on the western side of the tract and also connects with US Interstate 26 to the south.

The project tract was part of Camp Hall, an 8,000-acre tract originally granted to David Coalter in 1793 (Charleston County Plat Book A:105). In the late nineteenth century, a small portion of Camp Hall was subdivided off the eastern side and came into the possession of the Welch family. About the same time, D. E. Thrower acquired a tract of land on the western side of the project tract. These small pieces form the easternmost and westernmost extensions of the project tract. Figure 2 presents a 1900 map of the Charleston area and shows the Camp Hall and Welch and Thrower tracts with the project tract superimposed.

Though the area was settled as early as the late seventeenth century, large sections of pine and swamp land were not claimed for farming until the last years of the eighteenth century. The land in the project area was low swampland located between Four Holes Swamp to the west and Cypress Swamp to the east. The 1825 Mills map of the area shows no settlements on or near

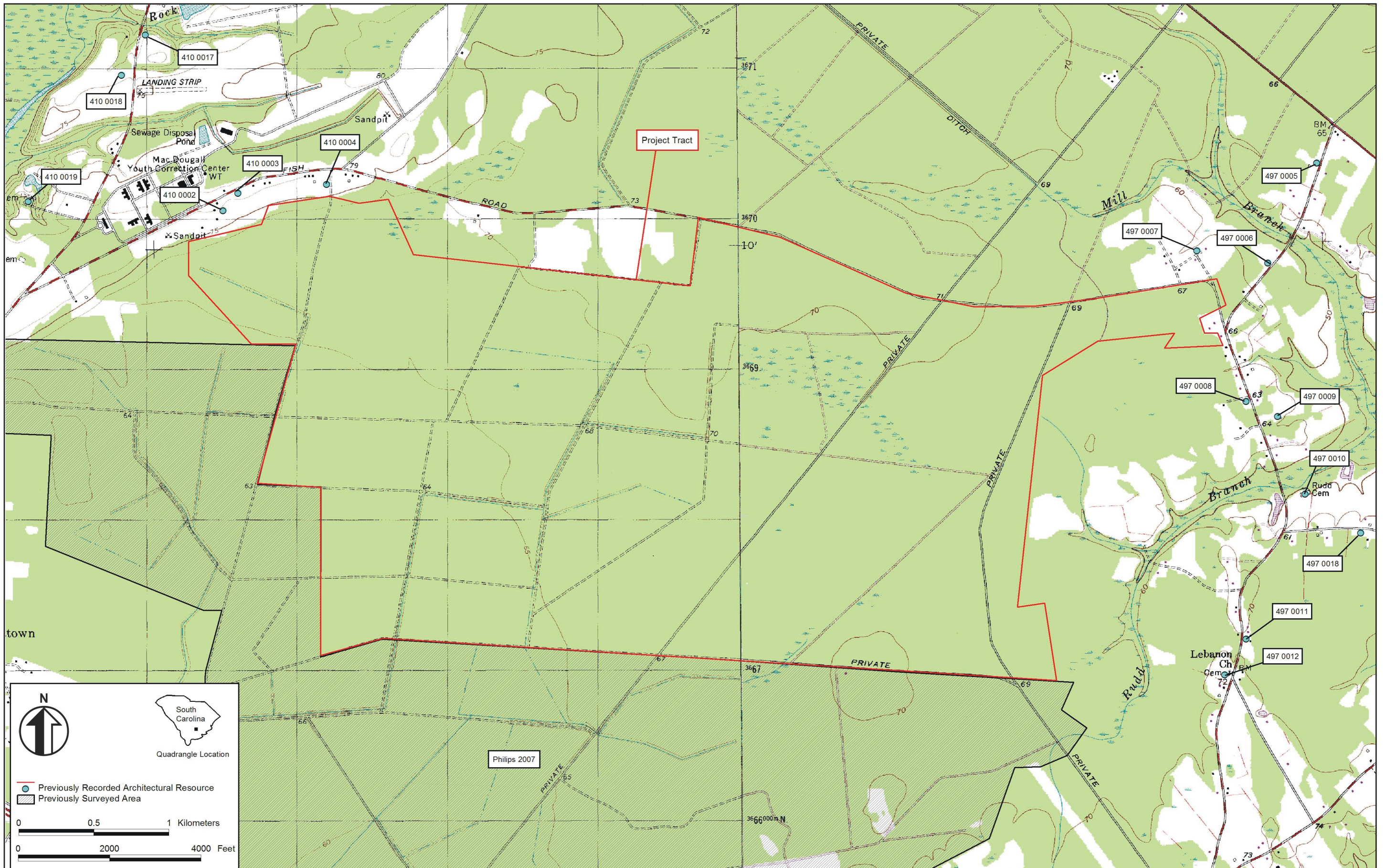


Figure 1. The Camp Hall Tract superimposed on the USGS Pringetown, Summerville, Summerville NW, and Ridgeville, SC quadrangles, showing recorded cultural resources within one mile.

the project tract, and the only road appears to follow modern-day SC Route 27, west of the project tract. Figure 3 shows the project tract superimposed on the Mills map.

The area has been known for more than two centuries as the location of the Cypress Methodist Campground, where religious revivals and renewals have taken place once a year since the early 1800s. The Cypress Methodist Campground is listed on the NRHP (429 0002); it is located on the south side of Cypress Campground Road, approximately 2.5 miles south of the project tract. A discussion of this resource is found in Philips (2007).

2.1 Camp Hall Tract

The deeds for the Camp Hall portion of the project tract indicate that none of the owners lived on the land prior to the twentieth century. Ann Coalter, an heir of original grantee David Coalter, sold her interest in the 8,000 acres to George Meade of Pennsylvania in 1794 (Charleston County Deed Book [CCDB] N6:239). Meade went bankrupt in 1801, and settling his estate took 50 years. In 1853 his executor, George G. Meade, sold the family interest in the 8,000 acres to William H. Mellard of Berkeley County (CCDB E13:517, H12:565). Evidently, the land remained idle or perhaps was rented; the researcher found no documented use of the land.

To clear the title, Mellard had the land regranted by the State of South Carolina to himself in January 1860 (CCDB P14:70). The land is described in the grant as bounding on Wassamassaw Swamp (the upper portion of Cypress Swamp) to the east, Four Holes Swamp to the west, and Timothy Creek to the southwest.

Mellard died intestate in 1863, and his heirs sold a 5,000-acre portion of the land to George W. Shingler in 1873. In the deed, the Mellards called the tract Camp Hall. Other than proximity to the Cypress Methodist Campground, the project historian could not ascertain the source of the name. Over the next 30 years, Camp Hall passed through several owners to the E. P. Burton Lumber Company (Berkeley County Deed Book [BCDB] C11:256). E. P. Burton was a timber company with extensive holdings in Dorchester, Berkeley, and Orangeburg counties (MeadWestvaco Property Acquisition Files [MWPAF]: Cooper River Timber File:

Camp Hall Tract). Burton surveyed the Camp Hall Tract for timbering purposes and discovered that it contained 5,448 acres. Figure 4 presents a copy of the plat with the project tract superimposed.

Ultimately, E. P. Burton sold its extensive holdings to J. K. Prettyman and Sons Lumber Company of Summerville in 1920. Prettyman conveyed its holding to Cooper River Timber Company in 1929 (BCDB C20:670, C26:399). Cooper River Timber Company's lands and assets were absorbed by West Virginia Pulp and Paper Company in the 1940s, and the Camp Hall Tract became part of the company's holdings at that time (MWPAF).

On the eastern side of Camp Hall a portion of the original 8,000 acres was conveyed to the Welch family sometime in the 1800s. Ultimately they conveyed much of their farmland to the West Virginia Pulp and Paper Company (Figure 5). Apparently, when the Welches sold their land to the paper company, they did not convey the house settlement area east along SC Route 47. Figure 5 presents a 1918 map of the area showing the location of the Welch family farm showing the house area outside the project tract.

About the same time, D. E. Thrower obtained a 93-acre parcel on the west side of the project tract that his family kept for many years. Available plats did not show any houses on the project tract portion of his land. The field investigation along with an evaluation of the soil types indicated a low probability for cultural resources on the project tract portion.

2.2 Previous Investigations

One previous systemic cultural resources investigation has been conducted within one mile of the project tract, *Berkeley County Historic and Architectural Inventory* (Fick 1989). Additionally, Philips (2007) performed a cultural resource reconnaissance of the southern half of Camp Hall. Table 1 summarizes the historic resources within one mile of the project tract.

Fick (1989) performed an intensive inventory of architectural and historical resources in Berkeley County (see Figure 1). She recorded 15 resources within a one-mile radius of the project tract (410 0002, 410 0003, 410 0004, 410 0017, 410 0018, 410 0019, 497 0011, 497 0012, 497 0005, 497 0006, 497 0007, 497 0008, 497

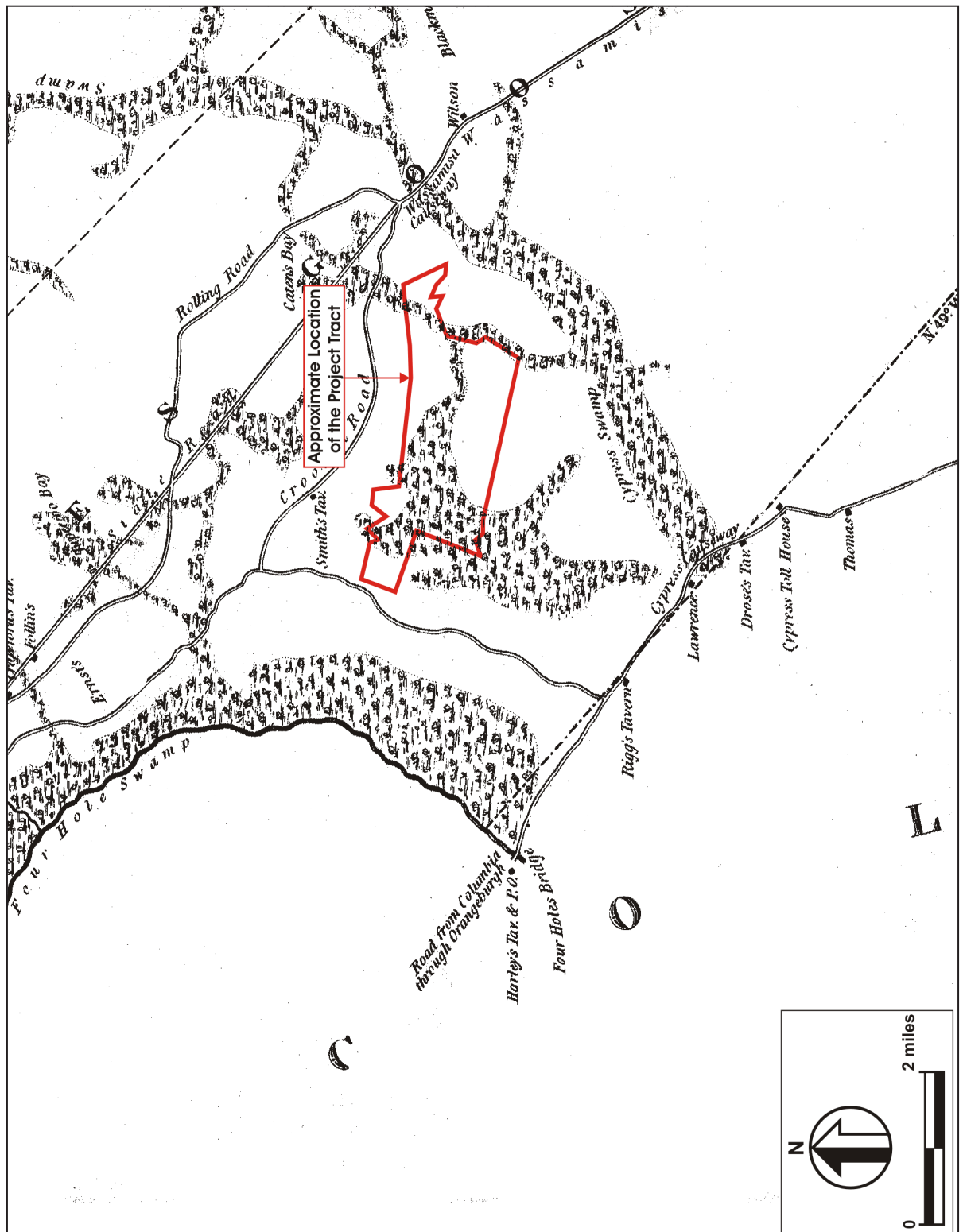


Figure 3. A portion of the 1825 Mills map of Charleston County showing the location of the project tract (Mills 1979).

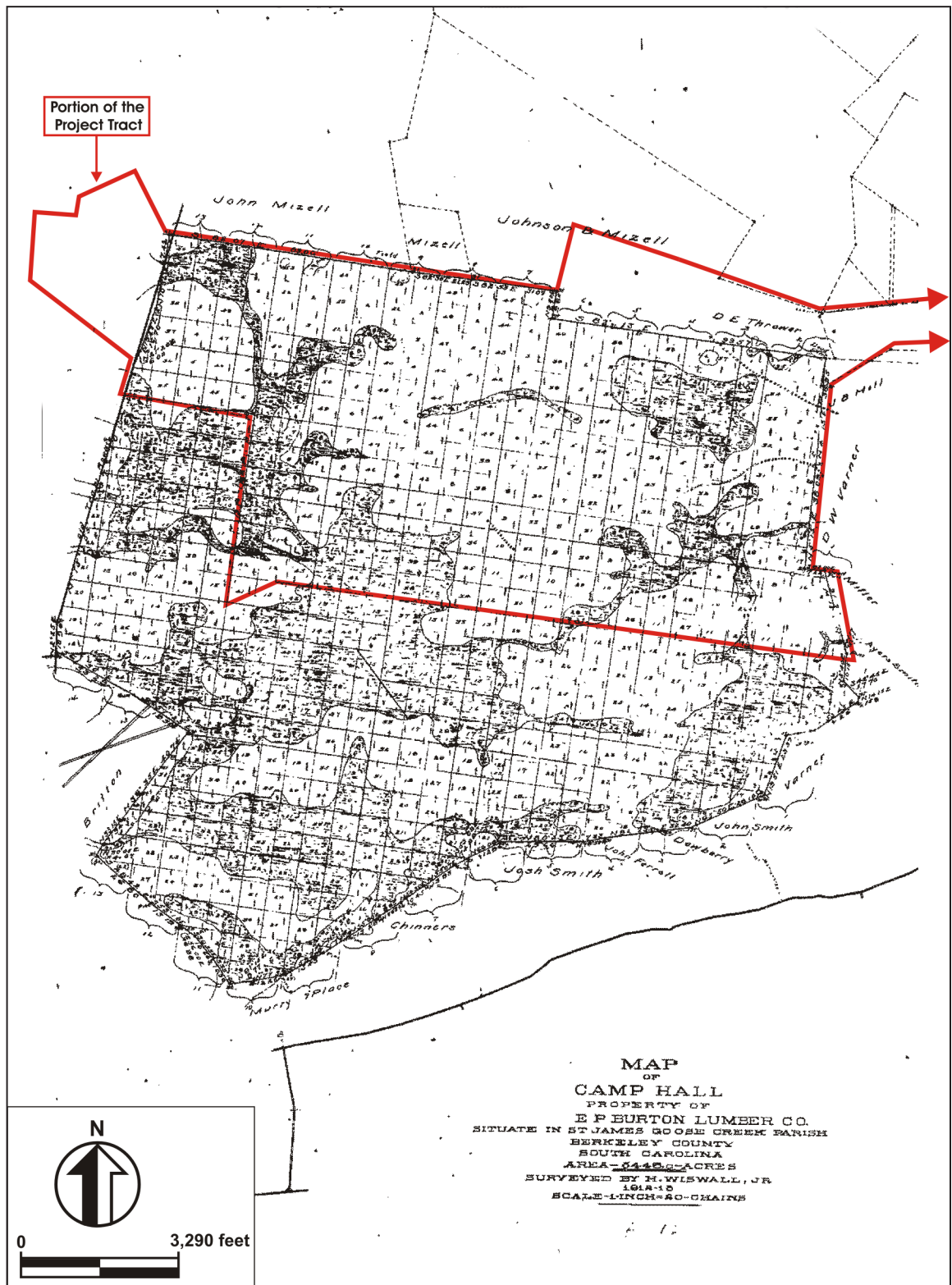


Figure 4. A 1912 plat of Camp Hall showing the project tract superimposed (MWPAF:Camp Hall Tract).

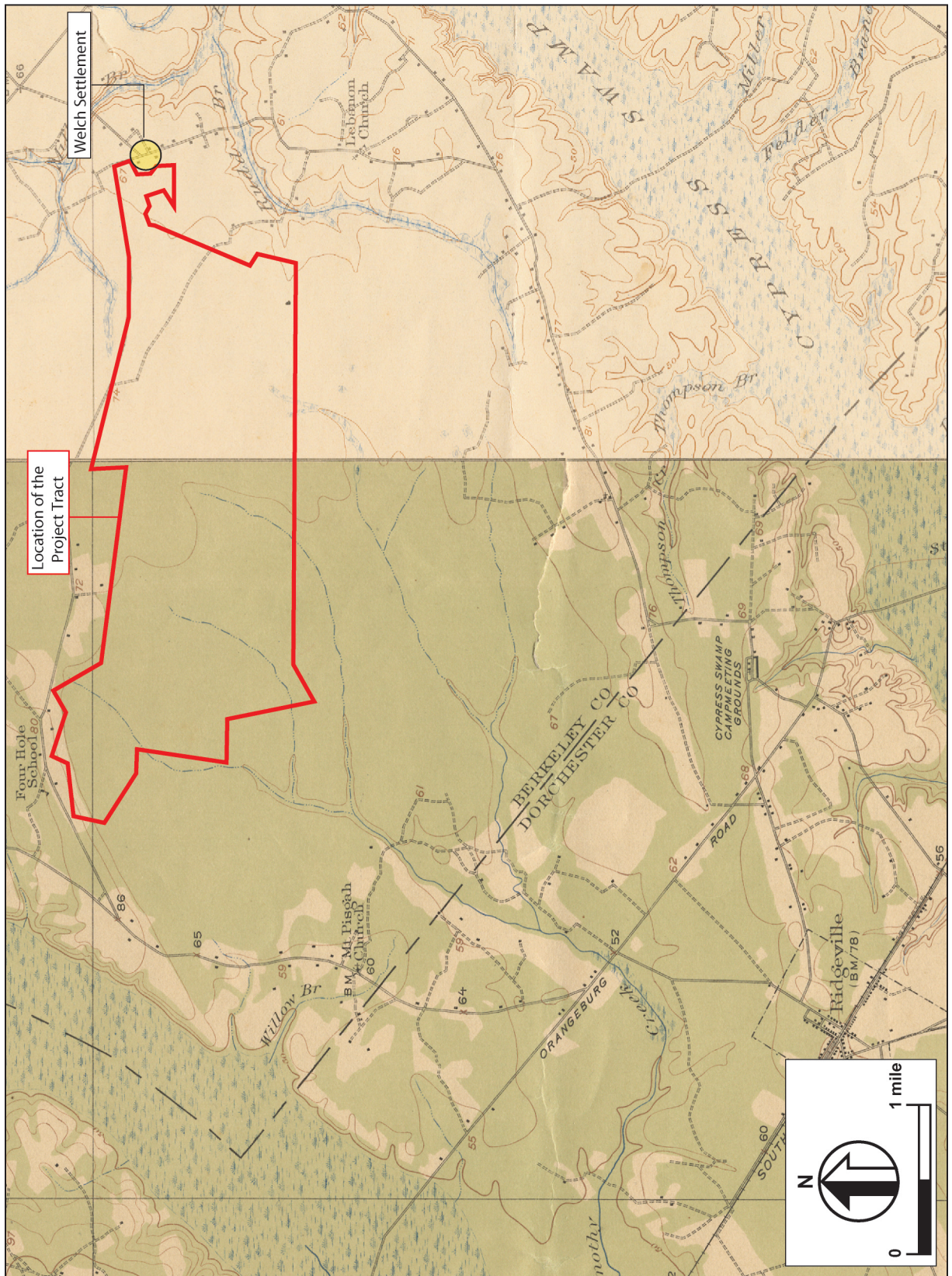


Figure 5. A portion of the 1918 US War Department Summerville and Ridgeville, SC quadrangles showing the location of the project tract and the Welch farm in the eastern section.

Table 1. Cultural Resources within 1.0 Mile of the Project Tract.

Resource	Description	Date	NRHP Status	Reference
410 0019	Mizzell Family Cemetery	Not dated	Not eligible	Fick 1989
410 0002	Apple Corner Acres	ca. 1935	Not eligible	Fick 1989
410 0003	N.C. Smith House	ca. 1910	Not eligible	Fick 1989
410 0004	Charpia/Myers House	ca. 1880	Not eligible	Fick 1989
497 0005	Zaide Mouzon House	ca. 1930	Not eligible	Fick 1989
497 0006	W. Bennett Hill Home	ca. 1936	Not eligible	Fick 1989
497 0007	Fletcher Hill	ca. 1890	Not eligible	Fick 1989
497 0008	Unnamed	ca. 1900	Not eligible	Fick 1989
497 0009	Unnamed	ca. 1935	Not eligible	Fick 1989
497 0010	Rudd Cemetery	ca. 1850	Not eligible	Fick 1989
497 0011	Unnamed house	ca. 1875	Not eligible	Fick 1989
497 0012	Lebanon Methodist Church Cemetery	ca. 1886	Not eligible	Fick 1989
497 0018	Unnamed	ca. 1915	Not eligible	Fick 1989
410 0017	Unnamed	ca. 1930	Not eligible	Fick 1989
410 0018	Mims Lane Cemetery	ca. 1818	Not eligible	Fick 1989

0009, 497 0010, and 497 0018). All of these resources were residences or cemeteries except 410-0002 (Apple Corner Acres), which was a store. None of these sites were determined eligible for the NRHP.

Philips (2007) performed a reconnaissance on the 3,880-acre Camp Hall Tract directly south of the project tract. He recorded no new resources.

Previous investigations indicate that settlement in the project area did not actively occur until the nineteenth century. The archival evidence we examined supports this. Additionally, nearly all the recorded resources in this area were located along historic roads, especially SC Route 27, Cypress Campground Road (SC Route 32), Fish Road, and SC Route 47.

3.0 FIELD INSPECTION

We inspected the project tract on July 11, 2008. During the field inspection, he carried out vehicular and pedestrian inspection of selected portions of the project tract. Several access roads enter the tract from the north off Fish Road and from the east off SC Route 47. Access was gained by the use of two well-maintained logging roads that intersect Fish Road.

For management purposes, we divided the project tract into three sections: west, central, and east. The west section consists of approximately 1,300 acres west of Logging Road A (Figure 6). The central section is composed of about 1,030 acres running east of Logging Road A and west of Center Line Road that divides the main body of the tract into two parts. The east section is all the land east of Center Line Road and is made up of approximately 1,060 acres. Figure 6 presents the project tract on the USGS quadrangles showing the sections, key roads, and areas with a high probability to contain cultural resources.

MeadWestvaco (formerly the West Virginia Pulp and Paper Company) has owned the project tract since the 1940s and has used the land for extensive silviculture. Additionally, the land was sublet to hunting clubs. The land is low, wet, and flat, and in order to successfully cultivate timber, MeadWestvaco has constructed an elaborate drainage system. To provide access to the tract, which appeared to have been subdivided into sections for better management, primary and secondary gravel roads have been constructed throughout the tract. The drainage system fill was used to construct the roads, and every road we traveled had a corresponding drainage

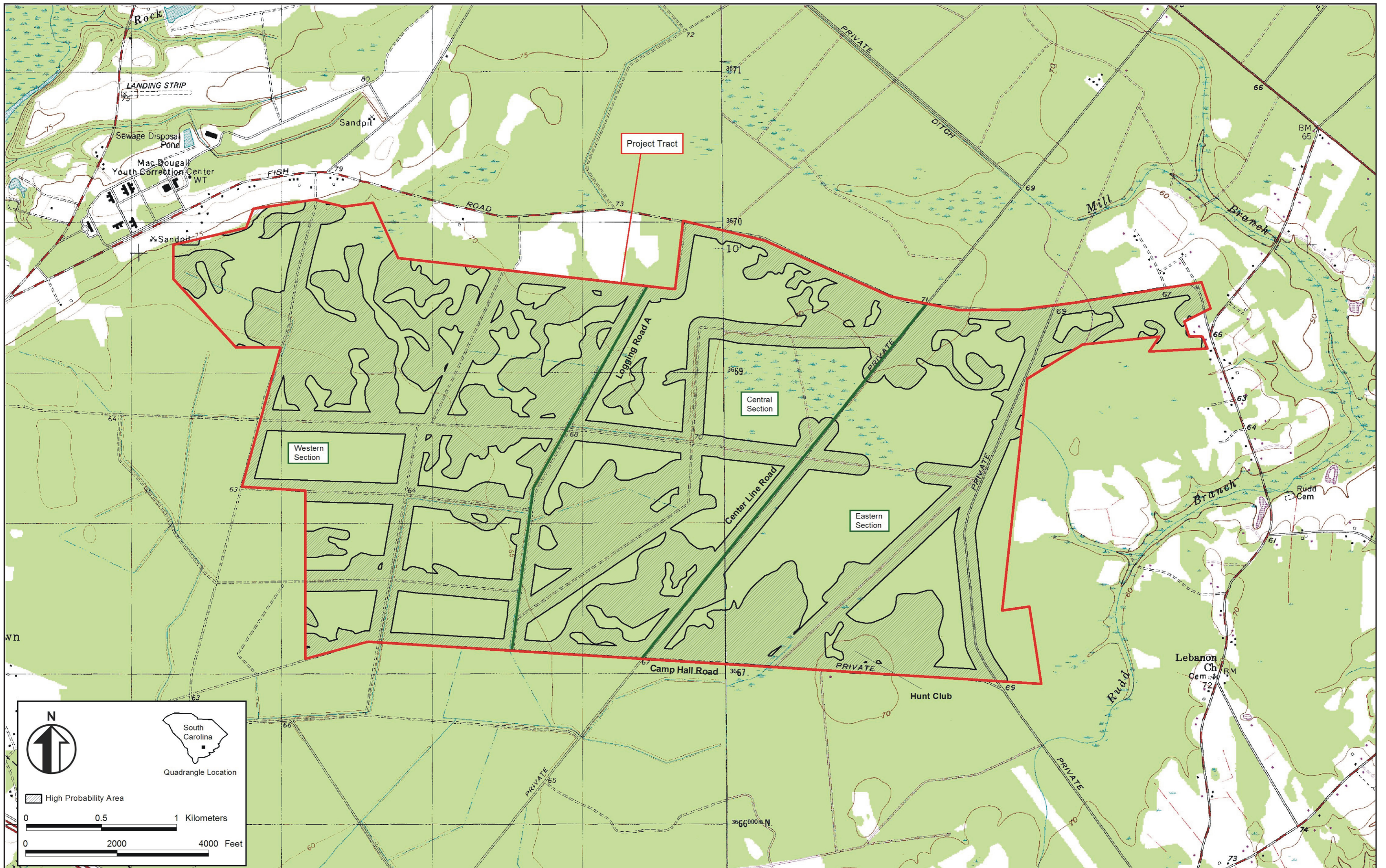


Figure 6. The project tract superimposed on USGS Pringletown, Summerville, Summerville NW, and Ridgeville, SC quadrangles, showing the sections inspected by the author and the areas with a high probability to contain cultural resources.

canal or ditch. Most of these did not seem to follow any historic pattern.

3.1 West Section

The west section of the project tract consists of Lynchburg fine sand and poorly drained Meggett loam. The soils of the Lynchburg series are only somewhat poorly drained and as a result have a higher potential to contain cultural resources (Long 1980). The author performed vehicular and pedestrian inspection of all primary and secondary roads in the west section and noted that the land consisted of either intensive planted pine trees or large open areas created by recent harvesting. No cultural resources were identified in the west section of the project area. Figure 7 shows a lone oak tree surrounded by planted pines.

This area was on a slight rise south of modern homes located just north of the tract boundary. Surface

visibility was high, and no artifacts were located. In addition, the extreme western portion of the property was located near modern homes just south of the MacDougall Youth Correction Center. This area was thought to potentially have historic resources present; however, we found the area to be poorly drained with standing water and consisting of dense young planted pines and isolated hardwood wetlands. Figures 8 and 9 show views of this area.

3.2 Central Section

The central portion of the tract consists mostly of Coxville and Rains fine sandy loam. These soils are deep, nearly level, and poorly drained and have low potential for cultural resources. However, portions of the central section contain soils of the Lynchburg and Goldsboro series. Goldsboro loamy sand and Lynchburg fine sand are somewhat to moderately well drained



Figure 7. A single oak located in a planted pine stand in the west section.



Figure 8. Standing water near the western boundary of the west section.



Figure 9. Young pines and hardwood wetlands flanking a submerged road in the west section.

and have higher potential for cultural resources. The central section consists primarily of well-maintained planted pines and large open areas created by recent harvesting. The central section also contains the largest delineated wetland of the entire project area. Figure 10 shows a section of this wetland that has been cleared of vegetation.

3.3 East Section

The east section also consists primarily of Coxville and Rains fine sandy loam; these soils have a low potential for cultural resources. However, Lynchburg fine sandy loam and Goldsboro loamy sand account for approximately 30 percent of the soils in the east section and have a higher potential for cultural resources. Philips (2007) identified a hunting camp approximately 0.75 miles east of Center Line Road along Camp Hall Road on this project tract (see Figure 6). The camp consists of a modern concrete-block bunkhouse, open pavilions, a children's play area, extensive dog kennels, and a game processing area. Figure 11 presents a view of the hunting camp.

In the extreme northeastern section of the tract we performed a more intensive pedestrian survey due to the proximity of historic properties near the intersection of SC Route 47 and Fish Road. The area consists of recently planted pine rows. We identified two small isolated hardwood wetlands and no cultural resources. The area was low and wet overall, and surface visibility was high. Figure 12 shows typical vegetation and surface visibility in this section.

We also performed a vehicular inspection of Center Line Road, a long, straight road dividing the central and east sections of the project tract. A slight rise was identified, and a pedestrian inspection was performed at that point. We found that the western portion of the rise was low; however, the east side of the rise was higher and well drained. Surface visibility was good; nevertheless, no artifacts or cultural resources were observed.

4.0 SUMMARY

This reconnaissance assessed the potential for cultural resources within the project tract. There are no recorded cultural resources on the tract, and there are no standing structures on the tract with the exception of a modern

hunting camp complex. The tract is relatively flat, somewhat poorly drained, and historically uninhabited. Though settlement of the Camp Hall area occurred in the nineteenth century, archival research did not reveal any evidence of settlement on the project tract, and the potential for cultural resources on the 3,500-acre Camp Hall modification tract is low. Only the intensive drainage system constructed by MeadWestvaco in the last several decades has made the bulk of the land suitable for intensive silviculture.

Applications for permits from federal and state agencies for land-altering activities within the project tract may trigger a request from SCDAH for an intensive cultural resources survey. A cultural resources survey would include an intensive archaeological examination of the limited high-potential areas on the tract and analysis of recovered artifacts. A cultural resources survey is necessary to determine how many archaeological sites are present on the property and to assess their eligibility for the NRHP.

The presence of archaeological sites does not necessarily limit the use of a tract. Only sites that are eligible for the NRHP require management consideration. Most archaeological sites are determined not eligible after identification. However, well-drained soils near natural bodies of water frequently contain archaeological sites, and archival evidence gives credence to this in the Ashley-Cooper river basin.



Figure 10. A vast open area of wetland in the central section.



Figure 11. The hunting camp located north of Camp Hall Road in the east section.



Figure 12. Rows of young planted pine that dominate the extreme northeastern boundary of the tract in the east section.

5.0 REFERENCES CITED

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