

Back to the Land, Back to its People

*A strategic response to researching the cultural landscape at Hobcaw Barony
Georgetown County
Winyah Bay
South Carolina*

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Introduction

The Baruch Foundation at Hobcaw has developed since its inception in 1965 from an ecologically based research center to a research and interpretive center for both the natural and man-made environment. The layers of history and pre-history there are extensive and for the most part just being discovered. Being invited to explore this landscape and contribute to the development of an understanding of its cultural landscape has been a very great pleasure this year. Although my original intention of working through the process of a Cultural Landscape Management Plan proved to be premature, there is a lot of groundwork relating directly to that which was possible to undertake in the time available. It is necessary to understand the resources more in order to sort out management options.

It is this experience as a Landscape Architect trying to see this landscape with fresh eyes and explore its future possibilities in relation to other similar interpretive places that proved to be the basis of my work here. The task of preparing a cultural landscape report has to be considered as a work-in-progress as it is just beginning. My interests are more in exploring worthwhile ways for recording information as it becomes available and making that information available to the interpreters and researchers working on site, building a body of interdisciplinary information. It is furthermore likely that the continued development footprint of Hobcaw itself may change slightly. The objective is to offer a more nuanced perspective on the fifteen of so plantations that were put together

by Bernard Baruch in 1904 to comprise the 17,000-acre preserve known today by the much older term “Barony”.¹

The development of the Low Country plantations into larger holdings such as Baruch’s during the beginning of the twentieth century was distinctly different in economic emphasis and social life from other such areas in the South. This difference helped to preserve the artifacts of an endangered Gullah Culture and it also profoundly bent the arc of social and economic progress for generations to follow. In real terms, this process served to preserve the lifestyle and artifacts of previous periods at the same time that it kept generations of former slaves on the plantation. It follows from this thesis that the story of the Baruch family and such Low Country neo-plantations have had a profound impact on the telling of the many other stories of “man on the land over time”.² Thus, the place has a distinctively different story, which now needs to peel back these more recent developments to get a better look at the time before consolidation of these holdings. Current management practices both for researching the ecology and interpreting the Baruch family influences are so pervasive now that it can make it more difficult to tell an earlier history. This effort is aimed at telling the story of these countless generations of everyday people who lived and died on these places before and alongside the towering figures of the Baruch family. We need to find ways to hear their voices, understand their stories, and consider their effects on the land.

¹ Brockington, Lee G., *Plantation Between the Waters: A Brief History of Hobcaw*. Charleston: The History Press, 2006. Print.

² Kovacik, Charles F. and John J. Winberry. *South Carolina – The Making of a Landscape*. Columbia, South Carolina: University of South Carolina Press, 1989. Reprint.

In order to accomplish this, my methodology started with an investigation of specific sites, but quickly evolved organically into a broader consideration of the mission and content on several levels. The specific events that allowed the progression of this analysis referred to here included:

1. The Hobcaw Barony Website Project Stakeholders Meeting in September of 2014;
2. Ongoing conversations with the GIS laboratory here at the College of Charleston;
3. Teaching a spring semester 2015 class on the topic of Gullah traditions and landscapes in association with Dr. Ade Ofunniyin of the Gullah Foundation;
4. The AHLF conference in Savannah in March of 2015 and visiting comparable sites both then and later; and
5. Ongoing efforts to include the Low Country plantation landscapes in a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

A Year-Long Process

The opportunities that were available during a year-long process revolved around several key milestones. First was a conference at Hobcaw in which the key players in research and interpretive activities spoke with an opportunity for interaction afterwards.³ While much of the conversation revolved around the NEH/ETV partnership in development of “Between the Waters: Hobcaw Barony Website Project” as an expression of ETV’s new commitment to public history and

³ Between the Waters: Hobcaw Barony Website Project Stakeholders Meeting, September 5 and 6, 2014.

Hobcaw's relationship with the Georgetown County Digital Library, there was also a contingent of long standing, ecology-based research groups. The Institute of Coastal Ecology and Forest Science and the Winyah Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve represented these interests. There were also people involved in emerging research components relating to the cultural landscape including SCIAA's Applied Research Division, Leyland Ferguson's excavations at Hobcaw House, and Professor Ralph Muldrow's ongoing research in preservation. In this conversation, there developed the idea that there needs to be a separate effort to develop a useable, expandable database to track the activities of multiple parties working on this site over time. This effort would need to be both geographically based and chronologically (historically) organized. The type of information to be included would be the results of various archaeological efforts, documentation of buildings and landscapes, and other useful reference overlays that would serve to contextualize findings in their respective time frame. The results of this effort would serve to add depth to the public interpretation of the site providing a broader platform to teach a truly "integrated" history. Its use, moreover, was seen as primarily research-based and not something that might be readily included in the ETV efforts on their website. At this meeting, I met for some considerable time with Patrick Hayes and Tom Lacas of Mad Monkey Designs to explore their software in order to see if it would be possible to fit an open source geographically based program such as Google Earth. We explored fairly sophisticated projects such as the Global Gazetteer of the American Revolution.⁴ While this remains a quick way to

⁴ <http://gaz.jrshelby.com/worldmaps.htm> as available by clicking on the link,

provide geographic context to information, there is no ability to break it down by time period. The result over time, we felt, would be rather confusing and not flexible enough. This effort simply made it clear that a parallel effort might be needed on a different kind of site to publish and promote further such activity, as well as to help organize that effort. This thinking was an important component in the development of this research effort.

During the subsequent period, I worked with the College of Charleston GIS lab to focus what that effort might mean. A previous class during the Spring of 2014 had hit upon the idea of using a new Earth Science Research Institute (ESRI) template called “Story Map” to develop a geo-historical format to tell the story of the people of the historic Kahal Kadosh Beth Elohim Cemetery in Charleston, South Carolina, on Coming Street.⁵ This approach seemed promising for presentations in which one might need to keep separate the various time frames. For recording fieldwork and allowing greater input of raw data, however, another product was evaluated, called ESRI “Explorer”. The existing data points provided by Hobcaw were put into that format on a preliminary basis to explore its usefulness in tracking field location and recording information on site.⁶ This data currently resides behind a password on the ESRI servers; so, there is an image of this preliminary

gg031413.kmz.

⁵ Adams, Olivia. Historic Kahal Kadosh Beth Elohim Cemetery. Story Map. 17 July, 2015. Web.

<<http://storymaps.esri.com/templates/shortlist/?webmap=2ec520e85a3e4508bf09d6a057b6a2c1>>

⁶ Levine, Norman. The Santee Cooper Geographic Information Systems Laboratory. College of Charleston / University of Charleston. Web. 17 July, 2015.

<<https://scgis.maps.arcgis.com/home/webmap/viewer.html?layers=9010f9fa377046cdbb5e72b5b75e3f45&useExisting=1>>

information attached here (See Figure 1). The problem with developing this protocol proved to be that ESRI is recasting their software to include more cloud-based data and changing their overall set up, transitioning to a product called “GIS Pro”. This product is now available and is proposed as the vehicle for my final recommendations. In the meantime, I proceeded with gathering field data with somewhat less software-driven protocols.

The next milestone for developing research content occurred during Spring semester 2015, while teaching of a special topics course entitled “Cultural Landscapes: Documenting, preserving and commemorating Gullah and Low Country vernacular landscape traditions”. To teach this course, I collaborated with Dr. Ade Ofunniyin of the Anthropology Department, who is also on the Board of Directors of the Gullah Foundation. His course reader consisting of a summary of the research of the African roots of the Gullah traditions formed the basis of much of our research. This course had been taught before using Daniel Island cemeteries including the Alston, Lesesne, Simmons, and Grove Cemeteries. Therefore, working on the various cemeteries available to us seemed a logical follow up. This prior experience also demonstrated that the student methodologies did not need GIS software, nor did it need to utilize fairly typical survey equipment such as the total station (because of the students’ lack of experience with these items). Fieldwork, therefore, consisted of site survey utilizing the tried and true techniques of plane table and alidade supplemented with library research into African-American burial traditions (See Figure 2). It should also be pointed out that Christina Brooks of Winthrop University conducted much of the research into Marietta and Alderly cemeteries in 2010. Her

methodology for survey consisted of hand held GPS devices, which proved to be problematic as we tried this approach on site. They simply either do not get adequate signal or they are frequently incorrect in their readings.⁷ Our efforts, therefore, used an alternative, more old-fashioned approach for field survey. Ultimately, however, the most useful aspect of the course was the opportunity to discuss and research key components of interpreting African American in order to formulate an approach to preservation long term. I will dwell on these thoughts in the final argument. I also had a chance to field test the “Explorer” application and to determine issues with using it in the field, which I will also discuss in the final section.

Concurrently with the teaching of this course, I had the opportunity to visit similar efforts and consider this project as well as the conceptual framework for the cultural landscape investigations with members of the Association of Historic Landscapes Preservation in their 2015 meeting in Savannah, Georgia.⁸ I presented the basic thesis of this paper for feedback and it was generally well received. In fact, the plantations of the Low Country had such a following at the conference that the idea of having a special regionally-based section of this group is starting to take hold. Further conversations are ongoing with the President of the AHLP, Carrie J. Gregory, as well as the Historic Preservation State chair of the American Society of Landscape Architects, Amanda Barton. This effort may well be included in a broader

⁷ We were utilizing a Garmin eTrex Vista HCx

⁸ The Alliance for Historic Landscape Preservation. 18 July, 2015. Web.
<<http://ahlp.org/annual-meetings/annual-meeting-2015/>>

idea of extending the cultural landscape study, which work will make Hobcaw all the more significant as a research center.

Another key event at this meeting was the visit to Wormsloe Institute, which is a University of Georgia sponsored research institute consisting of 1,200 acres between the Skidaway and Moon Rivers, south of Savannah. Its mission is to explore the many layers of the landscape there using the newest kinds of technologies. It was an opportunity to explore a “sister” effort to the one at Hobcaw in some depth with a discussion with the director Sarah Ross. Her website quotes her as saying that the purpose of research in any disciplines at the Institute “is to enhance knowledge in that field and to advance best practices in the region...We consciously strive to ensure that our research has application beyond the site.”⁹ This is plainly pointing to a broader mandate for these sites to be proactive in the preservation of the broader landscape and to be central to that effort through research and education. They are also applying for UNESCO World Heritage status for the site, which the College of Charleston also seeks for the plantations of the Low Country. The Wormsloe Institute shares a similar scope and mandate, and Hobcaw would benefit from an affiliation with this institute.

Additionally, from a site development standpoint, I am showing the trail development in order to emphasize the value of being able to approach the site on foot rather than only by car. Although Hobcaw has always been concerned about trespassing, there may be a need to revisit some type of trail designation as it

⁹ Library of American Landscape History. 18 July, 2015. Web.
<<http://lalh.org/wormsloe-institute-exploring-landscape-layers/>>

pursues its research and educational objectives in the future. It certainly allows for visitors to read the landscape without the mediation of a tour guide (See figures 3 and 4).

Another key comparable site is Dixie Plantation, which is an 881-acre property along the Stono River near Charleston in Hollywood, South Carolina. As the College manages it, we were able to get access with students on several occasions to explore the facilities. Dixie Plantation also seeks to provide a combination of ecological, archaeological, and preservation studies. In this case, the Lowcountry Open Land Trust also oversees the property. Their goal is also to restore native ecosystems such as the Long Leaf Pine forests and to promote biodiversity with the various salt, brackish, and fresh water impoundments there.¹⁰ They have also undertaken a number of archaeological excavations, the results of which need to be made public and incorporated in their interpretation of the site. The trail system (See Figure 5 and 6) does, however, include signage at key area such as St. Paul's church site or an ancient boat landing as well as an Application (App) for smart phones that allows users to access the information from off site. This App is somewhat problematic for researchers, however, as it contains somewhat dated information and is also strictly interpretive, not allowing the input of additional data. The broader mission of making the cultural layers of the site more apparent, therefore, lags somewhat behind the research currently being conducted. The basic

¹⁰ College of Charleston, Dixie Plantation. 19 July, 2015. Web.
<<http://dixieplantation.cofc.edu/>>

platform and research, however, is very promising involving the efforts of committed students and faculty.

Another site worth some analysis in this discussion is the Nemours Wildlife Foundation, a 10,000-acre reserve on the Combahee River in the Ace Basin near Charleston. The Nemours Wildlife Foundation is “dedicated to wildlife and habitat conservation through land management, scientific study and educational outreach.”¹¹ Only recently has the Board decided to include the Cultural Landscape components in their interpretations and in their preservation efforts. To that extent, they are very similar to Hobcaw in terms of the size of operation as well as the changing mission. As one will readily note in their facilities, however, the effort to preserve these cultural relicts has come none too soon (See Figures 7, 8, 9, and 10). The primary reason for including this site in this discussion is to underscore the need to organize the preservation and interpretation efforts at these kinds of sites. Even well endowed organizations such as the Nemours Wildlife Foundation need leadership and guidance in preserving the artifacts and interpreting them on site. Currently, there is no real visitors’ reception except in the main house; no site signage or trail system (portions of the site are not accessible); and only very preliminary research has been undertaken to formulate some understanding of the cultural landscape. Butler Preservation is in the process of developing a Cultural Landscape Report in association with Brockington Associates. Kay Merrill of the

¹¹ Facebook. Nemours Wildlife Foundation. 19 July, 2015. Web. <<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Nemours-Wildlife-Foundation/290936104308118?sk=info&tab=overview>>

Nieuport Project was our guide on site who was very receptive to networking with Hobcaw and being a part of a broader initiative.

Just as these sites have only recently begun to focus on the cultural landscape, an effort in the Charleston area to get the broader landscapes of the low country on the UNESCO World Heritage sites has been gaining momentum.¹² The US National Park Service manages this program in the United States.¹³ They have recently encouraged local delegations to think more broadly about including the plantations as many of them are already on the National Register. While this effort is not one that I have focused on, it does highlight the need to formulate a thorough and consistent research effort to map and document these fading landscapes. The leadership in places like Hobcaw, in cooperation with other sites, could provide the impetus for conservation of a far-reaching area. This effort also gives Hobcaw's work a broader context because it engages with the other cultures and peoples that preceded the plantations. Even with the expansive property of Hobcaw, the various cultures operated in a larger, regional context. It is, however, only places like Hobcaw that we can effectively carry out research about these cultural layers and broader regional connections thanks to Hobcaw's relatively undisturbed and undeveloped landscape. In so doing, the many stories of each epoch of history and of human intervention might be told. At Hobcaw, we can move beyond the story of

¹² Unesco. World Heritage List. 20 July, 2015. Web.

<<http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/>>

¹³ National Park Service. World Heritage Links. 20 July, 2015. Web.

<<http://www.nps.gov/oia/topics/worldheritage/worldheritage.htm>>

plantations to include Gullah and potentially the Native Americans' cultures, telling the many stories of each epoch of history and human intervention.

Recommendations

Three basic ideas for further consideration have come out of this year-long process. These recommendations underscore the value of this conversation and research to our understanding of these regionally based landscapes. Furthermore, the ideas should also be of considerable value in

1. Developing a protocol for recording and publishing information regarding these sites;
2. Detailing site improvements for the effective participation of researchers and their students in cultural landscapes; and
3. Suggesting improvements in telling the story that would assist in creating a more nuanced view of critical areas of interpretation.

Based on this idea of developing a useable base plan that can be used in the field to include current info, previously identified cultural sites, historical information as well as one's current position on site, Grant Gilmore and I worked with graduate students to begin the process of scanning plats available and developing a spreadsheet of as many of the plantations in the area as possible (See Appendix 2). Fortunately, good source material was already available.¹⁴ Given this information, we then worked with graduate students in the Santee Cooper GIS labs at the College of Charleston to develop the spreadsheet and the plats into useable

¹⁴ Linder, Suzanne Cameron and Marta Leslie Thacker. *Historical Atlas of the Rice Plantations of Georgetown County and the Santee River*. South Carolina Department of Archives and History for the Historic Ricefields Association Inc., 2001. Print.

and accessible online data. I have included a preliminary compilation using Photoshop to present some of this information (See Figure 11). It does show the difficulty in overlaying the hand drawn information especially given the current limitations of GIS Pro's inability to effectively geo-reference plats. Geo-referencing is a term coming from geologists and the ESRI software that refers to fitting one map onto another -- scaling and distorting it to compensate for irregularities of drafting or printing. The details shown on each plat, however, do offer potentially valuable information for on-site investigation. This work is ongoing, however, and will be developed as a supplement to this paper as soon as possible. We still need to work through the issues with geo-referencing in "GIS Pro" and to field check the final configuration of the ESRI's "Explorer". In trying to develop different time frames, we also need to work with "Explorer," using either different layers or integration with other products like "Story Map", discussed earlier.

A useful possibility for this kind of tool is the chance not only to carry it to the field for reference, but also to "crowd source" information. Better on-site tracking might have lessened much of the difficulty in our class in negotiating the site. Our understanding of the site would also have been enhanced with a better understanding of the historical property lines and features that show up only on these old maps. Literally, it would have facilitated our ability to "read the landscape". Also, the popular idea of "crowdsourcing" does offer some real potential. I have been amazed at the combined knowledge of such groups online as Facebook's

“Charleston History before 1945”, moderated by Josephine Humphries.¹⁵ Questions are asked of these interested and knowledgeable people and many times answers are provided from their private stores of photos, personal histories, or access to various archives. While this requires some additional editing to include in a public database, it would increase the information available as well as the public’s participation and interest in this online material. How this might work is the subject of ongoing meetings with the Lowcountry Digital History Initiative. Again, this work will need to be elaborated in future activities.

The principal advantage in these recommendations lies in their “virtual” nature. They can be adopted without changing the physical footprint of the carefully thought out arrangement of buildings and their uses. These facilities reflect the various research partners with NOAA, the other research partners in the universities and colleges in the state, and the needs of the Foundation itself to maintain its mission and build its constituencies and the supporting budget. Future development proposals must also be carefully considered for their usefulness in supporting the mission, its costs, and its operating implications. The specific suggestions here are for limited trail development, increased development of a signage system to complement the virtual tour and database suggested for the Explorer App, and a further consideration of visitor facilities especially if Belle’s House is to be used as conference facilities.

¹⁵ Facebook. Charleston History before 1945. 20 July, 2015. Web.
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/617716531598546/permalink/860984717271725/?comment_id=861067577263439&offset=0&total_comments=2¬if_t=group_comment_mention>

In light of this review of similar facilities, I suggest that we consider trail development in order to allow for a more authentic approach to the various cultural landscapes both for researchers and perhaps, in a more limited way, the public. As the marsh and ocean side is already occupied with various research facilities and is singularly vulnerable to storms, a logical and traditional route would center on the rice field side. In looking at aerial views of the site, a very preliminary routing of the paths might look something like Figure 12. In this illustration, the red trail, the path to the rice fields, is approximately 3 miles long and runs by both Alderly and Marietta cemeteries. It also goes around some Cypress swamp areas that provide a sense of the changing landscape. Even a portion of this might prove valuable in understanding the cemeteries and their relationship to water and to the functional workings of various plantations. Recognizing the sensitive nature of the landscape and the need to protect the research stations in the area, this portion of the trail represents a preliminary suggestion, to be developed further in consultation with stakeholders. The next section of walk shown here is the continuance to Hobcaw House, which attempts to ride the edge of the bluff. It is highlighted in yellow and is approximately 1.6 miles long. Preliminary archaeological investigations along this area show this area to be particularly rich, requiring any work of trail development to be coordinated with ongoing archaeological research. Nevertheless, it does offer the opportunity to provide an alternate way of getting to these places and helping with their interpretation. The final section of trail is shown as an adjunct to these others. It encircles the rice field there, located on what appears the largest of the earthworks. It is shown in blue and is approximately 2.6 miles long. Whether this is

entirely passable, or shows too much development, is something for further consideration, walking, scouting, and surveying in the field. This proposal only seeks to put the idea on the table for discussion. The advantage is in its potential for researchers and their students to gain access in a less mediated context than on a bus tour. It could also work well with the virtual tour proposal highlighted here.

A second important recommendation for the site is the development of a more readable signage program, especially in relation to the proposed trails. While the tours are currently almost entirely done in buses with guides, there are real advantages to the experience of the site on foot. It does present management issues and way finding needs. It is, however, consistent with the treatment of other facilities such as at Wormsloe or Dixie, discussed above. How this is addressed in detail should also be coordinated with the virtual tour developed here. The object is not to provide gratuitous detail or to clutter the landscape. At the most fundamental level, one might even address this with a type of trail blazing, going from engraved wood markings, geometric blazing indicating directional changes, simple markings on trees indicating alignments, or more sculptural cairns based on native traditions. Among many state, national, and international groups, the Palmetto Trail¹⁶ and the Appalachian Trail Conservancy¹⁷ have pioneered much of this work and these organizations seem generally well known in this area. The point in this paper is again not to design the system, but to make suggestions for additional site

¹⁶ Palmetto Conservation. 20 July, 2015. Web.

<<http://www.palmettoconservation.org>>

¹⁷ Appalachian Trail Conservancy. 20 July, 2015. Web.

<<http://www.appalachiantrail.org>>

development in support of an expanded, cultural resource-oriented, interpretive program.

The final components of the site development proposal here really focus on accessibility, parking, and access at the Visitors' Center. If further plans are made for developing Belle's house as a conference center, additional facilities there should include additional parking and safe access onto Highway 17. Presumably, people going to conferences there will not be driving into the site and their cars must be accommodated either at the center, in another parking area associated with the Clemson Research Center, or at a remote location with a bus shuttle to the site. The increased traffic, especially for evening use, will require further development of signage, safety signage on the roadways, and strategically located lighting.

Furthermore, if the trail system is developed, the visitors' center will become a "trailhead", posting rules for usage, access to restrooms, explanation of sign postings, trash cans, and distribution centers for informational brochures. These kinds of improvements, their attendant costs, and maintenance requirements highlight the potentially costly nature of this approach. It would need to incorporate some other revenue streams to be discussed in future. It is, however, the logical next step in adapting for a more meaningful interpretation of this cultural landscape.

The final recommendation here gets to the heart of the matter of Hobcaw's mission for these cultural landscapes and underlines the value of these proposals: the continuing evolution of the story that this place can tell. The story here is of many layers of people, even civilizations. Much is unknown and speculative at present. The important thing in interpreting these sites is not only to get the science

right, but also to make connections with all the visitors today, not just the scientists and researchers. This might be generally considered an experiential approach, but it allows room for the historical imagination to consider and perhaps energize the debate. For example, while the students in the class Dr. Ofunniyin and I taught were busily reconnoitering the sites, working on their surveys, and checking people's names, we also took time to consider the people and their lives. We read selections from Mary E. Miller's *Baroness of Hobcaw*¹⁸ for insights into the lives of the people who we saw interred on site. We also read from *Doctor to the Dead* by John Bennett¹⁹. Reading these texts on site was an especially memorable experience. In class, we backed field observations up with selected readings as from a variety of anthropological accounts of the lives people left behind in West Africa. Together, these give a detailed and compelling view of people's adaptation to their new lives here. Some more stories are also in the Hobcaw visitors' center, but their retelling on site makes them especially memorable. On Alderly and Marietta alone, there were 1,200 slaves working, and the numbers of markers and signs of graves represents only a small fraction of those numbers. This realization makes one mindful of not only the unique quality of these places, but also the need for additional research, documentation, and fieldwork to reveal more stories. This observation is directly transferable to the larger plantation landscapes. Much history is lost as we lose these landscapes.

¹⁸ Miller, Mary E. *Baroness of Hobcaw – The Life of Belle W. Baruche*. Columbia: University of South Carolina Press, 2006. Print.

¹⁹ Bennett, John. *Doctor to the Dead: Grotesque Legends and Folk Tales of Old Charleston*. . Columbia: University of South Carolina Press, 1995. Reprint.

We also came to a greater understanding of our terms of reference in discussing these places. For example, the typical signage indicating “cemetery” seems especially incongruous. Given the history of the terms ‘graveyard’ or ‘cemetery’, a new name for a new kind of place seems really important. We opted to use the term “burial ground”, especially after the experiences in the African American Burial Ground Project in New York.²⁰ Following that, there was a discussion about the use of the term “sacred” when discussing these places. This is especially hard when one feels strong ties to the dead there. ‘Sacred’, however, carries its own baggage when one considers its usage in the context of cultural landscapes: they are inviolate, not to change. This is plainly not the intent here. “Burials in Bellefield cemetery indicate a strong belief in the care and maintenance of the soul after death and not so much about material remembrances left behind for loved ones.”²¹ After referring to the experience of preservationists and anthropologists such as Thomas F. King, we set on the more appropriate term “spiritual”.²² Finally, after reading about the various Western African cultures that seem to be dominant here, we also came to a new understanding of the need to avoid easy classifications of the grave goods and other unusual expressions of death

²⁰ M. Blakey, The New York African Burial Ground Project: An Examination of Enslaved Eyes, A Commemoration of Ancestral Ties. American Anthropological Association from *Transforming Anthropology* 7(1): 1998. Reprint.

²¹ Christina Brooks, “Preliminary Report on Archaeological Survey of African American Cemeteries at Hobcaw Barony Plantation” prepared for Belle W. Baruch Foundation, 2010.

²² King, Thomas F. *Places That Count: Traditional Cultural Properties in Cultural Resource Management*, Alta Mira Press, Walnut Creek California, 1992. Print.

and time as simply African.²³ They are at their very heart something new, something unique to this place, where we have coined a term - Gullah - to express their creole nature. These people deserve their own place in the world. Their trials, their stories are also their own.

Retrospectives

The ability to spend time getting to know this place and the people who work there has been an enjoyable and worthwhile experience. I feel that my experience as reflected in this piece may help the address some concerns as it endeavors to tell the story of the many layers of its history. I certainly feel that I benefitted personally and professionally from the chance to work here and hope that the College of Charleston can follow up meaningfully with this work.

In the immediate future, the faculty here will be discussing ways to get the stories of the Plantations of the Low Country onto the public domain where we can pool our resources and focus our efforts more effectively. The work done in the GIS lab and in gathering background information will have started at Hobcaw. This protocol will be directly applicable to this project and several others that I have in the making right now.

We are proposing a continuing involvement in coordination with Clemson's Warren-Lasch labs to be able to incorporate more state of the art scanning of various sites that would also be useful in reconstructing these sites virtually. This type of tool has direct application in telling the story, in aiding in the interpretation

²³ Jamieson, Ross W. "Material Culture and Social Death: African American Burial Practices". *Historical Archaeology*, Society of Historical Archaeology from *Historical Archaeology* Vol. 29, No. 4 (1995), pp. 39-58.

of the site, and in suggesting new avenues for research. As significant as these relics of the plantation era are, there are other structures and other eras that are equally as compelling. We need to build an interpretive infrastructure that will make this clear.

Along with these stories and timelines, there is the infrastructure of Hobcaw itself. The suggestions made here hardly rise to the level of a master plan, but they do reflect a new way of thinking about change that seeks to balance physical improvements with management support, long term gain and short term costs. The trail and visitors' center proposals, therefore, are necessarily preliminary. They require further elaboration by all stakeholders to determine its desirability and further work on site to fine tune its impact. This more direct and visceral approach to interpretation, however, can inspire engaged visitors, especially the young researchers, such as the students that it was my pleasure to work with in thinking through these ideas.

In conclusion, I want to thank the other members of my program in Historic Preservation and Community Planning: Ralph Muldrow who first encouraged us to get involved, Barry Stiefel who continues a prodigious publication program, and Grant Gilmore who has proven to be a steady supporter in developing and working with cultural landscapes. I will be continuing to benefit from this work as we develop the protocols for field recording, crowdsourcing, and organizing information and getting all of that onto an accessible platform.

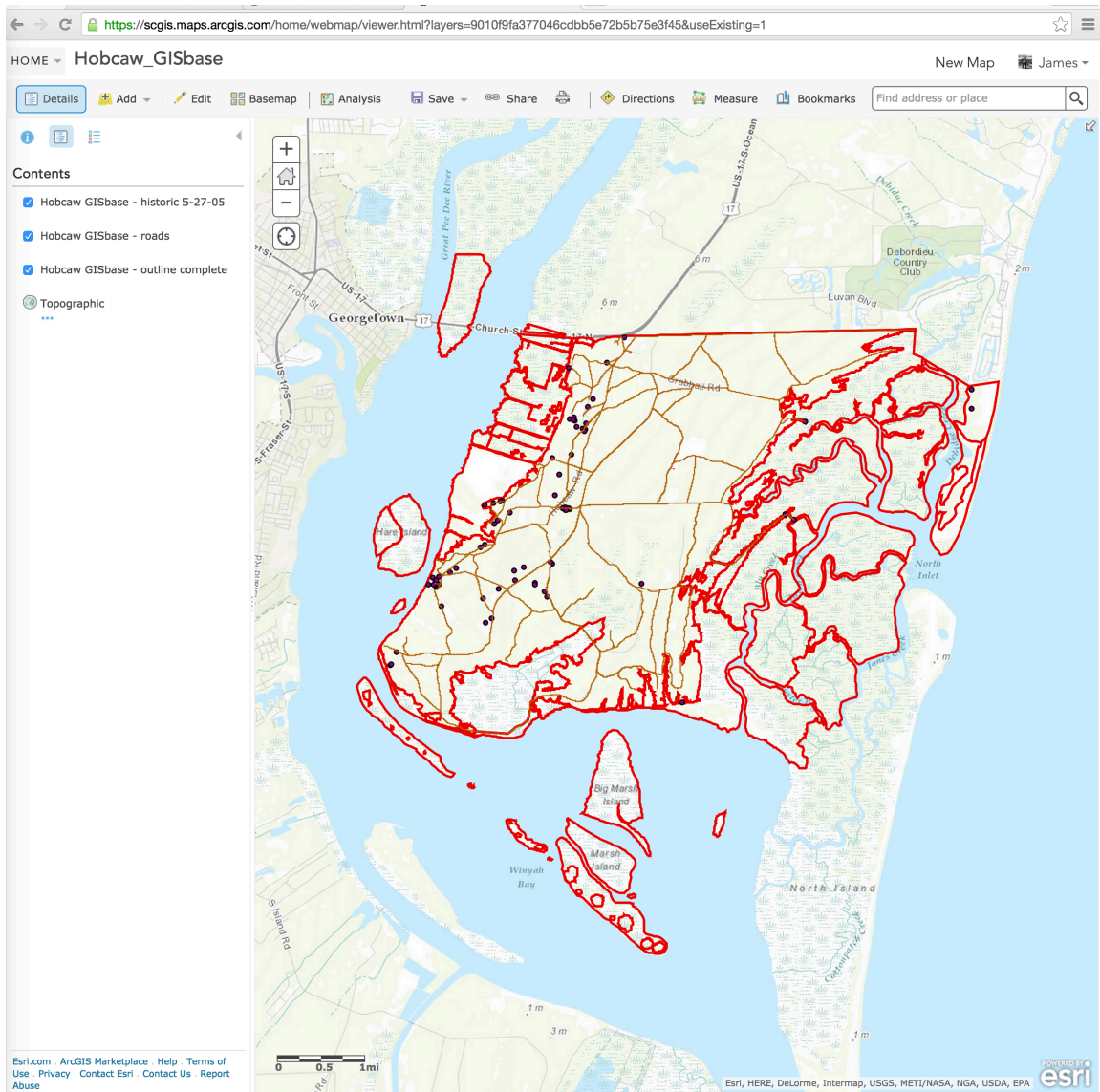


Figure 1: Preliminary effort to organize existing data points into Explorer (source: <<https://scgis.maps.arcgis.com/home/webmap/viewer.html?layers=9010f9fa377046cddb5e72b5b75e3f45&useExisting=1>>)

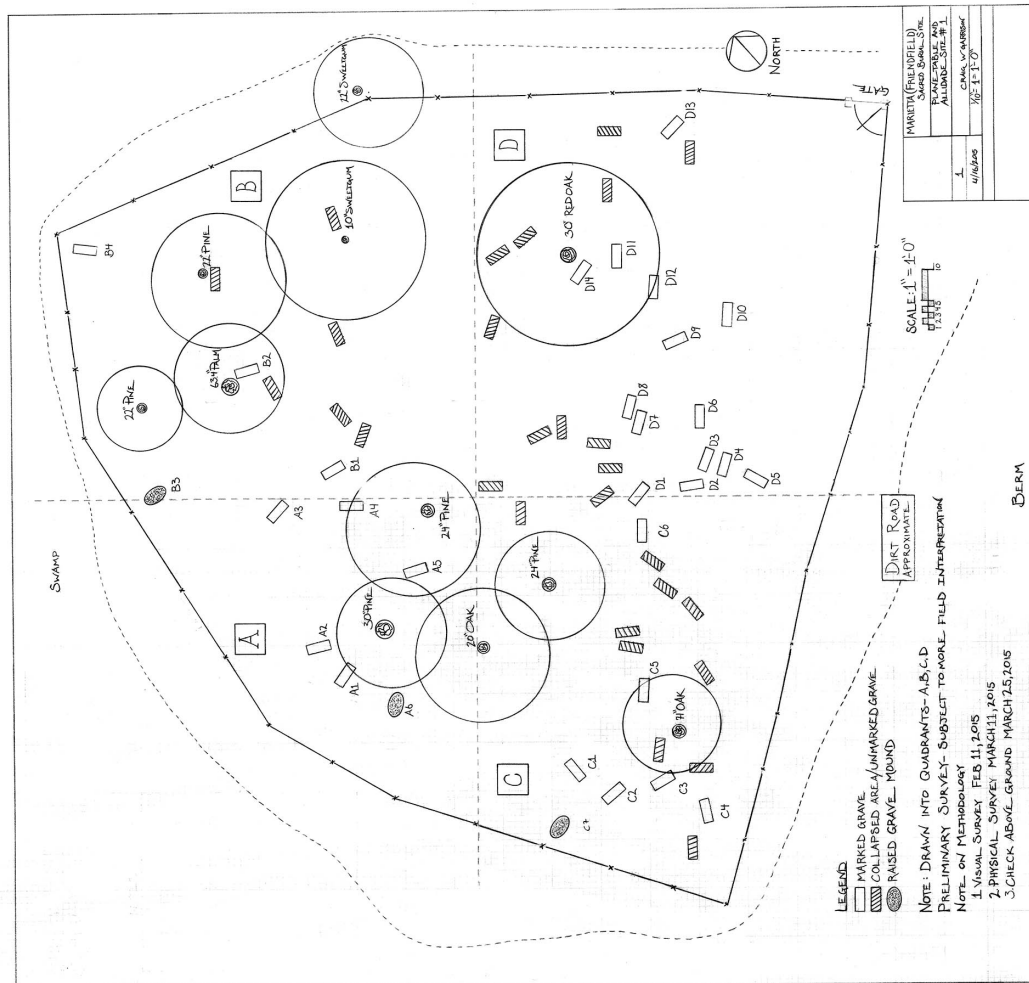


Figure 2: Plane Table Survey of Marietta Cemetery (source: Student Work, HPCP 340/ANTH 319, Spring 2015, College of Charleston)




Figure 3: Low Key signage at Wormsloe (Photo by author)



Figure 4: Low impact trails at Wormsloe (Photo by author)



Figure 5: Developed Trail System with interpretive signage at Dixie Plantation (photo by author)



Figure 6: Developed Trail System with interpretive signage at Dixie Plantation (photo by author)



Figure 7: Deteriorating Slave Cabins at Numeyers (photo by author)



Figure 8: Deteriorating sill at Slave Cabins at Numeyers (photo by author)



Figure 9: Deteriorating walls at Slave Cabins at Numeyers (photo by author)



Figure 10: Deteriorating Front entrance at Clay Hall, a relict at Numeyers (photo by author)



Figure 11: Composite overlay of Hobcaw plats (Source: Historical Atlas of the Rice Plantations of Georgetown County and the Santee River)

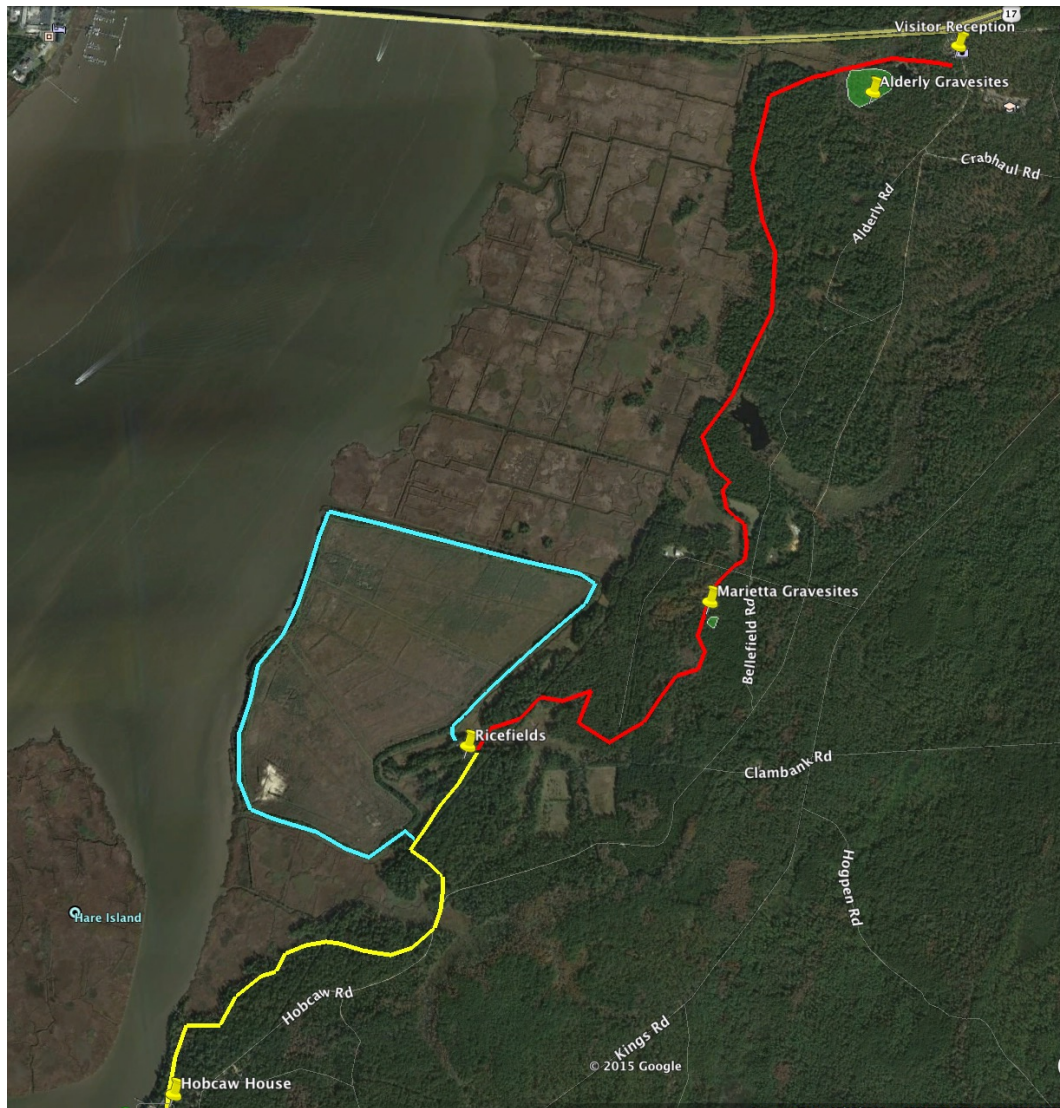


Figure 12: Preliminary Alignment Options for a Trail System (Source: Line by author, Google Earth imagery)

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