A QUALITATIVE ANALYSIS OF GRAFFITI INSCRIPTIONS AT ECCLESIASTICAL SITES IN THE SOUTH CAROLINA LOWCOUNTRY

South Carolina Historic Preservation Conference; APRIL 25, 2025

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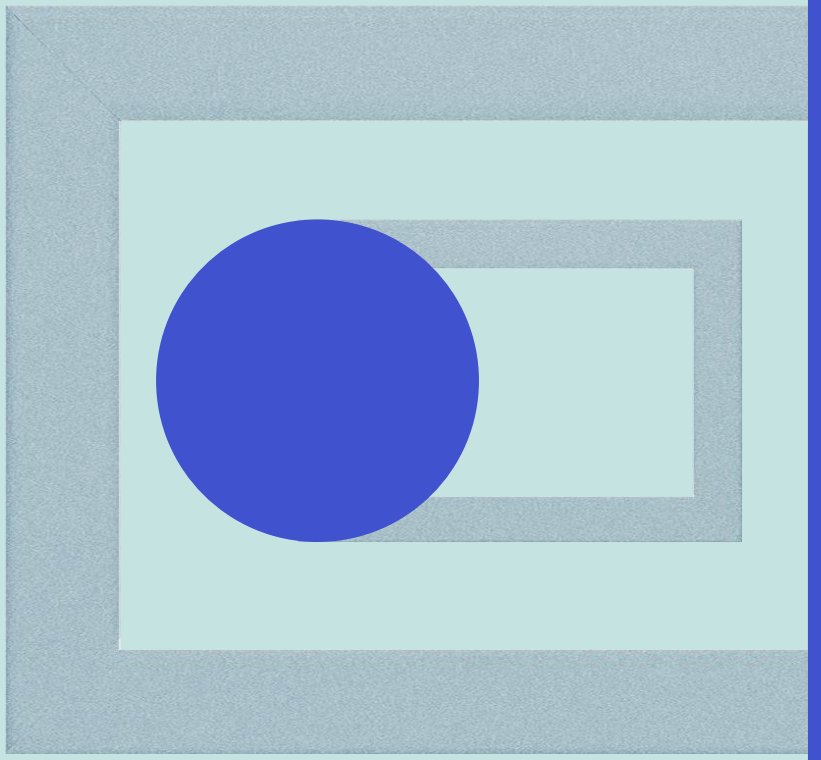
INTRODUCTION TO TOPIC

Analyzing Graffiti at Ecclesiastical Sites in the Lowcountry of South Carolina as Markers of Evolving Religious and Social Values.



WHAT IS GRAFFITI?

- Markings left on a wall surface
- Long lasting symbolic presence in connection to place
- “Vernacular art,” an unplanned and impromptu form of expression produced by individuals

RESEARCH QUESTIONS

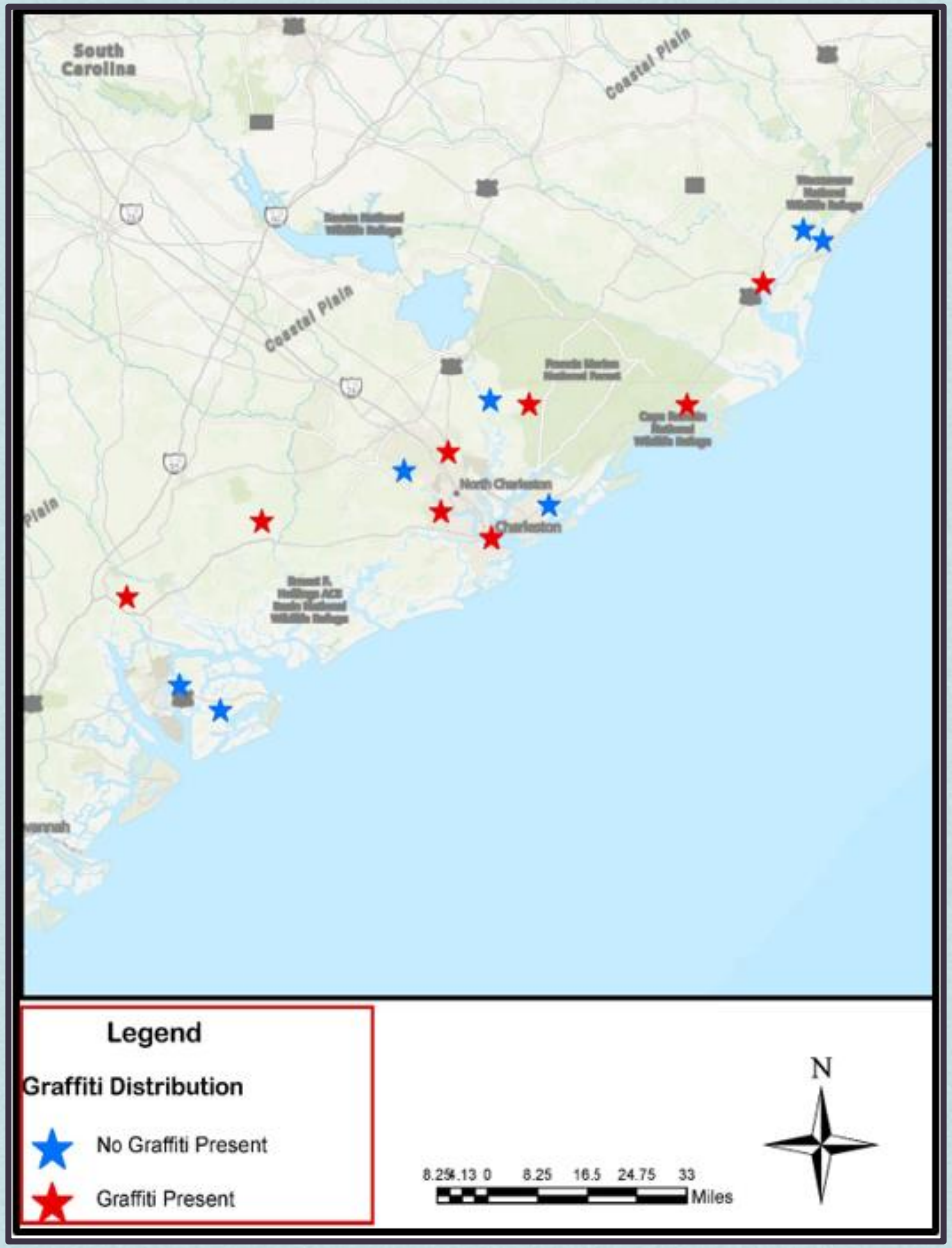
1 PRIMARY QUESTION

How can graffiti at ecclesiastical sites reveal the evolution of relationships between people and religious spaces to interpret the use of space or changing religious values in the Lowcountry of South Carolina?

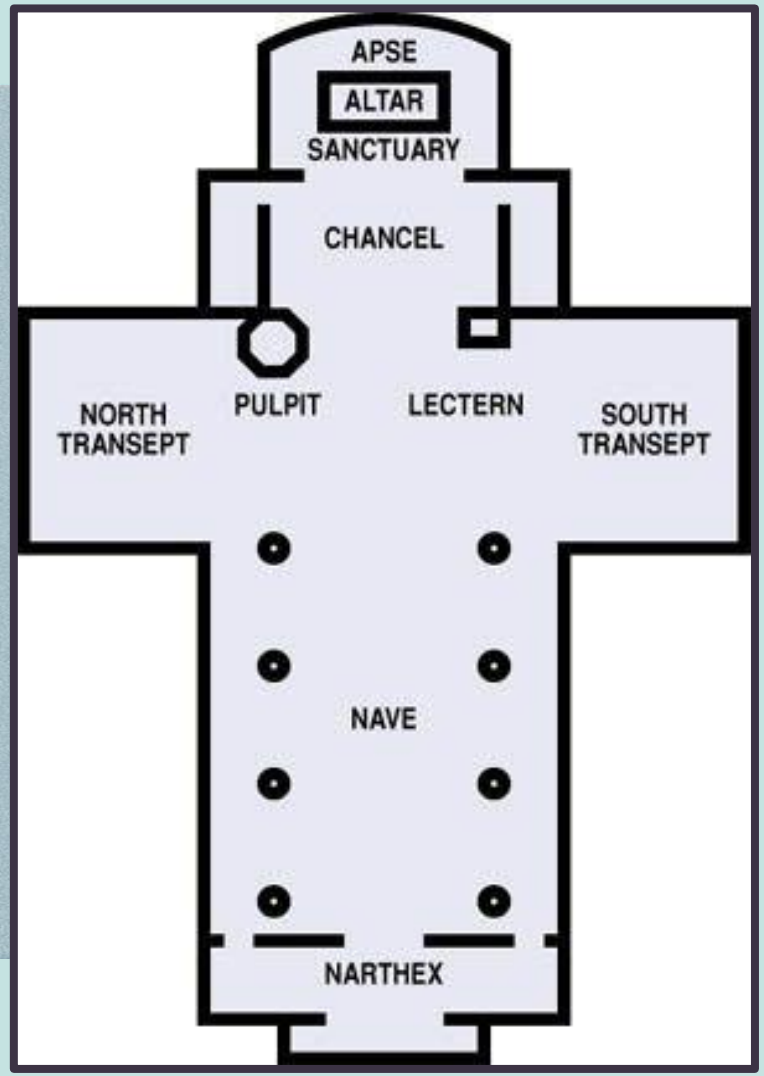
SECONDARY QUESTIONS 2

Which locations within the assessed sites are graffiti commonly found?
What types of messaging are most commonly found?
What was the predominant period for most graffiti?

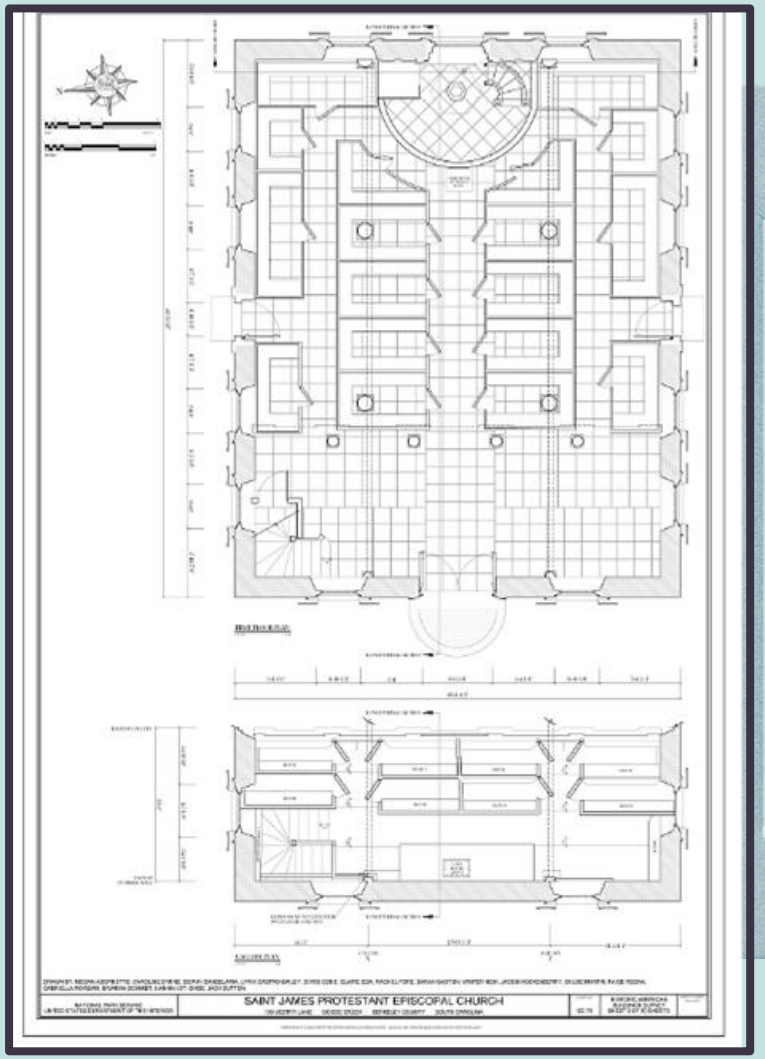
MAP OF SITES


South Carolina
Coastal Plain
Coastal Plain
North Charleston
Charleston
Legend
Graffiti Distribution
No Graffiti Present
Graffiti Present
8.25 4.13 0 8.25 16.5 24.75 33
Miles
N

DATA COLLECTION

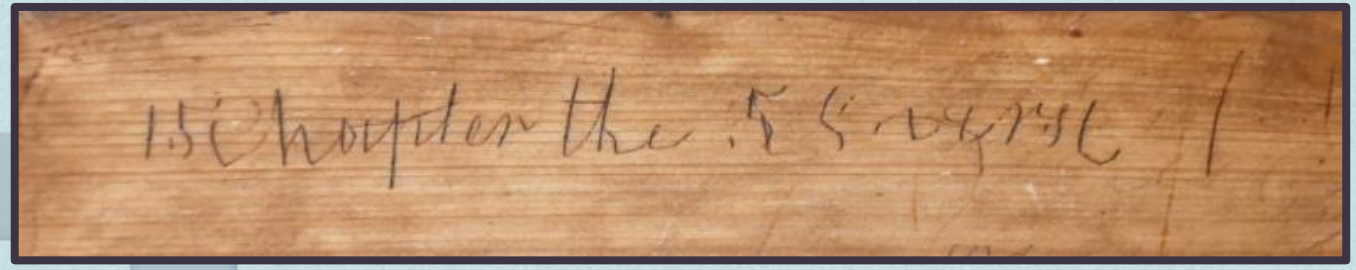


Typical floorplan of an Anglican church.

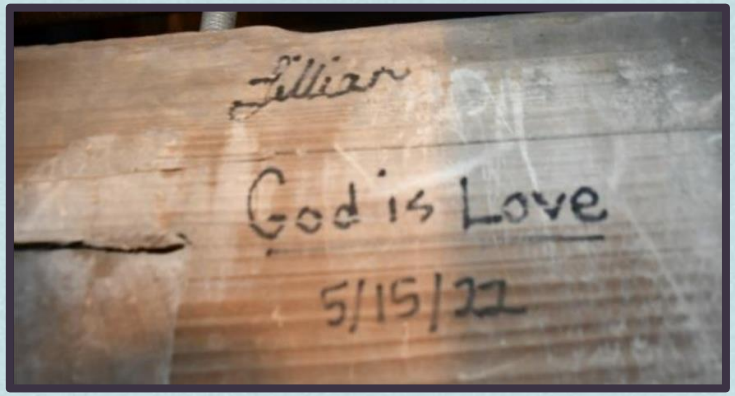


St. James Goose Creek Parish HABS floorplan done by MSHP class of '24

Geographic Spatial Characteristics: Location of graffiti



Graffiti in the box pews and steeple displaying religious messaging



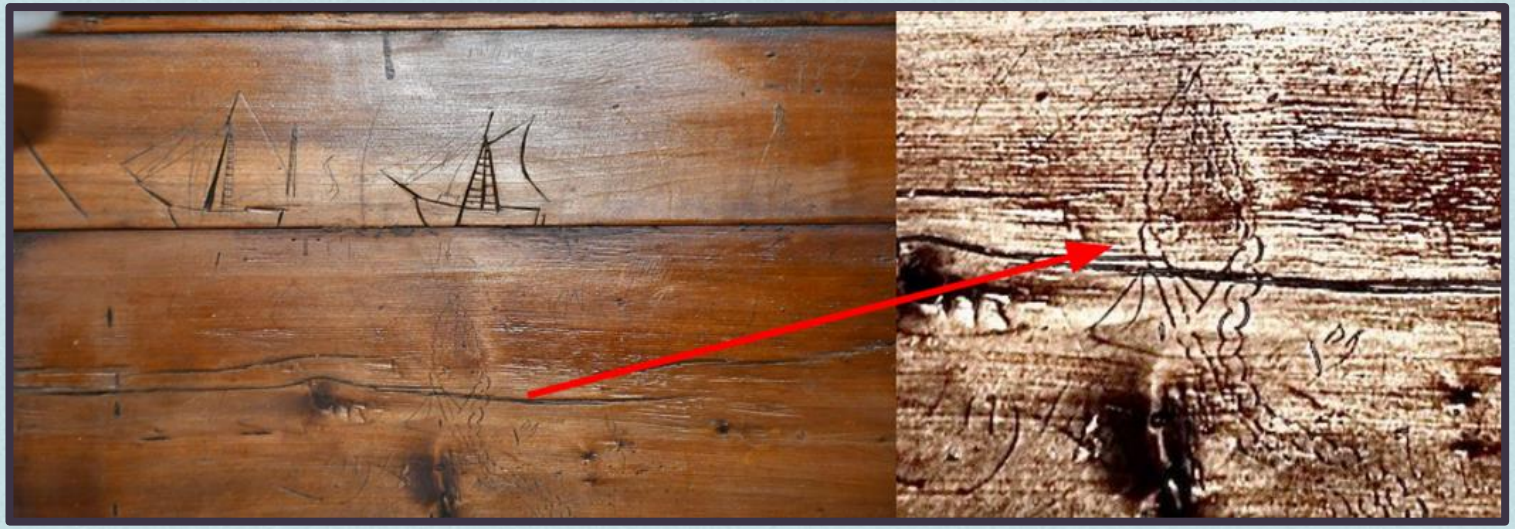
DATA ANALYSIS: FINDINGS

- Tagging (textual images) was the most prevalent form of graffiti represented as names and dates — **65%**
- Majority informal — **72%**
- Majority hidden to outsiders of the congregation — **69%**
- Majority etched or engraved on wood — **82%**
- Majority in box pews and steeple — **23%**

Inscriptions of people in box pews

Cross-section view of ship in box pew

Snake-like figure created by walking the compass.



THANKS

Does anyone have any questions?

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Sacred Grounds: A Risk Assessment Framework Developed For Historic African American Cemeteries Threatened By Sea Level Rise In Georgetown, SC

Jocelyn Patterson

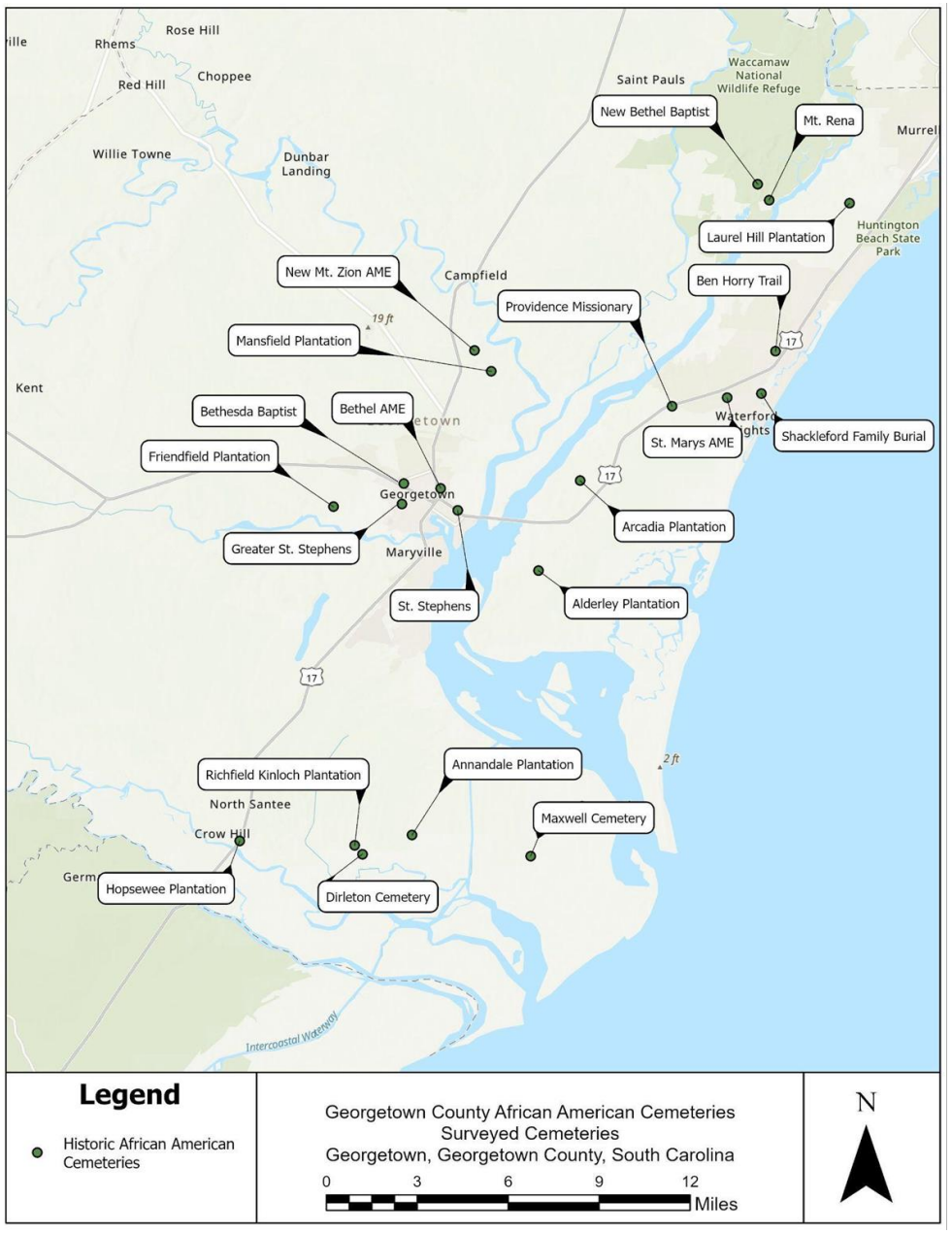
South Carolina Historic Preservation Conference

April 25, 2025

Research Problem

- African American cemeteries in low-lying areas along coastal regions, are susceptible to the impacts of sea level rise.

- There is a need for interdisciplinary approaches to integrate environmental data and cultural heritage preservation in protecting African American cemeteries from sea level rise. This requires strategies that consider both the physical impacts of sea level rise and the broader framework that prioritizes environmental threats of cultural heritage sites.



Bethel AME cemetery
Photo Credit: Jocelyn Patterson

Dirleton Cemetery
Photo Credit: FindAGrave.com

Laurel Hill Plantation
Photo Credit: FindAGrave.com

Shackleford Family Burial
Photo Credit: FindAGrave.com

Figure 4.20: Ben Horry Trail
Photo Credit: FindAGrave.com

New Bethel Cemetery
Photo Credit: FindAGrave.com

Risk Assessment Framework

Table 3.2: Environmental Threat Assessment Criteria

Criteria	Description	Scoring Scale
Proximity to coastline/water bodies	Distance to nearest coastline or body of water	5 – 0-1,500 ft 3 – 1,501 ft – 2,499 ft 1 - >2,500 ft
Flood Risk (FEMA Zones)	Inclusion in FEMA designated flood zones	5 - High Risk (Zone A, AE, AH, AO, V, VE) 3 - Moderate or Low Risk (Zone X shaded or unshaded 1-Undetermined risk
Elevation	Cemetery's elevation above sea level	5 - 0-10ft 3 - 11-20ft 1 - 21ft+
Sea Level Rise Projections	Rise of inundation under NOAA sea-level rise scenarios	5 - 1 inundated under 1-5 ft 3 - Inundated under 6-10 ft 1 - No impact
Storm Surge	Likelihood of soil erosion impacting the site	5 - Cat 1-2 3 - Cat 3-5 1 - No Impact

Table 3.3: Cultural Significance Assessment Criteria

Criteria	Description	Scoring Scale
Cultural Significance	Cemetery's role in African American History or connection to historic events	5 - NRHP status 3 - Part of Historic District/Property 1 - Eligible
Legal Protections	Zoning regulations/BAR/ Conservation easements	5 - Zoning/BAR 3 - Limited/Conservation easements 1 – None

Table 3.4: Site Characteristics Assessment Criteria

Criteria	Description	Scoring Scale
Accessibility	Access to sites for preservation work	5 - No access/private 3 - Limited some barriers 1 - Easy, fully accessible
Land Ownership	Ownership type (private, public, religious)	5 - Privately Owned/Religious 3 - Public 1 - Public/with conservation

Table 3.5: Risk Score Categories and Description

Risk Score	Risk Level	Description
1.0 – 2.0	Low	Stabe conditions, routine monitoring recommended Minimal threat of flooding, saltwater intrusion or erosion.
2.1 – 3.5	Moderate	Manageable risks, exposure to seasonal flooding. Accelerated decay of headstones, moderate erosion
3.6 – 5.0	High	Significant vulnerability, chronic inundation Catastrophic flooding and structural damage. Displacement of burials and groundwater intrusion.

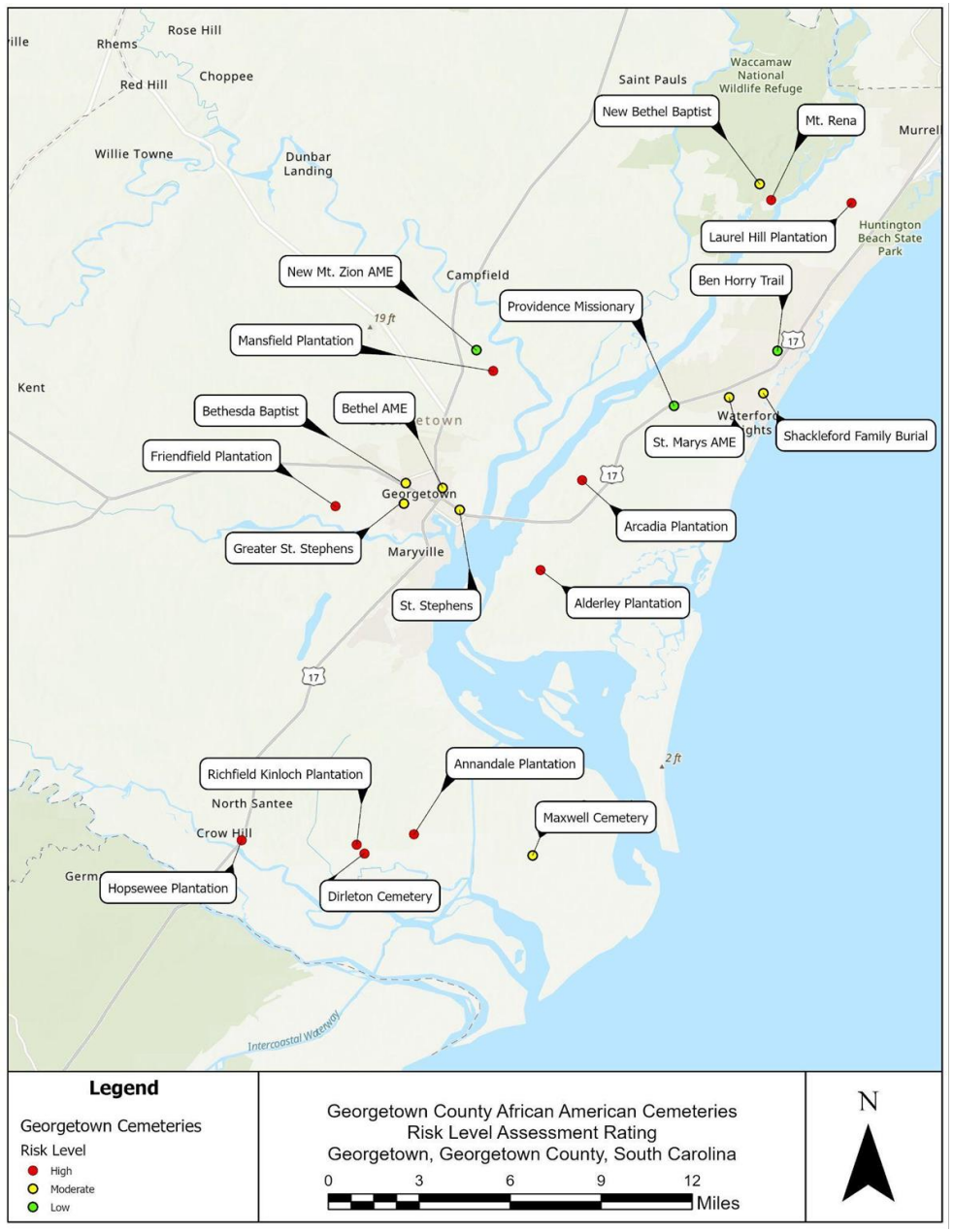
Scoring Scale:
1 Low
2 Moderate
3 High

Total overall risk score for each cemetery is the sum of all threat scores affecting that cemetery.

(Environmental Threat x 50%) + (Cultural Significance x 30%) + (Site Characteristics x 20%) = Risk Score

Summary of Findings

Table 5.1: Summary of Research Questions	
Research Question	**Findings**
Primary Research Question How can cultural significance factors be incorporated into an environmental risk assessment framework to assist with prioritizing the preservation of at-risk coastal cemeteries?	The integration of cultural significance factors played a significant role in assessing risks to historic African American cemeteries. The scoring added depth and nuance to the risk model by acknowledging cemeteries with cultural value.
Secondary Research Question 1 Which historic cemeteries are most at risk to loss or damage via water inundation?	Cemeteries located below 12 feet in elevation, within 2,500 feet of a water body, and in high-risk flood zones are the most at risk. These cemeteries also experience high storm surges at Cat. 1, greater than 3 feet and sea level rise projections of water inundation at 1-5 feet. High risk cemeteries were on historic rice plantations.
Table 5.1: Summary of Research Questions	
Secondary Research Question 2 Which historic cemeteries are at a low risk to loss or damage via water inundation?	Cemeteries at higher elevations, outside of flood-prone areas (Zone X), and farther from major water bodies were found to have no impact or low risk of water inundation. Additionally, these cemeteries were affiliated with African American churches.
Secondary Research Question 3 Which environmental threats have the most substantial impact on water inundation?	Elevation, flood risk zones, and storm surge exposure were the most significant environmental threats. Cemeteries in low-lying areas experience flooding and increasing storm surge impacts. Sea level rise projections also indicate a long-term risk of water inundation for many sites.



Proposed Future Research

Expand to Include Other Environmental Threats

Adjust risk assessment tool based on environmental factors and cultural significance.

Community Engagement

Explore how community driven preservation can be integrated into risk assessment frameworks.

Long Term Monitoring of Cemeteries

Provide valuable data on deterioration to improve the accuracy of the risk assessments and inform preservation planning.

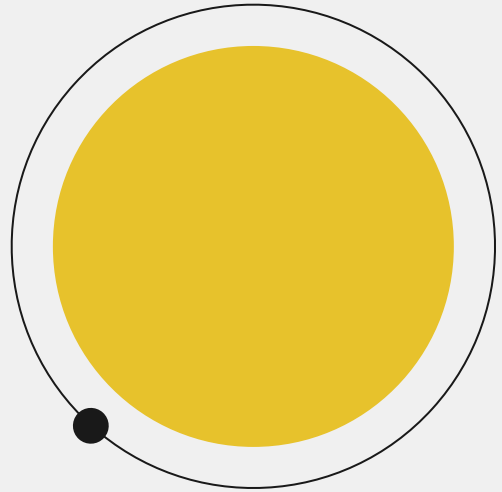
Thank You!

After Midnight: Analyzing Legacy Business Programs' Potential to Capture Patron Perspectives Through A Case Study of Four Charleston, SC Nightlife Spaces

Shawnya Peterson
South Carolina Historic Preservation Conference
April 25, 2025

Introduction

- Legacy Business Programs (LBPs): growing initiatives to recognize long-running community businesses
- Democratization of Historic Preservation
- Patrons are important components of Legacy Businesses
- Do LBPs capture patron experience?



Primary Research Question:

Do LBP application questions capture the important business characteristics that patrons choose to highlight as they share their experiences on public review platforms?

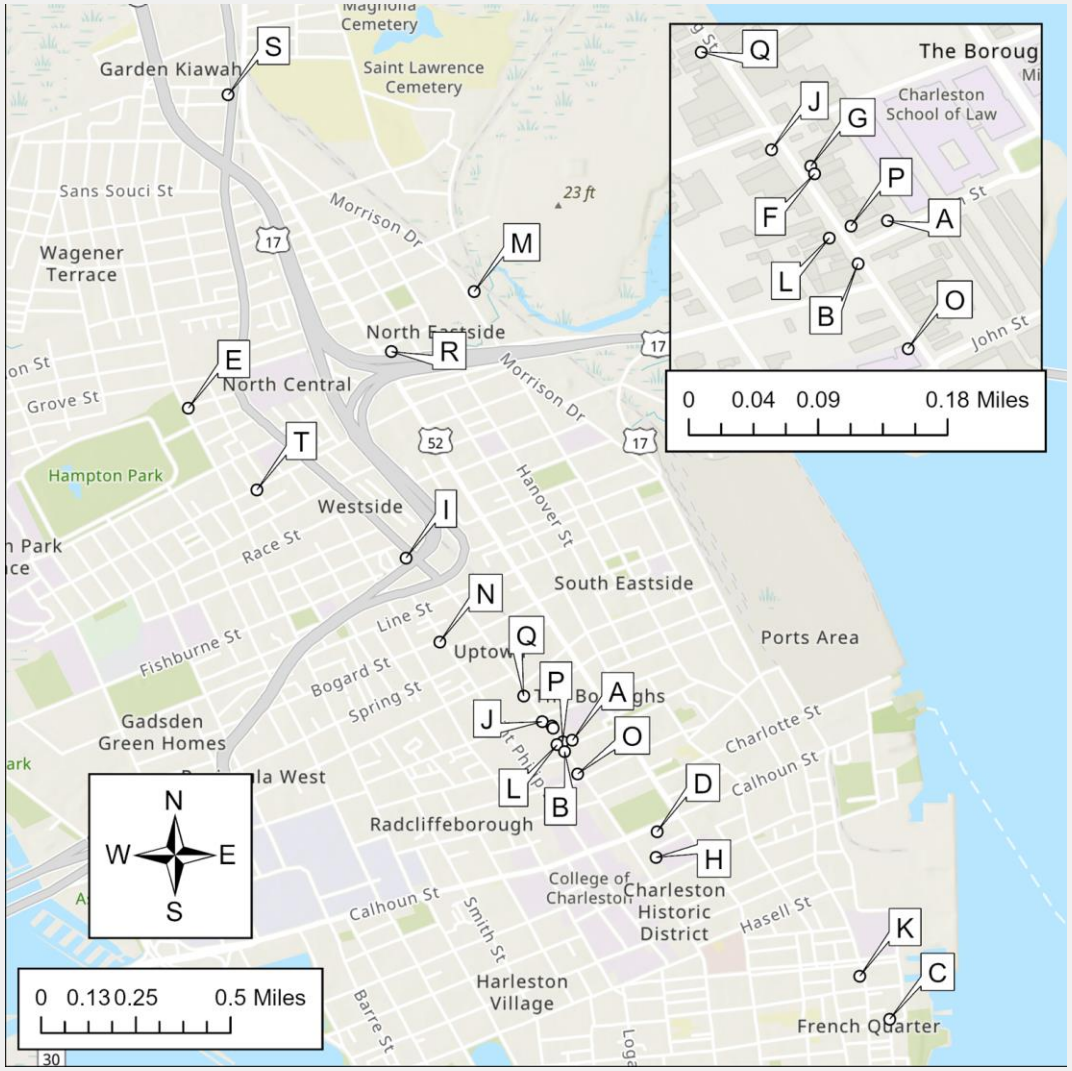
Four Case Study Legacy Nightlife Businesses

The Recovery Room Tavern
A.C.'s
Proof
Mac's Place

Legacy Business Program Research

40 LBPs
Across the US

Charleston, SC Legacy Nightlife Businesses



20 Nightlife Businesses
10+ years old

Four Case Study Legacy Nightlife Businesses

- The Recovery Room
- Tavern
- A.C.'s
- Proof
- Mac's Place

Business Review Patron Themes

- 4 Case Study Nightlife Businesses
- 39 Total Themes

Category	**Recovery Room**	**Proof**	**Mac's Place**	**AC's**
Characteristics/ Overview	Dive Bar Atmosphere	Craft Cocktails and Mixology Expertise	Chicago Sports Theme and Atmosphere	Dive Bar Atmosphere
Affordability/ Value	Cheap Drinks and PBR Top Seller	Value for Money	Reasonable Prices	Affordable Prices
Friendly Service	Friendly and Attentive Staff	Knowledgeable and Friendly Staff	Friendly and Attentive Service	Service
Activities & In-Person Experience	Games and Entertainment	COVID-19 Safety Measures	Sports Viewing Experience	Entertainment and Activities
Food	Bar Food	Food and Snacks	Food Quality and Variety	Quality Food

Legacy Business Program Application Questions

- Applications with questions that solicit specific qualitative feedback

Program	**Application Questions**
San Francisco, CA	16
Birmingham, AL	14
Sarasota. FL	11
Los Angeles, CA	10
Long Beach, CA	7
San Marcos, TX	6
Pasadena, CA	4
Phoenix, AZ	3
Evanston, IL	2
Delray Beach, FL	2
Napa County, CA	1

	PASADENA				LONG BEACH							EVANSTON		SAN MARCOS						DRB		PHOENIX			NAPA	SAN FRANCISCO																BIRMINGHAM														LOS ANGELES										SARASOTA											SCORE
	A	B	C	D	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	A	B	A	B	C	D	E	F	A	B	A	B	C	A	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	
Bar One: Recovery Room																																																																													
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Bar Three: Mac's Place																																																																														
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T7	X	-	-	X	-	-	-	X	-	-	-	X	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	X	-	-	-	-	X	-	-	-	-	X	-	-	-	-	X	-	-	-	-	-	X	-	-	X	-	-	-	-	X	-	X	-	X	X	-	-	X	-	-	X	X	-	-	-	-	-	-	X	-	18
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T9	X	-	-	X	X	X	-	X	-	-	-	X	X	-	-	-	X	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	X	-	X	-	-	-	X	-	-	-	-	X	-	-	-	-	X	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	X	-	X	-	-	X	X	X	X	-	X	X	-	-	-	X	X	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	X	-	24
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Legacy Business Program Effectiveness at Capturing Patron Perspectives

- RQ 1.1: Do LBP application questions capture the important business characteristics that patrons choose to highlight as they share their experiences on public review platforms?

- **Overall Most Effective:** Los Angeles, CA
  - 89.7% of 39 total patron themes
- 11 analyzed LBPs captured 52% of total patron information
  - **Moderately** effective
- 26 LBPs: captured 22% of patron information
  - **Minimally** effective
- 33% of all questions did not capture any paton themes

Thank you!

I welcome your questions,
feedback, and suggestions.

shawnyp@clemson.edu

4/25/2025

Nolly Swan

A Comparative Analysis of Cultural Preservation Focused Land-Use Regulations within the Gullah Geechee Cultural Heritage Corridor of South Carolina

South Carolina Historic Preservation Conference;
Friday, April 25th, 2025
By: Nolly Swan, Clemson University

4/25/2025

Nolly Swan

Context

Gullah Geechee & GGCHC

Gullah Geechee People:
The Gullah Geechee people are descendants of Africans who were enslaved on the rice, indigo, and cotton plantations of the Atlantic coast. The nature of their enslavement on isolated island and coastal plantations created a unique culture with deep African roots that are clearly visible in the Gullah Geechee people's language, cuisine, music, art, and other cultural practices.

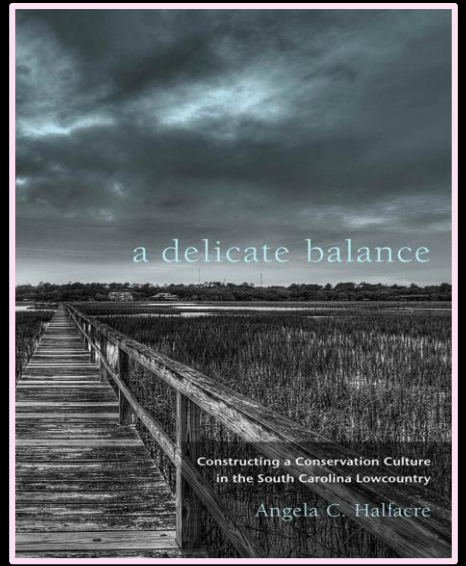
4/25/2025

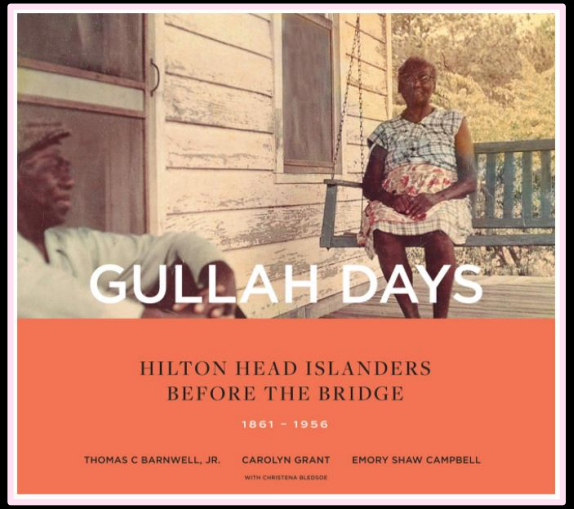
Nolly Swan

Research Problem *Why?*

Research Problem: In the late 1980s and 90s, land-use regulations were implemented to guide development and prevent loss of cultural and natural resources.

However since implementation, no comprehensive reviews, reports, or studies have been conducted to prove effectiveness of the regulations at achieving their goals. Recently, there has been lots of contention around the development of Pine Island, Beaufort County.





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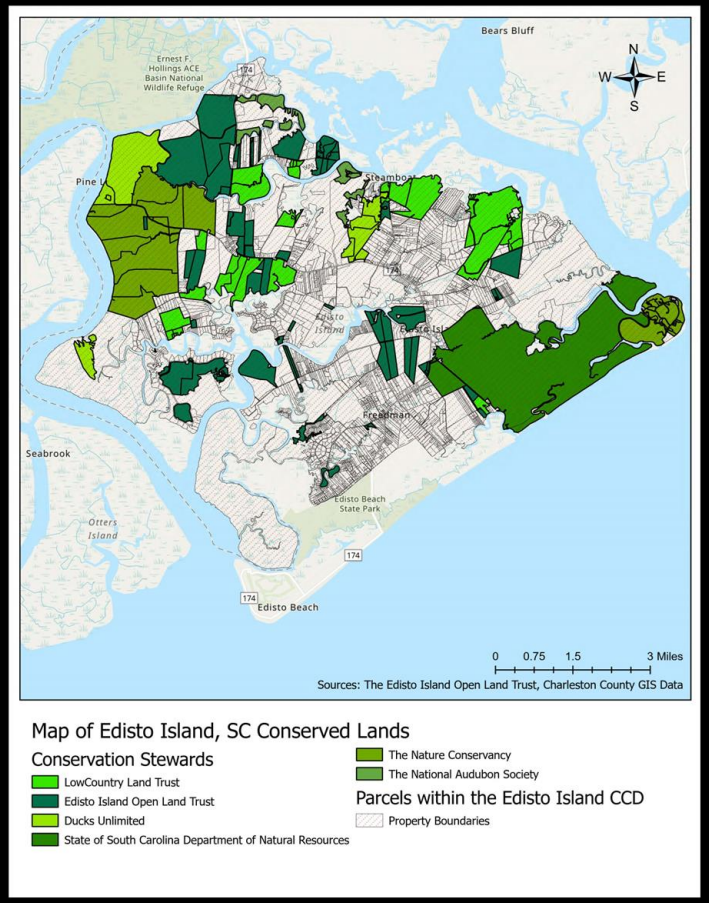
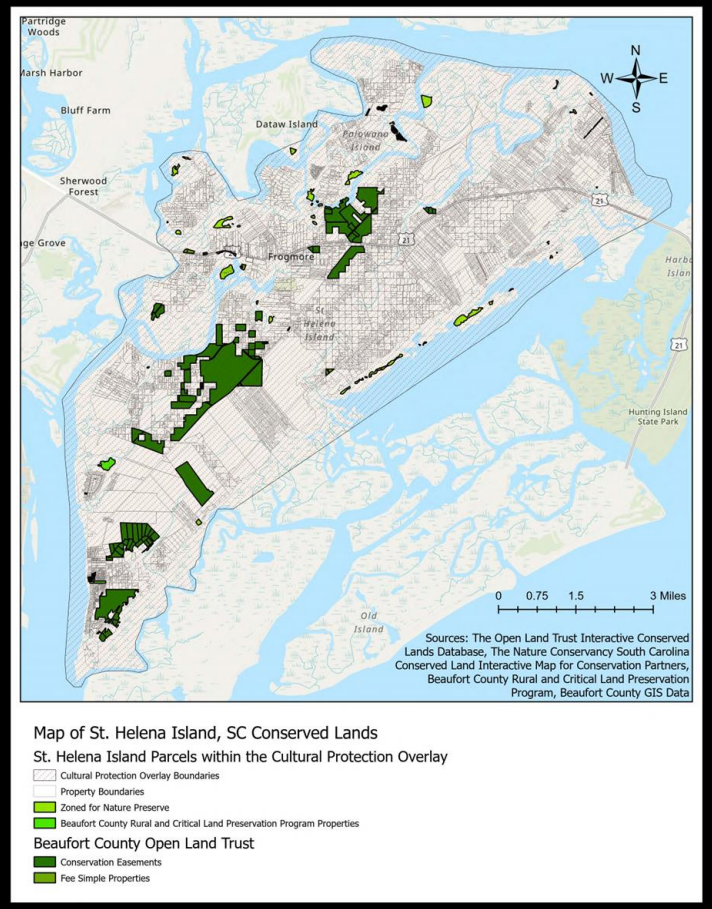
Conservation of Land *Comparative Analysis*

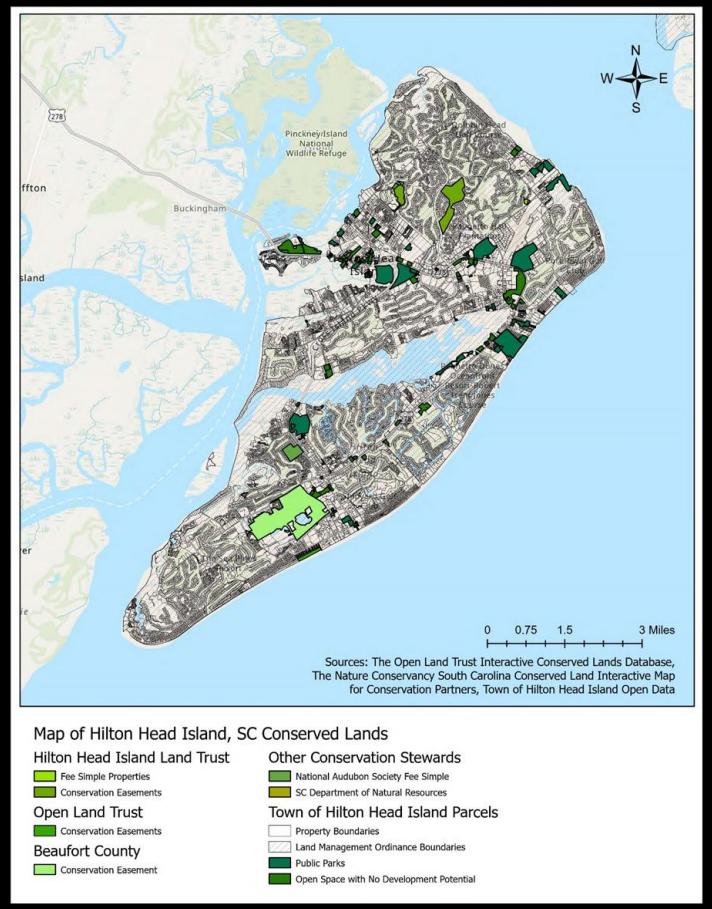
Edisto Island – Conservation Easements



St. Helena Island – Cultural Protection Overlay



Hilton Head Island – Land Management Ordinance



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Overall Scores *For achieving individual goals*

Final Land-Use Regulation Scores		
Edisto Island Open Land Trust	St. Helena Island Cultural Protection Overlay	Hilton Head Island Land Management Ordinance
3.73	**2.11**	**2.98**

*on a 4 point scale where,
0 = low achievement
4 = high achievement

All Land-Use Regulation Unweighted Scores by Goal/Variable			
Goal	**Land Use Regulation**		
	Edisto	**St. Helena**	**Hilton Head**
Conservation of Land and Natural Resources	**4**	**2.5**	**4**
Conservation of Cultural and Historic Resources	**4**		
Compliance with the Town's Comprehensive Plan	Not applicable	**2.87**	**1.5**
Rural Quality of Life / Resident Retention and Housing Cost	**1.3**	**1**	**2.5**
Community Engagement / Education	**4**	Not applicable	Not applicable

4/25/2025

Nolly Swan

Conclusions *Recommendations, Limitations, & Implications*

Findings

- Increased Partnerships allowed for greater goal achievement of lower priority goals
- Approaches to cultural and natural resource preservation varied based on amount of developed/developable land.
- Perpetual restrictions have greater potential for successful resource preservation than covenants or zoning regulations because of their permanence.
- Land Ownership and cultural population stewardship is key to long-term, widespread cultural landscape preservation.

Recommendations

- Stewards and LURs define and measure their goals regularly
- Participate in more partnerships with aligned organizations
- Leverage Community Engagements for greater representation in stewardship

Implications for Planners, Preservationists, and Stewards

- Successful Cultural Resource Preservation *requires resident empowerment* to support community engagement and participation
- By using multiple variables to study effectiveness, greater ability to interpret local conditions/characteristics
- Cultural Landscapes are not stagnant, therefore their protection mechanisms must be regularly reviewed and updated to remain effective

Thank You! Let's Connect on LinkedIn @Nolly Swan or email:
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THESIS TITLE:
"QUANTIFYING THE TRANSFORMATION OF THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT AS A RESULT OF COOPER RIVER BRIDGE CONSTRUCTION IN CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA"

Presented by:

Claire Jackson

Clemson M.S.H.P., 2025

John P "**Grace**" Memorial Bridge, c. 1929

Silas N "**Pearman**" Bridge, c. 1966

Arthur "**Ravenel**" Jr. Bridge, c. 2005

FINDINGS

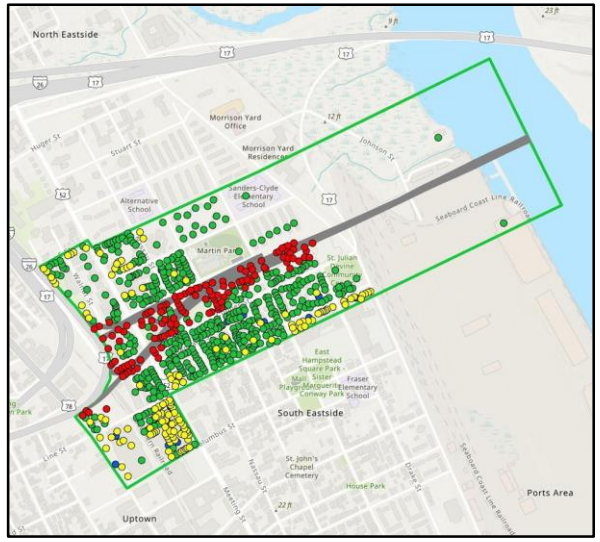
Table 5.1. Architectural Loss Data for the Grace Bridge, Pearman Bridge, and Ravenel Bridge	
Quantity of Buildings Demolished for Grace Bridge	**0**
Quantity of Buildings Demolished for Pearman Bridge	124
Quantity of Buildings Demolished for Ravenel Bridge	49
Quantity of Total Buildings Demolished Cumulatively	173

Table 5.2. Total Quantities of Identified and Surveyed Demolished Historic Buildings

	Pearman Bridge		Ravenel Bridge	
	Historic	**Not Historic**	**Historic**	**Not Historic**
Quantity of Total Demolished Buildings	25	99	29	20
Quantity of Demolished Buildings Included in Surveys	20	50	7	0
Degree of Survey Accuracy (%)	80%	50.5%	24.1%	0%
Total Degree of Survey Accuracy (%)	56.5%		14.3%	

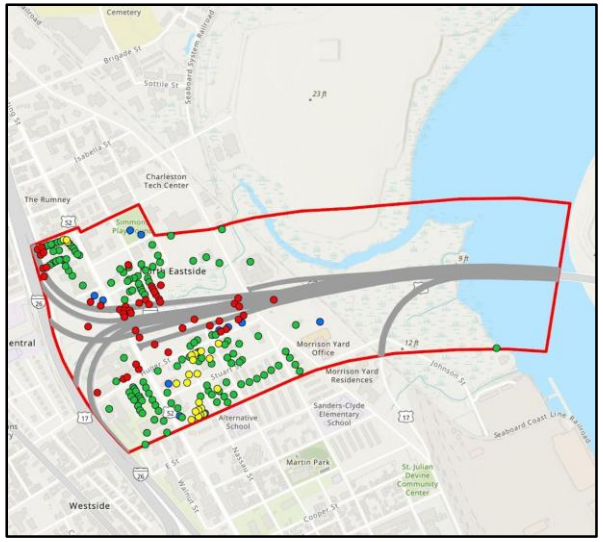
Most Common Architectural Forms and Materials Demolished for Bridge Construction		
	Pearman Bridge	**Ravenel Bridge**
Identifiable Architectural Typology	Single House	Freedman's Cottage + Freedman's Cottage, L-Shaped Variation
Building Use	Dwelling	Dwelling
Height	1 Story	1 Story
Building Form	Linear	Linear
Porch Form	Traditional Piazza	Traditional Piazza
Porch Height	1 Story	1 Story
Additions Present?	No	No
Structural Material	Wood	Wood
Cladding Material	Wood Clapboard	Wood Clapboard
Roofing Material	Metal	Metal

Distribution of Architectural Loss (Below)

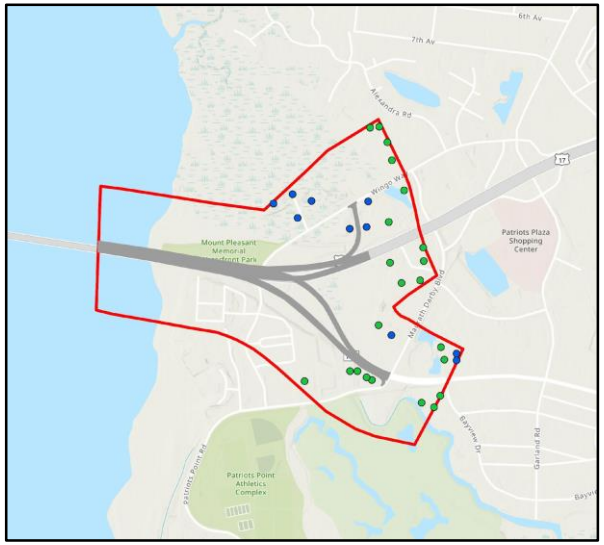


Pearman Bridge, peninsular Charleston study area


Pearman Bridge, Mount Pleasant study area



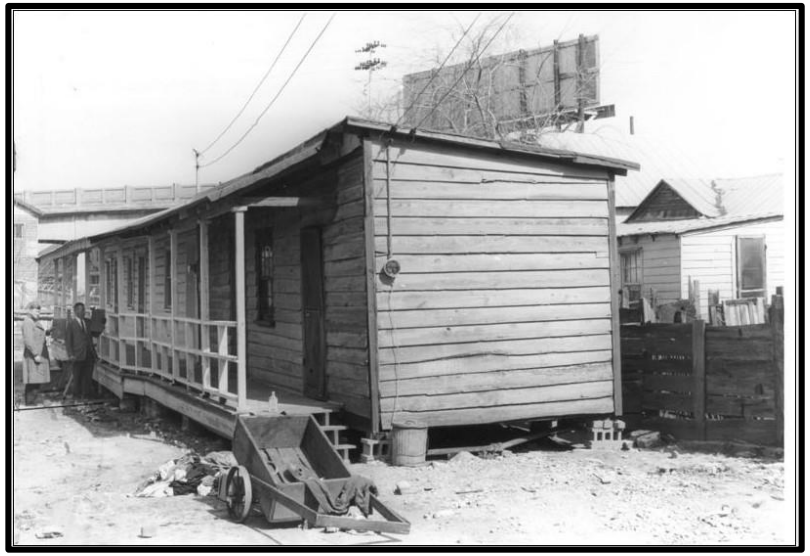
Ravenel Bridge, peninsular Charleston study area


Ravenel Bridge, Mount Pleasant study area

175 Nassau Street

75 Lee Street

82 Cooper Street



20 ⅕ Cooper Street

2 Lee Street

174 Nassau Street

Conclusions

IMPLICATIONS	RECOMMENDATIONS
✓ Transportation projects tend to be placed in locations where other existing transportation infrastructure exists, and that **existing infrastructure can have cumulative physical effects** that the preliminary architectural surveys do not account for. ✓ While the Section 106 process reduces architectural loss, its **criteria for consideration are too exclusive**, and the depth of its surveys is often **too superficial to effectively and consistently document vernacular architectural heritage.**	➢ To account for cumulative physical effects and to create a more comprehensive record of the built environment, architectural surveying practices should be amended to include: ➢ The area of potential effects (APE) established for preliminary architectural surveys should increase with the size of a proposed transportation project. ➢ In preliminary surveys for larger projects, increased comprehension should be achieved by implementing broad photographic documentation. ➢ Then proceed with further documentation of buildings identified as eligible for listing or listed to the NRHP.

Feel free to email or text me if you have further questions or want to chat more about my thesis!

Also happy to send a copy of my research to anyone who is interested.

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Preserving Historic Houses: An Analysis Of Cleaning Methods for the Removal Of Fire Extinguisher Discharge On Historic Finished Plaster

Jessica Ridder
Clemson University
M.S. Historic Preservation
Spring 2025

Problem and Significance

- Fire extinguishers within historic house museums can cause damage to materials
  - Types A, BC, and ABC
- Removing the discharge quickly and easily can save the integrity of finished plaster
  - Seven cleaning methods used across 85 samples

A

Water

Cellulose material fires

BC

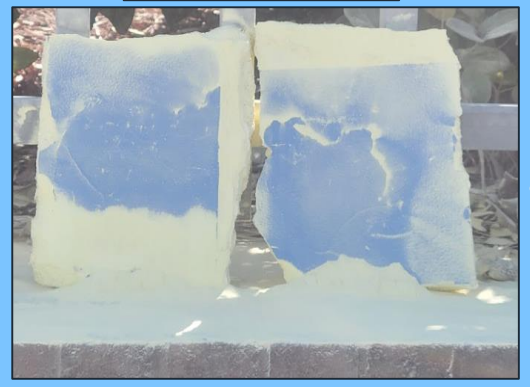
Carbon Dioxide

Flammable liquids and gasses
Electrical equipment fires

ABC

Monoammonium phosphate

Combination fires
multipurpose



Method #	Cleaning Method	Type A	Type BC	Type ABC
1	Vacuuming and Dry Brushing		✓	✓
2	Soot Eraser	✓	✓	✓
3	Vulpex™ Liquid Soap	✓	✓	✓
4	Latex-Based Cleaner	✓	✓	✓
5	Swabbing with Deionized Water	✓	✓	✓
6	Wet Brushing		✓	✓
7	Heat Incubation	✓		

Cleaning Method	Extinguisher Type	Found Results
Vacuuming and Dry Brushing	Type BC	Residue remaining on painted surfaces. Loose aggregate on exposed plaster
	Type ABC	Fibers embedded into painted surface. Residue remaining on surface and in exposed plaster
Soot Eraser	Type A	Some plaster particles remaining in uneven areas of the surface
	Type BC	Little residue remaining. No paint loss on surface
	Type ABC	Some residue remaining in uneven areas of surface
Vulpex™ Liquid Soap	Type A	Some shiny residue on surfaces. Particles present in uneven areas of surface
	Type BC	Some shiny residue on surfaces. Particles present in uneven areas of surface
	Type ABC	Moderate to major staining of surface. Residue remaining.
Latex-Based Cleaner	Type A	Little to no particles remaining on painted surface. Removed paint section
	Type BC	No residue remaining. No damage to surface
	Type ABC	Some samples had no residue remaining and no damage. Some had residue remaining with some staining

Phase 2 Findings – Overall

Cleaning Method	Extinguisher Type	Found Results
Swabbing With Deionized Water	Type BC	Some residue remains on surfaces, some shiny particles
	Type ABC	Particles remaining in deeper areas of sample surfaces
Wet Brushing	Type BC	Particles remaining on surface, some shiny. Some streaking
	Type ABC	Particles remaining and streaked on surface. Appears shiny
Heat Incubation	Type A	Cracking and some plaster particles remaining on surface. No staining

Efficacy of Cleaning Methods				
Method	**Type A**	**Type BC**	**Type ABC**	**Overall**
Vacuuming and Dry Brushing		Excellent	Good	Good
Soot Eraser	Good	Excellent	Good	Excellent
Vulpex™ Liquid Soap	Good	Good	Good	Good
Latex-Based Cleaner	Good	Excellent	Good	Good
Swabbing with Deionized Water	Good	Excellent	Good	Good
Wet Brushing		Good	Good	Good
Heat Incubation	Good			Good