

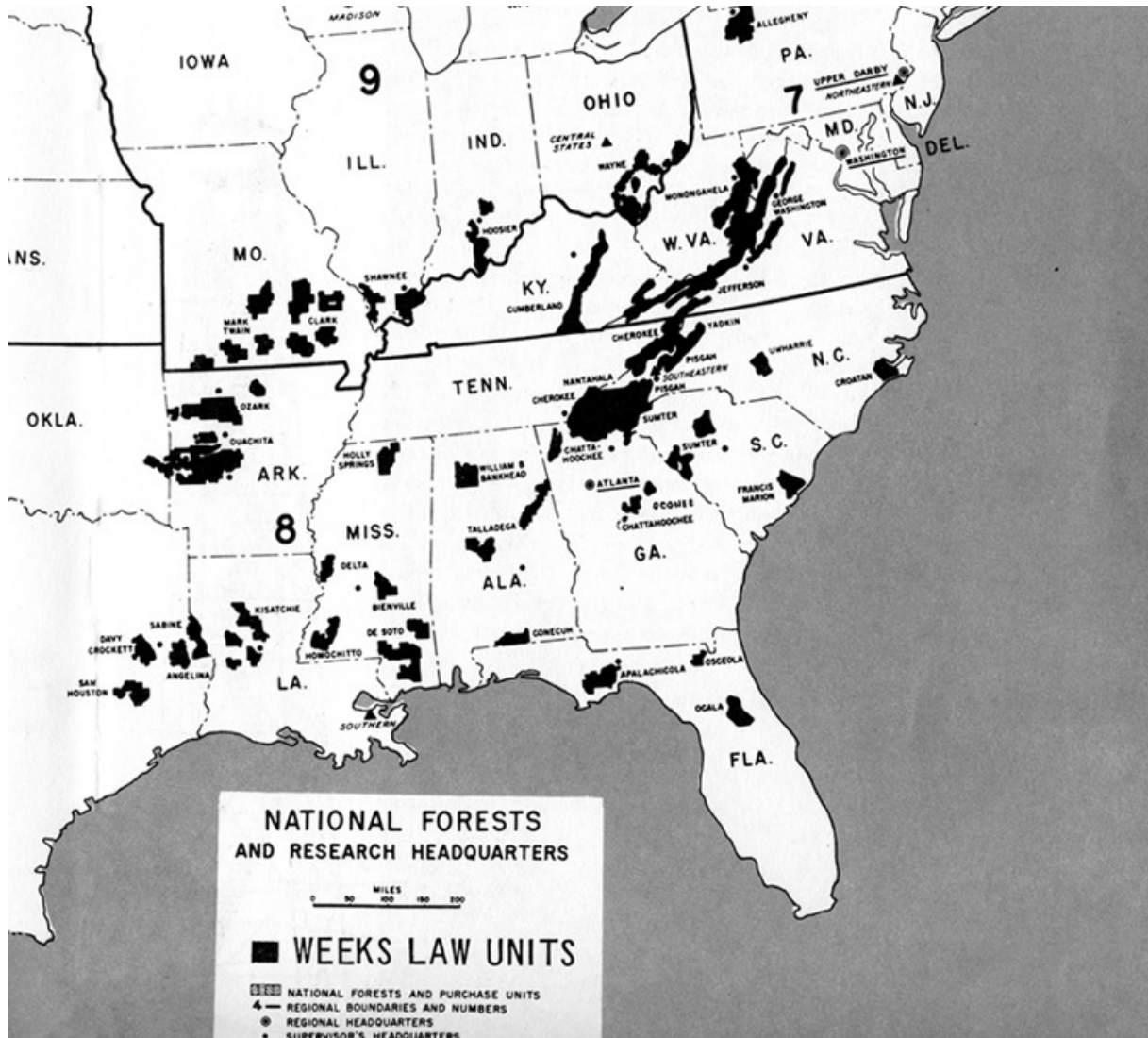
The Impact of Hurricane Helene on the Cemeteries of Sumter National Forest



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Francis Marion and Sumter National Forests

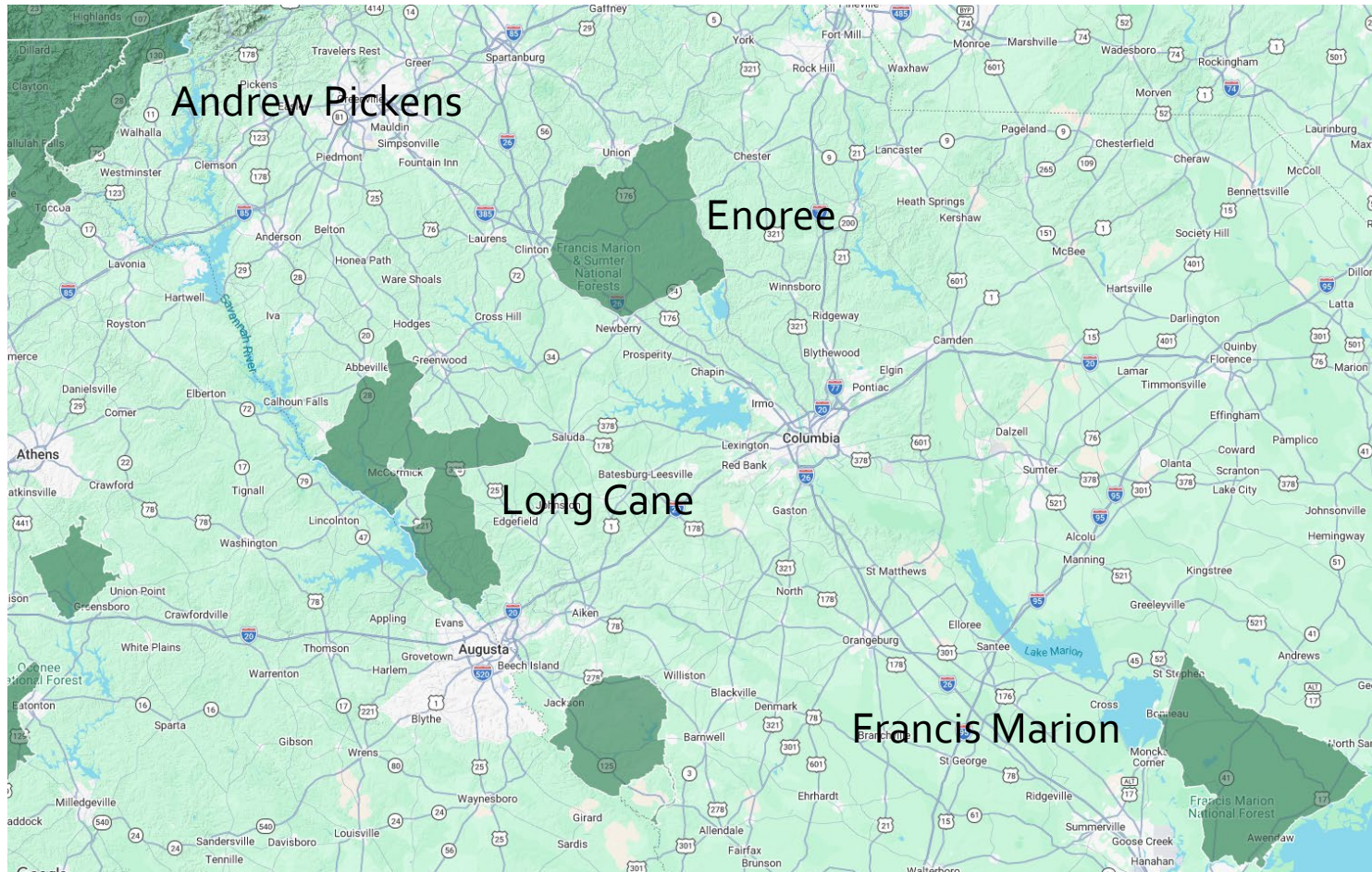


A Brief Overview of the US Forest Service in SC



- 1901 SC General Assembly passed Act of Consent No. 346
- 1905 US Forest Service formed
- 1911 The Weeks Act Passed
- 1911 Savannah Purchase Unit established (SC and GA)
- 1914 Reservation commission began land purchases in Oconee Co. for the General Pickens District
- 1928 the Black River and Wambaw Purchase Unit were established
- 1929 after multiple boundary changes the Savannah was merged into the Nantahala Purchase Unit
- 1933 the Black River purchase Unit was discontinued
- 1934 the Long Cane and Enoree Purchase Units were established
- July 10, 1936, Franklin D. Roosevelt established the Francis Marion NF and three days later July 13, 1936 established the Sumter national Forest

Francis Marion & Sumter National Forests



4 Ranger Districts

- Andrew Pickens – 84,254 acres
- Enoree—167,519 acres
- Francis Marion—263,677 acres
- Long Cane—122,016 acres

Landscape Restoration



Timber Management and Production





FIRE SUPPRESSION

Wildfire suppression later transitioned prescribed fire for fuels and vegetation management to prevent catastrophic wildfires and for ecosystem improvement

Expanded Forest Service Mission

Since the agency was founded the Forest Service mission continued to expand. Today's Forest Service manages public lands for multiple missions.

Protect and Manage Lands: Care for national forests and grasslands across 193 million acres, ensuring sustainable use, recreation, and wildlife protection

Wildland Fire Management: Handle ground and aerial fire suppression teams, manage equipment, track fires with forecasting technology, and lead post-fire restoration.

State, Private, and Tribal Forestry Provide technical and financial assistance to help private landowners, states, and tribes manage and protect their forest resources.

Community Support: Assist cities and communities in using local trees and forests to promote rural economic development.

Research and Development: Develop scientific and technical knowledge through major research organizations to improve forest health

Heritage Program: Program to protect and preserve important archaeological, architectural and tribal sites on the Forest.

Forest Service Heritage Program

National Historic Preservation Act

The historical and cultural foundations of the Nation should be preserved as a living part of our community life and development to give a sense of orientation to the American people. 16U.S.C. 470(b)(3)

It shall be the policy of the Federal Government to foster conditions under which our modern society and our prehistoric and historic resources can exist in productive harmony and fulfill the social, economic and other requirements of present and future generations (NHPA Section 2).

Organic Act of 1897

- Governs the administration of and lawful public access to National Forest System lands
 - Is one authority used to issue permits for archaeological surveys (but not excavations)
- 36CFR261.1 and 261.8(g-h)

Antiquities Act of 1906

- Requires permits to remove antiquities from public lands
 - Established penalties for removal, destruction, or damage to antiquities
 - Gives the President the authority to establish National Monuments
- Impm existing regulations for all federal agencies are found at 43CFR3, see also 36CFR261.9(g-h). Most of this law was replaced by ARPA in 1979.

Historic Sites Act of 1935

- Established national policy for preservation of sites, buildings, and objects of national significance
 - Created the Historic American Building Survey (HABS) and the Historic American Engineering Record (HAER)
 - Created the National Historic Landmarks Program
 - Authorizes federal acquisition of historic properties
 - Gives federal government the authority to protect/preserve/ conserve and establish museums
- Impm existing regulations for all federal agencies are found at 36CFR65

Reservoir Salvage Act of 1960

- Requires federal agencies to notify the Secretary of the interior in writing before constructing or licensing the construction of a dam
- Requires the Secretary of the Interior to cause a survey to be made of the area proposed to be flooded for historical and archeological data
- Provides for the collection and preservation of significant data
- Authorizes the appropriation of funds to carry out the purposes of this Act

The National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 as amended (NHPA)

- Established the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP)
 - Established State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) programs and responsibilities
 - Allows Tribes to assume SHPO responsibilities on Tribal land
 - Established the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (Sec of Agriculture is a member)
 - Requires federal agencies to take into account the effect of any federal or federally funded, licensed, or assisted undertaking on any district, site, building, structure, or object that is included in or eligible for inclusion in the NRHP (Sec 106)
 - Requires each federal agency to assume responsibility for the preservation of historic properties in its ownership (Sec 110)
 - Requires each federal agency to establish a preservation program for the identification, evaluation, nomination to the NRHP, and protection of historic properties (Sec 110)
- Impm existing regulations for all federal agencies are found at: 36CFR800, 36CFR60, 36CFR63, 36CFR65, 36CFR78 - see also 36CFR79

Primary Federal Laws and Executive Orders Directing the Management of Cultural Resources on Forest Service Lands

The National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA)

- Requires heritage resources be taken into account during the environmental analysis process
 - Provides national direction that 106 consultation (NHPA) be completed prior to signing decision documents
- Impm existing regulations for all federal agencies are found at 40CFR1500-1509

Executive Order 11593 (1972)

- Directs federal agencies to treat properties considered eligible for listing in the NRHP as if they were listed on the NRHP
 - Requires agencies to survey all their landholdings and nominate all significant sites to the NRHP
- The requirements of this EO were incorporated into the 1976 amendments to the NHPA**

Archeological and Historic Preservation Act of 1974 (Moss-Bennett)

- Extended the provisions of the Reservoir Salvage Act of 1960 to cover any alteration of the terrain caused as a result of any federal construction project or federally licensed activity or program
- Gives the Secretary of the Interior the authority to begin survey and recovery work before receiving notification from the constructing agency
- Authorizes federal agencies to expend appropriated project funds to undertake archeological surveys and salvage excavations

American Indian Religious Freedom Act (1978)

- Requires federal agencies to evaluate their policies and procedures to ensure protection of Indian religious freedom
- Does not mandate access to public land, and Indian religious concerns do not automatically take precedence over other valid concerns

Archeological Resources Protection Act of 1979 as amended (ARPA)

- Enhanced the permitting requirements of the Antiquities Act of 1906
 - Strengthened the prohibitions and clarified the definitions of the Antiquities Act of 1906
 - Established civil and criminal penalties for the unauthorized excavation, removal, damage, alteration, or defacing of or trafficking in archeological resources
 - Exempts information about the nature and location of archeological resources from the Freedom of Information Act
- Impm existing regulations are found at 43CFR7 and 36CFR296; see also 36CFR79

Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act of 1990 (NAGPRA)

- Requires agencies to prepare inventories of human remains in their possession
 - Requires agencies to consult with affiliated Tribal groups regarding the treatment and disposition of these remains
 - Established a process for the return (upon request) of skeletal remains, grave goods, and other sacred objects to their groups of cultural affiliation
 - Requires ARPA permit, Tribal consultation, and prior determination of ownership and disposition of materials before excavation of human remains or funerary objects from federal or tribal lands can take place
- Impm existing regulations for all federal agencies are found at 43 CFR 10 see also www.oia.gov/nagpra/

Executive Order 13007 (1996) - Sacred Sites

- Requires federal agencies to accommodate access to and ceremonial use of Indian sacred sites by Indian religious practitioners
- Requires federal agencies to avoid adversely affecting the physical integrity of such sacred sites and to notify Tribes of policies or actions that might restrict access to or have the potential to adversely affect sacred sites

Executive Order 13175 (2000) - Consultation and Coordination with Indian Tribal Governments

- Directs federal agencies to establish regular and meaningful consultation and collaboration with Tribal officials in the development of policies or actions that have Tribal implications

Executive Order 13287 (2003) Preserve America

- Makes it the policy of the federal government to provide leadership in preserving America's heritage by actively advancing the protection, enhancement, and contemporary use of the historic properties owned by the federal government and by promoting intergovernmental cooperation and partnerships for the preservation and use of historic properties
- Requires federal agencies to prepare an assessment of the current status of its inventory of historic properties, the general needs of such properties, and steps underway or planned to meet those management needs

Executive Order 13327 (2004) - Federal Real Property Asset Management

- Requires federal agencies to account for cultural resource sites as real property (heritage assets)
 - Requires each federal agency's Senior Property Officer to incorporate planning and management requirements for heritage assets as directed by the Preserve America E.O. 13287
- see Statement of Federal Financial Accounting Standards (SFFAS) 29 - Heritage Assets and Stewardship Land and also Interim Directive 6509.11k-2006-14

Other Federal Laws (USFS) worth mentioning that include management of cultural resources

- Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976
- National Forest Management Act of 1976

The three underlined laws that have had major parts updated by later statutes or have been incorporated into amendments of other statutes

USFS Heritage Sites

District	Listed	Eligible	Unevaluated	Not Eligible	Total
Enoree RD	0	17	441	3149	3607
Andrew Pickens RD	2	12	82	306	402
Long Cane RD	0	14	558	3823	4395
Francis Marion RD	1	91	962	1821	2875
Totals	3	134	2043	9099	11279

District	Archaeological Sites	Historic Resources*	Cemeteries	Total
Enoree RD	3499	7	101	3607
Andrew Pickens RD	389	7	6	402
Long Cane RD	4288	3	104	4395
Francis Marion RD	2847	11	17	2875
Totals	11023	28	228	11279

*Historic Resources include Fire Towers, Historic Roads, Rock Piles, CCC-era Recreational Structures and Dwellings, Work Centers, Residences, Equipment Sheds, Garage Buildings, and Boundary Markers



Neal Shoals Hyrdoelectric (38UN324)



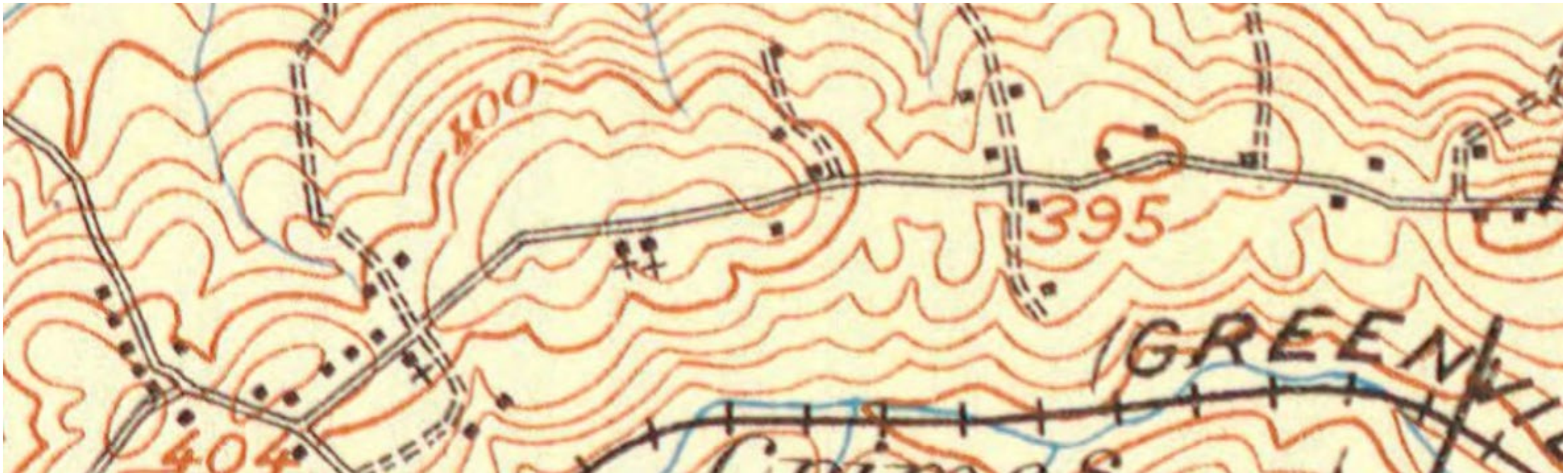
Forest Service Cemetery Management

Incidental Stewardship: Historic, family, and community graveyards already existed on many tracts of land when they were designated as national forests

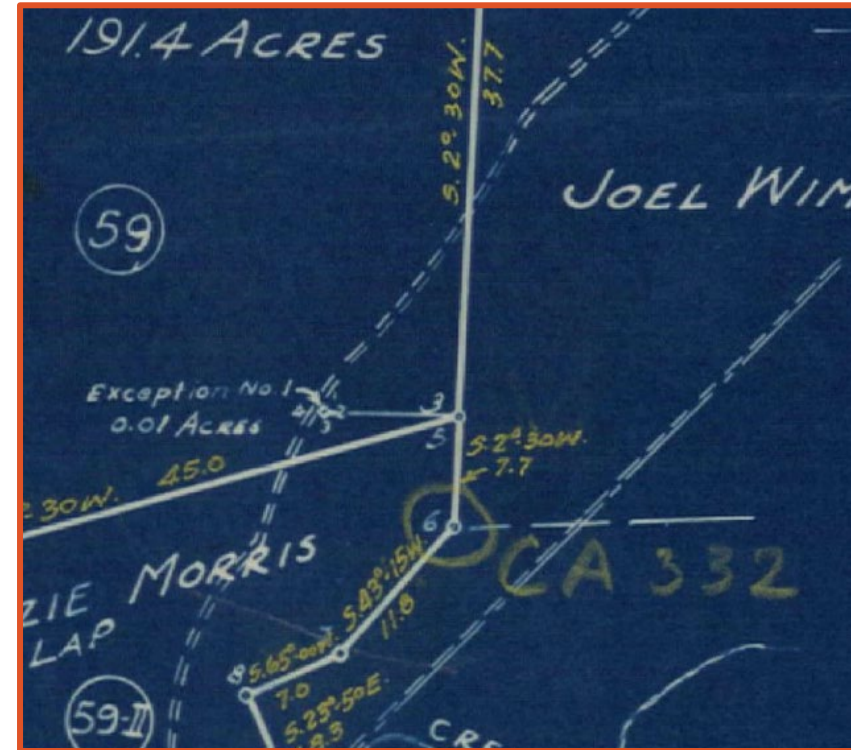
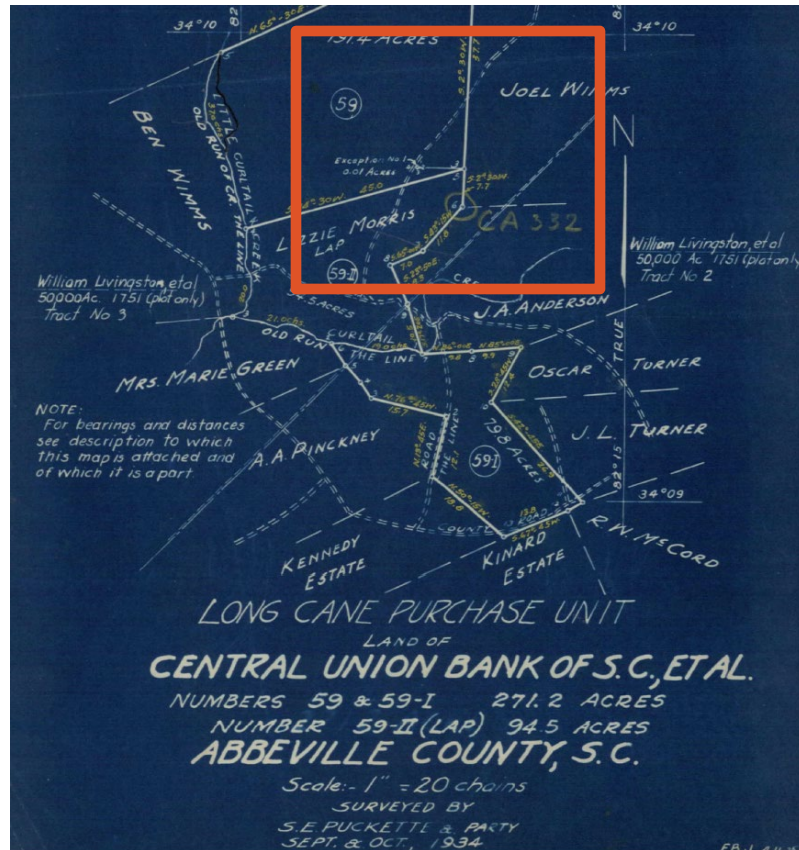
Rather than operating them as active burial sites, the U.S. Forest Service manages these plots as cultural resources or historical features, occasionally providing basic access or maintenance and only rarely interpretation.

Sumter NF Cemeteries

Cemeteries are relatively common the Sumter National Forest. They are considered sacred as well as having anthropological and archaeological value. They are protected by state laws but less so under federal laws. Many historic period cemeteries are known, since they appear on county maps and on Forest Service land acquisition plats and/or associated with churches.



Cemetery Exceptions



EXCEPTION No. 1 ADAMS CEMETERY

Beginning at Corner 1, the North corner of iron fence surrounding Cemetery. A scribed 6" pine bears N. 51° 30' E., 0.31 chain distant and a scribed 6" pine bears S. 47° 30' E., 0.25 chain distant.

Thence,
S. 39° 00' E., along said iron fence, 0.27 chain to Corner 2, the East corner of said iron fence. Corner 3 of Tract 59 bears S. 87° 30' E., 9.3 chains distant.

Thence,
S. 51° 00' W., along said iron fence, 0.27 chain to Corner 3, the South corner of said iron fence.

Thence,
N. 39° 00' W., along said iron fence, 0.27 chain to Corner 4, the West corner of said iron fence.

Thence,
N. 51° 00' E., along said iron fence, 0.27 chain to the Place of Beginning, containing ONE-HUNDREDTH (0.01) Acre, be the same more or less.

Cemetery Exceptions



Old Shaw Baptist Church Cemetery Chester County—Enoree Ranger District

IN MEMORY/OF
WILLIAM HILL, SENR
Who departed/This life
December 4th, 1843/age 72 years



Grave of Theodore Mitchell with Wooden Marker

Old Shaw Baptist Church Cemetery (38CS475)

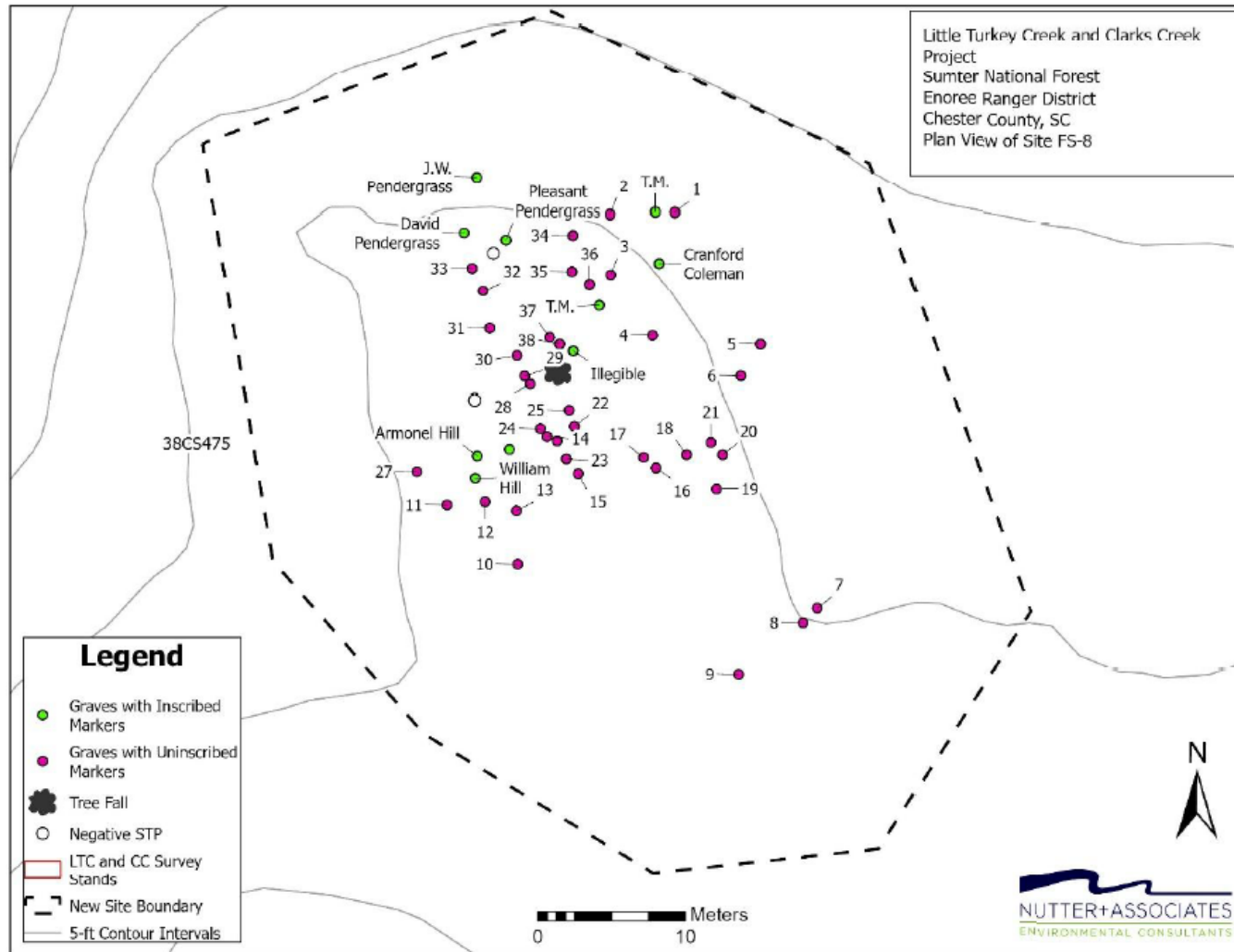


Figure 76. Plan View of 38CS475

The cemetery is associated with Old Shaw Baptist Church which probably burned in mid 19th century. The earliest burial dates to 1805 and continued until at least 1880.

Contains:

- 10 marked with inscribed stones
- 38 marked by uninscribed stones
- Probably additional unmarked burials (depressions)
- The location of the church has not yet been determined.

Old Tranquil Methodist Cemetery & Church (38NE377)



38NE377 Site Form

(05-7 Rev. 07)

STATE: SOUTH CAROLINA COUNTY: Newberry SITE NUMBER: 38 NE 377
Recorded By: Robert Wise Affiliation: US Forest Service Date: 2/9/93

A. GENERAL INFORMATION NE172-9

1. Site name: Tranquil ME Cemetery Project
2. USGS Quadrangle: Newberry West Date: 1969 Scale: (7.5) or 15 minute
3. UTM: Zone 17 Easting 4 37 150 Northing 38 03 180
4. Other map reference: Newberry County Soil Survey - Map 12
5. Descriptive site type:
Prehistoric _____ Historic Cemetery - Tranquil ME Church
6. Archaeological investigation: Survey X Testing _____ Excavation _____
7. Property owner: private - unknown Phone number: _____
8. Address: _____
9. Other site designations: _____
10. National Register of Historic Places status:
Potentially eligible _____ Probably not eligible X Additional work _____

Determined eligible _____ Office Use Only _____
On NRHP _____ Date _____

11. Level of significance: National _____ State _____ Local _____
12. Justification: Cemeteries are specifically exempted from the National Registry unless there is a grave of a historical figure of outstanding importance, or age, distinctive design features, or association with historic events. None of these exceptions apply.

B. ENVIRONMENT AND LOCATION

1. General physiographic province:
Lower Coastal Plain _____ Middle Coastal Plain _____ Upper Coastal Plain _____
Piedmont X Blue Ridge Mountains _____
2. Landform location: Ridge top Site elevation (above MSL): 550 (in feet)
3. On site soil type: Sandy loam Soil classification Ceal - eroded, gently sloping
4. Major river system: Pee Dee Santee Ashley-Combahee-Edisto Savannah
5. Nearest river/stream: headwaters of Johns Mountain Branch
6. Current vegetation: Pine/coniferous Hardwood Mixed pine/hardwood X
Old field _____ Grass/pasture _____ Agricultural/crops _____ Wetlands/freshwater _____
Wetlands/saltwater _____ Other _____ Comments: _____
7. Description of groundcover: Absent _____ Light _____ Moderate _____ Heavy X

C. SITE CHARACTERISTICS

1. Estimated site dimensions: 130 meters by 100 meters
2. Site depth: no shovel testing done cm.
3. Cultural features (type and number): Vaults, graves.

4. Presence of (circle): midden/floral remains/faunal remains/shell/charcoal YN
Human skeletal remains: present X preservation UNK poor
absent _____

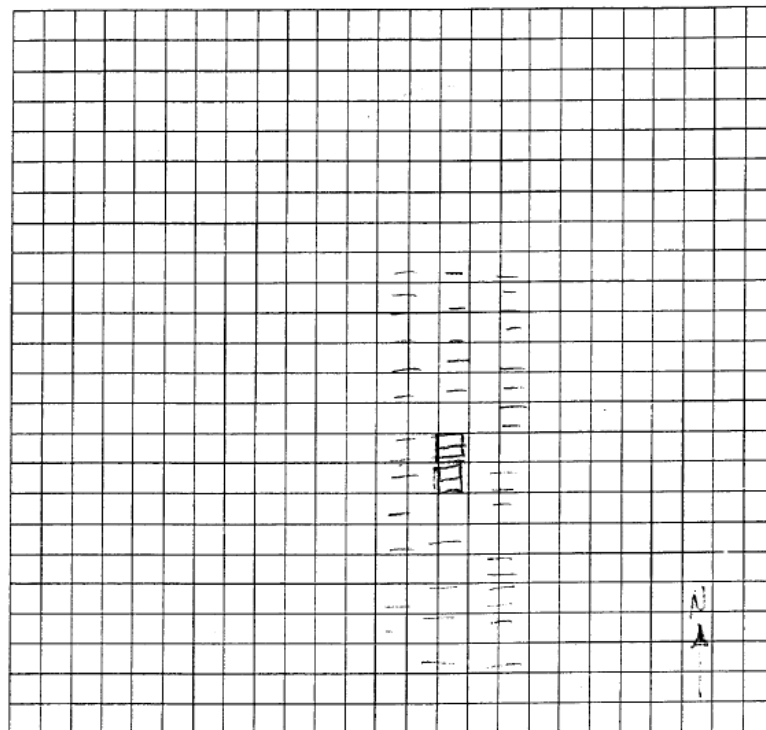
6. General site description: GRAVES ARE LINED UP NEATLY ON THE TOP OF THE RIDGE. ORIENTATION ON ALL THAT WE COULD DISTINGUISH WAS FACING EAST. OLDER GRAVES WERE AT THE NORTH END OF THE CEMETERY

(See in continuation with handbook)

Page 2

Site Map

Rec



Scale
25m

The following information should be provided on the site map: site boundaries, nearby topographic features, associated streams, modern cultural features, different land use types in site area, collection loci, test excavation loci, archaeological features and means of access (include north arrow and scale).

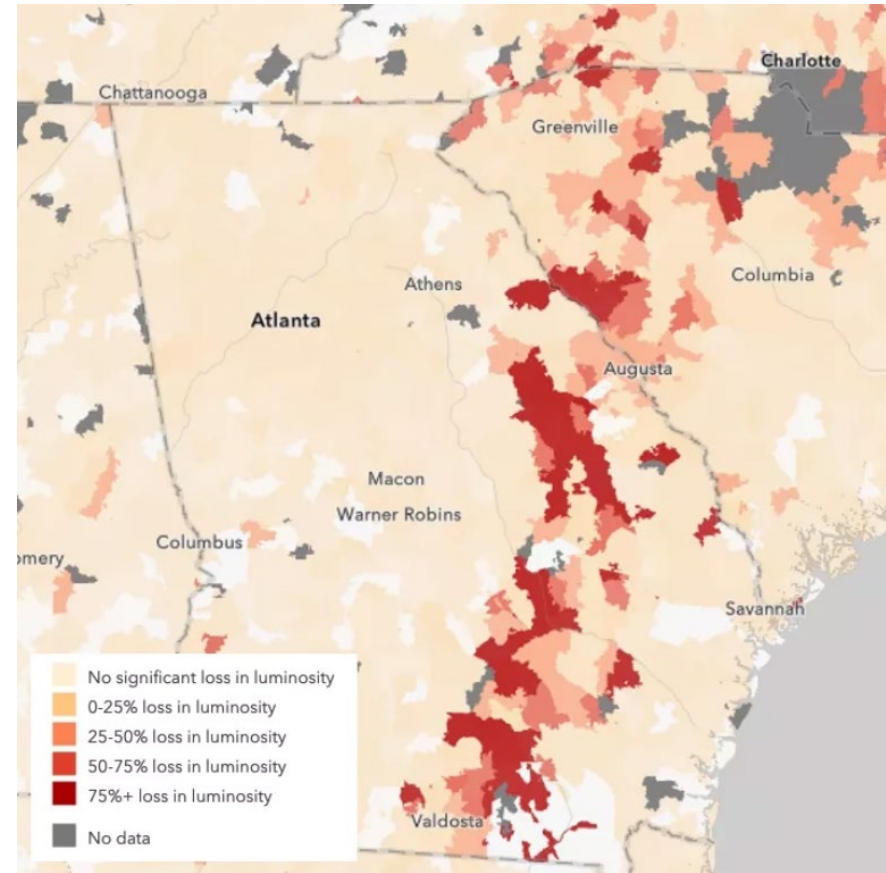
MAP KEY

V VAULTS

- GRAVES

Verbal description of location Cemetery is situated on the top and east-facing slope of a ridge. This is a large cemetery - I estimate more than 250 people buried here. The older graves are at the north end of the cemetery - many of these do not have headstones.

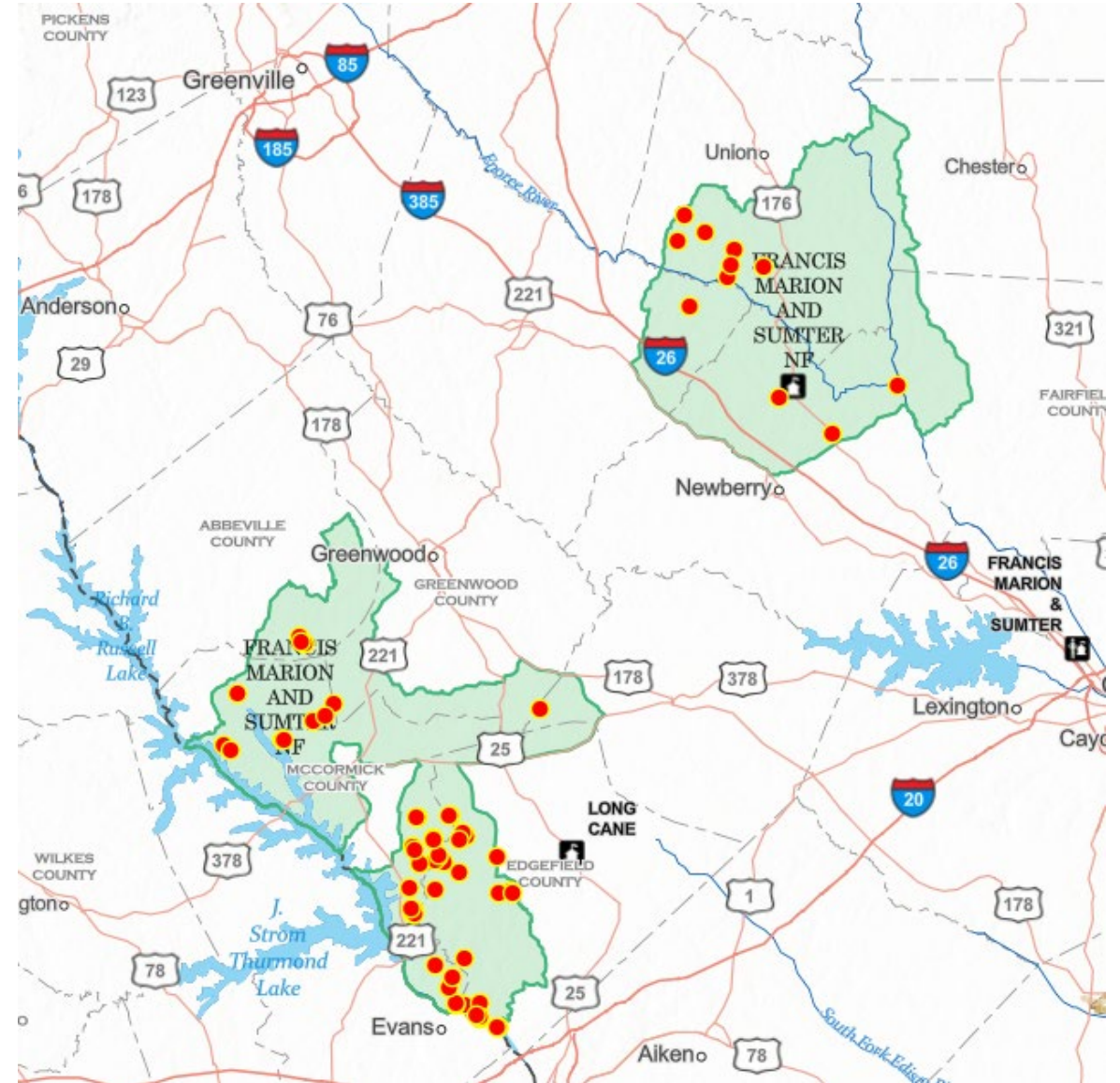
Hurricane Helene



Damage Assessments

Forest Service archaeologists began working to document damage to archaeological sites and cemeteries beginning in October 2024.

To date, FM&S archaeologists, archaeologists deployed from other Forests and Southeastern Conservation Corps Interns have completed over 100 damage assessments.





38UN668 Rice-McClure Cemetery—Union County, Enoree
Ranger District

38ED146 Martin House and Cemetery

- 18th-19th century house ruin with two chimney piles and one grave marker were previously recorded.
- The site is associated with Capt. Abram Martin served with George Washington during the French and Indian War.
- The family with eight children emigrated from Virginia in 1769 and established a farm and store in Edgefield called the community "Martintown" for which Martintown Rd. is named.





The New Bordeaux cross, McCormick County

38ED52 Grafton/Crafton House and Cemetery

An 18th/19th Century House and Cemetery which are approximately 100 yards apart and appears well preserved.

Cemetery contains named graves of Lucy C. Grafton (1795-1805) and about a dozen other graves. May be one of the earliest settlements in the area.

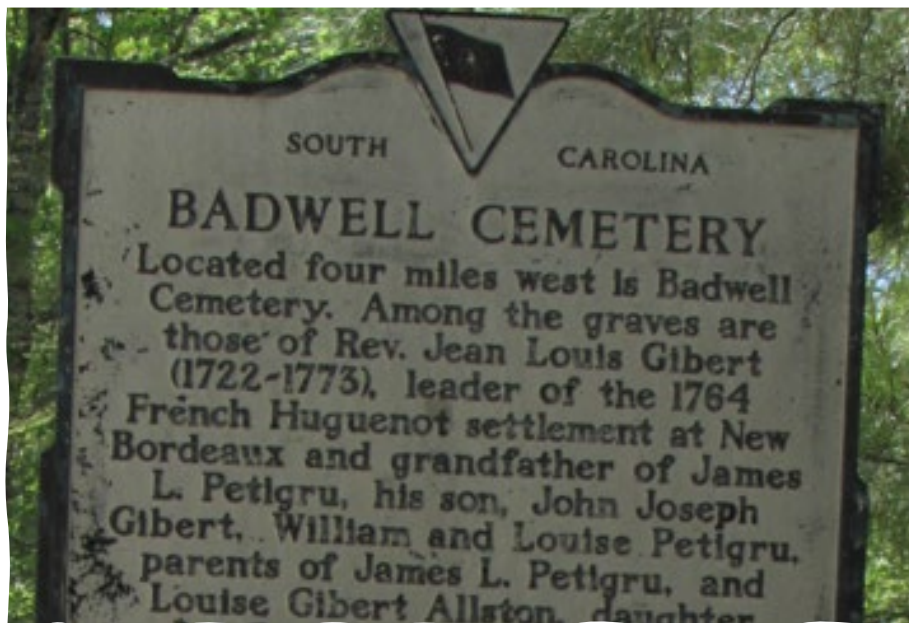


Probable Gravestone in tree trip roots

38MC1252 Burkhalter-Gilchrist Cemetery

- Small family cemetery West of Key Rd
- Approximately a dozen graves dating to the 19th Century





38MC360
(Badwell
Cemetery)



Badwell/Alston Cemetery—Also, designated as K-1005 by the Army Corps. The cemetery was also expanded to include removals from Cemeteries C-233, F-522C, H-760, J-930

- Enclosed family cemetery including members of the Gibert and Petigru family.
- Cemetery is eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places and was nominated in 1984; however, NPS requested changes to the nomination which were never completed.
- Cemetery was extensively vandalized in the early 1990s. One event severely damaged four of the 20 grave markers and one was stolen.
- Forest Service spent significant money on rehabilitation of the damage and development of cemetery management plan.

Previous Cemetery work

Cemetery vandalized in 1996, and repairs were not undertaken until 2009

Cemetery Conservation

Assessment/Restoration Plan \$6,800

Cemetery Restoration (restore markers, stabilize wall and gate) \$40,950

CSS Agreement with McCormick County Historical Commission for cemetery maintenance \$1,500



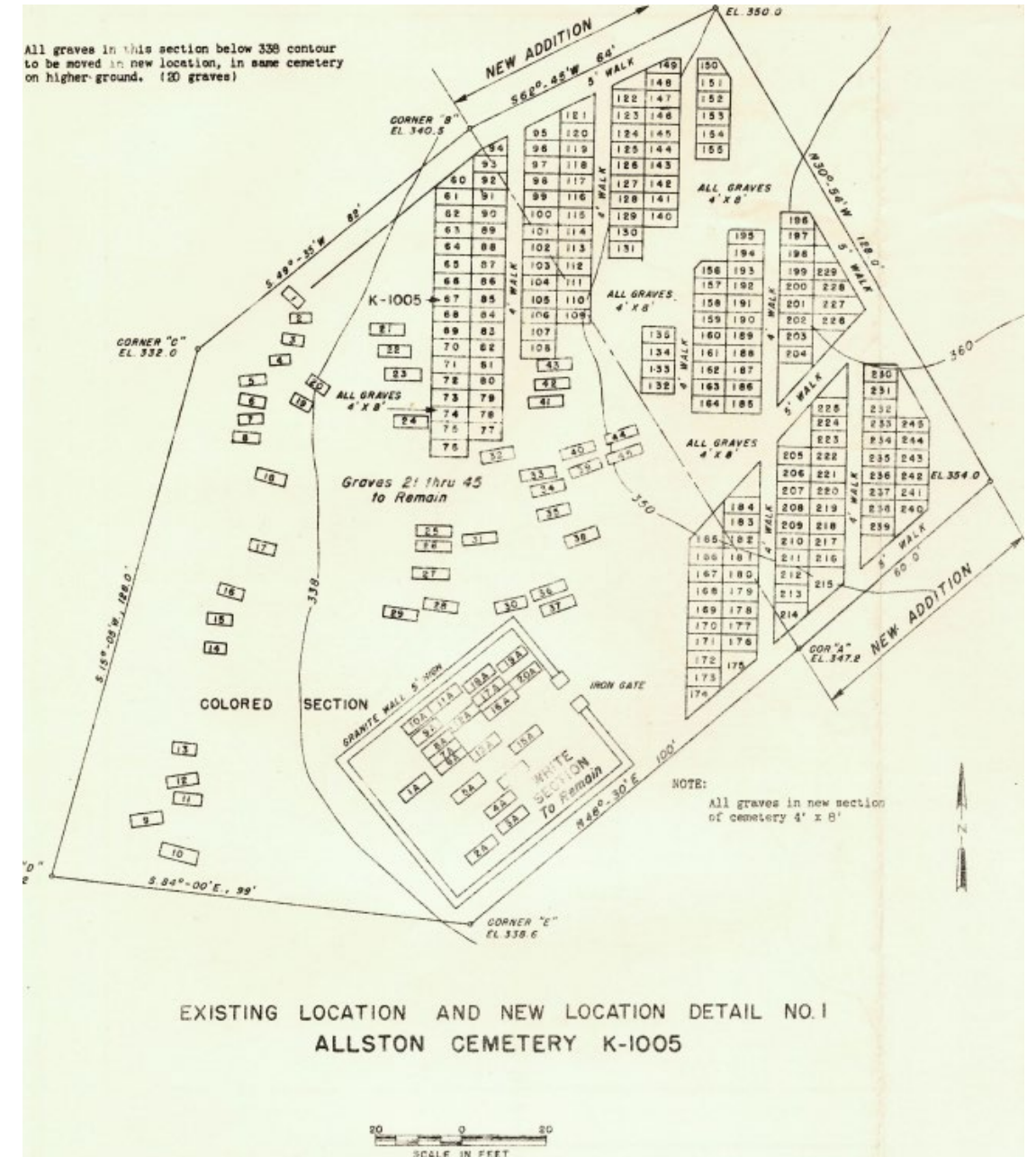
Replica Daddy Tom grave marker



Restored Tabletop grave marker

Badwell Expanded

In addition to the enclosed area that is traditionally believed to be the Badwell cemetery there are two other cemeteries in the same area.





Helene caused
extensive damage to
stone wall and grave
markers

- Recommend removing and repairing bowed wall section and repair of any damage to markers.
- Will require additional survey to locate and map the burials throughout the entire cemetery.
- Would like to remove additional vegetation from around the cemetery to prevent future damage.

The Long Road Ahead

- The Forest Service has received substantial five-year funding to help repair damage to Forest Service infrastructure damaged by the hurricane including heritage sites.
- Unfortunately, much of this work has been slowed by dramatic decrease in Forest Service staffing in 2025.
- Beginning in October, the Forest Service will specifically have chainsaw crews from SECC working to cut debris from cemeteries and other priority heritage sites.
- Several projects designed to identify additional historic cemeteries on the Sumter NF are now underway to help better manage these resources.
- The Forest Service is seeking partners to assist in the management of these sites and will be issuing Notices of Funding Availability to partner with nonprofits on specific projects beginning in FY 2027.

