

Statewide Survey of Historic Properties

State Historic Preservation Office
South Carolina Department of Archives and History
8301 Parklane Road
Columbia, SC 29223-4905 (803) 896-6100

Site No. 1322 Status U Revisit
Quadrangle Name: Stallsville
Tax Map No. 179000000200

SURVEY FORM

Identification

Historic Name: Wampee Savanna Inland Rice Fields (Southern)
Common Name:
Address/Location: 4527 Ashley River Road, 7,800 feet SE of Delmar Highway, begins at Dominion transmission corridor
City: North Charleston ✓ Vicinity of County: Dorchester
Ownership: Private Category: Site ☐ Other:
Historical Use: Agriculture/ Subsistence Eighteenth Century Inland Rice Fields
Current Use: Agriculture/ Subsistence Silviculture
SHPO National Register Eligible
Determination of Eligibility:

Property Description

Construction Date: ca. 1740-1760 Construction: Other Other:
Historic Core Shape: Irregular Exterior Walls: Earthen
Other: Foundation:
Commercial Form: Roof Shape:
Other: Roof Material:
Stories: Porch Shape:
Other: Porch Width:

Description/Significant Features:

Mid-eighteenth century inland swamp rice fields developed on Wampee Savanna Plantation. These are the southern fields, south of the main settlement area. The field system drains into Fishburne Creek, a man-made canal that drains the Horse Savanna into Rantowles Creek. The fields contain good examples of dams, facing ditches and banks, canals, and causeways. The banks are 10-15 feet at the base and 2-4 feet above grade. They are accompanied by ditching, some of which has been maintained and enlarged beyond the rice production era. At least two sections show unique design and beg further investigation.

Alterations (include date(s), if known):

The overall condition is good though some deterioration has occurred due to time and silviculture. Enlargement of dams for roadways and deeper drains has altered the landscape but not substantially enough to destroy integrity.

Architect(s)/Builder(s):

Likely an overseer or enslaved driver of the Walter family of St. Georges Parish.

Historical Information

Historical Information:

Inland rice field system associated Wampee Savanna Plantation, a mid-eighteenth century rice plantation. The design of the fields is consistent with reservoir fed, not tidal action. The system is larger than earlier field systems and shows more extensive hydraulic manipulation. The fields reveal many of the features later used in tidal action fields such as higher embankments and deeper ditching, use of main canals for water movement, and larger fields that required an increased labor force. These fields were likely a middle-step between the smaller, simpler fields of the first half of the century, and the expansive tidal fields that come into production later.

Source(s) of Information:

Watson Hill report (Bailey et al. 2018).

Digital Photo ID(s)

File Name:

01322001.JPEG

01322002.JPEG

01322003.JPEG

View:

Other

Facing Northeast

Facing Northwest

Other:

Overview

Program Management

Recorded by:

Charles F. Philips, Jr.

Organization:

Brockington and Associates

Date Recorded:

06/17/2021