End of Archaeological Surveys Hides History, Some Say

Robert Behre
Post and Courier, rbehre@postandcourier.com

Follow this and additional works at: http://scholarworks.umass.edu/adan

Recommended Citation
Available at: http://scholarworks.umass.edu/adan/vol14/iss4/7

This Articles, Essays, and Reports is brought to you for free and open access by ScholarWorks@UMass Amherst. It has been accepted for inclusion in African Diaspora Archaeology Newsletter by an authorized editor of ScholarWorks@UMass Amherst. For more information, please contact scholarworks@library.umass.edu.
End of Archaeological Surveys Hides History, Some Say

By Robert Behre
The Post & Courier

Posted online December 11 2011 by the Post & Courier at
2011/dec/11/how-much-is-still-out-there/
Copyright 2011 The Post & Courier.

State regulators no longer require
developers along South Carolina's coast to do
routine archaeological surveys, and some say
the state will lose an unknown amount of its
history as a result.

The change -- which took effect during the
past year -- stemmed from discussions between
the S.C. Department of Health and
Environmental Control's Office of Coastal
Resource Management and the State Historic Preservation Office.

The previous policy had led to the discovery of many historic sites, such as
the village of Childsbury in Berkeley County, said L.M. Drucker, an
archaeologist with AF Consultants in Columbia.

Childsbury was built around Strawberry Ferry Landing, a hub of Colonial
commerce that once had a racetrack, free school, a tavern and doctors' and
lawyers' offices.

All that remains above ground today is a chapel, but Drucker said her
archaeological work in the mid-1990s found deposits of artifacts underground
that ultimately helped thwart a housing development there and led to the state's
purchase of the land.

"The coast is such a primary area for historic settlement and it's getting
developed so much, it's a shame," she said of the change. "It's awful for the state
to allow that much heritage to go down the tubes."

Only known sites protected -- The policy change has been in the works for a
few years, prompted in part by developers' concerns about the application
process, said Dan Burger, OCRM spokesman.
In the eight-county coastal zone -- Beaufort, Hampton, Jasper, Colleton, Dorchester, Charleston, Georgetown and Horry -- developers must obtain OCRM land disturbance permits.

They still must address archaeological sites if their property is known to contain any such sites on or eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. But they now may skip this step if there's no documentation. . . .

When DuPont expanded its plant in Berkeley County, OCRM didn't require a survey, but DuPont did one in anticipation, Dobrasko said. That peremptory survey found a significant site -- the slave quarters for Dean Hall plantation. Its excavation formed the basis for an exhibit at Cypress Gardens. [Read this full article at The Post & Courier online >>>].