



## Bonny Shore Slave Row

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## **Bonny Shore Slave Row**

*Submitted by Chris Espenshade, Brockington and Associates, Inc.*

Ms. Elsie Eubanks, Marian Roberts, and Mr. Chris Espenshade of Brockington and Associates have completed data recovery investigations of the former location of the Bonny Shore slave row, Spring Island, South Carolina. The investigations were sponsored by Spring Island Plantation. The site (38BU791) was first examined through complete site coverage with 5 m (15 ft) interval shovel testing. The shovel testing indicated seven potential cabin locations, although no structural remains were encountered. The data recovery was composed of the excavation of a 4 by 4 m (12 by 12 ft) block in each of the seven loci, followed by machine-assisted stripping. The analysis included zooarchaeological, ethnobotanical and ceramic technological investigations.

Dating of the recovered assemblage indicates that most of the cabins were occupied from circa 1815 through 1840. At least two of the cabins were apparently occupied through 1860. The assemblage was noteworthy for its high frequency of Colonoware, several of which exhibited post-firing marks similar to the cosmograms hypothesized by Ferguson (1991). The detailed technological and stylistic analysis of the Colonoware indicates that the pottery was produced from locally available clay, was made probably by a single potter, and was comprised exclusively of small bowl forms. The zooarchaeological analysis indicated a very low contribution to the diet by wild resources, possibly related to the large numbers of cows and pigs on the fenceless pasture of Spring Island. Copies of the report (Eubanks and Espenshade 1994) are available on request.