

Preliminary Archaeological Examination of the Glen Mary Plantation, Hancock County, Georgia

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The Glen Mary plantation house is an important historical resource in Hancock County, Georgia (Figure 1). The manor is a Greek Revival high-style dwelling that is presently identified as a National Treasure by the Save America's Treasures unit of the National Park Service. The site has also been identified as a threatened historical resource in Scenic America's "Last Chance Landscapes 2002-03" (Cooper 2003; Scenic America 2004). The Glen Mary plantation was nominated for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places in 1973 and listed in 1974 (McGregor 1973). The site also was listed in the Georgia Register of Historic Places in 1973. Glen Mary is the recent recipient of a grant from the Garden Club of Georgia and Glen Mary is an important historical destination on the Piedmont Scenic Highway. The property is owned by Preservation America Foundation, a non-profit educational trust registered in New York. The Foundation's goals for Glen Mary include, "restoration of the mansion and grounds to their antebellum character and recreation of the gardens associated with the plantation" (Colvin 2004).

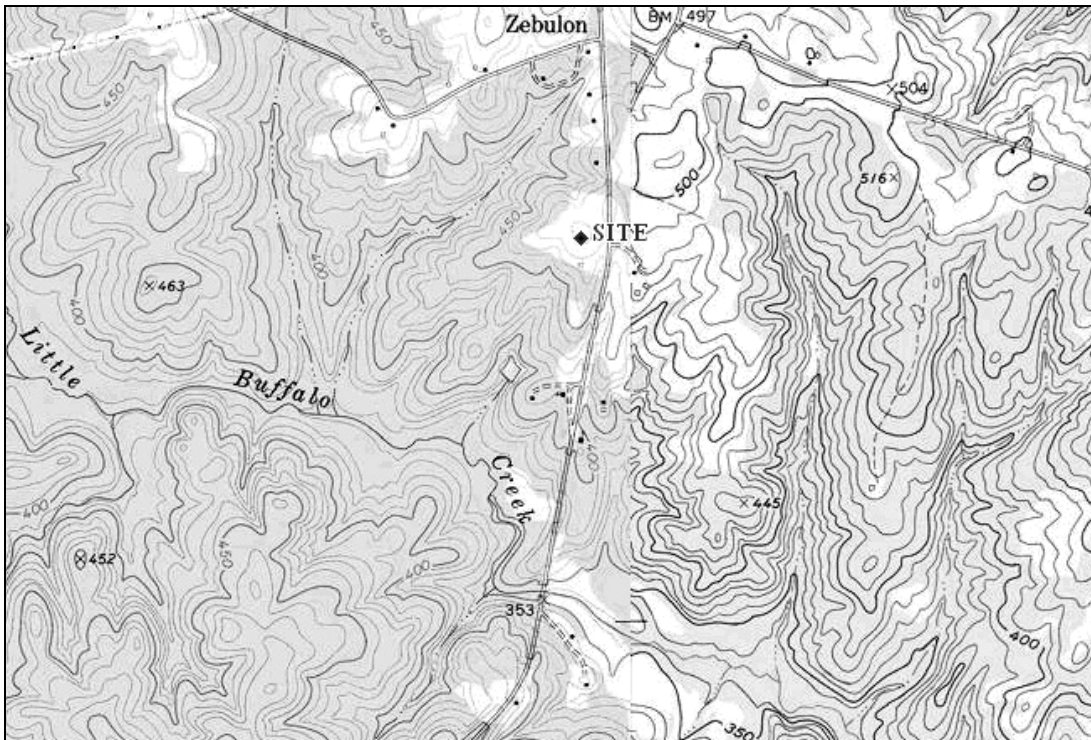


Figure 1. Project Location.

From November 6-8, 2004 the LAMAR Institute examined the front yard of the Glen Mary Plantation house. This work was done at the request of the Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Historic Preservation Division and Preservation America Foundation. Prior to the present study, no archaeological

work had been done there and the condition of the archaeological resources that are associated with the plantation and its residents was unknown. These results will be used in pursuing grants for a Cultural Landscape Report, which would, “be a map to identify features of the property, such as specific types of locations of gardens, patterns of circulation, fences, buildings, etc.” (Colvin 2004). This report details the findings of the LAMAR Institute’s preliminary archaeological investigation of Glen Mary.

Methods

The archaeological work that was done was intended to provide information needed for historical landscape restoration on this property. The LAMAR Institute’s field crew consisted of Daniel T. Elliott and Tracy M. Dean. They were assisted with important input from Marilyn Meyers, director of the Preservation America Foundation; Janet Coleman, a graduate student at the University of Georgia, and Charles A. Phillips, historical architect. The specific goal was to seek areas of original formal pathways and shrub plantings and to search for evidence of a staircase. To accomplish this goal, a series of 10 narrow slot trenches, each measuring 2 meters in length and 50 cm in width, were excavated in the front yard (Figure 2). The topsoil zone from each slot trench was removed by hand and any observed artifacts were collected. Selected areas of topsoil that were shown to contain artifacts were screened through ¼ inch hardware cloth. Screened samples of soil also were taken from three historic features. In addition to these slot trenches, seven shovel tests and another 2 m by 50 cm trench (Trench 11) were excavated on the side and rear of the dwelling house. The trench exploration was supplemented by the extensive use of a metal probe and a Nautilus brand metal detector. The contents of the excavations were examined for any artifactual material that would aid in the dating of any features or sheet midden deposits. The excavations were conducted in one vertical level to the base of the topsoil zone. Subsurface features were carefully mapped in plan and profile and photographed, and sketch maps of the excavations were made. The sketch maps, profile drawings, and field photographs are included as Appendix A on the accompanying CD Rom disc.



Figure 2. Trench 1 During Excavation.

The project began with the establishment of a site grid. A datum reference point for the excavations was established with the aid of a Garmin V hand-held GPS receiver. An arbitrary datum point (1000 meters North, 1000 meters East) was established at the northeast corner of the plantation porch at the foot of a large rectangular column. The estimated UTM location for the datum is (Zone 17) Easting 313374, Northing 3672586. An arbitrary grid north was established that corresponded to the orientation of the main dwelling, which was approximately 10 degrees east of Magnetic North. Grid coordinates increased to the north and east.

The fieldwork at Glen Mary was followed by laboratory analysis and reporting in the LAMAR Institute’s laboratory in Box Springs, Georgia. All notes, photographs, artifacts, and other

records from this project will be permanently curated at a suitable repository to be chosen by the Office of the State Archaeologist. Three questions guide the present research including:

- Did the original house design include a staircase leading to the second story porch and, if so, what was its configuration and orientation?
- Did the approach to the manor house include a formal walkway or an informal pathway?
- Can any evidence of a formal parterre garden or a planned garden design be identified archaeologically?

History of Glen Mary's Front Yard

The Glen Mary plantation house is a rare example of mid-19th century high-style Greek Revival architecture in central Georgia. The NRHP nomination lists its construction date as 1848. Elsewhere, however, the age of the manor house is listed as 1850 and 1853 (McGregor 1973; Linley 1972, 2004; Rozier 1996; Shivers 1990; Smith 1974). The plantation is located at 183 Linton Road (also known as Sparta Road), approximately 7 miles south of Sparta in southern Hancock County. The site is located on a prominent ridge top about 800 meters north of Little Buffalo Creek (USGS Devereaux 7.5 minute quadrangle). The original antebellum plantation included about 2,400 acres. The current Linton Road follows a south-southwestern course on the ridge below (and east of) the manor house. Former owners of the plantation during its period of historical significance include Theophilus Jackson Smith (in the antebellum period, ca. 1848-1869), and General Ethan Allen Hitchcock (after the Civil War, ca. 1869), and several generations of the James William Nicholls family. Structural changes were made to the house beginning in 1961 by then owner, Anita Nicholls, with the guidance of noted historical architect Edward Vason Jones.

Additional modifications to the dwelling house in the 1980s occurred under the ownership of the Hill family, which included the construction of a large front staircase leading to the center of the second-story porch. That substantial staircase was removed by the present owner in 2003 (Linley 2004; Marilyn Meyers personal communication November 6, 2004). For their preservation efforts at Glen Mary the Hills were awarded *Southern Living's* 1989 Restoration Award.

The two-story dwelling has full ground level and second story porches on its front. The rear of the house has a double portico that has been enclosed by a 20th century addition. The original dwelling was square in plan, measuring 55 feet and oriented approximately 10 degrees east of Magnetic North. The front façade has a five-bay windows with a single central doorway that is flanked by side lights and transom. The second story porch is supported by a colonade of six massive rectangular columns that are stucco-covered brick. The ground level porch on the front has a modern, poured concrete pad. A large dressed granite slab serves as the entry stoop. Most of the house rests on an undressed field stone foundation, although the front porch concrete slab rests on red brown clay subsoil.

The Glen Mary Plantation archives contain numerous photographs of the house and grounds. The earliest of these dates to about the 1880s. Additional photographs of the building and grounds were located by LAMAR Institute research at the Georgia Historic Preservation Division and the Hargrett Rare Book and Manuscript Library at the University of Georgia. Landscape features in that area shown in the front and side yards in these photographs include a gazebo, picket fence, hedgerows, magnolia trees, swept areas, planted saplings, granite slab post and hogwire fencing, and pathways of undetermined character leading to the front door. The photographs show several outbuildings in the rear of the house, including a well house, late 19th or early 20th century attached kitchen, and at least three other unidentified outbuildings. Most of these photographs are undated and not fully attributed. The photographs were placed in tentative

chronological sequence and in approximate geographical orientation by the LAMAR Institute research team, Marilyn Meyers, Janet Coleman, and Charles Phillips. A general trend for the decline in the formal appearance of the manor house and grounds through time is apparent from these photographs. Unfortunately, no photographs or other images are known of the Glen Mary Plantation from the Antebellum or immediate post-bellum periods.

Figure 3 shows an enlarged view of the main plantation complex from the 1942 U.S.D.A. aerial photograph. Four features are labeled in this view: a. the Glen Mary house, b. the barn, c. a cluster of buildings, and d. the old Sparta Road.

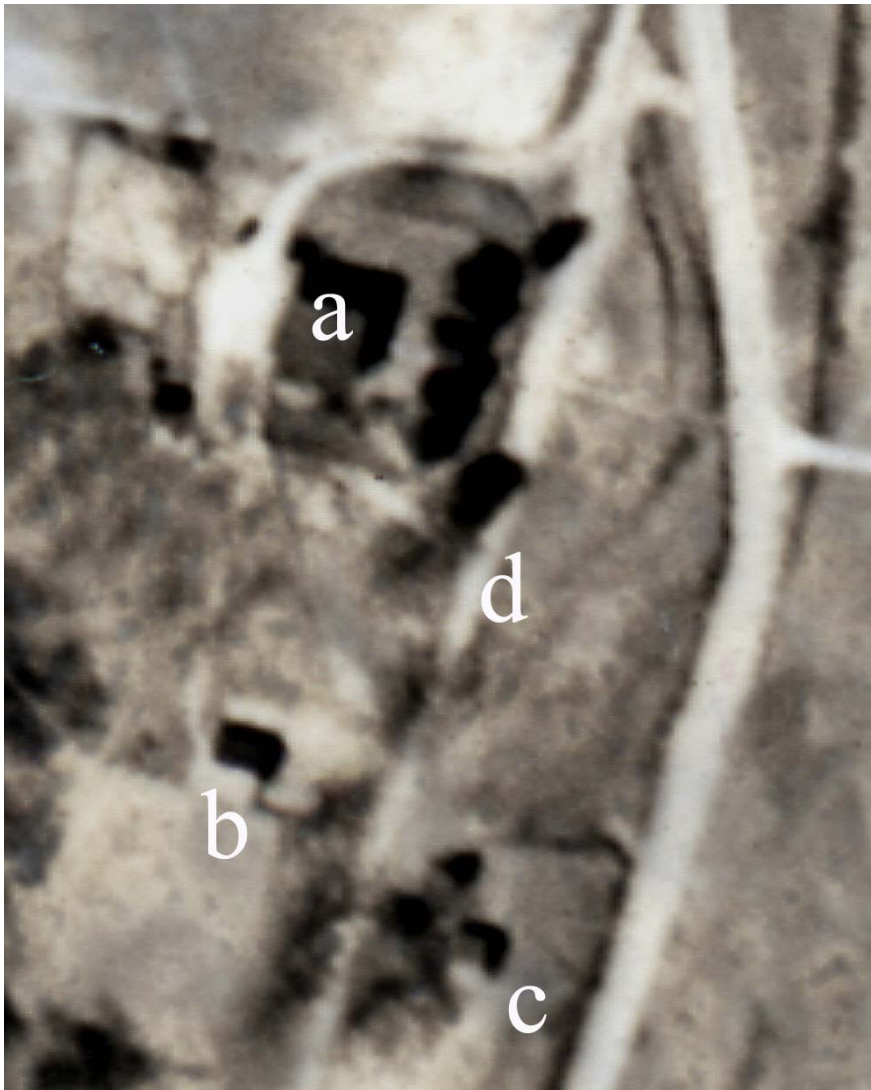


Figure 3. Enlargement of 1942 Aerial Photograph Showing Glen Mary Plantation.

Results

The work accomplished included 11 slot trenches, seven shovel tests, and preliminary reconnaissance examination of building ruins, extant buildings, trash dumps, road traces, and historical vegetation on the 26 acres that comprise the historical preserve. The findings of the initial archaeological exploration of Glen Mary are described in the following. The locations of the slot trenches, shovel tests and other relevant landscape features are shown in Figure 4.

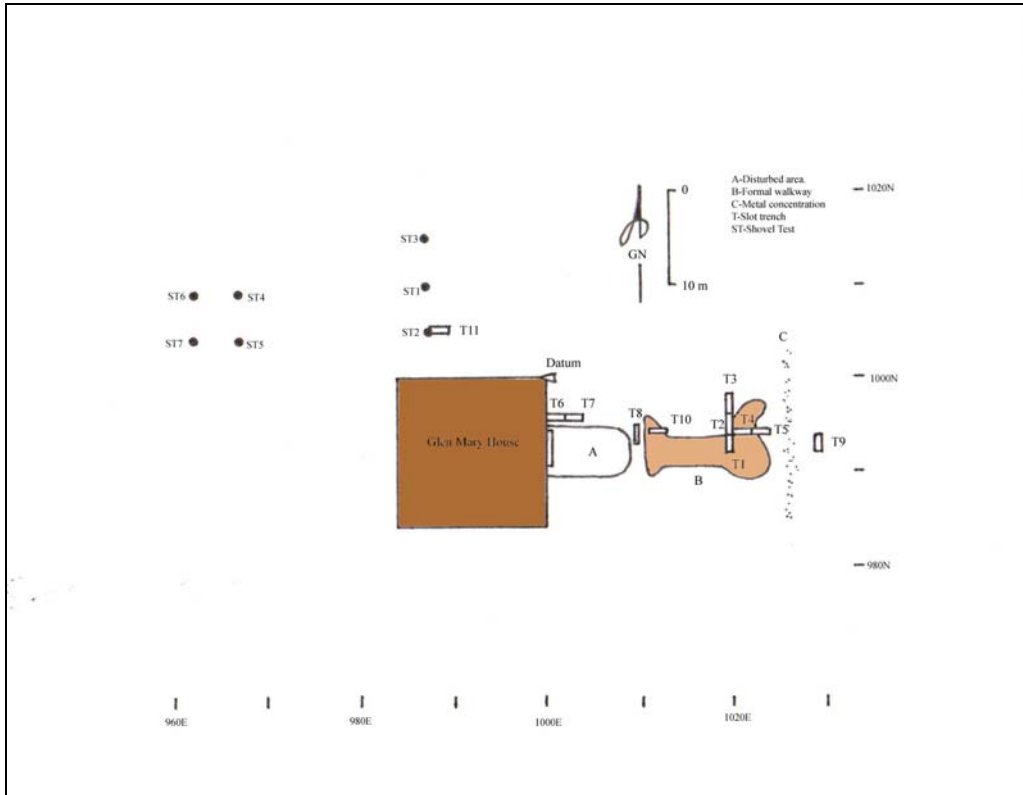


Figure 4. Excavation Plan, Glen Mary Plantation.

Trench 1, 992-994N 1019.5-1020E

Trenches 1, 2 and 3 formed a continuous 6 meter by 50 cm excavation whose purpose was to seek evidence of a formal walkway leading to the residence from the Sparta Road. Evidence of a formal walkway was located in Trench 1, as well as Trenches 4, 5, and 10. The walkway was designated Feature 3 and it occupied Trench 1 in its entirety. The feature consisted of a consolidated deposit of brick rubble that was located approximately 3 cm below the sod zone. Two clear window glass fragments were recovered from the soil (0-10 cm below surface) above the brick rubble. The rubble consisted of half bricks and smaller brick fragments that exhibited no organized placement. The rubble formed an uneven surface, which suggested that an upper course of the walkway had been removed or otherwise altered in the past.

A 75 cm by 50 cm section of Feature 3 at the south end of Trench 1 was sampled. That excavation revealed that the brick in Feature 3 consisted of fragments of handmade brick, which generally date before 1875 in the Georgia Piedmont. The feature contents were screened through ¼ inch hardware cloth but no artifacts other than brick rubble were recovered. The brick rubble zone was revealed to be resting on a laid fieldstone foundation. The fieldstones were undressed and relatively tightly placed beneath the brick.

Trench 2, 994-996N 1019.5-1020E

Trench 2 was located immediately north of Trench 1. Trench 2 contained a large planting feature that was designated Feature 2. Small amounts of fieldstone rubble and brick rubble were contained within Trench 2 but were not found in any concentration. Artifacts in the topsoil zone (0-5 cm) included undecorated ironstone sherd and a stopper-top blue glass pharmaceutical bottle neck.

A 60 cm by 50 cm section of Feature 2 in the south end of Trench 2 was sampled to the base of the deposit, which was 25 cm below ground surface. The pit had a flat bottom. The fill was screened through ¼ inch hardware cloth yielding one alkaline glazed stoneware vessel body sherd and one blue and white decorated clay marble. Alkaline glazed stoneware of this variety was first produced in the Edgefield District of South Carolina by 1810. Production of this ware in Washington County, Georgia by potter Cyrus Cogburn and others is documented in the Federal Manufacturing Census by 1820. Alkaline glazed pottery was produced throughout the rest of the 19th century in Georgia (Burrison 1983).

Trench 3, 996-998N 1019.5-1020E

Trench 3 was located immediately north of Trench 2. Trench 3 contained a small oval pit that was designated Feature 1. No artifacts were observed in the trench fill, except for those found in Feature 1. The exposed portion of Feature 1 was screened through ¼ inch hardware cloth. The feature was a pointed basin in profile, which was 32 cm in depth. Artifacts recovered from Feature 1 included one alkaline glazed stoneware vessel sherd, four machine-cut square nails and three fragments, one unidentified iron strip, and one animal bone. This feature is interpreted as a planting hole dating to the latter part of the 19th century.

Trench 4, 994-994.5N 1020-1022E

Trench 4 was located immediately east of Trench 2. Trench 4 contained portions of Feature 3 (the walkway), which covered the entire test excavation. The upper zone of Trench 4 had an irregular distribution of small brick fragments and brick dust above a layer of tightly placed fieldstones. One undecorated ironstone cup sherd was recovered from the soil above the fieldstone pavement. The brick remnants, while not consistently found as a stratigraphic layer, were observed in profile in at least three locations to be stratigraphically above the fieldstone layer of Feature 3.

Trench 5, 994-994.5N 1022-1024E

Trench 5 was located immediately east of Trench 4, forming a continuous 4.5 meter by 50 cm excavation. Trench 5 contained a portion of Feature 3 (the walkway) that consisted of placed fieldstones. The orientation of the fieldstone alignment that was visible in Trench 5 provides some indication of the design of the walkway, although not enough of it was exposed to fully understand its outline. No artifacts were observed in Trench 5.

Trench 6, 995.5-996N 1000-1002E

Trench 6 was located immediately adjacent to the dwelling's porch and 1.5 meters north of a large dressed granite stoop. This trench contained one small (modern) planting hole, which consisted of a small circular pit filled with loose potting soil and sandy loam. No features or artifacts were located in Trench 6. One purpose for the placement of Trenches 6 and 7 was to search for evidence of an exterior staircase. No such evidence was located in the area immediately in front of the plantation entrance because of the disturbances in building and removing the modern staircase.

Trench 7, 995.5-996N 1002-1004E

Trench 7 was located immediately east of Trench 6, forming a continuous 4 meter (east-west) by 50 cm section. No features were identified within Trench 7. Artifacts from Trench 7 included two undecorated ironstone sherds and one clear bottle glass fragment, which were contained in the upper 10 cm brown clay loam soil zone. One purpose for the placement of this trench was to search for evidence of an exterior staircase. No such evidence was located.

Trench 8, 993-995N 1009.5-1010E

Trench 8 was located 9.5 meters east of the dwelling's porch. This trench was placed in hopes of intersecting the walkway that had been located in Trench 1, so that its northern edge could be further defined. No evidence of the walkway was located within Trench 8. Rather, a large planting feature (Feature 4) was identified in Trench 8. This planting feature was left unexcavated. One clear glass bottle sherd was recovered from Trench 8.

Trench 9, 992-994N 1029-1029.5E

Trench 9 was located at the edge of the original Sparta Road (also known as the Glen Mary Road) and the Glen Mary yard. The old road trace was visible on the modern topography. Trench 9 was placed at this location after the metal probe struck several hard objects. Since this area was at the interface of the road and the approach to the front door of the house, we suspected that the probe "hits" may pertain to a stoop or stairs leading up the hill to the house. Upon excavation however, the trench was found to contain only a few scattered fieldstones with no apparent organization in a very shallow topsoil zone. No artifacts were contained in Trench 9.

Trench 10, 994-994.5N 1010-1012E

Trench 10 was located 1 meter east of Trench 8. Trench 10 contained a section of Feature 3 (the walkway). The remains consisted of a layer of tightly placed fieldstones that covered the western two-thirds of the trench. Very few brick fragments were contained in the area of Trenches 8 and 10. The Feature 3 plan, as visible in Trench 10, provides some indication of the configuration of the pathway in this vicinity. It appears to flare out to the north. The metal probe was used to tentatively trace the mirror image of this feature edge on the south side of the pathway. Together, the data from Trenches 8 and 10 and the metal probe results indicate that the walkway widens on both sides before terminating on its western end approximately 50 cm east of Trench 8, or approximately 10 meters east of the Glen Mary front stoop. This T-shaped terminus of the pathway is too distant from the house to represent a staircase landing. Architect Phillips suggests that the path to the house may bifurcate at this point and may continue as a sand path in both directions towards the house. He also suggests that this divergence may represent an approach to two sides of a staircase, or possibly represents a carriage disembarkation area. Trench 10 yielded one undecorated ironstone vessel rim sherd.

Trench 11, 1005-1005.5N, 987.5-989.5E

Trench 11 was located 5 meters north of the Glen Mary house on its northern side. Trench 11 was placed immediately adjacent to Shovel Test 2, which is discussed below. Trench 11 contained a buried sheet midden deposit that was capped with a thin layer of red orange clay. The sheet midden consisted of a brown clay loam that was irregularly distributed across the trench, and pockets of plaster that were located on the west end of the trench. Artifacts from beneath this clay lense included: 2 machine cut square nail fragments, 1 wire nail, 2 fire brick fragments, 8 undecorated ironstone sherds, 1 undecorated ironstone cup handle, 2 light green bottle glass fragments, 1 clear bottle glass fragment, 1 green molded tableware glass fragment, 1 animal bone, 10 clear window glass, 2 light green window glass sherds, several fragments of

tar roofing, 1 squash-shaped oblong amber glass bead, 1 light green bottle glass spokeshave tool, and 1 Federal 10-gauge shotgun shell brass casing. The excavation was terminated after this sheet midden became clearly defined.

Shovel Tests

Shovel Test 1 (1010N, 987.5E) was located 10 meters north of the dwelling house. It contained one clear bottle glass fragment, one undecorated porcelain teacup handle and one undecorated porcelain cup body sherd. Artifacts were contained in the upper 10 cm of soil, which was a brown clay loam. Red brown clay subsoil was encountered at 10 cm depth.

Shovel Test 2 (1005N, 987.5E) was located 5 meters north of the dwelling house. It contained four plaster chunks, four undecorated ironstone sherds, and one clear window glass fragment. Artifacts were contained in the upper 18 cm of soil, which was a mottled brown clay with plaster chunks. The shovel test was excavated to a maximum depth of 20 cm where a red brown clay subsoil was encountered.

Shovel Test 3 (1015N, 987.5E) was located 15 meters north of the dwelling house. It contained one decal decorated ironstone sherd, one milk glass fragment (possible tableware glass), and one machine-cut square nail. Artifacts were contained in a brown clay loam in the upper 10 cm soil zone. Red brown clay subsoil was identified at 15 cm below ground.

Shovel Test 4 (1009N, 967E) was located northwest of the dwelling house and south of the modern garage. It contained five machine-cut square nails, three machine-cut square nail fragments, and one undecorated ironstone sherd, along with two clear, one amber and one light green bottle glass fragments. Artifacts were contained in a dark brown clay loam in the upper 20 cm soil zone. Red brown clay subsoil was identified at 25 cm depth.

Shovel Test 5 (1004N, 967E) was located 5 meters south of Shovel Test 4, northwest of the dwelling house. It contained three machine-cut square nails, two wire nails, three clear window glass, one undecorated ironstone sherd, three clear bottle glass, one melted glass, one iron wood screw, one wire fragment, and one walnut hull. Artifacts were contained in the upper 20 cm soil zone, which was a dark brown clay loam. Red brown clay subsoil was examined to 25 cm depth.

Shovel Test 6 (1009N, 962E) was located 5 meters west of Shovel Test 4, northwest of the dwelling house. It contained one wire nail and one undecorate ironstone sherd. Artifacts were contained in a dark brown clay loam from 10 to 20 cm below surface and red brown clay subsoil was identified at 25 cm depth.

Shovel Test 7 (1004N, 962E) was located 5 meters west of Shovel Test 5, northwest of the dwelling house. It contained two machine-cut square nail fragments, three clear window glass fragments, one burned undecorated ironstone sherd, one heavily trampled unidentified ceramic sherd, one clear lamp globe glass rim, one small coal lump, and two clear bottle glass fragments. Artifacts were contained in a dark brown clay loam in the upper 15 soil zone. Red clay subsoil was encountered at 20 cm below ground.

Probing

A 4-foot metal probe was employed to follow the extent of Feature 3 (the formal walkway) and to explore for other subsurface rock or brick features in the front yard. One probe transect extended from the south end of Trench 9 to the west end of Trench 8. That transect served to tentatively define the east-west extent of the brick/rock walkway (Feature 3). The probe also was used to better define (approximately) the edge of Feature 3. The area south, north and east of Trenches 4 and 5 were probed to determine the extent of Feature 3 and to explore for other brick or rock concentrations. These probes indicate that Feature 3 flares out at its western and eastern ends.

The probe was used to search for other areas of brick or rock pavement in the yard with negative results. One transect extended north from Trench 3 to the slope break south of the plantation driveway. Another transect extended east from Trench 7 to Trench 3. Another transect extended north and south of Trench 8.

Metal detector transects

The metal detector was used to cover a series of transects in the front yard and back yard of the Glen Mary residence. The machine was set to locate all metal at a maximum depth of penetration, which was approximately 30 cm. Metal readings in the front yard were sparse and probably consisted of a light veneer of small metal objects (such as nails). The distribution in the front yard revealed no high concentrations of metal. A minor concentration, possibly linear in its north-south extent, was located between Test Trenches 5 and 9. This iron scatter possibly represents a fence that may have flanked the front entrance to the dwelling.

Area of Known Disturbance

A large area directly east of the front dwelling entrance had been extensively disturbed by construction of a large staircase and by its subsequent removal. The approximate extent of that disturbance, as recounted by Marilyn Meyers is shown on the excavation plan map. No tests were attempted during the present study within this probable disturbed zone.

Other Reconnaissance

Other resources on the Glen Mary property were reconnoitered and visually assessed. GPS locations were recorded for three resources: a large cellar depression, a 19th or early 20th century barn, and an area of dense historic debris. The rectangular cellar depression was located north of the barn and southwest of the Glen Mary house. The cellar measured approximately 18 meters east-west by 7 meters north-south in its outer extent. The approximate northeastern corner of the cellar was located at UTM (Zone 17) Easting 313327, Northing 3672496. The approximate northeastern corner of the barn was located at Easting 313362, Northing 3672504. The area of historic debris, which corresponds to an area containing a cluster of buildings on the 1942 aerial photograph, was located at Easting 313388, Northing 3672454. On the aerial photograph these buildings appear to be well organized and may represent an antebellum slave quarter that continued to be occupied (possibly by tenant farmers) into the early twentieth century. The artifacts that were visible on the surface in this vicinity included late 19th or early 20th century brick, large fieldstones, 20th century bottle glass, an enameled tin pot, a galvanized tin tub, and an ornate cast iron stove part. Portions of this area have been disturbed and the soil has been pushed into two large mounds. The extent of this disturbance was not determined and no excavation was attempted at any of these areas.

The Nicholls/Glen Mary Plantation Cemetery is located on the grounds, but was not reconnoitered as part of the present work. According to Marilyn Meyers the tombstones visible today do not mark the original grave sites. The current location of the tombstones, approximately 250 feet behind the plantation house, was only established in the 1980s when the Hills owned the property. It is not known if the graves were exhumed and the mortal remains relocated at that time, or if the tombstones merely represented cenotaphs. A search of the cemetery was beyond the scope of the present work and would be an involved undertaking. It should be noted, however, that the current cemetery contains modern markers for seven members of the Nicholls family, and the Hill's family dog, Duker. The location of the original grave markers and the location of the original cemetery plot has not been established. All of the stones that are shown in photographs on the Friends of Cemeteries webpage appear to be replacement stones. In the Antebellum period, the Glen Mary Plantation was worked by as many as 75 enslaved African-Americans. Their burial sites are also currently undetermined. The Glenn's Mary Baptist Church cemetery, established in 1866, is located approximately 700 meters south of the Glen Mary Plantation on the east side of Linton Road. That cemetery contains at least 46 unidentified graves, most of whom were probably connected with the Glen Mary Plantation, either as slave laborers or tenant farmers. The relationship between the freedmen and

women that were buried in that cemetery with Glen Mary's enslaved should be the subject of future study (FriendsOfCems.org 2004a, b).

Interpretations

Did the original house design include a staircase leading to the second story porch and, if so, what was its configuration and orientation?

The search for a staircase was hampered by the construction of a more recent stairway in the 1980s and its removal in 2003. That modern construction and demolition, which involved the use of a backhoe and bulldozer resulted in deep disturbance of the soils in the area directly in front of the house. Two test trenches (Trenches 6 and 7) were placed there in hopes of locating some evidence of the existence of a staircase that descended to the north side of the central doorway. Such evidence might have consisted of post supports, concentrations of nails, driplines from the staircase, or concentrations of artifacts that may have gotten dropped by persons ascending or descending the stairs. Neither test trench revealed any evidence to suggest the presence of stairs in that vicinity.

Architect Phillips concluded that the placement of the original floor joists on the second story preclude any interior staircase on the porch. Following the excavation of the units containing no evidence of a staircase, he suggested that evidence of a porch may be anticipated in the area east and north of the two test trenches. The time allotted for studying these features did not allow for additional tests in this area and the question will need to be resolved by future studies.

Did the approach to the manor house include a formal walkway or informal pathway?

None of the historical photographs depict a paved walkway leading to the house and none of the informants recall any such feature. The presence of a formal paved path leading to the Glen Mary Plantation was immediately answered in the affirmative by the archaeological study. Definite evidence of this path was observed in Trenches 1, 4, 5, and 10. The western limit of this path was defined by Trench 8 and its eastern limit was revealed by Trench 5. The boundaries of the path were tentatively defined on the north by Trenches 2 and 10. The limits on the south were tentatively defined by use of a metal probe. Other boundaries of this walkway also were tentatively delineated by the use of a metal probe. The path measures about 13 meters in length and averages less than 3 meters in width. On its eastern end it flares out to the north and south to a width of about 8 meters. On its western end the walkway flares to the north and south to a width of about 6 meters. The paved path ends begins slightly more than 10 meters east of the house and it continues until about 7 meters west of the Sparta Road.

The structure of this path consisted of a bottom course of carefully placed rough fieldstones that were topped by a layer of brick rubble. A wide spacing existed between the fieldstones, and no sand or mortar was evident. This rubble was concentrated in the center of the pathway and was not observed on the western end of the path in Trench 10. The brick rubble may represent an intermediate construction layer of the walkway, which may then have been capped by a third layer of undetermined character (such as rock flagstones or laid brick), or it may represent the residue of a robbed brick pavement. The bottom course of fieldstone rocks may have been designed and placed to improve drainage for the walkway. The uneven surface evidenced by the brick rubble zone and by the rock pavement suggest that neither surface was the "walking surface" of the original pathway. The prevalence of fieldstones on the north side of the path suggests that a brick covered walkway was flanked by a fieldstone edging. Shrubbery planting holes were located immediately north of the walkway, as evidenced in Trench 2.

Can any evidence of a formal parterre garden or a planned garden design be identified archaeologically?

Early 20th century photographs of Glen Mary reveal planted shrubbery (tentatively identified as boxwoods) flanking the central walkway to the house (on an east-west axis) and on the south side of the house (on a north-south axis). Two early photographs depict a gazebo (and a picket fence) within the yard, although the location of this gazebo within the property cannot be fully determined from the photographic evidence. It may have been located northeast of the house but this interpretation is subject to revision. Aerial photographs of the property taken in 1942 reveal a line of four evergreen trees (probably magnolias) that form a north-south line across the front of the yard. One of these magnolias remains and is located south of the main walkway. A core sample was taken from this tree, which indicated its age to be greater than 120 years, which may indicate that this line of magnolias formed part of the original garden plan (Janet Coleman personal communication November 6, 2004). In the antebellum period, however, these magnolias would have been relatively small trees.

Evidence of planting holes was observed in Trenches 2, 3, and 8. Trench 11 was placed on the north side of the house in hopes of locating planting holes from a hedge line that would represent a mirror image of that observed on the south side of the house in early photographs. No evidence of this hedge line was observed in this Trench.



Figure 5. Selected Artifacts, Glen Mary Plantation.

Significant differences in the artifact density between the front and back yards of the dwelling were indicated by the trenches and limited shovel tests. The area of Trench 11 on the northern rear side of the house contained a noticeable increase in artifacts compared to the artifact yield from Trenches 1 through 10, which were in the front yard. This relationship of artifact frequency with increasing towards the sides and back of the manor is further confirmed by the metal detector reconnaissance information that was gathered. The Trench 11 locale contained a mixture of 19th and early 20th century artifacts, including many kitchen-related items. Selected artifacts from the project are shown in Figure 5. On the upper right is an

amber glass bead (Trench 11 midden); on the lower right is a glazed clay marble (Feature 2); and on the left is a light green bottle glass spokeshave tool (Trench 11 midden).

Since the 1960s historical archaeologists have realized that most debris on a plantation is deposited in the rear of the house rather than the front. Consequently, most archaeological studies on southern plantations have focused their attention on the rear rather than the front yards. Only since the 1990s and the increasing popularity of landscape archaeology has research attention shifted to examine the front yard areas. As a result, few analogs to the Glen Mary front yard are contained in the archaeological research universe.

The author recently examined the archaeological potential of the front yard of a 19th century cotton plantation in southern Talbot County, Georgia and the report of this work is presently in preparation. That plantation was constructed in the mid-1830s and occupied to the present (Davidson 1993). Excavation revealed a distinctive pattern of artifact discard, in which children's toys, such as marbles, jacks, and metal soldiers, were well represented. Coins also were numerous in this area of the yard, which may result from the homeowners' repeated removal of keys from pocket or purse. Other artifact types that were well represented in the area immediately beyond the front steps were nails, clothing parts, and small food bones. One particularly telling artifact that was recovered from the Rocquemore example was a large wrought iron ring and screw, which was possibly part of a hitching post that was mounted at what is now the end of the walkway to the house.

At the Glen Mary Plantation the formality of the front yard degraded in the post-bellum period. The grandeur represented by the home's original builders was tempered by the harsh reality of hard economic times for cotton farmers in piedmont Georgia after the Civil War. The cost of maintaining an elaborate dwelling and its grounds was made difficult by the loss of the enslaved labor force. The depletion of the fertile farming soils in the region exacerbated the downward economic spiral of Georgia's cotton plantations. The dilapidation of Glen Mary is reflected in the early photographs of the dwelling in several ways. Several photographs show the dwelling in an unpainted state with many of the wooden shutters in disrepair. Several photographs show what appear to be two upright terra-cotta drainpipes flanking the front door stoop, which may represent impromptu flower pots. In another photograph a milk cow is shown with a child on the barren ground immediately outside the front porch. The latter photograph hardly speaks of a formal garden in the Greek Revival style.

The time allotted for fieldwork did not allow any additional detailed definition of a formal garden at Glen Mary. The archaeological examination of the Glen Mary manor house yard yielded several important findings. The study revealed that archaeological remains of garden and landscape features are preserved on the grounds. This evidence includes a formal brick and rock walkway. The results of the archaeological study did discover, define, and identify the formal walkway to the house. The reconnaissance investigation located ornamental shrubbery planting holes and possibly other types of landscaping evidence (such as patterning of nails that may be indicative of buildings or fences). This initial archaeology revealed that the site has excellent potential for recovering this type of information, if the remaining portions of the yard are carefully studied. A full delineation of the planting patterns, walkways, and possible staircase evidence will require extensive archaeological work.

Recommendations

The results of the present study were not sufficient for a full detailing of all these landscape features but they conclusively testify to the existence of a formal, planned landscape from the 19th century. Although hints of the plan can be gleaned by careful study of the photographic evidence and through informant interviews, most of this information can only be obtained through additional archaeological study. If one goal of the Glen Mary project is to recreate an accurate representation of the landscape as it existed in the 1850s and 1860s, then archaeology uniquely holds the necessary clues for successful completion of this task.

Future archaeological excavation plans for the front yard should incorporate a combination of hand excavated test units and limited mechanical stripping with the aid of a backhoe with a smooth-bladed bucket or a Gradall machine. The mechanical stripping should be employed sparingly and only under the careful supervision of an experienced machine operator and an archaeologist. A total station laser transit (or similar type mapping equipment) should be used to plot the various cultural features and other notable attributes. It may be possible to identify some of the plants growing in the planting holes and in the general area of the front yard. Future excavation and analysis should include soils samples of features and the matrix for the identification of specific pollen, seeds, and plant cells. All future archaeological excavation should meet currently accepted professional archaeological standards for field work, laboratory analysis, documentation, and curation.

Secondly, important archaeological deposits were identified on the north side and rear (northwest side) of the dwelling. At least one kitchen was located in this vicinity. It is shown in an early 20th century photograph and according to informants, the building had been moved to this location. From the photographs this building appears to be of late 19th or early 20th century vintage and a stove pipe vent is visible on its interior northern side. Shovel Tests 1, 2, and 3 and Trench 11 helped to define the northern artifact deposit that may have been associated with this kitchen.

The location of the original kitchen was not determined from the photographs or other historical research. It may have been located in the same vicinity as the later kitchen, or possibly further to the west. Shovel Tests 4 through 7 sampled an area west of the well house and south of the modern garage. That area contained relatively dense 19th century artifact deposits, including many fragments of window glass and machine-cut square nails. A higher percentage of machine-cut to wire nails was represented in these shovel tests. This suggests that most of the artifact deposition in this vicinity took place in the mid to late 19th century. The abundance of nails and window glass may indicate the general location of an earlier kitchen complex. One fragment of melted glass was recovered, which possibly suggests that this building was consumed by fire. At present, however, the existence of an earlier kitchen cannot be confirmed. Nevertheless, the area north and west of the Glen Mary house demonstrate the potential for intact archaeological midden deposits and possible feature contexts. Early 20th century photographs of the rear of the house indicate that this area contained numerous outbuildings and work areas. Additional study of this area promises to reveal many unknown aspects of life at Glen Mary in the 19th and early 20th centuries, beyond architectural details. Any extensive exploration of the rear and side yards should be preceded by intensive shovel test and test unit excavations to assess better the contents, depth, soils, and stratigraphic situation for this part of the site.

Thirdly, an intensive archaeological survey of the Glen Mary property should be undertaken. While such a study is beyond the focus of the immediately house garden, survey data should prove to be extremely useful for better understanding the layout and organization of the Glen Mary Plantation. Such a survey would also locate other archaeological resources from the period of interest, such as slave quarters, blacksmith shops and other plantation industries, which would greatly enhance the interpretive value of this precious historical resource. Survey methods and requirements for an intensive archaeological survey in Georgia are well defined by the Archaeological Services Unit of the Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Historic Preservation Division and by the Georgia Council of Professional Archaeologists.

These recommendations for historical archaeology should be incorporated into the proposed Cultural Landscape Report for the Glen Mary plantation. When this information is combined with a multi-disciplinary study of the plantation a more complete and accurate portrayal of the plantation house, gardens, outbuildings, other plantation features, its owners, and its workers (including enslaved and freedmen), will emerge as the outcome. Such a study should prove to be of immense benefit for the interpretation of 19th century plantation life in piedmont Georgia to the public.

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