CHAPTER 4

HISTORICAL CONTEXT

The Floyd farm is here placed in historical context, starting in 1806, when the tract was first granted, and ending in 1951, when the federal government acquired it. Because there is no comprehensive history of Barnwell County, the historical context has been assembled from several types of sources. The primary sources bearing on the history of the farm include the Barnwell County Deeds, South Carolina State Grants and Plats, the federal censuses and their various schedules from 1790 to 1920, Barnwell County wills, and old Barnwell District maps located at the S. C. Department of Archives and History in Columbia.

The Barnwell County materials, located at the South Carolina Historical Society in Charleston and at the South Caroliniana Library in Columbia, were thoroughly researched. Genealogical information on the Bush family of Barnwell County was supplied by the family and is on file at the SRARP. Additional genealogical information was gleaned from the deeds and wills of the Bush family and from the cemetery study prepared by Hanson, Brooks, and Brown (1981). Photographs of buildings on land purchased by the Atomic Energy Commission in the 1950s and detailed descriptions of the building materials provide an invaluable record of the architectural heritage of the people who inhabited the study area, as well as the area of Barnwell County. A series of oral interviews with Willie Floyd's son, Booker T. (b. 1927), as well as with Booker Floyd's sister Irene Floyd Edgecox, furnished additional information on the historic occupation of the project area.

The Legislative Comindex at the S. C. Department of Archives and History led to documents relating to the development of the county in the form of petitions, reports, and judgments. Pertinent secondary sources consist of several standard historical works, such as Alexander S. Salley, Jr.'s *History of Orangeburg County* (1969) and Robert Mill's *Statistics of South Carolina* (Mills 1972). Additional works used in this study are listed in the text below.

THE COLONIAL PERIOD

The area now defined as Barnwell County was, in 1682, a part of Colleton County, the southernmost of the large proprietary counties of South Carolina. Located on the northeast side of the Savannah River, Barnwell District once spanned from Hollow Creek to a point below King's Creek on the Savannah River, and eastward to the South Edisto River and a portion of the North Edisto River (Mills 1980). Through the middle of the county on a northwest/southeast axis ran the Big and Little Salkehatchie Rivers. The head of the Coosawatchie River was in the southern portion of the county. The county had numerous large streams which flowed into these rivers, providing water power and transportation for the inhabitants (Stoeber 1873; S. C. Dept of Archives and History [SCDAH] Guide Maps to the Development of South Carolina Parishes, Districts, and Counties n.d.).

In 1769, when the colony of South Carolina was divided into circuit court districts, what now comprises Barnwell County was a part of Orangeburg District and it remained so until 1785, when Winton, Orange, Lexington, and Lewisburg Counties were created from Orangeburg District. What is now Barnwell County was then Winton County that included a part of Orange County to its east. By 1800, Barnwell District was created by splitting Orangeburg District into two parts at the South Edisto River (SCDAH Guide Maps to the Development of South Carolina Parishes, Districts, and Counties n.d.).

The earliest South Carolina settlement that affected this area of the colony was the colonial township of New Windsor, located at the head of the Upper Three Runs on the Savannah River. The township, established by Swiss and German Protestants in 1736, extended from Town Creek to a point about seven miles above Fort Moore. It was settled primarily by Indian traders. Among them was Patrick Brown, the most important Indian trader in South Carolina and Georgia in the 1740s and 1750s. By 1748, at the invitation of the colonial government, the Chickasaw Indians settled on the border of New Windsor township on 21,774 acres that were surveyed and reserved for them. These allies of the colonists had fought alongside the English when the Spanish attacked Fort Frederica in 1742. New Windsor, though sparsely settled by Europeans and English, was a key township in defense of the western border of South Carolina, which was the weakest point in the colony's defense for many years before the Revolutionary War (Meriweather 1940).

The region below New Windsor, which later became Barnwell County, was even more sparsely settled. This land was the home of the Uchee Indians, who lived on the Savannah River, below Silver Bluff, which was in Barnwell District in 1800, but is now in Aiken County near the Aiken and Barnwell County line. The Uchee territory included the land west of the Salkehatchie River, which runs through the middle of present-day Barnwell County. Creek Indians inhabited the land near King's Creek at the southern border of the old Barnwell District. Because of the lack of settlers in the area, the Commons House of Assembly reserved land for new settlers in 1749. The land consisted of a six mile strip along the Savannah River from Purrysburg, near Savannah, to New Windsor. The project area would have been just outside this reserved land along the river. The plan appears to have failed, for most of the early white settlers moved into the area between King's Creek and Upper Three Runs by 1760 and claimed land near the Salkehatchie River rather than settling along the Savannah River. Those first grantees on the Salkehatchie River appear to have been settlers who relocated there from the Welsh Tract in the PeeDee River drainage. Between 1753 and 1759, they were granted over eleven thousand acres near the Salkehatchie River. The earliest settlers between the Upper and Lower Three Runs, where the Floyd Farm is located, appear to have been English and French Huguenot, as well as a few Germans. By 1757, the population near the Salkehatchie forks was estimated to be about six hundred persons, half of them Germans (Meriwether 1940:73-76).

One of the early settlers in the region, Tarleton Brown, wrote a memoir of life at Brier's Creek, which is just below Lower Three Runs in the southwestern part of old Barnwell District. His father moved the family to the region in 1769. Tarleton Brown wrote:

> Flattering inducements being held forth to settlers of the rich region of South Carolina contiguous to the Savannah River, my uncle, Bartlet Brown, having already moved, and settled himself two miles above Matthews Bluff, on the Savannah River; my father brought out some negroes, and left them with his brother to make a crop; and in 1769, a year afterwards, my father and family, consisting of eleven persons, emigrated to this country and settled on Brier's Creek, opposite to Burton's Ferry [on the Savannah River]. We found the country in the vicinity very thinly inhabited. Our own shelter for several weeks to protect us from the

> weather was a bark tent, which served for our house until we could erect a rude dwelling of logs. Having cleared a piece of land, we planted, and found the soil to be exceedingly fertile in the river swamp, producing abundant crops. The country was literally infested with wild beasts, which were very annoying to the inhabitants - killing the stock and destroying the crops - and were so bold, daring, and ravenous, that they would come into our yards, and before our doors take our sheep and poultry. Indeed, it was dangerous to venture out at night beyond the precincts of our yards unarmed. We used every device to exterminate them, and ultimately effected our object by setting traps and poisoned bait (Brown 1894:3).

Brown wrote of the abundance of game and the unspoiled nature of the country:

> The forest abounded with all kinds of game, particularly deer and turkeys - the former were almost as gentle as cattle. I have seen fifty together, in a days ride in the woods. The latter were innumerable, and so very fat that I have often run them down on horseback. The range for cattle was excellent; it was a very common thing to see two hundred in a gang in the large ponds. In any month of the year beeves in the finest order for butchering might be obtained from the forest. It was customary then to have large pens or enclosures for cattle under the particular charge or direction of some person or persons; I was informed by one of those who kept a pen at King's Creek, that there had been marked that spring seven hundred calves. Our produce for market was beef, pork, staves, and shingles. There was but little corn planted in that section then; and, indeed, there was scarcely any inducement to plant more than sufficed for our own consumption, there being but few mills in the country, and consequently very little demand for the article.
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> From the fact of the new and unsettled state of the country, it may be readily inferred that the roads were very inferior; in truth, they were not much better than common bridle paths; and I feel confident in asserting that there were not, in the whole of Barnwell District, any conveyances superior to carts of common wood slides. There were a great many wild horses running at large in the forest when we first settled in the district, a number of which were caught and sold by various individuals, who pursued exclusively the business for a livelihood (Brown 1894:4).

Another early resident recounted memories of the beautiful, unspoiled environs of Barnwell County in the eighteenth century. He recalled:

> How the wild oats grew over the hill in the days of his youth - how far the unobstructed pine lands might be penetrated with the eye - how so thickly grown with blackjack and numerous other shrubbery and undergrowth. How abundant were the droves of wild deer and the tall, stalking wild crane, the "gannet," that frequented the sand hills in the pine lands, and went about in congregations, and walked in their long stalking way like a tall man seeming in the distance, and lifting themselves upon their long vary-colored wings as you approach them, would take flight to their distant retreats, safe from the intrusions of man (Black 1864).

Brown recalled that there were numerous cowpens in the district, often built very close to the houses in order that they could be protected from predators. The district was known for its extensive stock production, both horses and cattle. By the first decade of the nineteenth century, horse shows were held in the district. A race track, called the Sherwood Track, was laid out near the town of Barnwell in the mid-1850s, and was claimed to have been the finest between New York and New Orleans (Walker n.d.). A reporter for the *Charleston News and Courier* in 1880 recalled, "Stock raising being stimulated by these events [the races], blood horses were brought into the neighborhood, and many noted stallions have left their impress upon the Barnwell horses, which for generations have been famous saddle and draft animals ... It is said that on the immense farm of Col. Maham there were 700 brood mares" (Moore 1989).

Barnwell was prime country for cattle raising, in part because it was sparsely settled in the eighteenth century. Land use and herding methods used in South Carolina cattle raising appeared fairly universal throughout the colony. As the farming population increased in an area where herding was active, cattle owners either moved the herd to a less populated district or stayed and developed their animal husbandry methods for specific areas of land (Brooks 1988).

The cattle were allowed to roam freely through the forest and graze upon the natural grasses. Little feed was cultivated for livestock and the crops, rather than the cattle, were enclosed in fences for protection. Eventually the colonists realized the need for cowpens in order to protect the cattle from being preyed upon at night. These were also useful during epidemics of cattle distemper when herders had to separate the healthy animals from the diseased ones. These cowpens were often temporary structures, or sometimes the "pen" was not a structure at all, but merely the fork of a stream where the watercourse functioned as the deterrent for wandering cattle. These sites were vitally important to the economy of Barnwell District in the eighteenth century (Brooks 1987).

The markets for livestock from the "cattle frontier" of Barnwell District were Charleston, Savannah, New York, Philadelphia, and the West Indies. The cattle were driven to Charleston and the northern cities and sent down the river to Savannah. Beef was shipped from Charleston to the West Indies through the 1780s (Brooks 1987).

These early settlers built homes which ranged from the "rude log dwelling" cited by Brown to that of Benedict Koller, a German settler, who erected a half-timbered wattle and daub house. The description of the house, built about 1750, includes the construction

technique. It measured approximately 16 by 20 feet. The sides were built by putting up in line eight fat lightwood posts, with eight or nine feet clear to the ground, about two feet apart. Each post had a vertical groove cut in the sides facing the neighboring posts. These grooves ran the entire length of the posts. The spaces between the posts were filled by sliding into these grooves a wicker work of small twigs. The ends of the house were built up in the same manner, save that a space was left for a door. The outside wall was then covered with a plaster made of red clay and the inside was quite smooth and nice looking when plastered with native lime. The floor was made by hewing small logs flat on the upper and under sides and laying them together as a floor is laid, and then putting on a finishing touch with an adze. The roof was also of hewn logs which were sodded. The door was made of the same sort of boards joined together by wrought nails which Koller made by hand at his forge. The hinges were made of dogwood, and very ingeniously arranged so that the door might swing on them, very much as our modern iron gates swing on an iron rod. Beneath this structure was a cellar (Salley 1969). Archaeological work at the Catherina Brown cowpen (ca. 1746-1782) on Steel Creek indicates that she had a one-and-one-half story timber frame dwelling at the edge of an enclosure for cattle. This house had two exterior eve wall chimneys, one larger than the other (Brooks 1988).

During the Revolutionary War, the land encompassed by SRS was not the scene of battles or skirmishes, but two old Barnwell District settlements to the south were the scenes of encounters between the British and the colonists. Near Healing Springs was an area remembered from Revolutionary War times until at least the 1930s as "the slaughter field." Boiling Springs was also the scene of a bloody encounter, but the district was spared much of the destruction and loss of life seen elsewhere in the colony (Walker n.d.; Brooks 1988).

In summary, the colonial era was a period of slow growth of the colonizing population and a gradual decrease in the Indian population. The first settlers were primarily English. The area was viewed as vital to the defense of the colony and was important in the Indian trade. Its economy was dependent upon cattle raising.

THE NATIONAL PERIOD

From 1785 to 1825 the population greatly increased and the area was not the wilderness that it had been in the 1750s and 1760s when the first settlers arrived. The need for local government was met when the state was divided into court districts and a courthouse was ordered built in Barnwell District. The first public building in the district was the courthouse built in 1789 at the head of Cedar Branch; it was at this seat of government that the Winton Courthouse riot occurred in 1790. This riot was led by angry landowners whose property was being sold for nonpayment of taxes. They "took riotous possession of the courthouse," tearing down the bar and benches and casting records outside. They set the courthouse on fire, though the building was not destroyed by the flames. The county seat was moved in 1791 to Turkey Creek at the site of present-day Barnwell in the center of the district. A new courthouse was built there in 1800 as the new village of Barnwell grew around it (Reynolds and Faunt 1976).

The population of the district grew steadily during the early years of the nineteenth century. In 1809, Barnwell District had 7,646 Euro-American residents and 3,518 African-Americans. The African-American population nearly doubled in the next twenty years, while the Euro-American population increased more slowly. In 1829 the district

was home to 8,719 Euro-Americans and 6,619 Afro-Americans. By 1849, the African-American/Euro-American ratio was nearly even, with the district containing 12,256 Euro-Americans and 12,980 African-Americans. Thereafter, the African-American population far outnumbered Euro-American residents (Ryan 1860).

By 1816, Barnwell District was traversed by roads, transportation having greatly improved since the days of Tarleton Brown's youth. Most of these roads were constructed between 1785 and 1801, during the Winton County period (Brooks and Crass 1991). One main road paralleled the Savannah River, crossing Upper Three Runs and Four Mile Branch near what became the Willie Floyd Farm. The village of Barnwell became a hub of transportation routes as roads fanned out from its center in every direction, including one that led to Charleston. Roads followed the banks of the Big and Little Salkehatchie and Edisto Rivers, leading to the Beaufort District to the south (Anderson 1816).

The waterways were also important transportation routes. In 1819, the citizens of Barnwell District organized their efforts to clear obstructions from the South Edisto River to make it navigable. The work was expected to be completed by 1820. Other internal improvements in the 1820s which affected travel to Barnwell included a causeway over the Little Salkehatchie River at Buckhead's Ford, over which ran the state road, called the Hamburg Road, from Charleston to Barnwell and on to Hamburg. This became the stage road after its completion in the mid-1820s. By 1828, the state attempted to clear through Salkehatchie Swamp to enable navigation (Kohn 1938).

Robert Mills wrote that besides the river transportation, some creeks of the district were amenable to navigation, including Upper and Lower Three Runs and Four Mile Branch, a branch of which extends to what became the Willie Floyd Farm. Transportation and water power made the land on these creeks more valuable than the uplands, and as the population in the district grew, land on the creeks and rivers was taken up quickly. These water courses also held great value as agricultural ground. As Tarleton Brown noted in the 1760s, the settlers immediately began planting crops in the floodplains, taking advantage of the rich soil on the alluvial terraces, though it does not seem that the district was a heavy rice producer in the eighteenth century when this was the staple crop of South Carolina. Agriculturalists in Barnwell District, like those in Richland District, grew other staple crops in the floodplains, such as peas and beans and sweet potatoes. These early Barnwell planters were well ahead of the rest of the state in embracing this agricultural practice, which was considered "progressive" in the nineteenth century when Robert Mills and other proponents of modern agricultural techniques wrote of this new technique. Apparently the early practice of planting in the floodplains had declined by 1825, for Mills did not see widespread use of the "agricultural system" of manuring uplands and draining swamps for agricultural use when he wrote of the district in 1825 (Mills 1972).

The people of the district were primarily producing cotton, corn, wheat, rye, sweet potatoes, and peas in 1825, though corn was still not grown in quantity. The price of provisions was high because corn was not grown as a crop for sale. Mills noted, "The planters will part with it, but at a high price." Mills stated that one could live on $60 to $100 per year in Barnwell District, unless living in the court town of Barnwell, where $120 was needed per annum (Mills 1980).

The district also produced apples, peaches, pears, plums, cherries, grapes, melons, and strawberries. Timber was an important product of the county, as lumber was one of its

chief exports to Charleston. Pine timbers which had been squared were shipped down the Edisto River on rafts to be sold in the port city. It was said that the Edisto timber from Barnwell District brought the highest price of any timber sent to market (Mills 1980).

Gristmills became a necessary industry, for more corn was being planted in the district as the nineteenth century continued. Sawmills were built to handle the growing timber industry. The earliest recorded mill in the SRS area was in 1785 on Boggy Gut, waters of the Lower Three Runs, when its owner petitioned the General Assembly to keep the stream clear in order to allow for ease in transporting grains and timber to the Savannah River (Brooks and Crass 1991). At least nineteen mills had been erected on the district's creeks and rivers by 1816. Three mills were in operation on Four Mile Branch by 1816 and four by 1825 (Anderson 1816).

During the first quarter of the nineteenth century, social institutions became a vital part of life in the district. Seven churches appear on the 1816 map of the district. Mills stated that the Baptists were the most numerous, followed by the Methodists and Presbyterians. By 1825, there was one female academy in Barnwell District and two academies for males, as well as "a number of private schools." At the courthouse in Barnwell, the Farmer's Society established a library. The village of Barnwell contained, in addition to the courthouse, a jail and about thirty houses. A resident wrote of the town in 1835, "The inhabitants are always very friendly to strangers and a kind-hearted lot of people." Barnwell was the largest settlement in the district in 1825, the only other one being at Boiling Springs where a summer village was established near the intersection of present-day Highway 3 and County Road 39 (Barnwell County Road Map, ca. 1980; Mills 1980; Anderson 1816; Lartique 1835).

The town of Barnwell remained unincorporated for some years after its founding. It was incorporated by 1830, after many petitions from its citizens were written to the General Assembly. One petition noted the unruly atmosphere which pervaded the town at times: "The village of Barnwell is unincorporated and that in consequence thereof many evils to the morals and good order of society frequently occur, which are difficult to redress for the want of such incorporation - that scenes of dissipation, particularly intemperance, take place at the Court House, the example of which has a very pernicious influence upon the peace, good order & well being of the society of the District " (South Carolina General Assembly Petition [GAP] 1827, no. 137).

The first decades of the nineteenth century saw tremendous growth in the district, in the cultivation of more diversified crops, in population, transportation routes, and industry. Social institutions were established and courts of law became regular occurrences. The village of Barnwell grew and prospered as the central place of the district, providing services unknown in the area in the eighteenth century. A society which desired order and peace became established in Barnwell District and a planter society developed as the district prospered.

THE ANTEBELLUM ERA

The antebellum era was characterized by a decrease in livestock production and the rise of cotton as the primary agricultural crop and industry. Perhaps this era is best summed up by one of Barnwell District's foremost citizens, James Henry Hammond, who served in the United States Congress and was elected to the Senate in 1857. In an

argument over State's Rights in 1858, Hammond announced to the northern interests, "You dare not make war on cotton. No power on earth dares make war upon it. Cotton is King" (Davidson 1971). This was still the perception after the Civil War, when a correspondent of the Charleston News and Courier wrote of Barnwell District, "until the soft white fingers of the cotton queen throttled other industries, stock raising was very extensively carried on in this section" (Moore 1989).

In 1850, cotton production in Four Mile Township of Barnwell District averaged 5.66 bales of cotton or 2,264 pounds per plantation. By 1860, cotton production had soared to 22.73 bales or 9,092 pounds of cotton per plantation. The impact of the Civil War and Reconstruction cut cotton production significantly in Four Mile Township, as indicated by cotton production among a sample group of 40 planters who resided in the neighborhood near the Floyd Farm. In 1870, each planter in the sample group of 40 planters raised only 7.65 bales or 3,060 pounds in that year. Despite this, according to the News and Courier, Barnwell County was one of the top cotton producing counties in the United States by 1880 (United States Department of Commerce [USDC], Censuses of the United States [CUS], Manuscript Agricultural Schedules [MAS], 1850-1880).

The perception that cotton production took precedence over other staple crops may be somewhat of a misconception for Barnwell District. Corn, which had historically been an unpopular staple to raise in the district, was a major crop by 1850 in the Four Mile Township. A sample of production on forty plantations in the township shows that the plantations averaged about 550 bushels of Indian corn in that year. In 1860, a sample of forty plantations in Four Mile Township indicates the average corn production in that township was up to about 945 bushels per plantation (USDC CUS MAS, 1850, 1860).

Peas, beans, and sweet potatoes accounted for the other major staple crops in the sample. In 1850, the average yield per plantation in the sample area was 31.63 bushels of peas and beans and 94.56 bushels of sweet potatoes. In 1860, the average raised on the sample plantations was 151.13 bushels of peas and beans and 102.75 bushels of sweet potatoes. Little or no hay was cultivated by the planters; most plantations in Four Mile Township did not keep many cattle, horses, or mules. In Four Mile Township, very few farmers raised sheep and no poultry production was indicated on the census. Hogs were the most prevalent livestock raised; in 1850 each plantation in the sample group had about 41 swine. In 1860 the average number rose to about 58 hogs per plantation (USDC CUS MAS, 1850, 1860).

The antebellum period witnessed the rise of many wealthy planters in Barnwell District. Among the more notable were Angus Patterson, William Gilmore Simms, Jr., James H. Hammond, Edmund Cussings Bellinger, Jr., Johnson Hagood, Barnett H. Brown, Alfred Proctor Aldrich, and Joseph Duncan Allen. Her citizens influenced state and national government, serving as legislators, senators, governors, and in other forms of public service. The district was one of the wealthiest in the state of South Carolina, ranking sixth highest in the amount of taxes paid by its residents (Davidson 1971; Ryan 1860).

Barnwell District also was home to many planters of modest means and a large African-American population, the slaves outnumbering the Euro-American population by over 5,000. The district had the seventh largest population in the state in 1860; the

population was 30,743. Of these, 12,702 were Euro-Americans and 18,041 were African-Americans (Brooks and Crass 1991; Ryan 1860).

The extent of rice production in Barnwell District during the heyday of rice culture in South Carolina is unknown, but by 1825 rice was not mentioned by Robert Mills as an important Barnwell crop, although it was a major crop in other parts of the state. Some rice was being grown in 1838 by an unknown Barnwell planter, but rice production was unknown in Four Mile Township during the 1850s and 1860s, despite the fact that it had some of the best land for its production, because it bordered on the Savannah River and contained some of the largest creeks in the district. By 1870, one planter turned back to this crop which had for so many years been the staple crop of South Carolina. F. L. Corley raised 3,300 pounds of rice in that year. In the whole of Barnwell District, 11,544,784 pounds of upland rice were produced in 1870, which was a peak year for the crop. From 1880 to 1900, rice production dropped rapidly, falling to a mere 71 pounds in 1910 (Brooks and Crass 1991; Anonymous n. d.).

The district was heavily involved in lumber production prior to 1850. The Industrial Schedule of the 1850 Census indicates seventy-seven sawmills were in Barnwell District. This appears to have been the peak of the lumber industry in the area, for by 1860, the number of planing mills had fallen to thirty-five. By 1870, there were only thirteen sawmills in the district (USDC CUS, Manuscript Industrial Schedules [MIS], 1850-1880).

During the antebellum period, there were few gristmills in the district. There were only five in 1860, but as corn became a more popular staple crop in the area, the number of gristmills rose to fourteen by 1870. The rice threshing industry arose as that crop began to be raised after the Civil War; there were six threshers in Barnwell District in 1870 (USDC CUS MAS, 1860, 1870).

There was a diversification of industry in the years prior to the Civil War, when blacksmiths, wheelwrights, timber cutters, and coachmakers were listed in the census. The war appears to have reversed this trend, for both the 1870 and 1880 Industrial Schedules list only those with occupations in saw-and grist mills, cotton gins, and threshers (USDC CUS MAS, 1860, 1870, 1880).

THE CIVIL WAR, RECONSTRUCTION, AND AFTERWARDS

The Civil War took its toll on the district. General Sherman and his Union troops, on their famous "March to the Sea," moved into South Carolina in early February of 1865. The Confederate troops left to defend the state were scarce and overwhelmed. The Union troops entered the state from Georgia in two prongs. One, under Gen. Howard, entered Beaufort County from the sea and then marched inland. The other column, under Gen. Slocum, crossed the Savannah River thirty miles above the city of Savannah, and proceeded inland. In Barnwell, the federal troops proceeded through the swamps of the Salkehatchie River and defeated the Confederates at River's Bridge, two miles below the town of Barnwell. They then burned the county seat (Wallace 1951).

Fighting also occurred at Blackville, which was burned, and Williston near Barnwell. The Barnwell county town of Midway was also burned. There is evidence that Sherman's men made some effort, though ineffective, to protect the towns they invaded. A

Union soldier wrote of Barnwell, "Heavy patrols sent out to prevent the men from setting fires to the buildings ... [the] Town was all burned before the troops left." The devastation left in the wake of the Union troops under Sherman was widespread. One Ohio major remarked of his march with Sherman's troops, "The country left behind us is left a howling wilderness, an utter desolation" (Wallace 1951; Glatthaar 1985).

Union soldier Hubbard K. Milward recorded the following account of his march across Barnwell County with the 18th Kentucky Infantry, a part of Gen. Sherman's forces, after the first column of Union troops had passed through the country:

> Wednesday Feby 8, 1965 ... passed Brighton [northern Beaufort County] in the forenoon, another cold day ... Thursday Feb 9 1865 ... Moved 7 A M. The mutineers have given up and that question is settled - marched 18 miles on the road to Barnwell and camped at dark, from this point I have seen but 3 or 4 houses standing, barns, stables, dwelling houses, fences, everything save negro quarters & churches are mercilessly destroyed. I dont like it. A little warmer than yesterday. Friday Feby 10, 1865 ... Moved by A M, marched twenty miles and at 6 1/4 P M camped near Barnwell. The weather a little warmer but overcoat yet comfortable. Today more houses were spared and I think the vindictiveness of the troops is abating. A portion of Barnwell was burned last Monday by our Cavalry. It must have been a pretty town and of considerable size. Here the 14 A C concentrates. The 20th is also at Blackville 10 miles distant. We crossed the Combahee river [this had to be the Salkehatchie] during the day.
>
> Saturday Feby 11, 1865 ... Moved 12 1/2 P M marched ten miles and camped 6 P M two miles from Williston and came distance from "White Pond" crossed Turkey Creek at Barnwell one square of which was burned this morning, burning and devastating continues. Subsistence is plentiful.
>
> Sunday Feby 12, 1865 ... Moved A M and at 12 1/2 P.M. stopped for dinner having marched 15 miles after dinner 3rd Brig[ade] destroyed a mile of RR - Augusta and Charleston. Then marched 2 miles and camped 6 1/2 P M. The march today has been through a country chiefly inhabited by the poorer class, subsistence and forage scarce. We struck RR at a point 26 miles from Augusta and 112 miles from Charleston; until tonight the cry has been "On to Augusta" now we turn toward Charleston. We are about 8 miles from Williston and will march in that direction tomorrow - from the reports we hear Kilpatrick has had some hard fighting and was glad to quit ... distance made 17 miles.
>
> Monday Feby 13/ 65 ... The day commenced with RR burning, one mile was burned the work beginning 6 1/2 A M

> after which we marched ten miles and camped at 3 P M we are on the banks of Edisto River ... (Clark 1973).

Despite the destruction during the war, the county prospered during the decades after Reconstruction. Barnwell County had been divided in half by the formation of Aiken County in 1871. The South Carolina Railroad traversed the district by the 1880s, though it did not go through the district seat of Barnwell, the only real population center in Barnwell District at that time. This was not the first railroad to come to the district, for the first steam railroad in the world traversed the district in 1832. The old South Carolina Railroad ran from Charleston to Branchville, then crossed Barnwell District on its route to Hamburg. Later, the South Carolina Railroad projected the path of a new railway in the district in 1845, and work was begun in 1848, but the entire line was not completed until after the Civil War. Its advent did not help the town of Barnwell, for Barnett H. Brown, later the mayor of Barnwell, refused to sell a right-of-way through his land. He stated that "the engines would run over and kill his little negro slaves; also that the noise of the trains, such as the blowing of whistles and ringing of bells, would seriously disturb the quiet and repose of the citizens and under no circumstances would such a nuisance be tolerated by a respectable community." Train service did not come to the town of Barnwell until 1890, when Mike Brown and Whilden Woodward built a narrow gauge wooden railroad from Barnwell to Blackville. The railroad, called the Lula Mae, in honor of Woodward's daughter, was eventually converted to steel rails and was widened. It was sold to the Southern Railway after the turn of the twentieth century (Davidson 1971; South Carolina Dept. of Agriculture, Commerce and Industries 1927; Manning and Anderson, n.d.).

Barnett Brown's refusal to recognize the coming of the modern age meant that the railroad affected the growth of smaller hamlets in the county, such as Midway, Blackville, Graham, and Williston. The portion of the railroad built prior to the Civil War was destroyed by Sherman's troops in 1865, but by 1873 the South Carolina Railroad was rebuilt and a new line to the east of the Savannah River, called the Port Royal Railroad, was constructed. This railroad crossed Four Mile Branch about four miles downstream from Bush's Mill. The towns were rebuilt during the 1870s and plantations once again established, though upon a very different labor system (Barnwell County Road Map, 1873; Moore 1989:25).

By 1880, the town of Barnwell had about 1,500 inhabitants and sported a graded public school and several private academies, four hotels, five churches, and two newspapers. The Barnwell Bank was established during the 1880s and the town contained numerous stores, a carriage and wagon factory, and five medical doctors. The town reflected the prosperity in the county around it during these years, as did the growing town of Blackville, with a population of 1,600 in ca. 1888. Electricity and water service came to Barnwell in ca. 1914, signaling the beginning of the stream of technology which would affect the state and change lives in the twentieth century (Moore 1989; Manning and Anderson, n.d.).

The years after Reconstruction were characterized by a decline in total farm acreage in the county, partially due to the formation of Aiken County which took some land from Barnwell County. During these years, the total percentage of improved acreage on extant farms increased as modern agricultural techniques were employed. Cotton production increased during the years from 1870 to 1890, when about 50,000 bales were produced in the county, tapering off to its ca. 1855 level of about 15,000 bales by 1930. These were

the years when the agricultural labor system adjusted from a slave labor system to that of tenant farming and share cropping.

By 1881, African-Americans formed a group referred to as the"Colored Land Leaguers" who vowed "to work for no white man after the present year for love, money, or an interest in the crops." This group preferred to rent land and borrow the money necessary to farm it (Tindall 1952).

There was unrest between the Euro-Americans and African-Americans in Barnwell County and elsewhere in the state in the years after Reconstruction. In 1878 and 1879 many Barnwell blacks left the Democratic county for Republican Beaufort County, complaining that they had been victims of political persecution. In 1886, fifty-one African-Americans left Barnwell County for Arkansas. The newspapers reported that the African-Americans around Beldock near Barnwell had "the Arkansas fever badly," selling their corn for forty cents per bushel in order to quickly leave the state (Tindall 1952).

The tension between the two groups manifested itself in two notable incidents in Barnwell County during the aftermath of the war. The Ellenton Riot began on September 14, 1876, when two African-Americans attempted to burglarize the home of Alonzo Harley, a Euro-American. Harley's wife and son were beaten by the two robbers. The manhunt and general hysteria that ensued prompted three days of lawless behavior involving posses, gun battles, arsons, and death on both sides. In the end, federal troops were sent to the state to maintain order and charges flew that this was an organized plot by the African-American community to promote Black supremacy (Brooks 1987).

Sara Anna Walker, a long-time Barnwell resident who was living in Ellenton at the time of the riot recounted what she remembered of the terror-filled three days. After some immediate perils of the Reconstruction days were over, a friend, Mrs. Cannon, of Ellenton, asked her to to come to Ellenton and teach her three children as there was no public school to which she could send them. Miss Walker agreed and in the fall of 1876 she took up her abode in Ellenton.

Her stay there was short-lived, lasting only through the first term of the agreed school year, due to the fact that the Ellenton riot, the riot which put Ellenton on the map and went far towards the election of Wade Hampton as governor of South Carolina, happened shortly after she moved there.

> Word came one afternoon that the Negroes were overstepping even the bounds of the carpetbagger rule in a community above Ellenton and all the young men of the town immediately left to aid their friends and relatives. Miss Anna was sitting on the front porch of a friend, a widow, and there was only the widow's son and her aged father in the home at the time, when a band of seventy armed negroes marched through the edge of the yard.
>
> Nothing was said by either the ladies on the porch or the Negroes, but the mistress of the house called the yard boy after they had gone through and asked what was up. The

> boy replied, "Nothing that I knows of Mum, 'cept they says they gwine to kill everything from the cradle to the grave."
>
> A night of terror followed with every noise sending the ladies into a frenzy. Next morning, however, A. P. Butler and his men from Beech Island arrived and on the following day General Johnson Hagood and his men from Barnwell arrived at the scene. These two companies of men roamed the countryside, killing every armed negro that they found. No residences were burned in Ellenton to Miss Anna's knowledge, but numerous smokehouses and outbuildings were burned to the ground (Walker n.d.).

Another particularly ugly incident occurred in 1899, when eight blacks, prisoners in the county jail, were lynched by a white mob. This lynching horrified both African-Americans and Euro-Americans, and was one of the contributing factors in the gradual negative turn in public opinion among whites regarding the lynching law in the state (Tindall 1952).

As African- and Euro-Americans struggled to resolve their conflicts over land ownership, agricultural labor systems, politics, and prejudice, Barnwell County moved into the twentieth century. Both groups labored under the tenant farmer and share cropping systems, and people of both groups achieved land ownership, though Euro-Americans were far more successful securing ownership than African-Americans.

One highly successful African-American farmer from Barnwell County was Joseph Alexander Owens, who was described by the *News and Courier* as "the largest property holder and most successful colored man in Barnwell County" in 1881. He owned no property at the end of the Civil War, but by 1881 owned two stores, a plantation, and had $5,000 credit to his name in Savannah. Owens became a Democratic representative to the state legislature. His success was probably exceptional (Tindall 1952).

In 1925, there were 393 Euro-American farmers who held full ownership of their land in Barnwell County, as opposed to 138 African-Americans in the same position. By 1945, 577 Euro-American farmers had achieved land ownership, compared with 232 African-American. Throughout these years, Euro-American tenant farmers and sharecroppers decreased as people left the farming vocation or attained land ownership, while the number of African-American tenant farmers and sharecroppers remained virtually stable at high levels. For instance, in 1925, there were 1,395 African-American farmers who were tenants. By 1935, Barnwell County was 60% to 69.99% tenant-farmed, according to the U.S. Dept. of Commerce. In 1945 the number had only dropped to 1,214 African-American tenant farmers (Brooks and Crass 1991; S. C. State Planning Board 1940).

The area of the state in which Barnwell County lies earned 75% of its income from agriculture in 1935 and it had the lowest number of industries of any county in South Carolina in 1939 (a total of 5). The farms in Barnwell County ranged generally between 95 and 109.9 acres and the average value of the land was between $16 and $18 per acre in 1935 (S. C. State Planning Board 1940).

The important crops in Barnwell County in 1935 were cotton (28% of the land in the county was planted in it), corn (32%), oats (10%), and vegetables (10%). During this era, when automobiles, trucks, and trains made transportation of produce a viable practice, truck farming and extensive shipment of the county's crops became an important agricultural enterprise. Sara Anna Walker wrote in the 1930s, "Cotton is the leading crop, but progressive farmers are learning the advantage of diversification" (Walker n.d.; S. C. State Planning Board 1940).

The county claimed to have had the "largest watermelon shipping center in the U.S.A." The "largest asparagus farm in the world" was run by Mr. Idis Brabham in the 1930s near Hattieville, a station on the C. and W.C. Railroad. Another large asparagus farm was run by Simon Brown's Sons at Blackville. Blackville was also claimed to have been "the largest shipper of cucumbers and cantaloupes." Other Barnwell County truck farming crops included spinach, lettuce, squash, tomatoes, sweet potatoes, Irish potatoes, garden peas, cabbage, strawberries, dewberries, and peanuts. In response to the increase in truck farming, the Leigh Banana Crate Plant was established by the Leigh family in Ellenton by the 1930s (Walker n.d.; Manning and Anderson, n.d.).

In the twentieth century the population centers in this rural agrarian county were growing in population and importance. Those of primary importance were described by the W.P.A. writer, Sara Anna Walker, in the mid-1930s. In 1930, the town of Barnwell had a population of 1,834. She described it as an agricultural center which was connected to the "outside world by two railroads, the Southern from Augusta to Savannah, the Atlantic Coast Line from Augusta to Florence ... also by two highways - no. 3 and no. 64" (Walker n.d.).

Blackville, the second largest town in the county, was also an agricultural center. It was considered the largest shipping point for fruits and vegetables in the county. The population in 1930 was 1,284. The "best hotel in the county" was located there (Walker n.d.). Williston, the third largest, had a population of 1,024 in 1930. The town was named for the Willis family, the earliest settlers in the area. This town was also considered an important shipping point on the railroad for the produce of the county. Elko, located on the Southern Railway three miles from Williston, had a population of 50 in 1930. Dunbarton was once the center of an old agricultural neighborhood. When the Atlantic Coast Line Railroad was built through it, a town began to grow there. By 1930, the population was between 250 and 300 people. Hilda, also on the Atlantic Coast Line Railroad, had a population of 75 to 100 in the thirties. It was founded after the construction of the railroad (Walker n.d.). Leigh was known as the only "industrial village " in the county in 1930, with a population of 150-200. Healing Springs, one of the oldest settlements in the county, stood on Highway 3. Its founding pre-dates the Revolutionary War. Boiling Springs was another very old community founded prior to the Revolutionary War. Neither of these old villages were located on the railroad and their populations remained small, about 25 to 30 people in the 1930s. Nevertheless, their importance in the history of the county were paramount (Walker n.d.).

Barnwell County was in a transition from renter-farming to independent land ownership of small farms and an era of growth of population centers when the United States Atomic Energy Commission chose the western portion of Barnwell County and the eastern portion of Aiken County as the site for a nuclear facility in 1950. A total of approximately 300 square miles was quickly converted for this use.

CHAIN OF TITLE AND ORAL HISTORY: THE WILLIE FLOYD FARM

The 172-acre tract known as the Willie Floyd Farm was once part of a 520-acre tract which was first surveyed on August 26, 1806 for Christopher Garlington. It is not known if Garlington took up the tract, but it was considered vacant and was resurveyed for Aaron Kirkland on December 19, 1812. This tract was conveyed to Kirkland as a state grant. The procedure for receiving land as a state grant required the Surveyor General or a Deputy Surveyor to survey and make a plat of the land, ascertain that it was indeed not owned by another individual, and certify the survey. The grantee then received the grant from the governor of the state (State Grants [SG], F.324). Aaron Kirkland's 520 acres is described thus: "Situated in the District of Barnwell on the head of Black's Branch and on the South side of Four Mile Branch waters of the Savannah River, between upper and lower Runs including the Muddy Pond" (State Plats II [SP II] 43.281).

Black's Branch crossed the property line at angle of north 68 degrees east on the 1812 plat and from that angle that state plat can be accurately transferred to a modern topographical map. The Floyd Farm occupies the southwestern portion of the old 520 acre tract. Most of the farm's 172 acres are located on a high hill which slopes toward Black's Branch on the north and on the south toward old Highway 49.

On February 7, 1824, Aaron Kirkland sold the 520 acre tract to Edward B. Bush, as well as another 80 acre tract on Four Mile Branch which adjoined the 520 acres (Barnwell County Deed Books [BCDB] 347-8). Edward Bryan [possibly Bryant] Bush (d. June 5, 1867) was apparently the son of John Bush and Mary Everett Bush. His brothers were George and Stephen Bush. Edward B. Bush married Zilphy Sapp and had at least two children, Stephen S. and Amanda. The Bush family came to Orangeburg District in 1762 when Edward B. Bush's grandfather, John Bush, moved with his extended family from Johnston County, North Carolina. The Bush clan that moved to the district included John, his brother, Edward (d. ca. 1822), his step-father and mother, Thomas and Mary Castellaw, his uncle, Isaac Bush, his father-in-law, Jacob Miller, Richard Tutt, and some other unidentified people (BCDB I.284-93; Edwards n.d.; Hanson, Brooks, and Brown 1992; Bush 1937a,b).

The 520 and 80 acre tracts on Four Mile Branch passed out of Edward B. Bush's possession sometime between 1824 and 1850 and were acquired by Dudley Hale (d. 1866), who owned land on nearby Upper Three Runs. Hale sold the tracts to Edward B. Bush's son, Stephen S. Bush, on November 22, 1861 (The Barnwell Sentinel [BS] Oct. 20, 1866; BCDB 2-N.389-90; BCDB 4-A.220; (USDC CUS MAS, 1850).

Stephen S. Bush (d. Dec. 27, 1893) held property adjacent to the 520-acre tract on its eastern and southern lines prior to his purchase of this tract in 1861. Upon his death, his son, C. Bryant Bush, inherited a portion of his father's land. In 1895, he received a 425 acre tract to the west of Black's Branch and 400 acres of the 520-acre tract at the head of Black's Branch (Barnwell County Plat Book [BCPB] A.146; BCDB 9-N.396-7; BCDB 2-N. 389-90; Hanson et al. 1981).

C. Bryant Bush left 404 acres of the 520-acre tract to his nieces, Stella Lee Blackwell and Lillie Lee Stapleton, and the two divided the land into two 202-acre tracts in 1937. Stella Lee Blackwell received the eastern portion, which contained three houses with various outbuildings (BCDB 10-E.99). Stella Blackwell's heirs sold the tract to Willie

Floyd, the first African-American owner of the land, in 1948 for $4,500. Apparently the tract, upon resurvey, was found to contain only 172 acres (BCDB 10-U.301).

LAND USE

Edward B. Bush, who owned the Floyd Farm from 1824 until some time prior to 1850, was the largest landholder in his immediate neighborhood. He owned 4,000 acres in Four Mile Township by 1850, 400 of which were "improved." Though Edward Bush sold the 520-acre tract, which contained the Floyd tract, to Dudley Hale by 1850, when the first agricultural census was taken, an idea of prior use for that tract may be derived by examining the way in which Bush utilized his remaining acreage in 1850. In 1850, Bush had 100 head of cattle on his plantation and 100 hogs, far more than any of his neighbors. He kept 5 horses and 10 mules, as well as 7 milk cows. In 1850, Bush raised 3,000 bushels of Indian corn and ginned 38 bales of cotton totaling 15,200 pounds. In addition, he raised 30 bushels of sweet potatoes. Bush did not cultivate other staple crops such as peas and beans as did many of his neighbors. The Bush plantation was worked by 76 slaves in 1850 (USDC CUS MAS, 1850; USDC CUS Manuscript Slave Schedule [MSS], 1850).

Dudley Hale, who owned the Floyd Farm from at least 1850 to 1861, appears on the 1850 agricultural census near Edward B. and Zilphy Bush. Hale declared 100 acres of improved acreage and 420 acres of unimproved land. The tract produced 600 bushels of Indian corn, 4 bales of cotton, 50 bushels of peas and beans, and 200 bushels of sweet potatoes in 1850. Hale kept a small amount of livestock, amounting to 4 horses, 2 milk cows, and 7 head of cattle (1850 Agricultural Census). In 1860, Hale had 10 milk cows, 14 head of cattle, and 60 hogs on the place. He grew 800 bushels of Indian corn, 14 bushels of wheat, 150 bushels of peas and beans, 200 bushels of sweet potatoes, ginned 7 bales of cotton, and produced 200 pounds of butter (USDC CUS MAS, 1860).

Stephen Bush already owned land in the vicinity of the 520-acre tract by 1850, for he appears in the slave schedule near his mother, Zilphy Bush, and owned 16 slaves on one tract and apparently 5 slaves on a separate tract. By 1860, Stephen was residing on his 1,500 acre plantation next to the 520 acre plantation then owned by Dudley Hale. By 1870, when Stephen S. Bush owned the 520 acre tract, it was part of a 2,020-acre plantation valued at $12,000 (USDC CUS MAS, 1850, 1860, 1870).

Stephen Bush's crop yields reflect the change in the labor system after the Civil War. In 1870 he only produced 600 bushels of corn, 14 bales of cotton, 10 bushels of sweet potatoes, and 10 bushels of peas and beans. He tried some new crops, growing 40 pounds of wheat, being one of only two planters in his neighborhood to try that crop, and 3 tons of hay, which the planters slowly began to cultivate after the Civil War. Bush produced 100 pounds of butter from his 10 milk cows and also had begun to raise sheep, a venture which very few of his neighbors had tried (USDC CUS MAS, 1860).

Stephen Bush had branched out into industry by 1870, when he owned a gristmill and cotton gin. The water powered gristmill ground corn meal and employed one laborer. The cotton gin, with two workers, ginned 12,500 bales of cotton in 1870, bringing an income of $2,000 for Bush in that year. He apparently was not plying these trades when the next census was taken in 1879/1880 (USDC CUS MIS, 1870, 1880).

By ca. 1950, the 520 acre tract reflected the years of cultivation and timbering. The majority of the tract had been laid out in terraced fields where the steep hills required it and in a few flat fields on the lower ground. On Willie Floyd's farm, 112 acres were under cultivation and 48 acres, primarily around Black's Branch, were wooded; 12 acres lay fallow and were reverting to woods. The land grew longleaf and shortleaf pine, gum trees, and some hardwoods. It had been timbered in recent years according to the 1951 appraisal (SRP-1-9-51-88; Barnwell County Tax Map; USAECALTR 1951, H704).

According to Booker Floyd, an African-American named Wall Moody and his wife Nora lived at 38BR619 (probably in the 1930s) as renters under C. Bryant Bush. Wall Moody's parents, Joe and Amanda, had farmed in the area. When the land was left to Stella Blackwell, she and her husband, Samuel, lived there until her death. Willie Floyd at this time was a cash renter (or operator) on a tract on the south margin of the project area, but had long wanted to buy Stella Blackwell's land. Willie's father (b. 1900) and his forebearers had long lived in the area. Willie's uncle on his father's side, Jonas Floyd, brokered the land deal between Willie and Samuel Blackwell. During the 1930s, and possibly into the 1940s, 38BR522 was occupied by an African-American farmer named Barry Sapp, who had been preceded in the 1920s by another African-American, Gerard Bates. During Wall Moody's tenure at 38BR619, his mother Amanda lived at 38BR629, where she took care of some of her grandchildren. When she left, a Moses Green lived there for a short period, after which a Julia or Judy Bates moved in. Julia/Judy Bates may have been related to Gerard Bates of 38BR522. The last person to live at 38BR629 in the 1930s-40s was "Little Dan" Moody, the son of John Moody, nephew of Wall Moody, and grandson of Amanda Moody. Dan Moody lived there until at least 1949 as a cash renter (operator) under both Stella Blackwell and later, Willie Floyd.

When Willie Floyd bought the Stella Blackwell property, he took out a mortgage from Dean Rountree, one of two cotton brokers in the nearby town of Dunbarton. Willie's mortgage payment consisted of a 30% share of his yearly cotton crop. Despite the relatively high mortgage, Willie was able to improve 38BR619 during his short tenure there. Although fireplaces and kerosene lamps were initially used for heating and light, a local man, named Tink Sanderson, who learned wiring during the war, electrified their home, probably around 1949. Willie also dismantled parts of the house and used the lumber to build three new rooms across the back of the house.

Inside the home, Willie and his wife, Lutiny (née Dunbar) Floyd had a woodburning stove, an icebox, a table and chairs, and a pie safe in the kitchen. The parlor was furnished with a sofa, straight-backed chairs, and pictures, while the bedrooms contained iron or wooden beds with straw (later cotton) mattresses, chifforobes, chests of drawers, and a chamberpot. Outbuildings that Irene Floyd Edgecox remembered at 38BR619 included a privy, smokehouse, well, chicken house, lot and stable, and barn (of these, the privy, barn, lot and stable, and chicken house were detected archaeologically). Household garbage and trash were either burned or fed to the livestock. Willie Floyd and Lutiny bought groceries, including meat, from either Sander's store or Cassel's Long Store, both in Ellenton, on credit or with cash each Saturday. Farm supplies were also bought at Sander's store. However, clothes, shoes, and furnishings were bought in Augusta or Barnwell, which were accessible either via the railroad or Willie's car (mule wagons and walking were still used locally). Occasionally, items like a cabinet were bought through the Sears catalogue. "Special" items, such as clothes, were usually bought after the cotton harvest, when Willie had disposable income. Medical purchases included

CC Pills, Calatabs, Calum, Rubub, and Black Draught. Calum and Rubub were taken each year by school children to "clean them out" before starting classes. Mules were also dosed with Blackdraught, as well as "Sure Pop," when they were ill.

The primary cash crops Willie planted were cotton, peas, and peanuts. Watermelon was also grown for the northern markets. The cotton was harvested in September and taken to a local gin, then baled and taken to the Dunbarton train station. There, Dean Rountree cut open a bale, grabbed a handful of the fiber from inside, and made an offer. Booker remembered that one year his father gave him an "extra," which was a plot of cotton a young man took care of and marketed himself. Booker's bale fetched a higher price that fall at the train station than his father's had a day earlier, ensuring that he never again got an extra from Willie. Corn was raised for the livestock, and the kernels at the end of the cobs were held over as seed for the following year. Cow peas were grown between rows of corn so that they would climb the stalks, and were stored in the barn until a travelling pea thrasher came through the neighborhood. Cotton was fertilized with 400-500lbs. per acre of 4-12-12 or 8-4-4 dispensed through a Rex® distributor. Greens, potatoes, beans, peas, cabbage, squash, okra, tomatoes, and onions were raised in the family garden for home consumption.

Willie also kept several cows for the dairy products, pigs, chickens, goats (which kept the pig sty cleaned up) and 4 mules which were used to cultivate the fields. Most of the farmers in the area in the late 1940s still used mules, although apparently a few had tractors.

The land use patterns on the Floyd Farm followed trends seen in other parts of Barnwell County. In the nineteenth century, the land was used primarily for the production of cotton, sweet potatoes, and other staple crops and increasingly for cultivation of corn as that crop became more important to the region. Though a moderate amount of cattle and livestock were raised through the years, the greater importance of agriculture reflected the decreasing emphasis placed on livestock production in the region as the nineteenth century continued. The gristmill and cotton gin operated by the Bushes reflected a rise in cultivation of corn and cotton during the nineteenth century as well as the establishment of the industry which processed those crops.

ARCHITECTURAL ANALYSIS

Three houses and various outbuildings stood on the Floyd Farm in 1951 when the Atomic Energy Commission bought the property. These buildings were destroyed in the 1950s but photographs and descriptions were made of each. It is from this documentation that some idea of the architectural heritage of the area encompassed by Savannah River Site can be obtained. Because the actual fabric of the buildings cannot now be examined, many questions will remain unanswered. For instance, saw marks help date a building, but none can be distinguished in the photographs. The nails and other hardware can help in determining the age of a building, but these are not always evident in the photographs. However, archaeological data are available. Here, only an estimate of the age of the buildings can be determined by their style, building materials, construction, and how these factors fit into the property history.

Site 38BR629

The house which stood at this site was probably the oldest dwelling on the tract. It stood on low, flat ground north of Highway 49 and was likely built in two phases. The main part of the frame dwelling measures 14 by 32 feet with a 8 by 18 foot shed roof addition on the rear. The one-story house was built on the frame, linear plan of folk housing prevalent in the tidewater South prior to the advent of the railroad. The style of the house indicates that it was constructed between 1812, when the tract was first granted, and 1850. However, no archaeological data support this in regard to nails and metal work remaining on the site. The house may have been moved off the SRS, as some were, when the government purchased the property. Archaeological data recovered from the site indicate that initial construction dates to ca. 1890. If the construction date was this late, it indicates an example of an older vernacular architectural style being reproduced long after the height of it popularity in other parts of the country (McAlester 1984).

The original section of the house was probably that which included the brick chimney (Figure 5). It likely included one large room and had an off-center front door flanked on the right by a 6/6 double hung sash. From the photographic data, it appears from the interruption of the weatherboard that the room on the right end was added to the original portion of the house (Figure 6). This room, as well as the shed roof addition on the rear, did not contain a chimney and was heated by a wood or coal stove, as indicated by the unusual brick flues. All of the doors in the photographs were made of vertical wooden planks. The house rested on wooden blocks and was roofed with metal. Outbuildings associated with this house consisted of a 14 by 18 foot frame barn with a 10 by 12 foot shed roof addition on its left side (Figure 7), and a 10 by 12 foot smoke house (Figure 8). The gable front barn rested on wooden blocks and was covered with a metal roof. The smoke house had a roof of wooden shingles and stood directly on the ground. Both buildings had doors made of vertical boards.

Site 38BR522

The one-story frame house overlooked the head of Black's Branch and was abandoned by the late 1930s. It measured 24 by 30 feet and was typical of frame construction folk housing from ca. 1750 to ca. 1890 throughout the United States (McAlester 1984). The archaeological evidence places the date of construction at ca. 1890. It appears from the photograph (Figure 9) that this was an extended hall and parlor house. The house was clad in weatherboard. The front porch was under the principal roof and half of it had been enclosed to make a room. The back of the house had an extended roof porch. It is difficult to determine from the photograph whether the house had an internal or external chimney, but the chimney was brick with a corbeled cap. The house rested on wooden blocks. The only window shown in the photograph had no sash and was covered by a shutter of vertical wooden planks. The roof was covered with wooden shingles. By 1951, there were no outbuildings standing adjacent to this house.

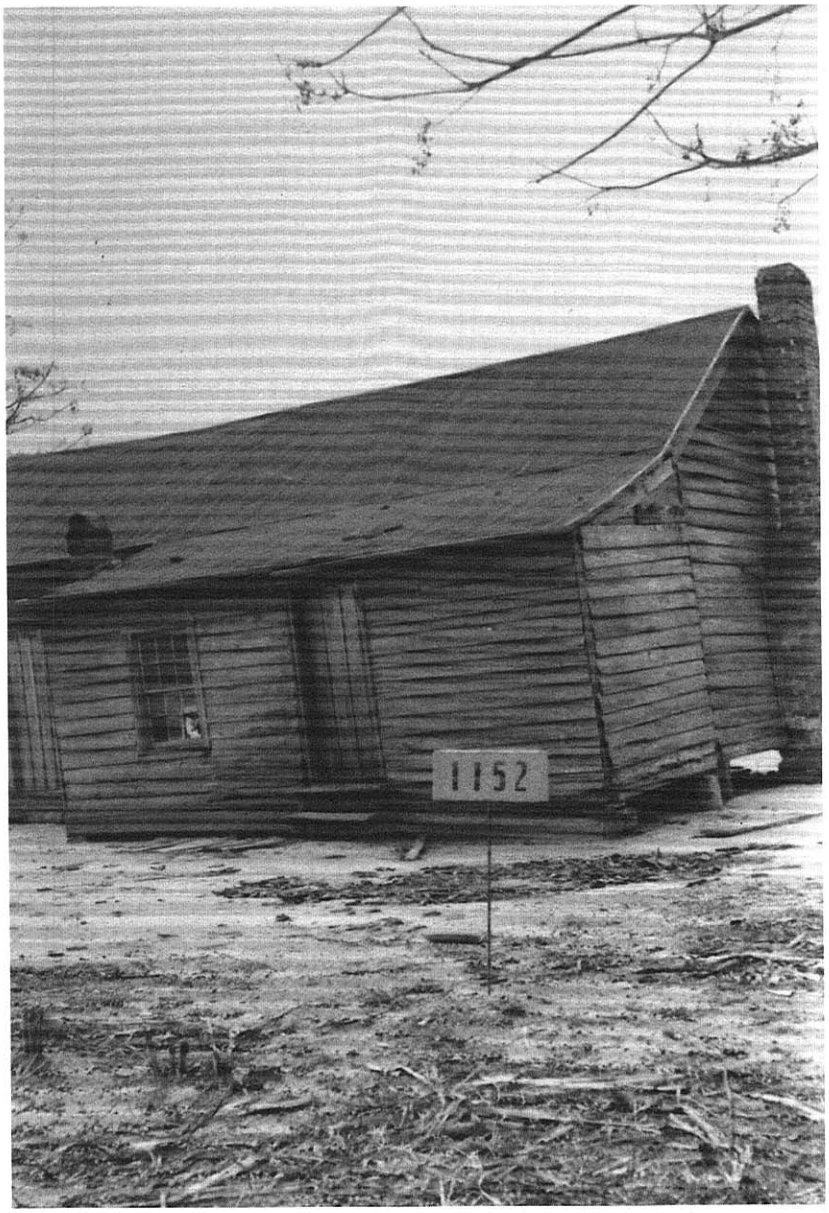

Figure 5. Site 38BR629 house in 1951, view to west.

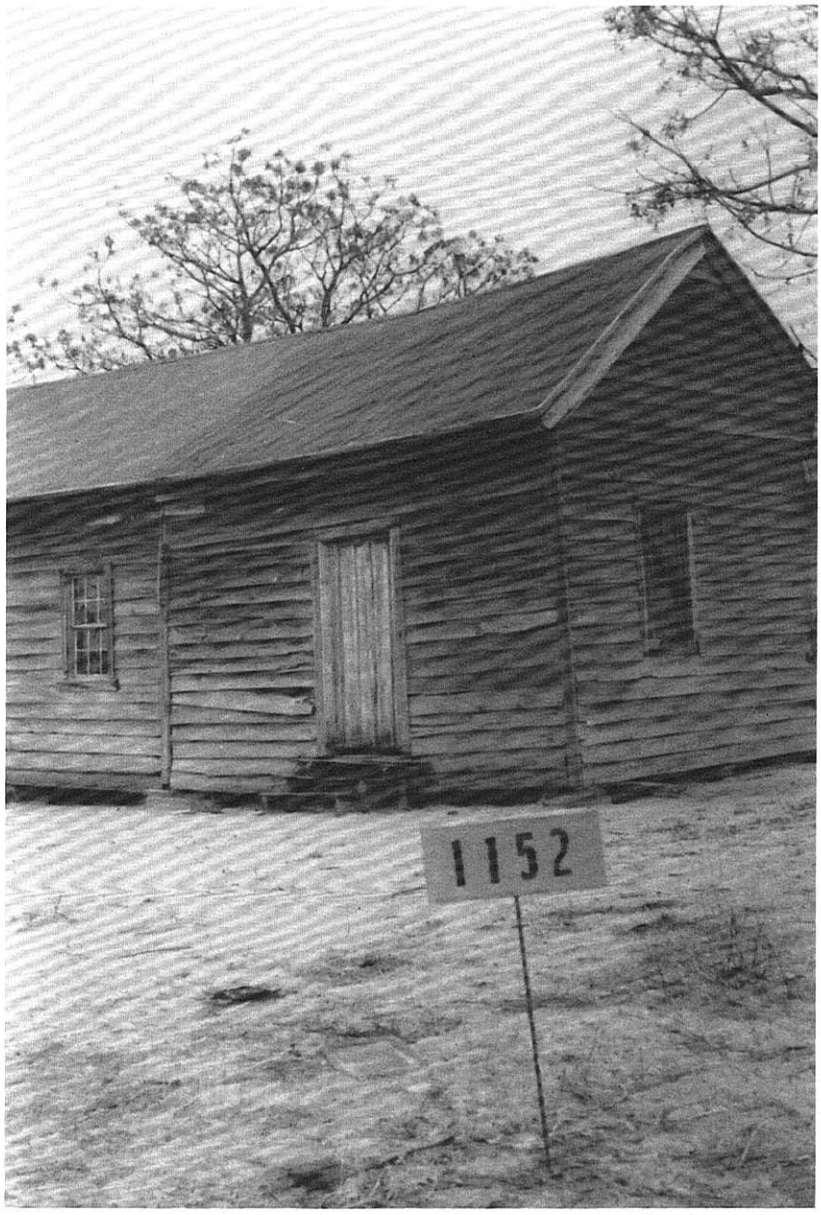

Figure 6. Site 38BR629 house in 1951, view to east.

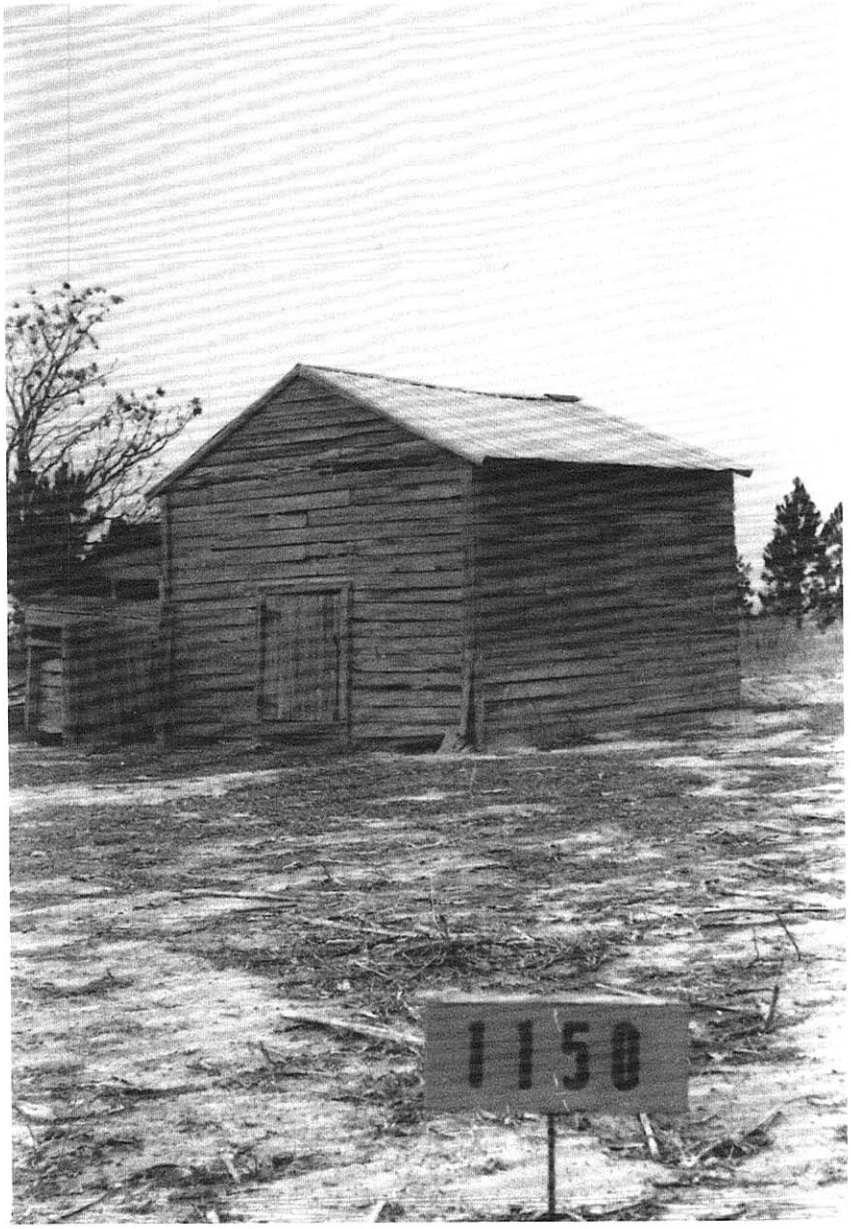

Figure 7. Site 38BR629 barn in 1951, view to northwest.

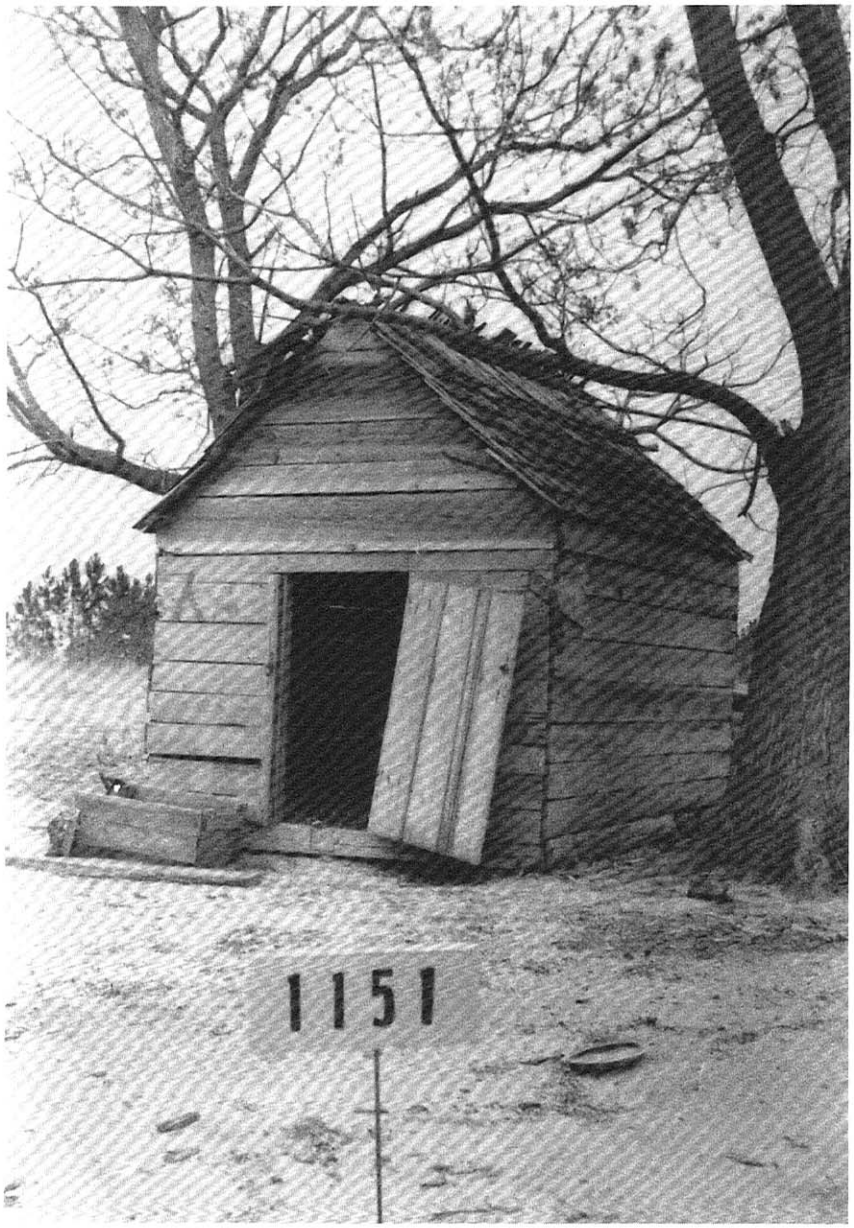

Figure 8. Site 38BR629 smokehouse in 1951, view to northeast.

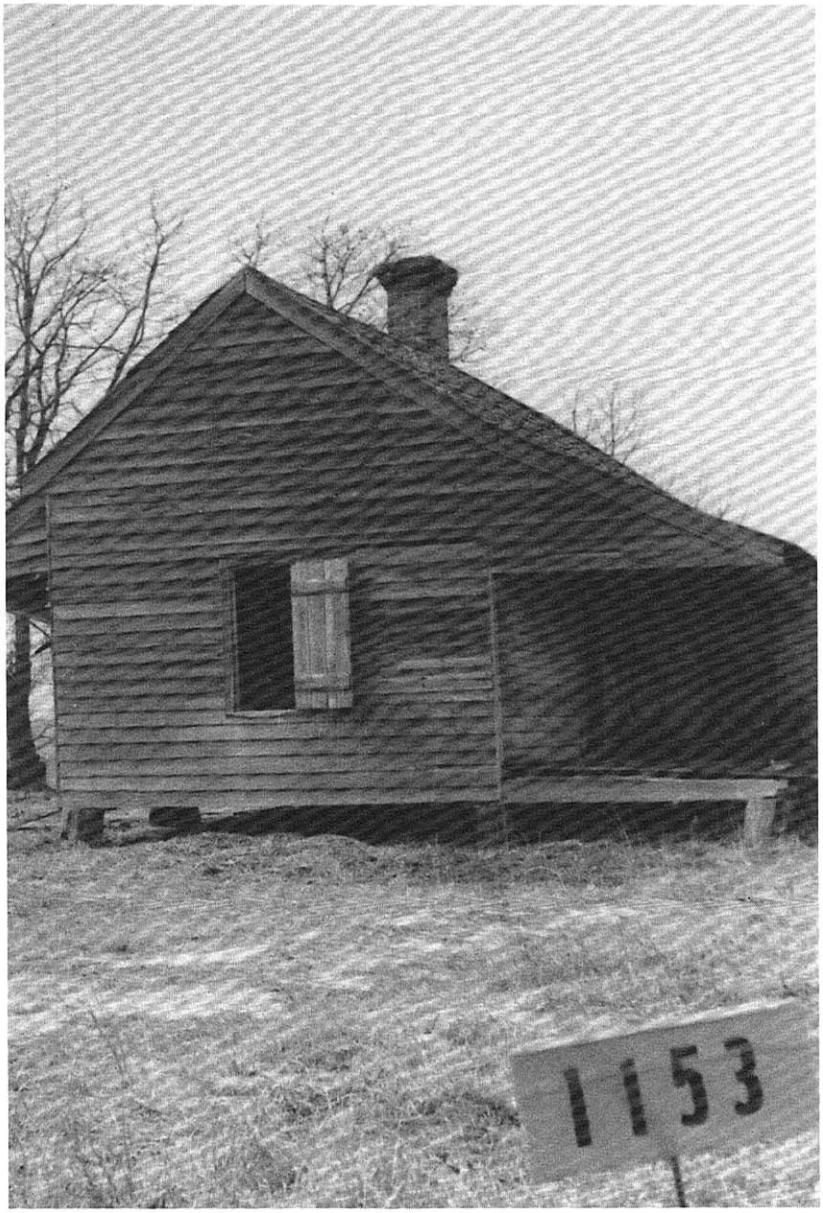

Figure 9. Site 38BR522 house in 1951, view to west.

38BR619

The house that stood at this site was extant when Stella Blackwell inherited the property in 1937 and was used as her dwelling and later by Willie Floyd. It stood on a hill, facing west. It was a one-story gable-front-and-wing, frame house that was covered with weatherboard and was typical of this style of folk housing built from ca. 1850 to ca. 1890 throughout the United States (McAlester 1984). Archaeological data suggest a ca. 1890 date of construction. The house contained 1,104 square feet and rested on brick piers (Figure 10). The wing had an interior brick chimney and the gable end had an exterior brick chimney. The roof was clad in metal, and a dropped-shed roof, supported by simple posts, covered the porch in the "L" of the gable end and wing. A shed roof addition spanned the entire rear facade of the house (Figure 11). The addition had an internal brick chimney (Figure 12). The land acquisition records indicate that several outbuildings were associated with this dwelling, including a gear house (Figure 13), a shed or pole barn (Figure 14), smokehouse (Figure 15), and a chicken house (Figure 16). The barn was a two-story gable-front building, measuring 14 by 18 feet, apparently clad with flush boards (Figure 17). It had a metal roof and stood on brick piers. The barn had two dropped shed roof extensions, one on each side, that measured 10 by 18 feet each. The extensions were used as stables. The 4 by 6 foot privy was clad in horizontal board and batten and had a metal shed-roof and a concrete foundation (Figure 18).

The buildings which stood on the Willie Floyd Farm were nineteenth century vernacular structures. They were representative of the style of dwellings and service buildings built by the people in the northeastern corner of old Barnwell District from ca. 1800 to ca. 1890, and are indicative of conservatism in architectural traditions in the study area. Thus, many of the Barnwell County homes extant in 1940 were constructed after the Civil War, and the sense of esthetics they reflect has its roots in the early National and Antebellum Periods.

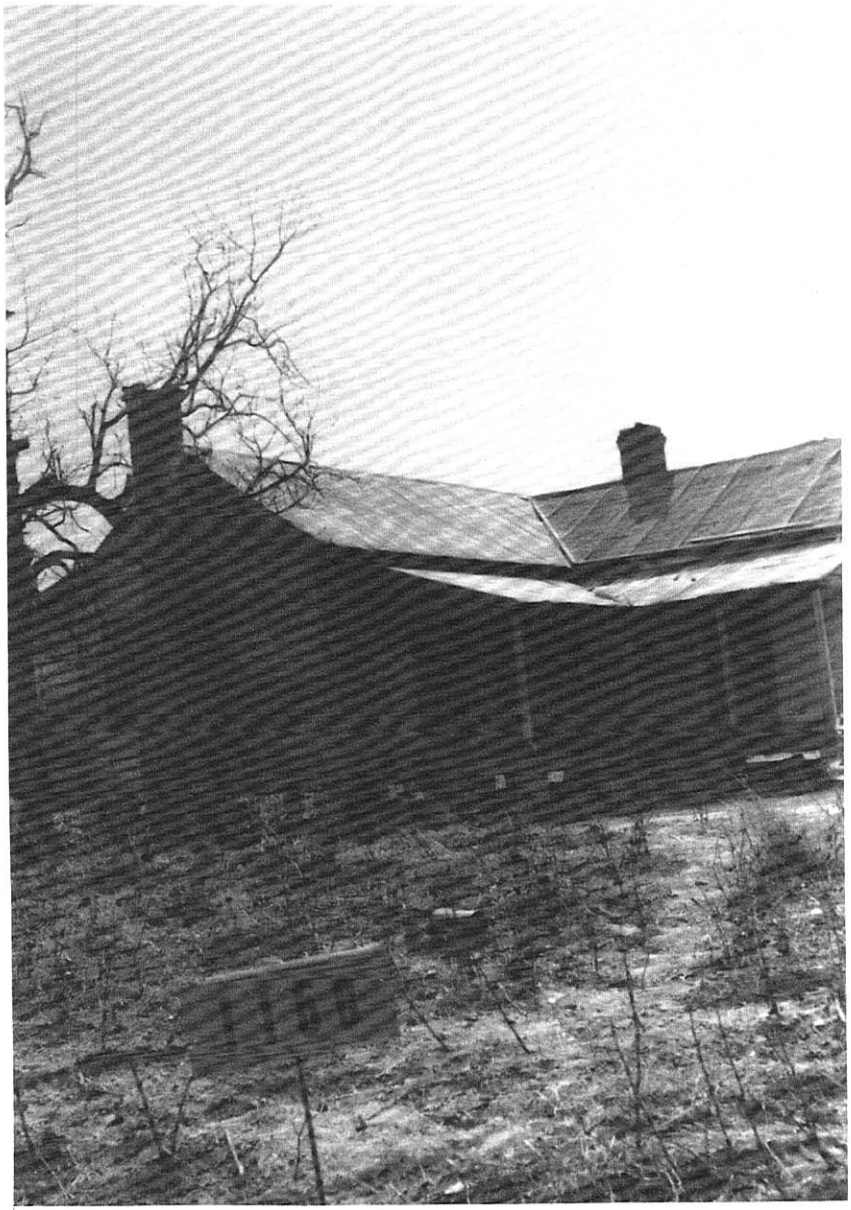

Figure 10. Site 38BR619 house in 1951, view to southeast.

Figure 11. Site 38BR619 house in 1951, view to east.

Figure 12. Site 38BR619 house in 1951, view to northwest.

Figure 13. Site 38BR619 gear house in 1951, unknown azimuth.

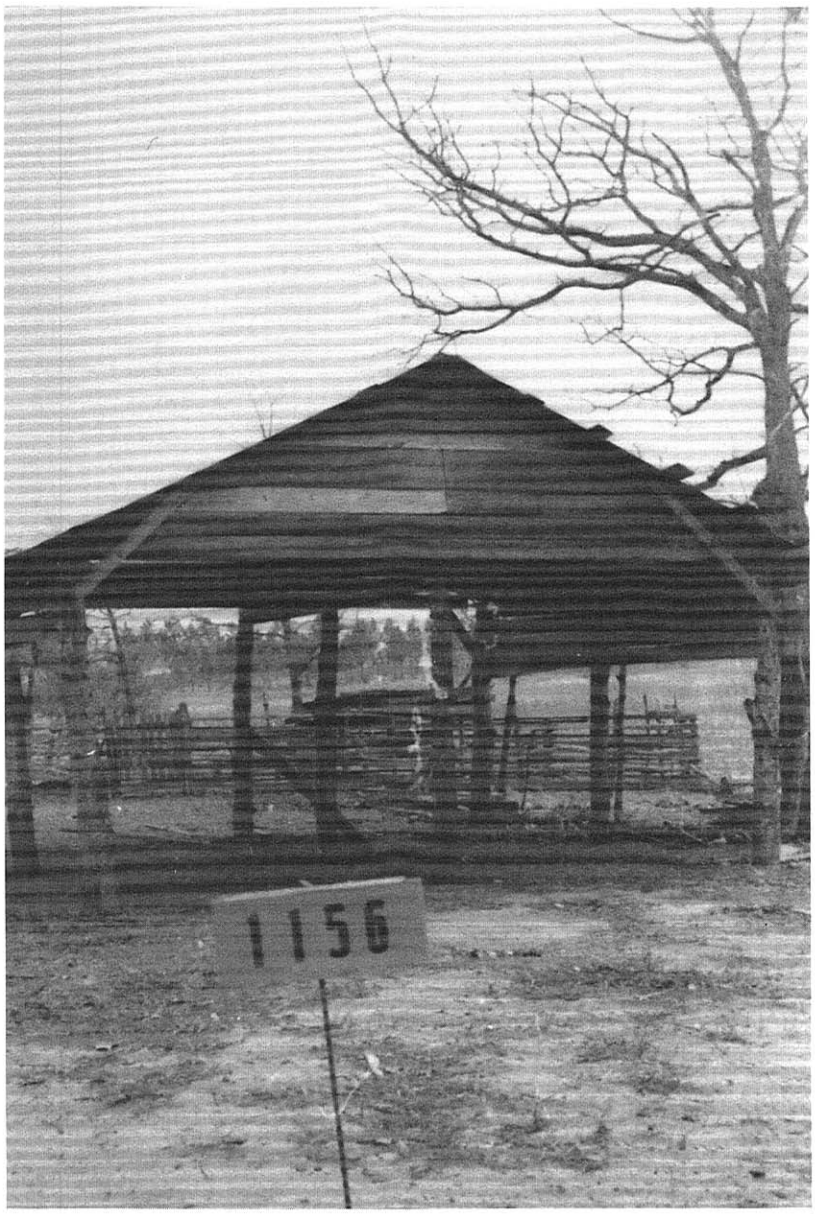

Figure 14. Site 38BR619 shed in 1951, view to east.

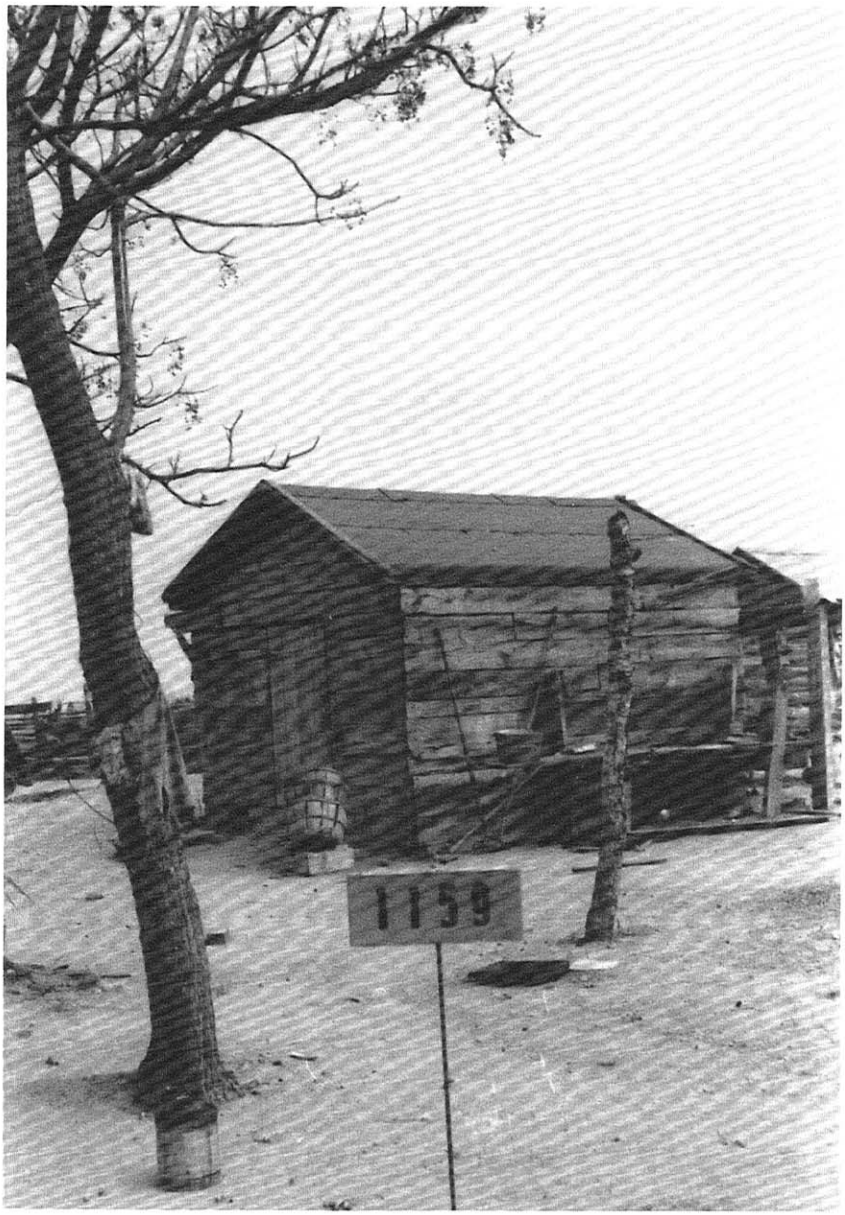

Figure 15. Site 38BR619 smokehouse in 1951, unknown azimuth.

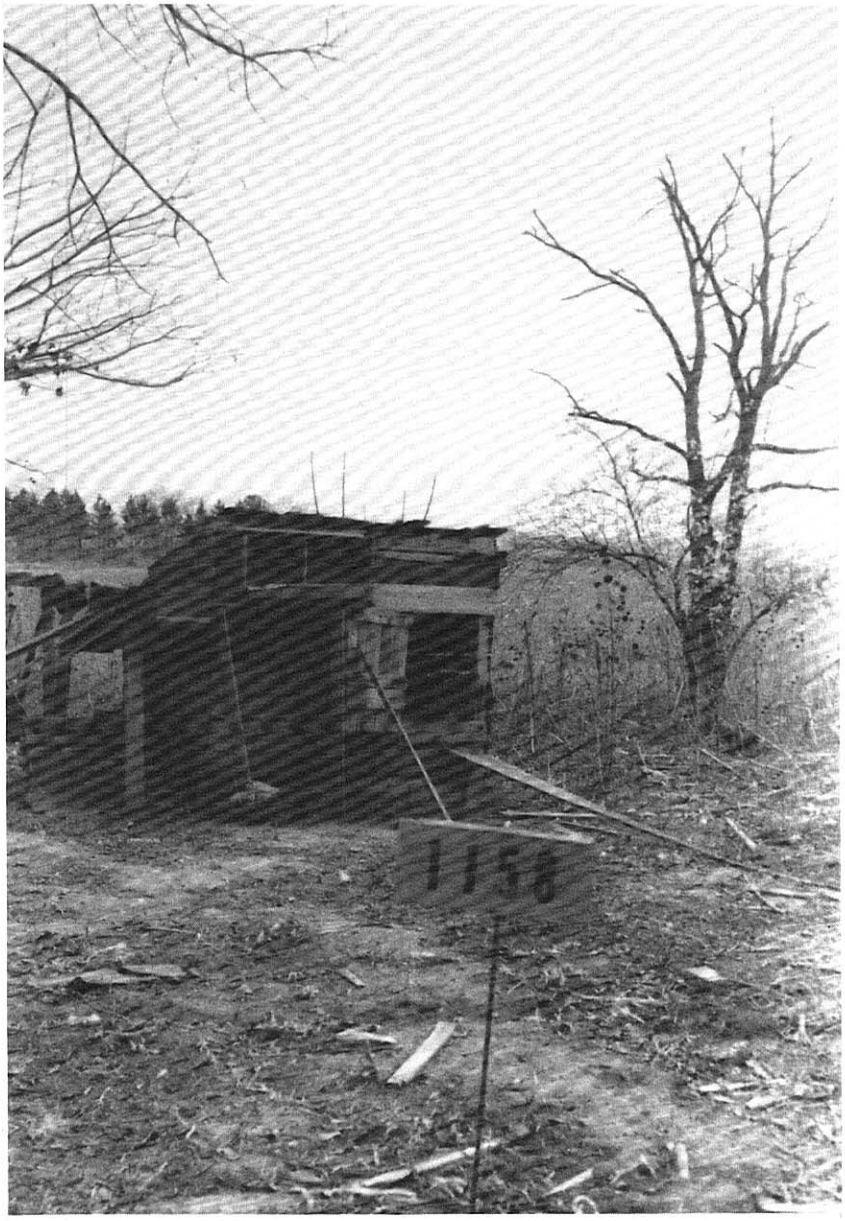

Figure 16. Site 38BR619 chickenhouse in 1951, unknown azimuth.

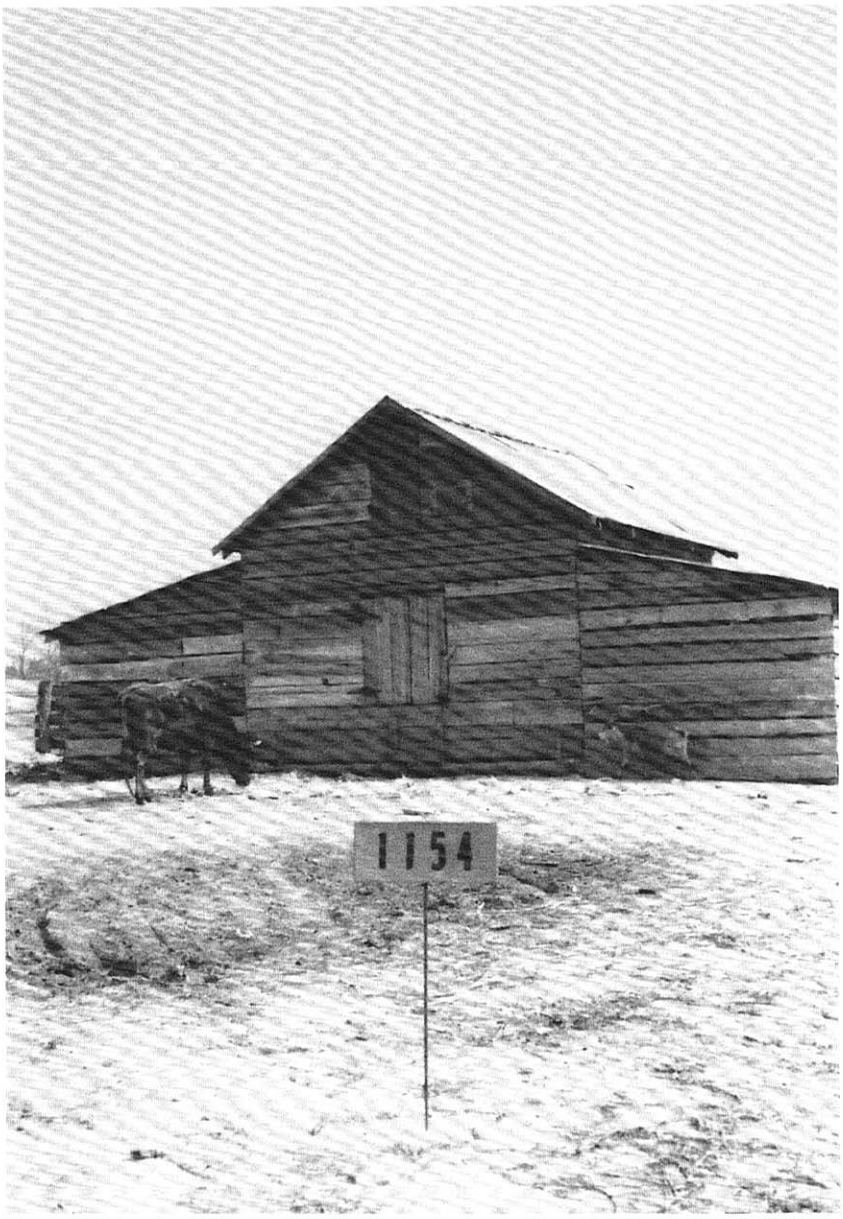

Figure 17. Site 38BR619 barn in 1951, view to northeast.

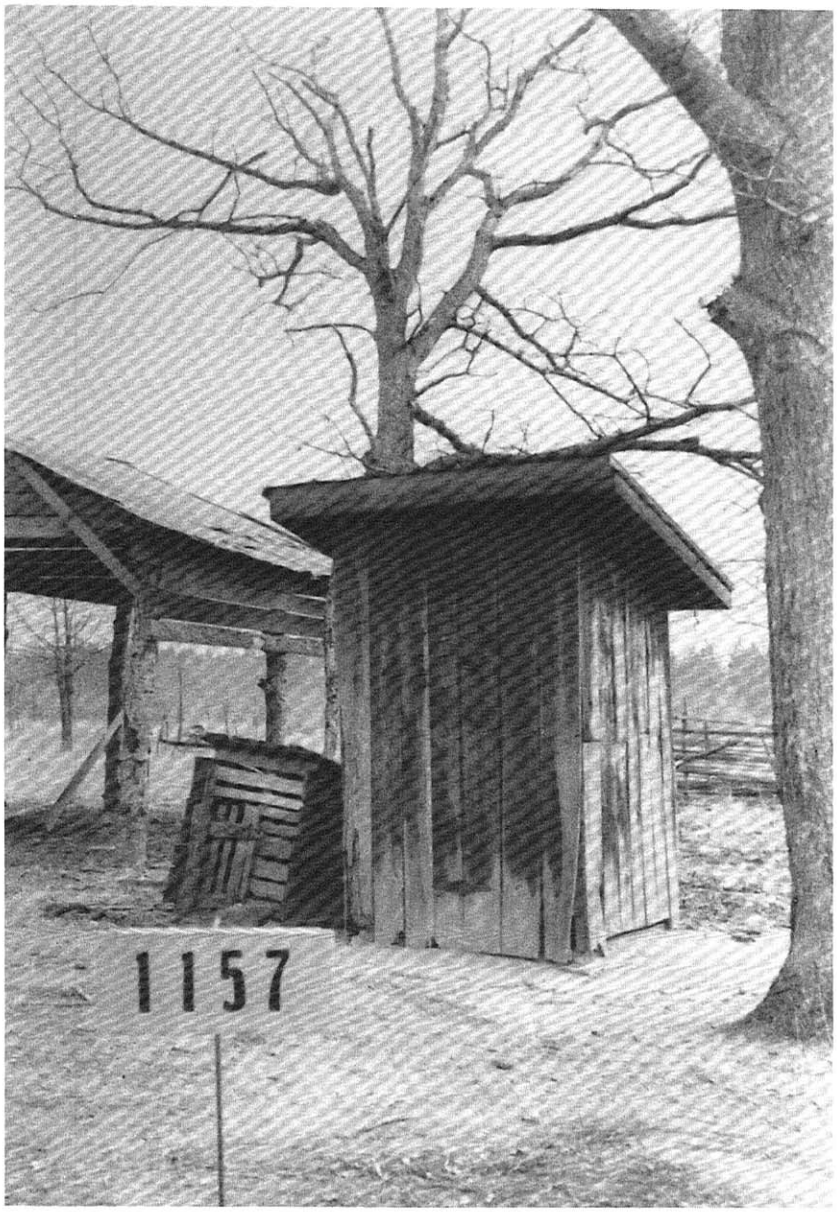

Figure 18. Site 38BR619 privy in 1951, view to east.