

(X) Not For Publication

SOUTH CAROLINA INVENTORY FORM FOR HISTORIC DISTRICTS AND INDIVIDUAL PROPERTIES IN A MULTIPLE PROPERTY SUBMISSION

NAME OF MULTIPLE PROPERTY SUBMISSION: Edisto Island Multiple Resource Area

PREFERRED NAME OF PROPERTY: Paul Grimball House Ruins

COMMON NAME OF PROPERTY: Same

LOCATION: [REDACTED]

CLASSIFICATION: Site

[REDACTED]

DESCRIPTION

The Paul Grimball House Ruins lie within a wooded area bordered by [REDACTED] Primary vegetation consists of palmetto, oak, and pine trees, Spanish bayonette, shrubs, and vines. Ground cover includes herbaceous plants, vines, pine needles and leaves.

The most prominent surface archaeological remains at the Grimball site are comprised of a corner portion of a stucco-covered tabby wall approximately 12 feet in height. Handmade bricks at the base of this tabby feature may have functioned as a a footing for the wall. Additional surface remains include tabby walls or foundations, a corner of which is aligned with the standing wall, and brick and stone piers. The positions of these architectural remains define a large square structure possibly constructed of both tabby and brick. Numerous handmade bricks litter the ground surface within the interior and on the exterior of these in situ structural remnants. Handmade bricks are also concentrated in a level area approximately 10 feet beyond the structure; these may have been associated with outbuildings.

No subsurface archaeological testing has been conducted at the site; however, surface evidence indicates minimal site disturbance. The archaeological integrity of the Grimball site appears to be excellent.

SIGNIFICANCE

AREA OF SIGNIFICANCE: Archaeology-Historic, Exploration/Settlement

LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE: N (FOR OFFICE USE ONLY)

SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Paul Grimball House Ruins, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] significant both as the remnant of habitation of one of the earliest, if not the earliest English settler on Edisto Island, and as a site of very important historical archaeological potential. Grimball, an English merchant, came to South Carolina in February 1682, and constructed a house on Edisto Island subsequent to that year when he acquired 600 acres on the island.(1) In August 1686 the house, made of tabby, was occupied, sacked, and possibly burned by the Spanish on a raid up the North Edisto River.(2) In 1689 Grimball provided a detailed list of possessions lost when the Spanish spent five days "...wasting Robing killing & desstroyeng sd Grimballs houses goods & catell." The Grimball list includes "three houses spoyled" (valued at L120) but provides no clear indication the primary residential structure was destroyed.(3) A large quantity of household items were lost, but these may have been stolen/destroyed by the Spanish or burned in a house fire. The Grimball site can yield information which would clarify the historic record. If the structure burned, archaeological investigations should yield such evidence.

In addition, the Grimball site can yield a variety of information relevant to late seventeenth century barrier island plantations. Data may be obtained regarding the mode of construction, form, and function of the Grimball house. The nature of the plantation complex can be investigated, and information regarding the lifestyle (i.e., dietary habits) and the social and economic status of the Grimball family can be derived from this highly significant archaeological site.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

QUAD SCALE: 1:24,000

[REDACTED]

OTHER INFORMATION:

FOOTNOTES

¹Mabel L. Webber, comp., "Grimball on Edisto Island," South Carolina Historical and Genealogical Magazine 23 (January 1922): 1-7; Sanson-Carte, "Particuliere de la Caroline", a map of a portion of present-day South Carolina, including Edisto Island, indicating name "Grimball", South Carolina Department of Archives and History, Columbia, S. C.

²Ibid.; Mabel L. Webber, ed., "Paul Grimball's Losses By the Spanish Invasion in 1686", South Carolina Historical and Genealogical Magazine 29 (1928): 231-37.

³Webber, "Paul Grimball's Losses..."