NPS Form 10-900
United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

OMB No. 1024-0018

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES REGISTRATION FORM

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in "Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms" (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "X" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name OSSABAW ISLAND
other names/site number N/A

2. Location

street & number 7 miles south (by water) of Savannah, bounded by the Atlantic Ocean on the east, Bear River (Intracoastal Waterway) on the west, Ogeechee River on the north, and St. Catherines Sound on the south.
city, town Savannah (X) **vicinity of**
county Chatham **code** GA 051
state Georgia **code** GA **zip code** 31416

(N/A) **not for publication**

3. Classification

Ownership of Property:

(X) **private** Note: Mrs. Eleanor T. West retains a life estate in part of the island.
( ) **public-local**
(X) **public-state**
( ) **public-federal**

Category of Property

( ) **building(s)**
(X) **district**
( ) **site**
( ) **structure**
( ) **object**

Number of Resources within Property:

	Contributing	Noncontributing
buildings	11	4
sites	205	0
structures	2	0
objects	9	0
total	227	4

Contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: N/A

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets the National Register criteria. ( ) See continuation sheet.

Mark R. Edwards — Signature of certifying official

Date 3/12/96

Mark R. Edwards
State Historic Preservation Officer,
Georgia Department of Natural Resources

In my opinion, the property ( ) meets ( ) does not meet the National Register criteria. ( ) See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official — Date

State or Federal agency or bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

(✓) entered in the National Register — Edson H. Beall 5/6/96

( ) determined eligible for the National Register

( ) determined not eligible for the National Register

( ) removed from the National Register

( ) other, explain:

( ) see continuation sheet

Signature, Keeper of the National Register — Date

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions:

DOMESTIC/single
DOMESTIC/multiple dwelling
DOMESTIC/camp
AGRICULTURE/animal facility, agricultural field
LANDSCAPE/garden
TRANSPORTATION/road-related

Current Functions:

DOMESTIC/single
VACANT/not in use
LANDSCAPE: conservation area

7. Description

Architectural Classification:

LATE 19TH AND 20TH CENTURY REVIVALS/mission/Spanish colonial revival
LATE VICTORIAN/Eastlake
OTHER/saddlebag

Materials:

foundation	brick, tabby
walls	stucco, tabby
roof	tile, sheet metal
other	tabby, terra cotta, wrought iron

Description of present and historic physical appearance:

SUMMARY DESCRIPTION

Ossabaw Island is one of eight major barrier islands on the Georgia coast. Ossabaw contains high ground and marshlands. The island is approximately 10 miles long and 8 miles wide and contains approximately 25,000 acres total, of which 8,996 are high ground and the rest marsh. The high ground is covered with a second growth forest. The traditional divisions of the island reflect the historic plantation divisions: North End Place, Middle Place, Buckhead, and South End. Each of these was farmed in the 18th, 19th, and early 20th centuries, although the most farming took place before 1861.

The only standing, historic, habitable structures remain at North End and the nearby Main House complex. North End contains the Torrey's Landing with its avenue of palms, the Clubhouse (c.1876-moved here 1890s), a two-story frame house (the Boarding House), a one-story tabby building adjacent to the clubhouse (the tabby "oyster house"), a frame barn, and three tabby slave/tenant houses with central chimneys. This complex is at the axis of the island's main road which is said to date from the 1760s. The main road is marked with stone mile markers. East of the North End complex is the Main House complex. The entrance to the

complex consists of two large iron gates brought from the grounds of the Greenwich house site near Savannah. The rest of the complex contains the Main House, the stable and adjoining powerhouse (now partially a studio), the modern caretaker's house, and the remains of a garden and a former miniature golf course. The Main House was built during 1924-1926 in the Spanish Revival style. It has a red-tile roof and pink stucco walls. It contains 16 bedrooms, a large great room, a kitchen and service area, and an attached boiler and maintenance area. Other features include a low-walled patio (with aquarium), wrought-iron balconies and stairway and other grill work. The house has seen few changes and retains virtually all of its original materials and furnishings. Imported tile both inside and out is one of the special features. To the rear of the house are a 1920s stable and power house (now part studio) with a red-tile roof and stucco walls. There is a cement slab which was the location of a tennis court east of the house and a modern, c.1955 caretaker's house east of that. To the rear of the Main House are the remains of the 1920s formal gardens including various plantings, a fountain, and two ponds, one with Peter Pan and Tinker Bell statues, the other with two cement trees.

At Middle Place there are the remains of the small 1970s Genesis Project huts, the ruins of a tabby antebellum stable, and in an adjacent field the tabby remains of what appear to be slave houses and one foundation pier of a main house which survived until the 1920s.

At Buckhead, there are archaeological remains, largely a brick pile and numerous artifacts indicating 19th and 20th century habitation.

At South End there are temporary structures for the annual controlled deer hunt; at South End beach there is a primitive campsite pavilion. A similar pavilion is found on the road to Bradley Beach.

The Georgia Department of Natural Resources has a modern maintenance complex and three residences on the Pine Barren Road on the west side of the island not far from the North End complex.

There are eight historic landings on the island.

Ossabaw has hundreds of prehistoric archaeological sites, only a relatively few of which have been professionally examined. As early as 1871, a D. Brown submitted a short report about a shell heap to the Smithsonian Institution. In 1896, C. B. Moore spent five months excavating a number of Indian sites on the island. Other island investigators include W. Hallett Phillips, A. R. Kelly, D. Crusoe, P. Garrow, and C. E. Pearson. Chester DePratter's 1974 survey is the most thorough inventory of the island's prehistoric archaeological sites to date. His survey report describes more than 150 sites, ranging in time

from 4,000 years before the present (BP) to European occupation. Most of these sites are marked by shell middens; many contain pottery or stone projectile points as well.

DESCRIPTION OF OSSABAW ISLAND'S NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

Barrier islands, commonly called "Sea Islands," lie off the Atlantic Coast. They extend from the Santee River in South Carolina to the St. Johns River in Florida. Geologists call them "Barrier Islands" as they form a barrier between the mainland and the ocean (Hoyt 1968). Separating barrier islands from the mainland are several miles of extensive marshlands, tidewater streams, and sounds. Ossabaw is one such barrier island.

For archaeological planning purposes, Georgia is divided spatially into six zones based on physiography. One of these zones includes Georgia's coast. Along this coast, Pleistocene (2 million to 5,000 years BP) sea levels advanced and receded several times, forming a series of step-like ridges. Past higher sea level environments were similar to those of today, i.e., mainland-estuary-salt marsh-barrier island. Each sea level change declined in elevation, leaving a deposit - a ridge - parallel to the present Holocene (5,000 years BP to present) coastline (DePratter and Howard 1980). This physiography, which includes Georgia's barrier islands, comprises the "Coastal Zone" of the state's archaeological resource planning strategy (Crook 1986b, Fig. 1, p. 9).

The Coastal Zone's western edge is delineated by a relic marsh system that once accompanied the Wicomico barrier island formation (Hoyt 1968:24). East of this, Pleistocene deposits are remnants of later beach ridges, barrier islands, hammocks, and marshes that parallel the present coastline (Hoyt 1968:26). Today these mainland Pleistocene deposits form a system of hammocks surrounded by freshwater swamps. The most recent Pleistocene deposit, called Silver Bluff, comprises the active system of barrier islands and salt marshes which, along with Holocene deposits, separates the mainland from the open ocean (Crook 1986b; Hoyt 1968).

Ossabaw is the third barrier island south of Savannah River in Georgia's chain of eight major barrier islands. It is about ten miles long and eight wide, covering 8,996 acres of high ground. Eight ponds, nine salt water creeks, one river as well as many sloughs, inlets, and beaches make the high ground of Ossabaw a complex of little islands.

Compared with nearby barrier islands, Ossabaw's topographic relief is low. The highest ground is 10 feet above mean sea level (amsl). The next island south, St. Catherines, has lots of ground that is 20 feet (amsl). On Georgia's southernmost barrier island, Cumberland, dunes reach 50 feet in height (amsl).

Broad flat ridges and shallow depressions comprise the western part of Ossabaw (Pleistocene soils) while steep, parallel dune ridges mark the eastern part (Holocene soils). Overall, soils are porous and subject to severe leaching. Higher areas are drained excessively and the lower areas, poorly. In the low areas are many ponds and swamps. Soils are acidic and infertile.

Climate on the Georgia coast is relatively moderate. Sea breezes keep temperatures during July and August, the hottest months, in the 80s and low 90s, cooler than the rest of the state below Atlanta. Winters are short and mild. Ossabaw is about 18 miles from Savannah which has an average of 267 days a year without freezing. Rainfall is about 53 inches, half falling from June to September. November to February is the driest period. The coast averages about one hurricane every 10 years, usually between August and October. Hurricanes are less of a threat than smaller storms. Tides at Savannah reach a height of seven feet.

Ossabaw has a variety of ecosystems. They can be divided into three general areas: beach and dunes, affected by tide and wind; wooded interior with ponds and creeks; and the marsh and sound. While the areas generally are located east to west, the entire area of some 25,056 acres is laced with tidal creeks and marshes.

Beach-dune Area: Ossabaw's ocean beach is divided by a small creek. To the north is Bradley Beach and to the south is South Beach. Old dune ridges -- visible on topographic maps -- lie parallel to the ocean. Approximately the eastern fourth of Ossabaw is composed of Holocene deposits; there are no prehistoric sites known in this area (DePratter 1974). The western three-fourths of the island are older deposits of the Pleistocene.

Forest: A maritime live oak forest is the projected climax forest for these barrier islands. Live oak timber was an important resource for ship building not only in Georgia but nationally. Ossabaw's high ground is mostly forested with second growth, a result of the 19th century plantation activity. While live oaks dominate, there are many other species of oak and nut-bearing trees present. Such a forest normally has an understory of cabbage palm, saw palmetto, and other low woody plants. Today, the understory is absent due to overgrazing by feral animals introduced by Euro-Americans.

For the mature forests on the island the differences in species composition are a product of soil drainage characteristics. Therefore, soil data from Ossabaw may be used to reconstruct the four main plant communities that existed: (1) mixed oak-hardwood; (2) oak-palmetto; (3)

lowland mixed; and (4) high-marsh plants. Each community offered different plant resources to prehistoric and historic inhabitants.

Of the ten rookeries recorded on the Georgia coast, two are listed on Ossabaw. Both on located at ponds on the west side of the island (Johnson et. al. 1974). Three species of egrets and five species of herons nest there. Also seen in the area are Anhingas (water turkeys) and white ibises.

Formerly, black bears were found on Ossabaw. Today's species include raccoon, mink, river otter, bobcat, and white-tail deer. Also, Ossabaw has approximately 1500 non-native deer which roam freely over the island. Other free ranging animals have been estimated at 800 cattle, 1500 hogs, feral donkeys, and feral goats (files of Eleanor West, Ossabaw). Hogs, both European wild and domestic, were brought to the islands. Wild boars, which were introduced for sport, have been killed.

Marsh and Estuary: Marshes and estuaries are so dependent on one another they should be considered one ecological unit, which Schelske and Odum pointed out two decades ago (Johnson et. al. 1974). Tidal marshes formed as barrier islands developed. Low areas between the mainland and the sand dunes, which eventually became barrier islands, were inundated. These waters were less turbulent than the open sea. In these quieter waters suspended sediments (clays and silts) were dropped, forming a layer of mud. Eventually as these deposits built up, salt-tolerant marsh plants stabilized them. Coastal currents and mainland rivers flowing to the ocean insured a continuous supply of sediments.

A variety of marshes are found on the Georgia coast. Vegetational differences between them are a product of the amount of salt water and of the length of time of sediment submersion. Estuaries have been defined as semi-enclosed bodies of water having free access to the open sea and having the salt water measurably diluted by fresh river water (Johnson et. al. 1974:96). The system of estuaries and marshes produced much of what people living in a coastal environment ate until agriculture became a major activity. Oysters and other shellfish were used extensively by prehistoric inhabitants, so much that shell is a frequent indicator of archaeological sites. Environmental variations apparently affected the availability of shellfish through time. Not all sites are indicated by a residue of shell. Even today the pollution of coastal waters has affected the supply of shellfish.

This long description of Ossabaw's environment is leading to the fact that it is an isolated unit about four miles from the mainland and has been used by people continuously for 4,000 years. Each of the island's various ecological components has contributed to its attractiveness.

The above environmental information comes from a number of sources (DePratter 1974; Johnson et. al. 1974; and Pearson 1980).

DESCRIPTION OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES

On Ossabaw Island there are 196 sites recorded in the Georgia Archaeological Site File. Not all of them have been identified by the formal surveys discussed below. Individual reportings are a part of this record. Only sites containing diagnostic artifacts are described below. These artifacts consist primarily of types of pottery and projectile points (arrowheads and spearheads) which have been dated by previous researchers and associated with specific periods of coastal prehistory and history. From the other sites, no diagnostic artifacts were identified or collected. Therefore, they are not included in this description since they can not yet be placed in a specific period of coastal prehistory or history.

Most of the following site descriptions are based on the results of the 1972-73 fieldwork of Patrick Garrow, then of Shorter College in Rome, Ga., and the fieldwork and report of Chester B. DePratter (1974). The latter incorporates Garrow's findings. The sites are presented in chronological order, beginning with the earliest known period.

In January of 1974, DePratter spent three weeks surveying Ossabaw. He revisited all 95 of Garrow's sites and recorded an additional 60 sites. All survey work was sponsored by Ms. Eleanor Torrey West. Most of the survey was limited to surface collecting, with a few square meter tests dug. The only reported excavation of any extent was that done by Clarence B. Moore in 1896 (1897:101-136).

In the winter of 1976, the interior southwestern portion of Ossabaw was surveyed by Greg Paulk and John Doolin under the direction of Chester DePratter. The main area covered was bounded generally on the west by South End Road and on the north by Main Beach Road. Sixty-five new sites were added to the inventory. Paulk and Doolin broke these 65 sites into a list of buried and exposed shell heaps in addition to surface scatterings of shell and other types of features. Most of the buried middens seemed to have been Irene style individual shell heaps; 141 were buried and 106 were exposed. No report of the results of this survey has been published.

Based on previous research results, most of Ossabaw's sites are typical of those recorded on Georgia's other barrier islands. The prehistoric sites are recognized by the presence of shell either on the surface or eroding out of marsh and creek banks. The shell may be scattered across the surface or found in mounds. If artifacts are associated with the shell, they most likely will be pottery. A few sand mound sites have

been found but not as frequently as those of shell. But even these mounds usually have shell nearby.

Following is a description of those sites for which diagnostic - identifiable and dateable - artifacts have been recovered. The artifacts came from the ground's surface, erosional features, archaeological test units, or extant collections. This number, 62, is far less than the total number of 196 recorded sites. But given the level of investigation, primarily surface survey, little more could be expected. The other sites which lack diagnostic artifacts are no less important at this time, however. They were included in the inventory because of the presence of artifacts, shell, mounds, or proximity to sites with diagnostic materials.

Site descriptions are based on artifacts collected from the surface, from minimal testing, or from extant collections.

All site numbers (for example, "9Ch 35") are keyed to an accompanying map, "Archaeological Survey of Ossabaw Island, Chatham County, Georgia" by Chester B. DePratter, March 1974. Site numbers followed by a double asterisk (**) indicate sites which have multiple components and which have been previously discussed.

Paleo Period (12,000 to 10,000 Years BP)

Sites from this earliest period are unknown on the coast. Reports of diagnostic artifacts of the period such as fluted projectile points are scarce. The reason may be that in the late Pleistocene the area referenced as "Coastal Zone" would have been 50 to 60 miles seaward out on the Continental Shelf. Sea levels then were as much as 230 feet lower than at present. Paleo period sites may exist in Georgia but they may be beneath 230 feet of water on the Continental Shelf.

Today in contiguous states submerged Paleo sites have been found off their coastlines (Anderson et. al. 1990). In Georgia, a fluted point was dredged up in a shrimp trawler's net from waters 6 to 8 meters deep between Ossabaw and Wassaw islands (Ray 1986). This indicates that Paleo sites may exist in Georgia's coastal waters as well.

Other Paleo evidence occurs on the mainland. Isolated projectile point fragments have been found in disturbed contexts (DePratter and Howard 1980). However, large-scale archaeological survey results have found no Paleo sites. In fact nothing earlier than late archaic is reported which supports the contention that Paleo sites are submerged beneath the higher sea levels of the Holocene (Anderson et. al. 1990).

Archaic Period (10,000 to 3,100 Years BP)

Coastal sites during this period are generally of three types: 1) shell middens in the form of rings or crescents; 2) linear piles of shell; and 3) small clusters of artifacts without shell away from swamps and creeks. The first two types were major habitation areas, villages, located near tidal creeks and marshes. The third type was probably a camp site of short duration.

During this period pottery came into use. It was tempered with plant fibers in the form of shallow bowls made by modeling rather than coiling. Surface decoration consisted of incising or punctating, sometimes in combination. The presence of shell, the use of pottery, and the proximity of villages to tidal creeks and marshes along the Georgia coast is called St. Simons Phase. Comparatively for the coast, this phase is well represented on Ossabaw.

St. Simons Phase (4400-3100 BP)

9Ch 35 (Cane Patch) - This site is located on the northwestern tip of Cane Patch Island. Shell mining destroyed what was once a large prehistoric midden. Remaining shell covers an area 150 feet in diameter with a ridge 7 to 10 feet deep running for some 50 feet along its western edge. In the mined area the shell is 1 to 4 feet deep. The original form and depth of the deposit are impossible to tell from a surface survey. A large amount of St. Simons pottery was recovered in 1971 (Crusoe and DePratter 1974).

9Ch 146 - Located on New Years Day Hammock, this site is just east of the junction of Buckhead and Cane Patch creeks. On the eroding shoreline of Cane Patch Creek is a shell midden, 1 to 3 feet thick, stretching for about 100 feet. The site extends inland for about 30 feet. St. Simons Plain and later pottery (Deptford, Savannah, and Irene) was found.

9Ch 147 - At Arrowhead Beach just north of the Main House, a heavily eroded site stretches along the marsh's edge for 600 feet. No concentrations of shell are reported, but scattered shell occurs from the beach to Main House Road. With only scattered shell on the beach, no large midden is suspected to have ever been present. Two early Archaic projectile points, a Kirk Serrated (c. 9000 BP) and a beveled point (c. 8000 BP), were found here. They are the only artifacts of this period found on Ossabaw and may have been brought to the site by later occupants. The fiber tempered pottery is mostly St. Simons Plain, with one St. Simons Punctated and two St. Simons Incised recovered. Lots of diagnostic artifacts indicate this was a favored area for they reflect a continuous occupation until the Historic Period.

9Ch 148 - This site is on the south shore of Cane Patch Island. St. Simons plain pottery is present. There is ceramic evidence of later occupations (Savannah and Irene) also. Site dimensions are indistinguishable due to heavy erosion.

9Ch 159 - A small midden is located near Buckhead. It is a single deposit circular in shape with a 30 foot face exposed on the shoreline. Depths range from 18 to 30 inches. A small amount of St. Simons Plain pottery was found. Also present are ceramics of a later occupation, Irene Phase.

9Ch 203 - Located on a peninsula in the marsh near an unnamed creek, this large site has a crescent-shaped shell midden. The tips touch the marsh while the center is more than 100 feet inland. The midden ranges from 10 to 50 feet in width and in height from 6 to 36 inches. Evidence of shell borrowing is absent. This might be a shell ring or a modified one. St. Simons Plain pottery was found as well as some later phases, Wilmington-St. Catherines and Savannah.

Woodland Period (3000 to 1500 Years BP)

The next phase found on Ossabaw is the Deptford (2600 to 1400 BP). Other coastal research finds village sites back along the marsh. Communities are composed of 10 to 25 houses clustered near linear deposits of shell along the marsh. A dependance on shellfish is indicated by the abundant shell deposits. Pottery technology and decoration changed. Deptford pottery was made by coiling, not modeling, and was tempered with sand, not fiber. Vessel surfaces were decorated by stamping with carved wooden paddles. Deptford pottery has been collected from the following sites on Ossabaw.

Deptford Phase (2400-1500 BP)

9Ch 146** - This New Years Day Hammock site contained Deptford Simple Stamped, Bold Check Stamped, and Cord-marked pottery. Earlier (St. Simons) and later (Savannah and Irene) phases were also represented in the collected artifacts.

9Ch 147** - The Arrowhead Beach site contained pottery spanning 4,000 years. Deptford ceramics were found along with earlier (Archaic) and later (Mississippian and Historic) materials.

9Ch 155 - At South End Field, a 6 to 12 inch thick shell midden extends for 1000 feet along an eroding bluff of Newell Creek. Pits and postmolds were profiled by this erosion. In the 1970's the erosion rate was reportedly about 10 feet a year. Shell is visible inland for at least 600 feet. The Deptford phase pottery is the oldest recorded here.

However, most of the collected pottery is later, including a Spanish olive jar fragment and 19th century material.

9Ch 181 - This site is on the edge of the marsh east of Hell Hole Road. Its dimensions were given as 100 by 40 feet and only Deptford pottery was recorded.

9Ch 191 - This interior site is indicated by a large surface scattering of shell (800 feet E-W [east-west] and 400 feet N-S [north-south]) with one small midden (15 feet in diameter) present. It is located where North Buckhead and South End roads intersect. Pottery described as "possibly Deptford" was found. Later pottery (Wilmington and Irene) was collected also.

9Ch 215 - A scatter of shell adjacent to Cane Patch Creek extends for 200 feet with occasional concentrations exposed in the bank. No dense midden was observed. Some discrepancy regarding site location appears between Garrow's and DePratter's survey results. Based on shell distribution described by Garrow, the site appeared to be a much larger than when DePratter visited it the following year. DePratter did not find the site extending inland for 300 feet as described by Garrow. Deptford pottery as well as later materials (Wilmington and Irene) were collected.

9Ch 221 - Located on a bend in Buckhead Creek, this site has a 6 to 12 inch thick midden and pits exposed for about 100 feet in the profile of an eroding bank. On the north end is a small midden heap. The site extends inland for about 15 feet. Deptford and later pottery (Savannah and Irene) have been found here.

9Ch 229 - West of South Buckhead Road away from the marsh, three small discontiguous shell scatters ranging from 2 to 6 inches thick comprise this site. No shell heaps are visible. It is on the edge of a tidal inlet and is less than 100 feet long. Deptford and later pottery (Irene) were found.

9Ch 257 - East of Cabbage Garden Road on the marsh is a single midden 60 feet long and 10 feet wide. This site has an eroding shoreline profile. Shell exposed in the midden profile tapers out inland from a thickness of about 1 foot. A single sherd, probably Deptford, was collected.

Mississippi Period (1500 to 450 Years BP)

About 1500 BP, lifeways on the coast changed again, perhaps, a consequence of environmental and subsistence factors. Early in this period sites were still located next to tidal marshes and on high, well-drained interior land near freshwater. However, under the influence of

the increasing role of agriculture in subsistence, populations clustered into larger and larger villages. This is also reflected in a centralization of political power under the leadership of chiefs. This trend from many widely scattered sites, varying in size from 1 to 2 houses to 75 plus, to fewer and fewer sites reflects the nucleation of an expanding population. Villages were occupied for the full year. The intensive use of marsh resources and the gathering of nuts and other plant foods continue. However, larger and larger villages indicate a growing reliance on agriculture in spite of scarce evidence of its presence in coast's wet, humid climate. Burial mounds become increasingly common for the interment of high status individuals as indicated by associated burial items. Platform mounds and palisaded villages subsequently appear.

Along the Georgia coast the primary diagnostic artifact type, pottery, underwent another change in manufacturing. Sand tempering was replaced by small lumps of clay. Decorations also changed from stamped to cord marked designs. Based on ceramic analyses of changes in paste, decoration, and form, this period is divided into three sub-periods called "phases." Beginning with the earliest, they are the Wilmington-St. Catherines, Savannah, and Irene.

Wilmington-St. Catherines Phase (1500-850 BP)

9Ch 145 - A heavy shell midden from 1 to 2 feet thick is located on Hackless Hammock at the junction of Buckhead and Cane Patch creeks. The site covers the western third of the hammock, an area 400 feet (N-S) by 300 feet (E-W). In addition to Wilmington Cord-marked pottery, ceramics from each of the subsequent phases, Savannah, Irene, and Altamaha, were found. In the West Collection was a Spanish Mission Period olive jar fragment from this site.

9Ch 147** - Wilmington pottery is found also at Arrowhead Beach, the eroding site which has evidence of continuous occupation from the Archaic to the Historic period.

9Ch 155** - South End Field site, with Deptford to Spanish mission period pottery, has a small amount of Wilmington material.

9Ch 160 - On a bluff overlooking Cabbage Garden Creek is a large site. Midden shell is found over an area 1,600 feet E-W and 800 feet N-S. More than 25 midden heaps occur along the northern and southern fringes of the site. On the north, they are 30 to 50 feet in diameter and 1 to 2 feet high. Those to the south are smaller and lower. In the middle of the site no heaps are present, but there is midden deposit 12 to 18 inches in depth. In the 1890s this area was known as Bluff Field, explaining, perhaps, the absence of midden heaps in the middle. Pottery

was not abundant on the surface, even in recently exposed borrow pits. Some pieces of Wilmington-St. Catherines pottery, Cord-marked and Plain, were found. Later pottery (Savannah and Irene) was also recovered. C. B. Moore dug three mounds at Bluff Field (1897).

9Ch 161 - This site is on Harry Hammock along an eroding bank of the Bradley River. Two small middens about 50 feet apart are visible on the shoreline. One is 15 feet long with a midden of no more than 6 inches in depth. It extends inland about 5 feet. The other is about 6 feet in diameter with a 3 inch thick midden. A small amount of Wilmington-St. Catherines Plain pottery and pieces of a sand-tempered vessel were found here.

9Ch 164 - Also on Harry Hammock is a larger site extending along the shoreline for 120 feet and inland for 60 feet. Its midden varies in depth from 6 to 12 inches. Present are three shell heaps ranging from 10 to 20 feet in diameter and from 1 to 2 feet in height. In addition to the Wilmington-St. Catherines pottery, Savannah and Irene sherds were found. The shell heaps may mark individual house sites from a later (Irene) phase.

9Ch 176 - On the west side of the island between the marsh and Pine Barren Road is a large site, probably a village. Erosion is occurring along the marsh and the slough. Several of the shell middens have been damaged by use as a source of fill. The site is 900 feet (N-S) and 450 feet (E-W). In the area are 20 to 25 midden heaps with shell up to 1 foot thick among them. The heaps range in height from 1 to 2 feet with diameters between 30 and 60 feet. A historic grave marked by brick is present. An undisturbed burial mound, 2.5 feet high and 40 feet in diameter, is located on the southwestern edge. The site contains Wilmington and Irene pottery as well as historic material. The Wilmington component is a minor part, based on surface collections.

9Ch 191** - Wilmington-St. Catherines and Irene phase occupation are indicated by the surface collection, but here the Irene component is the smaller. The scattered shell, 800 feet (E-W) and 400 feet (N-S), seems to be typical of pre-Irene sites with their individual house refuse heaps. Deptford Phase occupation also is indicated by the surface material. This is the site which has both North Buckhead and South End Roads crossing it.

9Ch 203** - Located on a peninsula, this large, crescent-shaped shell midden appears to be undisturbed. Besides Wilmington-St. Catherines Plain pottery, earlier (St. Simons) and later (Savannah) pottery was found here.

9Ch 208 - On the surface of this site, no shell is visible, but it is exposed in the roots of fallen trees. The shell midden appears to be about 6 inches thick. The site is located along the marsh on the edge of a small cove. A single Wilmington-St. Catherines sherd was found here.

9Ch 215 - Along Cane Patch Creek, shell is scattered for 200 feet. No thick midden deposits were observed, but concentrations of shell were present. In addition to Wilmington-St. Catherines pottery, earlier (Deptford) and later (Irene) materials were recovered at this site.

9Ch 232 - Situated just north of Main Beach Road, this site consists of nine shell midden heaps over an area of 600 by 400 feet. The heaps range in height from 1 to 3 feet and in diameter from 10 to 40 feet. No shell is exposed between the heaps or along the shoreline. Several of the heaps have been used as a source of road fill. One sherd of Wilmington-St. Catherines was found; some later pottery (Irene) was also recovered.

9Ch 252 - A shell midden covers about half of an island which is about 250 yards away from the mainland in the marsh southwest of South Beach Road. The island is about 130 by 50 feet. The midden ranges from 6 to 18 inches in thickness. Only one piece of pottery, St. Catherines, was found here, although there is quite a bit of shoreline erosion. This is one of three marsh midden sites at Ossabaw.

Savannah Phase (850-700 BP)

The Savannah Phase sites are marked by a return to sand tempering in pottery manufacture and a change in vessel decorations. The pottery is thinner. Check stamping and complicated stamping are re-introduced.

9Ch 140 - This site is on Bear Island. Because the chimpanzee project colony was there, the island was visited briefly by only one surveyor. A relatively deep midden extends along the island's west side shoreline for about 1000 feet and inland for no more than 10 feet. No midden depth is given. Eleanor West's artifact collection, made before the chimpanzee experiment began, contains Savannah Phase pottery from the area.

9Ch 145** - Savannah Fine Cord-marked pottery is contained in the West Collection from this shell midden site. Earlier (Wilmington) as well as later (Irene, Altamaha, and Mission Period) materials are also in the collection from this site.

9Ch 146** - Eroding into Cane Patch Creek, this hammock site had Savannah Fine Cord-marked pottery on the beach. Earlier (St. Simons and Deptford) as well as later (Irene) ceramics were found also.

9Ch 147** - This site contained Savannah Phase pottery, Fine Cord-marked, Check Stamped, and Cord-marked. Other artifacts found here range from early Archaic points (c. 8000 BP) to 20th century material.

9Ch 148** - At this heavily eroded site, most of the pottery has been collected from the beach. In the West's collection are Savannah Fine Cord-marked, Plain, and Check Stamped pottery. Earlier (St. Simons) and later (Irene) materials were also in the collection.

9Ch 155** - At this site in South End Field, the eroding bluff has exposed pits and postmolds. Savannah Phase pottery, Fine Cord-marked, dominates by number in the collected material. Earlier (Wilmington-St. Catherines and Deptford) and later (Irene, 16th and 19th century) materials were recovered also.

9Ch 158 - The extensive prehistoric occupation at Middle Place contains Savannah Phase pottery, although most of the material found on the surface is Irene Phase. Moore (1897) dug three shell mounds here, one of which (Mound B) seems to have been of the Savannah Phase. Originally the mound was 46 feet in diameter and 7 feet high; from it, Moore recovered Savannah Cord-marked and Stamped pottery. Although he reportedly dug the entire mound, an apparently undisturbed portion of it, 20 feet in diameter and 5 feet high, remains. Lenses of shell and dirt are visible in the exposed profile.

9Ch 160** - This site on the bluff at Cabbage Garden Creek contained three mounds. Two mounds, **A** and **B**, contained Savannah Phase pottery. Originally **A** was 25 inches high and 56 feet in diameter and **B** was 19 inches high and 40 feet in diameter. The spoil area from **A** is still evident while no trace of **B** was found. There was an extensive later prehistoric occupation (Irene) that included the third mound.

9Ch 163 - Located on the east side of the Bradley River on Harry Hammock is a small site about 10 feet long along the bluff with a thin shell layer. The only pottery collected here was a large portion of a Savannah Fine Cord-marked vessel.

9Ch 164** - This site is also on Harry Hammock. In addition to Savannah Check Stamped pottery, artifacts included earlier (Wilmington-St. Catherines) and later (Irene) ceramics.

9Ch 168 - Located on the east side of the island, this site extends along the edge of the marsh for about 30 feet. Shell goes inland for a few feet and the deposit is about 6 inches thick. Savannah Cord-marked and Plain was the only pottery found. No other occupation is evident nearby.

9Ch 203** - From this crescent-shaped shell ridge, pottery was not abundant. Besides a few pieces of earlier (St. Simons and Wilmington-St. Catherines) pottery, only Savannah Burnished and Plain were recovered. The site may be remnants of a shell ring.

9Ch 204 - Located on the narrow constriction of the peninsula next to 9Ch 203, the site is about 300 feet in diameter. Ten to 12 shell heaps, ranging in diameter from 10 to 40 feet and averaging about 1 foot in height, are present. One heap, which is 50 feet in diameter and 42 inches high, may be a burial mound. Savannah Fine Cord-marked pottery and some later material (Irene) were found. The site appears undisturbed.

9Ch 221** - At this site pits and midden can be seen in the profile of the eroding bluff. Savannah Burnished pottery was a minority, compared to the earlier (Deptford) and later (Irene) artifacts. The total collection was less than two dozen sherds.

9Ch 270 - At the north end and west side of South End Road, this site is located in the interior. Absent of midden heaps scattered shell covers an area 300 feet in diameter. Concentrations of shell were seen. Dense vegetation made survey difficult. Of the two pieces of pottery found, one was Savannah Fine Cord-marked and the other unidentifiable.

Irene Phase (700-450 BP)

The Irene is the last phase of the prehistoric occupation on Ossabaw. For a long time, the Irene Phase was considered to be only prehistoric but new evidence questions this interpretation. Classification of Irene pottery is difficult at times because more than one kind of decoration will appear on the same vessel. Forty-one sites have Irene material. They are characterized by individual shell heaps, representing separate family units possibly. Pottery is abundant on the surface.

9Ch 120 - This was a small shell heap 30 inches in diameter and 6 inches thick on the bank of the Bradley River. Because the site was being undercut by high tides, it was completely excavated. Recovered were a bushel of oyster shells, clay fragments from several crabs, bones of marsh terrapin, a raccoon, and a young deer. These remains were intermixed and clustered, resulting from a meal or two. No ash or charcoal were found in the midden. Two Irene Complicated Stamped sherds were recovered. No other Irene sites are nearby so this may have been a hunting camp.

9Ch 143 - On the east side of Bear Island, this site starts just north of the boat dock, extending northward for 75 feet along the bank. Midden depth at the marsh's edge is 2 to 3 feet, going inland for only

a few feet. Only Irene Complicated Stamped and Plain pottery were found here.

9Ch 144 - This site on the northeast edge of Harry Hammock has almost eroded away into a creek. No pottery was found by the survey, but the West Collection contained Irene pottery from this site.

9Ch 145** - Irene pottery was found in the West Collection and collected from this shell midden site. Earlier (Wilmington and Savannah) and later (Altamaha and Spanish Mission Period) ceramics were also contained in the West Collection.

9Ch 146** - This shell midden site on New Years Day Hammock had Irene Complicated Stamped and Incised pottery found on it. Earlier periods were represented as well: St. Simons, Deptford, and Savannah.

9Ch 147** - The surface collection contains Irene pottery, including Irene Incised, Complicated Stamped, and Burnished.

9Ch 150 - At Buckhead, a large Irene site covers an area indicated by surface shell scatter of 600 feet (E-W) by 500 feet (N-S). A creek is eroding 600 feet of the site's northern edge. For 100 feet on the east end of this erosion is a 1 to 2 foot thick shell midden. Most of the artifacts were collected here. The western 500 feet of this eroding shoreline has 1 to 2 foot thick midden interrupted by shell scatters. In some spots no shell is present. Inland 100 feet is a rise of 18 inches, covering an area of 50 by 100 feet. It may be a prehistoric mound. The pottery is Irene Complicated Stamped and Burnished. Later materials, 18th and 19th century ceramics, brick, and glass, were found here, too.

9Ch 151 - On the west shore of Ossabaw, along a slough draining to the marsh, is a large site of about 50 individual shell midden heaps in three clusters. North of the slough are 10 to 12 heaps which are 10 to 12 feet in diameter and range in height from 12 to 18 inches. No shell is visible among the heaps. Another cluster of 18 to 20 heaps is south of the slough. The height range is similar to the former and they range in diameter from 10 to 30 feet. No shell is exposed in shorelines of the slough or marsh. East, across another slough, is a third cluster where 15 to 18 middens range from 30 to 50 feet in diameter and 2 to 3 feet high. Evidence of shell borrowing can be seen. Pottery consisted of Irene Complicated Stamped, Incised, and Burnished.

9Ch 153 - On Newell Creek are 7 to 8 shell heaps about 1 foot high and 10 to 20 feet in diameter. They cover an area about 400 feet (N-S) by 200 feet (E-W). Some scattered shell is visible among the heaps. Irene Complicated Stamped, Incised, Burnished, and unidentified pottery were collected.

9Ch 155** - At South End Field, the Irene Phase sample is small, consisting of two sherds of Irene Complicated Stamped.

9Ch 158** - At this heavily occupied site the surface collections were composed predominantly of Irene Phase pottery: Plain, Burnished; Complicated Stamped; and Incised. A number of Irene midden shell heaps, ranging in diameter from 10 to 80 feet, have been badly disturbed by plowing. Of the six shell mounds excavated by Moore (1897), mounds **A** (45 feet in diameter and 18 inches high) and **D** (82 feet in diameter and 45 inches high) contained Irene Phase pottery. Numerous prehistoric human burials were recovered during Moore's excavations.

9Ch 159** - From this small shell midden site, Irene Complicated Stamped pottery was collected.

9Ch 160** - Of the three shell mounds excavated by Moore (1897) in the Bluff Field area only Mound C (45 to 50 feet in diameter and 30 inches high) contained Irene pottery. The 1974 survey did not relocate this mound. Surface collections from both sides of Cabbage Garden Road contained Irene Complicated Stamped pottery.

9Ch 164** - Found at this site were Irene Plain and Complicated Stamped ceramics as well as some earlier materials (Wilmington-St. Catherines and Savannah).

9Ch 169 - A small shell midden, 5 by 15 feet and 1 foot thick, is located on the edge of the marsh. One Irene Complicated Stamped sherd was found.

9Ch 174 - In an area 300 feet (N-S) by 500 feet (E-W) are 35 to 40 midden shell heaps, measuring from 10 to 50 feet in diameter. Heights range from 18 to 30 inches. Unlike other shell midden sites, many of the heaps overlap each other. Few have been disturbed by borrowing, but the shoreline is eroding. Irene Complicated Stamped and Plain were recovered.

9Ch 180 - This site is composed of two shell middens about 100 feet apart with a scatter of shell between. One is 20 feet in diameter and 1 foot high; the other is 8 feet in diameter and 10 inches high. Collected were Irene Complicated Stamped and Plain ceramics.

9Ch 191** - At this shell midden site, Irene Complicated Stamped pottery as well as some earlier material (Wilmington-St. Catherines) were collected.

9Ch 193 - On the north edge of a small slough near the marsh are three shell middens. The largest is 20 feet in diameter and 20 inches high

while the smallest is 10 feet in diameter and 1 foot high. Aligned in a row, they cover about 100 feet. Pottery consists of Irene Complicated Stamped and Plain.

9Ch 195 - Along Buckhead Creek are two shell middens. One is about 5 feet from the bluff, standing 2 feet high with a diameter of 18 feet. Eighty feet to the south, the other midden is eroding into the marsh. It is 10 feet in diameter and 6 inches high. Pottery includes Irene Complicated Stamped, Burnished, and Pinched rims.

9Ch 196 - West of South End Road on the marsh, is a site with two structures, a shell midden heap 20 feet in diameter and 1 foot high, and a sand mound 30 feet in diameter and 30 inches high. Fill of the mound is brown and contains only a scattering of shell. It may be a burial mound. Pottery collected from the sand mound's surface was Irene Plain.

9Ch 197 - At this site eroding into Buckhead Creek is a shell deposit about 1 foot thick in an area about 20 feet across. It appears that shell was thrown over the edge of the low bluff. A large amount of Irene pottery was found: Plain; Complicated Stamped; Incised; and Burnished. Given the site's proximity to sites 196, 195, 221, and 268, it may be part of one very large site with earlier components.

9Ch 198 - On the east side of the Old Buckhead peninsula, this large site is located on a cove of Buckhead Creek. Ten shell middens are scattered over an area extending along the shoreline for about 300 feet and inland for about 150 feet. In size the middens range from 8 to 40 feet in diameter and from 1 to 2 feet high. Little shell appears between the heaps. On the north edge there is evidence of looting. In addition to Irene pottery (Complicated Stamped, Plain, Incised, and Burnished), stone, shell and bone materials were collected.

9Ch 199 - This large site takes advantage of both a freshwater swamp and the marsh. It extends northwest from South End Road following the marsh's edge. About 25 individual midden heaps were recorded. Those by the swamp are 10 to 20 feet in diameter and less than 1 foot high. To the southwest by the marsh, the remaining heaps have a maximum diameter of 30 feet and height of 2 feet. Shell borrowing has disturbed some of the heaps. The only pottery found is from the Irene Phase: Complicated Stamped; Burnished; and Plain.

9Ch 200, 201, 202, and 228 - These sites are near each other along the marsh southwest of South End Road. Other Irene sites are nearby. Site 202 is the largest, covering 800 feet east to west along the marsh and 200 feet inland. Some of the 20 to 30 midden heaps, which range from 10 to 40 feet in diameter and 1 to 2.5 feet high, have been disturbed by shell borrowing. Sites 200 and 201 consist of two shell heaps each. They

are from 10 to 15 feet in diameter and 1 foot in height. At both sites the heaps are about 25 feet apart. Site 228 has 6 shell midden heaps, ranging in diameter from 20 to 30 feet and up to 2 feet high. There is no shell at the shoreline. Only Irene Phase ceramics have been collected from these four sites.

9Ch 204** - From this cluster of undisturbed shell middens, the collection consisted mostly of Irene Complicated Stamped pottery. The largest shell heap (50 feet in diameter and 42 inches high) may be a burial mound.

9Ch 221** - From this eroding shell midden complex, Irene Complicated Stamped and Burnished pottery has been collected. Earlier materials (Deptford and Savannah) were found as well.

9Ch 229** - Irene Complicated Stamped sherds were collected from this eroding shoreline shell midden. No heaps are visible. Earlier pottery (Deptford) was found here also.

9Ch 232** - From this cluster of 9 shell midden heaps, Irene Complicated Stamped and Plain pottery was collected. Some earlier Pottery (Wilmington-St. Catherines) was found also.

9Ch 236 - This site is a shell midden 15 feet in diameter and 1 foot high. It is located 35 feet west of South End Road. Clearing around a row of roadside oak trees has destroyed the midden. Collected from the scattered remnants were Irene Plain, Incised, Burnished, and Complicated Stamped pottery. West of this midden about 75 feet is a surface scatter of shell about 40 feet in diameter; it may be an associated house site. No other middens were seen in the area.

9Ch 244 - This midden is exposed along an eroding shoreline for 40 feet and extends inland for 10 feet. It is about 6 inches thick. The pottery was Irene Complicated Stamped.

9Ch 247 - This cluster of five shell midden heaps is 200 feet inland from the marsh, covering an area 200 feet square. Two middens are each 18 inches high and 20 feet in diameter. The others are 10 inches high and range from 15 to 20 feet in diameter. All appear undisturbed. Sites Ch 153 and 199 are nearby but are clearly separated from Ch 247. Irene Complicated Stamped and Plain pottery were found.

9Ch 254 - On this badly disturbed site in an area about 200 yards square are 8 to 10 shell midden heaps. The largest was about 40 feet in diameter and 2 feet high before it was destroyed. The others were smaller and lower. Thick vegetation may obscure other heaps in the area. Pottery consisted of Irene Complicated Stamped and Burnished.

9Ch 255 - Three undisturbed shell midden heaps were found east of the marsh and south of South Beach Road in a space about 200 feet by 100 feet. There is no shell scattered between the middens. One heap is 30 feet in diameter and 30 inches high; the others are smaller and lower. Irene Plain pottery was found.

9Ch 258 - This site is one of the three shell middens found in the island's marsh. The midden covers most of a small island, covering an area 30 feet (N-S) by 24 feet (E-W). On the south end, the midden is more than 2 feet thick, and on the opposite, 1 foot thick. Mussel shells comprise much of the midden. One Irene Complicated Stamped sherd was collected.

9Ch 259 - Next to a pond, four shell midden heaps cluster in an area 200 feet in diameter with a shell scattering among them. The heaps are next to a small pond west of Cabbage Garden Creek. They range in height from 6 to 18 inches. Irene Complicated Stamped and Plain pottery were found.

9Ch 266 - Between South End Road and a dry pond, three shell midden heaps are spaced closely. They range from 10 to 25 feet in diameter and are less than 1 foot high. A possible burial mound, 30 feet in diameter and a foot high, is located about 100 yards to the northeast of the shell heaps. No scattered shell occurs among the heaps or between them and the burial mound. An Irene Plain sherd was found on one of the shell heaps.

9Ch 269 - Between Goose Pond and Hell Hole Road are three distinct shell midden heaps, one of which is almost destroyed. The two intact middens are each about 20 feet in diameter and a foot high; they are about 200 yards apart. Two small sites across the Hell Hole Road, Ch 179 and 180, may be related. From a midden surface, Irene Incised pottery was collected.

9Ch 271 - Five shell midden heaps and four small surface scatters are located around a small pond between Cabbage Garden Road and North Field (a marsh). The heaps are less than 15 feet in diameter and no higher than 10 inches. They sit back about 75 feet from the edge of the pond. Irene Complicated Stamped and Plain pottery were found here.

Some of the other sites located may have undetected heaps and probably are Irene Phase in origin. Because of a lack of diagnostic artifacts, they were not assigned to any phase.

Proto-historic Period (450 to 300 Years BP)

Altamaha Phase

The last of the archaeological phases for the Indian inhabitants of the Georgia coast is the Altamaha. It began probably before the Spanish arrived on the coast. The pottery is similar to Irene Phase ceramics, but some decorative elements of the Irene Phase have been dropped.

9Ch 145** - Located on Hackless Hammock west of the main island, this dense shell midden site is represented in the West Collection by Altamaha Incised and Line Block. In addition to Wilmington, Savannah, and Irene pottery, the West Collection contained a Spanish olive jar fragment from this site. Caldwell (1971) suggested that Altamaha Phase was later than Irene Phase, but earlier than Spanish Mission period (olive jar fragments). DePratter suggested they might be contemporaneous.

Spanish Mission Period (430 to 330 Years BP)

In the mid-16th century, the Spanish established missions along the Georgia coast (Thomas 1993). DePratter states that "since a mission once existed on Ossabaw, a large Spanish period site should be present...on the island" (1974:5). More recently, however, Worth (1995 oral communication) has concluded that no permanent Spanish mission was ever established on Ossabaw Island. On Ossabaw, three sites are reported to contain Spanish Mission Period olive jar fragments (DePratter 1974:5).

9Ch 145** - Contained in the West Collection from this site is a "Spanish olive jar fragment."

9Ch 150** - There is no mention of a Spanish olive jar artifact in DePratter's description of this site, Oss 12 (1974:10-11). However, he states in his "Summary and Conclusion" that "Garrow reports that olive jar fragments have been found at Oss 12 and 19" (1974:5). In DePratter's Table 1 (1974), only 9Ch 145 and 9Ch 155 are shown to have Spanish affiliation by artifact presence.

9Ch 155** - From this large site at South End Field on Newell Creek, Garrow reported collecting one Spanish olive jar fragment in 1973.

Historic (Post-mission) Period (330 to 100 BP)

After the Spanish withdrew from the Georgia coast in the 1680s, the void was quickly filled by competing European explorers and soldiers, attempting to establish colonial footholds in the New World. In addition

to the few olive jar fragments of the Mission Period, other historical materials have been found on the island of subsequent occupations.

The primary focus of archaeological survey has been on sites of the island's prehistoric inhabitants. Little attention has been given to Ossabaw's historic archaeological sites. However, they are important to any understanding of the full story of the island's human occupation. At the following sites artifacts of the 18th, 19th, and 20th centuries have been noted in the West Collection, observed in the field, or collected during survey. Materials of glass, metal, and clay include artifacts such as bricks, jars, pipe stems, wine bottles, and buttons. Reported features include chimney and wall foundations and ground surface undulations indicating wells. However, none of the archaeological surveys conducted on the island was undertaken to address historic archaeological resources or questions.

The consequences of live oak timbering, shipping, and shipbuilding are examples of this lack of focus on historic archaeological resources on Ossabaw. These activities are documented for the island. However, no sites affiliated with any of them have been sought or identified. Even as an undemonstrated archaeological potential, such sites reflecting Ossabaw's maritime history are important. Similarly, no sites associated with Ossabaw's African-American culture have been investigated, yet they surely exist (e.g. 9Ch 158).

9Ch 147** From Arrowhead Beach, miscellaneous 19th and 20th century historic materials were present in the West Collection.

9Ch 150** During survey at this large site, a number of collections were made. They included artifacts of the 18th, 19th, and early 20th centuries. Collected were glass bottle bases and fragments, assorted ceramics, and pipe stem fragments. Scattered bricks were observed but no foundations or wells were located. In a field, two piles of bricks were noted.

9Ch 155** At South End Field, where a Spanish olive jar fragment was found, several historic trash pits and other portions of this site were tested in 1972 and 1973. Recovered were "assorted 19th century historic material" (DePratter 1974).

9Ch 158** At Middle Place, which includes the prehistoric burial mounds excavated by C. B. Moore (1897), some historic materials were collected. They are described as follows: "assorted 19th century historic" and "historic pipe stem fragment" (DePratter 1974). Also located here are remains of five tabby structures, probably slave quarters. They are part

of a 19th century plantation. There is also one foundation pier remaining of the main house for this plantation.

9Ch 162 Observed at this site, which was not relocated by the 1974 survey, was a scatter of bricks and an 1850's period bottle.

9Ch 176** In the west central portion of this site is a historic grave marked by bricks. Other historic materials from the site include glass, ceramics, tabby, and a large brass button.

9Ch 217 On a peninsula on the west side of the island is a historic period site. Consisting of two piles of brick, a filled- in well, and some foundations, it is probably a house site with an outbuilding. Mid-19th-century ceramics dominated the collection. Looting by bottle collectors has affected this site.

9Ch 226 On a cove of the Bradley River, a shell midden, 2 to 8 inches thick, extends for 75 feet along the bank and inland for 10 to 15 feet. Two 19th century earthenware sherds were found.

9Ch 249 One hundred feet east of South End Road is a scatter of bricks and an earth mound 20 feet in diameter and 2 feet high. South of the mound about 100 feet is a surface scatter of oyster shell. In addition to bricks, several 20th century wine bottles were noted.

9Ch 251 Inland 50 feet from the marsh are 2 shell piles, each about 8 feet in diameter and 6 to 10 inches high. On one of these piles, a broken late 19th to early 20th century earthenware jug was noted. Inland another 30 feet is a cluster of 24 bricks, covering an area 2 feet square.

DESCRIPTION OF HISTORIC BUILDINGS, STRUCTURES, LANDSCAPING

A series of unpaved roads transverses the higher ground connecting the historic areas of settlement on Ossabaw Island. All these roads are dirt or sand, unpaved, and unimproved. They are all narrow and, as shown on existing maps and plats, have followed pretty much the same routes for over a century and a half. The principal transportation spine on the island is called Main Road and leads from Torrey's Landing at the north end to the southern reaches of the island. Just before the Buckhead causeway it splits. The east road is the Willows Road and the other branch is the South End Road. Along this road are a series of stone mile markers, thought to date from the 18th century. At the north end of the road leading to the Clubhouse (and probable site of the former Morel house) is an impressive oak allee. The causeway extending north to Torrey's Landing is lined with palm trees.

Paralleling this main road in a north-south direction are Pine Barren Road on the west and West Cabbage Garden Road and Half Moon Road on the east. Further east in the Marsh-Beach-Dune area, the north-south roads include Bradley Road, Mule Run Road and Hell Hole Road. East-west connecting roads include Cane Patch Road, North and South Buckhead Roads, Log Road, Main Beach Road, and South End Beach Road.

Historic land subdivision of the island included North End, Middle Place, South End and Buckhead Plantations. The original forest growth on the island was harvested in the 18th and 19th century for the live oak timbers or cleared for agricultural fields for these plantations. Current field place names that appear on the 1979 "Place Names Map" prepared by Holcomb and Pariani include Bahia Grass Field, North End Field, Buckhead Field, South End Field, Willows Field, Middle Place Field, and South End Beach Field. Historic references to the fields planted by Kollock's slaves on South End include, in 1857, Jacobs Field (40 acres), Cope Field (45 acres), Sassafras #1 (7 acres), and Marsh Field, Sassafras #2, and Pond Field. In 1859 Cherry Field is included. In 1860 South End fields were planted in corn, potatoes, cotton and watermelons and included the names of Sassafras #1, Bastly, Jack Island, Morel Field, John Field, Marsh Field and Maple Swamp (Kollock Plantation Books). Sassafras Field is also referenced in an 1829 document.

At present, there are fewer than ten permanent residents on Ossabaw. Inhabited structures, both historic and modern, are located primarily at the North End of the island near Torrey's Landing. Several abandoned structures, both historic and modern, are located at Middle Place. The historic structures are discussed in more detail below.

Historically, structures on the island were associated with the four plantations. These were located near creeks for water transportation access. An indication of the density of occupation during the plantation era may be derived from some information on the number of slaves on the island:

Mrs. Eleanor T. West, the current resident/life-estate owner, has four original plantation slave inventories. Only one is dated which lists 160 slaves. It dates from the Morel era, around 1812.

The Kollock Plantation Books for the years 1852-1860 list from 56 to 68 slaves living at South End under an overseer. Kollock did not reside full time on the island since he owned several other plantations in Georgia.

The population of the island in the 1880 Census is approximately 160 people residing in 40 houses.

In 1896 C. B. Moore noted that "About half way from either extremity of the western side of Ossabaw Island on a small creek about five miles from the main channel, are a few cabins tenanted exclusively by colored people, and known as Middle [Place] Settlement."

Toward the end of the 19th century, the black residents, many of whom were former slaves or descendants of the slaves of the Morels, Kollocks, and McDonalds, left the island. The censuses of 1900-1920 indicate fewer than 15 people living on the island at any one time until the advent of the Torrey era in 1924. During this period, 1898-1924, the island was used for hunting and farming, and had very few full-time residents.

During the residency of Dr. H. N. Torrey, 1924-1945, he and his family came to the island only during the winter months, primarily January through May. They brought a staff of about eight or nine people from Michigan.

In recent years Mrs. West has made Ossabaw her permanent residence. Except for the years when visiting scholars or students resided on the island in the 1960s-1980s, there have been few other residents.

Historic/Contributing Buildings, Structures, and Landscape Features

None of the 18th- and 19th-century plantation "big houses" remain; the last one survived until the 1920s at Middle Place. The present Clubhouse/Wanamaker House is thought to be located on the site or foundation of John Morel's North End House.

Most of the remaining historic buildings and structures are grouped at the north end of the island.

Tabby Slave/Tenant Houses. A row of three virtually identical tabby slave/tenant houses stands to the northwest of the Main Road at the north end of the island. Each of these houses is a one-story, gable-roofed, saddlebag-type vernacular house. Each is constructed of tabby, an indigenous form of concrete using shells as aggregate. Each has two main interior rooms separated by a large chimney stack with fireplaces. Each has been added to and altered over the years, although the original two-room tabby cores of the houses, dating from c.1845, are clearly intact.

Barn. Northwest of the Main Road, beyond the tabby oyster house, stands a small, one-and-a-half-story, gable-roofed, transverse-crib barn. It is framed with dimensioned lumber and sheathed in weatherboards. The gable roof is surmounted by a small monitor-like structure. An open passage leads through the barn on the ground level; access to the second

level is through a sliding wooden door in a gable end. The barn is believed to have been built during the first two decades of the 20th century.

Tabby "Oyster House". The so-called tabby oyster house is located northwest of the Main Road, beyond the Boarding House, at the north end of the island. It is a small, one-story, gable-roofed building built of solid tabby walls. A single small door opens into one gable end of the building. Small wood additions have been made to one side and the rear of the structure. The building appears to have been built in the 19th century for agricultural or storage purposes.

Boarding House (also Bachelor's House). The Boarding House is located northwest of the Main Road, just northwest of the Clubhouse, at the north end of the island. It is an early 20th-century, one-story, Craftsman-style bungalow. It is built of wood and sheathed in weatherboard except for shingles in the gable ends. It features a large front gable with a recessed front porch, paired square-sectioned porch columns, broad eaves with flattened brackets, and several large dormers. The building has a long, narrow form; rooms are arranged in "shotgun" fashion. The interior is simply finished with horizontal boards, simple Craftsman-style mantels, and five-panel wood doors. The building may have been built in the early 1920s to house workers hired for the construction of the Main House, or it may have been built a decade earlier as a guest/worker house.

Clubhouse (also Wanamaker House). The Clubhouse is located at the end of the Main Road at Torrey's Landing, at the extreme north end of the island. It is a two-story, gable-roofed, wood-framed house sheathed with vertical planks. It has a central brick chimney and one exterior end brick chimney. Its gable roof has wide, unboxed eaves with a few supporting brackets. Windows are two-over-two double-hung sash with the exception of decorative round and round-headed windows in the gable ends. A one-story porch runs across one side and both ends of the building; at one end, the porch has been partially enclosed. A small addition has been built on the back side of the building. The interior features an irregular floor plan. Rooms are simply finished with horizontal or vertical boards; windows and doorways are trimmed with simple molding. The ceilings are exposed floor joists and the undersides of floorboards. Fireplace mantels feature turned and "Eastlake"-style wooden ornamentation. This building reputedly was built for the Philadelphia Centennial International Exhibition of 1876, then purchased and shipped by boat 20 years later to Ossabaw Island by John Wanamaker, a wealthy member of the Philadelphia Centennial International Exhibition Committee. Structural evidence suggests that it was re-erected next to an existing brick chimney; this chimney covers an original window in the gable end. There is no evidence to suggest

what happened to the former house, if any, on the site, although it is believed to have been the site of the Morel house.

Main House (Torrey-West House). The Main House on Ossabaw Island is located approximately one mile southeast of Torrey's Landing at the north end of the island. It was built in 1924-1926 by Dr. Henry N. Torrey of Detroit as his winter residence. The house was designed by Henrik Wallin, an architect in Savannah, and built by Faquar Macrae, also of Savannah.

The Main House is a rambling "country-estate" home. Designed in a vague Spanish Revival style, its architecture features rough-textured stuccoed walls, red clay tile roofs, tile and terra-cotta ornament, and a variety of windows and doorways. Both plan and massing are irregular, lending a picturesque quality to the house. The house is centered on a two-story gable-roofed main block flanked by one-story gable-roofed wings. The roof has very tight eaves with no brackets. Iron balconies and window grills ornament the house. The front entry is a simple round-headed doorway with a band of terra-cotta ornament; it is fronted by a simple terrace. The rear features a loggia opening onto a landscaped patio.

Inside the house, the main block contains a two-story great room highlighted by an exposed wooden beam ceiling, paneled and plastered walls, and a stone fireplace recessed in a massive inglenook with a map of Ossabaw Island above. The adjacent dining room features a tiled fireplace, with face tiles imported from Portugal, Spain, and Italy, and a bay window. Elsewhere on the ground floor, the interior features beamed ceilings, round-arched doorways and passageways, massive rough-hewn timbers, wood paneling, plaster walls, intricately braced wooden doors, casement and sash windows in a variety of configurations including a large picture window, and built-in cabinetry. The upstairs rooms are plainer with simpler wainscoting and plaster walls and ceilings.

The yard around the Main House in informally landscaped with a naturalistic arrangement of large shade trees and lawn. The front terrace and rear patio mediate between the house and its setting; there is no foundation shrubbery. The entrance gate to the driveway feature stuccoed masonry piers and wrought-iron gates; the gates were brought from the Torrey family's former house near Savannah along the Wilmington River. A formal rock garden is located to the rear of the house and patio; it features irregularly shaped pools or ponds, rocks, several pieces of sculpture including Peter Pan and Tinker Bell, and two unusual "cement trees," a landscape design conceit, upon which were grown the Cherokee Rose, the official Georgia state flower. Also on the grounds is an ornamental fountain, relocated several times.

Stable and Studio. Also behind the Main House is the stable-studio complex, originally the stable-powerhouse complex. It consists of two small buildings adjoining at right angles with a small raised planting bed at the intersection. Each building is a one-story high structure with stuccoed walls and a red clay tile roof. They were built in 1924-1926 along with the Main House.

Tabby building at Middle Place. At Middle Place Plantation, approximately 3 miles south of Torrey's Landing, stands a single tabby structure, added to and altered over time, believed to have been built as an agricultural building in the mid-19th century.

Landings. There are eight historic landing sites on the island. They are of primary importance as water is the principal means of access to the island. Torrey's Landing is at the North End, and is the most elaborate, including a causeway, lined with palm trees, and dock. Other landings are at Cabbage Garden, Buckhead, Middle Place, Cane Patch, Bear Island, Camp Creek, and South End.

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

( ) **nationally** (X) **statewide** ( ) **locally**

Applicable National Register Criteria:

(X) **A** ( ) **B** (X) **C** (X) **D**

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions): (X) **N/A**

( ) **A** ( ) **B** ( ) **C** ( ) **D** ( ) **E** ( ) **F** ( ) **G**

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions):

AGRICULTURE
ARCHAEOLOGY: Prehistoric; Historic Aboriginal; Historic Non-Aboriginal
ARCHITECTURE
ETHNIC HERITAGE: Black
LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance:

2,000 B.C.-1926 A.D.

Significant Dates:

1760 (First Sale to Euro-American Planter); 1926 (completion of Main House/Torrey-West House)

Significant Person(s):

N/A

Cultural Affiliation:

ARCHAIC
WOODLAND
MISSISSIPPI
SPANISH MISSION
BRITISH COLONIAL
AMERICAN COLONIAL

Architect(s)/Builder(s):

Wallin, Henrik, (1873-1936) of Savannah, Architect

Shipman, Ellen Biddle, (1870-1950) of New York City and New Hampshire, Landscape Architect

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Significance of property, justification of criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above:

Summary statement of significance (areas of significance)

Ossabaw is a large barrier island, forming a well-defined geographic environment, whose prehistory and history cover the entire spectrum of America's existence. Ossabaw's Indian inhabitation began around 4,000 BP (before present) and lasted for more than three thousand years until the arrival of Euro-American explorers in the 1500s. The Spanish made Ossabaw and other areas of the Georgia coast part of their northernmost province of Florida for more than a century (1500s-1600s). During this period, rather than colonize the area, the Spanish were content to establish garrisons and send priests to found missions at several locations. At the end of this era, the Spanish withdrew to Florida. In 1733, the British became directly involved in the area when they founded the colony of Georgia, centered in nearby Savannah. Ossabaw and other islands, while within the colony's chartered boundary, were reserved for the Indians, and they remained that way until 1759-1760. After an agreement with Mary Musgrove Bosomworth, its Native-American owner, Ossabaw Island was transferred to the British/Colonial government. It was immediately auctioned in 1760 to a private citizen, and eventually to John Morel (1733-1776), who began timbering and the cultivation of cotton and other cash crops. From 1760 to 1861 it was a viable cotton plantation, divided after the death of John Morel into three (later four) smaller plantations. The island's African-American population lived there first as slaves on the plantations. During the Civil War (1861-1865), absentee-owner planters George Jones Kollock (1810-1894) and Alexander McDonald (1797-1879) abandoned the island. Troops of both the North and South were on the island, but no significant military action took place. During Reconstruction, the island was under the control of the Freedmen Bureau's agent, Tunis G. Campbell. Former slaves, now freedmen, continued to live on the island for a couple of decades. Then, in the 1880s-1890s, black inhabitants left the island and moved with their church congregation to Pin Point and other areas on the mainland near Savannah. In the late 1890s the Wanamaker family of Philadelphia acquired major portions of the island; by 1916 the island was again under one owner. In 1924, the entire island was purchased by Dr. Henry N. Torrey (1880-1945) of Detroit. In 1978, it was acquired by the State of Georgia, with Dr. Torrey's daughter, Eleanor T. "Sandy" West, retaining a life estate.

ARCHAEOLOGY

Ossabaw is significant in archaeology for yielding and for its potential to yield important information about the prehistoric and historic periods of the island's human occupation. From the early work of C. B.

Moore (1897), through more recent investigations by Garrow and DePratter (1974) and Pearson (1977 and 1979), to most recent study by Worth (1995), the island has yielded important archaeological information as documented by these investigators. In addition, its potential to yield more information has been documented by the work of these and other archaeologists. They have sampled and documented more than 3,500 years of prehistoric occupation along with many remains from the historic period in the form of artifacts and ruins.

Ossabaw Island preserves traces of most of the people who have lived there for 4,000 years. Its prehistoric and historic resources are an integral part of the cultural record of the Georgia and southeastern United States coast. Since the mid-18th century Ossabaw has been owned by a small number of families. Before that it was Indian land. Today the island is managed as a state-owned conservation area. Here, Ossabaw's prehistory and history lie literally beneath the surface of the ground. This archaeological potential is a continuous and well-preserved record of 4,000 years of habitation represented by almost 200 known sites managed in a conservation setting.

Today when Ossabaw's archaeological potential is considered in the context of coastal Georgia, its nearly 200 known sites increase in value. To meet the needs of a growing population, development on other islands and the mainland damages or destroys sites daily. Each lost site increases the significance of Ossabaw's sites. Ossabaw's archaeological potential is complex, diverse, and growing in significance. It contains evidence not only of processes and patterns of past human behavior, but of the consequences of changing natural and cultural environments for the island's inhabitants.

This archaeological record differs from that of most of the east coast in its barrier island setting. It should provide a data base for comparing the natural abundance available to the people of this ocean-estuarine area with other coastal areas. There may be clues as to why pottery appeared in the Savannah River area before the rest of North America. The data relating to the coastal setting--sea level change, island development, salinity fluctuations, mollusks availability, floral and faunal changes on sea islands--should be useful in addressing research questions in many fields as well as archaeology. Also, Ossabaw's unexamined but undisturbed sites could be used as benchmarks to compare with other, better studied sites on several other coastal islands including Sapelo, St. Catherines, and Cumberland, for corroboration of data analysis and findings.

Ossabaw's known sites fall within the following archeological periods: Late Archaic (4400-3000 BP); Woodland (3000-1500 BP); Mississippi (1500-

450 BP); Proto-historic (450-330 BP); Spanish Mission (430-330 BP); and Historic (330-100 BP).

Archaic Period

Ossabaw has six recorded Archaic sites. Only 170 sites with an Archaic Period component have been reported for Georgia's six coastal counties. More may be located, but this low number does emphasize the small count of early sites on the coast; and this makes each site more valuable for the information it may yield about this relatively undocumented era of Georgia's prehistory. Sites from this period contain St. Simons Phase fiber tempered pottery and shellfish debris in the forms of rings as well as linear or amorphus midden heaps and surface smatterings. Food came from the marshes and tidal creeks. Stone, not abundant raw material on the coast, was common at the Bilbo site in Chatham Co. (Waring 1977), but not at most barrier island sites. Whelk shell was a common tool, showing signs of sharpening or battering on the tapered end and, usually, a hole in the outer whorl. Bone pins are found at these sites and may have been used to make nets. Food refuse from investigated areas contained large amounts of fish bones so small they would have been caught most easily in nets (DePratter 1976:45).

Regarding site formation and function, Larson's test at the Sapelo (barrier island) shell ring indicated that "no matter to what use the ring ultimately may have been put, it was composed of occupational midden...deposited as the result of habitation sites located on the ring" (Waring and Larson 1977:273). The center of the ring was without cultural material and Waring and Larson said "very likely represents a ceremonial or social arrangement rather unusual in this geographical location and time horizon" (Waring and Larson 1977: 273). A radio-carbon date of 2170 BC (RL-580) came from this ring.

Two of Ossabaw's Archaic sites may be shell rings or variations of rings which could be expected to provide more information about their use and cultural value if further examined. Cane Patch (9Ch 28) has been so disturbed by shell borrowing that it is impossible to tell the original form without excavation. DePratter said the deposit seems to be curved. At 9Ch 203, the distribution of shell is crescent shaped.

As for site location, DePratter (1974) identified three shell clusters in the marsh at Ossabaw, but only one (9Ch 143) had a diagnostic artifact (Irene pottery). In the marsh northeast of St. Simons Island a shell ring was excavated (Marrinan 1975). During this work a second ring was found to the west as well as a later midden, both covered by the marsh. The larger ring was deposited when the area was forested. The sites dated 1815 B.C. for the marsh ring, 1655 B.C. for the west ring, and 820 B.C. for the marsh midden. Findings showed a progression from

almost total reliance on shellfood to an increased use of mammals and reptiles. Marrinan concluded that about 1000 B.C. the life style "as defined by subsistence strategy, site configuration, and location and material culture" of the people of St. Simons ended (Marrinan 1975:118).

Woodland Period

Phases for this period on the coast are defined by pottery types and little else. During the early part of the Deptford phase, either shellfish were not available as a food source or sea level dropped and those sites which used shellfish were located further east and are now underwater (DePratter, M. T. 1976 personal communication). Most of the sites were dug before 1940 when the major problem was establishing chronology for the state. Even now there is uncertainty to whether a particular site represents a cultural phase or a variation on an accepted theme. Further study of Ossabaw's Woodland period sites could help answer these basic research questions.

Deptford, broken down into I, II, and III, is used to cover much of the period from 3000 to 1500 BP. Whether "Refuge" is a transitional phase leading from the Archaic into the Woodland period has not been established. Refinements will come as more work is done and reported; again, Ossabaw's sites could contribute to this refinement. Pottery technology and styles changed from methods used in the Archaic Period. As James Stoltman wrote in 1974 about Deptford:

> In short Caldwell's eighteen year old statement (1952: 315) is still valid: "Unfortunately little is known of the Deptford Period aside from its pottery" (1974:23).

The exception is from Cumberland Island where Milanich excavated a Deptford phase house and portions of a shell and dirt ring. A C14 date of A.D. 55 +/- 95 (UGa 129) was obtained from a feature within the house. He suggested that coastal Deptford sites were located in live oak forests adjacent to salt marsh and close to a lagoon, both on barrier islands and on the mainland. Inland Deptford sites were located in river valleys and not on high ground. Milanich estimated five-ten houses for early Deptford villages and 15-25 for later ones, located 8-10 miles apart. He based this on what he termed sparse data from Florida and the Gulf coast (Milanich 1971).

The presence of a Deptford shell and dirt ring on Cumberland and burial mounds on St. Catherines (Thomas and Larsen 1979) give further evidence for a more complex social development late in the Georgia coastal Deptford phase. Earth works other than mounds were present at the Deptford type site, at Mandeville (southwest Ga.), and at Table Point (Cumberland Island, Ga.). Deptford should be considered a coastal phase

and should not be equated with other phases which display a few similar traits but occupy very different natural environments and maintain different adjustments to the environment. Milanich said "in other words, coastal Deptford although contemporary with, was not the same as the Cartersville phase in the Georgia Piedmont" (1971).

Nine sites occupied during the Deptford Phase are recorded on Ossabaw Island. Further study of these sites could corroborate findings from previous studies on other coastal barrier islands.

Mississippi Period

Most of Ossabaw's sites-- 70 --that produced diagnostic artifacts fall within the Mississippi Period, the last of the aboriginal cultural periods before European contact. In some areas of the southeast this period is equated with the growing of maize, squash, and beans. Sites of this period have received the attention of researchers because they frequently are accompanied by mounds. C. B. Moore spent five months in 1896 on the Georgia coast exploring burial mounds. In his book he wrote:

> A few important mounds still remain unexamined, through no fault of ours, however, notably at the north end of Ossabaw Island and on the islands of St. Simon and Sapelo (Moore 1897:6).

Moore investigated nine mounds on Ossabaw. His report contains a list of burials, some attempts at describing stratigraphy, and numerous handsome drawings (Moore 1897:98-136). A doctor, M. G. Miller, accompanied Moore and identified the skeletal material. One mound at Middle Place contained only females and infants. Moore also noted differences in urn burials and cultural material in the mounds. He noted differences and similarities not only within sites but between sites and regions of the Southeast (Moore 1897:138).

The Wilmington Phase was defined in the late 1930s by Caldwell and McCann. Stephen Williams, in **THE WARING PAPERS**, referred to it as "one of the most significant breaks in the continuity of the sequence in the Savannah locality" (1977). Pottery changed not only in style but in technology as clay tempering replaced the sand tempering of the Woodland Period. Site locations may have changed also. Caldwell dated Wilmington as A.D. 800-1000, then followed by a slightly modified pottery assemblage which he called St. Catherines. His work on St. Catherines pottery has not been published.

In the Ossabaw survey, DePratter (1974) combines these phases, resulting in 14 sites for the Wilmington-St. Catherines Phase. As these sites are found inland and away from the marsh, location may indicate a significant change in subsistence towards agriculture.

The next ceramic phase, Savannah (850-700 BP), is marked by a return to sand tempering and a change in vessel designs. Moore (1897) excavated Savannah Phase mounds at two sites on Ossabaw. Fifteen other sites were occupied during this phase on the island.

At an archaeological site on Pipemaker's Creek, north of Savannah, Ga., a large mound with eight building stages was excavated (Caldwell and McCann 1941). The first seven stages were constructed during the Savannah Phase. The final stage, which belongs to the next phase (Irene), introduced new pottery styles and a change in mound design. It reflects adaptations of coastal inhabitants to the Mississippi Period, generally considered to be based on agriculture, maize in particular.

Larson, writing on subsistence in the coastal zone during the Mississippi Period, makes two points:

1) The southeast during this period was not a homogenous cultural unit (1980:229);

2) The use of domesticated plants appears to have been most intensive in the Guale area and northward. To the south of the Altamaha River coastal cultivation became more and more attenuated as one approached Cape Canaveral (1980:218).

In contrast, the Apalache area of the Florida Gulf coast had soil types in large areas that would support intensive agriculture as "was characteristic of the interior areas east of the Mississippi River in the Southeast" (Larson 1980:221-2). For the interior southeast, agriculture was intensive and the level of production very high, probably accounting for more than 50 percent of the total subsistence (Larson 1980:222).

Plant collection in the coastal sector was intensive in the fall when acorns, hickory nuts, persimmons, grapes were ripe. In the spring, berries and green plants would have been available. At the Pine Harbor site in McIntosh Co., Larson noted that the Guale got most of their winter protein from oysters, but he felt that plants were equally as important, on a year round basis. In other areas, as south Florida, plants were less important than animal food (Larson 1980:226-7). And it is this variation in community life which makes the potential data from Ossabaw important. More than 41 sites were occupied during the Irene Phase (700-450 BP).

Subsistence and settlement patterns on the coast are understood only partially. Some archaeologists have suggested that island and estuary sites were occupied only part of the year and inland sites were used the

rest of the time. Others feel that the island sites were used for the entire year.

On Ossabaw a study of settlement patterns indicated that at least two of the large sites could have been occupied during the entire year (Pearson 1977). Late aboriginal sites at the University of Florida's project on St. Simons produced a substantial difference in food remains in two levels of a Guale shell midden. Indicated was a reduction in the use of shellfish which served "to reinforce our picture of a coastal hunting, fishing and shellfishing society extending its agricultural activities most pronouncedly at the time of early European contact" (Wallace 1975:242).

DePratter excavated the eroding remnant of a single shell heap (9Ch 235) during his Ossabaw survey (1974). The midden had been undercut by high tides and was about to collapse into the marsh. Although this site was very small, its contents give an idea of the broad subsistence base available to people living on Ossabaw.

Recovered from this deposit were shells of about a bushel of oysters, claw fragments from several crabs, bones of a marsh terrapin, a raccoon, and a young deer. Since the food remains were intermixed and closely associated in such a small midden, they were all apparently the remains of a single meal or at least of several meals within a short period of time. However, no ash or wood charcoal were present in the midden so the fire used in the preparation of the foods must have been elsewhere. No attempt was made to locate a hearth area.

The shell heap midden contained two Irene Complicated Stamped shreds, so the date of its use was easily determined. No large Irene sites are nearby so this site may be the remains of a small hunting camp used only for a day to two (DePratter 1974:41).

If DePratter's intensive survey of 1500 acres on the south end of Skidaway Island (1975) is any indicator, a completion of an intensive survey on Ossabaw will reveal many additional sites. And, an eventual comparison of river islands as Skidaway with barrier islands and mainland areas will bring to light many subtle differences in the archeological record.

The archaeological context for the "Georgia Coastal Mississippi Period" (Crook 1986a) identifies a number of problems, all of which could be addressed on Ossabaw. Crook says that given the amount of recent research conducted on the coast for this period, questions about social organization, community patterning, economic systems, and political structures must be posed to get beyond pottery types and species list (1985:36):

1. Is the gradual transition in ceramics from the Wilmington-St. Catherines to the Savannah Phase accompanied by a shift in socio-political organization, e.g., from band-level organization to that of chiefdoms?

2. Is the transitional St. Catherines Phase a useful or confusing concept for understanding ceramic and other changes that occur between the Wilmington and Savannah phases?

3. Following the Savannah Phase, does the Irene Phase begin in the late prehistoric or is it a consequence of early historic contacts?

4. Is the transition from the Savannah to the Irene Phase as abrupt as the ceasing of platform mound construction and changes in settlement patterning and subsistence might indicate?

5. Would more absolute dates from secure contexts refine the time when the Savannah Phase changed to the Irene Phase?

6. In Pearson's (1977, 1979) study of Savannah and Irene phase settlement hierarchies is his assumption that the island was a closed system valid?

Spanish Mission and Guale Period

The Spanish were present along the Georgia coast from 1521 through the late-17th century. At least intermittently, they were on the Ossabaw Island, although according to the most recent scholarship (Worth 1995), no permanent Spanish garrisons or missions were established on this island. Spanish colonial records are incomplete and confusing, as are contemporary English and French accounts. The exact extent, location, and nature of Spanish colonial activities along the Georgia coast and on Ossabaw Island are not clear from these documentary sources. Also unclear is the exact nature of the effect of the Spanish on the Native American culture on Ossabaw Island, although it is clear that the Europeans profoundly affected the Indians through changes in agriculture, religious beliefs, and the introduction of new infectious diseases. Larson has addressed at least some of these changes:

> ...several profound changes in Guale culture occurred. First and foremost...was the concentration of the Guale in sedentary villages throughout most, if not all, of the months of the year (Larson 1973).

This was done by altering Guale subsistence activities to the extent that agriculture came to be the most important, if not virtually the only, food producing activity. Indeed, by 1600, the Guale had come to

rely so heavily upon agriculture that the Spanish civil authorities were able to bring an end to the Guale revolt of 1597 by the simple expedience of burning the cornfields. Within a very short time after this Spanish tactic, the Guale chiefs were in St. Augustine suing for peace and the re-establishment of the missions. Guale agriculture seems to have been able to produce an amount sufficient to supply not only the needs of the Indian towns but also to contribute to the subsistence of the presidio in St. Augustine. New cultigens were introduced including onions, peppers, garlic, limes, peaches, figs and oranges (Larson 1973:13).

The Spanish missions apparently resulted in a new cultural type, one that blended together all of the indigenous Indians--Guale, Timucua, and Apalache. Larson states:

> Bishop Calderon writing only a decade before the abandonment of Guale by both Spanish and Indians did not distinguish the Christian Indians of the three provinces. It would seem that such distinctions were hard to make. (Larson 1973:15)

In the archaeological context for the historic Indian period of the coastal zone, Thomas (1993) identifies six problems. They all have potential of being addressed through the archaeological resources of Ossabaw Island.

1. The chronology for Indian ceramics made on the Georgia coast in the late prehistoric and early proto-historic periods is disputed. Ossabaw has many late prehistoric sites with pottery.

2. Was the 40 mile stretch of coast from the islands of Ossabaw to Hilton Head abandoned from about A.D. 1450 to 1680s, as indicated by archaeological, ethnographic, and documentary evidence? Ossabaw is in this stretch of "abandoned" coast.

3. Was there a Spanish mission on Ossabaw? Dozens of 16th and 17th century missions were established along the Georgia coast. Only one--Santa Catalina de Guale-- has been identified (Thomas 1987). Lanning (1935) suggests that the Guale village of Asopo was located on the west side of Ossabaw. The only archaeological evidence consists of three sites, each with a Spanish olive jar sherd, and one Altamaha Phase site (DePratter 1974). See also Worth 1995.

4. If the area between Ossabaw and Hilton Head islands was abandoned in the late prehistoric and early proto-historic periods, then several major aboriginal towns, e.g., Yoa, Asopo, and Guale, have been misplaced by researchers in this "no mans land." If these important

towns were not here (Lanning 1935; Jones 1978), then where were they? See also Worth 1995.

5. Beyond establishing chronologies for the Indian habitation of the Coast Zone is the "Guale problem." Researchers disagree about the nature and form of Guale subsistence, settlement patterning, and social organization. As many late prehistoric sites are found on Ossabaw as well as subsistence evidence, they may contribute to a solution.

6. Documentary evidence for mission life on the Spanish frontier far from St. Augustine and Santa Elena indicates it was hard. However, at one of the destitute mission outposts, Santa Catalina de Guale, archaeological evidence suggests that the friars ate better than the St. Augustine residents. A Spanish mission site on Ossabaw might help clarify this "Hispanic poverty paradox" (Thomas 1987).

Historic Period

Live Oaking and Shipbuilding. Live oaking is a term given to the 18th- and 19th-century practice of cutting virgin sea island timber for use in shipbuilding (Wood 1981). In 1770 John Morel advertised that "On proper notice will engage to cut any quantity of Live Oak and Cedar Ship timbers, of any shape size required, and will deliver the same at proper landings on Ossabaw. On Ossabaw apply to Mr. Daniel Giroud in the absence of John Morel" (**Georgia Gazette**, April 18, 1770). In 1774, a large quantity of live oak timber is advertised for sale on Ossabaw by John Morel (**Georgia Gazette**, Feb. 23, 1774; Wood 1981). The Mr. Giroud mentioned above is recorded elsewhere as a shipbuilder, building the **Bewlie** at Beaulieu shipyard in 1774. Shipbuilding is also recorded on Ossabaw. In 1770, the **Elizabeth** with a keel of 84 feet was built on the island by John Wand (**Georgia Gazette**, April 18, 1770). Both the **Elizabeth** and the **Bewlie** are significant as examples of vessels built near sources of wood, an 18th-century practice. Later, the wood would be transported to shipbuilding yards in other states. These are significant activities in Georgia's maritime history (Fleetwood 1995). No archaeological sites on Ossabaw Island directly associated with live oaking and shipbuilding have as yet been identified. Historical documentation strongly suggests their presence, however, and if discovered they could possibly yield valuable information about this unique aspect of the island's history and development.

Plantations. The University of Florida's work on St. Simons Island, Georgia, in the late 1970s provides good data from an extraordinary plantation. John Couper, an early 19th century planter on St. Simons, was a man with a scientific bent. He wrote articles for period agricultural journals about the results of his efforts. His plantation

was investigated by the university, resulting in a solid data base for comparing other island farms and plantations of the same period.

Otto (1975) pointed out that "archeological information on living conditions obtained from a single sea island cotton plantation may not be applicable to all southern plantations. The coastal long staple planters adapted their operations to a cash crop whose seasonal and daily routine differed from that of short staple cotton, grown elsewhere in the south. The delicate long staple cotton required more elaborate preparations.

These differences in routine and processing technique should have resulted in differences in plantation structures and their arrangements, the type of implements, labor conditions and even...leisure time...and the amount of capital available to the plantation owner should be reflected in the quality of planter, slave and overseer living conditions" (Otto 1975:5-6).

Otto's extensive report suggests that great variations will emerge and replace the generalized idea of "plantation life in the old south." Ossabaw's five plantation sites should add much to this emerging history as the published record of the 18th- and 19th-century archaeology on the coast is scanty.

ARCHITECTURE

Ossabaw Island is significant in terms of <u>architecture</u> for the architectural design, construction materials and techniques, and craftsmanship of its extant historic buildings.

The <u>Main House</u> at Ossabaw is architecturally significant as an excellent and somewhat unusual example in Georgia of a Spanish Colonial Revival style villa. Overall, it reflects the popularity of rambling, casual country estates in America during the early 20th century. As an example of a villa--a country house--it has characteristic features including large size, irregular massing and plan, asymmetric window and doorway placement, and simple detailing. Its rear loggia opening onto a patio is a hallmark of the villa-type home. The Spanish Colonial Revival style is best reflected in the use of rough stuccoed walls and red clay tile roofs with restrained tile and terra-cotta ornament. The interior of the Main House also features architectural characteristics of this type and style of period house including a two-story-high great room with its massive fireplace and inglenook, paneling and wainscoting, exposed wooden beam ceilings, and plaster walls. Fine craftsmanship is displayed throughout, but especially in the stucco finishes, the tile and terra-cotta ornamentation, the woodwork, and the iron balconies and

window grills. Architecturally, the Main House at Ossabaw is an unusual and exceptional early 20th-century house in Georgia.

The Clubhouse (Wanamaker House) is architecturally significant as an apparent rare survivor of a supposedly prefabricated demonstration building first erected for the 1876 Philadelphia Centennial International Exhibition which was subsequently relocated to Ossabaw by the Wanamaker family of Philadelphia. This building also exhibits characteristics of the "country house" or "cottage" promoted by many American architects during the middle of the 19th century including an overall informal or casual appearance, wood siding, wood interior finishes, and a large open porch. The "Eastlake" detailing on the interior, although modest, is unusual for Georgia, a state where there was not a lot of residential building taking place during the 1870s, when this "style" was popular, due to the aftermath of the Civil War.

The Boarding House (Bachelor's House) is architecturally significant locally as a good intact example of an early 20th-century Craftsman-style bungalow. It features characteristic massing, a large recessed front porch, and architectural detailing associated with this style, including a combination of weatherboards and shingles on the exterior walls, a variety of window sash configurations, carefully crafted front porch posts and railing, and wide overhanging eaves with exaggerated flattened brackets.

The three tabby slave/tenant houses at North End are extraordinarily significant architecturally. In a state that once had literally thousands of slave houses, relatively few remain today; less than two dozen are believed to be listed in the National Register at this time. They are also significant as intact examples of tabby construction. Tabby is an indigenous form of concrete, using shells as aggregate, found along the southeastern coast of the United States. A popular building material and technique during the 18th and 19th centuries in coastal areas, relatively few intact examples of such building survive. These buildings on Ossabaw clearly illustrate the use of this local building material, including how it was poured in layers between wooden slip forms. Finally, these houses are significant as good, intact examples of the saddlebag type of vernacular house, with their central chimneys, two main rooms, two front doors, and front porches. Although once a very common type of house, almost ubiquitous across the state, and often associated with slave and later tenant housing in rural areas, saddlebags now represent less than five percent of all surveyed buildings in Georgia.

Also significant as an intact example of tabby construction is the so-called tabby oyster house at the north end of the island and the tabby building at Middle Plantation.

LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE

The island is significant in landscape architecture for the remains of the formal gardens at the Main House designed in part by Ellen Biddle Shipman (1870-1950), nationally known New York-based landscape architect and one of the few women in the field at the time, and subsequently recorded in The Garden History of Georgia in 1933. Many plantings remain, as do the fountain (although moved), plant containers, two ponds with their statuary and the very unusual, if not unique, cement trees, where the owner, Mrs. Nell Ford Torrey, grew the Cherokee Rose, Georgia's state flower. Also significant from a landscape architecture point of view is the overall informal landscaping of the grounds around the Main House, with their large shade trees and lawn expanses, a characteristic of early 20th-century period country-estate landscapes. Adding to the landscape significance is the use of a front terrace and rear patio to "mediate" between the architecture of the house and the naturalistic landscaping of the yard. Terraces and patios were popular landscape architecture features in the early 20th century. The nearby stable and studio (originally powerhouse) complex was designed to blend into the overall Main House complex and features a raised planting bed, another period design feature related to patios and terraces. The historic landscaping around the Main House is highlight by the monumental entrance gateway with its stuccoed masonry piers and iron gates. Brought from the former Torrey family's home on the mainland near Savannah, these gates create an almost surrealistic impression on the undeveloped expanse of Ossabaw Island.

The island also has a long, live oak allee along the main road leading from the clubhouse south. This road is considered one of the oldest on the island and one of the oldest public roads still in use in its original form. It is unpaved and marked with distinctive stone mile markers believed to date from the 18th or early 19th century. The road extends north across a causeway to Torrey's Landing; as it crosses the causeway it is landscaped with palm trees along either side.

AGRICULTURE

Ossabaw Island is significant in the area of agriculture because the island was continuously cultivated as a vast plantation from the mid-18th century until the late 19th-century. At this plantation cotton was the main crop. This intensive agricultural use is reflected in the remaining farm-related buildings at North End Place--the barn, the so-called tabby/oyster house, and the three tabby slave/tenant dwelling houses, as well as the pecan grove within the same area--and the tabby building at Middle Place. The remains of the open fields created to grow crops are still evident on the island and retain their traditional place

names. Vestiges of artesian wells can also be found. All these resources reflect the extensive agricultural activity on the island.

ETHNIC HERITAGE: BLACK

The island is significant in the area of Ethnic Heritage: Black/African-American History because of the continuous African-American presence on Ossabaw Island throughout the 18th and 19th centuries. An important aspect of this was the century of association with slavery from 1760 to 1865 as reflected in the three surviving tabby slave/tenant houses, the numerous archaeological sites of others, and the as-yet undetected but no less significant African-American burial ground. Due to the Kollock Plantation Books and letters, the slavery era of the island's history is better documented than on many of the other Georgia coastal islands. The island's association with the Freedman's Bureau is a major part of its post-war history, although no structures specific to this era remain. The 1870s formation of the Hinder-Me-Not Baptist Church, the predecessor of the Sweet Field of Eden Church near Savannah, is of local significance because the congregation, like one on nearby St. Catherines, left the island to relocate on the mainland and continues today as a viable church in the greater Savannah area. This link from the island to the Pin Point and nearby communities of Savannah is a direct reflection of the link between the original planters who also had plantations in those areas of Savannah and moved the slaves from one place to the other. When the African-Americans were forced to leave Ossabaw due to weather, they also had not been allowed to become land owners, as others had on Sapelo and St. Simons, and thus had no stake in the island's future. Their return to the mainland was to an area where many had no doubt lived and where they had kinsmen.

NOTES ON OTHER POTENTIAL AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE

Of importance to the island's recent history, but not yet old enough to be considered historically significant, is the use of the island as a center for the promotion of the arts and humanities. The work of the Ossabaw Island Project enabled artists in many fields to find opportunities to express their talent from the 1960s into the 1980s. Examples of their work remain on the island. Harry Bertoia, sculptor, thought of a way to use molten bronze for sculpture while visiting Ossabaw. His first piece, OSSABAW ECHOES, is at the Cranbrook Museum of Art in Michigan, and his largest piece is at Dulles International Airport. Olive Ann Burns was encouraged by a Project member to write Cold Sassy Tree. Ossabaw is mentioned in many books such as Elizabeth Grey Vining's On Being Seventy.

National Register Criteria

Ossabaw Island meets National Register Criterion A because it has numerous associations with events in America's past, including the early prehistoric settlement of the area, the plantation/slavery system in effect here from 1760-1865, and the use of the island as a 20th-century family retreat. The island meets Criterion C because of its buildings, structures, and landscapes which reflect important architectural styles and movements, significant use of construction materials and techniques including the indigenous tabby, fine craftsmanship especially in the Main House, and the overall landscape character of the Main House yard. The 1924-1926 Main House was designed by a noted architect of Savannah, in the Spanish Colonial Revival style popular at that time, and retains not only its historic architectural integrity but also most of its original furnishings. Ossabaw meets Criterion D because of its vast archaeological heritage which, through study by numerous professional archaeologists, has yielded and is expected to continue to yield information important to understanding the prehistory and certain aspects of the history of Ossabaw Island as well as the prehistory of the southeastern United States.

Criteria Considerations (if applicable)

N/A

Period of significance (justification)

The period of significance is a very long one. The starting date of 2000 B.C. is in recognition of the district's earliest Indian/Native-American occupation which archaeological investigations have documented. Since the island was more or less continuously occupied, as best is known, from that time forward, the closing date of 1926 was given; 1926 is the date the Main House (Torrey-West House) was completed, the last major historic improvement on the island.

Contributing/Noncontributing Resources (explanation, if necessary)

Buildings (Contributing): Main House, Studio, Stable, Clubhouse (Wanamaker House), Boarding House (Bachelor's House), Tabby/Oyster House, Barn, three Tabby/Slave/Tenant Houses, and the tabby building at Middle Place. (Total of 11.)

Buildings (Non-contributing): Caretaker's House (1955), and three Department of Natural Resources Residences (c.1980s). Total of 4.

Note: The numerous small-scale, nonhistoric maintenance structures here and there on the island are not enumerated in either category. Also not included are the remains of small-scale, nonhistoric temporary "project" structures like the Genesis "huts" at Middle Place.

Sites (Contributing): Archaeological: 196 officially investigated, 62 mentioned in the description herein; also the remains of the formal garden behind the Main House and eight dock sites/landing sites at various points on the island. Note: some archaeological sites contain multiple resources but are counted as one site. (Total of 205.)

Structures (Contributing): Front Gates and Wall, network of dirt roads with mile posts and landscaping (1 structure). (Total 2.)

Objects (Contributing): Fountain, mile markers along Main Road (said to be 4 extant), Peter Pan and Tinker Bell statues in the garden, two concrete trees. (Total of 9.)

Developmental history/historic context (if applicable)

INTRODUCTION

Ossabaw Island appears to have been continuously occupied for more than 4,000 years. As an island, it has provided a well-defined geographic environment for the various civilizations that have made it their home. Ossabaw's four millennia of history are marked by several distinct periods of occupation, by different groups of people, with distinct cultures. Each has left its mark in the landscape, archaeological sites, and historic buildings and structures on the island.

Initially Ossabaw Island was settled by Native Americans, as long as 4,000 years ago. For more than three millennia, a succession of American Indian cultures developed on the island, associated with developments on the mainland. Europeans first appeared on the scene in the early 16th century. The Spanish, with their African slaves and servants, established garrisons and missions along the southeast coast, although apparently no permanent garrison or mission was established on Ossabaw. The English followed in the 18th century, colonizing Georgia in 1733 and removing the Spanish from the Southeast by 1763. With the legalization of slavery in the Georgia colony by the middle of the 18th century, people of African origin or descent began appearing in increasing numbers, throughout Georgia, including Ossabaw Island. Several plantations were established on the island in the late 18th and early 19th centuries; timber was cut and land was cleared for cash crops including cotton. Finally, in the 20th century, the island was

converted into a working family retreat and, most recently, a nature conservation area.

NATIVE AMERICAN OCCUPATION

Native Americans were living on Ossabaw Island during the Late Archaic period (4,400-3,000 years BP). Although their early culture and lifestyle are not well documented, it is clear that these early occupants obtained their food from the marshes and tidal creeks as well as from gathering on high ground, made and used a distinctive form of fiber-tempered pottery, and lived at least seasonally in small villages. Archaeological sites associated with this period are marked by shellfish debris and middens in ring, lineal, and amorphous forms.

During the subsequent Woodland period (3,000-1,500 BP), American Indian occupation continued. Small villages containing from 10 to 25 houses were developed, primarily in linear forms along the edges of marshes. Pottery was made in a new way, by coiling instead of modeling, and by tempering with sand instead of fiber; pottery vessels were decorated by imprinting patterns with wooden stamps. Subsistence continued to rely on shellfish, as evidenced by the large and numerous shell middens left behind.

The Mississippi period (1,500-450 BP) was the last period of aboriginal history prior to European contact. It was highlighted by major changes in Native American lifeways. Agriculture was increasingly relied upon for subsistence. This in turn made possible larger (up to 75 houses) and permanent villages. Social and political organization became stronger and more widespread, with new, centralized leadership. More changes occurred in the manufacture and design of pottery. Burial mounds became larger and more numerous than before.

SPANISH MISSION AND GUALE PERIOD

The Euro-American history of the Georgia coast began with the first recorded visits by the Spanish in the early 16th century. Georgia and the southeastern United States were affected directly by Spanish exploration and political activities for more than two centuries--from 1521 through the mid-1700s.

Between 1521 and 1525, Spanish ships sailed the coast apparently between Georgia and Virginia three times. Somewhere in that area Lucas Vazquez de Ayllon began a colony, San Miguel de Gualdape, in the summer of 1526. A postulated location is in the Sapelo Sound area (Cook 1992). By 1539, DeSoto started his expedition in Florida but did not visit the Georgia coast. And in 1565, Pedro Menendez de Aviles established a community in

Florida which he called St. Augustine. He had a contract which charged him with a missionary as well as a military responsibility.

Spanish accounts for this period of initial contact are confusing. Various names were shuttled back and forth, not only by the Spanish but the French and English also. There was an island of Guale as well as a town. Apparently the town of Guale was on St. Catherine's Island, just south of Ossabaw, and Ossabaw may have been the island Guale with a town called "Assopo" (also "Azopo"). Swanton (1922) placed Guale "not on the island of that name but probably on Ossabaw"; Worth (1995) places the Indian town of "Azopo" on Ossabaw Island as well. However, there is room for error not only in the accounts of the missionaries but also in the translations of their writings. It must be kept in mind also that Indians moved entire towns if there were some need--ecological, political, religious or other motivation.

The Guale ("wally") Indians, a social-political unit, inhabited most of the Georgia coast between the Savannah and Altamaha Rivers at this time. North of the Savannah River were the Cusabo and south of the Altamaha River, the Timucua. Although culturally separate, the Timucua and Guale were part of the Muskogean language stock (contemporary Creeks and other groups speak Muskogean).

Before the Spanish arrived, the Guale maintained mortuary temples, burial grounds, council houses, and chunkee yards. Social and political influence was controlled by a hierarchy of officials who ruled groups of villages. The earliest Spanish reports of Guale depict it as a unit socially and politically more tightly structured than the Creek confederacy (Swanton 1922:842).

Early Spanish reports described the Guale as practicing shifting agriculture, letting the exhausted land lie fallow. Father Sedeno wrote from the island of Guale on March 6, 1570 that there were few Indians scattered over the islands and "as the land is so miserable they moved their households from time to time to seek other lands that they can bring to productivity" (Larson 1973:8). At a pre-mission Guale site (Pine Harbor, McIntosh Co., Ga.), Larson (1973) recovered evidence of farming (maize), but also indication of a heavy reliance on gathering as shown by acorns, hickory nuts, persimmons, grapes, and maybe beans and cherries.

In the mid-16th century, the Spanish, through the subtle device of introducing new agricultural practices, had control of the Guale. Larson wrote that after the beginning of intensive Spanish missionization:

> ...several profound changes in Guale culture occurred. First and foremost...was the concentration of the Guale in sedentary villages throughout most, if not all, of the months of the year (Larson 1973).

This was done by altering Guale subsistence activities to the extent that agriculture came to be the most important, if not virtually the only, food producing activity.

Jesuits were the first missionaries on the Georgia coast. They established a few missions but abandoned them by 1570, having alienated the Indians by their association with Spanish garrisons and for having spread infectious diseases. In 1573, Franciscans replaced the Jesuits. In 1574, when their patron, Menendez, died, the Franciscans withdrew as well.

In response to excessive Spanish demands and military harassment, the Guale Indians rebelled against the garrison at Santa Elena (South Carolina) in 1576. The Spanish retaliated by burning villages, killing Indians, and destroying stored food. Missions were abandoned and hostilities continued. In 1579, the remaining Indian town of "Azopa" ("Assopa") on Ossabaw Island was attacked and burned (Worth 1995); this may have marked the end of the Spanish presence on this particular island. In 1584, only four Franciscan friars were in the Spanish garrisons. By 1587, the Santa Elena garrison was withdrawn.

By 1600, some 35 years after the initiation of missionary efforts, the Guale had come to rely so heavily upon agriculture that the Spanish civil authorities were able to bring an end to the Guale revolt of 1597 by the simple expedience of burning the cornfields. Within a very short time after this Spanish tactic the Guale chiefs were in St. Augustine suing for peace and the re-establishment of the missions. Guale agriculture seems to have been able to produce an amount sufficient to supply not only the needs of the Indian towns but also to contribute to the subsistence of the presidio in St. Augustine. New cultigens were introduced including onions, peppers, garlic, limes, peaches, figs and oranges (Larson 1973:13).

The missions resulted in a new cultural type, one that blended all of the Indians--Guale, Timucua, and Apalache--together. Larson states that "Bishop Calderon writing only a decade before the abandonment of Guale by both Spanish and Indians did not distinguish the Christian Indians of the three provinces. It would seem that such distinctions were hard to make" (Larson 1973:15).

Within the decade, another group of Franciscans came and began mission work which took hold and lasted about 85 years. They were pledged to

poverty and gave up all private property. Most of the missions, therefore, were built probably of wood which would not have lasted long in the warm, humid climate. This suggests that only modest traces would remain of these early missions. Worth (1995) asserts that no permanent mission was established on Ossabaw Island, however.

When South Carolina was settled in 1670, four Spanish missions were reported in Guale and Englishmen William Owen wrote "...Our next neighbour is he of Wallie wich ye Spaniards calls St. Katarina who hath about 3000? Indians at his devoir." The mission list of 168 however did include a name similar to Ossabaw --Santo Domingo de Assaho. By this time the English and Indians from north of the Savannah River were raiding Guale settlements and the Guale were beginning to leave. Some eventually moved north into the Carolinas and joined English favoring tribes, however, the major portion moved close to St. Augustine and Spanish protection. The barrier islands seem to have been occupied sparsely in 1699 when Jonathan Dickinson and others were shipwrecked and traveled up the East Florida coast to Carolina.

INTERREGNUM: OSSABAW BETWEEN THE SPANISH AND THE ENGLISH

After 1688 when the Spanish withdrew to Florida from what is now the Georgia coast and their missions on some of the islands and the mainland, there were several decades when the Georgia coast did not officially belong to any European country. Despite this vacuum, there was some activity.

In 1717, Sir Robert Mountgomery petitioned the proprietors of South Carolina for the land between the Savannah River (north of Ossabaw Island) and the Altamaha River (south of Ossabaw, at present-day Darien) where he proposed to establish the Margravate of Azilia, an idealistic colony. Permission was granted. Montgomery published a pamphlet "A Discourse Concerning the design'd Establishment Of a New Colony to the South of Carolina, in the most delightful Country of the Universe" in London in 1717. (Reese 1972:3-31) When the proposed settlement did not take form as quickly as Montgomery had hoped, another pamphlet was published, probably by him, with the title "A Description of the Golden Islands". It was printed in 1720 and referred to the four islands: St. Symon (St. Simons), Sapella (Sapelo), Santa Catarina (St. Catherines), and "Ogeche now called Montgomery." (Col. John Barnwell of South Carolina renamed Ogechee "Montgomery," and Montgomery may have been Ossabaw.) The islands "lie within a Days rowing of the English Habitations in South Carolina" (Reese 1972:41).

The islands were described by Barnwell:

You have given them a general Denomination which, I think they may well deserve of the Golden Islands; for as to convenient Pasture, pleasant situation, profitable fishing and flowing, they surpass any Thing of that kind in all Carolina. They have all a Number of Sand-Hills, or Downs [dunes], on the Sea-Side, and they Way between these Sand-Hills and the Sea, is so plain and smooth, they it is a very great pleasure to travel upon it. Here and there run in among these Sand-Hills, small Creeks of the Sea, replenished with great Flocks of wild Fowl. There are very Good Harbours among these islands.

They are almost clear of Wood, and by their Distance from the Continent, secured against any Insult of the Indians. The four Islands above-named, contain above threescore thousand Acres of good Land, besides the Downs, very fit for Corn and Pasturage, and, as I said, almost void of Woods, so that it is ready, without Labour, for the Plow.

In the four or five other Islands, belonging to these, there are above twenty-six thousand Acres more, very good Soil, and full of close Thickets and Woods, very proper for Ship-Building." (Montgomery and Barnwell 1969:56-58,)

This was high promotional praise, and while Azilia never got off the drawing board it probably planted the idea which Gen. James Oglethorpe put across for the beginning of Georgia.

THE FOUNDING OF GEORGIA: 1733

When James Edward Oglethorpe (1696-1785) and a group of London businessmen and noblemen received a charter in 1732 to form the colony of Georgia, they became the Trustees for the colony. None of these men, including Oglethorpe, had ever been to the site of the proposed colony, so they only could guess where to place the first settlers.

In 1733, when James Edward Oglethorpe and 114 settlers arrived at the Savannah Bluff, they found a small group of Indians, whose chief was Tomochichi. A trading post, established by John Musgrove and his half-breed wife Mary, was also located there. Mary Musgrove assumed a significant role in the new colony, employing her influence with her Indian colleagues and promoting the settlement of the colony. Mary Musgrove served as a paid interpreter and helped arrange the ARTICLES OF FRIENDSHIP AND COMMERCE in May 1733. This was the treaty between the colonists and the Indians in which the Indians ceded to the Trustees of Georgia the territory between the Savannah and Altamaha Rivers, from the ocean to the headwaters. The only exceptions to this grant were the islands of Ossabaw, St. Catherines and Sapelo along the coast, and a

small tract of land near Savannah, all of which were reserved for Indian use.

The Indians whom Oglethorpe found in the Savannah area, on Yamacraw Bluff, were a small group who seem to have been banished Yamasees, and who may have been there only a few years. John Swanton pointed out that "from the negotiations then undertaken it would seem that both the Yamacraw and the Yamasee were reckoned as former members of the Creek confederacy." (Swanton 1922:109)

The Yamacraw leader, Tomochichi, died in 1739 and the small Indian group probably rejoined kin in the Creek Nation (Swanton 1922:109). Since the founding of Georgia, Mary Musgrove had lost two husbands and all her children and was now married to the Reverend Thomas Bosomworth. In 1747 Bosomworth influenced the Indians to declare Malatchi Emperor of the Creek nation. He then drew up a deed of conveyance, from Malatchi to Thomas and Mary Bosomworth, for the islands of Ossabaw, St. Catherines and Sapelo. He urged his wife to claim the islands and money owed to her by Oglethorpe for her services. Thus, Mary Musgrove Bosomworth claimed the reserved land on the coast as the Creek's matrilineal heir. However, the governing board of the colony considered Mary an impostor. Her husband took their complaint before the colonial court but was denied their request for the reserved area. In one of the early legal petitions for money, the Rev. Bosomworth said he had put cattle and horses on Sapelo and St. Catherines, but did not mention stocking Ossabaw (Candler 1906 VI:284).

The Colonial Records of Georgia contain legal descriptions of events concerning Ossabaw. Occasionally the governing board also had a specific word--a less-than-approving word--about the conduct of the Bosomworths. While the colonial government, which took over in 1752 after the Trustees surrendered the charter, attempted to grant land on Ossabaw to some petitioners, none of these were legal, since the title still rested with Mary Musgrove Bosomworth.

Of note is the presentation on September 22, 1758 to Grey Elliott of his appointment papers as surveyor and auditor general for Georgia (Candler 1906 VII:811).

The British disputed the claims and the matters continued on until 1755 when a jury trial was recommended. The case was finally dismissed in 1759 and on July 6th of that year Thomas Bosomworth, husband of Mary Musgrove, took his plea for ownership of Ossabaw before Governor Henry Ellis and the council in a case against Middleton Evans. However, the governor produced a document from the king disallowing the claim and Bosomworth "thereupon waived his pretentions..." and the case was dismissed. Finally the Bosomworths yielded to the English government and

a settlement was reached. The Bosomworths were to be given legal (English) title to St. Catherines Island.

As a follow up to the Bosomworth claim, on July 23, 1759 the council gave consideration to:

> the many Years Services of Mrs. Bosomworth as Interpretess, the great Losses she had sustained, and the Sums of Money she had advanced at different Times for his Majesty's Service..." agreed to give her 2100 pounds, provided that "the sale of Ossabaw and Sapala which should be sold forthwith for that and other purposes" should provide that much. The council also awarded her a grant to St. Catherine's Island.

The council then moved rapidly to complete the agreement with the Bosomworths. On July 24, 1759, surveys of Ossabaw and Sapelo were ordered; it was also ordered that the islands be advertised for sale in 1000-acre tracts, with offers for larger tracts to be considered (Candler 1907 VIII:84-8).

The Sale of Ossabaw and Sapelo Islands was advertised in the Charleston newspaper (neither Savannah nor any other Georgia town yet had a newspaper). The sale or auction was to take place on May 17, 1760, in Savannah.

Ossabaw Island was purchased at the sale in its entirety by Grey Elliott (d. 1787), mentioned above, a member of the colonial government, but a private citizen none the less.

On October 31, 1760 the council provided separate royal grants to Grey Elliott, the colony's surveyor, to the islands of Ossabaw and Sapelo. Ossabaw was stated as containing "7,600 acres". (Grant Book B, p. 496) Elliott's grant seems to have superseded all other grants.

Elliott owned Ossabaw only briefly, but remained involved in Georgia's official affairs, serving on the Governor's Council, as speaker of the house of assembly, grand master of the colony's Grand Masonic Lodge, and left the colony around 1772. In the Revolution, he was a loyalist and applied for repayment for his lost Georgia property.

Grey Elliott, a man who owned thousands of acres on the coast, immediately sold Ossabaw to Dr. Henry Bourquin (d. 1785) who in turn sold first an undivided half to his son-in-law John Morel. In 1763 he sold the remaining half to Morel.

John Morel was a Savannah merchant who owned a number of properties in the Savannah area. After his first wife, Bourquin's daughter, died, he

married second Mary Bryan, daughter of Jonathan Bryan, a well-known colonial figure who also had had coastal island holdings, including Cumberland Island.

Between 1763 and his death in 1776 John Morel farmed and timbered Ossabaw.

Live oaking is the term given to the 18th and 19th century industry of cutting the virgin sea island timber for use in shipbuilding. In 1770 John Morel advertised that "On proper notice will engage to cut any quantity of Live Oak and Cedar Ship timbers, of any shape size required, and will deliver the same at proper landings on Ossabaw. On Ossabaw apply to Mr. Daniel Giroud in the absence of John Morel" (**Georgia Gazette**, April 18, 1770).

In 1774 a large quantity of Live Oak timber is advertised for sale on Ossabaw by John Morel (**Georgia Gazette**, Feb. 23, 1774).

Daniel Giroud is recorded elsewhere as a shipbuilder, building a 200-ton brig in 1774 called the **Bewlie** at the Beaulieu shipyard near Savannah. However, shipbuilding is also recorded on Ossabaw. In 1770, the **Elizabeth** with a keel of 84 feet was built on Ossabaw by John Wand (**Georgia Gazette**, April 18, 1770).

Both the **Elizabeth** and the **Bewlie** are significant as examples of vessels built near the sources of wood, an 18th century practice. Later, the wood would be transported to shipbuilding yards in other states as evidenced by an 1857 Kollock reference to the Portsmouth, Virginia shipyard seeking shipments of timber from Ossabaw for navy vessels.

The **Elizabeth** was one of the earliest large vessels built in the colonies. It is of significance to the infant colonial Georgia ship building industry which continued into the 19th and 20th centuries in Chatham County. Only about eight large vessels were built before it in Georgia. There is good documentation on this boat.

When Morel died in 1776, he willed that Ossabaw was to be divided between his sons when they reached 21. Eventually four plantations emerged.

John Morel specified in his will that Ossabaw Island and the slaves thereon would not be divided equally among his sons until all of them reached the age of 21. Due to his two marriages, his surviving sons were aged 19 (Peter Henry), 17 (John, Jr.), 7 (Bryan) and 5 (Isaac).

The death of the youngest son, Isaac, in 1777, the same year John Morel Sr.'s will was probated, left his property to be divided between the

surviving three sons. The daughters were not included in the division. John Morel's death came just as Georgia and the other colonies were thrown into the American Revolution and thus matters of court were slowed down in Savannah due to this and the various changes of government.

Needless to say, with two sons (Peter Henry, and John, Jr.) reaching their maturity shortly thereafter, in 1778 and 1780, there was pressure on the estate's executors for a division before their younger brother, Bryan, would become 21 in 1790, a decade away.

Eventually, there were three divisions of John Morel, Sr.'s, estate that effected Ossabaw Island, the last in 1817. In these divisions, both the land and the slaves were included. After the divisions, the island was divided into three plantations: North End (to Bryan Morel), Middle Place (to Peter Henry Morel), and South End (to John Morel, Jr.). South End was later divided into South End and Buckhead.

The deaths at relative early ages of the three sons also complicated the history and title to Ossabaw, as the estates of the brothers, their heirs and their debts came into play.

The rest of the history of the island, and its development during the 19th century, must be told with regard to these plantation divisions. It was not until 1916 that the island again came under one owner, yet in the mid-19th century, the owners of the four plantations were related, either by blood or marriage, as first cousins.

These plantation divisions, discussed below, roughly center on the following locations on Ossabaw Island: North End (or North End Place) is at the northernmost end of the island, where Torrey's Landing is located on the "Raccoon Key" topographic map and where traditionally the original Morel House was located. Middle Place is south of North End and is centered on the west side of the island and is marked as "Middle Place" on the "Raccoon Key" topographic map. Buckhead is located south of Middle Place, on the west side of the island, shown on the "Oak Level" topographic map, just south of Buckhead Creek. South End is at the western and southern end of the island, with its landing on the west side, on Newell Creek, and is shown as "South End Field" on the "Oak Level" topographic map.

Ossabaw Island was originally legally located in Bryan County from its establishment in 1777 with the first state constitution. In 1847, a law was passed which transferred the island to Chatham County, where most of the owners at the time maintained their main residences. This change showed the political pull of those owners. (Georgia Laws 1847, p. 66).

THE PLANTATIONS

North End

North End went to Bryan Morel (1769-1812) and stayed in his family until 1886.

The North End, shown on maps to have contained the Morel Home or mansion, was given to the youngest son perhaps because he was a minor and his mother would also need to be provided for.

Although Bryan Morel kept the North End, 20 years after he inherited it he advertised in the **Columbian Museum and Savannah Advertiser**:

> Ossabaw: The subscriber offers for sale, one third portion of the above island. Its situation & c. are well known in this state. But for the satisfaction of those who may wish to be inherited the following information is offered, viz---that for situation in point of healthy--for lands adapted to the cultivation of cotton, indigo or corn---for quantity and quality of live oaks timbers, in its woods for excellent and extensive range, for stock of all kinds there is no island in the state, esteemed superior...
>
> Montgomery 7th May 1797 Bryan Morel (May 12, 1797)

Despite this notice, the official partition of the island was not confirmed until 1809, and then only after a court suit amongst the brothers. At his death in 1812, Bryan Morel left one son, Bryan McQueen Morel (1803-1875), another minor. Bryan M. Morel farmed the property and probably leased it to others to farm. After 1840, he married Miss Louisa Shaw Turner, a granddaughter of Gen. Nathanael Greene, late owner of Cumberland Island, whose relatives were still owners of Cumberland. Some of Morel's children born in the 1840s were born on Ossabaw, indicating a semi-permanent residency there. The Morels were living in Savannah in 1850 where he was a "naval officer" and in Atlanta in 1860 and 1870 where he was an "ex-planter". He died in 1875 and his wife in 1882. Their children sold the land to James M. Waterbury of New York City in 1886, ending 126 years of Morel-surnamed ownership of Ossabaw.

An historic plat (Historic Map Book 1, folio 188), a resurvey of the Bryan Morel plantation done by William Hughes, Jr., of Liberty County in 1886, refers to an earlier plat made by William Hughes' father in April 1855. The plat indicates that North End Plantation was comprised of 2,155 acres of upland and second lowland and 2,445 acres of marshland. This made the North End a total of 4,160 acres. The plat contains a notation of a landing in the general location of the present Torrey's Landing and a notation at the intersection of South End Road and the

road leading to the three tabby houses that "mansion stood here". This is the site of the present Clubhouse which is believed to have been placed on the site or foundation of the Morel mansion. Three houses are indicated in the vicinity of the present three "tabbies" with the notation "Amos House."

The reference that the mansion "stood" here implies that it was no longer standing in 1886. The house may possibly have been damaged in the hurricanes of the early 1880s. This corresponds with a general outmigration of black inhabitants to the mainland in the 1880s which will be discussed under Reconstruction.

James M. Waterbury (c.1852-1931) was a leading figure in New York City. He was in business with his father in a mercantile firm, had a country home and was a leading sportsman in Westchester County there. At his death he was characterized as a "leading sportsman". His sons were international polo players. A founder of the New York Yacht Club, his home in Westchester County was "a gathering spot for lovers of riding, hunting and polo". (New York Times, July 13, 1931 and July 30, 1931.)

James M. Waterbury and his wife, Kate Anthony (Furman) Waterbury, of New York City, conveyed North End to Carolin C. Maxwell, of Savannah, in 1895. Carolin Clay Maxwell (b. c.1846) was the younger son of a very prominent coastal family of Bryan County. In 1870 he had been an overseer, but by 1900 was a nightwatchman. He was obviously acting as an intermediary for the Ossabaw purchase, as the deed was witnessed by William L. Nevin. Maxwell sold only a few days later the North End tract to William L. Nevin (who served as president of Wanamaker's stores) in trust for John Wanamaker, of Philadelphia. And in 1902 this deed was conveyed to Wanamaker. Wanamaker's representatives also purchased South End presumably in 1895 as well, and Middle Place in 1903.

John Wanamaker (1838-1922) and his son, Thomas B. Wanamaker (1861-1908), are the two members of the family appearing on the deeds. John was a Philadelphia merchant who founded a department store chain and his store in Philadelphia was one of the largest department stores in the United States. He was named Postmaster General in the administration of Benjamin Harrison and served from 1889 to 1893. John Wanamaker also served on the board of finance of the Philadelphia Centennial International Exhibition of 1876. Thomas B. Wanamaker went into the family business when just out of college. He had a fine home and art collection in his home near Philadelphia and was involved in many civic endeavors. He was in Paris when he died. William L. Nevin, whose name appears on the first deeds that involve the Wanamaker family, was president of the John Wanamaker Company and an attorney. (Dictionary of American Biography and Who Was Who).

According to Mrs. Eleanor Torrey West, the Wanamakers moved the clubhouse building from Philadelphia where is had been built for the Philadelphia Centennial International Exhibition of 1876, and had it erected on the island. It stands in the same relative position as the mansion site indicated on the 1886 plat. A chimney covering a window suggests that this house was placed against an existing chimney.

In 1906, Thomas B. Wanamaker or his agents sold North End, South End, and Middle Place, a total of 9,416 acres to John H. Carr who in May 1907 sold the same to Henry D. Weed. It is assumed that Carr was only acting as intermediary for Weed.

For the later history of the North End, after the unification of the island under one owner, Henry D. Weed, see Twentieth Century, below.

Middle Place

Middle Place went to Peter Henry Morel (1757-1812) in the division of John Morel's estate. He also received other property on the mainland, among these White Hall on the Savannah River. He is said to have left Ossabaw, never to return, after the death of his first wife in childbirth on the island in 1787. After the first division, he sold his share of Ossabaw, Middle Place, in 1806 to David Johnston. Johnston was also owner of half of St. Catherines Island, the next island south of Ossabaw. Johnston sold Middle Place to Sir Patrick Houstoun (1776-1839), his brother, James Johnston, Jr.,'s brother-in-law. James Johnston, Jr., was the father-in-law of George J. Kollock who in 1852 became owner of South End. The Houstoun-Johnston families were thus interconnected in many ways. Sir Patrick was a nephew of Governor John Houstoun (d.1796), who was an uncle of Bryan Morel. Sir Patrick was a brother-in-law to Bryan Morel, they having married McQueen sisters. After Patrick's death in 1839, the Middle Place Plantation went to his daughter Georgia Ann Moodie Houstoun (1805-1880) after her marriage around 1843 to Alexander McDonald (1797-1879), a native of McIntosh County, Georgia.

Middle Place under the McDonald ownership was described on the William Hughes Map of April 1855 (Ossabaw Collection):

> The above plan is a delineation of the most valuable cotton plantations on the seacoast of Georgia situate in Chatham County on Ossabaw Island. I consider it second to none. The site is also well adapted to the culture of corn, sugar cane, rye oats, potatoes, peas etc. This plantation is not only desirable for its prosperity of soil, but for the healthiness of its atmosphere, the convenience of fishing and hunting, and the (illegible) of transportation. Mr.

Alexander McDonald is the proprietor of these lands and long may he enjoy pleasure and prosperity but mindful of that eternal home. Resurveyed and executed by Wm Hughes.

The survey indicates the location of a mansion directly opposite the stone mile marker.

McDonald operated a cotton plantation at Middle Place and the 1860 slave census indicates that he had 69 slaves there living in 17 houses. There is no evidence the McDonalds ever spent much time in residence on Ossabaw. The McDonalds lived south in Glynn County, near Brunswick, in 1850 and 1860, eventually moving to Rome, Georgia, where he died. Since the property came to McDonald through his wife, it was inherited at his death by her and after her death by their only child. Georgia Houstoun was McDonald's fourth wife and their only surviving child was Georgia H. McDonald (1846-1905) who married Charles M. Harper (1839-1909). Harper was a nephew by marriage of Alfred Shorter (1803-1882) of Rome, Georgia, the benefactor of Shorter College, but was reared as a son by the childless Shorter and lived in Rome, Georgia.

Mrs. Georgia McDonald Harper, on April 1, 1898, sold her plantation on Ossabaw, consisting of 2,316 acres, to her son Donald Harper (1868-c.1951) who for many years was an international lawyer in Paris. A Mr. H. H. Mickler was in charge of Middle Place at the time for Mr. Harper. It was during Mr. Harper's ownership that C. B. Moore conducted his archaeological excavations. The mounds were dug during November and December 1896. Vessels and skeletons were uncovered. Some artifacts were sent to the Museum of the University of Pennsylvania, the Peabody in Cambridge, Massachusetts, the Davenport Academy of Natural Science, Davenport, Iowa, the Carnegie Museum in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, and the Ontario Archaeological Museum, Toronto, Canada.

Harper sold Middle Place to James H. Furber (b.c.1850-1927), of Savannah, on April 3, 1903. Furber is said to have been an intermediary who represented the Wanamaker Family of Philadelphia. He was involved earlier in the 1890s with other large land transactions in the Savannah area, but his occupations do not indicate anyone of wealth or means to own an island. His name appears 1902-1903 on deeds related to the North End property, also owned by the Wanamakers.

For a history of this property, once it merged with other Wanamaker purchases and the subsequent ownership by Weed, see the North End sketch, above.

South End

South End became the property of John Morel, Jr. (1759-1802) in the division of his father's estate. At his death, he left minor children. By the time the estate of John Morel, Sr., had been formally divided in 1809, John, Jr.,'s tract was secured by some of his children and was shortly thereafter divided into two plantations: South End and Buckhead. South End apparently went to a son and Buckhead to the only daughter, Mary Anne, and will be covered below.

South End was foreclosed on by the Bank of the State of Georgia in 1828. It passed through two owners until purchased by George Jones Kollock in 1852. George Jones Kollock (1810-1894) was a Savannah native with many connections by birth and marriage to prominent families, many of whom had other coastal links. His father, Dr. Lemuel Kollock, was a close associate of the Greenes on Cumberland Island and served as their doctor. George Kollock's father-in-law was James Johnston, Jr. (1769-1822) who owned half of St. Catherines Island at his death, and thus George Kollock, and his brother, who had married sisters, were part owners of St. Catherines at the same time George purchased part of Ossabaw. Another brother-in-law, George H. Johnston, married a granddaughter of Gen. Greene, in 1836, on Cumberland Island, thus keeping interest in two islands in the family. For links to the owners of Middle Place, see above.

The Kollock ownership of South End on Ossabaw is the best documented of all the plantations on the island due to the existence of his plantation journals, letters and diaries. The Kollock Plantation Books that relate to Ossabaw date from February 1849 through 1861 (Southern Historical Collection, University of North Carolina). In addition to the daily records of farm work, these volumes contain information pertaining to slaves including birth and death records, sick lists, food, supplies, clothes, and household and farm equipment issued. From these records, it is known that Kollock had been planting the acreage since 1849, before he purchased it. Throughout Kollock's tenure there were from 60 to 70 slaves of all ages on the plantation.

In 1850 Kollock mentions that he expected to have 20,000 pounds of clean cotton that year. He also mentions that he had a cotton gin on Ossabaw. In other years, the crop seems to have been about 12,000 pounds or less. Other crops included peas, corn, potatoes, and oranges. Some rice was also planted, but this does not seem to have been a significant crop.

The 1860 Slave Census indicates he had 71 slaves living in 12 houses on the island.

George Jones Kollock who actively farmed South End Plantation from 1849 until 1862 went to New York in 1854 on "Live Oak business". An indication as to the extent of this business is given in correspondence with William R. Page and E. F. Campbell in 1857. Page was associated with Page and Allen, shipbuilders out of Portsmouth, Virginia, where from about 1846-47 they had been engaged in building vessels for both the government and private individuals. He was also related either directly or through marriage to both Kollock and Campbell. The letters refer to proposals requested by the Navy Department for providing a considerable quantity of large live oak timber on Ossabaw in the range of 50 to 200,000 cubic feet (Kollock Collection, GHS, MSS. # 470, Folder 8).

In 1863, Kollock writes that he attended the launching of the ironclad ram **Savannah** built by Henry F. Willink, Jr., out of Ossabaw oak. The boat served until it was destroyed during the evacuation of Savannah.

In 1862 Kollock's plantation on Ossabaw was apparently confiscated and was not returned until 1866-1867. Kollock, however, apparently never returned to the island and referred to his intention to sell the plantation since he doubted he could raise the cash to start planting it again (George Kollock to his wife May 15, 1866, Kollock Collection, GHS).

Kollock, who owned several other plantations on the mainland in Chatham County (including Retreat near Coffee Bluff and Coffee Bluff) as well as a plantation, Woodlands (on the National Register), in Clarkesville, Habersham County, Georgia, sometimes referred to the Ossabaw plantation as his "Bachelor's Retreat." In a letter to this wife in 1852 apprising her of his intention to purchase the plantation, he refers to her objection to the purchase. The plantation was run by an overseer who kept daily logs in plantation books which thoroughly document the business of the plantation. It is clear from the extensive Kollock documentation that he was an infrequent visitor and that his family probably rarely, if ever, came to the island. One senses from reading the plantation books that South End was an isolated place and strictly a working investment.

Kollock sold the South End Plantation after the Civil War, in the 1870s. It eventually was owned by the Habersham family of Savannah, another prominent family. How the Habershams used their portion of the island, other than as an investment, is not known. William N. Habersham had a summer home at White Bluff, outside of Savannah.

In 1883, William Neyle Habersham (1817-1899) and his siblings sold South End, consisting of 2,500 acres, to Archibald Rogers, of New York City. Rogers was Habersham's nephew by marriage, the husband of Anne C.

Coleman. Archibald Rogers (1852-1928) was a noted New York society figure who was noted for building railroads, since he was an engineer. He lived at "Crumwold" at Hyde Park and at his death was noted as being "prominent in sports and was known as an engineer and scholar". He was well-known for hunts he coordinated and for polo, as well as for yachting, heading an effort for the America's Cup, and a pioneer golfer. He went on many western trips to hunt big game. It is assumed, despite his Georgia links through his wife, that he had an interest in Ossabaw as a hunting site, although nothing is known for sure.

In June, 1895 it was conveyed by Rogers to Carolin C. Maxwell, of Savannah, [for biographical information see North End sketch above], who within the same month sold the North End and presumably South End as well to William L. Nevin, representing the Wanamaker interests of Philadelphia. Nevin had witnessed the earlier deed between Rogers and Maxwell, obviously awaiting the transfer to himself.

South End's history at this point merges with North End and Middle Place due to joint ownership by the Wanamaker interests and can be read under the North End section, above.

Buckhead

As mentioned above under South End, after John Morel, Jr.'s death in 1802, his share of Ossabaw, South End, was divided into two plantations: South End and Buckhead. Buckhead was obtained in the division by his daughter, Mary Ann Morel (1786-1826). In 1805 she had married Nathanael Greene Rutherford. In 1828 there is a reference to twelve slaves being lent to Nathanael Greene Rutherford "to be employed in the cultivation of Little Buckhead Hammock." Mrs. Rutherford's only child, Mrs. Mary Rutherford Skrine Simmons (born 1806), lived in Hancock County, far away from the coast. After Mary Simmons's death in 1858 and that of her husband in 1868, Buckhead went to her children. While it is not known how involved the Simmons children were on Ossabaw, deeds reflect that a series of loans and financial reverses brought the property into the ownership of Charles S. Cary, a grandson of Mary (Rutherford) Simmons.

Buckhead, estimated to be 4,000 acres, was sold by Charles S. Cary in March 1916 to Henry Davis Weed of Savannah. With the Cary sale, the last of the Morel descendants gave up their holdings on Ossabaw. This 1916 sale thus enabled Weed to become the sole owner of the island, the first person to do so since John Morel died in 1776.

The history of Buckhead, like the other three portions, now merged into one ownership, discussed below under Twentieth Century.

CIVIL WAR ON OSSABAW

The Civil War and its effects on Ossabaw have not been extensively researched, but records relating to other nearby Georgia islands would indicate that the Ossabaw played only a minor role during the Civil War. The islands were evacuated early in the war by order of Gen. Robert E. Lee. Thus the planters and their slaves left for the duration. In December 1862, the 47th New York Artillery Company arrived on the island. (**National Tribune**, July 25, 1907, A newspaper of the Grand Army of the Republic. Article entitled "Recitals and Reminiscences, Ossabaw Island, Georgia, A Chapter from the Experience of the 47th New York".)

Ossabaw Sound was blockaded by eight boats in early 1863.

In the summer of 1863 Confederate Major Edward C. Anderson and nine men landed on Ossabaw, first lying in wait at McDonald's Middle Place and then proceeding to the north point (North End) to see the battery and to ascertain the number of Federal troops there. When they got back to McDonald's they caught a Yankee picket post of two men and eight blacks (Savannah **Daily Morning News**, July 6, 1863).

One boat, the USS **Buffalo**, a Georgia-made sloop that became a United States Navy Prize, was beached on Ossabaw in 1864.

RECONSTRUCTION ON OSSABAW

In 1865, Tunis G. Campbell (1812-1891) was appointed Superintendent or military governor of five of Georgia's coastal islands by General Rufus Saxton, head of the U.S. Government's Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen and Abandoned Lands. This agency was established at the end of the Civil War to help the freedmen and women start their lives anew. Assigned to him after the fall of Charleston were the islands of Burnside, Ossabaw, St. Catherines, Sapelo, and Colonels. Campbell had orders to organize and establish governments on the islands, and protect the freedmen and refugees for thirty miles inland.

A "freedom ship" left Beaufort, S. C. in April, 1865, and stopped at Hilton Head and Savannah and then unloaded some of its passengers at Ossabaw (Duncan, p. 20). In July 1865, Col. J. S. Fullerton reported to the Freedmen's Bureau Commissioner, O. O. Howard, that Blacks had Ossabaw under cultivation (Duncan, p. 29).

In November 1865, it was reported in Savannah that some of the Freedmen were leaving Ossabaw and other islands after learning that the land would be restored to its owners (Savannah **Daily Herald**, November 11, 1865). This article coincides with correspondence between Mrs. Kollock and her son, written on June 25, 1865, requesting that her husband

return immediately to Savannah to secure his Ossabaw plantation which would be given to him on January 1, 1866, provided he take the oath of amnesty. In reality, this restoration of land back to the control of the actual owners did not take effect until March 1867, due to an Act of Congress.

Tunis G. Campbell's monthly report for December 1865 states that there were 78 settlers on Ossabaw at that time, as compared to 369 on St. Catherines and 352 on Sapelo Island (Duncan, p. 26).

In April 1866, Campbell wrote the American Missionary Association, an organization that started schools for Freedmen children in the South, stating that two schools were needed on Ossabaw (Duncan, p. 25).

George J. Kollock wrote in May 1866 that he understood many of his former slaves were planting his Ossabaw Place but living elsewhere on the island (George J. Kollock to his wife, May 1866, Kollock Collection, GHS, MSS. No. 470, item # 195).

The island was still occupied and being planted in 1867 when the following incident occurred:

> The steamer **General Shepley** was built in Maine in 1864. In 1867 she was docked on Ossabaw taking on cotton and planter's supplies. The steamer was burned and the action was attributed to the Freedmen on the island who had been led to believe that the steamer was designed for kidnapping purposes to remove them to Cuba or elsewhere (Savannah **Daily News Herald**, January 30, 1867).

The Reconstruction Era and the role of the Freedmen's Bureau ended on Ossabaw when the island's four plantations were returned to their owners by an Act of Congress in 1867.

1870-1900: END OF THE CENTURY

One of the differences between Ossabaw and some other Georgia coastal islands is that the former slaves, now freedmen, never became landowners on Ossabaw. On Sapelo in 1871, and on St. Simons, sales of land to former slaves did take place.

In the 1870 Census it is very difficult to determine exactly who and how many people were living on Ossabaw. The agricultural census of the same year offers little more information. What is known is that during the 1870s, the resident black population did form a church. The Zion Baptist Association, made up of coastal black Baptist churches, records in its minutes that a church was established on Ossabaw Island as early as 1878. The minutes for that year show the existence of the "Hinder Me

Not" Baptist Church, the name the one on Ossabaw is known to have borne. The minister was Rev. B. O. Butler and there were 68 members. In 1880 the representative of the church was Brother Thomas Bond(s). The church and Bonds were still there in 1883 with 49 members, and in 1885 with 61 members. Bonds later was listed as a minister for the church.

The 1880 census does not clearly identify Ossabaw's residents, but it appears that approximately 160 people were there, living in 40 houses. This would be consistent with the church membership. Among those within this group are the Bond(s) families, including Thomas Bond(s), age 45, Lewis Bond(s), age 65, Lewis Bond(s), age 22, William, age 40, Ben, age 44, and their families. Also among them is Thomas Sams, 38, known to have been killed on Ossabaw in 1890.

Historical literature from the First Beulah Baptist Church, now of the Montgomery community near Savannah, indicates that the church was founded in 1888 by Rev. Thomas Bonds on Ossabaw Island as the "Hinder Me Not" Baptist Church. Several members of the Bonds family, all of whom appear in the 1880 Census, as mentioned above, as being on Ossabaw island, are listed as founders. [The church celebrated its centennial in 1988 without benefit of the early associational records which give the church a founding date of at least ten years earlier.] The church first moved from Ossabaw to the Pin Point community, south of Savannah, but in Chatham County, where the membership divided and one congregation became known as "Sweet Field of Eden" Baptist Church. After another split and a new congregation known as First Beulah, the church moved to Montgomery community to land owned by the founder, Rev. Thomas Bonds. This church is still active.

It should be noted that it was the Montgomery community, and others nearby, that were the sites of the mainland plantations of Ossabaw's early 19th century owners: Houstoun, Johnston, and Kollock, as well as Bryan Morel in 1797. Thus in leaving Ossabaw at the end of the 19th century, it can be assumed that these black men and women had close ties and relatives on the mainland due to having moved back and forth between the mainland plantations and Ossabaw during slavery with their masters depending on which crops and which locations needed working.

The black population is said to have left Ossabaw and nearby St. Catherines Island after devastating storms. This is consistent with the fact that a major hurricane hit the coast in October 1898. It is known from C. B. Moore's visit to Ossabaw during November-December 1896 that a few black families were still living at Middle Place. However, descendants of some Morel Plantation slaves state that in the 1880s a group left the island and settled at Pin Point, as mentioned above. Again this occurs at the time of several great hurricanes which may have wiped out any practical means of existence on the island at the time.

Newspaper accounts of the murder of Thomas Sams in 1890 place him as living on Ossabaw, where he was in 1880. But regardless of the reason, by 1900 the island had lost its resident black population. The locations of the island church, cemetery, houses, and any other institutions are not known today.

TWENTIETH CENTURY ON OSSABAW

The twentieth century dawned on Ossabaw with the island almost devoid of full-time residents. The 1900 Census, taken in June 1900, indicates only six people lived on the island: William O'Brien, 20, single, white male, born in New York, who was a "moulder"; J... Larisey , a 43 year old white male farmer with wife Jennie, 36, both born in South Carolina, with no children; a boarder, John D. Byrnes, also from S.C., and Harry and Abraham Jordan, two single black males, aged 18 and 21. The last three men were farm laborers.

As stated above, by 1906-1907, a great part of the island was united under the ownership of Henry Davis Weed of Savannah. In 1916, Weed had acquired Buckhead from the Rutherford-Simmons-Cary family and had united the island under a single owner for the first time since 1776.

Mr. Weed indicated in an affidavit that there was a dwelling house for the farm managers on each of the four main tracts on the island which were then under cultivation. The existence of these houses is borne out by photographs in the Torrey-West Scrapbook. Each of these four tracts were in obvious cultivation at the time of the photographs, c.1924.

The 1910 Census indicates that there were two households on the island: that of Samuel Sasser, age 47, and wife Mary J., 49, and their three children; and that of Henry Wyley, 33, a farmer, and wife Kate, who said she had eight living children, three of whom lived with them on the island. Sasser was listed as a stock raiser/stock farmer. His reputation lived on after him and was still within the island lore when the Torreys arrived in the 1920s. Within the Sasser household were two white men who were also stock raisers, a black male house servant, and a black female house servant.

Henry Davis Weed (1872-after 1934), a Savannahian, was heir to and manager of a Savannah wholesale and retail hardware company. He was a Harvard graduate and served on the Savannah Board of Trade. His father, who died in 1906, was president of the Savannah Bank and Trust Company and the Augusta and Savannah Railroad at his death. This financial link obviously put the younger Weed in well-connected circles in Savannah. His hobbies were "sports and hunting." After his 1907 purchase of three of the four tracts on Ossabaw, it took him another decade before he was able in 1916 to purchase the fourth and final portion, Buckhead, from

the Cary family and thus succeed in reuniting the island under one ownership. In an affidavit given by Weed in 1916 he states that in 1906 there were dwelling houses on each of the four main tracts and cultivated fields on each. Each tract had an on-site manager.

It must be assumed that Weed was putting together the Ossabaw purchase for other parties, for no sooner than he obtained ownership of the whole island, on March 18, 1916, he sold it on March 22, after establishing in an affidavit the history of his purchase and his clear title to the entire island.

On March 22, 1916, Weed sold the entire island, stated as being "24,000 acres" to some of the partners in Strachan Shipping Company including George P. Walker (d.1927), George Ferguson Armstrong (1868-1924), Frank Duncan Macpherson Strachan, Harry Garden Strachan, and Robert Walker Groves (b. 1883). From 1916 to 1924, the ownership of the island was held by these men in various corporate combinations and names: Walker, Armstrong and Co.; then, after August 30, 1916, Southland Steamship Co.; and finally, after July 14, 1921, the Ossabaw Company.

According to Mr. J. J. Hinely, the son of the Superintendent for Mr. Armstrong, the island was used for hunting. Mr. Armstrong kept a kennel of hunting dogs at the North end and the Superintendent and his family lived in what is called the Boarding House today.

The members of these companies were active in Savannah and in other coastal endeavors. Frank Strachan (d.1931) lived in Brunswick and ran a vast shipping empire. A Scottish native, he was instrumental in the development of St. Simons Island as a resort and at one time or the other owned several of the major plantation sites on that island. He also owned a home at Oyster Bay on Long Island, New York. Harry G. Strachan was his brother.

George Ferguson Armstrong (1868-1924) was a major figure in Savannah and his home at Bull and Gaston was a major showplace. He was noted for developing the port of Savannah, serving as Commissioner of Pilotage in Savannah from 1910-1923. He was president of Strachan Shipping Co. from 1914-1917. He was a member of various New York Yacht Clubs and perhaps knew the earlier Ossabaw owners with New York Connections. Mr. Armstrong's death on February 24, 1924 could have precipitated the company's sale to Dr. Torrey, that same year. In 1935, his Savannah home was donated to the city for a junior college as a memorial to him and it is still known as Armstrong College at its present location.

George P. Walker (1845-1927), was the oldest member of the company when they purchased Ossabaw. He formed a steam and sailing ship commission brokerage with F. G. Strachan, father of his two Ossabaw partners, while

Walker was vice-president of the Savannah Board of Trade. The Strachan Shipping Company became a global conglomerate, shipping cotton to Europe.

Robert Walker Groves was a nephew of George P. Walker. He served as an alderman in Savannah, and was president of the Savannah Hospital. He was a leading figure in shipping circles during World War One.

The Middle Place plantation/farm was occupied or managed by John Harrison during the Armstrong period.

The 1920 Census indicated that only 23 people resided on the island in five households. James J. Hineley, age 39, was farm superintendent, and had a wife, six children, and two boarders, one of whom was a female school teacher. Alex. W. Young, age 37, had a household there with a wife and children. Another man, R. L. Heak (?), age 55, was listed as a butcher and had his son with him. James A. Harrison, age 41, was also a butcher and lived alone. The last household belonged to Charles D. Briggs, a watchman, who had a wife and two children.

In 1924, Dr. Henry Norton Torrey (1880-1945) and his wife, Nell Ford Torrey, of Detroit, Michigan, purchased the entire island of Ossabaw. They had previously had another seasonal retreat in Georgia, a large home known as "Greenwich" on the Wilmington River, which they had purchased in 1917. The estate was three miles from downtown Savannah. The main house was three stories, made of brick and marble, with approximately forty rooms. Dr. Torrey had also leased 7,000 acres "near Greenwich" to use as a private game preserve. It was only after "Greenwich" burned in January, 1923 (Savannah **Morning News**, January 28, 1923), that they became interested in other property. After purchasing Ossabaw, they proceeded to build a winter residence.

Dr. Torrey was a surgeon connected with the Harper Hospital in Detroit, specializing in industrial surgery. He served with the Harper Unit in France and Italy during World War I (1917-1918).

Mrs. Torrey was the granddaughter of John Baptiste Ford, a ship builder. During the Civil War, Mr. Ford went into the glass business and eventually made the first successful pour of plate glass made in America. He went on to found the Pittsburgh Plate Glass Company in 1882 at the age of 71. When he was 87 he started the Michigan Alkali Company in Wyandotte, Michigan which later became the Wyandotte Chemical Company.

The Torreys came to Ossabaw seasonally, usually only from January-May. In the Main House, which was first occupied in January, 1926, Mrs. Torrey had several servants, and each room was connected to the kitchen

where the occupant could ring for service. She had a Packard automobile brought to the island with each visit and a chauffeur to drive her and her friends around in her later years. In the early years, the children would have a tutor to accompany them from Michigan. In Detroit, they also had a very large home known as Clairview. For each of their three homes they had a book of photographs published.

From long before the Torrey era to the present, access to the island has continued to be by boat. The Torreys had a yacht, on which they often stayed until Main House was completed. The dock site at Vernon View, although not part of this nomination, has been associated with Ossabaw for some time as the mainland location for transportation to the island. The house was accompanied by formal gardens, as described above, designed by noted landscape architect Ellen Biddle Shipman and by Mrs. Torrey herself. The formal gardens were spectacular enough to be selected for inclusion by the Garden Club of Georgia in The Garden History of Georgia in 1933. The gardens included two ponds, the larger one even had a boat in it.

Many prominent visitors came to Ossabaw to visit the Torreys including Henry Ford as one of the first guests, February 24, 1926. He was very active in nearby Bryan County, Georgia, at Richmond Hill and was in the area frequently, besides being a friend from Detroit. [Main House Guest Register, Vol. I, 1926-1988]

Dr. Torrey was interested in big game hunting, as shown by his trophies still on display in the Great Hall of the Main House. Since Ossabaw had been used for hunting by recent owners, Dr. Torrey no doubt continued this activity. Other activities for the family and guests included tennis (the cement floor of the tennis court remains just east of the Main House) and going to the beach. The Torreys had a Beach House built on the east side of the island near Bradley Beach. The shore line has slowly moved oceanward and thus the site of this house is far inland today and the house is gone. During Dr. Torrey's lifetime there was said to be 100 miles of roads on the island. The Torreys also had a miniature golf course within the formal gardens back of Main House. Guests also, no doubt, enjoyed the formal gardens with their lakes and boats.

During the early years of the Torrey ownership, there were farming operations still ongoing around the island at the four farming sites. Mr. John Harrison was manager at Middle Place and perhaps at other places; Mr. Hope was at Buckhead. At South End or Buckhead was Sam Cooler and family. (There are photographs, c.1924, of these surviving farmsteads.)

Dr. Torrey indicated that "When we bought the Island in 1924, the deer were estimated...[at 5,000]...the wild cattle...[2,000]...and the wild

boar [10,000]. The cattle and the boar" [descended from farm animals]. Because of disease, it was decided to kill them. "One year's work by Texas cowboys completed the task." The wild boar were never completely eliminated. (Torrey 1926.)

Many important people came to the island in the early days of Torrey ownership including: Henry Ford; R. J. Reynolds, Jr., who owned Sapelo Island; Howard Coffin, who owned Sapelo Island and was also from Detroit; Alvan Macauley who started the Packard Motor Company; Mills B. Lane of Savannah and Atlanta; Gar Wood; and Lily Pons, actress. In Mrs. West's tenure Governor and President Jimmy Carter, Governor George Busbee, and Governor Zell Miller were all Ossabaw Island Project members. Also Samuel Barber, composer; writers Annie Dillard, John Casey, Margaret Atwood; and H. W. Janson, art historian and many professors from universities both in the United States and abroad.

During World War II (1942-1945), there was a U. S. Coast Guard presence on the island, as there was on nearby St. Catherines and Sapelo Islands. After Dr. Torrey's death in 1945, his widow continued to visit the island, but only sparingly. By the 1950s, their son, William Ford Torrey, had returned to live there and to conduct various farming, timbering and pine tree planting operations. There was even a temporary saw mill on the island in the 1950s-early 1960s. Roger Parker, the current caretaker/assistant to Mrs. West, came to the island following his uncle who arrived in 1951. It was during this time that the current Caretaker's House, where the Parkers now live, was built (1955). William Ford Torrey died in 1956 and his mother, Nell Ford Torrey, in 1959.

One 20th-century wedding to take place on the island was that of the current resident, Eleanor Torrey, to Clifford B. West, Jr., on March 20, 1952.

The Ossabaw Foundation, established by Mrs. Eleanor "Sandy" Torrey West and her husband Clifford B. West in 1961, oversaw four on-going programs: the Ossabaw Island Project, the Genesis Project, the Professional Research Program, and the Public Use and Education Program. After 1978, under an agreement with the Georgia Department of Natural Resources, many of the programs of the foundation were allowed to continue.

The Ossabaw Island Project was a unique interdisciplinary program inviting qualified participants from the United States and abroad, in the fields of arts, humanities, sciences and other disciplines, to pursue their work without interruption. This was a widely publicized and tremendously successful program. During the eight months of each year it operated, the Wests would live at the Clubhouse (Wanamaker

House) and the resident scholars would live in the Main House. The program was international in scope and many people who went on to be famous in their fields studied here and many attribute their main inspiration to their stay on Ossabaw. (Burns 1980)

The Genesis Project was established in 1970 and enabled people of all levels of skill in many fields to undertake independent projects. Projects often used the island's resources directly as in specific zoological, botanical and ecological investigations. Participants shared community responsibilities such as food preparation, milking, gardening, and assisting with building maintenance during their stay, thus learning new skills in a near wilderness environment. Genesis members lived at the site of Middle Place. There are some remaining structures there that were built during this project's active phase.

The Professional Research Program, active since the 1960s, has enabled scientists and graduate students to study Ossabaw's environment and to add to Ossabaw's scientific library.

The Public Use and Education Program grew out of the belief that people must be allowed to experience wild lands in order to appreciate and understand a natural environment and the importance of its preservation. Camping sites for limited stay and day trips for qualified groups are provided for environmental education. The Main House is used on a limited basis for meetings and symposia. This is the only program of the foundation that is ongoing at the present time (1996).

Through a donation from the Torrey family and by purchase from them, the State of Georgia acquired Ossabaw Island. In 1978, through the efforts of Dr. and Mrs. Torrey's daughter, Eleanor "Sandy" Torrey Shallcross West, Ossabaw became the State of Georgia's first Heritage Preserve, to be used solely for "natural, scientific and cultural study, research and education and environmentally sound preservation of the island's ecosystem". Mrs. West retains a 24.12-acre life estate at the North End including the Main House. The majority of the island comes under the management of the Georgia Department of Natural Resources' Wildlife Resources Division whose rangers and staff now live on the island in three modern houses on Pine Barren Road. They oversee visitation to the island by students and other educational groups, campers who stay at South Beach where there is a modern (1971) shelter, and any hunting that is allowed. There is a hunting facility at South End/Newell Creek Area with three modern buildings and a boat dock. Shorter College has an annual summer biology camp site on the northeast side of the island.

Since the decision to sell to the State of Georgia, Mrs. West has continued to live on the island in the Main House, exercising her life estate. While the earlier public programs ended due to lack of funds,

she has continued to spread the word about Ossabaw. Recently, the Ossabaw Island Foundation was revived with a new board and in conjunction with Mrs. West, the Main House has been open to organizations for short visits, hoping with these to continue to spread the word about Ossabaw to a new generation. In 1994, Leopold Adler II, of Savannah, whose wife, Emma Morel Adler, is a direct descendant of the colonial owners of the island, became the foundation's president.

In 1995, the island was featured in the National Trust for Historic Preservation's magazine, Historic Preservation, shortly after it had been named by the National Trust as one of the ten most endangered properties in America. Shortly thereafter, the foundation was able to hire its first full-time director. All of these activities are leading Ossabaw Island to a new future.

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[Mr. Young was a professor who came to Ossabaw to visit and study. A copy of his collected materials is also said to be at the University of Georgia, Athens. The main areas of collected materials relate to Mary Musgrove, and the Civil War.]

Previous documentation on file (NPS): (X) **N/A**

( ) **preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested**
( ) **previously listed in the National Register**
( ) **previously determined eligible by the National Register**
( ) **designated a National Historic Landmark**
( ) **recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey #**
( ) **recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #**

Primary location of additional data:

(X) **State historic preservation office**
( ) **Other State Agency**
( ) **Federal agency**
( ) **Local government**
( ) **University**
(X) **Other, Specify Repository:** Georgia Historical Society, Savannah, GA.

Georgia Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): N/A

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 25,056 acres, consisting of 8,996 acres of high ground and the rest creeks, rivers, and tidal marsh (based on the Real Estate Unit, Georgia Department of Natural Resources records).

UTM References

A) Zone 17 Easting 487660 Northing 3524920
B) Zone 17 E499060 N3519050
C) Zone 17 E487010 N3508990
D) Zone 17 E483800 N3513340
E) Zone 17 E482560 N3518970

Verbal Boundary Description

The nomination includes the entire island of Ossabaw as outlined in the deed to the State of Georgia in 1978. The boundary line is marked on the U.S.G.S. topographic maps (Oak Level, Raccoon Key, and St. Catherines Sound quadrangles) at the zero elevation/sea level line.

Boundary Justification

The boundary consists of the entire island of Ossabaw as described in the 1978 purchase agreement by the State of Georgia. The island is nominated in its entirety because throughout history it has served as a well-defined geographical environment for a succession of peoples and cultures who have made it their home. During the last two centuries, it has remained under similar use and ownership.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Kenneth H. Thomas, Jr., Historian; John R. Morgan, Archaeologist; Richard R. Cloues, Survey and Register Unit Manager
organization Historic Preservation Division, Georgia Department of Natural Resources
street & number 500 The Healey Building, 57 Forsyth St., NW
city or town Atlanta **state** Georgia **zip code** 30303
telephone (404) 656-2840 **date** March 7, 1996

(HPS form version 10-29-91)

Name of Property: Ossabaw Island
City or Vicinity: Savannah vicinity
County: Chatham
State: Georgia
Photographer: James R. Lockhart
Negative Filed: Georgia Department of Natural Resources
Date Photographed: November 1994

Description of Photograph(s):

1 of 41: Clubhouse/Wanamaker House, front (north) facade; photographer facing southwest.

2 of 41: Clubhouse/Wanamaker House, east facade; photographer facing northwest.

3 of 41: Clubhouse/Wanamaker House, south and west facades; photographer facing northeast.

4 of 41: Clubhouse/Wanamaker House, interior, first floor, room to left of entrance; photographer facing southwest.

5 of 41: Clubhouse/Wanamaker House, interior, first floor, room to left rear of front entrance; photographer facing north.

6 of 41: Boarding House/Bachelor's House, east (entrance) facade; photographer facing northwest.

7 of 41: Boarding House/Bachelor's House, west facade; photographer facing northeast.

8 of 41: Boarding House/Bachelor's House, interior, first floor; photographer facing northeast.

9 of 41: Tabby Building/Oyster House adjacent to Boarding House/Bachelor's House; photographer facing northwest.

10 of 41: Barn adjacent to Tabby Building/Oyster House near Boarding House/Bachelor's House; photographer facing northwest.

11 of 41: Tabby Slave/Tenant Houses (Tabbies), west of Barn; photographer facing northwest.

Photographs

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12 of 41: Tabby Slave/Tenant House (Tabbies), middle house in photograph 11; photographer facing northeast.

13 of 41: Tabby Slave/Tenant House (Tabbies), house closest to camera in photo 11, interior chimney/fireplace; photographer facing northwest.

14 of 41: Main House, Gates, looking out from inside grounds; photographer facing northwest.

15 of 41: Main House, front (north) facade, great hall/living room on the left; photographer facing west.

16 of 41: Main House, front (north) facade, entrance with dining room on the right of entrance; photographer facing southwest.

17 of 41: Main House, front (north) facade, entrance with dining room on the right of entrance; photographer facing southwest.

18 of 41: Main House, front (north) facade, detail of entrance with doorbell on the left; photographer facing southwest.

19 of 41: Main House, front (north) facade, showing kitchen and support wing; photographer facing southwest.

20 of 41: Main House, east and rear (south) facades, showing master bedroom suite on second floor and part of rear patio; photographer facing north.

21 of 41: Main House, rear facade, showing master bedroom suite and iron staircase, with aquarium in center of patio; photographer facing east.

22 of 41: Main House, rear, patio garden area with tile fountain, one of the twin gardens from 1933; photographer facing southwest.

23 of 41: Main House, Interior, First Floor, Great Hall/living room; photographer facing south.

24 of 41: Main House, Interior, First Floor, Great Hall/living room, detail of original map of Ossabaw over the fireplace; photographer facing southwest.

25 of 41: Main House, Interior, First Floor, looking from Great Hall/living room past main stairs to front/entrance hall and dining room; photographer facing northwest.

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26 of 41: Main House, Interior, First Floor, Front/Entrance Hall photographer facing northeast.

27 of 41: Main House, Interior, First Floor, Front/Entrance Hall, looking toward stairs and Great Hall/living room; photographer facing southeast.

28 of 41: Main House, Interior, First Floor, Dining Room; photographer facing north.

29 of 41: Main House, Interior, First Floor, Pantry/Butler's Pantry; photographer facing south.

30 of 41: Main House, Interior, First Floor, Sun Room with windows showing former monkey cage; photographer facing south.

31 of 41: Main House, Interior, Second Floor, Bedroom (on plan shown as Bill's Room); photographer facing northwest.

32 of 41: Main House, Rear Facade, from the Garden and Yard with fountain and live oaks, remnants of 1933 formal garden; photographer facing northeast.

33 of 41: Rear of Main House area, Garden, remnant of 1933 Wild Garden showing small pond and Peter Pan; photographer facing west.

34 of 41: Rear of Main House area, Garden, remnant of 1933 "Water Garden and Large Pond" with concrete tree in center with perpendicular branch; photographer facing east.

35 of 41: Rear of Main House area, west side, outbuildings: studio and stable with corral; photographer facing northwest.

36 of 41: Rear of Main House area, west side, outbuildings, studio and stable with corral, reverse of view in photo 35, photographer facing southeast.

37 of 41: Rear of Main House area, west side, outbuildings, close up of door on far left building (studio) in photo 36; photographer facing west.

38 of 41: Main Road on the island, lined with live oaks; photographer facing south.

39 of 41: Mile Marker No. 5, on the Main Road; photographer facing east.

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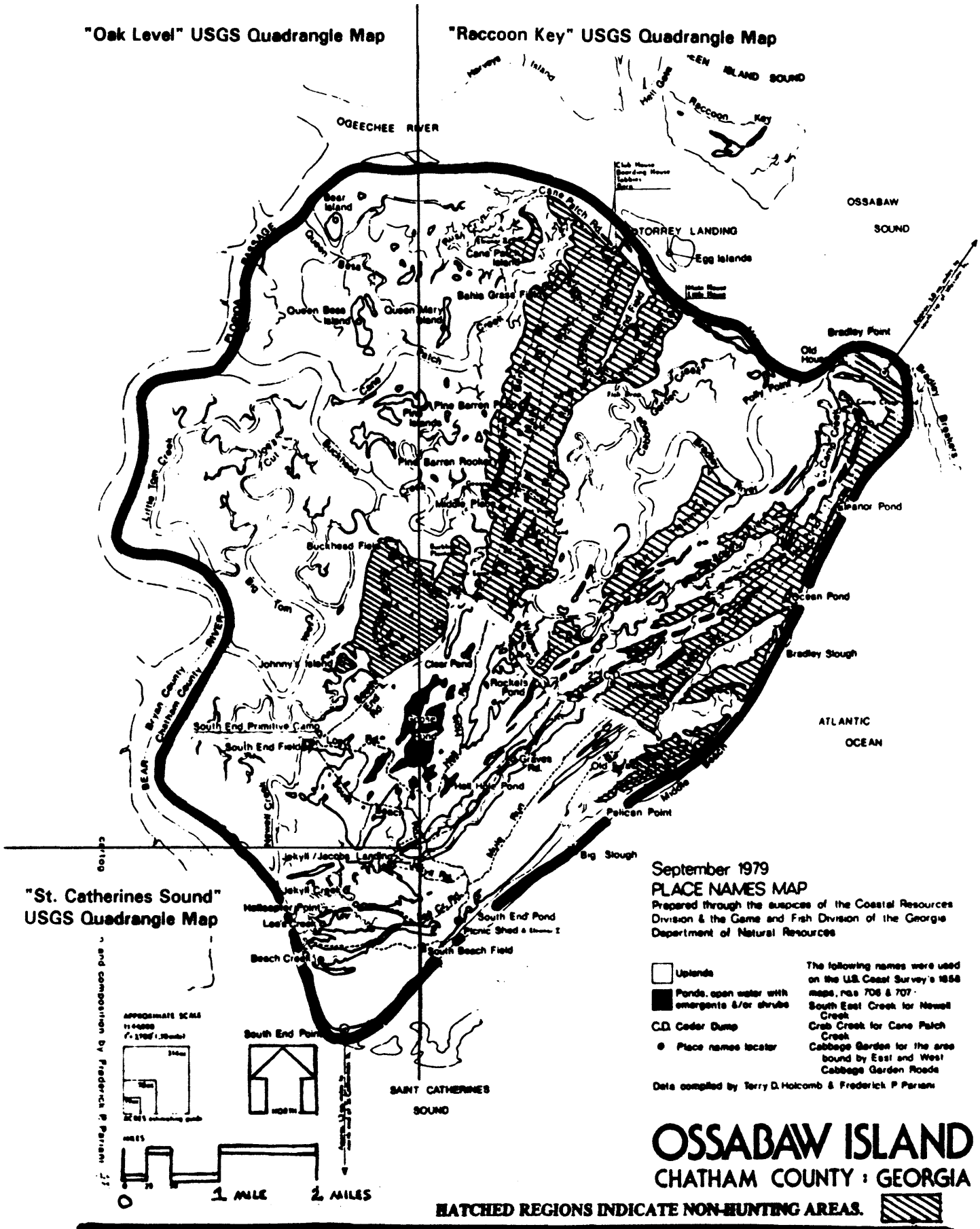
40 of 41: Maintenance Complex on northwest side of island; photographer facing northeast.

41 of 41: Archaeological Midden Site; west side of the island; photographer facing north.

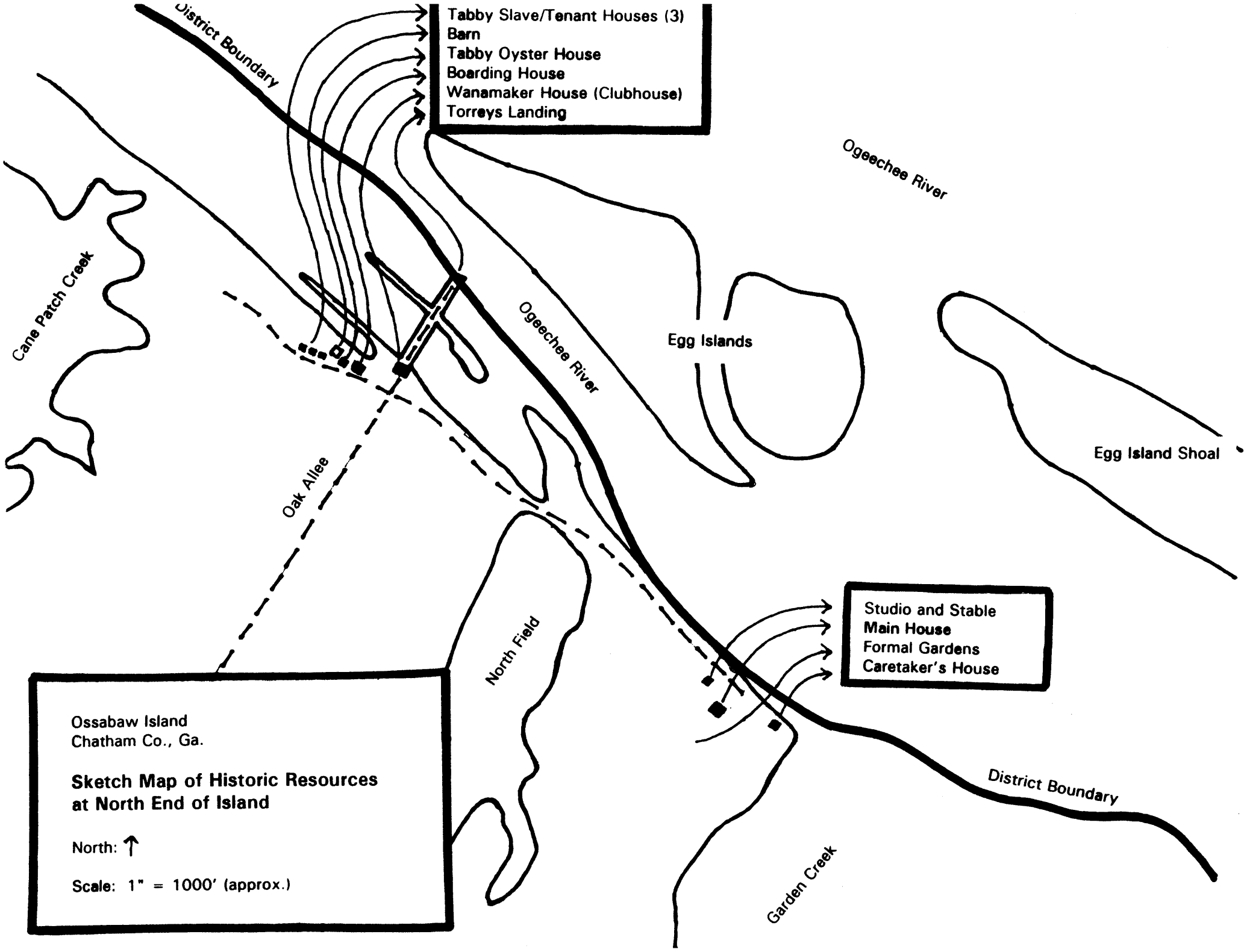


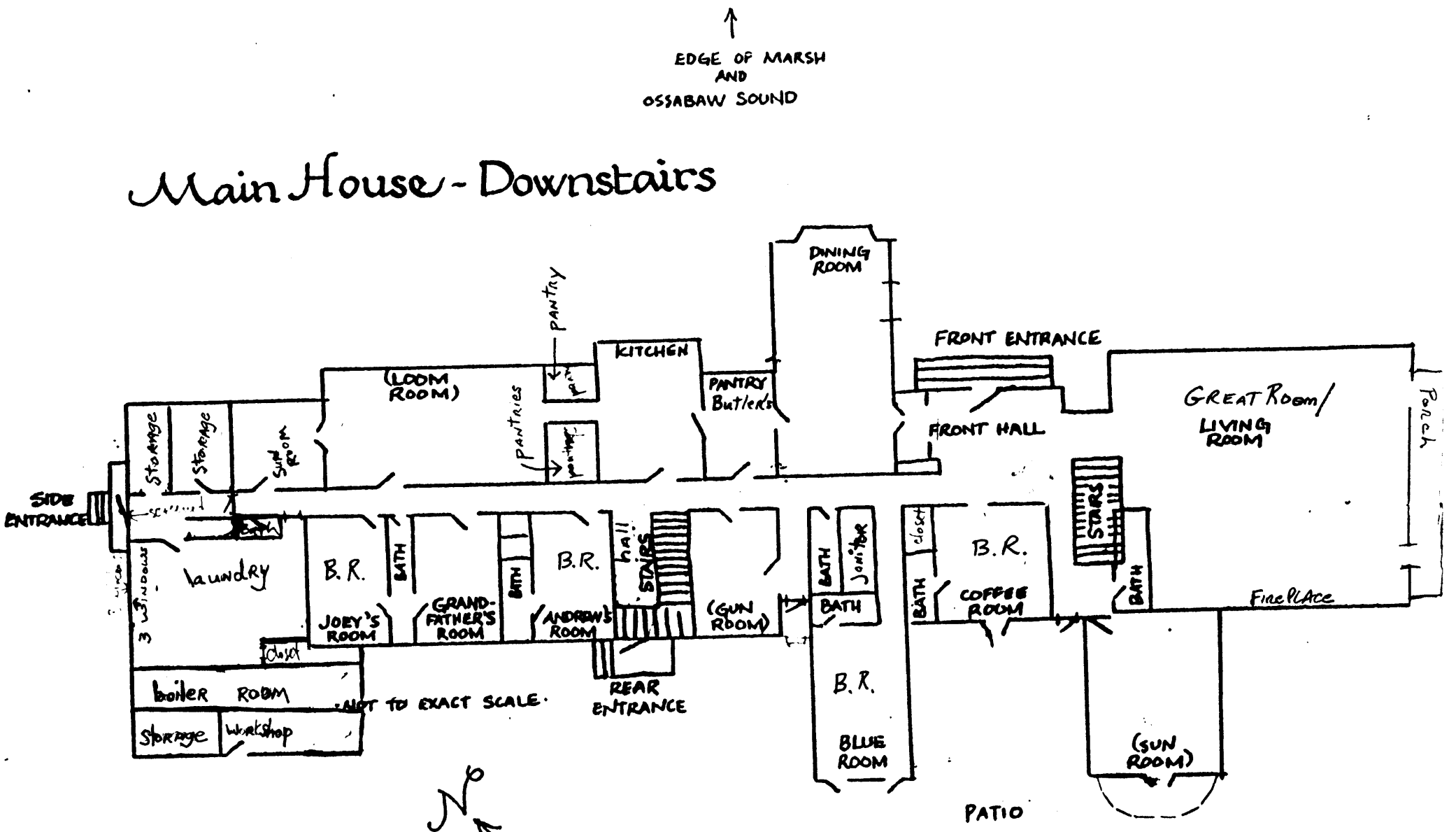
Ossabaw Island, Chatham County, Georgia

Map of Ossabaw Island showing approximate boundaries of National Register Historic District

North: as indicated
Scale: as indicated
Boundary: ▬▬

NOTE: The National Register historic district boundary is drawn to scale on three USGS topographic maps of Ossabaw Island


District Boundary
Tabby Slave/Tenant Houses (3)
Barn
Tabby Oyster House
Boarding House
Wanamaker House (Clubhouse)
Torreys Landing
Ogeechee River
Cane Patch Creek
Ogeechee River
Egg Islands
Egg Island Shoal
Oak Allee
North Field
Studio and Stable
Main House
Formal Gardens
Caretaker's House
District Boundary
Garden Creek
Ossabaw Island
Chatham Co., Ga.
Sketch Map of Historic Resources
at North End of Island
North: ↑
Scale: 1" = 1000' (approx.)



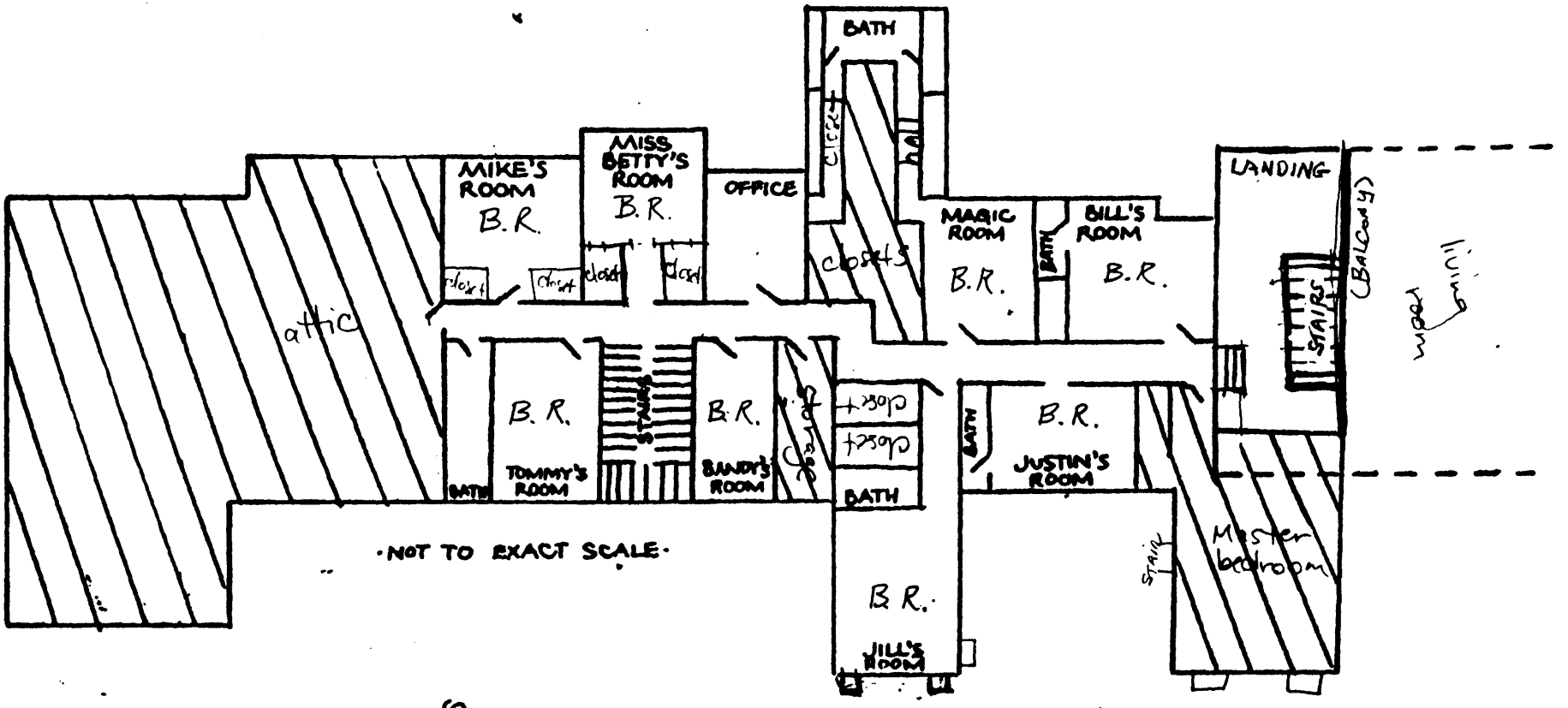
Ossabaw Island
Chatham County, Georgia

FLOOR PLAN SKETCH OF MAIN HOUSE AT NORTH END: MAIN (GROUND) FLOOR

not to scale
north as indicated

EDGE OF MARSH
AND
OSSABAW SOUND

Main House - Upstairs



Ossabaw Island
Chatham County, Georgia

FLOOR PLAN SKETCH OF MAIN HOUSE AT NORTH END: SECOND FLOOR

not to scale
north as indicated