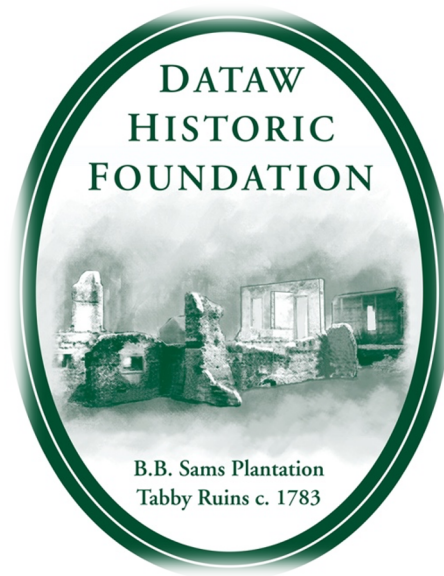


“White Paper” Proposal

Protecting and Preserving Dataw Island’s Historic Sites

December 7, 2020



This December 7th, 2020 version results from incorporating DIOA comments, from their November Board meeting, into our earlier April 13th version. Changes have been coordinated between Marilyn Peck, DHF President, and Bob Sadler, DIOA President.

Table of Contents

PROPOSAL.....4

Principles..... 4

Sites..... 4

Criteria 5

Cemeteries 5

BACKGROUND6

LIST OF DATAW ISLAND HISTORIC SITES.....7

DETERMINING ADVERSE EFFECTS ON DATAW’S HISTORIC PROPERTIES7

DATAW ISLAND CEMETERIES.....8

APPENDIX A – DIGEST OF DATAW ISLAND HISTORIC SITES.....10

 1. *Sams Plantation Complex Tabby Ruins (#38BU581) 10*

 2. *Lewis Reeve Sams Plantation Ruins (#38BU514) 11*

 3. *Cotton Dike Cemetery (#38BU508) 12*

 4. *19th century Cotton Dikes (#38BU640)..... 12*

APPENDIX B - SOURCES.....15

Proposal

Principles

The Dataw Historic Foundation is the custodian for all historic structures, artifacts, and archives associated with Dataw Island. The History and Learning Center is where artifacts are preserved and maintained. For historic structures and associated sites, we commit to following these fundamental principles:

- 1 – Maintain a list of the historical sites which should be protected.
- 2 – Proactively determine any adverse effects to these historic sites when events warrant.
- 3 – Present the DHF determination of the adverse effects to the Dataw Island General Manager, in conjunction with the DIOA Board. He/she should alert us to evolving events (e.g., new construction projects), consider our determination, balance any adverse effects to historic sites with other factors (e.g., cost, common good), and make a recommendation to the DIOA Board and resident members.
- 4 – Collaborate with DIOA to maintain cemeteries.

Sites

DHF identified four sites that should be preserved to help maintain Dataw's historic charm for decades to come. These sites are:

1. Sams Plantation Complex Tabby Ruins (survey site #38BU581) [Listing 88001820 in the National Register of Historic Places.]
2. Lewis Reeve Sams Plantation Ruins (survey site #38BU514)
3. Cotton Dike Cemetery (survey site #38BU508)
4. 19th century Cotton Dikes (survey site #38BU640)

Criteria

Determining adverse effects of a project on an historic site will be done by addressing these factors:

1. Physical destruction or damage;
2. Alteration;
3. Removal from historic location;
4. Change in character;
5. Introduction of elements that diminish the integrity of the property's significant historic features;
6. Neglect;
7. Transfer, lease, or sale.

Cemeteries

DHF will continue to take sole responsibility for the maintenance and preservation of the structures in the cemeteries.

DIOA will share in the costs with the DHF of maintaining the grounds and preserving the trees in the cemeteries. DIOA will manage the contracts and resources to do this.

Background

The Dataw Historic Foundation is the custodian for all historic structures, artifacts, and archives associated with Dataw Island. The History and Learning Center is where artifacts are preserved and maintained. For historic structures and associated sites, we commit to following these fundamental principles:

- 1 – Maintain a list of the historical sites which should be protected.
- 2 – Proactively determine any adverse effects to these historic sites when events warrant.
- 3 – Present the DHF determination of the adverse effects to the Dataw Island General Manager, in conjunction with the DIOA Board. He/she should alert us to evolving events (e.g., new construction projects), consider our determination, balance any adverse effects to historic sites with other factors (e.g., cost, common good), and make a recommendation to the DIOA Board and resident members.
- 4 – Collaborate with DIOA to maintain cemeteries.

From the earliest days of Alcoa's development of Dataw Island, historic sites on the Island and associated artifacts were surveyed, discovered, documented, and in some cases protected [Drucker 1982.] During Dataw Island's original excavation and build-out, decisions made about these sites struck a balance between development plans, resources available, and historic preservation. The 100 historic sites surveyed in 1982 were re-evaluated in 1988, and a smaller list of 18 was "...recommended as eligible for the National Register" [Lepionka, 1988.] To an unfortunate extent, many of the original sites were lost to development in those six intervening years.

The creation of the Dataw Island Ruins Committee in 1994 and the subsequent establishment of the Dataw Historic Foundation in September of 1998 was done to maintain a focus on preserving historic structures, protecting artifacts, and researching stories that together form a basis for the historic charm of Dataw Island.

We believe it is necessary for DHF to proactively determine the possible adverse effects on historic sites before the GM recommends pursuing projects. We wish to protect the few remaining historic sites and maintain the Island's commitment

to its historical heritage.

The following section identifies sites and associated structures that DHF feels should continue to be protected and preserved. We also identify a set of criteria we will use when determining whether a project could adversely affect these historic sites.

List of Dataw Island Historic Sites

DHF identified four sites that should be preserved to help maintain Dataw's historic charm for decades to come. These sites are:

1. Sams Plantation Complex Tabby Ruins (western end of survey site #38BU581 including ruins of the cotton house, stables, well, dairy/cold room/blade house, barn, BB Sams house, yard wall, slave quarters, foreman's quarters, kitchen, chapel, Sams family cemetery, and cemetery oak tree. This site spans the intersection of Dataw Drive and Dataw Club Road.) [Listing 88001820 in the National Register of Historic Places.]
2. Lewis Reeve Sams Plantation Ruins (survey site #38BU514 including the tabby fireplace and foundations in the shoreline and marsh of the Morgan River.)
3. Cotton Dike Cemetery (survey site #38BU508 which is the enslaved cemetery on Cotton Dike Road.)
4. 19th century Cotton Dikes (survey site #38BU640 in the high marsh north and east of Oak Island.)

More information about each site is in Appendix A.

Determining Adverse Effects on Dataw's Historic Properties

As the Dataw Island community evolves to meet the changing needs of the residents, decisions will be made that should consider any adverse effects on Dataw Island's historic properties identified above. DHF experience in historic preservation and the *Code of Federal Regulations § 800.5 - Assessment of adverse effects* formed the basis of the list below. The DHF believes Dataw Island's needs are best met by focusing on the preservation of historic properties, not restoration or reconstruction.

In our opinion, these adverse effects on Dataw Island's historic properties are criteria that must be evaluated by DHF and balanced against the greater good for the Dataw Island residents of any significant project. We recognize that the course of action for addressing the DHF determination on a particular project may differ depending on site ownership. This ownership (e.g., DIOA, DIC, S.C. State, heirs' property) may be investigated as needed.

Determining adverse effects of a project on an historic site will be done by addressing these factors:

1. Physical destruction of or damage to all or part of the historic property;
2. Alteration of a property, including restoration, rehabilitation, repair, maintenance, stabilization, hazardous material remediation, and provision of handicapped access that is not consistent with preservation of historic properties;
3. Removal of the property from its historic location;
4. Change the character of the property's use or its physical features within the property's setting that contribute to its historic significance;
5. Introduction of visual, atmospheric or audible elements that diminish the integrity of the property's significant historic features;
6. Neglect of a property which causes its deterioration;
7. Transfer, lease, or sale of property out of DIOA or DIC ownership or control without adequate and legally enforceable restrictions or conditions to ensure long-term preservation of the property's historic significance.

Dataw Island Cemeteries

DHF proposes that a DIOA-DHF' memorandum of understanding' concerning the Sams Family Cemetery and Cotton Dike Cemetery be re-established. Such an agreement was made in 2009 when the heirs' property associated with cemeteries needed protection. The implementation of this agreement effectively lapsed when both parties lost sight of it for a few years. DHF is once again prepared to share in the costs of preserving and maintaining the cemeteries on

Dataw Island. The key principles for this new agreement could be:

- As a public charity, DHF has among its purposes to maintain historic structures and cemeteries.
- DHF & DIOA note that the Sams family has disclaimed any interest in maintaining or preserving the cemeteries, grounds, or structures.
- DIOA notes that these cemeteries constitute part of the 'historic charm' aspect of marketing Dataw Island.
- DHF will continue to take sole responsibility for the maintenance and preservation of the structures in the cemeteries.
- DIOA will share in the costs with the DHF of maintaining the grounds and preserving the trees in the cemeteries. DIOA will manage the contracts and resources to do this.

Appendix A – Digest of Dataw Island Historic Sites

This appendix describes each of the four historic sites by addressing these questions:

- What does site consist of?
- Where is it located?
- When was site active?
- Why is it historic?

The answers are derived from a compendium of material taken from the sources listed below and edited for brevity. These reports are available for review at the Dataw Historic Foundation, History & Learning Center.

1. Sams Plantation Complex Tabby Ruins (#38BU581)

Reference Lepionka report dated 1988, primarily pages 108-117.

Reference Poplin report dated 1993, Section 2.

What - Includes tabby ruins of a main house, outbuildings, and a family cemetery. Specifically: Berners Barnwell Sams house, cotton house, stables, well, dairy/blade house, barn, yard wall, slave quarters, foreman's quarters, kitchen, chapel, and Sams Family cemetery with century live oak tree. The cemetery dates back to at least 1798 with the grave of William Sams (1741 – 1798).

Where - Western end of survey site #38BU581. Areas extend from the Foreman's Quarters foundation on the east to the cotton barn foundation on the west (west side of Dataw Drive). And on the north from the Sams Family cemetery to former kitchen area on the south. Other historically significant structures identified in or near this survey site back in 1982 and 1988 were lost during subsequent Island development.

When - In 1783, William Sams purchased Dataw Island. He fully developed it as a plantation producing long-staple cotton by him, then his sons Lewis Reeve Sams and Berners Barnwell Sams. The two brothers divided the Island between them, Lewis Reeve building a second plantation house complex at the north end of the Island, and Berners Barnwell taking over the house already present at the center (built before 1783). A third generation of Sams on Dataw Island abandoned the Island in 1861 when the Port Royal Sound region was attacked and occupied by the Federal Navy and Army. The property was subsequently

lost for nonpayment of the direct tax. African-American residents remained on the Island following the war, and this occupation may have been continuous with the known Tenant period. It is evident from artifact content that some or all of the outbuildings in the main plantation complex remained in use in the later 19th century. It was sometime during this period (around 1880) that the Berners Barnwell Sams house was destroyed in an accidental fire.

Why - It is an excellent example of a relatively undisturbed Sea Island cotton plantation, and also contains an expression of early postbellum freed slave occupation. The tabby architecture and the general organization of the complex are outstanding examples of the development and expression of vernacular architecture in this region, with the adaptation of tabby as a building material for the realization of architectural forms ultimately derived from Palladian models. The Sams Family Cemetery is a historic and sacred burial location. Based on a ground-penetrating radar survey done in 2006, DHF estimates there are at least 19-26 graves, including the ones with markers or crypts. Berners Barnwell Sams was a significant, successful plantation owner in Beaufort County, South Carolina. He and both his wives are buried here, along with his parents and several of him and his brother Lewis Reeve Sams' children and grandchildren. In total, the graves span 66 years in the 18th and 19th centuries.

2. Lewis Reeve Sams Plantation Ruins (#38BU514)

Reference Lepionka report dated 1988, primarily pages 175 - 176.

Reference Poplin report dated 1993, Section 2.

Reference Poplin report dated 2006, primarily pages 8 - 13.

What - The remnants of the Lewis Reeve Sams plantation house are a tabby fireplace and home foundations in the hillside and marsh. DHF believes the plantation was largely washed away in the Hurricane of 1893.

Where - Survey site #38BU514. The ruins are located at the edge of the north shore of the island, along the fairway for Morgan River #14.

When - See site #38BU581 above.

Why - The occupation site as a whole has been destroyed by erosion, but the tabby ruins, though collapsed, retain sufficient integrity to reveal the general building plan of all or part of the structure. Lewis Reeve Sams was a significant, successful plantation owner in Beaufort County, South Carolina.

3. Cotton Dike Cemetery (# 38BU508)

Reference Lepionka report dated 1988, primarily pages 96 - 98.

Reference Poplin report dated 2006, primarily pages 13 - 16.

What - Cemetery containing graves of 38+ enslaved people and their descendants.

Where - Survey site #38BU508. The cemetery is located directly west of the Sams plantation house ruins on the western shore of the island, in a fenced area at 204 Cotton Dike Road. Most of these graves lie in the western and southern portion of the fenced space. It is possible that more graves are present in the densely overgrown areas in the western portion of the cemetery.

When - This cemetery begun as a final resting place for field slaves in antebellum times around 1785. It continued to serve generations of Dataw Island residents through the Reconstruction period and well beyond. The last recorded burial occurred in 1967.

Why - This historic and sacred burial ground contains the remains of African slaves, free African-Americans, and their descendants who contributed significantly to the economic, social, and religious life of Datha (Dataw) Island and the greater Beaufort area. Cotton Dike Cemetery is a tangible reminder of the dependence of many large farmers on slave labor from the mid-1700s to 1864. It is a reflection of the many traditions of the African-American slave population. Death rituals and shoreline burial practices formed an essential part of those traditions, and death itself carried great significance among slaves throughout the South.

Based on a ground-penetrating radar survey done in 2006, DHF estimate that there are at least 38+ probable graves in the Cotton Dike Cemetery.

Victoria Smalls, former History and Culture Director at the Penn Center, has said, "This is the best-documented slave cemetery in all of the Lowcountry." Descendants still visit this site today.

4. 19th century Cotton Dikes (# 38BU640)

Reference Lepionka report dated 1988, primarily pages 95 - 96.

What - These 19th century Sea Island salt marsh land management dikes were designed to exclude water and to reclaim land for cultivation, as described in the

Memoir of James Julius Sams (n.d., pp.1-2). Sams notes that the dikes were built by his father Berners Barnwell Sams (date unspecified, but necessarily in the first half of the 19th century), and that the experiment in reclamation failed because the ground was pure sand. "the cotton . . . came up badly and grew worse. It was a failure." The elder Sams therefore converted the dikes to a water retention system and created a series of ponds for wild duck. "Hence these ponds that added so largely to the beauty of Datha, and contributed so much to the supplying of the table during the winter season". The mapped layout indicates that there were eight ponds, of widely varying size.

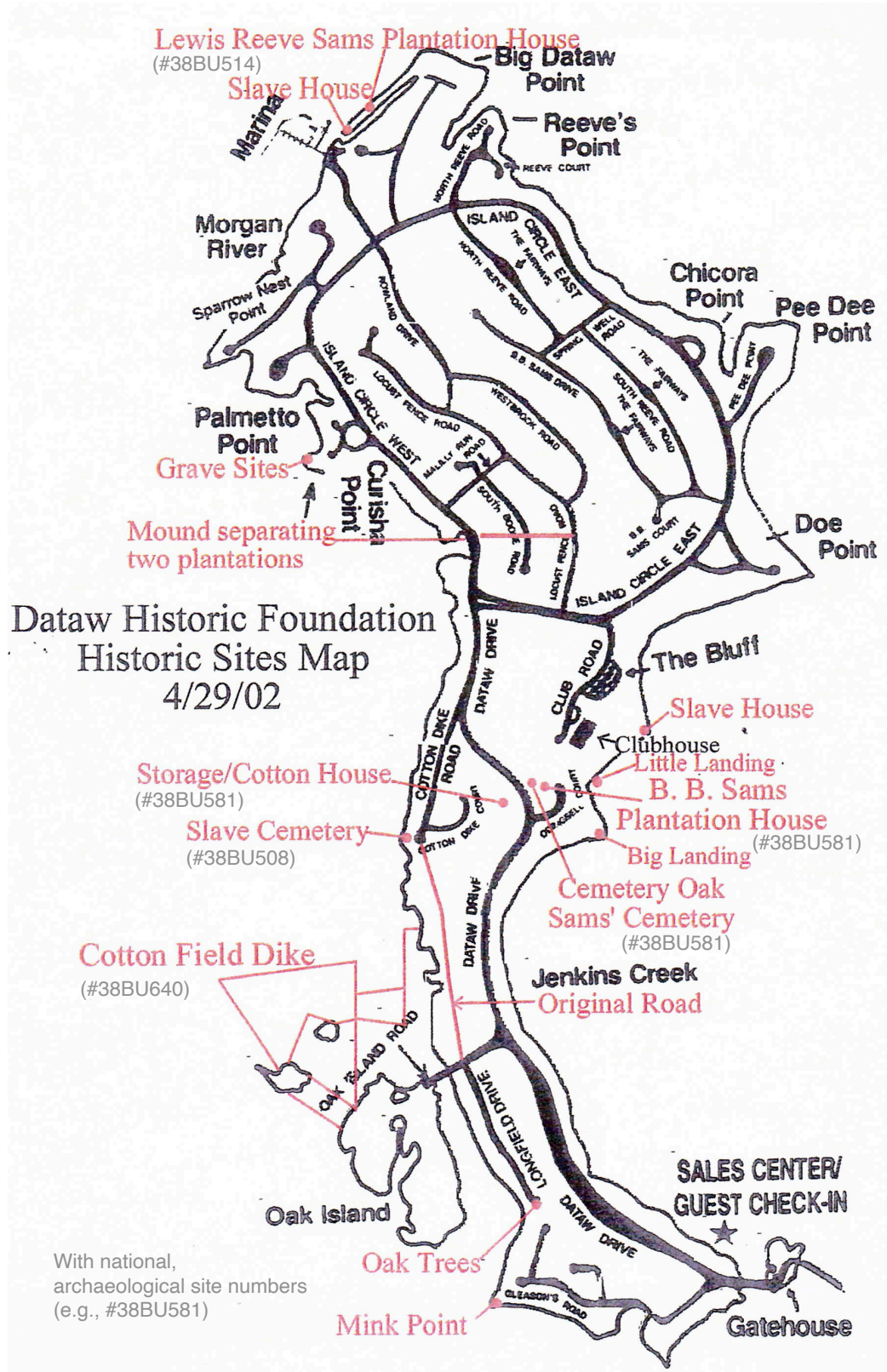
Sams states that reclamation of salt marsh had at one time been popular with Sea Island planters, and that cotton grew well on it. Such successful efforts must have been on marsh soil with higher organic content than that available at Dataw, though it is doubtful that anyone attempted to permanently drain true low marsh areas for cotton cultivation. Lepionka has noted (1988 report) elsewhere on the coast short marsh dike systems designed to prevent tidal flooding of low lying shoreline areas, but are not familiar with any extant land reclamation systems outside of the riverine rice cultivation zones. The Dataw dike system is possibly unique, and is in any event a massive effort at land reclamation.

Where - Survey site #38BU640. The 32 acre site is located in the high marsh zone north and east of Oak Island and west of the north end of the narrow southern part of Dataw and incorporates two small marsh hummocks (the Pine Islands of James Julius Sams memoir.)

When - First half of the 19th century.

Why - These dikes are the largest known example of 19th century Sea Island salt marsh land management practices. Their outline is relatively well preserved and stable, and it is a unique element of the 19th century plantation system.

These four historic locations are identified by their archaeological site numbers on the following map.



With national, archaeological site numbers (e.g., #38BU581)

Appendix B - Sources

Colgan, John and Brown, Jack - DIOA-DHF Memorandum of Understanding w/r/t Sams Family Cemetery. April 3, 2009.

Drucker, Lesley - Phase 1 Cultural Resources Investigations at Datha Island, Beaufort County, South Carolina: Final Management Summary. Carolina Archaeological Services, 1982.

Lepionka, Larry - Dataw Island, Beaufort County, South Carolina Cultural Resources Survey. Submitted to Alcoa South Carolina, Inc, March 1988.

Poplin, Eric – The Historical Development of Dataw Island, Beaufort County, South Carolina. Section 2. Brockington and Associates, 1993.

Poplin, Eric - Recent Archaeological Investigations on Dataw Island, Beaufort County, South Carolina. Brockington and Associates, February 2006.

Rowland, Lawrence S., Moore, Alexander, Rogers Jr., George C. - The History of Beaufort County, South Carolina, Volume I, 1514 - 1861, 1996.

Sams, James Julius - Memoir of Dataw Island. Not dated; circa 1905.

Code of Federal Regulations - Title 36. Parks, Forests, and Public Property - Chapter VIII. ADVISORY COUNCIL ON HISTORIC PRESERVATION - Part 800. PROTECTION OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES - § 800.5 - Assessment of adverse effects.

<https://www.law.cornell.edu/cfr/text/36/part-800>

<https://www.law.cornell.edu/cfr/text/36/800.5>

[CFR § 68.2 - Definitions]

Preservation means the act or process of applying measures necessary to sustain the existing form, integrity and materials of an historic property. Work, including preliminary measures to protect and stabilize the property, generally focuses upon the ongoing maintenance and repair of historic materials and features rather than extensive replacement and new construction. New exterior additions are not within the scope of this treatment; however, the limited and sensitive upgrading of mechanical, electrical and plumbing systems and other code-required work to make properties functional is appropriate within a preservation project.

[CFR § 68.3 Standards of (a) Preservation]

(1) A property will be used as it was historically, or be given a new use that maximizes the retention of distinctive materials, features, spaces and spatial relationships. Where a treatment and use have not been identified, a property will be protected and, if necessary, stabilized until additional work may be undertaken.

(2) The historic character of a property will be retained and preserved. The replacement of intact or repairable historic materials or alteration of features, spaces and spatial relationships that characterize a property will be avoided.

(3) Each property will be recognized as a physical record of its time, place and use. Work needed to stabilize, consolidate and conserve existing historic materials and features will be physically and visually compatible, identifiable upon close inspection and properly documented for future research.

(4) Changes to a property that have acquired historic significance in their own right will be retained and preserved.

(5) Distinctive materials, features, finishes and construction techniques or examples of craftsmanship that characterize a property will be preserved.

(6) The existing condition of historic features will be evaluated to determine the appropriate level of intervention needed. Where the severity of deterioration requires repair or limited replacement of a distinctive feature, the new material will match the old in composition, design, color and texture.

(7) Chemical or physical treatments, if appropriate, will be undertaken using the gentlest means possible. Treatments that cause damage to historic materials will not be used.

(8) Archeological resources will be protected and preserved in place. If such resources must be disturbed, mitigation measures will be undertaken.