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SAVANNAH RIVER

ARCHAEOLOGY

.....

DISCOVERING the PAST

Archaeologists Don't Dig Dinosaurs



The SRARP is a division of the South Carolina Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology (SCIAA) at the University of South Carolina (USC). The SRARP is an on-site presence at the Savannah River Site (SRS and manages the archaeological and other historic resources for the United States Department of Energy (DOE).

What is Archaeology?

Archaeology is the study of human history and culture through the excavation and analysis of material remains.

Archaeologists use various methods to uncover and interpret the past, including excavation, surveying, and the use of scientific techniques.

The field of archaeology encompasses a wide range of topics, from ancient civilizations to modern human behavior, and provides valuable insights into our shared heritage.

What is Archaeology?

**Archaeology is
the scientific
study of people
from the past
through the things
they made and
used.**

As a result of the Federal and State laws and regulations, the South Carolina Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology/ Savannah River Archaeological Research Program (SCIAA/SRARP) began in 1973 a phased approach to archaeological compliance involving reconnaissance surveys, general intensive watershed surveys, specific intensive surveys, data recovery and coordination with major land users on and around the Savannah River Site.

The Antiquities Act of 1906 (Section 3) and subsequent cultural resource laws and regulations state that the intent of Congress in the undertaking of cultural resource protection and investigation is to benefit recognized scientific or educational institutions, with a view to increasing public knowledge. Archaeological, historical, and geo-archaeological research must be conducted within the Savannah River Basin in order to adequately investigate and properly manage cultural resources of the SRS for the future.

SRARP's three-fold mission:

- ◆ Cultural
Resource
Management
- ◆ Research
- ◆ Education

The primary mission of the SRARP is to ensure that the Department of Energy remains *in compliance* with the federal laws regarding archaeological and other cultural resources. To that end, the SRARP conducts regular archaeological surveys of the Savannah River Site as a part of the SRS Site-use process.

In addition to the Site-use process, the SRARP works closely with the United States Forest Service-Savannah River (USFS-SR) to ensure compliance in areas that have been slated for logging activities. From first thinning to complete regeneration, SRARP staff look for, and protect archaeological sites in areas of potential impact.

Because of the SRARP on-site presence we are able to ensure that all undertakings comply with existing historic preservation laws and do so with little or no impact to the planed project.

A solid blue oval shape centered on a white background, containing the text.

***Fulfilling the Mission:
SRARP at Work***

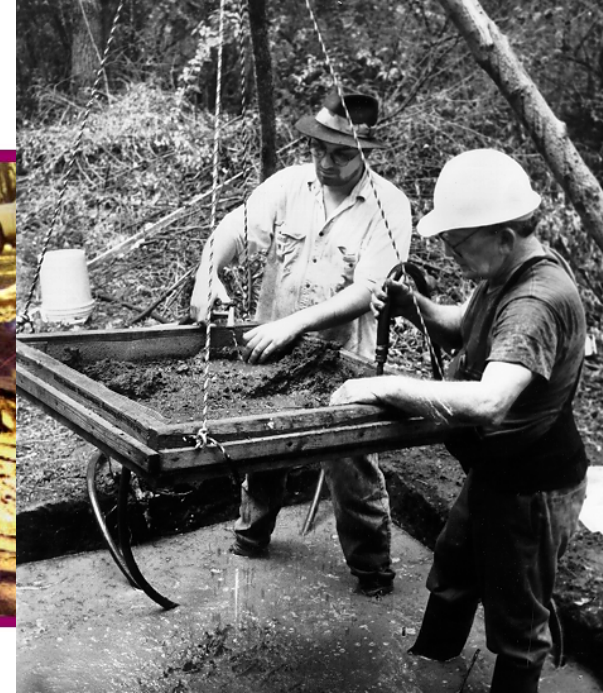






Daily field work might involve pedestrian or shovel-test surveys to identify archaeological sites. It could also involve large-scale excavations.

The archaeological process involves careful excavation techniques.



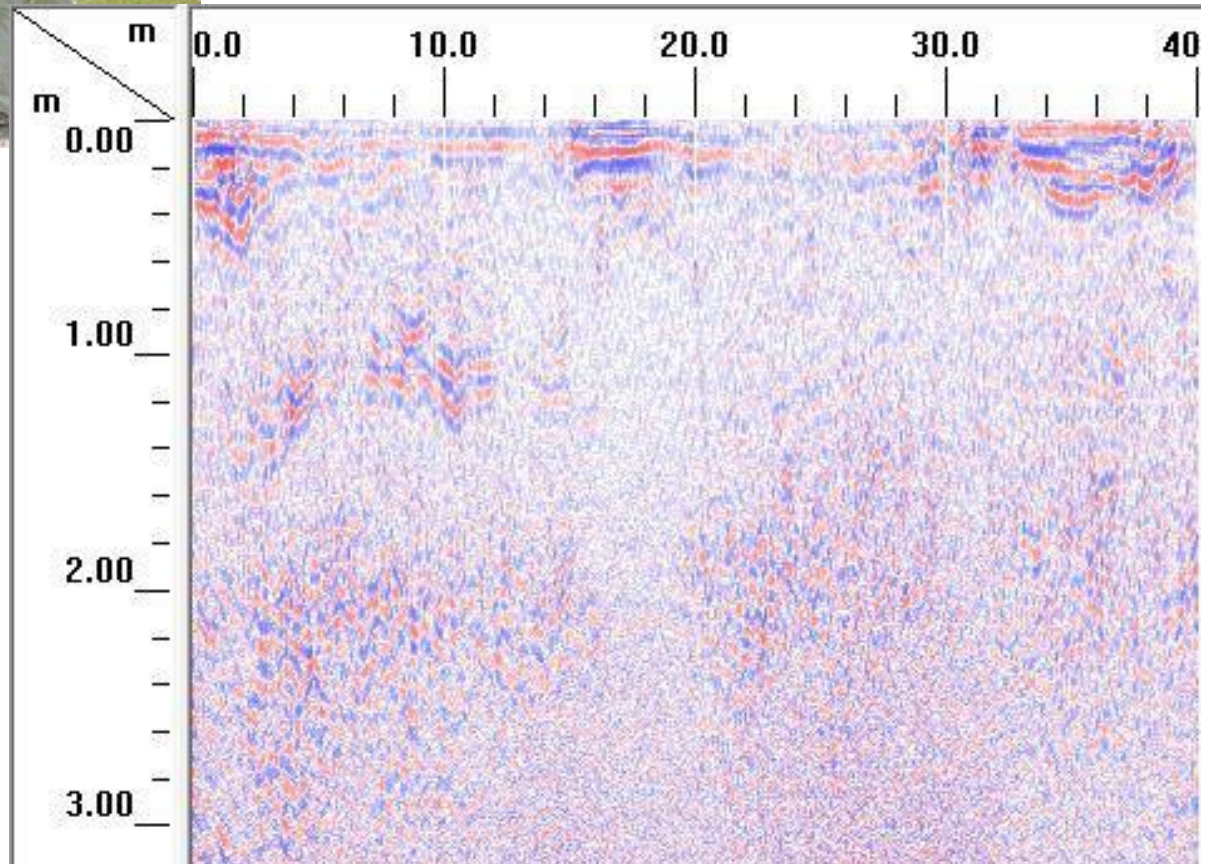
**Screening the
excavated soil allows
archaeologists to
recover small artifacts.**

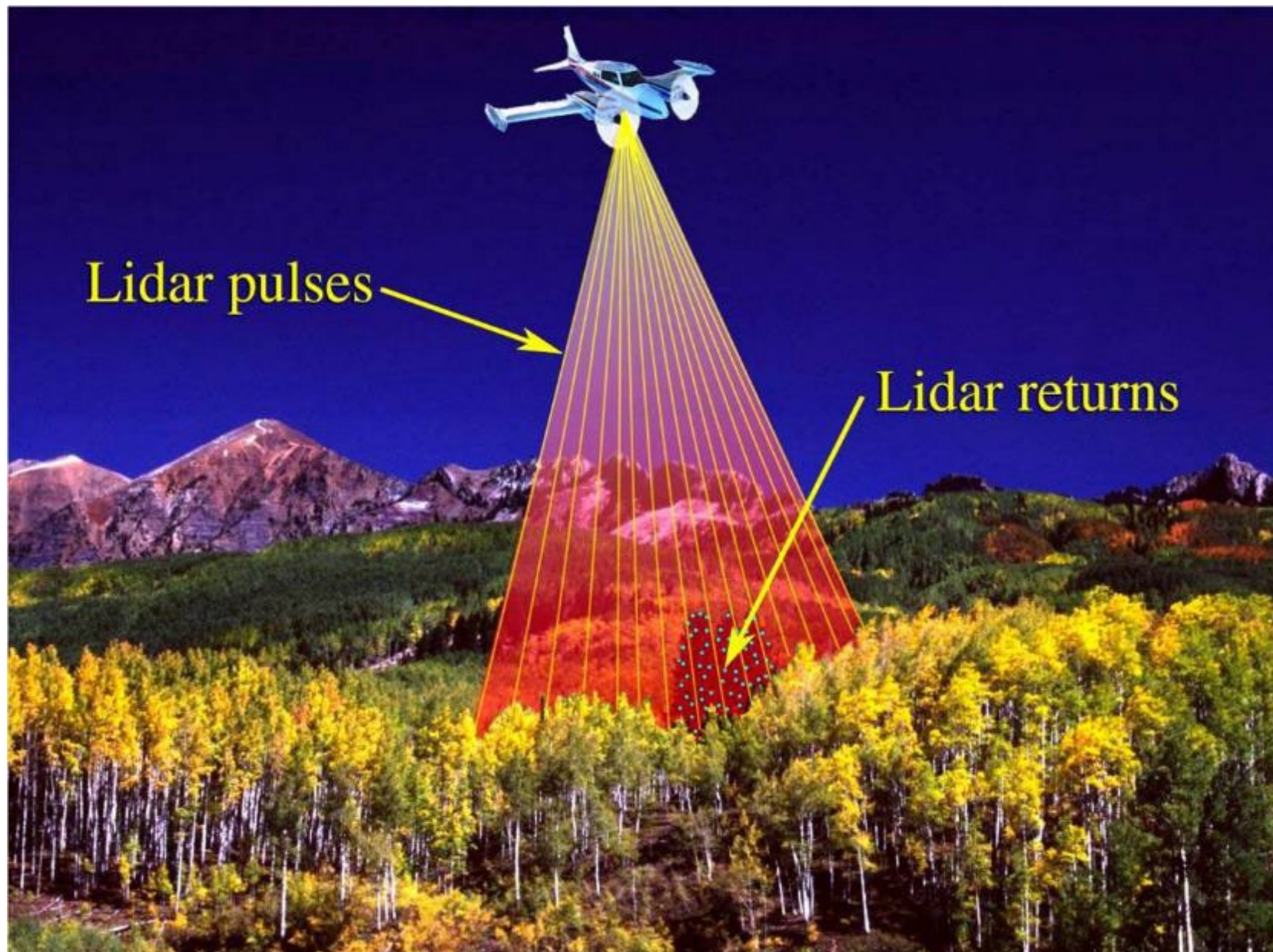


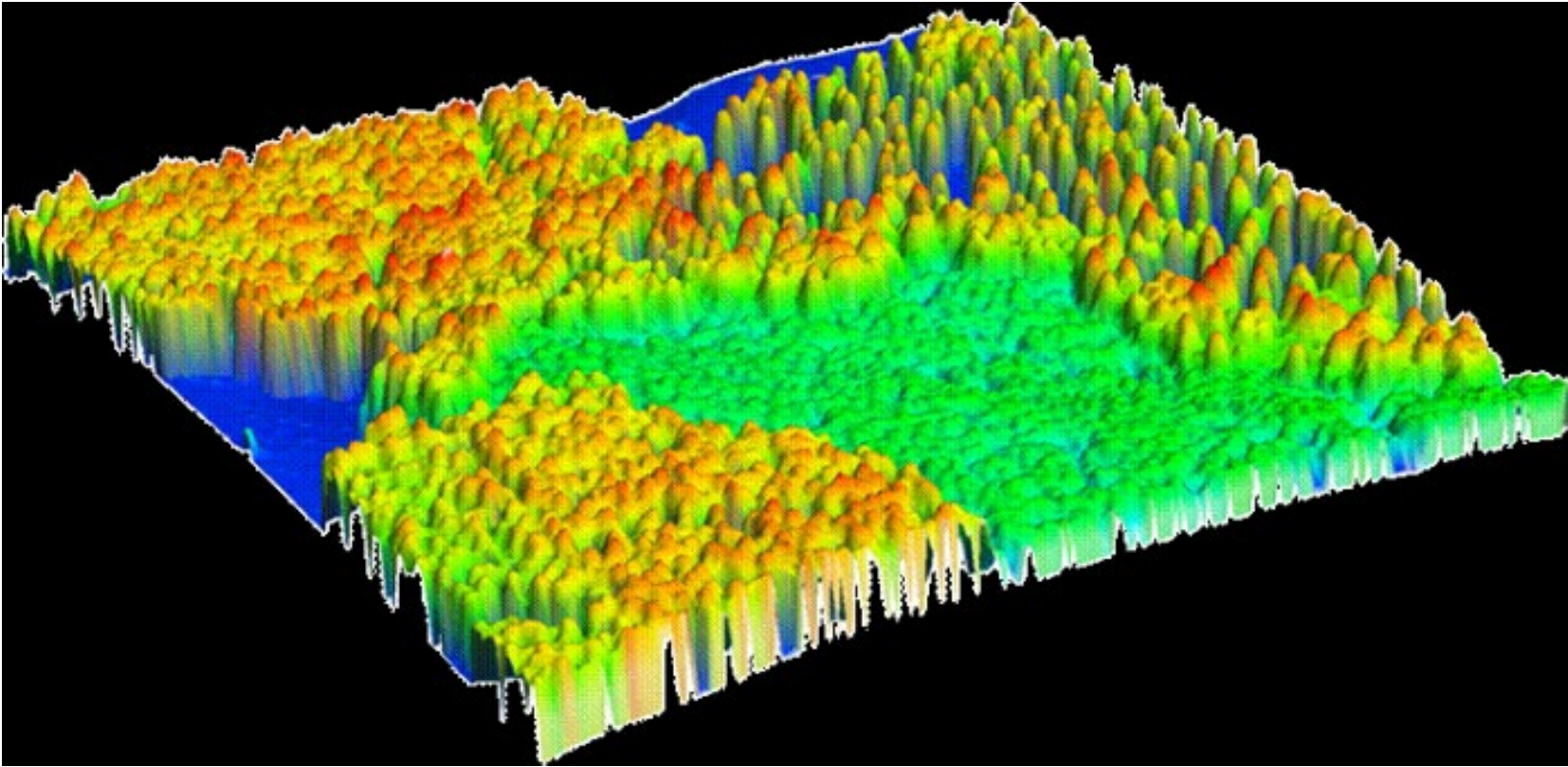
**Detailed mapping and
measuring is a vital part of
the excavation process.**



GPR Ground Penetrating Radar







Light Detection and Ranging

**After a day in the field, artifacts
are prepared for analysis.**



**One aspect of analysis
is identifying artifacts
by type and function.**





Hammond, Turner & Bates
Factory was in Birmingham, offices in Manchester – England
Produced many high quality buttons for the Confederacy



clay marbles, left is only half





**Archaeological interpretation
brings together many forms of
data and analysis to draw
conclusions about life in the past.**



**The
archaeological
process ends with
the publication of
reports and
papers describing
site excavation,
contents and
interpretations.**

**The
Savannah River
Archaeological Research Program
is dedicated to
ensuring the protection of
our cultural heritage
through Cultural Resource
Management, Research and
Education.**

Cultural Resource Management

Site Use



The SRARP field investigation team regularly responds to Site Use applications. These land altering proposals could potentially destroy archaeological resources.

Timber Compartment Surveys



Each year SRARP surveys timber compartments to ensure cultural resources are not impacted by harvesting or planting activities.



Curation

SRARP staff analyzes artifacts and identifies them according to type and function. To date, nearly 2 million artifacts have been analyzed and curated.

**Beyond our compliance responsibilities,
SRARP staff members engage in
archaeology research both on the SRS
and throughout the Central Savannah
River Area. Because historic occupants
did not stop at the modern day
boundaries of the SRS, this research
furtheres our compliance efforts by
helping to develop the regional context
for historical sites on the SRS.**

Research

Carolina Bay Research

A joint project with the Savannah River Ecology Laboratory investigates the creation and human land use of Carolina bays.



Studies of **Carolina bays** by SRARP and SREL provide context for:

- ◆ sediment collection
- ◆ prehistoric distribution of humans dating to as early as 10,000-8000 years before present

The Mississippian Project

People of the Mississippian period (AD 1000-1600) were farmers, hunters and collectors. They lived in settled villages along river floodplains and in small family farms scattered throughout the uplands.



Four chiefdoms, each with its own mound site capital, once inhabited the area surrounding the SRS. Research focuses on the relationship between the mound capitals and smaller Mississippian sites on the SRS.

The Bartley Site, Beech Island, SC

Archaeological excavations revealed an eighteenth-century farmstead belonging to three Swiss brothers who emigrated to New Windsor Township in 1737.



Lead-Glazed Slipware

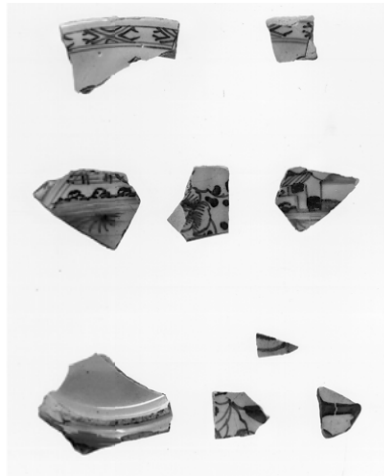
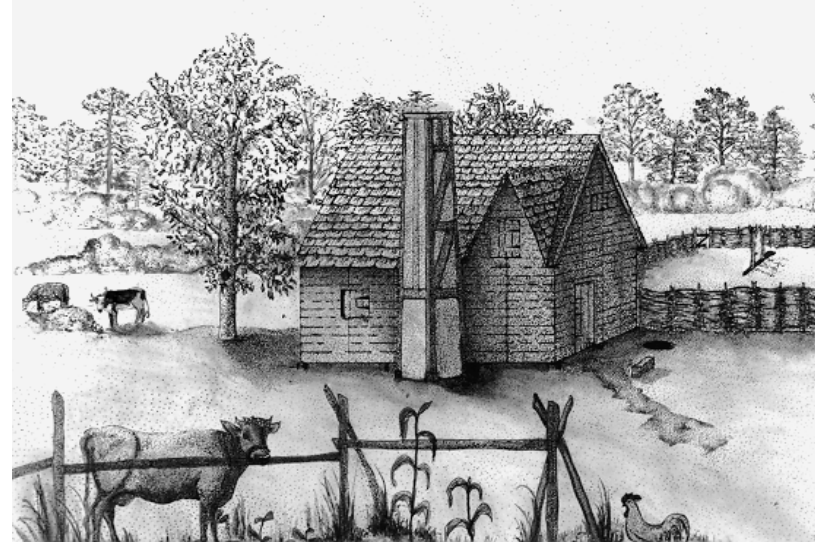


Tobacco Pipe fragments

Most of the artifacts recovered came from pits dug by the settlers. These and other artifacts provide information about everyday life.

Catherine Brown's Cowpen

Excavations at a cattle ranch showing domestic life on the South Carolina frontier of the mid-eighteenth century.

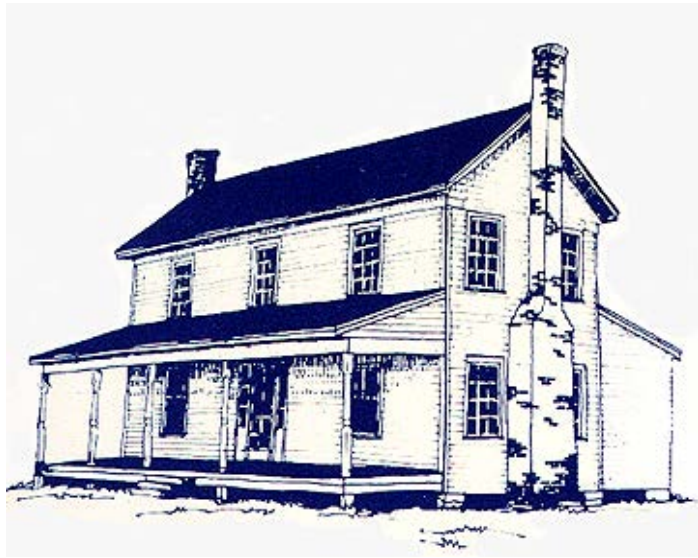


Eating utensils and ceramics found during excavation reveal the Browns to have been moderately wealthy.

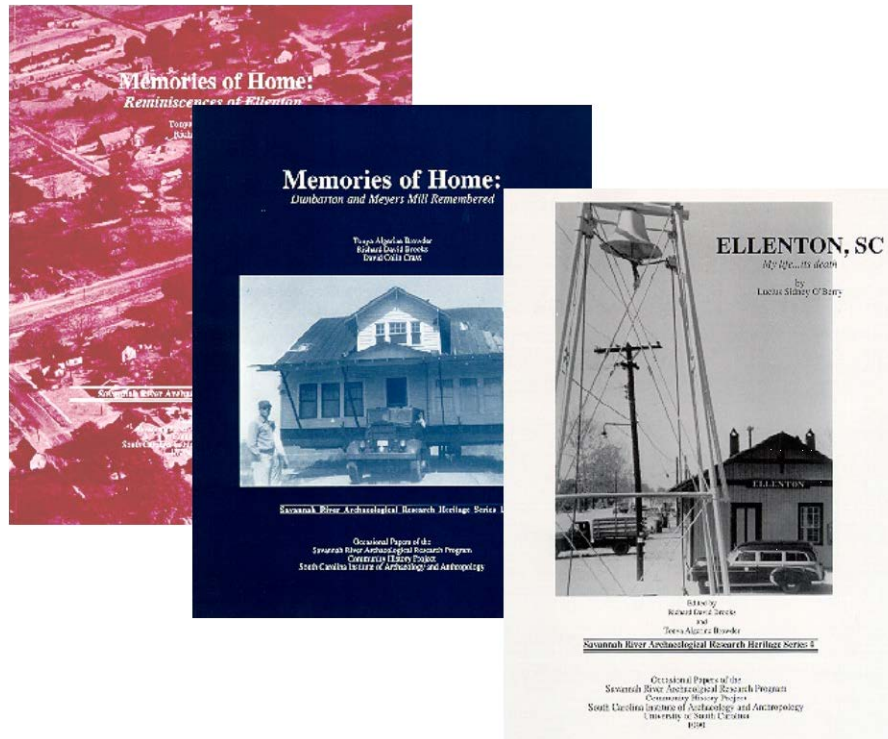
Investigation at the 19th-century Bush Hill Plantation



Aerial View of the Excavated Site



Planter George Bush
amassed considerable
wealth and influence. His
home was probably a
symbol of prosperity and
social status.



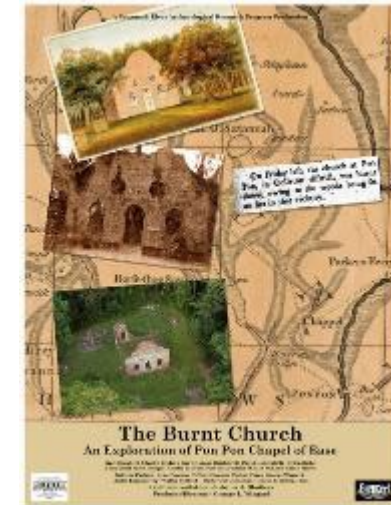
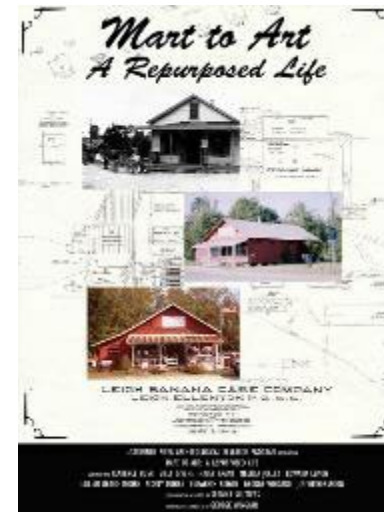
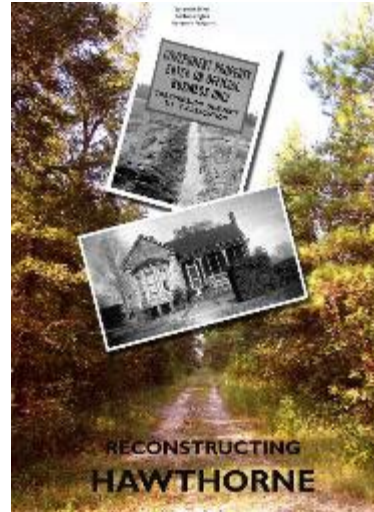
Community History Project

SRARP has written and edited several volumes on the former communities of the SRS. Nearly twelve-thousand copies have been presented to interested individuals.

Cinematic Outreach

The SRARP has produced eight (10) documentaries
on SRS and local history.

These films have screened both locally and around the country.



More information can be found about the films
on our Facebook page:
Savannah River Archaeological Research Program

Over 20 short video discussing artifacts in our collection.

Volunteering



Volunteers
contribute
valuable time
and effort to
research
projects both in
the lab and in
the field.



Education

**Annual Summer
Archaeology Camps**

Exhibits



Public Tours of Excavations

Public Dig Opportunities

Outreach Programs for Schools



Classroom Dig is a simulated excavation offered to CSRA schools, complete with teacher activity book to enhance learning.

**The Savannah River Archaeological
Research Program
celebrated 40 years
of Cultural Resource Management
for the Department of Energy and
The Savannah River Site
In 2018.**

www.SRARP.org

Links to:

SRARP's Facebook page

Youtube videos

SRARP publications and annual reports

Posters of current SRARP research

Web exhibit on the former towns

And more