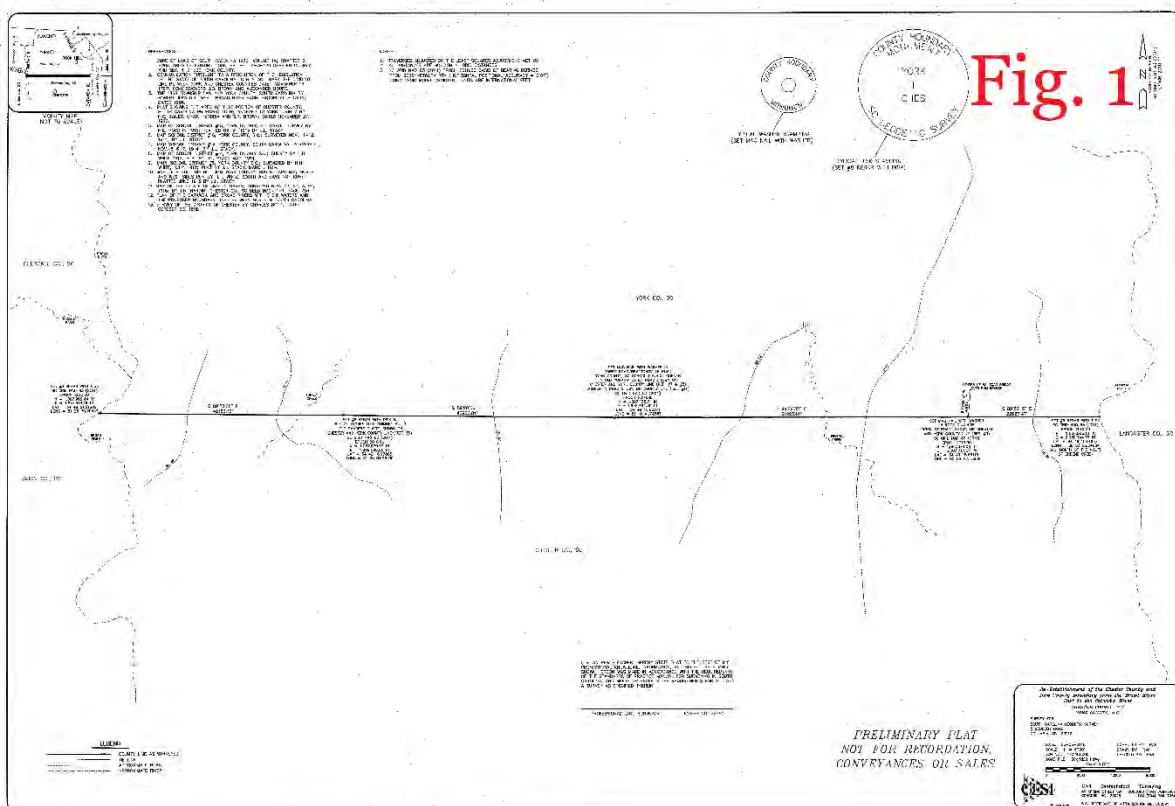


South Carolina Chester-York County Boundary

Report of Survey - 2018



South Carolina

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❖ **1764 Boundary Colonial Boundary**

In 1764 the colonies of North Carolina and South Carolina sent surveyors to the end point of their common boundary between what is now Scotland County, NC and Marlboro County, SC with instructions to extend the common boundary from that point due west 60-plus miles until it intersected the boundary of the Catawba Indian nation, all parties assuming that the resulting line would lie along the 35th parallel of latitude.

As the surveyors discovered when they hit the Old Salisbury Road prior to the Catawba Indian boundary, their line was not on the 35th parallel but was a dozen miles south of it, and more than 700 square miles of what was supposed to have been South Carolina lay north of the freshly marked boundary. Attempts to resolve this error generated proposals and counter-proposals which took 8 years to negotiate and settle, the entire time leaving settlers and inhabitants in the lands west of the stopping point in a quandary about which colony they were in. Both states issued grants in the disputed area up until the compromise boundary was agreed to and surveyed in 1772. **Fig. 2** shows some of proposed solutions that preceded the 1772 agreement. The enlargement in **Fig. 3** shows North Carolina Governor Tryon's suggested solution, which would have put all of York, Cherokee, most of

Spartanburg, and part of Union and Lancaster counties in North Carolina. Fig. 4 shows the competing proposal of the Governor and Council of South Carolina which would have put essentially all of North Carolina west of the Catawba River in South Carolina.

The South Carolina proposal was a river, a natural boundary, visible on the ground, so to the extent it was ever seriously considered as a possible boundary between the two colonies there was never a need to survey and mark it on the ground. Its location was obvious.

By contrast, the boundary proposed by Tryon (shown by the arrows in Fig. 3) is an extension of the 1764 line as surveyed (a dozen miles south of the 35th parallel), and as such would only be discernable if it was surveyed and actually marked on the ground. There is some indication in the historical record that Governor Tryon did in fact have this line surveyed and marked on the ground for at least part of its length (in conversation South Carolina archivist Marion Chandler mentioned that there was a reference to the survey in the 1771 colonial records of North Carolina), but no record or map of this survey has been recovered to date. It appears that at some point this line became known as the “New Acquisition” line. Quoting from *“The 1772 North Carolina-South Carolina Boundary Survey and the Formation of South Carolina Counties,”* a bulletin issued by The Genealogical Society of Old Tryon County in November 2010, *“The land south of the 1772 survey line...formerly part of Tryon County, North Carolina, was included in South Carolina and became known as the “New Acquisition” until counties were formed in South Carolina in 1785.”*

❖ Enabling Legislation

Chester County and York County both came into existence (along with five other counties formed from the Camden District) by Act #1263 of the South Carolina Legislature on 12 March 1785. Of all the counties created by that act the description of York is the least specific, to wit: *“...one other county, commonly called the New Acquisition, shall be known by the name of York county...”* with Chester’s description being not much better – *“...one other county shall begin at the line of York county, thence down the Broad River to the mouth of Sandy river, thence in a direct line to the mouth of Rocky creek on the Catawba river, thence up the Catawba river to the line of York county, thence along that county line to the beginning.”*

By the time the General Statues of South Carolina were compiled in 1881 and 1882 the description of York County was greatly expanded and much more specific, to wit from Part I, Title V, Chapter XIII, Section 437: *“YORK COUNTY is bounded as follows: On the north by the North Carolina line; on the west by the Counties of Spartanburg and Union, from which it is separated by the Broad River; on the south by Chester County, from which it is divided by a line beginning at a hickory tree, on the southwest side of the Catawba River, about ten chains above the mouth of Ferrill’s Creek, and running (nearly south 88° west) by an old line called and known by the name of the Line of the New Acquisition, to an ash and black-gum on the bank of the Broad River, on Robert Elliott’s land; on the east by the County of Lancaster and the North Carolina line.”* Section 411 describes Chester County: *“CHESTER COUNTY is bounded as follows: On the north by a line beginning at a hickory tree, on the southwest side of the Catawba River, about ten chains above the*

mouth of Ferrill's Creek, and running (nearly south 80° west) by an old line, called and known by the name of the Line of the New Acquisition, to an ash and black-gum, on the bank of the Broad River, on Robert Elliott's lands..."

With the exception of the typographical error on the bearing along the line separating the counties the descriptions are identical. The bearing in the York County description is the more correct bearing. The line should have originally been run as a due west line. South 88° West is only 2° off due west and, due to the variability over time of location of the magnetic north pole, the same line would normally have slightly different magnetic bearings when observed at different times years apart. It is apparent that both these descriptions are taken from the 14 November 1797 Commissioners' Report which reads: *"State of South Carolina - Pursuant to a Resolution of the Legislature of said State We have Run and Marked the Dividing Line Between York and Chester Countys Beginning at a Hickory on the S.W. Side of Catawba River about Ten Chains above the Mouth of Ferrels creek, Running Nearly So. 88 W by a Line Said to be the Line of the New Acquisition to an Ash and Black Gum on the Bank of the Broad River on the Lands of Robert Elliott,"* and which is shown in [Fig. 5](#).

Those descriptions from the General Statutes of 1881 and 1882 can still be found in the current South Carolina Codes virtually unchanged. South Carolina Statute, Section 4-3-120 states: *"Chester County is bounded as follows: on the north by a line beginning at a hickory tree on the southwest side of the Catawba River about ten chains above the mouth of Ferrill's Creek and running (nearly 80° west) by an old line called and known by the name of the Line of the New Acquisition to an*

ash and black gum on the bank of the Broad River on Robert Elliott's lands..."

Section 4-3-530 states: *"York County is bounded as follows: "...on the south by Chester County from which it is divided by a line beginning at a hickory tree, on the southwest side of the Catawba River, and about 10 chains above the mouth of Ferrill's Creek, and running nearly S. 88° W., by an old line called and known by the name of the line of the new acquisition, to an ash and black gum on the bank of the Broad River, on land now or formerly owned by Robert Elliott..."*

So, with a few additional typographic errors the description of the dividing line is the same as in 1797 and both current statutes obviously describe the same line and describe it in a very similar way. The descriptions give us very little to work with. We assume, from the line being labeled as the "New Acquisition" line, that it is the extension of the 1764 North Carolina-South Carolina boundary line (which ends at the Old North Corner between Union County, North Carolina and Lancaster County, South Carolina), run sometime between 1764 and 1771, and then run and marked again as per the Commissioners' Report of 14 November 1797. There is a bearing described (ignoring the typographical error in one description), and that bearing tends to indicate a line that was probably run, or intended to be run, originally as a due west line. And there are trees called for at the termination points at both rivers, a hickory at the Catawba, and an ash and black gum at the Broad. These trees first appear in the 1797 description so if they still exist they would be on the order of 250 years old and should be immediately obvious to even the casual observer and, considering the fact they would have been growing on a well-watered and fertile

river bank for almost two centuries, they should be truly massive if still extant. Also, the trees on the Broad River were on the lands of Robert Elliott in 1797. But beyond those few bare facts there is no other identifying information of a truly distinct and specific nature, information of the kind which would help us place this line firmly on the ground, no points crossed along the line, no monuments in-between the two rivers, not even a distance river-to-river along the boundary.

There is, however, one tie that gives us a definite place to start. The line intersects the Catawba River *“about 10 chains above the mouth of Ferrill’s Creek,”* and that’s where we start.

❖ Coordinate System

All coordinates for this project are reported in the South Carolina State Plane Grid Coordinate System and the bearings and distances in the final result and shown on the final plat are grid bearings and grid distances.

Bearings: Bearings across the state plane coordinate system are parallel everywhere for the same bearing. For example: North at any point will be parallel to North at any other point. Along only one North line in the system will North be aligned with “true” North. All other North oriented lines will be parallel to the one aligned with “true” North and will not be pointed at the “true” North point. (“True” is apostrophized here because there are several North references – astronomic, magnetic, etc.) The original surveys described in this report were done without benefit of a system-wide plane coordinate system and were made using a compass that oriented to magnetic north, thus bearings along any original line, other than one with a due magnetic north orientation, vary as the compass moves east and west but magnetic north remains (over the short term) fixed in place.

Distances: At this location in the state plane system the grid distances are approximately 1/10,000 shorter than ground distances. Since CESI’s final survey product is in grid distances when we make comparisons we are, for simplicity’s sake, using grid distances to compare with the original survey distances, which would have been ground distances, but which would not have been precise enough for the 1/10,000th difference between modern grid to ground to materially affect the comparison.

❖ Methodology

The task of a retracement surveyor is to place the line in question, to the best of the surveyor's ability, in the same location that the original surveyor placed it. To do that the surveyor uses all the sources of information that can be discovered, and evaluates those to determine which ones should have more authority. Generally these are ranked in order of importance as follows: information has more authority either **a)** by virtue of being information shown on an original survey or, **b)** by being information closer in time to the original survey – a time when living memory may have still been able to guide subsequent surveyors to the correct location or, **c)** by having more definitive and permanent monuments that still exist and can be readily identified at the time of the retracement or, **d)** by having calls (bearings and distances) that appear to be accurate and are capable of guiding the retracement surveyor to the correct location or, **e)** information from nearby residents or local experts that can reliably identify the correct location from oral traditions or other research or, **f)** some combination of those factors.

In order to look for original or nearly contemporary grants and surveys along the “New Acquisition” line CESI conducted intensive research at the South Carolina Department of Archives and History, the North Carolina Archives, online at the British Archives, at other online archives

in both states and elsewhere, and in the register of deeds for both counties.

The statutes clearly state that the Chester-York line was the “New Acquisition” line, and the materials referenced in the preceding sections of this report support that this line was an extension of the 1764 boundary survey between the two colonies. Research further supports that Gov. Tryon of North Carolina caused this line to be run and marked on the ground, so the original source information for this line would be a copy of that survey and/or any documentation contemporaneous with that survey. None of our research discovered a copy of a map of the survey we believe Gov. Tryon had performed along this line.

On a previous project CESI had retraced the 1767 Cherokee Boundary that Gov. Tryon had surveyed and marked between the Cherokee Nation and the colonies of North and South Carolina. We were unable to find a map of that survey either, but we were able to obtain copies of journals prepared over the course of the survey by both Gov. Tryon’s secretary and by the Assistant Superintendent for Indian Affairs in the Southern District, Alexander Cameron. So we diligently searched the North Carolina Archives and British Archives for any journal that may have been written by Gov. Tryon’s staff or others during the running and marking of the “New Acquisition” line, and we found no written record, either.

In CESI’s work on the North Carolina-South Carolina boundary clarification survey, and on several previous South Carolina county boundary projects, CESI had great success in obtaining original grants

from the colony or state of South Carolina to the original landowners, grants which showed the jurisdiction line in question and graphically related it to geographical features such as roads and creeks (which made it possible to place the grant correctly on the face of the Earth) and accurately related it to property corners (some which were still extant (or perpetuated forward through time) and made it possible to measure from those property corners and establish the jurisdictional line in the correct, original, location). Building on this experience CESI did additional research at South Carolina Archives and obtained approximately 30 grants which, based on information on the face of the grant and also from grant plots done by Thomas Mayhugh in association with the Chester District Genealogical Society, we were able to place along, and across, the Chester-York County Line with a high degree of confidence. These grant plots can be seen in [Figs.6, 7, 8, 9, 10 & 11](#). CESI was able to obtain copies of many of the grants which, in these grant plots, lie on the Chester-York county line. There is one uniform characteristic among all the historic grants available along the Chester-York line – none show the “New Acquisition” line (prior to 1785) or the county line (post 1785) as either a boundary line or as a line crossing any of the properties depicted. As an example, [Fig. 6](#) depicts Mary McCullough’s 1131.5 acre tract lying on the County line at the Broad River. [Fig. 12](#) shows McCullough’s grant. With the bends of the river it is possible to be fairly sure where the property lays geographically. In 1771 the line in question was not yet a county line, but it should have been freshly surveyed and marked by North Carolina across this property as the *possible* boundary between the colonies. No line is evident on the plot on this grant nor is it mentioned in the text. (And Robert Elliott, mentioned as being the property owner where the

1797 county boundary survey terminated at the Broad River, received a Lease and Release for 941 acres from Mary McCullough in 1783 (Fig. 13), and then purchased 100 acres from Mary McCullough in 1785, adding to the evidence that the line crossed McCullough's property.) Fig. 14 shows grants to George and James Gill that we are able to locate athwart the county line with confidence based on both geographic and boundary evidence. Both were created after North Carolina had run and marked the New Acquisition line and neither grant shows the line traversing or bounding their properties. Nor do later grants, neither those granted after the 1785 creation of the two counties, nor even those granted after the county survey of 1797, ever show the county boundary on the face of the plot or in the text. Why should this be the case? We can offer a couple of suggestions.

One reason is that, unlike the Cherokee Boundary or the North Carolina-South Carolina colonial – and then state – line, this line was never a “hard” line at which grants had to terminate, so while it is possible some grant corners *may* have been established in this line, none *had* to be. Beyond that, South Carolina archivist Marion Chandler may have suggested the best reason that the county boundary never appears on any grants astride it. According to Mr. Chandler, during the period the grants were being issued a property owner that had property which existed in two counties would have to annually make a trip to both county seats to pay property tax. Each year a property owner would have to trek from the edge of the county first to one courthouse, then back home, and then to the other to pay their taxes, taking time away from the farm and adding wear-and-tear to wagons and mules. It obviously would be an appealing alternative to ask the surveyor locating the grant on the ground if he could show the property

as all being in one county, that county being the one that the grantee felt the most affinity for, and reduce the time and trouble of going to pay property taxes by half. We don't know if this is what happened but it certainly is a logical explanation, and we can say definitively that in all our research we never found any grant which showed this line as being on, or adjacent, the property. For this reason the original grants were of no use to us in trying to reestablish the location of the Chester-York County Line.

That leaves us with only one definitive location from the original source material, the county boundary beginning "about Ten Chains above the Mouth of Ferrels Creek" taken from the written description of the 1797 Commissioners' survey.

Fig. 15 shows a detail from USGS quad map 'Catawba.' While the name Ferrels (or Ferrill's) has not survived the creek named for Ferrel has and is currently named Greene Creek as shown on this detail. We visited Greene Creek where it empties into the Catawba River and found a substantial creek (**Figs. 16 & 17**), with significantly higher ground south of the creek. This higher ground appears to be naturally occurring and holding the mouth of the creek fixed in place. After viewing the mouth of Greene Creek it is our opinion that the location of the mouth most likely has not moved substantially north, or south, since the Commissioners' survey in 1797. Based on those facts we field located the mouth and measured north ten chains (660') and looked for the hickory described in the 1797 report of survey. These locations were accomplished using a combination of GPS to establish local control tied to South Carolina grid system and then using conventional surveying to traverse and locate specific positions. While there are hickories in this

general area along the bank none appeared to be over 50 years-old. There were no hickories that even remotely appeared that they could be 250 years old. We concluded that the best evidence available for establishing this point was the location of the mouth of Greene Creek and that the proper location Chester-York County Line was passing through a point on the western bank of the Catawba 660.00' north of the centerline of the mouth of Greene Creek.

As mentioned above, this location should have originally been on a line extended by a compass survey from the termination point at the Old Salisbury Road of the 1764 colonial boundary survey. A compass survey depends for its orientation on a magnetic needle pointing to magnetic north. During the course of the survey the compass moves along the face of the earth, but in contrast, during the survey the location of magnetic north does not move. In the case of an east-west survey line (which this is) the compass, instead of running a perfectly straight line, is creating an arc or curve across the face of the earth with a radius of approximately 3000 miles, the radius point being the location of magnetic north. In our retracement we are working in South Carolina's state grid system. In the grid system lines oriented to north do not converge toward the magnetic pole, but are instead parallel across the entire state. Bearing in mind that there are small scale changes that may have affected how the compass acted during the original survey (such as large localized deposits of iron in the ground or magnetic space weather), in general when retracing a compass survey of some tens of miles by locating points from the survey and bringing them into the SC Grid system, it is easy to see the resulting curve of the original compass survey because the bearings in SC Grid will continue to deflect to the north as one moves east or west along the line. Another way of stating

this is that if you extend one segment of line original points to the east or west will lie north of the extended segment. We used this method as a way to check the location established at the Catawba River. Using data from CESI's survey work retracing the 1764 colonial boundary for the North Carolina – South Carolina State Line Clarification we extended a line from the “Old North Corner” (Fig. 18) using an alignment based on that point and a point on the state line about 20 miles to the east. When extended to the Catawba River (approximately six miles away) this line ran 73' south of our calculated point, which we would expect to see if the county line location we had determined was a point that was the result of a compass survey which had started at the end of the 1764 colonial line survey. This provided additional and independent confirmation that the calculated county line point on the west bank of the Catawba River is in the correct location.

Having exhausted the contemporaneous historical record, we began to search for another source of authoritative material created as close in time to the original surveys as we could find. The Mills Maps of Chester and York counties (Figs. 19 & 20) were produced in 1825 and, unfortunately, don't have any information that is specific enough for us to place on the ground accurate locations along the county line. But the maps are not void of interesting and potentially helpful information. Fig. 21 shows a detail from the Mills map of York that helps explain the change in name over time from Ferral Creek to Greene Creek. On this map in 1825 the creek at the eastern end of the county line is still labeled with the name Ferral, but Major Green's home is prominently labeled and standing nearby, explaining how the community came to change the creek's name. At the western end of the line both maps (Fig. 22) show the line crossing a “lagoon.” While

the lagoon as shown is far from precise enough to establish an accurate location of the western terminus (especially in light of the fact that subsequent investigation indicates the extent of the lagoon is not accurately depicted on the published maps), it does provide some additional geographic information that can help to support, or overrule, a location ascertained by other methods. But most importantly for our purposes, the Chester map states that it is based on a survey done by Charles Boyd in 1818 (Fig. 23), just 21 years after the line was “Run and Marked” by the Commissioners in 1797. A reasonable assumption is that the line was still visible *as marked* when Boyd was in the field in 1818. Hoping that a copy of Boyd’s map still existed we continued our research.

Throughout our research Michael Scoggins with the Historical Center of York County was very helpful in providing us documents in their possession or in suggesting other resource we might pursue. We contacted Mr. Scoggins as we searched for a copy of the Boyd map and were delighted to learn that he did in fact possess a copy of it. Figs. 24, 25, 26, and 27 are show details of the map along the boundary with York County. This document is more of a working drawing than a map, although it does have a title block stating that the survey was performed at the direction of the Governor and the Legislature and which appears as though the document was intended to be presented in the fashion we find it. We thoroughly examined the document along the border with York County searching for anything that would give us a definitive point we could locate on the ground today. The county boundary is marked off in miles, and though there are no bearings along the roads they are drawn in tangent sections with distances that makes it appear that they were actually surveyed on the ground. Our

search found nothing definitive with regards to the location of the county line, however, the location and dimensions of the lagoon beside the Broad River (Fig. 28) differ from what is shown on the Mills Map and by all appearances are drawn from the results of measurements made in the field in 1818. We took note of this for future reference.

On a previous project locating the boundary between Cherokee County and York County we had been fortunate to have school district maps that accurately tied down points along that boundary along with locations of roads, houses, and other distinguishing features. Once again Michael Scoggins and the Historical Center of York County came through for us, having previously provided South Carolina Geodetic Survey with copies of all the school district maps along the Chester-York line with the exception of one, that one being School District #50. These school district maps were surveyed between 1912 and 1915 by H. E. Head, J. L. Stacy, and H. H. White, and all platted by J. L. Stacy. These maps are the oldest authoritative information available for reestablishing the county line. In fact, with only three exceptions, all the other surveys from 1915 forward that CESI obtained from the two county registries listed the county line as approximate. One was from 1916, contemporaneous with the school district surveys, and upon investigation in the field appeared to be valid. It is described at the appropriate point below. The two other exceptions were from 1974 and 1995. Both of those showed the county line without any qualifying adjectives. In one of those cases we contacted the sealing surveyor asking for any references or monuments that he had used in establishing the location of the county line and he was unable to provide any, stating that he didn't even clearly remember the survey. On the other the surveyor was not available but our staff visited with

the property owner asking for any background on the location and received no additional information, other than he had instructed the surveyor to divide his property along the county line so that his house lot would be entirely in York County. Our conclusion is that most likely the source for the location of both these was an attempt to scale the location from quad maps.

The eastern most plat is School District #46 shown in [Fig. 29](#). Examination of this plat reveals no specific information that would aid in locating the Chester-York line.

Adjacent is School District #5 shown in [Fig. 30](#). This plat shows a “Rock at road near shop” which is the corner in the county line with School District #50. As can be seen in [Fig. 31](#) the rock appears to be on the east side of the road and has a tie to the railroad trestle over Rum Branch of North 7° East, 4620 feet. There is still a trestle over Rum Branch ([Fig. 32](#)), and while it may not be the same trestle, by all appearances it is in the same location as the trestle in 1912. Additionally, there is a large rock on the east side of Harmony Church Road ([Fig. 33](#)). CESI staff located both the centerline of the track over the center of Rum Branch and the center of the rock. The plat bearing from the rock to the trestle is North 7° East versus our observed South Carolina Grid bearing of North 5° 33’ 14” East, a difference of only 1.5°. The map distance is 4620’ versus an observed distance of 4616.03’, less than 4’ different. Based on the measurements we concluded that the rock was the one indicated on School District Map #5, and based on the school district map we concluded that the rock was a point on the Chester-York county line.

School District Map #50 was not recovered, the next map to the west is the one that adjoins it, School District Map #14 (Fig. 34), and that school district adjoins School District #13 (Fig. 35) at the Old York-Chester Road (now known as Brattonsville Road/Darby Road). While neither of these maps shows a specific location in this road we have a contemporaneous survey (1916, just two years after the school district surveys) that shows the county line without any qualifying adjectives. This leads us to believe that this surveyor relied on the work retracing the county line done two years prior by J. L. Stacy on School Districts #13 and #14. Fig. 36 shows Chester Deed Book 149 Page 793, which has the County Line crossing the center of the property. Using GPS and conventional surveying to locate the remaining exterior property corners shown on this survey, CESI was able to use the distances and bearings on the map to calculate the center of the road at the Chester-York County Line, the point where School District Map #13 and School District Map #14 met. This gave us a third point along the county line.

School District Map #13 also shows the county line running through the "Old McNeal Place" near its western terminus. Locating this structure would give a definite location along the county line, but an inspection of county orthophotographs shows only a vacant pasture where the structure would have stood.

School District Map #13 adjoins School District Map #16 (Fig. 37), which in turn adjoins School District Map #15 (Fig. 38) and that map terminates at the Broad River, the western boundary of both Chester and York counties. Examining both these maps together showed several definitive locations where the county line might be reestablished. One was where the county line crossed Turkey Creek. At

that location there were marked trees shown on School District Map #16 at the time it was surveyed in 1914. Unfortunately, those trees were not found when School District #15 was surveyed the following year, possibly because of logging or because the mechanical channelization of Turkey Creek occurred in the interim. Elimination of that corner left two other specific map locations that could be used to reestablish the line. School District Map #16 shows the county line passing through the “Old Sanders Place” at a distance of 115.4 chains along the line from Turkey Creek (Fig. 39). That sub-distance, along with the total distance measured by Elder from the Broad River to Turkey Creek on School District Map #15 (Fig. 40) give us a total distance from the Broad River to the “Old Sanders Place.”

Using the 115.4 chain (7616.40') distance on School District Map #16 we measured back from the existing centerline of Turkey Creek and started looking near Suzy Bole Road (shown on School District Map #16 as Chester Road) for an old house site. This area has been extensively timbered but on the top of a knoll on the north side of Suzy Bole Road in a stand of older trees we found the foundation stones and chimney butt of a residential structure (Figs. 41 & 42). A search for deeds in this area with the Sanders name yielded a deed for an adjoining 213 acre property recorded in York County registry at Deed Book 571 Page 74 that referred to the adjoining property as “the Sanders Place.” In fact, the York County map of 1910 lists this general area as Sandersville (Fig. 43).

Using GPS and conventional surveying we field located the chimney butt and measured the distance from it to existing Turkey Creek (as determined from orthophotographs). That distance matched, but we

knew that Turkey Creek had been channelized at some point in the past and the current location might vary from the time the school district was surveyed. So as a further verification we compared the distance from the chimney butt to the point on the county line we had computed in the center of Brattonsville/Darby Road. School District Map #16 gives a total distance of 380.5 chains less 115.4 chains for a distance from the chimney butt to the corner of School District #13 of 265.1 chains. Adding this to the total distance along School District #13 of 445.00 chains yields a grand total of 710.1 chains or 46,866.6 feet. This compares with our observed grid distance between the two locations of 46,900.81', a pretty impressive correspondence varying by less than 35' and satisfying us that we had, indeed, located the "Old Sanders Place."

West of Turkey Creek School District Map #15 showed no specific items that would allow location of additional points prior to reaching the Broad River. The Commissioners' report of the 1797 survey called for an Ash and Black Gum where the line met the east bank of the Broad River. In order to have a calculated point from which to start a search for those two trees we used the distance to the Broad River from the chimney butt at the Old Sanders Place ($527 + 115.4 = 642.4$ chains or 42,398.4 feet) and swung an arc until it intersected the bank of the Broad River (as determined from orthophotography). This location had a bearing back to the Old Sanders Place that was only 12' different than the line between the Old Sanders Place and the point in the center of Brattonsville/Darby Road. The Commissioners' report stated that Ash and Black Gum stood on the lands of Robert Elliott. The current property owner is an LLC owned by Mr. William Thomson. Based on research the Thomsons have owned property here starting in 1803. We

were not able to connect the chain back to Robert Elliott, but we know that this location was also where Mary McCullough had a 1131.5 acre grant in 1771 and that she leased and released 941 acres of that tract to Robert Elliott in 1783 (Fig. 44) and sold him 100 acres in 1785. We contacted Mr. William Thomson and made arrangements for a site visit. We met Mr. Thomson and his son and grandson at the property on Friday, 15 December 2017, and all rode to the river in Mr. Thomson's 4-wheel utility vehicle. We navigated to the trial point location and then searched the river bank for almost a 1000' upstream and downstream of that coordinate. No 250 year-old ash or black gum was found during our search. Most trees appeared to be 50 years-old or younger and none over 100 years of age. With neither of these two trees extant we did not have a monument to tie down our location at the Broad River and needed to compute a location.

In considering the best solution for determining the location of the Chester-York County Line at the Broad River we considered three options, shown in Fig. 45. All three of these options are within 160' of each other north-to-south, so they are all very close, but our job was to identify the option which would have the soundest surveying and historical support for reaching that conclusion.

The first option was to use the trial point, the intersection of the composite distance from the Old Sanders Place derived from the information on School District Maps #15 and #16. The bearing to this point was only 12' off of a straight line from the Old Sanders Place to the point in the center of Brattonsville/Darby Road, but it deflected to the south going towards the river, the opposite of the way a line created by a compass survey would be expected to bend. While such a

situation could easily occur for a variety of reasons, it weighed against concluding that this was the correct location. The second was to actually use a curve based on the distance to the north pole. In 1797 the magnetic north pole was located at approximately latitude North 72° and longitude West 104°. That location is 2986 miles from the York-Chester County line. We calculated an arc with a radius of 2986 miles that passed through the Old Sanders Place and the calculated point on the west bank of the Catawba River and extended it to the Broad River. That location looked good, but we had one other potential location to investigate. School District Maps #15, #16, and #13 all show the county line bearing as South 89-1/2° East indicating a straight line all the way from the Brattonville/Darby Road, through the Old Sanders Place, to the Broad River. Using our locations we extended a line to the Broad River that followed the alignment from Brattonville/Darby Road to the Old Sanders Place. At the bank of the river that alignment was only 16' south of the 2986 mile radius arc. Based on the fact that the school district maps give this alignment as part of the historic record we felt that this was the proper alignment to use. But we wanted to investigate one more piece of evidence to see if it supported this decision.

We went back to Boyd's 1818 survey that was the basis for the 1825 Mills map. Using the mile marks along the county line we developed a scale for the map and used that to scale the length of the lagoon (Fig. 28) from the point the county line crosses to the lagoon's downstream terminus. Our scaling yielded a length of 1200'. We applied a 1200' radius to the centerline of the lagoon where the proposed county line crosses and drew a circle (Fig. 45). The circle crosses the lower end of the low area that would have been the lagoon in 1818 (wooded in the

figure) indicating our proposed county line is in substantially the same location as when Boyd surveyed in 1818.

From the calculated point described above on the east bank of the Broad River to the calculated point on the west bank of the Catawba River is 32.75 miles. From the Broad River to the Old Sanders Place is 7.99 miles, and from there to the centerline of Brattonsville/Darby Road is another 8.88 miles, making Brattonsville/Darby almost exactly the mid-point of the line. From Brattonsville/Darby Road to the rock on the east side of Harmony Church Road is 11.60 miles, the longest distance between points on this line, and from there to the Catawba River is another 4.28 miles.

❖ RESULTS

Our report on the final results starts at the Broad River and follows the Chester-York county line southeast, ending at the Catawba River. For convenience the report is broken into several sections along this boundary.

All coordinates for this project are reported in the South Carolina State Plane Grid Coordinate System and the distances in the final result and shown on the final plat are grid distances. At this location the grid distances are approximately 1/10,000 *shorter* than ground distances. Since CESI's final survey product is in grid distances, for simplicity's sake, where we are making comparisons we are using grid distances to compare with the original survey distances, which would have been ground distances, but which would not have been precise enough for the 1/10,000th difference between modern grid to ground to materially affect the comparison.

As shown on **Fig. 1** the grid bearing and grid distance from the calculated point on the east bank of the Broad River to the center of the chimney butt at the Old Sanders Place is South 89° 28' 06" East, 42,199.07'. From the Old Sanders Place to the calculated point in the center of the Brattonsville/Darby Road the bearing is also South 89° 28' 06" East and the distance is 46,900.81'. These bearings compare favorably with School District Maps #15, #16 & #13 which all show the bearing as South 89-1/2° East. The total observed distance from the Broad River to Brattonsville/Darby Road is 89,099.88 versus the distance from the school district maps of 89,265', a difference of 165' or less than 0.2%. The bearings also compare favorably with the statutes which call for a bearing of South 88° West, and compare

favorably with what we assume would have been an original survey bearing of Due West.

From Brattonsville/Darby Road to the rock on the east side of Harmony Church Road we have an observed grid bearing and grid distance of South 89° 56' 32" East, 61,223.10'. School District Map #14 says only that the bearing is "about" South 89° East and we are missing School District Map #50 so we cannot compare the total distance.

From the rock to the calculated point on the west bank of the Catawba River we have an observed grid bearing and grid distance of South 89° 52' 15" East, 22,627.47. School District Map #5 gives the first 10,460' of that line as running Due East, and School District Map #46 says of the remainder that the line was not run but gives a bearing of South 89-1/2° East and "about 220.00 chains." The bearings compare favorably with what we observed, but the distance is obviously in error because the total distance of both maps would exceed what was observed by 2353', off by almost 1/2 mile. Given that the School District Map #46 states this line was not run we conclude that there must have been an error in estimating the length of that line or there was an error in transcribing the distance.

❖ Additional Research and Evaluation

During the review of this report in early 2018 staff of South Carolina Geodetic Survey returned to SC Department of Archives and History to perform some additional research in one last attempt to discover if there were any maps, plats, or grants from during, or near, the time of the “New Acquisition” line survey, or of original Chester-York boundary survey, that may have been missed or overlooked. Through heroic effort SCGS staff was able to recover five plats that showed the Chester-York boundary as one of the property lines of the plat, or showed the line crossing the plat. These plats are the 1820 plat to McGriff, the 1821 plat to McNeel, the 1821 plat to Thomas, the 1829 plat to Williams, and the 1835 plat to McCool and are shown in Figs. 64-68. Of these plats two, the 1829 plat to Williams (Fig. 67) and the 1835 plat to McCool (Fig. 68), do not have enough information to either place them geographically or to accurately locate the county boundary. The other three, however, can be located fairly closely geographically and have a boundary line lying along the York-Chester county line. Two of these, 1820 McGriff (Fig. 64) and 1821 Thomas (Fig. 66), lie on a branch of Susy Boles Creek, show roads crossing the property (one road labeled as Quinns Road on both plats), and actually abut each other. Plotting these plats and placing them along present day Quinn Road gives graphical support to the location CESI has developed from the other available evidence for the Chester-York county line (Fig. 69), but the GIS information shows that the property corners for those tracts no longer exist, so there is no hard location to use as a starting point to survey in the line that was once the northern boundary line of these two tracts. Similarly, the 1821 McNeel plat (Fig. 65) can be placed by

the information available on present day Darby Road and the plat outline is still recognizable in current GIS information (Fig. 70). Once again, the platted location graphically supports the county line location developed from other evidence. In fact, the 1821 McNeel plat is the southern half of the 1916 plat (Fig. 36) used to establish the location of the county line at Darby Road. Thus, the information contained in this plat was, in some sense, used, but was from a more recent survey.

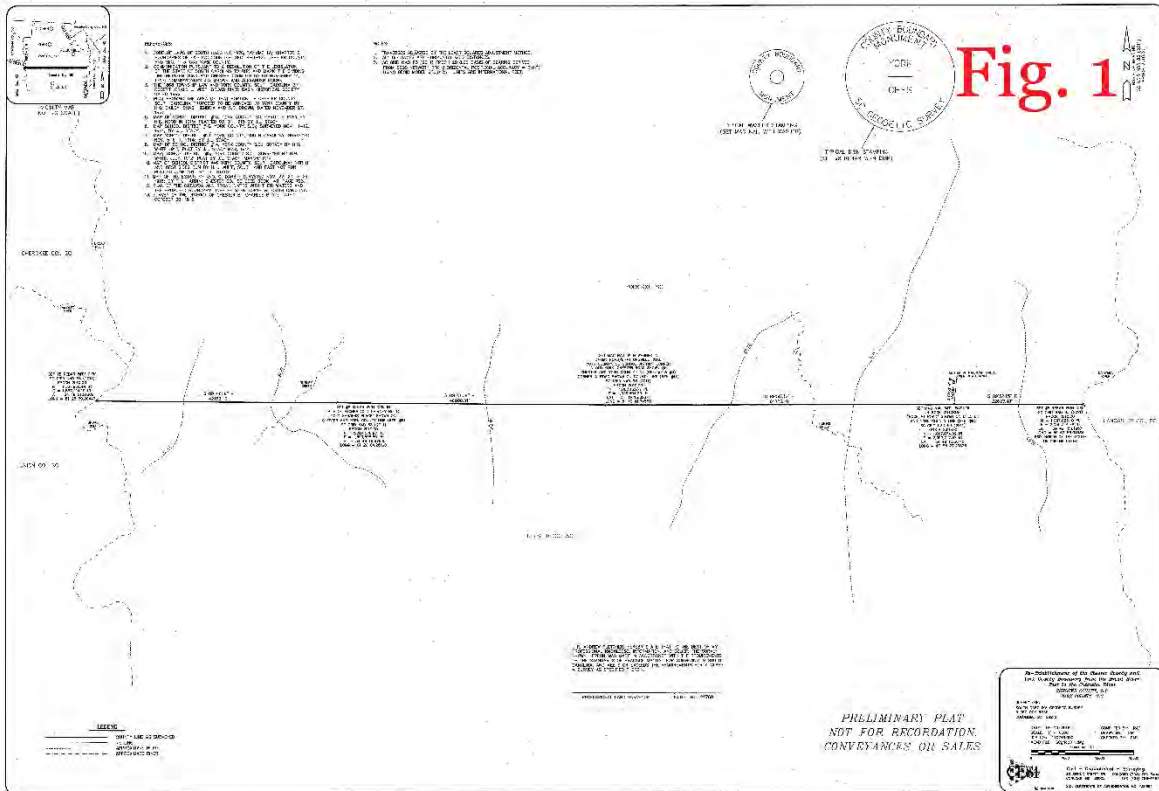
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❖ Final Thoughts

We *think* the original “New Acquisition” Boundary was run around 1770 and we *know* it was run by the Commissioners in 1797 and in both cases, it would have been surveyed with a magnetic compass. One of the features of surveys that attempt to run a straight bearing covering multiple miles using a magnetic compass is that they inevitably curve. This is due to the fact that, unless running due north or south, the magnetic compass is moving some distance east or west from the starting point. The magnetic compass determines bearing by pointing at magnetic north. But as the compass is moving east or west, the magnetic north pole remains (essentially) fixed in one place, thus all along the line being surveyed the lines that determine north are not parallel but are converging on the magnetic pole. This means that a needle in a compass that started at the Catawba River in around 1770 and then again in 1797 and surveyed a boundary to the Broad River would progressively turn clockwise, continuing to follow the magnetic north pole as the compass moved farther west and the pole remained fixed. By contrast, our survey is done in the South Carolina State Plane Coordinate system. This system establishes a statewide grid for determining coordinates that allows for measurements across long distances which compensates for the curvature of the earth. One of the features of this system is that ‘North’ is the same direction everywhere in the state, the direction is independent of magnetic north, thus the curvature of a line that was run with a magnetic compass becomes apparent in this system because as the line curves the grid bearings change and allow that curvature to be seen. That curvature is evident in our resurvey of the Chester-York county line. As

stated above we determined that in 1797 the magnetic north pole was at about latitude 72° North and longitude 104° West, 2986 miles away from our position. For an additional verification we created an arc with a radius of 2986 miles and that passed through the calculated points at the Broad River and Catawba River and checked to see how closely to that arc the intervening points lay. Starting at the Broad River and working east, the Old Sanders place lies 12' north of the arc, the calculated point in the center of the Brattonville/Darby Road lies 106' south of the arc, and the rock on the east side of Harmony Church Road lies 36' north of the arc. The fact that all three points lie very close to this arc adds additional evidence that these five points do indeed represent the location of the Chester-York line as surveyed by the Commissioners in 1797 who, in their own words, were following "*a Line Said to be the Line of the new acquisition.*"

❖ Appendix



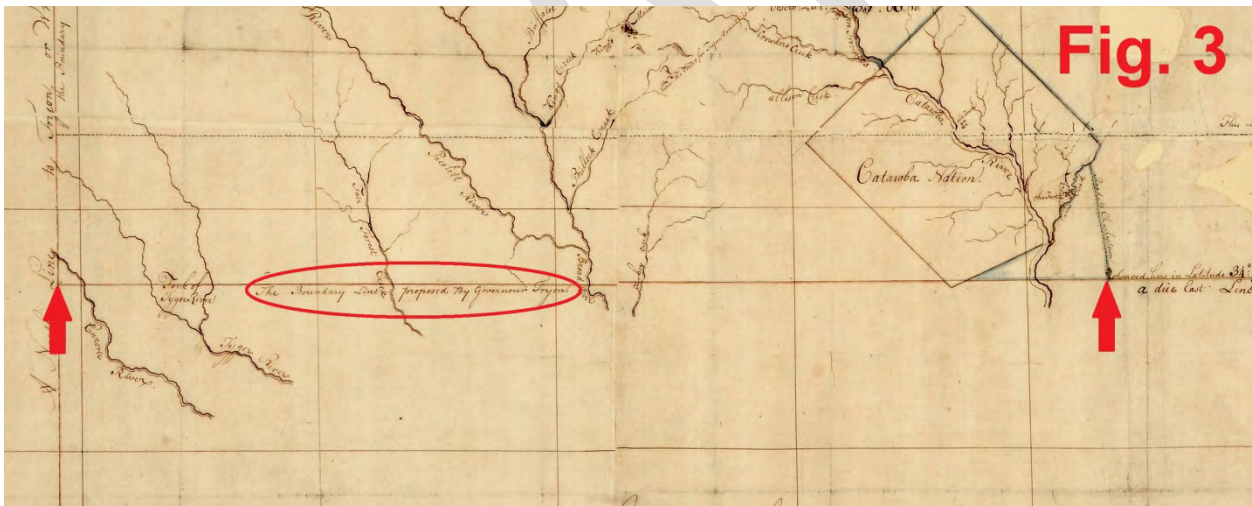


Fig. 4



DRAFT



S165029: Miscellaneous Communications to the General Assembly

BROWN, J. O. AND ALEXANDER MOORE, COMMISSIONERS TO RUN THE DIVIDING LINE BETWEEN YORK AND CHESTER COUNTIES, REPORT OF THEIR FINDINGS. (2 PAGES)

[Previous](#) | [Return to image index](#) | [Next](#)

1797-1-01

State of South Carolina

Pursuant to a resolution of the Legislature of Said State
 We have been and marked the dividing line between
 York and Chester Counties beginning at a Hickory on the
 S. W. Side of Catawba River about Ten Chains above the
 Mouth of Ferrels Creek, running nearly S⁸⁸W by
 a line said to be the line of the new acquisition to an
 Ash and black Gum on the bank of Broad River
 on the lands of Robert Colhett

Done by the 14th Day of November 1797

J. B. T. W. } Commissioners
 A. C. C. }

W. Gaston D. S.
 J. M. Clenahan D. S.

Fig. 5

Name Index

Brown, Joseph
 Brown, Stewart
 Chapman, William
 Dickey, George
 Feemster, Joseph
 Feemster, Samuel
 Floyd, Matthew
 Galloway, William
 Gambel, Samuel
 Gaston, William
 Gilmore, John
 Givins, Daniel
 Givins, Samuel
 Goyan, Drury
 King, George
 Kirkpatrick, Arthur
 Kirkpatrick, James
 Kirkpatrick, John
 Kirkpatrick, Robert
 Leech, David
 Lockhart, Aaron
 Long, John
 Love, Benjamin
 Love, Eli
 Love, James
 Love, John
 Love, John Royal
 Love, Robert
 McCool, John
 McCullough, Mary
 Miles, James
 Miles, John
 Minter, William
 Robinson, Anne
 Robinson, Archibald
 Robinson, Joseph
 Rogers, Clayton
 Tindall, Robert
 Tombs, Alexander
 Tomb, David
 Williams, Moses
 Wilson, James
 Wilson, John
 Young, James

Early Landowners On Broad River & Turkey Creek

Chester and
 York Counties
 South Carolina

HERITAGE MAP
 Researched and Drawn by
 Thomas Mayhugh
 2013
 In Association With:
 Chester District Genealogical Society

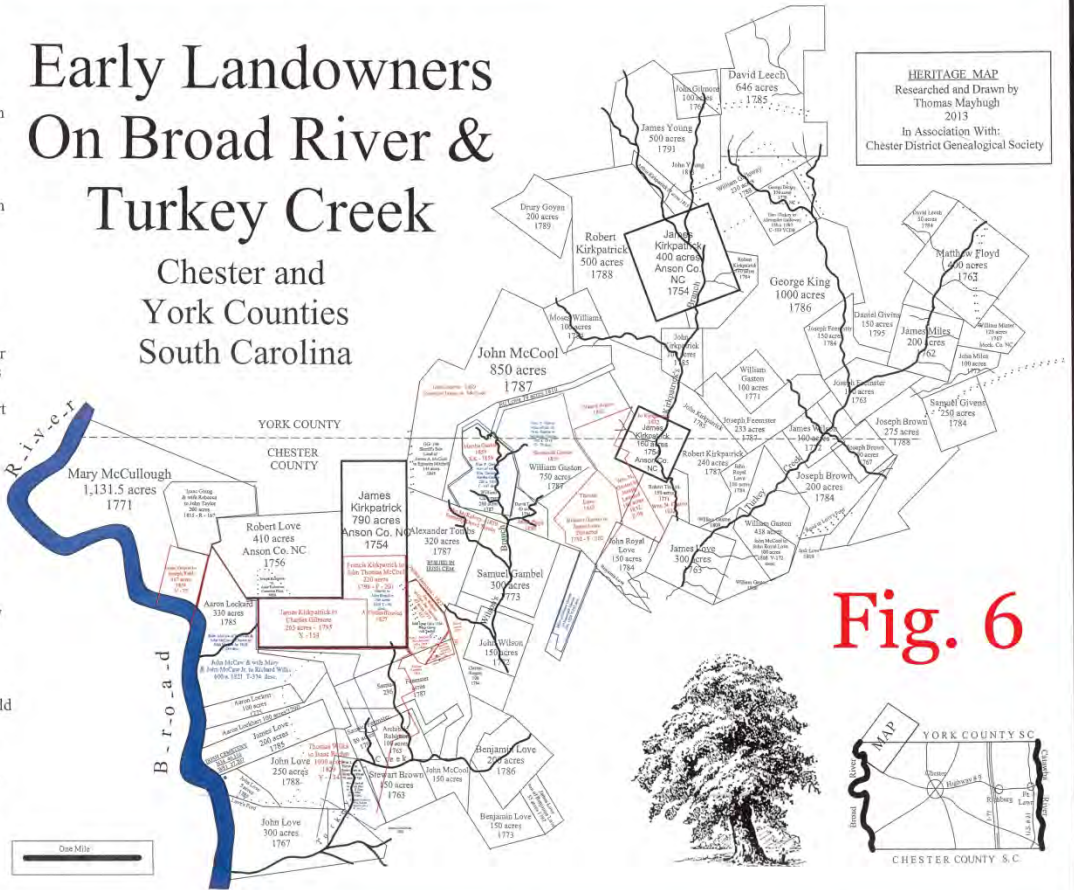


Fig. 6

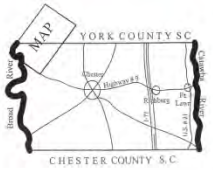


Fig. 7

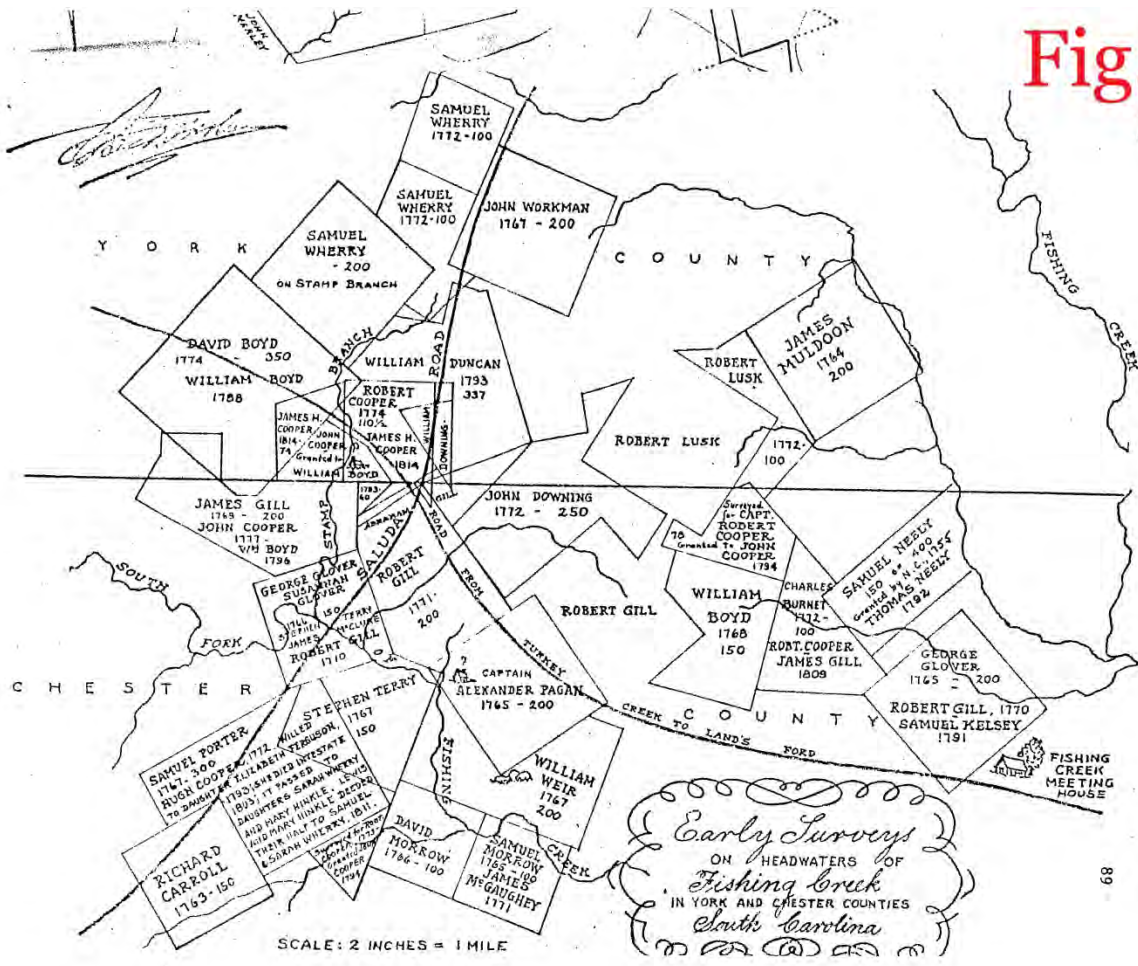


Fig. 8

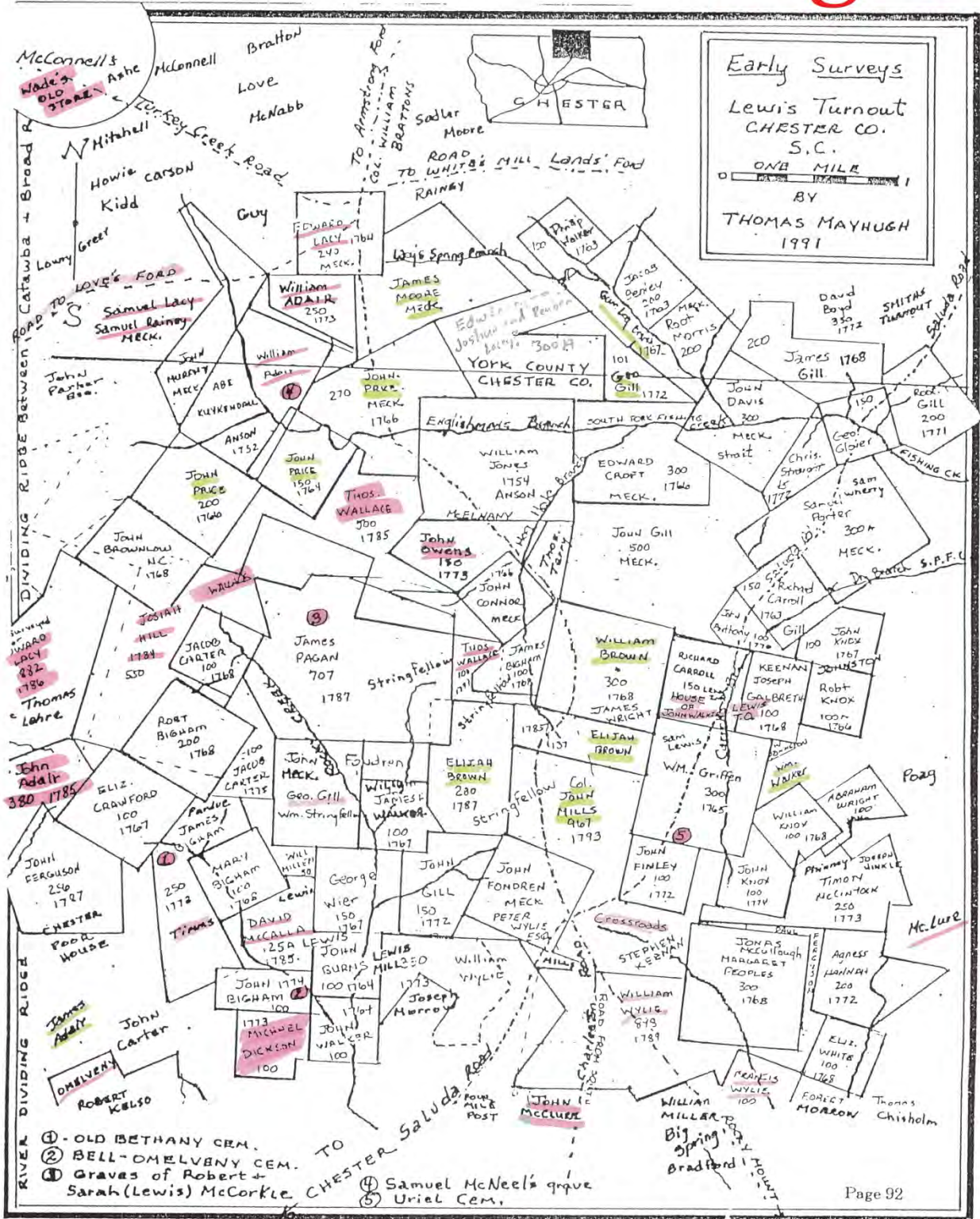


Fig. 9

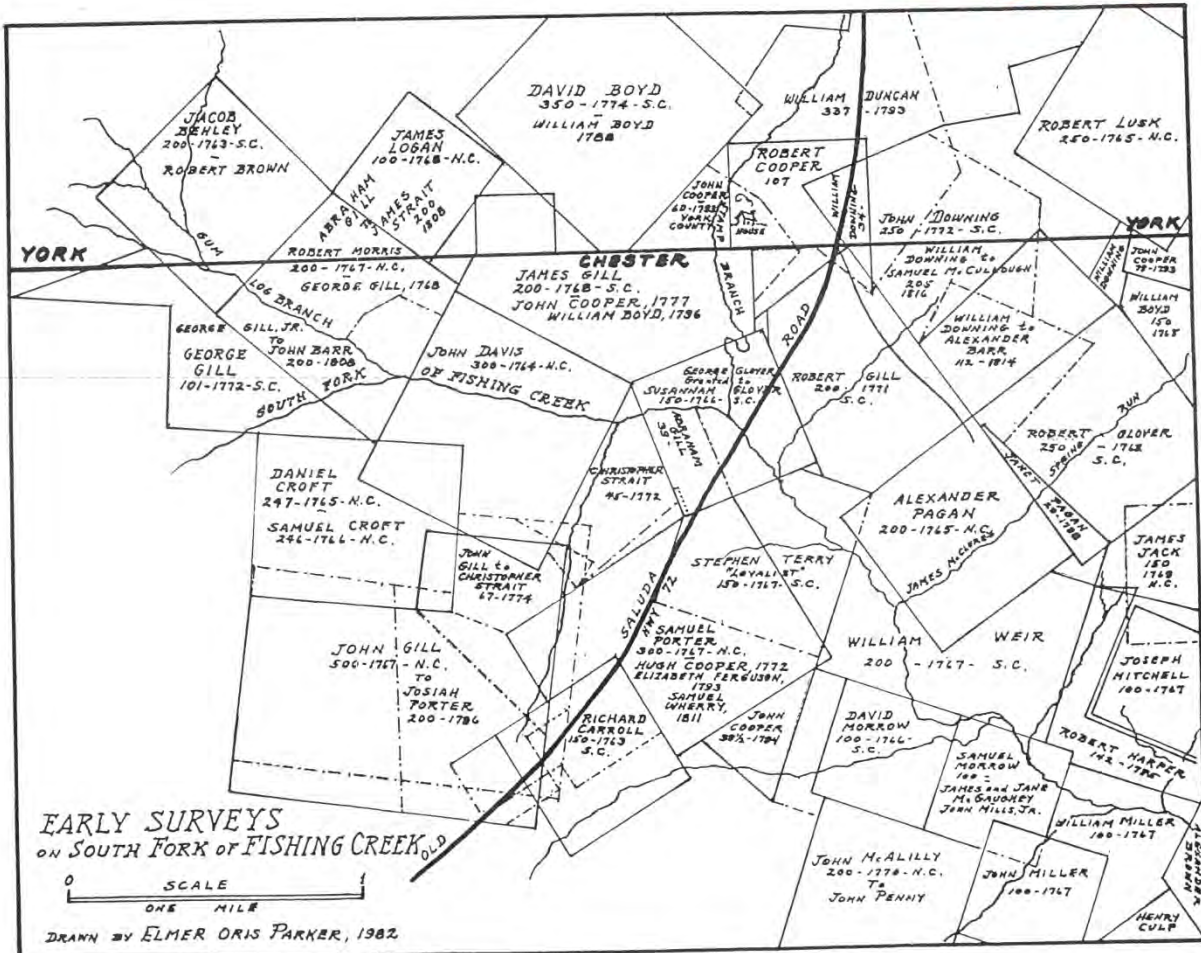


Fig. 10

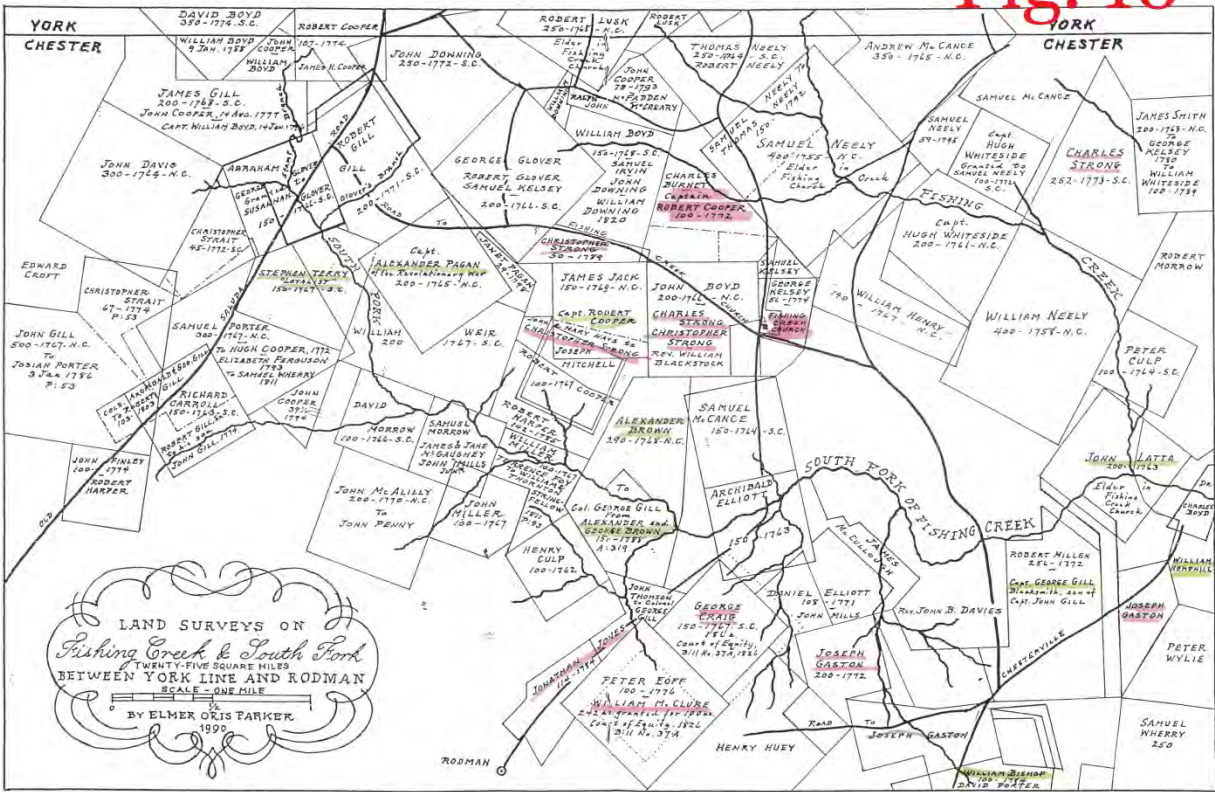
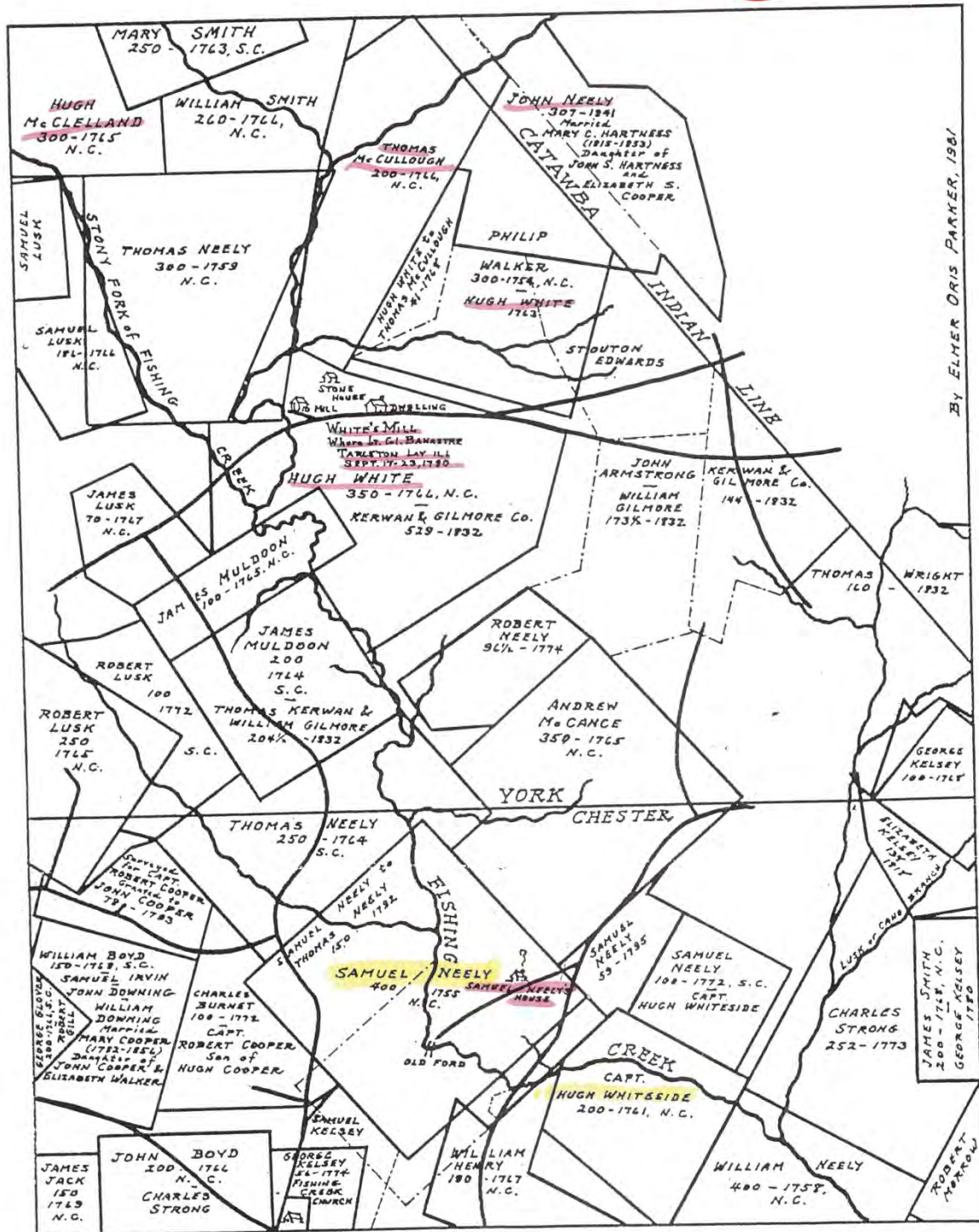


Fig. 11



BY ELMER ORIS PARKER, 1981

MAP OF EARLY LAND SURVEYS IN THE VICINITY OF WHITE'S MILL AND FISHING CREEK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH.

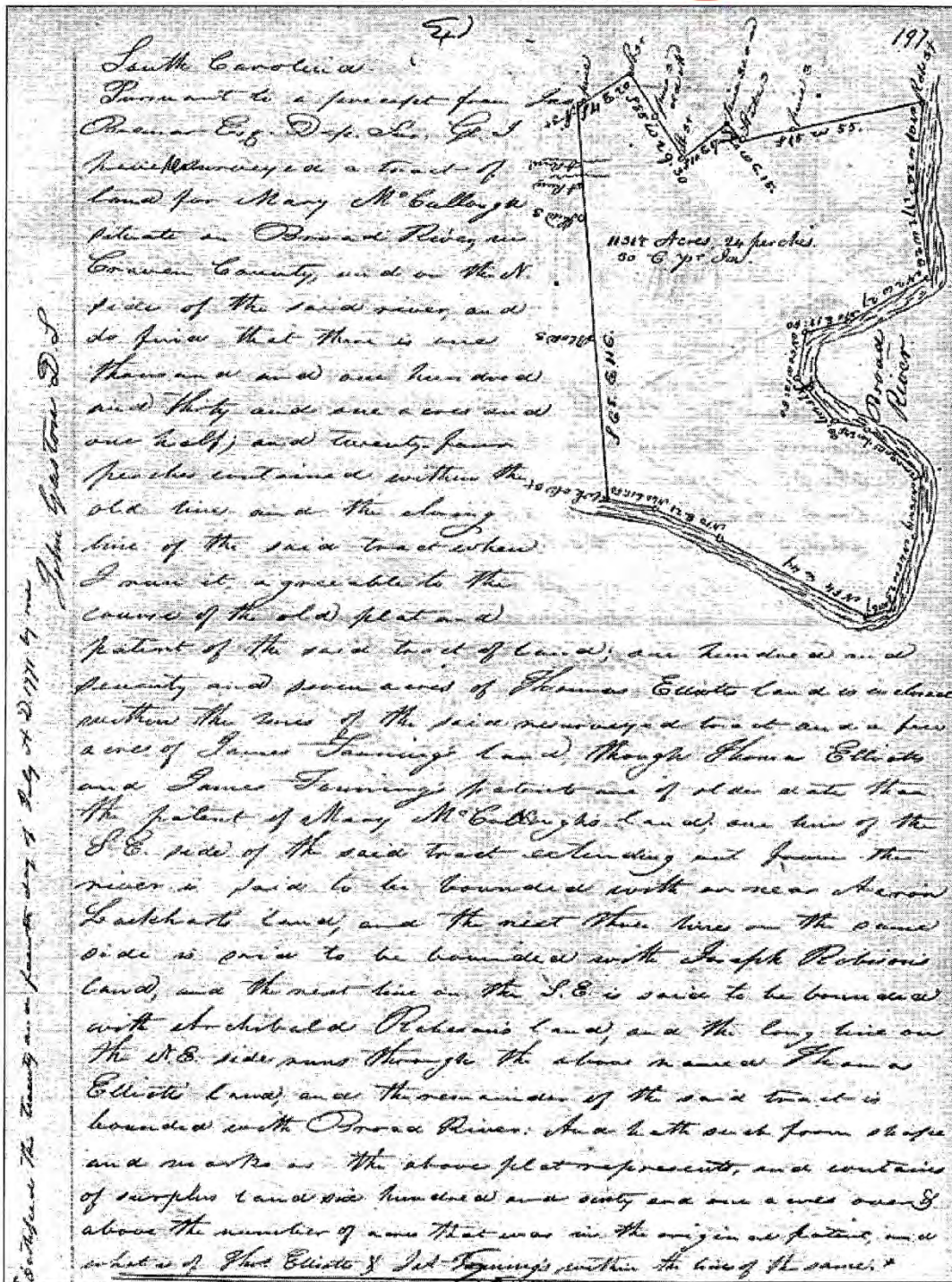


S213184: Colonial Plat Books (Copy Series)

MCCULLOUGH, MARY, PLAT FOR 1,131.5 ACRES ON BRADLEY

[Previous](#) | [Return to image index](#) | [Next](#)

Fig. 12



[Previous](#) | [Return to image index](#) | [Next](#)

Fig. 13

M-5, 317-318: Lease and release. 10 Apr 1775, Henry Mouzon Jun'r of St. Stephens Parish, gentleman, to William Nisbett of Charles Town, esquire, for £5 SC money, 1000 acres in Craven County on south side Waccamaw River and north of Little River adj. land of Benjamin Gauze, John Gauze, Mrs. Frink[?], and said William Nisbett, granted to said Henry Mouzon Junior 3 April instant. Henry Mouzon Jun'r (LS), Wit: Jas Sample Jun'r, Tho Winstanley. Proved by the oath of Thos Winstanly 11 Apr 1775 before William Rugeley, J.P. Recorded 15 Jan 1785.

M-5, 318-319: Lease and release. 2 & 3 Feb 1775, Henry Mouzon Jun'r of St. Stephens Parish, gentleman, to William Nisbett of Charles Town, esquire, for £20 SC money, 1000 acres in Prince Georges Parish Winyaw in Craven County adj. land of said William Nisbett, granted to said Henry Mouzon Junior on 6 Jan last. Henry Mouzon Jun'r (LS), Wit: Bull Bellinger, Tho Winstanley. Proved by the oath of Thos Winstanly 7 Feb 1775 before William Rugeley, J.P. Recorded 15 Jan 1785.

M-5, 319-320: Lease and release. 28 Nov 1783, Mary McCollough of Camden District, St. Marks Parish, to Robert Elliot of same district and parish, for £50 sterling, 941 acres granted to said Mary McCullough 31 Jan 1772 on north side Broad River including his own improvement. Mary McCullough (mark), Wit: Saml Torbert, Drury Going. Proved in Camden District by the oath of Samuel Torbert 29 Dec 1784 before Frame Woods, J.P. Recorded 17 Jan 1785.

M-5, 320-322: Lease and mortgage. 24 & 25 Sept 1783, David Ramsay of Charleston, Physician, and Frances his wife, to Thomas Legare, Esquire, by bond in the penal sum of £6526 sterling, mortgage of lot on Broad Street in Charleston, number 106, adj. land of Sampson Simons, Philip Meyer, Miss Mary Ellis. David Ramsay (LS), Frances Ramsay (LS), Wit: Jno Stevenson, Wm. Print. Proved by the oath of John Stevenson 18 Jan 1785 before John Troup, J. P. Recorded 18 Jan 1785. Mortgage satisfied 5 Sept 1796.

M-5, 322-323: Lease and release. 12 & 13 Feb 1784, John Steen of Ninety Six District to William Lipscomb of same district, by grant 17 May 1754 by North Carolina to John Steen, below joining main Thicketty below William Thomson 1754. John Steen (LS),



Fig. 15

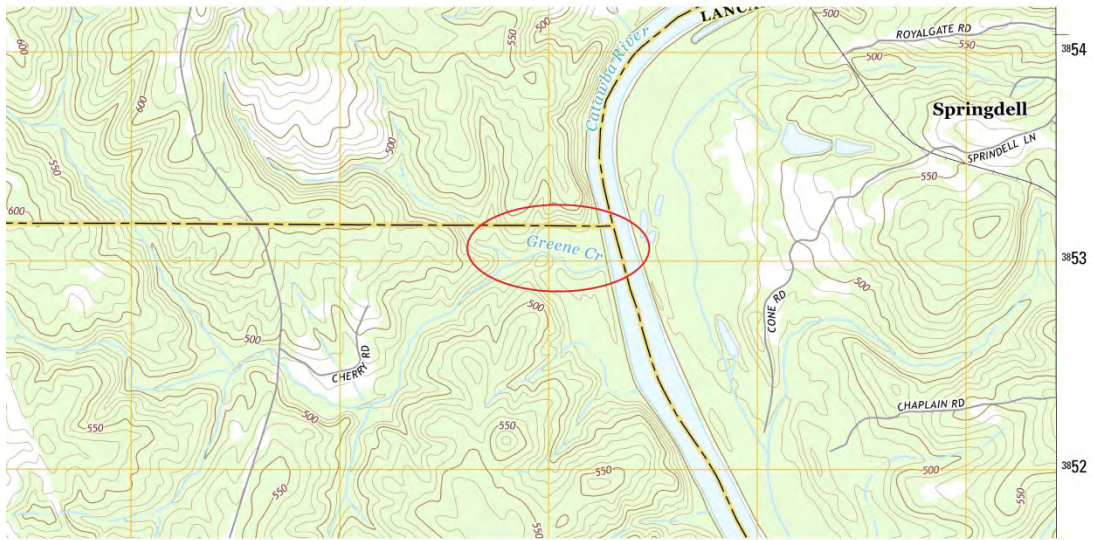




Fig. 17



Fig. 18

Fig. 19

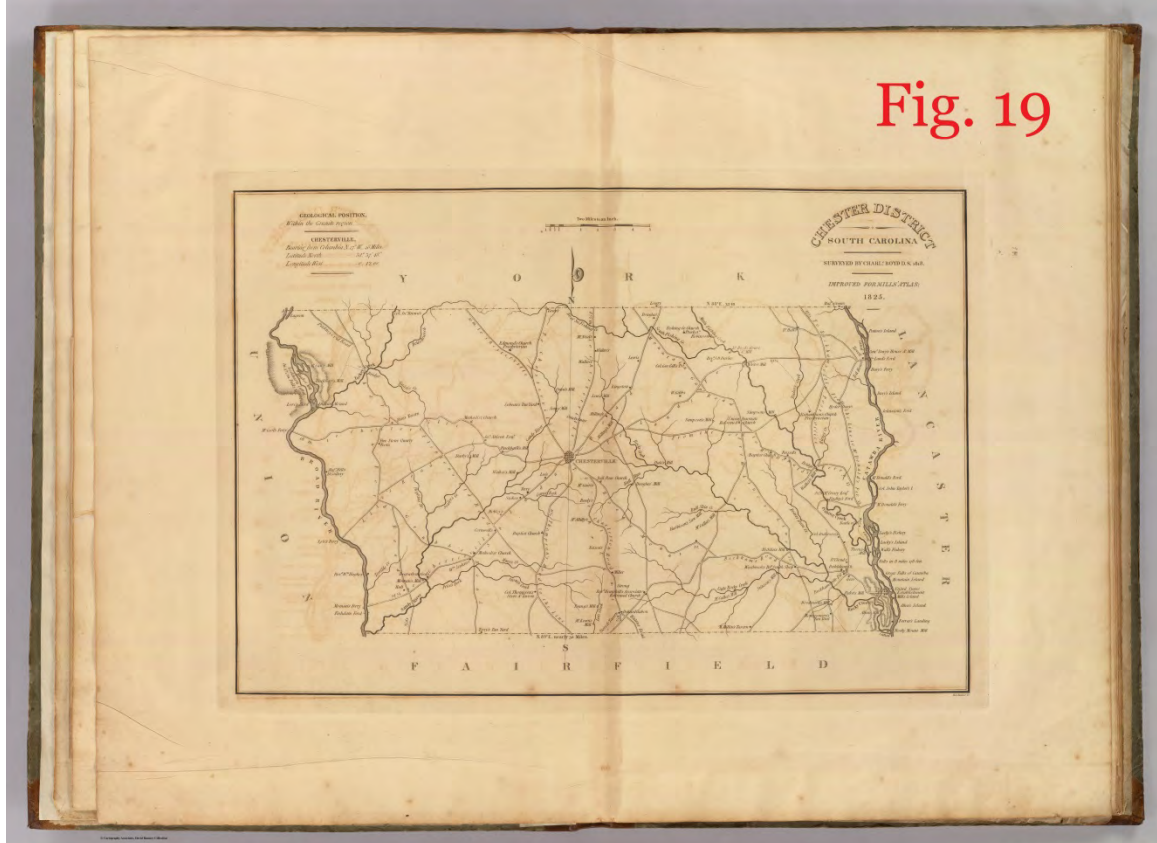


Fig. 20



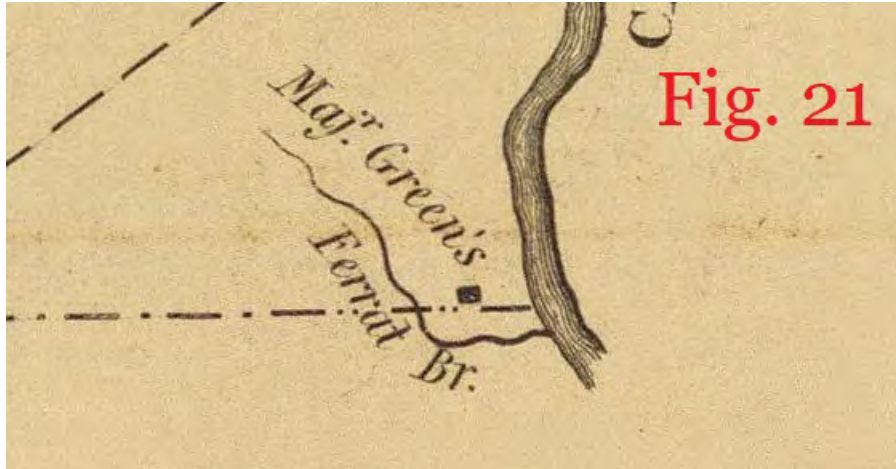


Fig. 21

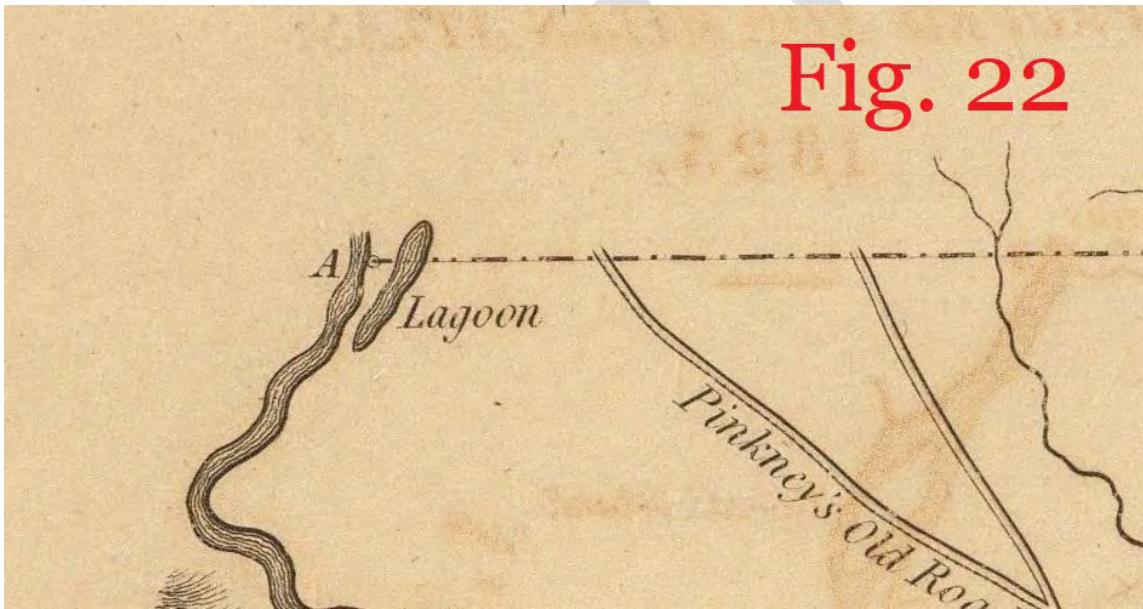


Fig. 22

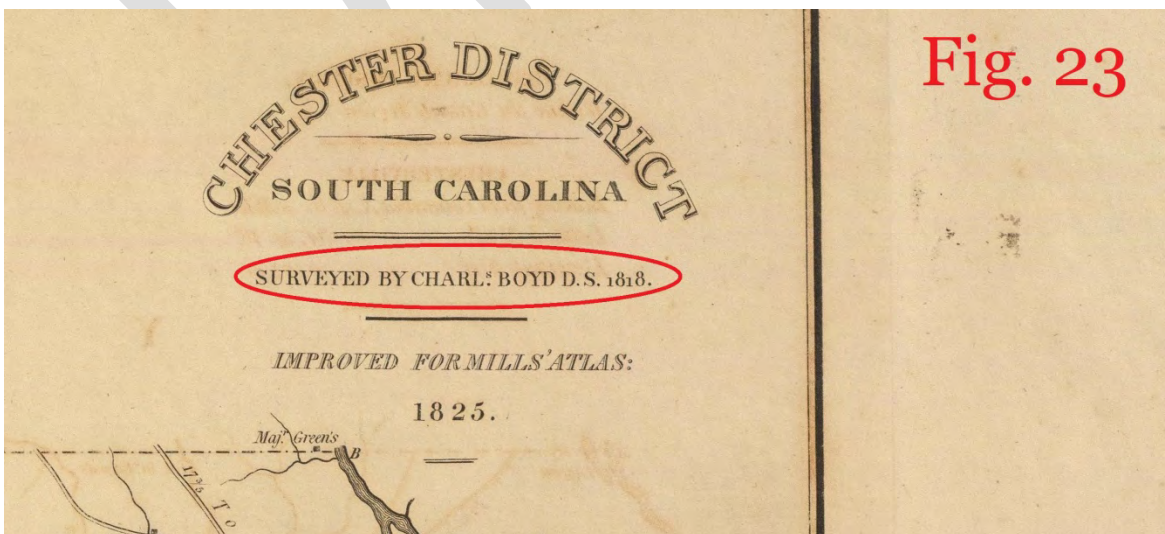


Fig. 23

Fig. 24

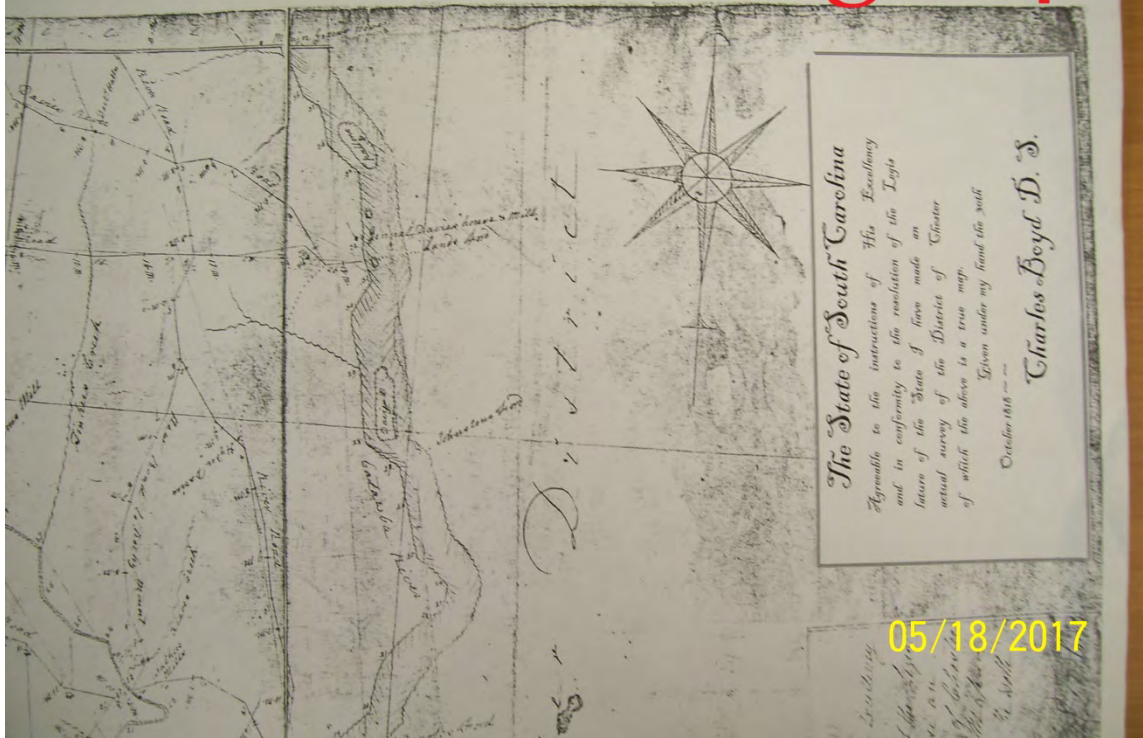


Fig. 25



Fig. 26

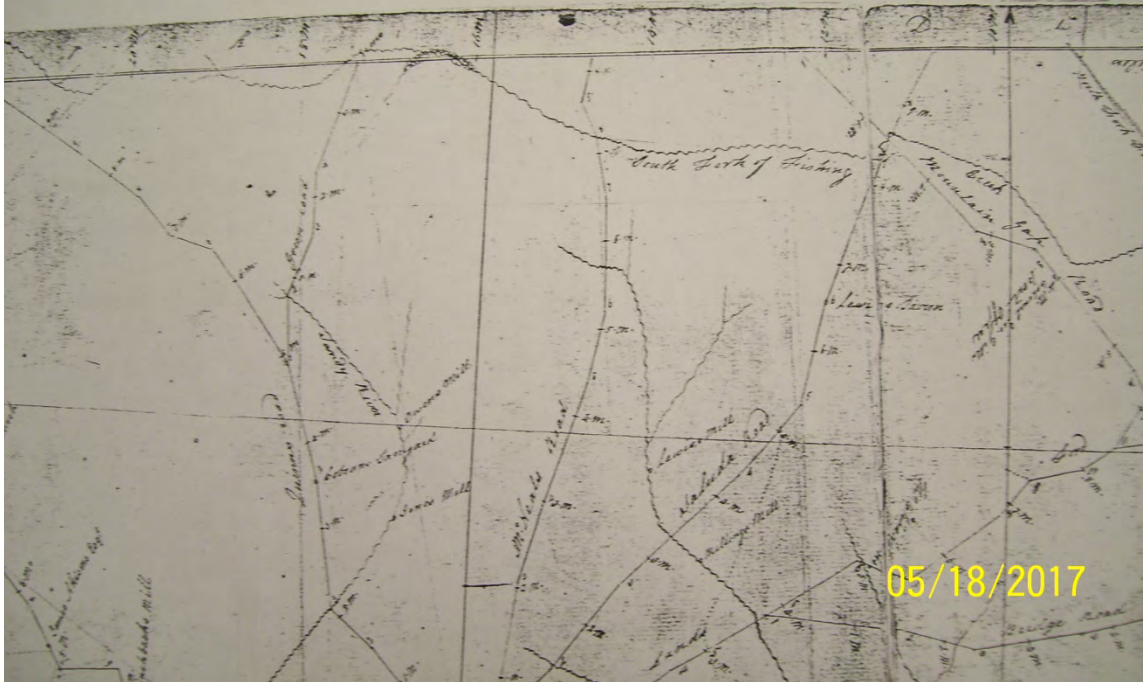


Fig. 27

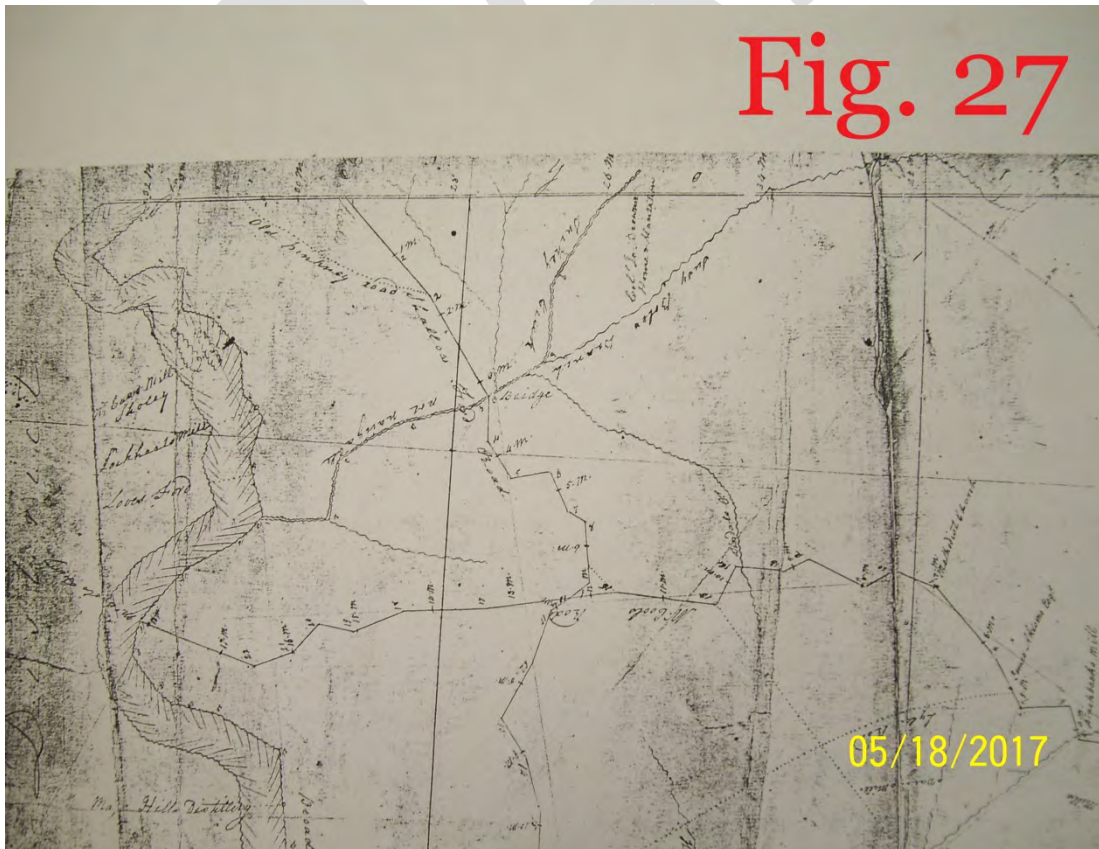
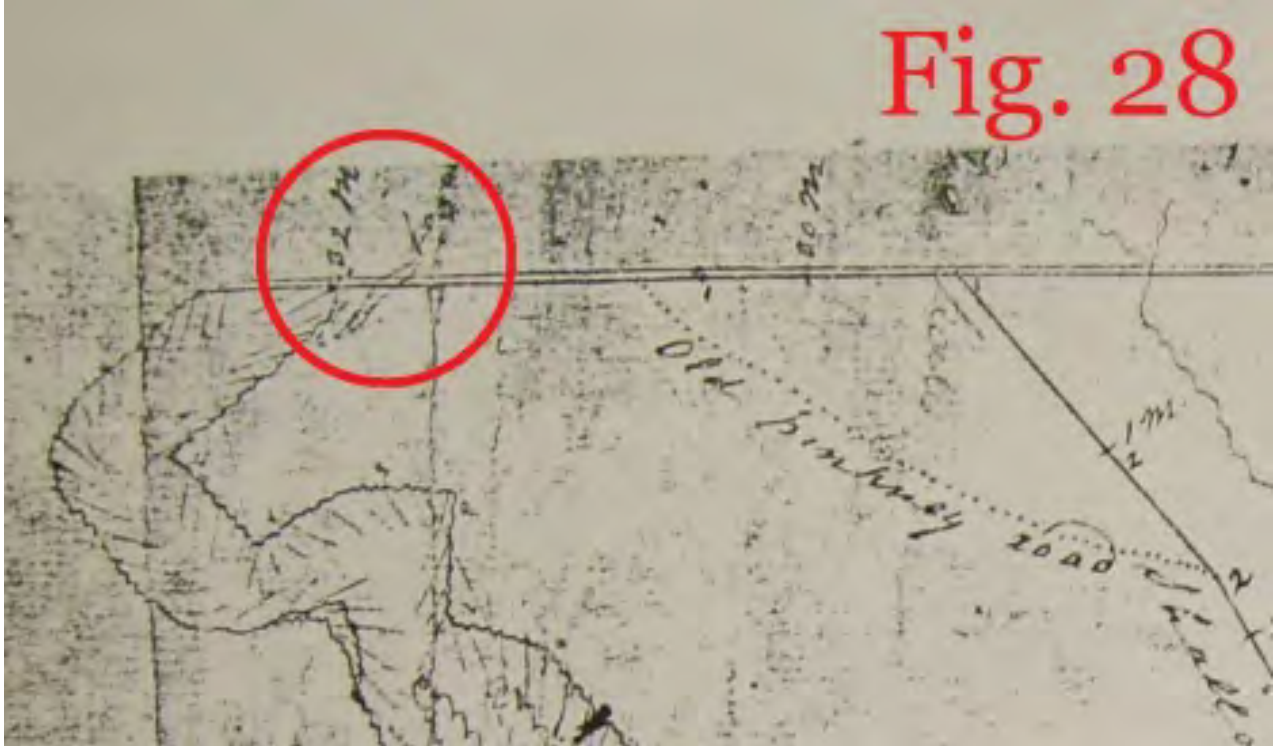


Fig. 28



DRAFT

Fig. 31

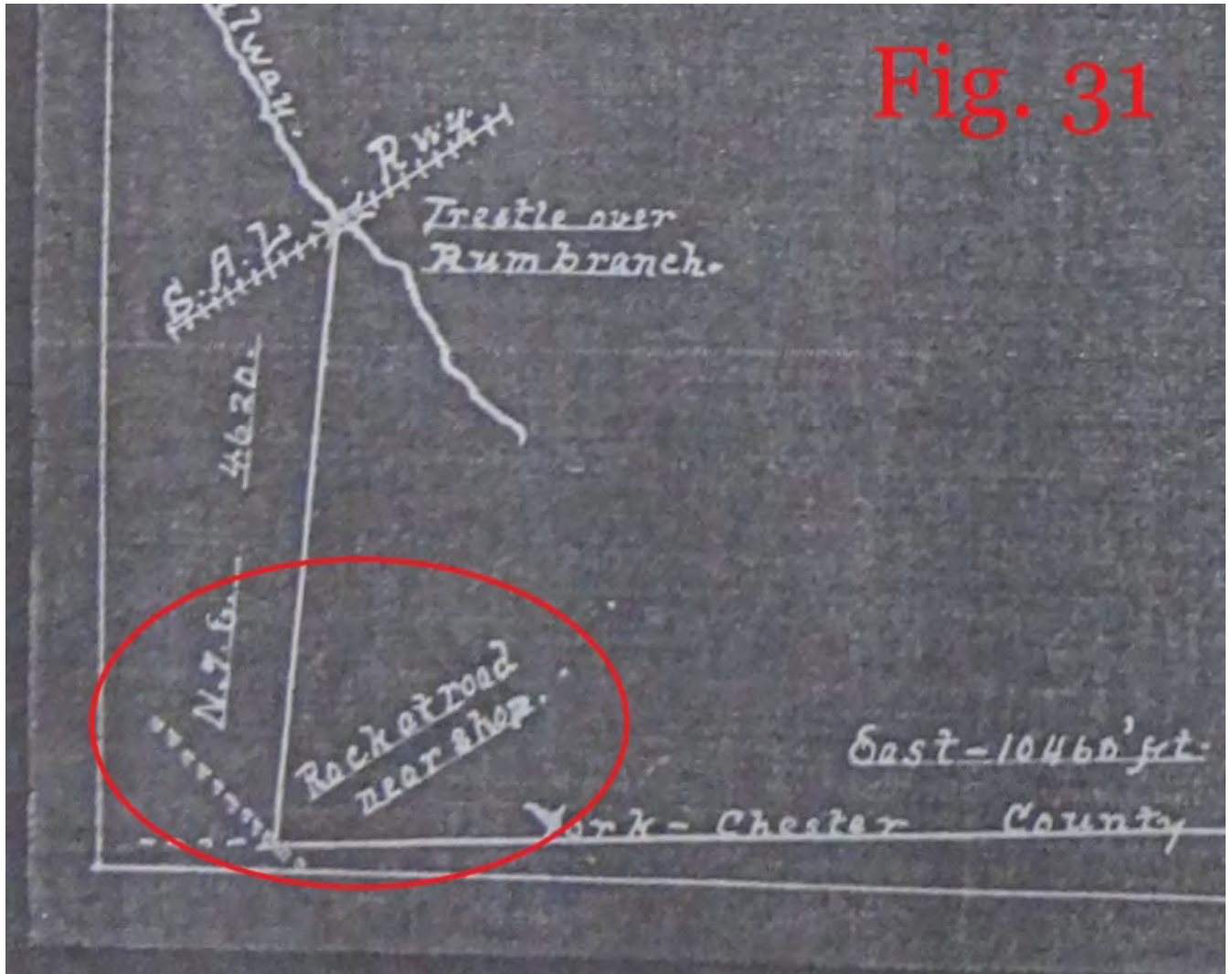


Fig. 32



Fig. 33



Fig. 35

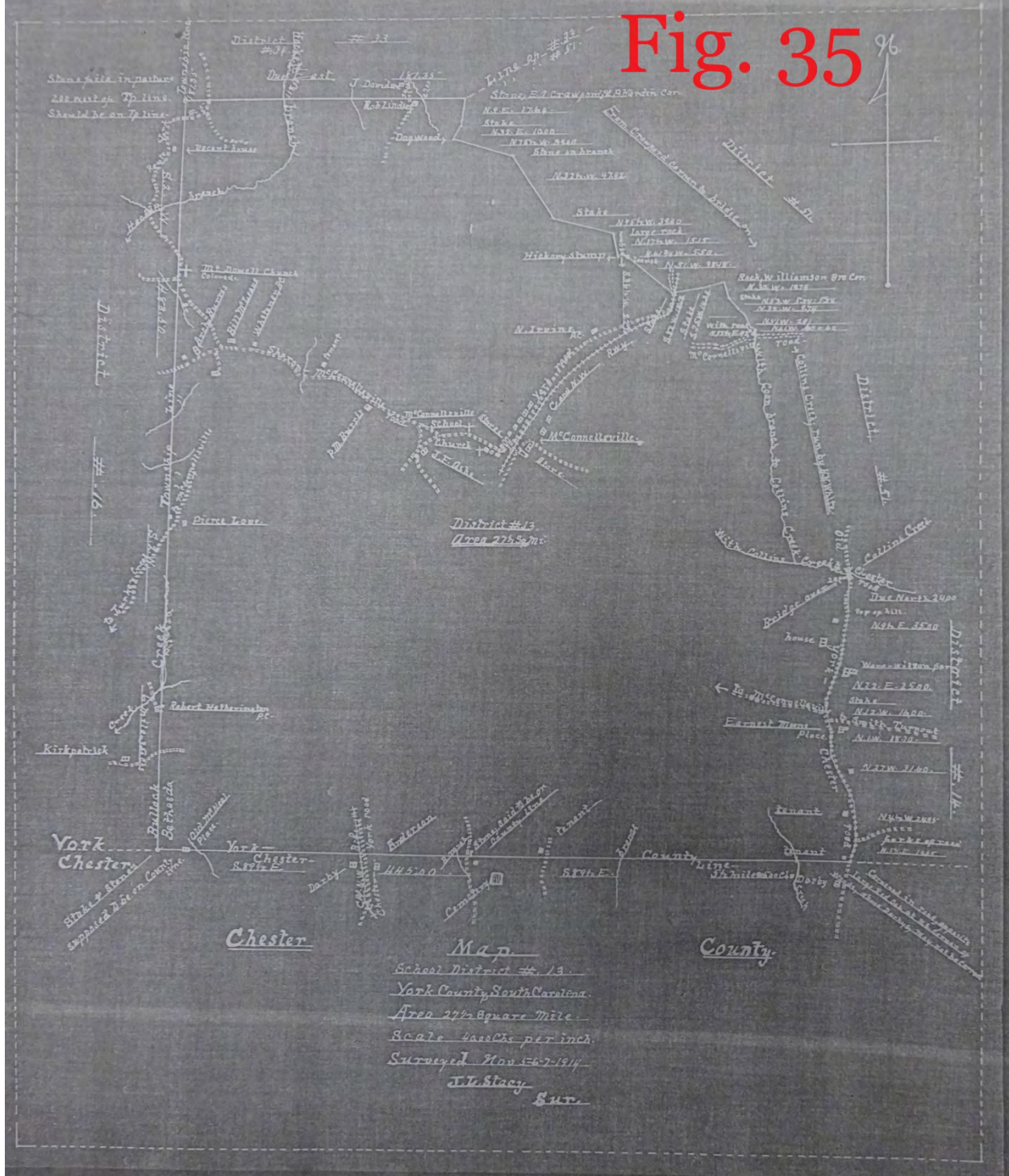
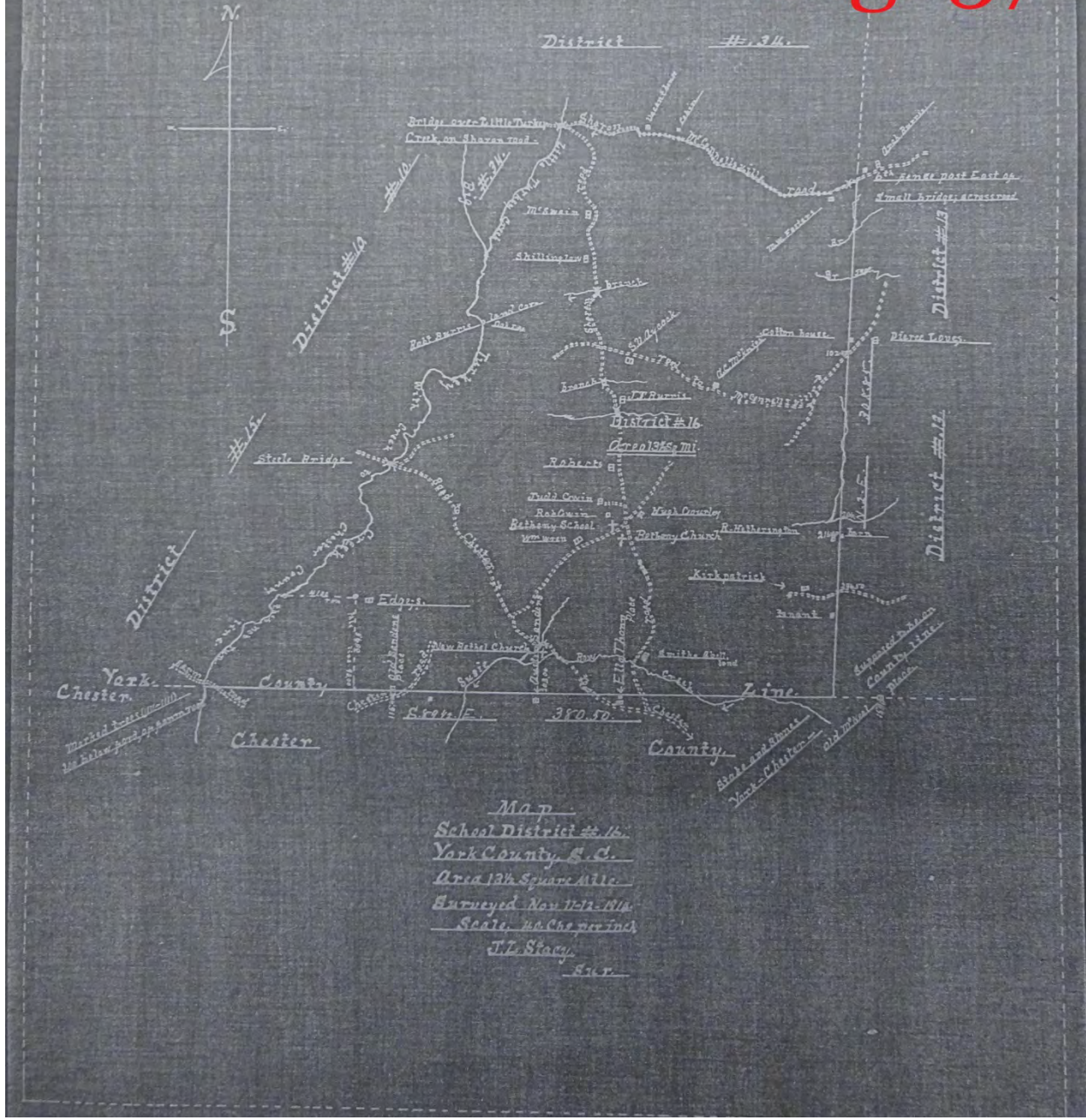


Fig. 37



Map
School District #16
York County, S.C.
Area 13 1/2 Square Miles
Surveyed Nov 11-12-1914
Scale, 1/2 inch = 1/2 mile
J.L. Stacy
Sur.

Fig. 38

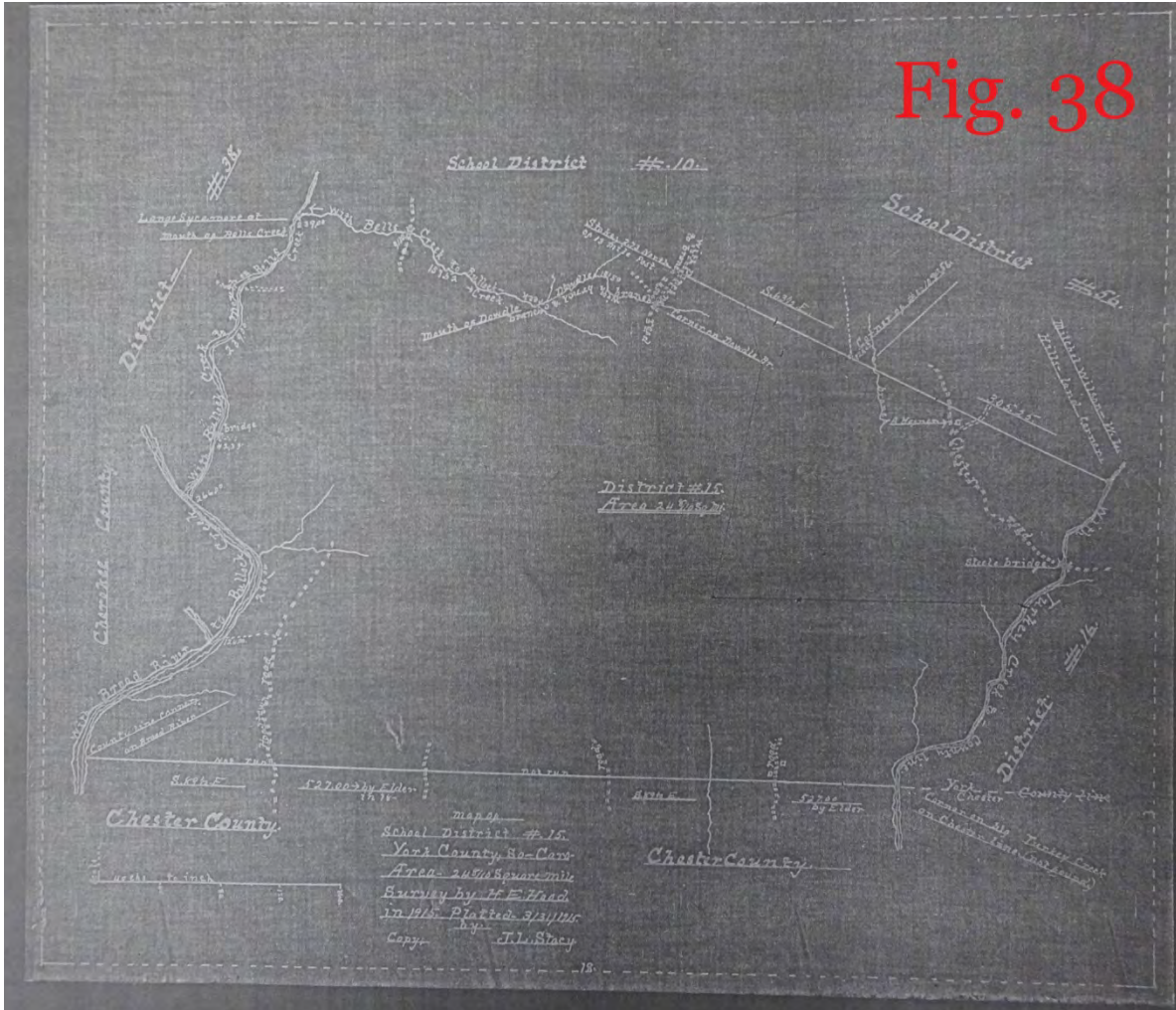
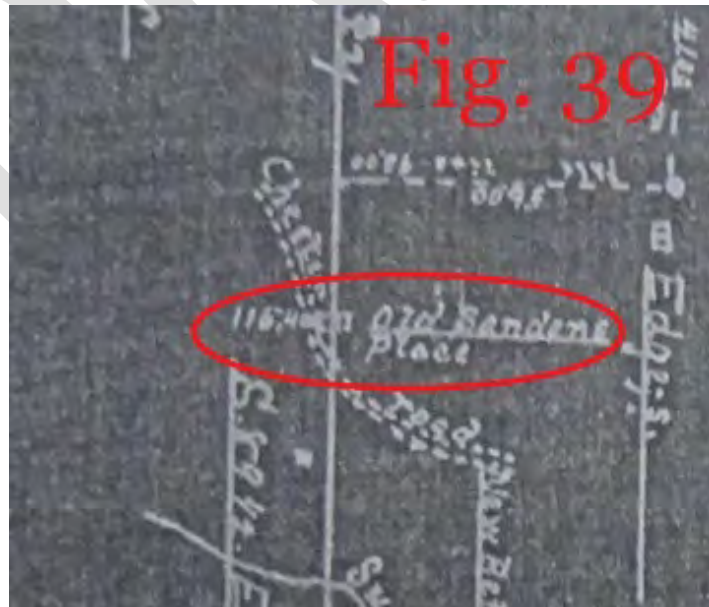


Fig. 39



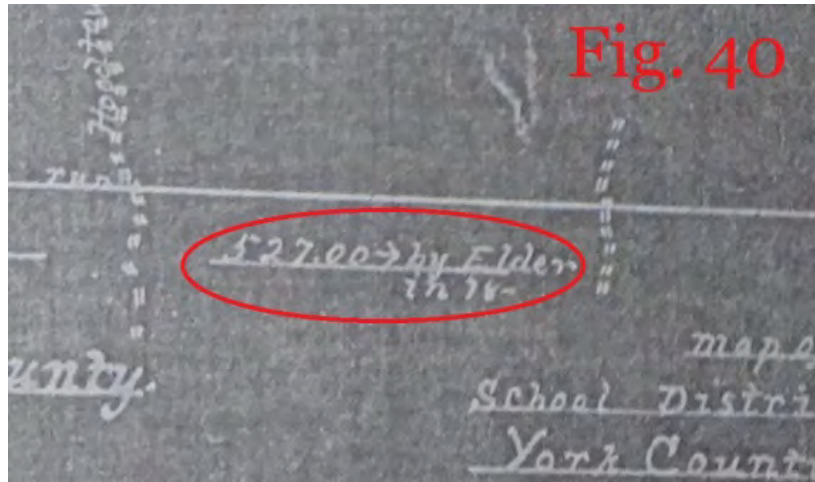


Fig. 42

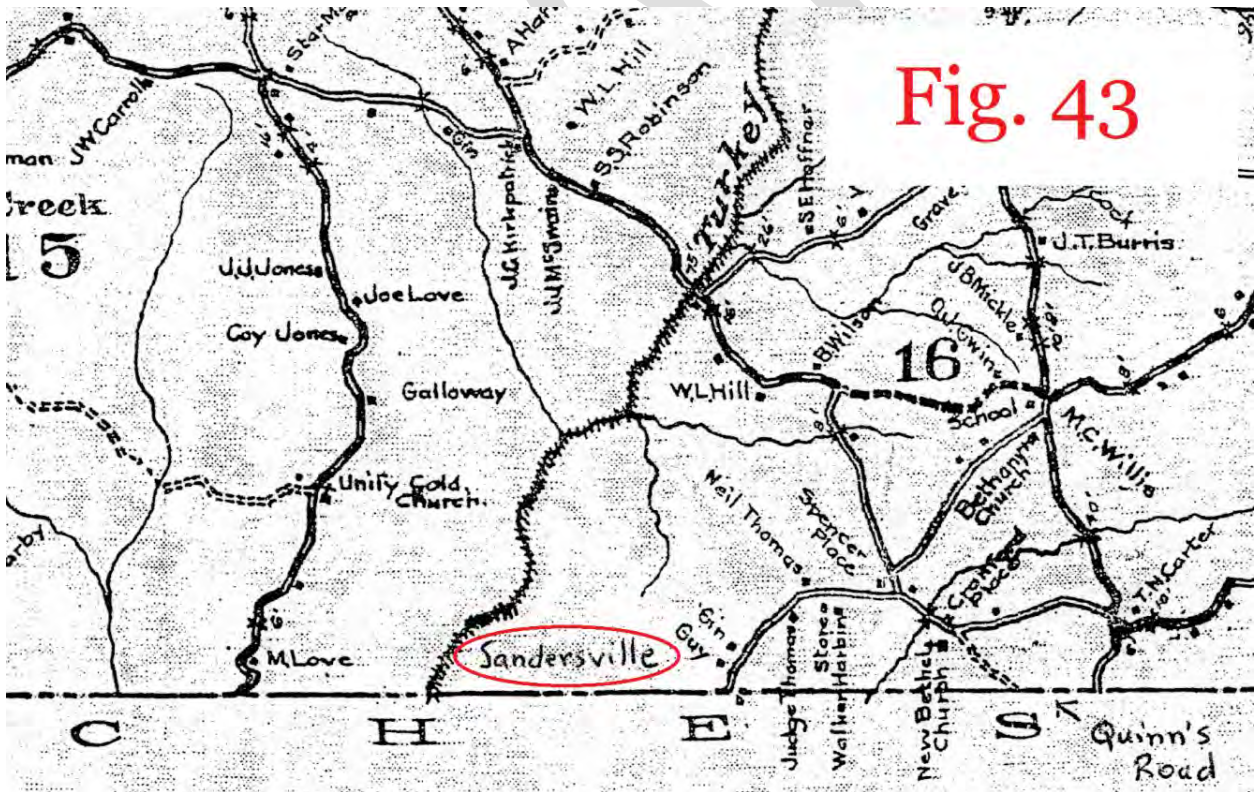


Fig. 43

M-5, 318-319: Lease and release. 2 & 3 Feb 1775, Henry Mouzon Jun'r of St. Stephens Parish, gentleman, to William Nisbett of Charles Town, esquire, for £20 SC money, 1000 acres in Prince Georges Parish Winyaw in Craven County adj. land of said William Nisbett, of Benjamin Gauze, John Gauze, Mrs. Frink[?], and said Henry Mouzon Junior 3 April instant. Henry Mouzon Jun'r The Winstanley. Proved by the oath of Thos Winstanley, J.P. Recorded 15 Jan 1785.

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M-5, 320-322: Lease and mortgage. 24 & 25 Sept 1783, David Ramsay of Charleston, Physician, and Frances his wife, to Thomas Legare, Esquire, by bond in the penal sum of £6526 sterling, mortgage of lot on Broad Street in Charleston, number 106, adj. land of Sampson Simons, Philip Meyer, Miss Mary Ellis. David Ramsay (LS), Frances Ramsay (LS), Wit: Jno Stevenson, Wm. Print. Proved by the oath of John Stevenson 18 Jan 1785 before John Troup, J. P. Recorded 18 Jan 1785. Mortgage satisfied 5 Sept 1796.

M-5, 322-323: Lease and release. 12 & 13 Feb 1784, John Steen of Ninety Six District to William Lipscomb of same district, by grant 17 May 1754 by North Carolina to John Steen, below joining main Thicketty below William Thomson

Fig. 44

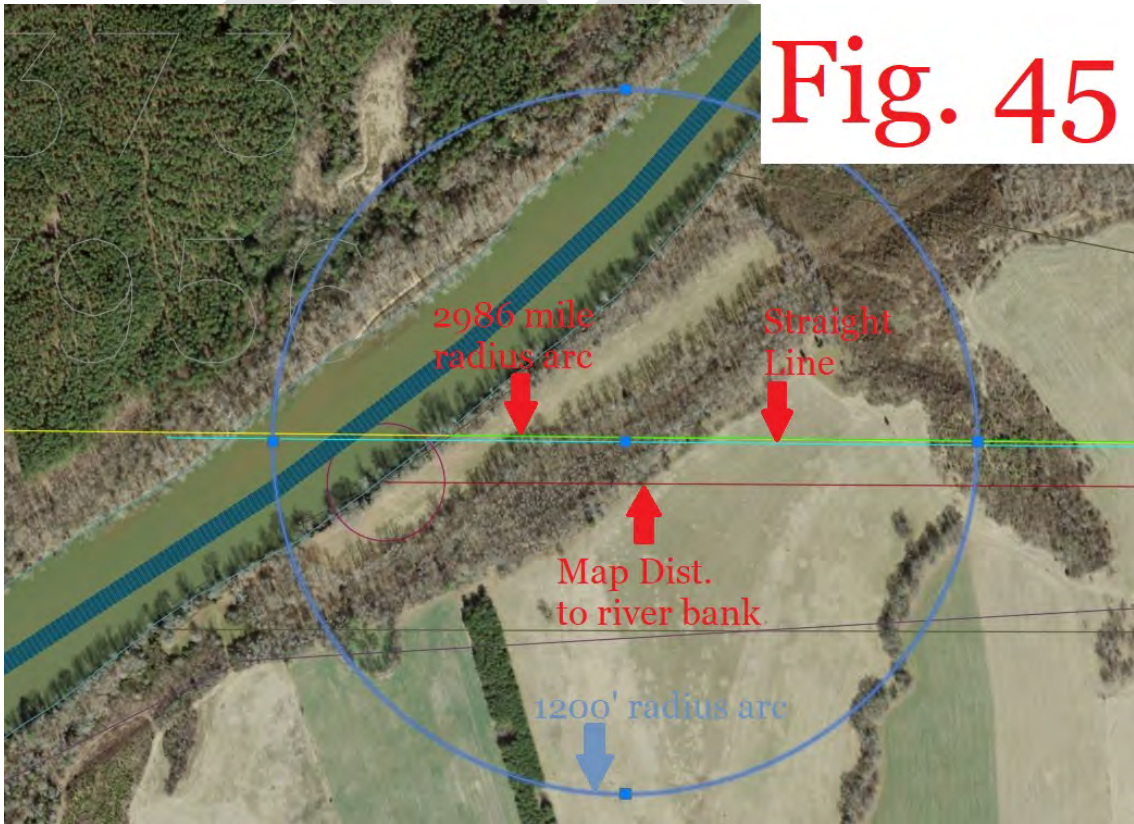


Fig. 45

Fig. 64



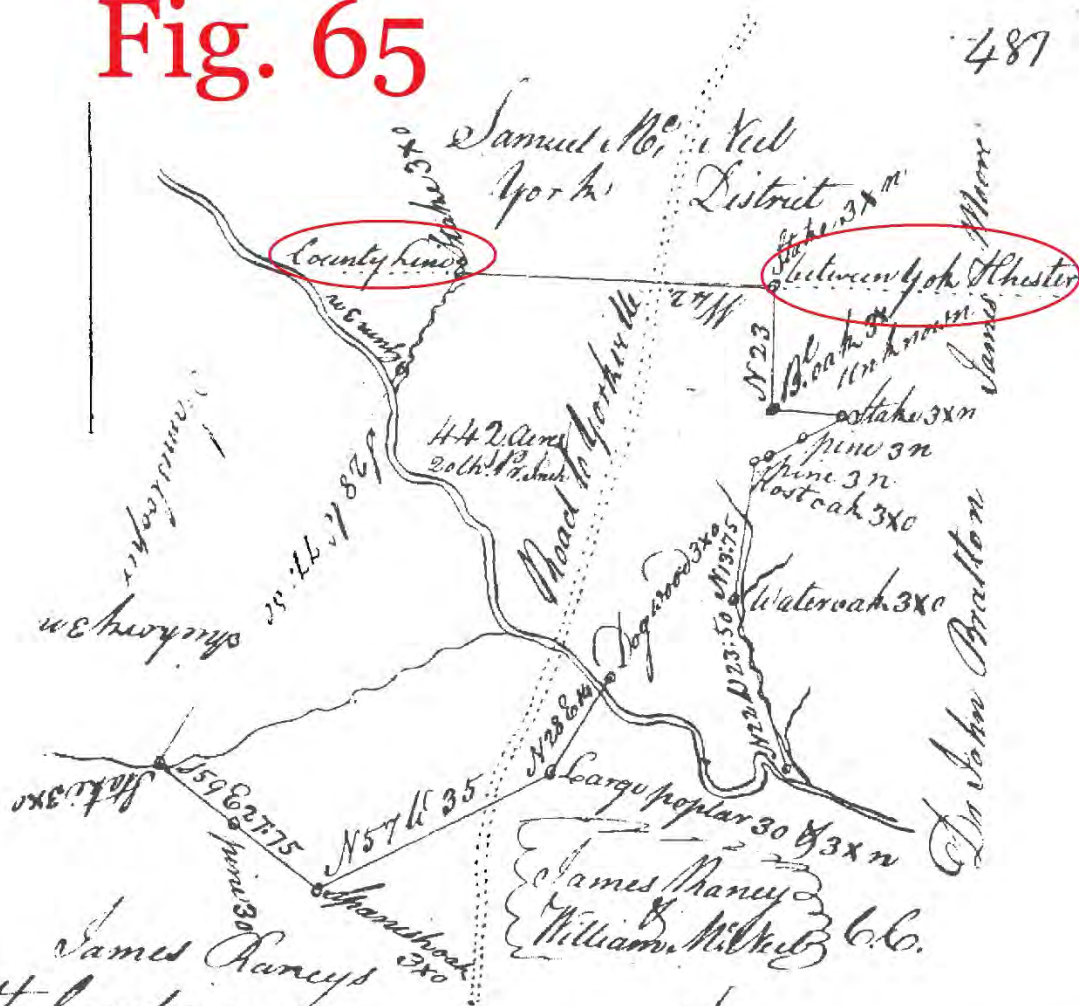
South Carolina
I do

certify for James McGriff a tract of land contg
Eighty four acres surd for him 15th January 1820
situate in Chester district on Tussock Pole Branch a
water of Turkey creek bounded on the north by
York District NE by David Thomas or vacant land
by John Patchford SW by Wm Brown and the
two Thomas truly certifi both such four
marks as the above plat represents
John Winter Des.

South Carolina

Fig. 65

487



South Carolina

I do certify for Samuel McNeil a tract of Land containing four hundred and forty two acres surveyed for him the 12th day of Feb^r 1821. Situate in Chester District bound South by James Mancey East by Dr. John Bratton & by Samuel McNeil N^o by James Cooper Situate on both sides of fishing creek and hath other way marked as the above plat represents John Winter D. D.

This on My Office 26 March 1821 Lyon L. H. on

L. H. V.

Map represents Thomas's land, surveyed and
 entered in S. Office 27 Nov. 1821 by *Benjamin Lyon* of *Head Walker*

Fig. 66

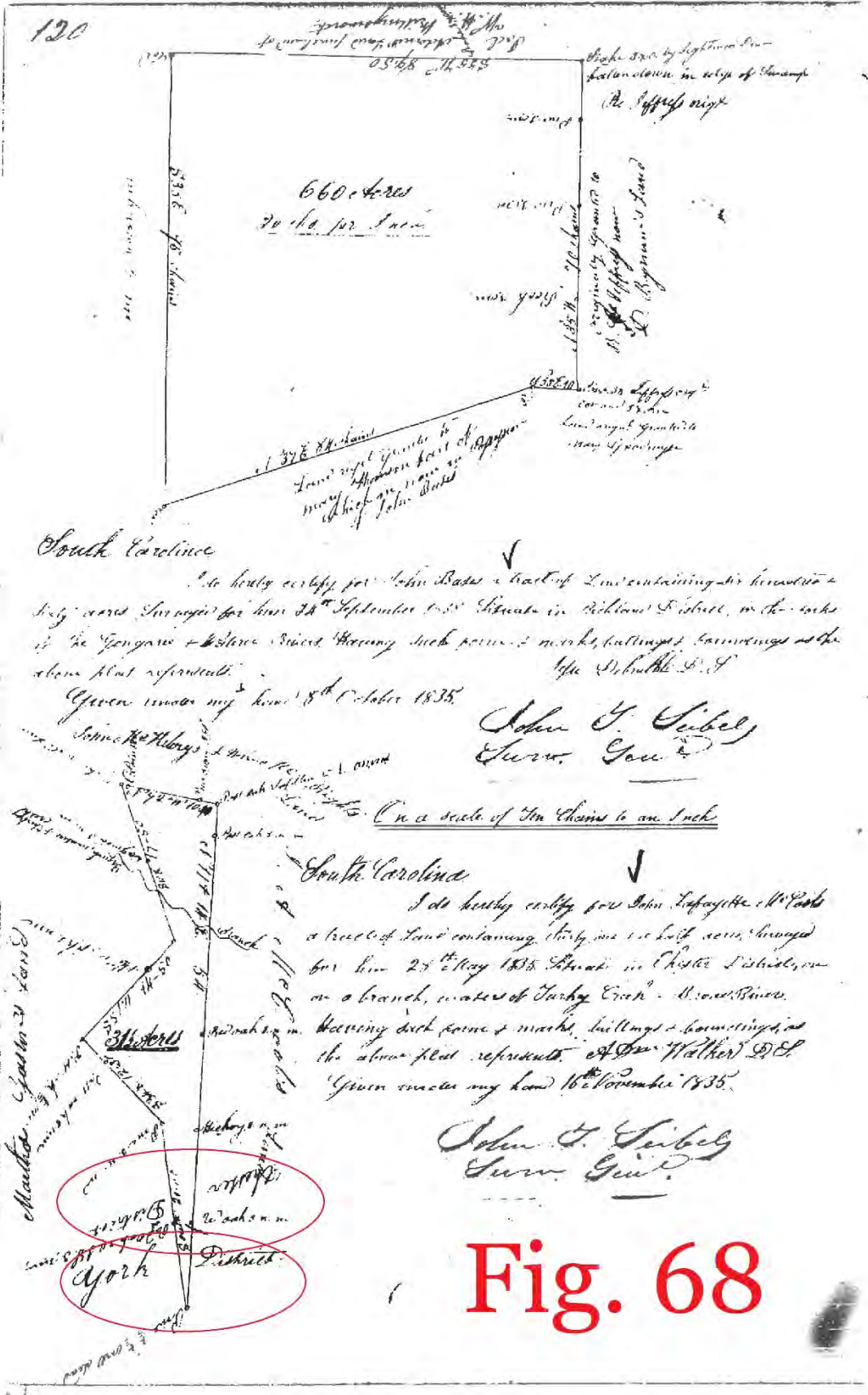


South Carolina
 I certify for David
 Thomas's tract of land
 containing fifty eight
 acres surveyed for him the
 15 day of Dec^r 1820 situate
 in Chester District on
 Sussex Road a water running
 of Turkey Creek bounded
 by York District David
 Thomas's land by David
 Thomas & by Capt. James
 McGriff and that such form
 and marks as the above plat represents
 John Minter D. Surveyor

Richard Lewis Esq. Escheat Matchford C. C.
 Received in S. Office 27 Nov. 1821 Benjamin Lyon D. S.

South Carolina
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DRAFT



South Carolina

I do hereby certify for John Bades a tract of Land containing six hundred & sixty acres Surveyed for him 28th September 1835 Situate in Richland District, in the forks of the Congaree & Saluda Rivers Having such poles & marks, bearings & distances as the above plat represents.

Given under my hand 8th October 1835

John T. Sibley
Surv. Gen.

South Carolina

I do hereby certify for John Lafayette McLeod a tract of Land containing thirty one & a half acres, bounded for him 28th May 1835 Situate in Chester District, on a branch, waters of Turkey Creek - U. of S. River.

Having such poles & marks, bearings & distances as the above plat represents.

Given under my hand 16th November 1835.

John T. Sibley
Surv. Gen.

Fig. 69

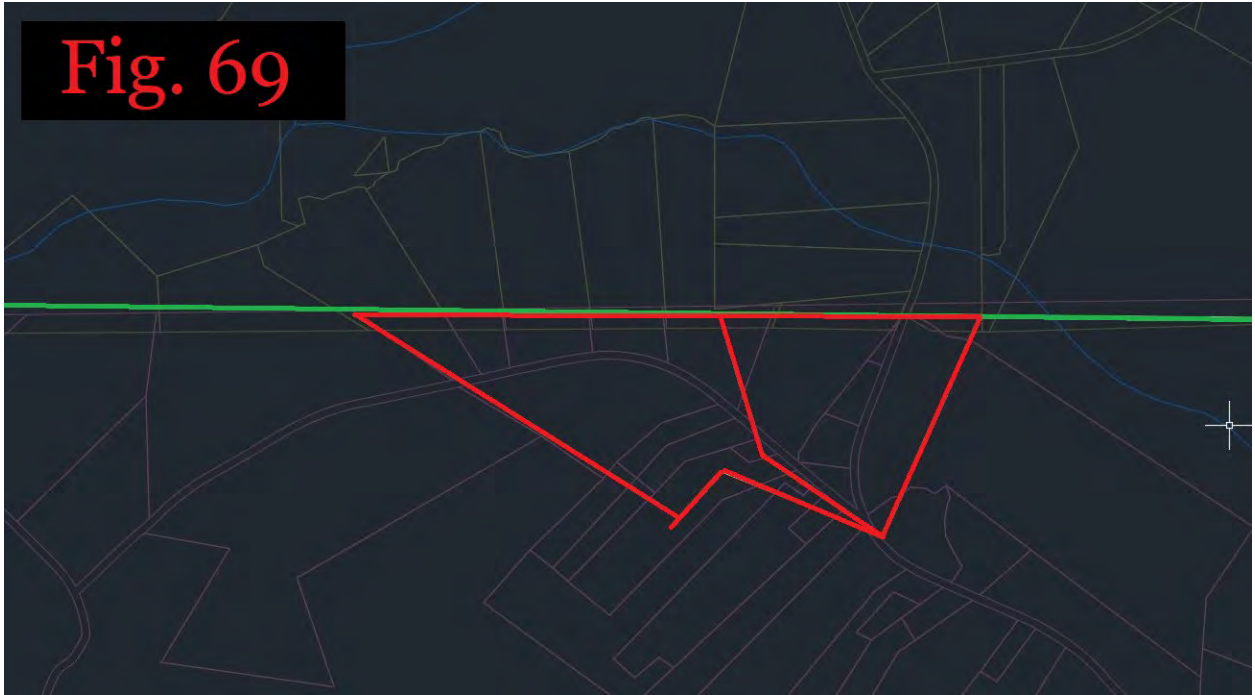
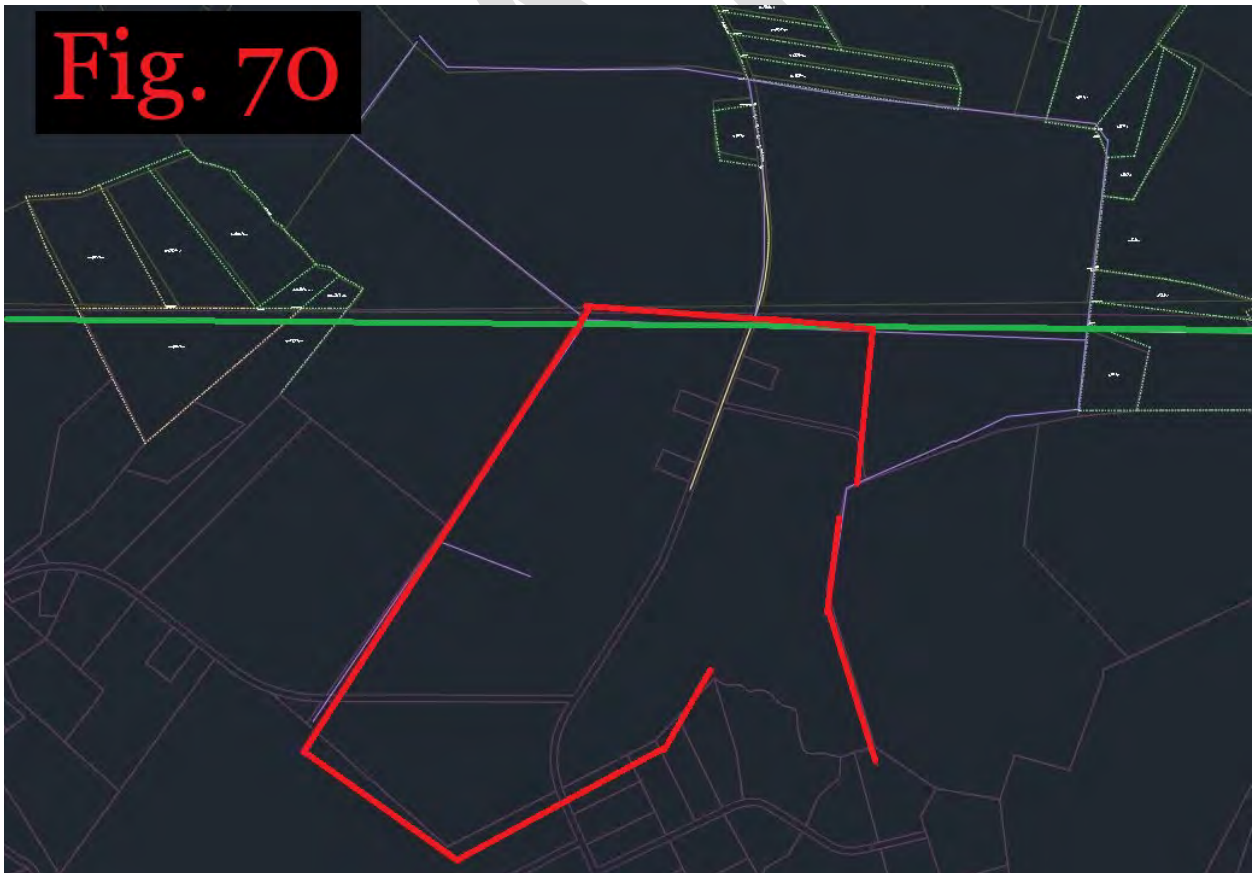
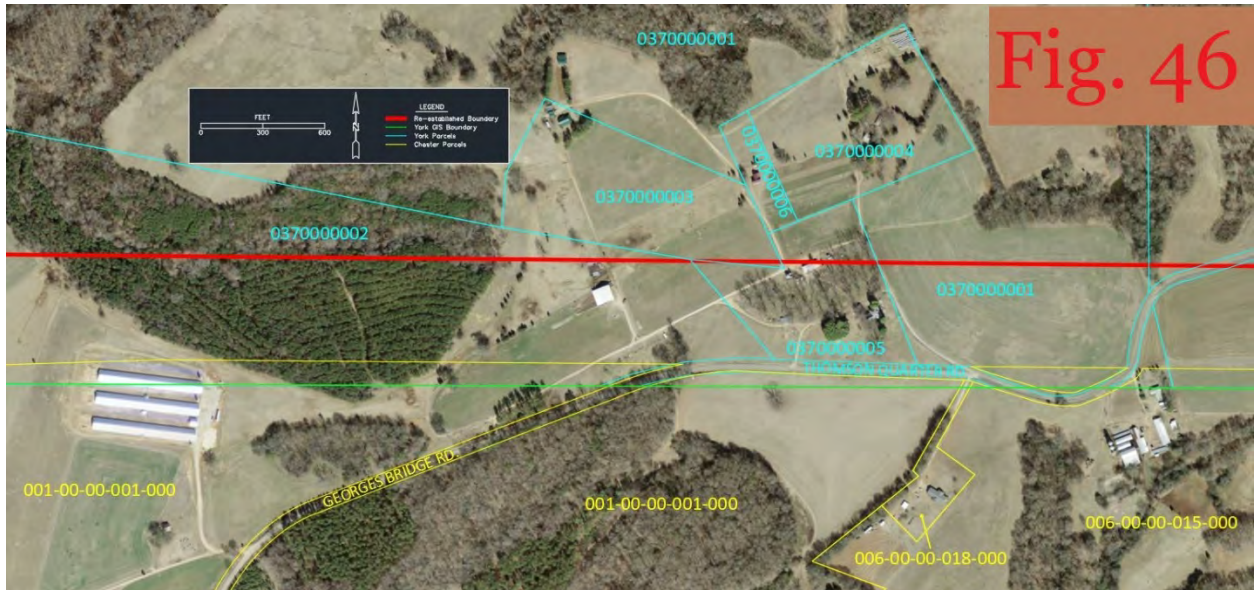
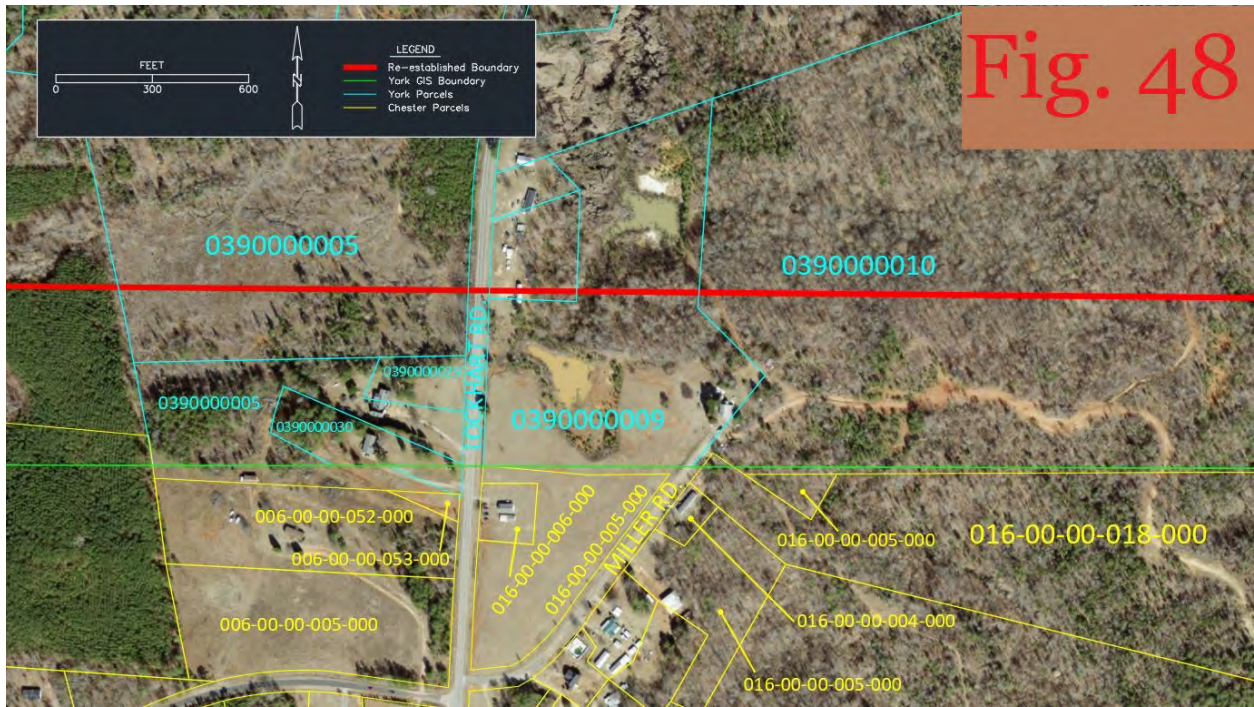


Fig. 70







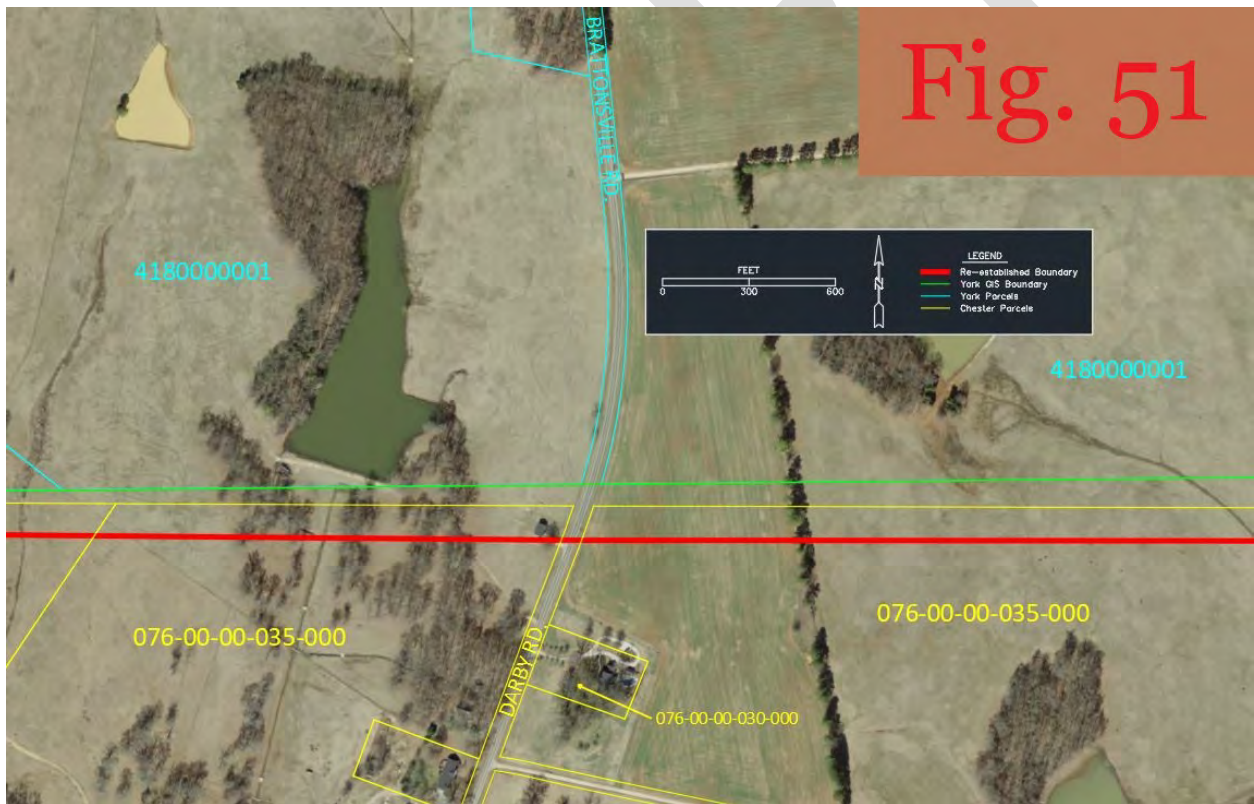


Fig. 52

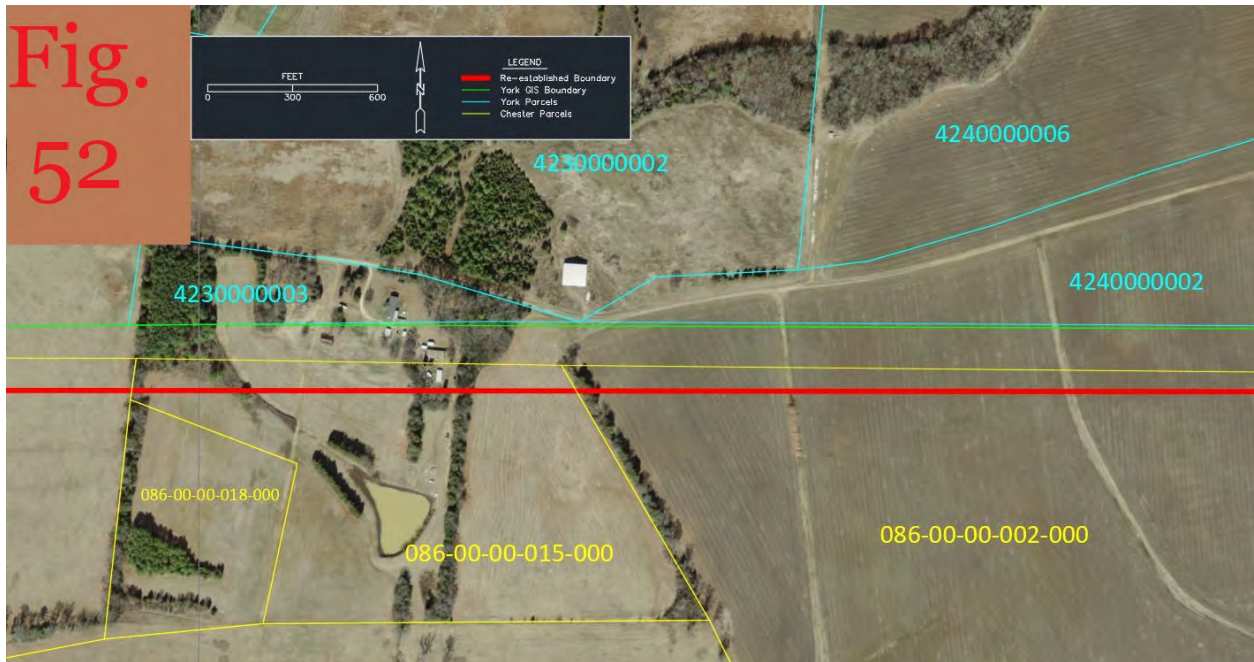


Fig. 53



Fig. 54

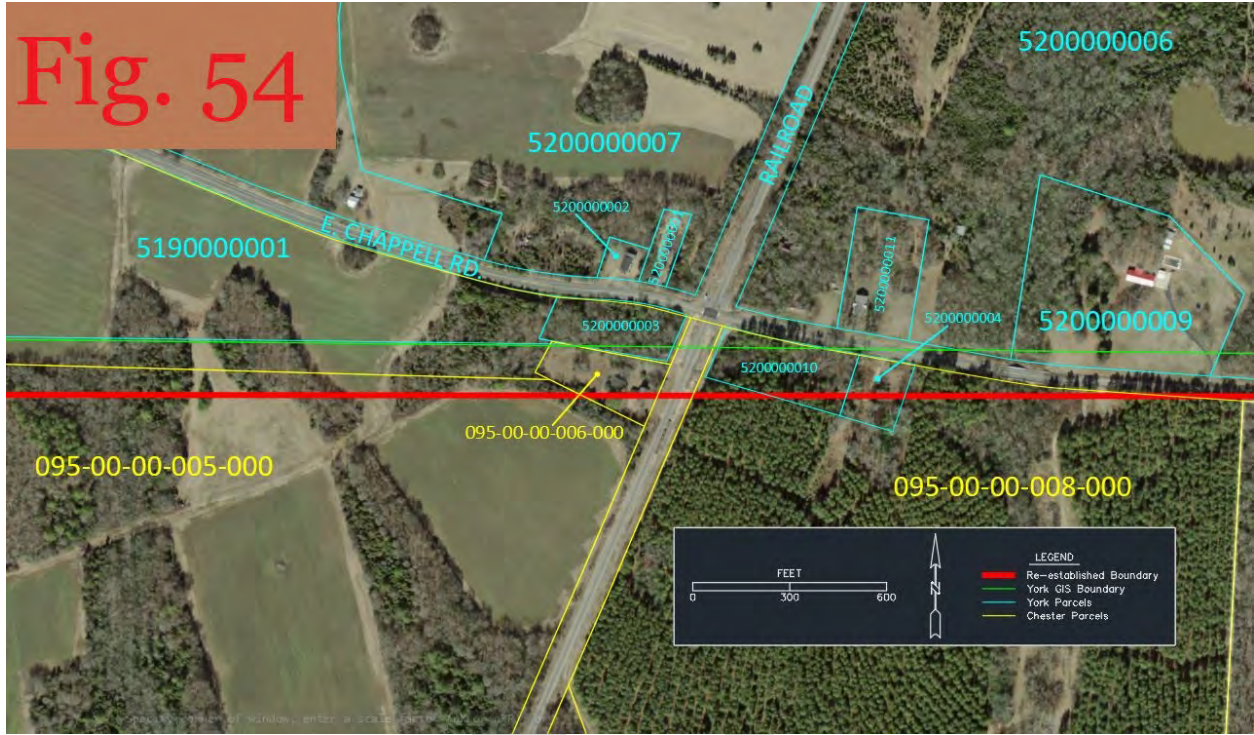


Fig. 55



Fig. 56

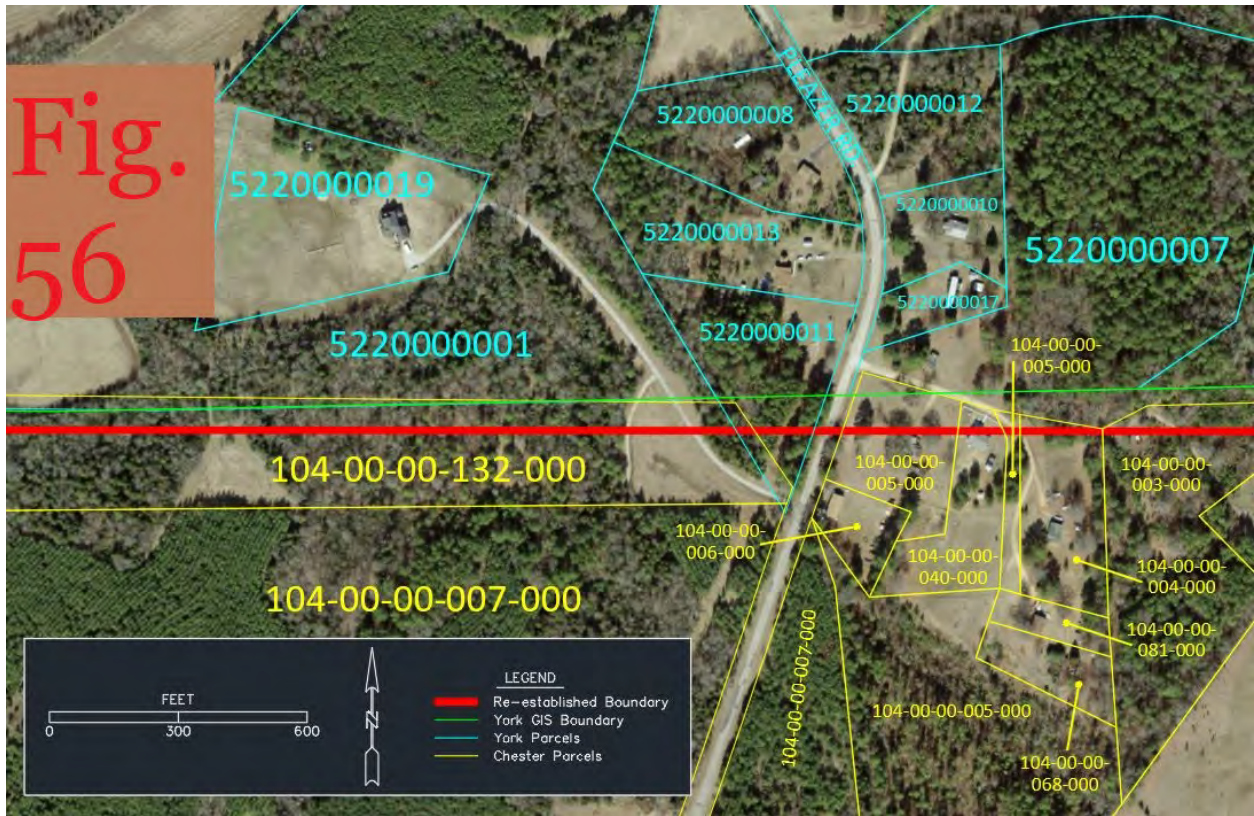
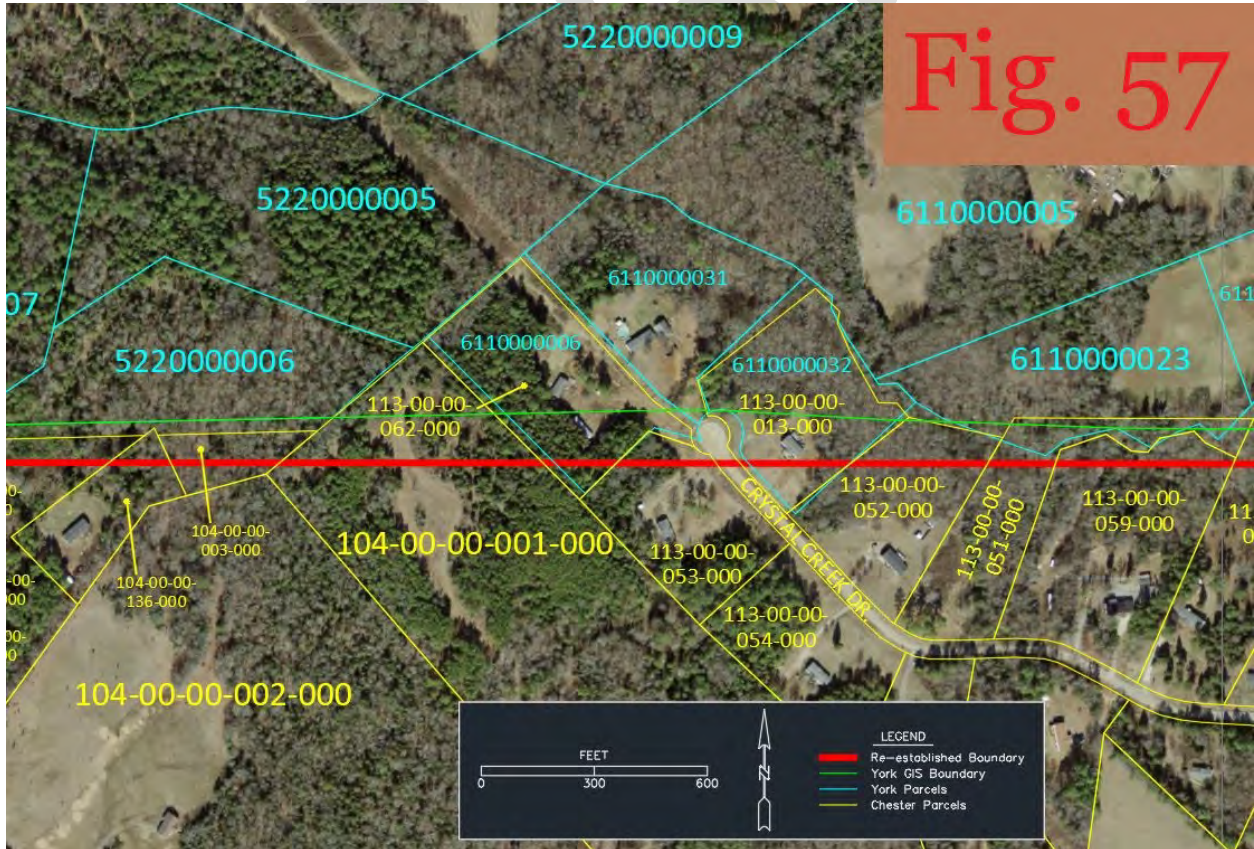
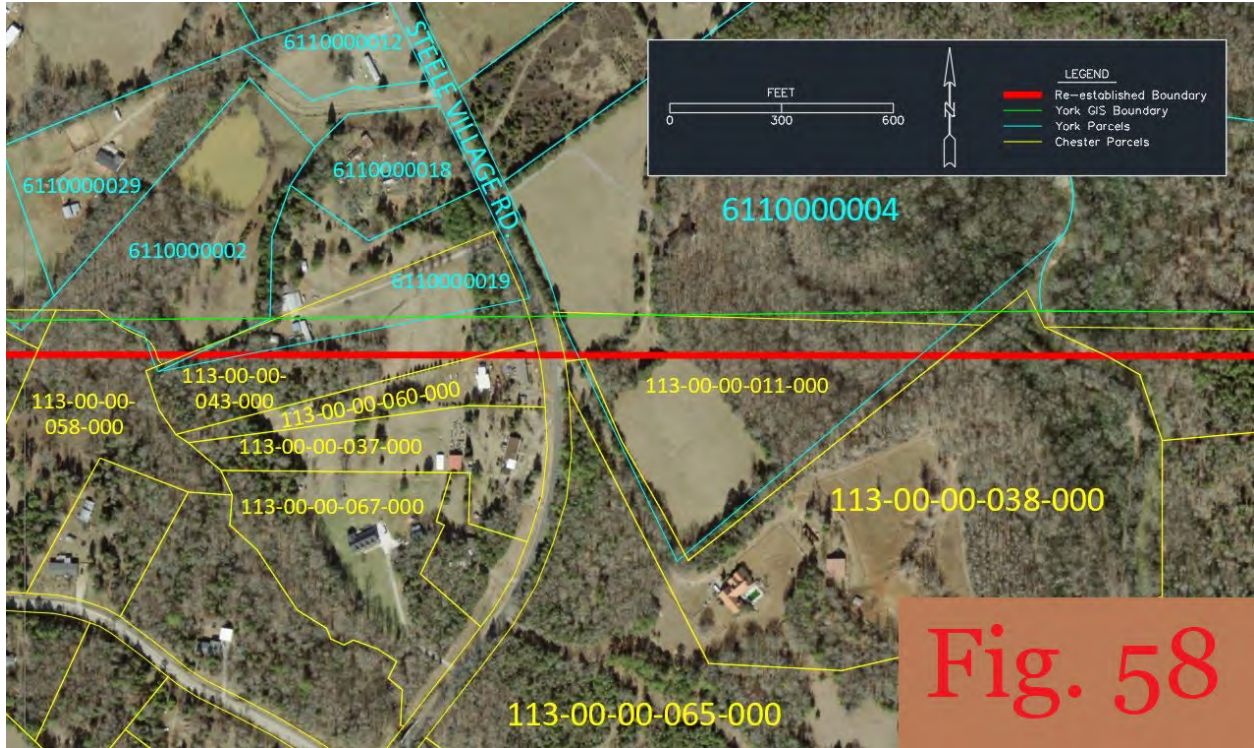


Fig. 57





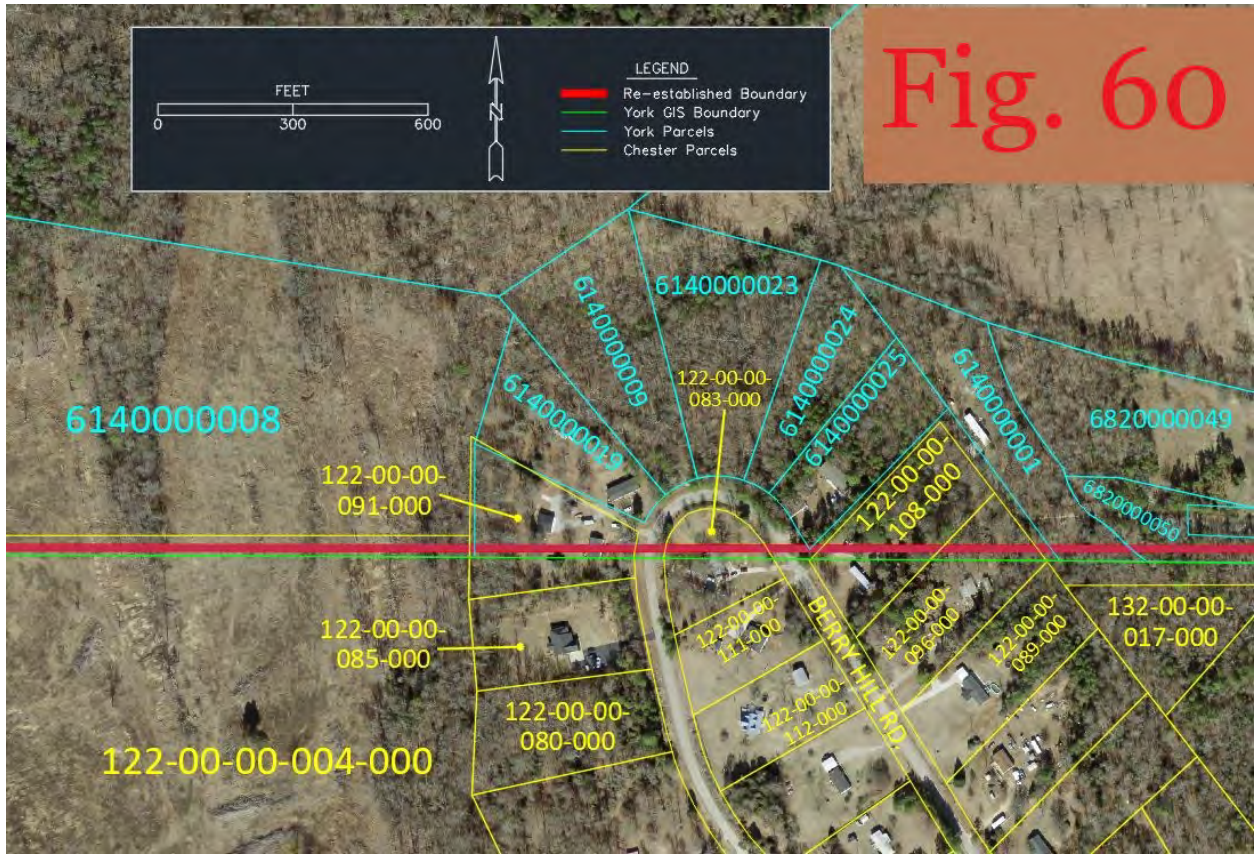


Fig. 60

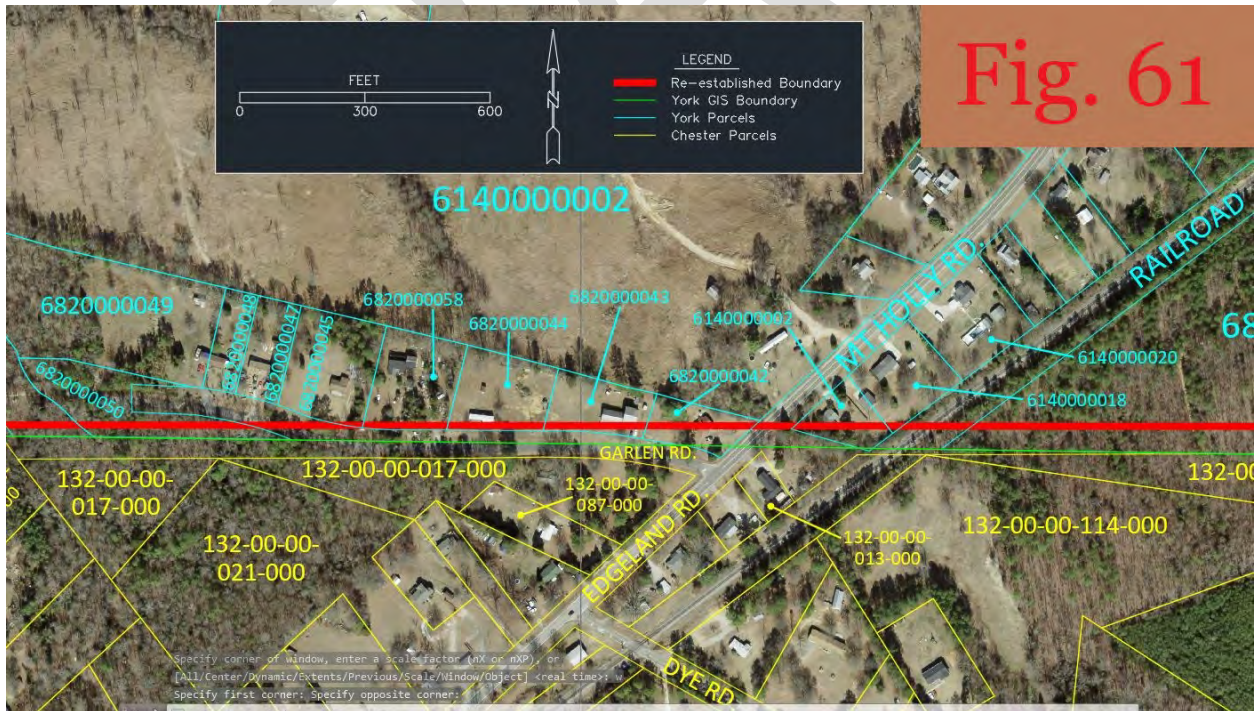
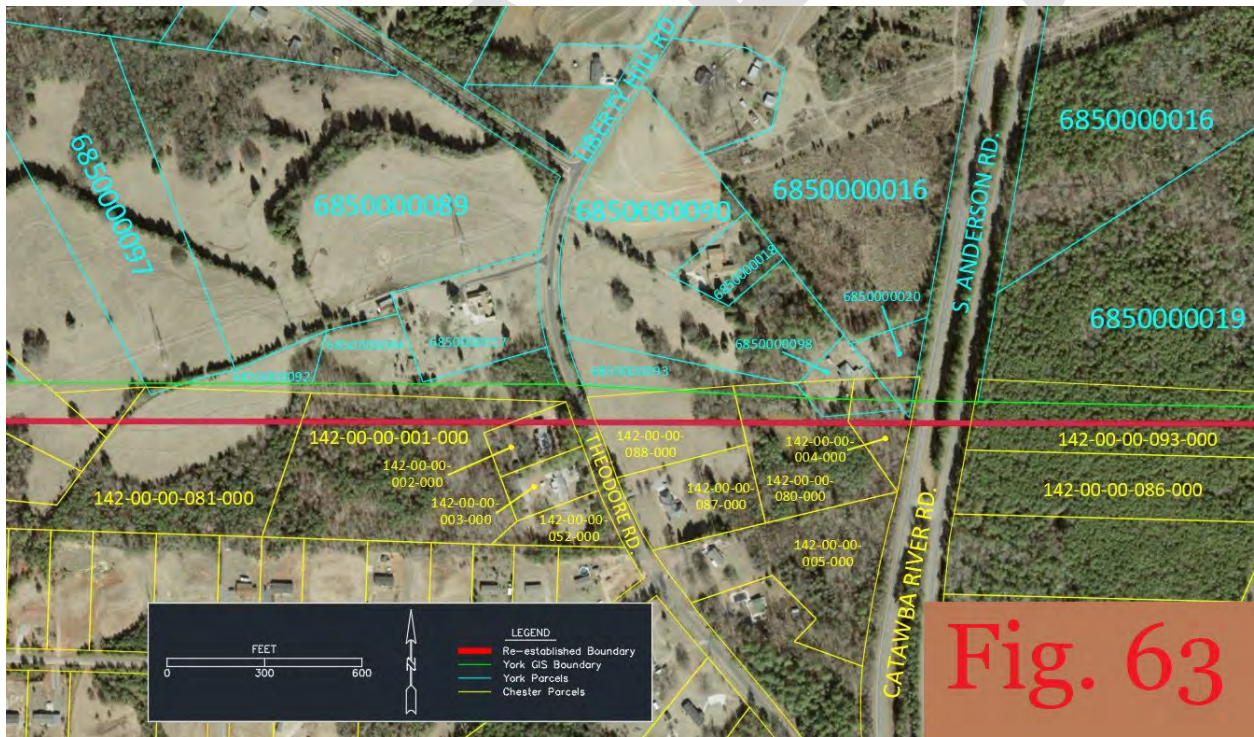
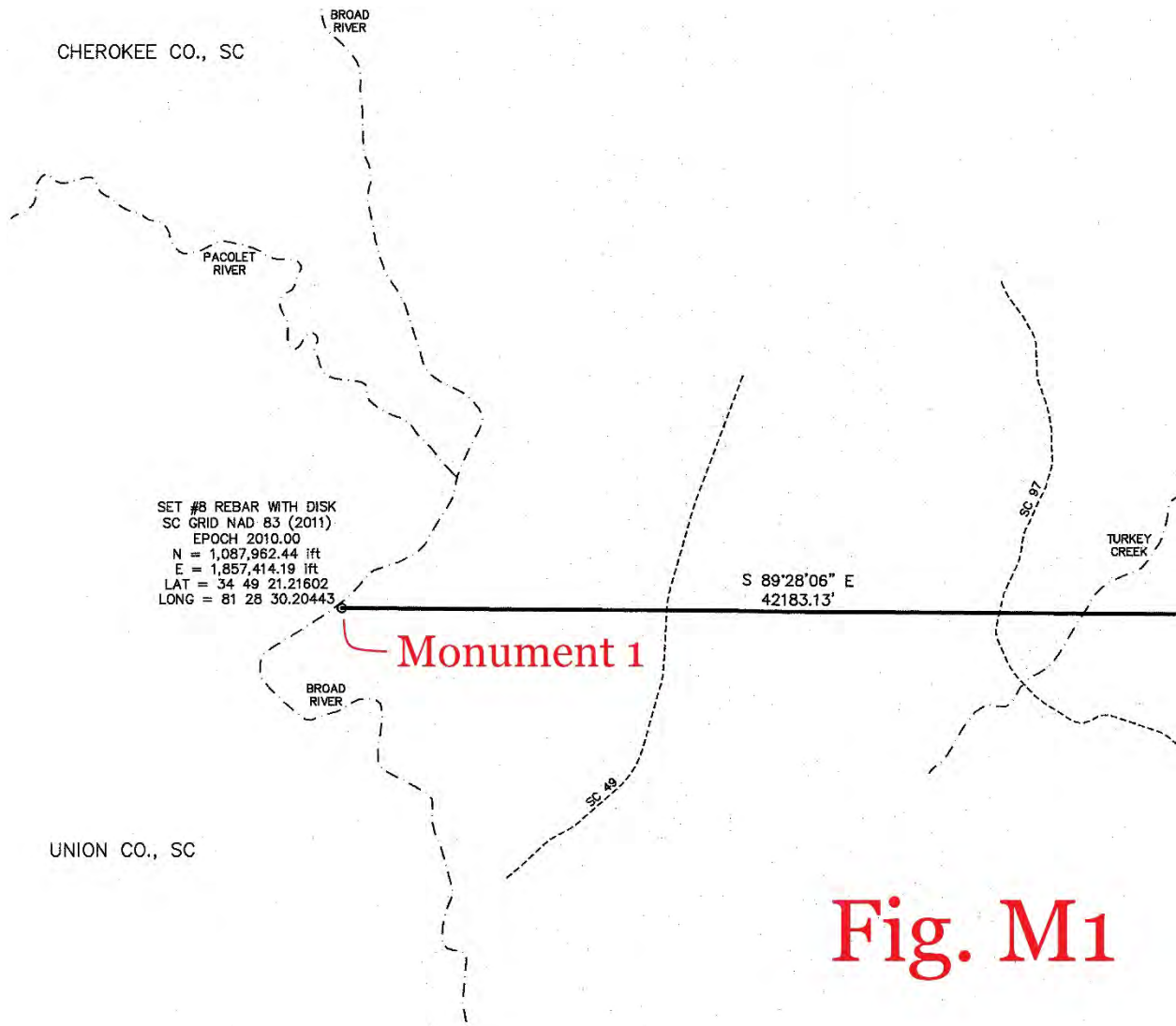


Fig. 61



❖ Monuments



Date & Time: Thu May 3 09:59:02 EDT 2018
Position: +034°49'21.31" / -081°28'30.21"
Altitude: 407ft
Datum: WGS-84
Azimuth/Bearing: 060° N60E 1067mils (Magnetic)
Elevation Angle: -83.8°
Horizon Angle: -86.4°
Zoom: 1X



Date & Time: Thu May 3 10:00:28 EDT 2018
Position: +034°49'21.36" / -081°28'29.91"
Altitude: 399ft
Datum: WGS-84
Azimuth/Bearing: 284° N76W 5049mils (Magnetic)
Elevation Angle: -56.3°
Horizon Angle: -00.1°
Zoom: 1X



DRAFT

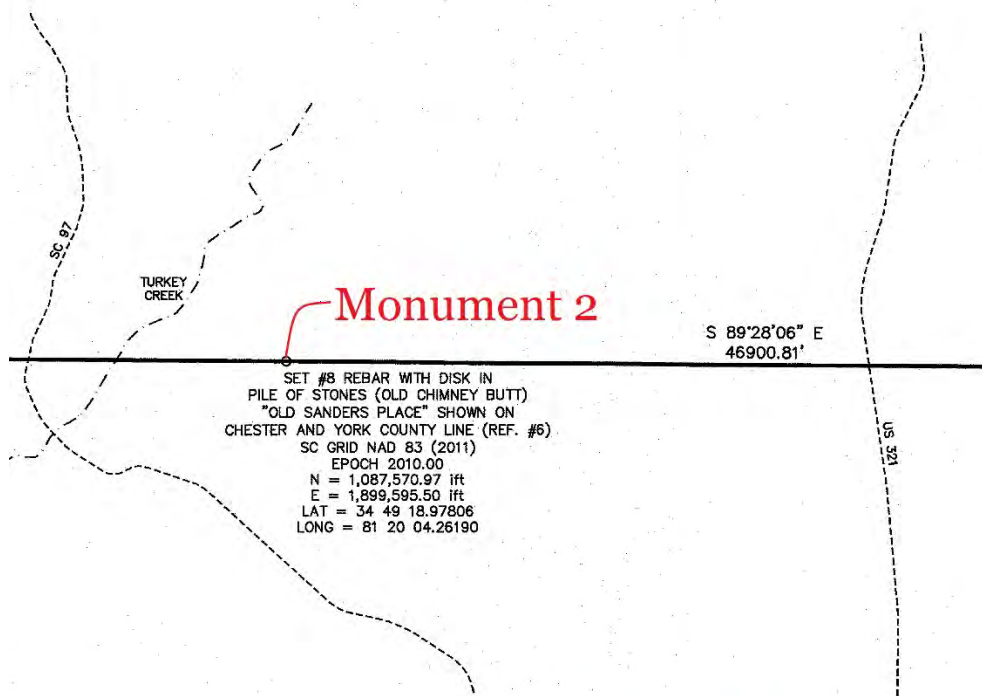


Fig. M2



Date & Time: Thu May 3 10:41:12 EDT 2018
Position: +034°49'19.02" / -081°20'4.05"
Altitude: 585ft
Datum: WGS-84
Azimuth/Bearing: 303° N57W 5387mils (Magnetic)
Elevation Angle: -65.8°
Horizon Angle: -00.4°
Zoom: 1X



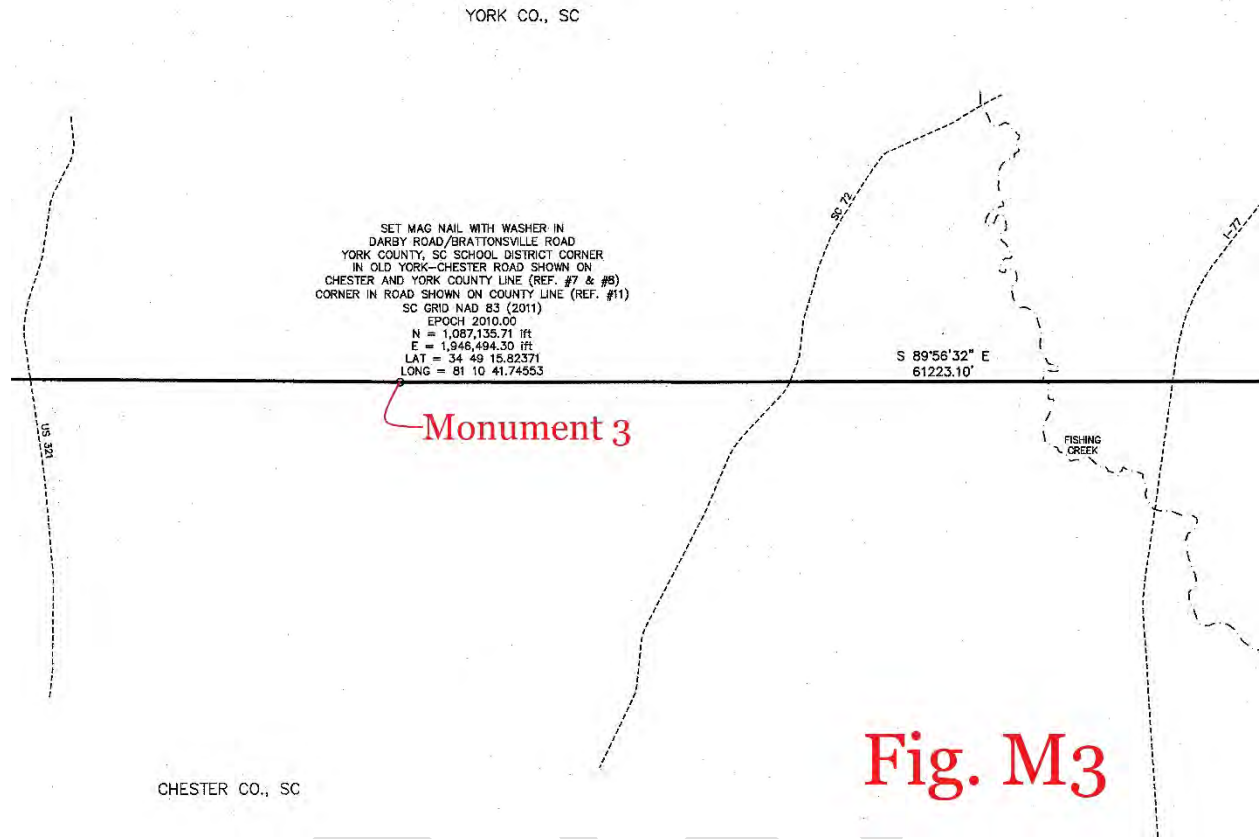
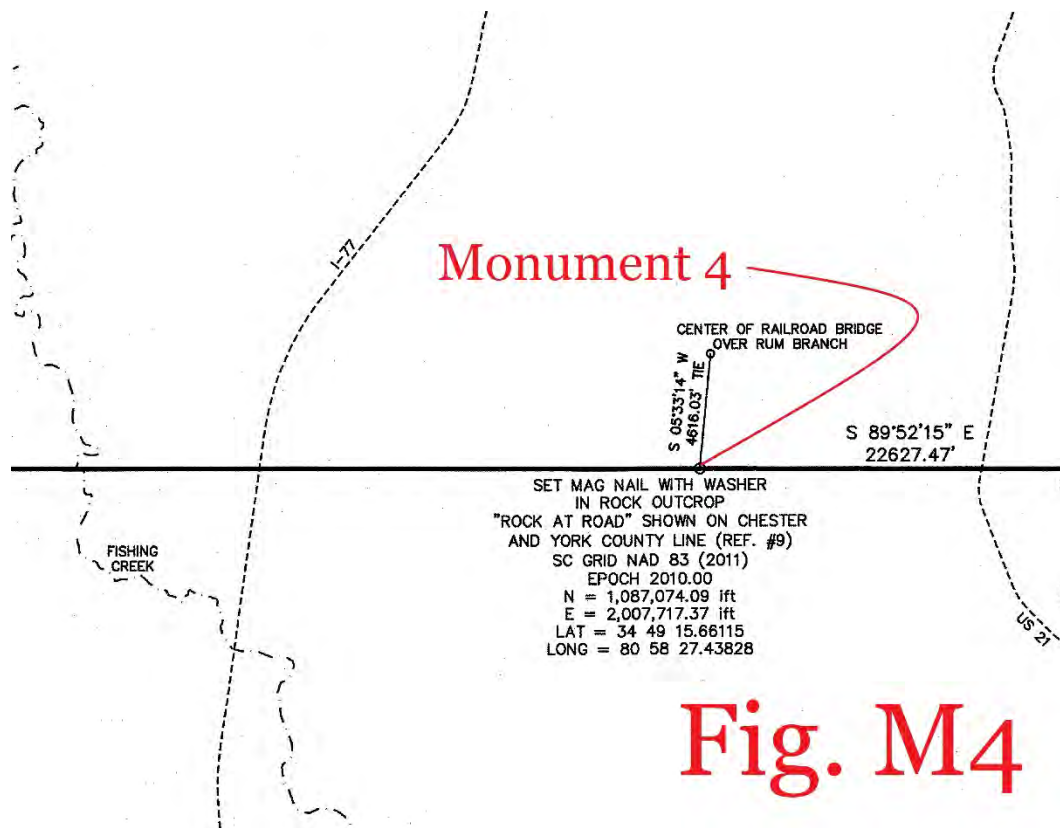


Fig. M3



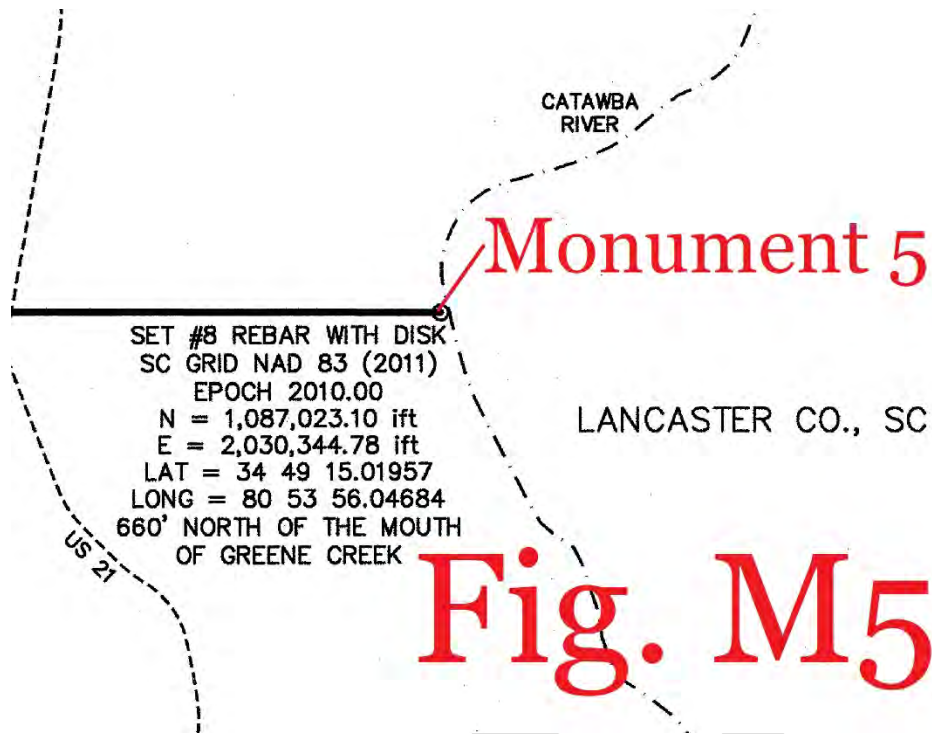


Date & Time: Thu May 3 11:05:36 EDT 2018
Position: +034°49'15.60" / -081°10'41.79"
Altitude: 6224ft
Datum: WGS-84
Azimuth/Bearing: 328° N32W 5831mils (Magnetic)
Elevation Angle: -89.0°
Horizon Angle: -89.7°
Zoom: 1X





Date & Time: Thu May 3 11:58:28 EDT 2018
Position: +034°49'15.71" / -080°58'27.33"
Altitude: 628ft
Datum: WGS-84
Azimuth/Bearing: 359° N01W 6382mils (Magnetic)
Elevation Angle: -79.8°
Horizon Angle: -87.7°
Zoom: 1X



Date & Time: Thu May 3 12:43:19 EDT 2018
Position: +034°49'15.14" / -080°53'55.91"
Altitude: 437ft
Datum: WGS-84
Azimuth/Bearing: 075° N75E 1333mils (Magnetic)
Elevation Angle: -63.5°
Horizon Angle: +06.1°
Zoom: 1X



DR