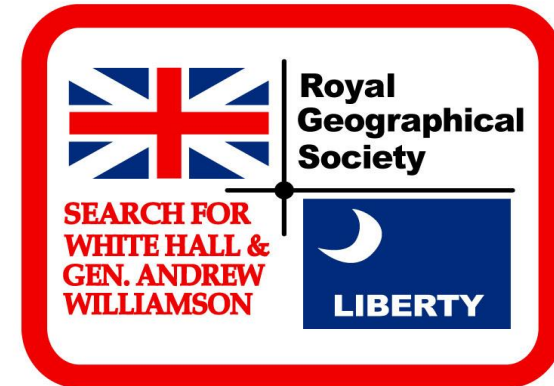
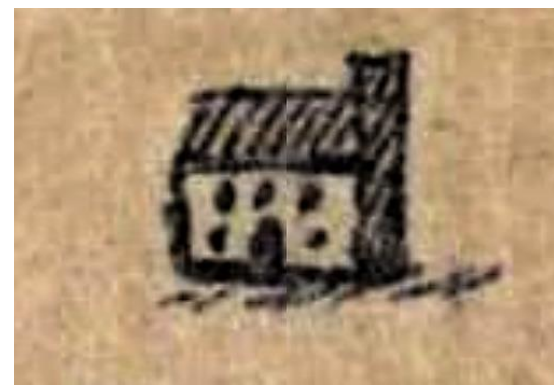


The Search for White Hall: Plantation of Brig. Gen. Andrew Williamson of the American Revolution



by

Lew Toulmin, PhD, FRGS
Greenwood County, South Carolina
March 2019

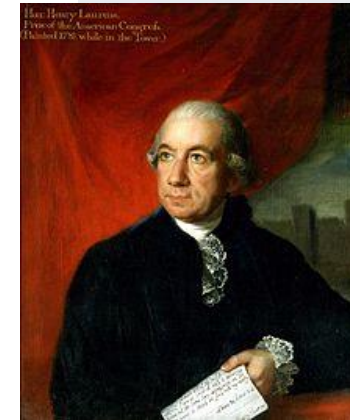


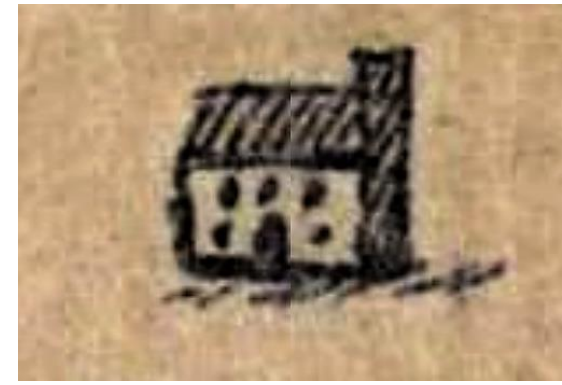
The Search for White Hall – Topics:

- **How I got involved with WH and Williamson**
- **The importance of White Hall**
- **Clues to the archaeology and nature of White Hall**

How I Got Involved in White Hall and Andrew Williamson:

- ❖ Trying to join the Society of the Cincinnati
- ❖ Followed erroneous descent line from DAR app, up to Henry Laurens, and his son, Col. John Laurens
- ❖ Found correct line leading to “traitor” Andrew Williamson instead!
- ❖ Got fascinated by Andrew Wmson
- ❖ Co-led 2011 Royal Geographical Soc./Explorers Club Exped.; this 2019 effort is a continuation





Why Finding White Hall is Important:

- ❖ **A major site from colonial times and the Am Rev that is missing**
- ❖ **Site of home of Brig. Gen. Andrew Williamson, the “Benedict Arnold of SC” and a household name at the time**
- ❖ **Could improve our understanding of what “one of the finest plantations in upstate SC before the Revolution” means**
- ❖ **POW camp, battlefield, military HQ, mill, regional center**
- ❖ **Could generate resources and interest in pursuing more AmRev and White Hall efforts**

Clues to White Hall

Thomas Griffiths, 1767:

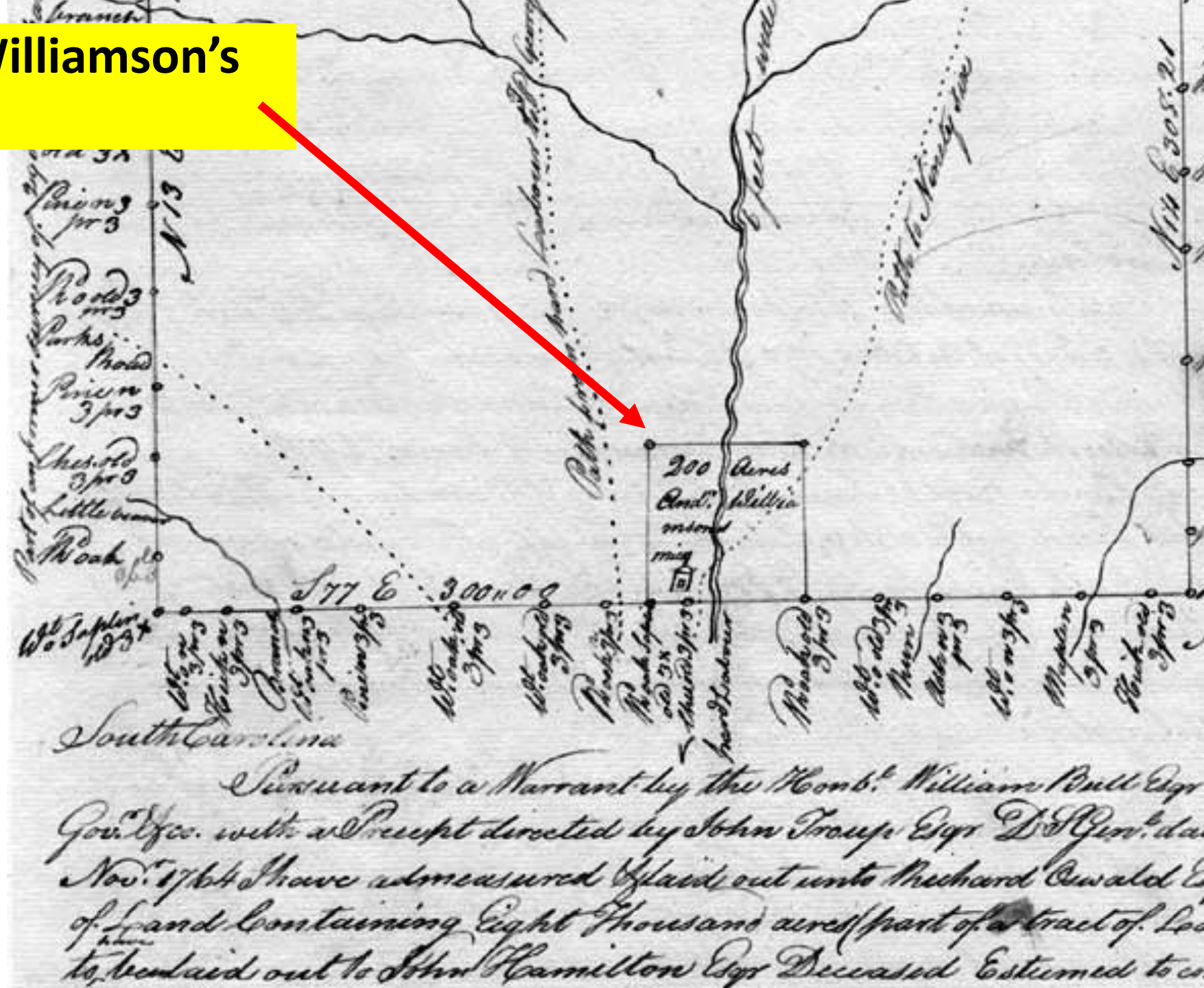
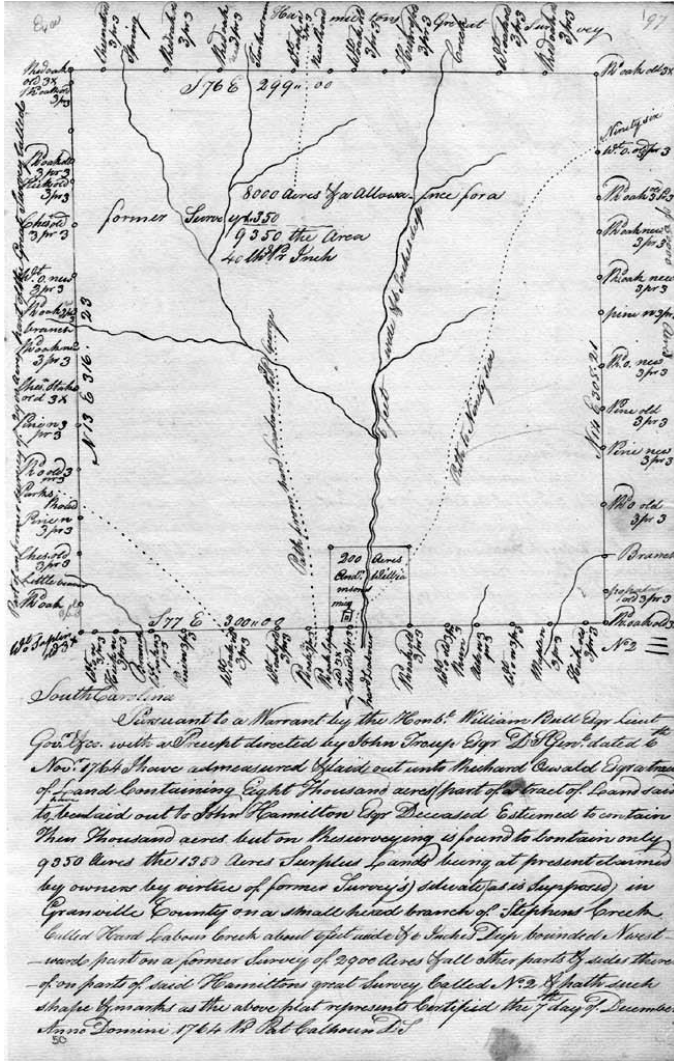
The next day I proceeded for **Coffee Creek**, a new neighbourhood lately inhabited near the Kings Road ... the next day I Marchd on for **Andrew Williamsons at White hall near a place calld hard Labour**, about two hundred miles from Charles Town:

This is one of the **finest plantations in South Carolina**; abounding with **fine Rich Red Loomy Land, famous for raising corn, hemp, flax, Cotton, Rice, Cattle, Hogs, fruits of all sort, and great plenty of Mulberries, white & black Gooseberries excepted; but Peachs innumerable:** friend Williamson said, in the year Sixty Six his **peach orchard yielded near Three Thousand Bushel Baskets**; which proved of great use to the poor young inhabitants of that part of the province; besides feeding him a great number of hogs ...

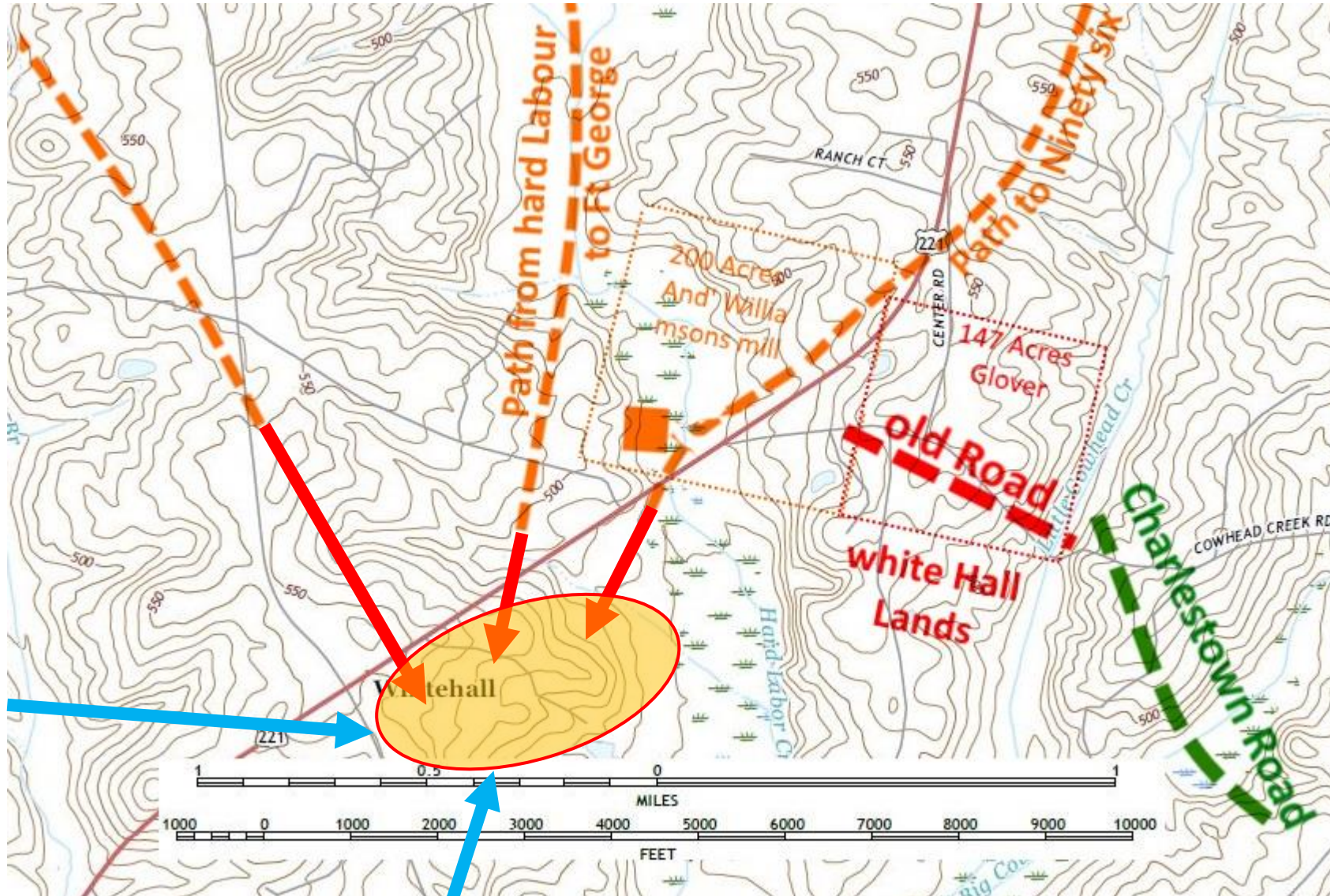
Archaeological implications and other clues:


- “Finest plantations” – foundations, well?, near stream? Possible basement or partial basement? Privy? Rich loomy land
- Productive for corn, flax, cotton, rice, hogs, mulberries, peaches
- Good for cattle
- Near “a place called Hard Labour”
- One day’s march from Coffee Creek
- Peaches do not generally grow in wet soil, and should be grown in “sandy to sandy/loamy soil” according to most sources
- Peach trees now yield 1-12 bushels per tree, depending on type/size; therefore perhaps 300 or more peach trees at WH?


Clues to White Hall – Williamson's Mill in 1764?



Clues to White Hall: extension of Indian/cow/settler trails?



 = possible extension of trail

 = 1751 trail

 = likely location of WH

Clues to White Hall

Williamson letter of 1776:

“a fever ... Confined me to my Room...”

Williamson letter of 1777:

“... send 14 Panes Glass, we are starved, with broken windows...[at White Hall]”

Archaeological implications and other clues:

- ❖ Possible large house with separate master bedroom?
- ❖ Possible 5--14 + + windows? = large house?



Clues to White Hall

AmRev Pension Application:

“Crawford proceeded on to White Hall, the plantation of General Andrew Williamson, which **Pickens’ militia had turned into a military post**. The Tories **attacked** and defeated the garrison and **destroyed the works** that the Patriots had constructed.

White Hall was situated at a crossroads near Hard Labor Creek.”



Archaeological implications and other clues:

- ❖ Military post: possible stockage and/or fortified house
- ❖ Attacked: battle or skirmish, musket ball scatter and possible battlefield archaeology
- ❖ Destroyed the works: fire damaged and evidence?
- ❖ At crossroads near Hard Labor Creek

Clues to White Hall

AmRev Pension Applications:

“I served under Captain John Irwin as a **Guard at Whitehall** and went from thence to '96 **guarding a parcel of Tories**. I saw Lieutenant Earls a regular officer at **the block house** in Whitehall.

....[went] to **Fort White Hall** at a place where General Williamson resided, where a **military store** was kept...”

Archaeological implications and other clues:

- ❖ White Hall = POW camp? = stockade = post holes?
- ❖ Block house = fortified house? Earthworks?
- ❖ Fort = stockade? = post holes?
- ❖ Military store = possible underground storage?



Clues to White Hall

AmRev Pension Application:

“Applicant enlisted in Abbeville County in the State of **South Carolina in a place called White Hall Fort on the Hard labor Creek at the residence of one General Williamson** in the year 1777 in the 13th year of my age. Applicant enlisted for three years... myself to play the fife....

We marched through the State of Georgia to the Cherokee Nation...sometimes under the command of General Williamson a militia general.... We were ordered back to the Cherokee Nation under the command of General Williamson in search of a British agent by the name of Cameron...but he fled and made his escape.... We remained [in the Sand Hills] hunting the Villains and Tories ...until after the fall of Charleston, and then **we marched back to White Hall [in what is now] Abbeville County. We then gave up our arms and went to a place called Cow Head and took protection**, we however at this time were [paroled] and were not to lift arms again for a year and a day....”



Archaeological implications and other clues:

- ❖ White Hall “**Fort**” – hence stockade or fortified house, possible earthworks?
- ❖ On Hard Labor Creek
- ❖ In (then) Abbeville County
- ❖ Near Cow Head (probably Cow Head Creek)

Clues to White Hall

Laws of SC:

Archaeological implications and other clues:

- ❖ Plantation of AW at Hard Labour (creek?)
- ❖ Near Coffee/Cuffee town
- ❖ Near Robt Miller plantation & Indian line

EBOOK - FREE

Get this book in print ▼



★★★★★
0 Reviews
Write review

An Alphabetical Digest of the Public Statute Law of South-Carolina, Volume 3

By Joseph Brevard

cuffee-town

Go

About this book

► My library

Result 1 of 2 in this book for cuffee-town - < Previous Next > - View all

Roads, Bridges and ferries.

349

authorized, empowered and required to lay out, make and keep in repair, a public road to lead from the Long Cane creek to Great Rocky creek, near the Cherokee Indian line. That _____ be, and they are hereby appointed commissioners for laying out, making and keeping in repair, and they are hereby authorized, empowered and required to lay out, make and keep in repair, a public road to lead from the last mentioned road, at or near a place called Mountain creek, near Cuffee town, to the plantation of Andrew Williamson at Hard Labour, and from the said plantation of Andrew Williamson to be continued from thence to the plantation of Robert Miller near the Cherokee Indian line.*

TIT. 19.

A. A. 1770.

P. L. 278-9.

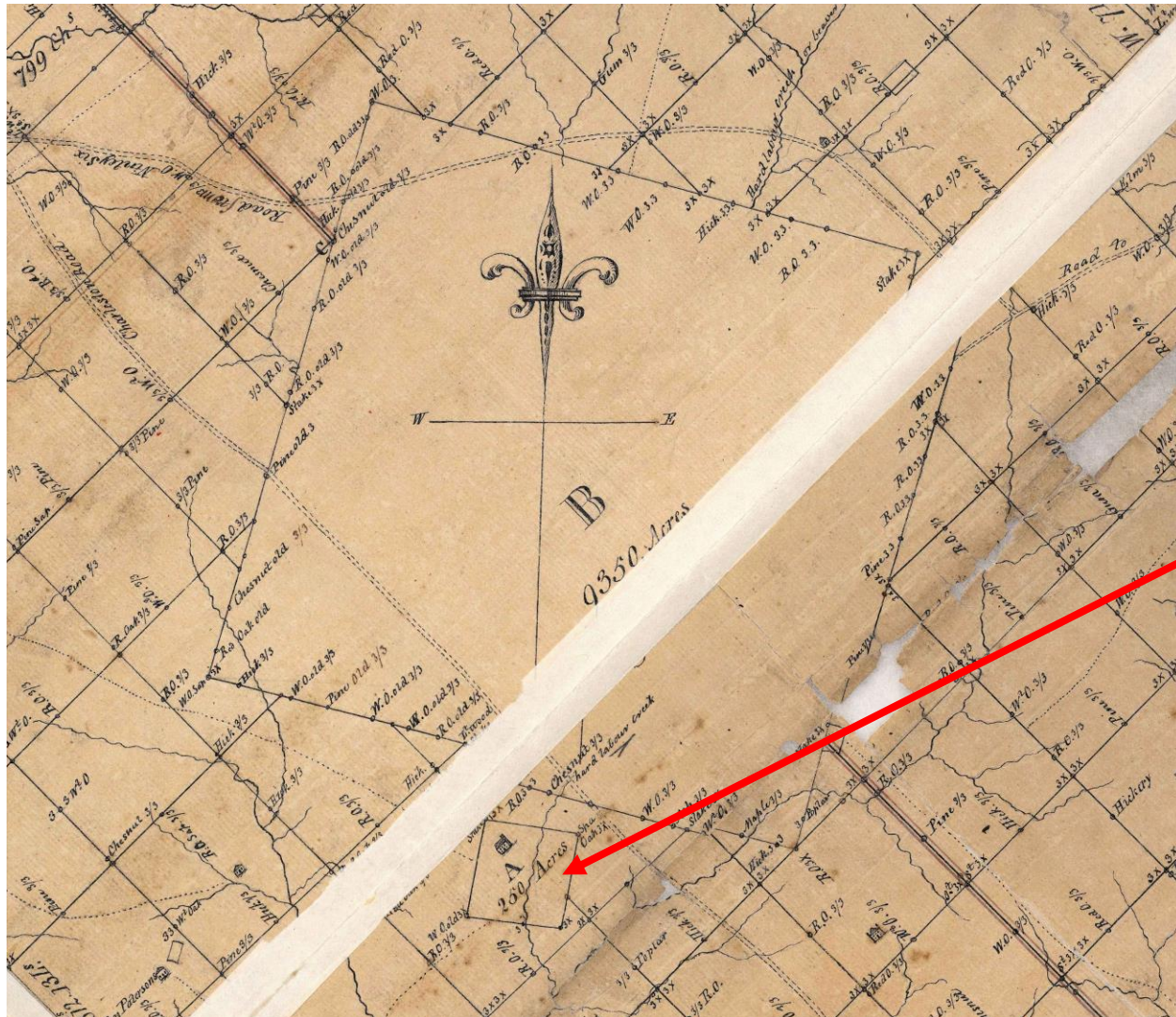
thence to the Cherokee line.

153. *And be it further enacted*, That a road which now leads from the plantation of Robert Goudy, at Ninety-Six, to the place called the Ridge, and from thence to the road which is

Road from Ninety-Six to the Ridge.

Clues to White Hall

Possible location of White Hall:



Archaeological implications and other clues:

- ❖ 250 acres in small square
- ❖ Owned by Wmson in 1751-1789 period (earliest plat)
- ❖ Shows one structure
- ❖ On W side of Hard Labor Creek
- ❖ Several paths/roads converging

Clues to White Hall

Possible image of White Hall from 1751-89 plat map:

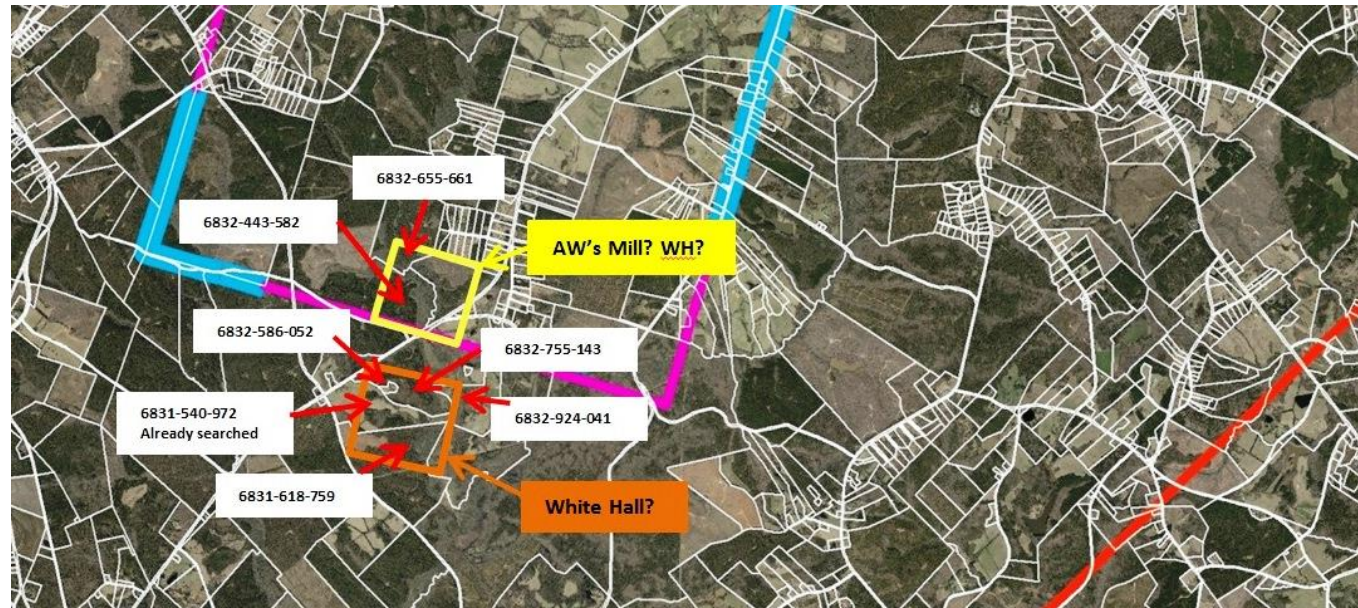
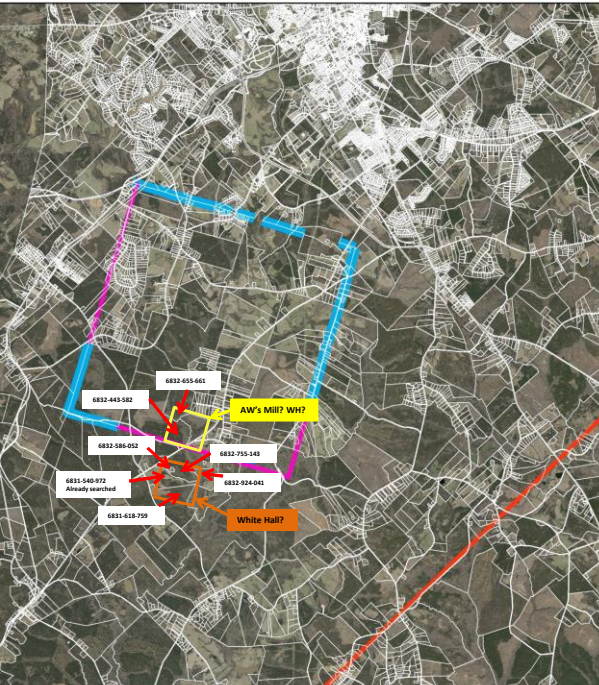


Archaeological implications and other clues:

- ❖ Rectangular footprint
- ❖ Large single chimney with its foundation
- ❖ Two stories – hence strong foundation?
- ❖ Five windows on front
- ❖ Single doorway on front
- ❖ No outbuildings shown

Clues to White Hall

Possible location of White Hall:



Archaeological implications and other clues:

- ❖ Likely SE of Rt. 221
- ❖ 250 acres?
- ❖ In brown square below?
- ❖ Parcel numbers noted

Search for White Hall

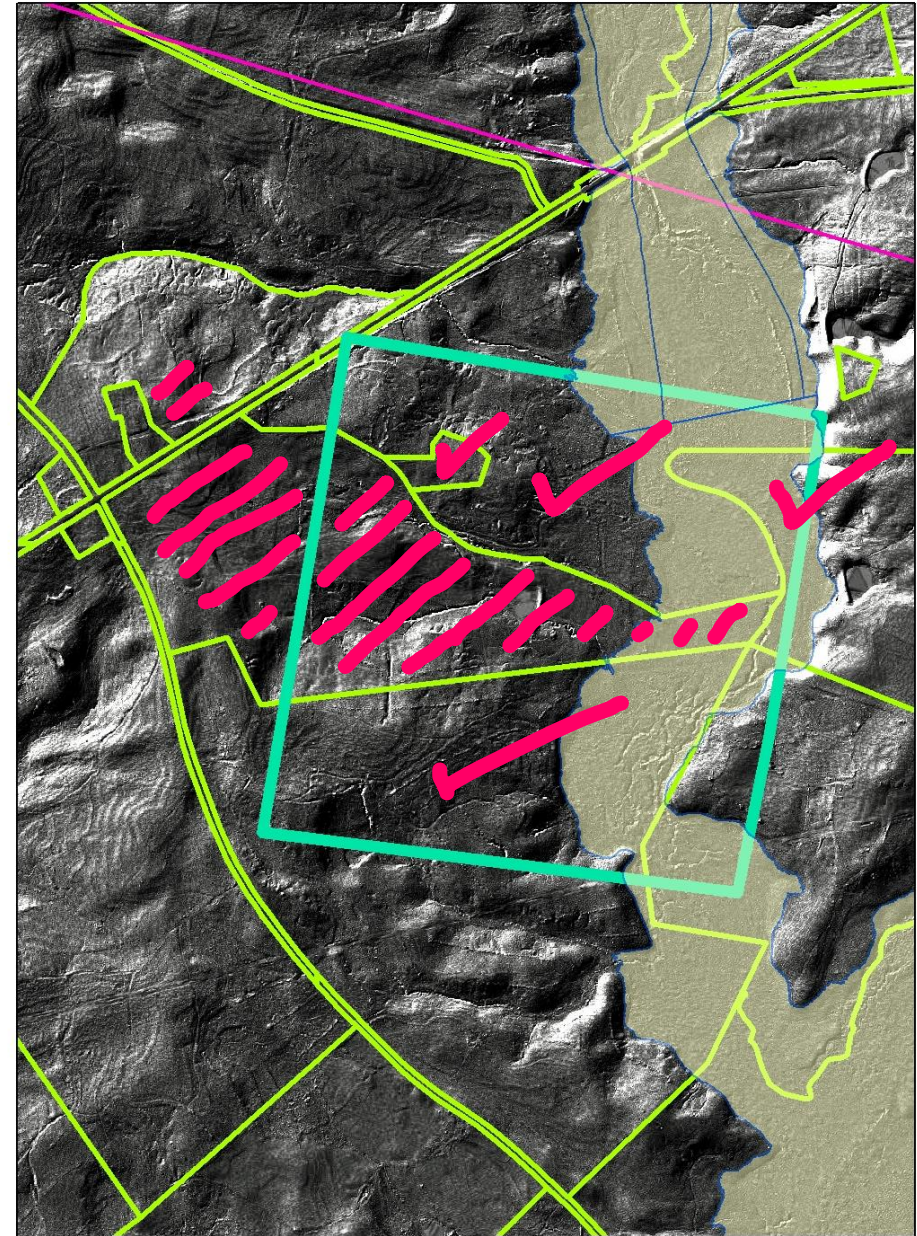
We have key permissions!



Searched in 2011

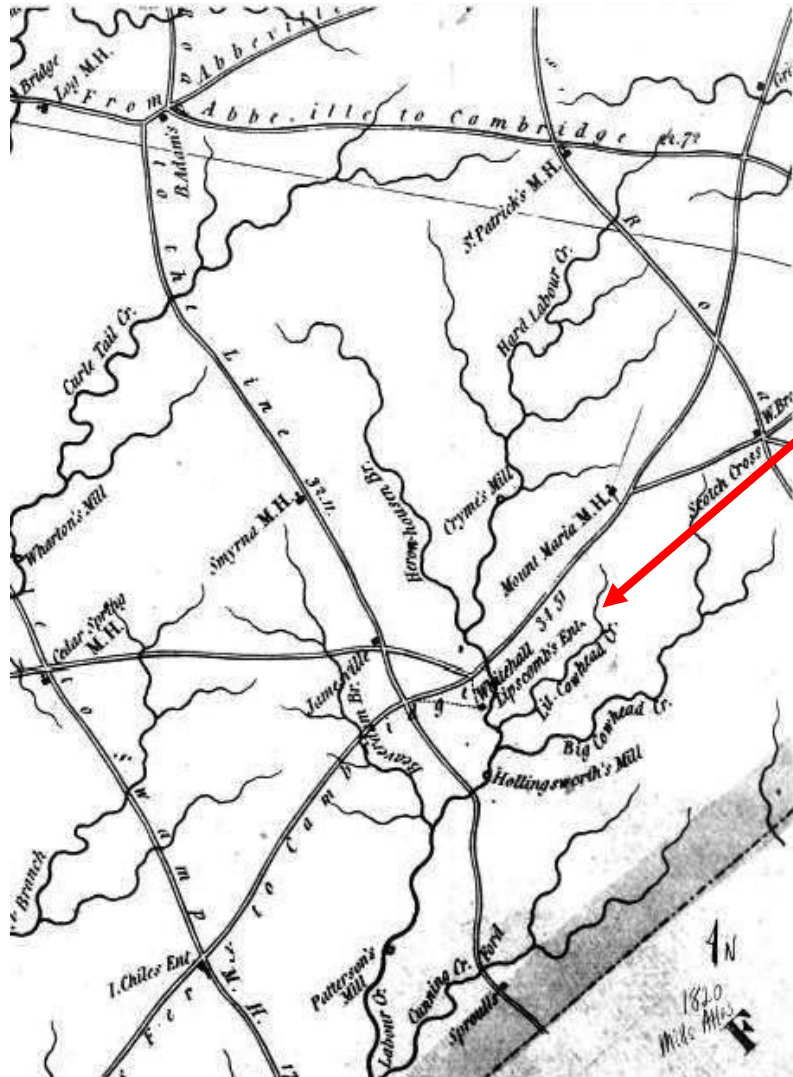


Permissions obtained
for 2019 search!



Clues to White Hall

Possible location of White Hall:



Archaeological implications and other clues:

- ❖ 1820 Mills Atlas shows “Whitehall”
- ❖ On Hard Labour Creek
- ❖ SE of main road

Clues to White Hall

Margaret Watson, 1982,
Greenwood County Sketches:

"...nor do we know the location of his [Williamson's] home, other than that it was close by the intersection of two important roads, later known as Barksdale Ferry and Five Notch roads"

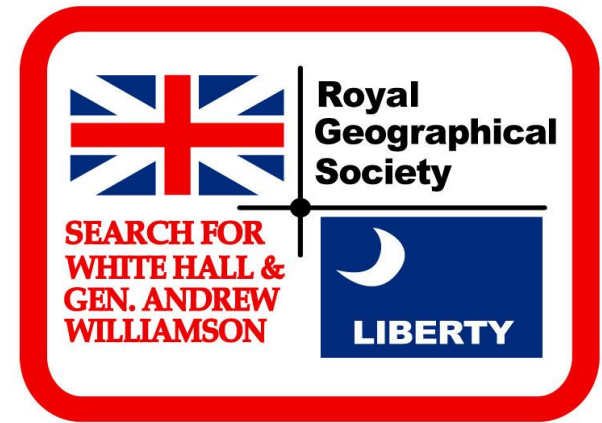
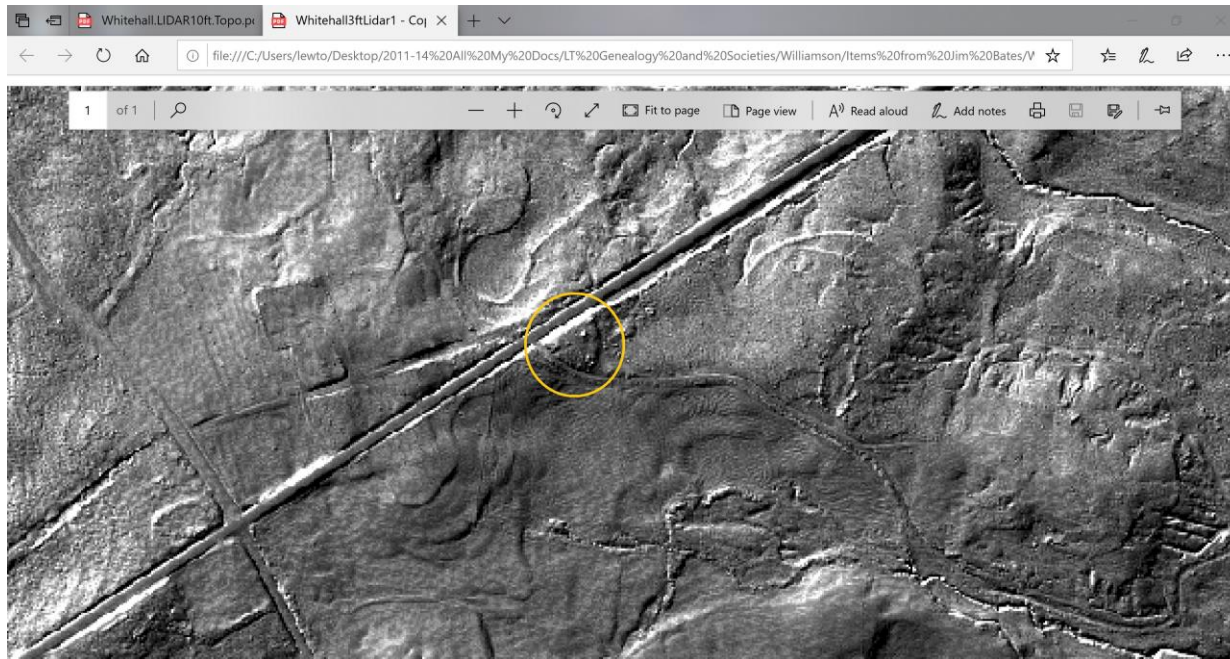


Archaeological implications and other clues:

Close to known intersection

Clues to White Hall

Possible Lidar feature related to WH:



Archaeological implications and other clues:

- ❖ Triangular feature (yellow circle) -- mound?
- ❖ Possible fort?
- ❖ Possible highway construction feature?

Clues to White Hall

Lidar clues re the WH area:

Archaeological implications and other clues:



- ❖ High ground, good location for house?
- ❖ Possible dam feature?
- ❖ Possible stockade feature?
- ❖ Possible trails?

Clues to White Hall –

Locations of Parcels and Features

Large parcel, hi priority, permission OK

Location of dam feature?

Triangle fort?



Location of hi ground for house?

Small parcel, hi priority, permission OK

Poss. location of WH from Mills Atlas and/or stockade from Lidar?

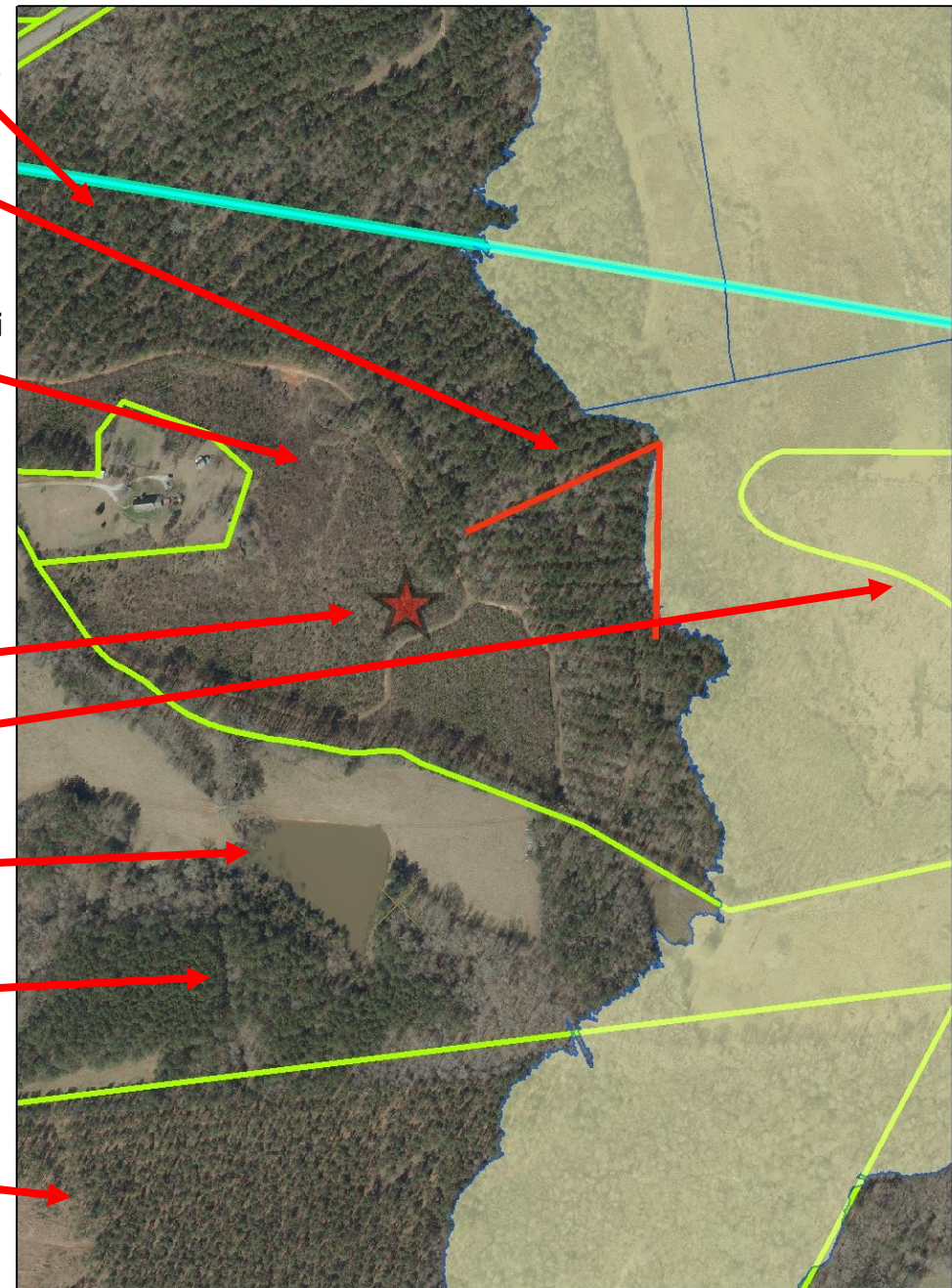
Erroneous land boundary?

Triangle pond, on parcel searched in 2011

Large parcel, searched in 2011

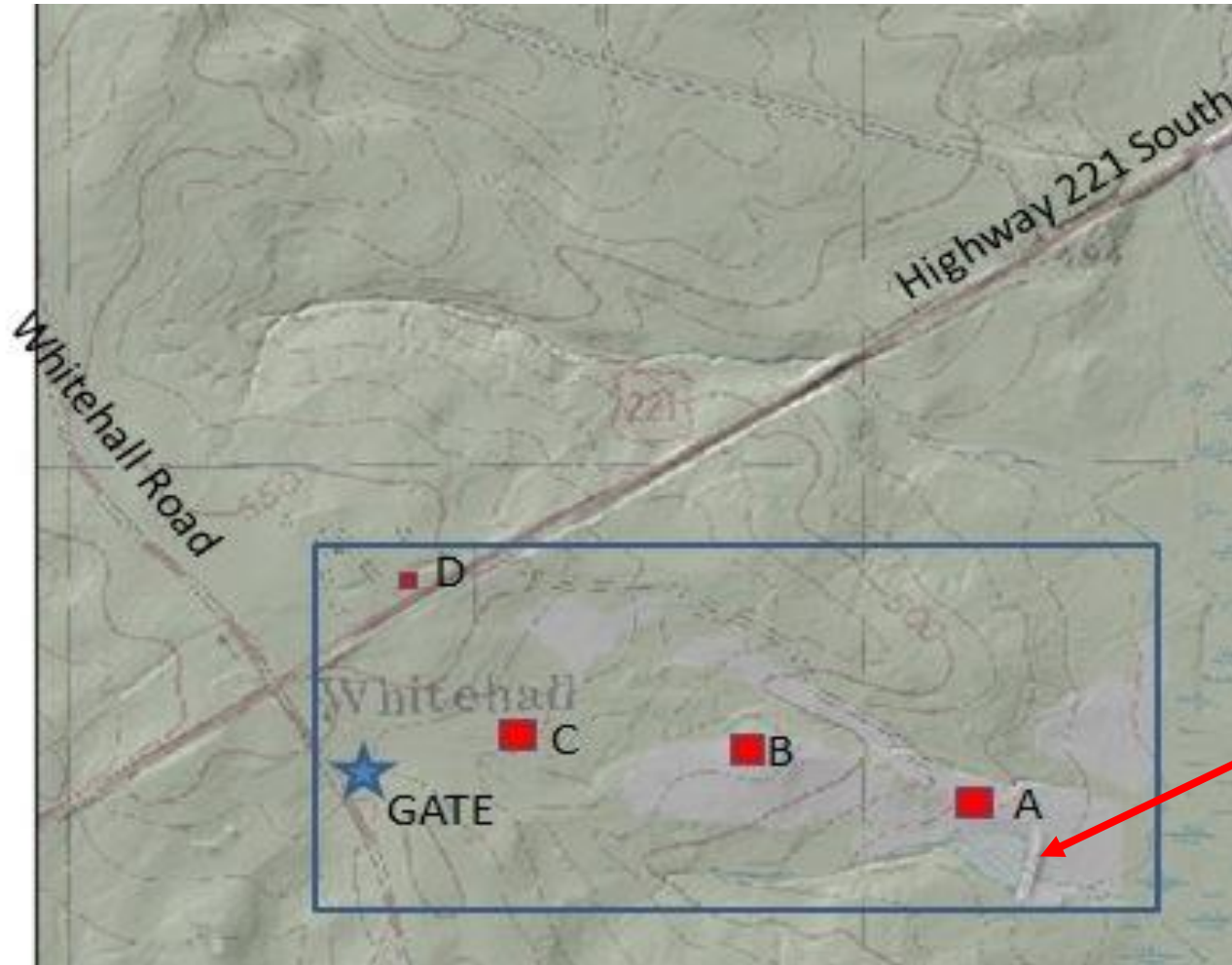
Large parcel, medium priority, permission OK

Route 221



Clues to White Hall

Search already undertaken in 2011 of one possible parcel:



Note triangular pond and dam from 1960s, on property already searched

Clues to White Hall

Other clues and features:

- ❖ “Waggon” sent out from WH – likely barn or storage building?
- ❖ Storage for peaches and other crops – likely barn(s)
- ❖ Likely cowpens – in low land area?
- ❖ Likely slave quarters



Conclusions:

- ❖ We have narrowed White Hall down to 1-2 square miles
- ❖ Likely target for WH: part of 250 acre area
- ❖ Likely target for Wmson's Mill: 200 acre area
- ❖ There should be archaeological remains and features
- ❖ These remains should be findable

THANKS! AND GOOD HUNTING!

