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Using GIS to Better Understand The Cracker Community of Pat's Island in the Ocala National Forest, Florida

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USING GIS TO BETTER UNDERSTAND THE CRACKER COMMUNITY OF PAT'S ISLAND IN THE OCALA NATIONAL FOREST, FLORIDA

by

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ABSTRACT

This research uses GIS methods to contextualize a Florida Cracker community in the Ocala National Forest. My case study is drawn from two seasons of fieldwork and supporting desktop surveys associated with Pat's Island, the home of multiple Cracker families. Cracker culture is historically categorized by its efforts to avoid modernization and prevent the commercialization of traditional lifeways in the quickly shifting society of late-19th and early 20th-century Florida. The geospatial expressions of these Cracker values are an emphasis on semi-remote living, adaptations to a unique environmental context, and the development of a semi-self-sufficient community.

This research evaluates how GIS can be used in conjunction with limited datasets to draw meaningful conclusions. In other words, how can geospatial approaches to sparse historical datasets reveal useful insights about the past? Specifically, how the combination of General Land Office patents, census records, and Florida Master Site records combine with archaeological data to conduct better understand community formation, development, and dissolution. The resultant study shows the efficacy with which these datasets, when combined and analyzed using GIS can add clarity to otherwise disparate and scarce data.

Furthermore, Pat's Island has received relatively little attention. This research thus hopes to begin the process of creating a foundation by which the history of Florida homesteaders can be contextualized and understood. Using a spatial approach, the space which homesteaders inhabited, altered, and experienced can be understood. Furthermore, this research will explore the efficacy of a digital anthropological approach to analyzing and exploring anthropological questions.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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To the best pup on the planet, Samwise Gamgee Kopp. Sammy, good boy.

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CHAPTER ONE: INTRODUCTION

During the summer field seasons of 2021 and 2022, excavations at an archaeological region in the Ocala National Forest known as Pat's Island commenced, resulting in a substantial amount of archaeological, spatial, and archival data. Throughout the excavation process, the immensity of data available reflected a unique opportunity to conduct a potentially insightful analysis of the livelihoods of the homesteaders who called Pat's Island their home, as the presence of so much cultural material alluded to the existence of a vibrant community in the past. This study compiled and analyzed a wide array of datasets (including those collected during the 2021/22 field seasons), and used them to conduct a thorough spatial analysis of the study area. Much of the data, as is explained later, is publicly available and accessible – but has not been brought together for the purpose of analysis within the Ocala National Forest. While this study specifically applies to a small section of the Ocala National Forest, the methods and insights gained, it is hoped, can be applied to future research in other parts of the forest. As such, this study fills a "spatial gap", in the Ocala National Forest.

This thesis addresses the ability of geospatial approaches to combine and analyze sparse historical datasets. Specifically, I ask how such an approach can reveal useful insights about the past. For instance, can the combination of General Land Office patents, census records, and Florida Master Site records, and new archaeological data within a GIS provide new insights regarding the formation, development, and dissolution of a frontier Cracker community? By employing GIS methods (including georeferencing, pathway reconstruction, resource distribution analysis, feature digitizing, and feature overlaying), this study adds to a growing body of literature expounding the efficacy of GIS and digital methods as essential tools in a researcher's toolkit. In the essence of historical archaeology, this study is also multidisciplinary – bringing

together datasets from a multitude of fields such as archaeology, history, literature, and geographic information sciences.

Additionally, the historical context of those who have called the forest their home throughout time speaks to a unique aspect of Florida's history. This study frames much of its analysis through the culture which lived within the study area – "Cracker culture". Florida Cracker communities – in many ways – can be thought of to represent the "frontier spirit" of Florida and hearken back to the early history of the territory in the post-Contact period (Nelson 2022). This study thus analyzes how Pat's Island, a Cracker community, organized space and created places reflexive of the cultural values embedded within Cracker culture. This is, of course, not to say that the inhabitants of Pat's Island were one-dimensionally Cracker, but rather that certain organizational elements of space would have simply "made sense" given the cultural bedrock upon which these people built their lives. Quite to the contrary, as is explored below, Cracker lifeways are a historically and culturally complex phenomena that has shaped Florida in much of its early history and seem to even impact perceptions of Florida in the modern day.

Who are the Florida Crackers?

The term "Cracker", while generally employed in a derogatory way, refers in this research to poor White homesteaders in the Reconstruction era United States who co-opted the term for themselves. This term is thus necessary for the contextualization of these communities and this research, as bound to it is the cultural beliefs, values, and experiences of Cracker communities. These communities, which make up a significant portion of Florida's history as part of the United States, have remained relatively understudied. As such, this thesis contributes

to discussions regarding Cracker communities and encourages discussion on a topic that speaks to an important aspect of Floridian heritage.

The term's initial conception is interestingly contested and elusive. Some attribute the term to the "cracking of corn", referring to the process of smashing corn with a hard rock, which was supposedly employed by these individuals instead of the use of a mill (Ste .Clair 1998). Another origin of the term indicates that it was suggestive of the sound of the whips commonly used to herd cattle. Of course, the origin of the term in regards to the cracking of whips may also have referenced the abhorrent treatment of slaves before the end of slavery in the United States, though given the often subsistence level wealth of many of these communities, it is likely that the average Floridian Cracker lacked the wealth to own slaves. However, the resemblance to the use of a whip on other human beings is rather uncanny and should likely not be discounted as yet another origin of the term. Yet another explanation suggests it is a term of seventeenth-century English origins, which is meant to signify a person who is easily angered or brought to temper (Hill and McCall 2009), qualities often blanketed over Cracker culture when the term is employed derogatorily. Despite an obvious variety of origins, no precise origin of the term seems to exist or is agreed upon. The most likely scenario seems to be that multiple meanings coalesced into the term as we know it today. Given that multiple origins refer to the sound of a *crack*, it may very well be the case that the term is onomatopoeic in origin. Though it is unclear whether the true origin has been lost to time or if multiple ideas converged to create the term, themes of otherness and isolationism are clear across all versions.

By the 1930s, however, the term was applied (or re-applied) to local-born rural Floridians as a derogatory term to depict them as oppositional, culturally backward, and adverse to the modernization of Florida. Over time, however, the term was co-opted by these communities and

ultimately utilized to reify isolationist sentiment and muster pride within these communities (Nelson 2022). Cracker culture is perhaps best conceptualized within the context of Florida communities that specifically opposed the commercialization and modernization of Florida. The portrayal of Cracker culture as rebellious is likely an inevitability given the incompatibility of modernization to the Cracker lifestyle. Cracker communities, for instance, were known to have preferred to allow their cattle to roam openly which was a preference that was no doubt understood to be at risk within a changing Florida. Moonshine production, another staple of Cracker culture, was also viewed to be under threat by a shifting Florida (Brahlek 2007). The term is thus seemingly representative of a cultural group simultaneously outwardly outcasted and inwardly isolationist.

Discussing the concept of Cracker culture would no doubt be incomplete without discussing the work of Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings. Rawlings, while not the inventor of the term, was essential in the emergence of the word as it is understood today. Rawlings' writing, in novels such as *The Yearling* (1938) and *South Moon Under* (1938) (among many others), helped to develop a Florida mythos that romanticized Cracker culture as a unique Floridian phenomenon (though it should be noted, Crackers communities also existed in Georgia). More specifically, Rawlings's work portrayed Cracker culture as free-of-care for the outside world, instead focusing inward on maintaining self-sustaining communities without the need of outside help (Berra 2014). These communities, as portrayed by Rawlings, were inherently rebellious towards the shift Florida had begun to experience from the American frontier to a modern, interconnected state. Rawlings's work, as someone whom both observed and participated within Cracker culture, can be understood to depict core elements of Cracker culture and lifestyle. Rawlings's depiction of the "trickster" within the short story *Benny and the Bird Dogs* (Rawlings 1940), for

example, specifically explores the rebellious, mischievous nature of Cracker culture (Neeld 2006). In the story, Uncle Benny's trickster nature is ultimately described as an unchangeable aspect of his who he is, which likely intentionally parallels the perception of Cracker communities as oppositional to a quickly modernizing world (Tarr 1994). Rawlings's work is fiction, of course, but her work is contextually embedded in the values and lifestyles of Cracker communities. As is central to this thesis, these isolationist tendencies encouraged Cracker communities to work together closely to be able to survive and thrive.

"Cracker culture", despite its imprecise origin and the multiplicity of meanings attached to it, can be helpfully understood to refer to, as Hill and McCall (2009) put it "the geographic features (topography, flora, fauna, and weather), the logic of its social order (social organization), and the sacred logic (rationale) that supports and gives meaning to the culture" (45). This definition, while broad, emphasizes some of the most crucial aspects of Cracker culture. Ste. Clair (2006) to emphasizes the patterned nature of Cracker culture, noting the self-sufficient, pioneering lifestyle of Cracker communities. Zellner (2012), echoing Akerman (1976), states that "cracker" homesteaders "[lived] in close contact with the land and their animals, and due to the cyclical and often-uncertain nature of the [ranching/farming] industry, must possess resourcefulness, self-reliance and initiative, toughness, compassion, and a sense of humor" (1). The geographical isolation found within the Florida Scrub enables and encourages the tightly-knit social organization. This dynamic was historically bolstered by the expansion of commercialization in Florida which inherently infringed and detracted from the self-sustaining, isolationist lifestyle of Cracker communities. Additionally, connected to this lifestyle is a deep knowledge and understanding of Florida's landscape and ecosystems.

An example of Cracker communities maintaining deep knowledge of their environments can be observed in the vernacular architectural style found in Florida and Georgia known as Cracker architecture (generally in the form of the famed cracker house). The term, much like its use when applied to the people themselves, suggests nuance within their lived experiences, as the architectural style is ingenious from an engineering perspective, enabling buildings of the style to have significantly more airflow than would otherwise be possible (Haase 1992; Richards 1980).

As is explored in the next section, the focus of this research – Pat's Island – was home to multiple homesteader families who would have identified with, or at least been identified as belonging to, Cracker culture. The cultural implication of these homesteaders' relationship to Cracker culture is expected to manifest as an emphasis on semi-remote living, adaptations to a unique environmental context, and the development of a semi-self-sufficient homesteader community.

Pat's Island

Between approximately the 1850s and 1930s, Pat's Island was home to a multigenerational community of white homesteaders known as Florida Crackers. These homesteaders lived off the Ocala ecosystem for decades facilitating the emergence of a self-sufficient community. The area, while only a small section of the Ocala National Forest, represents the largest Cracker community within the forest and thus warrants study. The area is home to numerous archaeological sites, but until recently had received nearly no attention.

Pat's Island is also the real-world location in which the Pulitzer Prize-winning novel *The Yearling* by Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings is based. The novel, which itself reflects Cracker culture,

is considered an American classic and speaks to the complex and interesting lifeways of the community of Pat's Island. The area was additionally used as the location for filming the movie of the same name which was based on Rawlings' novel.

The community at Pat's Island, though relatively short-lived, was situated at a time when the United States was experiencing a period that encompasses the 1893 Panic, Great Depression, World War One, and generally shifting relationships towards material culture. As such, the area is a unique and fruitful location for archaeological and cultural research.

CHAPTER TWO: ENVIRONMENTAL, HISTORICAL, AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONTEXT

Environmental Context

Pat's Island resides in the Ocala National Forest, which occupies approximately 420,000 acres of Florida's landscape. Given its proximity to other significant sites, such as Silver Glen Springs and Juniper Springs, Pat's Island is also likely part of a larger network of settlements in the Ocala National Forest. The area of Pat's Island is about 850 acres and is situated approximately five miles west of Lake George. Figure 1 depicts the full extent of the Ocala National Forest, as well as the comparatively small area of Pat's Island.

Pat's Island is not a literal island surrounded by water, but rather is situated at a higher elevation than surrounding areas and consists of different soils and vegetation. The area can be thought of as a kind of "land island" that is environmentally distinct from surrounding areas, which is likely one of the reasons the area came to be inhabited in the first place (Figure 2).

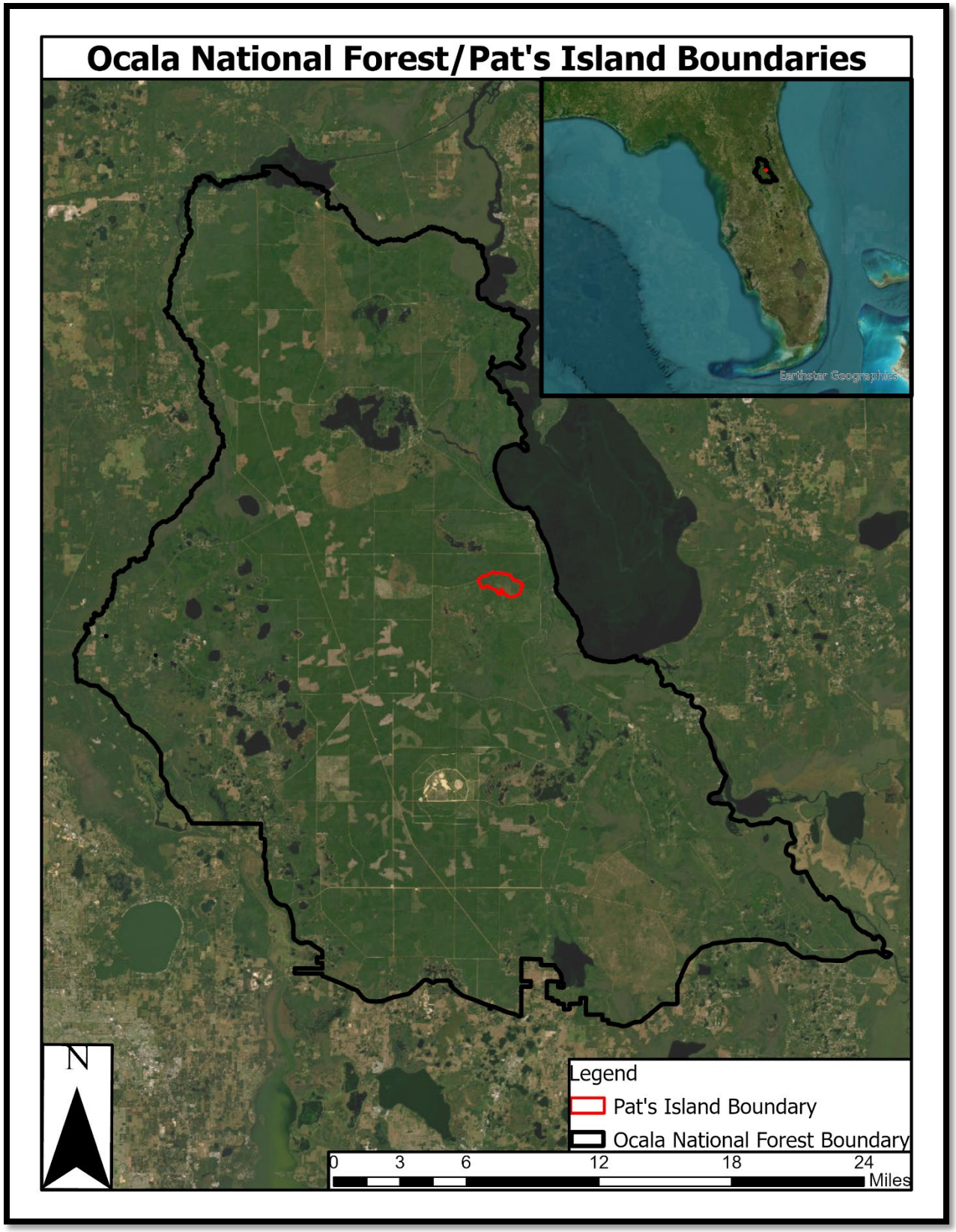


Figure 1. Extent of Ocala National Forest with Pat's Island study

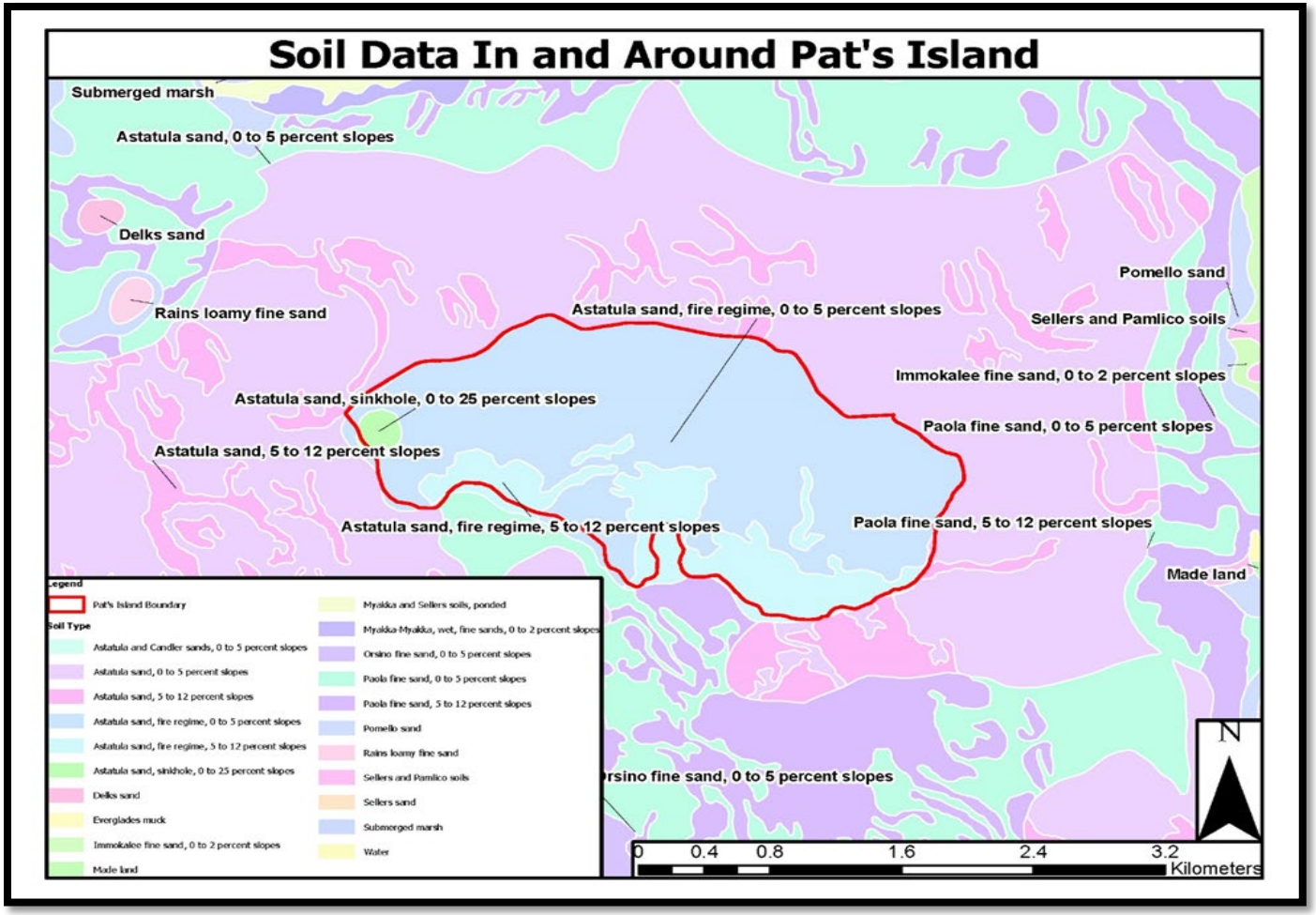


Figure 2. Soil data in and around study area. Data obtained from SSURGO.

The study area resides exclusively in a zone of Sand Pine Scrub, which is characteristically known for being pyrogenic, or fire-adapted (Myers 1990). After a fire event, pyrogenic plants experience a peak in flowering, encouraging the survival of these plants in fire-prone areas. As such, both the flora and fauna are well-adapted to fire. Unsurprisingly, the soil within the area is an excessively drained, dry soil known as Astatula soil. Pat's Island, and the Ocala National Forest more broadly, is home to many rare species of animals, including the Florida scrub jay, blue-tailed mole skink, and sand skink. Additionally, the forest houses rare and endangered plants including scrub holly, silk bay, and palafoxia. For this brief background, what is crucial to understand is that the forest is a location of immense environmental and archaeological depth, easily worthy of preservation. Furthermore, the Sand Pine Scrub ecosystem of the region is delicate and easily disrupted (Shedaker and Lugo 1972; Myers 1990). For the Cracker homesteaders of Pat's Island, knowledge and understanding of the unique environmental context of Ocala would have been an important and daily part of their lives.

The Ocala National Forest has also been affected by a phenomenon environmentally unique to Florida's environment. As a result of the highly acidic nature of Florida's surface and groundwater, the limestone which makes up the bedrock of much of the peninsula erodes, resulting in sinkholes, caves, and caverns (Kindinger et al. 1999). One such environmental feature is present at Pat's Island in the form of the "Big Sink" – a sinkhole that would have played an important part in the lives of the homesteaders of the area, as it was a substantial water source at the time. Sinkholes, like that of the Big Sink, can be found throughout the Ocala National Forest and can be incredibly wide and deep.

Historical Context

The following section explores the most significant historical context in relation to Pat's Island – the Homestead Acts. These Acts, consisting in reality of a multitude of individual acts, helped to facilitate the livelihoods of homesteaders across the United States. For the residents of Pat's Island, these acts would have enabled the homesteaders to take ownership of the land and subsequently create the multigenerational Cracker community that is the core of this research. What follows is a discussion of the historical lead-up and implementation of the Homestead Acts.

Homestead Acts

Throughout much of the nineteenth century, the topic of the distribution of public lands to American settlers continually inched into the public and political consciousness of the nation. As early as 1826, bills such as that of Congressman Thomas Hart Benton of Missouri made calls for such a distribution. While it would be nearly another forty years before the Homestead Acts would be passed, the political groundwork for the Acts was long a part of American discourse (Plante 1962).

Proponents of the legislature to disperse lands amongst settlers emphasized the harsh reality of many average Americans at the time, who were poor and struggling. Given the vast wealth of unsettled lands throughout the country, many viewed the distribution of such lands as a logical means of dealing with the issues of a struggling electorate. Proponents further argued that such actions would simultaneously encourage economic expansion of the nation. So strong was this idea that by 1833 even President Jefferson supported the supplying of public land to American citizens, under the notion that it is ultimately the labor of those settlers which creates

the value of the land. Furthermore, supporters of land distribution policies noted the usefulness of settlers as an efficient means of dealing with the "issue" of indigenous communities (Plante 1962).

By 1842, as the country recovered from the economic panic of 1837, a combination of political traction and the belief that public lands could be granted to citizens to encourage productivity in times of economic crisis led to the granting of approximately 200,000 acres of Florida's terrain to homesteaders. This early form of the Homestead Acts, known as the Florida Donation Acts or the Florida Armed Occupation Act, stipulated that settlers would defend and make productive the lands they were given, thus enabling the territory of Florida to develop in the interest of the United States. These acts would result in the influx of nearly one-hundred and sixty thousand settlers into Florida (Denham 1993). The success of land grants within Florida bolstered the plight of proponents within Congress and throughout the nation, even leading other states to suggest similar legislation for their territories, such as in Oregon.

Despite nominal success, successive bills would fail to be passed by Congress. In particular, the growing issue of slavery prevented the straight-forward gifting of public lands to citizens, as Southern states feared that the granting of land to private citizens could bolster efforts to diminish the institution of slavery. It would not be until the 1850s when once again free land grant legislature would manage to succeed within Congress, though this too would become bogged down and ultimately fail due to the question of slavery. As such, this period witnessed a variety of bills suggesting the creation of a national land grant program, all of which failed to become fully realized.

In the prelude to the Civil War, southern states which had ironically once been some of the largest proponents of free land grant legislature became entrenched in preventing its passing.

As stated prior, the belief throughout much of the southern block was that the expansion of the frontier (that is, land not yet developed by the United States; the lands had long since been explored, lived within, and experienced by others including indigenous communities and the Spanish) could be used as a means of further restricting and preventing the institution of slavery. Finally, amid the Civil War, with the south no longer able to impede its passing, the Homestead Act was signed into law by President Lincoln on May 20th, 1862 (Plante 1962).

The Act in its original form stipulated that claimants would receive up to 160 acres of land to make productive, by building a homestead and cultivating it. Upon completion of this requirement for five successive years, the claimant would be entitled to the land free of charge (The Homestead Act, 1862). Throughout the early twentieth century, additional legislation to alter and expand the Homestead Act would be put into law, including the Kinkaid Act (1900), the Enlarged Homestead Act (1909), the Three-Year Homestead Act (1912), and the Stock Raising Homestead Act (1916).

The Homestead Act, though a fundamental piece of nineteenth and twentieth century American legislature, was prone to problems from the start. The inability of government organizations like the General Land Office to monitor the conditions of far distant frontier enabled substantial fraud regarding the extent to which the land had been cultivated (Plante 1962; Shanks 2005). Additionally, the homestead acts were also responsible for significant displacement of indigenous communities across the country and were also used to disproportionately give land to whites instead of free or recently freed African Americans (Canaday et al. 2015). Particularly in the era of reconstruction, the prospect of giving land to freedmen within the south was a difficult notion to suggest, though efforts by some like Colonel Thomas W. Osborn helped pave the way for the yielding of some lands within places like Florida

(Rosen and Osborn 1965). As it pertains to this research, the Homestead Acts represent the historical circumstances which led to the inhabitance and cultivation of the Pat's Island community.

Archaeological Context

The Ocala National Forest contains an abundance of archaeological sites. While the study area of this research, Pat's Island, has had little in the ways of archaeological inquiry, the larger Ocala Forest has been subjected to a good deal of archaeological research. Much of this research applies to prehistoric cultural material (Bullen and Bryant 1965; Schneider 1982). As this research does not pertain to the prehistoric periods within the forest, an in-depth discussion of these archaeological resources is not included in this research. Instead, what follows is a description of archaeological research that specifically pertains to Pat's Island and nearby areas.

Directly relating to the study area of Pat's Island are the numerous Civilian Conservation Corps sites strewn throughout the forest. Notable sites such as Juniper Springs, located less than five miles from Pat's Island (shown in Figure 3), are important icons of the work conducted by the CCC after its founding in 1933. Additionally, sites like Silver Glen Springs and Fort King represent both natural and historic landscapes which have served important functions for inhabitants of the forest.

Pat's Island specifically began to receive archaeological attention during the 1980s, in which forest archaeologist Alan Dorian surveyed much of the area, cataloguing archaeological sites in the area. However, beyond survey, no extensive inquiries took place during this period. What inquiry did take place was recorded within Florida's Master Site File system, a database containing information regarding archaeological sites throughout the state. Within this database,

a substantial amount of data regarding known archaeological sites can be located, such as location, surface finds, extent of excavations and survey, likely period ranges, and much more. The Ocala National Forest contains numerous archaeological sites and resources within its boundaries. As shown in Figure 3, even within only a 1-mile radius of Pat's Island, there is a notable number of archaeological resources.

As Figure 3 displays, the resultant data found in the FMSF indicates a variety of historical sites within and around Pat's Island, though few of them have any form of in-depth information written about them. Sites of note, found by Dorian, include the Calvin Long homesite, Hiscock grave, Hiscock homesite, Calvin Long dump, Patrick Smith homesite, the Pat's Island church/school, Ruben Long homesite, low-density artifact scatter sites, and multiple moonshine stills. All these sites presumably date to around the same period, having been occupied sometime between the 1880s and 1930s. The data collected by Dorian and recorded within the Florida Master Site File system informed much of the archaeological background for the Pat's Island Archaeological Project.

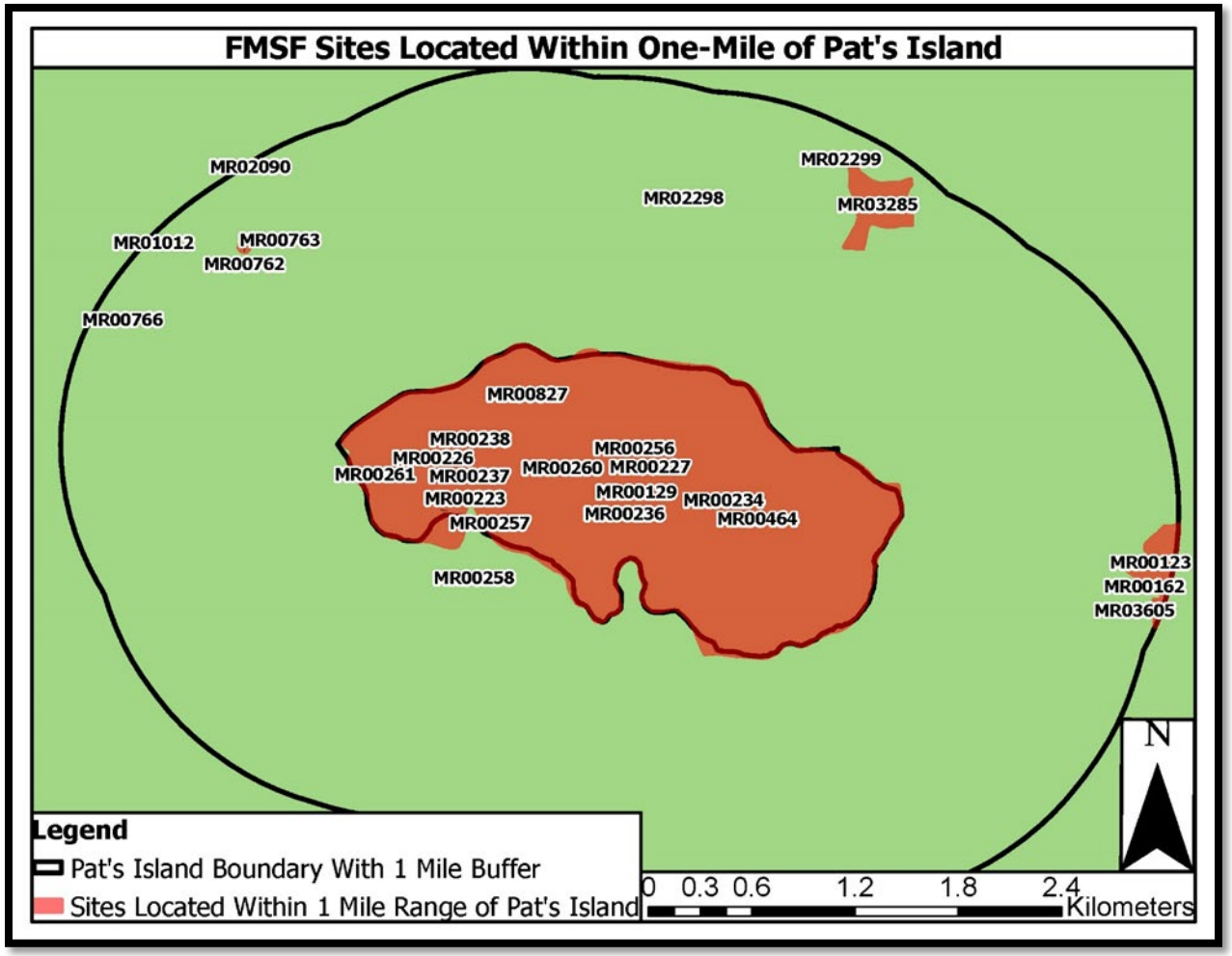


Figure 3. Florida Master Site File sites within 1-mile of study area.

Beyond the work of Alan Dorian, Pat's Island received relatively little archaeological attention during this period. As of the summers of 2021 and 2022, however, the area was subjected to intense archaeological inquiry for the first time, in accordance with a partnership between the United States Forest Service and the University of Central Florida. Headed by Dr. Edward Gonzalez-Tennant, excavations commenced at the presumed sites of two homesteads within the area – the Long Homestead and the Hiscock Homestead. During these excavations, an abundance of ceramic sherds, glass, metal, and other domestic refuse was recovered. Additionally, Pat's Island was the location in which the Pulitzer Prize winning novel, *The Yearling* by Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings was based and which the 1946 MGM film of the same name was filmed. Thus, one of the goals of the excavations was to attempt to relate real-world locations and material culture to the pieces. Interestingly, there are many references within The Yearling which can help researchers to understand the homestead lifestyle of Ocala, and it is thus a resource that is valuable to this study. One such example of the ways The Yearling informs and confirms its understanding of Pat's Island is in descriptions of the area such as:

> "The island was called by such a name, in an arid forest, because it was an island of long-leaf pines, lifted high, a landmark, in the rolling sea that was the scrub. There were other such islands scattered to the north and west, where some accident of soil or moisture produced patches of luxuriant growth; even of hammock, the richest growth of all. Live oaks were here and there; the red bay and the magnolia; wild cherry and sweet gum; hickory and holly." (Rawlings 1938:35)

Overall, these excavations were the first major excavations to take place at Pat's Island. These insights into the lived experience of Pat's Island homesteaders in conjunction with Dorian's earlier observations constituted the background and contextualization for this research.

Pat's Island also contains a handful of prehistoric artifact scatters dating roughly between the St. Johns I and St. Johns II periods, though clearly the cultural remains of the homesteaders are far more archaeologically prevalent (whether this is indicative of a lack of prehistoric sites, disturbances to those sites, or simply a product of lacking surveying in the region is unclear). As this project is contextualized as research in the realm of historical archaeology, a more in-depth breakdown of prehistoric Ocala has been left out, as it would not be relevant to this discussion. However, as mentioned prior, there is little evidence of substantial prehistoric occupation in the actual area of Pat's Island. Silver Glen, approximately one mile to the east of Pat's Island, is a much more suitable location for a discussion of prehistoric occupation in the area. Utilizing Pat's Island as a case-study, this research assesses the ability of historical GIS to reveal new information regarding the Cracker lifestyle and its unique spirit of independence in the face of a modernizing, 19th century Florida society. The following section lays out a methodological approach to this pursuit.

CHAPTER THREE: METHODOLOGY

Introduction

This chapter details the methodologies used throughout this study. Through the application of GIS methods including georeferencing, archival visualizations, feature tracing, and feature overlaying, space as it is constructed and experienced can be better understood. Using publicly available datasets, this study employs GIS methods to better understand the Cracker community of Pat's Island.

Georeferencing and Visual Analysis

The following section presents the history of Pat's Island by observing change within the study area throughout time as it is indicated on multiple historical maps. In doing so, a broad view of an area can be understood. For this study, four available maps – two General Land Office survey maps and two historical aerial photographs – were used to observe the changing landscape of Pat's Island through time. Each of these maps are also available publicly. Historical aerial photography can be found on FDOT's website (https://www.fdot.gov/gis/aerialmain.shtm). General Land Office survey maps can be found on the Bureau of Land Management website (https://glorecords.blm.gov/search/default.aspx?searchTabIndex=0&searchByTypeIndex=1). Even with this limited data, a robust picture of the community's development through time is visible.

Each map initially had to be georeferenced in order to be used later for the overlaying of layers and further GIS analysis. To georeference the images, QGIS was used, as georeferencing extensions can be accessed at no cost and downloaded freely. QGIS is a free and open-source geographic information systems software (https://www.qgis.org/en/site/index.html) that can be

used to produce maps, digitize geospatial features, and run analysis. The georeferencing function on QGIS allows users to easily click between the input image and points of reference on a base map or already-georeferenced image. This process was conducted for each of the four Pat's Island maps, shown below.

The first surveying of the area appears to have taken place in 1852, according to the earliest known General Land Office (GLO) map of the area (Figure 4). When viewing the first GLO survey map in conjunction with archival property data, it becomes evident that the area was first inhabited sometime following the 1852 GLO survey. The survey itself shows what appears to be the area of Pat's Island entirely devoid of indications of habitation, even maintaining only a very crude outline of its naturally-defined boundaries (Figure 4). By 1884, GLO records show properties on Pat's Island under private ownership, beginning with the homestead of Rueben Long, marking the earliest available documented property in the area. However, it is likely that the area was at least partially inhabited sometime before this property patent, given the fact that the Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings' *The Yearling* is known to have taken place during the 1870. Again, while the novel is a work of fiction, it is based in reality and thus can offer some insights into Cracker culture and life at Pat's Island more specifically. As such, it may be the case that the 1852 GLO survey was conducted by the General Land Office due to the expectation that the area would soon be dispersed to homesteaders. Additionally, homesteaders were required by the Homestead Acts to live on the land for a minimum of five years prior to being formally given rights to the land, making it even more likely that the initial inhabitance of the area took place between 1852 and ~1879.

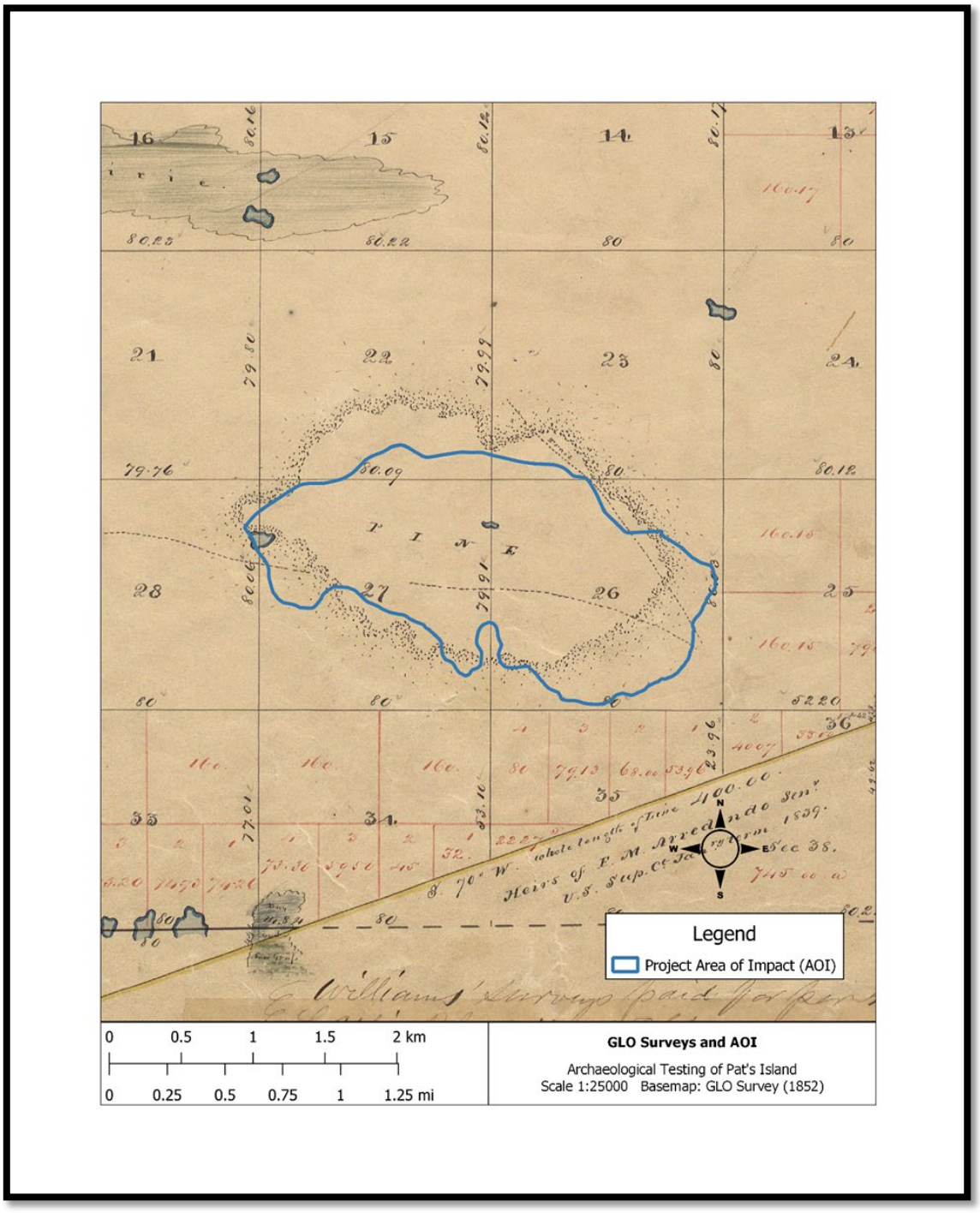


Figure 4. Georeferenced 1852 General Land Office survey map.

A second GLO survey was conducted in 1927, at which point a substantial community had emerged. However, as much of the Ocala National Forest came to be under the ownership of the government in the 1930s, this survey may have represented efforts by the government to assess the community prior to its efforts to take ownership of it (Figure 5). The archaeological survey suggests that the community consisted at this time of multiple homesteads, a local church and school, multiple moonshine stills, and a cemetery (among other archaeological sites of unknown use). The GLO survey from that year shows the presence of multiple fields and an extensive network of paths connecting the entire community both to itself and to areas beyond Pat's Island.

By this point in time (in fact, as early as 1894), GLO documents indicate that the majority of Pat's Island had been partitioned and purchased amongst at least seven individuals (Table 1). Methodologically, the 1927 GLO survey map was a core source of analysis in this study. Certain features present in 1927 became of note including the locations and routes of pathways and the spatial positioning of fields in relation to the properties partitioned within the GLO patents. As is explored further below, the use of maps to digitize features for analysis and comparison made these maps further invaluable to this study. What is clear is that by the early to mid-1930s, the United States Forest Service became responsible for the area of Pat's Island (and much of the Ocala National Forest) through the governmental acquisition of the forest, and the community at Pat's Island disbanded and ceased to exist.

Historical aerial photography conducted in 1941 (Figure 6), which would have been taken no more than two decades after the abandonment of Pat's Island, contributes a more accurate real-world, albeit overgrown, depiction of Pat's Island than can be understood from the GLO property maps. Pat's Island at this time, despite being abandoned, appears to have not been

devoid of inhabitants for long, given the relatively well-kept state of the area. However, this may be because the area briefly experienced use again in the 1940s during the filming of the MGM movie *The Yearling*, in which some of the remaining structures in the area were revitalized and used as film sets. This fact also ensures that the site was abandoned by the 1941 aerial photograph. Sometime after this, archaeological excavations suggest that any remaining structures were torn down (likely to discourage squatting). Historical aerial photography conducted in the 1970s (Figure 7) depicts Pat's Island as clearly devoid of any inhabitants, with evidence of foresting activities by the forest service.

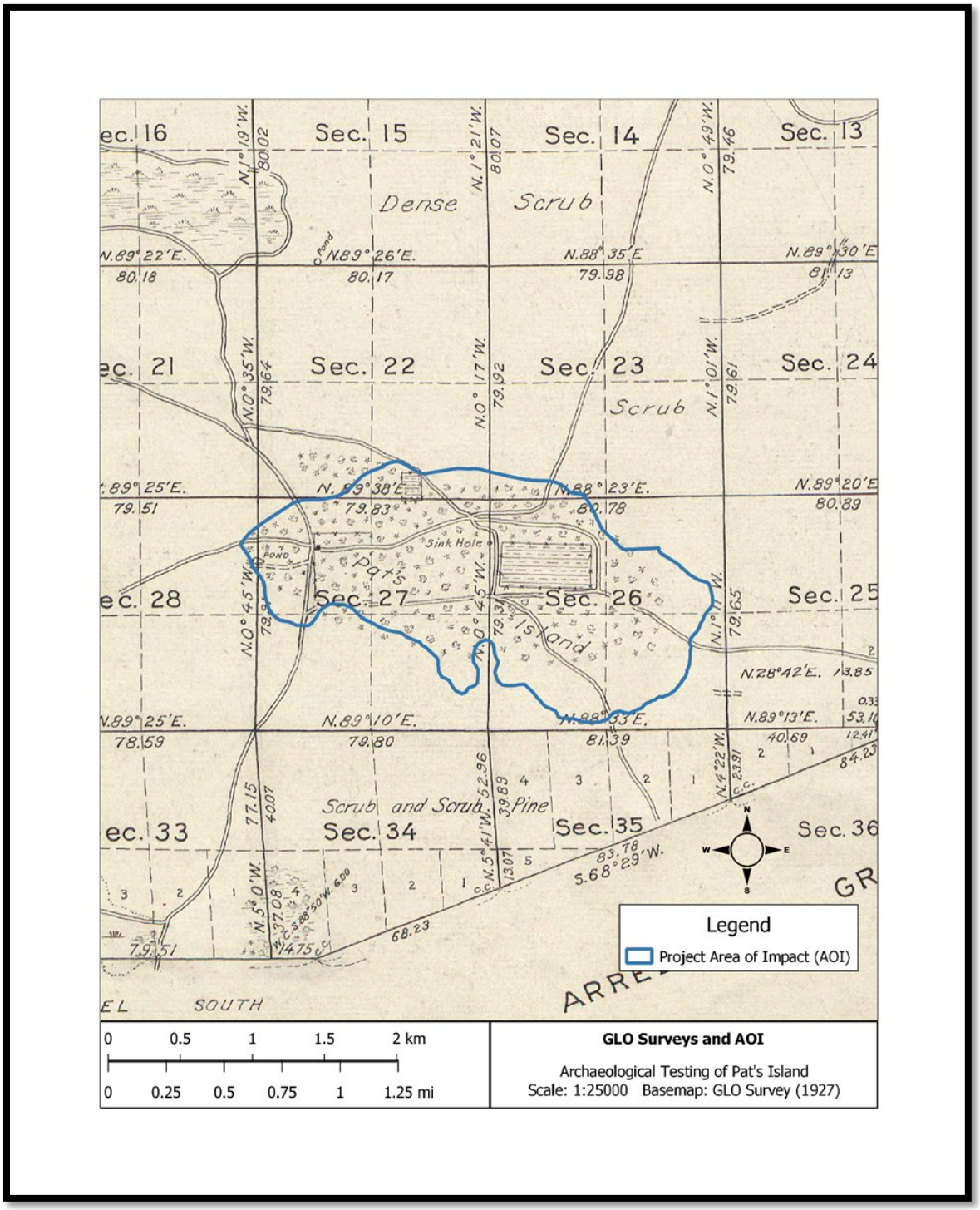


Figure 5. Georeferenced 1927 General Land Office survey map.

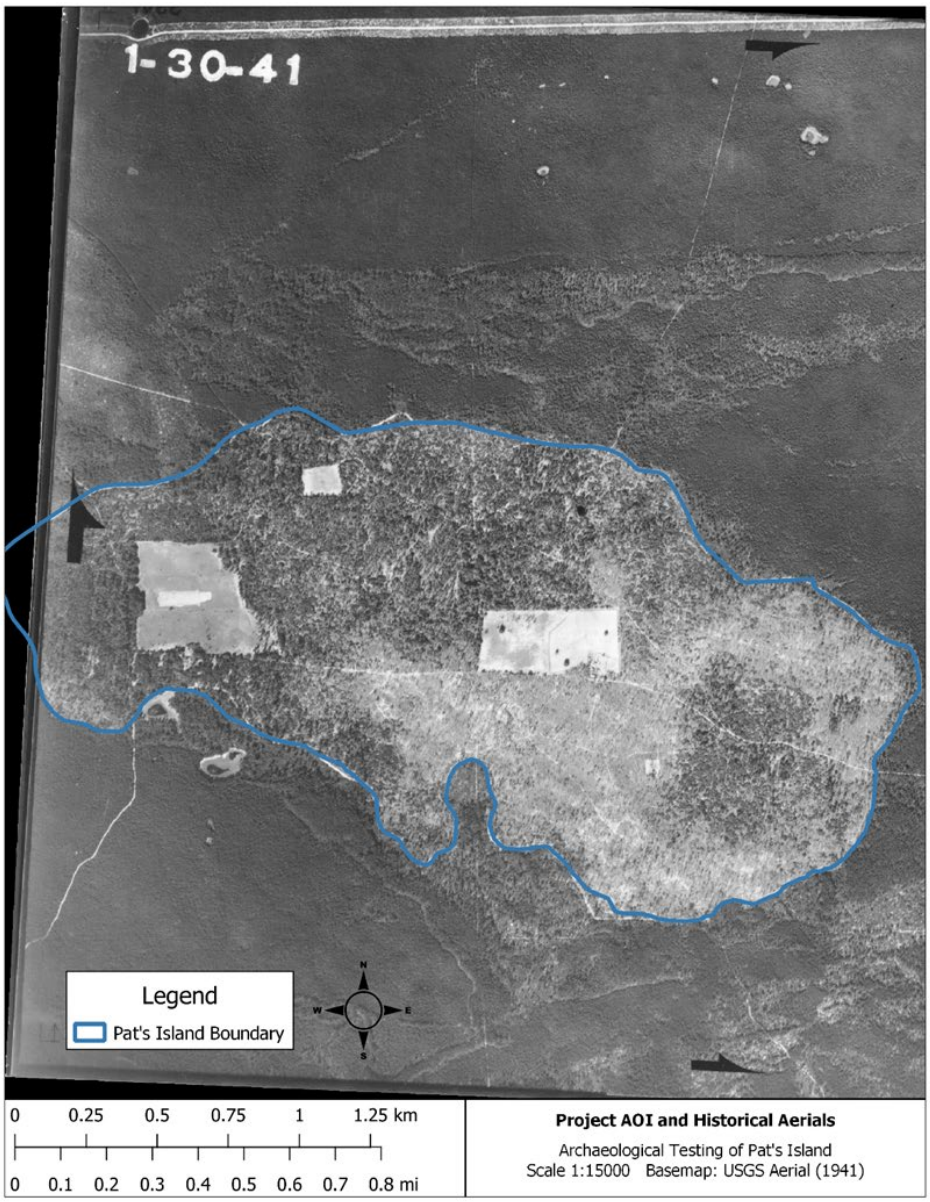


Figure 6. Georeferenced 1941 historical aerial photograph.

After having utilized the 1941 historical aerial photograph, the final available photo documenting the history of Pat's Island was taken in 1972. The 1972 aerial photograph (Figure 7) is, much like the 1852 GLO map, of rather little use, as the remnants of habitation within the area had been all but erased by the forest by this point. However, the presence of what are likely to be forest service burn lines in the southern portion of Pat's Island in the image does speak to the need for protection of the archaeological material present in the region – particularly given the fact that many of the sites are significant enough for inclusion on the National Register. As is further discussed below, the archaeological inquiry also indicated that the area has experienced fairly regular and substantial disturbance.

As stated at the start of this section, this methodology would function to create better clarity were there more maps to georeference and subsequently analyze. However, this study shows that a good deal of broad information regarding inhabitance can be understood even from a relatively small historical dataset.

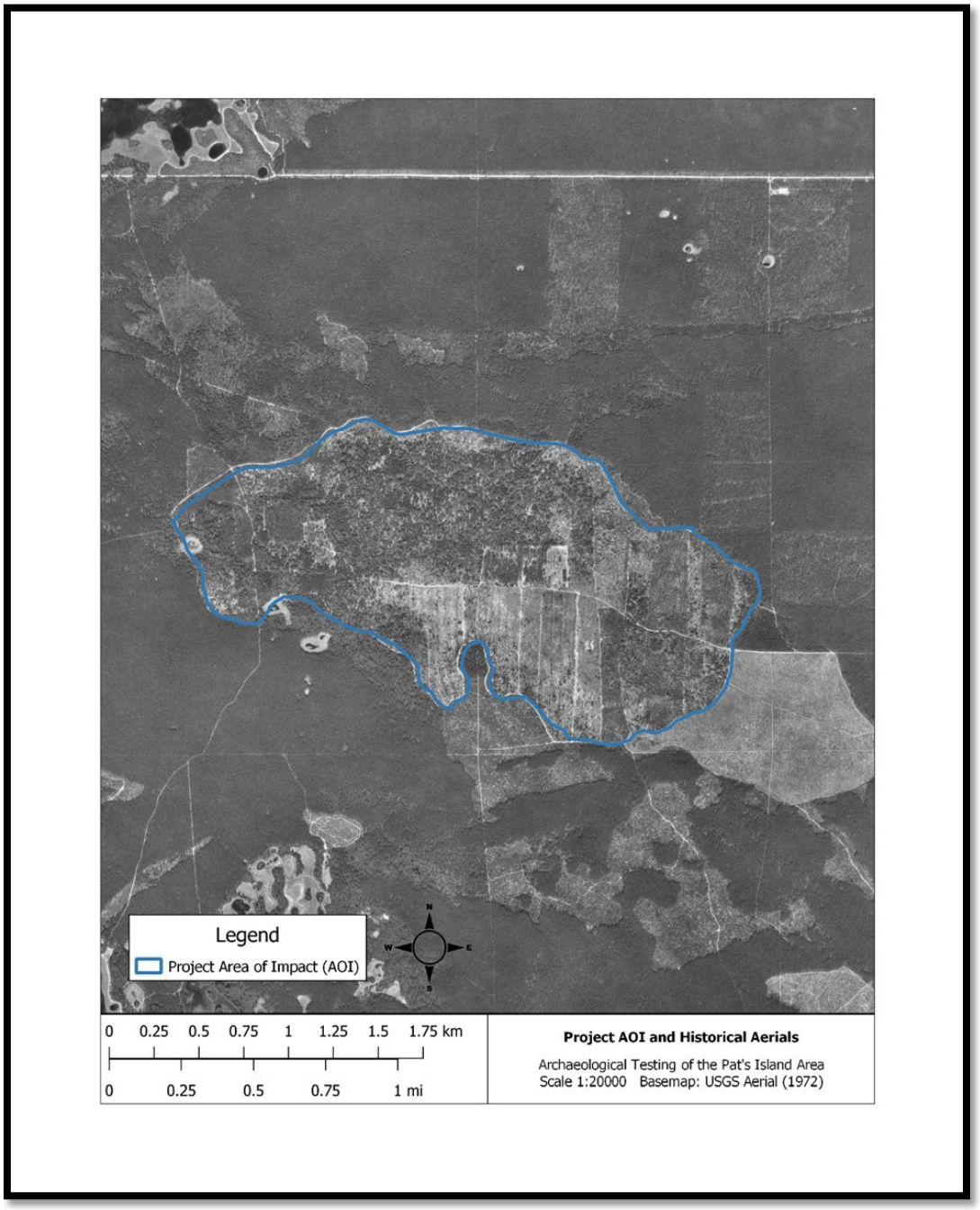


Figure 7. Georeferenced 1972 historical aerial photograph.

Archival Research

Much like georeferencing, archival research pertaining to census records and GLO property information was essential to this study. As shown in Table 1 and Figure 8, information regarding ownership of land can easily be adapted to space, used as an analytical tool, and can help in the construction of a timeline in the use of space.

Table 1. GLO Patents related to Pat's Island.

Doc #	Patentee	Date	Twp-Rng	Aliquots	Sec. #
9301	ANDERSON, SAMUEL	5/25/1885	14S-26E	SW¼SE¼	22
4010	LONG, ALONZO	6/30/1884	14S-26E	SW¼NE¼	26
			14S-26E	NE¼SW¼	26
			14S-26E	W½SE¼	26
6255	LONG, CALVIN	11/25/1889	14S-26E	NE¼SE¼	27
			14S-26E	NW¼SW¼	26
			14S-26E	S½NW¼	26
4007	LONG, REUBEN	6/30/1884	14S-26E	S½NE¼	27
			14S-26E	E½NW¼	27
6251	ROGERS, JAMES	6/17/1889	14S-26E	S½SW¼	23
10827	SMITH, KIRBY	9/28/1894	14S-26E	SE¼SE¼	22
4290	SMITH, PATRICK	6/30/1884	14S-26E	N½NE¼	27
			14S-26E	N½NW¼	26

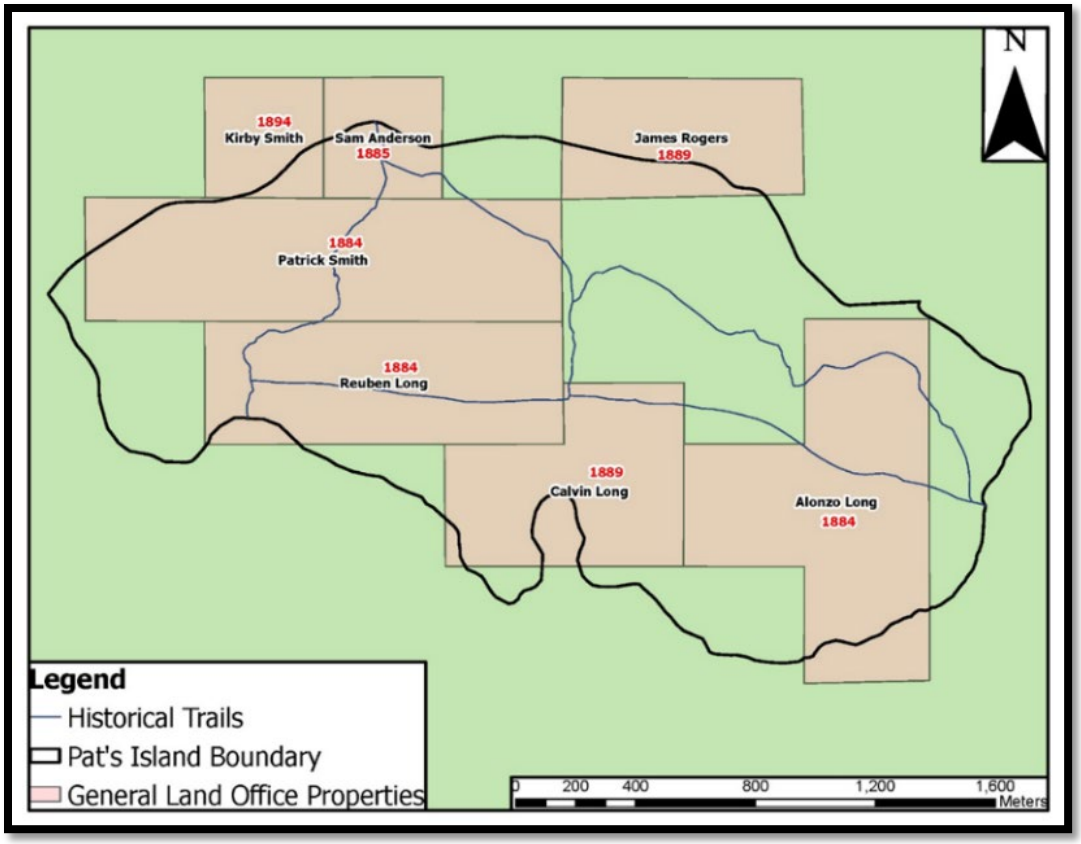


Figure 8. General Land Office property bounds within Pat's Island

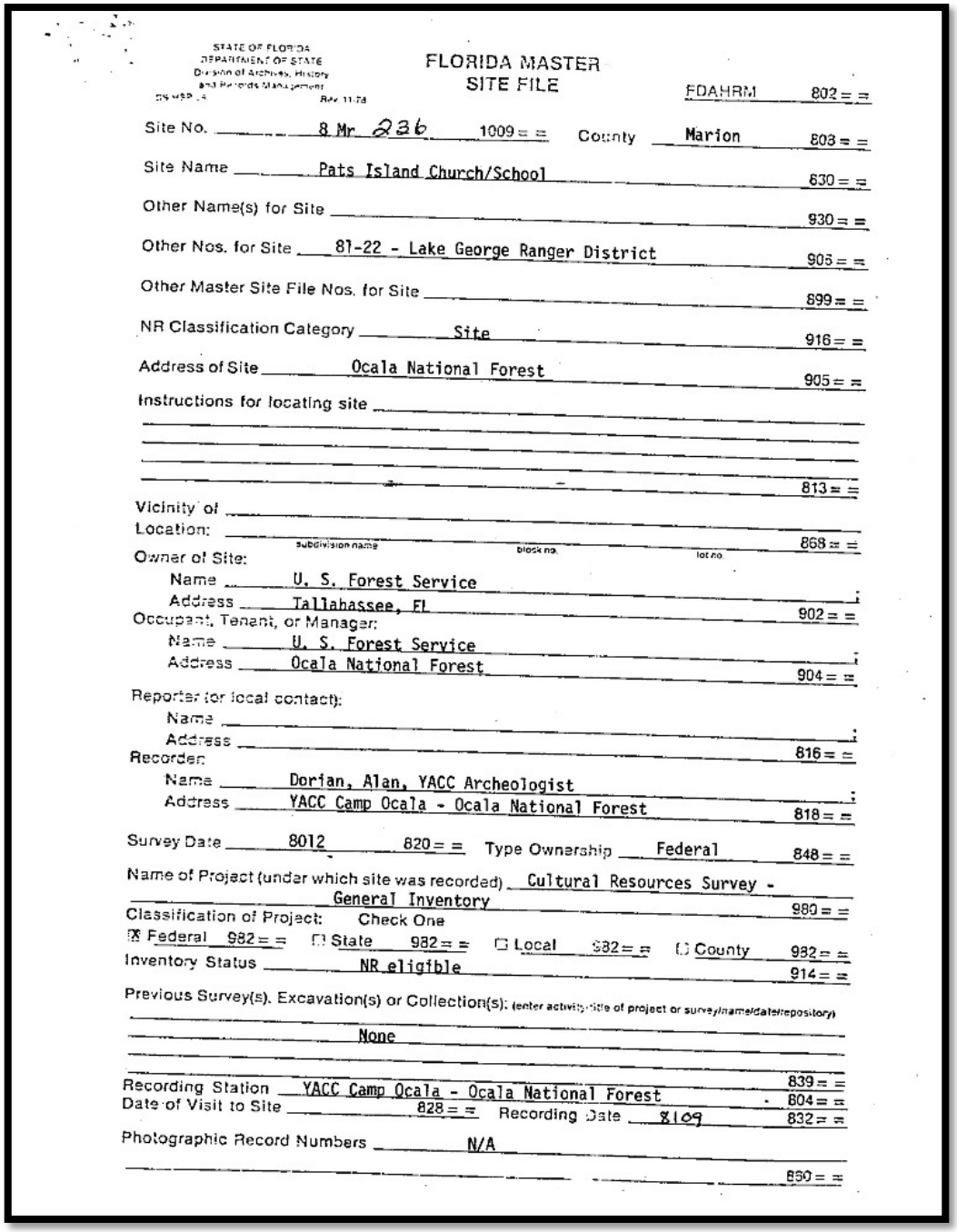
The data shown above was adapted to space by referencing historical property grid systems pertaining to Salt Springs and Juniper Springs. GLO records themselves were obtained from the Bureau of Land Management website, just as the GLO survey maps were. The resulting visualization (Figure 8) is an invaluable tool for the analysis of access and distribution of resources, discussed at length in the following chapter. This visualization, when overlaid against other digitized features can reveal who may have been able to access certain areas or move through space. This type of analysis can help researchers understand attitudes toward space and resource distribution.

The Florida Master Site File (FMSF) database, a repository of data detailing archaeological sites within the state, was also explored in depth. FMSF data can be accessed by request on the Florida Division of Historical Resources website. Each entry into the database has respective paperwork that records all relevant data to the site upon survey (Figure 9). This includes location data, surface collections, excavation details, relevant maps, among much more. The FMSF was an essential resource in this study at many points, but as it applies to archival research, paperwork was accessible through the data supplied by the FMSF. Unfortunately, though inevitably, the paperwork often leaves much to be desired as weather conditions, negligence, lack of resources, or simply an excess of vegetation can prevent more detailed data collection at sites. This fact highlights, however, the need for studies like this, which frame maintenance of archival records as a central goal and product of the research process. Given this fact, sites excavated during the 2021 and 2022 field seasons received FMSF updates as part of this study.

Archival research also included an in-depth exploration of available census records pertaining to the area between the period of inhabitance. To conduct this process, the website

familysearch.org was used. The website is a database containing census, ancestry, and genealogical data. As such, this website is likely one of the best possible sources for investigating the inhabitants of Pat's Island.

To begin this process, individuals who are named on GLO property documents were searched, and – if data is available – their family trees explored. This investigation, discussed at length in the following section, exposed some interesting facts about the community. For one, it confirmed the presence of multigenerational families living, farming, and sustaining themselves at Pat's Island. Additionally, census records enabled a more precise understanding of both the origins of the families that lived at Pat's Island and the specific period in which the area was inhabited. In the following chapter, these results will be explored in depth. What is perhaps the most intriguing insight of this exploration is that it may be the case that only two families – the Long and Smith families – lived at Pat's Island. Census records show that while other families owned properties, only these two families seem to have maintained a presence between the 1880s and 1930s. Historically, this is likely indicative of the requirements of the act being fulfilled in other ways, such as by allowing others to cultivate and maintain the land while the owner lives elsewhere. Furthermore, of the huge swaths of land distributed by the Homestead Acts, significant portions of it were given to speculators and industries (like the railroad, coal, logging, etc.), and thus not all homesteads patent necessarily equated to homesteads being built.



STATE OF FLORIDA
DEPARTMENT OF STATE
Division of Archives, History
and Records Management

FLORIDA MASTER
SITE FILE

FDAHRM 802 = =

Site No. 8 Mr 236 1009 = = County Marion 803 = =

Site Name Pats Island Church/School 830 = =

Other Name(s) for Site 930 = =

Other Nos. for Site 81-22 - Lake George Ranger District 905 = =

Other Master Site File Nos. for Site 899 = =

NR Classification Category Site 916 = =

Address of Site Ocala National Forest 905 = =

Instructions for locating site 813 = =

Vicinity of

Location: subdivision name block no. lot no. 868 = =

Owner of Site:
Name U. S. Forest Service
Address Tallahassee, Fl 902 = =

Occupant, Tenant, or Manager:
Name U. S. Forest Service
Address Ocala National Forest 904 = =

Reporter (or local contact):
Name
Address 816 = =

Recorder:
Name Dorian, Alan, YACC Archeologist
Address YACC Camp Ocala - Ocala National Forest 818 = =

Survey Date 8012 820 = = Type Ownership Federal 848 = =

Name of Project (under which site was recorded) Cultural Resources Survey - General Inventory 980 = =

Classification of Project: Check One
☒ Federal 982 = = ☐ State 982 = = ☐ Local 982 = = ☐ County 982 = =

Inventory Status NR eligible 914 = =

Previous Survey(s), Excavation(s) or Collection(s): (enter activity, title of project or survey/name/date/repository)
None 839 = =

Recording Station YACC Camp Ocala - Ocala National Forest 804 = =

Date of Visit to Site 828 = = Recording Date 8109 832 = =

Photographic Record Numbers N/A 850 = =

Figure 9. Florida Master Site File form example. Forms usually include several other pages.

Feature Tracing

After georeferencing each available map of the study area, these maps could be used as base-maps for analysis and digitization. The digitizing of features enables comparison across maps and thus across time. By using this method, these maps can be understood as more of a sequence, despite being different types of maps (GLO and historical aerial). This is achieved specifically by overlaying and layering of digitized features. ArcGIS Pro 3.0.3, ESRI's current flagship GIS application was utilized for this portion of the study (https://www.esri.com/en-us/arcgis/products/arcgis-pro/overview). This software supports a wide array of geospatial toolsets for analysis and visualization and has become a standard across the GIS industry.

Of the four maps, two maps – the 1852 GLO survey map and the 1971 historical aerial map – were left out of this digitization process. The reasoning for this exclusion is the fact that they have little to offer in the way of features. The 1852 is far too simplistic to reliably use any digitized features and in general displays little more than a rudimentary boundary of Pat's Island that may have not even been inhabited at that point in time. Similarly, the 1971 historical aerial map – while helpfully displaying the study area after decades of abandonment – does not speak to the inhabitance of the study area and thus would only highlight changes that took place outside of the confines of Cracker culture, as is the focus of this study.

The two georeferenced maps used in this step - the 1927 GLO survey map and 1941 historical aerial map – offered an abundance of insights. The resultant digitized features, pictured in Figures 10 and 11, continue to portray the growth of the community over time, while emphasizing the longevity of certain features (most notably the fields and pathing). In the vein of Masini and Lasaponara (2017), tone, shadows, and textures can be observed to assess the presence or absence of features. While one map represents a much more subjective

approximation of the area in the form of a drawing, digitizing depicts overall consistencies between features on both maps. Features digitized on the 1927 map include paths, fields, and water features. The same features were digitized for the 1941 aerial with the addition of the observable structures on the aerial photograph.

As a methodology, this cross comparison is useful for describing change over time within a space. This use is extended in the case of a community such as Pat's Island that pertains to such a relatively short and specific period (~1850s-1930s), in which change may only be minor. What is most clear when comparing the features of the maps is the expansion of pathing that had taken place by 1941. At this point in time, extensive crisscrossing patterns of paths exist, making the community more connected than ever. Of course, it may be the case that some of these paths were introduced by the government upon acquisition of the land in order to assess or extract resources. Alternatively, the paths may have been made in anticipation for the filming of *The Yearling* which would be attempted that year. Further difficulties include that fact that GLO surveyors may have seen no value in recording more minor paths at Pat's Island and thus omitted them. Despite these potential shortcomings, insights into how the community – and by extension Cracker culture writ large – organize themselves within space can be gleaned, as is discussed in the following chapter. The digitized features were used to conduct analysis that will be explored further later in the chapter.

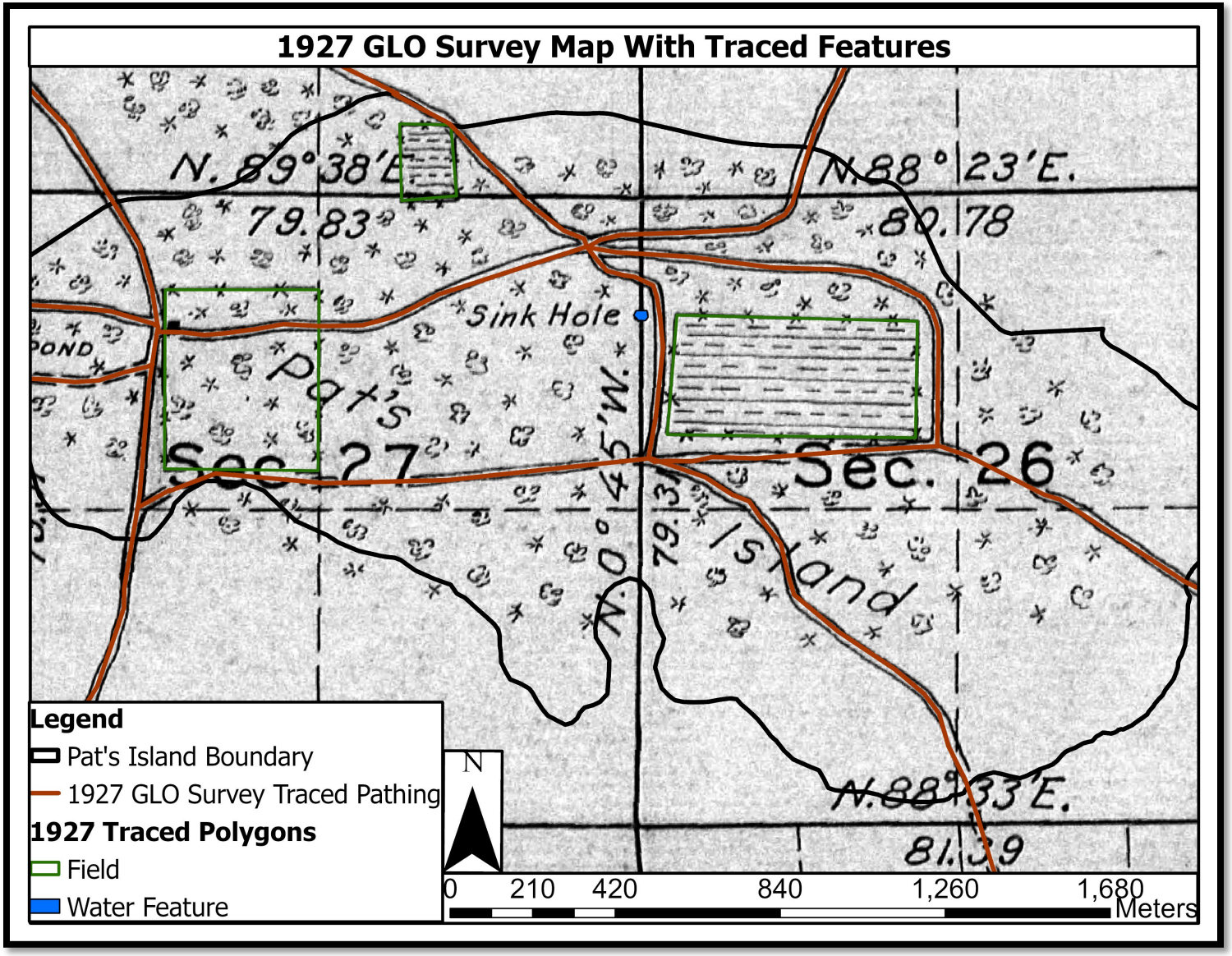


Figure 10. 1927 General Land Office map with traced features

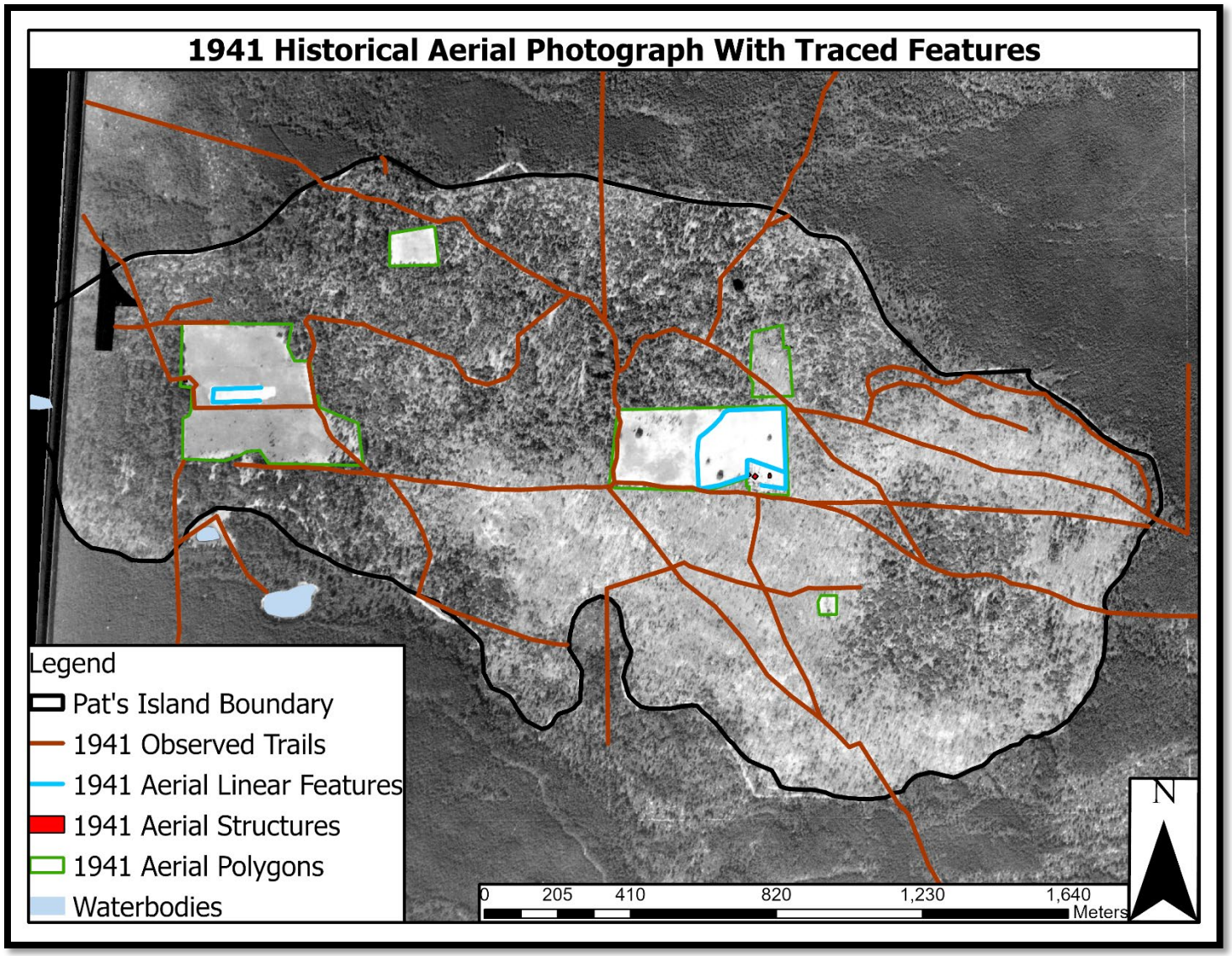


Figure 11. 1941 historical aerial photograph with traced features.

Feature Overlaying

The last method discussed in this section, overlaying, subsumes a variety of GIS techniques, but in essence serves to allow visualized comparisons. This proved to be of particular importance when analyzing pathing and access to resources or property within Pat's Island. Both are detailed below.

Analysis of pathing represented an essential step in the spatial analysis of Pat's Island. The paths simultaneously exist as a location in and of itself while also being a "bridge" between two distinct locations (Snead et al. 2009). Through the existence of these paths, a variety of potential implications emerge. For instance, these paths can be seen as the accumulation of foot traffic at Pat's Island. For paths which appear to lead nowhere, then, it becomes probable that these paths could have served the purpose of facilitating resource extraction, such as timbering. As such, the paths of Pat's Island help to constitute the community as without them, there would be no means by which a community could be facilitated. Additionally, paths – as is depicted between the 1927 and 1941 maps – can be indicative of change in a space or potentially even changes in perceptions. As such, beyond obvious visual analysis indicating the presence or absence of paths throughout time, traced paths were overlaid, resulting in Figure 12. The resultant map speaks to the remarkable accuracy of GLO surveyors. The pathing, while clearly not identical shares significant similarities with the historical aerial pathing. Overall, it becomes clear that these paths for much or all the history of the community existed in a fairly consistent state, reaffirming their use as an analytical tool for understanding movement through space.

Following the analysis of pathing in the study area, the process of overlaying was continued with the use of additional shapefiles, all of which are publicly accessible (by request). These shapefiles include the Florida Master Site File database which contains location data for

archaeological sites in the state as well as access to the respective paperwork for each site. As this data is displayable within ArcGIS Pro, the data could be compared to other datasets with ease.

During analysis of the 1941 historical aerial photograph, a second dataset containing the location of all known archaeological sites within Pat's Island was additionally overlaid in addition to the property boundaries (Figure 13). By doing this, the real-world spatial placement of sites of different functions and sources of resources could be observed. Finally, paths traced from the 1941 aerial photo were also added. In doing so, important questions could be assessed regarding understanding movement through the area and access to resources; what properties would one have to pass through to get from one part of Pat's Island to another or to access a source of freshwater? For instance, the knowledge that one path would require movement through a certain homestead may have facilitated interaction between homesteads, reifying a sense of community or territoriality by extension. These ideas are explored at length in the following chapter.

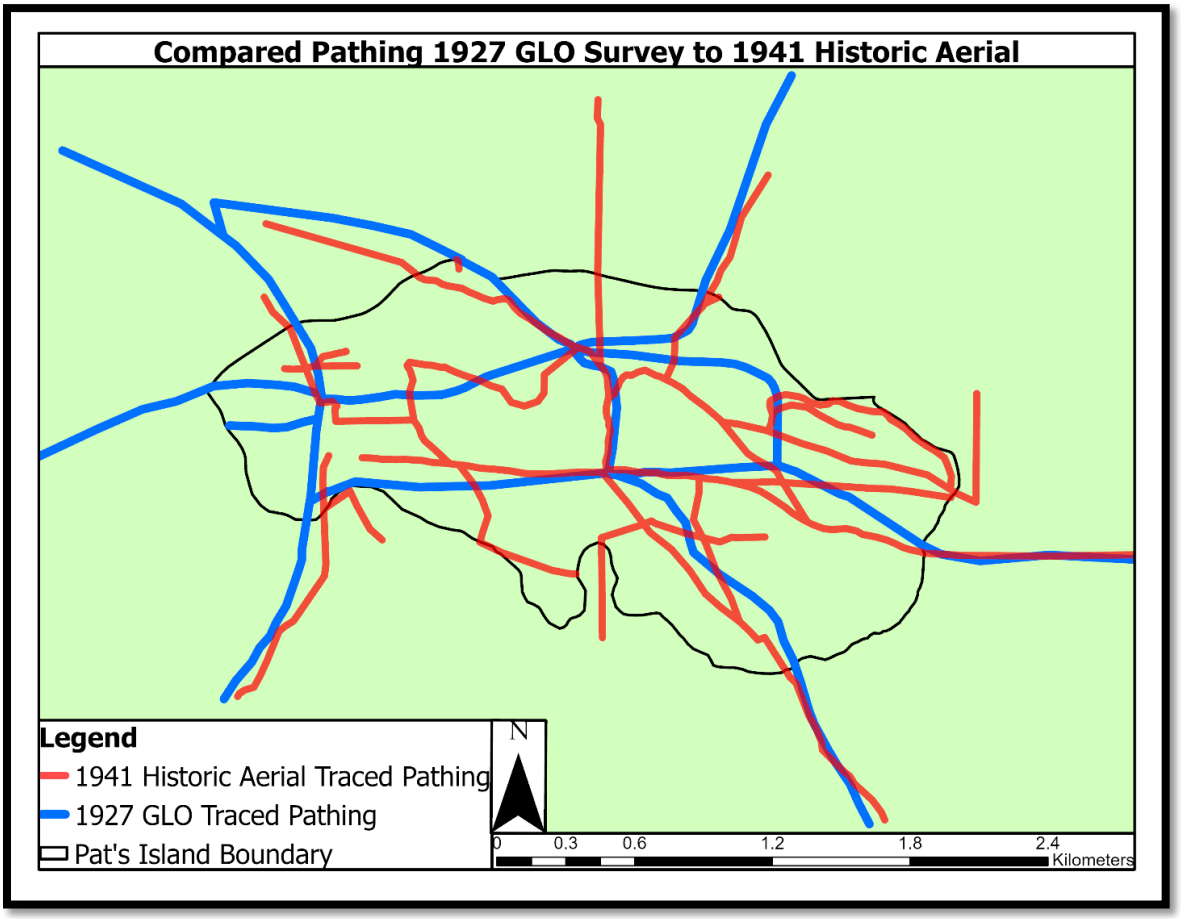


Figure 12. Map depicting comparison of pathing between 1927 General Land Office survey and 1941 historic aerial photograph.

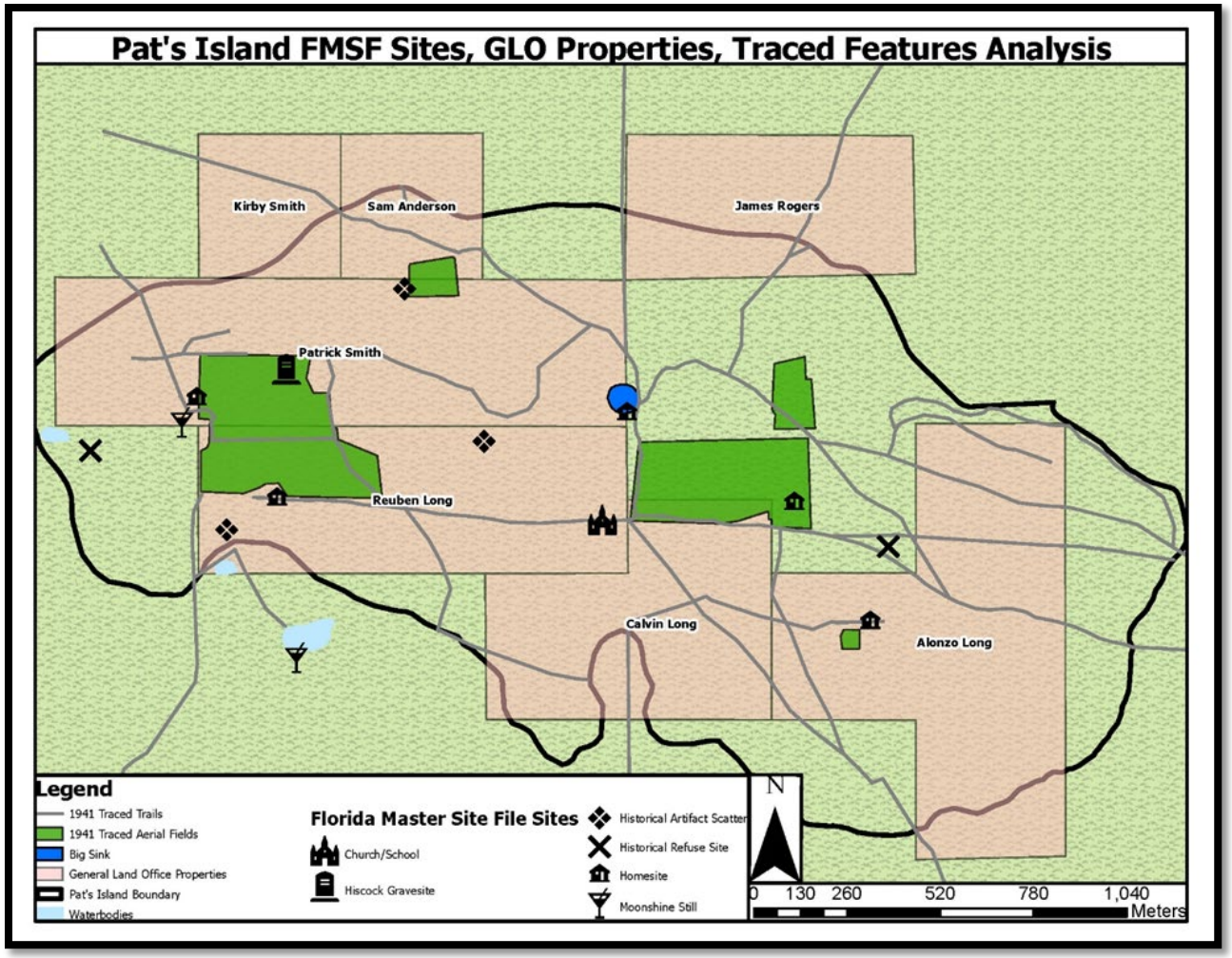


Figure 13. Map overlaying Florida Master Site File sites, General Land Office property boundaries, and traced features from 1941 historic aerial photograph.

Limitations

During the multiple field seasons within Pat's Island, it became clear that many of the sites' recorded locations are off by as much as twenty meters. As such, the geospatial analysis being conducted in this research should be understood to be utilizing the best *possible* dataset to ascertain larger geospatial themes. Furthermore, space as viewed from the perspective of a map is inherently different from space as lived and experienced. Given this fact, it is hoped that the conclusions of this research can still be supported effectively, as homesteaders of the period likely did not set up land on a precise meter by meter basis. Another important consideration of any research that is dependent on the use of visualizations is the subjective nature inherent to any visualization made by a human being. The interpretations drawn from these visualizations, while supported by the analysis conducted, could always theoretically be interpreted a different way if visualized differently (Monmonier 1991). As such, this study should be viewed as one possible conclusion offered using spatial analysis. Other specific limitations have been previously mentioned in the individual methodology sections and thus will not be repeated here.

Conclusion

Given the almost one-hundred years which have elapsed since Pat's Island was inhabited, the area has changed substantially. Prescribed burnings, forest-service activity, recreation, and time have all contributed to the shifting of sites and landscapes. By combining historical data with GIS toolsets, many research and archaeological goals can be achieved. Site analysis including access and distribution of resources, movement through landscape, change over time, and much more can be all be better understood. Additionally, surveying, tracking, and

conservation can all be greatly benefitted with GIS. Visualizations are powerful means of analysis and, as is explored in the following chapter, these visualizations can help researchers understand how individuals perceived and enacted space. The visualizations depicted in this chapter will be discussed at length in the following chapter.

CHAPTER FOUR: RESULTS, DISCUSSION, AND CONCLUSION

Results

Having discussed the methodologies employed to conduct this study, this section discusses the outcomes that emerged from archival research and geospatial analysis. Overall, the previously discussed methods produced fruitful and effective means of interpreting the lifeways of the Pat's Island community, while also allowing for better clarity in understanding the community. Through the combination of General Land Office patents, census records, and Florida Master Site records with archaeological data, topics of community formation, development, and dissolution were assessed in this work. This study has shown the efficacy with which these datasets, when combined and analyzed using GIS can add clarity to otherwise disparate and scarce data.

This section is followed by a discussion section and concluding remarks.

Florida Master Site File Updates

As discussed in Chapter One, the maintenance of archaeological records about sites excavated between the 2021 and 2022 field seasons was of primary concern during this study. This goal was achieved in the form of submitting updates to the Florida Master Site File database. Once submitted, updated forms and figures can be added to the FMSF database, to be accessed in the future. This process is an important part of the maintenance of cultural material, as it allows for more reliable information regarding these archaeological sites. Correction of site boundaries, in particular, can help to ensure the future protection of archaeological sites, as incorrect boundaries may result in the disturbance of sites under the assumption that cultural material is absent. Pat's Island, as previously displayed in the 1972 aerial photograph map, is

also an area prone to disturbance through activities like timbering and prescribed fires. As such, it is hoped that this study can contribute to efforts to protect and conserve the archaeologically rich area in the future.

Figures 14, 15, and 16 represent the updated boundaries discovered and confirmed during archaeological inquiry during the 2021 and 2022 field seasons. These maps, in addition to newly updated FMSF forms, are to be submitted to the database after this study. Each boundary was updated to be a better representative of the real-world locations and extent of each site. The Long homestead, for example, maintained a large field (pictured in both GLO surveys and historical aerial photography) and was updated to represent this feature. The "Big Sink" sinkhole was updated by observing its presence in both LiDAR imaging and by comparing contour elevations in the region. The environmental feature, given the substantial elevation change it represents, was able to be located and mapped with much better precision than previously achieved. Finally, the Hiscock homesite was updated based on preliminary excavations that took place during the 2021 field season. Architectural features, though generally in a crumbled state, were observed during excavation and thus GPS data collected during the season enabled a more accurate boundary to be created.

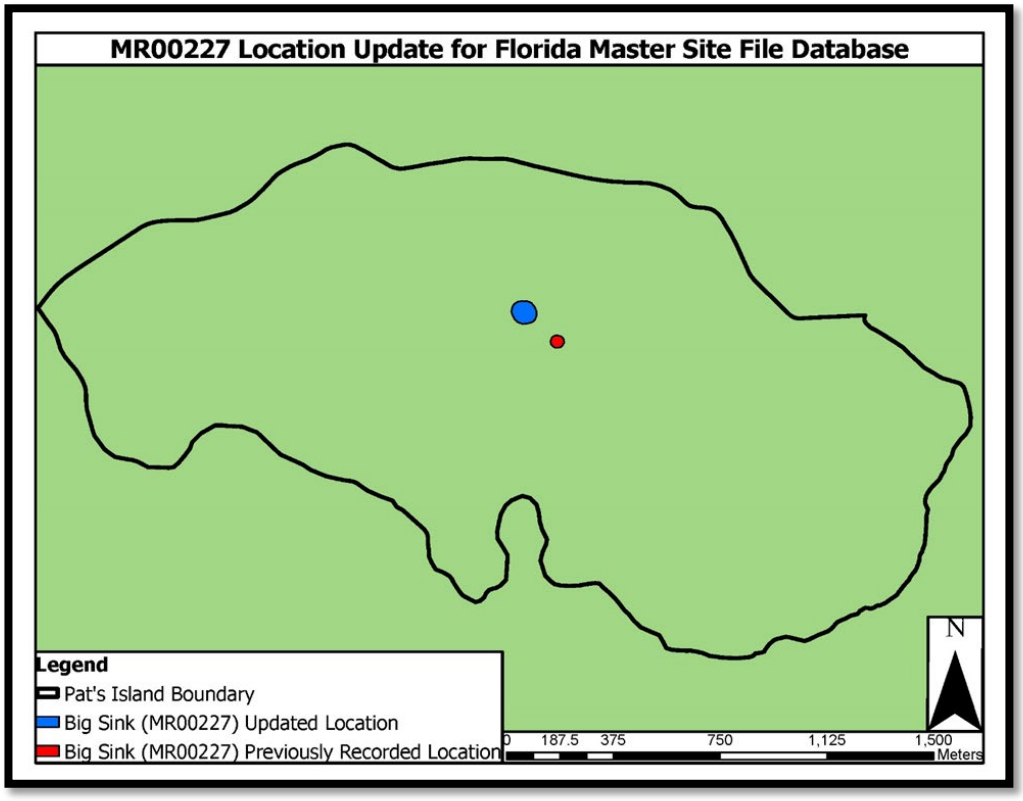


Figure 14. Big Sink FMSF Boundary Update

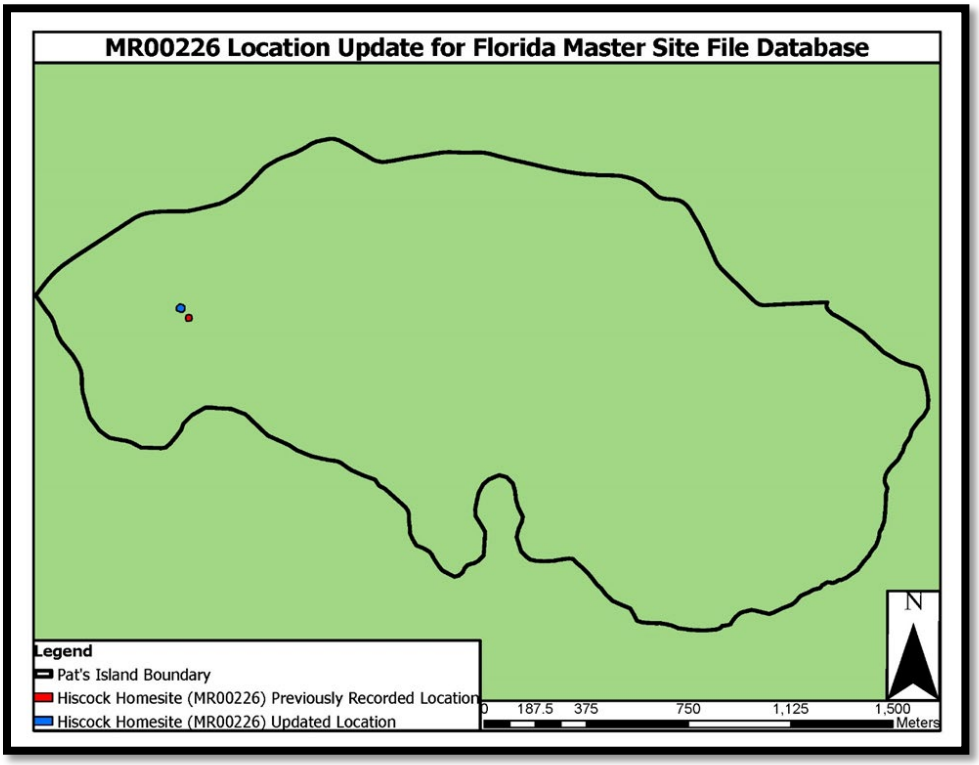


Figure 15. Hiscock Homesite FMSF Boundary Update

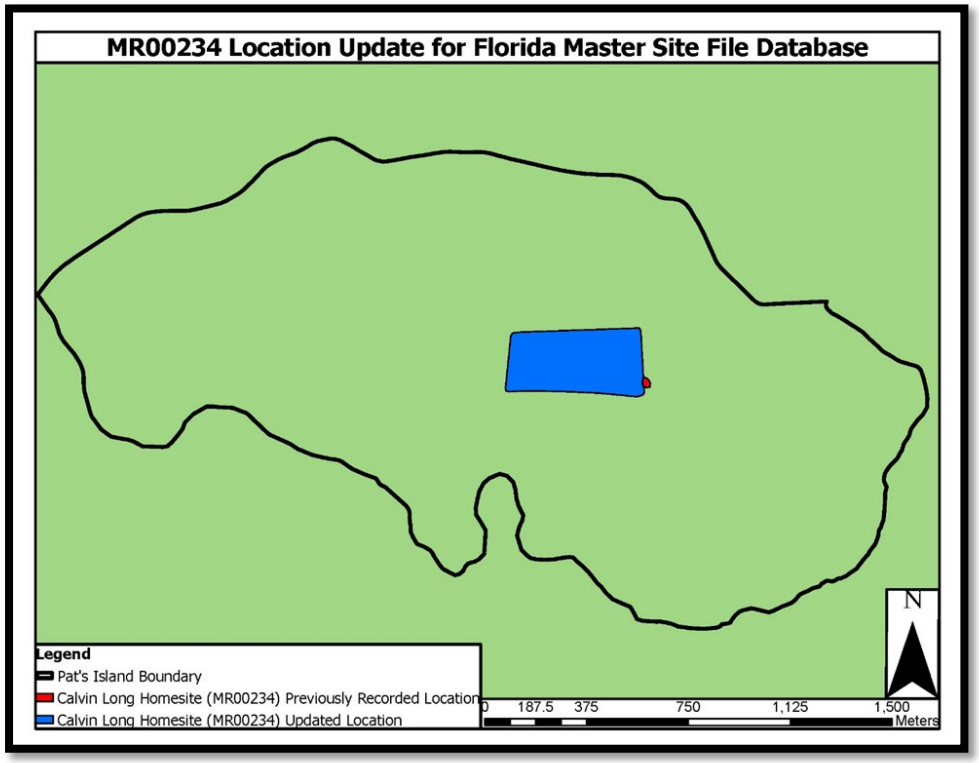


Figure 16. Calvin Long Homesite FMSF Boundary Update

Results of Archival Research

Archival research in this study took the form of two datasets – General Land Office property patent data and census records between the 1850s and 1930s. The process of analyzing these datasets has been previously discussed in Chapter Three, and what follows are the results of the analysis.

The General Land Office, as discussed in the historical background of this study, was the government entity tasked with the dispersal of homestead properties to citizens who met the qualifications set by the United States government. This office, while successful in the granting of huge numbers of homesteads throughout the country, had the subsequent task of ensuring qualifications were being met. However, due to the sheer quantity of homesteads granted throughout the country, it quickly become an unmanageable responsibility to ensure that each homestead was actually maintaining the requirements set through the various Homestead Acts. As such, it became common for homesteads to comply with the expectations of the Homestead Acts in different ways. As seems to be the case with the plot of Sam Anderson, some individuals would essentially allow others to work the land they have the rights to, while maintaining residence elsewhere.

Referring again to Figure 8, GLO patents about Pat's Island indicate the presence of multiple property owners. Of these owners, census data can definitively show the presence of individuals belonging to the Long and Smith families between the 1850s and 1930s at Pat's Island. Sam Anderson can be found in records, however, there is no definitive data suggesting his presence at Pat's Island or that it was the same individual attributed to the GLO patents. Rather, an Anderson family is recorded to have lived in Marion County, which houses the Ocala

National Forest. As such, it cannot be ruled out that this individual or his family maintained a presence at Pat's Island, but there simply are no records definitively mentioning Pat's Island.

Perhaps one of the most surprising findings of this research is that of James Rogers, or James Rogers *Long* more precisely. Census data initially showed that no one named James Rogers or anyone of the Rogers family name existed within Ocala during the specified period. However, upon deeper inspection, it appears the first child of Rueben Long was James Rogers Long. Knowing this information essentially enabled the entirety of the Pat's Island properties to be understood. Essentially, it was home to the Smith and Long families in its entirety, with the plot of Sam Anderson likely being maintained by the Smith family while the owner of the plot lives elsewhere (indicated by the overlapping field).

The findings of this analysis help to contextualize the spatial makeup of Pat's Island with relative success. For example, pathing is more abundant and interconnected at plots of land that belong to individuals seen in census records (i.e. the Long and Smith family plots). Though, James Rogers's plot confounds this, maintaining only a single pathway to the rest of the community. Excluding James Rogers, plots of land belonging to the respective families all seem to extend off of the head of the household's plot of land in pathing. Additionally, pathing as it relates to the Long and Smith families is often crisscrossing and abundant (as shown in Figure 13).

Despite this, certain features remain unexplained. An individual by the name of Samuel Anderson, for example, exists in census records of the period, however, the individual is recorded to have been born in 1908 and thus could not have been responsible for the 1885 GLO patent date pertaining to Sam Anderson. One option that did not prove to be fruitful was that Samuel Anderson (1908) was the namesake for a previous Sam Anderson, who would have been

able to represent the 1885 GLO patent, but this too was not supported by census data. Thus, it remains to be seen who the Sam Anderson of the GLO patent was, but given that the Anderson's maintained a presence in Marion county at the time, it is likely it is at least the same family.

Individuals of the Smith family, unlike the Anderson's, can be observed in census records, though not all at Pat's Island directly. Kirby Smith seems to be the most likely candidate to have lived at Pat's Island, as he is a named individual who lived in Marion county during the period and was of an age (1865-1932) that would coincide with the GLO patent. Interestingly, however. Kirby Smith's plot of land is unconnected from any infrastructure at Pat's Island. This is likely alleviated, however, by the presence of records about Patrick Smith, Kirby's father, who is also found in census records. Patrick's plot of land is connected to the main infrastructure of Pat's Island, indicating that Kirby's plot may have simply been an extension meant to expand the larger familial property. Intriguingly, this census data can be used to determine when the Smith family may have lived on Pat's Island, or at least in Marion County. Census records show that Kirby Smith was present in Marion County between the 1870s and 1900s. However, by 1910 – he and his family are found to be residing in Palm Beach, Florida.

By far the most substantial records of inhabitance at Pat's Island pertain to the Long family. Each named individual on the GLO patents can be observed in census data to have maintained a prolonged presence at Pat's Island. Reuben Long, and sons Calvin Long, Alonzo Long, and James Rogers Long all appear to have lived in Marion County between at least the 1860s to 1930s. It should be noted that it is unclear whether or not the family specifically lived at Pat's Island during all of this time, as the area is not always mentioned by name, but it appears the family called Pat's Island it's home for much of the area's history. Despite these apparent record-keeping discrepancies, what is abundantly clear is the multigenerational presence at Pat's

Island. Reuben Long and his wife Sara Jane Bennett are recorded to have had at least thirteen children – each of which maintained a presence at Pat's Island. Additionally, both Alonzo and Calvin had several children of their own. Cora Jane Long, one of Calvin's children, is even known to have had a home on Calvin's land at Pat's Island. The "smoking gun" of evidence would have been marriages between children of the Smith family and children of the Long family – however, census records indicated no such occurrence.

Though no marriages seemed to have taken place between the Long and Smith families, census records do show the spouses of various members of the Pat's Island community and their children. Beginning with the Long family, Rueben Long married Sarah Jane Bennett, having thirteen children with together between 1854 and 1879. Each of their children, beginning with their eldest James Rogers Long to their youngest Mary Etta Long spent some amount of time in Marion County (Likely at Pat's Island) according to census records. James Rogers Long (Rueben's first child) married Mary Scurry, and there are no records of any children between the couple. Alonzo Long (the second child of Rueben Long) married Pheriba Ann Graham, having four children together – though it should be noted that it seems these four children spent the least amount of time in Pat's Island, as they had been born fairly late into the community's existence (around 1900). Finally, Calvin Long (the third child of Rueben Long) married Marietta Vashti Bryan and had nine children who like his siblings spent a good deal of time at Pat's Island according to census records.

The Smith family also maintains notable census records, though they are quite a bit more difficult to untangle. There appear to be two Kirby Smiths within Marion County capable of fitting the requirements to have been the Kirby Smith mentioned in GLO documents. Both individuals, Kirby "Bartow" Smith, and Kirby Smith, were born in 1865 and died in 1932.

However, the parents of each individual are listed as different people, ruling out (except via recording errors) that this is indeed the same person. Fortunately, one of the two individuals is listed as having a parent by the name of Patrick Smith, who is also seen in GLO records. Unfortunately, records about Kirby Smith beyond this are scant – though we know his father Patrick Smith married Martha Carlisle and had eight children (though only Kirby seems to have lived in Marion).

Thus, analysis of GLO records and census data ultimately suggest that the Smith and Long families were likely the only families that maintained a prolonged presence at Pat's Island. The families likely experienced some overlap in inhabitance between the 1870s and 1900s. Additionally, this analysis concludes that Sam Anderson may be indicative of systemic failings by the GLO office to adequately ensure qualifications are met by applicants for homesteads. Though, it should be noted that Anderson could have been fulfilling homestead requirements in other ways, such as allowing the other residents of Pat's Island to work the land and make it productive. It seems likely that this was the case with Sam Anderson's plot, as it is interconnected via pathing and even maintains an overlapping field with the Smith family. Rogers, as stated before, is an anomaly being the most disconnected from the rest of the community despite being attributable to the Long family, as shown in Figure 17. Though, the disconnected nature of Rogers' plot may simply be indicative that it was a plot for different uses (like resource extraction) rather than a primary place of residence.

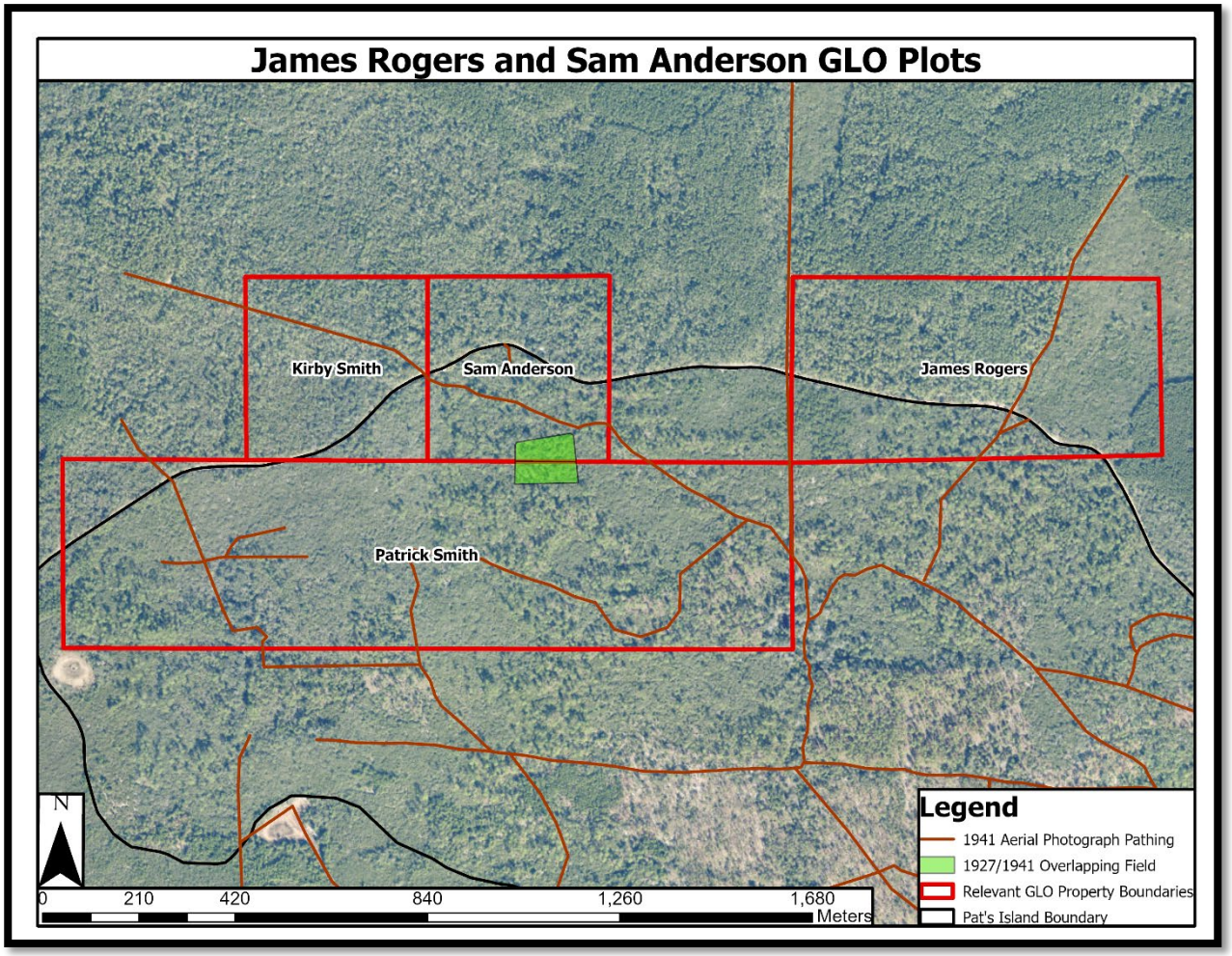


Figure 17. James Rogers and Sam Anderson GLO Plots

Spatial Analysis Results

The visualizations resulting from the feature tracing and feature overlaying portions of the methodology were invaluable as analytical tools for better understanding Pat's Island, as they allowed important features of Pat's Island to be compared and interpreted. Each resultant figure enabled interesting and fruitful analysis, speaking to the values of Cracker culture and the lifeways of Pat's Island residents. As mentioned prior, it was expected that the space of a Cracker community would be reflective of an emphasis on semi-remote living, adaptations to a unique environmental context, and the development of a semi-self-sufficient community. As this section explains, it seems each of these ideas is present in the spatial makeup of the community at Pat's Island. Though, it should be noted and acknowledged that this represents only one interpretation of Pat's Island.

Distribution and access to resources was one of the primary ways in which these qualities of Cracker culture were assessed spatially. Given the likely presence of the Smith and Long families, the areas of interaction between these families became a focal point for analysis. Interestingly, despite clearly denoted property boundaries, there is a substantial overlap of homestead infrastructure at Pat's Island. As is shown in Figure 18, it can observed that multiple fields seem to either be split between multiple properties or are set up entirely outside of the bounds of any property. As almost every inhabitant of Pat's Island is stated to be a farm worker on census records, it can be surmised that these fields were important locations of productivity and social interaction. As such, having these resources split amongst different properties seems to suggest a level of cooperation between the different families of Pat's Island and additionally attests to the sustaining of a semi-remote self-sustaining community.

Water, perhaps one of the most important resources for any community, is – in every case – at least partially located outside of property boundaries. The "Big Sink" in particular is also centrally located, enabling access from practically every property, which meant both families could access its substantial water supply. Equally, moonshine stills at Pat's Island are generally located outside of property bounds as well. Both expressions of water features, in conjunction with the knowledge of farming and local ecology, also speak to a deep understanding of the Ocala environment. The unique ecology of the Ocala Scrub would have required a deep knowledge by homesteaders' intent on being self-sufficient and semi-remote, which the community seems to have achieved.

Another site that suggests the presence of a semi-remote community is the presence of the local church/school. The site is centrally located at Pat's Island, though it is situated well within the boundaries of the Long family homesteads. However, this may speak to cooperation more than it does to any kind of territoriality, as it could have encouraged the crossing of property boundaries. Furthermore, the justification for maintaining a school/church is enhanced by the presence of more individuals than simply that of just one family. It also offers a logical answer to the question of where children of the Smith family would have gone to school or church, as the Long property offers an obvious and convenient solution.

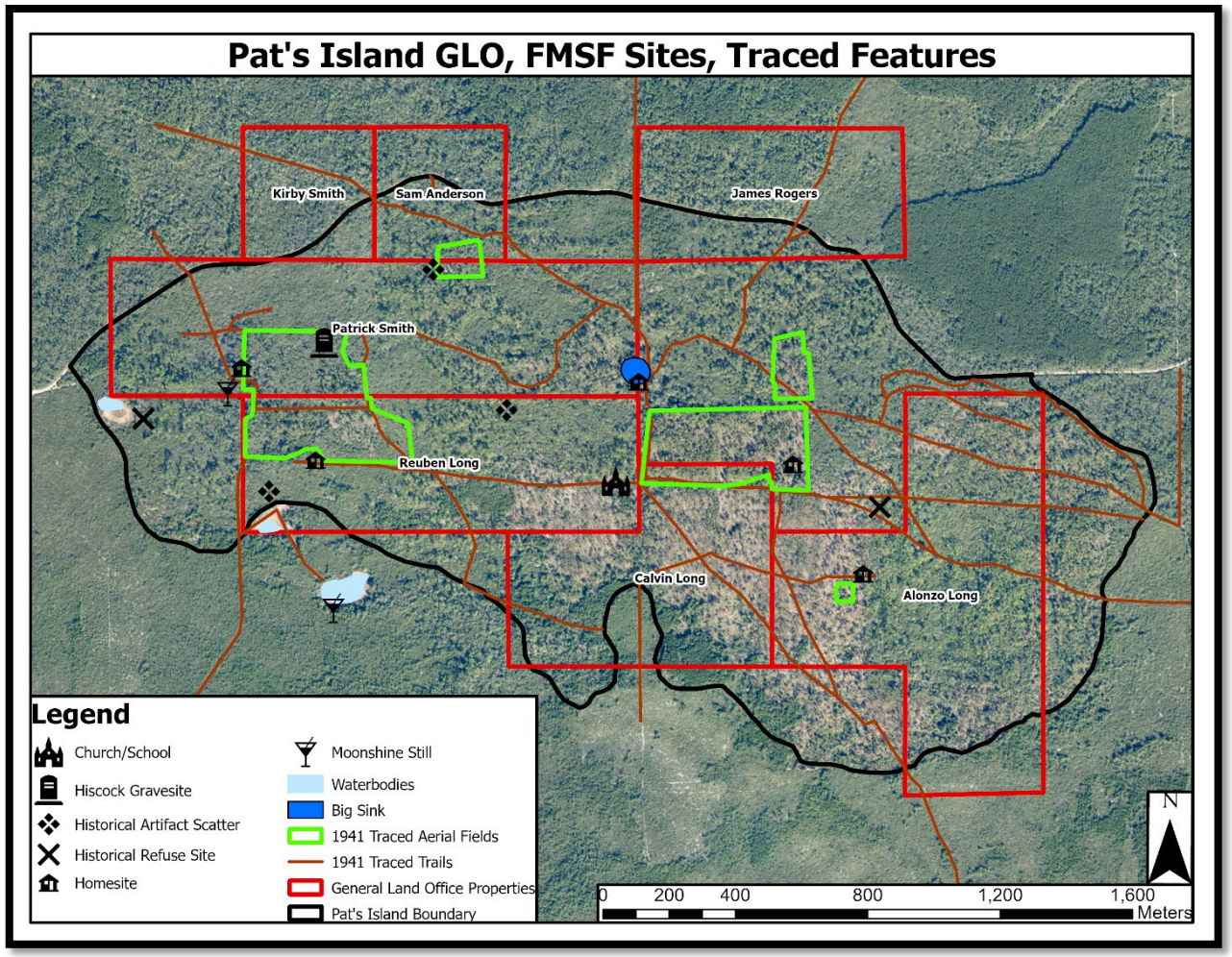


Figure 18. Pat's Island GLO, FMSF Sites, and Traced Feature

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Discussion

An interesting realization resulting from the exploration of census records, as mentioned in the previous section, was the presence of seemingly only two families at Pat's Island – the Long and Smith families. This was initially quite surprising given the relatively extensive development that can be seen throughout time in the area. The implication seems to be that these two families were fairly active during their relatively short time living on Pat's Island.

Additionally, this would seem to logically support the idea that these multigenerational families worked with one another to support a self-sustaining community at Pat's Island. The logic follows that the interconnectedness of Pat's Island observable via pathing supports the freedom of movement throughout the area. While entrances and exits to Pat's Island are limited, pathing within the confines of Pat's Island are abundant and crisscross often. Of course, one could argue that more pathing could enable the families to avoid one another with more ease, but further spatial indicators suggest it was likely a more amenable relationship. The distribution of resources, for example, further supports the idea of an internally cooperative community. As mentioned in the results section, multiple fields are situated between property boundaries. If these families were indeed attempting to be territorial, one would expect productive fields to be predominantly placed well within distinct boundaries. This is particularly the case given the fact that census records list the vocation of most inhabitants of Pat's Island as "farmers". Of further intrigue is the fact that the location of most significant overlap can be seen between the bounds of Reuben Long and Patrick Smith, whom census records indicate were the heads of their respective households (Figure 19). It seems significant that such an overlap would take place between what would likely have represented the locus of each family's interactions (i.e., the parent's home).

Furthermore, the centrally located nature of both the Big Sink and the local school/church in relationship to the rest of Pat's Island also suggests a good deal of forethought into the construction of Pat's Island as a self-sufficient community. Despite the community consisting of only two families, this still would have equated to a fairly large group of people given the multigenerational nature of each family, facilitating a need for some form of community infrastructure for things like schooling and religious instruction.

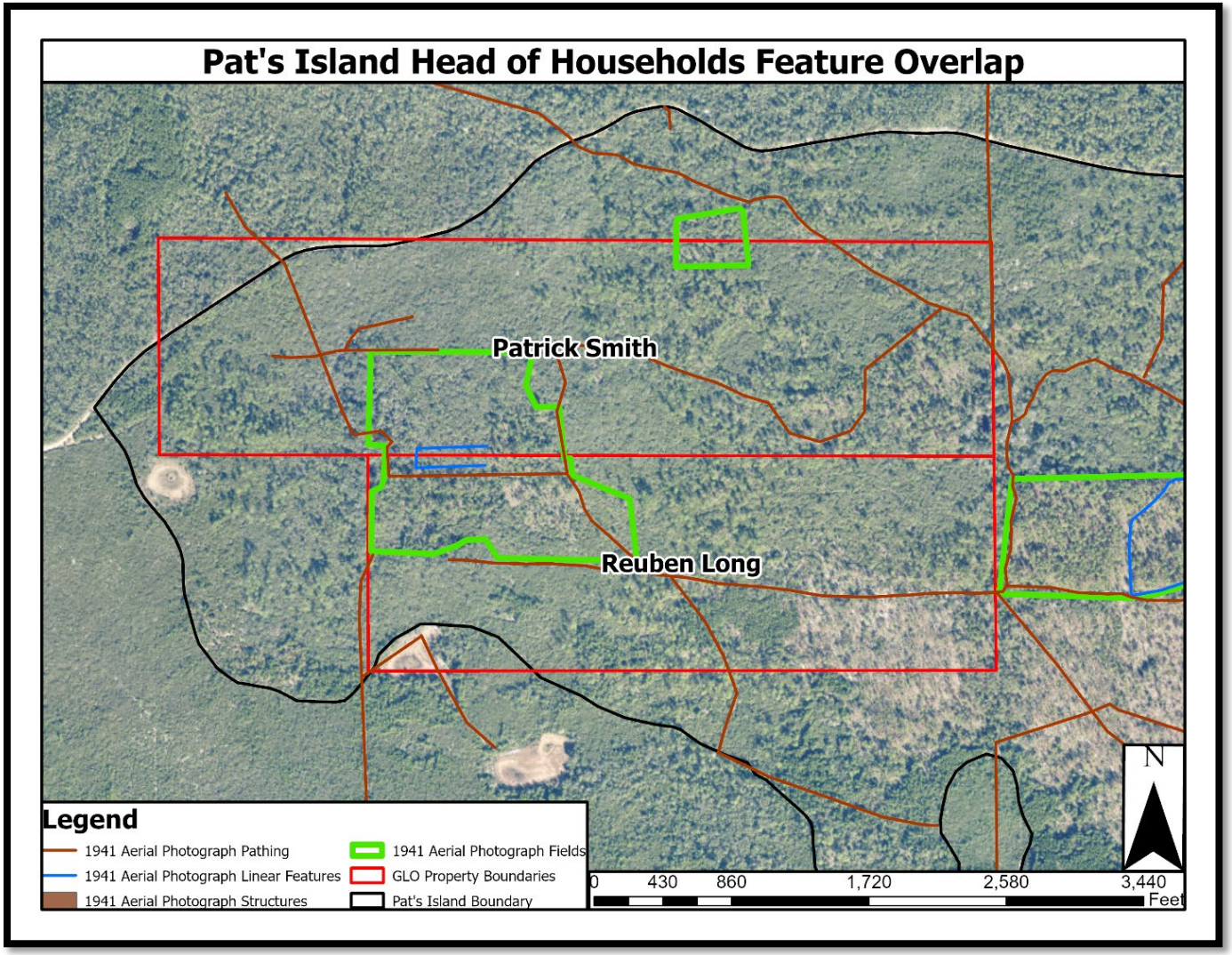

Figure 19. Pat's Island Head of Households Feature Overlap

Conclusion

To conclude, this study has assessed the efficacy of GIS toolsets and methodologies to help inform and supplement the archaeological process. The methods used in this study, while straightforward, display the remarkable distance that publicly available datasets can go when combined with software that can visualize that data. GIS, despite requiring some level of specialized knowledge, can aid in the research process with relative ease, making it an invaluable supplemental toolset to any researcher's toolkit. Additionally, this research speaks to the ability of GIS to allow analysis even with limited datasets. Given a cultural context by which to understand a space (in this case Cracker culture), GIS can allow a researcher to bring together limited datasets to derive fruitful and meaningful analysis. In conjunction with publicly available datasets, GIS is a powerful tool to contextualize spaces.

Within the context of Pat's Island, the combination of archival data and GIS allowed this research to better understand the community that was present between the 1850s and 1930s. Using a variety of limited datasets, including the Florida Master Site File database, census records, and GLO patent records, Pat's Island was able to be contextualized in ways that will fruitfully contribute to future research in the area. In particular, this study has explored topics of access to and distribution of resources, how property boundaries encouraged or dissuaded interaction, the demography of the homestead, and the broad spatial history of the area. Additionally, this research displayed examples of how spatial and archival data can speak to broader trends taking place in time, such as in the case of homesteads being granted to individuals despite the individuals seemingly being absent from the properties. These sorts of topics are well-suited to GIS and help to contextualize the study area and add clarity to its inhabitants' lived experiences.

Finally, this study also emphasized the importance of archaeological and cultural resource maintenance to ensure the future well-being of these nonrenewable and easily diminished resources. Sites excavated during the larger Pat's Island Archaeological Project between 2021 and 2022 each had their FMSF entries updated, including more precise location data and in-depth additions describing discoveries during the previously mentioned field seasons. This fact, too, speaks to the growing value of GIS within research environments. Whereas records of sites at Pat's Island could be off by as much as twenty meters due to the nature of location tracking in real time, modern GPS technologies in conjunction with GIS software can enable precise geocoding of sites, which can help to ensure the wellbeing of the sites for many years to come.

Overall, GIS technologies have an abundance of benefits to offer at practically every step of the research process. Particularly in the context of historical archaeology, in which written documents are often available, fairly thorough and accurate backgrounds can be crafted using GIS to better contextualize the archaeology taking place.

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