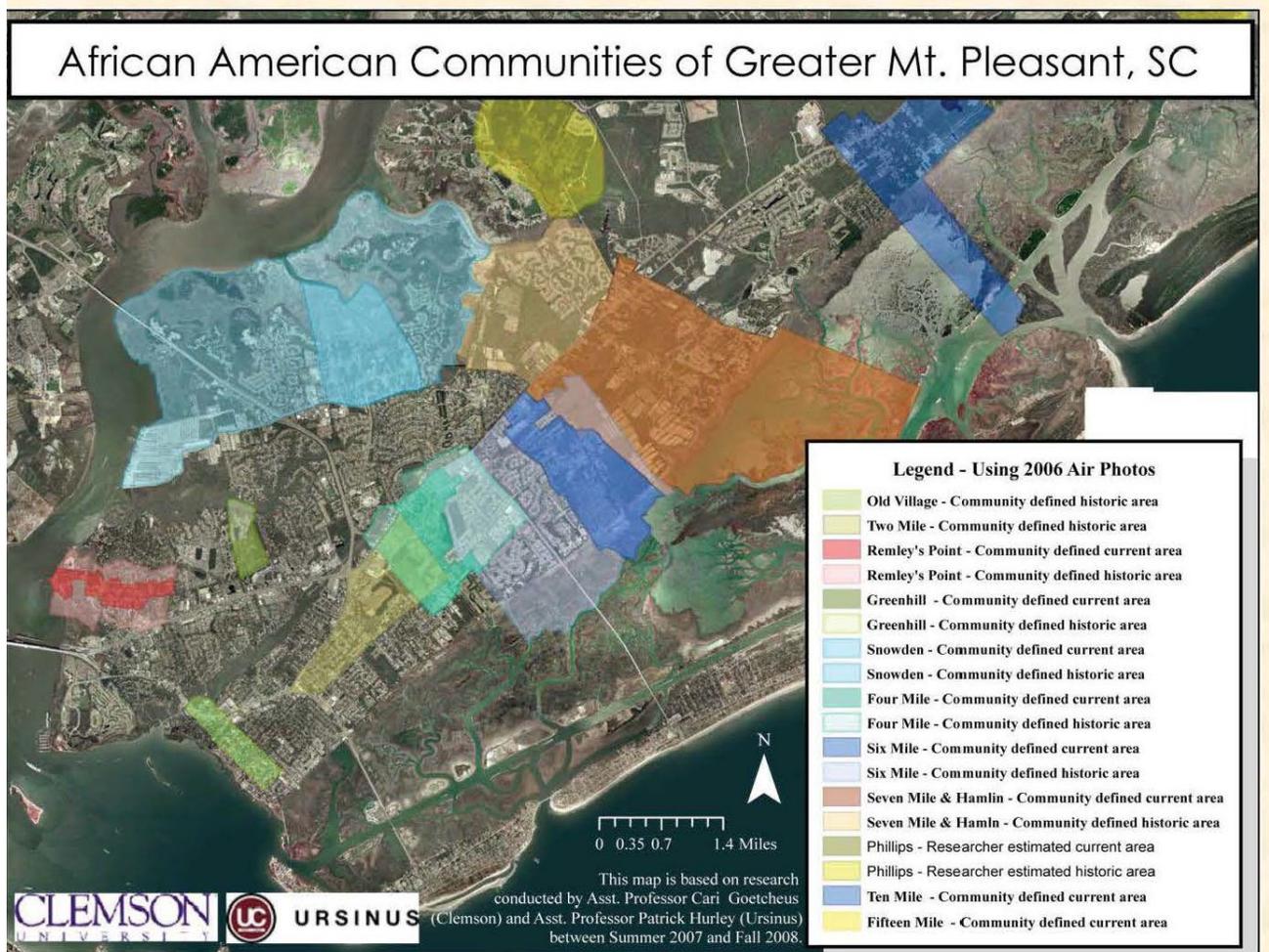


## Appendix 1 – Settlement Community Histories

The below are not exhaustive and are worthy of additional research but are provided to give an understanding of the histories of the various areas.



**Figure 1: Historical extent of Settlement Communities.**

- **Old Village**

Much of the area between Pitt Street and Simmons Street was originally settled by local African American families. Located in the historic Christ Church Parish, development of the Venning Street area dates to the 1800s. During In Mr. Walter Brown Jr.'s oral history, he explained how after "Gabrielle", his wife's ancestor, was freed from slavery he came to Mount Pleasant to build the first house on Venning Street on the block between Simmons and Whilden. The original house has since burned down but Mr. Brown and his wife still live at that same property on Venning Street today.

Also located on Venning Street, the P.S. Funeral Home or Marguerite's Funeral Home, was believed to be built in early 1900 with brick laid by "Mr. Palmer from Snowden". In 1929, the funeral home was operated by Marguerite Johnson. It's alleged that she never received an education past elementary

school. Despite lacking a formal education, she was a very successful businesswoman who always paid in cash. Mr. Sam Halls embalmed for her at the funeral home. In 1997, she deeded the property to him. That's why it was renamed Johnson-Halls Funeral Home. The funeral home still stands today.

Right down the street is the historic Friendship AME Church. It was founded during the reconstruction and has been located on Royall Ave since 1890. The church's first location was on Hibben Street, built in 1877. The church hosted many activities for the community including the graduation for the nearby Laing School until it closed in 1953. Founded in 1868, Laing School had moved from a home at 217 Bennett St. to a brick building constructed by the Freedman's Bureau on land donated by the Town of Mount Pleasant at the corner of King and Royall Avenue. The school grew to an enrollment of 200 students and offered 7 years of instruction in academic courses and industrial arts.

The earthquake of 1886 destroyed the school, but it was rebuilt and continued on the King and Royall site as Laing Industrial and Normal School under the administration of the Friends Association until 1894, then under the Pennsylvania Abolition Society as trustee until 1940, and was then deeded to Consolidated School District #5, Charleston County, with a stipulation that the property continue in use forever for the education of children of African descent. Laing was the first accredited black school in the state. The old bell is still in front of the now Miriam Brown Center.<sup>1</sup>

Also, within the Old Village community exist the Edmund Jenkins Homes, a public housing project built in the 1950s and named to honor former Town Marshal Edmund Jenkins. Mr Jenkins had been born in slavery and served in K Company of the 128<sup>th</sup> SC during the Civil War. He later worked as a farm laborer and teamster before his service to the Town as a police officer in the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. Mr. Jenkins was widely respected by both black and white residents of the area.<sup>2</sup>

- **Two Mile**

From the 30's to the mid 60's Robbie & Virginia T. Vanderhorst with their eight children farmed huge amounts of land in the Two Mile Area. This would include the current neighborhoods of Hickory Shadows, Rose Mead, Mallard Lakes and areas behind the old SCEG building and Bentley Park subdivision. This is addition to farming family properties in Four Mile Community of Rams Hill & Rifle Range Roads.

These types of farmers were referred to as "Vegetables Truck Farmers." Products were taken to City Market and sold to local Grocery Stores & Corner Stores in the City of Charleston. Piggy Wiggly on Meeting Street as well as the Piggy Wiggly in Mt. Pleasant, Sea Island Shopping Center purchased products from Robert "Robbie" & Virginia Vanderhorst Truck Farms.

- 

- **Scanlonville**

The Scanlonville Community appears to have been one of at least four African American cooperative land purchases in Charleston County. Scanlonville was established in 1868 after 100 freedmen subscribers of the Charleston Land Company, under the direction of Robert L. Scanlon, purchased 614 acres of the Remley Plantation at auction for \$6,100. The former plantation tract was rechristened

---

<sup>1</sup> Fludd, Dorothy. "Laing School History - Tompsc.com." *Town of Mount Pleasant, SC*, <https://www.tompsc.com/DocumentCenter/View/17087/Laing-School-History?bidId=>

<sup>2</sup> Haury, Susannah. "Edmund Jenkins Research Report." *Town of Mount Pleasant, SC*.

“Scanlonville” and platted in 1870 into 394 half-acre “town lots” (100x200 feet), 111 vacant lots, and 100 linear, two-acre “farm lots” (130x650 feet). The new African American settlement also included parcels for a community park and cemetery. In addition to its real estate duties, the company also presided over: farming issues in the communities; settled disputes between shareholders/subscribers; operated a mutual benefit fund for sick members; and possibly also managed the community cemetery and burial of the dead. The Charleston Land Company remained a viable corporation until 1932, maintaining communal property and selling unsold parcels within Scanlonville; however, African American ownership of the land has passed down through the generations despite recent pressure brought on by encroaching real estate development.<sup>3</sup> From 1930 to the 1970s the community featured a waterfront area known as Riverside Beach and a motel/music venue called White’s Paradise, Black-only venues that featured legendary acts including Duke Ellington, Louis Armstrong, James Brown, and others.<sup>4</sup>

- **Greenhill**

In 1870, freedman Hardy Green purchased 30 acres of land along Mathis Ferry Road. The area was called Spark Hill, but was later named Greenhill by the Moultrie School District. Children walked several miles to Laing School, then in the Old Village of Mount Pleasant. Greenhill received electricity in 1942, paved roads in 1951, and was annexed into Mount Pleasant in 1983.

Farming was the major source of income in Greenhill. People, produce, and livestock were carried aboard boats from a dock behind Somerset Point to the Charleston City Market. In the 1920s and ‘30s, mules and wagons transported goods to a ferry at Shem Creek. The LOOP Bus became a major source of transportation in the 1940s. Greenhill continues to thrive as a residential community.<sup>5</sup>

- **Snowden**

The lands that became the Snowden Community were sold to freedmen by the SC Land Commission in the late nineteenth century.<sup>6</sup> The community is also notable for the Long Point Road Schoolhouse, likely the last remaining segregation-era one room schoolhouse in East Cooper, which is in the process of being relocated to save it from destruction due to development.<sup>7</sup>

- **Four Mile**

The Four Mile community was founded in the 1860’s after the Civil War. The main families that lived in the community are the Scott’s, Golds, Gathers and Maxwells. Building of Hungryneck Blvd and the subsequent commercial development threaten the historical identity of the community.<sup>8</sup>

---

<sup>3</sup> “Charleston County Historic Resources Survey Update.” *Home | SC Department of Archives and History*, New South Associates, 12 Sept. 2016, [https://scdah.sc.gov/sites/default/files/Documents/Historic%20Preservation%20\(SHPO\)/Research/CharlestonCounty2016.pdf](https://scdah.sc.gov/sites/default/files/Documents/Historic%20Preservation%20(SHPO)/Research/CharlestonCounty2016.pdf). pp. 16-18.

<sup>4</sup> Frazier, Herb. “Riverside Became a Refuge amid Segregation Black-Owned Businesses That Thrived around Beaches Gradually Died after Integration.” *CCPL Database Access*, Post and Courier, 12 Aug. 2001, [https://infoweb-newsbank-com.ccpl.idm.oclc.org/apps/news/openurl?ctx\\_ver=z39.88-++2004&rft\\_id=info%3Aid%2Finfoweb.newsbank.com&svc\\_dat=WORLDNEWS&req\\_dat=0EBF07B35AF09979&rft\\_val\\_format=info%3Aofi%2Fftmt%3Akev%3Amtx%3Actx&rft\\_dat=document\\_id%3Anews%252F111F1925C73E4750](https://infoweb-newsbank-com.ccpl.idm.oclc.org/apps/news/openurl?ctx_ver=z39.88-++2004&rft_id=info%3Aid%2Finfoweb.newsbank.com&svc_dat=WORLDNEWS&req_dat=0EBF07B35AF09979&rft_val_format=info%3Aofi%2Fftmt%3Akev%3Amtx%3Actx&rft_dat=document_id%3Anews%252F111F1925C73E4750). .

<sup>5</sup> Town of Mount Pleasant Historical Commission. “Greenhill.” *Mount Pleasant Historical*, Town of Mount Pleasant Historical Commission, 27 July 2021, <http://mountpleasanthistorical.org/items/show/24>.

<sup>6</sup> “Charleston County Historic Resources Survey Update.” *Home | SC Department of Archives and History*, New South Associates, 12 Sept. 2016, [https://scdah.sc.gov/sites/default/files/Documents/Historic%20Preservation%20\(SHPO\)/Research/CharlestonCounty2016.pdf](https://scdah.sc.gov/sites/default/files/Documents/Historic%20Preservation%20(SHPO)/Research/CharlestonCounty2016.pdf). p. 20.

<sup>7</sup> Hart, Brodie. “Tensions Rise as Neighbors Challenge New Location for Historic Mt. Pleasant Schoolhouse.” *WCIV*, WCIV, 7 Jan. 2020, <https://abcnews4.com/news/local/tensions-rise-as-neighbors-challenge-new-location-for-historic-mt-pleasant-schoolhouse>.

<sup>8</sup> Ascue, Pearl. Received by Kate Miller, *Re: Ten Mile Community*, 9 Nov. 2021.

- **Six Mile**

After the Civil War, the low-lying lands of the former seashore plantations, such as Hamlin (est. in 1698), were given or sold to the plantation's former enslaved people. These folks formed a community called "Liberty Hill" and built simple wood houses on their land. The name of the community was later changed to "Six Mile", the distance between the community and the Village of Mount Pleasant. The intersection of Rifle Range and Six Mile is known locally as "Mazyck's Corners".

While the original plantations located along the salt marshes were more likely to raise livestock and grain, these early residents engaged in "truck farming", raising crops such as corn, peas, tomatoes, and cabbages to truck to the Charleston market. Fish and shrimp in nearby marshes and creeks provided a plentiful food source as well as an additional source of income. While most residents no longer depend on farming for a living, sweetgrass basket weaving continues as it has for generations to supplement income. Sweetgrass basket stands can still be seen dotting the area around Six Mile Road, Rifle Range Road, and Highway 17 North exhibiting the artistry of the Six Mile Community.<sup>9</sup>

The Six Mile Community also became the home of Laing High School in 1953. Laing School was originally established in 1866 by Cornelia Hancock, a Quaker and a former Union Army nurse. In the aftermath of the Civil War, while travelling to Port Royal with Laura Towne, the founder of the Penn School, Cornelia Hancock determined to stop her journey in Mount Pleasant and provide a school for children of African descent. Classes began on January 29, 1866 in the war-damaged Presbyterian Church on Hibben Street in the Old Village. The first class had 50 students. By 1868, Laing had 200 students and was one of the first accredited in educating African American students in South Carolina. The school had several different locations in the Old Village, including one destroyed by the 1886 earthquake, before the new Laing High School was built in 1953 on Highway 17 in the Six Mile Community. The school is named for Henry M. Laing, the treasurer of a Quaker organization and abolitionist society that financially supported the school and its mission.<sup>10</sup>

- **Seven Mile/Hamlin**

The Hamlin community formed as part of the Copahoe Plantation in 1701 and came into African American ownership in 1881.<sup>11</sup> The lands that became the Hamlin Community were sold to freedmen by the SC Land Commission in the late nineteenth century.<sup>12</sup> James Hibben Hamlin sold 30 lots of approximately 10 acres each in an area that became Hamlin Beach, between Copahoe Sound and Boone Hall Plantation. Among the names of the buyers are Jefferson, Coakley and Daigle.<sup>13</sup>

---

<sup>9</sup> Town of Mount Pleasant Historical Commission, "Six Mile Community." *Mount Pleasant Historical*, Town of Mount Pleasant Historical Commission, October 8, 2021

<sup>10</sup> Town of Mount Pleasant Historical Commission "Laing School." *Mount Pleasant Historical*, Town of Mount Pleasant Historical Commission, January 24, 2020.

<sup>11</sup> Sherman, Brian. "Hamlin: A Distinct Sense of Community." *Mount Pleasant Magazine*, 17 Jan. 2019, <https://mountpleasantmagazine.com/2019/places/hamlin-distinct-sense-community/>.

<sup>12</sup> "Charleston County Historic Resources Survey Update." *Home | SC Department of Archives and History*, New South Associates, 12 Sept. 2016, [https://scdah.sc.gov/sites/default/files/Documents/Historic%20Preservation%20\(SHPO\)/Research/CharlestonCounty2016.pdf](https://scdah.sc.gov/sites/default/files/Documents/Historic%20Preservation%20(SHPO)/Research/CharlestonCounty2016.pdf). p. 20

<sup>13</sup> Sherman, Brian. "Hamlin: A Distinct Sense of Community." *Mount Pleasant Magazine*, 17 Jan. 2019, <https://mountpleasantmagazine.com/2019/places/hamlin-distinct-sense-community/>.

Into the mid twentieth century, like other settlement communities, the area was largely remote and agricultural, with A.B. McConnell's General Merchandise as its nearest place to buy goods.<sup>14</sup> Fred Swinton owned a combination barbershop/ store that was more convenient to the residents of Hamlin. On Saturday mornings, John Bennett would traverse the community with his horse and buggy, selling fresh vegetables, cookies and candy. There were three night clubs in Hamlin. In fact, according to Janette Lee, who has lived in the community for most of her 74 years, Boston Grill Road was cut in 1953 at the request of a man who owned a club by the same name.<sup>15</sup>

Jennie Moore Elementary School opened on Hamlin Road in 1953, at the same time as Laing High School, to provide educations to African American children in the East Cooper community.<sup>16</sup>

- **Phillips**

The Phillips Community, established in 1878, was developed on a tract of land that had once been part of the larger Laurel Hill and Boone Hall plantations. It was subdivided (by the SC Land Commission) into 10-acre parcels and sold to 18 freedmen families at a cost of \$63 each.<sup>17</sup>

Settled along Horlbeck Creek, the Phillips Community is considered to be an example of a "South Carolina Land Commission Platted Community" where former plantations were subdivided and sold to black and white landless farmers and tradesmen between 1869 and 1890. Settlement communities have distinct settlement patterns that are indicative of the means of land acquisition and settlement by formerly enslaved individuals and their families. Spatial arrangements of parcels of varying lot sizes are specific to individual settlement communities; however, there are three characteristics that are shared between most settlement communities: traditional burial grounds, traditional community access to nearby waterways, and a reliance on heirs' property whereby land is conveyed and held "in common" by the descendants of the original deed owner. Specifically, the Phillips Community contained 25 parallelogram gridded farm lots ranging in size from 8 ½ acres to 25 acres. Smaller lots were narrow and rectangular in shape oriented to the road, while the larger parcels abutted the canal.<sup>18</sup> This land configuration is an example of the second type of historic African American community planning in Charleston County, sharing other patterns such as clustering of businesses, residences, and institutional buildings near primary roads; most lots have been subdivided into smaller, rectangular parcels over time; buildings with frontage along the waterway is uncommon, as are fence enclosures.<sup>19</sup> The boundaries of the original subdivision dated 1875 are still apparent today.

Several significant figures in history associated with Phillips Community, include:

- Dr. John Rutledge, first doctor in Christ Church Parish
- John Rutledge (son of Dr. Rutledge), signer of United States Constitution

---

<sup>14</sup> Sherman, Brian. "Hamlin: A Distinct Sense of Community." *Mount Pleasant Magazine*, 17 Jan. 2019, <https://mountpleasantmagazine.com/2019/places/hamlin-distinct-sense-community/>.

<sup>15</sup> Sherman, Brian. "Hamlin: A Distinct Sense of Community." *Mount Pleasant Magazine*, 17 Jan. 2019, <https://mountpleasantmagazine.com/2019/places/hamlin-distinct-sense-community/>.

<sup>16</sup> Eubanks, Phyllis. "Who Is the Person behind the Name..." *Post Courier*, 22 Feb. 1953.

<sup>17</sup> "Charleston County Historic Resources Survey Update." *Home | SC Department of Archives and History*, New South Associates, 12 Sept. 2016, [https://scdah.sc.gov/sites/default/files/Documents/Historic%20Preservation%20\(SHPO\)/Research/CharlestonCounty2016.pdf](https://scdah.sc.gov/sites/default/files/Documents/Historic%20Preservation%20(SHPO)/Research/CharlestonCounty2016.pdf). P. 20

<sup>18</sup> "Charleston County Historic Resources Survey Update." *Home | SC Department of Archives and History*, New South Associates, 12 Sept. 2016, [https://scdah.sc.gov/sites/default/files/Documents/Historic%20Preservation%20\(SHPO\)/Research/CharlestonCounty2016.pdf](https://scdah.sc.gov/sites/default/files/Documents/Historic%20Preservation%20(SHPO)/Research/CharlestonCounty2016.pdf). p. 65

<sup>19</sup> "Charleston County Historic Resources Survey Update." *Home | SC Department of Archives and History*, New South Associates, 12 Sept. 2016, [https://scdah.sc.gov/sites/default/files/Documents/Historic%20Preservation%20\(SHPO\)/Research/CharlestonCounty2016.pdf](https://scdah.sc.gov/sites/default/files/Documents/Historic%20Preservation%20(SHPO)/Research/CharlestonCounty2016.pdf). p. 74

- Edward Rutledge (son of Dr. Rutledge), signer of Declaration of Independence
- Sam Scott and Benjamin Bennett, members of the 129<sup>th</sup> U.S. Colored Infantry who fought in the Civil War
- Maj. General Abraham J. Turner, decorated military personnel and foreign war veteran
- Important aspects of the Community:
  - Most properties within the district contain the original homes, and if subdivided at all, only to grant to heirs of the original landholders.
  - Most land is still held by descendants of the original landholders.
  - History of former Society Hall, Schoolhouse, boat landing, and Parker’s Ferry Bridge; some structures remain in place.
  - “The Society”, now known as The Phillips Community Association, has been a continual part of the community’s history.
  - Recently Phillips has been most well-known for the struggle against encroachment from a proposal to expand Highway 41, which led to a revision of the plan in early 2021.<sup>20</sup>

- **Ten Mile**

The Ten Mile Community is located in the northern section of Mount Pleasant alongside and east of Highway 17. Original settlers were from Goat Island, Capers Island, the Beach, Whitesides, Woodsville, Alston Point, and Darrel Creek. The Ten Mile community’s population grew after a series of hurricanes demolished several areas of Capers Island forcing residents to move inland.

The families who moved to Ten Mile established the community through “hard work, togetherness, and Christianity”. The residents were self-sufficient, and the community flourished with hunters, farmers, carpenters, plumbers, seamstresses, cooks, midwives, and entrepreneurs. Everyone planted, canned their produce, and shared with their neighbors to survive. Ten Mile had an oyster factory, sugar mill, candy stores, grocery stores, smoke house, corn mill, cotton and vegetable farms.

Ten Mile residents walked everywhere especially to “Church” meetings which were held in a “Bush Tent”. Later, the meetings were held in a building made from fresh-cut pine clapboards. The Ten Mile community residents worked hard to raise funds for their first Church. In following years, community members supported the church in other ways as well. Local seamstresses would make the choir robes with matching hats and church members kept pastors “well fed” with home cooked meals.<sup>21</sup>

---

<sup>20</sup> Arruda, Paola Tristan. “Video: Charleston County’s Revised Hwy 41 Plan Lessens ...” *Live 5 News*, <https://www.live5news.com/video/2021/03/05/video-charleston-countys-revised-hwy-plan-lessens-impact-phillips-community/>.

<sup>21</sup> Town of Mount Pleasant Historical Commission “Ten Mile.” *Mount Pleasant Historical*, Town of Mount Pleasant Historical Commission, November 5, 2021.