

JOINT
PUBLIC NOTICE

CHARLESTON DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS
69A Hagood Avenue
Charleston, South Carolina 29403-5107
and the
S.C. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROL
OFFICE OF OCEAN AND COASTAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT
1362 McMillan Avenue, Suite 400
Charleston, South Carolina 29405

REGULATORY DIVISION
Refer to: P/N #2007-1783-1IW

19 DECEMBER 2008

Pursuant to Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 (33 U.S.C. 403), Sections 401 and 404 of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. 1344), and the South Carolina Coastal Zone Management Act (48-39-10 et.seq.) an application has been submitted to the Department of the Army and the S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control by

BEAUFORT COUNTY
c/o WARD EDWARDS
POST OFFICE BOX 381
BLUFFTON, SOUTH CAROLINA

for a permit to place fill material to construct an access road in

jurisdictional freshwater wetlands

at a location adjacent to the intersection of U.S. Highway 278 and the Buckwalter Parkway near the entrance to St. Gregory the Great Catholic Church and the entrance to Berkeley Hall in the Town of Bluffton, Beaufort County, South Carolina (Latitude 32.29163°, Longitude -80.90762°)

In order to give all interested parties an opportunity to express their views

NOTICE

is hereby given that written statements regarding the proposed work will be received by both of the above mentioned offices until

12 O'CLOCK NOON, TUESDAY, 20 JANUARY 2009

from those interested in the activity and whose interests may be affected by the proposed work.

The proposed work consists of placing approximately 1316 cubic yards of fill material and constructing a box culvert in 0.292 acres of jurisdictional wetlands and 0.029 acres of upland buffers that were placed in restrictive covenants as conditions to Department of the Army permits, P/N #98-1G-374 issued to St. Gregory the Great Catholic Church and P/N #99-1P-490 issued to Berkeley Hall. Beaufort County has obtained control of an easement for this access road through condemnation of this property and has provided an alternatives analysis and mitigation plan to this office that will allow consideration of this application to impact the wetlands and upland buffers

19 DECEMBER 2008

previously placed in restrictive covenants. Mitigation will be provided through the purchase of 5.0 mitigation credits from the Beaufort County/ Beaufort Jasper Water and Sewer Authority Wetland Mitigation Bank. The purpose of the project according to the applicant is for public safety by allowing access to the traffic signal at the Berkeley Hall/ Highway 278 intersection by alleviating traffic congestion in the area. This congestion is caused by the fact that St. Gregory the Great Catholic Church has a single entrance that provides only eastbound access to U.S. Highway 278.

NOTE: Plans depicting the work described in this notice are available and will be provided, upon receipt of a written request, to anyone that is interested in obtaining a copy of the plans for the specific project. The request must identify the project of interest by public notice number and a self-addressed stamped envelope must also be provided for mailing the drawings to you. Your request for drawings should be addressed to the

**U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
ATTN: REGULATORY DIVISION
69A Hagood Avenue
Charleston, South Carolina 29403-5107.**

The District Engineer has concluded that the discharges associated with this project, both direct and indirect, should be reviewed by the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control in accordance with provisions of Section 401 of the Clean Water Act. As such, this notice constitutes a request, on behalf of the applicant, for certification that this project will comply with applicable effluent limitations and water quality standards. The work shown on this application must also be certified as consistent with applicable provisions the Coastal Zone Management Program (15 CFR 930). The District Engineer will not process this application to a conclusion until such certifications are received. The applicant is hereby advised that supplemental information may be required by the State to facilitate the review.

This notice initiates the Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) consultation requirements of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act. Implementation of the proposed project would impact 0.252 acres of freshwater wetlands upstream from estuarine substrates and emergent wetlands utilized by various life stages of species comprising the red drum, shrimp, and snapper-grouper management complexes. Our initial determination is that the proposed action would not have a substantial individual or cumulative adverse impact on EFH or fisheries managed by the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council and the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS). Our final determination relative to project impacts and the need for mitigation measures is subject to review by and coordination with the NMFS.

The District Engineer has consulted the most recently available information and has determined that the project will have no effect on any Federally endangered, threatened, or proposed species and will not result in the destruction or adverse modification of designated or proposed critical habitat. This public notice serves as a request to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Marine Fisheries Service for any additional information they may have on whether any listed or proposed endangered or threatened species or designated or proposed critical habitat may be present in the area which would be affected by the activity, pursuant to Section 7(c) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (as amended).

Pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), this public notice also constitutes a request to Indian Tribes to notify the District Engineer of any historic properties of religious and cultural significance to them that may be affected by the proposed undertaking.

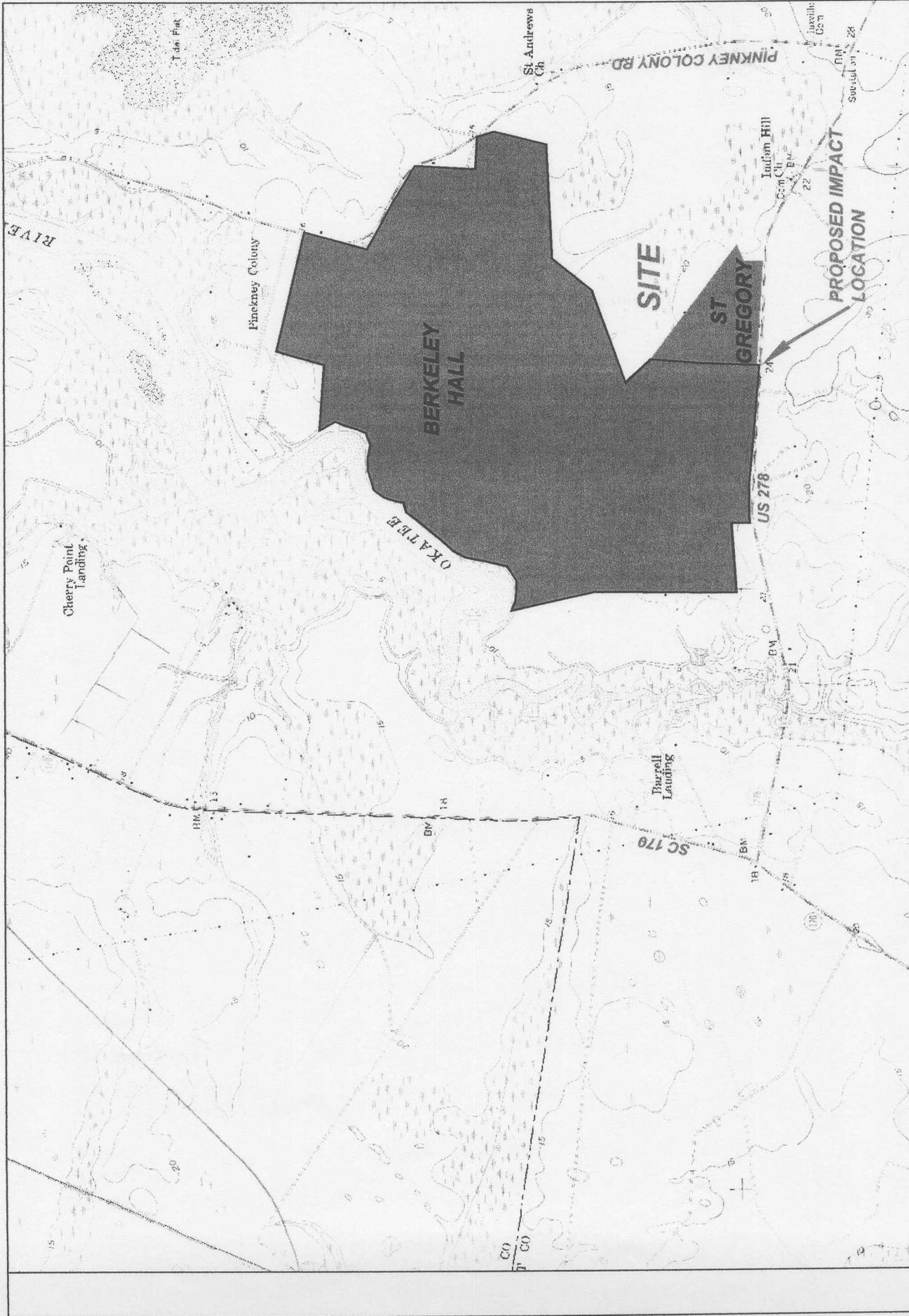
In accordance with the NHPA, the District Engineer has also consulted the latest published version of the National Register of Historic Places for the presence or absence of registered properties, or properties listed as being eligible for inclusion therein, and this worksite is not included as a registered property or property listed as being eligible for inclusion in the Register. To insure that other cultural resources that the District Engineer is not aware of are not overlooked, this public notice also serves as a request to the State Historic Preservation Office to provide any information it may have with regard to historic and cultural resources.

Any person may request, in writing, within the comment period specified in this notice, that a public hearing be held to consider this application. Requests for a public hearing shall state, with particularity, the reasons for holding a public hearing.

The decision whether to issue a permit will be based on an evaluation of the probable impact including cumulative impacts of the activity on the public interest and will include application of the guidelines promulgated by the Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), under authority of Section 404(b) of the Clean Water Act and, as appropriate, the criteria established under authority of Section 102 of the Marine Protection, Research and Sanctuaries Act of 1972, as amended. That decision will reflect the national concern for both protection and utilization of important resources. The benefit which reasonably may be expected to accrue from the project must be balanced against its reasonably foreseeable detriments. All factors which may be relevant to the project will be considered including the cumulative effects thereof; among those are conservation, economics, aesthetics, general environmental concerns, wetlands, historic properties, fish and wildlife values, flood hazards, flood plain values, land use, navigation, shoreline erosion and accretion, recreation, water supply and conservation, water quality, energy needs, safety, food and fiber production and, in general, the needs and welfare of the people. A permit will be granted unless the District Engineer determines that it would be contrary to the public interest. In cases of conflicting property rights, the Corps of Engineers cannot undertake to adjudicate rival claims.

The Corps of Engineers is soliciting comments from the public; Federal, state, and local agencies and officials; Indian Tribes; and other interested parties in order to consider and evaluate the impacts of this activity. Any comments received will be considered by the Corps of Engineers to determine whether to issue, modify, condition or deny a permit for this project. To make this decision, comments are used to assess impacts on endangered species, historic properties, water quality, general environmental effects, and the other public interest factors listed above. Comments are used in the preparation of an Environmental Assessment and/or an Environmental Impact Statement pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act. Comments are also used to determine the need for a public hearing and to determine the overall public interest of the activity.

If there are any questions concerning this public notice, please contact Debbie King at 843-329-8044 or toll free at 1-866-329-8187.



LOCATION SAC 2007-1783-1IW

USACE PERMIT #: 99-1P-490 (BERKELEY HALL), 98-1G-374-C (ST. GREGORY)		SCALE: NTS
REVISIONS:	APPLICANT: FATHER WEST AND BEAUFORT COUNTY	DATE:
INITIALS:	PROJECT TITLE: ST. GREGORY ACCESS	SHEET 1 OF 5
	PROJECT LOCATION: BLUFFTON, BEAUFORT COUNTY	
	LATITUDE: 32° 17' 32.87"	
	LONGITUDE: 80° 54' 15.41"	



ST. GREGORY WETLAND ACREAGE SUMMARY
 REMAINING FRESHWATER WETLANDS 11,810
 IMPACTED WETLANDS 1,700
 WETLAND BUFFERS 2,450

BERKELEY HALL WETLAND ACREAGE SUMMARY
 REMAINING FRESHWATER WETLANDS 66,747
 IMPACTED WETLANDS 16,072
 WETLAND BUFFERS 37,478

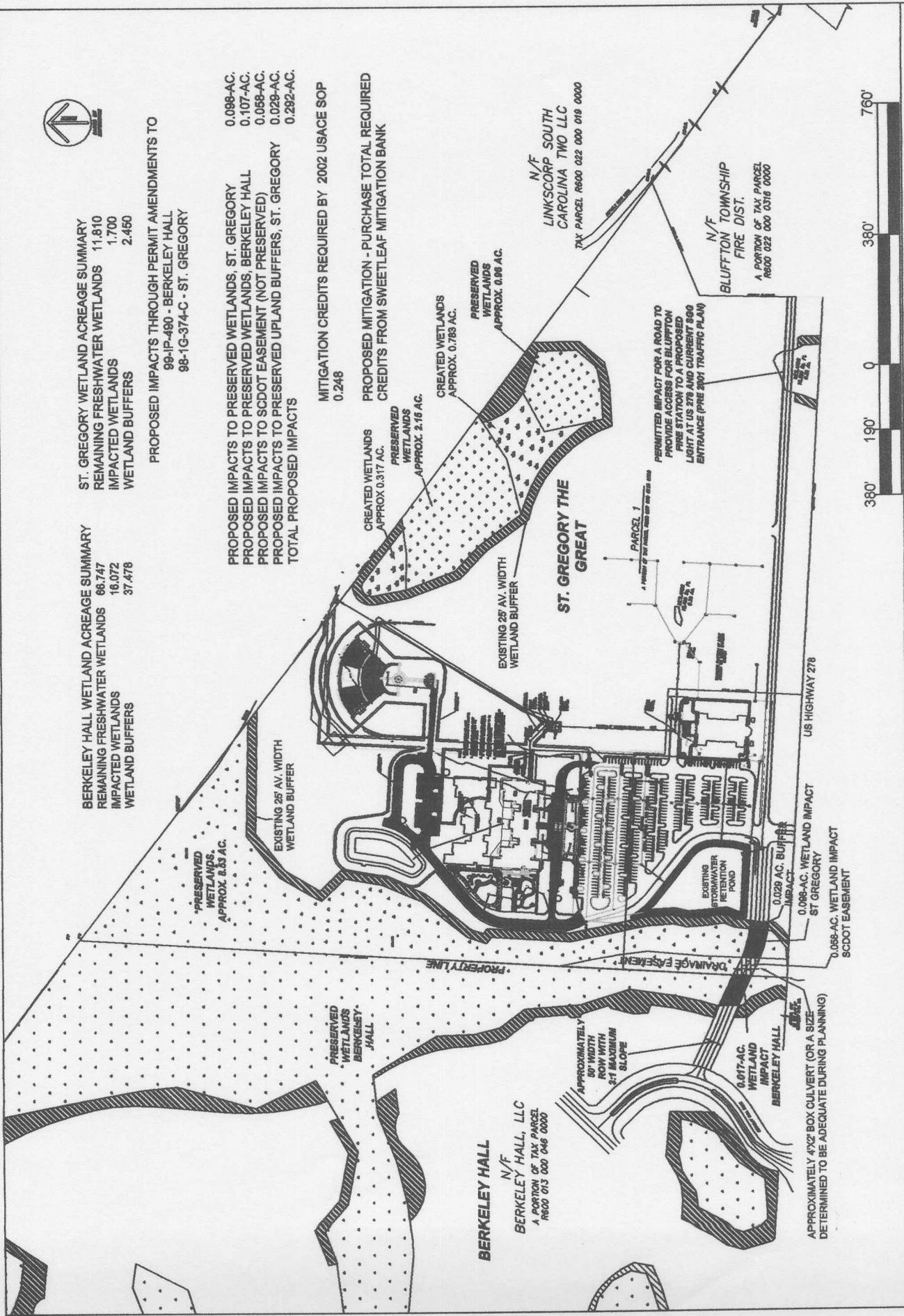
PROPOSED IMPACTS THROUGH PERMIT AMENDMENTS TO
 99-1P-490 - BERKELEY HALL
 98-1G-374-C - ST. GREGORY

PROPOSED IMPACTS TO PRESERVED WETLANDS, ST. GREGORY 0.098-AC.
 PROPOSED IMPACTS TO PRESERVED WETLANDS, BERKELEY HALL 0.107-AC.
 PROPOSED IMPACTS TO SCDOT EASEMENT (NOT PRESERVED) 0.058-AC.
 PROPOSED IMPACTS TO PRESERVED UPLAND BUFFERS, ST. GREGORY 0.028-AC.
TOTAL PROPOSED IMPACTS 0.292-AC.

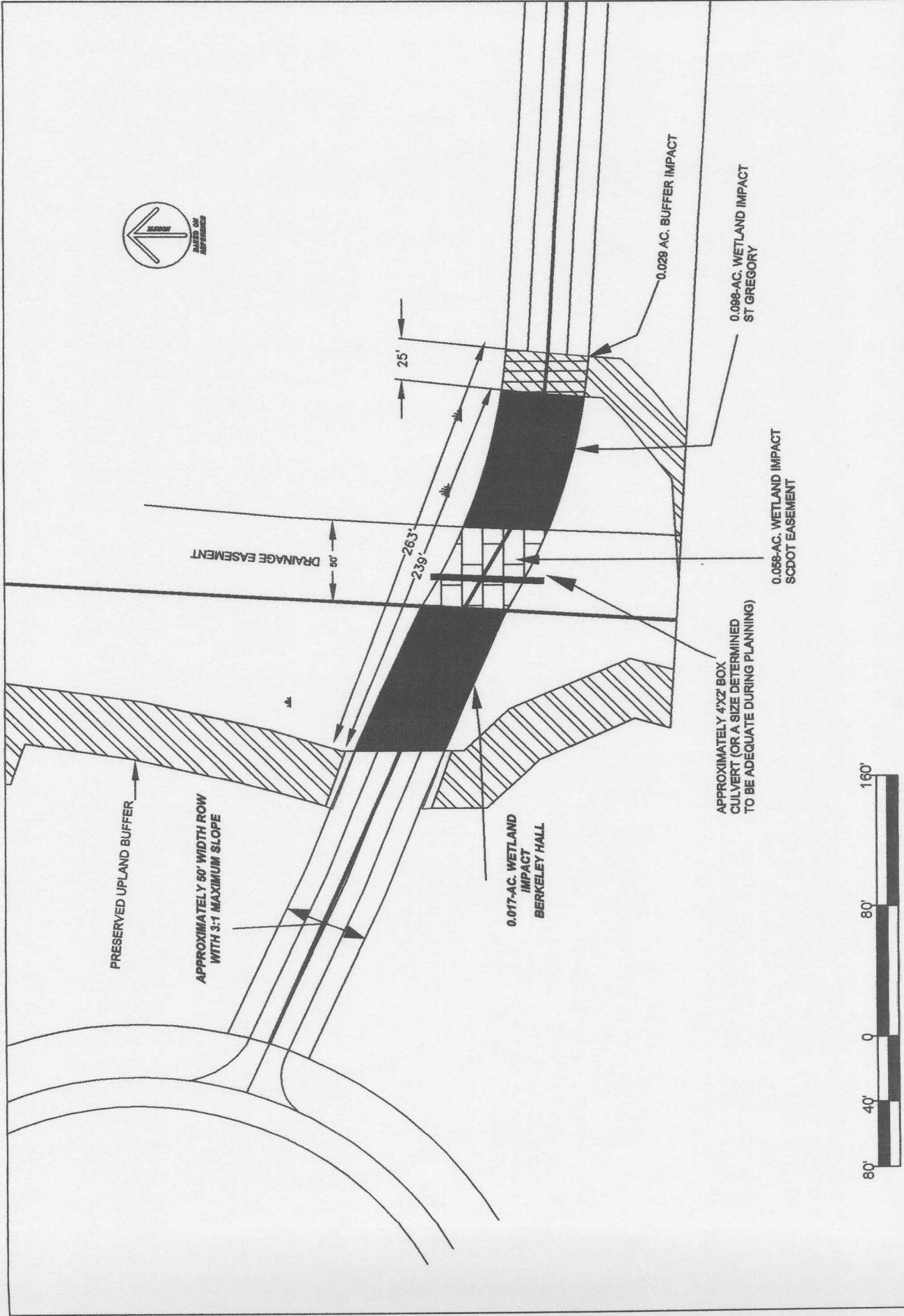
MITIGATION CREDITS REQUIRED BY 2002 USACE SOP
 0.248

PROPOSED MITIGATION - PURCHASE TOTAL REQUIRED CREDITS FROM SWEETLEAF MITIGATION BANK

CREATED WETLANDS APPROX 0.317 AC.
 PRESERVED WETLANDS APPROX. 2.15 AC.
 CREATED WETLANDS APPROX. 0.783 AC.
 PRESERVED WETLANDS APPROX. 0.96 AC.

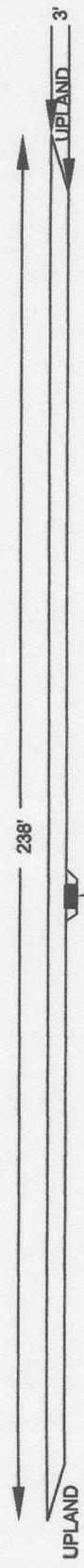
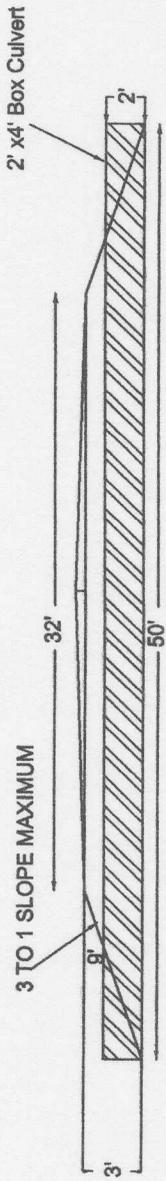


PLAN VIEW SAC 2007-1783-1IW	
REVISIONS:	USACE PERMIT #: 99-1P-490 (BERKELEY HALL), 98-1G-374-C (ST. GREGORY)
INITIALS:	LATITUDE: 32° 17' 32.87"
	LONGITUDE: 80° 54' 15.41"
	DATE:
	SCALE: 1" = 375'
	SHEET 2 OF 5



PLAN VIEW SAC 2007-1783-1IW

REVISIONS:	APPLICANT: FATHER WEST AND BEAUFORT COUNTY	USACE PERMIT #: 99-1P-490 (BERKELEY HALL), 98-1G-374-C (ST. GREGORY)	SCALE: 1" = 75'
INITIALS:	PROJECT TITLE: ST. GREGORY ACCESS	LATITUDE: 32° 17' 32.87"	DATE:
	PROJECT LOCATION: BLUFFTON, BEAUFORT COUNTY	LONGITUDE: 80° 54' 15.41"	SHEET 3 OF 5



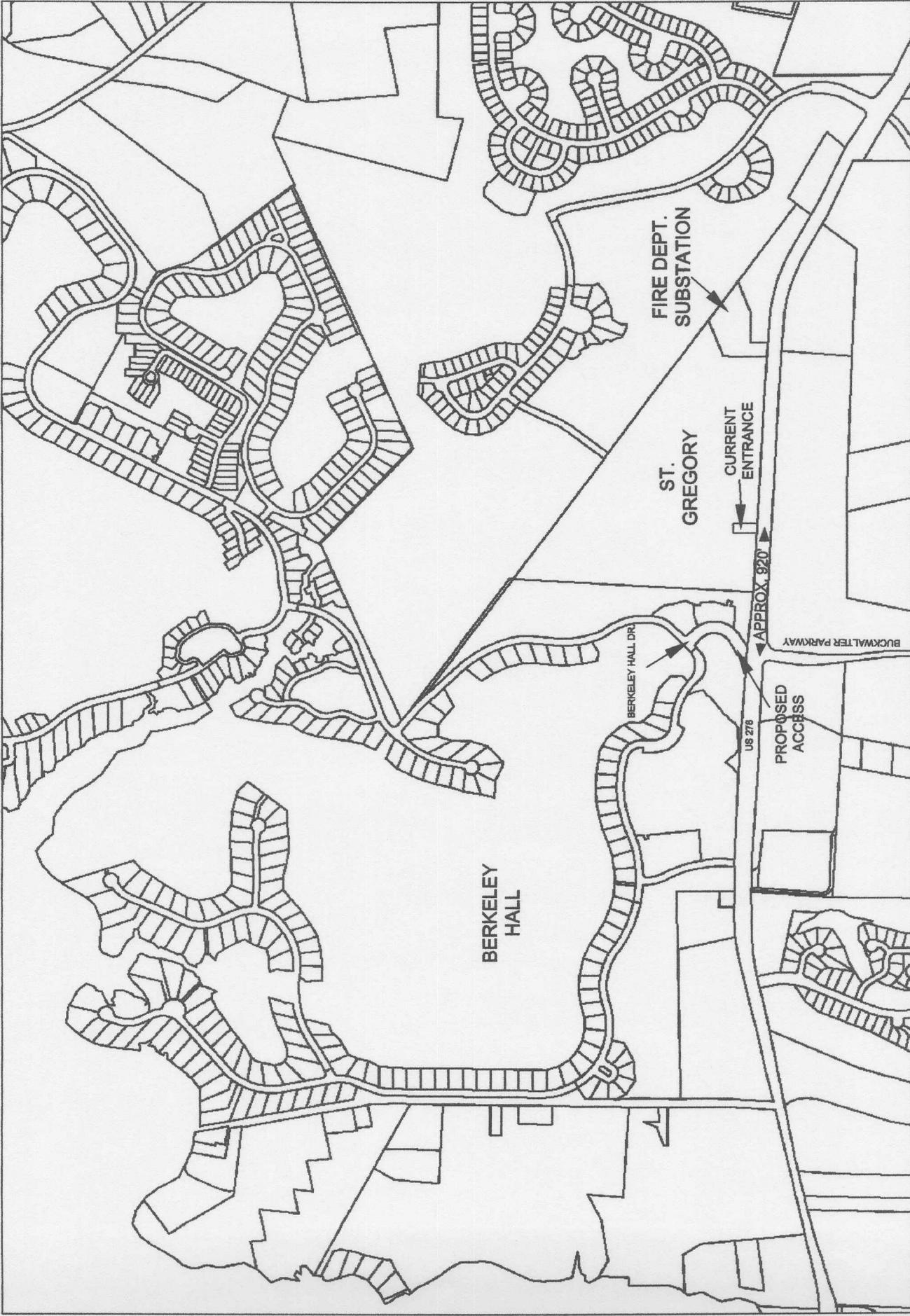
2'x4' BOX CULVERT PLACED IN SCDOT EASEMENT



TYPICAL CROSS SECTION

SAC 2007-1983-1IW

REVISIONS:	APPLICANT: FATHER WEST AND BEAUFORT COUNTY	USACE PERMIT #: 99-1P-490 (BERKELEY HALL), 98-1G-374-C (ST. GREGORY)	SCALE: ABOVE
INITIALS:	PROJECT TITLE: ST. GREGORY ACCESS	LATITUDE: 32° 17' 32.87"	DATE:
	PROJECT LOCATION: BLUFFTON, BEAUFORT COUNTY	LONGITUDE: 80° 54' 15.41"	SHEET 4 OF 5



VICINITY

SAC 2007-1783 - I/W

REVISIONS:	APPLICANT: FATHER WEST AND BEAUFORT COUNTY	USACE PERMIT #: 99-1P-490 (BERKELEY HALL), 98-1G-374-C (ST. GREGORY)	SCALE: ABOVE
INITIALS:	PROJECT TITLE: ST. GREGORY ACCESS	LATITUDE: 32° 17' 32.87"	DATE:
	PROJECT LOCATION: BLUFFTON, BEAUFORT COUNTY	LONGITUDE: 80° 54' 15.41"	SHEET 5 OF 5