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Waties Island – Waties Island is named for either William **Waties**, Sr. or Jr. Originally from Wales, William Waties, Sr. settled near Charleston about 1694. In 1716 he was appointed as a factor for trading with the Native Americans north of the Santee River and established a trading house at Uauenee (Yauhannah), otherwise called the Great Buff. In 1735 his son, William Waties, Jr., also a former Indian trader, helped survey the boundary line between N.C. and S.C. in the area of present day Horry County. Waties Sr., Jr. and III accumulated large tracts of very desirable land along the Waccamaw, Pee Dee, and Little Rivers in Horry County, as well as along the coast and in the Georgetown area.

According to a report by Dr. Reinhold J. Engelmayer of Coastal Carolina University, dated March 30, 1976, there are numerous archaeological sites on Waties Island that can be attributed to Native Americans in the prehistory period.

Numerous campsites varying in size from one meter to thirty meters can be found on the island. Those campsites that were tested showed a thin stratum of shells (clams, tidal and sub-tidal oysters) mixed with fragments of pottery of the Wilmington complex (ca. 0-700 A.D.) and the Savannah I phase (700 – 1200 A.D.).

At least one group of mounds has been identified so far. One of the mounds is about three meters high and eight meters in diameter. It is built on a round platform rising about half a meter above the ground level as of 1976. A test showed that the shells covering this mound make up a 20 to 30 centimeters thick layer. This layer serves as a veneer for this mound which was built, as far as could be determined, from yellow beach sand. The area around these mounds is littered with potshards of Wilmington and Savannah I origin.

In 1995, a total of 1,049 acres on the island and the adjoining uplands of



Little River Neck was deeded to the Coastal Educational Foundation, creating the **Anne Tilghman Boyce Coastal Reserve**. The gift has been protected with a perpetual conservation easement through The Nature Conservancy of South Carolina. It was the wish of Anne Tilghman Boyce that the property she left to a charitable trust be maintained "in essentially a wilderness state". Through her bequest, the support of her surviving children and a substantial financial gift from her sister-in-law, Kitty Lou Tilghman, Coastal has gained a magnificent addition to the facilities it can offer to students and faculty for education and research. In 1998 Rebecca Randall Bryan donated an adjacent 4.65 acre tract located along the Intracoastal Waterway, bringing CCU's total acreage in the Reserve up to 1,105.17 acres.

The Waties property is an outstanding example of an undeveloped complex of ocean frontage, fresh and saltwater marshes, tidal creeks, and upland woods. Surrounded by a rapidly urbanizing environment, it is becoming increasingly significant for research, monitoring, and education about the natural coastal habitat.

The island is a dynamic place where change is the rule rather than the exception. This makes Waties Island an excellent outdoor laboratory in which to study natural coastal processes.¹

¹ <http://www.coastal.edu/cmws/waties/island.html>