moved his family onto a ridge, likely the modern Mixons Hammock, into the swamp to avoid the American Revolution (Trowell 1998b; Kirkland and Cook 2007).

Georgia was the last of the original 13 colonies established by Great Britain in North America. General James Oglethorpe was granted the colony's corporate charter in 1732, and during the following year, Oglethorpe and a contingent of settlers established a camp in what was to become the city of Savannah. In 1735, Fort Augusta was established and rapidly became a focus of interior settlement. On January 7, 1755, Georgia ceased to be a trustee colony and the crown officially took up administration of the province. With Britain's victory in the French and Indian War, King George III expanded Georgia's southern boundary to the St. Marys River with a proclamation in 1763. The state's original eight counties were created during the Revolutionary War in 1777. Georgia became the fourth state to ratify the Constitution in 1788 (Jackson 2016; Cobb and Inscoe 2017).

In the early 1800s, the Okefenokee Swamp was situated between English Georgia and Spanish Florida with the English-Spanish boundary being poorly defined and with little in the way of law enforcement. As a result, the swamp became home to American Indians and white renegades for cattle rustling, revenge raiding, and slave smuggling from the St. Marys River to Alabama. Between 1812 and 1842, several forts and blockhouses were built and manned periodically, especially during the mid-1830s when the Second Seminole War of Florida expanded into southern Georgia. Georgia militiamen and U.S. troops used forts as bases to patrol the region for Seminole raids, including Fort Argyle on the Ogeechee River, Fort Floyd near Waycross, and Fort Gilmer near Fargo. Fort Alert, which later became the first seat of Charlton County as Trader's Hill, was established in the eighteenth century (Trowell 1998b; Kirkland and Cook 2007).

Modern Historic

This period dates generally from ca. 115 B.P. (A.D. 1835) to present. Charlton County, in which the project lies, was created by the Georgia General Assembly in 1854 with the first county seat established at Traders Hill. Formerly known as Fort Alert, Traders Hill is located on the St. Marys River and was likely established by the English before the Revolutionary War. As the head of navigation on the St. Mary's River, Fort Alert was an important trading center of the southeast. Prior to its establishment as the county seat, Trader's Hill was a pioneer trading post consisting of a few stores and barrooms. After 1854, the town became the center of commerce and culture for Southeast Georgia and North Florida. Traders Hill remained a thriving trade center until the construction of the S.F.&W Railroad from Savannah to Jacksonville and the establishment of the town of Folkston which became the Charlton County seat in 1901 (McQueen 1932).

By the early 1890s the Okefenokee Swamp area was surrounded by railroads. The Atlantic and Gulf Railroad, running from Savannah to Valdosta, ran a few miles north of the Okefenokee Swamp by the Civil War. In 1881, a line was built between Waycross and Jacksonville passing within a mile of the northern and eastern boundaries of the swamp (Kirkland and Cook 2007:19). The Atlantic, Valdosta and Western Railway constructed a line in 1899 that operated from Valdosta, Georgia to Jacksonville, Florida. Passing immediately south of the project area and extending for approximately 110 miles (main line) crossing southern Georgia and northern Florida, this line was nicknamed the "Jacksonville Short Line." This railroad also had approximately 45 spur-line miles, most of which were logging routes. In 1902, this line was purchased by the Georgia Southern and Florida Railway (RailGa.com 2018).

Early Euroamerican settlers were largely subsistence farmers raising cattle and hogs and cultivating small corn fields and gardens. Log houses were built that were surrounded by outbuildings for grain storage, supplies, and sugar production. A pattern of a few scattered homesteads continued in the region well into