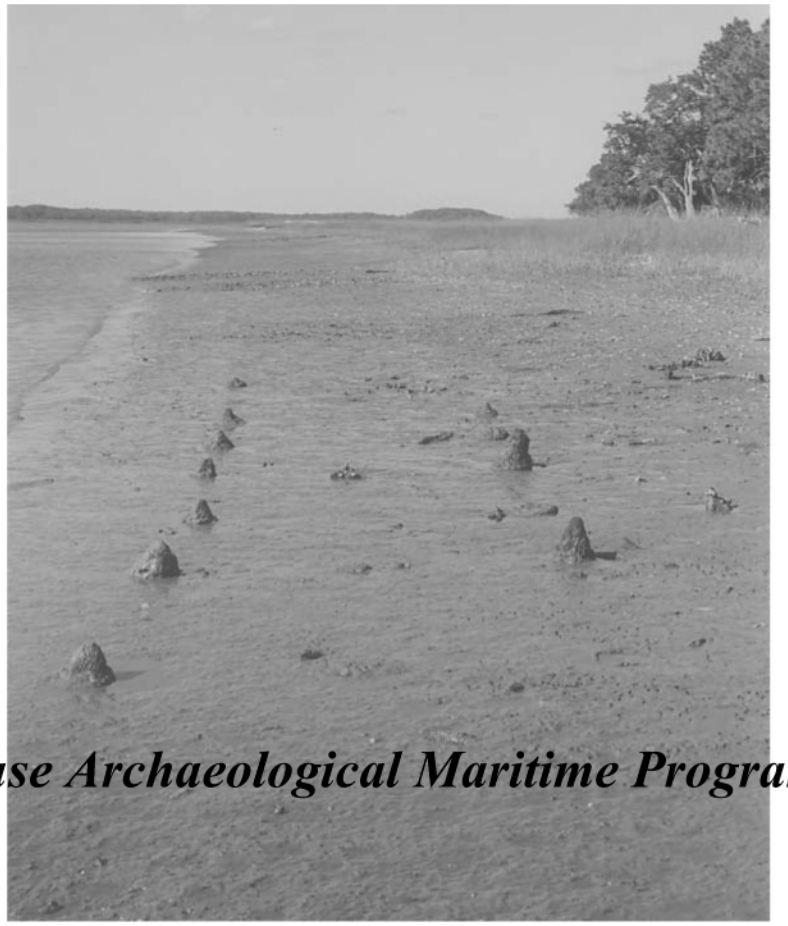
The St. Johns County Submerged Cultural Resources Inventory and Management Plan 2003-2005 Phase IIA



Lighthouse Archaeological Maritime Program, Inc.

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2003-2005
Phase IIA

Lighthouse Archaeological Maritime Program

by
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Coordination of survey data with spatial locations was facilitated using HYPACK MAX software, provided by Coastal Oceanographics Inc., Middletown, Connecticut.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report presents the Lighthouse Archaeological Maritime Program's (LAMP) 2003-2005 field seasons, or Phase IIA of the St. Johns County Submerged Cultural Resources Inventory and Management Plan. While this project is designed to interpret the maritime landscape of St. Johns County, it is also intended to create a management plan that will be applicable to other counties in Florida. Phase I, conducted in 2001-2002 established the research design and methodological protocol for the entire five-year projects and focused on conducting primary historical research, establishing survey areas, and conducting extensive remote sensing operations throughout the county (Morris, Burns and Moore 2002). This fieldwork was oriented towards investigating St. Johns County's wide spectrum of maritime archaeological sites and expanding the survey areas to encompass a diverse range of environmental setting throughout the county. Remote sensing survey data generated over 142 magnetometer anomalies and sonar targets. Additionally, archaeologists place ten new sites on the Florida Master Site File and updated five known sites.

Phase II focused on the delineation and investigation of prioritized targets generated during the initial surveys. Phase II also refined and applied the methodological protocol for investigating targets in the field. The selected targets were prioritized based on remote sensing signature characteristics, location, and environmental diversity. This document therefore represents the continuation of the process started during Phase I.

In addition to testing the prioritized targets, LAMP initiated a site monitoring protocol in response to the impact of dredging and beach re-nourishment operations. In the course of this process, several known sites were reevaluated and updated. Three new sites, located outside of the survey areas were also recorded. Sites throughout St. Johns County and single sites from Duval and Volusia Counties were included in the last two seasons' fieldwork and reflect the wide diversity of maritime sites inherent in northeast Florida.

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INTRODUCTION

In 1968, the State of Florida set aside four underwater Archaeological Reserve areas around the state for the purpose of, "preserving a cross-sectional and representative sample of underwater cultural resources" (Singer 1998:342). The waters surrounding St. Augustine, the nation's oldest port city, are included in one of these four reserves. St. Augustine's reserve domain stretches from north of St. Augustine inlet to south of Matanzas Inlet near present day Marineland. The reserve areas were set aside exclusively for scientific investigations and may not be used for commercial salvage, however, very little underwater archaeological research has been undertaken within St. Augustine's reserve prior to the present efforts.

The little academic underwater archaeology has been conducted in St. Johns County was undertaken in the 1970s and early 1980s by Florida State University in conjunction with the National Park Service's Southeastern Archaeological Center (SEAC) in Tallahassee. This early work was primarily used to train field school students and never produced significant information pertaining to St. Johns County's maritime archaeology. No other academic underwater archaeology took place in the county for a decade after these initial investigations, though large scale, multi-year projects have been undertaken mostly by the University of Florida and the city of St. Augustine's archaeology program on many of the earlier colonial, terrestrial sites within St. Augustine (see White 2000 and Halbirt 1992). However, in 1995, research-oriented underwater archaeology resumed with a survey initiated by Southern Oceans Archaeological Research, Inc. (SOAR). This research continues today under the direction of the Lighthouse Archaeological Maritime Program, Inc. (LAMP).

SOAR initiated the St. Augustine Maritime Survey in 1995 as the, "first step towards interpreting St. Augustine's maritime history from the perspective of the vessels involved in establishing, maintaining and protecting the oldest city in this country" (Franklin and Morris 1996:2). This initial remote sensing survey resulted in the generation of 48 anomalies offshore and seven anomalies inshore and the identification of three archaeological sites. The survey continued through 1998 under the direction of John W. Morris III with support from the St. Augustine Lighthouse & Museum, Inc (SALM). This survey resulted in the identification of several wrecks representing St. Augustine's venerable maritime history. Perhaps the most significant of the wrecks identified during this period is the 1764 wreck of the British transport sloop *Industry*, and the remains of a wooden-hulled, screw steamship.

In 1999, LAMP was established under the leadership of Mr. Morris. LAMP was created in cooperation with the St. Augustine Lighthouse and Museum, which recognized the need to establish a maritime research program centered on a full time professional staff with conservation lab facilities, public access, museum interpretation, and support. LAMP began its first full year of operation on July 1, 2000 with a professional staff and has since developed an on-site conservation laboratory as well as exhibits which bring the research to the public through the Lighthouse Museum. In addition to continuing the research begun in 1995, LAMP also has created a formalized volunteer and student-intern program for high school, undergraduate and graduate students. LAMP continues to conduct lectures and workshops for professional and

public groups. LAMP in partnership with Nease and Pedro Menendez High Schools also developed and teaches a skills-based program for teaching high school students underwater archaeology. .

In 2001, LAMP initiated the St. Johns County Submerged Cultural Resources Inventory and Management Plan (Morris, Burns, and Moore 2002). This project is designed to take three to five years to complete and is divided into three phases. Phase I, completed in 2002, established the research design and methodological protocol for the entire project. It focused on summarizing the historical background for the area, delineating the environmental diversity of the county and expanding the survey areas to encompass portions of all of the county's waterways. Phase I field work was devoted to remote sensing operations and the creation of a prioritized target list.

The first year of Phase II was conducted during the 2002-2003 field season (Morris, Burns, and Moore 2003). During Phase II, these prioritized targets were examined and interpreted and LAMP was able to firmly codify the methodological protocol to be applied in all subsequent field investigations. The targets chosen for investigation were selected from every type of marine environment encountered during the initial survey portion of this project. Existing sites were re-examined and monitored to ascertain environmental changes and impact from human activity. Data generated during Phase I, Phase II, and Phase II-A (2003-2005) will be utilized for the definitive interpretation of the maritime landscape of St. Johns County. This data will also provide the essential information necessary for generating a synthesized database for sound management decisions. The management plan will be completed during Phase III utilizing St. Johns County as a model. This will produce a blueprint that will be applicable for submerged cultural resource management on the county level throughout Florida.

Phase II-A of this project, presented in this publication, encompasses two permitted field seasons, 2003-2004 (permit number 0304.10) and 2004-2005 (permit number 0405.05). Fieldwork during Phase II-A was focused on the detailed, non-disturbance site recording of several significant sites in a variety of established environmental niches throughout the county. The re-evaluation and monitoring of previously recorded sites was also incorporated into the multi-year field operations. Limited remote sensing surveys were also conducted as well as emergency response recording necessitated by the severe 2004 hurricane season. A succession of four major hurricanes created a critical need to record exposed sites and lead directly to LAMP being permitted to record and monitor a very significant site in Volusia County. The initial report for site 8VO7306 is included in this publication. A rescue recovery of the threatened vessel remains at the Tolomato Bar Anchorage Site, 8SJ4801, and six smaller, diagnostic artifacts represent the only material culture recovered during the period of this report. The artifacts are currently being recorded and conserved for eventual public presentation.