Mechanized Recovery of the CSS Georgia

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CSS Georgia Site Location

Wreck site sits within the SHEP channel expansion area.
Multibeam Site Map

Multibeam overview of the CSS Georgia Site
Introduction

- South Carolina and Georgia State Historic Preservation Offices (SHPO) determined that the area where the CSS Georgia resides would be adversely affected by the Savannah Harbor Expansion Project.
Coordination and Planning

- Savannah District Corps of Engineers (USACE) entered into an agreement with the respective SHPOs and Navy History and Heritage Command (NHHC) to mitigate adverse effects to the site by removing the wreck.

- This was accomplished via an interagency services agreement between the USACE and the U.S. Navy.
Coordination and Planning

- US Navy Supervisor of Salvage and Diving (SUPSALV) and its contractor Donjon Marine Company Inc. performed the work with Panamerican Consultants, Inc. (PCI) and Conservation Research Lab (CRL) providing archaeological consultation.

- A detailed recovery plan was developed through the coordination of all parties involved.

- It was recognized that the experimental techniques utilized would likely require modifications based on in-field findings.
Coordination and Planning

Recovery efforts commenced in June aboard these two barges by SUPSALV, Donjon, Explosive Ordnance Demolition Mobile Unit 6 (EODMU6) and Mobile Diving and Salvage Unit 2 (MUDSU-2)
UXO/DMM

DMM area circled
UXO/DMM

Ordnance basket with steel buckets
Ordnance basket being lifted to the project
Navy divers entering the water and coordinating with archaeologists on DMM locations
UXO/DMM

DMM baskets awaiting transport
Cannon Recovery

Locations of the 4 recovered cannons
Example of how the cannon were rigged and lifted
Cannon Recovery

Coda video of cannon 1 lift
Cannon Recovery

Cannon being set in container where archaeologists wrap it and install a hose
Coda video of propeller and shaft lift
Large Artifact Recovery

Condenser and Propeller and Shaft
Casemate Recovery

West, East and Southeast Casemate sections
Southeast Casemate
Southeast Casemate

Examples of tools used by Navy divers
Southeast Casemate

Image of the Guillotine
Southeast Casemate

Before the Guillotine was used on the Southeast Casemate, it was used on a small section of the West Casemate highlighted above.
Southeast Casemate

Coda video of Guillotine
East Casemate
East Casemate

East Casemate with small sections highlighted
East Casemate

Lift of small East Casemate sections
East Casemate

Small East Casemate sections on deck supported by timber baulks and being banded
East Casemate

Coda video of the East Casemate Lift
East Casemate

East casemate lift with frame and cables in view
Mechanized Site Clearance Phase

Grapple (Left) and Clamshell (Right)
Mechanized Site Clearance

Coda video of Grapple
Mechanized Site Clearance

Archaeologists cleaning loads dumped in their respective bays
Mechanized Site Clearance

Archaeologists cleaning loads dumped in their respective bays
Mechanized Site Clearance

Archaeologists sift through base material looking for small artifacts
Mechanized Site Clearance

Archaeologists clearing bay
Mechanized Site Clearance

Southeast casemate on deck with archaeologists measuring and tagging (Left) and railroad iron in the Grapple (Right)
Mechanized Site Clearance

Examples of artifacts: Bayonet handle (Top Left), Glass Navy Bottle (Bottom Left) and Thrust Bearing (Right)
Reburial area with Georgia shown for reference
Reburial

Adding mud to reburial containers
Reburial

1st container being lowered to the bottom
THANK YOU