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Abstract Title: Archaeological Inventory of Rice Plantation Waterways Along the Brunswick River

Abstract Description: The historic rice plantation waterways that form a patchwork of chasms visible from space, are stark reminders of the impact the rice industry had in the Lower Cape Fear. Dug by hand by enslaved men and women these waterways became the circulatory system that led to arterial ports and landing sites within the region. The maritime cultural landscape of this region is often defined by activity at the major ports, but investigations conducted this spring revealed a system of smaller landing sites, water control features and rice infrastructure that have much to contribute to understanding port and landing sites' roles in boundary-defining research. Focusing on North Carolina's role in the Lowcountry rice industry and mapping the tidal rice fields of the Brunswick River contributes to the archaeological record and pursues an understanding of how the rice plantation waterways contributed to maritime labor and geographies of freedom.

Keywords: Black Geographies, Rice Plantation, Lower Cape Fear, Maritime Cultural Landscape