

AFD05329

SEARCH archaeologists investigating dirt from an excavator for artifacts.

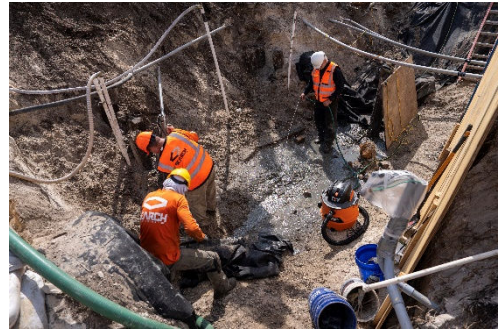
Credit: Daniel Fiore (SEARCH, Inc.) & Florida Department of Transportation, District Two.



AFD05424

SEARCH archaeologists keeping the ship planks wet to preserve them.

Credit: Daniel Fiore (SEARCH, Inc.) & Florida Department of Transportation, District Two.



AFD05533

Close up of the ceiling (interior) hull planks with the stub of a futtock, which is the lower portion of a frame known as a “rib” to non-mariners.

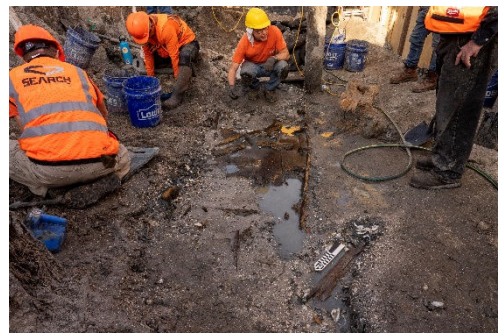
Credit: Daniel Fiore (SEARCH, Inc.) & Florida Department of Transportation, District Two.



AFD05604

Archaeologists use water and small hand tools to carefully remove sediment and a thick layer of oyster and other marine shells covering the buried ship.

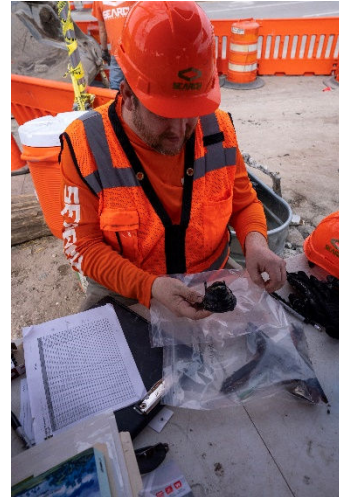
Credit: Daniel Fiore (SEARCH, Inc.) & Florida Department of Transportation, District Two.



AFD05663

SEARCH archaeologist Geoffrey DuChemin holds the base of an oil-fired lantern found inside the wreck.

Credit: Daniel Fiore (SEARCH, Inc.) & Florida Department of Transportation, District Two.



AFD05671

Close up view of the base of the oil-fired lantern found inside the wreck.

Credit: Daniel Fiore (SEARCH, Inc.) & Florida Department of Transportation, District Two.



AFD05680

Artifacts found inside the wreck were mixed into the sediment and shells that buried it, as well as in a thin layer of mud that coated the hull. A wooden handle and the remains of a leather shoe are shown here as excavated.

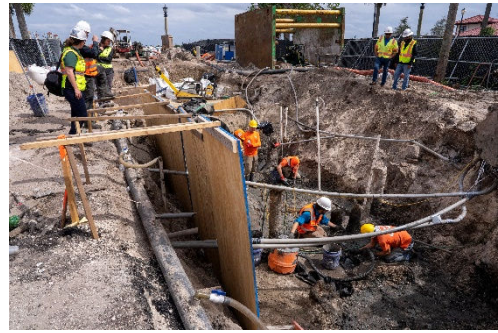
Credit: Daniel Fiore (SEARCH, Inc.) & Florida Department of Transportation, District Two.



AFD05767

SEARCH archaeologists excavating the ship inside the trench as SEARCH's Dr. James Delgado briefs FDOT officials.

Credit: Daniel Fiore (SEARCH, Inc.) & Florida Department of Transportation, District Two.



AFD06372

SEARCH archaeologist Dr. Michael Brennan uses a careful application of water to clear mud from the hull planks, which had been sealed in that mud for at least a century.

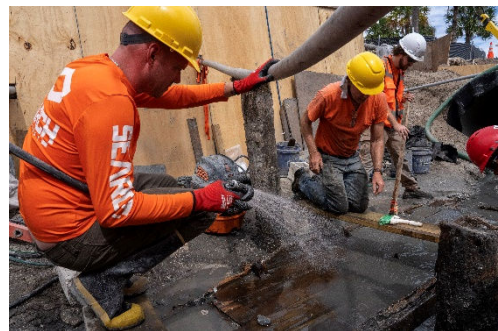
Credit: Daniel Fiore (SEARCH, Inc.) & Florida Department of Transportation, District Two.



AFD06383

Archeologists carefully clean the hull of the vessel as crews map the exposed hull planking. The wreck was digitally and manually measured as it was exposed.

Credit: Daniel Fiore (SEARCH, Inc.) & Florida Department of Transportation, District Two.



AFD06431

SEARCH's Dr. James Delgado confers with the team as excavation has revealed the interior of the vessel for the first time since it was likely abandoned in the 19th century on what was then a shoreline.

Credit: Daniel Fiore (SEARCH, Inc.) & Florida Department of Transportation, District Two.



AFD06476

While the wood of the hull seems intact, it has been thoroughly impregnated with water and has the consistency of thick, water-soaked cardboard. Recovering the vessel, plank by plank, was carefully planned and done to avoid damage to the vessel's remains.

Credit: Daniel Fiore (SEARCH, Inc.) & Florida Department of Transportation, District Two.



AFD06498

Archaeologist Dr. Charles "Chuck" Meide of LAMP mapping the wreck with hand-done measurements along with Dr. Sam Turner of SEARCH.

Credit: Daniel Fiore (SEARCH, Inc.) & Florida Department of Transportation, District Two.



AFD06522

SEARCH's Dr. James Delgado hands a delicate, water-logged timber recovered from the wreck to archaeological objects conservator Jessica Rusch of SEARCH for immediate immersion in fresh water for conservation.

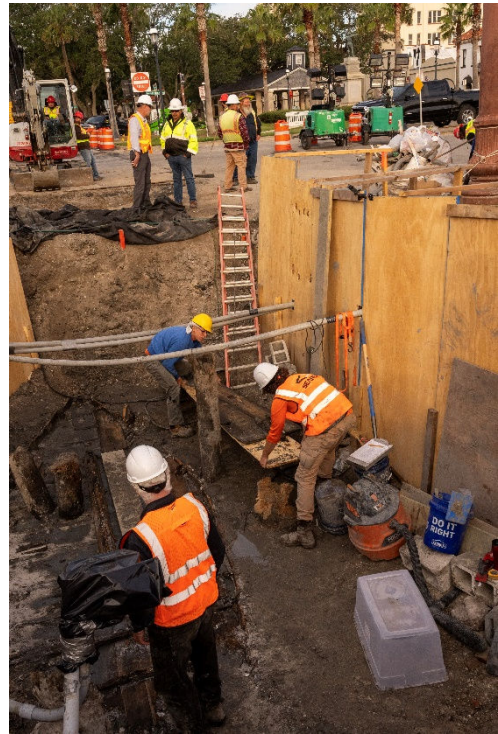
Credit: Daniel Fiore (SEARCH, Inc.) & Florida Department of Transportation, District Two.



AFD06607

SEARCH archaeologists Dr. Sam Turner and Matt Mele removing planks for conservation after lifting them from the bow of the vessel with Dr. James Delgado (foreground). Multiple pairs of hands were necessary to handle the weight and delicately move water-logged timbers without causing harm.

Credit: Daniel Fiore (SEARCH, Inc.) & Florida Department of Transportation, District Two.



AFD06856

SEARCH archaeologist Dr. Sam Turner carefully excavating between the floors (the bottom “ribs” of the vessel) using a trowel and water.

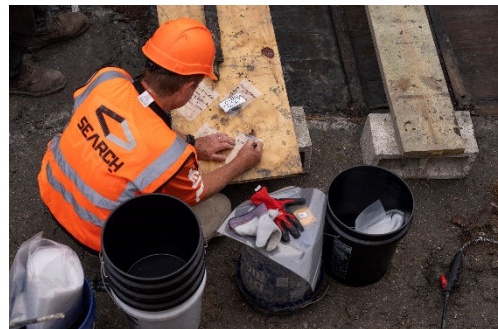
Credit: Daniel Fiore (SEARCH, Inc.) & Florida Department of Transportation, District Two.



AFD06916

Every find, including artifacts such as broken bottles, shoes and wood fragments from the vessel, were mapped, cataloged and bagged with water for further laboratory analysis by SEARCH archaeologists. Here, SEARCH Archaeology Sector Leader Greg Hendryx is systematically bagging finds as an area of the hull is excavated.

Credit: Daniel Fiore (SEARCH, Inc.) & Florida Department of Transportation, District Two.



AFD07004

The saltwater burial of the vessel corroded the iron nails and spikes that once held it together. That made the systematic “reverse-construction” dismantling of the hull easier for maritime archaeologists whose careers have been spent understanding the anatomy of ships. Here, Drs. Sam Turner and James Delgado use water to slowly slide a wooden floor (bottom “rib”) from its position socketed into the central wooden structure of the vessel.

Credit: Daniel Fiore (SEARCH, Inc.) & Florida Department of Transportation, District Two.



AFD07054

Archaeologists Dr. Sam Turner, Dr. James Delgado, Greg Hendryx, Matt Mele and Dr. Chuck Meide excavating the ship along its port (left) side. Palm log pilings driven into the wreck, possibly in the late 19th century, are visible alongside the team.

Credit: Daniel Fiore (SEARCH, Inc.) & Florida Department of Transportation, District Two.



AFD07081

SEARCH archaeologists Dr. Sam Turner (left) and Dr. James Delgado (right) carefully slide a floor (bottom “rib”) from its socket in the centerboard trunk of the ship.

Credit: Daniel Fiore (SEARCH, Inc.) & Florida Department of Transportation, District Two.



AFD07140

SEARCH archaeologists kneel on the starboard (right) side of the hull after lifting out the only surviving outer hull plank that formed that side of the ship. Disassembly at this point in the project had cleared the hull down to the bottom hull planks and the centerboard trunk and its supporting timber.

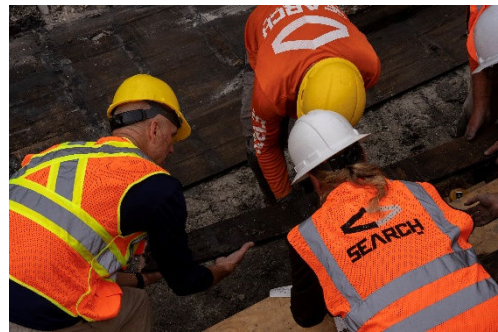
Credit: Daniel Fiore (SEARCH, Inc.) & Florida Department of Transportation, District Two.



AFD07185

Archaeologists Dr. James Delgado, Dr. Chuck Meide and Dr. Michael Brennan removing a ceiling (inner hull) plank from the wreck for conservation.

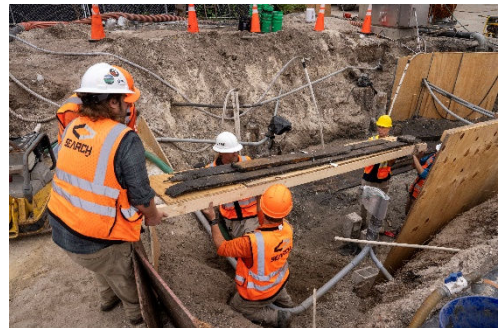
Credit: Daniel Fiore (SEARCH, Inc.) & Florida Department of Transportation, District Two.



AFD07218

The archaeological team laid recovered planks on a stretcher of plywood to support the water-logged, easily broken wood as it was recovered intact and sent up to archaeological conservators for placement in fresh-water tanks for wet storage pending further analysis.

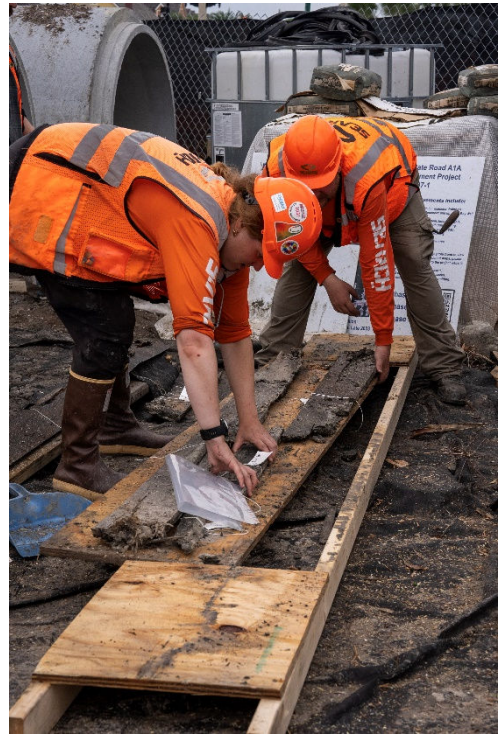
Credit: Daniel Fiore (SEARCH, Inc.) & Florida Department of Transportation, District Two.



AFD07283

SEARCH archaeologist Jessica Barnett and archaeological objects conservator Jessica Rusch prepare to place recovered hull planks into one of several temporary wooden wet-storage trays built by FDOT contractors Superior Construction, who worked closely to support the SEARCH team in the work of exposing the hull, providing electricity, water, and other support including machine removal of several feet of landfill that covered half the wreck.

Credit: Daniel Fiore (SEARCH, Inc.) & Florida Department of Transportation, District Two.



Drone_0109

Aerial imagery of the site where SEARCH archaeologists discovered, excavated, and systematically disassembled and recovered an 19th-century ship beneath King Street next to the Bridge of Lions on the waterfront of historic St. Augustine, Florida.

Credit: Daniel Fiore (SEARCH, Inc.) & Florida Department of Transportation, District Two.



Drone_0115

Aerial imagery of the site where SEARCH archaeologists discovered an 19th-century ship beneath a road in St. Augustine, Florida. Archaeologist Dr. Sam Turner was conducting archaeological monitoring as the FDOT project cut a trench for a sewer line in the city's historic district. The contractor digging the trench carefully worked, and as the first glimpse of water-logged wood, Turner's trained eye discerned the edge of the hull.



Credit: Daniel Fiore (SEARCH, Inc.) & Florida Department of Transportation, District Two.

Drone_20231011144714_0144_D

Aerial imagery of the site where SEARCH archaeologists discovered an 19th-century ship beneath a road in St. Augustine, Florida. The building closest to the site marks the former shoreline.

Credit: Daniel Fiore (SEARCH, Inc.) & Florida Department of Transportation, District Two.



IMG_2105

FDOT District 2 Secretary Greg Evans (right) visited the site along with FDOT Archeologist Dr. Ian Pawn (left) to evaluate recovery efforts.

Credit: Florida Department of Transportation, District Two.



IMG_2112

FDOT District 2 Secretary Greg Evans (right) discuss with FDOT Archeologist Dr. Ian Pawn (left) the recovered artifacts and next steps for the vessel.

Credit: Florida Department of Transportation, District Two.



IMG_2152

FDOT Archeologist Dr. Ian Pawn oversees the excavation of the vessel. Pawn specializes in cultural resource management for FDOT in the region.

Credit: Florida Department of Transportation, District Two.



IMG_2197

Florida Historical Commission appointee and Florida Transportation Commissioner John Browning, Jr. visited the excavation site to review efforts.

Credit: Florida Department of Transportation, District Two.



IMG_2232

Florida Historical Commission appointee and Florida Transportation Commissioner John Browning, Jr. (right) receives a field briefing on the excavation activities from onsite archeologists.

Credit: Florida Department of Transportation, District Two.



IMG_1958

FDOT Crews identified wood remains and immediately stopped construction activities to allow archeologists to excavate a vessel. The vessel was covered in mud and was only unearthed due to construction activities.

Credit: Florida Department of Transportation, District Two.



IMG_2035

The vessel remained wet throughout excavation to preserve the near-fully intact vessel.

Credit: Florida Department of Transportation, District Two.



IMG_2036

Crews painstakingly removed mud layer-by-layer to expose the vessel.

Credit: Florida Department of Transportation, District Two.

