

Project Partners

The Mobile River Bridge Archaeology Project is a collaborative effort between many partners. The archaeology is conducted by the University of South Alabama Center for Archaeological Studies and Wiregrass Archaeological Consulting.

The Down the Bay Oral History Project is conducted by the Doy Leale McCall Rare Book and Manuscript Library and the University of South Alabama Department of African American Studies.

The bridge project is conducted by the Alabama Department of Transportation and the Federal Highway Administration in cooperation with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the U.S. Coast Guard.

The project also involves input from Native American Tribes, the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, the Alabama Historical Commission, and local governments and historical organizations.



I-10 MOBILE RIVER BRIDGE ARCHAEOLOGY PROJECT

Investigating the Past,
Building for the Future



Contact info

Mobile River Bridge and Bayway Project
mobileriverbridge.com/archaeology-updates

Center for Archaeological Studies
SouthAlabama.edu/org/archaeology

Doy Leale McCall Rare Book & Manuscript Library
SouthAlabama.edu/libraries/mccallarchives/

Instagram and Facebook: @USAarchaeology

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The University of South Alabama
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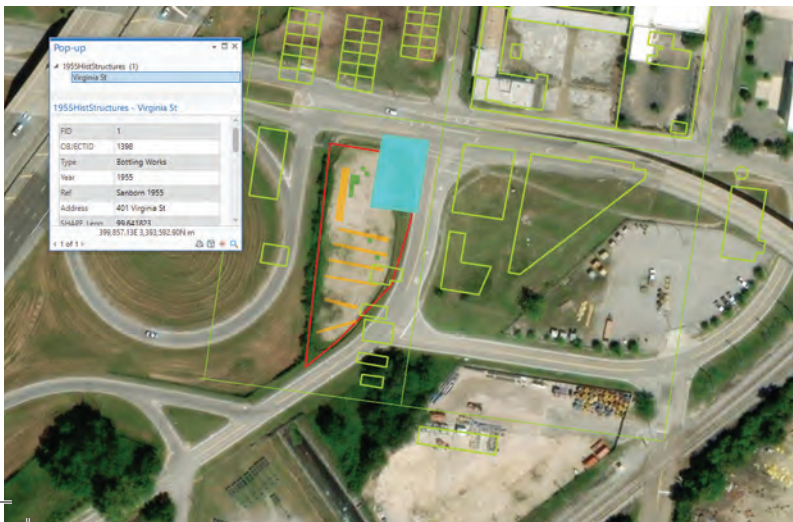
Project Background

Archaeologists from the University of South Alabama in partnership with Wiregrass Archaeological Consulting are excavating 15 sites ahead of the I-10 Mobile River Bridge and Byway project. These sites are significant in understanding our past. This work will rewrite Mobile Bay history.

These sites span Gulf Coast history, including:

- Native American occupations up to 2,000 years ago
- European colonization sites, beginning with French occupation in the 1700s
- Residential and commercial structures from Down the Bay, a turn of the 20th century neighborhood

Archaeological work is contextualized through archival research, geography, oral history, and environmental data to create as complete a picture of the past as possible. Our researchers are mapping demographic records on historic maps. This will help us understand who lived in the area and how it changed through time.



Get Involved

DOWN THE BAY ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

Most of the I-10 project area is located in Down the Bay, a historic African American neighborhood. The Doy Leale McCall Rare Book and Manuscript Library is collecting oral histories from current and previous residents of Down the Bay to preserve this community's stories.

Interviews will be kept in a public archive at the McCall Library for anyone to access. Help preserve this important history by sharing your story. For more information or to schedule an interview, call 251-341-3900 or email oralhistory@southalabama.edu.



FOLLOW US

The I-10 Mobile River Bridge Archaeology Project is publicly funded. These resources belong to everyone and we are committed to sharing our work. Follow our website and social media for updates, highlights, and ways to get involved!



@USAarchaeology



FAQs

WHAT IS ARCHAEOLOGY?

Archaeology is the study of past human culture through the things that were left behind.

WHY IS ARCHAEOLOGY REQUIRED FOR THE I-10 BRIDGE PROJECT?

Under the National Historic Preservation Act, federally funded projects must consider and mitigate impacts to historic properties, including archaeological sites.

HOW ARE THE SITES CHOSEN?

The 15 sites in our project area are all in the right of way of the bridge project. These archaeological sites must have significance, or the ability to provide new information about the past. They must also have integrity, which means they are relatively intact and undisturbed.

WHAT HAPPENS TO THE ARTIFACTS?

The artifacts will be cleaned, cataloged, and analyzed. Then they will be stored at the University of South Alabama Archaeology Museum. They will be publicly accessible for future research and museum displays.

WHY IS THE NATIONAL HISTORIC PRESERVATION ACT IMPORTANT?

Protecting our historical sites preserves cultural character, generates tourism, and provides opportunities to learn about our past.



Ceramic Bell Plain bird effigy from Baldwin County.