



CULTURAL RESOURCES

The term “cultural resource” signifies an archaeological or historic site comprised of a deposit of artifacts or features, such as surface scatters, camp remains, shell middens, trash pits, shipwrecks, or building foundations. During the life of a project, from early design planning and permitting to construction, it is crucial to consider potential impacts on these resources to mitigate them and avoid costly project delays. We carefully collaborate with our clients to manage the complex compliance rules and regulations regarding cultural resources. We apply our vast knowledge and comprehension of the field to negotiate the conflicting interests of stakeholders that inevitably arise.

Our dedicated team combines expertise in archaeology and historic preservation to provide reliable and tailored solutions to a diverse range of clients. Through our Cultural Resource Services, we aim to ensure the preservation and responsible management of cultural resources while facilitating development and compliance with regulatory requirements. We conduct thorough surveys, assessments and evaluations to identify cultural resources, evaluate their significance, and assess the potential impacts of development activities.

Our Cultural Resources Services

- Section 106 Review and Consultation
- Cultural Resources Monitoring
- National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) Nominations
- Phase I Cultural Resources Surveys
- Phase II NRHP Evaluations
- Phase III Data Recovery Excavations
- Non-Destructive Archaeological Services (ground-penetrating radar, magnetometry, etc.)
- Cultural Resource Studies for Environmental Impact Statements (EIS)
- Criteria of Effect Evaluations and Consultation
- Land Use Histories
- Cell Tower/FCC Compliance
- Cemetery Unmarked Burial Identification



ST. ROSALIE PLANTATION

Plaquemines Parish, LA

In 2019, a 200-acre plot of land on the west bank of the Mississippi River in Plaquemines Parish was set for development. The land encompassed part of the former St. Rosalie Plantation, a sugar plantation that operated from 1828 to 1859. St. Rosalie was owned by Andrew Durnford, a “free man of color” originally from New Orleans.



Although by this time the land was vacant and heavily overgrown, residents of neighboring Ironton (founded by freed slaves from St. Rosalie) knew that the site contained at least two cemeteries, where most of their ancestors were buried. Official maps in the 1920s and 1940s marked the cemetery locations as well.

ELOS was brought in to conduct a Phase I Cultural Resources Assessment in an attempt to locate the cemeteries. At that time, it was determined that there was a high likelihood that the site did in fact contain the cemeteries.



ELOS then conducted a Phase II Cultural Resources Assessment in order to establish a professional opinion on the eligibility of the site for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). During excavations, ELOS discovered nearly 13,000 artifacts, including pieces of inscribed tombstones, wood and screws from coffins, and three pieces of human bone.

In addition, ELOS discovered what is believed to be the remains of slave/freedmen’s quarters and the brick foundation and walls of the plantation’s sugarhouse. Additional artifacts recovered included ceramics, bottles, nails, spikes, shanks, door hinges, stove pieces, and shovel heads.