

transporting timber directly to the mills for processing. Many of the lines could not compete against the expanding road system and were eventually discontinued.

By the turn of the century, Onslow County's timber supply began to diminish. Tobacco became the new money crop. The fishing industry also began to flourish. By the beginning of World War II, there were more than 25 trawlers in the county; many of them locally constructed (Still 1983). In the early 1920s, the Interstate Cooperate Company operated a circular saw mill on Deer Island. The mill also manufactured barrels and kegs. This mill was short lived and fell into disuse during the Great Depression. After World War II, with the establishment of a Marine Corps base at nearby Jacksonville, Swansboro's economic base shifted to civil service employment, tourism and the development of the town as a retirement community (Littleton 1983c:2; Brown 1960:228-229, 350-351; Sharpe 1954:960).

Previous Investigations

In January 1990, a submerged cultural resources survey of Swansboro Harbor and surrounding waters was conducted by East Carolina University's Program in Maritime History and Underwater Research for the Swansboro's 200th Anniversary Celebration Committee (Watts 1990). The investigation was conducted using remote sensing equipment, historical and geographical research and underwater reconnaissance in an attempt to locate submerged cultural sites. Six areas were selected for investigation including: Swansboro Harbor, a section of the White Oak River, Bogue Inlet and the Southwest Channel, Huggin's Island, Highway 24 Bridge and Deer Island.

In Swansboro Harbor, 16 magnetic anomalies were mapped. Of these potential sites, six were identified as 20th century debris, eight contained no associated cultural material and the final two were associated with a small amount of wood and ballast stone.

In the White Oak River, 13 targets were investigated after a visual inspection of the river bank. Six of the targets were found to have no associated cultural material. Another five targets showed signs of 19th century logging activity and the remaining two revealed 19th and 18th century artifacts that may indicate plantation landings.

Five magnetic anomalies were discovered in the area of Bogue Inlet and the old Southwest Channel. Of those five, four contained no associated cultural remains that could be revealed by probing and one was found to have been generated by wire cable. Near Huggin's Island, between Swansboro and Bogue Inlet, seven magnetic targets were examined. Six of the anomalies contained no associated cultural material and one contained unidentifiable debris.