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Title of Proposal: The Cultural Significance of a Dugout Canoe to People of the Past and Present

Abstract: In 2019, a 650-year-old dugout canoe was found by a fisherman in the South River of North Carolina. This started the unraveling of one of North Carolina's lesser-known histories. This talk will explore who the Coharie people are by looking at this single artifact. By examining the entire life cycle of this canoe, including its creation, abandonment, rediscovery, excavation, preservation, adoption into the Coharie Tribe, and its final curation, the spirit of the people can be seen. This will explain how the cultural importance of such vessels can span hundreds of years and help preserve the spiritual connection between modern people and their ancestors