INTRODUCTION

Back-barrier islands, or hammocks, are relatively small islands of higher elevation surrounded by tidal marsh.

Archaeological and remotely sensed data were analyzed to understand the landscape history of two of these islands on the coast of Georgia.

Both natural processes (e.g., erosion, vegetative succession, changes in sea level) and human processes (e.g., prehistoric shell deposition, modern clearing) have impacted the structure of back-barrier islands on the coast of Georgia. Both types of processes have occurred continually throughout the past and present. Present-day back-barrier islands cannot be understood without a thorough knowledge of their landscape history. Thus for a more complete understanding of present-day estuarine ecosystem processes, past and present human activity must be taken into consideration.