

A SPATIAL ANALYSIS OF 20TH CENTURY EAST TEXAS SAWMILLS: FROM TRAMS TO ELECTRONS

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ABSTRACT

The legacy of the timber history in East Texas in the 20th century includes forestry trends and practices that have been part of national and international interest. This study builds upon spatial analysis of a selected set of sawmills extracted from the East Texas Sawmill Data Base project that was headed by the Texas Forestry Museum director in conjunction with regional historians and forestry scholars. The data base contains general locations and attributes for over 5,000 sawmills dating from 1819. Historic landscape pattern changes will be presented documenting the spatial migration and multiplication of sawmills. In addition, a subset of some 400 significant mills from the data base was located using GPS technology. The study identified geographic trends in concentrations of sawmills reflecting significant shifts in the spatial, technological, social and industrial factors influencing the location, layout and functions of mills. For example, the shift in harvesting practice from "cut out and get out" to regenerative forestry was apparent from analysis of number and concentration of sawmills. These and other results will be visualized along a time/space continuum interpretation.

[Abstract Only]

In Prisley, S., P. Bettinger, I-K. Hung, and J. Kushla, eds. 2006. Proceedings of the 5th Southern Forestry and Natural Resources GIS Conference, June 12-14, 2006, Asheville, NC. Warnell School of Forestry and Natural Resources, University of Georgia, Athens, GA.