

**MEMORABLE EMERSON MILESTONES:
COMMEMORATING OVER 40 YEARS
IN CULTURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT**



**“DO NOT CONFUSE EFFORT, PROGRESS, OR METHODOLOGY
WITH A FINAL PRODUCT.”**

—THOMAS E. EMERSON

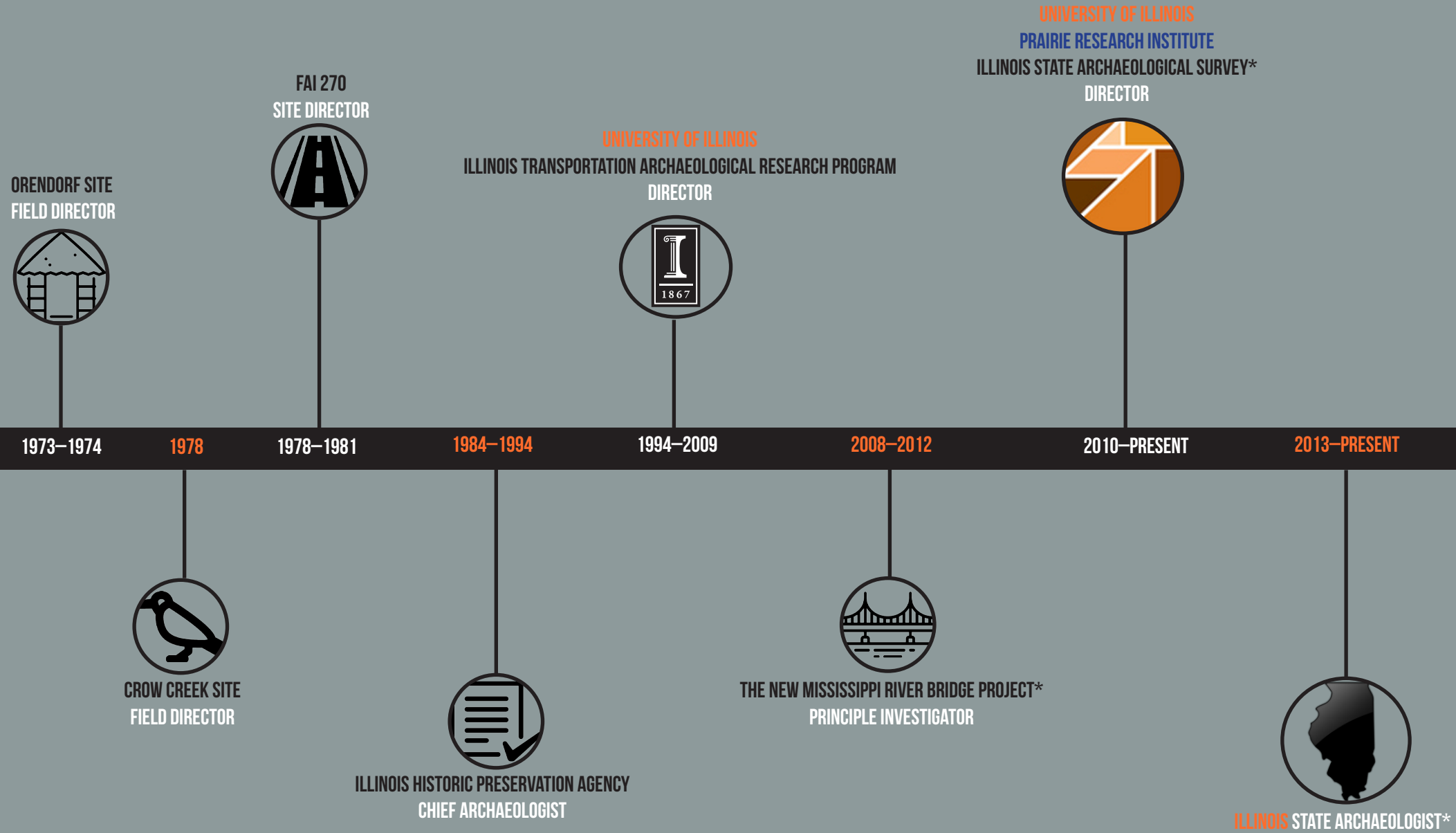
1973–1974
ORENDORF SITE



FIELD DIRECTOR

THOMAS E. EMERSON

CULTURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT MILESTONES



* = CURRENTLY ONGOING



ORENDORF SITE SIGNIFICANCE



THE ORENDORF SITE IS A
PREHISTORIC
ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE
LOCATED NEAR THE CITY OF
CANTON, FULTON COUNTY,
ILLINOIS.

TRADE AND MIGRATION LINKED THE
SETTLEMENT TO THE LARGE MISSISSIPPIAN
CITY OF CAHOKIA; WHILE THE
SETTLEMENT'S CULTURE HAD MUCH IN
COMMON WITH CAHOKIAN CULTURE, IT WAS
ALSO A **DISTINCT** REGIONAL CULTURE IN ITS
OWN RIGHT.

THE SITE WAS ADDED TO
THE **NATIONAL REGISTER**
OF HISTORIC PLACES ON
SEPTEMBER 13, 1977.



1978
CROW CREEK SITE



FIELD DIRECTOR

CROW CREEK SITE SIGNIFICANCE



THOMAS EMERSON (PICTURED RIGHT) AT
CROW CREEK SITE



THE **CROW CREEK** SITE IS LOCATED ALONG THE MISSOURI RIVER IN THE SOUTH DAKOTA AREA. THE SITE IS NOW WITHIN THE CROW CREEK INDIAN RESERVATION. CROW CREEK SITE, THE SITE OF THE **MASSACRE** NEAR CHAMBERLAIN, IS AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE AND A U.S. NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK. AN EXCAVATION OF PART OF THE SITE WAS DONE IN THE 1950S, WITH ADDITIONAL EXCAVATIONS IN **1978**.

THE CROW CREEK MASSACRE OCCURRED AROUND **1325 AD** BETWEEN NATIVE AMERICAN GROUPS. ARCHAEOLOGISTS FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH DAKOTA, DIRECTED BY PROJECT DIRECTOR LARRY J. ZIMMERMAN, FIELD DIRECTOR **THOMAS EMERSON**, AND OSTEOLOGIST P. WILLEY FOUND THE REMAINS OF AT LEAST **486** PEOPLE KILLED DURING THE MASSACRE.



1978–1981

FAI-270



SITE DIRECTOR



FAI-270
SITE SIGNIFICANCE



BETWEEN **1978 AND 1981** THE **FAI-270** ARCHAEOLOGICAL MITIGATION PROJECT WAS THE RESULT OF A MASSIVE CONSTRUCTION PROGRAM BY THE **ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (IDOT)** DESIGNED TO PROVIDE AN INTERSTATE BYPASS AROUND ST. LOUIS TO THE EAST IN THE ARCHAEOLOGICALLY RICH FLOODPLAIN OF THE AMERICAN BOTTOM.

THE ORIGINAL **I-270** PROJECT (LATER RENAMED BY IDOT AS **I-255**) BEGAN AT THE POINT WHERE THE JEFFERSON BARRACKS BRIDGE CROSSES THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER AND RAN NORTH TO JOIN EXISTING **I-55** JUST EAST OF CAHOKIA MOUNDS STATE HISTORIC SITE.

THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL MITIGATION PROJECT SYNTHESIZED DATA FROM **10,860** EXCAVATED FEATURES FROM **98** TESTED OR TOTALLY MITIGATED SITES.

FAI-270 BECAME THE **PREMIER** EXEMPLAR OF THE RESEARCH POTENTIAL OF **MODERN CULTURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT** PROJECTS IN THE EASTERN WOODLANDS AND EXPANDED OUR UNDERSTANDING OF AMERICAN BOTTOM PREHISTORY.

TO SEE ARCHIVAL FOOTAGE OF
DR. THOMAS E. EMERSON AT THE
FAI 270 PROJECT SITE [CLICK ON THE LINK](#)

[HTTPS://YOUTU.BE/VMSDB9UHTPQ](https://youtu.be/VMSDB9UHTPQ)

1984–1994
ILLINOIS HISTORIC PRESERVATION AGENCY



CHIEF ARCHAEOLOGIST

RESPONSIBLE FOR THE MANAGEMENT OF MULTIPLE STATEWIDE ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROGRAMS AND HISTORIC SITE RESOURCE MANAGEMENT. MANAGED AND DEVELOPED BOTH **STATE AND FEDERAL SHPO REVIEW AND COMPLIANCE PROGRAMS WITH 5-7000 PROJECTS PER ANNUM.**

DIRECTED ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONTRACTING AND RESEARCH PROGRAM RANGING FROM **SEVERAL THOUSAND TO THREE-QUARTER OF A MILLION DOLLARS** ON OVER TWENTY HISTORIC AGENCY SITES INCLUDING **CAHOKIA MOUNDS, ALBANY MOUNDS, AND FT. DE CHARTRES.**

SERVED AS CONSULTANT FOR AGENCY MANAGEMENT OF ITS ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCES; DEVELOPED AND IMPLEMENTED **FOUR PUBLICATION SERIES** ON HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL TOPICS FOR THE PROFESSIONAL, PUBLIC, AND EDUCATIONAL COMMUNITIES (**23 VOLUMES PUBLISHED**).

PRIMARY AUTHOR AND RESPONSIBLE FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF THE HUMAN SKELETAL REMAINS PROTECTION ACT (20 ILCS 3440) AND THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND PALAEOANTHROPOLOGICAL RESOURCES PROTECTION ACT (20 ILCS 3435).

1994–2009

**ILLINOIS TRANSPORTATION ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCH PROGRAM
(ITARP)**



DIRECTOR

DIRECTED AND MANAGED MULTIPLE STATEWIDE
ARCHAEOLOGICAL, HISTORICAL, AND ARCHITECTURAL
PROGRAMS HOUSED AT BOTH THE **UNIVERSITY OF
ILLINOIS** AND VARIOUS OTHER INSTITUTIONS FOR THE
ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION.



PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR ON **55+ MILLION DOLLARS OF GRANTS.**

2008–2012

THE NEW MISSISSIPPI RIVER BRIDGE PROJECT



PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR

PROJECT
SIGNIFICANCE

AWARDS

FROM 2008–2012 THE ILLINOIS STATE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY (ISAS) CONDUCTED THE LARGEST ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATION IN THE NATION.

BEFORE BRIDGE AND HIGHWAY CONSTRUCTION COULD BEGIN, ARCHAEOLOGISTS FROM THE ILLINOIS STATE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY (ISAS) CONDUCTED SCIENTIFIC EXCAVATIONS. REQUIRED BY STATE AND FEDERAL PRESERVATION LAWS, THE EXCAVATIONS WERE UNDERTAKEN ON BEHALF OF THE ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (IDOT) AND THE FEDERAL HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION (FHWA). THE ARCHAEOLOGISTS DOCUMENTED AND REMOVED INFORMATION AND ARTIFACTS FROM THE PATH OF CONSTRUCTION.

THEY UNCOVERED THE REMNANTS OF TWO CITIES: THE EARLY EURO-AMERICAN CITY OF EAST ST. LOUIS DATING FROM THE 1800S TO THE EARLY 1900S, AND BURIED BENEATH THIS CITY, AN ANCIENT NATIVE AMERICAN CITY DATING MANY CENTURIES EARLIER (A.D. 1000–1200).
ANALYSIS OF THE SITE IS ONGOING.

IN 2011, THE NEW MISSISSIPPI RIVER BRIDGE PROJECT, IDOT AND ISAS RECEIVED THE FHWA ENVIRONMENTAL EXCELLENCE AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN CULTURAL AND HISTORICAL RESOURCE STUDIES AND PRESERVATION.

IN 2015, THE EAST ST. LOUIS ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROJECT RECEIVED THE SHANGHAI ARCHAEOLOGY FORUM'S INTERNATIONAL FIELD DISCOVERY AWARD. THE PROJECT WAS NAMED ONE OF THE TOP 10 IN THE WORLD.



2010—PRESENT
PRAIRIE RESEARCH INSTITUTE
ILLINOIS STATE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY



DIRECTOR

IN 2010 ITARP BECAME **THE ILLINOIS STATE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY (ISAS)** AND JOINED THE **PRAIRE RESEARCH INSTITUTE (PRI)**. PRI NOW HOUSES THE FIVE STATE SCIENTIFIC SURVEYS AT THE UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS: ILLINOIS NATURAL HISTORY SURVEY, ILLINOIS STATE GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, ILLINOIS STATE WATER SURVEY, ILLINOIS SUSTAINABLE TECHNOLOGY SURVEY, AND ISAS.

UNDER THE DIRECTION OF DR. EMERSON ISAS CONTINUES ITS DECADES LONG PARTNERSHIP WITH THE ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND OTHER STATE AGENCIES. ISAS HAS BECOME **A NATIONALLY RECOGNIZED** PROGRAM SETTING THE STANDARD FOR TRANSPORTATION ARCHAEOLOGY, METHODOLOGY, AND RESEARCH.



2013—PRESENT
ILLINOIS STATE ARCHAEOLOGIST



PRAIRIE RESEARCH INSTITUTE FOUNDING EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR WILLIAM W. SHILTS APPOINTED SEVEN ILLINOIS STATE SCIENTISTS TO FILL DESIGNATIONS ESTABLISHED IN THE UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS STATE SCIENTIFIC SURVEYS ACT SIGNED BY GOVERNOR QUINN ON AUGUST 14, 2013.

THE STATE SCIENTISTS SERVE AS THE AUTHORITATIVE SPOKESPERSONS IN THEIR FIELDS FOR THE SURVEYS, THE INSTITUTE, AND THE STATE. THEY PROVIDE CURRENT INFORMATION ON RESEARCH AND SCIENTIFIC INQUIRIES TO THE PUBLIC AT LARGE, OTHER SCIENTISTS, INDUSTRY, AND GOVERNMENTAL AGENCIES.



AWARDS & HONORS

2016

SOCIETY FOR AMERICAN ARCHAEOLOGY EXCELLENCE IN CULTURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT AWARD

2014

MIDWEST ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONFERENCE DISTINGUISHED CAREER AWARD

2011

FHWA ENVIRONMENT EXCELLENCE AWARD FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATIONS OF NEW MISSISSIPPI RIVER BRIDGE.

2010

EXEMPLARY HUMAN ENVIRONMENT INITIATIVE AWARD—PROJECT NOTIFICATION SYSTEM FOR SECTION 106 TRIBAL CONSULTATION (IDOT-BDE). PRESENTED FOR DEVELOPMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION OF A WEB-BASED PROCESS OF TRIBAL CONSULTATIONS.

2002

THE ROBERT L. STIGLER, JR., LECTURES IN ARCHAEOLOGY, UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS-FAYETTEVILLE.

2001

NOMINATED BY DEPARTMENT OF ANTHROPOLOGY FOR THE CHANCELLOR ACADEMIC PROFESSIONAL'S EXCELLENCE AWARD.

1997

DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD. DEPARTMENT OF ANTHROPOLOGY, UIUC.

1996

CHARLES J. BAREIS DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD PRESENTED BY THE ILLINOIS ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY FOR "ACCOMPLISHMENTS THAT ARE EXTRAORDINARY IN EVERY SENSE OF THE WORD AND ARE OF A POSITIVE AND LASTING QUALITY." AWARDED FOR ORGANIZING A FOUR-YEAR EFFORT TO SAVE THE GRAND VILLAGE OF THE ILLINOIS FROM DESTRUCTION BY DEVELOPMENT.