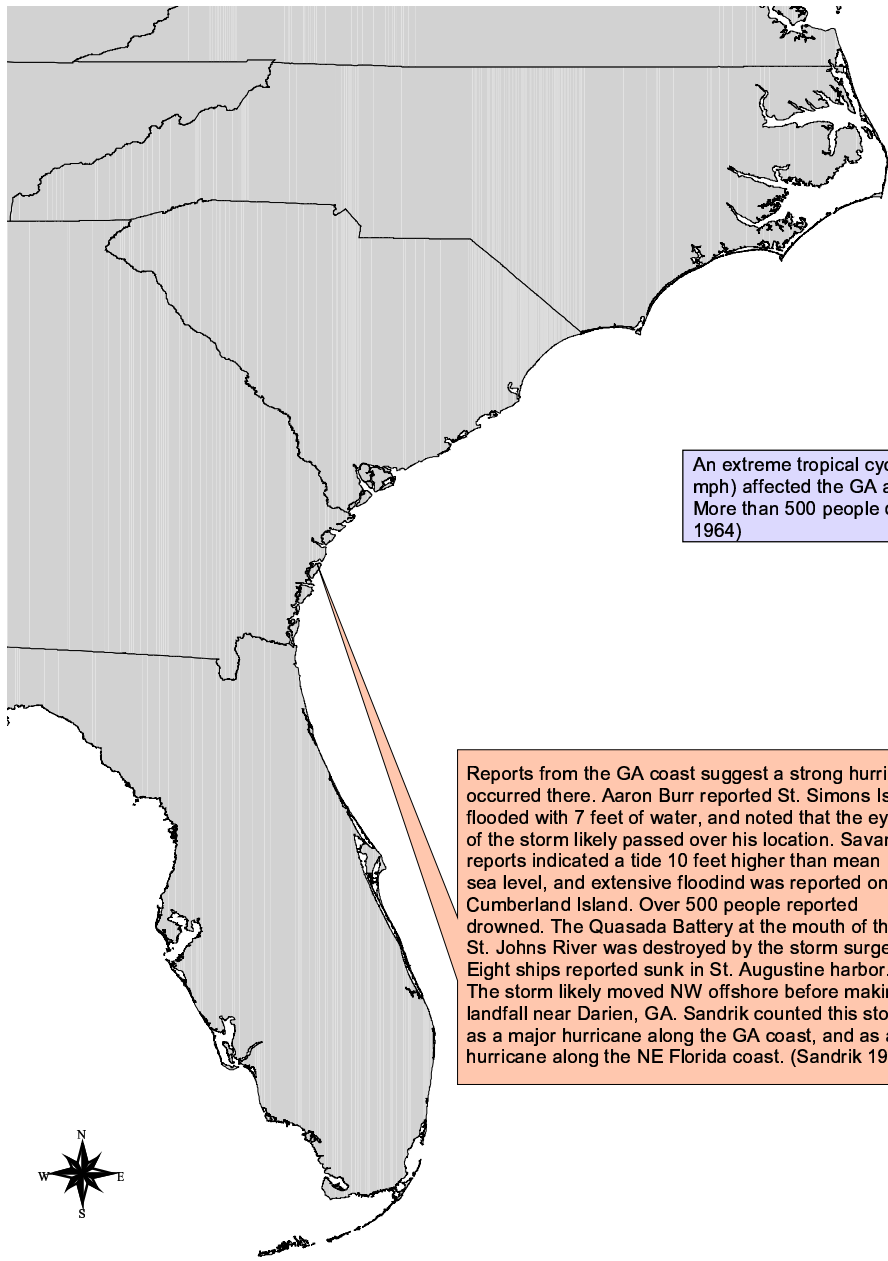


The Great Gale of 1804 in Georgia and Carolina - Sept. 6-8



This storm was observed to have affected the Atlantic coastline, including that of VA on Sept. 8th. (Roth)

An extreme tropical cyclone (max. winds > 136 mph) affected the GA and SC coasts on Sept. 7. More than 500 people drowned. (Dunn and Miller 1964)

Reports from the GA coast suggest a strong hurricane occurred there. Aaron Burr reported St. Simons Island flooded with 7 feet of water, and noted that the eye of the storm likely passed over his location. Savannah reports indicated a tide 10 feet higher than mean sea level, and extensive flooding was reported on Cumberland Island. Over 500 people reported drowned. The Quasada Battery at the mouth of the St. Johns River was destroyed by the storm surge. Eight ships reported sunk in St. Augustine harbor. The storm likely moved NW offshore before making landfall near Darien, GA. Sandrik counted this storm as a major hurricane along the GA coast, and as a hurricane along the NE Florida coast. (Sandrik 1999)

This great hurricane came out of the Caribbean on a recurving track to strike the concave coastline of Georgia and South Carolina. The center of the storm likely passed over St. Simons Island, GA, skirted to the east of Savannah, and came ashore over Beaufort, SC. It then moved inland west of Charleston and Georgetown, SC.

Dunn and Miller also record this storm as a minimal tropical cyclone along the FL east coast (max. winds between 74 and 100 mph). The storm was identified as being intense off the coast. (Dunn and Miller 1964)

