

Remains found 20+ years ago in South Carolina have been identified



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GREENVILLE, S.C. —

The remains of a 20-year-old man last seen in Greenville in 1996 have been identified.

Missing person case from 1996

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According to Greenville police, [Eric Lee Mason](#) was last seen at 417 Rutherford Street on January 2, 1996. That is the address for the Salvation Army.



Greenville Police Department
Eric Mason

Mason's case was featured in a cold case Facebook post from Greenville police in 2019.

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Remains found in 2004

The remains, which were identified as Mason this week, were initially discovered on Feb. 14, 2004, on private property adjacent to Well Mountain Road near Westminster, Oconee County Coroner Karl Addis announced Friday.

Addis said additional remains were found two days later and it was determined that the remains were from someone who had died between three and five years before the discovery.

No cause or manner of death has been established at this time.

How remains were identified

In 2007, specimens were submitted to the University of North Texas Center for Human Identification in hopes that a DNA standard could be obtained. In 2011, Addis said his office received confirmation DNA was collected and entered into CODIS to be compared to any family standards submitted for comparison.

Earlier this month, the Oconee County Coroner's Office and the Greenville City Police Department was notified that the remains had been identified as Mason, through DNA.

Authorities said Mason was originally from Gaston County, North Carolina.