

Preserving History Through Archaeology



June-July-August 2021
Volume X, Issue 6

GWINNETT ARCHAEOLOGY BULLETIN

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Discover America's Most Endangered Places of 2021

Each year America's 11 Most Endangered Historic Places listing sheds light on important examples of our nation's heritage that are at risk of destruction or irreparable damage. More than 300 places have been listed in its 34-year history, and in that time, fewer than 5 percent of listed sites have been lost. The 2021 list includes a diverse mix of historic places nationwide that celebrate the interconnection of American culture and acknowledge it as a multicultural fabric that, when pieced together, helps tell the full American story. However, with threats ranging from deterioration to climate change to inappropriate development, these special places are at serious risk. Browse the list below and learn what you can do to support these irreplaceable sites.



Selma to Montgomery March Camp Sites (*Selma, Alabama*)

In March 1965, as thousands of Civil Rights demonstrators marched from Selma to Montgomery to campaign for full voting rights, three African American farm owners along the 54-mile route courageously offered their properties as overnight camp sites for the marchers, including Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Coretta Scott King, and Congressman John Lewis. These families are among those who Dr. King called the "ordinary people with extraordinary vision" as they risked their lives in support of the Civil Rights movement. Today, several of these sites (the David Hall Farm and Robert Gardner Farm) are still proudly owned by the same families and are situated along the Selma to Montgomery

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Bricks Galore!

Last June a group of Gwinnett Archaeological Research Society (GARS) members and friends enjoyed a warm sunny day at the Sandy Creek Nature Preserve located in Athens, Georgia. During their visit GARS members were given an in-depth history of brickmaking and particularly the history of Georgia's brickmaking industry. Located on the property of the Sandy Creek Nature Preserve are the ruins of brick factory built in 1911 based off the design of Francis Shaw. This was the second brick kiln built on this property. A guided tour of these ruins gave GARS members the firsthand look into brickmaking process. The manmade pond (pictured below top right) located adjacent to the brick kiln was created as a result of dredging clay used to make the bricks at the factory.

Additionally, GARS members were able to have a peak inside of the Baber-Bridges Log House that was relocated to the property for preservation. Dendrochronology was performed on some of the logs from the house, and the results came back with a date from the 1790s—making this log house one of the oldest on the Georgia frontier. ■ DMG



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National Historic Trail, but their incredible stories remain largely untold. Many of the farm properties (as pictured on Page 1) now need stabilization, repair, and interpretation to expand the narrative of this significant landscape in Civil Rights history and share the stories of these families, whose tremendous bravery helped to change American history.

Trujillo Adobe (*Riverside, California*)

Constructed in 1862 by the Trujillo (pronounced true-HEE-yo) family, and today the oldest known building in Riverside, the Trujillo Adobe tells the story of migration and settlement in inland southern California. Lorenzo Trujillo, who originally settled in the area when it was still part of Mexico, was a Genízaro—one of many Native Americans who were captured, sometimes held in slavery, sometimes baptized and raised by Spanish colonists. Trujillo led many expeditions as a scout across the Old Spanish Trail, enabling immigrants to settle inland California, and his home became the beating heart of a community known as La Placita de los Trujillos, Spanish Town, and Agua Mansa. The Adobe is now deteriorated and fragile, protected only by a wooden structure (also in need of repair) that hides the Adobe from view. Local advocates hope to transform the Adobe into a cultural and educational site to recognize and take pride in the multiple cultures that shaped and continue to define the region.



Summit Tunnels 6 & 7 and Summit Camp Site (*Truckee, California*)

The Summit Tunnels 6 & 7 (pictured right) and Summit Camp Site tell the story of thousands of Chinese railroad workers who constructed the Transcontinental Railroad through the Sierra Nevada mountains from 1865 to 1867. These workers, making up approximately 90 percent of the Central Pacific Railroad workforce, risked their lives to cut and build railroad beds and dig tunnels in incredibly difficult working conditions and extremely dangerous terrain and weather—all while being paid less than their white counterparts. Vandalism currently threatens the tunnels, resulting in extensive graffiti, as well as physical damage to cultural and natural resources at the site. The Tahoe National Forest protects the archaeological remains of Summit Camp, but visitors who don't understand its significance are not always respectful of the site's remaining artifacts. Highlighting how Chinese laborers accelerated the development of the American West, and better interpreting and protecting these sites, would honor this important and often overlooked part of our country's history.

Local advocates are leading a campaign to rehabilitate the

Georgia B. Williams Nursing Home (*Camilla, Georgia*)

The Georgia B. Williams Nursing Home was the residence of Beatrice Borders, a Black midwife who used the space to serve communities in southwest Georgia during the Jim Crow era. Over several decades, Mrs. Borders and her assistants persevered through local and systemic racism to deliver more than 6,000 babies, and the Nursing Home provided the only known birthing center of its kind for thousands of Black women in the rural South during times of challenging economic and living conditions. The vacant nursing home, now uninhabitable, suffers from water damage and deterioration. Local advocates are leading a campaign to rehabilitate the



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facility as a museum and educational center where they can share Mrs. Borders' story as well as the stories of the children delivered by "Miss Bea."



Morningstar Tabernacle No. 88 Order of Moses Cemetery and Hall *(Cabin John, Maryland)*

Morningstar Tabernacle No. 88 Order of Moses Cemetery and Hall were established around 1885 alongside a post-Emancipation Black settlement known as Gibson Grove. Residents, some of whom had been formerly enslaved, established a local benevolent society to care for the sick and destitute, bury the deceased, and provide overall support to the local Black community. In an act of racial injustice, highway construction in the 1960s ran through the Gibson Grove community and took a portion of the cemetery site. Today, foundations are all that remain of Moses Hall, and the planned expansion of the Washington, D.C.-area Beltway further threatens

the cemetery, where known burials span from 1894 to 1977. A coalition of neighbors and descendants is leading the effort to save this place by advocating that new Capital Beltway construction avoid the cemetery and hall site.

Boston Harbor Islands *(Boston, Massachusetts)*

The Boston Harbor Islands, now part of a National and State Park, are home to a wealth of historic resources dating back 12,000 years, including the most intact Native American archaeological landscape remaining in Boston, historic Fort Standish, the Boston Light, and more. Storm surges, which are intensifying due to climate change and sea level rise, are causing accelerated coastal erosion resulting in the escalated loss of archeological sites and other historic resources. Protecting these sites before their stories are lost requires greater public attention, funding for mitigation efforts and archeological studies, and strategies to document and protect historic and natural resources from climate-related storm surges.



Pine Grove Elementary School *(Cumberland, Virginia)*

Built in 1917 as a Rosenwald School, the two-room Pine Grove Elementary School served its African American agricultural community as a center for education, programs, and Civil Rights activities during the era of segregation. After it closed in 1964, the building was saved twice by Black community leaders, alumni, and descendants of alumni. However, the proposed construction of a nearby landfill now threatens the Pine Grove Elementary School. According to the Green Ridge Recycling and Disposal Facility, the landfill intends to accept up to 5,000 tons of waste daily and operate 24 hours a day, six days per week. Moreover, the disposal unit will be located within one thousand feet of Pine Grove Elementary



School. Advocates believe that the proposed landfill could negatively impact their goal of using the school as a community center.

This is just a few of the historic sites featured on this year's Most Endangered Places. To view the rest of the list and see how you can help preserve these sites' history please visit the [National Trust for Historic Preservation's Web site](#). ■ NTHP

Fort Daniel Open House

During May Georgia celebrated Archaeology Month. Gwinnett Archaeological Research Society (GARS) and Fort Daniel Foundation (FDF) threw open the gate (in a way) to hold the annual Fort Daniel Open House. Through historic interpretation and demonstrations the story of Fort Daniel and Georgia frontier life came to life by GARS and FDF members. For example, Blacksmith Doc Watson was on hand to demonstrate how important a blacksmith's skills were on the frontier.

Since it was Archaeology Month, an archaeological excavation unit was opened up near the Southwest Blockhouse to uncover more of the Fort's history. During the dig, fragments of creamware were found that matched similar fragments found on the site. Though the COVID pandemic was still going on, this wonderful gathering was exceptional with people enjoying the public archaeology, seeing the museum, and learning about the archaeology lab. ■ DMG



Visitors enjoying the historic interpretations and demonstrations



Public Archaeology at Fort Daniel

GARS/ Fort Daniel News

- **Great Honors:** Last May Fort Daniel Foundation (FDF) along with its President, Eli Stancel, were honored by the Suwanee Creek Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution for its role in historic preservation. Additionally, FDF recognized Wayne Stancel for his continual contribution to the preservation of Fort Daniel.



- **Monthly Meetings and Shenanigans:** Gwinnett Archaeological Research Society (GARS) will be starting to have in-person meetings beginning in September. Additionally, more social activities (field trips, happy hour, etc.) are in the planning stages. More details about the monthly meetings and social shenanigans will be provided in the next newsletter.

MEMBERSHIP FEES ARE DUE:

If you would like to join or renew your GARS membership, please contact Delana Gilmore; and for FDF membership please contact Cindy Horsley.



Defending the Frontier

13th Annual Frontier Faire

Saturday, October 16, 2021

10AM–4PM

Fort Daniel Historic Site

(2505 Braselton Highway/GA 124, Buford)

FREE Admission

★ Public Archaeology ★

★ Fort Daniel Museum ★

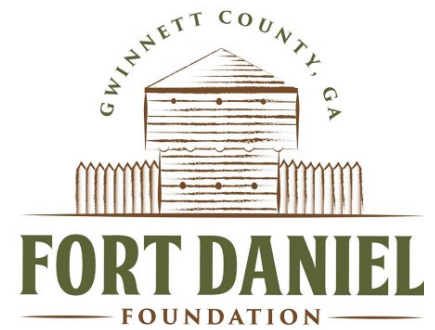
★ Historic Interpretations ★

★ Frontier Demonstrations ★

For information visit Fort Daniel Foundation's Facebook Page:

<https://www.facebook.com/fortdanielfoundation>

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East Atlanta Historic District NRHP Listed

Recently, The East Atlanta neighborhood was officially listed in the National Register of Historic Places. Included in this listing is the c. 1911 East Atlanta Bank, now home to [Flatiron Bar](#). Designed with elements of Jacobethan Revival style, the East Atlanta Bank Building is the oldest documented extant building in the district's commercial center and features a Flemish bond brick veneer.

East Atlanta Historic District is a large, diverse neighborhood of single-family houses, apartments, commercial buildings, schools, churches, a park, and a cemetery and features a range of architectural styles, including Spanish



Colonial Revival, Stripped Classical, and Jacobethan Revival, new south cottages, Queen Anne Cottages, bungalows, American Small Houses, and ranch houses.

The neighborhood is anchored by East Atlanta Village, a commercial area that developed beginning at the intersection of the neighborhood's two primary commercial thoroughfares, Flat Shoals and Glenwood Avenues.

Congratulations to the [East Atlanta Community Association](#) and all that supported

this preservation effort! ■

GARS OFFICERS

www.thegars.org

President: Anne Dorland
Vice President: Jenna Tran
Secretary/Treasurer: Delana Gilmore

To keep up with the latest digs and activities from GARS follow us on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#).

FDF OFFICERS

President: Eli Stancel
Secretary: Cindy Horsley
Vice President: Leslie Perry
Treasurer: Betty Warbington

To stay up to date with the latest news from FDF follow us on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#).