

Preserving History Through Archaeology



June-July-August 2023
Volume XII, Issue 6

GWINNETT ARCHAEOLOGY BULLETIN

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Backyard Archaeology

How many people can say that they have an *active* archaeological site in their backyard? Not many but I love telling people that I do! As onsite managers at Fort Daniel Archaeological Park, my husband and I strive to ensure that the archaeological site is protected from illegal digging, trespassers, and sometimes from nature (e.g.; fallen trees). Additionally, not only for security purposes we sometimes do impromptu tours of the site and museum—especially during COVID. Now after COVID Fort Daniel Foundation (FDF) and Gwinnett Archaeological Research Society (GARS) members have been preparing for a year full of events—especially this summer!



During May Georgia celebrated Archaeology Month.

GARS and FDF threw open the gates (in a way) to hold the annual Fort Daniel Open House. Members were on hand to tell the story of Fort Daniel and Georgia frontier life. 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, early 1800s pearlware fragments and possibly an earthenware fragment were found that matched similar fragments found on the site.

Additionally, on a June Sunday afternoon the public were invited to visit the Fort and its museum and to

bring their "mystery" finds to the lab to "ask an expert" archaeologist to help identify them. We had a

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couple of people to bring in a horde of Native pottery sherds that they found on their property. GARS Vice President (and New South Associates archaeologist) Katie Ahern and Veterans Curation Program (VCP) Lad Manager (and New South Associates archaeologist) Josh Herrin (pictured right) helped to identify some of the sherds. “Neighbors” are invited to visit the Fort and enjoy visiting the active archaeological site to learn about the history of Fort Daniel at the next open house on Sunday July 23 (see below for details).

Along with the open houses school was in session for some of Gwinnett County teachers. Ten teachers visited Fort Daniel in early June as part of the Gwinnett County Immersion Program that focused on the history of Gwinnett County and where a better place to start at one of the oldest historic sites in the county! The teachers toured the site and the museum and learned a little bit about the early history of Gwinnett County and the Fort Daniel educational programs.

Teachers were not the only ones who were learning about the early history of Gwinnett County. Gwinnett History Travelers campers stopped by the site. They were learning about the history of Gwinnett County’s oldest sites and the historic significance of the area that they live in. After a tour of the archaeological site, the campers visited the Archaeological Lab and Meeting Room and looked over the artifacts from Fort Daniel.

During the summer Fort Daniel Archaeological Park had many people to visit enjoying the public archaeology, visiting the museum and archaeology lab, and learning how FDF and GARS members are preserving local history through archaeology in their own backyard! SAVE THE DATE for Fort Daniel’s biggest public event: The Annual Frontier Faire in October (see Page 5 for more details). ■ DMG





Visitors discovering the history of Fort Daniel



Gwinnett County teachers and History Travelers campers exploring the site



Visitors touring the fort, museum, and lab at Fort Daniel

11 Most Endangered Historic Places 2023 List

Each year the National Trust of Historic Preservation raises awareness about threats facing some of the nation's greatest treasures. This year's list of 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 350 places have been listed in the list's 36-year history, and it has proven so successful in galvanizing preservation efforts that only a handful of sites have been lost.

The 2023 list is a prime example of the expansiveness of American history. The wide range of cultures, histories, and geographies it reflects illustrates how telling the full story can help each person see themselves reflected in our country's multilayered past. This year's list highlights the power of multicultural communities to use their distinct identities and histories to directly combat cultural erasure—the gradual disappearance of community landmarks that help tell the story of those who've called a place home, along with the loss of treasured local businesses, restaurants, customs, and traditions. By rallying around the places that symbolize their history and stories, neighborhoods and communities are fighting overdevelopment, displacement, gentrification, and other threats, finding empowerment in their unique pasts. This year's listings are:

- ⇒ Osterman Gas Station in Peach Springs, Arizona
- ⇒ Little Santo Domingo in Miami, Florida



- ⇒ Pierce Chapel African Cemetery in Midland, Georgia (*pictured left*)
- ⇒ Century and Consumers Building in Chicago, Illinois
- ⇒ West Bank of St. John the Baptist Parish, Louisiana
- ⇒ Holy Aid and Comfort Spiritual Church in New Orleans, Louisiana
- ⇒ L. V. Hull Home and Studio in Kosciusko, Mississippi

- ⇒ Henry Ossawa Tanner House in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
- ⇒ Philadelphia Chinatown, Pennsylvania
- ⇒ Charleston's Historic Neighborhoods, South Carolina
- ⇒ Seattle Chinatown-International District, Washington

Today all 11 listings are at a turning point—a critical moment when we as a nation either recognize their significance and fight to protect them, tell their full stories, and harness their ongoing relevance, or watch them disappear from our cultural landscape and fade into memory. Through the 11 Most list, there is an opportunity to bolster these places' recognition, preservation, interpretation, and funding, and in doing so help protect them for generations to come.

Just as the tireless work of the National Trust, its partners, and local preservationists across the country have saved dozens of previously listed sites and set many more on a path to a positive solution, so now we can work together on behalf of these endangered places.

To view this year's list visit the [NTHP Web site](#). ■ NTHP

More Diggin's



**THE VETERANS
CURATION PROGRAM
INVITES YOU TO**

MEET & GREET

**AT THE AUGUSTA VCP
LABORATORY**

HOSTED BY NEW SOUTH
ASSOCIATES

**THURSDAY, JULY 20TH, 2023
10:00 A.M. - 2:00 P.M.**

1450 GREENE STREET, SUITE 155
AUGUSTA, GA 30901

RSVP (appreciated but not required) by July 13th to
Christina Hu at: CHU@NewSouthAssoc.com

A parking lot is located in front of the building and the facility is conveniently
located on bus route 3 (East Augusta) of Augusta Public Transit.

 www.VeteransCurationProgram.org  Facebook.com/VeteransCurationProject  Instagram.com/VeteransCurationProgram

Defending the Frontier

15th Annual Frontier Faire

Saturday, October 21, 2023

Rain Date: Saturday October 28, 2023

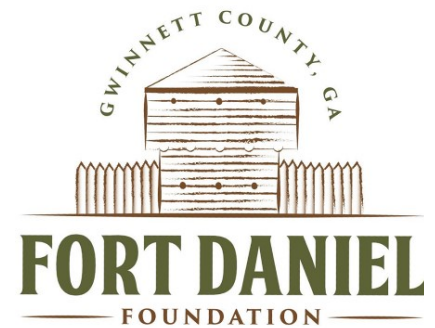
10AM-4PM

Fort Daniel Historic Site

(2505 Braselton Highway/GA 124, Buford)

FREE Admission

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Artifacts Unearthed at School Ruins

Excerpt from an article written by Gale Horton Gay featured in [The Champion](#) on June 13, 2023

Uncovering what lies beneath the earth hidden for years is the work of archaeologists, and on May 28 the public got to meet several archaeologists working at the site of the old Bruce Street School in Lithonia and see some of what they've unearthed.

School bells, doorknobs, a pencil eraser tip, nails, raccoon bones, a roller skate, Barney doll, as well as a 1926 nickel were among the items excavated from several dig pits on the site. Archaeologist Katie Ahern described the items as "evidence of school life."

"There's always a story to be told," said Anne Dorland, an archaeologist with New South Associates, after digging in one of the square pits while onlookers observed and asked questions.

The Arabia Mountain Heritage Area Alliance (AMHAA)

partnered with New South Associates and Martin Rickles Studio for the Community Archaeology Day at the historic site of the Bruce Street School, the first public school for African-American students in DeKalb County.



The site is now mainly ruins but plans are underway to transform it into a multi-use amphitheater and community events space with community garden and food forest.

"Archaeology sheds light on the history that wasn't written down," said Dorland in a news release. "By excavating the objects that were left behind by the historic people of Bruce Street School, we can paint a

fuller picture of what life was like at the school. The community archaeology day will allow the people who are most connected with the site's history to engage with the process of discovery. We believe that the community should be involved in every step of the investigation as drivers of the research." ■ TC

GARS OFFICERS

www.thegars.org

President: Anne Dorland
Vice President: Katie Ahern
Secretary/Treasurer: Delana Gilmore

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

FDF OFFICERS

www.fortdaniel.com

President: Eli Stancel
Secretary: Cindy Horsley
Vice President: Tyler Holman
Treasurer: Betty Warbington

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