

Preserving History Through Archaeology



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GWINNETT **A**RCHAEOLOGY **B**ULLETIN

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Happy Holidays

from GARS and FDF



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GARS/Fort Daniel News

- **Annual Christmas Party:** Due to COVID-19, the annual Christmas party has been cancelled. Hope everyone has a great (and safe) holiday season and see you next year!
- **Hills Mill:** Last month Gwinnett Archaeological Research Society (GARS) members were able to participate in a second archaeological excavation at the Hill Mill site. Keep an eye out for a detailed report regarding the site in an upcoming *Gwinnett Archaeology Bulletin* (GAB) issue. Below are some pictures from that day.



- **Fort Daniel Foundation Annual Meeting:** The Fort Daniel Foundation (FDF) officers have voted to approve the annual meeting of the Fort Daniel Foundation to be held virtually through the use of email communication in the month of January 2021. The Board of Directors and officers will conduct nominations in December to present vacancy candidates to the membership for virtual voting approval in January. More details will be sent to FDF members.

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.



Apple River Fort Blackhouse Cold Cellar Feature

In the October issue of the GAB (Vol. IX, Issue 8, “Rediscovering Frontier Fort Layouts”) I presented an introduction to the Apple River Fort in Jo Daviess County, Illinois. It was the first, and only, frontier fort that I had seen that had a documented cold cellar situated within a blockhouse—such as we have at Fort Daniel. The October article was based on an NRHP registration form for the site, but *Gwinnett Archaeology Bulletin* Editor Delana Gilmore followed up by locating the original site form and report, which serves the basis for this more detailed follow-up.

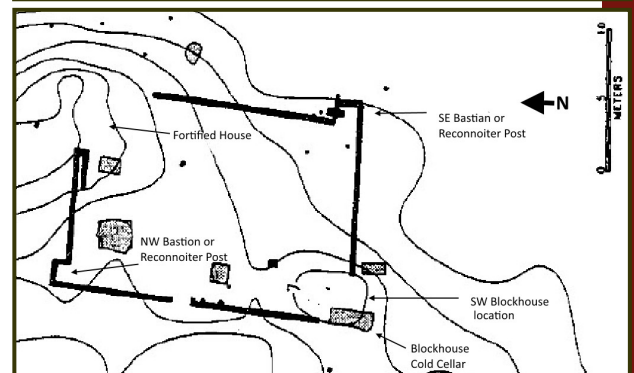
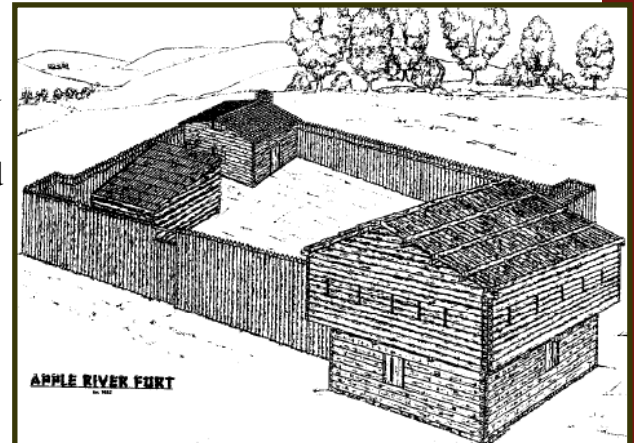
In the sketch pictured right (which is from that report) we see the fort as it was reconstructed in 1996–1997. The reconstruction was based on archaeological investigations and an eye witness account, which revealed information about the layout of the fort—including the blockhouse and its cold cellar. In the foreground is the blockhouse. The structure in the opposite corner is also referred to as a “blockhouse”; even though (like Fort Yargo near Winder, Georgia) this type was usually a dwelling built of heavy timbers with firing slots and limited openings while the two-story structure with protruding second story is a specialized blockhouse typical of 18th and 19th century military stockade forts. Both can be called “a blockhouse.”

The archaeological site plan shows the cellar (Feature #8; pictured below right) in the lower right corner where the two-storied blockhouse would be. The opposite corner is the space where the dwelling or second blockhouse would be. The remaining two corners have observation platforms, referred to as “bastions”—although, traditionally, bastions are for cannons.

The site plan also shows a total of five pit features within the fort, which have been identified by Fever River Research as storage, trash, and cold cellar features based on artifacts they contained and their locations.

Not all of these features were completely excavated, a standard strategy for ensuring their future study. In the two largest pit features (which included Feature 8) only one quarter was excavated, leaving three quarters for future study. However, in that fractional excavation, which measured 2' x 4' x 1.6' deep, 875 artifacts were recovered with about 10% of which were ceramic sherds. By comparison, with about 85% of the Fort Daniel cold cellar feature excavated only about 20 artifacts have been recovered—but no ceramics.

The fill in the Fort Daniel cold cellar apparently occurred as part of a single episode of the blockhouse disassembly and clearing of the area at the time the Garrison was dismissed in 1815. Unlike the Apple River feature, the Fort Daniel cold cellar was mostly filled with stone presumed from the blockhouse



Illustrations from: “Perfectly Panic Struck”: The Archaeology of the Apple River Fort, Jo Daviess County, Ill. By Floyd Mansberger and Christopher Straton, Fever River Research, Springfield, Ill. 1996

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foundation. All but a couple of the artifacts were under this stone (essentially on the floor of the cellar) and probably made their way into the pit as part of the clearing effort and before the stones were tossed in. By way of contrast, the Apple River blockhouse was in use from sometime in the 1820s through the 1830s and for some time thereafter when the structure was used by homesteaders. Its use as a fortification was only during the Black Hawk Uprising in 1832.

This continued use at Apple River by miners and homesteaders from the middle 1820s up to, and perhaps including the 1850s, is reflected in the types of wares found in the cold cellar feature. For example, while edge-decorated and polychrome pearlwares are well represented in the assemblage of artifacts (some of which are similar to those we find at Fort Daniel as seen in the below picture), the preponderance of ceramics excavated in Feature 8 consisted of decorated and undecorated and polychrome *whiteware*, including transfer printed whiteware. According to Fever River Research, white-ware comprised the vast majority of the ceramics from the surface concentrations as well. Whiteware is a much heavier ware with a thicker body than pearlware (or creamware) and it began replacing these earlier wares during the late 1820s and early 1830s—and that is why we don't see whiteware at

Pearlware

Blue-edge



Apple River

Fort Daniel

Polychrome



Fort Daniel.

The total number of ceramic plate and cup sherds of all types (Creamware, Pearlware, Whiteware, and Porcelain) that had (by the time of the report) been excavated from the Apple River cold cellar came to 88. In addition these were many fragments of Yellowware, Redware, and Stoneware storage vessels; bottle and other kinds of glass; clay pipe stem; and various metal artifacts including knives, forks and spoons, and musket balls—bringing the total, from this rather small unit, to 875. Though the dates ranges may differ, the types of artifacts are nevertheless very similar to those found at Fort Daniel.

The inventory process for the Fort Daniel collection is just about completed, and Karen is prepared to enter this into a the S.H.A.R.D. database. This will allow us to do a more in-depth comparisons and analyses with other sites—particularly War of 1812 military sites in Georgia and elsewhere. ■ JJD

Georgia Trust for Historic Preservation 2021 List of Places in Peril

Last month the Georgia Trust of Historic Preservation listed its annual Places in Peril list. This program seeks to identify and preserve historic sites threatened by demolition, neglect, lack of maintenance, inappropriate development, or insensitive public policy. The list raises awareness about Georgia's significant historic, archaeological and cultural resources. Through this program, the Trust encourages owners and individuals, organizations and communities to employ preservation tools, partnerships, and resources necessary to preserve and utilize selected historic properties in peril. Historic properties are selected for listing based on several criteria: Sites must be listed or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places or the Georgia Register of Historic Places; sites must be subject to a serious threat to their existence or historical, architectural, and/or archeological integrity; and there must be a demonstrable level of community commitment and support for the preservation of listed sites.

"This is the Trust's sixteenth annual Places in Peril list," said Mark C. McDonald, president and CEO of the Trust. "We hope the list will continue to bring preservation solutions to Georgia's imperiled historic resources by highlighting ten representative sites."

Sites on the list for 2021 are:

- Ashby Street Theatre in Atlanta, Fulton County
- Atlanta Eagle and Kodak Building in Atlanta, Fulton County
- Blackshear City Jail in Blackshear, Pierce County
- Cherry Grove Schoolhouse in Washington, Wilkes County
- Cohutta African-American Civic District in Cohutta, Whitfield County
- Downtown Toombsboro in Wilkinson County (*pictured right*)
- Kiah House Museum in Savannah, Chatham County
- Old Monticello United Methodist Church in Monticello, Jasper County
- Terrell County Courthouse in Dawson, Terrell County
- Vineville Avenue Corridor in Macon, Bibb County



Founded in 1973, the Georgia Trust for Historic Preservation works for the preservation and revitalization of Georgia's diverse historic resources and advocates their appreciation, protection, and use. As one of the country's leading statewide nonprofit preservation organizations, the Trust generates community revitalization by finding buyers for endangered properties acquired by its Revolving Fund and raises awareness of other endangered historic resources through an annual listing of Georgia's Places in Peril. The Trust offers a variety of educational programs for adults and children; provides technical assistance to property owners and historic communities; advocates for funding, tax incentives, and other laws aiding preservation efforts; and manages two house museums in Atlanta (Rhodes Hall) and Macon (Hay House). To view a complete description of each of the sites listed on the 2021 list of Places of Peril visit the [Georgia Trust Web site](#). ■ GT

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Savannah River Site Preservation

Excerpt from an article featured on [Aiken Standard Web site](#) on November 16, 2020.

For the US Department of Energy and its management and operations contractor Savannah River Nuclear Solutions, preserving history at the Savannah River Site is not only an important mission but a federal mandate.

“What happened here during the Cold War is of crucial historical importance and the passing of time is our enemy,” said Andy Albenesius, SRNS Site Services program manager. “It was post-World War II, and patriotism was at an all-time high during the construction and early operation of the Savannah River Plant, as it was known then. No one can place a value on the work performed by the SRP employees who rapidly, and at great sacrifice, did their part to create our nation’s nuclear deterrent, countering the threat the Soviet Union presented.”

Today, two programs at the Savannah River Site assist DOE with the preservation of its patriotic history: The Savannah River Archaeological Research Program and the Cold War Historic Preservation Program.

As part of a cooperative agreement with the SC Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology at the University of South Carolina, the research program handles the site’s compliance related to archaeological resources. It serves as the

primary organization investigating archaeological research associated with the Savannah River Valley’s cultural development. Their results assist DOE in the management of more than 1,300 known archaeological sites at SRS.

Originating in 1997, the Cold War Historic Preservation Program assists DOE-Savannah River in managing the documentation and preservation of the site’s Cold War era history. The program developed a comprehensive inventory and historic description for Savannah River’s Cold War facilities in 2004—surveying approximately 750 buildings and structures constructed between 1950-1989. At the close of that effort, 227 properties were recognized as eligible for the National Register of Historic Places.

“The National Historic Preservation Act is the primary reason our program is here,” said Melissa Hanson, curator for the SRS Curation Facility and New South Associates employee. “The act encourages federal agencies to survey and identify historic places to ensure that history is being collected should there be changes made to a structure, such as the demolition of a building or damage due to flood or fire. There are about 6,000 artifacts, such as documents, photos, building signs, equipment, tools and even a test reactor console, altogether an incredibly wide variety of items.”

GARS OFFICERS

www.thegars.org

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

FDF OFFICERS

www.thefortdanielfoundation.org

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