

Preserving History Through Archaeology



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GWINNETT ARCHAEOLOGY BULLETIN

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Cultural Resource Management: Site 9DU286

By Anne Dorland, GARS President

In honor of Black History Month, we are highlighting an archaeological site in Georgia pertaining to a African-American historic community. This site, known as 9DU286, is located in the historic Harlem Neighborhood of Downtown Albany. Site 9DU286, the location of the proposed Albany Multimodal Transportation Center, is situated within the Harlem Neighborhood. [Niles Bolton Associates](#) contracted [New South Associates](#) to conduct archaeological excavations at Site 9DU286 in advance of the Albany Multimodal Transportation Center construction. This project is funded in part by the [Federal Transit Administration](#) (FTA). FTA is the lead federal



African Americans Employed as Letter Carriers in Historic Albany.

Image sourced from Vanishing Georgia, Georgia Archives, University System of Georgia

agency, while [Georgia Department of Transportation](#) serves as the FTA direct grant recipient and review agency for this undertaking.

The Harlem Neighborhood is an important location for African-American history in Albany and the surrounding region. Archival research shows that at the time of the site's occupation (ca. 1880–1950), the Harlem Neighborhood consisted of an African-American community populated by the freed people from area plantations and their descendants. Following Emancipation, African Americans in and near

Dougherty County migrated to Albany, the county seat, finding safety in numbers. They settled in the

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southern portion of the city between Front and Washington Streets in the area that would later become known as the Harlem Neighborhood. The area remains a predominantly African-American community today.



Animal remains collected during the 2020 excavations

traditions continued to reflect their deep cultural roots even as they grew and changed with the transition from enslavement to culinary and personal sovereignty. The prevalence of pork and corn found during excavations suggests that site inhabitants maintained an African-based diet. Oral histories were collected for this study to contextualize the archaeological remains and to include the modern African-American community of Albany in the project. Ten individuals were interviewed, ranging in age from mid 60s to 101 years old. Individuals were knowledgeable of the project area; however, as most African Americans in Albany in the later 20th century lived south of Highland Avenue, none lived in the project area. Respondents shared information about Harlem, the African-American business district bordered by South Jackson Street on the east and Highland Avenue on the south. Interviewees were keenly aware of and in some cases were active in the Albany Movement (1961–1962) and the protest for desegregation of the former Trailways Bus station, site of the forthcoming Albany Transportation Center. Lines of historical inquiry were designed to contextualize the archaeology and incorporate community members' experiences.

Research topics centered on ethnic foodways, the intersection of race and urban landscapes, and the interplay between race, class, and consumerism. These topics were used as a lens through which data was examined and interpreted. In regard to ethnic foodways, the historic Black community of Albany expressed a dedication to their African culinary roots and a desire to elevate their societal class. A diet centered on pork and corn is evident from the faunal, archaeobotanical, and pollen remains found across the site. The presence of a fire-

The data recovery efforts conducted by New South at 9DU286 were designed to explore the lifeways of the site's past inhabitants and domestic activities associated with the 19th and 20th-century households along State Street (Highland Avenue) and Highland Alley. This site contained residential houses along with commercial properties and light industry. Development and occupation of the project site began by the late 19th century. Historical research indicated the presence of African American-owned houses in the project area—most of which faced Highland Avenue. The excavations that took place in July 2020 were focused on the rear yards of those houses in order to collect information about the African American site inhabitants.

Data collected by New South reflects a community of emancipated African Americans whose cooking



NuGrape Bottle collected during the 2020 excavations

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GARS/Fort Daniel News

- **GARS MEETING:** The next in-person Gwinnett Archaeological Research Society (GARS) meeting will be on Wednesday, February 23 at Fort Daniel Archaeological Park Meeting Room beginning at 7PM. Guest speaker will be Maureen Meyers from New South Associates. She will give a presentation entitled, “How the Westo Got to Augusta: Seventeenth-Century Native Incursions from the Northeast.”
- **IN RECOGNITION:** The Fort Daniel Foundation (FDF) Annual Meeting was held on January 30 at the Fort Daniel Archaeological Park Meeting Room. A special award plaque was presented to Leslie and Frank Perry for dedicated service to the historic Fort Daniel site 2007-2022. The award was presented by FDF Board member Catherine Long and Archeological Adviser and Past-President Dr. James D’Angelo (pictured left).



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.



More Diggin's

- **NEW SOUTH ASSOCIATES CELEBRATING BLACK HISTORY MONTH:** Join New South Associates in celebrating Black History Month 2022! During the month of February, New South will be using their digital platforms to highlight Black communities, individuals, universities, organizations, and programs local to their offices located in Georgia, South Carolina, North Carolina, Tennessee, and Virginia. Check out [New South Associates' Facebook page](#) (and other social media outlets) for the highlights.
- **GWINNETT HISTORICAL SOCIETY MONTHLY MEETING:** The next meeting of the Gwinnett Historical Society will be on March 21, 2022 at the Historic Courthouse in Lawrenceville beginning at 6:30pm. Guest speaker will be Carole Townsend, author of *Peachtree Corners, Georgia: The History of an Innovative and Remarkable City 1777-2020*.

Fort Daniel Archaeological Park 2022 Events

The following is a preliminary list of upcoming events that will be occurring at the Fort Daniel Archaeological Park in 2022. To stay up to date with any upcoming events check at [Fort Daniel's Web site](#) and [Facebook](#) page.

College Student Open House: Saturday, April 16 from 1–4PM



Exploring Archaeology at Fort Daniel: Saturday, May 21 from 10AM–2PM

Guided Tours of Fort Daniel Site:

- ◆ Sunday, June 12 from 1–4PM
- ◆ Sunday, July 10 from 1–4PM

14th Annual Frontier Faire:

(International Archaeology Day)

Saturday, October 15 10AM–4PM

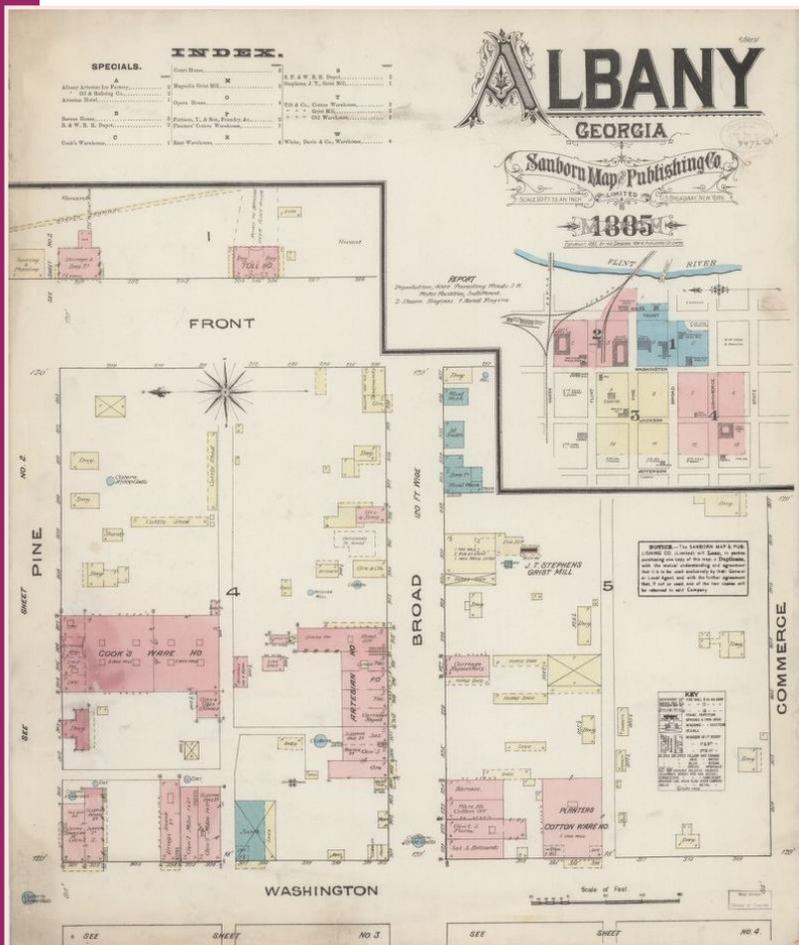
(Frontier Faire rain date of Saturday, October 22)



Celebration of Native American Heritage: Saturday, November 11 from 10AM–12PM

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exposed clay-lined cooking pit indicates that the African culinary tradition of open-fire cooking was practiced by inhabitants of 9DU286. A trend toward animal husbandry and the purchase of meat from market evidenced by foodways artifacts and faunal remains may indicate that site inhabitants aspired to detach from the lower-class foodways practice of procuring wild species for consumption.



An examination of race and urban landscape revealed that racial inequity was historically expressed through racial residential segregation in Downtown Albany. This division of neighborhoods along racial lines emerged during the Jim Crow era and was evident in archival records, historic maps, and the oral histories collected for this study. Racial residential segregation occurred in Columbus as well but not in Augusta or Savannah. Columbus and Albany have smaller populations than August and Savannah, which have older and larger occupations. The size of the cities, as well as the ways that the African-American communities developed in each city, may have impacted how social and racial relations were expressed through their urban landscapes.

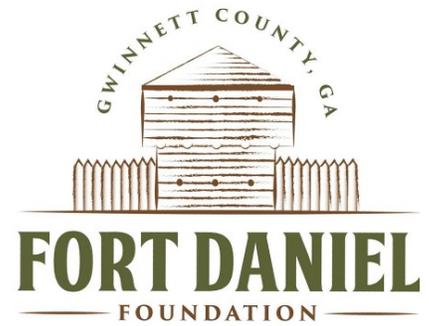
Race was also examined in conjunction with class and consumerism for this study. Consumer behaviors, as evidenced by ceramic and faunal analyses, depicts a community that valued self-expression and maintained ideals that elevated their social standing. The historic African-American community of Albany showed a sense of dedication to their African roots while navigating a rapidly changing social landscape. Variation in purchasing choices among the historic households represented at 9DU286 reflects a varied and complex African-

Historical maps like this 1885 Sanburn Map of Albany, Georgia can show the racial division of neighborhoods.

American experience. Some households were more focused on expressing the Victorian ideals of the time, while others valued individualization. The fabric of their social network appeared to shift over the course of the site's history. The types of occupations held by site inhabitants changed somewhat over time, indicating that the African-American community of Albany achieved aspirations of elevating their class in spite of oppression and segregation.

To learn more, visit the project [Archaeology at Albany Transportation Center Facebook page](#) and the project's Web site at albanyunearthed.com. ■ AD

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Preserving Historic African-American Farming Community

Excerpt from an article written by Eric Dusenbery featured on the [Atlanta Journal-Constitution Newspaper Web site](#) on February 1, 2022

When Cleveland Whitehead, 74, drives his black Chevy Silverado through the backroads of Macon County in middle Georgia, he remembers the families who worked the land on Flint River Farms back in the day. He looks out over the cotton fields, pecan orchards, and dirt tracts that dot the area.

“When I was coming up, I plowed with two mules,” he said. “We had a garden and an okra field close to the house. My dad grew cucumbers, corn, cotton, some sugar cane and peanuts.” The family’s 178-acre farm also had a small fruit orchard with just enough peaches and pears to feed the family once in a while.

Whitehead’s family was one of the original families to participate in the [Flint River Farms Resettlement Project](#). Established in 1937 by the US Department of Agriculture as a New Deal project, it gave African Americans the opportunity to purchase farmland and develop their farm-



management skills at a time when most African-American farmers were sharecroppers. It was a noble attempt at creating some racial equity that had mixed results. It was an important part of African-American history that Whitehead and his cofounders of the Flint River Farms Preservation Society are eager to keep alive.

The New Deal resettlement project involved more than 1.8 million acres across the United States—much of it former plantation land purchased by the federal government. Thirteen communities designated for African-American farmers were established in the South, including Flint River Farms.

For Whitehead, it’s all about remembering the past and preserving history. The Flint River Farms Preservation Society hopes to restore a historic farmhouse (pictured above).

To read the rest of the article you can read it online on the [AJC Web site](#). ■ AJC

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

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