

# Preserving History Through Archaeology



June-July-August 2024  
Volume XIII, Issue 6

## GWINNETT ARCHAEOLOGY BULLETIN

From the Vault .....	1	More Diggin's .....	5
Summer Endeavors .....	3	First Footsteps in North America .....	6
Endangered Historic Places of 2024 .....	4		

### From the Vault: Precontact Tool

Recently, Gwinnett Archaeological Research Society (GARS) members and volunteers have been investigating precontact and historic features on privately owned land. We have found various types of artifacts including projectile points and historic nails. Additionally, during the recent Fort Daniel Open Houses, visitors have brought mysterious items for the on-site archaeologists to help in identifying them. One particular visitor brought several types of projectile points—including a possible Clovis point. With all of these projectile points being identified, I started to wonder about the different types of precontact artifacts found at Fort Daniel.

Artifacts found at Fort Daniel tell a story of the area being inhabited for centuries. Displayed in a small case in the Fort Daniel Museum are several projectile

points and flakes dating from possible Middle Archaic to Middle Woodland periods. This is just a small sampling of the precontact artifacts found at Fort Daniel. Debitage and flakes from the making of these points



are always being unearthed during digs or after rain storms. However, a particular one (*pictured left*) was found during some improvements being made to the Fort site.

In 2017 GARS members laid out three 2' x 2' units within units previously excavated to the bottom of the plow zone (-20cm or -8 inches) and excavated two of these another 50cm to about 70cm below the present ground surface. The two excavated openings were

for the addition of the treated posts representing the northwest and southeast corners of the Palisade wall.

*continued on Page 2*

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continued from Page 1

In the northwest unit some burned or carbonized wood fragments (*pictured below left*) were discovered in the first 20cm, and the translucent ovoid-shaped chert artifact (*pictured on Page 1*) was recovered in the southeast unit at about 65cm below the present ground surface. Because of its depth, this was probably mixed with the fill when the fort wall was constructed.<sup>1</sup>



While analyzing the chert piece in the Archaeology Lab, it measured 4.4cm long, 2.6cm wide, and 0.6cm thick and was made from Coastal Plain chert. However, determining what type of artifact became a bit difficult. Some thought that it might be a round Morrow Mountain and others thought that it might be a Guilford.

Morrow Mountain points are classified into two types. Morrow Mountain Type I points are medium triangular points with contracting stems and elliptical cross sections. The blade is primarily excurvate; however, there are some examples of having straight to incurvate blades. The shoulders are primarily sloping upwards but may be horizontal or slightly sloping. Rarely, the shoulders may be slightly barbed or “hanging.” The stem is short, broad, and contracting, and the base is convex to straight. Morrow Mountain Type II points are medium triangular points with contracting stem points and elliptical cross sections. The blade is primarily excurvate, but vary to straight. The blade may be narrow and long, and the shoulders are primarily sloped upwards, but may vary to slightly sloping to horizontal. The stem is elongated and contracting with a convex or pointed base.<sup>2</sup>

Guilford points are thick medium lanceolate points with a cross section that may vary from elliptical to having a median ridge. The blade is excurvate with the tip curving in and curving back in towards the base, and the base is straight.<sup>3</sup>

Both point types have a random flaking pattern and date to the Middle Archaic period (7,100BP to 5,000BP or about 5,150BC to 3,050BC). Finally, it was concluded that the chert artifact probably started out to be a point but later became a scraper or some other kind of tool. ■ **DMG**

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1. D'Angelo, Jim. “No Joke: April Fools’ Day Finds at Fort Daniel.” *Gwinnett Archaeology Bulletin*. April 2017.
  2. “Morrow Mountain.” Projectile Point Identification Guide Toolstone/Lithic Database. [https://www.projectilepoints.net/Points/Morrow\\_Mountain.html](https://www.projectilepoints.net/Points/Morrow_Mountain.html). Accessed August 2024.
  3. “Guilford.” Projectile Point Identification Guide Toolstone/Lithic Database. [https://www.projectilepoints.net/Points/Guilford\\_Straight.html](https://www.projectilepoints.net/Points/Guilford_Straight.html). Accessed August 2024.



# Summer Endeavors

*Fort Daniel Foundation (FDF) and GARS members have had a very active summer!*



**GARS members and volunteers continued to investigate at the Snellville-Turkey Creek site.**



**FDF and GARS members welcomed visitors to Fort Daniel during the two Open Houses.**



**GARS members performed a preliminary and pedestrian survey at a former church site.**



# 11 Most Endangered Historic Places 2024 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 history, and it has proven so successful in galvanizing preservation efforts that only a handful of sites have been lost.

One theme connecting the 2024 list is the power of communities to come together to combat erasure and protect the cultural landmarks, treasured local businesses, restaurants, customs, and traditions that help tell the layered stories of those who've called a place home. By rallying around the places that bring these stories to life, communities are not only empowered by their unique pasts, but also safeguarding a sense of identity, continuity, and vitality for the future. This year's list challenges us to broaden our perspectives about American history, what it means to save places, and what our goals for preservation should be. Places like Estate Whim Museum in St. Croix and the Tangier American Legation in Morocco embody important but lesser-known stories that help us understand the breadth and complexity of American history. The Indigenous-led work to save and reconstruct Tlingit Clan Houses in Sitka, Alaska encourages us to think more broadly about what preservation means and how it can support perpetuation and celebration of clan traditions. This year's listings are:

⇒ Cindy Walker House in Mexia, Texas



⇒ Eatonville, Florida Community

⇒ Estate Whim Museum in Frederiksted, St. Croix, US Virgin Islands

⇒ Hudson-Athens Lighthouse in Athens, New York

⇒ Little Tokyo in Los Angeles, California

⇒ Minute Man National Historical Park (*pictured left*), Walden Pond, and nearby areas of Concord, Lexington, Lincoln, and Bedford, Massachusetts

⇒ New Salem Baptist Church in Tams, West Virginia

⇒ Roosevelt High School in Gary Indiana

⇒ Sitka Tlingit Clan Houses in Sitka, Alaska

⇒ Tangier American Legation in Tangier, Morocco

⇒ Wilderness Battlefield Area in Orange County, Virginia

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. For more information on this year's list of historic places visit the [NTHP Web site](#). ■ NTHP

## More Diggin's

- **Farm Demos at the Atlanta History Center:** The Smith Farm located on the campus of the Atlanta History Center will be hosting farm demos on Saturday, August 31 and Sunday, September 1 from 10AM to 3PM. There will be hands-on crafts and activities based on historic practices from the 1860s. These would include cooking, ink making, candle dipping, wool carding, clay pottery, and woodworking. For more information visit the [Atlanta History Center Web site](#).
- **Gwinnett Historical Society General Membership Meeting:** The next Gwinnett Historical Society meeting will be on Monday, September 16 at Rhodes Jordan Park Community Center beginning at 6:30PM. For more information visit the [Gwinnett Historical Society Web site](#).
- **Elisha Winn Fair:** The Annual Elisha Winn Fair will be on Saturday, October 5 and Sunday, October 6. This annual festival allows guests to travel back in time. History buffs will have the chance to tour the Winn House which was built more than 200 years ago and played a significant role in the early days of Gwinnett County. In addition to touring the historic home, guests will be able to hear live music; watch 1812 militia reenactments; browse craft and food vendors; and watch demonstrations that range from blacksmithing to butter churning. The cost is \$5 for everyone over 12. For more information visit the [Gwinnett Historical Society Web site](#).

# Defending the Frontier

## 16th Annual Frontier Faire

Saturday, October 19, 2024

*Rain Date: Saturday October 26, 2024*

10AM–4PM

## Fort Daniel Historic Site

(2505 Braselton Highway/GA 124, Buford)

## FREE Admission

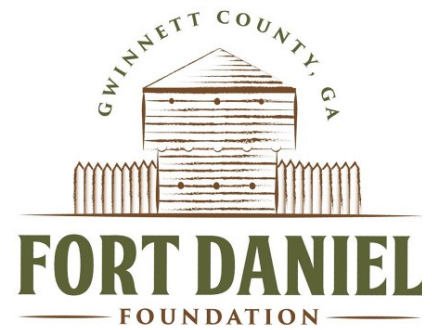
★Historic Interpretations ★Fort Daniel Museum

★Frontier Demonstrations ★Public Archaeology

For information visit Fort Daniel Foundation's Web site: [fortdaniel.com](http://fortdaniel.com)



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## Tracking Humans' First Footsteps in North America

Excerpt from a June 2024 article written by Richard Grant on the [Smithsonian Magazine Web site](#)

**A**ncient human footprints preserved in a dry lakebed at White Sands National Park in New Mexico reveal remarkably vivid vignettes of life in the late Pleistocene: children jumping in puddles and splashing, a group of hunters stalking a giant sloth. The scientists studying these footprints initially estimated their age as between 11,500 and 13,000 years. However, radiocarbon dating has allowed experts to make a bombshell discovery: The oldest of these footprints are nearly 23,000 years old.

For many decades archaeologists were convinced that the first people to arrive in the Americas came some 13,000 years ago after the Ice Age glaciers melted. The



White Sands footprints, whose age scholars estimated again by analyzing tree pollen and quartz grains in the sedimentary layers, provide the most conclusive evidence to date that humans were actually here much earlier—toward the end of the last Ice Age. It's possible that they reached North America more than 32,000 years ago.

Now, “we need lots more sites to make sense of where they came from and by what route,” says Matthew Bennett, a professor of environmental and geographical sciences at Bournemouth University in England and lead au-

thor of two scientific papers about the footprints. “The lasting legacy of White Sands is to point the way to a new archive of evidence.” ■ SM

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

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