

Preserving History Through Archaeology



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GWINNETT ARCHAEOLOGY BULLETIN

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Historic Sites at Risk with Proposed Changes to the National Register of Historic Places

Online article written by David Anderson featured on [Forbes Web site April 26, 2019.](#)

Since instituted in 1966, the National Register of Historic Places has worked to protect the Nation's many unique and irreplaceable historic resources. Recently proposed changes to the rules that govern how properties are added to that list, however, are causing concern among professional organizations that seek to help preserve the Nation's cultural heritage. Since the proposed changes were announced, the Coalition for American Heritage, the National Association of Tribal Historic Preservation Officers, Preservation Action, and others have voiced concerns about the affects these changes may have.



The National Register of Historic Places was created under the National Historical Preservation Act of 1966 and is officially maintained by the National

Park Service. The purpose behind the creation of the list was to bring attention to sites of noted historic significance or in need of preservation; as well as to ensure that a broad cross section of the Nation's material culture would be preserved.

As a result, the list today includes a wide variety of historic sites—including not only famous buildings such President George Washington's plantation Mount Vernon as seen pictured left but also the

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GARS News



- **GARS Meeting:** *There will NOT be a Gwinnett Archaeological Research Society (GARS) meeting this month. GARS will meet again in September.*
- **Field Trip:** Recently, a group of GARS members toured the Atlanta History Center. They were able to see the home of the *Battle of Atlanta Cyclo-rama* (pictured left), visited the Swan House and the Smith Family farm, and toured the exhibits housed in the Atlanta History Museum.
- May is Archaeology Month in Georgia! There are several events going on—especially the Society of Georgia Archaeology (SGA) Spring Meeting (see below) and Fort Daniel Open House (see page 4)

- **Georgia State Archaeology Lab Open House:** GARS President Delana Gilmore, Vice President Jenna Tran, and Archaeological Advisor Jim D'Angelo attended the grand opening of the new archaeology lab on the Georgia State University campus. They saw how the lab was set up, talked with past and new students (some who participated in digs at Fort Daniel), and saw the storage area that contained over 400 boxes of artifacts from the Marta archaeological investigations (pictured right).



Heritage Under the Waters

Every year in May the state of Georgia celebrates and promotes preservation and stewardship of its hidden archaeological heritage. This statewide archaeology awareness has grown over the years since its creation in 1994. The Society for Georgia Archaeology (SGA) serves as the primary sponsor of Georgia Archaeology Month. Cosponsors include state agencies, private firms, and non-profit and professional organizations.



This year the theme for both Archaeology Month and the SGA Spring Meeting is “*Heritage Under the Waters: The Archaeology of Georgia’s Reservoirs*” The SGA Spring Meeting will be in Athens, Georgia on May 18. It will be a day full of activities: a self-guided tour of the University of Georgia (UGA) Laboratory of Archaeology with highlighted artifacts from reservoirs around Georgia; members of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation holding a panel discussion on collaboration beyond consultation in Georgia; keynote address by archaeologist David G. Anderson titled “The Russell Reservoir Investigations along the Savannah River: Looking Backward, Looking Forward”; and wrapping up the day with an archaeology-themed walking tour in and around the historic T.R.R. Cobb House in downtown Athens. Registration for this year’s Spring Meeting will be on-site by cash or check only. Registration costs include \$10 for members and \$15 for non-members. Please add \$2 if you plan to attend archaeology walking tour. For more information about the SGA Spring Meeting visit the [SGA Web site](#).

Public outreach is a critical link in encouraging awareness of archaeology and a sense of stewardship for our state’s archaeological sites. For this reason the month of May in Georgia celebrates preserving its history through archaeology. ■

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Coldwater Creek Covered Bridge (*pictured below right*) in Alabama, and Cahokia, an important settlement built by Native Americans centuries before the Nation was founded.

The inclusion of a property on the register is in part symbolic, meant to raise awareness and highlight the importance of preserving irreplaceable pieces of the Nation's past. Tax incentives, however, were added to legislation in the 1970s to encourage listing qualified sites. For some land owners, though, inclusion on the register is seen as inviting unwelcome public scrutiny.

The proposed changes to the Register specifically alter the ways in which sites are nominated and selected for inclusion. To address the concerns of private landowners, language has been added to allow "the owners of a majority of the land area in a proposed historic district" to block the inclusion of the district on the register. The proposed changes would also give the Federal government control over the nomination process for sites under the control of Federal agencies.

In their call to action the Coalition for American Heritage notes that these changes are placing historic resources at risk. They note that currently a majority vote among property owners can stop the inclusion of their properties on the register, but under the new rules one land owner alone could overrule the consensus of the population of an entire district. They further note that by changing the rules for nominating properties controlled by Federal agencies that local organizations will be unable to advocate for sites within their own communities.

The Preservation Action organization noted that under current law private citizens and local governments have the right to appeal if a site is not included on the Register. With the proposed revisions, however, they suggest "that right will disappear if the property is federally owned and the agency objects."

Yet more concerns have been raised regarding the effects that these rule changes could have on sites important to Native American peoples. In the proposed rule change it is stated that "tribal consultation is not required because the rule will not have a substantial direct effect on federally recognized Indian tribes." The National Association of Tribal Historic Preservation Officers noted in a press release that "this claim is outrageous and fails to recognize that tribes often have substantial traditional cultural and ancestral connections to federal lands, and the proposed changes would adversely affect tribes' ability to protect sacred and significant cultural sites."

Additional statements advocating against the proposed rule changes have been issued by The National Trust for Historic Preservation, the National Conference of State Historic Preservation Officers, and the Society for American Archaeology.

The newly proposed rules are still under consideration and public comments were being submitted directly to the National Park Service and Department of the Interior—which were due by the end of April. The preservation of historic resources always requires a delicate balance between present day needs and ensuring that future generations will be able to learn from past. Not everything can be saved, but if we ignore the historic sites from our Nation's past, generations of voices will fall silent. ■ **FM**



Fort Daniel News

- *Fort Daniel Open House will be on Saturday, May 11 from 10AM to 2PM. (See information below)*
- **Scout Day at Fort Daniel:** At the end of March GARS and Fort Daniel Foundation (FDF) hosted a geology class for a visiting Cub Scouts group from Walton County at Fort Daniel. Mr. Tom Faller, geologist, and GARS/FDF member Leslie Perry covered the geology while Dr. Jim D'Angelo provided the fort history lesson to Cub Scout Pack 535 and their families. GARS/FDF member Frank Perry provided the frontier tools lesson. The scouts enjoyed a picnic lunch outside and left with a bag of minerals, fossils, and a comprehensive lesson on geology, frontier tools, and the history of Fort Daniel.



The Forgotten Frontier

**Fort Daniel Open House
Saturday, May 11, 2019
10AM-2PM**

**Fort Daniel Historic Site
(2505 Braselton Highway/GA 124, Buford)**

May is Archaeology Month in Georgia! Explore how archaeology reveals the ways people lived on the frontier during the War of 1812—including tours of the Fort Daniel Museum, Archaeology Lab, active archaeological digs, and living history tours of the fort. For information go to www.thefortdanielfoundation.org.

More Diggin's

- **McDaniel Farm Heritage Day:** On Saturday, May 4 discover life on the farm! Explore McDaniel Farm by talking to costumed interpreters, soap making, quilting, and making crafts. Step back in time as you experience McDaniel Farm like never before. Fee is \$5/person for all ages, and you will need to preregister either on [online](#) using code MFP38100 or call (770) 814-4920.

- **History on the Rocks at the Atlanta History Center:** On Friday, May 31 visit a 1920s cocktail party at the Swan House—complete with Roaring 20s music and dance lessons. Join people on Swan House lawn for specialty cocktails, available for purchase, and complimentary light hors-d'oeuvres! Our new after-hours program series is hosted on Friday nights and gives guests the chance to kick-off the weekend by grabbing a drink and exploring parts of our sprawling campus. Tickets are \$15 in advance and \$20 at the door; free for members. Members please RSVP to membership@atlantahistorycenter.com.



Preservation Month

Though it is Archaeology Month in Georgia, nationally May is Historic Preservation Month, and this year the National Trust of Historic Preservation continues to celebrate with three words that say it all: **This. Place. Matters.** Everyone has places that are important to them. Places they care about. Places that matter. *This Place Matters* is national campaign that encourages people to celebrate the places that are meaningful to them and to their communities. This campaign isn't just about photography. It's about telling the stories of the

places we can't live without. Through *This Place Matters*, the National Trust hopes to encourage and inspire an ongoing dialogue about the importance of place and preservation in all of our lives.

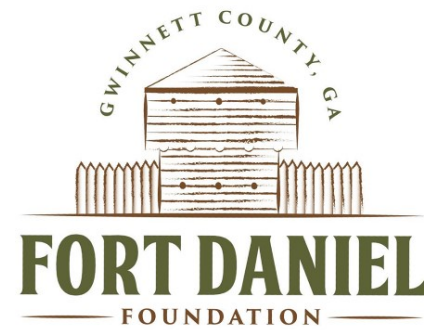
Established in 1973 by the National Trust for Historic Preservation, the event is co-sponsored by local preservation groups, State historical societies, and business and civic organizations across the country. During the month of May many events are planned to promote historic places for the purpose of instilling national and community pride, promoting heritage tourism, and showing the social and economic benefits of historic preservation. Thousands of people participate annually in Preservation

Month celebrations. Some things that you can do are: visit a historic place near you, learn more about a historic place, see if your State Historic Preservation Office has events planned, take part in the National Trust's campaign, and find out more about Historic Preservation.

To take it to the next level take photos at the places that matter most to you, share your photos online with the hashtag #ThisPlaceMatters, and stay tuned to @SavingPlaces on [Instagram](#) and [Twitter](#) as they spotlight their favorites. You can tell others in your community which places matter most to you, and the National Trust will help to tell the world! ■



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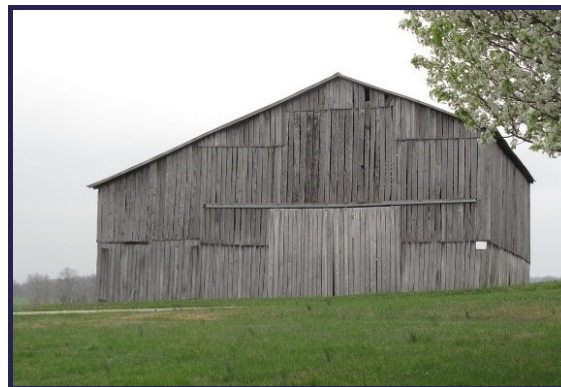


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Thieves Stealing Kentucky's Barnwood

Excerpt from an online article by Tessa Duvall featured in [Louisville Courier Journal](#) on April 17, 2019

Just off a bend in the Cumberland River stands a weathered tobacco barn whose split and slivered planks have gone missing piece by piece. Lois “Nan” Coffey, 95, points in exasperation with her tobacco pole cane at the gaping holes and absent barn doors that have left the structure stripped bare in places, like a skeleton with bones missing. The barn is where her late husband, J. D. Coffey, a mechanic and reluctant farmer, once helped the family cure tobacco four-tiers high, and the breeze still carries remnants of the burley’s dry, earthy scent. Nan can’t be sure how long those missing planks and doors have been gone—the doors had been stored inside the barn for years—but she knows what happened to them: thieves stole them. In fact, her family called the county sheriff, placed a notice in the weekly Cumberland



County News, and put up cameras and floodlights in case the thieves decide to return. If they get bold, Nan says she still has a pistol hidden in the house.

Barnwood thieves have been stealing Kentucky memories across the commonwealth not for what’s in them but to feed a growing desire for the farmhouse chic popularized by famous HGTV hosts Chip and Joanna Gaines—that is, taking ancient, weathered barnwood and using it to make a new house look old. Sheriffs across the state have seen some barns stripped down to their frames and aluminum roofs. Law enforcement officials say there’s not much they can do to stop the thieves or to track down the wood. In Kentucky, with more old barns per square mile than any other state, barnwood thieving has been a problem for years.

You can read the rest of the story [online](#). ■ GT

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