

# Preserving History Through Archaeology



October 2020  
Volume IX, Issue 8

## GWINNETT ARCHAEOLOGY BULLETIN

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### Rediscovering Frontier Fort Layouts

In 2015 we determined that a feature we had been excavating in the SW Blockhouse was NOT a hearth pit but a much larger and deeper cold cellar. Because it contained the rock foundation stones and other burned debris, such as milled wood and chinking from the disassembled blockhouse, it was a feature (like most archaeological features) that had to be excavated and documented very carefully. Therefore, it became the perfect project for our Georgia State University mini-field school and has remained such. Although excavation, including recordation with photos, quad-copter 3D photos, and measured drawings is mostly completed, rain last year and the pandemic this year have assured that we will be working on this feature for at least one more season.

Photos of progress on this project—including artifacts found mostly at the bottom of the feature, under the rock, and building debris, too numerous to be itemized here—



have been published in the *Gwinnett Archaeology Bulletin* (GAB) in several issues since 2010. However, one important update to one of these news items can now be made. In the December 2015 issue I had written that “it turns out that these kinds of root cellars are often found at cabin sites, particularly slave cabin sites. I have also found examples of two such features excavated at fort sites: a West Virginia frontier fort and an 1820s military fort. Although not uncommon in these contexts, no such storage pits found in a blockhouse context are known to the several archaeologists queried, who are familiar with military sites— Scott Butler, Dan Elliot, and Pat Garrow.”

In viewing some old “fort files” I came across something that I had never bothered to thoroughly read before: The

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# GARS/Fort Daniel News

- **Officer Opening:** When Dr. D'Angelo stepped down as President, he left a vacancy. The position of President for Fort Daniel Foundation (FDF) is still open. If you know someone or think that you would like to take on the mantle, please email FDF Vice President, [Leslie Perry](#).
- **DIGITAL GARS:** Since the threat of COVID-19 is cancelling several events, Gwinnett Archaeological Research Society (GARS) officers had to think out of the box—digitally and virtually. Digital GARS was created to replace monthly meetings while still featuring topics written by archaeologists on their recent research. The latest blog topic is written by GARS Vice President Jenna Tran and focuses on the history and culture of [Cherokee basketry](#).



- **Hills Mill:** Join GARS for our second visit to the Hill's Mill archaeological site on Saturday, November 14! Hill's Mill, located on the Apalachee River in Gwinnett and Barrow Counties, was originally owned by Joshua Hill, an ancestor of GARS and FDF members Wayne and Eli Stancel. This site consists of a homestead and a stone mill dam constructed in 1866. GARS President, Anne Dorland, will direct the investigation with guidance from Dr. Jim D'Angelo. Fieldwork during the initial visit included

clearing vegetation to expose above-ground features, photography, mapping, metal detecting, and shovel testing. Field efforts planned for the November 14 visit include additional shovel testing to define the site boundaries, detailed mapping of the mill dam and other features (*pictured right*), and test unit excavation to gain more information about the site chronology, function, and lifeways of inhabitants. All are welcome to attend this socially-distanced field investigation! Contact [Anne Dorland](#) for more details.

- **Frontier Faire:** At this time the 12th Annual Frontier Faire will still be occurring on Saturday, October 17. However, due to COVID-19 social distancing and CDC guidelines will be strictly observed. For updates check out [FDF's Facebook page](#).



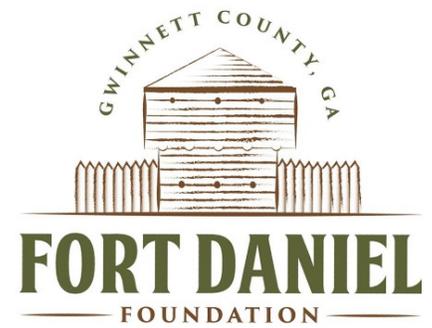
- **Faire Preparation:** As you know, the Frontier Faire is this month, and preparations for the Faire have been ongoing through this summer and fall. Last month a group of FDF and GARS members along with the local chapter of the Children of the American Revolution (*pictured right*) cleaned up the front of the Fort Daniel property by picking up branches and pine cones that have fallen during the recent storms. Additionally, FDF members put up the Muster Roll informational display (*pictured right*) by the fort gate. Thank you to all who came out and helped to clean up the Fort!



- **New Fort Daniel Archaeology Lab and Museum Entrance (sort of):** Along with the preparations for the fort, improvements to the Fort Daniel property has also been ongoing. Last year a sidewalk to the Lab and Museum entrance was built, and steps from the Lab and Museum to the Fort Daniel Site was also built. This past summer a railing was built for the steps, and a new awning over the Lab and Museum door was put into place (*pictured left*).



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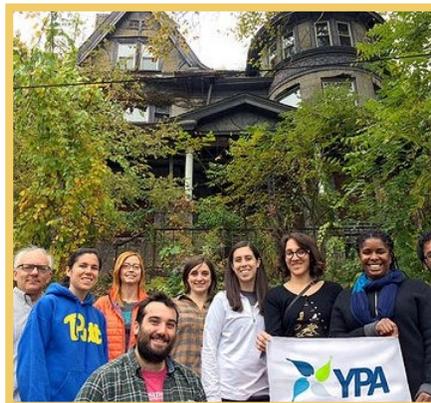
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## Discover America's 11 Most Endangered Historic Places for 2020

Each year America's 11 Most Endangered Historic Places list sheds light on important examples of our nation's heritage that are at risk of destruction or irreparable damage. More than 300 places have been listed in its 33-year history, and in that time fewer than 5 percent of listed sites have been lost.

The 2020 list includes a diverse mix of historic places nationwide that highlight many of the cultures, stories, and experiences—including seven sites with significant connections to women's history—that help tell the full American story. The Most Endangered Historic Places 2020 list includes:

- Sun-n-Sand Motor Hotel in Jackson, Mississippi
- National Negro Opera Company House (pictured above) in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
- Rassawek in Columbia, Virginia



- West Berkeley Shellmound and Village Site in Berkeley, California
- Ponce Historic Zone in Ponce, Puerto Rico
- Harada House in Riverside, California
- Roberts Temple Church of God in Christ in Chicago, Illinois
- Terrace Plaza Hotel in Cincinnati, Ohio
- Alazan-Apache Courts in San Antonio, Texas
- Yates Memorial Hospital in Ketchikan, Alaska
- Hall of Waters in Excelsior Springs, Missouri

However, with threats ranging from neglect to natural disasters to inappropriate development, these special places are at a serious risk. To learn what you can do to support these sites visit the [National Trust for Historic Preservation's Web site](#). ■ NTHP

**GARS OFFICERS**  
[www.thegars.org](http://www.thegars.org)

President: Anne Dorland  
Vice President: Jenna Tran  
Secretary/Treasurer: Delana Gilmore

To keep up with the latest digs and activities from GARS

**FDF OFFICERS**

[www.thefortdanielfoundation.org](http://www.thefortdanielfoundation.org)

President: Vacant  
Secretary: Cindy Horsley  
Vice President: Leslie Perry  
Treasurer: Betty Warbington

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