Happy Holidays

from GARS & FDF

GWINNETT ARCHAEOLOGY BULLETIN

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The Georgia Trust for Historic Preservation has released its 2017 list of 10 Places in Peril in the state. “This is the Trust's twelfth 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.”

Places in Peril is designed to raise awareness about Georgia’s significant historic, archaeological and cultural resources, including buildings, structures, districts, archaeological sites and cultural landscapes that are threatened by demolition, neglect, lack of maintenance, inappropriate development or insensitive public policy.

The Fort Daniel archaeological site was one of those listed in 2009 and, with a matching grant from the GTHP, the Fort Daniel Foundation and GARS started on the road to preserving the site and developing a program of preservation and education. Subsequent efforts by the County to purchase properties on which, and around which the site is situated, have assured that this War of 1812/Creek Indian War site has been saved from development and will be used for the benefit of the public.

The 2017 listed properties are: Atlanta Central Library, Fulton County; Calvary Episcopal Church and Lee Street Bridge, Americus, Sumter County; Chivers House, Dublin, Laurens County; Marble YMCA Building, Columbus, Muscogee County; Gaines Hall, Furber Cottage, Towns House and Hamilton House, Atlanta, Fulton County; John Rountree Log House, Twin City, Emanuel County; Lyon Farmhouse, Lithonia, DeKalb County; Mimosa Hall, Roswell, Fulton County; Walker House, Augusta, Richmond County; and Old Zebulon Elementary School, Zebulon, Pike County.

One of the 2017 listed properties is a log house (pictured above) on the edge of Twin City, Georgia, which was constructed in the northern reaches of Georgia’s pine barren region in approximately 1832 by John Rountree, on land his family was awarded in the 1805 Georgia Land Lottery. The county remained a place of small subsistence farms until the railroad came through in the 1860s. The Rountree cabin represents that early era of exploration and settlement in Georgia. It is also a rare example of early 19th century log saddlebag construction and displays an unusual method of construction in its unique diamond notching. Currently owned by the City of Twin City, the log house suffers from lack of maintenance and awareness. While the cabin is sound, rehabilitation is needed for it to be reopened to the public. The current city administration is dedicated to the rehabilitation and maintenance of this historic Georgia resource.

For more information about the 2017 Places of Peril visit the Georgia Trust’s Web site.
More Diggin’s

- The Atlanta History Center’s Candlelight Nights will be on December 9 and 16 from 5:30–9:30pm. Experience Christmas past with a candlelit stroll through beautifully decorated gardens and grounds and be transported into the warm glow of the holidays. Visit the three historic houses to experience how Southerners celebrated Christmas during the pioneer days, the Civil War era, and the 1930s. Holiday traditions of years past come alive with interpreters, music, and special activities. This special holiday program is $10 for members; $15 for nonmembers; $8 for all children. For more information visit the Atlanta History Center’s Web site.

- Gwinnett Historical Society will be hosting a Christmas Open House at the Elisha Winn House on December 10 from 12–4pm.

- Candlelight Tours of McDaniel Family Farm will be held throughout the month of December. Discover historic customs and traditions celebrated during the holiday season. There is a program fee, and pre-registration is required. Please visit the Gwinnett Environmental and Heritage Center Web site for information and to register for this event.

Membership Fees:
If you would like to join or renew your GARS membership, please contact John Hopkins; and for FDF membership please contact Betty Warbington.

Fort Daniel/GARS News

- The second phase of the Key Blacksmith Shop has begun. The new addition has been built (pictured left), and the adding of the blacksmith furnace will occur soon.

- The Fort Daniel Archaeology Lab will host Volunteer Days on December 3 and 17 beginning at 10:30am. For more information please go to the Lab Day Event Page.

- There will NOT be a GARS meeting this month. In lieu of the meeting there will be the Annual Christmas Party, which will be on Sunday, December 4 at Fort Daniel from 6–8pm. (See Page 4 for more details.)

- Nominations are being accepted for GARS officers. The names will be presented and voted on at a special business meeting before the annual Christmas Party. If you are interested in becoming an officer to GARS, please email Delana Gilmore.
Christmas Party at Fort Daniel

Sunday, December 4
6–8PM

All GARS and FDF members are invited to the Christmas Party at the home of Delana and Chris Gilmore (2505 Braselton Hwy, Buford). It will be potluck; therefore, please bring a covered dish that can feed up to 20. There will be the traditional snag-a-gift exchange (AKA Dirty Santa), so please bring a wrapped gift to participate in the swap.

Let’s be merry together!