

Cultural Resources Management and Fort Stewart

Although Georgia has a long history of archaeological work, the area of Fort Stewart was not the scene of archaeological investigations until the 1970s. Throughout the 1970s and early 1980s, Fort Stewart conducted small cultural resources investigations primarily in association with major construction projects and on major sites such as Fort Argyle. In 1985, Fort Stewart undertook a large-acreage survey that produced site location



Archaeologists testing for sites on Fort Stewart

models that are still used at Fort Stewart and Hunter Army Airfield today as well as recorded a large number of archaeological sites. This work

indicates that all known historical periods of Georgia are represented at Fort Stewart. Since the mid 1990s, Fort Stewart has been actively surveying its' property; undertaking surveys in excess of 10,000 acres each year. These surveys continue to contribute to our knowledge of the history of the area while fulfilling Army's mission.

The primary goal of the Fort Stewart Cultural Resources management program is to protect and evaluate significant cultural resources while maintaining the largest possible area for training. We accomplish this through aggressive planning, surveys, and close coordination with customers (trainers, planners, and land managers).

Archaeological sites are unlike other natural resources in two major ways:

- 1) they are non-renewable. Sites that are destroyed can never be replaced;
- 2) they are generally not identifiable by simple visual inspection. Archaeological sites are buried and thus systematic digging must be conducted to identify them.



National Park Service

A · T · H · I · E · F
O · F · T · I · M · E

He's Stealing From You.

The Archaeological Resources Protection Act (1979) recognizes that archaeological resources on public land "are an accessible and irreplaceable part of the nation's heritage". The law states that "... no person may excavate, remove, damage, or otherwise alter or deface any archaeological resource located on public lands...". Additionally

Army Regulations and Fort Stewart Regulations are in place to ensure the protection of our archaeological resources.

If you inadvertently discover an archaeological site:

- 1) cease what you are doing immediately
- 2) notify Range Control (767-8777)
- 3) preserve the area, do not attempt to unearth any additional information or remove whatever caused the initial damage.

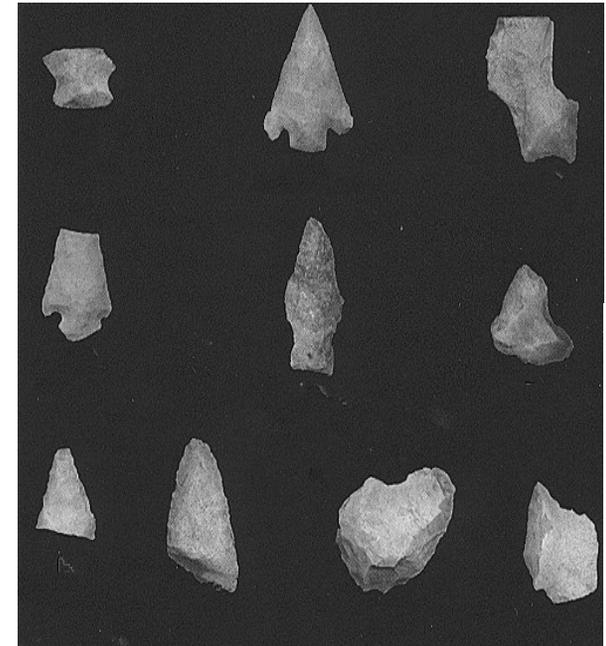
For any additional information concerning Cultural Resources, please call the Cultural Resource Management Specialist at (912) 767-3359.



Fort Stewart

DPW ENRD

CULTURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

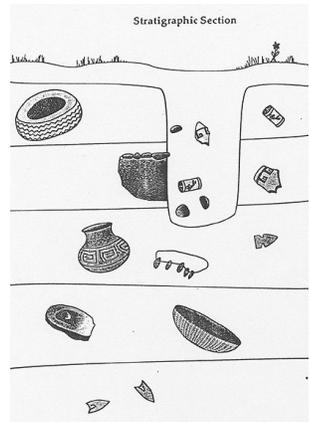


Panamerican Consultants, Inc

**Cultural Resources
DPW, ENRD, Environmental
Branch**

**1550 Frank Cochran Rd
Building 1137
Fort Stewart, Georgia
31314-4928**

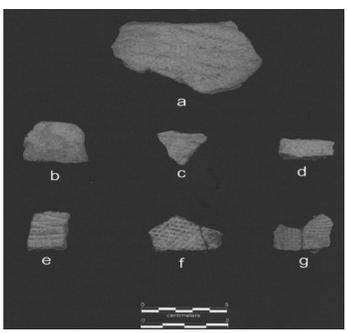
History of the Fort Stewart Area



Cultural Resources may include any remnants of past human settlement and activities, from buildings to cemeteries to archaeological sites and artifacts. Historical and archaeological evidence indicates that people have lived on what is now Fort Stewart for the past 12,000 years.

Example of stratigraphic process seen across time

In late 1939, the United States Government announced that it would establish a major Army training installation on the eastern seaboard of the United States. After a long and careful search, the Army determined that the best location for the new post was in five counties in Southeast Georgia. Beginning in 1940, residents moved away from the growing Fort Stewart, and left the remnants of their homes and towns to the needs of a nation preparing for war.



Pottery recovered from Fort Stewart

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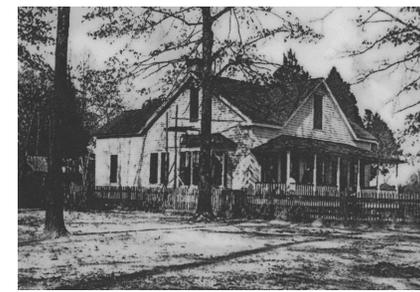
Even though the military displaced the residents of the area, they were not the first people to inhabit this land. The earliest people to settle the southeast were the Paleoindians (12,000-8,000 B.C.). Small campsites dating from this period have

Culture History of Fort Stewart

- Prehistoric Period**
PaleoIndian (12,000 B.C. - 8,000 B.C.)
Archaic (8,000 B.C. - 1,000 B.C.)
Woodland (1,000 B.C. - A.D. 900)
Mississippian (A.D. 900 - 1540)
- Historic Period**
Pre-Colonial (A.D. 1530 - A.D. 1732)
British, Spanish, Yamasee, Guale
Colonial Georgia (A.D. 1732 - A.D. 1775)
British, Creek
American Georgia
Revolutionary War Period (1775 - 1782)
Early American Period (1782 - 1820)
Antebellum Period (1820 - 1860)
Civil War (1860 - 1865)
Reconstruction (1865 - 1880)
New Growth (1880 - 1920)
American Period (1920 - 1940)
Fort Stewart Period (1940 - Present)

been found on Fort Stewart. The Archaic period (8,000-1,000 B.C.) saw more substantial occupations on the land that is now Fort Stewart. These people learned to efficiently harvest resources and subsequently stayed in places for longer periods of time. Towards the end of the period pottery was introduced for the first time. Indian Societies in the Woodland Period (1,000 B.C.-A.D. 900) became even more permanently settled. These people practiced simple horticulture and lived in small villages. The Mississippian period (A.D. 900-1540) is the most complex Native American culture on Fort Stewart. The small villages grew into territories under the control of a ruling chief/priest. Mound building is associated with this period.

The first Europeans to settle the Fort Stewart area were at Fort Argyle, established in 1733 as an outpost of Savannah to protect against attacks from the Spanish, French, and Indians. Over time, settlers expanded westward across the land establishing several communities. These communities relied primarily on agriculture, naval stores, and timber industries as a source of income. The remnants



House from the town of Taylors Creek

of many of these industries can still be found on the land today in the form of turpentine cups and camps and old railroad beds. These

communities flourished at the turn of the twentieth century and then slowly declined along with many other rural areas through the depression and after.

Nearly sixty years after the founding of Fort Stewart, the legacy of the former residents is still apparent in names on the Fort Stewart Installation Map. The crossroads locations of Clyde, Taylors Creek, Willie, and Glisson Pond are not entirely dead as the military now uses them as landmarks during training and the people who once lived there often return for family reunions. Fort Stewart land managers do not see these important cultural resources as obstacles; rather, they are challenges to military training in the form of stewardship responsibilities and legal requirements. By successfully integrating the fulfillment of these requirements and responsibilities with training and natural resources management needs, Fort Stewart is able to meet and exceed readiness standards, comply with all legal requirements, and perhaps most importantly, show our former residents that we continue to care for the land as much as they did.



Cemetery on Fort Stewart