

# Georgia Mountain Research and Education Center

## Introduction

The University of Georgia's Mountain Research and Education Center is located three miles south of the town of Blairsville, Georgia, within Union County. The center also falls within the Appalachian Mountains of north Georgia, approximately 100 miles northeast of Atlanta and 90 miles northwest of Athens. The center was established as a branch of the Georgia Experiment Station in Griffin in 1930 as the Georgia Mountain Branch Experiment Station on a 210-acre tract of leased land. During the 1930s, research at the station focused on the potential for farmers to begin growing fruits and vegetables as a way to improve the economy of the area. The station expanded its focus during the late 1930s and early 1940s to include work with feed grains, forages, soil fertility, dairying, and sheep husbandry and breeding. During the late 1930s, the station expanded the applications of fertilizer through a cooperative agreement with the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) that resulted in dramatic increases in crop yields.

The center has continued to grow over the years. Today, it occupies and features 415 acres of orchards, test plots, pasture lands, specimen and preservation gardens, and forest where important agricultural experiments are conducted. Currently the center has more than forty ongoing research or extension projects involving more than thirty University of Georgia faculty members engaged in work on apples, asparagus, beef cattle, blueberries, collards, field corn, forages, green house pests, peaches, pumpkins, soybeans, turf grass, woody ornamentals, and wheat. The center is unique to the University of Georgia system because of its location at the southern end of the Appalachian Mountains and its growing season, which is similar to that of southern Canada.<sup>488</sup>

The mission of the station also includes outreach and education. In 2000, the station was renamed the Georgia Mountain Research and Education Center and in 2004 began offering several adult outreach education seminars. During the late 2000s, display gardens were added for public edification. These include an Appalachian Ethnobotanical Garden and the Jarrett House Heirloom Garden.<sup>489</sup> Additionally, the Community Council of the station funds a series of adult research seminars for the home gardener and farmer, installed an Appalachian Ethnobotanical Garden and heirloom garden on the station, and initiated hands-

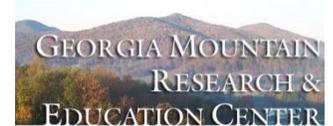


Figure 387. Emblem of the Mountain Research and Education Center.

488. New South Associates, *Architectural Survey*.

489. "Profile & History of the Georgia Mountain Research & Education Center." University of Georgia College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences, accessed March 16, 2016, <http://www.caes.uga.edu/center/gmrec/profile.html>.

on field experiences for school children.<sup>490</sup> The Community Council is responsible for preservation efforts at the station, as well as maintaining its role within the community.

The Georgia Mountain Research and Education Center constitutes a historic landscape that appears eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places for the notable contributions of the station to agricultural innovation and education at the state level in the areas of Agriculture, Archeology, Architecture, Invention, and Science. The long-standing heritage of the Mountain Research and Education Center as an agricultural experiment station and center of agricultural education and research is expressed in the physical design of the campus, its built resources, and evident connections between cultural uses and the natural environment. As the campus has grown, evolved, and changed, development has respected patterns of spatial organization associated with the farm that preceded institutional use. Physical evidence of the facilities used in notable efforts to advance the science and practice of agriculture survives throughout the campus, while the campus as a whole conveys patterns of organization, road networks, field patterns, and land uses that reflect important heritage values.

The oldest surviving buildings at the site include a cottage and several stone structures built in the 1930s with the assistance of the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) and Federal Emergency Relief Agency (FERA). These include the laboratory, fruit stand, and community cannery. Also of interest historically is the Farmers' Meeting complex, a cluster of buildings and landscape features that was used to host meetings of local farmers for events and instruction during the 1930s and 1940s; several of the historic buildings and structures associated with the complex survive today. The station thus appears to retain sufficient integrity to convey its historic associations with the period of significance that extends between 1939 and 1966.

The narrative that follows traces the history of the property and its development and use, and suggests the historic contexts that relate to its use as a University of Georgia research facility. The historical background information is followed by an inventory and assessment of the building, landscape, and archaeological features associated with the property. To facilitate the organization of cultural resource identification and evaluation, the campus is divided into a series of character areas. For each character area, the primary historic resources and their character-defining features are described and their significance assessed according to the categorization system developed for purposes of this study. The inventory and assessment is followed by assessment of the National Register eligibility of the property, and the identification of any individually eligible resources and historic districts associated with the property.

## **Campus Historic Context**

### **Historical Background**

The Georgia Mountain Branch Experiment Station was established in 1930 as a part of the Georgia Experiment Station in Griffin on leased property near

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490. Ibid.

Blairsville, Georgia. The property, which was leased from Bob Christopher, encompassed the former Jarrett Farm that included a number of agricultural buildings and the Jarrett Farm House. The specific objective of the station was to test raspberry crosses under north Georgia growing conditions for commercial production potential.<sup>491</sup> The first tests conducted at the station focused on agriculture. However, within a few years, forestry investigations were being conducted in cooperation with the Appalachian Forest Experiment Station of Asheville, North Carolina.<sup>492</sup> In 1932, the leased acreage was purchased by the Board of Regents; permanent improvements were made to the station's programs, and resident staff moved to the site. Soon, other fields of investigation were added, including dairying, animal husbandry, agronomy and soils, pasture improvement, and plant pathology.<sup>493</sup>

Although both the Georgia Experiment Station at Griffin and the Coastal Plain Experiment Station at Tifton conducted research related to improving the agricultural productivity of Georgia farmers, the Mountain Branch Experiment Station concentrated almost exclusively on the problems and concerns of north Georgia farmers, which were distinct from those of Piedmont and Coastal Plain farmers. At the time of its establishment in 1832, Union County constituted the most remote part of Georgia; the land, available for acquisition through the Georgia land lottery during the 1830s, was thought to be of little value and attracted only those individuals with meager financial resources.<sup>494</sup> During the Civil War, the hard-scrabble farms of the area fell on even more difficult times.

Soon after it opened, Georgia Mountain Branch Experiment Station began to hold an annual Farmers' Meeting, a weekend event that was part agricultural fair, part political meeting, part educational conference, and part picnic. The event attracted farmers and their families, politicians, agricultural representatives, and local merchants from a wide area of north Georgia and east Tennessee. Prizes, donated by local merchants, were awarded for the largest and best fruits and vegetables as well as for handicrafts. The newest agricultural equipment was displayed by the station, and state representatives were available to discuss the equipment with interested individuals. The latest fertilizers, planting methods, seeds, cultivars, and agricultural ideas were also showcased and discussed by station representatives. All of this was presented in the most festive of atmospheres, with food served in a wooded glade on covered picnic tables and the judged agricultural and handicraft offerings of the attendees displayed in small open-sided pavilions. The event continued annually until 1942, when the demands of World War II ended the festivities.<sup>495</sup> The site of the annual Farmers' Meeting, including the picnic area, barbeque pavilion, judging pavilion, amphitheater, and fireplace, still remain at the station today.

The Blairsville region of north Georgia was particularly hard hit during the Great Depression. Several of the station's original buildings and road system was constructed by the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) and the Civilian Works

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491. Higgins, 1975.

492. Ibid.; New South Associates, *Architectural Survey*.

493. Higgins, 1975.

494. Cooksey, "Union County."

495. University of Georgia CAES, "Profile and History of the Georgia Mountain Research & Education Center."

Administration (CWA) between 1930 and 1939 as New Deal projects. Many of these buildings survive today, including the original administration building, referred to as the Office and Seed Lab (UGA 3512), fruit stand, Jarrett Smoke House, also referred to as a storage building or root cellar (UGA 3520), the pottery barn and kiln, also known as a storage shed (UGA 3519), the work center/storage building, also known as the community cannery (UGA 3506), and the root cellar.<sup>496</sup> The building that served as a pottery and kiln was later adapted for use as the local headquarters for the National Youth Administration (NYA), a New Deal organization that sought to provide job opportunities for the nation's youth.

During this period, the station also entered into a cooperative agreement with the TVA, as a large part of north Georgia falls within the drainage basin of the Tennessee River, to undertake a number of programs. In 1938 the station began to promote economic usage of TVA fertilizers in the valley communities of Georgia. Station personnel were able to demonstrate that the yield of feed grains and forages could be greatly increased through the addition of fertilizer to fields and proper crop variety selections. As a result, a Union County farmer was Georgia's first to produce 100 bushels of corn per acre, belying the belief that north Georgia farmland was less valuable than that of south Georgia.<sup>497</sup> The station became instrumental to the growth of Union County's economy.<sup>498</sup>

During the mid-twentieth century, the station also focused on research into apple production. By the mid-1950s, Georgia Mountain Branch Experiment Station had the largest collection of heirloom apple trees in the United States.<sup>499</sup> Throughout the 1970s and 1980s, the station continued to work with apples, and added a variety of horticultural crops, beef cattle stocker feed, and swine production.<sup>500</sup>

In 1965, the station was renamed the Georgia Mountain Experiment Station, and became fully independent from the Georgia Experiment Station at Griffin. Ground breaking research continued thereafter and into the new millennium, particularly with forage and turf grasses for cooler climates. Tifton 44 was tested, selected, and released in 1978 through the station; and in 2001, TifBlair Centipede (Emerald Ice Centipede), considered to require the least maintenance of all turf grasses available, was tested and cultivated and subsequently released by the station.<sup>501</sup>

In 2000, the property was renamed the Georgia Mountain Research and Education Center with an expanded mission to focus on education. In 2003, a Community Council was formed to assist the Center in meeting its new education

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496. Blairsville/Union County Chamber of Commerce, 2016.

497. New South Associates, *Architectural Survey*.

498. Elizabeth B. Cooksey, "Union County," *New Georgia Encyclopedia*. September 3, 2013. <http://georgiaencyclopedia.org/articles/counties-cities-neighborhoods/union-county>.

499. W. M. Powell and E.S. Luttrell, "Obituary of Jack Taylor, 1922-1975" in *Phytopathology* 67: 287.

500. New South Associates, *Architectural Survey*.

501. "TifBlair Centipede." Phillip Jennings Turf Farms, LLC. 2009. <http://www.sodfather.com/turf-grass/tifblair-centipede.asp>; New South Associates, *Architectural Survey*.

and outreach goals.<sup>502</sup> By 2004, the Community Council had created a successful on-going program of adult outreach seminars and classes.<sup>503</sup>

In 2004, with aid of funding from the Community Council, the Georgia Mountain Ethnobotanic Gardens and Woodland Medicine Trail were created on the grounds. The gardens and trail are intended to educate the public about the many uses of Georgia's native plants and to encourage preservation, cultivation, and use of these unique resources. Plants in the gardens and on the trail include a variety of species used by early inhabitants of the region for medicines, foods, and crafts. The work center/storage building, built as the community cannery (UGA 3506) by the CCC in 1937 and renovated in 2009, now serves as the garden's interpretive center.<sup>504</sup>

The Jarrett House, constructed in 1892, still stands and has been integrated into the Ethnobotanic and Medicine Trail through development of an adjacent herb garden that features sage, lavender, thyme and other culinary, tea, and medicinal herbs.<sup>505</sup>

Unlike the University of Georgia Experiment Stations at Griffin and Tifton, Georgia Mountain Research and Education Center does not offer college classes and is not itself a college campus. While original research is conducted by students and faculty and 4-H programs are offered, the center has received less funding than the larger stations and has had to maintain its buildings and landscapes for longer service lives. This has helped to preserve the older buildings, while discouraging the construction of newer facilities.

A timeline illustrating site history and development is provided in Appendix C.

## **Chronology of Development and Use**

The physical composition of the Georgia Mountain Research and Education Center has evolved continuously over its eighty-seven year history as a response to the needs of its agricultural program, the physical characteristics of the site, and available financial resources. The history of the property can be divided into three periods of development: 1930–1949; 1950–1970; and 1971–present. These periods reflect construction initiatives as well as changes in administration and research focus.

### **The Community of Blairsville prior to 1930 and the Christopher Farm**

The Blairsville region is the traditional homeland of the Cherokee people. European-American settlers began to arrive in the area in the 1830s from Virginia via the mountain passes within North and South Carolina, although the land was not considered terribly valuable for farming and attracted only those who had little financial means. Union County was formed in 1832 by the state legislature from Cherokee County. Blairsville, the only incorporated town within the county, was established in 1835 as the county seat.

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502. Community Council of the GMRE Center, informational brochure, circa 2005.

503. New South Associates, *Architectural Survey*.

504. Community Council, circa 2005.

505. *Ibid.*

At the time, the county was one of the most remote areas of Georgia. Roads and bridges were built to connect towns and communities beginning in the 1840s, facilitating settlement. Most local residents were farmers, or were tradespeople who supported agriculture—blacksmiths, millwrights, gunsmiths, tanners, distillers, and wheelwrights.

Following the Civil War, expansion of rail lines began to reach communities close to Union County, enabling farmers to expand distribution of their commodities, although the area remained relatively isolated and rural.

In 1892, property associated with the current station was owned by the John Martin family. The Victorian-style dwelling known as the Jarrett House was built in 1892 by local carpenter Bascomb Nelson. The house was constructed of hand-planed dressed boards and wooden peg nails. The original house consisted of a front porch, three large rooms and a hallway downstairs, with three rooms and a hallway upstairs. Another house, identical in design, was also built on the Martin farm and located on what is now known as the station's cattle farm, but has been demolished.<sup>506</sup>

The first paved road in Union County was not built until 1926. It extended between Cleveland and the North Carolina border. Also built during this period was the Appalachian Scenic Highway, which was traveled by many people residing in the mountains and by tourists.

The Martin family continued to own the property until it was leased for use by the Georgia Mountain Branch Experiment Station in 1930. The farm belonged to Bob Christopher, grandson of John Martin, but was being managed by Walter Brim Jarrett. Jarrett, his wife Ida, and their four children—Lorene, Lucille, Frank, and Pauline—lived in the house.

### **The Early Mountain Research Experiment Station (circa 1930–1949)**

The Georgia Mountain Branch Experiment Station, as part of the Georgia Experiment Station, was authorized by the Board of Directors at a meeting at Experiment, Georgia, on October 9, 1929, to meet the needs of mountain farmers. The purpose of the station was “. . . to provide assistance to the large number of farmers in the mountain region who, heretofore, had received very little of the benefits of agricultural research because the information developed elsewhere had not been proven to be applicable to a region with such distinct soil and climatic conditions as the mountains possess.”<sup>507</sup> Bonnell Stone, considered the “father of forestry in Georgia,” was instrumental to bringing the station to Blairsville. Stone served as the first interim director. He was followed in 1932 by John Bailey, who held the position of director until his retirement in 1972.

A tract of land was selected for the branch station in Union County along the Appalachian Scenic Highway, 3-1/2 miles south of Blairsville, and in 1930, the University of Georgia signed a lease for a 210-acre tract of the Christopher farm for use in establishing the station. The tract contained 60 to 70 acres of agricultural land and 140 acres of forest; stream bottomlands were to one side of

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506. University of Georgia pamphlet, “The Jarrett House at the Georgia Mountain Research & Education Center.”

507. Georgia Experiment Station, Annual Report for the year 1933-34, 89.

the road corridor along which the station was established, while the cultivated slopes and forests were on the other. Walter Jarrett, manager of the Christopher farm, was hired as foreman for the property and the family continued living in the house. The work begun at the station in January 1930 focused on fruits and vegetables. The Mountain Branch Experiment Station was designed to serve fifteen or more counties within the Appalachian Highlands of north Georgia, where very little agricultural research had been done prior to its establishment. As the station developed, other lines of inquiry were added to include field crops, soils, erosion control, and fertilizer practices and their influence on farming operations of the area.

Research conducted at the station illustrated how good variety selection coupled with proper fertilizer applications produced excellent yields of fruits and vegetables. The experimental horticultural crops planted in the early years were crops thought to do well in the northern climate. Testing involved the planting of different varieties of several plants—potatoes, other vegetables, and fruits, such as grapes, berries, apples, cherries, peaches, plums, and quinces—to see which did best in this region. The mountain region was considered well suited to growing Irish potatoes. Three acres were devoted to Irish potatoes, using certified seed of several varieties obtained from Canada, Wyoming, Nebraska, Idaho, and Georgia.<sup>508</sup>

Forestry projects were also undertaken in cooperation with state and federal agencies to determine rates of growth and results of clear cutting of various species of trees native to the region.<sup>509</sup> Specifically, silvicultural practices were explored in cooperation with the Appalachian Forest Experiment Station at Asheville, North Carolina, and the Georgia State Department of Forestry.

During the first year of the University's lease, a cottage was built that was used as a combination office and living quarters for staff when on duty. The University also built a tool shed and farm road. A ram pump was established to supply water for the cottage and a foreman's house added later; water for the pump was supplied by a spring above the present-day Farmers' Meeting complex, pumped uphill, and stored in a holding tank near the cottage.

Dr. H. P. Stuckey, director of the Coastal Plain Experiment Station at Tifton, helped develop programs for the Mountain Branch Experiment Station. These included several educational programs where local farmers were taught to diversify their crops. The station was considered instrumental to the growth of the county's economy.

The property was purchased in 1932 by the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia. After the Board of Regents purchased the land in 1932, they began to make permanent improvements and expanded research to include feed grains, forages, soil fertility, dairying, and sheep.<sup>510</sup>

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508. Georgia Coastal Plain Experiment Station (CPES), H. P. Stuckey, Dir., *1930 Annual Report*, npp.

509. University of Georgia pamphlet, "The Jarrett House at the Georgia Mountain Research & Education Center."

510. College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences, "Profile & History of the Georgia Mountain Research & Education Center."

Soon thereafter, the CCC constructed a soil test laboratory at the station, while the Federal Emergency Relief Agency built a fruit stand and community cannery, helping render the station a community center for rural Union County. H. P. Stuckey, Director of the Coastal Plain Experiment Station at Tifton, noted in the 1933–1934 Annual Report:

With the cooperation of the CWA and CCC workers it has been possible to erect a serviceable stone building at a very low cost. Rock for the foundation and walls of the building was collected by these workers, who also assisted in the erection of the building and installing the plumbing fixtures and sewer lines. The lower story of the building contains an apple and vegetable storage cellar, garage, and space for farm machinery. The upper story provides space for two offices and a room for packing fruits and vegetables which may also be used for meetings of small groups of farmers. Irrigation has been provided to determine the added cost of growing vegetables under irrigation, during dry weather, and in the mountainous section of the state. The size of the pipes was increased to supply sufficient water, and approximately 600 feet of two-inch pipe were installed for surface irrigation.<sup>511</sup>

The fruit stand was designed to double as a roadside marker. It included a storage cellar and was constructed of native stone using labor supplied by the Federal Emergency Relief Administration. The stand was to be used for marketing surplus fruits and vegetables produced on the station farm. Federal Emergency Relief Administration labor was also used in improving the grounds and roads and enlarging the irrigation system.<sup>512</sup>

Stuckey also noted that “. . . a temporary community canning plant, including a small boiler, a pressure cooker, and two copper vats, was built in the fall of 1933 in time to can approximately 1,000 cans of tomatoes, beans, and corn.”<sup>513</sup> The community cannery was very popular and served approximately 500 families by producing 12,000 cans of beans, tomatoes, corn, and other products in 1935.

North Georgia is known for the quality of its sorghum syrup. In order to promote the establishment of centralized syrup making mills capable of producing a uniform product under a brand name that could be marketed to better advantage, the station conducted tests to determine best adapted varieties, fertilizer requirements, and cultural practices for ten sorghum varieties. Juices of the different varieties were to be analyzed for sugar content. In 1936, the TVA was noted as cooperating in installing a plant for making sorghum syrup at the community cannery that would be in operation by the fall. The equipment was to consist of a power mill, steam evaporator, and three 500-gallon mixing tanks. The farmers in Union and adjoining counties planted several hundred acres in leading sorghum varieties, such as Honey Dip, Kansas Orange, Texas Seeded Blue Ribbon, Red X, and Sugar Drip in anticipation. Seeds were furnished by the TVA.<sup>514</sup>

The station served as a gathering place for local farmers. Every year in August, a farmers’ meeting and market day, referred to as Field Day, was held at the

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511. Coastal Plain Experiment Station Annual Report 1933–1934, 40.

512. *Ibid.*

513. *Ibid.*

514. Coastal Plain Experiment Station Annual Report 1935.

Mountain Branch Experiment Station to bring the farmers in contact with the experiments under way and to promote interest and give information in the production and marketing of farm products. Farmers and housewives would bring marketable size packages of agricultural and homemade products, and exhibit them to compete for useful prizes. On August 10, 1933, approximately 3,600 participants attended the annual farmers' meeting. The meeting benefited from the contribution of “. . . fifty-one useful premiums [from] merchants and others interested in agriculture, offered for best displays of fruits, vegetables, field crops, hand work, home cooking, etc. Interest shown in these meetings and the good derived from them is increasing as indicated by the growing numbers of exhibits and the enlarged attendance each year.<sup>515</sup>

In 1938, the station entered into a cooperative agreement with the TVA, due to its location within the Tennessee River basin, and became one of the founders of the Georgia-TVA Council, formed to promote the use of yield-building fertilizers within the region.<sup>516</sup> TVA financed much of the research work at the station and, in exchange, the station promoted TVA fertilizers to local farmers.<sup>517</sup> The results were immediately positive and one of Union County's farmers soon produced 100 bushels of corn per acre as a result of the recommendations of the council. It was also during the 1930s that the station produced a new, superior, bell pepper variety, which local farmers grew for the Joseph Campbell Company, while flax was also grown in cooperation with the TVA.

The station continued to expand in the early 1940s in the research of feed grains, forages, soil fertility, dairying, and sheep.

### **Growth of the Experiment Station Following World War II (1950–1970)**

Research conducted from 1950 through 1990 resulted in gains in apple production, forage evaluations for sheep production, soil-test-crop-yield correlations, variety testing of horticulture crops, beef cattle stocker feeding, and swine production.<sup>518</sup> Research conducted at the station also discovered that Black Rot fungus invades the apple at the time of bloom, suggesting new treatment strategies.

Buildings constructed during the 1950s and 1960s included a feed barn in 1952 (UGA 3529), Administration Building in 1953 (UGA 3529), greenhouse and headhouse in 1959 (UGA 3510), and picnic pavilion in 1964 (UGA 3523).

### **Contemporary Experiment Station (1971–present)**

The station's outstanding tradition of research continued in the 1990s through the cultivation and introduction of TifBlair centipede grass. In 2000, the station was renamed the Georgia Mountain Research and Education Center to better reflect its broadened purpose as an educational facility.

The Community Council was established in 2003 as a non-profit organization to complement the work of the station in service to the region. The Council is

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515. Coastal Plain Experiment Station Annual Report 1933–1934.

516. College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences, 2013b.

517. Higgins et al., 1975.

518. College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences, 2013b.

structured into three committees: Education, Outreach, and Preservation. In 2004, aided by funds raised by the Community Council of the Georgia Mountain Research and Education Center, a series of adult outreach seminars was initiated that addressed several topics of interest to the home and farm gardener. The Council also provides hands-on field experiences for area school children.

During the late 2000s, the Council established the Appalachian Ethnobotanical Garden and the Jarrett House Heirloom Garden. One of the goals of the Council's Preservation Committee is to educate the public on the importance of preserving the incredible diversity of native plant species living in the Southern Appalachian Mountain Region. In addition to the development of the Ethnobotanic sanctuaries at the station, the Preservation Committee provides public education and outreach and plant rescue support.

In 2013, Stephen Mullis became the fifth director of the station.

## Overview Description of Mountain Research

Mountain Research extends over approximately 415 acres within Union County, Georgia, within the Mountains region of the state. The station is located approximately 3-1/2 miles south of the town of Blairsville, along Highway 129/19 (former Appalachian Scenic Highway). Union County abuts the North Carolina border. Other unincorporated communities within the county include Neels Gap and Suches. Neels Gap was named for W. R. Neel, the chief engineer of the survey that established the alignment of the Appalachian Scenic Highway that extends through the gap. Suches is the site of the Chattahoochee National Forest Fish Hatchery.



Figure 388. Context map illustrating the location of Mountain Research Center within the state of Georgia. (Source: Wiss, Janney, Elstner Associates, Inc., 2016)

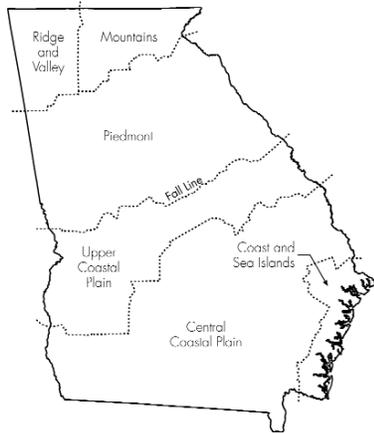


Figure 389. Location map illustrating the physiographic provinces of Georgia, including the "Mountains" province where the Georgia Mountain Research and Education Center is located. (Source: *Tilling the Earth*)



Figure 390. Aerial view of the Georgia Mountain Research and Education Center. (Source: University of Georgia Office of Research)

The station features orchards, test plots, pasture land, specimen and display gardens, forests, and institutional buildings, farm outbuildings, maintenance facilities, research structures, and greenhouses. These features are connected by a grid of internal roads, parking areas, and trails.

The buildings and structures at the station reflect the history of the property, from its origins as the Martin family farm to the University of Georgia's lease of the land in 1930, its association with the CCC, FERA, and TVA, and its role as a community center. The station has a wide variety of buildings, ranging from the two-story gabled-ell Jarrett House constructed in 1892 for the Martin family to the buildings constructed by the CCC and the university in the 1930s, and several mid- to late-twentieth-century buildings and structures in use today.

## **Identification of Mountain Research Character Areas**

To facilitate the organization of cultural resource identification and evaluation, the Georgia Mountain Research and Education Center campus has been divided into character areas. Character areas are land bays or geographic areas that share similar physical traits or characteristics, a similar period of physical development, or are otherwise unified by land use, topography, vegetative character, design, or historic associations. For each character area, the primary historic landscape and built resources and their character-defining features are identified, and their condition and integrity assessed. The character areas used to describe campus resources include:

- A. Historic Station Entry
- B. Administration
- C. Jarrett House
- D. Farmers' Meeting Complex
- E. Experiment Fields

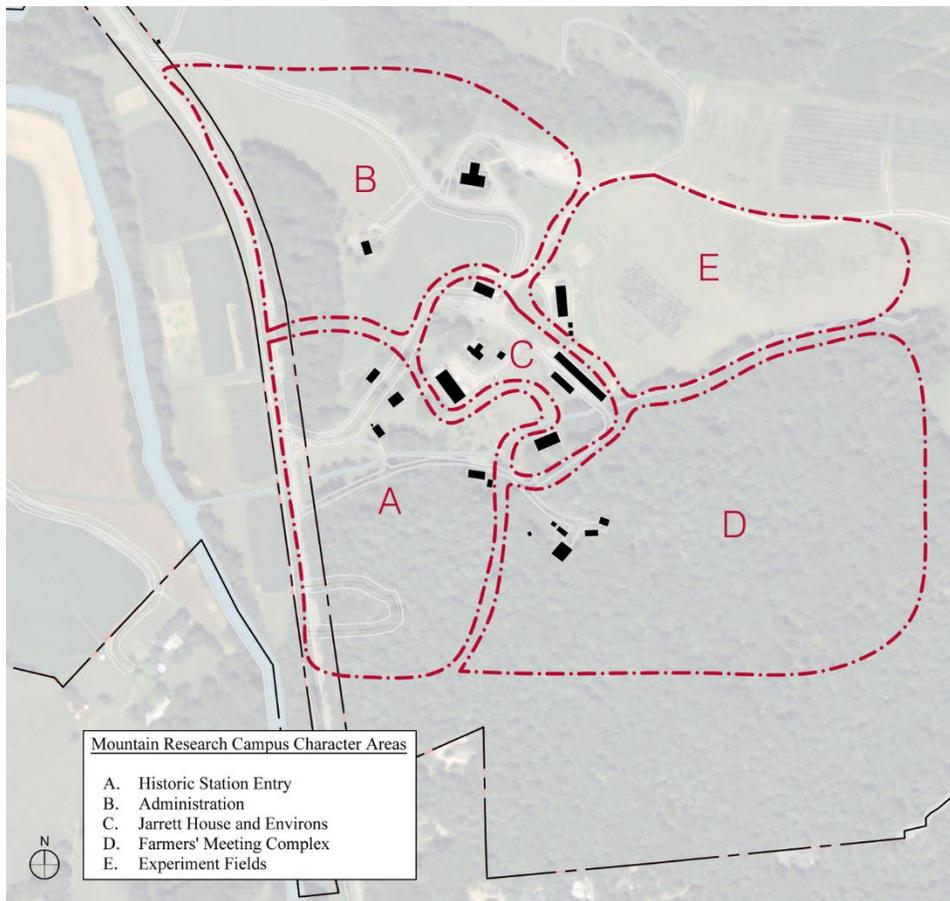


Figure 391. Character areas of Mountain Research Center. (Source: Wiss, Janney, Elstner Associates, Inc., 2016)

## Identification and Evaluation of Historic Resources by Character Area

The pages that follow identify, describe, and assess the building, landscape, and archaeological resources associated with the Georgia Mountain Research and Education Center by character area. An overview description of the character area introduces each section. The introduction is followed by brief descriptions of historic landscape, building, and archaeological resources, and a general assessment of their historical integrity.

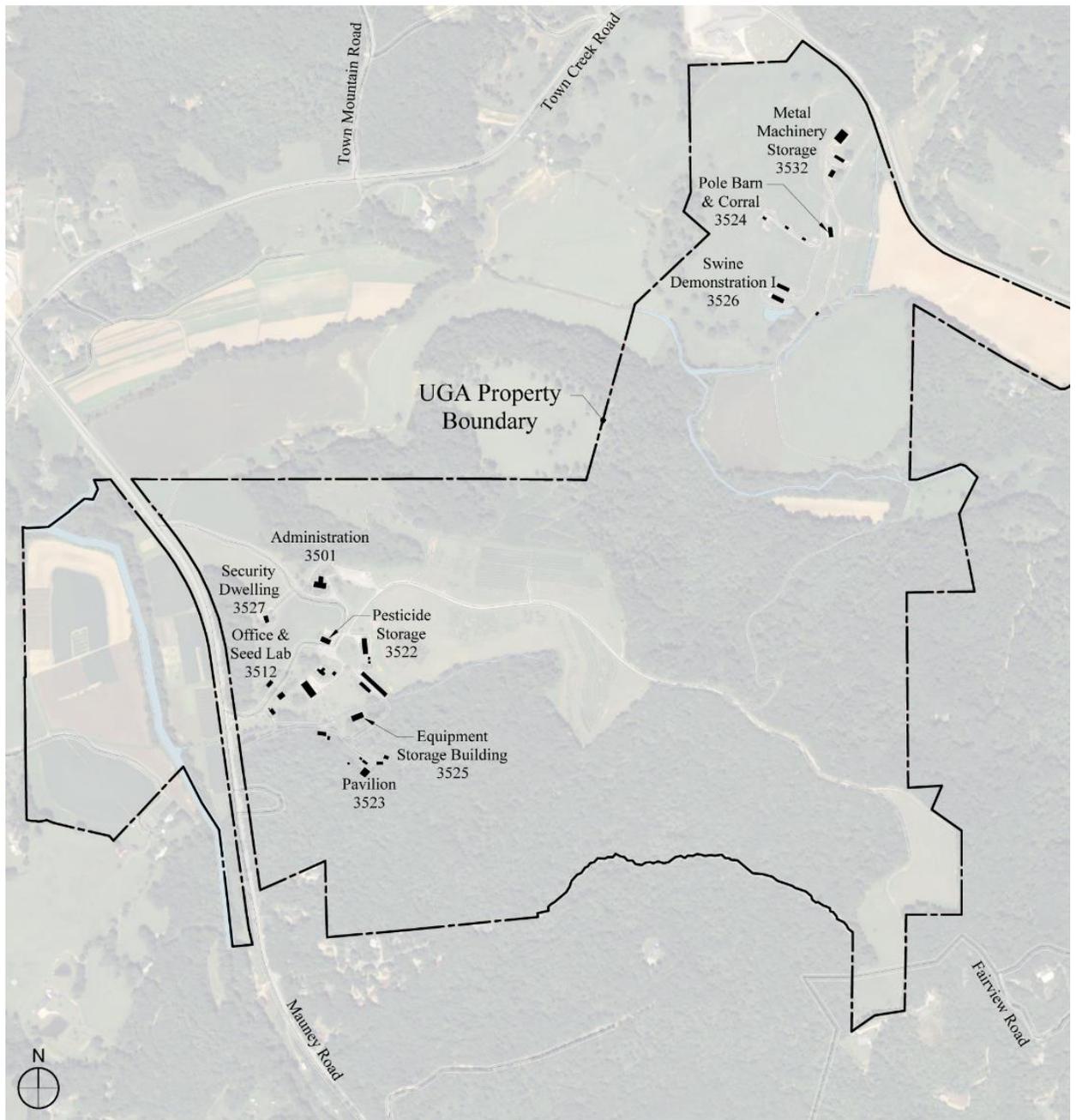


Figure 392. Map showing resources of the Mountain Research Center. (Source: Wiss, Janney, Elstner Associates, Inc., 2016)

## Historic Station Entry

The Historic Station Entry character area includes the historic station entrance at U.S. Highway 129/U.S. Highway 19, various buildings and landscape features along the edge of the road corridor as it traverses the hillside below the Jarrett House, a secondary entrance that parallels the historic entrance to its south, a small unnamed stream corridor, stone entry pier features, and display gardens. This character area includes the first building constructed to support station use—a cottage built in 1930—and several stone buildings, walls, and steps built during the 1930s by the CCC and FERA. The buildings include a fruit stand, office and seed lab (UGA 3512), and community cannery (UGA 3506), as well as a root cellar.

## Building Resources



Figure 393. The cottage.

**Cottage – UGA 3511 (1930, Category 2).** The Cottage is a single-story wood frame structure with a hipped roof clad with asphalt shingles. A single stone chimney extends from the center of the roof ridgeline. The walls are clad with vertical boards. The foundation is stone. There is a small screened entry porch. Windows are six-over-six double-hung sash. There appears to be an addition on the northeast elevation. The cottage is edged by mortared stone piers that extend the line of the stone foundation of the cottage and mark a flight of stairs that lead to the building entrance.

The cottage was the first building constructed to support the station. Station employees lived here until 1989. It has since been used as storage.<sup>519</sup> The cottage appears to contribute to a National Register-eligible historic district. As such it is assessed as a Category 2 resource.

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519. New South Associates, *Architectural Survey*.



Figure 394. The work center/storage building originally constructed as a community cannery.

***Work center/storage (cannery) – UGA 3506 (1934, Category 1).*** The work center/storage building, or former community cannery, is located along the station’s secondary entrance south of the stream corridor that flows through the property. The building was constructed in 1937 as a community cannery by FERA. It is a single-story stone structure with a hipped roof. The principal facade has six bays that feature one six-light fixed window, three eight-light windows, one single-door entrance, and another two-door entrance. The roof has overhanging eaves with exposed rafter ends. The walls are rough stone with large mortar joints. The entrance is elevated and accessed via a stone and concrete platform. A wood fence protects visitors from falling from the platform. A sign above the door notes “Community Cannery.” The right facade has stone steps that lead to the doorway and a six-light window. The left facade has one six-light window and one door. The rear facade has six bays of six-light windows, set atop concrete sills. A stone retaining wall establishes a level precinct behind the building. Interpreted display gardens featuring herbs and vegetables are located around the building.

The building is currently used as an interpretive center, visitor center, and classroom. It served for many years as a community cannery, educating and providing safe preservation of meats, fruits, and vegetables for the public. It was renovated in 2009 to accommodate its current purpose. The building appears to possess sufficient integrity to convey its historic associations. Built during the proposed period of significance, the building appears to contribute to a National Register-eligible historic district. Based on its architecture, association with FERA, and surviving evidence of mid-twentieth century canning equipment, it also may be individually eligible for listing and is assessed as a Category 1 resource.



Figure 395. The Office and Seed Lab.

***Office and Seed Lab (soils lab) – UGA 3512 (circa 1934, Category 1).*** The Office and Seed Lab is a two-story stone structure with a hipped roof located in close proximity to the historic entrance road, now named Georgia Mountain Experiment Station Road. The building was constructed during the New Deal era by CCC labor circa 1934. It has been known over the years as the rock office and laboratory, and the soils lab.

The principal facade, which faces east, includes two vertical-board garage bays on the left, a twelve-light entry door in the center, and two bays to the east, each of which has one three-over-three single-sash window. The factory sash windows have stone sills. Entrances in the second story are accessed from the lower level via stepped stone entryways on both side facades. Piers mark landings associated with the steps. Handrails are composed of steel pipes fitted into the piers. The building is set within the bank of the hill with the left and rear sides of the first floor under ground. The hipped roof has overhanging aluminum eaves. A stone retaining wall extends from the right facade.

Although the building has been rehabilitated since its original construction to accommodate evolving needs, the Office and Seed Lab possesses sufficient integrity to convey its historic associations. Built during the proposed period of significance, the building is assessed as a Category 1 resource.

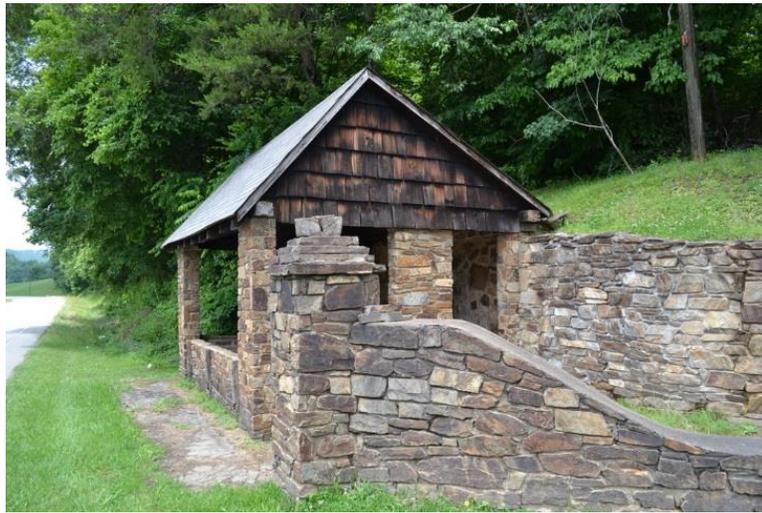


Figure 396. The fruit stand is located facing the highway at the historic entrance into the property.

***Fruit stand (circa 1934, Category 2).*** The fruit stand sits at the intersection of the highway and the historic station entry road and faces the highway. The building was constructed during the New Deal era by CCC labor circa 1934.

The open-air structure is constructed of stone, and has a gable roof clad with asphalt shingles. Wood shingles clad the gable ends. The structure is supported with four stone piers in the front and midpoint of the sides. The rear is a full height stone wall. The front and side piers are connected by a low, approximately 2-1/2-foot tall stone wall. An opening along the south facade permits entry into the fruit stand. A stone landing is located at the front of the structure. A stone retaining wall extends southward from the rear wall.

Although some materials have been replaced through regular maintenance, since its original construction, the fruit stand appears to possess sufficient integrity to convey its historic associations. Built during the proposed period of significance, the building appears to contribute to a National Register-eligible historic district. As such it is assessed as a Category 2 resource.

***Root cellar (circa 1934, Category 2).*** The root cellar is set into a hillside to the east of Georgia Mountain Experiment Station Road and the Office and Seed Lab. Although historic records are inconclusive on this point, the building was likely constructed during the New Deal era by CCC labor circa 1934.

The structure, which has a curved form, has a random coursed stone arch at the roofline and a filled in stone arch entryway with a double wooden door and single light transom. A large metal vent stack rises from the ground above the root cellar behind the stone facade. The root cellar is set within the hillside.



Figure 397. The root cellar.

Although it is not clear to what degree changes have been made to the structure since its original construction, the root cellar appears to possess sufficient integrity to convey its historic associations. Likely built during the proposed period of significance, the building appears to contribute to a National Register-eligible historic district. As such it is assessed as a Category 2 resource.



Figure 398. The tool storage shed, which is located east of the work center/storage building.

***Tool storage shed – UGA 3517 (1937, Category 2).*** Located to the east of the work center/storage building adjacent to the Woodland Medicine Trail and spring house site is a wood frame single-story tool shed with a gable roof and a shed addition across the front. The roof has exposed rafter tails. There are fixed windows with wood sills on the front facade. Both side facades features board and batten doors. The tool storage shed was constructed in 1937. Although it has been altered through the construction of an addition, it appears to possess sufficient integrity to convey its historic associations. Built during the proposed period of significance, the building appears to contribute to a National Register-eligible historic district. As such it is assessed as a Category 2 resource.

## Landscape Resources

The Historic Station Entry character area features two parallel entrances leading into the property from U.S. Highway 129/19. One constitutes the historic primary entrance. The other formerly served as a secondary entrance. The primary entrance leads past the fruit stands, Office and Seed Lab, and root cellar, while the secondary road provides access to the work center/storage building and tool storage shed buildings. The historic primary entrance is referred to as Georgia Mountain Experiment Station Road, and eventually connects with the current primary entrance near the Administration building to the northwest. The secondary entrance road, located to the south, also provides access to the Farmers' Meeting complex and the Jarrett House. Stone walls and piers mark the entrances into the station, and serve to retain steep slopes in some locations. Stone walls and stone-lined channels are also associated with the conveyance of stormwater away from the road and building entrances.

### ***Georgia Mountain Experiment Station Road (date undetermined, Category 2).***

The historic entrance road corridor currently serves as a secondary entrance into the station. Built by 1934 to connect the features of the station, the road is a narrow two-lane asphalt-paved corridor edged by swales and channels that convey stormwater. The road splits at its intersection with the highway, forming a Y. Stone walls and piers mark the entry. The fruit stand is located at the northern edge of the intersection. The specific date of origin of the road corridor is not documented in archival material reviewed for this study.

Although it no longer serves as the primary entrance into the station, this segment of Georgia Mountain Experiment Station Road was built during the period of significance and possesses sufficient integrity to convey its historic associations. The road thus appears to contribute to a National Register-eligible historic district. As such it is assessed as a Category 2 resource.

***Road leading to the cannery and Farmers' Meeting complex (date undetermined, Category 2).*** The road leading to the cannery parallels Georgia Mountain Experiment Station Road to its south. It follows the stream corridor and provides access to the former cannery before winding northwestward toward the Jarrett House. It also provides access to the Farmers' Meeting complex. The road is a narrow, two-lane asphalt-paved corridor. At the intersection with the highway, the road is marked by two modest stone piers with square capstones. A metal swing arm gate limits access to this road corridor. The date of origin of the road is not documented in archival material reviewed for this study.

The road leading to the former cannery and Farmers' Market complex was built during the period of significance and possesses sufficient integrity to convey its historic associations. The road thus appears to contribute to a National Register-eligible historic district. As such it is assessed as a Category 2 resource.



Figure 399. Stone walls and entry piers.

*Stone walls and entry piers (date undetermined, Category 2).* The entrance into the station associated with the historic station entrance road is marked by stone piers edged by stone walls. The walls are varied in their height and character. At the western edge of the road near the fruit stand, the wall forms a sweeping curve that is punctuated by a tall pier. The pier features a pyramidal brick cap. A similar pier marks the eastern edge of the road, which forms a Y where it meets the highway. Within the median formed by the Y, there is a low stone wall and another stone pier with a pyramidal brick cap. The pier is inset with a sign panel that reads “Georgia Mountain Experiment Station Est. 1930.” This pier also contains a mail box insert.

The stone walls and entry piers appear to have been built circa 1934 during the period of significance and possesses sufficient integrity to convey their historic associations, although their specific date of original is not documented in archival material reviewed for this study. The wall and pier feature thus appears to contribute to a National Register-eligible historic district. As such it is assessed as a Category 2 resource.



Figure 400. Entrance road retaining wall.

***Georgia Mountain Experiment Station Road retaining wall (date undetermined, Category 2).*** Georgia Mountain Experiment Station Road is edged by a relatively level shoulder, after which the grade drops away to the east. A low stacked stone retaining wall helps to form the shoulder at this point. The wall is in need of repair as portions have collapsed.

The Georgia Mountain Experiment Station Road retaining wall was likely built circa 1934, although its date of origin is not documented in archival material reviewed for this study. As such, it was constructed during the period of significance. Although it has condition issues, the wall possesses sufficient integrity to convey its historic associations. The wall thus appears to contribute to a National Register-eligible historic district. As such it is assessed as a Category 2 resource.



Figure 401. Stone wall near the root cellar.

***Stone wall near Office and Seed Lab Building (date undetermined, Category 2).*** Another stone wall extends east from Georgia Mountain Experiment Station Road across from the Office and Seed Lab Building. A mature sycamore tree edges the wall near the road. Constructed of mortared fieldstone, the wall serves to retain a segment of the hillside near the root cellar. A flight of stone steps extend through the wall to the root cellar. Portions of the wall have begun to deteriorate.

The stone wall was likely built circa 1934, although its date of origin is not documented in archival material reviewed for this study. As such, it was constructed during the period of significance. Although it has condition issues, the wall possesses sufficient integrity to convey its historic associations. The wall thus appears to contribute to a National Register-eligible historic district. As such it is assessed as a Category 2 resource.



Figure 402. Stone walls associated with the Office and Seed Lab.

***Stone walls and steps at the office and seed lab (date undetermined, Category 2).*** Two parallel mortared stone retaining walls, 18 inches in height, edge the road corridor to the south of the Office and Seed Lab. The upper wall ends in a stone pier. Stone steps extend through the northern end of the wall to provide access to the second story of the office and seed lab.

These stone walls were likely built circa 1934, although their date of origin is not documented in archival material reviewed for this study. As such, they were constructed during the period of significance. The walls possess sufficient integrity to convey their historic associations. The wall thus appears to contribute to a National Register-eligible historic district. As such it is assessed as a Category 2 resource.

***Cottage drive (date undetermined, Category 2).*** A two-track drive, surfaced with gravel and turf, connects the historic primary and secondary entrance roads, while also providing access to the cottage. A contemporary wooden bridge currently provides access to cottage drive from the historic secondary entrance road.

Little is known about the origin or history of this road. It appears to have been constructed to provide access to the cottage, and thus may date to 1930, although its date of origin is not documented in archival material reviewed for this study. As such it is assessed as a Category 2 resource.

***Stormwater management system (date undetermined, Category 2).*** Stormwater management systems associated with Georgia Mountain Experiment Station Road include a swale and culvert with stone-lined headwall that directs water into a pipe beneath the ground in front of the Office and Seed Lab.



Figure 403. The stormwater management system that parallels Georgia Mountain Experiment Station Road near the Office and Seed Lab.

Although the date of origin of the system is not known, it was likely built circa 1934 along with the building and road. As such, it was constructed during the period of significance. The system possess sufficient integrity to convey its historic associations and appears to contribute to a National Register-eligible historic district. As such it is assessed as a Category 2 resource.



Figure 404. Stone ruin runs along the road corridor.

***Stone ruin (date undetermined, Category 2).*** A circular two-tier stone feature edges the historic entrance road across from the Office and Seed Lab. Although the origin of the feature is not known, based on assessment of the stone work, it was likely built during the 1930s with many of the other stone features. Little is known about the feature and what purpose it served. It has lost integrity, but may

constitute an archeological resource. Further research and investigation are needed to complete an assessment of the feature.



Figure 405. Map of the Appalachian Native Botanical Sanctuary and Georgia Mountain Ethnobotanic Gardens.

***Appalachian Native Botanical Sanctuary and Georgia Mountain Ethnobotanic Gardens (date undetermined, Category 4).*** The landscape along the stream was designated as the Appalachian Native Botanical Sanctuary in 2004 based on plans prepared by the Community Council’s Preservation Committee. It features gardens intended to educate the public about the many uses of our native plants, and to encourage preservation, cultivation, and use of these unique resources. The Georgia Mountain Ethnobotanic Gardens contain plants that were harvested and often cultivated by early inhabitants of the region for a variety of medicinal, food, and fiber uses. The hillside beds feature sun loving plants, while those that need moisture thrive along the creek and in the bog garden. Other specialty gardens, located adjacent to the cannery, include a forage garden of plants gathered primarily for food, and a fern garden. The garden includes benches, birdhouses, interpretive signage, and a pergola. This feature postdates the period of significance and is non-contributing.

***Woodland Medicine Trail (date undetermined, Category 4).*** The Woodland Medicine Trail extends for one-quarter mile between the Farmers’ Meeting complex and the cannery and tool shed. It features wooden boardwalk, benches, and stone walls and edging. Visitors experience woodland wildflowers, herbs, ferns, and shrubs used by American Indians and early settlers. The head of the trail was the site of an old spring house that once provided water to the Jarrett

House and the former cannery. This feature postdates the period of significance and is non-contributing.

### **Administration**

The Administration character area includes the current entrance into the station, access road and parking associated with the Administration Building, additional roads, woodland, and a feed barn.

### **Building Resources**



Figure 406. Administration building.

***Administration Building – UGA 3501 (1953, Category 2).*** The Administration building is located along Georgia Mountain Experiment Station Road, which enters the station from U.S. Highway 129/19 north of the historic primary entrance road. The Administration building sits atop a knoll that affords long views of the surrounding mountains. It was constructed in 1953 to support the expanding needs of the station.

The Administration Building is a single-story brick structure with a hipped roof. The front facade features a central doorway with two, three-light doors set beneath a cross gable, pedimented entryway. The pediment is supported by brick piers. Foundation plantings edge the building facade. Five single-light fixed windows edge the central doorway to either side. The left facade has a secondary entry and window. The rear has a T-shaped extension that features a large bank of seven fixed windows. The rear T-section is gabled, and is clad with brick with vinyl at the gable. The right facade of the T-section has an entry door and a bank of six windows. The front section of the right facade mirrors the left.

The Administration Building was constructed in 1953, and appears to be little changed. Built during the proposed period of significance, the Administration Building appears to possess sufficient integrity to convey its historic associations. As such, the building appears to contribute to a National Register-eligible historic district and has been assessed as a Category 2 resource.



Figure 407. The feed barn.

***Feed Barn – UGA 3529 (1952, Category 2).*** The Feed Barn is located in the field southwest of the Administration Building. It is approached by a secondary gravel access road. The open-air barn features round wood posts that support the gable roof and its exposed rafter beams. The structure also features dimensioned wood beams and rafters. The right facade is covered with corrugated metal, and there is also metal infill at the gable.

The feed barn was constructed in 1952, and appears to be little changed. Built during the proposed period of significance, the feed barn appears to possess sufficient integrity to convey its historic associations. As such, the building appears to contribute to a National Register-eligible historic district and has been assessed as a Category 2 resource.

### **Landscape Resources**

***Georgia Mountain Experiment Station Road (date undetermined, category undetermined).*** The segment of Georgia Mountain Experiment Station Road that provides access to the Administration Building is a later addition to the station that may have been built in 1953 with the building. It currently serves as the primary entrance into the station. The road is a narrow two-lane asphalt-paved corridor that leads from U.S. Highway 129/19 to the Administration Building, and continues to join the historic entrance road and the Jarrett House. The road also provides access to a parking area behind the Administration Building.

Although the date of origin of the newer segment of Georgia Mountain Experiment Station Road is not confirmed, it likely was built in 1953 to accommodate the new Administration Building. As such, the road would have been built during the proposed period of significance. It appears to possess sufficient integrity to convey its historic associations, and would thus contribute to a National Register-eligible historic district. It has been assessed as a Category 2 resource for that reason.

***Road to feed barn (circa 1952, Category 2).*** A small paved road extends from Georgia Mountain Experiment Station Road to the feed barn before it reaches the

Administration Building. The road was likely built to provide access to the barn in 1952. As such, it may constitute a contributing feature of a National Register-eligible district and has been assessed as a Category 2 resource.

**Road to northwest (date undetermined, category undetermined).** A second access road leads northwest from the highway at the intersection of Georgia Mountain Experiment Station Road and U.S. Highway 129/19. It leads to the western edge of the woodlands. Little is known about the date of origin of this road. The date of origin of this road is not documented in archival material reviewed for this study.

### Jarrett House

The Jarrett House character area includes the Jarrett House, an associated storage building, a greenhouse, a maintenance vehicle shed, and a utility warehouse, as well as roads, stone walls, and display gardens.

### Building Resources



Figure 408. Jarrett House.

**Jarrett House – UGA 3508 (1892, Category 1).** The Jarrett House predates the establishment of the Georgia Mountain Branch Experiment Station. It is located on a knoll below the Administration Building. The dwelling was constructed in 1892 and is a wood-framed Folk Victorian structure with a gabled-ell. The house was constructed of hand-planed dressed boards and wooden peg nails. The original house consisted of a front porch, three large rooms and a hallway downstairs, with three rooms and a hallway upstairs. During the early 1930s, the house was enlarged with the addition of an eat-in kitchen, bathroom, and a back porch.

The front of the house has a porch in the ell, with two doors. One has a four-panel wood door, while the other has a four-panel wood door with three-light side lights and a four-light transom. Each doorway has dentil detailing. The gabled section of the principal facade has four-over-four double-hung sash windows on each level. There are fish-scale shingles in the gabled section and ornate wood detailing on the eaves. The right side facade has one four-over-four double-hung sash window on the main floor, and two four-over-four double-hung

sash windows on the second floor, one to either side of a rough stone chimney. There is also a three-room addition at the rear facade. The left facade has three windows on the first floor, and two on the second floor in the gabled section. The addition has two windows, and a rough stone foundation with rough mortar. The front porch has brick piers with chamfered wooden posts and ornate brackets.

After the property was acquired by the state of Georgia, Jarrett family members remember, Dr. Stuckey, W. G. Woodruff, John Bailey, administrative staff, and Brim Jarrett, using the house as a command center for the station where they would conduct business and take meals before the Office and Seed Lab (originally the rock office and laboratory, and later the soils lab) were completed by the CCC in 1934.

The Jarrett House had one of the first telephones in the area and daily weather readings were taken and reported to Atlanta by Brim or his oldest daughter, Lorene. Weather readings are still taken and reported daily from the station.

For years the house was heated only by four fireplaces and the Jarrett children remember many cold mornings with snow on their beds; a fire was lit in the upstairs fireplace only on special occasions. An icebox on the back porch was stocked with 100 pounds of ice twice a week by a truck that came from Murphy, North Carolina.

It is likely that the Jarrett family left the house after Brim Jarrett's death in 1949. Nonetheless, the house continued to be known as the Jarrett House, except for a later modification. Apples and research into apple cultivation have played a major part in the history of the Station. When the house was no longer used as a residence, it became a storage building for abundant apple crops. Over time, the house also became known as the Jarrett Apple House.

In the late 1990s, a University of Georgia graduate student's thesis study inspired a project to establish an arboretum on station grounds. The initial plan called for the restoration of the Jarrett Apple House as the focal point and headquarters of the arboretum. To gain support for the project, a replica of the house was built by Don Cordier and featured in a prize-winning entry in the 1999 Southeastern Flower Show. Unfortunately, the University of Georgia Fire Marshall determined shortly thereafter the house could not safely hold groups of people, nor could it serve as a headquarters building.

The Jarrett House appears individually eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. It is thus assessed as a Category 1 resource.



Figure 409. The utility warehouse.

**Utility warehouse – UGA 3518 (1959, Category 2).** The utility warehouse is a single-story concrete structure with a gable roof with overhanging wood eaves. The principal facade, which faces the road connecting the Jarrett House and work center/storage building environs, features eleven aluminum garage bays. There is an additional garage bay in the right facade. The windows, which are three-over-four light, have concrete sills. The gables are faced with corrugated sheet aluminum. The warehouse is utilitarian in character with little detailing. It sits across from a maintenance vehicle shed.

The utility warehouse was constructed in 1959, and appears to be little changed. Built during the proposed period of significance, the utility warehouse appears to possess sufficient integrity to convey its historic associations. As such, the building appears to contribute to a National Register-eligible historic district and has been assessed as a Category 2 resource.



Figure 410. The storage building.

**Storage building (root cellar, smokehouse) – UGA 3520 (circa 1934, Category 2).** The storage building, which is also referred to as a root cellar and

smokehouse in some documents, is located to the east of the Jarrett House. It is a modest, one-story stone structure with a gable roof clad with asphalt shingles and exposed rafter tails. A shed roof wood frame addition with vertical board siding sits to the south of the stone section. Weatherboard are associated with the front and back gables, side shed addition and addition and entry doors. The building includes a stone and brick chimney in the corner and a single wood door. The north facade has a single three-over-three light set within a wood frame. The rear facade has a single window that is covered with tin.

The storage building is thought to have been constructed in 1935 to support expanded use of the house for station needs. It was thus built during the proposed period of significance. The building also appears to possess sufficient integrity to convey its historic associations, and would thus contribute to a National Register-eligible historic district. It has been assessed as a Category 2 resource.



Figure 411. The maintenance vehicle shed.

***Maintenance vehicle shed – UGA 3528 (circa 1980, Category 5).*** Located across the road from the utility warehouse is a maintenance vehicle shed. This wood frame structure also faces the road. It has vertical board siding and a gable roof. The gable ends are clad with horizontal wood siding.

The date of origin of the maintenance vehicle shed has not been identified in archival documents reviewed for this study.



Figure 412. The storage building.

***Storage building (date undetermined, category undetermined).*** Located below the knoll associated with the Jarrett House and along the stream corridor is a corrugated metal storage building. An unimproved access road leads to the storage building from the paved road that connects the Jarrett House with the work center/storage building and Farmers' Meeting complex. The storage building has a concrete block foundation, corrugated metal walls, and a standing seam metal gable roof. The building is composed of two sections and steps down with the slope of the terrain.

The date of origin of the storage building has not been identified in support of this assessment. The date of origin of this building is not documented in archival material reviewed for this study.

## **Landscape Resources**



Figure 413. Part of the stone wall near the Jarrett House.

***Stone wall, Jarrett House (date undetermined, Category 2).*** A low stacked fieldstone wall edges part of the Jarrett House helping to form a level precinct around the building on its north side. Steps lead through the wall to the southeastern portion of the heirloom garden.

Although the date of origin of the stone wall is not confirmed, it likely was built in 1935 to accommodate the new storage building. As such, the wall would have been built during the proposed period of significance. It appears to possess sufficient integrity to convey its historic associations, and would thus contribute to a National Register-eligible historic district. It has been assessed as a Category 2 resource for that reason.



Figure 414. The heirloom garden near the Jarrett House.

***Jarrett House heirloom garden (2007, Category 5).*** The heirloom garden in front of the Jarrett House features several herbs, such as sage, lavender, thyme, and culinary, tea, and medicinal herbs. The garden features stepping stones, plant labels, whiskey barrel plantings, and a sundial. An interpretive sign sheltered under a modest cover is located nearby. From the garden visitors can view the experimental fields on the hillside above, as well as greenhouses and other functional structures. The garden was developed in 2007.

This feature postdates the period of significance and is non-contributing.

***Access road leading to the corrugated metal storage building (date undetermined, category undetermined).*** An unimproved road forms a broad arc to provide access to the corrugated metal storage building located along the stream corridor. The road extends between sections of the property's secondary paved roads.

The date of origin of the access road leading to the corrugated metal storage building is not documented in archival material reviewed for this study.

### **Farmers' Meeting Complex**

The Farmers' Meeting Complex character area is located in the southeastern portion of the station property. It includes a fireplace, pottery shed, picnic pavilion, barbeque, and trails set within a woodland. The complex is approached by the secondary historic entrance road corridor.

## Building Resources



Figure 415. Food preparation shed.

***Food preparation shed – UGA 3516 (1940, Category 2).*** The food preparation shed is a single-story wood-framed structure with a hipped roof and a stone foundation. The walls are vertical wood board. The roof, clad with asphalt shingles, has exposed rafter tails. There are square stone false piers along the foundation and pentagonal vents on the stone foundation at the floor grade. The building has screens for windows and doors. There is also open air seating under the rear shed addition. The stairs at the entry are concrete and stone.

The food preparation shed was constructed in 1940 to support popular use of the Farmers' Meeting complex. It was thus built during the proposed period of significance. The building also appears to possess sufficient integrity to convey its historic associations, and would thus contribute to a National Register-eligible historic district. It has been assessed as a Category 2 resource.



Figure 416. Storage shed.

***Storage shed (pottery barn and kiln) – UGA 3519 (circa 1934, Category 2).*** The storage shed (originally designed as a pottery barn and kiln structure) is a single-story, wood-framed structure with a standing seam metal roof, vertical weatherboard siding, and a stone foundation. The building features the original

board and batten door with metal brackets or strap hinges on front facade, located at the eastern end. There are three windows to its left. The windows are midcentury, steel-framed six-over-six double-hung sash. The original roof has been replaced. In the gable end there is a board and batten door, with a filled-in rectangular vent in the gable. The gable end also includes a one-and-one-half-story tapered stone chimney that was once part of the kiln, which has since been removed.

The storage shed was constructed in 1935 to support the Farmers' Meeting complex. It was thus built during the proposed period of significance. The building also appears to possess sufficient integrity to convey its historic associations, and would thus contribute to a National Register-eligible historic district. It has been assessed as a Category 2 resource.



Figure 417. Barbecue house.

***Barbecue house – UGA 3521 (1940, Category 2).*** The barbecue house is an open-air wood-framed structure with a gable roof with a raised ridge line. Vertical board infills the front gabled end. Two rows of shelves run along both sides of the structure. The cooking trough area, located in the center, is composed of concrete unit masonry and brick. There is also a large, three-compartment fieldstone fireplace and chimney at the rear of the building. The roof is supported with round wood posts and cut wood beams and rafters.

The barbecue house was constructed in 1940 to support popular use of the Farmers' Meeting complex. It was thus built during the proposed period of significance. The building also appears to possess sufficient integrity to convey its historic associations, and would thus contribute to a National Register-eligible historic district. It has been assessed as a Category 2 resource.



Figure 418. Pavilion

**Pavilion – UGA 3523 (1964, Category 2).** The pavilion is a covered, open-air structure housing four long rows of picnic tables and a long bench. The gable roof, with a shed extension, is supported by large round wood posts, and a mix of round log beams and cut wood beams. Some of the posts are set on a concrete unit masonry foundation. Concrete steps lead into the pavilion, where the foundation is exposed and the finished floor is above grade. The roof also has exposed rafter ends and overhanging eaves. There are vertical boards at the gabled sections.

The pavilion was constructed in 1964 to support ongoing use of the Farmers' Meeting complex for picnicking and group events. It was thus built during the proposed period of significance. The building also appears to possess sufficient integrity to convey its historic associations, and would thus contribute to a National Register-eligible historic district. It has been assessed as a Category 2 resource.



Figure 419. The restroom.

**Restroom – UGA 3534 (1989, Category 5).** A modest restroom structure is also located within the character area. It is wood-framed, with a CMU foundation. The gable roof is clad with asphalt shingles. A vent pipe extends through the

roof. There are small windows in the gable ends and two sets of doors on the principal facade for the men's and women's rooms. Lattice screens enclose the entrances. The building is accessed via a paved ramp. The restroom postdates the proposed period of significance and is thus non-contributing.



Figure 420. Unidentified structure.

***Water tank (by 1966, Category 2).*** At the edge of the complex along the woodland margin is a stucco and wood structure with small square openings at the top. The building has a standing seam metal roof and houses a water tank. Although in poor condition, the building appears to possess sufficient integrity to convey its historic associations, and would thus contribute to a National Register-eligible historic district. It has been assessed as a Category 2 resource.

### **Landscape Resources**



Figure 421. Access road leading to the Farmers' Meeting complex.

***Access road (date undetermined, category undetermined).*** An asphalt and gravel road leads to the Farmers' Meeting complex from the secondary entrance road. The steeper section located near the cannery is paved with asphalt, while the segment near the buildings is gravel. Parking occurs informally along the margins of the road.

The date of origin of the access road is not documented in archival material reviewed for this study.



Figure 422. Trails and plantings.

***Trails and plantings (date undetermined, Category 5).*** The Woodland Medicine Trail extends for one-quarter mile to the south of the gravel road east of the Farmers' Meeting complex. It features wooden boardwalk segments, benches, and stone work. Along the trail, visitors can learn about numerous woodland wildflowers, herbs, ferns, and shrubs that were used extensively by Native Americans and early settlers. The head of the trail was the site of an old spring house that once provided water to the Jarrett House and the work center/storage building. This feature postdates the period of significance and is non-contributing.



Figure 423. Wooden arch.

***Arch (date undetermined, category undetermined).*** A wooden arch, composed of two peeled log uprights and a peeled log arch set atop the uprights, is located to the east of the Farmers' Meeting complex, and marks the extension of the gravel road into the wooded hillside that features trails and interpreted planting areas. One of the trails is the Woodland Medicine Trail, added in the 2000s. An

interpretive sign is located adjacent to the arch to indicate the plants found along the trail.

The date of origin of the arch is not documented in archival material reviewed for this study.



Figure 424. Stone fireplace west of the storage shed.

***Stone fireplace, walls, and plaza (date undetermined, Category 2).*** A stone fireplace is set within a stone retaining wall adjacent to a stone paved plaza located west of the storage shed. This feature has a variable height wall.

Although their date of origin is not documented in archival material reviewed for this study, the stone fireplace, walls, and plaza were constructed by 1942 to support popular use of the Farmers' Meeting complex. The structures were thus built during the proposed period of significance. The structures also appear to possess sufficient integrity to convey its historic associations, and would thus contribute to a National Register-eligible historic district. They have been assessed as a Category 2 resource.



Figure 425. Stormwater management systems.

***Stormwater management system (date undetermined, Category 5).*** Along the gravel road and trails there are stormwater management systems variously composed of rock box culverts, concrete culvert headwalls, and corrugated metal pipes. This feature postdates the period of significance and is non-contributing.



Figure 426. Stone-lined pool.

***Stone-lined pool (date undetermined, Category 5).*** A stone-lined pool is one of the focal points of the Woodland Medicine Trail. Stacked stone forms a bank along the pool margins. This feature postdates the period of significance and is non-contributing.



Figure 427. Amphitheater.

***Amphitheater (date undetermined, Category 2).*** A small outdoor amphitheater is also located in the wooded area of the Farmers' Meeting complex. It is composed of a semicircular arrangement of stone steps and a brick drinking fountain.

The date of origin of the amphitheater has not been identified in support of this assessment. However, based on its appearance, it likely dates to the period of significance, and thus contributes to a potential historic district. As such, it has been assessed at a Category 2 resource.

## Experiment Fields

The Experiment Fields character area is located in the northeastern portion of the property and occupies the slope and top of the hillside overlooking the station. It includes a gravel access road, fields, fencing to exclude deer, and wooden structures used to support vines. The hillside and hilltop afford dramatic views of the surrounding mountain landscape.

## Building Resources

***Greenhouse and headhouse – UGA 3510 (1959, Category 2).*** Located to the north of the road and the utility warehouse is a greenhouse and headhouse complex. The greenhouse is constructed of masonry, concrete block, and glass. It has a gable roof and concrete floor, and its walls and roof are of metal frame construction and glass panes. The concrete block head house features two rooms, an office and a furnace room. It also has a gable roof, and casement windows. The greenhouse extends from the head house.<sup>520</sup> The greenhouse edges the area dedicated to experimental fields.<sup>521</sup>

The greenhouse and headhouse was constructed in 1959, and appears to be little changed. Built during the proposed period of significance, the utility warehouse appears to possess sufficient integrity to convey its historic associations. As such, the building appears to contribute to a National Register-eligible historic district and has been assessed as a Category 2 resource.

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520. Ibid.

521. Ibid.

## Landscape Resources



Figure 428. Gravel access drive.

***Gravel access drive (undetermined date, undetermined category).*** A gravel access drive leads along the upper slope of the property's hillside from the intersection of a road leading east from Administration and a road leading north from the Jarrett House environs. It provides access to the various experiment fields.

The date of origin of the gravel access road is not documented in archival material reviewed for this study.



Figure 429. Experiment fields.

***Experiment fields (undetermined date, undetermined category).*** The experiment fields occupy the slopes of the hillside above the greenhouse. They include grapes, ornamental trees, and shrubs for nursery stock, and other experiments. Deer fencing is used in some places for exclusion of wildlife.

The date of origin of the experiment fields is not documented in archival material reviewed for this study.

## Potential Archaeological Resources

Two archaeological sites have been documented on the Georgia Mountain Research and Education property in Union county. This site density is low, but seems relatively consistent with the level of archaeological research and survey in the surrounding area. Small portions of Union County, such as Track Rock Gap have been more thoroughly surveyed and documented. That area contains rock piles and petroglyphs that are unique to the region and, thus, of interest to archaeologists and the public, alike. For the Georgia Mountain Research and Education property, only one site contains information that can provide cultural affiliation (9UN2), while the other site (9UN357) is a lithic scatter that could identify to any part of an exceedingly wide date range.<sup>522</sup> In addition to these known archaeological sites, there is a strong probability that several more undocumented sites exist.

Recorded by archaeologists as the “Experiment Station Site” and given the site number 9UN2. Based on artifacts found at the site, people lived in the fertile valley in the western portion of the property during intervals of time spanning several millennia. The earliest documented occupation of the property at site 9UN2 begins in what archaeologists refer to as the Early Archaic period (9550 to 6900 BC). This early occupation is indicated by distinctive projectile points. Later style projectile points found at the site indicate use of the site in the Middle Archaic period (5900 to 4350 BC) as well as the Late Archaic period (3800 to 1800 BC). Another interval of time that the site was likely inhabited was between 1200 and 300 BC, as evidenced by distinctive pottery made during that time.

The earlier occupations at 9UN2 may have been temporary visits, leaving only light scatters of artifacts behind. There is, however, evidence of a substantial village at the site that dates sometime between AD 1350 and 1540. Large numbers of pottery fragments, materials from houses, and other accumulated debris from daily living can be seen in the soil. This village belonged to a culture referred to as “Lamar” by archaeologists. These people were agriculturalists, who grew corn, squash, and other crops, likely within the Mountain Research property.

The possibility of a later Cherokee village has been noted at the site. The 1979 revisit of the by Earnest Seckinger, then archaeologist at the University of Georgia lead him to note the likely presence of a Cherokee village at the site, and that it should be excavated during the winter to avoid interruption of cultivation. There is no record of further investigation of the site beyond occasional visits to collect artifacts from the surface.

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522. Robert Wauchope, “Archaeological Survey of Northern Georgia, with a Test of Some Cultural Hypotheses,” *Society for American Archaeology, Memoir 21*, 1966.

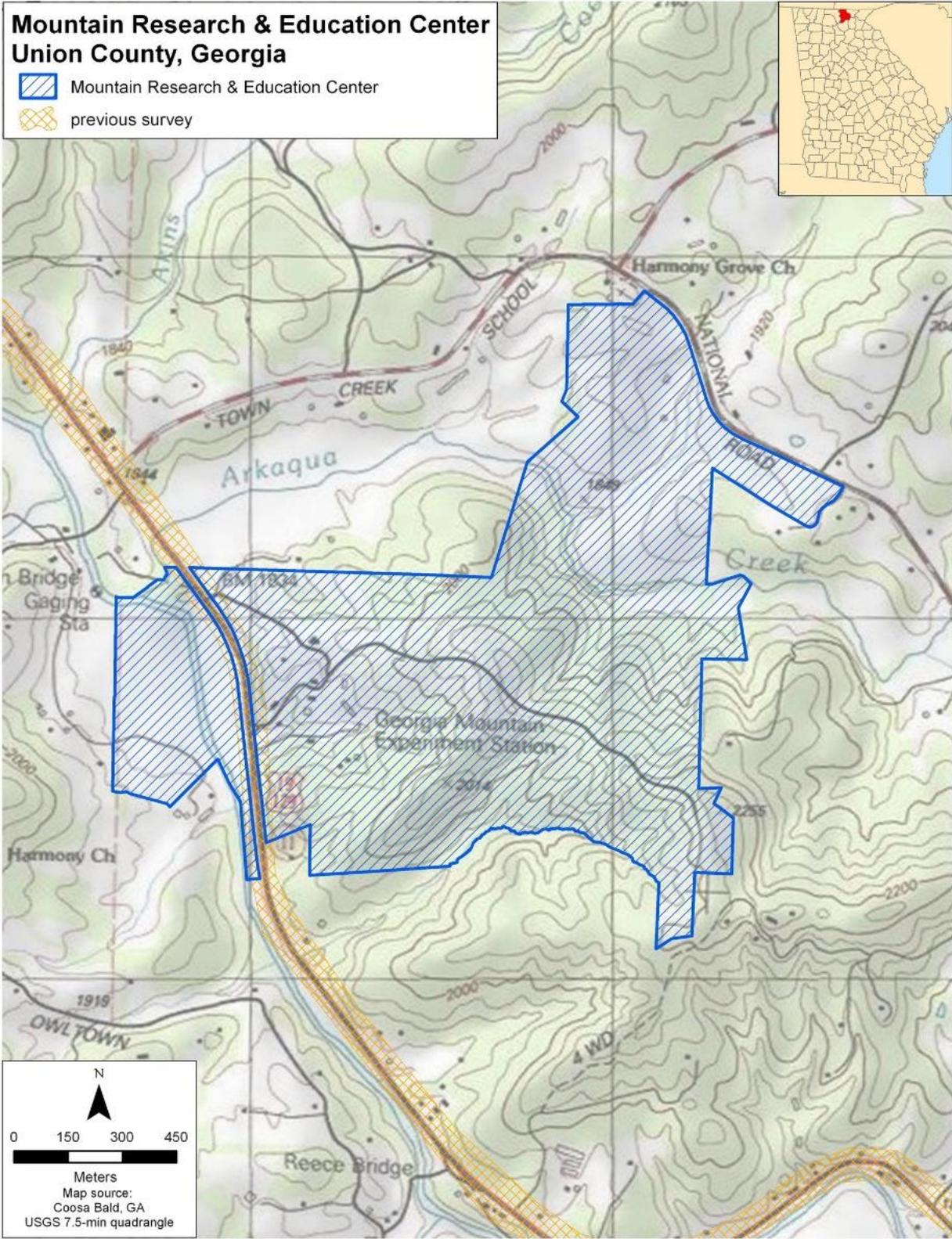


Figure 430. Mountain Research and Education Center property and area of previous archaeological survey. (Source: USGS, annotated by the authors)

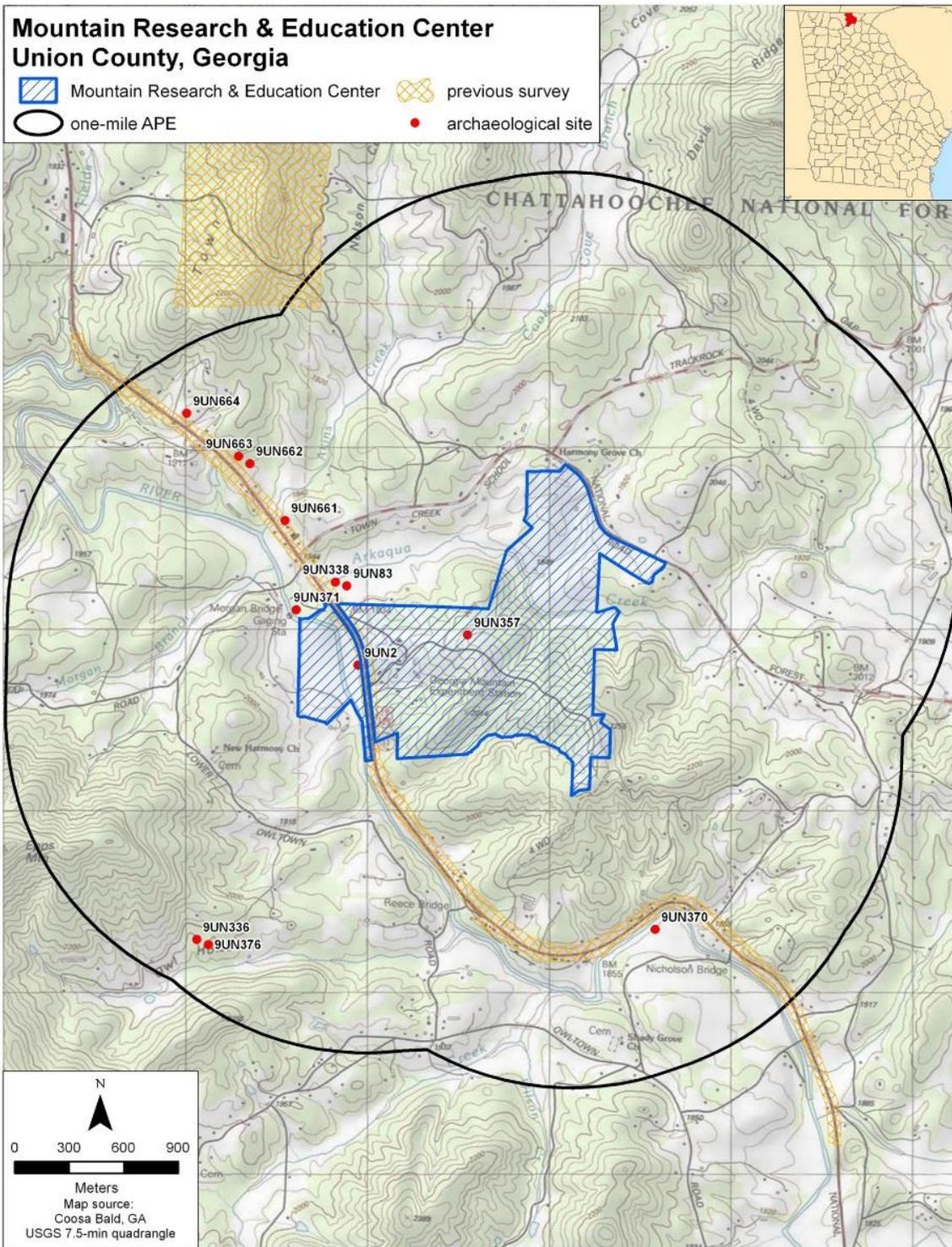


Figure 431. Mountain research and Education Center property and area of previous archaeological survey, previously identified archaeological sites, and area of potential effects (APE). (Source: USGS, annotated by the authors)

## **Summary Assessments**

### **National Register-eligible Properties**

#### ***Georgia Mountain Research and Education Center Historic District***

The Georgia Mountain Research and Education Center appears significant at the state level as a historic district eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A, C, and D in the areas of Agriculture, Archeology, Architecture, Invention, and Science for its long-standing role as the Georgia Mountain Experiment Station. The station is notable for the innovations in scientific agriculture that have resulted from the research conducted on the property.

The period of significance for the property extends from establishment in 1930 to 1966, the fifty-year age consideration for listing in the National Register. The significance of the property is anticipated to be ongoing, as the station continues to make important contributions to science and agriculture within these contexts.

#### ***Agriculture, Invention, and Science***

Since 1930, the station has played a leading role in modernizing agriculture and developing new breeds, strains, and varieties of plants and animals to improve the practice and business of farming. Specific innovations have included fertilizer application standards, and development of appropriate cultivars and rotation schedule for fruits, vegetables, and nursery products. As such, it relates directly to broader national historic contexts relating to Land Grant Colleges, Experiment Stations, the Cooperative Extension System, and Agricultural Education.

#### ***Archeology***

Use of the property as an agricultural research facility in the twentieth century has likely left an archaeological signature that could add to the understanding of the lives of the people who operated and visited the facility. Its frequent use as a point for regional congregation of thousands of farmers likely an archaeological signature that could be significant in understanding life in the mountains of north Georgia.

One significant Native American archaeological site has been documented, and it is clear that many well-preserved twentieth century structures are on the property. Archaeological survey of the Mountain Research will likely result in discovery of more archaeological sites that have the potential to add greatly to the understanding of rural life in north Georgia and the University's role in it. Likewise, it is highly probable that more Native American sites than the two that have been documented exist on the property, and warrant documentation and preservation.

#### ***Architecture***

Several stone buildings were built by the CCC and FERA through New Deal programs and with federal funding. These structures are significant examples of period architecture.

Numerous physical resources of the campus survive from the period of significance to convey the historic associations of the potential historic district. The overall composition and layout of the grounds, and the scale and materials of the buildings are consistent with the historic property as it existed during the period of significance. Although the few contemporary additions, convey a different character, scale, and mass than most of the historic features of the property, as do the new display gardens, and serve to diminish the overall integrity of the property, they remain consistent with the mission of the property. Patterns of spatial organization, land uses, and views and vistas otherwise survive from the period of significance and help to convey the significance of the historic district.

Overall, the campus retains integrity of location, setting, feeling, and association. Integrity of design and workmanship of some buildings is diminished due to alterations made to adapt them to ongoing use. However, as a living scientific research center, change is anticipated to continue to allow for the accommodation of evolving scientific methods.

***Resources potentially eligible for individual listing in the National Register of Historic Places***

- Jarrett House – UGA 3508 (1892)
- Office and Seed Lab (Soils lab) – UGA 3512 (circa 1934)
- Work center/storage (former cannery) – UGA 3506 (circa 1934)

*Note that individually eligible resources may also represent contributing resources with a historic district.*

***Resources potentially contributing to a National Register-eligible district***

- Root cellar (circa 1937)
- Fruit stand (circa 1934)
- Cottage – UGA 3511 (1930)
- Work center/storage (former cannery) – UGA 3506 (circa 1934)
- Tool storage shed – UGA 3517 (1937)
- Storage building (root cellar, smokehouse) – UGA 3520 (1935)
- Food preparation shed – UGA 3516 (1940)
- Storage shed (pottery barn and kiln) – UGA 3519 (1935)
- Barbecue house – UGA 3521 (1940)
- Feed barn – UGA 3529 (1952)
- Administration Building – UGA 3501 (1953)
- Greenhouse and headhouse – UGA 3510 (1959)
- Utility warehouse – UGA 3518 (1959)
- Pavilion – UGA 3523 (1964)

- Water Tank (by 1966)
- Landscape resources: Georgia Mountain Experiment Station Road, secondary historic entrance road, cottage drive, stone ruin, road leading to the Cannery and Farmer's Meeting Complex, road to Feed Barn, stone walls and piers, stormwater management system, amphitheater, stone fireplace, walls, and plaza