

## 4-H Centers: Rock Eagle and Wahsega

### Introduction

The University of Georgia is a Land Grant and Agricultural College with a mission that includes youth outreach through the work conducted as part of the Georgia Cooperative Extension Service, part of the College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences and Family and Consumer Sciences. The 4-H program is one of several divisions of the Cooperative Extension Service operated out of a state's agricultural university. Within Georgia, one of the venues for outreach is the Georgia 4-H Environmental Education Program that is housed within five 4-H centers around the state at Burton, on Tybee Island; Jekyll Island; Fortson in Hampton; Rock Eagle in Eatonton; and Wahsega in Dahlonga, Georgia. 4-H centers are designed, to inspire youth, through environmental education, with a love for learning by using the outdoors as a “classroom without walls” filled with unique learning opportunities.

Two of Georgia's 4-H centers—Rock Eagle and Wahsega—are addressed herein as part of the University of Georgia Preservation Master Plan. These two properties are discussed together in this section.

The Georgia 4-H Environmental Education Program at Rock Eagle is located in Eatonton, Georgia, adjacent to the Oconee National Forest. The property extends over 1,500 acres of forest, streams, and fields, and features miles of trails, a 110-acre lake, a natural history museum, cabins, amphitheater, dining hall, pavilions, swimming pools, auditorium, and science study facilities, and the Rock Eagle mound, a prehistoric stone effigy that is listed in the National Register of Historic Places. The center has been serving students and teachers associated with the Environmental Education Program since 1979, although it occupies facilities developed for 4-H use during the early 1950s.

The 4-H Center at Wahsega lies in a valley at the foot of the Appalachian Mountains surrounded by the Chattahoochee National Forest. The 27-acre property has been serving students and teachers associated with the Environmental Education Program since 1988, although it occupies facilities developed for 4-H use during the 1930s. The property features sixteen rustic cabins and two bathhouses, four open-air pavilions, three campfire rings, hiking trails, an amphitheater, dining hall, recreation hall, recreational facilities and fields, and streams.

Both 4-H centers are built around historic building and landscape resources adapted for Environmental Education Program use. The Rock Eagle 4-H center, which is the largest such camp in the world, reflects the early period of the University's Cooperative Extension Service program development. It remains a vital part of the state's youth agricultural and environmental education today.



Figure 432. The 4-H logo, which stands for “Head, Hands, Heart, and Health.”

Wahsega is the oldest continually operating 4-H facility within the state. It occupies the site of a former Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) camp, and a later summer camp for underprivileged youth. Both properties are historic and appear eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places for their association with the 4-H program in the areas of Agriculture, Architecture, and Education between their establishment and 1966. Rock Eagle is also significant at a national level in the area of Archeology for evidence of pre-Contact American Indian settlement and the effigy that is preserved on the site today.

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 agricultural education facility. The historical background information is followed by an inventory and assessment of the building, landscape, and archaeological features associated with the property. 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.

## Historic Context

### Historical Background



Figure 433. Georgia 4-H Corn Club, 1904.  
(Source: University of Georgia 4-H website)

The 4-H program evolved organically from a number of youth agricultural programs and clubs established across the United States at the beginning of the twentieth century that later became affiliated with federal educational programs and funding. These programs eventually became unified under the umbrella of 4-H.

From its beginnings in the eighteenth century, public education in the United States emphasized creating an enlightened citizenry. During the nineteenth century, the need to augment traditional scholarly curricula with practical training was recognized by educators and philosophers such as John Dewey. With increasing numbers of immigrants arriving in the United States, and a wider cross-section of Americans entering the public education system, a new approach to education that combined abstract instruction and learning by doing began to emerge. The new approach contributed to the passage of the Morrill Act in 1862, which created the land grant college system. While the Morrill Act led to changes in post-secondary school education, it did not initially impact the public school system.

In the late 1890s, school systems in New York State began to experiment with student leaflets and magazines about environmental subjects, later adding special teacher training to reach rural students. Clubs began to form around interests outside of school, including clubs that focused on with the growing of corn. So-called agricultural clubs caught the attention of Ohio State University educators, who began distributing seed in support of the establishment of corn, and flower, and garden clubs. By the early 1900s, several states, including Georgia had established youth corn clubs.<sup>523</sup>

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523. "Our History," University of Georgia Extension, accessed April 2018, <http://extension.uga.edu/about/our-history.html>.

At the same time, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) also took note of the growing popularity of agricultural clubs. The USDA had been trying for several years to teach farmers improved planting and maintenance techniques for the eradication of the cotton boll weevil. However, agency representatives quickly discovered that farmers had developed their own methods for most needs and were difficult to teach; children of farmers, on the other hand, were more open to new methods and could be engaged using contests organized by agricultural clubs. As a result, the USDA set up the Office of Farmers' Cooperative Demonstration Work in 1904, which sponsored girls' and boys' work divisions. In 1912, the USDA hired Mary E. Creswell, a University of Georgia graduate and former Supervisor of Home Economics at Georgia State Normal School, as the first full time supervisor of girls' work for the program. At Creswell's suggestion, state agents began to be referred to as Home Demonstration Agents.<sup>524</sup>



Figure 434. Mary E. Creswell, an important figure in the history of women at University of Georgia, women's education, and the University of Georgia Cooperative Extension Service (Source: Boney 1986).

In 1914, Congress passed the Smith-Lever Act that created the Cooperative Extension Service. At the same time, the U.S. prepared for entry into World War I, increasing the need for food and fiber production. This spurred the youth clubs into greater action and further raised the profile of their activities and recognition of their importance. By 1924, 4-H had become universally recognized as the name of the youth agricultural club associated with the Cooperative Extension Service.

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524. Ibid.

The University of Georgia’s 4-H program has similar roots. In 1904, Newton County School Commissioner G. C. Adams announced a corn-growing contest for boys aged 6 through 18. Adams convinced the State School Commissioner, W. B. Merrit, to extend the contest statewide in 1905. The contest was such a success that the Georgia Agricultural College (now the University of Georgia) conducted contests involving corn, cotton, and chickens, with prizes awarded at county and state fairs. The College provided instruction and a means of judging the winners.<sup>525</sup> In 1911, the state also made funds available for creating a Girls’ Canning Club. Mary E. Creswell, then head of the Practice School of the State Normal School in Athens, was brought in to head the club and given the title “Assistant in School Extension.” Canning clubs were also organized in Clayton and Clarke counties that year.<sup>526</sup> The program later mushroomed; in 1910, the enrollment of Georgia youth agriculture clubs was 350 while in 1920 it had reached 27,000 members.<sup>527</sup>



Figure 435. While young men joined corn clubs, young woman in Georgia joined canning clubs. Both activities would eventually become part of the 4-H program. (Source: University of Georgia Extension Photo Archives)



Figure 436. Geographic locations of the six Georgia 4-H camps (Source: University of Georgia 4-H).

After World War I came to an end, 4-H leaders began to organize on a national level to create continuity of services and programs. Local 4-H groups retained, and continue to have, a great deal of influence on national programs. One of the earliest initiatives flowing from local groups was the camp movement. Local 4-H groups began to sponsor weekend and overnight stays for young people’s visits to colleges, fairs, special events, and training. By 1919, West Virginia’s twenty-five counties included camping as a 4-H activity, and by 1921, the State decided to establish a permanent 4-H camp ground. Nationally, the first 4-H camp was held in 1927 in Washington, D.C., on the National Mall. Rows of tents lined the Mall in front of the USDA building for two weeks in June. Songs especially

525. Ibid.

526. B. L. Walton, Jr. The University of Georgia, Cooperative Extension. *Georgia 4-H: Historic Past, Dynamic Future* (Virginia Beach, Virginia: The Donning Company Publishers, 2008).

527. Ibid., 11.

written for the 4-H were introduced at the event that have since become standards.<sup>528</sup>

Over time, the Georgia 4-H program has grown to include five centers located around the state. Each county is assigned to a particular 4-H camp, and can use the facilities during a designated time frame. Groups outside of 4-H, such as school systems, can also use the camps when they are not occupied by 4-H members. The facilities offer environmental education programs geared to state curriculum. In addition, Rock Eagle is also available for lease as an adult retreat and meeting site. Each of the five centers is described below.

***Burton 4-H Center on Tybee Island.*** Originally known as the Tybee Island 4-H Center, Burton began to accommodate 4-H members as a camping facility at Camp Hammock in 1946–1947.<sup>529</sup> The facility was established through an agreement reached between Savannah Beach and Chatham County Extension Agents that set aside 6 acres of land for the 4-H clubs of Chatham County.

In 1947, participants from thirty-four counties camped on the property following construction of a dining hall and conversion of an Army barracks for camp uses. In 1950, 4-H and Home Demonstration Club members built an entrance gate for a cost of \$570. The majority of Burton’s buildings were constructed in 1951, including seven dormitories, a manager’s house, recreation hall, office and staff house, program coordinator’s house, and staff lounge. The camp hired its first counselors in 1960, and in 1988, with the addition of 4-H Environmental Education, the center became a year-round facility.<sup>530</sup> Classrooms have been added in two A-frames structures.

In 2004, the Tybee Island facility was renamed the Burton 4-H Center on Tybee Island to honor Bob and Maxine Burton, who had attended the 4-H camp. Bob Burton had also served as a camp counselor. Their memories prompted the Burtons to become champions of and support the center.<sup>531</sup>

***Fortson 4-H Center.*** Fortson 4-H Center is the state’s newest camp facility.<sup>532</sup> It is located on 77 acres of land composed of forest, fields, ponds, and wetlands. In 2007, 4-H began to rent the camp property from the Fortson Youth Training Center, Inc. In 2014, the center made a gift of the property to the 4-H program, the largest private gift ever received by the Georgia 4-H Foundation.<sup>533</sup>

Fortson 4-H Center was established as Camp Fortson on property owned by Ed and Claudia Fortson. The Fortsons donated 72 acres of land to the community so that children could enjoy the American traditions of camping and enjoying the great outdoors. The campground was initially quite rustic. There was originally no running water and campers stayed overnight in tents. Eventually, the campers, many of whom were 4-H members and their leaders, began to construct a dining hall, dormitories, and a chapel at the campsite. A community group, the Kitchen

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528. Thomas Wessel and Marlyn Wessel. *4-H, An American Ideal, 1900–1980: A History of 4-H.* (Chevy Chase, Maryland: National 4-H Council, 1982).

529. University of Georgia 2015F; Walton, 2008.

530. Walton, 2008, 208.

531. Ibid.

532. Ibid.

533. University of Georgia Extension, “Our History.”

Kuties, formed a band and raised money to fund further expansion. The \$500,000 raised by the group was used to construct a lake and pavilion, as well as a pool and pool house. Additional land was acquired, while staff housing, special physical skills courses, a gymnasium, an amphitheater, and an educational farm were eventually added.<sup>534</sup>

***Jekyll 4-H Center and the Tidelands Nature Center.*** In 1982, the Georgia 4-H program was offered the opportunity to lease the former Dolphin Club and Motor Hotel on Jekyll Island as a camp site. The Dolphin Club and Motor Hotel were built in 1956 by the St. Andrews Beach Corporation, a consortium of African American business owners, to provide lodging to African American guests during segregation. However, the consortium dissolved following the opening of the hotel in August 1959, and the hotel sold to the Jekyll Island Authority.<sup>535</sup>



Figure 437. Dolphin Club and Hotel, 1959. (Source: University of Georgia 4-H)

Across the street from the hotel was the Dolphin Club Lounge and Restaurant, which attracted prominent African American entertainers, including Clarence Carter, Tyrone Davis, Millie Jackson, Percy Sledge, and others. The Dolphin Club Lounge and Restaurant contained a lobby with restrooms, a dining room, two small private dining areas, and a night club. In June 1960, St. Andrews Auditorium was built to maintain the requirement of “separate but equal” facilities for the island. It was used for family reunions and dances, and in 1964 served as a venue for an Otis Redding concert.

In June 1966, after the passage of the Civil Rights Act, the Dolphin Club and Motor Hotel were closed, the lounge was rarely used.<sup>536</sup> The property did, however, continue to serve occasionally as a group camp and youth center from the late 1960s until the late 1970s.

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534. University of Georgia, 2016F.

535. Walton, 2008; University of Georgia, 2016B.

536. University of Georgia, 2016B.

In 1983, the hotel, lounge, auditorium and beach pavilion were leased to Georgia 4-H for use as a summer camp.<sup>537</sup> In 1987, the program was expanded to include year-round environmental education programming.<sup>538</sup> In February 2003, the former hotel facility temporarily closed to undergo renovation. It reopened in August 2003 with a new appearance involving reorienting the building so that doors opened into a courtyard; upgrading the plumbing, electrical and safety systems; the addition of amenities such as satellite television, high-speed internet, and telephone; and the addition of VIP rooms. The parking lot was redesigned to include natural islands to provide shade and green space.<sup>539</sup>

In 2013, the Jekyll Island Authority and the Georgia State 4-H Club entered into a partnership to improve, renovate, and expand the Jekyll Island 4-H Center. Governor Nathan Deal requested, and the general Assembly approved, a \$12 million budget for this partnership, with the Jekyll Island Authority assuming responsibly for the camp from University of Georgia Cooperative Extension Service. The plans indicate that the new Jekyll Island Children and Youth Center and related facilities will be significantly improved by the construction of a new education building, replacement of dormitories, construction of a new auditorium and other essential buildings, as well as grounds and roadway improvements. Georgia 4-H will continue to use the facility.<sup>540</sup> During the transition, county 4-H members who would have been assigned to summer camp on Jekyll Island have been assigned to one of the four other 4-H camps in Georgia.

***Rock Eagle 4-H Center.*** With a capacity of 1,000 campers, Rock Eagle 4-H Center is the world’s largest and considered the “crown jewel” of the Georgia 4-H program.<sup>541</sup> It was conceived during the 1940s when Georgia had only two 4-H camps—Wahsega near Dahlonga and Tybee Island near Savannah—and its membership was growing rapidly. The State’s 4-H Leader, Bill Sutton, proposed establishment of a new large camp that would allow 1,000 boys and girls to attend simultaneously. In 1944, Sutton, other 4-H leaders, and employees of the University of Georgia Cooperative Extension Service founded the Georgia 4-H Foundation with the goal of raising money and administering construction of a 4-H center at Rock Eagle in Eatonton, Georgia.<sup>542</sup>

The location of the new center, near the historic Rock Eagle effigy mound in northern Putnam County, was suggested by John A. “Red” Smith, the County Extension Agent. With lobbying by the Foundation Board of Directors, matching funds were secured from Governor Herman Tallmadge. Additionally, the state would provide skilled prison labor to construct the facility.<sup>543</sup> Private money came from a number of sources, including 4-H Club members themselves. For example, each 4-H member donated a dozen eggs at a construction fundraiser, eventually raising \$7,000.<sup>544</sup>

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537. Ibid.

538. Walton 2008; University of Georgia 2016B.

539. University of Georgia, 2016B.

540. Ibid.

541. Walton, 208.

542. University of Georgia 2015D.

543. Ibid.

544. Walton, 208.

The Rock Eagle 4-H Center was sited within a 1,500-acre park created by the Works Progress Administration (WPA) that included a 110-acre lake.<sup>545</sup> The property also featured the mound, which had been a site of interest since the eighteenth century when various explorers and writers to the area began to note the effigy's distinctive rock construction and other related American Indian cultural features. In 1877, archaeologist Charles C. Jones took measurements of the mound, leading to additional interest. In 1936, the WPA conducted excavations at the Rock Eagle mound, while also constructing a granite viewing tower (UGA 5090) nearby. The site was developed as a park with a road system, parking area, and security boundary.<sup>546</sup>



Figure 438. Rock Eagle mound as viewed from the granite tower. (Source: University of Georgia 4-H)

After the park was acquired by the University of Georgia in 1952, ground was broken for the new camp, with several proud 4-H members in attendance. Prisoners working on the facility were housed in a special facility on site, now the Administration Office (UGA 5061). The camp was dedicated on October 31, 1954, and opened in spring 1955 with a 4-H Tractor School. Later that year, the first summer camp was held at Rock Eagle.<sup>547</sup>

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545. "About Rock Eagle," Georgia 4-H, accessed April 24, 2016, <http://georgia4h.org/4-h-centers/rock-eagle-4-h-centers/about-rock-eagle/>.

546. Georgia 4-H, "About Rock Eagle"; Walton, 2008; University of Georgia 2015D.

547. Walton, 2008.



Figure 439. Construction of the Rock Eagle 4-H Center, 1952. (Source: University of Georgia 4-H)

Today, Rock Eagle offers eight conference buildings, an auditorium, fifty-four cottages, a natural history museum, seven open-air pavilions, a chapel, swimming pools, and various other facilities. Recently, several older cottages have been replaced with newer facilities, while a new Founders Lodge has been added. In addition to 4-H activities, Rock Eagle is used for business events and retreats.

**Wahsega 4-H Center.** Wahsega is the oldest of the Georgia 4-H camps. Wahsega began operating as a 4-H facility in 1937, initially serving as a place for rallies and conferences.<sup>548</sup> The first 4-H summer camp was held in 1946.<sup>549</sup> The Wahsega camp site was established as a CCC camp in the 1930s that housed enrollees involved in building roads and bridges in the Dahlonega area of north Georgia. The camp included cabins, a dining hall and a bath house. Portions of the original dining hall (UGA 5321) and bathhouse, now the boy's bathhouse (UGA 5332), remain today, as does the basic layout of the camp organized around a central swimming pond created from damming Ward Creek. Several of the original bunk houses built by the CCC were torn down during the late 1930s and replaced by new cottages to be used as a summer camp for underprivileged youth.<sup>550</sup> These cabins (UGA 5301 through 5316) survive today.

Wahsega began to be used as a 4-H summer camp in 1946. However, U.S. Army Rangers, who completed Mountain Tainting at Camp Frank Merrill near Wahsega, adapted the cabins for lodging in 1951.

Wahsega is a relatively small, 15-acre site surrounded on all sides by mountains. The small valley in which it is located is fed by Ward Creek, which divides the site. The name "Wahsega," thought to mean "beautiful woman," was given to the



Figure 440. Wahsega 4-H Center (Source: University of Georgia 4-H).

548. Ibid.

549. University of Georgia 2016F.

550. Ibid. Walton's compilation indicates that the cabins were built in 1928 (Walton 2008, 218).

site by the CCC.<sup>551</sup> Today, the camp features eighteen cabins for campers and three for counselors, a director's residence, dining hall, canteen, offices and classrooms, recreation hall, a swimming pond, boys and girl's bathhouses, an amphitheater, trails, and a large recreation field with climbing wall and zip line.

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

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551. Ibid.; Walton, 2008.

## Chronology of Development and Use

### Establishment of the Communities of Eatonton and Dahlonega

*Dahlonega.* The valley north of Dahlonega, where the Wahsega 4-H Center is located, was formerly owned by the McDougald family, which farmed the fertile floodplain of Ward Creek and used the area below its waterfalls to establish a gristmill.<sup>552</sup> The family eventually acquired more than 305 acres within the valley between 1867 and 1876. Family members continued to live on the land in a small log structure, with ownership passing through to the next generation, until 1930, at which time it was acquired by the federal government for inclusion in a national forest preserve. The McDougalds farmed the floodplain and lower slopes of the valley, raising cattle, sheep, and hogs. A cornfield occupied the site of the present-day swimming pond. A gristmill operated at the Ward Creek Falls that featured an overshot wheel with a wooden flume, and mill wheels alongside the stream. A portion of the property was logged during the 1920s.<sup>553</sup>

The land within this part of Lumpkin County was first opened to settlement following the Gold Lottery of the early nineteenth century. The land, however, remained part of the Cherokee Nation until 1833 when the state of Georgia assumed control over the region, forcibly removing all remaining Cherokee farmers by 1838. At that time, European-American settlement began in earnest.

*Eatonton.* Eatonton was founded in 1807 as the seat of Putnam County, formed around the same time to reflect the growing population of the region resulting from a migration of settlers following the Revolutionary War. The town took its name from William Eaton, an officer and diplomat involved in the First Barbary War of 1801–1805. Eatonton was incorporated as a town in 1809, and later as a city in 1879.

### The New Deal Era (circa 1933–1942)

*Wahsega.* On November 15, 1933, the Ward Creek valley was designated as site of a CCC camp to be administered by the U.S. Forest Service. Wahsega became a World War I veterans camp (2417-VW). Veterans were one of the groups that the CCC program was intended to support through the provision of paid employment after they indicated they would like to participate in the program. Enrollees housed in the camp built roads and bridges in north Georgia. In addition to road and bridge construction, the enrollees planted trees on the sloped terrain surrounding the camp, improved the camp and the road leading to it, and were involved in fire-fighting. The enrollees occupied the camp until June 30, 1937.

The camp was composed of large wooden barracks, a mess hall, an infirmary, and officers' quarters. The enrollees helped build a swimming pond, referred to as the fish pond, by constructing a dam across Ward Creek in 1935. The pond was stocked with rainbow trout. A spillway was established by cutting a gap in a

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552. "Wahsega 4-H Center; Historical Information," University of Georgia, accessed April 24, 2016, <http://www.wahsega4h.org/history.html>.

553. J. T. Wynn, *Cultural Resources Evaluation of Camp Wahsega, Lumpkin County, GA* (Gainesville, Georgia: U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service Report No. 83GA03NO3, 1983), 1–5.

huge log buried in the dam.<sup>554</sup> The water was directed from a springbox upstream along Ward Creek, which may have been a McDougald farm springbox, modified by the CCC. After a few years, however, it proved incapable of providing sufficient flow to the pond and an alternative site was tapped across the road to the west.<sup>555</sup> The CCC also built stone bridge abutments, steps, a stone-lined flume to bring water down the steep slope above the pool, and an amphitheater.

After the CCC camp closed, the buildings were turned over to the U.S. Forest Service. In the late 1930s, the majority of the bunkhouses used by CCC enrollees were razed, and smaller wood cabins were built as part of a summer camp established for underprivileged youth.<sup>556</sup> The camp was used by the WPA as a recreation camp between 1939 and 1942. A sign located within the dining hall notes the following about this period:

Camp Wahsega was built by the United States Forestry Service with the assistance of the Civilian Conservation Corps.

The original camp on this site was the old veterans camp known as F 11.

Upon completion of Camp Wahsega by the U.S. Forest Service in 1939 the recreation project of the Works Progress Administration of Georgia organized a full camp staff and offered a complete camp service to the many communities of the state wishing to make available to underprivileged children a wholesome camp experience. The recreation project staffed and operated the camp program at Camp Wahsega during the seasons of 1939 – 1940 – 1941 – 1942. Upwards of 5000 persons participated in the program.<sup>557</sup>

### ***Eatonton.***

During the 1930s, CCC enrollees were tasked with restoring the Rock Eagle effigy mound, a Woodland period construction that appears to have been completed circa 1,000–3,000 year B.P. north of the future site of Eatonton. It is one of only two such effigy mounds located east of the Mississippi River, both of which are within Putnam County. CCC enrollees conducted limited excavation of the mound, and restoration of the rock work. They also constructed a granite viewing tower to allow visitors to better understand the form of the mound, composed of white quartzite rocks laid in the form of a bird, thought to be an eagle, atop a rock outcropping. The mound measures approximately 102 feet long and 120 feet wide. The CCC also constructed a walk around the site that incorporated grind stones from defunct gristmills into the paving, an access road, and parking area. The surrounding area was developed as a park, and the CCC are also thought to have constructed recreational amenities such as picnic areas.



Figure 441. Logo for a 4-H summer camp.

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554. Ward Creek *Veterans News* 1, no. 6, May 15, 1935, 5. From Wynn, *Cultural Resources Evaluation*, 12. The pond was later redesigned with an overflow pipe and stone spillway.
555. Wynn, *Cultural Resources Evaluation*, 22.
556. *Ibid.*
557. *Ibid.*, 19.

### Growth of the 4-H Centers (1943–1988)

During the 1940s, the Georgia 4-H Program operated two 4-H facilities at Wahsega, first used in 1937 and formerly serving as a camp site by 1946, and Tybee Island, established in 1947.

The post-World War II era witnessed a period of expansive growth of the 4-H program in Georgia. Bill Sutton, who served as State 4-H Leader during this time, recognized the need and dreamed of building a 4-H center where 1,000 boys and girls could attend camp at one time. On November 17, 1948, Mr. Sutton and other 4-H supporters, along with employees of the University of Georgia Cooperative Extension Service, chartered the Georgia 4-H Foundation to help realize his dream. The Foundation was created to raise and administer funding for the construction of Rock Eagle.<sup>558</sup>

**Wahsega.** In 1943, the Georgia 4-H program was generally only using the camp facilities at Wahsega for conferences and rallies. The first 4-H summer camp was not held at Wahsega until 1946. The 4-H program used the property under the stipulations of a Special Use Permit agreement renewed each year with the U.S. Forest Service.<sup>559</sup> Camp use continued until the late 1980s.

In 1949, an inventory of the camp suggests that there were sixteen cabins, an infirmary, administration building, combination recreation and mess hall, caretaker cabin, help house, service building, canteen, two combination latrines and wash houses, and an athletic field.<sup>560</sup> In 1951, plans were prepared to build a new recreation hall. The building was not constructed until 1958.<sup>561</sup>

The girls' bathroom burned to the ground during a camp session in 1963 and was replaced with a concrete block structure with a composite roof. An Army tent was used as a latrine in the interim.<sup>562</sup>

In 1965, camper Kathryn Andrews wrote a poem about her experience at the 4-H camp at Wahsega. She tragically died in a car accident later that year. In 1967, a memorial bell was erected in her honor at the camp, across the creek from the dining hall. The bell continues to be used to mark the transition between activity periods.<sup>563</sup> A new pavilion was built in 1968, and a new septic field added in 1970.<sup>564</sup>

The camp site remained in federal ownership and under the administrative responsibilities of the U.S. Forest Service until the 1980s. A cultural resource assessment preceded transfer of the property to the University of Georgia, Agricultural Extension Service, first proposed by 1983.<sup>565</sup>

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558. "Rock Eagle 4-H Center; History," University of Georgia, accessed April 24, 2016, <http://www.caes.uga.edu/georgia4h/rockeagle/about.html>.

559. Dr. Jack T. Wynn, *National Register Nomination Form: Ward Creek Civilian Conservation Corps Camp F-11* (Gainesville, Georgia: U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service, 10/3/83).

560. Wynn, *Cultural Resources Evaluation*, 20.

561. *Ibid.*, 21.

562. *Ibid.*

563. University of Georgia, "Wahsega 4-H Center; Historical Information."

564. Wynn, *Cultural Resources Evaluation*, 21.

565. *Ibid.*, 1.

**Rock Eagle.** The Rock Eagle 4-H Center opened in 1955. The location of the 4-H center was selected in 1950 when John A. “Red” Smith, County Extension Agent in Putnam County, suggested that a new center be built near the Rock Eagle effigy mound in the northern part of the county. Mr. Sutton, with the aid of the Foundation Board of Directors, secured matching state funds from Governor Herman Talmadge. In addition, Talmadge offered to provide skilled prison labor to construct the facility. In June 1952, 4-H members attended groundbreaking activities at the new 4-H Center site. The prisoner laborers lived in a special prison facility built on site. The building now serves as the Administration Office (UGA 5061) for the fiscal operations of the center and provides office space for the 4-H Summer Camping Program, 4-H Environmental Education, and 4-H Technology staff. During the October 31, 1954, dedication of the 4-H Center, E. W. Aiton, National 4-H Club Leader, said, “The Center’s timbered hills will now grow a crop even greater than cotton or livestock which once covered the area. It will be used to develop the boys and girls who make the Nation’s leaders.”<sup>566</sup>

### Contemporary 4-H Centers (1988–2016)

In 1988, the director of the Wahsega 4-H, Walt Chisholm, began working with Diane Davies, State Coordinator for the 4-H Environmental Education Program. Together, they brought the program to Wahsega. This arrangement continues today.<sup>567</sup>

### Overview Description of Rock Eagle and Wahsega 4-H Centers

**Rock Eagle.** Rock Eagle is located in Eatonton, Putnam County, Georgia, approximately 60 miles south of Athens and 76 miles southeast of Atlanta. As of the 2010 census, the city had a population of 6,480. Eatonton, the county seat, was founded in 1807, incorporated as a town in 1809, and as a city in 1879. The city is known as the “Dairy Capital of Georgia,” in honor of its major industry, dairy farming.

**Wahsega.** Wahsega is located near Dahlonega, Georgia, 65 miles northeast of Atlanta and 63 miles northwest of Athens. The city of Dahlonega, the county seat of Lumpkin County, was founded in 1833 as Talonega. The area is also the home place of the Georgia Tribe of Eastern Cherokee, who referred to the area as Talonega. In 1829, the first gold rush in the United States began in Dahlonega. This event is interpreted in the Dahlonega Gold Museum, housed in the 1836 Lumpkin County Courthouse. The name of the town was changed to Dahlonega in 1837, which references a Cherokee word meaning yellow or gold. As of the 2010 census, the city had a population of 5,242. The origin of the name Wahsega is not currently known.<sup>568</sup>

Wahsega falls within the part of north Georgia that lies along the southern edge of the Blue Ridge physiographic province. The mountains rise to elevations of 3,000 to 4,700 feet above mean sea level (AMSL) within the region, while the



Figure 442. Context map illustrating the locations of the Wahsega 4-H center within the state of Georgia. (Source: Wiss, Janney, Associates, Inc., 2016.)



Figure 443. Context map illustrating the locations of the Rock Eagle 4-H center within the state of Georgia. (Source: Wiss, Janney, Associates, Inc., 2016.)

566. “Rock Eagle 4-H Center; History,” University of Georgia, accessed April 24, 2016, <http://www.caes.uga.edu/georgia4h/rockeagle/about.html>

567. University of Georgia, “Wahsega 4-H Center; Historical Information.”

568. Ibid.

camp tract sits in a stream valley at 1,520 to 1,700 feet AMSL. The camp is sited along Ward Creek, a tributary of Etowah River. Several springs feed the creek within the camp area. The clearing that edges the camp buildings is surrounded by pine and hardwood forest, approximately 80 years of age.

Wahsega offers environmental and outdoor education opportunities during the school year, and camping experiences during the summer months. On the weekends, the facilities are used by 4-H members as well as other groups for conferences, retreats, meetings, rallies, wedding, and band camps, among other activities. Because of its rather isolated location in the Appalachian foothills, difficult roads, and cold winters, Wahsega is open only from mid-March to mid-November. Environmental Programs are held at the site and groups of all types may use the facility.

The camp resources are tightly clustered within a 10-acre portion of the wooded site that constitutes the floodplain and margins of Ward Creek. The cove or valley drains into the Etowah River one-half mile to the south.

Wahsega is reached by gravel-surfaced Three-Notch Road (County Route 72), which arises from U.S. Highway 19, approximately 13 miles northwest of Dahlonega, and one-half-mile south of U.S. Army Camp Merrill.<sup>569</sup>

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569. Wynn, *Ward Creek CCC Camp National Register Nomination*.

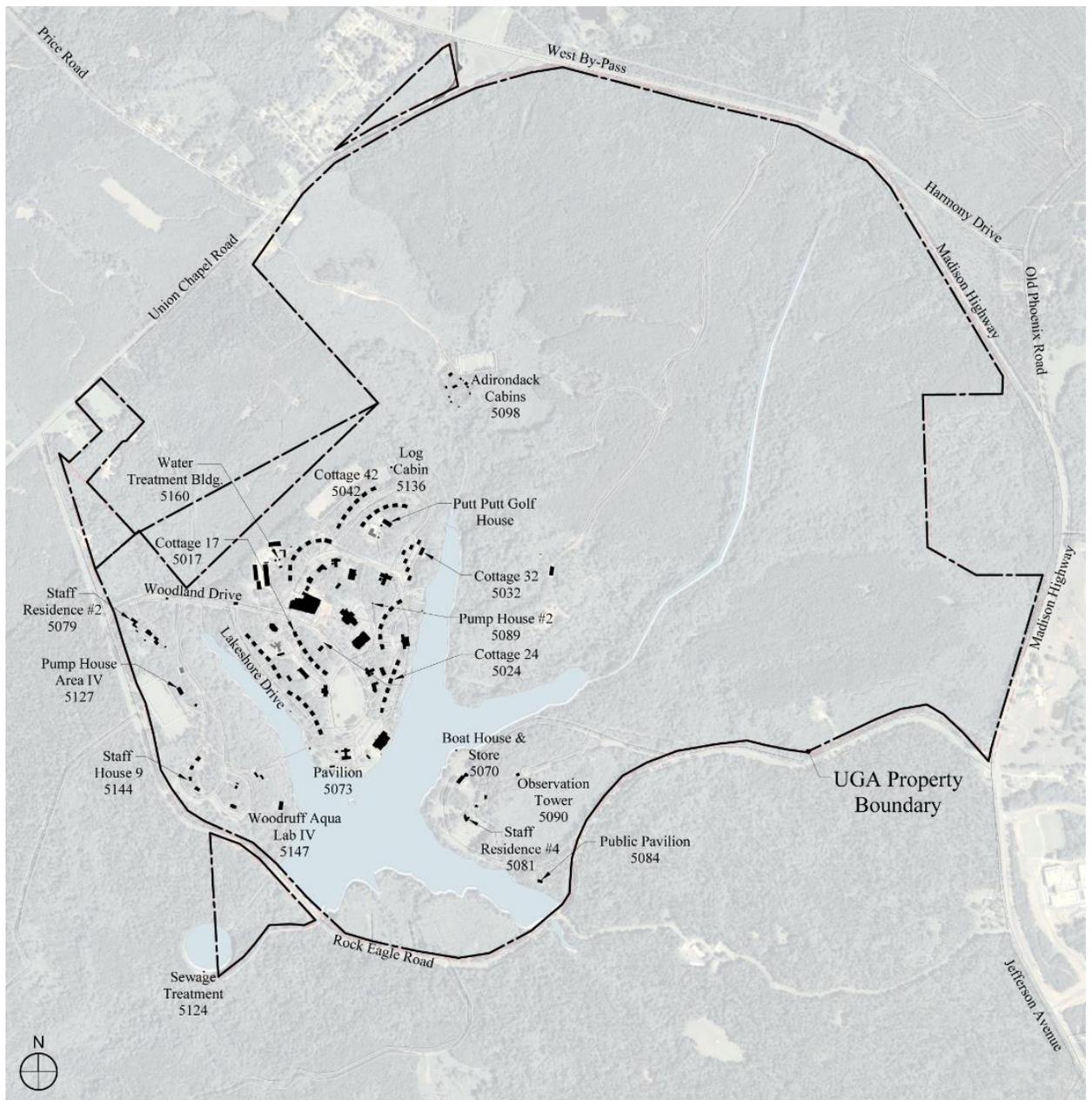


Figure 444. Resources of the Rock Eagle 4-H Center. (Source: Wiss, Janney, Associates, Inc., 2016)

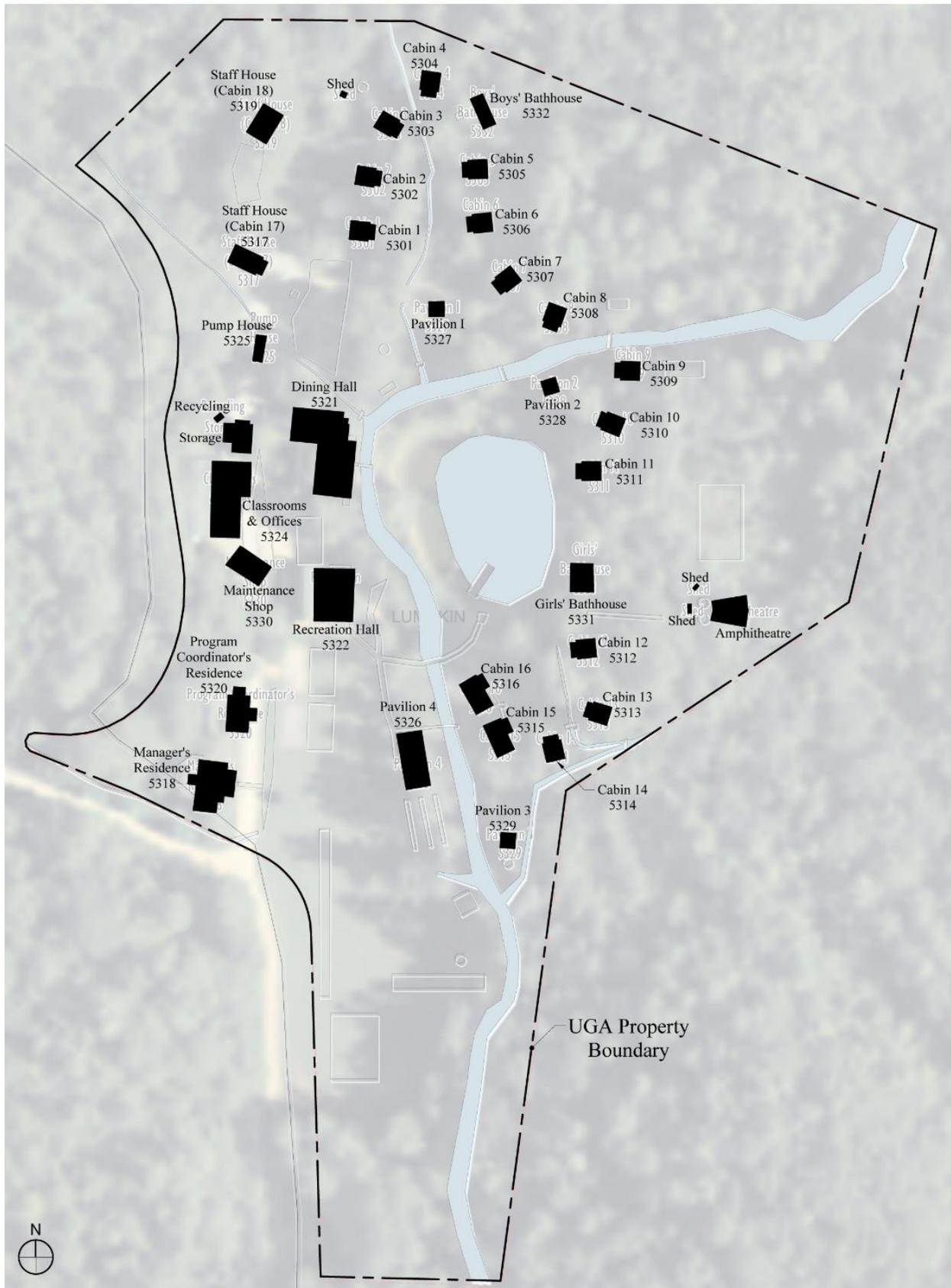


Fig. 445. Resources of the Wahsega 4-H center (Source: Wiss, Janey, Associates., 2016).

## Identification and Evaluation of Historic Resources

The pages that follow identify, describe, and assess the building, landscape, and archaeological resources associated with the property for the Rock Eagle 4-H Center and the Camp Wahsega 4-H Center. An overview description of each center introduces each section. The introduction is followed by brief descriptions of historic landscape, building, and archaeological resources, and an assessment of their condition and integrity.

### ***Rock Eagle 4-H Center***<sup>570</sup>

#### **Building Resources**



Figure 446. Cottage 17.



Figure 445. Rock Eagle 4-H Center emblem.

#### ***Cottage 1 – UGA 5011 (1953, Category 2); Cottages 13–24 UGA 5013–5024 (1953, Category 2); and Cottages 33–37 – UGA 5033–5037 (1953, Category 2)***

Fifty-five cottages were located within the Rock Eagle complex that are available for use by 4-H members and other visitors, of which, thirty-five appear to have been built during the early camp development period of the 1950s. (Cottages 38 (5038) through 54 (5054) were demolished during the course of this study.)

These cottages are all similar in design and construction, and represent variations on the general description provided below.

The cottages are arranged into gently curving linear clusters located along the outer edge of the built precinct and the lake, and connected by roads and paths. Plantings of trees and shrubs frame the cottages, which are also edged in the front by turf lawn.

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570. Survey of Rock Eagle 4-H Center by the Preservation Master Plan team was hampered by heavy rain and limited site visit time was available under the scope of work for this project. The information contained within this section relies to a great degree on the information developed by the FindIt survey team. As a result, insufficient first-hand information was available to develop character areas for the property.

The cottages are single-story, concrete-unit-masonry structures with concrete foundations and low-pitched hipped roofs clad with asphalt shingles. The roofs have large overhanging eaves and vent pipes. The cottages, which are painted a variety of bright colors, have a central recessed entry marked by a single door in the center, with another on the side. Both doors feature three horizontal lights and three panels. There is also a large bay with three two-over-two metal double-hung sash windows on either side of the entry, and a large concrete sill under each window bay. A concrete walkway leads to each cabin where there is a rough stone landing, or a concrete stoop, at the front entrance. The walkways are contemporary additions. The right side elevation of each structure has three two-over-two windows and a solid metal door. The left side elevations have a single bay of paired two-over-two double-hung sash windows and a single solid door at the mounded entry. The rear elevation has two sets of paired double-hung sash windows and two single double-hung sash windows.<sup>571</sup>

Cottages surviving from the early period of development generally retain sufficient integrity to convey their historic associations and likely contribute to a National Register-eligible historic district. As such, they are assessed as Category 2 resources.



Figure 447. Chapel.

**Chapel – UGA 5055 (1955, Category 2).** The Rock Eagle 4-H Chapel is a stone structure with a steeply pitched gable roof and a projecting stone entryway with a large concrete false arch over the doorway. The entry is marked by paired vertical board wooden doors. There are two metal lights to either side of the door. A cross is located at the doorway gable. There is also a large circular aluminum vent with concrete cross detailing. The front facade has two windows, each with large concrete sills and flat arches. These are factory sash windows patterned with diamonds and triangles in the yellow frosted glass lights set within a three-segment aluminum frame. There is a large wooden steeple with a pointed metal roof set atop the roof. The rear elevation has a raised vertical door on the right

571. "FindIt." University of Georgia College of Environment + Design, accessed June 2016, <http://findit.uga.edu/>.

side. There are four window bays on the right facade, while the left facade has five window bays. The rear facade appears to have been altered.<sup>572</sup>

The Rock Eagle 4-H Chapel generally retains sufficient integrity to convey its historic associations and likely contributes to a National Register-eligible historic district. As such, it is assessed as a Category 2 resource.



Figure 448. The dining hall.

***Dining hall – UGA 5056 (1955, Category 2).*** The dining hall is located along a quadrangle fronted by a grassy area and several sidewalks. The building is a single-story brick structure with a low-pitched or flat roof. The principal facade is symmetrical, with recessed wings on both sides. Each wing has numerous tall fixed windows with concrete sills on all three facades. The central block has paired metal doors at each end and a large bay of near floor-to-ceiling windows. The roof has large overhanging eaves with exposed metal rafters. There is a large concrete patio in front of the building. The rear facade has seven doors and a garage door at a sunken loading dock. Windows at the rear are single fixed units with concrete sills, are much smaller than the windows at the front, and have been infilled. The two rear stoops have flat roofs supported by round metal posts and metal eaves. The roof has three distinct levels.<sup>573</sup>

The dining hall generally retains sufficient integrity to convey its historic associations and likely contributes to a National Register-eligible historic district. As such, it is assessed as a Category 2 resource.

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572. Ibid.

573. Ibid.



Figure 449. Talmadge Auditorium

***Talmadge Auditorium – UGA 5057 (1955, Category 2).*** The Talmadge Auditorium is a one-and-one-half-story brick structure located near the center of the complex. The principal facade consists of ten bays and the central entry one-and-one-half story. The entrance features concrete pilasters, and is flanked by paired aluminum framed glass double doors. The roof has large overhanging eaves. There are single-story flat roofed brick extensions that flank the central entry, and a single-story flat roof extension spans the rear facade, with aluminum garage bays on the side facades.<sup>574</sup>

The Talmadge Auditorium generally retains sufficient integrity to convey its historic associations and likely contributes to a National Register-eligible historic district. As such, it is assessed as a Category 2 resource.



Figure 450. Union Camp Building.

***Union Camp building – UGA 5058 (1954, Category 2).*** Also known as the International Paper Building, the Union Camp Building is located near Talmadge

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574. Ibid.

Auditorium. It is a single-story brick structure with a gable roof and a pedimented portico entry supported by paired metal posts. The portico has vinyl cladding in the gable, paired metal entry doors with sidelights, and decorated wood doorway surrounds. Wide bays with three sets of paired windows and long concrete sills flank the central doorway. A descending concrete stairway with metal railings leads to the front entry and sidewalks that continue around the sides of the building. The rear facade has a cross section with three doorways at the left, and one-over-one double-hung sash windows. There is also a concrete sitting area with picnic tables outside the building in this location. The right facade is U-shaped. The hipped roof has large wooden cornices and overhanging eaves.

The Union Camp Building generally retains sufficient integrity to convey its historic associations and likely contributes to a National Register-eligible historic district. As such, it is assessed as a Category 2 resource.



Figure 451. The Hastings Building.

***Hastings Building – UGA 5059 (1954, Category 2).*** The Hastings Building, set in the center of the complex, is a single-story brick structure with a hipped roof. There is also an overhanging eave associated with the right side of the building. The recessed entry, which is set on the left side, has flanking three-light sidelights and a single light transom, and single light aluminum framed double entry doors. Three bays of asymmetrical six-light windows are on the front and rear facades. There is also a vinyl hip-roof addition to the right rear facade. The rear entry is approached via a series of concrete steps.<sup>575</sup>

The Hastings Building generally retains sufficient integrity to convey its historic associations and likely contributes to a National Register-eligible historic district. As such, it is assessed as a Category 2 resource.

***Housekeeping – UGA 5060 (1963, Category 2).*** Housekeeping is a one-story building clad with vertical metal siding. The building has a gable standing-seam metal roof. Housekeeping retains sufficient integrity to convey its historic associations and likely contributes to a National Register-eligible historic district. It is assessed as a Category 2 resource.

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575. Ibid.

**Administration Building – UGFA 5061 (1952, Category 2).** The Administration Building is a two-story concrete masonry unit building. The building has a gable roof clad with asphalt shingles. The Administration Building retains sufficient integrity to convey its historic associations and likely contributes to a National Register-eligible historic district. It is assessed as a Category 2 resource.



Figure 452. The Georgia Power Building.

**Georgia Power Building – UGA 5062 (1971, Category 4).** The Georgia Power Building is located between the two rows of cabins numbered 1 through 12, and 13 through 18. It is a single-story brick structure with a complex roof line composed of hipped and gabled sections and a steeply pitched section at the very top gables, with shallower hipped section. The front has a paired-door entry projecting from the facade, a transom, and side lights. Windows flank the doorway, and are located to the sides of the entry. There are also large fixed windows at both ends of front facade. The roof has overhanging eaves, with decorative brick work just below roofline. The left facade has an ell section with a rear patio and three entry doors. The rear ell has a recessed entryway with two doors. The right facade has a U-shape with one door.<sup>576</sup>

The Georgia Power Building generally retains sufficient integrity to convey its historic associations and likely contributes to a National Register-eligible historic district. As such, it is assessed as a Category 2 resource.

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576. Ibid.



Figure 453. The Callaway Building.

***Callaway Building – UGA 5063 (1952, Category 2).*** The Callaway building is a single-story brick structure with a five-bay facade and a hipped roof. It features triple factory sash windows in three bays along the front facade, set in recessed stucco surround and with concrete sills. The left and right bays have extended pyramidal porticos over mid-century glass and aluminum entryways. A triangular vent is located in the left hipped extension, while there are four wooden post supports to the right and two on the left. There are paired FSP windows with concrete sills on the right facade. Hipped extensions are located on the left and right bays at the rear, with factory sash mirroring the front facade at the middle three bays. There is also a concrete unit masonry access stairway and a walkway on the left facade that lead to an aluminum side entry door.<sup>577</sup>

The Callaway Building generally retains sufficient integrity to convey its historic associations and likely contributes to a National Register-eligible historic district. As such, it is assessed as a Category 2 resource.



Figure 454. The Health Building.

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577. Ibid.

**Health Building – UGA 5065 (1953, Category 2).** The Health Building is a single-story red brick structure with a hipped roof featuring overhanging eaves, and clad with asphalt shingles. The central entrance is recessed. It consists of a two-light door edged by a rough-stone patio. Three double-hung sash windows flank the doorway. The left side includes a secondary entrance accessed via a concrete sidewalk that leads to a three-light door. The left doorway is flanked with a single double-hung sash window, while there is a paired double-hung sash window on the rear left facade. The windows have concrete sills. This building, located near the dining hall, is currently referred to as the Coca-Cola cottage.<sup>578</sup>

The Health Building generally retains sufficient integrity to convey its historic associations and likely contributes to a National Register-eligible historic district. As such, it is assessed as a Category 2 resource.



Figure 455. The Bankers building.

**Bankers Building – UGA 5066 (1953, Category 2).** The Bankers Building is located adjacent to the Health Building. This single-story yellow-brick structure has a hipped roof with large overhanging eaves, a four-bay front facade, and an entry on the left side set beneath a separate overhanging hipped roof supported by metal posts and beams. A concrete walk provides access to the entrance, which features paired two-light metal framed doors, each with a single sidelight and a transom. Three large window bays appear to be infilled. Each has three, one-over-one single-hung sash windows with metal frames. An ell on the rear has an elevated concrete patio and doorway. The left facade has two six-over-six single-hung sash windows and paired four-light jalousie windows with metal frames. This building appears to have undergone extensive renovations.<sup>579</sup>

Further consideration is needed to determine whether the Bankers Building retains sufficient integrity to convey its historic associations due to the extensive renovations that have taken place.

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578. Ibid.

579. Ibid.



Figure 456. The Krannert Building.

***Krannert Building – UGA 5067 (1953, Category 2).*** The Krannert Building is located adjacent to the Bankers building. This single-story brick structure features a hipped roof with overhanging wooden eaves. Six fixed ribbon windows flank the entry portico with concrete sills. Paired metal supports are associated with the entry portico. There is a circular vinyl vent in the gable. The entry also features modern aluminum framed glass double doors. There are two extensions to the rear with pyramidal and hipped roofs. A concrete unit masonry and granite seating area is located in back of the building. The area has an inscribed dedication from Elberton Granite Finishing Co., 1952.<sup>580</sup>

The Krannert Building generally retains sufficient integrity to convey its historic associations and likely contributes to a National Register-eligible historic district. As such, it is assessed as a Category 2 resource.



Figure 457. L.P. Gas Building.

***L.P. Gas Building – UGA 5068 (1953, Category 2).*** The L.P. gas building is a single-story brick structure with a hipped roof. The principal facade features a modern vinyl gabled portico entry with aluminum framed double doors and fixed single panel sidelights and paired wooden supports. LFSP ribbon windows flank the entry in the front facade. Gaslights also flank the entrance. A large open-air picnic area addition is located to the rear right with a brick foundation, concrete

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580. Ibid.

unit masonry seat walls, dimensioned lumber supports, and fixed lights in the hipped roof. The roof has hipped and pyramidal extensions in the rear. The windows have concrete sills. The sidewalk that leads to the front door is edged by elevated concrete unit masonry planting beds and granite memorial benches.<sup>581</sup>

The L.P. Gas Building generally retains sufficient integrity to convey its historic associations and likely contributes to a National Register-eligible historic district. As such, it is assessed as a Category 2 resource.



Figure 458. The Boathouse and Store.

***Boathouse and Store – UGA 5070 (1953, Category 2).*** The Boathouse and Store is a single-story brick structure with a wooden cupola and hipped roof with overhanging eaves. The building has a mid-century aluminum entry door. There are six-light windows on the left and right facades, and a vertical board concession window on the rear facade with a concrete counter. A brick retaining wall edges a concrete landing that surrounds the building to the right. Concrete bench seating is located to the rear.<sup>582</sup>

The Boathouse and Store building generally retains sufficient integrity to convey its historic associations and likely contributes to a National Register-eligible historic district. As such, it is assessed as a Category 2 resource.

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581. Ibid.

582. Ibid.



Figure 459. Pavilion 1.

***Pavilion 1 – UGA 5075 (1963, Category 2).*** Pavilion 1 is an open-air structure with concrete unit masonry walls, 2 feet in height, and a concrete floor. There is a concrete unit masonry-enclosed room on the right side, with entries on the front and both side facades. The pavilion roof is supported by timber posts, lumber beams, rafters with closed rafter ends, and overhanging eaves.<sup>583</sup>

Pavilion 1 generally retains sufficient integrity to convey its historic associations and likely contributes to a National Register-eligible historic district. As such, it is assessed as a Category 2 resource.



Figure 460. Pavilion 2.

***Pavilion 2 – UGA 5076 (1964, Category 2).*** Pavilion 2 is also known as the E. R. Gay Pavilion. The roof is supported with timber posts, dimensioned lumber beams, and rafters. The structure has a concrete floor and a 2-foot high concrete unit masonry wall. The rear is enclosed with vertical board and has two, three-

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583. Ibid.

light entry doors at the front, and two, two-over-two aluminum frame double-hung sash windows at the rear. There is a wooden entry walk leading from a concrete sidewalk.<sup>584</sup>

Pavilion 2 generally retains sufficient integrity to convey its historic associations and likely contributes to a National Register-eligible historic district. As such, it is assessed as a Category 2 resource.



Figure 461. Pavilion 3.

***Pavilion 3 – UGA 5077 (1963, Category 2).*** The open-air Pavilion 3 has timber posts and dimensioned lumber beams and rafters, with overhanging eaves. A 2-foot-tall concrete unit masonry wall is set around the perimeter, except where a concrete ramp provides access to the interior. There is also a concrete unit masonry-enclosed room at the rear accessed by a single doorway.<sup>585</sup>

Pavilion 3 generally retains sufficient integrity to convey its historic associations and likely contributes to a National Register-eligible historic district. As such, it is assessed as a Category 2 resource.

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584. Ibid.

585. Ibid.



Figure 462. The Resident Williamson Building.

***Resident Williamson Building – UGA 5080 (1954, Category 2).*** The single-story wood-framed Williamson residence has three window bays, a paired one-over-one, and three one-over-one with louvered shutters. There are small ventilation holes at the bottom of the front facade. The garage forms an ell on the left with two one-over-one windows, a large garage door, and a solid entry door. There is a concrete patio at the rear ell, with an entry door and one-over-one windows. Wooden steps at the back of the driveway lead to an elevated yard. The gable of the garage is finished with stucco and vertical wood. The right facade has two one-over-one windows. Previous damage to the stucco has been repaired with plywood, although patches of stucco are still missing.<sup>586</sup>

The Resident Williamson Building generally retains sufficient integrity to convey its historic associations and likely contributes to a National Register-eligible historic district. As such, it is assessed as a Category 2 resource.

***Resident Jenkins Building – UGA 5081 (1952, Category 2).*** The Resident Jenkins Building is a single-story brick residence with a gable roof. It is five bays wide, with gabled extensions to the left and right along the principal facade. There are wooden shutters associated with all of the windows. The entry is recessed and edged by wooden posts and arches. The door is framed by four-light fanlights. There is a wooden porch on the back left facade. Triple, single-hung sash windows are centered on rear facade. Vinyl cladding is located in the side and front gables, along with a square vinyl vent.<sup>587</sup>

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586. Ibid.

587. Ibid.



Figure 463. The Resident Jenkins building.

The Resident Jenkins Building generally retains sufficient integrity to convey its historic associations and likely contributes to a National Register-eligible historic district. As such, it is assessed as a Category 2 resource.



Figure 464. Pool 1 Filter House.

***Pool 1 Filter House – UGA 5082 (1952, Category 2).*** The Pool 1 filter house is a small, square, single-story brick building with a hipped roof and cupola. The roof has large overhanging wood eaves. There are wood vents with brick sills on all non-entry facades. Three cast concrete steps lead to a wood double-door entry. The left facade has a 1 by 2 foot hole in the exterior.<sup>588</sup>

The Pool 1 filter house generally retains sufficient integrity to convey its historic associations and likely contributes to a National Register-eligible historic district. As such, it is assessed as a Category 2 resource.

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588. Ibid.



Figure 465. Senior Pavilion.

***Senior Pavilion – UGA 5085 (1959, Category 2).*** The senior pavilion is a five-bay structure that overlooks the lake. The two right bays are an enclosed concrete unit masonry storage shed with a vertical board wall, while the other three bays are open to the air and have a concrete floor. The hipped roof is supported by columnar wooden posts within the open-air section. Entrances into the storage shed occur at the front facade and the interior facade of the open area. Concrete unit masonry seat walls and wood benches are located in the open-air section. The roof has exposed rafter tails and the wall openings feature concrete sills. Particle board has been installed over the window in the rear facade.<sup>589</sup>

The senior pavilion generally retains sufficient integrity to convey its historic associations and likely contributes to a National Register-eligible historic district. As such, it is assessed as a Category 2 resource.



Figure 466. The Patricia Nunn Barkuloo Conference Center.

***Patricia Nunn Barkuloo Conference Center – UGA 5086 (1973, Category 4).*** The Patricia Nunn Barkuloo Conference Center is a single-story wood-framed

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589. Ibid.

structure with three sections—a central entry pavilion, an ell, and a rear extension. Both ends of the building feature decorative, 3-foot-tall stone foundations. The central entry pavilion has a gable roof. Entry walkways flank the front door and lead to side entries. The right facade has six fixed windows. The ell features fixed windows and a wood paneled door. It is edged by a concrete patio. The rear extension features a bay of fixed windows and protruding projecting addition with a concrete masonry unit base.<sup>590</sup>

The Patricia Nunn Barkuloo Conference Center postdates the period of significance and is non-contributing. It is more than 40 years old, however. As such it is assessed as a Category 4 resource.



Figure 467. The pump house.

***Pump House – UGA 5089 (1953, Category 2).*** The pump house is a concrete unit masonry structure painted yellow with a 3-foot-wide wooden door on the front facade. The building has a shed roof and wood eaves. There is a metal light cage at the side facade and PVC pipe at the left facade.<sup>591</sup>

The pump house generally retains sufficient integrity to convey its historic associations and likely contributes to a National Register-eligible historic district. As such, it is assessed as a Category 2 resource.

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590. Ibid.

591. Ibid.



Figure 468. The observation tower.

***Observation tower – UGA 5090 (1936, Category 1).*** The stone observation tower is a four-story square structure that features a rounded arched entry centered in the east wall. The entry is marked by a Syrian arch and keystone. Three courses of regularly coursed stone form buttresses at the four corners. Single windows are centered on the left and right facades on the lower three floors. There are also two rectangular window openings with stone sills on the second and third floors and stone pilasters on all four corners of the first floor. All of the window openings are unglazed; the windows in the top floors have metal casemates. The openings are square-topped at the three lower floors and round-topped at the top floor. The interior stairs are timber.<sup>592</sup> The building is not accessible to the public and is surrounded by a chain link fence.

The tower was built near the Rock Eagle effigy mound in the 1930s by the Works Progress Administration (WPA) in association with the University of Georgia to allow visitors to view the mound.

A bronze marker placed near the head of the effigy in 1940 that reads:

Rock Eagle Mound / Mound of prehistoric origin, believed to be ceremonial mound, made with white quartz rocks in the shape of an eagle, head turned to east, length 102 feet, spread of wings 120 feet, depth of breast 8 feet. Only two such configurations discovered east of the Mississippi River. Both are in Putnam County. 'Tread softly here white man for long ere you came strange races lived, fought and loved.' Erected by the Georgia Society Colonial Dames of the XVII century / June 1940.

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592. Ibid.

The observation tower generally retains sufficient integrity to convey its historic associations and appears individually eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. As such, it has been assessed as a Category 1 resource.



Figure 469. The gate house.

***Gate house – UGA 5091 (1969, Category 4).*** The gate house is a modest wood-framed structure, with a rough stone pier on the right side. The gable roof is low-pitched, with exposed rafter ends and large overhanging eaves. A stone patio fronts the entrance, which features a wood door with a three-light window. Windows are two-over-two double-hung sash at the right and rear facades, and there is a single light window at the left. There are also stone planters at the base of the side facade, and cast-in-place concrete planters on the right facade. Stone pillars connected by chains edge the road to either side. A rip-rap swale is located at the rear of the structure.<sup>593</sup>

The gate house postdates the period of significance, and is non-contributing. The gate house is more than forty years of age, however. As such, it is assessed as a Category 4 resource.

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593. Ibid.



Figure 470. The Sewerage lift station.

***Sewerage lift station – UGA 5092 (1954, Category 2).*** The sewerage lift station is a small stuccoed concrete unit masonry structure with a hipped roof that features a large wooden cornice and a cupola on top. The solid metal door is set in the center of the front facade. Electrical boxes flank the door. There are unglazed, metal sash windows with concrete sills on the side facades. The square cupola has vertical board and a pyramidal roof. The lift station is set along the edge of the lake near a wooden footbridge. A large exterior electrical box is located near the right facade.<sup>594</sup>

The sewerage lift station generally retains sufficient integrity to convey its historic associations and likely contributes to a National Register-eligible historic district. As such, it is assessed as a Category 2 resource.

***Pavilion at Pool 2 – UGA 5093 (1964, Category 2).*** The pavilion at Pool 2 is an open-air structure with round timber posts, overhanging eaves, a cast-in-place concrete floor, and a 2-foot-high concrete unit masonry wall. There is an enclosed area with a single metal door and two concession windows at the front, and a second metal door at the left facade. A newer concrete unit masonry pool house is located nearby. Metal fencing surrounds the pool.

The pavilion at Pool 2 generally retains sufficient integrity to convey its historic associations and likely contributes to a National Register-eligible historic district. As such, it is assessed as a Category 2 resource.

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594. Ibid.



Figure 471. The Bathhouse.

***Bathhouse – UGA 5096 (1974, Category 4).*** The Bathhouse is a single-story wood structure with a gable roof and a door centered at the front. Particleboard entry doors are located in the left and right facades, with dimensioned lumber privacy fencing surrounding each entrance, and a concrete entry pad to the front. A square fan vent is set in each gable. The roof has overhanging wooden eaves with exposed rafter tails. The structure is part of the Rock Eagle Pioneer Camp.<sup>595</sup>

The Bathhouse postdates the period of significance, and does not contribute to a National Register-eligible historic district. The bathhouse is more than 40 years of age, however. As such, it is assessed as a Category 4 resource.



Figure 472. The Pioneer Camp Pavilion.

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595. Ibid.

***Pioneer Camp Pavilion – UGA 5097 (1974, Category 4).*** The four-bay pavilion that serves the pioneer camp has a single enclosed bay on the right facade. An entry door into the enclosed bay is located on the right facade. There are double concession stand windows at the interior and wood shelving at the front facade exterior. The open bays are supported by wood posts with dimensioned lumber brackets and exposed rafters. The gable roof has overhanging wooden eaves with exposed rafter tails.<sup>596</sup>

The Pioneer Camp Pavilion postdates the period of significance, and does not contribute to a National Register-eligible historic district. The pioneer camp pavilion is more than forty years of age, however. As such, it is assessed as a Category 4 resource.



Figure 473. Adirondack Cabins.

***Pioneer Camp Adirondack Cabins 1 through 9 – UGA 5098 (1972, Category 4).*** This cluster of cabins serves the pioneer camp. It includes nine, rustic, one-room wooden structures, eight of which are rectangular with small covered porch entrances, shed roofs, exposed posts, and screened areas below the rooflines. The ninth cabin is an A-frame structure with overhanging eaves, a screen door, and board and batten siding. Two of the cabins are in disrepair, with evidence of roof damage. The foundations are stone or concrete piers.<sup>597</sup>

The Pioneer Camp Adirondack Cabins post-date the period of significance, and do not contribute to a National Register-eligible historic district. The buildings are more than 40 years of age, however. As such, they are assessed as Category 4 resources.

### **Landscape Resources**

***Path to access Rock Eagle Effigy Mound (date undetermined, category undetermined).*** A stone-paved pathway circumnavigates the effigy mound. It was built by the CCC to accompany the observation tower. Mill grinding stones

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596. Ibid.

597. Ibid.

were incorporated into the pavement. Interpretive panels that explain the significance of the site are later additions, as is the chain-link fencing that limits access to the mound. The path generally retains sufficient integrity to convey its historic associations. Although a specific date of origin of the path is not documented in archival material reviewed for this study, the path likely contributes to a National Register-eligible historic district. As such, it is assessed as a Category 2 resource.

***Lake (date undetermined, category undetermined).*** One of the principal features of the Rock Eagle 4-H Center is the large lake that extends in three lobes, with much of the camp's built infrastructure located to the north, and trails extending along the lake margins and through the woods. The lake was constructed as part of the WPA project conducted on the property during the 1930s that included work at the Rock Eagle effigy mound and the park property that the camp now occupies. Canoe docks, beaches, and fire rings are sited along the lake. Although the integrity of setting and design associated with the WPA-era lake has been diminished by the later development of the 4-H Center, the lake generally retains sufficient integrity to convey its historic associations. Although a specific date of origin of the lake is not documented in archival material reviewed for this study, it likely contributes to a National Register-eligible historic district. As such, it is assessed as a Category 2 resource.

***Road network (date undetermined, category undetermined).*** The Rock Eagle 4-H Center road network consists of asphalt-paved circulation routes that loop throughout the developed area of the camp, providing access to all of the principal buildings. The road network appears to have been constructed in the early 1950s as part of the 4-H Center development. As such it constitutes a Category 2 resource.

***Trails (date undetermined, category undetermined).*** Several trails extend through the property. It is likely that some of the trails were established during the WPA era, and others during the early 4-H camp development period. The date of origin of the trails is not documented in archival material reviewed for this study.

***Swimming pool (date undetermined, Category 5).*** The swimming pool features a metal framed slide.

***Miniature golf course (date undetermined, Category 5).*** A miniature golf course is one of the recreational amenities at the Rock Eagle 4-H Center.<sup>598</sup>

***Pioneer camp fire ring (date undetermined, category undetermined).*** There is a stone fire ring in the center of the pioneer camp area edged by logs for seating.<sup>599</sup> Pioneer camp features appear to have been built during the early 1970s. As such, they postdate the period of significance, but constitute Category 4 resources.

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598. Ibid.

599. Ibid.

## Archaeological Resources

Queries to GNAHRGIS indicate that twenty-two archaeological sites have been documented on the Rock Eagle 4-H Center property, although only a very small portion of the property's northern edge has been surveyed. Several sites have also been recorded within the adjacent Oconee National Forest. Despite the absence of systematic survey, some of the history of the property can be summarized based on information from recorded sites. In addition to the known archaeological sites, there is a strong probability that several more undocumented sites exist.

The earliest documented occupation of the property occurred between 300 and 100 BC, during what is known as the Cartersville Phase. Archaeological sites from this period of time are mostly recognized through distinctive pottery, and to a lesser degree, projectile points. It is likely that sites from this time period represent temporary habitations used in the fall or winter for gathering wild plant food, or hunting. If portions of such sites retain moderate to good integrity, information on how people gathered food, processed it, and perhaps stored it, as well as establishing temporary housing, and many other aspects of daily life may be gleaned. Since none of the sites of this time period at Rock Eagle have been tested, their level of preservation and information potential is not currently known.

Another site located on the property has been dated to the Vining Phase, associated with a society that existed between approximately AD 800 and 1180. This occupation was identified through distinctive pottery that has been associated with Vining Phase people across a broad area of north-central Georgia. The pottery has been found in small amounts in the area around the Rock Eagle effigy mound. It is not known if this pottery was left at the site when the mound was in use, or if occurred earlier, or even postdates the mound.

The Rock Eagle mound was first studied in 1877 by C. C. Jones, although it was known to earlier American settlers and American Indians. The mound is formed of cobble-sized quartz stones with some soil infill, piled over quartzite bedrock. The earliest drawings of the mound show that the stone was piled in the form of a raptor with spread wings and a turned head. It is oriented with the strike of the ridge on which it sits. The present configuration of the mound roughly corresponds to the earlier drawings, and is made of the original stones of the mound. However, its form was somewhat modified by "restoration" work done as a part of a WPA and Rural Resettlement Administration project in 1936. Archaeological excavations conducted at the site in 1952 as a part of developing the property as a 4-H camp cleared approximately 15 percent of the mound to bedrock. These excavations did not reveal the age of the mound, although through the discovery of cremated human remains, its role as a ritual structure was confirmed.

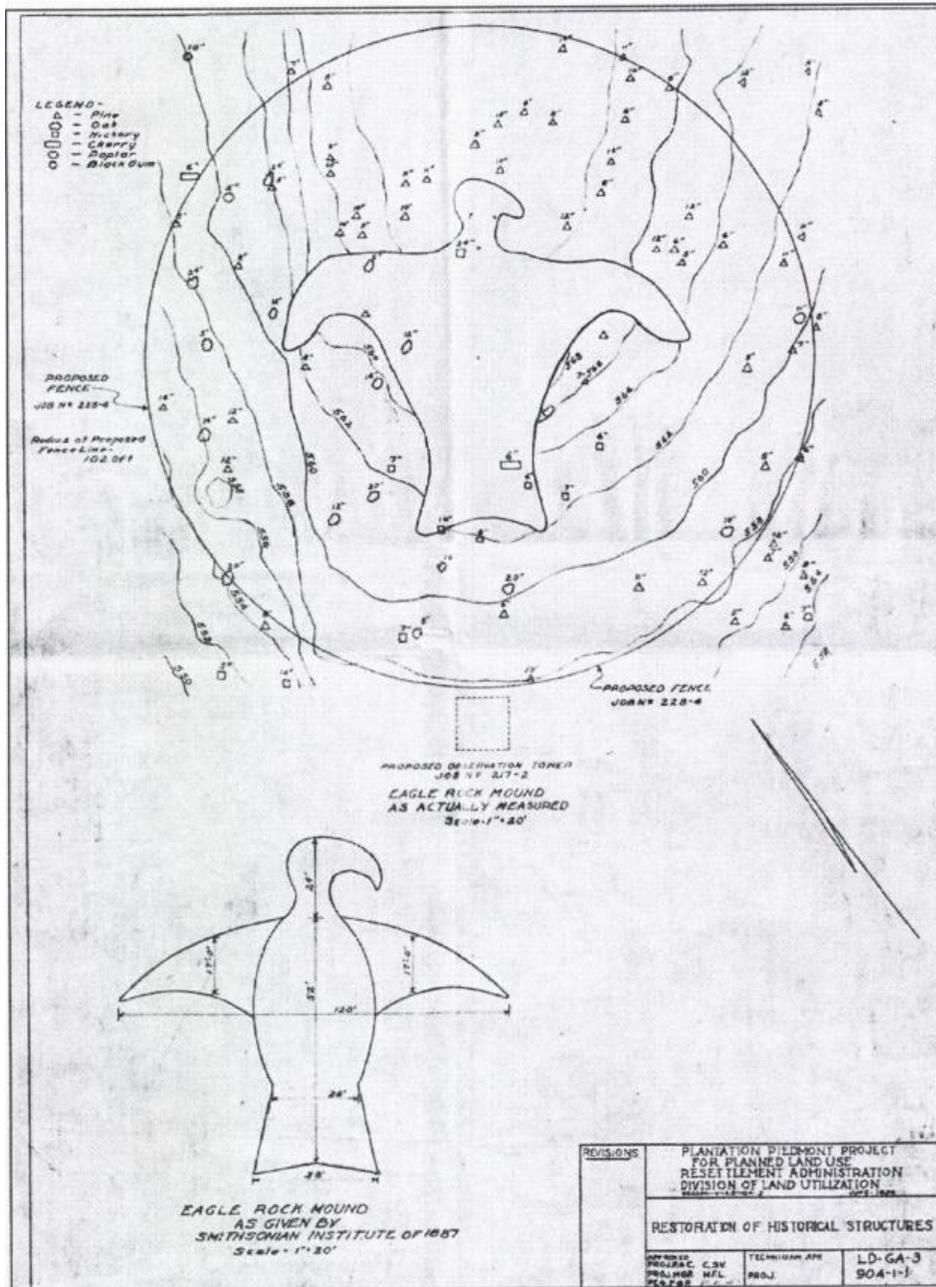


Figure 474. Drawing for restoration of Rock Eagle mound, 1936. (Source: University of Georgia archives)

Of the twenty-two sites recorded on the Rock Eagle 4-H Center property, ten have been identified as having Lamar Culture occupations. The Lamar Culture is thought to have occurred across much of northern Georgia between AD 1400 and 1680.<sup>600</sup> Two of the ten sites associated with the Lamar Culture have been more precisely identified as Bell Phase sites. The Bell Phase occurred between approximately AD 1590 and 1680. During that time, it is believed that many of the upland hills, similar to those at Rock Eagle, were being used by one to a few households for agriculture as small farmsteads. With adequate integrity, these

600. Refinement of this time frame can be made if a large enough sample of pottery from a site is available

sites have tremendous research potential, and can add to the understanding of this period of time when American Indian populations were facing tremendous change due to contact, direct or indirect, with Europeans.

***Rock Eagle effigy mound (pre-European-American settlement, Category 1).***

Shaped like a prone bird, Rock Eagle is an effigy mound composed of milky quartz rocks. Measuring 8 feet high at the breast, the mound was likely built circa 2,000 BC by Native Americans. Many believe it was built for religious or ceremonial purposes. Some archaeologists associate the mound with the Middle Woodland period (AD 100 to 300), and have suggested a possible relationship between the builders of Rock Eagle and the Hopewell culture, mound builders active in the Great Lakes region and the Mississippi and Ohio River Valleys between 200 BC and AD 500. In 1978, the mound was listed in the National Register of Historic Places. The only other recognized stone effigy mound east of the Mississippi River is Rock Hawk, also located in Putnam County near Lake Oconee.<sup>601</sup>

In addition to the large Rock Eagle mound, many smaller stone piles are present on the property, most of which have not been recorded as archaeological sites. In the Georgia Piedmont, many of these piles are interpreted as the result of nineteenth and twentieth century agricultural activities. However, within the Georgia Piedmont, several rock piles have been demonstrated to be American Indian cairns, containing human remains and mortuary offerings. The discovery of a human cremation in the Rock Eagle mound demonstrates that the use of stone mounds as tumuli was practiced on the property. For this reason, a stone pile that cannot be positively identified as having a Euro-American origin should be considered to be a possible grave.

One site, 9PM808, is identified as having a nineteenth-century occupation, although it is interpreted as not having sufficient integrity to meet the criteria for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. Such sites are common in the area, and there is a strong possibility that more exist on the property that have yet to be documented. Archaeological sites from this time period in a rural setting such as at Rock Eagle have the potential to inform the understanding of American settlement of the area, participation in the plantation economy, and yeomen farming. Late nineteenth and early twentieth century archaeological sites have the potential to contribute to the understanding of the lives of people in the area at a time when the social and economic roles of individuals and classes of people were rapidly changing in the aftermath of the Civil War, with a large percentage of the population shifting from slavery to the roles of land tenants or yeomen.

Several extant twentieth century structures associated with the development of the property by the CCC, and later as a 4-H camp, and the activity areas surrounding them likely retain archaeological features and artifact scatters dating to the time of their use. Such archaeological features could add greatly to our understanding of the lives of the people who experienced the documented history of this time period. Additionally, one historic cemetery is mapped on the property, and recorded as site 9PM136. Archaeologically, cemeteries are much

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601. University of Georgia, "Rock Eagle 4-H Center; History."

more than repositories for the dead. Cemeteries are frequently a central location for societies, and often bear symbols and records deeply held cultural meaning and practice.

Archaeological survey of the property can clarify the absence or existence of archaeological sites, and assess the research potential of known sites. Although the majority of efforts conducted by archaeologists on the property to date have focused on the Rock Eagle effigy mound, there is likely evidence of several other important periods of cultural history present within the archaeological record with information potential that should be further investigated.

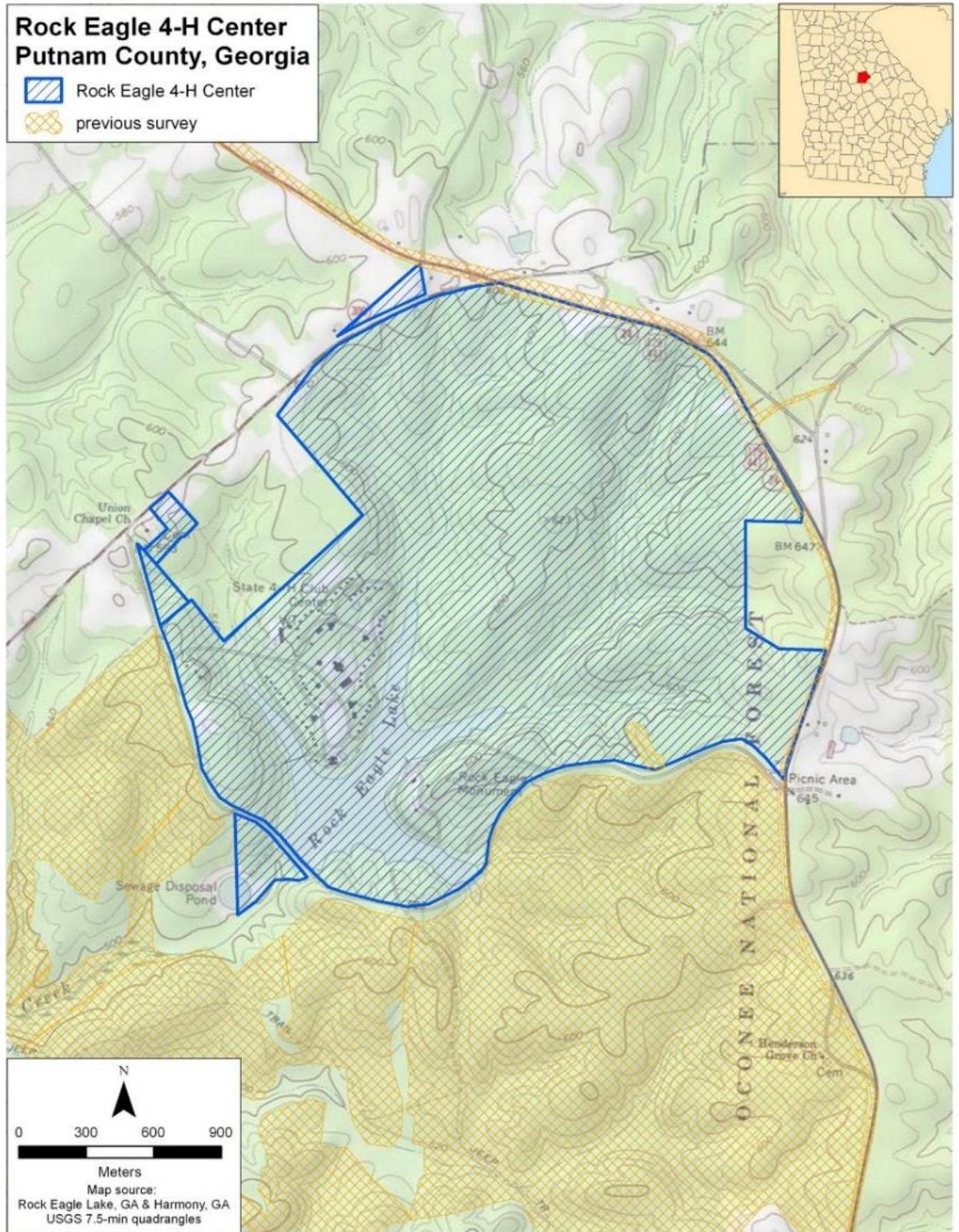


Figure 475. Rock Eagle 4-H Center property and area of previous archaeological survey. (Source: USGS, annotated by the authors.)

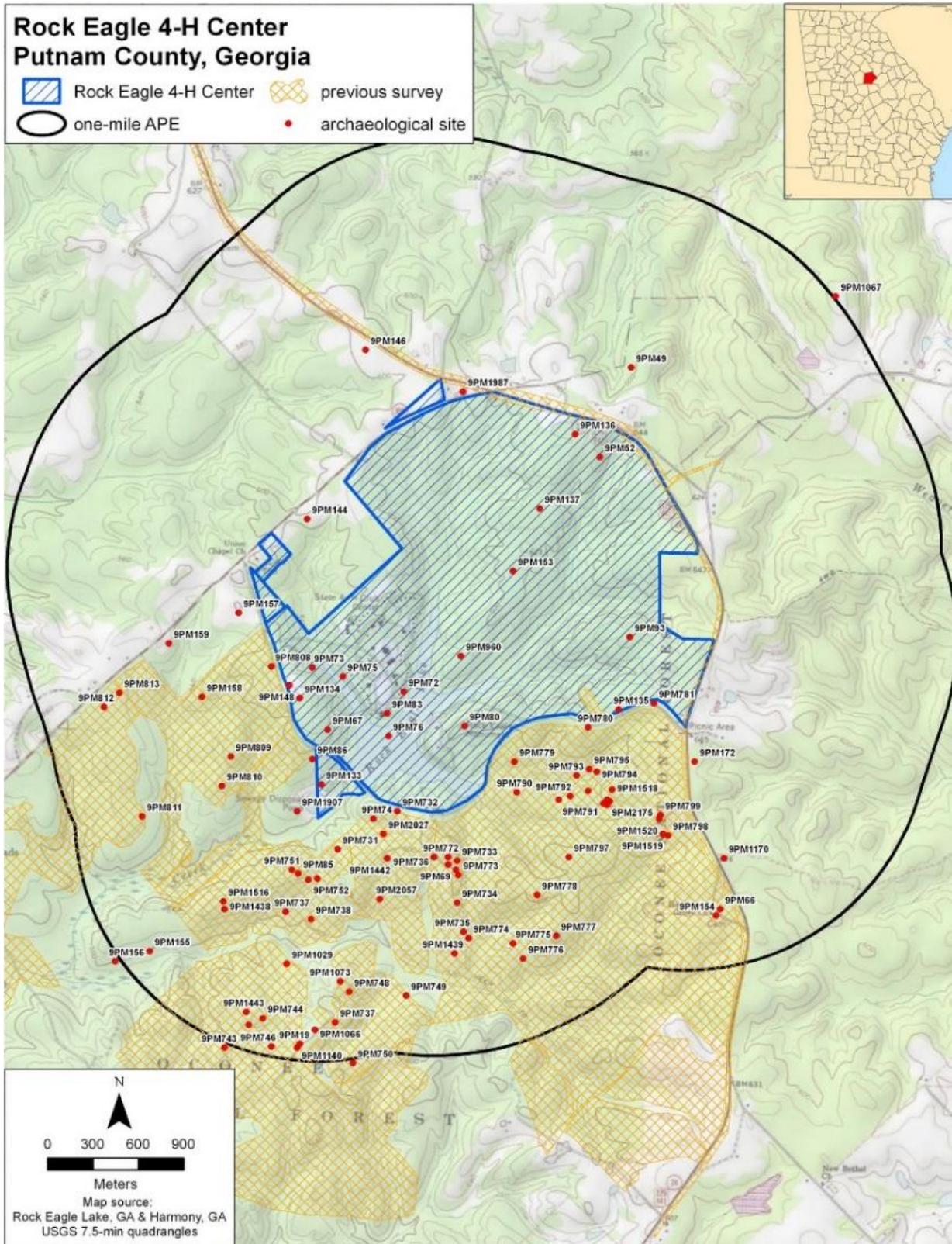


Fig. 477. Rock Eagle 4-H Center property and area of previous archaeological survey, previously identified archaeological sites, and area of potential effects (APE). (Source: USGS, annotated by the authors)

## Summary Assessments

### National Register-eligible Properties

#### ***Rock Eagle 4-H Center***

The Rock Eagle 4-H Center of the University of Georgia appears significant at the state level as a historic district eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criteria A, C, and D in the areas of Agriculture, Archeology (Prehistoric) (Historic-non-aboriginal), Architecture, Education, and Politics/ Government for associations with Native American culture, WPA construction and planning activities, and 4-H camping and education. The periods of significance for Rock Eagle include the Late Woodland effigy mound period (AD 100–400), the CCC period (circa 1936), and the early camp development period (1952–1966).

The Rock Eagle effigy mound is already individually listed in the National Register of Historic Places. The property likely also possesses information potential for other pre-Contact cultural use and activities. WPA-era features likely include the lake, some trail features, the observation tower, and the walk around the effigy. 4-H center features include road networks, buildings, structures, and potentially trails and other features.

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

- Observation tower – UGA 5090 (1936)
- Rock Eagle effigy mound (pre-European-American settlement)

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

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

- Cottage 1 – UGA 5011 (1953)
- Cottages 13–24 – UGA 5013–5024 (1953)
- Cottages 33–54 – UGA 5033–5054 (1953)
- Chapel – UGA 5055 (1955)
- Dining hall – UGA 5056 (1955)
- Talmadge Auditorium – UGA 5057 (1955)
- Union Camp Building – UGA 5058 (1954)
- Hastings Building – UGA 5059 (1954)
- Callaway Building – UGA 5063 (1952)
- Health Building – UGA 5065 (1953)
- Bankers Building – UGA 5066 (1953)
- Krannert Building – UGA 5067 (1953)
- L.P. gas Building – UGA 5068 (1953)

- Boathouse and Store – UGA 5070 (1953)
- Pavilion 1 – UGA 5075 (1963)
- Pavilion 2 – UGA 5076 (1964)
- Pavilion 3 – UGA 5077 (1963)
- Resident Williamson Building – UGA 5080 (1954)
- Resident Jenkins Building – UGA 5081 (1952)
- Pool 1 filter house – UGA 5082 (1952)
- Senior pavilion – UGA 5085 (1959)
- Pump house – UGA 5089 (1953)
- Sewerage lift Station – UGA 5092 (1954)
- Pavilion at Pool 2 – UGA 5093 (1964)
- Landscape resources: lake, road network, path to access Rock Eagle effigy mound
- Archaeological resource: Rock Eagle Effigy Mound

## ***Wahsega 4-H Center***

### **Building Resources**

***4-H cottages nos. 1–16 – UGA 5301–5316 (1938, Category 2); 4-H cottage no. 17 (staff housing) – UGA 5317 (1938, Category 2).*** Camp Wahsega contains sixteen modest wood-framed cottages or cabins. Each is a slight variation on a standard design style. These one-room frame structures measure 24 feet in width and are 19 feet 5 inches in depth. Each has board-and-batten siding. The hipped roofs have exposed rafter ends and overhanging eaves. Most of the wood used in construction was chestnut from the surrounding area. The cabins originally featured hand-rived chestnut shake shingled roofs; however, this roofing has been replaced with composite shingles. The cabins also feature stonework foundations. The cabins are fronted by 6 foot 5 inch by 15 foot 6 inch porches, also wood-framed, with peeled-pole chestnut roof supports and railings. Two to three stone steps lead to the porches. The doors are vertical board flanked by double six-light sliding windows. There are wooden brackets at either side of the door. Windows are generally single-hung, with two panels of six panes each, hinged to swing outward for ventilation. A single double-window is set in the center of each side wall, and two are set in the back and front walls.

The U.S. Army modified these structures for winter use in 1951 by covering the interior studs with plywood sheets, and closing up the corner windows. The Army may also have added heater vents to the roofs when they winterized the cabins. Electricity is available in the cabins. Screen doors and window screens have also been added to many of the buildings.<sup>602</sup>

At least one cabin has been modified through the addition of a wooden side access ramp for universal accessibility. Others have been expanded with additions.

The 4-H cottages generally retain sufficient integrity to convey their historic associations and likely contribute to a National Register-eligible historic district. As such, they are assessed as Category 2 resources.

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602. Wynn, "Cultural Resources Assessment," 12, 16.



Figure 476. Manager's House/Director's House/Caretaker's House, with water wheel in foreground. (Source: University of Georgia Office of University Architects)

***Manager's House/Director's House/Caretaker's House – UGA 5318 (1938, Category 2).*** This building was the original CCC camp infirmary. It has four rooms and a central hallway, bathroom, and two closets. A screened porch extends across the back as an integral part of the structure. It has board and batten siding with stonework foundations and steps. The building measures 23 feet 6 inches by 33 feet 6 inches in plan, including the porch.<sup>603</sup> The building is believed to have been renovated in 1979.



Figure 477. Camp Wahsega boy counselors' cabin.

***Camp Wahsega boy counselors' cabin – UGA 5319 (1938, Category 2).*** This wood-framed cabin has a front-gabled facade with an elevated doorway. Wooden steps with handrails lead to the central entry door. Large wooden brackets support a pediment above the door. There are two sets of one-over-one windows on either side of the door. There is also a wooden belt course above the doorway below the gable. The roof has overhanging eaves with exposed rafter ends. The foundation is concrete unit masonry infilled with plywood. The side facades

603. Ibid.,16.

feature several windows bays. The rear has four windows and an elevated nine-light door. The door opens to a grassy area set with chairs and tables.

The boy counselors' cabin generally retains sufficient integrity to convey its historic associations and likely contributes to a National Register-eligible historic district. As such, it is assessed as a Category 2 resource.



Figure 478. Camp Wahsega girl counselors' cabin.

***Camp Wahsega girl counselors' cabin/guest house – UGA 5320 (1938, Category 2).*** The guest house is located along Cloverleaf Trail north of the Director's residence. It is also located across from the basketball and volleyball courts. The building is approached via a gravel path edged with stones, and fieldstone steps lead to a wood veranda. The girl counselors' cabin/guest house is a single-story wood-frame structure with a gable roof. There is a side-gabled addition on the left. The windows are midcentury replacements with wooden frames. The roof has large overhanging eaves. The guest house contains two bedrooms, a central hallway, a small kitchen and bath, and a small porch. The structure measures 23 by 36 feet in plan. The porch is an additional 7 feet 9 inches by 12 feet 8 inches in plan, and is centered on the front door. Windows are double-hung four-over-four units. The exterior is board and batten, with peeled pole porch supports and rails, and stonework foundations and steps.<sup>604</sup> Some original stone piers have been replaced with concrete unit masonry. Other alterations include an aluminum gutter system and green asphalt shingle roof.<sup>605</sup>

Despite the noted alterations, the girl counselors' cabin generally retains sufficient integrity to convey its historic associations and likely contributes to a National Register-eligible historic district. As such, it is assessed as a Category 2 resource.

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604. Wynn, *Cultural Resources Evaluation*, 16.

605. Findlt survey.



Figure 479. Camp Wahsega dining hall.

***Camp Wahsega dining hall – UGA 5321 (1938, Category 2).*** The Camp Wahsega dining hall is located across from the canteen and office/classroom building along the camp’s main road. It is edged to the north and east by streams and Ward Creek. The dining hall measures 27 feet 7 inches by 83 feet 11 inches in plan, with a 4-by-21-foot entry porch and storage room on one side that may be an addition. The building includes a dining hall with a raised stage at the end and a large stonework fireplace, a kitchen, and a storage room and bathroom. The building has a gable roof, board-and-batten siding, and stonework foundations, steps, and chimney. The principal facade has the cross gabled addition with a screened porch and storage area, a large door at ground level, overhanging eaves, and wooden brackets. Windows are top-hinged, six-light units. A later elevated entrance occurs on the far right of front facade. Both gabled ends have massive rough stone chimneys. The rear facade is also an addition. It has fourteen newer one-over-one windows. A ramp and stairs lead to a doorway near the back of the left side facade. There is a small fountain at the front facade.<sup>606</sup>

Despite changes that have occurred to the building, the dining hall generally retains sufficient integrity to convey its historic associations and likely contributes to a National Register-eligible historic district. As such, it is assessed as a Category 2 resource.

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606. Ibid.



Figure 480. Recreation Hall, 2015.

***Recreation Hall (Assembly Hall) – UGA 5322 (1951, Category 2).*** The Recreation Hall (Assembly Hall) is clad with wood board-and-batten siding. The building has a gable roof clad with asphalt shingles. A contemporary stair and accessible ramp leads to the main entrance, which is marked with a wood-framed, gable-roofed awning.



Figure 481. Camp Wahsega craft food storage building.

***Camp Wahsega craft food storage building – UGA 5324 (1938, Category 2).*** The craft food storage building faces the camp road. The front facade has seven bays with an irregular distribution of four doors and three windows. The door opens onto three unroofed porches. The porches are simple decks upheld by wooden posts. A fifth door is set on the north end. The building is four rooms wide. Some of the original novelty board has been replaced with weatherboard. Since 1975, most of the doors and some of the cladding has been replaced. Circa 1985, the porches were replaced.<sup>607</sup>

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607. Ibid.

Despite diminished integrity of materials, the craft food storage building generally retains sufficient integrity to convey its historic associations and likely contributes to a National Register-eligible historic district. As such, it is assessed as a Category 2 resource.



Figure 482. Camp Wahsega pump house.

***Camp Wahsega pump house – UGA 5325 (1972, Category 4).*** The pump house is low wood-framed structure with a shed addition along the front facade near the entryway and a 30-foot side gable extension. The doors and roof are mid-century replacements. The left facade has a board and batten entry door. The right facade shed addition has a single, six-over-six light window.<sup>608</sup>

The pump house postdates the period of significance, and is non-contributing. The structure is more than 40 years of age, however. As such, it is assessed as a Category 4 resource.



Figure 483. 4-H large pavilion.

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608. Ibid.

**4-H large pavilion – UGA 5326 (1963, Category 2).** The 4-H large pavilion is an open-air structure with exposed rafter ends, overhanging eaves, and square wood posts. An enclosed section at one end has board and batten siding. The front facade has nine lights in the center flanked by one-over-one windows. The right facade has three one-over-one windows. The pavilion sits along the edge of the stream next to an open grassy recreation area. The rear is fenced.<sup>609</sup>

The large pavilion generally retains sufficient integrity to convey its historic associations and likely contributes to a National Register-eligible historic district. As such, it is assessed as a Category 2 resource.



Figure 484. Camp Wahsega small pavilion 1.

**Camp Wahsega small pavilion 1 – UGA 5327 (1963, Category 2).** Small pavilion 1 is an open-air structure with a concrete floor surrounded on two sides by wooden bench seating. There are eight 8 by 8 square beams that support the pyramidal roof, which features exposed rafter tails. There is a 6-foot-tall plywood storage shed underneath the roof. There is a metal grill station at the front. It appears that most of the original materials have been replaced.<sup>610</sup>

Despite diminished integrity of materials, small pavilion 1 generally retains sufficient integrity to convey its historic associations and likely contributes to a National Register-eligible historic district. As such, it is assessed as a Category 2 resource.



Figure 485. Camp Wahsega small pavilion 2.

**Camp Wahsega small pavilion 2 – UGA 5328 (1963, Category 2).** Small pavilion 2 is an open-air structure with a concrete floor surrounded on three sides by wood bench seating. There are eight 8 by 8 square beams that support the pyramidal roof, which has exposed rafter tails. There is a metal grill station at the front. Much of the original material appears to have been replaced.<sup>611</sup>

Despite diminished integrity of materials, small pavilion 2 generally retains sufficient integrity to convey its historic associations and likely contributes to a

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609. Ibid.

610. Ibid.

611. Ibid.

National Register-eligible historic district. As such, it is assessed as a Category 2 resource.

***Camp Wahsega small pavilion 3 – UGA 5329 (1963, Category 2).*** Small pavilion 3 is an open-air structure with a square concrete slab that sits below a low-pitched hipped roof with exposed rafter tails, supported with nine 8 by 8 squared beams. Wooden fixed seating surrounds three sides of the pavilion. Most of the original wood and roof materials have been replaced.<sup>612</sup>

Despite diminished integrity of materials, small pavilion 3 generally retains sufficient integrity to convey its historic associations and likely contributes to a National Register-eligible historic district. As such, it is assessed as a Category 2 resource.



Figure 486. Camp Wahsega shop building.

***Camp Wahsega Shop Building – UGA 5330 (1975, Category 4).*** The Shop Building is a single-story structure with a gable roof and vertical board siding. A cast-in-place concrete walk leads to the front entry door, and serves as the foundation for a later, open-air addition to the right. The space serves as machinery storage. The left side of the facade has an entryway and two aluminum garage doors. These are mid-century replacements, as is the asphalt roof, which features overhanging wooden eaves.<sup>613</sup>

Despite diminished integrity of materials, the shop building generally retains sufficient integrity to convey its historic associations and likely contributes to a National Register-eligible historic district. As such, it is assessed as a Category 2 resource.

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612. Ibid.

613. Ibid.



Figure 487. Camp Wahsega girls' bathhouse.

***Camp Wahsega Girls' Bathhouse – UGA 5331 (1963, Category 2).*** The original girls' bathhouse was lost to fire and rebuilt in 1963 as a concrete unit masonry structure. The current structure has concrete unit masonry infill in the windows in front and frosted jalousie windows on the rear and left facades, and three more on the right. The gable roof has wide overhanging eaves. Access is provided via two concrete steps under a shed portico extension to the front entryway. Each gable is clad with weatherboard and contains a triangular aluminum vent.<sup>614</sup>

Despite being a replacement of an earlier structure, the girls' bathhouse retains sufficient integrity to convey its historic associations and likely contributes to a National Register-eligible historic district. As such, it is assessed as a Category 2 resource.



Figure 488. Camp Wahsega boys' bathhouse.

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614. Ibid.

***Camp Wahsega Boys' Bathhouse – UGA 5332 (1938, Category 2).*** The gable roof Boys' Bathhouse structure has vertical board siding, and a door centered between three sets of windows to either side. The roof has wide overhanging eaves. A stone stair and walk lead to the front door. The interior of the boys' bathhouse has been modernized.

Despite diminished integrity of materials, the Boys' Bathhouse generally retains sufficient integrity to convey its historic associations and likely contributes to a National Register-eligible historic district. As such, it is assessed as a Category 2 resource.

### **Landscape Resources**



Figure 489. Swimming Pond with Girls' Bathhouse beyond.

***Swimming Pond (date undetermined, Category 2).*** The Swimming Pond was first constructed by the CCC enrollees of Camp F-11. The dam has been upgraded since the 1930s, along with the water conveyance system. Despite diminished integrity of design and setting, the swimming pond survives from the period of significance with sufficient integrity to convey its historic associations. The pond thus contributes to the significance of a potential National Register historic district. As such, it is assessed as a Category 2 resource.



Figure 490. Stone steps at Camp Wahsega.

***Stone features (date undetermined, Category 2).*** Evidence of stone work constructed by the CCC is located throughout the camp, including steps, culverts, and walls. These features survive from the period of significance with sufficient integrity to convey their historic associations. They thus contribute to the significance of a potential National Register historic district. As such, they are assessed as Category 2 resources.

***Recreation field (date undetermined, Category 2).*** The recreation field has likely been used by the camp since the 1930s. Despite diminished integrity of setting, the recreation field appears to survive from the period of significance with sufficient integrity to convey its historic associations. As such, it is assessed as a Category 2 resource.



Figure 491. The camp access road.

***Access road (date undetermined, Category 2).*** This gravel road, referred to as Cloverleaf Trail, arises from Forest Road 28, which continues along the valley to the south. The road provides access to all of the primary buildings that are located in a linear arrangement along both sides of the road. It ends in gravel parking areas. A portion of the road is edged by a wooden post and rail bumper system alongside the recreation field, basketball court, and volleyball court. It

was likely constructed as part of the circa 1938 development of the site. As such, it is assessed as a Category 2 resource.

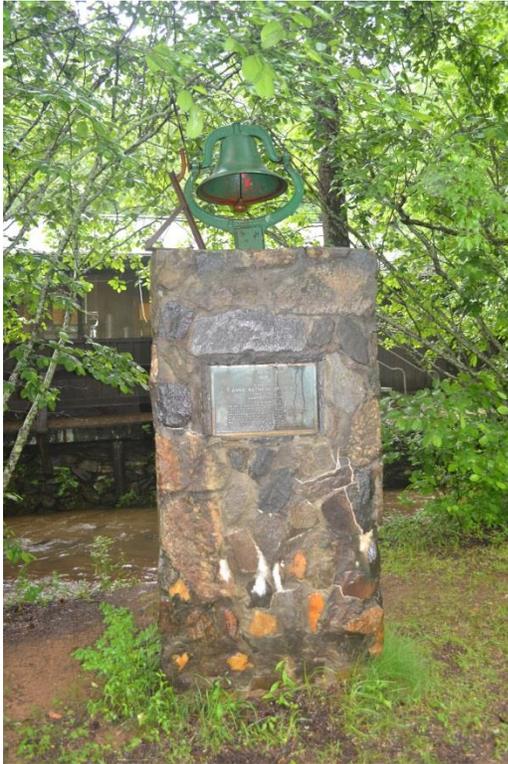


Figure 492. The Andrews bell.

***Andrews bell (1967, Category 4).*** The stone memorial with metal bell was erected in 1967 in honor of camper Kathryn Andrews after her death in 1965. The bell continues to be used to call campers to dinner and other activities. The memorial is sited along Ward Creek.

The Andrews bell postdates the period of significance and is non-contributing. It is more than 40 years of age, however. As such, it is assessed as a Category 4 resource.

***Utility Shed – UGA 5334 (2015, Category 5)***

***Turtle habitat (date undetermined, category undetermined).*** The turtle habitat is a rock-edged pool surrounded by post and rail fencing. The turtle habitat postdates the period of significance and is non-contributing. It is assessed as a Category 5 resource.

***Recreation features (date undetermined, Category 5).*** There are several recreation features associated with the camp. Most, like the challenge course and the climbing wall, are contemporary additions. These recreation features are assessed as Category 5 resources.

***Signage (date undetermined, Category 5).*** Signage used to direct visitors, some of which contains maps, appears to be a contemporary addition. Signage is assessed as a Category 5 resource.

***Flagpole (date undetermined, category undetermined).*** The date of origin of the flagpole is not documented in archival material reviewed for this study.

***Waterwheel (date undetermined, category undetermined).*** The waterwheel is located at the intersection of Forest Road 28 and Cloverleaf Trail. It interprets the former local farming on the property. A small stream waters the wood structure. The date of origin of the waterwheel is not documented in archival

***Identity sign (date undetermined, category undetermined).*** The date of origin of the sign is not documented in archival material reviewed for this study.

***Path connecting cabins and girls bathhouse and timber retaining wall (date undetermined, category undetermined).*** Current path systems that connect the cabins and other camp features are hard-packed earth and gravel surfaced. Some are supported by timber walls and other retaining features. The date of origin of the path is not documented in archival material reviewed for this study.

***Trails (date undetermined, category undetermined).*** There are several trails that extend into the woods from the camp, for example, the Waterfall Trail, Forest Ecology Trail, Ridge Trail, and Amphitheater Trail. The date of origin of the trails is not documented in archival material reviewed for this study.

***Campfire rings (date undetermined, category undetermined).*** There are several campfire rings scattered throughout the camp. The date of origin of the campfire rings is not documented in archival material reviewed for this study.

***Volleyball court (date undetermined, category undetermined).*** The date of origin of the volleyball court is not documented in archival material reviewed for this study.

## **Potential Archaeological Resources**

Queries to GNAHRGIS show that no archaeological sites have been documented on the Wahsega property. This negative result should not be taken as an indication that no archaeological sites exist. To the contrary, there is a strong probability that several sites exist. A number of sites have been recorded in the nearby Chattahoochee National Forest, which has been surveyed by archaeologists. These consist primarily of unidentified prehistoric Indian artifact scatters.

Although the property is now a 4-H camp owned by the University of Georgia, it served as a CCC camp in the 1930s for road and bridge construction projects in north Georgia. A couple of the buildings survive today. The others were razed and replaced with new cabins to support use as a youth summer camp in 1938. Review of the 7.5 minute USGS quadrangle map indicated several extant twentieth century structures on the property and activity areas surrounding them likely retain archaeological features and artifact scatters dating to the time of their use. Because of the history of land use in this area of Georgia, it is reasonable to assume that these structures are only the most recent, and other dwellings and facilities have been constructed, used, destroyed or dismantled, becoming a part of the archaeological record of the property. Archaeological records of CCC camp life are present at the Camp Wahsega property.

During and prior to European colonization, this area was within the range of, and home to, a long succession of American Indian societies. People of these societies left their mark on the landscape of the region that is observable in the

archaeological record. Based on what is known about the American Indian history of the area, it is reasonable to assume that pre-Colonial archaeological sites exist on the property. Many of these sites may simply be evidence of brief visits to the area in the form of stone tools or pottery fragments left behind by people gathering naturally occurring resources. In addition to temporary activity areas, the possibility exists for permanent or semi-permanent habitation sites, as well as sacred sites and cemeteries.

Archaeological survey of the property can clarify the absence or existence of archaeological sites, as well as the nature of any sites that are found. Assessment of the potential of an archaeological site to contribute to the understanding of the history of the area can be done through archaeological testing.



Figure 493. Camp Wahsega 4-H Camp property and area of previous archaeological survey. (Source: USGS, annotated by the authors)

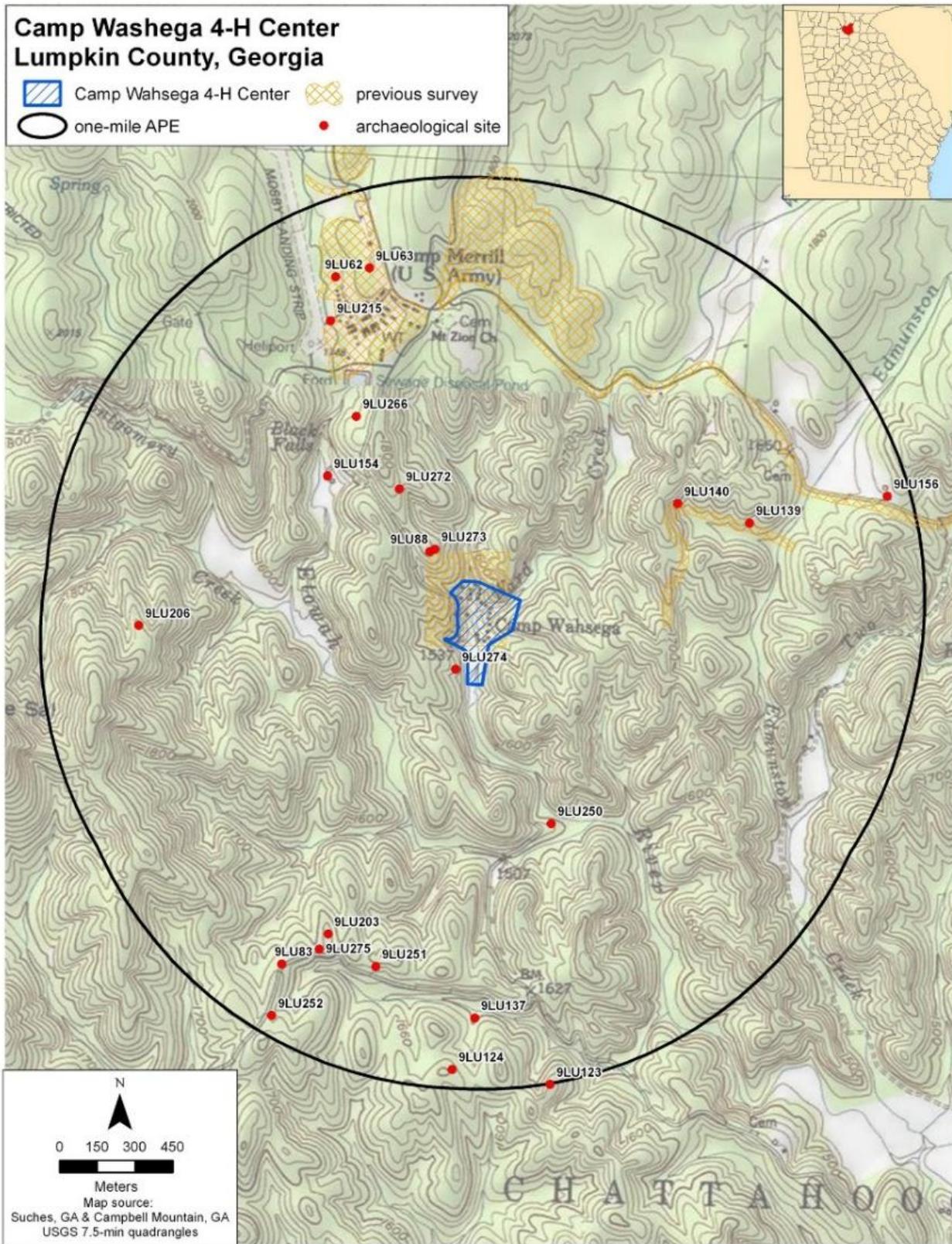


Fig. 496. Camp Wahsega 4-H camp property and area of previous archaeological survey, previously identified archaeological sites, and area of potential effects (APE). (Source: USGS, annotated by authors).

## Summary Assessments

### National Register-eligible Properties

The Wahsega 4-H Center of the University of Georgia appears significant at the state level as a historic district eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criteria A, C, and D in the areas of Agriculture, Archeology (Historic-non-aboriginal), Architecture, Education, and Politics/Government for their relationship to the Civilian Conservation Corps, long-standing role in Cooperative Extension Service programs, and prehistoric period of cultural history. The period of significance for the Wahsega property extends from 1933 to 1966, the fifty-year age consideration for listing in the National Register.

A National Register nomination prepared in 1983 was considered as a determination of eligibility by the Chief of Registration in Washington, D.C., on behalf of the Georgia State Historic Preservation Office in 1984. Based on research and analysis conducted for this study, the eleven rustic cabins, swimming pond with diving island, dining hall, boys' bathhouse, connecting pathways, rock walls, rock terraces, and rock retaining walls in the area are eligible for the National Register under Criteria A and C for their association with CCC camps and camp planning and later rustic camp development; as well as early to mid-twentieth century educational ideals and the youth camping movement; and their association with Georgia 4-H as the first Georgia 4-H camp and with the national 4-H camp movement.

Camp Wahsega was CCC Camp F-11 during the 1930s. Several features on the property are the work of CCC enrollees, although most structures were razed and replaced with extant structures in 1938 and later. Because of careful attention to maintenance of the buildings and regular use, the buildings retain their original condition and appearance. They form a coherent group or theme of the organized group camp. The addition of newer structures does not negatively affect the design, although integrity is diminished for some structures, such as the boys' bathhouse, which has been modernized with a concrete floor, showers, and modern toilets.<sup>615</sup>

Consider how to use areas of significance: Agriculture, Archeology (Historic-non-aboriginal), Architecture, Education, and Politics/Government

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

- 4-H cottages nos. 1–16 – UGA 5301–5316 (1938)
- 4-H cottage no. 17 (staff housing) – UGA 5317 (1938)
- Manager's House/Director's House/Caretaker's House – UGA 5318 (1938)
- Camp Wahsega Boy Counselors' Cabin (staff housing) – UGA 5319 (1938)
- Camp Wahsega Girl Counselors' Cabin/guesthouse (staff housing) – UGA 5320 (1938)

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615. Wynn, *Cultural Resources Evaluation*, 21.

- Camp Wahsega Dining Hall – UGA 5321 (1938)
- Recreation Hall (Assembly Hall) – UGA 5322 (1951)
- Camp Wahsega Craft Food Storage – UGA 5324 (1938)
- 4-H large pavilion – UGA 5326 (1963)
- Camp Wahsega small pavilion 1 – UGA 5327 (1963)
- Camp Wahsega small pavilion 2 – UGA 5328 (1963)
- Camp Wahsega small pavilion 3 – UGA 5329 (1963)
- Camp Wahsega Girls' Bathhouse – UGA 5331 (1963)
- Camp Wahsega Boys' Bathhouse – UGA 5332 (1938)
- Landscape resources: access road, swimming pond, stone features, recreation field

