

Coastal Georgia Botanical Gardens at the Historic Bamboo Farm

Introduction

The University of Georgia's Coastal Georgia Botanical Gardens at the Historic Bamboo Farm is located within Chatham County, Georgia. It extends over 51 acres, just east of I-95 and southwest of the city of Savannah. The property includes a historic bamboo farm and United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) experiment station. The botanical gardens are open to the public and offer such amenities as pick-your-own berry fields.

The experiment station was established in the 1910s as a repository for plants collected by USDA botanists David Fairchild and Frank N. Meyer, who traveled extensively during the early twentieth century on plant finding expeditions. The repository was built around a stand of bamboo planted by Mrs. H. B. Miller in 1890 from three giant Japanese timber bamboo plants provided to her from Andeas Moynelo, a neighbor who planted to test the plants as a timber substitute. By 1915, Mrs. Miller's stand occupied three-quarters of an acre, and featured bamboo stalks up to 60 feet in height. One of Mrs. Miller's employees, Col. S. B. Dayton, who had been selling bamboo shoots to local restaurants and bamboo poles for construction, decided to notify the USDA about the stand, recommending that they consider purchasing the property. David Fairchild was placed in charge of exploring the opportunity, and convinced wealthy fellow plant explorer, Barbour Lathrop, to purchase the 46-acre property and lease it to the USDA for use in agricultural experiments. In 1919, Congress authorized acquisition of the property. The Savannah Plant Introduction Station, renamed the Barbour Lathrop Plant Introduction Garden in 1927, remained an active USDA facility until 1979, when it was closed for budgetary reasons.⁷⁷⁸

In 1983, the property was deeded to the University of Georgia as a research and education center and Georgia Cooperative Extension Services station. The property was then deeded to the University System Board of Regents in 1984 and renamed the Coastal Area Extension Center. Research was conducted on the property until 1994, at which time a master plan was prepared to redirect use of the property. Since 2002, the property has focused primarily on public education and demonstration as part of the Cooperative Extension Services, offering a wide array of classes and workshops for the public. In 2012, the property was renamed, Coastal Georgia Botanical Gardens at the Historic Bamboo Farm. The

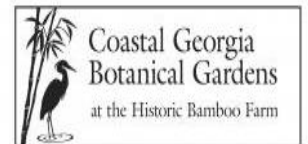


Figure 655. Coastal Georgia Botanical Gardens at the Historic Bamboo Farm Logo

778. Annie Williams, "From USDA to UGA; The History of the Barbour Lathrop Plant Introduction Garden," <http://bambooproject2015.tumblr.com/History>, accessed June 16, 2016.

mission of the property is to: “provide education, public outreach, and applied research in horticultural and environmental sciences.”

Features of the property include a cluster of buildings in the southeastern corner of the property, two lakes in the northwestern and western corner of the property, and a system of gardens, roads, and paths in the center of the property. Access to the property occurs from Ogeechee Road, along the southeastern boundary of the property, and Canebrake Road, along its southwestern boundary. A museum houses a collection of bamboo artifacts, many of which were provided by Frank N. Meyer.

The notable contributions of the property to the history of plant exploration, agriculture, innovation, and science, particularly agricultural introductions of exotic species including bamboo, appear significant within the state of Georgia in the areas of Agriculture, Innovation, and Science, while several buildings appear significant in the area of Architecture. As such part or all of the property may constitute a historic district eligible for listing in the National and Georgia Registers of Historic Places. Important physical evidence of the history of the property includes patterns of organization, road networks, plant collections, buildings and structures, and land uses that reflect important heritage values.

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

Campus Historic Context

Historical Background and Chronology of Development and Use

Long before the University of Georgia and the Cooperative Extension Service began operating an office out of the USDA’s Barbour Lathrop Plant Introduction Garden in 1983, the landscape featured a significant collection of plants and was the site of important experiments, and was linked to some of the most important people and events in the history of agriculture and botany in the United States.

The Coastal Georgia Botanical Gardens occupies the site of two great eighteenth and nineteenth century plantations—Vallambrosa, owned by the man *Science* magazine referred to as the “Father of Southern Botany,” in 1900, Stephen Elliott; and Broad View, owned by Daniel Blake. Elliott (1771–1830) wrote one of the most important works in American botany—*A Sketch of the Botany in South Carolina and Georgia*. Blake purchased Vallambrosa from Elliott in 1827, expanding the holdings from 1,100 to 2,692 acres of land. With a large slave



Figure 656. “Father of Southern Botany,” and original owner of the Plantation Vallambrosa, Stephen Elliott (*Garden & Forest* 1894)

population, Blake's plantation focused on rice production; Blake also owned three steam-powered rice mills in Savannah and a sloop that he used to transport the rice to the mills. Following Blake's death in 1834, the property passed to his children. One daughter, Louisa Heyward, eventually gained control of most of the plantation as well as the rice mills. Blake's great-granddaughter, Laura Heyward, eventually inherited the properties, which were managed by her husband, Cuban aristocrat and businessman Andeas E. Moynelo, who actively participated in the running of several associated agriculture businesses following their marriage in 1872.⁷⁷⁹

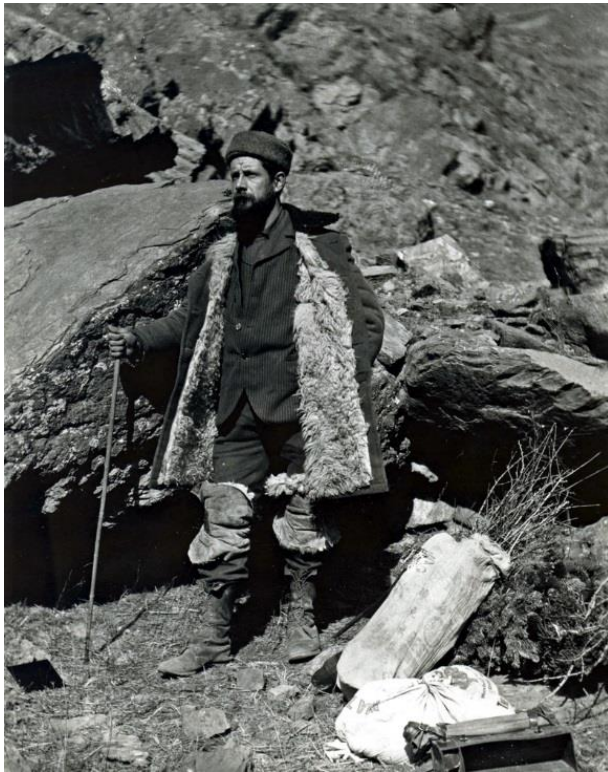


Figure 657. Frank N. Meyer, USDA's most prolific plant explorer. (Source: USDA Special Collections)

Circa 1892, Andeas Moynelo visited Japan. He returned with clumps of giant Japanese timber bamboo (*Phyllosyachs bambusoides*), intending to grow it as a timber substitute. Upon his return he gave three clumps to his neighbor Mrs. H. L. Miller, who planted them south of her farmhouse along Ogeechee Road in an area known as Burroughs Station. Mrs. Miller successfully grew these three starts into a huge stand of bamboo. The grove became something of a novelty and one of her farm employees, Col. S. B. Dayton, began to sell bamboo shoots to local restaurants and bamboo poles across Georgia. Colonel Dayton became concerned that upon Mrs. Miller's death, or when the land was sold, the fantastic stand of Japanese timber bamboo would be clear-cut and began to petition the USDA to purchase the property and save the bamboo. By 1915, Dayton had generated enough interest to attract Mr. Peter Bliss of the Department of Agriculture, who



Figure 658. Mrs. H.L. Miller with her stand of Japanese timber bamboo. (Source: University of Georgia Special Collections)

779. Williams, 2015.

visited the property and photographed the stand. Bliss then recommended to Fairchild that the Department of Agriculture purchase the land.⁷⁸⁰

The USDA was established in 1862 to oversee the American farming industry at every level. The department continually sought ways to improve the lives of farmers as well as those of the consumers of their products. Increasing the yields of seed, introducing seed that was more disease and pest resistant, and improving existing orchard stock were of immediate concern to the agency. In support of an increased response to all of these needs, in 1898 the agency created the Foreign Seed and Plant Introduction Section. Twenty-two-year-old botanist and plant explorer David Fairchild was selected as the first section chief. Fairchild had a number of people working for him, the most famous of whom was Frank N. Meyer, who ventured into almost every corner of the world in search of plants and seeds. Between 1896 and 1933, Fairchild himself traveled to the distant reaches of every continent except Antarctica, adding such exotic plants as mangos and nectarines to the American diet and introducing the now-famous flowering cherry trees to Washington, D.C. During his career, Fairchild and his employees introduced more than 80,000 different species or varieties of germplasm into the United States; many, such as durum wheat, would change American agriculture and diet.⁷⁸¹

Fairchild became interested in the “rare and potential valuable planting of bamboo in Savannah” and contacted his friend and benefactor, Barbour Lathrop, to purchase the land. Lathrop acquired the land for \$5,430 and leased it back to the USDA for \$1 annually. After four years, its purchase by the federal government was authorized by Congress in 1919, and the USDA was able to establish the Savannah Plant Introduction Station.⁷⁸²

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780. Coastal Georgia Botanical Gardens at the Historic Bamboo Farm, accessed 10/30/2015, <http://www.coastalgeorgiabg.org/history.html>; Williams, 2015.
781. Allan Stoner and Kim Hummer. “19th and 20th Century Plant Hunters,” *HortScience* 42, no. 2 (April 2007): 197–199.
782. Coastal Georgia Botanical Gardens; Williams, 2015.



Figure 659. Barbour Lathrop, botanical philanthropist, plant explorer and ardent supporter of the Savannah Plant Introduction Station. (Source: Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden Center for Tropical Plant Conservation)

Lathrop continued to play a significant role during the early years of the station. He donates \$5,000 for the construction of a five-room modern bungalow (Manager's House, UGA 5706), located at the original entry to the station, a garage, and a small office (Superintendent's Office, also known as Office Building 15, and Bridal Cottage, UGA 5710).⁷⁸³ In 1922, he provided an additional \$1,000 for the construction of a museum (Bethel Bur-Ton Conference Center, UGA 5711), which highlighted artifacts, many of them created in bamboo, collected by Frank N. Meyer and other plant explorers.⁷⁸⁴ Additionally, Lathrop continued to sponsor plant expeditions across the world, some of which he accompanied. For his untiring work, in 1920 Lathrop became the first recipient of the Frank N. Meyer Medal for Plant Genetic Resources. The medal is presented in "recognition of contributions to the plant germplasm collection and

783. UGA Real Property records indicate the Manager's House was constructed in 1957, while property-related literature indicates that the building was constructed in the 1930s. Research conducted for this study suggests that it was built during the first wave of construction after the station was created in 1919. UGA Real Property records also indicate that the Superintendent's Office was constructed in 1957. Research conducted for this study suggests that the office was also built during the initial construction phase in 1919 soon after the station was created.

784. UGA Real Property records indicate this building was constructed in 1957, while property-related literature indicates it was constructed in the 1930s. Research conducted for this study indicates that it was constructed in 1922, with partial funding from Barbour Lathrop, as a museum.

use in the US and his dedication and service to humanity through the collection, evaluating, and preserving Earth's genetic Resources".⁷⁸⁵

Upon his death in 1927, Lathrop willed the Savannah Plant Introduction Station \$10,000. The station was subsequently renamed the Barbour Lathrop Plant Introduction Garden. Today, the historic bamboo garden area is known as the "Barbour Lathrop Bamboo Collection."



Figure 660. The Manager's House, constructed circa 1919 using funds provided by Barbour Lathrop, now features a bamboo covered patio.



Figure 661. Superintendent's Office, built circa 1919, later Office 15, and now the Bridal Cottage at the Mediterranean Garden. (Source: Coastal Georgia Botanical Gardens, 2013)

785. Williams, 2015, 5.



Figure 662. The Museum, built in 1922, now houses the Bethel Bur-Ton Conference Center. (Source: Coastal Georgia Botanical Gardens, 2013)

The USDA continued to build structures to accommodate administrative and research needs, adding greenhouses and storage buildings throughout the 1920s and 1930s. By 1932, the experimental fields contained more than 2,500 plants. The station was also cultivating 200 types of bamboo. The property had the largest collection of bamboo in the world and its plants were widely distributed to other locations.⁷⁸⁶

As a plant introduction station, the focus of the property was on non-native species. Almost 90 percent of all cultivated crops in the United States during this period were introduced from other countries. The process for introducing non-native plants to the United States was conducted at one of four plant introduction stations in the country, one of which was the Barbour Lathrop Plant Introduction Garden.⁷⁸⁷

During the 1930s, the property was primarily concerned with evaluation of the introduction of bamboo, drug and seed plants, ornamental fruits and nuts, and exotic vegetables. One of the projects undertaken during the 1930s was an investigation into the commercial value of chemurgic plants, or those that could be used to produce industrial products. Henry Ford, Harvey Firestone, and Thomas Edison, who became interested in alternative sources of rubber, convinced the USDA to support exploration of plant sources for a rubber substitute. One of the plants that showed promise was goldenrod.⁷⁸⁸ For more than ten years, the USDA planted various goldenrod varieties at the Barbour Lathrop Plant Introduction Garden in a quest for alternative rubber sources.⁷⁸⁹

786. Ibid, 6.

787. Ibid.

788. Williams, 2015.

789. Coastal Georgia Botanical Gardens.



Figure 663. A USDA greenhouse.

During the 1940s, Garden Superintendent, David Bisset, spent a good deal of energy experimenting with the yam looking for a source of cortisone for arthritis treatment. At the time, Mexico served as the primary source for production of yams (*Dioscorea spp.*), but Bisset's work with chayote (*Sechium edule*) as a source of cortisone led to its being grown as a crop in California and the creation of a viable market for use by U.S. drug companies.⁷⁹⁰

The Barbour Lathrop Plant Introduction Garden was threatened with closure during World War II. David Fairchild spoke in front of Congress about his concern that loss of the facility would prove expensive and challenging to the local economy after the war ended, particularly if specialized resources were required to address diseases and blights brought over on foreign plants and seeds. It was the Herty Foundation in Savannah that began experimenting with bamboo as a source for paper pulp, using the facility's plant material that ultimately saved the Barbour Lathrop Plant Introduction Garden from closure at the time.⁷⁹¹

790. Williams, 2015.

791. Ibid.



Figure 664. David Bisset, Garden Superintendent. The bamboo species, *Phyllostachys bissetii*, shown, is named for Bisset. (Source: Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden Center for Tropical Plant Conservation)

Throughout the 1950s and 1960s, the garden continued to operate as an introduction station, while the Herty project was carried on until 1965.

Experiments conducted during this period focused on studies involving edible plants, ornamental plants, and chemurgic plants. Meadowfoam (*Limnanthes alba*), was screened at the garden as a source of long-chain fatty acids used in sizing high-pressure lubricants, paints, and varnishes; ironweed (*Vernonia galamensis*) was used in the creation of plastics; and several plants used in developing treatments for cancer were grown in the fields, including plum yew or cowtail yew (*Cephalotaxus harringtonia*).⁷⁹²

Work at the garden continued through the 1970s, including experiments with dog fennel (*Eupatorium capillifolium*), sumac (*Rhus spp.*), and dogbane (*Apocynum cannabinum*) as a suitable source for gasohol, something that Henry Ford had been interested in in the 1930s.⁷⁹³ In the mid-1970s, the Agricultural Research Service of the USDA, the division responsible for funding much of the research of the introduction stations, was eliminated. Four years later, the property was deeded to the University of Georgia to be used as a research and education center.⁷⁹⁴

In 1980, the Barbour Lathrop Plant Introduction Garden was closed and the museum collection sent to the Smithsonian Institution; a caretaker was hired to maintain the facility. In 1983, the University of Georgia Cooperative Extension Services took over the facility, and in October 1984 it was deeded to the University of Georgia Board of Regents. The site was renamed the Coastal Area Extension Center, but the name ‘Bamboo Farm’ remained locally associated with the garden. The Cooperative Extension Services opened an office at the site and

792. Ibid.

793. Williams, 2015.

794. Steve Brady, “Bamboo Farm and Coastal Gardens,” *New Georgia Encyclopedia*. August 14, 2013. <http://www.georgiaencyclopedia.org/articles/business-economy/bamboo-farm-and-coastal-gardens>.

began research on bermudagrass (*Cynodon dactylon*), conifers, camellias (*Camellia spp.*), bearded iris (*Iris spp.*), blueberries (*Vaccinium spp.*), and pesticides. Cooperative Extension Services personnel conducted demonstrations on a variety of fruits, vegetables, ornamental plants, turf, and Christmas trees, and gave tours for clubs and school groups. Eventually, the University phased out research at the site and the facility once again faced closure.⁷⁹⁵



Figure 665. Master Plan, 2012. (Coastal Georgia Botanical Gardens 2013)

In 1994, the Cooperative Extension Services formed an advisory committee and embarked upon a vigorous improvement campaign for the garden. In 1995, the University formed a 501C (3) non-profit organization, Friends of the Gardens, and commissioned a master plan to chart its future. Several display gardens articulated in the master plan have since been designed and built based on the master plan, including a Xeriscape Demonstration Garden, Garden for All Abilities, and Rain Garden. The garden district began working with science classes, master gardeners, commercial horticulturalists, and the general public in a series

795. Williams, 2015.

of special programs, classes, and workshops. In 2012, the garden was officially renamed the University of Georgia Coastal Georgia Botanical Gardens at the Historic Bamboo Farm. On April 20, 2012, the museum collection was returned to the newly named facility.⁷⁹⁶ In 2015, the Andrews Visitor Center was opened as an orientation space for visitors.



Figure 666. Andrews Visitor Center, which opened in 2015.

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

796. Ibid.

Overview Description of the Coastal Georgia Botanical Gardens at the Historic Bamboo Farm



Figure 667. Context map illustrating the location of the Coastal Georgia Botanical Gardens at the Historic Bamboo Farm property within the state of Georgia. (Source: Wiss, Janney, Elstner Associates, Inc., 2016)

The Coastal Georgia Botanical Gardens at the Historic Bamboo Farm is located between Interstate 95, County Route 204, and U.S. 17 in Chatham County, Georgia, near the city of Savannah. It is edged to the east by U.S. 17 (Ogeechee Road), and to the south by Canebroke Road. The property is a horticultural resource of the University of Georgia and Georgia Cooperative Extension Services that is open to the public. Specific gardens, collections, and trails enjoyed by the public include the Judge Arthur Solomon Camellia Trail, Formal Garden and Crescent, Barbour Lathrop Bamboo Collection, Dwarf Palmetto and Palm Collections, Water Garden, Rose Garden, Cottage Garden, Woodland Shade Garden, Xeriscape Demonstration Garden, White Garden, The Garden for All Abilities, Mediterranean Garden, Bamboo Maze, Historic Georgia Trustees Garden Replica, Orchid Greenhouse, Crapemyrtle Allée, and Rain Garden. A Sun Garden, Artist’s Garden, and Children’s Garden are in the planning stages. Twenty-five acres of the 51-acre property are described as “under intense cultivation.”⁷⁹⁷



Figure 668. Aerial view of the Coastal Georgia Botanical Gardens at the Historic Bamboo Farm. (Source: University of Georgia GIS files)

Identification of Coastal Georgia Botanical Gardens at the Historic Bamboo Farm Character Areas

For purposes of this study, the property has been divided into four discrete landscape character areas. Character areas are land bays or geographic areas that

797. Coastal Georgia Botanical Gardens.

share similar physical traits or characteristics, a similar period of physical development, or are otherwise unified by land use, topography, vegetative character, design, or historic associations. The character areas used to describe campus resources include:

- A. Entrance, Arrival, and Built Cluster
- B. Experiment and Cultivation Fields
- C. Lakes
- D. Camellia Garden and Bamboo Maze

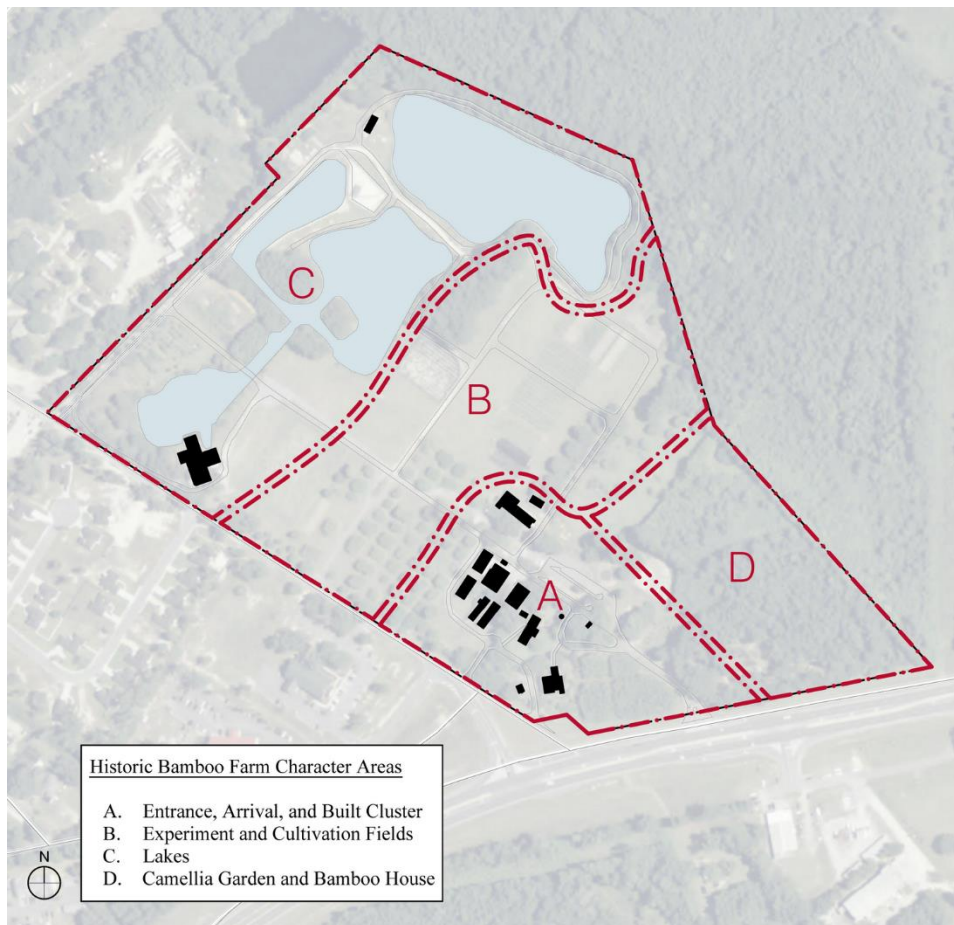


Figure 669. Character areas of the Coastal Georgia Botanical Gardens at the Historic Bamboo Farm. (Source: Wiss, Janney, Elstner Associates, Inc., 2016)

Identification and Evaluation of Historic Resources by Character Area

The narrative that follows identifies and evaluates the Coastal Georgia Botanical Gardens at the Historic Bamboo Farm historic resources by character area. An overview description of the character area introduces each section. This is followed by brief descriptions of historic Landscape, Building, and Archaeological Resources, and a general assessment of their historical integrity.

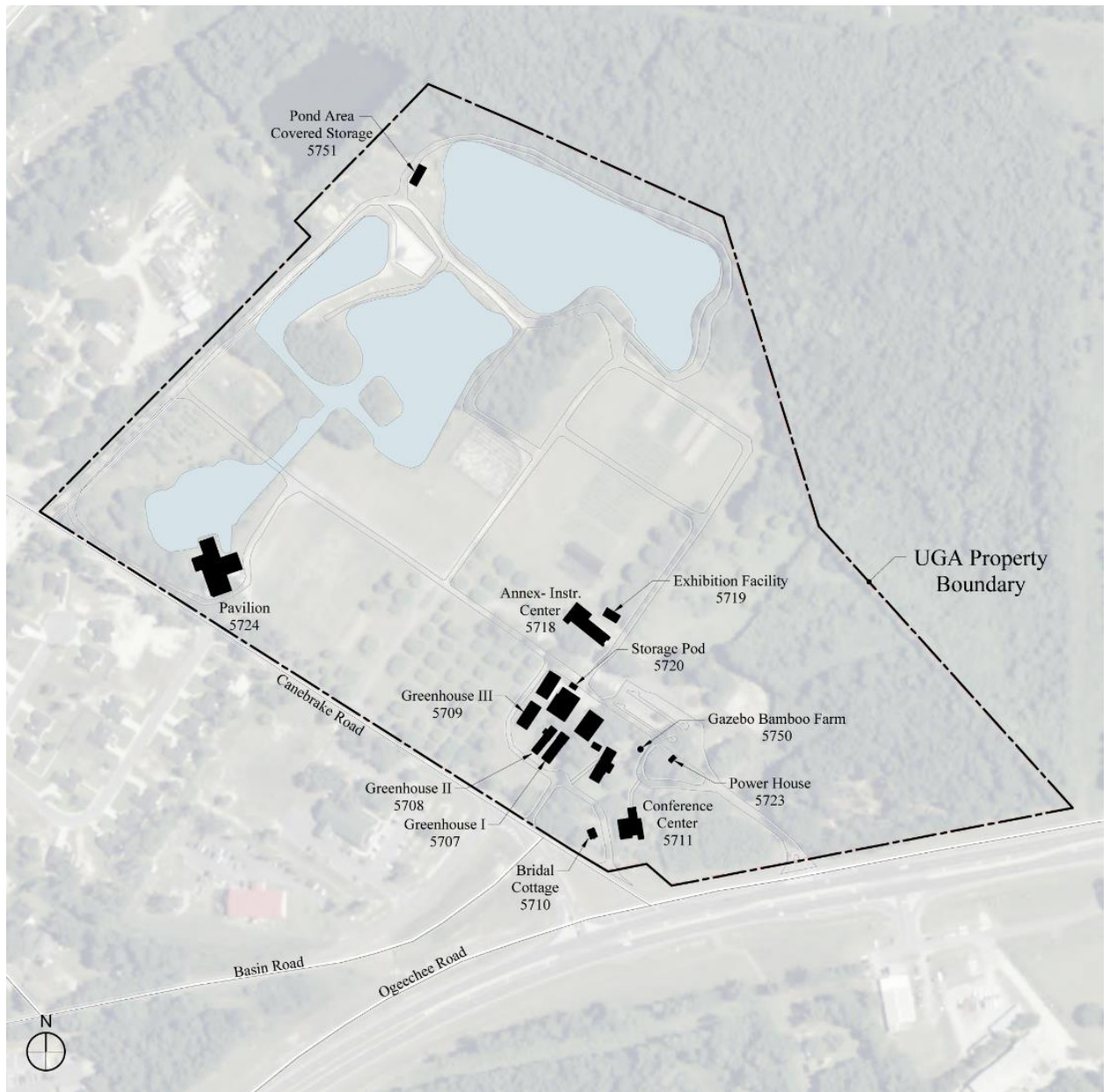


Figure 670. Resources of the Coastal Georgia Botanical Gardens at the Historic Bamboo Farm.

(Source: Wiss, Janney, Elstner Associates, Inc., 2016)

Entrance, Arrival, and Built Cluster Character Area

The Entrance, Arrival, and Built Cluster character area comprises the southeastern corner of the property. It is edged by Canebrake and Ogeechee roads, and features the public entrance, parking area, internal roads, and a cluster of buildings that constitute the majority of the structures on the property. These include an office, manager's house, museum, instructional center, storage structure, gazebo, and greenhouses. Cultivated plantings frame many of the buildings and edge the road corridors, while the character area also includes two display gardens—the Xeriscape Garden and Herb Garden.

Building Resources



Figure 671. Manager's House.

Manager's House (also Main Office Building) – UGA 5706 (circa 1919, Category 2). The Manager's House was one of the first buildings constructed on the property after its acquisition as a USDA experiment station through donations provided by Barbour Lathrop. The house was constructed near the original entrance to the station along Canebrake Road.

The building is a five-room bungalow style structure, one story in height, with a gable roof, front porch, and arbor extension over the front walkway. A shed-roofed addition was later added to the side of the dwelling, while the rear features a second addition with a gable-roof enclosure with large single pane windows. The center ridgeline of the roof features a large chimney pot.⁷⁹⁸ The building retains integrity and is assessed as Category 2.

798. FindIt survey.



Figure 672. Greenhouse 1.

Greenhouse 1 – UGA 5707 (circa 1957 or 1960s, Category 2). Greenhouse 1 is a single-story stuccoed concrete block building with a single door edged by a three-over-three light, and a window in the gabled end. A glass and aluminum greenhouse is located to the rear of the headhouse.⁷⁹⁹ The greenhouse currently serves to showcase tropical orchids. The University of Georgia partners with the Deep South Orchid Society to grow and present a wide array of orchids along with appropriate tropical companion plants. The building retains integrity and is assessed as Category 2.

799. Ibid.



Figure 673. Greenhouse 2.

Greenhouse 2 – UGA 5708 (1957, Category 2). Greenhouse 2 is also a single-story stuccoed building with the entrance set in the gable end. The entrance is marked by a single door, which features a two-over-three light, centered in the gable end; a square vent is located near the roof above, while two-over-four windows edge the door to either side. There are also vertical, six-pane casement windows on the side elevations. The building features a side shed addition. The wood and steel-framed greenhouse, which features plexiglass windows and a CMU foundation, extends behind the headhouse. The windows open using manual vent cranks.⁸⁰⁰ The building retains integrity and is assessed as Category 2.

800. Ibid.



Figure 674. Greenhouse 3.

Greenhouse 3 – UGA 5709 (1957, Category 2). Greenhouse 3 is a 30-by-60-foot hoop structure clad with plastic sheathing. The ends are clad with fiberglass panels set in an aluminum frame. There are four exhaust fans on the front facade, and a vent above the front door. The base of the structure is composed of three courses of concrete unit masonry set on a cast-in-place concrete foundation.⁸⁰¹ The building retains integrity and is assessed as Category 2.



Figure 675. Superintendent's Office.

Superintendent's Office (Office Building No. 15, Bridal Cottage) – UGA 5710 (circa 1919, Category 2). The Superintendent's Office, also referred to as Office Building 15 and the Bridal Cottage, is a small stuccoed concrete block gable roof structure with an interior chimney. It is thought to have been constructed circa 1919 to support operations at the new station through donations provided by

801. Ibid.

Barbour Lathrop. The building features a single entrance door in the principal facade. The side facade features a six-over-two vertical casement window over a four-over-one horizontal fixed window. The window on one side has been filled. The roof has large, pronounced wooden eave returns on the side gables. A trellis addition is located on one side, as well as a bathroom addition with a window.⁸⁰² The building retains integrity and is assessed as Category 2.



Figure 676. Museum.

Museum (Auditorium Building No. 16; Bethel Bur-Ton Conference Center) – UGA 5711 (circa 1922, Category 2). Construction of the Museum is thought to have been funded by Barbour Lathrop in 1922. The modest, single-story stuccoed concrete block structure features double glass doors centered in the principal facade. The front gabled roof has a pronounced Flemish eave with scrolled bracket supports. There are factory sash ribbon windows on the side facade marked by pronounced concrete sills.⁸⁰³ The building retains integrity and is assessed as Category 2.

802. Ibid.

803. Ibid.



Figure 677. Laundry Building No. 18.

Laundry Building No. 18 (also Wash House) – UGA 5712 (1957, renovations circa 2012, Category 2). The Laundry Building is a small wood frame structure clad with clapboards, and a low-pitched roof with overhanging eaves. The four-panel door is located at the right side of the principal facade; two bays of double six-light windows are located on the left side of the front façade. There is also a double set of six-light windows on the rear facade, and a two-panel door with four large lights.⁸⁰⁴ Although renovated in 2012, the building retains sufficient integrity to convey its historic associations and is assessed as Category 2.



Figure 678. Shop Building No. 20.

Shop Building No. 20 (also multi-purpose building) – UGA 5714 (1957, Category 2). Shop Building no. 20, now used as an office, was converted from former use as a barn, workshop, storage facility, and livery stable. The structure was originally 1-1/2 stories in height. A shed addition was later added to one

804. Ibid.

facade, with a tripartite six-over-six window. The front facade has a covered porch that extends beyond the width of the entrance to either side. The original barn area has been converted into restrooms. A large concrete landing edges the building.⁸⁰⁵ Although altered, the building retains sufficient integrity to convey its historic associations and is assessed as Category 2.



Figure 679. Storage Building No. 25.

Storage Building No. 25 (also equipment and lath storage) – UGA 5715 (1957, Category 2). Storage Building no. 25 is a wood-framed structure with sliding doors in the gable end and on one side. It is clad with vertical boards. The building exhibits some weathering and deterioration of the boards.⁸⁰⁶ The building retains integrity and is assessed as Category 2.



Figure 680. Storage Building No. 28.

805. Ibid.

806. Ibid.

Storage Building No. 28 (also Annex-Instruction Center) – UGA 5718 (1957, Category 2). Storage Building no. 28 is a single-story gable building with a full front porch, and shed additions on the right side. It was formerly used as a drying shed, for storage, and as a classroom.⁸⁰⁷ As part of development of the site in the late 1950s, the building is assessed as Category 2.



Figure 681. Storage Building No. 29.

Storage Building No. 29 (also Exhibition Facility) – UGA 5719 (1957, Category 2). Storage Building no. 29 is a steel-framed, open-air structure with aluminum siding set in gable area that is now used as a demonstration facility for sugarcane. It sits atop a concrete slab.⁸⁰⁸ As part of development of the site in the late 1950s, the building is assessed as Category 2.



Figure 682. Storage Building No. 30.

807. Ibid.

808. Ibid.

Storage Building No. 30 – UGA 5720 (1957, Category 2). Storage Building no. 30 is a metal container featuring inset hinges, sliding doors, and pronounced bolts at corners.⁸⁰⁹ As part of development of the site in the late 1950s, the building is assessed as Category 2.



Figure 683. Power House.

Power House – UGA 5723 (1957, Category 2). This small, single-story concrete block structure features a gable roof with extended eaves and a single window on the side gable. The entry door is centered in the principal facade.⁸¹⁰ As part of development of the site in the late 1950s, the building is assessed as Category 2.

Maintenance Shop – UGA 5749 (1997, Category 5).

Gazebo – UGA 5750 (2000, Category 5).

Covered parking – UGA 5752 (1998, Category 5).

Well no. 1 – UGA 5758 (1923, Category 2). Constructed in 1923, the well is assessed as Category 2.

Landscape Resources

Entrance road and parking (circa 2015, Category 5).

Designed gardens (circa 1995–2012, Category 5).

Experiment and Cultivation Fields

The Experiment and Cultivation Fields character area occupies the center of the property and includes the historic bamboo grove. Formerly used for experiments, this area is slowly being converted into display gardens based on the master plan.

809. Ibid.

810. Ibid.

Building Resources

There are currently no buildings in this area.

Landscape Resources

Barbour Lathrop Bamboo Collection (circa 1890–1930s, Category 2). One of the most important resources on the property is the Barbour Lathrop Bamboo Collection, which includes bamboo species brought to the United States from Asia in the 1920s through the 1940s. Today, the collection features seventy different species. The Bamboo Collection is assessed as Category 2.

Lakes

The Lakes character area occupies the western edge of the property. It features two lakes edged by gardens, pick-your-own fruit fields, a pavilion, and a storage structure. The date of origin of the lakes is not currently known. The other features are not historic.

Building Resources

Pavilion – UGA 5724 (1994, Category 5).

Well no. 2 – UGA 5754 (2011, Category 5).

Pond Green Roof Storage – UGA 5753 (2008, Category 5).

Pond Area Covered Storage – UGA 5751 (1997, Category 5).

Designed gardens (circa 1995–2012, Category 5).

Landscape Resources

Lakes (date undetermined, category undetermined).

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

Camellia Garden and Bamboo Maze

The Camellia Garden and Bamboo Maze is located in the northeastern corner of the property. It features the camellia garden and Judge Arthur Solomon Camellia Trail, Dwarf Palmetto and Palm Collections, and Bamboo Maze, none of which are historic.

Designed gardens (circa 1995–2012, Category 5).

Potential Archaeological Resources

No archaeological sites have been documented at the Coastal Georgia Botanical Gardens at the Historic Bamboo Farm. A search of GNAHRGIS shows no sites have been documented within a one-mile radius around the property. This negative result should not be taken as an indication that no archaeological sites exist; rather, it indicates the need for archaeological investigation to determine the information potential of the area.

It is likely that the area around Coastal Georgia Botanical Gardens at the Historic Bamboo Farm located near one of Georgia's oldest cities, has a rich historic archaeological record. A review of the 7.5 minute USGS quadrangle map indicates several extant twentieth century structures and artesian wells in the vicinity of the property. 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 were previously present and may now be part of the archaeological record of the 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. These sites may reflect 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 burial grounds.

Future archaeological survey of the property could be used to determine the existence of archaeological sites, as well as the nature of any sites that are found. An 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 and would also support the University's knowledge of the history of the site and its sensitivity to change.

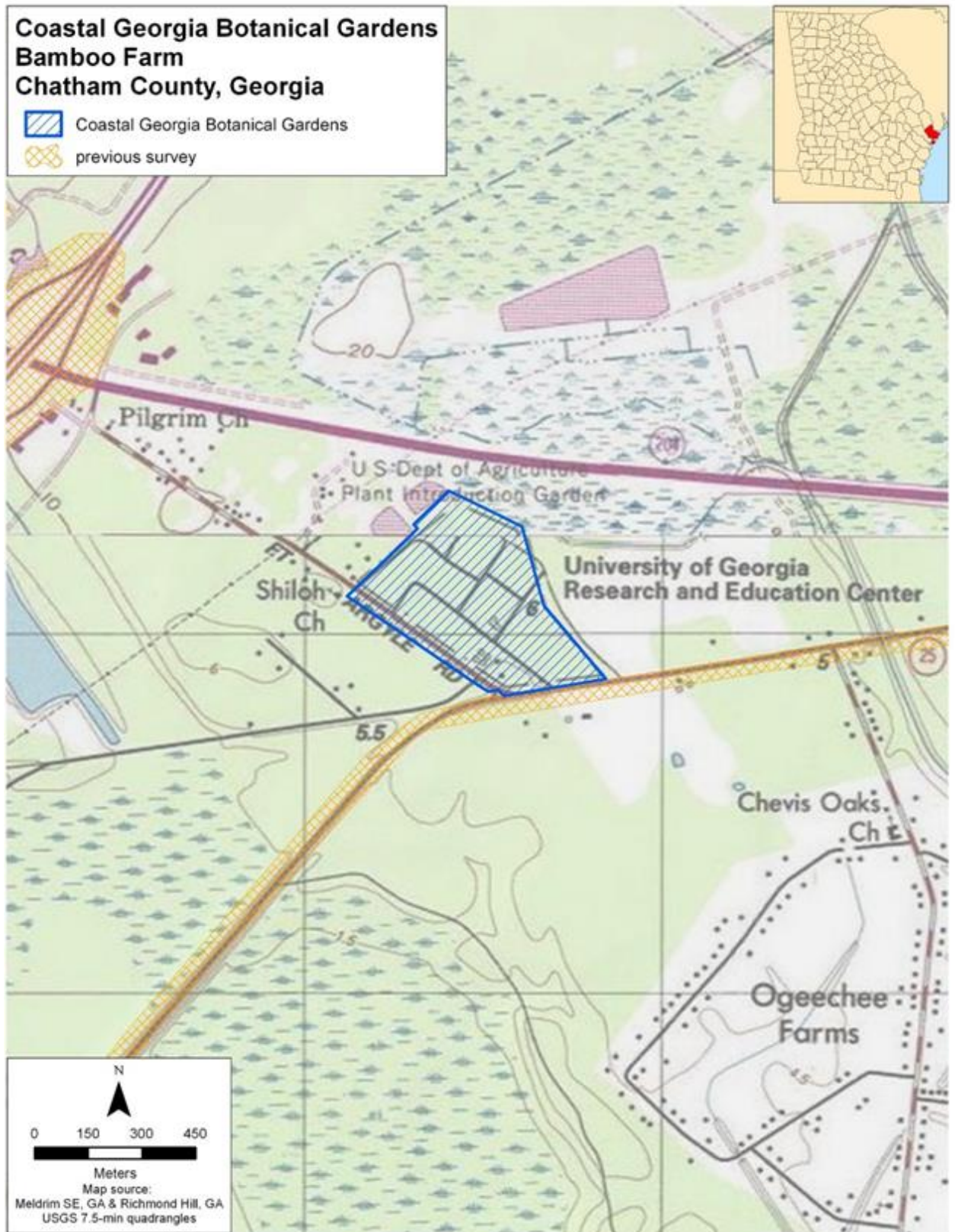


Figure 684. Coastal Georgia Botanical Gardens Bamboo Farm property and area of previous archaeological survey.

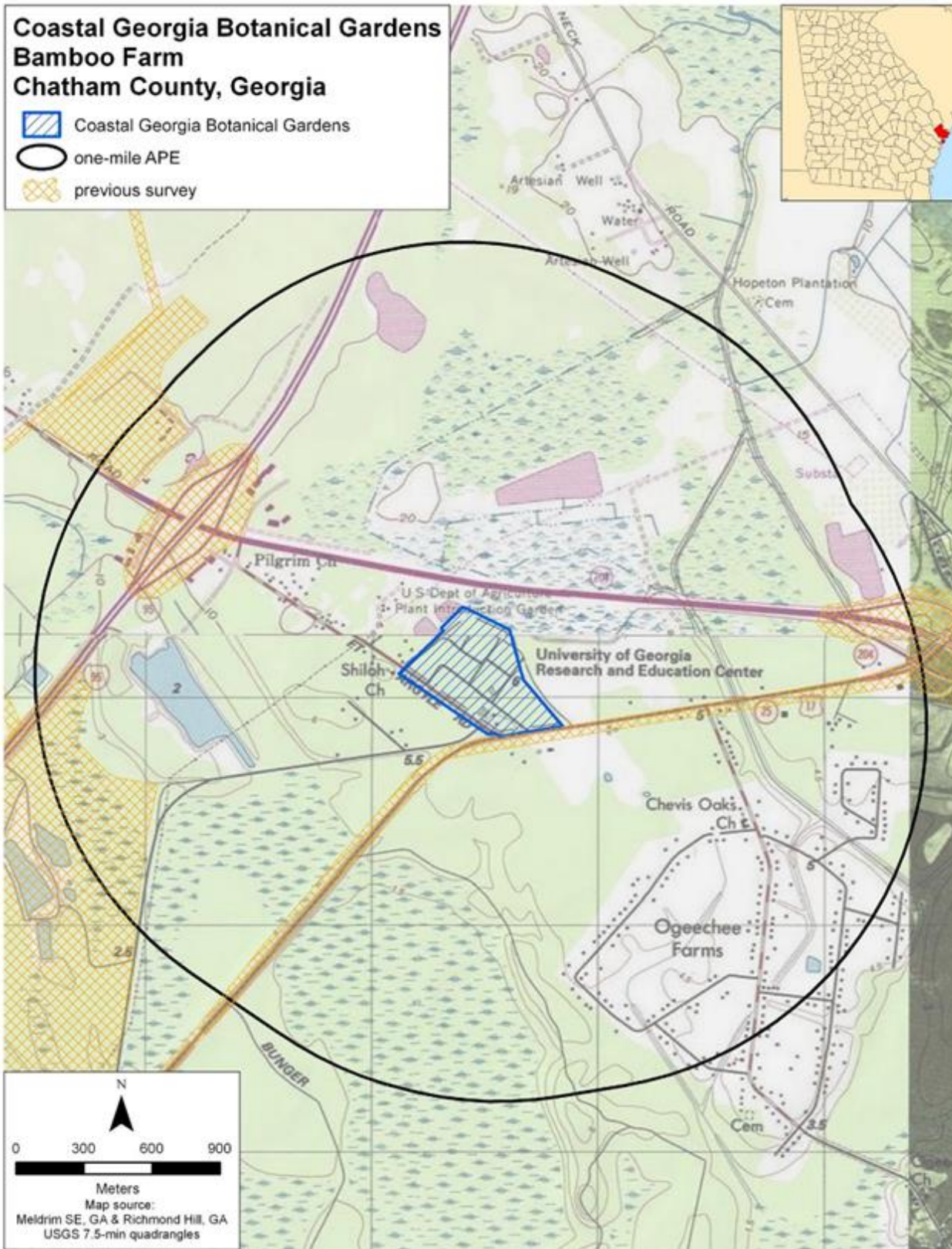


Figure 685. Coastal Georgia Botanical Gardens Bamboo Farm property and area of previously identified archaeological sites, and area of potential effects (APE).

Summary Assessments

National Register-eligible Properties

Coastal Georgia Botanical Gardens at the Historic Bamboo Farm

The Coastal Georgia Botanical Gardens at the Historic Bamboo Farm property of the University of Georgia appears eligible for listing in the National and Georgia Registers as a historic district with a period of significance that extends between 1919 and 1966. The property appears significant at the state level as a historic district under Criteria A, C, and D in the areas of Agriculture, Architecture, Innovation, and Science for its role as a research facility for the United States Department of Agriculture and for the architecture of the buildings.

The property appears to represent the first location within the United States where a living collection of exotic bamboo from Asia was established and maintained for research purposes. The present-day Barbour Lathrop Historic Bamboo Collection, which features seventy species and cultivars, is derived from collecting expeditions conducted in Asia by noted American botanists and plant explorers during the 1920s through the 1940s, including David Fairchild and Frank N. Meyer. The bamboo farm property at one time contained the largest collection of bamboo in North America, and provided cuttings or starts to facilities for propagation throughout the United States. It also became an important source of information for bamboo propagation, growth, harvest, and use. The property can be tied to, and is important within several historic contexts related to agricultural research and education, as well as plant exploration.

Numerous physical resources survive from the period of significance to convey the associations of the historic district, including the Barbour Lathrop Historic Bamboo Collection, Manager's House, Superintendent's Office, Museum, several greenhouse, shop and storage buildings, power house, and well. In addition, patterns of spatial organization, land uses, views and vistas associated with the property also survive from the historic period of significance and contribute to the setting of the historic district.

The University treats several of the early USDA buildings such as the greenhouses and cold frames as historic. However, other older buildings, such as the Manager's House, Superintendent's Office, and Museum are generally believed to have been constructed in the 1950s, when they were actually constructed circa 1919 and into the early 1920s based on funding provided by Barbour Lathrop. It is recommended that more research be conducted to confirm the history of these USDA buildings and whether they might contribute to a USDA Plant Introduction Station Historic District.

No archaeological sites have been documented at the Coastal Georgia Botanical Gardens at the Historic Bamboo Farm; however, future archaeological survey of the property could be used to determine the existence of archaeological sites, as well as the nature of any sites that are found, as further discussed below.

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

No resources at the Historic Bamboo Farm have been assessed as potentially eligible for individual listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

Resources potentially contributing to a National Register-eligible district

- Manager's House (Main Office Building) – UGA 5706 (circa 1919)
- Greenhouse 1 – UGA 5707 (1957/1960s)
- Greenhouse 2 – UGA 5708 (1957) (greenhouses on property in 1920s and 1930s)
- Greenhouse 3 – UGA 5709 (1957)
- Superintendent's Office (Office building no. 15, Bridal Cottage) – UGA 5710 (circa 1919)
- Museum (Auditorium Building No. 16; Bethel Bur-Ton Conference Center) – UGA 5711 (circa 1922)
- Laundry Building no. 18 (also Wash House) – UGA 5712 (1957, renovations circa 2010s)
- Shop Building no. 20 (also multi-purpose building) – UGA 5714 (1957)
- Storage Building no. 25 (also equipment and lath building) – UGA 5715 (1957)
- Storage Building no. 28 (also Annex-Instruction Center) – UGA 5718 (1957)
- Storage Building no. 29 (also Exhibition Facility) – UGA 5719 (1957)
- Storage Building no. 30 – UGA 5720 (1957)
- Power House – UGA 5723 (1957)
- Barbour Lathrop Bamboo Collection (circa 1890s–1930s)
- Well no. 1 – UGA 5758 (1923)

