

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR FEDERAL PROPERTIES

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	JAN 17 1984
DATE ENTERED	6/11/84

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

Chenocetah Fire Tower

AND/OR COMMON

**LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

Summit of Chenocetah Mountain

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE

Cornelia

VICINITY OF

CODE

COUNTY

CODE

Georgia

013

Habersham

137

**CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	N.A. <input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

**AGENCY**

REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS: (if applicable)

U.S. Forest Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, c/o Tom Hawks, District Ranger,  
STREET & NUMBER

Chattanooga Ranger District of Chattahoochee National Forest, P.O. Box 196

CITY, TOWN

STATE

Clarksville

VICINITY OF

GA 30523

**LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Habersham County Courthouse  
Superior Court

STREET & NUMBER

Courthouse Square

CITY, TOWN

STATE

Clarksville

GA 30523

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

None

DATE

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

## 7 DESCRIPTION

### CONDITION

EXCELLENT  
 GOOD  
 FAIR

DETERIORATED  
 RUINS  
 UNEXPOSED

### CHECK ONE

UNALTERED  
 ALTERED

### CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE  
 MOVED DATE \_\_\_\_\_

### DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Chenocetah Fire Tower is a granite tower with raised mortar, measuring 54 feet in height and 14 feet at the base, situated on a square stone platform with a granite balustrade. The tower is constructed at an elevation of 1,830 feet above sea level and is located at the summit of Chenocetah Mountain. The top of the tower contains a wooden observation room with a hipped roof of slate. The observation room is accessible on the interior by a metal spiral staircase and contains three windows with two vertical lights on each side of the tower. Details in the granite include dentil molding at the top of the granite portion of the structure; windows of narrow proportions on the sides of the tower which reflect the ascent of the interior stairway; and a segmental-arched entrance with a wooden door. A stone plaque which states: "Chenocetah Mountain, Elevation 1930 Feet, Tower Erected 1937," is located on one side of the entrance door. A second plaque, with the inscription "Chenocetah Memorial Tower Dedicated To The Memory Of These Forest Service Men In Georgia Who Gave Their Lives In Defense Of Their Country In World War II, William A. Crossland, Robert C. Fuller, Edward W. Simpson," is located on the other side of the entrance door. (The Forest Service has no record of when this latter plaque was added or the group responsible for its erection.)

The Chenocetah Fire Tower is located on approximately 4.5 acres of wooded and open land encircled by a road. The tower is reached from the road by granite entrance steps and a stone walkway. A grassed area of one to two acres surrounds the base of the tower, with woods between the grassed area and the surrounding loop road. Three low concrete symbols are set into the lawn on the north side of the tower, 6" in width and 4'6" high: G 26 oriented so as to be readable from the tower or the air above it. A 40 foot antenna is located on the southwest side of the tower and was added around 1970 when radio equipment was installed on the interior.

# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW				
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES 1937-1938 BUILDER/ARCHITECT Resettlement Administration  
Farm Security Administration

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Chenocetah Fire Tower is significant in the areas of architecture, conservation, and social/humanitarian. In architecture, the structure is representative of depression-era design carried out throughout the United States by public works programs of the federal government. In the area of conservation, the structure is representative of the conservation ethic which resulted in the development of the tower and the surrounding property for public use. In terms of social/humanitarian the tower is associated with President Roosevelt's great social experiment of the 1930's.

According to a survey carried out by the U.S. Forest Service, the Chenocetah Tower, the lawn clearing, loop road, and entrance stairway and walkway form a coherent whole \*\* and represent the construction and design styles of the WPA era. Architecturally, the tower is both an example of the 1930's era rustic public works architecture and the construction and craftsmanship of local people using local materials under federal direction. The only changes made to the tower since its construction include the addition of radio equipment in 1970 and the erection of a plaque following World War II, so the structure remains an intact example of federal design from the 1930's.

In terms of conservation, the Chenocetah Fire Tower is important as a part of a large-scale conservation project carried out in the Georgia Mountains in the 1930's known as the Northeast Georgia Upland Game Conservation Project. This project was designed to rehabilitate land which was unsuitable for farming and in need of a vegetative cover to protect it. The project involved reforestation and the long-term protection of the forests through the construction of three fire towers. The Chenocetah Fire Tower was the most elaborate of the three towers. The concept of the total project was to redevelop the land for public use and enjoyment and to create a scenic and natural landscape.

The project's association with two federal programs gives significance in the area of social/humanitarian. At the initiation of the project, the administering agency was the Resettlement Administration, created in 1935 from existing federal programs. At the completion of the tower, the Resettlement Administration had been renamed the Farm Security Administration. Regardless of the name, both of these agencies were charged with assisting rural residents and rural areas. Through this project, tenant farmers were relocated to more suitable land and approximately 1,000 jobs were created in the implementation phase of the project.

\*\* The loop road has been modified drastically since construction, by widening and paving, thus it no longer retains its original qualities. Only the property within the loop (from the ditch inward) is nominated.

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Attached

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 4.5 Approximate

UTM REFERENCES

A | 1 | 7 | 2 | 6 | 9 | 8 | 4 | 0 | 3 | 8 | 2 | 0 | 4 | 9 | 0 |  
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING  
 C | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

B | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |  
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING  
 D | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Habersham County  
 Map 100 Lot 182 (A portion of lot 182)  
 (tax map attached)

The Tower is located within a grassed and wooded park of about 4.5 acres, surrounded by a loop road around the highest point of Chenocetah Mountain, Land Lot 180, District 10, Habersham County, Georgia.

(Only the property within the loop road is being nominated.)

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

**11 FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME / TITLE

Dale Jaeger, Preservation Planner

Nov. 1, 1983

ORGANIZATION

Georgia Mts. APDC

404/536-3431

STREET & NUMBER

P.O. Box 1720

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Gainesville

STATE

GA 30503

**12 CERTIFICATION OF NOMINATION**

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

YES  NO  NONE

Please see letter of 11-30-83 for comments on this nomination.

*Eizabeth A. Lyon*  
 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

In compliance with Executive Order 11593, I hereby nominate this property to the National Register, certifying that the State Historic Preservation Officer has been allowed 90 days in which to present the nomination to the State Review Board and to evaluate its significance. The evaluated level of significance is  National  State  Local.

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE

*Walter J. DeBlasio*

JAN 3 1984

TITLE

*W. Pat Thomas* AGENCY PRESERVATION OFFICER  
 W. Pat Thomas, Forest Supervisor, Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forests

December 8, 1983

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

*[Signature]*

DATE

2/11/84

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

## Historical Narrative

The Chenocetah Fire Tower was constructed in 1937-1938 as part of the Northeast Georgia Upland Game Conservation Project, also referred to as the Northeast Georgia Game Conservation Project. This project was initiated in 1935 and proposed the acquisition of 50,000 acres in Habersham, Banks, Stephens, and Franklin Counties for public use. The concept of the project was for the government to purchase worn-out farm land on a voluntary basis from 250 families, relocate these former residents on more fertile acreage in close proximity to their original homes, and improve the acquired land through reforestation, the restoration of game, and the development of public recreation opportunities. The former residents were also guaranteed work in the development of the property.

"The project was carried out by the Division of Land Utilization of the Resettlement Administration. The Resettlement Administration was created on April 30, 1935 to combine and coordinate efforts of four former government agencies: the Rural Rehabilitation Division of the Federal Emergency Relief Administration, the Land Policy Section of the Agricultural Adjustment Administration, the Subsistence Homesteads Division of the Department of the Interior, and the Farm Debt Adjustment Section of the Farm Credit Administration. These four agencies were created by the federal government an attempt to address the problems of rural areas which had reached a high point in 1933 when one million farmers applied for aid. The Resettlement Administration was renamed the Farm Security Administration in September 1937, but its basic philosophy continued in its purpose to relieve the rural need, rural rehabilitation, rural and suburban resettlement and land utilization."<sup>1</sup>

It is evident that the Northeast Georgia Upland Game Conservation Project was designed to attack the problems of rural areas through methods developed by the federal government. According to local newspaper accounts, the completed project included 40,000 acres and 62 families who had once resided on the property were relocated to more suitable farmland. The paper noted that most of these families were tenants, who had encountered extreme difficulty in making a living from land susceptible to erosion. The project created more jobs than expected. An article, dated March 19, 1936 from the Tri-County Advertiser, stated that the project was employing 986 men, 200 more than originally estimated.

The major work resulting from this project included the construction of truck trails; the reduction of fire hazards; the building of three fire towers on Curahee Mountain, Black Mountain, and Chenocetah Mountain; the development of recreation areas at Fern Spring, Cool Spring, Panther Creek, Chenocetah, and Nancytown; and the preparation of wildlife preserves. An article from the Tri-County Advertiser, dated May 27, 1937, documents that the fire towers, which were constructed of steel, had been completed on Curahee and Black Mountains and the recreation areas of Fern Spring, Cool Spring, Panther Creek, and Nancytown has also been completed or were underway. The article stated that the stone tower on Chenocetah was under construction.

The Chenocetah Tower at the summit of Chenocetah Mountains was located within a 472 acre tract offered for sale on May 18, 1935 for the project from the owner, Colonel Sandy Beaver, an important figure in the development of the Riverside Academy in Gainesville, Georgia. The deed record notes that the seller reserved the right "to harvest the present apple crop and other field crops and to remove

<sup>1</sup> Arthur E. Burns and Edward A. Williams, Federal Work, Security, and Relief Programs, DeCapo Press, New York, New York, 1971.

pipe lines and other equipment from the orchard." A report by Jack Wynn, Archaeologist with the U.S. Forest Service, states that the mountain had been formerly known as Griffin Mountain, named from Caleb Griffin, the owner of the property around 1820. The archaeology survey also notes that the mountain was later known as Tower Mountain, due to a wooden tower which predated the present stone tower. The name, Tower Mountain, was also used in a 1936 article from the Tri-County Advertiser. It is unknown how long the wooden tower stood on the mountain or the party responsible for its construction.

On June 7, 1938, the Chenocetah Fire Tower was dedicated. Governor E.D. Rivers was the special guest at a ceremony sponsored by the Cornelia Kiwanis Club. By the time of the dedication the former Resettlement Administration had become the Farm Security Administration and the newspaper accounts at that time refer to the project as the Northeast Georgia Land Utilization Project. It appears by this date that the other recreational areas had been completed, including a rustic picnic shelter with outdoor ovens and tables on Chenocetah Mountain. (This picnic area at Chenocetah Mountain is now owned by a private individual.)

The tower was used for fire observation purposes on a seasonal basis until 1971. At that time the Forest Service began to use airplanes, a more cost effective means of surveying the public lands. Around this time a radio antenna was placed on the outside of the tower on the grounds and radio repeater was installed on the interior. The tower is located on an approximate 4.5 acre tract encircled by a road. The area around the tower is presently used as a passive park.

## Bibliography

Burns, Arthur E. and Edward A. Williams. Federal Work, Security, and Relief Programs. New York: DeCapo Press, 1971.

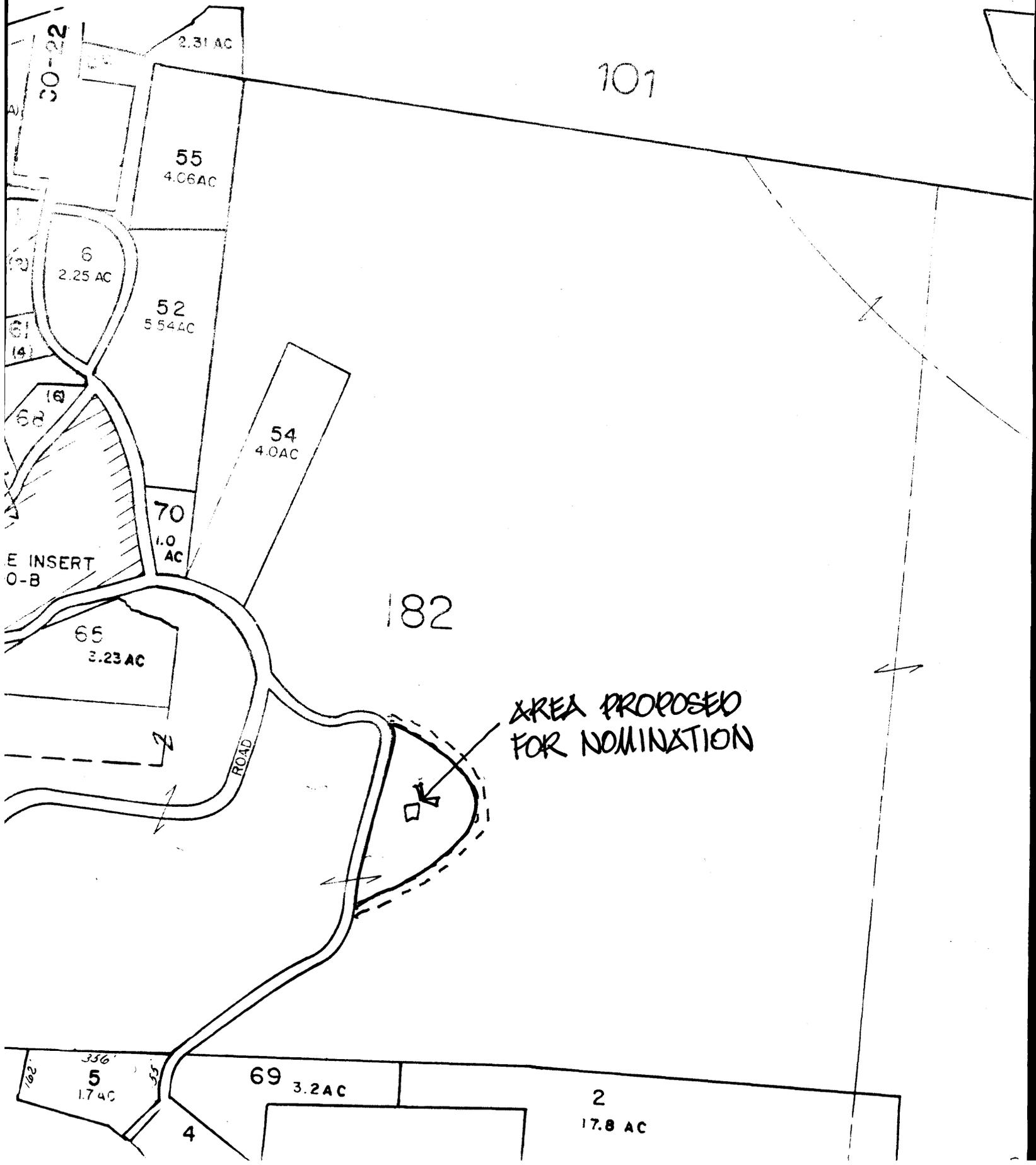
Draft Form by Carolyn Stewart, Georgia Mountains Historic Preservation Advisory Committee Member, Cornelia Georgia

"History of the Lake Russell Recreation Complex" (unpublished paper from Chatooga Ranger District of Chattahoochee National Forest)

Survey of National Forest Property, Jack Wynn, Archaeologist, U.S. Forest Service

Tri-County Advertiser (various articles between 1935-1938), Clarkesville, Georgia

TAX MAP FOR  
HABERSHAM COUNTY, GA



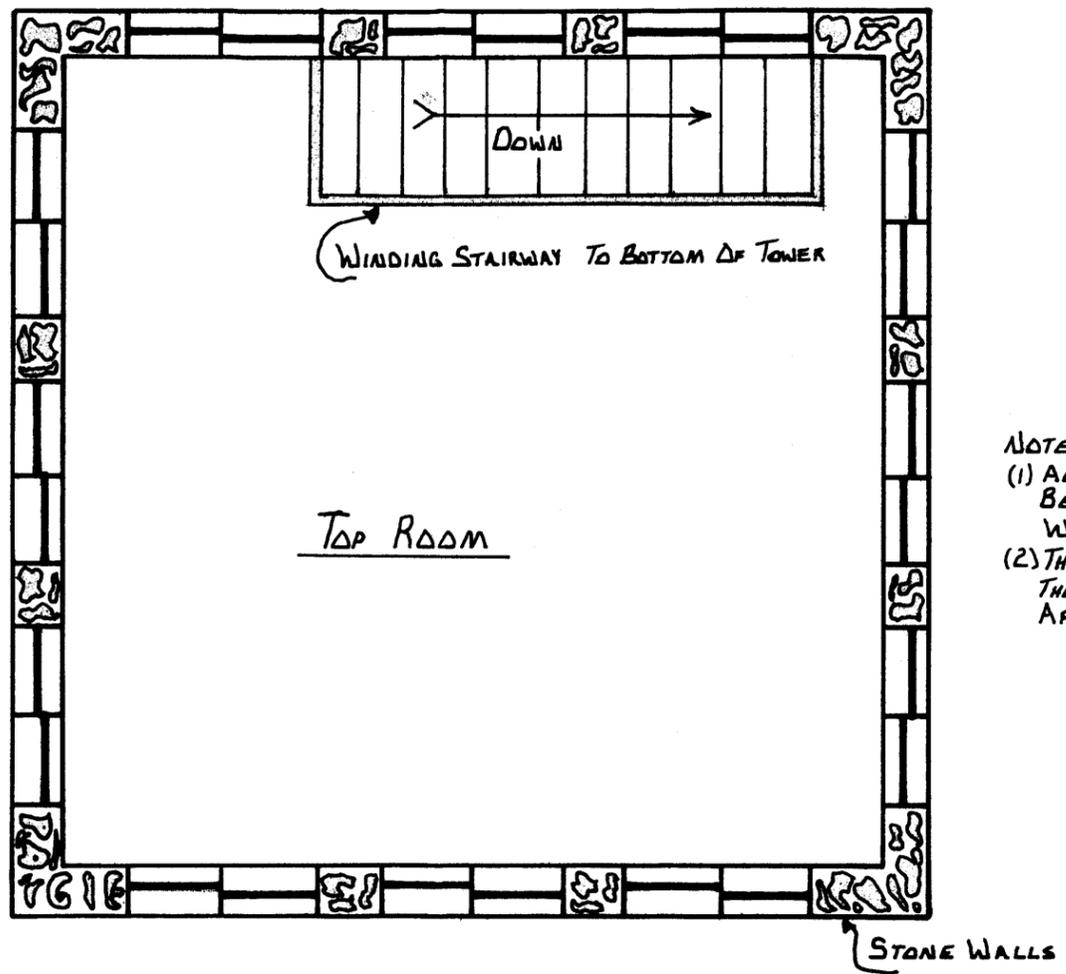


HOMER 10 MI.

83°30'

CHENOCE TAH TOWER  
 CORNELIA VICINITY, HABERSHAM  
 COUNTY

JUNE 12, 1980



NOTE:

- (1) ALL WINDOWS HAVE BEEN RE-PLACED WITH WOOD WINDOWS
- (2) THERE IS A ATTIC ABOVE THE TOP ROOM THAT IS APP. 10' HIGH IN THE CENTER

CHENDCETAH TOWER  
 (TOP ROOM)  
NOT DRAWN TO SCALE