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**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

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**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

received **AUG 6 1986**
date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Sautee Valley Historic District

and or common Sautee Valley Historic District

2. Location

street & number Along State Highway 255 and Lynch Mountain Road N/A not for publication

city, town Sautee N/A vicinity of

state Georgia code 013 county White code 311

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> educational	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>N/A</u> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Multiple Owners

street & number

city, town _____ vicinity of _____ state _____

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Superior Court

street & number White County Courthouse

city, town Cleveland state Georgia

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

See Continuation Sheet

title Historic Structures Field Survey:
White County has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1976 federal state county local

depository for survey records Historic Preservation Section
Georgia Department of Natural Resources

city, town Atlanta state Georgia

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Natural Setting and Historic Structures

The Sautee Valley is located in the Appalachian Highland region of northeast Georgia. This area, along the southeast edge of the Blue Ridge, is characterized by a generally mountainous terrain featuring low, rounded mountains and ridges and irregularly shaped valleys. Valley bottoms range from broad, flat floodplains to low, rolling hills; occasional "knobs" or steep, small hills punctuate the valley floors. In both the historic and prehistoric periods, these valleys have served as the setting for dispersed settlement. Settlement patterns tended to follow the edges of the valleys; the floodplains were reserved for agriculture, while the steeper slopes were unsuitable for development.

The Sautee Valley is a long and fairly narrow stretch of bottom land, with a pronounced northeast-southwest orientation or axis, adjacent to and northeast of the Nacoochee Valley (listed in the National Register in 1980). In literal terms the valley stretches a distance of approximately four miles to the northeast of Sautee, a rural settlement at its southwestern edge where it adjoins the Nacoochee Valley. Four creeks run through the valley, joining together as the Sautee Creek which flows out of the valley through a low gap to the south, emptying into the Chattahoochee River at the east end of the Nacoochee Valley. The four creeks create a diversified, gently rolling valley floor punctuated by several knobs or hills and intruded by peninsulas of higher ground extending from the flanking hillsides. At its midpoint the valley floor is constricted by two peninsulas which extend from either side of the valley and nearly close it off. To the south of this constriction, the valley is broader and more open, and contains a relative concentration of historic and prehistoric resources; to the north, the valley narrows and becomes more irregular, and contains far fewer cultural resources. Bordering the valley are low forested hills which rise beyond to higher mountains and ridges.

The Sautee Valley Historic District comprises the broader, more open southern half of the Sautee Valley. This part of the valley is defined environmentally by Lynch Mountain (elevation 2080') to the southeast, Grimes Nose (elevation 1920') to the northwest, the Nacoochee Valley to the southwest, and the virtual closure of the valley by the two lateral peninsulas to the northeast. Contained within these geographic boundaries is a broad, open, gently rolling valley bottom punctuated by several knobs and intruded upon by two peninsulas of higher ground. Much of the valley floor is in cultivation or pasture; smaller tracts are wooded. A state highway (Highway 255) runs along the low hills to the northwest; a dirt road winds its way along the foot of the steeper slopes to the southeast. Topographically and visually bounded, this part of the valley also contains a pronounced concentration of historic and prehistoric resources. For the most part these cultural resources are arranged along the edges of the valley, where the hillsides and valley bottom meet. The cultural resources include historic houses, farms, stores, a post office, a school, a church, and a covered bridge, all dating from the 19th and early 20th centuries, and a variety of prehistoric ceremonial and settlement sites dating from the Archaic, Woodland, Mississippian, and Proto-historic periods, as well as industrial and extractive sites dating from the historic period.

(Continued)

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below					
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> transportation		
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)		
Archaeology - N/A						

Specific dates 1820s - 1935 **Builder/Architect** Multiple

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Sautee Valley is important to the overall history of the Georgia mountains because of the way it represents the general patterns of settlement and development in the region. The Sautee Valley Historic District is significant in terms of 19th- and early 20th-century exploration and settlement, agriculture, engineering, architecture, and transportation. It is also significant in terms of its prehistoric and historic archaeology. These areas of significance support National Register eligibility under National Register criteria A, C, and D.

Exploration and Settlement, Agriculture

The Sautee Valley, along with the adjacent Nacoochee Valley (listed in the National Register on May 22, 1980), documents the general patterns of settlement and development in rural northeast Georgia.

But for the sporadic excursions of explorers, naturalists, and federal Indian agents, extensive settlement of the region by non-Indian populations did not occur until the first quarter of the 19th century. The building of the Unicoi Turnpike through the Nacoochee Valley between 1815 and 1818 and the ceding of lands east of the Chattahoochee River to the federal government were the catalysts for the first wave of white settlement in the area. Habersham County, of which the area was a part until 1857 when it became part of White County, was created in 1819. Land in the area was distributed in the 1820 Land Lottery in 250- and 500-acre lots. Among the earliest settlers was a group of 62 families that traveled to the area from North Carolina, according to local tradition, in 1822. Most of these people settled in the Nacoochee Valley, but some located in the Sautee.

The primary interest of these and other early settlers was agriculture, so the clearing of farmland became a major priority. Although the rich valley bottoms were well suited to farming, prime farming land was scarce, so unlike the pattern of large-scale cotton farming that evolved elsewhere in the state, the typical farm here was begun as and remained primarily a subsistence operation. Farms were small, and crops were varied.

In 1828 gold was discovered by the settlers, resulting in a rush of newcomers to the area and a long history of gold mining. At first limited to many small-scale operations, the mining interests coalesced into a number of large-scale company operations after the introduction of hydraulic mining in 1858. By the 1910s most of the gold in the valleys had been taken, and major mining operations ceased, although sporadic mining continued into the 1940s. Timbering, the second extractive industry to influence

(Continued)

9. Major Bibliographical References

See Continuation Sheet

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property Approximately 1,000 acres

Quadrangle name Helen, Georgia

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A	<u>1</u> <u>7</u>	<u>2</u> <u>5</u> <u>6</u> <u>5</u> <u>0</u> <u>0</u>	<u>3</u> <u>8</u> <u>4</u> <u>4</u> <u>5</u> <u>6</u> <u>0</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing

B	<u>1</u> <u>7</u>	<u>2</u> <u>5</u> <u>7</u> <u>5</u> <u>6</u> <u>0</u>	<u>3</u> <u>8</u> <u>4</u> <u>2</u> <u>5</u> <u>4</u> <u>0</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing

C	<u>1</u> <u>7</u>	<u>2</u> <u>5</u> <u>4</u> <u>9</u> <u>6</u> <u>0</u>	<u>3</u> <u>8</u> <u>4</u> <u>0</u> <u>6</u> <u>0</u> <u>0</u>
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D	<u>1</u> <u>7</u>	<u>2</u> <u>5</u> <u>4</u> <u>6</u> <u>0</u> <u>0</u>	<u>3</u> <u>8</u> <u>4</u> <u>1</u> <u>7</u> <u>2</u> <u>0</u>
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E	<u>1</u> <u>7</u>	<u>2</u> <u>5</u> <u>5</u> <u>0</u> <u>6</u> <u>0</u>	<u>3</u> <u>8</u> <u>4</u> <u>3</u> <u>5</u> <u>6</u> <u>0</u>
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F	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
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G	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
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H	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
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Verbal boundary description and justification

The boundary, outlined with a heavy black line on the enclosed maps, is described and justified in Section 7.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	<u>N/A</u>	code	county	code
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state		code	county	code
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11. Form Prepared By

name/title Richard Cloues, National Register Coordinator;
Carolyn Brooks, National Register Researcher; and John R. Morgan, Archaeologist
Historic Preservation Section

organization Department of Natural Resources date July 25, 1986

street & number 205 Butler Street, S.E.
1452 Floyd Tower East telephone 404/656-2840

city or town Atlanta state Georgia 30334

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature Elizabeth A. Lyon
 Elizabeth A. Lyon

title Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer date 7/29/86

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I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

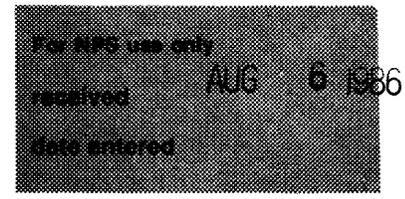
date

Keeper of the National Register

Attest: Linda M. Chellard date 8/20/86
 Chief of Registration

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Representation
Continuation sheet in Existing Surveys

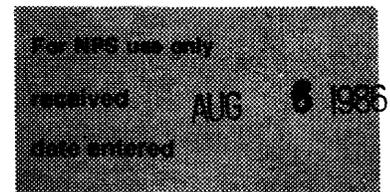
Item number 6

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The Harshaw-Stovall House, located in the district, was individually listed in the National Register on June 28, 1984. The southeastern corner of the district including the Sautee Store, the Nacoochee School, and the Nacoochee Presbyterian Church was previously listed in the National Register on May 22, 1980, as part of the Nacoochee Valley historic district.

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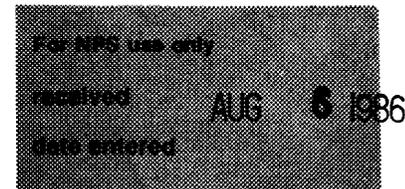
Structures in the district are located throughout the valley, with the majority situated on the hillsides at the periphery. A number of the oldest houses occupy hill-tops that extend out into the valley or knobs in the valley. These structures become focal points in the landscape that can be viewed from many locations within the district. Historic structures include about fifteen houses with associated outbuildings, several institutional and commercial structures, and a covered bridge. Non-contributing properties in the district are limited to a few recent houses and agricultural buildings and a new highway bridge. At the southwest corner of the district is the small settlement of Sautee which includes a cluster of commercial and institutional structures. This portion of the district was included in the Nacoochee Valley National Register district but is also part of the Sautee Valley. At the junction of Highway 255 and U.S. Highway 17 is the Sautee Store, dating from 1873, a simple wood-framed gable-roofed structure with an associated log building. Just to the north along Highway 255 are the 1928 Nacoochee School (photo 18), a one-story brick school on the west side of the road, and the 1928 Nacoochee Presbyterian Church (photo 17), a white-painted, wood-framed building with fan-lighted windows and a small classical portico, located directly across the road. Several modern buildings in the area including a post office and a convenience store have been excluded from the district. At the north end of the district is the 1895 Stovall Mill Covered Bridge (photo 11), a queen-post truss bridge which spans 37 feet across Chickamauga Creek. A modern concrete bridge has been constructed just to its north, and it is no longer used for vehicular traffic. To the north of both bridges is the site of a dam and mill constructed about 1895.

Historic houses in the district are located primarily along Highway 255; in addition, two are situated along Lynch Mountain Road. These houses are all wood-framed structures with wood finishes and wood detailing. They range in date from the 1830s to the 1930s, with the majority constructed around the turn of the century. In size they range from small two-room cottages to substantial two-story houses. The majority are vernacular farmhouses with little stylistic detailing and prominent porches. The ca. 1837 Harshaw-Stovall House (photo 13), probably the oldest house in the district and one that has evolved into a Victorian Eclectic structure, the 1890 Lumsden-Marsh-Crittenden House (photo 6), a large square two-story house with a full-width, two-story front porch, and the 1896 Sautee Manor (photo 1), a one-and-one-half-story hipped roof structure with a wrap-around front porch and a prominent front dormer, visually dominate the southern half of the district from their prominent hilltop and hillside sites. The 1898 Hood-Berrong-McCord House (photo 7), a plantation plain-influenced structure with a simple two-story portico and full-width front porch, and the 1920-1921 Orville West House (photo 8), an "L"-shaped farmhouse with prominent front porches, are the larger houses in the north half of the district. Four smaller one-story houses ranging in date from the 1880s to about 1915 are scattered along Highway 255 along with two Craftsman/Bungalow-influenced houses dating from ca. 1930.

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Nearly all the houses in the district were originally farmhouses, and many have associated farm-related outbuildings including one- and two-level barns, sheds, corn cribs and smokehouses. Some of these date from as early as the 1870s and 1880s. The Sautee Manor has the largest number of extant outbuildings including a barn, chicken house, wash house, playhouse, servants' quarters and a garage. Three of the houses located along Highway 255 have small commercial buildings in their front yards. A weatherboard-covered post office/store dating from before 1893 is located by the Harshaw-Stovall House. Two small board-and-batten structures dating from the early 1900s and 1934 respectively are situated close to the road near the north end of the district.

Landscaping

Landscaping in the district consists of four types of features: the natural terrain itself, the house sites, formally landscaped domestic grounds, and cultivated agricultural fields.

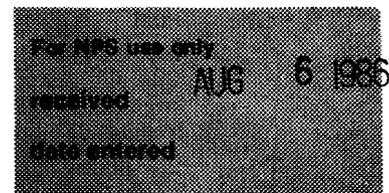
The natural terrain of the valley serves both as a dramatic natural setting for the structures and other improvements in the district and as a container for the settlement patterns in the valley. The natural terrain is divided into three zones, each with a characteristic present and historic appearance. At the lowest elevation is the valley floor, generally broad and open, either as a natural floodplain or as cultivated fields. The valley floor for the most part has an undulating surface shaped by years of erosion into the valley's four creeks. Bordering the valley floor are wooded hillsides which rise, sometimes sharply, to steep hills and ridges beyond. This high ground closes the valley physically and visually. Where the valley floor and the bordering slopes meet is an intermediate zone, a transitional zone, alternately open and wooded, which follows closely the edges of the valley; this area traditionally has served as ground for settlement and development. Occasional knobs and peninsulas of higher ground punctuate the valley floor.

This natural terrain, especially the slightly elevated valley edges and the knobs and peninsulas of higher ground, serves as a dramatic staging ground for settlement and development. Most obvious are the knobs and peninsulas which are the settings for many of the most important and impressive houses in the valley; the best examples are the Harshaw-Stovall House near the center of the valley and the Lumsden-Marsh-Crittenden House in the south-central part of the valley. Equally prominent are the historic houses set on the slightly elevated "shelf" that runs along the edge of the district where the valley floor and hillsides meet; good examples are the Sautee Manor in the southeast corner of the district and the Hood-Berrong-McCord House in the northwest part of the valley. These knobs, peninsulas, and shelves also help create a criss-crossing network of vistas between and among the houses in the valley. These vistas are especially pronounced at the Lumsden-Marsh-Crittenden House and also at the Harshaw-Stovall House and the Sautee Manor.

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his study entitled Antiquities of the Southern Indians (1873), he described the accidental disturbance of prehistoric stone-box graves by a farmer plowing the rich alluvial soils near the Hardman (Nacoochee) Mound (1873:214-215). Jones was attempting to demonstrate the origin of mounds, arrowheads, stone-box graves, and other curious artifacts and features through the nascent discipline of archaeology (1873:v-vii) as being products of American Indians. A by-product of his efforts was the association of deSoto's march through the Southeast, and perhaps Georgia, with the 1834 discovery of mining shafts, tools, and paraphenalia in the nearby valley of Duke's Creek (Jones 1873:48-50). In 1915, the Heye Foundation of New York and the Smithsonian Institution jointly conducted archaeology at the "Nacoochee Indian Mound" with a goal of verifying deSoto's site of Guaxule (Heye, et.al. 1918:5-7). Subsequent researchers, however, have discounted such an interpretation (Hudson 1984; Smith 1976; Swanton 1939; and Wauchope 1966). As for the archaeological potential of the Sautee Valley, it became the subject of the desire to learn more about these prehistoric occupants fostered by the inquiries of these early students of archaeology.

In the Sautee Valley district archaeological resources have been identified (see Identified Archaeological Sites map). These have been found by various means which include the efforts of local artifact collectors, an archaeological survey, and a recent preservation planning study for the valley. However, no systematic archaeological survey of the entire Sautee Valley, or even the Nacoochee Valley, has been reported, but awareness of its archaeological potential has been the interest of the curious as well as researchers for many years.

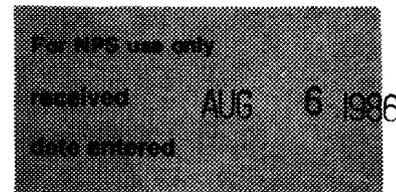
Excluding the numerous collectors and their assemblages of randomly gathered materials, Dr. Robert Wauchope, then of the University of Georgia, conducted the first large-scale archaeological survey of northern Georgia in the 1930s (1966). Using Works Progress Administration (WPA) laborers and information published by Jones (1873) and Heye, et.al. (1918), Wauchope focused on the potential of these valleys. For the Sautee Valley his efforts are the primary source of information we have today about archaeological sites. Wauchope's success was built on the assistance given by valley residents who informed him of site locations and on the curiosity of his predecessors trying to determine the origins of arrowheads and mounds as well as the route of deSoto. Of the twelve identified resources, eight were inventoried by Wauchope (1966).

Two other surveys in the vicinity of the Sautee Valley district are informative in terms of resource occurrence and distribution. First, in 1980, the Georgia Department of Natural Resources contracted for a survey of three state parks. Goals of the survey were to identify known cultural resources and to predict areas of potential archaeological significance. For archaeology such information would provide a basis for planning and management decisions for general development within each park (Crook 1980). One of the parks chosen by the Department of Natural Resources for study was Unicoi, located about four miles northwest of the Sautee Valley.

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Given the fact that the primary drainage of Unicoi State Park was small and that no cultural resources were inventoried for the park (Crook 1980:5), the effective search area was expanded. It covered most of White County and some portions of six contiguous counties, depending on the drainage system pattern (Crook 1980). For the effective search area of approximately 450 square miles, Crook documented the locations of 44 prehistoric archaeological sites. These locations were analyzed by examining associations of landform and water. Crook found that 31.8% of the sites - the highest number - occurred on a flood plain or creek bottom at the confluence of a creek or a river. For the area of lowest occurrence of sites three associations tied at 2.3%: (1) hill or ridge and confluence of two creeks; (2) slope and confluence of two creeks; and (3) terrace or foot of slope and river (Crook 1980:Figure 2). He then ranked the environmental classes in the form of a histogram (Crook 1980:Figure 3) with the result that 70.5% of the 44 sites occurred on bottom lands along creeks and rivers, at the confluence of creeks, or at the confluence of a creek and a river (Crook 1980:9). This delineated high probability environmental classes for the occurrence of prehistoric archaeological resources based on the documented sample.

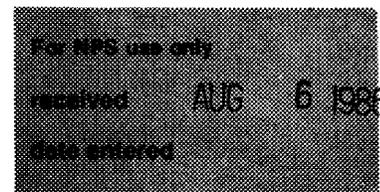
For the environmental classes of terraces or foot of slopes at the confluence of creeks or of a creek with a river, along slopes (less than 18 degrees) above the confluence of a river and creek, or upon hills or ridges overlooking the confluence of creeks, and upon a hill or ridge without a nearby water feature, 22.7% of the prehistoric sites occurred. These environmental classes form a medium probability category of site occurrence (Crook 1980:12).

Environmental classes with a low probability for the occurrence of sites are slopes (less than 15 degrees) and hills or ridges above the confluence of two creeks, and terraces or foot of slopes along rivers. Sites within these classes account for 6.8% of the documented resources of the effective search area (Crook 1980:12).

While this study is incomplete, no historic archaeological resource data were considered and the site sample was small, given the large effective search area, the study does give direction for dealing with the potential for the occurrence of prehistoric archaeological resources in the Sautee Valley in terms of planning and management. The dominant landforms of the valley - flood plain and creek bottom - and the prevalent water forms of creeks and their confluences comprise environmental classes which fall into Crook's high probability for site occurrence category (1980:9,12), suggesting a high potential for the occurrence of prehistoric archaeological resources in the Sautee Valley.

Second, an environmental assessment archaeological survey was conducted in 1984 for a power line corridor (Webb 1984), a segment of which runs along and outside of the northern boundary of this district for about six miles. For most of the line a 100-foot wide corridor was surveyed, but due to the fact the center line had not been marked in the vicinity of the valley, a 300-foot wide corridor was surveyed for this segment near the district. In it three archaeological sites were identified and assessed as ineligible

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for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places (Webb 1984:14-15;18). In point of fact one of Wauchope's sites, 9Wh4 (1966:360), was identified in the literature search but was not relocated in this survey effort (Webb 1984:5).

The survey results are interesting in that the corridor avoids the dominant land-forms of the valley, creek bottoms and ridge or hill tops. Most of the corridor near the district runs along hill slopes where three sites were identified. Two were of historic origin, a sawdust pile and a liquor still; the other was prehistoric quartz reduction flake (Webb 1984:14). In summary, Webb points out that the absence of significant (i.e., eligible for nomination to the National Register) sites may be the result of three factors: (1) preferential use of the valley floor by human occupants as opposed to the upland areas; (2) the marginal location of the corridor route to the valley as a whole; and (3) the comparatively limited sample of the project area (i.e., the transmission line corridor), a product of the narrowness of the construction corridor (1984:Addendum:Summary).

Finally, in addition to these two archaeological surveys, a preservation planning study was undertaken recently which included archaeological resources (Stovall 1982:40-44). This effort reflects the strong interest and concern that the residents of the area, including those of the Sautee Valley, have for the recognition and preservation of archaeological resources. The study inventories the known sites of the area, generally assesses their historical significance, discusses the potential for the occurrence of additional sites, and presents some preservation priorities.

The major contribution of this planning study is the documentation of the archaeological potential of the Sautee Valley, one which has cultural diversity and temporal depth. The presence of sites documents the potential for more archaeology. By means of this preservation planning effort the prehistory and history of the Sautee Valley have been documented and the processes and consequences of human occupation of the land-form outlined in varying detail. This background provides a basis on which to develop preservation priorities for the known and assumed resources and assess the archaeological potential of the valley presently as well as in the future. This preservation study documents the intent of the residents of the valley; action by these residents through the planning mechanisms identified by the study will determine the results for valley and its resource potential, known and assumed.

Archaeological Site Descriptions

Site #1 - According to Wauchope (1966:357), Wh7(#16, Stovall 1982:43-4) is located on the west bank of Sautee Creek about a half mile north of the Chattahoochee River. Based on surface collections, he described it as a multicomponent village site: Early Woodland (21.4%), Deptford Simple Stamped, Cord Marked, and Plain; Middle Woodland (21.4%), Swift Creek Stamped; and Protohistoric (42.9%), Lamar Stamped and Plain. Some undiagnostic lithics were collected, consisting of three quartz projectile points and a polished ax fragment. On July 18, 1986, informant Dr. Thomas Lumsden, who as a boy

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originally showed Dr. Wauchope this site, identified its location for a photograph (photo 21).

Site #2 - Across Sautee Creek and east of site Wh7 (#1), Dr. Wauchope inventoried a Protohistoric village site (1966:357-8), Wh13(#17, Stovall 1982:43-4). Only Lamar ceramics were collected: Lamar Stamped (97%); Lamar Bold Incised (3%). A pitted stone and two projectile points, one of quartz and the other of chert, were the only other materials mentioned. Informant Dr. Thomas Lumsden pointed out this site on July 18, 1986 (photo 22).

Site #3 - On the east bank of Bean Creek and the north bank of Sautee Creek, Wauchope (1966:360) identified a multicomponent village site, Wh15(#19, Stovall 1982:43-4). In addition to four indeterminant stamped Woodland sherds, the remainder were Mississippi (19.4%): Etowah Stamped and Etowah Plain; and Protohistoric (80.6%): Lamar Stamped and Lamar Plain. Lithics consisted of four quartz projectile points, one leaf-shaped and three with crude stems. The area of this site was shown to us by informant Dr. Lumsden on July 18, 1986 (photo 23).

Site #4 - Wauchope (1966:359-60) described a village site, Wh16(#21, Stovall 1982:43-4), near the junction of Sautee and Chickamauga creeks as being multicomponent, Woodland, Mississippi, and Protohistoric. Deptford Check Stamped and Napier Stamped sherds reflect the earliest component while Etowah Stamped sherds depict the next one. Lamar Stamped sherds (98.6%) made up the latest component. A fragment of copper was reported. Informant Dr. Lumsden pointed out this site on July 18, 1986 (photo 24).

Site #5 - For this village site, Wh19(#23, Stovall 1982:43-4), which Wauchope (1966:359) locates on the north bank of Sautee Creek about one quarter of a mile upstream from the mouth of Chickamauga Creek, the primary occupation was Mississippi (92.6%): Etowah Stamped and Etowah Plain sherds. Also some Early Mississippi sherds were collected (2.5%): Woodstock Stamped. A small Protohistoric component was represented (5%): Lamar Stamped; Lamar Bold Incised; and Lamar Plain. A milk quartz projectile point and a fragment of a polished celt composed the lithic sample. The general location of this site may be seen in photo 24.

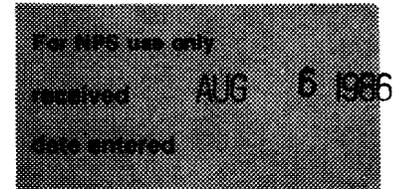
Site #6 - Wauchope (1966:24) was uncertain about the location of this site, Wh24 (#22, Stovall 1982:43-4), but he placed it on the east bank of Chickamauga Creek north of Wh16 (#4). It is a single component Protohistoric village: Lamar Stamped (91.5%) and Lamar Bold Incised (8.5%). No other materials were collected. No photo location is given as site location is uncertain.

Site #7 - From Wauchope's description (1966:358) the location of this site, Wh26 (#20, Stovall 1982:43-4) is unclear. He places it one quarter of a mile northwest of Sautee Creek and about a quarter of a mile downstream from the mouth of Chickamauga Creek. Surface materials indicated the site was multicomponent beginning with a single

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plain Early Woodland sherd. Other components present were: Early Mississippi (1.9%), Woodstock Stamped; and Protohistoric (98.2%), Lamar Stamped and Lamar Bold Incised. Other artifacts collected included a vessel fragment (not streatite) a crystal, two clear quartz fragments, miscellaneous rocks, and a fragment from the stem of a baked clay pipe. Photo #24 shows the general area described by Wauchope.

Site #8 - Wauchope (1966:364-5) said this multicomponent village site, Wh5 (#18, Stovall 1982:43-4), was located on a flat hilltop west of the confluence of Bean and Sautee Creeks about 100 feet above the creek bottoms. Permission was obtained from the property owner to excavate an earthen mound and a rock mound. No dimensions are given for either. Wauchope described the work as follows:

Our investigation at the Lumsden Site consisted of one long exploratory trench, five shorter trenches, 56 test pits measuring 3 by 10 feet each, and diggings out from these to clear three house sites, a burial, and the rock mound with its stone cist grave (1966:364).

Beneath 0.8 foot of plowed topsoil Wauchope found postholes delineating three structures. One was square (19 feet across) with round corners, five interior postholes, and a raised central hearth of red clay. The second was oval, 29 feet by 20 feet, without interior postholes or a hearth. The third was about 22 feet in diameter, circular in shape, lacked a hearth, and no evidence of interior postholes was found. The latter two posthole patterns indicated door bays on the north and south sides. The function of these structures is assumed by Wauchope to be housing but no cultural affiliation is assigned to them. This may be due to the shallowness of the culture-bearing stratum. A description of finding two burials intrusive into the clay from just below the humic line (Wauchope 1966:364), suggests the problem. One burial was flexed in an oval grave with a bone bodkin beside it; no discussion of the other one is given.

The rock burial mound, located north of the previously mentioned burials, consisted of a stone cist covered by rocks. It had been looted, according to Wauchope, by the removal of at least one vessel but leaving three large conch-shell beads.

The components of Wh5 are represented in the ceramics as follows: Middle Woodland (.5%), Napier Stamped and Swift Creek Stamped; Pre-Mississippi (13.7%), Plain and Stamped indeterminate; Early Mississippi (15.2%), Woodstock Stamped; Mature Mississippi (44.2%), Etowah Stamped and Etowah Smooth; and Protohistoric (26.3%), Lamar Stamped, Lamar Plain, and Lamar Bold Incised. Other artifacts included ten projectile points, blade end of a polished ax, fragment of a perforated object, a quartz crystal, and a quartz drill. Informant Dr. Lumsden identified the location of Wh5 on July 18, 1986 (photos 25 and 26).

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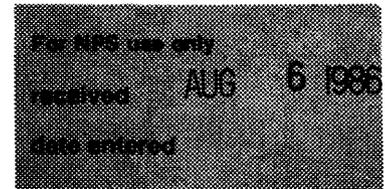
Site #9 - This site, Wh43(#27, Stovall 1982:43-4), was inventoried by a cursory survey conducted by Georgia State University in Atlanta, as a part of the preservation planning study (Stovall 1982). It is located on the east side of Chickamauga Creek just south of Georgia Highway 255. From a collection of artifacts taken from the surface the site is classified as a Protohistoric Lamar village.

Sites #10 and #11 - With knowledge of the fact that mining for gold occurred in the Sautee Valley, Georgia State University, as a part of its effort to document the archaeological component of the Sautee and Nacoochee Valleys preservation study (Stovall 1982), identified the Bean Creek area as one of preservation concern. Through records search two areas which are within the Sautee Valley district boundary were identified as being associated with gold mining, Wh47 and Wh50 (G10 and G11, Stovall 1982:43-4). Many mining techniques including placer, hydraulic, and tunneling were used in Georgia (see Yeates 1896 and Jones 1909), eroding away the hillsides and filling stream beds with sediment. Informant Dr. Lumsden readily identified a number of areas along Bean Creek which typify gold mining activities in the valley. These included a mine shaft, evidence of hydraulic mining, and the base of a stamping mill (photos 27, 28, and 29).

Site #12 - Just upstream a 100 yards from the Stovall Mill Covered Bridge is the Stovall Mill Site (M12, Stovall 1982:43-4). Today, no remains of the mill complex are observable on the surface of the ground. Construction of a new (1955) highway bridge, which re-routed traffic from the covered bridge, may have damaged or destroyed the site. However, an informant, Dr. Lumsden, stated that the mill was destroyed by a flood in the early 1950s. He said the dam for the mill pond was built on the shoals just above the new bridge (photos 30 and 31).

Boundary

The boundary of the Sautee Valley Historic District, drawn to scale with a heavy black line on the enclosed maps, circumscribes the historically, architecturally, and environmentally significant resources in the Sautee Valley. The boundary in most places is set at the 1400 foot contour line which encompasses the important valley resources and the viewsheds from prominent vantage points around the valley. A portion of Highway 255 has been excluded from the district because of a heavy concentration of recent housing and other development in the area. The southern boundary of the district is contiguous with the boundary of the Nacoochee Valley historic district which lies to the south.

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Architecture

In terms of architecture, the district is significant for providing examples of typical rural late 19th- and early 20th-century architectural types in northeast Georgia. The residential, agricultural, commercial, and religious buildings document typical building materials and technologies associated with this time and region. The houses, which range in size from a small two-room cottage to substantial two-story houses, are, for the most part, examples of vernacular house types with plans ranging from the saddlebag, to two- and four-rooms with central hall, and "L"-shaped. Wood-framed construction with weatherboard siding, and simple front porches are almost ubiquitous. The Harshaw-Stovall House (individually listed in the National Register), the Lumsden-Marsh-Crittenden House, and the Sautee Manor document more elaborate country homes with more finely detailed porches and entrances, and in two cases, more complex roof lines. The remaining barns and corn cribs document typical agricultural outbuilding types of northeast Georgia. Both late 19th- and early 20th-century structures are represented in the extant log and wood-framed buildings. Historic rural commercial structures are well represented in the district by four small one-room wood-framed stores that range in date from the 1870s to the 1930s. Of particular interest are the 1873 Nacoochee Store and the late 19th-century post office/store on the Harshaw-Stovall House property.

Landscape Architecture

In terms of landscape architecture, the Sautee Valley is significant in part because of the way in which the natural landscape of the valley serves as both a setting and a container for settlement and development. The resultant pattern of settlement, with the open valley floor reserved for agriculture, the valley edges and other points of higher ground used for development, and the steeper, higher ground around the valley held largely in reserve to physically and visually close the valley, is characteristic of settlement and development in the mountain valleys of northeast Georgia and is strikingly different from the more evenly dispersed settlement and development patterns elsewhere in the state. The Sautee Valley is a good, intact example of the way in which settlement and development patterns were shaped by - and exploited - the natural mountainous terrain in Georgia. The district is also significant in part for the way in which the valley was used and appreciated during the 19th and early 20th centuries (indeed, up to the present day) almost as though it were a designed landscape rather than a natural one. To a lesser degree than the adjoining Nacoochee Valley, but still to a significant degree, the natural scenery of the Sautee Valley was celebrated in novels, articles, poems, and songs, and in terms seemingly more appropriate to literature or painting - or landscape architecture. All this was a part of 19th-century America's discovery of the great out-of-doors. Moreover, in terms of landscaping, the district is highly significant for the way in which the natural features of the valley were creatively exploited from the early 19th century down through the 1930s as opportunities for dramatic house sites and for creating a network of strong visual relationships between and among the houses so sited. The district is also significant for its

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several examples of landscape gardening which reflect prevailing trends and practices in the 19th and early 20th centuries as they were adopted and adapted locally. Perhaps least obvious among these, but highly significant none the less, are the front and side yards informally landscaped with trees, shrubs, and lawn. This mode of landscaping was prevalent throughout Georgia - in towns as well as rural areas - during the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Its ultimate derivation is from the English school of picturesque or naturalistic landscape gardening as interpreted for Americans by Andrew Jackson Downing. An interesting rural variation is represented by the dual ornamental and agricultural purposes of some of the tree plantings; this speaks most directly of the subsistence farm economy of the region. More obvious are the more formal and unusual examples of landscape architecture in the district; these include the rock and earth retaining walls, and the stone paths and pools and fences, all making use of indigenous materials and the natural setting to create late Victorian period landscape settings for rural houses. Finally, the district is significant for the way in which the floodplain fields have taken on a character and appearance that reflect traditional agricultural practices and rural land ownership patterns. Historically, subsistence farming involved relatively small landholdings set off by fences and subsequent hedgerows. These fences and hedgerows bestowed a pronounced and irregular geometric pattern to the softly contoured valley floor. This pattern is characteristic of agricultural subdivision in many mountain valleys in Georgia, and it is strikingly different from the more open arrangement of larger fields in the less hilly central portion and the flat south portion of the state. Although agricultural practices and land ownership patterns may have changed, the historic agricultural character and appearance of the valley floor endures.

Transportation and Engineering

In terms of transportation and engineering, the district is significant for containing the 1895 Stovall Mill Covered Bridge. One of less than twenty covered bridges remaining in Georgia, this bridge is distinguished by being the shortest and among the latest built in the state. It documents the end of a bridge-building era in Georgia. It also is unusual in that it employs a queen-post truss. Because of its peculiar configuration, queen-post bridges can span only relatively short distances. In Georgia, queen-post truss bridges were used most often to span railroad tracks; because of their short length and small cost, few of these structures were covered for protection, and as a result very few survive. A queen-post covered bridge is very rare indeed, and the existence of one in the Sautee Valley provides an important record of this unusual bridge type in Georgia.

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Archaeological Resources

The significance of the known and assumed archaeological resources of the Sautee Valley is primarily one of potential to yield knowledge. Even in the context of an archaeologically demonstrated continuum of long cultural occupation of the valley, at least Archaic through Historic, little is known. As no systematic survey of the valley has been reported and no recent excavations undertaken, current archaeological knowledge - resulting mostly from analysis of surface collections - must be considered in terms of representing the valley's potential. Given this state of knowledge three factors are critical to evaluating significance in the term of potential.

The first factor involves stability. With few exceptions, e.g., gold mining and timbering, the Sautee Valley's cultural occupants through time seem not to have imposed themselves drastically on their environment. From this it may be inferred that the sequence of cultural occupations of the valley appears to represent an orderly record of change through time.

The second factor is a product of the valley's physiographic form. Although somewhat smaller in area than adjacent Nacoochee Valley, the Sautee is still open with broad expanses of fields, pastures, and forests. Yet its physiographic form is distinctly that of a valley, clearly delineated by ridges and hills. The point is that the valley's openness with its many streams and creeks has obviously been conducive to human occupation and utility. North Georgia's mountains have thousands of valleys but as elevation increases the valley bottoms become smaller and the hillsides steeper. The effect for valley occupants is one of concentration, being closer to one another in space as well as nearly on top of one another through time. The result is an increasingly higher possibility for the most recent occupants to disturb or destroy the archaeological remains of their predecessors as valley bottoms decrease in size and slopes increase in gradient.

Finally, the third factor for assessing the archaeological resources of the valley in terms of their information potential is its residents. The people of the Sautee, as well as the Nacoochee Valley, have demonstrated their concerns for preserving the valley and its diverse resources. They have had a professional preservation study undertaken and its results published (see Stovall 1982). Such an explicit expression of community concern for resource preservation is seldom witnessed in Georgia. The archaeological resources of the Sautee Valley, known and assumed, have a local audience of stewards actively working for their preservation today and planning for their preservation into the future. Giving priority to the significance of resource potential is mandated by these factors.

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Beginning with the Archaic Period and continuing to Euro-American settlement, the identified archaeological resources, some of which are multicomponent, represent a continuum of occupation on which to build and refine a cultural chronology for the valley and surrounding region. This is important because the contiguous topography of slopes, ridges, stream valleys, and uplands offers few areas suited for long-term habitation. As archaeological resources found above valley floors in the area often consist of sites of short-term occupation, they are stratigraphically shallow and artifactually sparse. Interpretation of such resources is dependent on our knowledge and understanding of resources in the valleys. This situation, however, may be reciprocal. In some cases we may better understand the valley occupations in terms of regional interpretations if relationships to ephemerally occupied sites found on surrounding slopes, ridges, tributaries, and uplands are discovered. At this time, however, the existence of such sites of short-term occupation is unknown due to the lack of survey in areas above the valley floor and only cursory investigation of valley occupation sites. In addition to the problems of cultural chronology and relative interpretation, the long continuum of valley occupation may be used to address these problems: (1) village structure, its persistence or change in time and space; (2) valley settlement patterning and its relationship to resources and topography; (3) multicomponent sites in terms of processes such as acculturation, adaptation, and succession; (4) relationships of valley cultures with those of neighboring valleys, counties, or states.

Topographic distinctiveness and diverse, long-term cultural occupation are the hallmarks of the archaeological potential of the Sautee Valley. Through this potential research problems may be addressed to increase our knowledge and understanding of the valley's prehistoric and historic resources as well as those of the region. Through these resources we may reduce the size and number of gaps in the record of cultural development as well as the unrecorded lives of the majority of inhabitants. (Wynn 1982:111).

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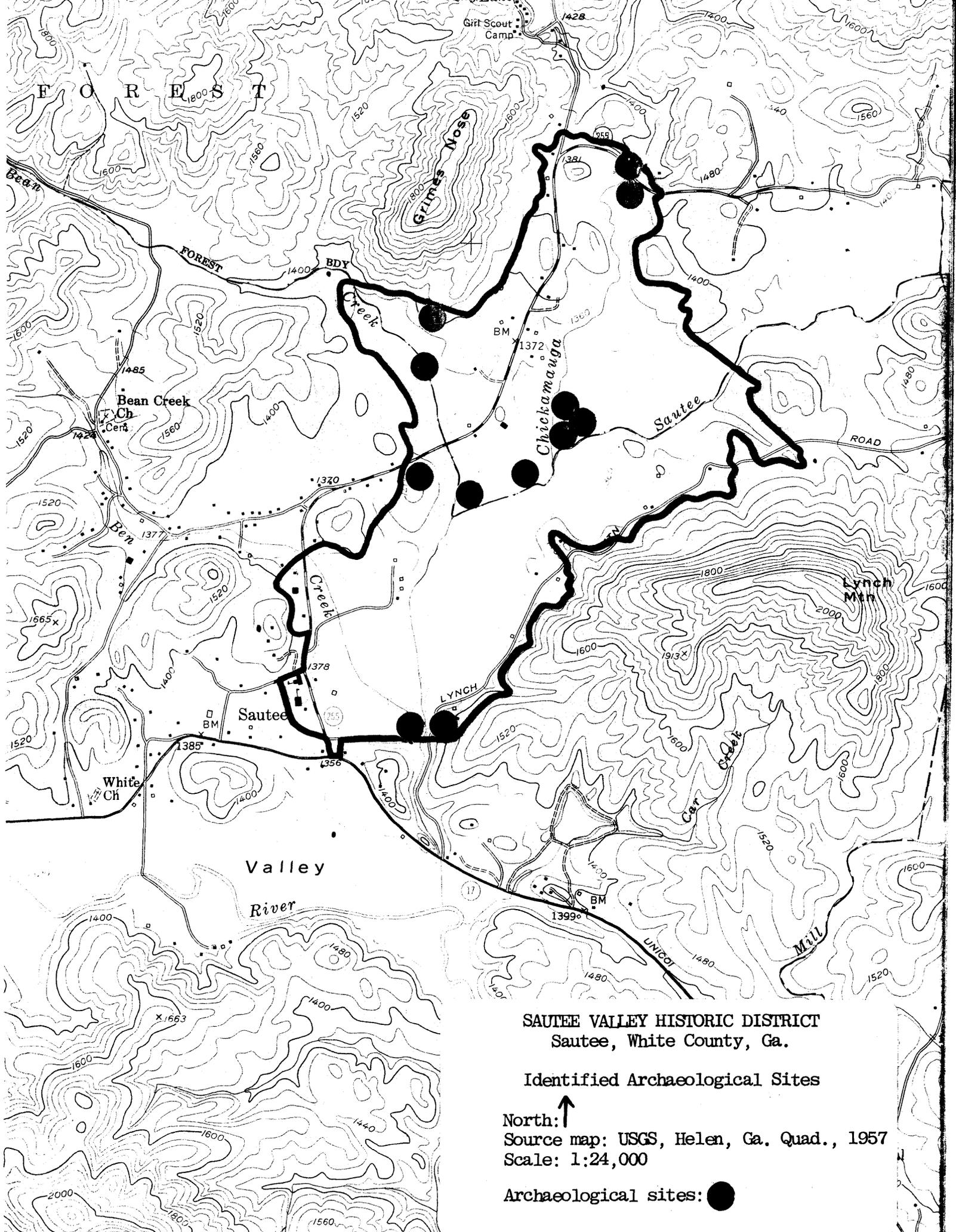
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SAUTEE VALLEY HISTORIC DISTRICT
Sautee, White County, Georgia

Identified Archaeological Site Map Summary

<u>N.R. Map Number</u>	<u>State Site Number</u>	<u>Component</u>	<u>Classification</u>	<u>Level of Investigation</u>
1	Wh 7	Archaic, Woodland, Protohistoric	Village	Surface Collection/Informant
2	Wh 13	Protohistoric	Village	Surface Collection/Informant
3	Wh 15	Woodland, Mississippi, Protohistoric	Village	Surface Collection/Informant
4	Wh 16	Woodland, Mississippi, Protohistoric	Village	Surface Collection/Informant
5	Wh 19	Woodland, Mississippi, Protohistoric	Village	Surface Collection
6	Wh 24	Protohistoric	Village	Surface Collection
7	Wh 26	Woodland, Mississippi, Protohistoric	Village	Surface Collection
8	Wh 5	Archaic, Woodland, Mississippi, Protohistoric	Village/Mound	Excavation/Informant
9	Wh 43	Protohistoric	Village	Surface Collection
10	Wh 47	Industrial	Gold Mines	Records/Informant
11	Wh 50	Industrial	Gold Mines	Records/Informant
12	N/A	Industrial	Mill	Records/Informant

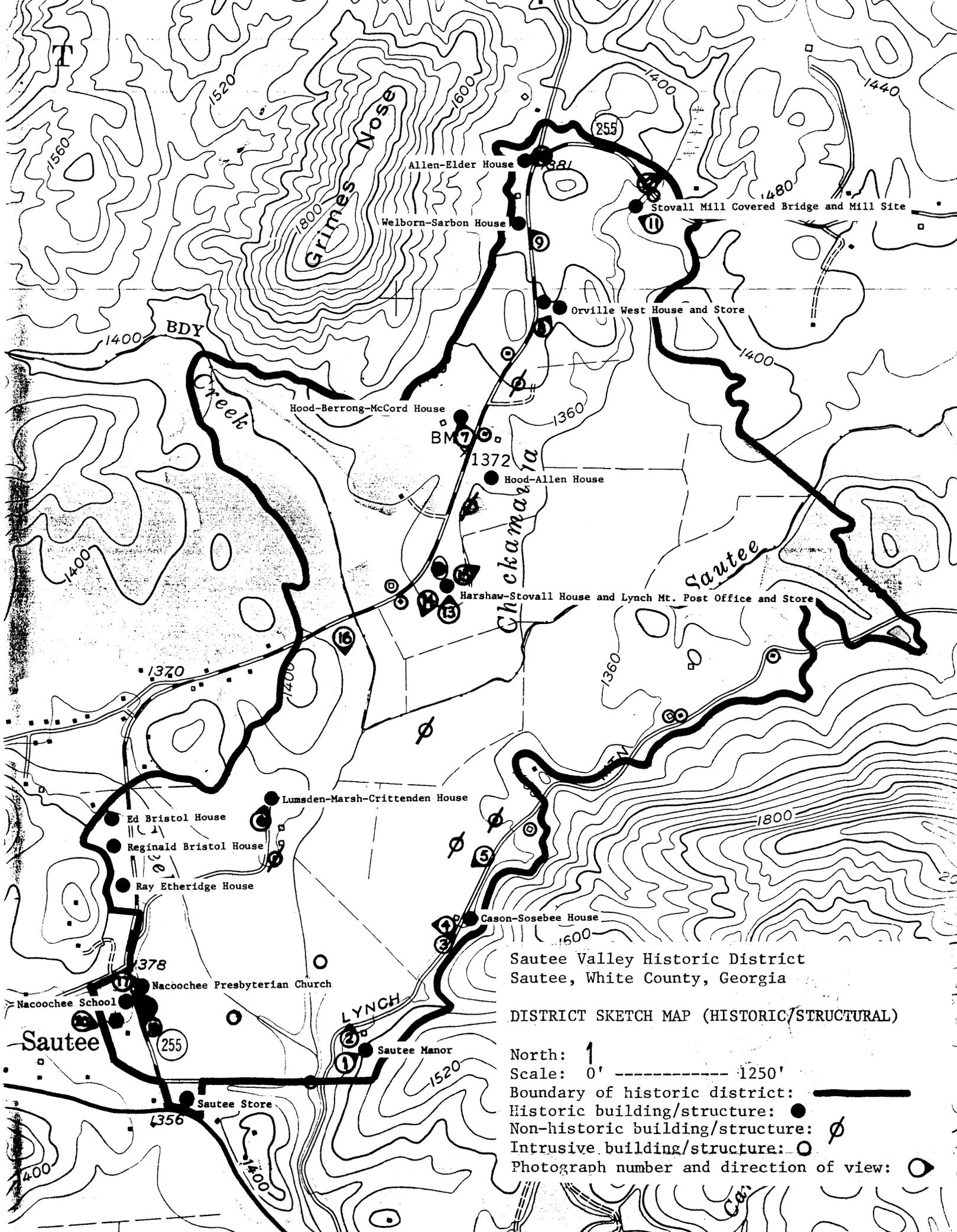


SAUTEE VALLEY HISTORIC DISTRICT
Sautee, White County, Ga.

Identified Archaeological Sites

North: ↑
Source map: USGS, Helen, Ga. Quad., 1957
Scale: 1:24,000

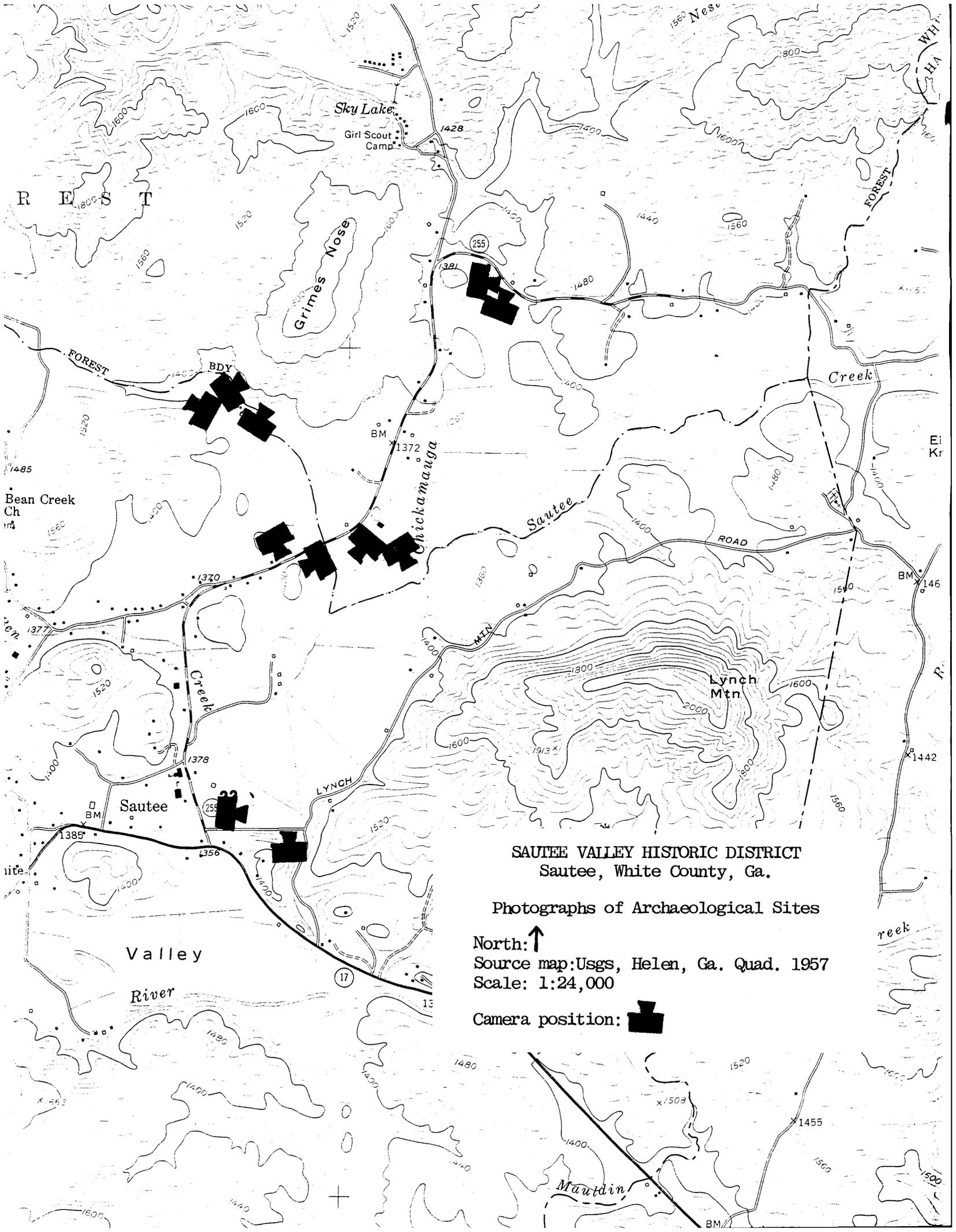
Archaeological sites: ●



Sautee Valley Historic District
 Sautee, White County, Georgia

DISTRICT SKETCH MAP (HISTORIC/STRUCTURAL)

- North: ↑
- Scale: 0' ----- 1250'
- Boundary of historic district: **—————**
- Historic building/structure: ●
- Non-historic building/structure: ○
- Intrusive building/structure: ○ ∅
- Photograph number and direction of view: ○



SAUTEE VALLEY HISTORIC DISTRICT
Sautee, White County, Ga.

Photographs of Archaeological Sites

North: ↑

Source map: Usgs, Helen, Ga. Quad. 1957

Scale: 1:24,000

Camera position: [black rectangle]