

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY
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DATE ENTERED JAN 11 1977
NOV 28 1977

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

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

1 NAME

HISTORIC
Fort Mountain and Cohutta Mountains

AND/OR COMMON
Fort Mountain (Please use this name)

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER E of Chatsworth off US 76
Fort Mountain State Park

CITY, TOWN Chatsworth VICINITY OF 7 - Lawrence P. McDonald

STATE Georgia CODE 13 COUNTY Murray CODE 213

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<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:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Parks & Historic Sites Division, Department of Natural Resources, State of Georgia

STREET & NUMBER
270 Washington Street, S.W.

CITY, TOWN Atlanta VICINITY OF Georgia

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Parks & Historic Sites Division

STREET & NUMBER
270 Washington Street, S.W.

CITY, TOWN Atlanta STATE Georgia

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE Archaeological Survey of Northern Georgia 1966, Wauchope, Robert, American Antiquity Memoir 21.

DATE 1938-9 FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

A low stone wall curves and angles across the approach to a spectacular lookout on the north peak of Fort Mountain in Murray County, Georgia. The mountain takes its name from the wall, which is more of a marker than a fortification, separating the north peak from the southern end.

The wall is similar to others found not only in Georgia but over the east.

Fort Mountain is on the western edge of the Blue Ridge. The mountain sits on the Great Smokey Fault (locally called the Cartersville Fault) looking down on the Great Valley of the Ridge and Valley Province. The Great Valley stretches from the St. Lawrence River southward into lower Alabama. Fort Mountain, with an elevation of 874 meters (2840') at the north peak, is even more prominent because of its proximity to the Great Valley.

The mountain is composed primarily of mica schist with some gneiss and the wall is made of local stones carefully stacked without mortar to bind them. Nineteen bastions or pits and holes are incorporated into the wall. The wall meanders, zigzags, and curves for 285 meters (928') and has three gaps in it. The width varies from 1.5 meters to almost 5 meters (about 4.5 - 16'). The height ranges from 1 - 3.5 meters (3 - 10'). The difference in height is not because of a change in elevation of the wall, but the slope it follows (Smith 1962).

Phillip Smith, who made a reconnaissance of the mountain in 1955, questioned the authenticity of the bastions. However, a stone enclosure at Ladd's Mountain in Bartow County was reported to have similar circular features. The Ladd's Mountain enclosure was destroyed for road construction.

Fort Mountain is a state park; the lower section, to the south of the lookout, has cabins, a lake, picnic facilities and nature trails. This recreational area is not part of the nomination.

The mountain is forested and the north slope drops steeply on three sides where segments of cliffs are interspersed with wooded areas. The trees include white and black oaks, yellow poplar, hickory, basswood, and white and Virginia pines.

A talc mine presently is located on the lower west side of the mountain. Fort Mountain is part of the Cohutta Mountains and about 1901 "several gold bearing veins were located at the Cohutta mine and mining operations were inaugurated by the Cohutta Gold Mining Company...Several shafts were sunk and some open cuts made, and later a stamp mill was erected, but for some reason, after a little development work was done, operations were suspended..." This mine was located on lot 257, 26th district near the crest of Cohutta Mountain and about four miles east of Chatsworth. (Jones 1909:276) This lot cut diagonally across the southwest portion of the mountain. (Marion Hemperely pc.) and seems to be outside state property.

A map probably drawn in the county in 1889, shows gold in and around Fort Mountain and indicates a mine on lot 294 (west slope) and the Legal Tender Gold Mine on the north slope. A dotted horseshoe figure represents the stone wall and it is noted: "Old fort supposed to have been built by DeSoto." (original Georgia Surveyor General Department)

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Wauchope, in his report on the survey of north Georgia during the late 1930s, noted that Fort Mountain was described by George White in his two mid 19th century books on Georgia, and that Warren Moorehead visited the site in 1925 and made many test pits but found only one projectile point. While the Rev. White referred to the wall as "the remains of an ancient fort, but when and for what purpose constructed, we are unable to say," (White 1854:568) ^{his} The earlier book, Statistics of Georgia written in 1849 used the same remark. *He probably has not visited the site.*

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input 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 type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input 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 type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY) History
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The rock wall near the crest of Fort Mountain, on the edge of Georgia's Blue Ridge mountains, is one of a number of aboriginal structures found in the eastern United States. These structures vary in form from concentric circles to bird effigies. Frequently they are located on the east or southeast sides of hills, on the narrow approach to an overlook or an impressive geological feature. Fort Mountain, formerly known as the Cohutta Mountains, is an impressive feature.

However, as Phillip Smith wrote in 1962 after surveying Fort Mountain and similar stone structures in the southern Piedmont: "It is easier to say what this wall is not than what is it." (Smith 1962:10).

Legend, solidly presented on the historical marker near the wall, suggests that Spanish explorers looking for gold built the wall. Geologists about 1900 confirmed the existence of placer (gravel) and vein gold at the Cohutta Mountains.

Atlanta businessman and civic leader Ivan Allen, Sr., captivated by tales he heard in his childhood of the mysterious fort on the mountain, bought the land sight unseen when it was offered for sale in 1926. Mr. Allen had grown up in nearby Dalton where a school teacher had described the mountain with its mysterious fort. Mr. Allen, a member of the Society for Georgia Archaeology, made several trips to Spain to look for accounts in the national archives which might link a Spanish exploration to the Cohutta Mountains. In 1936 Mr. Allen donated the land to the state for a park.

His son, Ivan, Jr. who later served as mayor of Atlanta, recalled accompanying his father on that first visit to the mountain. They drove to Winkler's Mill, then climbed a little used foot path up the east side of the mountain. The wall looked as it did in the photograph published in the biography of his father. Bastions, or stone lined pits, were part of the design then. A spring, which had water most of the year, was located about 100' below the top of the mountain. Mr. Allen and his college roommate developed severe cases of poison oak after they tried to clean the spring during a later trip. (Mr. Allen has a vivid remembrance of the spring which may have disappeared for more recent accounts question the availability of water.)

A similar rock feature near Manchester, Tennessee has been attributed to wandering Norsemen, the Welsh Prince Madoc and Spanish buccaneers from Seville. Despite a lack of cultural material associated with these structures, there is little doubt that many were constructed by prehistoric inhabitants.

Earth and stone structures of complex construction are found in the Ohio Valley -- Fort Ancient is the most impressive -- and the Old Stone Fort at Manchester, Tennessee,

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

- Allen, Ivan Jr., personal communication, 1976.
 Faulkner, C. H., The old stone fort exploring an archaeological mystery; University of Tennessee Press, Knoxville, 1968.
 Jeffries, Richard, The Tunnacunnhee site: evidence of Hopewellian interaction in northwest Georgia; unpublished master's thesis, University of Georgia, Athens, 1975.
 Kelly, A. R., personal communication, 1976. (SEE CONTINUATION SHEET)

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 211.2 acres
 UTM REFERENCES

A	1,6	7,1,0	2,1,0	3,8	5,1	8,8,5	B	1,6	7,1,0	2,5,0	3,8	5,0	7,6,0
	ZONE	EASTING		NORTHING			ZONE	EASTING		NORTHING			
C	1,6	7,0,9	4,6,0	3,8	5,0	7,4,0	D	1,6	7,0,9	4,2,0	3,8	5,1	8,8,0
	ZONE	EASTING		NORTHING			ZONE	EASTING		NORTHING			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Starting at a point on the northeast side of Fort Mountain about 50 meters south of the 1600' contour line and west of the unpaved road the east boundary runs due south to a point about 50 meters north of the 2200' contour line; here the boundary turns and runs west to the 1760' contour line; then the west boundary runs due north from this point until it is about 10 meters south of the 1480' contour line; the north boundary turns east here and runs to the beginning point.

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

Marilyn Pennington

ORGANIZATION

Historic Preservation Section, Dept. of Natural Resources

DATE

September, 1976

STREET & NUMBER

270 Washington Street, Room 703-C

TELEPHONE

404/656-2840

CITY OR TOWN

Atlanta

STATE

Georgia

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL X

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

DAVID M. SHERMAN

DATE

10-28-76

TITLE

Chief, Historic Preservation Section

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

Robert B. Pettig

DATE

11/23/77

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHITECTURE AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST

Charles W. ...

DATE

11-21-77

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

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is similar to them in construction. The Fort Mountain wall and other stone features in Georgia are both designed and constructed in a simpler fashion.

After his survey, Smith wrote:

"There is a suspicion - and it is no more than that yet - that the stone walls which are found in the Southern Appalachians and Piedmont regions of the South may be related in some way to the stone mounds and stone effigies which occur in the same areas." (Smith 1962:11)

Occasionally skeletal material has been associated with effigies, but frequently there is no cultural material associated with the stone structures.

Margaret Russell investigated two stone cairns from a cluster of 16 in a section of Pickens County, Georgia, two counties southeast of Murray County. Two other clusters of stone mounds were in the area and there they were located on the east upper slopes of two hills. No artifacts, features or recognizable chemical differences in the soil were found. The land owners had collected a few projectile points in low areas of the property and they fell within the Archaic period from about 7000-2000 B.C. Artifacts made of non-local chert included a small basally notched Eva point, a LeCroy Bifurcated point, a rounded base corner notched early Archaic form and a few flake tools. Items made of quartz, found locally, included a Dalton point, two Big Sandy points, three crude triangular points and several later Archaic points. (Russell 1972:4).

At Fort Mountain, Smith excavated about a two meter (6') section of the wall and a small portion of one of the rock lined pits. The wall was laid on an outcropping, the pit over a thin covering of soil on bedrock. No artifacts or any other diagnostic feature were found.

The Old Stone Fort in Tennessee is a different type of structure. First, it is closer to being an enclosure, with portions missing only where steep natural bluffs overlook the streams. The structure brackets a 50 acre plateau where two forks of the Duck River converge. Were it continuous, it would measure 1415 meters (4600').

Faulkner excavated 12 units at the entrance -- seven trenches and three test pits -- and seven trenches at other points on the structure. It was constructed with rock sides and stone slat bottom and filled with dirt and in places rocks. Local chert and limestone were used for the sides and bottom. The entrance had two sets of conical pillars and parallel walls.

No pottery was found but projectile points, flakes, cores, and some small tools were found. Four Carbon 14 dates were obtained from wood charcoal and they ranged from A.D. 30-305. Two of the dates were 85 years apart, A.D. 220 and 305, and Faulkner

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pointed out that the structure was built in sequences and these dates fell within the middle Woodland period in Tennessee. Projectile points found in the test excavations indicated late Archaic to Middle Woodland and Faulkner found the Woodland affiliation acceptable.

In Georgia several linear structures have been recorded but not dated; in addition to the numerous stone mounds, bird effigies and circles were found also. Many of these stone structures have been destroyed. On Ladd's Mountain in Bartow County, in the Etowah Valley District, a stone enclosure at the top of the mountain was destroyed for road construction in the late 1930s. Three stone-lined pits were built into this structure, an oval composed of six segments.

About a mile away, a U-shaped stone mound, 14.3 meters wide, with a depressed center, was destroyed in 1940. The gravel was sold commercially and the rock crushed on the site. Below the rocks, in the center of the depression, an extended burial was found with a copper celt and breastplate, pieces of mica and two ground stone axes. (The Waring Papers, A.D. 285-6).

To the west of Fort Mountain at the Tunacunnee Site, near Trenton, Dade County, Jeffries excavated two stone mounds and tested in the village. Burial goods included copper ear spools, pan pipes. A C-14 date of A.D. 150 came from the mounds and A.D. 280 from the village area. Jeffries reported the work for his master's thesis and it also has been published by the University of Tennessee. (Jeffries, personal communication)

Both the Shaw Mound and the Dade County sites are about 45 miles from Fort Mountain. Surveys have not been made which would have located closer sites.

Other stone structures have been recorded in Georgia (this is only a partial list):

Alec Mountain, Habersham County, a low stone oval; Ashley Stone Ring, Harris County; Sand Mountain, Catoosa County, linear wall with smaller segments; Pigeon Mountain, Walker County, linear wall, apparently on state property; Panola Mountain, stone structures, disconnected, on east terrace of the granite monadnock; to be nominated to Natural Register; Pickens County stone cairns, three clusters of more than a dozen each; Rocky Face, Whitfield County, segmented linear structure along the ridge; Mt. Alto, Floyd County, linear wall, may not be aboriginal; two bird effigies, Putnam County; bird effigy, Rabun County; stone ring, Talbot County.

A comprehensive survey, including existing stone structures and a list of those which have been recorded but destroyed, needs to be made. In addition, the structures need to be interpreted in the light of information which has recently been added to the archaeological record.

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An obvious feature, such as the Fort Mountain wall, is easy to distinguish as something unusual but some of the stone structures resemble rocks stacked by farmers clearing fields for cultivation. A systematic study of these structures should help define prehistoric rock constructions from historical Creek or Cherokee cairns and recent field clearings. Such a study also would add a chapter to the cultural history of eastern America.

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CONTINUATION SHEET Bibliography ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE 1

- Russell, M. C., Preliminary investigations of the Big Canoe rock mounds, 9-Pi-10, Pickens County, Georgia, manuscript on file at Laboratory of Archaeology, University of Georgia, Athens, 1972. Personal communication, 1974.
- Smith, P. E., Aboriginal stone constructions in the southern Piedmont, Laboratory of Archaeology, University of Georgia, Athens, 1962.
- Williams, Eleanor, Ivan Allen: a resourceful citizen, Ivan Allen-Marshall Company, Atlanta, 1950.
- Waring, A. J. Jr., The Waring Papers, the collected works of Antonio J. Waring Jr., edited by Stephen Williams, Harvard University, Cambridge and University of Georgia Press, Athens, 1968.
- Wauchope, Robert Archaeological Survey of Northern Georgia, American Antiquity Memoir 21, Vol 31, 1966, University of Utah, Salt Lake City, Utah.
- White, George Historical Collections of Georgia, Pudney and Russell, New York, 1854.
- Moorehead, W. G. Etowah Papers, Yale University, 1932.

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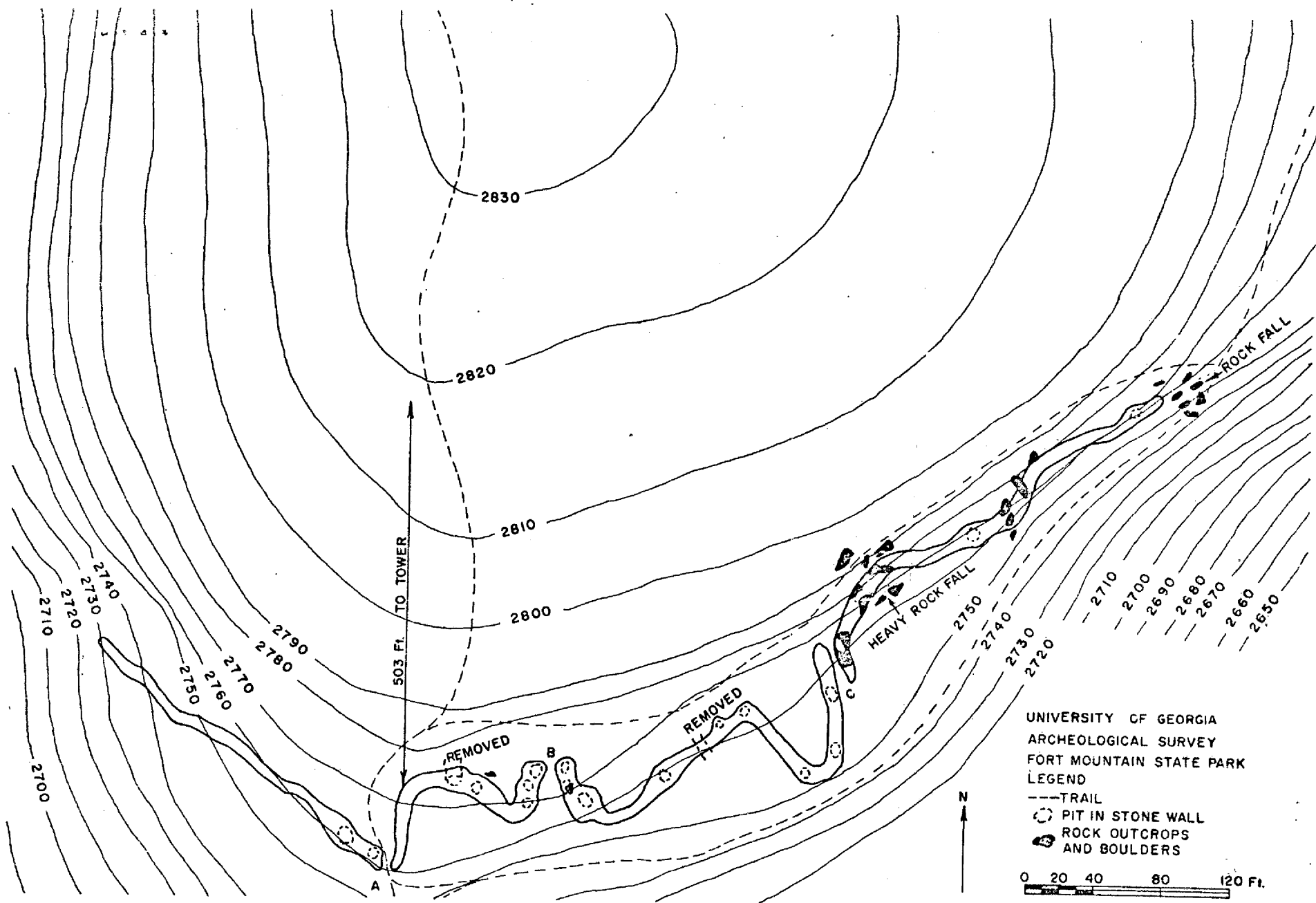
Fort Mountain and Cohutta Mountains, Chatsworth, Murray County

Photographs by: Marilyn Pennington

Date: Fall of 1973

Negatives filed at: Department of Natural Resources

1. View of Fort Mountain form the next peak south, looking northeast.
2. A segment of the wall, looking east.
3. A young man crouches in one of the circular features of scale. Looking southeast.
4. From the north bluff, the view to the northeast is onto the Blue Ridge Mountains.
5. To the northeast, the bluff overlooks the Great Valley of the Ridge and Valley Province.



UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA
 ARCHEOLOGICAL SURVEY
 FORT MOUNTAIN STATE PARK
 LEGEND

- TRAIL
- PIT IN STONE WALL
- ROCK OUTCROPS AND BOULDERS

0 20 40 80 120 Ft.

Form No. 10-201
(Rev. 10-74)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY MAP FORM**

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SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- ENCLOSE WITH MAP

1 NAME

HISTORIC Fort Mountain and Cohutta Mountains

AND/OR COMMON Fort Mountain

2 LOCATION

CITY, TOWN Chatsworth

VICINITY OF

COUNTY Murray

STATE Georgia

3 MAP REFERENCE

SOURCE Smith, Phillip E., 1962, Aboriginal Stone Constructions in the Southern Pied-
mont, Laboratory of Archaeology, U. of Ga., Athens, p.6.
SCALE See Map DATE 1962

4 REQUIREMENTS

TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS

1. PROPERTY BOUNDARIES
2. NORTH ARROW
3. UTM REFERENCES

