



March 2020

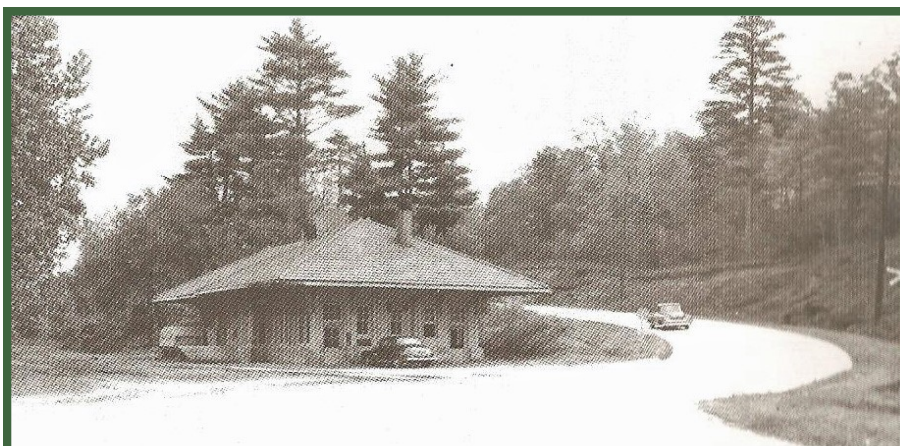
Volume 14/No. 1

The Vintage Rabun Quarterly

RABUN'S OFFICIAL HISTORIC SITES

The National Register of Historic Places provides formal recognition of a property's historical, architectural or archeological significance based on national standards. To be eligible for listing in the National Register, a property must be old enough to be considered historic (generally at least 50 years) and must still look much the way it did in the past. In addition, the property must be associated with events or the lives of people who were important in the past, or be significant in the areas of architectural or landscape history or engineering, or have the potential to yield information through archaeological investigation. Moved or reconstructed buildings are generally not eligible. Listed properties may qualify for benefits like state and federal preservation grants or local property tax abatements (not available in Rabun County). The National Register is administered by the National Park Service. Owners of these properties have no obligation to open them to the public, restore them or even maintain them. In addition, listing in the National Register does not ensure that the property cannot be demolished.

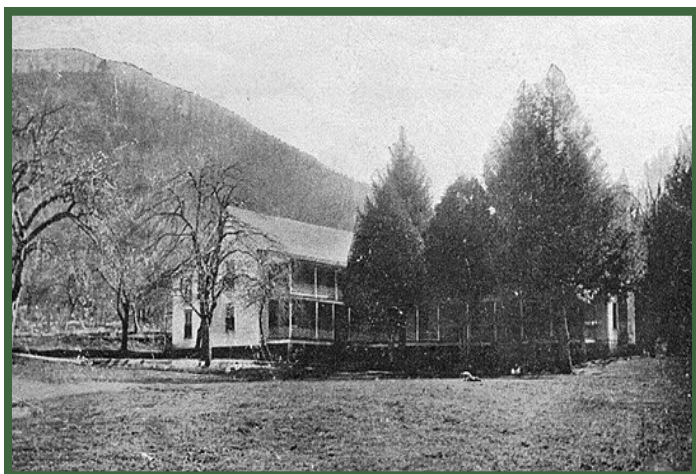
Rabun County's most well-known and most visible listing on the National Register of Historic Places is the Tallulah Falls Railroad depot at Tallulah Falls, passed by thousands of motorists daily. The Tallulah Falls Railroad arrived in its namesake town in 1882, and soon Tallulah Falls was a tourist mecca with hundreds of hotel and boarding house rooms by 1900.



Tallulah Falls Railroad Depot in Tallulah Falls, early 1950s



The Depot as it appears today.



The York House in Rabun Gap has been listed since 1992. It was once part of the 1,000 acre plantation of Hiram Gibson, who deeded 40 acres to his granddaughter, Mollie Gibson York. The Yorks eventually had a 400 acre farm and began running their home as an inn in 1896 for rail travelers on the Tallulah Falls Railroad. Mr. York drove wagons to Tallulah Falls to pick up passengers and transport them to the York House years before the railroad was completed to Rabun Gap.

The Hambidge Center for Creative Arts and Sciences on Betty's Creek Road in Dillard was founded by Mary Hambidge in 1934 as a place where local women could utilize their talents at spinning and weaving. This 600-acre tract has over 15 structures and is listed on the National Register as a rural historic district. The Hambidge Center still promotes the arts, artists and creativity.



Rabun County's least known listing on the National Register of Historic Places is a Native-American burial mound near the Little Tennessee River that is surrounded by farm fields. It is of archeological significance because of Indian artifacts, but its location will not be specified because of the risk of looting.



The James and Rachel Kilby House of Persimmon was added to the Register in 2005. The rustic two-story farmhouse was built in 1898. James Henry Kilby originally bought the land for the house for \$1 an acre. The house is now owned by Camp Ramah Darom.



In 2008, the William E. and Sarah Dillard Powell House in Dillard was added to the listing. It is also known as Boxwood Terrace, named for the hedges that surround the property. The Dillard-Powell House was built in several phases between 1882 and 1940 and was a boarding house during the resort era of the late 19th and early 20th centuries in Rabun County.



Rabun County's most recent listing was in 2011 when the Asbury and Sallie Hodgson house was added. The house, which is located north of Dillard, was built in 1908 and has remained virtually unchanged. The one-and-a-half story frame Georgian-plan house has a wraparound porch overlooking the Dillard Valley and the mountains beyond.

Rabun County Historical Society
81 North Church Street
P.O. Box 921
Clayton, GA 30525



Phone: 706-782-5292
www.rabunhistory.org
Email:
rabuncountyhistory@gmail.com

- Please visit our museum and research library on Mondays and Fridays from 10:00 until 2:00.
- Group tours by appointment



South Main Street in Clayton in the 1920s