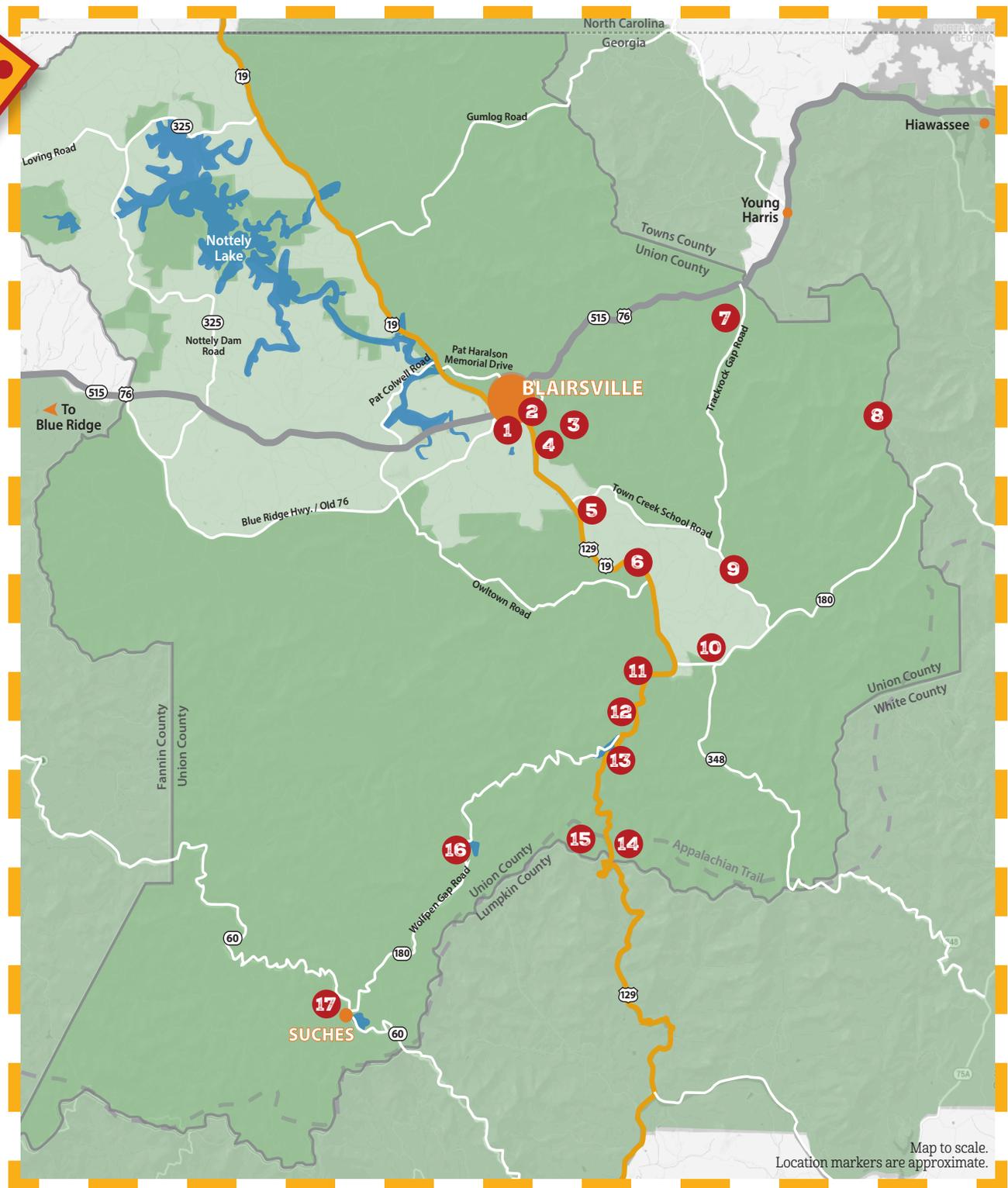


# UNION COUNTY HISTORY TRAIL

*History and heritage  
come alive in Union County! Use this  
handy map to plan your own history tour.*

- 1. Pat Haralson Law Office** (29 Pat Haralson Rd.)
- 2. Historic Blairsville Courthouse** (3 Town Sq.)
- 3. Old Blairsville Cemetery** (GPS: 34.876970, -83.954911)
- 4. Mountain Life Museum** (25 Veteran's Memorial Pkwy.)
- 5. Georgia Mountain Research & Education Center**  
(195 GA. Mtn. Exp. Station Rd.)
- 6. Logan Turnpike Mill** (4494 Gainesville Hwy.)
- 7. Trackrock Archaeological Site and Arkaquah Trail** (GPS: 34.882045, -83.8774557)
- 8. Brasstown Bald, Arthur Woody Display and Wagon Train Trail** (2941 Hwy. 180 Spur)
- 9. Alexander's Store** (4482 Town Creek School Rd.)
- 10. Choestoe School House** (1034 Collins Rd.)
- 11. Sunrise Grocery** (7568 Gainesville Hwy.)
- 12. Byron Herbert Reece Farm & Heritage Center**  
(8552 Gainesville Hwy.)
- 13. Vogel State Park and CCC Museum**  
(405 Vogel State Park Rd.)
- 14. Mountain Crossings and Walasi-Yi Center (Neel Gap)**  
(12471 Gainesville Hwy.)
- 15. Appalachian Trail Shelter (Blood Mountain)**  
(GPS: 34.74002, -83.93743)
- 16. Lake Winfield Scott** (Lake Winfield Scott Rd.)
- 17. Woody Gap School and Rock Quarry**  
(2331 State Hwy. 60)



1. **PAT HARALSON LAW OFFICE** — Just off the Town Square is the well preserved law office of former local attorney and state legislator Pat Haralson. Here, visitors can peruse old law books and share in fascinating oral histories of notable legal cases. (706) 745-5493 · [www.unioncountyhistory.org](http://www.unioncountyhistory.org)
2. **HISTORIC BLAIRSVILLE COURTHOUSE** — Built in 1899, it is listed in the National Register of Historic Places. The many displays range from military artifacts to the Margarita Morgan Miniature House Collection. Currently, the former courtroom is a site for various history-related meetings and a Friday night summertime music program. (706) 745-5493 · [www.unioncountyhistory.org](http://www.unioncountyhistory.org)
3. **OLD BLAIRSVILLE CEMETERY** — The old Blairsville Cemetery is the final resting spot for many prominent Union County families. Dating back to the 1800s, markers have been found for masons and Civil War soldiers. The Union County Historical Society maintains records on hundreds of local cemeteries. (706) 745-5493 · [www.unioncountyhistory.org](http://www.unioncountyhistory.org)
4. **MOUNTAIN LIFE MUSEUM** — One block south of the courthouse is the Mountain Life Museum, featuring the 1906 Butt-Mock home and Payne Cabin, which showcase mountain living pre- and post-electricity. This is also the site of seasonal festivals. (706) 745-5493 · [www.unioncountyhistory.org](http://www.unioncountyhistory.org)
5. **GEORGIA MOUNTAIN RESEARCH & EDUCATION CENTER** — Established in 1930, this research farm is home to several CCC-era structures, including the Jarrett Apple House, pottery shed, fruit stand, rock office building, brown house and the root cellar. Guided tours are available for the Ethnobotanic Gardens, Woodland Medicine Trail and the Cannery Interpretive Center on Mondays from 9AM-1PM, May-September. Last tour leaves at 12:30PM. (706) 745-2655 · [www.gmrec.uga.edu](http://www.gmrec.uga.edu)
6. **LOGAN TURNPIKE MILL** — Local farmers provide the corn, and owners George and Cecilia Holland make grits, cornmeal and flour the old-fashioned way at this working grist mill, located on the banks of the Nottely River. (706) 745-5735 · [www.loganturnpikemill.com](http://www.loganturnpikemill.com)
7. **TRACKROCK ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE AND ARKAQUAH TRAIL** — The Cherokee called this site Datsu'nalagun'ylu ("where there are tracks"); it's one of the most significant petroglyph, or marked stone, sites in the Southeast. The six table-sized soapstone boulders contain hundreds of symbols that represent animals, birds, tracks and geometric figures. The Arkaquah Trail is a 5.5-mile strenuous

trail linking the site to nearby Brasstown Bald. (706) 745-6928 · [www.fs.usda.gov/conf](http://www.fs.usda.gov/conf)

8. **BRASSTOWN BALD, ARTHUR WOODY DISPLAY AND WAGON TRAIN TRAIL** — The views are breathtaking from atop Brasstown Bald, which provides an unobstructed 360-degree view of four states. At 4,784 feet, it's the highest natural point in Georgia. The Visitors Center at the top includes an extensive museum and presentations on forestry in North Georgia, including an exhibit called "Man and the Mountain" about conservationist and Forest Ranger Arthur Woody. The summit is accessible from several area trails including the nearby Wagon Train Trail, which follows an old roadbed ending at Young Harris College. (706) 896-4137 · [www.cfaia.org](http://www.cfaia.org)
9. **ALEXANDER'S STORE** — Alexander's began as a general store in 1957 under the watchful eye of Hoyt and Ruby Alexander. It has since grown into a 50,000+ square-foot, family-owned general store. Locals refer to it as "the mall" because they have "Everything Under the Sun." (706) 745-6450 · [www.alexandersstore.com](http://www.alexandersstore.com)
10. **CHOESTOE SCHOOL HOUSE** — Pronounced "choy stoy" by the locals, Choestoe is a Cherokee word for "land of the dancing rabbit." Many notable Georgians, including two state Supreme Court justices, began their education in this one-room schoolhouse. The refurbished wood structure now houses photos, old school desks and other historic relics. (706) 745-5493 · [www.unioncountyhistory.org](http://www.unioncountyhistory.org)
11. **SUNRISE GROCERY** — Opened in 1920, this unique store is one of Union County's oldest businesses still in its original location. It has become a local favorite on Hwy. 129 where visitors can step back in time and enjoy everything from gifts to grits and crafts to crickets! Sunrise Grocery is also known for its world-famous boiled peanuts. (706) 745-5877 · [www.sunrisegrocery.com](http://www.sunrisegrocery.com)
12. **BYRON HERBERT REECE FARM & HERITAGE CENTER** — Georgia's "Farmer Poet," Byron Herbert Reece received national acclaim for his four volumes of poetry and two novels in the 1940s and 50s. The Reece family farm has been preserved as a heritage center with numerous farm buildings and interactive exhibits that showcase Appalachian life. (706) 745-2034 · [www.ByronHerbertReeceSociety.org](http://www.ByronHerbertReeceSociety.org)
13. **VOGEL STATE PARK AND CCC MUSEUM** — At the base of Blood Mountain lies one of Georgia's oldest and most popular state parks. This beautiful natural retreat features more than 100 campsites, 35 cottages, several picnic shelters, a 22-acre lake, a beach and much more. A museum celebrates the

contributions of the Civilian Conservation Corps, FDR's New Deal project.

(706) 745-2628 · [www.GeorgiaStateParks.org/vogel](http://www.GeorgiaStateParks.org/vogel)

14. **MOUNTAIN CROSSINGS AND WALASI-YI CENTER (NEEL GAP)** — One of the best places to experience some "trail magic" on the 2,200-mile Appalachian Trail is at mile 30.7, where the famed footpath passes through the Walasi-Yi (wa-la-see-ye) Center, a historic stone building built by the Civilian Conservation Corps. It's now home to the AT's premier hiking outfitter and has some of the best views around. (706) 745-6095 · [www.mountaincrossings.com](http://www.mountaincrossings.com)
15. **APPALACHIAN TRAIL SHELTER (BLOOD MOUNTAIN)** — At 4,461 feet, Blood Mountain is the Appalachian Trail's highest point in Georgia. The stone shelter at the summit was built of local stone by the Civilian Conservation Corps in 1934, and is listed in the National Register of Historical Places. The views are outstanding. For the day hiker, several moderate to strenuous trails lead to the summit. (706) 745-6095 · [www.mountaincrossings.com](http://www.mountaincrossings.com)
16. **LAKE WINFIELD SCOTT** — Constructed in 1942, Lake Winfield Scott was the final Civilian Conservation Corps project in Georgia and one of the last in the nation, completed just after the United States' entry into World War II. At an elevation of 2,854 feet, this small, clear reservoir is one of Georgia's highest altitude lakes — perfect for swimming, paddling or relaxing on the sandy beach. Several trails in the park provide easy to moderate hiking access to the Appalachian Trail and Blood Mountain. (706) 745-6928 · [www.fs.usda.gov/conf](http://www.fs.usda.gov/conf)
17. **WOODY GAP SCHOOL AND ROCK QUARRY** — The people of the Suches valley began building a school in the 1930s with a piece of donated land, timber and quarried stone from nearby Woody Lake. Woody Gap School is one of the smallest public schools in Georgia, with fewer than 100 students in K-12. (706) 747-2401 · [www.ucschools.org](http://www.ucschools.org)

