

*J. Branch of Planning*

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
BRANCH OF PLANNING  
EXTENSION DIVISION

Files

PROPOSED NATIONAL PARKS & MONUMENTS

(Form of report from Regional Officers)  
To be typed throughout.

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*0.36*  
*Talladega*

Letter of transmittal: To be attached (summary and recommendation)

Name of Project: Coosa Historical Sites National Monument

Location- (state, county, distance and direction from known city)

Talladega County, Alabama, 50 miles S. E. of Birmingham

Area - Total 10,000 ACRES \_\_\_\_\_ Square Miles.

Boundaries - (description, reference to maps to be attached)

Proposed: No specific boundaries proposed

Recommended: If developed, should be bounded on the west by Coosa River, on north by Talladega Creek, on the south by Tallasahatchee Creek and on the east by the Township line (see map).

Accessibility:

Railway: Southern Railway (Branch Line) Central of Ga.

Highway: Florida Short Route.

Airline: None.

waterway: Coosa River navigable to Rome, Ga. No passenger boats.

Major characteristics - (Indicate those which are outstanding and attach additional information if necessary)

1. Scenic features- (topography, elevation, plant cover, water, etc):  
Gently rolling farm lands. Knolls and marshy bottoms covered with typical S. E. Plants. Muddy winding streams.
2. Historical or prehistoric features:  
Site of Cosa and saletete settlements, oldest aboriginal towns in this section. Few evidences remain. Visited by DeSoto in 1640, for one month, also by other early explorers.
3. Geological features:  
Talladega or Kymulga Cave is only outstanding geological feature, which is probably two miles long. However, little is accessible, and most of remainin not worthy of being made accessible. However, handsome onyx formations abound.

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4. Recreational possibilities (if compatible with project)

National: None

Local: Cave and aboriginal town sites of regional interest.

Estimated population within a radius of 50 miles: 300,000  
100 " 2,000,000  
200 " 4,000,000

5. Biological features:

Vegetative: Typical Southeastern vegetation badly abused.

Wildlife: Small game, badly abused

Need for conservation: Of local cooperative nature, land better adapted to agriculture than forest conservation.

Relative importance in comparison with areas of similar nature elsewhere:

Would rank with best six State Monument sites in Alabama.  
Most attractive cave in the State.

Possible development -

Recreational facilities (if compatible with project):

Cave as geological reservation.

Utilities -

Water supply: None

Parking space, capacity:

Small areas at points of interest.

Campground sites, capacity:

Probably half dozen cabins for tourist and archiologist.

Light and power facilities:

Alabama Power High tension line, 35,000 volts.

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Sewerage disposal facilities: Septic tanks at cabins and rest rooms at points of interest cost about \$2,000.

Capacity for handling of visitors:

Crowds would probably be very small.

Practicability of administration and protection:

Cost would probably exceed public benefit.

Other land uses-

Mining resources:

Quarrying of tripolii earth and trap rock has been profitable in past.

Agricultural resources:

Good. Approximately eighty percent of area now in southern field crops.

Grazing:

Few desirable grasses.

Cultivated crops:

Cotton, corn and truck growing.

Timber:

Second growth short leaf pine.

Hunting & Fishing uses:

Good fishing in both large creeks. Small game abounds in wooded sections.

Power Resources:

Negligable.

Irrigation Resources:

Slight.

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Ownership:

Railways:	<u>500 Ac</u>
State:	<u>100 Ac</u>
Municipalities:	<u>None</u>
Private:	<u>9000</u>
Total alienated lands	<u>9600</u>

Mining claims:	<u>None</u>
Grazing permits and withdrawals:	<u>None</u>
Power permits:	<u>None</u>
Total permit acreage	<u>None</u>

National forest lands:	<u>None</u>
Public domain:	<u>None</u>
Reclamation projects:	<u>None</u>
Indian lands:	<u>None</u>
Total public lands	<u>None</u>
Total acreage	<u>9,600</u>

Land values: Average approximately \$16.00 per acre.

History of project: Local persons desiring to sell unprofitable farm lands, have advocated project. State Department of Archives and History have genuine interest in certain small tracts.

Local attitude: Ignorance and indifference. County Officials would probably object to removal of large tract from tax rolls. Land assessed at average of \$10.00

Persons interested: Senator Hugo Black and Mrs. Marie B. Owen, Director, Department of Archives and History.

Itinerary (Sheet to be attached)

Bibliography: Area visited June 7, 1935.

Picketts History of Alabama.

List of photographs, maps and printed information submitted:  
(Sheet to be attached)

Note: All maps which are specially prepared by the Regional Offices should conform to one of the following standard sizes:

Letter size - 18" x 24" - 24" x 36"