

Chenocetah Tower



This is the only stone fire tower in Georgia – and it is still in use during the seasons of fire danger in the surrounding Chattahoochee National Forest. Additionally, it is on the National Register of Historic Places. The tower was built in 1937 by the WPA (Works Progress Administration). It is a pretty spot and offers panoramic views depending on the leaf coverage. (Chenocetah, an Indian word, means “see all around”).

Notes for the photographer: Look over your shoulder. There is a marvelous view down to Lake Russell.

Directions: From the railroad crossing in Cornelia, drive south on South Main Street. At 0.2 miles make a **sharp** left turn onto Wyle Street. You will drive 0.6 miles to a right turn onto Chenocetah Drive (just past a large water tank on the right). Stay on Chenocetah Drive for 1.2 miles to the tower on your left. There is a small parking area on the right opposite the walkway up to the tower. GPS Coordinates at the parking area: 34°30'07.2"N 83°30'22.2"W

Interesting fact: Close call. In 1984 a U.S. Forest Service Land Management Plan called for the divestiture of the tower to private ownership. The community, sensing that the tower could be destroyed and the surroundings developed commercially, formed the grassroots Chenocetah Conservation Corps. The group successfully brought public pressure and the plan was withdrawn.

