

# Byron Herbert "Hub" Reece



Byron Herbert Reece, often called "Hub," was born on September 14, 1917, in the Choestoe District of Union County, Georgia. In the 40 plus years of his life, he worked hard as a subsistence farmer on his family's Appalachian homestead. His love of literature and gift for writing emerged in childhood, and over the course of his life, Reece produced four volumes of poetry and two novels to critical acclaim. He also received numerous awards for his writing, including American Poet's magazine award in 1943.

The Reece Farm & Heritage Center located in Union County, Georgia, is dedicated to preserving Reece's legacy and the early 20th Century Appalachian style of life. The farm offers something for all ages: exhibits, local hand-made goods for sale, and farm animals to meet.

The Reece Farm & Heritage Center  
is located at  
8552 Gainesville Highway  
Blairsville, GA 30512

Open mid-April thru November  
Property open daily  
Visitor Center is open  
Wednesday thru Saturday  
10:00 am til 4:00 pm

**Free Admission**  
Authentic Farm Buildings  
Exhibits • Museum  
Farm Animals/Petting Area  
Local Crafts, Pottery, & Soap  
Honey • Jam  
Books by Byron Herbert Reece  
& Other Local Authors

For more information on the  
Reece Farm & Heritage Center  
706-745-2034  
[www.reecefarm.org](http://www.reecefarm.org)



For more information on the  
Byron Herbert Reece Society

[byronherbertreesociety.org](http://byronherbertreesociety.org)



# Reece Farm & Heritage Center Self-Guided Tour



*Take a Trip to the Past...*  
Experience early 20th Century  
Appalachian Farm Life



## 1 Welcome Center

The Welcome Center is the relocated Reece family home, moved less than 100 yards from its original site. With great pride Hub, his brother T.J. and Uncle Chester Duckworth built this house for the family circa 1950s. In its renovated form, it serves as a Welcome Venue for visitors with gift shop, museum, Conference/Bridal dressing room and restrooms. The Gift Shop contains local crafts, Reece's poetry and novels and regional books of interest. The Museum features examples of Reece's manuscripts and photographs, as well as some of his furniture and personal effects.

## 2 Mulberry Hall

Perhaps more a study than a writing studio, Reece built himself a small shed, humorously named Mulberry Hall for the paint color derived from a mix of leftover paint. Here, Reece might lie reading or musing on his single iron cot, surrounded by shelves holding 100s of books, some from admirers. A plain straight-backed chair for the occasional visitor, a small table, an unloaded rifle and a few photos took up the remainder of the spartan space.

## 3 Main Barn

The highway split the Reece farm in two, taking the old barn and leaving the Reece family to build the one which stands today. This particular barn type is a Double Crib Barn, found on Appalachian farms. The Double Crib barn is typically composed of cribs that serve as storage for fodder or pens for cattle, mules and pigs. The cribs are separated by an aisle running through the building - this is what defines the Double Crib, which often has a second story hayloft. Today, the eight (8) cribs house tools original to the Reece Farm along with a superb collection of farm implements and household items donated by the Pentecost Family. Exhibits and Interpretation on: Feeding the Family, Tools of the Trade, Beasts of Burden, The Milk Cow, Grabblin' in the Garden, High on the Hog & Endless Task of Upkeep.

### 3a Side Shed, Main Barn

The side shed was a popular edition to barns of all types and functioned as a multi-purpose area used for sharpening tools to storage. Exhibits/Interpretation on: Soil Preparation & Tools, Plows, Harrows, Fertilizers, etc. Life size Mule & Harness Set-up, Staple Crops: Corn & Potatoes

### 3b Hayloft, Main Barn

The hayloft was traditionally used for storage of hay or other animal fodder. Exhibits/Interpretation on: Gallery of Reece's Work explored through Letters, Photos, Novels & Poetry. Theatre Gallery showing *Voices: Finding Byron Herbert Reece*

## 4 Corn Crib

Corn cribs are structures used to store and dry corn still on the cob. Many are elevated with space between the wood slats to keep the corn well ventilated and dry. The Reece corn crib is known as a Side Drive Corn Crib, due to the open drive through wagon shelter. Exhibits and interpretation on: One-horse John Deere Wagon, Corn Shelter & Hammer Mill

## 5 Smokehouse

Smokehouses were a necessity before refrigeration and every farm had one. This shed-style smokehouse uses openings at the top to regulate the draft flow, which pulls the smoke up from the fire pit through the smokehouse to preserve meat. Exhibits/Interpretation on: Meat Preservation, Hickory Smoked Ham & Midding-Meat (Southern term form Salt Pork)

## 6 Chicken House/Animals

Poultry was typically under the care of the women-folk and children, as it required nurturing, cleanliness and order. Typical chicken-coops were in a fence in an outside area to shelter chickens from predators and contained nesting boxes and roosts inside. Exhibits and Interpretation on: Chicken House, Taxidermied Rhode Island Red Rooster, Hens & Chicks (Popular breed because of egg laying abilities and hardiness)

## 7 Sellers Memorial Amphitheater/ Meditation Rocks

Dr. Bettie Sellers 1926-2013, was known for her scholarships on native writer Byron Herbert Reece. She received an Emmy for her role in the film depicting Reece's life. She was a professor at Young Harris College & author of several volumes of poetry. She would have enjoyed this area, the meditation rocks to read poetry & enjoy listening to Wolf Creek.

## 8 Springhouse

The Springhouse, country refrigerator, was typically a one-room shed over a spring for keeping perishables cool, like milk and butter. The Reece's, like many, also used it to store canned fruits, vegetables and raw potatoes. Exhibits and Interpretation on: Springhouse, Butter & Milk Cocks

## 9 Creekside Deck

Creekside Deck was completed 2018. Designed as another area at the farm for people to enjoy events & weddings alongside the beautiful setting of the banks of Wolf Creek.

## 10 Pentecost Antiques Building

This building, completed in 2019, is designed to hold donations of antiques used in days gone by. The Pentecost family and others have a heart for Byron Herbert Reece and want to share their items of that era for others to learn how times were.

## 11 Event Pavilion

Located across the pedestrian bridge this 1,500 sq. ft. open-air pavilion is available to rent for any event. Amenities include a stone fireplace, electricity, water, bathrooms and eight picnic tables.

## 12 Byron Herbert Reece Farm Trail

A 1.23 mile hike to Hwy 180. A 1.46 mile hike to Vogel State Park Lake Loop Trail, with trees, birds, mushrooms and wildflowers.



## Farm & Heritage Site

The site consists of 9.3 acres that back up to USFS land divided by Wolf Creek. In addition to the buildings and exhibits described, the site has a walking trail by the creek, vegetable garden and picnic area. Exhibits are handicap accessible via a paved path.

