

**Rowen Foundation and UGA College of Environment and Design Release
Rowen Historical and Cultural Report**

College Completes Evaluation of Physical, Cultural Assets on Site

LAWRENCEVILLE, Ga. (December 14, 2021) – A team of researchers from the University of Georgia’s College of Environment and Design spent months earlier this year combing the nearly 2,000 acres in rural Gwinnett County that is the future site of Rowen, slated to become one of the nation’s premier innovation communities over the next few decades.

The resulting study, called the “Rowen Historical and Cultural Report,” written by Dr. Mark Reinberger and Prof. Dan Nadenicek, was shared publicly today by the Rowen Foundation. The report will help ensure that the Foundation, which manages the project, will carefully honor the history of the site as it plans its future.

“As stewards of Rowen, we take our responsibility seriously to honor and preserve as many of the site’s historic assets as possible,” said Mason Ailstock, president of the Rowen Foundation. “We are grateful to the College of Environment and Design for providing this detailed resource as we plan Rowen.”

Rowen will be a knowledge community that operates at the intersection of business, innovation and research. The Rowen Foundation engaged the College of Environment and Design to honor two of the community’s core values, stewardship and sustainability, while providing a full picture of the site’s significance to Georgia history as planning began for the project. The report also allows the Foundation to understand the evolution and impact of Rowen’s programmatic drivers – agriculture, medicine and the environment – on the land over past generations.

The report’s research and recommendations will be used to preserve, enhance, and celebrate the site’s historical and cultural features. These include historic sites, remnants of past historic structures, remains of an historic mill, two historic homes, and landscape features that includes one of Gwinnett’s oldest dirt roads.

The report’s findings have also been layered into a multi-faceted analysis of the site – including sensitive environmental areas, tree canopy, waterways and others – that

inform intensity, density, roadway design and areas of the site that may or may not be developed over the project's more than 50 year buildout.

The collaboration was also one of the first formal partnerships between Rowen and University System of Georgia researchers. A key goal for the Rowen Foundation is to be a vehicle for collaboration and innovation between academics and the community.

Rowen is working in close coordination with Gwinnett County to explore the recommendations outlined in UGA's report.

"The Rowen report provides valuable insights into the history of the Rowen lands. Gwinnett County looks forward to partnering with the Rowen Foundation in identifying and celebrating valuable community assets at the site" said Tina Fleming, Director of the Gwinnett County Department of Community Services.

Additional findings from the report emphasize the importance of existing structures and environmental points of interest such as connection to the Apalachee River and natural walking trails. With the report's recommendations for the careful management of the historical features of the site, the Rowen Foundation hopes to honor the legacy of this land, which is deeply embedded in Gwinnett County already.

"The Rowen site will be viewed as a living manuscript and an endless repository of information available to anyone willing to look," said Reinberger, who lent his 30 years of experience in historic preservation to the research.

Reinberger and Nadenicek worked with three graduate students from the college to conduct the research. The team was joined by Dacula native Caroline Hinton and utilized resources from the Gwinnett County Historical Society.

The Rowen Foundation will use this information, along with various other environmental studies and the previously published Gwinnett Community Advisory Task Force recommendations to ensure its future development has a minimal impact on the historic resources found on the site.

The report can be viewed on Rowen's website at <https://www.rowenlife.com/announcement/historicalculturalreport/>.

About Rowen

Proposed for nearly 2,000 carefully preserved acres along Highway 316 in Gwinnett County, Ga., Rowen is a visionary knowledge community that will bring together entrepreneurs, researchers and innovators at the intersection of the Atlanta, Athens and Gainesville metropolitan statistical areas and more than 50 research and

educational institutions. A new multi-use concept designed to foster discoveries in agricultural, medical and environmental sciences, Rowen will build on the land's rich history of thoughtful environmental stewardship, while changing the economic and social trajectory of Gwinnett, Georgia and our nation for generations. For more information, please visit www.rowenlife.com.

About Rowen Foundation

Rowen Foundation is the independent, mission-driven, not-for-profit entity leading the planning and visioning of Rowen, a proposed innovation district in Gwinnett County, Ga. With its mission to be a catalyst for education, research, innovation and transformation, the foundation is responsible for project leadership and operations to ensure the long-term vision for Rowen is never compromised.

About the UGA College of Environment and Design

The College of Environment and Design (CED) is nationally recognized for its innovation in design, planning, and preservation. While CED was established as an academic unit of the University of Georgia in 1969, landscape architecture courses have been taught at UGA since 1928, and is one of the oldest programs in the country. CED also offers degrees in historic preservation, urban planning and design, and an interdisciplinary Ph.D. CED's landmark characteristic is the integration of arts/design-based solutions with science and evidence-based solutions, which holistically address society's most urgent, contemporary, real-life problems.

Contact: Brian Brodrick
 404-983-4394
 bbrodrick@jacksonspalding.com

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