

GSS DATA Description

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GSS Data Listing Key

For all records and fields: blank = no information about that field
z = Known that no code can apply

ENTRANCE RECORD FORMAT - "E" IN COLUMN 8

Column 1 State Code
G = Georgia

Columns 2-3 County Code - assigned only to counties with caves

BA = Baker
BL = Bleckley
BO = Brooks
BT = Bartow
CK = Cherokee
CZ = Catoosa
DC = Decatur
DD = Dade
DG = Dougherty
DK = Dekalb
DO = Dodge
FL = Floyd
FU = Fulton
GL = Gilmer
GO = Gordon
GR = Grady
HA = Habersham
HO = Houston
KH = Chatooga
KP = Crisp
LE = Lee
LU = Lumpkin
MA = Murray
PA = Paulding
PN = Pickens
PO = Polk
RA = Randolph
TE = Terrell
TN = Turner

UN = Union
WK = Walker
WO = Worth
WS = Washington
WT = Whitfield
WX = Wilcox

Columns 4-7 Cave Number Each cave has a unique and permanent identification number.

Once a number has been assigned, it is never reassigned. If a cave number is retired, the record is marked with "R" and the reason for retirement is listed.

Column 8 Record Type - indicates the format used for this record

information D = additional data, including scientific and historical
E = entrance
F = full correct name
N = alternate name
R = retired number

Columns 9-10 Entrance or Record Number Every entrance of a cave is assigned a unique sequential number on its "E" record, starting with "1". for example, a cave with 3 entrances would be numbered "1", "2", and "3".

If an "N" record applies to a specific entrance(s), the information is written in Columns 50-93 of the "N" record.

An "F" record has the same entrance number as the corresponding "E" record.

Columns 9-10 are blank on "R" records. The entrance number is recorded in columns 24-25 (if applicable) for "R" records.

Columns 12-35 Cave or Entrance Name The only permitted abbreviations are:

BRG = bridge
C = cave
CN = cavern
CRK = creek
CYN = canyon
ENT = entrance

G = grotto
H = hole
HOL = hollow
MT = mount
MTN = mountain
NTRL = natural
NR = number
P = pit
RDG = ridge
S = sink
SH = sinkhole
SPG = spring
SLP = saltpeter
W = well

Add "S" to form the plural. For example, "SS" = sinks.

All other abbreviations are either spelled out on an "F" record or are bone fide spellings of the cave name.

Columns 36-48 Location Coordinates in latitude and longitude

Columns 36-41 - Latitude North
Columns 43-48 - Longitude West

The presence of data does not necessarily mean the location is accurate. See column 50 for the accuracy of the data.

Column 50 Accuracy of the Location (+ or -)

H = 55 feet
I = 100 feet
J = 200 feet
K = 300 feet
L = 550 feet
M = 1000 feet
N = 2000 feet
O = 3000 feet
P = 1 mile
Q = 2 miles
R = 3 miles
S = 5 miles

Columns 52-57 Topographic Map Corresponding to Cave Location Maps are numbered in rectangular coordinates from the point where Tennessee,

Alabama, and Georgia meet. This is in the New Home, Georgia, quad, which is numbered +01-01. The first number indicates the column, with positive numbers East of the origin, and negative numbers to the West. The second number indicates the row, with positive number to the North, and negative numbers to the South. All Georgia maps have a positive column and negative row.

Column 59 Indication of the Cave on the topographic map

C = contour distortion
I = inflowing stream (sink)
L = sink with lake or still pool
M = marked as cave
N = no indication
Q = quarry symbol
S = sink (dry)
X = spring

Columns 61-64 Elevation of the Entrance above sea level, in feet

Column 66 Entry Status - Always Ask Permission

B = biologically significant; entry restricted
C = commercial cave
D = destroyed or blocked
G = government owned
K = government park
L = locked or gated
N = entry forbidden by owner
P = private property
S = NSS owned or leased

Column 67 Equipment or Techniques Required to explore the main part of the cave

B = boat or swim
D = diving gear
H = handline
K = knee pads (crawl)
N = normal speleo gear
R = rope/prusik/rappel
S = shovel/dig/blastng
T = wetsuit
W = wet/wading (not swim)

X = other special equipment

Column 68 Type of Entrance

Horizontal or Sloping

E = extremely big, over 20 feet wide and/or high
F = flooded or underwater
H = stoop or duck walk
K = crawl
L = large, walk in
T = artificial tunnel

Vertical

A = artificial shaft
B = bottleneck (small but bells out)
C = chimney or climb-down
O = very large pit, over 20 feet in diameter
P = pit

Column 69 Indication of the Entrance in the field

B = in bluff or outcrop
H = dry hillside
I = inflowing stream
L = flat level ground
P = sink with pool or lake
Q = quarry
R = roadcut
S = dry sink
W = wet weather streambed
X = spring

Column 71 Map Type

N = non-published map on file
P = map in progress
U = unmapped
X = cave reported but no map on file
1 = rough diagram from memory; not to scale
2 = sketch-plan: roughly to scale; no instruments used; directions and distances estimated
3 = rough-plan survey: compass, lengths by pace or marked cord
4 = prismatic compass, tape, no clinometer
5 = calibrated prismatic compass, clinometer, tape
6 = calibrated prismatic compass and clinometer on tripod, chain or tape

7 = theodolite for bearing or slopes; distances by tape, chain or tacheometry (or more accurate means)

Columns 73-74 Geologic Formations(s) in which the cave or entrance(s) occur(s)

BA = Bangor limestone
DO = dolomite
FP = Fort Payne formation
GN = gneiss
GR = granite
LS = limestone
LV = Longview limestone
MB = marble
MO = Monteagle limestone
NK = Newala formation
OC = Ocala
PN = Pennington formation
SC = schist
SH = shale
SL = St. Louis limestone
SS = sandstone
TM = Tampa limestone
TR = Trenton limestone
XX = other, explained in "D" record

Column 75 Physiographic Province

C = Cumberland Plateau, undifferentiated
E = Eastern Escarpment, Cumberland Plateau
G = Gulf and Atlantic Coastal Plains, undifferentiated
N = Cumberland Plateau proper (Pennsylvanian)
P = Piedmont
U = Unaka Mountains and Blue Ridge
V = Valley and Ridge

Columns 77-81 Length of the Cave, in feet

Columns 83-86 Vertical Extent of the Cave, in feet

Columns 88-90 Depth of the Deepest Pit normally rigged by one rope (not handline or climbdown)

Columns 92-93 Total Number of Pits which must be rigged to fully explore the cave

Data Record - "D" in Column 8

** Columns 1-11 Same as format "E" record (suppressed, Data Cards pertain to cave preceding in list)

Columns 12-14 Left blank to indent data records

Columns 15-92 Data or comments

*
Full Name Record - "F" in Column 8

Columns 1-11 Same as format "E" record

Columns 12-93 Full correct Name of the cave or entrance, not abbreviated.

** This record card type has been discontinued Full Name information now kept in data cards

Name Record - "N" in Column 8

Columns 1-11 Same as format "E" record

Columns 12-46 Alternate Name of the cave - the same abbreviations as "E" records apply

Column 48 Source

A = alt name commonly used
O = old name, obsolete
P = pre-commercial name
I = Indian name (old or obsolete)
S = alternate spelling or form, not preferred

Retired Number Record - "R" in Column 8

Columns 1-11 Same as format "E" record

Columns 12-14 Intentionally left blank

** Column 15 Reason for Retirement (moved to Data Card with explanation)

D = destroyed
E = added via error
J = joined to another cave (underground connection)
U = disqualified - does not meet requirements

Columns 17-93 Comments

Non Cave Record "X" in Column 5

Columns 1-3 Same as on "E" record

Column 5 "X" indicates a non cave-feature

Columns 7-10 Sequence Number

Columns 12-65 Same as entrance record, except unnamed sites called only cave or sink, etc. are indicated to begin in Column 13.

Columns 66-93 Same as in "E" record. For features that were formerly listed as caves, but later disqualified. The rest of the line is the same as for an "E" record, otherwise, the following descriptions apply:

Columns 66 Type of Feature

B = bluff shelter
F = name only/fictional cave
M = mine
N = no feature at all exists
U = unverified, not checked
S = mud sump or blocked sink
X = like a cave, but too small; unqualified

Columns 67 Reason Logged

C = checked out
F = folklore/legend
L = in literature
M = marked on USGS topo maps
R = reported or rumored, hearsay

Columns 60- 93 Comments