

(iii) to bear a unique or at least exceptional testimony to a cultural tradition or to a civilization which is living or which has disappeared;

The Okefenokee Swamp was long a refuge for native Americans, first Timucuan from the Spanish, then Creeks during the American Revolution. Billy's Island is named for Billy Bowlegs, an Indian who lived there until he was murdered by cattle rustlers, who were later caught. White settlers arrived in the nineteenth century and formed a Cracker Culture, documented in its late stages by naturalist Francis Harper. Many of their descendants still live not far away. Even the logging culture with its swamp railroads was a very unusual cultural tradition now gone.

(iv) to be an outstanding example of a type of building, architectural or technological ensemble or landscape which illustrates (a) significant stage(s) in human history;

Several stages of American history are represented in (iii), some of them unusual, if not unique to the Okefenokee. The Chesser Island homestead is maintained by ONWR, and the Lee Cemetery on Billys Island, as well as a cabin on Floyd's Island and other relics.

(v) to be an outstanding example of a traditional human settlement, land-use, or sea-use which is representative of a culture (or cultures), or human interaction with the environment especially when it has become vulnerable under the impact of irreversible change;

The logging culture or exploitation of the Okefenokee ended with exhaustion of the reachable tree supply, and that end became irreversible with the formation of the ONWR. Similarly, the white settler Cracker Culture was overtaken by the loggers, and then the creation of the ONWR resulted in all of them leaving the Swamp, partly due to depredations of their livestock by wildlife they could no longer stop.

(vi) to be directly or tangibly associated with events or living traditions, with ideas, or with beliefs, with artistic and literary works of outstanding universal significance. (The Committee considers that this criterion should preferably be used in conjunction with other criteria);

Francis Harper's records of the swamp culture are as much artistic and literary works as scientific. Musician Walter Parks continues the tradition of the haunting swamp hollers people used to use to communicate far across the Swamp, recorded among others by the Library of Congress. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2xZVOF_nGYg Plus there is Walt Kelly's Pogo comic strip, which in its heyday was the conscience of America.

(vii) to contain superlative natural phenomena or areas of