

## Mountain Heritage Center <sup>[1]</sup>

### Mountain Heritage Center

by Bruce E. Baker, 2006; Revised by SLNC Government and Heritage Library, August 2024

See also: [Western Carolina University](#) <sup>[2]</sup>



Building front of the Mountain Heritage Center at Western Carolina University, Cullowhee, North Carolina. Image courtesy of the Mountain Heritage Center, Western Carolina University.

<sup>[3]</sup> The [Mountain Heritage Center](#) <sup>[3]</sup>, located at [Western Carolina University](#) <sup>[2]</sup> in Cullowhee, is a museum focusing on the natural and cultural history and heritage of western North Carolina and the southern Appalachian region. The museum produces a variety of temporary exhibits that illustrate the natural world and mountain societies, past and present. Themes have included blacksmithing traditions in the mountains, [Cherokee](#) <sup>[4]</sup> craft heritage, mountain [trout](#) <sup>[5]</sup>, World War I's impact, [baskets](#) <sup>[6]</sup> and their makers, and the enduring popularity of hand-woven coverlets and the southern Appalachian handicraft movement.

The Mountain Heritage Center also offers educational programs to the public, presents concerts and lectures, and produces books, tapes, and other materials. The center's largest annual event is [Mountain Heritage Day](#) <sup>[7]</sup>, which is held on the last Saturday in September and boasts a full schedule of traditional [music](#) <sup>[8]</sup>, [dance](#) <sup>[9]</sup>, and [craft](#) <sup>[10]</sup> demonstrations. A midway features some 200 craft booths offering handmade items ranging from woodworking and [pottery](#) <sup>[11]</sup> to [quilts](#) <sup>[12]</sup> and stained glass along with food booths offering traditional treats such as cider, [barbecue](#) <sup>[13]</sup>, and Cherokee fry bread.

#### Additional Resources:

Mountain Heritage Center Official Website: <https://www.wcu.edu/engage/mountain-heritage-center/> <sup>[14]</sup> (accessed August 30, 2024).

"Mountain Heritage Center / Western Carolina University." Blue Ridge National Heritage Area. <https://www.blueridgeheritage.com/destinations/mountain-heritage-center/> <sup>[15]</sup> (accessed August 30, 2024).

#### Image Credits:

"MHC Front Door, 2024." Mountain Heritage Center, Western Carolina University. 2024.

#### Subjects:

[21st Century \(2001-present\)](#) <sup>[16]</sup>

[Art](#) <sup>[17]</sup>

[Crafts](#) <sup>[10]</sup>

[Museums](#) <sup>[18]</sup>

[Post War 20th Century \(1946-2000\)](#) <sup>[19]</sup>

#### Authors:

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#### Origin - location:

[Western Carolina University](#) <sup>[21]</sup>

#### From:

[Encyclopedia of North Carolina, University of North Carolina Press.](#) <sup>[22]</sup>

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Source URL: <https://www.ncpedia.org/mountain-heritage-center>

**Links**

[1] <https://www.ncpedia.org/mountain-heritage-center> [2] <https://www.ncpedia.org/western-carolina-university> [3] <https://www.wcu.edu/engage/mountain-heritage-center/> [4] <https://www.ncpedia.org/cherokee/overview> [5] <https://www.ncpedia.org/freshwater-trout-southern> [6] <https://www.ncpedia.org/basket-making> [7] <https://www.wcu.edu/engage/mountain-heritage-day/index.aspx> [8] <https://www.ncpedia.org/folk-music> [9] <https://www.ncpedia.org/mountain-dance-and-folk-festival> [10] <https://www.ncpedia.org/category/subjects/crafts> [11] <https://www.ncpedia.org/pottery> [12] <https://www.ncpedia.org/quilts> [13] <https://www.ncpedia.org/barbecue-0> [14] <https://www.wcu.edu/engage/mountain-heritage-center/> [15] <https://www.blueridgeheritage.com/destinations/mountain-heritage-center/> [16] <https://www.ncpedia.org/category/subjects/21st-century-2001> [17] <https://www.ncpedia.org/category/subjects/art> [18] <https://www.ncpedia.org/category/subjects/museums> [19] <https://www.ncpedia.org/category/subjects/post-war-20th-cen> [20] <https://www.ncpedia.org/category/authors/baker-bruce-e> [21] <https://www.ncpedia.org/category/origin-location/mountain-27> [22] <https://www.ncpedia.org/category/entry-source/encyclopedia->