

HISTORIC SITES ALONG THE TRAIL OF TEARS

A site listed as a national historic landmark is denoted by the abbreviation **NHL**, and one on the National Register of Historic Places by **NR**. A site that has been certified by the National Park Service is denoted by the abbreviation **CS**.

ARKANSAS SITES

Fort Smith National Historic Site

301 Parker Avenue, Fort Smith
(479) 783-3961 www.nps.gov/fosm

Administered by the National Park Service, this frontier military post was established at the junction of the Arkansas and Poteau rivers in 1817. Its purpose was to maintain peaceable relations between the Osage and Cherokee Indians. The U.S. Army began building a permanent fort here in 1838, on the border of Indian Territory. (NR and NHL)

Lake Dardanelle State Park

2428 Marina Road, Russellville
(479) 967-5516

www.arkansasstateparks.com/lakedardanelle

The Trail of Tears is interpreted in exhibits in the visitor center. A large outdoor exhibit about the Trail is being planned for the park. The lake includes the historic and modern channels of the Arkansas River, which are part of the Water Route of the Trail of Tears. (CS)

Pea Ridge National Military Park

Highway 62, Pea Ridge

(479) 451-8122 www.nps.gov/peri

Pea Ridge National Military Park, administered by the National Park Service, is a 4,300 acre Civil War Battlefield that preserves the site of the March 1862 battle that saved Missouri for the Union. The Confederate force included some 800 Cherokees fighting for the Confederacy. The park also includes a two and one half mile segment of the Trail of Tears.

GEORGIA SITES

Chieftains Museum/Major Ridge Home

501 Riverside Parkway N.E., Rome
(706) 291-9494 www.chieftainmuseum.org

The Chieftains tells the story of Major Ridge, a leader of what became known as the "Treaty Party," the influential Ridge family, Cherokee history, and the Trail of Tears, as well as subsequent history of the home and region. (NR, NHL, and CS)

Chief Vann House State Historic Site

Georgia Routes 225 and 52A, Chatsworth
(706) 695-2598

The site is a 23-acre park containing a two-story brick mansion built in 1804 by James Vann, a wealthy Cherokee chief. A new 3,000-square foot interpretive center contains exhibits about the Vann family, Cherokee Nation, and Trail of Tears. (NR and CS)

John Ross House

Spring Street, Rossville
(706) 375-7702

John Ross was principal chief of the Cherokee Nation during removal. Originally this log house stood on the main commercial street of Rossville, but it has since been moved 50 yards to a wooded section on property

owned by John McDonald, who built the house in 1797. Ross moved to the house after being forced from his home in Rome, Georgia, in 1830. (NR and NHL)

New Echota State Historic Site

Along Georgia Route 225, Calhoun
(706) 624-1321

New Echota served as the capital of the Cherokee Nation from 1825 until 1838. Visitor center exhibits interpret Cherokee life and history and the Trail of Tears. The site is a 198-acre park containing a visitor center, historic buildings, archeological remains of the town, and several reconstructed buildings. A research library includes microfilm of the *Cherokee Phoenix* newspaper and census records. (NHL and CS)

KENTUCKY SITE

Trail of Tears Commemorative Park

U.S. Hwy. 41 and Skyline Drive, Hopkinsville
(270) 886-8033 www.trailoftears.org

The 12.5-acre park contains the graves of Fly Smith and Whitepath, two Cherokee chiefs who died along the Trail of Tears. The site includes a visitor center the contains exhibits interpreting the Cherokee Nation, the Trail of Tears, and various American Indian tribes and their respective removal histories. (CS)

MISSOURI SITE

Trail of Tears State Park

On Missouri Route 177, Jackson
(573) 334-1711

The park contains two trail-related resources: the site of Green's Ferry (Willard's Landing) and the commemorative site believed to be the grave of Nancy Bushyhead, a Cherokee who died on the Trail of Tears. About 2 miles of park road follow the historic Green's Ferry (Moccasin Spring) Road, the actual route of the Trail of Tears. Visitor center exhibits interpret the Trail of Tears and the area's natural history. (CS)

NORTH CAROLINA SITES

Cherokee County Historical Museum

87 Peachtree Street, Murphy
(828) 837-6792

Trail of Tears exhibits are being developed for the first floor of the museum. (CS)

Museum of the Cherokee Indian

U.S. Hwy. 441 and Drama Road, Cherokee
(828) 497-3481 www.cherokeemuseum.org

New museum exhibits combine technology (lighting and audio, holograms, computer-generated images) and a display of artifacts. The Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians operates the museum. (CS)

OKLAHOMA SITES

Cherokee National Museum

Just off Hwy. 62 on Willis Road, Park Hill
(918) 456-6007 www.cherokeeheritage.org
Permanent exhibits interpret the Trail of Tears, depicting events leading to, through, and beyond removal. (CS)

Community of Park Hill

Immediately south of Tahlequah and east of U.S. 62 is an area where several Cherokees settled, including John Ross. The Reverend Thomas Bertholf, a Methodist minister, was the first settler to arrive in 1821; the Reverend Samuel A. Worcester, an influential Cherokee missionary, established Park Hill Mission in December 1836. Also at Park Hill are the first Cherokee Female Seminary (NR), the Cherokee National Museum, and the site of the *Tsa La Gi* drama. About a mile east on Willis Road is the first cabin site of John Ross. Just 1.75 miles north along the Illinois River is the site of a campground used by several thousand Cherokees during the summer of 1839, while awaiting land assignments in the Indian Territory. Several other historic sites, dating after the forced removal, are in this same area.

Fort Gibson Military Park

110 E Ash, Fort Gibson
(918) 478-4088

Operated by the Oklahoma Historical Society, Fort Gibson was initially built by troops moved from Fort Smith, Arkansas, to establish a presence in Indian Territory. Several groups of Cherokees completed the forced removal here, and troops from the post often formally received the new arrivals.

George M. Murrell House

19479 E. Murrell Home Road, Park Hill
(918) 456-2751

George Murrell was married to Minerva Ross, the niece of Cherokee Principal Chief John Ross, and the daughter of Lewis Ross. The home represents the re-development of the Cherokee Nation after removal, and the lifestyle of some people in the Cherokee Nation prior to the Civil War. The plantation home includes the original spring house, smoke house, picnic area, playground, creek, and nature trail. (CS)

Ross Cemetery

Just off Hwy. 62, Park Hill

The Ross Cemetery is 1 mile southeast of the Cherokee National Museum. Key figures involved with the Trail of Tears are buried here, including John Ross and Lewis Ross.

Tahlequah – Cherokee Nation Capitol

Named for Talikwa or Tellico, an early Cherokee town in Tennessee, Tahlequah is the county seat and serves as the center of the Cherokee Nation. It is at the junction of U.S. 62 and Oklahoma 51, 82, and 10. Cherokee commissioners determined the location in 1839, and in 1843 the Cherokee National Council incorporated the town and platted it. Several historic structures in the community are on the National Register of Historic Places and designated national historic landmarks, including the Cherokee National Capitol, the Cherokee Supreme Court Building, and the Cherokee Female Seminary (second site), which is now used by Northeastern State University.

TENNESSEE SITES

Audubon Acres/Spring Frog Cabin

900 North Sanctuary Road, Chattanooga
(423) 892-1499 www.audubonchattanooga.org

Visitors can learn about the typical agricultural life and level of acculturation experienced by the Cherokee at the time of removal. The visitor center has exhibits on the Trail of Tears Brainerd Mission site, and on Cherokee culture. A log cabin on the property known as "Spring Frog Cabin" is said to have been the home of Drowning Bear, a Cherokee full blood who was removed on the Trail of Tears. (NR and CS)

Brainerd Mission Cemetery

Brainerd Road and Eastgate Loop Road, Chattanooga
www.rootsweb.com/~tnhamilt/brndmssn.htm

The American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions developed the site originally as a mission within the Cherokee Nation. The property, buildings, and improvements were purchased from John McDonald, the grandfather of Cherokee Chief John Ross. The mission was the principal mission among other, smaller ones within the Cherokee Nation, and served as a training ground for the American Board. There is an exhibit signboard at the site. (CS)

Chattanooga Regional History Museum

400 Chestnut Street, Chattanooga
(423) 423-3247 www.chattanoogaahistory.com

American Indians, Cherokee culture, and the Trail of Tears are topics featured in the facility's exhibits. (CS)

Hair Conrad Cabin

Blythe Wood Road, Cleveland

Conrad served as a conductor for the first detachment of Cherokees to leave Rattlesnake Spring in August 1838. According to local tradition, Conrad lived in a single-pen log cabin built about 1804 near the confluence of Candies Creek and Hair's (now Harris) Creek. The cabin is privately owned. (NR)

Red Clay State Historic Park

1140 Red Clay Park Road S.W., Bradley County
(423) 478-0339

The 260-acre park contains a visitor center, theater, library, amphitheater, picnic shelter, and hiking trails. Replicas of 19th-century Cherokee buildings include a council house, farmhouse, barn, corn crib, and sleeping huts. Exhibits interpret day-to-day Cherokee life in the early 1800s, and the Cherokee removal. (NR and CS)

Sequoyah Birthplace Museum

Along Tennessee Route 360, Vonore
(423) 922-2474

Sequoyah created the Cherokee syllabary. Exhibits include a video presentation, map, pictorial display, and artifacts related to the Trail of Tears, Cherokee history, and southeastern American Indian history. (CS)