American Political & Military Affairs, 1828-60.

Form 10-300 (Rev. 6-72)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY – NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Georgia
COUNTY: Walker
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY DATE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME

COMMON: John Ross House

AND/OR HISTORIC: John Ross House

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: Lake Ave. and Spring Street

CITY OR TOWN: Rossville

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: 7

STATE: Georgia — CODE:

COUNTY: Walker — CODE:

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP		STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
☐ District ☒ Building ☐ Site ☐ Structure ☐ Object	☐ Public ☒ Private ☐ Both	Public Acquisition: ☐ In Process ☐ Being Considered	☐ Occupied ☒ Unoccupied ☐ Preservation work in progress	Yes: ☒ Restricted ☐ Unrestricted ☐ No

PRESENT USE *(Check One or More as Appropriate)*

☐ Agricultural	☐ Government	☐ Park	☐ Transportation	☐ Comments
☐ Commercial	☐ Industrial	☐ Private Residence	☐ Other *(Specify)*	
☐ Educational	☐ Military	☐ Religious		
☐ Entertainment	☒ Museum	☐ Scientific		

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME: Mr. John L. Hutcheson (Rossville Memorial Center)

STREET AND NUMBER: Happy Valley Farms

CITY OR TOWN: Rossville

STATE: Georgia — CODE:

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC: Walker County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Lafayette

STATE: Georgia — CODE:

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:

DATE OF SURVEY: ☐ Federal ☐ State ☐ County ☐ Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:

STATE: — CODE:

STATE: COUNTY: ENTRY NUMBER: DATE: FOR NPS USE ONLY

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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	[X] Excellent	[ ] Good	[ ] Fair	[ ] Deteriorated	[ ] Ruins	[ ] Unexposed
	(Check One)		(Check One)			
	[X] Altered	[ ] Unaltered	[X] Moved	[ ] Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL *(if known)* PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The John Ross House is a two-story square timber log house originally chinked with lime plaster but now with a mixture of cement. The roof is shaked. There are two outside stone chimneys serving fireplaces on both floors. There are porches with simple cross piece balustrades both front and back.

The main block is 50' wide and 16' feet with a breezeway 11' wide through the first floor dividing two rooms. The east room, 16' by 16' has a front and rear door as well as a door to the breezeway; one window opens to the front porch. The larger west room, 23' by 16', has a similar arrangement of doors; two windows open onto the front porch, one onto the rear porch. The stairway is located in the southeast corner of the room.

The second floor contains three rooms each the same dimension as the room or breezeway beneath it. The east room contains no windows. The central room contains four windows, two both front and back. The west room has two windows, one front and one back.

The building is very slightly altered, the cement mortar joints and cross-piece balustrade being the most evident departure from the original. The building was moved recently from its original site several hundred yards back from the main commercial street in Rossville where it stood among luncheonettes and stores. The new site is in a wooded parklike setting.

John Ross moved to this house following the confiscatory acts of the Georgia legislature in 1830. When the State extended its jurisdiction over the Cherokee lands, Ross was ejected from his very fine home on the Coosa River in the vicinity of Rome, Georgia.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD *(Check One or More as Appropriate)*

- [ ] Pre-Columbian
- [ ] 15th Century
- [ ] 16th Century
- [ ] 17th Century
- [ ] 18th Century
- [x] 19th Century
- [ ] 20th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) *(If Applicable and Known)* 1830-1838

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE *(Check One or More as Appropriate)*

- [ ] Aboriginal
- [ ] Prehistoric
- [x] Historic
- [ ] Agriculture
- [ ] Architecture
- [ ] Art
- [ ] Commerce
- [ ] Communications
- [ ] Conservation
- [ ] Education
- [ ] Engineering
- [ ] Industry
- [ ] Invention
- [ ] Landscape Architecture
- [ ] Literature
- [ ] Military
- [ ] Music
- [x] Political
- [ ] Religion/Philosophy
- [ ] Science
- [ ] Sculpture
- [x] Social/Humanitarian
- [ ] Theater
- [ ] Transportation
- [ ] Urban Planning
- [ ] Other *(Specify)*

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

John Ross, the most prominent of the Chiefs of the Cherokee nation, led his people for forty years as chief executive and primary diplomat. He led them in exile beyond the Mississippi on the dreadful "Trail of Tears" along which they buried a fourth of their kinsmen. A hero of the Battle of Horseshoe Bend in the Creek War of 1812, he quickly became first a member of the Cherokee National Council and then its President-- a post he maintained until 1826. He championed the idea of autonomous government for the Cherokee, an idea embodied in the Cherokee Constitution of 1827. He became Chief in 1828 and held this position until Cherokee removal in 1839, all the time leading the delegations of protest and memorial in futile resistance to the expulsion. In the new territory, he presided again as Chief over a united Cherokee nation under a new constitution until 1862.

Ross has had as many violent critics as he has had warm defenders. There are those who charge that his ruthless resistance to a treaty of removal caused his people the hardships he so earnestly sought to avoid. Others argue that it was in the honor and interest of the Cherokee people for him to have done nothing less. Recent studies indicate that the debate is still open, and that a fresh and more sympathetic examination is needed of both the history of Indian removal and the confrontation between the opposing Cherokee factions.

Nevertheless, Ross' ability as a statesman, diplomat, and leader cannot be questioned. The fact that he was for forty years the head of his nation is evidence that he possessed the confidence of the majority of his people.

Biography

Born in 1790 at Turkeytown on the Coosa River in Alabama, John Ross was the son of a Scotsman of loyalist sympathies and a mother, mostly Scottish but one-quarter Cherokee. Educated at Maryville College and Kingston Academy in Tennessee, his first political mission came in 1809 when he was 19 years old. The U. S. Indian agent, Jonathan Meigs, sent him as an emissary to the western Cherokees on the Arkansas River. From that time on he was forever in the service of his people.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

8. SIGNIFICANCE (cont'd .)

In the Creek War of 1812, Ross volunteered and served as adjutant for the Cherokee detachment in the forces of General Andrew Jackson. He made a name for himself at the Battle of Horseshoe Bend, March 27, 1814 in one of the bloodiest Indian fights in the history of the United States. In a savage no quarter battle some 2,000 men under Jackson, including 500 Cherokees, fought a barricaded force of about a thousand Creeks. While Jackson's forces pounded the Creek breastworks, the Cherokee swam the Tallapoosa River, got behind the enemy position and scattered the Creek boats and canoes. Attacked from both sides and without means of retreat, the Creek force was virtually annihilated with a loss of more than 800 killed.

In 1817 he became a member of the National Council of the Cherokee and succeeded to the presidency, a position he held until 1826. Chosen a member of the National Committee of the Cherokee Council in 1817, he drafted the reply to the United States Commissioners who were sent to negotiate the exchange of the Cherokee lands for others west of the Mississippi. As President he was instrumental in the introduction of school and mechanical training and led in the development of the civilized autonomous government embodied in the republican constitution adopted in 1827. In that year he was made Associate Chief with William Hicks and president of the Cherokee constitutional convention.

The following year he was chosen principal Chief of the Cherokee Nation and held that position until removal in 1839. During these years, Ross led the National Party faction of the Cherokee with an iron discipline which sustained the majority of his people in opposition to a succession of removal treaties. He led countless delegations of protest beginning with the Georgia confiscatory acts of 1830. He bitterly opposed the Ridge-Boudinot faction which began to urge negotiation toward a treaty and successfully outmaneuvered and intimidated the pro-treaty faction down to the very moment of forced removal in 1838 when he himself turned to negotiate protective arrangements for the Cherokee as best he could.

He led his people into Oklahoma and there contributed significantly to the new constitution of 1839, uniting the western and eastern Cherokee under one government. In that year he was chosen Chief of the United Cherokee Nation, although his position was disputed by a southern Cherokee faction and the United States government during the Civil War when he sought to keep the Cherokee neutral. However, in 1861, he signed a treaty of alliance with the Confederacy, which was repudiated in 1863. When federal troops invaded the Territory in 1862, he moved to Philadelphia. He died in Washington, D. C. where he had gone to assist in making the Cherokee treaty of 1866.

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Foreman, Grant, Indian Removal, Norman, Okla., Oklahoma University Press, 1953.

"John Ross," Dictionary of American Biography, Vol. XVI, New York, Charles Scribner's Sons, 1943.

Hodge, F.H., Handbook of the American Indians, pt. II, 1910

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY						OR	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES					
CORNER	LATITUDE			LONGITUDE			LATITUDE			LONGITUDE		
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	°	'	"	°	'	"	34 °	58 '	30 "	85 °	17 '	05 "
NE	°	'	"	°	'	"						
SE	°	'	"	°	'	"						
SW	°	'	"	°	'	"						

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 5 acres

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: Benjamin Levy, Senior Historian

ORGANIZATION: Historic Sites Survey, National Park Service

DATE: 3/1/73

STREET AND NUMBER: 1100 L Street, N. W.

CITY OR TOWN: Washington

STATE: D. C.

CODE:

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National ☐ State ☐ Local ☐

Name _____

Title _____

Date _____

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

_____

Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date _____

ATTEST:

_____

Keeper of The National Register

Date _____

SEE INSTRUCTIONS