

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
WASHINGTON, D.C.

The National Survey of Historic Sites and Buildings

New Echota, Gordon County, Georgia

The Cherokee Capital at New Echota is a high point in the cultural transition of the Cherokee nation. It was here that their adopted Anglo-American culture was institutionalized and where their cultural attributes of "civilization" were most visible. New Echota was the first truly "national" capital of the Cherokees, their having adopted a constitution in 1827, 2 years after the establishment of the town in 1825. The first Cherokee newspaper, The Cherokee Phoenix, utilizing the achievement of Sequoyah's syllabary, was published here in 1828. This marked the introduction of a way to literacy for the Cherokee people and helped nationalize them. New Echota was the setting for the great Supreme Court case of Worcester v. Georgia, in which Chief Justice Marshall established another precedent for the overriding authority of the Federal Government. It was here in 1835 that the infamous Treaty of New Echota was signed, establishing the basic pretext for final removal of the Cherokee to the West and the launching of the tragic "Trail of Tears."

The Cherokee Capital, New Echota, was a lost village until 1953. That year research culminated in the discovery of the exact site, a cornfield near Calhoun, close by the confluence of the Oostanaula and Coosawattee Rivers. On a knoll overlooking the village site, a dilapidated frame house stood which later proved to be the home and mission school built in 1827 by the Reverend Samuel A. Worcester, a New Englander. In 1954 and several years thereafter, archaeological excavations determined the sites of other original buildings and uncovered objects used during the Cherokee occupation. In 1956, the site of New Echota including the ramshakled remains of the Worcester House was deeded to the Georgia Historical Commission--approximately 200 acres in all. Soon thereafter the restoration of Worcester House was begun.

New Echota today consists of the Worcester House, the reconstructed Supreme Court Building, the reconstructed Print Shop, a restored tavern moved in from another site, and a modern visitor's center. (Conflicting evidence on the original appearance of the Council House has so far prevented its reconstruction.) The Worcester House (c. 1827), the

only original building on the site is a combined dwelling house
and mission school. The village is owned by the Georgia Historical
Commission and is open to the public.

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NSHSB: 9-8-73
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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

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

1. NAME

COMMON: New Echota
AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: Highway 225			
CITY OR TOWN: Calhoun			
STATE: Georgia	CODE: 13	COUNTY: Gordon	CODE: 129

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP		STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work In progress	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)				
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Comments State Historic Site

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME: Georgia Historical Commission		
STREET AND NUMBER: 116 Mitchell St., S.W.		
CITY OR TOWN: Atlanta	STATE: Georgia	CODE: 13

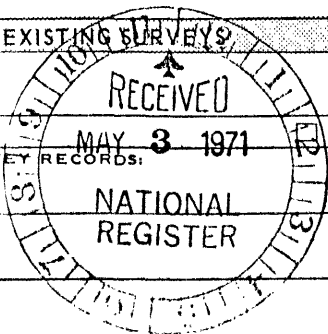
5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Office of Clerk, Superior Court of Gordon County		
STREET AND NUMBER: Gordon County Courthouse		
CITY OR TOWN: Calhoun	STATE: Georgia	CODE: 13

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY: None		
DATE OF SURVEY: MAY 3 1971	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Federal <input type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> County <input type="checkbox"/> Local	
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: NATIONAL REGISTER		
STREET AND NUMBER:		
CITY OR TOWN:	STATE:	CODE:

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



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

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- ☐ Pre-Columbian | ☐ 16th Century | ☐ 18th Century | ☐ 20th Century
☐ 15th Century | ☐ 17th Century | ☒ 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1825-1838

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|--|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Education | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) <u>History</u> |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | | |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

New Echota Restoration Village tells the history of the Cherokee Nation in North Georgia during the 13 years when New Echota was the Cherokee Capital, 1825-1838. It is a little known but dramatic story which ended in the signing of a treaty which led to the Cherokee's Removal to the West and their capital's almost total disappearance. Renewed interest in the 1950's relocated the site and restoration was begun. The village consists of the Worcester House, the restored dwelling of a missionary; the reconstructed Supreme Court Building; the reconstructed Cherokee Phoenix Print Shop; a restored tavern moved in from another site; the original cemetery; and a modern visitor's center.

New Echota was the capital of an independent Indian nation, patterning its government on the United States and spread across present day northern Georgia into western North Carolina, eastern Tennessee and northwestern Alabama. Originally New Echota was called New Town. As early as 1819 the Council House there was the primary meeting place of the legislature. The name change occurred in 1825 when New Echota was established as the official Cherokee capital. Increased political activity demanded more facilities and in 1826 the National Council authorized the repair of the Council House and the construction of a Courthouse in which the Cherokee Supreme Court would meet to hear cases appealed from circuit and district courts throughout the Nation.

In 1827 the Reverend Samuel A. Worcester came to New Echota and established a mission school under the auspices of the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions in Boston. Classes were held in an upper room of Worcester's New Echota home but soon expanded enough to require utilizing the Courthouse and Council House when those bodies were not in session. A dedicated friend of the Cherokees, Worcester worked closely with Indian leaders on one of the most significant accomplishments in Cherokee history and culture - the establishment of a national newspaper and print shop. Overseer of this accomplishment was Elias Boudinot, a New England-educated Cherokee who served as editor of the Cherokee Phoenix, the world's first Indian language newspaper. Printed in English and in the Cherokee characters devised by Sequoyah in 1821, the first edition appeared on February 21, 1828 and was issued thereafter from the Print Shop until 1834. (Sequoyah - or George Guess, or Gist - was the mixed-blood genius who made the Cherokee Nation literate almost over night by his invention of a Cherokee syllabary.)

Thus, with a national newspaper and printing office, a legislative hall, a supreme court house, a mission school and several dwellings and commercial establishments in its capital town, the Cherokee Nation possessed a unique seat of government - as compared with other Indian tribes of the past century.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

_____, Laws of the Cherokee Nation: Adopted by the Council at Various Periods. (Tahlequah, Cherokee Nation: Cherokee Advocate Office, 1852).
 Malone, Henry T., Cherokees of the Old South. (Athens: University of Georgia Press, 1956).
 Mitchell, William R., Jr., "A Report on New Echota Restoration," July 1969. National Park Service, New Echota: Birthplace of the American Indian Press. Popular Study Series, 1941.
 _____, Records of the Bureau of Indian Affairs. Valuations of Property in Cass County, Georgia, 1836.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			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
NW	34 ° 32 ' 33 "	84 ° 54 ' 35 "			
NE	34 ° 32 ' 33 "	84 ° 53 ' 48 "			
SE	34 ° 32 ' 10 "	84 ° 53 ' 48 "			
SW	34 ° 32 ' 10 "	84 ° 54 ' 35 "			

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 200 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



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: William R. Mitchell, Jr., Director, Georgia Historic Sites Survey
Carole Summers

ORGANIZATION: Georgia Historical Commission DATE: April 30, 1971

STREET AND NUMBER: 116 Mitchell St., S.W.

CITY OR TOWN: Atlanta STATE: Georgia CODE: 13

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

May Gregory Juett

Title

State Liaison Officer

Date

April 30, 1971

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

 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date

ATTEST:

 Keeper of The National Register

Date