

6-6-73

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Tennessee	
COUNTY: Polk	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	APR 11 1973

1. NAME

COMMON:
Nancy Ward Tomb (Representative Lamar Baker)

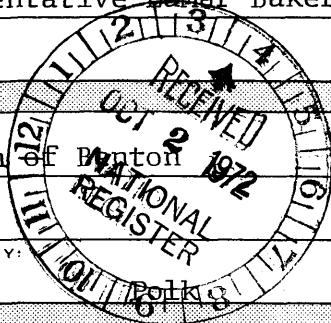
AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
U. S. Highway 411 - two miles south of Benton

CITY OR TOWN:
Benton

STATE: Tennessee CODE: 47 COUNTY: Polk CODE: 139



3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Object <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both Subject to lease	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 type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Religious	Tomb of Nancy	
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	Ward	

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Mr. and Mrs. Earl Thomas (Leased to Nancy Ward Memorial Assoc.)

STREET AND NUMBER:
R.F.D.

CITY OR TOWN: Benton STATE: Tennessee CODE: 47

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Polk County Register's Office

STREET AND NUMBER:
Courthouse

CITY OR TOWN: Benton STATE: Tennessee CODE: 47

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:

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Tennessee

COUNTY: Polk

ENTRY NUMBER: APR 11 1973

DATE: APR 11 1973

FOR NPS USE ONLY

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

(Check One)					
<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
(Check One)			(Check One)		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered			<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered		
			<input type="checkbox"/> Moved		
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The grave of Nancy Ward is located on a hill on the south side of U. S. Highway 411, just west of the Ocoee River. It was originally unmarked. In 1923 the Nancy Ward Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution erected a marker of native stone at the grave, with a bronze plaque bearing the inscription, "Princess and Prophetess of the Cherokee Nation, the Pocahontas of Tennessee, and a constant friend of the American Pioneer." An iron fence now encloses the tombs of Nancy Ward, her son and her brother. Approximately one year ago, a road was constructed from U. S. 411 to the tombs.



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

8. SIGNIFICANCE

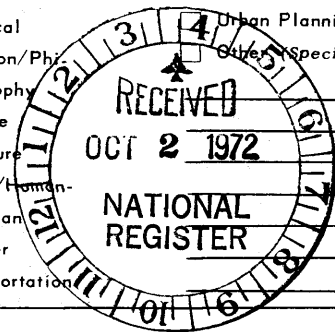
PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 18th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century | |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy |
| <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 type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Military | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | |



STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The bronze tablet which marks Nancy Ward's grave states that she was "Princess and Prophetess of the Cherokee Nation, the Pocahontas of Tennessee, and a constant friend of the American Pioneer." Nancy Ward is considered by many historians to have been the most outstanding woman in Tennessee's history. Without her, many of the frontier settlements would have been destroyed.

Other titles ascribed to Nancy Ward included: Prophetess, Wild Rose of the Cherokee, Beloved Woman, Cherokee Rose, Friendly Indian Squaw (Theodore Roosevelt), Pretty Woman, Pocahontas of Tennessee, "The Paleface Cherokee Princess," Prophetess of Chota, Heroine of the Revolution, Angel of Mercy, Constant Friend of the American Pioneer, The Famous Indian Woman.

In 1776 Nancy prevented a formidable invasion when Dragging Canoe was about to attack the western settlers. She warned the settlers on the Watauga and Holston of the coming of the Cherokee Chiefs with 700 followers. At the same time, she saved Mrs. William Bean, mother of the first white child born in Tennessee, from being burned at the stake.

Also during the Indian outbreak of 1780, Nancy helped a number of prisoners escape. Often, it is said that she supplied starving pioneers with needed food. She is reported to have provided General Campbell of King's Mountain fame with milk and beef from her own herd. Many explorers wandering too near the Cherokee towns were saved by Nancy Ward.

It is said that Nancy Ward might be called the first home economics teacher in Tennessee. She is credited with having taught the Indian squaws the art of raising cattle and the making of butter and cheese. She was also perhaps the first suffragette in America as she voted in many of the councils of the Cherokees. She always promoted peace between the Indians and the pioneer.

Nancy Ward was a full blood Cherokee according to Emmet Starr, the Cherokee historian. When she died, so her great-grandson reported in sworn testimony, a light rose from her body, fluttered like a bird around the room, and finally flew out the open door. It was watched by the startled people in attendance until it disappeared,

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Forman, Carolyn Thomas, Indian Women Chiefs (The Starr Printer, Inc., Muskogee, Oklahoma, 1954).

King, E. Sterling. The Wild Rose of Cherokee or Nancy Ward (Kingsport Press, Inc., 1938).

McClary, Ben Harris. "Nancy Ward: The Last Beloved Woman of the Cherokees," Tennessee Historical Quarterly, Volume XXI, December, 1962, No. 4, pp. 352-364.

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
NW	0	'	"	0	'	"	35	09	52
NE	0	'	"	0	'	"	84	00	51
SE	0	'	"	0	'	"			
SW	0	'	"	0	'	"			

UTM
16/711230
3893530

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 3

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

(D)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Roy G. Lillard, President

ORGANIZATION: Nancy Ward Memorial Association DATE: 8-31-72

STREET AND NUMBER:
Cleveland State Community College

CITY OR TOWN: Cleveland STATE: Tennessee CODE: 47

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 Michael J. Harris
Title Executive Director
Tennessee Historical
Commission
Date 9-25-72

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

Robert K. Utley
Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

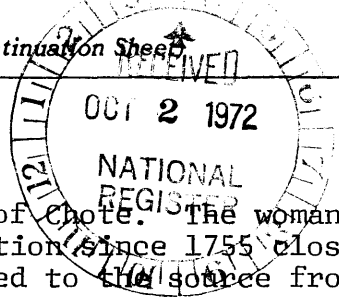
Date 4/11/73

ATTEST:
W. J. [Signature]
Keeper of The National Register
Date 4.3.73

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	Tennessee	
COUNTY	Polk	
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		APR 11 1972



(Number all entries)

8. Significance

moving in the direction of Chote. The woman who had been the mother image of the Cherokee Nation since 1755 closed her eyes to the problems of her people and returned to the source from which she had come.

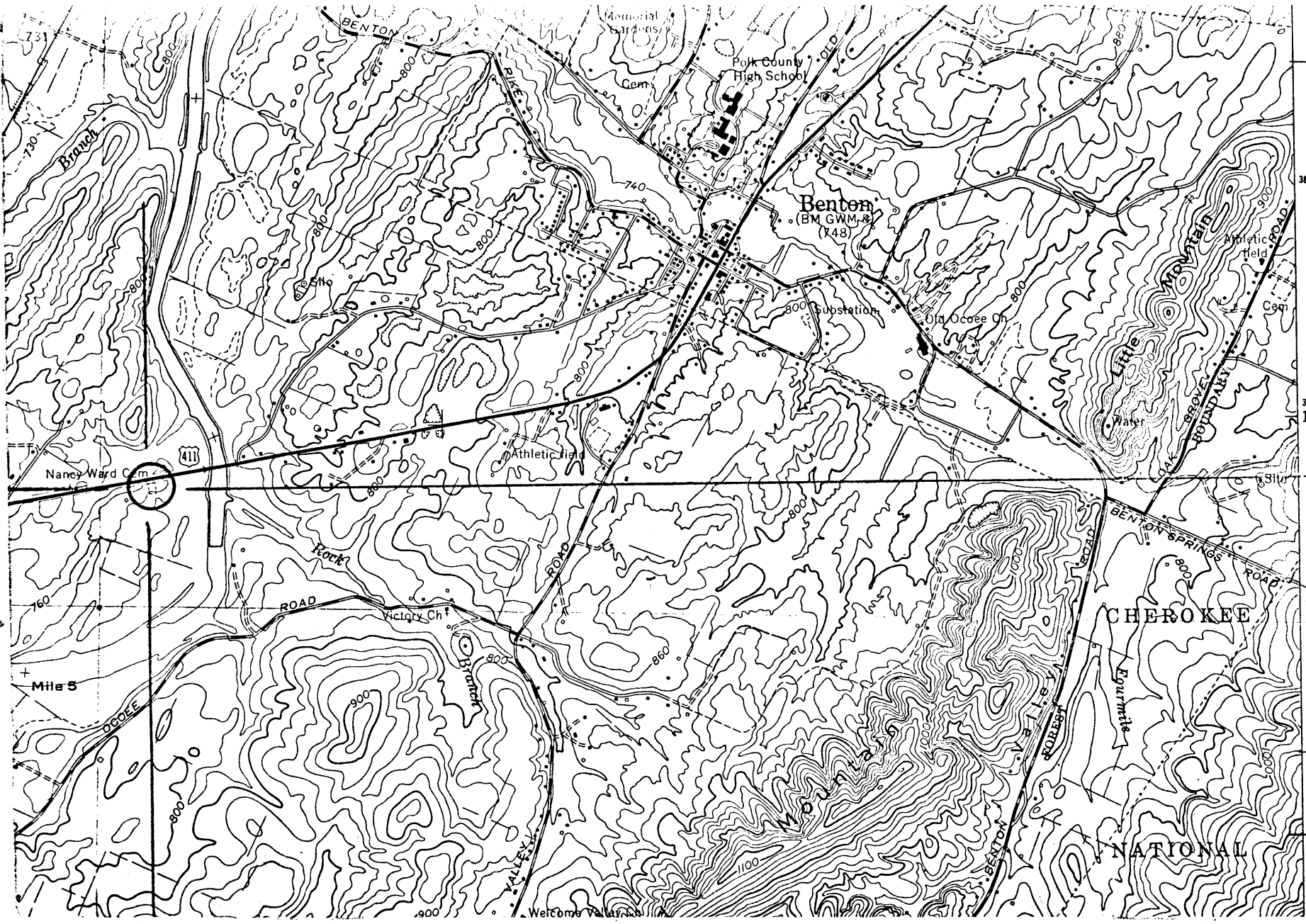
Probably life began for Nancy Ward in the Cherokee capital, Chote, located on the Little Tennessee River, near Fort Loudon in Monroe County, Tennessee. Nancy was born sometime in 1738. Her mother was Tame Doe, the sister of Attakullakulla, civil chief of the Nation and one of the Cherokees who had visited and delighted London in 1730. Her father, of little significance in that still matriarchal society, may have been a Delaware who joined by marriage the Wolf clan of the Cherokees. The child was given the name of Nany'hi, a derivative from a tribal myth-name for "Spirit-people," later anglicized to Nancy. The story is told that because of the texture of her skin, so like that of a rose petal, she was given the name of Cherokee or Wild Rose. Nancy first married Kingfisher of the Deer Clan who was killed in battle. Her second husband was Brian Ward and tradition says this marriage was the first civil ceremony performed in Tennessee.

Mrs. Ward was described as "queenly and commanding in appearance and manner, tall, erect, and beautiful, with a prominent nose, regular features, clear complexion, long silken black hair, large piercing black eyes, and an imperious yet kindly air."

During 1915, in Chattanooga, one of Tennessee's most active chapters of the Daughters of the American Revolution honored the famous Indian woman by using Nancy Ward as its name. In the fall of 1923, the DAR Chapter placed a marker at her grave. A street in Benton carries the name of Ward in her honor; also a former Benton elementary school was named for her as well as a local military unit. In 1964, she was selected as one of Polk County's twelve outstanding citizens, being the only lady in the group.

The beloved woman spent her last years at the Woman Killer ford on the Ocoee River in Polk County. She operated a tavern there which was very popular with many distinguished friends. She was buried near her home along with her son Fivekiller (Hiskyteehee) and her brother Longfellow (Tuskeetehee).

Although Nancy Ward spent most of her life in the Cherokee villages along the Little Tennessee River, there are today no tangible evidences of these towns. Therefore, it is appropriate that the final resting place of this very significant character in Tennessee history be recognized.



3895

3894
10

3892

UTM
16/7112
3893
CJ
35°09'

BENTON SPRINGS 1.5 MI.

Nancy Ward Cem

411

Miles 5

CHEROKEE

NATIONAL

Benton
(BM GWM-2
(748)

Substation

Ocoee Ch

Athletic field

Athletic field

Rock

Victory Ch

Historical

Welcome Park

Egumite

ROBERT

WATER

WATER

WATER

WATER

WATER

WATER

WATER

WATER

WATER