

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: <b>Georgia</b>
COUNTY: <b>Walker</b>
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY DATE

**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
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input checked="" 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) _____ _____

**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**

**5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:  
**Walker County Courthouse**

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:  
**Lafayette**

STATE:  
**Georgia**

**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:

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE:  
COUNTY:  
ENTRY NUMBER  
DATE

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7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input type="checkbox"/> 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)

<input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian	<input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century	<input 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) **1830-1838**

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal	<input type="checkbox"/> Education	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Political	<input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning
<input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> Engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)
<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 Architecture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian	
<input type="checkbox"/> Art	<input type="checkbox"/> Literature	<input type="checkbox"/> Theater	
<input type="checkbox"/> Commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	
<input type="checkbox"/> Communications	<input type="checkbox"/> Music		
<input type="checkbox"/> Conservation			

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

*correct date*  
*actual removal*  
*begin*

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STATE	
Georgia	
COUNTY	
Walker	
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ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

John Ross House

(Continuation Sheet)

(Number all entries)

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.

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**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			O R	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	0	58	30	85	0	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

**11. FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME AND TITLE: **Benjamin Levy, Senior Historian**

ORGANIZATION: **Historic Sites Survey, National Park Service** DATE: **10/3/73**

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

CITY OR TOWN: **Washington** STATE: **D. C.**

**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 \_\_\_\_\_

Title \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

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