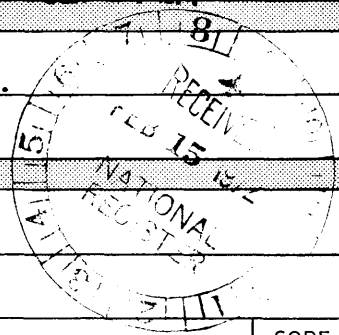


**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Tennessee	
COUNTY: Hamilton	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	JUN 27 1974



1. NAME

COMMON:
Ross's Landing (Rep. LaMar Baker).

AND/OR HISTORIC:
Ross's Landing

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
101 Market Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Chattanooga

STATE Tennessee	CODE 47	COUNTY: Hamilton	CODE 065
--------------------	------------	---------------------	-------------

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) <u>vacant unused area</u>
		<input type="checkbox"/> Comments	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
H. Wayne Grant, Trustee

STREET AND NUMBER:
Suite 305 Maclellan Building, Broad Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Chattanooga

STATE:
Tennessee

CODE:
47

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:
Registry of Deeds

STREET AND NUMBER:
Hamilton County Courthouse, Georgia Avenue

CITY OR TOWN:
Chattanooga

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: Hamilton	ENTRY NUMBER DATE
DATE: JUN 27 1974		

FOR NPS USE ONLY

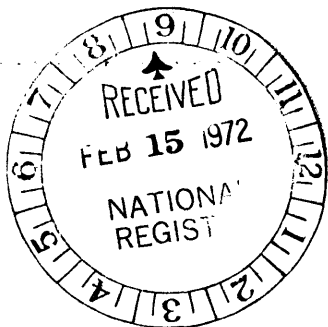
7. DESCRIPTION

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

Ross's Landing originally was unimproved, as it was a natural landing site for the swing ferry which connected the roads on the north and south sides of the Tennessee River and for the flatboats and later keelboats in their voyages on the Tennessee. There was a rough roadway from the riverside to the road which ran south from the landing to Rossville, Georgia.

Upon the discontinuance of the use of the landing by the ferry in the 1880's the use of the area changed and consequently the physical appearance. A building was erected on part of the area, the last use of which was as the temple for the Alhamra Temple, A.A.O.N.M.S.; it has been vacant for a year or more. The building, however, has no relation to the landing, except that it occupies part of the area.



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|---|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input 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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Transportation | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | | |



STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Before the area became the Ross's Landing, it was the southern exit for a ford, used by the Indians and the frontiersmen in their crossing of the river. When the Cherokees agreed in 1805 to the construction of roads in their territory there was a consequent introduction of wheeled traffic generally. The enterprising young John Ross constructed a ferry in 1813 with Ross's Landing as the exit on the south side. The ferry, itself, was noteworthy, inasmuch as it was a swing or pendulum ferry, one which utilized the current of the river for its motive power. As such it was the first to be established in North America.

When in 1817 the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions established the mission on Chickamauga Creek to the Cherokees, Ross's Landing began to grow in importance as a convenient way to get supplies and materials to the mission. That growth was accentuated two years later when the Cherokees ceded to the Federal government their lands to the Hiawasse and Tennessee Rivers, whereupon Ross's Landing became the most important way into the Cherokee nation from the north. It was also the point of departure for the first of the Indians to go west at the time of the Cherokee Removal in 1838.

Its importance did not lessen after the Cherokees left, as it continued to be used by the riverboatmen as the stopping-point for entry to the newly created Chattanooga, and as the landing for the ferry. When the Western and Atlantic Railroad, connecting East Tennessee and Georgia, reached Chattanooga in 1851, a track ran down the present Broad Street to the river, thus taking away some importance from the Landing, as the rivermen moved their traffic to the City Wharf at the end of the railroad. But its use as a ferry landing continued, and in the Civil War both armies used it as a starting point of pontoon bridges. Then when the Federal Army in 1864 built a hoped-for permanent bridge, the traffic diminished further over the ferry, but the flood of 1867 swept the bridge away, and the use of the ferry went back to its normal amount. That use continued until the late 1880's when the county built the Walnut Street bridge, well above the flood stage and the first free bridge connecting the north and south side of the river at Chattanooga.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Foreman, Grant, Indian Removal, (Univ. of Okalhoma Press, 1953).
 Govan, G. E., and Livingood, J.W., Chattanooga Country,
 (E. P. Dutton and Co., 1952).
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 Woodward, Grace Steele, The Cherokees, (Univ. of Oklahoma Press, 1963).

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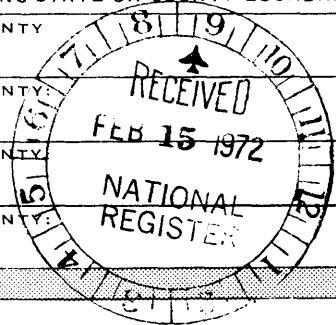
10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

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	0' 0" 0"	0' 0" 0"		35° 03' 22"	85° 18' 33"	
NE	0' 0" 0"	0' 0" 0"				
SE	0' 0" 0"	0' 0" 0"				
SW	0' 0" 0"	0' 0" 0"				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 3

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Dr. Gilbert E. Govan

ORGANIZATION: _____ DATE: Jan. 18, 1972

STREET AND NUMBER:
400 Laurel Lane

CITY OR TOWN: Lookout Mountain 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: Herbert L. Harper

Title: Director of Field Services
Tennessee Historical Commission

Date: 2/2/72

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

A. P. Murteens
~~Associate Director, Professional Services~~ Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: 6/27/74

ATTEST:

Wm. M. [Signature]
 Keeper of The National Register

Date: 6-26-74

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

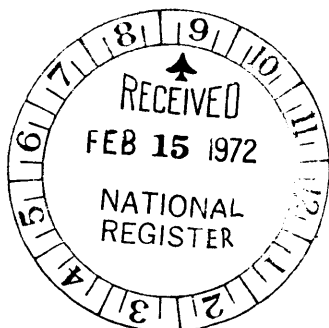
(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
Tennessee	
COUNTY	
Hamilton	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	JUN 27 1974

(Number all entries)

8. Significance (continued)

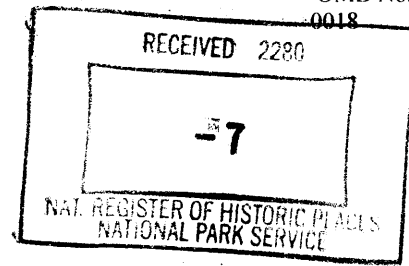
At the present time the state is constructing a riverside highway past and through part of the site of Ross's Landing. A considerable amount of fill has been added in the construction. The property nominated in this form begins at the south boundary of the highway right-of-way. Much interest has been shown in acquiring the property for use as a small roadside park, and a movement is currently under way to make this a reality. In addition to the new highway, the property is accessible from two other streets, making it a desirable location for such a park.



(Oct. 1990)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form



This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Ross's Landing
other names/site number Ross's Landing Riverfront Park

2. Location

street & number Riverfront Parkway west of Market Street NA not for publication
city or town Chattanooga vicinity
state Tennessee code TN county Hamilton code 065 zip code 37402-1018

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set for in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Herbert L. Gray 7/31/06
Signature of certifying official/Title Date
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer, Tennessee Historical Commission
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See Continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

- entered in the National Register.
 See continuation sheet
- determined eligible for the National Register.
 See continuation sheet
- determined not eligible for the National Register.
- removed from the National Register.
- other. (explain:)

[Signature] Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

Edouard H. Beall 9.14.06

Ross's Landing
Name of Property

Hamilton County, Tennessee
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in count.)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal
- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Contributing	Noncontributing	
_____	_____	buildings
1	_____	Sites
_____	_____	structures
_____	_____	objects
1	_____	Total

Name of related multiple property listing
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)
N/A

Number of Contributing resources previously listed in the National Register
N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

TRANSPORTATION: water-related

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

RECREATION AND CULTURE:
Outdoor Recreation
Monument/ Marker
Work of Art
TRANSPORTATION:
Pedestrian-related

7. Description

Architectural Classification

N/A

Materials

foundation N/A
walls N/A

roof N/A
other N/A

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)
See Attached Sheets

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

[X] A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.

[] B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.

[] C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.

[] D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

ETHNIC HERITAGE: Native American
EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT

TRANSPORTATION

Period of Significance

1813-circa 1850
1837-39

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

[] A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.

[] B removed from its original location.

[] C moved from its original location.

[] D a cemetery.

[] E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.

[X] F a commemorative property

[] G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Significant Dates

1813, 1837-39

Significant Person

Ross, John

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

N/A

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS): N/A

[] preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested

[X] previously listed in the National Register

[] Previously determined eligible by the National Register

[] designated a National Historic Landmark

[] recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____

[] recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary location of additional data:

[X] State Historic Preservation Office

[] Other State Agency

[] Federal Agency

[] Local Government

[] University

[] Other

Name of repository:

MTSU Center for Historic Preservation

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 1

Ross's Landing
Hamilton County, Tennessee

DESCRIPTION

Ross's Landing is located in downtown Chattanooga, Tennessee along the Tennessee River. As part of a local revitalization plan, Ross's Landing and the downtown waterfront have undergone renovations and improvements over the last 20 years. Consequently, the landscape and its use have changed since Ross's Landing was originally nominated to the National Register of Historic Places in 1974. What was an industrial area is now a thriving tourist district anchored by the Tennessee Aquarium across the street from Ross's Landing.

The property is eligible for the National Register under criteria A, for the role it played in the transportation of the Cherokee to the Indian Territory, including the role prominent Cherokee leader and businessman John Ross had. This site, like many others associated with the Trail of Tears, was a temporary assembly area and no buildings or structures associated with the trail exist.

Constructed in 1813, Ross's Landing originally was unimproved, as it was a natural landing site for the swing ferry, which connected the roads on the north and south sides of the Tennessee River and for the flat-boats and later keelboats in their voyages on the Tennessee. There was a rough roadway from the riverside to the road, which ran south from the landing to Rossville, Georgia.

When the ferry ceased use of the landing in the 1880s, the function and physical appearance of the area changed. A building was erected on part of the area, the last use of which was as the temple for the Alhamra Temple, AAONMS. At the time of the original nomination of the property to the National Register of Historic Places in 1974, the building had been vacant for a year or more. The building is no longer extant and had no relation to the landing, except that it occupied part of the area.

As previously mentioned, many changes have taken place since this property was originally nominated to the National Register of Historic Places in 1974. Ross's Landing is a well-known Chattanooga site that draws a variety of visitors, as does the Southern Belle of Chattanooga Riverboat Company that operates next to the historic site. As part of the Chattanooga Riverwalk Greenway, there are obvious layers of landscaping, which include a concrete walkway, blue hand railings for safety, concrete planters, historical markers, and a mini-amphitheater with nine levels facing the river. There are three historical markers and a statue recognizing the significance the area. Two local markers commemorate John Ross, the founder of Ross's Landing, and Chattanooga's first residents. Near the markers is a statue of a Native American constructed in 1992 by Jud Hartman. With ample lighting, drinking fountains, and trash receptacles, the two historical markers and statue create a park-like atmosphere. Further away, between Riverfront Parkway and the Ross's Landing parking lot, a third historical marker, erected by a Tennessee-Alabama motorcycle group and the proceeds of the "Trail of Tears Commemorative Motorcycle Ride,"¹ acknowledges the area's Trail of Tears significance.

¹ Commemorative Marker at Ross's Landing, Chattanooga.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 2

Ross's Landing
Hamilton County, Tennessee

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

NOTE: Ross's Landing was listed in the National Register of Historic Places on June 27, 1974. It was listed under criterion A for its local significance in transportation and exploration/settlement for the first half of the nineteenth century. The purpose of this current submission is to provide additional information for the National Register files and clarify the site's role in the Trail of Tears.

Ferry crossings were important features of the East Tennessee frontier fulfilling a variety of needs and purposes including early communication, transportation, and commerce.² These landings, often used by Native Americans years before European-American settlement, facilitated westward development and economic growth. Settlements and trading posts frequently formed near these ferries because of the access to goods and transportation. This site, like many others associated with the Trail of Tears, was a temporary assembly area and no buildings or structures associated with the trail exist.

Archaeological excavations suggest Native Americans inhabited the area surrounding Ross's Landing more than 8,000 years ago. By 1300, the region was a center for Mississippian era culture.³ Before the area became Ross's Landing, it was the southern exit for a ford, used by American Indians and frontiersmen in their crossing of the river. When the Cherokees agreed in 1805 to the construction of roads in their territory there was a consequent introduction of wheeled traffic. The enterprising young John Ross constructed a ferry in 1813 with Ross's Landing as the exit on the south side. The original National Register nomination stated: "The ferry, itself, was noteworthy, inasmuch as it was a swing or pendulum ferry, one which utilized the current of the river for its motive power. As such it was the first to be established in North America."

John Ross, the son of Daniel and Mollie McDonald Ross, was born one-eighth Cherokee in 1790. Like other "mixed-breeds," Ross spoke the Cherokee language fluently and developed relations between the United States government and the Cherokee Nation. He also used his unique position to create a successful business at the landing.

"In 1813, Ross joined Timothy Meigs in forming 'Meigs and Ross,' an enterprise that thrived by negotiating contracts with the United States government to supply goods to the Cherokees during the Creek War. Firmly established along the southern bank of the Tennessee River, Ross's warehouse became an important supply source for Indians and settlers. The settlement that grew around the warehouse and river landing became known as Ross's Landing. In 1838 the area was incorporated under a new name, Chattanooga."⁴

² Tony Holmes, "Early Cherokee Ferry Crossings of the Eastern Tennessee River Basin" *Journal of East Tennessee History* 62 (1990): 54.

³ Timothy P. Ezzell, "Chattanooga" ed. Carroll Van West, *Tennessee Encyclopedia of History and Culture* (Nashville, TN: Tennessee Historical Society, 1998), 139-141.

⁴ Patrice Hobbs Glass, "Ross, John" ed. Carroll Van West, *Tennessee Encyclopedia of History and Culture* (Nashville, TN: Tennessee Historical Society, 1998), 811.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 3

Ross's Landing
Hamilton County, Tennessee

Complementing his successful economic ventures, John Ross served in several key Cherokee leadership positions. In 1817, he served as a delegate to the Cherokee National Council, and later developed the Cherokee constitution in 1827. The Cherokee elected him Principal Chief in 1828, and he frequently traveled to Washington on their behalf.

When the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions established Brainerd Mission Cemetery (NR 12/6/79) on Chickamauga Creek in 1817, Ross's Landing began to grow in importance as a convenient way to get supplies and materials to the mission. Roughly nine miles from the mission, Ross's Landing and John Ross are mentioned several times in the mission records. That growth was accentuated two years later when the Cherokees ceded to the federal government their lands to the Hiwassee and Tennessee rivers, whereupon Ross's Landing became the most important way into the Cherokee nation from the north. It was also the point of departure for the first of the American Indians to go west at the time of Cherokee Removal in 1838.

The published collection of Ross's correspondence, *The Papers of Chief John Ross*, give little insight into business at Ross's Landing. Aside from passing mention of business transactions, the landing is absent from the correspondence. This could be due, in part, to the fewer surviving documents from his early years when the business and landing were established. It is known, however, that Ross "carried on business associations with the [Cherokee] tribe and gained lucrative government contracts to supply Indians and soldiers."⁵

Although only part Cherokee, John Ross was popular among the Cherokee and a clear majority united with him in protesting the New Echota Treaty of 1835, which ceded to the federal government all remaining Cherokee lands east of the Mississippi River. President Andrew Jackson had taken advantage of disputing Cherokee factions. Despite the opposition of the vast majority of the Cherokee Nation to give up their eastern lands, a small alliance of wealthy Cherokees, including Elias Boudinot and John Ridge, continually signed treaties with the U.S. government on behalf of the entire nation. Signed by a minority of chiefs at a council attended by fewer than 500 Indians, the New Echota Treaty became the pretext for the final concentration of Cherokees under the might of the U.S. Army.⁶

Ross collected some 14,910 Cherokee signatures opposing the New Echota Treaty and traveled to Washington to debate the validity of the treaty.⁷ Despite these efforts, forced and widespread Cherokee removal began during the summer of 1838, a journey that took place over various land and water routes. Ironically,

⁵ Gary E. Moulton, ed., *The Papers of Chief John Ross: Volume I, 1807-1839* (Norman, OK: University of Oklahoma Press, 1984), 3.

⁶ Benjamin Levy, National Register of Historic Places Nomination Form, "Rattlesnake Springs." 23 February 1973.

⁷ Philip Thomason and Sara Parker, National Register of Historic Places Nomination Form, "Historic and Historical Archaeological Resources of the Cherokee Trail of Tears," July 30, 2002, p. E-9.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 8 Page 4

Ross's Landing
Hamilton County, Tennessee

Ross's Landing played a vital role in the transport of the Cherokee; the first three detachments left from Ross's Landing in June 1838.⁸

Lt. Edward Deas led the first detachment of Cherokees to travel by water, and left on June 6, 1838, from the camps situated four miles above Ross's Landing. The 489-person detachment boarded the steamboat *George Guess* at Ross's Landing on the south side of the river and traveled to Decatur, Alabama.⁹ Lt. R.H.K. Whitely led the second detachment to leave by water. Numbering roughly 1,000, the detachment left on June 12, 1838, and followed the same route as Deas. After leaving the camps four miles up river, the Cherokee boarded six flatboats at Ross's Landing, which transported them downriver to Brown's Ferry.¹⁰ Just days later on June 17th Capt. G.S. Drane led the third detachment traveling by water. However, due to drought conditions, this 1,000-person group simply crossed the Tennessee River at Ross's Landing and traveled overland to Waterloo, Alabama, where they boarded steamboats.¹¹

Chief Ross and his family were among the 231 Cherokee in Capt. John Drew's detachment, which was the last group of Cherokee to leave the east. They boarded four flatboats near Calhoun, Tennessee, and floated down the river to Ross's Landing. Upon reaching Tusculum, Alabama, Ross "purchased the steamboat *Victoria* for \$10,000 and the detachment boarded the boat for the trip downriver."¹² Ross remained an active and popular leader within the Cherokee Nation until his death in 1866. He is buried at Park Hill Cemetery near Talequah, Oklahoma.

The landing's importance did not lessen after the Cherokees left, as it continued to be used by the riverboat men as the stopping-point for entry to Chattanooga, and as the landing for the ferry. When the Western and Atlantic Railroad, connecting East Tennessee and Georgia, reached Chattanooga in 1851, a track ran down the present Broad Street to the river, thus taking away some importance from the Landing, as the river men moved their traffic to the City Wharf at the end of the railroad. But its use as a ferry landing continued, and in the Civil War both armies used it as a starting point of pontoon bridges. Then when the Federal Army in 1864 built a hoped-for permanent bridge, the traffic diminished further over the ferry, but the flood of 1867 swept the bridge away, and the use of the ferry went back to its normal amount. That use continued until the late 1880s when the county built the Walnut Street Bridge, well above the flood stage and the first free bridge connecting the north and south side of the river at Chattanooga.

When Ross's Landing was originally included on the National Register of Historic Places in 1974, the state was constructing a riverside highway past and through part of the site of Ross's Landing. A considerable amount of fill had been added in the construction. At the time of nomination, the property was privately owned and much interest had been shown in acquiring it for use as a small roadside park. The property is now a city owned park.

⁸ Ibid., E-29.

⁹ Ibid., E-77.

¹⁰ Ibid., E-78.

¹¹ Ibid., E-79

¹² Ibid., E-80-81.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 9 Page 5

Ross's Landing
Hamilton County, Tennessee

BIBLIOGRAPHY

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- Foreman, Grant. *Indian Removal*. Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1953.
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- Govan, G.E. and J.W. Livingood. *Chattanooga Country*. Chattanooga, TN: E.P. Dutton and Co., 1952.
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- Woodward, Grace Steele. *The Cherokees*. Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1963.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 10 Page 6

Ross's Landing
Hamilton County, Tennessee

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

Verbal boundary description and boundary justification: See original nomination.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places

Continuation Sheet

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Ross's Landing
Hamilton County, Tennessee

PHOTOGRAPHS

Photographs: Carroll Van West
Middle Tennessee State University, Center for Historic Preservation
Murfreesboro, TN 37132

Date: 26 November 2002

Negatives: Tennessee Historical Commission
2941 Lebanon Road
Nashville, TN 37243

- 1 of 8 Entrance to Ross's Landing, facing E
- 2 of 8 John Ross historical marker, facing E
- 3 of 8 First Citizens historical marker, facing E
- 4 of 8 Greenway path at Ross's Landing, facing N
- 5 of 8 Native American statue, facing SW
- 6 of 8 Native American statue, facing W
- 7 of 8 Greenway path and mini-amphitheater, facing N
- 8 of 8 Trail of Tears historical marker, facing E