

PH0670618

DATA SHEET

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED APR 1 1976

DATE ENTERED SEP 13 1976

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

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC

** *Ab*

Conrad, Hair, Cabin

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Blythewood Road

W of Cleveland

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Cleveland

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Third

STATE

Tennessee

CODE

47

COUNTY

Bradley

CODE

011

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
			<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Mrs. David H. Neil

STREET & NUMBER

Blythewood Road

CITY, TOWN

Cleveland

VICINITY OF

STATE

Tennessee

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Bradley County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Cleveland

STATE

Tennessee

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Distinguished by excellent craftsmanship and special attention to interior detail, the house was allegedly built by Hair Conrad, an acculturated Cherokee Indian around 1804.

The original portion consists of a rectangular (20'-0" x 24'-0") one and a half story gable roofed house constructed from six inch thick split and hewn pine, oak, and popular logs.

Built with hewn oak (or chestnut) sills supported by dry-laid field stone piers, the wall logs are joined at the corners using a well-executed half dovetail notching style. Most of the wall logs are approximately 12 inches wide but one pine log in the north wall measures 18 1/2 inches. None of the original chinking material is evident.

Originally there were two exterior doors, centered in the front (West) and rear walls; a large limestone chimney/fireplace in the south wall and one window located on each side of the front door. There was also one window in the north wall and two in the south wall and one in the east (rear) wall north of the door. At the time of acquisition by the present owner (1929) the interior had been partitioned into two rooms. This division of interior space may or may not have been original. Access to the upper floor is by right-angled enclosed stairs located in the southeast corner. Under the stairs is a small closet. The present 4" inch wide, tongue and groove pine flooring is supported by partially hewn oak log floor joists on the ground floor that are mortised into the sills. The upper floor is 11 inch wide tongue and groove boards nailed to hewn and hand-planed (2-3/4 x 8 inch) joists placed on 32 inch centers. The nine exposed joists have been beaded on the lower edges.

Details

Roof The gable roof is framed with sawn 3-3/8 x 4 inch rafters with one inch thick, random width, board purlins. The present roof is wood shingle nailed with modern wire nails; the purlins also contained machine-cut nails from a previous shingle roof.

Interior The stairs are enclosed with hand planed tongue and groove pine boards beaded along one margin.

Doors The rear door, possibly original, is board and batten construction with the boards beaded in a similar fashion to the stair enclosure. No original hardware is extant.

Alterations When acquired by the present owners in 1929 the cabin was in use as a tenant house. A balloon-frame construction kitchen and associated poured concrete porch were added to the east (rear) side apparently in the last quarter of the 19th century.

A screened front porch, framed separately from the house, was added at some unknown date prior to 1929. There may have been a front porch originally but no specific evidence is extant.

The original limestone chimney and fireplace was replaced by the present owners. The original overall width was maintained but other details were not necessarily followed.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7

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The original front door has been replaced; windows in the west and north elevations have been enlarged to accomodate manufactured casings. The window in the east wall has been modified into a door.

In summary, the house is an excellent example of a rectangular, single pen log structure, well-constructed and finished with attention to interior details representing the craftsmanship of the builder. It is indistinguishable from houses built by Euroamericans of the same period and area thus illustrating the degree of acceptance of Euroamerican building practices in 1804 by one Cherokee, Hair Conrad.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Corn, James F. Red Clay and Rattlesnake Springs. Cleveland, TN published by the author. 1959.
 Interview with present owner, Mrs. David H. Neil, on 27 February 1976.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 4

UTM REFERENCES

A

1	6	6	9	0	3	4	0	3	8	9	2	9	3	0
ZONE				EASTING				NORTHING						

B

ZONE				EASTING				NORTHING						

C

ZONE				EASTING				NORTHING						

D

ZONE				EASTING				NORTHING						

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE George F. Fielder, Jr./Historical Archaeologist

ORGANIZATION Tennessee Historical Commission DATE 1 March 1976

STREET & NUMBER 170 Second Avenue North TELEPHONE (615) 741-2371

CITY OR TOWN Nashville STATE Tennessee CODE 37201

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL STATE LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation 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.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE Herbert L. Hoyer

TITLE Executive Director, Tennessee Historical Commission DATE 3/24/76

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

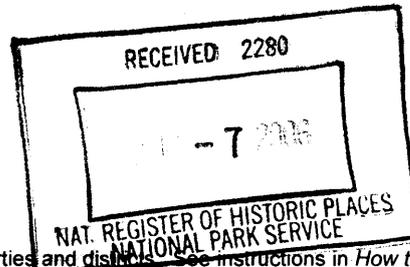
DATE 9/13/76

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST: Charles A. ... DATE 9/13/76

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

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 Conrad, Hair, Cabin
other names/site number N/A

2. Location

street & number 433 Blythewood Road SW not for publication
city or town Cleveland vicinity
state Tennessee code TN county Bradley code 011 zip code 37311

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. Hays 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:)

Edson H. Beall 9-14-06
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

additional Documentation Accepted

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property

(Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	0	buildings
0	0	sites
1	0	structures
0	0	objects
2	0	Total

Name of related multiple property listing

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

NA

Number of Contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

1

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC / single dwelling

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

RECREATION AND CULTURE / museum

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

OTHER / single pen log cabin

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation STONE / limestone

walls WOOD /log

roof WOOD /shingle

other WOOD

Narrative Description

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

- 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.

Criteria Considerations

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

Property is: NA

- A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** removed from its original location.
- C** a birthplace or grave.
- D** a cemetery.
- E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F** a commemorative property
- G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

ETHNIC HERITAGE / Native American
 SOCIAL HISTORY
 EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT
 ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

1804- circa 1930

Significant Dates

c. 1804 – Cabin built
 1838 – Conrad deserts property, leads detachment
 1929 – Structural changes to cabin

Significant Person

(complete if Criterion B is marked)

Conrad, Hair

Cultural Affiliation

NA

Architect/Builder

Conrad, Hair

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
- 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:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State Agency
- Federal Agency
- Local Government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:

MTSU Center for Historic Preservation

Conrad, Hair, Cabin
Name of Property

Bradley County, Tennessee
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 4 acres

UTM References

(place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1
Zone Easting Northing
2

3
Zone Easting Northing
4

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Sarah J. Martin and Dr. Carroll Van West
organization Center for Historic Preservation date June 16, 2006
street & number Middle Tennessee State University, Box 80 telephone 615-898-2947
city or town Murfreesboro state TN zip code 37132

Additional Documentation

submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 Or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

Additional items

(Check with the SHPO) or FPO for any additional items

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name Bess (Mrs. David H.) Neil
street & number 433 Blythewood Rd SW telephone 423-476-8942
city or town Cleveland state TN zip code 37311

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listing. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 *et seq.*)

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P. O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20303.

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 7 Page 1

Conrad, Hair, Cabin
Bradley County, TN

7. DESCRIPTION

The Hair Conrad cabin is located at 433 Blythewood Road SW on the eastern outskirts of Cleveland, Tennessee, in Bradley County. The one-and-one-half story cabin sits on a wooded hillside facing west overlooking Blythewood Road on land now known as Blythewood Farms. The cabin was built by a wealthy Cherokee, Hair Conrad, circa 1804 and represents the blending of Native American and European influences. Although a circa 1930 kitchen was added, the property retains its historic integrity both in its construction and setting.

The (20' x 22') single-pen log cabin rests on a dry-laid stone pier foundation, as does the façade porch. The circa 1930s kitchen addition is on a stone masonry foundation. The west facade features a full shed porch supported by four round posts with centrally positioned stone steps. There is a single central entrance flanked by two one-over-one double hung windows, which have been enlarged to accommodate manufactured casings. The walls are made of hewn poplar logs 12-18 inches wide and six inches thick, and are joined at the corners with half-dovetail notching. None of the original chinking and daubing material is evident. The side-gable tin roof is framed and historically would have been wood shingle.

The south elevation features a large limestone chimney not original to the house. The present owners replaced the chimney circa 1930; the overall width was maintained. Two windows on the main level flank the chimney: a large two-over-two window on the upper level.

The circa 1930 balloon-frame kitchen addition extends along the entire rear (east) elevation. The addition is partially enclosed with the southern portion open like a porch with one square wooden post supporting the shed roof. There are two entrances to the kitchen, on the south and north elevations. A small exterior limestone chimney is centrally located on the east elevation.

The north elevation of the kitchen addition features an entrance and a small two-over-two, double-hung window. The main cabin structure has two windows on the north elevation: a one-over-one, double-hung window on the lower level and a two-over-two double-hung window on the upper level. The original windows have also been replaced to accommodate manufactured casings.

The cabin's interior is comprised of a single room with an upstairs loft. However, in 1929, at the time of acquisition by the family who in 2006 owns the property, the cabin's interior had been partitioned into two rooms, which probably took place in the years that the cabin was used as a tenant dwelling, c. 1900. Also, the owners believe that it was during these three decades of the twentieth century that the house's traditional facade was "reversed," with the front that once faced the historic turnpike becoming the rear of the dwelling.

The wall separating the cabin interior from the kitchen addition contains two doors. Originally, this wall would have been the front of the cabin facing the historic road. An L-shaped, boxed staircase with winding steps sits in the southeast corner, with a small closet underneath the steps. While the stairs have been replaced, the space is original. The half-story upper level is also a single room featuring exposed rafters and log walls.

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National Park Service**

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Conrad, Hair, Cabin
Bradley County, TN

The current owner has restored the cabin as a historic site. Wall-mounted displays recount the story of Hair Conrad, later owners of the property, and the significance of the cabin to the Cherokees and to the Trail of Tears. Visitors may play a taped interpretation of the site. The cabin is only open by prior appointment.

A well-defined road segment that is eight to ten feet wide and stretches 75 yards along a north-south axis is located immediately east of the cabin. The historic roadbed, which linked the Cherokee Agency with Dallas to the west and Ross's Landing to the southwest along the Tennessee River, is unsurfaced with wooded areas on either side. Eroded banks ranging in height from one to two feet help define the roadbed. This road segment was included within the originally nominated boundaries, but was not listed as a contributing element. (C)

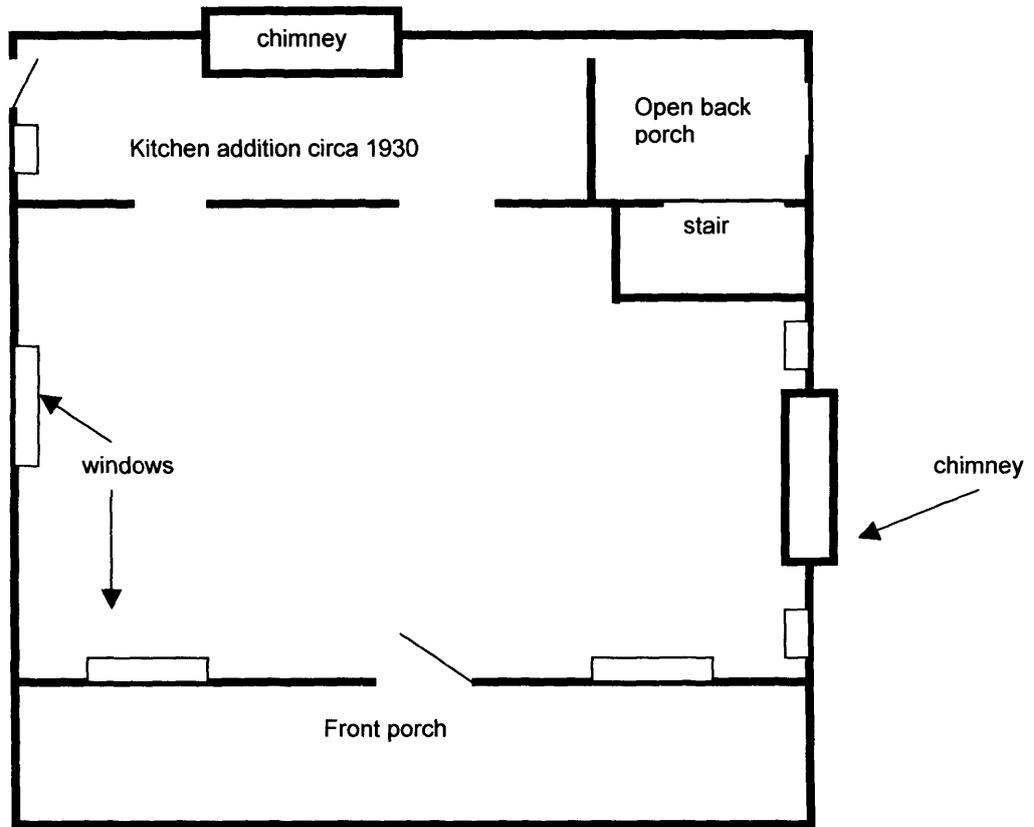
United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 3

Conrad, Hair, Cabin
Bradley County, TN

Sketch plan not to scale N ←



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National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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Conrad, Hair, Cabin
Bradley County, TN

8. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

NOTE: The Hair Conrad Cabin was listed in the National Register of Historic Places on September 13, 1976. The purpose of this current nomination is to update the original nomination, provide additional information, especially context associated with the Trail of Tears. Areas of significance have been clarified to include exploration/settlement and social history. The period of significance has been defined to include twentieth century changes to the building. The original boundaries will remain the same; however, the historic roadbed associated with the house and the Trail of Tears is included as a contributing resource.

The Hair Conrad Cabin (circa 1804) is significant as an example of the change in southeastern Native American culture that began with first European contact in the 16th century. The nominated property retains its integrity as an early 19th century log building. The property is nationally significant under criterion B because it provides a tangible and physical link to a Cherokee leader, Hair Conrad, who was powerful and prominent before, during, and after the Trail of Tears. Conrad and his family resided at this cabin from the early 1800s until the U.S. government forced the Cherokee to move west in 1838-39. The property is also significant under criterion C as an excellent and intact example of an early single-pen log building. Its distinctive architectural design, which illustrates Conrad's high degree of acculturation and westernization. The intact historic road segment behind the cabin is a contributing element and is significant as an early Indian trail and a nineteenth-century road connecting the Cherokee Agency with Ross's Landing along the Tennessee River. Available research indicates that these early properties linked to Native Americans are exceptionally rare due to attrition and 20th century development.

The property is also significant under Criterion A under the themes of exploration/settlement and social history, with strong associations with the Trail of Tears. With the greatest lengths of various Trail of Tears routes in Tennessee, there are numerous buildings, building sites, and structures associated with the trail in the state. The Hair Conrad Cabin is one of the few extant structure in Tennessee associated with a prominent Cherokee leader. Although the home sites of Cherokee Reverend Jesse Bushyhead and Cherokee Principal Chief John Ross are located in Tennessee near Cleveland and Flint Springs respectively, the original structures are no longer extant. The James Brown Farmstead in Hamilton County also is associated with another Cherokee leader.¹

About 1804 Hair Conrad reportedly built this excellent example of a single pen log dwelling that is indistinguishable from house types built by his Caucasian neighbors thus illustrating his adoption of European-American building practices and styles. European contact and pressure to assimilate influenced Native American architectural styles. Beginning in 1793, Congress appropriated funds

¹ Philip Thomason and Sara Parker, National Register of Historic Places Multiple Property Nomination Form, "Historic and Historical Archaeological Resources of the Cherokee Trail of Tears," October 2003, Section E, Page 39.

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Conrad, Hair, Cabin
Bradley County, TN

to encourage agrarian reform among the Native Americans, a move that accelerated assimilation and 'civilization.' With increasing frequency in the early 19th century, Native Americans moved into log cabins and plantation-style structures.² In 1825, missionary Samuel A. Worcester noted, "The houses of the Cherokee are of all sorts, from an elegant painted or brick mansion, down to a very mean cabin. If we speak however, of the mass of the people, they live in comfortable log houses generally one story high, but frequently two."³ A cabin such as Conrad's was not uncommon among the Cherokees, but few early cabins like his remain standing. It is especially significant and unique as a surviving home of a prominent Cherokee diplomat and a Trail of Tears detachment leader.

Evidence from early maps, such as Henry Schenck Tanner's 1834 U.S. Map and Matthew Rhea's 1832 map of Tennessee, suggest the historic road east of the cabin follows the general route of U.S. Route 11 from the Cherokee Agency area near present-day Charleston and Calhoun by Conrad's property to the Brainerd Mission (NR 12/6/79) and Ross's Landing (NR 6/27/74) in present-day Chattanooga. It is possible the John Bell detachment of Cherokees traveled this or a nearby road on their way from the Cherokee Agency to Ross's Landing. According to archaeologist Benjamin Nance the precise route and campsite locations of the Bell detachment are unknown:

The 1832 Matthew Rhea map shows a road running from the Hiwassee River where the Cherokee Agency was located toward what is now Cleveland. Rhea's map shows "Walker's" in the vicinity of present day Cleveland, and this could refer to the John Walker, Jr. farmstead (Tennessee archaeological site number 40BY39). The road is approximately where the Lee Highway is today, but a possible alternative near the beginning of the route is the Walker Valley Road that runs southward along Little South Mouse Creek. The beginning point of this route depends on the encampment location for the Bell Detachment, which is currently unknown. Lee Highway becomes Ocoee Street in Cleveland. The route probably followed Highway 64 through Payne Gap in Candies Creek Ridge and through the town of McDonald to Hamilton County.⁴

While there is no specific evidence indicating this segment of the road was used to remove Cherokee from their homelands, it clearly served as the starting point for the Conrad family's removal. Historians Duane King and Phillip Thomason note that "the true starting points of the

² Peter Nabokov and Robert Easton, *Native American Architecture* (New York, 1989), 95.

³ Ibid.

⁴ Benjamin C. Nance, *The Trail of Tears in Tennessee: A Study of the Routes Used During the Cherokee Removal of 1838* (Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation, Division of Archaeology, 2001), 33-4.

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Conrad, Hair, Cabin
Bradley County, TN

Trail of Tears are the individual homes from which thousands of Cherokee were forcibly removed in the initial roundup.⁵

Details surrounding Conrad's personal life are scattered, with the most complete biographical record coming from *The Papers of Chief John Ross*. Conrad's precise birth date is unknown (circa 1770-1780), and the earliest date associated with him in the historical literature is his cabin, which he reportedly built about 1804 on acreage later registered in the name of Samuel Candy, the great-grandson of Cherokee Nancy Ward. Conrad married Ollie Candy, the daughter of Samuel and Elizabeth West Candy, and later Melvina McGee, dates unknown. Conrad had several children; daughter Betsy attended nearby Candies Creek Mission, which existed sporadically from 1824 to 1839, and son Jefferson Hair is mentioned in a John Ross letter for committing petty offenses. The present-day surrounding landscape, which includes Candies Creek and Harris (formerly Hairs) Creek, reflects the influence of these prominent Cherokee.

Conrad, also known as The Hair, had at least two brothers, Young Wolf and Rattling Gourd. Key information about Young Wolf survives in his will. Drafted in 1814, the will illustrates much about the changing Cherokee culture: a shift to a patrilineal lifestyle, accumulations of property, and farming practices. Although he was not a major Cherokee figure like Conrad, Young Wolf appears periodically in the historical record as favoring the cession of Indian lands in the east. Little is known about the relationship between Conrad and Young Wolf, but Conrad served as an executor to Young Wolf's estate.⁶

An October 1836 property valuation provides significant insight into Conrad's daily home life. The value of his property totaled more than 2,700 dollars and included the following: the cabin, hewn log smokehouse, hewn log kitchen, round log cabin, two round log stables, two round log cribs, 44 house logs, 100 acres of land, over 600 peach trees, over 60 apple trees, and a one-half acre house lot with a round log cabin and shed at Red Clay Council Grounds.⁷ The locations of these various structures are not known. While several wealthy Cherokee owned slaves, this document makes no reference to Conrad owning slaves. It should be noted that Red Clay Council Ground (NR 9/14/72) is another significant Bradley County site now recognized as a state park. There are no extant, aboveground historic resources associated with Red Clay. Located roughly 12 miles from the Conrad cabin, Red Clay Council Grounds served as the last Cherokee capitol in the east.

⁵ Thomason and Parker, Section E, Page 25; Duane King, "Report on the Cherokee Trail of Tears: Correcting and Updating the 1992 Map Supplement." Unpublished manuscript, 1999, 4-5.

⁶ Theda Perdue and Michael D. Green, eds., *The Cherokee Removal: A Brief History with Documents* (Boston, 1995), 25-31.

⁷ Shirley Coats Hoskins, *Cherokee Property Valuations in Tennessee, 1836* (Chattanooga, 1984).

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Conrad, Hair, Cabin
Bradley County, TN

It became the center of the Cherokee Nation's national legislative assembly and was the site of many important meetings prior to their forced removal.⁸

The degree of Conrad's acculturation is manifest not only in his property holdings and lifestyle, but also in his role in Cherokee affairs during the first half of the nineteenth century. Cherokee Principal Chief John Ross's papers and letters suggest he frequently turned to Conrad for diplomatic and political assistance. Conrad's service to the Cherokee Nation includes work as a soldier in the War of 1812, representative, diplomat, and Trail of Tears detachment leader. Although some sources suggest he served as a captain in the War of 1812, official war records indicate Conrad served as a private and corporal in Colonel Gideon Morgan, Jr.'s Regiment of Cherokee Indians with between 400 and 700 other Cherokee.⁹

Author James Corn in *Red Clay and Rattlesnake Springs* documents Conrad's role as a delegate to the Cherokee Constitutional convention in 1827 at New Echota. He signed his name marked by an X on the document, which was modeled after the U.S. Constitution. In 1833 Conrad traveled to Washington as part of a delegation protesting Cherokee treatment by Georgia authorities. These delegates were chosen "to represent the Cherokee Nation "on all subjects touching [their] rights and interests."¹⁰ As a member of the National Committee of the Cherokee Nation in 1836, Conrad protested that the 1835 Treaty of New Echota, in which the Cherokee Nation ceded to the government all its land east of the Mississippi, was "fraudulently negotiated by a small minority of the Cherokees without any official authority."¹¹ Thousands of Cherokee gathered at Rattlesnake Springs (NR 9/5/75), five miles northeast of Cleveland, for a last hasty council meeting prior to their forced departure to the West. At this meeting, tribal officials agreed to continue their government and constitution in their new land. In early 1838 the United States military began forcing Cherokee into camps in preparation for their removal

Just months prior to these military roundups, Conrad served on a team of Cherokee mediators in an effort to settle a dispute about removal between the U.S. government and the Seminole Indians of Florida. Although some "Seminole leaders were pressured into signing the Treaty of Payne's Landing in May of 1832, the men who signed it were not given the authority to do so by the tribe

⁸ Thomason and Parker, Section E, Page 38.

⁹ Gary E. Moulton, ed., *The Papers of John Ross: Volume II, 1840-1866* (Norman, OK: University of Oklahoma Press, 1984), 114, 719; and *Index to Compiled Service Records of Volunteer Soldiers who Served During the War of 1812*. Mf. #976, No. 602, Roll 88. Tennessee State Library and Archives, Nashville.

¹⁰ Grant Foreman, *Indian Removal: The Emigration of the Five Civilized Tribes of Indians* (Norman, OK: University of Oklahoma Press, 1972), 249.

¹¹ James Franklin Corn, *Red Clay and Rattlesnake Springs: A History of the Cherokee Indians of Bradley County, Tennessee* (Cleveland, TN: Walsworth Publishing Co., Inc, 1979), 60.

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and only 134 Seminoles emigrated in 1834."¹² Ross assembled a team of notable Cherokee men, including Conrad, Richard Fields, Jesse Bushyhead, Thomas Woodard, and translator Pole Cat. Their report to Ross of the failed negotiations indicates U.S. General Thomas Sidney Jesup distrusted the Seminole Indians and refused to negotiate even though the Cherokee mediators believed the Seminoles were sincere in wanting peace and working together.¹³

The Cherokee prepared for their own removal beginning in March 1838 when the U.S military under the direction of General Winfield Scott forced them into temporary forts at 27 military posts in Alabama, Georgia, Tennessee, and North Carolina. After several weeks in the temporary camps, the Cherokee were marched to emigration depots to be assigned to various detachments for the journey west. Emigration depots were created at the Cherokee Agency at Charleston, Tennessee, near Ross's Landing at present-day Chattanooga, and south of Fort Payne, Alabama. According to the Trail of Tears National Register of Historic Places Multiple Property Nomination Form, the majority of Cherokee were concentrated at the Cherokee Agency area. Several camps were located in this general vicinity, which covered a four-mile by twelve-mile area along the Hiwassee River extending from Calhoun to Fort Cass, which was near present-day Charleston. Camps within 15 miles of Conrad's property were located on Savannah Branch, Gun stocker Spring, Candies Creek, Mouse Creek, and Rattlesnake Springs. Less than two miles from Conrad's cabin is a site of a Cherokee internment camp in Cleveland at Fort Hill Cemetery (40BY32).¹⁴

Seventeen detachments left from the three depots between June 6th and December 5th of 1838. The first three detachments left under military escort from Ross's Landing in June of 1838 and were largely composed of "uncooperative" Georgia Cherokee who were strongly opposed to the removal. Just one other detachment received a military escort – John Bell's "pro-treaty" Cherokee unit.¹⁵ The remaining detachments were transferred to Indian Territory under the supervision of Chief Ross, who selected several prominent and trusted Cherokee leaders to direct the detachments. These detachment leaders included Hair Conrad, Jesse Bushyhead, John Bengé, Elijah Hicks, George Lowery, James Brown, Richard Taylor, John Bell, and several others.

The first Ross-affiliated detachment, numbering over 700 Cherokee, was led by Conrad and departed from the Rattlesnake Springs area on August 28, 1838. In a letter to General Scott, Ross described the progress of Conrad's detachment.

I am sorry to say that [the detachment] has been greatly diminished by causes beyond human control. That detachment was not, at first, expected

¹² Thomason and Parker, Section E, Page 13.

¹³ Grant Foreman, "Report of Cherokee Deputation into Florida," *Chronicles of Oklahoma* 9:4 (December 1931): 423-438.

¹⁴ Thomason and Parker, Section E, Page 16, 26-7, 38.

¹⁵ *Ibid.*, Section E, Page 29.

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to be large, and the amount of sickness with which it has been visited has greatly reduced its numbers, and even deprived it of the original conductor. I am happy to find, however, that a considerable number who have recovered are now on their way to join their friends in that detachment.¹⁶

Conrad also suffered an illness in September and was replaced as detachment leader by his assistant Daniel Colston on October 1. He continued with the detachment and arrived in Indian Territory. The U.S. government paid Conrad 170 dollars for his part in leading the detachment westward.¹⁷

Eleven of the thirteen Ross-affiliated detachments comprising some 11,500 Cherokee, including Conrad's unit, traveled overland following what is known as the Northern Route. Although no written account of the Conrad detachment journey exists, historians know generally what routes this unit followed. According to the Trail of Tears National Register of Historic Places Multiple Property Nomination Form compiled by Sara Parker and Phillip Thomason of Thomason and Associates,¹⁸ detachments following this Northern Route

crossed the Tennessee River at Blythe's Ferry in Meigs County continuing northwestward along the alignment of present-day State Route 60 traveling through Dayton and Morgantown. They then ascended Walden's Ridge through Lloyd's Gap and entered the Sequatchie Valley. After crossing this narrow valley, the Cherokee continued to Lee's Station. At this point they began to ascend the escarpment to the top of the Cumberland Plateau on the Higgenbotham Trace, also known as Rainey's Trace.

The Cherokee remained on the Higgenbotham Trace to the town of McMinnville. From McMinnville, the Cherokee detachments continued heading northwest along what is now the general route of State Route 1 (US 70S) to first Woodbury and then Murfreesboro. Leaving Murfreesboro, the route continued northwest along the approximate route of today's Old Nashville Pike. It also appears likely that some of the detachments went north from Murfreesboro through the community of Jefferson in order to avoid the tolls on the Nashville Turnpike. This route would eventually lead back to the Nashville Turnpike south of the city.

¹⁶ Moulton, *Ross Papers: Volume I*, 678.

¹⁷ Moulton, *Ross Papers: Volume 1*, 43.

¹⁸ Philip Thomason and Sara Parker, National Register of Historic Places Multiple Property Nomination Form, "Historic and Historical Archaeological Resources of the Cherokee Trail of Tears," October 2003.

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Through Nashville, the Cherokee most likely followed Cherry Street (now Fourth Avenue) and crossed the Cumberland River at the suspension bridge that existed at the present site of the victory Memorial Bridge off the Public Square. This wood and stone bridge was built in 1823 and was the only major bridge on the Cumberland River in Middle Tennessee. After crossing the Cumberland the detachments marched northwest along the approximate path of Whites Creek Pike (now Highway 431) and along secondary roads to the community of Port Royal. Port Royal was a prosperous village on the Red River. The Elijah Hicks detachment is known to have camped at this site, as possibly did a number of other detachments.

The Northern Route of the Trail of Tears enters Kentucky west of the town of Guthrie. Oral tradition states that the Cherokee stopped at Gray's Inn, just north of the Kentucky border. The parties continued heading northwestward toward Hopkinsville. The route traveled through Trenton and Pembroke along the general roadbed of today's US 41. Cherokee leaders Whitepath and Fly Smith died and were buried at Hopkinsville. Their companions marked the graves with poles and banners so those passing through later could pay tribute. The graves are now part of a city park dedicated to the Trail of Tears, and a National Register nomination for the graves of Whitepath and Fly Smith has been prepared. From Hopkinsville, the detachments continued to move northwestward along an alignment similar to the current State Route 91, passing first through Princeton and then leading to Fredonia. The detachments then followed the route now approximated by State Route 133 to Berry's Ferry on the Ohio River.

The detachments of the Northern Route of the Trail of Tears crossed the Ohio River from Kentucky into Illinois at Berry's Ferry south of Rondeau Island. This ferry connected Kentucky with the community of Golconda, Illinois on the west bank of the Ohio River. The detachments then headed west along the general alignment of present day State Route 146 to Vienna and Jonesboro. Due to the preponderance of ice in the Mississippi River closing the ferries, many of the detachments were forced to camp in this section of Illinois in December of 1838 and January of 1839. Camping in the open with only tents and rude shelters, hundreds of Cherokee are believed to have died as a result of cold and exposure during these months.

Once the Mississippi River could be crossed, the various detachments descended into the river valley to Green's Ferry and Littleton's Ferry at Bainbridge, Missouri. Green's Ferry was the primary crossing point on the river and on the Missouri side this crossing is now commemorated by the Trail of Tears State Park. In Missouri, the detachments head west along a

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road similar to the alignment of State Route 177 to the town of Jackson. Here they turned northwestward to the town of Farmington and then west through the community of Caledonia. The detachments continued west through Steelville and passed by the Massey Ironworks. Past the community of Rolla, the detachments followed roads southwest to Waynesville and Lebanon. By the first week of March 1839, the detachments began to enter Springfield, the largest community in southwest Missouri.

Continuing their march to the southwest, the detachments followed the road to Cassville, Missouri and crossed into Arkansas near Pea Ridge. The route followed the road into Fayetteville, where the route veered west and followed the approximate alignment of today's US 62 into Farmington. The detachments continued west through the towns of Prairie Grove and Lincoln, and then on into Oklahoma. The Cherokee continued along the approximate path of US 62 into Westville, just inside the Oklahoma state border, and then on to the community of Eldon. At this point the Cherokee headed southwest on a road that closely followed Baron Fork to the Illinois River. The detachments are believed to have disbanded near a farm owned by the Woodhall family east of Tahlequah, Oklahoma. More research is required to determine the exact location of disbandment point(s) of the various detachments.¹⁹

Conrad's unit disbanded in the vicinity of Woodhall Farm in Oklahoma on January 17, 1839. It is unknown precisely how many Cherokees died during removal. An estimated 57 Cherokee from Conrad's unit died along the journey, while scholars approximate the total Cherokee death toll to be over 4,000, mostly from illness and suffering from the treacherous conditions. In addition to the thousands of deaths along the Trail of Tears, many died in the internment camps and stockades prior to the long emigration.²⁰

Conrad continued to serve his fellow Cherokee as a diplomat and representative in the Indian Territory. In 1839, he served as a member of the Cherokee Constitutional Convention and signed the nation's new constitution. Two years later he served as a Cherokee representative to the International Indian Council at Tahlequah. As reported in the *Niles' National Register*, several thousand "delegates from the Cherokee, Creek, Chickasaw, Delaware, Shawnee, Piankeshaw, Wea, Osage, Seneca, Stockbridge, Ottawa, Chippewa, Peoria, Wicchetah [sic], Pottawatamie, and Seminole" attended the meeting. The deliberations resulted in a compact emphasizing peace

¹⁹ Thomason and Parker, Section E, Pages 41-43.

²⁰ Emmet Starr, *History of the Cherokee Indians and their Legends and Folk Lore* (Oklahoma City: Warden Company, 1921); and Thomason and Parker, Section E, Page 17.

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among the nations and specifically that "no nation, party to this compact, shall, without the consent of the whole, sell, cede, or in any manner alienate to the United States any part of their present territory."²¹ Although Conrad's role at the council is unknown, one account suggests that as the "leader of ceremonies" he "arose and addressed the grave chiefs with much eloquence, explaining the object of the meeting."²² Conrad died in 1844 while serving as a member of the Cherokee Council representing the Tahlequah District.

As Conrad and his family settled into life in the West, the Bennett Cooper family moved into Conrad's former home near Cleveland, Tennessee, where they lived for several years. Among those buried in the Cooper family cemetery located on a hill overlooking the cabin (the cemetery was not within the original nominated boundaries) are Cooper (1797-1886), his son Erby, his daughter Eliza Ann Williams, her husband Gideon Williams, and several other relatives. After the Civil War, the cabin and surrounding land were used by tenant farmers. In 1929, Pearson Blythe Mayfield purchased the property and named it Blythewood Farms. His daughter, Bess Neil, later obtained the property and is the current owner. Recognizing the property's historic and architectural importance, Neil sought National Register of Historic Places status in 1976 and renovated the cabin in 1986. With technical assistance from the Tennessee Historical Commission, local contractor Tommy Kelly oversaw the renovation of the cabin.

Although Hair Conrad left behind no personal papers, much can be learned from his political activities and his property holdings. His name appears frequently in the letters and papers of Principal Chief John Ross, indicating his authoritative position among the Cherokee. Conrad's cabin is significant for its connection to a wealthy Cherokee leader, to the Trail of Tears, and in the explication of the degree that Cherokee cultural practice had changed through the adoption of European-American traits. By the 1838-39 removal, the Cherokee "had a well-developed culture with a written language, a newspaper, numerous missionary schools, ample farms, and even black slaves."²³ Cherokee acculturation was evident not only in a westernized government system and

²¹ Anonymous, "The Great Indian Council," *Niles' National Register* 64: 24 (August 12, 1843): 369. Accessible via APS Online.

²² Lydia Huntly Sigourney, "The Grand June Council," *Chronicles of Oklahoma* 10: 4 (December 1932): 557.

²³ Conser, 191.

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missionary schools, but also in architectural methods and styles such as Conrad's cabin. Patterns of Cherokee acculturation discernable from archaeological research at 18th century village sites continued to the point that Hair Conrad's cabin is essentially a European-American type structure built by a Native American.

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10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

Verbal Boundary Description

See original nomination.

Boundary Justification

See original nomination.

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PHOTOGRAPHS

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

Date: January 2004

Negatives: Tennessee Historical Commission
2941 Lebanon Rd.
Nashville, TN 37243-0442

West facade, facing southeast
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North elevation, facing south
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West facade, facing southeast
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South elevation, facing northwest
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South elevation, facing northwest
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Historic roadbed, facing north
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Entrance detail, west facade
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Log notching detail, south elevation
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Cabin interior, facing southeast
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Cabin interior, facing west
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Cabin interior, facing east
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Cabin interior, facing north
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Cabin interior, staircase
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Cabin interior, loft
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Historic roadbed, facing south
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