

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED JUN 10 1975
DATE ENTERED SEP 5 1975

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

Rattlesnake Springs

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Just off Dry Valley Road

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Cleveland

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Third

VICINITY OF

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE
<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> SITE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC ACQUISITION	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<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:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Mr. George R. Moore

STREET & NUMBER

Dry Valley Road

CITY, TOWN

Cleveland

VICINITY OF

STATE

Tennessee

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Bradley County Register's Office

STREET & NUMBER

Courthouse

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

Rattlesnake Springs is situated on farm land and pasture in the Dry Valley north of Cleveland, Tennessee. Farm houses and structures are scattered across the landscape which is crossed by a private dirt road. A high-tension power line crosses the property.

Farmed originally, the area continues to be farmed by the owners whose house is located directly over the main spring. Other springs in the vicinity flow into the Rattlesnake Branch which manders through the Moore farm to join Chatata Creek which flows for a mile and enters the Hiwassee River. The spot was ideal for the Indian encampment of considerable size, and detachments of Cherokees were assembled at other springs as far south as Wildwood Springs near present day Cleveland.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
___PREHISTORIC	___ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	___COMMUNITY PLANNING	___LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	___RELIGION
___1400-1499	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	___CONSERVATION	___LAW	___SCIENCE
___1500-1599	___AGRICULTURE	___ECONOMICS	___LITERATURE	___SCULPTURE
___1600-1699	___ARCHITECTURE	___EDUCATION	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
___1700-1799	___ART	___ENGINEERING	___MUSIC	___THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	___COMMERCE	___EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	___PHILOSOPHY	___TRANSPORTATION
___1900-	___COMMUNICATIONS	___INDUSTRY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	___OTHER (SPECIFY)
		___INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

1838

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

At Rattlesnake Springs in the Dry Valley of Tennessee the most melancholy mass migration in the history of the nation is epitomized by one of the greatest of the forced concentrations of American Indians. The largest contingent of Cherokee Indians, perhaps 13,000, gathered here to initiate that mournful trek known to us today as the "Trail of Tears." Here, the last, albeit hasty, council of the eastern Cherokee was held in which they determined to continue their government and constitution in their new land. The tragic expulsion, which left 4,000 dead, extinguished the homeland of 20,000 civilized tribesman, many of whom had adopted the ways of the Anglo-American.

History

Cherokee resistance to President Jackson's policy of Indian removal proved hopeless. Repeated Councils at Red Clay evinced Cherokee disapproval of the proffered treaties, but ultimately Jackson and his commissioners stood firm on one of the most fraudulent of Indian treaties--the Treaty of New Echota, 1835. Signed by a minority of chiefs at a Council attended by fewer than 500 Indians, it became the pretext for the final concentration of Cherokee under the might of the U.S. Army.

General Wool, commanding the troops in the Cherokee country, was distressed by the flimsy authority upon which the expulsion was to be initiated and complained to President Jackson who rebuked the General for his disrespect and ordered him to proceed. Wool continued to object and wrote of the lawless assaults of white citizens on the Indians, driving them from their homes and stealing their property. These vicious types, Wool described as "vultures watching ready to pounce upon their prey and strip them of everything they have. Ninety-nine out of every hundred (Cherokee) will go penniless to the West."

The General's outrage was echoed by General Dunlap, in command of the Tennessee troops, and special agents dispatched by the President--but to no avail. The "round-up" was to proceed.

In the face of escalating outrages of white settlers, many Cherokee families despaired of resistance and began the trek west on their own or in small guided groups. The "Trail of Tears" was to prove a trail of many paths from many places and practically all were tragic for the participants. Death, hunger, disease, and poverty destroyed many before they reached Oklahoma.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Corn, James Franklin, Red Clay and Rattlesnake Springs, Cleveland, Tennessee, privately printed, 1972.

Foreman, Grant, Indian Removal, Norman, Oklahoma, University of Oklahoma Press, 1953.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 44

UTM REFERENCES

A	16	702820	3902490	B	16	702840	3901990
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C	16	702490	3901980	D	16	702460	3902470

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

Benjamin Levy, Senior Historian

ORGANIZATION

Historic Sites Survey

DATE

2/23/73

STREET & NUMBER

1100 L Street, N.W.

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Washington

STATE

D.C.

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

Lawrence 6/11/75

TITLE

Executive Director, Tennessee Historical Commission

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

W. B. ...

DATE

9/5/75

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST

W. ...

DATE

SEP 5 1975

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
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CONTINUATION SHEET

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The dilatory General Wool was replaced by General Winfield Scott whose job it was to forcibly remove the remaining 17,000 Cherokee. The gathering was a depressing picture. James Mooney recorded the story in 1900 as told by Cherokee participants: "Troops were sent to search out with rifle and bayonet every small cabin hidden away in the coves or by the sides of mountain streams, to seize and bring in as prisoners all occupants, however or wherever they might be found. Families at dinner were startled by the sudden gleam of bayonets in the doorway and rose up to be driven with blows and oaths along the weary miles of trail that led to the stockade. Men were seized in their fields or going along the roads, women were taken from their wheels and children from their play. In many cases, on turning for one last look as they crossed the ridge, they saw their homes in flames, fired by the lawless rabble that followed on the heels of the soldiers to loot and pillage. So keen were these outlaws on the scent that in some instances they were driving off the cattle and other stock of the Indians almost before the soldiers had fairly started the owners in the other direction. Systematic hunts were made by the same men for Indian graves, to rob them of the silver pendants and other valuables deposited with the dead. A Georgia volunteer, afterward a Colonel in the Confederate service, said--'I fought through the civil war and have seen men shot to pieces and slaughtered by thousands, but the Cherokee removal was the cruelest work I ever knew'."¹

The largest contingent, perhaps 13,000, assembled at Rattlesnake Springs where the final Council of the eastern Cherokees was held. Lamentations were pronounced and the Council determined to continue their old constitution and laws in their new land.

The condition of the Cherokees, herded and penned up in stockades like cattle was desperate. Accustomed to life on farms or in the mountains, the Indians were unable to adapt to close confinement, let alone mass imprisonment. Sanitation was deplorable and the lack of privacy caused more anguish than did the physical hardships. Food, medicines, clothing, even coffins for the burial of the dead, were in short supply.

The water was scarce and often adulterated. Diseases, especially a plague of dysentery raged through the camps. Many of the Indians slept on the ground without shelter. Some Indians drowned their sorrow in whiskey furnished by expedient dramshops or generous soldiers who also ravished a number of Cherokee women, often with the help of intoxicants. A great number simply lost the will to live, surrendered to the intolerable burden of disease, discouragement and grief, and reconciled themselves to death. Some solace was found among the converted through the ministrations of white and native pastors, who led their

¹ James Mooney, *Myths of the Cherokee* (Washington, 1900), p. 130.

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congregants in hymns, and among the traditionalists by the mournful cadence of native lamentations.

The group of about 13,000 Indians at Rattlesnake Springs was divided into 13 detachments of about even number, each detachment in the charge of 2 Cherokee leaders. Five thousand riding horses and 654 wagons drawn by 6 horses or mules, made up the train. Many of the Indians made the entire trip on foot. Accompanying the Indians were an unrecorded number of slaves. The detachments left between August and December of 1838 and arrived between January and March of the following year. The average road time was five months.

When finally assembled in march formation at Rattlesnake Springs the morning of November 10, Richard Taylor's detachment consisted of 1029 individuals, 51 wagons hitched to teams of horses and oxen, and 358 riding horses. The column, stretching for a mile along the road, was formed and prepared to move out, with wagons in the center, mounted officers and overseers along the line, and horsemen at the rear. Taylor and his assistant, along with a small group of mounted messengers, were at the head of the column. Those on foot were formed at the head of the detachment to avoid the clouds of dust that would be kicked up by horses and wagons. Only the sick, the aged, children, and infants with nursing mothers were permitted in the wagons, which were burdened with blankets, clothing, cooking utensils, and small amounts of personal belongings.

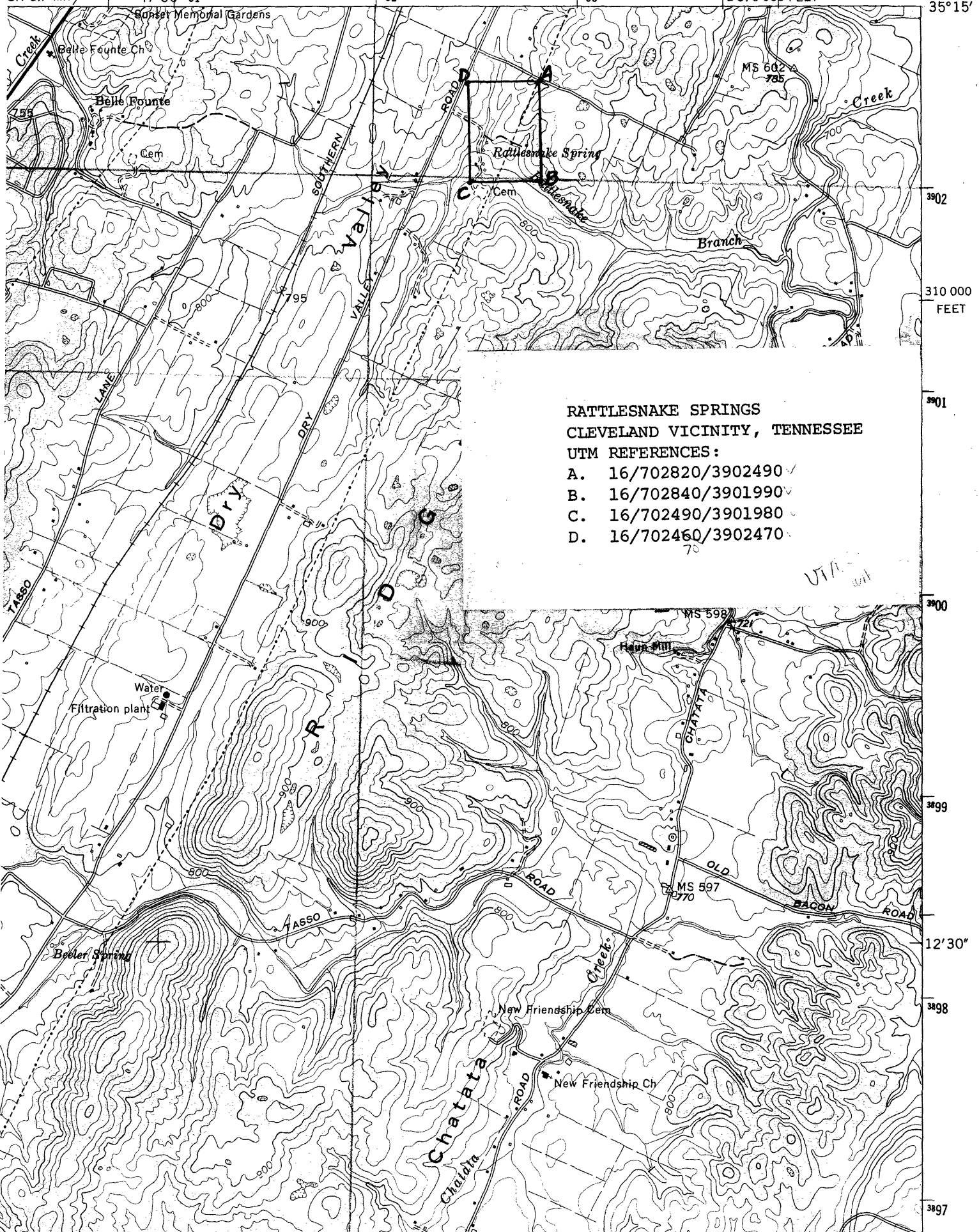
The day was bright and the weather mild. Friends and relatives who would follow later gathered along the column to bid goodbye to loved ones they might never see again. Gloom and despair hung heavy about the encampment. Here were people being torn from their homes and familiar land, about to be marched against their will along an unfamiliar trail to an unknown land.

At last, word was passed along the column to be prepared to move out. Last embraces and final goodbyes. Drivers took their reins in their hands. Taylor rose in his stirrups and motioned to move out; his assistants barked the command along the column, wagon drivers shouted to their teams and the column was under way.

EAST CLEVELAND QUADRANGLE
 TENNESSEE-BRADLEY CO
 7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC) 120-NE

10541
 (CALHOUN I.)

ENS 19 MI. ON 3.7 MI. 47'30" 701 702 703 2 370 000 FEET 84°45' 35°15'



**RATTLESNAKE SPRINGS
 CLEVELAND VICINITY, TENNESSEE**
 UTM REFERENCES:
 A. 16/702820/3902490 ✓
 B. 16/702840/3901990 ✓
 C. 16/702490/3901980 ✓
 D. 16/702460/3902470 ✓

UTM VI

3902
 310 000 FEET
 3901
 3900
 3899
 12'30"
 3898
 3897