

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

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Tennessee	
COUNTY: Bradley	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
14 SEP 1972	

1. NAME

COMMON:
Red Clay Council Ground (Representative Lamar Baker)

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
Blue Springs Road

CITY OR TOWN:
Thirteen (13) miles South of Cleveland

STATE Tennessee	CODE 47	COUNTY: Bradley	CODE 011
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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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Comments _____ _____ _____

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Bradley County

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:
Cleveland

STATE: Tennessee	CODE 47
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5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

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

STREET AND NUMBER:
Court House

CITY OR TOWN:
Cleveland

STATE: Tennessee	CODE 47
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6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:

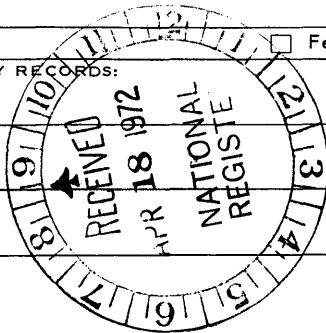
DATE OF SURVEY: _____

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: _____

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:
Cleveland

STATE: Tennessee	CODE
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SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Tennessee	ENTRY NUMBER 14 SEP 1972	FOR NPS USE ONLY
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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)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered
(Check One)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Red Clay Council Ground property consists of 150 acres of land, a concrete block residence, and a large spring located on the Blue Springs Road 13 miles South of the industrial city of Cleveland in Bradley County, Tennessee, lying immediately North of the Tennessee-Georgia line and the village of Red Clay, Georgia.

The area which contained the Cherokee Council House and a number of log buildings, and the spring, is generally level pasture land, all lying on the East side of the road which is paved with blacktop.

The remaining 125 acres lies on the West side of the road and is hilly and carpeted with a growth of native trees.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



6. 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) 1830's

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|--|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | | _____ |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The famous and historic last capital of the Cherokee Nation in the east, known as the Red Clay Council Ground, is located in Bradley County, Tennessee, on the Blue Springs Road thirteen miles south of the industrial City of Cleveland and just across the state line from the village of Red Clay, Georgia. A marker erected at the site by the Cherokee-Red Clay Association presents a concise history of the Council ground:

RED CLAY COUNCIL GROUNDS
1832 -- 1838

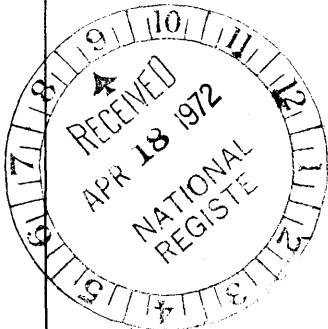
HERE WAS THE CAPITAL AND LAST COUNCIL GROUND OF THE CHEROKEE NATION IN THE EAST. AT A FULL COUNCIL HELD IN OCTOBER, 1835, a PROPOSED TREATY WITH THE UNITED STATES PROVIDING FOR REMOVAL OF THE CHEROKEE TO THE INDIAN TERRITORY, NOW OKLAHOMA, WAS OVERWHELMINGLY REJECTED. JOHN HOWARD PAYNE, AUTHOR OF "HOME, SWEET HOME," AND A CHAMPION OF INDIAN RIGHTS ATTENDED THE COUNCIL, WHICH WAS ALSO ATTENDED BY A NUMBER OF PROMINENT UNITED STATES AND CHEROKEE OFFICIALS. THE COUNCIL HOUSE STOOD JUST EAST OF THE GREAT COUNCIL SPRING.

BRIGADIER GENERAL JOHN E. WOOL AND HIS DETACHMENT OF TROOPS CAMPED AT A LARGE SPRING ABOUT ONE-FOURTH MILE EAST WHILE OBSERVING MEETINGS OF THE CHEROKEES IN COUNCIL.

ONE-HALF MILE SOUTH NEAR THE TOWN OF RED CLAY, GEORGIA, STANDS A U.S. MARKER ERECTED IN HONOR OF SLEEPING RABBIT, A FAMOUS CHEROKEE VETERAN OF THE WAR OF 1812.

FOUR MILES NORTHEAST AT FLINT SPRINGS WAS THE LAST HOME IN THE EAST OF JOHN ROSS, PRINCIPAL CHIEF OF THE CHEROKEE NATION.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Corn, James Franklin, Farewell the Hills, (New York 1971).

Mooney, James, Myths of the Cherokees, 19th Report Bureau of American Ethnology, 1900.

Payne, John Howard, "John Howard Payne to his Countrymen," Augusta, (Ga.) Constitutionalist, December, 1835.

Wooten, John M., A History of Bradley County, Tenn. (Nashville 1949)

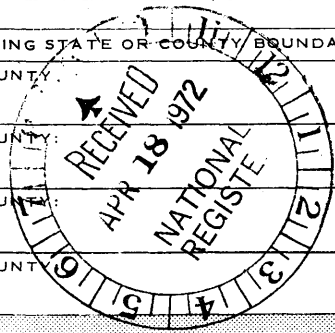
10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	34° 59' 47"	84° 57' 04"		°	°	
NE	34° 59' 43"	84° 56' 35"		°	°	
SE	34° 59' 16"	84° 56' 46"		°	°	
SW	34° 59' 16"	84° 57' 08"		°	°	

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **150**

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE



11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
James F. Corn

ORGANIZATION: **Bradley County Historian** DATE: **4-5-72**

STREET AND NUMBER:
P. O. Box 67

CITY OR TOWN: **Cleveland** STATE: **Tennessee** CODE: **47**

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name: *Herbert L. Harger*

Title: Director of Field Services
Tennessee Historical Commission

Date: 4-5-72

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

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

Date: 9/14/72

ATTEST:

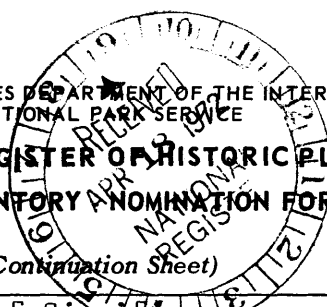
J. Bradford
Keeper of The National Register

Date: 9/13/72

HRS NE
 16/637720
 /3874230
 /3873410
 /686910
 /387460
 /3873410
 /686910
 /3874390
 SEE INSTRUCTIONS

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)



STATE	
Tennessee	
COUNTY	
Bradley	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
14	SEP 1972

(Number all entries) State of Significance page 2.

The Council Spring mentioned on the marker flows some 400,000 to 500,000 gallon of clear cold water every twenty-four hours.

Following the enactment of punitive and restrictive laws directed against the Cherokees by the Georgia legislature in 1828, 1829, and 1830, the Cherokee Nation in 1832 moved the meeting place of its national legislative assembly set up by the Cherokee Constitution of 1827 across the Georgia line to the Tennessee site, where many important meetings were held each year until the Cherokees finally were forced to move to the west in 1838.

A crucial meeting of the council in October, 1835, was attended by the famous John Howard Payne, internationally known author, playwright and actor, best known as the author of the song, "Home, Sweet Home" who made a written record of the meeting. The Council was addressed by the Rev. John F. Schermerhorn, a Baptist minister appointed by President Andrew Jackson, to negotiate a voluntary removal treaty with the Cherokees, whatever the means required. Also present were Major B. F. Curry, United States Indian Agent, Col. William N. Bishop, of the Georgia Guard, Chief John Ross, and Elias Boudinot, Major Ridge, John Ridge and other leaders of the treaty party. Military observers detailed from the Regular Army of the United States, who were camped at a large spring one-fourth mile east of the Council Ground, also attended the council. At the close of a harangue by Schermerhorn, called Devil's Horn by the Cherokees, the assembly of several thousand Indians rejected the proposed treaty by an overwhelming majority vote. Incidentally, by the provisions of the Cherokee Constitution all males 18 years old or over were qualified voters. The following December Schermerhorn met with a small group of treaty party members at New Echota, Georgia, and negotiated a treaty considered fraudulent by Chief John Ross and all but a small minority of the Cherokees.

The treaty of removal negotiated by Schermerhorn in 1835 was overwhelmingly rejected at another Council of the Cherokee Nation held at the Red Clay Council Ground in September, 1836. More than 3000 Cherokees attended the meeting, which was observed and officially reported by Brigadier General John E. Wool, of the United States Army, then in command of all troops participating in the forced removal activities on behalf of the whites. Chief John Ross presided at the Council, which was attended by the leaders of both parties of the Cherokee Nation. The meeting was featured by an address of John Mason, Jr., a Special Agent of the United States, whose explanation of the treaty was strikingly similar to Schermerhorn's speech at the 1835 meeting and considered by the great majority of the Indians to be heavily larded with hypocrisy and vain promises of alleged benefits. The vote of rejection was unanimous, even the treaty men refraining from voting for it for fear of their lives.

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

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
Tennessee	
COUNTY	
Bradley	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
14 SEP 72	

(Number all entries)

Statement of Significance page 3.

The Council Ground site of 150 acres has been acquired by Bradley County, with the assistance of the Department of Conservation of Tennessee and the benefit of a grant from the United States, and is being developed by the County Conservation Board of Bradley County as a historic shrine and park. The program includes the building of a replica of the Council house and adjacent log buildings, planting the Council ground with forest trees, beautification of the Council spring area with plantings of native wild flowers, completing a headquarters and museum, and the building of nature trails throughout the wooded area of some 125 acres. The second phase contemplates construction of an outdoor theatre in a suitable location already selected by the Board.



RED CLAY COUNCIL GROUND

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

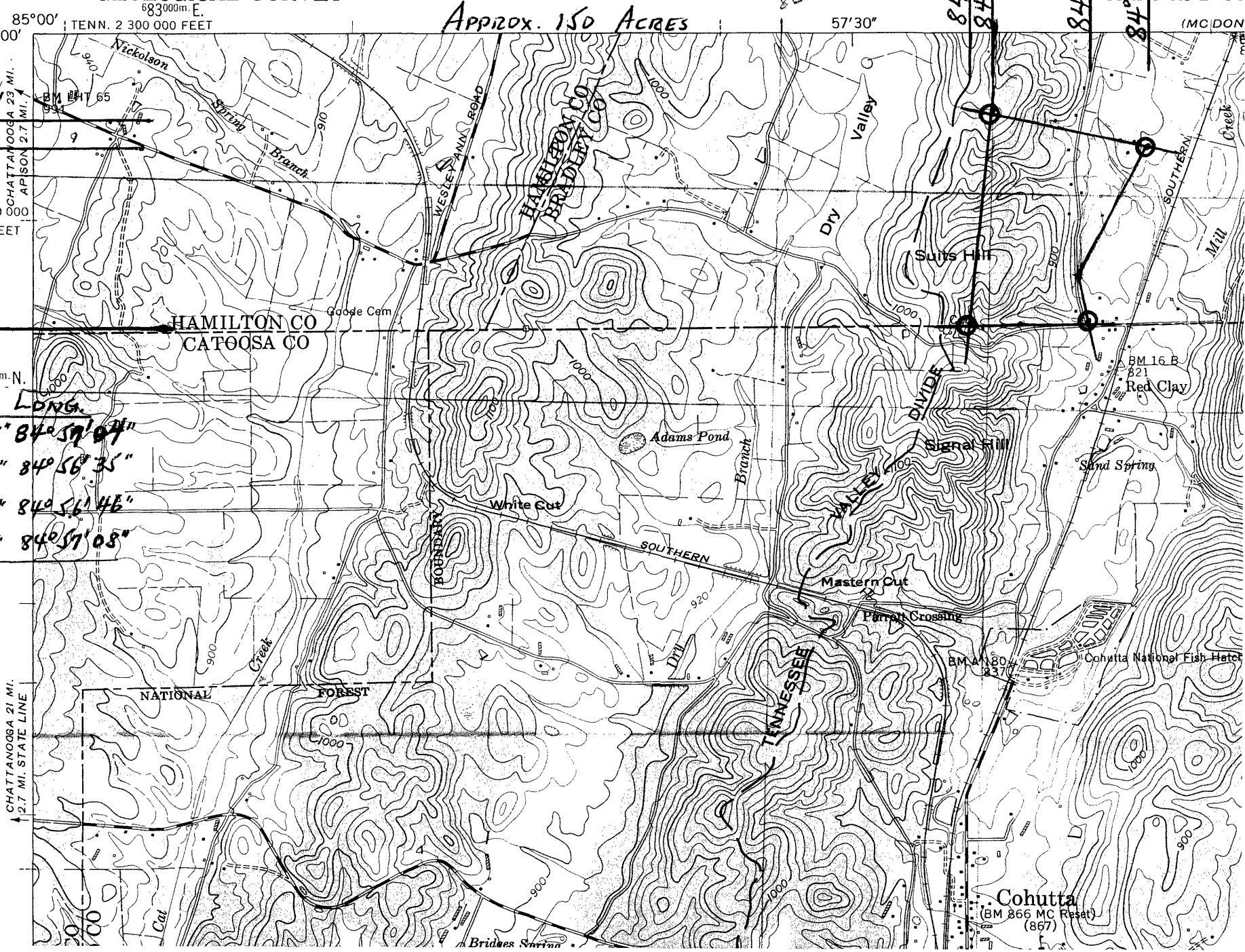
UNITED STATES
TENNESSEE VA
MAPS AND SURVEYING

Approx. 150 Acres

34° 59' 47"
 34° 59' 43"
 34° 59' 16"
 COR. LAT. LONG.
 1W 34° 59' 47" 84° 57' 04"
 1E 34° 59' 43" 84° 56' 35"
 2E 34° 59' 16" 84° 56' 46"
 W 34° 59' 16" 84° 57' 08"

84° 57' 08"
 84° 57' 04"
 84° 56' 46"
 84° 56' 35"

HB
 16/687720
 16/3874230
 1687460
 16873410



(00L7EWAH 112-SE)

85°00' TENN. 2 300 000 FEET

57'30"

35°00'

CHATTANOOGA 23 MI. APISON 27 MI.

34° 59' 47"

34° 59' 43"

TENN. 220 000 FEET

34° 59' 16"

3873 000m. N.

CHATTANOOGA 21 MI. 2.7 MI. STATE LINE

Cohutta (BM 866 MC Reset) (867)