

Form 10-300
(Rev. 6-72)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE:	Georgia
COUNTY:	Lumpkin
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY DATE	

1. NAME

COMMON:
Calhoun Mine

AND/OR HISTORIC:
Calhoun Mine

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
off State Route 60 3 miles south of Dahlonega Georgia

CITY OR TOWN:
vic. Dahlonega

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:
9

STATE: Georgia CODE: COUNTY: Lumpkin CODE:

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) <u>no use</u>
Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No			

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Miss Irma Carmicheal

STREET AND NUMBER:
2906 Kimmerdge Drive

CITY OR TOWN:
East Point

STATE:
Georgia

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Lumpkin County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:
East Point

CITY OR TOWN:
Dahlonega

STATE:
Georgia

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:

DATE OF SURVEY: Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: STATE: CODE:

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE:

COUNTY:

ENTRY NUMBER

DATE

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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)			(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

The Calhoun Mine is located three miles south of Dahlonega, Georgia, 100 to 238 feet in elevation on the southern and eastern bank above the Chestatee River. The mine consists of a series of cuts and tunnels made from the earliest days of discovery until as recently as 1946. The Calhoun cut extends about 150 feet into the ridge in a northerly direction. The two associated south tunnels each extend into the ridge approximately 130 feet in a northeasterly direction. Some additional and later tunnels were driven into the veins parallel to the early ones, One of these was the Dugas tunnel approximately 160 feet in depth and dug as recently as 1940. Following World War II, the most ambitious excavation was tried with the Abbot Tunnel which undercut the earlier tunnels with a portal on the northwest slope of the ridge at a lower elevation of 100 feet and extending 500 feet sloping upward to join the earlier tunnels permitting an entrance and exit.

Today, the historic mine can be identified only by the unassuming portals, diggings, and original cuts, the latter somewhat filled and overgrown. The shafts and tunnels are still intact. While the original appurtenances one associates with mining are not in evidence, the original mining was undoubtedly accomplished by very primitive hand labor of which few tools and devices would remain.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

8. 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) 1828

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

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

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Calhoun Mine epitomizes the discovery of gold in Georgia, an event which was the proximate cause for the removal of the Cherokee Indians from Georgia and ultimately from the entire eastern homeland. Historians have said that "gold was by far the most important factor in the early pressure for hasty removal of the Cherokees."¹ The discovery of gold along the Chestate River, which bounded the Cherokee lands on the east and south, opened a flood of wild argonauts onto Cherokee land who, heedless of property rights and treaties drove the Indian from his land. This boom resulted in the State of Georgia wresting both land and mineral rights from the Cherokee. As a result, the Cherokee moved their Capital from New Echota, Ga. to Red Clay, Tenn. and thus initiated the first phase of their final expulsion to land beyond the Mississippi.

History

Where the first gold was discovered in Georgia cannot be decided with certainty. There had been stories of an Indian youth finding a gold nugget along the Chestatee River in 1815. There were so-called "first discoveries" in 1819, 1823, and 1826. What is indisputable is that by 1828-29 prospectors were reporting findings regularly. The gold miners of North Carolina began drifting south following the gold veins running into Georgia and these early discoveries came so thick and fast that it is practically impossible definitely to establish priority of discovery.

In 1828, Benjamin Parks discovered gold on the property of the Calhoun Mine. "I was deer-hunting, one day, when I kicked up something that caught my eye," he recalled for the Atlanta Constitution years later. "I examined it, and decided it was gold." He took a lease from the owner who "only laughed, as though he did not believe me. I went over to the spot with a pan," he went on, "and turning over some earth, it looked like the yellow of an egg. It was more than my eyes could believe."

Parks related how gold fever broke out in a contagion: "The news got abroad, and such excitement you never saw. It seemed, within a few days, as if the whole world must have heard of it; for men came from every

¹

Andrew W. Cain, History of Lumpkin County (no place, 1932), p. 92.; Georgia Historical Quarterly, Vol. XIX, No. 2, June, 1935, pp. 99-108.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Cain, Andrew W., History of Lumpkin County, 1932.

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

Green, Fletcher M., Georgia's Forgotten Industry.

"Gold Deposits of Georgia," Geological Survey of Georgia, Bulletin 4-A.

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 ° 33 ' 48 "	83 ° 59 ' 20 "				
NE	34 ° 33 ' 48 "	83 ° 58 ' 48 "				
SE	34 ° 33 ' 48 "	83 ° 59 ' 20 "				
SW	34 ° 33 ' 34 "	83 ° 59 ' 20 "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **110 acres**

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Benjamin Levy, Senior Historian

ORGANIZATION: **Historic Sites Survey, National Park Service** DATE: _____

STREET AND NUMBER:
1100 I Street, N. W.

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

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION **NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION**

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

National State Local

Name _____

Title _____

Date _____

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

Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date _____

ATTEST:

Keeper of The National Register

Date _____

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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(Continuation Sheet)

ST. Georgia	
COUNTY Lumpkin	
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(Number all entries)

8. Significance: (1) Calhoun Mine

state I ever heard of. They came afoot, on horseback, and in wagons, acting more like crazy men than anything else."

The owner, Reverend Robert Obarr, a Baptist preacher, sold the mine to a Judge Underwood, who sold it to John C. Calhoun, whose descendents held part interest in the mine until the 1880's.

One year after the initial discoveries there were over 10,000 miners swarming about the gold fields. The Calhoun Mine was just across the Chestatee from Cherokee country. It was clear that the veins of ore would emerge on the other side and no compunction was suffered in crossing the river in search of the yellow wealth. Trouble was the only thing to expect from this heedless mob. One observer commented that the discoveries "brought into the country thousands of men of great diversity of character, many of them dissipated and regardless of the future. Shanties were set up all over the county, where whiskey was freely sold, and mountebanks attended with all kinds of tricks and shows, in the endeavor to share the easily gotten gold of the miners. The section was run by thieves, gamblers, murderers--quarrelsome, drunken, and malicious--forming altogether a lawless, ungovernable community."

Such a class was bound to interfere with the Cherokees. The Indians, mining their own lands, were seized and punished, and their tools destroyed by white intruders who wished the gold for themselves. The discovery of gold in the Cherokee Nation, and the conflict of red men and white, was one of the chief factors in the dtermination of the people of Georgia to force the removal of the Indians from the State.

The Indians tried to protect their interests and many serious affrays took place. At Scudder's Place, for example, a fight raged between a band of 30 Indians and about the same number of whites. Miners were attacked on several occasions. Defending themselves with their mining tools on one occasion they left six or seven Indians seriously injured.

The Cherokees protested the intrusions on their land and Federal agents responded by posting notices of trespass which stopped no one. The Governor of Georgia complained that the Cherokee territory belonged to Georgia. Not only should the Cherokee be deprived of it, but citizens of other states were illegally enriching themselves at the loss of his State. Federal troops then moved in and began to eject the intruders. Georgia responded by threatening to possess the territory itself. The result was a compromise with the Federal commander to order everyone,

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Calhoun Mine

(Continuation Sheet)

(Number all entries)

8. SIGNIFICANCE (cont'd.)

including the Cherokee, to desist from mining gold.

But it was clear that the State wanted the Federal government to abide by its declared intention of ultimately removing the Indians. The developing interest in the riches of the territory simply could not be forestalled any longer. The result was a special session of the state legislature and swift passage on July 3, 1830 of an act to extend the laws of the state to the Indian territory. Governor Gilmer proclaimed the extension and declared the mines as state property ordering all digging to cease. Digging did not cease. Gilmer responded with force assembling a state guard to compel obedience from white man and Indian alike. But the balance was distinctly tipped against the Cherokee.

The missionaries at New Echota were arrested and imprisoned for having supported the Cherokee cause. The Rev. S. A. Worcester brought suit in the famous case of Worcester V. Georgia. Chief Justice Marshall held that Georgia law was invalid in Cherokee territories and ordered Worcester released. The State of Georgia continued to violate the law and President Jackson refused to enforce the orders of the court. The citizens pressed their own case. Many settlers formed into "Pony Clubs" and seized the horses and cattle of the Indians and drove them off, ejected families from their homes, and set fire to their buildings.

With neither the guarantees of the Federal government to defend them nor the power to resist both the militia of the state and the lawlessness of its citizens, most Cherokee in Georgia recognized the hopelessness of their attempt to remain in Georgia. Moving north into Tennessee they took their Capital with them from New Echota to Red Clay. There they began a seven year deliberation with Federal commissioners in a futile effort to retain their lands.