



Trail of Tears National Historic Trail

Project Updates - Protection, Development, and Promotion

Photo Gallery

Trail of Tears National Historic Trail (NHT) is joining the ranks of national parks across the nation by establishing a photo gallery on the official website. A call was made nationwide in preparation for the National Park Service's (NPS) 100th birthday in 2016.

NTIR Website Update

NTIR is creating a comprehensive website to better communicate our mission and services to our partners along nine national historic trails and the Route 66 Corridor Preservation Program. Work begins in 2014!

National Register

Through collaborations with NTIR, the Trail of Tears Oklahoma Chapter, and the Oklahoma Historical Society, two new properties have been nominated to the National Register of Historic Places: Breadtown, north of Westville, Oklahoma and Beattie's Prairie near Jay, Oklahoma. The National Register of Historic Places is the official list of the nation's historic places worthy of preservation. For more information, go to: www.nps.gov/history/nr/

The photo gallery on the NPS website for Trail of Tears NHT.

High resolution photographs are available to view and download.

Visit www.nps.gov/trte/photosmultimedia and choose Photo Gallery.

UPDATE: Building Survey

The Center for Historic Preservation (CHP) at Middle Tennessee State University is in its second year of a project to identify historic structures along the trail in nine states. Working with NTIR and TOTA partners, CHP has increased the initial list of known/possible buildings and structures that were extant during the period of significance (1838-1839) from 32 to 173. CHP is also preparing two booklets on the preservation and maintenance of log and stone/brick buildings.

While many of the buildings have undergone changes over the years, thus obscuring their original design, others remain excellent examples of early 19th-century architecture associated with the removal period.

-Amy Kostine, project leader for the Trail of Tears Historic Building/Structures Survey and Condition Assessment

Design & Development Projects

NTIR conducted a design charette in Charleston, Tennessee on March 3-7 with over 50 participants attending. Conceptual plans were developed for (1) a downtown walking tour of the historic Cherokee Agency site, (2) a driving tour of historic Fort Cass, and (3) two retracement pedestrian trails following the original route. A development concept plan will be created.

- David Crockett State Park, Lawrenceburg, Tennessee: A dedication and grand opening event was held on November 2nd for the new 2.5-mile interpretive retracement trail.
- Reynolds County, Missouri: A dedication event was held on October 11th to celebrate road signage marking a 30-mile stretch of original route (on the Hildebrand Route).
- Funk Heritage Center, Waleska, Georgia: A site identification sign was shipped in November.
- Hiwassee Heritage Center, Charleston, Tennessee: An entrance and directional signs arrived March 4th.



Research Reveals New Roundup Routes

The Tennessee Overhill Heritage Association (TOHA), based in Etowah, completed a community-based project resulting in new historical information about trail routes in Monroe and McMinn counties. TOHA's executive directors worked with historical societies and other community groups, and with Dr. Brett Riggs from the University of North Carolina, to complete a study that ascertained the historical location of round-up routes between the Tennessee-North Carolina border and the Charleston-Calhoun area. Completed in late February, the study also identified probable camping locations along the routes. On Sunday, February 23, Dr. Riggs and others presented the findings to more than 140 residents from the two county area.

Retracing the Trail



Local supporters walk the newly finished retracement trail at David Crockett State Park in Lawrenceburg, Tennessee.

Interpretive Workshop

On December 10-12, NTIR hosted a successful interpretive workshop with partners across nine national historic trails participating. *Making It Real: Planning for Interpretation and Education for National Historic Trails* provided hands on, interactive presentations on subjects from Interpretation 101 to foundations of planning to an overview of media types to project management.

Exhibit Projects Underway

- Dirt Town, Georgia
- Island Town, Georgia
- Chatooga Town, Georgia



National Trails Intermountain Region

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Comments? Write to:

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