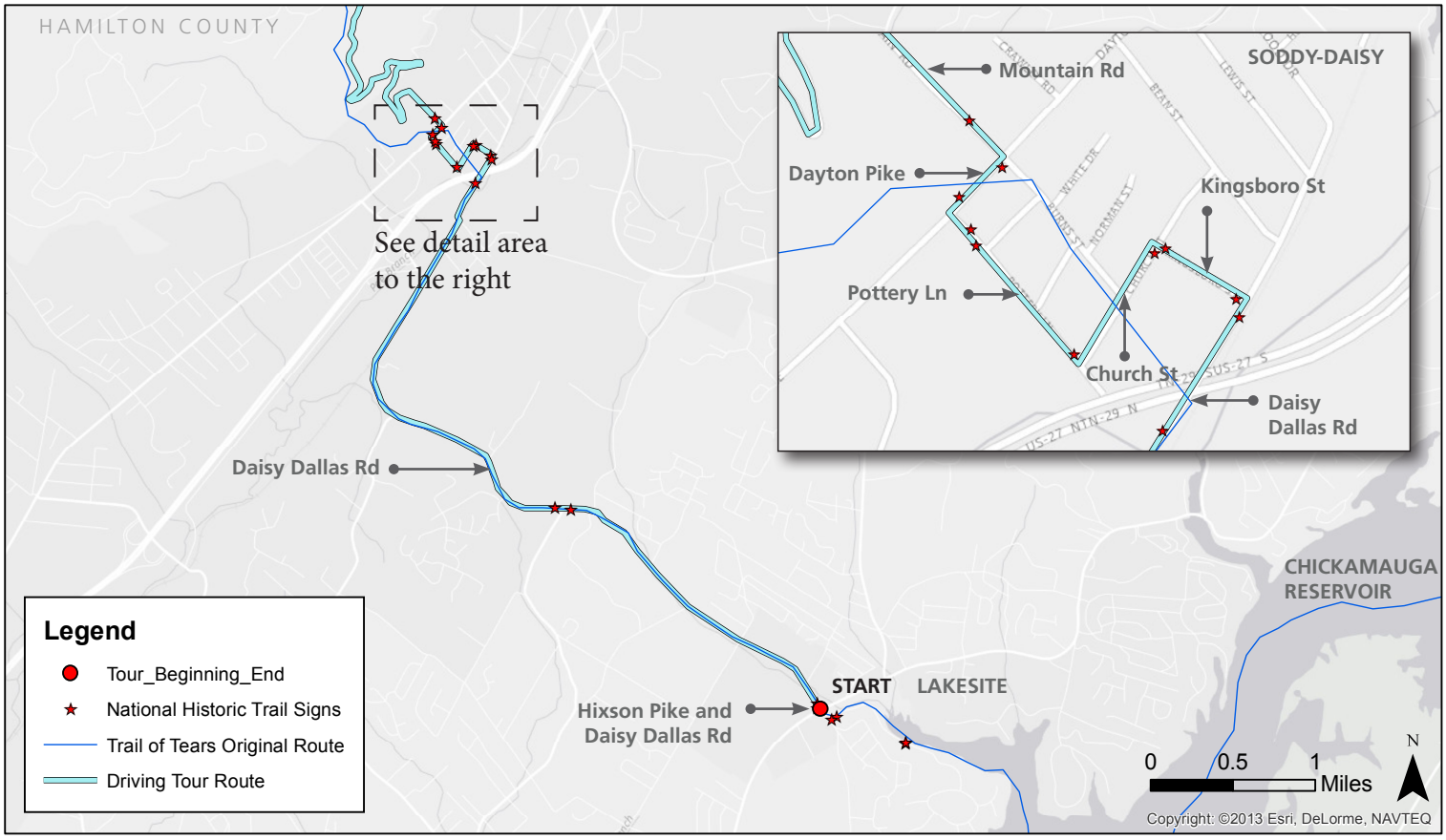
Trail of Tears

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Trail of Tears National Historic Trail
Hamilton County, Tennessee

Driving Tour: Retracing the Trail of Tears through Hamilton County, Tennessee



General guidance for following the route

This driving tour is approximately 12 miles long in one direction. Along the drive, you will be following a section of the Trail of Tears National Historic Trail as closely as possible along modern day roads. Keep an eye out for "Original Route" signs that mark the route along the way. Images of these signs are shown on the second page.

Beginning the tour: Daisy Dallas Road to Pottery Lane

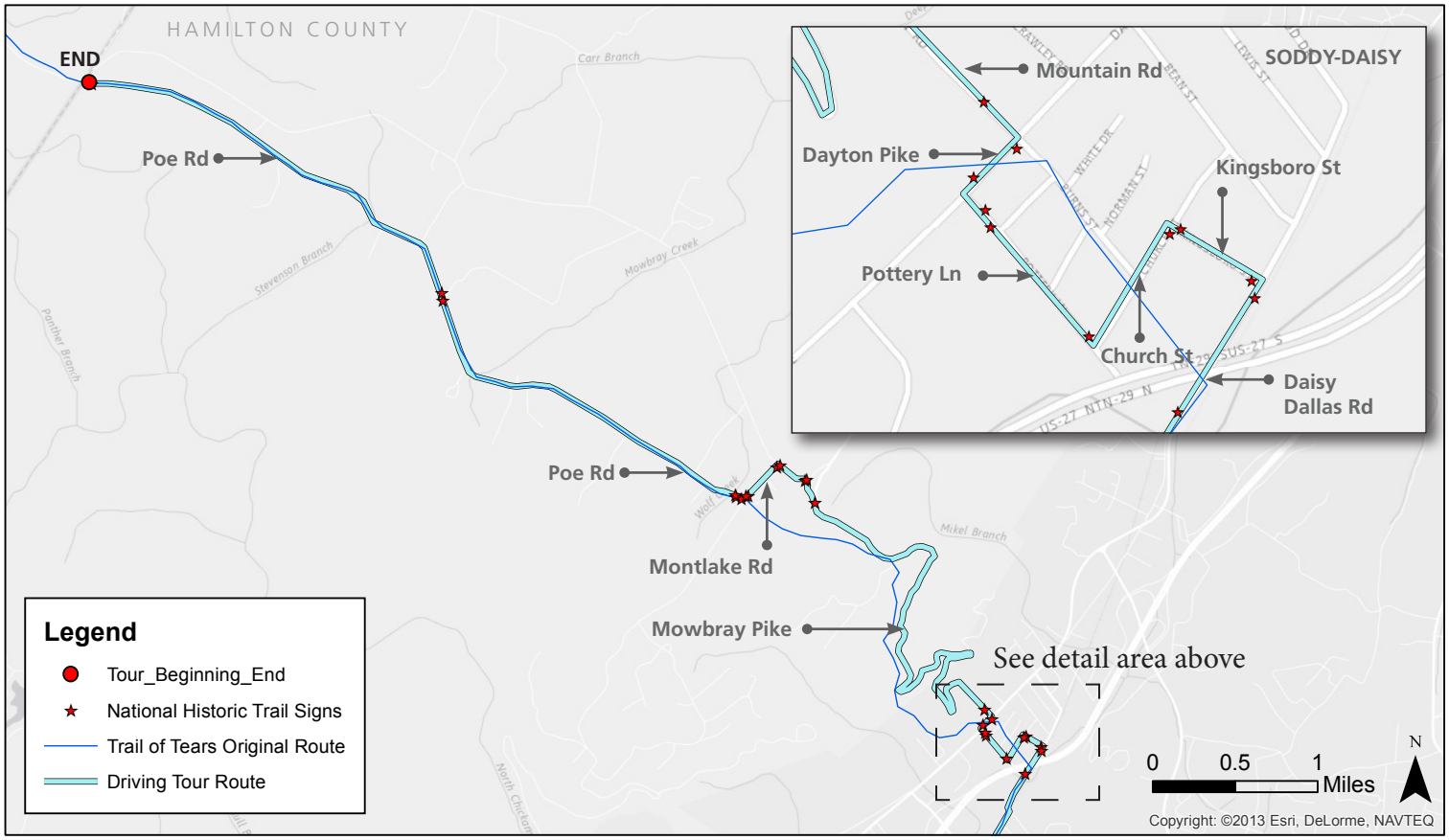
Beginning in the town of Lakesite, at the intersection of Hixson Pike and Daisy Dallas Road, head northwest on Daisy Dallas Road. You are now on the original route of the Trail of Tears National Historic Trail.

Follow the historic route along Daisy Dallas Road for 4.2 miles. Just after driving under Highway 27, turn left onto Kingsboro Street. Here the trail winds through the historic town of Soddy-Daisy, where Poe's Tavern, a waystation used by the Taylor detachment, was once located.

Follow Kingsboro Street to the end and turn left onto Church Street. At the end of Church Street turn right onto Pottery Lane.

Slight variation for tour beginning

To begin this tour where the trail emerges from the Chickamauga Reservoir, turn southeast onto Camp Columbus Road from the intersection of Hixson Pike and Daisy Dallas Road. Turn left at the first road (Albermarle Road). In a half a mile, keep an eye out for an "Original Route Segment Ends" sign. This sign marks the approximate location of where the historic trail diverges from the modern road and heads southeast across the reservoir towards Chester Frost Park. To continue the tour (as described above), backtrack to the intersection of Hixson Pike and head northwest on Daisy Dallas Road.



Pottery Lane to Mountain Road

As you follow Pottery Lane, look to the right and you will see Poe Cemetery. This cemetery was established in the early 1800s, and would have been here when the Taylor and Brown detachments passed by in 1838.

At the end of Pottery Lane, turn right onto Dayton Pike. From here, there is an opportunity to visit the historic site of Poe's Tavern and a reconstruction of that tavern. If you wish to see these points of interest, follow Dayton Pike northeast. The historic site of Poe's Tavern is on the right 650 feet from the turn. A historic marker has been placed here and gives a brief overview of the tavern's history. The reconstructed tavern is located five blocks farther down on the left. Parking is available to the back of the building.

To continue the driving tour, head back towards Pottery Lane, turn right one block before Pottery Lane and onto Mountain Road.

Mountain Road/ Mowbray Pike to Montlake Road

From here, the Taylor and Brown detachments had to make a grueling climb up Walden's Ridge. As you drive up this winding mountain road, picture what it might have been like for the Cherokee to travel this steep terrain with heavy loaded wagons.

Continue on this road for approximately three miles. In .2 miles, the road name changes to Mowbray Pike. The historic route of the trail along this stretch deviates from the modern day road, and switchbacks up the slope slightly to the west.

At the 3-mile point, follow the "To Original Route" signs and turn left onto Montlake Road.

Montlake Road to Poe Road

Follow Montlake Road for .2 miles, then turn right onto Poe Road. You are now back on the original route of the trail.

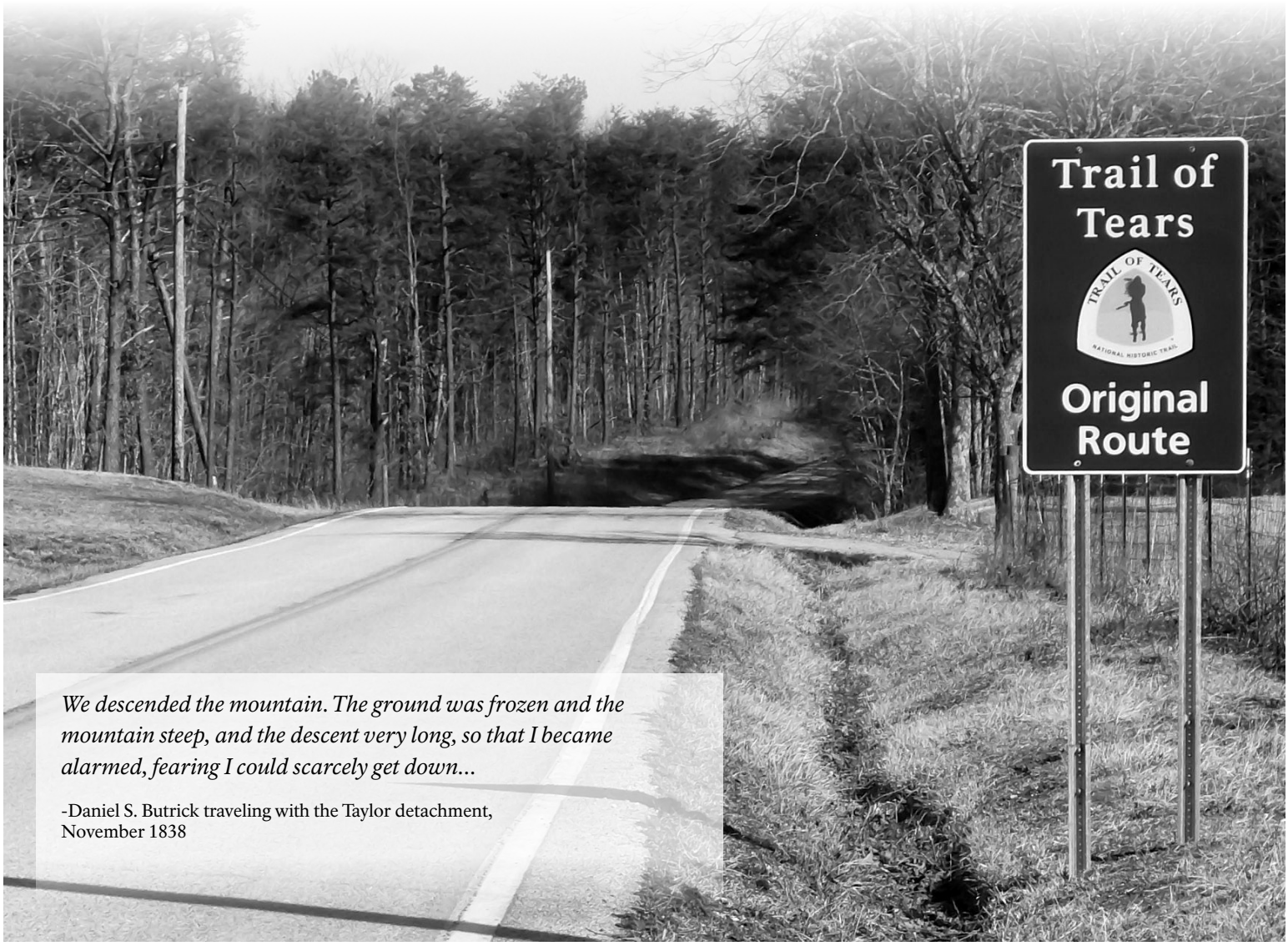
Continue on Poe Road for four miles to the Hamilton County line. This area retains much of the rural character that the trail would have had during the time of removal. The county line marks the end of the signed route and this tour.

If you wish to continue following the trail into Sequatchie County, the historic route follows Poe Road/Henderson Gap Road for another eight miles, before heading northwest across the countryside towards Dunlap.

If you would like to take another driving tour along the Taylor Route, please go to: *www.chattanoogafun.com/vacation-packages/civil-war-history* or *www.nps.gov/trte/planyourvisit* and download the driving tour labeled Chattanooga Driving Tour. This tour is approximately seven miles long one way, and begins at Ross's Landing in downtown Chattanooga.

To access a map that details the alignment of the Trail of Tears as it heads west visit: *imgis.nps.gov/#Trails* and click on the National Historic Trails Map Viewer link.

For more information on the Trail of Tears National Historic Trail and opportunities to visit sites and segments along the trail, please go to the official websites at: *www.nps.gov/trte* or *www.nationaltota.org*.



We descended the mountain. The ground was frozen and the mountain steep, and the descent very long, so that I became alarmed, fearing I could scarcely get down...

-Daniel S. Butrick traveling with the Taylor detachment, November 1838

Thank you to our partners and many volunteers for making this trail experience a reality.