

GEORGIA HISTORICAL COMMISSION

A DIVISION OF THE OFFICE OF SECRETARY OF STATE BEN W. FORTSON, JR.

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INTERDEPARTMENT CORRESPONDENCE

OFFICE: Atlanta, Georgia

DATE: March 28, 1973

FROM: Mrs. Mary G. Jewett, Director

TO: Mr. Lonice Barrett

SUBJECT: "Trail of Tears"

Dear Lonice:

I have read with a great deal of interest the Planning and Development of the "Trail of Tears" concerning the regional design for the upper Hiwassee Valley.

I have always felt that the development of the Cherokee Story throughout North Georgia has a tremendous potential as there are a number of remaining buildings and sites from the Cherokee occupation throughout the mountain area of our state. We are trying to coordinate the story in our visitor center at New Echota and will, hopefully, as we are able to identify more sites than we now know cover the entire area. Even now it is possible to visit the home of Chief Ross, the Vann House, the capital town, New Echota, the Major Ridge house in Rome, the home of the Treasurer of the Nation, Carter's Quarters, and the Red Clay Council Ground. I have been communicating with Charles Lee of South Carolina, who is urging us to help in the development of the Cherokee path coming from South Carolina into Georgia in Rabun County, I believe.

Having so much Cherokee territory which we wish to exploit, what bothers me about three state participation under this name and in certain specific counties, concentrates on an area which had no great significance during Cherokee occupation and ignores, say Murray, Whitfield, Gordon, Floyd, and other counties which were particularly important in the story of the "Trail of Tears." I realize this is an approach to the development of a particularly beautiful mountain region but feel that it should be expanded or should be possibly given another name.

These are just random thoughts from a quick reading of the report which is well done.

Sincerely,

MGJ:rwh