



Chief John Ross House, Rossville



Landmarks, listed west to east

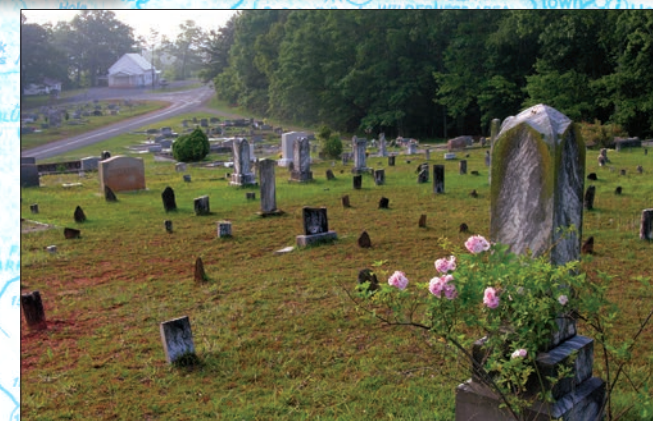
- A. Chief John Ross House, just off US 27 in Rossville
- B. Ringgold Depot, Ringgold Gap, and Stone Church, on US 41 in Ringgold and just east of Ringgold
- C. Lee's Chapel/Tunnel Hill Road, along SR 2
- D. Prater's Mill, on SR 2
- E. Chief Vann House, and the Moravian Mission at Spring Place, at the intersection of SR 52 Alternate and SR 225
- F. Fort Hoskins (Removal Fort), intersection of SR 225 and Smyrna/Spring Place Road
- G. Fork in Federal Road, south of Ramhurst on US 76/SR 282
- H. Fort Gilmer (Removal Fort), along Old Highway 411
- I. Near site of Coosawattee, at Carter's Lake along Old Highway 411 and SR 136
- J. Fort Newnan (Removal Fort), near SR 136 near Blaine
- K. Taloney/Saundersville/Carmel Missionary Station, along SR 136 north of Talking Rock
- L. Hamageville, and the Tate House along SR 53
- M. Four Mile Church and Cemetery, in the mountains at the intersection of Lawson/Federal Road and Fortner Road
- N. Gold Mining Territory, along SR 369, Old Federal Road, and Yellow Creek Road
- O. Site of Scudder's Inn and Fort Campbell (Removal Fort), intersection of SR 369 and Old Federal Road
- P. Vann's Ferry and Tavern, just off SR 369, on banks of Lake Sidney Lanier
- Q. Old Federal Road Chattahoochee River crossing at Old Federal Road Campground on the banks of Lake Sidney Lanier



cannon in downtown, Ringgold



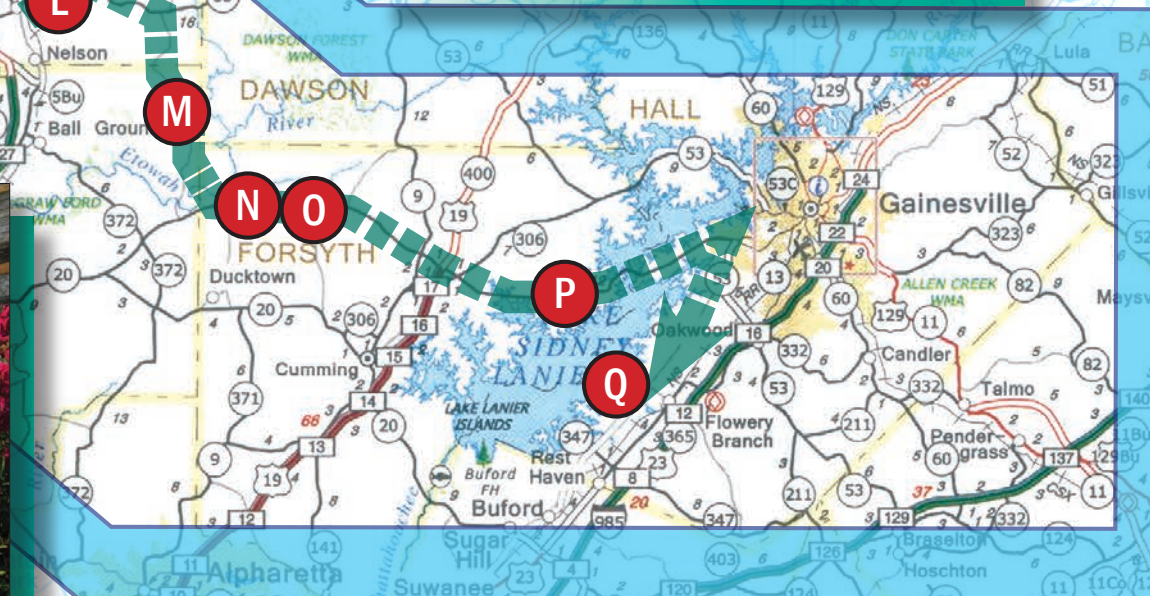
view of Carter's Lake



Four Mile Church Cemetery



Chief Vann House



"The road from Ringgold to Varnell's is very good, and so are all the roads."

General William Tecumseh Sherman
to Major General J.M. Schofield, May 1864.

"We shall not consider the Cherokees as good neighbors unless they will allow their best friends, who are taking every means in their power to make them happy, to make a road."

U.S. Secretary of War Henry Dearborn, 1803.

Traveling East to West

Words in Bold are places to pause and restart the audio CD. Please note that the ★ symbol relates to a Georgia Historic Marker along the tour.

1. Begin in Hall County at the intersection of SR 13 Alternate and Radford Road at the Old Federal Road Historic Marker ★. Take Radford Road to McEver Road, and go right to Stephens Road. Go left on Stephens Road until you reach the Old Federal Road. Take the Old Federal Road (right) toward the Old Federal Road Campground (Jim Crow Road) on Lake Sidney Lanier (overall travel distance is 8 miles).

2. Return to McEver Road and go left to SR 369 (Brown's Bridge Road); turn left onto SR 369. Continue on SR 369 until you reach Vann's Tavern Park (total travel distance 5 miles). **If you are listening to the CD Driving Tour, please pause the CD at the point indicated before you reach Vann's Tavern Park, and start it again as you leave the Park.** Resume left on SR 369 into Forsyth County for about 16.5 miles.

3. West of Matt, turn right on the Old Federal Road. **For the Driving Tour, please pause the CD at the point indicated before you reach the turn off from SR 369 onto the Old Federal Road and start it again as you begin on the Old Federal Road.** Go into Cherokee County.

4. From the Old Federal Road go 3.5 miles and turn right on Yellow Creek Road at Ophir. Continue 4 miles until Lawson/Federal Road.

5. Just inside Pickens County, turn left into the mountains at Lawson/Federal Road. **For the Driving Tour, please pause the CD before you reach the Four Mile Church, and start it as you leave the church area.** At Four Mile Church, veer left through the Cemetery on Fortner Road. Veer left on Harrington Road and continue north until you reach SR 53 (total travel distance is 6 miles). This section of the Driving Tour goes through steep, sometimes unpaved mountain roads. The driver might choose to skip this section and stay on Yellow Creek Road for approximately 2.5 miles until it intersects with SR 53.

6. Turn left on SR 53 traveling into Tate (4.7 miles). For drivers skipping the mountainous section, turn left on SR 53 traveling into Tate (approximately 8.2 miles). **For the Driving Tour, please pause the CD before you reach the Tate Depot or Cemetery, and restart it as you leave.** Stay on SR 53 into Jasper (4.8 miles) to the SR 53 and Old SR 5 intersection.

7. Turn right on Old SR 5 in Jasper and continue until it becomes SR 136 near Talking Rock (stop at Talking Rock). Continue on SR 136 as it turns west (left) past Talking Rock, and then again as it turns northwest (right) near Blaine. Take SR 136 into Murray County near Carter's Lake until the intersection of SR 136 and Old Highway 411 (total travel distance is 15.4 miles). **For the Driving Tour, please pause the CD before you reach the recreational areas at Carter's Lake, and start it again as you leave the Carter's Lake area.**

8. Turn right on Old Highway 411 past Carter's Lake, and continue north on Old Highway 411 until it becomes US 76/SR 282 (overall travel distance is 8.4 miles).

9. The Federal Road forked just south of Ramhurst. **For the Driving Tour, please pause the CD before you reach the fork, and start it again as you take the fork north.** To take the north fork, remain on SR 282 and turn right onto the Old Federal Road and travel 6.1 miles before reaching SR 52. Turn left on SR 52 and enter Chatsworth, driving 0.8 mile. Turn right on Second Avenue in Chatsworth, and continue as Second Avenue becomes the Old Federal Road (1.1 miles). Turn left when the Old Federal Road runs into Loughridge Road (4.7 miles) and travel 0.1 mile to US 411. Turn right on US 411 and continue 10 miles to the Tennessee border (north fork Driving Tour ends).

10. To take the west fork from Ramhurst, turn left from US 76 and SR 282 onto the Smyrna-Ramhurst Road and continue for 3.7 miles to Smyrna Church Road. At Smyrna Church Road turn left for 0.1 mile then turn right onto Spring Place-Smyrna Road. **For the Driving Tour, please pause the CD before you reach the fork south of Ramhurst, and restart it as you begin travel on the Smyrna-Ramhurst Road.** Continue for 2.6 miles to SR 225 at Spring Place and continue on SR 225 for 0.5 mile until a point just south of the Chief Vann House at the intersection of SR 225 and SR 52 Alternate.

11. The traveler should stop at the Chief Vann House. **For the Driving Tour, please pause the CD before you reach the Chief Vann House, and restart it as you leave.** Turn left just south of the Chief Vann House on SR 52 Alternate. Continue for 2.2 miles to SR 52. Turn left on SR 52 and continue for 2 miles to SR 286.

12. Take a right on SR 286 through Dawnville. Turn left onto Dawnville-Beaverdale Road. Turn left onto Beaverdale Road and then right on Lake Frances Road to SR 2 (overall travel distance is 10.5 miles).

13. From Lake Frances Road, turn left on SR 2. Take SR 2 to Varnell (take a right into Varnell and a left leaving Varnell). Continue left on SR 2 to US 41 at the Stone Church in Ringgold (overall travel distance is 10.3 miles). **For the Driving Tour, please pause the CD before you reach the Stone Church at the intersection of SR 2 and US 41, and begin it as you leave the Stone Church.**

14. At the Stone Church in Ringgold, turn right on US 41 through and past Ringgold, through Shookville, and Indian Springs to SR 146 (overall travel distance is 9.5 miles).

15. Turn left on SR 146 (Cloud Springs Road) and continue for 5.1 miles to US 27. From US 27 turn right and travel two miles until you reach the Chief John Ross House. **For the Driving Tour, please pause the CD before you reach the Chief John Ross House and restart it as you leave.**

16. Continue on US 27 veering right through Rossville to the Tennessee border. The Driving Tour ends at the Old Federal Road Historic Marker (just before the US 27 intersection with East Gordon Avenue).

Traveling West to East

Words in Bold are places to pause and restart the audio CD. Please note that the ★ symbol relates to a Georgia Historic Marker along the tour.

1. The Driving Tour begins in Walker County at the Old Federal Road Historic Marker just before the US 27 intersection with East Gordon Avenue (adjacent to the Tennessee border). Continue left on US 27 until you reach the Chief John Ross House. **For the Driving Tour, please pause the CD before you reach the Chief John Ross House and restart it as you leave.**

2. Continue on US 27 (right) through Rossville and travel two miles until you reach SR 146 (Cloud Springs Road). Turn left on SR 146 and continue for 5.1 miles to US 41.

3. Turn right on US 41 through and past Indian Springs, Shookville, and Ringgold, until you reach the Stone Church in Ringgold at the intersection of US 41 and SR 2 (overall travel distance is 9.5 miles). **For the Driving Tour, please pause the CD before you reach the Stone Church at the intersection of US 41 and SR 2, and begin it as you leave the Stone Church.**

4. Turn left on SR 2 and continue to Varnell (take a right into Varnell and a left leaving Varnell). Continue left on SR 2 to Lake Frances Road (overall travel distance is 10.3 miles).

5. Turn right on Lake Frances Road and continue to Beaverdale Road. Turn left onto Beaverdale Road and continue to Dawnville-Beaverdale Road, taking a right. Continue on Dawnville-Beaverdale to SR 286. Turn right (south) on SR 286 and continue to SR 52 (overall travel distance is 10.5 miles).

6. Turn left on SR 52 and travel 2 miles to SR 52 Alternate. Turn right on SR 52 Alternate and continue for 2.2 miles until you reach the intersection of SR 52 Alternate and SR 225, just south of the Chief Vann House. The traveler should stop at the Chief Vann House. **For the Driving Tour, please pause the CD before you reach the Chief Vann House, and restart it as you leave.** Turn right on SR 225 and travel 0.5 mile, passing Spring Place, until Spring Place-Smyrna Road is reached. Take a left onto Spring Place-Smyrna Road and travel 2.6 miles to Smyrna Church Road. Turn left on Smyrna Church Road, traveling 0.1 mile. Take a right on Smyrna-Ramhurst Road and travel 3.7 miles to the intersection of US 76/SR 282 just south of Ramhurst.

7. The Federal Road forked just south of Ramhurst. **For the Driving Tour, please pause the CD before you reach the fork south of Ramhurst, and restart it as you begin travel on the north fork.** To take the north fork turn right on US 76/SR 282 and immediately turn left on the Old Federal Road. Remain on the Old Federal Road and travel 6.1 miles before reaching SR 52. Turn left on SR 52 and enter Chatsworth, driving 0.8 mile. Turn right on Second Avenue in Chatsworth, and continue as Second Avenue becomes the Old Federal Road (1.1 miles). Turn left when the Old Federal Road runs into Loughridge Road (4.7 miles) and travel 0.1 mile to US 411. Turn right on US 411 and continue 10 miles to the Tennessee border (north fork Driving Tour ends).

8. To take the south fork, turn right on US 76/SR 282 just south of Ramhurst. **For the Driving Tour, please pause the CD before you reach the fork south of Ramhurst, and restart it as you begin travel on the south fork.** Stay on US 76/SR 282 as it becomes Old Highway 411.

9. Continue (south) on Old Highway 411 past Carter's Lake for a total of 8.4 miles until you reach the Old Highway 411 and SR 136 intersection.

10. Turn left on SR 136. **For the Driving Tour, please pause the CD before you reach the recreational areas at Carter's Lake, and start it again as you leave the Carter's Lake area.** Continue on SR 136 as it turns southeast (left) near Blaine and east (right) near Talking Rock (stop at Talking Rock). Continue on SR 136 until it becomes Old SR 5 in Jasper (total travel distance is 15.4 miles).

11. Continue on Old SR 5 in downtown Jasper until the Old SR 5 and SR 53 intersection. Turn left on SR 53 traveling 4.8 miles out of Jasper, heading to Tate. In Tate turn east (left) on SR 53. **For the Driving Tour, please pause the CD before you reach the Tate Depot or Cemetery, and restart it as you leave.** Continue on SR 53 for 4.7 miles until Harrington Road. This section of the Driving Tour goes through steep, sometimes unpaved mountain roads. For drivers skipping the mountainous section, turn left on SR 53 in Tate and travel approximately 8.2 miles until the SR 53/Yellow Creek Road intersection. Turn right on Yellow Creek Road and continue for 2.5 miles to rejoin the Driving Tour from the mountainous section.

12. To take the Driving Tour mountainous section, from SR 53 turn right on Harrington Road. Continue south on Harrington Road veering right on Fortner Road and passing through the Four Mile Church and Cemetery. **For the Driving Tour, please pause the CD before you reach the Four Mile Church, and start it as you leave the church area.** At Four Mile Church, turn right on Lawson/Federal Road and continue to Yellow Creek Road just inside Pickens County (total travel distance is 6 miles).

13. Turn right on Yellow Creek Road and travel 4 miles. At Ophir, turn left on the Old Federal Road and continue for 3.5 miles to a point just east of Matt.

14. East of Matt, turn left on SR 369. **For the Driving Tour, please pause the CD at the point indicated before you reach the turn off from the Old Federal Road to SR 369 and start it again as you begin on SR 369.** Go into Forsyth County.

15. Continue on SR 369 for about 16.5 miles until you reach Vann's Tavern Park (turn right). **If you are listening to the CD Driving Tour, please pause the CD at the point indicated before you reach Vann's Tavern Park, and start it again as you leave the Park.** Resume right on SR 369 until you reach the SR 369 (Brown's Bridge Road)/McEver Road intersection. Turn right on McEver Road and continue to Stephens Road (total travel distance 5 miles).

16. Go right on Stephens Road until you reach the Old Federal Road. Take the Old Federal Road (right) toward the Old Federal Road Campground (Jim Crow Road) on Lake Sidney Lanier (stop at the Old Federal Road Campground). Retrace the Driving Tour and return to McEver Road and go right, travel on McEver Road to Radford Road. Take a left on Radford Road and continue to the intersection of SR 13 Alternate and Radford Road in Hall County. The Driving Tour ends at the Old Federal Road Historic Marker.

GEORGIA'S OLD FEDERAL ROAD



DRIVING TOUR

Welcome to the route of the Old Federal Road. In 1805, the United States and the Cherokee Nation agreed in the Treaty of Tellico to establish the Federal Road through Cherokee territory. This Driving Tour should help today's traveler drive along or close to the route of the Federal Road. Driving the tour takes about 3 ½ hours. *The directions in this brochure compliment audio CD's available through Regional Visitor Information Centers and Convention and Visitor Bureaus in north Georgia.*

The Federal Road was crucial to three issues in Georgia history.

1. Cherokee-U.S. relations and the Trail of Tears. The Treaty of Tellico turned part of the Middle Cherokee Path into a road U.S. citizens could take through northwestern Georgia. Cherokees had the responsibility of clearing the road to about 15 feet in width and had the right to operate ferries, stores, inns, and taverns. The homes of Chief James Vann, a major supporter of the Treaty of Tellico, and Chief John Ross, a leading opponent of Cherokee removal, were on the Federal Road. With the help of President Andrew Jackson and the Indian Removal Act of 1830, the laws of both Georgia and the U.S. required that Cherokees leave the region. The Treaty of New Echota in 1835 negotiated the terms for that migration. In 1838 the U.S. gathered about 16,000 Cherokees into new removal forts prior to forcing them to move west, and the Federal Road became part of the Trail of Tears.
2. The Georgia Gold Rush began in 1828 and 1829, with about 10,000 new U.S. settlers coming into Georgia, discovering about \$500,000 worth of gold. Most of the Twenty-Niners came to Georgia on the Federal Road.
3. In the Civil War Campaigns for Chickamauga in 1863 and Atlanta in 1864, some fighting and considerable military travel took place along the Federal Road, especially near Ringgold and Rossville.

This Driving Tour is sponsored by the Georgia Department of Transportation and the United States Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration. The Cherokee music on the Driving Tour CD is from Project Songbird: Phase One, used by permission from the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians. Photographs are by David Wharton.