Four Sites Certified in 2006 along Trail of Tears National Historic Trail
by Aaron Mahr

The National Park Service has certified four new sites as official components of the Trail of Tears National Historic Trail. Three are in Missouri: the Snelson-Brinker Cabin in Crawford County, the Maramec Spring Park—Massey Iron Works in Saint James, and Laughlin Park in Waynesville. The fourth, Port Royal State Park, is near Adams, Tennessee.

The Snelson-Brinker Cabin sits along Route 8 in Crawford County, about halfway between Steelville and St. James. Owned by the Saint James Preservation Society, the cabin sits on several acres of land that was part of a large farm and homestead during the removal era. The Snelson-Brinker property was on the trail and served as a campsite and perhaps a supply stop for several of the Cherokee detachments. Local tradition suggests it may also contain unmarked graves of trail travelers. It is listed as a high potential site in the 1987 Trail of Tears National Historic Trail Comprehensive Management and Use Plan. There are no active visitor services at the site but visitors can walk on the grounds and the cabin is often open. Immediate objectives for trail development at the site include further research on the historic structure and landscape, a preservation plan for the rebuilt cabin, and interpretation.

The Maramec Spring Park—Massey Iron Works is along Route 8, a few miles west of the Snelson-Brinker Cabin. This fascinating site, owned by the James Foundation, contains remnants of the oldest ironworks in the state of Missouri. In addition to extensive recreation opportunities, the site also contains a lengthy segment of the Trail of Tears that is occasionally open to the public through special arrangement with the site manager. At least seven detachments passed along the trail in this area and the ironworks are mentioned in W.I. Morrow’s journal of travels with the Richard Taylor detachment. Objectives for trail development at the site include developing the trail segment for public use and interpretation.

Laughlin Park in Waynesville, Missouri, and owned by the City of Waynesville, is a beautiful riverfront park that boasts recreational opportunities that include a lengthy river trail, picnic facilities, and views of the notable Roubidoux Springs. The Trail of Tears crosses the Roubidoux Creek on the park grounds and local tradition points to several areas on the park grounds being camp sites for the Cherokee detachments that passed through the area. The springs were probably sources of nourishment for the detachments as well. Objectives for trail development at Laughlin Park include increased research on the site to determine its full association to Removal and interpretation at the river crossing and the springs.

Nine Cherokee detachments crossed the Red River in northern Tennessee at what is now Port Royal State Park near Adams. The park contains historic structures from Port Royal’s exciting past, and offers recreational activities for the visitor. Also included in the park are remnants of the Trail of Tears, including the river crossing and a trail segment that is over a quarter of a mile in length. The trail segment is open to the public only through special arrangement with the park manager. Immediate objectives for trail development at Port Royal include planning, site development for visitor access and use, and interpretation.

Stay tuned! We’ll keep you up-to-date as the trail grows and more sites become part of the National Historic Trail.
President Bush signed Public Law 109-378 on December 1, 2006, which requires the National Park Service (NPS) to study the feasibility of designating certain additional trails in several states across the country as components of the Trail of Tears National Historic Trail. Under the bill, if the NPS determines that such routes are appropriate additions to the trail, it would designate them as components. This, of course, was the result of H. R. 3085 introduced by Congressman Zach Wamp of Tennessee and co-sponsored by Congressman Marion Berry of Arkansas, as well as several other Congressmen. This is a major step towards amending the Trail of Tears National Historic Trail to significantly add trail segments as well as additional routes. It is also historic in that it is the first time Congress has authorized the NPS to study the feasibility of adding additional routes and segments to a designated national historic trail. Our members are to be commended for all their efforts in securing the passage of this law.

As part of the feasibility study, the NPS will be conducting a series of hearings and scoping meetings along the proposed routes later this year. The expected time for these meetings will be from mid-May through June. As these meetings are scheduled, the National Park Service and the Trail of Tears Association will ensure that our members are aware of the time and place. I encourage you to attend and show your support for these additions to the Trail.

Interest has already been increasing in the Trail of Tears National Historic Trail with the enactment of this legislation. In late February, representatives from the National Park Service and the Trail of Tears Association met with Tennessee’s First Lady, Andrea Conte; Commissioner of the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation, James H. Fyke; and the coordinator for Greenways and Trails, Robert Richards. The current Trail and the proposed Trail expansions would pass through fifteen of Tennessee’s state parks. Those attending discussed ways of providing interpretation and/or exhibits regarding the Trail in all of those parks. Tennessee is very interested in becoming one of the leaders in promoting the Trail of Tears National Historic Trail. Their interest is certainly appreciated.

Be sure to put the dates of our annual conference on your calendar—November 5-8! Jack D. Baker

Jere and wife Jan huddle together in a Pendleton blanket given to them by NPS staff and partners as a retirement gift.

Congratulations! You are responsible for the legislation that was passed by Congress and signed by the President that will lead to the designation of additional routes to the Trail of Tears National Historic Trail. Public Law 109-378 was signed by the President on December 1, 2006. This was accomplished after a great deal of work by the Association, the Cherokee Nation, the NPS and our congressional colleagues, notably Congressman Zach Wamp (R, TN).

So what exactly does the Act do? It calls for a feasibility study to determine the suitability of designating four additions to the TOTNH. Those additions are: 1) the Bell and Benge Routes, 2) the land components of the designated water routes in Alabama, Arkansas, Oklahoma, and Tennessee, 3) the routes from the collection forts in Alabama, Georgia, North Carolina, and Tennessee, and 4) those related campgrounds located along the routes and land components.

Now the work begins. The National Trails System-Santa Fe will begin work on the revision and update to the 1986 Final National Trail Study for the TOTNH. Under the leadership of John Conoboy and Aaron Mahr, the NPS work will focus on the characteristics of these additions that make them worthy of designation. This will also include the recommendation of the NPS Advisory Board as to the national historic significance of the new routes as outlined under the Historic Sites Act of 1935.

Specifically, NPS-Santa Fe has been charged with answering a series of questions: Do the proposed routes meet the criteria for the National Trails Systems Act? Are the proposed routes established by historic use and significant as a result of that use? Are they nationally significant? Do they have potential for recreational use or historic interest based on historical interpretation and appreciation? Are the proposed additional routes sufficiently known to evaluate the potential for recreational use? What are the most significant resources to be preserved? What are the interest group concerns about the addition of the proposed routes, including the Cherokee entities and other American Indian groups, federal and state agencies, organizations, and landowners?

While that may seem like a long list of work and a daunting task, the good news is that a great deal of that work has already been done and much of the data already exists. Much of it was done by you, the Trail of Tears Association members, through your chapter and individual efforts. But, NPS-Santa Fe will still be depending on TOTA for much of the additional work that is to be done. Some of the data needs are: specific routes; characteristics of the routes and areas on or adjacent to the routes; management and public use concepts; land ownership along the trail, sites, segments and landscapes with a high potential for public use and interpretation; cultural resource, social, economic, visitor use and cost estimate data for development, operations, and maintenance. Thanks again for all your hard work!

Paul S. Austin

The NPS requested a total of $361,000 for FY 2008 for the Trail of Tears NHT; however, TOTA requested, through the PNTS, a total of $882,000. The extra $521,000 was requested for the development of a GIS database, project coordination and support, and project development and cultural resource management. An additional $295,000 was requested if and when Congress designates the additional 2,500 miles of trail currently being studied by the NPS. These additional funds will be needed to provide trail interpretation, signing, land use development, research, and resource protection.

Also included in the TOTA part of the PNTS report to Congress was a detailed section on the 2006 Challenge Cost-Shares (CCS) involving the Trail of Tears NHT. There were a total of seven CCS projects in 2006, including two with the Trail of Tears Association. In total, the NPS provided $94,549 in CCS money for the TOTNH. The matching funds by partners totaled $136,437. The type of projects involved were archaeological studies, research of routes in Alabama, research of removal account records, planning meetings for state historic preservation offices, emergency stabilization of the historic James Brown farm in Tennessee, research on Trail sites leading to certification, and remote sensing research in Illinois.

Thank you all for providing such great support to the Trail of Tears Association effort of promoting, preserving, and interpreting the Removal story. As the PNTS would say, “Hip, Hip, Huzzah!”

Jere Quinton

Congratulations, TOTA members and partners, on a successful 2006! Last year, you all contributed time and money equal to $46,267, which does not include the funds provided by partners. The type of projects involved were archaeological studies, research of routes in Alabama, research of removal account records, planning meetings for state historic preservation offices, emergency stabilization of the historic James Brown farm in Tennessee, research on Trail sites leading to certification, and remote sensing research in Illinois.

Be sure to put the dates of our annual conference on your calendar—November 5-8! Jack D. Baker

Jere and wife Jan huddle together in a Pendleton blanket given to them by NPS staff and partners as a retirement gift.
March 2007  Trail of Tears National Historic Trail News 5

The latest chapter meeting was held on Saturday, March 10, 2007, in Waleska at the Funk Heritage Center. The meeting began at 10:00 a.m. and adjourned about 12:30 p.m., at which time the Center unveiled its new Trail of Tears exhibit. Maps for the exhibit were provided by members of the local chapter. Sandwiches were provided for attending.

The Oklahoma chapter will kick off the year’s activities with the spring meeting at Dwight Mission on March 31, 2007, beginning at 10:00 a.m. The meeting will consist of reports on research, grave markings, and the election of three board members, followed by the presentation of a historical overview of the Trail by Pete Vannatta, President, the update of the annual report, and the presentation of the upcoming planned activities for the chapter.

At the spring meeting, the Oklahoma chapter will be welcoming two new members to its board of directors: Cheryl Jett, Secretary-Treasurer, and Linda Ward, Vice President. Both members bring a wealth of experience and knowledge to the chapter, and their presence will undoubtedly enhance the chapter’s operations and effectiveness.

The Oklahoma chapter is also excited to report that they have received a grant from the National Park Service to conduct research on the Trail of Tears in the Oklahoma panhandle. This research will help to better understand the experiences of the Cherokee people as they traversed this region during the removal.

In addition, the Oklahoma chapter is planning to organize a special event during the summer to commemorate the Trail of Tears. More details about this event will be announced in future issues of the Trail of Tears National Historic Trail News.

The Missouri chapter is also active in its efforts to preserve and promote the Trail of Tears. They have recently held a successful meeting in which they discussed the latest developments in their preservation efforts and planned for future activities. The chapter is eager to continue their work in preserving this important historical trail and to share their experiences with other chapters and enthusiasts.

The Georgia chapter is also working on several important projects related to the Trail of Tears. They have been involved in coordinating a series of events to commemorate the Trail of Tears, including a special event at the Maramec Spring—Massey Iron Works ceremony, which was held on September 2, 2006.

The Georgia chapter is also working on several important projects related to the Trail of Tears. They have been involved in coordinating a series of events to commemorate the Trail of Tears, including a special event at the Maramec Spring—Massey Iron Works ceremony, which was held on September 2, 2006.

The chapter is also working with the National Park Service to preserve and promote the Trail of Tears. They have been involved in coordinating a series of events to commemorate the Trail of Tears, including a special event at the Maramec Spring—Massey Iron Works ceremony, which was held on September 2, 2006.

The chapter is also working with the National Park Service to preserve and promote the Trail of Tears. They have been involved in coordinating a series of events to commemorate the Trail of Tears, including a special event at the Maramec Spring—Massey Iron Works ceremony, which was held on September 2, 2006.

The chapter is also working with the National Park Service to preserve and promote the Trail of Tears. They have been involved in coordinating a series of events to commemorate the Trail of Tears, including a special event at the Maramec Spring—Massey Iron Works ceremony, which was held on September 2, 2006.

The chapter is also working with the National Park Service to preserve and promote the Trail of Tears. They have been involved in coordinating a series of events to commemorate the Trail of Tears, including a special event at the Maramec Spring—Massey Iron Works ceremony, which was held on September 2, 2006.

The chapter is also working with the National Park Service to preserve and promote the Trail of Tears. They have been involved in coordinating a series of events to commemorate the Trail of Tears, including a special event at the Maramec Spring—Massey Iron Works ceremony, which was held on September 2, 2006.

The chapter is also working with the National Park Service to preserve and promote the Trail of Tears. They have been involved in coordinating a series of events to commemorate the Trail of Tears, including a special event at the Maramec Spring—Massey Iron Works ceremony, which was held on September 2, 2006.

The chapter is also working with the National Park Service to preserve and promote the Trail of Tears. They have been involved in coordinating a series of events to commemorate the Trail of Tears, including a special event at the Maramec Spring—Massey Iron Works ceremony, which was held on September 2, 2006.

The chapter is also working with the National Park Service to preserve and promote the Trail of Tears. They have been involved in coordinating a series of events to commemorate the Trail of Tears, including a special event at the Maramec Spring—Massey Iron Works ceremony, which was held on September 2, 2006.
Several years ago while researching an historic site in Johnson County, Illinois, I became acquainted with Ms. Karen Freiley, a graduate student at Southern Illinois University at Carbondale, Illinois. Our paths crossed because of a common interest in researching the Trail of Tears across southern Illinois. She was compiling information to document the Trail, and I was working to secure more information on a specific site that I had reason to believe played a role in the trek of the Cherokee through this county.

As President of the Johnson County Genealogical and Historical Society, I was researching the site of the Bridges Tavern and Wasseon Store, a place where the Cherokee camped and traded. Karen was documenting sites, and we worked together to gather information. As one who grew up in southern Illinois, I had always known that the path of the Cherokee, generally, followed Illinois State Route 146. As we discovered more sites, this impression was confirmed.

As a member of the board for the Illinois chapter of the Trail of Tears Association and working with fellow board members, Sandra Boaz and Joe Crabb, to identify more sites, I had occasions to communicate with members of the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT). I had assumed that Illinois State Route 146 was considered as an historic highway. The members of the Illinois chapter of TOTA saw a great need for additional signs to be erected along this important roadway. During one of those talks with IDOT personnel, I learned that this state department did not consider it historic, even though for a number of years signs along its length identify it as “Trail of Tears National Historic Auto Trail.”

I learned that in the 1990s the National Park Service and the National Trail of Tears Association had considered the highway of such importance that they worked with Illinois to install the auto tour highways signs. The Illinois General Assembly had never taken official action to recognize the history of this highway. We felt very strongly that the State of Illinois should take official action to apply the historic designation to Illinois State Route 146, to correct this situation, to bring more awareness to its significance, and to open more doors for possible future resources for development of the historic sites along the path of the Trail of Tears. Thus, a meeting was arranged and conducted in late June 2006 with all the State of Illinois legislators who represent this part of the state. Support was also provided through the Congressional Office of Senator Richard Durbin. Additionally, representatives of several area local units of government, historical societies, and chambers of commerce attended. Members of the Illinois chapter of the Trail of Tears Association conducted an extensive letter writing campaign and person-to-person contact with legislators statewide to solicit their support of the historic designation for State Route 146.

In December 2006, at the full legislative session of the Illinois General Assembly, House Joint Resolution 0142 was passed and bestowed official State of Illinois historic designation for Illinois State Route 146 in honor of the Trail of Tears. Provision is made in the legislation for the installation of signs, plaques, markers, and the like, giving notice of the State Route 146 as the Historic Trail of Tears Highway.

This is an important step that has been accomplished, but much work remains. Illinois chapter members are continuing their work in gathering documentation on sites along the Trail through southern Illinois. Work continues in Pope, Johnson, and Union Counties to document the Trail. Members are out in the field and in the library archives searching for information. As an example, some of the newly identified sites in Johnson County are the Gillispie site, McCorkle Creek site, Dutchman Creek site, Hezekiah West site, Bridges Tavern and Wasseon Store site, and Buckrun Creek site.

Gary Hacker is a board member of the Illinois chapter of the Trail of Tears Association. He also serves as the President of the Johnson County Genealogical and Historical Society.

The 12th Annual Trail of Tears Conference & Symposium will be held in Rome, Georgia, November 5 – 8, 2007, at the Forum Civic Center. Two hotels have been reserved for conference lodging. Shuttle bus service will be provided to and from conferences from these two hotels to the Civic Center throughout the conference. Both hotels have elevators and free parking.

The Days Inn is located about one mile from the Civic Center. A special room rate of $75 plus tax has been provided for TOTA conferences. To make reservations, call (706) 295-0400 and refer to the Trail of Tears Association block in order to receive the reduced room rate.

The Hawthorn Suites is located just across the parking lot from the Civic Center. Special room rates have been provided for TOTA conferences at this hotel, as well, using the block name Trail of Tears Association. To make reservations, call (706) 279-4837. The rates and room types are as follows (plus tax):

- QM: Queen Bed, mini kitchen, $90.30
- RM: King Bed, mini kitchen, $97.30
- QF: Queen Bed, full kitchen, $97.30
- QSFF: Queen Bed, full sleeper sofa, full kitchen, separate sitting area, $104.30
- KSF: King Bed, full sleeper sofa, full kitchen, separate sitting area, $111.30
- QSF: Queen Bed, full sleeper sofa, full kitchen, separate sitting area, $104.30
- QSFF: Queen Bed, full sleeper sofa, full kitchen, separate sitting area, $111.30
- KSF: King Bed, queen sleeper sofa, full kitchen, separate sitting area, $118.30
- KSSF: King Bed, queen sleeper sofa, full kitchen, separate sitting area, $104.30
- LOFT: Split-level room, king bed, queen sleeper sofa, full kitchen, separate sitting area, $147.30

Look for registration materials in the mail by September 2007. In the meantime, if you have any questions, please call the TOTA office at (501) 666-9032, and ask for Jerri or Paul.

The Trail of Tears National Historic Trail News  March 2006
Experience Your America

Trail of Tears
National Historic Trail

Trail News is produced by the partnership of the Trail of Tears Association and the National Park Service National Trails System Office - Santa Fe.

Managing Editor/Designer
Jerra Quinton

Contributors
Paul Austin, Jack Baker, John Conoboy, Gary Hach, Aaron Mah, Jerra Quinton, Andrea Sharon, and TOTA state chapters.

Photographer (unless otherwise noted)
Andrea Sharon

Comments and/or Address Changes? Contact:
Jerra Quinton
Trail of Tears Association
1100 N. University, Suite 143
Little Rock, AR 72207-6344
TOTAJerra@aol.com

Website
www.nps.gov/trte

The Trail of Tears Association has entered into a cooperative agreement with the National Park Service to promote and engage in the protection and preservation of the Trail of Tears NHT resources; to promote awareness of the Trail's legacy including the effects of the U.S. Government's Indian Removal Policy on the Cherokee and other tribes; and to perpetuate the management and development techniques that are consistent with the NPS Trail plan.

Trail of Tears Association
1100 N. University, Suite 143
Little Rock, Arkansas 72207

Phone
800-441-4513
501-666-9032

E-Mail
TOTAJerra@aol.com

Website
www.NationalTOTA.org

National Park Service National Trails System Office - Santa Fe

The National Trails System Office-Santa Fe administers the Trail of Tears NHT, the Santa Fe NHT, and the Route 66 Corridor Preservation Program. El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro NHT is administered jointly by the National Trails System Office-Santa Fe and the New Mexico State Office of the Bureau of Land Management. These trail and corridor programs are administered in partnership with American Indian tribes; federal, state, and local agencies; non-government organizations; and private landowners.

National Trails System Office-Santa Fe
PO Box 728
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87504

Phone
505-988-6888

E-Mail
NPS_administration@nps.gov