Chieftains Museum/Major Ridge Home - Historic Structure and Cultural Landscape Report

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Published: 2007
Document Type: Book / Report
Stable URL: http://core.tdar.org/document/366122
DOI: doi:10.6067/XCV8KW5D03
Chieftains Museum/Major Ridge Home

Historic Structure and Cultural Landscape Report

2007
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Prepared for:
Chieftains Museum/Major Ridge Home
Rome, Georgia

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CHIEFTAINS MUSEUM/MAJOR RIDGE HOME MISSION STATEMENT:

The mission of the Chieftains Museum / Major Ridge Home is to preserve and interpret the heritage represented by the Chieftains house and campus, a National Historic Landmark. As this house and property is the former home of prominent early nineteenth-century Cherokee leader Major Ridge and his family, its heritage most significantly encompasses the history and traditions of the Cherokee Indians and the clash of cultures in the southeastern United States that culminated in the tragedy known as the “Trail of Tears”.

Adopted May 20, 2002

LONG RANGE GOALS

- To be recognized as a leading source of information about Cherokee culture, history, and heritage in Georgia and attract national visitation as a historically important destination.

- To be recognized as a major center for public archaeology in Georgia.

- To be recognized as a leader in community cultural affairs and function as a center for community activity.

- To be recognized as a professionally managed museum that adheres to national standards.

Established during Strategic Planning, January, 2002
The preparation of this combined Historic Structure and Cultural Landscape Report has been a long and complicated process which has combined the efforts of Chieftains Museum, the National Park Service, Southern Research, the community of Rome, Georgia, and many other interested parties. Without their participation this project would not have been possible. Special thanks go to:

HSR/CLR External Review Committee
- Jack Baker, President, National Trail of Tears Association and Representative of The Cherokee Nation
- Bob Blythe, Historian, National Historic Landmark Program, National Park Service, Southeast Regional Office
- Patrick Brennan, Georgia Trust for Historic Preservation
- Pat Garrow, Professional Archaeologist, Early Chieftains Excavations
- Troy Poteete, Cherokee Nation, Representative of the Government Offices, Vice President of National Trail of Tears Association
- Russ Townsend, Tribal Preservation Officer, Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians
- Susan Thomas, Preservation Architect
- Nancy Tinker, National Trust for Historic Preservation
- Caroline Wright, Architectural Reviewer, Georgia DNR, Historic Preservation Division.

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Any factual errors or omissions from this document are the responsibility of Chieftains Museum, the National Park Service, and Southern Research.

Historic Preservation Projects program is located in Santa Fe, New Mexico, and is part of the Division of Facilities Management of the National Park Service’s Intermountain Support Office. Historic Preservation Projects has on staff architects, carpenters, exhibit specialists, and masons who work in partnership with parks, other
agencies, partners, and contractors, to help preserve the important buildings and structures located throughout the United States. Questions regarding this document or other projects may be directed to:

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For the purposes of developing this combined Historic Structure Report and Cultural Landscape Report, the National Park Service, in conjunction with Chieftains Museum, determined additional historical research was needed to find information relevant to understanding and interpreting the building and landscape history. NPS and Chieftains agreed that historical research should be undertaken at the thorough level as defined in the NPS *Cultural Resource Management Guideline* (1995:18).

In the Spring of 2004, Chieftains Museum entered into contract with Southern Research Historic Preservation Consultants, Inc. to undertake the historical research for this project. Based on a research plan approved by Chieftains Museum and NPS, Southern Research prepared successive drafts of a document presenting the results of their research effort. Southern Research consulted many sources and the results are presented in an edited form in the second and third sections of this report. In general, the results of the research were less than what was hoped for and additional research would likely further benefit the overall understanding and interpretation of the history and current state of the Chieftains property.
Recommendations for Further Research

HISTORICAL RESEARCH

The Chieftains Museum/Major Ridge home has a rich history that is hopefully more fully realized and clarified by the present research. Many leads for possible sources of information about the dwelling, the plantation, and the people, who lived there, were investigated in the course of this study. A substantial body of misinformation, bad information, and unsubstantiated assertions about the Chieftains property and its former occupants was encountered along this path. At times some of this dubious information was comical. The most prevalent source of incorrect information was the Internet, although many secondary published sources are flawed. Where possible, the research team attempted to secure access to the primary documents, or at least photocopies of the original documents, so that the facts about Chieftains could be substantiated. To a large extent that goal was accomplished, although many times the researchers had to utilize secondary sources in the place of actual examination of the primary sources. The secondary sources, which include many fine research studies, were reviewed as a separate class of information. The subject of the Cherokees, Cherokee Removal, Major Ridge, and John Ridge, was well represented in historical literature. Despite its pitfalls, the Internet proved to be a wonderful source of information in this study. It also served as an excellent communication viaduct for links with libraries, archives, historical societies, and researchers. Additional research time could have easily been spent examining additional microfilm collections at the National Archives and Records Administration, East Point, Georgia and the Georgia Department of Archives and History (GDAH), Morrow. Time and project funds did not allow a complete review of Bureau of Indian Affairs documents that hold the potential for more details on the life and activities of Major Ridge and John Ridge.

Research at the Moravian Archives, Winston-Salem, North Carolina would be productive. Preliminary contact with their archivist identified several items of correspondence of Sarah Ridge, John Ridge, and Susannah Ridge. This archive also contains diaries from the Spring Place and Oothcaloga Moravian missions. These were not examined in the present study and an examination of these letters and diaries should be included in future research plans.

A manuscript collection at the Huntington Library, San Marino, California includes writings, receipts and other documents of John Ridge. Although this manuscript collection is summarized and partially transcribed in the journal, Chronicles of Oklahoma (Foreman 1931:233-263) details about the receipts and other miscellaneous items in the collection were not described. Further inspection of this small collection may be warranted.

Documents pertaining to the Ridge family and Chieftains, which are held in archival repositories in the northeastern United States were identified from secondary sources and from an annotated bibliography by Kutsche (1986). The most pertinent collections are that of the American Mission Board, which are curated at Houghton Library, Harvard University. Microfilm copies of these documents are housed in the Shorter College Library, Rome, Georgia. The research team learned of their existence at Shorter during the course of the project, but project constraints did not permit their examination.
Other collections relevant to the Baptist missions at Hightower and Haeweis are held by the Baptist Archives, Mercer University, Macon, Georgia. These records were not examined but some potential sources were identified. A visit to Mercer University would probably prove fruitful.

Records at the Western History Collection, University of Oklahoma Library and Oklahoma Historical Society were partially assessed by a review of the research notes of Dr. Alice Taylor-Colbert, Shorter College. Dr. Taylor-Colbert’s research interests include the Ridges and Chieftains Museum but were not totally focused on that subject. The Chieftains Museum would probably derive some benefit from a future visit to these repositories.

The John Howard Payne papers are scattered in several archives and libraries in North America, including Columbia University (New York), Newberry Library (Chicago), and the University of Georgia. The collections at Columbia University were not examined and their content is undetermined. Dr. Taylor-Colbert had some notes and photocopies from the Newberry Library collection, but additional study of that collection may be warranted. The finding aid for the John Howard Payne manuscript collection at the University of Georgia was reviewed by this study, but the collection was not examined in detail.

Further research could be conducted for written records that demonstrate that Lockwood and Poundstone, an early 20th century Atlanta architectural firm, redesigned the Chieftains house during the period of 1924 to 1928. More information about the first is needed also, if a connection is found. At least four schools built or redesigned by Lockwood and/or Poundstone in the 1920s and 1930s have been placed on the National Register of Historic Places in Georgia. These nominations list the architecture and/or architects on the four nominations as significant under criteria C for their architectural style and the architects, Lockwood and Poundstone.

Unfortunately, none of the historic contexts for these nominations provided any useful information about the architects. However, the research conducted during this work was not exhaustive and further research is recommended. Noted architect Odis Poundstone also may have left some manuscripts or architectural plans for posterity. Current managers of the historic buildings built by this firm should be contacted for any information on the architects.

The present search for corporate records of the American Chatillon Corporation, Tubize-Chatillon Corporation, and the American Celanese Corporation met with negative results. The parent company of these firms was contacted and an internal search by their media specialist revealed that no such records have survived. Some information was gathered pertaining to the mill in the present study from other sources. An advertisement should be posted in the Rome newspapers or other media seeking information about the mill from its former employees. Over two decades have lapsed since the mill operated and the former employees are aging. A search of Rome newspapers from this period also may yield additional information on the Chieftains property or its former residents.
In addition to the documentary historical research completed by Southern Research, NPS fielded a research team in November of 2004 to gather existing conditions data from Chieftains. The results of this field research are presented in the first section of the HSR. Like the historical events associated with the Chieftains property, the physical history of the Chieftains property is complex and difficult to interpret. Some additional research could answer some important outstanding questions about the property. For example, a paint chromochronology could be developed that would give some indication of the color schemes present on the exterior and interior of the house during the different periods of use. Also, dendrochronological analysis of the logs and hand-hewn beams of original log structure may help more accurately identify the date range for the construction of the original log structure.

Removal of the interior and/or exterior finishes covering the original log building and the addition(s) attributed to Major Ridge might help to see and understand the construction and chronology of the building and its changes. Many important questions might be answered by this such as: whether the central hallway (dogtrot) was originally built as an open space, did logs go across it at some level and did it originally have a floor, was the stairway a part of the original construction or added later, what was the original configuration of roofs during the Ridge Period, was the original front entry on the east or the west, what was the original pattern of fenestration, and did the existing south entry date to the Ridge Period. Other evidence of previous construction or modification may be made more visible by removal of the finishes, as well. Note that while removal of the finishes would be very disruptive to the function of the building, it would be more plausible as the first step in implementation of one of the treatment options, and would have the potential to alter the treatment if useful information was gained by the process.

Comprehensive testing for hazardous materials, such as asbestos and lead, would help to better quantify hazards and abatement requirements. This would be recommended for any treatment implementation.

**Archaeological Research**

Archaeology at Chieftains has already been used to identify architectural and cultural features, and its continued application could provide more physical details. Careful study of the collections excavated by past projects at Chieftains may provide dating clues that will help identify outbuildings north of the main house. Excavations along foundation walls and under the building (if possible) could help date periods of construction, and provide evidence or confirmation of features that are no longer in existence, such as foundations, walls, porches or additions.

Archaeology could also aid in identifying outbuildings and perhaps functions and dates of construction/or use, as well as activity areas at Chieftains beyond those already identified by Garrow (1969, 1974), O’Steen and Garrow (1988), Mozingo (1999), and Worth (2000). Many areas of the Chieftains yard that have been sampled by these researchers should be explored by additional excavations, or remote-
sensing, to better define the resources. Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR) may prove useful in delineating features at Chieftains such as roads, pathways, cellars, and cemeteries. The advantage of this technology is that it is non-destructive, which is important for preserving archaeological resources that are not facing immediate destruction. Nevertheless, ground-truthing of the GPR anomalies would be necessary for final verification of any underground anomalies that were identified.

One important recommendation is to complete the analysis and reporting of the archaeological work that has been conducted at Chieftains to date. Carey Tilley and his colleagues at the Chieftains Museum/Major Ridge Home are presently working toward this goal. These archaeological collections should be fully identified, studied, and the results reported prior to any further field work. Future excavations could then explore areas beyond those already investigated by these previous studies, including areas east of Chatillon Road, in the ferry vicinity, south of the Chieftains residence, and on the west side of the Oostanaula River. Archaeological research should explore other areas of Land Lots 165, 196 and 205, where Major Ridge had improved land. The search of these areas may yield evidence of the slave housing, agricultural compounds, or other, as yet, unidentified cultural resources. The archaeological research should not be limited to terrestrial study but should include underwater survey to explore the potential for ferry-related resources, fish dams, and nineteenth century debris fields on the bottom or along the banks of the Oostanaula River. Initial efforts to study the underwater historic resources at Chieftains have been taken (Jason Burns, State of Georgia Underwater Archaeologist, personal communication August 26, 2004).

The important concept to consider is that good interpretation of the historical resources at Chieftains should include the combined use of all of these research tools. Each discipline has important contributions to make to a better understanding of the people and places that once were the Chieftains plantation. An integrated approach to future research at Chieftains will yield the best overall picture of this nationally important historical resource.
Site History

The home of Major Ridge has stood on the banks of the Oostanaula River for almost 200 years. Ownership of the house and surrounding property has passed through many hands during that time (Figure 1). The size of the property has fluctuated over time going from several hundred acres that Major Ridge owned to nearly a thousand acres during the middle of the nineteenth century, and now to the present 12 acres owned by the Chieftains Museum, Inc. This chapter provides a discussion of the major owners and periods of ownership starting with Major Ridge and focuses on the house and the property associated with it in the courthouse records. This discussion provides the reader with a chronological prospective of land use and ownership changes through time starting with the Ridges. The names of periods are ascribed to the names of the major owners (Table 1).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Person</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1819-1837*</td>
<td>Major Ridge</td>
<td>Owner, planter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1832-1833*</td>
<td>Rachel Ferguson</td>
<td>Lottery winner, owner</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1833-1852*</td>
<td>Augustus N. Verdery</td>
<td>Owner, planter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1852</td>
<td>Francois/Francis Debray</td>
<td>Owner</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1855-1863</td>
<td>Ferdinand Debray Delongchamps</td>
<td>Owner</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1863-1892</td>
<td>Augustus R. Wright</td>
<td>Owner, planter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1892-1899</td>
<td>Catherine Jones</td>
<td>Owner</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1899-1924</td>
<td>Henry Jeffries</td>
<td>Owner, planter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1924-1928</td>
<td>J. H. Porter</td>
<td>Owner</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1928-1930</td>
<td>American Chatillon Corporation</td>
<td>Owner, mill housing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1930</td>
<td>Tubize Chatillon Corporation</td>
<td>Owner, mill housing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1946-1969</td>
<td>Celanese Corporation</td>
<td>Owner, mill housing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1969-1987</td>
<td>Junior Service League of Rome</td>
<td>Owner, museum</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1987-Present</td>
<td>Chieftains Museum, Inc.</td>
<td>Owner, Museum</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 1. Timeline of Chieftains ownership.

*Dual ownership: Ridge’s property was divided into 160 acre tracts by the state of Georgia and raffled off in 1832; however, until Ridge left his property in 1837, neither the lottery winner nor her buyer could occupy the land.

The Ridge Period (1819-1837)

The exact date of the construction of the first house at Chieftains was not found and sufficient data to answer this question may remain unknown. The year 1819 appears to be the best estimated date for the Ridge family’s settlement on the Oostanaula River at the location that became known as Chieftains (Eaton 1978:28, 56; McKenney and Hall 1855:86.) By 1819, a ferry identified as Ridge’s and was in operation on the Oostanaula River. According to a Cherokee law passed at New Town on Oct. 30, 1819, Widow fool shall also keep in repair for the benefit of her ferry at the fork, the road to commence from the creek above named to where Ridge’s Road now intersects said road east of her ferry, and that the Ridges shall also keep in repair the road to commence at the Two Runs, east of his ferry, and to continue by way of his ferry as
Figure 1. Project [signed by Ross, Path Killer, Hicks, and McCoy] (Battey 1994:27).\footnote{Without citing a source Wilkins claims that as late as 1824 the Ridge family maintained a home at Oothcalooga and a second home on the Oostanaula (Wilkins 1994:27).}
A more direct reference to the Ridge’s residence appears in a letter written from the Moravian missionary at Oothcalooga dated April 10, 1822:

I really regret that Sister Ridge (Susannah) had to miss these blessed days because of her great distance and extensive household – they have a ferry about 18 miles down the river where she stays most of the time. (Gambold 1822).

McKenney and Hall (1855:87-88) present some details about the house, noting Ridge’s ambitions led him:

“…to build a house, and cultivate a farm; and accordingly he removed into the wilderness, and reared a mansion of logs [sic], which had the luxury of a door, and the extravagant addition of a chimney. Nor was this all; roof was added, of long boards, split from logs, and confined in their places by weight poles--and thus completed the usual log-cabin of the frontier settler, an edifice which ranks in architecture next above the lodge or wigwam” and grounds.

The portrait (Figure 2) of a stern white-haired and well-dressed Cherokee is the only known image of Major Ridge that we have. The portrait, probably painted by Charles Bird King, was the source of derivative lithographs that appeared in books by McKenney and Hall, and many others (Cosentino 1977; McKenney and Hall 1837, 1842, 1844, 1855). One physical description of Major Ridge is given by a traveler, Lucius Veran Bierce, who passed through the Cherokee Nation in 1822. Mr. Bierce described Ridge as:

“…a large, and for an Indian portly man, well formed, and handsome address. He wore a blue broad Cloth frock coat and pantaloons, boots white handkerchief and fur hat, but that on which he seemed to pride himself most was a black silk Cockade with the United States Eagle on it” (Knepper 1966:90).

Prior to settling at Chieftains, Major Ridge and his wife Susannah lived at the Cherokee Pine Log settlement located to the east of Chieftains between the Oostanaula and Etowah rivers in what is now Bartow County (Wilkins 1986:19-20). According to 1835 census data on birth dates, it would appear that most, if not all, of the Ridge children were born prior to their move to their parent’s “mansion” on the Oostanaula River. The oldest child was Nancy Ridge born in 1798 or 1799. John Ridge was born in 1804, followed by another son, Walter “Watty”, born ca. 1806. Their fourth child was Sarah, “Sallie”, born in 1810 or 1814. The birth date of a fifth child, an infant daughter, is unknown, although she died in 1818 (Phillips and Phillips 1998:81; Ancestry.com 2004). McKenney and Hall noted that one of the Ridge children died 1970: 159). It is hoped that further research can establish the exact date the Ridge family moved permanently to the home known today as Chieftains.

2 The portrait was painted in 1834 when Major Ridge was in Washington D.C. (Wilkins 1970: 250, 356 n59).
in infancy while, “Another was deficient in mind, and the other three were well educated” (McKenney and Hall 1855:88).

In 1810, prior to their move from Pine Log to the Oostanaula River, Major Ridge and Susannah sent their eldest children, Nancy and John, to the Moravian Mission School at Spring Place, which had been established in 1800 near the home of James Vann (now Murray County). In 1817, Nancy and John were sent to the Brainerd Mission (established after the Spring Place Mission) on Chickamauga Creek in Tennessee, although John Ridge left within months to attend school in Knoxville in early 1818 (Wilkins 1986:998-99; Phillips and Phillips 1998:443). It is unlikely that Nancy and John spent much time at Chieftains as children.3

The year 1819 has significance for the Ridge family beyond the likely date that they moved to Chieftains. That year John Ridge entered the Cornwall Foreign Mission School (or Cornwall College) in Cornwall, Connecticut (Hall 1955:103-104). Sadly, that same year, their eldest child, Nancy, who probably had married sometime in 1818, died in childbirth.4 She was buried near the Ridge’s house, which from the description was probably at Chieftains (Wilkins 1986:116). By 1824, John had finished four years of study at Cornwall, married a Connecticut woman, Sarah Bird Northrup, and moved to a home east of the Oostanaula River at a place called Two Run, a few miles northeast of Chieftains (Eaton 1914:56).5

3 According to Wilkins, John Ridge left for Cornwall in the fall of 1818 and arrived at school in late November of the same year.
4 Nancy died in 1818 rather than 1819. A Sept. 12, 1818 entry in the journal of the mission at Brainerd states that “Butrick will go on to preach a funeral sermon on account of the late death of the daughter of a chief who is called the Ridge” (Phillips and Phillips 1998: 81). Wilkins says that Nancy had married an Indian named Ricky (Wilkins 1970: 117).
5 Marion L. Starkey writes that Major Ridge once asked Butrick to hold a Sabbath service in the woods by his daughter’s grave, and following the service “Butrick lingered in the gracious house” (Starkey 1995: 55). Unfortunately Starkey does not cite a reference for her claim. Wilkins specifies that the tragedy of Nancy’s death “struck at Oothcalooga” (Wilkins 1970: 117).
6 Following the preparation of this report independent researcher Anna Smith and National Trail of Tears President Jack Baker located information about the Ridge
John Ridge has been cited in a contemporary letter written in 1828 as having had a hand in the remodeling of Chieftains house, although this primary source was not found. A primary source of circumstantial evidence is an 1828 advertisement placed by John Ridge in the Cherokee Phoenix (1828-1829), which offers the services of a house builder capable of erecting houses in the “latest style”. Primary documentary evidence directly connecting John Ridge to Chieftains was not found. Undoubtedly, he participated in family affairs there, and may have been involved in meetings and gatherings associated with the complex affairs of the Cherokee Nation during the years prior to removal. John Ridge was well educated and became an astute and articulate voice for the Cherokee Nation, as well as working with the Creek Indians in some of their negotiations with the U.S. Government. His portrait is presented in Figure 3.

Despite all the efforts Major, John Ridge and other Cherokees made to maintain possession of their territorial lands, the U.S. Government passed the Indian Removal Act in 1830. It was signed by Andrew Jackson, who sided with the southern states in their demands for Indian lands. Bolstered by the Act, the state of Georgia went ahead with plans to acquire the Cherokee lands of northwest Georgia. They sent land surveyors across Cherokee territory to divide the Cherokee territory into sections that were further divided into districts, which were subdivided into land lots. The land lots measured into either 160 acres or 40 acres lots known as gold lots. The gold lots were located in

Figure 3. Portrait of John Ridge.

house in records of the Moravian Archives, Salem, North Carolina. On Sept. 27, 1826 Moravian missionaries John and Maria Gambold wrote from the mission at Oochgelogy to Brother Schulz in Salem “Major Ridge, as is known from the newspapers, received a good amount of money through the “Treaty” with the Creeks and now wants to build a beautiful, big house. He has been looking for a carpenter for this in Tennessee. He went to Mr. Conger who spoke to his son-in-law Clark about this “Job,” and he also came here with him and finished the job” (Baker, Personal Communication 2006; Schulz 1826).

John Ridge joined his father, Major Ridge, and cousin Elias Boudinot, to form and lead the so-called Treaty Party that broke with Principal Chief John Ross and the majority of the Cherokee Nation. Since Major Ridge spoke English poorly, John became the primary spokesman for the party. In 1835 the Treaty Party signed the fraudulent Treaty of New Echota and agreed to removal.
those areas where gold had been discovered in 1829, or in nearby areas that were
surmised to contain gold deposits. The gold lots were mostly in the lower
Appalachian Mountains to the east of the Ridge and Valley province. There were no
gold lots in Floyd County. The surveyors were instructed to record the current
conditions of the land, noting all improvements that the Cherokees had made to their
lands. Improvements included such things as houses, structures, ferries, bridges,
mills, fences, and lands cleared for agricultural fields, orchards, or pastures. Field
maps and notes were made and then transcribed for the official state records so that
the lands could be distributed through a lottery system. By 1832, the state of Georgia
had created one county, Cherokee County, encompassing all of the Cherokee
territory of northwest Georgia. Wasting no time, an official state lottery was held in
1832, which awarded the newly formed land lots to non-Cherokee Georgia residents.
By the end of 1832, the surveyed land was further subdivided into 10 counties, one
being Floyd County where the Ridge property is located.

The 1835 Treaty of New Echota signified the Cherokees’ relinquishing of all of their
lands east of the Mississippi River. One of the provisions of the treaty gave the
Cherokees two years to remove themselves from their properties, starting from the
time of the ratification of the Treaty of New Echota in May of 1836 (Kappler 1904:439-
448). Nevertheless, the state of Georgia and its citizens were anxious to occupy the
Cherokee territories and numerous infringements by settlers occurred with much
greater ferocity and regularity after the signing of the 1835 Treaty. The Federal
Government made some effort to protect the Cherokees and their property from
squatters until removal. Appeals were made by William Cleghorn, agent for the
Cherokees, to Georgia Governor Lumpkin to help control these infringements
(Cleghorn 1833). Lumpkin made some attempts to control squatters.

The early but short-lived white settlement of Livingston developed on the Coosa
River west and a little downstream from where the Oostanaula and Etowah rivers
joined. This area known as the head of the Coosa was owned and occupied by the
Cherokee John Ross, who lived there and ran a ferry operation. In 1833 Ross
returned from conducting negotiations in Washington, D.C. to find his property had
been taken over by whites. Unable to dislodge them he moved his family to a log
cabin near the Red Clay settlement in Tennessee at a place on the Tennessee River
(Wilkins 1986:252). Governor Lumpkin signed legislation on December 20, 1834
authorizing the removal of the public buildings in the Livingston settlement to Rome,
in the vicinity of John Ross’s land. The town of Rome was officially incorporated in
this same legislation that authorized the removal of the Livingston settlement. The
original town of Rome was located on Lot 245, 23rd District, 34 Section of Floyd
County (Georgia General Assembly 1834:25).

THE FERGUSON-VERDERY PERIOD (1836-1853)

This period of ownership at Chieftains does not truly begin until after Major Ridge

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8 Although often ignored, Georgia law officially prohibited taking possession of
Cherokee improvements until the Cherokees had abandoned them. As leader of the
Treaty Party, Major Ridge and his property received greater protection under this act
until he emigrated in 1837.
and his family left the property permanently in late December 1836. The state of Georgia conducted a lottery and awarded the part of Ridge’s property containing his house, ferry, store, and other buildings located on Land Lot 196 to Rachel Ferguson in 1832. She was a widow of a Revolutionary War soldier and lived in Richmond County, Georgia. There is no indication that she ever occupied Lot 196. Realizing the value of her lottery winnings, the widow Ferguson promptly sold the property containing Major Ridge’s residence Lot 196 to Augustus N. Verdery for $5,000 in January 1833 (Wright et al. 1929). The 1833 land sale was mysteriously recorded in Stewart County, Georgia (southwest Georgia) and then in January 1836 the transaction was recorded again, this time in Richmond County. The second recordation was probably due to the fact that Major Ridge continued to own the land in the eyes of the Federal Government until the signing of the 1835 Treaty of New Echota, which was ratified in May of 1836. The state of Georgia also made attempts to control white incursions onto Cherokee lands until the Cherokees left their property. The Ridge family left very late in the year of 1836.

Augustus Verdery was a first generation (French) American citizen. He was the son of a Frenchman and maintained close ties with his relatives in France (Prather 1942). His father, Mathurin Marechal Verdery, originally lived in Bordeaux, France, but was forced to leave his homeland during the French Revolution. He married Adelaide Pavageau while a resident of San Domingo. The couple then settled in Augusta, Georgia where their son Augustus was born on November 14, 1802. Augustus N. Verdery was married to Susan H. Burton in Richmond County, Georgia on September 1, 1824 (Ancestry.com 2004).

In 1836, Augustus Verdery applied to the Georgia Legislature for a license to operate what was formerly Ridge’s Ferry (Georgia General Assembly 1836, Volume 1:128-130). No subsequent details of Verdery’s Ferry operation were found during further research. Verdery also operated a floating bridge during at least part of his period of ownership of the former Ridge plantation. Floating bridges were used in France and elsewhere in Europe during the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, and this may be where his idea originated. Figure 4 illustrates one such bridge in North Carolina. As the town of Rome, Georgia grew in population and commerce, the need for a permanent bridge increased so that by the mid-1850s a bridge was constructed over the Oostanaula River downstream from Chieftains, resulting in less and less traffic at the ferry crossing.

Changes during the Verdery ownership involved land use changes of the property. Agricultural census information, deeds, and other documents indicate that the landscape became more heavily cultivated through time, a common trend as cotton became a big cash crop. What began as approximately 77 acres of improved lands as shown on the 1832 plats eventually became several hundred acres of cleared land. Verdery acquired additional tracts in the vicinity of Land Lot 196 to create a farm comprised of approximately 800 acres, although the core of Verdery’s plantation was comprised of Land Lots 165 and 196, totaling approximately 283 acres (Wright et al. 1929).
It is unclear how much time Augustus Verdery actually spent at the Chieftains property. He served as a Judge of Superior Court in Richmond County, Georgia from January 9, 1837 to January 14, 1841. These judicial duties probably kept him from investing himself fully into his newly acquired land at Chieftains, since the two locations were on complete opposite sides of Georgia (Prather 1942). Verdery may have had a tenant that ran his plantation in his absence, but no documentation was found to verify that.

The 1840 federal census enumerated Augustus Verdery as head of household in Richmond County, Georgia. Verdery’s household consisted of 22 people, including 14 slaves. Eight members of the Verdery household were engaged in agriculture and two were engaged in manufacturing and trade in 1840 in Floyd County (United States Census, Population schedule, Floyd County:291-292).

Prior to January 11, 1841, at least seven African-American slaves were living at Augustus Verdery’s farm in Floyd County. These included a man named Henry, two women named Dinah and Eliza, a boy named Jim, and three girls, Molly, Elizabeth, and Lucy. An 1842 mortgage agreement between Verdery and George W. Crawford mentions eight of Verdery’s slaves, who were used as collateral in the transaction (Floyd County Deed Book D:318-319). In an 1845 mortgage agreement with Pleasant Stovall, Verdery again uses his slaves and his Floyd County plantation as collateral (Floyd County Deed Book E:26-27).

These legal documents and the 1840 slave census information account for at least 19 of Verdery’s slaves living in Georgia in the 1830s and 1840s. Their residence was either on Verdery’s Richmond County property or at his Chieftains property. The deed records do not specify their place of residence, although those used as collateral are associated with the Floyd County property (Floyd County Deed Book E:26-27).
portion of Land Lot 196 located west of the Oostanaula River was sold by Verdery to Lewis and Richard Parks in 1846 (Wright et al. 1929).

Augustus Verdery is not enumerated in the 1850 census; however, 27 slaves were recorded for Verdery in Floyd County (U.S. Census Slave Schedule 1850:47). A possible relative of Verdery’s, Freeman Virderre, an 18 year-old clerk, was listed in the 1850 census for Floyd County, Georgia, although Freeman Virderre was not identified as the head of a household. He was identified as living with a merchant named Miles Johnson (U.S. Census, Population Schedule 1850:195).

One of Verdery’s descendants, Emily Prather, wrote a family history covering the years 1794 to 1942 (Prather 1942). Emily gleaned some of her information about the Chieftains years from a fictional account by her mother, Augustus Verdery’s daughter Susan Verdery Prather. Susan lived with her parents at Chieftains until the family moved to Greenville, Alabama, supposedly at the urging of Augustus Verdery’s wife (Prather 1942:43). Susan’s fictional account supposedly wove fact and fancy into a fanciful story about Tahlonika the Cherokee (Prather n.d.). Her descriptions of Chieftains and surrounding areas of the landscape seem fairly accurate at times, but where fiction strays from fact is not always easy to determine.

The Verdery’s probably moved away from Chieftains with the sale of the Chieftains property somewhere around 1852. Deed records are missing for Verdery’s sale of the Chieftains property. However, the property ended up in the hands of Ferdinand Debray de Longchamp and his wife Eliza Mirambau on September 24, 1853 for $2,675. Their ownership of the property was brief, and they sold the property to A.R. Wright on December 5, 1855 (Wright et al. 1929). During a portion of the time that de Longchamp owned the Chieftains property and portions of it were leased for agricultural use to James W.M. Berrien.

The expansion and development of the Chieftains plantation following the Ridge’s departure reflects a trend that was experienced throughout the former Cherokee Nation. Verdery and other owners who acquired the improved Cherokee properties shortly after 1838 often came into possession of ready-made farms with buildings set up for an agricultural economy based on cash crops. The presence of these Cherokee farms would have given Rome and Floyd County an edge as an economic center of northwest Georgia during the 1830s to 1850s.

THE WRIGHT PERIOD (1855-1863)

Augustus N. Wright bought the Chieftains property on December 5, 1855 for $7000 (Wright et al. 1929). According to his granddaughter, Ava Louise Wright, her grandfather was born in 1813 in Wrightsboro, Georgia and later attended Franklin College in Athens, Georgia (graduation date unknown). He studied law at the Litchfield Connecticut Law School (Litchfield, Connecticut) where many future political leaders of the United States studied law during the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries (http://www.litchfieldhistoricasociety.org/history-histlawschool.html). Wright was admitted to the bar in Georgia in 1835, and began his practice in Crawfordville, Georgia located between Athens and Augusta. The
following year he moved to Cassville, Georgia in Bartow County where he served as a judge for the superior courts of the Cherokee circuit from 1842 to 1849. In 1855, after purchasing the Chieftains property, Wright moved to the Rome, Georgia area where he continued to practice law. Augustus Wright was married twice and had a total of 16 children from the two marriages. Ava Louise Wright, who wrote about her grandfather, descended from the second marriage (A. Wright 1869-1905).

The 1860 Federal Census Population Schedule for Floyd County is the only Census that records Wright at Chieftains. A.R. Wright, a 46 years old white male attorney and native Georgian, was listed as head of the household. His real estate was valued at $28,000 and his personal estate was listed at $20,000. Twelve other members of the household were noted, including Wright’s second wife, Adeline E. Wright, and ten children ranging from age 21 to three years old. All were sons with the exception of one daughter. Also residing in the household was H.L. Berrien, a 41 year old female, occupation not listed (United States Census 1860, Population Schedule, Floyd County:194).

It appears that Augustus R. Wright was a very successful farmer during the mid-nineteenth century based on the census information in the Population and Agricultural Schedules. These documents provide what little information we have about his years at Chieftains. In 1860, Wright owned 1,000 acres in Floyd County, Georgia of which exactly half was listed as improved. We cannot be certain all of these acres were part of the Chieftains property. His farm was valued at $12,500 and he owned farming implements and machinery worth $500. He also owned livestock valued at $1,500 and reported $500 worth of slaughtered livestock for 1860 (U.S. Census, Agricultural Schedule, 1860).

Wright was elected as a Georgia representative to the 35th U.S. Congress, serving from March 4, 1857 to March 3, 1859. When talk about secession from the United States became serious he served on the delegate to Georgia Secession that opposed secession. Nevertheless, when Georgia seceded from the Union, Wright entered the service of the Confederate States of America as a Colonel, and organized Wright’s Legion, which raised 1,250 men. This Legion became the 38th Georgia Infantry (Gulley n.d.; Wright 1969-1905). He held the rank of Colonel throughout the war, although the 38th Georgia Infantry was commanded by others after February 1862. Wright’s Legion was present at the surrender at Appomattox, Virginia on April 9, 1865. Of the 1,200 soldiers who enlisted in Wright’s Legion, only 105 survived the war (Civil-war.net 2004).

Although Colonel Wright did not serve on the battlefield with his men in these engagements, he remained active in the political affairs of Georgia. President Lincoln interviewed Judge A.R. Wright in 1864. Wright may have been offered the job of Provisional Governor for the state of Georgia, which he purportedly declined (Wright 1879). Following the Civil War, Wright was elected in 1877 as a delegate to the Constitutional Convention of Georgia, which was tasked with the framing of a new state constitution.

Augustus R. Wright sold the Chieftains house and property during the middle of the war to Addision A. Jones in 1863. Wright continued to live in the Rome area (United
States Census 1870, Population Schedule, Floyd County:130). Wright built a home, known as Glenwood, which was located at the current site of the Berry College Chapel, and continued practicing law, serving as a judge and a preacher. He died at Glenwood in Rome in 1891 (www.romegeorgia.com/history.html).

**THE JONES-JEFFERIES PERIOD (1863-1924)**

Addison A. Jones purchased 283 acres of the Chieftains property from Augustus R. Wright on July 24, 1863, paying $25,000 for the property in Confederate currency. The warranty deed refers to a survey of the property by Eugene Lehardy but no plat was found (Floyd County Deed Book N:404; Wright et al. 1929).

Jones was a wealthy Virginian whose family owned land in Alabama, Virginia, and Georgia. He married Susanna (last name unknown) and they had three children. When his daughter Susan Jones married Francis M. Jeffries, Addison gave her a home south of his dwelling along with 20 acres of land (Floyd County Deed Book U:640-642; Wright et al. 1929). Jones owned several properties in northwest Georgia, including commercial property in Rome and farms in Floyd County and neighboring counties (Addison A. Jones 1869-1905; Jones Family papers 1869-1905).

The National Register of Historic Places nomination form for the Chieftains house noted that Addison A. Jones remodeled the house “into a charming modern residence” (NPS 1972). However, no supporting documentation was provided with the nomination form, nor was any found, that would verify this claim.

Little information was found about Addison A. Jones pertaining specifically to the Chieftains property during his tenure there. Jones wrote and signed his Last Will and Testament on June 9, 1886. He died in 1892 and the will was proven on August 1, 1892. Jones left his son, Andrew T. Jones, as Executor and appointed William A. Porter as the Administrator of the will (Floyd County Will Book D:8-10). The Inventory of Addison Jones’ estate included the Jones home place on the Oostanaula River, being parts of lots 196, 205 and 206, Dis. 23, Sec. 3, Floyd County, and containing 140 acres more or less. The estimated value of the real estate was $6,500, which was inventoried to be sold with the exception of six acres with the dwelling left to his daughter Katherine (Catherine) Jones (Wright et al. 1929).

Catherine Jones apparently did not live too many years beyond her father, dying in 1899. It appears she never married. Her will was dated April 15, 1899 and was proven on June 5, 1899. She left her six acres and the house that she inherited from her father to her two nephews: J.H. Jeffries and A.J. Jeffries, sons of her sister Susan Jones Jeffries. Catherine left money and other things to her other Jeffries nieces and nephews (Floyd County Will Book D:240; Wright et al. 1929).

J.H. Jeffries played a major role in the settlement of the Jones’ and Jeffries’ estates. In 1899, the value of the Chieftains home place, situated on the six acre tract, was appraised at $2,300. By 1902, ownership of the six acre homestead was solely vested in J.H. Jeffries (Floyd County Deed Book KKK:537; Wright et al. 1929), who resided there (Anonymous ca. 1900-1924). Subsequently, the six acres became part of a 100-acre tract. In 1918, J.H. Jeffries conveyed a bond for title of the Chieftains property to
Judson C. Davis. The property consisted of 100 acres in Land Lot 196. J.H. Jeffries deeded the property to T.D. Stevens and J.F. Stevens in February 1922 (Floyd County Deed Books 108:381; 111:275; Wright et al. 1929).

Addison A. Jones and his descendants in the Jones and Jeffries families were important residents of Chieftains and Floyd County. Although they lived beyond the city limits of Rome, the members of these families figured prominently in Rome’s commerce and economic growth. The Jones and Jeffries owned several stores, rental houses in Rome, and farms in rural Floyd County. An appreciation of their involvement in Rome’s commerce is evident from examining some of the volumes of Jones family papers, which are preserved on microfilm at the Georgia Department of Archives and History (GDAH) (Jones Family Papers 1869-1905; originals are at the Chieftains Museum). A cursory examination indicated there were no details about the built environment at Chieftains during this time period. This collection of papers represents a vivid assemblage of receipts, invoices, letters, draft contracts, and other business papers, which attest to the importance of the Jones and Jeffries families in the Rome community.

THE PORTER PERIOD (1923-1928)

The Chieftains property was sold by T.D. Stevens and J.F. Stevens to J.H. Porter in February 1923 (Floyd County Deed Book 117:409; Wright et al. 1929). J.H. Porter owned Chieftains until May 1928 when he deeded the property to the American Chatillon Corporation (Floyd County Deed Book 134:240; Wright et al. 1929). While biographical information concerning J.H. Porter could not be found, it appears that during his ownership of the Chieftains house that the house experienced significant remodeling. Unfortunately, no specific documents were located pertaining to the remodeling effort in the present research.

The 1972 National Register of Historic Places nomination form stated that Porter remodeled Chieftains using the early twentieth century Atlanta architectural firm of Lockwood and Poundstone. The form contains no source citations to corroborate this claim (NPS 1972). Lockwood and Poundstone are recognized as designers of schools in the Classical Revival and Colonial Revival styles of that period. At least four early twentieth century schools in Georgia were designed or redesigned by Lockwood and Poundstone. One of these is the Rome Main High School building, which was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 2002, with Architecture by the firm listed as one of the criteria for significance (NPS 2002).

The value of Porter’s Floyd County property and buildings, excluding his property within the City of Rome, was $8,500 in 1923. His property totaled 280 acres and included portions of Lots 196 and 205, District 23, Section 3 and Lots 261 and 264, District 22, Section 3. That value remained unchanged the following year (1924), but for the next year (1925) the assessed value of the same property was $15,000, almost double the previous year. That value remained unchanged in the year 1926. In 1927, Porter’s property size, which was reduced to 180 acres in Lots 196, District 23, Section 3 and Lots 261 and 264, District 22, Section 3, was valued at $16,000. In 1928 the value of Porter’s land and buildings in rural Floyd County increased to 309 acres, the value
of which was assessed at $24,000. The next year (1929) Porter's property holdings had
decreased to 239 acres (reflecting the sale of his Chieftains property) and the value of
his rural land holdings was assessed at $13,400. Porter appears to have paid taxes on
his property in Lot 196 in 1929, but it is unclear if these taxes pertained to the
Chieftains residence and associated acreage or not (Floyd County Tax Digests 1923,

The increased value of the Chieftains dwelling during Porter’s ownership may suggest
that renovations to the house contributed to the substantial increase in its value.
Unfortunately, there are no specific tax records on the Chieftains property for 1921
and 1922. The assessed property value for taxes paid by J.R. Davis on three acres in
District 23, Section 3 (possibly the Chieftains property) in 1921 and 1922 was $1,200.00
(Floyd County Tax Digests: 1921, 1922).

THE INDUSTRIAL PERIOD (1928-1969)

Although the Chieftains property remained outside of Rome’s city limits into the
second quarter of the twentieth century, it was inevitable the property would be
affected by the continuing growth and expansion of Rome. In 1928, the land use at
Chieftains made a drastic shift from primarily agricultural to primarily industrial. J.H.
Porter sold the property to the American Chatillon Corporation (Floyd County Deed
Book 134:240; Wright et al. 1929).

During the late nineteenth century European researchers were working on
developing synthetic fibers based from cellulose acetate products. The first artificial
silk, or rayon, was produced by French scientist Count Hilaire de Chardonnet in 1891
(Grindstaff 2005:5). During the early twentieth century products from celluloid were
beginning to be produced. A company in Switzerland dating to 1904 went on to form
companies in Great Britain and America that produced products made from cellulose
acetate such as acetate dope, and cellulose acetate yarn, or artificial silk. A plant was
built in Maryland around 1917 to produce cellulose products even moving into acetate
molding compounds for making plastic. In 1917 this plant came under the operation
of the American Cellulose & Chemical Manufacturing Company in New York. In
1920, the company began developing plastics and produced the first acetate yarn in
the United States in 1924. In 1927 the company changed its name to Celanese
Corporation of America (Blanke 1952; Acordis Tow 2004; Celanese Chemicals 2004;
Paul Reichenbacher personal communication July 2004; Ticona Engineering
Polymers 2004).

At nearly the same time in 1921 in Chatillon, Italy the first artificial silk/rayon textile
plant was built. It was quite successful and two more plants were built in Italy. The
Italian financiers quickly evolved into the American Chatillon Corporation and
selected Rome, Georgia as one of the first locations in the south for the construction
of a rayon textile plan (Grindstaff 2005a:6). The company quickly constructed a
textile mill that was in operation by about 1929. A large mill village of 440 company-
owned houses was also constructed between 1928 and 1930 (Brattain 1997:99). In the
rapidly developing new industry of synthetic fibers and other materials, new
companies were quickly formed and merged with name changes occurring often.
Within a short period of time American Chatillon Corporation merged with Tubize Artificial Silk Company to become Tubize Chatillon Corporation (Blanke 1952; Acordis Tow 2004; Celanese Chemicals 2004; Grindstaff 2005; Paul Reichenbacher personal communication July 2004; Ticona Engineering Polymers 2004). The mill village was known as Riverside (Brattain 1997:99) and consisted of a network of house rows that surrounded the industrial facility. The Chieftains house was incorporated into the mill village, serving as the home for the plant manager (Carey Tilley personal communication May 20, 2004). Other housing for management was built adjoining the Chieftains house along Riverside Drive. Of the 22 management homes constructed along Riverside, only the two brick houses now on the Chieftains property remain standing (Olin n.d.).

In 1946 the Celanese Corporation bought the Tubize Chatillon Corporation plant in Rome. In later years the mill village became known as the Celanese Village according to Paul Reichenbacher (personal communication, July 6, 2004). By 1951, the Celanese Mill at Rome employed 1,568 people, consisting of 80 percent males and 20 percent females (Georgia Power Company, Industrial Development Division 1951). Rome’s Celanese Mills closed down in 1977 and the property was sold in 1982. The location of the Celanese Corporation documentation on the mill’s operation was not located. Most recently, real estate developer J.L. Todd Co. converted the site into an industrial park (Paul Reichenbacher, personal communication, July 6, 2004).

Because of proposed road alterations along Riverside Drive, the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) in following Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, has conducted historical research on the mill complex and has completed a draft Historic American Engineering Record on the Celanese Water Works Building, which the form says is to be demolished (Grindstaff 2005b). A Property Information Form was prepared at an unknown date by GDOT. This document describes briefly the mill district layout and history, the proposed boundary of the district, and recommends the Celanese Mill District as eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). The criterion used for its recommended eligibility is Criterion A, as a largely intact mid-twentieth century industrial community that began as possibly the first solely rayon textile mill in the south. The Mill complex is also recommended eligible under Criterion C as a good example of relatively intact mid-twentieth century mill architecture that has maintained much of their original integrity. The mill village consists of a mixture of Georgian Cottage, Bungalow/ Craftsman style detailing, and English Vernacular Revival types. Included in the mill complex are the Chieftains house, which was the plant manager’s house, and two extant brick managerial houses and garages. These were built in a Colonial Revival style (Olin n.d.). All of these GDOT documents appear to be in the draft stage, including a brief history on the Celanese Mill prepared as a separate document (Grindstaff 2005a).

THE MUSEUM PERIOD (1969- PRESENT)

The Chieftains house was donated to the JSL of Rome by the Celanese Corporation in 1969. The house then took on the role of museum. In 1987, the JSL turned over the deed of the Chieftains property to the Chieftain Museum, Inc., which is a non-profit
corporation with 501 C (3) IRS status. Starting in 2002 the house has been referred to as the Chieftains Museum/Major Ridge Home. The National Historic Landmark house serves as an interpretive museum focusing on the Ridge Family and their influence on early nineteenth century Cherokee history.
By the time Hernando De Soto arrived in the Southeast in 1539, southern Indians were living in large compact villages, consisting of hundreds of individuals, and organized into chiefdoms ruled by men and women who derived their power as descendants of the sun god. Agricultural fields surrounded the villages growing corn, squash, beans, and gourds. While men hunted game, Indian society was deeply rooted in agriculture. Following the arrival of Europeans, infectious disease swept through villages and compounds killing hundreds of thousands of Indians because they lacked immunity to European diseases. The massive depopulation of southern Indian societies wrecked social havoc on the remaining populations. By the 1700s, surviving populations of Indians were coalescing into tribes, which were new kinds of political and social groups that became known as Cherokees, Creeks, Seminoles, Choctaws, Chickasaws, and many other southeastern Indian groups that we are familiar or not so familiar with today (Ethridge 2003:23; Hudson 1976; Hudson 1994; Smith 2000).

In the 1500s, the Cherokees resided in the Appalachian Summit of western North Carolina, eastern Tennessee and northern Georgia. Based on De Soto accounts, the Spanish conquistadors probably did not enter the Cherokee towns, although reputedly some Cherokees traveled to meet de Soto as he was passing nearby. Certainly, the effects of De Soto’s expedition were felt through the infectious diseases they passed on, and through Spanish trade items (found archaeologically in some of the town sites).

By the time the English colonists and traders arrived in the Appalachian Summit in the 1700s, the Cherokee settlements consisted of four distinct groups of Cherokee towns. The Middle Cherokee towns were along the upper Little Tennessee, Cullasaja, and Elija rivers of western North Carolina. The Cherokee Valley towns were situated along the upper Hiawasee River and tributaries of the Nottely and Valley rivers in southwestern North Carolina and north Georgia. The Overhill Cherokee settlements were also on the lower Little Tennessee River Valley in southeastern Tennessee. The Cherokee Out towns, as they are referred to by ethnohistorians and archaeologists, were located on the Tuckaseegee and Oconaluftee rivers of western North Carolina. The Lower Cherokee towns were situated along the Keowee, Seneca, Chattooga and Tallulah rivers of northeastern Georgia and northwestern South Carolina. There were also Lower Cherokee towns along the headwaters of the Chattahoochee River in northern Georgia near Nachoochee Mound, which is outside modern Helen, Georgia (Rodning 2002; www.unc.edu/~croding/cherarch.html).

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9 Women were the planters and perhaps managers of agricultural crops. Men prepared the fields for them.
10 Middle Towns lay along the Tuckaseegee, Oconaluftee, and Little Tennessee Rivers and their tributaries.
11 Overhill towns were on the Tellico, Hiwassee, Ocoee, and Little Tennessee Rivers and their tributaries.
12 Out towns are more commonly grouped with and called Middle Towns.
13 Lower towns lay along the Tugaloo, Keowee, Chattooga, and Chattahoochee Rivers.
The Cherokees were skilled farmers and hunters and they readily incorporated the European and African plants and animals that fit into their existing economies. Throughout the eighteenth century, the Cherokees added new crops and animals such as sweet potatoes, peaches, melons, cows and hogs. By the time of the American Revolution, Cherokees were moving away from nucleated towns into a more dispersed settlement pattern, in part to take advantage of free range grazing areas. As old settlement patterns broke down, people established new settlements, especially in northern Georgia (Schroedl 2000:207, 219). The late 1700s were times of accelerated change among Cherokees.

Major Ridge was born around 1771 in Highwassee [Hiwassee] in present-day eastern Tennessee. He was born into a time of great turmoil for the Cherokees and all southeastern Indians. According to his contemporary, Superintendent of Indian Affairs Thomas L. McKenney, The Ridge’s parents named him “Nung-noh-hut-tar-kee”, meaning “he who slays the enemy in the path”. Later he was called “Kah-nung-da-tla-geh”, or “the man who walks the mountain’s top”, or “Ca nun tah clakee” “the lion who walks the mountain tops” (McKenney and Hall 1855:77, vol.1; Stuart n.d.: 1). The Ridge’s father’s name and lineage is uncertain. McKenney wrote that Major Ridge’s father was not a great chief. His father was a “full blood” described as “not distinguished in the council of the nation” (McKenney and Hall 1855:78, vol.1). The Ridge’s mother was half Cherokee, with a Cherokee mother and a father (name unknown) who was a Scottish frontiersman. The Ridge’s mother was of the Deer Clan, which placed The Ridge in the same clan since traditional Cherokee kinship was matrilineal (McKenney and Hall 1855:78, vol. 1; Wilkins 1986:7).

Hostilities between the United States and the Cherokees influenced the formative years of Major Ridge’s life. As a result of the Americans’ retaliatory destruction of fifty Cherokee towns in the summer of 1776, his father moved the family to a more remote location at Sequatchie Mountain not far from Chattanooga (Wilkins 1986:6-16). The family remained safe there through the American attacks of 1780-81. When The Ridge was 14 years old (around 1785) the family resided at Chestowee where he became a warrior, the traditional occupation for young male Cherokees. In 1788 The Ridge went on his first war party, which planned an attack on Houston’s Station, a

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4 Many Cherokee towns had been destroyed by Americans during the Revolution, and many were lost in land sales and cessions. The new settlements established by surviving Cherokees lay more to the west and south in Tennessee, north Georgia, and northern Alabama. The decline of hunting as a viable economy and the Cherokee adoption of animal husbandry favored a more dispersed settlement pattern, which was also compatible with their changing social and belief systems. See Hill 1997: 74-5, 90-97.

5 Thomas L. McKenney (1785-1859) served as Superintendent of Indian trade until the program was abolished. He then became the first Superintendent of Indian Affairs (in the Department of War) and served until he was dismissed by President Andrew Jackson in 1830. While in office he began to compile an archive of portraits and biographies of Indian leaders. He commissioned Charles Bird King, James Otto Lewis, and George Cooke, among others, to paint Indian leaders when they came to Washington on official business. After he was fired by Jackson, McKenney worked with James Hall to publish a folio of Indian images and histories.
small American fort in Tennessee. Abruptly aborting the attack, the Cherokees instead ambushed the fort’s reconnoitering soldiers and The Ridge took his first scalp (Wilkins 1970:16).

By this time his father was sick and The Ridge moved him farther from likely scenes of conflict to the Cherokee community of Pine Log between the Oostanaula and Etowah rivers in present day Bartow County, Georgia (Wilkins 1986:19-20). The Ridge then joined an army consisting of combined Creek and Cherokee forces who had been defending Cherokee towns in Tennessee. Under the leadership of John Watts, The Ridge and other Cherokee warriors attacked and destroyed Captain John Gillespie’s station on the Holston River, killing the men, women, and children inside (McKenney and Hall 1855:80, vol.1; Wilkins 1970:17). Watts then led his warriors in additional attacks against White’s Fort and Houston’s Station before taking them into winter quarters on Flint Creek (Unicoi County, Tennessee) at the base of the Smoky Mountains. In January, 1789, Watts and the other warriors were surrounded by American troops under John Sevier and badly defeated (Wilkins 1970:19).

Continuing warfare destroyed Cherokee towns and killed men, women, and children. Small pox epidemics in 1780 and again in 1783 had further decimated the Cherokee population (Thornton 1990:33-34). At the height of the calamities, the demoralized Cherokees signed the 1785 Treaty of Hopewell and the 1791 Treaty of Holston, ceding, in total, over 50,000 square miles of Cherokee country to the United States (Schroedl 2000:223).

The newly-formed Federal Government adopted a policy of transforming Indians through an initiative that became known as the civilization program (Waselkov and Braund 1995:204). In Article XIV of the 1791 Treaty of Holston, the United States promised to provide the tools and instruction to help the Cherokees adopt white customs of subsistence, settlement, and household structure. They were to be provided with domesticated animals and agricultural tools such as the plow. They were to raise livestock and cash crops such as cotton and wheat. Rather than continuing to live as hunters, men were to become the primary farmers, a role usually assumed by women, and women were to spin, weave, and make cloth. Supporters of the civilization program believed the Cherokees could prosper only by adopting white practices, including English literacy, Christianity, nuclear households, patriarchal families, and market economies. The federal government agreed to send agents to the Cherokees to instruct men and women in their new occupations, and Christian missionaries began their work of teaching Christianity and English literacy (Ethridge 2003:15). Underlying the civilization policy lay the expectation that agriculturalists needed less land than did hunters. As Robbie Ethridge (2003:15) pointedly states, “The real agenda was to assimilate the Indians into American society, undermine their national sovereignty, and appropriate their lands in the process”.

Within months after agreeing to the Treaty of Holston, young warriors such as The Ridge felt betrayed by the American failure to respect territorial boundaries and they began agitating for continued war. By 1793 more than a thousand Cherokee and Creek warriors, including The Ridge, were prepared to attack white settlements and forts. Advancing towards Knoxville, a contingent of warriors came upon a small
blockhouse occupied by the 13-member family of Alexander Cavett. Although the family surrendered after a brief resistance, a leading warrior named Doublehead killed the captives. McKenney later reported that The Ridge was appalled by Doublehead’s behavior. In response to the treacherous slaughter of women and children, Tennessee troops under the command of John Sevier marched on the Cherokee towns. Sevier’s militia engaged the warriors near the village of Etowah, close to present-day Rome. Soundly defeating the Cherokees, Sevier’s men broke the back of Indian resistance. In 1794 Cherokees agreed to peace and began building their national republic (Wilkins 1970:23-4).

Cherokee governance had begun to change prior to the American Revolution. In the early eighteenth century, social control rested primarily in the clan-based kinship organization. Clans regulated their members’ behavior through the principles of blood law, sometimes mistakenly called clan revenge, wherein the clan had the right and duty to avenge wrongs to their members and the right and duty to keep their own members in line. In each town the principal political body was the town council, which governed by consensus of all members of the town. Each town was responsible for its own affairs and for regulating affairs with other towns and with foreigners. By the late eighteenth century, however, Cherokee town councils needed to coordinate their foreign policies, and also needed a centralized body to deal with American pressure for land cessions. Over time the Cherokee National Council emerged from the tribal council as a formal governing body. By the end of the eighteenth century, men who had influence and economic connections with European-Americans dominated Cherokee leadership. The sons of European American traders and Indian women, especially, rose in prominence and wealth as they could gain admittance to Cherokee society through their mother’s clan affiliations and because they had lucrative business connections through their father’s side (Perdue 1998:82-83, 135-158).

Around 1792, The Ridge attended the national tribal council as a representative of Pine Log. At that time “he had no property but the clothes he wore, a few silver ornaments, and a white pony, stinted, old and ugly, which he road to council” (McKenney and Hall 1855:84). Wilkins suggests 1792 as the probable date that Major Ridge also married a Cherokee woman, Sehoya, who later took the Christian name of Susannah Catherine Wickett. Susannah, born around 1775, was apparently open to learning white customs. She may have been one of the women seen by Indian agent Benjamin Hawkins when he visited the Pine Log community in 1796. Hawkins wrote that the Pine Log women were raising cotton and were eager to get spinning wheels and looms to turn it into cloth (Wilkins 1986:32, from Hawkins letters Thursday Nov.

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16 The frequency of war in the 1700s gave warriors considerably greater prominence in governance than they had ordinarily enjoyed. As a result, councils of warriors gradually came to be considered national governing bodies led by head warriors. Although Cherokees increasingly centralized authority in the 18th century and the council of warriors and headmen assumed increasing authority, the formal National Council did not emerge until the early 1800s.

17 The office of principal chief was formally established in 1827 when the Cherokees drafted a constitution and organized a bi-cameral government.

18 The ability to speak and write in English became increasingly important as well.
30th, 1796). Susannah may have influenced Major Ridge and their acceptance of the European American customs (Wilkins 1986:31-32).

In 1808, the National Council took steps to formalize its role as a governing and legislative body by passing the first written law. This law formed the Light Horse Guard, which was a police force charged with protecting property and insuring the inheritance rights of widows and orphans. The Ridge commanded one troop of the Light Horse Guard. In 1810, the National Council abolished the custom of clan or blood revenge. The work of the National Council as the central governing body of the nation signified a shift of power from local councils to the Cherokee National Government (Perdue 1991:59-66; 1998:142-143). The Ridge played an increasingly important role in the changing form of governance.

Like The Ridge, the former warrior Doublehead was gaining power and prominence. Doublehead had become Speaker of the Cherokee Nation in 1798 and acquired considerable personal property, such as horses and slaves, through land sales to the American government. As Doublehead grew more arrogant, greedy and cruel, many Cherokees began to distrust as well as dislike him. In 1806 he signed a treaty with the U.S. commissioners that relinquished a vast tract of hunting land while secretly acquiring lands for himself at the confluence of the Clinch and Hiawasee rivers (Wilkins 1986:38). Cherokees viewed the secret land speculation as traitorous. In 1807, James Vann, The Ridge, and Alexander Saunders were selected to take action against Doublehead. Unalterably opposed to land cessions, The Ridge and Saunders met Doublehead at a tavern, attacked him and, ultimately, killed him (Wilkins 1986:38-39). 

During the first two decades of the 19th century The Ridge had numerous opportunities to serve the Cherokee nation as a warrior. When the Creek War (1813-1814) involved American forces, he helped ensure victories for Andrew Jackson (McLoughlin 1986:188). The war began as a civil conflict between members of the so-called friendly tribes, who supported the civilization program and friendship with the

Significantly, The Ridge was among the leaders of the faction that coalesced around James Vann in the early 1800’s and held council at the town of Ustanali near present-day Calhoun, Georgia. This council of “Young Chiefs” vied for power with the more established Cherokee leaders like Black Fox and Double Head. Their primary platform was opposition to any land cessions and embracing the “Plan of Civilization” as a strategy to promote the Cherokee economy and to dispel the belief that the Cherokees were incapable of living peaceably within U.S. borders. It was their council that passed an unwritten edict against land cessions and Ridge and Saunders were enforcing that edict when they killed Doublehead. After the death of Doublehead, the Ustanali faction emerged as representing the majority view and there was a renewed focus on unity, centralization, and sovereignty. The Ridge along with Charles Hicks and Alexander Saunders remained at the forefront of the faction even after the death of Vann. In the late 1810’s, John Ross emerged as another central figure among the movement. The culmination of their efforts was the creation of a Constitutional government in 1827. For a thorough discussion of the emergence of the “Young Chiefs” and Ridge’s role in the process see W.G. McLoughlin’s Cherokee Renascence (McLoughlin 1986).
federal government and the hostile Red Sticks, conservative Creeks who saw whites as a threat to Native survival. The civil conflict escalated after the Red Sticks attacked Fort Mims in the Mississippi Territory and killed the men, women, and children taking refuge there. The Tennessee militia—under the command of General Andrew Jackson responded fiercely by destroying several upper Creek towns. Cherokees served as allies to Jackson’s army and The Ridge was among the Cherokee warriors who were organized into a Cherokee regiment under command of Colonel Gideon Morgan (Halbert and Ball 1895).

As the Creek War approached, Ridge spoke out strongly against the Shawnee prophets and their Creek and Cherokee followers who advocated war against the Americans. He demonstrated his leadership by risking his life with a defiant speech stressing the foolishness of war with the U.S. government and the abandonment of the acculturation process. His stance probably elevated his status significantly in the eyes of both Cherokees and Americans. Ridge went on to be very aggressive in recruiting warriors to aid the Americans in putting down the Creek uprising (Wilkins 1986:59-60). Once the war had begun, The Ridge participated in the battles of Talladega, Hillabee, and Horseshoe Bend (Tohopeka). According to McKenney, Jackson’s forces were struggling at Horseshoe Bend when The Ridge helped steal canoes to ferry Cherokee warriors across the Tallapoosa River. Once across the river the Cherokees drove the Red Sticks over their barricades and into the fire of Jackson’s forces (McKenney and Hall 1855:98-99). According to Wilkins, The Ridge was made a Major in early 1814 when Gideon Morgan assigned ranks to many of the Cherokee leaders (Wilkins 1986:73). Having assumed the rank, The Ridge began using “Major” as his first name. When he visited his son in Cornwall, Connecticut in 1821, Major Ridge wore a U.S. military uniform (Wilkins 1970:131).

It was around this time that Major Ridge became acquainted with John Ross, who later became the first principal chief of the Cherokee nation. Fluent in Cherokee and English, Ross impressed Ridge with his leadership abilities. Major Ridge urged that Ross be appointed to an 1815 delegation going to Washington D.C. to settle various boundary disputes and debts arising from the war. (Wilkins 1986:87). Ridge and Ross became close friends and political allies, with Ross eventually settling approximately two miles downstream from Major Ridge at the “Head of Coosa” where the Oostanaula and Etowah rivers joined. Like Ridge, Ross also operated a profitable ferry near his home (Moulton 1985:30).

The end of the Creek War may have marked an important turning point for Major Ridge. Abandoning his role of warrior he began participating in the economics and politics of the Cherokee nation. In the next ten years Cherokees asserted a national identity, defined their national borders, and vowed never again to cede even one foot of land to the Americans. Major Ridge played a leading role in those national decisions. The Cherokee nation lived under continuous pressure for land cessions.

Traditional Cherokee views on land ownership and individual rights had changed significantly since the mid-1700s. William Bartram observed in his 1770s travels that among Indian nations the lands beyond the towns and villages were for the use of everyone (Waselkov and Braund 1995:155-156). Moreover, as Theda Perdue (1979:55) notes, traditionally Cherokees had considered individual houses and fields as
belonging to a family or lineage (or clan). As American pressure for Cherokee land increased the Cherokee Nation began to place rules of communal ownership on all property, while still allowing personal property and improvements to be disposed of. Perdue notes, “in their initial step toward the acceptance of the concept of inalienable property the Cherokees substituted the possession of an estate in occupancy for the possession of a fee simple.” (1979:55). Cherokee law eventually changed to prohibit the sale of improvements and in October, 1822, the Cherokee government passed a resolution “declaring unanimously…to hold no treaties with any Commissioners of the United States to make any cession of lands, being resolved not to dispose of even one foot of ground” (in Moulton 1978:211 n19). By that time, a considerable number of Cherokees had embraced the civilization program, acquired English literacy, expanded their private landholdings, engaged chattel slavery, and become Christian.

Cherokees permitted missionaries to come into the nation for the purpose of instructing children in English. The first mission in the Cherokee territory of Georgia was established by the Moravian Church in 1801. Spring Place Mission (originally spelled Springplace) was developed adjoining the plantation of Cherokee Chief James Vann in present-day Murray County, Georgia (Steiner 1955; Schwarz 1923; McClinton 1996). The following year the Moravians began the education of Cherokee children. In 1821 the Moravians opened a second mission and school at Oothcalooga, the town where Major Ridge once lived. The New England Congregationalists (American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions) established the Brainerd Mission (originally the Chickamauga Mission), located in present-day Chattanooga, Tennessee, in 1817. Their second mission in Georgia was at Carmel (later Taloney) two years later. The American Board mission at Hightower (Cartersville) opened in 1823, and the following year Haweis started about seven miles west of Chief Absaquin near the Coosa River. The Board’s final mission school in Georgia began in 1827 at the Cherokee capitol of New Echota (Phillips and Phillips 1998:4, 396; Gardner 1989:10-11; McLoughlin 1984:129). The Serepta Baptist Mission Society was also active in Cherokee Georgia, and in April, 1821 started a school at Tinsawattee, near the junction of Tinsawattee Creek and the Etowah River, and another at Hickory Log Town on the Etowah River (Gardner 1989:37, 52).

Although it is unclear if he ever converted to Christianity, Major Ridge enthusiastically supported the work of Christian missions and was a frequent visitor in missionaries’ homes. He sent his two oldest children, Nancy and John, to the Spring Place Mission School in 1810 and to Brainerd the first year it was open. (Phillips and Phillips 1998:4, 443). Relying on his considerable political and oratorical skills, Ridge effectively countered any opposition to missions and schools expressed by more conservative leaders of the Cherokee nation (McLoughlin 1984:196). By the middle of the 1820s his wife had converted to Christianity and his son John had

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20 Oothcalooga, also spelled Ookelosee and Oochgelogy, was located on Oothcalooga Creek near present-day Calhoun in Gordon County, Georgia.

21 Talona, also Taloney, was in Gilmer County near Talking Rock.

22 Relying on primary documents Gardner (1989:48) states that in 1825 the Tinsawattee School moved about 8 miles down the Etowah River near Bread Town.
become a leading spokesman for the work of missionaries and the “civilization” of Cherokees.

The beginning date for the Ridge occupation of the property on the Oostanaula River that later became known as Chieftains is best determined to be 1819. By that date, Major Ridge’s name was associated with the ferry on the Chieftains property and by inference, he had established a claim to the property as allowed under Cherokee law (Battey 1994:27). One reference notes that in 1819 Major Ridge was living two miles away from John Ross, who resided at the Head of Coosa (Eaton 1978:28, 56). If Major Ridge did not establish himself in the area until around that date (1819), it is possible that other Cherokees preceded him and abandoned the property. No documents were located that definitively place any Cherokees on the property prior to Ridge. Other information (U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs 1814, 1823) suggests that Ridge could have been in the area as early as 1813 or earlier, but this is circumstantial at best.

In any case, evidence strongly suggests that Ridge was established by 1819 and operating his ferry at that time. Wilkins, on the other hand, indicates that the Ridges still lived at Oothcalooga in 1818 (Wilkins 1970:115). Furthermore, Ridge’s mark, standing for his signature, appears on an 1820 letter to the Moravian Society in Salem, North Carolina, asking that a mission and school be established at “Ooch-ge-logy, or Oothcaloga Also signed by Hicks and Waytee, the letter implies that all three lived at “this settlement.” (Schwarze 1923:137). It is possible that Ridge signed the letter as a supporter of mission schools and former resident of the town. It is also possible that he had not yet fully moved to the Chieftains property and thus maintained two residences.

McKenney wrote that Ridge improved his property, “until his farm was in a higher state of cultivation, and his buildings better, than those of any person in that region, the whites not excepted” (McKenney and Hall 1855:88-90). Using African slave labor, the Ridges cleared and improved the land, and farmed and planted an orchard that eventually contained apple, cherry, quince, peach, and plum trees (Hemphill and Liddell 1837). A variety of ornamental shrubs and plants grew in a garden near the house. The Ridges added to their livestock inventory as well as their real estate and may have had more than 280 acres under cultivation (Stuart n.d.:4-5).

At the same time, Major Ridge was taking a leading role in the affair of the Cherokee nation. Fully opposed to any reduction in Cherokee landholdings, he boycotted an 1817 council called by federal commissioners to discuss an exchange of southeastern Cherokee land for acreage on the Arkansas River. At a second conference a few months later, the commissioners (including Andrew Jackson) proposed an exchange of all Cherokee nation land for country beyond the Mississippi River. Major Ridge and 66 other chiefs signed a protest against the entire removal policy (Wilkins 1970:95-6). As Speaker of the Council, Major Ridge worked closely with his protégé, Wilkins, on the other hand, indicates that the Ridges still lived at Oothcalooga in 1818 (Wilkins 1970:115). Furthermore, Ridge’s mark, standing for his signature, appears on an 1820 letter to the Moravian Society in Salem, North Carolina, asking that a mission and school be established at “Ooch-ge-logy, or Oothcaloga Also signed by Hicks and Waytee, the letter implies that all three lived at “this settlement.” (Schwarze 1923:137). It is possible that Ridge signed the letter as a supporter of mission schools and former resident of the town. It is also possible that he had not yet fully moved to the Chieftains property and thus maintained two residences.

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John Ross, who served as president of the National Committee. The protection of the Cherokee homeland increasingly absorbed their political energies.

By 1819, the geographic range of Cherokee settlements extended from northern Alabama and Georgia northward into middle and eastern Tennessee and southwestern North Carolina. In 1820, the Council divided the Nation into eight districts whose boundaries were recorded in the *Laws of the Cherokee Nation* (Cherokee Nation 1852). Chieftains was located in the Coosawatee (or 3rd) district bordering the Chicamauga district to the northwest and the Chatooga district to the southwest. The Conasauga and Oostanaula rivers formed the western border of the Coosawatee district which included the towns of Coosawattee on the Coosawattee River, Oostenoulah, located near the southern part of the Coosawattee River; New Echota, at the junction of the Oostanaula and Coosawattee Rivers; and Pine Log on Pine Log Creek. A modern map depicts the limits of the eight Cherokee Districts (Figure 5). By their own accounts the Cherokee Nation consisted of 54 towns and villages by October 1820 (*Cherokee Phoenix* March 13, 1828:1).

In 1825, the Cherokees took their own census and estimated their population at 16,060 individuals, a 30 per cent increase since the previous census of 1809. Their nation included 215 whites and 1,277 African slaves owned by Cherokees. There was no estimate of the number of whites living in the Cherokee Nation who were not
married to Cherokees. More than 300 children attended 18 mission schools and an untold number studied with family tutors. (Wilms 1973:31). The census figures suggested a settled and relatively stable nation.

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Table 2. Summary of livestock and industry in the Cherokee Nation in 1810 and 1826.

Between 1800 and 1826 the Cherokee agricultural economy grew considerably, as illustrated by the data presented in Table 2 (Roethler 1964:111-112; The Missionary Herald 23:116, cited in Davis 1968:13). Economic growth in the Cherokee Nation depended on transportation, which meant the expansion of the road system and the improvement of river crossings or ferries. Ferry crossings were probably the most valuable property locations in the Cherokee Nation during the early decades of the nineteenth century. Major Ridge’s and John Ross’s ferries became two of the most important and were sources of increasing wealth for the leaders. Between 1810 and 1826 the number of ferries increased from zero to 18. The Cherokee Council issued numerous resolutions on the operation of ferries, a sure indication of their importance to the nation. Since all ferry operations had to be approved by the Council, its records contain numerous petitions relating to ferry ownership and rights (Cherokee Phoenix 1828).

Rivers were the highways of the early 1800s and commerce occurred on the rivers. In 1819 the Cherokee Agency reported to Indian Superintendent John C. Calhoun that:

“...the Cherokees here have fixed on a piece of ground on Oostinalle River at the Confluence of this river with the Connasuga River at their capitol. From whence the navigation the river of large Boats with flour and whiskey have descended this water to Mobile last season. It is believed that with little effort in removing some obstructions, this navigation for large boats may be of very great use to all the upper country on or near its water...” (Meigs 1819).
An 1825 writer stated that “…on Tennessee, Ustanala, and Cansagi rivers, Cherokee commerce floats” (Brown in McKenney 1846). The vessels plying the rivers carried everything from bales of cotton to barrels of whiskey to nearby markets in Georgia, Alabama, and Tennessee.

Ridge’s business interests extended beyond the ferry operation. He also had a store located near his house that was operated by his white partner, George Lavender. The partnership was probably initiated in part to circumvent a Cherokee law prohibiting whites from owning or operating trading posts in the Cherokee Nation (Wilkins 1986:188). Although the exact date of this partnership’s origin is not known, it was certainly in effect by 1831. In November of that year Principal Chief John Ross visited the store and then called on Ridge. In the course of their visit someone attempted to kill Ross, who subsequently described the occasion (Cherokee Phoenix and Indians’ Advocate January 21, 1832:1). Lavender also operated Ridge’s ferry, assisted by William Childers (Lavender 1836; Childers 1836). The store appeared to be a profitable venture. Lavender’s daybook contains the accounts of more than 250 customers, including Ridge (Lavender-Ray Papers 1842-1916). Sometime between 1836 and 1838 the business arrangement must have soured Ridge filed a claim for damages at that time that accused Lavender and “Meigs” of poisoning his herd of swine (Lumpkin and Kennedy 1839:8).

Although business activities were increasing dramatically among Cherokees, by 1835 they were unquestionably a nation of farmers with 3,120 farms representing around 2,500 families of 16,542 individuals. According to one source, 93 percent of the Cherokees had at least one farm (Mooney 1890:107). As many as 224 Cherokee had two farms and 77 had three farms (Mooney 1890:107). While one Cherokee owned as many as 13 farms, most Cherokees were not wealthy.

According to Geographer Douglas Wilms, the Georgia Cherokee population was 9,780 in 1835. For much of his information Wilms used the 1835 Federal census of the Cherokee Nation. He divided the nation into three regions. The Chieftains property fell within the Ridge and Valley area, which constituted much of the western portion of the Cherokee Nation (in Georgia). The other two areas were the Blue Ridge, which included the Appalachian Mountains area, and the Piedmont, which stretched across the southern portion of the territory. The Ridge and Valley included the Coosawattee and Conasauga rivers that formed the Oostanaula River, which then joined with the Armuchee River and flowed into the Etowah River becoming the Coosa River. Fifty-five percent of the Cherokee population resided in the Ridge and Valley, with another 31 per cent in the Piedmont, and the remainder in the Appalachian Mountains. In 1835 the total acreage under cultivation in Floyd County was 2,109 acres with 158 farmers recorded for the county. Along the Oostanaula River in Floyd County the value of improvements totaled $43,290.75 (Wilms 1973:70-71; 81, 151).

Floyd County had a population of 772 Cherokees consisting of 703 “full bloods”, 67 “mixed bloods”, 97 slaves, and 5 whites. The 97 slaves worked on 14 of 142 farms. There were a total of 202 Cherokee dwellings and 735 outbuildings in 1836-7. These buildings were distributed on 128 farms, whose average size was 16.4 acres. Approximately 4,802 acres in Floyd County were under cultivation in 1835. This area
produced 28,735 bushels of corn, or approximately 13.6 bushels per acre. The county contained 14,009 peach and 2,742 apple trees. Ten farms had livestock lots or animal pens. Six ferries were located in Floyd County at that time. Floyd County followed Cass (now Bartow) County in the number of Cherokee people with improvements (Wilms 1973:81, 84, 96, 128, 136-137, 141, 145).

By the time the 1835 census (Henderson Roll) was taken, the Ridge household consisted of three males over 18 and three females over 18. The six free members of the household were all identified as “full blooded” Cherokees. The household included one weaver and one spinner. Six male slaves and nine female slaves also were listed in the household. There were three additional slaves located on Ridge’s other farms. The census noted 300 acres in cultivation on four farms on Oostanaula River owned by Major Ridge. The distribution of acreage for the four farms was not specified. Consequently, the size of the Chieftains plantation in 1835 cannot be determined with certainty from the census information. Major Ridge’s plantation produced 2,000 bushels of corn that year, of which he kept 750 bushels intended for horse mulch. Two ferry boats were listed also. Ridge’s holdings in Floyd and Cass (now Bartow) Counties were valued at $23,263.00. Of this amount, $12,000.00 was the value listed for his ferry at Chieftains (Bureau of Indian Affairs 1835:51; Gardner 1989:153). The fact that almost half of the Ridge’s property value was attributed to the ferry emphasizes the importance of ferries in the Cherokee and European American economy at that time.

RIDGE’S FINAL YEARS AT CHIEFTAINS AND CHEROKEE REMOVAL

In 1809 Thomas Jefferson proposed that the Cherokees accept land west of the Mississippi River in exchange for all of their southeastern lands. A few Cherokees began the western migration and created new homes for themselves in the Indian Territory. Although most Cherokees were adamantly opposed, another migration occurred in 1817-1819 following the signing of land-exchange treaties. The Cherokee government, including Major Ridge, found the idea of removal to the west totally unacceptable (Perdue 1979:60-62).

Led by wealthy men such as John Ross, Joseph Vann, John Martin, and Major Ridge, the Cherokee political body was becoming more complex. In 1817, the National Council established a bicameral legislature consisting of the Upper House, called the Standing Committee, whose members were chosen by and from the Council; and the Lower House, which was the Council. The Standing Committee was given responsibility for the affairs of the nation and the Council retained power to review the Committee’s actions. Major Ridge was named Speaker of the Council and John Ross became President of the Committee.

In 1820 when the Council divided the Cherokee Nation into eight districts it made each district an administrative unit with a district judge, a council or courthouse, a marshall, and a company of light-horse guards. Each district elected four representatives to the Council who would then chose the 12 members of the National Committee (Perdue 1991:58-60). In addition to serving as speaker of the Council, Major Ridge was one of the representatives from Coosawattee District.
In 1822 the Cherokee government established a National Superior Court, later called the Supreme Court, to which the eight district courts responded. And finally in 1827, the Cherokees formalized their government with a constitution, which laid out the jurisdiction of each branch. The Principal Chief was head of the executive branch of government and was elected by the General Council. The National Council, led by a Speaker of the House comprised one legislative house and the National Committee was the other. Major Ridge became Speaker of the National Committee, with John Ross as its President. Members of both houses were elected from their districts, two and three members from each district, respectively. The Cherokee government now resembled that of the United States with administrative, judicial, and bicameral legislative branches (Perdue 1991:55-74). The Cherokees were demonstrating that they were “civilized,” and as capable of self-governance as any state or nation.

John Ross and Major Ridge conferred together frequently over Cherokee political business at Chieftains and at Ross’ place down river. Several letters written to U.S. Government officials are post marked "Ridge's Ferry" or "Head of Coosa" (Moulton 1985). Unfortunately, these letters are the only substantiated evidence that was found to directly tie their political activities to Chieftains.

In 1830, President Andrew Jackson signed the Indian Removal Act, which authorized the negotiation of removal treaties with all the southern Indian nations. The act came about through the continuing pressure from the states of Georgia, Alabama and Tennessee to be rid of the Indians altogether. Southern states had been anticipating Indian removal treaties since 1802 when the administration of Thomas Jefferson signed a compact with the state of Georgia pledging the extinction of all Indian land title in the state as soon as it could be done peacefully. Every treaty signed since the compact brought the southern states closer to their goal of gaining Indian land. The extraordinary progress of the Cherokee nation toward the goals of the civilization program increasingly antagonized the Georgia government. As the Cherokees established a republican form of government in the 1820s, the state legislature began passing a series of laws that harassed Cherokees and restricted their rights. And in the

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Major Ridge was identified in Cherokee newspapers as the Speaker of the Council in treaty talks and council meetings from 1822 to 1829, during which time he attended at least fifteen council sessions. Some of the sessions extended over two or more days (Cherokee Phoenix May 6, 1828; May 14, 1828; May 21, 1828; May 28, 1828; June 4, 1828; June 11, 1828; June 25, 1828; July 2, 1828; July 9, 1828; Cherokee Phoenix and Indian’s Advocate September 16, 1829). A January 1823 letter from Major Ridge refers to him as Speaker of the Council of the Cherokee Nation and is addressed to the Commissioners of the state of Georgia (Ridge 1823:32-34). The death of Cherokee Council leaders Path Killer and Charles R. Hicks in 1827 left Major Ridge as Speaker of the Council, along with John Ross as President of the Committee.

After the submission of this document the original Ross-to-Ridge’s road was uncovered and certified by the National Park Service as an historically significant link between the two primary leaders of the Cherokee nation during the removal era. The papers of John Ross contain many references to visits between the two men while they were leading their nation at a critical period in Cherokee history.
late 1820s gold was discovered in Cherokee Georgia, which greatly exacerbated the tension.

In an effort to control the influence of missionaries, Georgia passed a law requiring all whites who lived or worked in the Cherokee Nation to sign a loyalty oath to the state of Georgia. When several refused they were arrested, tried and convicted, and two were sentenced to four years of hard labor in the state penitentiary. Missionaries Samuel Worcester and Elizur Butler took their case to the U.S. Supreme Court, which decided in favor of the missionaries and declared that the sovereignty of the Cherokee Nation as recognized in federal treaties nullified the Georgia laws. However, no branch of any government enforced the decision. Georgia was thus free to proceed.

In what was a pivotal reversal of previous and long held convictions, Major Ridge, John Ridge, Elias Boudinot, and other Cherokees began to recognize that the state of Georgia and the Federal Government would never give up on their demand for the Cherokee lands. They believed that accepting the Federal Government's offer to move to the western territories was the only way that the Cherokees could survive. It was during this time that Ridge and Ross came at odds. John Ridge was particularly resentful of Ross’ position against moving west, feeling that Ross refused to accept the realities of the situation. He felt that Ross’ reluctance was misleading to the Cherokee population at large, giving them a false sense that they could prevail against the Americans (Wilkins 1986:259-269).

As some Cherokees began to yield to pressure and emigrate, whites became more aggressive in their attempts to move into the Cherokee Nation. In the early 1830s, some made an effort to take Major Ridge’s property while he was away on Cherokee business. Ridge contested the relinquishment of his property. He met with success since the Georgia Surveyor General, John Bethune, stated, “I certify that Lot 196 in 23rd District, 3rd Section, cannot be granted according to Law on account of Indian Improvement thereon said Lot drawn by Rachel Ferguson, Soldiers’ Widow, 119th District, Richmond County, 24th April, 1833” (Surveyor Generals Office 1833).

With Georgia settlers becoming bolder about taking over Cherokee lands, the divisions between Ross and his supporters and the Ridge’s and their supporters intensified. In 1834, Cherokee Elijah Hicks brought a “petition signed by 144 Indians from six districts” (Wilkins 1986:165) to the Council for impeachment of the Ridges and David Vann. According to Wilkins, John Ross declined to prosecute them (Wilkins 1986: 262-263; Eaton 1914:72-3). Nevertheless, with sentiments running high, the division between those in favor of removal, who were in the minority, and those against it hardened into the formation of two opposing groups, or parties. The majority of the Cherokee population supported John Ross, and they are variously referred to in historical accounts as the Ross Party or the Ross Faction, the Anti-treaty Party, or sometimes the National Party (Wilkins 1986:258, 273). The much smaller group of Cherokees supporting emigration was led by Major Ridge, John Ridge, Elias Boudinot, David Vann and others. This group is referred to as the Ridge Party, or the Ridge Faction, or the Treaty party (Wilkins 1986:252, 257, 274,281,329-30,332-333). Physical attacks were made against members of both sides. On May 15, 1835, William N. Bishop wrote to Georgia Governor Wilson Lumpkin about his concerns for Ridge’s safety (Hays 1939).
In early December at John Ross’s behest John Ridge and Stand Watie traveled with a delegation of both Treaty Party and Ross’s Faction Cherokees to Washington, D.C. to negotiate a treaty that both parties were agreeable to signing. However, while the delegation was in route John Ross appeared to change his mind, declaring that the Cherokee people would not agree to removal and would rather stay and become citizens of the U.S. John Ridge received word of this while still in route to Washington and quickly wrote a letter to Ross resigning from the delegation. When Ross received John Ridge’s resignation he sent a return note imploring Ridge to continue on to Washington and present some semblance of Cherokee unity before the U.S. Government. Ridge did continue on to Washington (Wilkins 1986:283-285).

As it became clear that Ross was not planning on a compromise, a group of Cherokees, including Major Ridge, gathered at New Echota to hold Council on the treaty negotiation. Major Ridge gave an impassioned speech before the council imploring them that it was better for the survival of the Cherokee Nation to move west than to remain east and face the inevitable onslaught of Georgians. A committee of twenty was formed including Major Ridge, Elias Boudinot, John Gunter, Andrew Ross, and William Rogers to negotiate the terms of a treaty for secession with Tennessee Governor William Carroll and John Schermerhorn, who represented the U.S. government. On the night of December 29, 1835 the committee of twenty met at the house of Elias Boudinot with Schermerhorn (Governor William Carroll had pre-signed the document) present as one of the commissioners on the behalf of the United States. With witnesses the committee signed the Treaty of New Echota, which sold all Cherokee lands east of the Mississippi River (Wilkins 1986:286-289). First Schermerhorn signed below Carroll’s signature and then Major Ridge’s was the first Cherokee signature (mark) under Schermerhorn. The treaty was approved by the council the next day and Schermerhorn, along with a delegation including Major Ridge and Elias Boudinot, left for Washington. John Ross was notified of the proceedings at New Echota and of the Treaty. Since none of the treaty signers were authorized by the Cherokee government, there was heated discussion about its legality and morality in Washington. Meanwhile John Ross gathered protest petitions and thousands of Cherokee signatures. Nonetheless the treaty went before the Senate and was finally approved on May 17 by a margin of one vote and ratified by Andrew Jackson on May 23, 1836 (Wilkins 1986:288-292; Kappler 1904:439-448).

The New Echota treaty contained a provision allowing the Indians two years from the May 1836 date in which to remove themselves. The Treaty provided for two federal commissioners to work with a Cherokee committee to help process the Cherokee claims for their property so that they could be paid for their property and improvements prior to their departure west. Other provisions in the treaty stated that the U.S. was to provide subsistence for the emigrants at their new western homes. The U.S. also would provide steamboats and baggage-wagons for the transit, along with medical assistance to those emigrating (Kappler 1904:439-448; Wilkins 1986:289, 292, 296).

President Jackson chose former Georgia Governor Lumpkin and Governor William Carroll of Tennessee as the federal commissioners. John Ridge was chosen as one of
the Cherokee commissioners. In late 1836, the federal commissioners and the Cherokee Committee met at the Cherokee capital of New Echota to begin the emigration process. General John Wool was stationed at New Echota to oversee preparations for removal. John Ridge had already moved his family to New Echota and was renting the Boudinot’s house when Governor Lumpkin arrived at New Echota in October of 1836. The duties of the commissioners were to verify each Cherokee emigrant’s claim, which was based on the 1836 valuations of all Indian properties. Those Cherokees prepared to emigrate soon began arriving, some walking and some riding in carriages and wagons. It was reported that 1,500 to 2,000 Cherokees went to New Echota in preparation for collecting their disbursements and starting their trip west to Oklahoma. Among those were Major Ridge, John Martin and Joseph Vann. Although Governor Lumpkin arrived in October, ready to start the process, there were numerous delays because Governor Carroll did not arrive and had to be replaced. So by the beginning of 1837, only about 600 Cherokees had been processed and were ready to start west. Most of these were the more wealthy Cherokees, who set forth independently on their journey west in wagons and carriages along with their worldly possessions including their slaves, oxen, and horses. The Cherokees moved themselves, taking a route that led them through Tennessee, Kentucky, Illinois, Missouri, and on to their new homeland in Oklahoma (Wilkins 1986:301-304).

When Major Ridge arrived in late 1836, he had intended to travel independently, as had the proceeding groups. However, due to failing health he had to postpone his departure. On March 3, 1837, Ridge and his family left with a large contingent of Cherokees, who boarded flatboats at Ross’ Landing on the Tennessee River. This was a difficult trip in open boats to Gunter’s Landing in Alabama. A steamer, the Knoxville, then picked up Major Ridge and his family, who had special accommodations, while many others received deck accommodations only. Those even less fortunate were put on flatboats tied to the stern of the steamer. When low water was encountered, the Indians boarded open railcars and were taken by train to Tuscumbia, where they then embarked on the steamer Newark. The more privileged rode on the Newark, which pulled keelboats carrying the rest of the emigration party. On March 27, they reached Fort Smith, Arkansas and Ridge and his family left the boat and traveled the rest of the way overland. Their destination was Honey Creek, Oklahoma where the Ridges had already claimed land and purchased improvements. Meanwhile, John Ridge did not leave until September of 1837, resigning from the Committee so that he could move his family. They met up with Elias Boudinot and his family on the way and they all then proceeded together to Honey Creek, arriving in late November (Wilkins 1986:306-310).

The majority of Cherokees, however, resisted removal and remained on their farms. By the spring of 1838 14 removal forts and camps were established and garrisoned by Georgia militia who had been mustered into the U.S. Army for the purpose of removing the Cherokees. These forts were distributed throughout the Cherokee Nation in Georgia. Major General Winfield Scott took charge of the removal. (Wilkins 1986). The final removal of the remaining Cherokees from their homes in Georgia, Tennessee, and Alabama was completed in 1838, although thousands remained in internment camps in Tennessee until the late fall of 1838.
Beginning in June 1838, about 3,000 Cherokees traveled on foot, horseback and wagon to the Indian Territory. A prolonged drought and low water courses necessitated a delay in the removal of the remainder of the Cherokees, whose departure in the late fall meant that they traveled during one of the harshest winters in memory. Ultimately about 16,000 Cherokees were removed from the East. Between 2,000 and 4,000 died from sickness, disease, malnourishment, exposure, or fatal accidents while en route (Perdue 1979).

Early on the morning of June 22, 1839 Major Ridge, John Ridge and Elias Boudinot were killed by a group of Cherokees, who believed they were fulfilling the Cherokee law making unauthorized land sales a capital offense. No one was ever prosecuted for their deaths (Wilkins 1986:333-334).
A National Historic Landmark “possesses exceptional value or quality in illustrating or interpreting the heritage of the United States...” Chieftains received this designation in 1974. As the home of Major Ridge, one of the most influential political leaders of the Cherokee Nation in the time before removal, Chieftains Museum/Major Ridge Home meets the evaluation criteria listed below:

**Criterion 1** - That is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to, and are identified with, or that outstandingly represents the broad national patterns of United States history and from which an understanding and appreciation of those patterns may be gained;

**Criterion 2** - That are associated importantly with the lives of persons nationally significant in the history of the United States

**Criterion 6** - That have yielded or may likely yield information of major scientific importance by revealing new cultures or by shedding light upon periods of occupation over large areas of the United States. Such sites are those which have yielded, or which may reasonable be expected to yield, data affecting theories, concepts, and ideas to a major degree.

**STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE for the RIDGE PERIOD (1819-1837)**

While Americans have often romanticized the Native American presence in the Southeast, the complexities of their stories are too often generalized, presented as stereotypes, and simply misunderstood. There are far too few physical reminders of their presence in the region. The survival of the home of one of the most influential Cherokee leaders during the tumultuous decades preceding removal is extremely important. Major Ridge’s presence at the Chieftains site in the 1820’s and 1830’s was during a time in which Cherokee culture was undergoing rapid acculturation into one that more closely resembled the European-American way of life. Much of this change was out of necessity based on a depletion of resources and the demands of an ever-expanding white population; however, the acculturation process was hastened by the intentional efforts of the United States government through its “Civilization Plan”. After the devastation of the wars against the Americans in the late Eighteenth Century, Cherokee leaders like Major Ridge understood that peace with this growing neighbor was necessary for their continued survival. To them acculturation was compatible with both the goals of peace and prosperity. They asserted that through such cooperation the sovereignty of the Cherokee people could be retained while remaining in their homeland.

Even as the acculturation policy reached its greatest successes among members of the Cherokee elite, the young American government abandoned the plan in favor of a new policy – removal of all Native Americans to land west of the Mississippi River. Although it had been set forth as an option or even desirable goal since the Jefferson administration, the policy was not officially adopted until President Andrew Jackson signed the Indian Removal bill in 1830. The ramifications of the new removal policy
left Native Americans with no good choices. At a time when individual states and the federal government were vying for power, the states demanded Indian land. Despite the fact that the land had been promised to the various Indian nations by numerous federal treaties, the federal government eventually acquiesced to the demands of the states simply by refusing to forcibly uphold the terms of those treaties. The United States tried to legitimate their breach through the negotiation of new treaties. Unfortunately, to politicians supporting removal it was not necessary to make the treaty with duly authorized representatives of the various nations but simply to find compliant individuals with a sufficient reputation of past leadership. As other southeastern tribes fell victim to this strategy, the Cherokees remained as the last holdout. The actions of the state of Georgia, however, made compliance virtually compulsory. The Cherokee’s story of strategies of resistance as well as the causes of factional capitulation is inextricably linked to the life of Major Ridge. It is essential to understanding the road to Cherokee removal.

When the United States “Civilization Plan” was set forth in the 1790’s as a potential path to peace, many Cherokees embraced its offerings. While the plan generally made its greatest progress among Cherokees of mixed ancestry who already had a degree of acculturation, Major Ridge stands as an extreme example of the success of the program among Cherokees raised in a more traditional manner. By the time of his departure in 1837, his home, farm, ferry and other holdings on the Oostanaula River near present-day Rome would have rivaled most of the finest contemporary European-American plantations on the Southern frontier.

The significance of the life of Major Ridge, however, extends far beyond a mere example of the fruits of an American policy that was abandoned in spite of its successes. The Ridge was a leader of the Cherokee people at a pivotal turning point in Cherokee history. While living at the farm that later became known as “Chieftains” during the 1820’s and 1830’s Ridge played a major role in Cherokee politics as dramatic events unfolded that culminated first in the creation of a Constitutional Government and then in the forced emigration of the Cherokee Nation from their homeland.

Major Ridge was born in 1770 or 1771. As a young man he had earned respect as a warrior and eventually was chosen to represent his hometown of Pine Log at the general council meetings gathering at Ustanali. It was here that Ridge was among the leadership of a group of “young chiefs” that won the support of the people over more traditional leaders through staunch opposition to land cessions. This group adhered to a strategy of endorsing the “civilization plan” and unity of the Cherokee people. Above all, they believed in Cherokee sovereignty and that their land base was not for sell.

In 1807 Ridge established himself as an enforcer with the execution of Doublehead for agreeing to sell Cherokee land in opposition to an edict passed by the council. Ridge went on to serve as commander of the Lighthorse Guard established to carry out the laws of the council and in 1809 was chosen as a member of the first Cherokee National Committee. During the unrest leading to the Creek war of 1813, Ridge showed his leadership ability again, risking his life to denounce prophets who advocated a return to traditional ways as well as armed resistance to the American
government. Ridge was clearly respected by both the Cherokee and European-American leadership and served as a key member of delegations to Washington on several occasions.

Some contemporaries referred to Ridge as the “greatest orator of the nation” (Wilkins 1986:142, 256). It was likely because of this ability to eloquently and powerfully represent the will of the people that he was chosen as “Speaker of the National Council” sometime in the late 1810’s. It was while serving in this capacity that the Cherokees formally centralized their government through a series of acts that culminated in the creation of a constitutional government with a bicameral legislature along with a judicial and executive branch (the Principal Chief). Shortly after the Cherokee Constitution was ratified in 1827, the National Council elected Ridge as one of three “councilors” to the nation.

Ridge was a proponent of European-American style education as a means for the Cherokees to be able to understand and more effectively assimilate American culture. He sent three of his children to the mission schools established for that purpose. He believed in the necessity of dealing with the representatives of the American government in their own language. Some scholars have even said that in 1828 he sponsored John Ross as the most qualified choice for Principal Chief over himself because of his own deficiencies in communicating with the Americans.

Both Cherokees and whites understood the Cherokee Constitution to be an assertion of Cherokee sovereignty and their right to remain in their homeland. The state of Georgia was especially infuriated at this concept and escalated pressure on the Federal government to compel the Cherokees to cede their land. At the same time they passed a series of their own laws denying Cherokee sovereignty and extending state jurisdiction over much of the Cherokee Nation. White harassment of the Cherokees intensified. Ridge and his son John, along with Chief Ross and the council continued to resist any overtures to cede land. Even after Andrew Jackson pushed through the Indian Removal Bill in 1830, the Cherokees refused to back down from their position that their land was their own to relinquish and that fact had been recognized in numerous treaties. With the blessing of the U.S. government, the Cherokee council turned to Major Ridge again to lead a force to remove illegal white squatters from Cherokee land. Although the initial action was successful and peaceful, Georgians flexed their muscle by retaliating with a much larger force of vigilantes who reclaimed the homesteads. The federal government refused to intervene.

By the 1830’s the Cherokee population was only a minuscule fraction of that of the whites in Georgia and the surrounding states. Armed resistance would have not only been futile but would have likely resulted in the annihilation of the Cherokee people. Their last hope was in the federal courts. Georgia’s extension of authority over Cherokee land was challenged in the case of Worcester v. Georgia. When the Supreme Court ruled in favor of the Cherokees in March of 1832 it appeared that the Cherokees had won their right to stay without interference from the various states. President Jackson, however, refused to enforce the decision. In the minds of some of the Cherokee leaders and many of their most sympathetic white supporters, it would be impossible for the Cherokee Nation to survive in the east without the intervention
of the federal government. Major Ridge was clearly the most established political figure in this camp.

The Worcester decision and Jackson’s refusal to enforce it marked a critical turning point in Major Ridge’s life. From that time on Ridge asserted that it was important for the Cherokee Nation to separate themselves from the pressures of white encroachment and to make a deal for the land that he believed would eventually be taken from them. A treaty of cession could at least provide compensation and a guarantee of sovereignty. Ridge was a critical figure among the treaty advocates and clearly was the person with the most leadership experience. While John Ridge and Ridge’s nephew, Elias Boudinot, both former champions of resistance to cession, took on a very public role in the faction because of their command of the English language, it was Major Ridge who provided the name that gave the position greater credibility among both Cherokees and whites. Major Ridge was the necessary force behind the Treaty Party, which became known as the “Ridge Party”.

Principal Chief John Ross was not blind to the increasing peril of the Cherokee Nation and did discuss a potential treaty with the American government; however, when it became clear that the Cherokee Council and a majority of the Cherokee people remained steadfastly opposed to land cession he followed their lead. He perceived the greatest hope of the Nation was to stand united against the outside forces. In his mind dissent would be perceived as a weakness to be exploited. Ridge and his party believed there was not sufficient discussion of their position and that Ross’ actions isolated them from the rest of the nation. Animosity between the two factions greatly intensified during the next few years.

Although an October 1835 council held at Red Clay in present-day Tennessee had voted against a Treaty proposal, a representative of the American government (John Schermerhorn) called for another general assembly of the Cherokee people at New Echota in December of that same year to revisit the issue. The general invitation stated that absence would be considered authorization of the actions of those in attendance. At the time of the gathering Ross was on his way to Washington leading a bipartisan delegation of twenty men that included John Ridge. The council was held anyway. Out of a population of roughly 16,000 people less than 400 attended this council. Some claimed that the Ross faction had advised them not to attend. A committee of twenty men including Major Ridge was elected to negotiate a treaty. They presented a version with terms almost identical to the treaty rejected at the well-attended October council. The committee was authorized by this small council representing less than 2 ½ percent of the Cherokee population to sign the treaty on behalf of the Nation. On December 29, 1835 these men signed a treaty ceding all remaining Cherokee land east of the Mississippi River to the United States. Major Ridge’s mark appears immediately after the signature of the American agents indicating that he was the first Cherokee to sign.

The Treaty of New Echota, which was ratified by the Senate in May of 1836, provided for approximately five million dollars in compensation for the ceded land in addition to a guarantee of land already promised in the west. Cherokee families would be compensated for the improvements they left behind from the general fund. The treaty also gave the Cherokees two years from the date of ratification to emigrate to
modern-day Oklahoma. Although Ridge left within the allotted time, John Ross and the overwhelming majority of the Cherokee people did not. They held that the treaty was not legitimate and that acceptance of any of its terms or compensation would provide it credibility. Ross continued to try to build support among both the American government and American people that would allow the Cherokees to retain their homeland. Still, when the date for removal arrived, the United States used its military might to force individual families from their homes ultimately herding them into three concentration camps along the Tennessee River. After several months delay due to a drought, the Cherokees eventually headed west under Ross’ leadership in the fall of 1838. Along the journey of over eight hundred miles between 2,000 and 4,000 Cherokees died. They came to call this experience the “Trail where they cried” or the “Trail of Tears”.

Immediately after the departure of the Cherokees, white settlement in the former Cherokee Nation, which was already significant, boomed with the availability of new land. The geography of the southeast was changed forever.

In the new home of the Cherokees in the west political struggles continued between the Old Settlers who had arrived before the signing of the Treaty of New Echota, the Treaty party, and the remaining majority who had just arrived from the east. On June 22, 1839 Major Ridge, John Ridge and Elias Boudinot were killed by followers of John Ross. The Ross party called their deaths an execution of Cherokee law enacted in 1829 which stated that:

…if any citizen or citizens of this nation should treat and dispose of any lands belonging to this nation without special permission from the national authorities, he or they shall suffer death... (Wilkins 1986: pp. 208-209)

This law was the written version of the same law that Ridge claimed to be enforcing when he killed Doublehead. It was also advocated by Major Ridge in 1829 and actually transcribed by John Ridge who served as Clerk of the Council at that time. Clearly Major Ridge and his followers were aware of the potential personal consequences of their actions. A newspaper article written over fifty years after the signing of the Treaty of New Echota cites an eyewitness as hearing Major Ridge say, “I have signed my death warrant”.

The rivalries that emerged in the Cherokee Nation during the period leading to removal continued to fester for many years with periodic episodes of violence on both sides. The culmination was during the Civil War when Cherokees sided with either the Union or the Confederacy in their own disputes. Loyalties were generally along the old Ridge and Ross party lines. The devastation was immense with the loss of over 4,000 lives (McLoughlin 1993: 220). The Cherokee Nation, however, has survived the devastation of removal and its aftermath. Today it has the second largest Indian population in America with almost 250,000 citizens. Some say that the nation has survived because of Ridge’s actions, others say that it was in spite of it.

28 John Ross and the elected Cherokee government did not actually recognize the Treaty of New Echota until 1845.
The importance of events intertwined with Ridge’s life is undeniable. During the 1820’s and 1830’s while he lived at Chieftains. Cherokee culture was changing rapidly. American Indian policy was evolving from one supporting acculturation to one advocating removal. State, federal, and Cherokee governments were all trying to define their sovereignty. Most significantly, the chain of events that ultimately lead to the “Trail of Tears” were unfolding. Major Ridge was a central Cherokee leader throughout this period. His opinions represent a heavily weighted contemporary point of view and his actions had a profound impact on the Cherokee Nation.

Too many of the physical reminders of the Cherokee presence in the east have been lost. The survival of the home of one of their most influential leaders is a rare treasure. Additional archaeological, architectural, and landscape studies will likely yield a greater understanding of the material culture of the Cherokee “aristocracy” on the eve of removal as well as provide valuable opportunities to compare and contrast that culture with that of similarly situated European Americans. On another level, they will likely provide greater detail about the life, home and farm of a nationally significant figure whose actions greatly impacted the Cherokee people and the geography of the Southeastern United States.

The Chieftains Museum/Major Ridge Home is a National Historic Landmark. During the period from 1819 to 1837 the Cherokee Indian Major Ridge established his home at this site on the east bank of the Oostanaula River upstream of the eventual location of the town of Rome, Georgia. Chieftains is nationally significant under Criteria 1, 2, 5, and 6 of the National Historic Landmark program. Chieftains is important because its history represents events associated with state and national conflicts between Euro-American settlers and Native Americans in the struggle over land possession (Criterion 1). Major Ridge was an important player in Cherokee politics and the events leading up to the removal of most Cherokees from their homelands in the eastern United States. These events unfolded as the newly formed United States Government endeavored to pull together ideals and philosophies from various political and religious groups into a concerted treatment of Native American populations. The voices of the southern states, which were mostly single minded in their desire to rid themselves of the Indian populations, had to be weighed against the overall goals and welfare of the country. The Chieftains site also contains great potential for providing important archaeological information about the Ridge occupation at the site. There are many pieces of the written history that are missing and that may only be recovered from the ground.

The significance of Major Ridge’s Home and Major Ridge is reflected in the struggles of the Cherokees and all southeastern Indians to maintain control over their homelands against the westward expansion of Euro-Americans across the North American continent (Criterion 5). During the late eighteenth century Ridge and numerous other Cherokees first fought against the Americans, but later joined them in resisting a Creek Indian confederacy uprising against the Americans in 1813-1814. Falling into an era of compliance, Ridge and many Cherokees accepted the tenants of the Plan of Civilization espoused by the American Government during the late eighteenth century. This Plan of Civilization was formally noted in the 1791 Treaty of Holston (Article XIV) between the Cherokees and the Federal Government. An Indian Bureau was established and agents were sent into the Cherokee territory to
educate them about farming, raising cattle, and home industries such as spinning and weaving.

During the first few decades of the 1800s, an elite group of Cherokee farmers emerged. Many of these farmers, although not all, were of a mixed heritage of Cherokee and white ancestry. This group, primarily through their wealth and education, gained enough power in the Cherokee Nation to radically change the Cherokee governing system. Within a short time it mirrored the American system of government with a bicameral legislative branch, a judicial branch and an executive branch. A new Cherokee capital was established (1825) at New Echota (northwest Georgia near Calhoun) that reflected this new centralization of Cherokee power.

These elite Cherokees, such as Major Ridge and his son John Ridge, were involved in all levels of the newly organized Cherokee Government. They were involved in the enacting of laws and regulations to control all aspects of the Cherokee Nation’s commerce and policies toward whites. They conducted negotiations with the Federal Government through letters and through the Federal Indian agents, who were sent to the Cherokee Nation. Numerous visits also were made by the Ridges to Washington, D.C. to conduct face to face negotiations with the Federal Government. Most of these negotiations were attempts to hold on to their territorial lands, which were being steadily lost through the signing of treaties. Between the 1791 signing of the Treaty of Holston and the 1830 Indian Removal Act, nine treaties between the Cherokees and the Federal Government were signed relinquishing Cherokee lands, although Major Ridge was not involved in these treaties (Kappler 1904). His involvement occurred during the first decade or so leading up to the Treaty of New Echota of which he was a signer in 1835.

Although the Federal Government made some efforts to protect the Cherokees, its primary and somewhat clandestine goal was western expansion. The southern state governments continually exerted pressure on the Federal Government to remove the Indians from all lands east of the Mississippi River. It was the southern states that felt that state’s rights should prevail in matters that related to them in particular.

Although Major Ridge could not read or write English, he is said to have been a great orator. His son, John Ridge, was educated in New England and spoke and wrote English eloquently. He composed many letters and treatises on behalf of the Cherokee Nation. In 1830, President Andrew Jackson, whose sentiments lay with the southern states, signed the Indian Removal Act. The passage of this Act sent a clear message to many Cherokees that resistance against the federal and state governments was futile. Friction between the Cherokees and the Creeks and among the Cherokee leadership itself rapidly grew.

By 1834, a fissure had developed among the Cherokee leadership between those who were ready to accept emigration west and those that wanted to continue resistance. These opposing groups became known as the Ross party and the Treaty party. The bitterness between the two factions was enormous. On December 29, 1835 the Treaty of New Echota was signed by the group of Cherokees who reasoned that the survival of the Cherokee Nation could only be salvaged if they moved west of the Mississippi River and reestablished their Nation there. Major Ridge and John Ridge, who lead
the treaty signers, were opposed by most of the Cherokee population. This opposing faction was led by Chief John Ross, who legally represented the Cherokee government and the majority of the Cherokee population, most of whom still practiced the more traditional Cherokee ways of agriculture and subsistence. Ross and the Ridges had been close friends and allies for many years; however, the increasing differences in their philosophies over removal during the 1830s resulted in the dissolution of their friendship.

Following the 1835 Treaty of New Echota, those who had accepted their fate began to emigrate to the west. All Cherokee properties and improvements had been valued by the Federal government in 1836-1837, and the treaty provided for the Cherokees to be compensated for their property losses (cultivation of the land and improvements such as buildings, ferries, mills, livestock pens). The removal period covered the years between late 1836 and 1839. Those that had signed the treaty began their emigration in late 1836 and continued into 1837, leaving from the abandoned capital of New Echota. Most of the wealthier Cherokees were among the first group of around 500 to 600 hundred to collect their payments from the Federal Government, and voluntarily leave for the Arkansas territory (now Oklahoma). They left with their slaves and personal property traveling in wagons, carriages and on horseback following a land route through Tennessee, eastern Kentucky, southern Illinois, Missouri, and on to the Arkansas territory. Another group, which included Major Ridge and his household, chose to leave with a government escort in early March of 1837. They mostly followed a river route, traveling on the Tennessee River into the Ohio River, then into the Mississippi River, and finally up the Arkansas River to Fort Smith, Arkansas. John Ridge remained at New Echota until late in the summer of 1837 to help with the processing of Cherokee claims of those emigrating west. John Ridge then moved his family to Oklahoma to join his parents on their new lands.

The majority of the Cherokee population continued their resistance. By May of 1838, the expiration date for emigration, as set forth in the terms of the Treaty, had passed. The remaining Cherokees and all remaining southeastern Indians were forcibly rounded up and moved west. This forced exodus has become known as the Trail of Tears. It is estimated that between 2,000 and 4,000 Cherokees died during removal due to the harsh conditions they faced on their long and dangerous trek west. Ultimately, Major Ridge, John Ridge and Elias Boudinot (the editor of the Cherokee Phoenix), three of the principal signers of the 1835 treaty, were assassinated at their new homes in Oklahoma on June 22nd 1839 by a group of Cherokees who banded together to punish them for signing the Treaty of New Echota.

The Chieftains Museum/Major Ridge Home is nationally significant (Criterion 2) for its association with Major Ridge and his son John Ridge and the events leading up to the forced removal of most southeastern Indians. Chieftains reflects the Ridge’s successful participation in the Plan for Civilization. Major Ridge and his family developed a profitable plantation that grew fields of cotton, corn, tobacco, and orchards of apples, peaches, and plums, along with livestock. As well, a lucrative ferry operation and a trade store operated on the site. Through acquisition of wealth and a strong belief in education in the ways of western civilization, Major Ridge and his wife sent their son John to New England to be educated. During the years that Major Ridge occupied Chieftains, both he and his son John Ridge became important
political figures in the changing Cherokee political system. They worked tirelessly to forge a relationship with the American government in a futile effort to maintain the Cherokee Nation’s lands in the east. They eventually came to the realization, especially after the passing of the 1830 Indian Removal Act, that their efforts would not sway the southern states and the federal government. They strongly believed that for the Cherokee people to survive they must accept removal as their fate. It was a difficult decision, but once made they and other like-minded Cherokees signed the Treaty of New Echota, relinquishing all Cherokee lands east of the Mississippi. They were involved in the negotiations of the treaty terms for the removal process. They hoped that the Cherokees who were resistant to removal would come to realize the futility of it and accept it. The Ridges paid the ultimate price with their lives for what many saw as their betrayal of the Cherokee people.

Previous archaeological excavations at Chieftains have yielded evidence of archaeological remains dating to the Ridge period. The site has the potential to yield further important information (Criterion 6) about the Ridge period of occupation. Previous work has shown that the site still possesses depositional integrity and may yield information that can help date the first occupation of the site, and possibly help determine the likely construction date of the earliest portions of the house. Archaeology can also help identify other buildings and features related to the Ridge period of occupation.
The following history presents a chronological description of the physical manifestations of the Chieftains House as reflected in historical documents. The main dwelling house of Major Ridge and his family, now known as the Chieftains Museum/Major Ridge Home, has a most interesting past. As with many historic buildings, legends and misinformation about Chieftains have been passed down through the years.

The construction date of the house and other dates for remodeling seem to be one of the biggest errors; the house is attributed to being built in the 1790’s. The National Register of Historic Places nomination form cites dates for construction and remodeling that cannot be corroborated (National Park Service, National Register of Historic Places 1972). A summary of house history taken from the nomination form describes the house as follows:

“Chieftains, 80 Chatillon Rd., c. 1792. Frame, clapboarding; 2 stories, rectangular, hipped roof; center entrance with transom, side lights, and pedimented hood; arcaded flanking 1-story wings; original 2-story hand hewn log cabin enlarged and remodeled, c. 1837 and 1923. Georgian Revival” (NPS 2004c).

As noted earlier there is no evidence for when the house was built. No documentary evidence has been found for any of the remodeling periods. The remodeling during the Porter period would not have taken place until 1924 or after, but no documentary information was found concerning this remodeling episode either. An early twentieth century source places the original occupation of the house/property date of 1794, although no primary documents were founds supporting that date (Anonymous ca. 1900-1924; Spalding 1990:444).

The Sesquicentennial Commission of the City of Rome published a history of Rome and Floyd County in 1985. That volume contains a discussion of the physical structure of the Chieftains House as follows:

“First a 52 x 28 foot hewn log cabin with ‘dogtrot’ hallway, it was enlarged by Ridge with upper story, side porches, and additional rooms. By 1889 it was ceiled, weatherboarded, and painted white with separate kitchen, cellar, carriage house, and quarters formerly occupied by slaves” (Sesquicentennial Commission of the City of Rome 1985:15).

Again, there is no documentary evidence for the Ridge remodeling nor for the remodeling changes that supposedly took place by 1889.

The present research team was unable to locate any primary records that support occupation of the Chieftains residence by Major Ridge (or any other Cherokee) in 1794. The ca. 1792-1794 construction date, therefore, remains unconfirmed and speculative. U.S. Government claims resulting from damages to the Cherokees in the Creek War (1813-1814) provide tangential support for Major Ridge’s presence in the

Records found in the Moravian Archives in Winston-Salem, North Carolina indicate that significant construction took place around 1826.
Chieftains vicinity by that time, but these documents could refer to his property at Pine Log or even somewhere else.

The likelihood that some other Cherokee built a house at Chieftains prior to Major Ridge was thoroughly explored in this study; however, no evidence for this was identified. Although a Cherokee named Widow’s Fool, or Fool, operated a ferry in the general vicinity of Major Ridge’s residence, it is most likely that the Fool Ferry was at the location where John Ross settled downstream from Ridge’s Ferry at the head of the Coosa River.

The following discussion presents construction details, occupation dates and remodeling episodes gleaned from the research documents researched during this study.
No written reference was found tying Ridge to Chieftains on the Oostanaula until 1819 when Ridge’s Ferry first appears in records. Contemporary descriptions of the house at Chieftains are very rare.

A passing traveler described Ridge and his home on the Oostanaula River in 1822, stating:

“[Major] Ridge is quite civilized, has a very good hewed log house, brass handles on the doors, a small Indian trading house in one part of his building, and lives much in the style of the whites” (Knepper 1966:91).

W.R. Grahame, a resident of East Rome in the early nineteenth century, wrote about John Ridge in his diary on February 2, 1832, in which he noted, “Mr. Ridge’s father’s home is a two-story one, 52 by 28 feet, and there are many others of handsome design which show the wealth and civilization of the owners” (Grahame, cited in Battey 1994:222).

Willie Stewart White cited a description of the Chieftains residence by a General Daniel Brinsmade that described it as, “an elegant painted mansion with porches on each side as the fashion of the country is” (White n.d., cited in Wilkins 1986:186).

Thurman Wilkins states that Ridge first had a log house with a rock foundation at his ferry location and that it was later remodeled using sawed timber. Wilkins says Major Ridge received money from the Creek Indians for helping them in negotiations with the U.S. government that enabled him to have the resources to remodel his house. Wilkins goes on to say that the house was built by a carpenter from Tennessee (Gambold 1826).” He further states that John Ridge participated in and supervised the work, noting that he had built his parents “a fine house....” that “would look well even in New England”. Wilkins states this information came from a Dr. Gold (of Cornwall, Connecticut), who revealed in a letter that he had been given this information by John Ridge

Figure 6. Advertisement for a “House Builder and Cabinet Maker” placed in the Cherokee Phoenix by John Ridge, 1828-1829.
himself (Wilkins 1986:186). McKenney and Hall also state that John Ridge had a strong influence on the architectural style of his parent’s home at Chieftains (McKenney and Hall 1848 vol 1:377-379).

Historical archaeologist Pat Garrow, while teaching at Shorter College in Rome, Georgia, excavated areas behind Chieftains during a period from 1969 to 1971 (Garrow 1974). As part of his work, he conducted historical research and found an advertisement in the *Cherokee Phoenix* dating to 1828 and early 1829 that might help confirm that John Ridge was involved in the building of Major Ridge’s mansion on the river (Patrick H. Garrow personal communication June 7, 2004). The advertisement, shown in Figure 6, appeared as transcribed:

**HOUSE BUILDER AND CABINET MAKER.**  
J. S. W. WHITE, from the city of New York, respectfully informs the citizens of the Cherokee Nation, that he intends carrying on the business of HOUSE BUILDING AND CABINET MAKING in a manner superior to any that has been done, & in the most fashionable manner, equal to that of N. York or Baltimore, and Superior to any work of the kind in this part of the Country. He will work as cheap as any workman, and in a better manner than can be done. He has got Mahogany and materials of the best quality.

N. B. He will take apprentices in the above business. Any native who will come with good recommendation and of steady habits will be received and taught in the above business.

Persons wishing to build can be supplied with a plan and elevation of any house that may be wanting.

For further information please apply to Messrs David Vann and John Ridge.  
Nov. 12. 1828  (Cherokee Phoenix November 12, 1828:3).

The advertisement suggests John Ridge and David Vann were involved in house building, although no other information that might help further elaborate on these activities was found.

Brief glimpses of the Ridge’s house, store and ferry can be gathered from a part of John Ross’s account of the failed assassination attempt against his life, which he described in the Cherokee newspaper in 1832. Ross noted:

“On the 30th of November last [1831] my brother Andrew Ross...accompanied me over to Major Ridge’s for the purposes of transacting some business in the store kept at that place, and when the business was concluded we paid Major Ridge a visit. A short time after we had seated ourselves before the fire, and entered into a conversation with the Major, I heard a loud voice, ‘is John Ross here.’ Looking round; I saw a tall gaunt person at the door in the passage...I walked out into the Piazza...after this I walked into the house and he returned to the store...”  (*Cherokee Phoenix and Indians’ Advocate* January 21, 1832:1).
Two stylized drawings of the Chieftains house are shown on the Land Lot 196 plats that were drawn in 1832. These two drawings are the only detailed illustrations of the Chieftains Plantation from the Ridge Period. One of these plats was included in the bound volume of Cherokee County plats and the other was a loose plat (Cherokee County 1832a, 1832b). These are shown in Figures 7 and 8, however, they are quite stylized and their reliability is questionable. Figure 11 is the plat from the Cherokee County plat book, which depicts the house facing south, with the following architectural traits:

- 2-story
- hipped roof [shown asymmetrical]
- single chimney (on west side)
- central doorway on south side, flanked by rooms with single windows
- upper story with 3 evenly spaced windows
- elevated on four pier supports

Figure 7. Lot 196, District 23, 3rd Section, Cherokee County, 1832 Plat Book.
Figure 8 is the loose plat for Lot 196 and it depicts the house facing west and having these architectural traits:

- 2-story (with possible loft and/or dormer windows)
- 2 chimneys, interior and central to the house
- Gabled roof
- Central doorway on west side, 1 window on 2nd story, 1 window on roof
- 4 windows on south side (2 on 1st story, 2 on 2nd story, 1 in gabled attic)

The most reliable description of Ridge’s house comes from the Federal 1836-1837 Valuation of Major Ridge’s improvements, which describes the house as it looked not long before the Ridge’s left. The description is as follows:

- Major Ridge - Oustanalla River
- Dwelling house 54 by 29 feet, 2 stories high
four fireplaces, brick. 8 Rooms finished in neat style, outside painted, Balcony on the side of the house [--] turned columns, 30 glass windows, one glass door leading to Balcony on the other side blinds to all 12 door facings and shutters painted, with first rate bolts and Locks. Parlor upstairs finished in first rate style, the whole neatly underpinned with rock. (McKenney and Hall 1948 vol 1:377)

This description, coupled with the two stylized houses on the survey plats, suggests that the Ridge residence is a two-story dwelling with windows on each floor. One plat’s stylized house shows two chimneys while the other shows only one chimney. Pat Garrow also investigated underneath the Chieftains house making several observations about the foundation of the house and its framing. Beneath the house, Garrow made these observations:

“A trip under the house revealed some information of the underpinning that could be used in reconstructing the house. Access through the crawl space was facilitated by an East-West trench 2 2 to 3 feet deep and appr 18 inches wide, which had been left open by plumbers after pipe was laid. Immediately thru the opening in the basement double hand hewn beams were found with an original support pillar still in place. Stone had a chalky white appearance & may have been limestone, but this wasn’t checked closely. Under the west wall (west wall of the cabin) a heavy stone block which originally formed a part of the foundation, had been uncovered by the trenching of the plumbers. A Dry stone wall had been attached to this foundation slab, but only fragments of it remain. Throughout the area under the house stone rubble could be seen and apparently this rubble came from the destruction of the original support pillars. Modern brick pillars found to be in use throughout almost all the area under the house. One pile of rubble could have been a chimney base, but there is no way to tell for sure. It is located roughly under the area where a chimney had reportedly been torn down much earlier. Henry [Jeffries] noted heavy pegged beams roughly under the east wall of the cabin, and the pegs were still in place, but had been damaged during the removal of some unknown structure. The flooring and support beams of the house were modern with very few exceptions. Apparently these were put in at the time the chimney structure previously mentioned was dismantled.” (Garrow 1969b:6-7).

For the attic, Garrow noted:

“The attic yielded more spectacular information in the form of a portion of the original roof of the cabin, preserved below the modern roof. Several photographs were made of the roof structure, including a section of wooden shingle, which is still intact. Reconstruction of the roof should present no problem. A section of wall was removed on the second floor, further revealing the structural details of the original log cabin. A window, roughly cut in the logs, was found, and this will be drawn to scale and record...The
Major Ridge addition of the 1830’s has been located exactly. It was, according to the roof enclosed in the attic, 20’9” E-W, 23’5” N-S. That addition can be seen on the front part as that part of the central portion of the house not included in the original log cabin. That means that the Major Ridge house was 39’ wide at its maximum width and not 29’ as recorded in the inventory. The Ridge addition consisted of only 2 rooms. The 2 halls would have to count as rooms to satisfy the recorded inventory” (Garrow 1969b:8, 16).

Recent versions of floor plans of the Chieftains Museum were identified during the present research. The earliest of these was published in 1985 in a history of Rome (Sesquicentennial Commission of the City of Rome 1985:15). It is shown in Figure 9.

Figure 9. Floor plan of Chieftains (Sesquicentennial Commission of the City of Rome, 1985:15).
The next set of floor plans was drawn by the Jaeger Company, who conducted a planning study for the Chieftains Museum (The Jaeger Company 1997). The Jaeger Company’s plans depict their interpreted construction sequence for the dwelling. These plans are shown in Figure 14. No other detailed plans of the Chieftains residence were located. The Jaeger Company present two sets of floor plans for the Chieftains residence that pertain to the Ridge period. The first is the original dwelling, which is a two-story dwelling with a single end chimney on the north side and two large rooms on each floor separated by a wide central hallway. Additions to the dwelling attributed to the 1820s include a substantial expansion to the east, forming an L-shaped building. The additions included a large room on both floors and a large balcony (Figure 10).

The Jaeger Company’s interpretation does not include a chimney on the south side of the dwelling. The 1836 valuation stated that the dwelling had four brick fireplaces. Two of these can be accounted for by the northern chimneys but the other two fireplaces are not addressed by Jaeger. The Jaeger Company presents no citations to indicate how they developed their interpreted floor plans.

L.S. Beeson (1933:927-941) presented an overview of examples of Cherokee residences in Georgia and Tennessee that had survived into the early 20th century. Her list included the houses of Elias Boudinot, Peter Hildebrand, David McNair, John Martin, and Joseph Vann. Each of their houses was a grand example of early nineteenth century Cherokee architecture, not dissimilar to that expressed at the Chieftains residence. Beeson’s article contains images of each of these houses, which have relevance for interpreting the Chieftains house.

Other Cherokee houses that were built in the nineteenth century may serve as analogs for reconstructing the virtual house plan for Chieftains. The Joseph Vann house in Spring Place is an impressive brick dwelling that is currently operated as a state historical site. It is a two and one-half story building with a central hall and two rooms opening off the central hall. The second floor has the same plan with a narrow stairway on the second floor leading to a small attic room. The 1832 sketch of Ross’ residence, shown on the land lottery plat (Land Lot 244, District 23, Section 3) indicates that it is a two and one-half story house, but only one chimney (interior) is indicated. The valuations indicate a two-story house 70 feet long by 20 feet wide with a brick chimney and four fireplaces and 20 windows. A 10 feet wide porch spanned one side of the house (Hemphill and Lidell 1837:8-9). John Ridge’s house was a 2 storied frame house measuring 51 feet by 19 feet with a single-story addition that measure 31 feet by 20 feet. The house had three brick chimneys and six fireplaces, 24 windows, and a laid stone foundation around the entire house (Hemphill and Lidell 1836).

Examination of the descriptions of several of Major Ridge’s neighbors provide comparative context for the interpretation of Major Ridge’s improvements at Chieftains. Six dwellings in the area are compared below.

Robert Benge, a white man, owned a dwelling house valued at $250.00. Benge’s house measured 16 feet by 44 feet and was made of hewn logs with a shed on one side and a good plank floor (U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs 1837:4).
The dwelling house of Archilla Smith was valued at $425.00. The main part of Smith’s house was of hewn log construction and measured 24 feet by 18 feet, two stories tall, with a shingle roof, brick chimney on one side, and a balcony. There were two additions, each measuring 18 feet by 29 feet and 1 2 stories high with wooden chimney and “boards nailed on” [clapboard?]. Smith also owned a kitchen (25 feet by 16 feet)

Figure 10. Sequence of floor plans for Chieftains (Jaeger Company 1997).
made of round logs, one negro house (14 feet by 14 feet, round logs), potato house, smoke house (12 feet by 12 feet) and other improvements (U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs 1837).

The two dwelling houses of John Fields, Jr. had a combined value of $325.00. Field’s residence measured 18 feet by 19 feet, with a 9 feet entry, 1 2 stairs, shed room (19 feet by 10 feet), three fireplaces, plank floor, loft, Piazza on one side, and 2 glazed windows. He also owned a kitchen (18 feet by 16 feet) made of round logs, two smoke houses (one 14 feet by 16 feet and one 12 ft by 12 ft), a negro house (12 feet by 12 feet), as well as cribs, stable, and other improvements (U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs 1837).

At the lower end of the housing spectrum was Rattlesnake Moore, whose dwelling was valued at $50.00. It was made of hewn logs and measured 15 feet by 18 feet. No other details of the dwelling were described, which implies that it was a very simple dwelling. Moore’s house was probably more representative of the typical Cherokee dwelling of the mid-1830s (U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs 1837).

A brief examination of other survey plats from different districts quickly brings out one conclusion: the detail illustrated on the plats was very dependent upon the skills and dedication of the surveyor drawing the plats. John Harvey was the District Surveyor for the surveys of District 23 of the 3rd section, and he appears to have been more meticulous in his renditions than most of the other district surveyors. For Major Ridge, John Ridge and John Ross’ houses he shows them as two-story with windows, doors and chimneys with each house rendered different. David Duke, the surveyor for the 9th district of the 3rd section, was responsible for the survey plat upon which the Joseph Vann house is located (now Murray County, Georgia). Duke’s rendering is a small very stylized one story-looking house, with no attempt to render the Vann’s tall stately brick house, although compared to other Duke survey plats, his representation of the Vann house must mean it was more than ordinary. On other Duke survey plats houses are shown only as small cross-hatched symbols (Shadburn 1989 vol. 2:130, 133, 136,254,256). While only speculation, one might surmise that John Harvey made some attempt to draw a reasonable representation of the houses he recorded on the plats.

From the written descriptions and the two plats some conclusions can be drawn about some of the architectural elements of the Major Ridge house. The 1836-1837 valuation says the house was a two-story frame building with eight rooms and four fireplaces. Both of surveyor Harvey’s renderings of the house show a front central door, although neither drawing shows a balcony or porch. The four fireplaces listed in the valuations may have meant there were two chimneys, each chimney having two fireboxes (fireplaces). Both of surveyor Harvey’s renderings of the Ridge house indicate recessed chimneys (although one drawing shows only one chimney) instead of exterior gable-end chimneys. If this is the case, with the chimney erected in the walls between the rooms on each side of the house, a fireplace may have opened into each of the downstairs rooms. Since the valuation identified only four fireplaces then there may have been no fireplaces on the second floor, or maybe only two rooms downstairs had fireplaces and two rooms upstairs had fireplaces. Thirty windows seem like a lot for an eight room house. The upstairs central hall could have had a window or two at each end of the hall. Since he notes a “glass door leading to the
Balcony” separate from the 30 windows, then the 30 windows does not seem to include the “glass door” he lists. It is surmised that the balcony is a porch or “piazza” (as referred to in the Ross description above). The “glass door” listed in the valuation may have been a wood frame door with a transom and sidelights. The Ross description also describes sitting in one of the Ridge rooms before a fire and hearing his name called from outside. Ross describes seeing a figure “at the door in the passage”, which would seem to indicate that he looked through the hallway (passage) to the front door that lead to the “piazza” or porch. According to the valuation description the balcony/porch was supported by turned columns.

The house had rock foundations and apparently had a solid rock wall underpinning from the valuation description. Interestingly, McKenney describes Ridge’s original log house at Ridge’s Ferry as being, “neatly underpinned with rock” (McKenney and Hall 1948 vol 1:377). Pat Garrow noted from his investigations under the house in 1969 that a portion of a dry stone wall, which had been attached to stone piers were still visible. He also noted stone rubble scattered across the ground underneath the house and that the stone foundation piers were lying about, most having been replaced with brick pillars.

It would appear that the Ridge house does not embody any typical architectural style common to early frontier settlements in other regions of Georgia such as the area along the middle Oconee River of central Georgia (Lindley 1972:22-23). The house may reflect the influences of New England styles that the Ridges were exposed to through their visits to that area. John Ridge supposedly described the house he was building for his father as being suitable for New England as related in a letter written by Dr. Gold of Cornwall, Connecticut (Wilkins 1986:186).
The Ferguson-Verdery Period

After the state of Georgia surveyed the Cherokee lands into sections, districts and land lots, each land lot was awarded to a Georgia citizen through the 1832 state lottery. The widow Rachel Ferguson drew Land Lot 196 upon which Major Ridge’s house stood. She never lived on the property and sold it in 1833 to Augustus N. Verdery. The property remained in the ownership of Major Ridge until his departure from Georgia in 1837. Verdery’s primary residence in the 1830s was in Augusta, Georgia and it appears he was an absentee owner for many years after Ridge left, perhaps visiting Chieftains occasionally. Based on a description by his daughter, Susan Verdery Prather (n.d.:1), Verdery moved his family to Chieftains around 1847. As the project progressed, the research team learned from Carey Tilley of a ca. 1837 plat drawing of the Chieftains. This map is referenced in an early twentieth century newspaper article, which is on file at Chieftains Museum (Anonymous ca. 1900-1924). The author of this newspaper article, written sometime between 1900 and 1924, referenced the plat drawing:

“Mr. Jeffries has in his possession a large hand painted map of the land lot, which contained 284 acres of land, showing the roads, springs, creeks, and many of the largest trees, with floor plan of the house. This map was painted and presented to Mr. Verdery in 1837, because of his great hospitality to the civil engineer, Mr. Le Hardy Beaulieu” (Anonymous ca. 1900-1924).

Despite an extensive search, this map was not located. Descendants of the Jeffries family, who formerly owned the map, recall that it was drafted by a United States Army engineer and was given as a gift to Augustus N. Verdery. The young engineer was quartered in the house for a period of time and gave Mr. Verdery the drawing in appreciation of the hospitality that he was shown during his stay.

Independent corroboration for the existence of the Le Hardy Beaulieu plat was obtained by the research team from a plat recorded in the Floyd County Superior Court (Floyd County Deed Book J:461). The plat (Figure 11), which accompanies a deed conveying the River Bank Farm from George M. Battey to William H. Webb, recorded on January 4, 1855, describes property immediately south of Chieftains. A note below the plat states, “River Bank Farm, Copy of Copy from Original Survey & Plan, E. La Hardy de Beaulieu C. E.” If this cartographic work by Le Hardy Beaulieu can be located, it could be useful for interpretation of the early Chieftains house and property. At this juncture, however, the existence of this map cannot be confirmed.

Emily Prather, a granddaughter of Verdery, wrote about the Verdery family in 1942. Most of her descriptions of the Chieftains house and property come from an undated historical fiction account, Tahlonika, The Cherokee, written by her mother, Susan Verdery Prather, the daughter of Augustus Verdery. There is no publication date for the story, although based on a reference to 1919, it likely dates to the 1920’s. Susan V. Prather lived at Chieftains Plantation as a young child, when the property was owned by her father. She was a young girl about 14 years old when her father sold Chieftains; she noted that her family made return visits to Rome, after they moved to Alabama. Her introductory description of Chieftains may reflect her earliest memories of the place when her father owned the property. Alternatively, that description may be a composite one, based on those memories and those generated by subsequent visits to
Rome. Susan V. Prather provides bits and pieces of information about the house, but they are mixed in with her historical fiction, making it difficult to distinguish between reality and fiction. Nevertheless, she provides this informative description of the Chieftains house as follows:

“The mansion, two and a half stories high, was of hewn logs, weather-boarded and painted white. The ceilings, walls and floors were of hard wood; the windows were large and well placed. The arched triple window at the
turn of the fine staircase looked out on a line of Lombardy poplars, then on to the shining Oostanaula, with its fringe of reeds and lilies, and beyond to the spurs of the Blue Ridge mountains in the near distance” (S. Prather n.d.:7).

Elsewhere in her historical fiction account she makes occasional references to physical features of the plantation. She refers to a “colonnade of the mansion” (Prather n.d.:7). She described, “the woodland and down by the brook which ran across the lane nearly a mile from the mansion” (Prather n.d.:21).

Towards the end of her account, Prather has a section entitled, “The House on the Oostenaula in 1919 A.D.” In this section she provides an additional description of the Chieftains dwelling as it existed in 1919. She wrote:

“This is a lovely old place! This house breathes romance and makes one feel like exploring every nook. And then, it is so substantially built these hewn logs that make its frame, these great round pillars that support the front roof, these spacious rooms and the four dark, smaller ones, these winding stairs, the seat at the arched triple window looking out on the poplars and beeches and the shining Oostenaula” (Prather n.d.:42).

Susan Prather’s descriptions of Chieftains Plantation are subject to various interpretations. While her account is fictional, her references to the physical traits of the building and grounds should not be completely discounted. From her descriptions one can surmise that in the 1840s and 1850s, the mansion possessed a colonnade, and that a lane was located less than one mile from the mansion. That lane was crossed by a brook, which implies a shallow ford. The area between the mansion and the brook was woodland. No directional information is provided by Prather, although a small stream is located south of the Chieftains residence that was likely crossed by the River Road. That stream is possibly the brook and the River Road now called Riverside Drive or Chatillon Road is possibly the lane mentioned by Prather, although the road’s course has since changed from its earlier location along the riverbank in the area south of Chieftains.

Emily Prather supplements Susan Verdery Prather’s description by adding, “There were spacious rooms and hallways; there were great round columns supporting the tall front roof; there were gardens of fruits, vegetables, and roses, orchards, meadows, and splendid trees” (Prather 1942:37).

Other than the Prather descriptions, no other source of information on the building history of Chieftains during this period was found. Her information is sparse and comes from a fictional story, making the separation of fact from fiction somewhat problematic. Nevertheless, some grains of truth may appear in the account. Prather refers to the “great round pillars” and the “great round columns.” These may be the “turned columns” of the front porch referred to in the 1836-37 Federal Valuation. This may be an indication the Ridge Period porch remained until 1919. Her description seems to also match some earlier descriptions of the Ridge structure. Interestingly, she says the house is two and one-half stories high, which matches one of the 1832 Harvey plat drawings of the house; however, it does not match the 1836-37
Federal Valuation description.

Prather also mentions a triple arched window. From her description, the window was located on the center of the second story on the side of the house facing the Oostanaula River. No other supporting documentation for such a window was found and no evidence was observed, but further architectural investigation of the house might answer this question.
The Wright Period

No historical references to historic buildings at the Chieftains plantation during the Wright period were identified from the present research. The 1855 deed that conveyed the Chieftains property from DeLongchamps and Mirambeau to Augustus R. Wright contained no details of any improvements on the property. The continued existence of the main dwelling is inferred from a July 24, 1863 deed from Wright to A.A. Jones, which describes the property as, “the farm whereon said Wright now resides” (Floyd County Deed Books J:753; N:404), but no other details of the property improvements were located.
Addison A. Jones acquired the Chieftains property and its improvements from Augustus R. Wright on July 24, 1863. Implicit in this transaction was the dwelling, "where Wright now resides", but no other descriptions of the improvements on the property were found, which is very typical for Georgia deed transactions (Floyd County Deed Book N:404).

A.A. Jones, originally a resident of Virginia, owned multiple farms in several states, and it is unclear when he moved to the Chieftains property. A review of the A.A. Jones and Jones Family papers provided no answers to this question. The Jones' were prolific writers and frequently sketched or "doodled" floor plans of houses and drawings of farms with no labels, which make the renderings difficult to connect to a specific property since they owned and speculated on multiple properties. Also, these sketches were found on backs of incoming correspondence that did not mention a property or renovation, leaving one to surmise that the letters were used as scratch paper. Receipts dating after 1870, located within the Jones' papers itemized building materials, which could be an inventory for their stores and cannot be distinguished from purchases specifically associated with Chieftains. By the early 1870s, Jones is established on the property when, in 1873, he deeded 20 acres of the plantation to his newlywed daughter Susan Jones Jeffries (Floyd County Deed Book U:640-641; Wright et al. 1929:15).

The inventory of Addison A. Jones’ estate, executed on August 9, 1892, included:

“1 Farm (the Home Place) on the Oostanaula river, being part of lots 196, 205 and 206, Dis. 23, Sec. 3, Floyd County, containing 140 acres more or less” (Wright et al. 1929:19).

By 1900 the Addison A. Jones home place had been divided from a 140-acre farm to two farms, one 128 acres and one 12 acres (Wright et al. 1929). Upon the death of Addison A. Jones’ wife Susanna, ownership of the Jones home place at Chieftains was inherited by his daughter Katherine (or Catherine) Jones. Catherine Jones died in 1899 and her will left the homestead to her two nephews, J.H. Jeffries and A.J. Jeffries (Floyd County Will Book D:240). She left a description of the homestead that included the same cultural features cited in Addison A. Jones’ will.

In 1902, J.H. Jeffries, executor for his aunt, Catherine Jones, deeded each one-half interest in a 6-acre tract to himself and his brother A.J. Jeffries, which was described as:

“Starting at the south side of the old ferry place, on the east bank of the Oostanaula river, and following a straight line east to the southwest corner of front yard fence, around yard fence to garden fence, east along garden fence to a gate post and wire fence, north along wire fence to a ditch and a wire fence, west along ditch and a wire fence to corner of graveyard and along graveyard and garden fence west and south to well lot fence, west of well lot fence and back of cow pens to N.W. corner of corn crib, northwest along lot and pasture fence to ash tree on the north side of ditch, west along ditch to river, down said river to starting point” (Floyd County Deed Book NNN:223-224; Wright et al. 1929).
A.J. Jeffries promptly conveyed his interest in the property to his brother J.H. Jeffries, giving him sole ownership of Chieftains (Floyd County Deed Book KKK:537; Wright et al. 1929).

A petition filed on October 2, 1900 pertaining to the administration of the estate of Addison A. Jones contains a description of a 116-acre tract located in part of Land Lots 196, 205 and 206, which states:

“Starting at a live oak tree on the S.E. corner of the Johnson & Eastman line, and following a ditch north along the east edge of Johnson’s woods to the corner of a wire fence, in the field following said wire fence west to the middle of the Oostanaula river up said river to an old ferry place and following a fence on the south side of the ferry east to the yard fence of the Jones homestead, thence around said yard fence to the garden, up said garden fence to a wire fence along said wire fence to a wire fence running north and along said wire fence to a ditch thence along said ditch west and along the north side of the graveyard truck patch and garden to the northwest corner of the garden thence south along said garden fence to the well lot fence, thence west along said well lot fence to an ash tree at a bridge across the ditch thence west along said ditch to the middle of the river up said river to Cox & Miller’s line, thence east along said line to Mrs. Berry’s and Johnson’s land formerly land of Mat Reece, thence south along said land to the creek, thence down said creek to a ditch and wire fence on the opposite side thence across the creek and east along said ditch and fence to Rome and Decatur R. R. right of way, thence southwest along said right of way to the Eastman line, thence west along said line to starting point” (Wright et al. 1929).

That same 116 acre tract was owned by J.H. Jeffries by July 1902 (Floyd County Deed Books KKK:411, 528; LLL:397; Wright et al. 1929).

The Jaeger Company asserts that remodeling of the Chieftains dwelling took place in 1863, although no historical basis for this assertion was located by the present research (1997:6). They state,

“In 1863, the house was sold to Addison A. Jones, who again remodeled the house. It may have been at this time that the house’s front façade orientation was changed from the west elevation facing the river to the south elevation”.

The Jaeger Company may have taken this reference from the National Register nomination form which states this information. The Jaeger Company presents in their report floor plans for this alleged 1863 remodel (1997:Illustration 3), although the basis for the plans remain unknown.

It seems highly unlikely that Addison A. Jones would have attempted the remodeling of the Chieftains dwelling in late 1863, while the Civil War was raging, the Georgia economy was failing, and advocates of the Confederate cause were becoming increasingly pessimistic. Sherman’s Army advanced to Rome by early 1864, less than one year after Jones acquired the property. This would have been an inopportune
time for home improvements. Jones paid $25,000 in Confederate currency for the Chieftains property (283 acres) in July 1863, prior to the currency’s devaluation to nothing. His remaining liquid assets were likely substantially reduced. Improvements to the dwelling would likely be reflected in the tax assessments for the years that Jones owned the Chieftains property. Unfortunately, Floyd County tax records for the 1860s and 1870’s have not survived. A thorough review of the A.A. Jones and Jones Family papers yielded no information concerning remodeling of the Chieftains dwelling.

The supposed 1863 remodel of Chieftains, as suggested by the Jaeger Company in their Master Plan document for Chieftains, included the demolition of one portion of the east wall of the original log dwelling and the creation of an interior chimney on the original building’s southeast side. A shed addition and partitioning of the balcony is also indicated in their remodel plan. It also shows the creation of a central door entrance on the south side of the dwelling. A wide porch, tentatively shown as an unlabeled dotted line, flanks the newly created door on the south side. Their plan of the dwelling does not show the attached kitchen, which is evidenced in later photographs (The Jaeger Company 1977:7).

Early visual representations of the Chieftain house are contained in a series of four
undated photographs. These photographs probably date from the late nineteenth century to the early twentieth century. Figures 12-15 show the house before later renovations in the mid to late 1920’s. These photographs were carefully studied for any information they could provide about the residence and its construction and remodeling sequences. These photographs were examined previously by The Jaeger Company and assigned dates in their report, although the source of their information for dating was not explicitly stated (The Jaeger Company 1997). Upon careful examination, several discrepancies were noted and a re-ordering of the chronological sequence of the photographs was undertaken by the current research team.

Figure 12 is a view of the house from the northeast facing southwest. It may represent the earliest known photograph of the building, although Figure 13 could hold that status. The current interpretation places the age of the photograph in Figure 12 at ca. 1890 or earlier. Several lines of evidence are offered to support this interpretation, including Victorian period clothing worn by the woman on the recessed porch; the size and approximate age of young trees or shrubs that are present in the foreground (and also appear in a later photograph), and the crisp features of the paint and wood on the recent renovations to the dwelling (active renovations are indicated by a ladder and saw horse near the building). Of particular note is the addition that extends to the north from the main dwelling. This addition is not represented on any of Jaeger’s floor plans. It may represent an attached kitchen. A small gazebo-like six-sided structure, whose function is unknown, also is visible in the foreground in Figure 12.

The photograph in Figure 13 is another early representation of the Chieftains Era.
Historic Preservation Report

The photographs in Figures 14 and 15 were dated to circa 1918 by the Jaeger Company (1997; 3B and 3C; Figure 2030). Figure 14 is taken from the east facing west from a slightly closer vantage point than the photograph in Figure 12. As noted earlier, the large shrub or small tree visible in the foreground of Figure 12 is seen in Figure 14 as a much larger plant and can be useful for estimating the age of the photograph in Figure 14. Based on projected growth and the plant’s tentative identification as a Crepe Myrtle, it is estimated that Figure 14 dates approximately 20 years after Figure 12. Other clues in this photograph, which include the period clothing of the woman and children, and the aged appearance of the wood and paint on the wall and trim of the dwelling, point to a gradual dilapidation of the structure. This photograph, along with Photograph 15, was donated to the Chieftains Museum/Major Ridge Home by Alice Jefferies Keel, the granddaughter of J.H.
Jefferies. The youngest of the boys in the photograph is her father, Dean Jefferies, who was born on June 9, 1910. Two of the other boys are identified as Henry Jefferies (born ca 1905) and Andrew Jefferies (born ca. 1907), and are Dean Jeffries older brothers (Alice Keel, email correspondence, May 13-17, 2005). A large fingerprint on the photographic negative created a smudge on the print that obscures some details about the northern end of the dwelling, such as the presence or absence of the possible attached kitchen noted in Figure 13. A time span from 1915 to 1919 is a reasonable estimate for this image based on the approximate age of the identified boys.

The photograph in Figure 15 is taken from the southeast side of the house facing northwest. It also shows the condition of the dwelling as somewhat dilapidated. Several people are visible in the photograph but the style of their clothing could not be determined, although the three-quarter length hemline on the female in the foreground points to a post World-War I and pre 1925 date. This photograph was donated to the Chieftains Museum/Major Ridge Home by Alice Jefferies Keel and, as the Jeffries left Chieftains in 1919, we can deduce that this image dates prior to 1920. Note in both Figures 14 and 15 the weatherboards closest to the ground are darkened, suggesting they date to the same period. Note that the gable is no longer found on the shed roof of the front porch as seen in Figure 13. Careful examination of the photograph revealed the outline of the previous gabled porch roof on the paint above the roof visible in the image. Also, the east end porch railing is no longer attached as it was in Figure 12 and the enclosure around the bottom of the porch is gone. A large tree seen in Photograph 13 is also not present in this scene.
The 1924-1928 period was one in which the most substantial changes to the architecture of the Chieftains dwelling are reported to have taken place (Anonymous 1971). J.H. Porter owned the home during that short period and he is reputed to have hired the Atlanta architectural firm of Lockwood and Poundstone to execute the redesign. This information is in the National Historic Landmark nomination form, which states that the house was redesigned in the “Georgian Colonial restyling” and one-story side wings were added to each side of the house. More than likely, the NRHP nomination form for Chieftains is the source that The Jaeger Company used in their reference to Lockwood and Poundstone as the architects for the remodeling of Chieftains during the mid 1920s; their report contained no references. It was also noted in a ca. 1971 publication by State Mutual Insurance that Lockwood and Poundstone were the architects for the remodel and this statement has been anecdotally supported by Mary Francis Porter Grant, the daughter of J.H. Porter (Carey Tilley, email correspondence, May 13, 2005). Family descendents of the Porters state that family legend confirms that Lockwood and Poundstone were the architects for the renovations (Carey Tilley, personal communication, September 2004). No documentation to support this claim has been located to date.

Six photographs of the Chieftains dwelling (Figures 17-21) have survived from the 1924-1928 Period. These images show the dwelling after the J.H. Porter remodeling was completed.

Figure 17 is taken from the southwest side of the house facing northeast. It is a close-up view with two young girls, Mary Francis Porter (Grant, born ca. 1907), seen here with bobbed hair, and Clara Ella Porter (McWilliams, born ca. 1912), shown in 1920s period clothing (Tilley personal communication May 13, 2005). This photograph was probably taken shortly after the Porter remodeling (1924 or shortly thereafter). Clues for this include the lack of any formal plantings along the front of the house and the fresh look of the woodwork. Note that the weatherboards are darker, unpainted boards. The east side one-story wing addition is seen in the photograph. Also, note that the front porch has been removed and replaced with a portico with a bench. In this view, sidelights appear to be visible around the door and the nine over nine double-hung sash windows on the lower front facade of the main structure are in evidence.
Figure 18. *View of southeast corner of Chieftains, ca. 1924* (Vanishing Georgia).

The photograph in Figure 18 is from the Vanishing Georgia collection (GDAH) and is attributed to the period ca. 1924. This view of the house was taken from the southeast facing northwest. A young girl and two dogs are visible in the foreground. This view is possibly the earliest photograph of the full front façade taken after the remodeling, judging from the small size of the ornamental plantings and the crispness of the wood and paint. Note the newly symmetrical windows and entryway on the front façade. The lower windows, two flanking both sides of the entryway, are nine over nine double-hung sashes while the upper five are six over six. The entryway portico has a triangular pediment with an arch that mimics the wing addition. This view also reveals that the left side addition (river side or west side) was originally constructed as an open porch. Other significant visible structural changes include the side chimneys located between the original structure and the wings and the reduction of size of the upper story side window. The best evidence to support the relative sequence of these six photographs is the large hardwood tree that is visible in the foreground of five of the photographs. In Figure 18 this tree appears to have a full crown of foliage but in subsequent photographs this tree has been "topped" and the foliage appearance is very different.

Figure 19 shows the Chieftains Museum/Major Ridge home after 1924, perhaps to ca. 1928. This image is a frontal view of the dwelling taken from the south facing north. The ornamental plantings around the house are well established. The west wing addition is an open porch with steps leading up to the central arcade. Several rocking chairs and a table are visible on the porch. Potted plants can be seen on the stoop. The photograph in Figure 20 probably dates after 1926, based on the relative landscape sequence described for the other photographs from this period. This
photograph is taken from the east (on the River Road) facing west. Two early model automobiles (pre-1940s vintage) are visible in the yard. Four chimneys are visible in this image, including one exterior chimney on the northern end of the dwelling. Note also the absence of the possible attached kitchen seen in Figure 12.

The photograph in Figure 20 is taken from the east side of the house facing northwest. This photograph was possibly taken on the same day as Figure 21. It provides additional clues about the residence. Two cars are shown in the yard and these are probably the same cars shown in Figure 21. The tops of two or possibly three outbuildings are shown on Figure 20, which are located north of the Chieftains residence. A low fence (possibly a picket fence) is shown in the foreground between the photographer and these buildings, but west of a road (probably on the route of Chatillon Road). A powerline is shown in the front yard and a large topped oak tree is shown southeast of the residence. The various clues about this topped tree were previously noted in the discussion. This tree was likely topped when the electric lines were erected in the area. The additions to the house date after 1924 and the vintage of the cars is pre-1940, so this photograph can be bracketed somewhere in between 1924 and 1940. The car nearest to the camera is a ca. 1924-1928 model, possibly a Chrysler or Pierce-Arrow. The more distant car is a Ford Model T, ca. 1927. The strongest indication of the date of this photograph as well as the photograph in Figure 21 is the
Figure 20. View of southeast corner of Chieftains, after 1926 (Chieftains Museum).

Figure 21. View of east end of Chieftains and a remaining section the New Echota Road, ca. 1924 (Vanishing Georgia).
fact that these photographs were donated to Chieftains by the daughter-in-law of one of the daughters from the Porter family, who lived in the house from 1924 to 1928. The presence of two cars in Figures 20 and 21 suggest that the garage area of the residence was on the east or northeast side of the main house. One of the outbuildings shown may be a garage. This photograph also clearly shows the side entrance to the east wing and the two six over six double-hung sash windows on the addition.

It would appear that the majority of significant changes to Chieftains occurred between 1924 and 1928. These are seen in the addition of two one-story wings on each side of the house, a Georgian Colonial Revival façade on the main structure, and more formalized landscaping as well.
The Industrial Period

The Industrial Period at Chieftains began in May 1928 when the American Chatillon Corporation purchased the property from several individuals. During the Industrial Period the Chieftains residence was used as the residence of the textile mill manager (Carey Tilley personal communication May 15, 2004). The photograph in Figure 22 is taken from the south side of the house facing north. Figure 22 is also one of the latest photographs of the residence. The house has shutters with hinges. Flags are draped as bunting from the second story. The U.S. flag appears to have 48 stars, 37 of which are visible, which may help narrow the age of this photograph. The six rows with eight stars each configuration of the U.S. flag was adopted by executive order of President William H. Taft on June 24, 1912. The flag continued to be the official flag of the U.S. until 1959 when Alaska and Hawaii attained statehood. The flag seen flying from the west side windows is a pre 1946 Italian Tri-color with the Savoy coat of arms. This flag was adopted at the unification of Italy in 1863 and remained unchanged until 1946 when the House of Savoy fell as rulers of Italy. The presence of this flag points to this photograph dating to the American Chatillon ownership of the property (1928-1930), as it was an Italian owned enterprise. The window treatments include shades and curtains. The portico is flanked by light fixtures. The front (south) door of the residence has a screen door, fan and side lights. The ornamental shrubs along the front of the house are well established. The sapling in the front yard of the house, to the right of the portico, is young, but older than in the earlier photograph. A formal pathway is shown running east-west just south of the shrub line that flanks the south side of the residence. A rocking chair is shown on the west wing, which is still an open covered porch.

Figure 22. South elevation of Chieftains, ca. 1928 (Chieftains Museum).

No major modifications to the building’s exterior during this period are apparent, other than the enclosing of the porch on the west side. The building's footprint for this time period is shown in Figure 23, a 1969 plat of the Celanese Fibers Company property, and is essentially unchanged from the previous period to the present.
County Plat Book 9:99). If any substantial remodeling of the home’s interior was done during the Industrial period, no documentation for it was found.

Figure 23. Plat of Celanese Fibers Property, 1969
Architectural Description and Analysis

INTRODUCTION

In October of 2004, a documentation team from the National Park Service’s Intermountain Regional Office, Division of Facilities Management traveled to the Chieftains Museum to undertake the documentation required to develop the Historic Structure Report. The team consisted of Exhibit Specialist, Anthony Drake, and Civil Engineer Cliff Walker, and was led by Historical Architect, Mark Mortier. Several subsequent visits were made to the building. The specific purpose of these trips was to gather data on the existing conditions present at Chieftains, and to try and further determine the architectural chronology.

The Chieftains Museum appears to have been constructed and modified in several phases, as described in the section on Chronology of Development and Use, and as shown by the architectural evidence. As with many long standing buildings, it is difficult to know with certainty the history or the sequence of construction and modification that has occurred over the years. The documentation or evidence is scarce, often secondary, Popular, or speculative, and oftentimes contradictory. The extensive modifications which have taken place make it difficult to define discrete beginnings or endings of the different phases of the development of this building, particularly since many of the building materials appear to have been recycled during different episodes of modification. However, based on a thorough physical examination of the building, the following are some general conclusions.

Note that room numbers referred to below shown on the floor plans in Figures 31 and 32.

GENERAL COMMENTS AND CONCLUSIONS

For the purposes of this section what is referred to in the preceding sections as the Ridge Period has been broken into two phases, the Original Log Building period, and the Ridge Addition period. The periods referred to in the preceding sections as the Ferguson-Verdery period, the Wright period, and the Jones-Jeffries period have been grouped into one phase called the Post Ridge period, and the Porter Period to the present is referred to as the Colonial Revival period.

The Chieftains Museum is a large, eclectic building that is a conglomeration of multiple periods of construction and remodeling. Over the years, it has undergone major architectural transformations. In its current state, likely the result of a remodeling in the early 20th century, it appears as a large, colonial revival styled building. Most of the interior and exterior finishes and trim also likely date to this period.

As it exists now, the predominant features of the building include several large masses covered with white siding, abundant fenestration, and multiple pitched, hipped roofs, covered with composition shingles. Most of the roofs change slope near the top, transitioning to large, low sloped, hipped areas which are roofed with single ply roofing. These low sloped roofs are not apparent when looking at the building from the ground. The roofs have varying overhangs, characterized by painted wood fascia...
and soffits, all with manufactured metal gutters and downspouts. The walls are logs or wood frame, covered with painted wood clapboard siding, and incorporating various configurations of painted wood trim. The base of the building has a low, painted brick foundation wall, although there is one section of stone foundation wall on the north side of the west façade. Most of the structure sits on a crawl space. There is a basement under the central hallway and the west wing. The first and second floor structure is built with wood joists, as are the second floor ceilings. The roof framing consists of wood joists and rafters. Portions of roofs from the Ridge period are visible in the attic, covered up by the roof structure from the Colonial Revival period remodeling.

The south room of the east wing (Room 117) is a sunroom, with large, south facing Palladian windows with fan-lights, as well as a similarly detailed entry door facing east. This door is used as the main entry to the building. The arched openings extend from the floor, and the area below the windows are wood frame with painted wood panels on the exterior. The south room of the west wing (Room 103), once an open porch, was constructed with arched openings that are similar to the sunroom. These openings have now been filled in with screens, windows, and doors.

What was the main entry of the house, now no longer used as such, is a Greek Revival styled doorway with sidelights and transoms, covered by a small pitched pedimented roof, which has a coved plaster underside, and is supported by decorative scroll brackets. The brackets sit atop thin painted wood pilasters. There is a small stoop and a set of steps at this entry that appear to be built from poured concrete, and covered with brick.

The east façade of the north portion of the building, as well as the interiors of Rooms 113 and 205, suggests that portions of this space were once an open porch, which was enclosed during one of the remodelings.

There is a small, enclosed porch on the north side of the building, which has a pitched, hipped roof, walls covered with painted wood lattice and screens, and a wood floor.

Several other concrete porches and sets of steps exist on the exterior of the building; at the east entry into Room 113, which is now the main entry, and at the entry into Room 103. There is also a handicapped access ramp at the door into Room 113, built from wood framing and plywood.

The doors and windows are built of wood, and are of relatively modern, manufactured construction. The interior doors are generally manufactured frame and panel. Many of the interior doors on the first floor have transoms; some with glass panels and some with wood. All of the doors and windows have wood trim, and all of the woodwork is painted.

The interiors are generally finished with hardwood flooring, painted plastered walls, painted wood trim, and painted plastered ceilings. Some of the rooms have elaborate trim, while others are more basic. A few of the rooms have ceramic tile floors, resilient flooring, or carpeting; as well as clapboard siding, or “boxcar siding.”
There are three fireplaces, and three brick chimneys. Modern cabinets and fixtures have been installed in the kitchen.

The building has a relatively modern plumbing system, forced air heating and refrigerated air conditioning, and electrical system, as well as an intrusion security system.

**Overall Condition Summary**

Overall, the Chieftains Museum is in fair condition. In general, the building appears to be structurally sound and stable, although there have been some questionable structural modifications, which bear more investigation. The exterior woodwork, including the siding, trim, doors, and windows, as well as the paint finishes, are weathered and deteriorated. Most of the windows are not operable; many of the doors are sticking. Most of the damage can be attributed to moisture intrusion, primarily due to paint failure and humidity. The interior plaster and paint finishes are also deteriorated. A substantial amount of the plaster is cracked, spalling, or delaminating. The plaster has fallen off the ceilings in a couple of places. Interior paint problems include crazing, cracking, and peeling. The crawl space and basement suffer from moisture intrusion and poor ventilation.

The plumbing, mechanical, and electrical systems are very complicated, dysfunctional, and intrusive architecturally. There are serious problems with all of these systems, some of which have the potential to damage the building. There is no humidity control, and the heating and cooling do not conform to accepted standards for museums.

There have been many modifications to the building, some of which are not sensitive to the structure or the architecture, and detract from the overall appearance.

The main entrance to the building is through the gift shop, which leads to some congestion. Some displays, particularly in the gift shop, are attached to the walls and trim in ways that are damaging the finishes. Secondary interior spaces are packed full of furniture, artifacts, records, and other stored materials.

There are numerous code and life safety problems, primarily concerning fire safety and egress, as well as handicapped accessibility. The ramp outside of Room 113 does not conform to accessibility standards or requirements.
Figure 24. Chieftains Museum, from south.

Figure 25. Chieftains Museum, from southeast.
Figure 26. Chieftains Museum, from northeast.

Figure 27. Chieftains Museum, from north.
Figure 28. Chieftains Museum, from northwest.

Figure 29. Chieftains Museum, from west.
Figure 30. Chieftains Museum, from southwest.
Figure 31. Current first floor plan.
Figure 32. Current second floor plan.
**Original Log Building**

The original portion of the building appears to have been a rectangular two story log structure measuring approximately 19 feet by 52 feet, built on a north/south axis, with the long facades facing east and west. The building appears to have contained three rooms on each floor, and was built with a Georgian or I-style plan: a narrow central hallway, which likely had a stairway to the second floor, flanked by larger rooms on either side. It is not apparent which was the primary façade. Popular history describes the central hall as having been an open “dog-trot,” without exterior walls on the east and west. However, the architectural evidence, notably the presence of a couple of continuous logs in the upper portion of the east and west walls, as well as evidence of a continuous foundation beam under the east wall, does not support this.

![Figure 33. Likely floor plan of original log building.](image)

This section of the building has the remains of a stone foundation, which has been extensively modified. Portions of this foundation appear to have been removed, and some portions have been replaced with more modern brick. There is a shallow crawl space. Hand hewn rectangular beams, running across the tops of what appear to be the original foundation walls or piers, appear to have supported the original walls and floor structure. Now there are numerous stone and brick piers, which support a combination of hand hewn beams, sawn beams and girders, and sawn floor framing. Many of these beams, girders, and framing, as well as the flooring, appear to be more modern than the stone foundations and hand hewn members. Part of the crawl space has been excavated to provide a basement, which connects to the basement under an addition to the west.
The logs used in the construction of the walls were hand hewn to provide vertical surfaces on the interior and exterior, resulting in a thickness of approximately 6-inches. The log walls are notable for the interlocking V-joints at the corners, as well as the vertical spacing between the logs themselves. These spaces appear to have had crude wood chinking, but no evidence exists to suggest that they were ever chinked with anything to weatherproof them, such as mud or cementitious products. The siding on the exterior of the northwest side of the north room is installed on crude sawn wood furring, without the sheathing seen on other parts of the building. This suggests two things: that the building may have always been sided, and this is some of the original siding.

Large numbers of the logs appear to have been removed, and replaced with wood infill studs.

The floors and ceilings are built with rectangular wood joists, with tongue and groove wood sub flooring, and covered by various finish flooring materials; the predominant being oak tongue and groove. The floor joists under the central hallway (dog-trot), are of different size and character than the others, and are notched into and hung from round perimeter beams. A layer of fir tongue and groove flooring is visible under portions of the oak floor in Room 204.
What appears to be the original pitched roof framing, built from sawn wood rafters, is visible in the attic. Although it is hipped now, the architectural evidence suggests that it may have originally had gable ends. The rafters are nailed to a plate on top of the second floor ceiling joists (which project out to form roof overhangs), and are joined at the top with lap joints, held in place with wood pegs. The west, north, and south planes of this roof are exposed and roofed with modern materials, but the east plane is actually concealed under a subsequent addition, and visible from the attic. It is covered with large, spaced wood planks and wood shingles.

There is a large opening in the ceiling of the second floor hallway, covered by a wood grill, which goes into a sheet metal plenum in the attic, with two very large fans. Presumably this was an early 20th century modification to provide ventilation.

Popular history provides several contradictory descriptions of the numbers and locations of fireplaces. Currently, there are two fireplaces in this portion of the building. They are located on the south portion of the west wall, one in Room 102, the other directly above, in Room 202. They appear to have been constructed during one of the remodeling campaigns. Architectural evidence such as possible fireplace foundations and openings in floor and roof framing, and ghosts in floor and wall finishes, suggests that there may have been fire places on both stories, inside of the north wall (Rooms 109 and 204), and inside of the south portion of the east wall (Rooms 102 and 202). This is supported by photographic evidence – but this does not help to date when they were constructed, or removed. The chimney on the north is constructed completely outside of the building, and does not appear to have ever been functional.

Popular history suggests that the stairway was built after this portion of the building was constructed, but this cannot be confirmed. However, the presence of a wood beam in the west wall of the central hallway (dogtrot), which appears to support the landing, suggests that the stairway may have been built as a part of the original log building.

What remains of the original log building is now almost entirely concealed by additions.
Figure 34. Remaining logs on first floor (shaded). Dashed line shows location of missing east wall.

Figure 35. Remaining logs on second floor (shaded). Dashed line shows location of missing east wall.
The Ridge Addition

The first major modification of the building appears to have been what is referred to as the “Major Ridge Addition.” This appears to have been an addition to the east side of the original log building, which contains two large rectangular rooms (one on each story) located east of the southeast side of the original log cabin. Differences in the construction of this room support the idea that this was not a part of the original building. During this period, there appear to have been four rooms on each story.

The addition may have created a two story porch on the east wall of the north half of the building, and an east extension of the central hallway (dog-trot), possibly with small rooms on the east end. The 1836-1837 Federal Valuation discussed in the section on Chronology of Development and Use, above, while having some contradictory statements, does refer to the building as having 8 rooms, and a balcony on the side of the house.

The portion of the Ridge Addition containing the two large rooms measures approximately 20 feet by 22 feet. The size of the porch addition is unknown, but presumably it was similar in size to the current enclosed northeast porch addition. It is not obvious whether the Ridge Addition had any continuous perimeter foundations. The floor and wall structure is supported on a series of beams and girders, which are in turn supported on brick piers or short brick foundation walls. The beams on the north side of this structure, as well as the east wall, are hand hewn. All of the other supporting members are sawn.

Figure 36. Likely first floor plan of Ridge Addition. Details of porch and rooms on east unknown, based on ca. late 19th century photographs. Second floor plan would have been similar to the first. Popular history puts construction of stairway into this phase. Note that construction of stairway would have resulted in lowering of ceiling over west entrance.
The floors and ceilings are built with rectangular wood joists, with tongue and groove wood sub flooring, and covered by various finish flooring materials; the predominant being oak tongue and groove flooring.

The walls of this addition are built with what appears to be a mixture of post and beam and wood studs.

The pitched roof is built from sawn wood rafters, and appears to have been built with a hip on the east end. Similar to the original log building, the rafters of the Ridge Addition are nailed to a plate on top of the second floor ceiling joists (which project out to form roof overhangs). As is the case with the roof over the original log building, portions of this roof are concealed under subsequent additions, but still visible. The south and east roof planes are exposed and roofed with modern materials, but the north plane is concealed beneath another roof, and visible from within the attic. It is covered with large, spaced wood planks and wood shingles.

Architectural evidence suggests that when this roof was added to that of the original log building, the south portion of the original log building roof (and gable end) was removed, and the plane of the Ridge Addition roof was extended to form the hipped corner on the southwest side of the original log building. It is possible that the north end of the original log building was modified into a hip at the same time. Close inspection reveals that the pitches of the Ridge Addition, as well as of the original log building, are all slightly different. The Ridge Addition is several feet wider than the original log building; in order for the ridge lines to meet (as they do), the pitch of the
Ridge Addition would need to be flatter. Given that the extension of the Ridge Addition roof plane forms the hip of the original log building, it makes sense to assume that whatever existed on the south end of the original log building roof was modified into its present construction.

There is a fireplace on the east side of Room 101, which is detailed similar to the fireplace in Room 102. Ghosts in the flooring of Room 201 suggest that there was a fireplace on the east wall of this room, directly above the fireplace in Room 101, which has been removed. Also, a closed off opening in the roof framing suggests that there was a chimney and likely a fireplace or two located where the Ridge addition joins the original log building. This supported by the recollections of Jeffries (Garrow 1969a).

Popular history suggests that the stairway was built during this time, but this cannot be confirmed. However, the presence of a wood beam in the west wall of the central hallway (dogtrot), which appears to support the landing, suggests that the stairway may have been built as a part of the original log building.

Note that the ceilings in the first floor of the Ridge Addition are slightly lower than those in the original log building, but the second floors are basically the same level.

It is not known if the construction of the main entry and porch in the south wall of the Ridge Addition, nor the removal of the east wall of the south portion of the log building, occurred during this period.
The Post Ridge Period

Photographic evidence attributed to the end of the 19th Century or early 20th Century provides a record of how the building looked during this period, and provides some evidence of some of the exterior changes that may have occurred during this time. These photographs show the main entrance located on the south facade, along with several different configurations of porches and porch roofs. It is probable that when the entry was moved to this façade, it was done concurrently with the removal of the east wall of the south portion of the original log cabin – but no evidence exists to confirm when this happened. These photos show a porch on the west façade, as well as a structure attached to the north side of the original log building. There are chimneys located near the intersection of the original log building and the Ridge Addition, as well as inside of the north wall of the original log building.

The photographic evidence of the northeast portion of the building also shows an open two story porch and enclosed rooms on both stories. However, the layout of the porch posts and footprint of the enclosed rooms, does not match what exists now, suggesting that this area has been torn down and rebuilt.

Figure 39. Likely first floor plan based on early photographs. Note chimneys inside of building, addition on north, porches on west and south, location and spacing of posts on east porch, east extension of central hallway (dog-trot) and east rooms held back from northeast corner of Ridge Addition, entry door is located in south wall, requiring removal of original east wall of south room of original log building, entry is flanked by two windows on first floor, two windows on south elevation of second floor. Dashed line shows location of missing east wall of south portion of original log building.
Figure 40. Early view from southwest, post Ridge period, ca 1893. Original log building on left, ridge addition on right. Note hipped roof, fenestration patterns, configuration of porches and porch roofs, double posts at south porch entrance, chimney in center of building.

Figure 41. Early view from southeast, post Ridge period, ca 1918. Original log building on left, ridge addition on right. Note fenestration appears to be consistent with photo above, but porch roof, number of posts, and area below porch floor are different. Also note apparent deterioration of building.
Figure 42. Early view from northeast, post Ridge period, ca 1890. Ridge addition on left, original log building behind porch. Note window on north side of second floor of Ridge addition, configuration of rooms and roofs between Ridge addition and porch (behind sawhorses), offset between east end of Ridge addition and the rooms to the north, spacing of porch posts, height of porch roof, interior chimney at north end of original log building, and structure attached to north side of original log building.

Figure 43. Early view from northeast, post Ridge period, ca 1915-1919. Ridge addition on left, original log building behind porch. Note similarities to photo above, but building appears to have deteriorated. Note offset between Ridge addition on left and rooms on right, as well as roof offsets.
The Colonial Revival Period

The most significant change during this time period was the remodeling of the building into its present style, and the reconstruction of the roofs into their present configuration. Most likely, this occurred in the early 20th Century during the “Porter Period.” It is likely that the majority of the exterior and interior and finishes, the brick foundation walls, and the doors and windows, date to this period.

Changes during this period included the removal and replacement of the porch and rooms that may have been part of the addition attributed to Major Ridge (see above) with what became the enclosed northeast porch and hall/bathroom area; changes to the fireplaces and chimneys; construction of one story additions forming the east and west “wings;” replacement and reconfiguration of the pattern of the windows and doors; construction of the south entry porch as it exists; and construction of the small porch on the north. It is also probable that the brick foundation walls were built at this time, and that this is when electricity and plumbing were added to the building.

More changes have been made since the Colonial Revival remodeling took place, including the enclosure of the porch on the southwest (Room 103), removal of the shutters, removal of the seats on the sides of the south entry porch, “modernization” of the plumbing, mechanical, and electrical systems, and minor changes to the interiors and exteriors.

Figure 44. View from southeast, post Ridge period, ca 1924. Building has been remodeled into colonial revival style. Note fenestration patterns different from earlier photographs, configuration of porch and overhang on south elevation, and open porch on west.
Figure 45. View from east, Post ridge period, post 1926. Building has been remodeled into colonial revival style. Note that east wall of ridge addition (behind east wing addition) is flush with hall/bathroom addition.

Figure 46. Present view from northeast. Note configuration of porch, openings, fenestration, roof style, and height completely different from previous photos, suggesting that this has been rebuilt; that hall/bathroom addition on north side of Ridge Addition is now flush with east wall of Ridge Addition, as well as two full stories, suggesting that this has also been rebuilt. Note also chimney at north end of original log building has moved to exterior of building, and small porch has been added.
Figure 47. Current first floor plan. Note demolition of south and west porches, demolition of addition on north, demolition and reconstruction of northeast porch and extension of central hallway (dog-trot) and east rooms (to line up with northeast corner of Ridge Addition), addition of east and west wings, addition of south entrance stoop and roof, addition of north porch, change in number and location of windows on all façades, chimneys on exterior of building. Dashed line shows location of missing east wall of south portion of original log building.

Final Considerations

Popular history of the building suggests or discusses several features that could not be substantiated during the architectural investigation for this report. These include a “triple arched window,” in the upper central hallway (dogtrot), a west facing porch or balcony, with turned columns, and a west facing main entrance into the building.

No investigation was undertaken to find evidence of the triple arched window, or of a west facing porch or balcony. To investigate properly this would require the removal of the exterior siding and/or interior plaster from the west walls of the building, to see if the log structure or infill framing shows any evidence of this. Archeological investigation of the site might also reveal evidence or clues. Since the building has been remodeled so extensively, any evidence of these features may have already been removed or modified beyond recognition.

The building may have had a main entrance on the west façade at some point in time, especially if the stair was not part of the original log building. But, the orientation of the stairway suggests that when it was built, the main entrance was probably on the east, as it is more typical to enter a building facing the stair, rather than entering.
under the stair. And, there appears to be a beam in the wall plane at the level of the stair landing, with logs above it, which suggests that this was built as part of the original building. Cherokee cultural tradition of the time period typically would place the entrance facing east. The location of the New Echota Road leading to Ridge’s Ferry during the Ridge Period also suggests the entrance faced east towards the road. Regardless, given the limited headroom below the beam and landing along the west wall, and the mass of the two flights of stairs on either side of the landing, a main entrance on that side would have been somewhat dark and cramped. Note that photographs from the late 19th or early 20th Century do show a covered entrance on the west façade, but it appears to be a secondary entrance.
CHARACTER DEFINING FEATURES

Original Log Building:

- Massing and Form
- Central Hallway (dogtrot) layout
- Entrance approach from east
- Stone foundations and piers
- Hand hewn foundation beams
- Log beams and notched framing at center hall
- Hand hewn logs, interlocking saddle notched joints
- Pegs at log ends
- Weatherboard siding
- Wood Shake (typical for the period)
- Roof framing
- Stairs in dogtrot

Ridge Addition:

- Massing and Form
- Central Hallway
- Entrance approach from east
- Brick foundations and piers
- Hand hewn foundation beams
- Roof framing
- Weatherboard siding
- Wood Shake (typical for the period)
- Balcony on east side
- Shutters
- Stairs in central hallway

Post Ridge Period:

- Massing and Form
- Colonial Revival styling and details
- Main entry on south
- Doors, windows, and trim
- Shutters
- Finishes
- Fireplaces
- Exterior steps
DETAILED DESCRIPTION AND ANALYSIS

Site

The Chieftains Museum sits on the edge of a relatively flat site, which drops down steeply just to the west of the building, to the floodplain of the Ostanaula River. The site is characterized by a mowed grass lawn, and many large trees. Presumably, the underlying soils are typical for the area, and do not present any unusual problems.

The finished first floor level of the building is well above the surrounding grade, while the floor of the crawl space is level with the surrounding grade. The building is generally surrounded by foundation planting, in beds which are covered with mulch.

The lack of positive drainage leads to the potential for rainwater to pond around the building, and saturate the soil.

Foundation/Crawl Space/Basement

The foundation of the building has been extensively modified. Portions have been removed or reconstructed, and new foundations have been added. Materials appear to have been recycled, making it difficult to determine the age or sequence of the construction.

From the outside, the foundation presents itself primarily as a series of low, painted brick walls, of modern construction. Generally, these walls are one course thick, apparently un-reinforced, and with pilasters built in at periodic intervals. There is no obvious foundation below the brick. The top of the brick supports the floor and/or wall framing, which bears directly on it with no obvious anchorage or reinforcement. The uniformity of the construction suggests that these walls were all built at the same time, although there are differences in the character of the brick, when viewed from within the crawl space. There are cast iron ventilation grates at regular intervals around the perimeter of the building.

There is a small section of crude stone masonry, laid in lime based mortar, and surrounded by brick, visible on the north side of the west wall of the original log building. This may be part of the original foundation.

The foundation walls enclose a shallow crawl space, which averages around 18-inches in height. Periodically, there are openings in the walls for ventilation, which are covered with cast iron grills, held in place by friction.

Inside the crawl space, a bewildering array of structural and architectural features is present. These include portions of crudely built low stone walls and piers, set with lime based mortar. There are numerous brick piers, and sections of brick foundation walls, appearing to be of varying ages. Some of these appear to be quite old and are crudely built; others appear to be more modern and carefully constructed.
Figure 48. Foundation plan.

The stone foundation wall sections and stone piers appear to define the perimeter of the original log building, and appear to support the floor framing and log walls above. Several stone and brick piers are located inside of this perimeter, and support the floor framing above. There are numerous pieces of stone and masonry rubble, which appear to be from portions of stone foundations that have been demolished to be replaced with brick foundations; or demolished to provide openings for access, plumbing, mechanical, or electrical systems. This material may also be from the remains of fireplace foundations; one located under the north end of the kitchen (Room 109), and the other located inside of the east wall of the south room of the original log building (Room 102).

It is not obvious whether the Ridge Addition originally had any continuous perimeter foundations. There are short portions of brick foundation walls and brick piers under the east wall and northeast corner of this addition, as well as numerous brick piers supporting the floor framing. The brick foundations are of varying character, and appear to be of varying ages. They have been extensively modified, probably when additions were made to the north and east.

Of particular note is a large brick pier at the northeast corner of the Ridge Addition. This pier appears to originally have been an “L” shaped corner pier, supporting beams that ran under the north and east perimeter walls of the addition. An additional portion was added to the north, apparently to support the floor and wall framing of Room 115. Differences in the height of the pier, as well as the height of the framing, and twisting of one member, may be the cause of the lump seen in the floor of Room 115.
Under what was called the dogtrot, or central hall, the space has been excavated, and retained with modern poured concrete walls, to form a basement. This space has a concrete floor slab, and connects into the basement which is under the “west wing” of the building. The south wall of this space turns the corner, and becomes the east wall of the basement.

Below the enclosed porch (Rooms 111, 112, and 113), the brick foundation wall follows the north and east perimeter of the crawl space; the east foundation wall of the original log building forms the west edge, and there is no foundation between this portion of the building and the portion to the south (Room 106).

The east and west wings contain porches on the south (Rooms 117 and 103) that have modern slab on grade construction. The slabs are supported on raised earthen fill, which is held in place by modern brick foundation walls.

Below Room 115 and 116, the brick foundation wall follows the north and east perimeter of the crawl space; the north wall of the porch (Room 117) forms the south edge, and the brick walls and piers from the Ridge Addition form the west edge.

Below Room 110 (the north porch), there is a brick foundation wall that follows the perimeter of the porch.

There is a basement under Room 103, in the west wing. The exterior foundation walls in this area are modern poured concrete, about 4 ½-feet tall, with modern brick walls above (matching the other exterior brick foundation walls). The brick walls support the framing above. The south wall is of similar construction as the exterior walls, except the brick portion of the wall is the same wall that retains the earth below the porch slab. There are four openings in the exterior wall in this space, two on the north, and two on the west. Presumably these were for windows, ventilation, or access. Three of these (two on the west, one on the north) have been closed off. There is also a modern 8-inch concrete block wall which divides the basement into two rooms.

In general, the basement and crawl spaces are dark, cramped, poorly ventilated, and damp. Water flows into the basement during heavy rains. Access into the crawl space is through the ventilation grates in the foundation walls, or through small openings accessed from the basement, near the stair. Many of the ventilation grates are blocked off, exacerbating the lack of ventilation. Although a variety of insects and spiders were observed, including numerous wasps in the basement, no sign of active termite infestation was seen.

Inside of the crawl space are numerous trenches and holes that have been dug for access and to fit ductwork and plumbing. There is a large opening that has been cut into the remaining stone wall (under the west wall of the north portion of the original log building), for a heating/cooling duct, which is not only visually intrusive, but is poorly constructed and sealed.

The floor slab in Room 117 is cracking and settling; it is lower than the level of the sill that surrounds it.
Figure 49. *Typical brick foundation wall, with access panel/vent removed.*

Figure 50. *Typical brick foundation wall.*
Figure 51. *Stone Foundation wall on north side west wall original log building.*

Figure 52. *Crawl space access into area under Room 102, original log building, from basement under Room 106.*
Figure 53. Brick foundation wall and pilaster, on south side of original log building, under Room 102, looking east.

Figure 54. Brick foundation wall and pilaster, on south side of Ridge Addition, under Room 101, looking west.
Figure 55. Brick foundation wall and pilaster, on north side of Room 116, under Room 101, looking west. Note character of brick, compared to photo above.

Figure 56. Possible kitchen fireplace foundation.
Figure 57. Possible kitchen fireplace foundation.

Figure 58. Stone foundation at north side of west wall of original log building.
Figure 59. Foundation modifications under west wall of south room of original log building.
Figure 60. Basement showing rainwater on floor.
First Floor Structure and Subflooring

The floor system has been extensively modified. Portions have been removed or reconstructed, and new framing and flooring has been added. Materials appear to have been recycled, making it difficult to determine the age or sequence of the construction. Generally, the floors are built from wood joists, supported on a variety of beams, girders, plates, and ledgers.

Under the east wall of the original log building, as well as the north wall of Room 102, and the north portion of the west wall (Room 109) are several large hand hewn rectangular beams, which run across the tops of the original stone foundation walls or stone piers. These appear to be what is left of the original beams that defined the perimeter of the original log building, and supported the walls and floor structure. Where sections of these beams are missing, or have been altered, the structure is supported with more modern beams, framing, or masonry. Note that the beam on the east appears to run continuously under the entire length of the building, going under the dogtrot, or central hallway (dog-trot).

Under the center of each of the original log building’s main rooms are girders built up from double, nominal 2-inch by 6-inch members, running north south. These bear on brick or stone piers, and support the floor joists above. The floor joists are nominal 3-inch by 9-inch in size, and run east/west. The sub-flooring on top of these joists is nominal 1 ¼-inch by 6-inch wood tongue and groove.
Under the dogtrot, or central hall, the floor framing is nominal 3 ½-inch by 6 ½-inch joists, running north/south. On the south, these are notched into and hung from a round beam that is approximately 6-inches in diameter, and is located next to the hand hewn square beam that supports the log wall above. The round beam is supported on the same piers and foundations as the wall support beam. Presumably, these joists were notched into and hung from another round bream on the north – but as the joists have been cut and headered off to provide the opening for the stair, this beam no longer exists. The sub-flooring in this area is the same nominal 1 ¼-inch by 6-inch wood tongue and groove material described above.

There are some features of the floor framing in the original log building that support the suggestion of fireplaces that have been removed from the north end of the building, as well as from the east wall of the south room. The floor framing in these two areas has rectangular openings that appear to be of about the size and location to accommodate fireplaces. The framing is headered out, and the headers are joined into the supporting joists with mortise and tenon joints.

Under the north wall of the Ridge Addition, as well as under the north and south portions of the east wall, are large, hand hewn rectangular beams, which appear to support the walls and floor structure. These bear on brick piers or short sections of brick foundation walls. The beam on the east has been crudely modified, to remove the section under the fireplace hearth, and to remove the lower portion of the remaining north piece of the beam. Inside of the addition, supporting the floor framing are two girders, running east/west, built up from nominal 2-inch by 8-inch members, and supported on brick piers. The floor joists are nominal 2 ¼-inch by 9-inch in size, and run north/south. The sub-flooring is nominal 1-inch by 6-inch wood tongue and groove.

As noted in the section on foundations, there is a large brick pier at the northeast corner of the Ridge Addition, with an additional portion added to the north, apparently to support the floor and wall framing of Room 115. Differences in the height of the pier, as well as the height of the framing, and twisting of one member, may be the cause of a lump seen in the floor of Room 115.

The framing under the enclosed northeast porch (Rooms 111, 112, and 113) lends credence to the suggestion that Rooms 111 and 112 were always enclosed as interior space, but that Room 113 was an exterior space that was later enclosed. The joists under Room 113 are modern, nominal 2-inch by 9 ½-inch, and run north/south. They are supported by two modern wood girders that run east/west at the third points of the space, in line with the posts that separate the windows and door. The girders are supported mid-span by pieces of cast iron pipe and blocks of wood. There is another girder below the wall that separates the large space from the two smaller spaces. This girder is in the same plane as the floor joists, which are hung from it. This girder is built up from several nominal 2-inch by 9 ½-inch members. More of the same sized joists span north/south from this girder to the north exterior wall. There is no sub-flooring in this area; the finish flooring installed directly on the joists. Of note is the fact that the flooring in this area runs east/west (perpendicular to the exterior edge of the porch), typical of an exterior installation.
The joists under the hall/bath area (Rooms 114, 115, and the east end of Room 106) are a mixture of modern, nominal 2-inch by 10-inch and nominal 2-inch by 12-inch, and run north/south, with modern, nominal 1-inch thick diagonal wood board sub-flooring. There is a large wood beam that supports the north end of most of the joists, as well as the wall above.

The joists under Room 116 and 104 are modern, nominal 2-inch by 12-inch, that run north/south, with modern, nominal 1-inch thick diagonal wood board sub-flooring.

The floor structure under Room 110 is not visible, but is assumed to be wood joists.

As noted in the section on foundations, the floors of the south rooms of the east and west wings (Rooms 103 and 117) are modern slab on grade construction, over earth fill contained by the foundation walls.

The floor levels change slightly at various places in the building, possibly reflecting changes in floor structure and sub-flooring. This is most notable on either side of the central hall/dogtrot.

Portions of the floor structure are poorly supported, especially where modifications have been made to remodel or construct additions, or to run mechanical, plumbing, or electrical systems.

Although there are signs of dampness, mold and mildew on portions of the floor structure, there is not a lot of visible damage, except in a couple of places where plumbing has leaked. There is also some termite damage visible on some of the floor beams, but active termite infestation was not observed.

(Note that floor finishes are discussed in the room schedules)
Figure 62. Crawl space under Room 102, original log building, looking west, showing brick piers, built up girder, floor joists.
Figure 63. Crawl space under Room 102, showing typical stone pier, supporting beams under wall between Room 102 and Room 106, original log building
Figure 64. Crawl space under Room 102, original log building, looking east. Note original east perimeter beam, cut off at duct, and mortise and tenon (?) joint in floor framing, possibly for fireplace or hearth.

Figure 65. Crawl space under Room 102, original log building, looking southeast; original east perimeter beam on left.
Figure 66. Crawl space under Room 102, original log building, looking east at original east perimeter beam. Note stone rubble and trench for HVAC duct.

Figure 67. Crawl space under Room 102, original log building, looking northeast, at beam under north wall Room 102, resting on original east perimeter beam of log building.
Figure 68. Crawl space under Room 106, original log building, looking at round beam supporting floor joists (on left), which are notched into, and hung from, round beam.
Figure 69. Crawl space under Room 106, original log building, looking west, showing floor joists notched into and hung from round beam (on left).

Figure 70. Crawl space under Room 107/109, original log building, looking northwest, showing stone foundation wall under north portion of west wall of original log building.
Figure 71. Crawl space under Room 107/109, original log building, looking northwest, showing brick pier, built up girder, and floor joists.

Figure 72. Crawl space under Room 107/108, original log building, looking northeast, showing floor joists.
Figure 73. Crawl space under Room 107/108, original log building, looking east, showing floor joists and original east perimeter beam.

Figure 74. Crawl space under Room 109, original log building, showing mortise opening in floor joist from possible fireplace support framing.
Figure 75. Crawl space under Room 109, original log building, showing floor framing member with tenon on end, that was from possible fireplace support framing, sistered with new joist on north (left).

Figure 76. Crawl space under Room 109, original log building, looking east, showing floor joists and original east perimeter beam.
Figure 77. Crawl space under Room 101, Ridge Addition, looking southeast, showing floor joists, built up headers, brick piers, built up girders, fireplace hearth, and brick foundation wall. Note hand hewn beam at south end of east wall, which appears to have been cut off below fireplace hearth.

Figure 78. Crawl space under Room 101, Ridge Addition, looking northeast, showing brick pier under northeast corner, hand hewn beam at east wall (on right), which has had lower portion removed, and hand hewn beam under north wall (on left).
Figure 79. Crawl space under Room 101, Ridge Addition, looking north, showing floor joists and hand hewn beam under north wall. Note 4-inch by 8-inch post in center of photo, which appears to be same post seen in wall framing exposed in Room 115 (above).

Figure 80. Crawl space under Room 101, Ridge Addition, looking west, showing floor joists, brick piers, built up girders, and hand hewn beam under north wall (on right).
Figure 81. Crawl space under Room 101, Ridge Addition, looking southwest, showing floor joists, brick piers, and built up girders.

Figure 82. Crawl space under Room 115, looking south, showing hand hewn beam under north wall of Ridge Addition, floor joists, and diagonal sheathing. Note 4-inch by 8-inch post in center of photo, discussed on previous page.
Figure 83. Crawl space under Room 116, looking west to crawl space under Room 115. Note brick pier on left side of photo, which was added to brick pier at northeast corner of Ridge Addition, to support floor framing under Room 115, and may be responsible for lump in floor at east end of Room 115.

Figure 84. Crawl space under Room 115, looking south, showing hand hewn beam at north wall of Ridge Addition and brick piers. Note that portion of brick pier on left was added to brick pier at northeast corner of Ridge Addition, to support floor framing under Room 115, and may be responsible for lump in floor at east end of Room 115.
Figure 85. Crawl space under Room 115, looking west, showing floor joists and hand hewn beam at north wall of Ridge Addition on left.

Figure 86. Crawl space under Room 114, showing sewer lines from bathroom above. Note plastic sheeting stuffed into missing cleanout.
Figure 87. Crawl space under Rooms 114/115, looking north, showing floor joists and sewer lines.

Figure 88. Crawl space under Room 116, looking southwest, showing floor joists, and brick pier at northeast corner of Ridge Addition. Note addition to pier on north (right), was added to support floor framing under Room 115, and may be responsible for lump in floor at east end of Room 115.
Figure 89. Crawl space under Room 116, looking southeast, showing floor joists on ledgers, on brick foundation walls. Note character of brick, compared to other photos.

Figure 90. Crawl space under Room 116, looking east, showing floor joists on ledgers, and brick foundation walls. Note character of brick, compared to other photos.
Figure 91. Crawl space under Room 111, looking north into crawl space under rooms 111 and 112, showing floor joists, brick foundation walls and piers, and girder underneath north wall of Room 111.

Figure 92. Crawl space under Rooms 111 and 113, looking northwest, showing floor joists, girder under north wall of Room 113, and east perimeter beam of original log cabin, on left. Note stone pier under perimeter beam.
Figure 93. Crawl space under Room 113, looking west, showing floor joists, girder under center of Room 113, supported on steel pipes, and east perimeter beam of original log cabin. Note stone foundation under perimeter beam.

Crawl space under Room 113, looking south, showing floor joists, girder under south half of Room 113, supported on steel pipes, and large beam beyond, under north wall of Room 106.

Exterior Walls (including former exterior walls of the original log building)
The exterior wall structure of the original log building is built from hand hewn logs, notable for the interlocking v-joints at the corners. The size of the logs varies, but they are hewn to a thickness of approximately 6-inches, possibly to provide a vertical surface for furring (nailers), used to attach the exterior siding and interior finishes. The gaps between the logs appear to have had crude wood chinking (some of which remains), but no evidence exists to suggest that they were ever chinked with anything else, such as mud or cementitious products, that provided weather-proofing. This suggests that the logs may never have been exposed; that the walls were covered with siding as soon as they were built. There are also holes and pegs at the corners; the purpose is not obvious. They do not appear to be holding the logs together; they may actually be for the original corner boards. The tops of the log walls have nominal 6-inch by 12-inch hand hewn rectangular beams laid on top of the last course of logs, presumably to provide a flat surface to support floor and/or ceiling framing, and possibly to act as bond beams, tying the tops of the walls together. Large portions of the log walls have been removed and replaced with wood infill studs.

A hand hewn wood beam visible in the upstairs central hallway appears to be the continuation of the beam over the top of the log wall to the north.

A rectangular beam, with several courses of logs above, spans across the west end of the central hall (dogtrot), beginning at the level of the stair landing. They are fit into the logs forming the corners of the large rooms on the north and south. There do not appear to be any continuous logs above them, and it is impossible to see if there were logs below, which have been removed. However, the location of these logs and the beam coinciding with the level of the stair landing, suggest that the stair may have been built at the same time as the original log building.

The interior surfaces of the log walls have been covered with gypsum plaster, on modern wood lath, on wood furring. Finishes are described in more detail below. The furring and fasteners appear to have been recycled. Portions of the log walls have been exposed to view by removal of the interior wall finishes. This sheds some light on their construction, but does not provide enough visual access to hidden features make any conclusive overall determinations. Several unused window openings are seen in the exposed logs; these may be the original window locations.

Termite damage is visible in some of the exposed logs on the east wall of the second story, but no signs of active termites were observed. The rectangular beam at the top of the east wall of the second story appears to be charred. No evidence of charring was found on the logs underneath this beam, suggesting this beam may have been recycled from another location.
Figure 95. Room 205, looking west at east wall of original log building, with Room 204 beyond. Note window opening cut into logs, which appears to be original. Also note charring of rectangular beam at top of wall.
Figure 96. Room 205, looking west at detail of southeast corner of north room of original log building, showing v-notch joints, piece of wood chinking, and wood pegs through logs, which do not seem to actually tie logs together, but may hold furring strips or nailers in place.
Figure 97. Detail of logs from original log building, showing attachment of furring strips or nailers.
Figure 98. Room 205, looking northwest at east wall of original log building. Note window opening cut into logs on right side of photo, which appears to be original, and wood stud infill framing where logs have been removed.

Figure 99. North wall of Room 106, showing logs and wood stud infill framing at south wall of north room of original log building.
Figure 100. North wall of Room 106, showing details of southeast corner of north room of original log building. Note v-notched joints and wood pegs, which do not appear to tie logs together.
Figure 101. North wall of Room 106, showing details of southeast corner of north room of original log building. Note square beam at top of wall, which may have originally continued across east side of central hallway (dogtrot), just below the ceiling level.
Figure 102. Room 204, looking east at east wall of original log building, with Room 205 beyond. Note recycled wood used as furring strips or nailers.
Figure 103. Southwest corner of closet in Room 204, showing southwest corner of north room of original log building. Note use of recycled wood for furring strips or nailers, and lath and plaster beyond.
Figure 104. Southwest corner of closet in Room 204, showing southwest corner of north room of original log building. Note wood chinking, and use of recycled wood for furring strips or nailers.
Figure 105. Detail of west wall of closet in Room 204. Note wood pegs, which appear to have been used to attach furring or nailers to the exterior, and use of recycled wood for furring strips or nailers.
Figure 106. Detail of log wall, showing wood chinking, and recycled wood used for furring strips or nailers.

Figure 107. Room 204, looking east, showing charred beam at top of east wall of original log building.
Figure 108. Room 113, looking west, showing north portion of east wall of original log building. Note wood stud infill, where logs have been removed, and lath and plaster beyond.
The exterior walls of the Ridge Addition appear to be built with a mixture of post and beam construction, and nominal 2-inch by 4-inch wood infill studs. This is exposed in the northeast corner of the first story, where the wall finish has been removed, and clear glazing has been installed.

![Figure 109. North wall of Ridge Addition, exposed in Room 115, showing nominal 4-inch by 8-inch post in wall, which is also visible in crawl space. (See photos in section on floors).](image)

The exterior walls of the Post Ridge period, as well as the Colonial Revival period, appear to be nominal 2-inch by 4-inch wood studs; of modern origin in the case of the Colonial Revival period.

The exterior walls are covered with painted wood clapboard siding (also referred to as “weatherboard siding”). The size and thickness of the boards varies, as does the exposure, which ranges from about 4-inches to nearly 5-inches. In general, the siding is installed on nominal ¾-inch wood board sheathing.

On the log walls at the north side of the west wall of the original log building, the siding is installed on crude wood furring strips, which are installed directly to the logs. This suggests that this may be some of the oldest siding on the building, and may be original.

The exterior walls of the sun porch and screen porch (Rooms 117 and 103), appear to be a mixture of wood post and beam, with wood stud framing above the arched openings. There are wood infill panels below the windows on the exterior of Room 103.
The exterior walls have Greek Revival style painted wood trim that includes frieze boards (with small cornice and architrave), corner boards, some stylized as pilasters, and a “water table” at the base of the siding, that in some cases has a painted sheet metal flashing incorporated into it. The door and window trim is Architrave style.

The interior surfaces of the exterior walls are, for the most part, covered with gypsum plaster on modern wood lath, or painted wood siding. Finishes are described in more detail below.

The siding and trim is weathered and deteriorated, and in fair to poor condition. Some of the wood is visibly damp, and the paint is failing. Many deteriorated or damaged pieces of siding and trim have been cut out and replaced.

Figure 110. Exterior view of building.
Figure 111. Exterior view of building.

Figure 112. Exterior view of building.
Figure 113. *Exterior view of building.*

Figure 114. *Detail of patch in siding at bottom of wall.*
**Interior Walls**

There do not appear to have been any interior walls in the original log building. However, several of the original exterior walls are now enclosed by remodeling or additions, and have become interior walls. These include the remains of the east wall, as well as the walls separating the original large rooms form the dogtrot, or central hallway (dogtrot). These walls have hand hewn logs, which are described in the section on exterior walls, above. Modern, nominal 2-inch by 4-inch, wood stud-framed walls have been built inside of the original rooms, to reconfigure or subdivide the rooms into smaller spaces. Several areas of the log walls are exposed to the interior of the building, where the finishes have been removed, and clear glazing has been installed.

There do not appear to have been any interior walls in the original Ridge Addition. However, as noted above, several of the original exterior walls are now enclosed by remodeling or additions, and have become interior walls. These include portions of the north and east walls. Also, as in the log building portion, modern, nominal 2-inch by 4-inch wood stud framed walls have been built inside of some of the rooms, to reconfigure them, and to provide closet spaces. Portions of the wall construction are exposed in the northeast corner of the first story, where the wall finish has been removed, and clear glazing has been installed.

The interior walls at the remainder of the building all appear to be built from modern, nominal 2-inch by 4-inch wood studs.
The interior walls are, for the most part, covered with gypsum plaster on modern wood lath, or painted wood siding. Finishes are described in more detail below.

First Floor Ceiling/Second Floor Structure and Subflooring (Original Log Building, Ridge Addition, Room 203, Enclosed Northeast Porch [Room 205], and Room 206,)

The first floor ceiling/second floor structure in the original log building appears to be nominal 3-inch by 8-inch joists at 24-inches on center, running east/west. The subflooring appears to be nominal 1 ¼-inch by 6-inch tongue and groove, with two layers of flooring above. Presumably, the Ridge Addition is framed with wood joists similar in size and character, as are Rooms 203 and 206. Note that the ceiling height in Room 101 (of the Ridge Addition first floor) is lower than in the surrounding rooms, suggesting that the joists in this area may be slightly deeper.

The structure in the enclosed northeast porch area (Room 205) is difficult to see, so some assumptions have been made. It appears that the finish flooring on the second floor is installed directly over modern nominal 2-inch by 6-inch wood joists, which run east/west. There appears to be a shallow space below these, and what is presumed to be the original sloped floor/ceiling is located below, framed with similar sized joists. The total thickness of this floor ceiling is approximately 20-inches.

First Floor Ceiling/Attic Floor (at East and West Wings)

In the east wing, which does not have a second floor, the roof and ceiling structure is readily visible from in the attic. However, as there is no attic access over the west wing, the framing in this area was not investigated. It is probably similar to that over the east wing.

The first floor ceiling/attic floor structure over the east wing consists of modern, nominal 2-inch by 6-inch joists. These joists project out approximately 8-inches beyond the wall framing. The tops of these joists are located approximately 1-inch above the finished floor in the Ridge Addition (Room 201). The ends of these joists are ripped down 1 1/2-inches to accommodate nominal 1-inch by 6-inch plates that support the rafters.

Second Floor Ceiling/Attic Floor (at two story portions):

The second floor ceiling/attic floor structure over the original log building consists of nominal 3-inch by 8 1/2-inch joists, which are notched to fit over the beam on the top of the log walls, and project out approximately 11 to 12 inches beyond the wall structure. There is no flooring in this portion of the attic.

As noted elsewhere, one wood beam runs across the central hall (dogtrot), just below the ceiling level of the second floor. This log is shaved on the north end, and presumably fits into the log corners of the original large rooms to the north and south. The bottom of this log is notched, apparently for posts or studs, and there are
numerous nail holes in its surfaces. The surface of this beam shows charring, similar to the beam at the top of the log wall on the east side of Room 204.

Figure 116. Ceiling of Room 203, looking east, showing log/beam running across room, just under level of ceiling.

Figure 117. Close-up of north end of log/beam, showing shaved end, presumably to fit into logs at corner of north room. Note charring.
Figure 118. Close-up of log/beam, showing notching, presumably for wood studs.

The second floor ceiling/attic floor structure over the Ridge Addition consists of nominal 2 ¾-inch by 8 3/4-inch joists, which project out approximately 17 inches beyond the wall framing. There is no flooring in this portion of the attic.

The second floor ceiling/attic floor structure over the enclosed northeast porch (Room 205) is not visible, but is assumed to consist of modern, nominal 2-inch by 4-inch joists, similar to the roof joists in this area. There is a sight slope to the ceiling. It is not obvious if these joists project out beyond the wall structure, to form the eave, but it is probable. There is no flooring in this portion of the attic.

The second floor ceiling/attic floor structure over Rooms 206 and the east portion of Room 203 consists of modern, nominal 2-inch by 6-inch joists, which end on top of the wall structure. Short sections of framing are sistered on to the joists, and project out approximately beyond the wall structure, a similar distance to the projection of the joists in the Ridge Addition. There is a double plate on top of the ends of these members, which supports the rafters. There is no flooring in this portion of the attic.

Roof System

The roof system of the building, although it appears relatively simple from the exterior, is actually quite complicated. There are multiple pitched, hipped roofs, several of which were added during the Colonial Revival period remodeling. Framing, plank sheathing, and wood shingles still in place on the older roofs, only visible from within the attic, may date to the Ridge Period.
The lower portions of the roofs are of medium steepness, changing slope near the top, becoming large, low sloped hipped areas. There is also a low sloped roof over the enclosed northeast porch. Close inspection of the steeper roof planes, which at first appear to all be the same pitch, reveal that there is quite a bit of variation, from approximately 4½ in 12 to approximately 6½ in 12.

The original log building appears to originally have had continuous pitched, gabled roof, built from nominal 4-inch wide by 3-inch deep sawn wood rafters. The tops of the rafters are joined with lap joints, and held in place with wood pegs. The bases of the rafters are nailed to a nominal 1-inch by 6-inch plate, which is attached to the top of the second floor ceiling joists. Short pieces of wood have been sistered on to the joists to extend the roof overhang beyond the ends of the joists.

Evidence of possible modifications and recycling of materials suggests that at one time the roof had gable ends on the north and south, but was later modified into the hipped design that exists now. Most notable is the presence of recycled wood framing members with unused mortise and tenon joints, suggesting that the gable end walls were built with vertical studs/posts, joined to plates at top and bottom.

The west, north, and south planes of this roof are exposed and covered with modern tongue and groove wood sheathing, but a portion of the east plane is actually concealed from the exterior by additions, and is only visible from the attic. The visible portion is covered with large wood planks and some wood shingles near the top which may date to the Ridge Period.

The roof structure over the Ridge Addition is built from nominal 2½-inch by 4-inch sawn wood rafters, which bear on nominal 1-inch by 6-inch plates, with chamfered outside edges. These plates bear on the ends of the ceiling joists. There is a nominal 3/4-inch by 5½-inch ridge board. Similar to the roof over the log building, the north plane of this roof is concealed under subsequent additions. It has rough nominal 1-inch thick boards on top of the rafters. The south and east roof planes are exposed and covered with modern tongue and groove wood sheathing, but the north plane is concealed beneath another roof, and only visible from within the attic.

The roof over the Ridge Addition is pitched, with a hip on the east end. Architectural evidence suggests that when this roof was added to that of the original log building, the south portion of the original log building roof (and gable end) was removed, and the plane of the Ridge Addition roof was extended to form the hipped corner on the southwest side of the original log building. It is possible that the north end of the original log building was modified into a hip at the same time. Close inspection reveals that the pitches of the Ridge Addition, as well as of the original log building, are all slightly different. The Ridge Addition is several feet wider than the original log building; in order for the ridge lines to meet (as they do), the pitch of the Ridge Addition would need to be flatter. Given that the extension of the Ridge Addition roof plane forms the hip of the original log building, it makes sense to assume that whatever existed on the south end of the original log building roof was modified into its present construction.

Consistent with the floor/ceiling framing below, there appears to have been a
chimney penetrating the roof of the Ridge Addition, at about the point of the original east wall of the south room of the log building. Evidence of this chimney is shown by a boxed out area of the roof framing, which is now covered by the roof sheathing.

Figure 119. *Attic space over original log building, looking north.*

Figure 120. *Detail of lap joined and pegged connection at top of rafters in original log building. Note old sheathing covered with plywood on left side of photo, and new tongue and groove sheathing in right side.*
Figure 122. Ceiling joist and rafter intersection at original log building.

Figure 123. Detail of eve framing at original log building, showing ceiling joist, nominal 1-inch thick plate (portions have been removed), rafter, and short piece of wood sistered on to joist to increase overhang. Eve has wood screen for ventilation.
Figure 124. Detail of ceiling and roof framing at north end of original log building, showing possible use of recycled materials, which may have been mortised to hold in-plane vertical studs from gable end.

Figure 125. Detail of brick chimney on north end of original log building.
Figure 126. Detail of intersection of south end of roof over original log building and Ridge Addition. Rafter has been cut off and removed, new ridge board added, and new rafters added to form hip and south roof of Ridge Addition (on left).
Figure 127. Ceiling joists, nominal 1-inch thick plate, and rafters at south side of Ridge Addition. Eve detail similar to original log building.

Figure 128. Closed off opening in west end of Ridge Addition roof, possible from chimney for fireplace located between Ridge addition and original log building.
Figure 129. Detail of intersection of east plane of original log building roof and north plane of Ridge Addition roof, concealed by new roof. Framing, sheathing, and shingles may date to Ridge Period.

Figure 130. Detail of mid-point of north plane of Ridge Addition roof, concealed by new roof. Note that section of roof has been removed to facilitate installation of HVAC ductwork and access into attic created by new roof.
Figure 131. Detail of mid-point of north plane of Ridge Addition roof, concealed by new roof. Note that section of roof has been removed to facilitate installation of HVAC ductwork and access into attic created by new roof.

Figure 132. Detail at east end of concealed Ridge Addition roof, showing new roof built into and above.
The roof over the enclosed northeast porch (Room 205) is framed with modern, nominal 2-inch by 4-inch rafters, which are nailed to the rafters on the north plane of the roof over the original log building, and presumably bear on the wall framing on the exterior of the porch. Presumably, the rafters project out beyond the wall framing, to form the overhang.

The lower (steeper) hipped roof over the bath/hall area (Rooms 206 and the east portion of Room 203) consists of modern, nominal 1 3/4-inch by 5 3/4-inch rafters, with modern, nominal 1 3/4-inch by 5 ¾-inch collar ties at the slope break, and modern, nominal 2-inch by 4-inch rafters forming the low slopes above. The lower rafters bear on a built up wood plate, which bears on the tops of the ceiling/attic floor joists.

The lower (steeper) hipped roof over the east wing is built from modern, nominal 2-inch by 4-inch rafters, with modern, nominal 2-inch by 5 ¾-inch collar ties at the slope break, and modern, nominal 2-inch by 4-inch rafters forming the low slopes above. The lower rafters bear on nominal 1-inch by 4-inch plates, which bear on the ripped tops of the ceiling/attic floor joists. Presumably, the framing over the west wing is similar.

Figure 133. Detail at intersection of enclosed northeast porch and roof over original log building.
Figure 134. Detail at new roof built over existing Ridge Addition roof.

Figure 135. Detail at east end of new roof built over existing Ridge Addition roof.
Figure 136. Detail at new roof built over existing Ridge Addition roof.

Figure 137. Detail of roof over east end of bath/hall area (Rooms 203 and 206). Note rafters bearing on built up plate on tops of ceiling joists.
Figure 138. Detail at roof framing.

Figure 139. Detail over north wall of Ridge Addition, looking west, showing intersection of roof/ceiling framing and ceiling framing over hall/bath area (Rooms 203 and 206).
The former main entry of the house, on the south façade, is covered with a small, elaborate pitched pedimented roof, which is supported by decorative scroll brackets. The underside of this roof is coved plaster. All of the wood surfaces are painted. The structure of this roof is not visible, however, it is probably framed with modern, nominal 2-inch by 4-inch or 2-inch by 6-inch framing. The brackets are built from wood, and cantilevered from the wall. Previous documentation and condition assessments have suggested that this porch is sagging, and in danger of collapse; however, close inspection of historic photographs, as well as of the brackets, reveals that they appear to have been built with a slight slope to the south. The brackets sit atop thin pilasters.

There is a small, pitched, hipped roof over the north porch (Room 110). Although the structure is not obvious, it is assumed to be modern nominal 2x4-inch framing.

Note that most of the ceilings are covered with various forms of insulation, batt, blanket, and loose fill fiberglass and mineral wool.
Figure 140. View of former Colonial Revival main entrance porch on south.
Figure 141. View of roof over former main entry. Note bracket is not square - slope is built into roof.

The steeper pitches of the main roof(s), as well as the entry porch roof, are covered with modern composition shingles, which appear to be installed over a layer of asphalt felt underlayment, installed over a layer of modern plywood. Depending on location, the plywood is installed over modern wood tongue and groove sheathing, modern wood boards (some rough sawn, some planed), or older crudely sawn boards.

The ridge over the original log building has a manufactured, molded plastic integrated ridge vent, which is installed over a gap in the roof sheathing at the peak, and shingled over.

The portions of the roof covered with shingles have various sizes and configurations of modern, painted sheet metal drip edges at the fascia line. There is no obvious valley flashing; the shingles appear to be “woven” through the valleys. The intersection of the shingled roof and the clapboard sided walls are flashed with various sized and detailed painted sheet metal step flashings, crudely attached to the siding and trim boards. The chimneys projecting out of the shingled roofs are crudely flashed with sheet metal flashings.

The flatter portions of the roofs are covered with a modern, black, mechanically attached single ply roof membrane, which appears to be installed over modern plywood, on top of a layer of sheet metal, which is installed over relatively modern wood board sheathing. (The roofing is marked with the designation “10429FR1H .060 EPFR”)
The single ply roofs overlay the tops of the shingled roof planes by about 6-inches, and are fastened with metal termination bars.

There is no obvious flashing or special termination detail at the intersection of the shingled roofs and low sloped roof over the large porch roof on the northeast side of the building. It appears the single ply roofing runs up under the shingles, but it is not obvious how far.

On the north side of the west wing roof is a window well, which is framed out of the roof structure to provide space for the window in the stairwell. The sides are surfaced with a painted material. The bottom is roofed with single ply roofing.

Overall, the roofing is generally in good condition. There are a couple of shingles which have cracked or are otherwise damaged. There are some patches that have been installed on the single ply roof. However, some of the attachments and transitions used between the shingles and the single ply roofing are not properly detailed, and may not be weather-tight. There are also some detailing problems with the metal step flashings and chimney counter-flashings. Finally, the window well on the north side of the west wing is poorly constructed and detailed.
Figure 142. View of south roof planes, from east.
Figure 143. *View of east roof planes, from east.*

Figure 144. *View of east wing roof, from north.*
Figure 145. Roof over south end of original log building, Ridge Addition to right side.

Figure 146. Low slope roof on top of main east/west roof (over south end of Original log building and Ridge Addition).
Figure 147. View of roof over enclosed northeast porch, looking south.
Figure 148. View of low slope roof on top of main east/west roof (over south end of Original log building and Ridge Addition), low slope roof over enclosed northeast porch, and north south ridge of original log building, on left.

Figure 149. View of north end of roofs over enclosed northeast porch and original log building.
Figure 150. *View of west plane of roof over original log building, with west wing below.*
Figure 151. Detail of step-flashing at intersection of shingled roof and clapboard siding. Note that flashing is installed under each siding board.

Figure 152. Detail of roof vent at ridge of original log building.
Figure 153. View of intersection of shingle roof and single ply roof.

Figure 154. Detail of problem at intersection of shingle roof and single ply roof.
Figure 155. *Detail of patch at single ply roof.*

Figure 156. *Window well in north side of west wing roof.*
Figure 157. Detail of window well on north side of west wing roof.

Figure 158. Detail of flashing at window well on north side of west wing roof.
Figure 159. Detail of flashing at window well on north side of west wing roof.

Figure 160. Detail at penetrations for plumbing vent stacks at north side of east wing.
Figure 161. Detail at turbine type roof vent.

Figure 162. Detail at sheet metal roof vent.
Figure 163. Detail at poorly executed chimney flashing.

Figure 164. Detail at poorly executed chimney flashing. 
Eves
The eves vary in size, projection, construction, and detailing, but generally have a single painted wood fascia, and painted wood soffit boards and trim. Some of the soffits have been cut out or removed, and metal screening has been installed to provide attic ventilation.

Generally, the eves at the two story portions of the buildings project out approximately 16-inches to 18-inches, while the eves at the one story portions project out approximately 7-inches to 9-inches. The fascia at the two story portions of the buildings is generally approximately 11 ½-inches tall, while the fascia at the one-story roofs are approximately 7-inches tall.

The eves are weathered and deteriorated, and in fair to poor condition. Some of the wood is visibly damp, and the paint is failing.
Figure 166. *Detail at deteriorated wood eve. Note paint failure.*
Figure 167. Detail at typical eve and cornice, with ventilation.
Roof Drainage System

All of the roof overhangs have modern, painted, manufactured sheet metal “ogee style” gutters, with downspouts, many of which need cleaning. Many of the gutters and downspouts leak. Some of the downspouts discharge directly on grade, while others discharge into pipes rising from the ground. It is not clear where these pipes discharge.

Figure 168. *View of typical gutter and downspout.*

Figure 169. *Detail of typical gutter.*
There are three painted brick chimneys on the building. One is located at the east end of the Ridge Addition, a second is located on the west side of the south portion of the original log building, and the third is located on the north end of the original log building.

The chimney on the east end of the Ridge Addition served a fireplace located in Room 101, and appears to have served another fireplace which was located in Room 201. The top of the chimney has a cast concrete cap, which is covered with cement parging. The parging covers any flues which may have existed, rendering the fireplace below unusable.

The chimney on the west side of the south portion of the original log building appears to serve the fireplace in Room 102; it also appears to have served the fireplace in Room 202. It also has a cast concrete cap, which is covered with cement parging. The parging appears to cover the flue from the fireplace in Room 202. The rectangular terra cotta flue, presumably from the fireplace in Room 102, is still exposed; and there is a metal screen with a sheet metal cap, mounted on top of the flue.

The chimney on the north side of the original log building may be a fake, built for decoration only. As on the other chimneys, there is a cast concrete cap, but it has not been parged, and does not appear to have ever had any flues. An investigation of the north wall of the kitchen (Room 109) revealed that the interior surface of the chimney is set back from the finished surface of the wall by several inches, and the chimney at this point is crudely built and finished. This suggests that it was never exposed into
this Room. It is possible, however, that there may be a flue connection for a wood stove, which is not obvious. Upstairs, in Room 204, patches in the walls and flooring suggest that there once was a fireplace in this Room, which may have been connected to the chimney. Refer to the section on roofing for a discussion of the flashing.

All of the chimneys have deteriorated mortar joints, and are in need of repointing. Some of the concrete caps and parging are cracked or deteriorated, and in need of maintenance. The east chimney appears to be leaning out, and may be in need of structural stabilization.

Figure 171. View of west chimney.

Figure 172. View of north chimney, west chimney in distance.
Figure 173. View of north chimney.
Figure 174. View of east chimney.
Figure 175. Detail at top of west chimney. Note parging on top.

Figure 176. Detail at top of east chimney. Note parging on top.
Figure 177. Detail at east chimney, showing deteriorated mortar joints.
Windows and Doors

In general, the doors and windows are built from wood, and are of relatively modern, manufactured construction, probably dating to the Colonial Revival period remodeling in the early 20th Century, with some elements of the south entry possibly dating to an earlier period. The doors are a mixture of frame and panel and frame with glass lites (“French doors”); the windows are a mixture of casement and double hung. There is wood trim on the interior and the exterior. The doors, windows, and trim are all painted.

The doors, glazing, and screens, including the fan lites, at the exterior of Room 103, appear to be more modern additions.

The exterior doors and windows are generally in fair to poor condition. As is the case with the other exterior woodwork, the doors and windows are weathered and deteriorated, and suffering from moisture damage. Most of the windows are inoperable, the others, as well as the doors, are sticky and difficult to use. Some doors have been removed to facilitate museum operations and are stored off-site.

The doors and windows are described in more detail in the door and window schedules, in the appendix.

Figure 178. Detail at top of north chimney, showing monolithic cast concrete cap.
Entrances/Steps/Porches

There are five entrances to the building; each has a set of steps from grade to the floor level. The former main entrance, on the south elevation, has a set of concrete steps, covered with brick. The entrances to the screened porch (Room 103), as well as the east entrance, to Room 117, have a set of painted poured concrete steps, enclosed on the sides by short painted brick walls, with painted poured concrete caps. There is indoor/outdoor carpeting on the steps at the east entrance, as well as a wrought iron hand rail. The entrances to the northeast porch (Room 113), and the north porch (Room 110), have poured concrete steps, covered with brick. A wood framed ramp has been built over the entrance to the northeast porch (Room 113). Most of the steps are in good condition, except for the steps to the screened porch, which appear to be settling. The ramp is in fair condition, but does not conform to accessibility requirements. None of the other entrances conform to accessibility requirements.

Figure 179. Entry porch on south, formerly main entrance.
Figure 180. Entry at screened porch (Room 103). Note settlement of steps.

Figure 181. Entry porch at entrance to east wing, now serving as main entrance.
Figure 182. Handicapped ramp at northeast porch (Room 113).

Figure 183. Steps at porch on north side of original log building.
Stairways

There is a well crafted stairway to the second floor, built with a wood frame, with wood treads, and a wood rail. Each section has a different pitch, as well as a different width. The treads are finished with clear sealer, and appear to be attached with cut nails, visible in the centers of the treads. The balusters and rails are hand carved. The balusters are painted and the rail is finished with clear sealer. The baseboard at the stair appears to be of a slightly different configuration than the rest of the house.

The landing framing is visible through the wall from Room 104, as is the back side of the plastered west wall, and the baseboard. The baseboard and the lath for the plaster are attached to nominal 2x6-inch tongue and groove boards used as furring, which are in turn attached to the interior surface of the log walls. It appears the baseboard was attached first, then the lath above the baseboard, and finally the plaster was applied to be nearly flush with the outside face of the baseboard (although an ogee trim piece actually separates the base board from the plaster). The landing is supported on flat nominal 2x4-inch framing, which is in turn supported on a rectangular wood beam that is in plane with the log walls. The area below the landing has a low, plastered ceiling. Refer to discussion in the General Comments and Conclusions section above for a discussion on the possible time periods for the construction of the stair.

The stair is in surprisingly good condition. The treads are somewhat worn from use. The bottom tread is cracked and split – an event that just recently happened, according to Chieftains’ staff.
Figure 184. View of stair from east.
Figure 185. *View of stairway to second floor.*

Figure 186. *Bottom tread of stair, showing cracked tread.*
Figure 187. View of stairway from landing.
There is another stairway, which goes down to the basement. This stair appears to have been built when the colonial revival remodeling took place, to provide access to the basement under the west wing. The floor framing of the central hallway (dogtrot) has been cut and headered off to form the opening. This stair is crudely constructed from rough lumber. It is steep, poorly lit, has limited headroom, open riser spaces, and does not have a handrail. There is a landing at the bottom, making a 180 degree turn, and with more tread to the basement floor. The stairwell is lined with painted beaded tongue and groove siding.
Fireplaces

There are three fireplaces in the building. There are two very similarly styled fireplaces with colonial revival styled surrounds, located in Rooms 101 and 102. Neither appears to be operable. There is a fireplace in Room 202, which has simpler detailing, and has been modified with a cast iron insert. The door is stuck in the closed position, but it is doubtful of this fireplace is operable, either.

Patching of the floors and baseboards in Rooms 204 and 201, as well as cracks in the plaster of the walls that suggests that there were once fireplaces in these rooms, which have been removed.

Figure 189. Fireplace in Room 101.
Figure 190. *Fireplace in Room 102. Note similarity to fireplace in Room 101.*

Figure 191. *Fireplace in Room 202. Note cast iron insert.*
Figure 192. Patching of the base, and floor, as well as cracking in plaster of Room 204, suggesting fireplace has been removed.

Figure 193. Patching of the floor of Room 201, suggesting fireplace has been removed.
Cabinet, display cases, and closet modifications

There are built in cabinets in the kitchen (Room 109, and the pantries (Room 107 and 112). The kitchen cabinets look to be relatively modern, and appear to have been built in place. They are built from clear finished knotty pine, with plastic laminate countertops. The cabinets in the other two rooms appear to date to the colonial revival remodeling; they are also built in place from painted wood with linoleum countertops. The upper doors in Room 107 are built with glass panels in wood frames.

Figure 194. Kitchen cabinets.

Figure 195. Cabinets in Room 107.
Figure 196. Cabinets in Room 112.
Several closets have been modified to provide cabinets or display cases, or to provide for other needs such as mechanical systems. Modifications include the full or partial removal of the closet doors and the insertion of lockable hinged glass panels or the insertion of wood panels used to support mechanical systems.

Figure 197. *Closet in Room 106, modified into display case.*

Figure 198. *Closet in Room 203, modified into display case.*
Figure 199. Closet in Room 105, modified to provide return air duct for heating/cooling system.
**Plumbing System**

The building has a relatively modern plumbing system, with steel and iron piping, and copper tubing. Because the plumbing system was retrofitted into the building, and has had many modifications over the years, the layout of the piping is complicated and confusing, and some cutting of structural members or finishes was done, and not properly repaired. For the most part, the piping has been run through the crawl space and inside of the walls, floors, and ceilings. The piping is well concealed in most rooms, but exposed in the crawl space. Two large cast iron vent stacks project out of the roof of the west wing.

For the most part, the fixtures are early to mid-20th century, although the kitchen has a more modern drop in sink and faucet. There is a small electric water heater in the basement, which supplies the kitchen sink.

The building has natural gas service. The meter is located on the west end of the west wing.

The plumbing system is in fair to poor condition, and much of it does not appear to conform to codes. The steel water supply piping in the crawl space and basement is corroded, and there are pinhole leaks at several locations – the most visible near the bottom of the basement stair. Lengths of pipe are not properly supported. There have been many modifications and repairs made to the existing system, which have been poorly done. One sewer cleanout near the first floor bathroom (Room 114) is stuffed with rags and plastic.

Figure 200. Typical water supply piping and tubing.
Figure 201. Water supply piping showing rust and pinhole leaks.

Figure 202. Sewer cleanout below first floor bathroom, stuffed with rags and plastic.
**Mechanical System**

The building has a modern heating and cooling system, but no humidity control. However, as with the other retrofitted and modified systems, the system is very complicated, and visually and architecturally intrusive. The system doesn't work well, has some redundancies, and does not provide conditions in accordance with recommended standards for museums.

There is a gas fired high efficiency furnace in the basement, with an integrated heat exchanger for cooling, and condensors located outside of the north side of the west wing. This system provides heating and cooling for most of the first floor, through ductwork in the crawl space and basement, and floor registers in each room.

The kitchen, as well as several of the other rooms in the north portion of the building, are heated and cooled by a heat pump located outside of the west wall of the kitchen, with ductwork that goes through the stone foundation under the west wall of the kitchen, and into the crawl space, with floor registers in the rooms.

There is an air conditioning and heating unit located in the attic over Room 202, with a condenser located outside of the north side of the west wing. This unit supplies the second floor rooms, with ductwork in the attic, and ceiling registers. The heat source appears to be electric.

There is another air conditioner and heating unit located in the attic over the east wing, with a condenser located outside of the north wall. This unit supplies heating and cooling to the east wing, through ductwork in the attic, and ceiling diffusers. The heat source appears to be electric.

There is also a large plenum with two very large fans, located in the attic above the center hall of the original log cabin, presumably for ventilation. This has been modified by lining it with sheet metal, with a large round return air duct that connects back into the heating/cooling unit over Room 202. The fans do not appear to be operable, nor is there an obvious outlet for ventilation air.

Finally, there is piping from an earlier hot water or steam heating system, visible under the east wing.
Figure 203. View of northwest corner of building showing three A/C condenser units against north wall of west wing, plus one heat pump unit on west wall of original log building.

Figure 204. Ductwork from heat pump on west wall of original log building.
Figure 205. Ventilation grill opening to plenum in ceiling of Room 203. Plenum is lined with sheet metal, and there is a large round return air duct on the left (south) side, going into the attic and to the Heating/cooling unit located over Room 202.

Figure 206. Fans above ventilation grill above Room 203.
**Electrical System**

The building has a relatively modern electrical system, which includes phone service and a security system. The service entrance is located on the north side of the log building, where it is fed from an overhead drop. The meter is located on the north side of the west wall of the original log building. From the service entrance, two large conduits go through the crawl space to two side by side 200 amp panels, which are located in the basement. From the panels, the distribution and wiring spreads out into the building in a complicated mix of rigid and flexible conduit, armored cable, sheathed cable, and flush and surface mounted boxes. Most of the fixtures and devices are modern, but many early 20th century fixtures and devices remain, apparently disconnected. There are bits and pieces of old knob and tube wiring, as well as abandoned modern wiring, scattered throughout the building.

The phone service enters the building on the north side of the west wall of the original log building. The phone wires are run throughout the building, in the crawl space, and on the surface of walls and ceilings.

The security system, which provides intrusion alarm through motion sensors, and fire alarm through smoke detectors, is a hard wired system. The wires are run throughout the building, in the crawl space, and on the surface of walls and ceilings. There is a keypad near the east entrance, and a security panel in the closet in Room 116. The intrusion alarm has an audible alarm; it also contacts a central monitoring station if intrusion is detected. The fire alarm has an audible alarm; it contacts the fire department in the event of detection of a fire. There is bare copper wiring run throughout the building that appears to part of an old security system.

The electrical system is very complicated, and appears to have some serious functional, safety, and code problems. It is very intrusive visually and architecturally.

Figure 207. Electrical service entrance (on left), meter, and phone connection box.
Figure 208. *Electrical panels in basement.*

Figure 209. *Old knob and tube wiring exposed in wall.*
Figure 210. Detail of surface mounted conduit and box on wall.
Hazardous Materials and Pests

The primary hazardous materials usually encountered in old buildings are asbestos, lead, mold, and mildew. Other hazardous materials are found in materials stored in or near the buildings, such as petroleum products, solvents, chemicals, insecticides, and poisons.

Asbestos is often found in resilient flooring and leveling products, pipe and duct insulation, roofing, window glazing, drywall compound, and plaster. Asbestos is not considered a hazard unless the fibers are released into the air, through construction or remodeling activities, improper removal, or deterioration of asbestos containing materials. The more likely a material is to delaminate, crumble, or turn to dust and release fibers into the air, the higher the hazard.

Lead is found in paint, roof flashings, solder, window glazing, and some caulking. As with asbestos, it is not considered a hazard until it is released into the air, through construction or remodeling activities, improper removal, or deterioration of lead containing materials. Lead is also a hazard when ingested, either directly (eating paint chips, for example), or indirectly (drinking water that passes through copper pipes with lead solder).

Suspect materials found in this building include resilient flooring, window glazing, paint and plaster.

Samples of the plaster and resilient flooring were collected and tested for asbestos. While the plaster was found to be asbestos free, the resilient flooring did contain asbestos. A copy of the report is included in the appendix. All paint surfaces were assumed to have layers that contained lead based paint.

A detailed inspection for mold and mildew was not carried out, but mold, mildew, and even moss was observed on crawl space and foundation materials, as well as wood structural materials, exterior finishes, and roof drainage features.

Pests found in and around the building include the usual compliment of insects and spiders. No poisonous spiders were observed, although it is probable that Black Widow and Brown Recluse spiders are present. Numerous wasps (hornets?) were observed outside of the building, as well as in the basement. Evidence of termites is present in many parts of the structure, although no active termites or colonies were observed.

No rodents or snakes were seen, although they cannot be ruled out.
Interior Finishes

The interior finishes in the building are primarily hardwood flooring, painted plastered walls, painted plaster ceilings, and painted wood trim. The hardwood flooring is primarily 2 ¼-inch oak tongue and groove; although there is some similar sized fir, as well. The plastered walls and ceilings have gypsum plaster on modern wood lath. Most of these finishes appear to date to the Colonial Revival remodeling in the early 20th Century.

Other finishes found in the building include modern resilient sheet flooring (over particle board), modern carpet, ceramic tile (which also appears to date to the Colonial Revival remodeling), painted clapboard siding, and painted wood boards.

The condition of the interior finishes varies, depending on material and location. In general, the hardwood floors are in good condition, although some of them are in need of refinishing. The ceramic tile floors are in fair condition due to some cracking of grout and chipping of tile. The resilient flooring is in fair to poor condition; it is worn out, cracking and tearing. The carpet is worn. The plastered walls and ceilings are generally in fair to poor condition. The plaster suffers from cracking, spalling, and swelling, as well as delamination and separation from the lath. In a couple of areas, the plaster has fallen off the walls or ceilings. There are also areas where the plaster has been patched. There are numerous examples of paint failure throughout the interior, where the paint is cracking or peeling. Some of the plaster and paint failures appear to be moisture related, possible from roof leaks, mechanical and plumbing system leaks, leaks in the exterior siding, and leaks at doors and windows.

The interior finishes are discussed in more detail in the room finish schedules, below.

Figure 211. Detail of plaster failure. Note cracking, spalling, swelling, and delamination.
Figure 212. Detail of plaster failure. Note cracking and crazing.

Figure 213. Detail of plaster failure. Note cracking, spalling, and delamination.
Figure 214. Detail of area where plaster has been removed, due to failure of attachment to lath.

Figure 215. Detail of paint failure. Note peeling paint.
Figure 216. Detail of plaster failure. Note cracking and crazing, as well as delamination.
Figure 217. Detail of plaster failure at ceiling.
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Figure 218. Room 101.

Figure 219. Room 101.
Figure 220. Room 101.

Figure 221. Room 101.
## ROOM NUMBER: 102
## ROOM NAME: EXHIBIT 2

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- Compound painted wood crown moulding at tops of walls
Figure 222. Room 102.

Figure 223. Room 102.
Figure 224. *Room 102.*
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Figure 225. Room 103.

Figure 226. Room 103.
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Figure 227. Room 104.

Figure 228. Room 104.
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<td>TRIM</td>
<td>WOOD</td>
<td>PAINT</td>
<td>FAIR</td>
<td>PEELING PAINT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CABINETS</td>
<td>WOOD</td>
<td>PAINT</td>
<td>FAIR</td>
<td>SMALL CABINET BUILT INTO CLOSET ON SOUTH WALL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>REMARKS</td>
<td>PAINTED BOXCAR SIDING ON STAIRWELL INTO BASEMENT</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Figure 229. Room 105.
### ROOM NUMBER: 106

**ROOM NAME: HALL 2 (DOWNSTAIRS)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>MATERIAL</th>
<th>FINISH</th>
<th>CONDITION</th>
<th>NOTES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>FLOOR</strong></td>
<td>¾” X 2 ½” OAK T&amp;G</td>
<td>VARNISH/</td>
<td>GOOD</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>POLYURETHANE</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>WALLS</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NORTH</td>
<td>GYPSUM PLASTER ON WOOD LATH</td>
<td>PAINT</td>
<td>GOOD</td>
<td>PORTIONS OF WALL HAVE HAD FINISHES REMOVED TO EXPOSE LOG STRUCTURE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EAST</td>
<td>GYPSUM PLASTER ON WOOD LATH</td>
<td>PAINT</td>
<td>GOOD</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOUTH</td>
<td>GYPSUM PLASTER ON WOOD LATH</td>
<td>PAINT</td>
<td>GOOD</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WEST</td>
<td>GYPSUM PLASTER ON WOOD LATH</td>
<td>PAINT</td>
<td>GOOD</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>CEILING</strong></td>
<td>GYPSUM PLASTER ON WOOD LATH</td>
<td>PAINT</td>
<td>GOOD</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>BASE</strong></td>
<td>WOOD</td>
<td>PAINT</td>
<td>GOOD</td>
<td>BASE AT STAIR DIFFERENT FROM REST OF ROOM – MAY BE ORIGINAL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TRIM</strong></td>
<td>WOOD</td>
<td>PAINT</td>
<td>GOOD</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>CABINETS</strong></td>
<td>WOOD</td>
<td>PAINT</td>
<td>GOOD</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>REMARKS</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>SMALL PAINTED WOOD CROWN MOULDING AT TOPS OF WALLS</td>
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Figure 230. Room 106.
Figure 231. Room 106.
Figure 232. Room 106.

Figure 233. Room 106.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ROOM NUMBER: 107</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ROOM NAME: PANTRY 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MATERIAL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>---</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>FLOOR</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>NORTH</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>EAST</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>SOUTH</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>WEST</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>CEILING</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>BASE</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TRIM</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>CABINETS</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>REMARKS</strong></td>
</tr>
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Figure 234. Room 107.

Figure 235. Room 107.
Figure 236. *Room 107.*
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Material</th>
<th>Finish</th>
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<th>Notes</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Floor</td>
<td>Sheet Resilient on Particle Board</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>Fair/Poor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North</td>
<td>Gypsum Plaster on Wood Lath</td>
<td>Paint</td>
<td>Good</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>East</td>
<td>Gypsum Plaster on Wood Lath</td>
<td>Paint</td>
<td>Good</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South</td>
<td>Gypsum Plaster on Wood Lath</td>
<td>Paint</td>
<td>Good</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>West</td>
<td>Gypsum Plaster on Wood Lath</td>
<td>Paint</td>
<td>Good</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ceiling</td>
<td>Gypsum Plaster on Wood Lath</td>
<td>Paint</td>
<td>Good</td>
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<tr>
<td>Base</td>
<td>Wood</td>
<td>Paint</td>
<td>Fair/Peeling Paint</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trim</td>
<td>Wood</td>
<td>Paint</td>
<td>Fair/Peeling Paint</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cabinets</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>NA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Remarks</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Peeling Paint at Trim</td>
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Figure 237. Room 108.
Figure 238. Room 108.
## ROOM NUMBER: 109
## ROOM NAME: KITCHEN

<table>
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<th>CONDITION</th>
<th>NOTES</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FLOOR</td>
<td>SHEET RESILIENT ON PARTICLE BOARD</td>
<td>NONE</td>
<td>FAIR/POOR</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WALLS</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NORTH</td>
<td>GYPSUM PLASTER ON WOOD LATH</td>
<td>PAINT</td>
<td>GOOD</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EAST</td>
<td>GYPSUM PLASTER ON WOOD LATH</td>
<td>PAINT</td>
<td>GOOD</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOUTH</td>
<td>GYPSUM PLASTER ON WOOD LATH</td>
<td>PAINT</td>
<td>GOOD</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WEST</td>
<td>GYPSUM PLASTER ON WOOD LATH</td>
<td>PAINT</td>
<td>GOOD</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CEILING</td>
<td>GYPSUM PLASTER ON WOOD LATH</td>
<td>PAINT</td>
<td>GOOD</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BASE</td>
<td>WOOD</td>
<td>PAINT</td>
<td>GOOD</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TRIM</td>
<td>WOOD</td>
<td>PAINT</td>
<td>GOOD</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CABINETS</td>
<td>PINE</td>
<td>STAIN/SEAL</td>
<td>GOOD</td>
<td>PINE FACE FRAME CABINETS WITH TRANSPARENT STAINED/SEALED FINISH – PROBABLY BUILT ON SITE. PLASTIC LAMINATE COUNTER TOPS DROPPED SOFFIT ABOVE CABINETS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>REMARKS</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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Figure 239. Room 109.

Figure 240. Room 109.
<table>
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<th>NOTES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>¾&quot; X 2 ¼&quot; FIR T&amp;G FLOORING</td>
<td>PAINTED</td>
<td>FAIR</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NORTH</td>
<td>WOOD</td>
<td>PAINTED</td>
<td>GOOD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FRAME/SCREENS/TRIM</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EAST</td>
<td>WOOD</td>
<td>PAINTED</td>
<td>GOOD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FRAME/SCREENS/TRIM</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>SOUTH</td>
<td>WOOD</td>
<td>PAINTED</td>
<td>GOOD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CLAPBOARD SIDING</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WEST</td>
<td>WOOD</td>
<td>PAINTED</td>
<td>GOOD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FRAME/SCREENS/TRIM</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>PAINTED WOOD BOARDS COVERING BRICK CHIMNEY</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CEILING</td>
<td>WOOD</td>
<td>PAINTED</td>
<td>GOOD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BASE</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>TRIM</td>
<td>WOOD</td>
<td>PAINT</td>
<td>GOOD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CABINETS</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>REMARKS</td>
<td>MOST OF THE WALLS OF THIS ROOM ARE ACTUALLY SCREENS INSERTED INTO WOOD FRAMING – WITH LATTICE INSTALLED ON THE EXTERIOR.</td>
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</table>
Figure 241. Room 110.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ROOM NUMBER: 111</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ROOM NAME: HALL 2</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
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<th>FINISH</th>
<th>CONDITION</th>
<th>NOTES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FLOOR</td>
<td>SHEET RESILIENT ON PARTICLEBOARD, OVER ¾” X 2 ¼” OAK FLOORING</td>
<td>NONE</td>
<td>FAIR/POOR</td>
<td>OAK FLOORING RUNS EAST/WEST</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WALLS</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NORTH</td>
<td>GYPSUM PLASTER ON WOOD LATH</td>
<td>PAINT</td>
<td>GOOD</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EAST</td>
<td>GYPSUM PLASTER ON WOOD LATH</td>
<td>PAINT</td>
<td>GOOD</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOUTH</td>
<td>GYPSUM PLASTER ON WOOD LATH</td>
<td>PAINT</td>
<td>GOOD</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WEST</td>
<td>GYPSUM PLASTER ON WOOD LATH</td>
<td>PAINT</td>
<td>GOOD</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CEILING</td>
<td>GYPSUM PLASTER ON WOOD LATH</td>
<td>PAINT</td>
<td>GOOD</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BASE</td>
<td>WOOD</td>
<td>PAINT</td>
<td>FAIR</td>
<td>PEELING PAINT</td>
</tr>
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<td>TRIM</td>
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<td>FAIR</td>
<td>PEELING PAINT</td>
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<td>CABINETS</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>REMARKS</td>
<td></td>
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</table>
Figure 242. *Room III*. 
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ROOM NUMBER: 112</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ROOM NAME: PANTRY 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>MATERIAL</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>FLOOR</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>WALLS</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NORTH</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EAST</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOUTH</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WEST</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>CEILING</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>BASE</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TRIM</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>CABINETS</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>REMARKS</strong></td>
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</table>
Figure 243. Room 112.
Figure 244. Room 112.
## Historic Preservation Report

### ROOM NUMBER: 113

**ROOM NAME: PORCH 1**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MATERIAL</th>
<th>FINISH</th>
<th>CONDITION</th>
<th>NOTES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FLOOR</td>
<td>CARPET OVER 3/4” X 2 1/4” OAK FLOORING</td>
<td>CARPET/UNKNOWN</td>
<td>OAK FLOORING RUNS EAST/WEST</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NORTH</td>
<td>WOOD CLAPBOARD</td>
<td>PAINT</td>
<td>GOOD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EAST</td>
<td>WOOD CLAPBOARD</td>
<td>PAINT</td>
<td>GOOD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOUTH</td>
<td>WOOD CLAPBOARD</td>
<td>PAINT</td>
<td>GOOD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WEST</td>
<td>WOOD CLAPBOARD</td>
<td>PAINT</td>
<td>GOOD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WALLS</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>PORTIONS OF WALL HAVE HAD FINISHES REMOVED TO EXPOSE LOG STRUCTURE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CEILING</td>
<td>NOMINAL 9-INCH WIDE WOOD PLANKS</td>
<td>PAINT</td>
<td>GOOD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>PLANKS RUN EAST/WEST, SAME AS FLOORING</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BASE</td>
<td>1/4 ROUND, WOOD</td>
<td>PAINT</td>
<td>GOOD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>NO BASEBOARD – ONLY PAINTED WOOD 1/4 ROUND NAILED TO BASE OF CLAPBOARD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TRIM</td>
<td>WOOD</td>
<td>PAINT</td>
<td>GOOD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CABINETS</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>NA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>REMARKS</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>THIS ROOM APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN AN EXTERIOR SPACE THAT WAS LATER ENCLOSED</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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Figure 245. *Room 113.*

Figure 246. *Room 113.*
Figure 247. Room 113.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Material</th>
<th>Finish</th>
<th>Condition</th>
<th>Notes</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FLOOR</td>
<td>1” Hexagon Ceramic Mosaic Tile</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>Fair</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NORTH</td>
<td>Gypsum Plaster on Wood Lath</td>
<td>Paint</td>
<td>Good</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EAST</td>
<td>Gypsum Plaster on Wood Lath</td>
<td>Paint</td>
<td>Good</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOUTH</td>
<td>Gypsum Plaster on Wood Lath</td>
<td>Paint</td>
<td>Good</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WEST</td>
<td>Gypsum Plaster on Wood Lath</td>
<td>Paint</td>
<td>Good</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CEILING</td>
<td>Gypsum Plaster on Wood Lath</td>
<td>Paint</td>
<td>Fair</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BASE</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TRIM</td>
<td>Wood</td>
<td>Paint</td>
<td>Good</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CABINETS</td>
<td>Wood</td>
<td>Paint</td>
<td>Fair</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Remarks:** Ceramic Tile Wainscote and Tub/Shower Surround – Rectangular Tile in Running Bond Pattern with Tile Trim Cap
Figure 248. Room 114.
Figure 249. *Room 114.*
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MATERIAL</th>
<th>FINISH</th>
<th>CONDITION</th>
<th>NOTES</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FLOOR</td>
<td>¾” X 2 ¼” OAK T&amp;G</td>
<td>VARNISH/POLYURETHAN E</td>
<td>GOOD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WALLS NORTH</td>
<td>GYPSUM PLASTER ON WOOD LATH</td>
<td>PAINT</td>
<td>GOOD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EAST</td>
<td>GYPSUM PLASTER ON WOOD LATH</td>
<td>PAINT</td>
<td>GOOD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOUTH</td>
<td>GYPSUM PLASTER ON WOOD LATH</td>
<td>PAINT</td>
<td>GOOD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WEST</td>
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<td>GOOD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CEILING</td>
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<td>PAINT</td>
<td>GOOD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BASE</td>
<td>WOOD</td>
<td>PAINT</td>
<td>GOOD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TRIM</td>
<td>WOOD</td>
<td>PAINT</td>
<td>GOOD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CABINETS</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>NA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>REMARKS</td>
<td>LUMP IN FLOOR NEAR SOUTHEAST CORNER</td>
<td>SMALL PAINTED WOOD CROWN MOULDING AT TOPS OF WALLS</td>
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</table>
Figure 250. Room 115.
Figure 251. Room 115.
<table>
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<tr>
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<table>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FLOOR</td>
<td>¾&quot; X 2 ¼&quot; OAK T&amp;G</td>
<td>VARNISH/POLYURETHANE</td>
<td>GOOD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WALLS</td>
<td>NORTH</td>
<td>GYPSUM PLASTER ON WOOD LATH</td>
<td>PAINT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>EAST</td>
<td>GYPSUM PLASTER ON WOOD LATH</td>
<td>PAINT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>SOUTH</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>WEST</td>
<td>GYPSUM PLASTER ON WOOD LATH</td>
<td>PAINT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>CEILING</td>
<td>GYPSUM PLASTER ON WOOD LATH</td>
<td>PAINT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>BASE</td>
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<tr>
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<td>TRIM</td>
<td>WOOD</td>
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<tr>
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<td>CABINETS</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>REMARKS</td>
<td>COMPOUND PAINTED WOOD CROWN MOULDING AT TOPS OF WALLS</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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Figure 252. Room 116.

Figure 253. Room 116.
Figure 254. Room 116.
### ROOM NUMBER: 117

**ROOM NAME: GIFT SHOP (SUN ROOM)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MATERIAL</th>
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<tr>
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<td>6-INCH SQUARE QUARRY TILE OVER CONCRETE</td>
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<td>GYPSUM PLASTER ON WOOD LATH</td>
<td>PAINT</td>
<td>GOOD</td>
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<tr>
<td>EAST</td>
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<td>PAINT</td>
<td>GOOD</td>
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<td>GOOD</td>
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<td>CEILING</td>
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<td>PAINT</td>
<td>GOOD</td>
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<td>GOOD</td>
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<td>COMPOUND PAINTED WOOD CROWN MOULDING AT TOPS OF WALLS</td>
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Figure 255. Room 117.

Figure 256. Room 117.
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<td>VARNISH/POLYURETHANE</td>
<td>GOOD</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>NORTH</strong></td>
<td>GYPSUM PLASTER ON WOOD LATH</td>
<td>PAINT</td>
<td>GOOD</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>EAST</strong></td>
<td>GYPSUM PLASTER ON WOOD LATH</td>
<td>PAINT</td>
<td>GOOD</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>SOUTH</strong></td>
<td>GYPSUM PLASTER ON WOOD LATH</td>
<td>PAINT</td>
<td>GOOD</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
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<td>GYPSUM PLASTER ON WOOD LATH</td>
<td>PAINT</td>
<td>GOOD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>BASE</strong></td>
<td>WOOD</td>
<td>PAINT</td>
<td>GOOD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TRIM</strong></td>
<td>WOOD</td>
<td>PAINT</td>
<td>GOOD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>CABINETS</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>REMARKS</strong></td>
<td>PATCHING IN EAST END OF FLOOR SUGGESTS HEARTH WHICH WAS REMOVED</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>SMALL PAINTED WOOD CROWN MOULDING</td>
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Figure 257. Room 201.

Figure 258. Room 201.
Figure 259. Room 201.

Figure 260. Room 201.
**ROOM NUMBER: 202**  
**ROOM NAME: OFFICE 1 (GREEN ROOM)**

<table>
<thead>
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<td>¾” X 2 ¾” OAK T&amp;G</td>
<td>VARNISH/POLYURETHANE</td>
<td>GOOD</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>WALLS</strong></td>
<td>NORTH</td>
<td>GYPSUM PLASTER ON WOOD LATH</td>
<td>PAINT</td>
<td>GOOD</td>
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<td>EAST</td>
<td>GYPSUM PLASTER ON WOOD LATH</td>
<td>PAINT</td>
<td>GOOD</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>SOUTH</td>
<td>GYPSUM PLASTER ON WOOD LATH</td>
<td>PAINT</td>
<td>GOOD</td>
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<td>GYPSUM PLASTER ON WOOD LATH</td>
<td>PAINT</td>
<td>GOOD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>CEILING</strong></td>
<td>GYPSUM PLASTER ON WOOD LATH</td>
<td>PAINT</td>
<td>POOR</td>
<td>CEILING IS RAPIDLY DETERIORATING</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>BASE</strong></td>
<td>WOOD</td>
<td>PAINT</td>
<td>GOOD</td>
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<td><strong>TRIM</strong></td>
<td>WOOD</td>
<td>PAINT</td>
<td>GOOD</td>
<td></td>
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<td><strong>CABINETS</strong></td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>NA</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>REMARKS</strong></td>
<td>CEILING APPEARS TO BE FALLING OUT DUE TO DETERIORATION FROM A/C UNIT MOUNTED ABOVE – CONDENSATION?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</table>

National Park Service 281
Figure 261. Room 202.

Figure 262. Room 202.
Figure 263. *Room 202.*

Figure 264. *Room 202.*
Figure 265. Room 202.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MATERIAL</th>
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<th>CONDITION</th>
<th>NOTES</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FLOOR</td>
<td>¾&quot; X 2 ¼&quot; OAK T&amp;B</td>
<td>VARNISH/ POLYURE THANE</td>
<td>GOOD</td>
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<tr>
<td>NORTH</td>
<td>GYPSUM PLASTER ON WOOD LATH</td>
<td>PAINT</td>
<td>GOOD</td>
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<td>PAINT</td>
<td>GOOD</td>
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<td>GOOD</td>
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<td>PAINT</td>
<td>FAIR/POOR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>PART OF CEILING JUST EAST OF BEAM FALLING DONE – HELD IN PLACE WITH EXPANDED METAL LATH AND WOOD BOARDS.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BASE</td>
<td>WOOD</td>
<td>PAINT</td>
<td>FAIR</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td>SOME DAMAGE NOTED</td>
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<td>PAINT</td>
<td>GOOD</td>
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<td>CABINETS</td>
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<td>NA</td>
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<tr>
<td>REMARKS</td>
<td>BEAM AT EAST WALL LOG BUILDING RUNS THROUGH THIS ROOM LARGE VENT/GRILL IN CEILING JUST WEST OF CEILING BEAM SMALL PAINTED WOOD CROWN MOULDING</td>
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<td></td>
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</table>
Figure 266. Room 203.
Figure 267. Room 203.
## Historic Preservation Report

**ROOM NUMBER: 204**

**ROOM NAME: EDUCATION ROOM**

<table>
<thead>
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<th>MATERIAL</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>FLOOR</strong></td>
<td>¾” X 2 ¼” OAK T&amp;G OVER ¾” X 2 ¼” FIR T&amp;G</td>
<td>VARNISH/POLYURETHANE</td>
<td>GOOD</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>WALLS</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NORTH</td>
<td>GYPSUM PLASTER ON WOOD LATH</td>
<td>PAINT</td>
<td>GOOD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EAST</td>
<td>GYPSUM PLASTER ON WOOD LATH</td>
<td>PAINT</td>
<td>GOOD</td>
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<tr>
<td>SOUTH</td>
<td>GYPSUM PLASTER ON WOOD LATH</td>
<td>PAINT</td>
<td>GOOD</td>
</tr>
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<td>WEST</td>
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<td>GOOD</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>CEILING</strong></td>
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<td>PAINT</td>
<td>GOOD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>BASE</strong></td>
<td>WOOD</td>
<td>PAINT</td>
<td>GOOD</td>
</tr>
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<td><strong>TRIM</strong></td>
<td>WOOD</td>
<td>PAINT</td>
<td>GOOD</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>CABINETS</strong></td>
<td>NA</td>
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**REMARKS**

- SMALL PAINTED WOOD CROWN MOULDING AT TOPS OF WALLS
- WALL STRUCTURE EXPOSED IN CLOSET, CAN ACCESS FLOOR LAYERS UNDER DISPLAY
- GHOST OF FIREPLACE SURROUND ON NORTH WALL, PATCHING IN FLOOR SUGGESTS HEARTH THAT WAS REMOVED
Figure 268. Room 204.

Figure 269. Room 204.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>MATERIAL</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>FLOOR</strong></td>
<td>¾” X 2 ¾” FIR/PINE T&amp;G</td>
<td>VARNISH/POLYURETHANE</td>
<td>FAIR</td>
<td>FINISH IS WORN</td>
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<td><strong>WALLS</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>NORTH</td>
<td>WOOD BOXCAR SIDING</td>
<td>PAINT</td>
<td>GOOD</td>
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</tr>
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<td>EAST</td>
<td>WOOD BOXCAR SIDING</td>
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<td>SOUTH</td>
<td>WOOD BOXCAR SIDING</td>
<td>PAINT</td>
<td>GOOD</td>
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<tr>
<td>WEST</td>
<td>WOOD BOXCAR SIDING</td>
<td>PAINT</td>
<td>GOOD</td>
<td>PORTIONS OF WALL HAVE HAD FINISHES REMOVED TO EXPOSE LOG STRUCTURE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>PAINT</td>
<td>FAIR</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>BASE</strong></td>
<td>WOOD</td>
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<td>GOOD</td>
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<td>PAINT</td>
<td>GOOD</td>
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<td>PAINT ON WALL FINISH AND TRIM PEELING</td>
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<td>SMALL PAINTED WOOD CRWON MOULDING AT TOPS OF WALLS</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>THIS ROOM MAY HAVE BEEN AN EXTERIOR PORCH, LATER CLOSED IN</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>PAINTED WOOD ¼ ROUND BASE AT WALLS</td>
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Figure 272. Room 205.

Figure 273. Room 205.
Figure 274. Room 205.

Figure 275. Room 205.
<table>
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<th>ROOM NUMBER: 206</th>
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<td>WALL PAPER ON</td>
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<td>GYPSUM PLASTER ON</td>
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<td>WOOD LATH</td>
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<td>SOUTH</td>
<td>WALL PAPER ON</td>
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<td></td>
<td>GYPSUM PLASTER ON</td>
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<td></td>
<td>WOOD LATH</td>
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<tr>
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<td>GYPSUM PLASTER ON</td>
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<td>WOOD LATH</td>
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<td>GYPSUM PLASTER ON</td>
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<td>BASE</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>TRIM</td>
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<td>CABINETS</td>
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Figure 276. Room 206.
Figure 277. Room 206.
<table>
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<th>CONDITION</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>¾” x 2 ¼” OAK T&amp;G</td>
<td>VARNISH/ POLYURE THANE</td>
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<td>FAIR</td>
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</table>

| REMARKS | BOTH CLOSETS CONVERTED INTO DISPLAY CASES |
Figure 278. 201 Closet.
# ROOM NUMBER: 202 CLOSETS

## ROOM NAME: CLOSET 2A AND 2B

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>FLOOR</strong></td>
<td>¾&quot; X 2 ¼” OAK T&amp;G</td>
<td>VARNISH/POLYURETHANE</td>
<td>FAIR</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>WALLS</strong></td>
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<td>FAIR</td>
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<td>CLOSET 2A CONVERTED INTO DISPLAY CASE</td>
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Figure 279. 202 Closet.