



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20245

IN REPLY REFER TO
Mr. Thomas B. Mote

Route 3
Dahlonaga, Georgia 30533

AUG 22 1980

Dear Mr. Motes

This is to notify you that an initial review for obvious deficiencies and significant omissions in the petition for Federal acknowledgment submitted by the Georgia Tribe of Eastern Cherokees has been completed. This review is required by Section 54.9(b) of Part 54 of Title 25 of the Code of Federal Regulations. This letter is a discussion of areas which we feel could be strengthened with additional information and does not constitute a notification of active consideration.

Deficiencies and omissions noted are discussed below in order to give you an opportunity to strengthen your petition with additional materials and clarification before it comes under active consideration.

1. The petition should carry a certification, signed by the group's governing body or appropriate tribal officials, which identifies it as their official petition. Neither the undated statement transmitting the petition and authorizing Hannah L. Mote to act as spokesman, nor the letter of November 11, 1978, from Mrs. Mote and members of the council have been signed. We need signed and dated copies of both of these documents.
2. More description of the political structure and leadership of the group is needed, especially for the period before Daniel Davis became leader. Please tell us in what year Daniel Davis became leader, who the leaders were who preceded him and for what periods they served. For all of the group's leaders we need to know how they were chosen and what they did as leaders. Any additional evidence, not already provided, to support your description would add measurably to the petition.
3. The nature of the group as it exists today should be described more fully. Your discussion should include group events, informal gatherings of all or part of the group, internal social or geographic distinctions, and any distinct cultural practices which have survived. Copies of council minutes and attendance lists (or at least a sampling of them), lists of committee memberships, and any information relative to grant applications submitted by the group would help to document the nature of the modern community. Copies of any needs assessments which may have been completed for the group would also be helpful.
4. More detail and supporting evidence is needed for statements in the petition which imply that the family's land and the associated church and school were the focus of social relationships within the community. Church and school records, as well as newspaper accounts, should be available to substantiate these statements.

5. Following a meeting with Congressman Jenkins, members of the Acknowledgment staff discussed with you the need for your membership roll to reflect more accurately the actual size of your group. In prior meetings with you, you had indicated a membership of approximately 3,500. The roll which was submitted, however, listed only 390 members. Additionally, your membership roll should include a certification, signed by the members of the governing body or membership committee, which identifies it as the group's official roll.

While not an obvious deficiency or a significant omission, more information on the land holdings of Daniel Davis (1785-1868) would speed review of your petition when it comes under active consideration. Specific details needed for each parcel of Daniel Davis' land include the legal description; the date acquired, how acquired (by purchase, grant, allotment), and from whom; as well as the date disposed of, how, and to whom.

It would also be helpful if you could provide copies of the 1962 Atlanta Constitution article and letters written by Daniel Davis in 1819 and later from the Trail of Tears, all of which are referred to in the petition.

Enclosed are copies of two policy letters which will explain the acknowledgment process further and help to clarify the type of information needed to strengthen your petition.

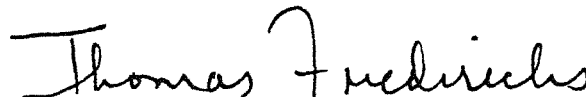
While this initial review of your petition does not constitute active consideration, neither is it a determination of the group's status. It is simply a notification of the areas which could be strengthened.

Copies of this letter are being sent to Senator Talmadge and Congressman Jenkins, both of whom have indicated their continuing interest and support for your petition.

The Acknowledgment staff will be in touch by telephone in the near future to discuss each of the items needed in more detail and will try to help you find professional assistance should you feel it necessary. In the meantime, if you have questions, please feel free to contact the staff on (703) 235-2360.

Sincerely,

Deputy,


Assistant Secretary - Indian Affairs

Enclosures

cc: Governor George Busbee
Attorney General Arthur K. Bolton
Senator Sam Nunn
Senator Herman Talmadge
Edgar L. Jenkins, MC
William Hammack, Georgia Office of Indian Heritage
Eastern Area Office