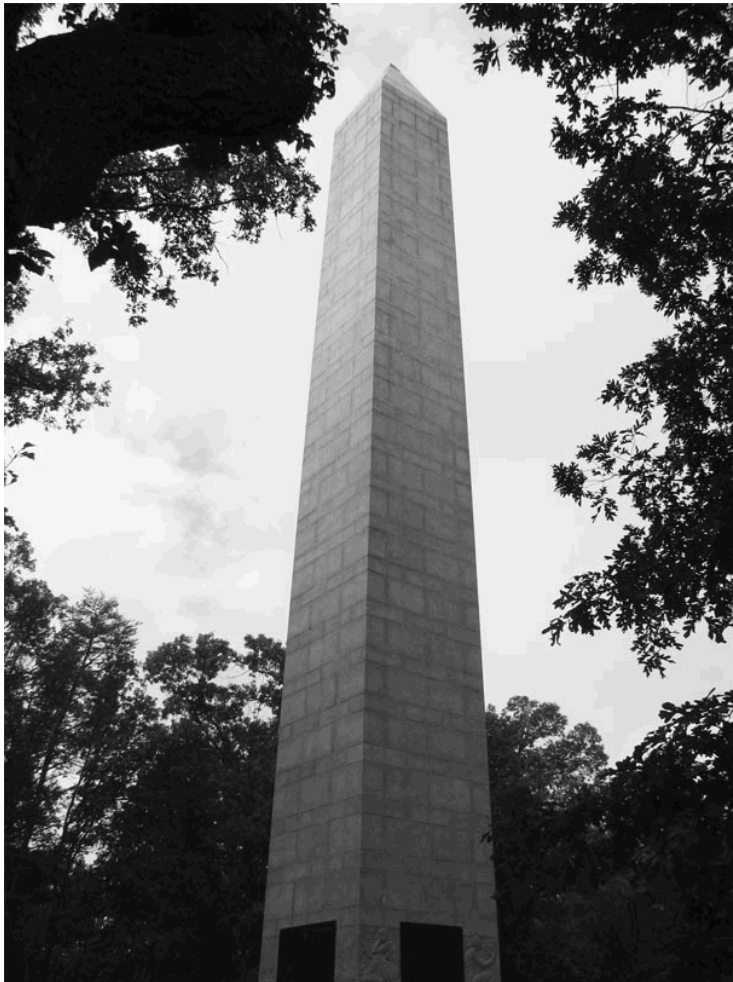

National Park Service
Cultural Landscapes Inventory
2010



Kings Mountain National Military Park
Kings Mountain National Military Park

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Inventory Summary

The Cultural Landscapes Inventory Overview:

CLI General Information:

Purpose and Goals of the CLI

The Cultural Landscapes Inventory (CLI), a comprehensive inventory of all cultural landscapes in the national park system, is one of the most ambitious initiatives of the National Park Service (NPS) Park Cultural Landscapes Program. The CLI is an evaluated inventory of all landscapes having historical significance that are listed on or eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places, or are otherwise managed as cultural resources through a public planning process and in which the NPS has or plans to acquire any legal interest. The CLI identifies and documents each landscape's location, size, physical development, condition, landscape characteristics, character-defining features, as well as other valuable information useful to park management. Cultural landscapes become approved CLIs when concurrence with the findings is obtained from the park superintendent and all required data fields are entered into a national database. In addition, for landscapes that are not currently listed on the National Register and/or do not have adequate documentation, concurrence is required from the State Historic Preservation Officer or the Keeper of the National Register.

The CLI, like the List of Classified Structures, assists the NPS in its efforts to fulfill the identification and management requirements associated with Section 110(a) of the National Historic Preservation Act, National Park Service Management Policies (2006), and Director's Order #28: Cultural Resource Management. Since launching the CLI nationwide, the NPS, in response to the Government Performance and Results Act (GPRA), is required to report information that respond to NPS strategic plan accomplishments. Two GPRA goals are associated with the CLI: bringing certified cultural landscapes into good condition (Goal 1a7) and increasing the number of CLI records that have complete, accurate, and reliable information (Goal 1b2B).

Scope of the CLI

The information contained within the CLI is gathered from existing secondary sources found in park libraries and archives and at NPS regional offices and centers, as well as through on-site reconnaissance of the existing landscape. The baseline information collected provides a comprehensive look at the historical development and significance of the landscape, placing it in context of the site's overall significance. Documentation and analysis of the existing landscape identifies character-defining characteristics and features, and allows for an evaluation of the landscape's overall integrity and an assessment of the landscape's overall condition. The CLI also provides an illustrative site plan that indicates major features within the inventory unit. Unlike cultural landscape reports, the CLI does not provide management recommendations or

treatment guidelines for the cultural landscape.

Inventory Unit Description:

Kings Mountain National Military Park (KIMO) is located in Blacksburg, South Carolina. The 3945-acre park is split between Cherokee and York counties and is bounded to the south by Kings Mountain State Park. The cultural landscape boundaries correspond with the park boundaries. The land is wooded with Battlefield Ridge rising in the central eastern portion of the park. This agrarian setting has been preserved as a military park and recreation area (with adjoining state park).

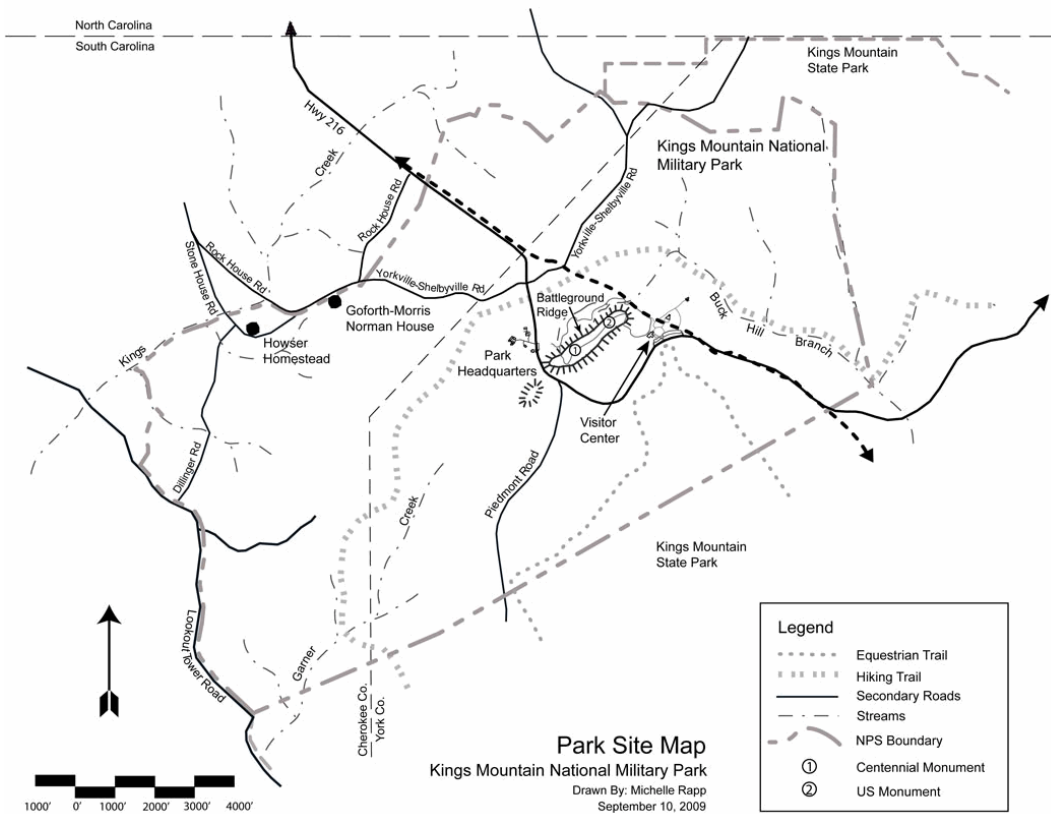
KIMO was administratively listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1966, when the Register was instituted. It was updated in 1975, but the property was not fully documented at that time. Robert Blythe, Maureen Carroll and Steven Moffson completed a Historic Resource Study for KIMO, and their findings were accepted by the Keeper of the National Register as additional documentation on 10 January 1995. Through this effort, the park's cultural landscape is adequately documented, with just a few exceptions that are discussed in the National Register chapter. The period of significance for the park was expanded to include National Park Service development under the New Deal in 1933-1942, as well as local rural settlement. Landscape features such as topography, landform, vegetation, and circulation were also addressed. And the lists of contributing – and non-contributing – resources at the park were updated.

In 1780, the battlefield landscape was a cleared ridge top with wooded slopes in an overall rural, agrarian setting; the topography and vegetation were determining factors of the Patriot victory in this pivotal battle. Renamed Battlefield Ridge, the site is currently more heavily wooded, with several monuments situated at key points, and adjacent visitor services downhill. Beyond the battleground, the park is preserved as a woodland buffer zone, interspersed with road traces, burial sites, quarries, park infrastructure, and remnants of scattered homesteads. Two homesteads – the Henry Howser House and the Lottie Goforth/Mary Morris Norman House – are identified as component landscapes and are discussed in further detail in their own inventories.

The battlefield and extended landscape retain integrity within several distinct contexts: the Battle of Kings Mountain (1780); Commemoration of the American Revolution (1815-1939); Rural Settlers and their Houses (1803-1940); and Park Development and Architecture (1932-1942). The overall cultural landscape is considered to be in fair condition.

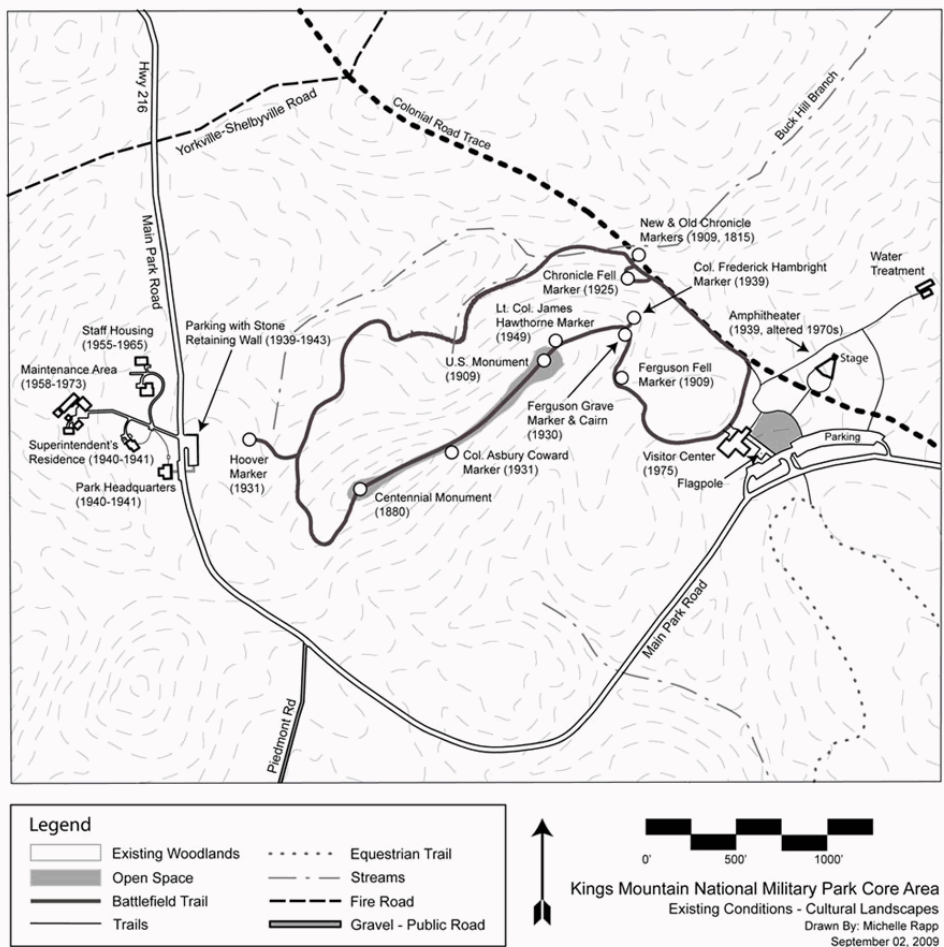
Kings Mountain National Military Park
Kings Mountain National Military Park

Site Plan



Kings Mountain National Military Park Site Map

Kings Mountain National Military Park
Kings Mountain National Military Park



Kings Mountain National Military Park Core Area- Existing Conditions Map

Property Level and CLI Numbers

Inventory Unit Name: Kings Mountain National Military Park

Property Level: Landscape

CLI Identification Number: 550047

Parent Landscape: 550047

Park Information

Park Name and Alpha Code: Kings Mountain National Military Park -KIMO

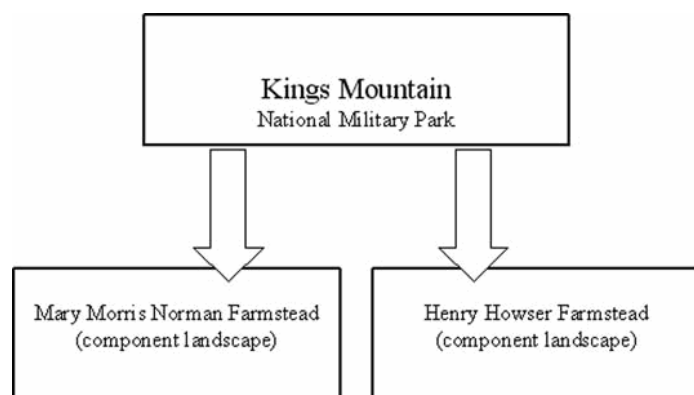
Park Organization Code: 5500

Park Administrative Unit: Kings Mountain National Military Park

CLI Hierarchy Description

KIMO is a Revolutionary War battlefield landscape and this CLI focuses on the significant natural and cultural features associated with that time period, as well as the commemorative and national park-era development from later years.

The park is also home to two farmsteads: the Henry Howser House and the Lottie Goforth/Mary Morris Norman House. Both of these properties date to periods after the battle, but retain integrity and are significant in their own right for their representation of local historic land use and architecture. They are considered component landscapes and are addressed more fully in separate inventories.



Concurrence Status

Inventory Status: Complete

Completion Status Explanatory Narrative:

A draft Cultural Landscape Inventory of KIMO was completed by Brian Morris in the summer of 1993. A site visit was conducted with a review of existing park information.

The CLI was updated by Beth Wheeler in 2003 with information from the Historic Resource Study (1995) and Cultural Landscape Report (2003).

A site visit was conducted and additional work was completed in 2009 by David Hasty, regional CLI Coordinator, and intern, Michelle Rapp.

Concurrence Status:

Park Superintendent Concurrence:	Yes
Park Superintendent Date of Concurrence:	08/25/2010
National Register Concurrence:	Eligible -- SHPO Consensus Determination
Date of Concurrence Determination:	09/07/2010

National Register Concurrence Narrative:

Reviewed by Elizabeth Johnson, SC Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer.

Concurrence Graphic Information:

Kings Mountain National Military Park
Kings Mountain National Military Park



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
Southeast Regional Office
Atlanta Federal Center
1924 Building
100 Alabama St., S.W.
Atlanta, Georgia 30303

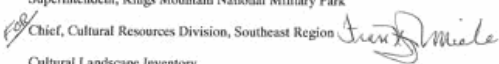


H22(SERO-CRD)

8 July 2010

Memorandum

To: Superintendent, Kings Mountain National Military Park

From:  Chief, Cultural Resources Division, Southeast Region

Subject: Cultural Landscape Inventory

We are pleased to transmit to you the Kings Mountain, Howser Farmstead and Goforth-Morris Norman Cultural Landscape Inventories (CLIs). The CLI is an evaluated list of landscape properties in the National Park System eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places (NR) or that contribute to an existing historic property. These CLIs were produced at the Southeast Regional Office, based primarily on the existing Historic Resources Study and Cultural Landscapes Report, along with a site visit in the summer of 2009.

In order for the CLIs to be certified and counted in PMDS under KIMO's goal 1a7 and the systemwide goal 1b2B, the South Carolina State Historic Preservation Office needs to concur on the eligibility of the identified contributing cultural landscape features to the existing nomination. KIMO was administratively listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1966, and additional information was accepted in 1976 and again in 1995. The period of significance for the park now includes National Park Service development under the New Deal in 1933-1942, and additional information exists for local rural settlement, and more recent commemorative development. Even though the HRS states that it does not address cultural landscapes, it does, in fact, do just that: topography, landform, vegetation, and circulation patterns are discussed; however, the Hawthorn marker, flagstone walkways surrounding the Administration Building, rubble gutters, and stone headwalls should all still be listed as contributing features. The contribution of vegetation patterns to the overall historic setting should also be more thoroughly addressed. Future primary research – beyond park archives and beyond the scope of the CLI – may enhance the rural settlement context and provide more information on the Henry Howser and Goforth-Morris Norman properties, as well as Howser's Quarry and historic circulation patterns. David Hasty, CLI Coordinator for the Southeast Region, will send a request to the South Carolina Historic Preservation Division for concurrence on the CLI findings.

Approval by the park superintendent is also needed for certification. If the findings of the CLIs are agreed upon – especially regarding condition assessment and management category – please sign the attached approval form and return it to our office to the attention of David Hasty, via mail, e-mail (david_hasty@nps.gov), or fax (404.562.3202). However, if you have comments or changes to any part of the CLI, please send those to David Hasty instead. We will incorporate them into the inventory, and send the updated version back to you for further review and signature.

Enclosures



Memo to park.

Kings Mountain National Military Park
Kings Mountain National Military Park

CULTURAL LANDSCAPE INVENTORY
CONDITION ASSESSMENT CONCURRENCE SHEET -- 8 July 2010

Park Information

Park: Kings Mountain National Military Park
State: South Carolina
Counties: Cherokee, York

Cultural Landscape Condition

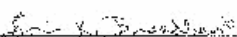
Inventory Name	CLI ID #	Condition
Kings Mountain National Military Park	550047	Fair
Pinckney Farmstead	550048	Fair
Oxford-Morris Norman Farmstead	550049	Fair

Cultural Landscape Management Category

Should Be Preserved and Maintained 8 July 2010

Park Superintendent Concurrence

Concur ☒ Do Not Concur ☐


Superintendent Date

Signature from park

Kings Mountain National Military Park
Kings Mountain National Military Park



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
Southeast Regional Office
Atlanta Federal Center
1924 Building
100 Alabama St., SW.
Atlanta, Georgia 30303



IN REPLY REFER TO:
H22 (SERO-CRD)

8 July 2010

Elizabeth Johnson
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer
State Historic Preservation Office
South Carolina Department of Archives and History
8301 Parklane Road
Columbia, SC 29223

Dear Ms. Johnson:

Enclosed please find a copy of two Cultural Landscape Inventories (CLIs) for Kings Mountain National Military Park, located in Blacksburg, South Carolina.

The CLI is an evaluated list of landscape properties in the National Park System considered eligible for the National Register of Historic Places or that contribute to an existing historic property. In order for CLI data to become certified, National Park Service regulations require concurrence from the SHPO on the eligibility of these properties. We are requesting your review of the Kings Mountain Landscape, the Howser Farmstead, and the Goforth-Morris Norman Homestead CLIs and ask that you sign and return the enclosed concurrence form.

Kings Mountain NMP was administratively listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1966, with additional information accepted in 1976. The nomination did not fully address cultural landscape features at this time. NPS completed a Historic Resource Study in 1995 and their findings were accepted by the Keeper of the National Register as additional documentation on 10 January 1995. The period of significance for the park now includes National Park Service development under the New Deal in 1933-1942, and additional information exists for local rural settlement, and more recent commemorative development. The lists of contributing – and non-contributing – resources at the park are also updated. Topography, landform, vegetation, and circulation patterns are discussed. With a few exceptions, their effort adequately addresses the park's cultural landscape. The Hawthorn marker, flagstone walkways surrounding the Administration Building, rubble gutters, and stone headwalls should all be listed as contributing features. And the contribution of vegetation patterns to the overall historic setting should also be more thoroughly addressed. At a future date, additional primary research – beyond park archives and beyond the scope of the CLI – may enhance the rural settlement context and provide more



information on the Henry Howser and Goforth-Morris Norman properties, as well as Howser's Quarry and historic circulation patterns.

With concurrence from your office, the findings become certified in the CLI database. Your concurrence also gives us justification to submit proper additional documentation to you at a future date. If you have any questions about these documents, please contact David Hastly, CLI Coordinator, Southeast Region (SER), at (404) 507-5780 or by e-mail at david_hastly@nps.gov. The concurrence form can be returned by fax at (404) 562-3202, or mailed to the address above.

We greatly appreciate your office's assistance with the project.

Sincerely,

Dan Scheidt
Chief, Cultural Resource Division
Southeast Region

Enclosures

Memo to SHPO

Kings Mountain National Military Park
Kings Mountain National Military Park

September 7, 2010

David Hasty
National Park Service
Southeast Regional Office
Atlanta Federal Center
1924 Building
100 Alabama Street, SW
Atlanta, GA 30303



Subject: Cultural Landscape Inventories for Kings Mountain National Military Park,
Blacksburg, South Carolina

Dear Mr. Hasty:

Thank you for sending the three Cultural Landscape Inventories (CLIs) for Kings Mountain National Military Park in Blacksburg, South Carolina for our review. They demonstrate an impressive level of effort to document the various cultural layers evident in the landscape today.

Enclosed is the signed concurrence with the findings of the CLIs about the features that have the potential to contribute to the existing National Register of Historic Places nomination for the Park. If we can be of further assistance to you, please call me at 803-896-6168, or Andy Chandler at 803-896-6179.

Cordially,

Elizabeth M. Johnson
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

S. C. Department of Archives & History • 8301 Parklane Road • Columbia • South Carolina • 29223-4905 • (803) 896-6100 • <http://scdah.sc.gov>

We have reviewed the submitted documentation that identifies cultural landscape features at Kings Mountain National Military Park in Blacksburg, South Carolina. We concur with the findings of the Cultural Landscape Inventory, and understand that these features have the potential to contribute to the existing National Register of Historic Places nomination for Kings Mountain National Military Park.

South Carolina State Historic Preservation Officer

9/7/2010
Date

Signature from SHPO

Geographic Information & Location Map

Inventory Unit Boundary Description:

Kings Mountain National Military Park is bounded by Kings Mountain State Park and private land. The inventory boundary is the entire park and is based on current NPS legal boundaries. See tract numbers.

Kings Mountain National Military Park
Kings Mountain National Military Park

State and County:

State: SC

County: Cherokee County

State: SC

County: York County

Size (Acres): 3,945.29

Boundary UTMS:

Source: USGS Map 1:24,000
Type of Point: Area
Datum: NAD 27
UTM Zone: 17
UTM Easting: 461,865
UTM Northing: 3,888,971

Source: USGS Map 1:24,000
Type of Point: Area
Datum: NAD 27
UTM Zone: 17
UTM Easting: 464,170
UTM Northing: 3,890,557

Source: USGS Map 1:24,000
Type of Point: Area
Datum: NAD 27
UTM Zone: 17
UTM Easting: 466,771
UTM Northing: 3,890,639

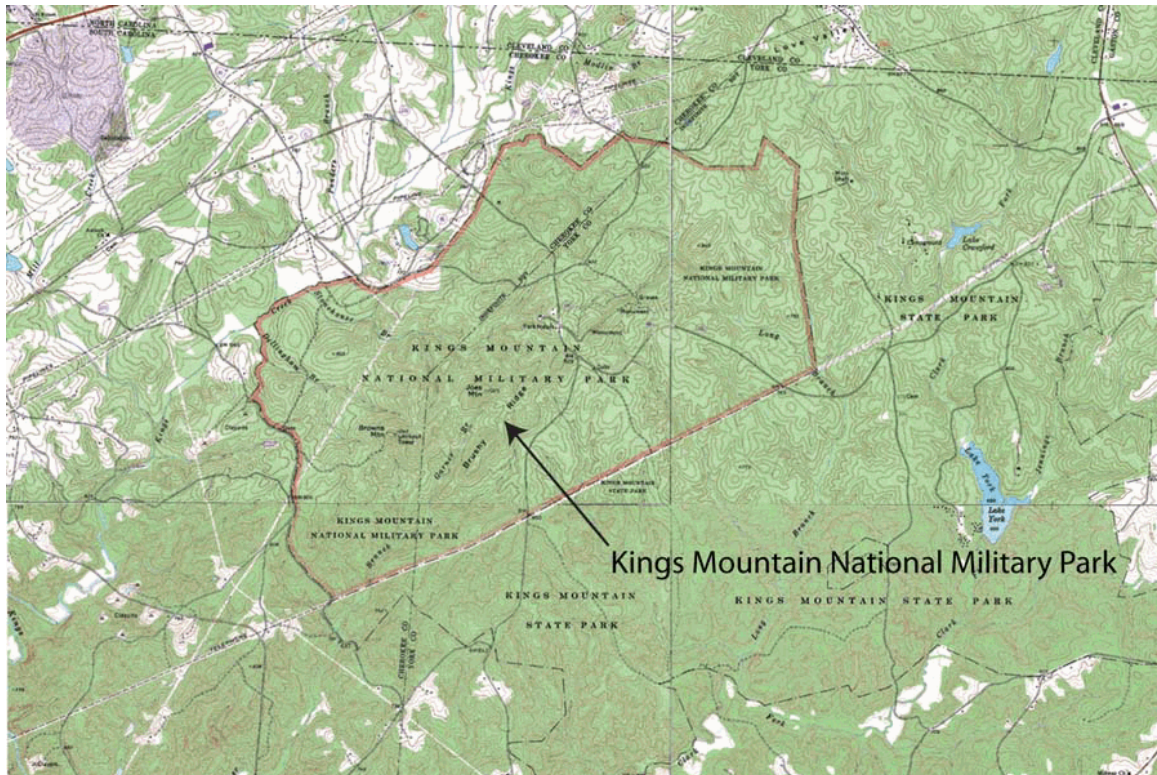
Source: USGS Map 1:24,000
Type of Point: Area
Datum: NAD 27
UTM Zone: 17
UTM Easting: 467,306
UTM Northing: 3,888,337

Source: USGS Map 1:24,000

Kings Mountain National Military Park
Kings Mountain National Military Park

Type of Point:	Area
Datum:	NAD 27
UTM Zone:	17
UTM Easting:	462,475
UTM Northing:	3,886,053

Location Map:



Kings Mountain National Military Park Location Map

Regional Context:

Type of Context: Cultural

Description:

The Kings Mountain Range was inhabited by Native Americans before 1700 but Scots-Irish as well as German, British and Swiss settled and farmed the area over the next century. The Indians, and later colonists, used fire as a land management tool to clear pasture and farm land. On 7 October 1780 the Battle of Kings Mountain was fought between local patriot militia and loyalist supporters. After the battle the land was used agriculturally and later commemorated for the battle. Since 1880, the battlefield has been preserved and is now a military park.

Type of Context: Physiographic

Description:

The Battle of Kings Mountain took place on Battleground Ridge, one of a series of granite outcroppings that make up the Kings Mountain Range. The Kings Mountain Range runs in a northeast to southwest direction roughly from Gastonia, NC, to Kings Creek, SC. The northeastern end of the range is higher, with elevations exceeding 1600 feet at Crowders Mountain and Kings Pinnacle. The southwestern end of the range is lower, with Battleground Ridge closer to 1000 feet in elevation. The Kings Mountain Range lies between the Blue Ridge Mountains to the northwest and the Carolina Sandhills to the southeast. The area is characterized by broad, gently rolling hills and valleys typical of the Piedmont Upland Section of the overall Piedmont physiographic province.

Type of Context: Political

Description:

Kings Mountain National Military Park is located in Cherokee and York Counties, South Carolina. The Park is located in the Fifth Congressional District.

Tract Numbers: 01-101 to 01-160

GIS File Name: n/a

Management Information

General Management Information

Management Category: Should be Preserved and Maintained

Management Category Date: 05/27/2009

NPS Legal Interest:

Type of Interest: Fee Simple

Public Access:

Type of Access: Unrestricted

Adjacent Lands Information

Do Adjacent Lands Contribute? Yes

Adjacent Lands Description:

Adjacent lands contribute to the rural, undeveloped park land and battlefield. The Kings Mountain NMP has a buffer zone and is bordered by a state park with recreational facilities and connecting trails. Some development has occurred near the park entrance road and Interstate 85, but vegetation combined with topography obstruct the viewshed of this development from Kings Mountain.

National Register Information

Existing National Register Status

National Register Landscape Documentation:

Entered Inadequately Documented

National Register Explanatory Narrative:

KIMO was administratively listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1966, and additional information - written by James Anderson - was accepted in 1976. The nomination did not fully address cultural landscape features at this time. Robert Blythe, Maureen Carroll and Steven Moffson completed a Historic Resource Study for KIMO, and their findings were accepted by the Keeper of the National Register as additional documentation on 10 January 1995. The period of significance for the park now includes National Park Service development under the New Deal in 1933-1942, and additional information exists for local rural settlement, and more recent commemorative development. The lists of contributing – and non-contributing – resources at the park are also updated. Even though the HRS states that it does not address cultural landscapes, it does, in fact, do just that: topography, landform, vegetation, and circulation patterns are discussed. With a few exceptions, their effort adequately addresses the park's cultural landscape. The Hawthorn marker, flagstone walkways surrounding the Administration Building, rubble gutters, and stone headwalls should all be listed as contributing features. And the contribution of vegetation patterns to the overall historic setting should also be more thoroughly addressed. At a future date, additional primary research - beyond park archives and beyond the scope of the CLI - may enhance the rural settlement context and provide more information on the Henry Howser and Goforth-Morris Norman properties, as well as Howser's Quarry and historic circulation patterns.

Existing NRIS Information:

Name in National Register:	Kings Mountain National Military Park
NRIS Number:	66000079
Primary Certification Date:	10/15/1966
Other Certifications and Date:	Nomination Form by James J. Anderson - 3/17/1976
Name in National Register:	Kings Mountain National Military Park
NRIS Number:	66000079
Primary Certification Date:	10/15/1966
	Additional Documentation - Robert W. Blythe et al - 1/10/1995

National Register Eligibility

National Register Concurrence:	Eligible -- SHPO Consensus Determination
Contributing/Individual:	Individual
National Register Classification:	District
Significance Level:	National
Significance Criteria:	A - Associated with events significant to broad patterns of our history
Significance Criteria:	B - Associated with lives of persons significant in our past
Significance Criteria:	C - Embodies distinctive construction, work of master, or high artistic values
Criteria Considerations:	F -- A commemorative property

Period of Significance:

Time Period:	AD 1780
Historic Context Theme:	Shaping the Political Landscape
Subtheme:	The American Revolution
Facet:	War in the South
Time Period:	AD 1815 - 1939
Historic Context Theme:	Transforming the Environment
Subtheme:	Historic Preservation
Facet:	Regional Efforts: Mid-Atlantic States, 1860-1900: Memorials To The Revolution;
Time Period:	AD 1803 - 1940
Historic Context Theme:	Expressing Cultural Values
Subtheme:	Other Expressing Cultural Values
Facet:	Other Expressing Cultural Values
Other Facet:	Rural Settlers and Their Houses: Expressions of Vernacular Architecture and Settlement Patterns in the South Carolina Piedmont.
Time Period:	AD 1932 - 1942
Historic Context Theme:	Expressing Cultural Values
Subtheme:	Architecture
Facet:	Period Revivals (1870-1940)
Time Period:	AD 1932 - 1942
Historic Context Theme:	Expressing Cultural Values
Subtheme:	Landscape Architecture
Facet:	Colonial Revival Landscape Design

Area of Significance:

Area of Significance Category: Military

Area of Significance Subcategory: None

Area of Significance Category: Landscape Architecture

Area of Significance Subcategory: None

Area of Significance Category: Architecture

Area of Significance Subcategory: None

Area of Significance Category: Other

Area of Significance Subcategory: None

Statement of Significance:

Statement of Significance

The following are excerpts from the 2005 National Register documentation. Kings Mountain National Military Park is significant within four historic contexts:

A. The Battle of Kings Mountain, September-October 1780

B. Commemorating the American Revolution: The Influence of Veterans and Patriotic Organizations, Kings Mountain National Military Park, 1815-1939

C. Rural Settlers and Their Houses: Expressions of American Vernacular Architecture and Settlement Patterns in the South Carolina Piedmont, 1803-1940

D. Park Development and Park Architecture, 1932-1942.

A. The Battle, of Kings Mountain, September-October 1780

Significance

Kings Mountain was a key turning point in the Revolutionary War. The epic journey and victory of the southern Patriot militiamen assumed a mythic position in American history added impetus to the traditional American reliance on militia and abhorrence of a standing army. The Kings Mountain battlefield and Battleground Road are the significant historic resources associated with Context A. The Battle of Kings Mountain, September-October, 1780. Both resources are significant under Criterion A (events) and Criterion B (persons). The Battle of Kings Mountain was a pivotal event in the Revolutionary War, and several of the Patriot colonels involved went on to important political careers. Both resources fully represent Context A. Ferguson's Loyalists traveled on Battleground Road to their position on Kings Mountain, and the Patriot army used the same road to approach the mountain prior to their attack. The battlefield represents the location and the setting in which the Battle of Kings Mountain was fought.

Integrity/Criteria Considerations

Integrity is the ability of a property to convey its historic significance. The aspects of integrity relevant to the Kings Mountain battlefield are location, setting, feeling, and association. For Battleground Road, the above aspects plus those of design and materials apply.

The battlefield, composed of the 1,200-foot Battleground Ridge and its surrounding slopes, possesses integrity of location—it is the site of the October 7, 1780, battle. The battlefield also retains integrity of setting, feeling, and association. The topography of the battlefield, which was key to the battle's outcome, is unchanged. The ridge and its slopes are covered in second growth oak and pine forest with dense understory growth that succeeded intense agricultural use of the area following the battle. The current vegetation is denser than that described by battle-era contemporaries, but the succession of hardwood forest contributes to the integrity of the battle ground setting. Several areas are cleared and maintained in grass. Contemporaries described the openness of the stony ridge crest, but it is not known if the existing vistas, which have a direct association with post-war commemoration efforts, existed at the time of the battle. Although a significant number of monuments and markers have been erected on the ridge and informal paths have been stabilized and paved, the combination of unchanged topography and successive forest growth produces substantial integrity of feeling at Kings Mountain. The physical condition of the battleground, covered in dense forest and characterized by steep slopes, greatly affected the events of October 7, 1780, and the persistence of these characteristics conveys great associative values.

Battleground Road traverses the park in discontinuous but clearly identifiable segments. The road segments have deep ruts and high banks in places. From all appearances, the road follows its original course through forested areas, passing through Hambright's Gap at the north end of Battleground Ridge, and thus retains integrity of location and setting. In 1780, Battleground Road was a dirt trace, consequently the surviving dirt segments, abandoned when the park road system was reconfigured, retain integrity of design and materials. Some trees have invaded the road bed but they do not significantly compromise the road's integrity. The road traces, following the original road course and unaltered by later improvements, have substantial integrity of feeling and association.

B. Commemorating the American Revolution: The Influence of Veterans and Patriotic Organizations,
Kings Mountain National Military Park, 1815-1939.

Significance

The Kings Mountain commemorative battleground site, composed of monuments and markers, the battlefield pedestrian trail, and the natural wooded setting, are locally significant under Criterion A for their association with local private commemorative and patriotic organizations active between 1815 and 1939. Commemorative associations grew significantly in membership after the Civil War and increasingly defined the parameters of patriotism and national history traditionally accepted by Americans. Through the efforts of local groups, the battleground survived as a commemorative property and became incorporated into the National Park Service as Kings Mountain National Military Park,

The Centennial Monument is significant at the local level under Criterion C as a representative example of large-scale American memorial architecture erected during the second half of the nineteenth century. It is a plain shaft with inscriptions explaining its purpose, like countless monuments erected after the Civil War. Lacking sculpture or more complex architectural forms, the Centennial Monument evokes grandeur and dignity through its sheer size, simple massing, and dramatic placement on the crest of Kings Mountain.

The United States Monument is nationally significant under Criterion C as the work of a master that exhibits exceptional design characteristics. Obelisks, or shafts, were among the most common forms for memorial architecture following the Civil War. Unlike many of the picturesque and over-ornamented monuments of the period, McKim, Mead & White emphasized a strong profile over ornament in its design of the United States Monument. Subtleties of form, scale, proportion, and materials provide its grandeur. Although it is one of the firm's less complicated designs, the United States Monument features many of the design characteristics found throughout the work of McKim, Mead & White.

Integrity/Criteria Considerations

The commemorative activities initiated by individuals and organizations at Kings Mountain National Military Park over the period 1815 to 1939 occurred within the limits of the known battlefield. This area, described by Draper as 600 yards long and approximately one hundred yards wide at the northernmost end tapering to approximately sixty yards on the south, contains all of the resources associated with commemorative activity at Kings Mountain and is identified for purposes of National Register evaluation as the Kings Mountain Battlefield Commemorative Site. When the KMCA purchased thirty-nine and one-half acres in 1879, it owned the ridge crest and some of the slopes that composed the battleground.

The Kings Mountain battlefield commemorative site comprises the monuments and markers,

battleground pedestrian trail, and the topographical and vegetative setting located on Battleground Ridge and its slopes. These elements represent nearly 120 years of continuous commemorative activity, which occurred within the period of significance, 1815-1939. Over the years, some markers and monuments have been defaced by vandals, toppled, altered by time and the elements or moved, the pedestrian trail, although altered near the Visitor Center and by paving, is linked to local commemorative efforts and was maintained and expanded upon by the NPS, and the landscape, alternately forested, cleared for agricultural use, neglected, and reforested, have all maintained the essential elements of integrity location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. Most importantly, the commemorative resources retain their original intent and convey the importance of the site through their scale, placement, and simplicity.

All of the objects and structures associated with commemorative activities located on the battleground are eligible under Criterion A. Only the Kings Mountain Battleground Marker does not meet the criteria established for site-related commemorative properties at Kings Mountain Original location, on the battlefield, is the most important integrity element that must be maintained for a marker or monument to be considered eligible. Because it was moved from its original location on the battlefield to a position on Main Park Road at the state and federal park boundary, the Kings Mountain Battleground Marker does not possess integrity of location within the battlefield limits. The issue of locational integrity depends on the type of monumentation and the source of significance. As locally significant resources under Criterion A, the markers at Kings Mountain should reflect through location and design, the interests of the commemorative groups. These groups did not recognize the current park boundaries as the battlefield limits, but restricted their activities to the ridge and its slopes. Therefore, eligible commemorative resources should remain on the recognized battlefield. However, the monuments that are eligible under Criterion C for their superior craftsmanship and design, could suffer a loss of locational integrity without adversely affecting their National Register eligibility. The period of significance for this commemorative district is limited to the activities of local commemoration advocates.

All of the properties that contribute to the significance of the historic site under Context B also meet Criterion Consideration F because of their association with local commemorative activity at Kings Mountain. Age, associated tradition, and symbolic importance have invested the markers and monuments and the pedestrian trail with historical significance beyond their initial commemorative purpose.

The pedestrian trails and selected placement of markers and monuments along the pivotal ridge line maintain the solemnity and leisurely setting characteristic of late-nineteenth-century commemorative properties. All of the monuments and markers retain their original design and materials, although some have weathered or been damaged by vandals or inappropriate treatment. In general, the markers erected by the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) do not exhibit characteristic traits of fine workmanship. They are plain and utilitarian markers, consisting of uncut granite boulders and bronze plaques.

The Centennial and U. S. Monuments exhibit significant artistic merit and craftsmanship and therefore

are also eligible under Criterion C. The monuments retain all aspects of historic integrity: location, setting, design, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. Design and materials, which are key to understanding the significance of these resources, remain virtually unaltered. The removal of the iron fences that surrounded these monuments represents the most significant compromise to the historic setting. Prior to 1930, the clearing at the crest of the ridge was much larger than its present configuration, and the battlefield did not receive regular maintenance. Currently, the NPS tends grassed lawns and an asphalt trail that surrounds the monuments.

C. Rural Settlers and Their Houses: Expressions of American Vernacular Architecture and Settlement Patterns in the South Carolina Piedmont, 1803-1940

Significance

The Henry Howser House is significant at the state level under Criterion C as a rare example, particularly as far south as South Carolina, of the process of acculturation manifested in Germanic architectural forms. The Howser property, which includes the family cemetery, earthen terraces, outbuilding sites, and Howser Road, is also significant on a local level under Criterion A for its association with local land use and settlement patterns.

German acceptance of American culture was not immediate, and the Howser House illustrates this German ambivalence toward American architectural forms. Howser built a three-bay stone house with gable-end chimneys to suggest the appearance of the popular Georgian center-passage plan dwelling. The interior spaces, however, retain the traditional Continental house arrangement. The substantial masonry construction of the house is unusual for backcountry South Carolina at the beginning of the nineteenth century and no doubt contributed to its survival over nearly two centuries.

The Howser family, through successive generations, acquired property, which they cultivated, built upon, and subsisted upon over a period of approximately 120 years. This property and adjacent family properties such as the Goforth Morris Norman homeplace help illustrate the broad patterns of history related to settlement, land use, architectural expression, family relationships, and regional economic and cultural trends.

The Goforth-Morris Norman House is significant at the local level under Criteria A and C as a representative example of a vernacular house form constructed throughout the Kings Mountain vicinity in the postbellum historic period, and as a property that helps illustrate settlement patterns, kin relationships, and land use among upcountry South Carolinians. The house is also important because it is the only example within the park of this once common house form.

Several historic properties related to settlement, but not directly linked to the Howser or Goforth-Morris Norman properties are the Stone House Road (Dillingham Road), the Yorkville-Shelbyville Road, and the Gordon Cemetery. The roads are within the vicinity of both houses, and historical maps clearly indicate that the Howser, Goforth, and Morris Norman families relied on these transportation routes.

The Gordon Cemetery is an isolated remnant of another settled area within the park boundary that has no other above-grade structural resources extant.

Integrity/Criteria Considerations

The Howser House retains integrity of location, design, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. Design and workmanship are essential to understanding the significance of the house and remain intact, despite decades of tenant occupancy and neglect. Removal of outbuildings and the surrounding wooded acres, which succeeded cultivated fields, have compromised the historic setting, although the original roads remain intact. Development of the area, however, has been minimal and the lands surrounding the Howser House remain rural. The rural landscape characterized the area during the Howser period of ownership.

In 1976-77, the NPS restored the Howser house to its circa 1900 appearance. The walls were repointed and the window sashes were repaired. Deteriorated first floor joists were replaced and the interior walls were replastered and painted. Damaged or missing interior woodwork, such as the lower stair, was repaired or replaced. The gable-roofed entrance to the cellar was rebuilt and the kitchen ell, which had deteriorated significantly, was restored. Land surrounding the house was regraded, and drains were installed around the perimeter to control the flow of water. Several architectural features dating from circa 1900 were not included in the restoration, such as the sheet metal roof (replaced with wood shingles) and the wood-and-glass door, which was replaced with a six-panel wood door.

Although no outbuildings associated with the Howser House survive, several landscape features remain that contribute to an understanding of the significance of the house and its associated land use patterns. Privy and log barn foundations are visible and indicate the approximate size and location of these structures. The well, although not visible, has been filled and remains intact. Howser Road, which remains unpaved, follows its early nineteenth century path along the east and south sides of the house and across Kings Creek. Also, Stone House Road, known during the 1920s as the Dillingham Road, served as an access and egress path south and west of the house. The steep grade between the rear of the house and Kings Creek has three terraces that were probably constructed during the second half of the nineteenth century. The uppermost terrace, linked archeologically with the house construction period, features a three-foot-high, seventy-foot-long stone wall along the rear of the house that provides a level back yard. The two lower terraces follow the curving slope and vary between five and ten feet tall and 500 to 600 feet long. Finally, the Howser Cemetery is located on the west side of Howser Road, approximately 500 feet north of the Howser House. It contains approximately twenty marked and unmarked graves, including those of Henry Howser and his family.

The Gordon Cemetery contributes to the significance of the district under Criterion A for its association with early settlement in York County, South Carolina. It is not actively maintained but retains many of the features that convey its historical significance.

The Goforth-Morris Norman House retains most aspects of integrity: location, setting, design, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. The exterior of the house has undergone few alterations since it

was constructed circa 1902, but the interior has been altered with the addition of a partition wall that divides the south room of the main block and obscures the fireplace. A small, frame lean-to was probably added to the rear between 1902 and 1940. The house is at its original location facing the Yorkville-Shelbyville Road. However, the immediate landscape reveals little about the historic land-use patterns associated with the dwelling. The area remains rural and no intrusions compromise the visual setting.

D. Park Development and Park Architecture, 1932-1942.

Significance

The Administration Building and Superintendent's Residence are significant at the local level under Criterion C. They contribute to a designed park development plan more fully expressed in the adjoining Kings Mountain Recreation Demonstration Area, but intact within the national military park. Combined with circulation systems, recreational facilities, and interpretive structures, the Administration-Museum Building and the Superintendent's Residence represent one form of the rustic style of architecture and landscape design philosophy employed by the National Park Service from 1917 through World War II. These buildings represent the last phase in the development of the rustic style in the East. As the park system expanded and CCC labor was diverted to the war effort, construction projects were scaled down and, in some instances, earlier plans were recycled. Rock-faced stone, a characteristic feature of the style, required a large, skilled labor force. As this workforce diminished, NPS used more economical materials including brick veneer and board and batten to complete park development plans. The finest work of this period is found at sites where there had been little previous development, such as Kings Mountain National Military Park.

The rustic style of architecture employed by the National Park Service was more a design philosophy than an actual style. Incorporating regional styles and building traditions into the architecture of the national parks was an essential tenet of this philosophy. Buildings as diverse in style and materials as the Administration Building at Yakima, Mount Rainier National Park, built as a log block house in 1935, and the adobe Administration Building at Casa Grande Ruins National Monument, built before 1938, are generically termed "rustic." Rock-faced stone, oversize boulders, and rough-hewn logs are most commonly associated with the rustic style but compose only a portion of a broad range of building materials and regional styles applied.

Blending a building with its setting was a key goal, and this was likely to find a different expression in the Carolina piedmont than in the Rockies. In the East, where the topography is less dramatic than that found in the West, rustic designs were executed on a smaller scale. Eastern park buildings were usually low, horizontal structures with symmetrical facades, unlike the rambling picturesque buildings constructed in western parks.

Integrity/Criteria Considerations

The Administration Building and Superintendent's Residence contain all aspects of integrity: location, setting, design, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. Design, materials, and workmanship are key to understanding the historic significance of these buildings. Designed by the NPS and constructed with CCC labor, these buildings retain much of their original fabric and have suffered only minor, maintenance-related alterations. Interior plans remain virtually intact and include details such as woodwork, hardware, and light fixtures.

The setting of the administrative complex retains its historic plan although it contains a considerable amount of nonhistoric material. The flagstone walkways immediately adjacent to the building are historic; the parking area east of the Administration building is also historic in plan and most of its materials. Plans for landscaping the site and completing walkways were abandoned because of labor scarcity and the commencement of World War II. The yards that were carved from the surrounding woods at the time of construction have shrunk as the treeline thickened and encroached upon the buildings.

The primary access to the national military park and the recreation demonstration area is Main Park Road. Constructed in 1937-1940, the road retains its original alignment, grade, and drainage features including stone faced pipe culverts and stone rubble swales. The parking area on Main Park Road, opposite the Administration Building, was once linked to an upper parking area at the Battleground Ridge by a vehicle road and a pedestrian trail. Only the lower parking area remains. Main Park Road and the lower parking area have been paved with modern materials but they retain their configuration and stonework.

The upper parking area and access road were removed in the 1970s when visitor facilities were constructed at the northeast end of the battlefield. An L- shaped flagstone plaza replaced the entrance to the access road at the south end of the parking area where it intersects Main Park Road.

The amphitheater was significantly altered in the mid-1970s with the construction of a projection building on the platform and the reorganization of the seating, which features two side aisles rather than a single center aisle. Trees located in the seating area in the original plan were removed, and gravel, and then tar, replaced the grass as the principal ground cover. The amphitheater, in view of these changes, does not retain the necessary historic integrity to be considered a contributing property.

Chronology & Physical History

Current and Historic Use/Function:

Primary Historic Function:	Battle Site
Primary Current Use:	Other-No Other Category Exists

Other Use/Function

Interpretive Landscape

Other Type of Use or Function

Both Current And Historic

Current and Historic Names:

Name

Kings Mountain

Type of Name

Historic

Kings Mountain National Military Park

Both Current And Historic

Ethnographic Study Conducted:

No Survey Conducted

Associated Group:

Name of Group:

Catawba Indians

Type of Association:

Historic

Chronology:

Year	Event	Annotation
AD 1700 - 1800	Settled	Early settlement by Europeans
AD 1780	Military Operation	Battle of Kings Mountain
AD 1797	Land Transfer	Governor Charles Pinckney granted land including battlefield to John Alexander
	Land Transfer	Land sold to Colonel Frederick Hambright (inherited by son, then wife)
AD 1803	Built	Henry Howser house
AD 1815	Memorialized	Chronicle Marker placed at gravesite Celebration led by Dr. William McLean
AD 1827	Land Transfer	Land bought by Robert Clendinen
AD 1853	Land Transfer	Clendinen's widow, Mary and new husband Dr. William Hemmingway purchase additional tract. Total land 2,300 acres.

Kings Mountain National Military Park
Kings Mountain National Military Park

AD 1875	Land Transfer	Land sold to John O. Darby for \$2200
AD 1879	Land Transfer	Land sold to W.L. Goforth, Preston Goforth, F. S. Goforth and J.W. Wren
AD 1880	Land Transfer	Forty acres including Battleground Ridge sold to Kings Mountain Centennial Association
	Memorialized	Centennial Monument placed
AD 1906	Memorialized	U.S. Monument erected
		McKim, Mead, and White
AD 1914	Built	A marker replacing the deteriorated Chronicle Marker was added next to the original and surrounded by an iron fence.
AD 1930	Memorialized	Sesquicentennial Celebration Maj. Ferguson's grave marked, Hoover speech site marked, Kings Mtn. Battleground marker and Col. Asbury Coward marker erected Speaker: President Herbert Hoover New roads and trails laid out
AD 1931	Altered	Kings Mountain NMP established
AD 1933	Land Transfer	War Department transfers all national military parks and historic sites to National Park Service
AD 1933 - 1942	Preserved	Parks Development Era New Deal policy to develop national parks WPA and CCC work at Kings Mountain
AD 1933 - 1937	Built	Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) camp (after 1937, CCC used WPA camp until 1942)
AD 1938	Planted	Revegetation of old fields and pastures

Kings Mountain National Military Park
Kings Mountain National Military Park

	Built	Main Park Road
AD 1939	Memorialized	Col. Frederick Hambright marker placed
	Built	Amphitheater
AD 1941	Moved	Kings Mountain Battleground marker moved from battlefield to Main Park Road
	Moved	Main Park Road realigned to south (once followed One Day Road)
	Built	Museum/Administration Building Superintendent's Residence
AD 1949	Demolished	Howser Log Barn and Corn Crib National Park Service
AD 1952	Built	Maintenance and Utility Area
AD 1974	Demolished	Upper parking area and approach road
AD 1975	Built	Visitor Center and 100 car parking area
AD 1980	Restored	Kings Mountain added to national trail system Overmountain Victory Trail from VA to SC
AD 1999	Excavated	Archaeology investigation

Physical History:

Pre-Battlefield Landscape

Native American Landscape

Native American occupation of the Carolina piedmont dates to as early as c. 10,000 BC. When European settlement began in the early 1700s, Native Americans had been practicing burning and agriculture for approximately 1500 years. These man-made fires, primarily occurring during the dormant-season, improved forests for hunting, facilitated travel, and cleared fields for agriculture. Because this practice occurred over a long period of time, prairie-like fields and open woodlands developed as important ecological zones of the 18th-century Carolina piedmont landscape.

Early European explorers encountered large fields, savannas, and open forests in the Carolina interior. De Soto, in 1540, traveling north from an area near present Camden, South Carolina, to an area near present Charlotte, North Carolina, described large fields, open forests, and savannas easy to travel through, with plenty of grass for his livestock. John Lawson, traveling the same area in 1701, also noted large “savannas” and wrote of woods being burned along the road from near Camden, South Carolina, to the Waxhaws, a distance of approximately thirty miles. Mark Catesby, traveling the Carolina interior during the 1720s also reported the Native American custom of burning fields in late winter. He wrote of “many spacious tracts of meadow-land . . . burdened with grass six-feet high” often fed upon by vast numbers of buffaloes. These descriptions are illustrated in Guillaume de L’Isle’s 1718 *Carte de la Louisiane*, in which a “Grande Savane” is depicted in central Carolina east of the Blue Ridge Mountains (fig. 1).

Describing the natural features of the region during their youth, Charlotte homesteaders in 1800 recalled prairie-like landscapes of grasses and canebrakes over large expanses of land. They characterized the forests as having widely spaced trees that allowed long sight distances under the canopy.

These features were the results of centuries of natural and man-made fires throughout the piedmont. The Catawba Indians, inhabitants of much of northwest South Carolina and central North Carolina engaged in these practices regularly. In 1682, approximately 4,600 Catawbans occupied the Carolinas, but their numbers rapidly declined once contact with European diseases took effect. By 1728, 1,400 Catawba Indians were living and by 1775, only 400 remained.

The New Acquisition

In 1772, a ten-mile-wide by sixty-mile-long zone was ceded to the colony of South Carolina by North Carolina to settle a boundary dispute. Dubbed the “New Acquisition,” this area included a southern spur of the Appalachians, known as the Kings Mountain Range, that became part of the Camden Judicial District. In 1785, when the new state of South Carolina was established, this area was included in York County. Not until 1897 would the area be divided again. At that time the northwest part of York County was combined with parts of Union and Spartanburg Counties to form Cherokee County, which contains the western half of the Park.

Settlement Period to 1780

Decline of the Native American population coincided with increased settlement of the area by European immigrants (1740s to 1760s), who, having heard of the region's open grasslands, moved south from Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland, and Virginia to establish new homesteads. The majority was Scotch-Irish, but German, Swiss, and British immigrants also arrived. By the mid-1770s, approximately 35,000 settlers occupied the South Carolina backcountry.

The area around Battleground Ridge was sparsely populated in 1780. The earliest census records for York County (1790) report 6,604 inhabitants, including 923 slaves. Most were small farmers owning from zero to five slaves.

Learning from the Native Americans, European settlers continued to use fire as a land management tool. Crowder's Mountain and King's Pinnacle, both part of the Kings Mountain Range, were burned to provide forage for cattle. In addition to clearing fields for planting, fire created habitat for wild game by stimulating new growth of grasses and other plants used for food and cover. Backcountry settlers depended on livestock and agriculture to survive, supplementing their diet by hunting and fishing.

In 1779, the area's first iron works was opened by Colonel William Hill on Allison Creek, about ten miles east of Battleground Ridge. Hill purchased approximately 5,000 acres and built a house, a grain mill, and a saw mill. He set up the iron works with his partner, Issac Hayne. Local timber was used to produce charcoal, necessary to reduce iron ore to pig iron. Hill produced hand-wrought articles for local use, including farm tools, machines, shop supplies and iron household utensils.

Hill strongly supported the revolutionary cause and made cannons, shot, and other articles of war. Because of such involvement, his iron works was destroyed by the British in 1780. Afterwards, the facility was restored and remained in operation for about thirty years. The eighty-four slaves he owned in 1790 probably worked at this operation.

present-day Elizabethton, Tennessee).

Shortly thereafter, the combined militia army began its pursuit of Ferguson (fig. 2). Three hundred and fifty men, under the command of Colonel Benjamin Cleveland and Major Joseph Winston, joined the march at Quaker Meadows on the Catawba River. As the mountain men moved south, they were joined by twenty South Carolinians commanded by Major William Chronicle, and thirty Georgia militia. The patriot forces lost Ferguson's trail after crossing the Broad River and arrived on October 6th at the Cowpens, South Carolina. Here they met with another South Carolina militia unit of 400 troops under the command of Colonel James Williams.

In the meantime, Major Ferguson learned that a militia of backcountry men had rallied to pursue him. Concerned by reports of a large opposing force, he dispatched requests for reinforcements from Ninety Six and, later, from Cornwallis, who was in Charlotte at that time. But Ninety Six refused to help, and Cornwallis didn't receive the request until it was too late. Ferguson moved slowly southward from Gilbertown, then moved east towards Charlotte. On October 3, he encamped at Tate's Plantation, east of Buffalo Creek and only fifty miles from Charlotte.

By October 6th, Major Ferguson was traveling northeast on Ridge Road, along the watershed high ground between Kings Creek and Buffalo Creek. Slowed by his baggage train of seventeen wagons, he risked being overtaken before linking with Cornwallis in Charlotte. He had knowledge of the local road network because several of his Loyalist militia members were from the area. Ferguson turned off the Ridge Road and headed southeast towards Kings Creek and Hambright's Gap. The road he traveled was unnamed at the time, but is known today as Colonial Road.

Historians speculate that Ferguson wanted to take advantage of alternative routes to Charlotte and to use the mountain feature to shield his exposed flank. Perhaps concern with being overtaken by the Patriots forced the Loyalists to take position atop the southernmost spur of the Kings Mountain Range (Battleground Ridge).

Many scholars believe that Ferguson's arrogance would not allow him to go scurrying back to Charlotte without a fight. Battleground Ridge's prominence as a local land feature meant it could be easily located by Cornwallis's reinforcements, who, Ferguson believed would be arriving soon. It is also thought that Ferguson had realized his vulnerable position and was awaiting word from sentries sent to locate a more defensible place when the mountain men attacked.

The Patriots had arrived at the Cowpens, South Carolina, on October 6. Having lost Ferguson's trail, they regrouped at this well-known cattle-grazing area. Immediately learning that the enemy was only six or seven miles from Kings Mountain, a strike team of approximately 900 men on horseback set out overnight. Through drizzling rain, the overmountain men followed the Ridge Road and learned from local residents that the Loyalists were encamped on Kings Mountain. They followed Ferguson's route, turning onto the same unnamed road towards Hambright's Gap, and continued until they arrived within sight of the loyalist forces the following afternoon, October 7, 1780.

Battleground Ridge (1780)

Major Ferguson found that Kings Mountain was to be roughly 600 yards long. A fairly level plateau, it ranged from approximately sixty yards wide at the southwest end to about 120 yards wide at the northeast. The summit was sixty feet above the surrounding terrain. Buck Hill Branch paralleled the northwest side of the ridge and flowed northeast from springs located near the base of the mountain.

Vegetation--Many accounts of the battle describe the ridge top as bare with large and widely spaced trees along the slopes of the mountain. The immediate area surrounding battleground ridge was described as forested, with little or no understory. While all historical accounts confirm the battleground slopes were covered in timber, no contemporary reports describe the forest type or age. Colonel Issac Shelby recalled the summit as “bare”, with “the sides of the mountain . . . covered with trees.”

Robert Mills, gathering information for his *Statistics of South Carolina* (1826), visited the battleground while in York County. His account suggests that the area was heavily forested at the time of the battle and describes the landscape to be “wild as it then was, and indeed is now.” It appears that Kings Mountain had remained unchanged since the time of the battle. Mills account of York County’s native flora provides additional detail of general xeric and mesic plant communities.

The timber trees are chiefly the various kinds of oak, poplar, hickory, chestnut, and a little shortleaf pine. Some spots are very rich in several varieties of trees of prodigious growth. I have seen near the banks of the Catawba . . . noble oaks of several kinds, hickory, of the common and the shell bark species, ash, beech, and the beautiful tulip tree or poplar . . . the sycamore, sassafras, dogwood, ironwood, hackberry, walnut, buckeye, or horse chestnut, and redbud, mixed with a few small pines. The cucumber tree [*Magnolia acuminata*] abounds here . . . also the paupau (or arnoba) [*Asimina triloba*], and some sugar trees [*Acer barbatum*]; one of which has been measured and girthed ten feet round, or three feet through.

Benjamin Lossing, who visited the site in 1849, gave another description of the battleground area. “[The hills are] . . . covered in oaks, chestnuts, pines, beeches, gums and laurel, and sourwood. The large trees stand far apart, and the smaller one are not very thick, so that the march over those gentle elevations was comparatively easy.”

Since heavy timbering did not occur in the area until the late nineteenth century, land use of Battleground Ridge and the surrounding area appears not to have changed for seventy years after the battle. Lossing’s description of “large trees” standing “far apart” indicates a mature chestnut-oak forest, possibly mixed with pine in the drier, thin soils. His description of the battleground may be fairly accurate, as local settlers used fire to manage for grazing and hunting. In fact, two of the patriots pursuing Ferguson, Major Chronicle and Captain Mattocks, had camped on the very same ridge while deer hunting one year before the battle.

Thin soils and periodic burning would have contributed to the summit’s treeless appearance.

Natural and man-made fires were common occurrences throughout the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, maintaining open fields and clearing understories of wooded land. Settlers burned areas unsuitable for plowing to provide forage for cattle and deer. This would have included ridges and steeply sloped areas such as Battleground Ridge.

Circulation--Research by NPS historian Ed Bearss (1974) indicated only one path or trail present near Kings Mountain at the time of the battle (fig. 3). The "old Indian trail," also known in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries as the Cherokee Trail, Rutherford Road, Battleground Road, and Colonial Road, conforms to one found in the Mills Atlas, 1825 Map of York District (fig. 4). In this document, this feature will be referred to as Colonial Road.

The Mills Atlas provides the best detailed information of the early area maps. A similar road alignment on earlier maps shows Colonial Road to be aligned with what was probably an old Indian trail leading to the Kings Mountain area. Colonial Road turned off of Ridge Road, a northeast/southwestern road connecting the Carolinas, and proceeded southeast through the Kings Mountain range by way of Hambright's Gap. It continued south to connect with the Cherokee trading path near Congaree. The Cherokee path led from western Carolina to Charleston.

The Battle

An early nineteenth-century account (fig. 5) written by General Joseph Graham places the position where the Patriots dismounted their horses as "about 100 poles from the mountain." It was a spot where "the top of the mountain and the enemy's camp upon it were in full view." This translates to approximately 1,700 feet or one-quarter mile from Ferguson's camp.

Traveling on foot, the mountaineers crept under cover of the canopy trees. Colonel Issac Shelby describes how the Patriots initially approached the foot of the ridge from the northwest and split into two columns, left and right, to surround the mountain. Campbell's men ascended the steepest part of the ridge, the south side, "from tree to tree till [sic] they were nearly at the top." Shelby's men were sighted and fired upon while positioning themselves. The attack began on the ridge's southeastern end, with Campbell's men quickly joined by Shelby's. Within ten minutes, the remaining Patriot regiments had taken position and the battle was fully engaged.

Scholars explain how Ferguson had little or no advantage in the position he had chosen.

for the summit of the mountain was bare of timber, exposing his men to the assaults of the back-woods riflemen, who, as they pressed up the ridge, availed themselves of the trees on its sides, which afforded them protection, and which served to retard the movements of the British charging parties. As the enemy were drawn up in close column on the crest of the mountain, they presented a fair mark for the rifles of the mountaineers, and they suffered severely by exposure.

The battle lasted about an hour. The Loyalists were forced to retreat to an area only sixty yards

in length by forty yards in width on the northeast end of the ridge. Major Ferguson attempted to break the Patriot lines and escape, but was shot from his horse. Realizing they had lost their leader, the Loyalists quickly surrendered. In the aftermath of the battle, water from a nearby spring was used to refresh the wounded and dying.

Of those killed in the battle, 156 were Loyalists and twenty-eight were Patriots. Shallow graves were reportedly dug for the dead as the mountaineers left quickly the next day. The Loyalists were allowed to bury Ferguson's body in the ravine close to where he fell. Years after the battle, visitors marked Ferguson's grave with a cairn of stones.

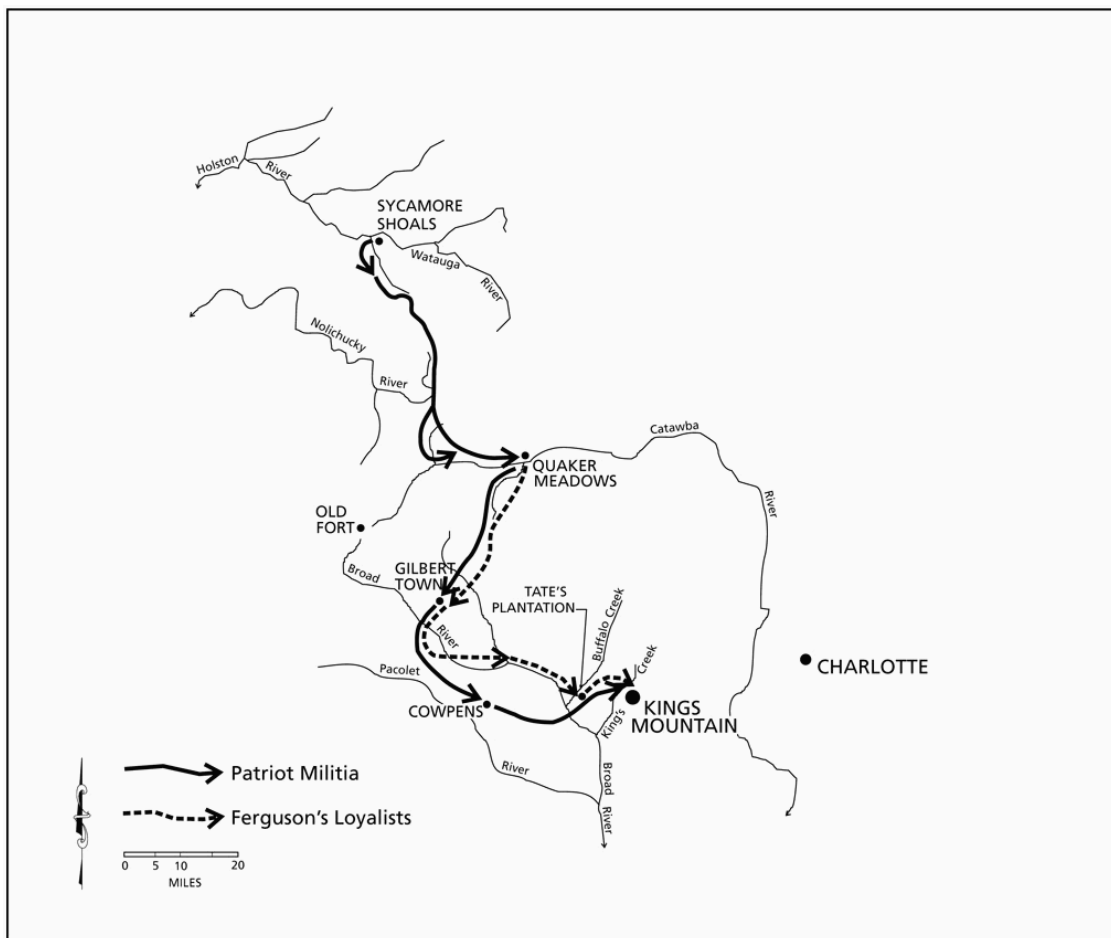


Fig. 2. Map of the Kings Mountain Campaign.

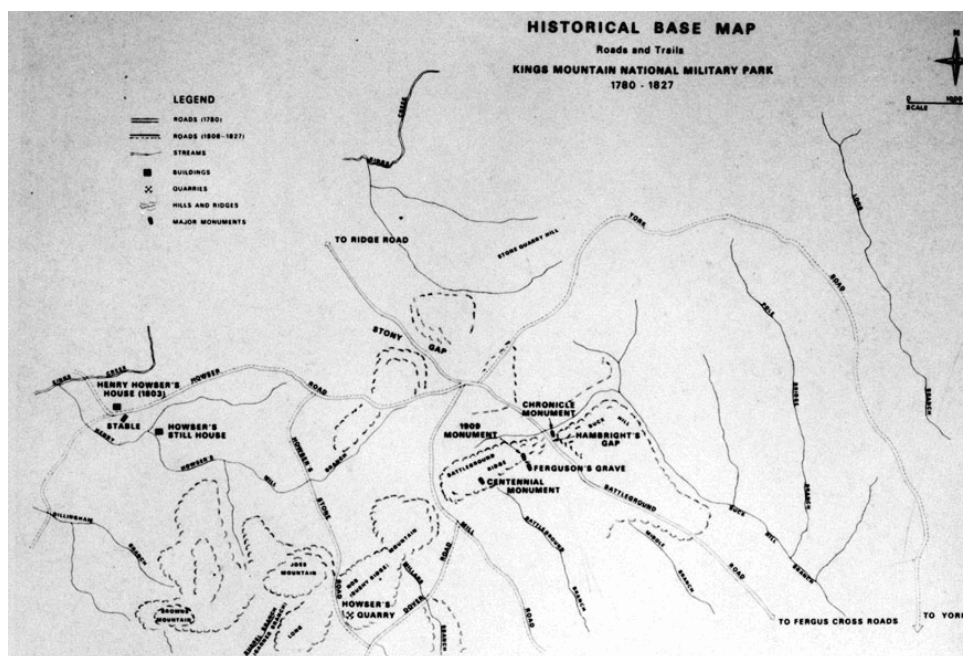


Fig. 3. Historical Base Map of Battleground Ridge.

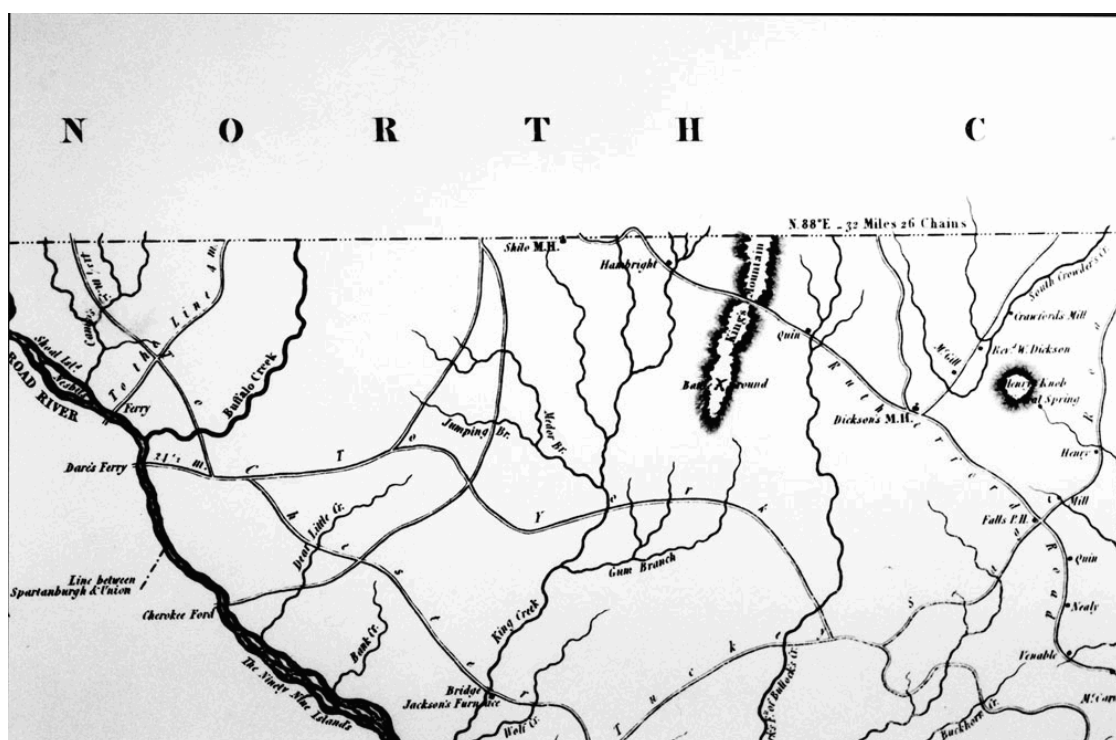


Fig. 4. Mills Atlas, 1825 Map of York District, South Carolina.

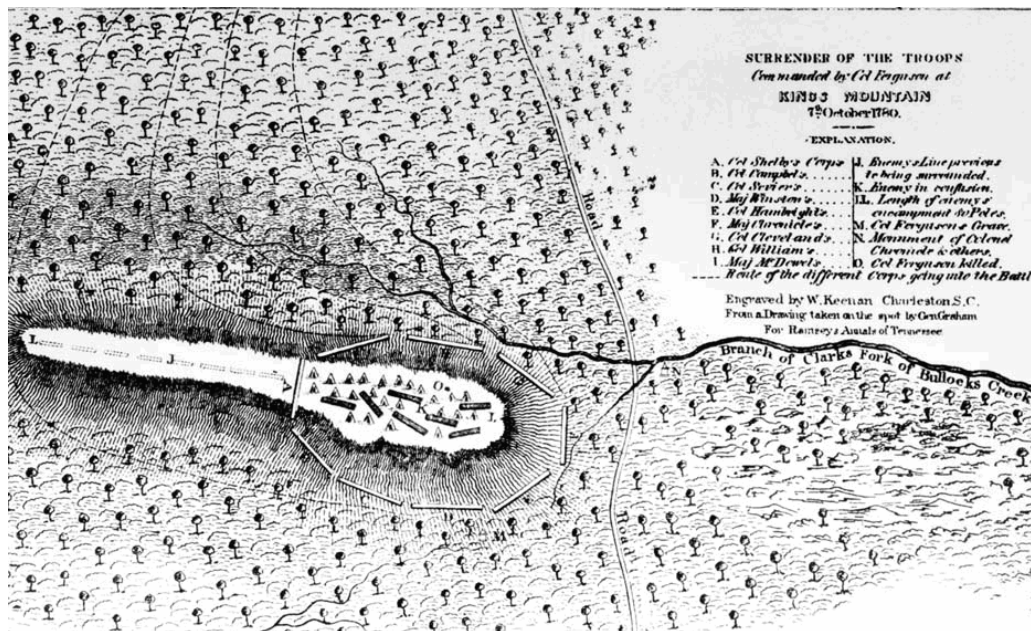


Fig. 5. Gen. Joseph Graham's Sketch of the Battle of Kings Mountain.

Post-Battle Landscape (1780-1931)

Battleground Ridge Ownership

The earliest known ownership of Kings Mountain dates to 1797, when Governor Charles Pinckney granted John Alexander 500 acres of land that included the battleground. Alexander may have purchased the land to speculate since he owned no slaves in York County. On March 29, 1797, a plat was prepared and the fee simple purchase was made on June 5, 1797.

The land was sold the same year to Kings Mountain battle veteran, Colonel Frederick Hambricht, for 80 pounds sterling. Hambricht had been living in the area as early as 1790, when census records indicate he owned four slaves. His homestead bounded the Alexander tract on the west near Kings Creek, where Hambricht's home stood. By 1810 he owned nine slaves.

When Hambricht died in 1817, his will, probated on March 19, 1817, left a "Buck Hill Tract" to his son, Josiah Hambricht. Two slaves, "negro boys," were bequeathed to two of his daughters and "one Negro man . . . , my still and vessels" were to be sold "with my old waggon [sic] . . ." to pay for legal expenses. Hambricht left the homestead tract, his hogs, cattle, sheep, three mares and two slaves to his wife, Mary. Trees used to mark boundaries of the 500-acre Buck Hill tract included oak and pine.

Josiah Hambricht conveyed the Buck Hill tract to his mother, Mary, on November 15, 1818 for \$50, who reconveyed the subject land back to her son on December 16, 1823. Three years later, in 1826, Josiah died and left his land, including the "Buck Hill Place," to his wife, Elizabeth.

In 1827, Robert Clendinen, a wealthy York County land owner and attorney, acquired two 1,000-acre tracts on “the waters of Kings Creek and Clarks Fork.” One of the tracts included the battleground and was surveyed on July 20, 1827 (fig. 6). Trees indicating property boundaries include pine, oak, hickory, and chestnut. Clendinen acquired large amounts of real estate and was one of the county’s largest slave owners. He died in 1830 owning forty-four slaves.

Robert Clendinen’s widow, Mary, married Dr. William Hemmingway. In 1853, they purchased from descendants of Colonel Frederick Hambright an additional 308-acre tract, increasing their land-holding to approximately 2,300 acres. The son of Dr. Hemmingway sold the land in 1875 to John O. Darby for \$2,200.

Four years later, on February 5, 1879, John Darby sold the land to W. L. Goforth, Preston Goforth, F. S. Goforth, and J. W. Wren of Cleveland County, North Carolina for \$4,000. Approximately forty acres of this land, including Battleground Ridge, was sold the following year to the Kings Mountain Centennial Association (see Commemorative Period section that follows).

Area Land Use

At the turn of the nineteenth century, the landscape surrounding Kings Mountain still exhibited patches of open land interspersed with virgin hardwood forest. Meadows, ranging in size from a few acres to thirty or forty acres, consisted of native grasses, but new areas cleared by farmers were also evident. The majority of farmsteads, of 200 or fewer acres, consisted of open and forested land.

After the Battle of Kings Mountain, Battleground Ridge and the surrounding area remained in private ownership for approximately 150 years. It is not known exactly how the battleground was managed during this time. Nevertheless, research indicates it may have been set aside for hunting or cattle grazing, as it appears to have remained forested until the mid-nineteenth century.

Prominent land features such as Kings Pinnacle, Crowders Mountain and Kings Mountain remained visible as local landmarks. Land use of the battleground area can be inferred by looking at how the nearby Howser estate and other properties were managed during this time period.

Industry--York County inhabitants were mostly planters and small farmers, except for “a few professional men and mechanics.” In addition, the Kings Mountain Range provided enough stone and iron ore to support local iron works and quarries. Hills’ Iron Works was still in operation in 1817. The Kings Creek Iron Works, an enterprise near Blacksburg, South Carolina, owned by Major Hugh Borders, stayed in business through 1850. Henry Howser, whose estate is discussed in the following section, was a local stone mason who owned a quarry only one-half mile southeast of the battleground.

York County Agriculture and the Howser Homestead-- Important South Carolina crops in the

eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries were Indian corn, wheat, rye, tobacco and cotton. The thirty-five grist mills in operation in 1810 illustrate York County's increase in grain production.

During the nineteenth century other agricultural products grew in importance. Fruit trees such as apples, pears, peaches, and cherries were commonly cultivated. In addition, a local industry of walnuts, chestnuts, and "shell barks" (pecans) was supported by the area's native trees.

Henry Howser, a stone mason of German descent, built his two-story stone house in 1803, on a 460-acre tract that was one mile west of the battleground. Howser was engaged as a mason, farmer, distiller, and land speculator and was the owner of three slaves in 1810. After his death in 1822, his son, Henry Howser II, acquired the stone house and the associated 875 acres of land that his father had accumulated.

In 1850, Faithy Howser, widow of Henry Howser II, was cultivating wheat, corn, oats, potatoes, and hay. She also owned peach and apple orchards. Livestock consisted of horses, dairy cows, cattle, sheep and hogs. The 1860 census lists her as owning three slaves.

Another example of land use in the area is Major Hugh Borders's property, which included ninety acres of improved land and 300 acres of unimproved land. Borders owned six horses, six milk cows, fourteen cattle, thirty-five swine, and fifty sheep. On this land he produced three bales of cotton, sixty pounds of wool, three bushels of peas and beans, twenty bushels of Irish potatoes, seventy-five bushels of sweet potatoes, and 208 pounds of butter.

In the second half of the 19th century, timber became an increasingly important commodity in York County. Iron works continued their impact on the landscape, requiring large amounts of timber for charcoal. While some cleared areas were left idle to recover, other tracts of land were cleared for cotton, vegetables, orchards, or pasture. The land changed to become an equal mixture of forest, cultivated open spaces, successional hardwood and pine, and old fields.

By 1880, Faithy Howser was using hired laborers residing on her property to assist in cultivating corn, wheat, oats, and cotton. Apple and peach trees were also part of the estate. From 1885 to 1915, the Howser homestead was leased to farmers. Throughout the county, tenant farming grew as cotton became the prevailing cash crop.

Washington L. Goforth's property lay adjacent to Battleground Ridge, where he had 40 acres of tilled land, 700 acres of woodlands, and 60 acres in old field. The 1880 agricultural census shows he owned 1 milk cow, 3 pigs, 10 chickens, and produced 75 pounds of butter and 10 cords of wood.

Grain production and grist mill activity declined in the 1880s as cotton production rose. As a result, many of the grist mills were converted to cotton gins. By 1880, thirty-seven percent of the county's tilled land was in cotton, increasing to forty percent in 1900 and to forty-six percent in 1920. From 1890 to 1930, cotton was the area's predominant cash crop, with York County producing as much as 45,000 bales of cotton in 1919. This period saw the construction of cotton mills in Fort Mill and Rock Hill, beginning the area's industrial textile age.

Soil depletion slowed cotton production dramatically by 1930 and abandoned fields increasingly became common features of the surrounding landscape. Although textiles are still an important part of the county's industry today, farmers have since turned to soybeans and peaches as major cash crops.

Circulation

As the county population rose, new roads were developed to improve circulation. The York-Rutherford Road was opened around the turn of the nineteenth century and is found on the Price-Strother Map (1808) and in the Mills Atlas Map of York District, South Carolina (1825). This road aligned with part of Colonial Road near Battleground Ridge. Other local roads opened by 1827 include the Howser Road, Howser's Stone Road (known also as the Quarry Road), Dover Road, and Mill Road (fig. 4).

Commemorative Period (1780-1931)

Commemorative events at Kings Mountain occurred over the course of 150 years and were organized by individuals and local groups. Recognition of the battle paralleled the rise in national patriotism that grew after the Civil War and as the centennial of the American Revolution and the Declaration of Independence approached.

National preservation organizations, predominantly women's groups, formed during this time to protect the country's most important historic sites. The first such organization, the Mount Vernon Ladies Association (1856), successfully preserved Washington's Virginia estate. After the Civil War, a flurry of interest arose with the formation of the Association for the Preservation of Virginia Antiquities (1888), the Daughters of the American Revolution (1890), and the National Society of Colonial Dames (1890).

The Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) proved to be a particularly effective and successful preservation organization. The national office realized that preservation invariably was a local endeavor and could only succeed through the hands of "dedicated amateurs." The Kings Mountain Chapter, established in 1898, is a perfect example of the organization's success, becoming the most influential preservation organization to protect and commemorate the battleground. The local chapter's commemorative efforts were later supported by the Colonel Frederick Hambright Chapter (1916) of Kings Mountain, North Carolina, and the William Gaston (1913) and Major William Chronicle (1924) Chapters of Gastonia, North Carolina.

As was typical of these private commemorative efforts, the focus at Kings Mountain was on the placement of monuments and markers at the battleground. Although 40 acres were set aside for protection in 1880 by the Kings Mountain Centennial Association, no large battlefield preservation was envisioned until the establishment of the national park in 1933.

1815 Celebration and Battleground Landscape

Word of shallow graves and exposed bones must have fueled superstitions among local residents. Several accounts reported that no one visited the site for many years after the battle.

The first commemorative event to take place at Kings Mountain occurred on July 4th, 1815. It is not clear why a thirty-fifth year celebration was organized; however, the rise in patriotism shortly after the War of 1812 may have been a contributing factor.

The 1815 commemoration was primarily a local effort led by Dr. William McLean, of Lincoln County (now Gaston County), North Carolina. Dr. McLean, a former Continental Army surgeon, delivered the principle address and erected the first memorial stone on the battleground. Known today as the Chronicle Marker, the dark slate stone ostensibly stood at the graves of Major William Chronicle, Captain John Mattocks, and Privates William Robb and John Boyd of the Lincoln County Militia. A memorial to Major Ferguson was inscribed on the opposite side. The Chronicle Marker is the nation's second oldest battlefield marker (fig. 7).

The local tradition that soldiers' remains were reinterred at the 1815 Celebration is still unproven. According to these accounts, the bones of fallen soldiers had been exposed by weather and wolves. One article reported that the remains were reinterred beneath a "humble stone." However, no primary sources describing the thirty-fifth anniversary proceedings have been found and the local tradition of exposed bones properly buried has not been verified.

Benson Lossing's description during his 1849 visit to the battleground confirms that mature hardwood forests existed there in the mid-19th century. His sketch (fig. 8) depicts a wooded landscape with little understory. In the foreground is the Buck Hill Branch that parallels part of Colonial Road. The figures are situated near the 1815 Chronicle Marker. It appears that the battleground has not yet been timbered.

Lossing describes the summit as "a stony ridge." From the top he was able to observe Crowder's Knob [Kings Pinnacle] to the north, an indication that the ridge top and upper slopes were still treeless. Landowners' continued use of periodic fire, combined with occasional drought and the summit's thin soils, must have contributed to this situation.

1855 Celebration and Battleground Landscape

The second celebration of the Battle of Kings Mountain (October 4, 1855) attracted a large turnout to the three-day event. York District citizens invited others from adjoining counties and states. The celebration was the first call for national recognition to include the establishment of a national military park.

As many as 15,000 turned out for historical tours, military parades, speeches, and food. Approximately 1,000 tents were pitched. Military parades were performed "over the plot of table-land east of the mountain," and a speakers stand erected at "a point on the acclivity, east of the mountain, in full view of the battle-ground."

From the description given above, it appears that the battleground area had succumbed to partial clearing or timbering at the time of the 1855 celebration. Large pastures or cleared areas accommodated the military parades. The speaker's stand stood "in full view" of the battleground.

Surrounding areas were apparently still wooded or in successional hardwood and pine because the 1855 Celebration descriptions include that of a “mountain forest under the shadow of the battle-ground” and of regional military companies arriving at a “busy forest-camp.”

1880 Centennial Celebration and Battleground Landscape

The resurgence of battlefield commemorations after the Civil War heightened national interest in the centennial celebration. Local preparations for the 100th anniversary began in 1879, when citizens from North Carolina, South Carolina, Virginia, and Tennessee formed the Kings Mountain Centennial Association (KMCA). The association’s goals were to provide a suitable centennial celebration and to erect a monument befitting the event. In June 1880, the association purchased 39 1/2 acres from W. L. Goforth, Preston Goforth, F. A. Goforth, and J. W. Wrens for \$197.50. The rectangular plot of land included the battleground and the Chronicle Marker (fig. 9).

The KMCA deed to the battleground reserved the rights of the grantors to “cut and remove from subject tract all pine timber,” provided the cutting was done before the centennial celebration. This may have been completed in conjunction with the KMCA’s clearing of the ridge for military maneuvers and the construction of a grandstand.

Of the many committees formed in preparation for the celebration, a grounds committee was organized by Dr. J. R. Logan. Dr. Logan described a speaker’s stand erected in the ravine near Ferguson’s grave. “[T]wo poles” beyond “Ferguson’s resting place, which . . . was a good selection as it fronted rising or ascending ground on both sides and in front, being at the head of the ravine. The seats overlooked each other and there was no difficulty in seeing the speakers.”

The three-day celebration was sizably larger than previous years and an estimated 12,000 attended the first day. The Centennial Monument was unveiled on October 7, 1880 at the ridge’s southwestern end to mark the area of the battle’s most intense fighting. The granite shaft rises twenty-eight feet and rests on a rectangular base of five granite steps. Three sides of the shaft describe the events of the battle on marble tablets (fig. 10).

The battleground landscape was illustrated in 1880 by James Moser, who depicted the centennial celebration at Kings Mountain (fig. 11). The sketch shows an almost treeless landscape with scattered pines on what seem to be the western slopes of Battleground Ridge.

In the years following the centennial celebration, advancing age prevented many original members of the KMCA to protect the battleground. As a result, the Kings Mountain Chapter of the DAR incorporated itself into a second separate organization, the Kings Mountain Centennial Battlefield Association (KMCBA), and became proprietors of the battleground in 1899. For the next ten years, this all-female organization maintained the site.

U.S. Monument and Battlefield Landscape (1909)

Stronger efforts to improve and protect battleground resources emerged in the early twentieth century. The Kings Mountain Chapter of the DAR continued to clear underbrush and maintain

Colonial Road while petitioning Congress to establish a military park.

In 1906, Congress appropriated \$30,000 to build a monument on Battleground Ridge in honor of the men who fought there. The New York architectural firm of McKim, Mead, and White was chosen by the War Department to design the monument. McKim, Mead, and White was extremely influential in shaping the character of American civic architecture. Some of the firm's work included the Boston Public Library (1887); Madison Square Garden (1890), New York; reconstruction of Jefferson's Rotunda at the University of Virginia (1898), Charlottesville, Va.; the J. P. Morgan Library (1907), New York; and Pennsylvania Station (1910), New York.

Although most of the firm's work was done in the northeast and in urban centers across the nation, one project in North Carolina illustrated a commitment to improving industrial communities. In 1894, a knitting mill and frame houses were designed for the Roanoke Rapids Power Company, Roanoke Rapids, North Carolina.

At Kings Mountain battleground, the granite-faced U.S. Monument was the culmination of years of petitioning by local DAR groups and local and state representatives of North and South Carolina. The eighty-three-foot-tall obelisk is situated on the northeast end of the ridge, marking the place where Ferguson's Loyalists surrendered to the American Patriots (fig. 12). The Kings Mountain Battlefield Association (formerly the KMCBA) was charged with the care of the monument.

Preparation for the unveiling included clearing the ridge top of shrubby vegetation and constructing a speaker's stand that would hold 1,000 people. The celebration lasted from October 6 to October 8, with approximately 8,000 to 10,000 attending. Military tents were pitched at the foot of Battleground Ridge to the east, indicating this area was already cleared.

Several references to pines in a contemporary news article indicate open land surrounding the mountain several years before the unveiling ceremony. For example, food was provided "at the foot of the hill . . . in the shadow of the pines . . ." and army tents had been set up east of Battleground Ridge "over the adjacent valley, in a clearing in the midst of the pines . . ."

Commemorative Markers--In 1909, Major A. H. White, of Rock Hill, SC, erected a stone pillar on the site where Major Ferguson fell. White also placed a stone at Ferguson's grave and originated the custom of placing small stones on the grave.

In 1914, the Kings Mountain Chapter of the DAR erected a duplicate of McLean's Chronicle Marker. Weathered by time and defaced by vandals, the original marker's inscription was no longer legible. An iron fence was placed around the two stones to protect the spot. The U.S. Monument and the Centennial Monument were also protected the same year with the placement of an iron fence around them.

The William Gaston Chapter of the DAR erected the Chronicle Fell Marker in 1925. The chapter was organized in Gastonia, North Carolina in 1913.

1930 Sesquicentennial Celebration and Battlefield Landscape

Past efforts to secure national recognition paid off for the 150th anniversary of the Battle of Kings Mountain. President Herbert Hoover accepted an invitation to speak at the celebration, setting off a flurry of activities to prepare the grounds for the one-day event. Dignitaries attending included a British chargé d'affaires, as well as governors, senators, and state representatives from South Carolina, North Carolina, Georgia, and Virginia. Approximately 80,000 people attended.

In preparation for the event, a new road, dubbed the "One Day Road," was built from U.S. Highway 29 to Route 161 to bring the President, his entourage, and the multitude of visitors to Battleground Ridge. The grandstand erected for Hoover seated 400 people and facing it was seating for an additional 1,000. The site, a knoll overlooking a small basin west of the battleground, was cleared of all underbrush, trees and saplings, giving the speaker a clear view of the ridge top to the east. Standing room for 60,000 was planned.

A series of trails and roads were also designed to accommodate attendants traversing the battleground (fig. 13). Footpaths brought visitors to the site's many venues, including the president's stand, Battleground Ridge, and the various monuments and markers.

Visitors to the 150th anniversary celebration used Colonial Road to access five parking areas that could accommodate 15,000 cars. In addition, another road was built to bring vehicles to the ridge top via the gentler southwestern slopes. Exhibit booths, rest rooms and water stations were also present.

Period photographs illustrate the extent to which the area surrounding Battleground Ridge and the battleground itself had been subjected to clearing. The area immediately west of the battleground, where President Hoover spoke, was completely treeless. Timber cutting had begun in the area as early as the 1880s and continued periodically for fifty years. Sentiment to restore the forests to their historic configuration was found in one news article written in 1930:

After one-hundred and fifty years the battleground was no longer what it had been. Such a celebration as this most recent one had especially done much to destroy the wildness and aloofness of the scene. A feeling grew up that it would be a fine thing to shape the next celebration toward a permanent preservation of the battle ground as nearly as possible as it was originally, and to make the lands around it a memorial park.

Commemorative Markers—New markers were erected in 1930, including the large stone designating Major Ferguson's grave (fig. 14). This stone was a gift from R. E. Scoggins of Charlotte North Carolina. In 1931, three other stones were placed on or near Battleground Ridge: the Hoover marker identifies the place where the president stood while giving his address, the Colonel Asbury Coward marker honors the founder and first president of the KMCA, and the Kings Mountain Battleground marker celebrates the historic battle event. All were erected by the Kings Mountain Chapter of the DAR.

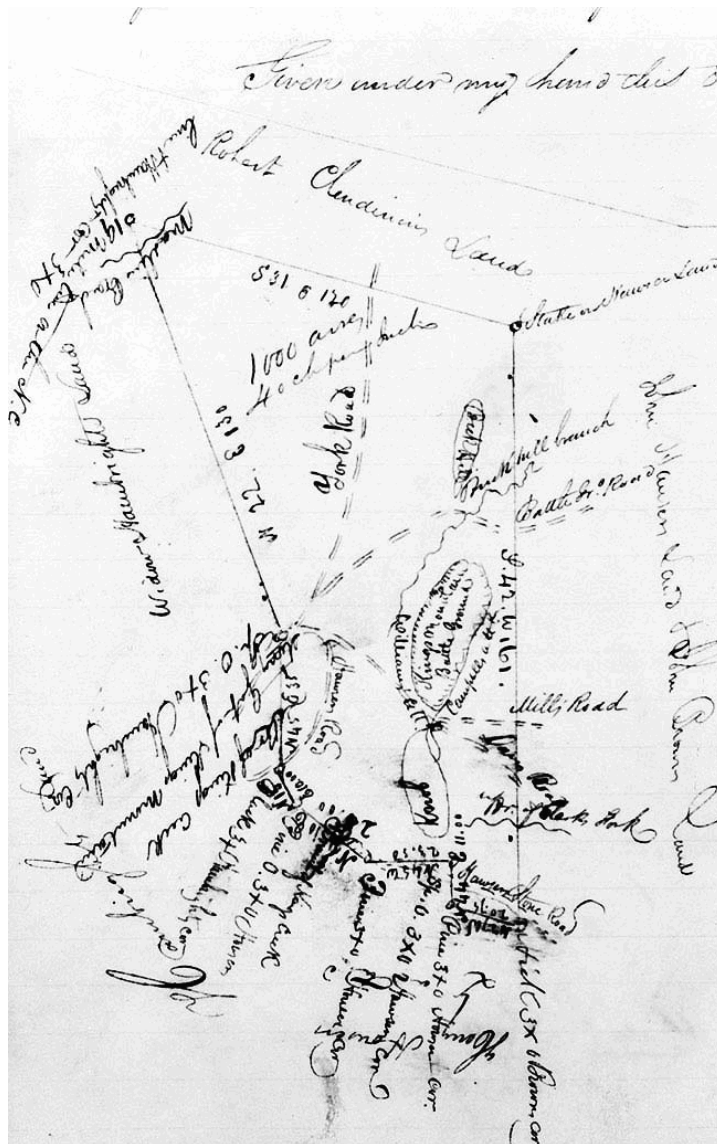


Fig. 6. Robert Clendinen's 1000-acre tract including Battleground Ridge. 1827.



Fig. 7. Major William Chronicle Marker.



Fig. 8. Benjamin Lossing's 1849 "View of Kings Mountain Battle-Ground".

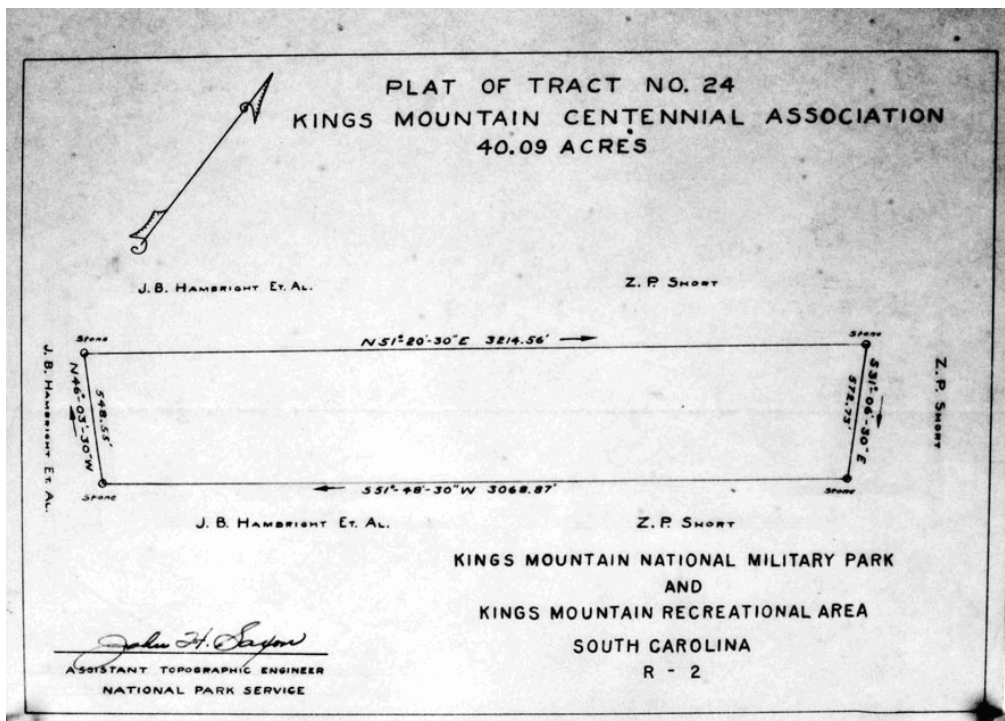


Fig. 9. KMCA Plat of 1880 Battleground Tract.



Fig. 10. Centennial Monument .

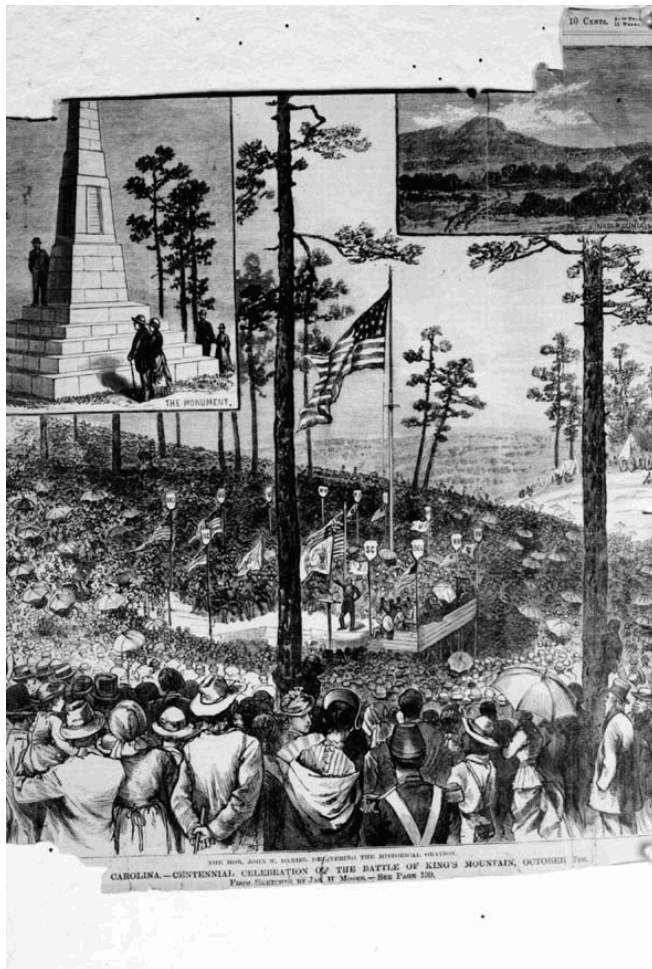


Fig. 11. James H. Moser's Illustration of the Kings Mountain Centennial Celebration, in Frank Leslie's Illustrated Newspaper, October 13, 1880.



Fig. 12. U.S. Monument, constructed in 1909.

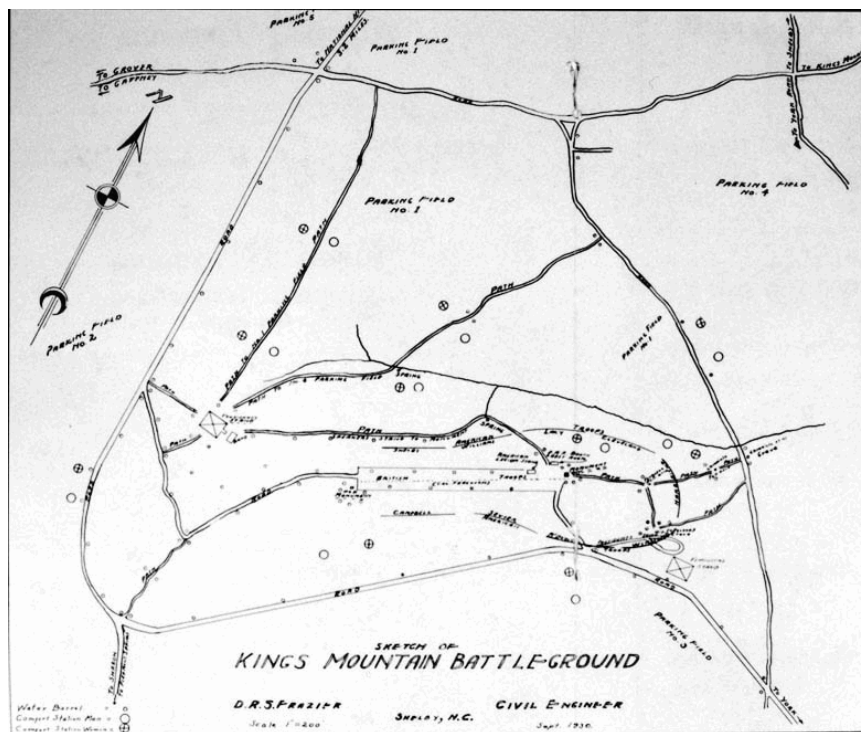


Fig. 13. Frazier's "Sketch of Kings Mountain Battleground," Sept. 1930. (Souvenir Program, Sesqui-Centennial Celebration, Battle of Kings Mountain, October 7, 1930).



Fig. 14. Ferguson's Grave Marker.

Kings Mountain National Park (1931-present)

Hoover's visit in 1930 provided the momentum needed to establish Kings Mountain National Military Park in 1931. The War Department was given jurisdiction, but made no changes to the property during its two-year tenure.

In 1933, all national military parks were transferred to the National Park Service. At the time, the Park consisted of the forty-acre battlefield site, and eleven monuments and markers. The surrounding land was worn out from years of cotton production. Much of it was idle, in old fields or stands of young pine. The battlefield and battleground slopes are shown in period

photographs to be of young second-growth hardwood and pine.

NPS Park Development Era (1933-1941)

Development of Kings Mountain National Military Park followed the course of national and state park development throughout the United States. When Roosevelt's New Deal social policies became the basis on which the NPS would provide recreational facilities for the nation, a national and state park system emerged to protect and preserve natural and cultural resources across the country.

NPS Design Philosophy—The design of our national parks and park structures is rooted in the 19th-century English landscape tradition. Popularized by the writings of Andrew Jackson Downing and by the metropolitan park designs of Frederick Law Olmsted, the naturalistic landscape style carried over into the early twentieth century and was influenced by several advances taking place at the time. One was the development of wild gardens and the use of rockwork and native vegetation. Another was the use of planning and management techniques to manipulate the character of landscapes for a desired effect. Such techniques included vista clearing, vegetation studies, and forestry management.

In the early twentieth century, a growing interest in native vegetation also had a profound effect on the design philosophy of the National Park Service. In combination with the rustic forms of architecture promoted by Olmsted and Henry Hobson Richardson during the late nineteenth century, the NPS adopted design principles that promoted informality and the use of indigenous materials (stone, logs, wood shingles, etc.).

NPS landscape architects recognized the advantage of subordinating design to the natural and cultural influences of a site. Roads and trails followed contour lines and structures were built of native materials. Site planning focused on development in unobtrusive locations, protecting unique natural and cultural resources while allowing for visitor enjoyment. Native vegetation was used to soften construction projects and to encourage a sense, over time, that the park buildings had “always been there.” This philosophy guided the design of national and state park administrative, maintenance, and residential facilities throughout the United States.

In the East, the addition of national military parks to the system required a different approach to architectural design. National sites associated with Revolutionary and Civil War battles brought with them a distinct cultural heritage not present in the breath-taking natural beauty of western national parks. The decision to design park buildings in the Colonial Revival style revealed a sensitivity to existing regional vernacular architecture and contributed to the interpretive goals and significance of the military sites. In contrast, eastern state park development continued to be influenced by rustic architectural design. Numerous examples of rest rooms, picnic shelters, bath houses and other state park facilities built of log and stone material exist. Stone fireplaces, bridges and walls are also typical.

Master Planning—By 1929, the NPS was advancing a service-wide planning process that would realize the goals of its design philosophy. The master planning process enabled park superintendents to formulate development strategies based on long range (6-year) plans that

would protect resources and accommodate anticipated visitation. When NPS involvement with state park development flourished in the 1930s, those design principles and practices were refined. As a result, NPS programs for master planning, design, and conservation greatly influenced the planning and development of state, county, and urban parks across the country.

The New Deal—Probably the most important influence in national and state park development came as a result of Roosevelt’s New Deal policies of 1933 designed to put the nation back to work. The President’s interest in land-use issues resulted in a program that would utilize submarginal lands for recreational purposes. In addition to reclaiming unused, unproductive land, the goal was to provide recreational facilities for lower-income groups, thus adding an important social and humanitarian value to the projects.

The New Deal provided the impetus for extensive park development nationwide. For the first time, NPS experience in comprehensive planning and development was utilized on a massive scale. NPS planning with state agencies resulted in the development of recreational parks known as Recreation Demonstration Areas (RDAs) that, once completed, were turned over to state park systems.

In some cases, RDAs were developed as extensions of national parks to provide the recreational outlets for visitors seeking those activities. Such arrangements would alleviate recreational pressures on national historic sites such as the Kings Mountain battleground.

Civilian Conservation Corps—Between 1933 and 1942, the NPS commissioned the Works Progress Administration (WPA) work force and the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) to develop national parks and RDAs. Construction of new roads, trails, and all recreational and administrative facilities at the Park and the South Carolina RDA was completed by CCC labor.

Kings Mountain National Military Park Master Plans (1938 and 1941)

Early development planning proposed the acquisition of 10,000 acres to enlarge the forty-acre Military Park and to develop an adjacent RDA. Between 1935 and 1940, 4,012 acres were acquired to preserve the battlefield, and 6,100 acres were acquired to establish the South Carolina RDA.

Two master plans were developed for the Park and the RDA. The RDA would provide recreational activities for visitors, while the National Military Park would be an historical/commemorative site. The 1938 Master Plan addressed general development of the battleground and the RDA. Two site plans, the “Roads and Trails Map” and the “Composite Map of Military Park and RDP Area” designated park boundaries and proposed development of trails, roads, and interpretative and administrative facilities. Existing components were indicated, such as Main Park Road (under construction) and the RDA’s lake and group camp.

The 1941 Master Plan provided more detail for park development in three drawings. The “Roads and Trails Map” proposed the relocation of a section of Main Park Road away from the base of Battleground Ridge. In addition, the “old Indian road or trail” (Colonial Road) was recommended for use as a fire road.

The “Historical Tour Map” concentrated on the development of a trail system around Battleground Ridge. Although the museum/administration building had already been completed, the plan proposed locations for a residence (superintendent’s residence) and a maintenance or service area (not constructed).

The “Composite Map of Military Park and RD Area” proposed that fire protection be coordinated between both parks. The drawing shows that Main Park Road was almost completed, as well as a second group camp.

Battleground Ridge—At the time of early NPS development, Kings Mountain Battleground, its slopes and the surrounding park land was recovering from timber cutting that had occurred around the turn of the century. Period photographs show a shrubby ridge top surrounded by young second-growth pine and hardwood trees along the mountain slopes. A panoramic view from the summit revealed old fields and recovering woods surrounding the mountain.

The Master Plans do not mention protecting historic views or maintaining the summit as an open landscape. Although the 1938 plan proposed restoring the battleground “to its condition at the time of the battle,” it appears that no attempt was made to understand what those conditions were. By 1944, the wooded slopes of Kings Mountain were encroaching onto the ridge top and impeding views of the surrounding landscape. A fire map drawn at that time illustrates a tree line surrounding the battleground is open space of approximately 350-feet wide by 1600-feet long.

A circulation system around the mountain was aligned with sections of roads and footpaths laid out for the 1930 sesquicentennial celebration. These included a footpath section near the Buck Hill Branch spring, a road alignment from Main Park Road up to the Centennial Monument, and a footpath from the Centennial Monument that continued beyond the U.S. Monument to Ferguson’s Grave. The Master Plan accommodated automobile access with an upper parking area near the Centennial Monument and a lower parking area across Main Park Road from the museum/administration building. Connected by a curving drive, both contained granite curbing and two- to four-foot stone walls. A temporary contact station (1938) was built near the upper parking area.

Reforestation program--Revegetation of old fields and pastures was proposed in 1936 and begun in 1938. CCC labor replanted pastures and fields of the Military Park and the RDA with native trees and shrubs. By 1941, 72,000 pine and hardwood seedlings had been planted in the old fields of former land owners. Some of these planted areas are visible in 1971 aerial photos as large patches of evergreen (pine), evident throughout the park landscape. The former land-use mix of open space and woodlands has been gradually transformed to the completely forested park landscape we see today.

Monuments and Markers--Commemoration of the Battle of Kings Mountain under NPS administration continued through the mid-twentieth century. In 1939, the Colonel Frederick Hambright marker, designating the place he was wounded during the battle, was placed by the

Colonel Frederick Hambright Chapter of the DAR. The Lieutenant Colonel James Hawthorne marker was erected 10 years later by the Kings Mountain Chapter. The increased protection of cultural resources granted by the NPS presence may have been the reason for the removal, by 1935, of the iron fences surrounding the Chronicle Marker and the Centennial Monument.

The Kings Mountain Battleground Marker, erected in 1931, was moved in 1941 from its location on the battleground. It now stands on Main Park Road near the Park's eastern boundary with Kings Mountain State Park.

Colonial Road—Colonial Road was used as an access road during the Park's development period but was recommended for obliteration after all construction projects were completed. It had also been designated a fire protection road in the KIMO-RDA Fire Control Plan (1938). At least parts of the road were released to natural succession, however, and not maintained. This is confirmed by later calls (1966) to reopen the historic trace.

Main Park Road—Main Park Road (1938) originally followed the alignment of the One Day Road, which traversed the southern boundary of the battlefield. By 1941, however, the section closest to the mountain was moved further south because it compromised the historic setting. The original alignment of the One Day Road was subsequently obliterated by native trees and shrubs. Swales lined with stone rubble, wide grassy shoulders, and concrete and metal pipe culverts (some with stone facing) were designed for the new road alignment.

Museum/Administration Building—Located across Main Park Road from the lower parking area, the museum/administration building (1941) was built in the Colonial Revival style. The structure followed a standardized design used by the NPS throughout the southeast region. It is a one-and-one-half-story structure with five bays, a rock-faced stone facade and a double-pitched, side-gable roof with a full-width front porch. Shortly after construction of the building, a flagstaff was added in the south yard. Flagstone walks join the entrance with the Main Park Road and outline the building footprint.

The museum/administration building and the superintendent's residence (see below) appear not to have been landscaped during this period. Archival research did turn up the 1940 "Headquarters Area Planting Plan," which specified native trees, shrubs and groundcovers, but few, if any, species were installed. Only two or three trees stand today in areas specified by the original plan. But as period photographs show no foundation or additional plantings, these trees may have been installed in the late 1940s or early 1950s. Only lawn grasses surrounding the structure appear to have been established during the historic period. Lawn grasses were also specified for the lower parking area islands that stood adjacent to Main Park Road. Current non-native foundation plantings and other nearby landscape specimens indicate that the existing plantings are of a later period, probably Mission 66.

Superintendent's Residence—The superintendent's residence, also Colonial Revival, was slow to completion due to the war effort. Character-defining features, however, were completed by 1941. Apart from the residence, it appears little else was completed, despite the additional features detailed in the 1940 "Headquarters Area Planting Plan." Proposed walkways from the

access road and around the north side of the residence were not installed. In addition, it is not clear if the existing graveled footpath from the museum/administration building is historic. The path generally follows the master plan design, but does not continue all the way to the superintendent's residence, as originally proposed.

Except for lawn grasses, all native species were proposed in the 1940 planting plan for the superintendent's residence. Front and rear lawns were established, but foundation plantings and species proposed to soften lawn edges were not installed. Existing foundation and surrounding species indicate a later planting period, probably Mission 66.

Maintenance Facilities—The Park did without maintenance/service facilities until 1952, when a utility area and service road were built south of the superintendent's residence, as specified in the 1941 Master Plan. An equipment storage building was constructed in 1953.

Amphitheater—The amphitheater (1939) was constructed within a pine grove that covered an area of favorable topography. Several of the trees were left standing in the seating area to provide shade. The amphitheater provided seating for 1,000 people and opened in 1939 on the 159th anniversary of the battle. Performances were given from a raised earthen platform planted in grass.

Vegetation proposed to be planted around the amphitheater included native azaleas, redbud, dogwood, red cedar, mountain laurel, black tupelo, shortleaf pine, oak, buckthorn, blackhaw, and vinca. Many of these species exist today.

Battlefield Commemoration—Celebration activities moved to the amphitheater once it was constructed. Community commemorations of the battle continued with historical pageants in the 1950s and 1960s, produced by the Kings Mountain Little Theater. The long tradition of commemorative celebration ended with a final pageant held for the nation's Bicentennial Celebration in 1976 and dramas given for the battle's 200th anniversary in 1980 and 1981.

South Carolina Recreation Development Area (RDA)—The RDA plan was ambitious and included roadways, hiking trails, two lakes, parking areas, a bathhouse, two group camps, and several picnic areas, totaling forty-four structures. The RDA was ceded to the State of South Carolina in 1944 and became Kings Mountain State Park.

CCC Camp SP-7—Initially, two camps were developed to house CCC laborers—the state park camp (SP-7) and the military park camp (MP-1). For reasons unknown, Camp MP-1 was closed in 1937. This left the men at SP-7 to complete the development of both the RDA and the Military Park.

SP-7 was built near the southeastern edge of the RDA. It began operation as early as 1934. In addition to sleeping quarters for the men, the camp consisted of a variety of structures including a dispensary, a school building, a front office, a radio room, a dark room, a barber shop, a recreation hall, tennis courts, and a headquarters building. Foundations for a bell tower were completed in 1937. Also that year, CCC rock masons built a circular fish pond complete with

water lilies and goldfish. Landscaping completed the development of the camp. Field observations (1997) indicate vinca, spirea, daffodils, and red cedar were some of the planting materials used.

CCC work ended on March 15, 1942, a result of declining enrollment and funding. Congressional reluctance to fund work projects amidst increasing war costs, and the growing attrition of laborers to join the armed services contributed to the situation.

Mission 66 Initiative

In 1955, President Dwight D. Eisenhower approved a ten-year program to bring national parks up to quality standards for the 50th anniversary (1966) of the NPS. At the Military Park, however, no master plan was completed; the only developments to occur as part of this initiative were two new park employee residences (1958), a residence road, landscaping, and new interpretive signs and markers.

Plant materials suggested in a landscape plan for the residences include sweetgum, blackgum, white oak, scarlet oak, American holly, eastern red cedar, redbud, dogwood, crabapple, Chinese and Japanese hollies, mountain laurel, native azaleas, and arrowwood viburnum. Because many of these species are present at the residences, it is assumed the plans were executed.

Period photos (1964) of the museum/administration building show foundation plantings of what appear to be American hollies, boxwood, and a low hedge (possibly Japanese holly) across the front facade. Since most of these species are documented as having been planted at the park residences, the extant plantings would appear to date from this period.

Management recommendations from the 1966 Master Plan include maintaining the “bare ridge top” in order to preserve the historic scene. Period photographs show the Park covered with emerging hardwood forest, twenty to thirty years of age.

Circulation—The 1966 Master Plan recognized Colonial Road as a “historic Indian trail” and proposed reopening it as part of the park trail system.

Bicentennial Celebration

In preparation for the nation’s bicentennial celebration, the needs of Revolutionary War parks were addressed in the NPS Bicentennial Development Plan. A new Master Plan (1974) was prepared by the Eastern Service Center, proposing improvements for the Park’s existing facilities and the construction of a new visitors center.

Structures—The 1974 Master Plan proposed a 7,000 square-foot visitor center (1975) and parking for one hundred vehicles to be built in the vicinity of the amphitheater. The old administration building would become the park headquarters. To test the stone work proposed for the visitors center walkway, a small five- by fifteen-foot bluestone patio with adjoining granite walls and steps was built on the west side of the park headquarters building. These features remain extant.

Proposed renovations to the amphitheater included the addition of a projection building to the platform, reorganized seating to include two aisles instead of the original one, and removal of the pine trees in the seating area. The grassy ground cover was first replaced with gravel, and later asphalt, apparently to address an erosion problem.

The 1974 Master Plan also proposed protection and interpretation of the CCC SP-7 camp, located in Kings Mountain State Park. These recommendations were not heeded and the ruins lie hidden today by successional hardwood and pine.

Circulation—A 1975 reenactment of the mountainmen's march gave rise to this historic route's inclusion in a national trail system in 1980. The 292-mile Overmountain Victory Trail extends from Virginia and Tennessee into North Carolina and South Carolina, ending at Kings Mountain battleground. A portion of the trail is marched every October to celebrate the battle victory. In addition to the historic trace, sixteen miles of hiking trails and ten miles of horse trails were proposed to connect the national and state parks.

The 1974 Master Plan altered vehicular circulation on the battleground. The upper parking area near the Centennial Monument was removed and the road leading to it obliterated. A revised trail system brought visitors to the battleground on foot via Colonial Road, from the new Visitor Center. The lower parking area was retained for park headquarters parking and an L-shaped flagstone plaza replaced the old access road connection to Main Park Road.

Vegetation—Native species planted to eliminate the road to the upper parking included oak, dogwood, sweetgum, and mountain laurel. New plantings installed around the park headquarters included dogwood, American holly, sweetgum, mountain laurel, oak, hickory, and red maple. Additional species planted as part of the amphitheater renovations were dogwood, sweetgum, American holly, oak, yellow poplar, and red maple. Many of these species survive today.

Existing Conditions

Vegetation--The Park consists primarily of second growth hardwood vegetation with some pine on higher slopes. The battleground ridge top has an open ground layer of exotic grasses but is almost completely closed by adjacent tree canopy. A small opening exists near the Centennial Monument and a slightly larger one at the U.S. Monument. Areas of the battleground and Park are periodically treated with herbicides to control exotic species such as honeysuckle, privet, multi-flora rose, and wisteria.

The Park removes fallen and hazardous standing trees when necessary. The periodic shoring of the embankments of Buck Hill Branch is also necessary to prevent undercutting of the trail. Mowing occurs along shoulders of Main Park Road and around all park facilities where exotic grasses have been established. The periodic cleaning and repointing of monuments and markers occurs on a regular basis.

Although several springs feed into Buck Hill Branch today, one located at the western base of Kings Mountain's steep incline is the logical site of the post-battle use. Initial data from archeological investigations (1999) are presently inconclusive, but the proximity of this spring to

the battleground suggests its plausibility.

Viewshed--Historic views from Battleground Ridge have been lost due to the encroachment of hardwood trees along the upper slopes and ridge top. Some natural open understory exists along the southwestern slopes of the battleground, but sight distances elsewhere are impeded by shrubby vegetation. Efforts by park management to restore historic sight distances have resulted in partial clearing of the understory vegetation on slopes east of the Centennial Monument.

Circulation-- Colonial Road is protected as an historic trace and is maintained by annual bush-hogging. A small segment of the historic trace is not maintained and second-growth hardwood trees now grow within the road bed. This portion is visible from Main Park Road from the western entrance to the historic Yorkville-Shelbyville Road. Colonial Road and Ferguson's grave are the only known landscape features existing from the period of the battle.

Evidence of a second trace, turning south off of Colonial Road at the northeast base of Battleground Ridge, indicates a route by which Ferguson, his troops, and baggage train, may have ascended the mountain. A study of the area's existing topography suggests it may have been used during the 1880 Centennial Celebration when a speaker's stand stood in the same ravine. The route was used again in 1930 as a Sesquicentennial Celebration path to Ferguson's Grave.

Battleground Trail, an interpretive trail leading to the ridge top, has been asphalted and is periodically resealed. Some erosion is evident along parts of the trail and on side paths to commemorative stone markers.

No additional pedestrian or vehicular circulation has been constructed since the Mission 66 Initiative. The Park coordinates the monitoring of hiking and riding trails with the Kings Mountain State Park authorities.

Archeology—Investigations in 1974 mapped the location of Colonial Road within the park. An additional trace, not investigated, was found at the foot of the northeast end of Battleground Ridge near the two Chronicle Markers. No mass burial sites were found, including the area of the Chronicle Marker.

Preliminary findings of research conducted in February 1999 point to the location of battle lines on the lower shoulder of land east of Battleground Ridge. Additional investigations at one of Buck Hill Branch's springs did not reveal any 18th-century artifacts.

Commemorative Activities—The Park celebrates the battle victory annually with several activities. Each October, individuals in period dress march the final leg of the Overmountain Victory Trail. Visitors witness a period encampment with displays of pioneer skills and ways of life. A wreath-laying event also occurs at the U.S. Monument. Activities in the amphitheater include the annual celebration and seasonal evening programs.

Surrounding Land Use—Currently, the Park is surrounded by rural farms. Small commercial properties occur along the east and west approach roads. Population density is low to moderate and visitors enjoy a fairly rural experience as they approach the Park. Nevertheless, increased growth along the I-85 corridor is one of the Park's concerns. The lack of zoning regulations in Cherokee County and the growth of Charlotte's Mecklenburg and adjacent Gaston and Cleveland Counties, North Carolina, are spilling into surrounding areas. Cleveland County currently has no zoning laws. Growing development pressure may compromise historic viewsheds and introduce incompatible land use.



Fig. 15. Photo of CCC Structure in Kings Mountain State Park.



Fig. 16. Kings Mountain National Military Park and the South Carolina RDA (1942).



Fig. 17. Museum/Administration Building, c. 1940.

Analysis & Evaluation of Integrity

Analysis and Evaluation of Integrity Narrative Summary:

Location

Battle Landscape--Battleground Ridge is the site of the Battle of Kings Mountain. Buck Hill Branch, Colonial Road, and areas defined by archeology are included in the boundaries of this period of significance. The striking topography of the battleground's sixty-foot rise above the surrounding countryside has not been altered, nor have Buck Hill Branch and its springs near the battleground slopes. Colonial Road has not been altered along most of its route through the Park. Original segments can be perceived today along Main Park Road where parts of the historic road alignment run parallel. Colonial Road detours from the paved road and continues along its original course toward Battleground Ridge. Here it runs through Hambright's Gap and by the Visitor Center as an unpaved trace, revealing original ruts and embankments through the woodlands. The absence of a known route where the Loyalists left the Colonial Road to ascend the battleground compromises circulation. How Ferguson reached the ridge top is an important part of the battle story, but is not interpreted because the route is currently unknown.

Commemorative Landscape—This landscape is defined by the forty-acre tract purchased by the KMCA in 1880, and includes Battleground Ridge and the Chronicle Markers. It is the site of several privately-sponsored commemorative events, beginning as early as 1815 and culminating with the Sesquicentennial Celebration in 1930. Over a period of approximately 115 years the battle gained in recognition from a local celebration to a national event attracting more than 75,000 people to the site. Two monuments and fourteen stone markers commemorate the brave men who fought there. Only one marker, the 1931 Battleground Marker, has lost its integrity of location, having been removed from the battleground and placed alongside Main Park Road near the state park boundary. Other features expressing integrity of location include the ridge trail and a part of the lower trail that follow alignments developed for the Sesquicentennial Celebration.

NPS Park Development Landscape—Early NPS development is evident in several landscape features extending to the existing park boundaries. Main Park Road remains in its original location, and original culverts and swales can be observed. The superintendent's residence, the lower parking area, administration building and amphitheater continue functioning in the same places. Some compromise to integrity has occurred with the loss of the upper parking area, roadway, and associated granite curbs and walls.

Design

Commemorative Landscape—The Centennial Monument and individual stone markers exemplify the design styles of American Post-Civil War memorial architecture. The stone shaft was a common form used for commemorative monuments and the U.S. Monument, designed by the New York architectural firm McKim, Mead, and White, is a fine example of its type. The firm is recognized today as being extremely influential in establishing beaux-arts Classicism in the United States.

NPS Park Development Landscape—Main Park Road, the park headquarters (formerly the museum/administration building), the lower parking area, and the superintendent's residence represent early NPS design philosophy. Although the removal of the upper parking and access road compromise integrity, other park features of this period strongly reinforce the original site plan. In addition, structures such as the park headquarters and the superintendent's residence reflect the region's Colonial Revival style of architecture.

The amphitheater has been altered since its original construction in 1939. The addition of a projection building, reorganization of the seating design, and removal of the pine trees compromise this feature's integrity of design.

Setting

Battle Landscape—Historic integrity is strongly represented in the physical environment of the battleground and surrounding area. The topography of the mountain, existing springs and creek, wooded slopes and surrounding terrain effectively convey the historic setting of the Battle of Kings Mountain. Loss of historic views to and from Battleground Ridge, however, impact integrity of setting in this cultural landscape. Resulting from suppression of natural and man-made fire, mature hardwoods now stand atop Battleground Ridge and impede views of the surrounding terrain. Small clearings around the Centennial Monument and the U.S. Monument are still maintained but the lack of open views compromises integrity. Ferguson's choice of this mountain was certainly influenced by the advantage of open views from the ridge top. American Patriots, also, were able to see the Loyalists on top of Kings Mountain from one quarter mile away. These aspects were important contributors to the setting of the battle landscape. In addition, the open understory of historical accounts is only partly represented today on Battleground Ridge. Some understory clearing by the park staff has occurred in sections of the southeastern slopes and visibility in the understory is good along the more gradual southwestern slopes. However, the rest of the mountain has steep sides and very short sight distances due to dense understory vegetation. Colonial Road retains strong integrity of setting. It runs along its original route and is surrounded by second growth hardwood. Although a section of the trace, parallel to Main Park Road, is currently covered in hardwood trees and not maintained, the road cut and alignment are still visible.

NPS Park Development Landscape—The NPS set aside 4,012 acres of property to protect and interpret the Battle of Kings Mountain. Integrity of setting for the NPS early development period is evident in that surviving period features (buildings, lower parking area and Main Park Road) continue to reveal the historic plan. Although vegetation has encroached on the open spaces surrounding the park headquarters and superintendent's residence, these changes do not diminish integrity. In addition, it can be argued that today's wooded canopy over Main Park Road is a result of NPS original design intent. The amphitheater has been altered the most from its original design. Compromises include the addition of a large projection building (c.1975) that now dominates the site. Audience seating was redesigned from two to three sections and the original vegetation, pine trees and grass, was removed and replaced with asphalt. These impacts to integrity of setting are mitigated by unchanged topography and the surrounding hardwood and broadleaf evergreen vegetation.

Materials

Commemorative Landscape—Materials used during the commemorative period are evident in the stone markers and monuments. All retain their original fabric.

NPS Park Development Landscape—Many of the structural features of this period contain original materials constructed by CCC labor. These include the stone work of Main Park Road's culverts and swales, the lower parking areas' stone walls and curbs, and the park headquarters' stone facade, slate roof, and stone walkways. Materials used in the construction of the superintendent's residence are extant.

The amphitheater has suffered loss of original fabric with the removal of original seating and vegetation. Also, the original stonework of the upper parking and drive was lost when these features were removed in the 1970s.

Workmanship

Commemorative Landscape—Nineteenth-century and early- twentieth-century workmanship is evident in granite and marble slabs, stones, or obelisks, as well as the carved inscriptions and bronze placards.

NPS Park Development Landscape—Integrity of CCC workmanship is evident in Main Park Road, including its alignment, swales, drainage features and road cuts. Period workmanship is also found in the park headquarters' stone masonry, its flagstone walkways, and the lower parking area walls. The architecture of the superintendent's residence also reflects the workmanship of this period.

Feeling

Battle Landscape—Existing woodlands, Colonial Road, and the unchanged topography of the battlefield strongly evoke the day the battle was fought. Compromise to integrity is due to the lack of an open ridge top that made sighting of the enemy so easy for the Patriots as they fought their way up the mountain slopes. Lost, too, are the historic views from the ridge top, a likely factor in Ferguson's choice as a battleground. A third factor diminishing integrity of feeling is the unknown location of Ferguson's route to the ridge top.

Commemorative Landscape—The integrity of feeling of the commemorative period is expressed through the numerous markers and monuments that are found throughout the battleground. The location, materials, design, and workmanship of these features contribute to one's sense of the past. These monuments are permanent reminders of the period of American history when local, regional and national efforts were made to commemorate American battles and the men who fought in them.

NPS Park Development Landscape—The sense of the past one feels among the designed features of the NPS development period emanates from their integrity of workmanship, setting, location and

design.

Association

Battle Landscape—Battleground Ridge embodies integrity of location (where the battle took place). But more importantly, its association with the past is expressed through the woodland setting, the steep topography, Colonial Road, and Buck Hill Creek and springs, which illustrate the story of the 1780 battle. The loss of historic views, however, compromises the associative values of this important landscape. Visitors are unable to orient themselves because the mountain is not visible from any point in the Park. In addition, those who hike the interpretive trail to Battleground Ridge still have difficulty comprehending this feature's geographical prominence in the local landscape because all views from the ridge top are impeded by canopy trees. Although interpretative efforts to explain the battle events have been successful, visitors may find it difficult to associate a landscape feature they cannot fully see with the historical events that occurred there.

Commemorative Landscape—Several of the commemorative activities celebrating the Battle of Kings Mountain occurred here, resulting in the placement of memorial markers and monuments. The site's integrity of location, materials, workmanship, and feeling strongly reinforce its association with the past.

NPS Park Development Landscape—The landscape features associated with the NPS early development period have integrity of location, design, materials, workmanship, setting, and feeling. Combined, these features express strong association with the early period of NPS development.

Summary

Kings Mountain National Military Park strongly conveys the significance of three historic periods. They are the October 7, 1780 Battle of Kings Mountain, the private commemorative period (1815-1931), and the NPS Park Development Era (1933-1941).

Battle Landscape—The cultural landscape of the Battle of Kings Mountain conveys its significance in several aspects of integrity. Battleground Ridge is the site of the battle (location). Existing vegetation, topography, Colonial Road, and Buck Hill branch and springs strongly illustrate the landscape at the time of the battle (setting). These physical features convey the area's geographical character, Kings Mountain's choice as a fighting ground, and the Patriot's tactical advantage (setting, feeling and association). However, the loss of historic views to and from Battleground Ridge has a negative impact on the important associative values of the cultural landscape. Another important feature still unknown is the location of the road trace leading to the top of battleground ridge. The future identification of this feature would further enhance the integrity of the battlefield landscape.

Commemorative Landscape—The 120 years that followed the Battle of Kings Mountain were filled with a series of private citizen-inspired commemorative events honoring the men who fought and died there. Recognition grew from local to national celebrations, each leaving behind numerous monuments that reveal the importance of this place and its period in American history. Integrity of location,

materials, workmanship, feeling, and association contribute to clearly convey the significance of the commemorative period of this cultural landscape.

NPS Park Development Landscape—Early NPS development is evident in the design, materials, workmanship, location, and setting of this cultural landscape. Combined, these aspects express a strong association with the Military Park’s historic master plans and the early design philosophy of the National Park Service.

Landscape Characteristic:

Natural Systems and Features

Topography relates to the three-dimensional configuration of the landscape surface characterized by features such as slope, and elevation

Topography played a significant role in the Battle of Kings Mountain, with the cleared, treeless ridge being secured by the Loyalists as a presumed safe location, but ultimately working against them during the attack by the Patriot troops. The steep slopes and narrow ridge were key factors in the Patriot victory. Even though the vegetation pattern has changed over the years, that actual landform remains and is a contributing landscape element to the Kings Mountain Battlefield.

Character-defining Features:

Feature:	Kings Mountain battlefield
Feature Identification Number:	141390
Type of Feature Contribution:	Contributing

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:



View along trail at the top of the ridge

Circulation

Circulation patterns in the park span all periods of significance. Some roads predate the time of battle, and relate to the areas rural development. Battleground Road has a direct association with the Battle of Kings Mountain. The trail system was initially begun during the late commemorative period, and was finalized in the early years of NPS ownership, around the same time that the Main Park Road and headquarters parking area were built. The Visitor Center parking lot post-dates the period of significance.

- Battleground Road -- Built 1774 – 1775. Altered 1938 – 1942. This approximately 20'-wide road segment, with 3'-4' embankment in areas, forks from Main Park Drive and then proceeds southeast toward the battlefield. It is considerably overgrown. The south embankment was altered by construction of Main Park Rd. This road trace contributes to the national significance of the Kings Mountain battle under National Register Criterion A. It is the only road within the park used by both Loyalist and Patriot forces to reach the battlefield.

- Yorkville- Shelbyville Road -- Built 1780 – 1827. Altered 1938 – 1941. Approx. 27' wide, dirt and gravel road traverses park for 3.2 miles on E-W axis. Minimally maintained between Stone House Rd. and Main Park Dr. as a fire road; east of Main Park Dr. to Love Valley Rd. is open to public with a gravel surface. This road is locally significant under National Register Criterion A for its association with early settlement of the Kings Mountain area. It is associated with residents such as Henry Howser and the Morris-Norman family

- Howser Road - This 12' to 16'-wide gravel-surfaced road runs in an east-west direction from Main Park Road to Stone House Road west of the Howser House. It formerly was part of the Yorkville-Shelbyville Road. It was rehabilitated in the early 1990s with routine spreading of sand on the road. This road, at one time designated part of the Yorkville-Shelbyville Road, is locally significant under National Register Criterion A for its association with Henry Howser and the early settlement of the area.
- Stone House Road – Built 1808-1927. Also known as Dillingham Road during the 1920s. This road trace is located to the south and west of the Howser House leading to the western boundary of the park. It is locally significant under National Register Criterion A for its associations with early settlement of the Kings Mountain area.
- Main Park Road -- Built 1937 – 1941. Built with CCC labor & paved by NPS, road has 20' of pavement within a 30' graded width. Grassed shoulders with 3' - 5' cuts. Some stone gutters near VC; granite curbing & stone culverts mark the road. Replaced parts of Battleground & One-Day roads. This road is locally significant under National Register Criterion C as a representative feature of NPS-designed landscapes conceived and constructed during the period of park development, 1932-1942.
- Kings Mtn. NMP Headquarters Parking Lot -- Built 1940 -1943. The 170' x 45' parking area is located across Main Park Drive from the Administration Building and features low stone walls and drains on the north and east sides. The south end features an L-shaped flagstone walk. The parking area is locally significant under National Register Criterion C as part of the designed landscape associated with the Administration Building and constructed during the period of park development from 1933 to 1942.

Character-defining Features:

Feature: Visitor Center parking lot

Feature Identification Number: 141392

Type of Feature Contribution: Non Contributing

Feature: Battleground Road

Feature Identification Number: 135494

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

IDLCS Number: 12253

LCS Structure Name: Battleground Road

LCS Structure Number: HS-12

Feature: Yorkville- Shelbyville Road

Feature Identification Number: 135492

Type of Feature Contribution:	Contributing
IDLCS Number:	12252
LCS Structure Name:	Yorkville-Shelbyville Road
LCS Structure Number:	HS-11
Feature:	Main Park Road
Feature Identification Number:	135496
Type of Feature Contribution:	Contributing
IDLCS Number:	90157
LCS Structure Name:	Main Park Road
LCS Structure Number:	HS-22
Feature:	Howser Road
Feature Identification Number:	135498
Type of Feature Contribution:	Contributing
IDLCS Number:	90159
LCS Structure Name:	Howser Road
LCS Structure Number:	HS-24
Feature:	Kings Mtn. NMP headquarters parking lot
Feature Identification Number:	135500
Type of Feature Contribution:	Contributing
IDLCS Number:	90165
LCS Structure Name:	Kings Mountain NMP Headquarters Parking Lot
LCS Structure Number:	HS-30
Feature:	Battleground Pedestrian Trail (1930;1939
Feature Identification Number:	141388
Type of Feature Contribution:	Contributing

Buildings and Structures

Several buildings at the park are listed in the LCS and contribute to the significant period of NPS Park Development and the two farmstead component landscapes.

- Superintendent's Residence -- 1940 - 1941. NPS/WPA. The 52' x 34' Superintendent's Residence is a 1-1/2-story, 3-bay, double-pile Colonial Revival house with a one-story side ell.

The steep side-gabled roof features 3 gabled front dormers & two more joined by a shed-roofed dormer at rear.

- Administration Building -- 1940 -1941. NPS/WPA. The 57' x 61' Administration Building is a T-plan, 1-1/2-story, five-bay structure with a double-pitched gable roof and a full-width front porch. Walls are of coursed, rusticated, load-bearing masonry; building has an interior gable-end chimney.

- Henry Howser House -- Built in 1803. Altered in 1900 - 1905. Restored in 1976 – 1977. Preserved in 1989 - 1991. A 31' x 27', two-story, three-bay, double-pile stone house set on a raised basement. The wood-shingled side-gable roof is flanked by two interior gable-end chimneys. The symmetrical exterior belies a more traditional German floor plan.

- Howser Terraces -- Series of 3 terraces running north-south between Kings Creek & the rear of the Howser House. The terraces were built between 1880 and 1920. Uppermost terrace is approx. 70' long, rectilinear, with a 3' high stone wall. Lower terraces are 500-600' long, curvilinear, without supporting stone walls.

- Mary Norman Morris House -- Built 1902. Altered 1968 – 1972. A 1-story, 3-bay, single-pile frame dwelling with central passage plan, side-gable roof, & rear ell. Two brick & stone gable-end chimneys, additions at rear, & a 3/4-width front porch. Mostly original materials; NPS altered interior walls & ceiling.

- Morris Norman Shed -- Built 1930 – 1950. A 14' x 16' one-story, gable-front frame shed with flush horizontal wood siding. Shed rests on stone piers and has roof clad with sheet metal. The doors are vertical plank, and the three windows are six-light fixed casements.

Character-defining Features:

Feature: Superintendent's Residence

Feature Identification Number: 135482

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

IDLCS Number: 90163

LCS Structure Name: Superintendent's Residence

LCS Structure Number: HS-28

Feature: Administration Building

Feature Identification Number: 135484

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

IDLCS Number: 90164

LCS Structure Name: Administration Building

LCS Structure Number: HS-29

Feature: Henry Howser House

Feature Identification Number: 135486

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

IDLCS Number: 12243

LCS Structure Name: Howser, Henry, House

LCS Structure Number: HS-02

Feature: Howser Terraces

Feature Identification Number: 141368

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

IDLCS Number: 90161

LCS Structure Name: Howser Terraces

LCS Structure Number: HS-26

Feature: Goforth Morris Noman House

Feature Identification Number: 135488

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

IDLCS Number: 12254

LCS Structure Name: Morris, Mary (Norman), House

LCS Structure Number: HS-13

Feature: Goforth Morris Norman Shed

Feature Identification Number: 135490

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

IDLCS Number: 90162

LCS Structure Name: Morris (Norman) Shed

LCS Structure Number: HS-27

Feature: Amphitheater, 1939

Feature Identification Number: 141376

Type of Feature Contribution: Non Contributing

Feature: Maintenance Facility, 1950-1960

Feature Identification Number: 141382

Type of Feature Contribution: Non Contributing

Feature: Staff Quarters, 1955-1965

Feature Identification Number: 141384

Type of Feature Contribution: Non Contributing

Feature: Visitors Center, c. 1975

Feature Identification Number: 141386

Type of Feature Contribution: Non Contributing

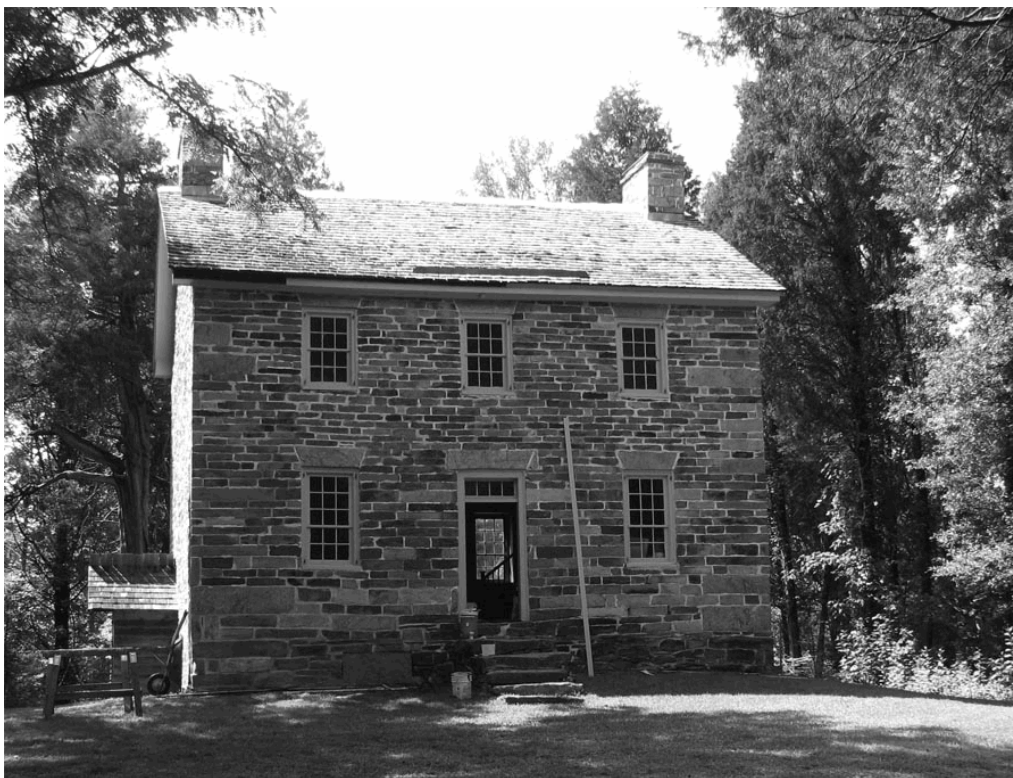
Landscape Characteristic Graphics:



Superintendent's Residence



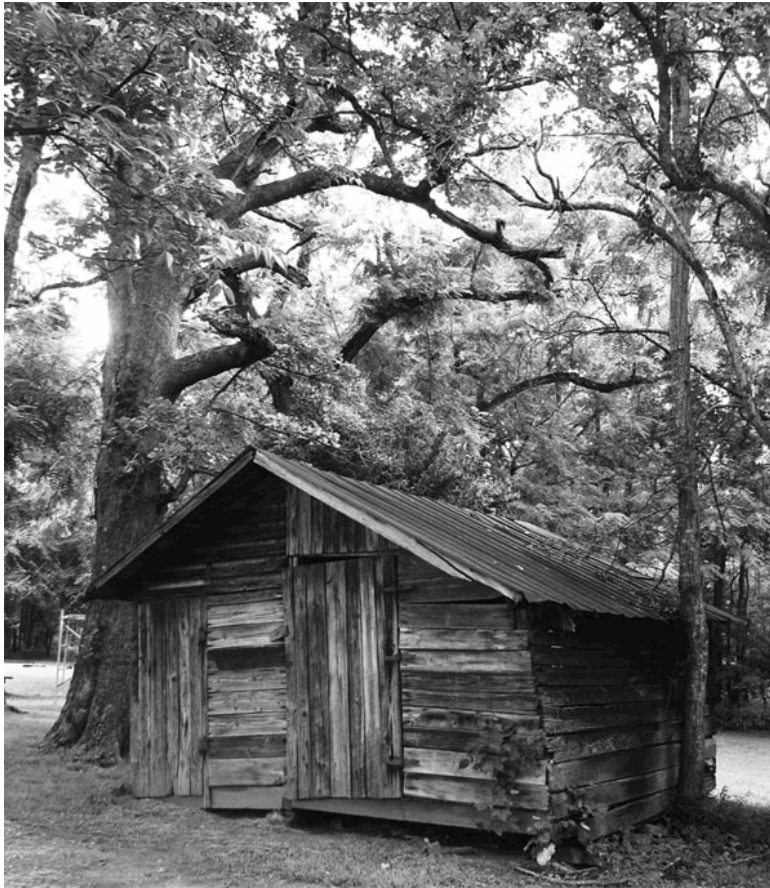
Administration Building



Howser House



Goforth Morris Norman House



Goforth Morris Norman Shed

Small Scale Features

A number of monuments and markers from the commemorative era are found on the property:

- Centennial Monument -- The Kings Mountain Centennial Association (KMCA) erected the monument to celebrate the centennial during a three day dedication ceremony that began on October 5, 1880. The Centennial Monument is a 28' four-sided, gray granite shaft with the base being composed of five reticulated granite steps and is located at the southwestern end of the Battleground Ridge where the first shots of the battle were fired. The shaft is divided into three sections and tapers toward the capstone. Each side contains an inscribed marble tablet. The monument was rehabilitated in 1934 and preserved in 1951 and 1988.
- U.S. Monument -- The U.S. Monument was established by Congressional Act on June 16, 1906, to honor the men who fought at the Battle of Kings Mountain. The New York firm of McKim, Mead, & White was selected to design the monument. The monument is located at the northeastern end of Battleground Ridge where American Loyalists surrendered to a victorious American Patriot force. The U.S. Monument is an eight-three foot hollow-brick obelisk faced with white marble. The monument has a two-step base; a bronze tablet & low-relief frieze on

each of four sides. The U.S. Monument was completed in 1910 and preservation work was carried out in 1941, 1957, and 1993. In 1957, sandblasting significantly damaged friezes on north and east. According to 2002 survey, the monument is missing a bolt cap on the east and north plaques. Staining is also present on the base. At the time of its completion, the monument was surrounded by a high iron fence but the fence was removed between 1936 and 1941.

- Ferguson Fell Marker -- A stone pillar, erected in 1909 before the centennial ceremony, by Major White to mark the site where Major Ferguson fell during battle. The marker is a 2' x 3.5' x 1' granite pillar with a rock-faced shaft and a beveled face (approx. 1.5' x 9") inscribed: "Here/Col. Ferguson/Fell/Oct. 7, 1780." The marker's beveled face has been vandalized and the trail asphalt nearly abuts marker.

- Old Ferguson Grave marker and cairn -- The cairn consists of a 21' x 17' x 3' stone rubble mound located behind a 1930 granite marker. Original granite marker lies at northeast end of the cairn with only its inscribed beveled face exposed: "Here/Col. Ferguson/Was/Burried." The marker was built in 1909.

- Old Chronicle Grave Marker -- A slate stone tablet placed by Dr. William McLean as part of the 1815 commemoration. The marker supposedly stood at the graves of Major William Chronicle, Captain John Mattocks, and Privates William Robb and John Boyd of the Lincoln County Militia. A memorial to Major Ferguson was inscribed on the opposite side. This is a badly damaged 2' x 1' x 3' marker with weathered inscriptions on the north face. The marker faces north away from the asphalt battlefield trail, across from the DAR marker and west of the New Chronicle marker.

- New Chronicle Grave Marker -- In 1914, a "new" Chronicle Marker was erected adjacent to the Old Chronicle Grave Marker, which had been severely vandalized. The New Chronicle Grave Marker is a 2.5' x 1.5' x 3.5' granite marker has a smooth, inscribed face and rock-faced sides and back. It is set in a concrete foundation along the asphalt battlefield trail facing south. The Old Chronicle marker is west and the DAR marker is south. To prevent further abuse, the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR), in the name of the KMCBA (Kings Mountain Centennial Battlefield Association), installed wrought iron fences to enclose the new and old Chronicle and the Centennial Monument. The wrought iron fences were removed in 1935.

- Kings Mountain Battleground Marker DAR -- The DAR erected the marker in 1931 to celebrate the historic battle event. A 4' x 5' x 1' uncut granite boulder with a 3' x 10" bronze plaque inscribed: "Kings Mountain Battleground/York County/South Carolina/Marked by Kings Mountain Chapter D.A.R." The marker currently faces south toward Main Park Drive at park boundary and it was moved in 1940 – 1942. The marker is considered non-contributing because it was moved from the battlefield to another location in the park and consequently lacks integrity.

- President Hoover Marker -- Erected in 1931 by the DAR, this marker identified the place

where President Hoover stood while giving his speech during the Sesquicentennial Celebration. This marker is a 5' x 1' x 4' uncut granite stone with a 12" x 19" bronze plaque that is located on a wooded rise east of the loop trail and west of the battleground ridge.

- Chronicle Fell Marker -- In 1925, the William Gaston Chapter of the DAR, organized in February 1913 in Gastonia, North Carolina, erected the Chronicle Fell marker opposite the trail from the Old Chronicle Grave Marker placed by Dr. McLean. This marker typifies the DAR markers at the battlefield. A 3.5' uncut, approximately conical granite marker with a bronze plaque on concrete base. Marker is sited on a dais with a coursed, terraced granite retaining wall & faces NE toward the battlefield trail. One of 3 Chronicle markers at foot of trail.

- Col. Asbury Coward Marker -- In 1931, this marker was erected to honor the founder and first president of the KMCA, Col. Asbury Coward. This is a 2' x 2' x 2' uncut granite marker with a 19" x 15" bronze plaque that commemorates the Kings Mountain Centennial Association leader. The marker faces north and is located on the south side of the trail, east of the Centennial Monument.

- Lt. Col. James Hawthorn Marker -- A 2.5' x 9" x 4' granite boulder with a 2' x 1.5' cast bronze plaque (affixed by bolts & caulking) erected by the Kings Mountain DAR Chapter in 1949 to honor a battle commander. Marker is located approx. 60' east of U.S. Monument on north side of the trail.

- Col. Frederick Hambright Marker -- Erected in 1939 by the Colonel Frederick Hambright Chapter of the DAR. A 5' x 2' x 4' trapezoidal stone marker with a 1.5' x 1' bronze plaque. Stone is set on a roughly coursed stone base with rude mortar joints. Stone and plaque damaged by vandals. Marker is approx. 100' north of Ferguson Fell marker off main trail.

- Stone-lined Gutters -- The swales, lined with stone rubble, were built by the CCC from 1937 to 1941. Swales are located adjacent and parallel to Main Park Drive beginning just north of the VC and continuing through the state park. The swales, which vary in length, are approx. 2.5'-wide shallow concave structures with square concrete & metal drains.

- Col. Patrick Ferguson Memorial Marker -- This 3' x 1' x 6.5' pink granite marker in the form of a pointed arch has rock-faced sides and an inscribed and polished face. The stone faces south toward an asphalt trail. The rock cairn and original Ferguson grave marker are behind it. This stone prominently marks Ferguson's grave and was a gesture of reconciliation from local citizens to the U.K.

- Gordon Cemetery headstones -- Three mid-19th-century headstones located in a rural cemetery measuring 52' x 45' with twelve identifiable graves. Five are marked with fieldstones, and four are identified by depressions in the earth.

- Howser Cemetery headstones -- Approx. 8-10 marble & granite early- & mid-19th-c.

headstones in a cemetery that includes graves of Henry Howser & his family. Numerous other graves identified by soil depressions and fieldstones. Some depressions filled and stones righted in 1989.

- Stone Headwalls (culverts) -- Culvert headwalls were constructed by the CCC between 1937 – 1941. The headwalls consist of rough-hewn coursed stone set around metal and concrete pipes and measure approximately 3'-4' wide and 2'-4' tall. They are located along Main Park Road but are not visible from the road.

- Administration Building flagstaff -- The flagstaff is an approximately 35' tall, freestanding metal pole that tapers toward the top. It is located approximately 25' southeast of the Administration Building. The flagstaff was built in 1941 for the NPS with labor provided by the CCC.

Character-defining Features:

Feature: Howser Outbuilding Sites

Feature Identification Number: 141372

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Aluminum Trail Benches

Feature Identification Number: 141374

Type of Feature Contribution: Non Contributing

Feature: Centennial Monument

Feature Identification Number: 135442

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

IDLCS Number: 12246

LCS Structure Name: Centennial Monument

LCS Structure Number: HS-05

Feature: U.S. Monument

Feature Identification Number: 135444

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

IDLCS Number: 12247

LCS Structure Name: U.S. Monument

LCS Structure Number: HS-06

Feature: Ferguson Fell Marker

Feature Identification Number: 135446
Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing
IDLCS Number: 12248
LCS Structure Name: "Ferguson Fell" Marker
LCS Structure Number: HS-07

Feature: Old Ferguson Grave marker and cairn
Feature Identification Number: 135448
Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing
IDLCS Number: 12249
LCS Structure Name: Old Ferguson Grave Marker and Cairn
LCS Structure Number: HS-08

Feature: Old Chronicle Grave Marker
Feature Identification Number: 135450
Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing
IDLCS Number: 12250
LCS Structure Name: Old Chronicle Grave Marker
LCS Structure Number: HS-09

Feature: New Chronicle Grave Marker
Feature Identification Number: 135452
Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing
IDLCS Number: 12251
LCS Structure Name: New Chronicle Grave Marker
LCS Structure Number: HS-10

Feature: Kings Mountain Battleground Marker DAR
Feature Identification Number: 135454
Type of Feature Contribution: Non Contributing
IDLCS Number: 17103
LCS Structure Name: Kings Mountain Battleground Marker (DAR)
LCS Structure Number: HS-15

Feature: President Hoover Marker

Feature Identification Number: 135456

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

IDLCS Number: 17105

LCS Structure Name: President Hoover Marker

LCS Structure Number: HS-17

Feature: Chronicle Fell Marker

Feature Identification Number: 135458

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

IDLCS Number: 17106

LCS Structure Name: Chronicle Fell Marker

LCS Structure Number: HS-18

Feature: Col. Asbury Coward Marker

Feature Identification Number: 135460

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

IDLCS Number: 17107

LCS Structure Name: Colonel Asbury Coward Marker

LCS Structure Number: HS-19

Feature: Lt. Col. James Hawthorn Marker

Feature Identification Number: 135462

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

IDLCS Number: 17108

LCS Structure Name: Lieutenant Colonel James Hawthorn Marker

LCS Structure Number: HS-20

Feature: Col. Frederick Hambright Marker

Feature Identification Number: 135464

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

IDLCS Number: 17109

LCS Structure Name: Colonel Frederick Hambright Marker

LCS Structure Number: HS-21

Feature: Stone Rubble Swales

Feature Identification Number: 135466

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

IDLCS Number: 90158

LCS Structure Name: Stone Rubble Swales

LCS Structure Number: HS-23

Feature: Col. Patrick Ferguson Memorial Marker

Feature Identification Number: 135468

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

IDLCS Number: 90160

LCS Structure Name: Colonel Patrick Ferguson Memorial Marker

LCS Structure Number: HS-25

Feature: Howser Terraces

Feature Identification Number: 135470

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

IDLCS Number: 90161

LCS Structure Name: Howser Terraces

LCS Structure Number: HS-26

Feature: Gordon Cemetery headstones

Feature Identification Number: 135472

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

IDLCS Number: 90217

LCS Structure Name: Gordon Cemetery Headstones

LCS Structure Number: HS-14

Feature: Howser Cemetery headstones

Feature Identification Number: 135474

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

IDLCS Number: 90218

LCS Structure Name: Howser Cemetery Headstones

LCS Structure Number: HS-04

Feature: Stone Headwalls (culverts)

Feature Identification Number: 135478

Type of Feature Contribution: Undetermined

IDLCS Number: 90219

LCS Structure Name: Stone Headwalls (Culverts)

LCS Structure Number: HS-31

Feature: Administration Building flagstaff

Feature Identification Number: 135480

Type of Feature Contribution: Undetermined

IDLCS Number: 90220

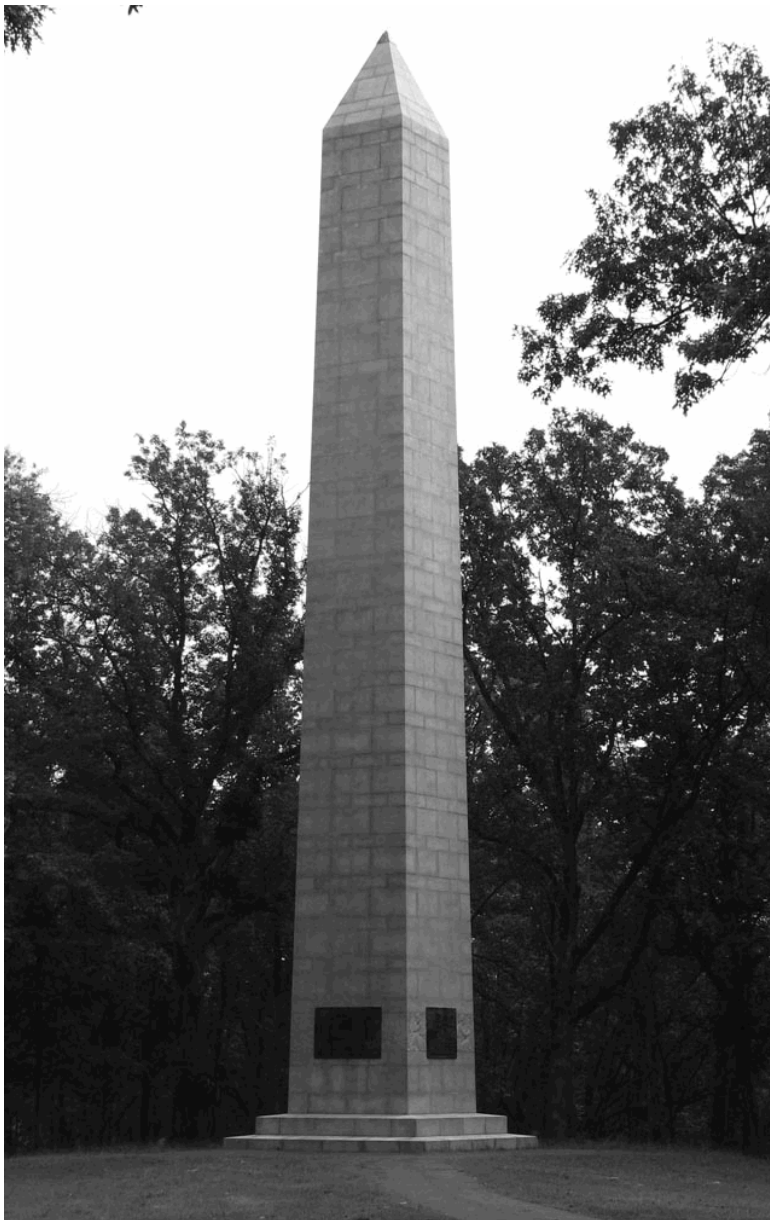
LCS Structure Name: Administration Building Flagstaff

LCS Structure Number: HS-32

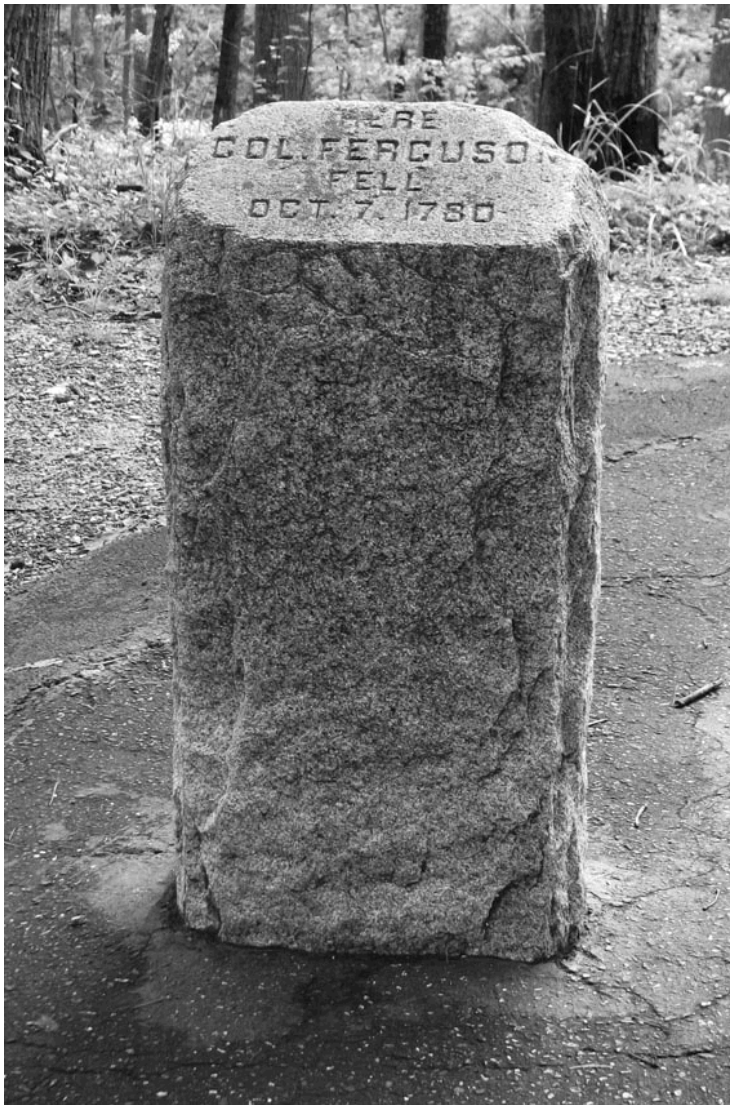
Landscape Characteristic Graphics:



Centennial Monument



U.S. Monument



Ferguson Fell Marker



Ferguson Grave Marker and Cairn



New & Old Chronicle Markers



Col Frederick Hambricht Marker



Lt. Col. James Hawthorne Marker



Hoover Marker



Chronicle Fell Marker



Col. Asbury Coward Marker



Stone Rubble Swales



Howser Cemetery



Howser Terrace - view of side of stone wall of top terrace

Vegetation

Before European American occupation, Native Americans had occupied the Carolina Piedmont and regularly burned the area during the dormant season. The result was an area of forests interspersed with savannas. The forests had little in the way of undergrowth and were easy to travel through. The savannas were habitat for buffalo, and also used agriculturally.

This practice of clearing land by fire was adopted by the early European settlers. In fact, Crowder's Mountain and King's Pinnacle were known to have been burned to provide forage for cattle.

At the time of battle, this pattern continued of forests with cleared understory, interspersed with fields maintained by fire. Many accounts of the battle describe the ridge as bare, with large, widely spaced trees on the slopes. This character continues into the 19th century with accounts recalling the hills covered in oak, chestnut, pines, beeches, gums, laurel and sourwood. The larger trees stood far apart and the forest was easy to travel through. Accounts of the 1855 celebration still mention forest, but an illustration of the 1880 centennial celebration shows a cleared ridgetop with only scattered pines on the western slopes. Subsequent early 20th century accounts and photographs depict a landscape that was more cleared of trees overall. Timber cutting had begun in the area in 1880 and continued until the early 1930s when the park was incorporated.

Park master plans called for reforestation of the site, and it was carried out by the Civilian Conservation Corps with native trees and shrubs. As a result the park became completely reforested, as it largely remains today and is somewhat a departure from the historic setting and feeling of the property. Current vegetation consists primarily of second growth hardwood vegetation with some pine on the higher slopes. Battleground ridgetop has a narrow area that is open, but most of the ridgetop is covered in a forest canopy - a clear departure from the historic scene at the time of battle. The Battleground ridge slopes are forested as well, but at the time of the 2009 CLI site visit, much of the understory had been cleared, making the slopes more consistent with the historic scene.

Views and Vistas

The second growth hardwoods on Battlefield Ridge obstruct incompatible views of adjacent development but do not follow the historic vegetation patterns. The cleared area on Kings Mountain that allowed the Americans to successfully attack the Loyalists has largely reverted back to forest; only a narrow strip of the ridgetop remains open. Thus, the views up to the ridgetop, and views down into surrounding areas are compromised.

Character-defining Features:

Feature: Battlefield Ridge Views

Feature Identification Number: 135440

Type of Feature Contribution: Non Contributing

Condition

Condition Assessment and Impacts

Condition Assessment: Fair
Assessment Date: 06/16/2010

Impacts

Type of Impact:	Release To Succession
External or Internal:	Internal
Impact Description:	The historical setting of the property is impacted by an increase in tree cover on Battleground Ridge. With the increased understory vegetation, views from the ridge are blocked. Also, the open character of the ridge is diminished.
Type of Impact:	Release To Succession
External or Internal:	Internal
Impact Description:	Sections of Battleground Road - a primary feature from the Battle period of significance - are considerably overgrown.
Type of Impact:	Structural Deterioration
External or Internal:	Internal
Impact Description:	Construction of Main Park Road altered a portion of the south embankment of Battleground Road.
Type of Impact:	Exposure To Elements
External or Internal:	Internal
Impact Description:	Some of the markers, the flag pole, the stone headwalls and stone-lined gutters, and the headquarters parking lot are subject to weathering and deterioration.

Treatment

Treatment

Approved Treatment: Preservation

Document Date: 08/25/2003

Approved Treatment Document Explanatory Narrative:

The CLR focuses on a preservation/rehabilitation strategy for the battlefield and associated commemorative and park development periods. It does not provide treatment recommendations for the Howser or Goforth-Morris Norman properties.

Approved Treatment Completed: No

Approved Treatment Costs

Cost Date: 08/25/2003

Bibliography and Supplemental Information

Bibliography

Citation Author: Vincent, Susan Hart

Citation Title: Cultural Landscape Report

Year of Publication: 2003

Source Name: CRBIB

Citation Location: SERO, KIMO

Citation Author: Blythe, Robert W.; Carroll, Maureen A.; Moffson, Steven H.

Citation Title: Kings Mountain National Military Park: Historic Resource Study

Year of Publication: 1995

Citation Location: Atlanta, GA