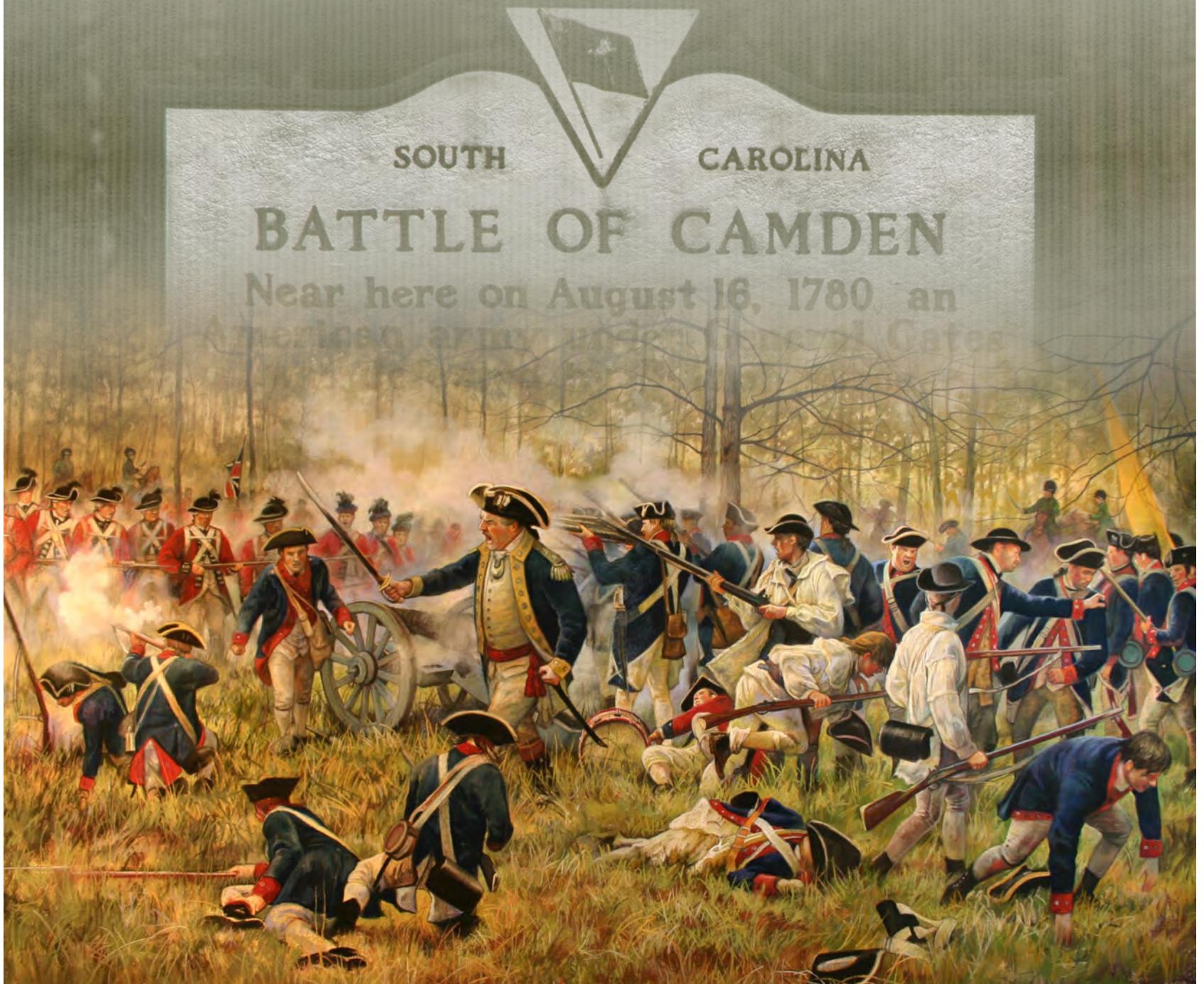




# Battle of Camden and Historic Camden SPECIAL RESOURCE STUDY

September 2015





**BATTLE OF CAMDEN AND HISTORIC CAMDEN  
SPECIAL RESOURCE STUDY  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE**

**SEPTEMBER 2015**



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## INTRODUCTION

Congress directed the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a special resource study to determine the suitability and feasibility of designating the site of the Battle of Camden and the site of Historic Camden, in Kershaw County, South Carolina, as a unit of the national park system (see page 47 for Area Map). The legislation for the special resource study further requires that the study process shall follow section 8 of Public Law 111-11 (16 *United States Code* [USC] 1a-5). No later than three years after funds are first made available for this study, the Secretary of the Interior shall submit to the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the U.S. Senate report containing the results of the study and any findings of the Secretary of the Interior. The study is to be conducted in consultation with the South Carolina State Historic Preservation Office and state historical societies.

The study area consists of two separate units: Historic Camden (also known as Historic Camden Revolutionary War Site) and Battlefield of Camden (also known as Camden Battlefield). Historic Camden is approximately 35 miles northeast of Columbia, South Carolina, and is the site of the original village of Camden. This early colonial village was established in the mid-1730s and was known as Fredericksburg Township. In 1768, the village was named Camden in honor of Charles Pratt, Lord Camden, a British parliamentary champion of colonial rights. The site was occupied by the British from June 1, 1780, until May 9, 1781. The town was at the crossroads of routes leading to the region's two largest cities—Charleston, South Carolina, and Savannah, Georgia, and was considered a prized location. Camden was also the largest colonial settlement in the Carolina backcountry. Historic Camden was listed in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) in 1966 as the Historic Camden Revolutionary War Restoration (NRHP # 69000170). A 1980s special resource study recommended the site become a National Park Service (NPS) affiliate, which was made effective on May 24, 1982. Historic Camden currently consists of 107 acres. Within its boundaries are the reconstructed Kershaw/Cornwallis Mansion (the mansion used by the British commander Lieutenant General Charles Cornwallis as his headquarters), seven restored or reconstructed structures (several containing museum exhibits), reconstructed fortifications and powder magazine, and the archeological remains of the town and British occupation site. The site is owned and managed by the nonprofit group, Historic Camden Foundation.

The historic battlefield site encompasses approximately 1,300 acres 8 miles north of Historic Camden. On August 16, 1780, British forces under General Cornwallis inflicted a devastating defeat on Continental regular troops and American militia under General Horatio Gates. This disaster marked one of the lowest points of the war for Revolutionary forces. Other engagements and skirmishes took place in the area, including the Battle of Hobkirk's Hill near Camden on April 25, 1781. General Gate's replacement, General Nathanael Greene, gradually reclaimed the region between 1780 and 1782, driving the British into Georgia and the Carolinas, and eventually to their defeat and surrender at Yorktown.

Today, the battlefield is open country with light timber and marshland near two streams that border the site on the east and west. The site lies west of State Route 521, and is bisected by State Route 58. The property was designated a national historic landmark in 1961. Camden Battlefield was formally added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1966 (NRHP # 66000707). In 2002, the Palmetto Conservation Foundation purchased 310 acres of the core battlefield from Bowater Incorporated, a pulp and paper manufacturer based in Greenville, South Carolina. The Hobkirk's Hill Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) donated 6 acres of the battlefield to Palmetto

Conservation Foundation in 2005. The DAR also donated a historical marker evidencing the supposed place where Patriot hero, Baron Johann De Kalb, fell in the August 16th battle.

In 2002, the Palmetto Conservation Foundation purchased 310 acres of the core Battle of Camden site. The Hobkirk's Hill Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution donated an additional 6 acres of the battlefield to the Palmetto Conservation Foundation in 2005. The DAR also donated a historical marker evidencing the supposed spot where Patriot hero Baron Johann de Kalb fell in the battle. As part of its management strategy, the Palmetto Conservation Foundation developed a final report for the American Battlefield Protection Program on the conservation and preservation of the Battle of Camden site.

In 2007, the Palmetto Conservation Foundation purchased an additional 160 acres of the battlefield from Crescent Resources, bringing the total battlefield acreage owned by the foundation to 476, with the remaining 824 acres in private ownership, leaving more than half of this nationally significant landscape unprotected from the impacts of future development.

The foundation has initiated a forest restoration plan to return the site to its 1780 appearance, is developing interpretive trails, and has coordinated an in-depth archeological / GIS survey of the site. As the site's administrative and fiduciary representative, the foundation has implemented a site security plan and willing-seller land acquisition plan. Ultimately, the foundation would like to transfer the property to the National Park Service as a new unit of the national park system. Designation of the site as an NPS affiliated area would be dependent on the interest of the foundation.

The study addressed the national significance, suitability, and feasibility of the two sites separately.

## **SPECIAL RESOURCE STUDY CRITERIA AND SUMMARY OF FINDINGS**

To be considered for inclusion in the national park system, a park unit must meet the legislatively mandated criteria of: (1) national significance, (2) suitability, (3) feasibility, and (4) the need for NPS management. Each of the four criteria must be met for the unit to be added to the national park system.

### **National Significance**

Both Camden Battlefield National Historic Landmark and Historic Camden Revolutionary War Site (an NPS affiliated site) have previously been determined to be nationally significant. Camden Battlefield was found to be nationally significant through the national historic landmark designation process. Historic Camden was determined to be nationally significant through its designation as an NPS affiliated site.

### **Suitability**

The NPS study team assessed whether or not the sites represent a natural, cultural, or recreational theme or type that is not already well represented in the system or protected by another agency. The team compared these sites to comparably represented managed areas epitomizing the same resource type. Other considerations include rarity of the resource, interpretive and educational potential, and

similar protected resources in the national park system or sites in other public or private ownership. The study team concluded that the sites are suitable for inclusion in the national park system.

## **Feasibility**

Following the positive finding on suitability, the team evaluated whether adding the sites to the national park system is feasible. To be feasible, the area's natural system or historic settings must be of sufficient size and shape to ensure long-term protection of resources and accommodate public use and have the potential for efficient administration at a reasonable cost. Other factors include size of the sites, boundary configurations, current and potential land uses, public enjoyment potential, current and potential threats, and the level of public support. Based on a number of factors including comparisons to budget and staffing for other NPS thematically related sites in North Carolina and South Carolina and organizational shifts for some of these sites in South Carolina, it was determined that the addition of these sites to the national park system is not feasible.

## **NEED FOR DIRECT NPS MANAGEMENT**

National Park Service policy states that alternatives for NPS management will not be developed for the sites should they fail to meet any one of the four criteria listed above. Given the negative finding on feasibility, the study did not evaluate management alternatives for the sites to determine whether NPS management is a clearly superior alternative.







## NATIONAL SIGNIFICANCE

Public Law 111-11 directs the Secretary of the Interior to complete a special resource study of “the site of the Battle of Camden fought in South Carolina” and the site of “Historic Camden, which is a National Park System affiliated area.” (See appendix A for Study Authorization Legislation.) NPS *Management Policies 2006*, section 1.3.1, directs that proposed additions to the national park system must possess significance at the national level. An area will be considered nationally significant if it meets all of the following criteria:

- It is an outstanding example of a particular type of resource.
- It possesses exceptional value or quality in illustrating or interpreting the natural or cultural themes of our nation’s heritage.
- It offers superlative opportunities for public enjoyment or for scientific study.
- It retains a high degree of integrity as a true, accurate, and relatively unspoiled example of a resource.

Historic properties considered for inclusion within the national park system must also be evaluated according to national historic landmark (NHL) criteria contained in 36 *Code of Federal Regulations* (CFR) Part 65.4:

The quality of national significance is ascribed to districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects that possess exceptional value or quality in illustrating or interpreting the heritage of the United States in history, architecture, archeology, engineering, and culture and that possess a high degree of integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association, and [meet one or more of the following six criteria]:

*Criterion 1*—that are associated with events that have made a significant contribution to, and are identified with, or that outstandingly represent, the broad patterns of United States History and from which an understanding and appreciation of those patterns may be gained; or

*Criterion 2*—that are associated importantly with the lives of persons nationally significant in the history of the United States; or

*Criterion 3*—that represent some great idea or ideal of the American people; or

*Criterion 4*—that embody the distinguishing characteristics of an architectural type specimen exceptionally valuable for the study of a period, style, or method of construction, of that represent a significant, distinctive, and exceptional entity whose components may lack individual distinction; or

*Criterion 5*—that are composed of integral parts of the environment not sufficiently significant by reason of historical association or artistic merit to warrant individual recognition but collectively compose an entity of exceptional historical or artistic significance, or outstandingly commemorate or illustrate a way of life or culture; or

*Criterion 6*—that have yielded or may be likely to yield information of major scientific importance by revealing new cultures, or by shedding light upon periods of occupation over large

*areas of the United States. Such sites are those which have yielded, or which may reasonably be expected to yield, data affecting theories, concepts and ideas to a major degree.*

*The criteria specified in 36 CFR 65.4 for the evaluation of potential NHL properties stipulate that: Ordinarily, cemeteries, birthplaces, graves of historical figures, properties owned by religious institutions or used for religious purposes, structures that have been moved from their original locations, reconstructed historic buildings and properties that have achieved significance within the past 50 years are not eligible for designation.*

In addition, *National Register Bulletin: How to Prepare National Historic Landmark Nominations* specifies that a property with a high degree of integrity must:

Retain the essential physical features that enable it to convey its historical significance. The essential features are those features that define both why a property is significant (NHL criteria and themes) and when it was significant (periods of significance) . . . and without which a property can no longer be identified.

## **HISTORIC CAMDEN**

### **Historic Camden Historical Overview**

English settlers, largely from Bermuda, established their first permanent settlements in the colony of Carolina, near present-day Charleston, in 1670. Earlier attempts by the Spanish to settle coastal Carolina were thwarted by indigenous peoples who continued to resist the burgeoning port of Charles Town. In 1719, Carolina separated into two royal colonies, and as the 18th century progressed, South Carolina began to be settled from the coast inland.

In 1730, Governor Robert Johnson platted eleven 20,000-acre townships along the major areas that linked the inland frontier to coastal settlements. Three years later, James St. Julien was authorized to survey a township along the Wateree River. This area had been occupied by Wateree Indians, one of the most powerful tribes of central South Carolina since at least the latter part of the 16th century. James Ousley received the first land grant in Fredericksburg Township upon completion of the survey, and the settlement slowly grew over the next two decades. A group of Irish Quakers under the direction of Robert Milhouse settled in the Fredericksburg area between 1750 and 1751.

A Quaker meetinghouse stood at the social center of Fredericksburg, but the site's proximity to overland roads and trails, including the Great Wagon Road linking the Carolinas with Pennsylvania and to the Wateree River, made it a major distribution point for goods traveling between coastal Charleston and the backcountry frontier and attractive to a more diverse community. Saw and grist mills, a warehouse, inn, and store, as well as a Presbyterian church, illustrated the growth of the settlement in just a few short decades. In 1758, Joseph Kershaw, a native of Yorkshire, England, established a store and mill in what came to be known as Pine Tree Hill. Within a decade, Kershaw became the town's preeminent citizen and businessman, dominating the political and commercial life of the town, representing the community in assemblies, serving on grand juries and in appointed offices, and ultimately, providing the town with its more familiar name. In 1768, Kershaw suggested that the town be renamed in honor of Lord Camden, a parliamentary champion of colonial rights.

Camden continued to grow as a distribution point for frontier commodities such as flour, butter, cheese, hemp, and flax, and imported goods, as well as an inland center for small-scale industrial activities such as brewing and pottery making. In addition to commercially surpassing the other

backcountry settlements of Saluda, Ninety Six, Orangeburg, St. Johns, and Cheraw, Camden became the seat of one of the four circuit courts established in the frontier by the Circuit Court Act of 1769. A courthouse and jail were completed for the initial court session in 1772, and the presence of the court provided an additional economic boon to Camden's place along the South Carolina frontier.

While the early years of the American Revolution left much of the South—including Camden—untouched, Britain's southern campaign to garner Loyalist support brought the fall of Charles Town in May 1780. Lieutenant General Charles Lord Cornwallis, commander of all British forces in the south, and 2,500 troops marched to Camden to establish the main post in a chain of inland supply from the interior to the sea at Charles Town. Cornwallis took full advantage of Camden's role as a center of social, political, and economic activities for the wider South Carolina frontier. On June 1, 1780, unopposed British forces occupied Camden and confiscated property, including Kershaw's nearly completed house on Magazine Hill, his mills, and his store. The British transported Kershaw and other partisans of the rebellion to Bermuda for the duration of the war and fortified Camden, the hub of their frontier communications and supply network, with a stockade wall and five redoubts. The British also constructed barracks and a hospital and fortified the town's powder magazine, the courthouse/jail complex, and Kershaw's house, where General Cornwallis and Lieutenant Colonel Francis Lord Rawdon, the British commander at Camden, made their headquarters.

Although never under direct attack itself, Camden was twice approached by American armies. In July 1780, American Major General Horatio Gates, "the hero of Saratoga," arrived in Charlotte, North Carolina, and met with local militia and Continental Army commanders to devise a strategy for controlling the Carolina backcountry. Against the advice of his council, Gates ordered a march into South Carolina toward Camden, where nearly 1,000 British troops were garrisoned under Lord Rawdon's command. Gates established camp at Rugeley's Mill, north of Camden, with a force of nearly 4,000 militia men and Continental regulars. Cornwallis, who had returned to Charles Town after the occupation of Camden, was alerted to Gates's movement. The general returned to the backcountry and arrived in Camden with reinforcements from Charles Town on August 13, bringing the strength of British forces to nearly 2,000.

In the early morning hours of August 16, 1780, both sides approached one another and collided unexpectedly about 6 miles north of Camden. After briefly exchanging fire, the armies fell back to form their lines and await daybreak. Cornwallis opened the battle with a volley into the militia regiments of Gates's left flank, followed by a bayonet charge that caused the majority of Gates's 2,500 untried North Carolina militia to flee. Gates was ostensibly "swept away" by this "torrent" of fleeing men, and through his attempts to regain control of his troops and his horse, found himself back in Charlotte later that evening. While the militia fled, Continental troops on Gates's right flank under the command of Baron Johann de Kalb, advanced on Rawdon's line, but in this brief counterattack sustained heavy casualties, including the mortal wounding of Baron de Kalb.

Camden was one of the most crushing defeats of the entire Revolution for the Americans. Gates's force suffered over 2,000 casualties. Cornwallis, whose troops sustained less than one-tenth of the American losses, continued to use Camden as a staging area for a planned campaign into North Carolina. In September 1780, Cornwallis invaded North Carolina, but retreated from Charlotte to Winnsboro, South Carolina, after the defeat of Tory forces at Kings Mountain in early October. In April 1781, Camden again saw military action when American General Nathanael Greene started his army toward Camden after dealing heavy losses to the British army on the field at Guilford Courthouse. General Greene encamped his army on Hobkirk's Hill, about 1.5 miles north of the British garrison, to which Rawdon's forces advanced and engaged the Americans in a brief battle on April 25, 1781. Although Rawdon held the field, the British soon abandoned Camden after this

inconclusive battle and the subsequent capture of Fort Watson, a crucial link in the supply line to Charles Town.

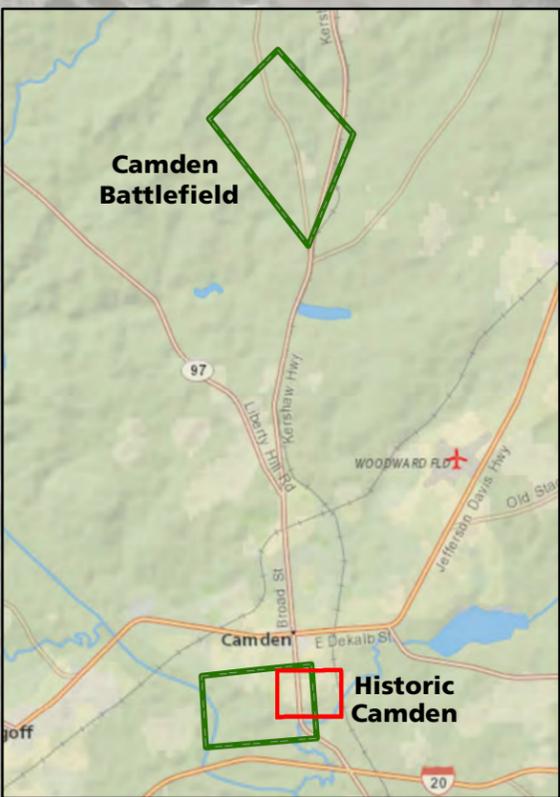
On May 9, 1781, the British withdrew down the Santee River toward the coast after burning the public buildings, many private homes, and much of their own supplies and baggage. When Greene entered the town, he destroyed the palisaded fortification. By the fall of 1781, following heavy losses at Eutaw Springs, the British abandoned their entire chain of inland fortifications and the war in South Carolina effectively ended as Cornwallis marched to his defeat at Yorktown.

Camden was slowly rebuilt following the war and continued as a regional economic hub—the center of farming, milling, and mercantile trade in the South Carolina backcountry until the development of 19th century canal networks caused its decline. The town continued to grow in the early decades of the new century, stretching northward from the fortified site, putting distance between the new development and the diseases that were a legacy of the British occupation. The city of Columbia and its rail line eventually eclipsed the former frontier town by the middle of the 19 century.

### **Historic Camden Current National Register Status**

Historic Camden, the 107-acre property owned by the Historic Camden Foundation, is part of a larger, 1,280-acre district listed in the National Register of Historic Places in July 1969. The Historic Camden Revolutionary War Restoration Historic District, which stretches from Historic Camden's eastern boundary at Lyttleton Street to the Wateree River, was recognized as a nationally significant district within the thematic context of 18th century military history. This early nomination, completed prior to the development and application of current NRHP criteria, identified Camden's significance as "chief (British) garrison" during the battles of Camden and Hobkirk's Hill, as well as its role as the "logistical headquarters for all British activities in the South." By 1969, extensive archeological work had been completed, including excavations of the powder magazine and the Kershaw house (identified in the nomination as "the fortified house"), and tests at the sites of the northeast and southwest redoubts. The nomination cites the accomplished archeological research to justify General Greene's 1781 map and defines the district as "central colonial Camden and its adjacent outlying areas" to include the subsurface resources within the two-block square of the palisade, as well as the five redoubts and three other fortified features depicted therein. Presumably, the boundaries of the district, extending west of the town area to Wateree River and beyond the boundaries of the colonial town, were drawn to include "the old Ferry Road, which connected the town to the Wateree River and thereby to Charleston."

In 1980, in response to Public Law 95-629, the National Park Service completed a study to assess the feasibility of including portions of the Historic Camden Revolutionary War Restoration Historic District as a unit of the national park system. Although the law prescribed "a study of Historical Camden, consisting of approximately ninety acres," the NPS report identified a study area "optimum boundary" of 280 acres comprising the 93-acre Historic Camden site (the restoration area owned by the Camden Historical Commission), as well as several additional resources outside the restoration's boundaries, including the original town square, Kershaw's burial site, the southwest and west redoubts, and the jailhouse site. Reflecting nearly a decade of Lewis's archeological research



Legend		Site	
	Structure	1 - John Craven House, circa 1785	7 - Cunningham house (office/gift shop)
	Redoubt	2 - Bradley House, circa 1810	8 - Blacksmith shed (contemporary)
	Powder Magazine	3 - Drakeford House, circa 1810	9 - Reconstructed Northeast Redoubt
	National Register Boundary	4 - Dog Trot (restrooms, film room)	10 - Reconstructed Southeast Redoubt
		5 - John McCaa House, circa 1794	11 - Reconstructed Powder Magazine Foundation
		6 - Reconstructed Joseph Kershaw House	



accomplished at the colonial town site by Dr. Kenneth E. Lewis (Institute of Archeology and Anthropology, University of South Carolina), the National Park Service found that:

Camden's historical and archeological significance stems from its role as an early inland trading center that linked the interior to the coast and from its position as a principal British supply post and base of operations during the Revolution (NPS 1980:5).

The study underlined the archeological potential of the site to yield information about "colonial life" and "the fortified British command center." In addition, in a preliminary assessment of integrity, the study noted that "no extant structures in Historic Camden date from the 1780–1781 period," and that Historic Camden's four relocated buildings and the five reconstructed buildings and structures possessed varying degrees of "authenticity" and integrity (NPS 1980:28–32). The study also summarized accomplished archeological investigations and noted that although conditions within the historically palisaded area varied, that the portion of the town west of Broad Avenue remained "essentially undisturbed" and possessed "considerable potential for archeological data and interpretation" (NPS 1980:34). In summary, the study reported that while the "reconstructed/restored historic structures are incidental to Historic Camden's significance," the site's significance rests "primarily from its early development as a frontier colony settlement" and its potential to yield archeological data about colonial life and about "the 1780–1781 fortified British command center" (NPS 1980:38). This assessment represented a noteworthy reinterpretation of the analysis of significance provided in the 1979 national register nomination, shifting emphasis from the logistical functions of the palisaded town during the Revolutionary War to a broader period of colonial significance.

## Historic Camden Application of National Historic Landmark Criteria

*Criterion 1—Properties that are associated with events that have made a significant contribution to, and are identified with, or that outstandingly represent, the broad patterns of United States History and from which an understanding and appreciation of those patterns may be gained.*

**Historic Camden Meets Criterion 1.** The future site of Camden was settled in the 1740s by Irish Quakers and within a decade developed into a major depot for goods moving from Charles Town to the interior of South Carolina, as well as a milling center for grains destined for the coast. By the 1760s, the town had grown to an inland center for small-scale industrial cities, surpassing other frontier towns, and became the seat of the county court system. After the fall of Charles Town in 1780, Camden occupied a central position in the British chain of posts intended to cement royal control of the Carolina backcountry.

The British established a magazine for redistribution of regimental, artillery, quartermaster, and commissary supplies from Charles Town, and fortified Camden with stockade walls around the town, the home of Camden's most prominent resident, Joseph Kershaw, and the jailhouse with four redoubts. The Battle of Camden (1780) and the Battle of Hobkirk's Hill (1781) were fought in proximity to the town, and although neither directly affected the town, the fact that two major battles were fought near Camden underscores the town's strategic importance. Lieutenant Colonel Francis Lord Rawdon and Lieutenant General Charles Lord Cornwallis made their headquarters in the Kershaw house, and Cornwallis used Camden as a staging ground for his invasion of North Carolina. The British evacuated Camden in May 1781, destroying supplies and baggage, as well as the jail, mills, and other buildings. American General Nathanael Greene's forces subsequently destroyed

Camden's outer fortifications. Although the town was slowly rebuilt and continued to be a regional center for a number of economic activities, the townspeople gradually abandoned the old town site for a more appealing location northward. In 1812, a fire destroyed several blocks of the old town. Historic Camden is included in the existing Historic Camden Revolutionary War Restoration Historic District, which is recognized at a national level of significance. Although the site is important for its association with Britain's southern campaign and a key battle in the Revolutionary War, there are no extant, aboveground resources that date to the Revolutionary War period. *National Register Bulletin: How to Prepare National Historic Landmark Nominations* states that properties being considered under NHL criterion 1 must retain the essential physical features from its period of significance; if such features, such as historic buildings, no longer exist, then the property has lost its historical integrity.

Historic Camden's four relocated buildings, including the Drakeford, Bradely, Craven, and Cunningham houses, date from the 19th century and are outside the period of significance, and thus do not contribute to the significance of the property under NHL criterion 1.

The criteria specified in 36 CFR 65.4 for the evaluation of potential NHL properties stipulate that reconstructed historic buildings usually are not eligible for designation, but will qualify if they meet NHL exception 6:

A reconstructed building or ensemble of buildings would qualify if the buildings are of extraordinary national significance, are accurately executed in a suitable environment and presented in a dignified manner as part of a restoration master plan, and when no other buildings or structures with the same association have survived.

The study area contains five reconstructed buildings and structures, including the Kershaw house, the powder magazine foundation and surrounding earthwork, the northeast and southeast redoubts, and several sections of the palisade wall. The National Park Service determined that the reconstructed redoubts, while based on archeological research, are not wholly positioned at their original sites and that the powder magazine was reconstructed with an "unknown degree of accuracy" (NPS 1980:32–34). Historic Camden reconstructed the Kershaw house based on historical and archeological research funded by the National Park Service in the early 1970s; the reconstructed palisades appear to be based on sound archeological research. However, guidance provided in *National Register Bulletin: How to Prepare National Historic Landmark Nominations* dictates that reconstructed properties must be situated in an "original grouping of buildings, structures, and objects (as many as are extant), and that the grouping must retain integrity." This essential original grouping is missing from the study area—Historic Camden's reconstructed buildings and structures cannot be considered as contributing resources to an NHL district under criterion 1 and within the existing Revolutionary War context.

While the National Park Service recognized a more expansive historic context and period of significance in earlier studies (NPS 1980:37), there are no extant resources relating to Camden's role as an inland trading center and important colonial frontier settlement that satisfy NHL criterion 1.

However, archeological investigations at Historic Camden have added substantially to our understanding of the site's contributions to the broad patterns of U.S. history and the finding that Historic Camden meets criterion 1. Please see criterion 6 for more information.

*Criterion 2—Properties that are associated importantly with the lives of persons nationally significant in the history of the United States.*

**Historic Camden Meets Criterion 2.** Historic Camden is associated with a number of persons nationally significant in the history of the United States. These include:

### ***Baron Johann de Kalb***

Baron de Kalb was one of the most prominent of the European military idealists and adventurers who offered their services to the United States during the Revolution. He served as officer in the French Army during both the War of the Austrian Succession (1740–48) and the Seven Years' War (1754–63). Inspired by enlightenment ideals for liberty and the rights of man embodied in the American fight for independence, de Kalb and his protégé the Marquis de Lafayette arrived in America in 1777. Granted a major general's commission in the Continental Army, he commanded a division at Valley Forge before he was ordered south at the head of a division of Maryland and Delaware Continentals. The general was mortally wounded during the Battle of Camden and died in town three days later. His death cemented his place as a hero of the American Revolution.

De Kalb's grave is in front of the Bethesda Presbyterian Church and marked by an 1827 monument designed by Robert Mills. Bethesda Presbyterian Church is a contributing resource within the City of Camden Historic District, a property listed in the national register that is outside the study area. The church was designated as a national historic landmark.

### ***Andrew Jackson***

Andrew Jackson was born to Scots-Irish parents in 1767. He was born in the Waxhaws region on the border between North Carolina and South Carolina just after his father's death. Jackson always claimed to have been born in South Carolina. In 1780, at the age of 13, Jackson joined up with a unit of rebel militia and rode with them until his capture and incarceration in the British stockade at Camden. The revolution had a profoundly adverse impact on Jackson and his family. His brother Hugh died in battle at Stono Ferry in 1779. His brother Robert was captured with Andrew and died of cholera in 1780. Jackson's mother died of cholera while serving as a volunteer nurse aboard a British prison ship. Andrew Jackson himself nearly died of starvation while in prison. With his entire immediate family dead as a result of the war, Jackson cultivated a passionate hatred for the British that shaped his attitudes and behavior and ultimately significantly influenced American policy and international affairs.<sup>1</sup> In the course of his life on the frontier, Jackson progressed from a semiliterate frontier lawyer, brawler, and duelist to become the United States' foremost military hero in the early 19th century and eventually one of the most influential American presidents in history—the man who epitomized the image of American democracy before the Civil War.

### ***Horatio Gates***

Horatio Gates was a British officer who served in America during the French and Indian War. Gates became acquainted with George Washington during the war. He later immigrated to the colonies in 1772, and when the Revolution broke out in 1775, Gates renewed his association with Washington and was awarded a commission as a brigadier general and adjutant general of the Continental Army. Gates made his reputation as the commander of the American forces that defeated an invading

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<sup>1</sup> The American historian Sean Wilentz wrote on this issue that "I do not believe that a particular loss or trauma—the "Rosebud" syndrome of Orson Welles's *Charles Foster Kane*—can adequately explain any political career. Still, after reading the sources on Jackson's life and thought, one cannot help being drawn back (as he was) to young Andrew's patriotic ardor and torment during the Revolution—an experience that proved fundamental to his ideas and his actions for the rest of his life." Wilentz cites Jackson's statement 'Being brought up under the tyranny of Britain [and] losing everything that was dear to me' [during the Revolution] and concludes that this experience "made it his sworn duty to uphold republican government and 'the independent rights of our nation.'"

British Army at the Battles of Saratoga and Bennington in 1777. It appears however that his major accomplishment during this campaign may have been confined to getting out of the way of his subordinates Benedict Arnold, Daniel Morgan, and John Stark.

Following a clumsy attempt to replace Washington as the commander of the Continental Army, Gates was assigned command of the Southern Department by Congress in 1780. Gates's objective was to reverse the string of defeats that followed implementation of the British "Southern Strategy" to retain control of the Southern states. Gates rashly pushed his disorganized and poorly supplied forces south to a disastrous defeat at Camden on August 16, 1780. Gates compounded his failure by fleeing from the battlefield to Wilmington, North Carolina, leaving his troops to fend for themselves. Gates avoided a board of inquiry but never held a field command again. He died in New York City on April 10, 1806.

**General Nathanael Greene. See Camden Battlefield Historical Overview**

*Criterion 3—Properties that represent some great idea or ideal of the American people.*

**Criterion 3 is not applicable to Historic Camden.** This criterion relates to properties that express a great overarching concept or image held by the people of the United States, and is applied only in rare instances involving ideals of the highest order in the nation's history.

*Criterion 4—Properties that embody the distinguishing characteristics of an architectural type specimen exceptionally valuable for the study of a period, style, or method of construction, of that represent a significant, distinctive, and exceptional entity whose components may lack individual distinction.*

**Criterion 4 is not applicable to Historic Camden.** There are no architectural properties on the site that date from Camden's period of national significance and reflect the cultural landscape as it was known during the period of British occupation. However, its status as an archeological district contributes to its national significance. Please see criterion 6 for more information.

*Criterion 5—Properties that are composed of integral parts of the environment not sufficiently significant by reason of historical association or artistic merit to warrant individual recognition but collectively compose an entity of exceptional historical or artistic significance, or outstandingly commemorate or illustrate a way of life or culture.*

**Criterion 5 is not applicable to Historic Camden.** There are no extant architectural or cultural properties that collectively would illustrate or commemorate Camden's national significance or illustrate the life and culture of South Carolina as it was known during the American Revolution and the period of British military operations in South Carolina.

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

**Historic Camden Meets Criterion 6.** In an earlier study, the National Park Service found the significance of Historic Camden to rest in “its archeological and historical values,” and provided the following statement of significance:

Historic Camden’s archeological significance stems primarily from its early development as a frontier colonial settlement, but its military role during the American Revolution is also important. Historic Camden’s location along major transportation routes and its relationship to other colonial settlements made it a trade center of considerable economic and commercial importance in the development of the 18th century southern frontier. Archeological investigations could be expected to yield much information about frontier material, culture, subsistence, crafts and trades, and a wealth of other data about colonial life. The undisturbed nature of the original town square at the intersection of Bull and Broad streets could be expected to yield other significant data on early Camden.

As a palisaded revolutionary war [sic] town, Historic Camden is highly unusual and unique. Camden’s persistent northward growth pattern has left the study area relatively free of development. Some site integrity has been compromised, but major portions, which could yield important data of [sic] the 1780–1781 fortified British command center, retain their integrity. The original subsurface remains of the palisade, which are along the southern section of the 1780–1781 town, have been excavated and reconstructed and are essentially undisturbed [?] The western portion of the village has probably been minimally disturbed by agriculture, and the southwest and west redoubts may be well-preserved. Use and activity areas outside the palisade have not been seriously disturbed and could contain archeological data (NPS 1980:37–38).

The agency’s finding was informed by the work of Dr. Lewis, who conducted nearly 25 years of research on the site using a combination of documentary and material evidence. Beginning in 1974, Lewis carried out excavations of the colonial town to determine the location of specific features, beginning with the palisade wall, and to investigate the general condition of the town site. Lewis hypothesized that Camden’s “central position in a network of trade and communication linkages reaching from the backcountry” to metropolitan Europe was representative of colonial areas on the periphery of the 18th century world economic system (Lewis 1976:147–148). Employing stratified random sampling to explore extensive areas of the town site, Lewis’s investigations yielded information about structures, features, and activities within the colonial town, including verification of the two-row settlement pattern depicted in Greene’s 1781 map, which evidence 17 structures with the palisade and a local pottery industry in the vicinity of the settlement, of patterns of socio-economic differentiation in the settlement’s material culture, and of the site of the palisade wall and, more recently, of three 18th century structures in the western portion of Historic Camden’s property.

Lewis was a close associate of Stanley South at the University of Carolina’s Institute of Archeology and Anthropology, and his work at Camden contributed to the elaboration of South’s “household model.” This new approach to archeology emerged in the 1960s and 1970s and sought to examine the archeological record by subjecting it to scientific methods, particularly to hypothesis testing. The excavations at Camden embraced this revolutionary approach in historical archeology, replacing trait lists common to the Boasian School of Anthropology with the examination and analysis of historic sites and materials in terms of functional categories. With this methodological shift from mere descriptions of artifacts to the recognition of regularities or patterns in the archeological record, archeologists could construct predictive models for comparable sites. Lewis’s work at

Camden not only revealed significant information about colonial and Revolutionary War activities in the South Carolina frontier, but also contributed to a model of military artifact patterning that subsequently informed the investigation and interpretation of other colonial “frontier” sites, including Fort Michilimackinac (Michigan) and Fort Ouiatenon (Indiana).

## **CAMDEN BATTLEFIELD**

### **Camden Battlefield Historical Overview**

On August 16, 1780, the last major American army in the southern states under the command of Major General Horatio Gates was effectively destroyed by British and Loyalist forces under Major General Charles Lord Cornwallis in a battle near the village of Camden in South Carolina. The catastrophic defeat signaled to many on both sides the beginning of the end of American independence in the South. Yet, just 14 months later, the largest British army in the South surrendered to American and French forces at Yorktown in October 1781, setting the stage for the final American victory in 1783. The astonishing turn of events that followed in the wake of the debacle at Camden comprises one of the most remarkable chapters of the entire war.

In 1778, after three years of fighting to suppress the American rebellion, the British Empire found itself in stalemate. British forces dominated the seas, had won several substantial land victories, occupied several of the largest cities in the colonies, and cowed neutral Americans and lukewarm American rebels into submission in a number of areas. British troops and thousands of their German mercenaries controlled substantial amounts of American territory. They held the edge in alliances with American Indian tribes. The Americans themselves were deeply divided on the question of independence. Only a minority supported the revolution, and thousands of loyal Americans had taken up arms in support of the Crown. And yet, with the deck seemingly stacked in the empire’s favor, a British victory seemed as far away as ever. Worse, a British defeat, once unthinkable, loomed as an increasingly likely outcome.

The Continental Army, after three years of combat and deprivation, had evolved from a rag-tag collection of amateurs into a first-rate force nearly equal to any of Britain’s finest. Whig militia continued to serve as an ongoing nuisance to occupying British and Hessian units, a scourge to Americans who wavered in support of the rebel cause, and often a valuable subordinate in pitched battles between the Continental line and British regiments. America’s tiny navy, supported by scores of privateers sailing under letters of marque issued by the Continental Congress, increasingly made life miserable for British merchantmen.

France had provided support for the American war effort since 1776, motivated both by popular support of American ideals and a desire to avenge the humiliations of the Seven Years’ War and the 1763 Treaty of Paris. On March 18, 1778, France formally declared war against Great Britain and briefly contemplated invading Great Britain with an army of 40,000 troops. Whig opponents to the war gained strength in Parliament, seeking an end to a war that drained blood and treasure, yielded no lasting gains, and now raised the specter of a catastrophic defeat. The clock was running against the empire. The British needed to land a knockout blow and the Southern theater appeared the likely arena in which to do it.

Loyal Americans had informed British authorities that substantial numbers of Loyalists in Georgia and the Carolinas chafed under rebel control. The British were urged to renew the offensive in the southern states. Victory in the South would enable them to push American forces farther north and break the impasse in the stubborn rebellion. Acting on this intelligence, the British resumed large-

scale operations in the South after the French entered the war in 1778. The British took Savannah in December 1778, not only capturing an important southern city, but also rallying into service 20 new militia companies recruited from the local population. British forces, supported by eager and capable Loyalist provincial and militia companies, began campaigning in South Carolina. In May 1780, the American cause suffered a devastating defeat. The British captured Charles Town, South Carolina, and took 5,000 American prisoners, virtually the entire southern Continental Army as well as hundreds of militia. The notorious British Colonel Banastre Tarleton and his British Legion were deployed to hunt down and eliminate remaining elements of the Continental Army. At Waxhaws, South Carolina, Tarleton's men ran to ground a force of Virginia Continentals under the command of Colonel Abraham Buford. Buford formed his men into a line of battle and Tarleton's veteran cavalry charged. The Americans claimed that Tarleton's men slaughtered helpless men who tried to surrender. The dashing and ruthless Tarleton earned his nickname "Bloody Ban" and a reputation for brutality in which he actually seemed to revel. The killings at the Waxhaws inflamed American rebels and the term "Tarleton's Quarter" came to define a new standard for ruthlessness in the Southern theater.

After the fall of Charles Town and the debacle at Waxhaws, British forces occupied key locations in the South Carolina interior. These outposts served two functions: to provide additional security for the British base of operations at Charles Town and provide jumping off points for the pacification of the South Carolina backcountry. Camden, which straddled the Great Wagon Road that ran from Philadelphia to Augusta, Georgia, was the linchpin in this series of fortifications. Here, Major General Charles Lord Cornwallis based the strongest element of the British Army, supported by Loyalist provincial units and militia. Camden was the key to the British strategy to reclaim the state.

To stem the tide of defeat, the Continental Congress named Major General Horatio Gates as the commander of American forces in the Southern Department. Congress's high opinion of Gates, the hero of the Battle of Saratoga in 1778, was second only to Gates's opinion of himself. Gates arrived in North Carolina in July of 1780 and rushed his disorganized, sick, and exhausted Continental and militia troops into action, quickly advancing toward the British stronghold at Camden. There they met Cornwallis's rested veteran British and American Loyalist forces with predictable and disastrous results. The British inflicted hundreds of casualties on Gates's army and took hundreds more as prisoners as they drove the American forces in chaos from the field. Baron De Kalb, one of the most prominent European volunteers in the American cause, was mortally wounded and died a few days later. In the immediate aftermath, the British victory at Camden appeared so decisive that only a military genius could possibly reconstruct American fortunes in the South.

Fortunately for the new nation, it had a man of genius available. The catastrophe at Camden compelled the Continental Congress to forego yet another politically motivated appointment of a general officer and instead delegate the choice to General George Washington. Washington immediately assigned one of his most trusted commanders, Major General Nathanael Greene, the task of resurrecting American fortunes in the South. Washington's selection of Greene proved to be one of the best decisions he made during the entire war, one that may well have rescued the Revolution.

Nathanael Greene hailed from a prosperous Quaker family in Rhode Island. Despite his pacifist background, he immersed himself in military theory as the colonies moved closer to open rebellion. When war broke out, he entered the war as a private. In remarkably short time, however, he rose to the rank of major general. He served in combat commands at the siege of Boston and the battles of New York, Germantown, Brandywine, and Monmouth. He reluctantly agreed in 1778 to serve as quartermaster-general for Washington's army while maintaining the right to command troops in combat. As quartermaster, he demonstrated a near-genius for logistics. Greene's highly developed

aptitude in this field served the American cause brilliantly in the Carolinas. After he arrived to take command in December 1780, Greene reorganized the Southern Continental Army and quickly devised a strategy to take the momentum away from Cornwallis's British and Loyalist forces.

Patriot militia resilience abetted General Greene's efforts to turn the tide in the Carolinas. Only two months after the Battle of Camden, Patriot backcountry and "Overmountain" militia overwhelmed and destroyed a large Loyalist militia force commanded by British Major Patrick Ferguson at Kings Mountain in South Carolina. These loyalist militia forces comprised the left wing of Lord Cornwallis's army. The defeat forced Cornwallis to adjust his southern strategy and abandon Charlotte, North Carolina.<sup>2</sup>

As part of his reorganization of the Continental Army, General Greene divided his forces and placed one wing of the Continental Army, supported by a large militia force, under the command of General Daniel Morgan, a hardened combat veteran. On Greene's orders, Morgan's forces assumed a position that threatened the British garrison at Ninety Six. Greene's decision to divide his forces compelled his British counterpart to follow suit in order to address the threat that Morgan's forces posed to his army's left flank. Cornwallis assigned the task of destroying Morgan's "flying army" to Colonel Banastre Tarleton and his British Legion. Setbacks in combat against Whig militia and partisans had tarnished "Bloody Ban" Tarleton's reputation and he was eager to reassert his standing in the British command.

In response to Tarleton's advance, Morgan positioned his forces at the Cowpens in the South Carolina backcountry. Morgan's skillful deployment enabled him to take full advantage of the abilities of the militia forces and Continental Regulars under his command. Morgan's militia units raked Tarleton's forces with rifle and musket fire, then withdrew in order. This provoked the British commander to launch an attack, hoping to spur what he mistakenly thought was the disintegration of the American force. Tarleton's forces slammed into a solid line of Continentals who blunted the British attack while American cavalry and reorganized militia attacked the British flanks. Morgan's double envelopment of Tarleton's forces routed the British in one of the most tactically exquisite and decisive engagements of the entire war. Tarleton's failure comprised a second link in the "chain of evils."

Following the victory, Greene and Morgan joined forces and marched north toward the Dan River. The enraged and frustrated Cornwallis dogged the Americans, destroying wagons and surplus equipment to speed his army's pursuit. The dramatic six-week chase of the Southern Continental Army narrowly failed. Cornwallis exhausted his army in his futile tracking of Greene and left his troops with few supplies or equipment in hostile country.

The Americans and British finally met in North Carolina on March 15, 1781. General Greene deployed his rested and reinforced army at Guilford Courthouse. Having lured Cornwallis far from his main base of supplies at Wilmington, Greene now offered the British general the opportunity he had pursued obsessively for nearly two months. A bloody 2½ hour battle ensued. Relentless British advances against Greene's forces made progress against the American militia, but Greene's troops mauled the attacking British forces even before they reached the main Continental line. In the battle's final stages, the British Guards and the Continental Army's First Maryland Regiment slashed at each other in savage bayonet fighting, neither willing to give way. Only the advance of British reinforcements prompted Greene to withdraw. Even as his army stubbornly disengaged, the

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<sup>2</sup> British commander in chief General Henry Clinton grasped the true significance of the disaster at King's Mountain. "The instant I heard of Major Ferguson's defeat, I foresaw the consequences likely to result from it, [it was] the first in a chain of evils that ended in the total loss of America."

Americans inflicted more losses on the advancing British. Cornwallis wrote to his superiors, “I never saw such fighting since God made me. The Americans fought like demons.”

The British paid a ghastly price for the ground they won that day. Nearly 30% of Cornwallis’s men were killed or wounded. The news of Guilford Courthouse further disheartened British officials. Although nominally a tactical victory, the battle at Guilford Courthouse was an additional link in the chain of evils that weighed down the British effort in the South. One shaken member of the House of Commons concluded that “Another such victory would ruin the British Army.”

Despite, or perhaps because of, his bloody Pyrrhic victory at Guilford Courthouse, General Lord Cornwallis for the time being had had his fill of Americans in the Carolinas. His depleted army was exhausted and demoralized, his supply lines shredded, and the entire British southern strategy was in disarray. Cornwallis decided to move north, first to Wilmington, North Carolina, to set up a base of operations where he could rest and refit his army and establish reliable lines of communication with the British high command. From there, he would invade Virginia to destroy rebel bases that were providing supplies and reinforcements to Continentals and militia forces in the Carolinas and possibly draw Greene’s army in pursuit. Cornwallis relied heavily on the strength of four powerful British garrisons, at Camden, Ninety Six, Augusta, and Georgetown to guarantee royal control of South Carolina.

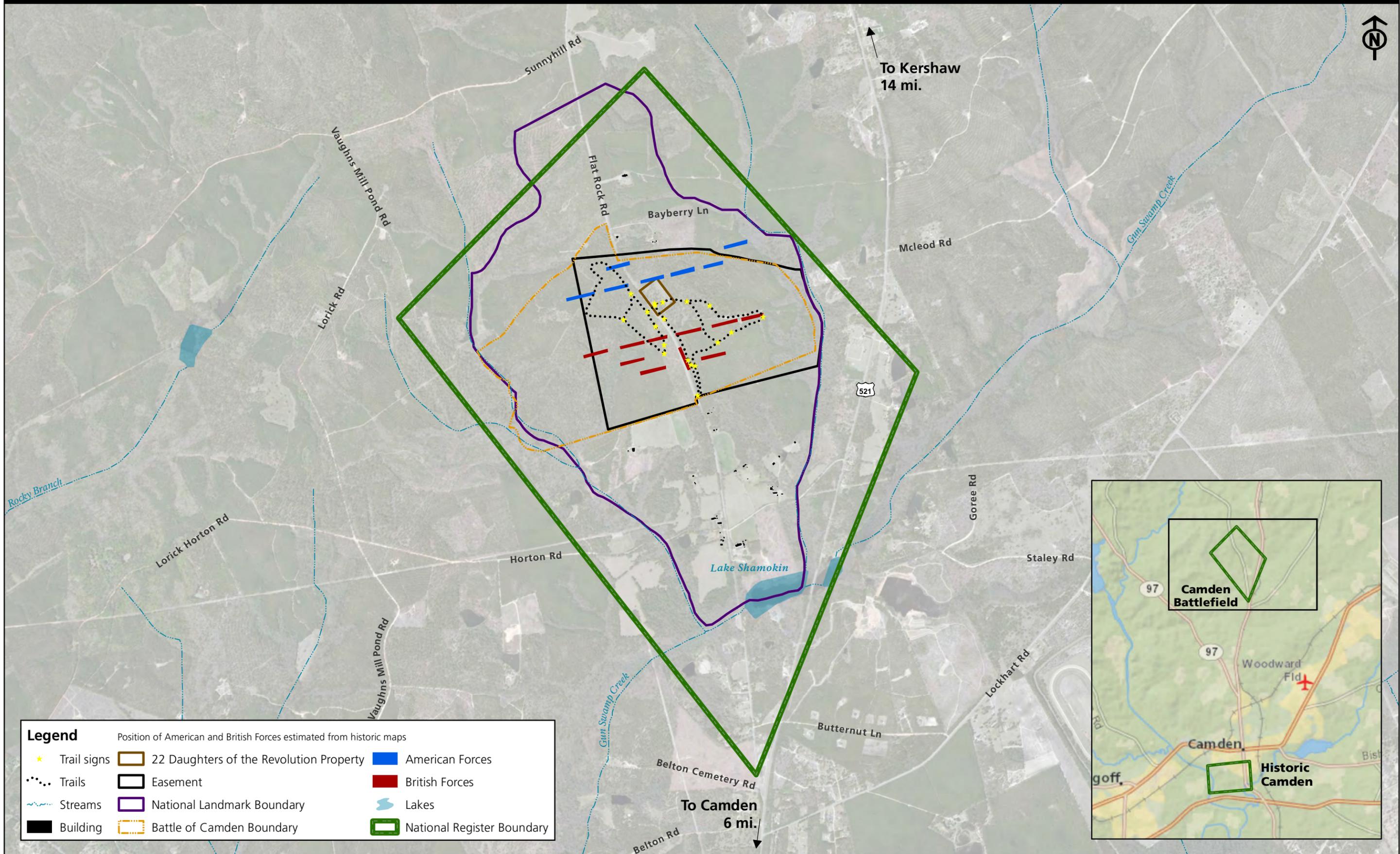
Greene initially followed Cornwallis’s battered force but quickly broke off the chase. He decided not to waste more time and energy chasing Cornwallis as the British general had once pursued him. He instead focused his efforts on the essential objective: restoring South Carolina to American control. Destroying the four British garrisons were the keys to Greene’s strategy. Over the next several months, from April to September 1781, Greene methodically advanced against the British strongholds. His first target was the British encampment at Camden. Greene’s army arrived in the vicinity on April 25, where he was attacked by forces under the command of Lieutenant Colonel Francis Lord Rawdon. Although Greene anticipated Rawdon’s attack, a portion of his army was caught unprepared. Nonetheless, Greene successfully deployed his forces and nearly won the engagement. Even though Greene lost the battle, he secured a strategic victory. The British destroyed their defensive works and abandoned Camden, a pivotal point in the eventual defeat of the British. The first objective in the “War of Posts” was taken. With the loss of Camden, the momentum in the war for the backcountry shifted decisively in favor of the Americans.

Greene’s forces next advanced on the two fortifications at Ninety Six, an imposing star fort supported by a secondary stockade fort. These works were manned by American Loyalist forces who knew that they likely faced execution for their allegiance to the Crown. This knowledge fueled their resolve to withstand a siege and gamble that they could hold out until reinforcements arrived. Their stubborn defense frustrated the efforts of Greene’s Continentals and militia to breach the imposing works. American forces eventually took the stockade fort, but the superbly engineered star fort held firm.

While Greene maintained the siege, other American forces took the garrison at Augusta. After a 28-day siege—the longest of the Revolution—Greene withdrew from Ninety Six to avoid the advance of Lord Rawdon, his opponent at Camden. Despite his withdrawal, Greene still achieved his objective. Rawdon relieved the defenders at Ninety Six, but almost immediately destroyed the star fort and evacuated the interior of South Carolina. Trailing his army were hundreds of dejected Loyalist refugees who followed Rawdon’s troops to safety on the coast. Surely these Loyalist Americans realized that their hopes of keeping America in the empire were beyond redemption. As if to underscore the disaster, Georgetown—the last of the four posts—was evacuated after withstanding repeated American attacks.

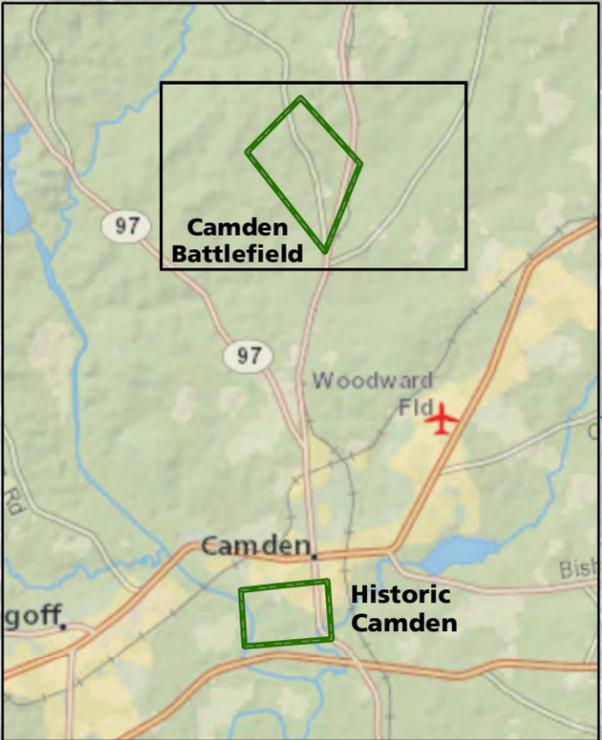
Greene fought his last major battle in September 1781 at Eutaw Springs, South Carolina. Greene's Continentals and British Regulars under the command of Colonel Alexander Stewart fought savagely in an all-day engagement that produced some of the highest casualty rates of the entire war. Greene withdrew from the field at the end of the day, leaving the British to count it as a tactical victory. Like the rest of Greene's campaign in the Carolinas, however, it was a strategic defeat for the British. The bloodied and weakened British Army withdrew, leaving 500 prisoners with the Americans. Stewart's troops returned to Charles Town, and never again took the field against the Americans. British control of South Carolina had been reduced to a few coastal outposts. Greene's campaign also helped ensure the eventual American victory in Georgia. Little more than a year after the British implemented their southern strategy in South Carolina American forces had driven the main British Army under Cornwallis into Virginia and reestablished control over virtually all of the Carolinas. When Cornwallis's army surrendered in October 1781, the British prime minister somberly declared, "My God, it's all over."

General Nathanael Greene proved to be the essential figure in the decisive stages of the Southern Campaign. Shortly after his arrival, he seized the initiative from British commanders, forcing them into a reactive mode, even when British forces appeared to be on the offensive. While he never won a single battle in the Carolinas, Greene orchestrated a strategic masterpiece that utterly frustrated the grand British plan to break open the deadlocked war with a victory in the South. The decision of the Continental Congress to defer to George Washington on the choice of a new commander of the Southern Department and Washington's swift and fateful decision to entrust American fortunes in the South to Nathanael Greene is the enduring significance of the Battle of Camden.



**Legend** Position of American and British Forces estimated from historic maps

★ Trail signs	22 Daughters of the Revolution Property	American Forces
⋯ Trails	Easement	British Forces
~ Streams	National Landmark Boundary	Lakes
■ Building	Battle of Camden Boundary	National Register Boundary





## Camden Battlefield Current National Register Status

“The Camden Battlefield” was designated a national historic landmark on January 20, 1961, and listed in the national register on October 15, 1966, and is considered nationally significant. The nomination describes the August 16, 1780, battle as “the outstanding symbol of the disastrous setbacks suffered by the American side in the South during The [sic] War for Independence.” This early nomination describes a property of nearly 2,000 acres in an “area confined by a pair of creeks flowing North to South towards Lake Shamokin,” and consisting of “open country, some light timber, and marshland,” as well as a number of structures unassociated with the battle. The nomination also states that the two highways that traverse the battlefield (State Route 521 and State Route 58) likely did not have “anything to do with the battle.” Subsequent research has determined that the extent of the historic battlefield did not exceed 1,300 acres.

## Camden Battlefield Application of NHL Criteria

*Criterion 1—Properties that are associated with events that have made a significant contribution to, and are identified with, or that outstandingly represent, the broad patterns of United States History and from which an understanding and appreciation of those patterns may be gained.*

**Camden Battlefield Meets Criterion 1.** The national significance of Camden Battlefield is recognized in the NHL designation of the property. Since the early designation of the property, archeologists from the University of South Carolina, Institute of Archeology and Anthropology, under the direction of Dr. Steven D. Smith, have completed significant documentary, oral history, and field investigations. In addition to providing a description of events leading up to the battle and of the environmental conditions at the time of combat, Smith’s documentary analysis depicts the engagement in detail. A thorough analysis of land use suggests that agricultural and forestry uses have not significantly impacted the integrity of the battlefield and though the battlefield has been heavily collected, the setting remains largely intact.

However, Smith’s research raises some questions concerning the accuracy and comprehensiveness of the NHL nomination. Through a series of collector surveys and systematic metal detector sampling conducted between 1998 and 2004, Smith identified subsurface features, including scattered and mass burials, as well as a core area of significant action on the “traditional” battlefield that is roughly commensurate with the 479-acre conservation easement held by the Palmetto Conservation Foundation. Smith’s proposed “Northern Solution” locates the initial positions of the opposing forces and the core area of the encounter in the northern half of the NHL site, although Smith recommends an extension of the northern boundary along State Route 58 and the remnants of the Great Wagon Road, to the site of Rugeley’s Mill, where the Continental Army and American militia forces camped before they made their final approach on Camden.

Within the broader context of U.S. history, the Battle of Camden shares a dubious place with a handful of American military catastrophes, including the 1794 defeat of American forces under General Arthur St. Clair by the Miami Indian Confederation at the Battle of the Wabash, the 1876 Battle of the Little Bighorn, the 1941 surprise attack on the U.S. Pacific Fleet at Pearl Harbor, and the 1942 defeat of U.S. forces at the fall of Bataan in the Philippine Islands. The Battle of Camden and its aftermath significantly shaped the course of the final Southern Campaigns, a decisive chapter in the American Revolution.

*Criterion 2—Properties that are associated importantly with the lives of persons nationally significant in the history of the United States.*

**Camden Battlefield Meets Criterion 2.** A number of individuals who were associated with the Battle of Camden are nationally significant in U.S. history. These include:

***Lieutenant General Charles, Lord Cornwallis***

Charles Cornwallis was born in London in 1738 to Charles, 1st Earl of Cornwallis and his wife Elizabeth Snowden. The young Cornwallis opted early for a military career and at the age of 18 purchased a commission in the British Army. Unlike some other officers of his social class, Cornwallis took his career path seriously and trained in military science at the military academy in Turin, Italy, the world's first institution of its kind. Cornwallis saw extensive action on the European continent during the Seven Years' War. After the war's end in 1763, Cornwallis took a seat in the House of Lords where, ironically, he became a sympathetic voice for the American colonies in the festering quarrel between the crown and its American subjects. Lord Cornwallis voted against both the Stamp Act and the Intolerable (or Coercive) Acts. Despite his political views, Cornwallis quickly volunteered for service in America with the outbreak of war in 1775. Lord Cornwallis was quickly promoted to lieutenant colonel and sailed to America in 1776. He saw nearly continuous service in the Revolution from that point until he surrendered his army at Yorktown in 1781.

Cornwallis began his American service in the attack on Charles Town in 1776. He soon transferred to the war's northern theater where he became a particular adversary for General George Washington. The two clashed at the battles of Long Island, New York; Trenton, Princeton, Brandywine Creek, Germantown, and Monmouth. After Monmouth, Cornwallis returned home to care for his gravely ill wife. After her death, he returned to the war and became a key figure in the British "Southern Strategy." Cornwallis played a substantial role in the successful siege of Charles Town and then assumed command of all British forces in the Carolinas, with orders to pacify the two colonies before moving north to attack American forces on the Chesapeake.

The high water mark of Cornwallis's efforts in the Southern Campaigns was his overwhelming victory over American forces at Camden on August 16, 1780. After the total victory at Camden, Lord Cornwallis took steps to consolidate his hold on the Carolinas before moving north to invade Virginia. The destruction of his army's American Loyalist left wing at Kings Mountain, South Carolina, in October 1780 forced the general to alter his plans. The assignment of General Nathanael Greene, Washington's most trusted subordinate, as commander of the American Southern Department would impose additional adjustments on Cornwallis's plans. Greene successfully wrested the initiative from his British counterpart and ultimately forced him to withdraw to Virginia and establish a base at Yorktown to await supplies and reinforcements. Washington's bold decision to march south with a superior combined American and French Army supported by a large French fleet in order to trap Cornwallis effectively ended the war. It did not, however, end Cornwallis's career. Cornwallis continued to serve the British crown for another 20 years as governor-general of India and commander-general of Ireland during the Irish rebellion. He died in India in 1805.

***Horatio Gates – see p. 13***

***Baron Johann de Kalb – see p. 13***

***Nathaniel Greene – see p. 8, Battle of Camden Historical Overview***

### ***Banastre Tarleton***

Banastre Tarleton was born in 1754, the son of John Tarleton, a merchant and the mayor of Liverpool, England. Tarleton was educated at Middle Temple in London and other institutions and on his father's death received an inheritance of 5,000 pounds, which reportedly he gambled away. If true, it is symptomatic of the reckless behavior he exhibited during the war in America. Tarleton purchased a commission in the British Army and in December 1775, he sailed from Cork a volunteer to North America where rebellion had recently broken out. Tarleton joined a large British Army and Naval force on an expedition to capture the southern city of Charles Town. After this failed, he joined the main British Army in New York under General Howe. He was assigned as the lieutenant-colonel of the British Legion, a mixed provincial force of cavalry and infantry made up of Loyalist Americans. For rebel Americans, Tarleton and the Legion shortly became some of the most hated figures in the Revolutionary War.

After service in the campaigns in the northern and middle states, Tarleton transferred to the Southern theater of the Revolutionary War in 1780. On May 29, 1780, Tarleton, with a force of Legion cavalry overtook a large detachment of Virginia Continentals commanded by Colonel Abraham Buford who were retreating to safety after the fall of Charles Town. What happened next has been the cause of heated debate that began immediately after the event itself. According to American accounts, Tarleton ignored a white flag of surrender and mercilessly massacred Buford's men. In the end, 113 Americans were killed and another 203 captured, many so badly wounded that they had to be left behind. Tarleton's casualties were 5 killed and 12 wounded. The British called the affair the Battle of Waxhaw Creek, while the Americans called it the "Buford Massacre" or the "Waxhaw Massacre." They referred to the slaying of helpless American troops simply as "Tarleton's Quarter." The image of the slaughter in the Waxhaws set the tone for two years of brutal warfare in the Carolina backcountry.

Tarleton soon after played an important role in the British victory at Camden in August 1780. He and the British Legion defeated militia forces under Thomas Sumter at Fishing Creek, a.k.a. "Catawba Fords," but then in turn were beaten by Sumter's forces at the Battle of Blackstock's Farm in November 1780. Tarleton's forces were badly mauled and after this humiliation Tarleton's star began to fade. In January 1781, Tarleton was assigned a large detached force from Lord Cornwallis's main army with orders to destroy the American Army commanded by Brigadier General Daniel Morgan. Tarleton attacked Morgan's forces at a place in the backcountry known as the Cowpens. Tarleton was out-generaled and outfought by Morgan, whose mixed force of militia and Continentals nearly annihilated Tarleton's forces. "Bloody Ban" managed to flee the battlefield with less than 200 men. This force, like his reputation, was in utter disarray.

Tarleton was badly wounded in the British victory at Guilford Courthouse two months later. He and what was left of the British Legion performed well in Cornwallis's campaign in Virginia, but his role in the American Revolution ended ignominiously after Cornwallis's surrender at Yorktown. Tarleton returned to a hero's welcome in England, managing to overcome his reputation among some in Britain who held that he had raped and murdered his way through America. He married a famous actress and her money, engaged in the slave trade, wrote defensive treatises attacking fellow officers who had fought in the Revolution, pursued a stormy political career, and lived the remainder of his life plagued by arthritis and gout. After outliving most of his enemies and critics, "Bloody Ban" died at the age of 78, a Knight Grand Cross of the Order of Bath, on January 16, 1833.

*Criterion 3—Properties that represent some great idea or ideal of the American people.*

**Criterion 3 is not applicable to Camden Battlefield.** This criterion relates to properties that express a great overarching concept or image held by the people of the United States, and is applied only in rare instances involving ideals of the highest order in the nation's history.

*Criterion 4—Properties that embody the distinguishing characteristics of an architectural type specimen exceptionally valuable for the study of a period, style, or method of construction, or that represent a significant, distinctive, and exceptional entity whose components may lack individual distinction.*

**Criterion 4 is not applicable to Camden Battlefield.** A property that is primarily commemorative in intent may be eligible if design, age, tradition, or symbolic value has invested it with its own national historical significance.

*Criterion 5—Properties that are composed of integral parts of the environment not sufficiently significant by reason of historical association or artistic merit to warrant individual recognition but collectively compose an entity of exceptional historical or artistic significance, or outstandingly commemorate or illustrate a way of life or culture.*

**Criterion 5 is not applicable to Camden Battlefield.** The Camden Battlefield protects the historic battlefield site and remaining archeological resources related to the Battle of Camden, an event of enormous national significance but one that occurred on a single day in the rural backcountry of South Carolina. There are no resources that illustrate a way of life or culture associated with the Southern Campaigns of the American Revolution.

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

**Camden Battlefield meets Criterion 6.** While Smith's extensive investigation concluded that the Camden Battlefield was heavily collected, the site likely retains "some archaeological integrity" with a "representative sample of artifacts associated with the battle still in situ across the battlefield" (Smith 2005:117). More current research conducted in 2005 confirms the site's eligibility under Criterion 6. The site has yielded data that contributes to the interpretation of battle tactics and the positions of the opposing forces and the research potential appears to promise more information on the conduct and aftermath of the battle.



# Suitability 2





# SUITABILITY

## INTRODUCTION AND CRITERIA

When evaluating the suitability of a resource for inclusion in the national park system, the proposed site must represent either a natural or cultural resource type that is not already adequately represented within the system or is not comparably represented and protected for public enjoyment by other federal agencies; tribal, state, or local governments; or the private sector. Identifying a potential thematic framework; comparing the proposed site to other resources within the national park system as well as similar resources not already in the system; and determining if the proposed area would expand, enhance, or duplicate resource protection are all important steps in evaluating the suitability of Historic Camden and the Camden Battlefield sites as a possible national park unit.

## RESOURCE TYPE – THEMATIC FRAMEWORK

Site suitability is determined on a case-by-case basis by comparing and contrasting the study area with similar resources using the thematic categories defined in the *Revision of the National Park Service's Thematic Framework, 1996*. More than half of the units within the National Park Service are cultural sites commemorating America's multifaceted history, interpreted through this thematic framework. A conceptual tool, this thematic framework is an outline of eight major themes and concepts that help us conceptualize American history and better understand the significance of cultural resources in the national park system.

These servicewide interpretive themes and theme subtopics provide a framework for connecting interpretation at all NPS units directly to the overarching mission and goals of the National Park Service. In response to a congressional mandate to ensure that the full diversity of American history and prehistory is expressed through NPS identification and interpretation of historic properties, the National Park Service has developed this thematic framework (1996) of historical themes. This thematic classification is fundamental to the comparative analysis necessary in making judgments of the relative suitability of resources. Each of these primary themes rests on topical subthemes that are used to further describe and explore the significance of the cultural resource.



FIGURE 1. THEMATIC FRAMEWORK DIAGRAM

The proposed Historic Camden and Camden Battlefield sites are associated with the primary historic themes and topics listed in the thematic framework:

- Changing Role of the United States in the World
- Shaping the Political Landscape

These themes will be used to evaluate the suitability of these sites in relationship to other similar resources.

These themes encompass issues related to federal, state, and tribal political and governmental institutions that create public policy. They also address those groups that seek to shape both policies and institutions. Finally, the themes address the ways in which the American Revolution shaped the course of world history. The political landscape has also been shaped by military events and decisions. Examples of places associated with this theme include battlefields and forts such as Fort Sumter National Monument in South Carolina. These sites reflect and commemorate watershed events in the political as well as military life of the nation. Within the theme of “Shaping the Political Landscape,” numerous topics have emerged that reflect our evolving understanding of the nation’s political past. The topic of military institutions and activities is particularly relevant to understanding the suitability of the Historic Camden and Camden Battlefield sites for inclusion in the national park system.

### **Topic: Military Institutions and Activities**

This topic focuses on the historic events and places that have molded the U.S. military and its role in the political landscape of America. Because the Revolutionary War not only marks the birth of the nation but also the creation of the U.S. military, there are many park units within the system that fall under this topic.

**Historic Camden.** The Historic Camden site served as a strategic location and military base of operation for Lord Cornwallis’s British forces during the Southern Campaign of the war. Although Historic Camden has lost much of its integrity and has been heavily modified over the years, it still provides an opportunity to interpret this theme by illustrating the significant role of the British occupation as part of an overall strategy to pacify the southern states and break the stalemate in the colonial rebellion.

**Camden Battlefield.** The Battle of Camden has the distinction of being one of the worst military defeats of America’s Continental Army during the Revolutionary War, making it a unique resource in exploring the theme of military institutions and activities in the shaping of America’s political landscape during the American Revolution. Recent archeological work compiled and analyzed in research report *Understanding Camden, The Revolutionary War Battle of Camden, As Revealed Through Historic, Archaeological, and Private Collections Analysis* released in 2005 illustrate the potential of the battlefield site to provide future insights into this theme. The integrity of the Camden Battlefield site, and continued archeological investigations and data recovery at this location will shed light on this event and contribute significantly to our understanding of this theme and the Revolutionary War in the southern theater. There are numerous historic resources within the National Park Service, at the state and local governmental levels, and nonprofit organizations that protect and interpret similar resources addressing this theme in the context of the Revolutionary War. However, the Battle of Camden site does provide an opportunity to expand and enhance the

protection as well as visitor use and understanding of resources associated with the Southern Campaign of the Revolutionary War.

## EXISTING RESOURCES

Adequacy of representation is determined by comparing the potential addition to other comparably managed areas representing the same resource type, while considering differences or similarities in the character, quality, quantity, or combination of resource values. The comparative analysis also addresses rarity of the resources, interpretive and educational potential, and similar resources already protected in the national park system or in other public or private ownership. The comparison results in a determination of whether the proposed new area would expand, enhance, or duplicate resource protection or visitor use opportunities found in other comparably managed areas.

### Resources Within the National Park System

There are numerous NPS units that interpret, share, and protect resources associated with the Revolutionary War and the military actions of this historic event (table 1). A wide range of both military and political activities that took place during the war are represented. These sites include battles that took place at remote outposts and forts on the American Frontier, significant battles and historic events during the Southern Campaign of the war leading up to the British defeat at Yorktown. Located in South Carolina, the Battle of Camden is associated with the events of the Southern Campaign and the War in the South, as identified in the 1987 *History and Prehistory in National Park System Thematic Framework*. Five NPS units associated with the Southern Campaign are in the state of South Carolina.

**TABLE 1. REVOLUTIONARY WAR SITES IN THE SOUTH REPRESENTED IN THE NATIONAL PARK SYSTEM**

Sites	Military Theme	Location
Castillo de San Marcos National Monument	X	Saint Augustine, FL
Guilford Courthouse National Military Park	X	Greensboro, NC
Moore's Creek National Battlefield	X	Currie, NC
Fort Moultrie National Monument (Fort Sumter)	X	Sullivan's Island, SC
Kings Mountain National Military Park	X	Kings Mountain, SC
Cowpens National Battlefield	X	Chesnee, SC
Ninety Six National Historic Site	X	Ninety Six, SC
George Washington Birthplace National Monument		Oak Grove, VA
Red Hill - Patrick Henry National Memorial		Brookneal, VA
Colonial National Historical Park	X	Yorktown, VA
Overmountain Victory National Historic Trail	X	VA, TN, NC, and SC

## Resources Outside the National Park System

Throughout the South, additional Revolutionary War battlefield sites and historic resources are recognized by the National Park Service as significant but are not official park units. Because of their national significance, many of these other sites are given protection as state parks, state historic sites, or through nonprofit organizations (table 2). This allows a level of resource protection as well as public interpretation and access to these sites. Currently, Historic Camden and the Camden Battlefield sites have been determined to be nationally significant and Camden Battlefield has received national historic landmark status.

**TABLE 2. REVOLUTIONARY WAR SITES THAT ARE NOT REPRESENTED IN THE NATIONAL PARK SYSTEM**

Site	Military Theme	Location
Kettle Creek Battlefield Site	X	Washington, GA
Savannah History Museum		Savannah, GA
Blue Licks Battlefield State Park	X	Carlisle, KY
Old Salem		Winston-Salem, NC
Historic Hillsborough		Durham, NC
Tryon Palace Historic Sites and Gardens		New Bern, NC
Brunswick Town State Historic Site		Wilmington, NC
Musgrove Mill State Historic Site	X	Clinton, SC
Battle of Waxhaws	X	Lancaster, SC
Sycamore Shoals State Historic Area	X	Elizabethtown, TN
Mount Vernon Estate, Museum & Gardens		Alexandria, VA
Gunston Hall		Lorton, VA
Monticello		Charlottesville, VA
Colonial Williamsburg		Williamsburg, VA
Tu-Endie-Wei State Park	X	Point Pleasant, WV

## EXPANDING AND ENHANCING OTHER SITES

Both Historic Camden and the Camden Battlefield sites have the potential to expand and enhance our understanding of the Southern Campaign of the Revolutionary War. Viewed as one of the worst military defeats for the Continental Army during the war, the Battle of Camden provides insights into the struggle for independence that complement the themes of similar sites at Kings Mountain National Military Park and Cowpens National Battlefield. The Battle of Camden is an important missing piece in the identified thematic framework that will enhance other military sites associated with the Revolutionary War. Recent archeological investigation and data recovery also confirm the importance of the battlefield site, its value as a resource for future historic research, and its potential to expand our understanding of the significance and historical implications of the pivotal Battle of Camden. By identifying sites that highlight both the failures as well as the successes of the war for independence, a more comprehensive understanding of our national history can be enhanced and shared with future generations.

In 2007, the National Park Service released the *Report to Congress on the Historic Preservation of Revolutionary War and War of 1812 Sites in the United States*. This comprehensive study of numerous resources associated with the Revolutionary War throughout the United States identified and established priorities for site preservation. In setting priorities for the preservation of Revolutionary War battlefields, the Camden Battlefield site was identified as priority I-A for protection (report page 53). Priority I sites are the most historically significant and most endangered resources identified through this study. Class A site designation recognizes these pending threats and recommends immediate attention from all levels of government. Given the conclusions of this battlefield report, this study finds that the Camden Battlefield site should be given primary consideration for protection measures that would ensure its physical integrity for the future.

## CONCLUSION

Evaluating the suitability of Historic Camden and the Camden Battlefield sites for inclusion in the national park system required an analysis of the potential thematic framework and a comparison of similar regional resources already represented in the system or protected by other federal, state, or local agencies. The history of the Southern Campaigns and the American defeat at the Battle of Camden and the strategic importance of Historic Camden to the Southern Campaign of the American Revolution have the potential to expand the thematic framework that explores the Southern Campaign of the Revolutionary War.

The 1977 National Historic Landmark Theme Study conducted by the National Park Service identified Camden Battlefield as “the climax of a series of American military disasters that had begun with the surrender of Charleston in May 1780, and which resulted in the complete British conquest of Georgia and South Carolina and the invasion of North Carolina.”<sup>3</sup> As such, Camden Battlefield could interpret the theme of the conquest and occupation of the Carolina backcountry and the end of the first phase of the British campaign to restore Royal authority in the Southern states. As such, it represents a resource type not already adequately represented in the national park system.

Therefore, it is determined that the Camden Battlefield is suitable as a unit of the national park system.

As an affiliated area of the national park system, Historic Camden effectively has been determined to be suitable as a unit of the national park system.

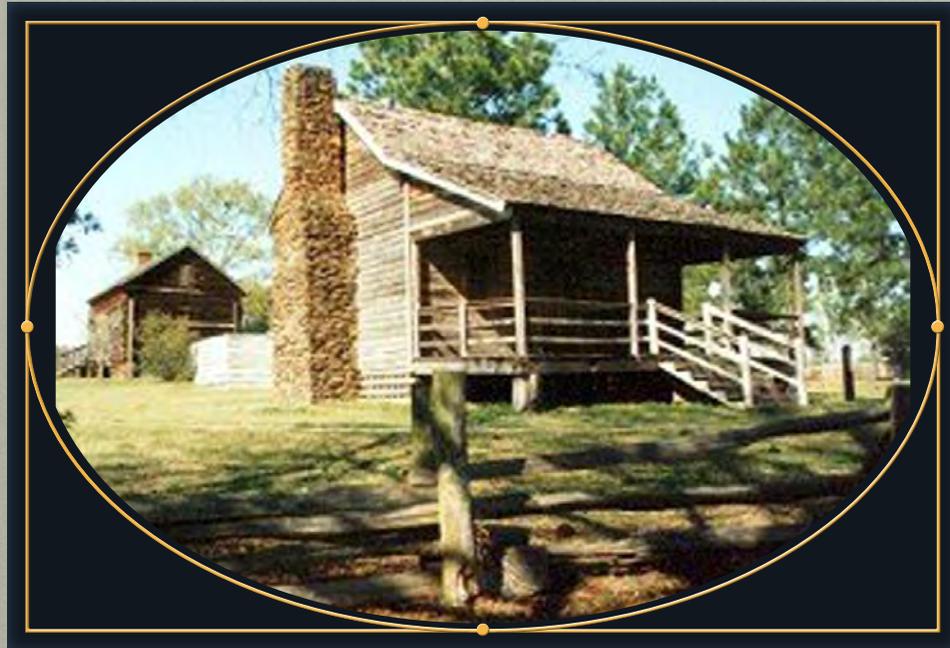
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<sup>3</sup> “Here Was the Revolution: Historic Sites of the War for American Independence.” National Historic Landmarks Theme Study. National Park Service, Department of the Interior, 1977.





# Feasibility 3





## FEASIBILITY

### CRITERIA

As stated in *NPS Management Policies 2006*, an area must meet both the first two criteria (significance and suitability) in order to be considered feasible as a new unit of the national park system. In order to be considered feasible, an area must be of sufficient size and appropriate configuration to ensure sustainable resource protection and visitor enjoyment (taking into account current and potential impacts from sources beyond proposed park boundaries), and an area must be capable of efficient administration by the National Park Service at a reasonable cost.

In evaluating these criteria, the National Park Service considers a variety of factors. These evaluation factors include:

- size and boundary configurations
- land ownership
- current and potential uses of the study area and surrounding lands / local planning and zoning
- access and public enjoyment potential
- costs associated with acquisition, development, restoration, and operation
- staffing requirements
- current and potential threats to resources
- existing degradation of resources
- the level of local and general public support (including landowners)
- the economic and social impacts of designation as a unit of the national park system

An overall evaluation of feasibility of a proposed addition to the national park system can be made after taking into account all of the above factors. The analysis also considers the ability of the National Park Service to undertake new management responsibilities in light of current and projected availability in relation to both funding and personnel.

### HISTORIC CAMDEN AND CAMDEN BATTLEFIELD FEASIBILITY ANALYSIS

These identified factors of feasibility are individually addressed. It is important to keep in mind that evaluations may sometimes identify concerns or conditions, rather than simply reach a yes or no conclusion. The determination of feasibility is not based on any single factor, but rather a collective assessment of all the factors that impact the resource being studied.

#### Size and Boundary Configurations

##### Historic Camden

The 107-acre Historic Camden Revolutionary War Site (Historic Camden) is approximately 35 miles northeast of Columbia, South Carolina. Historic Camden is the site of the original village of Camden, established in the mid-1730s as Fredericksburg Township. The site was listed in the National

Register of Historic Places in 1966. A 1980s special resource study recommended the site become an NPS affiliated site, which was made effective on May 24, 1982. Within its boundaries are the reconstruction of the Kershaw / Cornwallis Mansion (the mansion Cornwallis used as his headquarters during the Southern Campaign of the Revolutionary War), seven restored or reconstructed structures (several containing museum exhibits), reconstructed fortifications and a powder magazine, and the archeological remains of the town and British occupation site. The 1980s special resource study also identified the negative impact of visual intrusions within the boundaries of the site including a football stadium, field house, parking lots, maintenance facilities, and residential housing. These intrusions negatively impact the integrity and feasibility of the Historic Camden site's inclusion as a national park system unit.

## **Camden Battlefield**

The historic Battle of Camden site encompasses approximately 1,300 acres 8 miles north of the Historic Camden Revolutionary War Site. Today, the battlefield is open country with light timber and marshland near two streams that border the site on the east and west. State Route 58 (Flat Rock Road) currently bisects the battlefield site. The property was designated a national historic landmark in 1961. It was formally added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1966.

## **Land Ownership**

### **Historic Camden**

The Historic Camden site within the municipality of the City of Camden is currently owned and managed by the nonprofit organization, Historic Camden Foundation. The Historic Camden Foundation owns and operates the site with the assistance and support of the City of Camden.

### **Camden Battlefield Site**

In 2002, the Palmetto Conservation Foundation purchased 310 acres of the core Battle of Camden site. The Hobkirk's Hill Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution donated an additional 6 acres of the battlefield to the Palmetto Conservation Foundation in 2005. The DAR also donated a historical marker evidencing the supposed spot where the Patriot hero, Baron Johann de Kalb, fell in the battle. As part of its management strategy, the Palmetto Conservation Foundation developed a final report for the American Battlefield Protection Program on the conservation and preservation of the Battle of Camden site. In 2007, the Palmetto Conservation Foundation purchased an additional 160 acres of the battlefield, bringing the total battlefield acreage owned and protected by the foundation to 476 acres; 824 acres of the battlefield site remain in private land ownership, leaving more than half of this nationally significant landscape unprotected from the impacts of future development.

## **Current and Potential Uses of the Study Area and Surrounding Lands, Local Planning, and Zoning**

### **Historic Camden**

The City of Camden adopted a comprehensive plan in 2007, which provides insights into current and potential land use zoning and planning issues in and around the study area. *The City of Camden*

*Comprehensive Plan 2007–2017* identified local cultural resources, including Historic Camden and the Battle of Camden sites, as important elements to consider in local planning decisions. The comprehensive plan also identified critical areas of concern and potential issues that might impact the local cultural resources planning and zoning, including:

- land use compatibility
- visual (physical) image
- future size and shape of the city
- future housing composition
- orderly arrangement (plan) of development
- substandard housing conditions
- economic future of the downtown / vacant stores
- redevelopment of historic sites

As indicated in this comprehensive plan, the City of Camden recognizes the importance of cultural resources within the study area. Still, the areas of concern identified in this plan have the potential to negatively impact the integrity of historic resources in the study area and should be considered in future management and evaluation of the study area.

### **Camden Battlefield Site**

Palmetto Conservation Foundation has purchased 477 acres, or about 90%–95% of the core battlefield. It is the foundation’s intention to acquire another 20 acres, which will give them ownership of the entire core of the battlefield, comprising the most significant engagement areas. The remaining 824 acres of the battlefield include less significant areas such as areas where the British and American troops deployed into battle lines before the armies actually engaged.

The State of South Carolina proposes to remove the existing alignment of State Route 521 from the battlefield. The existing road corridor would then be restored. Suburban residential and commercial development has been underway in the recent past in the vicinity of the battlefield. Increasing development poses a potential risk to the integrity of the battlefield landscape and its archeological resources.

## **Access and Public Enjoyment Potential**

### **Historic Camden**

Located approximately 35 miles northeast of Columbia, the city of Camden is accessible off Interstate 20 to the south. State Route 521 (Broad Street) runs north through the Historic Camden site and provides direct access off the Interstate to visitors. The 107-acre outdoor museum complex includes the town site of 18th century Camden, the restored and furnished 1785 John Craven House, Cunningham House circa 1830 (tour office and gift shop), two early 19th century log cabins with exhibits, partially restored 1795 McCaa House, reconstructions of some of the military fortifications, the reconstructed and furnished Joseph Kershaw mansion, headquarters for Lord Cornwallis, a blacksmith exhibit, and a 0.6-mile nature trail. The site is open Tuesday through Saturday, 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.; Sunday, 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.; and closed major holidays.

## **Camden Battlefield Site**

Located 8 miles north of the city of Camden, the Battle of Camden site is accessed off U.S. Route 521. Public access is limited to the core battlefield site owned and managed by the Palmetto Conservation Foundation. This area and its amenities include a parking area with kiosks, 3 miles of hiking trails, interpretive signage along the trail, and a downloadable podcast that visitors can use to explore the history and events of the site. With the close location of other Revolutionary War battlefield sites (Cowpens National Battlefield and Kings Mountain National Military Park) there is a high potential for additional visitation and increased public enjoyment for guests interested in including the study area as part of their visitor experience to established parks. Ease of access, existing trails with interpretive signage, and related Revolutionary War sites give the study area a high potential for future public enjoyment and increased access to these resources.

## **Costs Associated with Acquisition, Development, Restoration, Rehabilitation, and Operation**

Historic Camden is currently managed through the nonprofit organization Historic Camden Foundation, which maintains the site and museum. The restoration of the landscape and surroundings of the Historic Camden site to national park system standards would require the removal of numerous visual intrusions that compromise the integrity of the site's resources. Many of these intrusions were first identified in the special resource study in 1980 and some have been removed. Additional costs would be associated with the mitigation and removal of these remaining site intrusions and their impacts on the resources. Ongoing operational costs for the maintenance and stewardship of the numerous historic structures and earthworks at the Historic Camden site must be considered when assessing long-term costs and other NPS investments at the site. These costs would potentially negatively influence the feasibility of NPS ownership of the town site.

Currently, the Palmetto Conservation Foundation manages and operates the Battle of Camden site. As part of a federal grant process, the foundation developed a management report for the American Battlefield Protection Program that included the following elements:

1. Site Management Plan
2. Property Security Plan
3. Land Acquisition Plan
4. Base Map Plan
5. Interpretation Plan

Since this management report, the foundation has continued to develop the site through the acquisition of additional land such as 161 acres purchased from Crescent Resources, LLC. The foundation has worked to restore the viewshed and terrain to the condition at the time of the battle by returning the forest landscape to a longleaf pine ecosystem. More than 3 miles of interpretive hiking trails through the battlefield site have also been developed by the foundation. This significant investment in land acquisition, restoration, and trails positively impacts the feasibility of NPS ownership of the battlefield site.

## **Staffing Requirements**

Evaluating the future staffing needs for the Historic Camden / Battle of Camden study area will require the development of long-range planning goals and management objectives. The current

staffing needs for other regional NPS units of similar size that also interpret the Revolutionary War provide some insights into what an appropriate sized staff might be if the two areas were to become units of the national park system. Both the interpretation and protection of the resources as well as the interaction, education, and safety of visitors at the site must be considered when evaluating the staffing needs of a potential park unit. Because there are two separate sites in the study area, the challenges of managing multiple sites in different locations will require special consideration for staffing issues.

**TABLE 3. SIMILAR NPS SITES: STAFF AND BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2012**

National Park System Units	No. of FTEs	Annual Operating Budget
Cowpens National Battlefield	10	\$ 860,00.00
Kings Mountain National Military Park	16	\$ 1,191,000.00
Ninety Six National Historic Site	5	\$ 478,000.00
Moore's Creek National Battlefield	7	\$ 701,000.00

### **Current and Potential Threats to the Resources**

There are currently no immediate threats to the resources within the study area. However, like many rural historic sites and battlefield landscapes throughout the United States, the Historic Camden and Battle of Camden sites are under intense pressure from regional development, urban sprawl, and encroaching growth. Both the cities of Columbia and Charleston continue to grow as key urban centers in the state of South Carolina, pushing the development of new homes into neighboring regions like Kershaw County. Areas around the Historic Camden site are zoned for residential development, presenting a potential threat in the form of visual encroachment. Large tracts of land in and around the battlefield site are privately owned, which increases the potential threat of private development that could negatively impact the surrounding landscape, viewshed, and context of the historic site within the study area.

### **Existing Degradation of Resources**

In evaluating existing degradation of resources, the resources of the study area, in particular the archeological resources found in both sites, have maintained a level of integrity. Recent field studies and research have recognized the importance of archeological resources as contributing to the study area's national significance and the need to protect these sites. As mentioned earlier, the visual intrusions at Historic Camden continue to have a negative impact on the interpretation and quality of resources at the site.

A key area of concern regarding existing degradation of the Battle of Camden site is the location of State Route 58. The core battlefield site is currently bisected by State Route 58 (Flat Rock Road), which reportedly receives a high volume of through vehicular traffic. High traffic volumes present both a safety hazard for visitors to the site as well as negatively impacts the visual and auditory experience at the site. Overall, State Route 58 has a negative impact on visitor experience and substantially degrades the interpretive opportunities at the battlefield site.

## **The Level of Local and General Public Support**

Based on input received during the scoping period for this study, there appears to be strong local and general public support for telling the Battle of Camden story and sharing this Revolutionary War history with a larger audience. Local preservation and protection efforts for both sites as well as grassroots interpretative programming also illustrate public support and interest in the historic resources found in the study area. The popularity of battle reenactments at both sites also illustrates the importance of these sites to the local community and general public. High levels of attendance and active participation at public meetings indicates local engagement and positive support for the potential designation of the Historic Camden and Battle of Camden sites to be considered for inclusion in the national park system.

## **The Economic and Social Impacts of Designation as a unit of the National Park System**

Previous case studies and precedents indicate that national park designation for Historic Camden and the Battle of Camden sites would likely increase annual attendance and visitation to these resources. This influx of visitors in turn could have a potentially positive economic impact as well as positive social impacts for the city of Camden. Research has documented that, in general, heritage tourists traditionally spend more money during their visits to historic sites than the general tourist population. Still, increased visitation could also lead to crowding and have negative impacts if the resources are not managed properly or are not prepared to receive increased numbers of visitors.

## **CONCLUSION**

Having applied these feasibility evaluation factors to the Historic Camden / Battle of Camden study area, inclusion of the Battle of Camden site and the Historic Camden site as an official national park system unit or two separate units is not feasible. Both sites are managed by separate entities that have a proven record of successful partnerships with the National Park Service for a number of years. There is an opportunity for increasing public use and enjoyment of these resources in broadening the public's understanding and appreciation for the Revolutionary War in the South. A high level of public participation illustrates strong grassroots support for designation of both sites within the study area as a national park system unit.

Still, careful consideration must be given to staffing requirements as well as long-term administrative and maintenance needs of such an undertaking. The costs associated with acquisition, development, restoration, and operation in perpetuity of the Historic Camden site present numerous challenges that make NPS direct ownership infeasible at this time. As an affiliated area, Historic Camden has the potential of receiving technical assistance from the National Park Service to develop or expand interpretive and educational programs.

As mentioned earlier, this feasibility analysis must also consider the ability of the National Park Service to undertake new management responsibilities in light of current and projected availability of funding and personnel. Given current and projected availability of funding and personnel for the National Park Service, it is unlikely that direct national park management for both Historic Camden and the Battle of Camden sites would be feasible.

It is true that many potential new units would fall short on these criteria. The NPS policies for feasibility indicate that a new unit must be "capable of efficient administration by the National Park

Service at a reasonable cost.” The costs associated with development, restoration, and operation of the site, combined with the costs of staffing requirements pose likely insurmountable obstacles given the current and foreseeable budget circumstances. Moreover, the requirement for “efficient administration” argues against co-management with another national park system unit, given the substantial distances between Camden Battlefield and other park units in the Carolinas shown below.

<b>NATIONAL PARK SYSTEM UNITS IN NORTH CAROLINA AND SOUTH CAROLINA</b>	<b>DISTANCE TO CAMDEN BATTLEFIELD</b>
Congaree National Park	45 miles
Cowpens National Battlefield	105 miles
Fort Sumter National Monument	135 miles
Guilford Courthouse	150 miles
Kings Mountain Military Park	95 miles
Moore's Creek National Battlefield	175 miles
Ninety Six National Historic Site	105 miles

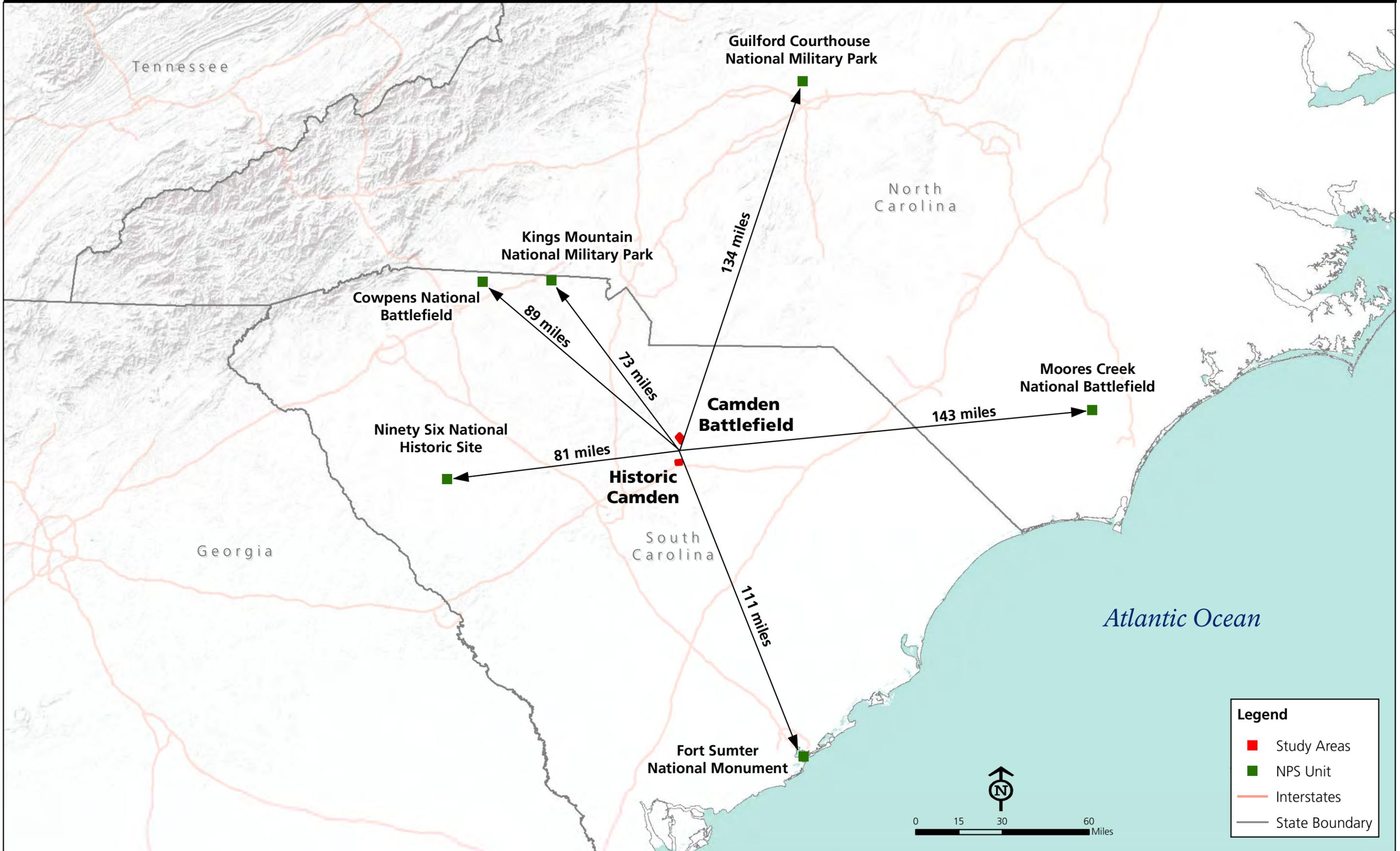
We are including the following information on other Revolutionary War sites in the Carolinas in order to provide a more detailed context for the finding on feasibility.

<b>PARK</b>	<b>ACREAGE</b>	<b>STAFFING</b>	<b>BUDGET</b>
Cowpens NB	842	10 (2010)	\$ 860,000 (2010)
Guilford Courthouse NMP	243	15 (2010)	\$1,136,000 (2010)
Kings Mountain NMP	3,945	16 (2010)	\$1,191,000 (2010)
Moore's Creek N	88	7 (2010)	\$ 701,000 (2010)
Ninety Six NHS	1,022	5 (2010)	\$ 478,000 (2010)

Based on these figures, the study team estimates that inclusion of Camden Battlefield and Historic Camden under NPS management would require five to seven FTE employees for management of the site and a budget of approximately \$600,000 to \$800,000. Based on a number of factors, including comparisons to budget and staffing for other thematically related NPS sites in North Carolina and South Carolina, it was determined that the addition of these sites to the national park system is not feasible. Guilford Courthouse and Moore's Creek are too far from Camden for effective co-management. The other Revolutionary War NPS sites in South Carolina have no additional employees available to staff these new sites full-time, and are also a substantial distance from Camden.

As an example of the adaptive measures taken to address current budgetary concerns, the National Park Service recently consolidated four of the referenced parks (Cowpens National Battlefield, Kings Mountain National Military Park, Ninety Six National Historic Site, and Overmountain Victory National Historic Trail) under one superintendent and organizational structure.

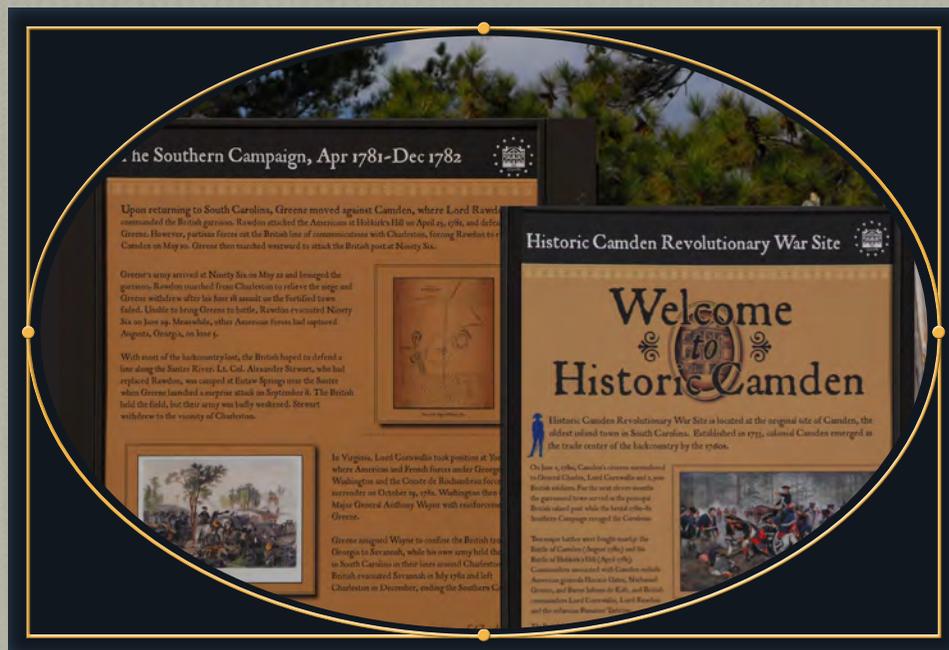
This unique alignment of similar American Revolutionary War resources offers longer term operational sustainability and is an example of the innovative management decisions necessary to preserve already existing NPS resources in challenging budget scenarios. Given the current budget environment and the necessary measures to simply preserve operations at currently managed park units, it is not anticipated that co-management or individual management of Historic Camden and Camden Battlefield as NPS units would be a viable option.







# National Park Service Findings 4





## **CONCLUSION**

The National Park Service finds that Historic Camden and Camden Battlefield are not feasible as units of the national park system. Therefore, this study does not evaluate the need for NPS management.

However, the National Park Service recognizes that the sites reflect stories and protect resources of national significance. The National Park Service further recognizes that both sites exhibit great potential for visitor use and enjoyment and enhancing visitor understanding and appreciation of the pivotal Southern Campaign of the American Revolution. These sites can contribute substantially to future efforts to interpret the history and significance of the American Revolution in the South and contribute to regional efforts to explain the role that the states of North Carolina and South Carolina played in bringing about the final American victory in the Southern Campaigns and the American Revolution.

## **FINDINGS**

The NPS study team finds that Historic Camden and Camden Battlefield do not meet the criteria for inclusion in the national park system. The two sites are nationally significant and suitable additions to the national park system, but do not meet the criterion of feasibility. For resources to be considered feasible for inclusion in the national park system, the National Park Service must be capable of ensuring resource protection and public enjoyment at a reasonable cost. After applying the feasibility evaluation factors to the study area, it was found that inclusion of the Historic Camden site and the Battle of Camden site as a unit, or two separate units, of the national park system is not feasible. As a result of the negative feasibility finding, the team did not evaluate the need for direct NPS management, and the study process was concluded.

The study team recognizes that the sites protect resources of national significance and reflect their history. The team further recognizes that Historic Camden, an affiliated area of the national park system, provides for visitor use and enjoyment, enhancing visitor understanding and appreciation of the pivotal Southern Campaign of the American Revolution. Camden Battlefield is a closely related resource that possesses the potential for providing for visitor use and enjoyment. In tandem, the sites could contribute substantially to efforts to interpret the history and significance of the American Revolution in the South and the region in particular, illustrating the role that the states of North and South Carolina played in bringing about the final American victory in the Revolution.

## **AFFILIATED AREA STATUS**

As an affiliated area, Historic Camden is one of a variety of locations that preserve significant properties outside of the national park system. The National Parks Index (1997–1999) defines affiliated areas as “those properties that are neither federally owned nor directly administered by the National Park Service, but which utilize NPS assistance.” To be eligible for designation as an affiliated area, the study area’s resources must:

1. meet the same standards for significance and suitability that apply to units of the national park system
2. require some special recognition or technical assistance beyond what is available through existing NPS programs

3. be managed in accordance with the policies and standards that apply to units of the national park system
4. be assured of sustained resource protection, as documented in a formal agreement between the National Park Service and the nonfederal management entity

Camden Battlefield is considered eligible for designation as an affiliated area associated with Historic Camden. The site has been determined to meet the national significance and suitability criteria for a new unit of the national park system, and the Palmetto Conservation Foundation, owner of the battlefield lands, has demonstrated a commitment to protect and preserve the resources. Under affiliated area status, Historic Camden and Camden Battlefield could together provide educational and interpretive opportunities associated with the British conquest and occupation of the Carolina backcountry during the Revolutionary War—events that are currently not represented in the national park system.

## **POTENTIAL NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA**

In 2014, the National Park Service completed a suitability/feasibility study for a potential national heritage area dedicated to the Southern Campaign of the Revolution in the states of North Carolina and South Carolina. According to NPS guidelines, a national heritage area is a place designated by Congress where natural, cultural, historic, and scenic resources combine to form a cohesive, nationally distinctive landscape arising from patterns of human activity shaped by geography.

The study focused on the following themes related to the American Revolution in the Carolinas:

1. The military events in the Carolinas substantially influenced the eventual American victory in the Revolution.
2. Political rivalries in both North Carolina and South Carolina were catalysts to the outbreak of the Revolution in the South and played an important role in the conduct of what was in many ways America's first civil war.
3. The brutal combat during the Revolution profoundly disrupted traditional ways of life in the Carolinas.
4. The American victory in the Revolution presaged momentous changes for American Indians and African Americans in the Carolinas.

Elements of these four important themes are well-represented at both Camden Battlefield and Historic Camden. A potential national heritage area would link these two sites to other historical, cultural, and natural sites related to the Revolutionary War in the South. Should a national heritage area be designated, Camden Battlefield and Historic Camden are positioned to play important roles in enabling visitors to understand the scope and consequences of the Revolution in the South as the nation prepares to commemorate the 250th anniversary of the American Revolution.

# **APPENDIXES, REFERENCES, AND PREPARERS AND CONSULTANTS**



## APPENDIX A: AUTHORIZING LEGISLATION

H. R. 146—222

### SEC. 7211. BATTLE OF CAMDEN, SOUTH CAROLINA.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall complete a special resource study of the site of the Battle of Camden fought in South Carolina on August 16, 1780, and the site of Historic Camden, which is a National Park System Affiliated Area, to determine—(1) the suitability and feasibility of designating the sites as a unit or units of the National Park System; and (2) the methods and means for the protection and interpretation of these sites by the National Park Service, other Federal, State, or local government entities or private or nonprofit organizations.

(b) STUDY REQUIREMENTS.—The Secretary shall conduct the study in accordance with section 8(c) of Public Law 91–383 (16 U.S.C. 1a–5(c)).

(c) REPORT.—Not later than three years after the date on which funds are made available to carry out this section, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate a report containing—(1) the results of the study, and (2) any findings of the Secretary.

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Fort Moultrie (part of Fort Sumter National Monument –

<http://www.nps.gov/fosu/planyourvisit/fomohqdirections>.

Guilford Courthouse National Military Park – <http://www.nps.gov/guco>

Kings Mountain National Military Park – <http://www.nps.gov/kimo>

Moore's Creek National Battlefield – <http://www.nps.gov/mocr>

Ninety-Six National Historic Site – <http://www.nps.gov/nisi>

Overmountain Victory National Historic Trail – <http://www.nps.gov/ovi>

### **Criteria for New National Park Lands:**

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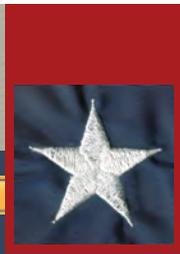
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As the nation's principal conservation agency, the Department of the Interior has responsibility for most of our nationally owned public lands and natural resources. This includes fostering sound use of our land and water resources; protecting our fish, wildlife, and biological diversity; preserving the environmental and cultural values of our national parks and historic places; and providing for the enjoyment of life through outdoor recreation. The department assesses our energy and mineral resources and works to ensure that their development is in the best interests of all our people by encouraging stewardship and citizen participation in their care. The department also has a major responsibility for American Indian reservation communities and for people who live in island territories under U.S. administration.

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## Battle of Camden and Historic Camden Special Resource Study

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