



## Southern Campaign of the Revolution Heritage Area Study



Congress directed the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a study regarding the suitability and feasibility of designating a Southern Campaign of the Revolution Heritage Area. The area to be studied includes the following counties in South Carolina: Anderson, Pickens, Greenville, Spartanburg, Cherokee, Greenwood, Laurens, Union, York, Chester, Darlington, Florence, Chesterfield, Marlboro, Fairfield, Richland, Lancaster, Kershaw, Sumter, Orangeburg, Georgetown, Dorchester, Colleton, Charleston, Beaufort, Calhoun, Clarendon, and Williamsburg. Additional sites in North Carolina may also be appropriate for study, but no counties were specifically designated.



### WHAT IS A NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA?

A heritage area is both a place and a concept. Physically, heritage areas are regions with concentrations of significant natural, scenic, cultural, historic, and recreational resources. Most of the properties in a heritage area are in private ownership and will remain in private ownership. Heritage areas are places



known for their unique culture and identity, as well as for being good places to live in or visit. As a concept, heritage areas are partnerships where residents, businesses, local governments, and state and federal agencies collaborate to create more livable and economically sustainable regions.



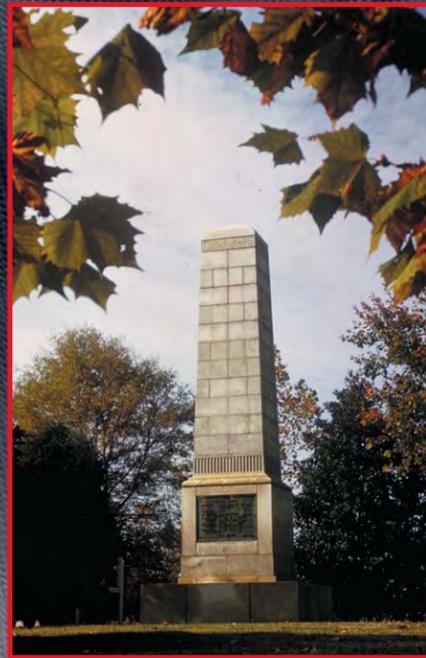
Moore's Creek NB



Ninety Six NHS



Kings Mountain NMP



Cowpens NB



Moore's Creek NB



Moore's Creek NB



Guilford Courthouse NMP

### WHAT CRITERIA WILL BE USED TO DETERMINE THE NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA?

The National Park Service was designated by the Secretary of the Interior to undertake the National Heritage Area study in conjunction with the States of North and South Carolina, and with representatives designated by those states. The study will determine whether the study area

- ★ Has an assemblage of natural, historic, and cultural resources that together represent distinctive aspects of American heritage worthy of recognition, conservation, interpretation, and continuing use and are best managed through partnerships among public and private entities and by combining diverse and sometimes noncontiguous resources and active communities;
- ★ Reflects traditions, customs, beliefs, and folk life that are a valuable part of the national story;
- ★ Provides outstanding opportunities to conserve natural, historic, cultural, or scenic features;
- ★ Provides outstanding recreational and educational opportunities;



- ★ Contains resources important to the identified theme or themes of the study area that retain a degree of integrity capable of supporting interpretation;
- ★ Includes residents, business interests, nonprofit organizations, and local and state governments that are involved in the planning, have developed a conceptual financial plan that outlines the roles of all participants (including the Federal Government), and have demonstrated support for the concept of a national heritage area;
- ★ Has a potential local coordinating entity to work in partnership with residents, business interests, nonprofit organizations, and local and state governments to develop a national heritage area consistent with continued local and state economic activity; and
- ★ Has a conceptual boundary map that is supported by the public.
- ★ Describes the management entity proposed to plan and implement the project.

### WHAT IS THE LIKELY OUTCOME OF THIS STUDY?

The feasibility study is meant to evaluate the area and determine if it meets the established requirements to be designated as a National Heritage Area. It is important to include the fact that after the study is complete, recommendations will be made to the secretary of the interior and Congress. Public involvement is crucial to the success of the study.

### WHO WILL MAKE UP THE STUDY TEAM?

The study team will be made up of National Park Service planners; representatives of the South Carolina State Historic Preservation Office and the Department of Parks, Recreation, and Tourism; representatives of the North Carolina Departments of Commerce and Cultural Resources; and representatives of affected communities and sites.



### WHAT ARE THE STEPS IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF A NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA STUDY?

1. A mission statement will be developed to guide the study. Specific resource, education, recreation, community revitalization, and heritage tourism goals will be developed and a study boundary delineated and refined.
2. A description of the region's contribution to national heritage will be compiled using already existing sources, and information provided by the general public.
3. Interpretive themes will be developed to provide a framework for interpretation of natural and cultural resources and to focus study efforts.
4. Public workshops will be held to discuss the themes and to discuss area resources and culture. A project website will be developed to keep the public informed.
5. Management alternatives and a preliminary assessment of possible impacts of each alternative will be undertaken. A status quo, or "no action," alternative will be described to provide a comparison to any other alternatives developed. Analysis of the impacts of each alternative would allow easy comparison.
6. Selection of a proposed alternative following public review and comment of the draft study.
7. Report to Congress on the findings of the study along with any recommendations.

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## HOW CAN I PARTICIPATE?

The planning team welcomes your thoughts, ideas, and concerns now and throughout the planning process. Your responses to this initial scoping effort will be most helpful if received by December 1st, 2008. You may...

- return the enclosed pre-addressed comment card to the planning team
- mail your written comments to...  
National Park Service, attn: Tom Thomas, Planning  
12795 West Alameda Parkway, P.O. Box 25287  
Denver, Colorado 80225-0287
- submit your comments through the park planning website at <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/sero>  
Click on the link for Southern Campaign of the Revolution Heritage Area

We also encourage you to think about your vision for a Southern Campaign of the Revolution Heritage Area, as well as any concerns or issues that should be addressed by the study. Either send them to us by one of the above methods or bring them with you to one of our upcoming public meetings.



*Thank you for your interest in  
Southern Campaign of the Revolution  
Heritage Area Study!*



## HISTORICAL OVERVIEW

The American Revolution shaped the destiny of the United States. In doing so, it also transformed much of the world. The war profoundly altered the fabric of American politics, society, culture, and foreign relations. The benefits of victory in the Revolution were widespread among many Americans of diverse backgrounds. The citizens of the former colonies won the freedom to craft a political system that inspired people across the world. Ironically, for some Americans, the United States' victory over Great Britain resulted in personal and political catastrophe. The Revolution's dramatic victories and lesser-known defeats were in part reflections of a civil war embedded in the larger struggle against the British Empire. The stark brutality of that inner civil war was nowhere more in evidence than in the South.

The outbreak of war in the spring of 1775 spread quickly through the colonies. In the South, the fighting against the British reignited local and regional conflicts and feuds that dated back nearly a decade. Between 1775 and 1776, southern Patriots fought a number of engagements with old enemies who had remained loyal to the Crown. A small Patriot force crushed a much larger Loyalist militia force at Moore's Creek Bridge, North Carolina, in February 1776. In June, Patriot regulars and militia frustrated a British naval and land assault on Charles Town, South Carolina. Following an engagement at Ninety Six in the South Carolina backcountry in November 1775, Patriot militia and Continental Army troops drove Tory forces into lands controlled by the Cherokee. In the summer and fall of 1776, Patriot Carolina militia launched a brutal invasion of the Cherokee homeland in retaliation against Cherokee raids on the Carolina backcountry. The ruthless campaign devastated Cherokee fields and villages, effectively driving them out of the war and ending any possibility they might serve as British allies. At the same time, Patriot forces intimidated or forced into exile Loyalists who opposed them.

For the next two years, Patriot forces in the south consolidated their positions

and established effective political and military structures. In 1780, frustrated by stalemate in other theaters, the British determined to re-establish royal authority in the South. Reports that large Loyalist populations stood ready to aid a British reconquest of the region provided impetus for British military efforts. Initially the British invasion enjoyed success in major engagements. Charles Town, South Carolina, fell to British forces in May 1780. This disastrous defeat effectively destroyed the southern Continental Army. British dragoons massacred still more American regulars at Waxhaws, South Carolina, a few weeks later. In August, a British army under Lord Cornwallis crushed an American army at Camden, South Carolina. By autumn 1780, American fortunes in the South were skidding along the bottom of a very deep trench.

As badly as things were going on the major fronts, the Patriots were gradually winning the war on the local fronts. Here patriot militia battled Tory provincials in combat that grew more savage with each engagement. Both sides had legitimate grievances against the other and extracted bloody revenge in fighting without quarter throughout 1780. In August 1780, just days after the disaster at Camden, Carolina militia inflicted a crushing defeat on a large force of British regulars and Loyalist militia at Musgrove's Mill, South Carolina. Six weeks later, overmountain militia from the Carolinas, Virginia, and Tennessee annihilated a large force of Tory militia at King's Mountain. Although partisan fighting continued in the Carolinas for more than a year after King's Mountain, Patriot militia victories in the field and intimidation on the home front began to cow Loyalist resistance. This neutralized a crucial element of the British southern strategy. The victory at King's Mountain also threatened General Cornwallis's western flank and forced the British commander to abandon Charlotte, North Carolina. It was the first of many adjustments to renewed American resolve that Cornwallis would make in the coming months.



Following the disaster at Camden, George Washington gave his aide Major General Nathaniel Greene command of all American forces in the South. Shortly after his arrival in December 1780, Greene reorganized and reenergized Patriot forces. He then embarked on a campaign to harass British forces at a number of points. Greene's veteran Continental regulars proved to be at least a match for British regulars; American militia applied merciless pressure on their Tory rivals. A smashing American victory at Cowpens, South Carolina, on January 17, 1781, spurred an enraged Cornwallis to chase Greene's retreating forces across North Carolina toward Virginia. Greene narrowly evaded his enemy; Cornwallis dangerously weakened his army in the reckless pursuit. By February 1781, Greene was back in North Carolina. The American commander deployed his rested and reinforced army at Guilford Courthouse, daring Cornwallis to attack. An intense battle that featured two elite units, the British Guards and the Continental Army's First Maryland Regiment, followed on March 15, 1781. The engagement climaxed with some of the fiercest bayonet fighting of the entire war. Greene's army stubbornly disengaged only after inflicting appalling losses on the enemy. Nearly thirty percent of Cornwallis' men were killed or wounded. One shaken member of the House of Commons concluded that "Another such victory would ruin the British Army."

After his Pyrrhic victory at Guilford Courthouse, Cornwallis refitted and marched toward his eventual defeat at Yorktown. Greene moved into South Carolina to restore American momentum

there. Coordinating with Patriot militia, Greene tied up major British units while partisans led by Francis Marion and Andrew Pickens attacked and destroyed small British outposts. Greene's army fought bloody battles against the main British Army at Hobkirk's Hill and Eutaw Springs. These engagements compelled the British to withdraw to the coast and yield the interior to Patriot control. After Eutaw Springs, the British Army never again took the field in force in the Carolinas. Though he never won a single major battle, Greene realized a brilliant strategic victory in the South.

The United States secured its independence with the Treaty of Paris in September 1783. The American victory in many ways did indeed "turn the world upside down." It set in motion the most ambitious experiment in representative government in history. The United States that emerged less than eighty years after Cornwallis's defeat at Yorktown surpassed anything envisioned by the men and women who made that victory possible. Their victory spelled defeat and humiliation for Americans who remained loyal to the crown, but it meant freedom for many African American slaves fighting on both sides. While the Cherokees never completely recovered from the defeats inflicted by Patriot backcountry militia, the Catawbas were rewarded with a reservation in South Carolina that they hold to this day. Finally, the American Revolution established the philosophical foundation for the abolition movement of the nineteenth century. The Civil War that followed further expanded the meaning of American freedom.

## SOUTHERN CAMPAIGN THEMES

- ★ The military events in the Carolinas substantially influenced the eventual American victory in the Revolution.
- ★ 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.
- ★ The brutal combat during the Revolution profoundly disrupted traditional ways of life in the Carolinas.
- ★ The American victory in the Revolution presaged momentous changes for Native Americans and African Americans in the Carolinas.

