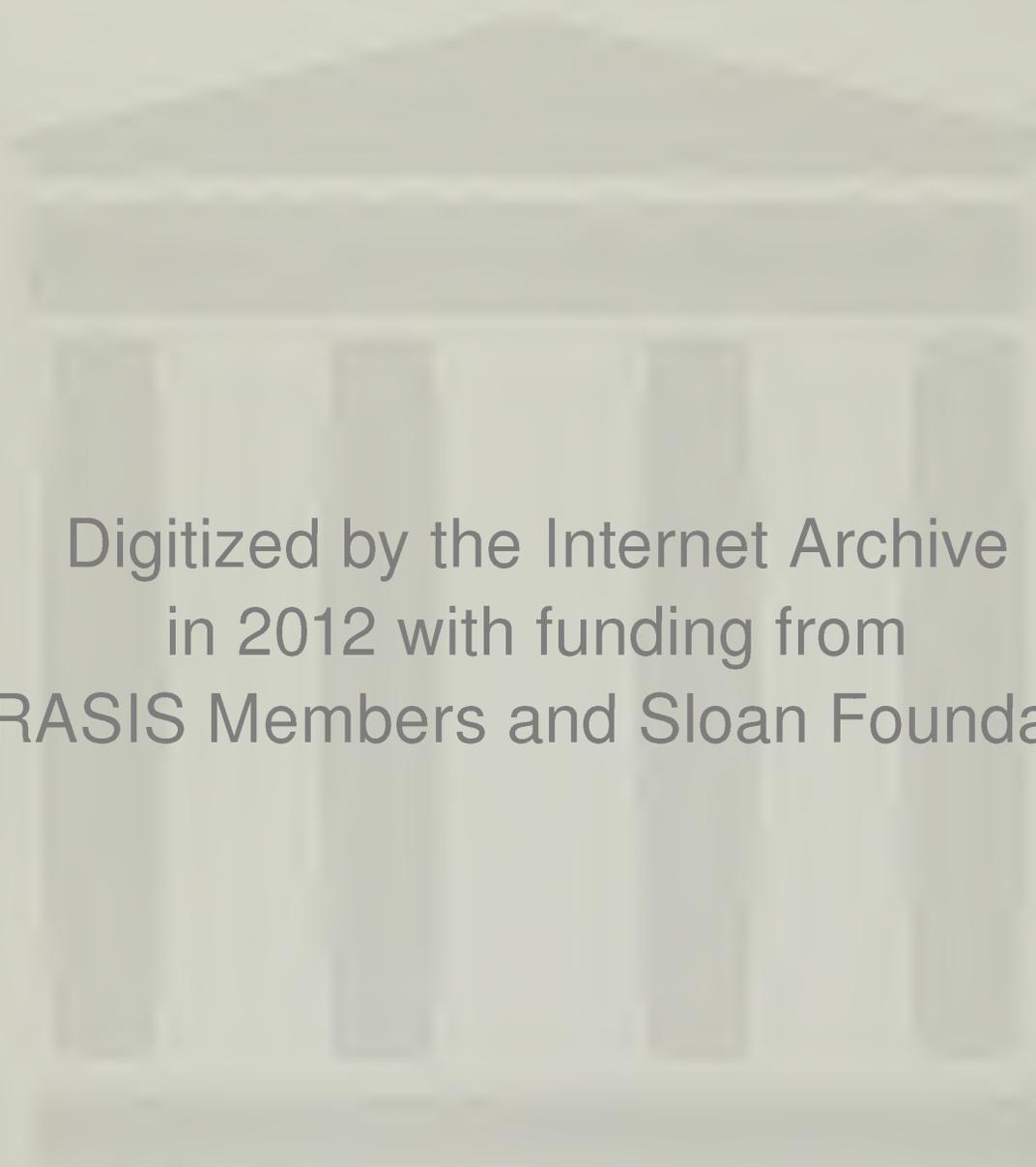




Kings Mountain National Military Park
Cultural Landscape Report
Cultural Resources • Southeast Region





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Kings Mountain National Military Park

Cultural Landscape Report

Susan Hart Vincent, Historic Land Design
Charlotte, North Carolina

Cultural Resources Division
Southeast Regional Office
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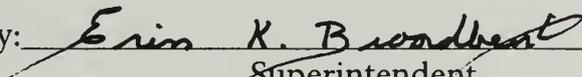


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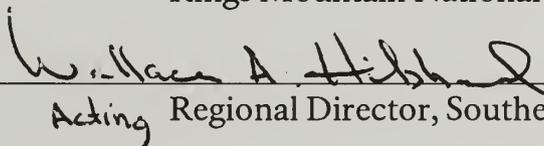


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Cover: Aerial view of the U. S. Monument, April 6, 1938; Kings Mountain NMP Archives.

Figure 1: *Exploring the West from Monticello: A Perspective in Maps from Columbus to Lewis and Clark*, http://www.lib.virginia.edu/speccol/exhibits/lewis_clark/exploring/ch2-10.html; Figure 2: Adapted from W. J. Wood, *Battles of the Revolutionary War, 1775-1781* (Chapel Hill, 1990), as found in Blythe, et al., *Kings Mountain NMP Historic Resource Study*, 1995; Figure 3: Reprinted from Bearss, *Historic Resource Study: Roads, Trails, and Burial Sites, Kings Mountain NMP*, 1974; Figure 4: Reprint, Easley, South Carolina: Southern Historical Press, 1980; Figure 5: J.G.M. Ramsey, *The Annals of Tennessee to the End of the Eighteenth Century*, 1926; Figure 6; South Carolina State Plat Books, 2nd series, vol. 48, South Carolina Department of Archives and History, Columbia, SC, p. 166; Figure 7: Photo by author, 1998; Figure 8: Benson J. Lossing, *Pictorial Field Book of the Revolution*, vol. 2 (New York: Harper and Brothers, 1859); Figure 9: Kings Mountain NMP Archives; Figure 10: Photo by author, 1998; Figure 11: Frank Leslie's *Illustrated Newspaper*, October 13, 1880; Figure 12: Photo by author, 1998; Figure 13: *Souvenir Program, Sesqui-Centennial Celebration, Battle of Kings Mountain, October 7, 1930*, Kings Mountain NMP Archives; Figures 14-15: Photos by author, 1998; Figure 16: *Master Plan for Kings Mountain National Military Park*, Sheet 6, January 1941, Kings Mountain NMP Archives; Figure 17: Kings Mountain NMP Archives; Figures 18 - 23: Drawings by author.

Foreword

We are pleased to make available this cultural landscape report as part of our ongoing effort to provide comprehensive documentation for the historic structures and landscapes of National Park Service units in the Southeast Region. Many individuals and institutions contributed to the successful completion of this project. We would especially like to thank Kings Mountain National Military Park Superintendent Erin Broadbent, former Superintendent Ping Crawford, and Chief Ranger Chris Revels for their support and contributions to this work. Thanks also to Lucy Lawliss, Lead, NPS Park Cultural Landscapes Program, for her knowledgeable guidance throughout the project. Finally, we would like to recognize the labor and dedication of Susan Hart Vincent, author of this report. We hope that the study will be a useful tool for park management and for others interested in the history and significance of the many cultural resources at Kings Mountain.

Dan Scheidt
Chief, Cultural Resources Stewardship
Southeast Regional Office

Acknowledgments

The author wishes to acknowledge the cooperation and assistance of several individuals associated with this project. I am particularly grateful to Lucy Lawliss, Historical Landscape Architect, Cultural Resources, National Park Service Southeast Regional Office (SERO), for her valuable guidance and unwavering support for this project. Special thanks also go to the staff of Kings Mountain National Military Park (KIMO) and Superintendent Ping Crawford, who were very instrumental in helping me find specific documentation. I especially wish to thank Chris Revels, Chief Ranger, KIMO, whose keen knowledge of archival materials, local contacts, and management policies was invaluable.

Other recognition goes to Larry Hultquist, Landscape Architect, SERO, who provided information for the treatment of the Park's cultural landscapes. Tom Baker, Park Ranger at Guilford Court House National Military Site, was helpful with his knowledge of the southern campaigns of the Revolutionary War. In addition, Dr. Bobby Moss, professor at Limestone College, Gaffney, South Carolina, furnished me with insights into the character and military tactics of British Major Ferguson. Finally, credit goes to the Georgia Trust for Historic Preservation, Inc., whose cooperative agreement with the National Park Service has made this work possible.

Introduction

Management Summary

This cultural landscape report (CLR) analyzes and provides treatment recommendations for Kings Mountain National Military Park (the Park, the Military Park), South Carolina, to preserve and interpret the Kings Mountain Battleground resources (1780). In addition, the report addresses:

- a) the integrity of historical resources associated with the Battle of Kings Mountain (1780), the commemorative period following the battle (1780 to 1931), and the NPS Park Development Era (1933 to 1941);
- b) the integration of use and management of historical resources to support the goals of the Park's interpretive program;
- c) the treatment recommendations for individual historic landscape features (vegetation, monuments, roads, etc.), and;
- d) the overall treatment for the historic landscape that accommodates non-historic resources (visitor center, parking areas, access roads, etc.) necessary to manage a site open to the public.

The report does not include an analysis of the Howser or Norman-Morris farmsteads. These properties are discussed in this report only in reference to post-battle land use changes in the Kings Mountain area. Additional studies to determine the significance and integrity of these landscapes is recommended.

Historical Summary

The sudden rise of a patriot militia in September 1780, demonstrated the self-reliance, determination, and courage of early American backcountry settlers. Mountaineers from North and South Carolina, Virginia, present-day Tennessee, and Georgia assembled without official call and marched to defeat Loyalist forces at the Battle of Kings Mountain on October 7, 1780. The initiative temporarily halted the British advance into North Carolina and was the first in a series of defeats that ultimately led to Lord Cornwallis's surrender at Yorktown.

Scope of Work and Methodology

The Park seeks information to determine the actual condition of the battleground landscape on October 7, 1780. Managing the site to achieve similar conditions is addressed in this document. Subsequent additions to the landscape that commemorate the Battle of Kings Mountain and design features constructed during the NPS Park Development Era are also evaluated to support the Park's interpretive program. Finally, the Park's nomination to the National Register of Historic Places is reviewed.

This report includes:

- a) a limited investigation of the pre-battlefield landscape (American Indian and colonial settlement to 1780);
- b) a limited investigation of the battlefield landscape (1780);
- c) a limited investigation of the private ownership and commemorative period (1780-1931);

d) a limited investigation of the Federal Administration period (1931 to present) including creation of the Park under jurisdiction of the War Department (1931), the early NPS Development Era (1933-1941), changes initiated during the Servicewide Mission 66 initiative, and preparation for the 1976 United States bicentennial celebration, and;

e) a limited investigation of the Recreation Demonstration Area (RDA) as it reflects design and management of the Military Park during the Park's development period.

A review of existing conditions (NPS) is presented, as well as analysis and treatment recommendations for vegetation and other site features as they represent the battlefield landscape, the commemorative period, and the NPS Park Development Era.

Primary sources for investigating the battleground landscape included historical plats, maps, and period agricultural and industrial censa. Research of the battle's commemorative efforts included period photographs, and commemorative brochures and pamphlets. Examples of the early NPS Development Era, Mission 66 initiative, and bicentennial celebration were reviewed in park master plans, photographs, and other design documentation.

Existing park documentation includes the Park's *Master Plan*, *Interpretive Prospectus*, *Design Concept Plan*, *Historic Resource Study*, *Administrative History*, and *Cultural Landscape Inventory*. Additional sources reviewed were maps, archeological reports, natural resource management reports, photographs, newspaper articles, and other records relevant to the project purpose. In addition to documentary research, site visits, management staff interviews and telephone conversations with persons having specific site history or resource information were also conducted.

Study Boundary

The Park is situated in South Carolina, one-half mile south of the North Carolina border and is reached via Exit 2 from Interstate 85, two miles to the north, and via State Road 216 from the northwest and east. State Road 216 ends at the park boundary where it becomes Main Park Road and is federally-maintained. The Park contains 3,945.29 acres and lies adjacent to the 6,883-acre Kings Mountain State Park.

Most of the area surrounding the Park is rural, with small farms comprised of grassy fields, woodlands, and numerous creeks typical of rolling piedmont terrain. Battleground Ridge¹ is a spur of the 16-mile Kings Mountain Range, situated between the Blue Ridge Mountains to the northwest and the Carolina sandhills to the southeast. It is the southern-most hill of the range and the only part situated in South Carolina.

Summary of Findings

The Park's cultural landscape exhibits strong integrity to three historic periods: the battle of Kings Mountain, the Commemorative Period following the battle, and the NPS Park Development Period. Treatment recommendations for Battleground Ridge include rehabilitating the natural/cultural landscape by re-establishing the ridge top's open space and historic views. Managing the vegetation to maintain the cleared area, vistas, and the open understory of the wooded slopes is recommended.

The Park's nomination to the National Register was amended in 1994 to include additional landscape features associated with the three periods of significance. The nomination did not include the flagstone walk leading to and surrounding the Museum/Administration (headquarters) building. These features should be protected and included in building descriptions as found in the Park's List of Classified Structures. The CLR recommends that all features associated with the Park's historic periods be protected.

-
1. This term will be used throughout this document to distinguish the place where the battle took place from the Kings Mountain Range.

Site History

Pre-Battlefield Landscape

Native American Landscape

Native American occupation of the Carolina piedmont dates to as early as c. 10,000 BC.¹ When European settlement began in the early 1700s, Native Americans had been practicing burning and agriculture for approximately 1500 years. These man-made fires, primarily occurring during the dormant-season, improved forests for hunting, facilitated travel, and cleared fields for agriculture. Because this practice occurred over a long period of time, prairie-like fields and open woodlands developed as important ecological zones of the 18th-century Carolina piedmont landscape.²

Early European explorers encountered large fields, savannas, and open forests in the Carolina interior. De Soto, in 1540, traveling north from an area near present Camden, South Carolina, to an area near present Charlotte, North Carolina, described large fields, open forests, and savannas easy to travel through, with plenty of grass for his livestock.³ John Lawson, traveling the same area in 1701, also noted large “savannas” and wrote of woods being burned along the road from near Camden, South Carolina, to the Waxhaws, a distance of approximately thirty miles.⁴ Mark Catesby, traveling the Carolina interior during the 1720s also reported the Native American custom of burning fields in late



FIGURE 1. Guillaume de L'Isle's *Carte de la Louisiane et du Cours du Mississipi*. 1718.

winter. He wrote of “many spacious tracts of meadow-land . . . burdened with grass six-feet high” often fed upon by vast numbers of buffaloes.⁵ These descriptions are illustrated in Guillaume de L'Isle's 1718 *Carte de la Louisiane et du Cours du Mississipi*, in which a “Grande Savane” is depicted in central Carolina east of the Blue Ridge Mountains (fig. 1).

Describing the natural features of the region during their youth, Charlotte homesteaders in 1800 recalled prairie-like landscapes of grasses and canebrakes over large expanses of land. They characterized

1. Lindsay M. Beditz, “Archeological Data Section, Preliminary Cultural Resource Management Plan, Kings Mountain National Military Park,” Southeast Archeological Center (SEAC), NPS, Tallahassee FL.
2. Lawrence S. Barden, “Historic Prairies in the Piedmont of North and South Carolina, USA,” *Natural Areas Journal* 17, no. 2 (1997): 152.
3. Barden, 149.
4. John Lawson, *A New Voyage to Carolina*, ed. H.T. Lefler (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1967) as quoted in Barden, 150.

5. A. Feduccia, ed., *Catesby's Birds of Colonial America* (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1985) 135-169, as found in Barden, 150.

the forests as having widely spaced trees that allowed long sight distances under the canopy.⁶

These features were the results of centuries of natural and man-made fires throughout the piedmont. The Catawba Indians, inhabitants of much of northwest South Carolina and central North Carolina engaged in these practices regularly. In 1682, approximately 4,600 Catawbas occupied the Carolinas, but their numbers rapidly declined once contact with European diseases took effect. By 1728, 1,400 Catawba Indians were living and by 1775, only 400 remained.⁷

The New Acquisition

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

Settlement Period to 1780

Decline of the Native American population coincided with increased settlement of the area by European immigrants (1740s to 1760s), who, having heard of the region’s open grasslands, moved south from Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland, and Virginia to establish new homesteads. The majority was Scotch-Irish, but German, Swiss, and British immigrants also arrived.⁸ By the mid-1770s, approximately 35,000 settlers occupied the South Carolina backcountry.⁹

The area around Battleground Ridge was sparsely populated in 1780. The earliest census records for York County (1790) report 6,604 inhabitants, including 923 slaves.¹⁰ Most were small farmers owning from zero to five slaves.

Learning from the Native Americans, European settlers continued to use fire as a land management tool. Crowder’s Mountain and King’s Pinnacle, both part of the Kings Mountain Range, were burned to provide forage for cattle.¹¹ In addition to clearing fields for planting, fire created habitat for wild game by stimulating new growth of grasses and other plants used for food and cover. Backcountry settlers depended on livestock and agriculture to survive, supplementing their diet by hunting and fishing.

In 1779, the area’s first iron works was opened by Colonel William Hill¹² on Allison Creek, about ten miles east of Battleground Ridge. Hill purchased approximately 5,000 acres and built a house, a grain mill, and a saw mill. He set up the iron works with his partner, Issac Hayne. Local timber was used to produce charcoal, necessary to reduce iron ore to pig iron. Hill produced hand-wrought articles for local use, including farm tools, machines, shop supplies and iron household utensils.

Hill strongly supported the revolutionary cause and made cannons, shot, and other articles of war. Because of such involvement, his iron works was destroyed by the British in 1780. Afterwards, the facility was restored and remained in operation for about thirty years.¹³ The eighty-four slaves he owned in 1790 probably worked at this operation.¹⁴

-
10. 1790 Census, York County, York County Public Library, Rock Hill, SC.
 11. Lawrence S. Barden, “Bear Oak in Crowder’s Mountain State Park, North Carolina: A Species and Ecosystem Falling Through the Cracks,” Prepared for the NC State Park Service, January, 1998, Charlotte NC.
 12. Colonel Hill received wounds from an earlier battle and was not able to participate at the Battle of Kings Mountain. Lt. Colonel James Hawthorne commanded Hill’s regiment in his place. A stone marker in Hawthorne’s honor was placed on Battleground Ridge in 1949.
 13. Oswald E. Camp, “Kings Mountain National Military Park, South Carolina: In Commemoration of The Battle of Kings Mountain, October 7, 1780: A Compilation,” NPS, March 15, 1940; and Robert Mills, *Statistics of South Carolina Including a View of Its Natural, Civil, and Military History, General and Particular* (Charleston: Hurlburt and Lloyd, 1826) 781.
 14. 1790 Census, York County.

6. Barden, 151.

7. Charles F. Kovacik and John J. Winberry, *South Carolina, The Making of a Landscape* (Columbia: University of South Carolina Press, 1989), 62.

8. Robert W. Blythe, Maureen A. Carroll, Steven H. Moffson, *Kings Mountain National Military Park, Historic Resource Study* (Atlanta: Cultural Resources Planning Division, Southeast Regional Office, NPS, 1995), 34. Much of the information provided in the Site History chapter is drawn from this source. The text is supplemented with landscape information as needed.

9. Blythe, et al., 34.

Battle of Kings Mountain (1780)

The Overmountain Men's Pursuit of Major Ferguson

After the fall of Charleston to Cornwallis on May 12, 1780, a thin line of British garrisons was set up in Georgetown, Camden, and Ninety Six. Partisan attacks on these southern outposts led to much retaliatory burning and looting of patriot properties, as well as to properties of those who declared neutrality. Cornwallis planned to put an end to the rebel forces by ordering Major Patrick Ferguson to recruit and train a loyalist militia in the Carolina upcountry.

Ferguson followed Cornwallis's orders and successfully raised a Loyalist contingent of over 1,000 men. As his army moved into the foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains, concern arose among backcountry settlers whose livelihood appeared threatened. In Gilberttown, today known as Rutherfordton, North Carolina, Ferguson posted notices warning that if the colonists "did not desist from their opposition to the British arms, and take protection under his standard, he would march his army over the mountains, hang their leaders, and lay their country waste with fire and sword."¹⁵

In September 1780, Isaac Shelby, a militia commander of Sullivan County, North Carolina, Colonel John Sevier, militia commander of Washington County, North Carolina, Colonel Charles McDowell of Burke County, North Carolina, and Colonel William Campbell of Washington County, Virginia, gathered nearly 1,000 men at Sycamore Shoals on the Watauga River (near present-day Elizabethton, Tennessee).

Shortly thereafter, the combined militia army began its pursuit of Ferguson. Three hundred and fifty men, under the command of Colonel Benjamin Cleveland and Major Joseph Winston, joined the march at Quaker Meadows on the Catawba River. As the mountain men moved south, they were joined by twenty South Carolinians commanded by Major William Chronicle, and thirty Georgia militia.

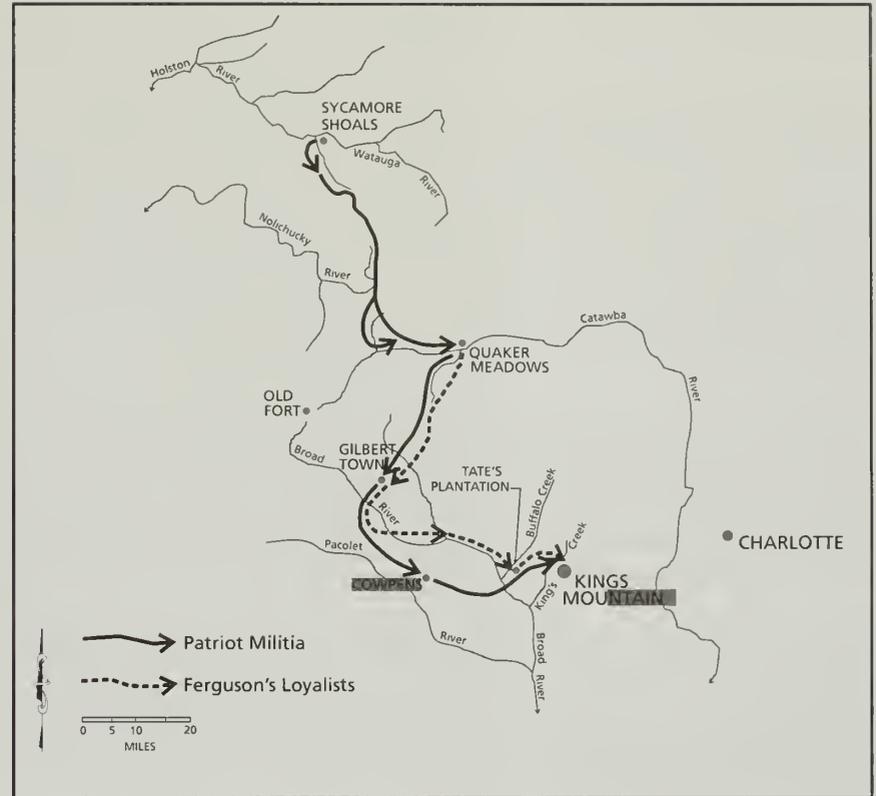


FIGURE 2. Map of the Kings Mountain Campaign.

The patriot forces lost Ferguson's trail after crossing the Broad River and arrived on October 6th at the Cowpens¹⁶, South Carolina. Here they met with another South Carolina militia unit of 400 troops under the command of Colonel James Williams.

In the meantime, Major Ferguson learned that a militia of backcountry men had rallied to pursue him. Concerned by reports of a large opposing force, he dispatched requests for reinforcements from Ninety Six and, later, from Cornwallis, who was in Charlotte at that time. But Ninety Six refused to help, and Cornwallis didn't receive the request until it was too late. Ferguson moved slowly southward from Gilberttown, then moved

15. Lyman C. Draper, *King's Mountain and Its Heroes: History of the Battle of Kings Mountain, October 7th, 1780, and the Events Which Led To It* (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., Inc., 1978) 562.

16. The Cowpens was a well-known cattle center about thirty miles west of Kings Mountain.

east towards Charlotte. On October 3, he encamped at Tate's Plantation, east of Buffalo Creek and only fifty miles from Charlotte.

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

Historians speculate that Ferguson wanted to take advantage of alternative routes to Charlotte and to use the mountain feature to shield his exposed flank.¹⁷ Perhaps concern with being overtaken by the Patriots forced the Loyalists to take position atop the southernmost spur of the Kings Mountain Range (Battleground Ridge).

Many scholars believe that Ferguson's arrogance would not allow him to go scurrying back to Charlotte without a fight. Battleground Ridge's prominence as a local land feature meant it could be easily located by Cornwallis's reinforcements, who, Ferguson believed would be arriving soon.¹⁸ It is also thought that Ferguson had realized his vulnerable position and was awaiting word from sentries sent to locate a more defensible place when the mountain men attacked.¹⁹

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

and continued until they arrived within sight of the loyalist forces the following afternoon, October 7, 1780.

Battleground Ridge (1780)

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

Vegetation—Many accounts of the battle describe the ridge top as bare with large and widely spaced trees along the slopes of the mountain. The immediate area surrounding battleground ridge was described as forested, with little or no understory. While all historical accounts confirm the battleground slopes were covered in timber, no contemporary reports describe the forest type or age. Colonel Issac Shelby recalled the summit as “bare”, with “the sides of the mountain . . . covered with trees.”²⁰

Robert Mills, gathering information for his *Statistics of South Carolina* (1826), visited the battleground while in York County. His account suggests that the area was heavily forested at the time of the battle and describes the landscape to be “wild as it then was, and indeed is now.”²¹ It appears that Kings Mountain had remained unchanged since the time of the battle. Mills account of York County's native flora provides additional detail of general xeric and mesic plant communities.

The timber trees are chiefly the various kinds of oak, poplar, hickory, chestnut, and a little shortleaf pine. Some spots are very rich in several varieties of trees of prodigious growth. I have seen near the banks of the Catawba . . . noble oaks of several kinds, hickory, of the common and the shell bark species, ash, beech, and the beautiful tulip tree or poplar . . . the sycamore, sassafras, dogwood, ironwood, hackberry, walnut, buckeye, or horse chestnut, and redbud, mixed with a few small pines. The cucumber tree [*Magnolia acuminata*] abounds here . . . also the paupau (or arnona) [*Asimina triloba*], and some sugar trees [*Acer barbatum*]; one of which has been measured and girthed ten feet round, or three feet through.²²

17. Edwin C. Bearss, *Historic Resource Study: Roads, Trails and Burial Sites, Kings Mountain National Military Park, South Carolina* (Denver: Denver Service Center, NPS, 1974) 35.

18. Dan L. Morrill, *Southern Campaigns of the American Revolution* (Baltimore: Nautical and Aviation Publishing Company of America, n.d.) 105.

19. Dr. Bobby Moss, telephone conversation. February 1, 1999.

20. Draper, 237, 543, 252.

21. Mills, 778.

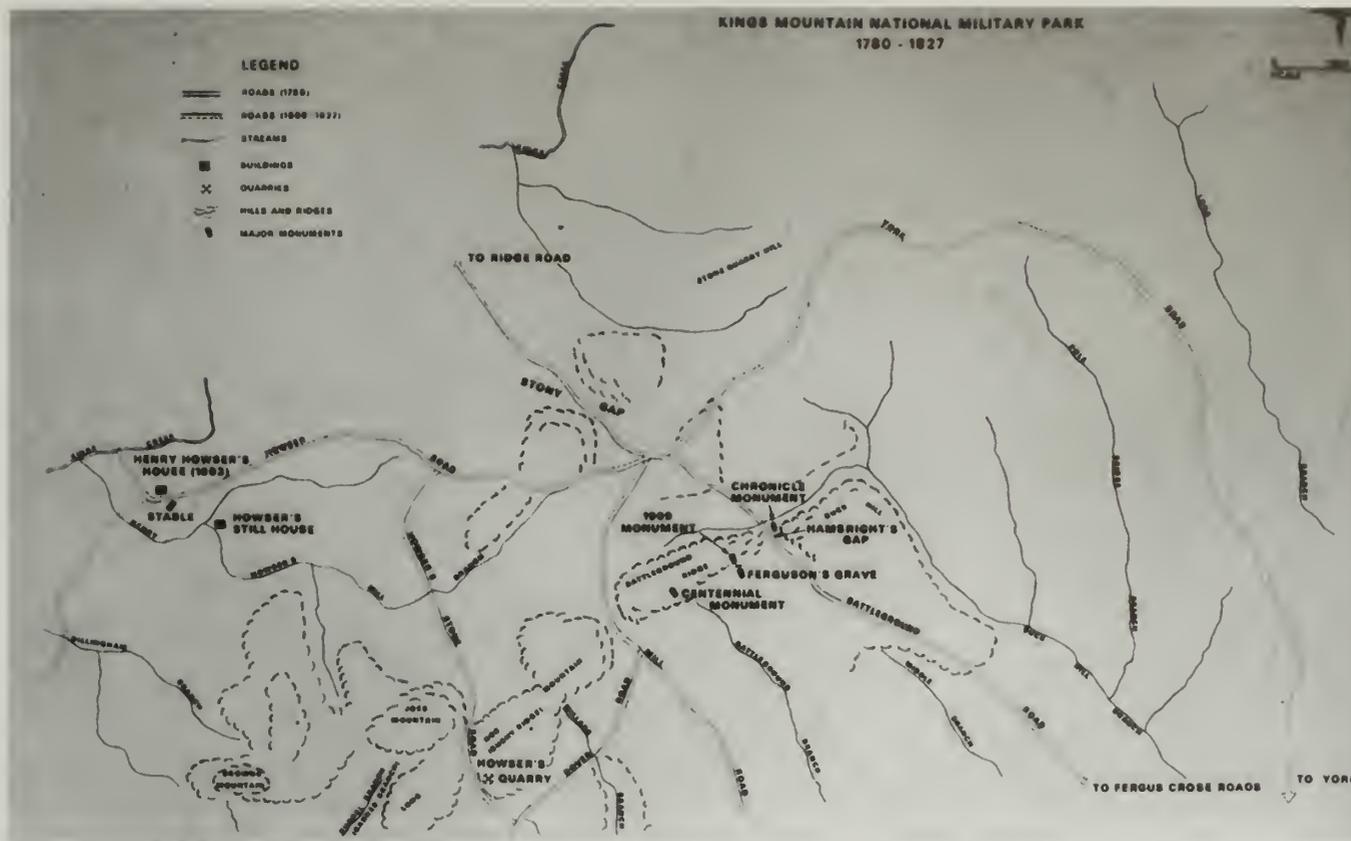


FIGURE 3. Historical Base Map of Battleground Ridge.

Benjamin Lossing, who visited the site in 1849, gave another description of the battleground area. “[The hills are] . . . covered in oaks, chestnuts²³, pines, beeches, gums and laurel, and sourwood. The large trees stand far apart, and the smaller one are not very thick, so that the march over those gentle elevations was comparatively easy.”²⁴

Since heavy timbering did not occur in the area until the late nineteenth century, land use of Battleground Ridge and the surrounding area appears not to have changed for seventy years after the battle. Lossing’s description of “large trees” standing “far apart” indicates a mature chestnut-oak forest, possibly mixed with pine in the drier, thin soils. His

description of the battleground may be fairly accurate, as local settlers used fire to manage for grazing and hunting. In fact, two of the patriots pursuing Ferguson, Major Chronicle and Captain Mattocks, had camped on the very same ridge while deer hunting one year before the battle.²⁵

Thin soils and periodic burning would have contributed to the summit’s treeless appearance. Natural and man-made fires were common occurrences throughout the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, maintaining open fields and clearing understories of wooded land. Settlers burned areas unsuitable for plowing to provide forage for cattle and deer. This would have included ridges and steeply sloped areas such as Battleground Ridge.²⁶

22. Ibid, 774-5.

23. The chestnut blight that destroyed almost all American chestnuts began in the 1930s.

24. Benson J. Lossing, *Pictorial Field Book of the Revolution*, vol. 2 (New York: Harper and Brothers, 1859), 77.

25. Draper, 231.

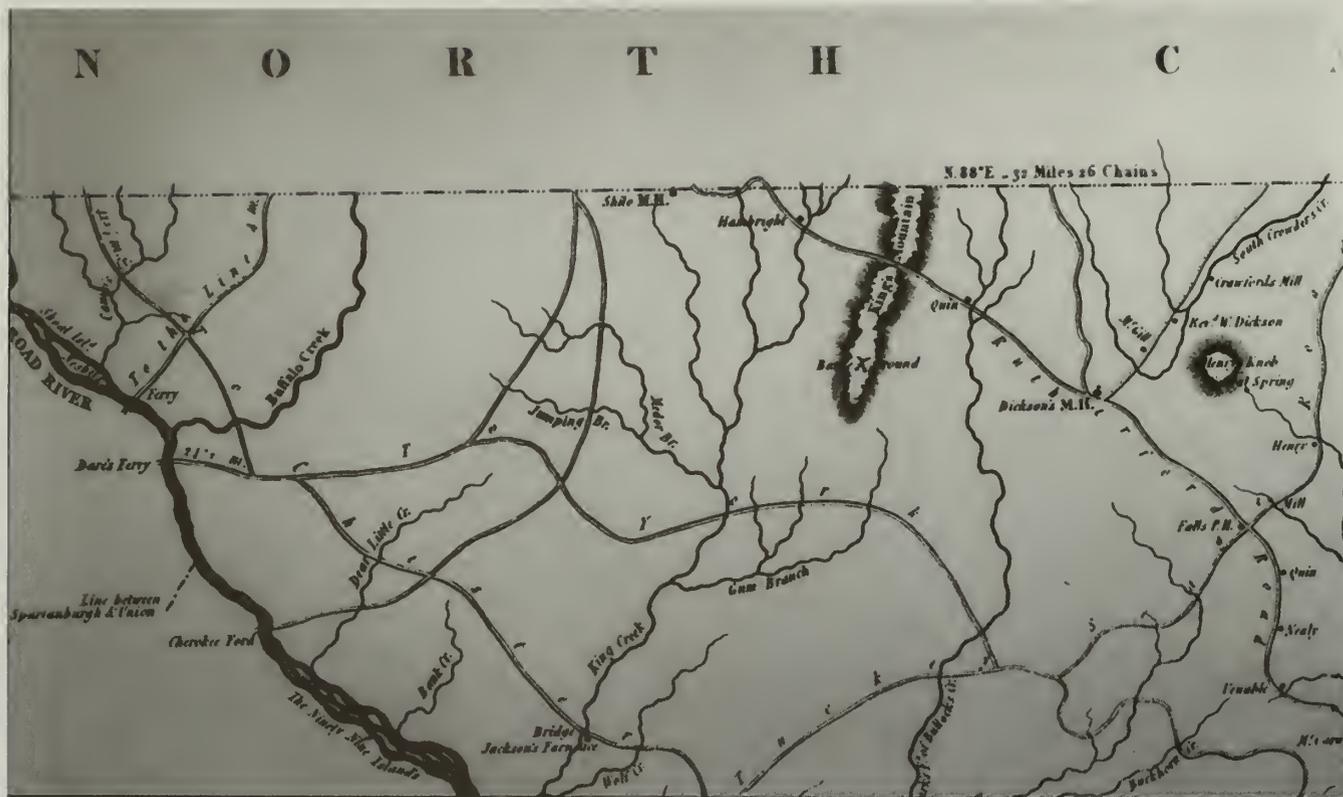


FIGURE 4. *Mills Atlas*, 1825 Map of York District, South Carolina.

Circulation—Research by NPS historian Ed Bearss (1974) indicated only one path or trail present near Kings Mountain at the time of the battle.²⁷ The “old Indian trail,” also known in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries as the Cherokee Trail, Rutherford Road, Battleground Road, and Colonial Road, conforms to one found in the *Mills Atlas, 1825 Map of York District* (fig. 4). In this document, this feature will be referred to as Colonial Road

The *Mills Atlas* provides the best detailed information of the early area maps. A similar road alignment on earlier maps shows Colonial Road to

26. Lawrence S. Barden, “The Dilemma of a Common Species at the Edge of Its Range: Restoration of Bear Oak (*Quercus illicifolia*) and Its Low Elevation Rocky Summit Community in North Carolina.” (University of North Carolina at Charlotte), 4.
27. Bearss, 37; and Richard F. Carrillo, “Colonial Road Survey at King’s Mountain National Military Park, South Carolina,” Research Manuscript Series #66, (Columbia: Institute of Archeology and Anthropology, University of South Carolina, 1974) 5.

be aligned with what was probably an old Indian trail leading to the Kings Mountain area. Colonial Road turned off of Ridge Road, a northeast/southwestern road connecting the Carolinas, and proceeded southeast through the Kings Mountain range by way of Hambricht’s Gap. It continued south to connect with the Cherokee trading path near Congaree. The Cherokee path led from western Carolina to Charleston.²⁸

The Battle

An early nineteenth-century account written by General Joseph Graham places the position where the Patriots dismounted their horses as “about 100 poles from the mountain.” It was a spot where “the top of the mountain and the enemy’s camp upon it were in full view.”²⁹ This

28. Bearss, 1-2. James Cook’s 1773 “Map of the Providence of South Carolina” and Henry Mouzon’s 1775 “An Accurate Map of North and South Carolina” both indicate an Indian path passing through Stepps Gap towards the Kings Mountain range.

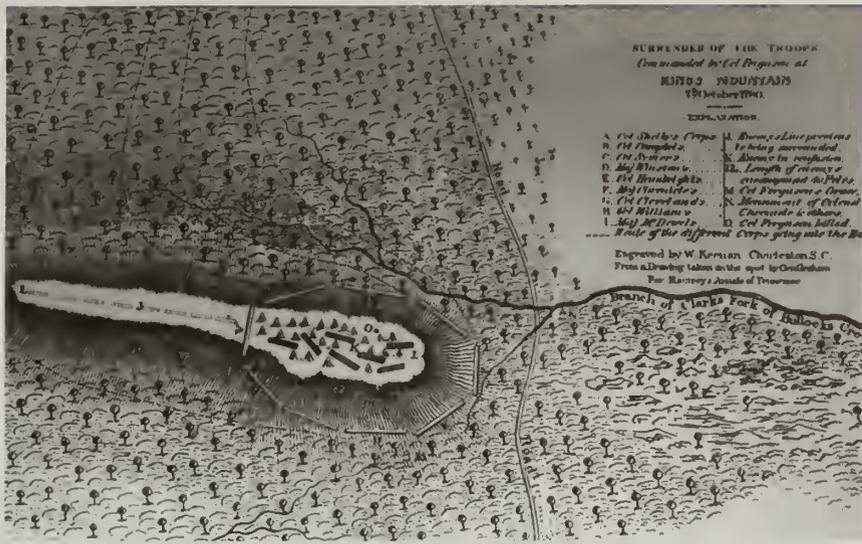


FIGURE 5. Gen. Joseph Graham's Sketch of the Battle of Kings Mountain.

translates to approximately 1,700 feet or one-quarter mile from Ferguson's camp.³⁰

Traveling on foot, the mountaineers crept under cover of the canopy trees. Colonel Issac Shelby describes how the Patriots initially approached the foot of the ridge from the northwest and split into two columns, left and right, to surround the mountain. Campbell's men ascended the steepest part of the ridge, the south side, "from tree to tree till [*sic*] they were nearly at the top." Shelby's men were sighted and fired upon while positioning themselves.³¹ The attack began on the ridge's southeastern end, with Campbell's men quickly joined by Shelby's. Within ten minutes, the remaining Patriot regiments had taken position and the battle was fully engaged.

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

29. General Joseph Graham, "Battle of King's Mountain," as found in Draper, 549.
 30. This conflicts with Draper (1978) whose 1881 history of the Battle of Kings Mountain places the stopping place near Kings Creek, more than a mile away. Bearss (1974, 37) finds several geographical errors in Draper's history and contributes them to his lack of firsthand knowledge of the terrain. (Draper never visited the Battleground.) For example, Draper cites the "Quarry Road" just below Kings Creek as the place where the mountaineers dismounted and continued on foot. Bearss believes this road did not exist until after the battle.
 31. Draper, 246, 250, 543.

for the summit of the mountain was bare of timber, exposing his men to the assaults of the back-woods riflemen, who, as they pressed up the ridge, availed themselves of the trees on its sides, which afforded them protection, and which served to retard the movements of the British charging parties. As the enemy were drawn up in close column on the crest of the mountain, they presented a fair mark for the rifles of the mountaineers, and they suffered severely by exposure.³²

The battle lasted about an hour. The Loyalists were forced to retreat to an area only sixty yards in length by forty yards in width on the northeast end of the ridge.³³ Major Ferguson attempted to break the Patriot lines and escape, but was shot from his horse. Realizing they had lost their leader, the Loyalists quickly surrendered. In the aftermath of the battle, water from a nearby spring was used to refresh the wounded and dying.

Of those killed in the battle, 156 were Loyalists and twenty-eight were Patriots. Shallow graves were reportedly dug for the dead as the mountaineers left quickly the next day. The Loyalists were allowed to bury Ferguson's body in the ravine close to where he fell. Years after the battle, visitors marked Ferguson's grave with a cairn of stones.³⁴

Post-Battle Settlement (1780-1931)

Battleground Ridge Ownership

The earliest known ownership of Kings Mountain dates to 1797, when Governor Charles Pinckney granted John Alexander 500 acres of land that included the battleground. Alexander may have purchased the land to speculate since he owned no slaves in York County.³⁵ On March 29, 1797, a plat was prepared and the fee simple purchase was made on June 5, 1797.³⁶

The land was sold the same year to Kings Mountain battle veteran, Colonel Frederick Hambricht³⁷, for 80 pounds sterling. Hambricht had been living in the area as early as 1790, when census records indicate he

32. *Ibid*, 252.

33. *Ibid*, 283.

34. Bearss, 65.

35. 1790 Census, York County.

36. Bearss, 67.

37. "Hambricht's Gap" was likely named for Colonel Hambricht. It is not clear, however, when the the gap was named.

owned four slaves.³⁸ His homestead bounded the Alexander tract on the west near Kings Creek, where Hambright's home stood. By 1810 he owned nine slaves.³⁹

When Hambright died in 1817, his will, probated on March 19, 1817, left a "Buck Hill Tract" to his son, Josiah Hambright. Two slaves, "negro boys," were bequeathed to two of his daughters and "one Negro man . . . , my still and vessels" were to be sold "with my old waggon [sic] . . ." to pay for legal expenses. Hambright left the homestead tract, his hogs, cattle, sheep, three mares and two slaves to his wife, Mary.⁴⁰ Trees used to mark boundaries of the 500-acre Buck Hill tract included oak and pine.⁴¹

Josiah Hambright conveyed the Buck Hill tract to his mother, Mary, on November 15, 1818 for \$50, who reconveyed the subject land back to her son on December 16, 1823.⁴² Three years later, in 1826, Josiah died and left his land, including the "Buck Hill Place," to his wife, Elizabeth.⁴³

In 1827, Robert Clendinen, a wealthy York County land owner and attorney, acquired two 1,000-acre tracts on "the waters of Kings Creek and Clarks Fork." One of the tracts included the battleground and was surveyed on July 20, 1827 (fig. 6). Trees indicating property boundaries include pine, oak, hickory, and chestnut. Clendinen acquired large amounts of real estate and was one of the county's largest slave owners. He died in 1830 owning forty-four slaves.⁴⁴

Robert Clendinen's widow, Mary, married Dr. William Hemmingway. In 1853, they purchased from descendants of Colonel Frederick Hambright an additional 308-acre tract, increasing their land-holding to approximately 2,300 acres. The son of Dr. Hemmingway sold the land in 1875 to John O. Darby for \$2,200.⁴⁵

Four years later, on February 5, 1879, John Darby sold the land to W. L. Goforth, Preston Goforth, F. S. Goforth, and J. W. Wren of Cleveland

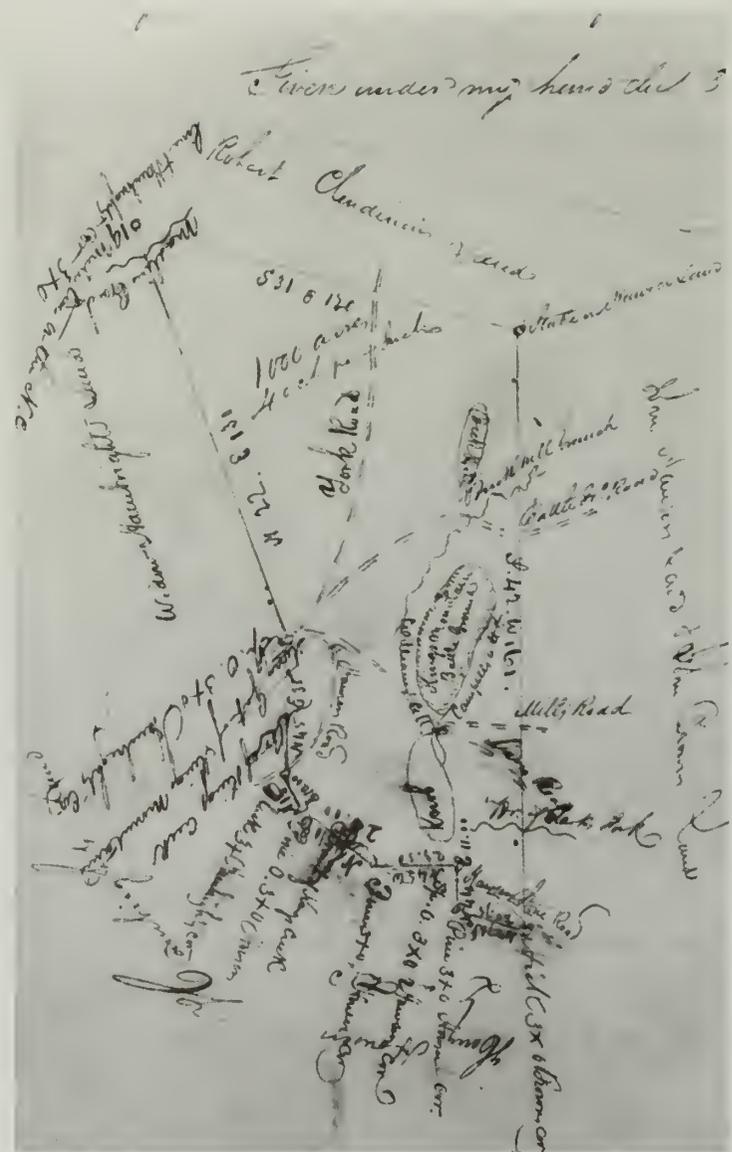


FIGURE 6. Robert Clendinen's 1000-acre tract including Battleground Ridge. 1827.

38. 1790 Census, York County.

39. 1810 Census, York County, York County Public Library.

40. Will of Colonel Frederick Hambright, 1817, *Wills of York County, 1770-1853*. York County Public Library, Rock Hill, SC.

41. Bearss, 67.

42. *Ibid*, 68.

43. Josiah Hambright's will was probated on May 15, 1826. *Wills of York County*.

44. Bearss, 69.

45. *Ibid*, 71.

County, North Carolina for \$4,000.⁴⁶ Approximately forty acres of this land, including Battleground Ridge, was sold the following year to the Kings Mountain Centennial Association (see Commemorative Period section that follows).

Area Land Use

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

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

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

Industry—York County inhabitants were mostly planters and small farmers, except for “a few professional men and mechanics.”⁴⁷ In addition, the Kings Mountain Range provided enough stone and iron ore to support local iron works and quarries. Hills’ Iron Works was still in operation in 1817. The Kings Creek Iron Works, an enterprise near Blacksburg, South Carolina, owned by Major Hugh Borders, stayed in business through 1850.⁴⁸ Henry Howser, whose estate is discussed in the following section, was a local stone mason who owned a quarry only one-half mile southeast of the battleground.

York County Agriculture and the Howser Homestead—Important South Carolina crops in the eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries were Indian corn, wheat, rye, tobacco and cotton. The thirty-five grist mills in operation in 1810 illustrate York County’s increase in grain production.⁴⁹

During the nineteenth century other agricultural products grew in importance. Fruit trees such as apples, pears, peaches, and cherries were commonly cultivated. In addition, a local industry of walnuts, chestnuts, and “shell barks” (pecans) was supported by the area’s native trees.⁵⁰

Henry Howser, a stone mason of German descent, built his two-story stone house in 1803, on a 460-acre tract that was one mile west of the battleground. Howser was engaged as a mason, farmer, distiller, and land speculator and was the owner of three slaves in 1810.^{51 52} After his death in 1822, his son, Henry Howser II, acquired the stone house and the associated 875 acres of land that his father had accumulated.

In 1850, Faithy Howser, widow of Henry Howser II, was cultivating wheat, corn, oats, potatoes, and hay. She also owned peach and apple orchards. Livestock consisted of horses, dairy cows, cattle, sheep and hogs. The 1860 census lists her as owning three slaves.⁵³

Another example of land use in the area is Major Hugh Borders’s property, which included ninety acres of improved land and 300 acres of unimproved land. Borders owned six horses, six milk cows, fourteen cattle, thirty-five swine, and fifty sheep. On this land he produced three bales of cotton, sixty pounds of wool, three bushels of peas and beans, twenty bushels of Irish potatoes, seventy-five bushels of sweet potatoes, and 208 pounds of butter.⁵⁴

In the second half of the 19th century, timber became an increasingly important commodity in York County. Iron works continued their impact on the landscape, requiring large amounts of timber for charcoal.

49. “Farmers Drawn by Fertile Lands,” *Rock Hill Evening Herald*, 4 March 1985, 8-9B.

50. Mills, 775.

51. “The Howser Farmstead,” Cultural Landscape Inventory, Kings Mountain National Military Park, 7.

52. 1810 Census, York County.

53. Blythe, et al., 80.

54. 1850 Agricultural Census, York County, South Carolina Department of Archives and History, Columbia, SC.

46. Ibid, 71.

47. Mills, 776.

48. 1850 Industrial Census, York County, South Carolina Department of Archives and History, Columbia, SC.

While some cleared areas were left idle to recover, other tracts of land were cleared for cotton, vegetables, orchards, or pasture. The land changed to become an equal mixture of forest, cultivated open spaces, successional hardwood and pine, and old fields.

By 1880, Faithy Howser was using hired laborers residing on her property to assist in cultivating corn, wheat, oats, and cotton. Apple and peach trees were also part of the estate.⁵⁵ From 1885 to 1915, the Howser homestead was leased to farmers. Throughout the county, tenant farming grew as cotton became the prevailing cash crop.

Washington L. Goforth's property lay adjacent to Battleground Ridge, where he had 40 acres of tilled land, 700 acres of woodlands, and 60 acres in old field. The 1880 agricultural census shows he owned 1 milk cow, 3 pigs, 10 chickens, and produced 75 pounds of butter and 10 cords of wood.⁵⁶

Grain production and grist mill activity declined in the 1880s as cotton production rose. As a result, many of the grist mills were converted to cotton gins. By 1880, thirty-seven percent of the county's tilled land was in cotton, increasing to forty percent in 1900 and to forty-six percent in 1920.⁵⁷ From 1890 to 1930, cotton was the area's predominant cash crop, with York County producing as much as 45,000 bales of cotton in 1919. This period saw the construction of cotton mills in Fort Mill and Rock Hill, beginning the area's industrial textile age.

Soil depletion slowed cotton production dramatically by 1930 and abandoned fields increasingly became common features of the surrounding landscape.⁵⁸ Although textiles are still an important part of the county's industry today, farmers have since turned to soybeans and peaches as major cash crops.

Circulation

As the county population rose, new roads were developed to improve circulation. The York-Rutherford Road was opened around the turn of the nineteenth century and is found on the Price-Strother Map (1808) and

55. "Howser Farmstead," 8.

56. 1880 Agricultural Census, York County, South Carolina Department of Archives and History, Columbia, SC.

57. "Fertile Lands," 8-9B.

58. Master Plan, Kings Mountain National Military Park, 1974.

in the *Mills Atlas Map of York District*, South Carolina (1825).⁵⁹ This road aligned with part of Colonial Road near Battleground Ridge. Other local roads opened by 1827 include the Howser Road, Howser's Stone Road (known also as the Quarry Road), Dover Road, and Mill Road (fig. 4).

Commemorative Period (1780-1931)

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

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

The Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) proved to be a particularly effective and successful preservation organization. The national office realized that preservation invariably was a local endeavor and could only succeed through the hands of "dedicated amateurs."⁶⁰ The Kings Mountain Chapter, established in 1898, is a perfect example of the organization's success, becoming the most influential preservation organization to protect and commemorate the battleground. The local chapter's commemorative efforts were later supported by the Colonel Frederick Hambright Chapter (1916) of Kings Mountain, North Carolina, and the William Gaston (1913) and Major William Chronicle (1924) Chapters of Gastonia, North Carolina.

As was typical of these private commemorative efforts, the focus at Kings Mountain was on the placement of monuments and markers at the battleground. Although 40 acres were set aside for protection in 1880 by

59. Bearss, 28.

60. Charles B. Hosmer, Jr., *Presence of the Past*. (New York: G. P. Putnam's Sons, 1965), 152.

the Kings Mountain Centennial Association, no large battlefield preservation was envisioned until the establishment of the national park in 1933.

1815 Celebration and Battleground Landscape

Word of shallow graves and exposed bones must have fueled superstitions among local residents. Several accounts reported that no one visited the site for many years after the battle. The first commemorative event to take place at Kings Mountain occurred on July 4th, 1815. It is not clear why a thirty-fifth year celebration was organized; however, the rise in patriotism shortly after the War of 1812 may have been a contributing factor.⁶¹

The 1815 commemoration was primarily a local effort led by Dr. William McLean, of Lincoln County (now Gaston County), North Carolina. Dr. McLean, a former Continental Army surgeon, delivered the principle address and erected the first memorial stone on the battleground. Known today as the Chronicle Marker, the dark slate stone ostensibly stood at the graves of Major William Chronicle, Captain John Mattocks, and Privates William Robb and John Boyd of the Lincoln County Militia. A memorial to Major Ferguson was inscribed on the opposite side. The Chronicle Marker is the nation's second oldest battlefield marker (fig. 7).⁶²

The local tradition that soldiers' remains were reinterred at the 1815 Celebration is still unproven. According to these accounts, the bones of fallen soldiers had been exposed by weather and wolves. One article reported that the remains were reinterred beneath a "humble stone."⁶³ However, no primary sources describing the thirty-fifth anniversary proceedings have been found and the local tradition of exposed bones properly buried has not been verified.⁶⁴

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

Lossing describes the summit as "a stony ridge." From the top he was able to observe Crowder's Knob [Kings Pinnacle] to the north, an indication that the ridge top and upper slopes were still treeless.⁶⁵ Landowners' continued use of periodic fire, combined with occasional drought and the summit's thin soils, must have contributed to this situation.



FIGURE 7. Major William Chronicle Marker.



FIGURE 8. Benson Lossing's 1849 "View of Kings Mountain Battle-Ground."

65. Lossing, as found in Bearss, 43.

61. Fronde Kennedy, "Celebrations of the Battle of Kings Mountain," (KIMO, n.p., n.d.), 1.

62. Gregory De Van Massey, *An Administrative History of Kings Mountain National Military Park* (National Park Service, 1985), 7.

63. "Towering Shaft of Granite Dedicated at Kings Mountain," *Spartanburg Herald*, 8 October 1909.

64. Bearss, 60.

1855 Celebration and Battleground Landscape

The second celebration of the Battle of Kings Mountain (October 4, 1855) attracted a large turnout to the three-day event. York District citizens invited others from adjoining counties and states.⁶⁶ The celebration was the first call for national recognition to include the establishment of a national military park.⁶⁷

As many as 15,000 turned out for historical tours, military parades, speeches, and food. Approximately 1,000 tents were pitched. Military parades were performed “over the plot of table-land east of the mountain,” and a speakers stand erected at “a point on the acclivity, east of the mountain, in full view of the battle-ground.”⁶⁸

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

Surrounding areas were apparently still wooded or in successional hardwood and pine because the 1855 Celebration descriptions include that of a “mountain forest under the shadow of the battle-ground” and of regional military companies arriving at a “busy forest-camp.”⁶⁹

1880 Centennial Celebration and Battleground Landscape

The resurgence of battlefield commemorations after the Civil War heightened national interest in the centennial celebration. Local preparations for the 100th anniversary began in 1879, when citizens from North Carolina, South Carolina, Virginia, and Tennessee formed the Kings Mountain Centennial Association (KMCA). The association’s goals were to provide a suitable centennial celebration and to erect a monument befitting the event. In June 1880, the association purchased

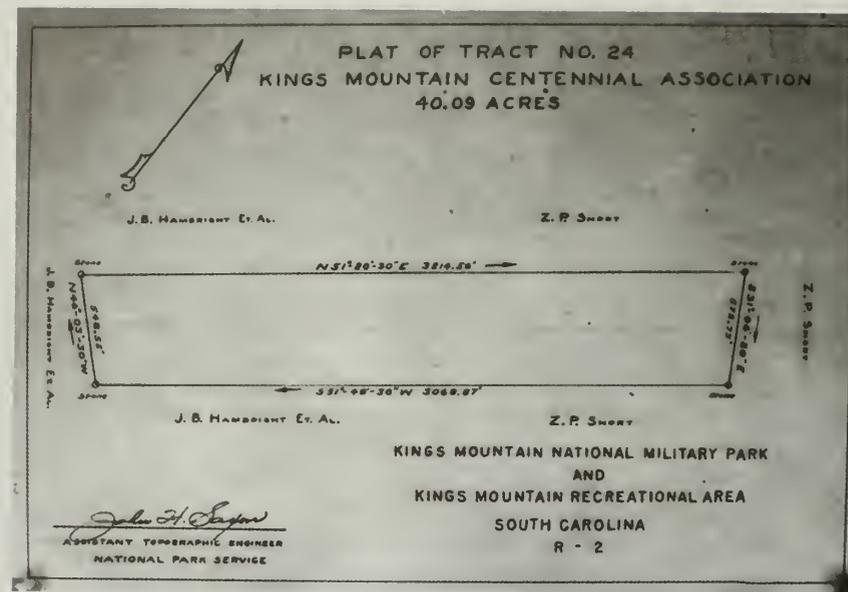


FIGURE 9. Kings Mountain Centennial Association Plat of 1880 Battleground Tract.

39 1/2 acres from W. L. Goforth, Preston Goforth, F. A. Goforth, and J. W. Wrens for \$197,50.⁷⁰ The rectangular plot of land included the battleground and the Chronicle Marker (fig. 9).

The KMCA deed to the battleground reserved the rights of the grantors to “cut and remove from subject tract all pine timber,” provided the cutting was done before the centennial celebration.⁷¹ This may have been completed in conjunction with the KMCA’s clearing of the ridge for military maneuvers and the construction of a grandstand.⁷²

Of the many committees formed in preparation for the celebration, a grounds committee was organized by Dr. J. R. Logan.⁷³ Dr. Logan described a speaker’s stand erected in the ravine near Ferguson’s grave. “[T]wo poles” beyond “Ferguson’s resting place, which . . . was a good selection as it fronted rising or ascending ground on both sides and in

66. Kennedy, 4.

67. National Park Service, *Kings Mountain National Military Park Cultural Landscape Inventory*. (Atlanta GA: Cultural Resources Planning Division, Southeast Regional Office), 8.

68. *Celebration of the Battle of Kings Mountain, October, 1855, and the Address of the Honorable John S. Preston, Together with the Proceedings of the Meetings and Accompanying Documents*. (Miller and Melton, 1855) 31; Kennedy, 7.

69. *Celebration of the Battle of Kings Mountain*, 27, 75.

70. Blythe, et al., 55, 57, 67.

71. York County Deed Book B2, York County Court House, York, S.C., 763-64 as found in Bears, 71-72.

72. Blythe, et al., 57.

73. “Kings Mountain Chatter,” *The Gastonia Gazette*, n.d., as found in Camp, 1940.

front, being at the head of the ravine. The seats overlooked each other and there was no difficulty in seeing the speakers.”⁷⁴

The three-day celebration was sizably larger than previous years and an estimated 12,000 attended the first day.⁷⁵ The Centennial Monument was unveiled on October 7, 1880 at the ridge’s southwestern end to mark the area of the battle’s most intense fighting. The granite shaft rises twenty-eight feet and rests on a rectangular base of five granite steps. Three sides of the shaft describe the events of the battle on marble tablets (fig. 10).⁷⁶

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

In the years following the centennial celebration, advancing age prevented many original members of the KMCA to protect the battleground. As a result, the Kings Mountain Chapter of the DAR incorporated itself into a second separate organization, the Kings Mountain Centennial Battlefield Association (KMCBA), and became proprietors of the battleground in 1899. For the next ten years, this all-female organization maintained the site.⁷⁷

U.S. Monument and Battlefield Landscape (1909)

Stronger efforts to improve and protect battleground resources emerged in the early twentieth century. The Kings Mountain Chapter of the DAR continued to clear underbrush and maintain Colonial Road while petitioning Congress to establish a military park.

In 1906, Congress appropriated \$30,000 to build a monument on Battleground Ridge in honor of the men who fought there. The New York architectural firm of McKim, Mead, and White was chosen by the War Department to design the monument.⁷⁸ McKim, Mead, and White was extremely influential in shaping the character of American civic architecture. Some of the firm’s work included the Boston Public Library

74. Kings Mountain Papers, Draper Collection, 6DD-29, State Historical Society of Wisconsin, Madison, Wis., as found in Bearss, 64.

75. Kennedy, 13.

76. Blythe, et al, 68.

77. Ibid, 59.

78. Ibid, 68, 70.



FIGURE 10. Centennial Monument.



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

(1887); Madison Square Garden (1890), New York; reconstruction of Jefferson's Rotunda at the University of Virginia (1898), Charlottesville, Va.; the J. P. Morgan Library (1907), New York; and Pennsylvania Station (1910), New York.⁷⁹

Although most of the firm's work was done in the northeast and in urban centers across the nation, one project in North Carolina illustrated a commitment to improving industrial communities. In 1894, a knitting mill and frame houses were designed for the Roanoke Rapids Power Company, Roanoke Rapids, North Carolina.⁸⁰

At Kings Mountain battleground, the granite-faced U.S. Monument was the culmination of years of petitioning by local DAR groups and local and state representatives of North and South Carolina. The eighty-three-foot-tall obelisk is situated on the northeast end of the ridge, marking the place where Ferguson's Loyalists surrendered to the American Patriots (fig. 12).⁸¹ The Kings Mountain Battlefield Association (formerly the KMCBA) was charged with the care of the monument.⁸²

Preparation for the unveiling included clearing the ridge top of shrubby vegetation and constructing a speaker's stand that would hold 1,000 people. The celebration lasted from October 6 to October 8, with approximately 8,000 to 10,000 attending.⁸³ Military tents were pitched at the foot of Battleground Ridge to the east, indicating this area was already cleared.

Several references to pines in a contemporary news article indicate open land surrounding the mountain several years before the unveiling ceremony. For example, food was provided "at the foot of the hill . . . in the shadow of the pines . . ." and army tents had been set up east of Battleground Ridge "over the adjacent valley, in a clearing in the midst of the pines . . ."⁸⁴

79. Leland M. Roth, *McKim, Mead, and White, Architects*. (New York: Harper and Row, 1983), 208.

80. Roth, 208. The houses, locally known as "turtle-top houses," had gambrel roofs spreading over the entire length of the house. The porch was tucked under the eaves giving the structures a tortoise-like appearance.

81. Blythe, *et al.*, 70.

82. De Van Massey, 11.

83. Kennedy, 19-20.

84. "Towering Shaft of Granite Dedicated at Kings Mountain," *Spartanburg Herald*, (Spartanburg, SC, October 8, 1909), KIMO archives.



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

Commemorative Markers—In 1909, Major A. H. White, of Rock Hill, SC, erected a stone pillar on the site where Major Ferguson fell. White also placed a stone at Ferguson's grave and originated the custom of placing small stones on the grave.⁸⁵

In 1914, the Kings Mountain Chapter of the DAR erected a duplicate of McLean's Chronicle Marker. Weathered by time and defaced by vandals, the original marker's inscription was no longer legible. An iron fence was placed around the two stones to protect the spot. The U.S. Monument and the Centennial Monument were also protected the same year with the placement of an iron fence around them.⁸⁶

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

85. Helen Deane Chandler *The Battle of Kings Mountain--The Turning Point of the American Revolution--October 7, 1780; Sesqui-Centennial Celebration, October 7, 1930, on the Battleground in York County, South Carolina*. (Gastonia, NC: Publicity Committee of the Sesqui-Centennial Celebration Committee, July 1930).

86. De Van Massey, 8; Camp, 68.



FIGURE 14. Ferguson's Grave Marker.

marker identifies the place where the president stood while giving his address, the Colonel Asbury Coward marker honors the founder and first president of the KMCA, and the Kings Mountain Battleground marker celebrates the historic battle event. All were erected by the Kings Mountain Chapter of the DAR.

Kings Mountain National Military Park (1931 to present)

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

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

stands of young pine. The battlefield and battleground slopes are shown in period photographs to be of young second-growth hardwood and pine.

NPS Park Development Era (1933-1941)

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

NPS Design Philosophy—The design of our national parks and park structures is rooted in the 19th-century English landscape tradition. Popularized by the writings of Andrew Jackson Downing and by the metropolitan park designs of Frederick Law Olmsted, the naturalistic landscape style carried over into the early twentieth century and was influenced by several advances taking place at the time. One was the development of wild gardens and the use of rockwork and native vegetation. Another was the use of planning and management techniques to manipulate the character of landscapes for a desired effect. Such techniques included vista clearing, vegetation studies, and forestry management.⁹¹

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

NPS landscape architects recognized the advantage of subordinating design to the natural and cultural influences of a site.⁹² Roads and trails followed contour lines and structures were built of native materials. Site planning focused on development in unobtrusive locations, protecting unique natural and cultural resources while allowing for visitor enjoyment. Native vegetation was used to soften construction projects and to encourage a sense, over time, that the park buildings had “always

91. Linda Flint McClellan, *Building the National Parks*, (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 1998), 3.

92. *Ibid.*, 1-3.

been there.” This philosophy guided the design of national and state park administrative, maintenance, and residential facilities throughout the United States.⁹³

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

Master Planning—By 1929, the NPS was advancing a service-wide planning process that would realize the goals of its design philosophy. The master planning process enabled park superintendents to formulate development strategies based on long range (6-year) plans that would protect resources and accommodate anticipated visitation. When NPS involvement with state park development flourished in the 1930s, those design principles and practices were refined. As a result, NPS programs for master planning, design, and conservation greatly influenced the planning and development of state, county, and urban parks across the country.⁹⁴

The New Deal—Probably the most important influence in national and state park development came as a result of Roosevelt’s New Deal policies of 1933 designed to put the nation back to work. The President’s interest in land-use issues resulted in a program that would utilize submarginal lands for recreational purposes. In addition to reclaiming unused, unproductive land, the goal was to provide recreational facilities for lower-income groups, thus adding an important social and humanitarian value to the projects.⁹⁵



FIGURE 15. CCC Shelter in Kings Mountain State Park.

The New Deal provided the impetus for extensive park development nationwide. For the first time, NPS experience in comprehensive planning and development was utilized on a massive scale.⁹⁶ NPS planning with state agencies resulted in the development of recreational parks known as Recreation Demonstration Areas (RDAs) that, once completed, were turned over to state park systems.

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

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

93. Blythe, *et al.*, 97.

94. McClellan, 292-293, 381.

95. *Ibid.*, 414.

96. *Ibid.*, 328, 414.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

slopes. A panoramic view from the summit revealed old fields and recovering woods surrounding the mountain.

The Master Plans do not mention protecting historic views or maintaining the summit as an open landscape. Although the 1938 plan proposed restoring the battleground “to its condition at the time of the battle,” it appears that no attempt was made to understand what those conditions were. By 1944, the wooded slopes of Kings Mountain were encroaching onto the ridge top and impeding views of the surrounding landscape. A fire map drawn at that time illustrates a tree line surrounding the battleground is open space of approximately 350-feet wide by 1600-feet long.⁹⁷

A circulation system around the mountain was aligned with sections of roads and footpaths laid out for the 1930 sesquicentennial celebration. These included a footpath section near the Buck Hill Branch spring, a road alignment from Main Park Road up to the Centennial Monument, and a footpath from the Centennial Monument that continued beyond the U.S. Monument to Ferguson’s Grave. The Master Plan accommodated automobile access with an upper parking area near the Centennial Monument and a lower parking area across Main Park Road from the museum/administration building. Connected by a curving drive, both contained granite curbing and two- to four-foot stone walls. A temporary contact station (1938) was built near the upper parking area.⁹⁸

Reforestation Program—Revegetation of old fields and pastures was proposed in 1936 and begun in 1938. CCC labor replanted pastures and fields of the Military Park and the RDA with native trees and shrubs. By 1941, 72,000 pine and hardwood seedlings had been planted in the old fields of former land owners.⁹⁹ Some of these planted areas are visible in 1971 aerial photos as large patches of evergreen (pine), evident throughout the park landscape.¹⁰⁰ The former land-use mix of open space and woodlands has been gradually transformed to the completely forested park landscape we see today.

97. “Fire Occurrence Map, A Part of the Fire Atlas for Kings Mountain Military Park and the Recreational Development Area,” KIMO (April 24, 1944).

98. De Van Massey, 45.

99. *Ibid.*, 62.

100. “Proposed Planting Program,” KIMO (1936); 1971 Aerial Photograph, KIMO.

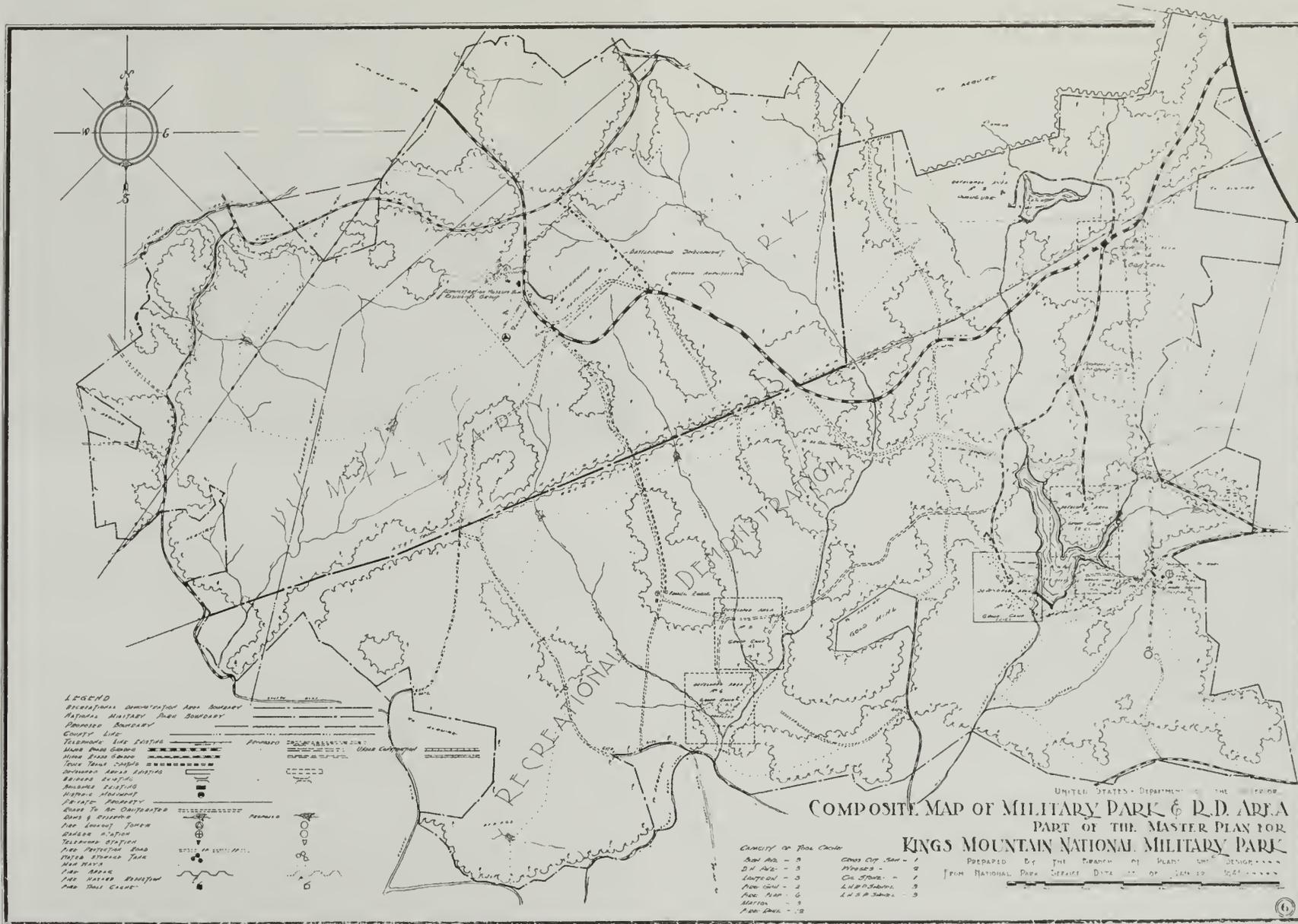


FIGURE 16. Kings Mountain National Military Park and the RDA.

Monuments and Markers—Commemoration of the Battle of Kings Mountain under NPS administration continued through the mid-twentieth century. In 1939, the Colonel Frederick Hambright marker, designating the place he was wounded during the battle, was placed by the Colonel Frederick Hambright Chapter of the DAR. The Lieutenant Colonel James Hawthorne marker was erected 10 years later by the Kings Mountain Chapter. The increased protection of cultural resources granted by the NPS presence may have been the reason for the removal, by 1935, of the iron fences surrounding the Chronicle Marker and the Centennial Monument.¹⁰¹

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

Colonial Road—Colonial Road was used as an access road during the Park's development period but was recommended for obliteration after all construction projects were completed.¹⁰² It had also been designated a fire protection road in the KIMO-RDA Fire Control Plan (1938). At least parts of the road were released to natural succession, however, and not maintained. This is confirmed by later calls (1966) to reopen the historic trace.

Main Park Road—Main Park Road (1938) originally followed the alignment of the One Day Road, which traversed the southern boundary of the battlefield. By 1941, however, the section closest to the mountain was moved further south because it compromised the historic setting. The original alignment of the One Day Road was subsequently obliterated by native trees and shrubs. Swales lined with stone rubble, wide grassy shoulders, and concrete and metal pipe culverts (some with stone facing) were designed for the new road alignment.¹⁰³

Museum/Administration Building—Located across Main Park Road from the lower parking area, the museum/administration building (1941) was built in the Colonial Revival style. The structure followed a standardized design used by the NPS throughout the southeast region. It is a one-



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

and-one-half-story structure with five bays, a rock-faced stone facade and a double-pitched, side-gable roof with a full-width front porch. Shortly after building construction, a flagstaff was added in the south yard.¹⁰⁴ Flagstone walks join the entrance with the Main Park Road and outline the building footprint .

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

101. Camp, 68; Blythe, et al., 68.

102. "Composite Map of Military Park and Recreational Development Area, Part of the Master Plan for Kings Mountain National Military Park," KIMO, (January 1941).

103. Blythe, et al., 98.

104. Ibid., 102-103.

nearly landscape specimens indicate that the existing plantings are of a later period, probably Mission 66.

Superintendent's Residence—The superintendent's residence, also Colonial Revival, was slow to completion due to the war effort. Character-defining features, however, were completed by 1941.¹⁰⁵ Apart from the residence, it appears little else was completed, despite the additional features detailed in the 1940 "Headquarters Area Planting Plan." Proposed walkways from the access road and around the north side of the residence were not installed. In addition, it is not clear if the existing graveled footpath from the museum/administration building is historic. The path generally follows the master plan design, but does not continue all the way to the superintendent's residence, as originally proposed.

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

Maintenance Facilities—The Park did without maintenance/service facilities until 1952, when a utility area and service road were built south of the superintendent's residence, as specified in the 1941 Master Plan. An equipment storage building was constructed in 1953.¹⁰⁶

Amphitheater—The amphitheater (1939) was constructed within a pine grove that covered an area of favorable topography. Several of the trees were left standing in the seating area to provide shade. The amphitheater provided seating for 1,000 people and opened in 1939 on the 159th anniversary of the battle. Performances were given from a raised earthen platform planted in grass.¹⁰⁷

Vegetation proposed to be planted around the amphitheater included native azaleas, redbud, dogwood, red cedar, mountain laurel, black tupelo, shortleaf pine, oak, buckthorn, blackhaw, and vinca.¹⁰⁸ Many of these species exist today.

105. Ibid., 102.

106. De Van Massey, 68.

107. KIMO Master Plan, 1941; De Van Massey, 60.

Battlefield Commemoration—Celebration activities moved to the amphitheater once it was constructed. Community commemorations of the battle continued with historical pageants in the 1950s and 1960s, produced by the Kings Mountain Little Theater. The long tradition of commemorative celebration ended with a final pageant held for the nation's Bicentennial Celebration in 1976 and dramas given for the battle's 200th anniversary in 1980 and 1981.¹⁰⁹

South Carolina Recreation Development Area (RDA)—The RDA plan was ambitious and included roadways, hiking trails, two lakes, parking areas, a bathhouse, two group camps, and several picnic areas, totaling forty-four structures. The RDA was ceded to the State of South Carolina in 1944 and became Kings Mountain State Park.¹¹⁰

CCC Camp SP-7—Initially, two camps were developed to house CCC laborers—the state park camp (SP-7) and the military park camp (MP-1). For reasons unknown, Camp MP-1 was closed in 1937. This left the men at SP-7 to complete the development of both the RDA and the Military Park.¹¹¹

SP-7 was built near the southeastern edge of the RDA. It began operation as early as 1934. In addition to sleeping quarters for the men, the camp consisted of a variety of structures including a dispensary, a school building, a front office, a radio room, a dark room, a barber shop, a recreation hall, tennis courts, and a headquarters building. Foundations for a bell tower were completed in 1937. Also that year, CCC rock masons built a circular fish pond complete with water lilies and goldfish.¹¹² Landscaping completed the development of the camp. Field observations (1997) indicate vinca, spirea, daffodils, and red cedar were some of the planting materials used.

108. "Planting Plan, Outdoor Amphitheater, KIMO," Branch of Plans and Design, Regional Office (January 12, 1940).

109. Blythe, et al., 63.

110. KIMO *Cultural Landscape Inventory*, 9.

111. De Van Massey, 46, 48. The location of Camp MP-1 is unknown. Lack of sufficient funding to operate two camps may have been why it was closed so early in the development of the two parks.

112. Ray Wise, ed., *The Mountaineer* 3, no. 6 (March 11, 1937), 2; "Stone Structure Nearing Completion," *The Mountaineer* 3, no.2 (Sept. 29, 1937), 1; *The Mountaineer*, n.p. (June 16, 1937), 2-3.

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

Mission 66 Initiative

In 1955, President Dwight D. Eisenhower approved a ten-year program to bring national parks up to quality standards for the 50th anniversary (1966) of the NPS. At the Military Park, however, no master plan was completed; the only developments to occur as part of this initiative were two new park employee residences (1958), a residence road, landscaping, and new interpretive signs and markers.¹¹³

Plant materials suggested in a landscape plan for the residences include sweetgum, blackgum, white oak, scarlet oak, American holly, eastern red cedar, redbud, dogwood, crabapple, Chinese and Japanese hollies, mountain laurel, native azaleas, and arrowwood viburnum.¹¹⁴ Because many of these species are present at the residences, it is assumed the plans were executed.

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

Management recommendations from the 1966 Master Plan include maintaining the “bare ridge top” in order to preserve the historic scene.¹¹⁵ Period photographs show the Park covered with emerging hardwood forest, twenty to thirty years of age.

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

113. De Van Massey, 73.

114. “Three Employee Quarters, KIMO,” Division of Design and Construction, Eastern Office, (July 29, 1957).

115. KIMO Master Plan, 1966.

Bicentennial Celebration

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

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

Proposed renovations to the amphitheater included the addition of a projection building to the platform, reorganized seating to include two aisles instead of the original one, and removal of the pine trees in the seating area. The grassy ground cover was first replaced with gravel, and later asphalt, apparently to address an erosion problem.¹¹⁶

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

Circulation—A 1975 reenactment of the mountainmen’s march gave rise to this historic route’s inclusion in a national trail system in 1980. The 292-mile Overmountain Victory Trail extends from Virginia and Tennessee into North Carolina and South Carolina, ending at Kings Mountain battleground. A portion of the trail is marched every October to celebrate the battle victory.¹¹⁷ In addition to the historic trace, sixteen miles of hiking trails and ten miles of horse trails were proposed to connect the national and state parks.

The 1974 Master Plan altered vehicular circulation on the battleground. The upper parking area near the Centennial Monument was removed and the road leading to it obliterated. A revised trail system brought

116. Blythe, *et al.*, 107.

117. De Van Massey, 139.

visitors to the battleground on foot via Colonial Road, from the new Visitor Center. The lower parking area was retained for park headquarters parking and an L-shaped flagstone plaza replaced the old access road connection to Main Park Road.

Vegetation—Native species planted to eliminate the road to the upper parking included oak, dogwood, sweetgum, and mountain laurel. New plantings installed around the park headquarters included dogwood, American holly, sweetgum, mountain laurel, oak, hickory, and red maple. Additional species planted as part of the amphitheater renovations were dogwood, sweetgum, American holly, oak, yellow poplar, and red maple.¹¹⁸ Many of these species survive today.

Existing Conditions

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

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

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

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

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

Evidence of a second trace, turning south off of Colonial Road at the northeast base of Battleground Ridge, indicates a route by which Ferguson, his troops, and baggage train, may have ascended the mountain.¹¹⁹ A study of the area's existing topography suggests it may have been used during the 1880 Centennial Celebration when a speaker's stand stood in the same ravine. The route was used again in 1930 as a Sesquicentennial Celebration path to Ferguson's Grave.

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

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

Archeology—Investigations in 1974 mapped the location of Colonial Road within the park. An additional trace, not investigated, was found at the foot of the northeast end of Battleground Ridge near the two Chronicle Markers. No mass burial sites were found, including the area of the Chronicle Marker.¹²⁰

118. "Landscape Plan--Obliterated Area: Planting Details," in Kings Mountain National Military Park Site Development Plans, (June 24, 1974).

119. Carrillo, 13.

120. Beditz, 1982.

Preliminary findings of research conducted in February 1999 point to the location of battle lines on the lower shoulder of land east of Battleground Ridge. Additional investigations at one of Buck Hill Branch's springs did not reveal any 18th-century artifacts.¹²¹

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

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

121. John Cornelison, SEAC archeologist and project leader, conducted this investigation.

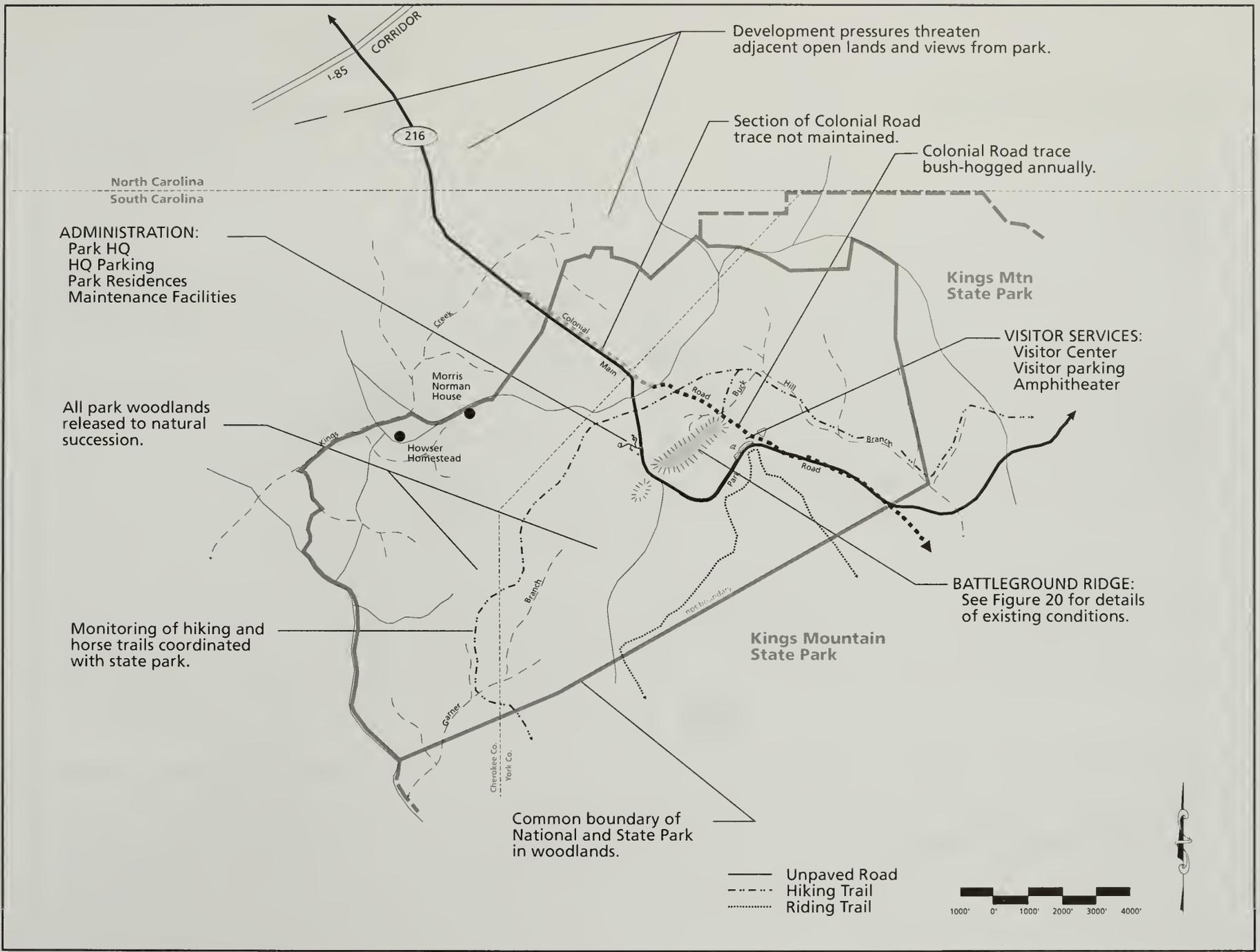


FIGURE 18. Existing Conditions of Kings Mountain National Military Park

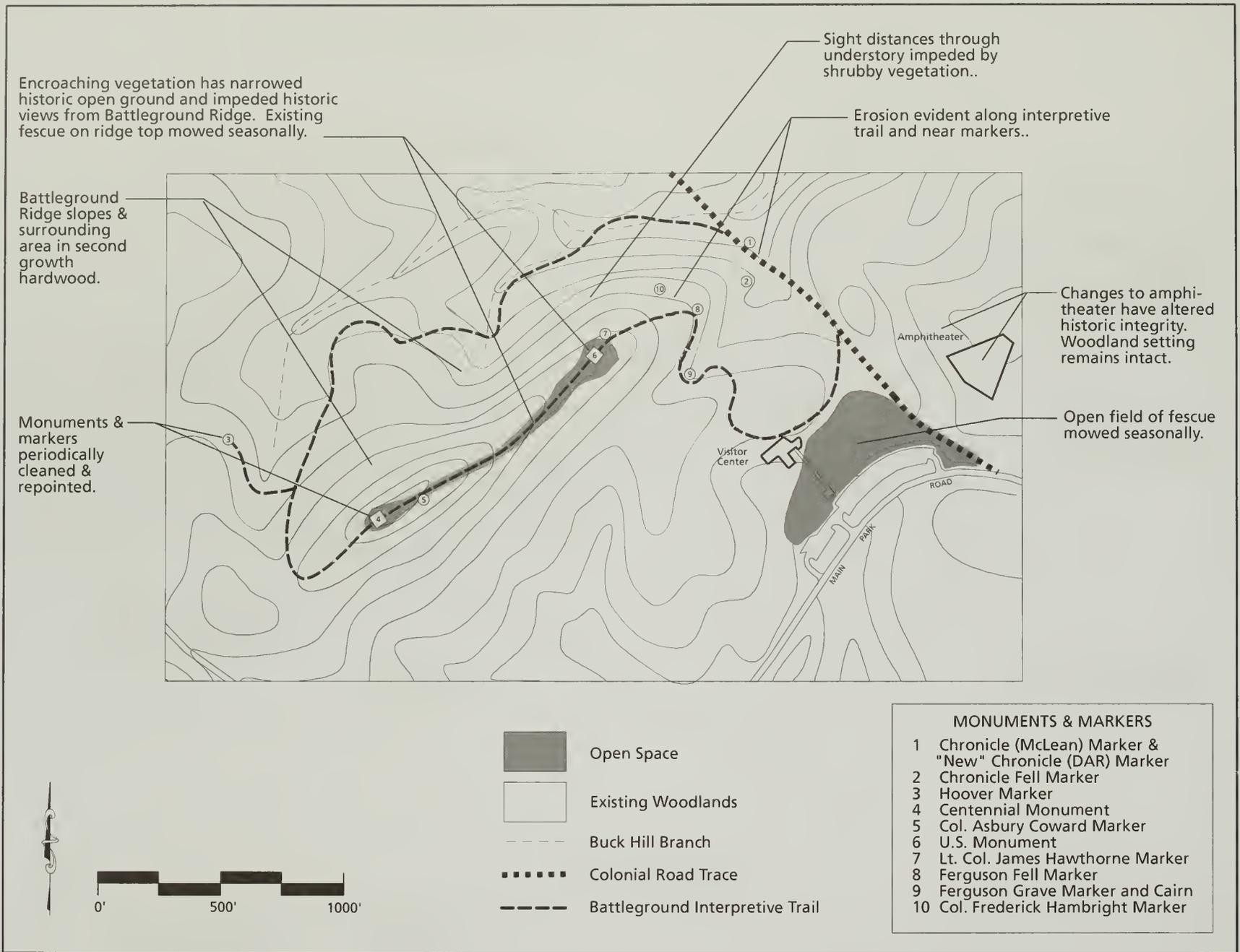


FIGURE 19. Existing Conditions of Battleground Ridge.

Analysis

The analysis section identifies and objectively analyzes the site's significant landscape characteristics. This process is the groundwork for establishing a period of significance and for identifying a framework against which all changes in the landscape are compared. It is an important step for sorting and integrating natural and cultural resource data in order to develop appropriate and relevant treatment strategies.

Resources associated with the Battle of Kings Mountain include the battleground itself, Colonial Road, Ferguson's grave, and Buck Hill branch and springs. Features associated with the commemorative period are the sixteen markers and monuments, the foot trail located on top of Battleground Ridge, and a segment of the existing lower trail. Early NPS development is represented in the existing administration building and associated parking area, the superintendent's residence, the amphitheater, and Main Park Road. Non-historic features include the visitor center (1975), the maintenance facility (1950s), and twelve miles of foot and horse trails. Apart from the Park's currently known historic and non-historic features, the two Mission 66 park residences (1958) are presently being evaluated on a national level for potential significance.

Period of Significance

The Park represents three periods of significance. The first is the event of the Battle of Kings Mountain, October 7, 1780. British Major Patrick Ferguson's choice of this ridge to face his foes was ill-conceived because the site's geographic characteristics proved to favor the fighting tactics of the Patriots. The battle represents the fierce independence of the colonial backcountry settlers and their determination, without official call, to free the Carolinas from British threat. The victory marked the

beginning of a series of battles that led to Cornwallis's defeat at Yorktown.

The battleground area includes Kings Mountain's ridge top, its slopes, Buck Hill Branch and springs, and the routes by which the Loyalists and Patriots traveled to and from the event. It includes Colonial Road and what is seen from the historic trace. The actual fighting grounds of Battleground Ridge can be defined more accurately by archeological research, such as recent work completed in 1999. Preliminary results indicate the shoulder of land east of the U.S. Monument was an area where fighting occurred beyond the immediate slopes of Battleground Ridge.

A second period of significance (1815-1931) is the layer consisting of landscape features associated with the commemorative efforts of local, regional, and national interests to honor the men who fought in the battle and to celebrate their bravery as part of the nation's struggle for independence. Landscape features of this period are contained within the forty-acre tract preserved by the KMCA in 1880.

A third period of significance (1933-1941) is the layer consisting of the park features representative of early NPS design philosophies. The style, influenced by earlier naturalistic landscape design principles, focused on preserving park scenery and protecting natural features and utilized regional architectural and construction techniques. CCC labor was instrumental in realizing the plans as designed by early NPS planners, architects, and landscape architects. Features of this period extend to the existing boundaries of the Park.

Evaluation of Integrity

An historic landscape with integrity conveys its significance. Within this concept the National Register criteria recognizes seven qualities that, when combined, define integrity of a given site. The seven aspects are location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. The evaluation of the Park's historic landscape integrity is discussed below within these aspects.

Location

Location is the place where an historic event occurred, or where historic property was constructed.¹

Battle Landscape—Battleground Ridge is the site of the Battle of Kings Mountain. Buck Hill Branch, Colonial Road, and areas defined by archeology are included in the boundaries of this period of significance. The striking topography of the battleground's sixty-foot rise above the surrounding countryside has not been altered, nor have Buck Hill Branch and its springs near the battleground slopes.

Colonial Road has not been altered along most of its route through the Park. Original segments can be perceived today along Main Park Road where parts of the historic road alignment run parallel. Colonial Road detours from the paved road and continues along its original course toward Battleground Ridge. Here it runs through Hambright's Gap and by the Visitor Center as an unpaved trace, revealing original ruts and embankments through the woodlands.

The absence of a known route where the Loyalists left the Colonial Road to ascend the battleground compromises circulation. How Ferguson reached the ridge top is an important part of the battle story, but is not interpreted because the route is currently unknown.

Commemorative Landscape—This landscape is defined by the forty-acre tract purchased by the KMCA in 1880, and includes Battleground Ridge and the Chronicle Markers. It is the site of several privately-sponsored commemorative events, beginning as early as 1815 and culminating with

the Sesquicentennial Celebration in 1930. Over a period of approximately 115 years the battle gained in recognition from a local celebration to a national event attracting more than 75,000 people to the site. Two monuments and fourteen stone markers commemorate the brave men who fought there. Only one marker, the 1931 Battleground Marker, has lost its integrity of location, having been removed from the battleground and placed alongside Main Park Road near the state park boundary. Other features expressing integrity of location include the ridge trail and a part of the lower trail that follow alignments developed for the Sesquicentennial Celebration.

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

Design

Design involves the conscious decisions made to form or develop an historic property's space, structure, and/or style.²

Commemorative Landscape—The Centennial Monument and individual stone markers exemplify the design styles of American Post-Civil War memorial architecture. The stone shaft was a common form used for commemorative monuments and the U.S. Monument, designed by the New York architectural firm McKim, Mead, and White, is a fine example of its type. The firm is recognized today as being extremely influential in establishing beaux-arts Classicism in the United States.³

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

1. *How to Apply the National Register Criteria for Evaluation*, National Register Bulletin 15, (Washington, D.C.: National Park Service, Interagency Resources Division), 44.

2. *Ibid.*

3. Blythe, *et al.*, 64, 72.

the park headquarters and the superintendent's residence reflect the region's Colonial Revival style of architecture.

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

Setting

Setting refers to the character of a landscape and how it played a role in the historical event. It is the physical environment and its relationship to the period of history.⁴

Battle Landscape—Historic integrity is strongly represented in the physical environment of the battleground and surrounding area. The topography of the mountain, existing springs and creek, wooded slopes and surrounding terrain effectively convey the historic setting of the Battle of Kings Mountain.

Loss of historic views to and from Battleground Ridge, however, impact integrity of setting in this cultural landscape. Resulting from suppression of natural and man-made fire, mature hardwoods now stand atop Battleground Ridge and impede views of the surrounding terrain. Small clearings around the Centennial Monument and the U.S. Monument are still maintained but the lack of open views compromises integrity.

Ferguson's choice of this mountain was certainly influenced by the advantage of open views from the ridge top. American Patriots, also, were able to see the Loyalists on top of Kings Mountain from one quarter mile away. These aspects were important contributors to the setting of the battle landscape.

In addition, the open understory of historical accounts is only partly represented today on Battleground Ridge. Some understory clearing by the park staff has occurred in sections of the southeastern slopes and visibility in the understory is good along the more gradual southwestern slopes. However, the rest of the mountain has steep sides and very short sight distances due to dense understory vegetation.

Colonial Road retains strong integrity of setting. It runs along its original route and is surrounded by second growth hardwood. Although a section of the trace, parallel to Main Park Road, is currently covered in hardwood trees and not maintained, the road cut and alignment are still visible.

NPS Park Development Landscape—The NPS set aside 4,012 acres of property to protect and interpret the Battle of Kings Mountain. Integrity of setting for the NPS early development period is evident in that surviving period features (buildings, lower parking area and Main Park Road) continue to reveal the historic plan. Although vegetation has encroached on the open spaces surrounding the park headquarters and superintendent's residence, these changes do not diminish integrity. In addition, it can be argued that today's wooded canopy over Main Park Road is a result of NPS original design intent.

The amphitheater has been altered the most from its original design. Compromises include the addition of a large projection building (c.1975) that now dominates the site. Audience seating was redesigned from two to three sections and the original vegetation, pine trees and grass, was removed and replaced with asphalt. These impacts to integrity of setting are mitigated by unchanged topography and the surrounding hardwood and broadleaf evergreen vegetation.

Materials

Historic materials include the physical elements that were combined or placed in a particular pattern or style to form a historic feature or property.⁵

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

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

4. *National Register Criteria*, 45.

5. *Ibid.*

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

Workmanship

Workmanship involves evidence of an artisan's craft from a given period of time.⁶

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

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

Feeling

A landscape with integrity of feeling can express the historic sense of a particular period of time.⁷

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

Commemorative Landscape—The integrity of feeling of the commemorative period is expressed through the numerous markers and monuments that are found throughout the battleground. The location, materials, design, and workmanship of these features contribute to one's sense of the past. These monuments are permanent reminders of the

period of American history when local, regional and national efforts were made to commemorate American battles and the men who fought in them.

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

Association

Integrity of association is the direct link between an important historic event and a cultural landscape. It is not only the expression of where an event took place but a combination of other aspects of integrity that define the quality of that association.⁸

Battle Landscape—Battleground Ridge embodies integrity of location (where the battle took place). But more importantly, its association with the past is expressed through the woodland setting, the steep topography, Colonial Road, and Buck Hill Creek and springs, which illustrate the story of the 1780 battle.

The loss of historic views, however, compromises the associative values of this important landscape. Visitors are unable to orient themselves because the mountain is not visible from any point in the Park. In addition, those who hike the interpretive trail to Battleground Ridge still have difficulty comprehending this feature's geographical prominence in the local landscape because all views from the ridge top are impeded by canopy trees. Although interpretative efforts to explain the battle events have been successful, visitors may find it difficult to associate a landscape feature they cannot fully see with the historical events that occurred there.

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

NPS Park Development Landscape—The landscape features associated with the NPS early development period have integrity of location,

6. Ibid.

7. Ibid.

8. Ibid.

design, materials, workmanship, setting, and feeling. Combined, these features express strong association with the early period of NPS development.

National Register Nomination

The Park is classified as a National Register historic district and the district boundaries include the entire Park. The periods of significance designated in the nomination are 1780, the year of the Battle of Kings Mountain, and 1803-1941, which includes the private commemorative period and the NPS Development Era.

The nomination list of contributing landscape features is thorough and reinforces the integrity of the historic landscape's three important layers, as identified in the CLR. A review of the contributing features listed, however, revealed the historic flagstone walkways leading to and surrounding the administration building were absent from this feature's description and should be added.

Summary

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

Battle Landscape—The cultural landscape of the Battle of Kings Mountain conveys its significance in several aspects of integrity.

Battleground Ridge is the site of the battle (location). Existing vegetation, topography, Colonial Road, and Buck Hill branch and springs strongly illustrate the landscape at the time of the battle (setting). These physical features convey the area's geographical character, Kings Mountain's choice as a fighting ground, and the Patriot's tactical advantage (setting, feeling and association).

However, the loss of historic views to and from Battleground Ridge has a negative impact on the important associative values of the cultural landscape. Another important feature still unknown is the location of the road trace leading to the top of battleground ridge. The future identification of this feature would further enhance the integrity of the battlefield landscape.

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

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

Treatment Recommendations

The following discussion of treatment recommendations focuses on a preservation/rehabilitation strategy for the battlefield and associated commemorative landscape features that contribute to the three significant periods noted at Kings Mountain National Military Park. General recommendations applicable to the historic site precede more specific recommendations for individual features. This section provides treatment for historic as well as non-historic features. Treatment recommendations for the Henry Howser estate landscape and the Norman-Morris house landscape are not included in this study.

General Recommendations

Amendment to the National Register Nomination

- The CLR recommends an amendment to the National Register Nomination to recognize the historic flagstone walkways leading to and surrounding the museum/administration building. The list of Contributing Features and the List of Classified Structures (LCS) thoroughly describe the building's architecture but overlook these important landscape features. Inclusion of language that describes the stone walkways as part of the museum/administration building is warranted.

Woodlands

- Except where otherwise indicated, maintain natural succession of the Park's second growth hardwood forest (fig. 20). An aggressive IPM-approved program to control exotic species is warranted.

Landscaping

- Limit landscaping of non-historic structures to native species. Kennemore's "Floristics of the Kings Mountain National Military Park and the Kings Mountain State Park" and the NPS *Guide to Sustainable Earthworks Management* provide a list of suitable native species.¹

Adjacent Land Use

- Protect the rural character, particularly the open space, of Battleground Ridge's western, northern, and eastern viewsheds. Monitor and effectively direct suburban growth through easements with land owners and other forms of cooperation with local and state agencies, and with regional land planning organizations. Development along the I-85 corridor will continue to impact views to the west and north. Growth along the North Carolina/South Carolina state lines to the north and northeast, between the Park and Crowders Mountain State Park, North Carolina, also needs to be monitored (fig. 20).

- Continue to promote controlled growth along access routes to the Park and lands adjacent to park property. Of immediate concern is growth affecting State Road 216 from the I-85 exit to the park entrance. Maintaining the open space and rural character of this road is a priority to be realized through cooperation with local, state, and regional agencies and organizations.

1. Douglas E. Kennemore, "Floristics of the Kings Mountain National Military Park and the Kings Mountain State Park." Masters Thesis, University of South Carolina, Columbia, SC, 1995. National Park Service, *Guide to Sustainable Earthworks Management*, (Atlanta: Southeast Regional Office, forthcoming).

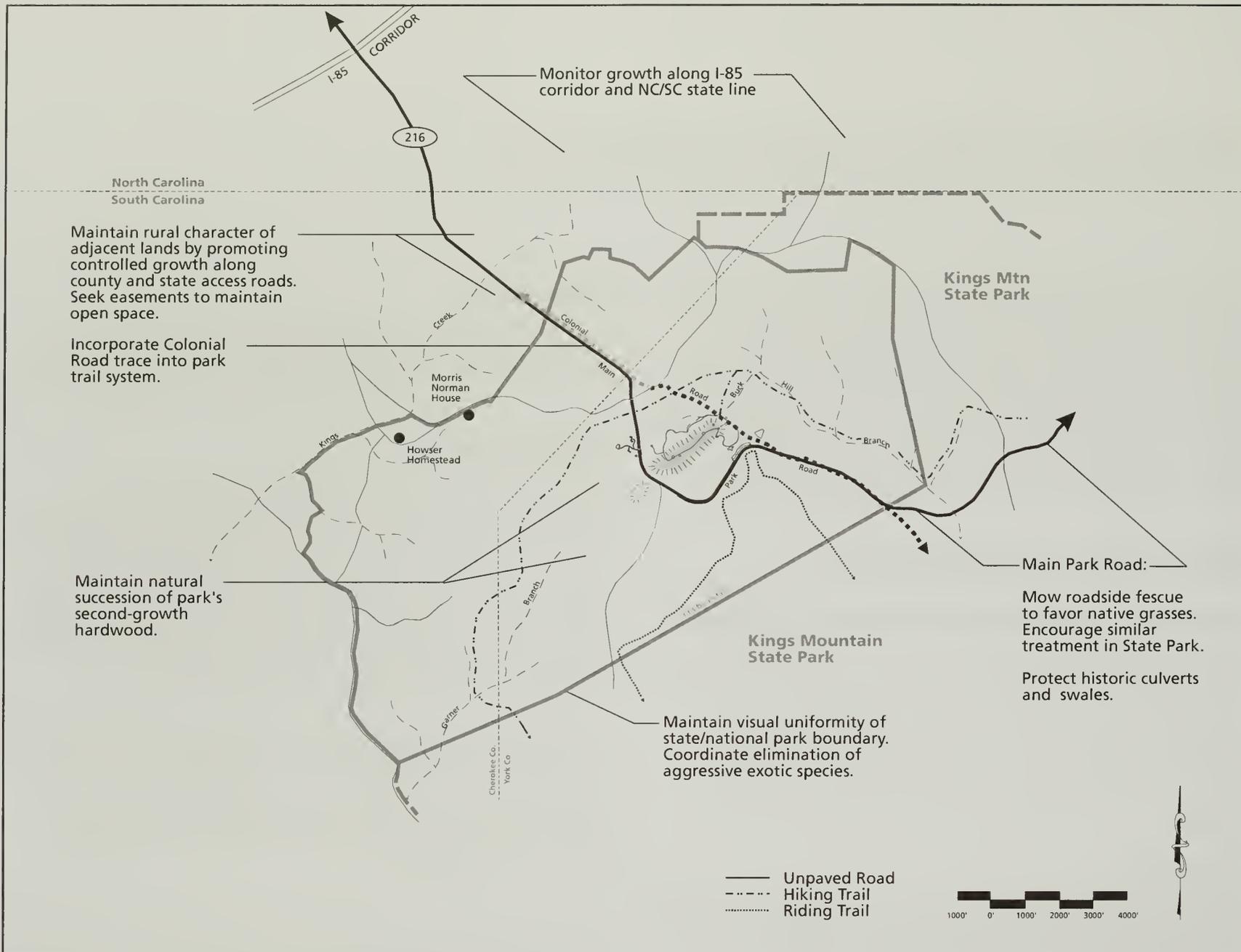


FIGURE 20. General Treatment Recommendations for Kings Mountain National Military Park.

- Protect open lands and the rural character of landscapes adjacent to the Overmountain Victory Trail. Cooperation with local, state, and regional agencies and organizations to control growth beside the national trail can achieve success.

Kings Mountain State Park Landscape

Although the objectives of the state and national parks differ, few, if any conflicts have resulted from the separate resource management approaches. Kings Mountain State Park mainly provides recreational activities for visitors, while the Military Park focuses on historic interpretation of its cultural resources. The recommendations below represent areas where mutual goals exist (fig. 20).

- Maintain the visually seamless northeast and southeastern boundary between the state and national parks by managing the common woodland in a uniform manner. Presently, the mixed pine/hardwood woodland has been released to natural succession, which is the recommendation of the CLR.
- Encourage uniform treatment of Main Park Road’s shoulders and edges throughout both parks. (See discussion of treatment recommendations for Main Park Road below.)
- Coordinate the elimination of common aggressive exotics that have the potential of spreading from one park to the other.

Management Review

- Periodically review all treatment recommendations for success in meeting the goals proposed in this document. Changes, or adjustments, are warranted whenever additional information becomes available.

Studies Recommended

The Park’s recent funding (1999) for archeological investigations to be conducted by the Southeast Archeological Center (SEAC) includes studies recommended below. Additional funding should be requested for follow-up investigations if necessary.

- Conduct archeological studies to determine the Kings Mountain battle patterns. Through a systematic metal detection survey, SEAC may be able to determine not only the types of weapons use by the Patriots and Loyalists, but may also be able to replicate the tactical action of the battle

participants. This information may determine with more accuracy the surrounding tree line proposed for Battleground Ridge. Adjust the wooded/open space boundary accordingly.

- Conduct archeological investigations to locate the route by which Ferguson left Colonial Road and ascended Battleground Ridge. Determining the location of this feature would be an important addition to the Park’s interpretive program.
- Determine a more definitive role of Buck Hill spring in the aftermath of the battle by conducting archeological research. Today, three springs feed into Buck Hill Branch within the vicinity of the battleground. The Park interprets the one nearest the interpretive trail as the historic feature used after the Battle of Kings Mountain. If artifacts could be recovered, determining if this spring is the one mentioned historically is warranted.

Battleground Landscape

Kings Mountain Battleground

Rehabilitation of the battleground’s historic setting is crucial for visitors to associate the existing landscape with the events of the battle. Assessing an appropriate size for the proposed open space on Battleground Ridge required evaluating several aspects, including size of Ferguson’s forces, topography, and historical maps detailing the battle.

Spacing requirements for Ferguson’s encampment were first evaluated to determine the minimum size that would accommodate such a fighting force. Given that a standard British encampment of 900 men would have required approximately 13 acres of land², it seems prudent to assume that Ferguson, with an even larger battalion and a much smaller area of land, did not follow standard encampment procedures. Scholars agree that Major Ferguson understood the rigors of guerrilla warfare, unlike his British counterparts, and did not adhere to “outdated” military standards of the European model.³

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2. Standard military encampments for a battalion of 900 men is illustrated in *An Universal Military Dictionary, A Copious Explanation of the Technical Terms & c. Used in the Equipment, Machinery, Movements, and Military Operations of an Army*, by Captain George Smith (1779). The encampment is 320 yards long and 200 yards wide.
 3. Dr. Bobby Moss, telephone conversation, February 1, 1999.

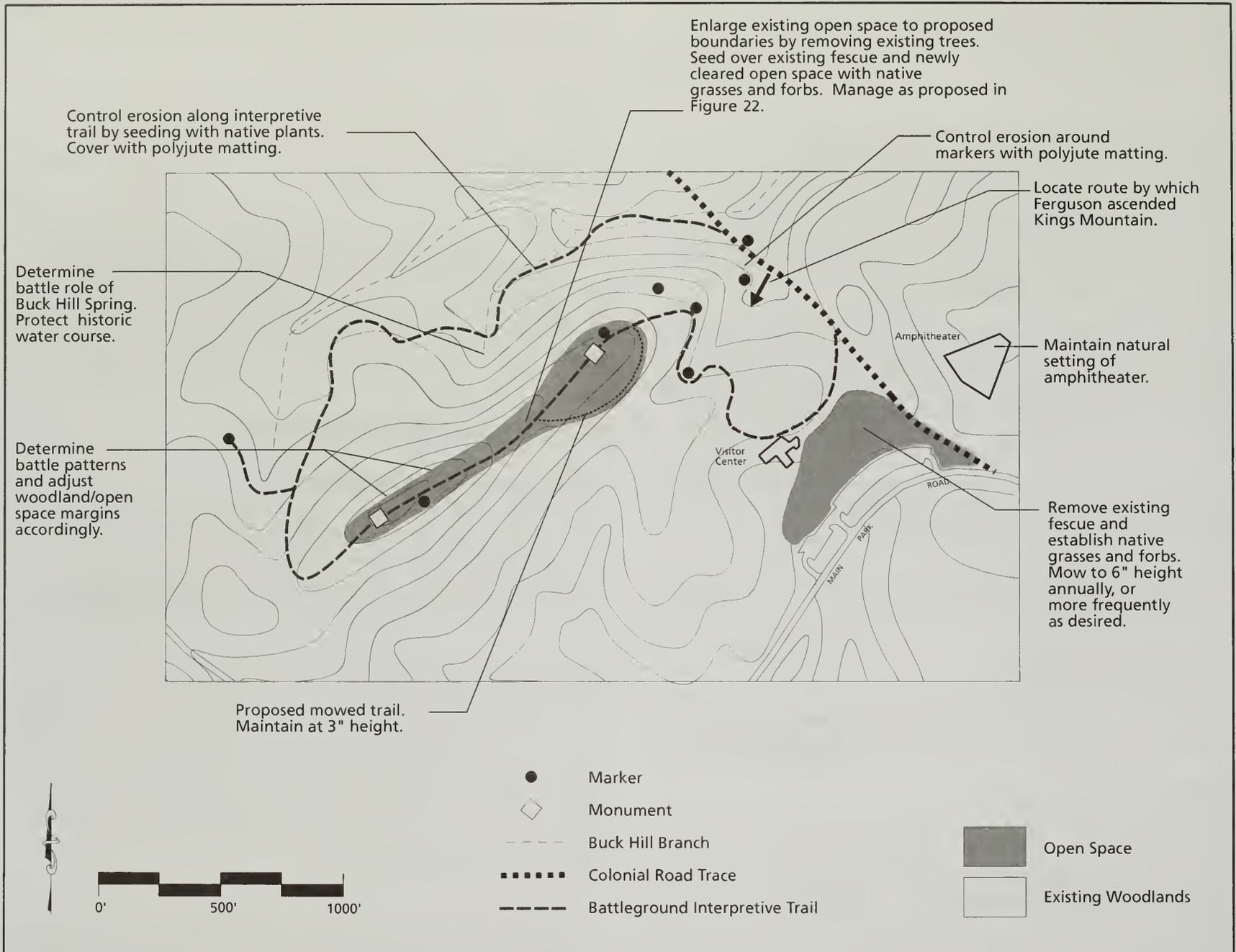


FIGURE 21. Treatment Recommendations for Battleground Ridge.

Minimal spacing requirements for 1100 men sleeping without tents would be approximately .5 acre (4' x 5'/soldier) and another .1 acre should be added to include the wagons and horses (20' x 10'/wagon and team of horses). Combined, the minimal amount of spacing required for a crowded encampment would be approximately .6 acre of open land.

This does not take into account the ability of Patriot forces to see “in full view” Ferguson’s men from approximately one quarter mile away. It is therefore reasonable to assume the ridgetop’s open space was much larger. The CLR recommends approximately five acres of open ground to enhance the visibility of Battleground Ridge from afar. Three and one half acres are recommended for the encampment area and 1.5 acres should be opened along the ridge to the Centennial Monument. If archeological investigations uncover the boundary lines of the loyalist militia, the ridge’s open space/woodland margin should be redrawn to reflect this information.

The shape of the proposed open space follows General Graham’s map of the battle of Kings Mountain (fig. 5). The map illustrates a narrow open area along the ridge top that widens at the northern end, where the topography favors an encampment. General Graham calculated the length of the “enemy and encampment” to be approximately 80 poles, or 1,320 feet. Interestingly, this is the approximate distance between the Centennial Monument and the U.S. Monument. Based on Graham’s estimation, the CLR recommends a slightly longer length of about 1,400 feet to be managed as open space (fig. 21)

Treatment recommendations for Battleground Ridge are described below.

- Remove the canopy trees within the designated open space. The Park can reduce the visual impact by gradually removing trees on an annual basis until the proposed open ground is created. Should additional research determine the actual battleground lines, correcting the woodland/open space relationship is warranted.
- Coordinate the removal of ridge top canopy trees with the establishment of a western vista from the U.S. Monument, as discussed in the section titled “Views” below. Begin the clearing of open space at this location, gradually removing trees southwest, north, and east of the

designated view point until the proposed open ground is created and a new tree line established.

- Establish native grasses and forbs in the newly cleared ground on Battleground Ridge. In places where fescue exists, a mix of exotic (fescue) and native grasses is desired. Till the open ground to a depth of 3 to 4 inches. Hydroseed native grasses and forbs by combining seeds with a cellulose fiber (wood or recycled paper) and with a tackifier consisting of recycled magazines. The magazines contain clay, which becomes heavy and sticky, holding the seeds in place and maintaining the moisture necessary for germination. Seeds, cellulose fiber, and tackifier can be sprayed together in a single application.
- Select a seed mix from the list of native grasses and forbs supplied in the Technical Support Topic Five and Six in the *Earthworks Guide*. The selection should include grasses requiring full sun, mixed with those that tolerate semi-shade. Some of the species recommended should include broomsedge (*Andropogon sp.*), Virginia Wildrye (*Elymus virginicus*), Purple Lovegrass (*Eragrostis spectabilis*), and Indiangrass (*Sorghastrum nutans*). Add nitrogen-fixing ground covers, such as crimson clover (*Trifolium incarnatum*), partridge-pea (*Chamaecrista fasciculata*), and annual rye grass (*Lolium multiflorum*) to the seed mix. These plants improve soil nutrients and replace the need for fertilizer. Testing pH levels and soil nutrients is advised before restoration efforts begin. Late winter or early spring planting is recommended.

- Implement mowing regimens that will maintain the battle period open space and also enhance the ridge top’s commemorative layer of significance. In Area One (fig. 22), mow a 3-4 foot-wide swath on each side of the paved interpretive trail and around the monuments. Maintain these strips of grass at a height of 3 inches to favor the existing fescue and provide a measure of security and safety for visitors.

In Area Two, the fescue/native grasses mix should be mowed the first growing season to a height of 6 inches on a monthly basis. This will suppress annual broadleaf weeds from shading the seedlings. A 6-inch height also allows native grasses to flower and produce seeds in late summer and fall. In early June of the second growing season, mow at a 6-inch height and again in July. Thereafter, continue to mow seasonally to a 6-inch height as often as desired.

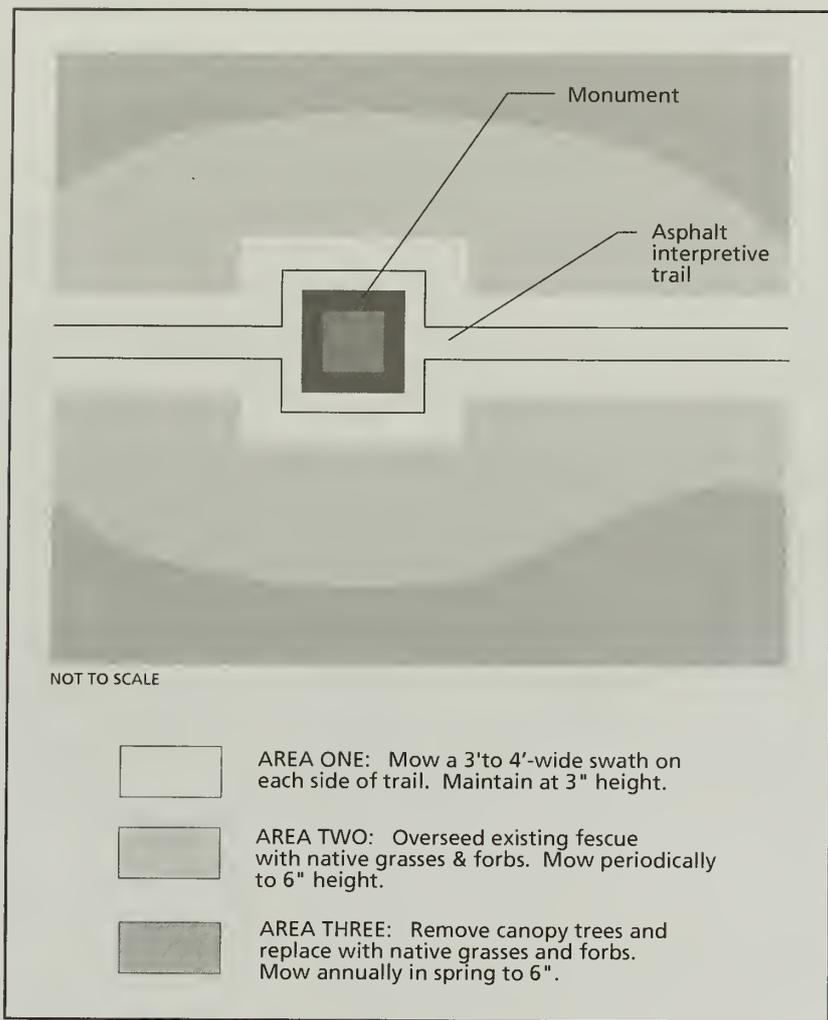


FIGURE 22. Mowing Guidelines for Battleground Ridge.

The Area Three grasses are generally located where canopy trees will be removed to enlarge the ridge top's open ground. After seeding with native grasses and forbs, mow the first and second growing seasons as prescribed for Area Two to a height of 6 inches. Subsequent mowing can be limited to once a year, in late fall or early spring. Early spring mowing is preferred as the grasses later provide wildlife cover and exhibit their golden brown colors in winter.

The Park may adjust the size of Areas Two and Three at their discretion, but the CLR recommends keeping these two areas approximately equal in size.

- Mow a 5-foot-wide trail through the ridge top's new grassy field for those visitors wanting to leave the asphalt walk and explore the battleground. A trail is proposed in figure 22, but the Park's observation of visitors wandering in the open space is the best guide for the trail's location. Maintain grasses in the trail to a height of 3 inches and seed with fescue if necessary.
- Maintain an open understory among the trees on the battleground slopes (fig. 23). Because the battleground vegetation was historically manipulated with fire, a return to this management technique is not only appropriate but also ecologically sustainable. A periodic burn program to favor an oak-hickory dominant woodland is possible through detailed prescriptions given in a fire management plan. See the discussion of park procedures to develop a burn program in the section titled "Fire Management Program" below.

Views

Rehabilitation of historic views will have immediate positive effects on visitors, who will be able to associate the larger landscape with the events of the battle. The following recommendations provide guidance for treating views.

- Open an eastern view of Battleground Ridge from Colonial Road as documented in historical accounts (fig. 23). Develop an observation point on Colonial Road approximately 1,000 feet north of Main Park Road. Selectively remove canopy trees to open a view to the U.S. Monument (see "Colonial Road" below for a discussion of specific road treatments). This is the general area where American Patriots were able to see Ferguson's men on top of Kings Mountain. Proper roadside signage and brochures should encourage drivers and hikers to travel to the observation parking area, walk the short distance to the observation area, view Battleground Ridge, and read the waysides. Additional planning and detailed drawings, not supplied in the CLR, will be required to implement this recommendation.
- Open a western vista from Battleground Ridge near the U.S. Monument to Colonial Road by selectively removing canopy trees.

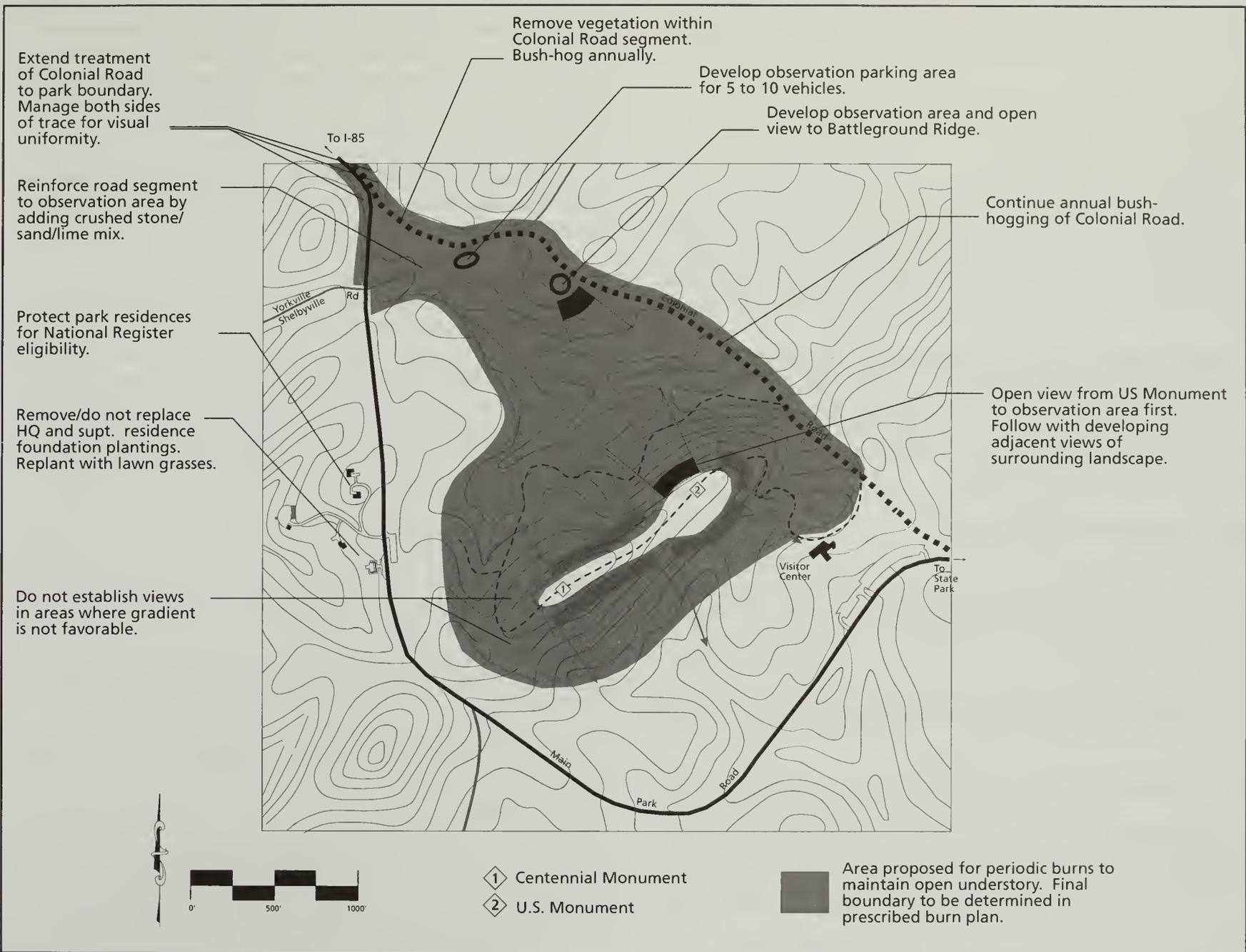


FIGURE 23. Treatment Recommendations for Battleground Views and Vicinity.

Because Colonial Road is completely enclosed by second growth hardwoods and indistinguishable throughout the year, the observation area would be an ideal point of reference from Battleground Ridge. Visitors would be able to see and understand where the Patriots dismounted before continuing on foot to the ridge top. Figure 23 illustrates the location for additional tree removal west of the U.S. Monument to provide this view.

- Coordinate the removal of ridge top trees with opening the historic views to the west, north, east, and southeast. As a section of the ridge top is cleared for grasses, canopy trees on the adjacent slopes should be selectively removed to allow a view of the surrounding terrain. Maintain this panoramic view by selectively removing limbs and trees as necessary.
- Maintain the wooded landscape of the southern and extreme southwestern sides of Kings Mountain. The rising topography of Battleground Ridge's southern end impedes any type of view. In addition, the moderate gradient of the adjacent southwestern slopes requires such a large area of land to be cleared to open a view to the southwest as to be unfeasible (fig. 23).

Fire Management Program

The Park's *Fire Management Plan* should be updated to address strategies that will rehabilitate the historic scene of the battleground and surrounding landscape. Approximately 100 acres of Kings Mountain's slopes and surrounding area are designated to be included in a site-specific burn plan (fig. 23). Boundaries of the proposed burn should extend beyond battle landscape circulation features to create a uniform visual landscape for the visitor. (See the section entitled "Colonial Road" below for more details.)

The following guidelines provide direction for the fire management plan.

- Design a burn plan to manage the slopes of Battleground Ridge and designated surrounding area (fig. 23) as an oak-hickory dominant woodland with an open understory. The program is initially expected to reduce fuel levels (leaf and litter) with several small annual burns. Once this is completed, larger periodic burns will maintain the open understory. The size and frequency of the burns, as well as the time of year, will be prescribed in the burn plan.

The plan should also include a fuel reduction program that addresses the added level of fuel resulting from trees felled to enlarge Battleground Ridge's open space. These trees may add undesirable fuel to the understory if left on the ground. Chippers capable of handling trees with a 10- to 15-inch caliper is an alternative to whole tree removal. Spread the wood mulch along the adjacent wooded slopes.

- Seek funding from FIREPRO to accomplish the fire prescription plan, to assemble a team that is augmented by park staff, and to implement initial stages of the plan.
- Explore alternatives of subsequent funding for long term fire management of the battleground. Prescribed burns are cheaper than mowing and the growing use of fire as a management tool in southeast regional parks increases the likelihood that fire management funding will become more easily available. In the meantime, subsequent funding should come from the Park's operational budget, supplemented with cultural cyclic monies. Because the Park's burn program will manage cultural and natural resources, opportunities for integrated funding exist. Pursue these sources by including project statements in the Resource Management Plan that reflect the integrated management of the Park's cultural and natural resources.
- Monitor burn programs being implemented at Crowder's Mountain State Park for species regeneration results.
- Implement the plan as soon as possible. As the area grows in population, changes in county land management policies may make it difficult to carry out a prescribed burn program. Having the initial annual burning and clearing completed before heavy growth in population occurs will avoid these types of conflicts.

Colonial Road

- Develop an observation area on Colonial Road that allows a view of the U.S. Monument and Battleground Ridge. Visitors will be encouraged to enter the Yorkville-Shelbyville Road from Main Park Road and travel approximately 500 feet to a proposed parking and turn-around space (fig. 23). Signs will direct visitors to walk the short distance (about .1 mile) to the observation area where trees and branches have been selectively removed to create a view of the battleground.

- Develop a parking and turn-around space that will accommodate no more than 5 to 10 cars for visitors going to the observation area. Maintain the natural setting of the existing successional growth hardwood in this area. Additional planning, surveying and detailed design requirements will be required for this work.

- Maintain the fire road segment (old Yorkville-Shelbyville Road) that links with Colonial Road as a “dirt trace.” Accommodate increases in automobile traffic to the proposed observation parking area by adding crushed stone and sand mixed with lime to the road segment and the observation turnaround area. Rain will cause the sand and lime to harden, stabilizing the road surface. Avoid widening the road unless absolutely necessary, with a maximum width of 20 feet.

- Rehabilitate the released section of Colonial Road trace that leaves Main Park Road and connects with the old Yorkville-Shelbyville Road (fig. 23). Remove all trees and shrubs within the trace and maintain by bush-hogging annually. This section should be utilized during the annual Overmountain Victory March celebration.

- Maintain visual uniformity in the wooded understory surrounding Colonial Road. Extend the boundaries of periodic understory burns to include a 50-foot to 100-foot-wide strip along the northeast side of Colonial Road (fig. 23). This will provide visual uniformity on both sides of the trace. Similar treatment is proposed for both sides of Main Park Road where Colonial Road runs parallel and the section of the Yorkville-Shelbyville Road that leads to the proposed parking area. Actual boundary locations can be determined in the field.

- Continue the current annual bush-hogging of Colonial Road from the Yorkville-Shelbyville Road towards Battleground Ridge (fig. 23). Once the section of Colonial Road paralleling Main Park Road is rehabilitated, the full length of the historic trace should be maintained with annual bush-hogging.

Buck Hill Branch and Spring

- Protect Buck Hill Branch as an historic water course from the Battle of Kings Mountain era. The natural character of the springs and water course should be maintained and any exotic species eliminated.

Battleground Interpretive Trail

- Continue maintenance of the asphalt interpretive trail with periodic resealing.

- Control erosion along the sides of the trail by seeding with native species tolerant of semi-shady conditions. Cover them with a biodegradable matting, such as polyjute that will hold seeds and topsoil in place. The *Earthworks Guide* Management Strategy Five suggests species suitable for these conditions. Hold matting in place on slopes that are 3:1, or greater, with metal wire stakes. These products are found in Forestry Supply Catalogs. Grasses can be mowed to a height of 6 inches each year in April or May.

Commemorative Landscape Features

Monuments and Markers

- Continue periodic maintenance of monuments and markers.

- Maintain the natural setting surrounding the markers. No groundcovers are recommended except for whatever native species naturally occur.

- Control erosion with polyjute matting (described for the interpretive trail above) that will hold soil in place and encourage the establishment of native groundcovers.

NPS Park Development Landscape

Park Headquarters and Parking area

- Remove existing foundation shrubs and trees from around the headquarters building. Remove similar species within the lawn area. These species, including Japanese holly, American holly, and boxwood, were planted circa 1960 and are not considered historic. Maintain only a grass groundcover around the building and mow on a regular basis.

- Protect the flagstone walkways leading to and surrounding the park headquarters. These features should be added to the Park’s List of Classified Structures and included in the National Register description of the museum/administration building.

- Protect and maintain the stone wall and granite curbing of the lower parking area.
- Maintain the natural setting of the lower parking area, replacing vegetation with like-kind when necessary. The exotic grass ground cover should be maintained.

Superintendent’s Residence

Plantings surrounding the superintendent’s house are circa 1960, and, therefore, not historic. Remove foundation plantings when they pass their prime and replace with lawn grasses. Maintain existing and newly planted lawn grasses with seasonal mowing.

Main Park Road

- Maintain a 6-foot-wide swath of fescue/native grass mix on the roadside shoulders. Mow this area to a height of 4-6 inches on a monthly basis each growing season.
- Encourage a taller stand of native grasses beyond the 6-foot wide swath in areas where roadside shoulders are wider. Mow annually in spring or fall.
- Maintain and protect stone culverts and swales.

Amphitheater

- Protect the woodland setting surrounding the amphitheater. Existing native species should be replaced with like-kind when necessary.

Mission 66 Landscape

Park Residences and Maintenance Facilities

- Maintain and protect existing residences and facility buildings. Mission 66 buildings are currently being studied and their national

significance has not been evaluated. The Park residences and their setting appear to be intact and are, therefore, considered potentially eligible to the National Register. The driveway has not been altered and existing vegetation reflects a planting plan drawn and implemented during this period. As these features appear to have integrity, any changes by the Park should be kept to routine maintenance. The Section 106 process applies to any proposed changes in this area.

Noncontributing Features

Visitor Center

- Replant the grassy field near the Visitor Center with native species (fig. 21). The area is not heavily used by visitors and a native grass “meadow” would, in the long run, require less maintenance and enhance natural resource values. Presently, no such open spaces exist in the Park although historic documentation substantiates the existence of large open areas or grassy meadows throughout the region.
- Eliminate existing fescue to prepare the area for the establishment of native grasses. Eradication of fescue is required because its allelopathic properties repress the growth of competing species. An IPM-approved chemical application, such as PLATEAU herbicide, is advised. Apply at a rate of 12 ounces per acre, mixed with 2 pints per acre of methylated seed oil. Spray when the fescue is actively growing for optimum results.
- Follow mowing recommendations for establishing native grasses in Battleground Ridge’s Area Three, as discussed in treatment recommendations for the battleground open space (fig. 22).
- Plant only native species around the Visitor Center. Any loss of native vegetation should be replaced with like-kind. A list of appropriate species can be found in the “Floristics of the Kings Mountain National Military Park” and in the *Earthworks Guide*.

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Appendices

Appendix A: KIMO Monuments and Markers

1. Centennial Monument (1880); Kings Mountain Centennial Association (KMCA)
2. U.S. Monument (1909); U. S. War Department
3. Chronicle Marker (1815); Dr. William McLean of Lincoln County (now Gaston County), NC
4. Ferguson Grave Marker and Cairn (1909); Major A. H. White of Rock Hill, SC
5. Ferguson Fell Marker (1909); Major A. H. White of Rock Hill, SC
6. “New” Chronicle Marker (1914); Kings Mountain Chapter DAR
7. Chronicle Fell Marker (1925); William Gaston Chapter DAR
8. “New” Ferguson Grave Marker (1930); R. E. Scoggins of Charlotte, NC
9. President (Herbert C.) Hoover Marker (1931); Kings Mountain Chapter DAR
10. Col. Asbury Coward Marker (1931); Kings Mountain Chapter DAR
11. Kings Mountain Battleground Marker (1931); Kings Mountain Chapter DAR
12. Col. Frederick Hambright Marker (1939); Colonel Frederick Hambright Chapter DAR
13. Lt. Col. James Hawthorne Marker (1949); Kings Mountain Chapter DAR

Appendix B: Chain of Titles

- 1797 John Alexander, 500 acres acquired in fee simple on June 5, 1797 by Governor Charles Pinckney. Plat prepared on March 29, 1797. (South Carolina State Grant Books, vol. 42, SC Dept. of Archives and History, Columbia, SC, p. 349)
- 1797 Colonel Frederick Hambright, 500-acre tract, for 80 pounds sterling. (York County Deed Book E, York County Courthouse, York, SC, pp. 116-17.)
- 1817 Josiah Hambright inherits the property at his father's death.
- 1818 Mary Hambright, 500 acres conveyed to her by Josiah Hambright (son of Frederick Hambright) on November 15, 1818 for \$50. (York County Deed Book E, York County Courthouse, York, SC, pp. 488-89.)
- 1823 Josiah Hambright, 500 acres conveyed back to him by Mary Hambright on December 16, 1823 for \$50. (York County Deed Book K, York County Courthouse, York SC, pp. 234-35)
- 1827 Robert Clendinen, 1000-acre tract in fee simple, including battleground tract. Surveyed by Gordon Moore on July 20, 1827. Clendinen purchased another 1000-acre tract adjacent to this one the same year. Governor John Taylor (SC) granted the tracts on October 1, 1827. This grant was based on a 1791 law allowing the grant of vacant lands or commutation of lands granted for other lands. In other words, he may have exchanged existing properties of his for some of this land. (Plat of Robert Clendinen's 1000 acres, York 7/20/1827, South Carolina State Plat Book, vol. 48, 2d ser., South Carolina Dept. of Archives and History, Columbia SC, p. 166.) Also (Robert Clendinen Grants, Oct. 1, 1827, SC State Grant Books, vol. 79, SC Dept of Archives and History, Columbia SC, pp. 150-51.)
- 1835 (?) Dr. William Hemingway and Mary Hemingway (widow) executors of the late Robert Clendinen estate.
- 1853 Dr. William Hemingway acquires adjacent 308-acre tract, part of John Alexander grant, for \$200. This enlarges the Hemingway tract to 2300 acres.
- 18?? D.M. Hemingway of Attala County, Mississippi on May 1, 1875, inherited from his father, William Hemingway.
- 1875 John O. Darby of Chester County, SC, for \$2200, the 2300-acre tract. (York County Deed Book Z, York County Courthouse, York SC pp. 530-31.) This tract was included originally in properties known as the Nelson, Howser, and Milligan grants. (Copy of plat in Bearss, 10.)
- 1879 W.L. Goforth, Preston Goforth, F.A. Goforth, and J.W. Wren of Cleveland County, NC on February 5, 1879, for \$4000. (York County Deed Book B2, York County Courthouse, York, SC, pp. 292-93.)
- 1879 Kings Mountain Centennial Association, 39.5-acre tract for \$1975, including the battleground.
- 1931 U.S. War Department, the 39.5-acre site becomes a National Military Park.
- 1933 National Park Service, Department of the Interior. Land condemnation procedures increased the military park to approximately 4,000 acres and establish a Recreation Demonstration Area of 6,100 acres.
- 1944 Kings Mountain State Park accepted into South Carolina state park system.



The National Park Service cares for special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage.





King of the Hills National Military Park
5 Park Road
Aiken, SC 29702

www.nps.gov/kimo