

PHO 368181

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR FEDERAL PROPERTIES

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED DEC 29 1976
DATE ENTERED

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

**** HISTORIC** Moore's Creek National Military Park

AND/OR COMMON

Battleground

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

State Road 210

*Wilmington
Vic*

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Currie

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

3rd

STATE

North Carolina

VICINITY OF
CODE

37

COUNTY

Pender

CODE

141

3 CLASSIFICATION

| CATEGORY | OWNERSHIP | STATUS | PRESENT USE |
|--|--|---|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED | <input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE |
| <input type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S) | <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE | <input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM |
| <input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE | <input type="checkbox"/> BOTH | <input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PARK |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SITE | PUBLIC ACQUISITION | ACCESSIBLE | <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE |
| <input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT | <input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED 8A-5P | <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS |
| | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED | <input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED | <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> NO | <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION |
| | | | <input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL |
| | | | <input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY |
| | | | <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER: |

4 AGENCY

REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS: (If applicable)

National Park Service, Southeast Regional Office

STREET & NUMBER

1895 Pheonix Blvd.

CITY, TOWN

Atlanta

VICINITY OF

STATE

Georgia

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Pender County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Burgaw

STATE

North Carolina

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

| CONDITION | | CHECK ONE | CHECK ONE |
|--|--|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD | <input type="checkbox"/> RUINS | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED | <input type="checkbox"/> MOVED |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FAIR | <input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED | | DATE <u>1942-1974</u> |

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Patriots and Loyalists of North Carolina clashed at Moores Creek Bridge on February 27, 1776, in one of the critical actions of the opening phases of the American Revolution. Only the site itself is present with its murky stream and swampy banks. The patriots' earthworks have been located and outlined; a portion of the old trace is still evident; and an environment that must be similar to its 1776 appearance surrounds the area. Six stone commemorative monuments tell the deeds of individuals and organizations during the battle. In more recent years, the National Park Service has added a visitor center and several field interpretive devices to provide a better understanding of the Moores Creek story.

Initially, a 30-acre park called the Moores Creek Battleground was established by the State of North Carolina in 1897. It was later donated to the United States Government in 1926 where it was placed under the administration of the War Department and became the Moores Creek National Military Park. On August 10, 1933, the park was again transferred, from the War Department to the National Park Service. Additional acreage (12.23) was donated by the State of North Carolina in 1952, bringing the total land area to 42.23 acres.

The park is located on North Carolina Highway 210, near Currie, Pender County, in the area of second-growth forest interspersed with small farms. The State Highway divides the park into two sections: the portion south of the highway containing the historic features and the northern section used for picnicking and park residences. Bordering the park are screens of dense second-growth vegetation, while the landscape at the center of the development consists of grass-covered meadows and slopes with scattered groves of trees cleared of brush. The woodland is harvested for pulp industry. Presently, no significant industrial, commercial, or residential developments exist near the park.

The topography of the region is relatively that of a low, flat coastal area. A short distance ^{from} within the park, the higher land characteristic of the inland Carolina coastal plain descends abruptly to the lowlands that comprise the greater portion of the park land, reaching to Moores Creek. This freshwater stream, averaging 30 feet in width, forms the western boundary of the park. Periodically, Moores Creek floods the adjacent lowlands. However, because the water rises and recedes very slowly, there is a minimum of soil erosion.

The historical structures listed in the area are the following:

Patriot Earthworks (HS-1):

(1776) The Patriot Earthworks are a somewhat circular line surrounding a portion of the old road and overlooking the east end of Moores Creek Bridge site. These are the remains of works built by the Patriots before the battle to give them some measure of protection. As early as 1856, vegetation at the southern end of the earthworks was cleared. Between 1899 and 1907 trees and shrubs were removed the full length of the structures and at least three openings in the works were made to accomodate roads and structures. Since 1933, the grounds have been fertilized and seeded; and investigated

8 SIGNIFICANCE

| PERIOD | AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW | | | |
|---|--|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC | <input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING | <input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE | <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499 | <input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC | <input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION | <input type="checkbox"/> LAW | <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599 | <input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE | <input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS | <input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE | <input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699 | <input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE | <input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MILITARY | <input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799 | <input type="checkbox"/> ART | <input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING | <input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC | <input type="checkbox"/> THEATER |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899 | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE | <input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT | <input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY | <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1900- | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS | <input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY | <input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT | <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY) |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION | | |

SPECIFIC DATES February 27, 1776

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Patriots and Loyalists of North Carolina clashed at Moores Creek Bridge on February 27, 1776, in one of the most critical actions of the opening phases of the American Revolution. Here Patriot militia and minute men under Colonel Richard Caswell and Colonel Alexander Lillington threw back a larger Loyalist force on its way to rendezvous with a British expeditionary squadron on the coast. From a military standpoint, the battle was minor, but its implications were far reaching. The victory helped prevent a full-scale invasion of the South; caused North Carolina, on April 12, 1776, to instruct its delegation to the Continental Congress to vote for independence- the first colony to cast such a vote; and supplied a needed stimulus for the country as a whole in the movement toward sundering ties with Britain.

When the break with Britain loomed in the early 1770's, divided public opinion left North Carolina ill-prepared for war. The legislature, popularly elected, opposed the royal Governor, Josiah Martin. Yet many in the colony who disliked parliamentary taxation and royal authority over provincial affairs still found the thought of fighting the mother country abhorrent. By 1775, North Carolinians had generally split into two groups: patriots, who were willing to fight England for independence; and loyalists, who were either strongly in favor of British rule or those who did not feel that war was a way to redress grievances. This last party included a large number of Highland Scots who had just come from the downfall of the Stuarts in Britain.

Upon learning of the Patriot military preparations in North Carolina, Governor Josiah Martin fled the royal capital of New Bern to Fort Johnston on the Cape Fear River. He tried to raise an army of 10,000, most of which would be Highlanders and Regulators with strong loyalist feelings, to march to the coast and rendezvous with a powerful expeditionary force under Lord Cornwallis, Sir Henry Clinton, and Peter Parker. The Governor appointed Donald MacDonald, a brigadier general, and Donald McLeod, a lieutenant colonel, to enlist the men.

Meanwhile, the patriots in New Bern gathered the district's militia under Colonel Richard Caswell (later first governor of North Carolina) who joined a larger body of patriots commanded by Colonel James Moore, the senior officer and the first to take the field. The loyalist plan was to advance along the southwest side of Cape Fear River to the coast, provision the British troops arriving by sea, and then join them in conquering the colony. However, MacDonald found his way blocked by Colonel Moore at Rockfish Creek so that they had to turn eastward toward Black River Road to Wilmington. With Moore outmaneuvered, Caswell rushed to take possession of Moore's Creek Bridge, a crossing the loyalists had to take in order to reach Wilmington. Moore sent 200 men with Colonel Alexander Lillington to reinforce Caswell and with

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

- Moore's Creek National Military Park Correspondence and Report Files 1928-1975.
- Moore's Creek National Military Park, Development Concept, NPS, 1973.
- Moore's Creek National Military Park, Historic Resource Study, Historic Base Map and Grounds Study, John Albright, Denver Service Center, NPS, Denver, CO., 1974.
- Moore's Creek NMP, Interpretive Prospectus, NPS, 1971.
- Moore's Creek NMP, Master Plan, NPS, 1969.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 42.23

For UTM References see Continuation Sheet

UTM REFERENCES

~~A 117 765570 2917050~~
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

~~B 117 765575 2916475~~
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

~~C 117 764740 29126450~~

~~D 117 764750 29127050~~

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The north boundary of the park runs generally parallel and approx. 350 feet north of N.C. Route 210, starting at Moore's Creek and terminating at a point in the west line of property of Clifton Marshall, approx. 1600 feet. The east boundary runs southwest approx. S.40 W. 1435 feet to point intersecting the International Paper Co. and the corner of Jake Simpson. Northwest from this point S.50 E. approx. 1560 feet to Moore's Creek; and west following creek to beginning point.

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

| STATE | CODE | COUNTY | CODE |
|-------|------|--------|------|
| | | | |
| | | | |

| STATE | CODE | COUNTY | CODE |
|-------|------|--------|------|
| | | | |

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Raymond L. Ives, Superintendent,

ORGANIZATION

National Park Service, Moore's Creek NMP

DATE

March 31, 1975 (REVISED 6/76)

STREET & NUMBER

P.O. Box 69

TELEPHONE

283-5591

CITY OR TOWN

Currie

STATE

North Carolina

12 CERTIFICATION OF NOMINATION

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

YES ___ NO ___ NONE ___

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

In compliance with Executive Order 11593, I hereby nominate this property to the National Register, certifying that the State Historic Preservation Officer has been allowed 90 days in which to present the nomination to the State Review Board and to evaluate its significance. The evaluated level of significance is ___ National ___ State ___ Local.

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE

TITLE Deputy Assistant Secretary

DATE DEC 10 1976

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Robert B. Rettig

DATE 11/25/77

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST: Charles Adams

DATE 11.23.77

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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CONTINUATION SHEET Moores Creek ITEM NUMBER 3 PAGE 1

Public Acquisition

Legislation has been enacted (Public Law #93-477) authorizing the appropriation of funds for the acquisition of lands (35 acres) as an addition to the park. As of January 1975 there has been no acquisition. As of June 1976, still no further developments.

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CONTINUATION SHEET Moores Creek ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 1

to determine the extent and location of the earthworks and other features. The latest project in 1974 concluded that the earthworks as shown are probably in the right location. These earthworks are reconstructions.

Forward Earthworks (Lillington's Earthworks): (HS-2):

Built in 1776, history makes reference to Lillington's Earthworks as being "a small entrenchment next to the bridge on our side"; east and south of the road. There is no physical evidence of these works now. This is a site only.

The Colonial Road (Stage Road) (HS-3):

The Colonial Road is a worn path. It is only the trace of an old sand road which existed at least by 1743 and was used as late as 1897. The road passes through the earthworks near the Stage Road Monument. In the 18th and 19th centuries the road provided access to the plantations in the area and served as a way home for those who floated naval stores and lumber down the Black River to Wilmington. In 1776, it was well located for troop use and was a principal reason why the battle was fought at Moores Creek on February 27.

Patriot (Grady) Monument (HS-4):

At the southern end of the earthworks stands the Patriot or Grady Monument. Resting on a concrete base, the brown sandstone structure is 18 feet in height and 52" square. The monument is an obelisk on a stepped base consisting of six graduating squares of varying dimensions with an ornate dentil course bordering the inscription. Each of the four sides bears a different inscription dealing with the Battle of Moores Creek and those fought there. Of special note is the inscription to Private John Grady of Dublin County, N.C., the only Patriot killed in battle. On February 27, 1857, a brown sandstone cornerstone was laid in a sizeable brick foundation. A box was sealed in the cornerstone containing publications of the day and the remains of Private John Grady. The monument itself was probably erected on the brick foundation in the same year. Additions and alterations have been made to the monument over the years, such as the adding of two granite base blocks; an ornamental iron fence on granite slabs that surrounded the monument; the removal of the iron fence, the moving of the cornerstone to the lower edge and beside the foundation; and finally as part of the grounds project in 1974, the moving of the entire monument approximately 250 feet to a position on the foot trail outside the earthworks.

Heroic Women Monument (Slocumb Monument) (HS-5):

The Slocumb Monument was erected in 1907. It is 5'6" square and 9'11" high. The dressed granite pedestal is surmounted by a 5'8" white marble likeness of a woman with a wreath in her hand. Inscriptions are written on all four sides of the polished pedestal. A band of oak leaves borders the top of the inscriptions. The monument honors heroic women of Lower Cape Fear generally and Mary Slocumb specifically. In September 1929 the bodies of Mary (Molly, Polly) Slocumb and her husband Ezekiel were interred a few feet in front of this monument. Inscribed marker stones were placed at the head

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CONTINUATION SHEET Moores Creek

ITEM NUMBER 7

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and foot of the two graves. Originally, an ornamental iron fence surrounded the monument; this however was removed in 1945.

Loyalist Monument (HS-6):

Erected in 1909, the Loyalist Monument measures 38"x54"x9' and is located 120 feet down the foot trail. There is an inscription on the face of the monument to the Loyalists who fought at Moores Creek. Above the inscription is a thistle in relief. Made of granite, there are three graduated, rectangular steps from the base of the structure. An ornamental iron fence originally around its base was removed in 1945. The monument itself was also moved in 1974 approximately 400 feet south from the woods to its present site.

Stage Road Monument (HS-7):

Erected in 1911, it is made of granite mounted on a concrete base. Its dimensions are 4'1" wide, 5'8½" high, and 22" deep. An inscription describing the battle and a rock canon in bas-relief are on the smooth rock face. The monument titled "Old Wilmington and Fayetteville Stage Road", is a misnomer because there is no evidence that the road was ever used by a stage or in fact that it did extend to Fayetteville during the historic period. The iron fence surrounding the monument was removed in 1938 and the monument itself was moved from within the earthworks to outside in 1942.

Moore Monument (HS-8):

Erected in 1912, the Moore Monument is located about 200 feet from the Loyalist Monument. It is made of dressed granite. It has an obelisk shape and is mounted on a stepped base with a pedestal measuring 3'8" x 3'8" x 13'4/3/4". On the front of the pedestal is a bronze tablet with an inscription honoring James F. Moore, the first President of the Moores Creek Battleground Association which was formed in 1899 and is still functioning. Moore's name appears in relief on the second step of the base as well. The concrete curb originally around the base was removed before 1942 although the monument still stands on a large concrete slab. In 1944, the monument was blown down by high winds causing a small space to break off. The monument was repaired and reset in January 1945.

Bridge Monument (HS-9):

Erected in 1931, this granite monument measures 3'x4'x6" bearing an inscription on the polished face to commemorate the battle fought at Moores Creek on February 27, 1776. Above the inscription is carved a pair of crossed sabres in bas-relief. The Bridge Monument stands beside the Stage or Colonial Road at the bridge site at Moores Creek.

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CONTINUATION SHEET Moore's Creek ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 1

his own force followed the enemy in hope of attacking his rear. '

When Lillington arrived at the bridge on February 25, he quickly saw the position's defensive advantages. To dominate the crossing, Lillington threw up a low earthwork on a slight rise overlooking the bridge and the approach. Lillington waited on the east side of the creek, and Caswell, with 800 men dug in on the west. The Loyalists with 1600 men were camped 6 miles away. The Loyalists now had to decide whether to avoid fighting once more or to cut through their opponents. After a lengthy debate, the younger leader prevailed and the decision was to fight.

A reconnaissance warned Caswell of his vulnerable position on the west side of the bridge, so he withdrew across the creek to Lillington's earthworks. Artillery was posted and as an extra precaution, the bridge planking was removed and the girders smeared with grease. An hour before dawn on February 27, the Loyalists attacked Caswell's deserted trenches. Confused, the Highlanders rushed the partly demolished bridge and were met with musket and artillery. Nearly all of the small advance party were cut down and the whole force retreated. The battle only lasted three minutes. Pursuit then turned the victory into a rout.

The significance of the Moores Creek Bridge Battle is commemorated by the various monuments erected to its participants and by clarification of the battle site itself.

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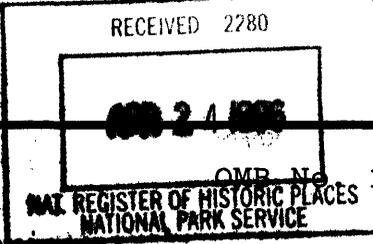
**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
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CONTINUATION SHEET Moores Creek ITEM NUMBER 10 PAGE 1

UTM References:

A 17/766000 3817000
B 17/766000 3816000
C 17/765000 3816000
D 17/766000 3817000

765-000



NPS Form 10-900-a (8-86)

OMB No. 1024-0018

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

Moores Creek National Battlefield
name of property

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Pender, North Carolina
county and State

National Register Amendment Page 1

Moores Creek National Battlefield
Pender County, North Carolina

Moores Creek National Battlefield was listed in the National Register of Historic Places on October 15, 1966, and documented on November 25, 1977 (National Register Reference Number 66000070). A boundary increase for the park was documented on February 13, 1987 (National Register Reference Number 86003649). The following contributing properties are currently identified in the National Register documentation: Patriot Earthworks, Forward Earthworks, Colonial Road (Black River Road), Patriot Monument, Heroic Women Monument, Loyalist Monument, Stage Road Monument, Moore Monument, and Bridge Monument. This amendment identifies two contributing properties not listed in the 1977 National Register documentation (the Moores Creek Monumental Association boundary markers) and clarifies the status of the Patriot Earthworks as a site. The boundary markers are significant because of their association with local commemorative activity at the battlefield. This amendment includes only information needed to identify and evaluate these resources and clarify the status of the earthworks.

State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination ___ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets ___ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant ___ nationally ___ statewide ___ locally. (___ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Benjamin B. [Signature] _____ Date 4/24/96

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria. (___ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of commenting or other official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

Moores Creek National Battlefield
name of property

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
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Pender, North Carolina
county and State

National Register Amendment *Page 2*

National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register
 ___ See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the
 National Register
 ___ See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the
 National Register
- removed from the National Register
- other (explain): _____

Ma J. M. [Signature] *4/17/96*

_____ *for* *Signature of Keeper* *Date of Action*

Number of Resources within Property

| <i>Contributing</i> | <i>Noncontributing</i> | |
|---------------------|------------------------|-------------------|
| <u>0</u> | <u>0</u> | <i>buildings</i> |
| <u>1</u> | <u>0</u> | <i>sites</i> |
| <u>0</u> | <u>0</u> | <i>structures</i> |
| <u>2</u> | <u>0</u> | <i>objects</i> |
| <u>3</u> | <u>0</u> | <i>Total</i> |

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 9

Historic Functions

Current Functions

Recreation and Culture: Monument/
Marker

Recreation and Culture: Monument/
Marker

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

Moores Creek National Battlefield
name of property

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
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National Register Amendment Page 3

Descriptions of Contributing Properties

Moores Creek Monumental Association Boundary Markers (2): The markers are two granite slabs (6" x 5" x 6" high and 6" x 5" x 1' high) with rock-faced sides and smooth-faced tops. MCMA is inscribed on the tops. The markers are located along the park's southern boundary off a fire trail. The MCMA placed the markers between 1897 and 1910. (IDLCS 91331)

Patriot Earthworks (previously listed): The Patriot Earthworks are listed as contributing structures in the 1977 National Register documentation. Because the extant one- to two-foot-high earthworks are made of soil periodically added to the site by NPS in an effort to preserve a visible reminder of the original earthworks for interpretive purposes, the earthworks are not eligible as structures. Archeological investigations have revealed below-ground evidence of the original earthworks, and it is these remains that contribute, as a site, to the significance of the park. The MCMA added little, if any, material to the earthwork remains. The NPS site superintendent reported in 1937 that the remnants of the parapet wall averaged only nine inches in height, and a 1938 NPS report stated that a "slight rise" was the only evidence of the original parapet. Following archeological investigations, NPS in 1939 and 1940 added material to extant remains and restored the parapet wall in places where no trace of it remained. By 1953, the park's superintendent reported that the "original" earthworks were about to lose their identity and in some places had entirely disappeared. Records indicate that NPS added soil to the earthworks and seeded and fertilized in 1954.¹ The present one- to two-foot height of the earthworks suggests that soil may have been added at other times as well. Throughout NPS stewardship of the park, the emphasis has been on adding enough material to the earthworks to allow visitors to understand the military action that took place. At no time has there been an intent to bring the earthworks to the height, thickness, and profile that the original earthworks would have possessed. The visible earthworks at Moores Creek are composed almost entirely of material added within the last 50² years. The visible earthworks are not associated with the commemorative efforts of the MCMA between 1897 and 1926. Although archeological investigations indicate that the visible earthworks generally follow the line of the below-grade remains of the original earthworks, they do not attempt to reproduce the original appearance of the eighteenth-century earthworks, and they were not built as part of a restoration master plan. Consequently the visible earthworks are not eligible as a reconstruction.

¹This discussion is based on data summarized in John W. Walker and Jerry W. Lee, *A Study of the Historic, Topographical, and Archeological Data Pertaining to the Revolutionary War Period Earthworks at Moores Creek National Battlefield, North Carolina* (Tallahassee: National Park Service, Southeast Archeological Center, 1988).

United States Department of the Interior
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National Register Amendment *Page 4*

The below-ground archeological remains of the original earthworks are eligible for the National Register under Criterion D as a site. Although MCMA and NPS construction projects have damaged the site somewhat, archeological investigations conducted in 1937-1940 and 1975 indicate that considerable structural evidence of the eighteenth-century earthworks remains below the surface. Investigations conducted in 1958 also unearthed eighteenth-century artifacts, mostly from the area within the earthworks. As a result of these findings, the below-ground remains of the earthworks are eligible for the National Register as a site.

Applicable National Register Criteria

- A *Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.*
- B *Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.*
- C *Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.*
- D *Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.*

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

Moores Creek National Battlefield
name of property

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Criteria Considerations

- A *owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.*
- B *removed from its original location.*
- C *a birthplace or a grave.*
- D *a cemetery.*
- E *a reconstructed building, object, or structure.*
- F *a commemorative property.*
- G *less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.*

Areas of Significance

Period of Significance

Social History/Commemoration

1897-1910

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

Moore's Creek National Battlefield
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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
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Narrative Statement of Significance

The significance of the Battle of Moore's Creek (February 27, 1776) within the context of the Revolutionary War is addressed in the original 1977 National Register nomination.

Organized commemorative activity at the battle site dates to the mid-1850s. Area citizens marked the eightieth anniversary of the battle with ceremonies on February 27, 1857, attended by 1,500 people. The cornerstone of the Patriot Monument was laid at that time. In 1876 a celebration was held marking the centennial of the battle. Commemoration then languished until 1897, when the North Carolina General Assembly authorized the purchase of up to 20 acres of the battlefield area for the establishment of a public park to commemorate the battle. Two years later, the state authorized the incorporation of the Moore's Creek Monumental Association (MCMA), which administered the park from 1899 until 1926, when the War Department assumed responsibility for the site. The association's stated purposes were to preserve the Patriot Monument, add to and beautify the grounds, and "inspire among our people state and national pride and a higher appreciation of patriotic manhood."² The MCMA, which received annual appropriations from the state, organized memorial celebrations of the battle, hired a succession of caretakers, and erected pavilions to accommodate picnickers and dancing. During the MCMA's stewardship of the park, the Heroic Women, Loyalist, Stage Road, and Moore Monuments were erected. The association also erected two granite boundary markers incised with the initials MCMA along the southern border of the park property between 1897 and 1910.³

The MCMA was representative of the many local and state historical and commemorative associations that arose during the second half of the nineteenth century. A maturing sense of nationhood, the centennial celebrations of the country's founding that began in 1876, and the increase in organized commemorative activity by Civil War veterans fostered a new interest in America's heritage, particularly its military heritage. The novel role of America as a global power in the Spanish-American War era also contributed to the historical and commemorative activity. The efforts of the MCMA to erect suitable memorials and conduct celebrations at the Moore's Creek battlefield were a local manifestation of a national trend toward revering and commemorating America's past.

²"Articles of Incorporation of the Moore's Creek Monumental Association," cited in Russell A. Gibbs, "A History of Moore's Creek National Military Park, North Carolina" (National Park Service, typescript, 1965), 42.

³Gibbs, 13-21, 42; Clyde B. King, "Moore's Creek Battlefield" (National Park Service, typescript, 1939), 3-5.

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Significance

The MCMA boundary markers are significant at the local level under National Register Criterion A because they represent the efforts of the Moores Creek Monumental Association to commemorate and develop the site of the Battle of Moores Creek as a memorial and recreational park. Over the course of more than 80 years, the markers have taken on traditional and symbolic significance of their own and thus satisfy Criteria Consideration F. The boundary markers and the monuments erected between 1899 and 1926 are reminders of the early period of commemoration at the site, prior to ownership by the federal government.

Bibliography

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- Thompson, Timothy A. *Report on Excavations at Moores Creek National Military Park, Pender County, North Carolina*. Raleigh: Archeology Section, Division of Archives and History, North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources, 1975.
- Walker, John W., and Jerry W. Lee. *A Study of Historic, Topographic, and Archeological Data Pertaining to the Revolutionary War Period Earthworks at Moores Creek National Battlefield, North Carolina*. Tallahassee: National Park Service Southeast Archeological Center, 1988.

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National Park Service

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Form Prepared By

name/title Robert W. Blythe, Historian

organization National Park Service, Southeast Regional Office

date February 23, 1996

street & number 75 Spring Street, S.W. *telephone* (404) 331-5839

city or town Atlanta *state* GA *zip code* 30303

Photographs

Moore's Creek National Battlefield
Pender County, North Carolina
Photos: Karen Rehm
Location of Negatives: NPS, SEFA
March 1994

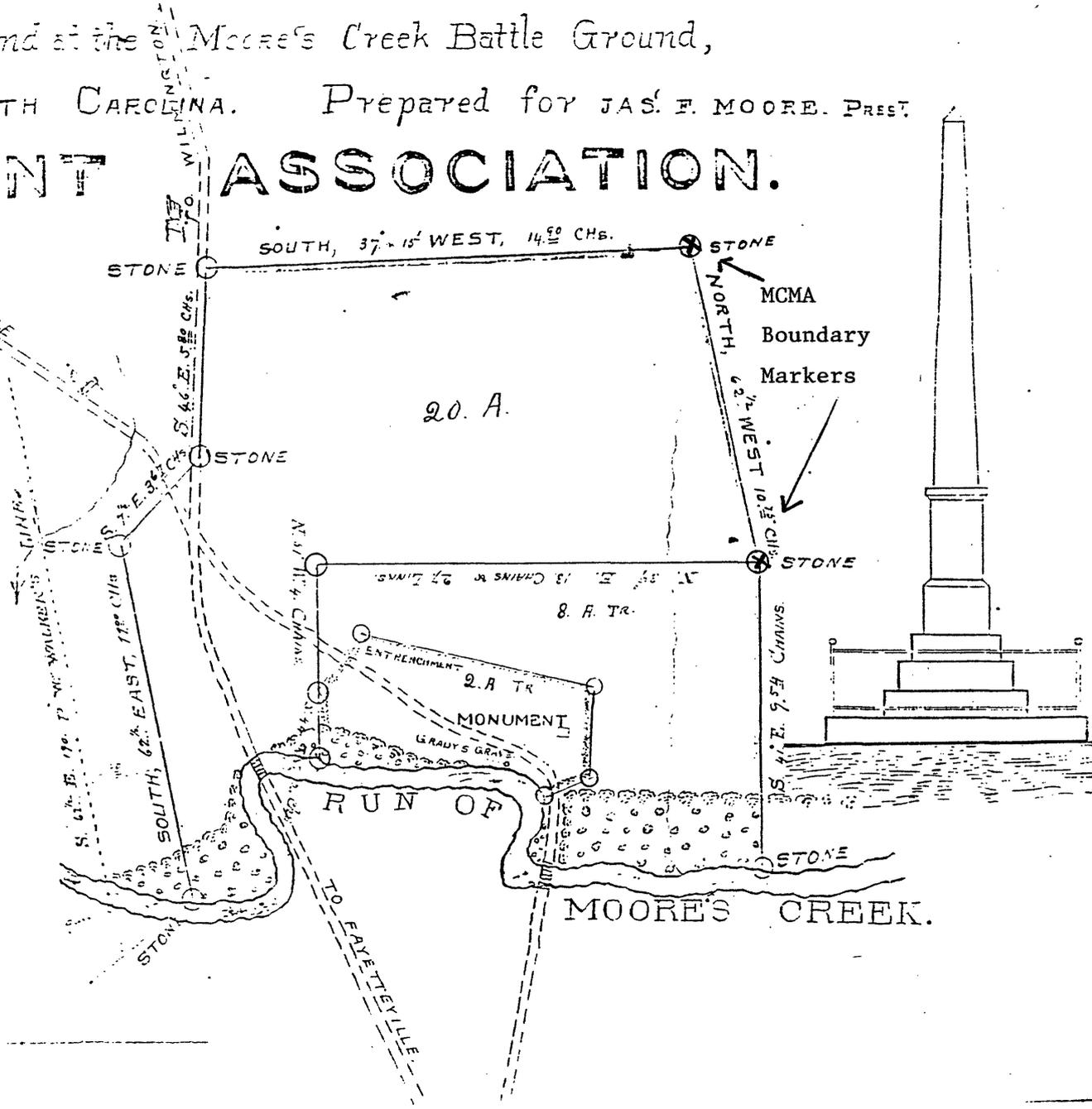
1. Reconstructed Patriot Earthworks, view from East
2. Moore's Creek Monumental Association Boundary Marker #1
3. Moore's Creek Monumental Association Boundary Marker #2

A PLAN of three tracts of land at the Moore's Creek Battle Ground,
 belonging to the state of NORTH CAROLINA. Prepared for JAS. F. MOORE, PRES.

THE MONUMENT ASSOCIATION.

BY Henry A. Colton C.E.
 March 20th A.D. 1907

SCALE 2 1/2 CHAINS TO ONE INCH



Presented to Moores Creek National Military
 Park in October 1937 by Charles P. Moore,
 son of George Moore.

324
 20,900

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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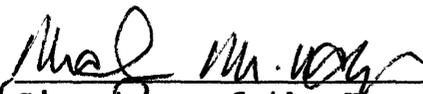
SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 66000070 Date Listed: 10/15/66

| | | |
|-----------------------------------|--------|----------------|
| Moores Creek National Battlefield | Pender | NORTH CAROLINA |
| Property Name | County | State |

N/A
Multiple Name

This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.

for 
Signature of the Keeper

8/11/96
Date of Action

=====
Amended Items in Nomination:

Section No. 8

This nomination is amended to add "Archeology: Historic--non-aboriginal" as an area of significance for the below-ground remains of the original earthworks.

This change has been discussed with the Southeast Field Area.

DISTRIBUTION:

- National Register property file
- Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)