

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

PH019 2751

FOR NPS USE ONLY  
MAY 27 1975  
RECEIVED  
DATE ENTERED JUN 26 1975

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

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

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

Kettle Creek Battlefield (War Hill)

AND/OR COMMON

Kettle Creek Battlefield

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER Off Tyrone Road, off Ga. 44  
9 miles southwest of Washington

\_\_NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Washington

VICINITY OF

10th - Robert G. Stephens, Jr.

STATE

CODE

COUNTY

CODE

Georgia

13

Wilkes

317

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

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

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

See Continuation Sheet

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

\_\_ VICINITY OF

STATE

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Superior Court, Wilkes County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Washington

STATE

Georgia

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

National Survey of Historic Sites and Buildings

DATE

1960

FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

Library of Congress

CITY, TOWN

Washington

STATE

D.C.

# 7 DESCRIPTION

## CONDITION

EXCELLENT       DETERIORATED  
 GOOD             RUINS  
 FAIR              UNEXPOSED

## CHECK ONE

UNALTERED  
 ALTERED

## CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE  
 MOVED      DATE \_\_\_\_\_

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### DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Kettle Creek Battlefield, including "War Hill", is a 40 acre tract encircling a 500 foot high hill upon which is situated the Kettle Creek Monument erected by the War Department in 1930. The Georgia Historical Commission placed two historical markers in 1958 atop the hill and in 1962, 1973, 1974 monuments were placed and some Revolutionary Soldiers reburied atop the hill.

The Battlefield is completely wooded except for the clearing for the above mentioned features and several picnic tables and benches of cement. It appears to have never been farmed or otherwise disturbed, having been a hallowed spot for over a century, being marked on a map as early as 1846. The hill descends rather steeply to the former creek-bed for Kettle Creek from which the creek was moved approximately 50 feet around 1920 under a local rechannelization project. Kettle Creek flows into the Little River which flows into the Savannah River.

With the exception of the cutting of the access road, the rechannelization and the features added atop the hill, the site remains virtually as it was in 1779.

The surrounding area is farmland although developers have taken options for possible future use and could endanger the serenity and beauty of this location as well as its historical integrity.

# 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY) History
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES February 14, 1779

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

One of the few Revolutionary War victories fought in Georgia occurred in Wilkes County some twelve miles from Washington. Here on Kettle Creek a force of 400 patriots, in a surprise attack, totally defeated a force of Tories twice their number, that had invaded Georgia from North and South Carolina. The Patriot Victory at Kettle Creek became a part of the State's history, legends and family traditions. It's references in histories of the American Revolution are numerous.

The morning of Sunday, February 14, (St. Valentine's Day), 1779, Col. James Boyd and his 600 to 700 Loyalists recruited from North and South Carolina broke camp and continued toward their rendezvous with 80 Tory horsemen under Capt. John Hamilton one of the most prominent Tories of the Revolution, who they believed were waiting at Little River, not far away. Boyd apparently was unaware that the men he was to rendezvous with had already retreated to the British Army.

At 10 A.M., the Loyalists hoisted their flags and beat their drums for the first time since they had entered Georgia. Hearing their drums, Col. Andrew Pickens, Col. John Dooly and Lt. Col. Elijah Clarke ordered their pursuing 400 Whig frontiersmen to "pick and prime" their weapons, which they checked, and then ordered those who had food to share it. Capt. James McCall was sent forward to reconnoiter Boyd's movements.

Boyd and his Loyalists marched two miles further and halted on the north side of Kettle Creek, where some cattle had been found for food. Not suspecting any danger, the Loyalists left their horses to graze and began butchering the cattle.

Pickens, learning of the Loyalists' actions from McCall, who had come within the view of the Loyalists without being detected, ordered an attack. His order of battle, planned that morning, would see Lt. Col. Elijah Clarke, commander of one wing of about 50 men, crossing the creek to attack the Loyalists on the left, while Col. Dooley would do the same on the right with another 100 men. Pickens, who would make the main attack from the center with the remaining men, was preceded by an advanced group 150 yards in front of him which had orders not to fire on the enemy. The order of battle was also the order of march whenever possible.

Pickens' plan, had it been executed, would have surrounded the Loyalists and attacked them by surprise from three sides. However, the plan failed, although "not from want of courage, from want of experience."

Pickens' advance guard was extremely close to Boyd's sentries before their impatience got the best of them and they began firing at the enemy sentries, warning the Loyalists.

(continued)

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Davis, Robert S., Jr., and Thomas, Kenneth, H., Jr., - "Kettle Creek: The Battle of the Cane Brakes, Wilkes County, Georgia", unpublished report, February 20, 1975, for Georgia Heritage Trust, Approx. 170 pages. Available Ga. Historic Preservation Section Office and State Archives.

McCall, Capt. Hugh, The History of Georgia, 2 vols, First Edition, 1811, 1816, Savannah.

Prescott, Janice E., Interview with Lucy Ann Singleton, Washington, Ga., May 28, 1974.

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 40

UTM OK

UTM REFERENCES

A	117	3215	31610	317	29	4510	B	117	3215	31610	317	29	0710
	ZONE	EASTING		NORTHING			ZONE	EASTING		NORTHING			
C	117	3214	91610	317	29	0710	D	117	3214	91610	317	29	4510

### VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

All that tract or parcel of land lying and being in the 171st District G.M., Wilkes County, Georgia containing 40 acres, more or less, bounded as follows: On the South by Kettle Creek and on the North, East and West by lands of J. M. Griffin and M and A Farms. This being part of the tract of land described in a deed from A. L. Richardson to Wilkes County Chapter-Daughters of the American Revolution dated January 9, 1900 and recorded in the office of the Clerk of Superior Court, Wilkes County, Georgia.

### 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

Kenneth H. Thomas, Jr., Historical Researcher

ORGANIZATION

DATE

Historic Preservation Section, Dept. of Natural Resources

March 15, 1975

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

270 Washington Street, S.W., Room 703-C10

656-2840

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

Atlanta

Georgia 30334

# 12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

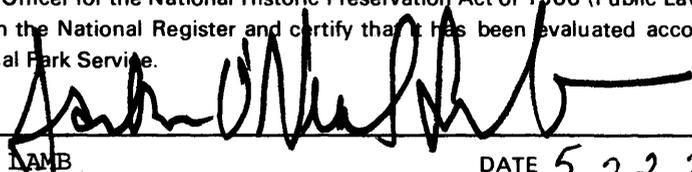
NATIONAL X

STATE     

LOCAL     

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE



TITLE

JACKSON O'NEAL LAMB  
STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER

DATE

5.22.75

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

Clark  
DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

DATE

6/26/75

ATTEST:

W. H. [Signature]  
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

JUN 25 1975

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Boyd, "a man of courage and action" advanced with 100 men. Climbing a hill that was directly in Pickens' path and lying down behind an old fence and some fallen trees, Boyd ambushed Pickens and his men when they were within 30 yards of his position. Some of Pickens men were killed and others were wounded as the battle seemed to go in the Loyalists' favor.

Three men were separated from Clarke's forces and found themselves near Boyd's Loyalists. They fired upon Colonel Boyd himself and all were successful. As Boyd fell, mortally wounded, the Loyalists panicked and ran.

Pickens and his men pursued the fleeing Loyalists to their main group and captured the dying Boyd.

Dooly and Clarke, meanwhile, did not cross the creek as ordered, but were stuck in the cane swamps on each side of the Loyalists. When the three wings of Pickens' attack finally reached the main body of the Loyalists, many of them had already crossed the creek and were reforming on a hill or high ground to their right. Lt. Col. Clarke ordered a charge across the creek to attack the Loyalist forces, but as he did so, his horse was shot from under him. He quickly remounted and crossed the creek at a ford that he found when he had fallen from his horse. However, no more than one-fourth of his men heard him and followed.

Now on the opposite side of the creek, many more of the Loyalists were reforming on one side of the hill under Loyalist Major William Spurgin when Clarke attacked from the other side.

The battle might have been lost for the Americans, had Spurgin succeeded in rallying his men, but Clarke, reinforced by Pickens' and Dooly's men, who had crossed the creek through the swamp, finally forced the Loyalists to retreat in confusion after a half-hour struggle. The entire battle was over in less than two hours.

Although accounts of the Loyalist casualties vary, what is significant is that only 270 of these 700 men reached the British forces between Augusta and Savannah. In addition, 600 horses and a great deal of baggage were captured at Kettle Creek and Carr's Fort (which had preceded Kettle Creek).

After the battle, Pickens met with Boyd, who was still conscious, but dying from his wounds. One account of the battle states that Boyd questioned Pickens concerning the outcome of the battle, and upon learning that he had lost, replied that had he not fallen, it would have ended otherwise. According to this account, he gave Pickens a letter and some small items to send his wife and described his troop movements up to Kettle Creek. Pickens supposedly complied with the request, and also agreed to leave two men to get water for Boyd and to bury him when he died, which occurred early that evening.

One hundred and fifty Loyalists were taken to Augusta which had been evacuated by the British, and later to Ninety Six, South Carolina for trial. Seventy were sentenced to be hanged, but only five were actually executed.

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Although the men of Pickens' command did not leave the battlefield until that night, they were across the ford at Fort Charlotte and back in South Carolina by the following morning.

Pickens later described the battle as "the severest conflict I ever had with the disaffected or Tories" and said he believed it was "the severest check and chastisement the Tories ever received in Georgia or South Carolina".

The Battle of Kettle Creek's significance to the Revolution comes from its thwarting of British plans to conquer the South through massive Tory recruitment. The failure at Kettle Creek and other such battles to bring about this uprising dispelled a belief that the British considered decisive to their plans.

The core of the battlefield remained in private hands as farmland, until 1900 when 12.5 acres were acquired by the Kettle Creek Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution. They relinquished their title in 1960 to the Wilkes County Board of Commissioners. The site had been open as a park for many years and recently was offered to the state of Georgia as an Historic Site under the Georgia Heritage Trust program. No final determination has been made on this offer at this writing.

4. Owner of Property:

Board of Commissioners of Roads and Revenues of Wilkes County  
Wilkes County Courthouse  
Washington, Georgia

M and A Farms, Inc.  
4341 Paper Mill Road  
Marietta, Georgia 30060

Mr. J. M. Griffin  
Tyrone, Georgia 30290

